

RIGHT TO WORK?

It's Not Enough

From hearing all the cries of outrage and indignation over the rising level of unemployment one would think that having a job was like winning the pools. The Right to Work means the right to be exploited and dominated. A lot of us have tiring, repetitive jobs and we produce socially useless things.

Wage Slavery

This situation will persist until we smash Capitalism and State Socialism by abolishing wage-slavery and putting industry under workers control. Then we will have the power to decide amongst ourselves what will be produced, how and why. We will then benefit fully from the fruits of our labour.

If we are unemployed what can we do here and now? We must organise ourselves and form unemployed peoples action groups. If goods or services are denied us because we cannot afford it, we must take it. We can also campaign for better benefits. Many unemployed people are isolated and feel powerless, we need to come together.

Confrontation

If we are employed what can we do here and now? We must not leave it to the politicians and union leaders who are more interested in compromise with the State and Capitalism than with confrontation.

There are many examples of workers adopting independent forms of organisations and resistance in their struggles.

1. Occupations: Hospital workers especially have adopted this form of action. Also those fighting redundancies and closures.



2. On the Job Action: In April 79, GPO sorting offices in London took their own unofficial action. Within a week 60% of the country's mail was at a halt. Stoppages, combined with work to rules, non-cooperation, rotating shift to shift ensured total chaos yet no-one lost more than 4 hours pay.

3. Mass Pickets: The mobile Steel Pickets were a clear example of workers seizing the initiative and running their own strike independently of the unions (ISTC).

4. Workers Councils: The 79 Lorry Drivers strike led to some sections of the economy grinding to a halt and others brought under the control of the regional strike committees to run essential services. The union was never in effective control.



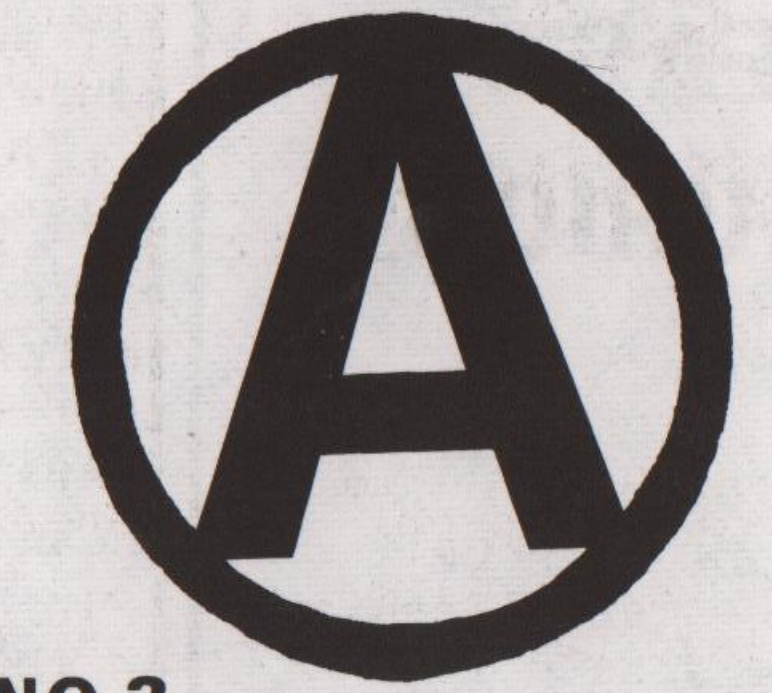
5. Independent Agitation: The first major defeat for Labour's Social Contract was a seven week strike at Fords. The Ford Workers Combine, a nationwide network of small groups and individuals in every Ford factory, independent of all unions and political parties, had constantly agitated for action to be taken. On the day and at the place that the employers/unions met to set seal on a pathetic 5% wage rise, 2,000 Combine supporters angrily picketed and heckled outside. This was seen on the TV news and within hours almost every Ford factory had shut down due to an instantaneous walk-out by disgruntled workers.

In the final analysis the struggle to resist exploitation and oppression in the workplace and on the streets is our struggle. We can't afford to leave it to anyone else, we must do it ourselves NOW.

Conservatives do not worship democracy..... If it is leading to an end that is undesirable, or inconsistent with itself then there is a theoretical case for ending it" Sir Ian Gilmour

P+P. O.A.M. MANCHESTER.

DIRECT ACTION



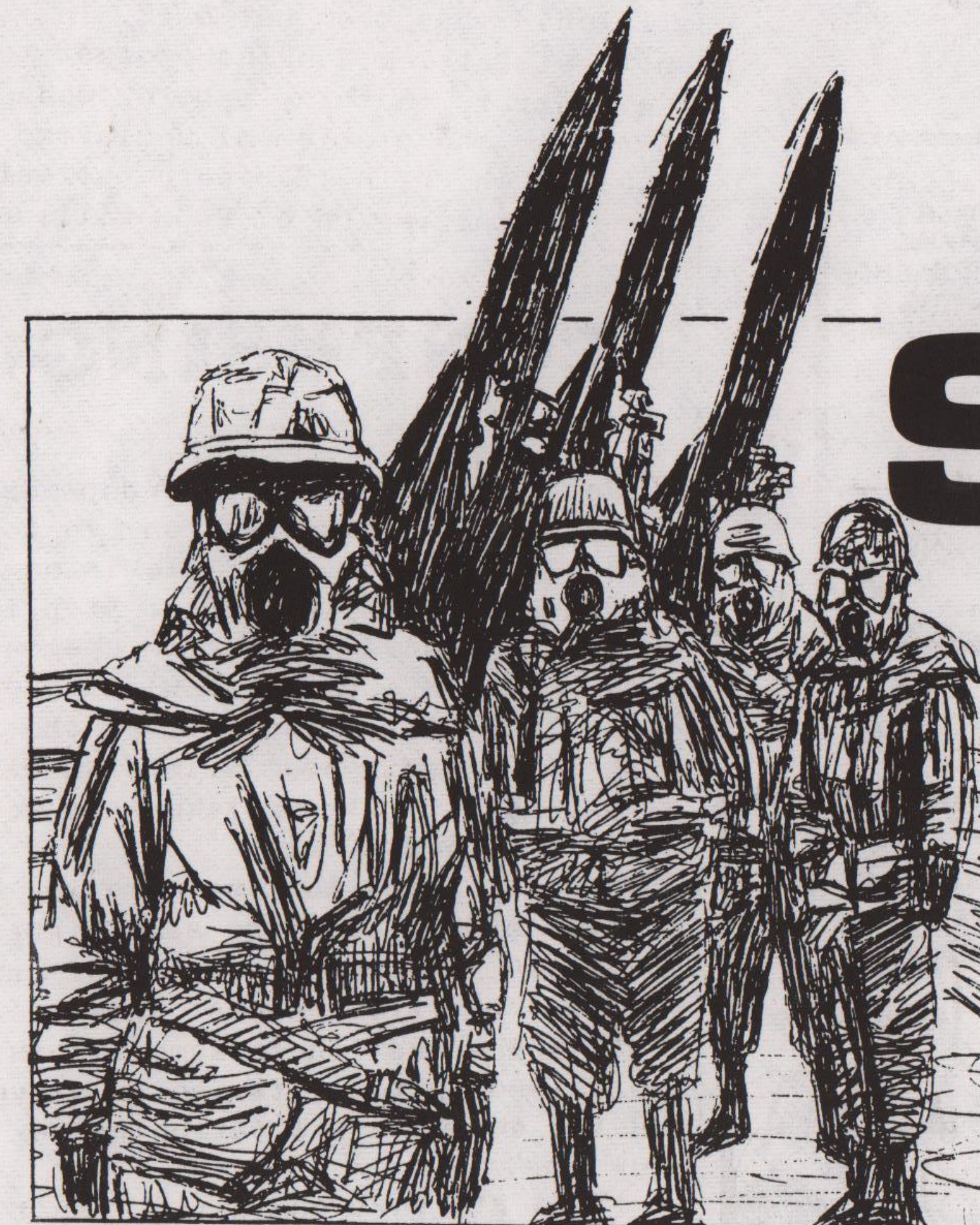
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15p

Paper
of the
Direct Action
Movement

BRISTOL --- BERLIN --- BELFAST --- AMSTERDAM ---
ZURICH --- BRIXTON --- SOUTHALL --- IT'S THE SAME

THE WHOLE WORLD OVER



SMASH THE STATE

FROM BELFAST TO ZURICH

From Belfast to Zurich, Brixton to Berlin, Derry to Amsterdam people are fighting back. The republican population of N Ireland have refused to be broken and beaten into submission. Young people in Zurich have been fighting against the Swiss state for months. Berlin squatters and their allies have been fighting for the right to a home. Here in Britain the youth of Bristol and Brixton, black and white, decided that they had been pushed around for long enough. But, unfortunately, society cannot be overturned by just throwing bricks and fire bombs. The British police and state have a strength and capacity that has hardly been revealed yet. The thug who runs the Manchester police force, James Anderton, has stock-piled machine guns for use by his boys in blue.

