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PERSONAL

FORWARD

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THE WORKERS' CATECHISM:

I believe that we, the workers, are of one clan,
And hence we should not allow ourselves
To be divided by religion, colour or tribe.

I believe that in the organisation of workers
lies our strength,

For those who are organised never lose their way,
And those who are not organised are scattered by
the sound of one bullet.

I therefore believe in the unity of the workers,
Because unity is our strength.

-Ngugi

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EDITORIAL

STOP MASS DISMISSAL OF WORKERS NOW!!!

1982 will certainly go down in the labour history of Nigeria as the year of MASS DISMISSAL of NIGERIAN WORKERS. Apart from the untold suffering which the Shagari 'austerity measures' has imposed on the poor but productive people of Nigeria, many governments and private employers of labour have hidden under the umbrella of the 'austerity nonsense' to dismiss workers in thousands.

Despite the permanent embargo placed on employment by the Govt., a lot of Nigerians are being thrown into the streets daily. Workers are now asking if this is what the ruling class mean by SACRIFICE on our part. The following figures would show the type of hardship that has become the lot of workers in our own country:-

- 2,000 Fed. Housing Authority workers (direct labour unit) were dismissed,
- 1,400 workers sacked by the Savannah Sugar Factory, Numan, Gongola State,
- 900 workers of Niger Steel Company dismissed,
- 500 retrenched by the Nissco (Nig.) Ltd.
- 500 fired by the Pioneer Metal Products,
- 4,000 dismissed by the closure of Private Jetties,
- 142 declared 'redundant' by the Cadbury (Nig.) Ltd.,

From Gongola State comes this report:

- 1,315 dismissed from the Gongola State Civil Service,
- 345 " " " Min. of Works and Housing,
- 400 " " " Min. of Agriculture,
- 230 " " " Water Board,
- 105 " " " Local Govt.,
- 77 " " " Min. of Health,
- 8,000 other workers have been marked for dismissal in various other Ministries and Corporations of the State.

As the report on the Cadbury crisis clearly indicates,

- see the following article - many employers are now seizing the opportunity offered them by the 'austerity measures' to make