

Wildcat



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BOSSSES' WAR OR



CLASS



STRIKING SPANISH SHIPYARD WORKERS FIGHTING BACK LAST YEAR WITH BURNING BARRICADES, MASS ASSEMBLIES AND A HOME MADE BAZOOKA.

WAR

The Balance of Power

The January space shuttle accident was a great setback for America's war build-up, and a breathing space for humanity. Up till now, the US has been working itself up into the idea that its space programme would make its territory impenetrable by nuclear missiles, and that it could afford to risk world war. Reagan's allies in the Western bloc are finding the US umbrella less and less credible. The economic crisis is weakening the USA's ability to control its allies; although the advantages of an alliance with the USA still outweigh the disadvantages, France, Italy, West Germany and even Britain are more able to pursue an independent foreign policy than at any time since 1945.



The booming U.S. space industry

Shuttle Cock-up:- the best bang since the big one?

An example of this increasing independence is their refusal to toe the US line over Libya. Reagan imposed economic sanctions, provoked aerial stand-offs in the Mediterranean, and told US oilmen to leave Libya. Libyan leader Colonel Gadafy announced that Europeans would take their place, and made political capital out of the differences between the Allies.

US warmongering isn't about Libya or Palestinian terrorists. It's a test of the US peoples', and the West's and Russia's governments', preparedness for war. As in 1914 and 1939, war is capitalism's final solution to its economic crisis. But world war is not on the cards right now, since Russia is prepared to retreat, the Europeans are unwilling to fight for America, and the shuttle doesn't work. A more likely scenario is limited wars, involving the USA and powerless third world countries, accompanied by western rhetoric about democracy; the communist threat and terrorism.

From the people who brought you the Somme, Dresden and Hiroshima, talk of the terrorist menace is a bit rich. But however clumsy it seems at present, it is part of the ruling class's war drive. Our response to this political offensive is explained in the following leaflet, sent to us by comrades in the USA. It was distributed to sailors and marines during 12-16 October 85 when a large flotilla of US Navy ships was stationed in San Francisco. This annual event, known as Fleet Week, was redubbed 'Mutiny week' by our comrades.

THEY NEED WORLD WAR - WE NEED CLASS WAR

The past few years have seen a wholesale rewriting of the history of American involvement in Vietnam. From the official government versions of the events to extremely violent television shows and movies like The Deer Hunter and Rambo, the people who rule us are attempting to glamorize the slaughter of the Indochinese Wars as a prelude to the next war. It might be in the Phillipines or Southern Africa, Central America, Korea (or Lybia). It might be fought on five or ten fronts simultaneously with the Soviet Union. Or maybe they'll send us off to massacre the populations of Spain or Italy or Britain in the suppression of a revolutionary civil war in Western Europe.

The pressures of the world-wide economic crisis are pushing the rulers of the United States towards war. And the corporate executives, politicians and bureaucrats who will profit most from a war are preparing us for the war by a reproduction of extremely nationalistic values and hatred of people from other parts of the world, pushing everything from Saturday morning cartoons and toys for children that glamorize nuclear war and bacteriological weapons to the camouflage clothing that became fashionable shortly after the Iranian Hostage crisis of 1979-1980. The rulers of Russia are using similar propaganda tactics to get the Soviet working class lined up to fight and die for their bosses.

The ruling circles of the United States are preparing for a big war. A war for which they hope that the people in the Army and the Navy and the kids they'll draft will quietly and unquestioningly work, kill and die. And a part of their reason for wanting us to forget what really happened in Vietnam is so we'll forget what defeated their war efforts and the importance of the resistance of the enlisted men and women against the war effort.

Soldiers in revolt

The first major symptoms of the breakdown of respect for authority in the military emerged among the ground troops of the Army and the Marine Corps. For soldiers in the combat zone, a radical opposition to the war became an important part of avoiding horrible injury or death. From the more mild forms of political protest and disobedience of war orders the resistance among the ground troops grew into a massive and widespread "quasi-mutiny" by 1970 and 1971.

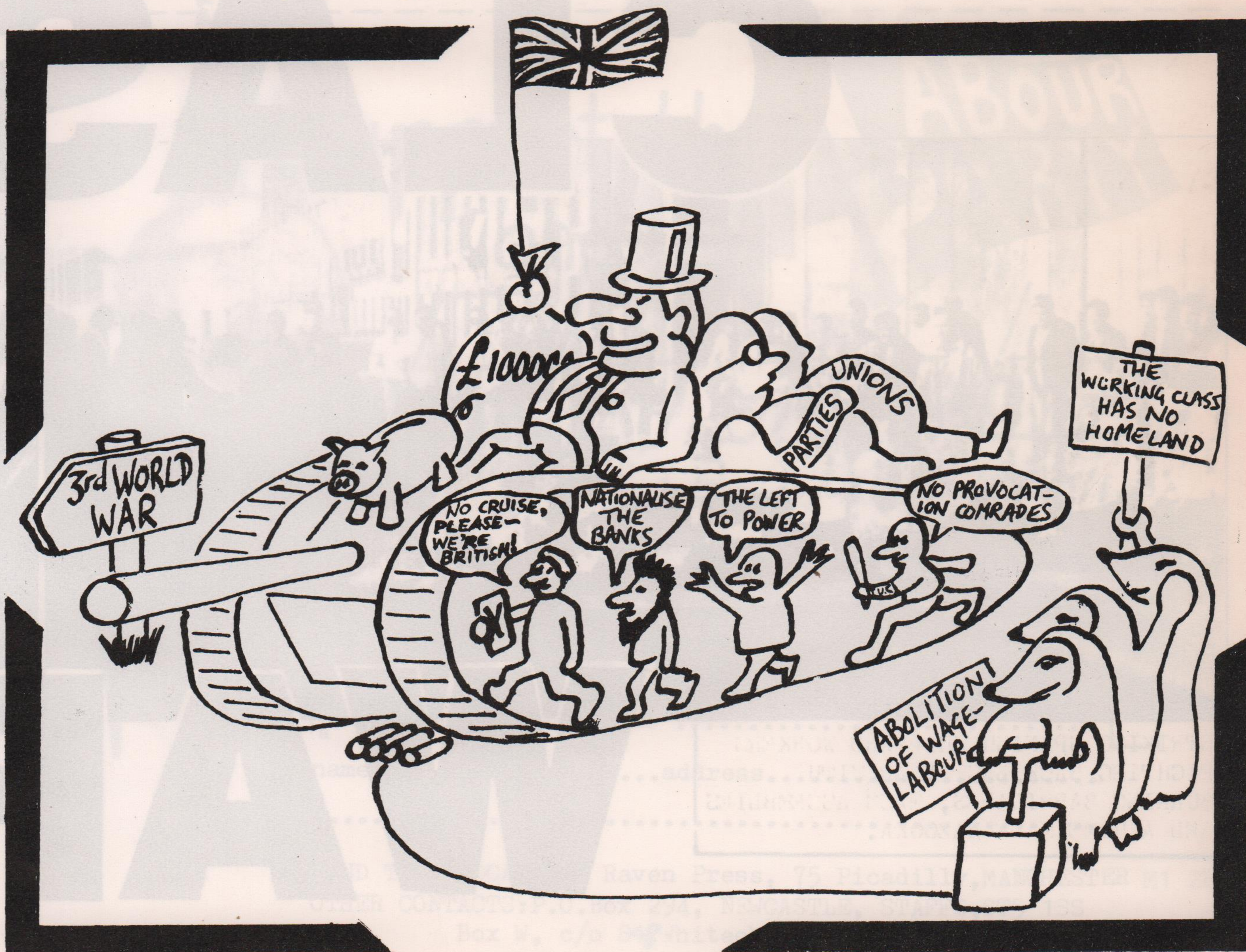
Soldiers would go on "search and avoid" missions, intentionally skirting, clashes with

the Vietnamese and often holding three day long pot parties instead of fighting. Commanders would be threatened with "fraggings" (ie being blown to pieces with grenades), forcing them to worry more about their own troops than about the "enemy". War equipment would be sabotaged and destroyed. By 1972 roughly three hundred anti-war and anti-military newspapers, with names like Harass the Brass, All Hands Abandon Ship and Star Spangled Bummer had been put out by enlisted people. Riots and anti-war demonstrations broke out on bases in Asia, Europe and in the United States. By the early 1970's the government had to begin pulling out of the ground war and switching to an "air war", largely because the ground troops who were supposed to do the fighting were paralyzing the world's mightiest military force by their sabotage and resistance.

