

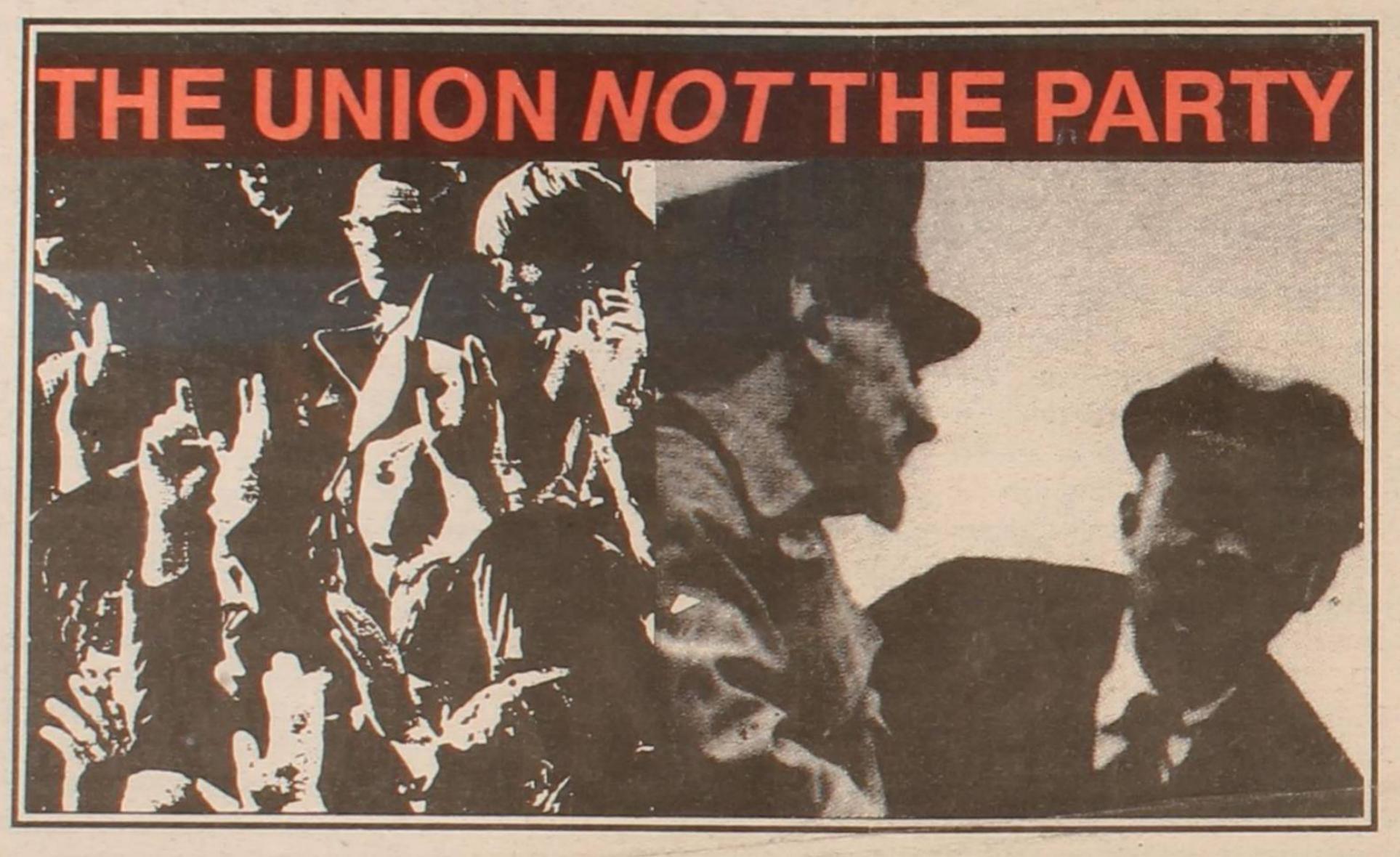
During the past few years, the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe, coupled with the growing crisis in the Soviet Union, has dealt Marxism a heavy blow. Recently, a failed coup attempt in the USSR proved to be the death throes of the traditional Marxist-Leninist state. These events open up great possiblities for anarcho-syndicalists, not just in the Soviet Union, but all over the world.

In Britain a lot of groups on the left are in crisis. Anarchosyndicalists should be filling this vacuum. Marxism is being shown to be a dead end for working class people. We must show why anarchosyndicalism is not.

A lot of marxists are simply dropping their ideas. Some, Marxist parties are top heavy, such as the Socialist Workers overly centralised and con-Party and Militant are talk- centrate policy making into ing about the need for 'real the hands of a few experts in socialism'. Trotskyists are dis- the 'science of socialism'. The owning their erstwhile com- basis of their unity is ideorades as stalinists, claiming logical, lacking any long that it is they who hold the standing solidarity which has real tradition formulated by to be based on primary mate-Lenin and Trotsky.

ods is the role of the Party. As unite the members, rather than anarcho-syndicalists we dis- needs, means that the organiagree and emphasise the role sation is open to middle class of the union. Not social people who use their educademocratic Trade unions, but tion and their confidence at revolutionary Industrial un- public speaking to dominate ions.

syndicalists have a class analy- society. sis of society, reject the reformist road of change be- Also, since such parties see cause of its tendency to effect POLITICAL IDEAS as the there is nothing more to add in other industries. only cosmetic changes, and main priority, it is those who to the subject! put forward a strategy of are well versed in such ideas revolution carried out by an and best equipped to put them organised working class. Why forward that wield the power is it then that marxists and and influence within the In place of the party, anarchoanarcho-syndicalists put for- organisation. It is not the syndicalists put the revoluward the party and the union members who are experienced tionary union - the AUTONOas competing strategies, and at organising in the workplace



why is it important that we and fighting the class struggle working class. It unites the choose the correct strategy? at grass roots level.

### **THE PARTY**

rial circumstances.

But still central to their meth- The fact that it is ideas which meetings and debates, whilst not holding the essential Both marxists and anarcho- material interest in changing

Perhaps the main failing of but in their very quality as the strategy put forward by workers. The union is not marxists (ie, that of building concerned with questions of not a utopian ideal, but a a mass revolutionary party philosophy. The very reason which would then lead the for its existence is to fight the working class to snatch power bosses, and so it stands at the from the capitalists), is its very point where the class failure to adequately address struggle arises - in the the methods by which work- workplace. ers would organise production and distribution once Anarcho-syndicalist unions freed from the yoke of capi- unite people not on the basis talism. They put forward a of their craft or the tools they simplisitic outdated 'dictator- use (as do the Trade Unions), ship of the proletariat', which but on the basis of the indusat best would be a semi-state try that they work within. So, overseen be a central com- be you a labourer, an engimittee of experts and 'scien- neer, or an admin worker; if The union becomes the cell tific' socialists. Ordinary you work in the construction for the new society; it already working class people would industry you wold be a has the structure and organibe able to have only a mini- member of the Construction mal input into such a set up. union. Each workplace Syn- of production and more

foward about how workers with people in the same incould organise society that dustry, and also with people

### THE UNION

MOUS organisation of the

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## **ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM FOR BEGINNERS**

workers, not on the basis of some ideology or sentiment,

dicate would federate locally, importantly the mechanisms So little do marxists put regionally and nationally, to ensure democratic decision

> This arrangement of preserving local autonomy, whilst ensuring efficient organisation, is not a token move to preserve democracy but is meant to allow workers to fight the class struggle to the greatest effect; to unite rather

than divide, to encourage solidarity and links between workers, rather than preserve the stupid sectionalism that exists in Trade Unions.

The union links the present to the future. It obtains concessions in the short term, whilst preparing workers through struggle, for the eventual social revolution. It is both defensive and offenisve, destructive and constructive.

By direct action and strikes, solidarity is encouraged every strike puts the class conflict into perspective. The strike, like the union, wins concessions from the bosses in the short term, but as workers grow in confidence and learn from the struggle, demands of a much more fundamental nature begin to be made. Revolution becames. necessity, the social general strike the necessary tool.

Anarcho-syndicalist theory and practice presents a fully homogenous programme of action. The strike, the natural form of conflict, is also the form of revolution. Workers can no longer hope to achieve anything by insurrection because of the state's control of the armed forces.

sation to take over the means making and fair distribution. Anarcho-syndicalism gives the labour movement the theory and the means to achieve the new society, independent of outsiders and sufficient unto itself.

a set a set and a set a set



Paper of the Direct Action Movement - International Workers Association

## SUMMARY

IN SICKNESS & IN WEALTH: Opting in, opting out? Privatisation, nationalisation? Politicians playing with lives. Health workers speak out.

#### - Centre Pages -

SYNDICALISM REVISITED: Trade unionism or syndicalism? The debate is as important now as it was earlier this century.

- Page 3 -

INDUSTRIAL NEWS: 115 workers sacked in Liverpoo for exercising the right to strike. OILC sets up independent union for offshore industry.

- Pages 4 & 5 -

**CLASS WAR CONFERENCE** A report and analysis of Class War's ambitious International Conference

### - Page 3

INDONESIA: Nike, the 'healthy' sportswear company that pays workers half the legal minimum wage.

- Page 8 -

ARGENTINA: Railway workers fighting back against planned privatisation.

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### <u>COMING SOON .....</u>

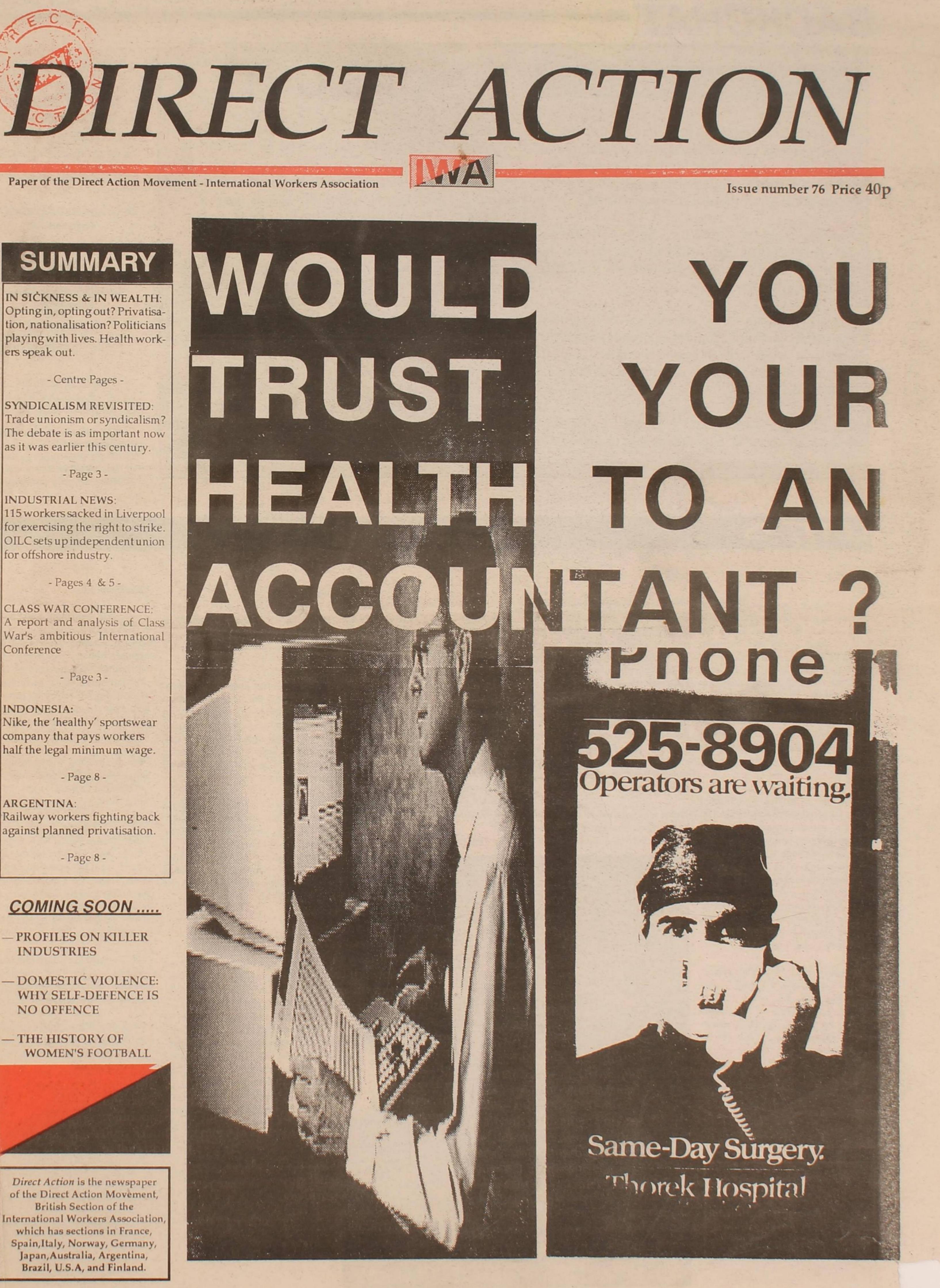
- PROFILES ON KILLER INDUSTRIES

- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: WHY SELF-DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE

- THE HISTORY OF WOMEN'S FOOTBALL



Direct Action is the newspaper of the Direct Action Movement, British Section of the International Workers Association, which has sections in France, Spain, Italy, Norway, Germany, Japan, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, U.S.A, and Finland.



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## BACKCHAT -

### **EDITORIAL COMMENT**

The Tories bleating about how they have no intention of privatising the NHS may be a preamble to them doing precisely that. Goebbel's propaganda machine partly depended on strongly denying an intention in order to raise it as a possiblity.

Whether or not the Tories have an opportunity to sell what's left of our health to their friends in commerce is of little practical concern to health service employees.

The ethos of the NHS, introduced by the new business school management, is already one based primarily on financial considerations. Clinical decisions are made by accountants, regardless of health needs.

The 'internal market' and the 'opt in, opt out, shake it all about' debate means that in reality no

## LETTERS

#### Dear DA

than a hasty response to the question ciple of Direct Action, I find it sur- agricultural land and we would all, Whilst we are pleased that you agree of unionising the armed forces. An prising that nobody seems to have of course, officially be 'employed' with the prinicple of Direct Action, we anti-militarist is not just one who had the obvious thought that the by the co-operative) and those who, feel that you have little idea of what that doesn't join the armed forces when first action that people like us ought for whatever reason, could only spend means. not called upon to do so, it needs to take is action to put our own a part of the year there would be free more than that. By calling for unioni- personal lives in order. sation one is not encouraging people to join the Army. (Calling for unioni- Just a few hundred people who think Such a move would do more for the that surrounds us. A happy hippy farm sation of prisoners won't make people like we do could, for a few hundred environment than would handing might be nice for a summer holiday, but solidarity, it's as simple as that. It led clamour to get inside so they can be pounds sterling each, quite easily out a million leaflets or appearing on Direct Action and anarcho-syndicalin a really good union; it may make form an Organic Farming Co-op- a demoevery week for the rest of our ism are not about being 'nobly poor' or their demands to get out more co- erative and, with the price of agri- lives. Anyone prepared to put their turning your back on all the shit that Perhaps hearing a hyped-up vergent.)

