

DO YOU REMEMBER

LABOUR GOVERNMENTS?

Do you remember labour governments?
now don't misunderstand us; vote labour if you want, we can't stop you but...

Do you remember labour governments?

Do you remember notting hill?

Do you remember lewisham?

Do you remember southall and the murder of Blair Peach?

go ahead, vote labour if you have to but...

Do you remember grunwicks?

Do you remember the winter of discontent?

Do you think if kinnock was in power during the miners strike he would have treated them any different than the tories did?

Do you think if labour were in power their reaction to the urban uprisings would have been any different from the police?

Do you think truncheons and plastic bullets will taste nicer under a labour government?

Do you really believe that the capitalist elite will allow themselves to be peacefully voted out of existence by some poxy labour party, just like that without a fight?

Do you seriously think that the nonsense of parliament has any real relevance to the class war going on everyday in the streets and factories?

Do you think our whole lives should be reduced to the misery of hanging around waiting for the next election, just so we can vote labour, hoping in vain it will change something? IT WILL CHANGE NOTHING!!

Parties, vanguards and leaderships can't give us what we need they only represent their own class interests. The only time we really win anything is when we fight for it ourselves, with our own hands through DIRECT ACTION/MASS RESISTANCE/WORKERS CONTROL.

BUILD THE AUTONOMOUS RESISTANCE MOVEMENT



Thames Valley Anarchists !
box 19 17 Chatham st, Reading

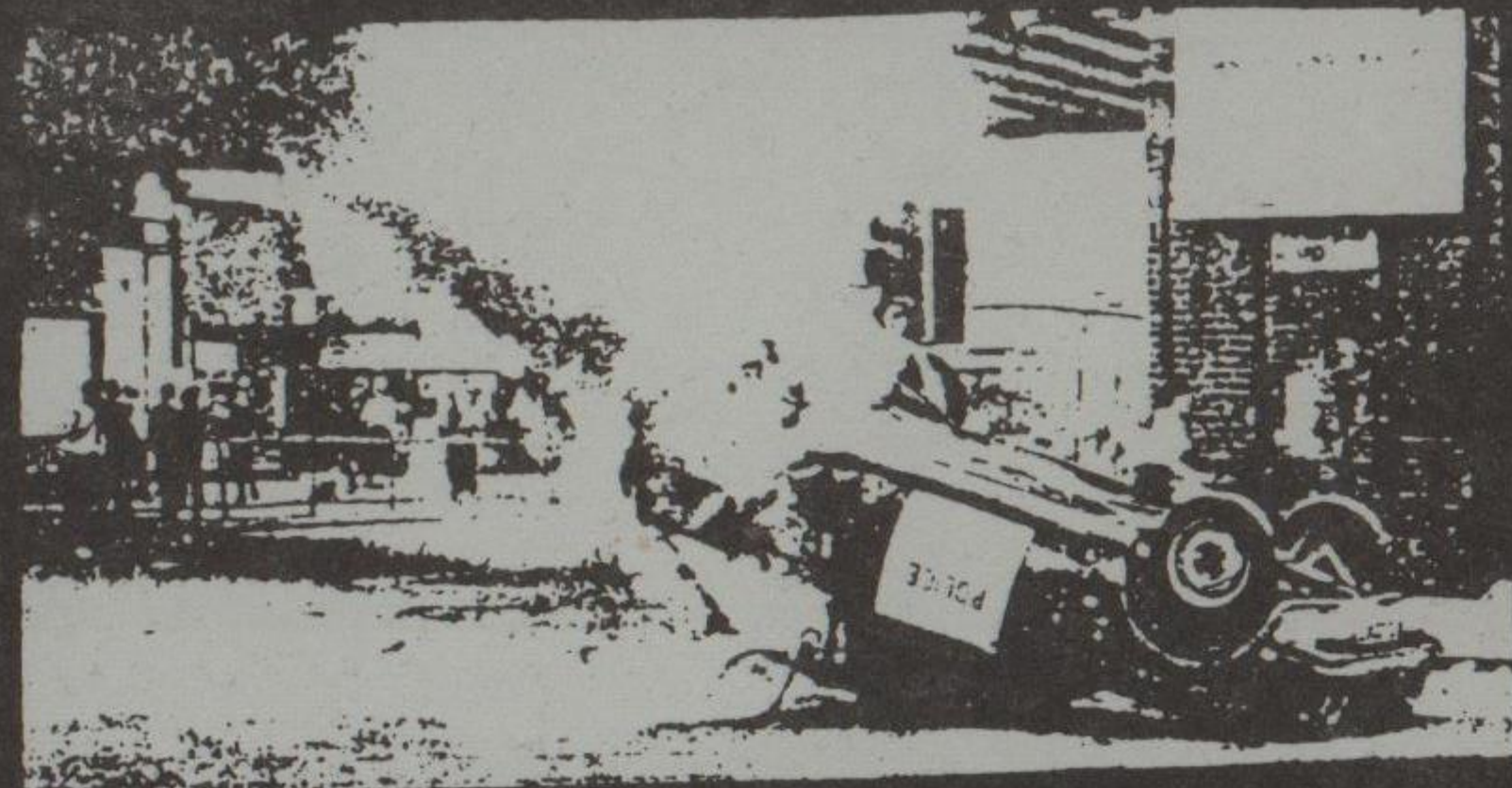


VOTE LABOUR AND STILL DIE HORRIBLY

Thames
Valley
Anarchists



WHOEVER THEY
VOTE FOR
WE ARE
UNGOVERNABLE



Don't imagine that you can beat them without using force. . . Because if you believe them they will be completely in charge in their marble homes and granite banks from which they rob the people of the world under the pretext of bringing them culture.

Jean-Paul Marat

kinnock's filthy fraud!

LABOUR'S PLAN FOR CAPITALISM

Compared to the evil of the conservative capitalist dictatorship and police state the labour party appears as the lesser of two evils, just a fudging party of reformists. But this is a dangerous illusion; the labour party is and always has been an essential part of the states mechanism of control and exploitation over our lives!