"seasick sailors"

With the shifting over to an "air war" strategy, the Navy became an important source of resistance to the war. In response to the racism that prevailed inside the Navy, black and white sailors often rebelled together. The most significant of these rebellions took place on board the USS Constellation off of Southern California in November 1972. In response to a threat of less-than-honorable discharges against several black sailors, a group of over one hundred black and white sailors staged a day and a half long sit-in. After docking in San Diego, 132 sailors were allowed to ashore, and refused orders to re-board the ship several days later, staging a defiant dockside strike on the morning of November 9th - perhaps the largest act of mass defiance during the war. In spite of the seriousness of the rebellion, not one of the 132 sailors involved was arrested.

Sabotage was a very useful tactic. On May 26th, 1970, the USS Anderson was preparing to steam from San Diego into the Pacific for Vietnam. But someone had dropped nuts, bolts and chains down the main gear shaft. A major breakdown occurred, resulting in several thousand dollars worth of damage and a delay of several weeks. Several sailors were charged, but because of a lack of evidence the case was dismissed. With the escalation of Naval involvement in the war the level of sabotage grew. In July of 1972, within the space of three weeks, two of the Navy's aircraft carriers were put out of commission by sabotage. On July 10, a massive fire swept through the



Admiral's quarters and radar center of the USS Forestal, causing over seven million dollars in damage, and delaying the ships deployment for over two months. In late July, the USS Ranger was docked at Alameda. Just days before the ships scheduled departure for Vietnam, a paint-scraper and two twelve-inch bolts were inserted into the number four engine reduction gears causing nearly one million dollars damage and forcing a three and a half month delay in operations for extensive repairs. The sailor charged in the case was acquitted. In other cases, sailors tossed equipment over the sides of ships while at sea.

The House Armed Services Committee summed up the crisis of rebellion in the Navy:-
"The U.S. Navy is now confronted with pressures... which, if not controlled, will surely destroy its eviable tradition of discipline. Recent instances of sabotage, riot, willful disobedience of orders, and contempt for authority... are clear-cut symptoms of a dangerous deterioration of discipline."

That resistance and contempt for the military by enlisted people was often directly linked to civilian resistance to the war, and to the beginning of social unrest in the United States itself. Men who had learned to rebel inside the Navy, the Army, the Marine Corps and Air Force contributed to the beginnings of a wildcat workers movement in the auto factories of Michigan and Ohio, and the coalminer's strike in 1977.

History of Mutinies

Along with the uprisings in the inner cities of the United States, the rebellions in the armed forces were the American expression of a wave of world wide working class revolt, occurring in the same period as the General Strike in France in May 1968, the big strikes in Italy and Germany in 1969, the insurrection in Poland in 1970, a series of big strikes and riots in Brazil, Argentina, the General Strike in Shanghai, China against the state-capitalist dictatorship of Mao-Tse Tung.

The era we find ourselves in, an era of the re-emergence of working-class combativity on an international scale since the late 1960's, recalls in many ways the years following the first World War. World War I, like the Second World War, was a direct result of the competition between the major capitalist powers of the day for control of the world market. But unlike the Second World War, World War I did not end with the total defeat of one set of capitalist nations by their rivals. World War I wasn't ended by any liberal "peace movement", by middle class pacifists or 'disarmament negotiations', World War I was ended by



'ALL POWER TO THE WORKERS AND SOLDIERS COUNCILS'—
the central slogan of the revolutionary wave after World War I

the wholesale collapse of the armies and navies of major combatant nations like Russia and Germany in revolutionary mutiny, by mass strikes and insurrection across Russia and Central Europe. The soldiers and sailors of different nations, who were supposed to hate and murder one another, fraternized with each other, turned their guns against their officers and went home to fight for revolution in their own countries. There were mutinies in the British Navy and in the armies of the British colonial empire in Asia. Naval bases like Kronstadt in Russia and Kiel and Wilhelmshaven in Germany became important centers of revolutionary organizations and action. The French invasion of Revolutionary Russia was

crippled by the mutiny of the French fleet in the Black Sea, centered around the battleships France and the Jean Bart. A revolutionary in the French Navy was quoted at the time as saying, "The workers of Germany, Austria, and Hungary were fighting an armed struggle, and revolutionary strikes were raging in Italy, Spain, Switzerland, all over Europe and in faraway Argentina... the French soldiers and sailors saw before them the revolution which was rousing the masses of the people in France."



HUNGARY 1956: Revolutionaries fight the "Peoples State".

The horrible world wars of this century, the more than 40 "small" wars raging all over the world today, the threat of extermination of the human race and of all life on this planet, the butchering governments and death by starvation and malnutrition of one out of every six human beings aren't caused by "human nature". They are the direct result of capitalist society, the world of social relations based on the exchange of objects and activity through money, the system of wage labour and the market economy which finds its values created and reinforced by religion and the family, schools and the news media, organized sports, the sex industry, and the work ethic. Capitalist society was born in warfare and has only continued to exist in the 20th century through a terrible cycle of international war, reconstruction and economic collapse. The basis of power in capitalist society is the modern nation-state. The state is only the monopoly of armed violence by which a ruling class maintains its dictatorship over the rest of society in general and over the working class in particular. And the basis of the power of the state is the armed forces.

It is very clear that one of the most important functions of the NATO and Warsaw Pact forces is to prepare for the suppression of social unrest in Europe, the way the Polish army did in 1981. In the nations of Latin America, the only real purpose for the armed forces is the suppression of working class movements towards revolution, like that in Chile in 1973.

There are no "free societies" anywhere in the world today. No ruling class in history has ever given up its power and its existence without a fight, and the men who rule the world today won't be any exception. It may not be very long before the crisis of capitalist society forces into being an authentic anti-authoritarian rebellion against capitalism, in other parts of the world, and even here in the United States - one that goes beyond even the most radical moments of the workers movement in Poland in 1980 and 1981. At that point in time, the conscious revolutionary collapse of the army and navy will be necessary not just for the possibility of a successful social revolution, but for the very survival of humanity. The managers of capitalist society in the East Bloc and in the West find their system heading into the gravest crisis in the history of the capitalist world.

The response they are planning to "save" capitalism could lead to our total extinction as a species - unless the basis of their economy and power is collapsed from within by the working class men and women who they depend on.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

1. We are for the abolition of capitalism by armed revolution on a world scale. We are for the destruction of the money/market/wages system which exists in every country in the world, and its replacement by a classless society, in which goods are distributed according to needs and desires. Our lives will become continuous adventures of unrestrained enjoyment. We exist to actively participate in escalating the class war toward this end.
2. We are against all forms of capitalism; private, state and self-managed.
3. We are actively opposed to all ideologies which divide the working class, such as religion.
4. We are actively opposed to all divisions in the working class whereby one section oppresses another, such as sexism and racism.
5. We are against all expressions of nationalism, including national liberation movements such as the IRA.
6. The working class (wage labourers, the unemployed, housewives, etc.), is the revolutionary class; only its struggle can liberate humanity from scarcity, war and economic crisis. We support independent working class struggle, in all areas of life under capitalism, outside the control of the trade unions and all political parties.
7. We are against trade unions because they are part of the capitalist system, selling our labour power to the bosses, and sabotaging our struggles.
8. We totally oppose all capitalist parties, including the Labour Party and other organisations of the capitalist left. We are against participation in fronts with these organisations.
9. We are against participation in parliamentary elections; we are for the smashing of the capitalist state by the working class and the establishment of organisations of working class power.
10. We are against sectarianism, and support principled cooperation among revolutionaries.

New Text

We have just completed a detailed account of Wildcat's politics which will shortly be published in pamphlet form. If you want a copy when it comes out send 30p (inc. postage).

Ireland Conference

We are holding a one-day discussion meeting on the class struggle and nationalism in Ireland on February 22 in Leeds. If you wish to attend, please write to the Manchester address for details. IRA supporters and party recruiters need not attend.

A minority of Wildcat think we should support the teachers' strike. This is because they believe that teachers can become radicalised through their experience, of their struggle and the class struggle generally. They experience the same attacks as other workers. Their role is contradictory - part of what they do is socially useful, and they want to defend this positive role against the government's attempts to turn them into cops. The following article represents the views of the majority -

CLASS AGAINST CLASS!

The War In The Schools



Ten forty-three, in exactly TWO MINUTES I'll ring the FIRST BELL and they'll all stand still! All that is, except your potential DEVIATE! Your FLEDGLING REBEL! Your incipient BOAT-ROCKER! THEY'LL try to move all right! THEY'LL have to learn the hard way not to move!

Bottom of the Class Struggle

As the teachers strike limps pathetically into its second year, the issues at stake have become progressively clearer. In the same period, a wave of strikes, disruption and sabotage by school students has swept through the country revealing to many for the first time the reality of life in the Education system and giving clear perspectives on the role of teachers within that system that revolutionaries should not be slow to understand or adopt.