While the Brixton riots were happening the British army were on standby in case the thugs in blue couldn't cope. Anyone who thinks the British Establishment won't use every weapon at their disposal must be living in cloud cuckoo land.

Direct Action wants to see the State smashed along with the police, army and all their repressive apparatus. Direct Action wants to see a society based on freedom and cooperation, the problem is how to get there. The State IS strong but not invincible, the police ARE thugs but not unbeatable. What is needed is the mass of the population, the working class, organising to defeat the State. If the bosses and media can't divide us between employed and unemployed, black and white, men and women then that unity will be unbeatable. If we organise in the factories, dole queues and the housing estates then the lousy system we live under now won't last five minutes.

Man in Thirties to Wed 19 Year Old

(By Our Sociological Correspondent)

Recent surveys of matrimonial trends in Britain have shown a marked tendency towards the formation of marriages between couples of which the female partner is the elder.

Much press coverage, however, has recently been given to an engagement that evidences a return to the formerly almost exclusive practise of men choosing younger wives.

Mr Charles Battenburg (32) is to marry currently unemployed child-minder Miss Diana Spencer (19).

This age difference may be attributed to the fact that Mr Battenburg (alias Mountbatten of Windsor) is an immigrant of partly Greek origin and that traditional arrangement is still overwhelmingly prevalent in Mediterranean countries.

In spite of the media concentration on the case, which is likely to continue for some time, it should perhaps be pointed out that Mr Battenburg is in many ways untypical.

He is the owner of a large country estate known as Cornwall; and although like many others, he is in receipt of Social Security Benefit, this is believed to be at a somewhat higher rate than most other claimants.

Moreover, while every Englishman likes to think his home is his castle, the German-Greek Mr Battenburg has six castles to think of as his home.

Nor do most engagement announcements result in a sudden share price increases for potters, hoteliers and the makers of Union Jacks.

In one way the marriage may yet prove to be typical. Many commentators hope that it will resist the growing trend for marriages to end in divorce. Research into both marriage-partner's family backgrounds, however, shows that they are not immune to this phenomenon.



Approved \$croungers'

Usually when you hear of tax-evaders the emphasis is on individuals. There is suprisingly little mention of companies, however a recent article in Treasury's Economic Progress Report throws some light on this. It shows that 61% of companies paid no corporation tax at all! Despite a theoretical rate of tax of 52%, the average rate paid was only 16%!

According to Patrick Jenkins, the Social Services Secretary, the Government's anti-fraud drive has resulted in the saving of more than £40 millions of the taxpayers money. This claim is highly questionable. Last year it was revealed that the official returns were being distorted to show greater savings than had been actually achieved. Cases where claimants were in jail, had gone abroad, died were included in the figures. The DHSS estimated that up to one fifth did represent real savings. These figures must also be doubted if special investigators are told how much money they must deliver in savings every four weeks.

At the same time investigations into tax evasion - estimated to cost between £1,000 million and £2,000 million! - has been cut back. In spite of Patrick Jenkins protest to the contrary, nothing's being done to tackle the problem of unclaimed benefits which in 1979 were estimated to be in the region of £400 million.

CONFUSING

"Solidarnosc" the Polish independent workers' union organisation, is to have its own radio and television programmes. This is a great step forward for democracy and free speech. Here in Britain the Tories and the capitalist press have saluted the rise of 'solidarnosc' with favourable propaganda in cliches like 'the re-birth of freedom' etc.

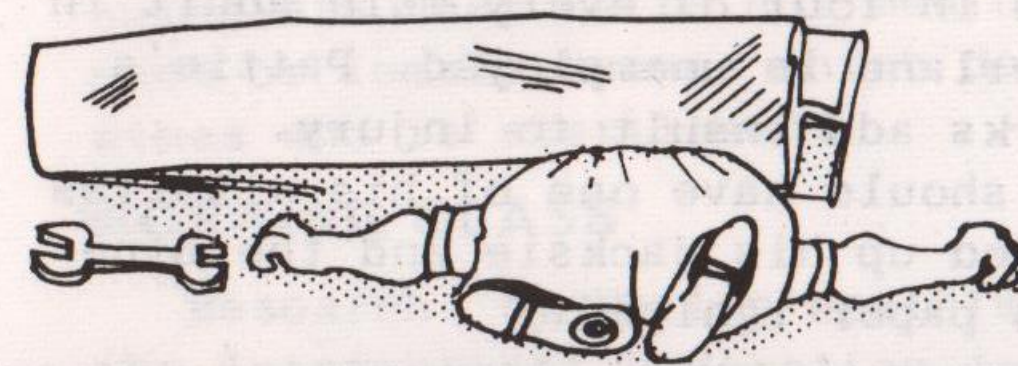
The suggestion that workers in Britain should have the same rights have been greeted by squeals of pain by the same 'free' press. Here it would appear that these same rights would lead to totalitarianism slavery and the end of civilisation as we know it.

It is all very confusing, isn't it?

Danger Men

According to the Health and Safety Executive there were 123 fatal accidents in the first nine months of 1980. This is an increase of twenty per cent in one year, this is with a fifteen per cent fall in building jobs! The employers are taking the opportunity to put pressure on the building workers which shows in the number of fatal accidents.

Construction workers comprise ten per cent of the British labour force but the suffer twenty five per cent of fatal accidents. The Health and Safety Executive have just published their third 'Black Spot' report analyses the cause of accidents and offers some useful suggestions. However statements like "The work is inherently dangerous and seems to attract men who find the danger stimulating", are just another example of the game of blaming the victim.



Housing For ALL

It's no big secret that the Tories do not like the idea of council houses. Since they were elected, council houses have virtually stopped being built, Direct Works are in the process of being run down and rents almost doubled. On top of this, the Tories much publicised policy of 'buy a council house on the cheap' has been introduced.

The Labour Party's response to the Thatcher cuts has been just as predictable. All we have heard from them is the usual 'vote for us next time and we will change things'. Well, before we all go rushing out to vote Labour in three years time we should ask ourselves what happened when Labour was last in power.

Labour's record on housing is disgusting. After years of these so-called socialist being in power you still had thousands without the basic right of somewhere to live. Go through any large city and you will see large concrete pigsties many of which were built when our beloved Labour leaders were in power.

Then we the other proud boast of the Labour Party. That they have provided cheap accommodation for the working masses. This is another sick joke, sure council rents are cheap when compared to the average robb-

ing bastard of a private landlord. The fact is that before kicking the bucket, most council tenant have paid for their hoses two or three times over, how can that be called cheap housing?



It's no good waiting three years to vote in a Labour Government that is just going to carry on where the Tories left off. If we want some control over things like rent, Direct Works, building programmes etc. we are going to have to fight for control. Once we have organised ourselves governments are going to have to listen to our protests. After all, if people living in council estates throughout the country had said NO to the latest Thatcher rent increase, what could the Tories have done about it? The answer is quite simple - NOTHING.

Russian Dissidents' Fight Back

Russian dissidents imprisoned in a psychiatric prison hospital at Chernykhovsk rebelled against drug treatment between the 1st and 5th January. The dissidents barricaded themselves in the building and held medical staff as hostages.

