LABOUR are restructuring the welfare system to benefit the bosses to an extent that the Tories could only dream about. The New Deal attacks the entire working class. Resistance is vital.

Under 25's unemployed for over 6 months are forced to attend the "Gateway" interviews. They aim to find pressure to lose 40% of the workforce. The New Deal attacks the entire working class.

1) A paid temporary six month job. The employer (private or public) gets £60 per week subsidy, and after 6 months can replace the New Dealers with more subsidised workers.

2) Working for a Voluntary Organisation for 6 months, paid benefits plus £15 per week.

3) Working on an Environmental Task Force for 6 months, for benefits plus £15 per week.

4) Full time education. Mainly for those lacking NVQ level 2. Paid existing benefits.

5) Self Employment. Claimants who won't participate, or leave early, face having their JSA benefit cut completely.

The New Deal brings the UK nearer to USA type workfare - compulsory work for a boss for benefits for most unemployed and single parents and for many disabled people. New York City uses 75,000 workfare workers, intended to grow to over half its employees. They have cut over 20,000 unionised jobs.

- means more "casualisation" - 6 months temporary jobs under-mining everyone’s wages and conditions. Employers can use the temporarily subsidised jobs to "filter out" activists.

- aims to impose work discipline and state control. Instead of defying the bulldozers at road protests young unemployed people will be on the litter patrol in the Environmental Task Force. They want to socialise people into the rat race - slaving for 50 years to pay for your funeral.

- furthers privatisation, with private companies like Reed running the New Deal in Hackney, London.

RESISTANCE Resistance is needed at all levels.

During the Gateway process claimants should take someone with them to all interviews.

Even if forced onto the new Deal, "New Dealers" can still resist. When the Employment Training scheme operated around 1988-90 several ET workers groups sprang up and some successful strikes were held (see CI 25 etc).

From July-December 1996 New York workfare workers held over 30 demos demanding proper wages and work benefits.

CONT. BACK PAGE COLUMN I

Why Work?

IN THE 1930's Nazis would have you believe work made you free. Religion praises the work ethic as akin to a cleansing of the soul, and present day bosses and politicians hype work as the salvation of the nation, bringing dignity and prosperity to the masses. Work as we know it under capitalism is nothing short of repetitive, routine, disciplined long hours, low pay and is usually boring. There are clear cut times for workers to work, to play, and to rest. Work it appears is apart from our lives. It is something we do because we have to, not because we want to. Work as we see it need not be separate from our lives but should be a part of it. It should not involve working long hours, day after day at the same thing. It should involve learning, time to play, should not have limited goals. It should be expansive and of interest. Not all work is going to be enjoyable but unenjoyable work should not last a lifetime!

The world's resources belong to everyone. With a system of mutual aid and voluntary co-operation, with no bosses and no profit motive, work could become satisfying and maybe even enjoyable! Capitalism has stolen our humanity and individual self-worth, maybe it is time to steal it back.
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GLAD TO BE GREY

THE PENSIONERS Rights Campaigin who campaign against discrimination on the grounds of age and for better pensions, recently (Dec 97) overtook a TV studio, got air time, and also blockaded the Humber Bridge to highlight their campaign. A spokesperson said: "We don't want to go and stand in Hyde Park and talk... because direct action is the only way to get anywhere."

ZAPATA!
MEXICO CITY, Mexico, Jan, 1998 saw protesters occupy two radio stations and blockade the stock exchange. They also threw red paint on the outside walls, and demanded that a Zapatista tape be played. This was followed by placing symbolic coffins in the street to highlight the recent deaths of 45 people murdered by death squads despite troops being told to shoot to kill. Government greed and corruption is being blamed for the price increases in food in Zimbabwe.

USA, and several European countries are being blocked by people demanding that a Zapatista tape be played. This was followed by placing symbolic coffins in the street to highlight the recent deaths of 45 people murdered by death squads despite troops being told to shoot to kill. Government greed and corruption is being blamed for the price increases in food in Zimbabwe.

