

The report of the international get together of Echanges completes what the articles lack (copies of both from Echanges).

NEW MOVEMENT

(Nouveau Mouvement¹ from Echanges - éditions in french, english, Italian, portuguese). Comments of a swedish comrade with which we don't necessary agree: "I think what you call the new movement is a natural or logical consequence of the developpement of the capitalism. Parties, working within the parliamentary systême, Trade Unions etc, were forms of organisation linked to the progressive phase of capitalism and as you correctly point out, the new movement was born at about the time of world war I. But what is lacking is an economic explanation of why the new movement arose at that time and not!lets say in 1880 or 1950.

In paragraph N° 3 (Southampton Solidarity version) this omission is clear when you say that the demand for autonomy can be diverted by reforms. What is the relation between the new movement and capitalism's ability to grant new reforms? I know nothing about your background but i take it for granted that you are a marxist and you don't mess around with the theories of Cardan and Solidarity.

I stress this point of economic analysis because without it your pamphlet tends to be a recapitulation of tendencies in the class struggle over the last 60 years without giving an answer as to it is by necessity like it. It becomes a moralistic argument.

It is a very good that you point out the weaknesses of the new movement and dont make a fetish out of the workers self management your criticism of the various left sects as constituting a part of the old movement is, i think, excellent. In thesis n° 26 you say that the working class fights both capitalism and "those who dream of destroying the established order in order to replace it with elitist structures of their own". This is a base statement and a bit confuding. Such elitists e.g the left don't really want to destroy capitalism i.e to abolish wage labour and create a society of "free and equal producers". They are fighting for state capitalism - the form capitalism tends to adopt in its phase of decadence. So the old and new movement represent fundamentally different class interests!

Joseph Dietzgen. Das wesen der menschlichen kopfarbeit und andere Schriften - Luchterhand Verlag - Darmstadt (see Echanges n° 4).

INFORMATION

U . S . A .

The power of the teamsters in Alaska (from an american comrade).

In the pipeline construction the state (of Alaska) is concerned because their royalties from the oil companies for the oil that goes through the pipeline is based on the sale price of the oil and on the cost of constructing the pipelines. Which is astronomical. Teamsters control police jobs, RCA workers, several aspects of pipeline jobs, some hospital workers, in addition to regular teamter work. Their pension funds are repositied in the national bank. As a matter of fact, this particular bank of Alaska, and Jesse Carr, teacher of teamsters is on the board of directors of the bank. This bank is referred to as "the teamsters' bank"; the union has obtained 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of state land on which to build a supposedly non-profit building for teamster business, but there is space rented out to a restaurant a travel agency several law firms, etc...

Teamsters are also building a hospital and a rest' and recreation complex in both Anchorage and Fairbanks for their members a plush building contained a swimming pool, pool tables, tennis courts, and such extravagances. Teamsters funds for pension benefits amount to 3 dollars per hour for each man working and the paper said the fringe benefits turned in by employers during the peak hiring point of the pipeline was 1 million dollars per day - all funds are handled by the National Bank of Alaska.

The governor is leading the fight against the union because of teamster control of the police, but this is just the window dressing. The crux of the matter is teamster power and money and investissements in Alaska. The pension funds are invested only in Alaska, thus concentrating their wealth and power and ability to control within the state.

Currently, Jesse Carr, is voluntarily in Washington DC testifying before some comiter. I suspect he is there to work out some sort of a deal with federal government on how to loosen control in the state. Job control is one thing, but financial control is another matter. Their membership is 23 000 in the State; pension funds are approaching the 100 millions dollars level and according to the paper they are more of a threat than the oil geants and the natives corporations.

They represent almost 80 crafts and trades ranging from surveyors to long distance telephone operators. Teamsters have their own lobbyist in the state legislature and are constantly making inroads into the political power structure. A report of the union conference of the building's construction trades (AFL-CIO). In the Guardian (a Maoist paper) of 8-10-75 shows the collaboration between the government, industry and Unions against the environmentalist movement used as the scapegoat for the 20% unemployment in the industry. Government officials were present including John Dunlop, secretary of labour who put forward a plan for a national committee of labour, management, and government to impose a cooling off period in strikes and dictate bargaining procedures in the building industry in local contract bargaining; the plan is supported by national building trades leaders.

New York (Liberation News Service oct. 15 '75): "In one of the most militant job actions in recent years, nearly one hundred press operators for the Washington Post sabotaged and destroyed every piece of press machinery in the Post building, moments before going out on strike at 5:00 AM on October 1. The direction of the Post described the sabotage as "wanton vandalism" but admitted that it appeared to be "preplanned and synchronized". More details from the 737 issue of LNS 160 Claremont Avenue New York NY 10027.

