Letters Received

This letter is an invitation to the readers of Black Flag to visit Leslies, at 17 Turners Road, Limehouse, London E1. Leslies is an anarchist bookshop, food coop, meeting place and video venue and we are planning to become a cafe as well. We are celebrating one year of enthusiasm and action in the East End and hope to expand our activities in the coming months. In other words, we need more people to become involved with the place and coming up with ideas for action!

One of our main functions is to provide advice to squatters and to try and build links with other squatters in London. Our womens group is also very popular – upcoming women's events as well as future video screenings (for men & women) will be publicised in Black Flag. We try and show anarchist (or anarchic when the supply runs out) films – tell us if you have any or know of any films we might show.

We would like very much to have as many anarchist events as possible, but need more people to help plan/organise activities. So. if anyone out there would like to become involved with some friendly anarchists in the East End, drop round and see us (and you can buy some books and food while you're at it) We're open Tues – Sat 3.30 - 6.30, later if there's an evening event. Leslies.

Fratemal Anarchist Greetings! As you know, I am presently confined within the bowels of the State's jail system; however, February 16 marks my day of personal liberation!

At this time, I just want to write a short note in appreciation of the concern and support that I have received from you. Throughout my travails, I have wholeheartedly enjoyed and appreciated the solicitude exhibited by a variety of new found friends, not the least of which was the receipt of Black Flag. While it is certainly true that the prison experience is primarily a wasteful one, through my access to such materials as BF the past years have not been an entire loss. Such have provided me with a sometimes different perspective on our mutual concerns and, occasionally, have opened my eyes and mind to an area of concern previously unknown to me. Additionally, because you chose to print several of my previous letters, several persons have initiated contact with me, providing a most fruitful correspondence.

In any event, I wish you continued success in all of your projects. Please correct your mailing address list to now indicate that the address below will no longer be any good in contacting me; however, I fully intend to re-establish contact with you once I am released and have had the opportunity to situate myself.

In solidarity, Leonard F. Tate C-36957, Dorm 31.

Dear Friends,

As a matter of interest, re your film review of 'Rocking the Foundations', the enclosed news items on the Green Ban imposed by the NSW Building Labourers Federation is taken from the November 1975 issue of the NUPE paper 'Public Service'. [write to us as BF is you want a copy].

Also, as a matter of interest, can't say I've heard of Prof. Ludwig Gans. Is he an invention? Can't say I've come across 'The Forces of Thermidor' either. – Really? Personally, I'd say Trotskyists are deranged. That isn't stooping to characterisation: you've got to be a bit deranged to take all that stuff in the first place. Or at least it would help.

As for 'dictatorship of the class' -Iwas born in Brixton, lived there for the first twelve years of my life, have always lived in working class areas, either private landlords or housing estates, and never been anything else than working class, but I don't want to 'dictate' to anyone -I just don't want any bum dictating to me.

It's easy to characterise. I once knew a student who thought he only had to say 'Fuck this' and 'Fuck that' and go and watch Chelsea every week to be a fully paid up member of the working class. As for 'ringers', can't say I've heard the word in common usage at all. I don't know if I remember rightly or not, but I think I first came across the word when I was a kid, in one of Edgar Wallace's books! But that's no reason not to use the word. If the word fits...

FEEDBACK

Confront the boss. . .whoever he/she is! But as Eric Hebert says, 'insubordination is not (always) an easy thing to do'. Fraternally, Leslie Doe

P.S. Where's Part 2 of M. T's article? Prof. Gans is fictitious; unfortunately, Trotsky was a real person, whose favourite phrase on Stalinism seems to have been 'Thermidorian reaction' showing he knew his French history, but that's not why we don't like him. Yes, Edgar Wallace wrote a book, 'The Ringer' – he knew a lot about horse racing and journalism, but was weak on the 'criminal classes' – he took his characters from stage conventions rather than real life.

Dear Black Flag,

I have just bought one hundred shares in British Gas. This might make you ask why an arch-capitalist is writing to you. However, there is a method in my madness. I intend going along to the first shareholders meeting and protesting at the sale, and demanding true representation by employees and customers, not the present sham where its one vote for one share so that the institutions of the City hold control and where most of the decision-making is carried out in secret. As it makes absolutely no difference whether I own one share or one hundred I am therefore selling 99 of the shares to other 'dissidents'. And as each share can be jointly held by up to four people that means that the first shareholders meeting could be enlivened by up to four hundred extra shareholders protesting at this 'democracy' fraud...

Anyone interested should send me 50p, their name and address and preferably also the names of three other interested people. A group of a dozen people for instance, might like to get four shares. I need to hear by 10 February, and

shares should be transferred by the end of February. If I get more than 99 replies I will give the xtra money to War

on Want. Peter Lennard

Subversive Investors Department (SID) 44a Arlingford Road, Brixton, London SW2 2TA

Editor's Note: We realise that the date of this is now too late, but we think the idea is an excellent one and encourages more people to make trouble.

Dear Friends,

Dirty work by 'Union of Democratic Mineworkers' members at Annesley Colliery, Ashfield, Nottinghamshire.

Since the 1984-85 strike, as you know the bosses of British Coal (NCB) and the UDM have conducted a campaign of vilification and occasionally violence against Notts minority National Union of Mineworkers members. At the above mentioned pit harassment has been particularly nasty and petty. Instances like sending men to work in severe cold when in fact they have come to work dressed for very hot conditions eg. dress would consist of vest and shorts whereby duffel coats should have been worn, or getting the sack for being in the pit bottom too early.

The latest skullduggery involves two UDM members Philip Naylor, his redundant brother Teddy (UDM sympathiser) and a NUM member John Chisolme.

The Naylor brothers along with Danny Hare, another UDM member, attacked John over an argument in the local Miners Institute. Nevertheless John apparently gave a good account of himself, giving at least one of the scabs facial injuries. But the bad news is that he has lost his house, which is British Coal owned, and his job. He has had to move into the village of Selston which is pretty isolated even if it is the biggest village in England. Public transport being very poor.

This will not be the end of the matter though. Some of us will sally forth from our little homes after drinking cider and watching the soaps (though not I, I don't like Soap) and do whatever is necessary.

WAPPING

Confessions Of An Outside Agitator

First, a march through the steets of London, estimated at anywhere from 11,000 to 40,000 marchers. Already the police were trying to show us who was boss—trying to mingle in with the crowds at the start, and trying to drive a police bus through the march, at the end of Fleet Street.

As we arrived, once again, at Fortress Wapping, tension was high. Crowds filled the whole of the Highway which runs alongside the News International printing plant. We could see militarily-ordered rows of riot police down the lane to the main entrance gates. A few rows of ordinary cops were in front of them... Guess who got the short straws!

A truck which had carried a band on the march was parked to partly block the lane—encouraging shouts and cheers began as people rocked it onto its side, to stop the imminent police charge.

Shields glinting in the spot-lights, the riot police moved forward to allow an armoured bulldozer to move from behind police lines, to shove the truck aside like a matchbox toy.

Meanwhile, the big names ranted on from the stage in Wellclose Square, ignored by the crowds on the Highway.

With a clear field, the riot police charged the crowds again and again, flailing out with their batons, aiming particularly at people trapped against the iron fence railings. An inspector was ordering the direction of the charges by shining a torch into the crowd.

With each charge, bricks, rocks and sticks hailed down on the cops, causing them to duck and try to use their defensive shield-over-head tactics, that we see them training for, on TV. This is to prove how invincible they are, they still got hurt! The speeches were still going on! A lull, while a row of riot cops stood guarding the lane, shields up, for an ominously long time. . . what were they planning? We could then see the daring of balaclavaed youths, who would run across the no-go area between the pickets and police, going to within grabbing distance of the riot police before they chucked their rocks.

Then, Orgreave-style, the riot police lines opened, and out charged the mounted police, long batons crashing in the crowd. A huge banger went off, to frighten the horses, and an orange flare went off (the TV camera people loved this. but not what happened next, to them!)

Many picketers, reporters, photographers, 'legal observers' were injured. Union figures were for 170 picketers arrested, police say 180 police were injured.

I saw a photographer running like hell, almost under the horses hooves, while concrete rain fell about the cops' heads.

Police were trying out a new invention—red dye, held in cannisters on their backs, which looked like fire extinguishers. The dye was shot in the face of picketers, to mark them for future arrest...

At the other end of the Highway, scab lorries were going out another entrance, under police guard. Scabbing business as usual. Experienced picketers did try to get people up to these entrances, but the shouts and roars as police charged were like a magnet.

The police cleared the Highway, finally, and the remaining crowd withdrew to Wellclose Square, behind the iron railings. Pelting of the cops could be done fairly safely there, though still under surveillance of the police cameras. Meanwhile the entertainments on stage were

finished, and many people had drifted off. Realising that Wellclose Square contained

an endless supply of rocks, gangs of riot police charged across the square, beating anyone in their path. They pulled people out of the public toilets, carried away by their own power.

Running scared, the crowd scattered into the tower blocks, followed by riot police, helmets and shields glinting. Imagine what it would be like, living in one of those flats, with the surrounding area seething with riot cops!

Then a yell went up — 'To Commercial Road!' As some of the crowd got there, a scab bus just happened to be passing! It was pelted with rocks, as were its escorts, two police cars.

Meanwhile, the police had been raiding five local pubs, beating people and searching for people marked with red dye.

