

SHORT FUSE

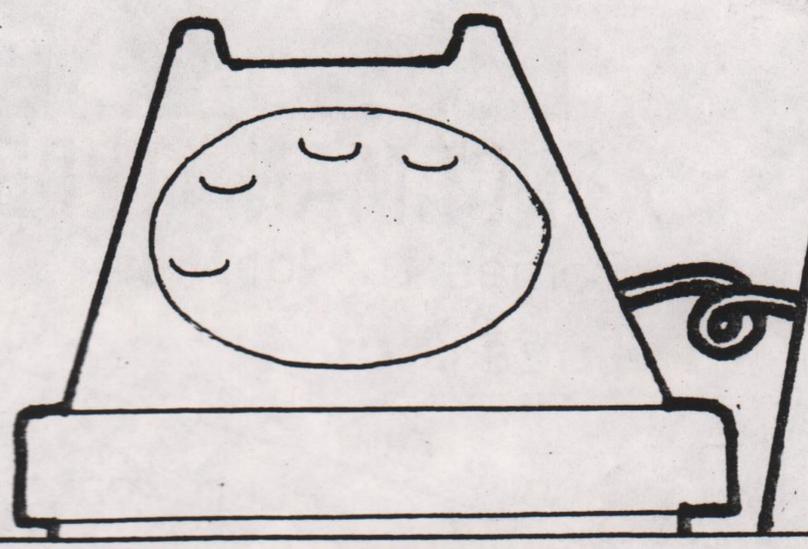
NOV

PAY
WHAT
YOU
LIKE...

VOICE OF ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM IN
EAST ANGLIA
For direct workers' and community control



Hello Boss -
We've decided we're
NOT redundant,
YOU ARE!



THE RULING CLASS' SPIES

The Economic League

Ever heard of the Economic League? Well, you'd better hope they haven't heard of you...

The League was founded in 1919 with the aim of "ending social divisions" in industry, or rather ending agitation about them. This means that 'the workers hold their tongues and the bosses hold the reins'.. To try and keep this industrial 'peace', the League blacklists 'subversives': a definition which ranges from Anarchists and Communists to Labour Party and CND activists. To leave no stone unturned, you can even be defined as a 'troublemaker'. These allegations needn't be accurate to be effective. A blind Scottish pensioner was blacklisted for writing to a paper to defend the local council buying a portrait of Nelson Mandela. Those blacklisted are often unable to find work again: Tony McCarthy spent 16 years as a foundry worker in Warrington. He was put on Economic League files in 1978, and has been unemployed since then.

Around 2000 companies subscribe to the League's research (vetting) service. These firms include Shell, Barclays, Ciba Geigy, Metal Box and construction firms such as Sir Alfred McAlpine Ltd. Annually the League receives around £1 million from subscriptions, excluding backdoor payments through middlemen and conduits, which some shyer companies use. From their offices at 7, Wine Office Court, Fleet St, London, the League check around 200,000 names against their files each year. Subscribing firms and League officials (such as Lord Cayzer) often donate funds to the Tory Party.

The League also has close contacts with MI5 (State Security) and the Special Branch (Political Police). These contacts supplement the League's information, gathered through paid spies, reading 'radical' papers and tips from firms. In return the League informs them of industrial activists and activities. An Economic League official lectured MI5 trainees on 'subversion in industry'. One League official had an office in an MI5 building. This two-way flow of information is used both for blacklisting employees now and listing who to detain in the event of war or revolution.

Recently, the League has been criticised by concerned liberals: its definitions are innacurate, so the 'wrong' people are being intimidated - they want protest to keep the illusion of democracy, but don't want to see any threat to cap-

PC jailed

PC Peter Tanner, aged 31, of Great Baddow, Essex, was sentenced to one year in jail, with eight months suspended, at Chelmsford crown court yesterday for breaking the Official Secrets Act. He passed information from the police national computer to John Batemen, aged 56, a private detective, of East Hanningfield, Essex, who received a similar sentence. Both must pay £700 costs.

italism to develop. Others complain that such information should not be used for private profit - which is OK, only they want the State to take over the same role of repression.

