

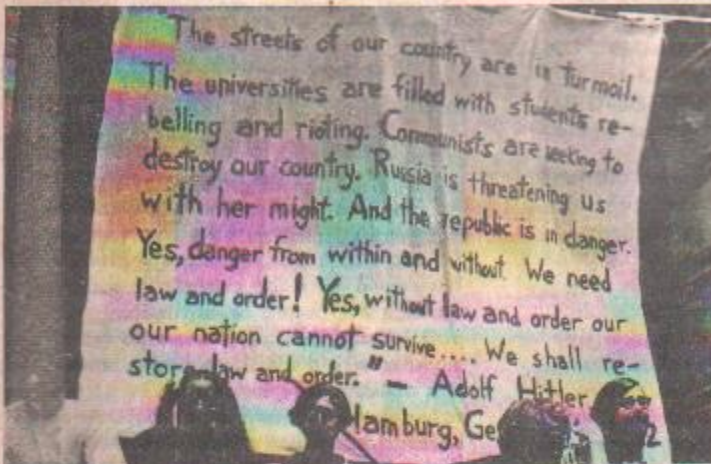
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# Humberside Worker

The Working Class must Liberate itself

## NEW ERA OF SOCIALIST STRUGGLE IN BRITAIN.....

### LAW AND ORDER!



THESE WORDS BY HITLER COULD BE THOSE OF ENOCH POWELL. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT THE THREAT NOW IS CHINA WHILE RUSSIA HERSELF HAS BECOME IMPERIALISTIC THE BANNER WAS PUT UP BY STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, U.S. BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE STUDENTS AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, ENGLAND. NINE OF THEM WERE RECENTLY GIVEN PRISON SENTENCES FOR DEMONSTRATING AGAINST THE FASCIST GREEK REGIME. THE SENTENCES WERE TOTALLY OUT OF PROPORTION TO THEIR OFFENCES. TWO OF THEM FROM BRAZIL AND SOUTH AFRICA ARE THREATENED WITH DEPORTATION TO THEIR FASCIST COUNTRIES WHERE THEY COULD BE IMPRISONED WITHOUT TRIAL. A PETITION TO THE HOME SECRETARY IS BEING ORGANISED BY J. NEWBIGGIN, 12 MILL LANE, CAMBRIDGE. LAW & ORDER WILL CERTAINLY BE ENACTED BY THE NEW CONSERVATIVE GOVT. - WITH POWELL BREATHING DOWN THEIR NECKS - BUT NOTHING SHOWS MORE CLEARLY THE CRISIS OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM FOR WHICH THEY ARE SURELY PREPARING.

ALONE AMONGST THE SO-CALLED REVOLUTIONARY PARTIES ON THE LEFT, THE VARIOUS MARXIST-LENINIST GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS, PARTIES, IN THE COUNTRY CALLED UPON THE WORKERS NOT TO VOTE BUT TO ORGANIZE IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST CAPITALISM-IMPERIALISM. THEY DID SO WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH ONE ANOTHER. THIS MARKS A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN REVOLUTIONARY POLITICS IN BRITAIN A PART FROM SHOWING THE POLITICAL MATURITY OF THOSE WHO TAKE THE QUESTION OF THE LIBERATION OF THE BRITISH WORKING CLASS VERY SERIOUSLY. IT ALSO SHOWS WHO ARE REALLY ON THE SIDE OF THE WORKERS AND WHO PAY LIP SERVICE TO THE OVERTHROW OF CAPITALISM. BUT THE BREAKTHROUGH IS ALSO HISTORICAL. FOR DECADES THE WORKING CLASS HAS BEEN BROUGHT UP TO THINK THAT RADICAL CHANGE

CAN BE MADE THROUGH PARLIAMENT ONCE A LABOUR GOVERNMENT IS ELECTED. NO ALTERNATIVE OF DOING AWAY WITH THE CLASS STRUCTURE ALTOGETHER AND TOGETHER WITH IT THE BOURGEOIS PARLIAMENT ITSELF, HAS EVER POSITIVELY BEEN PUT TO IT. NOW ORGANISATIONS ARE RISING - AND GROWING IN STRENGTH AND NUMBER EVERYDAY - WHICH PLACES THE CAPTURE OF STATE POWER BY THE WORKING CLASS AND THE RE-ORGANISATION OF SOCIETY ALONG SOCIALIST LINES BASED ON THE OWNERSHIP OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION BY THE PEOPLE, ON A SERIOUS BASIS.

The days of reformist tinkering have now come to an end. The struggle for the revolutionary overthrow of British capitalism has seriously begun, and even though we are still far away from the sort of revolutionary situation

in which the ruling class can no longer rule in the old way, the tide is most definitely moving in a revolutionary direction and not the way that the capitalist class in Britain wants it. Hence the struggle for the revolutionary overthrow of British Imperialism must begin now. A new Party will have to be formed in Britain which takes as its first and major task the conquest of state power from the bourgeois.

The Labour Party long ago forfeited the interests of the working class. Social Democracy has been the servant of capitalism for these many, many years, playing the role of the bourgeois inside the worker's movement. Those like the opportunist Trotskyites who speak of the lesser of two evils argument must either have forgotten the role of Social Democracy in Britain and Europe in general in wilfully deceiving the working class while putting forward militant socialist policies right from its

inception, or have forgotten the history of the Labour Movement. From the time when it professed to be a Party that based itself on Marxism, while maintaining that the transformation of capitalism could be brought about peacefully to its present position when the Labour Party is totally indistinguishable from the Tory Party and actually implements anti-working class policies that the Tory Party would dare not attempt without becoming outright repressive, the Labour Party has shown a total and utter degeneration. The same fate awaits all those parties like the CPGB, who whilst professing to be Communists, have abandoned the very first principle of Marxism-Leninism, that the working class will have to wrest state power by force from the bourgeois before it can usher in the socialist order. Indeed from the point of view of objective class interests there is no difference between the Tory Party and the CPGB. Despite all its socialist rhetoric it is really like a social welfare organization. Like any social welfare organisation it wishes to bargain with capitalism, to bring pressure to bear upon it.

Those like the Trotskyites and Revisionists who called upon the working class to vote Labour were deliberately acting in the interests of British Imperialism (They are the same people who spend most of their time attacking the People's Republic of China, a great socialist country in the forefront of the struggle against Imperialism) - in other words Harold Wilson is a greater socialist than Mao-Tse-Tung!! And only a few months ago these scabs were marching down the streets of London calling upon the Labour Govt. not to support the American crimes in Vietnam. Then suddenly those who actively complied with the massacre of the Vietnamese people became the lesser of two evils. And what about Labour's role in Rhodesia, the Persian Gulf, Ireland, Dhofar - where workers and peasants are oppressed by British Imperialism. When Callaghan sanctioned CS Gas in Ireland what kind of lesser evil did he represent. And who introduced the wage freeze, Prices and Income, In Place of Strife. And what about the racist Immigration Laws which Labour implemented. Where was the concern of these people for the black working class who occupy the bottom of the social ladder in the country. Or is chauvinism so strong amongst the Trotskyites and revisionists that they don't matter.

The Trotskyite SLL would vote Labour so that it could expose itself, as if it had not exposed itself enough already. They insult the British working class, a working class with a long history of militant struggle. The Low Poll should now prove conclusively to these people that the working class knows very well who its friends are and who its enemies are. They should learn from them before trying to teach them.

The Pilkington Strike is another rich experience which should knock the last vestige of pessimism in those who are fond of decrying how backward the working class is. Pilkington showed a militancy and political consciousness that should put to shame the decriers.

One by one the enemies of the working class are baring their teeth from the trade union bureaucrats to the hatch-patch of opportunism that exists on the so-called Left. As workers increasingly go on strike they reveal the crisis which British capitalism is undergoing, a crisis which itself is the result of the loss of colonial super-profits. This will mean that increasingly in the future they will have to cut into the workers' wage packets. Hence the productivity deals whose aim is to increase the rate of exploitation. Hence also the threat to ban militant so-called unofficial strikes which upset the profits of the capitalists.

## REVOLUTION IS THE MAIN TREND TODAY

But the analysis upon which we say that British-capitalism-imperialism is slowly dying is not something that has happened by chance. It is based on an analysis of the world situation which has become common to Marxist-Leninists all over the world and which gives them great strength in their titanic struggles against world-wide Imperialism. This analysis emanates from the pen of Comrade Mao-Tse-Tung the greatest Marxist-Leninist of our time and who has made China a strong base for the world revolution.

The Chinese Communist Party has long hailed the era in which we are living as the Era of World Revolution. But as Mao has expressed it more precisely this is the era "in which imperialism is heading for world-wide doom and socialism heading for world-wide victory."

