

SECTARIANISM + WORK

Last year, 1367 jobs were lost in the textile industry. These were concentrated in the predominantly Protestant towns of Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne and Saintfield as well as Derry and Lurgan. Along with the layoffs at Harland and Wolff in Belfast and GEC in Larne, this is the first concentrated attack on Protestant jobs for many years. Apart from the excellent propaganda exercise done by the Labour and Tory governments on the 'economic crisis' we ALL face, and Ian Paisley's 'Leave it to me I'll ask questions in the house', we have to look at the sectarian nature of the State.

The division of Catholic and Protestant has led to a serious weakness of workers resistance to the bosses. Northern Ireland has one of the best (if you prefer—worst) industrial relations records in Europe. Our history has given rare examples of united worker resistance, and when it has, the cry 'republican, communist, papist' has gone from the preachers, politicians and employers. The result is riots between workers, a return to work and even expulsion from the workplace of all Catholics and militants.

Why have Protestant workers been so easily fooled? As well as them benefitting materially, relative to Catholic workers, from the discrimination in jobs and housing, there is a strong identification with the State. Since its formation 60 years ago, Protestants were led to see it as their state, in which they had some say. They identify with the bosses, the very people they are in natural hostility to—those who rob them of the wealth they create and dump them on the scrapheap when they are not needed.

Another related reason is the provision of jobs for Protestants in the security industry. Apart from the 12,500 British soldiers on the streets here, local employment is created by the UDR (2,593 full time and 5,140 part time) the RUC (6,110 full time and 4,608 reserve) civilian searchers (318), thousands of security staff and shop searchers (subsidised by the State), and the prison staff. These figures are all out of proportion to any 'normal' capitalist state.

And what of the Catholic workers? When on occasion they have tried to reject management proposals such as at Antrim Crystal they have fallen foul of the other side of the sectarian coin. They put their faith in Catholic Union officials, in this case Paddy Devlin. His treacherous dealings, behind socialist rhetoric, saw most of the young militant workforce out on the dole queue, where the management had first put them before they had occupied the factory.

Before finishing, a note of optimism. There have been some examples of protestant workers resisting directly, such as the Coleraine factory occupation against closure last year. Although it failed, as do most attempts, because of their isolation in the face of the might of the industrialists (financial, market monopoly etc) it was the sort of action we should support.

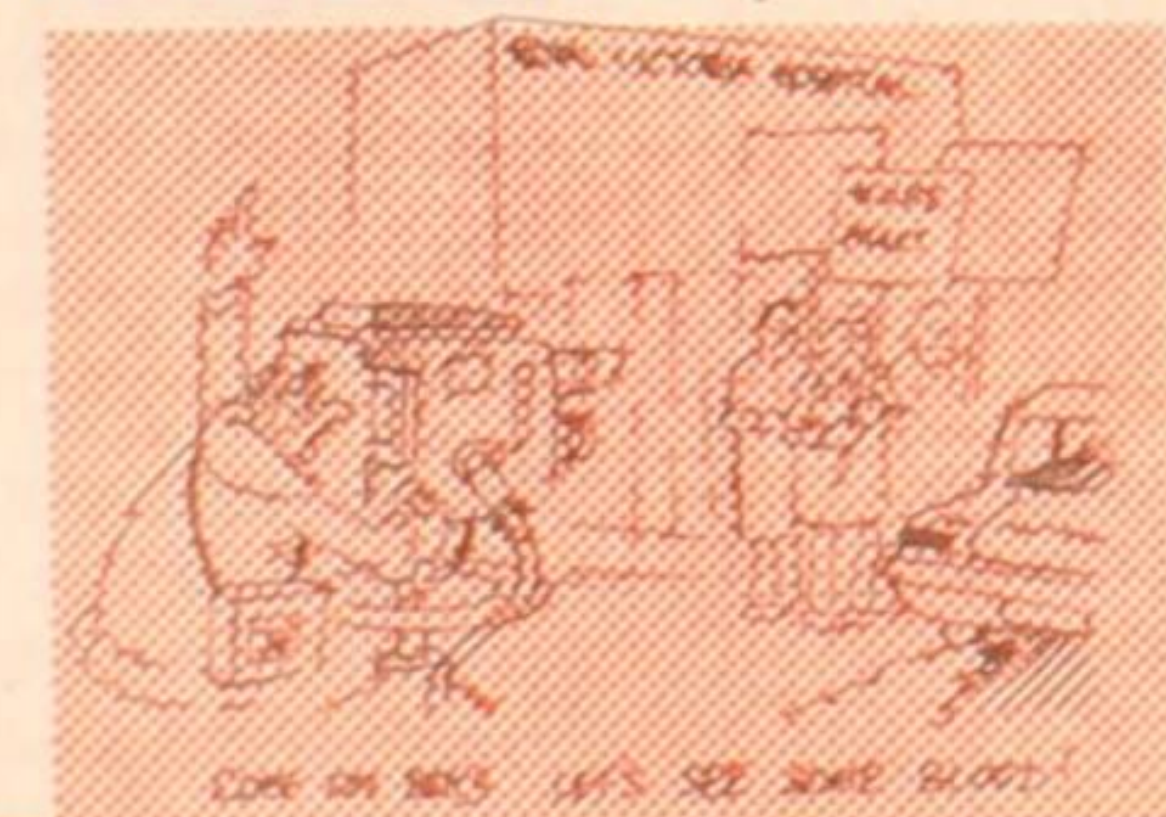
Finally, we can't wish or vote or bomb sectarianism away, but we can and have to destroy its source—this state, the MPs, councillors, and union bureaucrats who gain from its existence. The State has institutionalised the relationship of class alliance on the one hand and sectarianism on the other. It was founded on coercion and discrimination. Its poison is reflected in the relations between workers, and not to fight against it is not to fight against that

