

Widespread Action

Boycotts and blacking are not confined to the industrial field but can be used by wider sections of the general public. Support could be given to strikers from other workers refusing to handle 'tainted goods' (the produce etc.; of the company involved in the dispute), on a wider scale support could come from a more general blacking of a companies products.

Likewise, the sympathetic strike can also be extended to cover more than just industrial concerns. A particularly effective, if extremely unlikely example, given the dominance of the reformist trade union movement, would be widespread strike action by dole and job centre workers in solidarity with the unemployed struggle against the Job Seekers Allowance.

If the strike is 'labors natural weapon' then the sympathetic strike must be its natural extension. The refusal to handle 'tainted goods', the boycott and sympathetic strike action provide us with a much more impressive arsenal in the class war than could ever be provided by any left-wing political party trying to represent our 'interests'.

Footnotes: [1] 'Syndicalism in Ireland 1917-23', Emmet O'Connor, [2] *ibid*, [3] 'James Larkin Irish Labour Leader 1876-1947', Emmet Larkin, [4] 'Anarcho-Syndicalism', Rudolph Rocker, [5] *ibid*.



Obituary

It is with great sadness that we must announce that our close friend and comrade Adam Hughes died recently at just 18 years old

Adam gave a great deal to our organisation in his two or so years of membership, in terms of activity, support, friendship, good humour and much more. He died accidentally while walking on the beach near his hometown of Newcastle, Co. Down.

Death is always tragic especially in someone so young, and so full of life as Adam was. He will be sorely missed by all his comrades and friends in Organise! and by other Anarchists across the country who had the pleasure to know him. The following obituary is by his friend and comrade Declan McVeigh;

This obituary is for our friend and comrade Adam Hughes who died tragically in Newcastle last month. However unlike most Anarchist obituaries, it will not be just a tribute to his commitment and dedication to the cause (though we all know these deserve remembering). No, this will be a tribute to Adam our friend, for at the end of the day, this is what he was to us.

I personally knew Adam for about seven years prior to us both becoming Anarchists. We attended (and were expelled from!) the same school together. During that time we involved ourselves in all the stupid, reckless behaviour that teenage boys love to indulge in. His liking for punk (and classical!) music, drinking too much and general misbehaviour endeared him greatly to me.

With our circle of friends we grew up together going on drinking sessions around Newcastle, Warrenpoint or Kilkeel. We could both afford to bunk off school and get pissed because neither of us were particularly worried about working hard! Actually Adam's favourite term for me was "workshy bastard"!

However, Adam was more than just a drinking buddy or schoolmate to me. I



remember the long talks we would have about the future or about politics or about what we were going to do with our lives. I had a deep trust of Adam and I hope he thought the same about me.

All the while at school we despised the petty authority and regulations of that place. When we found that this rejection of authority had a name and a philosophy, we adopted it wholeheartedly... we became Anarchists. From there on in it was a scramble to nick paper for the photocopier, to find a computer to print stuff out and to get money for post-meeting pints.

Adam was not a bookish Anarchist and he was not always very reverential about our activities. I remember him last August falling asleep as I delivered a talk during our Spanish Revolution commemoration. But he was always willing to stand up for his beliefs - a fact not always appreciated by many of the apathetic wankers he encountered.

Personally, I will find it hard to continue without him. I won't be able to ring him up and talk about the craic of the last meeting. I won't be able to sit with him at parties and ring up unsuspecting Organise! members at three in the morning. I won't be able to get on a bus to Newcastle to hang out with him for the weekend. And because of these and a thousand other reasons, I will never forget or cease to grieve for Adam Hughes.

Rest easy comrade.

ORGANISE!

THE VOICE OF ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM

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J.S.A.

WAGE-SLAVERY OR STARVATION? — THAT'S NOT A CHOICE, IT'S A THREAT!



SMASH IT!

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Aims and Principles

1. *Organise!* is a working class organisation.
2. We aim to create a free and classless society. We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery and replace them with workers control of both production and distribution for 'Need not Profit'.
3. We believe that only the working class can change society from the present system of chaos and inequality to a society based on co-operation, mutual aid and equality. This change must be achieved by the conscious participation of the workers themselves. We oppose all those who would set themselves up as 'new leaders'.
4. The only way to achieve this revolutionary change is by the formation of an independent workers organisation, the 'Anarcho-Syndicalist Union', within industry and the community, in federation with others in the same industries and localities, independent of and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies.
5. The Anarcho-Syndicalist Union is one controlled by the workers themselves, it is opposed to the sectionalism of traditional trade unionism and is open to membership of those outside and inside industry, it will unite not divide the working class. Any and all delegates will be subject to immediate recall to that membership.
6. The class struggle is world-wide and must recognise no artificial borders or boundaries. We must fight all attempts by capitalism to divide our class by setting worker against worker, employed against unemployed, man against woman and protestant against catholic.
7. The armies and police of this and all states do not serve to protect us, they exist as the repressive arm of the state.
8. At present *Organise!* is a propaganda group. It is the role of *Organise!* to support workers in struggle, to expose the weakness of traditional trades unionism and to work for the creation of an Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation in Ireland.

Welcome to the latest issue of 'Organise! the Voice of Anarcho-Syndicalism'.

Remember if you are interested in what you've read here, if you think like us that we need a to built a fighting alternative, controlled by workers, for workers.

Which can deal with both economic and wider political issues get in touch.

Help us build an organisation capable of fighting back in the here and now, and of bringing the fight to the bosses and building the social revolution in the future.



ORGANISE



**AGITATE
EDUCATE**

UP IN SMOKE!

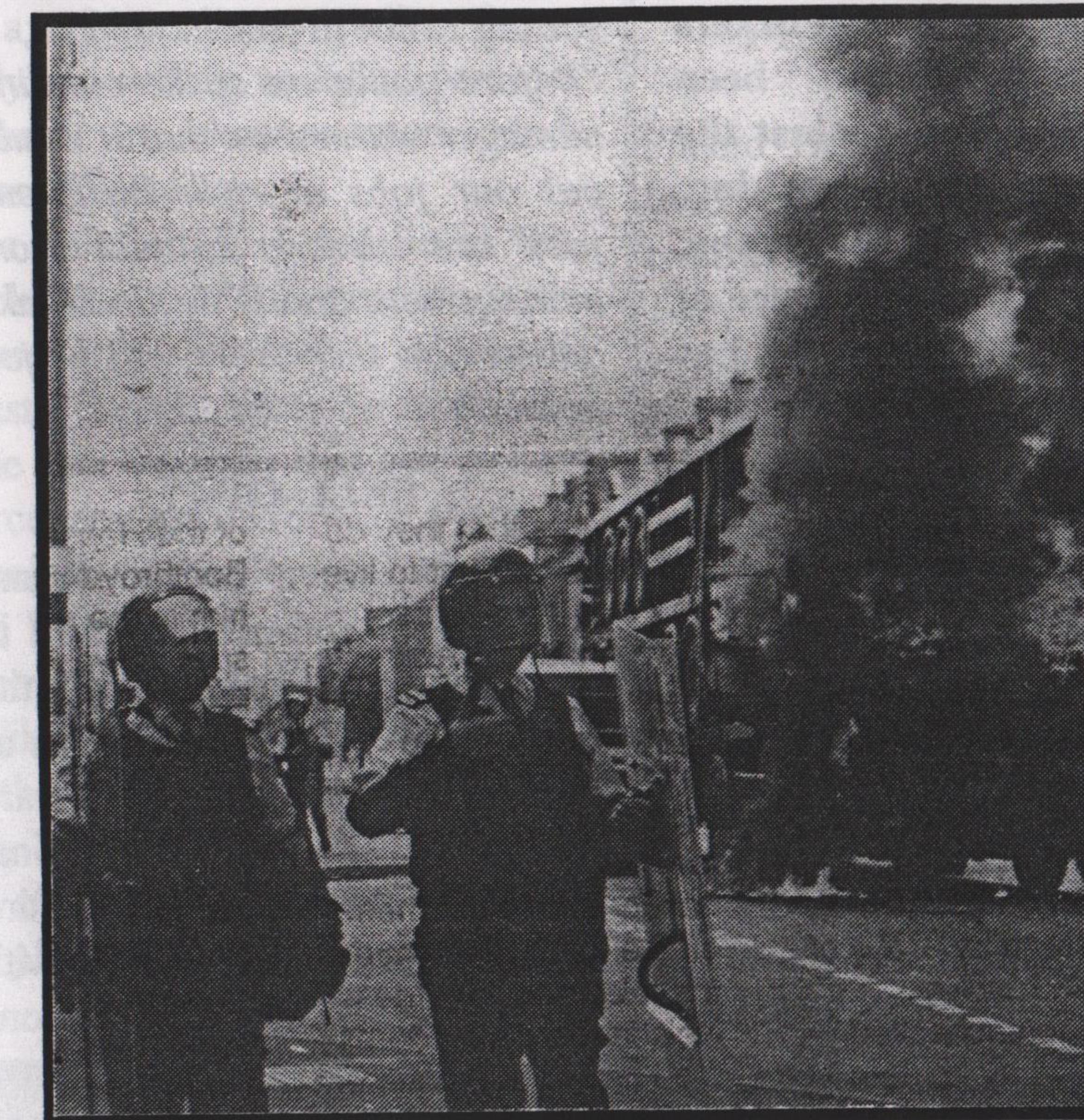
So the 'Peace Process' delivered us into a marching season marked by intense civil unrest and heightened sectarian tensions. This is not to be seen as an abhorration in 'our' politicians quest for peace, rather it has to be seen as the culmination of a process which never sought to deal with any of the underlying problems in our society. Far from it, this process has seen the playing off of one side against the other and the deliberate heightening of sectarian division in the north.

The recent election was nothing more than a sectarian headcount forcing people to chose between one side or the other.

Various left wing groups and individuals formed the Labour Coalition and took part in these elections, with a pitiful showing they still managed to secure two seats by means of the same electoral rigging which was designed to ensure UDP and PUP participation in the Forum. The Coalition has already split due to lefty infighting and we are afraid that if their motives were anything more than those of political opportunism they had very badly misread the very purpose of the election and talks. They claim to want to bring 'bread and butter' issues to the top of the political agenda, but its obvious to everyone that 'bread and butter' issues' can have no place in the debates of this sectarian talking (nothing but shit) shop.