After five days the prisoner psychiatrists persuaded them to release their hostages on the understanding that their complaints would be investigated. Instead of an inquiry guards invaded the hospital and beat up the prisoners, one of whom lost an eye. The regime at the 'hospital' has been much harsher since the rebellion.

A NOTE FROM PHIL THE TYPIST

A number of people have pointed out the typing errors in the first two issues. But thigs will continue as they have always bean. Phil.

Fly Me To Cuba!

REMEMBER all the fuss made of the people who had had enough of Castro's 'workers paradise' and decided to flee to the USA. Fleet St, of course had a field day showing how thousands of people wished to leave the horrors of a 'communist' country for the delights of capitalism. Less noteworthy, it seem, has been the increasing number of plane hijackings by people trying to get back to Cuba.

Needless to say America wasn't the land of milk and honey that the refugees had expected. Instead they found unemployment, official racism and some of the natives were decidedly unfriendly (the Ku Klux Klan have maintained a hate campaign against the Cubans). So, as the saying goes, better the devil you know.

Fleet St has also chosen to ignore the constant stream of refugees from another Caribbean island under dictatorial rule. Far be it from us to imply that the bias could be due to the fact that the island in question, Haiti, has a pro-western, right-wing dictatorship that is so savage that it makes Cuba look like a 'workers paradise'. Or is it just that the plight of human beings fleeing from tyranny becomes boring and unnewsworthy compared to bonny prince Charlie and whats-her-name?



Hebdon Bridge

Most people are unaware that asbestos fibres cause cancer, even in low concentrations. But until recently no one took much notice of where firms dumped their waste asbestos. Asbestos was dumped in the Yorkshire village of Hebdon Bridge. When Cape Industries closed down their textile factory, Acre Mill, a number of dumps were discovered. More than 70 people have died as a direct result of the diseases caused by the asbestos.

Capitalism cares for nothing and nobody in their pursuit of profit.

WHO KILLED COCK ROBIN?



The Daily Mirror (31.3.81) tells us that: "A Cockney sparrow looking remarkably like Buzby" has become "the spearhead of a campaign by the Labour Party to revive its flagging fortunes." The sparrow has been chosen as the party's symbol to win back control of the Greater London Council.

But what happened to the little dickie? Look at its breast all spattered with blood. Has a Tory arser pierced the poor bleeding sparrer? Or is it a piebald robin?

Could the Labour Party be as confused over its birds as it is over its policies.

Still the poor little sod is tweet-tweeting.

Upon reflection an apt symbol for the Party. In opposition tweeting ineffectually about socialism. In power doing S.F.A. about it.

NOOSE FOR THE CHAIRMAN

We all know there are numerous obstacles involved in the procedures of the Industrial Tribunal.

Workers in the Tees-side area are faced with an extra obstacle though. An obstacle in the form of the tribunals regular Chairman. A certain Mr Lauriston. Lauriston is renowned for his anti-trade union sentiments, racist comments and general superiority complex as far as workers are concerned.

Never mind though, leally his references are impeccable and his experience unique. Lauriston is a former South African hanging Judge!

thought for the day

"A CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT IS AN ORGANISED HYPOCRISY"

Benjamin Disraeli
House of Commons
17.3. 1845

UP'S AND DOWN'S

In 1960 a Pole, Andrei Jawien, wrote a play: "The Jewellers Shop". According to the 'Echo', Sunderland, it concerned the 'ups and downs of love and married life.'

Andrei Jawien was the pseudonym of the present Pope John Paul.

The Echo's choice of words is unfortunate. What can the world's most illustrious celibate know of the 'ups and downs' of heterosexual love? Is there a skeleton in the Papal cupboard?

Oh no John, no John, no!



Andrei Jawien

alias

'The Pope'

ALL COMRADES TOGETHER

Comrades will be delighted to learn that our beloved is planning her annual dine and sleep house parties.

Lest you think its only where the big nobs hang out, you are wrong. Gracious Liz is not above slumming with the proletariat - and socialist ones at that!

The Daily Mirror of 9.4.81. informs us that Jack Jones, Michael Foot, and Harold Wilson have attended these royal nosh and doss rave ups.

We are told that, "Union veteran Jack Jones" is "well known for his hatred of society fripperies". It is also well known that he fought on the Republican side in the Spanish Civil War. How does he equate royal arse licking with republicanism?

"Michael Foot likes to browse in the library with the Queen" - dirty beast, whilst "Sir Harold Wilson was so overcome by the atmosphere once that he stayed up half the night drinking brandy from balloon glasses." As good excuse as any for getting pissed.

"The Queen always tries to show her guests something unusual" says the Mirror. We bet she does! Guesses invited comrades.

PRIDE WITH FEAR

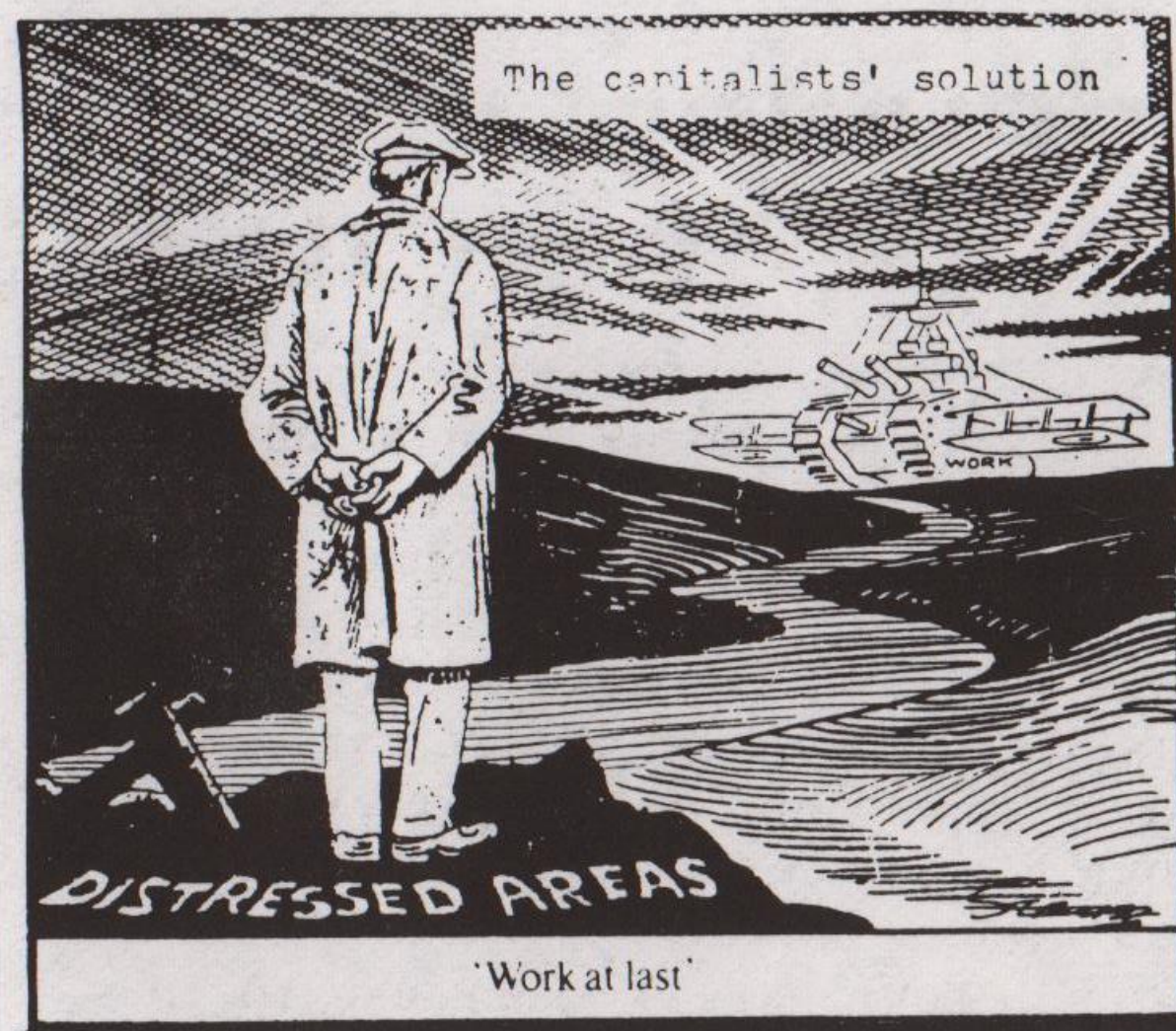
Addressing Sunderland Conservative Association, Geoffrey Pattie, Under Secretary for Defence, told the assembled political activists that strikes are now fewer than for 40 years because of the fear that people have over their jobs.