The Economic League aims solely to uphold the Status Quo, where a powerful minority exploit others - that is our quarrel with them, that is the fundamental injustice. It does not matter if they are scrutinised, sanitised or regulated by our parliamentary guardians. We have little say in the running of our lives: when we do, there'll be no boss to fear.



NORMAN TEBBIT

Comes to Norwich
Tues Nov. 1st

Waterstone Bookshop, London Street

- Let's make sure he
he gets the welcome that
he deserves -

Cutting corners for £s, £s, £s £s

Capitalism is all about profit. Profit for the bosses at the expense of the workers and consumers. A couple of recent examples illustrate this point:

J.R.D. Mouldings Ltd. of Soham, Cambridgeshire has been fined £500 for breaking health and safety regulations after an employee's hand was trapped in a machine and he had to have two fingers amputated.

The R.F. Development Company of Eaton Socon has been fined a total of £1500 for supplying toys with unsafe leaded paint levels. Among other things, the bell on a Thomas the Tank Engine was coated with paint that was almost 25 times over the legal safety limit.

Both firms admitted the charges, but then both probably knew what they were doing. Rather than spend money implementing safety regulations, why not take the

risk of a small fine - it wouldn't be the first time! And let's face it, fines like those are hardly likely to act as deterrents against breaking the safety regulations.

So the only people to suffer more than a token fine are the poor bloke who lost his fingers, and the kids who play with the toys. And these are two of the few cases which ever get brought to what passes for "justice".



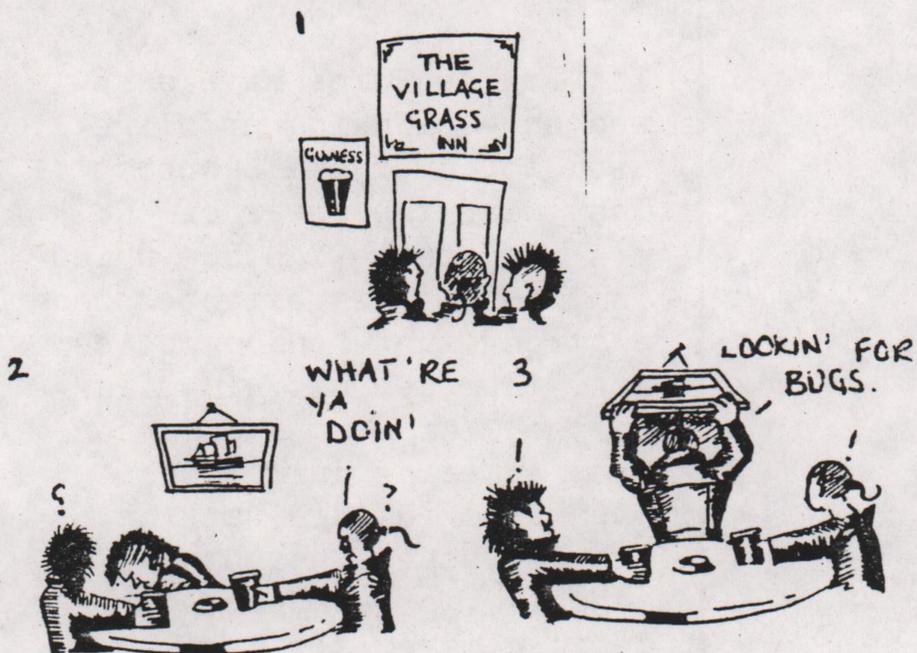
"It's an emergency, Doc... They need the drill right away..."

ONE DRINK TOO MANYPubwatch Scheme Extended

The Pubwatch scheme, introduced in Newmarket, has now been extended to Mildenhall and Brandon. The scheme, backed by Suffolk Police, is supposedly aimed at stamping out violence in and around pubs and other drinking establishments.

