

DIRECT ACTION

WE WILL STOP CASH FOR JIM

IT'S amazing what short memories people have, especially Labour politicians. It wasn't so long ago that Jim Callaghan and his motley crew were attempting to keep our wage rises below that magical 5 per cent and were prepared to jump on anyone who disagreed. Unfortunately for them it was they who got jumped on by the lorry drivers and the public service workers. Now, like some Jekyll and Hyde the Labour Party has put on its left face and sheds crocodile tears over the effects of Thatcher's monetarist policies upon us poor workers.

Still, I won't labour the point about what a worthless set of bastards the Labour Party are. Sadly, though the joke's on us, we're paying. Approximately 90 per cent of Labour Party finance comes from payments from 58 unions. In fact, if it wasn't for this massive financial leg-up Labour would be unable to run its central party organisation or any election campaign. As it is they're deficit so far this year is £377,000 (*Guardian*, 4.11.79). Anyhow, these 56 unions include the TGWU, AUEW, GMWU, NUPE, USDAW, EETPU, NUM, UPW, NUR, UCATT, ASTMS, COSHE, PUEU, AS Boilermakers, TSSA, ISTC, ASLEF, FTAT, NAT-SOPA, NGA, NAAAW, NU Blastfurnacemen, NUFLAT, NU Seamen, NUSMW.

How is this money paid to Labour? Firstly, all 58 unions are affiliated to the Labour Party, which means that a

proportion of the political levy which their members pay goes directly to the Labour Party in the form of affiliation fees. The amount paid depends upon how many members the union chooses to affiliate which is not necessarily the same as the number of members who actually pay the political levy. For example, 97 per cent of TGWU members pay the levy - that is, 2,013,000 out of 2,073,000; yet only 1,162,000 are affiliated. In total about 7,915,000 trade unionists pay the levy, that is about 80 per cent.

However, only 6,061,000 of these are affiliated to Labour, but even so, with the individual membership fee going up from 32p. to £1.25 next year, this means that by this method alone the Labour party will be getting £7,576,250 from the unions.

Secondly, money is transferred via trade union sponsorship of MPs and the payment of grants for the 'upkeep' of sponsored MPs' constituencies, thus saving Labour the expense of doing this themselves. At present there are 132 trade union sponsored MPs. TGWU and AUEW have the most at 20 each, followed closely by NUM with 16 and the GMWU with 14. The TGWU in 1978 spent £2,257 in grants to its sponsored MPs for the upkeep of their constituencies.

Thirdly, every time there's an election the unions donate generously to Labour's election fund. For example, for the 1979 election the GMWU gave

£100,000, TGWU £150,000, NUM £100,000, AUEW Engineering £102,400, APEX £50,000 and ASTMS £50,000. Many other unions gave generously. There are of course various other ways in which the unions transfer funds to the Labour Party. For example, in total during 1978 the TGWU gave £408,973 as well as being part of a union consortium to build the Labour Party's new headquarters.

All this money comes from a common source - the political levy which many trade unionists pay without realising. As anarchists we should go further in our moral stand against voting for Labour (or anyone else) and hit the Labour scabs where it hurts - in their pockets. The Labour Party is going through a cash crisis, according to Norman Atkinson, Labour's treasurer. "The party is fast overspending its income - disastrously so" (*Guardian*, 4.10.79).

Let's make things worse for the bastards. We should make a start by withdrawing from the political levy as individuals and campaigning to get our workmates and our union branches, regions etc. to withdraw.

The Labour Party is collapsing. Its membership is falling and it's running out of cash. By campaigning against the political levy, we shall be driving a nail into its coffin, at the same time as weakening its hold on the unions. The first step has been made in this direction by DAM who have been handing out anti-political levy leaflets at their workplaces,

The Political Levy

All this money comes from a common source, the political levy which you pay, and in return, what do you get for it? Nothing, save a kick in the teeth from Labour everytime they're in power. As the old saying goes, **only a fool keeps a dog which only bites its master.** The remedy for all this is quite simple - contract out of paying the political levy; you have a legal right to do this under the 1913 Trades Union Act. Exercise this right. At all times you should resist the transfer of union funds to the Labour scabs, after all we have enough on our hands fighting the Tories without having to fight a second bunch of Tories going under the name of the Labour Party.

(From the Direct Action Movement leaflet on the Political Levy available from the D.A.M. at the address on the back page).

