

DIRECT ACTION

The Voice of Anarcho-Syndicalism

No. 56

March 1989

30p

WORKING
CLASS
TODAY
PAGE 6

LET'S HEAR IT—



DOWN THE DRAIN

We can only last for three to four days without a drink at the most while we can live without food for considerably longer periods. Water is a basic necessity. Fresh water, ie., non-salt water is a finite resource. The majority of water is salt water, 97% of it. The remainder, 3% of the total, is 'fresh' water, and of this only 1% of the total is accessible as a consumable resource. Increasing man-made pollution is making this resource even more scarce.

International concern about the quality of water has been expressed in a number of resolutions, declarations and treaties. In 1985, the EEC Directive on the Quality of Water Intended for Human Consumption came into effect after a five year period, during which time members were supposed to meet the standards for specified pollution.

When the British go abroad on holiday, there is always a song and dance about whether it is safe to drink the water. Usually this danger is avoided by drinking the local 'plonk' and staying pissed all the time. However, you'll still hear conversations discussing the merits of cleaning your teeth in Perrier water, or bothering to clean them at all. The poor fools are more at risk at home, but most of tourists won't accept this for 'nationalistic' reasons.

The truth is that Britain's water supply is one of the most contaminated and polluted on the face of the Earth. Millions of people receive water that is dirty and polluted with chemicals, that is in breach of EEC law. Dilapidated sewage works are removing less and less of the contaminants before pouring the residue into the already grossly polluted rivers and estuaries.



The water authorities are the greatest polluters of the rivers, and the official watchdogs as well! These water policemen are it would appear the biggest criminals of all. Already on the horizon are a mass of European laws that will impose new standards for everything from the quality of drinking water to the amount of bacteria to be allowed in sewage sludge that is spread onto fields as fertiliser.

Already, various firms producing water filters are spending vast amounts of money on advertisements in the glossy Sunday supplements pushing their wares, they'll have a field day when water is privatised! A further example of private profit and public squalor. No doubt the Yuppies drinking their Perrier water with a twist of lemon will be led to believe that they'll be alright and only

the proles will be struck down by diseases that were thought to have been banished in Victorian times.

Tens of thousands of people in the Home Counties are drinking water that has been contaminated with cancer-inducing chemicals far above the World Health Organisation's safety limits. Trichloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene, solvents used in dry-cleaning, were found in the drinking water of 150,000 people in Luton and Dunstable. This polluted water is supplied by the Lee Valley Water Company, one of the private firms at the centre of the storm over foreign take-over in advance of privatisation. A borehole in Luton was found to contain more than 2 1/2 times the limit for Trichloroethylene and 1 1/2 times the limit for tetrachloroethylene.

Direct Action Movement — International Workers Association

DOWN THE DRAIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ecological disaster looms around the River Mersey and the Irish Sea unless there is greater action against pollution and massive investment in clean up operations. The North West Water Authority (NWWA) will have to invest more if these water resources are to be saved. In 1988 the NWWA announced an operating profit of £192 million, which was up some 60% on the profit of the previous year.

The Mersey has been described as the most polluted river in Europe by the House of Commons Environmental Committee. Lancashire with its large population adds to the sewage disposal problem while the engineering and chemical industries create a further problem of effluence. It is now estimated that to bring the sewage works in the North West up to scratch it will cost somewhere in the region of £4 billion.

private water companies and sold off to property developers and farmers. A landgrab operation was recently exposed in *The Observer*, indicating that the merchant bank Schroders is preparing a portfolio of land for sale belonging to the water authorities.

The ten water authorities own large parcels of land in the Lake District, Peak District national parks, on Dartmoor and the Pennines, and the Forest of Bowland. There is every reason to believe that many areas, especially in the South East, could be sold for building development.

Privatisation always means a loss of jobs and should be resisted by the workforce. This not to say that state control is the answer, but that workers should defend what little security they have. However it is not just a fight for water workers, but



It is clear that the answer to these environmental problems is the massive investment of energy, resources and money. While this is required it is difficult to believe that this is likely to come from privatised authorities, because at the present we see a public sector body behaving like a private enterprise intent on huge profits and investing too little too late.

should involve everyone who drinks and uses water. Everyone has to use water, you have no choice, there is no alternative to water. Privatisation will not give anyone a choice. You'll have to buy it from the local company or die of thirst, but even if you are able to afford to pay, think about it, Perrier — Chernebaubyl.

Water is too valuable a resource to be left to private motives. Already we've seen the water authorities of England and Wales behaving like private companies, but if a disaster is to be averted then the public interest has to be established. Nationalisation was brought in as the panacea because in the past it was shown that private enterprise had failed but we cannot turn back to the past. It is necessary to go forward to new ways of confronting and administering essential resources like water supply and sewage disposal, never have the ideals of anarcho-syndicalism been more relevant.

Large profits will be made by the water authorities but not just by the sale of water. Thousands of acres of scenic countryside could be asset-stripped by

A GOVERNMENT SUPPORTER?
OFCOURSE I AM, BUT HOW
DID YOU EVER GUESS?



SECONDS OUT

With one month to go before the fight against the Poll Tax in Scotland enters its non-payment phase, much of England and Wales seems to be poorly organised for when registration is due to start late in May. The Scottish campaign has caused the government sufficient problems to cause it to put registration in England back so as not to coincide with payment demands in Scotland! Non-registration has never been the real fight in the anti-Poll Tax campaign, however, and it gives us the opportunity to build organisation for non-payment in 1990.

One group which seems to be pretty advanced is Tottenham Against the Poll Tax, in North London, set up in October by the Claimants' Union, DAM, various unaffiliated libertarians, community activists and trades unionists, and even the SWP. The group has stressed from the first non-payment, non-registration and non-collection of the Tax, and above all effective grassroots and shopfloor organisation to do it. A sister group was set up in Hornsey & Wood Green, also in the Borough of Haringey, along the same lines in January, and is making progress. At the moment both are affiliated to the borough-wide group of similar name, which is your standard bureaucratic 'can pay, must pay' non-opposition.

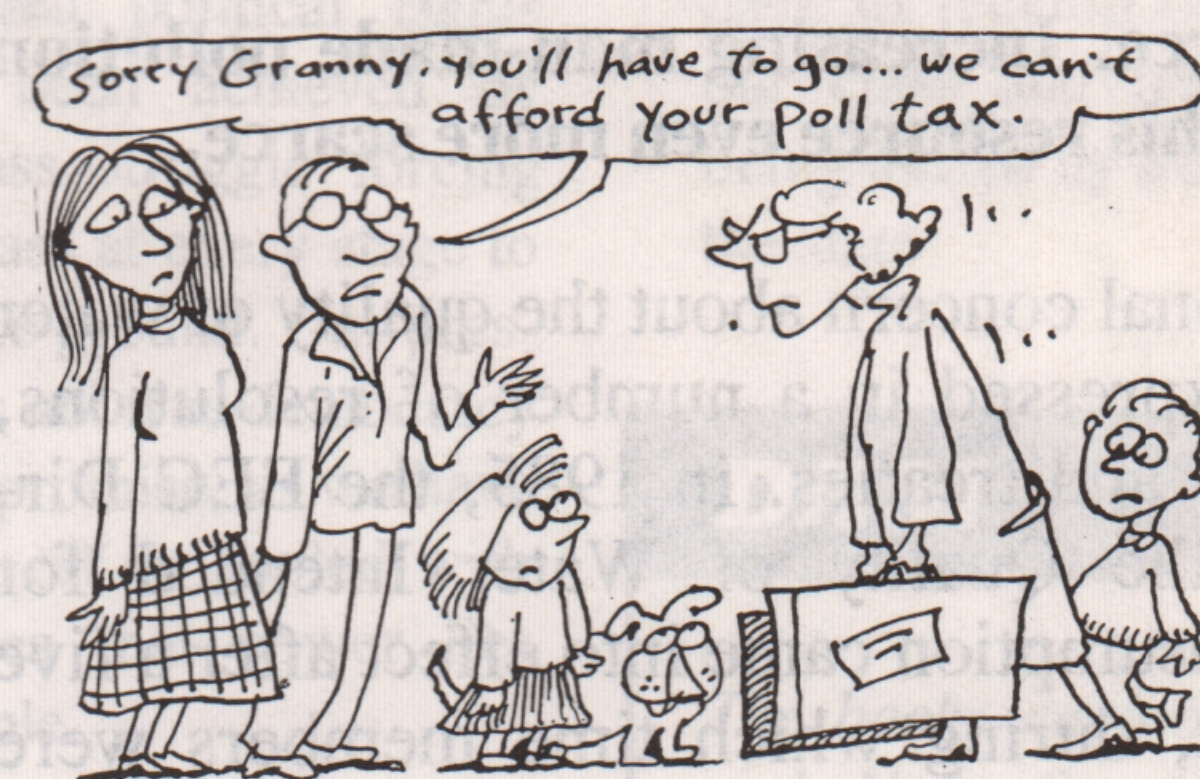
The other groups are both community-based, and it is more or less inevitable that there will be a split with the 'umbrella' soon, followed by federation of the two community groups, and in time their splitting down into more localised neighbourhood groups. To give you an idea of how bad HAPT and its ilk are, when Tottenham affiliated the two Communist Parties were re-fighting their split (with the Tankies strangling the Euros), and with no membership, just affiliates, they planned for an executive committee, a steering group and a secretariat! Working within it has failed to bring any real change. Their recent public meeting boasted Mike Hicks (General Secretary of the CPB) as a speaker, and the case for action and organisation had to be put from the floor.

STREET COMMITTEES

Tottenham had a very successful public meeting shortly before the HAPT one, attended by up to 70 people, speakers being an opposition Labour councillor, a NALGO member, a Scottish activist, and a local campaign rep. Debate was very full, and as a result of a practical meeting nearly 20 street representatives were added to the previous total of 50. As Tottenham has around 700 streets and council blocks,

nearly 10% at this stage is pretty good. The idea of street reps is the whole basis of the campaign, the group recognises that public meetings will never attract everyone we need to reach to beat the Poll Tax, nor will marches, poster blitzes, leaf-letting markets, or any of the traditional methods the left limits itself to. The goal is to get out to people and get them to organise themselves, rather than getting them to join some campaign run by the same old coalition of politicians.

Street representatives and street committees are designed to get people in touch with each other so they can organise effectively, people signing the non-payment pledge are filed street by street, as are reps, and regular street reps meetings are held to get propaganda and news distributed door-to-door locally.



No-one who can't pay will have to face a demand alone. In the long term this form of organisation should give people the experience and of their own abilities to organise and fight back the working class badly needs at the moment, outside any arena where the labour movement bureaucracy can strangle it or stitch it up. The 'community' is mainly composed of workers, and a well-organised, strong campaign should give them the confidence as workers to fight back no amount of Norman Willis' speeches and brass bands can.

INSURRECTION

An extension of this is a system of workplace reps which is being built up, means of workplace (not just branch)

meetings being organised for trades unionists with a campaign speaker. This is not just being done among Council Workers, although their importance is obvious, but also in the private sector. Industrial action against implementation will need to be a factor in defeating the Poll Tax (although Council Workers alone are not going to beat it, it will take a virtual insurrection), but if it gets to the stage where any group of workers is having it stopped from their wages, what better way to beat it than making the boss pay for collaborating by walking out. Any strike against the Poll Tax is bound to spread, if it gets organised.

Much crap has been spouted about how strong NALGO members are, and how they can beat the Poll Tax for us, but no-one seems to have checked out whether they feel strong. The fact is, most would probably agree with the NEC that they don't want to be used as shock troops for a bunch of lefties, certainly Lambeth Branch thought so, the policy of non-cooperation was reversed at a recent branch meeting by workers who didn't believe they'd be backed up if they stuck their necks out that far. So we need strong workplace committees independent of political and bureaucratic control, and integrated into a strongly-organised mass campaign locally. Then we are talking anarcho-syndicalist forms of organisation, and the self-education of the working class in its own power — through direct action.

Note on registration: Much anti-registration propaganda consists of questions to ask, or excuses to give, in order to delay registration. It has been assumed that this would avoid the clash with the law outright refusal to register was assumed to bring. The truth is almost the reverse of this, obstruction tactics point you out as a troublemaker, and in some cases respondents have received a booklet in answer to their second question answering all 'reasonable' questions, followed by a summons and fine if their form was not completed within 21 days. There is grounds for appeal to challenge selection as a 'responsible person', but it is safer simply to ignore your registration form, if they know who you are they will probably just register you anyway, if they don't you're lucky!

TALK OF THE DEVIL

TUNNEL VISION

MARTIN FORAN

Religious belief is based on fear and superstition. It grew to explain things to people that they could not easily understand. Belief became formalised into doctrine and then was used by political rulers to legitimise the hierarchal social structures of many societies.

Today we are witnessing a revival in religious fundamentalism and belief. Often this appears laughable and could be ridiculed if it was not so threatening.

