

BOLSHEVIK



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M-L SOC MAG

MARXIST LENINIST SOCIETY MAGAZINE VOL 2 NO 1

M-L Soc. is composed of student members and supporters of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) and its policies are largely those of the Party, both with relevance to the national situation and specifically that of students. Our standpoint is that participation in Union politics and policies is the most important function of the Society; that the Society is not just a talking shop, although we will be running study sessions of Marxist-Leninist classics throughout the year as discussion is recognised as the necessary predecessor to action.

We will be holding regular meetings and intend to show films on China, Albania, etc and to have speakers on a whole range of subjects of concern to students, from the fight against the Industrial Relations Act to liberation movements, to give us a perspective of our struggles in relation to the national and international situation.

M-L Soc. is open to all Union members and we can be contacted through the society pigeon holes in Falmer House.

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P & P M-L Soc and CPB(ML) Sussex Univ. Branch

NEXT M-L SOC MEETING

MON 14th OCT 4^{pm}

ROOM 112 FALMER Ho.

STUDY SESSIONS START ON

WED 16th OCT 7^{pm} at the

BRIGHTON WORKERS BOOK-
SHOP, 37 Gloucester Rd.

the situation today

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Britain in crisis.

British capitalism is in grave crisis. Governments talk about all sorts of economic problems like the balance of trade gap, the world commodity boom, inflation and so forth: but as a political expression of capitalism they have but one main purpose - to cut workers' wages.

Wage Cuts.

The truth of the matter is that British capitalism can no longer afford to buy labour power at what it is worth, and British workers are too well organised to allow it to be further depreciated. The whole profit system depends on employers being able to benefit handsomely from the difference between what labour power produces and what labour power costs. The employers' attempts to end collective bargaining is a reflection of their failure to force down the selling price of labour. They have had to fall back on successive governments to effect wage cuts.

The Corporate State.

The Tory government served its masters by a statutory freeze, and an Industrial Relations Act to prevent organised labour from doing anything about it. The miners crushed through the wages block, and even more important, the engineers smashed the Industrial Relations chains on the unions.

The Labour Government is involved in an even more insidious plot against the working class. It is trying to get us to acquiesce to wage cuts. The Labour Party has become the major vehicle for the advancement of the Corporate State; a state in which a phony unity based on the so-called 'national interest' is substituted for class struggle, so the working class's own defensive organisations become part of the national state machinery which administers their exploitation. Return us, says Labour - defeat the Tories and their legislative compulsion; embrace us, embrace our social contract and voluntarily accept a rope around your neck.

A Revolutionary Situation.

The TUC strengthening of the 'social contract', 'concern' for the lower paid, cunningly devised threshold agreements are just many attempts to rob workers of a right they have to defend - the right to use their collective strength to wrest a living wage from those who exploit them. This cannot be bestowed upon us from high - it can only be won and maintained by our continuous struggle.

This has deepened the growing divide between the working class and the representatives of capitalism by the Labour Party hacks, like minded trade union leaders or capitalists.

The collision of class forces behind the present economic disorder is such as to represent for the ruling class the run up to catastrophe, for the working class the beginning of a revolutionary situation.

The forces gathering for pay battles this autumn will involve the whole working class in sharp conflict. Their just demands are not for the same size or a slightly larger piece of cake but are a challenge to the capitalist system itself. That is why the state of apparent confusion on the economic front is a revolutionary situation.

As 'The Times' response to the Ford workers strike so aptly put it; "The Bank of England, normally the most cautious of commentators, has already stated that many British companies are seriously short of money and short of profits, and this has reached the point at which their survival is in doubt. The big clearing banks are fully stretched. Scarcely a week passes without a major bankruptcy or an application for public money to make good a shortage of profits."

"This is reflected by a stock market which has already fallen in real terms to the lowest level since 1940 and may at any moment break through to the lowest level ever recorded. It represents the considered judgement of institutional investors on the outlook of the British economy. It also means the loss of insurance and pension money, a loss of financial security for millions of people." (Times leader, 24/9/74)

The developing struggle.