After living for years under the thatcher tyranny we have a longing for the end of tory rule, we are encouraged to have a longing for the end of tory rule. Like the end of franco's reign anything that is a little bit more "liberal" becomes regarded as salvation. We are encouraged to yearn for a popular leader or saviour to come from above and deliver us from the current pestilence. Like sheep we are asked to blindly trust anyone who promises the slightest comfort and compassion. In this way any serious political or economic changes the system may feel it has to make to save itself can be sold to us. The capitalist establishment may soon decide that continuing with the monetarist policy of deliberate mass unemployment is too risky and that instead the unemployed should be recruited into labouring armies building new motorways etc, third reich style. This measure could be imposed upon us disguised in the form of the "caring, compassionate, welfare socialism" of a labour government. Under the leadership of kinnock, who dreams of himself as some sort of popular working class hero, this corporatist vision has been drawn in labours jobs and industry campaign with some social nationalism thrown in and with pseudo-radical upcoming popstars like billy bragg to promote it. Money for jobs not dole simply means in future under state socialism we will have to work in order to earn our dole. Rather than abolishing capitalism labour will try and revive it with a revamped keynsian reflation. Indeed kinnock in his vile arrogance now openly talks of 1930s american style "new deal capitalism".

LEFT LEECHES

When they're out of office the labour party desperately needs to jump on whatever bandwagon will help it recruit new members and catch votes in the next general election. This is nothing new. They've been at it for years; the peoples march for jobs, CND, jobs and industry campaign...Each time they are squeezed dry and cynically discarded. This process can be seen working very smoothly with the peace movement as they protest about the very weapons that the labour government brought into the country in the first place. In the inner cities they make up the left establishment; running councils, forming police committees, and whatever they say their true role lies in diverting our anger into the most irrelevant community schemes and projects trying to make us embittered individuals feel closer to the system that divides and isolates us. Labour does not seek the liberation of "minority groups" but seeks to separate them and ghettoise them in order to turn them into colonies of the imperial labour hierarchy. Not just hypocritical Tories but everyone apart from diehard Ken Livingstone supporters can now see that his whole game with the GLC was jobs for his own boys and a springboard to a cushy seat in parliament. Red Ken now says it is heresy even to dare criticise kinnock, all dissent must be silenced so the party can win itself an election at our expense.