This marching season has brought the parades debate to the top of the political agenda and Sinn Fein centre stage. Whilst the parades issue is, of course contentious, and one which must be addressed, Republicanism and Irish Nationalism together with Loyalism and Orange bigotry can only succeed in bringing us closer to the brink of sectarian warfare.

We believe that parades must not be permitted through areas in which they cause offence and we look forward to a time when all the sectarian institutions throughout Ireland will be swept away.



RUC with batons move in to clear the streets as a lorry burns

It must be pointed out that neither of the main political ideologies at work in the north can achieve this.

The strategy of confrontation has not weakened the position of the Orange Order, it has instead only served to swell its ranks. The only way to destroy it, along with the other sectarian organisations at work in Ireland, is through the building of a revolutionary movement, in the north and the south, which is based on class. One which opposes both states on this island and the power of the clerics of whatever persuasion.

Neither Republicanism nor the 'new' working class Loyalism of the UDP or PUP are interested in seriously tackling sectarianism - to do so would undermine their respective power bases in the working class ghettos of the north.

The strategy of Pan-Nationalism only heightens the fears of working class protestants about being overwhelmed in a Catholic united Ireland. Bigots such as the Rev. Martin Smyth, Paisley and Trimble can manipulate these fears to often deadly effect.

Both are incapable of tackling in any real way the very real attacks on our class, attacks such as the implementation of the Job Seekers Allowance, which will cause much additional hardship for working class people here no matter what their perceived religious backgrounds.

Anarcho-Syndicalists seek to build a movement which unites workers in defence of their common interests and which will organise them to take control out of the hands of politicians, clerics and bosses and into their own hands. Join us in the fight to build such a movement.

KICK OUT THE BOSSES

In the Union and the Workplace

Communication Workers Union members had been taking strike action against the introduction of team working, for a five day week, better pay, shorter hours and in defence of the second post. Discontent has been building up among post office workers for a some time now and Royal Mails latest proposals are seen by many as the last straw. Despite all this the CWU leadership called off strike action planned for the 20-23 of September.

'TEAMWORK'

As an ex Postal Worker myself, 'sacked' after 5 months due to the appearance of an 'unsatisfactory' reference from a previous employer, I witnessed 'piloting' of team working in Tomb Street in Belfast at least as far back as November '95.

Each team is given a target to reach, an amount of letters to be sorted, culled or whatever in a set time period. This is to squeeze more and more work out of employees, upping the companies output, without any increase in wages. In reality faster and harder work is what they're aiming at and with it goes increased risks to workers - a rushed workforce is a more 'accident' prone workforce. Another aspect of these 'teams' is that if anyone takes sick or annual leave the rest of the team is expected to cover for them, i.e. do their work as well as their own!

One worker at the Tomb Street

sorting office in Belfast told us; *"Before going on strike our line manager warned us that it would put our jobs at risk. Well, our jobs are already at risk from management and if we don't take action now then there will be job losses."*

SELL-OUT?

Despite the mood on the ground the smell of sell-out has been in the air almost constantly from the start of the dispute. On the 1st of July CWU General Secretary Johnston and the National Executive delayed calling a third strike to restart 'negotiations' with management. These negotiations broke down on 30 July when a sell-out, sorry, settlement, which Royal Mail wanted to include team working in, could not be agreed, and the strike action was on again. Then off again! Management, and the CWU leadership haven't so far come to an agreement due to fear on the union leaderships part. Fear that the membership of the union wouldn't accept a stitch-up negotiated on their 'behalf'. The likely outcome in this case would be a return to the type of unofficial action which took place across Scotland, London and elsewhere which was what forced the union bosses to get off their arses in the first place. Workers are in no mood for a compromise. As an Edinburgh Postal Worker said in a July copy of 'Justice', Scotland's underground news-sheet,

"Royal Mails objective is one of cost-cutting, labour slashing and back-stabbing. If we accept Royal Mail's preconditions for agreement to our claim we will have agreed to all the mechanisms for eventual job losses and part-time working being set in place."

NO COMPROMISE

Obviously there can be no compromise, Alan Johnston and his high paid consorts cannot be trusted, the decision to re-ballot puts the lie to the promises he spouted recently to posties from across the north attending a mass meeting in Transport House. The leadership are ready to cave in!

As workers we must take control of our own struggles, we must make and carry out the decisions ourselves. Strike pay, despite what Johnston, who is among the highest paid of union bureaucrats, said can and must be paid. To do this we need a union controlled by and for the workers, which is not afraid to fight, and which will use every penny raised to pay out strike pay - as opposed to letting out! Alan spend our cash on fancy suits!

Teamworking has not been defeated, the struggle against Royal Mail must go on without the union leadership - they are at best a hinderance to real struggle. Postal Workers across the 'U.K.' are already preparing to take matters into their own hands. Join them, contact; Postal Workers Network, P.O. Box 29, SWPDO, Manchester M15.

Plastic Bullets - Plastic Death

Plastic Bullets kill. That this summer saw no deaths due to extensive police use of this 'non-lethal' weapon over the summer months is more due to incredible good luck than due to design.

Plastic bullets have killed over 17 people in the past, a large proportion of these dead are children. The amounts injured could hardly even be guessed at.

The first of many to be seriously injured in this summers 'civil disturbances' was a 19 year old mentally retarded youth who had been taking part in the unionist protest at Drumcree. This youth had to be admitted to intensive care.

This is just one example among many of the effects of on human beings of these weapons. In just the first two weeks of July RUC figures stated that 6002 were fired - three times the annual average. In Derry, on the night of 13th of July observers from the Committee on the Administration of Justice counted the firing of 514 plastic bullets in four hours!

Over this period, plastic bullets have been fired over the heads of rioters deliberately targeting bystanders, in many cases the pullets were fired totally indiscriminately.

Throughout its history this weapon has been fired point-blank at demonstrators and rioters, fired from passing landrovers at pedestrians and children, and despite the too numerous deaths and often crippling injuries not one member of the security forces has ever been convicted for a plastic bullets related offence.

It is quite clear that what we have is a trigger happy police force only too willing to inflict pain on injury on demonstrators and passers by alike.

The solution does not lie in the replacement of the weapons with something 'safer'. Although plastic bullets must be opposed. The fact remains that the police force, any police force, is there to crack down hard on dissent. Until the RUC and the state that pays them are done away with it looks unlikely that plastic bullets will be withdrawn - even if they are we can be sure that a substitute just as effective and deadly will take its place!

SOME FACTS ABOUT PLASTIC BULLETS

Plastic Bullets are PVC rounds used by the RUC for 'crowd control'.

They weigh in at just under 5ozs and is 4 inches long.

It has a muzzle velocity of 160mph and delivers an energy impact of 110 foot pounds at 50 yards - 210 foot pounds at 5 yards. In the 1980's the American army rejected the use of direct crowd control weapons with more than 90 foot pounds impact. Although many British police forces have plastic bullets none have been fired on rioters there.



CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE JOB SEEKERS ALLOWANCE LAUNCHED!

The Campaign Against the Job Seekers Allowance was launched with a rally in Belfast City centre on Saturday 5th of October - just two days before the JSA was due to be implemented across the 'U.K.'

People assembled at three o'clock at the Art College, Belfast to hear speakers from the Unemployed Resource Centre, Belfast Trades Council and the newly named Socialist Party (formerly Militant) talk about the likely effects of the JSA and pledge their support to the campaign.

The crowd then marched along Royal Avenue to Belfast city hall. An Anarchist flag and the Organise! banner stood proud in this procession.

At the city hall two more speakers, one from the 'Young Socialists' and one from Organise! addressed the crowd, the Saturday afternoon shoppers and the assembled RUC.

Jason Brannigan, the speaker from Organise! drew parallels with the unemployed struggle in Belfast 64 years ago which united catholic and protestant in opposition to the ruling classes. This was known as the Outdoor Relief Strike and it brought the full wrath of the northern state down on the heads of protestant and catholic unemployed and workers alike.

Sammy Baxter, a protestant from Regent Street and John Keenan, a catholic from the Falls were both shot dead by the RUC as they clamped down on this movement which had dared to break with the sectarian barriers of the past.

As Jason said:
"The lessons in this, as we stand here today to show our opposition to the JSA, is that we can and must unite across the sectarian divide to fight for our real interests. Interests as workers and the unemployed, the disabled and other sections of our society which this legislation attacks."

This demonstration is just the beginning, we must now set about the



task of building local groups of the unemployed together with working people, particularly dole workers, to let our anger and opposition be felt.

A campaign that will succeed must be built on direct action and direct democracy. Occupations are now the order of the day. Form a group, occupy your local dole office and/or job centre. Get in touch with the campaign for information and active solidarity. Build the struggle now!

We should take it further than a merely defensive campaign. Instead of just fighting for the crumbs we should take the whole bloody bakery!

Contact Us Now!
The Campaign Against
The JSA.
P.O. Box 505,
Belfast,
BT12 6BQ.

Pickets: Bang,
Oldham,
Cheetham Hill,
+ Gorton/Openshaw.
Future demos

The Job Seekers Allowance and Dole/Employment Agency Workers.

All has not been well for some time those as far as things are going for DSS or TEA workers. Morale is at an all time low - everyone knows someone who has resigned or wants to pack it in.

Whether you've got a permanent job or are one of the growing numbers of casuals with no guarantee of work beyond a few months, the Job Seekers Allowance will make things even worse.

Thousands of jobs will go - up to 30,000 throughout England, Scotland, Wales and the north of Ireland in the Training and Employment Agency/Employment Service alone.

Grades are disappearing, job descriptions changed and offices reorganised so that less people are doing more work.

Resentment and hostility from claimants is already on the increase with massively increasing disqualification's for, and suspensions of, benefits.

Management are going back on national agreements and are forcing people to administer the new system, on the front line, under unacceptable conditions. A climate of fear is being deliberately created among Employment Agency and Benefit workers which will, if nothing is done about it, allow a continuing cycle of lower wages and greater workloads.