A system of early-warning telephone calls will alert licencees about so-called troublemakers. In addition the system will be used to pass on information about drug users and pushers and other crimes involving pubs.

So be warned - Big Brother is watching you! Enjoy your drinks, or happy hour could soon be enforced by law!



Deportation for window breakers?

A mentally ill man aged 38 has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment and recommended for deportation after breaking a window valued at £27.

Michael Gonese, who came to England from Zimbabwe as a child, has been diagnosed as suffering from clinical paranoia. However, he is currently serving his sentence in a police cell in Luton due to overcrowding at Norwich prison. He urgently needs psychiatric help. Michael apparently has joint British and Zimbabwean nationality, yet he has been threatened with deportation by Norwich magistrates.

If the Home Office do decide to carry out the deportation there will be no right of appeal, we will be forced to resort to direct action....

LATE NEWS: Case Dismissed (good job too)

RADIO REVIEW: Café Kropotkin by Bernard Kops!

The more I think about this play, the less I like it. As "drama" it is stale and flat. The cliches and authorial drive would belong better as gross farce. In this form they only serve to ridicule Anarchism.

The action centres on an Anarchist group in Soho in 1948, and the "action" is never really confident or dramatic - you are never involved enough to feel "what happens next?", only "does it get any worse?". The "central figure" of Bella is not convincing. She is a rich Jewish runaway (now, readers, spot the cliché). Her strange temperament (from cold to passionate), her attraction to Anarchism, her doubts about it, her resolution, her hopes are never explained or worked out. We are instead fed clichés - "How can I be rich when the rest of the world is starving?". The other characters are even worse. One is an immature, egotistical, half-starved truant Jewish runaway, who climbs Big Ben from thwarted love and runs off to Spain with the cry of "through dynamite to Anarchy....and don't overfeed the goldfish". Is this really drama?

Most of the men are either con-men or sexually frustrated and manipulative. All have been filled with authentic "spiv" accents. No one seems to do any work except prostitution. Anarchist relationships seem to consist solely of jumping in and out of bed. The "would you like some sweeties little girl" line is used to corrupt one innocent. Maybe Kops was a political analyst for "the Sun". There is also a touch of morbidity in the plot - three deaths (natural causes, police causes and suicide) and an abortion.

This play has been called "an evocative performance". With its period songs and sixpences it's more reminiscent of cold museums or a sub-standard imitation of the "Singing Detective". The author tries to ingratiate himself and get some Anarchist credentials through quoting Read, Shelley, the Internationale and other Anarchist songs. He spends less imagination on the slogans of our Anarchist Group. "Anarchy Now, Smash the State, Smash the System, Workers Control" are the stock chants. "Remember Kronstadt" does crop up (though it's not explained or put in any context).

One Anarchist is killed by a police horse whilst Blackshirt-bashing, but this is presented in the play as a consciously suicidal act. A paper is sold on the streets, a fortnightly called "Black Banner" - how imaginative. It seems to be

able to produce itself without anyone writing or printing it. In fact very little discussion of Anarchism takes place. It's also interesting to note the author's view of the Anarchist view of the Civil War in Spain - apparently Anarchists aren't sure if it was the Communists or the Fascists who were the enemy (the facts of the war are never explained). The author apparently knows Anarchists were involved in the Civil War and has also heard of their opposition to the State's Wars. He supposes this is because they've bought the idea of a Just War, or the War-to-end-War. He can't have heard of the Class War.

This play fails as drama and acts as political slander by presenting Anarchism as a haven of the immature or cynically inactive, and ignoring its achievements, ideas and potential.

ANOTHER DAM BENEFIT

THATCHER ON ACID

+

HOT ALACIO

(X FLUX OF PINK INDIANS)

+ Point Of Collapse

Wednesday, NOV 30th, 7.30PM
THE JACQUARD, Magdalen St.
Norwich.

