

IF BRITAIN'S WORKERS BUY IT LET BRITAIN'S WORKERS MAKE IT

The Thatcher government has helped to increase unemployment from one and a half to three million. But before we join the "Tories out - Labour in" chorus we should remember who was in power when the jobless rose to one and a half million.

All the major political parties are committed to making British industry internationally competitive. Yet it is through international competition that the transnational companies are able to play off the workers of different countries against each other. Witness Ford's threat to move production abroad.

International competition is a major factor in pushing industry to introduce more and more labour saving machinery at the expense of the workforce. In addition, the transnationals are continuing to move the more labour intensive jobs to those areas of the world where labour costs are lowest.

The result of this will be that the British economy will become even more unbalanced and less self-reliant than at present. There will be a higher level of permanently unemployed because the industry which remains will employ more machines and less people.

International competition is, in essence, competition between workers of different countries.

IS NATIONALISATION THE ANSWER?

No one can believe that a job in a nationalised industry is secure. In the search for competitiveness proportionally more manual jobs have been lost in the public sector than in the private sector of industry.

Nowadays, Benn and others on the Labour Left favour nationalisation as a means of making British industry more 'efficient' (i.e. internationally competitive).

Nationalisation could be part of the answer to our problems, not for this reason, but only if it is used to take industry and industrial workers in Britain out of the international rat-race. This is not to

say we should abandon all trade, but we should distinguish between mutually beneficial trade between countries and international competition.

We should also distinguish between creating jobs in the non-productive sector (solely for the purpose of absorbing the unemployed) and expanding employment in productive industry. This is the difference between JOB CREATION and WEALTH CREATION.

Similarly, public investment in the electrification of the railways would provide many jobs in the engineering and allied industries but, taking the long-term view, this and other methods of stimulating business activity are little more than stop-gap measures. They do not get to the root of the problem.

IMPORT CONTROLS

Controls on the import of goods and the export of capital will force British investors to invest in Britain and provide secure markets for British made goods. Rather than trying to squeeze more output from fewer workers, this would provide a basis for restructuring industry to utilise all our productive resources.

Advanced technology cannot solve the unemployment problem, nor can it satisfy all our needs.

The future does not lie with automation. Our need is to halt the present destruction of industry in Britain, to improve and develop the industries we have, and introduce new ones as we need them. The aim must be to make full use of our human and other resources, to provide satisfying and useful jobs for all the people.

IN THIS STRUGGLE, THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS MUST, FIRST OF ALL, RELY
UPON THEMSELVES.

INDUSTRY FIRST CAMPAIGN

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