British workers are not the same as they were last time British capitalism tried to solve a wages crisis by massively cutting workers' wages - during the great depression. Instead of adopting tactics like the general strike, which fought on the enemy's terms not ours, we have adopted guerrilla tactics, a sign that we are increasingly accepting the revolutionary strategy of Guerrilla Struggle.

As financial insolvency faces British capitalism, the Ford workers come out on their 'stuff the social contract' pay strike, the Daily Telegraph was not printed because of a pay dispute, 7,500 Merseyside dockers went on strike for higher pay, 2,200 Hull dockers are starting a series of strikes for higher pay, draughtsmen at Perkins diesel engines struck for an improved offer, clerical workers at British Leyland went back to work after winning their claim, Chrysler toolroom engineers have gone on strike for their pay claim.

Workers all over the country are hitting back, where it hurts most - the bosses pockets - with minimum cost to themselves, they are keeping the initiative, striking unexpectedly, retreating when weak - so building forces instead of destroying them in big confrontations. Sections of the class which remained neutral in 1926, or even sided with the bosses are now solidly part of the massive force we can muster.

The General Election.

The ideas of class compromise, of gradual change by parliamentary means, of delegating politics to others have held us back from revolution. Now what choice have we? If the Tories come to power you have massive unemployment to force down wages. If Labour comes to power you are told that if you slash your own wages enough you may not get massive unemployment. Is this any choice for us? There is not even a lesser of two evils to plump for.

For us all, students, white collar workers, industrial workers at this time of general election, the choice is not between capitalist parties but between fighting back against the attack or not.

To continue to fight all out class struggle at this stage means, for us workers, that we are quite consciously setting our feet on the road of revolutionary change. As militant and organized workers capitalism can no longer afford us - anymore than the world at large can afford capitalism. We in the CPB(M-L) and M-L Soc. say:- DON'T VOTE, ORGANISE TO SMASH CAPITALISM. Throttle the lie that it is our job to save Britain by our voluntary restraint when they mean saving capitalism.

read 'the worker'
fortnightly paper
of the c.p.b.m.l.

British 'Justice'

As we all know, students at the University were nearly hauled before the courts for non-payment of rent, because they refused to accept a rent increase. The Union and the University in a joint letter stated that it recognised the University's 'legal obligations' to collect rent.

It did not point out the 'legal obligations' of those speculators who last year collected 43% of all the money in our accomodation account to pay the interest of their loans. The law with majestic impartiality forbids the rich and poor alike to starve to death or to sleep under bridges.

An example of British justice: The Lincoln Bus conductor imprisoned in 1972 for stealing 6p. The decision of Wolverhampton

Magistrates in the same month concerning the case of a worker who had been crushed to death when he was dragged into an unsecured conveyer belt. The firm, Goodyears Ltd had been warned twice that it was unsafe, and had been prosecuted the year before. The were fined £100.

Class War, not Sex War.

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In Britain today, there is only one arena in which women have undisputed equality with men, and that is in the arena of class struggle. The only thing that capitalism ever did for women was, in its need to exploit the whole population, to return them to the field of social production and thus provide them with the two means by which their emancipation can be achieved - 1) through reestablishing themselves as skilled capable workers in society, 2) through smashing capitalism in the struggle at place of work. To accomplish these two is the only real task that faces women today. The weakness of the position of women has been that for a long time they were largely excluded from the sphere of social production. Men were involved early, and early they learnt the lessons of struggle, they gained political wisdom and self-respect in the defence of their interests at the place of work. Women were involved later and are learning later, though not less keenly than men before them.

The Economic Position of Women

In striking, we exercise the dictatorship of our class over the capitalist class. This is the only struggle worthy of women, who today in Britain constitute one third of the workforce. In war-time it was found convenient to make us workers; today they cannot do without us. Far from being supplementary labour, we are an essential part of capitalist enterprise and as such, can wield direct economic power. This is the only 'equal opportunity' we really have with men - the opportunity to strike against the system where it oppresses us directly, not indirectly as housewives, not indirectly as second class citizens, but directly as workers.