Wherever we turn today Revolution is the order of the day. As Mao said in his recent statement on the Indo-China situation, "Revolution is the main trend." In S.E. Asia, in the Middle East, in Southern Africa, in various other parts of Asia and Latin America the flames of Peoples War rage fiercely. The imperialists are surrounded by a sea of Peoples War. And as Mao expressed it in his recent statement supporting the revolutionary struggles in Indo-China: "In the world of today, who actually fears whom? It is not the Vietnamese people, the Laotian people, the Cambodian people, the Palestinian people, the Arab people or the people of other countries who fear U.S. Imperialism; it is U.S. Imperialism which fears the people of the world. It becomes panic-stricken at the mere rustle of leaves in the wind." Where can they turn to? In Europe and North America, in the very heartlands of imperialism, mass upsurges increase daily. We have definitely entered the era of world revolution when imperialism and the whole system of exploitation of man by man is coming to an end. This is no rhetoric or wishful thinking. It is a scientific fact.

Powellism, the Law and Order Bill which the Tories will most certainly enact are not signs of a confident ruling class. They are signs of

fear.

With regard to the struggle in Ireland the M-L oriented Irish National Liberation Solidarity Front (INSLF) calls for a People's War. In a correct assessment of the situation in Ireland it defines the present task of the Irish people to engage in a national liberation struggle to free itself from British Imperialism. It sees the leading class in this struggle to be the working class. Basing itself on a correct analysis of the main contradictions in Irish society it rejects and condemns those who describe the main tasks of the Irish people as being one for Civil Rights. INSLF did a good job recently in exposing the Trotskyite I.S. who in the true tradition of social-imperialists see the struggle as mainly one for Civil Rights. Long ago Karl Marx said that even before the English working class could liberate itself Ireland would have to pave the way. He said: "For a long time I believed that it would be possible to overthrow the Irish regime by English working-class supremacy. Deeper study has now convinced me of the opposite. The English working class will never accomplish anything (Marx's emphasis) until it has got rid off Ireland. The lever must be applied in Ireland. That is why the Irish question is so important for the social movement itself." In this way also Marx anticipated the relation between the national liberation movements in the so-called Third World and the metropolitan countries, which has also proved itself beyond any doubt today. Ireland might still be the ignition that will set not only Britain but the whole of Europe aflame. In this situation of growing crisis of international capitalism in general and of British capitalism, the way forward for Marxist-Leninists is quite clear. They must with the communist spirit of daring bring revolutionary politics and consciousness amongst the masses. This will be a long, painstaking and arduous task but there is no other way to weld the millions of workers around a revolutionary Party linked to the masses, the only way in which the working class can win its liberation from the yoke of Capital.

M-L must particularly develop the MASS LINE style of work. They must start by learning to become the servants of the working class, putting the interests of the working class before their own personal interests if they wish to win the confidence of the masses. The style of work which depends upon manoeuvring, or on armchair theorising, must be abandoned. This is nothing more than petit bourgeois politics. The M-L movement will only be built in the teeth of mass struggles. It will not be built in any other way. The British capitalist class is a dying class, the proletarian and revolutionary forces are the rising force. On the basis of this we should plunge ourselves into the struggle for the complete overthrow of British capitalism. Linking our arms to all the other oppressed peoples of the world - black, brown, yellow, etc. let us march confidently forward.

# MORE ATTACKS ON COUNCIL TENANTS IN ORCHARD PARK

An average weekly rent rise of 5/3 faced 37,000 Hull Council House tenants late last November. Originally 10,000 tenants were not affected. These being pre-war houses but now the old council house tenants have to fork out another 2/- per week. Tenants in post-war houses have to outlay another 7/- each week. For existing tenants this comes as a second increase in just over a year, and in April the moneylenders council brought in the new means test. (To all new lettings Parker Morris houses) one bedroomed pensioners flat, multi storey. All PLUS rates and average electricity charge of approximately 36/- per week. This averages another £2. 13. 6. on top of rent bringing it to about £9. All this occurred when the Labour Govt. was still in power. Now with the Tories in all rents will become economic and all tenants will soon be paying the same prices. Recently the Council has been sending notices to people that they have houses available. Those who can buy can get a Council house. It might sound paradoxical but working class tenants are paying for middle class privileges. Private houses in Bricknell Ave. pay less rates than is paid by tenants in Council Houses. We ask are not working class tenants subsidising the cutting of grass for the benefit of private houses. Who is subsidising whom? Local tenants association are also paying for playfields in the Estates. Council rents are also being used for slum clearance. So Council tenants get it from every side.

## THE TENANTS FIGHT

Last May saw another sham battle on the local elections and the main platform in Hull was Council House rents. At meetings all over Hull the local Labour Party addressed the public on all Council House estates. At one meeting one councillor Mr. H. Lewis addressing a meeting called by the local Labour Ward Association at Orchard Park Estate said "that people must be apathetic and not interested" - when he was asked why since two of the members present were tenants, and they were not leading an action committee of tenants and why not a rent strike, he said "It would be discussed by the Ward Group". He was also asked if Labour had been in control of the Council would rents have gone up? His answer was "YES" but not as much Councillor Lewis is an active member of the Labour Group and deputy Housing Chairman. He also was a member of the A.E.F. District Committee. At a mass meeting of tenants at the Hull City Hall called by the joint

## Why high rents?

A house buyer pays 13s interest out of every £1 paid on a £3,000 mortgage over 30 years.



Out of every £1 the Councils pay on housing, 12s is interest.

Old rent £1. 6s. 6d. to £1. 8s. 6d.	New rent £4. 0s. 0d.
Old rent £1. 6s. 0d. to £1. 8s. 0d.	New rent £4. 0s. 0d.
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Two bedroomed multi storey:-	
Old rent £1. 15s. 0d.	New Rent £5. 0s. 0d.
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Three bedroomed house:-	
Old rent £2. 2s. 0d.	New Rent £5. 0s. 0d.
-----	
Four bedroomed house:-	
Old rent £2. 6s. 0d.	New rent £6. 0s. 0d.
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Five bedroomed house:-	
Oldrent £2. 6s. 0d.	New rent £6. 0s. 0d.

Our reply to CClr. Townend who has a habit of denying that rents have gone up by much

Tenants Association, a question of leadership arose. The tenants posed set questions from various Tenants Associations, answers to which were already known, and so the meeting was allowed to be talked out by the local politicians of the Labour and Tory parties. Apart from a vote of no confidence in the Tory Council nothing further was proposed. I myself was cut dead on the mike, but was allowed to carry on the demands from the Hall, and it was spelled out in no uncertain terms that the only thing the ruling class would understand was Mass Action by the organised working class itself. It is interesting to note that the Hull Dockers have discussed this very issue and have put in a claim for a £4 per week cost of living allowance. Some dockers Shop Stewards are talking about a one day strike over rents, so who knows the workers in Hull may "vote with their feet", and the spark does exist in Hull with class struggles more intense than at any period since 1926. Some tenants were taken in by the militant language of the left Councillors, but did they do anything? No. Tenants must not place any faith in the Labour Party. In any confrontation with Councillors in the future they must be asked if they will demand the Govt. abolish all outstanding debts to the City with no

compensation to the loan sharks; will they repeal the Means Test and vote against rent increases. The struggle against rent increases is not yet over especially with the Tories now in. Our task at the moment is to AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANISE!

## BRITAIN ALSO!

"Though there is not at the present time in Australia a revolutionary situation, the fact naturally is that Australian capitalism and the Australian working class and toiling people do not exist in a vacuum. They exist in an actual world, a world which is in the process of acute change. The system of exploitation, of imperialism is daily being challenged. We live in an era of the transition from capitalism to socialism. No Australian is unaffected by that. Every Australian in one way or another is affected by it and must define his or her attitude to it. It affects us in taxation, in military operations in S.E. Asia, in wages, in houses, in education, in medical services, in legislation against democratic rights, in a thousand and one ways. (E.F. HILL - CHAIRMAN OF THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (MARXIST-LENINIST)).

# HUMBERSIDE WORKERS ASSOCIATION FORMED

The recent formation of the Humberside Workers Association (H.W.A.) in Grimsby marked a milestone in the class struggle in Humberside. For the first time an organisation exists which is based on the working class, and which is neither a political party or a trade union.

Meetings are held fortnightly. At the first meeting the following statement of aims were adopted:-

The Humberside Workers Association is an organization of the working class. It is neither a political party nor a trade union, but an organisation brought into being to fight for and defend working class interests whether inside the factory fighting trade union bureaucracy or "productivity deals" or outside fighting rent increases, evictions, or curtailment of social services.