It is rubbish (other than geographic) to say Catterick is not Kronstadt. The Those who wished to do so could Box 29, Lancaster, LA2 9RR. soldiers' councils formed in Egypt in live there permanently (there is no 1946 were largely composed of people problem with planning permission Tim Hebberd who came through Catterick. They got the troops out of Egypt - lots of nebulous bodies today call for a Labour Government to get them out of Ireland. They couldn't do so then (a Labour Government was in power) so they went on strike. Nebulous soldiers' councils indeed!

The bogey is that because disciplined troops behave badly in Ireland, troops organising and able to act in their own interests will do so. Those who want to be there are unlikely to organise. Those who don't want to be there have no other effective way of pressing their views.

OK, so no unions in the armed forces, no soldiers' councils; if you're in, it was of your own free will and if you're opposed, you should have kept out. Surely on reflection, Dino and others should worry that the Government supports this point of view wholeheartedly?

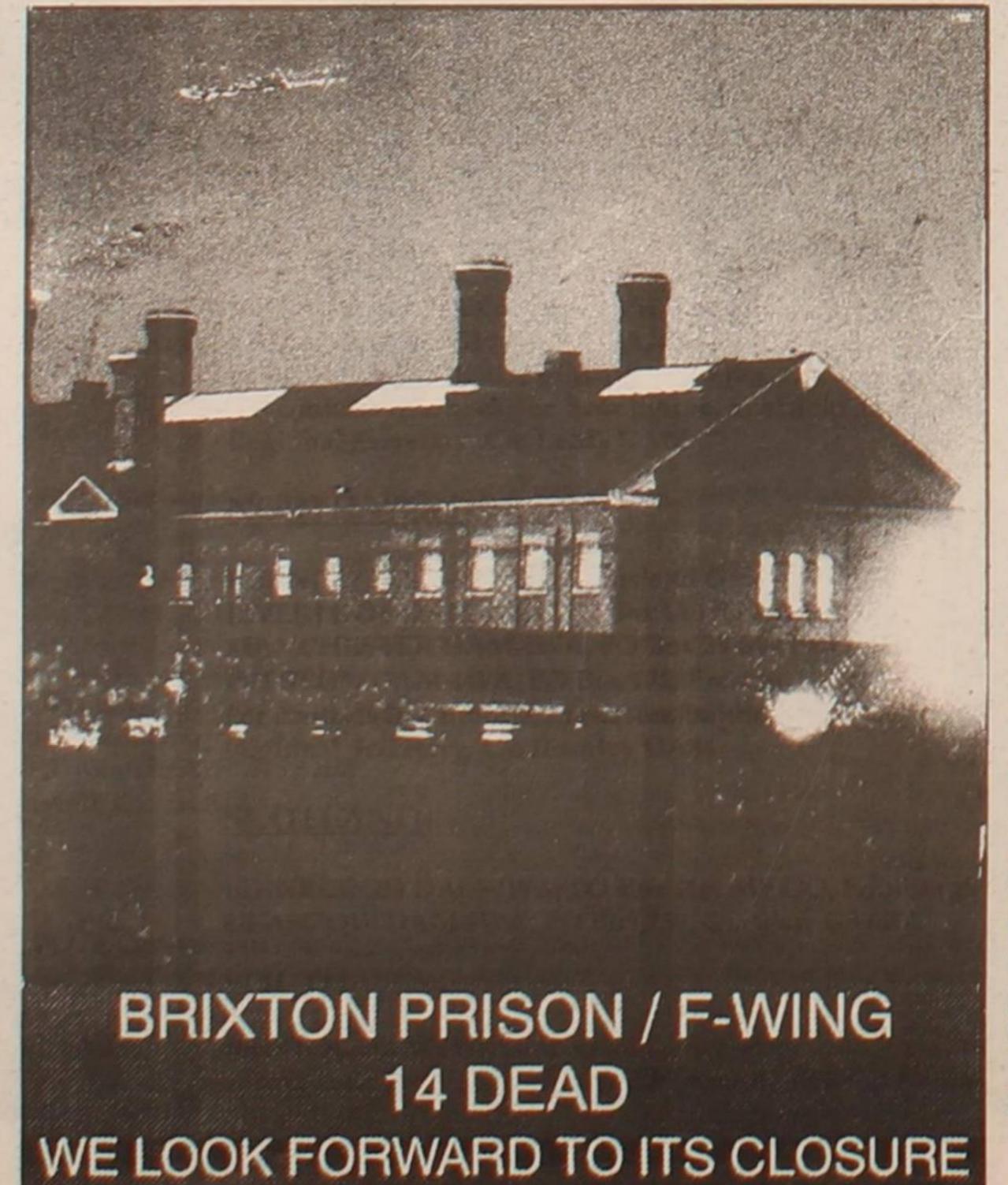
Sincerely, Albert

### Dear DA

cultural land depressed as it is, buy money where their mouth is and goes on in this world. a small farm.

It is worth giving more consideration Whilst I agree with the whole prin- for 'employees' accommodation on to do so.

> help to organise something on these lines should drop me a line at PO Direct Action is not about 'a few hundred



The current state of the NHS is nothing new, it has been underfunded since its creation. The Tories' destruction of the NHS is also bringing into focus its inherent inadequacies. The main cause of ill health is poverty. The welfare state never intended to eradicate poverty, merely keep a reserve labour pool so other workers keep their mouths shut.

The one thing that neither Tories or Labour would ever recognise is that the best people to run a health service are those that work in it and the communities they serve.

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# OPS OUT!

one in the health service knows what the hell is going on from one moment to the another. Job security is practically out the window and resources for patient care have sunk to new depths. In London, patient choice means choosing which hospital you can't get into because they have no beds.

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For a revolutionary Anarchist (Non-governmental) society through Syndicalism (the struggle for workers control) to free communism (common ownership and no state).

### Dear Tim

People's personal lives are not 'in order' because of the social environment

people' with 'a few hundred pounds' tality - contacted me last week. He growing organic tomatoes while Rome burns, but about creating revolutionary structures within this society. Structures that are capable of organising youth". (I didn't know him then, so society through self-management and SOLIDARITY.

#### Dear Comrades

in DA seems a bit out of place, to put essarily," says this investigator it mildly. Their track record is pub- smugly, but he's preparing an lishing crap — when they got round "exposure" and wants his facts right. to anarcho-syndicalist reprints by Tom Brown they didn't exactly cover Why does the bum think I waste my themselves with glory in their introduction. I'm not saying they should to be a slur all their life, no matter never be supported, maybe one day how they atone? they'll do something right, but Joe Jacobs' 'Out of the Ghetto' seemed Kev to me best forgotten. Bet you never read the first edition. His political position could be summed up as anti-CP Stalinism. The CP expelled him (later he crawled back) for his industrial activities, but he was forever a Stalinist. He was a nice guy and a good union agitator, but his politics stank. Pheonix wouldn't bother, DA should.

Bern

#### Dear Comrades,

Over a few years I got a bit of a local reputation as a propagandist against fascism, whether deserved or not is another matter. As many young white males on my council estate, whether working or unemployed, were being led astray by race division, I put the case for working class to many a punch-up in the process.

sion of this, a journalist — out of the 'alternative culture' if you please, not a 'Sun' type, but with that menhad heard that a well known, though hardly famous, actor who originated locally was "an NF member in his don't know if it's true - he must have been under seventeen. I do now know him to be an active supporter of anti-fascist causes for the past fifteen years.)

The blurb/appeal for Phoenix Press "I don't want to malign him unnec-

time bringing them over if it's going

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE (No. 77) 23RD NOV 1991

Direct Action page 3

# SYNDICALISM REVISITED

den (theTU boss and leading parlia- other. mentary socialist opponent of syndicalfirst Labour Government.

more power in some industries than syndicalist effectiveness. others, built up by the sacrifices and solidarity of ordinary members. Its success can be judged by the response of its enemies. For The total hopelessness of the posiyears legal restrictions were placed tion of the unemployed worker, toupon it to prevent its effective force. tally dependent on the State and -One by one those restrictions went, even if when at work a trade unionand then in the last decade they came back.

When the great syndicalist campaign swept British trade unionism, the pros and cons were hotly debated — The capitalist system requires a perfirst between syndicalism and so- centage of unemployed to the workcialist trade unionism - later be- ing population. There is no incentween the two aims of syndicalism, tive to working hard for low pay if whether it was power by the trade this does not exist. The calculation unions as distinct from the party, or as to how many are needed is a whether it was to be what was later purely political decision, like the called anarcho-syndicalism, a total alternative to government at all. The as to how many people need to be arguments of those who put their shot or imprisoned. The first is pre- of contributions, it would have been can be supposed). The National being organised on an industrial basis, faith in Parliament are ironic when sented as economic necessity, the different. Even the worst bureau- Health Service was an advance on by which even strikes affecting two you think one of them was that industrial unionism or even intercraft solidarity were outlawed. That has come back in one form or another with the new bans on secondary picketing and legal responsibilities of officials. One argument was that if one party legalised trade It was the Parliamentary socialist

The last week of September saw a very ambitious conference take place in Shoreditch, East London. Subtitled 'Our Time Has Come', it was organised by Class War Federation (CWF). In the introduction to the programme, CWF said "This conference is just part of the new revolutionary movement that is .... growing throughout Europe." It being the Conference season, it attracted a lot of media attention. All of it was widely off-beam (some more than others, of course — take a bow 'The Star'). Many of the overseas participants were interviewed by the press.

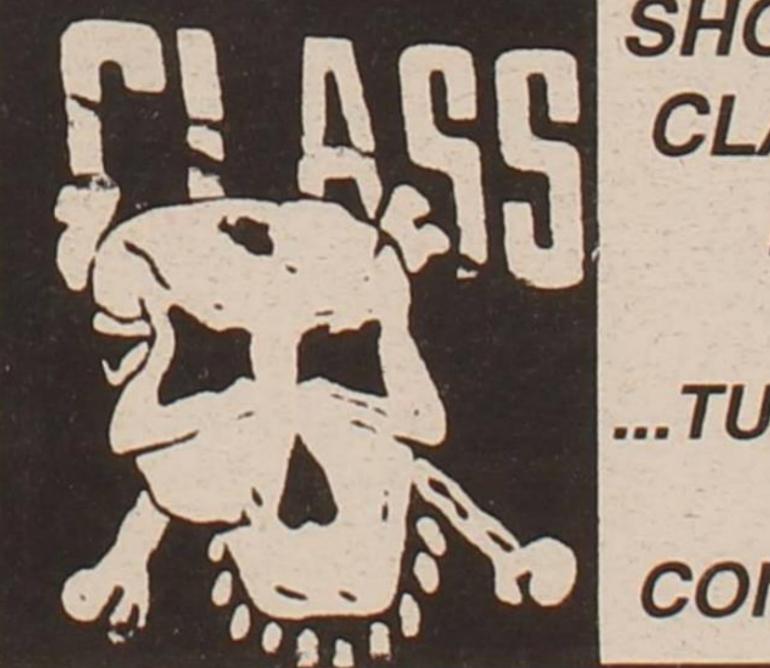
it was surprisingly well organised. bers of Militant, used to a lot more is clear that CWF have not reached was led by a postal worker who Federation has slipped into making Some things will have to change if workplace-oriented activity. it's going to happen again, though. The lack of simultaneous translation Of the overseas delegates there was thing, it is a bit unreasonable to workplace. effectively excluded the non-English a large contingent from Germany, present ideas to other working class speakers, and made the debates very who effectively had their own con- militants when they're not fully The highlight of the speakers was workplace, but do not have any slow. The days were too long when ference due to language problems. worked out. the fringe meetings and socials were There were also activists from Norincluded. And it was hell for those way, Sweden, Belgium, Poland, It- 'Women in the Revolutionary Move- peice battles of the miners' strike as too often found chasing the coat tails there with kids, as with the late starts aly, Greece, France, Ireland, Spain, ment' and 'Black Struggles' were run advocated by Arthur Scargill, and of the Socialist Workers Party, their (after 11 am most days) and the 12 to the USA and Canada. The promised parallel to each other. This caused the left, with the miners' own tactics. activities and politics being a reac-1.30 lunch breaks when the crèche representatives from Israel, the Phil- some criticism, particularly from the The miners used guerilla warfare, tion to the agenda set by the left. was shut, they became difficult to lipines or Russia didn't show. amuse quietly. At any such conference there needs to be a permanent Most of the workshops and sessions the Conference. crèche, including lunch time.

If you'd been expecting a load of fied reformism as being the biggest tion were particularly interesting.

### THE UNEMPLOYED

ist, unable to organise except (it would seem) in an ineffective political way - shows the negative side of trade unionism.