ROLE OF THE UNIONS

Though in the early 1900's the trade unions were influenced by syndicalist methods of organisation and practice (direct democracy and direct action), as soon as they allied themselves with the Labour Party (here the NILP), they began the politics of mediation. The politics of handing over your power and responsibilities to others who will act on your behalf. It has led to elections, parliament and a belief in nationalisation—state socialism. The trade unions allied themselves with an organisation and ideology which later in Britain became the bosses.

At the workplace, because of the election and appointment of full time, non-revocable officials, a bureaucracy came about. Many Union Presidents are elected for LIFE and most union officials are APPOINTED, not elected. They have their own interests (as mediators with the bosses and pacifiers of the workplace—until pushed) and their own rewards (better pay and perks than the workers). They no longer identify with the workers, except in rhetoric, and often act as a police force, in the bosses' attempts to reestablish authority and stability in the workplace.

In many cases its not only the bosses who have to be fought, but the trade unions as well. An example was the recent strike at the Royal Victoria Hospital when the workers on the job wanted to negotiate the security conditions themselves, after a soldier's gun had gone off in a corridor. Coulthard, the NUPE bureaucrat appointed from London, not only opposed the strike, saying he and McCormack would do it for them, but attacked the shop steward O Sullivan, and asked him to resign. Their authority and that of the hospital was challenged. Their combined forces proved too much



the evening when the scabs were leaving the police charged the picket lines firing their revolvers into the fleeing crowd. Six died.

Spies called a meeting the following night to protest at the murders. The meeting was small and Parsons did not arrive until late. He spoke and after he had gone only a man named Fielden was left speaking, and the meeting began to dwindle. Suddenly 180 police men truncheon-charged the meeting, a bomb was thrown, killing one policeman outright and wounding seven others. The police went berserk, clubbing and shooting into the darkness of the Haymarket. Evidence came to light later, that the bomb was thrown by a police agent.

Parsons realising that the state wanted his life left Chicago. Spies, Fielden, Engel, Fisher, Louis Lings and Oscar Neebe were indicted for conspiracy to murder. Of these only Spies and Fielden had been on the scene at the time of the explosion. Parsons turned up at the beginning of the trial, claiming he couldn't bear to see his comrades, who were as innocent as he, be legally murdered.

Despite the fact that the jury consisted of business men, their clerks, and one relative of the dead policeman, the prosecution evidence still had to be changed because of the contradictions in the fabricated evidence. The court now claimed that the

and the porters and those who had refused to cross the picket line, were forced back to work.

The bosses have also been trying to clamp down on wildcat strikes by non union and small union workers. In Britain this has led to mergers with the bigger unions growing bigger and more bureaucratic, with deals between the union chiefs. And in the South, at the last Fine Gael conference, the spokesperson on industry proposed new legislation, whereby union membership was compulsory for new industry—an attempt to cut down on the wildcat strikes which have plagued the multinationals there.