He said: "It is sad that the pride people now have over their jobs has to come out of fear because they feel that they may lose them. But people are now working overtime and they are working better and things are starting to turn round." (Echo S/land)

How does he equate pride with fear? Would he have us believe that the wretched slave toiling at the oars had pride in his work because of the galley-master's whip? Here speaks the voice of Blatent bloody minded Toryism.

One in four of every male adult in Sunderland is unemployed. Pattie's remarks add insult to injury.

He should have one of his missiles stuffed up his jacksie and the blue touch paper ignited.



LEE JEANS

250 workers, mainly women, at the jeans factory in Greenock, Scotland have occupied their factory over the threat of closure. The firm, owned by the multi-national VF Corporation, have shown their cotempt for working people in an area already devastated by 'free enterprise'. The workers have shown the best sort of answer to the intimidation of the bosses, their occupation has been solid and well organised.

They've taken their fight out to other workplaces and set an excellent example to others on how to fight redundancy. Watch out for delegations from Lee Jeans in your area or send donations to Treasurer,

LEE JEANS SHOP STEWARDS COMMITTEE
45 BROUGHAM STREET
GREENOCK
SCOTLAND

C.N.D.



Back on the Road to where?

EASTER 1981 saw the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament resurrect itself after nearly two decades of slumber. Once again thousands of people were back on the streets in protest at the threat of nuclear extermination. Around 8,000 people marched in Rugby, 10,000 in London and there were events as far afield as Carlisle and East Anglia.

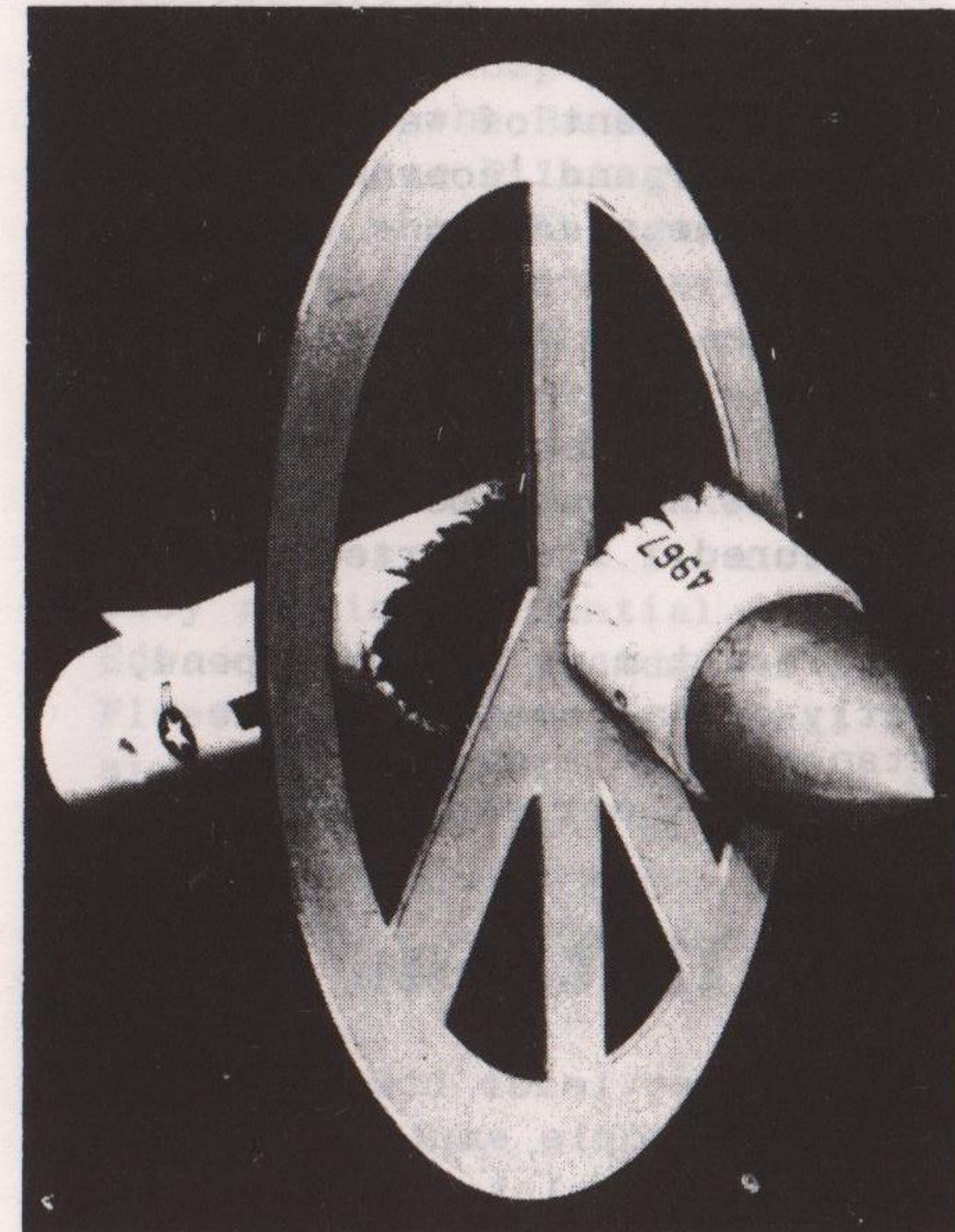
I decided to join the Trans-Pennine March from Leeds to Manchester along with about 400 other people. The Lord Mayor of Leeds gave us all a little speech before we boarded buses to the city outskirts (we were banned from marching by a blanket ban on all demonstrations after the NF had threatened a march). After that it was sunshine and blisters all the way.

Most of the marchers were young with a fair number of school students but there were also mums and dads with toddlers and a sprinkling of CND 'veterans'. The last stage of the protest saw 10,000 people march and rally in Manchester.

ANGER

The problem is, will the anger and enthusiasm of the current campaigners succeed where their predecessors failed? In order to succeed this time no one should pin too many hopes on the decisions of the Labour Party Conferences. Of course its too easy to say we can't end the threat of nuclear war until we get rid of this insane capitalist system.

Perhaps thats true but what can we do in the meantime? One thing we could do is to follow the example of building workers in Australia. When they took a dislike to the number of office blocks in their cities they imposed 'green bans' and demanded decent housing not offices. Similar decisions by rank and file trade unionists in this country could make the governments decision to site Trident missiles in Britain an impossibility.



A Future on Rations

A Lurgan housewife recently had an alarming experience - both for her and those who live out the early 1980's in Britain under the abrasive rule of Margaret Thatcher. She had sent off her Family Allowance book for renewal to the local Department of Health and Social Security. Instead she got back what she said was called a Rations Book for her daughter dated 1982.

This naturally caused some excitement in her neighbourhood and the next day, two plain clothes men called round to her house to regain the document and to ask her nicely not to talk about the incident.

Its implications are clear. Mrs. Thatcher and her hawkish cohorts have a sharp vision of the near future for those whom they rule - a Britain back on rations and who knows what other devices of social control. And all this comes two years ahead of George Orwell's 1984 projection, which is specially ironic given the election slogans that helped the Tories into power - these stressed the Orwellian destiny that awaited 'this green and pleasant land, this sceptred isle' if Labour maintained power.

PCP:2.4.5-T?

PCP is widely used as a wood preservative - it kills pests, bacteria, algae, fungus and weeds. It also contains two types of dioxin; it is known to be capable of altering the body's cell structure, creating the basis for malignant cancers.

