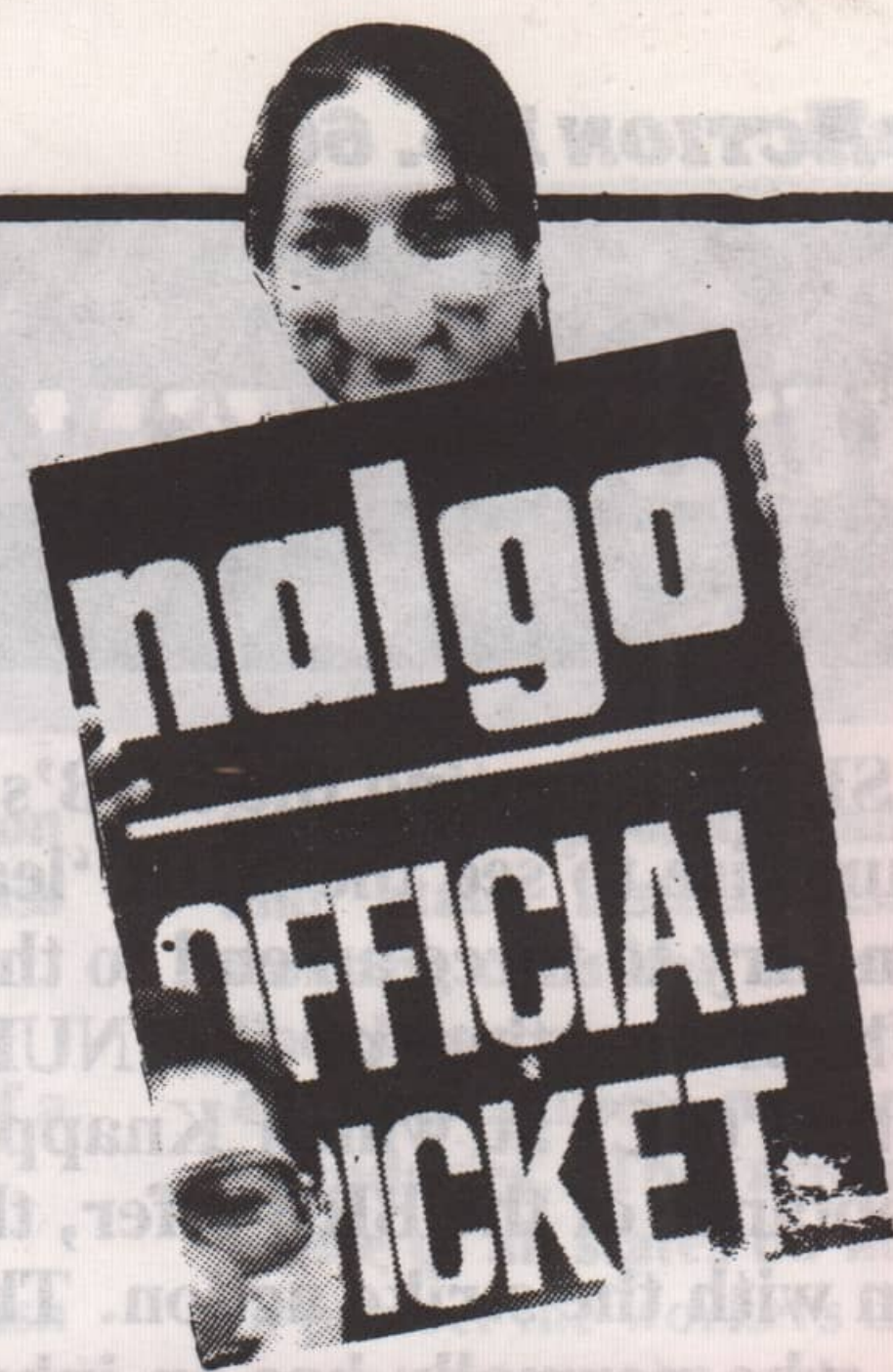


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DIRECT ACTION

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The Voice of Anarcho-Syndicalism

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ALL TALK, NO ACTION

Shitting itself can be said to be something that the TUC has for a long time prided itself in. Yet again, workers in some of our major industries have been sold out by their unions, recent notable examples are the Railworkers and the Dockers. In the latter case it's not so much sell-out as wholesale sacrifice.

The Transport and General Workers Union leader, Ron Todd, after months of shilly-shallying about, running to the courts asking if the TGWU might 'just be allowed to go on strike, please your worships' finally calls a dock strike. This is well after the actual reason for the strike, the National Dock Labour Scheme, has been abolished! And also well after the membership had at several times voted with their feet and staged unofficial walk outs. Then after a quick battle, throughout which the leadership kept well quiet ('you're trying to destroy my union' was all Todd could bleat) they drop their bottle and run for the hills at the first sign of a bit of aggro.

If the dockers hadn't waited for the TGWU executive to pull it's proverbial finger out, they would have still been covered by the scheme. As such, the bosses would have had to stand by the legislation of the NDLS that striking workers are not to be sacked. This would have prevented any threats of dismissal by management and would not have led to the cave in at some ports during the

national dispute. All the Executive were worried about was the money in their pocket (ie, sequestration), the membership as always came a poor second.

The sell out of the Railworkers is also a classic example how the leadership will wreck a dispute if it's given the chance. Knapp had always been waiting for a chance to concede, and had had a hand in orchestrating the move back to work by keeping his members in the dark about what was happening (see 'Caught Knapping' inside). He had also it seems had

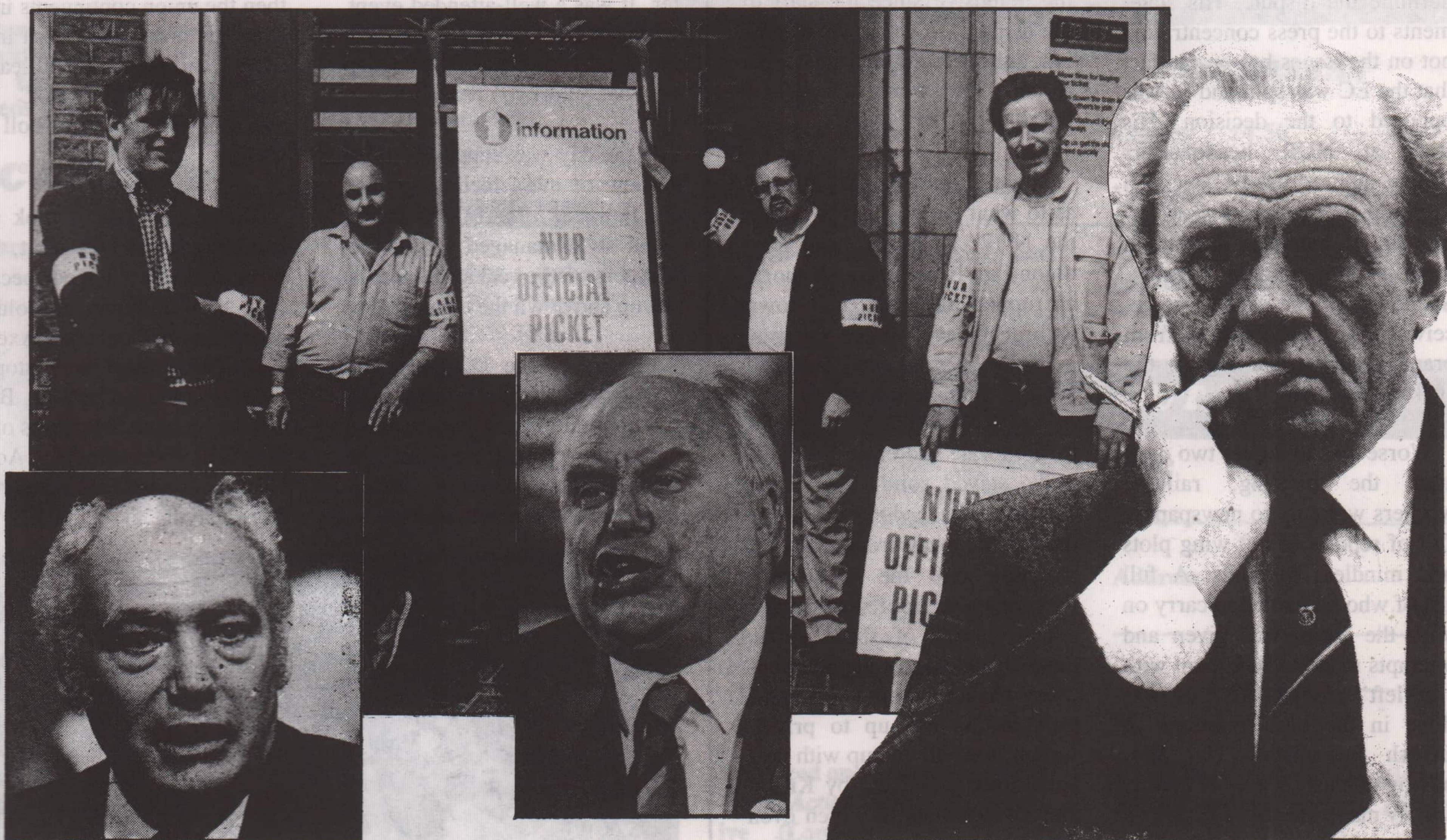
something to do with the Tory press hysteria campaign against 'left-wingers' in the executive of the NUR.

It is a recipe for failure if disputes are allowed to be divorced from those who should be controlling them. When people like Todd describe Unions as theirs they mean it. The trade unions in this country belong to the bureaucrats not the workers. As long as this is the case we will always lose.

Anarcho-syndicalist workers

argue that because the bureaucrats have control they will always be more concerned with sequestration than with the job at hand, that of fighting the bosses. So many disputes have gone under because we are fighting on their terms and not our own. We urge our fellow workers not to listen to their banter but to fight for themselves. The only people that need bureaucrats are the state, the bosses and the scabs.

Whatever the Executive decides, remember that we are the people that win disputes, not them.



CAUGHT KNAPPING

With ASLEF accepting the BRB's offer of 8.8% it came as no surprise to see the NUR 'leader', Jimmy Knapp, panic and try to force an end to the rail dispute. After a twelve hour meeting of the NUR National Executive Committee (EC) at which Knapp had strongly argued for acceptance of the BRB offer, the EC voted 12 to 8 to carry on with the strike action. This came as a shock to Knapp, who normally has an inbuilt majority. In fact, of the eight EC members who voted with him only one represented BRB workers, the rest representing dockers, busmen, etc.

The reason for the majority vote, despite all the pressure, is clear. The main element of the dispute, management's threat to scrap the 'machinery of negotiation, and impose new conditions, had still not been withdrawn by the BRB. This would have seen an end to any form of local representation. Though there had been some movement by BR on national pay bargaining, they were still insisting that if at the end of the talks with the unions no agreement was reached then the new conditions would be imposed.

The decision to carry on with the dispute having been made

TV news programmes, soon picked up on this and the man concerned was soon forced into hiding by rabid cameramen.

There can be no doubt that the press campaign was co-ordinated from within the NUR head office. The amount of information in the press reports and the way it was arranged to appear on the same day can leave no room for any other conclusion.

Needless to say, amongst ordinary railworkers confusion and demoralisation were beginning to surface. With only days to go before the strike was due to take



what was then needed was a clear message to ordinary members what the BR offer was and why it was not acceptable. This was not to happen, Knapp secure in the knowledge that some form of national pay bargaining had been secured and as such a role for the NUR, went all out to undermine the dispute. His statements to the press concentrating not on the issues but on the fact that the EC was split and he was opposed to the decision. His staff at NUR headquarters simply ignored the EC decision to produce leaflets and send letters to all members informing them of the union's position. Suddenly, phone calls were received by head office from branch secretaries urging the strike to be called off.

Worse was to come, two days after the meeting, railway workers woke up to newspapers full of reports of left wing plots and mindless militants. A full list of who had voted to carry on with the strike was given and attempts made to link them with 'far left' groups. All this was done in the best traditions of British journalism. *The Sun*, having no nasty leader to attack, simply made one up by picking a name and claiming he was the leader. Other elements in the media, from *The Guardian* to

place and with the media along with Knapp and his mate Kinnock trying to focus attention away from the main issue of conditions on to pay, members were still waiting to hear from the union what BR's offer was and why it had been rejected. This allowed management, on the defensive since the start of the dispute, to go on the offensive, aiming to get enough people to turn into work in order to break the strike.