Trade Unionism was brought into being to defend the workers against the bosses. Petitions, demonstrations, token strikes, conferences and the 'talks' with the Minister of State and the CBI are only the means of taking the steam out of our anger. They give the impression of doing something, but in the end its the unions bureaucrats way of keeping us in place—the condition which the bosses demand if they are to grant the workers anything.



bomb was thrown by an unknown person who had been inspired by the accused. Sentence was passed...all would hang, except Neebe. Appeal was refused. One of them committed suicide in his cell, the rest hanged.

Three years later at the International Socialist Congress in Paris, it was decided to call an international one day strike in pursuit of an eight hour day and in memory of the Haymarket Anarchists. The strikes which followed were violent affairs, (especially in France), often ending in gun battles with the police.

In Britain, the Anarchists organised a protest in London...10,000 marched to Hyde Park to join with twice as many already assembled....The more respectable trade unionists, however, decided to wait...and marched on the Sunday instead!

The time had arrived when the workers were fighting back....a fight which has been long and bitter and is still not over.but to see Carlin and friends wollowing in the making of petty rules, makes you think that they do! 90 years on, the bosses, the oppressors are still out there. More and more of the big multi-nationals are coming into Ireland to rip us off; the traditional unionist bosses are still lining their pockets while thousands are made redundant. And according to Carlin's rules, they are expected to fall in at the back of a march with the rest of the unemployed!

May Day should be about showing exploiters of every kind (from trade union bosses who make a living out of our problems, to ICI and Shorts), that we DON'T want or need deLorean sports cars, that we don't want or need blow-pipe anti-aircraft guns. That we don't want or need big motorways carving up the city....that we don't want to be told what we can do and where we can do it. May Day is about taking control of our own lives, controlling our work and conditions whether in the factory or the home, controlling the places where we live. It's about a demonstration of strength and solidarity with all workers in our daily fight against all bosses, all exploiters.

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Spence

Outta Control

News & Views of the
Belfast Anarchist Collective

OUTTA CONTROL... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches.... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of free association and self-management. This paper comes out every 2-3 weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

USELESS WORK

Too much time is spent 'at work' doing things we just don't want to do...of that there is no doubt. But often it's the only way to make ends meet, or the result of hassles from the dole, or a work ethic cleverly disguised and fed to us since childhood by church and state.

Work is not our decision, under our control—it's a slot we are 'lucky' to find because of the beneficence of those who own, control, and make the decisions. Our whole system, our whole economy revolves mainly around USELESS work...work that has no real meaning for those that do it, that produces nothing that we and our friends either need or use!

Not all work of course—some of it is essential, some is needed, but in most cases it's still working under the direction of others, and not for ourselves and our communities. It's still the manufacture of products which pass along the conveyor belt to be retailed by the advertising industry. It's still production for profit not need, it's still a dull alienating task.

So what is useless work? All those bureaucrats who revel in mystifying form-filling are the most obvious as our society becomes more and more under state control (as opposed to the individual employer). A whole new strata of useless, time-wasting bureaucrats in a multitude of government agencies trying to justify their existence...the robots responsible for classifying us as computer digits.

A society run from the bottom up, by people for people, will have no need for endless layers of parasites. There won't be much need for central banking and insurance, the whole packaging industry, or deLorean cars which the people of Belfast will never drive....and the 'security industry'—from judges, and parliamentarians to the police and military will have to find something useful to do!

The machinery at Shorts will surely have a more positive use than military equipment for its 'undisclosed customers' such as the Israeli army or Latin American dictatorships. Technology can and will be redesigned, re-thought, and re-invented into use for what we want and need, not what is profitably viable. Peoples transport, housing, nurseries, agriculture (not agribusiness), energy conservation will have a real future...to replace useless products of useless work, sold back to us to be possessed and consumed through subliminal and useless advertising. For that to happen, PEOPLE become the focal point, our creative potential, our enjoyment, our collective community needs and decisions will be the future—NOT profits, displied and rigid wage-labour, all dependent on a world market, recession, and state funds.

MAY DAY MAY DAY

May Day is a traditional workers day of action...workers being trade unionists, houseworkers, and the unemployed. It is NOT a 'trade union' only day, as it is here in Belfast! Year after year, Terry Carlin (the professional bureaucrat who has never worked in industry, nor in the shop-floor trade union movement...he worked his way up through the trade unions own civil service) has refused womens groups, anti-repression groups, ALL political groups from marching with their own banners. He denies a political content to a political event...he transforms it into a SHAM event! (and he collaborates with the police to keep the 'lefties' away). The trade union movement even goes to the extent of helping their employers by having their protest anything up to a week AFTER the day! (And until recently marches were done in the protestors own time...usually a Sunday). So Carlin and the rest of the NICTU have managed to transform our MayDay protest into nothing less than a boring ritual (like the April 14th. march)...is it any wonder that so few people participate?

