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SOCIALIST OPPORTUNIST

No. 5



RAMON DONATO
SAIN DELMONT
PAZ MARGON
UNILEVER
DHS BARCELONA

STOP BUSINESS AS USUAL
APRIL 30TH

THIS WORLD OF RICH AND POOR, PRIVILEGED AND STARVING, RULERS AND RULED, IS A SICK WORLD CREATED BY THE POWERFUL, GREEDY, LYING UPPER CLASSES. THEY CONTROL THE BIG BUSINESSES THAT PROFIT THROUGH OUR SUFFERING, THEY CONTROL THE POLITICIANS THAT MAKE DECISIONS THAT AFFECT US ALL, AND THEY CONTROL THE POLICE, COURTS, PRISONS, CHURCH, SCHOOLS AND THE REST OF THE STINKING SYSTEM THAT'S DESIGNED TO KEEP US DOWN. FOR REAL CHANGE TO OCCUR, WE ARE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO PREPARE OURSELVES FOR THE HARDSHIP THAT WE WILL HAVE TO GO THROUGH. THINGS ARE GOING TO GET EVEN WORSE ALL ROUND, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE OF US TRYING TO FIGHT BACK AT THE STATE ALREADY, BEFORE ANY BIG, POSITIVE CHANGES START OCCURRING. MORE OF US WILL GO TO PRISON, POSSIBLY FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME, BUT SURELY WE CAN USE THIS TO OUR OWN ADVANTAGE AND GROW STRONGER AS A RESULT.

APR. 30TH IS THE DAY WHEN TOGETHER WE CAN GIVE THEM A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME. THERE IS NO REASON WHY EVERY SINGLE TOWN AND AREA IN THIS COUNTRY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HAVE ITS OWN ACTIONS. THERE IS NO POINT IN EVERYONE COMING INTO THE CITY OF LONDON WHEN MANY OF THOSE BANKS AND MULTATIONALS ARE RIGHT ON OUR DOORSTEPS. SIMILARLY, THERE'S NO POINT IN A GROUP OF PEOPLE FROM ONE AREA OF LONDON TRAVELLING TO ANOTHER AREA WHERE THEY KNOW SOMETHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN, WHEN THEY COULD HAVE STAYED IN THEIR OWN AREA AND DOUBLED THE EFFECT OF THE DAY BY HAVING THEIR OWN ACTIONS.

SPREAD THE WORD: LET'S ORGANISE AND PREPARE NOW.

LET'S STOP BUSINESS AS USUAL ON APRIL 30TH.

WE ARE NOT SOCIALIST OPPORTUNISTS. THE STATE, BE IT LEFT OR RIGHT, IS INHERENTLY AGAINST THE PEOPLE UNDER ITS RULE. AN OPPORTUNIST ACTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCE. WE DO NOT. WE WILL CREATE OUR OWN CIRCUMSTANCES: WE WILL FREE OURSELVES FROM THE STATE.

ANY CRITICISMS, COMMENTS OR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME. PLEASE SEND ITEMS TO:

BOX 91
846 WHITECHAPEL HIGH ST.
LONDON
E1.

Prisoners For Peace

On Thursday 7th, six peace-campers from Faslane were sentenced to three months imprisonment for their protest at the MOD HQ in Whitehall, last June. It was a crazy week. It was the day after I'd woken up to hear on the radio that the Rainbow Village at Molesworth USAF base, Cambridgeshire had been evicted by 1500 troops and MOD police. It had taken me a while to recover from the immediate impact of this news. I got up in a daze and then started to panick. What could I do? Should I hitch to Molesworth straight away and try to block convoys of troops or wait and plan things with other people. I decided to go to Southwark Crown Court to join people who were gathered to support six peace activists on trial for covering the inside of the MOD building with red paint. I later found out that some groups had heard about the evictions at Molesworth early in the morning and had rushed up there to blockade tanks and cop cars.

There was a real tension in the court room. It was so silent except for Lizzie giving her evidence in the dock. I could tell from everyone's faces that they'd heard about the troops evicting the Rainbow villagers and were in just as much a panick as I was. It was obvious that we needed to take some action to show our anger. Lizzie kept trying to refer to the mornings violence while she was giving her evidence. She kept stressing to the jury the urgency of what Heseltine and all the rest of the warmongering scum were doing at Molesworth. The judge just couldn't keep her from making the connections between what was happening this very day and the war games that were going on last June. She appealed to the ashen faced jury-she was on trial for her life.

Their actions had come from the fear that Britain was going to intervene in the Iran/Iraq war which could have led to conflict with the USSR and then to nuclear war. These fears started when people from the camp saw a massive troop convoy. Soldiers told peace campers that they were being shipped to Cyprus from Faslane with tanks and missiles, and that they were heading for the gulf. Everyone at the camp felt that some action was needed to try and publicise what was happening. On June 11th, two days after leafleting the anti-Reagan demo in London, six people went into the foyer of the MOD building in Whitehall, chained the doors shut and daubed red paint around

symbolise the bloodshed of war. They were arrested and later legal observer Dolly was nicked for aiding and abetting as he crossed Trafalgar Square, on his way to phone press and lawyers.

It wasn't that surprising that the judge threw out their defence that criminal damage was done with lawful excuse ie. to try to save lives by publicising the likelihood of imminent war. The judge led the jury to find all six people guilty of causing £8000 of damage, and gave them all three months inside.

This trial has implications for all of us who are trying to resist the state and its war machine, for it makes legal observers illegal - this jury has ruled that anyone providing legal back up for an action can now get done with aiding and abetting and a prison sentence. It was just a matter of time before the state imprisoned legal observers so we'll just have to have illegal ones. This trial has also set a new high sentence which could be applied to other peace activists on trial.

All six people are at various prisons around the country and they need your support especially as their sentences are amongst the longest received for peace actions.

THEY NEED YOUR SUPPORT

PLEASE WRITE TO THE SIX IN PRISON IF YOU CAN. SEND LETTERS
POSTCARDS, PICTURES, ANYTHING YOU CAN.

Two of the six are also vegan, Jayne and Ian. Jayne has already been on hunger strike because she wasn't getting a vegan diet. A seventh person, David Kelby, has been picked up since the trial as a warrant was put out for his arrest when he didn't appear at the trial. He tried to go undercover but unfortunately they got him in Wales.

Their addresses are:

Jayne Fox
HM Wimmin's Prison Cookenham Wood
Nr Rochester
Kent

Malcolm Boatman
HM Prison Pentonville
Parkhurst Rd
London

Ian De La Mare
and Sean Hawkey
HM Prison
Holllesley Bay
Suffolk

Lizzie Strata and
Antonia Lindsay-
McDougall
HM Wimmin's Prison Styal
Wilmslow
Cheshire.

STATE OF SIEGE...

I don't think I could take another Molesworth.
AND I DID NOT EVEN LIVE THERE.

Mind you, the State can't have anyone being self-sufficient, having a more worthwhile society than a Capitalist one, and setting embarrassing examples by sending tons of home grown wheat to Eritrea, Ethiopia. For the State to destroy all that, and "Reclaim the land" is the crime.

Another Molesworth and I think I'll crack up.

And next time, another friend of mine will be denied her/his right to protest in the way they choose, not at the expense of any other living creatures' life.

My patience is wearing thin, my anger is rising and my tolerance is virtually no more. Why should I tolerate them interfering with my freedom, my life and my death? If there be one good reason then I shall consider it. But I doubt anyone can find one. And who are "Them"? "Them" are the rich and privileged, the State that will DEPRIVE and SELL peoples' basic needs and lives for their own power and profits. "Them" are also the not-so-rich-and-privileged that defend the former for their own security.

I'd rather it wasn't "Them" and "Us". But it is. And as long as it is, they deserve no peace. And we do not deserve their wars.