There should be no illusions as to what the position is within the NUR. Knapp is head of a union that is riddled with moral corruption that goes right down to branch level where the vast majority of branch officials will support him. Our task as railworkers should have been to raise morale and ensure that the strike stayed solid. This could only have been done by taking the dispute away from the NUR structure into the workplace. Ordinary members should have taken control of the dispute. Since this did not happen there is every chance that in six months time in the run up to privatisation, we will end up with new conditions negotiated by Knapp and management in which even the little workplace organisation we have now, local elected delegates, will be taken from us.

CAN OF WORMS

The recent outbreaks of sabotage of food produce appears to be the result of a series of 'inside jobs'. The media has turned away from the stories of gangs of industrial blackmailers to the more mundane reporting of industrial sabotage.

I've worked on food production lines and it is generally boring repetitive work, low paid, and there is no doubt that the workers will all have grievances with their bosses, and the form of sabotage that has been hitting the headlines is an easy and efficient way of hitting back. With reports of firms losing hundreds of thousands of pounds, if not millions, it is certainly effective.

Direct action by its very name advocates sabotage as a means of fighting back, but like everything else, we do have to make sure the people we hurt are our enemies and not those who we should be winning over to our struggles — the rest of the class. The sabotage of the food industry has proved effective, but it must be remembered that the aim is to hit the bosses, not harm innocents. The doctoring of food products has look obvious in order to be safe, any object has to be big enough not to get swallowed. Even better, the inclusion of revolting but safe substances, such as food colouring

and flavouring.

There are of course methods of constructive sabotage, such as the switching of labels so that the customer gets a more expensive product than they paid for. The best form of sabotage is not only to hit the bosses but simultaneously benefit the working class.



Truly effective sabotage not only hits the bosses but is part of a strategy to gain improvement in pay and conditions. It's alright fighting our own personal wars, we all do it whatever we do, and often the satisfaction gained is the only thing that keeps you sane. Gaining something out of sabotage means two

things: the workforce has to know what is happening and the bosses have to know why it is happening. This of course makes things a lot harder and can only work through a solidarity that no legislation or union bureaucrat can stifle.

In the meantime, even if you're on your own, keep your

wits about you and it's possible to carry out an action that not only brings a smile to your face but to everyone who hears about it, but remember, we want tears in the boardrooms and the City, not in the homes of working class people.

MP

POLL POSITION

On July 1st the TUC held an anti-Poll Tax demo in Manchester. It was a well-attended event with between 20 and 30 thousand taking part, depending on what report you read.

If the day was supposed to be a show of mass feeling against the Poll Tax, the TUC with its usual style managed to put the dampers on the real anger that is felt up and down the country.

First of all the TUC sent out instructions to the Trades Councils and union branches organising transport that they did not want anyone arriving before 11:30, this resulted in the ridicu-

lous situation of buses being stopped at motorway service stations less than ten miles from the centre of Manchester.

Secondly, the TUC is obsessed with marches being in the 'right order', which to everyone else is the wrong order. First is the group of fat men with suits, then the union contingents in exactly the order laid down in the office, and then last and least in the eyes of the TUC bureaucrats, the local anti-Poll Tax groups.

This meant that it took ages for the march to start, and groups being stopped because they were in the wrong column. Members of Doncaster Axe the Poll Tax group were stopped from marching behind Brodsworth pit band. Members of the Sheffield Pensioners Action Group, after being stopped twice from leaving the assembly area

for being in the wrong column eventually forced their way past the stewards to get on the march.

Apart from the organisation, the demo was good, the large number of Scottish Anti-Poll Tax groups was very impressive. And the news that over 100,000 Scots have avoided registration and over a million have not paid is a lead that we should all follow.

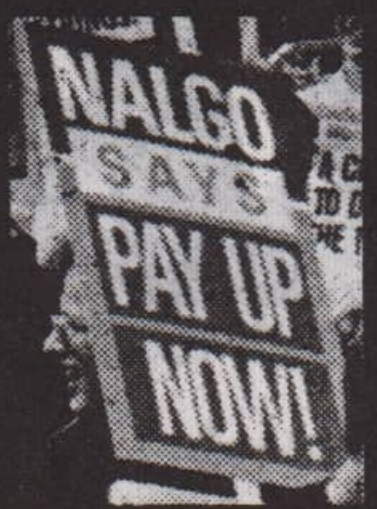
The Poll Tax will be beaten only if we follow the lead of the Scottish working class, organise and don't pay!

VOLEX STRIKE

260 craft members of the AEU, EETPU and UCATT are now on indefinite strike at the Salford Volex factory which produces electrical accessories. Workers at the other factories in Wigan, St. Helens, Leigh, Todmorden and Skelmerdale have also come out. The workers are demanding realistic pay increases and equality with office staff for sickness payments. Last year this company's profits increased by 39%, totalling nine million pounds. The workers were offered a 6% pay rise. More info when we get it.



MANCHESTER UNITED



To the surprise of everyone, especially the union bureaucrats, NALGO members remained solid during their six days of action. While this is something to be proud of the fact remains that the success of the strike was due to the commitment of the rank and file and it highlighted the complete incompetence of the NALGO leadership to build on this for an all-out ballot.

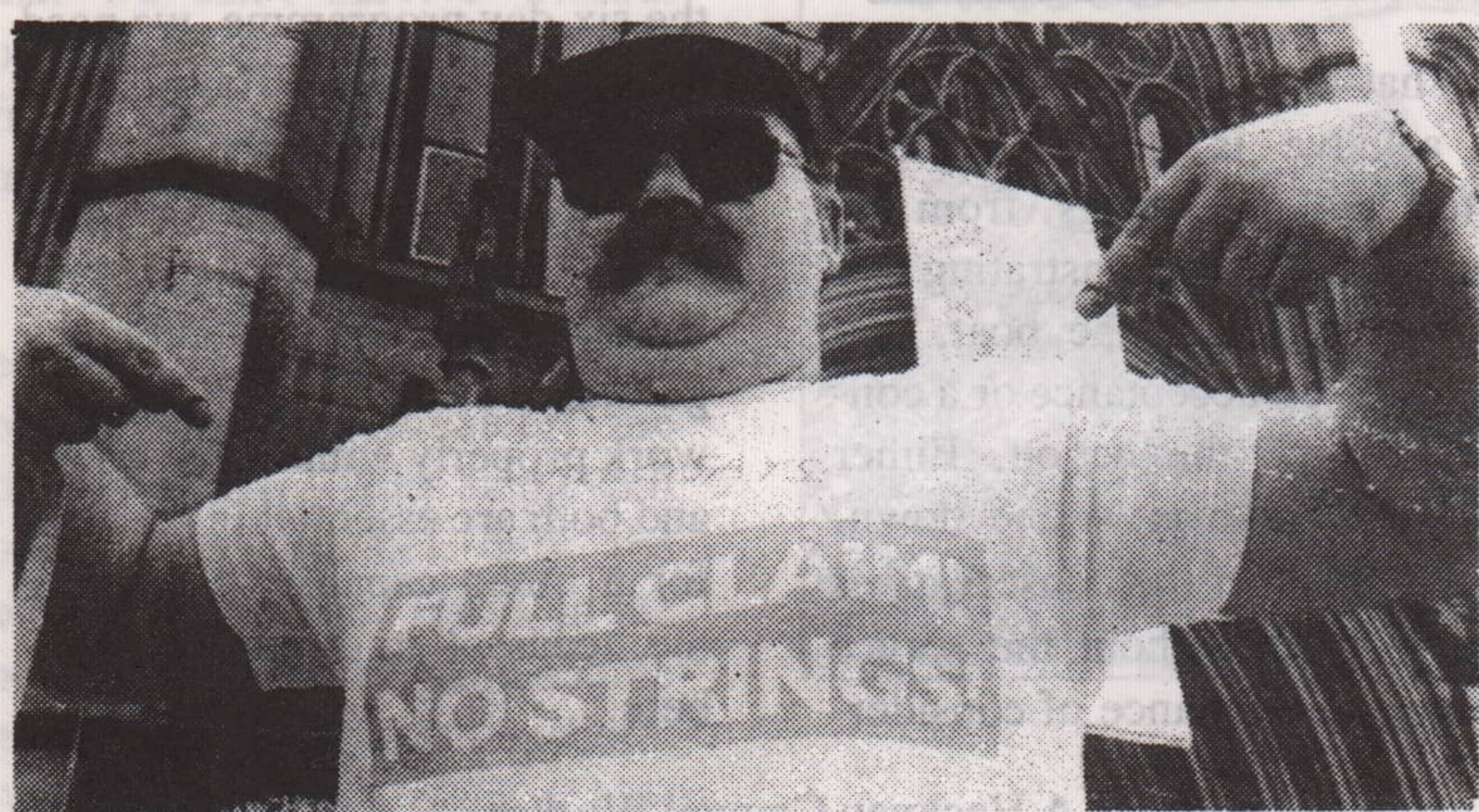
In Manchester the strike was 100% solid. In many places NUPE and GMB members came out in solidarity action. There was widespread disruption reflecting the wide range of services that NALGO members are involved in.

Yet the effectiveness of the strike was diminished by the action of the NALGO bureaucracy. Exemptions were widespread. Even Poll Tax collectors! Also other union members were sent letters saying that they should cross NALGO picket lines. In the Social Services emergency 'life and limb' cover was in operation. In effect this meant that children's homes were working normally, as due to short staffing this is what they run on anyway. Despite this, in many workplaces union directives were challenged and emergency cover was redefined. Still many residential social workers were left feeling isolated by the strike action as they were unable to attend rallies, meetings, etc. This has led to an upsurge in militancy as they are now demanding an all-out strike and withdrawing cover.

Labour councillor stated that he would cross a NALGO picket line to attend his meeting. Him and his meeting were stopped.

Any success of the strike has been won by the rank and file activity. Often coming from people who have never been active in their union before. The bureaucracy has been challenged and found wanting. Activists' meetings have been taking place to increase the effectiveness of picketing. The question remains — can an all-out strike be achieved? It is certainly the only way to win. All-out will mean the complete withdrawal of emergency cover. Regional Social Workers are certainly the last people to want to put children's lives at risk but with the present setup, the poor pay and conditions mean that staff shortages and overtime are creating this situation and unless something drastic is done the picture can only get worse.

The way forward is for the various sections within NALGO to get together independent of the union bureaucracy to campaign for an all-out strike. At the



Elsewhere the picture of bureaucratic incompetence and downright sabotage is reflected. At Manchester Central Library a women on the picket line managed to persuade NUPE and GMB members not to cross. Later, a NALGO official brought back these members and demanded that they should be allowed to cross. In the resultant argument the woman was threatened with disciplinary action and the union official escorted the workers through the picket line!

The Labour-run councils have been conspicuous in their silence. No support has come from them at all. In fact, in Oldham a

same time links must be formed with NUPE and the GMB, firstly to win solid support for NALGO action, and secondly to assure that NALGO members reciprocate support when their pay claim is submitted.

With the government upping the political stakes by threatening to ban all public sector strikes, more than ever before NALGO's fight is linked with the NUR's struggle and a victory for us will have consequences, not only for other public sector unions, but the entire labour movement.

Manchester Council Worker

SOLD OUT

Lewisham's socialist (sic) 'working for the community' Council are in the final process — so they think — of a deal which will probably begin to complete the 'yuppification' of the riverside.

They plan to sell-off open space land in Deptford, SE London, including a park used by local kids, to developers Fairview New Homes Ltd. who will build houses for those who can afford it — which won't be the local people.

Deptford lies between Greenwich to the East and Rotherhithe & Bermondsey to the West; Greenwich has always been rather quaint and R&B has already been infested by the 'nouveaux riche' bastards. The extension of the Docklands Light Railway to this area will not be for the purpose and benefit of working-class people but for those who will commute to the Docklands and the City.