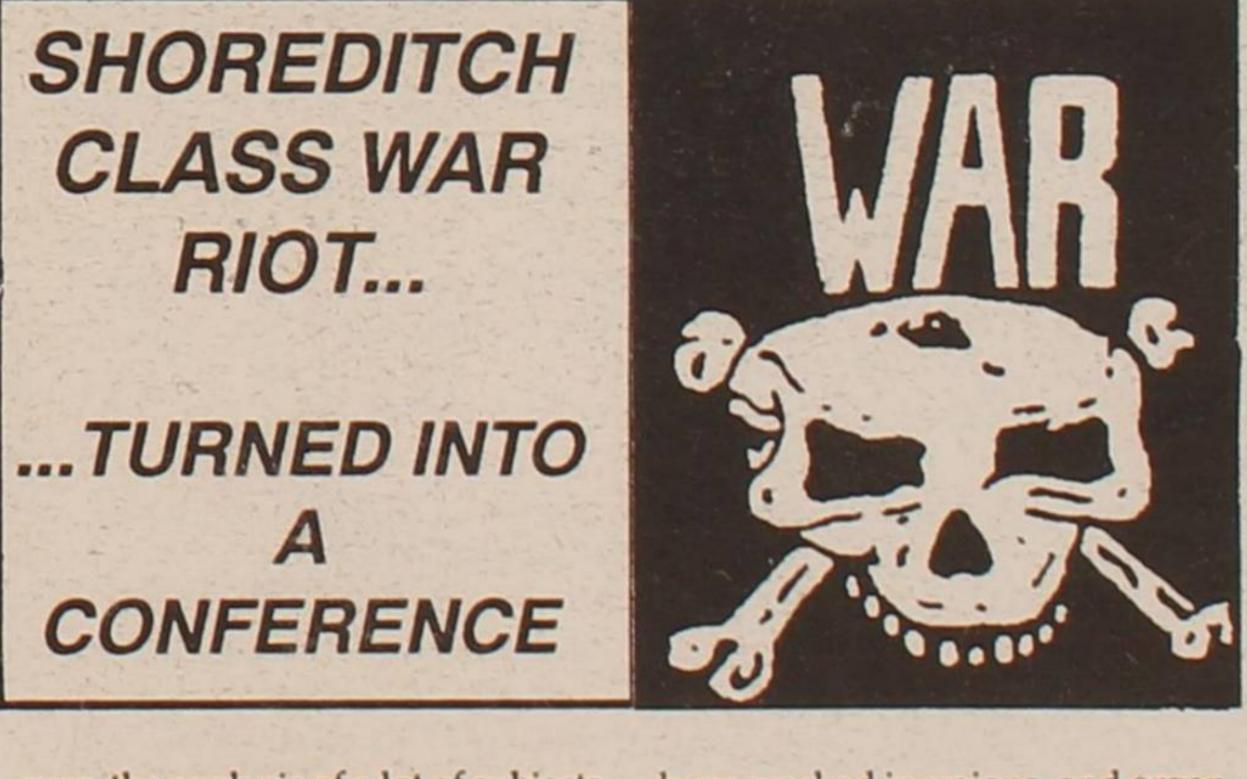
decision by a military dictatorship second as military necessity but both are artificially created, like war, inflation or recesssion, and are not natural catastrophes (as pretended), like earthquakes are and famine, flood or drought can be.



were basic libertarian socialist revo-

no funding, whereas the NHS was State supported. Now almost every "I fancy we shall hear less of syndi- unionism, this would stay forever conception of trade unionism in the However bureaucratic a union, i on the benefits the State gave the calism from now on". - Philip Snow- and would not be undone by an- British labour movement that caused could hardly refuse to regard its own State has taken away, and even if one it to think of the problem of unem- officially called out (at least) striking government gave them back, another ployment with its attendant misery workers as unemployed of their own can sacrifice them. ism - later a Tory Minister with The negative side of trade unionism to be left to the State. which nowa- accord, and not entitled to benefit, MacDonald) - on the formation of the is well known, how it subordinates days perpetuates it. The Communist thus solving the problem of strike THE CATERING TRADES workers' interests to political con- Party idea of alternative 'red' unions pay, which is the very reason capisiderations and acts as a brake upon led to the unemployed workers move- talists dislike the idea. A union which Nothing illustrates the difference In the twilight of trade unionism as their struggles, But for all that, one ment which provided publicity by stood by its members and saw no between trade unionism as we know we have known it, we should re- only has to look at the unorganised, demonstrations for the unemployed distinction between 'official' and it and syndicalism more than the assess not only its proven failings or those whose organisation has been but offered no immediate solutions. 'unofficial' strikes would be enabled catering trades. In some industries but its undoubted benefits, and fail reduced to impotence, to see both Today there has grown up a widely- to do so. trade unionism in its heyday made to do this at our peril. In the pre- the need for trade unionism rather spread 'libertarian' approach which great strides, in some approaching Thatcher era, trade unionism had than nothing, and the contrast of idealises not-working, seems to re- This basic syndicalist proposal - self-management. Never has it made gard unemployment as its utopia which went at the heart of the unem- the least inroad into the catering trades, and dependence on the State as defi- ployment problem under capitalism beyond some token attempts by the though nowhere near its solution Transport & General Workers Unance of it. under workers control - was de- ion. In the main these remain casual, Had the syndicalist movement had rided by socialist politicians with unorganised, exploited and of course its way and not been rejected by the faith in the State. symbolise the difference between majority of workers seeking the easy trade unionism at its worst and not THE HOSPITALS way out, it would have been the being organised at all.

unions that controlled the fallback against unemployment. The parlia- However, many of the more advanced Yet in the heyday of syndicalism in mentary socialist idea, originally pressed on the Liberal Party, was owners do when picking up their tem (normally covering only gaininsurance claims.



young. Conspicuous amongst the ever, the analysis of a lot of subjects, have worked in unions, and organ-Given that it was their first attempt, more articulate were former mem- like 'World Capitalism', was stale. It ised at work. The session I was in It is unfortunate that the Class War

women who organised a separate drawing on their own organisation

lutionary politics. CWF have identi- The sessions on workplace organisa- experience of direct action. drongo 'soap-dodgers' there, you'd obstacle to revolutionary conscious- Generally CWF, influenced by Lon- Overall, the Conference was a suc- it. Anarcho-syndicalism has such a have been in the wrong place. Most ness. The world situation post the don council communist members, cess in as far as anything like this can coherent strategy. Join us and the of the British delegates were ordi- Warsaw Pact, 1992, the New World will dismiss Anarcho-Syndicalism. be. Plenty of comrades met each other, other sections of the Internationalnary young working class women Order, and their effects on the work- However, CWF do support syndi- and many good contacts were made. Workers Association in building for and men, although they weren't all ing class were all discussed. How calist methods, particularly those who Most participants undoubtedly learnt the future.

## COMMENT

butions should insure against unem- it was introduced, contributors 'on ployment. This was controlled by the panel' paid into friendly socielargesse (and called 'dole'). The State the miners clubs acting as a friendly 'doling' out money intentionally made society collected the subscriptions. people feel dependent on it. Had the and employed their own doctors. would be better handling unemploy- it wasn't as good as the other system ment insurance, even if through an it replaced, it simply got more money ment of State, and people would not is taken back to subsidise income feel humiliated, any more than car tax). The drawbacks of the old sys-

fuly employed) were remediable.

They were due to the fact that it got

unions adopted exactly this system Spain the catering trades were the as regards health insurance. They best organised of all industries, so that employers' and workers' contri- took advantage of the fact that when much that it was the Sindicato Gastronomico that launched the resistance in Barcelona to the fascist upthe State, making a profit out of it, ties, hospital trusts, co-ops and the rising in 1936. How come that it was and paying back what it regarded as like. In mining areas, for instance, so strong? Waiters, cooks, casual kitchen staff, above all, hundreds of small bars which are still make up Barcelona catering trade, do not unions handled the scheme (as they (Medical officers coming from the appear to the trade unionist to be did in Sweden), collecting both sets middle class hated the system, as ideal material for militancy. But cratic union, however undemocratic, private and charitable medicine, but or three people could paralyse the trade if tied up with solidarity by van drivers, brewery workers, food insurance company, than a depart- from more contributors (which now suppliers, they allowed both for individual action and class solidarity, which is the unique mixture that makes for anarcho-syndicalism.

something. However, in terms of anything concrete, such as a new international movement, nothing much was likely to happen without a clear programme in advance.

Looking to the future, the Class War Federation needs to address the conflict between its public face and the everyday politics of its members. Its dismissal of anarcho-syndicalism as a means of fighting the class struggle is contradicted strongly by the fact that CWF members who do attempt to organise in the workplace use syndicalist methods and tactics to

any concensus on a lot of issues. spoke of the need for autonomous the same basic mistakes as the Anar-While this is not necessarily a bad working class organisation in the chist Communist Federation. Firstly they both support the idea of workers organising independently in the Dave Douglass of Hatfield Main particular strategy or tactics on how NUM. Dave contrasted the big set- to do this. Secondly, they are both

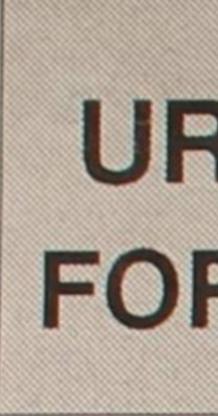
meeting, which made a statement to and solidarity. Hit squads, flying Anarchists in Britain need to realise pickets, the wom en's organisations that our primary activity must be to all came from the rank and file miners' organise in the workplace, that this is a difficult and lengthy process, and that we need a strategy to achieve

## INDUSTRIAL -----

**115** TGWU members at Speke in Liverpool have been sacked for taking official strike action in support of a cial strike action in support of a pay claim. The workers have been being there. on official strike now for nearly 4 months and have been given Tanks & Drums have several plants support for their dispute by the in Britain, but the only unionised T&G Solidarity Group. Before the factory is at Speke. They are refusing strike, members were being paid £2.69 per hour, and management offered a 5.5% pay rise! Having balloted for industrial action, and got the sanction of the general company. on strike.

the courts and the 1990 Act - through physical support. They are deterto the Court of Appeal - to get the mined to win this dispute, even if it If unable to express your solidarity of Lords. Having issued an ultima- mounting a weekday picket at the tion meeting:

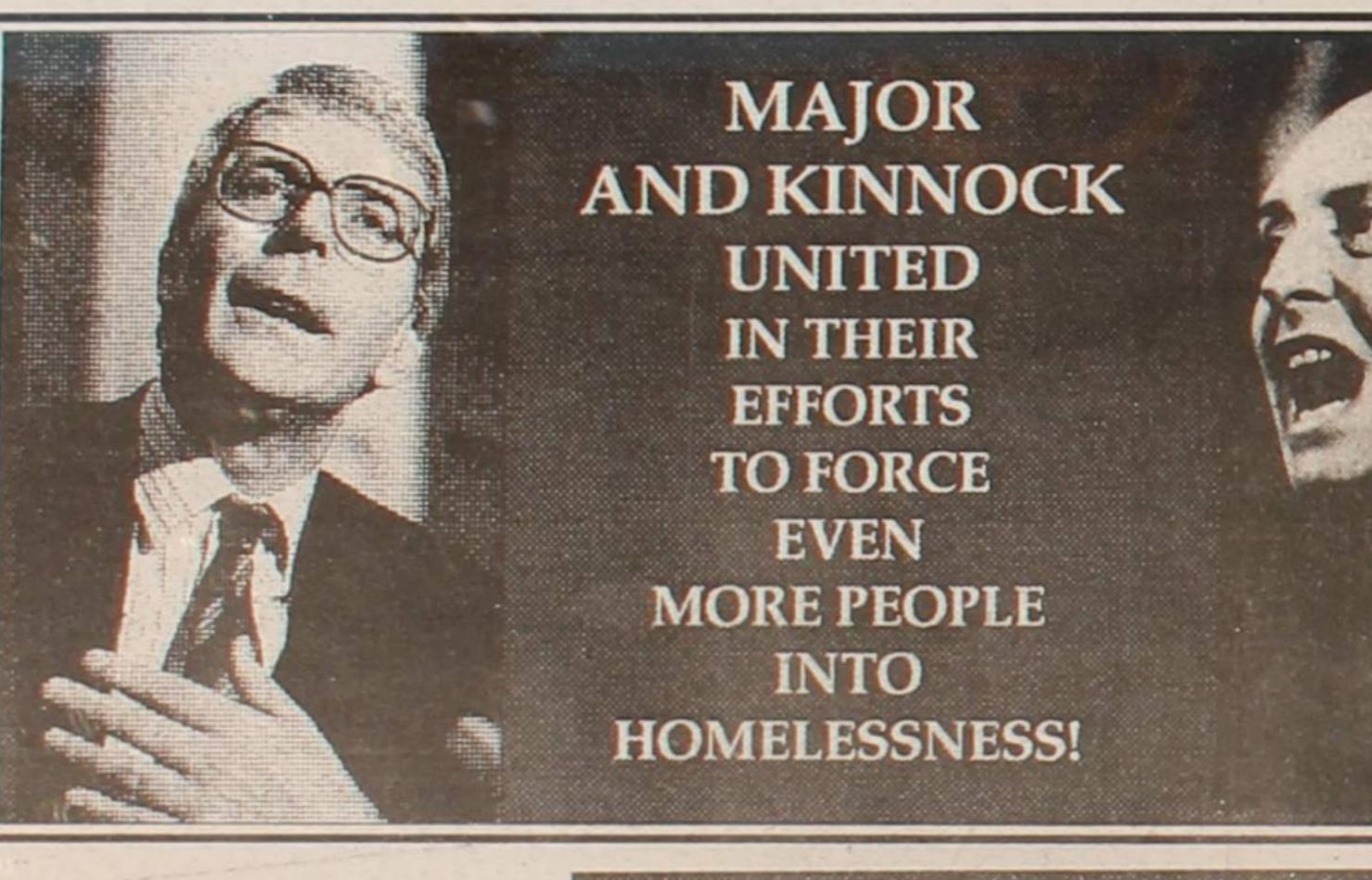
The company have attempted to use perately in need of financial and 'TGWU(Tanks & Drums)'.



support to: Vinny Tužio, Senior Stew- support the actions of the strikers, with Tanks & Drums. We need to secretary, the members came out Despite the strike being official, it and, Tanks & Drums Dispute, c/o we must encourage solidarity ac- work hard at grass roots level to has had little or no publicity from TGWU, Transport House, Islington, tions, be they fundraising or more encourage solidarity aciton wherthe Union, and the strikers are des- Liverpool (cheques payable to

action declared unlawful, but have means closing the factory down, but in a more direct manner you could lost at each stage. They have now they need the solidarity of other pass the following resolution at your applied to take the case to the House activists to do it. The strikers are next union branch/other organisatum to return to work within 2 weeks, plant from 7.30 am each morning, "This branch/organisation notes the suppliers and will need as much (Information from T&G Solidarity which was rejected by the strikers, with mass pickets being held every current strike by workers at Tanks & support as possible to make the ac- Group bulletin)

the company sacked all 115 mem- Monday. If you can make it the fac- Drums in Speke, Liverpool. It applauds



It had to happen eventually. Considering the other reactionary laws passed by the current Tory government they've actually taken a surprisingly long time getting round to it. All housing legislation passed by this and past Tory governments has been of the 'landlord's best friend' variety. The Labour party has generally behaved in a similar if not so brutal way. This time however, they are very keen. Since they decided to compete with the Tories for the title of 'the party of law and order', they have sanctioned every bit of anti- money in trying to get back into working class brutality which has their home. This 'lawful occupier' come along. The opportunity of being seen as assisting this government in getting rid of 'all these awful hippy types' is an opportunity they can't miss.

Squatters are being portrayed in a possible to get into court within somewhat stereotypical fashion. The state sees squats as hotbeds of property within a week or so. This organisations to fight against landsubversism, squatters as selfish layabouts who people's homes. It's expensive. The government is about time the powers that be were shown what we think of such smokescreen to cover up the real shit. The portrayal of squatters as people who break into other people's homes the moment they nip out to the shops or go on holiday is a pathetic lie. Most squats originate in buildings which have been lying empty for some time, usually in a state of disrepair due to the fact that no one has lived there for many years, never mind the last five minutes or so! Squatting is usually people's last individuals). These figures are

and the first and and and the first and and the state of the state of

## CRIMINALISING SQUATTING

resort in terms of housing; it is insecure, leaves you open to police harrassment, and most importantly, it is only temporary.