PORTUGAL

supplement to the french book "Portugal, l'autre combat" (Ed Spartacus) is being prepared. Information in a future N° of Echanges.

Solidarity magazine have a Special issue on Portugal (vol.8 n°3 December 1975°. Some of the material is translated from the portuguese paper Combate and is available in French (in Lanterne Noire - see past issues of Echanges), but the two main articles are original one is a Diary of a short stay in July/August by two Solidarity members and contains some interesting descriptions of occupied farms in Alentajo, the second congress of the so-called Workers councils, and especially a "work-in" in a small factory in Guimaraos 40 miles North of Porto. Some of the formulations and commentaries by the writers may strike readers as somewhat ambiguous, but the information may be new for many. The most interesting article is written by an englishman resident for several years in Portugal who describes and explains the apparently "reactionary" behaviour of the peasants of the North in the general context of portuguese society after the April "revolution". He shows that peasants attacks on communists, Maoists etc but it is not only the result of conservatism, but also a reaction against the authoritarian take-over by the cp. of the old fascist local government structure. The article describes how little the new cp administration differs from the old fascist one and the illusiory nature of reform for the Northern Peasant farmers. The author Phil. Meyler is preparing a book in Portugal (details of future publication and of the two Special issue of Solidarity, from Solidarity London).

The following texts and articles from the group and paper 'Combate' are available in English translation:

- 1/ 'Manifesto of Combate' (dated 21.6.74? & 13.4.75).
- 2/ 'Portugal, economy and policy of the dominant class' (dated EPR 23rd. 1975).
- 3/ 'Crises, historical forms of their appearance and recuperation' (dated APR idem).
(all these were published without an address, but were or are available from 'Compendium' 240, Camden High Street, London NW1)
- 4/ 'Portugal, what workers councils?' in World Revolution, n° 5 pp. 17-19. (Article from Combate of July 1975); the same article is into Solidarity issue see above; translations differ somewhat.

Agriculture in Portugal. Article from EFTA bulletin reproduced in problèmes économiques No 1452 ;

The Agricultural population has gone from 40% in 1960 28% in 1972 - 3, more through emigration than infernal moves to the towns (in England 3% - France around 7%) 70% of this population are subsistence farmers. The division of land is as follows

50 hectares or more	- 53%	of the land	- 101%	of the total farms
20 - 50 ha	98%	" " " "	22%	"
less than 20 ha	37 5%	" " " "	96%	"

Agricultural production was totally balanced after joining the A.E.L.E. which meant opening frontiers to foreign agricultural produce and special for the market.

Now there are too many of certain products (e.g. tomatoes) but 23-3 of all foods stuffs are imported. (copies of article from Echanges)

INDIA

Daily life in a Tamil village. (1. 20-1-1976) gripping picture without demagoguery of the abyss between the façade of a nascent capitalism and a pseudo reformism and the survival of traditional feudal structures of traditional economic domination (copies of article from Echanges)

UNITED KINGDOM

The Chrysler Affair

Chrysler U.K. has only a very small share of the U.K. market (around 6%). It compares rather badly with its European associates and the American parent company in many respects. In wages too it compares badly. In real terms wages are 60% of those at Chrysler Germany and in cash are less even than Chrysler Spain (where there were no strikes for years—until the strikes during the period around Franco's death). However, this does not mean that Chrysler U.K. is at all prepared to deal with the economic crisis. On the company, during the half-secret, half-sensationalised bankruptcy events in December 1975, Ricardo (Chrysler Pres.) even offered to give away the assets. The government 'rescue plan' included in its articles the provision for sacking about 8,000 of the 25,000 direct workers. The shop-stewards, leftist groups etc., all began to call for tough action, even occupations. But the mass meetings called to approve this course of action were very poorly attended, a mere 10% of workers at one plant, and all voted against such action which would have:

1. Made the workers the proprietors of a bankrupt firm that had ceased operations weeks before.
2. Involved in the occupation of factories and the guarding of machinery which Chrysler itself had valued at zero, and during the middle of winter too the militancy of the various bodies soon became a complete debacle as all the shop-stewards organisations soon gave in and saved face by 'winning' various 'concessions' such as 'work sharing'. The left groups were rather late in seeing that their headlined calls for occupation had fallen on deaf (or closed) ears.

The workers' own response was very different. At Chrysler Linwood, near Glasgow, the management has to reserve the right not to make redundant volunteers, as too many had come forward. The recent strike at Linwood by 60 men over the reduction of their wages by about 1 p a week each threatened to destroy the whole deal as it led to considerable lay off at this factory. The management gave in very quickly in giving the extra 1 p $\frac{1}{2}$ "temporarily" until re-negotiations of all wages in June. This shows that the obvious course of action for protection against wage cuts lies in traditional methods of action and not in heroic repetitions of the UCS style martyrdom.