When hearing of the land sale a number of local people formed the Deptford Residents Action Group (DRAG!) and started to publicise that the Council were doing this behind the peoples' back. Much to the embarrassment of the ruling Labour Party — especially the Mayor, who had his speech disrupted when he was opening the (Council sponsored) Lewisham Peoples Day gala a few weeks back.

The Labour council has jumped on the bandwagon following Government legislation obliging them to sell off 'surplus' land. Marketing agents Hillier Parker let slip that the Council are marketing plenty of other sites in Deptford.

Chair of Environmental Services Dave Sullivan has hopes of standing for parliament in East Lewisham and is one of the leading lights behind Council policy. According to Julian Stanyer, who negotiated the sale for the council, they aim to 'regenerate' Deptford by attracting residents with 'increased spending power'. To this end a new leisure centre is being built on the proceeds of the land sale. Local people welcomed the centre but had no idea it was to be paid for by selling off open space.

The 8.36 acre site was sold for £4.7 million. According to one Labour councillor its market value is over £6 million. An-

other councillor has said there must be a deal going on behind the scenes.

Planning permission was granted past midnight. At the Development Control meeting Mayor Nicholas 'Scabby Bastard' Taylor (he crossed picket lines during the NALGO dispute) said Deptford had 'plenty of open space' (where?) and proposed re-siting the park on land used as a walkway between New Cross station and Deptford High St. This land has been used by the public since the Council demolished the council houses there ten years ago.

the plans as they were just an outline on a map.

Now Fairview have produced a plan leaving a 'corridor' less than half the size of the park Labour councillors are making noises about consultation. They refused to stop the sale but now it has gone through they plan to save face by ingratiating themselves. Whatever they say or do now they won't be trusted and the campaign to stop the sale will continue.

Lewisham Council, like all other 'socialist' councils around the country and following Lab-

LEWISHAM-YOUR COUNCIL



Dave Sullivan



Nicholas Taylor



Mary Edmond



Steve Bullock

Working the community over

Julian 'I'm only doing what your elected representatives tell me' Stanyer had the bare-faced cheek to tell DRAG the land was 'derelict' and that they would end up with more open space after the development! Local people were deliberately discouraged from attending the meeting. The planning Department told people who phoned that there was no point in seeing

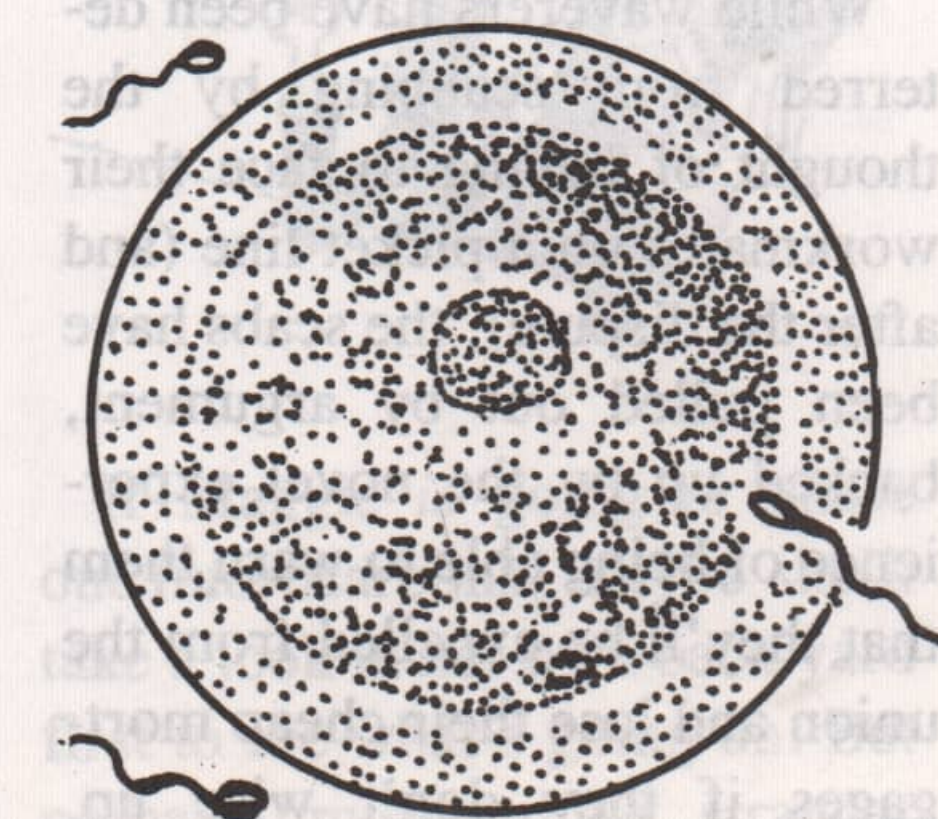
our Party policy, just want the chance to manage capitalism — but in the name of the people. Many of them are just as corrupt as the Tories and just as out of touch. The tiny minority of councillors with any principles at all, count them on one hand, sit in isolation living with the illusion that the Labour Party has, and ever had, 'anything to offer us. Poor fools.

LEEDS ABORTION FUND

Early last year some women in Leeds set up an abortion fund, mainly due to the fact the 80% of women wanting abortions have found it impossible on the NHS. The choice therefore is to continue with an unwanted pregnancy or go private (which costs between £150 and £200).

They obviously need regular donations so any help would be appreciate. Send money or offers of support (benefits, etc.)

to — Leeds Abortion Fund, c/o Box 32, 52 Call Lane, Leeds, LS1 6DT.



NALGO FOR IT

Well, it didn't surprise me — the resentment has been slowly building for years — but it still felt bloody marvellous! On Tuesday 4th July NALGO members in local government declared independence, by staging the biggest strike since the General Strike since 1926, and our first national one. The six-day programme was 94%, continuing on the 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th and the 20th.

Media coverage of the dispute was minimal, especially when compared to coverage of the contemporary dispute between the NUR and British Rail, which is about much the same issues — low pay and negotiating rights. The real reason for the low profile of our dispute is probably that it explodes the widely held myth (even within our union) that NALGO is a well-behaved middle class union. Since we've had solid Tory voters out on picket lines, our strike is somehow subversive.

Spitting Image, the satirical puppet show beloved of the left, even chose to take the piss out of us. They portrayed a group of 'librarians' on strike who started whispering when 'shushed' by a colleague — very polite, very middle class, totally misleading. Being a library assistant by trade, I'd like to ram the entire *North and South* trilogy down their throats, one volume at a time. When actually faced with something they perceive as a threat — like workers flexing our muscles — trendy radicals show their true colours.

NALGO PICKET

This strike has indeed changed the face of NALGO. Although many of us have been on strike before, the norm is for one-day protest strikes, or for relatively small sectional actions, the experience of national action is new to all of us. The organisation of picketing over a three week period, and the picketing out of scabs, rather than just embarrassing them, have shown us that there is collective discipline as well as individual conscience.

While waverers have been deterred from scabbing by the thought of having to face their workmates on a picket line (and after the dispute), the scabs have been pulled out by argument, backed up by the novel experience of being able to warn them that they'll be expelled from the union and lose their cheap mortgages if they don't wise up. Where possible, mass pickets

have been staged, but in some places weak organisation has resulted in deployment of the 'seventh picket' — Superglue.

Picketing has also been vital because of the situation of NUPE members. NUPE held the worst-organised ballot in history on taking the same action as NALGO, and lost it by 52% to 48% on a turnout of around 10%. If the vote had been 'yes' they would have been in the High court in a flash. So, despite a letter from Rodney Bickerstaffe forbidding his members to strike (think of the funds!), many NUPE members were not going to cross picket lines but had to work otherwise.

Under these circumstances it seems surprising that the most vocal advocates of 'All Out Action' opposed effective picketing. The 'revolutionary' left argued against picketing all day, in favour of having a handful of mass pickets rather than small ones wherever needed, and for pulling all the pickets off the line to hold rallies every morning (and then disperse home).

When you can prevent a building opening once enough scabs have got in by maintaining the picket, when lowlifes will hang around in cafes until pickets have gone before going in, when scabs will be directed to buildings not picketed, pickets need to be at all the sites all of the time. But the Leninists are not interested in winning this dispute, it is simply flavour of the month for their central committees, and their real interest is in posing as leaders (fat chance!) and flogging papers.

Despite the limited nature of the action, a lot of pressure was

put on the employers, and many of them had begun to crack by July 6th when the first talks were held, and the piss was taken out of NALGO. As we go to press it is strongly rumoured that we have beaten the strings, and that an improved pay offer may be made, with talks thought to be resuming in late July. But there will be a ballot on what amounts to winding down the action in August.

What is going to be balloted on is a series of one-day strikes, up to four in a month, linked with a ballot on pulling out strategic sections, like computer services, finance, community charge — all the worst-organised, scab-ridden sections. And who's going to picket them out if the rest of us are working? This formula first appeared in a letter signed by 'one of the John Dalys' on July 17th, claiming that this was the result of consultation with the Districts. My district, Metropolitan (London), didn't hold its Local Government Group meeting until the 19th!

What should have happened is that the National Local Government Group, composed of Conference delegates from all the relevant branches, should have reconvened to decide to ballot on further action — indefinite, all out action, not limited and selective action. What has actually happened is that the National Local Government Committee has decided, based on the mandates of District delegates, to endorse the 'Daly' proposals. This has happened because each District's delegates on the NLGC would have turned up on Friday 21st with, at best, compromise mandates, making acceptance of the recommended proposal a lot easier. The national group would very likely have decided on indefinite action.

That fact is the key to understanding the whole 'mess', the conservative bloc which dominates NALGO nationally is deter-

mined to avoid a ballot on indefinite action. This is ostensibly because that ballot could never be won, which has a lot of truth in it, but where stewards have done the work, like most of the Inner London branches, it is winnable. The conservatives have dominated the national union for years because of membership inactivity, and this strike has changed that, to some extent irreversibly, now they have to save us from all these wild ideas of democracy and militancy before we do ourselves and the union a favour.

The problem has its roots in NALGO's recruitment of management grades as well as workers. Some branches are dominated by people who have used the authority and administrative skills they derive from their jobs as managers to dominate their union branches. In a situation where strikes are limited and contained, any challenge to their dominance can be contained, but all strikes throw up new layers of activists, and potential new leaderships. In a situation like this democratic structures become a threat, so the LG Group was pushed aside by the NLGC.