Quite simply, if there was enough safe, secure and affordable housing to rent, people would no longer be forced into the position where they had to squat. One of the government's claims is that lawful occupiers have to wait a long time and spend a lot of situation almost exclusively applies to situations where a council house has been pre-let to a attained is by removing a system named prospective tenant, but the which treats housing as a comproperty has then been occupied modity to buy and sell on the by squatters. In such situations it is market place. process is neither lengthy nor merely throwing up a problem — homelessness. Squat- the short term we need to get lessness, an attempt by people to can get, ensuring people realise regain some control over their housing.

Homelessness is at an all time high in Britain. In 1990, 145,800 households were accepted as homeless by councils in England (This probably represents over 400,000

only the tip of a very large iceberg because they only include those homeless households defined as being in 'priority need' for rehousing. This does not, for example, include single homeless people.

The national housing charity, Shelter, estimates that there are currently 3 million people without housing in Britain. Shelter states that "a decent, affordable home should be available to everybody as a basic human right." DAM agrees with this statement, but also realises that the only way such a position can be

days and regain possession of the In the long term we need to build lords, be they council, housing as- ful demonstration against the fascist prepared to risk opening for the sociations, or private landlords, to take back our land and our housing to distribute it as WE see fit. In what rights they have, meagre to defend the right to squat.

> If this law is passed, we'll need to confront the bailiffs in a changed position, no laws to protect us; the need to build solidarity action starts now.

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# **URGENT FINANCIAL APPEAL** FOR TANKS & DRUMS STRIKERS



direct support. The strikers are keen ever possible. to contact any one who wishes them to speak at meetings, be they branch, DEFEND THE RIGHT TO stewards or workplace meetings. The strikers will also speak at any public meetings or community group meetings. The strikers are planning to picket a number of Tanks & Drums tion effective.

the courage of workers who have been on It's vital that strikes like this one are strike for over 6 months. We agree to won. The 'right to strike' does not donate £ to the strike fund". exist unless we fight for it. Other workers should be urged to boycott Send donations and messages of As anarcho-syndicalists we must any products or materials connected

### STRIKE - SUPPORT THE TANKS & DRUMS STRIKERS!

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER... Single parents on benefit now face measures will carve from the Social

maintenance payments from absent children. parents, mainly fathers. Benefit penalties for non-compliance with regu- Government motives in the Child 18 month period - 20% of personal in British society. allowance (about £8 per week) off the first six months and 10% (around £4 per week) for the remaining twelve. These penalties can be enforced regardless of any other benefit deductions a claimant may already be suffering.

Single mothers will bear the brunt of the state's search for ex-partners and the onus will be on them to prove to DSS Child Special Unit officials why they should be exempt from naming anyone on certain grounds, such as"genuine fear of violence" from an absent father.

The majority of single parents are on income support at present, and most of them co-operate with the DSS, but they will not see any increase in their subsistence income even if maintenance is paid to them, because it is deducted from benefit. They can only remain caught in the Government sanctioned poverty trap. None of the estimated £400 millions these

punitive cuts in their income if they Security Budget is to find its way to refuse to assist the DSS chase up support single parents and their

lations in the recent Child Support Support Act are underpinned by the Act will lead to single parents on usual mercenary economics, the income support losing more than fundamental goal is to save money £400 of benefit over an unprecedented at the expense of the poorest families

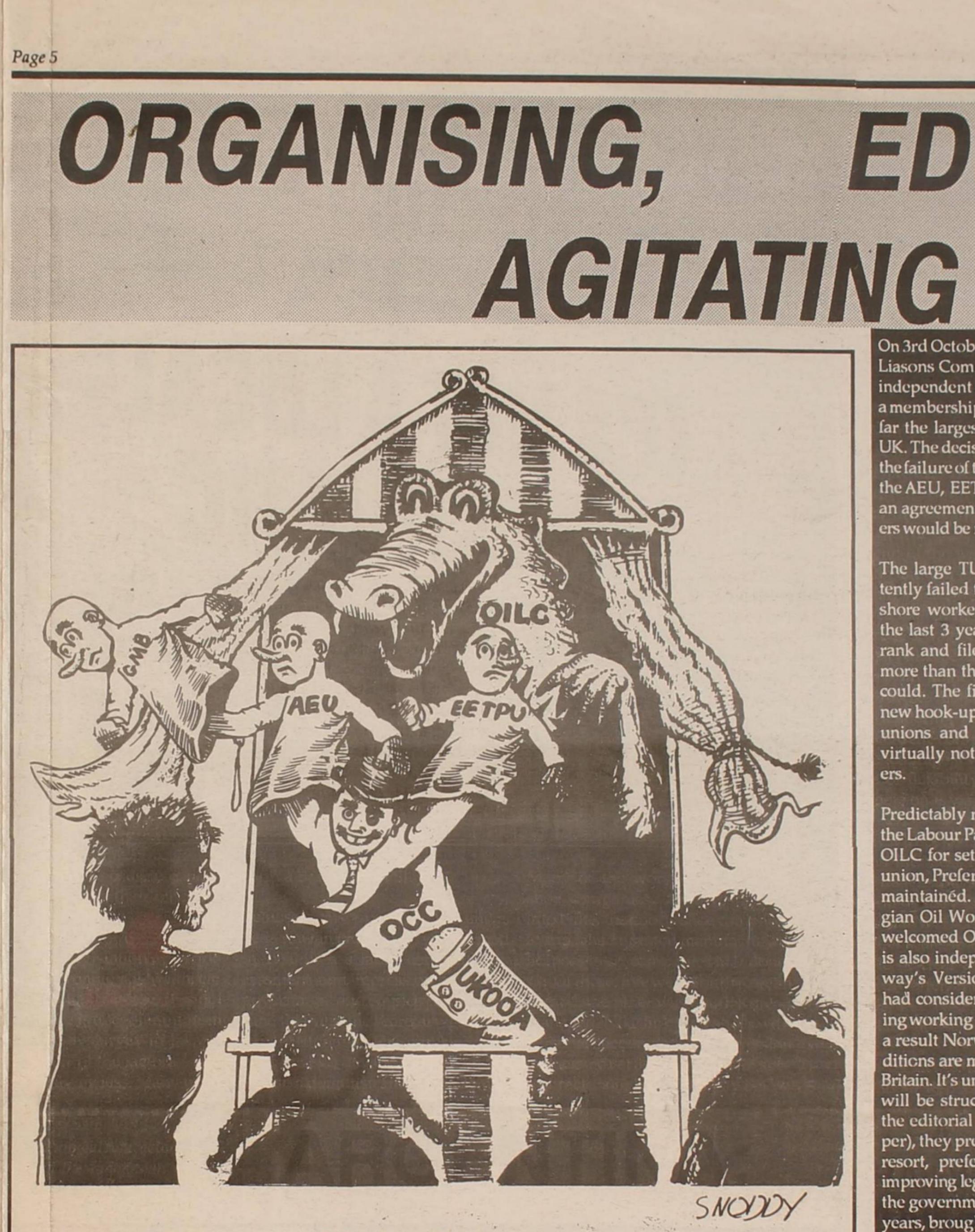


## **RECLAIM THE LANE!**

Anti-Fascist Action held a success- The landlords obviously weren't British National Party and National motley crew of fire-bombers, bone-Front on October 20th. Under the heads and cowardly bullies that make banner 'Reclaim the Lane', hundreds up the 'master race'. of anti-fascists assembled in Brick

nately for them, their favourite wa- 10 for details). tering holes had all been shut down.

ting is merely a symptom of home- homeless people the best deal they Lane, East London, to oppose the 'Reclaim the Lane' is part of East nazis' continued presence in the area. London AFA's continuing strategy of physical opposition to the nazis, though they may be. We also need Despite a national mobilisation by as well as arguing politically with the BNP (it was their Annual Con- the white working class who the ference that weekend, so all the scum fascists try to recruit. Keep up the were there) they were heavily out- fight, and support the National Demo numbered. They moved off after noon, Against Race Attacks on Sunday under police protection. Unfortu- 10th November in London (see page



"Behind you! Behind you, mister!"

## NOW, JUST WHAT SORT OF UNION IS IT TO BE?

to have been about how they would advise, jacking the whole thing in. stop OILC supporters getting into the

And that was precious little.

OILC supporters who paid the price blacklisted. in sackings and blackings. Two sum-

to support the OILC. This year it seems some prominent trade unionists would

offshore workers. Many people just them to tell us. think that they're irrelevant. And and our families that financed and the hated Offshore Construction for 15 years. built the OILC, the Offshore Informa- Agreement has been signed while tion Centre, and Blowout. And it was union members remain sacked and

mers of strikes, and occupations made If the new union was just going to be the new union going to be?

So can we afford to take this leap The message to oil workers from this the employers, the government and for offshore construction workers then Does it matter or not whether we call without at least trying to find out years TUC in Glasgow had all the the public sit up and take notice of our it might be OK to debate the issues and ourselves a union? (Does it matter where we are going to land? We've a freshness of a rancid fart in a four- legitimate grievances about safety and take the necessary decisions at routine what anyone calls us?) great opportunity but we also have person cabin. Last year the talk in- representation offshore. Now we're OILC Standing Committeers are pretty Isn't it possible to unite both mem- serious responsibilities. It's true that cluded how they would "stop the oil" faced with raising the stakes or, as well represented there. But only a few bers and non-members of traditional time is not really on our side. Every catering workers attend and even fewer trade unions in our new organisa- day the installations get older and another catastrophic failure becomes drilling workers. Production workers tion? are not represented at all. But if our Would our families be eligible to more likely. But if we don't have time At recent meetings there has been a new union is going to truly represent join? Anything we do will affect them. to do this thing properly we don't strong and united feeling among OILC the offshore workforce then it's surely Shouldn't they have a say? have time to do it at all. But one good thing did come out of it supporters about the way forward. going to have to break the mould and Would our constitution just be a all. It became clear that we'd been Opinion has been overwhelmingly recruit widely from these groups. So copy of an existing union constitution? The discussion about what kind of union must get everybody involved. 'unshackled' by the unions. There's for the setting up of an independent what kind of union are we going to little room anymore to kid ourselves offshore union. Great! Now, what kind build? And who's going to make that There are no doubt more important At the end of the day, the success or on that they are going to come up with of organisation will this new 'union' decision. What do offshore workers questions than these to be discussed. failure of a new union will be decided any solutions for us. They've done no be? The traditional unions have failed want? What kind of organisation will But surely the job of a new union is not by whether or not it captures the more in the three years since Piper us. They've failed to recruit and they join? We're going to have to ask to mimic the old ones. What we need imagination of the majority of the than they did in the 25 years before it. mobilise anything like a majority of them. We're going to have to convince is an effective organisation that will workforce. What better way to do that fairly represent our interests and find than to make sure the issues are well ways of defending those of us who aired and everybody has their say? Any gains we've made offshore we've frankly it is no wonder. What have And then we're going to have to listen. fall foul of the bandits that run the That's exactly what Blowout is demade ourselves. We went out and they been offering potential recruits? The other way is just to give tham the industry. Not an easy job! But one that signed to do. Tell every offshore worker won support from rank and file trade What do they offer their loyal mem- kind of organisation thats "good for would be alot more difficult if we that we're going to go ahead and build unionists throughout the country. But bers for that matter? They can't de- them". And that doesn't sound much spent our time and energy competing a new union. Organise the venues and in the main it was offshore workers liver a single-table approach. And now different from the union I've been in with the old unions. They've already invite them all to join in the discussion demonstrated their irrelevance out here. that'll shape that organisation. A proper We should just let them get on with offshore workers alliance.

Here's a few of the many questions whatever it is they think they're doing. They're only dangerous offshore as The above article was reprinted from Blowthat I feel need to be discussed: What are the aims and objectives of long as anyone takes them seriously out #20, Criterion buildings, 52 Guild anyway.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATING

On 3rd October the Offshore Industry has always proved a far more effec-Liasons Committee (OILC) set up an tive way of achieving workers' aspia membership of 3,000 will make it by tive if they are obeyed; bosses openly the AEU, EETPU and MSF to come to it unenforcable. in agreement where offshore work-

The large TUC unions have consis- offshore union (this would include tently failed to offer any thing to off- catering, construction and drill shore workers, whereas OILC over workers), a strategy that syndicalist the last 3 years has been a militant have always supported. There is also rank and file movement doing far talk of letting workers' families join more than the TUC bureaucrats ever an idea thrown up by striking miners could. The final straw came with a during the '84/5 strike but rejected by new hook-up agreement between tha national NUM bureaucrats. Freed from unions and employers which did the dead hand of the TUC and Labour virtually nothing for offshore work- party, OILC should be able to go for-

the Labour Party/SWP have attacked can be put forward first rather than OILC for setting up an independent trail a poor second to those of the union, Preferring to see the status quo party. maintained. In contrast the Norwegian Oil Workers Union (OFS) have If OILC were to have a structure where welcomed OILC's decision. The OFS officials served limited terms of tenis also independent of the LO (Nor- ure and were instantly recallable by way's Version of the TUC) and has the membership they could avoid going had considerable success in improv- down the same dead end as the TUC ing working conditions on the rigs. As unions - whose major concern is to a result Norwegian oil workers' con- please the employers. ditions are much better than those in Britain. It's unclear as to how the union That OILC have been forced to go it will be structured, but according to alone should come as no surprise. As the editorial in Blowout (OILC's pa- the TUC declines in membership and per), they prefer to use strikes as a last influence (not to mention militancy) it resort, prefering to concentrate on is likely that more independent unmproving legislation. Considering that ions will be formed. Not scab unions the government has, over the last ten like the UDM and EETPU, but fightyears, brought in laws to attack work- ing unions like the OILC. We wish ers rights and working conditions this them every success for the future in their

independent union. Its initial target of rations. After all, laws are only effecfar the largest offshore union in the flout legislation and get away with it. UK. The decision to do this came after Likewise workers should openly break the failure of talks with unions such as recent anti-worker legislation to make

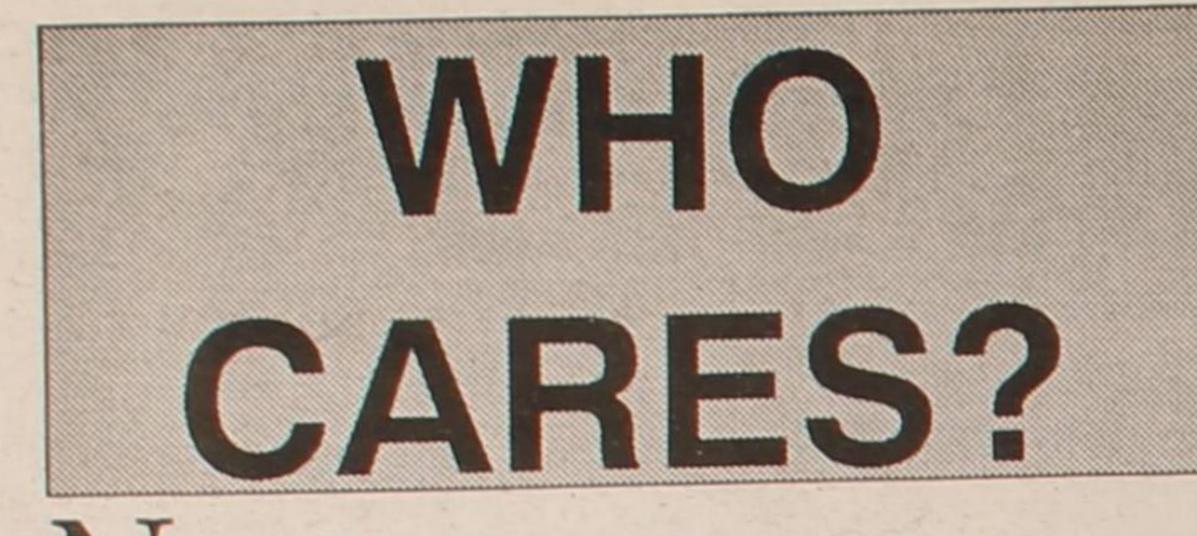
ers would be represented by the OILC. On the plus side OILC want to organise all the workers into an industrial ward as a militant and democratic union. Freed from any ties to a politi Predictably reformist bodies such as cal party, the interests of the workers

seems very unrealistic. Direct action fight against the bosses and for safe working conditions on the North Sea.