## YEOVIL WORKERS ASSOC.

...a leaflet was prepared announcing the formation of the Y.W.A....it was agreed to begin with we would start a campaign among local shop workers to encourage them to form committees for the purpose of demanding their share of the Xmas spending boom. We printed a leaflet and invaded the local supermarkets on Xmas Eve in order to distribute them to the shop workers. Two of us were immediately chucked out of Tesco's. Anyway we had made a start. We were given great publicity in the local press.

(Then) we did an all-day session in the town centre collecting signatures to a petition demanding that the town council set up a watchdog committee to keep an eye on shops taking advantage of devaluation to push their prices up.

We collected about 1,000 signatures but the town council would not accept it and told us to send it to the PIB.

Shortly afterwards we contacted the British Vietnam Solidarity Front. In the course of this we had our first, and we hope our last, experience of middle class students. A group of them in the local technical college asked us to join with them in arranging a dance for the purpose of raising funds for the NLF. After weeks of fruitless wrangles and endless meetings they got into a mess with their parents, teachers, girl friends, etc., and dropped the whole idea, leaving us wondering what had hit us.

In the summer of 1969 we invited Madam Nguyen Van Sao, a North Vietnamese journalist, down for a social evening. Mrs. Sao's speech raised the level of everyone present.

Then we put theory in the back seat and decided on a programme of grass roots struggle. Sectarian bickering had never been allowed to flourish in

The Humberside Workers Assoc. is opposed to all kinds of prejudices arising from colour, religion or nationality which divides the working class.

We demand.....

1. Right to work
2. Right to unconditional wage increase
3. Right to withdraw labour
4. Right to organise in any shape or form.

The H.W.A. is open to anyone who agrees with its programme irrespective of political affiliations.

Workers Associations are springing up all over the country and already exist in Coventry, Glasgow, Bristol & Yeovil. To give an idea of how a Workers Assoc. can be effective we reprint an abridged version of an article recently published in the "Marxist" giving an account of the Yeovil W.A.

the YWA and this now began to pay off. Contacts could come to meetings, say what they liked, and not be laughed at or bullied. It got around that we were not like Jehovah's Witnesses, but that the desire to put the workers on top was the motive which was driving us on. This was new. Yeovil has no record of militancy in the last hundred years and with our political views we had no base in the people whatever. It was a contradiction that had to be resolved. If we were to take root we had to have the soil. A base had to be built. Striving to apply the concept "from the people to the people" we moved into the autumn of 1969.

Then we suddenly made it when we organised a petition for a pedestrian crossing across two main roads. In 5 hours two thousand were collected. The petition was presented to the mayor with the message that if they did not install the crossings, we would paint our own in. One was installed at once. Requests for help and suggestions for further activity began to come in. At last, after 2 years we had become a broad front organization

We now have 30 members. We do not press them to come to meetings or part with cash. We want them and their ideas. Now we get 15 to 16 to our meetings. After much discussion we agreed on the aims of our association. They are one hundred per cent trade unionism at all places of work, to form shop committees to

protect the interests of trade unionists and their families, to fight trade union bureaucracy, to demand the right to work, to support workers struggles everywhere. The last leaves the for open anti-imperialist work

Anyone who agrees with these aims can join. Labour Party, CPGB, and even Enoch Powell supporters are members.

We now publish a regular newsletter called the "Yeovil Worker". We have now dug up facts about racketeering that

has started in private furnished accomodation in Yeovil. In between have shown a film exposing the US role in Vietnam. We have also set up a Vietnam action committee that will probably develop into an anti-imperialist action committee.

To sum up we have built up through making comrades out of friends and not friends out of comrades. Constantly keeping in touch with contacts pays off, and a non-sectarian approach is essential.

In an organisation like this the only chance of success is to fight on issues that the man in the street is concerned about. Then when you are engaged in struggle, your political line is listened to.

And the point of all this grass roots activity? To develop the political level of everyone we can involve in struggles, and to build a movement in Somerset in which members will learn from their own experience that the only alternative to this corrupt and big money run society is the winning of state power by the working class itself.

## X-RAY

A thousand workers on South Humberside have launched a fight-back to keep the Mobile X-Ray Service which visits the South Humberside factories. As a first stage in their fight workers have signed a petition calling on the Regional Hospital Board to maintain the service.

The servicelis to be axed because of the lack of money to replace the equipment. This is just another example of the deliberate erosion of gains won by workers in their fight for decent conditions and is part of the attack on Social Services which has taken the working people of this country over 200 years to win - small concessions from the capitalist class as these are.

Whilst money is freely available for luxury sanatoriums for the ruling class, our own hospital services are suffering from shortage of staff through poor wages and conditions, and poor hospital facilities like the decrepit General Hospital in Grimsby which should have been improved long ago.

The X-Ray service is vital to this area because of the heavy concentration of chemical workers on the Humber Bank. Life expectancy for chemical workers is lower than the average in Britain, and the X-Ray service is one way in which dangerous diseases can be detected at early stages. The fight to maintain the service will go on.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment in the Grimsby Area rose again recently to 3.8% compared with the National figure of 2.7%. The total number out of work is 2,645. Workers in all industries must watch with growing concern this increase. Remember this "reserve army of labour" is wilfully created by the capitalist class to break working class struggle for better wages and conditions. All workers whether employed or unemployed must demand the right to work.

# SEAMEN FIGHT UNION BUREAUCRATS-CHEATED INTO SMALL PAY RISE!

A struggle is going on inside the National Union of Seamen between the Union bureaucrats and the rank and file. The struggle is one for power for the democratic control and running of the Unions. It is the old story of the Union leadership being out for themselves in league with the bosses. This emerged most clearly during the recent Seaman's Conference in Hull when Union officials voted in a pay increase of 20%, very much below what the rank and filers demanded. The latter wanted a pay rise of 50% on £60 a month which is on the average the present basic rate of pay for seamen (the basic rates vary for the different grades and even varies with different companies).

The rank and file were totally against the meagre rise. The voting to accept the increase was 123 for and 110 against. The number of officials who voted numbered 42. Union is so unpopular with the rank and file membership that there is declining membership and Union officials therefore wish to raise subs. from 4/- to 6/- or 8/-.

Seamen face a tough future. Organisation of seamen is becoming increasingly difficult as shipowners can send troublesome ships to ports away from home, while the owners deal with any trouble in their own way. Neither are seamen automatically entitled to Redundancy Pay. They can be got rid off even after years of service without any Redundancy Pay. Seamen are not fully covered by the Redundancy Act. So far many seamen in an industry that is becoming rapidly automatised there will be no golden handshake. Containment is also causing lay offs.

Since the Union bureaucrats are showing little interest in getting things done local agreements are being enforced by rank and filers. On the contrary the bureaucrats agree to things which the rank and file don't want.

The seamen have still not been granted a 40 hour week. Their average working hours a week is 56. In addition to this they can face stiff penalties for minor disobediences of all sorts. This has given rise to a mighty campaign to get rid of the hated Merchant Shipping Act, especially its Penal Clauses (see elsewhere on this page).

Seamen have to face the same stern absolute authority of the skipper as the trawlermen. Once they sail away they have to face his life and death say over their lives.

Seamen are not yet provided with adequate safety measures, despite the 1966 strike. There is for example only one able-bodied person on deck for 4 hours, and as any seaman knows this is not safe. Protective clothing has still to be provided for chipping, painting,

The 52,000 British seamen are the worst paid in the world and their recent pay rise was not even on their full earnings.

(Here is a slightly abridged version of a leaflet published not long ago showing the differences that lay between the bureaucrats in the T.U. leadership and the rank and file. We publish it because we see yet more evidence of how T.U. leaderships act more often in the interests of the bosses than the workers they are supposed to be fighting for. Our "impartial" dailies never tell us how rank and file memberships are often swindled out of their legitimate demands, so that they are often forced to go on what the ruling class calls "unofficial strikes" to get what they want.)

## YOUR UNION

Do you run your own Union? or does it run you?

Have you had a say in Union discussions?

Do you have a say in the way your money is spent?

If not. Why not?

The Union rules were drawn up in the belief that all Union policy would be formulated at Branch meetings which in turn would be voted on at the Executive Council and so get a consensus of opinion from the membership as a whole.

Some great decisions have been taken, but the members knew nothing of this until everything was settled. We were given a rough outline of things to come but no fine details. Did you discuss The Redundancy Scheme, The General Purpose Agreement and the New Establishment Scheme. These are only a few. Why was the membership not kept in the picture, Why were their views not sought? We were presented with the fait accompli of the tremendous advances in the industry. Advances for whom? For whose benefits were these agreements made? And what about the other anomalies in our industry? The double standard of feeding and accommodation aboard ship. Two classes of seamen, foreign going and home trade, two rates of pay for the same job, monthly and weekly, established and unestablished seamen, first and second class feeding accommodation aboard ship Officers and Ratings. Why should there be these disparities? Especially in the feeding arrangements. We are all seamen doing the same job, doing a job of work.