The recent death sentence passed on Salman Rushdie by the Ayatollah Khomeini has shown how severely we should take the phenomenon. Rushdie, who was born a moslem, but is no longer a believer, has written a novel called 'Satanic Verses'. This, according to many moslems, is a blasphemous book and Islamic law calls for death. The call has been supported by many Islamic leaders in this country and as any associates would become instant martyrs to Islam the threat is being taken seriously.

RACIST

Islam, like Christianity and all religions is oppressive. This is especially true in their attitudes to women, whose role is that of a chattel. Children are also expected to give blind obedience to their parents and holy men. Some Labour MP's have jumped on the bandwagon in calling for the extension of the blasphemy laws. Starting with Bradford's Max Madden, who has a large, pissed off moslem vote to protect, and including other left wing MP's like Bernie Grant and Brian Sedgemore, the worst side of trendy anti-racism has surfaced.

Since Islam is an ethnic minority religion, it is 'racist' to seriously.

You may have seen on T.V. or daily newspapers the report that two workers have now died building the Channel Tunnell. Another was seriously injured and had to wait 22 minutes because the nearest ambulance station is 18 miles away. This incident sparked a walkout by 500 workers on 9th February in protest at the poor safety standards on the job. Already the Health and Safety Executive has twice prosecuted the employers Trans Manche Link in the two years since work began. All this is bad enough but Albert Williams, General Secretary of UCATT the construction workers' union, said that he is now 'quite satisfied with the safety record of Trans Manche Link'. With a union leader like that who needs enemies?

INTERCITY

All over Kent and South London, and in Kings Cross, groups are opposing the various proposed Channel Tunnel rail links. At a recent meeting in Brockley, called at short notice, over one thousand people turned up. This momentum will be needed to keep the campaign in with a chance, as the overground route is now strongly favoured (ultimately it's a lot cheaper).

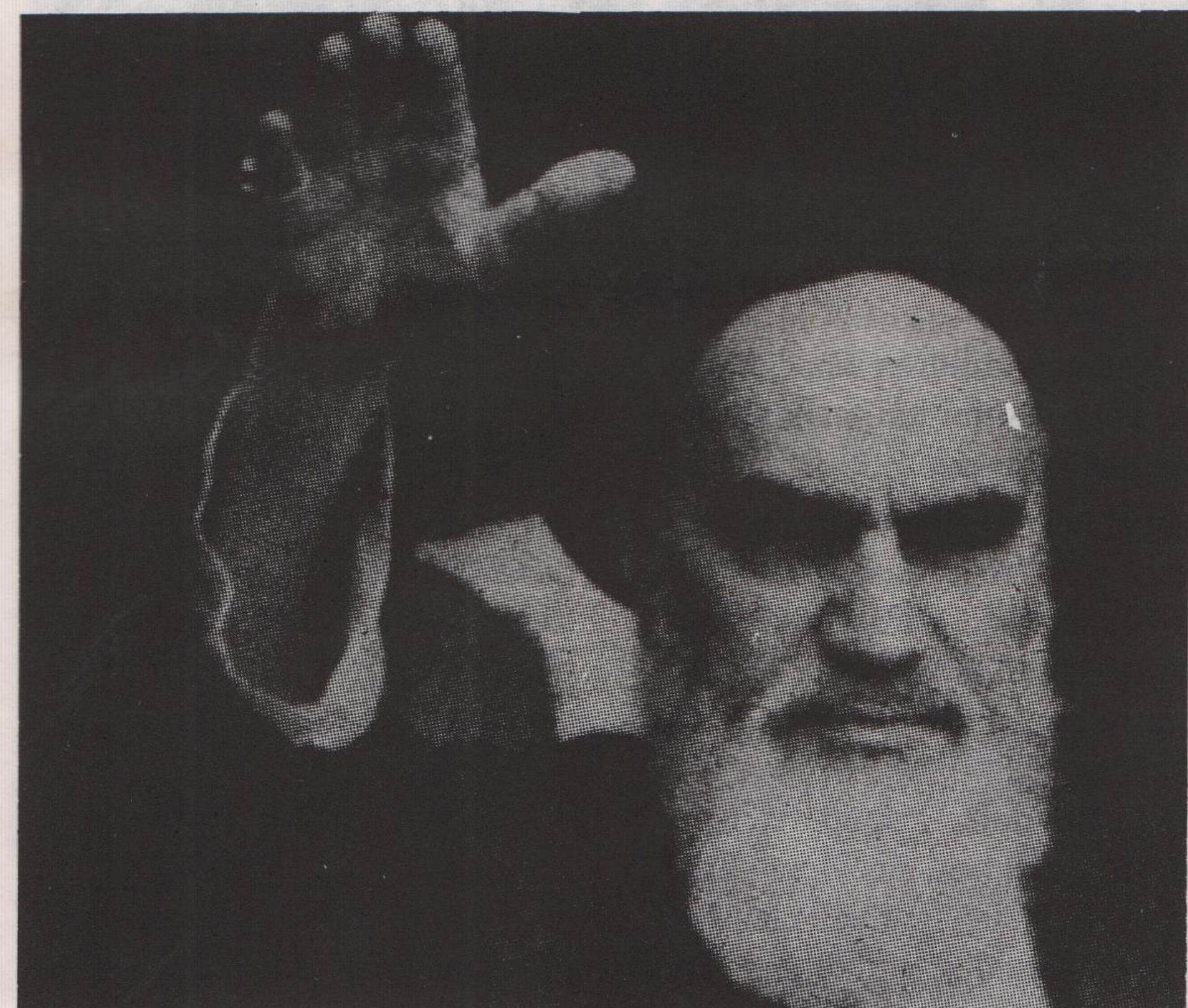
The important thing now is to build on people's anger and build links between all the areas affected, so as to avoid the NIMBY (not in my back yard) syndrome. That would just lead to more middle class areas with experienced 'lobbyists' and professional campaigners 'winning' at the expense of working class areas.

Quote of the month — BR 'expert' talking about noisy trains — 'If we have designed trains which are unbearable to hear, we ought to be shot'. Quite!

Martin Foran has been on hunger strike now for over two months in protest against the continued injustice he faces and the disgraceful treatment he has had and continues to suffer at the hands of the prison doctors. He has to wait thirteen months for a very serious operation and then will be whisked back to Parkhurst for 'recuperation', despite the fact that three months intensive care is necessary after the operation.

Because of the hunger strike Martin's vision is suffering. He would be grateful for magazines, but unfortunately cannot manage books. Also, all messages of support are welcome. On a more positive note, Martin thanks the unknown Liverpool comrade(s) whose work recently featured on Brookside.

Write to: Martin Foran, C51796, HMP Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX



'... AND HE'S ABOUT THIS BIG ...'

At present the blasphemy laws in this country apply only to christianity and can be used, as *Gay News* found out, to good/bad effect. Calls have been made, not only by moslem's, to extend the law to cover all religions. At present, moslem's have only been able to demonstrate their anger with public book-burnings and threats against stockists of the book.

The extent of the outrage has shocked and surprised many, including Rushdie. It is based, in this country at least, on the deep-rooted fear many moslems have over the 'western' influences on their way of life. This has led to some uneasy alliances between fundamentalists and the far-right, both arguing for segregation in education as well as the usual return to 'traditional' values and discipline.

attack it, whereas Christianity is a religion of 'priveleged' whites, despite its reliance on desperate black people to keep the old myths going. This attitude is even more racist than the conventional kind, because it takes Indian and other ethnic minority culture at its most backward, and denies the validity of any secular, independent ideas. And it condemns progressive, radical elements to repression with the blessing of the left.

The answer lies not in expanding the blasphemy laws but in abolishing them. It lies not in a more liberal theology but getting rid of the whole idea of a supreme being altogether. It lies not in comparing the merits of the various religions but in making a strong stand and fighting all religious teachings no matter what group professes them.

FOUL PLAY

Amid the hysteria about Listeria and Currie-d egg-on-the-face the real issues behind the current controversy over food poisoning are being obscured. The Tories themselves can't up make their minds, witness the knee-jerk reaction over French soft cheeses. John Macgregor, agriculture minister, says 'there is no question of banning sales of cheese made from un-pasteurised milk or in fact any other soft chesses'. Kenneth Clarke, Health Seeretary, says 'what John has said is that he is thinking about the possibility of banning cheese made from non-pasteurised milk' double-talk or what!

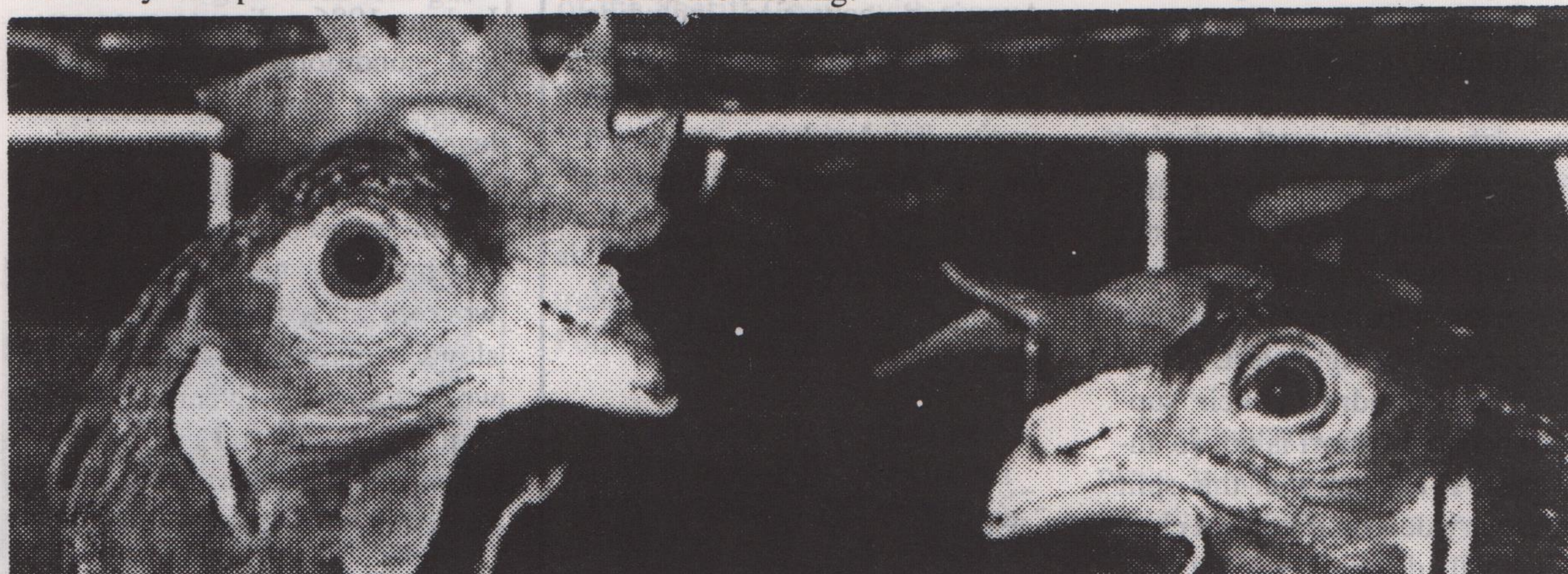
After poultry industry pressure forced Edwina Currie's exit the government tried to allay public fears, now they admit there may be up to two million

cases of salmonella each year! Dalgety, the international food company suffered a twenty percent fall in sales of eggs, and their egg operations are heading for a loss as against a £3 million predicted profit. Clearly this motivates the government rather than any risk to public heath.

Salmonella in eggs and chickens is caused by cost-cutting intensive production. Healthy chickens lay healthy eggs — would you be healthy locked in a cage that you couldn't turn round in, surrounded by vomit and droppings, and often dead chickens (another source of infection)? Battery farming is cruel, but most importantly it is unhealthy for consumers. Factory farming methods tend towards homogeneity — all the products are the same and this means vital trace elements are missing.

Food poisoning is a class issue. It hits at the most vulnerable members of society, whose immune systems are run down. The cheapest eggs are also the ones most likely to contain salmonella. Good food stuffs cost money and this is passed on the consumer. Ready-cooked meats and chicken are a boom to people who work all day. Exactly the same things which are most likely to cause food poisoning. As if that wasn't bad enough, working class people haven't even got an adequate health service to help them recover from food poisoning.

Until we have a society were production is for need not profit, and where food is treated with the respect it deserves and not a commodity, large outbreaks of food poisoning are inevitable.



A PAIR OF CHICKENS

IWA REPORT

KÖLN, WEST GERMANY, 21/1/89

On 21st January a conference of delegates from IWA sections was held in Cologne, West Germany. Present were comrades from France, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Spain, Britain, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Australia and Switzerland.