Historically 'May Day' bears no resemblance to today's farce. It all began in the U.S.A. with the formation of the Eight-Hour League. The labour movement at this time was on the offensive. 1886 saw the culmination of a successful strike against the Wabash and South western railway systems and as a result of this, the Knights of Labour, (an early trade union) had grown from 100,000 to 700,000 members in a year. Labours mood in 1886 was militant despite the attempts of the Trade Union leadership from preventing the proposed May 1st strikes to obtain the eight-hour day.

In the face of agitation the ruling class put out a constant barrage of propaganda and armed a vigilante militia. The press were predicting a repeat of the Paris commune 'riots', and that Judge Lynch would be hanging every communist from a lamp post to prevent it.

One of the leading figures in the Chicago labour movement was A.L. Parsons, a former confederate cavalryman. After the Civil War he came to believe that he was fighting on the wrong side and set up a paper to fight for black rights. He married Lucy Gonzales and they moved back to Chicago, where experience of the '73 depression made them lifelong anarchists.

Along with August Spies, Parsons helped form the International Working Peoples Association. Both threw all their efforts into the strike movement. Parsons constantly addressed union locals urging them to strike on May 1st. In April 35,000 stockyard workers voted to join and by the end of the month it was estimated that 62,000 Chicago workers would come out while 25,000 had demanded the eight-hour day without threatening to strike and 20,000 had already gained it. By this time the papers were demanding Parsons life for fomenting the 'eight-hour madness'.

May 1st saw 340,000 striking all over the U.S. In Chicago alone 80,000 came out, most of whom took part in the strike.

The state had also mobilised, in the side streets 1,350 National Guardsmen were at the ready, equipped with Gatling guns, as well as the Chicago Police, known for their brutality against strikers. A 'prominent citizens' Committee sat ready to bring them into action should the need arise, to save Chicago from chaos.

The march, after a mass show of solidarity, dispersed. On the Monday following, the strike spread and the Chicago Police got their chance. They clubbed workers at the McCormick Harvesting works as they rushed in 300 scabs. In

(cont'd. on P10)



How often have you heard the hypocritical shit spewed out by some old boring fart of a politician about helping the youth of this country? They might get around to it, but always on THEIR terms, and doing what THEY want us to do. Creating for us the instruments of discipline, the scouts and guides, the boys and girls brigades, the church-run discos and youth clubs...places where we can be supervised. Nice plans for young Catholics and Protestants to meet each other. But when we mix freely in a way they can't understand, and find frightening, they don't want to know...it's outta their control!

Of course when we start working things out for ourselves, they'll do anything to prevent it, and put up every obstacle. That is until one of the entrepreneurs can make some capital out of us doing so. April 24th. at the Ulster Hall was something different...a good vibes treat...5 top local bands for only £1.50...hardly a rip-off! John Peel, friend of the oppressed culture, compered it in part with his usual humility. We may look and dance aggressively, but nobody got hurt and everybody had a great time.

When punk first appeared the media practically tried to ban it. And the local media ran their usual shock-horror stories about punks and violence...or worse still, just completely ignoring it. It was only when Ulster bands began to make a real impact in the record charts that the newspapers picked up on the culture. But they reduced the impact of punk with all its anti-authoritarian and liberating content to the usual dribble about 'local boys make good'. OUT DEMONS OUT!



HOUSEWORK MAKES "WORK" LOOK EASY!

There are millions of us: we shop, wash, clean, breastfeed the babies, change their nappies, spend five years making them socially acceptable for school, nurse anyone in the family who is ill or old.....the list is endless, and even though it can easily take up to 12 hours a day, seven days a week, the work is seen as trivial. Housewives are part of that group of people who don't count for much as human beings—the poor, the sick, the old, the young, the unemployed, anybody who isn't 'working for a living'.