£1200 or 12%—and NO STRINGS!
NALGO

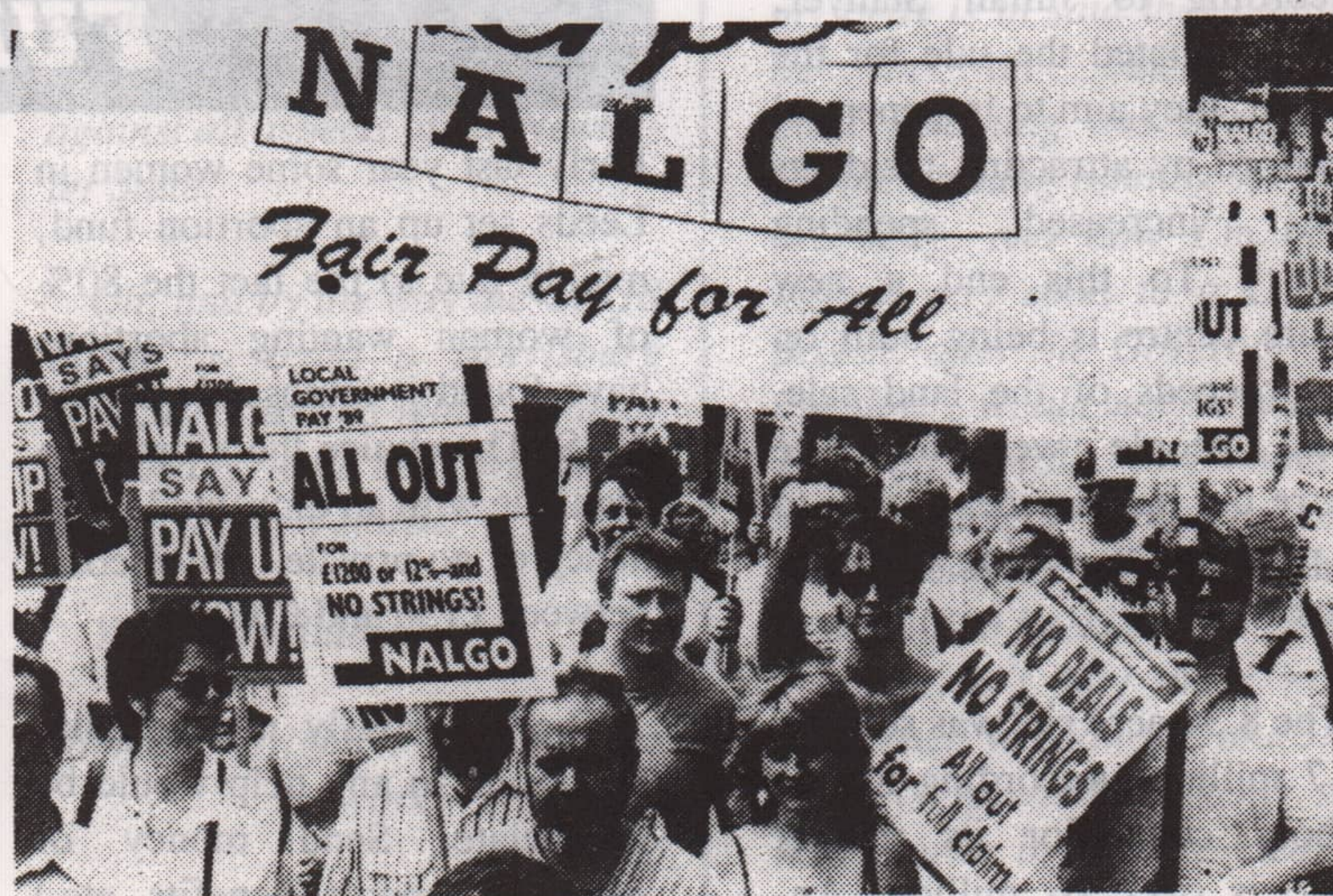
What the conservatives hope to achieve is an 'acceptable' offer, without strings, from the employers by demonstrating that they won't rock the boat, and balloting on acceptance or a containment of the action. Either way the strike is wound down, to the relief of the conservatives and bosses, without the choice between acceptance of consider-

ably less than the full claim (see DA 58) and the logical course of taking more action for the money. This desire not to rock the boat and contempt for democracy was illustrated most glaringly by Jean Geldart, Vice-chair of the NLGC, who refused to admit that she even knew where she would be meeting the employers on Thursday 20th, let alone tell us so that we could lobby it.

That contempt for democracy is not challenged by the Left, only Hackney and Lambeth branches voted to reconvene the Group at the Metropolitan District meeting, this was portrayed as a delaying tactic! On the question of indefinite action John Fitzpatrick (RCP) took the biscuit, saying that if our members were not going to vote for indefinite action we had to give them leadership — tell them to vote for it! None of them seem to realise that democracy is the only way to beat the conservatives, not trying to use their own structures against them, nor do they actually see democracy as of any value in itself.

For those of us not playing games, the aftermath of this dispute will present us with two tasks. One will be arguing for indefinite action in pursuit of next year's pay claim, based on the argument that we can and must win the full claim, especially a flat rate claim, and that although we did achieve much in the six-day programme, we need to do more to win. The other is to work to establish the primacy of the National Local Government Group over the NLGC. Union democracy and militancy go hand in hand, neither will work properly without the other, and both are essential in the fight for a union capable of meeting the needs of its low-paid members.

A Hackney Council Worker



Response to the strike call in South Yorkshire has been excellent, with well over 90% of NALGO members coming out over the first six days of initial action. This contrasted strongly with the initial response of the employers in the area — one Doncaster Labour Councillor crossing the picket line on the first day was heard to say 'Of course I'm crossing the picket line, I'm one of the bosses you're on strike against!' Nice that at least one Labour Councillor knows which side of the fence he's on.

Another councillor (an NUR bureaucrat with his other 'hat'

on) disapproved of joint meeting of local government workers, railworkers and dockers, saying 'We don't want a general strike!' The question is, who is 'we'?

However, the strong support for strike action in the region appears to have gradually begun to worry local authorities in Yorkshire and Humberside and by the end of the six days they were falling over each other to call for a resumption of national negotiations and a capitulation to some of the strikers' demands.

A Doncaster Council Worker.

DRY DOCK

Haringey Trades Council, which ignored the Seafarers' Support Group, organised a public meeting to start a support group for the dockers, on strike for basic trade union rights in the wake of the scrapping of the National Dock Labour Scheme. Speakers were introduced from NALGO about the Local Government pay strikes, the NUR on the rail and underground strikes, and from Tilbury Docks Shop Stewards' Committee.

The NALGO speaker was a nursery nurse from the Education Directorate, who spoke about the difficulties and achievements of her section in the strikes which had ended that night. It was pointed out that although NALGO officialdom is predominantly male, the union is composed mainly of low-paid women workers. The nursery nurses are spread around the Borough, with usually only one or two union members at each location, but they had built on a successful local dispute to stage effective pickets. This was all the more remarkable because most of the women were Tory voters, the speaker said.

Dave Hatt, Secretary of Finsbury Park NUR, began by pointing out the similarities between the British Rail and Local Government disputes, over low pay and negotiating rights. He then moved on to the London Underground disputes which have co-ordinated strikes with the national rail strikes. He pointed out that the question of seniority of promotion was a smokescreen, the real issue was that London Regional Transport's 'Action Stations' programme superseded all previous agreements — effectively scrapping collective bargaining, grievances, etc. 'Seniority' meant that there could be no compulsory moves, 'Action Stations' scrapped that protection and opened the way for victimisation.

For the train crews the issue was around One-Person-Operation, for which there had

been promised a review of drivers' pay in 1984, which has never happened. That review was now being offered again, conditional on strings. Also, on January 1st there was a reorganisation of the Underground, from four divisions to ten separate lines, with cost circles and other measures designed to gear it up for privatisation. Underground workers could see what privatisation meant for them by looking at what was happening to the dockers, the bosses were out to smash union organisation and collective action on the tubes. The idea that the unions were resisting promotion by merit was rubbish because the new breed of managers were all idiots — they got promoted by arselicking. Dave finished by saying that he thought indefinite strike action was needed to win, but he was unsure if a ballot could be won.

The main speaker was Micky Fenn, a shop steward with the TGWU at Tilbury. He began by describing how the main issue in the Docks dispute had changed since the announcement of the scrapping of the NDLS on April 5th. Originally it had been to save the Scheme, then it had been to negotiate national terms and conditions no worse than under the Scheme, now it was about the right to organise in a trade union.

The NDLS, now dead, was established in 1947 when all dock workers were registered to provide a stable workforce, which was needed by the economy. It established joint

control of the industry by local boards composed of equal numbers of union and management representatives, with a chair rotated between each side, covering all terms and conditions of employment. It was never a 'job for life', dismissal was permitted for indiscipline at work — theft, violence, drunkenness, etc. What there wasn't was the 'right to hire and fire', there could be no victimisation. The employers' claim that there will be no 'return to casual labour' is another smokescreen, casual labour was only abolished in 1967, not by the Scheme. It is about the 'right to hire and fire', and no stewards will be hired if the strike is lost.

When the scrapping of the Scheme was announced on April 5th it was no surprise to the dockers, it has been planned since 1987, there has even been a Cabinet sub-committee on it, chaired by Thatcher. The TGWU decided to go the legal path — its £76m is more important than the dockers' jobs. If the dockers had struck in April they could have won easily with the protection of the Scheme still in place. The unofficial strike fell through because Southampton and Hull stewards on the National Ports Shop Stewards' Committee wouldn't support it, so the problem is partly the attitude of the members, not just the bureaucrats.

The object of the employers taking the TGWU to court was to gain time, they wanted to be able to sack dockers before the strike, which they were able to do once the Scheme was scrapped. 100 dockers at Immingham, and other ports, have gone back to work and been sacked, many have been blackmailed into taking severance payments. After the 'public interest' judgement an unofficial overtime ban was imposed, seven stewards were served with writs for £10,400 damages each, hanging over their heads as a deterrent to action. The stewards know that the law has to be broken to win, which they are determined to do because they will be sacked if they lose. They have been out secondary picketing.

The strike is winnable, the key is the big ports, only small ones have gone back to work so far, the employers are trying to break them by buying off workers with redundancy. What the employers are doing is imposing individual contracts, including dismissal if a worker

gives evidence against the company in damages cases arising from accidents, it's about the right to join a union and organise in the ports, and if the dockers don't win it could spread to the public sector fast.



Micky stated that the strike committees were organised on a regional basis, and that money was being collected, in cash, and kept in safes to avoid any sequestration. Addresses for where to send money were available, although it was generally agreed that the Trades Council would co-ordinate collections. The dockers regarded the money as the property of the labour movement which had given it, and would give any surplus to the next dispute.

When asked why he was less critical of Ron Todd and other union leaders than when he used to write for *Socialist Worker*, Micky replied that he had left SWP eight years ago, and they hadn't changed their line since. The reality was that it was not solely the union leaders who were letting the dockers down, it was partly the dockers themselves — on April 5th only seven of the Scheme ports had struck. A collection was taken, and the Trades Council plans to call regular meetings from August 3rd.

OKANLAMI MUST WAIT

The precedent set by the victory of Francis Okanlami at an Immigration Appeals Tribunal (see DA 59) is to be challenged by the Home Office. The appeal was won on the grounds that a deportation order had been served on Francis illegally, without the authority of the Home Secretary. This decision brought into question the legality of thousands of deportations, and the Home Office is appealing it because of its implications.

The appeal will not be heard for at least another six months,

ANDORRA MINERS VICTORY

The unity, mutual aid and direct action of miners in the tiny country of Andorra in the Pyrenees has led to a notable victory against the ENDESA mining company.

A fight has been brewing there for quite a while. Some time ago the International Secretary of the Direct Action Movement received a request for information about the British Miners' Strike from the Andorran local federation of the CNT, Spain's anarcho-sindicalist union, and they wanted to draw some lessons from the struggle here so as to be able to take action that much more effectively. Well, according to a report in the May issue of *CNT*, they appear to have got it just about right!

For a start, the struggle was run by the workers themselves rather than union bureaucrats. Also, rather than striking off the job, 1,000 miners from three different shifts locked themselves within the mines. That, combined with solidarity strikes from surface workers, electricians and others, led the company to cave in and grant practically all the workers demands (The demands were about conditions as well as pay).

Workers aren't just faced with hostile laws in this country. In Andorra, strikes without warning are illegal, but what can the bosses do when workers stick together and solidly self-organise? In this Summer of Discontent, and with the Tories talking about banning wildcat strikes, maybe we can learn something from the miners of Andorra.



HEALTH OR LEATHER

The following was originally written by members of Bristol Class War Health Workers and has been adapted by (and somewhat changed by) Sheffield Independent Health Workers. Along with the North-east Region of the DAM, SIHW will be hosting a Day School in Sheffield in the autumn on the topics of health, the NHS, being a health worker, etc. Any comments, suggestions for topics, etc should be sent to PO Box 446, Sheffield, S1 1NY. We would like the following article/document to be the basis of further debate and discussion.

WHY A NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE?

After WWII there was a large wave of discontent throughout the working class in Britain. This led to a series of long running strikes and occupations in major industries. People felt they had fought and died in the war for a 'better world' free of the poverty and unemployment of the 30's. The election of a Labour government by a huge majority showed the ruling class that workers wanted change. This, allied with the inevitable reconstruction after the war and the need for a large healthy workforce allowed the government to set up a minimal welfare state encompassing comprehensive education, social security and the National Health Service. The actual NHS bill (the Beveridge Report) was the work of a Liberal Lord, but it was presented as the work of the 'caring' Labour Party even though they were the first to introduce health cuts in 1976.

SOME COMMON MYTHS

People talk about the understaffing and underfunding of the NHS as if it were a new thing invented in the last 10 years. This is rubbish as the NHS has always been underfunded and understaffed. There has always been waiting lists for treatment and inadequate resources. It's only since the mid 70's that the economic recession has forced the ruling class to squeeze even harder than before. One of the reasons our hospitals are crumbling now is because of a lack of long term investment in buildings and maintenance since the



NHS was formed. Nowadays new developments in health care due to technological advance such as body and CAT scans are presented as a luxury rather than as basic tool. This in one example of their twisted priorities.