Trade Unionists

We need the Labour Party
like a moose needs a hat rack
Don't pay the Political Levy

Direct Action Movement

union meetings, union demonstrations, etc. The response has varied from shock/horror expressed by Labour, CP and SWP hacks to agreement and surprise at the fact that they were paying it from ordinary rank and file trade unionists.

DAVE THOMSON

Oilmist: OIL KILLER

Cancer of the scrotum is probably the most well investigated disease being first noted 100 years ago in the oil industry by distillers of paraffin oil. The equivalent today almost certainly being the automatic tool making industry. Pressures of production have called for faster work rates and subsequent increases in the oil flow for the machinery, the production of which has been subject only to technical criteria with no concern for health and safety, a familiar story to many readers.

The female equivalent of the above is cancer of the vulva and a recent report shows that women as well as men have higher rates of skin cancers in engineering areas.

The symptoms of skin cancer are often visible and you should be aware of any abnormal skin changes such as persistent redness, lumps, ulcers, sores and warts that don't heal quickly, particularly in the genital area. SEE YOUR DOCTOR.

Dermatitis is the commonest industrial disease. About 20% of all industrial dermatoses are due to oil.

The first symptoms are an eczematous rash often between the fingers. If untreated they often develop into open sores. It is much aggravated by friction from clothing.

Internally of course you can't see what's going on. It's been known since 1928 that oil-mist can cause cancer of the stomach and lung. Also oil-mist pneumonia has been known since 1925 as

the American Petroleum Institute is only too ready (or reluctant) to admit; 'It is a well known fact that breathing mineral oil can cause pulmonary fibrosis, (lung scarring) or paraffinoma'.

The symptoms of these are coughing spasms, blood in sputum and shortage of breath with simple exercise. Again if this is you SEE YOUR DOCTOR.

Protection

For the person is simple but rarely effective. Protective clothing is usually advocated by the employer (cheaper, naturally) but the baby pants and suits they suggest are very hot to wear, restrictive and 'bloody uncomfortable', which is why only 20% of workers wear them.

However tests have showed that even thorough supervised washing rarely removes more than 50% of contaminants.

So much for oil and its results, what now do the 'other side' say.

The majority of the oil companies admit they have no information on the health hazards of their products. Burmah-Castrol have produced a booklet whose section on skin welfare opens: "Any discussion...should not be allowed to get out of perspective".

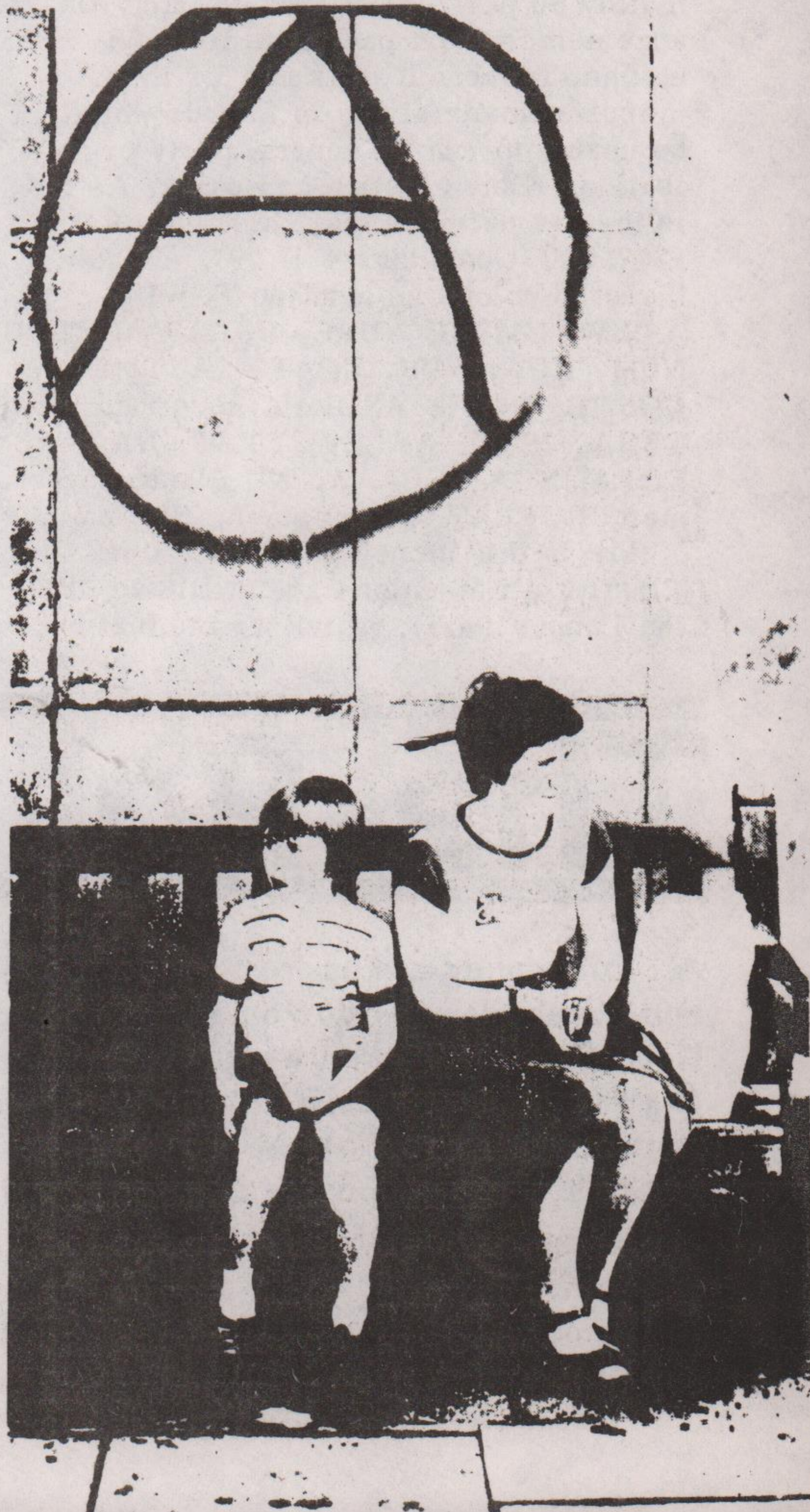
Mobil and Esso also produce booklets which play down skin hazards and really there is no way of telling how much reaches the workers.

