

THE SYNDICOLIST

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TUC: WHOSE SIDE ARE THEY ON?

The miners are now being forced back to work after twelve months of heroic struggle. The reason they are being forced back is the lack of industrial support from the ordinary trade unionists in this country. The Trade Unions have completely failed to mobilise support throughout the Miners strike, in fact in many cases they have sabotaged support for the miners.

From the moment the TUC got involved with this dispute, they have tried to take control and force a settlement at any cost. It is not hard to see why this is the case, the TUC has always feared the methods of direct action which by necessity depends on the active participation of the rank and file which tends to undermine the authority of the union bosses.

The whole structure of the Trade Unions in this country is geared towards the Labour Party and ensuring a Labour Party victory at the next General Election. This means that union bosses are more interested in Labour's standing in the Opinion Polls than supporting workers' struggles deemed 'unpopular' by the Mass Media.

The state has spent millions of pounds in defeating the miners and will now be even more determined to continue its crusade against organised labour. The state, having butchered the steel industry and now the mining industry looks set to attack the railways. The railway workers have been aware throughout the dispute that a defeat for the miners will mean a defeat for them, which is why they have given valuable support to the miners (by refusing to transport coal etc). Now that the NUM (which is one of the strongest unions in the country) has been defeated, the systematic attack on the British Labour Movement will continue at a much faster rate. No section of the working class will be safe.

However, all is not lost, the miners have proved that the state is vulnerable because they have resisted the full might of the state for twelve months with very little supportive industrial action from other unions. The support that the miners have received has not come from the Union bureaucrats but from ordinary people. The people in the miners support groups did not wait for official sanction or bloody ballots for them to deliver class solidarity; they knew the principles at stake, they just got on with the job of supporting workers in struggle. Legalties and technicalities are no excuse for failing to give solidarity, the fundamental rights and wrongs of the dispute are far more important, when one section of the working class is under attack it is the duty of the rest of the working class to support them; this is the principle of solidarity. There is no excuse for scabbing.

The lessons for the working class from this strike are clear, it's no good appealing to the TUC parasites who have their own vested interests to look after. The way to generate working class solidarity is to appeal directly to the working class at the workplaces, dole queues and public meetings. If the working class is going to succeed in its struggles then it must put its own house in order by taking back control of its own organisations.



ILP DRAWING FROM 1926.

BOYCOTT THE THATCHER SURCHARGE

The Government intends to pass on the cost of the miners strike to the consumers. These costs will be passed on to the consumer through a so-called 'Scargill Surcharge'. It is to be called this on our bills and no secret will be made of why the prices have gone up. The main item of extra cost in keeping the electricity supplies on is the vastly increased use of oil at the power station. The city stockbrokers Laurie Milbank estimate that the four-fold increase in oil in recent months has cost the Central Electricity Generating Board an additional £45 million a week.

In October 'The Guardian' reported that 'Treasury ministers are committed to raising electricity prices in April to help meet the cost of the coal dispute'. 'Laurie Milbank and Co have estimated that to pass on the extra costs the average electricity bill will have to rise by £15 next year, while all-electric households will face a £40 increase in their bills'.

The Government has two motives in posing this surcharge, one to pay the massive bill it has clocked up as a result of its strikebreaking policy, and secondly the Chancellor believes that there is a valuable public message in showing the people that they have to pay for the miners strike. The government, by distinguishing the special surcharge from the ordinary electricity bill, hopes to step up its war against the NUM even more and get public opinion on its side.

We must organise against this surcharge.

THE PRICE OF ELECTRICITY IS ALREADY TOO HIGH.

'The Thatcher Surcharge shows how expensive electricity will become if the CEGB has to depend on increased oil burning and nuclear power. The vast cost of nuclear power becomes clear and gives the lie to the governments 'profitability criteria' - investment goes where it is directed. The hardship of many working people is the direct result of the government's monetarist policy, with the 'Thatcher Surcharge' they can be blatantly seen as wanting to add to this.

We must organise a mass consumer boycott of the surcharge. Many people who are passive observers, or against the miners strike, can be won over if we can demonstrate the links between the governments policies and their pockets being hit.

HOW?