The meeting was held mainly to discuss a progress report from the new IWA Secretariat (now in Germany), to exchange information between the sections and to work towards improved communications in the IWA. This latter point is of particular importance as our International is only as effective as the solidarity it can give and where communication is patchy information is not distributed. A step towards strengthening communication is the Conference's decision to make direct links between sections as well as a commitment to more frequent information exchange. Sections will meet more frequently between Congresses (which are held every four years) but this leads to a problem of increased emphasis on Europe due to distances and the cost of flights. Unfortunately there is presently no satisfactory remedy to this and the only partial solution is the development of the sub-secretariats in Australasia and in the Americas.



Much of the meeting was taken up by hearing reports concerning activities in various countries. One piece of regrettable news was that the Japanese section of the IWA, the RRU (Rodoshō Rentai Undo or Workers Solidarity Movement) has split over a disagreement regarding the support of Katsuhisa Omori, a Japanese political prisoner facing the death penalty. The people who split off from the RRU did so because they felt that Omori should not be supported because of his extreme anti-Japanese views which border on being racist. They have not withdrawn their support because Omori is not an anarchist. It appears that this split goes very deep and it is not clear what will develop between our comrades in Japan.

Comrades at the conference discussed the upcoming 'European Conference' to be held by the Renovados (phony CNT), the SAC (a Swedish union) and various vanguardist/reformist organisations in June this year. These groups, which claim to be revolutionary, have some very shady connections with state-funded and/or reformist organisations and are apparently seeking to build an International which would rival our own (and possibly pass itself off as the IWA like the Renovados in Spain claiming to be the true CNT?). These groups have a few contacts in Latin America as well as in European countries.

Another interesting discussion centred on a recent 'anarchist/peace gathering' in Seoul, South Korea. There were some questions concerning the funding of this meeting as comrades from places as far away as Britain and America all had their airfares paid for them! Apparently, a rather eccentric and generous millionaire in South Korea and a Korean anarchist living in New York financed the meeting. A comrade who represented the IWA was present at this meeting in Korea. Her report was quite negative as it seems the meeting was entirely academic and bore no relation to the working class in Korea. Also, these people, though they call themselves anarchists, would not be easily recognised as such — each morning before the day's meeting they would salute the Korean national flag! Nationalism is rampant even in the 'anarchist' movement and though it is obviously a legacy of colonial domination by the Japanese, it is not excusable in a movement which reckons itself anarchist or internationalist in any meaningful sense of the word.

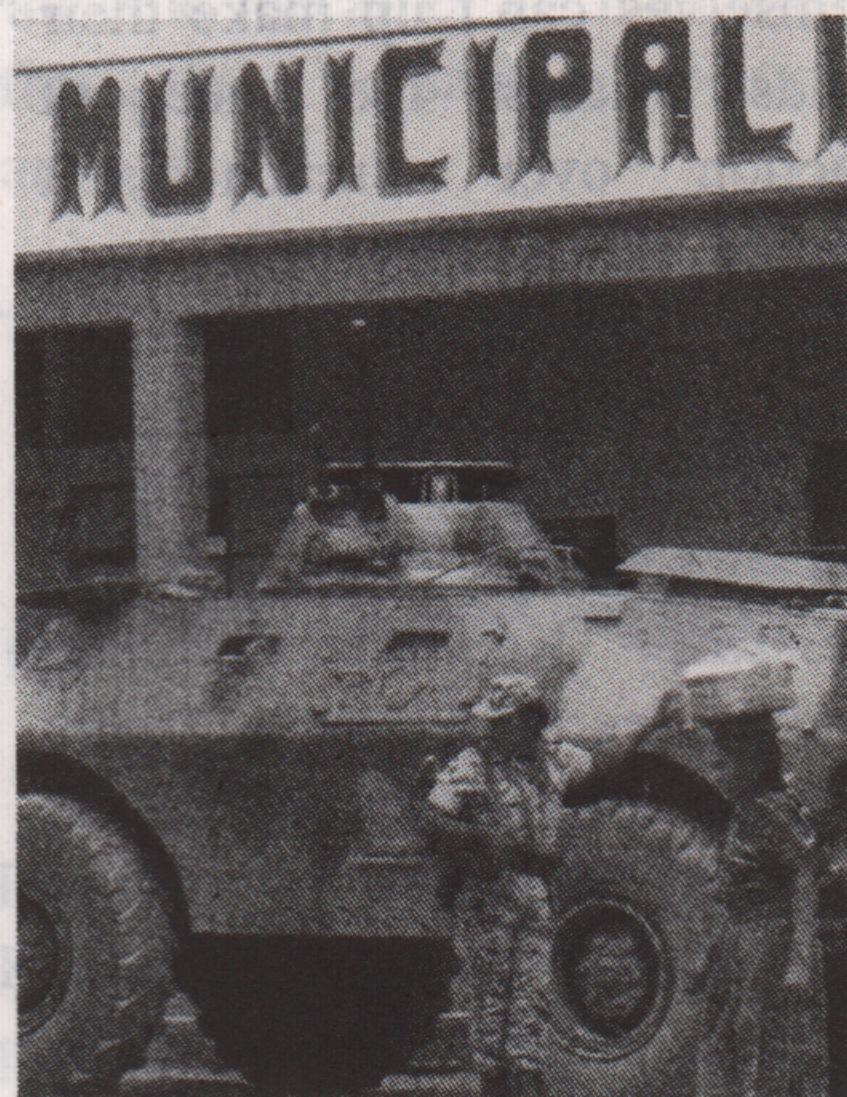
Lastly, conference also heard reports of activities in Latin American countries including moves towards re-establishing a section in Argentina. A Swedish section is also being reformed and we have good contacts in Poland. And finally, a new section in Finland was provisionally accepted until the next Congress.



PARALYSED

You can bet that little will change for the population after February's coup d'état in Paraguay. General Alfredo Stroessner had brutally ruled the country for the past 34 years, with a human rights record that makes South Africa and Taiwan look like holiday camps. Stroessner's Party, the Colorado Party, was re-elected every five years under the slogan of Peace, Justice and Democracy. In reality Stroessner fancied himself as another Hitler and ran the country by Terror, Injustice and Dictatorship.

The new President, General Andres Rodriguez, comes from the same mould. He also belongs to the Colorado Party. His daughter Graciela is married to Stroessner's youngest son Alfredo. Rodriguez has undoubtedly been a financial beneficiary of the Stroessner regime in Paraguay. Reports once asked him how come he had a fabulous life-style and a £5 million house in Asuncion although his general's salary is meant to be only £400 per month. He replied 'I gave up smoking'. The reason for the coup d'état was probably because Rodriguez has got even more greedy and now wants a bigger slice of the action. He has told the worlds media that he wants to improve the country but there is no doubt there will be little change for the working class except for the names of their rulers.



WORKERS' POWDER

In June 1986 a dispute over pay and conditions started at the Hindustan Lever (part of Unilever) detergent factory in Bombay. Negotiations between the union and the bosses dragged on but got nowhere so the workers staged a series of go slows, lightning strikes and work stoppages. Eventually, last summer Hindustan Lever locked out all the workers until they agreed to the company terms.

The lockout has so far lasted about seven months. The com-

LEIGH DOWN AND DIE?

February saw the launch of a campaign to stop the chemical waste company Leigh Environmental opening a waste incineration plant in Doncaster. Over 1,000 local people attended a protest meeting in Kirksandall to form an action committee to fight the plan. The committee hopes to get 100,000 signatures on a petition of objection before the firm's planning application is heard in May or June. Leigh, (the firm that volunteered to take the poison cargo of the Karin B) plan to convert Doncaster Council's old waste recycling plant at Kirksandall into a toxic waste incinerator. The protest meeting was preceded by hundreds of

just profits, and Doncaster's unemployment allows the firm to offer the bribe of 100 jobs.

Local communities and organised workers must unite and fight back against these unscrupulous capitalists who would poison our children and environment for profit. In the long run, pollution problems will not be solved until the community organises itself and the workers run production, but in the meantime we must fight to minimise the risks from capitalism's worse excesses by stopping 'disposal' in the heart of our communities.

They want access to ports and



BARRELS OF FUN?

women and children besieging a publicity exhibition staged on the site by Leigh.

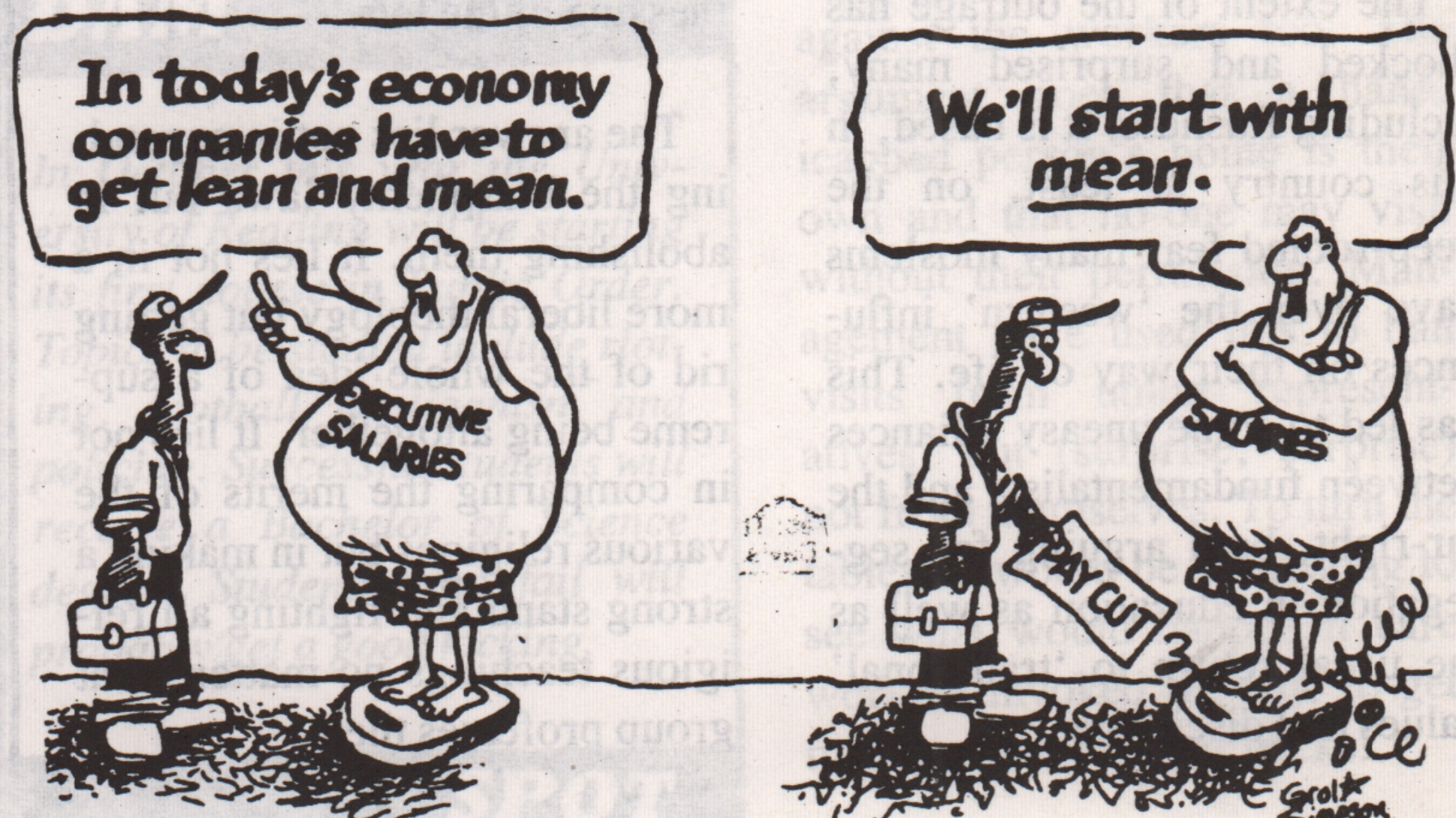
Accidents have happened at Leigh's existing plant in Derbyshire and toxic waste areas are notorious for pungent smells, illness, skin diseases, bronchial problems and reports of increased birth defects and cancer cases. It is no accident that Leigh wants to site their plant in the depressed North near to working class areas and with good access to ports. Ordinary people do not matter to them,

railways to bring in waste from Europe and Japan — to make Yorkshire a dustbin for international capitalism's deadly by-products. It is no accident that Leigh are not siting their poison plant in Surrey or near to the stockbroker belt.

Meanwhile, in Derbyshire, massive local opposition to the dumping of asbestos in a disused quarry near Bradwell has helped to force the local council to reconsider granting a waste disposal licence.

pany have made their other plants work more to make up for the lost production in Bombay. After about six months the union funds ran out. For survival the strikers decided to produce and sell their own detergent powder — 'After all we do understand the technology' said one worker.

The strikers have named their powder 'Lock Out'. Under the title it says 'Packed with Peoples Power. Fights Dirt Everywhere'. Strikers and their families have been selling the powder door to door around Bombay and some local trade unions have agreed to take some.