THE BAD AND THE WORSE

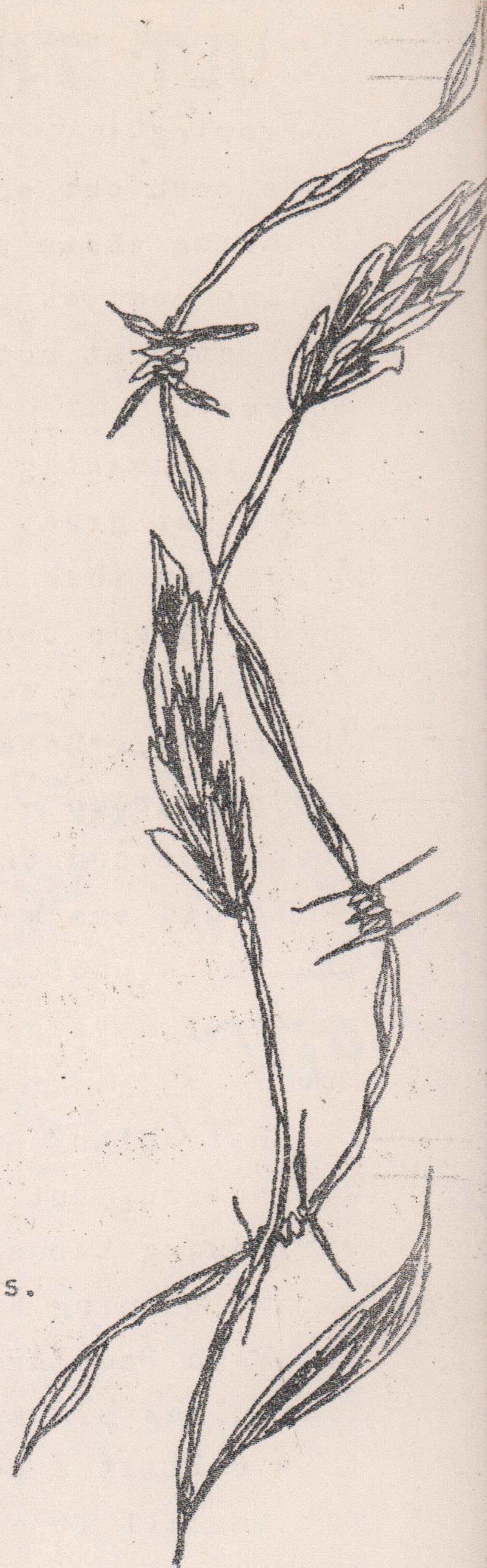
Recently I've been thinking about death quite a bit. I'm not scared of dying - death is inevitable and all I can do is accept it - but what I cannot accept is someone of a "higher" authority deciding to sacrifice my and everyone else's life in one of their ego-boosting games.

I guess I'm scared of Maggie. Or what she is capable of. She's too shrewd. She uses every bit of power democracy will allow her. She's too determined and steadfast. The press are on her side and more people read their view every day. What the press do not want known (or are too scared to print) they do not. Neither do they hesitate to twist things, rally round and promote her already high, mighty and wonderful image. I doubt any other government would have survived what hers has been through. I am scared of the influence over people who do not know, or do not want to know different, and those who do but are intimidated by the governments' ever increasingly oppressive manoeuvres. I sometimes feel as though we are playing a losing chess game. Her power is out of our control - apart from voting.

The Tories are always justifying their actions by saying they were democratically voted in. I'll just have to play this game their way. I believe all governments are harmful, but this one, I feel, has been even more (is it possible?) harmful, and I do not want to be given the opportunity to see how far this government will go. I will do almost anything to keep Maggie and her missiles out, and if that means voting, then I'll vote, though I'd rather not, for too many other reasons to mention.

MAGGIE AND HER MERRY MEN: REACHES PARTS OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOT REACHED.

We will win our struggle for peace. Only I don't want to win in 50 years time. Or 5. I want to win as quickly as Hestline can erect a 7.5 mile temporary fence.



EXPOSED! THE EVIL MEN BEHIND THE CULT THAT'S SWEEPING THE COUNTRY!

Following last issue's article on Anarcho-Christianity, our reporters have been out and about on the trail of a new, evil breed of revolutionaries whose sole aim is to corrupt the minds of innocent, easily influenced youngsters throughout the whole country. This vile cult will stop at nothing to achieve their aims; they have no morals whatsoever.

Our investigation led us to a tumbledown squat in North London, where, at great risk to ourselves, we infiltrated the organisation to bring you this information.

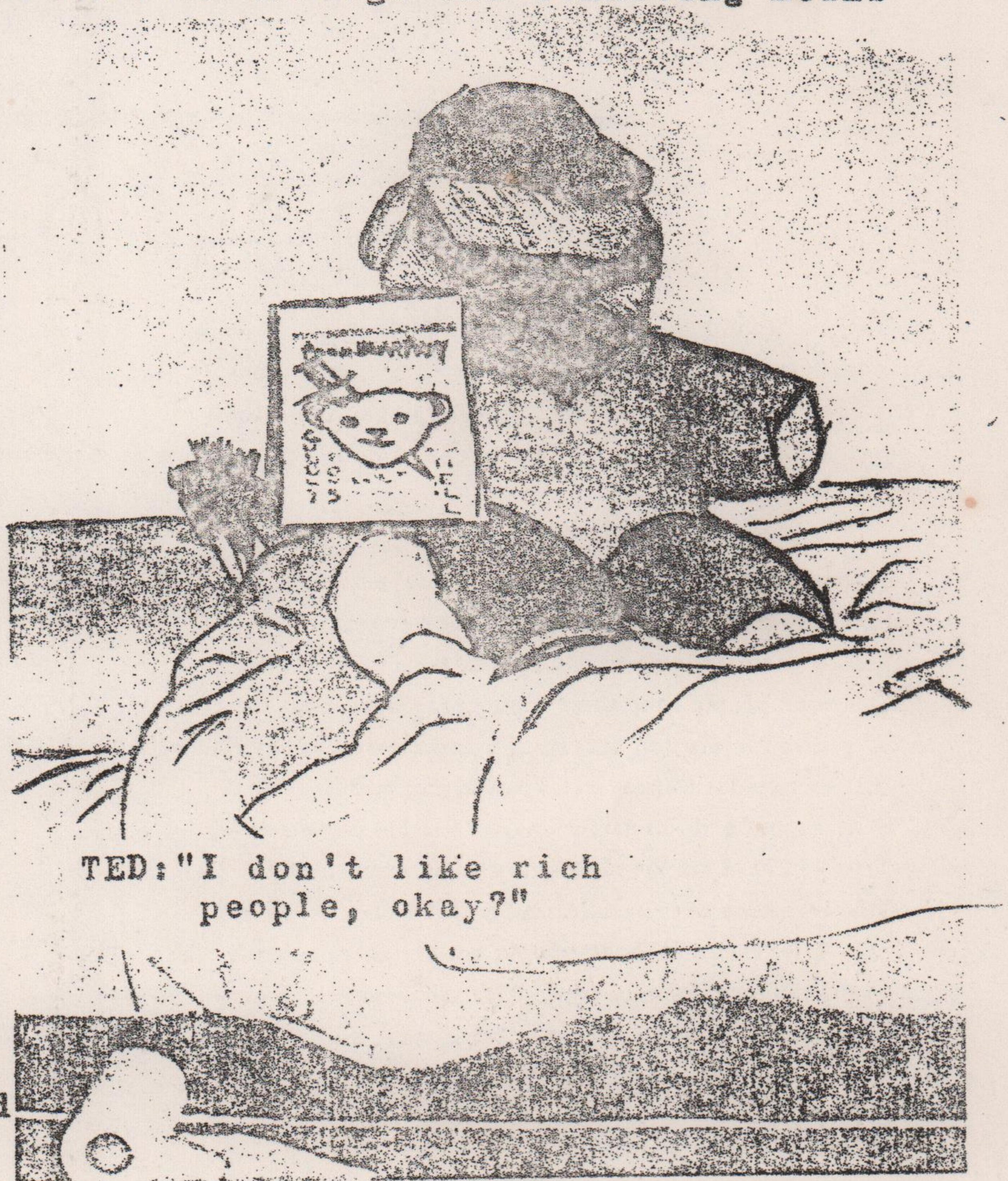
The group choose to call themselves "The Pooh Bear Army" (don't be fooled by the name; it is all part of the devious plan to corrupt the naive). Described as "cuddly toys from hell", they even have their own pop group - "The Pooh Bear Army Marching Band" which follow them round the country recruiting punks of all sizes.

We did track down the leader of the group but unfortunately got no chance to photograph or speak to him, since he does not rise during hours of daylight. While he sleeps, a heavy guard is kept outside his door.