Around 11pm, the residents of Wapping marched against the invasion of their area by police, and in support of the striking printworkers. They were followed by a large contingent of riot police. This was the last large group protest of the night. Attacks on scab lorries and buses are rumoured to have continued until 3am.

Trade Union Treachery Encourages Rank and File Breakaway

The decision of the leaderships of the two print unions, the NGA and SOGAT, to officially end the dispute with Rupert Murdoch's News International at Wapping, is not unexpected given that the main thrust for organising the thirteen month-long campaign came from the rank 'n file, and given the present state of affairs that make hierarchical trade unions subject to unjust sequestration laws.

Once again these sequestration laws have proven that they can only be beaten when a new breed of union emerges – one that is organised from below upwards, is federalist and where any funds held are decentralised. Even if such unions did emerge, however, the state would contrive other means to protect the employer. Major conflict, one way or another, is therefore inevitable, if defeat is to be avoided time and time again.

In the meantime the present situation at Wapping means that the dispute is by no means over: after all the campaign to take back jobs was organised and sustained by the rank and file, not by the leaderships, and so just because the leaderships have withdrawn official support, it doesn't follow that the campaign should in any way be affected.

Nevertheless, the pull-out by the leaderships will mean that greater encouragement will be given to the police, armed additionally by the new Public Order Act, to enforce a ban on demonstrations and mass pickets and to use greater violence than before to take control of the streets. Picketing has now been effectively outlawed.

The withdrawal of strike pay, too, will mean that pickets who continue with the dispute will necessarily rely even more on outside financial help. In this respect the Strike Support Groups must be retained and more created.

To coordinate the progress of future action the pickets will need to create an independent, rank and file organisation: inevitably, any escalation will lead to the union leaderships distancing themselves from the picketing, possibly even expelling members, to avoid court litigation. And direct appeals for support, will be essential to rank and file groups in other industries by the Wapping Pickets.



'... And this one said – Tessa Sanderson Supports The Print Workers – on it.'

As for tactics, that will depend upon the strengthof the numbers who decide to continue the fight. If support groups can be mustered to bolster those numbers, even better. If not, and if *Continued on page 7*



RIOT AT WAPPING

At around 7pm on Saturday 24 January some 25,000 demonstrators (not 'over 10,000' as the *Sunday Times* later claimed) converged on Rupert Murdoch's scab factory at Wapping to mark the first anniversary of the print-workers strike.

As is usual the police were waiting for us, blocking off all entrances around the plant. Opposite the main entrance, half way down the Highway, a platform had been set up and speakers (union officils, party hacks and assorted 'celebrities') read out speeches. The majority of demonstrators made their way home immediately after the march reached Wapping but around 5,000 stayed behind to hear the speeches and picket the plant. Just as many of them had done so every Saturday for the last twelve months.

At around 7.15pm a dozen protestors overturned a van in front of the main entrance and tried to set it alight (unsuccessfully) in an attempt to block the cops in. Soon after police bulldozed the vehicle out of the way, riot cops (from the so-called 'Territorial Support Group') made around four successive charges into the crowd and all hell broke loose. Police later claimed they were trying to arrest 'trouble-makers', but little attempt was made to arrest anyone. Well-protected cops repeatedly lunged into the crowd, hitting out indiscriminately with truncheons and shields at the not-so-well protected protestors. Many fell injured. Tension and terror heightened. Meanwhile the speeches continued, giving a surreal edge to events.

After seeing the brutality of cops in action the crowd retaliated with a barrage of missiles. Paving-stones were broken up and railings were torn up as the police charges became almost continuous. Several cops were observed throwing bricks at demonstrators. At around 9pm, two dozen cops on horses emerged from behind police lines and charged, supposedly in an attempt to push people away from the main entrance. Many by-standers

were beaten or knocked down. A photographer, one of several injured by police on the night, was trampled under a police horse and hospitalised. At one point red dye was sprayed into a section of the crowd by a number of police officers carrying cannisters on their back. At another, a first aid bus where demonstrators and children were being treated was attacked 'by two thugs with truncheons'. Yet despite the ferocity of police charges, it took them until around midnight to disperse the crowds. By the end of the evening, police claimed 162 officers were injured, compared with some 400 demonstrators (not 33 demonstrators injured as police claimed!) Sixty-seven arrests were made and around nine police cars had been damaged. No police were charged with assault.

WHO'S TO BLAME?

NAME

Significantly police and press later exaggerated the violence and rumours that police 'agents provocateurs' were in amongst the crowd, egging genuine protestors on, cannot be discounted. The government would love to ban all demonstrations-peaceful or otherwise- at Wapping and outside Wapping, so it came as no surprise when Douglas Hurd announced his intention to push the Public Order Act through parliament immediately after events. Predictably 'outside agitators' (a term so vague that no-one can prove or disprove it) were blamed for the troubles by police, MPs and union officials alike. Nothing to do with police violence naturally! Nearly all papers specifically blamed Anarchists and Trotskyists while the Sunday Telegraph (whose exposes on Anarchism, along with the Daily Telephaph, have to be seen to be believed) exclusively gave Anarchists all the credit. To their credit, while all of Fleet Street blamed the mythical 'externists', the twentyfive or so legal observers present on the night denounced police tactics, as 'provocative, unlawful and unnecessarily violent'.

Anarchy On The Picket-Line!

On December 27, 1986 the Daily Telegraph graph sent an incompetent reporter Martyn Harris to write up anarchism from a look at the Freedom Centennial — about which we commented in our last issue. He saw Black Flag as 'looking to Spain' where, preserved from the ravages of time, trade unionists from Britain visit the 'anarchist collectives'; while from Freedom he gathered that Tony Benn and Margaret Thatcher were equally some kind of anarchist (we hardly blame him for that).

By February 1, 1987 all had changed. Spare time hacks Jamie Dettmer and Christopher Elliott, writing in the Sunday Telegraph on 'Anarchists in Wapping' quoted the police as saying that 'previouslly unknown' anarchist groups such as Direct Action Movement were to blame for the violence outside Murdoch's fort.

'These groups were not responsible for instigating the violence but they did take full advantage,' said a senior officer (according to Dettmer and Elliott), who

then went on to blame East London DAM and anarchist papers for incitement Again they brought in Class War - notorious for organising 'Bash the Rich' marches in Hampstead and Notting Hill' - these non-events have totally hypnotised the journalists who cannot appreciate that nobody was bashed and all that happened was sloganising. The pair conclude 'Unlike the more established Trotskyite parties, the new anarchist sects try to remain comparatively anonymous. They prefer to act covertly at demonstrations and hang back, provoking confrontation.' This is not reporting, it is gossip with police.

The police smear. They are anxious to use the anarchist presence as a means of 'smear'; they pick up 'vicious weapons' from the waste ground and say these are the weapons which are used by anarchists – because the trade union organisers disclaim them. Anarchists are usually in the forefront; the Trotskyites are people at the back selling papers so they are 'open' while the Anarchists are 'covert'; once in a while a minor incident such as *Class War*'s successfully publicity-drawing slogan 'Bash the Rich' makes them known to the press.

Yes, Anarchists are in the picket line (no, Mr Harris, we mean neither Benn nor Thatcher); no, they are not into 'mindless' violence. 'Senior officers were shocked at the intensity and scale of the violence which was directed exclusively at police' (say Dettmer and Elliott)... the reason was that there was a sudden vicious onslaught by police on picket lines, hitting anyone daring to walk the streets of Wapping, including bashing a solicitor over they eye and causing head injuries to young women in the picket line and at least one 'outsider' – a local mother taking her kids from the park. The police went beserk: the Anarchists resisted – so did the array of pickets. But the police and press want to brainwash – hence it must be shown it is the anarchists alone to conjure up the classic authoritarian image of the anarchist as destroyer. For who in their right mind could say our wonderful British police went beserk – unless they happened to be walking past on their way to the park with their kids and then finished up in hospital for their audacity?

THE OUTSIDE AGITATORS



Member of the previously unknown 'Metropolitan Police' Anarchist group on the rampage.

ON HUNGER STRIKE!

A 23-year-old Finnish Anarchist and antimilitarist Jouko Saksio has been on hunger strike since 21 January in Oulo Prison, Finland.

Saksio was sentenced by a military court in October 1986 after refusing compulsory 'national service'. He got nine months to be served from 5 January onwards.

On 9 January, having announced he wouldn't go to prison voluntarily, Jouko was arrested by police and held for twelve(!) days. From there he was transferred to Oulu prison at which point his hunger strike began.

Although Jouko's case has received

coverage in all the daily newspapers in Finland, little or no news about the hunger strike has appeared outside the country. It is therefore imperative that international pressure be brought to bear upon the Finnish authorities until Jouko Saksio is released.

Letters of protest to: Finnish Embassy, 38 Chesham Place, London SW1 Ph:01-253 9531.

President of Finland, Tasavallan presidentti, Presidentin Linna, 00170 Helsinki, FINLAND. Messages of solidarity to:

Jouko Saksio-Mielipidevanki, Oulun Laaninvankila, 90100 Oulu, FINLAND.

See Page 8

WAPPING SELL-OUT

BLACK FLAG – BLACK CROSS **BM HURRICANE, LONDON** WCIN 3XX Published, typeset and layout **BLACK FLAG COLLECTIVE** Printed by Aldgate Press E1. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: 12 months: £12 inland £15 surface, £19 Air.