When does a 'service' become an attack on your own kind?

Should unemployed people be forced into any old job? The more people who are forced into low paid work the more this becomes the norm, the more it undercuts everyone's wages and working conditions. The logical next step will be YOUR JOB, because management will bring casuals in off the dole at £2.00/hour to do your job - if we allow both the JSA and attacks on our pay and conditions to continue unresisted...

Forcing people to apply for jobs they have no chance of getting only destroys their self-esteem and dignity. Who can blame people for getting irate, when for years they have worked, have skills and qualifications, but their jobs have been cut or industry relocated - and they are then told they must skivvy for the rich and tourists, or starve?

What alternative?

The way things are going you can understand why so many want to pack the job in. But who fancies being on the other side of the counter, forced to sign on and facing the same kick in the teeth unemployed people are learning to expect?

Either way, you can't ignore what's wrong - both the attacks on claimants and those on workers, both coming from the same source. There are no votes for politicians in being 'nice' to the unemployed or DSS workers - we can only ever depend on our own collective strength, organisation and effective resistance to defend ourselves

from attacks on our living standards, pay and conditions.

TEA and DSS workers hold the key and the power to scuttle all of management's plans - refusal to implement the JSA and to tolerate attacks on pay and conditions is just what management fear most. It is for this reason casuals are brought in - to undermine workers' self-confidence and resistance. However, casuals have as much to gain by fighting for secure working conditions and most to fear from full implementation of the JSA.

Resistance

Individually we can refuse to go along with meeting targets for disqualification's. Make sure people signing on are fully aware of their rights. Pass out any information you can, in confidence on local implementation, targets, problems, managers who are giving staff a hard time, etc. Speak out against the us and them mentality. Every little helps and can inspire others. *But collectively we can really make a difference.*



Government Scroungers

The Government is hoping to save up to \$400m in the first 2 years of the JSA by throwing us off the dole and forcing us into crap low paid work. JSA isn't fully operational yet and already £270m has been spent on it. £70m of this is being spent on installing a computer system into Job Centres to support 'vacancy filling and advisory work'. The Government like to scapegoat us as ripping off the taxpayer when it was the Employment Service (TEA in the north) who spent £929m on buildings in the last 4 years, including £74m on furniture alone!

INTERVIEW: Kieran Casey, SAC International Secretary

Kieran Casey, International Secretary of the SAC, the Swedish Workers Central Organisation, a syndicalist union of about 13,000 members spoke to Declan McVeigh of Organise! the Voice of Anarcho-Syndicalism, in Newry on 02/07/96. This interview took place at the request of Mr. Casey while visiting family in his native Dublin.

Although the SAC is a syndicalist union with an Anarcho-Syndicalist heritage, (as one of the founding sections of the International Workers Association) it adapted itself to the reformist social democratic Swedish state after the second world war. This led to a split with the IWA.

Relations between the SAC and IWA are still strained to this day, reasons for this will be gone into at the end of the interview.

- **Can you give us a brief history of the SAC up to and including the split with the IWA in the 1950's:**

Briefly I think even from the very start the different sections of the IWA had different ideas, you know. The SAC was one of the largest, most established sections, along with the Spanish CNT of course.

With the rise of fascism the German FAU and other sections were totally wiped out. After the defeat of the CNT in Spain and the suppression of all the syndicalist organisations the SAC was the only functioning syndicalist union after the war. There were forces in the SAC which were reformist. There was a stream of syndicalism, evolutionary syndicalism, that was being developed, particularly by some of the German refugees who had come to Sweden after Hitler's rise to power. This caused a lot of internal strife and in 1952 the SAC changed their principles from the original revolutionary syndicalist principles. They reviewed their view on the social revolution, and developed the view of revolution as an evolutionary process. This led to loggerheads with the underground and exiled, more orthodox sections of the IWA. At that time the IWA was also changing to be more of a watchdog organisation, watching over the purity of all the other oppressed groups.

Then of course there was the cold war when you couldn't even talk about socialism due to the very anti-socialist atmosphere. Stalinism of course not doing very much to help things.

Together with the rise of Social Democracy in Sweden we have the specific scenario for the SAC. But the SAC did try to develop new forms of solidarity. Now whether they were good or bad is a question for debate, but a more nuance view as regards the development of syndicalism.

The SAC in the '70's then moved back to the old principles again, as a result of the whole '60's era.

- **How are the SAC organised today?**

We organise all wage earners, on the principle that all wage earners have the same interests. Its not a trade union its an industrial union. Then within the organisation we divide up industrially through sections in the workplace, syndicates in a certain area or between certain factories for example, and then a federation for the whole country. We also organise locally in Locals, which organise all people in an area regardless of industry. The sections and syndicates are sovereign in their industries as the Local federation is sovereign on a national base.

- **What exactly are the 'limited powers of authority' of the Central Committee between congresses?**

There are two central bodies, the Central Committee and the Executive Committee. The Central Committee meets twice a year, and they're national, they're elected from the different districts. Their job deals with large economic questions, involving more than, say, £2,500. They have to make decisions on budget questions and policy making as regards our printing shop, and our publishers.

Their job is also to go to the Locals, especially the Locals annual meeting, to get feedback, and also to inform on what's been decided upon. For example the things we decide on at congress, different investigations or whatever, how they're progressing. Their job is to inform, but they're also there to be informed, and to take that information back to the central committee meetings.

They are ordinary members, elected, they get the equivalent of one months wages each, which is to cover loss of earnings incurred due to union work.

Then we have an Executive Committee, they're a smaller group and they're based at the moment in Stockholm, because that's where the most members are concentrated. They meet once every two weeks and that's the normal run of the union, that's like decisions about takin' stuff to the labour courts, allocation of funds up to £2,500, for example, from the education fund, or international solidarity fund, propaganda, what we call a central project, or active project. If any conflicts arise they try and deal with it.

They don't get paid. They get a few quid per meeting or something like that, and of course the same if they have to make telephone calls from home. But they're not paid for the time they put in. As far as I know, I don't think they get a months wages from the central committee, the central committee is large and part of the central committee is the executive committee.

Their mandates are very, very strict. For example, the members, we, had a referendum on implementing a raise in our members fees. Afterwards the executive committee decided to break it down into two halves to make it more digestible. A lot of people saw that as breakin' the rules. Some of the members said 'No, we voted to raise four quid a month from that month, you can't break it into two quid this month and then in six months time two quid more'. Y'know, and some people are up in arms about this because they haven't the right to break against a referendum, even in all good faith.

- **You are on record as saying you wish to see a 'healing in international syndicalism'. How do you see this coming about given the deep mistrust between the IWA and SAC?**

Yeah, I am convinced that if there's to be a future for syndicalism we all have to co-operate. As to the form that takes time will tell.

Some people in the SAC want us to rejoin the IWA. Others don't see the IWA as being a viable component of syndicalism because its mostly formed by propaganda groups.

There is this different kind of reality, both as regards size and your base or anchor in society - if you're anchored in a workplace that forms your daily reality.

As to how such a 'healing process' would come about, there are of course problems. Each organisation has developed its own special ways and there must be mutual respect for that because we are living in different societies. I mean the CNT living under a fascist regime in Spain is totally

different than syndicalism as SAC under a Social Democratic welfare state. Which is in a sense a very labour friendly, or theoretically has been up until recently, a labour friendly if reformist system. This difference must be respected, a mutual respect.

We need a dialogue so we can rinse out any malicious gossip and lies, and then we can deal with real criticism and the actual problems, both theoretical and practical, of syndicalism. Not just in the SAC in Sweden or the CNT in Spain, but internationally or in Europe.

Each individual is going to have to take on their own personal responsibility in that and push for their own organisations to take responsibility for how they're going to act in a truly libertarian fashion. We can't allow ourselves to be bullied by loud-mouthed people who are just posing or coming off with a lot of slogans, but must work with people who seriously want to develop a movement.



- **As Anarcho-Syndicalists are opposed to full-time, paid posts within their unions how can SAC claim to be Anarcho-Syndicalist when they employ secretaries, cashiers, news editors etc.,?**

Anarcho-Syndicalism cannot say they are against paid posts, on principle yeah. In organisational terms I don't think that means anything. Seemingly the CNT at one stage had one paid official, and that's pretty close to the ideal.

But its very hard to run an organisation. A lot depends on whether all the members are very active and aren't gettin' involved in Peace Groups, Environmental Groups, and sittin' down in front of trains, instead of having industrial actions against export of arms for example. Instead of forming little action groups to sit down in front of a train and then loose their job, y'know. Its a question of strategies, of course its not an ideal situation. Its not ideal at all. But its gotta be a question of trust. Are we gonna have mutual suspicion or mutual trust.

For me this job is a luxury, its a privilege. Never had a better job in my life, but at the same time I've had sleepless nights because of the pressure. So I mean its not like its a dance of roses or whatever. But the ideal situation is that all activists do their work, that they do their union work in the evening like they did before, sure.

Anyway the SAC does not call itself an Anarcho-Syndicalist organisation. Anarcho-Syndicalist is usually used in countries where anarchism's very strong and anarchism wasn't strong in Sweden. But I think its more theoretical really.

- **Are these jobs for life?**

No the mandate is limited to one Congress period. We decided at our last Congress we're gonna have a Congress every four years. Sometimes we'd have a referendum after three years if we felt we needed a Congress and then all functionary posts are up for election. But employees are not up for election, because its a union we're not gonna treat our own employees any worse than the demands we're fightin' for ourselves at any other workplace.

So like they have their job security, they have their decent wages, decent conditions and everybody in the union gets the same wages. The union is not misusing members idealism because they're workin' as a secretary or they're workin' with the membership registration or that kinda work.

- **So do you put the presence of full-timers down to the fact that not everybody does their bit? If everybody did a little bit there would be no need for people to take on sole responsibility for a specific task 24 hours a day and get paid for it, is that what you're saying?**

Its not the sole responsibility, at Congress you might decide on certain policies or reinforce certain policies that have been goin' on for four years before. We can be talkin' about an eight year period or a ten or twelve year period. If you're lookin' at, say, international relations it takes a long time to get a perspective on things, and to 'drive' a certain policy that's going on for ten years. Its a question of continuity contra spontaneity and a large organisation needs both.