Their plan? Nobody knows for sure. It could, perhaps, be world domination, but perhaps not. They can best be found deliberately barracking Labour leaders at CND rallies through the conniving means of not turning up.

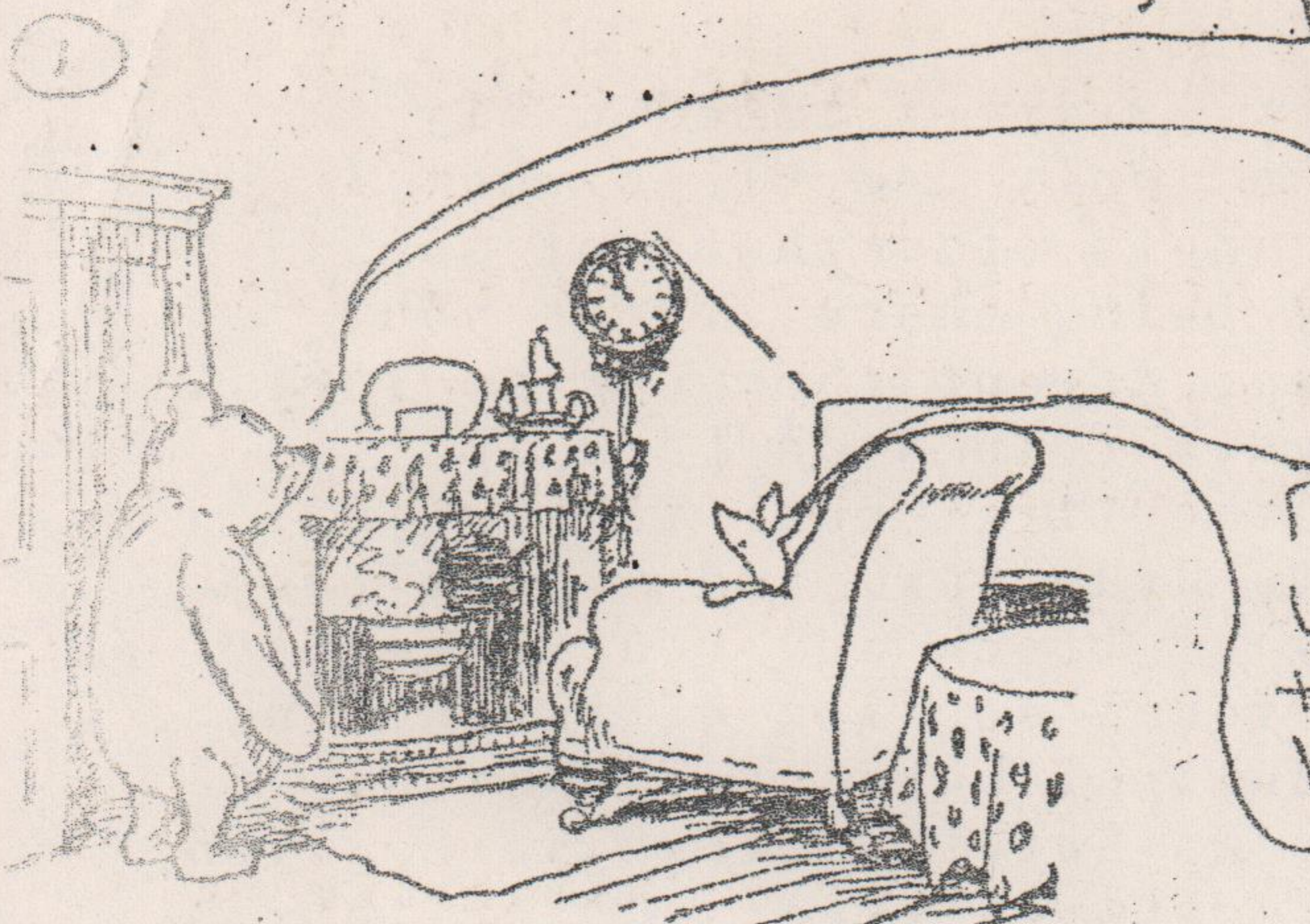
The Pooh Bear Army print a ridiculous propaganda sheet; they call it a communique, but we call it a POISONSPREADER, and demand an instant Home Office inquiry as to why it has not yet been deemed illegal. For your enlightenment, we have published one of the recent communiques opposite. We spoke to one of the groups members, known only as "Ted", who told us: "You seem to know all about us anyway, so there is no need to tell you anything". A devious answer from a macabre, disturbing group. They must be stopped at once

BRIAN NICE.



TED: "I don't like rich people, okay?"

ONCE UPON A TIME



I've just had a thought, Piglet. Those in authority have power, and all power corrupts so authority itself is a corrupting influence!

My God, Pooh, you're right! We're going to have to smash the state; but first let's have a smoke.

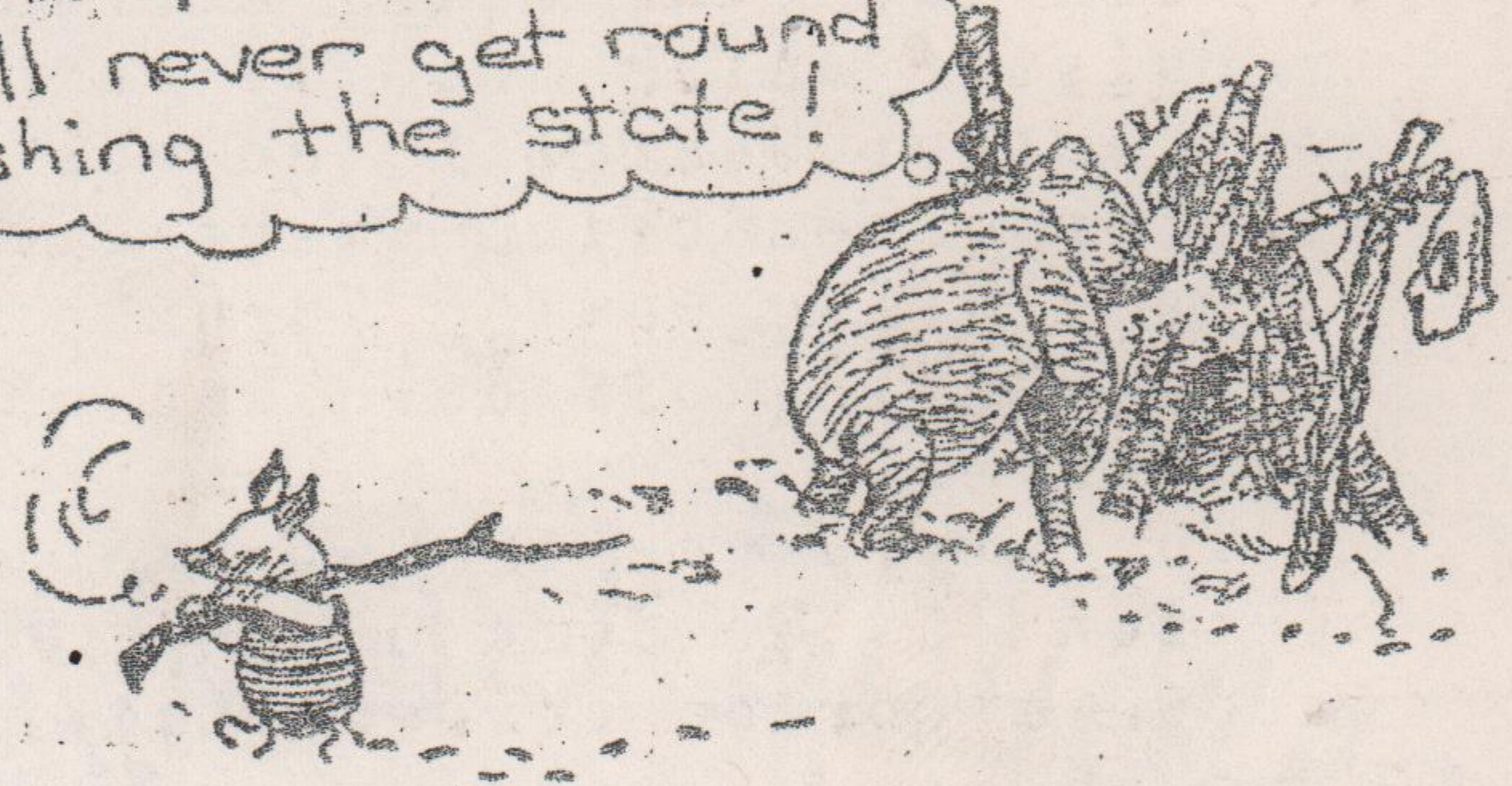


ay, wow! Fierce ink, Piglet!