"...Just Another Brick in the Wall"

On the surface, the teachers strike may appear a legitimate struggle as a section of the working class fights for "better" working conditions, less hours and more money, but the use by the teachers of recent incidents in the schools as evidence that their demands must be met so that they can return to normal working with higher morale and a greater ability to enforce discipline has revealed the fundamental paradox of their position. In their normal working lives their job is to subjugate, control and indoctrinate the young working class to ensure that their entry into adult society is as part of a 'controllable' mass leaving school to be obedient unquestioning wage slaves or submissively join the ranks of the unemployed.

Their strike, far from representing a break with the normality of life under capitalism with the potential of radicalising them as workers, is instead a strike to enable them to return to this 'normal' working life better motivated and better equipped to fulfill their repressive function more efficiently than before.



So I'll SCREAM at 'em and take their NAMES and give them FIVE DETENTIONS and EXTRA HOMEWORK! NEXT TIME they won't move after the first bell! Because when they've learned not to question the FIRST BELL, they'll learn not to question their TEXTS! Their TEACHERS! Their COURSES! EXAMINATIONS!

Dregs In, Teachers Out!

No single incident has highlighted this fact more than the dispute at Poundswick when teachers in Manchester struck to assert the right not to teach pupils allegedly responsible for daubing insulting slogans on school walls. It comes as no surprise to us that this dispute brought more teachers out into the streets than at any other stage during the strike.

Whilst we in no way support the use of racist graffiti against teachers, this is not the real issue. The central slogans of 'Save Our Standards' and 'Dregs Out, Teachers in' were not merely a reactionary backlash against those pupils involved but highlights what is at the heart of the teachers dispute, mobilising them behind their common and most fundamental interest - greater control in the class room.

Soft Cops



To put it bluntly, teachers are soft cops. Their job is to enforce capitalist discipline and instill values alien to the interests of the working class. They may not have truncheons, but an adult with power over a 5 year old doesn't need one, and as they get older the soft cop has the backing of not only the family but the Social Services, police, courts and borstal. The curriculum always only allows the expression of ideas that serve the interests of our rulers. This would not change if 'radical' teachers gained control of it since to stay teachers, they must continue to obey their masters. And to ensure this, they require order and submission from pupils. It is here that the real conflict lies.



Not with the soft cops - but AGAINST them....

School students take to the streets in Britain's first national school strike.



They'll grow up to accept TAXES! HOUSING DEVELOPMENT! INSURANCE! WARI MEN ON THE MOON! BOOZE! LAWS! POLITICAL SPEECHES! PARKING METERS! TELEVISION! FUNERALS! Non-movement after the first bell is the backbone of Western Civilisation!

We Don't Need No "Education"

Resistance to the compulsory indoctrination of schooling has been growing as more and more young people become aware of the futility and irrelevance of most things they are taught. The threat of bad reports, no qualifications and no job mean little to those who see members of their families languishing in poverty on the dole with the knowledge that a similar fate await them: And as the government seeks to extend unpaid YTS in the form of Technical and Vocational Initiative (TVI) into the schools the young working class increasingly understand that they have nothing to lose by fighting back.

Top of the Class

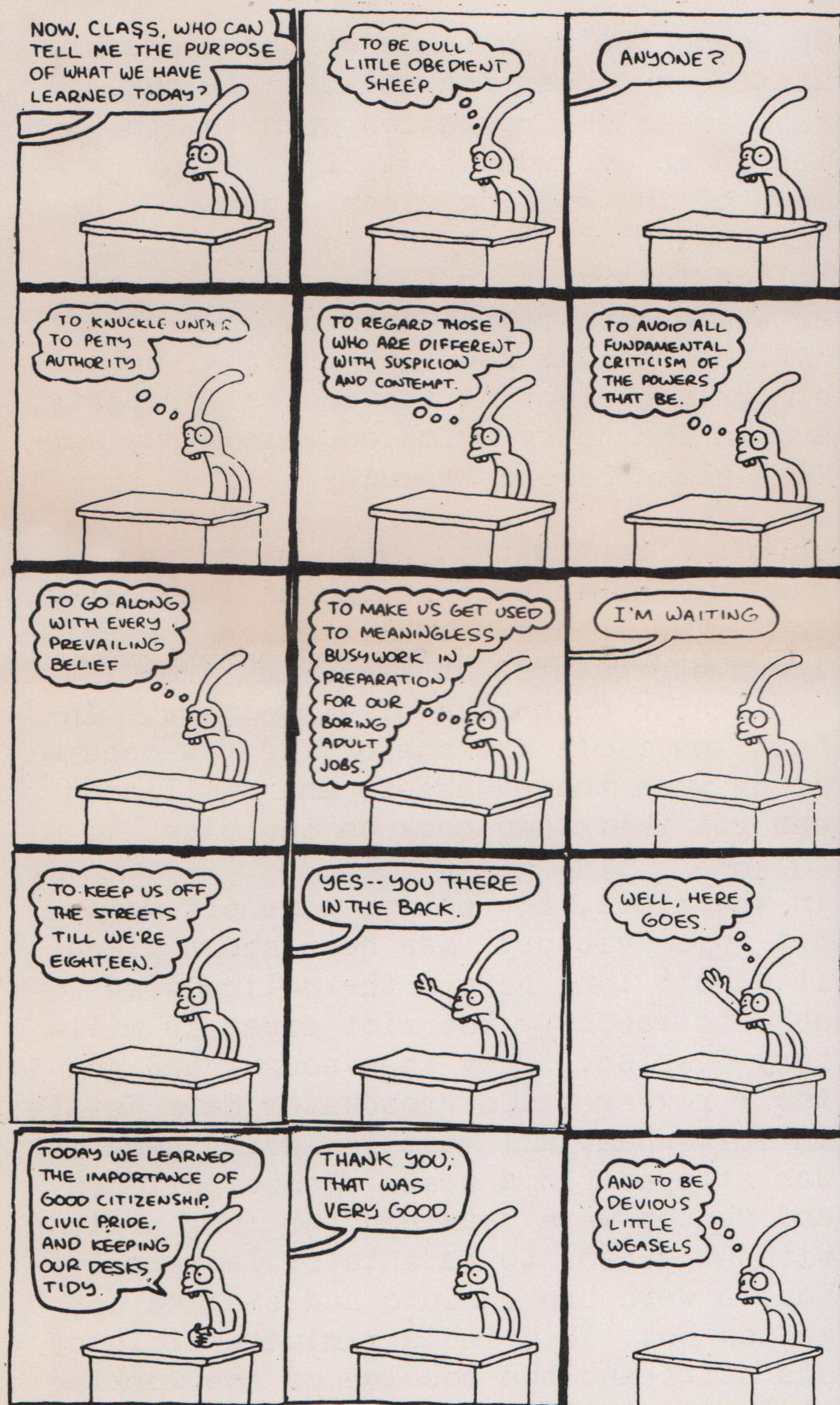
In early '85 while the teachers were taking half days off or depriving kids of school lunches, students in S. Yorkshire (most notably in Doncaster and Sheffield) struck, rioted and vandalised their schools first in support of the miners and then in solidarity with their comrades who were victimised as a result. Larger struggles of this kind took place soon afterwards in Bradford, Glasgow and Southampton culminating in the walkout of 200,000 school students on April 25th last year.

Since then, as any teacher will know, strikes and disruptions have spread to almost all major cities despite the massive press black outs. The kids are fighting against school rules, uniforms, harrasment and the indoctrination of schooling itself.

Taming of the Screw?

Leftists such as Militant, the SWP etc., call on school students to support the demands of the teachers and help them win their strike. We say simply that we would no more call on school kids to support their teachers than we would call on Prisoners to support their Screws! There are those in the teaching profession who regard themselves as "radical" and the example has been cited of Hackney teachers voting to keep police out of schools to protect black youth from harrasment after the riots. This does not indicate to us a 'rejection' of their role as soft cops, but merely a determination to preserve that role against outside interference.

There is no such thing as a "radical" teacher! So long as capitalism exists we will have no education, simply the compulsory indoctrination of schooling.