First and second class seamen, established and unestablished. Are established seamen so much better at their jobs than they should be paid a retainer? We are told that every one who is up to standard in a requisite time is eligible to become established. But why aren't most of us established. Because the register is only allowed to hold so many seamen. So why don't we

get rid of the unestablished seamen? Because if we did there would not be enough men available to take all the ships away. Back to square one. Why established and unestablished seamen?

Why two rates for doing the same job? There is a definite difference between the rate paid monthly and the weekly rate. After paying for his food the majority of seamen on Home Trade articles is worse off financially than the man who is paid monthly. Why should a seaman have to pay for his food anyway? Why should there also be dual jobs unless he gets some compensation for doing two jobs. As it is a cook/steward gets less than a cook on deep sea.

We are told there are a lot of small coastal firms who cannot afford company feeding on their ships. If the profit margin is so small, why do these companies stay in business? Surely not to provide jobs for a few hundred seamen. Soft-hearted shipowners!!! Most small firms have been taken over by larger firms now although operating under the old names. Why should seamen subsidise the shipowners anyhow?

These are just a few points that are making some seamen wonder who is getting the most benefit from our Union. This is your Union and you should be running it. Most seamen would like a better union. If anything is worth having its worth fighting for. So go out and fight for your Union. Go to your Branch meetings and make sure that your voice is heard. Take back your Union and keep the power where it belongs - with the membership. Union officials are your servants, not your masters. You employ them. If they displease you no matter how high up in the Union he may be let them know through your Branch meetings. Let them know what you want and see that you get it through your Branch meetings. Whoever runs your Union runs you. Whoever runs the Union controls your job. RUN YOUR OWN UNION.

## TORY SWINDLERS

Nearly £1,400,000 has been donated by 471 companies to the Tory Party and anti-socialist organisations, according to a special issue of the Labour Party's Economic Brief. Some well known companies are listed, including Tate and Lyle who are shown to have given £7,788 to the Tory Party, £6,250 to British United Industries, £2,500 to Aims of Industry and £1,575 to the Economic League. Dunlops of which Mr. Reginald Maudling, deputy leader of the Tory Party is a Director gave £20,000. Mr. Heath himself is a substantial shareholder in Brown & Shipley Holdings which donated £10,000 last year. We wonder why these people who are so hostile to wage rises

## How the Shanghai Workers Took Over Their Wharves

By Gerald Tannebaum

In socialist China everything is controlled by the masses. In accordance with Chairman Mao's teaching that "the working class must exercise leadership in everything" workers in China have taken over factories, schools, universities, government institutions, etc. They have put an end to the potential rise of a bureaucratic or elitist class that will dominate them as happens in our capitalist society. Thus for the first time in the history of mankind a genuine workers' democracy is being practised. Workers & peasants are the true masters of their country. In the following article from the "Eastern Horizon" an American writer in China describes the struggle of dockers in Shanghai to kick out bureaucratic elements and control it themselves.

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution is without doubt the most intensive examination of a political party power history has ever recorded. Conceived and led by Mao-Tse-Tung himself it has placed all the actions of leading members of the Chinese Communist Party and the government administration on all levels under the scrutiny of 700 million politically awakened minds. The point of departure for this grand inspection is whether or not during the past 17 years the leadership of each Party and government cadre was aiming toward the building of a socialist society or in one degree or another restoring capitalism. What became evident since June 1966 was that for a long time there had been two lines of thought, reflecting class struggle inside the Party. One was represented by Chairman Mao himself, upholding his revolutionary policies which had led the people in winning political power in 1949 and in achieving outstanding success in socialist construction since. This was always the dominant line but there was another line represented by several leading members of the C.P. which set out to revise Mao's policies. They were allowing the very forces in society - landlords, bourgeoisie, Rightists and counter-revolutionaries which had been overcome in a long and bloody conflict lasting 22 years to make a comeback via the ideological, educational, artistic, publishing, cinematic, stage, and other fields. They were exerting their influence in a million and one ways, covertly preparing to seize power. These people were changing from revolutionaries who put their personal interests above those they were supposed to serve.

There was a tense atmosphere around the 5th Wharf Area of Shanghai in June 1966 when the workers felt they could not say a word. When a Work Team had been sent from the Port Authority headed by the Deputy-Director of the North-Sea Marine

**THE DOCK STRIKE:** Dockers have been engaged in a running battle with the shipowners for these many years and not even the present big strike is going to solve their problems, great as it is. This will only happen when the docks are run in their interests instead of the shipowners. And this itself will only happen when the capitalist class is forcibly overthrown and the country run in the interests of all the workers as in China.

Transport Bureau to assist in carrying out the Cultural Revolution it set out instead to pick on those people who had opinions and criticisms against the Party Committee. Then on June 1, Mao approved a dazibao written by Nieh Uan-tzu, a philosophy teacher at Peking University, and 6 others who severely criticised the university administration for doing what had been at Wharf 5. This set off a chain reaction all over the country. The cauldron burst all along the wharf. In one day 10,000 posters appeared, mainly directed against the former Party secretary who had harshly suppressed the opinions of workers and imposed on them unfair systems of pay and work. Many old workers who could not write enlisted the younger ones to put to paper what had been in their minds for a long time. The Party Committee and Work Team became frightened. They issued a decree saying all dazibao had to be posted inside the warehouses because their content was "internal matter!" This meant the posters would not be seen by the majority of the workers. Through this and other measures they tried to stop criticism of their administration. An electrician who criticised the Work Team was locked up in a room for 12 hours. The other workers on hearing of the electrician's plight, wanted to speak up for him but the Party Committee and Work Team used his example to intimidate them into silence. The wharf workers called this "killing a chicken to frighten a monkey". Young Communist Leaguers were also threatened that if they supported those protesting their applications to become Party members would never be approved. Others were accused of political wavering. In this base way the name of the Party was misused to suppress a mass movement which the Party was advocating. Using such tactics the Party Committee and Work Team managed to turn the main force of the CR away from its true target those in power taking the capitalist road and to aim it at the masses.

Another 32 persons were labelled as new or old counter-revolutionaries depending on whether they wrote their critical posters sooner or later. The policy of hitting at the many in order to protect the small leading clique splintered the unity amongst the workers. Apprentices would not talk to one another. Everyone feared getting stuck with the name: "rebel!" The Work Team organized a group to collect material on those who refused to knuckle down, copying every word they uttered, recording to whom they spoke and so forth. This lasted from June to Sept. 1966. These repressions carried on until in November the workers decided to organise themselves into a Rebel Group. They saw no hope in the regular Party or administrative organs and regarded them as representing a degeneracy from working class cadres and who by protecting their privileges were dead set on taking the

capitalist road.

From its first appearance, the Party Committee feared this small Rebel Group. Each time they put up a poster the Party Committee sent people to copy it indicating this would be put in the files and accounts settled later. They tried to whip up public opinion against the Group circulating rumours, reprinting and distributing black leaflets from the Shanghai City Party Committee whose leadership had retrogressed to the most serious extent. The Group's very first steps were dogged and the telephone switchboard was used to monitor their calls. The Party Committee went to the ludicrous degree of boring a hole in the floor of one of the offices so they could watch the activities of the Rebels below and planted a tapping device in their offices. To the rebels it was a case of saving the Chinese Revolution, so despite all the obstacles put in their path they worked patiently, educating the workers in the wharf. Gradually their numbers grew to 121, and they even won over the switchboard operator. The Rebels were not cowed in the least and called for open debate among the workers. But the minds of many workers were still beclouded by the Party Committee which demanded slavish obedience. Some workers were persuaded to physically attack the Rebels & violence was threatened. But the Rebels would not fight their class brothers under any circumstances.

As the Rebels became more militant they eventually organized a sit-in before the Party Committee offices for 24 hours. In a 30,000 word poster they systematically exposed all the crimes of the Committee. This was posted all along the wharf. Then the Secretary at night sent a group of strong arms to attack the Rebels. The Rebels again resumed the debate with the Secretary & Committee refusing to stop for either lunch or dinner. The talks eventually started and went on until finally at 4a.m. Hsiao Ming agreed to the four demands over the head of the Party Secretary. The Rebels asked him to use his persuasion to get the secretary to see the light. This he did and in the end the secretary agreed to the demands. This was a great victory for the Rebels but they did not let it turn their heads. They studied the Cultural Revolution thoroughly and out of this study there came a poster of 100,000 words which completely analysed the black line and how it had been transmitted from the City Party Committee right down through the Party Organization of their Area. This was their political offensive, to let the workers see the truth. Already the former First Secretary and the mayor had been struggled against in a mass meeting with over 100,000 attending.