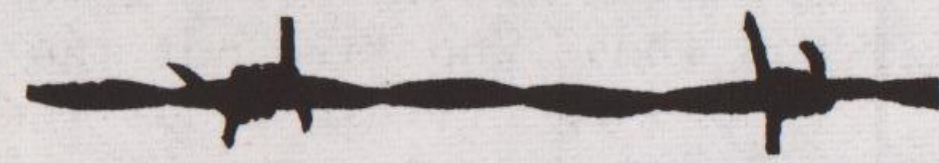
PCP is widely used in avariety of industries in many ways. As a mould preventative in oils, paints, rubbers, and carpet shampoos. It is also used as a mothproofer for fabric and as a mould preventative in the food processing industry. We therefore eat the stuff as well as breath it, get it on our skins, etc! In the USA workers have been alerted to this chemical.

Preliminary surveys have indicated that 85% of the US population would test positively for significant amounts of PCP in their urine.

Most PCP appears to be manufactured in the USA and exported to other countries. In the first five months of last year alone 228,496 kilograms of PCP were imported into Britain. Sweden and Japan have severely restricted the use and importation of PCP. It seems about time that British workers started asking questions about this chemical before we become a dumping ground for a known hazard.



THE WAR MACHINE



Opposition to nuclear weapons has developed in a spectacular fashion during the last few months, but in order to continue to make an impact, the disarmament movement may have to widen its scope to include opposition to a much wider range of weaponry, not just nuclear arms.

Modern technology has developed a variety of armaments which are as nearly destructive as nuclear weapons. During the Vietnam war, for example, the United States sprayed large areas of South Vietnam with Agent Orange, a herbicide designed to defoliate forests and deprive the Vietnamese of tree cover and food.

Since then many of the children of the parents sprayed are being born with horrific abnormalities. THE NEW STATESMAN (22 Aug. 1980) reports children being born without eyes, or with the eye lenses missing. Others have deformed limbs or are born without brains, and at hospitals in some areas, such as the Tay Ninh region (North west of Saigon), one quarter of all pregnancies result in miscarriages.

Bombing

Recent newspaper reports quote former Minister of Defence, Francis Pym, as wanting to increase and develop Britain's stockpile of Chemical and Biological weapons.

The growth of scientific knowledge is also enabling the sophisticated use of more conventional weapons. Yves Lacoste, a geographer, has demonstrated how geographical knowledge was used by the Americans during their bombing campaign against the North Vietnamese in an attempt to destroy the elaborate network of dykes and irrigation channels on which North Vietnamese agriculture depended.

The problem with warfare of this type is that in theory, the effects are more localised, so that milit-

ary authorities are more likely to use them, in spite of the lack of real knowledge about their impact over lives.

The development of weaponry (both nuclear and 'conventional') does not take place in a vacuum. Large numbers of people are required to design, build and test the weapons, as well as to operate them, and all the components and spare parts have to be designed, manufactured, transported, and stored.

As a result many people depend, directly or indirectly, on the existence of a large military machine for their employment.

Installations

There are at least between 800,000 and 850,000 people employed directly on 'defence' related activity in the UK. The total combined numbers in the armed forces is estimated at over 330,000, while the Reserves and Auxiliaries number nearly another 188,000 people.

The Ministry of Defence also employs a further 218,000 civilians recruited in the UK (including staff recruited overseas the MoD employs more than 255,000 people.) Estimates suggest that there are also 200,000 people directly employed on MoD contracts in industry, with a further 70 - 80,000 people working on military contracts.

These figures do not include secondary or indirect civilian employment, in areas such as the catering or delivery trades, that always results near military installations. All these people are socially organised around the production of arms and the maintenance of a military juggernaut and strategies for change must take them into account.

Some industries rely heavily on military expenditure. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit 70% of the output of the aircraft industry could be dependant on defence spending. Comparable figures for industrial electronics

and radio communications are 35% while 25% of shipbuilding is also dependant on naval budgets.

Military expenditure is of particular importance because of the way it is concentrated. Well over half of the research and development undertaken in the electronics industry is funded by the MoD. (In 1976 the MoD spent £150 million on research and development in the electronics industry. Total research and development expenditure in industry was £280 million.)

GEC

Most of the benefits of military spending accrue to a few large companies. Arms production in the UK is concentrated among these gigantic corporations, and in state-owned or state-controlled companies, although there are about 8,000 firms with some degree of military business. During 1978-1979, the MoD spent £2,508m, in

industry almost two thirds of which (£1,600m.) went to just 38 firms. The private companies are in most cases, well integrated into the economic structure of the country. Very few of them only manufacture armaments.

GEC, one of the companies with the biggest military interests, produces a wide range of products from diesels to Hotpoint refrigerators, as well as military equipment. Racal Electronics, although more specialised, owns subsidiaries within television, records, music publishing and so on.

Like other arms companies both Racal and GEC have extensive overseas interests - Racal owns companies in 23 different countries, while GEC have even more. Sometimes the arms firms themselves are only subsidiaries of larger corporations, or in other cases the largest shareholder is a company ostensibly without interests in military production.

Westland Aircraft's largest shareholder is John Brown and Co. Ltd., while Racal's largest single shareholder is the Prudential Assurance Company Ltd.

Fabric

These links are reinforced by the connections of the company directors. Many company directors sit on the boards of other companies, so for example, Lord Aldington is chairperson of the Board of Directors of Westland



Aircraft and deputy chair of GEC. Such relationships extend throughout the fabric of commercial and industrial life, tightly linking the arms companies with a whole spectrum of interests.

Lord Aldington is also chairperson of the National Nuclear Corporation, the Sun Alliance and London Assurance Co. Altogether he is chairperson of 9 companies, deputy chair of one, a governor of London Assurance and a director of Lloyds Bank and Citicorp (USA). His immediate superior at GEC is Lord Nelson of Stafford, a director of the Bank of England, who also holds positions on four other company boards.

GEC is no exception. Another director of the Bank of England is Sir Arthur Pilkington, chairperson of the Pilkington Group of companies (manufacturers of military optics and other components). Altogether he has 14 directorships.

The story repeats itself with other directors even when their connections are not financial, they remain influential - Sir Edward Ashmore, an Admiral of the Fleet is a director of Racal and sir Geoffrey Howe (Chancellor of the Exchequer) is a director of ENI, which manufactures missile components and other weapons.

ROF

Arms production is also undertaken by the state - either directly through for example, the Royal Ordnance Factories (which during 1978-9 had an output valued at £370m. and employed more than 23,000 people) or through state-owned companies such as British Leyland (BL's Alvis subsidiary produces Scorpion tanks) and Short Bros. and Harland.

Apart from this direct stake in arms development and manufacture, the state also undertakes a much more paternal role in supervising and co-ordinating the arms industry. In 1977 the central government provided an average of £11 million of aid to business on every day of the year.

Much of this assistance has gone to the arms companies - government support for the Vickers subsidiary of Kearney and Trecker Marvin in the mid-70's included an injection of £3.5million worth of capital just before Vickers acquired the company. Two years later, when Vickers were in control, assistance included writing-off liabilities of £5.2 million, financial assistance of £1.9 million, an unsecured loan of £1 million and the purchase of £900,000 worth of non-voting shares.



Rolls

The state has also supported the arms industry by nationalising arms companies in financial trouble, and subsequently selling the companies back when they are become viable again. Recent examples include Fairey, Ferranti and Rolls Royce 1971 Ltd.

The state's guiding hand also manifests itself in the Defence Sales Organisation. Set up by the Labour government in 1966, the DSO employs about 400 people to co-ordinate arms sales estimated at about £900 million per year. In fact official figures considerably underestimate the amount of sales.

The arms companies also have a considerable degree of independence. Government policy says that it is illegal to export military equipment to South Africa, but many arms companies such as Plesseys, easily evade the restrictions.

Because arms production is dispersed through several thousand companies throughout the country, it should be possible to take different types of action against them. Workers in some companies, eg Lucas Aerospace and Vickers, are already reacting to the waste of skills and resources that result from the arms trade.

Action throughout trade unions and the workplace could spread this kind of challenge. The commercial (non-military) products of the arms companies make them more vulnerable to boycott. Selective boycotts of non-military products of the arms traders could be undertaken.