Yeah, and theres plenty more where that came from!

Ohmigosh! if i smoke all this i'll never get round to smashing the state!

3



I'll pick up these "heavy ornamental objects" instead, and drop them on some rich scum!

4 (We don't want a nuclear war)



Prepare to die, evil repressor of the people!

What's Pooh doing?

Adjusting the balance of power.



5

So you see, Rabbit, to achieve our full potential as individuals we must oppose anyone who seeks to hold power over us. 6

By jove, Pooh, you're absolutely right! I must hop off and rob a bank!



so we've decided to form a terrorist group!

And with your permission, we'll call ourselves "THE POOH BEAR ARMY!"

7 (All good cretins go to heaven)

of course, excellent idea

All my friends want to smash the state, too.



THE BEGINNING.....

THE MINERS' RALLY

This is an account of the Miners' Rally, written immediately afterwards. It is a personal account and only describes what I saw; it obviously cannot describe the whole atmosphere of such a large demo. You can only get that by being there...were you?

Sunday 24th Feb, probably the hottest day of the year so far... saw a turnout of about 20,000 people gather in Hyde Park in support of the miners. After spending the first hour taking in vital refreshments, we wandered down to Hyde Park and made a bee-line for the fairly impressive display of black and red flags. About 150 Anarchists made up a fairly vocal section of the demonstration as it wound its way through central London. The rich b*st*rds who watched from their Park Lane hotel windows were given a fair amount of stick, but the real anger was reserved for the N.C.B. Headquarters down by Victoria Station, its iron gates being supplemented by about 100 police ensured the windows stayed in one piece. Eventually reaching Trafalgar Square we were disappointed to find the P.A. doing a credible imitation of a £4.99 Hong Kong transistor which made it rather difficult, to say the least, to hear Arthur Scargill who was speaking to only half of the demonstrators. Wondering where everybody else was I noticed the massed ranks of flag waving "drunken youths" (local radio report description) tearing off down Whitehall in the direction of Maggie residence.

The story was that two Notts miners had been arrested and that section of the demo had sat down in protest and the police had thrown a cordon across Whitehall effectively isolating that section. From where we stood it appeared there were two cordons with a no-mans land in between. It was frustrating hearing the shouting and seeing the occasional pig's hat flying in the air and being so far away. One minute, however, we were spectators, the next the cry of watch your backs alerted us to the fact that another line of police, three deep, was moving towards us, effectively surrounding us, cutting about 2-300 of us off and outnumbering us by about two to one after some minor scuffles and pushing and a couple of small police charges designed to force us down a small side-street people eventually decided to move back when the cavalry were brought in and try to get back to Trafalgar Square, which we at least eventually reached apart from a few silly b*st*rds who were arrested for kicking a sports car (they should have hit and run or waited til there were no pigs about at least), and one photographer. I didn't see any real violence although I believe there was some heavy stuff going on elsewhere. All in all it was a good day out and much better than boring old CND marches.

Mick.

This demonstration was inspiring; for once, police recieved similar beatings to those which they are used to dealing out. At the end of a strike which saw the most vicious, dirty government response most of us have ever come across, the strong atmosphere of anger led to a real figh back. The filth were hit with placard sticks, concrete, anything that was lying around; they were punched, kicked, spat on, pushed and trampled. We were forced down a side street in Whitehall and started using police barriers to make our own, dragging them off their hired lorries. The filth have a habit of beating up defenceless people - but now when our anger overflows, they realise that we can be vicious ourselves. THEY WILL FACE MORE OF IT.

Nicky H.

SQUATTERS AND HOMELESSNESS

Recently "The News At One" had an item about the upsurge of squatting in London. A woman with a small child was displayed as an example of the new breed of squatter. Desperate for a home after being put in a bed and breakfast by the local council she "had taken the law into her own hands". As she put the lie to "dirty squatters" the TV camera swept around the living room trying not to focus on the wall with a March S.T.C poster on it!

Nevertheless, squatting is back in the news as "ordinary law abiding people" discover that housing can be free if they act for themselves. Infact the boom in squatting has grown so much that it can no longer be ignored: while the media makes its great exposes about homeless people forced to seek alternatives to extortionate rent and derelict properties, the councils are trying to stop it.

In Islington the Socialist Republic refuses to allow the Electricity Board to put on new squats, while in Southwark properties are illegally covered in notices effectively saying that they are about to be occupied - even when they are falling down!

The best move to make when first looking for a squat is to get in contact with a network. There are now quite a few around London. They will give you a list of empty places, advice and sometimes help in getting a place. In Haringey a squatters and homelessness network called Haringey Homes for All has emerged over the last few months. There is a list of empty properties which is gradually increasing and copies of the Squatters Handbook available. For anyone who needs a place there are meetings every Friday at 32 Alexandra Road N8, near Turnpike Lane Tube, starting at 7.30.

The main aim of the network is to provide an alternative for the growing number of homeless people in Haringey - now at over 15000, living in bed and breakfast hotels and hostels where living conditions are often squalid and are

sometimes dangerous. In Camden, homeless families occupied Camden Town Hall last November after a woman and her two children died in a hostel fire due to inadequate safety precautions. While over 10000 people are on the waiting list in Haringey there are only 4000 empty properties. The rest are privately owned and many will often never see a tenant for years. Worst of all, only 300 dwellings are built each year in the borough. This is an impossible situation and will never improve.

The network also exists to help stop evictions and campaign against people's homes being turned into roads and carparks. Also it seeks to publicise the network as widely as possible to encourage those in greatest need to take the first step to proper housing themselves.

The only solution, as many now realise, is for the homeless to occupy all the wasted empty houses possible. Nobody is going to do it for them so it takes energy - something very few people have after spending day after day slaving away to make some money and bring up children. Not surprisingly, squatting has in the past been confined to young people without all the problems accumulated by years of adherence to state propaganda.

Those in a network can give lists, advice and sometimes physical support; it is still up to those in need to go out and successfully occupy a property.

Once in possession of a list it may take a few days walking the streets checking out addresses until something suitable is found; then, ways in need to be found. An easily opened window at the back helps, but anything that opens will do. Otherwise a swift boot or crowbar will come in handy. For the more enterprizing, measure up a back window and get a sheet of glass cut, then once you get in through the window it can be replaced with putty.

When you get in the place must be quickly secured so fix a bolt onto the front door. Even more

P.T.O.

important is getting the front door lock changed as you need to get in and out yourself. Buy a yale cylinder and key beforehand and once in remove the lock and replace it with the one you've brought. Don't forget to put the ring on from the outside otherwise the lock will come loose. Eventually a bolt and/or chain must be put in, especially if you kicked the door in. After all, if you did it so could the police or owners.

The main problem with all this kind of operation is of course the police. If you're caught in the act you could be done for going equipped or criminal damage, as a lot of noise is generated by breaking glass, kicking in doors and occasionally chiseling out a mortice lock, but this rarely happens. However, if you'd rather avoid the attention of the police, it is sometimes safer to try during the day.

If you're quick enough the police will turn up after the place is secure. Whatever the situation, don't let the police in unless they have a warrant. Tell them that you have nowhere to live, nothing was damaged and it's up to the owners to take you to court. The only real problem now is that the Criminal Trespass Act will soon make it possible for the police to take you to court rather than the owners. No one seems to know what will happen and we can only hope that the police will have something better to do than take homeless people to court.

Everything else is relatively painless. The Water Board and Electric Board will put on water and electricity, though if the plumbing has been ripped out or the meter played around with there could be a lot of money involved. Always give a false name and previous address and you may never have to pay any bills. Also never let workers take anything away as they might not replace it.

Someone must stay in at all times until either the owner or the council discover you, and have a legal notice on display.