FOOD AND BOMBS
VIOLENT RIOTS followed recent price increases in food in Zimbabwre. Poor families living in Harare, Gweru, and Masingo continued to riot over price increases in food in Zimbabwe. The Government is blaming the price increases on the outside walls, and demanding that a Zapatista tape be played. This was followed by placing symbolic coffins in the street to highlight the recent deaths of 45 people murdered by death squads despite troops being told to shoot to kill. Government greed and corruption is being blamed for the price increases in food in Zimbabwe.

Cuba - without reply!
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THE DIE WAS CAST
SINCE the end of the miners strike in 1985, 140 deep pits have closed and 90% of the workforce has been made redundant. Opencast coal production has tripled over this period, now accounting for a third of production, and coal imports have grown dramatically. Secure, skilled jobs have been replaced with low pay, casual employment and the dole queue; sacrificing health and safety for cheap coal and quick profits.

DEVAStATED
In opencast mining, whole landscapes are dug out, sometimes to a depth of hundreds feet. Entire ecosystems are decimated, water polluted and local people subjected to unbearable levels of noise, traffic and air pollution. A study of children in West Glamorgan, Wales, has concluded that there is a link between opencast mining and childhood asthma.

Many of the opencast mining companies have been criticised over health and safety standards on their sites and are hostile to trade unions. The circumstances which led to the death of one worker and 16 others being injured at the Scottish Dalquhary pit in February 1998 are typical of other sites.

DOE HILL ACTION
In opposition, New Labour pretended to be critical of open cast, but their review of open cast mining policy published in October 1997 was described by environmental organisations as "weak and insubstantial". No surprises there then! Publication of the report coincided with a day of action by Earth First! and No Opencast who organised the occupation of Doe Hill House opencast mine in Derbyshire, when the earth destroying equipment and machinery was locked on.

LOCKING ON
Faslane peace Camp are committed to resist the eviction from Faslane by the military police. In the last ten years over 960 peasants and supporters have been killed in land disputes. 200,000 landless families have successfully taken back 7 million hectares of land. Many more families are currently camped around empty land. MST (Movement of Landless Workers) has inspired urban homeless to begin occupations of unused buildings. MST spokespeople speaking on their national radio speech that "the poor can't hope to change society but have to organise themselves."

THE CORRUPT WEB
BRAZIL IS a country with a feudal division of wealth and land. Today less than 3% of the population owns almost two thirds of Brazilian farmland. 60% of that lies unused. Despite president Cardoso's electoral promises little has changed since the 1980's. A corrupt web of interlinked interests of big business, big landowners, the military and police combat attempts at social reform.

In 1985 a small group of desperate peasants squatted unused plantation land and fenced of armed attacks by police and hired gunmen for two years. The government then granted the land for use as farm co-op. This year the co-op is expected to make $12 million for its 1,452 workers.

Since then a massive movement of landless peasants and workers has swelled into existence. In 1997 60,000 marched over 1000km for two months arriving in Brasilia (the capital) to demand land reform and mark the anniversary of the massacre of El Dorado dos Carajas where 19 people occupying a hacienda were killed by the military police. In the last ten years over 960 peasants and supporters have been killed in land disputes.

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Like our new masthead? Interested in a graphics collective? Drop us a line at jon@anarchistgraphics.org . Artists/cartoonists get in touch via Jon at Anarchist Graphics Box 5 167 Fawcett Rd, Southsea, Hants PO4 0DH
A MASSIVE wave of direct action by unemployed people demanding increases in benefits has swept France.

Since Marseille benefit offices were occupied in December, over 200 Job Centre, Town Hall and Electricity Company offices, police stations, Chambers of Commerce, banks, Socialist Party offices, and other buildings have been taken over by unemployed demonstrators.