STRIKE ALIGHT!

Last year, France was shaken by a series of strikes, initiated in the main by the rank and file. The following is a report of events, sent to us by our comrades in the CNT-f (French section of the IWA).

In January 1988 workers from Chausson just outside Paris went on strike. Chausson is part of the car industry, and specialises in the production of vans and estate cars for Peugeot and Renault. Throughout the strike, the demands put forward by the rank and file were for an increase in wages in line with inflation. It is estimated that on average since 1982 that a total of 1,000 francs per month has been lost per worker. This loss is the result of wage constraints when the cost of living has been growing faster.

The following month workers employed by Snecma (a military/civil aircraft designer and manufacturer) went on strike mainly in its three factories in the Parisian region. The strike started in the two factories where union presence is the least felt. Throughout the strike, which lasted two months, there was a confrontation between the strike co-ordination committees and the unions (mainly the CGT). The official unions attempted to control a movement they didn't expect or want. Picket lines were organised, blocking the delivery of parts and engines. The strike was organised through the general assembly, the decision to pursue the strike and what actions to take were voted on every morning. These took the shape of lightning strikes that would last between one and two hours, combined with all-out strike action.

DISPUTES

The workers in Snecma were fighting for an increase of 1,500 francs for everyone. When the strike co-ordinating committee argued for an extension of the strike to other companies, the unions played for the 'local' option and argued that it was better to win in one place first.

Meanwhile, workers in Michelin in Clermont Ferrant started a strike on the same basis, and for the same demands. This strike lasted for two months also.

In July 1988 miners in Gardanne in the South of France stopped pit production and also claimed a 1,500 francs pay increase. Smaller disputes started in other companies over the 1,500 francs per month pay rise. This demand became general, it is the rejection of percentage increases of wages, which

increases inequalities. It is an attack by French workers on the austerity policy. The state's wage freezes are no longer supported. It is only the working class who pay the price of the austerity policy. The rich are still raking money in through the world's Stock Exchange.

In all these struggles workers went back to work without gaining acceptance of their demands. Instead of 1,500 francs for all, which the bosses with the support of the government did not want to discuss, workers got a bonus, an insignificant increase, or nothing at all. Back to work, the atmosphere was bad with overtime being the rule to catch up with production by the end of 1988.

PROTESTS

Management were expecting a quiet autumn, they believed that they had destroyed and smashed workers' resistance but after the summer, the living conditions of the unemployed and people on low wages sparked more protests — unexpectedly the Chausson and Snecma strikes were taken as examples: 'If they fail we can win!'

One of the socialist government's projects was to launch a scheme to help people with no income to survive. The idea was changed into a 'Minimum Income Insertion' (RMI — Revenue Minimum d'Insertion). Under it, 2,000 francs would be allocated per month to people with no income. However, not only is this amount completely insufficient to live on, it would only be given to people going on 'Collective Interest Jobs' (like our Community Programme), or on 'Professional Life Insertion Training Course' (Employment Training), or to people who could prove that they were applying for work on a regular basis. These schemes act as job substitution, young people for the most part will work in a real job but only get 2,500 francs per month!

Several associations formed a co-ordinating body in order to demand a Guaranteed Minimum Income equivalent to the minimum wage of 6,000 francs. This is considered as a real minimum to live on. The CNT participates in this co-ordination even though it knows that only job-sharing is a demand which will unite unemployed and waged people.

To imagine that the satisfaction of such and such a claim can bring a real and definitive solution to the problem of unemployment would be to misunderstand the problems of the economic system. The economic instability of a large part of the population is essential to management.

On the 8th October, a demonstration involving more than 1,000 people was called by the Co-ordination for a Guaranteed Income, including the CNT, in front of the Treasury Minister in Paris.

NURSES STRIKE

The claims for wage increases came back on the scene. Strikes were started in the autumn, mainly in the public sector. There was a one month strike by the nurses in October, asking for professional status, and a 2,000 francs increase per month for all. Because of their special situation, they are poorly unionised and this goes a long way to explaining why they had control of their struggles themselves, as the rank and file, through a Nurses Committee.

The official unions went and organised parallel demonstrations, but they only had 15,000 people in Paris, whereas the Co-ordination assembled 100,000 nurses.

Negotiations began between government and union representatives, but the weight of the rank and file forced the minister to also negotiate with the elected delegate from the Co-ordination.



POSEURS



BOURSE DU TRAVAIL?

The general strike ended on the 23rd October after a national meeting of the Co-ordination. But the struggle isn't over. No agreement has been found with the state, and its proposals have been rejected by the Co-ordination, the CGT and the CGC.

On the 27th October, public sector nurses demonstrated in Paris in solidarity alongside private sector nurses in front of the Federation of Private Health Employers.

Whenever they were present the CNT health workers participated in the movement and the CNT as a whole joined demonstrations in large towns. On the 20th of October, a civil service national strike broke out with demonstrations throughout France. After a long period when the civil service was

considered to be privileged due to job security, a point of view encouraged by the state and the bosses, French people now support their wage claim.

AUSTERITY

In the face of these struggles carried out by various sectors, the government's austerity programme was increasingly discredited.

One day only? No! Strikes go on locally in the transport sector, Post Office and telecommunication services. Throughout the country, rank and file workers, and amongst them, militants from the CNT unions of Education, Electricity, Transport, Health, Post and Telecom, are active, extending their networks and aiming at a rank and file controlled movement.

Let us finish with a statement from the CNT: 'Since 1984, thousands of jobs have been lost yearly. We feel the consequences of these losses more and more in the services, and our working conditions are poor. The ones paying for the austerity are the workers, the PTT (Post Office) and the unemployed. Counters are closed, lack of personnel in the sorting offices, replacement by casuals, a productivity race in Telecommunications ... Because it is harder and harder to get through the month on our low wages it is urgent to organise throughout the PTT offices Co-ordination to claim 1,500 francs increase for all.'

The struggle in France continues, and it is encouraging to see workers taking control of that struggle, rejecting compromise for direct action. We will hopefully be bringing you an update in our next issue.

GOT NO CLASS!

'We are all middle class now' claims *The Sun*. This view is echoed by Tory politicians and ideologists. The statement is ridiculous and contemptible, but the circumstances in which the right-wing feel bold enough to make it deserve a closer look.

The Tories argue that all talk of the working class is hopelessly out of date. Generally speaking, economic growth has been occurring since WW2. Average real incomes have as a result increased. As affluence grows, the Tories argue, people stop seeing themselves as working class and see no point in

So why does the working class vote Tory? Why can the Tories claim that this class is dead without losing all credibility? The Tories can claim this because the working class is demoralised and the working class votes Tory because it is the Labour movement that has demoralised them.



'LOOK AFTER THE PENNIES ...'

mass action to increase living standards as these are increasing anyway. Certainly they see no point in trying to overthrow the capitalist system as this would be killing the goose that lays the golden eggs.

To vindicate this view, the Tories would point to three successive election victories since 1979 and opinion polls that have put their current level of support at 50% (The Tories did get similar levels of support in the 1959 elections — 49% — but the Labour vote was much higher than it is now — 43%).

CREDIBILITY

But is this because affluence has ended the poverty and oppression of the working class? Not at all. The general level of affluence has increased but this increase has hardly been distributed equally. In fact, the poorest section of the working class is getting poorer in real terms. There is a stratum of slightly better off workers above this but as the 1980-81 recession showed, large sections of this group can become unemployed if capitalism is in trouble. In any case they are still subject to exploitation and oppression by their bosses who want to maximise profit.

for its proposed 'welfare state' measures such as the establishment of the NHS, and it won a landslide victory in the election of that year.

Yet when the history of the TUC and the Labour Party is examined it can be seen that they have never been willing or able to really fight for the working class. The British labour movement has always been overwhelmingly reformist. Its leaders have chosen to work within the capitalist system, the very system that has been oppressing the workers. The result of this contradictory situation has been a series of betrayals. These were inevitable because if the workers were to succeed in improving their living standards the capitalists would lose out. Ultimately the survival of capitalism would be threatened.

Those in the 1945 Atlee government understood this as well as any boss. They used troops to break three dock strikes. At the same time as this the TUC was conniving with the continuance of Order 1305 in peacetime. This order banned all strikes, official or unofficial.

The 1964 Wilson government brought in a wage freeze and laid out proposals to curb the rights of workers to strike unofficially in the document *In Place of Strife*.

INFLATION

The 1974-79 'Social Contract' of the Wilson/Callaghan government was what finally destroyed the credibility of the Labour Party in the eyes of the working class. Inflation in these years was very high, reaching 28% at one point. The Labour Party decided to make the workers pay for its own inability to control the economy. Throughout these years wages were driven down in real terms by the TUC and the Labour Party, wage rises being limited by the 'Social Contract' these two bodies signed, to £6 a week (the equivalent on average of 10%). Though inflation was reduced to 8% the Labour Party decided that wage rises had to be

limited to 5%. This limit was only to be recommended to the private sector, but it was compulsory for the public sector. This sector included the poorest of the workers: hospital ancillary workers, road sweepers, and refuse collectors. These workers rebelled. They forced their unions to break with the 'Social Contract' and the government was defeated in the mass public sector strikes during what has been labelled 'The Winter of Discontent'.

arrassment. It is an indication that they do not have what it takes to move up the social hierarchy. Therefore they are quite gratified to be told 'we are all middle class now'.

So the Tories win election after election. But each of their victories brings further attacks on the working class: cuts in social security benefits, curbing of trade union rights, and a reduction in the public provision of health care and housing. They



'... AND THE PLONKERS LOOK AFTER THEMSELVES'

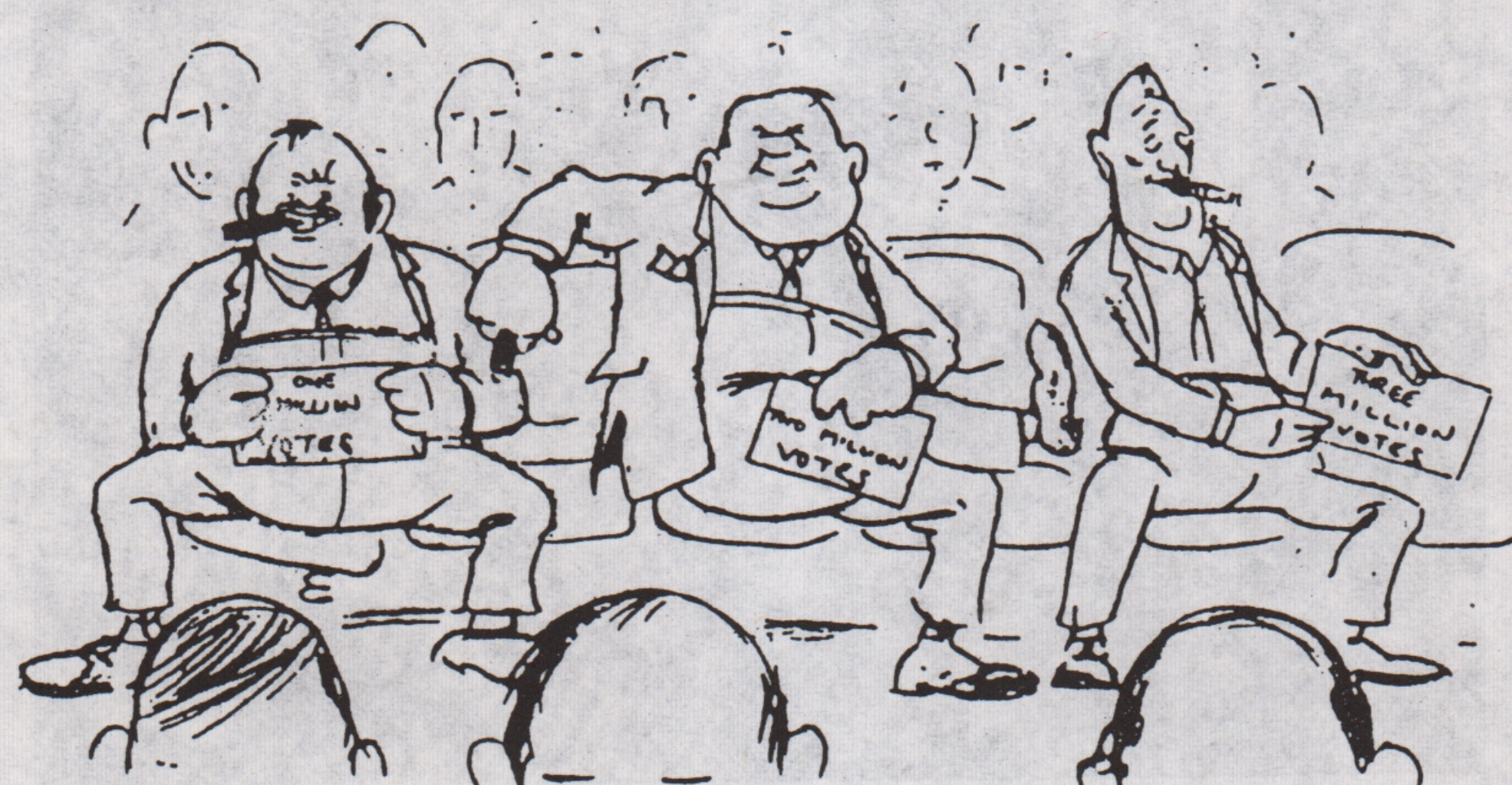
The Labour Party had cut its own throat and lost the support of the class it claimed to represent. This is not, as the left claims, because they were not socialist enough. On the whole the working class was not interested in which ideology the Labour movement paid lip-service to. They were interested in material progress, more security and a better standard of living. Yet the Labour Party, initially with the support of the TUC, had tried to push wages down while at the same time allowing unemployment to rise to 1.5 million.