But those who perpetrated the reactionary line from the City Committee down to the smallest units, had been defeated in one battle after another, but rather than retreat from the field, they changed

their tactics to fight the Rebels and the CR. Still vainly hoping to make a comeback, their desperation led them to economism and to wreck the economy. They wanted to end the assault on their bureaucracy. Economism stemmed from their reactionary class interests, but it was based on their taking advantage of non proletarian thinking in the minds of people. 17 years is the barest glimpse of time in which to remold people's thinking so that it is ideally selfless. During the period of socialism, too, there are still instances of inequalities and gaps as the economy is being built up with the purpose exactly to eradicate such differences. Therefore those persisting in taking the capitalist road resorted to the despicable means of economism which played on personal economic interests. Some workers who were clear headed in their criticism fell, when they were offered bait in the form of increased wages, welfare benefits, bonuses and so forth, which touched on individual interests over those of the collective. With the management of the wharf now so amenable to the economic demands of the workers in 2 weeks 16 different organisations sprang up, seriously splitting the unity of the workers and bringing about a state of anarchy. The old workers had their representation, the young theirs, those who came after 1957, theirs, and so forth. The reactionaries took advantage of this playing a game of hide and seek with the workers representatives. They favoured one group against another.

This affected the work of the port. There were not enough people to man the machines and trucks, to do the checking and the stacking. This was when Shanghai's No. 5 Wharf Area became world news but as usual only one side of the story was told. The holdup in unloading and loading the foreign ships gave the capitalist press the chance to spread rumours and lies about China, which they are only too willing to do. But they were soon spiked because the Rebel Group had already taken on the internal enemy and the task of obliterating economism. Work never came to a full halt in No. 5 Area.

The Rebel Group summoned all their strength to educate and enlighten the masses of workers. By posters, big and small, they explained that the CR was a serious political question aimed at solving whether China takes the socialist or capitalist road. It was not an economic struggle. They appealed to those who had been fooled to let go of that smelly bait thrown out to them by the reactionary line. The problem was not a personal one but whether the proletariat was going to rule China or whether there was to be a resurgence of the bourgeois and capitalism. They urged the workers to put things in their proper perspective, to return the dole money and to keep the work of the wharf going which the reactionaries wilfully wished to disrupt. They were trying to make the port look bad in the eyes of the world and attribute this to the Rebel Group.

The political struggle against economism continued. On Dec. 30 the Rebels called a meeting for each shift to explain the reactionary nature of economism,

how it was aimed at wrecking the CR and how economism demonstrated how much the CR was needed. Then on January 3 the first poster put out by some old workers condemned economism and warned the Party Committee it would have to be responsible for all losses to the state. But there were still those who refused to be convinced so the split continued, with those who supported the posters and those who did not. At this time the Rebel Groups welcomed the support they received from revolutionary youth and Red Guards from the Shanghai universities and from various parts of China. The young people organised a series of performances dealing with the CR and with economism in particular. The most obstinate were reminded of their lives before Liberation. "Before you were clothed in rags; now you wear suits of good cloth. The more you seel for yourself alone, the closer you come to being a revisionist." "We have come so far in 17 years," the young people pointed out, "but we have got so much further to go. We'll all go there together, sharing weal and woe, but rising together." This was most effective amongst the old workers who remembered that before Liberation they were not even looked upon as human beings, let alone as workers, as masters of China.

But the struggle against economism continued and by this time the celebrated "January Revolution" had taken place in Shanghai, in which the various Rebel groups in many units took over power from the Party and administrative organs and began operating them, and then united on a city-wide basis to take over power from the city Party Committee and government. The united Rebel Groups issued their famous Letter to the Shanghai people explaining their action.

On No. 5 Wharf, even while fighting against economism, the rebels had taken over, for unless they did this they would not have been able to keep the cargo moving. Now the Central Committee had endorsed the "January Revolution" so the workers in high spirits went about the job of clearing up the backlog of goods and moving the ships in and out of port as quickly as possible. Meanwhile, by January 14th, the workers had returned all the money which had been passed out to them during the wave of economism. Many of them wrote posters announcing this and criticizing those formerly in power for trying to buy them over. They said we work for the revolution not for money. With this new atmosphere prevailing, the dockers under their revolutionary leadership created new records in production. On January they topped the 1966 high by loading in 24 hours 10,409 tons. They made innovations without asking money for expenses.

As the leader of the Rebel Group Hsiao Wu pointed out, all the victories scored are due to the Thought of Mao. Political work is the lifeline of economic work. The dockers tempered their proletarian ideology in the midst of a complicated and sharp class struggle. But as Wu pointed out they must study

Mao even deeper and accept the supervision and criticisms of the masses.

The story of the workers on No. 5 Wharf, which is typical in so many respects, expresses the world-wide significance of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. It shows the Chinese working class under the leadership of Chairman Mao braving wind and storm to prevent the restoration of capitalism in China. It shows the correctness of Mao's unwavering reliance on the masses of the Chinese people, of his unshakeable belief in them as revolutionaries capable of educating themselves in the midst of struggle as to what is right and wrong, capable of liberating themselves by their own initiative, discovering for themselves the correct and incorrect way of doing things. It is proletarian democracy practised in its broadest sense and the workers on No. 5 Wharf have amply demonstrated that they can draw a clear line between the enemies and themselves, and that they can keep China on the socialist path.

## SEAMEN FEAR PENAL CLAUSES

The Merchant Shipping Bill became law in May this year. It is almost indistinguishable from the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894 and particularly the ever detested penal clauses 28, 29, 30, and 31 which discipline the life of the seaman on sea in the most rigorous way. Seamen say that the new Act refines the harshness of the old clauses. Seamen have a genuine fear of the new Act and the penal clauses.

These are the infamous penal clauses as listed in the Merchant Shipping Bill:-

**Clause 28:** If a seaman employed in a ship registered in the United Kingdom is, while on duty, under the influence of drink or a drug to such an extent that his capacity to carry out his duties is impaired, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £50.

**Clause 29:** If a seaman employed in a ship registered in the U.K. wilfully disobeys a lawful command relating to or likely to affect the operation of the ship or its equipment he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £50.

**Clause 30:** If a seaman employed in a ship registered in the U.K. -

- (a) persistently and wilfully neglects his duty; or
- (b) persistently and wilfully disobeys lawful commands; or
- (c) combines with other seamen employed in that ship to disobey lawful commands or to neglect duty or to impede the navigation of the ship or the progress of a voyage;

he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £100.

**Clause 31:** If a seaman employed in a ship registered in the U.K. is absent without leave and the ship is thereby delayed or goes to sea without him, then if he is so absent deliberately and without reasonable cause or his absence is due to recklessness, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £100.

# DIFFERENT BUS SERVICE-Grimsby

Falling in line with the all-round attack on workers standards of living the local Council "Mis"leaders on the Grimsby & Cleethorpes Joint Transport Committee (G.C.J.T.C.) have made huge cuts in the bus services, around Grimsby and Cleethorpes. Particularly affected will be many workers who have to commute into town off the estates to get to work. The result is crowded buses and long queues. Under the guise of "Streamlining the Service" to make it "Pay its Way" the workers at G.C.J.T.C. receive low wages for long hours worked. This results in a shortage of staff and buses laid up for want of drivers and conductors. Particularly affected is the Maintenance side. At the moment engines have to be sent out of the county to Nottinghamshire to be serviced. The result is a general run down in Public transport.

Perhaps a reason for this comes to light in a letter printed in the "Grimsby Evening Telegraph" from ex-Tory Councillor Charles Ekberg which asked: "Since the Grimsby & Cleethorpes Joint Transport Committee are unable to run a bus service, why not ask a private company to do so?"

The letter also quoted two local private firms who might be able to take the task on.

The Humberside Worker supports the call by the Humberside Workers Association that the bus service must be run in the interests of the people and as a first step better wages and conditions must be given to G.C.J.T.C workers.

The service must be built up at no extra cost to the public. The service could be financed out of the huge interest rates being paid by the Council to Big Business on loans for local development.

The G.C.J.T.C. slogan at all times must be:-

**SERVE THE PEOPLE.**

The H.W.A. recently campaigned against the cuts in bus services. Already 1,000 people have signed the H.W.A. petition

## -Peking

In People's China the socialist morality of serving the people is fully practised. The ethic in this great socialist country is not one of competition and of selfish individualism. It is a collectivistic one of sharing and comradeship with one's fellow beings.