Street, Aberdeen, AB1 2NB.

and have been a

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New care in the community plans for health and local authorities come into operation in April 1992.

With the emphasis on 'client consultation' and cost effectiveness, managers of social services departments have been discharging a flood of American marketing jargon. The picture we're supposed to get is one of 'clients' shopping around for and choosing the most appropriate service.

ent. It is insulting rather than 'empowering' to call someone who has been discharged after years on a back ward of a psychiatric hospital a 'customer' or a. 'client'. It is fatuous to claim that they have any choice, if indeed they have any service available to them at all. The only people with any choice are those rich enough to pay for private services.

The idea behind client consultation is that people are asked what sort of service they would like. This should not be confused with any sort of real participation in decisions. A pilot 'quality assurance' study into the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Mental Health Service consulted a carefully selected group of users. Those chosen had suffered the longest periods of institutionalisation in psychiatric hospital, were most easily intimidated by management, and were least likely to make any serious demands. On the basis of this managers were able to say that they'd consulted with 'clients'.

In contrast, Kensington and Chelsea, despite opposition from workers and hostel residents,

'The only people with any choice are those rich enough to pay for private services'

have recently dismantled a procedure whereby residents interviewed prospective staff. No It is in the nature of this system one could be taken on unless they'd been okayed by residents.

The real aim of all this is that, under the false guise of giving choice, resources will be contracted out to charities, private companies and newly formed trusts. At the moment management are assuring workers that meaning system of care.

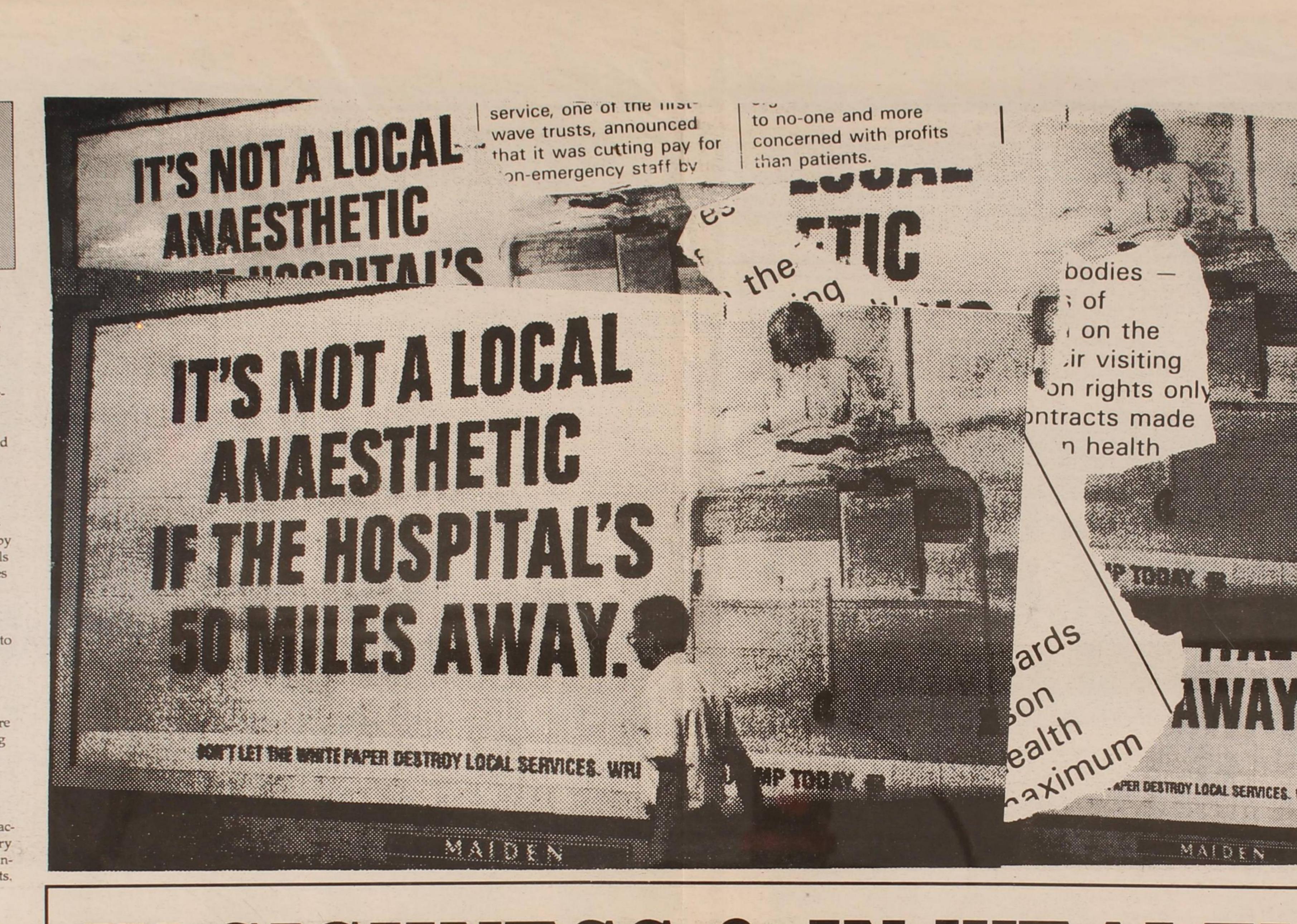
the changes will not affect contracts, but it is inevitable that, due to financial pressure from the funding borough and the need to make a profit, there will be an erosion of working conditions, negotiating rights and pay levels. This is clearly shown by the situation facing workers employed by voluntary organisations.

Existing charities and voluntary organisations are expected to expand to take up the flood of 'customers' thrown onto the market by the closure of psychiatric hospitals and the contracting out of services Of course the reality is very differ- by local authorities, creating plenty of jobs for care workers. Over recent years jobs in this sector have been lost, due partly to the recession and partly to the financial crisis facing councils, causing many of them renege on their promises to pay top-up funding. We even have the bizarre situation of organisations making workers redundant whilst at the same time recruiting more staff.

> With this fragmentation of local authority services, workers are facing a new reality. More than every before, unions like NALGO are incapable of defending our interests. Links must be made between workers employed directly by town hall and those in the voluntary and private sector. In these sectors workers are organised (or unorganised) in a variety of ways. Some are in unions like MSF (Manufacturing, Science and Finance), desperate to pick up members in any 'expanding' sector; other workers are in voluntary sector branches of more traditional unions, like NALGO. The majority of us struggle along with management-led staff associations, or no formal organisation at all. The appropriateness of the Industrial Network model of organisation that the DAM proposes is easy to see.

However, as anarcho-syndicalists, the organisation of social and care workers, imperative as it is, is only the beginning of a wider issue. Not only workers but all of us must start to challenge the system of social services and the care industry. This system is still fundamentally a form of charity, albeit ran by bureaucrats rather than the philanthropic rich. The rights that are given to those of us who depend upon services, including the wage rights of workers, are illusory.

that it can leave us feeling powerless and frustrated. As workers we need to build our confidence by organising industrially and finding our strengths, which includes most of us in some way or other. Then we can begin to turn around the sense of powerlessness and challenge this de-



After WWII there People talk about the under- role as 'women's work', (much methods. Talk of CAT scans and after being trained by it, and ignorance and fear are major

This, allied with the inevitable

throughout the working NHS as if it were a new thing of low status for some time). class in Britain. This led to a invented in the last 10 years. series of long running always been underfunded and the NHS is nothing but as transelection of a Labour gov- reasons our hospitals are crum- can't deliver upon. ernment by a huge major- bling now is because of a lack of NHS was formed.

.....

strikes and occupations in understaffed. There have always fer of power from old style bu- Private healthcare is also based healthcare can only happen and will be able to take remajor industries. People felt been waiting lists for treatment reaucrats to the insane world of on these methods but to make alongside profound changes in sponsibility for their health they had fought and died in and inadequate resources. It's money-for-nothing yuppy dom. matters worse it is also run to the way society as a whole is away from the so-called 'exthe war for a 'better world' only since the mid-70's that the As the infrasructure of the NHS make a profit and not as a serv- structured and run. This is be- perts'. We believe in getting free of the poverty and un- economic recession has forced collapses, managers no longer ice. This is why you have to pay cause our interests as a class are away from the idea that only the ruling class to squeeze even expect resources to patch it up to use the facilities, as it puts in conflict with those of the doctors and nurses can deal employment of the 30's. The harder than before. One of the but draw up contracts that they profit before human need. Basi- bosses and the state. We see the with illness. Rather, we want cally, private hospitals are ho- basis for a public health service to see highly trained health tels with a health facility built stemming form the creation of a workers assume a role of ity showed the ruling class long term investment in build- One thing we haven't mentioned on. Often this leads to an inabil- socialised economy, ie, an econ- 'helper' or 'guide' in the healthat workers wanted change. ings and maintenance since the so far, and which shouldn't be ity to provide good general omy run collectively by and for ing process of the individual, forgotten, is that the NHS is healthcare. If a patient's treament the working class. This health working with the patient, not based on the ideas of 'secon- involves a great deal of personal service should have an open just dictating to her or him. reconstruction after the war and Another common misconception dary healthcare', ie, treating care over a long period they are democratic structure controlled the need for a large healthy is that at some point in the past things that have 'gone wrong' dumped back onto the NHS. If by workers' organisations. In a These two articles are written workforce allowed the govern- we had enough nursing and an- by treating the individual symp- they manage to receive private society organised in this way the by health workers. Although ment to set a minimal welfare cillary staff to do our job prop- toms that the person has. This care at all - private insurance emphasis is obviously going to they work in different fields state encompassing comprehen- erly. We never did. The recent method doesn't take into account companies are notorious for re- be on primary health care, that of 'healthcare', the conclusions sive education, social security cuts in staffing levels have turned most of the social causes of ill jecting people with such long is, removing the conditions that they reach are the same. As and the National Health Serv- a minimal staff into a skeleton health, nor does it treat a person term problems as diabetes, make people ill - bad housing, workers are increasingly diice. The actual NHS bill (The staff. This and the contracting as a whole, but rather as a series schizophrenia, etc. And forget it poor diet, meaningless work, vided, not only by the number Beveridge Report) was the work out of ancillary services such as of systems, one of which has if you are male and gay, as being social stress, etc. of a Liberal Lord, but it was catering and laundry has helped gone wrong when illness gay is equated with AIDs in the presented as the work of the to reduce the status and pay of appears. If government was inter- minds of insurance brokers. We want to see a decent health ferent organisations, it is all 'caring' Labour Party, even healthworkers, even though this ested in efficiency, then they'd Private healthcare is a massive and sex education programme the more important that links though they were the first to in- has always been low status be- develop a primary healthcare drain on the NHS with a lot of with the aims of demystifying are made across these boundatroduce health cuts in 1976. cause of healthcare's traditional system based on preventative good staff poached from the NHS peope's bodies and illnesses, as ries.

IN SICKNESS & IN WEALTH

a large wave of discontent staffing and underfunding of the of women's work having been laser surgery is all well and good chronically ill patients having reasons why people become but uesless if an illness is caused to be cared for after being re- ill and/or don't seek help. A or aggravated by poor housing, jected by private hospitals.