When the quarterly bills go out in April we must refuse to pay the 'Thatcher Surcharge' - en masse. Collective with-holding should be organised based on community groups, tenants and housing groups, strike support groups and TU branches. If a campaign is organised and co-ordinated it could develop and spread across the country.

DEMAND THAT THE 'THATCHER LEVY' IS SCRAPPED.

SUPPORT CLASS WAR PRISONERS

The following is the text of a leaflet we received from Yorkshire:

FITZWILLIAM PRISONERS AID COMMITTEE

VICTORY TO THE MINERS

FREE THE PRISONERS NOW

On Friday 14th December, in Pontefract magistrates court, Peter Hurst received a six month prison sentence for supporting the miners strike. In an effort to crush the strike the state is imposing prison sentences on many miners. These sentences are born out of attacks on mining communities and on picket lines. In Armley jail alone there are rumoured to be nearly 150 miners being held on remand, and the figure nationwide is much larger. One solicitor alone has seventy miners on his books facing life sentences as a result of state repression.

We have set up Fitzwilliam Prisoners Aid Committee to assist whichever way possible our comrades in prison. We call on everyone who supports the miners to help us in our work. If you know of a striking miner in prison please contact us. If you can help us in any way, such as sending cards to miners in prison, writing letters of protest etc then please contact us. We feel that your support is vital.

UNTIL WE ARE ALL FREE - WE ARE ALL IMPRISONED

Fitzwilliam Prisoners Aid Ctee
4 Rockingham Street
Fitzwilliam
West Yorkshire



MINERS CURRENTLY IMPRISONED AS A RESULT OF THE MINERS STRIKE

R ANDREWS	RET福德 (REMAND)
IAN BLACK	ARMLEY
TOD BOOTH	NORTH SEA DC
ANDRE BRADLEY (C954)	SUDBURY
JEFF BUDWORTH	ARMLEY
JOHN ELLIS	FEATHERSTONE
TERRY FRENCH (B73383)	WANDSWORTH
MARK GLORE	FEATHERSTONE
STEPHEN GREGORY	LINCOLN
VICTOR GREGORY	LINCOLN
DEAN HANCOCK	CARDIFF
M. HOPSON	ARMLEY (?)
PETER HURST	HAVERIGG
CHRIS HYMAN	NORTH SEA DC
JIMMY LEES	LINCOLN
NEIL MARSHALL	ARMLEY
S. MEETH	LINCOLN
GARRY MILLWARD	ARMLEY
PETER NEWBOLD	FEATHERSTONE
ANTHONY ROUTLEDGE	DURHAM
RUSSELL SHANKLAND	CARDIFF
WILLIAM TAYLOR	FEATHERSTONE
CHRIS THOMAS	STRANGWAYS
CLIVE THOMSON	PONTEFRACT
PAUL TRUMAN	ARMLEY
JOHN WALLIS	NORTH SEA
MIKE WINSTANLEY	STRANGWAYS
N. WYVILLE	RET福德
DAVID GAUNT	MILLERS PARK
PAUL JONES	MILLERS PARK
DAVID MASON	MILLERS PARK
PHILIP STERLAND	MILLERS PARK
KEVIN BEAL	SUDBURY
DAVID JAMES	SUDBURY
PETER PEARSON	SUDBURY
MICHAEL SOUTHWELL	SUDBURY
STEVE GOODHALL	SUDBURY
DAN KESTLE	SUDBURY
WAYNE BURTON	NEW HALL
JAMES HENDERSON	NEW HALL
MARTIN HIGGINS	ARMLEY
MELVIN CRAWFORD	ARMLEY

The addresses are:

HM PRISON ARMLEY, LEEDS LS12 2TJ
NORTH SEA DC, FRIESTON, BOSTON Lincs PE22 0QX
HM PRISON SUDBURY, SUDBURY DERBY DE6 5H
HM PRISON FEATHERSTONE, NEW ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON WV10 7PU
HM PRISON WANDSWORTH, PO BOX 757, HEATHFIELD ROAD, LONDON SW18
HM PRISON LINCOLN, GREETWELL ROAD, LINCOLN LN2 4BD
HAVERIGG, MILLAM, CUMBRIA
HM PRISON STRANGWAYS, SOUTHALL ST, MANCHESTER
HM YOUTH CUSTODY CENTRE MILLERS PARK, WEELINGBOROUGH, NORTHANTS.
NEW HALL DC, FLOCKTON, WAKEFIELD, WEST YORKS.
HM PRISON RANBY, RET福德, NOTTS

ETHIOPIA

We have all seen the horrific scenes of the millions of people starving in Ethiopia. However the media distort the truth; it makes it appear that the Ethiopians are victims of a natural disaster and that Britain is being very generous by giving them a few million pounds worth of aid.