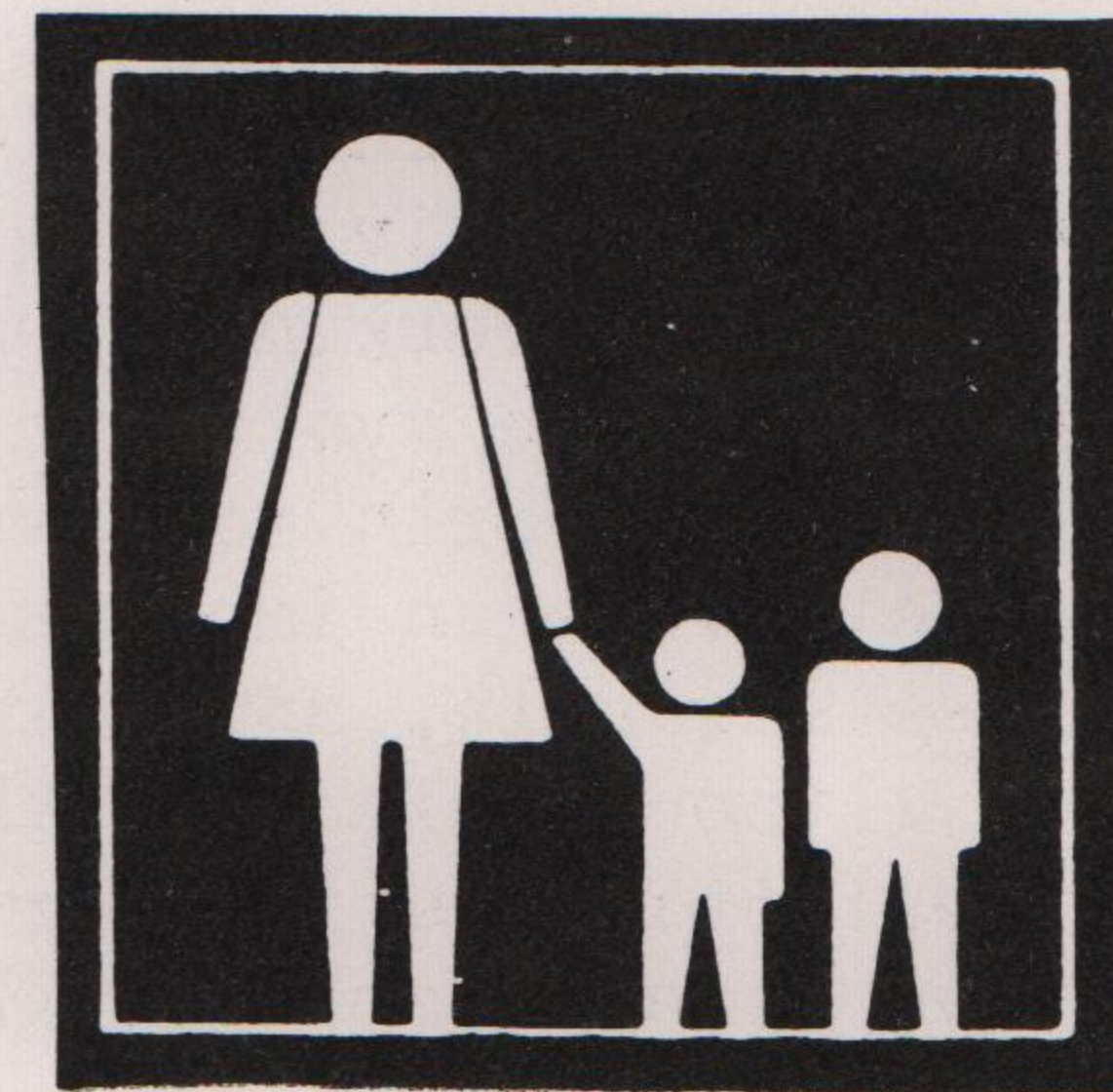
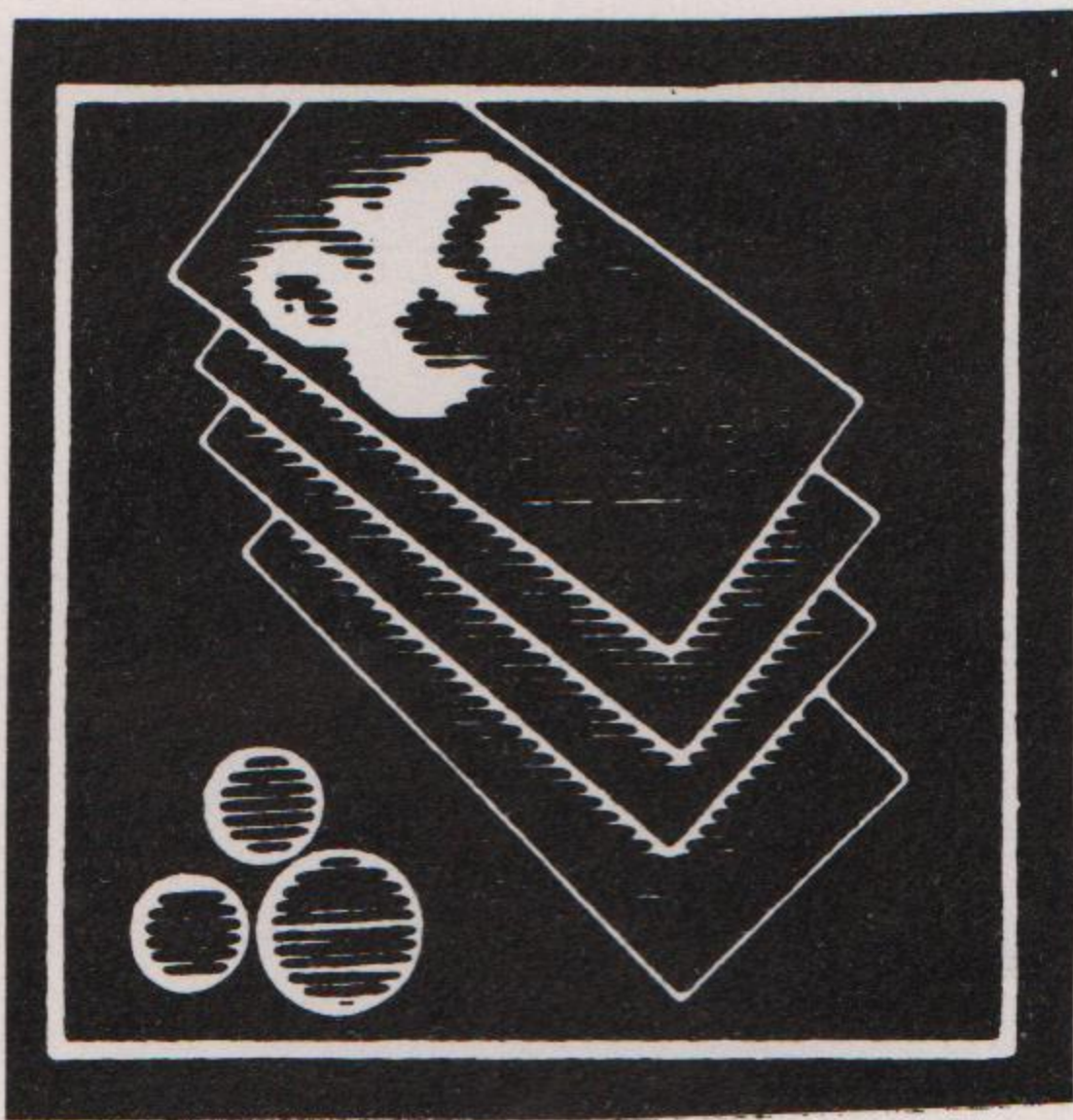
Nothing to Lose but their Canes

No demands made by teachers as teachers can be of the remotest benefit or interest to those who are daily subject to their control. Until teachers reject their role and put their energies behind the struggles of the young working class, we can only say that it is better that they are out on strike and out of school than back at work and in it.

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Social Insecurity

The social security 'reforms' announced at the end of last year continue the government's policy of attacking the poorest sections of society. Under these reforms all claimants will have to pay at least 20% of their rates bill. The unemployed in high-rated cities will be badly hit by this. Pensioners who own their own homes will be worst hit of all. Over 2 million OAPs will have less money as a result, including 200,000 people over 80. As Mrs. Thatcher says, "there have to be some losers".



Unemployed young people will not receive the full "adult" benefit until they are 25. Under 25's will get £24 compared to the full rate of £30. This is part of the Tories' overall plan to force down young peoples' wages. The YTS scheme sets the "market rate" for their pay, since as long as these schemes are available, no employer in their senses pays a young person anything more. So with wage levels increasingly below benefits it makes sense for the government to cut young peoples' benefits to "give them the incentive to work". Without the possibility of a living wage of their own, young people can only survive by living with their parents.

The result of the Tories' policy fits in with Thatchers' concern for a return to "Victorian family values". In reality the overcrowding and stress that will result will have dire consequences. A little known fact about one of the recent "baby battering" cases was that the parents concerned and their child were sharing a three-bed-roomed flat with four other adult relatives.