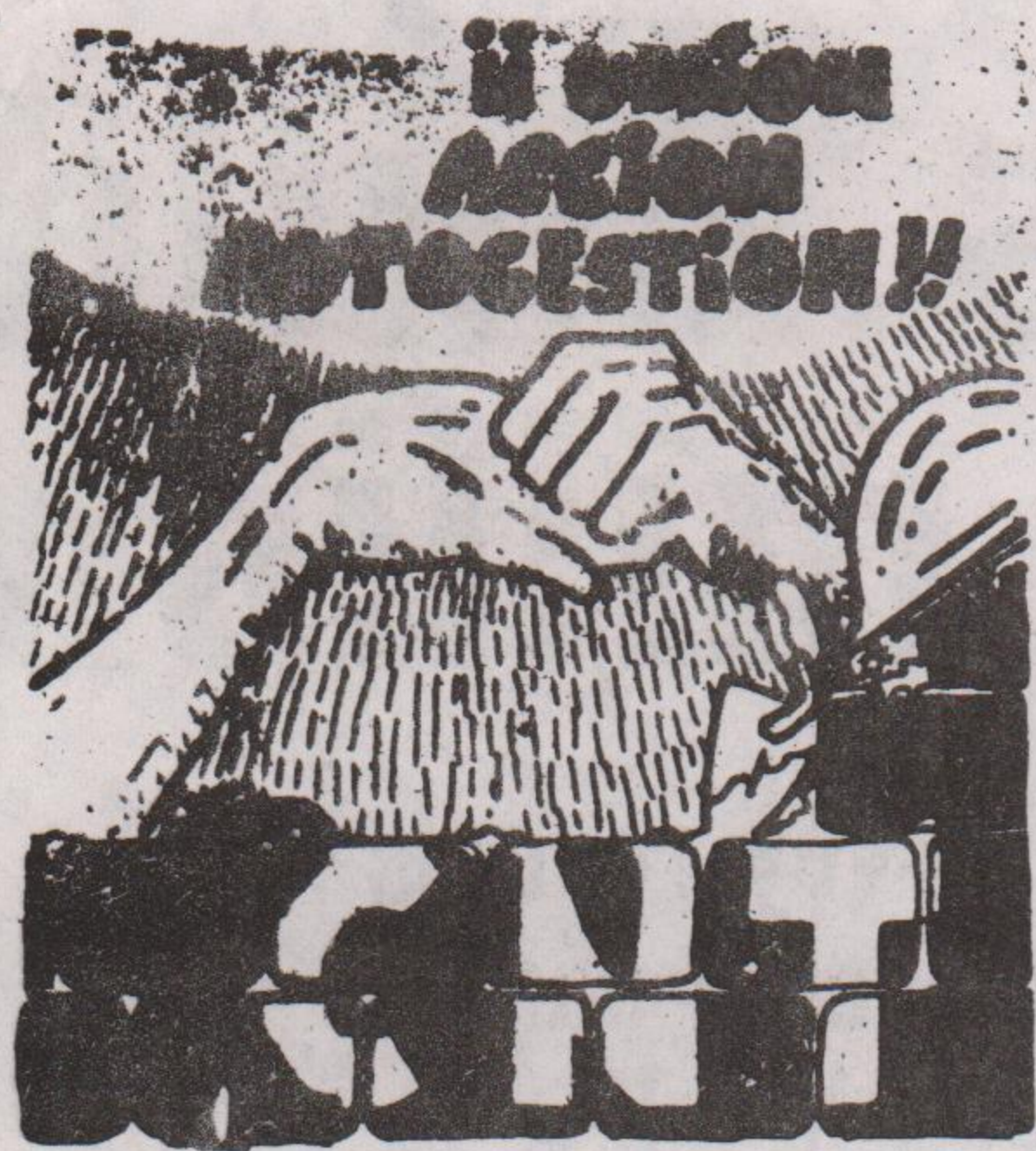
The Institute of Petroleum representing the oil companies plays lip service to the skin problem by stating that more research and analysis should be carried out on cancer causing agents. So far no comment has been forthcoming from them.