The continuity gives a stability and a strong base for long-term work. Spontaneity, at least on the surface, has everyone diggin' away and that's great, but then everyone gets burnt out and everything implodes in upon itself. Then someone else has gotta come in and start it all up again.

If that's the alternative then rather a continuous work that's slower moving and

stable than an organisation which bases itself on spontaneity.

To limit the obvious dangers there has to be accountability, openness, transparency and all those things. You have to build a structure where that's dealt with, I mean, I think as human beings we can build those structures. If we can't build these structures in a small organisation how can we purport to take over society or want our ideas to yeast through society. How then are you gonna drive buses - we've got a full-time bus driver so he's gonna start drivin' up the wrong street or somthin'. Society can't be based on mutual distrust, it must be based on mutual trust.

It's a problem, but its not a big problem and what we have to do is find out ways to eliminate the need for them or minimise them and under that create structures where everyone is accountable. The experience myself is I've got a lot of responsibility but I don't have any power. I can't make decisions that are not anchored in a Congress decision.

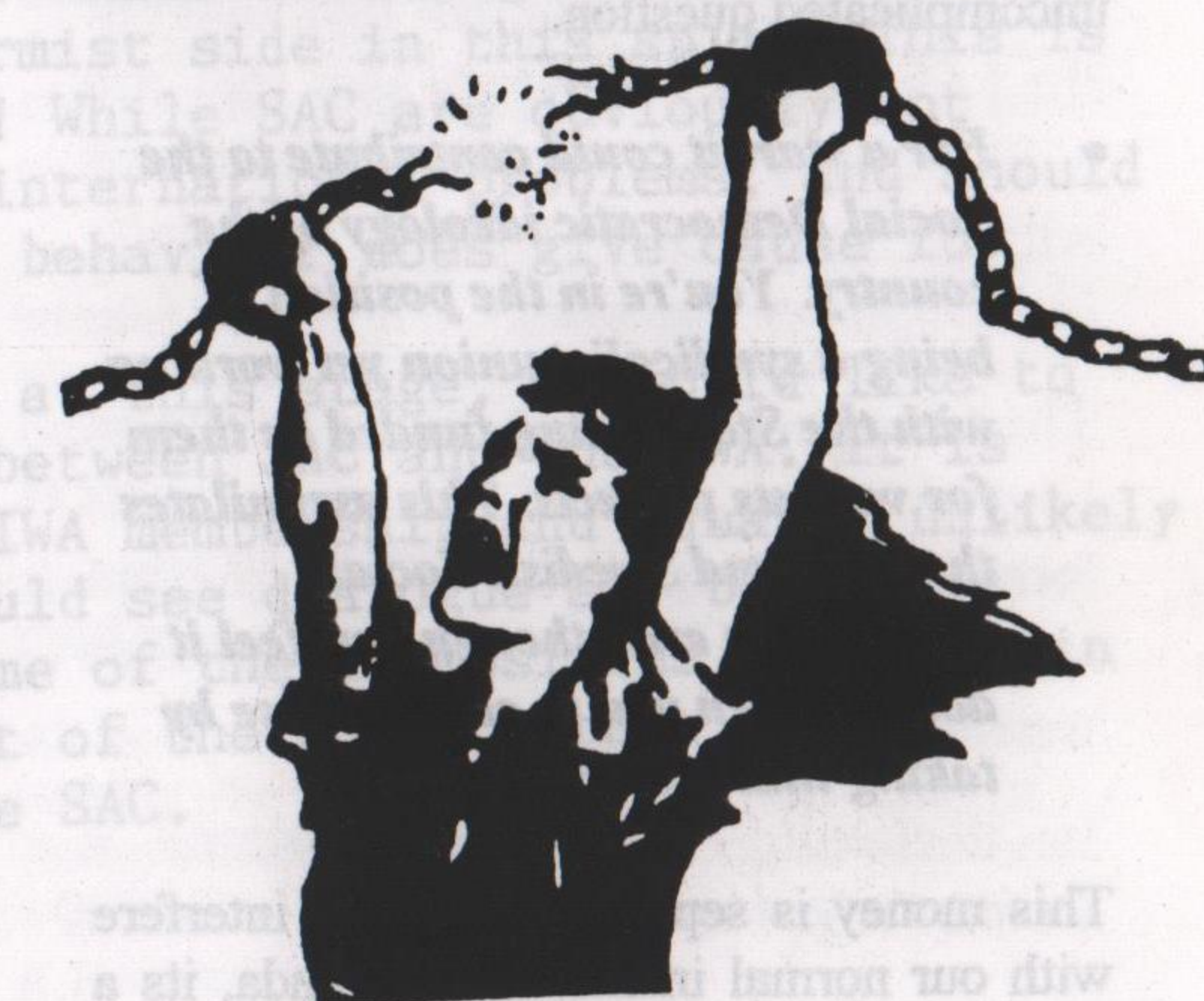
I can't make any decisions about initiating formal, fast relationships with another group, that's the members gotta make that decision. I can recommend it, do the groundwork.

- **The SAC state 'we are independent of all political parties, independent of the State and, of course, independent of the employers and capitalists'. What can you tell us about the position of party members within the SAC and specifically in relation to their ability to take on delegate roles within the organisation?**

That's a constant debate and every congress we have a motion and a heavy debate about having people who belong to a political party, or are members of some other association.

The problem is if they get voted into a position of trust. At present they have to state openly their membership and positions in other organisations.

My personal line is that if anyone is a member of a party, I can't understand why we don't reject it outright.



- *As far as Organise!, and other Anarcho-Syndicalists are concerned, no-one can maintain political party membership at the same time as membership of an Anarcho-Syndicalist union, or a Local or Industrial Network.*

When you have 3,000 members and you're talking about that question see what answers you come up with then. Y'know, if they're going to be allowed as members, or if they're limited as to their trust as a member.

- *The main problem we would see with delegates or members who are members of a political party would be them operating to that parties agenda.*

That's a problem. I think its not enough to state your membership if you are going for a position of trust within the union, I believe you should make a choice, either you are or you're not. If you want to work within the Greens because your husband or wife is doing it, or you get satisfaction out of it, or if you want to work with some left-wing parties because they're doing a lot for the day homes or the schools in your local community, make that choice. The best thing to do would be to change your Local Federation into a forum to work for social change.

But if anyone was working to a different political agenda, you'd see it a mile off, and it would be dealt with.

- *Also what can you tell us about state funding in relation to the finances and activities of the SAC?*

There are state funds that are used for information on developing countries and stuff like that. Its a luxury, because the projects that we construct would be impossible with the budget that we have.. Any money we apply for has no any strings attached, if there were any conditions that would compromise us or our principles then its not on the cards. But its not an uncomplicated question.

- *For a start it could contribute to the Social Democratic ideology of the country. You're in the position of being a syndicalist union yet working with the State, being funded by them for various projects. This assimilates the SAC and Swedish Social Democracy even though you feel it doesn't open you to compromise by taking that money.*

This money is separate, it doesn't interfere with our normal international agenda, its a

complement, its a luxury thing. But there's also an ongoing discussion as to how much time do we devote to this, is this energy being taken off other questions?

But we're a large organisation with plenty of activists, there are always people to do certain things. Any practical solidarity projects that do grow out of these contacts are completely free, that's our own money, money we get from the state doesn't interfere, doesn't go into our normal budget for international work.

- *I also heard, that the money is used for international development, is that the sort of project your talking about? Third World charity stuff?*

No. That's not what I'm talking about. In Sweden there's something called SIDA, the Swedish International Development Association and 0.7% of the Gross National Product goes back to Third World or developing countries through this. It deals with what we call the North/South problem. Of this 0.7% one section is for the dissemination of information, and its within this field that we apply for money. Part of this involves what we call a materials collecting trip, a study trip, to some country where we go visit workshops, people, groups, collect information and make a magazine.

We also organise courses on the topic of the study. This year we've done 'Asia and World Economy', 'Women and World Economy' and 'Sweden and World Economy', so its given us a global perspective on economy.

The only other condition, which we do gladly as well, is to give lectures. If a school rings, or it could be the scouts, we'll give them a lecture on a subject, it could be imperialism etc. They'd be getting, of course, our analysis of it. But any project that develops out of our contact has got nothing to do with this money. This money is just earmarked for information.

We've helped a union study project in the Philippines, and have an ongoing project in Nepal which is partly financed by state money, that's true.

One section of this is information and another is development aid, where if a central organisation puts up say 20% of the finances for a project that they themselves decide upon, if the state or state body think its a good project they would put up the other 80% for it.

As regards Nepal and GEFONT the project we've done now is a union education programme where we finance a truck, a mobile school basically. They can't read or write so the material is in picture form, so somebody goes around, they're paid by GEFONT, but the truck is both GEFONT and SAC with help from state money. But I mean there's no strings, of course you might

say we adapt the project to something we know will be accepted, or approved, but we'd rather see that something practically would come out of one end and weigh off how much we are being compromised here, how much we are selling out, how much we can cope with this.

And what, what, the illiterate workers in Nepal are getting for what we can deal with with the, the state, 'because we have our own integrity, actually we've worked up quite a lot of respect. A lot of the, in Sweden, a lot of the Church Groups even, the reformist unions, who have their own projects, huge projects, they have such high administration costs that what actually gets out the other end in perspective of what we do can't be compared.

But this thing about manipulation or compromise is an insidious thing, its not like somebody comes down to you and says 'do this' or 'do that' and then we're doing 'sumthin' we don't want 't'do, we have to decide the agenda. The problem is that over a ten year period y' get used to this money. Its easy money. Its not hard earned members fees were, y'know, its taxpayers money and that effect is like a shadow creeping, you have to be very aware of it all the time. Its a very new thing for us, its also a controversial thing.

Not that its the states money, its taxpayers money, its our money, and we're just distributing it where we want. That's not the problem, the problem is the effect that it has on us as an organisation, are we going to concentrate our efforts on easy money instead of the hard work of organising and paying for stuff ourselves. That's what its gotta be weighed off all the time.