ATTACKS

By stealing the ideas of solidarity and mass organisation from the workers they discredited these ideas when they discredited themselves. A great many workers still support the Labour Party but with little enthusiasm. Encouraged by the Tory media and economic conditions adverse to working class collective action other workers decided to cut their losses and began to support the Conservative ideal of individual advancement, seeing it as the only way to achieve an increase in living standards. For many of these people the label 'working class' is not a source of pride but emb-

are in fact destroying some of the very things that have softened the blows of capitalist oppression and taken the edge off working class militancy in the post-war years. The workers will be forced once more to find a movement in which they can win back the gains they have lost and fight beyond this immediate objective to secure further progress.

If the working class turns once more to reformism it will be rewarded only with further betrayal. Our only hope is to no longer allow hierarchal unions and political parties to exploit our class solidarity. We must keep power in our own hands and we must fight not only for reform but social revolution.



TRADE UNION BUREAUCRATS UNLEASH THE MASSES AT A LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

DAM

During the aftermath of the recent Lockerbie air disaster several people were arrested and charged with looting dead bodies for valuables. We realise that you may find this hard to believe, but one of the people caught looting was a reporter for the Sun.

SPOT

MAGGIE'S MURDERERS

Loyalist murder gangs added two noted opponents of the British state to their catalogue of random victims in mid-February. Lawyer Pat Finucane was gunned down as he ate his dinner on Sunday 12th, and Sinn Fein Councillor John Davey was assassinated near his home in Magherafelt, Co. Derry, on Tuesday 14th.

Finucane was aware of threats to his life made by the RUC Special Branch in front of his clients, the last being a prediction on 10th January that he would be murdered by loyalists to one of his clients in Castle-reagh interrogation centre. He first rose to prominence as a legal representative of the 1981 Hunger Strikers, and most recently he won the attendance of the RUC personnel responsible at the inquest into the 'shoot-to-kill' murders of IRA volunteers Gervaise McKerr, Eugene Toman and Sean Burns. There is no doubt that his UFF assassins were acting as proxies of the British state, to which he was a thorn in its side.

A scandal is erupting around remarks made by a junior Home Office minister, widely believed to be aimed at Finucane, that some lawyers were 'unduly sympathetic to the IRA'. Douglas Hogg, the minister in question, has been almost universally condemned for his remarks, regarded as setting Finucane and any other lawyers who defend Republicans up for assassination. Loyalists have never needed a reason for targeting anti-unionists for murder, but Hogg's remarks were certainly a green light to the RUC Special Branch to arrange for loyalists to get the information and lack of interference necessary. Hogg has been defended by Tom

King, British ruler of the Six Counties, and the unionist - *Belfast News Letter* contrasted this to the fate of another Tory embarrassment, Edwina Currie. 'Mrs Currie was accused of the heinous offence of adversely

murders, but in the case of republicans or others who pose a problem for the British army and its local auxiliaries, there is invariably evidence of collusion. Information, photos of the intended victims, withdrawal of

ments about their repressive legal system they have gone to great lengths to avoid.

John Davey was shot in his car with the handbrake on and the lights off, indicating that he had stopped before he was shot, and probably that he believed he was being stopped by the RUC or the British army. This is an election year and Davey was a key figure in the Republican electoral strategy in South Derry, his murder ties in with loyalist and British attempts to prevent Sinn Fein demonstrating mass support for their policies at the ballot box. The area in which Davey lived is heavily patrolled, yet another Sinn Fein Councillor who lives six miles away got to the scene of the murder before the RUC did!

Finally, *Private Eye* have published an eight-page magazine called *Rock Bottom*, which analyses the execution of three IRA volunteers in Gibraltar in May and 'the subsequent campaign of disinformation by the Government and its supporters in the press'. Most prominent among the latter were the Murdoch titles. The magazine costs 50p and is available from newsagents, bookshops and direct from the publishers at 230/236 Lavender Hill, London SW11.



affecting profit margins; Mr Hogg had been accused only of contributing to Northern Ireland's mounting death toll and human suffering.'

SECTARIAN

The vast majority of loyalist killings are random sectarian

SINGING IN THE RAIN

Three thousand people was not altogether a bad turn out for the 17th anniversary of *Bloody Sunday* considering we had to put up with what seemed London's wettest day so far this year.

Generally morale was low throughout the march, not just because of the weather but

identical middle class area. The result in this case was that it totally killed the whole spirit of the demo, and at times the wet drudge from Kilburn to Harlesden seemed almost completely meaningless, in effect it was a success for the police who had achieved what they wanted, a

The march ended with a rally in what I can only imagine was some kind of sports centre, described by one of our comrades as a 'socialist Earl's Court'. There were the usual speakers droning on in the main hall, including Ken Livingstone, but at least there was a bar to give us some light refreshment. All in all, the march was a bit of a blowout. Let's hope it will be more of an occasion next year.

SCREWED UP

As the Wandsworth Prison dispute was being settled over here a similar dispute broke out in France. Only the French went one better. Whereas at Wandsworth the screws calmly let the pigs scab on them, in France the two sides fought it out against each other outside the nick. Police in riot gear fired tear gas then charged the prison officers picketing outside Frances' largest prison, the Fleury-Merogis in Paris. Unfortunately there were no fatalities on either side.



because the police made sufficient use of their recently acquired extra powers to divert us through Willesden's leafy middle class suburbs, where the streets were so nice and peaceful they were totally dead. About the only observers were a golden labrador and a couple of nice, spoilt brats leaning out of a house window.

It's not often a working class march is led through a res-

quiet march with no trouble.

However not all was bad. Willesden High Street offered a last chance for us to make a stand against the enemy, and that brought some smiles, despite the rain. News carried down the march that not far ahead there were a group of fascists from the British National Party lined up on the pavement bearing the Union Jack, but they ran when the opposition turned up.

OFF THE RECORD

Although the Poll Tax registration was supposed to have been completed and published by October, thousands had failed to do so. In fact the operation far from being the success the Tories have claimed, has been a victory for anti-Poll Tax campaigners. With thousands unwilling to send back their completed registration forms, the CCRO (Community Charge Registration Officer) has resorted to completing the register himself without the persons involved. Many have been sent an acknowledgement of their registration while not having lifted a finger. The CCRO are treading carefully and have only fined 200 people in Lothian out of the 7,000 who had not collaborated with the Poll Tax.

On the 30th November the first person to be fined and to appeal against the offence was given support by having a picket of the Sheriff Court, with many anti-Poll Tax campaigners outside. his case was heard immediately and rescheduled for March. Half of the Sheriff Court being made up of activists probably helped. The Tories seem to tread very carefully when anti-Poll Tax groups are present.

A week later the Lothian Federation of Anti-Poll Tax Groups (which includes DAM members) occupied the Regional Council and forced the meeting to be abandoned. More than 150 dem-

onstrators chanted their anger against the Poll Tax and demanded an end to fines, while around 20 managed to get inside the council chambers, disrupting the meeting before any more could go through due to police presence.

In January the level of the Poll Tax was set throughout Scotland. Lobbies were organised to show the strength of opposition to the tax, and while an orderly lobby was organised in Edinburgh on the 24th with demonstrators present in the Regional Chambers, waving placards when the Poll Tax level was set, in Glasgow the councillors had to go through a police cordon to attend the meeting. They were jeered and catcalled - 'Scum' being one of the nicer greetings. Inside, demonstrators demanded to address the Regional Council but were denied access, and were eventually thrown out.

While Lothian has been set the highest Poll Tax at £392, Strathclyde has been cushioned by a government safety net grant of £31.7 million this year to offset the cost. This will not be repeated, it is only to cushion the introduction of this evil tax.

A demonstration is to take place in Glasgow on the 18th March, coaches and trains have been booked already. Make it the largest demonstration against the Poll Tax yet. Be there.

LETTER

Your article in DA 55 'Not Too Kosher' on the Palestinian uprising in Israel, was factually inaccurate, not to mention anti-semitic.

Firstly, Britain gained Palestine as a mandate before WW1, not after as you stated. The Balfour Declaration, as you correctly stated, was issued in 1917, by which the government guaranteed a 'Jewish Homeland' in the area, but WW1 didn't end until 1918, by which time Palestine had been a mandate for several years. It would be extremely unusual for any government to promise land to a group of people when they didn't control it!

Later on, you state that (during the mandate) 'Zionists, previously insignificant, became a force in Western imperialism' and then in the same paragraph comment that 'it had little impact in Europe'. Surely this is a contradiction? The truth of the matter is that until after WW2, Zionism aroused little interest among Diaspora Jewry, but the Zionist movement circa 1917 was hardly a force to be reckoned with considering it consisted of a few thousand idealists with neither Jews or world leaders, with the exception of the British government. It would be incorrect to describe such a small minority movement as 'a force'.

You are factually incorrect in claiming that the dispersion of Jews from Palestine occurred in 60 AD, because any history book can tell you, it occurred in 70 AD.

Your interpretation of the Haganah (Zionist militia) is also wrong, as it did not 'grow out of clashes between Zionists and Palestinians'. Rather it was primarily an intelligence organisation to increase illegal immigration of Jews into the area. They also acted to secure kibbutzim, but the main thrust of their combat wing, known as the Palmach, was against the British. The Palmach was used by the British during WW2 to defend Palestine against German invasion, and many Jews joined various British Army regiments. This was twofold, as it also increased the opportunity for Zionists to pressurise the British to hand over Palestine to them. There was a twofold operation of both co-operation with the British during the war as well as fighting them in Palestine on a guerilla warfare level. As the British openly courted the Zionists to defend the country, it is ridiculous to claim that they kept the Zionists in check at this period.

This distortion of the facts about early Zionist history serves to mislead about the situation now in Israel because you interpret it from an inaccurate understanding. That is not to say the Zionism is OK, far from it, as the Palestinians are suffering terribly under Zionist rule. But you should at least check your facts before writing on such a complex subject.

The anti-semitism in the article largely stems from the irrelevant use of a photo of Chassidic Jews with an insulting caption underneath. You may well

accuse the Zionists, rightly, of being racists, but as anarchists you should not attack groups of Jews by the irresponsible use of photographs. There is nothing in the article to suggest that these particular Chassidic Jews are Zionists, in fact if you examined the photo carefully it would be immediately apparent that they are involved in a religious ritual. You thus equate all Jews as Zionists which is not only vastly untrue but also anti-semitic. It is a common ploy of the Left to use anti-Zionism as an excuse for anti-semitism. I would not have expected an anarchist paper of your calibre to fall into the same trap, particularly as the rest of the article was quite good.

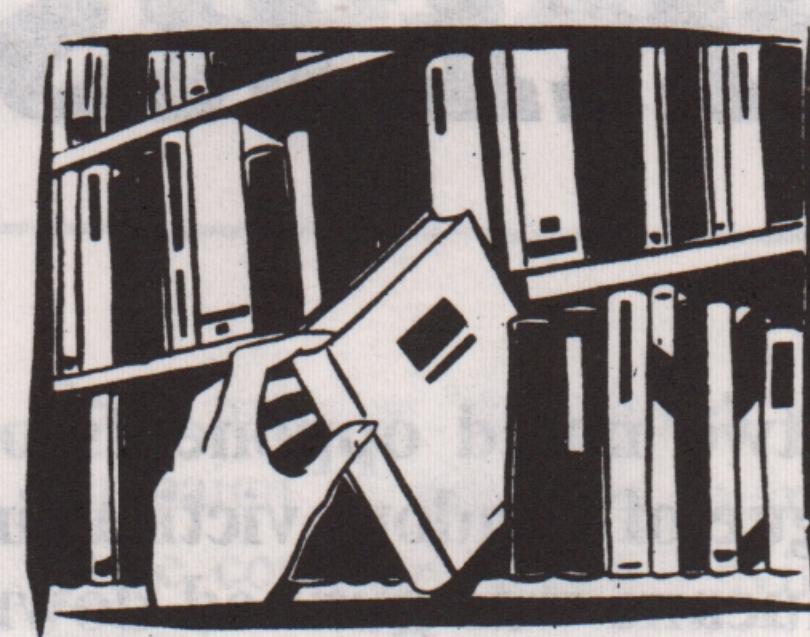
Yours in solidarity,

RT, London

REPLY

Being accused of anti-semitism is an occupational hazard of criticising Zionism, Judaism, or even of pointing out that Jews are not a 'race', but in reality ethnically diverse within a common cultural/religious identity. The Balfour Declaration was in line with all the other secret treaties made to get Italy, Romania, Greece, and the Arab Princes into the war on the Franco-British-Russian side. Getting Jewish support for the British conquest of Palestine from the Ottoman-backed Mufti of Jerusalem was just one of a number of schemes. The British also made conflicting promises to the Arab Princes they set up as puppets in Arabia and Iraq. Palestine became a 'mandate' after the Versailles victory carve-up.