For the left, their adventures into electoral politics have been a devastating disappointment and have only resulted in a series of lost deposits. They are now united in the belief that their progress is dependant on the electoral success of the labour party, despite its

shortcomings. Worming their way into the labyrinth of party committees, they hope to develop an ALTERNATIVE LEADERSHIP within the party. As workers distrust and discontent with the traditional leadership grows they want to neutralise it by FEEDING IT BACK into the labour party machinery and dissipating it in support for left wing caucuses. Being part of established institutions such as the labour party, and at the same time part of the left is not a contradiction. It's just a question of tactics. When it comes down to it the left has no intention of abolishing the capitalist structure and the state. If they got to power we would have the same social fabric, with a socialist police force kicking our heads in with their socialist boots. Although these different groupings are often in fierce competition, reformist and militant alike seek to ride to power on the back of our struggle. So they try to control that struggle right from the start. We are the canon fodder for their "tactical advantages" to be safely put away in prison when no longer needed.

The trotskyist "militant" tendency has completely sold out to the capitalist labour party. "We are not anarchists" says a young militant activist- too bloody right you're not!! One of their manipulated stunts was the school strike. This was not simply a matter of opportunism and recruiting of party fodder to be exploited. Seeing that quite militant (in the true sense of the word) wildcat actions were being carried out already by many school students they staged a one day national school strike. The strike was called to PRE-EMPT any further autonomous wildcat actions, as such action threatens to undermine the left leadership and leave it redundant. Militant openly admitted they were collaborating with the police trying to prevent riots against the state by attempting to organise youth into respectable peaceful (and therefore useless) parliamentary campaigns. But the corny stunts of militant cannot diffuse or divert the anger and fighting spirit of dispossessed youth. Kinnock puts on a big show trying to expel a few militant old boys so he can pose as a moderate rambo for the press, but he won't expel the 5000 rank and file supporters. He needs the young, innocent and naive militant tendency girl guides and boy scouts to go round putting labour leaflets through letterboxes and ringing doorbells bob-a-job style on election day.

THE RED ARM OF THE LAW

Given the labour party's opposition to the police bill for instance, let's have a look at their past achievements in the field of law; the prevention of terrorism act giving backing to state terror; arming the police with riot equipment at, lewisham 1977 and southall where it was LABOUR'S police, not tory police, who murdered blair peach: strengthening cowboy units like the SPG. When in office the labour party has given the police every ounce of its support as they smash down those workers who fight back outside the cozy confines of their rigged publicity stunts. Are we meant to believe some miraculous change of heart has taken place since then? Or are they going to continue in the spirit of eric neffer when as riots routed the police in 1981 he said "Rioters and looters must be punished with all due severity." Kinnock and his chums (hattersley, willis etc.) went on television during the miners strike to condemn strikers and pickets who used force to resist the state. So loud was his phoney condemning of "all violence" one could even be fooled into thinking he is a pacifist, but of course in reality kinnock is a firm supporter of violence. He supports the military violence of NATO, he supports the violence of the british army and he supports the violence of the police. A labour government will mean more and more smiling social workers and more and more smiling "community" (riot) police.



VOTE LABOUR AND STILL DIE HORRIBLY

The labour party says it will remove all U.S nuclear weapons from britain. Why it holds such a policy is not immediately clear. On the one hand such a pseudo pacifist policy may be an electoral liability, and on the other hand it is painfully obvious they will never actually carry it out, so why do they claim to support such a policy? The key to the mystery is to ask whether "nuclear disarmament" is really an important issue at all; what in isolation does nuclear disarmament mean? more conventional weapons to kill people? neutrality? pacifism? support moscow? In isolation it means nothing until one remembers the majority of the labour party is very much IN FAVOUR OF STAYING IN NATO. Labour's defence policy simply calls for a more efficient CONVENTIONAL Defence of capitalist nato!!(making war in europe more practical). The revolutionary debate about "How do we stop the imperialists and their war plans" is totally reversed and becomes a reactionary debate about "What is the best way to defend nato." The calls to remove all U.S forces from british soil appease whatever nationalist and anti american sentiments the public might have. The peace movement dominated by the labour party becomes an instrument of pacification and spurious opposition. Fear and compromise ensures that any situation will be found more bearable than the nuclear inferno.