Housework isn't just a job, it becomes a married woman's way of life. It doesn't make any difference if a woman has a full time job, she is still expected to make the bricks and mortar of a house into a home. Redevelopment in inner city areas has meant the break up of the extended family—there are no grannies, mothers, and sisters to borrow from or to go to when things go wrong. Women are isolated in high rise flats, semi detached suburbia, impersonal housing estates often with few friends, no amenities and no sense of community. Their isolation makes it impossible for them to come together as housewives and initiate solutions to their problems. They spend their time doing mindless repetitive chores, some striving for a resemblance to the dream house portrayed in glossy magazines, others give up, demoralised. Many have young children and they are expected to bring them up in the isolation of their own homes and when problems arise with so called 'difficult' children, they blame themselves for having failed, not the situation that they are in.

Society has different values for male and female work. A man works for a decent wage to support his wife and family, a woman on the other hand works for the love of her husband and children. This

dual standard is carried into the outside world with the result that working women just aren't taken seriously. They work for low pay and in bad conditions. For many it is a necessity to go out and work for the extra money, yet they are fobbed off with 'pin money'. Then again, it is hardly conceivable that a woman wants to work for personal satisfaction, for excitement, for a change to the daily routine once in a while. Women's role as wife and mother is so ingrained in our consciousness, that it is difficult to see any other alternative. Many women do want to go back to work after they have raised their families. These women may have spent 10 to 20 years without working in the outside world. No employer is prepared to train a middle aged woman for a rewarding job, let alone the career she would have liked to have had if she hadn't got married. So these women go into low paid menial work as cleaners of large stores and offices, auxiliaries in the hospitals.....in the end it is the only work they know.

Since the war there has been a massive increase in modern gadgets and household appliances. Today's housewife demands that she have these to make her life 'easier' and obviously many of them do

make it easier. But what of the consequences? The main function of this hardware is to make profits not to help unburden the housewife. Their built in obsolescence guarantees they break down when the year is up and they finally find their way to the scrapheap within another few years of servicing and new parts, to the detriment of our environment and dwindling reserves of raw materials. And what of the housewife? She may have a house of mod cons but the way in which she is expected to use them is positively medieval.....to imprison a woman in a home to mindlessly oversee an assortment of machinery, some of which stands there idle most of the time is not the luxury brought by a technological age, but slave labour.

When we begin to discuss housework as an issue, we find that we start to question the foundations of this society—the family, its relation to the outside world and women's role within it. We start to question the division, not only between men's work and women's work, but work itself, wages, consumerism and the divisions between intellectual work and manual labour. Whatever solutions we put forward in the short term, collective responsibility for children, the sick and the old in centres and nurseries controlled by the people who use them, utility rooms etc; women's freedom is only possible in a completely transformed society.

BRITS 'N COMMIES!!!

The past few months we have all been subjected to a propaganda blitz by Western Governments and the media over the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. The cold war jingoism is all so very convenient at a time when Governments 'up' their military spending, paid for (by us all) at the expense of welfare services. (Britain currently spends upwards on £1million per HOUR on military purposes!)

Behind the media onslaught, however, much more has been going on. The British Government and media have been emphasising the Russian use of chemical and biological warfare against the Afghani tribes....they have also used this excuse to justify their increase spending into the research and development of the supposedly outlawed weapons....chemical and biological sprays and gases. As it turns out, the Russians HAVE been using chemicals in Afghanistan—CS gas to be precise—and as news of this leaked out, the British Government have suddenly shut up! It would hardly do for them to criticise a Russian use of CS gas after what they pumped into the people of Belfast and Derry.

after much hard struggle, albeit in a form which also benefited the bosses—ie centralised, alienating hospitals and the means of leisure became big business (so the workers money was spent as soon as it was earned).

The 'crisis' is an opportunity for the bosses to reassert their authority and profits. By a manipulation of the worth of money, by a cutback in public services, and national wage agreements (or more recently companies imposing small rises), the capitalists and politicians have reduced both the real and social wages.

BACK TO PROFITS

For instance, have you noticed that all the banks profits have INCREASED during the crisis. And looking at just one day's newspaper (Belfast Telegraph 17th April) its also the multinationals who have done well—Burmah (the oil company) followed last months BP and Shell increases with an increase of profits of 300%, from £17million to £67million and RTZ (the mining company testing for uranium in Donegal) increased its profits by 250% from £184million to almost £452 million.

So how come we workers are asked to pay for the crisis, by reduced real wages (last months inflation rate was 20%) and cutbacks in hospital services, employment, dole rates, etc, when those bastards are making more money than ever out of our labour and spending.