For ancient Jewish history I can recommend Ilan Halevi's 'A history of the Jews, Ancient and



Modern', which is good on the exploitative nature of rabbinical Judaism, and how ritual slaughter, with its portion to the priesthood, was their means of living off the people. The bit you thought was anti-semitic was actually a dig at religion, we don't just take the piss out of Christianity. Tell my Jewish workmates that it's anti-semitic to take a dig at the Chasids. Ironically, it was the religious 'Lovers of Zion' movement which made Palestine the Zionist homeland, Herzl tried all sorts of places before settling for what is now Israel. That movement and 'born again' American Jews, are getting stronger, hence the growth of the 'revisionists' at the expense of the Labour Zionists.

The British, and the Palestinians, saw the Zionists as a European colonising agency for the Middle East, so did the Zionists, hence their importance to western imperialism. The Haganah became the Israeli Defence Forces, and like the Palmach was controlled by the Histadrut Labourites, so I think it was a bit more than an 'intelligence' corps. None of the facts you query are central to the point of the article, so what is your point?

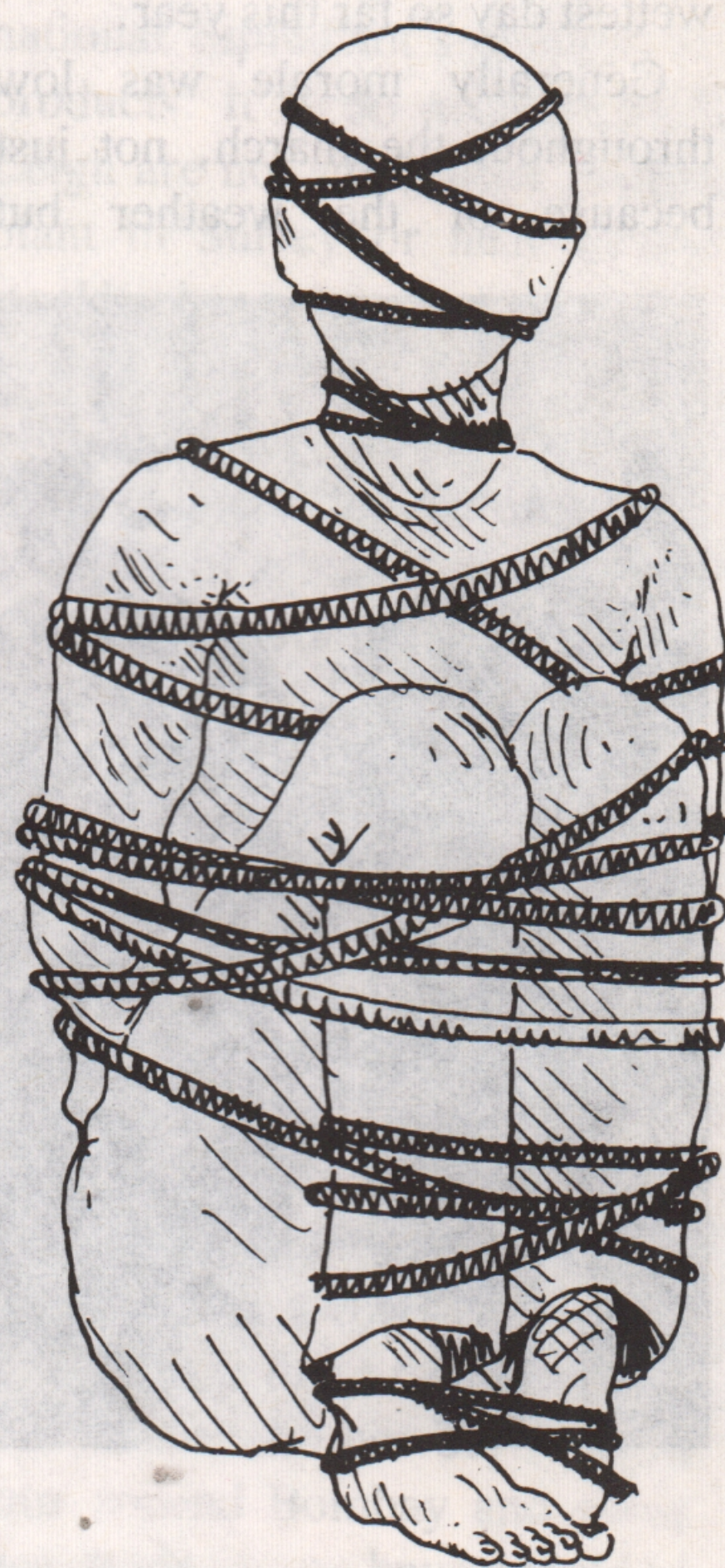
NR

DOUBLE-THINK

A participant in the recent North East Region DAM Day School on Local Government suggested a handy rule of thumb for what the state is going to do next regarding community services: forget about the rhetoric of Patient Care, Community Care, etc., just work out what they could do to save money. If it'll save money they will do it.

This is illustrated in the latest issue of the libertarian magazine *Here and Now*. An article on management style in the mental handicap services shows how management have appropriated the rhetoric of 'patients' rights', not for the sake of the patients, but for 'efficiency' (cost cutting).

This is achieved through the idea of mentally handicapped people being treated 'normally' rather than 'institutionally'. So, for example, the Catering Manager of Meanwood Park Hospital for the Mentally Handicapped announces that, with the new-found health consciousness, Continental Breakfasts are more 'normal' than cooked breakfasts. A vote by a section of residents in favour of the right to cooked breakfasts was ignored, since of course, cost-cutting was the real point of the exercise. Mind you, having your wishes being totally ignored is being treated normally.



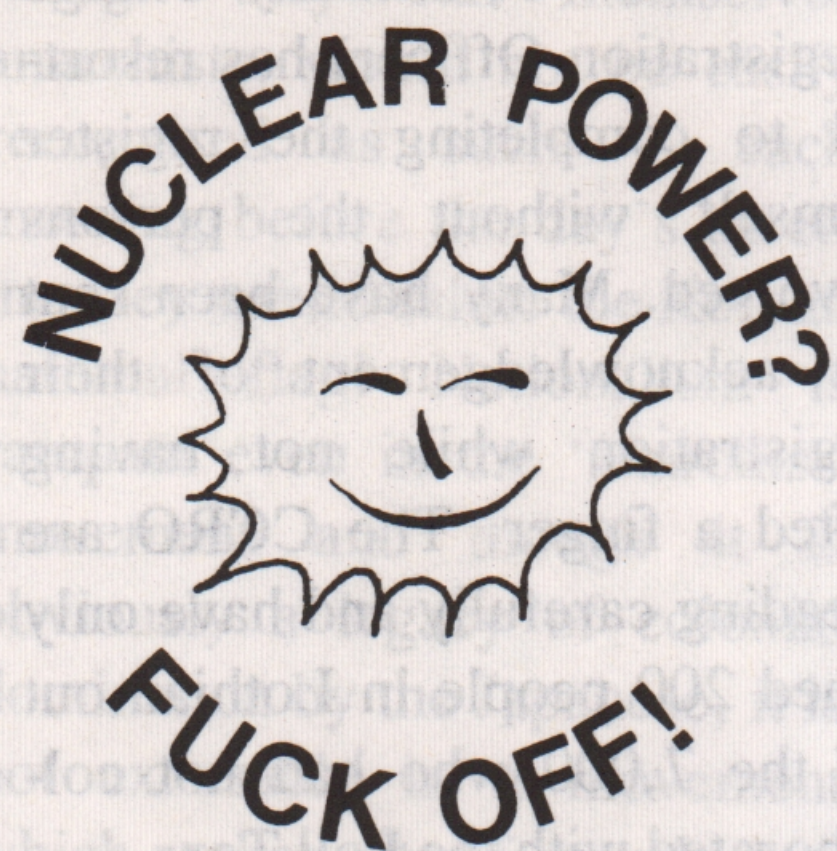
'Normalisation' is used against the workers too. The argument goes that a handicapped person's home is their own and that no-one may visit without their permission. Management have used this to ban visits from union representatives, but (surprise, surprise) not from themselves. To turn the tables, it would be interesting to see what would happen if care workers invoked the rule to get management off their backs!

Dear DA,

Concerning the article 'Buried Alive' in DA 55; although agreeing with the overall tone of it (ie., the anti-nuclear movement being stitched up), there were a couple of points which should have either been explained further or not put in such a simplistic manner.

It's all very well saying that 'there are no 'solutions' that are acceptable' and that 'the only solution ... is to close down all nuclear power stations immediately', but what does the author suggest we do with it? Apparently nothing (just like the nuclear industry!).

We could have a revolution tomorrow, next week or in a decade but nuclear waste will still be with us even if we did close all stations down (not forgetting that it takes years to decommission them), and it's going to be with us for many, many decades to come.



We have to try and find the best possible solution available (which inevitably means closing down all nuclear stations: nuclear power = nuclear waste) and either enforce this on the state/nuclear industry or ... get on with the job of bringing them both down and dealing with it ourselves!

Whatever, it's not going to go away — head in the sand statements don't go towards any progress.

P, London

The source of this letter was the Anti-Nuclear Network, who no doubt will be replying in the next issue.

RUCKING

Professional rugby players for Runcorn went on strike for more pay before the match against Wigan at the end of last year. Runcorn management got scabs in to play who promptly lost the game 92-2. Part way through the



match the Runcorn coach was substituted on to help his team. After twelve minutes he was

sent off for head-butting a Wigan player. When this pay dispute is over DA would like to suggest that the Runcorn first team have a match against the Runcorn scabs. The game will be considered won when all the scabs, including the coach, have been stretchered off to the local hospital.

DAM

In October this year the University of Reading will be starting its first course in Public Order. Topics to be studied include rioting, football hooliganism and policing. Successful students will receive a Bachelor of Science degree. Students who fail will probably get a good kicking.

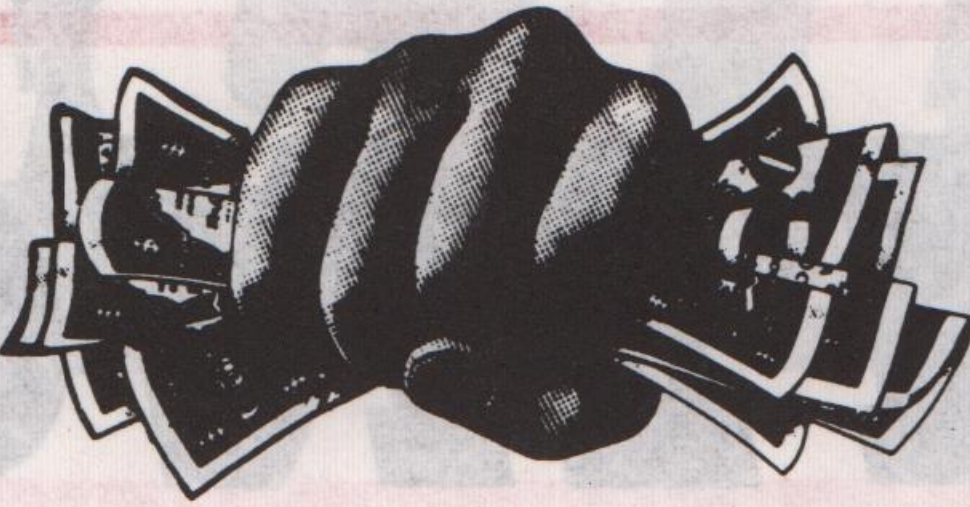
SPOT

POLL TAX MEETING

Greater London Information meeting on Tuesday 21st March, 7pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, WC2. Holborn Tube. Agenda — reports, non-payment pledges, street organisation, and council workers. Organised by Tottenham Against The Poll Tax, c/o 72 West Green Road, N15. Open to all non-payment groups, bring campaign materials.

SUPPORT DIRECT ACTION

Many thanks to the comrades who sent donations to DIRECT ACTION. The following is a list of all the money banked in January. February's donations will be featured in DA 57.