£2.50 (£2 with UB40)

Blinded by the Light

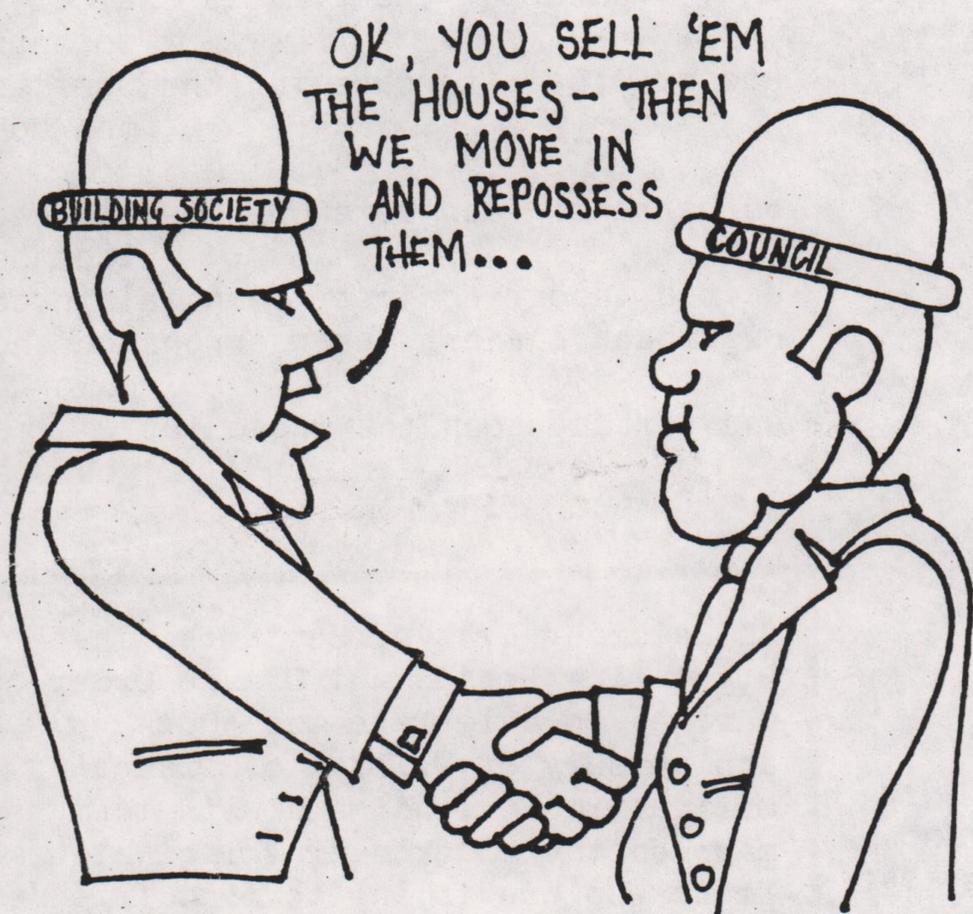
The Police Force have a new weapon - blinding spotlights, used to 'overcome suspects'. They have the power of one million candlelights - which is twenty times brighter than a strong sun. London police used them recently in raids on the "Yardies" in Clapton, when entering dark rooms. When used in this way, on people whose eyesight is adjusted to darkness, permanent damage is caused - partial and total blindness.

HOUSING

The Big Con

Yesterday's homebuyers are becoming today's homeless. Low-paid families in East Anglia are at risk of losing their homes as house prices soar.

Remember all the government propaganda urging council tenants to become the owners of their own homes? Well, having followed Thatcher's advice and bought their properties many people are finding that they can't pay their mortgages and end up defaulting.



Don't worry, though - building society and estate agency chiefs in Cambridge have announced there is no cause for alarm. But they would, wouldn't they? These are people who get rich on other people's misfortunes. Need money? The Building Society will give you a loan - at a high rate of interest. Can't pay back your mortgage? They take away your home. Whether you can pay up or not, the property sharks will make a profit out of you, even if it means they leave you and your family homeless.