Co-ops are by no means a new idea. They have come and gone for the last 200 years. The seizing of land or industry by the workers is a crucial factor preceding, and a catalyst for a revolution. Soviets were created in Russia in 1917 and workers collectives in Spain in 1936. The counter revolution began when the governments took back that power.

CO-OPS

There was some talk of forming a co-operative out of the bankrupt Armagh Shoe Factory but this idea evaporated quickly. It would have required money from the State to sustain it over a period. However the state preferred to let the workers draw the dole indefinitely and hope that some other capitalist entrepreneur employs them or maybe even takes over the ownership of the shoe factory (no doubt with the State's financial blessing).

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY.....

It is difficult to overcome the obstacles in creating co-ops. Money got from selling shares in the co-op takes a long time and is usually insufficient. The only people who have money are capitalists who aren't likely to finance something which they see potentially as doing away with them. The Government present every obstacle possible. They are more geared up and sympathetic towards giving money to capitalists, especially multinationals who usually demand huge amounts per job created, (De Lorean) and yet are able to make tax free profits. The State provides every incentive for them; they build the factories, finance the equipment, provide and train the workforce and in some cases pay the wages while the multinationals reap the profits out of Ireland and into their shareholders pockets. Co-ops may be given a grant from the Government if they show a glorious track record and suit the terms.....otherwise its to the bank for a loan and thats a very expensive business.

REACTIONARY ROLE OF TRADE UNIONS

The trade unions huge assets could help enormously in the founding of co-ops, but they prefer to invest their money in such anti-people activities such as insurance companies, property speculation, works of art. Being conservative, bureaucratic and short sighted they would see the setting up of co-ops as taking work away from their members.....absurd!

Starting a co-op in the manufacturing industry is extremely difficult. By starting off with a loan they are immediately handicapped. Paying back the interest and wages corresponding to the minimum approved by the trade unions makes it difficult to compete with the capitalist prices. They always have the backing, the massive automation, and the exploited workforce and the competition of third world imports.....its a wonder co-ops get off the ground let alone survive! This basically leaves the craft industries which only produce products which working class people cannot afford.... a little bit of art for those with the money to invest in.

Co-ops have limitations especially when working alongside the capitalist system. Some say they are useless and not worth supporting or bothering about. However there are different ways of working a co-op.

Prison is a weapon of the ruling class, so all prisoners are political.



But the men in H Block & women in Armagh are resisting their imprisonment, resisting the label of criminal which 'justifies' their imprisonment.

DONEGAL

On the week-end of April 19-20th., the Donegal Vocational Educational Committee held their long awaited uranium seminar... a supposedly neutral affair though all but one of the 'experts' (the infamous Professor Blackth from Trinity College Dublin) just happened to be pro-nuclear and pro-uranium. Blackth was included in the 'experts' panel only after local protest at its obvious bias. The Nuclear Energy Board, mining company representatives, selected academics and business people from the South and the North dined on about the benefits and the safeguards, in an attempt to mystify the truth. Meanwhile the continuing pickets of the drilling rigs by local people has been suspended, as has drilling work, pending a meeting between local people and the Nuclear Energy Board. What false promises and lies will the NEB come up with this time?

DES KEANE RECEIVED 8 YEARS IN THE DUBLIN SPECIAL COURT (SIMILAR TO OUR DUBLIN COURTS) DES, WHO WAS ALWAYS ACTIVE ON PRISONERS ISSUES (JURY COST HM 1500) HAS ALREADY SPENT 5 YEARS IN THE CURRACH, WAS FOUND GUILTY ON ATTEMPTED LARCENY CHARGE.

COLLECTIVES IN THE SPANISH REVOLUTION '36-'39, WERE THE FORM GIVEN TO THE INDUSTRIAL + AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES, WHICH THE WORKERS + PEASANTS TOOK OVER FROM THE BOSSES, AND RAN FOR NEED, NOT PROFIT.



WHAT CRISIS?

In only January and February of this year, there were 4,360 lay offs announced in Northern Ireland. Last week the Housing Executive announced a reduction by a third of the number of houses it was to build, and a complete stop to house repairs—unless these were emergency repairs. Northern Ireland has already the highest unemployment rate and the worst housing conditions in the UK. So what's going on? 'There's a crisis' the bosses say, 'We all have to tighten our belts'. Well here's just a brief look at what causes it and who's belts are tightened.