But the truth is that they are victims of the world's economic and political system that is based on the exploitation of the majority by the rich and powerful. Natural disasters are not the cause, they merely make the situation worse.

There is not a shortage of food, present world output of grain alone could support everyone with more than 3000 calories a day. In fact, every country has the resources to feed its own people. So what is the problem? The problem is that food has become a commodity, to be bought and sold for profit, produced for those who can afford to pay for it and bypassing those who cannot.

Productive land in third world countries is increasingly used to grow food for export to the 'developed' world to earn money, and not primarily to satisfy the basic needs of the local people. Multi-national corporations control much of this land and the workers employed on it are given very low rates of pay. So big business makes enormous profits out of the suffering and misery that it is responsible for.

We are rarely informed of the fact that the EEC and the USA destroy millions of tons of food every year, or store it indefinitely in huge warehouses, to keep prices high. We are rarely told of the fact that the amount that the governments of the world spend on arms every two weeks is enough to provide adequate food, water health care, housing and education for everyone in the world - for one year.

If we want to see real change in the third world then aid is not enough. We must actively challenge the system that causes so much death and suffering around the world. Capitalism and Government are responsible for mass murder, in their lust for profit and power. Together we can stand up and oppose this evil system, we must start to bring about social change in this country if we want change in the third world.

Destroy the State — before it destroys us

It is no use trying to ban the bomb without opposing the social and economic structures that produce it. CND's strategy of influencing the Labour Party failed in the 1960's and it will fail now. It was a Labour government that first developed Britain's independent nuclear deterrent (without an electoral mandate) and which was also a founder member of NATO. And it was the last Labour government, containing such well known leftists and Benn and Foot, which spent £1,000 million updating Polaris.

Governments and parties are not influenced by orderly protests and disciplined marches - no matter how big. We should be seeking to develop tactics that disrupt the economy and upset the smooth running of the state machinery. The alternative to asking others to act on our behalf - through passive petitioning, lobbying MPs and peaceful demos - is to take direct action controlled by the participants themselves, and not by the police or by CND stewards. For example: mass civil disobedience; occupation of air-bases and army recruiting offices; industrial action by workers in nuclear and related industries; the spreading of 'secret' information and a general refusal to co-operate with the Warfare State.

THE STATE IS PREPARED FOR MILLIONS OF US TO BE MURDERED SO LONG AS IT CAN SURVIVE IN ITS UNDERGROUND BUNKERS AND RE-EMERGE TO RULE OVER WHATEVER IS LEFT.

Our lack of self-direction in the question of war or peace reflects our powerlessness in other aspects of our lives. We should not legitimise the elites which dominate our society by begging them to disarm but seek to take control over our own lives through the overthrow of all governments and all ruling classes. Both in the state-capitalist east and the private capitalist west the only sane alternative is a self-managed society, which abolishes hierarchy at work, at school, in the family and in the community. In other words an anarchist society.



Private capitalism State capitalism

We live in a society in which the workers are robbed of most of the fruits of their labour. Under capitalism this can not be otherwise for the mainspring is the profit motive, with its inescapable division of society into - if not the haves and the have nots - at least into those with much and those with little.

It is clear to all but the blind that this condition prevails also in the so-called communist countries, where in theory everything is administered by the state on behalf of the people equally, but in practice there are even greater inequalities than in most capitalist countries. Examples of this are to be seen in the fields of housing and consumer goods. In many 'communist' societies special shops containing a wider selection of consumer goods exist to serve party officials and high ranking state bureaucrats. Housing is allocated not according to need but according to ones position.

The difference between the two forms of economy is superficial: production and distribution in both societies is controlled by a handful at the top. In neither case have the workers any effective say in the running - or rewards - of industry. Nor will they have until they cast aside the sham substitutes for industrial democracy with which the ruling classes have bemused them for so long, and establish workers control. Unfortunately, those who consider themselves to be the leaders of the working class - Labour politicians and trade union bosses - are foremost among its betrayers.