Here is an example of how bus services are run in the interests of the people and not making profits. How different from what we experience here, where fares are ever rising, services closed down, conductors layed off in the name of productivity deals. The following

excerpt is printed from Hsinhua News Agency, the Chinese News Bulletin:-

"Bus workers on the No. 14 bus line in Peking are praised by workers, peasants and soldiers for the good services provided. The bus drivers and conductors are commended as exemplary in using Mao's Thought to guide their advance along the road of continuing the revolution. Acting on Chairman Mao's teachings on study and investigation, the drivers and conductors have gone to more than 30 plants along the line to gather the opinions of the workers. Members of the communist party branch committee often go on the buses to ask the passengers for suggestions. They also hold discussions with passengers at other times and listen attentively to the criticism and suggestions of the workers, peasants and soldiers. As a result, they instituted a longer night service for late shift workers.

One section of the line was under repair last November. The No. 14 buses had to stop running. Hundreds of regular passengers had to switch to switch to other lines and some had at least half an hour longer travelling time than before. The bus workers on No. 14 line made up their minds to serve the people whole-heartedly. They paid many visits to plants along the line to learn the needs of the passengers and then re-routed No. 14 to bypass the section under repair. The passengers were very pleased. The drivers and conductors always pay special attention to the elderly and handicapped and pregnant women. One day conductor Su Yu-Hua noticed a blind old man and asked him where he was going. She learned that from the bus terminal he had to walk to a highway bus station. After the bus pulled in at the terminal, Su Yu-Hua helped the old man out, walked him to the waiting room of the highway bus station, helped him buy a ticket, found an armyman who was going to the same destination and asked him to look after the blind man. The old man was grateful."

## BAKERY Sweat Shop

Work conditions at Newboulds Bakery in Hull is that of a sweat shop. But the conditions here are often typical of most Bakeries in the country.

Competition between Bakeries to supply the freshest bread results in the employees working inhuman long hours. Most men have to work from 60-65 hours a week at a basic rate of 7/9 an hour. There is very little grading in the industry so that the oven men who have to work in scorching heat get paid the same rate as anybody else. One man only a fortnight ago lost 14lbs. before the ovens. This working time also means that the workers often have to be on their feet 12-14 hours a day

for six days a week. And overtime rates of pay for these conditions are comparatively poor.

As usual the Bakery Union seems to be more on the side of the bosses than the workers. Over these many years they have hardly bestirred themselves to change the workers' conditions. Because of the long hours of work the workers do not find time to attend Union meetings. The fragmentation of the industry also makes organization poor. At the factory in National Ave. the machines are treated with more respect than the men. Canteen facilities for them are poor. Sandwich prices are higher than those on British Railways. There is no proper meals organized for the workers.

Workers themselves receive only half an hour for meals for which they are not paid! Besides this there is no organization in their breaks as in Exeter where workers get 20 minutes break every hour.

Workers cannot take even a loaf of bread away at the end of their work and recently a family man was fired on the spot for doing so. Overtime is compulsory and the manager has the right to call a worker back to work anytime during his break. This year there has been less men for more work. When there is a reduction in staff men have to do more work but they do not get paid extra for it. Extra pay for night work is only 15%! Sunday is double time but the double time comes to an end after midnight.

There is no proper fan system and this makes ventilation conditions poor. It is noteworthy that men ex-seamen are employed at Newboulds, people who have given 30-40 years of their lives in the deep seas. It is sad to see that in the evening of their lives they should be treated to this drudgery of a job.

The worker would like to have a basic wage of £20 a week, but unless they do something about it nothing will be done.

## CONNING THE WORKERS WITH NATIONALISM

One of the issues that the Conservatives drummed up during the election campaign was the question of selling arms to South Africa. The argument was that if Britain did not sell the arms then other countries would, and this would harm the national economy, resulting in loss of employment for thousands of workers. This certainly was the line that Conservative candidate, Councillor Townend, took. When questioned if he did not think that it was immoral to sell arms to a fascist government that would use it eventually against workers and peasants in South Africa he replied that as far as he was concerned Britain could sell. Councillor Townend, himself a businessman who is trying to push in the local Council some of the most reactionary housing legislation, and able spokesman for the small businessman (he is a Powellite) was trying to

(CONT. ON PAGE 9)



# DONT JOIN THE ARMY TO KILL FELLOW WORKERS

Easter 1964. After sixteen months rigorous military and trade training, the Army were at last sending me overseas. 10 carefree young soldiers on their first posting, little suspecting that four of them were to die, the others to return bitter over the senseless killings they had seen

I arrived in Aden on April Fools Day 1964. During the first few weeks I got badly sunburned, learned several Arabic swear words, and Cheiffey was killed. He was in a bar with several other servicemen, when a car pulled up outside. Through the door came a grenade, scattering everyone through doors, windows behind counters, and overturned tables. Cheiffey and an R.A.F. boy ran through the street door, and a second short-fuse grenade landed at their feet. Both died. Another boy inside the cafe had his stomach blown off. Nine of us left.

This was when I started to think that life in the army was not all we were told it would be. My faith in what I was taught by my superiors took some hard knocks in the following year or so. Three more of my friends were killed, including Pat, a special friend.

When we had first had "terrorist"

(NATIONALISM - ENEMY OF WORKERS - CONT. FROM PAGE 8)

make use of nationalism to further his class interests. Nationalism always deceives the working class into supporting the capitalist class in the latter's interests. It tries to make out that the interests of the capitalists and the working class are the same.

Only the monopoly capitalists will benefit from the sale of arms to South Africa. The workers at Hawkeley-Siddeley will get mere crumbs. And if the ruling class really cared about workers' interests they would use the billions of pounds that it spends in overseas defence in giving the workers good housing and decent wages. But profits come before human needs. Unemployment in Britain has got little to do with selling arms to reactionary regimes abroad. It is built into the capitalist system which needs what Marx called "an industrial reserve army" to enable labour to be bought more cheaply. There is a school of economic thought in Britain, represented by no less a person than Benham, a well-known bourgeois economist, who says that Britain can solve its inflation and balance of payments problems by having more unemployment, and he quotes a figure of 10%!

Besides money spent in building arms can be used more rationally developing other industries where workers can be employed more usefully morally.

The working class must reject nationalism and stand by with the workers of all countries.

outbreaks we were not allowed to harm the Arabs unless our life was in actual and immediate danger. Later we were allowed to use violence against them, during crowd control and handling prisoners. Hatred and tension had grown on both sides, callous beatings were handed out by us behind closed doors. Our married quarters being sniped at, British civilians attacked in the streets (The Adenese were conducting a national liberation struggle for their independence from British rule) made the troops restless. Entire regiments had to be restrained by their own officers from taking reprisals on the Arabs.

Up to now I had never had any racial prejudice, but the frustration was now welling up inside me, and only the Arabs were available to turn on to, to lash out in anger.

Only now years later can I see that it was not so much the Arabs at fault, but my own Government. Brainwashed by our politicians and generals at first, now no longer believing in their self-righteousness. Arabs have the right to rule themselves like anybody else, instead of being subjugated by the influence of the colonial powers, and suppressed by oil millionaires. Whether a race is capable of ruling itself or not, it has the right to try. Rule by non-understanding foreigners is never desirable, particularly when these foreigners have motives of greed at heart, instead of those of democracy. These are the conditions in which the evil seeds of war flowers into senseless death and destruction. The oppressed will always rise and fight the oppressor. After all, we fought against Hitler.

## Intellectuals Students Must Learn From Workers

The leadership of the working class must be recognised and accepted by intellectuals. Bourgeois ideology is particularly difficult to overcome on the question of intelligence and education. If we ask seriously how much intellectual s really understand the material conditions of life after many years of education, we find they cannot begin to compare with workers. They have almost no concrete experience in production and class struggle. They are imbued with individualism, which leads them to seek personal solutions. Even a study of Marxism-Leninism, isolated from social practice, cannot overcome bourgeois ideology. Mao

and Lenin both taught that ideas must be brought into correspondence with the laws of objective external world; that if they did not correspond, they would fail in practice. That is the fate of bourgeois idealist theories.

"The dialectical-materialist theory of knowledge places practice in the primary position, holding that human knowledge can in no way be separated from practice and repudiating all the erroneous theories which deny the importance of practice or separate knowledge from practice."

(On Practice)

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China has shown the tremendous power of proletarian ideology. In China, M-L and the contributions to it of Mao-Tse-Tung, have become the property of the masses. Armed with it, they are making the greatest strides forward on all fronts. Intellectuals are learning to recognise their own backwardness and are learning from the workers. Mao has said "the working class must exercise leadership in everything." Workers teams are hailed everywhere as they lead struggle-criticism-transformation campaigns in schools, factories and farms, as well as in the social superstructure and all aspects of culture. Great scientific discoveries in industry (as the new petroleum de-waxing process); medicine (synthesizing insulin, curing deafness); agriculture (biological pest control, etc.) which bourgeois science was unable to achieve anywhere in the world, were largely the result of "ending the domination by intellectuals" and encouraging workers to attack problems in fields in which they had previously been considered incompetent!