Much of the research used in the development of weapons and military techniques is carried out within universities and polytechnics. At the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology,

BARRED- from the Bar

ENGLISH LAW usually ends up backing the killjoys

Whether it be buying a drink or enduring the gloom of our English Sundays, there is always a law to reinforce the social crank minorities who do their best to make life for the rest of us a misery. Luckily some of them, like the Lord's Day Observance Society, have suffered some set-backs of late but still limit our freedom.

Another area in which some people suffer is in the snobbishness and hypocrisy which attaches to the law which allows a landlord of a pub to refuse to serve members of the public whom he doesn't like.

The Rochdale Direct Action Group recently suffered from this law, when the landlord of The Baum on Toad Lane, Rochdale refused to serve some members of the Group. His objection was that they were Punks.

It was later pointed out to him that he should be trying to convert these people to the lower middle class respectability to which he so clearly aspires. But he doesn't seem to see the need to become a middle class evangelist.



As a householder and as one who is trying desperately to ape the middle classes, I am one of those who has not yet been banned. Nevertheless, I have taken the precaution of pulling my socks up.

To improve my image at The Baum I have taken to ordering obscure wines, not on the wine list in a loud authoritative voice, and to peppering my conversation with French phrases. Alas, the staff don't seem to have cottoned on to the landlord's status climbing; because when I asked for 'Vin ordinaire' the only reply I could get was 'YUH WHAT!'

But what of the other customers, those who are not like me,

jump-up members of the working class trying to disguise their origins?

EGON RONAY

Well apart from the odd civil servant and solicitor's clerk, John D Pickles, the local estate agent, was spotted boozing with his cronies. I could tell they were genuine lower middle class because Pickles, who used to hang about The Reed Hotel, kept bellowing "How much would you give me for a crate of Chateau La Tour?"

Some members of his party had acquired the disgusting habit of drinking beer and then ordering wine. An unmistakable lower middle class habit, of which Egon Ronay says 'mixing drinks doesn't make you drunk, you have to be already drunk to mix your drinks.'

Ah yes, I hear you say, just because these people don't know how to drink, and are boastful and a little loud in the mouth, surely they are morally superior to a bunch of Punks.

CRASS

Recent reports in the Rochdale Alternative Paper suggest differently. Pickles has refused to bring property he rents on Tweed St to a decent standard with such 'luxuries' as inside toilets and, in one case, an electricity supply. Elsewhere he has tried to increase the rents of his Sparth Bottom properties by 133%. Again the properties lack bathrooms, inside toilets, and are damp.

There is an even more forceful reason that the should attract decent working people and that is because traditionally Toad Lane was the centre of a radical working class experiment.

It is of course where the Co-operative movement started and the Co-op Museum stands next door but one to the pub.

Over the years Rochdaliens have had enough with interference in their night life by both Non-Conformist killjoys in the local ruling class, and a police force which has shown more zeal than most in closing down clubs and places of entertainment. It is reported that the Tropice was warned by the police after the Crass concert last September, and threatened with closure.

It would be intolerable if the landlords should now get in on the act by discriminating against sections of the public and the

young (last year one publican at The Reed, refused to serve social workers because they were on strike).

Nationally of course the puritanical laws have served to exclude children - and therefore to some extent women - from pubs, and this in turn has done much to turn those places into boozing houses instead of family gathering places which they ought to be.

War Machine cont.

the American Department of Defence has sponsored weather modification projects. The University of Southampton regularly organises conferences with the Ministry of Defence and branches of the armed forces.

More publicity of these links would be embarrassing for the so-called independent universities. At Cambridge University as much as 30% of research funding in some departments comes from military sources.

A recent report on Cambridge by Gary Jones highlights the concentration of military-financed research in the physical sciences. The Dept. of Applied Maths gets 16.75% (£38,470) of its research income from military sources. Metallurgy and materials science receives £79,840 (31.24%) while Physics gets £96,548 (10.13%) and the Engineering Dept. receives £87,489 (9.52%).

Altogether during the academic year 1978-9 Cambridge University received £344,654 from military sources for work undertaken in the Departments.

Superficially the projects sponsored appear harmless, even relatively benign - the Ministry of Defence, for example, has financed work on latency in viruses, something with obvious benefit to the civilian community but also directly relevant to germ warfare.

Looking at the background of the arms manufacturing industry also identifies prominent individuals as targets for pressure in the future, not only because they are beneficiaries of the cold war in a direct sense but also because they occupy important positions within the apparatus of decision-making. Only when we view it within the total context can we hope to make sense of it all and provide effective opposition.

STERILISATION

IT is estimated that 1 in 10 of all British couples and over 1 million women in Britain have been sterilised, at a rate of as many 54,000 a year. Many have been sterilised at their own request or after detailed discussions with their doctors. But some experts fear that women belonging to socially disadvantaged groups such as immigrants, low IQ families or 'problem' families are still more likely to be sterilised than middle-class women.

Extreme regional variations in recent statistics, like those released in a Birth Control Trust report on sterilisation indicate to gynaecologists that it is not medical need or female demand which determines who is sterilised.

WORKING CLASS

Research by Philip Kestelmann of the International Federation for Planned Parenthood and Diane Munday of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service has detected strong social skew in sterilisation sales, which Jane Coe of the Birth Control Trust agrees has been predominantly a working class phenomenon.

A class IV or V woman is 100 times more likely to emerge from a confinement or an abortion in an NHS hospital with a sterilisation than a middle-class woman. Half of all sterilisations are conducted at childbirth or during abortion, according to Dr. Valerie Beral of the London School of Hygiene - in spite of the fact that it substantially increases the risk of the operation.

Littledirect evidence exists to indicate who determines who should be sterilised or why. But there is some to suggest that a policy of doctor-determined social sterilisations of predominantly poor women at childbirth has long been in operation. A survey of 1,400 gynaecologists in Britain showed that 83% were sterilising without seeking a second opinion.

AMERIKA

A factory in America has recently informed its female staff that they must become sterilised if they wish to continue working there: no reason was given. However when it is realised that lead is one of the ingredients used in the manufacturing process, then the companies line of action becomes very clear. Lead plays havoc with the nervous system as well as brain tissue and the general biological system - hence the risk of babies born with severe deformities.



EPOXY RESIN

DANISH building workers have been leading a campaign for about two years to have epoxy resins banned. This decision was taken after some research workers in Copenhagen had found epoxies to cause mutations in bacteria. They wrote articles in union journals explaining the implications of this to make sure that their research didn't lie hidden gathering dust without workers hearing about

it and being able to act on it. (How many British scientific workers are willing to come out of hiding like that?)

The campaign came to a head in the summer of 1979 when they picketed a purification plant in Copenhagen, stopping epoxies being used there. The union argued that there was a satisfactory safe alternative (as the law required). The City Mayor thought differently and used the police to break the picket, but the workers received support. Five thousand trade unionist joined a demonstration in support of this struggle, under the banner 'Say no to Epoxy'. 200 doctors took out a paid newspaper advertisement supporting them and saying workers should not be forced to work with such toxic chemicals. (Can you imagine that happening here)