This will deter the owners unless they have it in for you, in which case there's very little that can be done unless there's a lot of people around at the time and a barricade or two. The legal notice should be like this:

WE LIVE IN THIS HOUSE
THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEONE IN
ANY ENTRY WITHOUT OUR PERMISSION IS
A CRIMINAL OFFENSE
YOU WILL BE PROSECUTED IF YOU ATTEMPT
TO DO SO.
YOU WILL HAVE TO GET A COURT ORDER
TO GET US OUT.

The only true squatters' right is that if a property is occupied continuously for 12 years the ownership passes to the squatters. Squatting can be a dodgy business, however the oldest one I know of is seven years old. This is quite unusual but if nothing untoward happens you may have a home for several months or even years.

N.F.T.

CONTACTS:

ADVISORY SERVICE FOR SQUATTERS,
2 ST PAULS RD, LONDON N1.
TEL 359 8814 EMERGENCY 603 8654

CAMDEN SQUATTERS 234 CAMDEN RD NW1
SUNDAY EVENINGS 7 - 10.

SQUATTERS NETWORK OF WOOLWICH (SNOW)
306 OLD KENT RD SE1 TEL 701 5804.
MON, WED, FRI 4 - 7.

BRIXTON SQUATTERS AID 121 RAILTON RD
SE24 TEL 274 6655. SUN 3 PM.

SHOREDITCH AND HACKNEY SQUATTERS
GROUP 23 CROFTS HOUSE, TEALE ST E2
(ANDY & NIGEL) MON - FRI (EVENINGS)

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON SQUATTERS
ASSOCIATION, 25 Gordon St WC1 387 3671

ISLINGTON HOUSING ACTION GROUP, MOLLYS
CAFE 287 UPPER ST. SUN 2 PM.

HARINGEY HOMES FOR ALL, 32 ALEXANDRA
RD N8 FRI 7.30 PM.

HOUSING ADVICE SWITCHBOARD 42 CHARING
CROSS RD WC2 TEL 434 2522, 10 - 6.

SHAC, THE LONDON HOUSING AID CENTRE
189a OLD BROMPTON RD SW5 373 7841
MON, TUE, THUR, FRI 9.30 - 4.30.
WED 1 - 4.30. PHONE FIRST.

SOURCES: SQUATTERS HANDBOOK, CROWBAR,
GLC HOUSING STATISTICS.

BUGGER OFF!

Seven years ago, a case was brought before the European Court of Human Rights, concerning telephone tapping in West Germany.

Seven years ago the European Court of Human Rights ruled that there must be safeguards to protect the individual against telephone tapping.

Six years ago a senior judge (sic) declared that the British phone tapping practice failed to meet European standards.

One year ago the European Court of Human Rights ruled that, under the European Convention on Human Rights (of which Britain is a signatory) Britain did not comply to correct standards.

This ruling sort of forced the British government's arm a bit. After all, it didn't like it to be seen by too many people that it wasn't playing by the rules that it claims to play by.

So, on February 8th, a white paper was published, called the Interception of Communications in the U.K. (it's like a set of rules to a game).

All this set of rules does is set onto paper what we all know has been going on for ages (like the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill of last year), and they only set to rights, that which previously kept us below 'correct' European standards.

The white paper says, basically, that it's OK for phones to be tapped and for mail to be opened under certain conditions, but makes it very easy for these criteria to be extended to suit their own purposes.

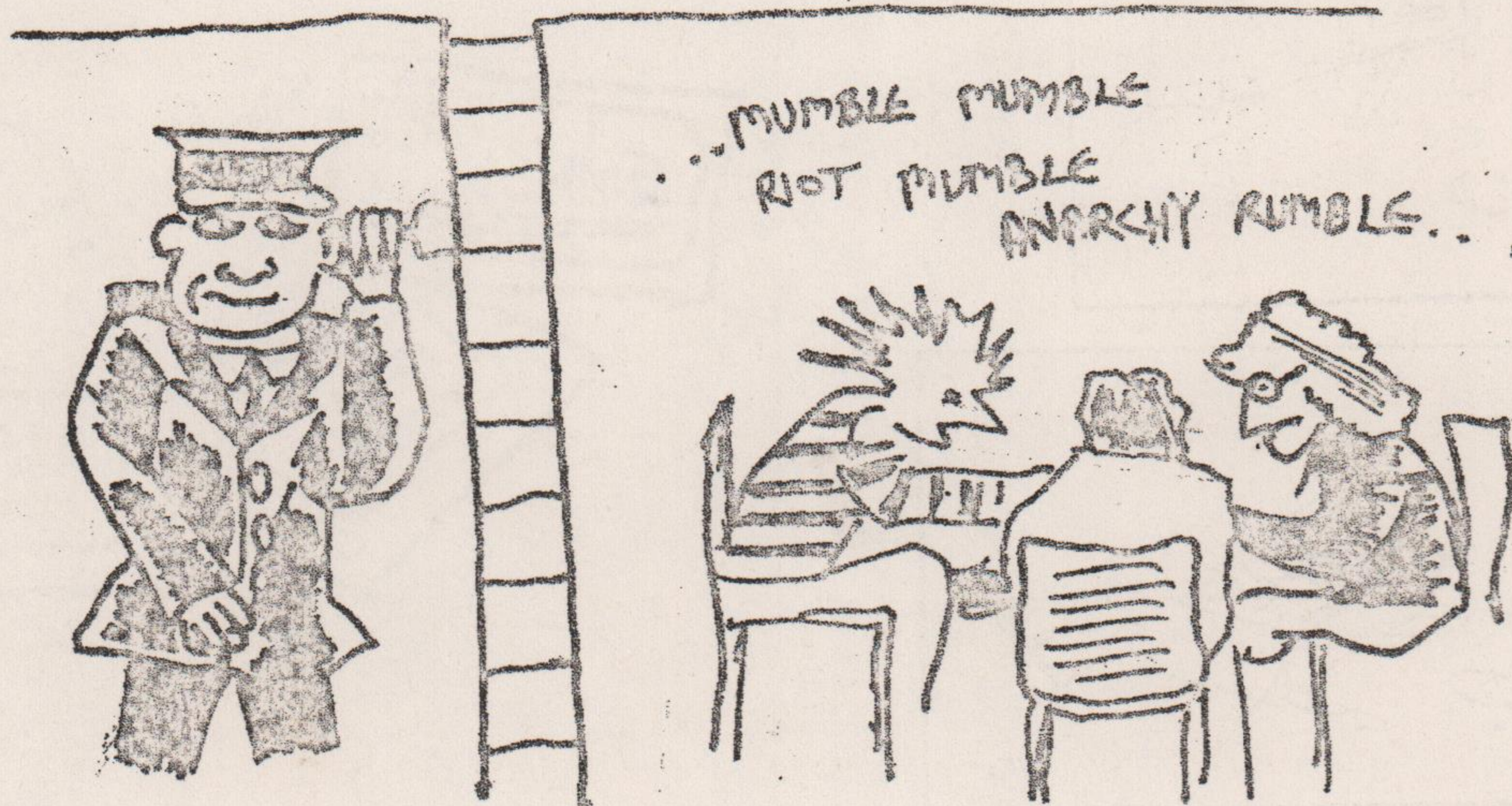
The white paper does not (of course) mention any regulation of the State's regular use of electronic surveillance (bugging).

And there is also provision in the white paper for those who feel that the state has exceeded its rights in phone tapping, to challenge the state in court. ("Ha! Ha! Just you try it, mate" might well be the next line in the white paper!)

It states that National Security warrants may be issued "either because of terrorists, espionage or major subversive activity (that's us folks!) or in support of the government's defence and foreign policies".

Thank god we're not in Russia, where there's no freedom, eh!