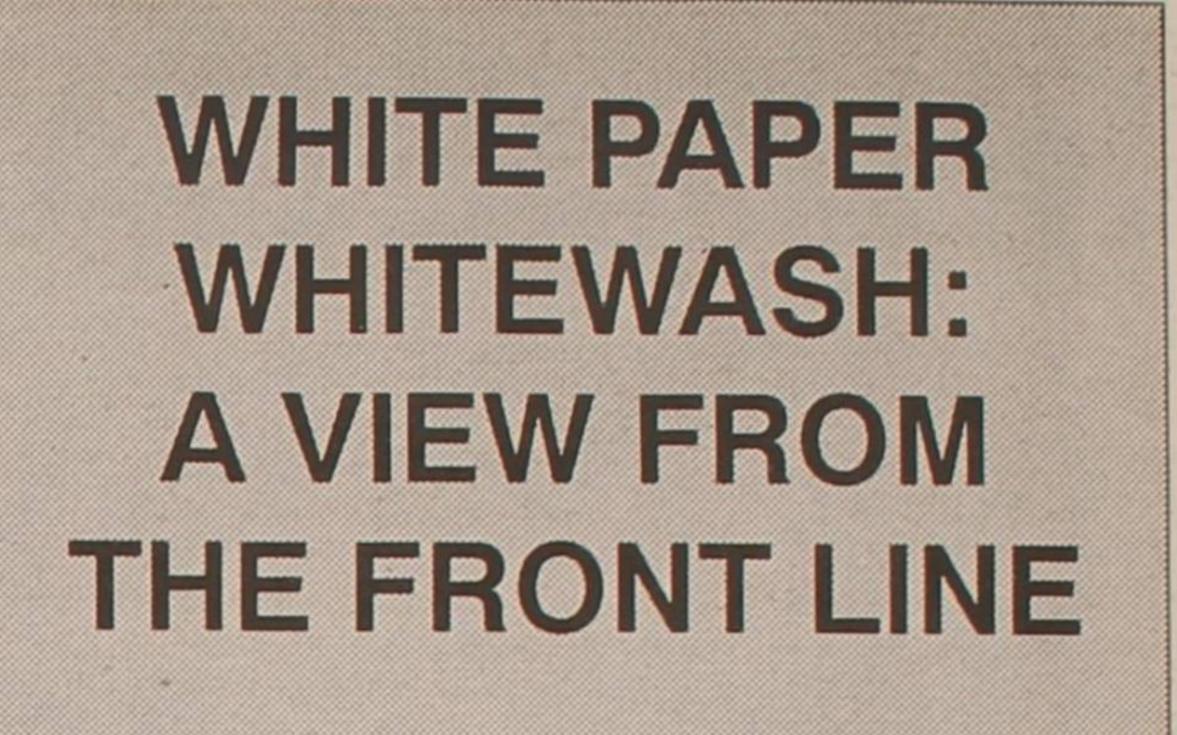
Obviously any change in real control over their bodies

population that is educated about these things will have

of reformist trade unions, but by becoming employees of dif-

and the second of the second o

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uts and lack of adequate resources have been part "move the union to fight!" Acduction. Things worsened tee invite Mssrs Bickerstaff of effect of the current government's white paper — the NHS and Community Care Act 1990 nextdoor neighbour's dog

at which cuts take place. It is approach is reminiscent of the not a thunderbolt out of the vicars, tea, and sandwiches days blue.

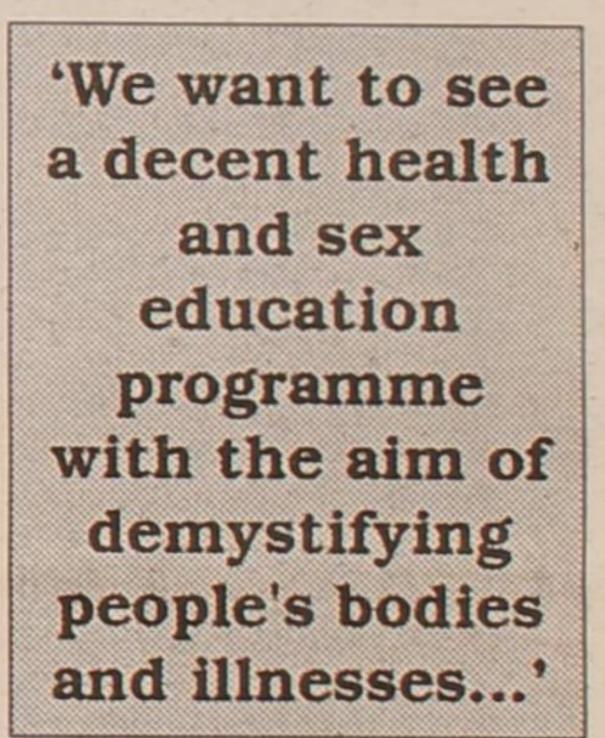
How has the white paper affected the hospital where I work, ' fascists, we still have nuclear one which to date has not chosen to 'opt out', but to remain within regional and national structures? Prior to April 1st this year, before the introduction of the 'reforms', all health authorities had to ensure that no surplus on spending was carried over from the previous financial year.

In my own hospital — a special health authority — the effects were: vacant posts, especially among porters and clerical staff, were left unfilled; the use of agency staff to cover vacancies was substantially reduced, and eventually cut out all together; overtime earnings of very poorly paid canteen ancilliary staff were conscious workers continue to taken away, and hospital staff working nights and at weekends were deprived of a canteen facility; patients attending the hospital were, and are, given prescriptions only covering a fourteen day period (shifting the financial burden onto GPs).

The result was increased staff demoralisation, and patient confusion. Strike action over the removal of overtime earnings from canteen staff resulted in some financial compensation, but did not reverse the cuts.

More recently, citing Section 60 of the white paper, hospital management have announced the doubling of rents for staff resident in hospital accommodation. Staff effected were given two weeks' notice of the implementation date. Now that they are landlords, as opposed to administrators, of hospital accommodation, managers can charge a 'market rent' (in Central London). The concepts of subsidy, and retention of staff, have gone out of the window. It is clear that the intention is to sell off the property as soon as possible.

What can be done? The left say and parcel of the National cordingly, Charing Cross Hospi-Health Service since its intro- tal Joint Shop Stewards Commitfrom the time of the Labour NUPE and McKenzie of COHSE government of 1974 -79. The to speak alongside the local tory MP for Fulham, to 'protest' at recent announced job cuts of 500 plus. This 'everyone and the -has been to increase the rate against the health service cuts' of left involvement in campaigns such as the Anti-Nazi League and CND. We still have



weapons, and we will continue to face attacks on the living standards of our class if class tail-end the useless antics of people who seek justification for themselves in being a permanent oppostion.

Links need to be made across union and occupational boundaries, independent of the union branch/Joint Shop Stewards Committee structures. Ancilliaries need to be involved, not just medical or clericals. These networks of health workers, need to include not just NHS but local government and private as well. They must be clear about what they are — the embryo of the fighting workers' organisation of the future, which can be an example in practice of future working class control of health provision and of wider society. This is syndicalism.

I would urge fellow health workers to become involved in the Health Workers Federation, which has been initiated by health worker members of the Direct Action Movement.

The Health Workers Federation can be contacted at PO Box 761, Camberwell, London SE5.



Indonesia has long figured stra- distributes workers' dues and ap- ise are usually met with the sack. In ers at Wintrad Jaya and 100 at Sinar their facotry for three days. Wages tegically in the West's plans, as points union officers - usually busi- 1989 the Tae Kwa shoe company Dunia Kristal staged strikes. A day were as low as 47 US cents a day, and has been demonstrated by the nessmen or military officers. Indo- dismissed seven organisers after a later, 400 at Junjim Rama Indonesia any worker who tried to organise deafening silence over human nesia's role in the world market is as strike against illegally low pay. In and 250 at TA Ltd went on strike for was instantly sacked. rights abuses and the invasion a provider of cheap labour, cheaper 1990, nine organisers at Firma Pol- holiday pay. 2,000 textile workers of East Timor and West Papua. than its South East Asian competi- len & Cowere sacked for trying to also demanded holiday pay. The subsistence wage for a married Some commentators pointed out tors. the similarities between Indonesia's occupation of these countries, and Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. However, the diffenece is that Indonesia is still acting as America's police in Eastern Indian Ocean, and the peoples of East Timor and Papua are poor, and cannot buy themselves a voice.

The military have been allowed a free hand in these countries, and military influence pervades Indonesian society. In 1965 General Suharto carried out a military coup with American backing. Hlaf a million people were slaughtered, the Communist Party of Indonesia was crushed, and three quarters of a million people thrown into jails and To fulfil this, SPSI needs to control form a branch of SPSI. concentration camps.

The situation of Indonesian workers

the right to forbid union activity. ers, particularly in the textile and The number of strikes has been ris-The government is constantly in- garment industry, are paid less than ing since 1985, and rose by 200% last In February this year, nearly 3,000 volved in SPSI, it provides funds, subsistence, but attempts to organ- year. In mid-April 1990, 600 work- workers at Pratama Abadi occupied



the workforce rather than articulate their demands.

Many of the worst abuses are by expensive trainers. But sooner or later, shoe companies. An investigation desperation or starvation will force Because of this, an independent union, into Nike, the sports shoe company, the Indonesian workers to fight back Setia Kawan (Solidarity) was formed found it had granted manufacturing on a grander scale. In the meantime is also very grim. Although the right There is much legislation on work- in 1990. It has faced constant har- licenses to six companies in Indone- we need to be clear about the soliof workers to organise is a clause of ers' rights, environmental health, etc. rassment and repression from the sia. Of these, five were South Korean darity we can offer, and target those the Constitution, the reality is some- But, as is so often the case, it is not government and employers alike. In owned, the other was South Korean companies, like Nike, that are the what different. Only one union is enforced. There is a legal minimum June this year the secretary-general, managed. Nike link their shoes with most blatant abusers of workers' recognised, the SPSI (Serikat Pekerja wage, but a 1989 survey in Jakarta Saut Aritonang, was arrested and personal success and self-expression rights. Seluruh Indonesia - All Indonesia found over 50% of the factories sur- held for two days as he was on his in their advertising. But their sub-Workers Union). Management have veyed were paying less. Many work way to a demonstration. The dem- contractors in Indonesia pay below Source: Labour Report, June'91



### Simon Russell ND1666 EPD May '92 IMPRISONED NON-PAYERS

HMP The Mount, Molyneaux Ave- James Lee JJ1320 EDR 29/10/01 HMP Camp Hill, Clissold Rd, nue, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, HMP Lincoln, Greetwell Road, Lincoln LN2 4BD

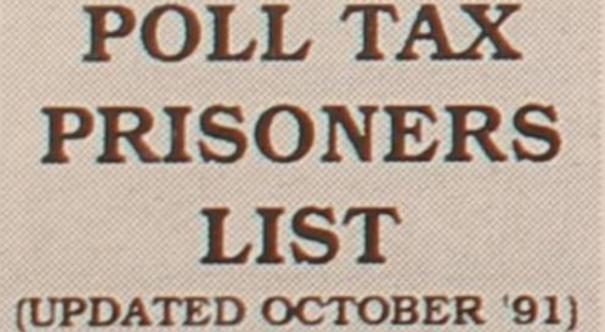
> Chris Howles NV0401 EDR 29/10/91 HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Road, London N7 8TT

Anita Hill TT2600 HMP Holloway, Parkhurst Road, London N7 0NU

Richard Northover WJ3395 HMP Dorchester, 7 North Square, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1JD

Paul Chamberlain C/o TSDC

 STOP PRESS In August two major strikes occured at the PT Gajah Tunggal tyre factory. The Gajah Tunggal Group (GTG) has connections with the Indonesian ruling Suharto family and called in the military. Although the strikes, over wages, national insurance and lodging allowances, were unsuccessful, they attracted • For nearly two months, from 12th tionalisation programme for the raila lot of international support, which has boosted the workers' confidence for the .



• next time.

Paul Jacob RAO711 EPD Oct '91 EDR Nov '92

HMP Coldingley, Bisley, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9EX

Brian Tavares MC3239 EPD Nov'91 EDR 6 June '93 EDR Nov '92

Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5PB Herts, HP3 0NZ

Feb'92 EDR Feb '93

HMP Downview, Sutton Lane, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5PD

EDR Sept '92

HMP Wandsworth, Heathfield Rd, HMP Feltham, Bedfont Road, Wandsworth, London SW18 3HS Feltham, Middx, TW39 4QN

Neil Bremner MW0216 EPD Dec '91 Michael Dalley PF3098 EPD Nov '91 EDR Oct '92

HMP Coldingley, Bisley, Woking, HMP Wandsworth, Heathfield Road, Surrey GU24 9EX

Matt Lee MW1054 EPD Jan '92 EDR Mark Hutchings MW2737 EPD 24/ Nov '92

erstone, Wolverhampton WV107PU PSG until further notice.



Timothy Donaghy MW0105 EPD Robert Wray MW1242 EPD Nov '91 EDR Jul '92

HMP Feltham, Bedfont Road, Feltham, Middx, TW39 4QN

Darren Healey RA2183 EPD Nov '91 Keith Wray MW1241 EPD Sept '91 EDR Mar '92

EDR 4th May '92

Wandsworth, London SW18 3HS

4/92 EDR 22/1/93

HMP Featherstone, New Road, Feath- Please send all mail via the TSDC-

and the second of the second o

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## NIKE TRAMPLES **ON WORKERS**

onstration was outside the Interna- subsistence wages. The hundreds of

tional Labour Organisation (ILO) mainly female workers at Tae Hwa office in Jakarta to protest against Ltd went on strike against wages as the Indonesia Labour Minister, Batu- low as 44 US cents a day! Despite bara, being elected ILO President. being half the legal minimum, seven organisers were sacked.

person with a child is assessed at US\$3.23 a day. Yet the average basic wage at Nike factories is 82 cents a day. Nike can certainly pay more, as is shown by a comparison with other wage rates. For example, Unilever - no friend of the workers - pay US\$248 per month, and Bata shoes have recently agreed to \$65 per month. Nike have claimed they can't affect their licensee's wage policy. This is utter crap. Nike personnel are on hand every day at the factories, and Nike can revoke the licenses at any time. By tendering the orders between licensed companies, Nike actually encourage low wages. The only area of flexibility the companies compete on is wages.

Obviously it's not just Nike who are ripping off Indonesian workers for

tina's railway network.

The origins of the conflict are distant. Firstly the colossal delay in salary readjustments. Hyperinflation reduced real wages by 200% since the days of the Alfonsin government. Furthermore, the present government has just embarked on a ra-

Note: EPD means Expected Parole Date. EDR means Earliest Date of march organised by the Madre in Release (Remission Date)

February, thousands of railway way network (numerous line cloworkers were involved in a sures thoughout the country) that general strike that practically led to hundreds of redundancies. paralysed the whole of Argen- All this in preparation for future privatisation of the industry. Low wages and staff reduction are preliminary measures that private capital insist on in order to 'salvage' the railway network. The conciliatory attitude of the leadership of the national union 'Fraternity' (with clear pro-government positions) aggravated the situ-

> Despite Fraternity's oppositon, some local union sections decided to launch an engineers' strike. Very quickly dozens of sections followed and after a few days the strike was total. It was further strengthened by other workers like signalmen, technicians, etc, joining the strike. The Menem's governement economics Minister, Domingo Cavallo (an ex-military dictatorship official) called the workers in struggle anarchists. And the President had threatened that "a line closed will remain so forever".

> The 'Madre' (Mothers of the Disappeared) have actively supported the railway strikers from the onset. Menem complained: "What have the 'Madre of La Plaza de Maya' got to do with the railway strike?!" Workers contradicted these words by participating in large numbers on a

> > ilda to a same

## RAILWAY WORKERS' VICTORY

support of the strike, all shouting "Dear Madre, we will carry on your children's struggle." The Madre's offices hosted many strikers' activities. A big 'Fiesta' was organised in solidarity and in support of the strikers with the participation of workers, students and artists.

After two months of struggle, the demands were vindicated and the government promised to re-adjust wages and re-employ those made redundant. However, despite this retreat, the government maintains its sell-off plans. It announced privatisations including the creation of a metropolitan company and public sales of various sectors. Such initiatives will inevitably lead to line clo-

The railway workers' victory is, of course, not definitive, but their experience of the struggle is an exceptional event. The rank and file have taken charge of their own interests, democratically. They have broken the bureaucratic settlement monopoly and fractured the traditional pact between government, management and union bureaucrats.