The Government

are 'concerned' about oil mist hazards and their Health and Safety Executive suggest a Threshold Limit Value (TLV) of $5\text{mg}/\text{M}^3$ (five thousands of a gram per cubic metre of air) for all workers without any adverse side effects; although they themselves admit 'conditions can be unpleasant at concentrations between 2.5 and $5\text{mg}/\text{M}^3$ (AR 1967) and an inspector recently admitted that at $5\text{mg}/\text{M}^3$ life could be 'distinctly unpleasant'.

However, it appears that production must come before health. The d. of E. under whose wing are the inspectors, are really only doing their job, aren't they?





Fellow Workers! We wish to draw your attention to an exciting new development in the world labour movement: THE RE-BIRTH AND PHENOMENAL GROWTH OF THE CNT: The CNT (National Confederation of Labour) is Spain's anarcho-syndicalist federation of unions - a sort of revolutionary TUC

The CNT was founded in 1910 but can trace its origins back to the 1860's. As the major organisation of the Spanish working class it has played a leading role in the struggle between bosses and workers in Spain. It has organized general strikes and insurrections to achieve its goals of libertarian communism, survived periods of repression and emerged stronger than ever, and during the Civil War (1936-39) it unleashed what one historian has described as "The most radical social revolution in Western Europe: the revolution of collectivization, i.e., of workers control of the means of production- which, defended by the workers' militia swept over the areas controlled by the CNT".

CNT



CNT

During the Spanish Civil War the whole of industry in Catalonia (Spain's most industrial region) and 70% in the Levante was collectivised (Gaston Leval, the anarchist historian, tells us that industry was run by the workers: "the factories went on working without the owners, capitalists, shareholders and without high management executives"). The revolution of the land was even more radical with such measures as the abolition of money in some areas. In Aragon, the Levante and Castile there was a total of 1,600 agricultural collectives. Altogether between 5 and 7 million people were directly or indirectly involved in collectivisation. The CNT, at this time, had well over 2 million members.

Even before the civil war was lost, the collectives were sabotaged, attacked and destroyed by those anti-fascists who, in the words of George Orwell, were "manifestly more afraid of the revolution than of the fascists". The Stalinists who ran the secret torture chambers in which revolutionaries were tortured, who murdered revolutionaries and used well armed troops to suppress the peasants collectives were especially implicated in these counter-revolutionary manoeuvres.