6 months: £6.50 inland

£8 surface, £10 Air. PRISONERS: Free on request. GIRO ACCOUNT No. BLACK FLAG 58 552 4009

GIRO ACCOUNT No. ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS 51 172 0009.

For a social system based on mutual aid and voluntary co-operation - against State control and all forms of government and economic oppression. To establish a share in the general prosperity for all - the breaking down of racial, religious, national and sex barriers - and to fight for the life of one world.

Could there be a more sensational twist to the way the Government is moving t o a police state than the raid upon that Holy of Holies, the British Broadcasting Corporation?

The raids in regard to the Zircon satellite affair are now well known, but Labourite humbug in this regard must not be accepted - this type of raid has been going on for years, and with far more breaches of the law - but it just affected people like us, so nobody bothered but us. Now it is hitting the highest in the land's respectability stakes - who will be next - Buckingham Palace?

'The Empire' struck back. . . days after the police had raided Broadcasting House in Scotland for all programmes on the Secret Society series - and not just the one alleged to be in breach of 'security', Scottish TV broadcast a programme on Britain: a Nazi Safe Haven,

Defying The Public Order Act

Resistance to the new Public Order Act, organised by the Campaign against Police Repression (CAPR), has been slowly building up. Afer a series of meetings, the resistance has been decentralised to the groups involved, a rare 'broad front' campaign has been agreed between those, mainly anarchists and trots, involved. It's now renamed the Campaign Against The Public Order Act (CAPOA), (CAPR still exists) and the plan is this: A day

of publicity actions on April 1, when the law really begins. A march on 4 April via the non stop picket at South African House in Trafalgar Square, and various police stations. It was hoped to go to Wapping, but this will depend whether picketing will still be taking place after the decisions of all the trade unions concerned to abandon picketing News International.



Home News In Brief

CLAIMANTS NEWS AND BLUES

Everyone on the dole over a year has been getting RESTART interviews. If you don't go you lose your dole, and get offered nasty alternatives like work on government schemes at pitiful pocket money wages, retraining, small amounts of cash while you start your own business, etc. Also Goverment YOP Youth Opportunity schemes have been extended to two years and offered to all school leavers, you get about the same as the dole (between £20 and £30 a week) and have to work for firms to gain experience', thus undercutting 'real' workers etc. etc. also Fraud Squads have been expanded and loads of people are getting threatened and harassed into stopping claiming. By these methods, and by handouts and letting wages fall, the Tories are preparing for an election with unemployment dropping towards ONLY 3 MILLION. In fact Thatcher is well ahead in the opinion polls!

ARSON NEWS BLACKOUT

Over the last months there has been a growing list of major arson attacks, many of them unmentioned in the media, or mentioned briefly and then dropped. For instance we know of a big blaze at a Shell depot on the south coast, and a fire attack on Shell HQ in London, which could be Anti-Apartheid attacks. One strong rumour is of a burnt out army camp in Wiltshire. Also in Wiltshire, near Stonehenge, the entire final assembly plant of Optica, who are making spotter planes for the police, was destroyed by fire. This did get in the press, and early reports said 'The Angry Brigade' had claimed responsibility. Still on the subject of arson, two SOGAT members have now been charged with the burning of Rupert Murdoch's multi million pound paper warehouse at Convoys Wharf in London.

PAGE 2 BLACK FLAG

RED FARCE

The Revolutionary Communist Party, an obscure Trotskyist sect, has just come up with the 'highly original' idea of launching a 'Red Front' to fight the next general election 'under a banner of basic working class demands' like 'support for Argentina and Libya against imperialist aggression'. Sounds like a winner although judging from the past (complete lack of) success of RCP candidates at local and parliamentary elections we for one won't be holding our breath in anticipation of things to come. Far be it from us to pour scorn on such a 'highly original' idea though. Why not give the RCP a ring on (01) 7290414 and tell them what you think, especially about certain Plessey worker's demands to Libya to release one of their own and Argentine women's demands to find out what happened to their 'missing' relatives.

CALL ME.

The home address of Bill Brownhill, the councillor who says that gays and lesbians should be gassed, to stop AIDS, (see Black Flag No. 166) is: 91 School Road, Himley, Wombourne, Staffs. Telephone: 0902 - 892096

More information on the Wombourne 12' trial is available from:

Lesbian & Gay Youth Network, BM GYM, London WCIN3XX

TERRY FRENCH RELEASE? Terry French the imprisoned Kent mine union organiser is coming up for parole in late February. He was sentenced to 5 years for assaulting police during the 1984-85 strike. Good luck Terry!

SPECIAL BRANCH RAIDS THE BBC!

in which it was shown how Nazi war criminals took refuge in Britain, were protected, in some cases to this day, and how the Commonwealth countries were requested by the British Government to turn a blind eye to war crimes of the most horrific nature as early as 1948 since when each appeal by whatever government has met with the statement that it was all a long time ago.

HOME NEWS

DRACULA BITES KING KONG

It could have been added - but one does not expect so much of even Scottish TV fighting back – that amnesia in this regard is only so far as Nazi war criminals are concerned, German, Esthonian or Latvian. The Spaniards who fought again against fascism have never been forgiven or forgotten. They have been the subject of Interpol harassment ever since Franco won, and with the amnesty in Spain

The number of squats in South London is now nearly 5,000 and still rising, with three boroughs, Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham threatened with financial collapse and disintegration, and housing departments in chaos. There are now three squat advice groups, Southwark (SNOW), Lambeth (Brixton Squatters Aid, BSA), and a new one in Lewisham, and two squat papers, The Wire and Crowbar. Most squatters are not interested in solidarity or any political approach.

There has been a crisis in SNOW after they were accused of a case of sexual harassment, women are setting up a day staffed by women only, but the controversy is far from over.

In Lambeth things may be looking up, BSA report rumours that the Spring mass evictions may be postponed in some areas due to lack of cash. In Brixton the CAP (Community Awareness Programme), a radical black group, have squatted a brand new creche for council workers; to the delight of all squatters. The building cost £300,000 but was empty for two years. The place was built as a sop to the unions and left empty for one of the years by the device of insisting on a 'disabled' manager. Lambeth have delayed filling hundreds of vacancies by this method, and at one point would emply ONLY disabled people. CAP will use the place for black childcare, and as a base for their anti apartheid and other campaigns. Also in Brixton, women squatters have occupied an empty Housing Office for a centre, but eviction is already imminent and the council are giving it to an old peoples organisation, thus short-circuiting resistance.

The cold weather has caused chaos, with floods and many losing water and electric for long periods. In Tulse Hill Estate for instance, squatters saved a whole block by crowbaring a door to turn off mains water, when the council and fire brigade could do nothing.

Squat venues like 121 Anarchist Centre and Pullens Centre are continuing well, though it would be nice to have more volunteers. A big factory squat in Lewisham collapsed due to internal thugs, but may now be set to go again.

SQUATTERS ORGANISE

STOKE NEWINGTON/HACKNEY The squatters group is going well and large numbers of empty Council properties are being occupied all over the place

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON ANARCHISM

Q: Is it possible to be an Anarchist, and still be a racist or sexist?

A: There are some aspects of racism and sexism, especially those never thought of as such until more recent attention was given them by the feminist movement, of which many people are guilty; being an Anarchist does not make one immune from them, though it makes for inconsistency. If one takes the essence of them however, then they are both impossible to combine with anarchism.

A racialist considers the motivating force in society is race, not capitalism nor the State. A sexist wants individual power over people or seeks to exploit them for individual satisfaction.

Obviously neither can be anarchistic, though there is no way of stopping someone calling themselves something they are not.

atter Franco died Interpol still fights them in a manner worthy of its founder, Heinrich Himmler.

The Labour Government was turning over people to Franco; the Conservative Government was deporting them and raiding them (we recall an occasion when French police came over here to raid homes on behalf of the Spanish police, with a British officer accompanying them to make it seem legal). Spanish court martial decisions - with no more validity than committals to concentration camps - have been held to be valid in English and Scottish law long after the Spanish courts have recognised their obscenity. Still at Dover customs one can be questioned as if to have been against Franco was a crime. But mass murder on behalf of the Nazis can earn you in your new life an Order of the British Empire, it would seem.

Squatting Still Surges In Shitty South London

with few evictions at present. For instance in Stamford Hill this month 35 homeless people arrived to survey a nice empty block of flats on the Homeleigh Estate, and promptly took over the whole place, they're even supported by the Tenant's Association who are sick of the large numbers of empties.

HARINGEY

Here evictions are well organised, but so are the squatters, who favour local people moving in, and are connected to a good Claimants Advice and Wapping Support Group. The big 'Cardboard Box' squat has been evicted but now a large dancehall near Turnpike Lane has been squatted and gigs are planned.

TOWER HAMLETS

The squatters group operate from Leslie the @ Bookshop and Food CoOp in Mile End. New and brilliant methods to open steel doors have been developed and spread. Squatting goes ahead very fast the Council responded with a shockhorror slander campaign in the local press, and the squat group replied with their own leaflet proving it is the Council, not them who smash up flats.

ISLINGTON

The Blut Blut and Flob Flob (cafe/gig/ video venues) in Upper Street still have not got notices of expected eviction. All London Squatters are anxious to defend them. A pro-squatting leaflet was put about the area with good reactions.