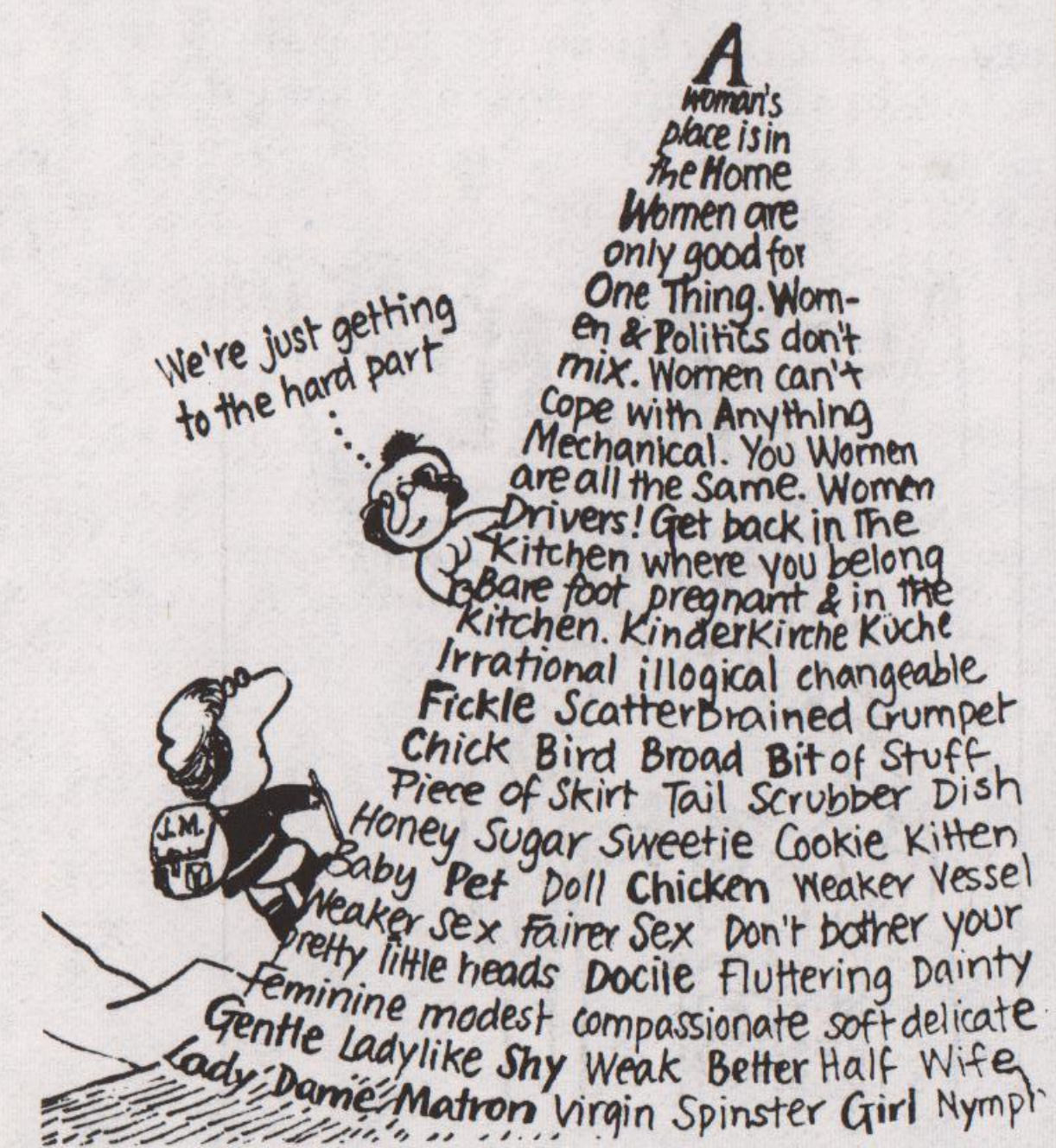
Police Violence

But unfortunately, after four months they called off the blockade in the face of repeated violent police attacks. However, the campaign continues with more general demands to have no new chemicals put on the market without health hazard evaluations, full provision of health hazard data to be supplied with chemicals and tighter laws controlling the use of dangerous materials.

Shortly after the Building Workers' Union campaign started in 1979, Government Regulations came out, banning epoxy spraying outside total enclosure (although one of the exceptions granted covered the whole shipbuilding industry), requiring safer alternative materials to be used if satisfactory, registration of all epoxy products, plus some requirements on the provision of protective clothing, training, etc.



POLICE ATTACKING PICKET IN COPENHAGEN



CLASS WAR: MILITARY REPRESSION 1917.....1923

"Historians," remarking on the earlier defeats of the IWW, offer up a multitude of reasons - each pointing to some inherent weakness of doctrine or practise in the IWW. These professors to the contrary, the Industrial Workers of the World took the correct stand - the only one a class-conscious militant union could. The One Big Union was smashed by but one thing: the full armed might of the U.S. Military.

In the First World War the United States was not just virtually under martial law, it was so officially. The enemy was not the German soldier trapped in the muddy trenches of Northern France; it was the "IWW-Bolshevik menace". In 1917 the number of strikes in the U.S. reached a peak of 4,450, not to be exceeded until 1937. IWW strongholds, the Pacific Northwest timberland, the oil fields of Kansas, the Midwest wheat crops, the Minnesota Mesabi iron range, the Southern timber states, were clapped under the depotism of the Western and Southern War Planning Departments. The copper mines of Montana and Arizona were declared actual 'war premises' and federal troops patrolled the IWW working class districts until 1921.

LOYALTY LEAGUE

Mass terror was the order of the day. In Bisbee, Arizona, an army of copper co. thugs deputised into a 'loyalty league' by the sheriff, loaded 1,200 IWW's, IWW suspects, pro-IWW townspeople and others onto a 27 car train and dump them in the waterless New Mexico desert. Rounded up by the U.S. Army, the 'enemy' was incarcerated in stockades in Columbia.

INSURRECTIONS

Both branches of the service occupied Seattle. Army and Navy intelligence officers led widespread street dragnets and mass arrests. By September 1920 the U.S. Army reported putting down 29 'domestic insurrections'. Federal occupation of Arizona ended only in 1920, and the Butte Montana Anaconda copper mines were held by the Army forces well into 1921 - nearly three years after the termination of hostilities in Europe.

The IWW General Defense Committee reported more than 2,000 Wobs in jail in early 1920. Of the leadership, 184

Wobs had been arrested for interfering with the war effort, resisting the draft, conspiring to create disloyalty in the army, sabotaging the munitions industry, and violating the Espionage and Lever Food and Fuel Distribution Acts. The prisoners were held in three separate groups in Chicago, Sacramento and Wichita. Seven of the Sacramento Wobs died from the inhuman prison conditions while awaiting trial. The Kansas prisoners waited two years for the courts, many kept in a windowless piecut revolving drum, others in a pitch-dark sub-basement dungeon. Several died of TB, some went insane. 101 of the 165 Officers and leaders and all of the California and Kansas-Oklahoma Wobblies were convicted, receiving terms of 1-20 years in the federal penitentiary.

FRANK LITTLE

One hundred and fifty IWW's of foreign birth were nabbed for deportation, 27 eventually shipped back to Europe. Only the refusal of Russia, Armenia, Turkey, the Ukraine and Austria to accept deportees halted the flood.

The number of Wobs murdered will never be known. A forgotten ditch was their resting place. Of those known were organiser Frank Little - castrated and lynched by the Butte Anaconda Copper Trust; and Wesley Everest, in army uniform just returned from France - castrated, lynched and mutilated by an American Legion and Lumber Trust in 1919 in Centralia, Washington. (Everest brought four of the swine down with him to the grave).

Only in 1923 were the IWW class-war prisoners paroled, this due to a massive publicity campaign for amnesty. But on a statewide basis, the repression continued under the criminal syndicalism act passed by 21 states and 2 territories. California became the most notorious after the 1922 Hetchy-Hetchy aqueduct strike. When the IWW tied up the San Pedro docks in 1923, hundreds were arrested and held in stockade. A Superior Court issued an injunction enjoining membership in the IWW. From 1919-1924 California alone indicted 500 Wobblies, 164 convicted, 133 sentenced to penitentiary terms of 1-14 years.