Dead-end Issues

To expect women to put their energy into pressing Parliament for nurseries equal pay acts, and equal job opportunities is to belittle their class understanding, to ignore their real class strength. Women aren't such fools as to seriously expect that they'll be given nurseries when they aren't even paid enough to feed their children well with. They're not taken in by Mrs. Castle's 'equal pay' promises which have no truth and only one purpose - to syem the movement to win equal pay through industrial action. They're not so short-sighted as to demand equal job opportunity when they can see that the only 'opportunity' men have is that of choosing which form of wage slavery they'll go in for.

No, women have only one option if they want to make real gains in their struggle for emancipation - to organise, unionise, and strike down capitalism. Women know this and so have largely turned a deaf ear to feminist 'solutions'. They have rejected the illusion that they can win dignity in a system that subjects all to the indignity of exploitation.

Both Sexes United in Class Struggle

Nor have they fallen prey to man-baiting. At this time of heightening struggle on all fronts unity between all sections of our class is essential. It is not for women to complain that men do not assist them, only look after their own interests. Men don't have anything they haven't fought for. If women have got the lowest paying jobs, it is not because men collaborate with management to preserve their own interests, it is because women have not yet taken it upon themselves to win equal pay through industrial action. Conversely, it is not for men to belittle womens' struggle, for everywhere in the world women have proved that in the face of attacks from the opposing class they have not lacked courage, rather, that without their efforts no revolutionary advances are possible. In China, Albania, Vietnam, women paid for emancipation with their blood.

In the work of reeducating, remoulding attitudes - our own as well as men's - class struggle is the only school in which this reeducating can be truly begun. No amount of feminist literature, no amount of radical coffee-table debate can give women the self confidence and political experience that comes from struggle against the employer, against the capitalist state. Only in the defence of their class interests will women be fully mobilised, will they summon up and employ all their capabilities and resources; only in that struggle will all the ground for male prejudice - that women are backward, timid, unpolitical - be pulled from beneath their feet. Men and women are comrades in arms in a single struggle - to destroy capitalism and build socialism, a society that has no interests in oppressing any of its members.

BRIGHTON WORKERS

BOOKSHOP

37 Gloucester Road

Marxist classics, literature from China and Albania, posters, literature published by the CPBML, books about the struggle against imperialism

Open; All day Saturday, and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons from 2pm.

LESSONS FROM ABROAD

At this time of increasing successes in all the world anti-imperialist struggles, it is important to remember two defeats so that we may learn from the mistakes made. They are Bangladesh and Chile.

Especially we must learn about the role of the Soviet Union and their supporters around the world.

Bangladesh was the subject of a huge propaganda campaign in Britain from the rightest reactionary to the revisionist 'Communist' Party and the 57 varieties of Trotskyists. All never stopped praising the actions of Sheik Mujibur Rahman, a puppet of the Indian government.

The Indian government, not renowned for its progressiveness but for its expansionism-- its attack on China in 1962, its recent annexation of Sikkim - was reassured in its designs by a new Soviet-Indian treaty signed in 1971. In the knowledge of Soviet backing, the Indian government used Sheik Mujib to whip up the genuine anti-West Pakistan feelings that existed and to turn it into a 'secessionist' movement. They created that mockery of a guerilla army, the Mukti Bahini - a simple terrorist force.

The Indian Army then moved in to aid this 'national liberation' movement, and to suppress the growing communist-led revolt. Bangladesh, though announcing formal independence, had in fact become a puppet of the Indian State. So, Pakistan is yet another country partitioned by imperialism - this time, the Soviet Union, attempting to encircle China, had used India to do its dirty work. Immediately after the 'liberation' of Bangladesh, the Soviet Navy sailed into Cittagong, and a 156 million rouble 'trade pact' was announced. That the Indian government which has never been able to feed its own millions, should reach out and grab another thickly populated region is one of the most obscene acts in history.

As obscene was the support given to all this phoney 'coffee-table' marxists, who forget that any redrawing of boundaries by any other method than the people themselves will only mean that the people have exchanged one lot of exploiters for another - and at what cost?

Those who shouted so loud 3 years ago, now ignore the plight of the Bangladesh people, who are still suffering despite 2000 million dollars aid; they forget to report the massive movement involving strikes and demonstrations directed against their 'liberators' India and Russia.