CAMDEN Not much new, the squat group soldiers on, lots of evictions.

ADVISORY SERVICE FOR

SQUATTERS

The phone rings constantly, including Xmas day. 10,000 copies of the squatters Handbook, printed last June, are almost sold out, and its being revised and reprinted, more photos and graphix welcome.

ALL LONDON SQUATTERS

The monthly meetings rotate round the different areas, with food, discussion and about forty activists attending. At the last meeting a Pirate Radio was proposed and later meetings planned three stations for local areas, fund raising etc.

MANCHESTER

An excellent squat group now exists and seems to be thriving and growing. They have taken responsibility for compiling the paper of the new all England Network for the first six months. Brixton has done a benefit for the paper. Send news, greetings, money etc to: c/0 75 Picadilly, Manchester 1.

BRISTOL

The all England squat conference was a great success, in a luxurious building specially occupied by the active local group. A Rolls Royce factory was also squatted for a celebration gig. Attendence was good, also from Holland and Germany, and there were workshops on Opening Doors/Electric and Gas/Law et etc. There was a creche, food, women's space, and more. Next conference plann ed for Brighton in the Summer.

DEFEND BROADWATER FARM

BROADWATER FARM Defence Campaign, 12/16 Tangmere Rd. London N17. On Wednesday Jan 14 about 50 picketted the Old Bailey at the start of the latest show trial, and again on February 2. Five people

BT Workers Cross A Few Of The Bosses Lines

As we go to press the first strike in the history of the National Communications Union (NCU) of engineers at British Telecom continues to bite harder. A number of exchanges and services are 'going down' at an escalating rate and for longer periods of time.

PRODUCTIVITY OR PROFITABILITY

The strike began when the recently privatised British Telecom replied to a 10% pay claim with an offer of 5% with a number of 'productivity' strings attached. 'Productivity' conditions are the management's way of describing a range of attacks on working conditions:

- 'flexible' working hours 7am-7pm. - Saturday as a normal part of the work ing week.

- abolition of the 9 day fortnight. The productivity (!) conditions are reall really about jobs. A recent report proposes that BT shed 70,000 jobs before

Yet BT workers are some of the most

'productive' in the country - they earn BT £9,000 profit per annum from each worker – totalling £1.8 Billion. LOCKOUT OR STRIKE

Strike action was taken after a government required secret ballot received an 80% vote in favour of industrial action. Workers imposed an overtime ban in support of their claim - which led to selective stand downs.outside London, when the workers refused to return to work as instructed. Management did not demand overtime from the workers staffing the City telephone system (it's vital to the big financial interests) arying blatantly to split the workers.

EAST LONDON WALK-OUT

A Branch meeting of the East Lon don NCU (which covers the City) then decided to strike in support of the over 20,000 comrades who had been stood down. At first the union leadership told

Wheelers Wheels Grind To Halt

Dear Comrades.

As you may have heard four Chinese chefs at Wheelers in Brighton have been on strike since November. The importance of this strike arises from its following implications. a) The Chinese community

b) The low paid in the catering industry c) on workers in Brighton.

This strike is the first strike undertaken by Chinese workers in this country. The strike is being closely watched by the Chinese community throughout the country and its outcome may have important implications on the confidence of Chinese workers in the future.

The catering industry is well known for its low pay and long hours and the weak position of its workers. The recent legislation on wage councils has cleared away any legal obstacles for an all out assault on catering workers living standards by their bosses. The strike could provide a rallying point against this assault showing catering workers that they can fight back and be supported.

Brighton has little industry and little history of workers militancy. Alongside offices, hotels and restaurants are the major employers. For these reasons we urge you to support the Wheelers strike. There are fifteen Wheelers restaurants, most of which are in London.

These need to be picketed. The Wheelers restaurants are fish restaurants, all the fish come from one central depot, this needs to be effectively picketed.

For any information on the strike please contact: Brighton Bomber, c/o 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton, Sussex OR Wheelers Support Group, CIAC 152-156 Shaftesbury Av., London WC2H 8HL

BACKGROUND TO STRIKE

Since November 10 four Chinese chefs have been picketing Wheelers fish restaurant at Market St in Brighton. The restaurant is franchised from Kennedy-Brooks, a large catering firm, by a Mr Denis Bailey who besides being a restaurant owner is a wealthy stockbroker. On taking over the management of Wheelers in February 1985 Bailey imposed rapid new working conditions on the workforce. Despite the fact that the four chefs had worked for Wheelers for over fifty years altogether, Bailey insisted they serve a probational period of 13 weeks. He altered shiftwork rules without consultation and refused to pay for overtime and bank holidays. In response the chefs held a one day strike. Bailey replied by attempting to buy off the individual workers with promises of financial inducements. This failed. Last October workers in some of the other Wheelers restaurants in London were offered their annual pay rise. Bailey refused even to negotiate over a pay rise for his workers. Consequent ly when Bailey attempted to add items to the traditional menu without consulting the chefs the four chefs refused to carry out his instructions unless he agreed to negotiations over pay. One of the chefs was sacked and three others walked out in protest

Although the strike is an official TGWU dispute, the Union has provided little support either nationally or locally. The Union delayed paying strike pay for six weeks and has repeatedly refused to spread informat ion to local branches without going through torturous formal procedures. The strike has been sustained by the determination of the four chefs and those who have supported

them on the picketline. The pickets have succeeded in reducing Bailey's custom by at least 50%, however, Bailey is clearly determined to stick the strike out. He has paid £12,000 to take out an unjunction limiting picketing to six (the four chefs, one interpreter and one union official). He is undoubtedly gaining support from his class. If the chefs are to win they need more support.

Since the new year the strike has begun to intensify. Direct actions have been taken against the restaurant. Secondary picketing of other restaurants connected to Bailey have started and a demonstration has been planned There are fifteen Wheeler restaurants, mainly in London, (five chefs have recently been sacked in a Wheelers restaurant in London) and all the fish for these restaurants come from a central depot based in north London. Pressure must be applied at the depots and other branches of Wheelers.

Support The Wheeler's 4



BOYGOTT **KENNEDY BROOKE** RESTAURANTS

WHEELERS 4

The London Support Group for the Wheelers 4 meets Fridays at 6pm at the Chinese Information Centre, 152-156 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 8HL. For more information 836 8291 or 379 5098. At the moment they are organising regular pickets on Thursday evenings. Donations for the workers can be sent to TGWU, Wheelers Hardship Fund, 20 Church Street, Hove, Sussex BN3 2FN.

Below is a list of Kennedy Brookes, London Restaurant outlets. Don't eat there; circulate this list; picket; leaflet; harass customers; use your imagination! 12a Duke of York St. SW1 17-20 Kendall Street, W2

1 West Street, WC2 40 Charlotte Street, W1 56 Frith Street, W1 17 Hertford Street, W1 15 Lowndes Street, SW1

- 25a Lisle Street, W1 33 Foster Lane, SW1
- 33c Kings Road, SW3
- 9 Fenchurch Street, EC3
- 20 Dover Street, W1
- 19-21 Gr. Tower Street, EC3
- 17 Kensington High Street, W8 19 Old Compton Street, W1.
- The above, unfortunately, are only the
- London outlets.

them it was unconstitutional to strike in support of stood down workers in other Branches – but the next day they backed down and called a full strike of the 120,000 members. This was popular as the workers have not had a pay rise for two years.

10% NO STRINGS!

INDUSTRIAL

On Wednesday 4th February, 15 to 20,000 NCU members marched through London, passing BT HQ where negotiations with the union bureaucrats were on, The strikers were well pleased at the strength of the turn out. Speakers at the the shorter the strike'. finale pointed out the danger of a sell out by the NCU Leadership - emphasising the chant 'no strings now, no strings ever'. The media that day had been hinting at a deal involving 'productivity' neg otiations spread over two years and the like. There was an awareness that the Union executive had to 'stand firm' as it has been exhorting members. One speaker called for a combined telecommunications and postal workers union (to hit the capitalists where it hurts). Others suggested that the BT management was setting, in the wake of the miners strike & Wapping, to try to break the NCU. They pointed out that the workers at the non-unionised BT subsidiary Viatel had got a 10% wage increase with no strings attached.

BT boss George Jefferson got an 85% pay increase last year - in preparation for a bit of dirty work perhaps? SOLIDARITY

Rank and file speakers pointed out that most workplaces were out 100% - this included non-union engineers at some depots - but the management scabs (members of the STE) were managing to patch up many services for now. Some pickets have gone 24 hours a day in an attempt to combat these tactics. pointing out 'the longer the picket line,

The need for 100% solidarity, mass picketing 'there's no such thing as a moderate picket' to be effective was emphasised, as was the importance a win now in a major industrial dispute would be for the whole working class. SUCCESS

The engineers might be the people to do this. Already business is hit hard. The internal PABX system at the Stock Exchange collapsed on Friday 30th Jan; links between Barclays Bank in London and Manchester are down; the Building Society 'link' system has broken down too, and Prestel can't send out of London. Access (credit card system) has threatened to sue BT for £2.5 million Contintued on page 7

CATERPILLAR OCCUPIED!



One of twelve thousand workers involved in the occupation

Workers at a mass meeting on January 13 at the Caterpillar tractor plant in Banochside, Scotland decided to occupy their factory. This was after learning that the giant multi-national had decided to close the plant down. Twelve hundred people would lose their jobs.