The people listed here have set a fine example. If you like DIRECT ACTION put your money where your mouth is and send us a donation.

L, Brixton £10; Manchester DAM £89.32; S, Leeds £20; D, Middlesbrough £5; B, Hornsey £10; G, Oxford £11; A, Deptford £6; A, Corby £10; P, Deptford £10; A, Romford £10; I, Glasgow £10; Doncaster DAM £3; V, Islington £50; T, Maidstone £10.45.

DAM AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

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

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

3—We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for need, not profit.

4—In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution. We are the sworn enemies of those who would take over on behalf of the workers.

5—We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is by independent organisation in the workplace and the community and federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent of and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies. All such workers' organisations must be controlled by the workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers' movement. Any and all such delegates of such workers' organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.

6—We are opposed to all states and state institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide 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 ruling class.

7—We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and environment.

8—The Direct Action Movement is resolved to initiate, encourage and wholeheartedly support the creation of independent workers' unions based on the principles of anarcho-syndicalism.

9—The Direct Action Movement is a federation of groups and individuals who believe in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism: a system where the workers alone control industry and the community without the dictates of politicians, bureaucrats, bosses and so-called experts.

DAM CONTACTS

SOUTH EAST

Brixton DAM — c/o 121 Railton Road, Brixton, London, SE24 0LR.

Cambridge DAM — Box DAM, c/o Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge.

Central & North London DAM — c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7QX.

Deptford DAM — PO Box 574, London, SE4 1DL.

East London DAM — c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7QX.

Kent DAM — PO Box 574, London, SE4 1DL.

Lambeth DAM — PO Box 761, Camberwell SDO, London, SE5 9JH.

Norwich DAM — Box DAM, The Greenhouse, 48 Bethel Street, Norwich.

Oxford DAM — Box A, EOA Books, 34 Cowley Road, Oxford.

For contacts in Hertfordshire, Reading, St. Albans, Salisbury and Southampton, write to South East DAM secretary, c/o Deptford DAM.

Manchester DAM — Box DAM, Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester.

Preston DAM — c/o Black Cat Press, 16-18 Lancaster Road, Preston.

For contacts in Crewe, Cumbria, Lancaster, Rochdale, Salford and Stockport, write to North West DAM secretary, c/o Burnley DAM.

NORTH EAST

Doncaster DAM — PO Box 96, Doncaster 4, South Yorkshire.

Leeds DAM — Box DAM, 52 Call Lane, Leeds, LS2.

Teesside DAM — Box DAM, 52 Call Lane, Leeds, LS2.

For contacts in Newcastle, Sheffield and York, write to North East DAM secretary, c/o Leeds DAM.

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh DAM — PO Box 516, South West DO, Edinburgh 10.

Glasgow DAM — Box DAM, c/o Clydeside Press, 37 High Street, Glasgow.

NORTH WEST

Bolton DAM — Box DAM, Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester.

Burnley DAM — 5 Hollin Hill, Burnley, Lancashire.

Liverpool DAM — Box DAM, 82 Lark Lane, Aigburth, Liverpool 17.

OTHER GROUPS

Bristol DAM — Box DAM, 37 Stokescroft, Bristol 2.

Leamington Spa DAM — c/o Box 123, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Plymouth DAM — PO Box 105, Plymouth, Devon.

For contacts in Corby, Cornwall, Kettering, Nottingham, Swindon and Wolverhampton, write to DAM National Secretary, Second Floor, 27 Priory Road, Sheffield, S7 1LW.

retary, Second Floor, 27 Priory Road, Sheffield, S7 1LW.

INDUSTRIAL

DAM Civil Service Workers — c/o East London DAM.

DAM Council Workers — c/o Doncaster DAM and East London DAM.

DAM Despatch Riders — c/o Deptford DAM.

DAM Education Workers — c/o Bolton DAM.

DAM Healthworkers — c/o Cambridge DAM.

DAM Postal Workers — c/o East London DAM.

DAM Railworkers — c/o Manchester DAM.

CONTACTS

ASP (anarchist publishing group) — BCM Box 3714, London, WC1N 3XX.

Black Flag (anarchist monthly) - BM Hurricane, London, WC1N 3XX.

Ford Workers Group ('The Combine') — c/o 634 Green Lane, Ilford, Essex.

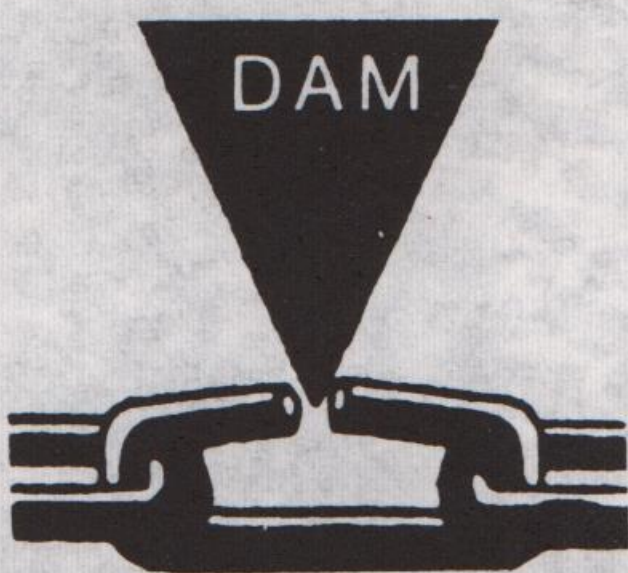
Anti-nuclear network — Box 30, 187 High Road, London, N22.

Haringey Direct Action Group — Box 30, 187 High Road, London, N22.

Organise (anarcho-syndicalist group and newspaper based in Ballymena) — c/o Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street, Smithfield, Belfast 1.

The DAM was formed in 1979 from the SWF (Syndicalist Workers Federation) and other groups and individuals believing in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism. It is the British section of the International Workers' Association (IWA), the anarcho-syndicalist international, which was formed in 1922 and has sections in France, Spain, Italy, West

Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Bulgaria, USA, Japan, Australia, Brazil, Argentina and Venezeula.



SUBS SUBS SUBS

UK			OVERSEAS		
6 issues	£3.50	-----*	6 issues	£4.50	-----*
12 issues	£6.00	-----*	12 issues	£8.00	-----*
* Tick where appropriate and send to Direct Action, PO Box 761, Camberwell SDO, London, SE5 9JH. Cheques			and Postal Orders should be payable to Direct Action Movement.		

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

I would like to find out more about the Direct Action Movement. Please send me information:	Name -----
Send to DAM National Secretary, Second Floor, 27 Priory Road, Sheffield, S7 1LW.	Address ----- ----- -----
Produced and published by the Direct Action Editorial Collective (London). Printed by Aldgate Press, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London,	E1 7QX. Send all donations, letters, orders, etc., to Direct Action, PO Box 761, Camberwell SDO, London, SE5 9JH.

Deadline — 24th March

DIRECT ACTION

BROADWATER FARM
Anniversary of Tottenham Frameups
Saturday 18th March
Tottenham Green, London

REWRITING HISTORY

Not content with their attempts to control what we think and how we view the world, the Tories now want to control our history.

Kenneth Baker has set up a working group to advise on the study of history. The key recommendation in its terms of reference is that history should give

Historical study is to be centred on Britain (would this include Ireland? We think not), especially its 'political, constitutional and cultural her-

who stray will soon be accused of subversion, and with the new way of running schools will be made liable to dismissal.

Even at the present, history teaching is a joke. For example, younger children will learn all about the wives of Henry VIII but nothing on the bringing together of state and church

It is instructive that Commander Watson, chairman of the Heritage Education Trust and ex-president of the Historic Houses Association has been chosen to lead the study group. It fits nicely with the recent boom in the 'heritage industry' where people dress up to enact past events or situations. Usually this involves showing how bad the past was and by implication, how good the present is.

In essence that is the Tory view of history. One that sees today's 'free democratic society' as being the pinnacle of human achievement. Of course, it was only achieved by the good sense, benevolence and guidance of the state and its ruling class who decided when various sections of society could be trusted with the responsibility of the vote.

A more realistic view of course is that political rights have only been achieved by working class struggle forcing the ruling class at every stage to concede more ground. Our present system is not true democracy and is a compromise, as we have been bought off or fooled with the false idea that power lies with the people.

The capitalist state prefers a politically passive electorate that does not question the system and will dutifully turn out to vote every five years. Making sure of course that the choice is limited and real power remains firmly in

the hands of the state bureaucracy and the capitalist class.

True historical study has to be a questioning process and this creates problems. People who question things are dangerous and this must be prevented.



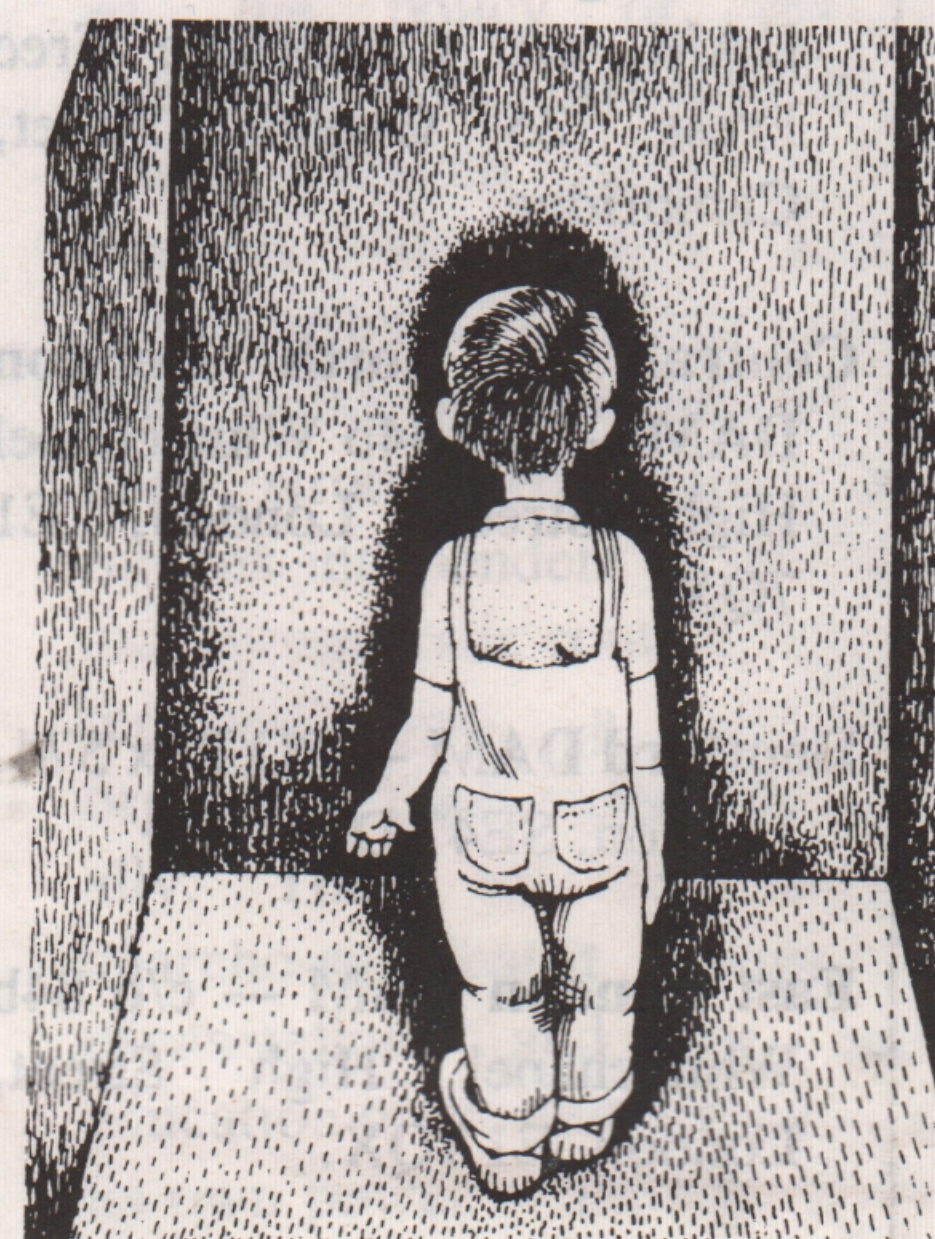
MOCKING EXAMINATION

an understanding of how 'a free and democratic society' has developed over the centuries. Also history should encourage 'self-reliance, self-discipline and a spirit of enterprise in children.'

itage'. In doing this however, teaching should avoid 'bias and political indoctrination'.

So having its internal bias built in at the onset, teachers

power. Older children are fed a diet of kings, generals, battles and Acts of Parliament. No wonder many are put off and have no idea of working class social history.