Now they have a new campaign to shout about - Chile Solidarity. The obscenity here is even greater, for those most vociferous in the quite justified condemnation of the coup in Chile were themselves directly responsible for such an event.

The Popular Unity government was a great step forward for the Chilean people. It adopted a series of measures, carried out a number of reforms which aimed at strengthening freedom and national independence, and the independent development of the country's economy. It dealt a heavy blow at the local oligarchy and the US Monopolies which dominated the country.

Allende, an outstanding patriot and democratic fighter helped lead the struggle for land reform, nationalisation of foreign companies to protect Chile from US influence.

But Allende was not a revolutionary. He acted along the lines put forward by the Communist Party of Chile. Taking its cue from the Moscow revisionists, it claimed that it was possible to change to socialism through parliamentary elections without smashing the bourgeois power, without smashing their armed forces, without establishing peoples' revolutionary power, but by negating it. They claimed that the Chilean capitalists and foreign monopolies had become more tolerant, moderate and reasonable and 'in the new class conditions created by present day world development' they were no longer able to pass on to counter-revolution.

Socialism was to be created for the people, from above in the bourgeois centre of power (parliament and the state machinery). The revisionists denied therefore that it was necessary to mobilise the Chilean people in armed struggle against counter-revolution.

They refused to move against the old armed forces, police or intelligence services who were all backed by the US.

And the coup was not unexpected. Assassinations of cabinet ministers, functionaries of the governing parties, rank and file white collar workers continued while the fascist lorry owners continued their strike. In June there was an abortive coup, and at the same time CIA plans to topple the government were discovered.

The revisionists carried on 'proving' that the 'peaceful road to socialism' worked. In doing so, in full knowledge of all the forces against them, they led the Chilean people into a fascist bloodbath. They did nothing to stop it taking place.

The Soviet Union, scared stiff of a genuine revolution taking place in Chile backed the Allende government to the hilt; after all, it was a foothold for them in the Latin American continent. And of course all the theoretical justification for the Chile farce came from Soviet quarters.

Today the same people with the same political theories attempt to gain political capital by shouting how terrible it all is. At the same time, having no faith in the intelligence of the people, they shout about banning fascists from speaking. This frantic screaming should be seen in its true perspective - an attempt to hide their complicity in the deaths in Chile and the growth of fascism in Britain.

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Out of their own mouths.

Sir Jack Cohen, boss of TESCO - "The working man has never earned more than it costs him to live, and never will. And this is right."

Mr. Pitcher of Birds Eye Foods in his address to the Institute of Works Managers' students - "As prospective works managers you have to learn how to handle people just as you have to learn how to handle a fabric on a machine or a new piece of machinery".

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

The trials of the Red Lion Square marchers continue. Surely the death of one person, and the trials of so many more would spur those 'leftists' to think a bit more about what they are trying to do and why? We print below extracts from a leaflet by the CPB(M-L) given out at the last NUS conference:

"The main business of the Liverpool Conference was the Grants Campaign that is what the ruling class would like to conceal. They can well afford the disruption of National Front meetings, and debates about freedom of speech. What they cannot afford and conversely what we cannot do without, is a persistent, militant fight against the capitalist state in defence of our interests and higher education as a whole. So, to distract us from the real fight, they make a big fuss about what is for them a harmless substitute.

But the sham horror of the capitalist press is designed to foster also a far bigger illusion. That is that the National Front and the Monday Club etc. are the most dangerous enemies of the working class. How pathetic! Who can believe that any significant proportion of the working class would listen to such lunatics of the fringe? Who can believe that the working class would not flatten them, as they did Mosley if they ever became bothersome? Certainly the ruling classes do not believe it.

When Labour and Conservative Parties are persistently attacking our class through their laws, their courts, their police and their army: when the TUC enters into a "social contract" with the State, surely at such a time the fringe groups of the Right are the least of our problems.

It is from decaying capitalism that fascism arises. When the capitalists can no longer rule in the old way, they adopt the policies and organisation of fascism; it is not a matter of individuals or small groups, but rather of class struggle. By restricting ourselves to attacking these small groups, we restrict ourselves to attacking the symptoms and not the root cause of fascism. Their growth is nothing more than a reflection of the direction in which Britain is being led - toward the corporate State.