DESTROY THE LABOUR PARTY

We must avoid at all costs falling into the trap of thinking about the labour party as merely being soft wet liberals or being nice reformist but naive. The labour party is a powermad party which seeks to seize state power of life and death over the lives of millions of people including our lives. Anyone who weilds power over us is a threat to us no matter how well intentioned they may pretend to be. They cannot secure our interests as they have their own interests to look after and sooner or later their interests will come into conflict with ours. Kinnock eagerly anticipates being a world statesman sitting at the genocidists'/imperialists' table at western summits laughing and playing games with the masses below. His fake patronising compassion and hypocrisy is obscene and exposes the nature of the party as a whole. LABOUR WILL SAVE CAPITALISM WHILE PRETENDING TO BE SOCIALIST. There is nothing we can really gain from the systems opposition parties. Parliament is no use to the working class, the sooner the IRA blow the place up the better-it is the struggle in the streets and factories that matters. WE ARE OUR OWN LEADERS, WE HAVE OUR OWN SELF ORGANISATION AND TACTICS, WE CONTROL OUR OWN STRUGGLE.

The old slogan of the left is vote for the labour party without illusions, the slogan for anarchists is SMASH THE LABOUR PARTY WITHOUT ILLUSIONS!!!



GENERAL ELECTION OR GENERAL STRIKE!

The abstentionist position is due to the fact that anarchists and the revolutionary anarchist movement believe in direct action, which means we believe that conflicts between workers and employers, between community and police etc. should take place directly face to face, without intermediaries, because this is the only way to get over the contradictions and obstacles which the workers movement finds with the ruling class. When we say intermediaries we include political parties, mps, elections and the state in general.

Given that we start from the premise that these intermediaries always work to the benefit of the employers, we believe that they also lead to the political institutionalisation of a set up in which one class dominates the other; to participate in their systems is, for us, to reinforce them, and so to support something which we are against.

And so it would be absurd for us- given our active resistance to being controlled and ruled- to take part in any kind of political power election....To take part in bourgeois systems is to be bourgeois. To collaborate with the political systems used by the establishment to consolidate their power is to collaborate with that same establishment. Anarchists don't collaborate with establishments and institutions.

This is why we are asking people to abstain from the general election, just as we would ask them to abstain from any legislative, municipal or local election; such elections have no place in our way of doing things. And when we talk about abstention we don't mean simply that you don't vote; we say the election powergame and diversionary show has to be boycotted actively, like any election, by building our fighting resistance movement to seize control of the streets factories and shops and create a situation where the question of the "tweedledum or tweedledee" election is exposed as the irrelevant farce that it is.

Of course some people will say that the position of the anarchists amounts to "helping the Tories". Whoever says that has got it wrong because first for us the "Tories" alone are not the right wing. For us the right wing, the bosses and capitalism consist of all those who willingly accept the capitalist systems, including the labour party. That is to say, of all those who accept the rules of the parliamentary "democratic" (oligarchic) game. Secondly when large numbers stay away from the polls, it doesn't help any of them as it is an indication that the public is getting bored with the top of the power pops TV show. It is time for the state to start worrying as when the general boredom turns to general alienation and conscious refusal then rebellion is on the way.

If we are bored with the whole system why should we vote for it?

The labour party parliamentary road to socialism is essentially engaging in a flight from reality- horrified by the social decay they see around them, they retreat into even more vacuous phraseology. They entertain liberal illusions that are ridiculous even by the standards of the old 19th century utopians. From its "moderate nice guys" to its "nasty lefties" labour goes no further than to attempt to reform reformism by trying to bury the basic tension between reform (the self-revolutionising tendency of capitalism) and revolution (the abolition of capitalism). And of course they fail!

Argument overheard on a bus!

MR ANGRY: "The usual anarchist position on voting is "don't". This springs from criticisms of voting as creating the illusion that genuine political power is centred in parliament and also that by placing the right people in parliament a free, equal and just society can be created. It is also claimed that by not voting the well meaning(?) but impotent reformists are removed from the political stage, leaving only the revolutionary and reactionary parties to fight it out. The proletariat can then have a clear view of events, uncomplicated by the schemes of "democratic socialists". This excuse is used to justify the 1930s election strike in Spain (instigated by the anarcho-syndicalist trade union CNT) which led to the victory of right wing parties. But this argument is plainly weak. If it is genuinely in your interests to have a reactionary government, then you might as well vote for one!..."