- *In the 'Without Borders' document, which came out of the 1990 Internationalist Syndicalist Conference, the SAC said of the conference that it 'Laid the foundation to a network that may become of a decisive nature to new international co-operation'. Although on paper you have claimed that you do not wish to establish a new International, is not 'a network (which) can be more useful for international co-operation than a stable organisation. A network (which) has no affiliated members... is just a group of organisations which communicate because of common interest' not a step in this direction?*

Networking is a modern thing that came out of the feminist movement. The positive side of networking is that different groups, or individuals, at different times can organise around certain issues - when those issues are solved or resolved there's no need for

that network to continue. Having served its purpose new constellations can be formed to deal with new issues that would come up. Networking is a very flexible theory of structure, it can maintain a certain dynamism.

The SAC is not trying to form a new international. Anika Hjelm the former Secretary has said in response to a direct question, I forget by whom, something like 'no not presently' or 'not at present'. 'Later on' being the conspiratorial interpretation. However nothing is fixed forever, in 10 years time the scenario could develop where the SAC could think about being a member of the IWA. The situation could change where maybe a lot situations such as the Liverpool dockers strike could be very, very dynamic and the course of the workers movement would totally bypass the IWA as a viable focus.

A new international is not on the cards. The best way for people to co-operate now in practical co-operation on certain issues - networking.

There are streams within the SAC propagating for a national debate on application for membership to the IWA. But its unreasonable to think that an organisation which, at its congresses, officially adopts a programme stating that we're not forming a new international, while our energies are going into the opposite. Why would we even lie to ourselves? Its we who form our policies, there is no other group with a subterfuge policy, and if there was they'd soon be dealt with. That would be seen as manipulation of the organisation and it wouldn't be accepted by the membership.

This thing about strong or stabile organisation contra networking has to be put in place with the idea of federalism. We have to ask first 'Do we need an international?' and if so 'What should it look like and what functions should it have?' The basic questions, that were probably asked in 1922, still have to be asked and we have to touch on those questions constantly, to check that the structures that were built are still relative to our real situation.

- *So there is no SAC/CGT alliance on an international level beyond 'networking'?*

No, the CGT did put out a feeler a few years back as regards European co-operation, wanting a Secretariat, a post paid by different organisations to co-ordinate some kind of European co-operation.

At that time there were a lot of European conferences, and people felt that we were meeting every year, telling each other what problems we have and then on the last afternoon we were supposed to sketch out something as regards practical co-operation

and nothing ever came of it. We meet the year after and we're back to square one. So these international conferences weren't leading anywhere and the CGT wanted to have a more organised international co-operation. We said no, we new how it would be interpreted and felt that it was more networking that we were interested in.

- *Given the mistrust between the IWA and the SAC there is suspicion of SAC approaches to IWA and pro-IWA organisations. Does Mr. Casey not feel that his contact with Organise! could be seen in this light?*

That's your problem, definitely your problem. Actually its a problem for us in a way. I mean if I'm workin' for long-term

improvement in dialogue some nut is gonna say 'oh yeah the SAC sent an emissary to influence Organise! not to join the IWA' or somethin' like that. This is what we read, this is what I read.

Na, I think that's your problem, in fact I don't think it is a problem. It's internal politics, it's a way of drawin' out certain people, who are the softies that are for the SAC and who are the real black and reds.

I mean we get the same thing too, certain groups pushin' for certain things and they're bein' loud mouthed about a certain subject hoping to get a knee jerk reaction from somebody else. It's manipulation, and its unworthy of any organisation but that's the reality. Syndicalist organisations are not free of the kinda shit that goes on in the Trotsky organisations.

A Few Points of Contention

While Organise! would like to see a normalisation of relations with the SAC, we believe that such a process would require major changes on the part of that organisation. As Kieran Casey himself said "The SAC are not anarcho-syndicalists", they prefer the term 'revolutionary syndicalism' to describe their union.

A lot of Kieran Casey's talk about "mutual trust contra mutual suspicion" is a weak excuse for this 'revolutionary' union's wide-spread reformism. Apart from their political pluralism, police members, the receiving of State monies, and the lack of meaningful accountability (as shown in Mr. Casey's example of the recent handling of a recent dues increase), we are particularly concerned about the role of full-time employees within the union. For a supposedly revolutionary union this puts them in an impossible position, they are both boss and union! It is not unimaginable that a SAC Congress may have to decide to cut back on expenses. This may well lead to job losses for union workers. Who then represents their interests? The union has become the boss, and as all good syndicalists know the interests of the boss and the worker are irreconcilable.

As to State money, besides the fact that 'development aid' is in the realm of Third World charity work as opposed to revolutionary solidarity, this would be an anathema to anarcho-syndicalists. Although Mr. Casey states repeatedly that SAC are not compromised by this, their growing dependence on this money will make it almost impossible for them to seriously oppose the Swedish State. When push comes to shove 'bite the hand that feeds them?'

Mr. Casey is also quite off-hand about the very real suspicion of IWA sections as regards SAC's international agenda/conduct. Much of this problem may be traced back to the SAC's destructive role in the Spanish CNT/CGT split. While claiming neutrality, they gave financial support to the reformist side in this split. This is the neutrality of the arms dealer! While SAC are obviously not responsible for all of the IWA's international problems, and should not be scapegoated as such, their behaviour does give cause for concern.

While it may not be possible at this stage, we would like to see the opening of some dialogue between SAC and the IWA. It is unlikely that SAC will apply for IWA membership and equally unlikely that they will be accepted. We would see dialogue as being helpful in perhaps clearing up some of the animosities that remain and also to take the suspicion out of the contact that does occur between IWA sections and the SAC.

Siege Mentality Gone Mad Drumcree and the Siege of Ulster

When the Drumcree stand-off began the tone for the conflict was eloquently set by one District Master, Harold Gracey when he was talking outside Drumcree Parish Church:

"Last year the media termed it 'The Siege of Drumcree'. Well, there is a ring of steel around Portadown- it is now the 'Siege of Portadown'. And it is even wider than that. It is the siege of Ulster".

The events of the following days proved this Orange mouthpiece right: it was the siege of Ulster... Ulster was being laid siege by the Loyal Orange Order.

The initial RUC decision to ban an Orange march from proceeding through the mainly Catholic, Garvaghy Rd. incensed loyalists. Their 'right' to march through areas where they are unwelcome had been violated. Once again we witnessed the hysteria and paranoia of an ideology that sees enemies and treachery everywhere. An ideology which the Grand Master of the Orange Order and MP for South Belfast (in that order), the Rev. Martin Smyth described as *libertarian* and *freedom loving* to press assembled at the start of the stand off.

"I would say that there is a right to peaceful protest. There comes a time when if we are breaking the law then we have got to suffer the penalty."

That has been the position of libertarians throughout the ages. In those circumstances, this is a non-violent way."

Perhaps some misguided members of the LOL believe this crap, that they are a libertarian organisation, that is one which; *"advocates liberty, especially in thought or conduct,"*

The Orange Order grew out of sectarian land disputes in mid-Ulster and was formed in Armagh in 1795. Within months of its formation 7,000 Catholics were forced out of Armagh.

Its declaration of principles stated it would *"support our King and*

Constitution and maintain the Protestant ascendancy for which our ancestors fought and conquered, in short to uphold the present system and establishment in opposition to the schemes of rebels of all descriptions."

Hardly the stuff of which libertarian organisations are made! The freedom's they are interested in are one-sided, it includes the freedom to march wherever and whenever they want without any consideration for others.

While things are judged in Northern Ireland of the basis of an advance for one side automatically being a loss for the other Loyalists view their situation, and any opposition to Orange marches with fear and suspicion. The end result of increased insecurity and fear is, as we all know too well, confrontational and violent.

This fear manifested itself in the actions taken by the loyalists during the stand-off. From midnight of July 7th, thousands of loyalists gathered at police lines. The sporadic violence at Drumcree was outdone by the activities of their brethren across the North.

By 48 hours after the beginning of the stand-off 75 roads had been blocked, 84 vehicles hijacked, 22 plastic bullets fired and 22 arrests had been made.

This was the beginning of a cycle of violence that has resulted in over 200 families, both catholic and protestant, being intimidated from their homes. In addition there were thousands of plastic bullets fired, large scale rioting and of course, the murders of, Catholic taxi driver Micheal McGoldrick and of Dermot McShane.

This is the result of the determination of an organisation which is steeped in sectarianism, to march through an area where their presence is deeply resented.

The Orangemen used threats, violence and intimidation to force the hand of the NIO. Their actions left the North in flames and their eventual march down the Garvaghy Road demonstrates how they regard themselves as top dogs still.

The Order's claims that it was "hangers-on" who perpetrated the violence are misleading. The blood and thunder speeches given by Trimble, Paisley and their kind whipped up so much sectarian tension that it was bound to spill over into violence. In many areas it was disaffected and largely unemployed working class youth who were drawn into the confrontations which marked this years marching season, confrontations do not reflect their class interests.

Organise! totally condemns the actions and aims of the Orange Order. The events surrounding this years marching season have helped to further divide the northern working-class. Their marches are exercises in bigoted coat-trailing and should be stopped from entering areas where their presence is unwelcome.

Organise! does not oppose Orangeism because of any sympathy for or bias towards Irish nationalism. Our position stems from our opposition to ALL forms of nationalism and sectarianism, wherever they appear. Having said that these marches are not simply going to disappear and we must hope that negotiation can prevent any further clashes. These hopes may well be futile, as politicians and fools continue to stoke up division for their own ends and for the worn-out ideologies of the past.



Tightening Our Belts As The Politicians Rake It In

The recent large pay rise allocated to MPs, ministers and other state bureaucrats seems to suggest that government lackeys are becoming even more brazen about their naked careerism.

The recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Board have been taken on board by ALL the major parties in the House of Commons.

The Board (in its dubious wisdom) has decided that John Major and Tony Blair need approximately an extra sixty grand a year to tide them over. Those who hold any illusions in Labour's "socialism" should note that Blair will be entitled to an extra £55,000 a year as Head of her Majesty's Opposition.