The victory of Franco resulted in mass emigration and mass executions and the CNT was

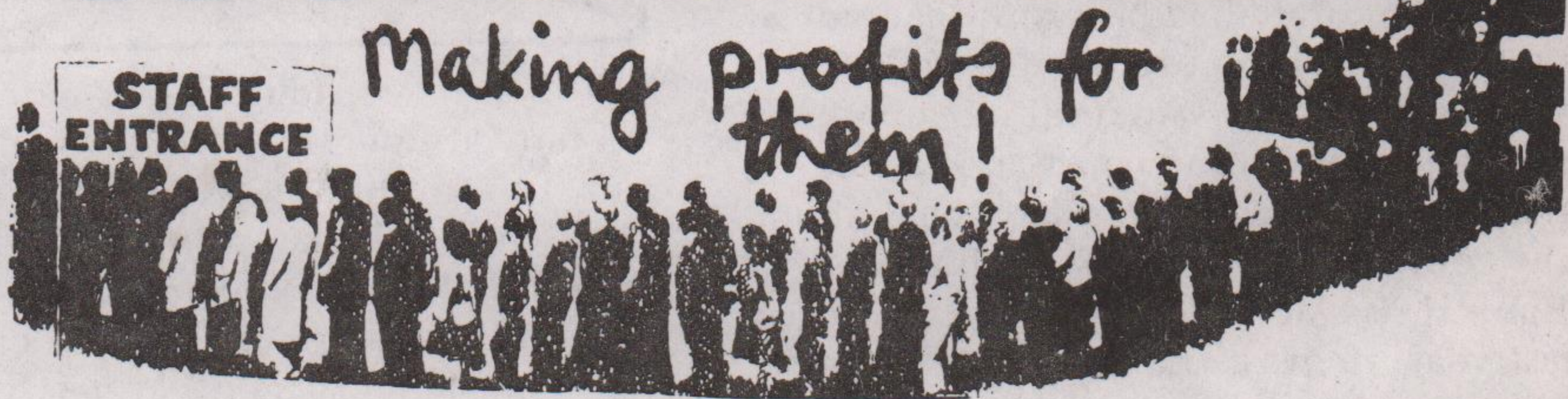
forced underground. Over 20 national committees were arrested, imprisoned, tortured and killed during Franco's reign, but each time the CNT rebuilt itself.

The CNT emerged from the underground in March 1977 with 20,000 members. By 1978, in fact, the CNT was growing at a rate that, according to the national committee, doubled its size every three months: the fastest rate of growth for any non-governmental union in the world.

The CNT announced its existence to the world with a rally of 30,000 members and supporters in March 1977, it followed this up with a massive show of strength in July '77 when an estimated 250,000 people attended a CNT rally in Barcelona. A CNT cultural festival, in the same city, attracted over 600,000.

It is essential that we break the wall of silence which the bourgeois, Stalinist and Trotskyist press has erected around the CNT. The re-birth and rapid growth of the CNT shows that a revolutionary union, organised without a bureaucracy, and resolutely opposed to social contracts can attract a mass membership in Western Europe in the 1970's. This message is already spreading throughout Europe as the re-founding of the revolutionary union movement in Germany (the FAUD) and Italy (the USI) show. We want that message to spread to England.

OUR LABOUR WORKS WELL.



Industry gives Tories £1.5M

Almost £1.5 millions was given to the Conservative Party and Right-wing organisations by leading British companies last year, according to the Labour Research Department. In its annual survey of company donations to the Tories the department says that 378 firms gave a total of £1,439,594 to groups including the Conservative Party and the Economic League.

Companies making the biggest donations included Rank Hovis McDougall (£41,000), Guest Keen and Nettlefold

(£733,150) and Taylor Woodrow (£30,300). Of the total, £771,038 went directly to the Tory Party. The Economic League, accused recently by trade unionists of keeping black lists of troublesome workers, received £126,959.

Donations were made by the four big banks as well as Shell (£7,639), Tate & Lyle (£7,400) and the tobacco and food conglomerate, Imperial Group (£7,000). The Labour Research Department points out that the results of the survey are restricted because it is impossible to check the accounts of

every limited company. It claims that its results are an understatement of the cash actually flowing from big business to the Conservative Party.

As well as funds going directly to the party, the survey records £452,226 going to British United Industrialists and various industrialists' councils, which are believed to raise money for the Tories.



Organising for safety at work

Official government figures show that every day two or three people are killed in accidents at work, and every year 23 million working days are lost due to industrial accidents and diseases. Compare this with the usual three to five million days lost through strikes. Of course, being official figures they don't tell anything like the whole story. Only accidents resulting in more than three days off work are reported, and it's officially estimated that these accidents are 30-40% under-reported. Worse than this though is all the suffering caused by chemical diseases which are not yet recognised as industrial diseases. For example, 50 new industrial lung diseases have been discovered since 1961. Also, there are the effects of accidents with chemicals, known to be dangerous, but whose long-term effects are not recognised. In addition there are the general diseases like backache, colds, bronchitis, and the many common varieties of cancer, stress and nervous disorders. None of these are recognised as being industrially related, and so if your workplace is to blame for you having any of these things, it won't show up in the statistics.