As usual, the closure has nothing to do with the running of the plant itself. The plant has high productivity, producing ten tractors a week, mostly for export and they have enacted the following working conditions: workers doing overtime, long-term pay deals to stabilise industrial relations and provide for more 'flexability' by breaking down skill demarcations and allowing sub-

contractors to work in the plant. But, despite this bending over backwards to meet the company's requirements, the closure seems to have to do with Caterpillar's battle over the world market for bulldozers with the Japanese giant Komatsu.

The eight hundred shop floor workers and four hundred office staff have little chance of getting other jobs in an area where one in five are on the dole. Dozens of local factories also supply Caterpillar.

Caterpillar are also remembered for their heavy-handed closure of the Birtley plant near Newcastle – where one thousand jobs were lost.

The sit-in has quickly turned into a work-in with workers continuing production to prove the viability of the factory. Obviously the workers in this country were learning the lessons of the miners strike and the print-workers dispute at Wapping where walkout strikes led to lockouts by bosses. At Caterpillar they are refusing to accept the sack and taking the first steps toward discovering that workers can run things themselves.

Brazilian Rail-Workers Take On The State

November and December 1986 saw a number of successful strikes on the Brazilian railways. The actions were over a series of improvements in pay and conditions promised ten years ago but never introduced!

The strikes were called by the LTO (League of Railways Workers) a rank and file union set up by the COB (Workers Confederation of Brazil) the local section of the anarchosyndicalist International Workers Association – IWA).

The first strike in November was a total success in terms of rank and file involvement despite a boycott by the reformist unions and despite the strike being declared illegal by Brazil's Labour courts. This strike paralised all urban transport as well as the country's railways.

Leonardo Morelli (secretary of the LTA, and also of the COB), and other COB members have been charged with illegal organising and sabotage. They stand to get six months to one year in prison as a result.

On the 12 December another strike was called – with more arrests taking place. However, this time other transport unions also took part in the strike. Regular army units were used against railworkers.

Thus the new regime has shown its willingness to use the laws, and the forces of the old dictatorship in the most authoritarian ways possible. The COB-IWA has launched an appeal

for support. Letters of protest can be sent to: Dr. Paulo Brossard, Ministro D, Esplanada dos Ministerios, 70.160 -Brasilia – DF, Brazil.

ALSO DONATIONS HERE TO: Direct Action, Box DA, 75 Picadilly, Manchester.

BLACK FLAG PAGE 3

Madrid Students Riot

Friday, 23rd of January: students all over Spain wound up a week of protests against the appalling conditions in schools and universities here, against the



selectivity system which all but excludes working-class people from college, and against the Education Ministry, which had ignored all their protests so far.

Various actions, demos, and rallies took place all over the peninsula but on this day, attention was focussed on the capital, Madrid, where 3,000 students at the head of a demo of 200,000, attacked the cops guarding the Ministry of Education with sticks, bottles and stones. Smashing traffic lights and over turning cars, they also managed to successfully set a cop alight. In the sidestreets round the Ministry of Education small groups of students organised raids on stray police vehicles with pavingstones; several police motorbikes were wrecked. By this time however, the cops had already started to use water cannon, smoke bombs and rubber bullets, and it didn't take long for them to take out their small arms and begin firing directly into the demonstration. They didn't manage to kill anyone, but one student Maria Luisa Prada, was taken to hospital with bullet wounds - reports say she's going to live. Students made sure they were armed with sticks and bars before the demo, a standard practice since the extreme right-wing agents provocateurs began causing fights in the middle of earlier protests, usually armed with guns and knives.

Any fascists thinking to get up to anything this time round were obviously put off by the demonstrator's attitude. ('The fascists broke a friend of mine's hands a couple of days ago' said one of the students, 'if any of them come out today we're going to make sure they shit themselves with fear'). The police didn't have sticks - they carried standard equipment: Star PK automatics with 9mm parabellum, Z-70 automatic rifles, and Cetme carbines. They used these without warning, almost as soon as the demo began. There's no need to add, then, that the demo has had a massive impact all over Spain: it isn't that long since Franco died.

Meanwhile In Catalonia...

On the 21st and 22nd of January, students all over the Catalan region of North-East Spain went onto the streets in protest against poor conditions, select ivity systems hopelessly biased against poorer students, and defending the right of workers to have tertiary education if they choose to do so.

In Cambrils on the Costa Daurada a rightist drove a car straight into the protest, hospitalising one student, while in Tarragona the local dockworkers put a hat round and gave fifty quid to the local students (Catalan dockers are currently on a go-slow in protest at government 'reconversion' schemes). The biggest demos were in Barcelona, though it is worth bearing in mind that all secondary and tertiary education was brought to a standstill over the whole of the region for those two days (student participation running at 95%).

Fifteen arrests in Barcelona alone, with beer bottles and bricks being thrown at the Mossos d'Esquadra (Catal-

an autonomous pigs) outside the Catalan government HQ. MacDonalds further down the Rambla - got trashed into the bargain as it were. 40,000 were in the street on both days, with demos in other towns and cities ranging from one to three thousand. Students affiliated to the CNT-AIT from Sant Cugat, just north of the city, came down for the protest. 4,000 students from nearby Sabadell came down free to the city in a massive 'Can't-Pay-Won't-Pay' improvised rush.

In Mollet, also near the city, 500 students successfully blocked the main road for a couple of hours, and 2,000 students took over the streets in the large town of Vic.

It seems the students here are following anarchist lines in their organisation - no signs of self-styled 'leaders', their reliance being on mass demand and solid arity within their own ranks. (The word student as used here means both college and school students).



Students fight police outside the Catalan parliament

Direct Action in Industry and the Community. Public Meeting and talk. Speakers from North West DAM 7.30pm

March 20th at Cartwright House (adjacent to ABC Cinema)., Broad Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.

PAGE 4 BLACK FLAG

'LIFE' IN CHILE

The following is a translation of an account by Spanish journalists of the treatment handed out to people seized by the Chilean CNI (secret police). The information is based on interviews with ex-prisoners:

INTERNATIONAL

'The prisoners suffer all kinds of ill-treatment. Live rats are put into their clothing and occasionally into their mouths and anuses, while they – the prisoners – are hung up by their arms from the ceiling Electric shocks are given to breasts, penis mouth and wrists. Their face and testicles are beaten. The CNI try The Telephone on them: in other words their heads are forced into a tank of water, or The Grill, whereby they are tied, wet, to an electrified bedstead. Sometimes they are put through phoney executions, or phoney games of Russian roulette. They are left hanging from the ceiling for hours, days. While all this is being done to them, they have a black hood over their heads, this is suddenly taken off for a few moments at odd times, just long enough for the torturers to open the door and show the prisoner their relatives.

All the prisoners react in the same way when they are forced to 'play' the Russian roulette – they take the gun and press the trigger without stopping, until t he barrel has gone full circle. The real torture of it is that there isn't a bullet in the gun, that the other tortures will then continue. When they can't take anymore when the doctor in charge of supervising the human material decides that the torturers might have a corpse on their hands, someone takes them away, and makes them sign a declaration which they are not allowed to read. They are then told: 'Ok, your lawyers are here'. They are washed, given food, made presentable, and two men arrive with Samsonite briefcases and say 'All right, how have they treated you here?' 'They tortured me, they forced me to sign, they almost killed me,' - and then the

two men close their briefcases, and the prisoners are taken back to the torture cells, where the whole nightmare begins again: the 'lawyers' were more CNI agents. .

This is the treatment the Pinochet regime metes out to its political prisoners. Their families are also persecuted, threatened, detained, interrogated, and beaten up, occasionally in their place of work, with the boss or supervisor discreetly arranging matters so that the police can get on with their beating-up without bothering the employees.

As for the torturers, there is evidence that they go to training schools, as did those of the Greek colonel's regime. They clock off regularly for lunch, which they often eat with their victims, joking with them, before going back to work.

Freedom for Political Prisoners!

The 'Libertarian Movement of Chile' (an affiliate of the 'Coordinadora de Estudios Hombre y Sociedad') has just joined a nationwide campaign launched by the 'coordinadora Nacional de Presos Politicos' (a political prisoners support group) according to the French Anarchist paper Le Monde Libertaire.

Part of the CNPP's campaign is for the release of fourteen prisoners -all MIR militants – currently under the threat of the death penalty. Although anarchists in Chile disagree politically with the Marxist MIR they fully support the campaign to release the fourteen and to abolish the death penalty altogether. The fourteen are: Fermin Montes, R Olando Cartagena, Rodolfo Rodriguez, Miriam Oertega, Juan Gajardo, Carlos Garcia, Cecilia Radrigan, Gonzalo Gonzales, Fernando Reveco, Raul Castro, Pedro Burgos, Hugo Marcant, Carlos Araneda and Jorge Palma.

International News In Brief

EX-CNT AFFILIATE IN FRENCH RAIL STRIKE

On local Catalan TV, Jose Gomez, a young affiliate of the anarcho-syndical ist CNT in Spain at the time of the Revolution, who had been forced into exile after Franco's military victory, spoke recently about the French railworkers strike. Gomez has for the last fifty years been living in Toulouse, working on the French railways, and was an active member of the local strike co-ordination committee.