Sybil Liberty



BRAIN CONTROL

BY VIDDY O'NASTY

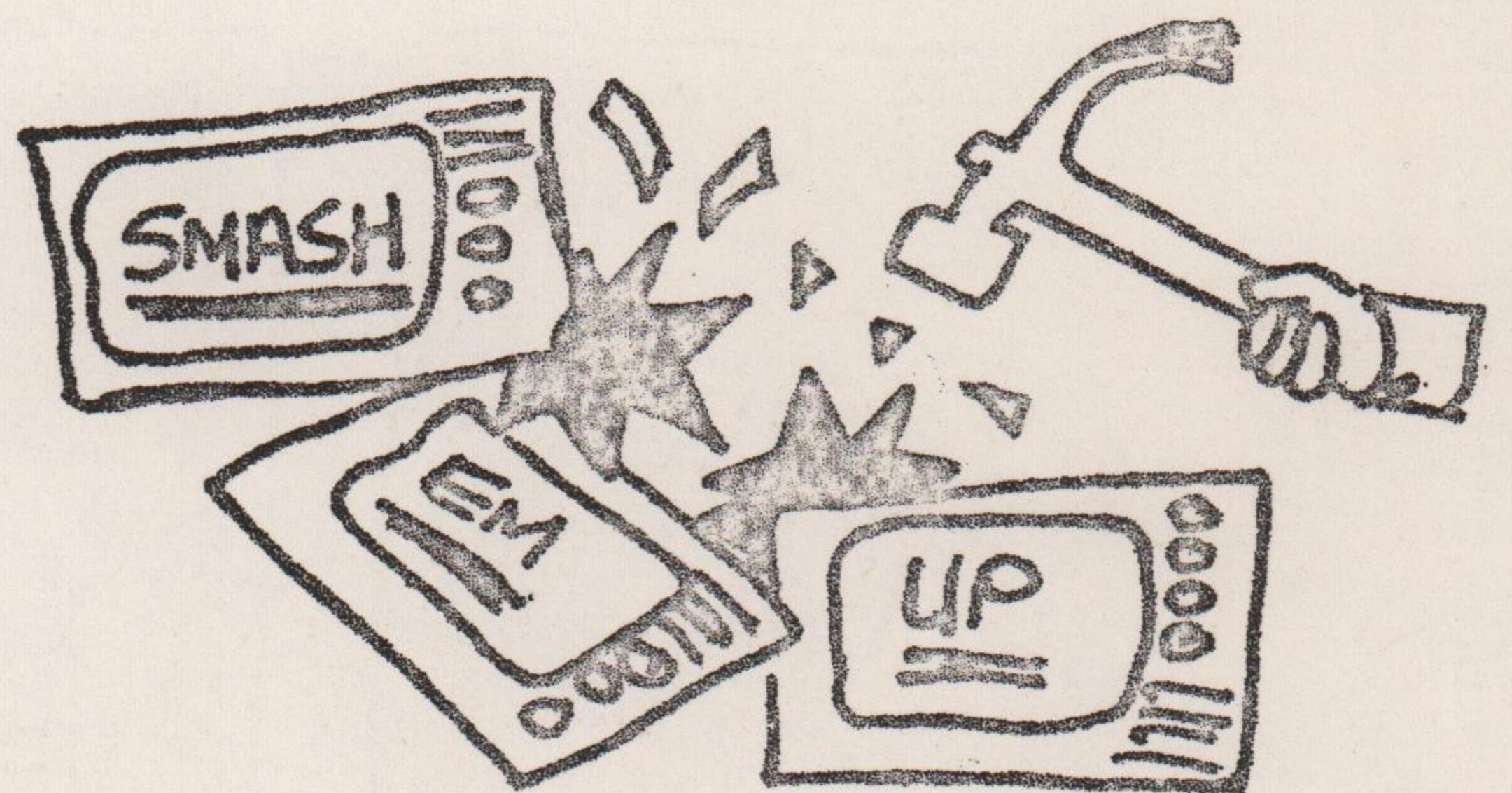
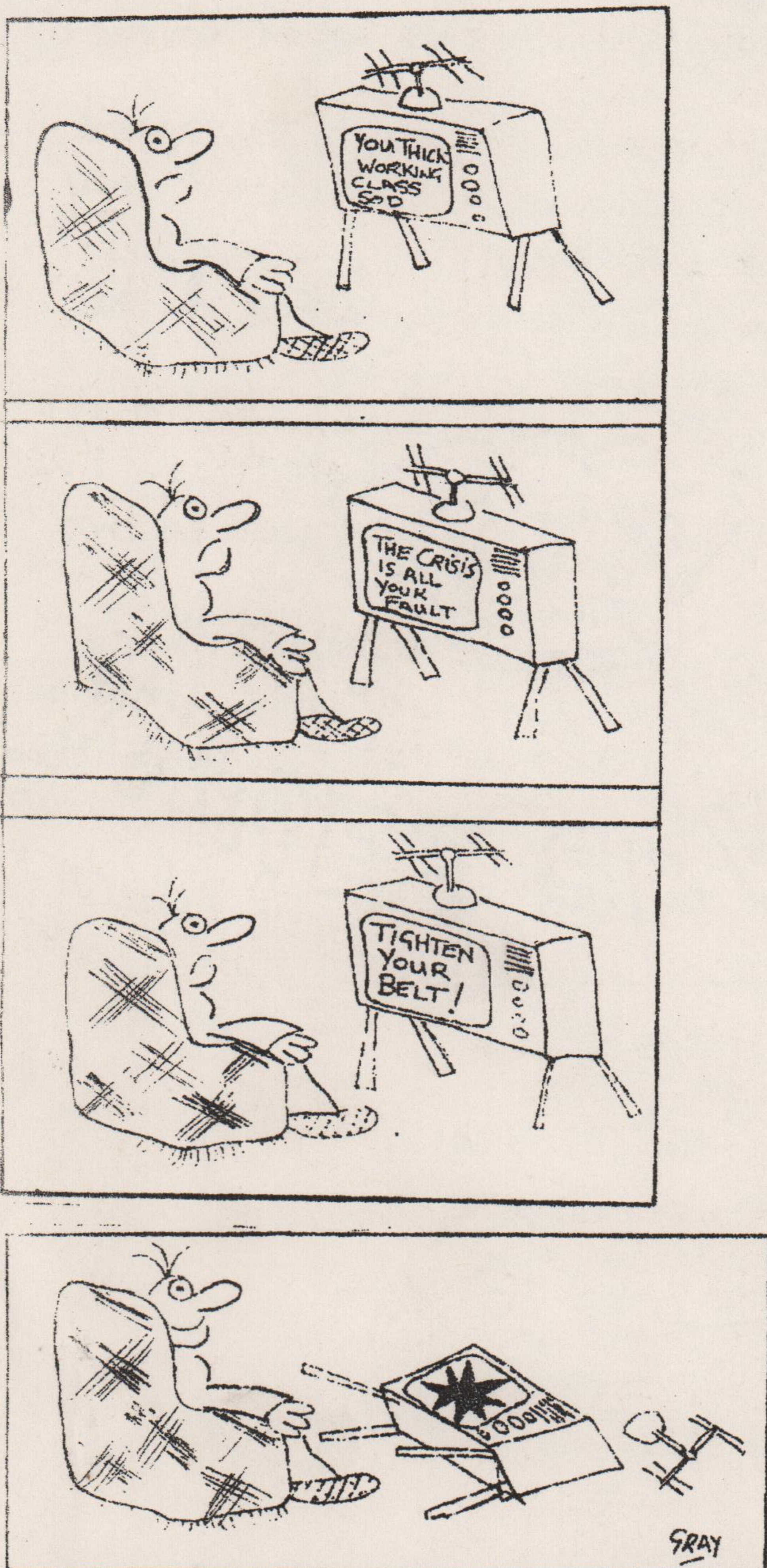
A survey on social trends, carried out a month or so ago, brought us the fascinating fact that not only does the average nuclear family no longer consist of mother, father and 2.45 children (the figure has now fallen to 1.75! Wow!) but also that the average British person watches twenty one hours of television per week.

As someone who rarely watches the telly, i couldn't help thinking: "Surely they must get bored." But no, i switched on the radio and heard an American psychologist saying that by the age of fifteen, the average youngster in the U.S. will have witnessed over fifteen thousand murders - on the telly. Who could possibly get bored with all this entertainment?

The same psychologist went on to say that with the Japanese people sucking up so much American culture (sic(k)) and watching U.S. programmes, imported en masse, the incidence of American-style violent street crimes has risen by approximately seventy-five per cent in Japan.

Frightening, innit? 'Specially when we bear in mind that we're supposed to be watching twenty-one hours a week of this stuff!

There can be only one solution...



An End To Hunger?

Much concern has been expressed recently over the starvation of thousands in other parts of our planet. We have, in previous issues, laid the blame squarely in the laps of world governments of all persuasions. We still do. But I suggest that the time has come for every one of us, rather than sitting back and apportioning blame to this government or that, to take an immediate and direct step towards the end of both human starvation and, at the same time, animal suffering.