All in all poor urban families can expect their living conditions to get much worse. Working class young people who get to university won't be entitled to benefits above their grant.

Thus the Tories are planning to step up the attack on the poor on many fronts: income, housing and education. These changes are not due to be introduced until 1987 or 1988; after the election. The Labour Party's "alternative" is a massive extension of the YTS slave labour scheme - stuff that.

Increasing poverty means that more people than ever are having no option but to lie, fiddle, shoplift and moonlight their way to a better income... alongside those who have never had any qualms about doing this. When such struggles as these take on a more collective and conscious form, resistance against state snoopers will begin to merge with the fight against people like local grasses and those who steal from the poor.

SPORTS ~~WILDCAT~~ GUARDIAN

Frickley Athletic F.C. from the Yorkshire pit village of S.Elmsall are a Gola League side whose small home crowds don't usually require the presence of the massed ranks of pigs invariably seen at bigger matches. But when Frickley were drawn to play at home against West Midlands side Halesowen Town in the first round of the F.A. Cup on 16th Nov., the police thought they'd better attend, anticipating clashes between the home crowd and visiting fans. Imagine the pigs' surprise and horror, then, when the Frickley followers completely ignored the Halesowen supporters and launched a ferocious attack against the boys in blue!

A week later, a Northern Counties East League cup-tie played on the ground of Grimethorpe Miners' Welfare F.C. had to be abandoned at half-time after a crowd riot. The visiting team from Blidworth Miners' Welfare of Mansfield, Notts., were attacked by home fans chanting "Scabs, scabs!", and then besieged in their dressing room for 50 mins. until rescued by an 80-strong police squad.

Still on football, an F.A. Trophy match between Southport and Scarborough on 27. Jan. was interrupted when 300 youths ran onto the pitch chanting the name of Raymond Moran, a 19-year-old from Southport who had died in police custody four days earlier. The pitch invasion was followed by a running battle between the youths and police outside the ground. This was the third successive night of anti-police rioting in Southport following Ray Moran's death.

RIOT IN STAINFORTH

In Stainforth, W.Yorks., on the night of the 25th of January, a Saturday, police tried to arrest a 15-year old outside a village pub. Bad move! People poured out of the boozier, surrounding the cops and forcing them to hide in their cars until reinforcements arrived. More than 200 men and youths were in on it, damaging 5 police cars and injuring 2 cops. The pit village of Stainforth was among the most militant in the strike, and they seem to be keeping up the traditions.

REACTIONS TO THE RIOTS

The article on the riots in Tottenham, Brixton and Handsworth in the last issue of Wildcat generated more discussion and got us more letters than any previous article; some for, some against.

Whatever faults the article had it reflected our own initial feelings of excitement on receiving the news that black and white working class people were fighting the system that oppresses us all. It is worth reiterating that these riots were an important part of the class struggle, and were not race riots. Although black youth generally took the initiative in starting the riots, white and Asian people fought alongside them.

"We Want Everything"

The general background to the riots is one of concentrated large scale unemployment, hard, low paid work, poor housing and declining social services. In a word POVERTY with all that implies in material deprivation and boredom. All this contrasted with shops and stores bulging with goodies of all sorts and adverts bombarding us with the news that the "good life" can be bought by anyone with money in their pocket. An abundance of wealth just beyond reach - and the police are there to stop us getting our hands on it. As a Brixton rioter shouted to a policeman "We want the goods, we want power, we want everything".

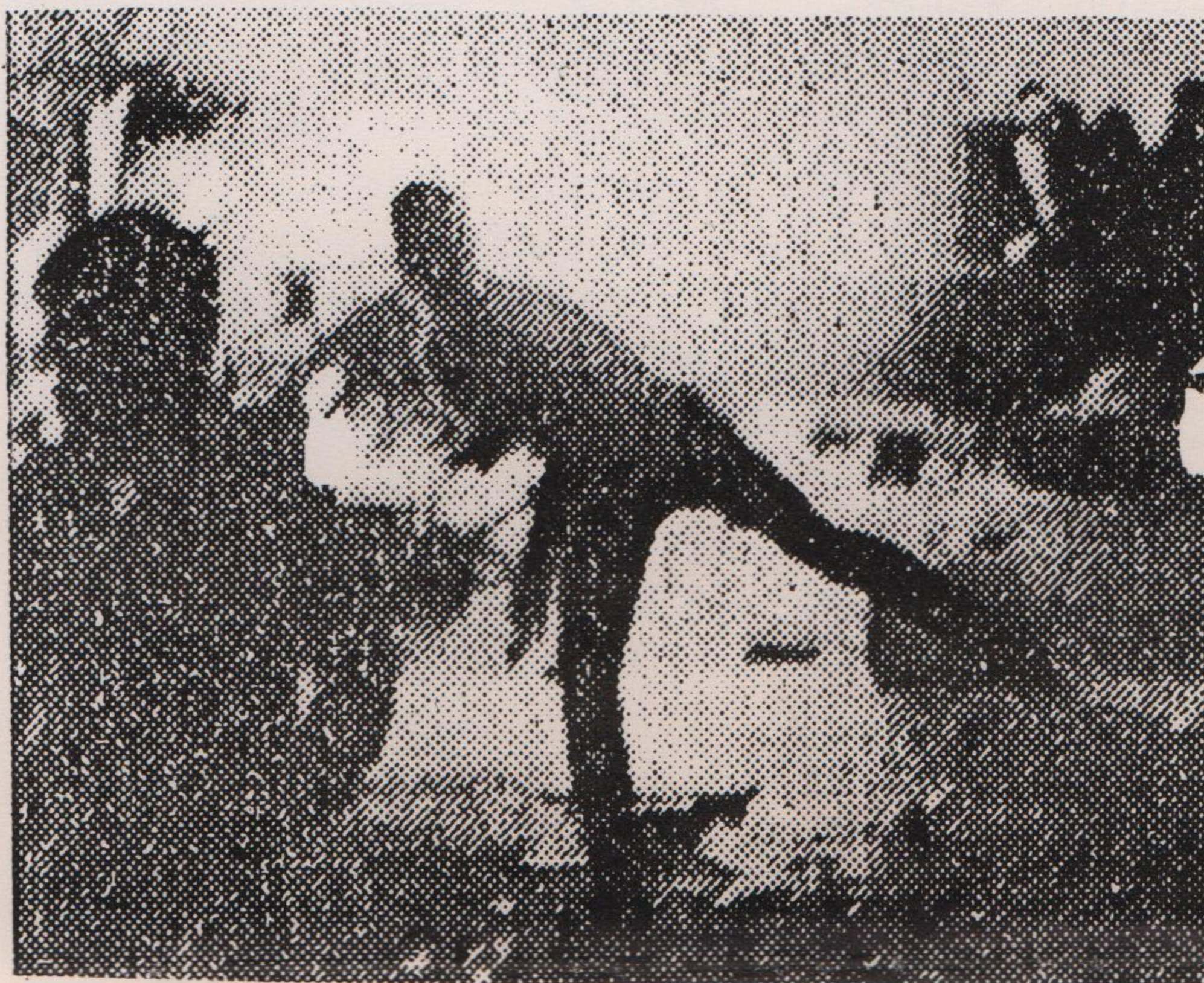
Racism

Superimposed on this poverty affecting black and white alike is racism. Racism has deep roots in the colonial history of Britain. During boom times, the bosses brought in black workers from the ex-colonies to do the worst jobs. During crises, they encourage racial divisions amongst us to keep us fighting each other rather than them. Black workers are the first to suffer the effects of the crisis. White workers are encouraged to see unemployment and poverty as a race problem, and black responses to this as a threat to whites' relative wealth and security.

This may have worked for a while. But impoverishment is affecting more and more sections of the working class and it is becoming more difficult for the bosses to blame blacks, youth or any other section for the crisis of their system; wider sections are beginning to join the fight back.

This process can be seen in microcosm in the riots themselves. Certainly, they are not yet "community" riots to the same extent as those in S. Africa. The motor force has been black youth. But large numbers of white people have been arrested in the recent riots. It is essential that more white working class people get involved, to broaden the struggle and break down capitalism's racist divisions. This requires courage from whites, and acceptance from blacks. As first hand accounts demonstrate, children and older people have become involved :

"And in the middle of it all the people, familiar faces that I know well, neighbours, children, youths, all intent on building barricades, all to cover the other comrades who, in the shops along the street were organising the most joyful acts of looting that I have ever seen. For them and for us all it was a long anticipated carnival." (From COUNTER INFORMATION 8).



International Connections

The riots imitated and showed solidarity with the struggles in S. Africa. As one Tottenham insurgent said : "Its a revolution. First South Africa, then Handsworth and Brixton, now here".