Another common misconception is that at some point in the past we had enough nursing and ancillary staff to do our job properly. We never did. The recent cuts in staffing levels have turned a minimal staff into a skeleton staff. This and the contracting out of ancillary services such as catering and laundry has helped to reduce the status and pay of healthworkers even though this has always been low status because of healthcare's traditional role as 'women's work'.

CAN'T WORK, CAN'T LIVE

In the forefront of the attacks on health provision is the conscious reduction of care services for the mentally ill and handicapped and the chronically ill, elderly and disabled. This can be seen in the constant pushing of the concept of 'community care', ie closing down psychiatric and other institutions and relocating the patients in a 'community' setting. While we agree in the merits of community care as a form of healing we are realistic about this and see this as yet another cynical cost-cutting exercise disguised by fancy ideas

about 'community'.

The Griffiths Report of 1983 by Thatcher's personal advisor on health, Sir Robert Griffiths, introduced the concept of 'General Managers'. Prior to this each field of health had had its own management made up of people who had worked in that field. The new system uses outside managers from business who are very good at keeping within spending limits and being 'efficient' but not too hot at doing what's best for the patients — not surprising when you think about what they were brought in for. The management structure was an inflexible hierarchy before 1983 but is now even worse with people having no contact within the area deciding what's best for it. So this is what they mean by efficiency...

PRIMARY VS. SECONDARY

One thing we haven't mentioned so far and which shouldn't be forgotten is that the NHS is based on the ideas of 'secondary healthcare' ie treating things that have 'gone wrong' by treating the individual symptoms that the person has. This method doesn't take into account most of the social causes of ill health nor does it treat a person as a whole, but rather as a series of systems, one of which has gone wrong when illness appears. If government was interested in efficiency, then

they'd develop a primary health-care system based on preventative methods. Talk of CAT scans and laser surgery is all well and good but useless if an illness is caused by or aggravated by poor housing, poor nutrition, pollution etc.

Private healthcare is also based on these methods but to make matters worse it is also run to make a profit and not as a service. This is why you have to pay to use the facilities as it puts profit before human need. Basically, private hospitals are hotels with a health facility built on. Often this leads to an inability to provide good general health-care. If a patient's treatment involves a great deal of personal care over a long period they are dumped back onto the NHS. If they manage to receive private care at all — private insurance companies are notorious for rejecting people with such long-term problems as diabetes, schizophrenia, etc. And forget it if you are male and gay, as being gay is equated with AIDS in the minds of insurance brokers. Private healthcare is a massive drain on the NHS with a lot of good staff poached from the NHS after being trained by it and chronically ill patients rejected by private hospitals having to be looked after.

WHAT WE WANT

Obviously any change in healthcare can only happen alongside profound changes in the way society as a whole is structure and run. This is because our interests as a class are in conflict with those of the bosses and the state.

We see the basis for a public health service stemming from the creation of a socialised economy, ie an economy run collectively by and for the working class. This health service should have an open democratic structure controlled by workers' organisations. In a society organised in this way the emphasis is obviously going to be on primary health care, that is, removing the conditions that make people ill (bad housing, poor diet, meaningless work, social stress, etc.).

We want to see a decent health and sex education programme with the aims of demystifying people's bodies and illnesses as ignorance and fear are major reasons why people become ill and/or don't seek help. A population that is educated about these things will have real control over their bodies and will be

able to take responsibility for their health away from the so-called 'experts'. We believe in getting away from the idea that only doctors and nurses can deal with illness. Rather, we want to see highly trained health workers assume a role of 'helper' or 'guide' in the healing process of the individual, working with the patient, not just dictating to him or her.

Along with these changes we would like to reclaim many traditional working class methods of healthcare such as herbalism from the middle class hippy fadists. We would like to promote the ideas of holistic treatment rather than the 'medical model/symptomatic treatment' and, for instance, to de-institutionalise psychiatry by a psychotherapeutic/anti-psychiatry approach to the problems of personal growth. We want to see women able to knowledgeably choose the ways in which their babies are born, with emphasis on natural childbirth and forceps and monitors used only if absolutely necessary. We'd like to see the integrity of the patient — and the staff too as far as working conditions are concerned — respected. We want an end to production line 'health care', both in terms of patient care and working conditions.

OUR STRATEGY

For now, our aim is to produce propaganda and spread our ideas. We must stop hiding behind leftist demands to save the NHS — which is, as we've stated, in dire need of complete change — and work toward a totally new system of real health care. We want, for the time being, to concentrate our efforts on building up a network of like-minded health workers (domestics, doctors, nurses, porters etc) in Sheffield and eventually in other parts of the country. These networks/groups will initially be for discussion of different issues that effect us as health workers and the formulation of strategies to respond to attacks on us. Eventually we hope to build networks throughout the country that will federate together and become the basis of one single healthworkers union — but not just another hierarchical bureaucratic trade union. Together with people in the community such a union could begin to forge a revolutionary healthcare system, one where neither patient nor worker is exploited but rather where both work together toward real health.

HOLY AEROSOLS!

The following article, by Al Chatfield, is taken from issue no. 11 of *Ideas & Action*, journal of the Workers' Solidarity Alliance, US section of the IWA.

The outer edge of the earth's atmosphere contains a layer of ozone which provides a screen that prevents much of the sun's ultra-violet (UV) radiation from reaching the earth's surface. The recent erosion of this layer is a threat to all life on this planet.

Ozone is a condensed form of oxygen. The ozone layer thus presumably came into existence millions of years ago when early plant life created the planet's oxygen atmosphere. Photosynthesis is the activity of plants that uses solar energy to break down carbon dioxide into its components, oxygen and carbon, with the carbon absorbed into the body of the plant and the oxygen emitted into the atmosphere. When photosynthesising plants first evolved millions of years ago, the earth must have had a carbon dioxide atmosphere. However, as the various species of plants and animals that now inhabit the earth evolved within the protective ozone layer, exposure to high levels of UV radiation would be very dangerous.

An increase in skin cancer among humans is just the tip of the iceberg. Certain persons in the Reagan administration made light of this threat with their advice for use of sunscreen lotions and such, but such remarks only betray their own stupidity. They are forgetting that we can't survive without plants and animals, which will fry if the ozone layer is destroyed.

For starter, UV radiation penetrates 60 feet or more into the oceans, which threatens the phytoplankton — tiny single-cell plants that are not only the bottom of the 'food chain' in the oceans, but also the main source of oxygen in the atmosphere. According to a professor of biological oceanography at Texas A & M, an increase of as little as 5-6% in UV radiation results in drastic reductions in photosynthetic activity by phytoplankton.

Massive food crop losses have also been predicted from the ozone layer depletion.

Direct evidence of the ozone layer depletion first came to light in 1985 when satellite observations unexpectedly suggested a 'hole' in the ozone layer over Antarctica. A study of the Antarctic atmosphere from aircraft in 1987 led some scientists to estimate that the ozone layer had been depleted over Antarctica by as much as 50%.

The estimates, thus far, for other regions of the globe are much lower than that. According to a NASA report, the ozone layer over the middle latitudes (such as the USA) has declined by 2.3% since 1969 but by as much as 6% over upper latitudes, nearer to the North Pole.

This severe damage to the ozone shield is attributed to compounds of chlorine and bromine. Though these compounds are normally inert at sea-level temperatures, they react with other compounds (such as nitric acid) in the high atmosphere, where temperatures sink to -100°. The breakdown of chlorine compounds yields ozone-destroying reactions. The three main compounds of chlorine that are implicated here are chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), chlorinated hydrocarbons (CHCs) and halons. Though CFCs are the larger factor at present, and have been getting

CFCs are also used as an expanding agent in making foam containers (such as cups and other food containers) and in the electronics industry to clean components. About 20-30% of the CFCs made are used as industrial solvents while 3% are used in making foam containers.

According to a list recently released by Citizens for a Better Environment, the major industrial source of CFC emissions in California is the IBM factory in South San Jose, which released roughly 1.47 million pounds of CFCs into the air in 1987. This plant manufactures large disk drives for mainframe computers.

'IBM is far and away the largest contributor to the ozone destruction of any company in California, and, we believe, in the whole country,' stated Ted Smith of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition. Also included among the top 20 industrial sources of CFC emissions in California are the military-related Lockheed Missiles & Space complex in Sunnyvale, the Hewlett-Packard factory in Santa Rosa, and the Raychem electronics plant in Palo Alto. The second largest industrial source of CFC emissions in California is Bently Laboratories, a med-

cut costs at the expense of the environment.

Ultimately the problem is the way that capitalism functions. The system works on the basis of each firm minimising its private, monetary costs and maximising its private revenue. The integrity of the environment — the interrelated links between the atmosphere, water, plants and animals — is a collective, 'social good', since our lives depend on it. So, the degradation of the environment, through pollution, is a 'social cost'. Yet, companies don't have to pay for this 'cost' — except for token, after-the-fact fines. As the crisis of the ozone layer demonstrates, the flaws of capitalism are a threat to all life.

Even if CFC production is banned immediately, there will still be a continuing depletion of the ozone layer from the CFCs that have already been emitted. Marlo J. Molino, who first proposed the existence of the ozone depletion effect in 1974, has said, 'What we're now doing to the atmosphere commits it to a level of depletion for a century'. Along with Professor Rowland of UC Irvine — another leading expert on the ozone depletion, he recommends a total and immediate ban on CFC production.

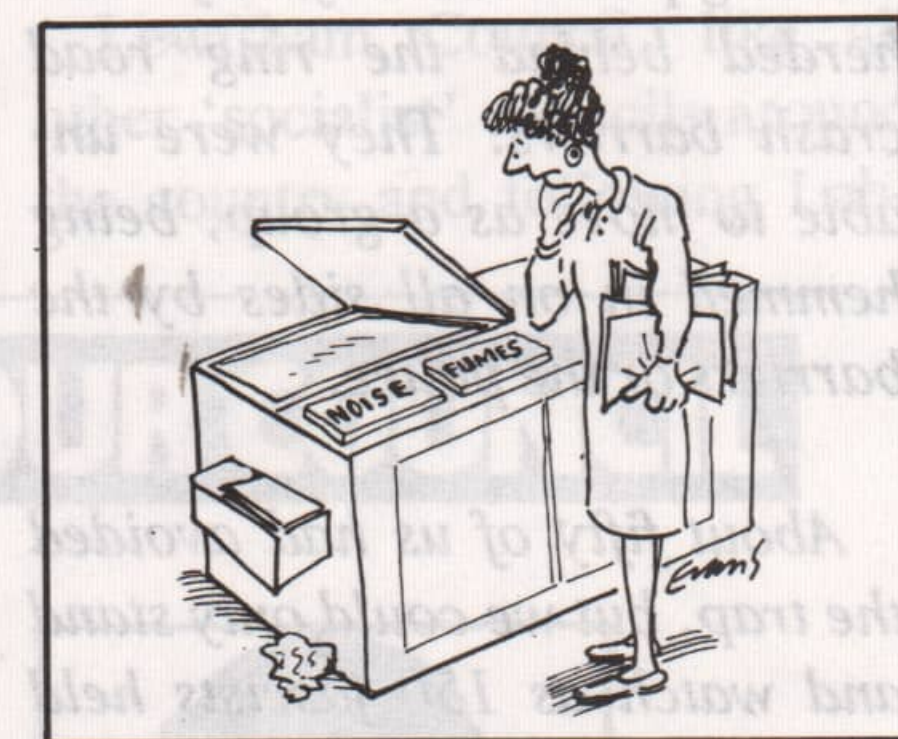
The danger is so clear and present that governments are pretending to do something about it. The Montreal Accord called for a 50% reduction in manufacturing CFCs by 1999. Senator John Chafee (of Rhode Island) has proposed legislation to ban CFC production in the US by 1997. Under pressure, DuPont has accepted a total ban, as long as it has time to shift to profitable substitutes. (They are proposing to end CFC production in the year 2000.) Fearing imminent government intervention, the electronics industry has also reversed itself and accepted a total phase-out. For them, as for DuPont, the question is how fast to make the conversion. The huge investment in equipment that can only work with CFCs is the source of industry foot-dragging.