The only way to stop the ruling class, and stop them for good. Let us fight for freedom of speech when our freedom to speak is threatened. In our colleges, let us not foster illusions about the nature of our enemy. Our enemy is the capitalist class, its State and its agents in the labour movement.

FOUR OUT OF FIVE!!

Four out of five Can't Tell Heath From a Lump of Margarine!

And now for anyone still waiting anxiously for the second coming of Harold Wilson. For anyone who thinks of Labour as the 'lesser evil', for anyone who still believes that Labour is any better than the 'wicked Tories'.

We present the Party Conference Quiz.

Work out which comes from which Blackpool Party Conference last year. (All quotes come from speakers for the Party executive.)

1st prize is a volume of Harold Willon's speeches.

2nd prize is 2 volumes of Harold Wilson's speeches.

- | | |
|---|--|
| a) "the path of working out together how to create and share the national wealth for the benefit of all the people." | b) "there can be no road to national agreement on national unity and on a policy adequate for dealing with inflation and unemployment, except on the basis of social justice." |
| c) "Control of inflation must be our overriding consideration." | d) "The central problem is inflation." |
| e) "Creating sufficient confidence between govt, workers and management." | f) "Offer to employers and unions to share fully with the govt the benefits and obligations involved in running the national economy," |
| g) "It is high time that the latter day laissez faire liberal theorists...recognised that the Chequers proposals were in the interests of the whole economy." | h) "A policy based on jungle law and on laissez faire has no chance of succeeding." |
| i) "Make the nation more prosperous and give an increasing share of that prosperity to the needy and weak." | j) "To combine in equal measure, freedom, fairness and prosperity." |
| k) "Let there be no doubt what is at stake...It is our whole parliamentary democracy, our whole free democratic way of life." | l) "Not only is the democratic process on trial but democracy in the United Kingdom is staked on a desperate race between the rule of the reason and the rule of the gunman." |
| m) "The party has to show it cares for all the people, whatever, whoever or wherever they are." | n) "A party of the whole people." |
| o) "Restore the strength of Britain." | p) "Get Britain moving again." |

ANSWERS; a)Tory b)Labour c)Tory d)Labour e)Labour f)Tory g)Tory
h)Labour i)Tory j)Tory k)Tory l)Labour m)Tory n)the late
unlamented N.S.Kruschev o)Labour p)Tory

CAST AWAY ILLUSIONS!

Sussex - the background.

At this beginning of the academic year, we are all confused by the growing plethora of political groups 'competing' for God knows what.

Their debates are irrelevant to us. There is only one politic, that of our unions' fight against the government. Our grants struggle, the fight against the numerous local price increases, the fight against the cut backs as they hit us, the defence of the autonomy of our union are the important issues of today. The only politics we are interested in is that which develops our struggle.

What is the present situation? Which way forward.

The rent strike continues into its second academic year unscathed, in fact strengthened. It has withstood multiple attacks - the threatened withdrawal of degrees from 3rd year rent strikers, the threatened eviction of 2nd year rent strikers staying on campus, the attacks on our autonomy through attempts to change our union constitution and most important of all the attempted court action.

Despite all previous assurances of support, the University started the ball of legal action rolling as soon as students left for the summer break. First of all it sent out warning letters, and then solicitors letters. Although there was no immediate response from the executive of the union, members of the CPBML in the University and in Brighton passed motions of support in their union branch - one from a joint meeting of representatives from the campus trade unions, and others from the town, UCATT, BEPTU, AEU etc.

This coupled with the fact that few strikers were intimidated caused the University to delay, delay again and then back down, deciding it expedient not to incur the wrath of the union.

Thus the University's attempts to break the rent strike by appealing to outside forces, the law courts, was a dismal failure. A proof of our strength.

The University originally wanted a £1.33p rent increase on campus. They have now brought it down to £1, (an offer which comes with their stupid attempt to bribe scabs by offering the 'discount' to them now). All they have shown is that they are capable of affording rents lower than their original demands. On top of this, they have started making noises about subsidising not only students in contracted guest houses, but all first years living in Brighton. Again a testimony to our strength.