Well its not a revolution, but it is part of a militant world-wide response to the effects of the crisis. In addition to the poorer countries, recent riots in Japan and across West Germany signal their appearance as a permanent feature of the struggle in the advanced countries.

"No-Go Areas"

Even the nation-wide riots in Britain in

1981 didn't achieve much. But the rioters learn from their struggles. If future uprisings are more widespread and sustained, and are backed up by better community organisation, they may lead to no-go areas like the famous example of "Free Derry" in Northern Ireland, which excluded the police and army for months and ran itself. The most important function of a no-go area would be to provide a breathing-space for extending the struggle.

It was simplistic for us to say strikes and riots are the road to revolution. The possibility of struggles crossing the barriers of workplace and community are at present remote. But we must prepare for such united struggles. Nationwide riots in combination with large-scale industrial disputes would do much to undermine the power and credibility of capitalism.

Police Racism & Violence

Of course the main focus of the rioters' attacks has been the police. In the riot areas confrontation with the police is an everyday fact of life for much of the working class - police harassment of youth on the streets, police intervention in hassles with other state authorities such as housing offices, social security offices, schools etc., in protecting the bosses' property, and in the petty crime on which many working class people depend.

That confrontation is given a sharper edge by the endemic racism of the police. The injuries inflicted on the police are presented as resulting from inexplicable outbreaks of wickedness. In fact the riots are one of the few occasions when the powerless and humiliated can get their own back on the pigs.

In the riots, the police came off worse. But this "victory" has been short lived. It wasn't long before the police were able to reoccupy the riot areas in military fashion. They then sought and got their revenge. On Broadwater Farm Estate in Tottenham, all mail including benefits was stopped for a week. Schoolchildren and youths were detained for long periods without access to parents or lawyers. Houses were broken into and smashed up, and so on. This indiscriminate violence has stiffened the resolve of the working class community in defence of the victims - next time there'll be more people on the barricades.

- They "lost" £500 of contributions to the strikers' hardship fund. It got mysteriously "held up in the system".

Then, in November last year they brought forward a planned meeting. It was the first time they discussed the strike since it began, 14 months before. Strikers knew the union's aim was to crush the struggle. The meeting resulted in a deal offering nothing - simply the possibility of jobs elsewhere for the cleaners. When union officials presented this to the strikers they got a violent reception and were told in no uncertain terms what to do with their deal.

If the strikers had had this attitude at the start, their struggle could have been freed from the fatal stranglehold of the unions.

Nope to NUPE

Domestic workers at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge are out on strike over privatisation and the attacks on their jobs, pay and conditions. Through determination and militancy they have kept their struggle alive for over a year. Their trade union officials in NUPE have been determined too. Determined to oppose strikers' actions.

- In October last year, officials spoke against a resolution to buy

the strikers a minibus, saying it was "against the rule book". Despite a unanimous vote by members in favour, they have not bought it.

- They have started rumours that the strike was defeated, just in case other workers were getting involved.

- They sabotaged a meeting in Doncaster by confiscating the posters and leaflets advertising it and telling local members the strike was over.

'Our employees are our treasure'

- Notice on Toyota assembly line

JAPANESE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES AND WHAT THEY MEAN FOR WESTERN WORKERS.

Each Japanese worker produces 2 - 3 times as much as his or her counterpart in America or Western Europe. And the Japanese lead is increasing. For the past 3 years Japanese industrial productivity has been up by 12% over the previous year, compared to a tiny 1.8% rise in the US, with Europe somewhere in between.

Japanese industry not only produces more, faster, cheaper. The quality is better, the range of products is wider, delivery time are shorter. No wonder British businessmen are hoping to boost their profits by 'going Japanese'.

Nissan's recent advertising campaign claims that running industry Japanese style is good for the workers as well. With everyone involved in 'decision making' the boss mucking in and getting his hands dirty, work is fun and there's no need for strikes.

Two British unions, the electricians (EETPU) and engineers (AUEW) have taken the lead in signing closed-shop no-strike deals with Japanese companies. Their promotional literature spells out the benefits for management:

"Our progressive approach is reflected in agreement with companies like Toshiba, Sanyo, Hitachi, and Optical Fibres which have attracted widespread expert attention and the approval of objective observers and commentators. They eliminate strikes through binding arbitration and provide a radical transformation of traditional workplace job boundaries."

(Extract from 'The Union of Your Future' EETPU brochure).

Among the "objective observers" who have spoken for the EETPU is Norman Tebbit. Many workers will think: what's good news for Norman Tebbit must be bad news for us - and they'd be dead right.



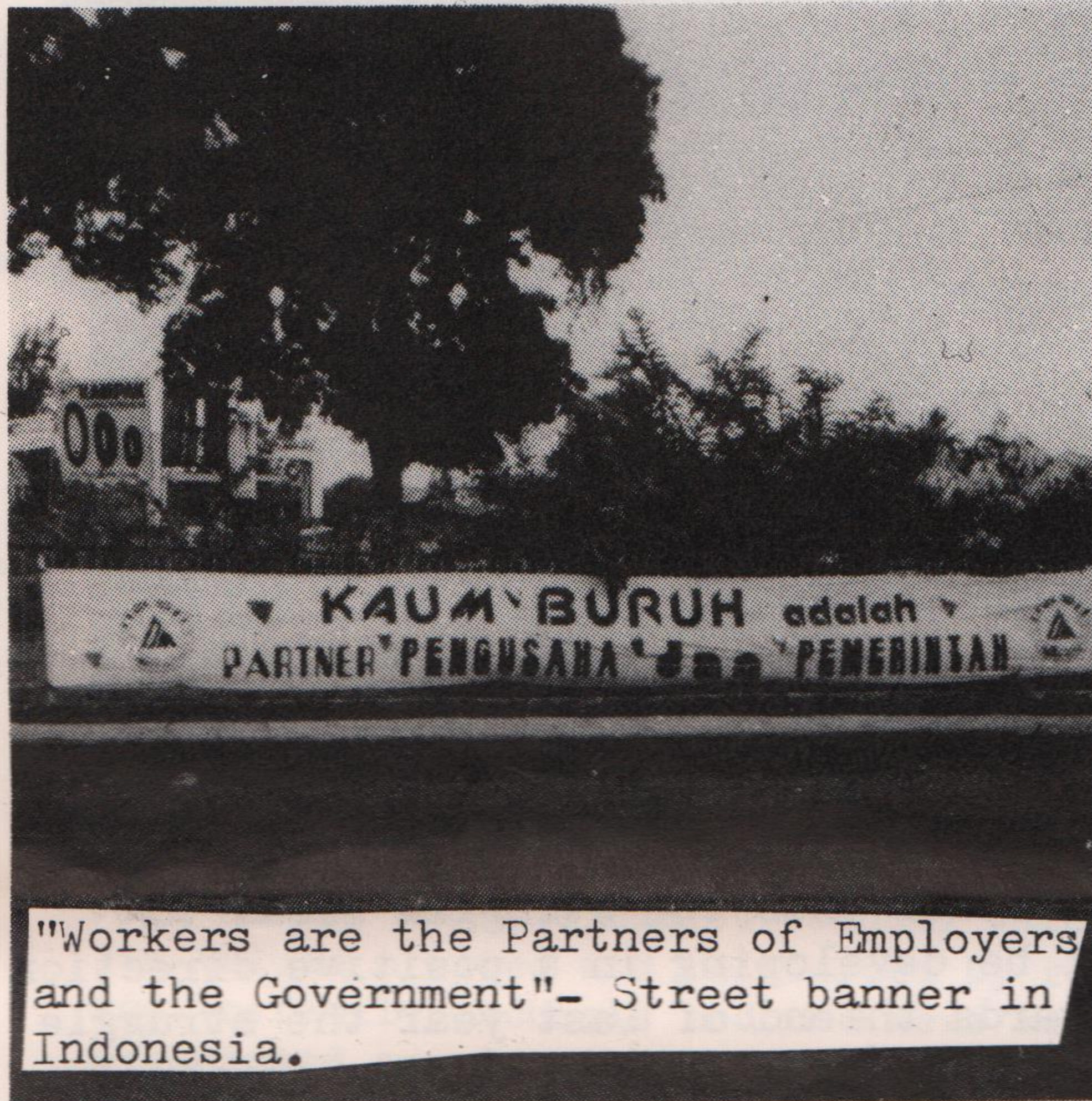
The Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit, MP, (Former Secretary of State for Industry, present Chairman of the Conservative Party).

"The EETPU not only accepts technological change, but is tackling the problems that can arise, including technical skills training. I see this as a piece with the Union's progressive approach on the shopfloor and elsewhere."