He emphasised that one clear fact emerged from the recent French strike: that the railworkers had found their 'official' unions hopelessly inadequate and had begun seriously to organise themselves on anarcho-syndicalist lines, forming workers committees, and avoiding hierarchical structures in these new organisations. Gomez said that it was the first time in recent European history that libertarian methods had been put into practice by workers on any important scale. The result was that the government had for the full 27 days of the strike refused to listen to the workers' conditions. The government had issued statements saying they 'couldn't pay the railworkers any more' when in fact not a single one of the workers' demands was to do with pay, but with conditions. Gomez added that although the SNCF workers had 'lost' this time round, there were no regrets about having done what they did. They've had a taste of the possibilities of autonomous organisation, he said, and now will go on exploring

MT Barcelona.

USA

A group of fundamentalist Christian parents have won a lawsuit against a school in Tennessee, in which they claimed that the school's textbooks violated their religious freedom. Among the 'offensive' literature cited was the Diary of Ann Frank for implying that 'all religions are equal'; the Wizard of Oz because it portrayed a 'good witch'

and The Practical Princess because it encouraged children to disobey their parents'. The attorney for the fundamentalists said the textbooks were objected to because of 'the absence of strong, white male role models'. The school has been ordered to pay damages to the parents, who now have the right to withdraw their children from reading classes.

Source: Outwrite

GREECE: CHRISTOS ROUSSOUS

At 5pm on January 29th around 5,000 demonstrators marched through Athens in protest at President Christos Sarrtzetakis' rejection of an appeal by jailed homosexual Christos Roussous to have his life sentence reduced to 20 years. Riot police were later called to disperse the protesters when the Anarchist section of the march refused to go home. Roussous, who's just finished an incredible 74 day hunger strike, was jailed in 1976 after killing his former lover – turned pimp –. A decision by the Appeal Courts on the case has been postponed for a month. It is Roussous' fourth appeal against his sentence. Meanwhile police raided the house of an Anarchist on 28th January searching for one of the guns taken from police during a demo on November 17th (see Black Flag No 165).



Christos Roussos

Militant Opposition To State Repression

In the small Bavarian village of Wackersdorf, situated in the south of West Germany the ruling class plan to build a nuclear reprocessing plant, (i. e. burntout radioactive material from the already existing nuclear power factories are to go through a chemical process which makes it useable again). It is understood that Wackersdorf will not only take in material from West German nuclear power factories but from other European countries too. A main reason for initiating the Wackersdorf project is that the West Germany capitalists want to have their atomic firms and factories independent from the French and British reprocessing centres at The Hague and Sellafield-the two main centres for all European radioactive waste.

was being celebrated. Several arrests and charges involving alledged 'disturbing the peace' offences were made. It turned out later that police most probably moved in after an agent provocateur threw a stone.

INTERNATIONAL

Meanwhile in other cities of West Germany, Wackersdorf demonstrations were taking place on the same day. Events at Munich can be regarded as the first attempt to criminalise the anti-Wackersdorf movement; Christmas 1985:

A massive police force surrounded and sealed off the area. About 800-900 people were taken to the local police station where they had to endure the so-called 'ID-treatment' (finger prints and photographs taken, personal data computerised). Some of them later had to face charges of 'unlawful resistance against state forces'. During the time of the first hut village several autonomist groups had a hidden camp inside the woods from where they carried out various attacks on police equipment. Nobody was caught.



Four thousand march in Gottingen against police terror

Aside from that, the Wackersdorf project offers technical possibilities important for aggressive military use. This new capability will certainly improve West Germany's position as part of the imperialist Western block-NATO.

For years now the atomic mafia and parties in West Germany have eagerly worked on the rapid further development of the Wackersdorf project. At Christmas 1985 the first tractors arrived at Wackersdorf, to start the first stubbings work. Until Easter 1986 the building site area was tightly covered with forest and only a small field had been stubbed.

The region around Wackersdorf is called the 'Oberpfalz', situated in the east of Bavaria, not too far from the Czechoslovakia border. It is an area characterised by extremely high unemployment-i.e. if there is any work at all then it is in the few industrial urban centres of the region often far away from the smaller

communities. It is exactly around these topics that the propaganda machine of the atomic mafia and state have tried to argue for the building of a nuclear reprocessing plant. The local small business owners were promised attractive delivery orders and the creation of new job opportunities for the local population was publicly stressed over and over again.

Apart from these economic reasons the choice of Wackersdorf as the right place for a West Germany nuclear reprocessing plant was influenced by the very conservative mentality of the catholic Bavarian locals who used to vote regularly for right-winger Franz Josef Strauss's 'Christian Social Union' (CSU). This mentality seemed to make a determined resistance to the Wackersdorf project very improbable.

But once works on the building site in the forests around Wackersdorf started, the ruling class found themselves bitterly opposed. From September until Christmas 1985, again and again demonstrations and hut villages on the intended building site took place and were erected. A first mass demonstration of 100.000 at Munich in October 1985 took widespread protest into the streets of the Bavarian capital. At night time on the same day the Haidhausen area of Munich was sealed off by a heavy police presence in riot gear. They brutally attacked participants at a local street party where resistance to Wackersdorf

January1986: Eviction of the second hut village

Three weeks after the eviction of the first hut village a large police contingent sealed off the area. Three to four thousand people confronted six thousand police (among them the infamous special anti-riot branches: the SEK and BGS-a sort of equivalent to the US-National Guard—plus the notorious GSG9-who carried out the storming of the hijacked plane at Mogadishu in the Autumn of 1977, soon after the murders of Gudrun Ensslin, Jan-Carl Raspe and Andreas Baader in the isolation wing of Stammheim prison). Police movements were coordinated by helico-

People on the site were mainly locals, some Austrians (the Austrian government is against the Wackersdorf project), and about thirty activists from autonomist groups.

For three weeks the locals had regarded the autonomists with a certain suspicion-they both had almost no coordination between each other and each faction—the majority of locals and the minority of the autonomists-carried out their own specific actions. For example, it had meanwhile become a common custom to have a Sunday walk up to the fence of the building site each week, and while the locals held anti-nuclear banners and were shouting slogans, the autonomists attacked police with quick direct actions out of the woods closest to the fence.

On the occupied site where the second hut village was built, people had organised a kitchen and a church. There were huts and tents all over the place—on the ground and in the trees as well.

When the eviction eventually started, police narrowed their circle around the people, steadily forcing them to stand closer and closer together. As a result of this people in the tree huts were isolated from the others once they had been passed by the narrowing police cordon on the ground. They were evicted by GSG 9-specialists who invaded the tree huts by air, using ropes hung out of helicopters. The fact that the infamous GSG 9 had been on the scene at all was at first denied by the authorities. Only after four weeks had passed was it eventually admitted.

The atmosphere during the eviction itself was fairly good: shouting and music bands

from the tree huts put people in a good mood while they opposed the approaching police by forming human chains. After the police had demonstrated their extreme brutality the first steps towards a better understanding between atuonomists and locals, a readiness for broader militancy, spread at the same time as the sceptical view by which the locals had regarded the autonomists at first, ceased to

For instance, a sacred Jesus figure which had been brought into the camp's provisional church was removed by the cops and destroyed. That caused wide-spread anger among the locals who then joined in chants like: 'Police-Nazis!' Police indeed didn't hesitate and old people as well as children and members of strictly non-violent peace groups were brutally beaten up. For instance, although an elderly woman had circulation problems, police refused her medical aid at first and much later, when some people from the encircled inner part of the camp helped medics to carry her away, they were beaten up and arrested.

As a result of the second hut village's eviction about 500 people were arrested and brought to police stations for 'ID-treatment'.

Easter 1986:

The understanding between locals and autonomists grew deeper. Also a structural change among the autonomists themselves developed: now they do not come only from the south of West Germany but from all over the country to join the locals. Although it is understood that the Easter protests were mainly organised by peace groups it was also well known that the autonomists would prepare the 'feast of ascension' protests-many autonomists came down to Wackersdorf.

10,000 people confront the newly erected building site fence (installed just after the second hut village's eviction) and gather on the bare hills surrounding it. Those hills too had been stubbed to make it more difficult for militants to get back from the fence undiscovered. People were stopped and severely harassed still quite far away from the actual site-with police checkpoints in the streets and, again, 'ID-treatment' was common place.

Up to 3,000 cops were there, this time everyone of them inside the fence and from there, they were bombarding the people with tear gas grenades thrown from helicopters. They also used CN- and CS gas, mixed into water cannons, to try to disperse the protesters. CS-gas in particular is very dangerous, it was used in Vietnam, causes suffocation, damage to lungs and eyes and cancer.

Smaller camps of protesters, on private grounds, were sealed off by police because of alleged attacks on a TV-camera crew and 'weapon-like materials' were confiscated.

A man who sufferd from asthma died because of the use of CS-gas. Weeks after that incident police had to admit the CS-gas was the cause of death

February/March 1986:

An old woman died from a heart attack which she got because of the brutal way police were acting against people in the course of one of the Sunday walks. The manipulated press surpressed the facts which led to her death. The first death of the anti-Wackersforf movement initiated spontaneously, lots of decentralised direct actions. Banks and supermarket windows are smashed, petrol bomb attacks are carried out throughout the Federal Republic while slogans are sprayed which underline all that had happened: 'You gonna have to pay for this, murderers!', etc. In Gottingen petrol bomb attacks were carried out and stones were thrown at the town hall, a Mercedes-Benz showroom, banks and supermarkets and an occupation of the local newspaper was attempted to protest against the official silence policy. The Sunday walks continued all the time, always mingled with militant direct actions carried out from the shelter of the woods.