Source: Le Combat Syndicaliste

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# WOBBLIES WOBBLE BUT THEY DON'T FALL DOWN

After a lengthy period of stag- by the lengths the US state has gone industrial networks to reactivate prevent them from organising. Industrial Unions. The original purpose of such unions was to As well as attacks from the state, the of the World.

seize the means of production from tion with no substantial industrial confused leftist politics. the capitalists, but will also be able to base. Moves are now being made to ensure fair and efficient organisa- put this right (much as DAM in this tion of production and distribution. country are trying to do). Three of Transport Workers Union is currently Michigan area, with the goal of or-

nation, the Industrial Workers to to destroy the IWW; many wobof the World (IWW) are begin- blies have been either arrested, dening to move forward by using ported, tortured or even killed to

unite all workers in a certain in- IWW has also had to put up with attacks from the authoritarian left, dustry in the same fighting or- who saw in the idea of socialism ganisation. These unions then from below (syndicalism and anfederated together under the um- archo-syndicalism) a threat to their the name of the working class.



brella of the Industrial Workers own plans for seizing state power in the initial stages of reactivation. with hopes of beginning internal trial union by the end of this year. Hopefully this will not mean simply networking. an increase in membership, but also The first issue of an educa- These, admittedly, are small begin-The ultimate aim of the IWW is the So, as the years went by and the a refocusing of the union's attention tion workers newsletter was pub- nings, as are the Industrial Networks same as our own, to build a demo- attacks grew, the IWW was reduced on the daily lives of working people, lished in April of this year, and a being initiated by DAM. But they are cratic organisation run by working from a federation of Industrial Un- and away from the various causes second issue has been published the vital first step on the road to the people, which will not only fight to ions to a mainly political organisa- and issues that have traditionally recently.

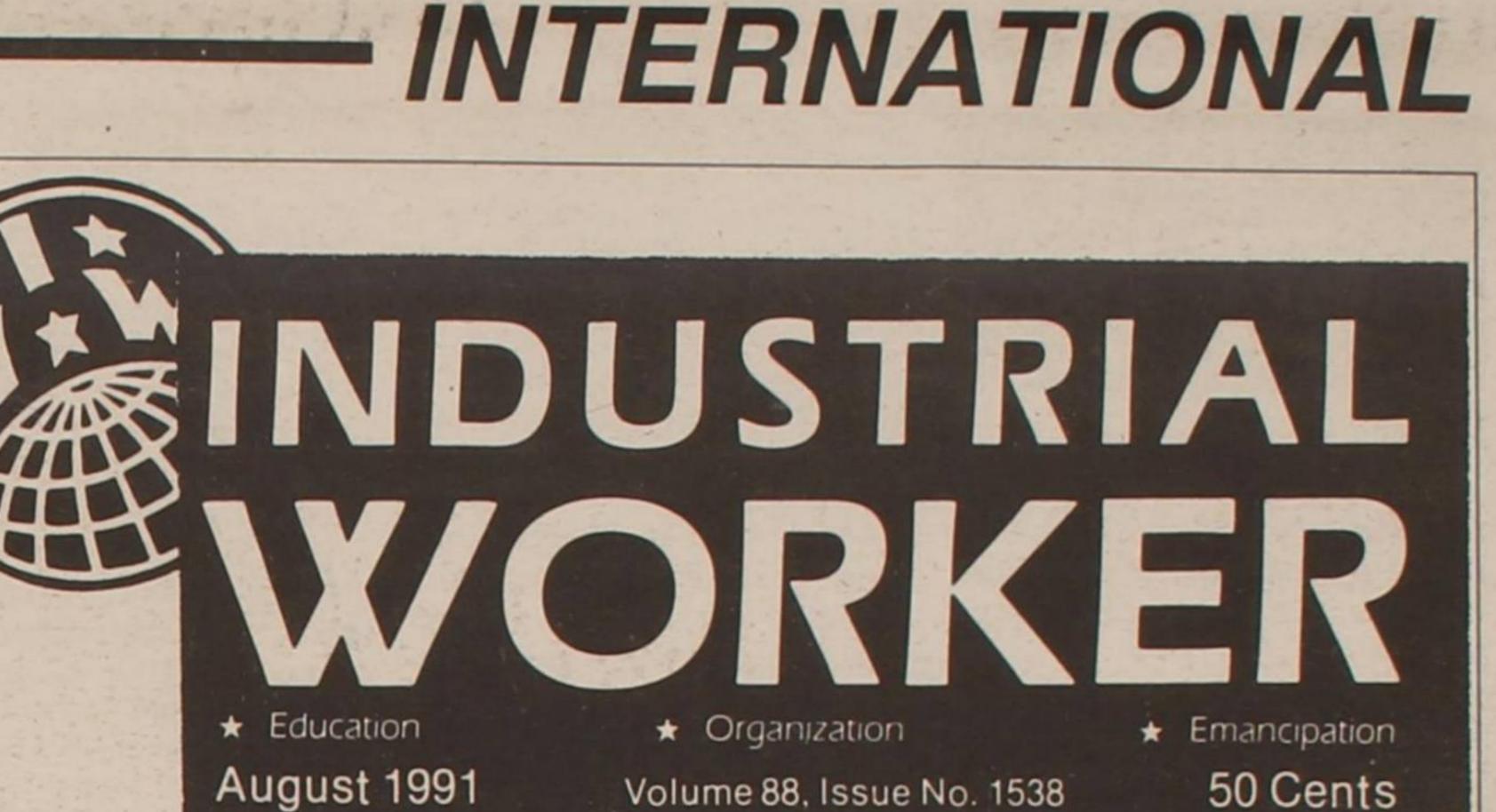


### **SPAIN** — The Fight Against The Blood Tax In Spain, as in most countries in Europe, national service is still compulsory. For those who refuse to go into the

army the alternatives are 'community service' for a longer period or up to six years in prison.

In 1989 a collective civil disobedience campaign (INSUMISION) began. At least 2,000 people have refused to do military service and 500 have refused to do community service. Alberto Gamarra (member of the CNT) is currently awaiting trial in Burgos for refusing to do community service and faces up to three years in prison.

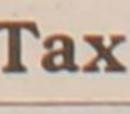
Letters of protest can be sent to: Juzgado de la Penal, Noz, Avda. Del Generalisimo 10, 09.003 BURGOS, Spain Send copies to: PO Box 1.090, 50.080 ZARAGOZA, Spain



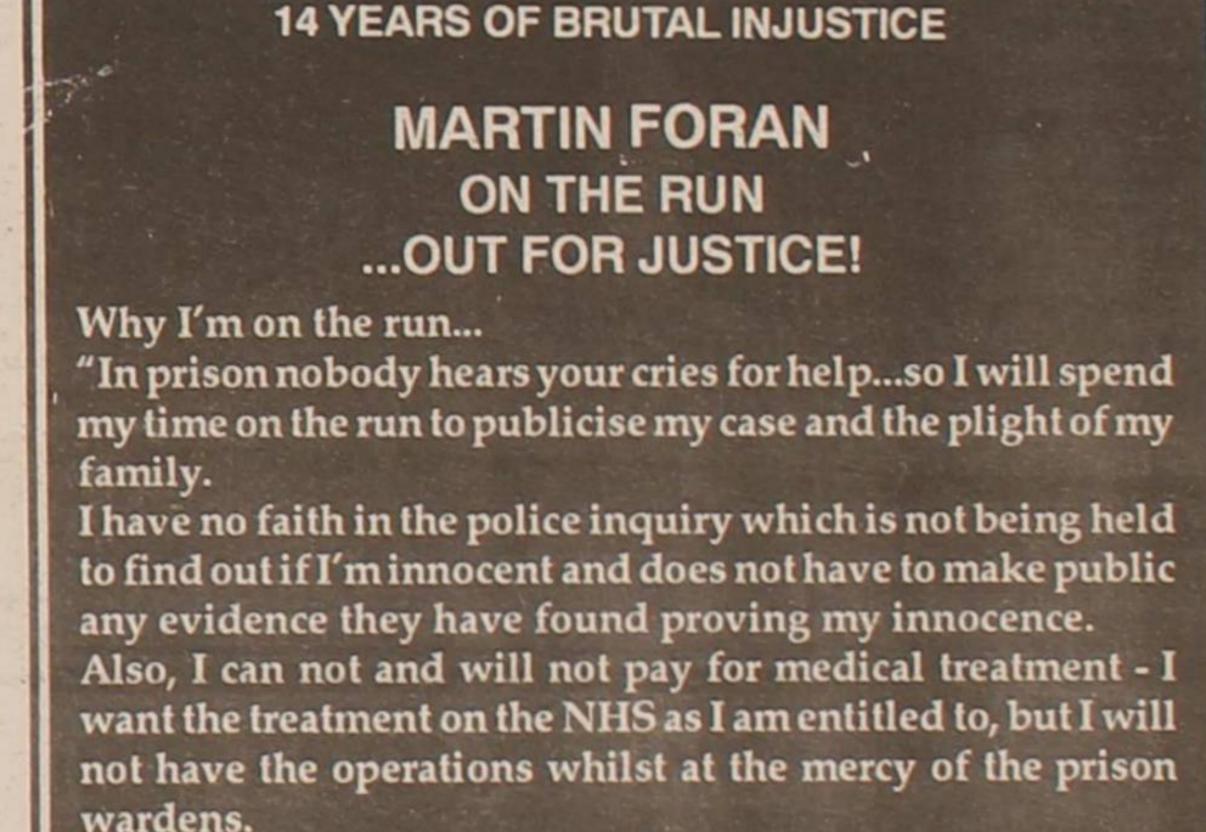
A member of the Marine house workers in the South East win. The effectiveness of this idea is shown the IWW's industrial unions are in circulating a letter to other members ganising a fully reactivated indus- Source: Industrial Worker

formation of fighting anarcho-syn-The People's Warehouse Job dicalist unions which are prepared Branch are contacting other ware- to face up to the bosses, fight, and

were Federatius Förlag, the syndicalist/libertarian publishers, by 6



goals to 3.



FRAMED

BY WEST MIDLANDS SERIOUS CRIMES SQUAD

I will hand myself in when a date is set for my appeal." Martin Foran, June '91

On 4th June framed prisoner Martin Foran went on the run with Valerie Foran (his wife) and their four children. Martin has been framed twice by the notorious West Midlands Serious Crime Squad, so far spending a total of 14 years in prison, being denied even the most basic medical care and receiving beatings from screws.

Martin was given two days 'humanitarian' parole for a relatively minor operation at the Royal London Hospital. The prison authorities agreed, after Martin's and his medical consultants' insistence that there should be NO police or screw guard on him huring the parole period. So when Martin arrived at the hospital and noticed two plain-clothed coppers watching him, he decided to run.

The ill-treatment Martin has received, coupled with the fact that he shouldn't have been in prison in the first place, is reason enough for his actions. Martin has said that he is willing to give himself up when the report into the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad is made public. Until then he plans to continue his fight for justice on the outside.

## APPEAL

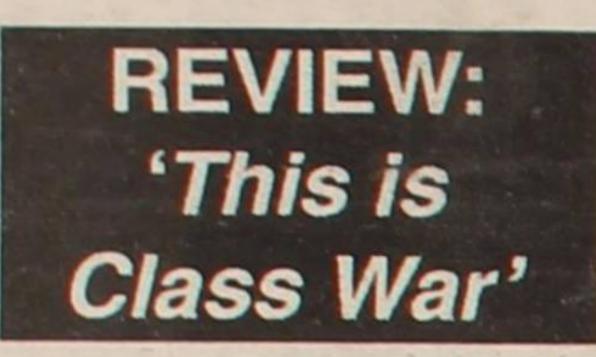
We need money to carry on our campaign, particularly now Martin's case has public attention and to fund Martin's appeal case later this year.

Donations: Individuals: Whatever you can afford Voluntary Groups: £10 Trade Unions, Parties, etc £20

Please make cheques payable to: Martin Foran Defence Campaign and send to: c/o Box 7, 190 Alum Rock Road, Saltley, **Birmingham B8** 

and a second the second of the

ODS & SODS -



mind this pamphlet being called analysis of the roles of the middle RSI is a number of different "thunderingly dull" by The Guard- class (direction, smoothing off capiian, but if you're expecting the usual talism's rough edges, control of in- the neck, shoulders, elbows, irreverant humour, you'll be disap- formation and opening up new pointed.

Class War, analysis of the current a teacher, when they both have the with typing, and particularly situation, and Class War's response. same amount of control over the VDUs. Overall, it seems Class War are information put out? moving toward a very similar politics as many anarcho-syndicalists, The trouble with putting so much and discovering for themselves things emphasis on communities is that in we have been saying for a long time. most places they don't exist. Apart This is all to the good. It doesn't from pit villages and places like West matter how you get here, it's getting Belfast, there are few real communithere at all that matters.

They distance themselves from the ing common interests. In some areas alternative life-style drop-outs of the of London, 50% of people move each anarchist ghetto. They identify re- year. They're not there long enough formism as the main enemy, seeing to establish any roots. And high crime, the Left as irrelevant to the working lack of social venues, poor transclass. The pamphlet expresses a port, etc, all help to make people feel willingness to work with other isolated and not go out. working class people who don't necessarily share their ideas. And Given the huge task to be overcome they admit they don't have all the in re-building the confidence of the answers!

But what is annoying is the way they or street — it has to be both. claim all of this is new and original. For example, "Class War alone sup- 'This is Class War' is published by ported the direct action of the strik- Class War Federation ers" during the miners' strike. Well, PO Box 39 what about 'Direct Action' and 'Black Manchester M15 5HN Flag, both explicit in their support Price £1.00

The two main areas of their analysis I'd disagree with are their breakdown of class and over-emphasis on the community. While saying there are exceptions to the rule, they take This handy little pamphlet is a the State's definition of class as correct. Whose territory do we want to tive Strain Injury, or RSI, although fight on? We should at least work it it is a bit pricey at £3. I don't suppose Class War really out for ourselves. And while the markets) is good, it puts some workers into the middle class. If a techni-The pamphlet gives a brief history of cian for the BBC is a worker, why not concentrates on those associated

> ties in the British Isles. Communities are built though struggle, and hav-

working class, we can't afford to see the struggle just in terms of workplace



very useful introduction to Repeti-

injuries to muscles or tendons in wrists, hands and fingers. It is caused by continuous repetitive movements, and the booklet

It's not new, however it is becoming increasingly recognised. The commonest RSIs are Tenosynovitis interesting is the fact that the (inflammation of the sheath around the tendons) and writer's cramp. Both are prescribed industrial diseases. Most of the causes of RSI can be stopped, but it would mean slowing down, or more breaks, better work environment, etc. None of these improvements are easily won from the bosses, as they would cost them money.