WE MUST TOTALLY BOYCOTT THE MEAT AND DAIRY INDUSTRIES, thus removing our support from the wasteful and cruel methods of "food production".

It has been proved time and time again that the human body can gain all the nourishment it needs, purely from plant foods. There are hundreds of healthy vegans around who will tell you so themselves (I am one myself, in case you haven't guessed).

One of the main reasons that people are going hungry (apart from the fact that the planet's food supplies are not being fairly shared out) is that, as well as a huge, and ever increasing, human population, we have also bred a huge animal population - to be used as human food. Now, these animals have to be fed, and it is estimated that they are fed between five and ten times as much primary plant food as we humans do.

The way our present diet is geared, is that we use animals as machines for turning plant food into meat. This method is not only unnecessarily cruel (the profit motive necessarily calls for factory farming etc to reduce costs) but is also very wasteful because only a very small proportion of food eaten by animals becomes available to humans as meat and dairy produce. For every pound of meat produced by a cow, it will have to eat approximately fifteen pounds of plant food - plant food which, if it had been consumed directly by us, would have fed fourteen extra people.

In 1981, it was estimated that FOUR HUNDRED AND TWENTY MILLION people were underfed. Now try reading that figure again without feeling compassion and the desire to end their suffering.

One of the sickest things I heard about the famine in Africa is that crops were being sold by the Ethiopian government to the British government because they were paying the highest price. These crops were then being fed to British dairy cows whose milk, when produced, was being dried and sold back to the Ethiopians to nourish their starving!!

To grow food for one person eating a western diet (ie one high in meat and dairy products) it takes approximately 0.60 hectares of land. There is currently only 0.38 hectares of arable land (land on which food can be grown) per head of population. This is because vital land that could be used to grow food to feed ourselves is used for animals. The vegan diet requires only 0.08 hectares of land per person. The solution is so simple - it is within the reach of every one of us.

END WORLD HUNGER AND ANIMAL SUFFERING--

BOYCOTT THE MEAT AND DAIRY INDUSTRIES NOW!

(You can get useful information and advice about the vegan diet from THE VEGAN SOCIETY, 47 HIGHLANDS ROAD, LEATHERHEAD, SURREY.)

EMMA.

Another organisation doing much good work to alleviate human starvation, by using methods that don't involve animal suffering is an organisation called VEGFAM.

VEGFAM has provided fruit and nuts for Near East Refugee camps and plant-based food stuffs for child victims of famine or drought in Bihar and Tamil-Nadu (India), Nigeria, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Eritrea, Somalia and Thailand.

As long term aid, they have financed vegetable canning, irrigation, the planting and growing of seeds and fruit trees and nut trees and the production of leaf protein, all in famine hit areas.

Their future projects include irrigating desert areas so that crops may be grown, dew conservation, tree planting etc., converting land used for grazing into food crops and horticultural training for youngsters.

What's more, the administration costs and expenses are not taken out of donations but are borne by Vegfam's Trustees.

Donations are always needed and are gratefully received. You can get more information by writing to them at the following address:

VEGFAM
THE SANCTUARY
NR. LYDFORD
DEVON

GRAY



STOP BUSINESS AS USUAL / BRIGHTON STOP THE CITY

After the last two London Stop The Cities proved to be relatively unsuccessful, both in terms of disrupting the sick businesses that torture our world, and in communicating and spreading our own positive messages, a great change of tactics was proven to be necessary. The dynamic success of the Leeds Stop The City last August proved that we can now only achieve effective mass protest involving direct action in places out of London; however, the lack of response to the Birmingham Stop The City proves that early publicity is necessary, and people do get tired. Effective actions by individual groups of people in their own areas in London and other places has proved that we can change things without relying on hundreds of physical supporters.

IT IS FOR THESE REASONS THAT "STOP BUSINESS AS USUAL" AND THE BRIGHTON STC WILL BE SO SUCCESSFUL.

STOP BUSINESS AS USUAL, APRIL 30TH

The idea of this apparently comes from America and something strikes me as dodgy about its origins. Nonetheless, the idea is a good one. We are capable of organising protests in our own areas, and the police will be less prepared to thwart them. We can have more effect, with less arrests.

The idea of it is more-or-less the same as that of the Stop The Cities. It was originally put forward that all actions should take place at 12 noon, but this idea is obviously ludicrous; it would make things far too easy for the police. It is vitally important that actions are planned for different times throughout the day, and also that any illegal, destructive actions take place the night OF, not before, April 30th, so as not to make peaceful demonstrators liable to frame ups.

Suggested ideas for actions are: occupations of unpleasant buildings, such as butchers, fur shops, electric showrooms; general leafletting against ideologically unsound businesses; street entertainment; hoax leaflets stating that goods are free at a certain hour; refusal to pay fares on Public Transport (because it should be free); anything you can think of.

A lot of groups are organising now. It is good to plan well ahead, and to get in touch

with other groups about actions.

121 Bookshop are providing a certain amount of information about the day. The address to write to is:

BOX SBU c/o 121 BOOKS,
RAILTON ROAD, LONDON SE 24

STOP BRIGHTON, MAY 30TH

This needs little explanation; all that must be stressed is that it is really really important that a lot of people turn up for the event - so that we can show the scum that try to rule us that there is strength in Stop The Cities still, and that we will always be here to challenge their disgusting system.

The leaflet that seems to be going round says the demo will be peaceful. People have strange ideas of what that word means: to me it means there is no violence against people. But property must be SMASHED. Fur shops, sex shops, butchers etc must be trashed. Equally as important, we must make everyday people understand why these sort of places need trashing - communication is vital!

People will be gathering at 9 til 9,30 on the morning at Churchill Square. Be there.

For further information write to P.O. BOX 307 BRIGHTON.

Nicky H.



Once again, another vital community service is under threat. Once again, people will suffer, in the name of profit.

What is it this time? Another tiny shoe-string service that's costing too much to keep going? Hardly - this time it's a service which made a disgustingly huge profit of one hundred and sixteen million pounds during 1989.

We are, of course, talking about the post office, who, during 1985, are planning to increase their profits even further by closing down up to 30 Crown Post Office Counters in London.

The effect upon our communities will be hard felt. In particular, I am thinking of pensioners, who have enough difficulty getting along to collect the pittance they're "given" by the state anyway. Imagine the effect of closing down the "post office in the high street". It will no doubt mean that the P.O. will make even more profits in the form of money not collected by those pensioners not able to travel the extra distance that these closures are bound to entail.

The Union of Communication Workers are putting up a fight to halt the closures, and I think we could and should all join the fight ourselves. I am sure that the chairman of the P.O.* or the local Head Post Master would like to hear our protests!!

* The Chairman,
Post Office Corporation,
Post Office Headquarters,
33 Grosvenor Place,
London SW1X 1PX

CORRECTION:

In last issue's "POWER TO THE PEOPLE" article, the second section should have been headed "DANGEROUS", and not "DIRTY". Also, new nuclear power stations cost £15,000 million each, and not simply £15,000. Sorry about that!

We would like to thank all those who have written to us, sending articles, criticisms, money. It is all gratefully received, and we look forward to hearing from more of you.

"START" will be back next issue.

ANIMAL LIBERATION PRISONERS.

Dear reader,

Below is a list of names, numbers and locations of some of the twelve people currently on remand in custody (awaiting trial) or serving time for Animal Liberation activities.

Prison is something the state can impose on any of us at any time. I remember after the demonstration at Charles River laboratories in Margate in September 83, a close friend was sentenced to 14 days for obstruction. This was the first time anyone I knew personally had been sent to prison. In many ways it changed my life, it made me realise what we are up against. The fact my friend only received a two week sentence didn't matter, it was the fact that three people sitting on a bench had the power to say she was wrong and therefore must go to jail, thus protecting the multinational companies who carry out torture of animals and people the world over. The people who sit on magistrates and crown court benches throughout Britain are the people most likely to have shares in companies such as I.C.I., Unilever, MacDonalds, Marconi RTZ etc, etc, (Have you ever seen a Black, working class woman on the bench?). So therefore it is in their own interests that we do not present a challenge to the companies. That we do not make the public aware of the suffering, torture and death they impose on animals and people, of what goes on behind the closed doors of vivisection laboratories and slaughter houses, that MacDonalds are cutting down the Amazon rain forests to grow grain to supply their factory farms, and it is estimated that by 1992 people in the Southern hemisphere will begin to die through lack of oxygen due to the destruction of these forests. For if enough people knew what these companies do and began to act i.e. boycott, they would fall financially flat on their faces, and we could begin to create a more caring society, a world free from suffering and oppression. Until such a time, because of the need to hit these companies financially, as the only way they think is through their pockets, many activists will find themselves in the same position as I am in, at the moment I am writing this from prison.