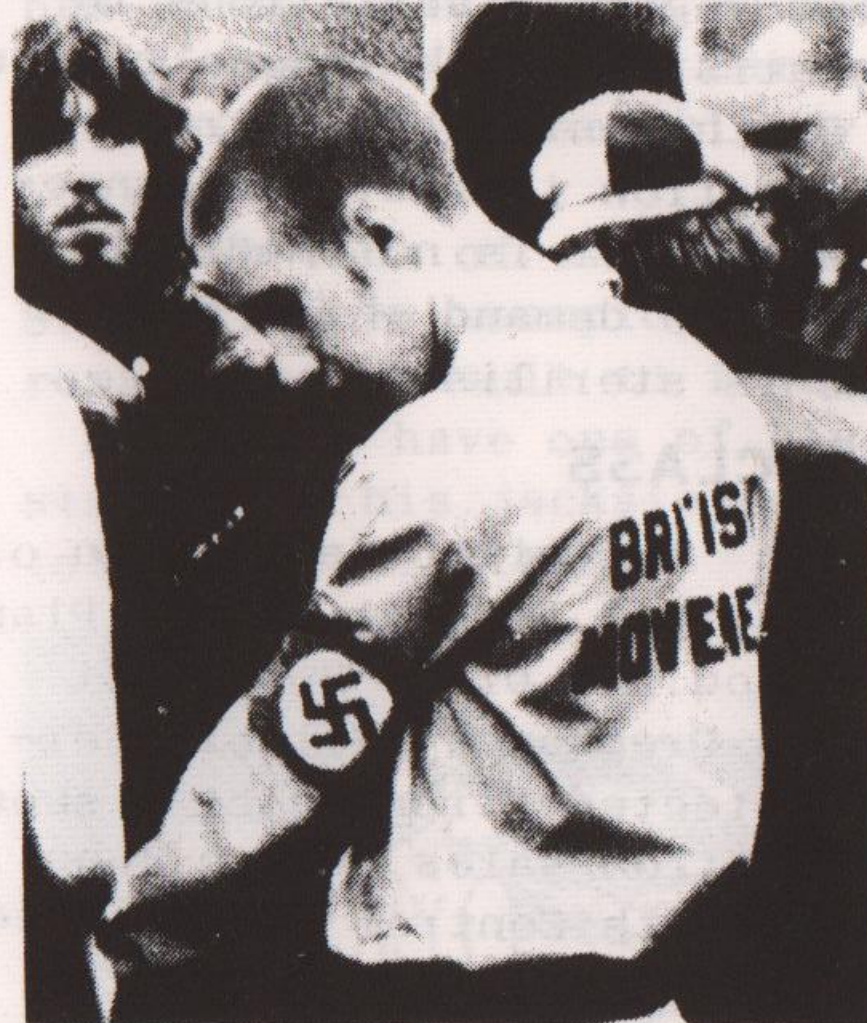
Yet the IWW rose up again. Only the Taft-Hartley anti-Red clause, opening salvo in 1947 of McCarthyite reaction, halted this growth, smashing the IWW Cleveland metal shops.

Teh IWW was defeated, but its spirit not conquered. It was smashed but not annihilated. For it is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism.

Choose Your Poison!

In the first issue of Direct Action we reported on the splits and ructions amongst Britains fascist movement. Unfortunately we put the enmity between the New National Front and the Old National Front down to old-fashioned hatred and jealousy between the rival leaderships - how wrong we were!

Truth is there are vital ideological differences between the two varieties of nazism. The O.N.F. in its paper Nationalism Today has formalised something the call Social Nationalism which is opposed to the twin evils of Capitalism and Communism. Whereas the N.N.F. stay with good old National Socialism led by Fuhrer John Tyndall.



a pillock

This is not merely a play on words by a bunch of nazi nutcases. By being critical of Capitalism and Communism the O.N.F. follow in the Strasserite tradition of nazism and hope to build a base amongst the white working class, especially youngsters. The N.N.F. lay off the criticism of Capitalism and pin their hopes of power on the middle-class supported by a pliant working class being led by the nose like a bunch of cretins.

Either way, Social Nationalism or National Socialism means breaking the working class and imposing fascist tyranny. Its up to us to make sure that will never happen.



THE DAM

The Direct Action Movement is an organisation of active militants. We aim to offer an alternative for those who do not wish to be organised from above but who nevertheless appreciate the need for organisation, and for action.

Since its founding in March 1979 the D.A.M. has grown rapidly. It now has branches in most large towns active in a variety of fields and working to establish grass roots organisation that does not depend on careerists and self seeking leaders to get things done.

We have no central committee to tell us what to do or think and no tin gods whose sacred words give us all the answers.

We aim to grow by sharing our skills, resources and understanding. We ask people to work with us rather than submit to our instructions.

The world has too many power crazed leaders already. We believe in complete workers control (not the bogus socialism of the so-called 'communist' countries). We believe in genuine democracy (not that represented by professional politicians). If you just leave it to us we aren't going to change the world for you. We'll work with you as equals but we won't lead you. It's up to all of us.

Membership fees (to pay expenses only, all work for the D.A.M. is unpaid) are £1.50 per month (for waged) and 10p (unwaged). Membership is open to all who agree with the aims and principles.

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C.N.T.

Spain, unlike Britain has a number of union federations, one of which the 'Confederacion Nacional de Trabajo' (CNT) has an Anarcho-syndicalist platform.

All of these federations have paid officials with the exception of the CNT which does not. The militants do all the necessary work of the organisation, propaganda, publicity and administration without pay during their free time.

All officials are elected and subject to recall with the positions within the Union and their associated tasks allocated on rotating basis.



FREEDOM

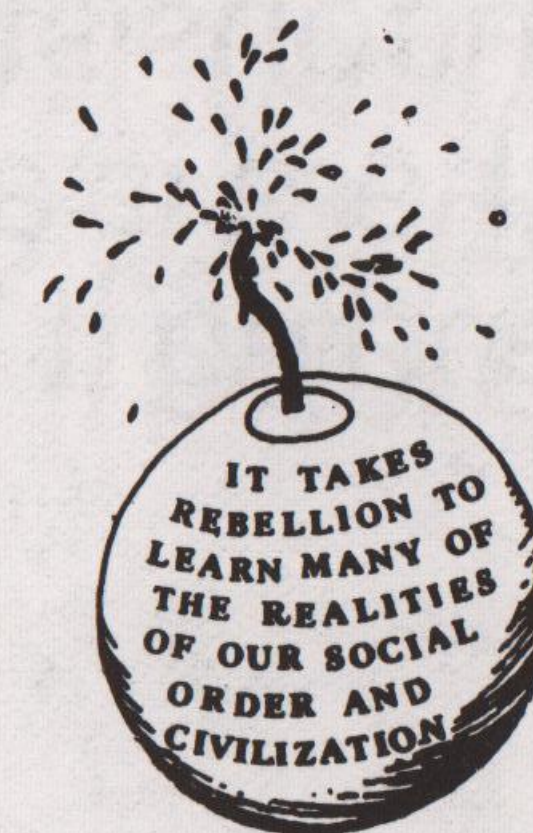
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LETTER

Dear Comrades,

I was most suprised to pick up your paper in a Newcastle bookshop. Its about time someone took the incentive to get a 'working class' anarchist paper on the streets again.

Regretfully retired from active politics now, I shall cast my mind back to the days prior to the Great War. Syndicalism was widespread in the yards, factories and pit. Anarchy was most certainly in the air. The fresh clean air of freedom.

My father was an ardent anarchist. An anarchist of the French school, but thats a different story. His great friends Billy Lawther and Geordie Harvey often goaded him about his puritanism.

Once my father brought Tom Mann, who was visting the area, home for supper. Mr Mann, although a revolutionary syndicalist, was by no means an anarchist. They argued all night. I was an apprentice blacksmith at the time and couldn't understand life without wages although I called myself an anarchist!

Enough of history, the message to the workers is still the same. Revolution and not reform. There is no compromise for revolution.

Keep up the good work comrades.

Yours fraternally

JF. Co Durham

editors' reply

We're very pleased to print JF's letter - not least because we entirely agree with his sentiments. There is a need for a working class anarchist paper - aneed which we aim to fulfil. Not least because anarchism can only come about through the self liberation of ordinary people such as ourselves.

The working class is the only class to have everything to gain from anarchism.

If anyone is interested in reading about pre-first World War British Syndicalism. Bob Holton's 'British Syndicalism 1900-1914' (Pluto Press 1976) is well worth reading covering the period JF talks about in detail. It was an heroic period in working class history.

We'd always be pleased to hear of the reminiscences of any of our older members - after all, the struggle by ordinary people for a better life is nothing new; it goes back centuries to the peasants revolt, the Diggers, the Luddites, the Chartists, the early trade unionists and many more.