The 'economic crisis' is a world wide trend and is due mainly to 2 causes—

1. The saturation and loss of markets by companies (causing a decrease in profits). An early example of this was when the car companies sold so many cars in the USA, that everyone who could afford one, had one (or two), so there wasn't the same demand.

2. Since the 2 World War, there has been an increase in workers wages, both pay packets and the social wage of transport and health facilities (again causing a decrease in profits). This social wage wasn't given away, but was won

ITS NOT ALL AT THE CO-OP

Take for instance the Belfast Co-op. Its one of the largest department stores in Belfast. A co-operative by name, but thats about all. It may offer dividend stamps as part of co-op policy but little else. The general public relate to this store like any other. It sells the same products at the same prices as any other store, the workers are divided into the usual hierarchical ranks and sexist roles and they are told what to do and are hired and fired on the same basis as anywhere else..... the workers never decide policy. That is left to the directors who are paid huge wages compared to the workers. This is perhaps the most introverted and reactionary of co-ops.

Agricultural co-ops aren't much better. They are usually the case of small producers banding together as a group in order to produce or distribute a product, employing hands to work for them and sharing the profits between themselves and not with their employees.

PROFITS

Other co-ops run on the line of paying themselves different wages depending on their expertise, their roles and commitment and the profits are divided amongst themselves and their 'sleeping' shareholders.

THE QUEST FOR JOBS AT ANY PRICE

Some well meaning people band together and see a co-op basically as a way of creating jobs and receiving a wage. When this is the foundation of the co-op without the political insight into what the co-op could be, it usually degenerates into the same relationships that you would expect in any factory. The workers simply look on it as any 8 to 5 job and give no real commitment.

THE MILITANT CO-OP

To see a co-op as not only an alternative to the capitalist system but a challenge to it, and not just economically, is by far the most visionary. The workers are bound not simply through working for the same 'firm' but by the idea of creating a better, freer society for themselves and others.

They work collectively, taking decisions together, producing or selling a product which is socially useful, relating and sharing skills. This shared work experience without the need for leaders can contribute to the confidence of the individual and the group. Sex roles and sexism are broken down. Wages are based on what a person needs and each gives what they can. Surplus money gained is not seen as the co-ops private funds. The workers have a responsibility to use the surplus in a productive way for the benefit of the community and not for themselves personally.

There will obviously be limitations that the militant co-ops will suffer from. They are surrounded by capitalist enterprises who constantly service them and compete against them. If the co-op poses any real threat it would be very easy to isolate and destroy it.

PLOGOFF, FRANCE

Plogoff is a beautiful little fishing town in S.W. Brittany. Since 1976, the French Government have been planning to build a nuclear plant and since 1976 the local people, organised in defence committees, have resisted it. French law states that a public enquiry must accompany any compulsory purchase of land...and the enquiry was held in Feb-March of this year. It didn't go quite as expected. Local opposition was, and is, so total, that the "public enquiry" was held in "temporary town halls"—2 vans heavily escorted in and out of the area everyday by the Gendarmerie Mobile (especially trained for country guerrilla warfare)—a military reserve riot control force. They had to face the fury of the entire region for the forty-five days of the enquiry. They were hustled and hassled every way imaginable and a mere 210 people (out of a possible 60,000) bothered to attend the enquiry... and even some of those just went to write NO on the register. The rest of the people enjoyed a six week resistance festival! On the last day of the enquiry they held a triumphant march of 50,000 people. French democracy marches on, however and the report of the public enquiry commissioners was published one week after the enquiry ended in mid-April.... the result was that the "enquiry" decided it was OK to build the nuclear plant! Say no more.



Last year the Trade Union leaders refused "permission" for women to walk behind a womens banner. Their answer to all groups who are not trade unions and who want to show solidarity with other groups and the unemployed, on what is traditionally a workers day, is that they don't want the march to become "political". Political in the Northern Irish sense that they do not want to become infiltrated by left wing groups, by workers smash H-Block banners, slogans or whatever. Because womens groups have gone through the proper procedures this time and asked "permission" to march this year, it is likely that there will be a womens banner on the march, sent along, courtesy of the Belfast Trades Council.

Our answer as women should be, that, whilst glad the issue percolated through the upper echelons of the Trade Union movement, we cannot join in the procession until all people here are able to walk behind a banner of their choice as of right and that women themselves have their own banners to walk behind anyway, we don't need to be supplied with one.