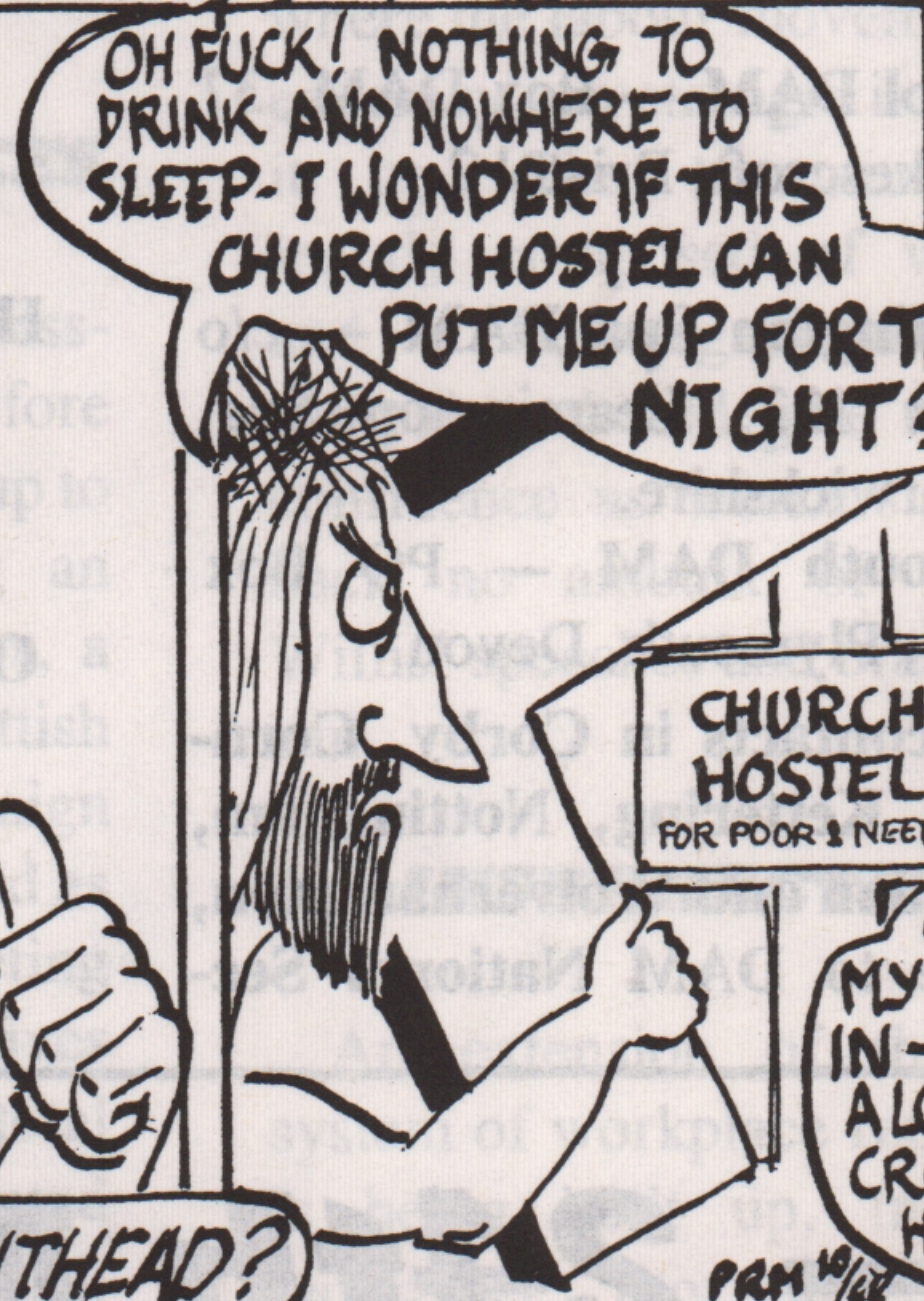
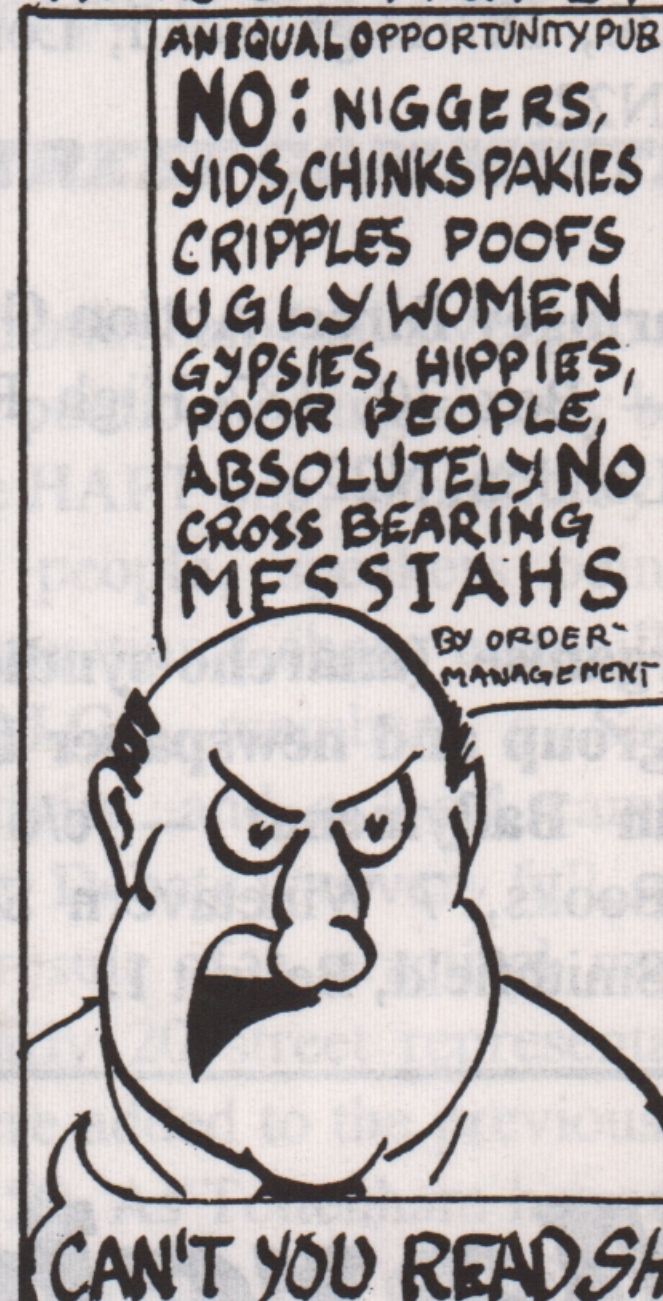
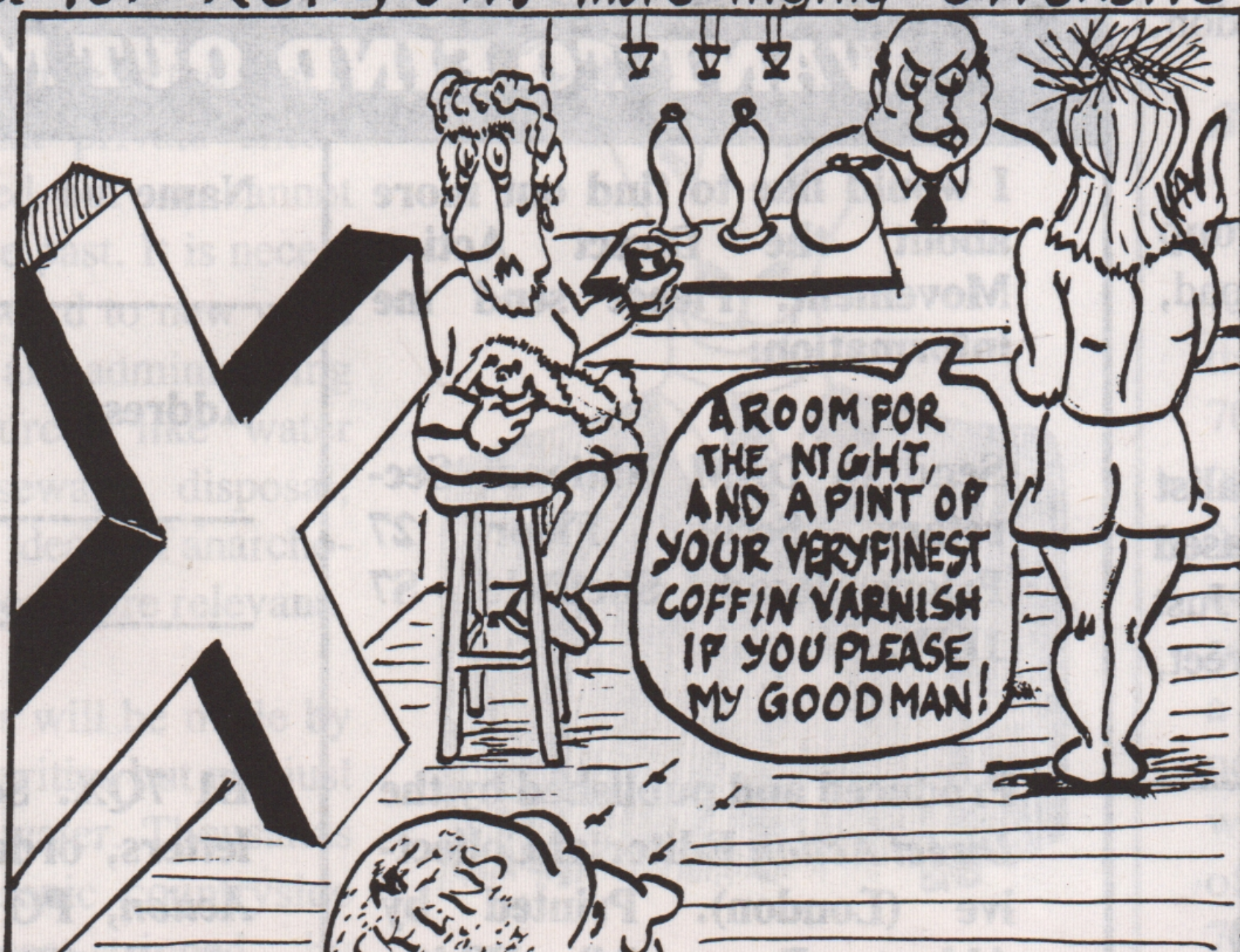
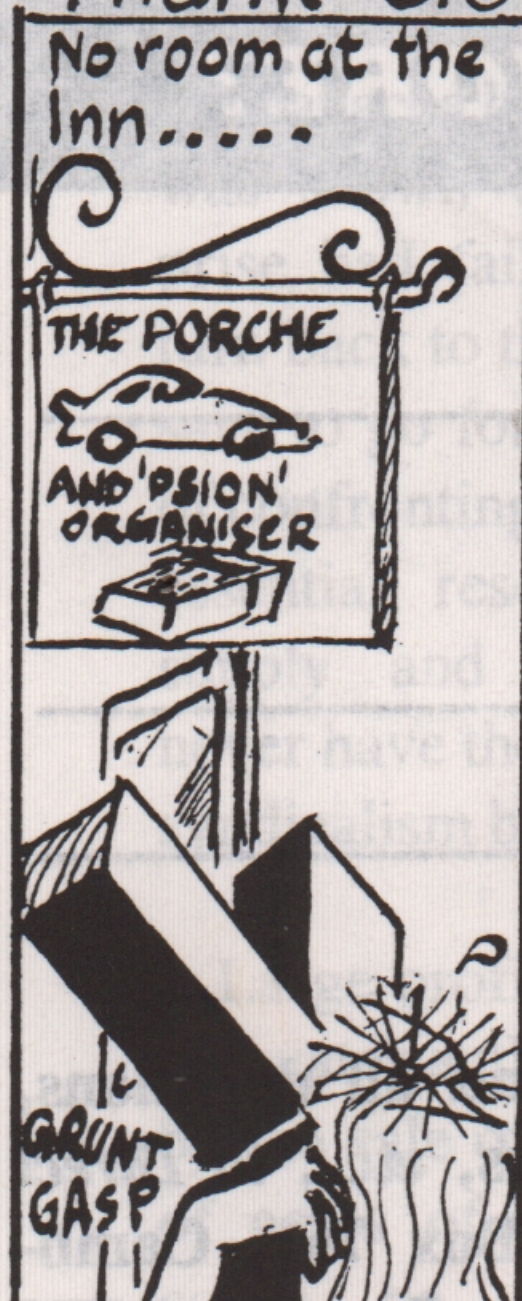
What better way than getting them while they are young. We have to reclaim our history for our class and prevent it from being buried by the dead hand of the state

DAM

The books department at Army and Navy Stores now has a 'Feminist Literature' section. One prominent book is Portrait of an Old Lady by Stephen Fay. It's about the Bank of England.

SPOT

Thank God for Religion! more highly offensive timber transporting japery....



© Scabrous atheist Comics p.l.c.