And this is what's happening. Very few council-house sales are working out satisfactorily. Some people who have had their homes taken away are having to go back to the Council in a bid to be rehoused. But the government's "right-to-buy" drive is leaving councils with a dwindling supply of accommodation to house homeless people.

As always, capitalism is geared to more profits for the rich rather than the needs of the working class. And don't be fooled into thinking that a few reforms by any of the "opposition" parties would be enough. The only genuine solution is a system of "ownership by use". If homeless people were not prevented from living in empty houses there would be no more homelessness. Yet many people are denied their right to set up homes in empty buildings. Many "squatters" are evicted from their homes, which then often remain empty for long periods of time. This is why there are people sleeping under bridges and families in Bed & Breakfast who need homes.

There is no shortage of houses. The government would like you to think there is, to preserve what they call the 'status quo'. This government knows how to use the fear of poverty as a weapon to divide the working class. And as long as the working class remains divided, there is no real threat to the government, no prospect of any real change in the way things are.

We don't need government intervention. We want to rid ourselves of the State so that we are able to organise ourselves on the basis: from each according to their ability to each according to their needs.

A JERK OFF In The Face Of Capital.

A NEW 9-TRACK BENEFIT TAPE
FOR 'BLACK FLAG!. PRICE £1.
(INC. BOOKLET). WRITE TO:-



PETE PAX % 'I in I2 CLUB'
21-23, ALBION ST., BRADFORD I
W. YORKS, U.K. TEL: 734160.

PETE PAX.

THE BURSTON EXAMPLE



The march through Burston on April 1st 1914.

Probably most people are familiar with the story of the Burston Strike School. Remarkable was the duration of the strike and the solidarity of trade unionists up and down the country for the cause. Veterans of the strike are still alive so no lies can be put over by parasitical historians.

Briefly, Tom Higdon, an organiser of the agricultural workers union, and his wife, started teaching at the village school in Burston near Diss (at much the same time as the British ruling class were disputing the ownership of the world with their German relatives).

Tom was no friend to the local squirearchy and was soon in conflict with it. In the schoolhouse the new teachers tried to improve the physical conditions of the children, be generally sympathetic and to make the teaching relevant to the children.

The local gentry soon pulled the necessary strings to have the Higdons laid off. The children struck and remained on strike from the state school until 1939.

The strikers were eventually settled in a new school on the village green.

Norman's Scabs

It would be fun to imagine what the present day TUC would do for a strike school today.

1. Limit pickets outside the schoolroom to six three year olds. Exclude parents from solidarity actions for fear of contravening section 4 of the Keep-the-plebs-in-place Act.
2. Negotiate with the local squires for a few hours teaching by the Higdons. They would accept 90% being done by a fundamentalist Baptist vicar with an aversion to modern subjects like numeracy.
3. Grudgingly accept a no-strike deal.
4. Agree to removal of 50% of the desks in an attempt to improve efficiency.
5. Withdrawing recognition of the strike at a time when the squirearchy was crumbling.
6. Threaten strike ringleaders with expulsion from the union.

Further Solidarity

The other side of the coin is to consider how the solidarity of others can be more robust.

1. Conditions in Burston were not unique and it would have made all the sense in the world to spread the action. An elite in Britain were trained at this time to administer 'The' Empire, and the rest were only trained to a basic level as wage slaves, servants or cannon fodder on the Somme. Real education would have been a big threat to this class-ridden society.
2. Parents would then have had to find the confidence to take over the education and to hire instructors who carried out what they, not the state, wanted.
3. Perhaps more children of that World War I era should have been trained to speak European languages and defused the nationalisms of that time that fed the fires of fascism.
4. The example of this greater control of education would have been a glowing example to factory workers to quit production for greedy bosses and turn it to society's needs. But that would lead to anarchy!

DAM AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

1—The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation.

2—Our aim is the creation of a free and classless society.

3—We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for need, not profit.

4—In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution. We are the sworn enemies of those who would take over on behalf of the workers.