"I won't argue with the fact that (bourgeois) democracy is a con but no one can deny that the nature of government in a democracy has any effect on the conditions in that country at all. So it should be obvious that if you can decide which party forms the government you should choose the party which, on balance, will create the conditions which you see as the most beneficial to the struggle. As to creating the illusion of worthwhile change by voting, anybody anarchistic enough not to vote out of principle will of course not believe such crap anyway!"

ERIK: "With the case of the 1930s election strike in Spain the anarchists were faced with a situation where a violent reaction from the right was effectively inevitable. If they voted for the right wing parties this would just pave the way for the reaction, if they voted for the parties of the left they would simply be swept aside anyway. Either way the result would end up being the same. There was no point in the anarchists attempting to boost one set of parliamentarians in opposition to another set of parliamentarians when the whole parliamentary show is about to be snuffed out. It was far better that the anarchists spend their time and energy preparing and organising for the coming confrontation and to oppose the reaction with a social revolution. And the events which came about showed the futility of putting faith in the socialists..."

"...The opinions and attitudes of a society are a reflection and product of the existing economic class forces within that society it is not the other way round. If "liberal democracy" were to be representative it would simply be a reflection of the political needs of the capitalist economy at a particular stage in its development. So whatever the outcome of an election whether it is victory for "left" or "right" it is always the outcome the system requires. The "new deal" capitalism of the labour party (which Kinnock in his arrogance openly admits) maybe precisely what the capitalists require to follow up the Thatcherite assault on the bargaining power of organised labour."

MR ANGRY: "Your argument about attitudes being a reflection of class forces is over deterministic. If the outcome of an election is always the best outcome for the system then surely any other mass involvement in politics must also act in the systems best interests. Your

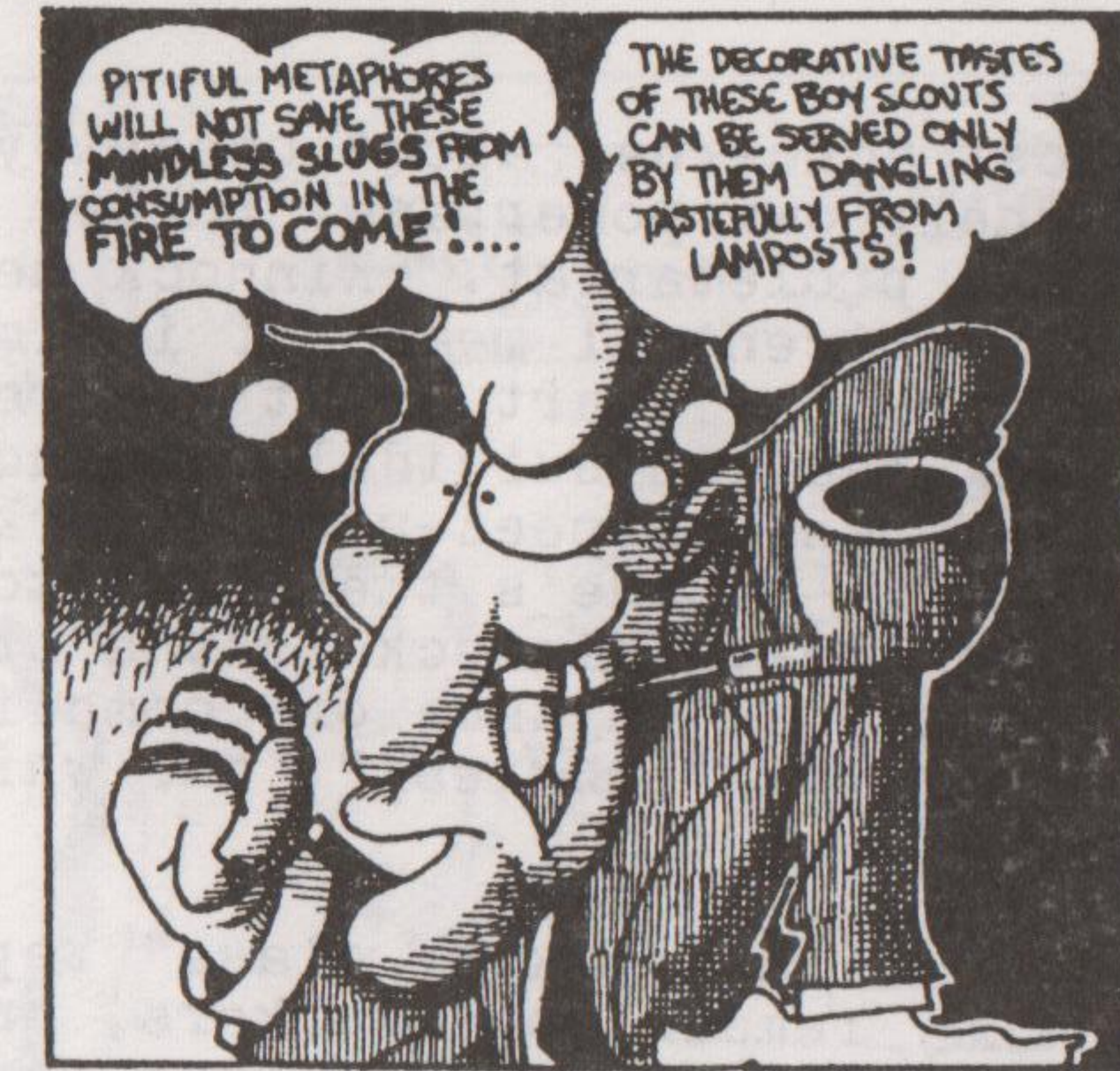
argument is mistaken..."