Capitalists must perpetuate the myth that they and their "experts" are indispensable. They must insist that human nature is above class and cannot change, that intelligence is a fixed inheritance given in greater degree to the ruling class. China leads the world in destroying these lies! Widespread exposure of that fact, together with a real understanding of the process of transformation from bourgeois ideology to proletarian ideology, will be the best attack on fascist rot.

To fight anti-working class ideas and to develop a proletarian outlook, the intellectuals must identify with the aspirations of the working class and integrate themselves into the lives of the workers. Intellectuals can introduce workers to scientific Marxism-Leninism as they fight side by side against bosses and administrators, but the workers will lead the way in putting theory into practice. Intellectuals and other groups may sincerely desire revolution, but only the workers, because of their relation to the socialized means of production, have the united power to lead the class struggle. Class conscious workers, engaged in struggle against the class enemy, show the highest form of intelligence!"

EXCERPT

FROM THE AMERICAN MARXIST-LENINIST BI-MONTHLY PROGRESSIVE LABOUR - FEBRUARY 1970.

# Trawler Show Anti-Working Class

"In the world today all culture, all literature and art belongs to definite classes and are geared to definite political lines. There is in fact no such thing as art for art's sake, art that stands above classes, or that is detached from or independent of politics."

(Mao-Tse-Tung)

The Hull Arts Centre's "Settle Us Fair" did not do justice to its name. The farce which was billed as an anti-working class show, put on to titillate the middle classes. Instead of being something serious meaning to arouse the public to a sense of indignation of the life of a trawlerman, both on sea and ashore, as deprived member of society, their tragic lives became an instrument of cheap amusement for your middle classes. How on earth the terrible misfortunes of the trawlermen can provide material for a farcical musical comedy is beyond comprehension. Trawlermen's lives are a terrible accusation of a society that allows such blatant injustice to exist. This should have been the writer's principal task, to show the class nature of the trawlermen's exploitation. After all trawlermen have been going out into the deep seas for well over a century and their conditions must have a deep-rooted cause.

If the show was based on this sort of seriousness it would have been excusable even though the script and the actual performance itself was weak and bad. What was most shocking was its deliberate anti-working class bias. It contained elements of the tragedy that marked the history of trawling and this enhanced the incongruity of the show.

The trawlermen were not dignified persons fighting for their stature against an inhuman and exploitative class society. To judge from the nature of the incessant quarrels that went on amongst the workers and their wives they did not know what the strike was really all about. One got the impression that the recent Trawlermen strike failed because the trawlermen were too disunited, that they were more interested in secretly running off to sea, than in pursuing the struggle in a determined manner. Sure, things like the role of the police whose impartiality somehow coincided with the interests of the bosses was shown, but this was overshadowed by the general comic tone of the whole show. The strike was presented like a free for all in which boss and worker tried to get what they could.

The production opened with a solemn scene showing a trawlerman being buried, and one felt that there was going to be a serious production

of a serious subject. But the irony was that even the funeral rites was twisted into a piece of levity. It appeared that right from the beginning the author had made up his mind that nothing was going to be too serious for him. The most serious and tragic event was going to be turned into a jest. The characters themselves seemed more interested in singing with gusto than in portraying their roles with any faithfulness. What with audience participation in this the whole thing seemed to be an excuse for singing.

The musical comedy while it provided some conscience salving entertainment for the totally middle class audience was an insult to trawlermen, their recent heroic strike, and an insult to working class culture. I daresay that the writer has no experience of working class life and like so many writers of his class, he was more interested in pandering to his ego so that even the tragedied of trawling become grist to his mill. Or perhaps he is in the vein of our bourgeois intellectuals, who representing the valuelessness of present day bourgeois culture, can only find absurdity around him. The working class reject such a distortion of their struggles and history presented by dilltentante middle class writers who have no notion of class struggle and class exploitation and who approach the working class with vague humanitarian feelings. Charity is not what the working class wants: they must be aroused to struggle and take away from the exploiting classes what is rightfully theirs. There is no equality between boss and trawlerman as this show tried to make out. Hull is predominantly a working class town and the Hull Arts Centre must put on performances with genuine working class content instead of pandering to the small middle class in the town. Workers don't have to be brought up to the level of middle class culture, on the contrary they must understand working class life since it is their labour upon which society is founded.

## Trawlers And The Mail

One of the great myths of capitalism is that the Press is Free and Independent. The truth is that the Press is nothing more than a broadsheet for ruling class propaganda. The Press under capitalism is controlled by Big Business who advertise in it and spread lies about the workers engaged in class struggle.

apolitical  
intellectuals

One day  
the apolitical  
intellectuals  
of my country  
will be interrogated  
by the simplest  
of our people.

They will be asked  
what they did  
when their nation died out  
slowly,  
like a sweet fire,  
small and alone.

No one will ask them  
about their dress,  
their long siestas  
after lunch,  
no one will want to know  
about their sterile combats  
with "the idea  
of the nothing."

No one will care about  
their higher financial learning.  
They won't be questioned  
on Greek mythology  
or regarding their self disgust  
when someone within them  
begins to die  
the coward's death.

They'll be asked nothing  
about their absurd  
justifications  
born in the shadow  
of the total lie.

On that day  
the simple men will come,  
those who had no place  
in the books and poems  
of the apolitical intellectuals,  
but daily delivered  
their bread and milk,  
their tortillas and eggs,  
those who mended their clothes,  
those who drove their cars,  
who cared for their dogs and gardens  
and worked for them,  
and they'll ask:  
"What did you do when the poor  
suffered, when tenderness  
and life  
burned out in them?"

by OTTO RENE CASTILLO  
(A Guatemalan poet, a political  
intellectual himself at the University  
of Guatemala killed for his guerilla  
activities in March 1967.)

The truth of this was demonstrated  
during the recent Hull Trawlermen  
Strike. Below is printed, a leaflet  
published by the T.G.W.U.:-

"THE HULL DAILY MAIL AFFAIR."

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# LENINISM NOW

Much has been written recently in this year of Lenin's centenary a great deal of which pays lip service to the revolutionary teacher of the working class who played such a magnificent role in writing an entirely new chapter in the history of mankind. The world has not been the same since the great October Revolution and many other countries have followed in its wake:- the People's Republic of China, North Korea, North Vietnam, Cuba, etc. Life itself has proved that only proletarian parties armed with Marxist-Leninist ideology can make successful revolutions. The Vietnamese people are fighting the greatest military power the world has ever known to a standstill precisely because they are armed with the ideology of Marxism-Leninism. What Lenin had to say about Imperialism, the State, revolutionary violence, the vanguard party and the question of spontaneity, etc. have become the stock in trade of the true proletarian revolutionaries of our epoch.

But perhaps the greatest contribution Lenin made to our understanding of what is happening in our contemporary world is his thesis on the interconnections between the anti-imperialist struggles of the so-called "Third World" and the socialist movements in our countries in their combined assault upon world Imperialism. To-day even more than at the time when Lenin was alive this great prophetic insight bears fruit in the raging struggles of the Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian, Malayan, Thai peoples against U.S. led Imperialism. And not only are these struggles intensifying the general crisis of Imperialism but they are also in particular intensifying the class contradictions in America itself. The Job Seekers Caucus resolution passed by 5,000 students and teachers at a recent convention in the U.S. related unemployment to the "imperialist war in Vietnam." Inflation continues at a 6% annual rate; unemployment rises sharply month by month; the balance of payments continues in deficit; the stock market declines; the crisis of the Black peoples' revolt continues unabated; militant strikes mount and in general the whole political, social and cultural life in the U.S. reaches a state of acute crisis. Thrice over the past two years the U.S. economy has just averted a Depression similar to that of 1929. But some economists think that a Depression is still in the brewing.

It is because Imperialism is a world-wide phenomenon and capitalism has long ago overstepped national boundaries that Lenin and the modern Marxist-Leninist movement insist upon proletarian internationalism that unites the exploited peoples all over the world into a common bond against their common enemy.

LENINISM TEACHES THAT THE WORLD REVOLUTION CAN ONLY SUCCEED IF THE PROLETARIAT OF THE CAPITALIST COUNTRIES SUPPORTS THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION OF THE COLONIAL AND SEMI-COLONIAL PEOPLES AND IF THE PROLETARIAT OF THE COLONIES AND SEMI-COLONIES SUPPORTS THAT OF THE PROLETARIAT OF THE CAPITALIST COUNTRIES."

(Mao-Tse-Tung)



Lenin predicted that the revolutionary movements of the East would have repercussions in the European capitalist countries and give an impetus to their proletarian revolution. Lenin further pointed out after the October Revolution that the mass of people in the colonial countries "will play a very important role in the coming phases of the world revolution." History has fully borne out Lenin's scientific prediction. The peoples in the East who had been looked down upon for centuries are now standing in the forefront of the world revolution, "participating in deciding the destiny of the whole world." The East has now become the anti-imperialist, revolutionary and fighting East.