Any sane person, reading the facts, would want the CFC factories shut down last year. Considering the danger to all life, it would be quite understandable if people started taking matters into their own hands, attacking or sabotaging CFC plants.

However, a more effective form of pressure than protests by irate individuals or small activist groups would be collective action by the workforces of companies that use or make CFCs. For example, what if the workforce at the IBM plant in South San Jose shut down the plant in a strike, or disrupted production over demands that included implementing a safe substitute for CFCs? Such action would be sure to gain lots of public support.

I'M A LASER SOD

Correct me if I'm wrong, but I *did* hear Maggie Thatcher saying that she and the rest of the government were going to take efforts to phase out the use of fluorocarbons didn't I? If so, how come the Inland Revenue and the Department of Social Services use 30 laser printers, made by Siemens, that each belch out an incredible six kilograms of trichlorotrifluoroethane into the atmosphere every day.

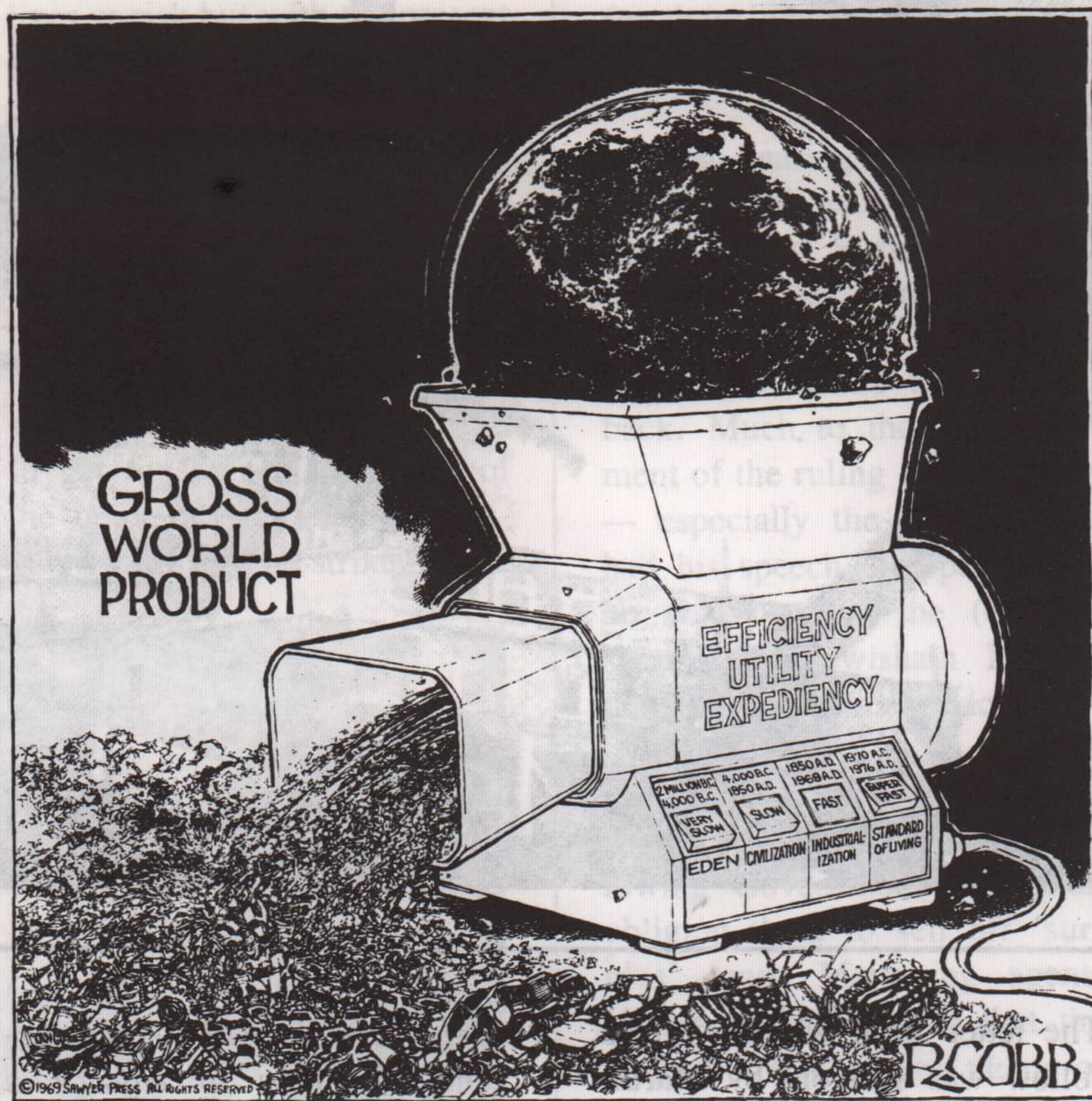


The chemical, which is used to fix ink onto paper, is named in new legislation coming into effect in October, the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health bill, as being one such dangerous fluorocarbon. Of course, you can bet that the bill won't be comprehensive enough to seriously diminish the amount of chemical-based accidents that happen in workplaces each year.

The EEC already recognises the substance as being dangerous to health, let alone the damage that it causes to the already depleting ozone layer, and according to the Health and Safety Executive, the maximum levels for exposure are 1,000 parts per million for eight hours. ICI, who manufacture the chemical, say that it is one of the chemicals that they are phasing out of production due to concern about its safety and its deleterious effects on the ozone layer. How long this will take we've no idea, but the chances are that we'll have to wait until a worker dies from being in contact with it before anything is done.



If Maggie is going to phase out fluorocarbons, maybe she'll take a look in her own back yard first to see what's going on. But perhaps I misheard her, stranger things have happened.



the most attention in the press, CHCs should not be overlooked.

CHCs, such as carbon tetrachloride and methyl chloroform (also known as TCA), are used as industrial solvents and in chemical manufacturing. Halons are used in fire extinguishers, especially for electrical fires.

Nearly 40% of the total world production of CFCs is here in the USA, about half is in Europe and one tenth is in Japan. The largest use for CFC is as a refrigerant. Auto air-conditioners reportedly consume the largest share of CFC here in California. CFC often goes under the brand name 'Freon', a name owned by DuPont, which is the world's largest CFC manufacturer.

ical-instrument manufacturer in Irvine, which released about 400,000 pounds of CFCs in 1987.

Safe substitutes for CFCs as an industrial solvent are feasible — one company has found a way to clean components using a compound made from orange peels. Industry's slow response to this problem therefore doesn't have a technological cause. Rather, they recognise that any expense here will not increase productivity and will therefore not enhance their revenue. No individual company will want to start incurring expenses here unless they are sure all their competitors will have similar expenses — they know that their competitors are also willing to

LETTERS

Dear DA,

I'm writing to inform readers about what really happened in Dewsbury on June 24th, as opposed to what the rest of the media claim happened.

That Saturday the fascist British National Party held a rally behind the Town Hall, and the Kirklees Black Workers Group organised a counter-rally, attended by many people from local black and asian workers organisations, and a number of other anti-fascists.

When the police allowed our 500 strong rally to leave its meeting place the majority were herded behind the ring road crash barriers. They were unable to move as a group, being hemmed in on all sides by the barriers or the police.

About fifty of us had avoided the trap, but we could only stand and watch as 150 fascists held their rally, and then marched freely into the town centre. There, just over the road from the mainly asian KBWG group, the fascists took up chants of 'Salman Rushdie' and other chants, and unfurled the Union Jack.

At this point the police decided to make their position absolutely clear. Throughout the day they had made it plain that they considered us the problem, always standing facing us, but with their backs to the fascists, and always moving us on first. Now they decided to charge on us, on horseback, and with men dressed in full riot gear. The anti-fascists were chased about half a mile out of town to a spot where we stopped and erected barricades. A number of BNP supporters were found drinking in the Scarborough pub, which was rapidly, and decisively, attacked, and the fascists were chased off.

The police then charged again, and chased us up to the mosque at the end of South Street. Several barricades were hastily erected, but proved futile. About sixty of us were arrested.

In town the fascists were having a field day. Most were drinking in the Black Bull pub, but they frequently ventured out to find and attack lone asians or anti-fascists.

With every event like this fascist size and confidence grows — and more people get viciously assaulted. We've got to stop them having another success like Dewsbury. This means forcibly stopping their rallies, meetings,

paper sales, and leafletting. We've got to chase them from the streets and football terraces where they peddle their filth. And we can't let the police stop us again either.

AF

Dear DA,

There will be at least 54,500 to 136,000 fatal cancers as a result of the Chernobyl disaster. Sellafield has turned the Irish Sea into a radioactive cesspit and the proliferation of newkiller technology has resulted in regimes such as Libya, Pakistan, Iraq, Israel, South Africa and Argentina developing nuclear weapons — and RN (Letters, DA 58) is depressed that 'many people take a dim view' of newkiller power — my heart bleeds!

So under anarchist society newkiller technology will be different? In capitalist society there is no safe dose of radiation and no threshold below which biological damage does not occur — will this change? Will plutonium no longer be the deadliest substance known to science? Will newkiller waste suddenly become as safe as ice cream?

Does RN understand that uranium mining involves environmental rape and has genocidal consequences for the indigenous peoples of Canada, Australia, Namibia and the US — or does he find this too depressing?

As a bar room philosopher RN has a point — it may be possible that newkiller technology could be made marginally safer if vast resources were squandered on it. But why bother?

With cleaned up fossil fuels, a massive conservation programme and the development of safe renewable energy sources there is no need in taking risks with this deadly military-spawned electro-fascist technology — unless of course RN is planning to build an anarcho-syndicalist 'workers bomb'.

Meanwhile, I hope DAM will continue to support the ANN's campaign for mass direct action against all aspects of the Newkiller State.

Oh, and by the way the CEBG intend to build a Horrisburg style, Pressurised Water Reactor at Hinkley, not a Fast Breeder as RN incorrectly stated.

Yours in solidarity,

Richard, Brighton Anti-Nuclear Network.

MAKING A POINT

A blockade was held at the main gate leading to Hinkley A and B nuclear stations on Saturday 24th June. The blockade was organised by a group called BLAH (Blockade Against Hinkley), a loose coalition of anti-nuclear power groups, and attracted 80 activists from throughout Britain and Europe. The day before the blockade, a group of activists wearing radiation suits and gasmasks disrupted the Public Inquiry into Hinkley C at Cannington, by chanting and holding up a banner.