The steel Industry

According to the BBC news of 23-1-76, there were over 400 unofficial strikes in the steel industry in 1975. Various causes had drastically reduced steel output. The recent strikes were over the ending of highly paid 'premium overtime' which allowed workers to work a five-day-week and still earn more than the take for ordinary work.

SPAIN

Account by rail worker of the strike at RENFE (Spanish ~~wag~~ railways). Poverty and inflation led to movements for wage rises and a collective agreement: petitions, walk-out and temporary stoppages by department from 15-1-76 which spread to offices and workshops in Madrid and the provinces. 19th Jan—the day the train drivers and guards were to join in all the personnel of the RENFE persecuted by Army. Soldiers and guardia civil occupied workshops, depots, and offices and began haphazard arrests. Nevertheless at the central repair workshop (1000 workers) a Mass meeting decided a work to rule and overtime ban. The army and police try to break the movement by new arrests and army patrols in the workshops. More than 3 talking together is no longer allowed men cannot be absent from work or leave Madrid for more than 3 days. Although the mass meeting was called without leaders and no names on purpose one of those who spoke was arrested and led handcuffed through the workshop by armed guards to try and provoke reaction (complete text of letter from Echanges -).

SWEDEN

Articles in swedish papers give details of an enquiry by the swedish employers federation (S.A.F.) on absenteeism. The swedish worker says Börje Strender director of the federation "is the "sickest" worker in the world". In 1975, 106 million days off sick were registered, which means that each person (bosses and workers included) spent 22 days on average at home off sick last year. Absence for sickness count for 10% of work time (figures for Norway : 9%, Italy and Holland : 8%, France and Germany: 7%, Denmark, Finland, Japan: 3%, Swedish figures not verified elsewhere). 75% of absences are shorter than 7 days. Reasons given are the high rate of sickness benefit, the fact that workers can afford to stay out more often plus the fact that workers work very fast. Production rates are faster than even in France and much faster than in Italy and Great-Britain. The social-democrats and leftist groups are pressing for a six-hour day, but the workers have already acted so that their effective working time averages out at a six-hour day. Our informeur adds that actual rates must be higher than 10% because absences for less than three days aren't registered as workers don't qualify for sickness benefits, but many also take on day off here and there too. Absenteeism is also very high among school children.

CHINA

July and August : the army repressed (methods used no doubt violent) strikes in factories in the Hangchow region (cars, textiles, food processing). Few details except that more than 10 000 soldiers "took part in industrial productive work" (different sources from official declarations on the radio and in chinese newspapers)

DENMARK

Wildcat strikes and the legal financial means of repressing them, the development of original forms of solidarity in Notes from Denmark (Basis: Øster Farimagsgade 93; DK 2100 Copenhagen. In English or Danish) 3 numbers already published chiefly about Copenhagen breweries, printing (the Uniprint occupation), the bus strike, aviation (SAS), watch industry (Smith's workers against time study)

JAPAN

Conditions of work and remuneration in Japan (in French copies from Echanges) from the review Personnel May 1975 and "problèmes économiques n° 1439.

CHILE

Two years of economic policy of the Chilean junta (in French "croissance des jeunes nations" sept 75. Problèmes économiques n° 1451; copies from Echanges). Total liberalism supported by absolute terror of the army leaders set on increasing the share of the 5% richest of the national cake from 22% to 50% and reducing to 50% the share of the 95% poor. Even the middle classes original basis of support for the regime are hard hit, which explains the present political rumblings. This is a far cry from the fascist "planning".

COLOMBIA

Bogota: The struggle of inhabitants in a poor neighbourhood against the construction of a new highway is described in details in a pamphlet: "la historia prohibida de la Union de comites pro-defensa de la zona oriental de Bogota" Photocopies can be got (50 pages) from Tjebbe van Tijen, Nieuwe Amstelstraat 32 Amsterdam.

WEST-GERMANY

Berlin (Information Dienst 13:12:75): For the second time 20 000 falsified public transport tickets have been distributed. This was done by putting them in letter boxes, and handing them out in the streets together with leaflets explaining the action (for free public transport). Stickers are glued onto automats with the slogan: "this automat has been put out of working-free public transport". On the leaflet was a note about a (illegal) radio emission of ten minutes. In the emission tips were given how not to pay public transport. More details from ID issues 104 and 105 Hamburger Allee 45 Frankfurt, comes out weekly, cost 6 DM for a month.