The Background Nationally

The growing support in deeds as well as words for the Grants campaign all over the country won us the highest award in history. The government's attempt to take back what it had conceded, by the local price increases was

a very foolish move.

It has only confirmed and made doubly evident what the CPBML alone said 3 years ago. The grants struggle is guerilla; the only effective way to fight is to hit the state where it hurts the most, and at its weakest point - through economic sanctions at the local level.

The government has shifted the focus of its attack onto our strong ground, to the local colleges where the mass of students are concentrated and where the central government is virtually powerless to prevent the fight for local concessions.

The fight has developed even further along the lines envisaged and put forward by the CPBML. It is protracted, for each advance is accompanied by yet a further attack, and the vital political lessons are being drawn from experience by all students who see that perpetual defence is permanent subjection and that the fight is against the capitalist system itself, because it reduces everything to the cash nexus. The system in crisis, finds itself unable or unwilling to provide the cash necessary to keep the education system going, as we know it.

The Way Forward

We must apply this strategy of protracted, guerilla struggle to our grants campaign. Protracted - because we cannot win all our demands overnight - better to choose the most immediate issue, concentrate all our forces on that and win it, and so on to the next. Today, that issue is the Guest House rents. This involves everyone because the development of our grants campaign depends on its success, and we must take action on it as soon as possible.

In this context, the motion passed at the last UGM (Oct 3rd), leaving such questions to the negotiating ability of the exec, and the development of the grants campaign to some randomly chosen week of 'action', is totally irrelevant. Support for it only means that we are not yet prepared to struggle.

And if that is so today, it cannot be tomorrow; for the rent increases on campus and in guest houses stay, the price increases in the canteen stay. If the University backs down on any point it is because of our strength, not their kindness. It is absurd to argue, as the 'Broad Left' did at that union meeting, that we no longer need that strength because the University has shown signs of compromise. It shows that our rent strike, and the threat of direct action in the future, is working, and we must use that strength to win the maximum concessions possible.

Just as the survival and continuation of the rent strike was a step forward for the national grants campaign, encouraging others to follow our example, so a victory on the guest house rents and canteen prices is a step forward. In a situation where govt policy is to force all institutes of higher education into financial difficulties, a victory locally will help in the national resistance to such policies.(1)

A Political Choice

That is why our grants campaign, the only political issue on campus, is the most important because its development depends on us. It is the only political issue because, by its nature, it involves all students and depends on their

willingness to take up this struggle.

The means to victory is there. We have an 'embarrasse de riches' of tactics, from the lightning occupation to the stopping of supplies and/or research. Now all we have to do is use them - to think we have any alternative is to hold onto illusions about capitalism, and our position in it.

Cast them away!. Prepare for struggle! On to victory!

- (1) In next issue of Bolshevik we will discuss the other side of the attack on education. We all know the economic attack, fewer people know of the plans for the organisation of colleges and student unions along corporate lines as laid out in the Annan report on Essex University.

Bangladesh : Stop Press

The Soviet Union continues its role of leading the world towards peace progress and prosperity.

As we all know, heavy rains hit Bangladesh during July and August - causing 1500 deaths and flooding of 1.5 million hectares of farmland.

The Soviet Union, keeping to its spirit of proletarian internationalism, demanded immediate repayment of 200,000 tons of wheat loaned in 1973. When Bangladesh began to turn to the US for help, the SU decided that five years was a more reasonable time.

Well done, comrade Kosygin!

Reds turn yellow...again.

Last issue of Bolshevik we quoted Mick McGahey, blue-eyed boy of the 'C'PGB and darling of the capitalist press issuing the following statement during the last miners strike: "I am interested in changing this Government by the good old traditional method of the ballot box". As we said then, You had better cool down, Mick! But now we are treated to the spectacle of his comrade in arms Ken Gill. Besides being in the thick of a plot to destroy the democratic structure of the AUEW so that the CP might dominate the union from above, the whole world saw him at the TUC being elected to the General Council and then thinking that he is therefore entitled to flout the democratically decided policy of his own union. All of course for 'unity,' but unity for what we wonder?

Which demagogue will the CP dredge up next?

M-L SOC BOOKSTALL MON

12-2 REFECTORY