"..It is true that people are influenced by existing conditions, but these conditions are themselves decided by people. There is space in life for decisions to be made by people, therefore an election outcome is not determined only by "economic class forces."

"Parliamentary politics is obviously not the main terrain for class struggle (as the revisionists of the 2nd international beleived), but parliament can effect existing conditions and so alter the details of the class struggle. Trying to introduce revolutionary politics into parliament, or joining in the election time "vote labour campaigns" Are both counter-revolutionary. But an individual comrade who votes is attempting to influence conditions in the way they see fit, without doing any harm."

ERIK: "...The media continually tells us (and some lefties are stupid enough to believe this) that the labour party is a trojan horse for the left. But the labour party is far more likely to prove a trojan horse for the right! The danger is that those forces pushing for change and revolution will be mobilised in a populist movement to promote and further the exact opposite of what they originally set out to achieve. Take the strengthening of US military and imperialist interests in the philipines with the boosting of aquino into power for example. In the past the labour party would have been brought into the government periodically to save the system while pretending to be socialist, depending on the ups and downs of the economy. Now the likes of kinnock do not even pretend to be socialist!"

MR ANGRY: "The only problem for the anarchist that votes is that they cannot use the slogan "Whoever they vote for we are ungovernable." For the time being government will continue, why not choose the "best" of the shit? I'll probably "vote labour without illusions" (even the illusions that the swp, whose slogan that is, have)."



The MISERY OF REFORM, THE REFORM OF MISERY.

"WHEN THE PROLETARIAT DISCOVERS THAT ITS OWN EXTERNALISED POWER COLLABORATES IN THE CONSTANT REINFORCEMENT OF CAPITALIST SOCIETY, NOT ONLY IN THE FORM OF ITS LABOUR BUT ALSO IN THE FORM OF UNIONS, OF PARTIES, OR OF THE STATE POWER IT HAD BUILT TO EMANCIPATE ITSELF, IT ALSO DISCOVERS FROM CONCRETE HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE THAT IT IS THE CLASS TOTALLY OPPOSED TO ALL CONGEALED EXTERNALISATION AND SPECIALIZATION OF POWER. IT CARRIES THE REVOLUTION WHICH CANNOT LET ANYTHING REMAIN OUTSIDE OF ITSELF, THE DEMAND FOR THE PERMANENT DOMINATION OF THE PRESENT OVER THE PAST, AND THE TOTAL CRITIQUE OF SEPERATION. IT IS THIS THAT MUST FIND ITS SUITABLE FORM IN ACTION. NO QUANTATIVE AMELIORATION OF ITS MISERY, NO ILLUSION OF HIERARCHIC INTEGRATION IS A LASTING CURE FOR ITS DISSATISFACTION, BECAUSE THE PROLETARIAT CANNOT TRUELY RECOGNISE ITSELF IN A PARTICULAR WRONG IT SUFFERED NOR IN THE RIGHTING OF A LARGE NUMBER OF WRONGS EITHER, BUT ONLY IN THE ABSOLUTE WRONG OF BEING RELEGATED TO THE MARGIN OF LIFE."