Some occupations have lasted several days. On 17 January alone there were 20 new occupations, including Town Halls in Grenoble, Brest, Guingamp, a Socialist Party office in Mulhouse, EDF electricity offices in Paris and Clermont-Ferrand, plus occupations in Nancy and Lyon. On 10 February protesters occupied the Police HQ at an Ecume des Vignes office in Paris. Large groups enter supermarkets and collectively take food and other goods without paying, to distribute free. Anti-baliff actions, blockading roads and railways, mass free use of public transport, invading posh restaurants and demanding free food, opening toll gates on pay motorways are among other activities.

The government has conceded some benefit increases, but has not met the main demands, eg extending benefits to 19-25 year olds. Police have evicted many occupations. Demonstrators arrested at British-owned Cash Converters in Paris on 11 Feb were jailed for 2 weeks while awaiting trial.

Some urge the struggle go beyond the reformist limits imposed by the Unemployed Associations like AC! and groups linked to the Communist Party Trade Union, the CGT.

"We have no reason to stop the struggle...It’s up to us to take back the resources that those who hold political, financial and media power have stolen from us: let’s take back everything!" - TCP. Many unemployed Unionists have intimated daily general assemblies in Paris, attracting around 100 people, to bring together all involved in the struggle, and plan weekly actions.

Info Trousse/euses, Chômeurs/ euses, Precariaux en colere (TCP), 21er, rue Voltaire, 75011 Paris. Fax 01.42.15.73.27 & CNT-AIT, 21 rue Voltaire, 75011 Paris. Tel 01.43.72.15.75. 4 STRIKES CONTINUE, NO ONE LIKES A BULLY. with photos of lone bully MacDonald about to invade an Edinburgh benefit office on 11 February

STAFF in High Riggs Job Centre in Edinburgh were stunned when a group of protestors looking exactly like their colleague Marianne MacDonald stormed into the office on 11 February. Perhaps the Employment Service were emulating the cloning of Dolly the Sheep?

But why were the 20 versions of the notorious bullying Restart interviewers who looked like her not doing their job?

Claimants Ring 0131 557 6242

DEAD TOAD HITS BACK

Recent resistance to the compulsory slave labour scheme Project Work (PW) should inspire opposition to the New Deal

Bristol Claimants say that PW workers, Instant Muscle suffering - an invasion by a Welsh choir - a boss covered with red dye - a dead toad in their mail. Smeared slogans on windows of charity shops using PW - THIS CHARITY USES SLAVE LABOUR.

In Brighton active opposition from led to 6 organisations withdrawing from PW. On 6 Feb, 30 anti-PW protesters pushed past police into David Lepper MPs surgery in the Brighthelmston Centre, a PW employer. This so worried Brighthelmston that they pulled out of Project Work.


GET INVOLVED!

- Scottish anarchist network contacts: Solidarity news-sheet [send SAE] c/o Box A, Fahrenheit 451 bookshop, Virginia Galleries, Virginia St., Glasgow G1, anarchie@geocities.com or to The Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh Edinburgh Claimants, 17 West Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA 0131-557-6242 acw@punk.org.uk http://wk.web4.cableinet.co.uk/bunny/accnt@altern.org

- International contacts: Independent Claimants groups, run by and for claimants and based on solidarity and direct action, can spark opposition to the New Deal. The Groundswell Network is a good start which needs to grow much bigger.

The New Deal is not just a "claimants issue". Workers in jobs must get involved in opposition. The Liverpool dockers and postal workers for example have fought fierce battles recently over casualisation. Workers could insist that all New Deal jobs pay the going rate, and be permanent (not for 6 months). While this would be something, it still leaves intact the imposition of a compulsory scheme. Enforcing a boycott of all New Deal options should be the aim, difficult though workplace councils may find this in a workplace the Trade Union hierarchy completely back the scheme. The need for independent workers organisation is greater than ever.

Claimants groups, and Workers and volunteers in voluntary organisations, need to encourage pressure-voluntary organisations to boycott the New Deal, stressing that participation in a compulsory forced labour scheme contradicts avowed voluntary sector values.

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A DUD DEAL from page one

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