Easter 1986 actions

The fence was attacked on all sides. Attempts to saw holes into the fence were made (partially very successful). Petrol bombs and stones rained down on water cannons.

The locals behaved brilliantly. They collected stones in plastic bags, brought saw-blades over and participated in the sawings-facing heavy police water cannon and tear gas attacks all the time.

Some stricly non-violent peace groups mistakenly tried to position themselves between the people and the coppers and were mercilessly beaten up. The general mood was very good and friendly.

This exciting report for West Germany continues in the next issue...

News In Brief

ISRAEL

After the Nazi occupation of Austria, armed SS men went round the streets compelling elderly Jews to clean up the anti-Nazi slogans on the walls; when there were no more slogans left they got them to sweep the streets (degrading in the Nazi mentality). One of their preoccupations in Eastern Europe was to send out posses to get Jews to clear up the snow; these operations meant holding back troops from the front but they thought it worth it.

Today in Israel the practice continues but with an obvious difference. Jewish border police, for instance, compelled Arabs on their way to the village of Jebel Mukaber near Jerusalem to get hurled earlier by youngsters from their village. The youths had shattered windows o f Jewish homes in East Talpioth and blocked the traffic with mounds of stones. But the bus passengers had no way of knowing who the youths were, let alone having been able to participate. A border policeman said to a woman who said she could not bend down, 'If you can throw them, you can certainly pick them up and clear them away'. The humiliation of being ordered off the bus and told to pick up the rubble solely

because of racial identity under the supervision of armed police was compounded by jeering spectators, some of whom had been on the same bus.

FRANCE: Good News!

Our French comrade who was shot in one eye by CRS (riot police) during the recent student demonstrations left the resuscitation room last week. His fever had dropped. Francois is, of course very tired, but his health is considered to be satisfactory.

COMMUNIQUE FROM CRIFA:

The fourth congress of the International of Anarchist Federations, held in Paris on October 31, through 1, 2 and 3 November 1986, has mandated the French Anarch-



ist Federation to take over coordination of the International. Therefore all future correspondence to IFA should be sent: IFA/PUBLICO, 145 Rue Amelot, 75011 Paris FRANCE.

SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE SDP

COMMENT

The British Secret Service does not 'officially exist'. Although everyone knows that MI6 deals with foreign intelligence matters, in other words spying, and that MI5 is responsible for internal surveillance, in other words catching people spying here and watching for 'domestic subversion'. Their actual existence, where they are based, who is in charge, how much they are allowed to spend and how they are staffed is 'secret'. Noone outside of the security services themselves and the government of the day is meant to know anything about them or what they do. The greatest danger of this situation is that the security services do form a secret state within the state.

The recent antics of the Thatcher government to try and suppress the book written by the ex-MI5 operative Peter Wright in the Australian courts is just another example of the desperate efforts they will go to in order to keep the 'secrets' secret.

The allegations in Wrights book centre on two main areas. Firstly that

Scandal Of Missing

Technician Continues

James Abra vanished from sight at work But it did not make front page news. As reported in the previous Black Flag, he was sent to Libya in the course of his work for Plessey's as a senior technician to service installations in Libya.

While he was doing so, a Libyan diplomat in London decided to shoot a policewoman through the window of the Embassy; moreover Mrs Thatcher endorsed the US Government raids on Libya.

If Jim Abra's Arabic had been up to it, he might have read about it in the local press. It wasn't.

On his way home he was arrested by the Libyans as an agent of Zionist Capitalist-Imperialism, and an agent of the running dogs of Anglo-American domination. All he knew was how to fix radar.

He had a few of his own working plans and some road maps, which represented 'evidence'. Placed in a cage and incarcerated he is beginning a lifelong sentence in appalling conditions, to teach others not to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

This is miles more important than any spy story the Government can dig up because it means that any citizen can be picked up and blamed for the government's deeds or misdeeds. Since his arrest the Government does not want to know. We thought our story would provoke the press into publicising the case. Only the Mail on Sunday gave it a passing reference (Feb. 1). Can the silence be because the British Government want companies like Plessey's to go on trading with Libya and small hiccups like Jim Abra have to be condoned?

Weknow nothing of Jim Abra's background beyond what his fellow-workers say. To the best of our knowledge he has no politics and leads a conventional lifestyle. To Libya he is a piece of flesh to exploit, to the British State a piece of dirt to sweep under the carpet, and to Plessey's – well, they're making people redundant anyway. So he lies in a suncaked cell waiting till death releases him.

SPEAKING AS A MORON. . .

Alexei Sayle likes the charisma engaged by saying that he's 'an anarchist'. but when he writes in the Sunday Mirror it becomes 'an anarchist waggawaggagggaaawork win bon boo bim bish bint' . . . there are a lot of them around, he fears.

Incidentally, Sid never owned British Gas before, during or after nationalisation.



All over London, ING IT FROM often on the offi- HIM. cial British Gas Absolutely.

verts, somebody has stuck a well MENT IS STEAL-

Sir Roger Hollis, the ex-head of MI5 was a Soviet agent. Secondly that MI5 targetted the Wilson Labour Administra tion for surveillance.

It is the second of these areas that this article will concentrate on, but it is worth looking at the first. Was Sir Roger Hollis a Russian spy?

Certainly at the time of the revelations over the activities of Burgess, Maclean and Philby there was a hunt for the 'fourth man'. The reason for this hunt was that, with hindsight the action of the previous three was so blatant, the idea was widely canvassed that there must have been someone higher up in the intelligence service protecting them. Sir Roger is now being identified as that person by Wright. After all if they were not protected then the security services are shown to be almost totally incompet ent in keeping their own ranks safe from infiltration. If they could not ever catch spies in their own organisation how are they able to catch others?

This matter aside the second allegation in Wright's book, that MI5 targetted the Labour government of Harold Wilson is the more interesting and the one whose effects may still be felt.

WHO GIVES THE ORDERS? There are two versions as to why MI5 should have targetted those people who were nominally their masters in the Wilson government of 1966-70.

The first is that Wilson, angry over what he saw as a deliberate plot by certain 'right-wing' elements within the intelligence services, began to express publicly doubts over the loyalties and allegiances of the security services. They then turned on Wilson in an attempt to gain discrediting information on him or his colleagues in the Cabinet to frighten him off from any investigations into their actions and activities.

The reason for Wilson's anger was that shortly after the Unilateral Declaration of Independence by the white Rhodesian Government of Ian Smith in November 11 1965, Wilson asked for and received from MI6 an assessment of the effects of sanctions on that government. The report he got was that if sanctions were imposed the Smith regime would collapse in weeks. When sanctions were applied Wilson made statements based on this intelligence assessment. When it came apparent that sanctions against the Rhodesian government were having little or no effect Wilson was made to look foolish. Wilson came to believe that the original MI6 report had been set up deliberately to mislead him by supporters of the Smith regime within the British security services. By giving him this false information he believed they were deliberately trying to discredit his policy over Rhodesia.

This is why he began to question exactly who the security services were serving. The second version of why MI5 took on looking at Wilson and co was that they believed someone inside or close to the Cabinet was a spy. Apart from the obvious point that MI6 and MI5 are and were inherently suspicious of people they saw as 'socialist' was there any evidence to support the idea? As with all these security matters it is difficult to prove anything conclusively The evidence can be read in a variety of ways.

Certainly at the time of the targetting of the Wilson government MI5 did suspect that a large number of Labour MPs were passing information to foreign governments. It was believed that up to thirty of them were working for either the East Germans, Czechs or Russians. One Czech security operative, Joseph Frolek was to give information that there were at least three Labour MPs being controlled and run by Czech intell igence. Frolek told MI5 that although he did not directly control these spy/ MPs he had had access to the information they had given and that this information included secret defence department information.

WILL OWEN ON TRIAL

Acting on what little hard eveidence Frolek had given, the security services did charge one MP with spying for the Czechs. This was Will Owen the MP for Morpeth in Northumberland, Faced with these charges he resigned from the Commons and was remanded until trial. His trial, which lasted for thirteen days, saw the only evidence presented that he was a spy of his receiving from the Czech government £2,300 which he had not declared for tax and that he had passed non-secret and readily available information to the Czech embassy in London.

Will Owen was, from the point of view of MI5 an obvious target. He did have extensive contacts with the Eastern bloc. This was through his activity in running 'friendship' tours to the East. Like many MPs of his generation, Will Owen made no secret of his sympathies for the Eastern bloc countries. So through both business and sympathy Will Owen was a man who provided an easy target and a very obvious one for allegations of espionage.

The facts though were seen differently by the jury who found Will Owen not guilty. Despite the best efforts to try and show that his activities were spying all that was shown was that when paid commission for his work in organising tourism to Czechoslavakia he was as 'dishonest' as the next person by not telling the tax authorities. The security services had dismally failed to prove ther 'case' against Will Owen, and had



David Owen: SDP or KGB?

emerged discredited. If in bringing the case they had hoped to prove that the Labour Party had been steadily infiltrated and could therefore not be trusted, they had not succeeded. If trying to fire a warning shot at Wilson to stop his actions against them, they had failed

They had not been thorough, they had picked a very obvious target and had not got a result, at least not the result they expected. Will Owen had been dropped like a hot brick by all his parliamentary 'colleagues' once the charges were made. On his release he quietly set about trying to rebuild his life. He stayed a loyal member of the Labour Party despite their treatment of him until his death.

