

EDITORIAL

The perpetual crisis of the day is the dispossession of the working class. Their place was at the bottom of the ladder in the days of rising capitalism, but the need for their productive ability gave them power to pull themselves up. Now, the ruling classes in all countries are finding that "labour" is an over-priced commodity, and too much "people" is a disaster.

The rulers of the world want their menial tasks done, and they want sufficient serfs to show that they have power. There is a surplus of jobs for pretty secretaries and for doorkeepers, house servants are at a premium and there are always shortages for low-paid hospital workers or municipal employees. But unemployment - treated as if it were a natural disaster like an earthquake - rears up in what were once the essential jobs of capitalism: the skilled workers are pushed out from making ships and cars and hewing coal and told they must move out of their districts, or out of their old lands, and get jobs as postmen or waiters at nothing like the pay.

It is not a passing crisis or a natural phenomenon. It is the new development of capitalism. Just as in the clearances of the peasants (the Highland crofters, for instance) whole communities and ways of life are uprooted. They must adapt or go under. Or they can fight back.

Years of reformist policies under capitalism has made the working-class reluctant to fight back, and even when a ruling-class (such as in Spain) undertakes genocide against them, they have learned to live with it as their numbers dwindle.

What passes for defensive organisations of the working class, expressed as unions or political movements, is divided between the policy of gaining some improvements in the conditions of those who remain in a position of industrial power, and those who - sometimes thinking this represents a libertarian position rather than another defensive one - work for the unemployed in claimants' unions, or for the rights of the growing number at the bottom, or the homeless. All these activities are part of a struggle for survival, but it is a mistake to suppose they contain the means for changing society or the direction in which the State is taking us.

Hysteria over strikes is not because of the economic dislocation they can cause (for what could be greater than redundancies to cause such dislocation?) but because even unsuccessful strikes are

MAKES YER THINK, DUNNIT!

seen as a bid for economic power. In every industry in the country there is now a bid for workers' control, for the taking over of the factories and the mines and the schools and the print-shops by those who work in them. As capitalism finds industries "redundant" so it is more apparent that they could be taken over by those who run them.

This attitude is incorrectly expressed in the slavish reformist slogan "The right to work", but it is nevertheless an inherent right that has been taken from us to run our own destiny, and to live and work as we choose - not, as the slogan suggests, for a wage, but for ourselves.

Why, after all these years of revolutionary theory and aspiration, is it still needful to say all this again and again? Solely because the tiger of exploitation has been shot at and wounded many times, but has thereby emerged more dangerous than ever. Today we need to lie low and stalk it. In every place of work we need to identify those who are for revolutionary action.

Instead of division by political ideas, we need to know a handful of fellow workers in the same trade or industry who are for workers control, and who will plug this line through good times and bad. This permeation for workers' control is a "conspiracy" which cannot be suppressed, for no government can suppress the meeting of five in a trade. We reiterate our policy of FORMING FIVES in every place of work, to pioneer the idea: form workers councils of all who work.

Neither revolutionary parties nor libertarian organisations can be any substitute for "fives" at the place of work. Such elite bodies can never be revolutionary, because they must either be sterile, with an academic revolutionary programme, or reformist - otherwise their organisation will be suppressed by the State.

The only possible alternative is that they are clandestine. But if they are going to be clandestine, the formation of small groupings is essential anyway, and it is clearly easier that they be based on industrial affinity.

And the truth is that even clandestine revolutionary movements are a drag on the revolutionary struggle. Usually, such movements exist merely to disclaim and deprecate any form of individual fighting back which will always arise spontaneously as repression clamps down. The old saying is still true, "The emancipation of the workers must be the work of the workers themselves

FORM YOUR OWN GROUPS AND NETWORKS.....

a framework for development not tablets of stone.

1. The Direct Action Movement is an organisation of workers, for workers and by workers.
2. It aims to create a free and classless society.
3. It is fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for need not profit.
4. In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution.

The D.A.M. are the sworn enemies of those who would take over 'on behalf of' the workers.

5. We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is for independent organisation in the work place and community and federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies.

All such workers organisations must be controlled by workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers movements.

Any and all delegates and representatives of such workers organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.

6. We are opposed to all states.

The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all states do not exist to protect the workers of those states, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class.

7. We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives.

TELEGRAPH.

Perkins pickets dig in as talks are scrapped

By RUPERT MORRIS, Industrial Staff

PICKETS at the Perkins factory in Peterborough dug in yesterday behind barricades of commandeered company lorries, engine parts, vans, cars and metal chains, and prevented several thousand other employees getting to work.

The diesel engines plant was occupied by workers on Friday in response to a pay offer of between nine and ten per cent.

They are demanding £30 to give them parity with the Coventry plant of their parent company, Massey Ferguson.

The strike seems bound to become an election issue in Peterborough, a marginal Labour seat. Perkins is the town's largest employer, with 10,000 workers.

The strike began after a mass meeting voted down both union negotiators and shop stewards. The Engineering Workers' Union national executive meet today to consider whether to make the strike official.

Perkins normally turn out 1,000 engines a day for boats, lorries and agricultural machinery — 85 per cent. of them for export. The stoppage will cost an estimated £1 million a day.



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