With the forthcoming trials such as I.C.I., 18 people charged with unlawful assembly, criminal damage and some with burglary, Wickham with some of the most serious charges brought against animal rights activists: - conspiracy to rob and aggravated burglary, Unilever, 42 people charged with conspiracy to burgle and cause damage of approx £60,000 plus the 11 people currently on remand and Andrew Horbury, serving a two year sentence, it is likely that before long there will be quite a number of animal rights prisoners.

Only through a united struggle will we achieve liberation for all animals. Not through groups and individuals arguing amongst themselves about which is the best way of changing society. Everything is important from leafletting high street shoppers to raids on animal exploitation establishments to cause damage and save animals from torture and death.

It is therefore important for people who support ALF, NALL, SEALL, etc to support activists imprisoned for their actions and ensure they are not left feeling isolated and forgotten.

This society is built on greed and suffering, and money is what it revolves around. Those exploiting don't want people to know what is going on or take action against it which would threaten their profits. Basically they don't want us trying to change their sick traditional, capitalist ways and they have the power to lock up anyone who present even a minor threat to their nice cosy living. We must fight back. UNITED WE STAND.

A day will come when animals, all animals are free to live out their lives in harmony with nature. Together we can change the world, but time is running out and the buck stops with you.

In solidarity and strength,

Anarchy and peace,

A prisoner.

PRISONERS

Terry Helsby F17287 &
John Curtin F17288 at
H.M. Prison Bristol,
Cambridge Road,
Horfield,
Bristol,
BS7 8PS.

(Arrested in connection with
the desecration of the Duke of
Beauforts grave. In custody since
late Dec 84)

Paul Kennedy A29722 at
Ashford Remand Centre,
Woodthorpe Road,
Ashford,
Middlesex,
TW15 3JZ.

(Charged with going equipped to
cause criminal damage, allegedly
in possession of petrol bombs, in
custody since mid Jan)

Andrew Horbury C54255,
H.M. Prison Birmingham,
Winson Green Road,
Birmingham,
B18 4AS.

(Serving a two year sentence imposed in early
February this year, after being convicted in
connection with the raid on Cocksparrow Tur
Farms in January 1984 when 30 foxes were
liberated and damaged caused)

(These people will not be able to reply to all letters sent, so please don't
be offended if your letters are not answered.)

SUPPORT FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS.

We are a group supporting people imprisoned for Animal Rights activities. With the forthcoming I.C.I., Unilever and Wickham trials and as the level of illegal actions increases, more and more people are likely to go to prison. There are already several people on remand in custody (awaiting trial) and one person serving a two year sentence in connection with such activities. It is a vital part of the struggle that these people are not left feeling isolated and forgotten. Please write to those listed overleaf expressing your solidarity and support, and keep them in touch with what is happening in the movement—though remember all letters to prisoners are opened and censored, so obviously don't discuss anything that could jeopardise future actions or SOMEONES FREEDOM.

S.A.R.P.'s aims are:-

1. Widespread distribution of up to date information on prisoners to enable those outside to write to (a) the prisoners themselves, (b) Governors of prisons where prisoners are being denied vegan food, toiletries or clothing & (c) the Home Office, to establish the right to these necessities for any prisoner that wants them.

2. To provide funds for (a) the travel costs of visitors on a low income, (b) newspapers, magazines and books for prisoners & (c) vegan food for prisoners on remand to supplement the inadequate prison diet.

Please send us :-

A. Any money you can afford to give.

B. Any information you may have, such as names and locations of prisoners, or copies of letters received from the Home Office or prisons regarding prison vegan diet etc.

C. A stamped, addressed envelope if you require further information.
address: - - -

Support For Animal Rights Prisoners,
Box 101,
84b WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET,
LONDON E1

WATERLOO CUP:

This disgusting spectacle of ferocious greyhounds competing against one another hunting hares and ripping them apart took place once again near Formby in Lancashire and was apparently the biggest attendance for many years. What the organisers weren't so ready to admit, however, was that the size and commitment of the protestors brought a certain amount of disruption to the event and made many of the rich scum feel at least a bit uneasy about what they were taking part in.

On the last day several hundred protestors marched to the place but were accompanied by too many police to do anything.

On the second day of the three days' "sport" 100 or so hunt sabs secretly waded across a river and over the bank on the other side towards the hare coursing fields in a planned attempt to stop the event. A battle soon followed as hired vigilantes tried to stop the sabs from getting any closer. Mounted police were used and 20 arrests were made, all sabs. For the rest of the day an amplified hunting horn was used from the safety of a van some distance away, in order to confuse the greyhounds into going away rather than towards the hares. Some kills were made, but perhaps not as many as they wanted.

It is clear that to totally disrupt this annual obscenity would be a very major achievement, but what with vigilantes and police against us this will not be possible unless many more people come, then maybe it could be physically stopped once and for all.

Bill C.

WEINBERGER - WARMONGER

Several days after the takeover of Molesworth the American Defence Minister, Caspar Weinberger made a secret and unofficial visit to Britain for an interview at Channel 4. A group of 20 or so people acting on a tip off turned up and picketed the building in order to hide their real objective to disrupt Weinberger's movements for as long as possible.

Incredible, only a handful of police arrived and made no attempt to control where we stood or what we did. Weinberger's car was stopped on leaving for several minutes and he was eventually driven away looking visibly shaken after his car had been sat on and spat at. It was so easy. No one was even arrested, and this one of the most powerful men in the world. Typically, the media chose to ignore it. Next time they won't be able to.

Bill C.

EVENTS PAGE:

THURSDAY MARCH 28TH HARRISBURG DAY: March leaves Sizewell to arrive at Molesworth for Easter. More info from Ann & John Stringer, tel: Ridgewell 440

MONDAY APRIL 8TH MOLESWORTH: Everyone going to the Easter demo at Molesworth is being asked to bring a ruck sack full of wheat grain, dried or tinned food or blankets to be sent to Eritrea. (Or send donations before Easter - £7 buys a hundredweight of wheat). More info from EASTER WHEAT FUND c/o Old School, Clopton, Northants. tel: 080 15257

SATURDAY APRIL 27TH WORLD DAY FOR LABORATORY ANIMALS: Demonstrations at the following animal abuse centres:

HAZLETON LABS, HARROGATE NTH YORKS. Assemble 12.30pm in West Park Stray. More information from Animal Aid - 0732 364546

TOXICOL LABS, LEDBURY, HERTS. Assemble from 1pm at Ledbury B.R. stn. More information from Lorraine Walker 0742 352860

WICKHAM RESEARCH LABS, WICKHAM, HAMPSHIRE. Assemble from 12.30pm in Cemetery Rd, off Southampton Common, The Avenue, Southampton. More information from BUAV - 01 607 1545/1892

TUESDAY APRIL 30TH STOP BUSINESS AS USUAL

SATURDAY MAY 4TH DEMONSTRATION AGAINST BEECHAMS ANIMAL ABUSE LABS. Assemble at Dorking B.R. station 12.30pm.

SATURDAY MAY 4TH ANARCHIST BOOKFAIR: 10.30 to 6.30 at the Tunbridge Club, Cromer St, London WC1. Followed by social 'til 10pm.

SUNDAY MAY 5TH ANARCHIST PICNIC: 1pm Hampstead Heath, London.

THURSDAY MAY 30TH STOP THE CITY BRIGHTON.

So that we can make the events page a regular feature, please send us info on any forthcoming actions/gatherings etc to our box number.

CAROLS CAFE

Tue - Sun 1 - 6pm.

Alternative cafe for cheap tea and coffee, food, reading, talking meetings..! It is collectively run by Camden Squatters. Any ideas, contributions and help welcome. CAMDEN LABOUR CLUB, 4 CAROL ST. NW1.