Industrial murder

Is anyone looking after your health? That's a good question. As one safety officer said recently, 'I don't pretend to be on the workers' side, or even in the middle. I tell them I'm management and they'll get as little as possible from me. I think they'll respect my honesty.' A Factory Inspector at a health and safety course for shop stewards was asked why the Inspectorate had never prosecuted the asbestos firm at Hebden Bridge. 'Well we wanted to,' he said, 'but our doctors wouldn't stand up in court and testify that asbestos was dangerous.' What about the courts then? A man was killed at a Rank Hovis McDougall bakery in Glasgow last year. He was strangled to death by a machine, despite the fact that the firm had been repeatedly warned by the Factory Inspectorate. Worse, a man had been killed in exactly the same way at a Rank Hovis McDougall bakery in Brighton three years before. A simple safety device could have prevented both deaths. The firm was fined a momentous £500 for what amounted to murder. Fines are not the answer - imprisonment (possible for up to 2 years under the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act) is one way to make management more responsible.

It's your fault

Why are so many accidents and so many diseases caused by working conditions? Employers would like you to believe that

asbestos could kill two million

MORE than two million American workers will probably die of cancer because of exposure to asbestos in their jobs, according to a startling US government report.

Work-related cancer is at least five times the problem recognised by previous estimates, says the study prepared by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Hundreds of thousands of workers may be dying of exposure to such substances as arsenic, benzene, coal tar pitch, chromium, iron oxide, nickel and petroleum distillates.

"Past exposure to asbestos is expected to result in over two million premature cancer deaths in the next three decades," the institute predicted.

Work-related cancer contribute over one-fifth of the total cancer cases in the United States, and not the one to five per cent often quoted.

Previous estimates have been speculative and attributed to occupational factors not scientifically documented, the study said.

The institute said that because cancer incidence is strongly dependent on age and length of exposure, most cancers resulting from exposure to chemicals will occur late in life.

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it's due to individuals being careless, or to pure accidents. 'It was a chance in a million - couldn't possibly have been foreseen.' How many times have you heard that after a major accident? But the truth is that work is often dangerous because there is a conflict between health and safety, and producing things as quickly and as cheaply as possible, in order to make the maximum profit. There are about 20-30,000 chemicals in daily use in industry at the moment. The vast majority of these have been introduced since the war and there has been no research on most of them to see if they are unhealthy and unsafe. The Flixborough explosion killed 28 workers and it was admitted that the plant was cheaply built, and a process known to be dangerous was used.

Most company safety officers, and safety organisations, like the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) and the British Safety Council,

Survey reveals massive cancer death toll from industry

STILL ALIVE

According to US Department of Health, Education and Welfare estimates, between 10 and 15 per cent of all cancer deaths in the US each year will be associated with asbestos exposure. An estimated five million

American men and women breathe significant amounts of asbestos fibres each day, Department of Health Secretary Joseph Califano told a national conference on occupational safety and health.

His department calculated that between eight and eleven million workers have been exposed to asbestos in the US since the beginning of World War II.

The report, based on epidemiological studies, estimated that of four million heavily exposed workers still alive, 20 to 25 per cent will die of lung cancer, 7 to 10 per cent will die of cancer in the chest, abdomen or pelvis, and 8 to 9 per cent of cancer of the stomach and intestines.

In Britain, alarm about the danger of asbestos led to the setting up of a government committee, which is expected to report soon proposing lower limits of asbestos fibre exposure in industry.

spend a lot of time promoting posters which emphasise how safety is *your* responsibility, how *you* have to be careful, and how accidents are *your* fault. Take the 8' x 4' humanoid display marketed by ROSPA. 'Are you experiencing difficulty bringing home to your workforce the full extent of personal injuries caused by accidents on the shop floor?' they ask. No mention of the noisy, polluted, badly lit workshop full of badly designed machinery. The workers' answer to this example of the employers' safety ideology would be a diagram of the workplace showing where the accidents were happening, and what processes were causing them.

You *might* be lucky and get help from your safety officer or Factory Inspector especially if you have a good case and are well prepared. But the only thing you can really depend on is *your own* safety organisation at the workplace.