"SOCIETY OF THE SPECTACLE"

The labour party is merely the largest political representation of the confusion of the careerist stratum of reformists and collaborators who have- in practice- always sided with, invested in and helped develop capitalism, (HAROLD WILSON'S AND KINNCK'S WHITE HOT HEAT OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION- DEATH WARMED UP) Yet constantly contributed to its miserable symptoms. They are the largest "political" representation of those who want a niche in this world yet want the appearance of concerned opposition; those who want the thrill of "refusal" and the security of complicity. (The labour party today- technocratic, managerial, politically neutral) All the grotesque convolutions and weak-willed manouvres of this stratum have this essential contradiction at their base. They do not oppose "1984", they are the acceptable face of 1984- powers best friends.

In competing with power/capital on its own terrain, these individuals who readily compromise class power in the pursuit of careerist niches, try to hide this sellout by appealing to realism. They proffer up their point of view for the acceptable forms of change (acceptable to the multinationals, the military-industrial complex, rupert murdoch) which, despite never having changed anything but the shape of the prison bars, have a certain abstract image or forewarning of immediate effectiveness. (The effectiveness with which they rally round the accumulated crisis of what they are really working for- CAPITAL). When they vote for reform theywillingly accept and accelerate the division of labour; in the pursuit of the white hot neat of the technological revolution; automation, speed-ups at work, redundancies, rationalisation, social insecurity...

If labour is the party most concerned about unemployment, it's mainly because it disorganises their own powerbase; fueled on the energies and political levies of the proletariat. Kinnock never attacks unemployment as one of the most central means of intimidating the proletariat- yes, he speaks from the heart about the results of unemployment-atomisation; the big leap in suicidal tendencies and breakdowns; intensified survival panic; speed-ups at work, vastly increased productivity, cheap labour- but he's the first to stick the knife in when his niche is on the line. Kinnock is the Dr Jekyll of the intensified domination by inhuman rhythms of commodity time- production/consumption- in the name of "progress", the white hot heat of the technological revolution.

It's clear that the "party of the working class" represents the workers only so long as they remain good workers, only so long as they continue producing their alienation. The labour party along with the trade unions; promote the slogan over the gate at auschwitz; "work makes you free."

DEPRESSED? SEXUALLY HUNG-UP? LET KARL MARX SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM!



dear Marx

DEAR KARL,

I can't keep it a secret any longer-I am a wanker. Over the years I have tried to come to terms with this problem but no matter where I go I am seized by the overwhelming desire to whip it out and have a good thrash. As a member of CND and the Labour Party I have tried to talk about this problem with others but they can give me no guidance although some have offered me a hand. Help me, I feel another bout on the way.
MARX REPLIES:

Industrial struggles are the point of conflict with the capitalist oppressor. Workers can only achieve their aims by trying to develop struggle perspectives of opposition. Under modern capitalism this has been achieved by the fundamental notion of downing tools. This I see also as your immediate goal.
KARL!

Stolen from South Wales Sicks

DEAR KARL,

My son, Wayne, has been a happy, cheerful boy. But lately I notice a change in him. Most days he hardly says a word and lies around the house with his eyes rolling in his head. He has set fire to the cat and keeps moaning about no future. Just yesterday I discovered that the G-plan wardrobe in his room was packed with evo-stick glue pots. I can only reach one conclusion. I know other parents are in a similar position. Please advise me!

MARX REPLIES:

In this epoch, finance capital is restricting its investment interests in an effort to cleanse its temples of industry. The proletariat, historically oppressed, are burdened and confused by this latest gyration of the oppressors. They are torpid and fragmented, Wayne sounds like a good kiddy, but he's got the wrong end of the stick for the time being. My advice is to get him selling papers and hanging around on street corners - he may get a job modelling misery for the revolutionary left.

By the way, thanks for the smack. KARL