The 26% pay rise for MPs was endorsed in a Commons vote. The 279 votes to 154 result shows that the majority of Labour MPs supported the proposal. Our own band of parliamentary parasites seemed split on the decision but five MPs who did support it were:

Roy Beggs

Clifford Forsythe

Ken Maginnis

William Ross

and the

Rev. Right Orange Bigot

Martin Smyth.

MPs have used the parliamentary system to ensure that they remain on the pig's back.

As if that wasn't enough other state puppets are to receive large bonuses. Cabinet ministers are to get an extra £30,000 a year, Ministers of State are to get an extra £20,000 per year and junior ministers are to receive an extra £15,000..... and all of this is on top of their present salaries.

Compare this with pay rises offered to local government workers who were offered JUST 11p EXTRA PER HOUR! The bonuses allocated to high-flying politicians and civil servants add up to a derisory slap in the face for the working-class.

Whilst some may argue that these people deserve their bonuses due to the stress of public office, Organise! would say that these unaccountable leaders and manipulators should be done away with. Most of these people are involved in drafting anti-union legislation and are actively involved in curbing civil liberties through bills like the Criminal Justice Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Many MPs already hold places on company directorships. Many are also just plain crooked; the recent 'Houses for Votes' scandal involving Tory MPs selling council houses to ensure Tory votes in the next election. This self-imposed pay rise is mirrored in the world of big business as bosses award themselves large pay rises, while explaining to us, the workers, that the 'recession' demands that we tighten our belts!

If Educations Expensive What Prices Ignorance?

The education system is in crisis. The chaos caused by government imposed cuts and tests, league tables, opting out... has led to confusion among teachers, students and parents.

Head teachers of different schools are now threatening to refuse to publish test results in defiance of the government.

There are two things that are fucking up education (and it was far from perfect in the first place):

1) The Tests (S.A.T.S.)

S.A.T.S. are tests for 7, 11 and 14 year olds which the Tories have introduced along the controversial with league tables. Teachers realised the tests would be used to cream off pupils 'fit' to go to better resourced schools. That is why they fought so hard against the S.A.T.S. by taking action themselves they eventually pushed their union leaders into backing a boycott.

Everyone should remember just how successful that boycott was. The Tories were on the ropes over education, with their policies rapidly grinding to a halt!

John Patten, the Tories Education Secretary disappeared in the Summer of 1993. Gillian Sheppard replaced Patten and emphasis was put on her 'very different' style. The government also brought in the ex post office boss Sir Ron Dearing to try to reach a 'compromise' with the teachers. Teachers union leaders called off the boycott, but more could have been won.

2) Cuts in Education

Education cuts meant that 10,000 teachers were sacked, another 8,000 jobs are set to go as well.

This means that Grammar schools will be increasingly catering for the 'cream' of pupils with a better teacher to pupil ratio, while state schools will suffer further as teaching jobs are cut and

class rooms become more overcrowded.

Teachers will have less time to spend on pupils who will have already disadvantaged by the current set-up. Kids who have 'fallen behind' will have little to no hope of catching up.

Cuts also are effecting, and will continue effect, funding for school transport and sporting events, alongside any 'extra-curricular' activity. Say goodbye to the already limited funding to day trips, field trips and special projects.

The cost of these activities, along with paying for books, school dinners etc.; will increasingly fall on the already hard pressed parents. The Tory attack on education is yet another attack working class families. They keep telling us that education is too expensive, but we must ask **"what price ignorance?"**

PAY RISES AT THE TOP AS CUTS HIT HARD!

School Principals across the north are awarding themselves payrises of up to £10,000 as education cuts are hitting hard across the entire industry.

Principles are awarding themselves pay rises averaging £3,000 to £6,000 a year while teachers working at their schools are dismissed. These bastards are taking £24,000 to £55,000 home a year at a time when schools are facing further cuts amounting to **£60million** in the next year!

Q.C.'s Follow Suit

Not wanting to be outdone Barristers have won a £260,000 rise in fee's from legal aid this summer!

Six QCs and their juniors were awarded the increases after they appealed against assessments by the Taxing Master Christopher Napier. The £185,000 fees he'd decided on just wouldn't do to cover all the hard work of these legal eagles.

They ended up with an increase of £145,000, bringing them up to £330,000. Even that won't buy you a good barrister these days - 'refresher' fees of £400 a day brought their total income for the trial to £434,000.

And their poor hard done by juniors only got £360,000!

All for a trial which ran for 88 days spread over 8 months, the longest running murder trial in Northern Ireland, so at just under £5 grand a day for a QC and just over £4 grand a junior, they've earned it. Haven't they?

End of The Road For The Loyalist Cease-fire?

At the time of writing it looks certain that the 23 month loyalist cease-fire is about to end. The bombing of the British Army HQ in Lisburn on Monday 7th October will have been seen by many Loyalists as the last straw.

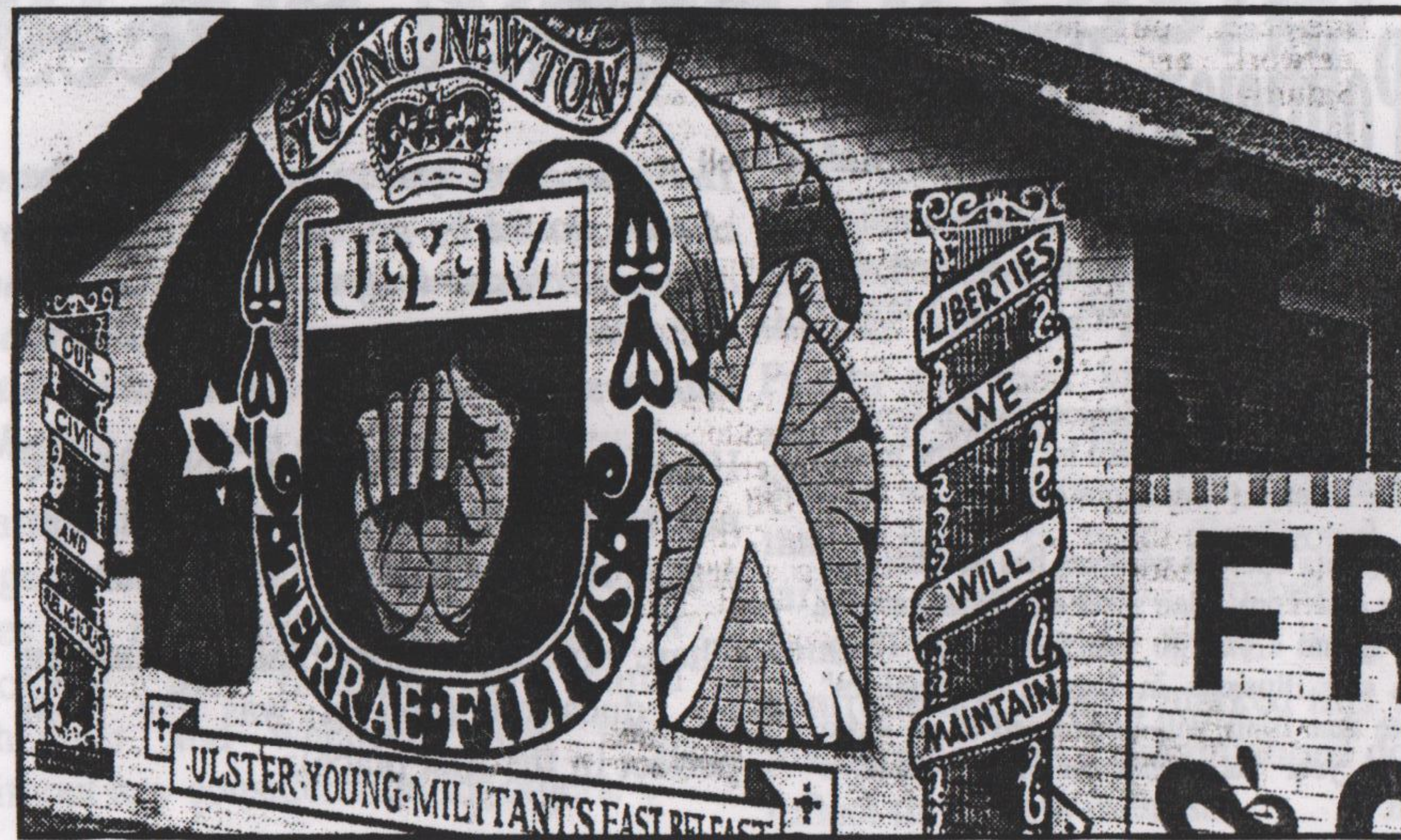
Claims that the IRA regrets causing civilian casualties will cut little ice, and the assertion that the bomb was not meant to provoke a Loyalist retaliation would be laughable if the situation was not so grave. Are we to believe that it was a coincidence that the bombs exploded while PUP members were conferring with UVF prisoners in an attempt to salvage an already deteriorating situation.

Over the last lot of months the loyalist cease-fire has undergone quite a lot of strain. Just days before this latest blow UFF, UDA and Red Hand Commando prisoners had withdrawn their support for the talks process.

Since the ending of the IRA cease-fire, and especially in the wake of the Manchester bombing, there had already been increasingly gloomy forecasts from the 'political representatives' of the Loyalist paramilitaries. Grumbings and then open dissent in the ranks, the fiasco that was Drumcree and all that went with it, brought matters to a head with the Combined Loyalist Military Command issuing death threats against Portadown Loyalist Billy Wright and UDA member Alec Kerr.

The death threats followed the announcement by the UVF that it was disbanding its Portadown unit in the midst of suspicions that it had been responsible for the murder of catholic taxi driver Micheal McGoldrick on 7th July outside Lurgan.

Both Kerr and Wright have defied the threats to leave Northern Ireland or be killed. Wright, with his conservative, right-wing and apocalyptic vision of Loyalism has become the darling of the media and the DUP in what has turned into a battle for freedom of speech and the right to life. Something which Wright and his friends in the disbanded Portadown UVF obviously know a lot about. That unit, under the command of



King Rat himself, was responsible for 42 sectarian murders of catholics in mid-Ulster from 1989 to the declaration of the CLMC cease-fire.