TREATING CHILDREN WITH ASPIRINS IS DANGEROUS

Giving children aspirins when they are suffering from flu can lead to them contracting a fatal disease. An unpublished American study warns that the chances of contracting Reye's Syndrome is increased by up to 25 times. Reye's Syndrome follows viral infection, and can lead to vomiting, convulsions, coma and death.

On 13th December the Center for Disease Control presented a study of 172 children to the Department of Health and Human Studies. This study compared 29 children with Reye's Syndrome to 143 controls. Aspirin had been given to 96% of the children who later developed the syndrome.

The US government did not release the research. It was the Health Research Group which obtained and published these results in the early part of January. The Health Research Group is pressing a lawsuit in the US to require warning labels on aspirins for children and young adults.

DON'T GIVE CHILDREN ASPIRIN

'The Syndicalist' will in future expose dangers to health, both in the community and the work environment. Also we will expose the International Drug Manufacturers.



"It's a socially useful device for use on the management"

What is anarcho-syndicalism?

Anarcho-syndicalism is the return to the basic premises of working-class organisation - that is, a labour movement based on class struggle not compromise, a labour movement committed to the idea of workers' self management of society, ie socialism. This is something that can never be achieved through political parties, in times of revolution they act as dustbins for the frightened middle classes, seeking only to maintain their own privilege. Examples of this are the Bolshevik counter-revolutionaries who smashed the Russian working-class movement in 1917-21, when faced with the takeover of industry by syndicalist factory committees, or the Communist Party in Spain in 1937 when faced with the anarcho-syndicalist CNT's collectivisation of industry.

Anarchism is a political belief that all forms of government are wrong. We believe that so long as the state exists, exploitation wage-slavery, war and oppression will exist. Syndicalism is a belief that the workers should take control of society and re-organise it on the basis of the workers' organisations.

Anarch-syndicalism combines the two, the best of anarchism and of syndicalism. We believe that the social general strike is the way in which the working class will overthrow the state and begin to create a system of self-management and freedom.

PARASITES

The politicians are always telling the workers that they are pricing themselves out of a job whenever they ask for a wage rise (even if it is just to cover inflation). Thatcher says that the workers are greedy and should accept less; obviously it is in her interest (and in the interest of the rest of the ruling class) for workers to have lower wages because it means bigger profits and even higher standards of living for the bosses and the rich and powerful elites. The boss of the British Oxygen Company now earns £14,838 a week but Thatcher would not dream of telling him to 'tighten his belt'. The bosses, politicians, union officials, top consultants in industry, finance, insurance and other 'experts' and of course not forgetting the Royal Scumbags and those who inherit vast fortunes, are all parasites. They are parasites because they are paid (or receive) staggering amounts of money for doing next to nothing. Most of them do not perform any socially useful work, eg. Ian MacGregor is being paid hundreds of thousands of pounds for destroying the mining industry.

In this country the wealthiest 7% (the parasites) own 80% of the wealth. This wealth is created by the workers but is stolen from them in the form of profit. This accumulated wealth is economic power which is used by the parasites to subject the working class to a state of wage slavery. The sole purpose of production being to create more and more profit to make the parasites even richer and more powerful. The more wealth a parasite possesses the less work he/she has to do. When the amount of wealth they own reaches a certain level they are able to live in luxury without working at all. They are able to do this by exploiting the labour of those who work, this can be done in many ways such as by owning the means of production (factories and land), investing money in the banks, or the buying and selling of shares and commodities. This condition of madness is known as capitalism, it is a disease that exists in every country of the world (in different disguises; such as state monopolised capitalism in Russia). This disease must be stamped out as soon as possible, it is the only way to get rid of the parasites. Without the parasites and their defenders (the states of the world with their armies and police forces) the wealth that is created by the workers could be used for the benefit of everyone equally, and production could be re-organised to satisfy needs instead of for profits.



AIMS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT

- (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 for independent organisation in the workplace and 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 workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers movement. Any and all 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 the environment.
- (8) 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.

Comments, information, etc

Simply write to DAM NATIONAL SECRETARY, 223 GREENWOOD ROAD, BENCHILL, MANCHESTER