5—We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is by independent organisation in the workplace and the community and federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent of and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies. All such workers' organisations must be controlled by the workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers' movement. Any and all such delegates of such workers' organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.

6—We are opposed to all states and state institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all states do not exist to protect the workers of those states, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class.

7—We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and environment.

8—The Direct Action Movement is resolved to initiate, encourage and wholeheartedly support the creation of independent workers' unions based on the principles of anarcho-syndicalism.

9—The Direct Action Movement is a federation of groups and individuals who believe in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism: a system where the workers alone control industry and the community without the dictates of politicians, bureaucrats, bosses and so-called experts.

The Poll Tax is coming! In Scotland in April next year, in England and Wales registration next April and the tax itself in 1990.

NO POLL TAX

It can be beaten

To effectively confront the Poll Tax people will have to organise within their own community, (as in Scotland) and link together starting street by street. Such steps need to be taken now, with registration so close.

Registration tactics have been crafty and deceptive; people have been pushed into registering immediately unaware that they have 18 days to return the form.

The crunch will come in 1990 when the Poll Tax will replace the present rates system. Resistance at that stage must be nothing less than NON-PAYMENT to deal the first blow against the Poll Tax.

The need for active involvement now can not be overstressed. People in Cambridge and Norwich are welcome to contact their local D.A.M. group to be put in touch with other local Anti-Poll-Tax campaigners and for assistance with public meetings, posters, leaflets, leafletting etc.

No illusions should be had of the Labour Party's opposition to the Poll Tax, with their 'Stop It' campaign, which in Scotland has very little credibility, and is intended to do anything but Stop It! As usual the basis of their strategy is not to do anything, wait until they are re-elected to power (if ever?!) when the world will be put to rights!

Following the introduction of the Poll Tax in England, and when non-payment starts to bite, the authorities will be able to arrest wages or deduct it from benefits. By this stage, to best defend ourselves, it will be important that the campaign has been taken into the Trade Union Movement whilst keeping the momentum in the communities. The role of the Trade Union Movement could be crucial as solidarity action to protect those affected could make all the difference. Employers will be far less likely to help in the collection of the Poll Tax if threatened by walk-outs or general strikes. The same would apply in benefit offices where workers could refuse to deduct the Poll Tax from claimant's benefits.

These combined actions should put a stop to the media campaign of disinformation and government lies that the non-payment campaigns are on a loser.

To effectively oppose the Poll Tax we must pursue a strategy of collective non-payment based in the community and the workplace.