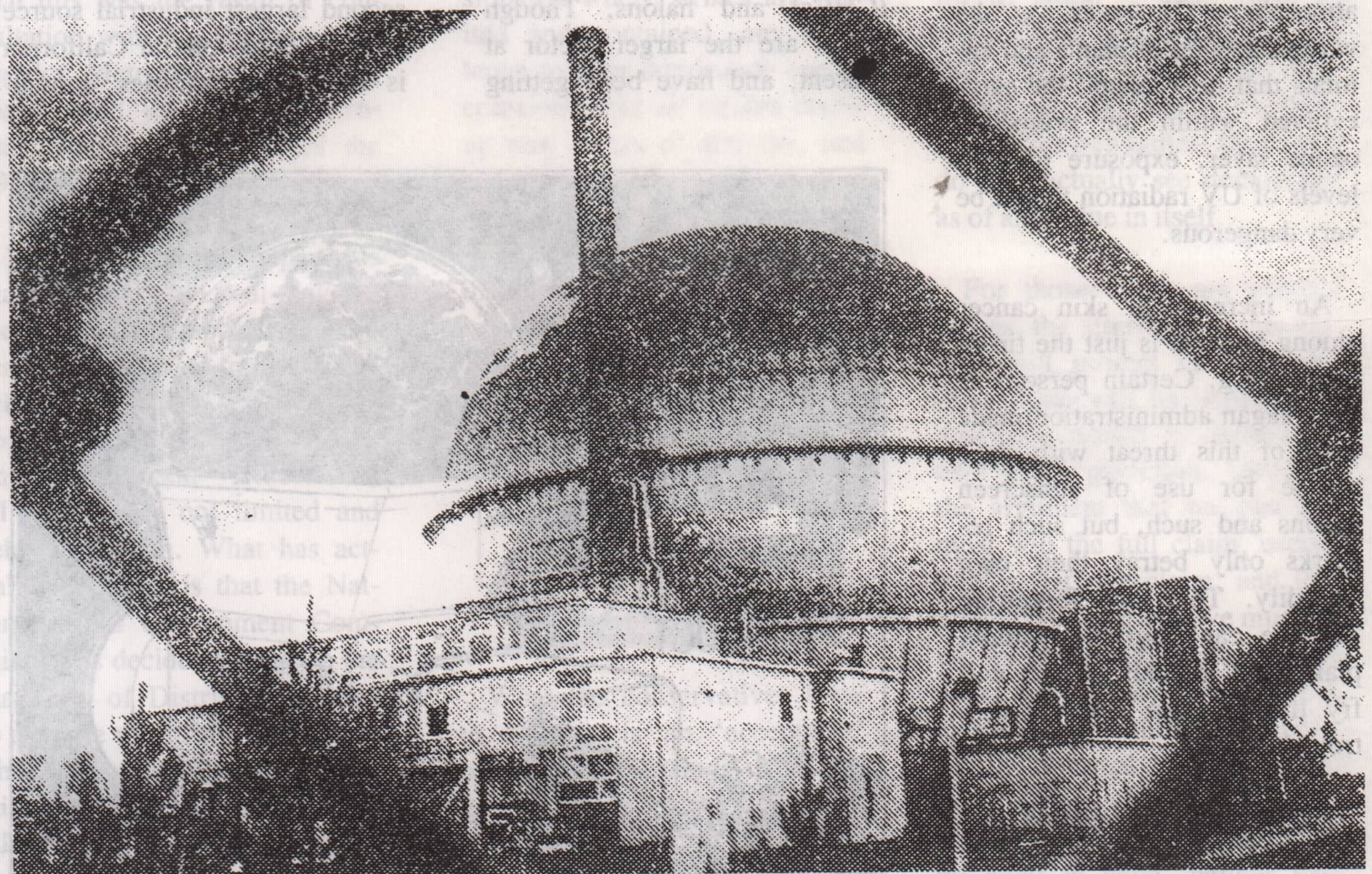
The blockade was inevitably more symbolic than anything, as the CEBG brought its first morning shiftworkers inside before the 10 am start, then locked the gates. The public information centre on site closed because of the action though, and the massive police presence and roadblock must have deterred anybody apart from activists and the media from visiting Hinkley that day. Nevertheless, people

did sit down several times in front of both incoming and outgoing traffic, until they were moved by the police. No arrests were made, obviously because the police thought that the blockade had achieved enough publicity already.

The inquiry into Hinkley C is rapidly drawing to an end, yet despite its outcome, the final decision on the go ahead still rests with the Minister of Energy. Stop Hinkley Expansion (SHE) has to date spent thousands of pounds taking part in this inquiry, but has yet to organise or openly support a campaign of direct action and civil disobedience against Hinkley C. The organisers of the blockade feel strongly that the inquiry is little more than a public relations exercise, and that direct action is the only way to stop commissioning of Hinkley C. Many contracts have already been made for construction of the PWR station at Hinkley, just as they were during the Sizewell B

inquiry, and it seems that many establishment opposition groups have yet to learn from Sizewell and other experiences.

Direct action is obviously a tactic the state and many people are afraid of these days however, as the police presence and local reaction to this blockade indicated. Numerous unfounded rumours about the nature of the action were in wide circulation for weeks beforehand (one wonders who started them!), and many farmers blocked the entrances to fields nearby with farm machinery. Instead of an invasion of 'hippies' and 'troublemakers' however, all the locals were subjected to was a huge influx of police riot and control vans, and the relatively small but diverse group of 'well-behaved' demonstrators. Hopefully next time the rumours will get less credibility, and more of the locals will give support. Hopefully also, organisations such as SHE, with far better resources and finances than the BLAH organisers had, will at last see good reason to support, if not organise, such direct action themselves in the near future.



The letter from which extracts follow was sent out by Martin Foran from Frankland Prison in June.

'I am in a very bad way, and I'm being moved again. On Tuesday 13th June the duty prison doctor on seeing the mess my belly is in said that I should be in an outside hospital....Nothing has been done for the opening running sores on my belly, and now I'm being moved very soon to a London prison, after the Governor saying that I would not be moved. I'm unfit to walk, never mind be moved....Every single prisoner on my wing has signed his name to a petition because of the mess I am in, it's fifty times worse than when you saw it (June 3rd). As it is spreading, as my skin now smells it is quite clear to

everyone that I will die of gangrene....So now to enforce a cover up, they are moving me on again knowing that it is going to kill me....For me it is too late, think not of my suffering but that it must never happen again. Doctors in prison should be made to answer in court of law for the lack of treatment to prisoners, so should prison officers who kick and beat up sick prisoners....Stop it happening again.'

Mike Shankland, Martin Foran Supporters, BCM FORAN London WC1N 3XX

In the near future it is hoped that a factsheet can be produced, detailing how Martin was framed back in May 1985 for a robbery he did not commit.

DA readers may have noticed some sloppy editing in issue 59, particularly the article 'Caught Red-Handed'. The 'political indicators' referred to were in the Six Counties, not 'southern Ireland', and a chunk was missed out of the paragraph after the sub-heading 'denials'. The latter should have read as follows: 'A UVF cache was discovered later in the year, including the same types of weapons, and RPG7 rocket launchers, and in November 1988 an arms cache of Ulster Resistance was seized. Following the latter, the DUP press office announced that the party was no longer involved in Ulster Resistance and had cut its links months before. Paisley has done this before, when associates of his have been caught in illegal activities....'

SUPPORT DIRECT ACTION

The financial situation of DA is not a pretty sight. Basically, we need £1,500 very soon to pay our outstanding debts for printing. And that will just about help to keep us above water.

for a start, which will put us on a sound footing for the future.

DA is the national paper of the DAM, but much more importantly, it is produced to put ideas across to the wider working class. Far more important, and a hell of a lot of work.

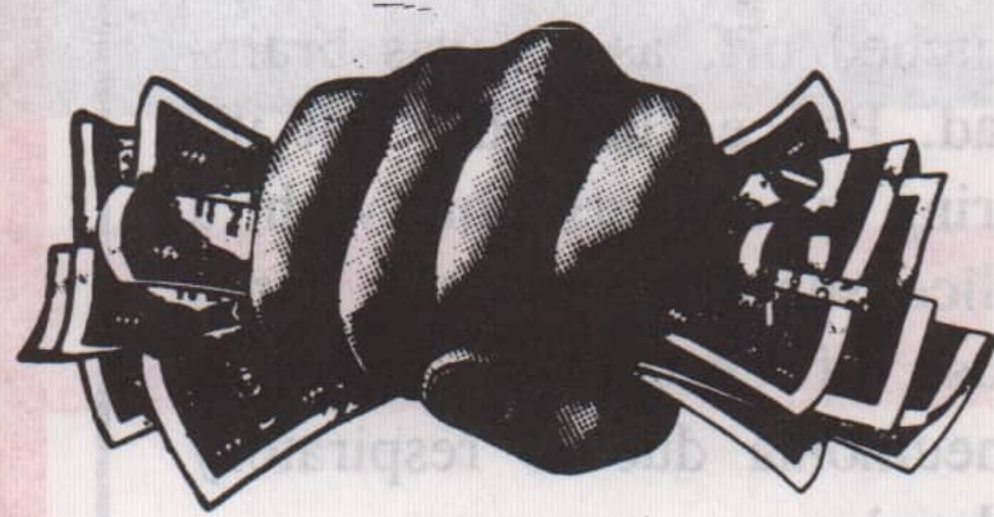


We're setting up a fighting fund to try and raise £2,000

If you want to see a regular paper which is an alternative to the reformists, leftists and

all the other hacks, then send a donation or take out a standing order, or do a benefit for us, or anything else you can think of. DA — *The Voice of Anarcho-Syndicalism* — for our class, not the party.

Apologies for not featuring donations this month. Donations received in June, July and August will be featured in DA 61.



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.
- Manchester DAM — Box DAM, Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester.
- Preston DAM — PO Box 172, Preston, Lancashire, PR1.
- Plymouth DAM — PO Box 105, Plymouth, Devon.

For contacts in Corby, Cornwall, Kettering, Swindon and Wolverhampton, write to DAM National Secretary, 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
- DAM Despatch Riders — c/o Deptford DAM.
- DAM Education Workers — c/o Manchester DAM.
- DAM Healthworkers — c/o Sheffield DAM
- DAM Postal Workers — c/o East London DAM.
- DAM Railworkers — c/o Manchester DAM.

NORTH EAST

- Doncaster DAM — PO Box 122, 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.
- For contacts in Hertfordshire, Plumstead, Reading, St. Albans, Salisbury and Southampton, write to South East DAM secretary, c/o Deptford DAM.

CONTACTS

- ASP (anarchist publishing group) — BCM Box 3714, London, WC1N 3XX.
- Black Flag (anarchist monthly) — BM Hurricane, London, WC1N 3XX.

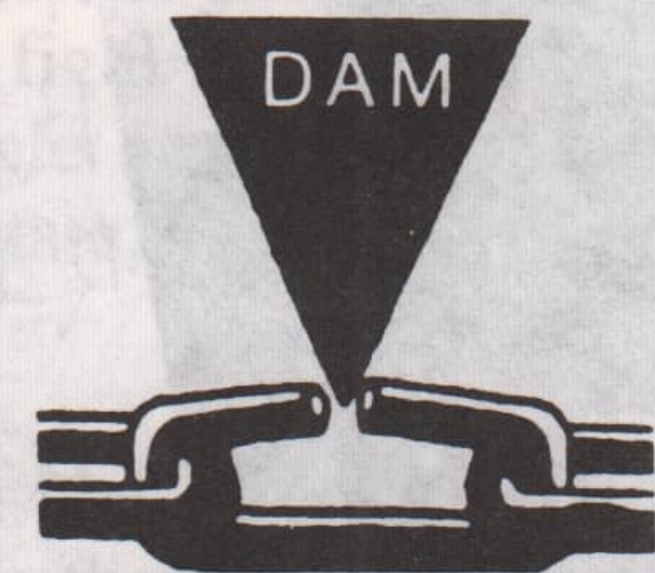
Anti-Nuclear Network — Box 30, 187 High Road, London, N22.

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.



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WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

I would like to find out more about the Direct Action Movement. Please send me information:

Send to DAM National Secretary, Second Floor, 27 Priory Road, Sheffield, S7 1LW.