The mid-Ulster UVF and Wright were increasingly critical of the political direction being taken by the Progressive Unionist Party. Particularly its development of a more working class urban perspective.

No surprise that the DUP's Rev. William McCrea shared a platform with Wright in Portadown in defence of 'free speech'. Wright is of the brand of loyalist paramilitary 'supporter' which bigots in the UUP and DUP have been whipping up into a frenzy and manipulating with such skill over the course of our troubles.

For these politicians terrorism isn't the problem, renouncing violence or decommissioning isn't the issue. That has been a paper thin cover, the issue is the other side getting a look in. That scares them, another thing that scares them is that those people who went to jail, died and murdered for the crap spouted by the Paisley's, Trimble's and McCrea's of this province are starting to open their eyes, to think for themselves.

This may of course all be to no avail, if the Loyalist cease-fire is broken it is hard to see any future, other than all out sectarian warfare for the working class in the north. Workers must come together to oppose such a development. We must unite to fight our real enemies and **Smash both States in Ireland!**

INLA FUED OVER

The bitter INLA fued which started with the killing of Gino Gallagher in January is believed to have ended, for now, with the killing of rival boss Hugh Torney on 4th September. See our article in the previous issue of 'Organise! the Voice of Anarcho-Syndicalism' for more details.

Monks in Derry

John Monks the TUC general secretary visited Derry to attend a conference on 'competitiveness and work' with 100 other bosses, including more of the union variety.

The event at the Magee Campus of the University of Ulster aimed at building (reinforcing) partnerships between the unions and management. Just to prove how far these links have developed, Jim Kirkpatrick the former national officer of the AEEU, in the chairman of the Northern Ireland Forum on Industrial Relations, which organised the conference.

He said it would help companies become even more competitive. As everybody knows this inevitably takes place at our expense!

International News

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR AWARENESS LEAGUE, NIGERIA

Despite the continuing efforts by the Nigerian military dictatorship to silence all opposition, the Awareness League continues to carry out its activities. The Awareness League aims to create a mass movement capable of fighting for workers and peasant self management and libertarian socialism.

The AL must not only endure the hardships of governmental repression, they also have to deal with the effects of unemployment and poverty caused by the policies of austerity. An austerity which has been imposed on the Nigerian people by the military dictatorship and the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

In order to help them carry out their activities the WSA (Workers Solidarity Alliance, U.S. section of the IWA), in cooperation with the Awareness League, has initiated an international campaign to raise a minimum of \$2,000USD to help the AL purchase a computer and other equipment. The AL plans "to use the computer for typesetting and desktop publishing to facilitate the production of [their] newsletter, journals, posters, handbills [and other] materials for political education and enlightenment." The AL believes that such aid would help them immeasurably.

The WSA-IWA issues this appeal in the hope that all of you will come to the aid of the Awareness League. Your material support is critical. Help aid the struggle for freedom, workers and peasants self management and libertarian socialism in Nigeria and throughout Africa.

Please send your donation to;

Workers Solidarity Alliance-IWA
339 Lafayette Street, Rm. 202
New York, NY 10012, USA.

UKRIANIAN MINERS - INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY DEMANDED!

Mine workers in Donbass, Ukraina, have started a general strike in opposition to government oppression, the privatisation of coal and other natural resources and to reassert their right to work.

The strike action has been regarded as illegal by the state and are being treated as "offences against public order".

At the same time Ukrainian teachers are preparing to go on strike as they haven't received wages for 6 months! Medical and sanitation workers have also begun to mobilise due to non-payment of wages and to demand improvements in and reinstatement of public sanitation, particularly in hospitals where vital services such as water has failed.

Following a call for international solidarity from our comrades in the KRAS (Confederation of Revolutionary Anarcho-Syndicalists) the IWA is initiating such action across the globe.

'Anarcho-Syndikalist'

Since the summer of 1994 the RKAS-Ukrainia have published over 13 issues of the 'Anarcho-Syndikalist'.

The paper has dealt with the general situation in the Ukraine, covering workers struggles and the activities of Ukrainian Anarchists connected with these struggles.

They now plan to make 'Anarcho-Syndikalist' more internationalist in content and readership. Publication is to start this October, for more information contact the editors at;

Ukraina 340050, g.Donetsk,
ul.R.Luksemburg d.30-b kw.25,
Shevchenko Sergi

Please do not mention 'Anarcho-Syndikalist' or any organisational name.

"Factory Owners Responsible For Fire Deaths" in Bangladesh.

Thirteen workers were killed this June at Trimode French Limited and Suntlet Garments Limited in an 8-storey building in Dhaka. For the National Garment Workers Union of Bangladesh there is no question of the guilt of the workers in this incident.

Majibur Rahman and Amiral Haque Amin of the NGWF stated that; "The reluctance and ignorance of the owners caused repeated accidents in the garments factories".

A demonstration was held on 28th of June to express condolences with the dead workers at which speakers accused the factory owners and Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers Association of failing to ensure the security of the workers. Between December 1990 and June 1996 51 fires have broken out at garment factories in Bangladesh resulting in 63 deaths.

The meeting demanded compensation for the families of \$2,500 and \$1,250 for each injured worker.

NGWF, 22a Topkhana Road,
Dhaka-1000 Bangla Desh.



Liverpool Dockers - One Year On And Still Fighting!

On September 28th 1995 the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company sacked 500 Liverpool Dockers for refusing to cross a picket line. For twelve months they have carried the banner of international solidarity in opposition to anti-union legislation, privatisation, casual labour and personal contracts.

The port of Liverpool is a scab port using casual/contract labour.

Shortly after the dispute was started, 'Organise!' were involved in the establishment of the 'Liverpool Dockers and Families Support Group' in Belfast.

To mark the anniversary of the dispute a social took place in Richardson's social club. Music was provided by the Belfast Balladeers, and those at the gathering heard speakers from the CWU talking about the problems they faced in their dispute, and were updated on the unfolding dispute in Liverpool by Docker Freddie

Freddie informed us that the dispute was going from strength to strength, that the dockers are still committed to the struggle and solid in their fight against the MDHC. With continued international support they can and will win this dispute. Victory to the Liverpool Dockers.

The social, other than being an enjoyable night out, brought together workers in struggle, and

raised money for the Dockers hardship fund. It must be remembered that this dispute is illegal and does not have the support of the dockers union, the Transport and General Workers Union.

Fund-raising and solidarity activity also took place in Belfast city centre on Saturday 12th of October which raised over £100.

The support group is also to take action against the Norse-Irish ferry line which runs passenger and freight cargo from Belfast to Liverpool.

**Solidarity is Strength
Scabs are Scum
Victory to the
Liverpool Dockers**

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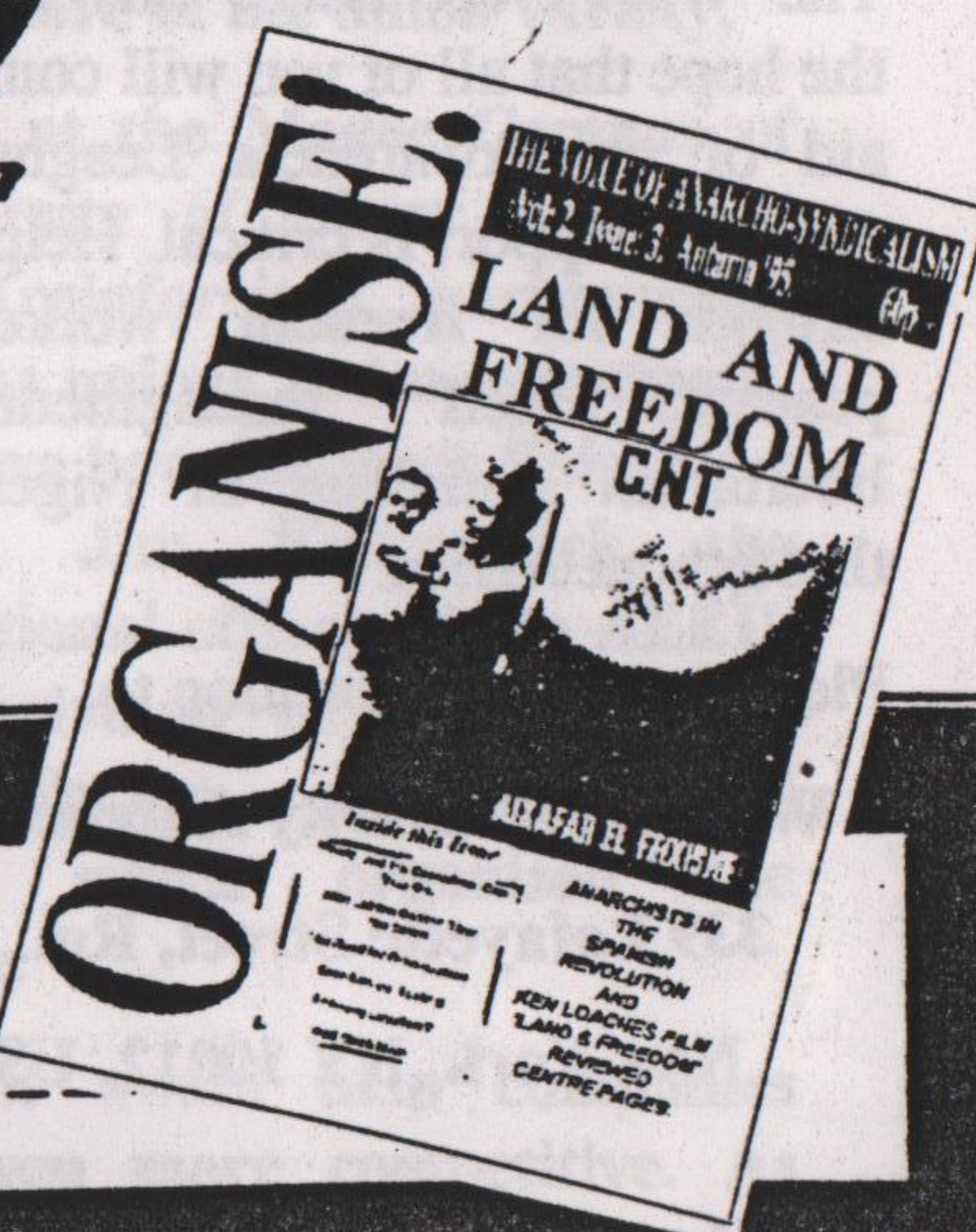
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Spanish Revolution Exhibition

From 29th-31st of August Organise! held an exhibition at 'The Place' in Belfast to mark the 60th anniversary of the Spanish Revolution.