quote of the month -

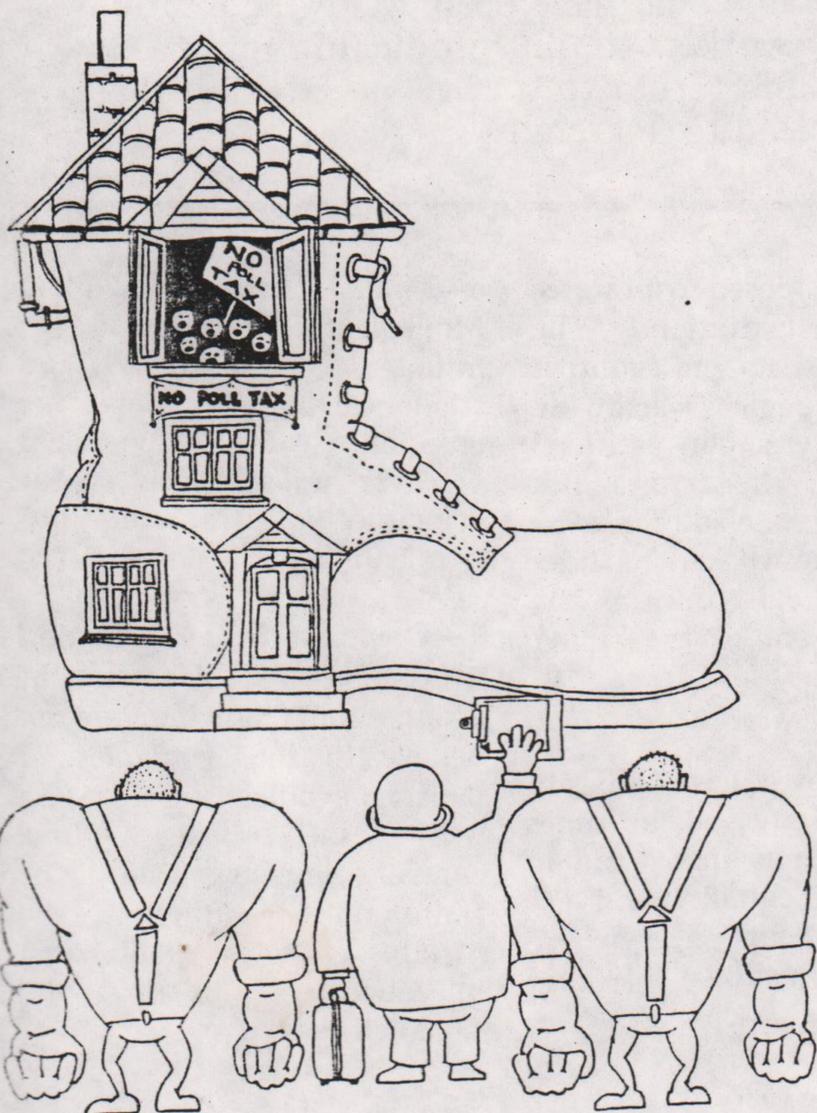
When the Nazi Party were more-or-less democratically elected to power in Germany, ambitious young party functionaries would taunt the party's opponents. Would they obey the Nazi laws? Or would they become law-breakers?

My attitude is that the present central government is made up of evil people with evil policies. It's morally right to defy them and their contemptible local agents. The triumph of evil is a temporary phenomenon — they can and will ultimately be defeated.

Opinion polls have shown that 90 per cent of the population of Scotland are against the poll tax, and 40 per cent would support a campaign of non-payment. It is a measure of the failure of this "law-and-order" government that they have created a situation where more people than ever before believe it right to disobey the law.

Meanwhile, the agents of the ruling party and the state should not be allowed to single individuals out. If they ask you: "Will you pay the poll tax?" treat them as hostile enemies who should be denied information.

DAVID COULL.





Alliance of Unwaged Organisations

Congress

The Alliance of Unwaged Organisations recent congress in Oxford was a great success. Delegates from claimants groups from all over the country assembled for two days of discussion, work shops and cups of tea.

The principal areas of discussion were not new - the Poll Tax, the Housing Bill and E.T. Most of the discussion was of a very practical nature - concentrating on what can best be done to resist the present onslaught of Tory legislation.

Poll Tax - The Scottish experience will be invaluable to groups in England now starting up. THE best way to stop the Poll Tax is the creation of lots of locally based groups to build a country-wide campaign of non-payment. Any one or two people in an area can start an anti poll tax group. There are now 50 such groups just in Edinburgh.

In many areas of England and Scotland, the 20% of the rates payable by people on Income Support, which will become the Poll Tax, is already not being paid - not because people are organised, but because they are too poor.

Housing Bill - Opposition to the Poll Tax and the Housing Bill are closely linked in that community based groups are the most effective defense. Tenants action has already thrown out government plans for Housing Action Trusts (HATS) in many areas.

Resistance to private developer take-overs needs existing and new council tenants associations to ensure the rigged voting system still goes against developers, and to exert pressure on local councils. Also, people on waiting lists should organise their own representative groups in whatever ways possible.

E.T. - There was general agreement on the following courses of action:

ET worker groups and networks should be started wherever possible.

Pressure should be kept up on Restart - as Restart will be the main point of entry onto ET.