The booklet covers how to deal with your doctor, and the treatments available. Many of the

or the direct action tendencient niners, and calling for "Victore Hit Squads"?			Hurrah. Total needed is approximately £750.	subscribe.
<b>SUBSCRIPTIONS</b> You can help us improve DA by taking out a 'Supporter's Sub' We don't have any rich backers, and are entirely dependant on sales and donations. If you like what we're saying, even if you don't agree with all of it, we welcome your support. For your Supporter's Sub you will receive: * 12 issues of DA as they come out * a copy of the DAM pamphlet 'Winning The Class War'			MANCHESTER MARTYRS COMMEMORATION SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER ASSEMBLE 12.30 PM AT PLATT FIELDS, RUSHOLME	
			<b>BEATING THE FASCISTS</b> An old East End tradition	On 13th and 14th November
<ul> <li>a copy of either 'Miguel Garcia's Story' or 'Sans Culottes in the French Revolution'</li> <li>details of all DAM activities in your area</li> <li>Yes, I'd like a Supporter's Sub. I enclose £12 (Europe - £16; Rest of the World - £24. Cheques/postal orders</li> </ul>			NATIONAL	<ul> <li>representatives of the nuclear</li> <li>power industry worldwide will</li> <li>be speaking at a conference titled</li> <li>'Nuclear Power — A Fresh Start'.</li> <li>It will be addressed to a select</li> <li>audience of "policy makers,</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>payable to Direct Action). Please send me 'Miguel</li> <li>Garcia's Story'/'The Sans Culottes in the French</li> <li>Revolution'.</li> <li>Please send me details of local DAM activities in my area.</li> <li>Please send me more information on the DAM</li> </ul>			DEMONSTRATION AGAINST	<ul> <li>industrialists and politicians".</li> <li>Described as a "key conference",</li> <li>this will be a chance for the moribund nuclear industry to sell its ideas and its wares to</li> </ul>
Draikit, at school, in your ATTO, just ten us now many and send			RACIST ATTACKS	<ul> <li>other members of the ruling class.</li> <li>The Anti-Nuclear Network will</li> <li>be there and will be noisily and</li> <li>forcefully putting across the mes-</li> <li>sage that we are not prepared to</li> </ul>
us 20p for every one you Bulk Orders: Please send me money. Subscription Rates:		nd I will send you the 12	Assemble 1.00 pm Sunday 10th November	<ul> <li>let these businessmen and poli- ticians play Chernobyl-roulette</li> <li>with our lives and our environ- ment.</li> </ul>
UK EUROPE N & S AMERICA REST OF THE WORLD	£3.50 £4.50 £6.50 £7.00	£6.00 £8.00 £12.00 £13.00	Aldgate East tube Whitechapel High Street	<ul> <li>Join us — together we can stop nuclear power!</li> <li>DEMONSTRATION</li> </ul>
Name Address Country			London anti-fascist action	WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 8.15 am -12 noon

TTT AND TITLE AND A TIL AND A SATURATE AND A SATURATE AND A SATURATE

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### **REVIEW 'An Office Worker's** Guide to Repetitive Strain Injury'

orthodox treatments, such as surgery for carpal tunnel syndrome, are ineffective and have damaging side effects. Also covered are your rights to sickness pay, the possibility of being sacked, compensation, and preventing RSI. This last is one of the most interesting for anarchosyndicalists.

RSI can be prevented by improving the design and layout of the work station and by making the job more varied and interesting. Both of these are detailed demands that can be made by workers. Also traditional 'QWERTY' keyboard may contribute to RSI. It was originally designed for much slower typewriters. The speed at which VDU operators are expected to type is much faster, and puts strain on the wrists.

This pamphlet is essential for anyone organising in offices where there is a lot of VDU work.

City Centre 32/35 Featherstone Street London EC1Y 8QX. Price £3.00

## **SCANNER APPEAL**

The production of DA is now almost completely computerised. However, we desperately need a scanner, which will allow us to input and manipulate photographs and graphics within the computer. And best of all, scan any typed text sent to us and recognise it as typed. Saving us loads of time and hassle. Allowing us to do a better paper. Hurrah.

### SPOT THE MISTAKE!

Thanks to all the eagle-eyed readers who spotted the repetition of paragraphs in our article on Norwegian trade unionism. This was part of some market research we are undertaking; we are pleased that the avalanche of criticism we have received tells us that the article was well read (twice!). Actually, it was a fuck up, and apologies to all concerned.

There have been a few changes in the editorial group for this issue. Rest assured that this is because of everything possible apart form the splits and expulsions that accompany trotskyist groups! Please bear with us if the paper isn't up to scratch yet, or you're having problems getting it.

Lastly, we haven't heard anything from the Economic League for some time. Everything they've published before is straight from our paper, so we wonder if they're having difficulty getting DA. We can only say what we'd say to anyone else, the best way to ensure you get your copy of DA regularly is to subscribe.

................ • NUCLEAR POWER ----NO FRESH START!

On 13th and 14th November • representatives of the nuclear • power industry worldwide will • be speaking at a conference titled 'Nuclear Power — A Fresh Start'. It will be addressed to a select • audience of "policy makers, • • industrialists and politicians". • "Described as a "key conference", • this will be a chance for the • moribund nuclear industry to • sell its ideas and its wares to • other members of the ruling class.

 The Anti-Nuclear Network will • be there and will be noisily and • forcefully putting across the mes- sage that we are not prepared to elet these businessmen and poli-• ticians play Chernobyl-roulette • with our lives and our environment

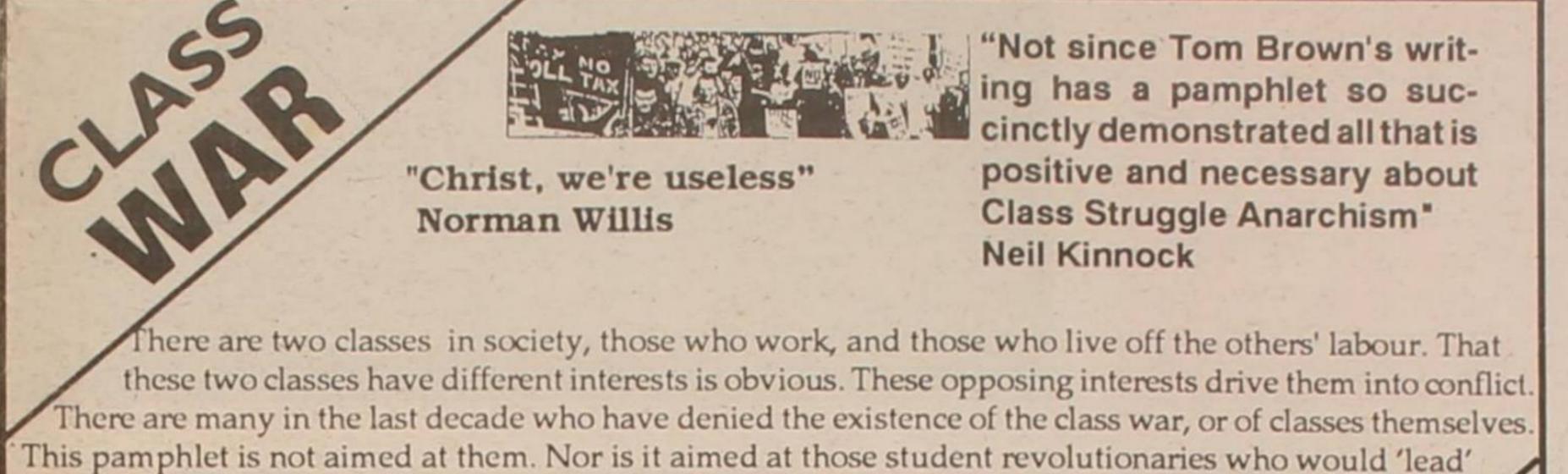
## : DEMONSTRATION

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the ignorant workers to victory. It is aimed at those militant workers looking for an alternative to the paper solidarity of the TUC; who are not looking for easy answers, because they have tried too many easy answers, and found them lacking.

'Winning The Class War' — an anarcho-syndicalist strategy ISBN 1 873605 00 5 Price £1.00

"Why's it called 'ING THE CLASS WAR'?" Chris

### REVIEW MANO NEGRA: **'KING OF BONGO' LP** (Virgin France SA)

If you like your punky reggae mixed with French accordians, (Rapido), which I have no ob- I don't like no house, 'cause I'm Spanish trumpets, Latin Ameri- jection to whatsoever - but it's born to rock, I'm born to pogo". can rhythms and christ knows as well the lyrics are provided. The album as a whole is a loud, what else, this one's for you.

tic', I call it original and refresh- come to the Occident' (about 5. We believe that the only way for

"Whaye man" Paul Gasgoine

The material ranges from hard- cophony. Music journalists call it 'eclec- hitting political stuff like 'Wel-

delivered à la Antoine de Caunes track: "I don't like no disco, and exuberant internationalist ca-

### **CONTACTS - UPDATE** NATIONAL OFFICERS NATIONAL SECRETARY, Manchester DAM-IWA, PO Box 29, SW PDO, Manchester M15 5HW INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY, Edinburgh DAM-IWA, PO Box 516, SW DO, Edinburgh EH10 5JH EASTERN REGION NORWICH DAM-IWA, PO Box 73, Norwich NR1 2EB MIDLANDS LEICESTER DAM-IWA, c/o 70 High St, Leicester For contacts in Leamington, Nottingham, Northants and Worcester, write to National Secretary NORTH EAST LEEDS DAM-IWA C/o Box DAM, 52 Call Lane, Leeds LS2 MIDDLESBROUGH DAM-IWA, C/o Leeds DAM SOUTH YORKSHIRE DAM-IWA, PO Box 122, Doncaster, S Yorkshire For contacts in Doncaster, Scunthorpe, Sheffield and York, write to North East **Regional Secretary, C/o Leeds DAM** NORTH WEST

BURNLEY DAM-IWA, 12 Kingsland Grove, Burnley, Lancs BB11 3PY LIVERPOOL DAM-IWA, PO Box 110, Liverpool, L69 8DP MANCHESTER DAM-IWA, PO Box 29 SW PDO, Manchester M15 PRESTON DAM-IWA, PO Box 172, Preston, Lancs PR1 For contacts in Cumbria, Lancaster, Salford and Stockport, write to North West **Regional Secretary, C/o Burnley DAM** 

#### SCOTLAND

EDINBURGH DAM-IWA, PO Box 516, SW DO, Edinburgh EH10 5JH GLASGOW DAM-IWA, PO Box 239, Glasgow G3 6RA

#### SOUTH WEST

**BRISTOL DAM-IWA, C/o National Secretary** For contacts in Avon, Devon and Plymouth, write to National Secretary

SOUTH HERTFORDSHIRE DAM-IWA, PO Box 245 St Albans, Herts DEPTFORD DAM-IWA, PO Box 574, Brockley, London SE4 1DL EAST LONDON DAM-IWA, C/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX NORTH LONDON DAM-IWA, PO Box 1681, London N8 7LE SOUTH LONDON DAM-IWA, PO Box 761, Camberwell SDO, London SE5 For contacts in Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire, write to South East Regional Secretary, C/o

North London DAM

All other international contacts should be sought via the International Secretary.

### NETWORK FORUM

Send any donations, or notify of any Standing Orders, to Network Forum, PO Box 29, SW PDO, Manchester M15 5HW

Council Workers Network, C/o Manchester DAM and North London DAM Transport Workers Bulletin, C/o Deptford DAM, Po Box 574, London SE4 1DL Despatch Industry Workers Union, C/o 489 Kingsland Road, London E8 4AU Independant Education Network, PO Box 29 SW PDO, Manchester M15 5HW Health Workers Federation, C/o PO Box 761, Camberwell, Londn SE5

## **OTHER**

Australia WC1N 3XX



1. The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation.

2. Our aim is the creation of a free ruling class. and classless society.

not profit.

4. In order to bring about the new on behalf of the workers.

ing. Mano Negra sing in Eng- how the West is going to fuck the working class to achieve this is 9. The Direct Action Movement is a lish, French and Spanish as their eastern Europe like it fucks the by independent organisation in the federation of groups and individufancy takes them (and on their rest of the world) to no less work place and the community and als who believe in the principles of previous album had an arabic laudable sentiments like those federation with others in the same anarcho-syndicalism: a system where song). When it's in English it's expressed in the 'King of Bongo' industry and locality, independent the workers alone control industry of and opposed to all political par- and the community without the ties and trade union bureaucracies. dictates of politicians, bureaucrats, All such workers' organisations must bosses and so-called experts.

be controlled by the workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers movement. Any and all delegates of such workers' organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.

CONTACTS

6. We are opposed to all states and state institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is world wide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all states do not exist to protect the workers of those states, they exist only as the repressive arm of the

7. We oppose racism, sexism, mili-3. We are fighting to abolish the tarism and all attitudes and institustate, capitalism and wage slavery in tions that stand in the way of equalall their forms and replace them by ity and the right of all people everyself managed production for need, where to control their own lives and enviroment.

social order, the workers must take 8. The Direct Action Movement is over the means of production and resolved to initiate, encourage and distribution. We are the sworn ene- wholeheartedly support the creamies of those who would take over tion of independent workers' unions based on the principles of anarcho-syndicalism.

IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY PROBLEM RECIEVING DIRECT ACTION, PLEASE LET US KNOW. WE ARE SUFFERING FROM A PAST LEGACY SOFTWARE DISTRIBUTION PROBLEM, SO IT'S NOT OUR FAULT, HONEST!!!!

### SOUTH EAST

### IRELAND

There is no section of the International Workers' Association in Ireland, but we maintain links

ORGANISE! (Anarcho-Syndicalist group based in the Six Counties), C/o 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast 1, Ireland

Donations or Standing Order payments in support in Industrial Networks should be made to: NETWORK SOLIDARITY FUND,

Acc No 12282083, Sort Code 16-16-25,

Royal Bank of Scotland, Manchester Chorlton-cum-Hardy Branch, 44 Wilbraham Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester M21 1AR

### INDUSTRIAL

IDEAS & ACTION (US Anarcho-Syndicalist paper), PO Box 40400, San Fransisco, CA 94140, USA REBEL WORKER (Australian Anarcho-Syndicalist paper), PO Box 92, Broadway, NSW 2007,

ANTI-FASCIST ACTION (North/South/East/South-East London Branches), BM 1734, London