The events organised brought Belfastians together with people from places as diverse as Cork, Armagh, Dublin, Warrenpoint, Portrush, Newcastle, etc. in a spirit of open debate and frank exchange. And of course just for the craic of it all

Throughout the exhibition photos and propaganda from the period were on display, showing and describing events as they unfolded. A word of thanks must go to the anarchist archive, the Kate Sharpley Library, and Norwich Solidarity Centre for lending us the material for the display.

The events kicked off with a series of three talks on the theme of 'not just a civil war, a social revolution'. These talks dealt with the Fascist uprising and the following social revolution across much of Spain, the collectivisation, the treachery of the communists and the ultimate victory of Franco. A lively discussion followed and the evening was rounded off with a showing of 'Inside the Revolution'. A very moving, often humorous, and insightful film which was one in a series of documentaries on the Spanish Civil War done by BBC2. Despite the attempt at 'media balance'

by the commentator Anarchists, peasants and workers speak for themselves about the challenges and achievements of the time.



On the Friday night there was a talk about Captain Jack White, who founded the Irish Citizens Army, and later became an Anarchist following his experiences during the Spanish Civil war, where he witnessed, and was greatly impressed by the revolution being carried out by the Anarchists. Followed by discussion of the Irish contribution to the workers struggle in Spain. A talk was also presented on the libertarian womens organisation which developed at the time, the Mujeres Libres.

On Saturday 31st things were brought up to date with discussions about Anarcho-Syndicalism today, and an explanation of what 'Organise!' is and seeks to build. The day kicked off with the presentation of a display on the Zapatista

movement in Chiapas, Mexico, and Andrew Flood gave a rundown on whats been going on with the struggle there and the attempt to link it with struggles worldwide.

After a break for food, we were all back again for a showing of

Ken Loaches film 'Land and Freedom' followed by a social which brought most of us into the wee small hours intact if a bit pissed.

All in all a thoroughly worthwhile and rewarding experience for those of us organising the event, and hopefully both this and enjoyable for those who attended. A word of thanks goes to Dave for use of 'The Place' and for getting us access to a video projector at short notice.

WHOSE FUTURE? OUR FUTURE!

Postal Workers Set Up Communication Workers Network.

Us Postal workers have had enough paper from management, the union and lefty groups. We've had enough of them telling us what we want, and enough of the games being played with our jobs. In a word, enough.

The strike ballot result told everyone how we felt. The management are telling us we'll lose jobs if we strike again, the union are saying we should talk again (and again). Feel confused? Me too.

Management propaganda, job insecurity. The management and union are having a facing off and the result (so far) is a couple of days of action. Will this be enough to make the management see that we don't want TQM, the Employee's Agenda (employers agenda) or any other dressed up privatisation? The American postal service have tried to make it work and failed. And they expect us to be stupid enough to bury our heads in the same sand pit.

Why should we bother about all this?

- The Employee's Agenda is really about taking more profits and having less of us. It means changes in our working conditions for basically nothing in return. Who wants to be slaves to the bosses?
- after failing to privatise us back in the early 90's the bosses now want to squeeze us for more profits (now £1bn over the next 3 years).

Of course there are important issues raised in the so-called Employee's Agenda - seniority, pay productivity of teamworkers, training for mechanisation etc. But the basic issue is that it is just another stick dreamed up to beat us with. We get enough long hours and low pay at work already, we don't need any more. Its time to fight back. Our strike is a real opportunity to stand up to a government which has

shoved the knife in our backs time after time.

And don't forget, they are crapping themselves too over this. Management are actively threatening workers with their jobs, not to mention telling them not to talk about the Employee's Agenda outside work. They are fighting against us. They are also fighting each other... The more they screw us over now, the better their chances of keeping their jobs and getting promotion. Top bosses prefer loyalty and so you can bet the most loyal managers do better out of any shake-up. Make a note of them. They are the worst ones - but they're not too bright and not too difficult to spot.

Where to from here?

We've proved we are prepared to strike - even without strike pay (now that's another issue - how come postal workers have had strike pay [sometimes] in the past but not now?).

We must stick to our minimum demands, from any CWU-management agreement;

- 100% of staff entitled to full allowances and pension
- Seniority retained for duties and leave
- No way to 'new way of working'
- 5 day week - a basic right for decades in comparable industries

Four points, its not much to ask but its a start. We must carry on striking until we achieve this absolute minimum.

What we will not do, is accept team working, or be tempted into doing the managers work for them by having money waved in our faces.

Time after time the unions have sold out workers, whatever the industry. Lets face it, they usually end up getting into bed with the bosses. We need to

build solidarity amongst ourselves, not just put our faith in the CWU and others.

We support all strikes and the CWU as long as it supports us - its our only way forward. The big problem with CWU is we don't feel in control - because we're not. We are reduced to waiting and seeing what the union exec come up with. We don't always know until it is too late whether they are for us or for themselves. What exactly is going on between them right now? Don't let them sell us out, speak up and be heard.

"First they came for the Jews, I didn't do anything, I wasn't one, then they came for the blacks...etc.." You've probably heard or seen this type of quote before. Well, first they took out the steelworkers, then they came for the miners, then the railworkers were smashed... ring any bells?

What we need is a workers organisation run by workers, for workers. No paid officials, no exec, just direct democracy and delegates who can be instantly recalled when we like.

So, on to the fight against privilege and masters. Enjoy it and have a laugh along the way...

Who We Are

The Communication Workers Network is run by and for workers. It is a positive, fighting organisation of a small but growing group of postal workers dedicated to taking on the bosses and the whole of capitalist society one day in the not too distant future. We think big, but we also think in the present. If you are interested, contact us. Don't worry we aren't paper sellers, petitioners or into boring meetings. Everyone is in this shit together. Get to it.

COMMUNICATION WORKERS' NETWORK, P.O. Box 29, SWPDO, Manchester, M15 5HW.

From a leaflet "produced by Postal workers, for Postal workers".

Direct Action

The Boycott, 'Tainted Goods' and the

Sympathetic Strike!

This is the second in our series of articles dealing with 'Direct Action' in some of its various and adaptable forms. The author apologises for those of you who were expecting to see it included in the previous issue of 'Organise! the Voice of Anarcho-Syndicalism' - I missed the deadline.

Boycotts and boycotting have recently made headline news across Northern Ireland, with sectarian boycotts of businesses taking place particularly in rural border areas.

The widespread use of the boycott was initiated by nationalists against protestant businessmen who were involved with the activities of the Orange Order this summer. In response the Loyal brethren called a boycott of their own on catholic businesses.

Land League

The boycott has its origin in the fight of the Irish peasants who organised in the Land League against the landlords. They used it as a tactic against the

landlords and those who moved onto the farms of previously evicted tenants.

Labourers left the fields untended, domestic servants walked out on their masters, cows went un milked and crops rotted in the fields. Grocers, butchers and even doctors often refused to serve those boycotted.

It was the most powerful weapon available to the peasantry and it is still a powerful weapon today, as shown by the concern its recent use has provoked from the media and our upstanding protestant and catholic business communities.

Regrettably the current boycotts are geared towards sectarian ends and are heightening sectarian tensions in the north. That cannot be blamed on the weapon but on the aims of those who are using it. It would of course be preferable to see it used by a movement seeking to unite people in opposition to capital and both rotten states in Ireland.

Syndicalist Influence

As the trade union movement grew in Ireland and elsewhere, especially among the syndicalist and syndicalist influenced movements (the ITGWU in Ireland), the concept of 'tainted goods' and the sympathetic strike developed. These can be seen as the natural progression from the tactic of the boycott and are a useful and effective weapon for the working class in its fight against the bosses.

Writing about the growth of working class militancy in Ireland at the start of this century, Emmet O'Connor wrote in 'Syndicalism in Ireland';

"The key aspect... was the sympathetic strike. This weapon could be devastating, not merely in its efficacy, but on the moral assumption on which it was based... it revolutionised the ethics of industrial relations." [1].

The sympathetic strike also provided the practical expression of that elusive 'class unity' so often 'demanded' by left-wing political parties;

"...through sympathetic action [there was] forged a cohesion between different classes of workers." [2].

As to the moral assumption on which it was based, and it is here that the link to the boycott is most clear, it is summed up in the motto 'An injury to one is an injury to all'.

Talking about the use of the sympathetic strike James Larkin put it plainly;

"We believe that when one of our friends is attacked anywhere we are attacked... When we find one of our friends attacked anywhere we take up the fight, too." [3].

Choicest Weapon

The sympathetic strike is more than a progression of the boycott;

"The sympathetic strike is one of their (the working classes) choicest weapons... Through it the economic battle becomes a deliberate action of the workers as a class. the sympathetic strike is the collaboration, of related, but also of unrelated, categories of labour, to help the battle of a particular trade to victory by extending the strike to other branches of labour, where this is necessary. In this case the workers are not satisfied with giving financial assistance... but go further, and by crippling entire industries cause a break in the whole economic life in order to make their demands effective." [4].

International Support

Writing before 1938, about the global transformation of Capital going on at that time, the Anarcho-Syndicalist Rudolph Rocker, drew conclusions as relevant then as they are today for the striking Liverpool Dockers after a year of struggle against the MDHC.

"This form of warfare is in most cases the only one by which workers can still promise themselves success. Because of the internal transformation of industrial capitalism the sympathetic strike becomes for the workers the imperative of the hour." [5]

The fight of the Liverpool Dockers owes its strength to their determination to win coupled with effective international support, not least in the forms of boycotting and sympathetic action.