The T&G Community Programme Stewards Combine should be supported. The Combine helped organise the June strike of CP workers. The Combine is open to all ET, CP workers and unemployed people.

Pressure should be exerted on local councils to boycott ET. Some have done so already.

Pressure on Trade unions to ensure their boycott sticks, although some unions are in favour of ET.

One problem with ET will be the scattered nature of ET placements, one here, two there. If you're on ET then get in touch with one of the contacts or your local Claimants Union.

The closing session concentrated on building claimants organisations regionally and nationally and improving communications.

All in all, a variety of groups from disparate backgrounds agreed almost entirely on what needs to be done. This is encouraging. The next conference will be March next year.

In the meantime, get involved in a local group. If there isn't one, then here's some contacts.

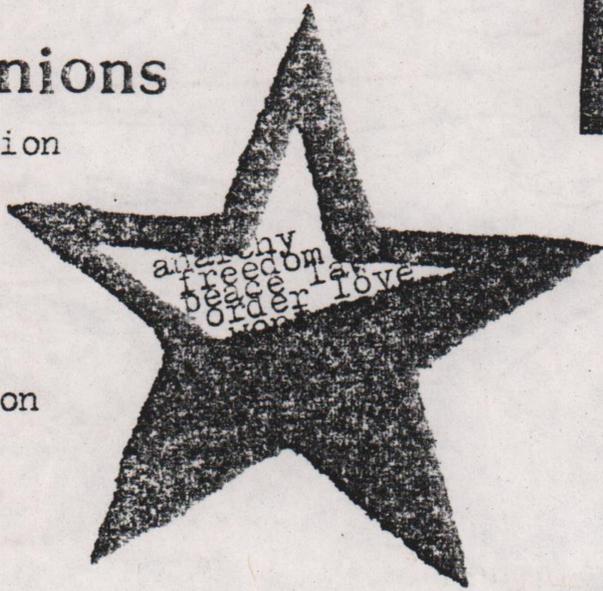
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Claimants Unions

Norwich Claimants Union
 St. Ann's Cottage
 St. Ann Lane
 Norwich
 (0603) 661241.

Oxford Claimants Union
 44B Princes St.
 Oxford
 (oxford) 723750.

Community Resistance to the Poll Tax
 Pigeonhole CR
 c/o Forth St.
 Edinburgh.



CONTACTS

Cambridge—Box DAM, c/o
 Cambridge Free Press, 25
 Gwydir Street, Cambridge.

Norwich—Box DAM, The
 Greenhouse, 48 Bethel Street,
 Norwich.

If you are interested in the Direct Action Movement and would like to find out more, be put in contact with local comrades etc. dont hesitate to get in touch. Use Norwich and Cambridge DAM contact addresses.

If you live near Luton why not get in touch with Luton Class War:-

P.O. Box 196, LUTON, Bedfordshire LU2.

DIRECT ACTION

Direct Action is the monthly paper of the Direct Action Movement containing news and reviews both national and international - More Fun Than The Sun. It is available in Norwich from Global Exchange, 38 Exchange Street, and Tastes Newsagents St. Benedicts St. To find out where it is available in Cambridge contact Cambridge DAM.

The DAM was formed in 1979 from the SWF (Syndicalist Workers Federation) and other groups and individuals believing in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism. It is the British section of the International Workers' Association (IWA), the anarcho-syndicalist international, which was formed in 1922 and has sections in France, Spain, Italy, West

Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Bulgaria, USA, Japan, Australia, Brazil, Argentina and Venezeula.



ROCK 'N' REEL

Autumn 1988 Number 1

25p



FREE MARTIN FORAN GRAFFITI DAY
 3RD DECEMBER : INCITE



Tricia Jennings celebrates outside Burtons in Edinburgh after winning her industrial tribunal. Burtons had to pay £1,780 compensation for sacking Tricia because she was pregnant.

Burtons shops country wide were picketed by Tricia's supporters. Though Tricia didn't win reinstatement, the outcome will hopefully encourage workers to fight such sackings in future.