British workers thinking of applying for a job at Nissan should read Japan in the Passing Lane, by Satoshi Kamata, first. This book describes conditions in the Toyota factory in Japan where the author worked on an assembly line. He tells us plenty of stories about speed-ups, injuries, and the rest of the horrors of assembly-line work. He exposes the lies

about Japanese companies giving jobs for life in return for no strikes. Many of Toyota's employees are seasonal workers from the countryside, on six month contracts. They live in "Toyota City", a vast area of dormitories surrounding factories, policed by Toyota's private security staff. The many injured workers are simply sacked.

Why do Japanese workers put up with such appalling working conditions? One answer is to be found in the traditions of Japanese culture - above all the respect for authority inherited from feudalism, which survived well into the 20th century.



"Workers are the Partners of Employers and the Government"- Street banner in Indonesia.

The other reason is the system of workers participation and workplace democracy which makes workers feel part of their company and identify with its success. Kamata's book described how Toyota workers are drawn into the running of the plant.

Discussions with foremen and management are the norm, and meetings are frequently held to allow workers to let off steam. More importantly, they feel part of the company, helping the company squeeze profit out of their own labour. This increases their responsibility - workers feel responsible for their work.

"If things go wrong, the line stops. That means overtime. So we do our job in a hell of a hurry to keep our fellow workers from suffering. That is how Toyota raises output."

"Overtime" here means working after hours without pay. Workers cooperate with each other and management to raise the pace of production.

"Tied to the conveyor belts, everyone works desperately, hoping that he is not a burden to others. This is the 'relationship of a community bound together by a common fate'"

Kanban

The Toyota, or kanban, system of production makes Henry Ford look like Mary Poppins. Each part of the factory only demands components to be produced when they're needed. When they're not needed, machines stand idle. But the workers don't. Management won't introduce the "kanban" system until they are sure that workers have accepted the need to cross

skill lines; when Fred's machine is idle, he helps Dick. When a worker in a Japanese factory can't do something for some reason, he illuminates a light called an "Andon" and the other workers rush over to help.

"Before, workers stood in front of conveyors; now they move around from one part to another, pushing mobile work desks with wheels".

Kamata's book is full of anecdotes illustrating how deep is the love felt by many Japanese workers for their company. One worker says:-

"Even though it feels wonderful to leave the line for just 5 minutes, I feel strangely guilty when I do".

Another worker apologises to his section manager for accidentally cutting his own finger off.

Kanban work here?

It might seem far fetched to think that this nightmarish vision could happen in Britain. But many British companies - as well as Japanese companies in Britain - have already started experimenting with 'worker participation', Japanese style. They have the open or secret support of some of the most powerful trade unions. The 'realists' among British union leaders see their future role in the 'new order' as personnel managers. They openly boast that their role is to stop strikes and drop any pretense of defending the interests of the workforce.

Kamata's book gives many examples of how Japanese unions act openly as agents of the bosses. In the long run the positive result of this will hopefully be to convince workers - in Britain and Japan - of the need to control their own struggles and reject the authority of the unions.

Japanese management techniques will not halt Britain's industrial decline. They will not mean less unemployment... increased productivity will mean more layoffs. But they will make life very unpleasant and dangerous for many British workers.

As this newspaper article shows, not all Japanese workers are exploited in modern high-tech factories with management methods to match....

Tokyo's mobsters spark rioting

From our Correspondent in Tokyo

SANYA, one of the capital's most deprived areas, was tense yesterday after riots broke out earlier this week when a crowd of more than 500 people attacked a police box with Molotov cocktails. Cars and property were damaged, and several people were reported to have been injured in the melee.

Police, expecting more clashes, were patrolling the streets yesterday. An unknown number of arrests were made during the riot, which broke out on Monday.

The rioting was sparked by the death of an activist who was trying to improve conditions for day labourers in the Sanya slum. Few of the area's 8,000 inhabitants are in regular employment and provide a reservoir of cheap labour for building firms who use gangsters to

recruit and deliver men to construction sites.

Kyoichi Yamaoka, the man killed on Monday, belonged to a leftwing group struggling to break the gangsters' hold on Sanya workers. The underworld takes a commission on every worker supplied, and then siphons off their wages by encouraging them to gamble.

Police investigators suspect that Mr Yamaoka, aged 45, was killed by a gangster organisation engaged in job placement.

The feud between leftwing activists and gangsters goes back to the late 1970s, but Sanya has seen frequent disturbances which occur mostly in the hot summer when men congregate in the streets to escape the heat of their "dosshouse" cubicles. One year ago a film director, Mr Mitsuo Sato, was killed by gangsters while shooting a documentary on Sanya's grim conditions.

Police said that this week's rioting, when hundreds of men rampaged, was the most serious in recent months.

The country enjoys a reputation for having successfully tackled crime and other social evils, and for eliminating extreme poverty. Unemployment hit 2.9 per cent in November - low in comparison to Europe, but high by Japanese standards. Hidden unemployment is believed to be considerable.

SOUTH AFRICA - barricades to victory

The class war in South Africa refuses to go away despite the enormous obstacles in its path.

The most obvious of these is that the state still possesses an almost total monopoly of arms. It's not just a question of unarmed blacks facing the "security forces", most white S. Africans are armed to the teeth and can be easily mobilised by the state should they be needed. They don't lack motivation either. Unlike the white capitalists, who are quite prepared to ditch most of the apartheid set-up to save capitalism in S.A., the mass of working class and middle class whites see any form of black advancement as an immediate threat to their enormous privileges (a white mining foreman, for example, can receive 20 times the wage of a black miner). The faction of the white ruling class which controls the state is not going to risk losing; white support by making drastic reforms however much they are needed to take the heat out of black opposition or to modernise S.A. capitalism.

This could clearly be seen in Botha's latest "reform speech" on Jan 31 which makes no promises whatsoever about reforms whilst calling for negotiation and suggesting that Mandela could be released on "humanitarian" grounds.

Another obstacle is the openly reactionary activities of some sections of the black working class. There is the tribalism of many Zulus who are organised into the openly tribal racist "political and cultural" organisation Inkatha which is based in the "tribal homeland" of Kwa Zulu. Inkatha supporters have attacked Asians, urbanised blacks and migrant workers from other "homelands" sometimes just out of racism, sometimes because these non-Zulus belong to left-wing political organisations

or participate in the class struggle. In some townships "vigilante" squads have been set up to protect the lives and property of black councillors and generally "maintain order". In Queenstown in the Cape the exclusively coloured (mixed race) Labour party set up a large goon squad who have terrorised nearby black residents.



Despite all this the struggle seems to still be developing in a positive direction - towards the end of last year the struggle began to spread to small towns previously unaffected by the riots in the urban centres. There's also been an increase in the use of arms, as when cops and soldiers were fired on during forced removals from the "Crossroads" squatter camp near Cape Town.

The fact remains, though, that the overwhelming majority of militant working class blacks still identify with the charismatic nationalist leadership of the ANC and with middle-class run "popular front" organisations such as the United Democratic Front.

The UDF, like its smaller rival the National Forum, is a loose federation of political, "community", trade union, student, professional, church, and pressure groups of widely varying sizes and strengths. It rose to prominence in helping organise the massively popular election boycotts in '83 - '84.

Although there are wide differences in tactical points of view, for example between ANC supporters who favour "armed struggle" in addition to legal political work and those, such as Church leaders, who favour "non-violence", all the leaders of the UDF share the same basic political approach. They believe in the need for democrats of all races and all classes to unite for a democratic S.A. They certainly want pressure to be put on the government but the last thing they want is class warfare.

Oliver's Army

The ANC only represses the class struggle in an indirect way, by its political leadership and by taking young militants out of the townships, training them in some neighbouring state and then sending them back into S.A. to carry out armed actions which are no use to the working class. Who cares if a few white farmers near the Zimbabwe border get blown up? Its obvious that guns and explosives are needed where the working class is already fighting. By contrast, the legal "mass" organisations can sabotage the struggle at a more direct "grass roots" level.

The effect of the consumer boycott of white-owned shops, organised and supported (though not actually initiated) mostly by the UDF and some trade unions, is well described by the liberal white S.A. newspaper "The Weekly Mail":-

"This points to one of the strange ironies of the boycott. During recent unrest, (black) shopowners have frequently become the targets of anger and destruction. This is partly because they are often community councillors. But it

Greece on the Slippery Slope

October and November saw major strikes and riots throughout Greece. Numerous strikes hit all parts of the public sector. A general strike only partially backed by the unions was held on Oct 21, followed by another in November. The second met with massive police repression. A youth who threw petrol bombs onto a police bus and was shot dead. Riots broke out in at least three major cities, the fight going beyond a mere workers' struggle. The reason? The so-called socialist governments attacks on all sections of the working class.