DAVID OWEN

Joseph Frolek, on whose original information the charges had been made, had almost immediately begun to say that they had been made against the wrong man. He had only been able to give them a surname 'Owen'. The man he now pointed the finger at was Dr. David Owen. Frolek was, of course, desperate to maintain his own credibili ity, and he was only certain of hearing that there was a Labour MP called Owen who was working for the Czechs. Our sources tell us that MI5 were so desperate to prove that the Labour Party was a nest of communist sympathisers that they picked the most obvious target: Will Owen. Frolek began to insist that it was David Owen who was the agent. The question arises: was Dr David Owen at some time an agent for Czech intelligence?

Frolek said at the time the Czechs were being passed defence department documents. David Owen was parliament ary private secretary to the Minister of State for Defence administration through 1966 and Secretary of State for Defence for the Royal Navy from 1968-70. He would therefore have had access to secret documents. In 1970 he returned to the back benches in protest. It was said to be over Labour Party policy in Europe:

His subsequent career in political life, the split with the Labour Party and

the formation of the Social Democrats is a matter of record. It is pure speculation but what if the charges made by Frolek are true? The security services had failed in their attempt to 'prove' that the case against Will Owen was true They would hardly be prepared to admit it was all a mistake and that they had got the 'wrong' Owen.

What then could they do with their evidence? If they had approached David Owen and threatened to go public with what information they had, if it were true, would he have not done anything to protect himself from the charges? Instead of working for the Czechs he could work for MI5. This would lay his whole subsequent career open to a different interpretation. David Owen now becomes the tool of the intelligence services and their shadowy masters in their long running fight with the Labour Party. Especially as the impression is constantly being given that the Labour Party is a threat to 'national security'

The split from the Labour Party and formation of the Social Democratic Party then can be seen as an attempt to split the electoral support for Labour so that they could not regain power. David Owen has consistently moved to the 'right' as is seen as 'sound' by the establishment over many of his attitude to such matters as defence policy which largely mirror those of the Tory party anyway. This shift may be not those of a man working under his political convictions but the threat of his own danger and possible criminal conviction.

If, at some time in the future the SDP do form a government, would not the fact that the leader of their Party might be a stooge for the security services pose a threat to us all? Curently, even with the supposed control of the government of the day, the security services do much as they like. Even in the case of the Wilson government bugging their meetings and burglarising their homes and offices. They already have been exposed as having an almost paranoid fear of any orgabisations they see as a threat. They targetted CND, bugging their phones and planting agents in the organisation. This when they are supposedly under control of the Prime Minister of the day! What then would the situation be like if they controlled the Prime Minister?

WHAT PRICE FREEDOM THEN? Until such time as all the records and files held by the security services are open to inspection by the public these questions posed and the possibilities outlined in this article cannot be denied or proved. We will never know the real reason why MI5 committed 'illegal' acts against the Labour Government and their advisors between 1966-1970. Noone will know who in that administration they suspected of passing information for the benefit of the Eastern bloc and no-one will ever know if a member of that cabinet was so compromised that he became a tool of the security services. We may never know but it is does not stop us from asking questions.

Editors Note: The general impression at the time was that Will Owen was a left wing Labour MP sympathetic to the Eastern bloc. This was not the case. He was a right wing Labour MP who got the seat because it was 'Buggins turn' in a mining district constituency. Once in London, he became the secretary of the Master Ladies Tailors Organisation. In that connection, someone - well known to many London anarchists for his print connections, but in fact a CP organiser - was trying to con back-street ladies

tailors into investing in the purchase of a used battleship which he proposed to sell to Czechoslavakia. (It would have been quite legal, had there been a battleship but it was simply a device to raise money). To make himself appear authentic he contacted the Czech embassy. When he mentioned Owen, they leaped at the chance of having an MP in tow and dropped the conman. Will Owen got involved in a minor matter with the Czech Embassy, but had nothing to do with spying. It is interesting that he may have been confused with David Owen. Even more so is the fact that the man whom originally contacted him suddenly dropped dead, at 33, while calling on the Movement for Colonial Freedom.

BT Workers

Continued from page 3

per day for lost revenue. Many exchanges are down to 25% of capacity, while others (twenty in London) have collapsed for periods of time. The press is silent about the effectiveness of the strike.

JOINT ACTION!

Supporters of the BT workers and News International's 5,500 sacked printworkers brought down the Wapping telephon. exchange for 3 hours on Monday Feb.

Continued from page 8

morale wanes, then that leaves guerrilla type action as a last resort – after all, scabs will be around for a long time and they are always fair game. That means more hits afainst the white mice/TNT depots, etc, ad infinitum. . .

LATEST NEWS is that the over 300 print workers and supporters marched on the Wapping Plant the day after the decisions to pull out by the leaderships were announced. More mass demonstrations are planned.

Also there are discussions amongst the London sections of the print workers about forming an independent breakaway union. It has to begin sometime after all, if the scab miners can do it, why not a fighting rank and file. Militant trade unionism will only survive and flourish when the militant rank and file sections breakaway from the reformist and reactionary leaderships/members and join forces on an industry-wide (and country-wide) basis in a war for workers control. The dispute continues. . .

The Wapping dispute has been killed

2nd when thousands dialled the London 481 prefix or numbers beginning with 481 at 3pm. It is believed this brilliant piece of solidarity sabotage is to be repeated. Same time, same telephone number, so join in.

PS (SLDAM)

Note: With the continuation of such a trend the government would inevitably take action under the preferential cutoff system; eg. VIP's, top businesses and central and local government would have their communications intact, the rest of would get by-passed. This system is the same that would be used in times of civil and class war.

Trade Union Treachery by the laws. No good saying the leadership sold out. They were told by the conference to save their financial assets at all costs – even if it meant ditching the strikers. While we have unions relying on bricks and motar we need a separate labour organisation that doesn't. Now, to avoid legal theft of their assets, the union leaders say that if there is picketing at Wapping they will tear up union cards of printers participating; while armed and mounted police will disperse pickets.

> With interest we learn from the ARMY (Anti-Rupert Murdoch Yobs) that, with no connection with the print dispute, they plan to extend the fight against Murdoch to the company he has just bought up, Twentieth Century Fox. Let Murdoch hire some crooked lawyer to find that it is impossbile to criticise bad films from the audience; let him employ riot police to charge into the cinema-going crowds in Leicester Square to disperse pickets; let him put security police and barbed wire on the entertainment centres. How many would be prepared to say several pounds to scab by going to the film in question?' We understand the next major Murdoch epic may be given the treatment, and await the news - which we will pass on...





Anarchist Deserter Arrested

Orazic Valastro, the anarchist comrade who deserted from "national service" in the Italian army, was arrested at gunpoint on Thursday January 23 following an anitmilitarist demonstration organised by the Catania anarchist group in Catania, Sicily.

Comrades may remember that Orazio deserted from the army at the end of 1981 and was arrested months later while on his way to speak at a public meeting with antimilitarism as its theme on March 4 1982. His arrest gave rise to clashes with police resulting in a number of comrades being imprisoned, some of whom still have trials pending. He was tried and sentenced to five months' prison which he served in Palermo military jail. On his release he was given 24 hours to reach the barracks or be re-arrested. Refusing both, he went into exile in France where he remained for two years. During his stay he began the French anarchist editions Revolte e Liberte. It was at this time that he was 'kidnapped' by French police, taken to a lonely spot and beaten up. They threatened to kill him if he refused to 'cooperate' and infiltrate armed groups that were presumed to exist in the Paris

region. Orazio denounced this aggression and threats to the Public Prosecutor, the Press and the international anarchist movement.

Now, on the day of his arrest, Orazio had been participating an a demonstration based on the total refusal to do military service.

His struggle and his present incarceration highlights the barbaric situation that faces thousands of proletarians in Italyand elsewhere each year, forced into a homicidal structure that they want to have nothing to do with. Exile, self-mutilation and even suicide are often the consequences.

Orazio is now awaiting trial in Carcere Militare, Palermo, Italy. He is due to be tried by direttissimo and risks seven months' prison with an obligation to join the army again at the end of it or else...it all begins all over again. AGAINST ALL ARMIES

FREEDOM FOR ORAZIO VALASTRO Protests to:

Procura della Republica, Tribunale Militare, Palermo, Italy.

Animal Enthusiasts Devoured

Sentenced: Ronnie Lee, Vivienne Smith, Roger Yates, Brendan McNally, Jennifer McNally. Kevin Baldwin, Julie Rogers, Gary Cartwright and Isobell Facer pleaded guilty.

The trial of alleged 'leaders' of the Animal Liberation Front – which in reality has no leadership – ended in savage sentences being given, an indication of the panic which they inspire in the Establishment. Their actions had hurt property, not people, they had trespassed on that Holy of Holies, the Tory Party in hunting pink

and in pursuit of their views on the exploitation of animals, which we don't entirely share, they had damaged commercial interests. These are crimes which the Establishment could not lightly forgive so they brought out the rustiest and surest of weapons, the Conspiracy Laws, easier to throw around, but the most damaging in their impact.

If these are not political prisoners, what are they? A campaign for their early release must begin immediately.