The question of fully supporting the anti-imperialist national liberation struggles has been the crux of the debate between Russia and China. The latter maintain that the revolutionary storm centres are concentrated in the vast areas of Asia, Africa and Latin America and they are also the places where imperialism is the weakest and most easy to smash. To quote: "The various types of contradictions in the contemporary world are concentrated in the vast areas of Asia, Africa and Latin America; these are the most vulnerable areas under imperialist rule and the storm-centres of world revolution dealing direct blows at imperialism."

The national democratic revolutionary movement in these areas and the international socialist revolutionary movement are the two great historical currents of our time.

The national democratic revolution in these areas is an important component of the contemporary proletarian world revolution.

The anti-imperialist revolutionary struggles of the people in Asia, Africa and Latin America are pounding and undermining the foundations of the rule of imperialism and colonialism.....

In a sense, therefore, the whole cause of the international proletarian revolution hinges on the outcome of the revolutionary struggles of the people of these areas, who

constitute the overwhelming majority of world's population.

Therefore, the anti-imperialist revolutionary struggle of the people in Asia, Africa and Latin America is definitely not a matter of regional significance but one of overall importance for the whole cause of proletarian world revolution."

Trotskyism which claims to be in the tradition of Leninism distorts this fundamental teaching of Lenin when it asserts that only the European countries can build socialism and that the non-Western peoples of the world who are so brutally exploited by imperialism will have to wait for their emancipation when the white working class in America and Europe smash capitalism in their countries. This is an outright racist and chauvinistic outlook, and a manifestation of imperialist influence against which Lenin fought so vigorously and upon which the 2nd International split. Leninism on the other hand realises that imperialism imposes unequal development and that different societies are on different levels of development, and that therefore the construction of socialism has different tasks in different countries.



PEOPLE OF THE WORLD BE COURAGEOUS. DARE TO FIGHT - DEFT DIFFICULTIES AND ADVANCE WAVE UPON WAVE - THEN THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BELONG TO THE PEOPLE. MONSTERS OF ALL KINDS SHALL BE DESTROYED.

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The Hull Daily Mail is a Conservative Rag. It has shown this time and time again. Whether it has been the busmen striking, the dockers striking, or the lorry drivers striking, it has always taken the side of the bosses. Seldom, however, has it shown such outrageous bias as in its report over the last few days of the Fishermen's strike.

The Hull Daily Mail started off by ignoring the strike altogether. It clearly hoped that by doing so it could help to prevent the consolidation of the strike.

By last weekend however, with the numbers and solidarity of the strikers growing unmistakably, the Mail was forced to take notice. The first official strike of the Hull Trawlermen far from being a half-hearted affair that the owners predicted, looked like becoming the biggest and finest thing

# PARTY AND THE MASS LINE IN ALBANIA ~ CONTROL BY WORKERS

The historical experience of the construction of socialism in the Soviet Union shows that when the Party is divorced from the masses and when the masses do not control and supervise over public affairs and the state organs, revisionism, a bureaucratic mentality is born and a new elitist and privileged class arises as has taken place in the Soviet Union. The question of fostering a Marxist-Leninist working style of being one with the masses and cultivating the socialist morality of serving the people is very important for a proletarian Party, and one which distinguishes a revisionist style of work from a genuinely proletarian style. At all times in the historical epoch of the transition to socialism-communism the Party is merely the servant of the working class, guiding it along the road to its ultimate emancipation. In this excerpt from a "History of Albania" the dialectical relationship between Party and the masses is shown in which control by the working class is an important feature of the dictatorship of the proletariat. It explains the MASS LINE clearly in terms of working class control. The Party must be controlled by the masses. When a Party forsakes the Mass Line it stops being a proletarian Party and becomes a revisionist Party. The following excerpt shows the relationship between Mass and Party:

"We fight for the dictatorship of the working class, not the dictatorship of the Party. There is a difference between the Party and the working class. The Party is only a part of the working class, although the most progressive part. The communists play the leading role, but can't be made synonymous with the working class. We stress the leading role of the working class, whereas the Party, as representative of this class, occupies its role in this dictatorship by playing the leading role.

In 1968 Comrade Enver Hoxha (President of Albania) spoke on the control the working class exerts, control that must be strengthened, that must be everywhere, over everyone and everything, even over communists. This is how we understand the mass line.

"The dictatorship of the party is only a narrowing of the dictatorship of the working class. The party plays a great role; it leads the working class. But a dictatorship of the party causes the coming into power of revisionists. A dictatorship of the party brings to the working class the spirit of passivity: "Since you have your party forget everything. The party will take care of everything. You sleep." To identify the dictatorship of the proletariat with the dictatorship of the party is thus very dangerous.

The working class realizes its dictatorship through its party, through its organs of dictatorship. But the working class is exerting dictatorship, not the party.

If we are content with the dictatorship of the party we cannot have control by working class over the party, since the party equals the working class. But this control is imperative. There must be political and ideological education not only of the party but of all the masses and at a high speed. The working class must be conscious that it is the ruler. Not that the party is responsible and has solved this problem, but that each worker should feel responsible for each problem. If this had happened in the revisionist countries, the revisionists would never have come to power."

In the beginning of 1968 Enver Hoxha in a report on "Working Class Supervision" called on "the working class and the Party to exercise all-round, systematic and decisive leadership and supervision over everything and everybody, over cadres, leading organs, administrative institutions and various commissions."

For enforcing supervision by the Party and the working class more successfully the political-ideological level of the working class was raised as one of the main tasks. For unless the masses understand proletarian ideology they cannot guard and build socialism.

Working-class supervision was carried out in various ways. Under the leadership of Party organizations, the masses of workers combated bureaucracy and examined how the mass line was carried out. They reviewed the fulfillment of state plans, looked into attitudes towards collective and individual interests, inspected the work of protecting

public property, the working and living conditions of the labouring masses and saw to it that proletarian ethics were observed in social, individual and family lives. Masses of workers have extended working class supervision from their own units to many outside units.

In Tirana, Elbasan and other cities, hundreds of supervision groups composed of thousands of outstanding workers have been sent to inspect the work of several hundred establishments of commerce, medical service and public health and other service trades. Workers supervision groups have also inspected the work of a number of schools and Party and government institutions.

All this was preceded by discussions amongst the masses of workers and peasants on the meaning of the role of the working class as the leading class in socialist revolution and socialist construction.

Thus it is to be seen that genuine workers' control in all spheres of life is a feature of the dictatorship of the proletariat in Albania.

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that had happened to Hull for many years.

How was it reported by the Mail?

There has been no mention by the Mail of the real issues involved.

## what we care for

The Humberside Marxist-Leninist Group and its publication the "Humberside Worker" are dedicated to the working classes of Britain and Ireland, and the workers of the entire world - black, brown, red, white and yellow.

The only way the working class can ever have a decent life is by overthrowing the bosses government and establishing the DICTATORSHIP OF THE WORKING CLASS, a system of effective democracy for the workers and effective repression for the-bosses and their allies.

When this is done we can build a new society with no exploitation of man by man, a society in which working people collectively own the factories and farms, a society of socialism.

Until this is done, the bosses will continue to hold the trump card: their armies, police and courts. The reforms we win in day to day struggles will be whittled away.

We in the Humberside M-L Group dedicate ourselves to serve the people by guiding them to working class revolution; by building ties deep among the masses of working people in their day to day battles; by learning to apply the revolutionary science of M-L to the particular conditions of industrial Britain.

We strive to present the unconditional truth of class struggle so our class can learn from experience how to win.

There has been no mention that the men are asking for a minimum basic rate of 520 a week for a minimum 84 hour week.

There has been no mention of the conditions and the dangers which the men face (72% more industrial accidents than the industrial average)

There has been no mention of the arrogant and feudal attitude of the owners as seen in its most disgusting form in "gutter rat" Burton.

Above all, there has been no mention that, while Associated Fisheries are announcing a 13% rise in dividends to their shareholders last year, they are refusing to give this modest rise to the men who are creating this wealth.

Instead, the Hull Daily Mail has turned itself into a broadsheet for the owners.

Under the sensational heading of "Mob Rule Now on Fish Docks," they write three full columns on the front page, nearly all of which are quotes from town owners (Burton & Marr). There was indeed mob rule on the docks. The mob rule of police waving on strike breakers; the mob rule of coaches and taxis driving at 50m.p.h. at picket lines. But all we hear from the Mail is the version of the bosses:- "The bus was surrounded by a mob of howling men who had lost all sense of self-discipline."

Although it has always been biased in the past, the particular viciousness it has shown over this strike suggests connections between the Trawler owners and the editor.