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- Bolton DAM — Box DAM, Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester.
- Burnley DAM — 5 Hollin Hill, Burnley, Lancashire.
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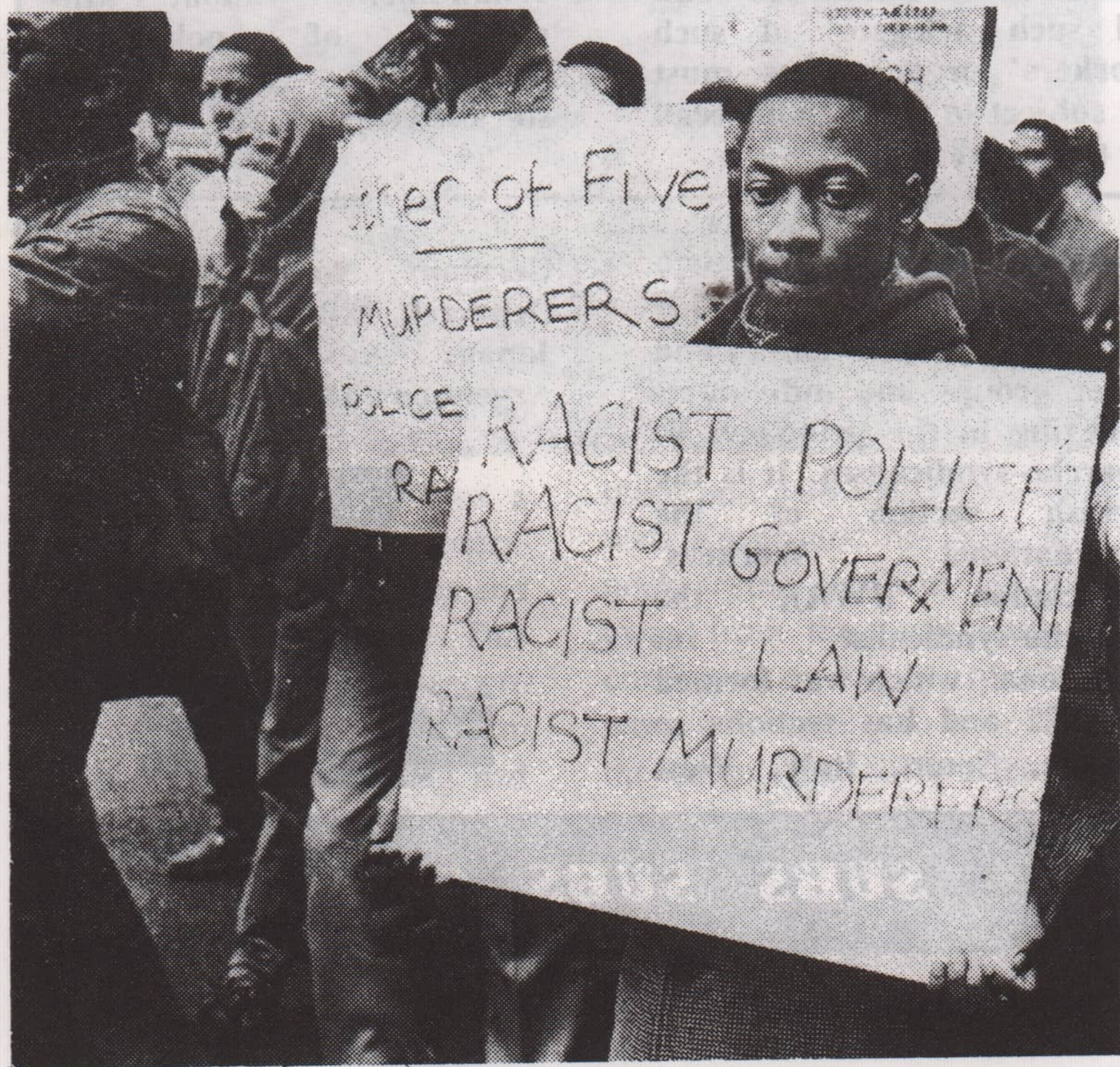
OTHER GROUPS

- Liverpool DAM — Box DAM, 82 Lark Lane, Aigburth, Liverpool 17.
- Nottingham DAM — Box 4, Hiziki, 15 Goosegate, Nottingham.

DIRECT ACTION

COP DEATH

As the new Stoke Newington police station, with 200 cells nears completion as a new base for the murderers of Colin Roach and Tunay Hassan, two more black men have died from injuries received in police custody in London. This brings the number of black people alone who fall into this category to 23 since 1971, and none of the deaths have been adequately explained by the police. They include Colin Roach, who died from a shotgun blast in the foyer of Stoke Newington police station in 1983, Cynthia Jarrett scared to death by Tottenham police during an illegal search of her home on Broadwater Farm Estate in 1985, and Clinton McCurbin who was suffocated by Wolverhampton police while being arrested on suspicion of using a stolen credit card.



22-year old Jamie Stewart, of Stamford Hill, North London, became a classic victim of police racism on Sunday 2nd July. He was arrested for not being able to prove ownership of his car — anyone black with a car must have stolen it, mustn't they? He was then subjected to a search in the street, which involved him being forced to drop his trousers, and taken to Holloway police station to check his identity. The police claim he struggled violently during another search, and he was handcuffed and left in a cell. At 1:30am it was discovered that his pulse had stopped and he was dead on arrival at hospital.

On the following Monday the Police held a press conference at which they claimed, before the post mortem, that Mr. Stewart had died from swallowing large amounts of cocaine, not his

'minor' injuries. It is reported that an independent pathologist has concluded that Mr. Stewart died from internal injuries. His family, and Hackney Community Defence Association want to know why:

- The police refused to believe Mr. Stewart owned the car, and arrested him on suspicion of a minor offence?
- What was his physical condition when he was handcuffed?
- What was his real cause of death?

Edwin Carr, from Camberwell, South London, was an insurance salesman. He was arrested for possession of cannabis after a police raid on his home on the evening of June 28th on suspicion that he was a drug dealer. He was taken to Carter Street police station, and an hour later to King's College Hospital in a coma. A week later

his life support machine was switched off, as he was brain-dead. Police claim he 'felt ill' during a conversation with a police surgeon, and the initial cause of death was given as 'pneumonia due to respiratory failure'.

Doubts are cast on this explanation, as a police surgeon's report found the cause of death to be an epileptic fit, followed by a heart attack. Mr. Carr had no previous history of epilepsy or heart disease, and both his friends and Southwark Black Workers' Unit are calling for a public inquiry into his death. The string of deaths, injuries and attacks on black people by the police lead to the inevitable conclusion that there is a systematic campaign of criminalisation and terrorism directed at the black community by the state, with the racist immigration controls to give it ideological justification.

OH SHIT!

It's amazing how much time and money states, and particularly their military appendages, will take in their efforts to produce more 'effective' machines to curb possible threats against them.

In the early 1980's the Pentagon announced, with much publicity, plans to produce a fully automated military machine that would not need anyone to control it — automatic crowd and riot control on wheels. The vehicle was based on very complex video and computer techniques that would enable it to analyse what was going on around it and take appropriate actions (what these 'actions' might be we can only guess). However, it appears that the machine in question was a bit screwed up when it came to brain power. It could only work at noon (when the sun is directly overhead) because it got too confused with shadows, and also because it was only capable of speeds of up to two (yes, two!) miles an hour because of the complicated circuitry controlling it.

Needless to say, the US government has now abandoned the vehicle, after ten years of research.

**National Poll Tax Meeting
Polytechnic Of Central London
September 3rd, 10am — 5pm
Organised jointly by
London and Avon Federation
of Anti-Poll Tax Groups**

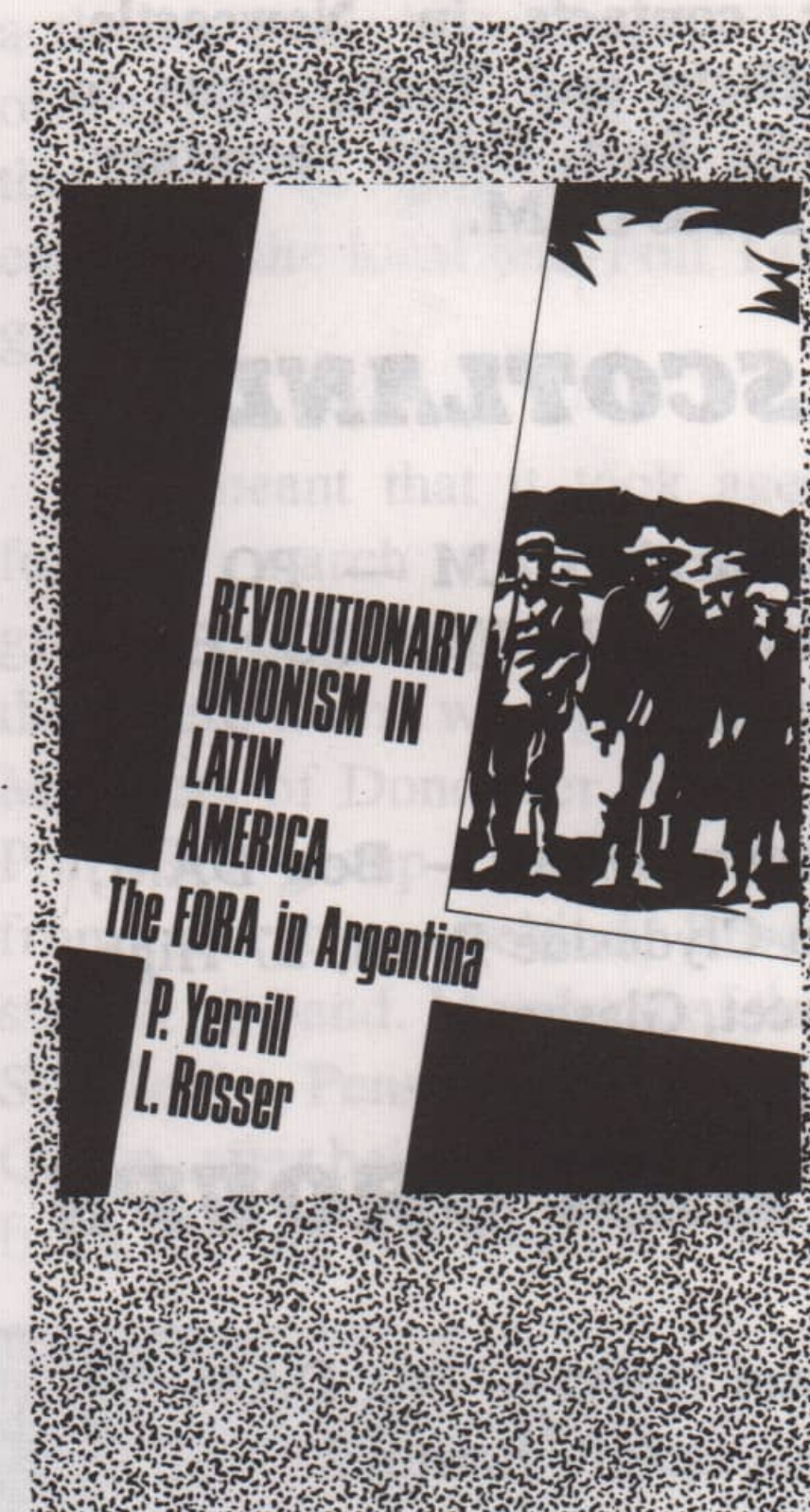
BLACK JACK

Jack Hermon, the ex-RUC Chief Constable who brought you 'shoot-to-kill', 'the super-grasses' and 'Stalkergate' has been insulted. It's true, it was in *The Guardian*. The allegation was made by Official Unionist MP Ken Maginnis, the ex-UDR Major, in the House of Commons, which means he is immune from slander. The Deputy Chair of the Northern Ireland Police Authority, a Catholic, is supposed to have called Hermon a 'black bastard' at a social function, and accused him of having 'kicked the fuck out of' Catholics during his ten years as RUC Chief. The lady in question is denying the allegation, which she has described as reprehensible.

Maginnis made the allegation to prove the point that if you appoint Catholics to positions of responsibility you can't expect them to behave like 'white

people' and back up the sectarian brutality required of the RUC in its 'excellent work'. *The Guardian* obviously referred to its research department to explain the use of the term 'black bastard' as Hermon's skin is white, and came up with the explanation that it is a 'derogatory term for a hard-line Protestant', ie. a sectarian insult. Scratch a liberal and their imperialism shows through, this definition bolsters the liberal view the 'The Troubles' are about religion, and the police are neutral, if a little over-enthusiastic. The real origin of the term 'black bastard' is Black and Tans, the popular name for the British terrorist force used to carry out reprisals against the Irish during the IRA's 'war of independence' in 1919-22. This is the same role as the RUC and British Army have today, a role Hermon played with dedication.

FORA



REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM IN
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The Federacion Obrera Regional Argentina is without doubt one of the greatest trade union movements that ever existed. It can stand equally side by side with the CNT of Spain and the USI of Italy. Founded in 1901, it was for the next thirty years the leading force in Latin America labour struggles. This is the first and so far only work in English about the FORA and the events leading up to its founding in Buenos Aires; the great labour struggles in the 1900s; La Semana Tragica in 1919 when in one week over 700 workers were killed and a further 50,000 were arrested; the rebellion in Patagonia which inspired the making of the film 'Patagonia Rebelde' (a film which forced the director to flee for his life, when the military took over in 1973). The pamphlet also describes the years of the 1930s, when selling an anarchist newspaper was a capital offence; the rise of the yellow unions under Peron (one, the UGT, is still today under control of his followers) and the re-emergence of the Argentinian libertarian movement in the 1980s. Published by ASP in spring 1987. £1.50