When PASOK (Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement) came to power it did so on a radical platform. They promised wage rises, increased spending on welfare and independence for Greece from NATO, the Warsaw Pact and the EEC. Due to the world economic crisis, these have been dropped. NATO bases remain in Greece in return for 500 million dollars in assistance from the US. The EEC granted

Greece a large loan on condition that an austerity plan was properly implemented.

In October PASOK announced their austerity measures:

- a lowering of the drachma, which is a traditional heavy-handed way of trying to cheapen Greek goods sold abroad;
- the reform of wage-indexation;
- increased taxes on businesses;
- a wage policy under strict State control.

This means wage cuts, general price rises and many redundancies. The October/November struggles were in direct response to this.

The trade unions and left-wingers are calling for a return to PASOK's election pledges. For leftists, it is supposedly "anti-capitalist" for Greece to stand up against US influence. But even if this were possible for an extended period of time, there would be no benefit in it for the working class. Look at strike bans in "independent Nicaragua". Or the severe unemployment in "independent Yugoslavia". No nation's wealth can be independent of world capital or the world crisis.

The only way falling working class living standards and capitalism's moves towards the butchery of another world war can be halted is for working class

struggle to extend to attack the foundations of capitalism itself, money, buying and selling, states and property.

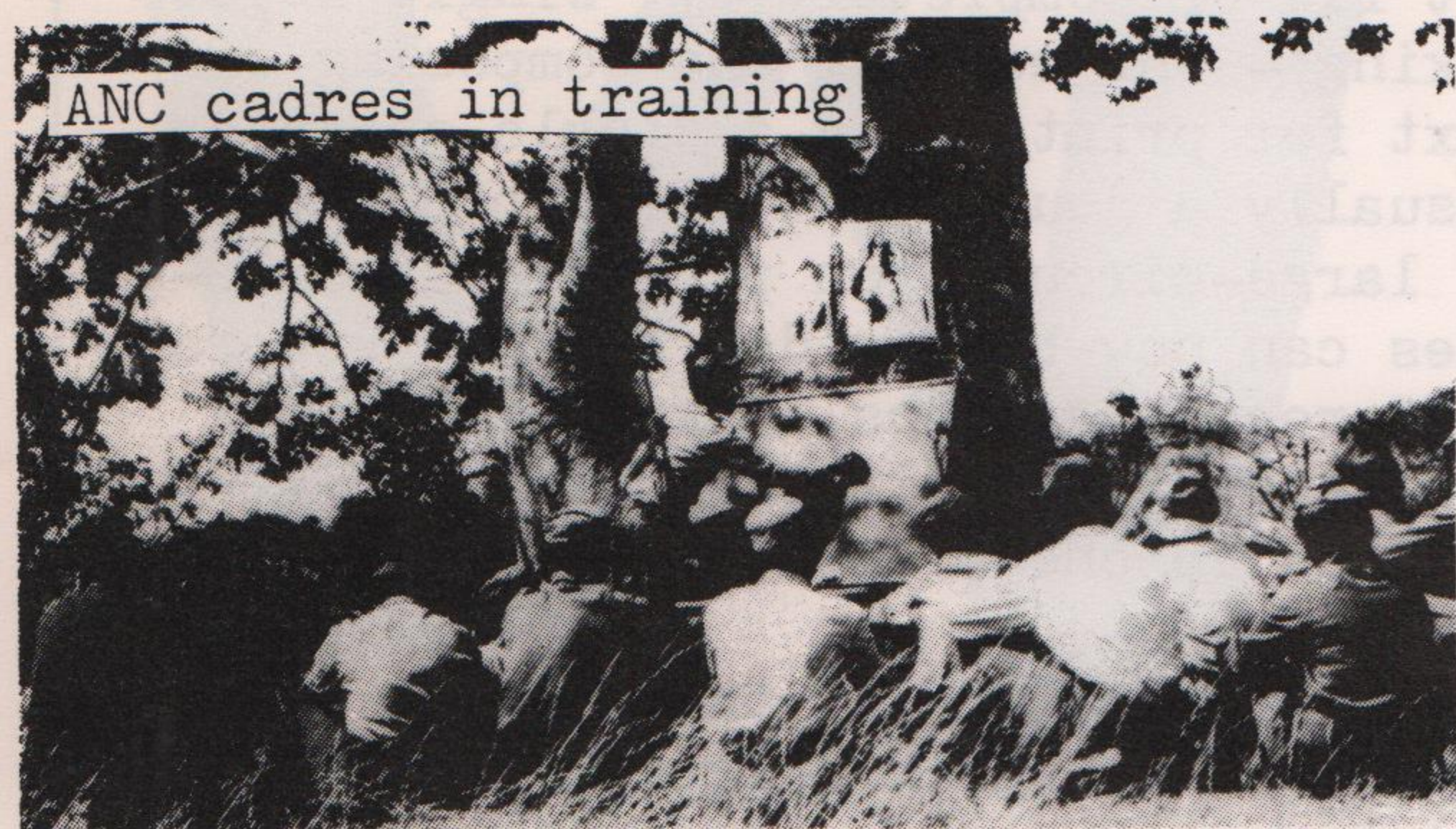
The discarding of all illusions in any "just" policy on the part of the enemy is always a step in the right direction, because it's the end of illusions in shared interests between classes.

Much of the information in this article comes from a longer text written by a contact in Greece, which is available from the Manchester address.



is also because of a general anti-capitalist sentiment among activists. But now black businesses stand to benefit from protest, as political activists ask people to give black shopowners their custom."

Another effect of shop boycotts has been to develop, in the course of negotiations, much stronger links between local white capitalists and "moderate" black leaders. No doubt leading to the sort of "constructive dialogue" which big white capitalists have had with the leaders of the ANC.



"The School for the Oppressed is a Revolution"

slogan of insurgent school students in the '76 uprising.

Just recently school struggles have been undermined by the mobilization of conservative opinion amongst black parents.

In Soweto Bishop Tutu called on school students who have been boycotting schools on and off for the last year to go back to school immediately, adding, in the tradition of leftist bureaucrats everywhere, that if various demands are not met there will be militant action... in three months time! He was addressing a conference called by the Soweto Parents Crisis Committee which was attended by school students, teachers and parents from across the country. The conference accepted Tutu's recommendation and the S.A. government has agreed to give students until Jan 28 to register for the new year so that the conference's recommendation to return to school can be circulated!

This has halted moves by students to organise an immediate and total boycott of schools under slogans like "liberation before education" to mark the tenth anniversary

of the '76 township uprisings which had been initiated by school students struggles. A speaker at the conference had informed everyone that the ANC was opposed to the total boycott and that the "liberation" slogan certainly did not come from them.

The importance of the obedience training meted out in schools to the S.A. regime (and to capitalists everywhere) can be seen from the situation in the Cape where students have been forced to sit end-of-year exams with armed troops patrolling the school corridors. Any student believed not to be writing exam answers can be immediately arrested. This hasn't prevented many exams being broken up by squads of students tearing up papers, overturning desks, and throwing ammonia on the floor.

Bishop Tutu said after the Soweto conference:-

"The only people who will be rejoicing when our children are not educated will be our enemies... we must prepare now for a post-liberation S.A."

The only people rejoicing when black S.A.



a S. African exam invigilator

school students haven't educated themselves in the class struggle will be scum like Tutu, Botha and the rest of their class.

ions and endanger life. People were held for 24 hours (22 hours without access to a solicitor) and interrogated mainly about their politics rather than about the bombing.

We have been unable to inform many of our contacts about this because we tried to minimise the number of copies of addresses we kept. we look forward to the use of imaginative pseudonyms by our correspondents in order to keep the pigs as confused as possible!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE !

- Clive Ham, Keresley Pit, Warwickshire. Striking miner. Charged with assault. Found not guilty. *Sacked.*
- Eddie Baldwin, Keresley Pit, Warwickshire. Striking miner. Charged with assault. Found not guilty. *Sacked.*
- Peter Reed, Keresley Pit, Warwickshire. Striking miner. Charged with throwing paint. Found not guilty. *Sacked.*
- H. Day, Rossington Pit, Yorkshire. Striking miner. Charged with assault. Charges dropped. *Sacked.*
- G. Deakin, Rossington Pit, Yorkshire. Striking miner. Charged with assault. Charges dropped. *Sacked.*
- Bill Gormley, Thoresby Pit, Yorkshire. Working miner. Charged with assault. *No action taken.*
- Winton Blower, Thoresby Pit, Yorkshire. Working miner. Found guilty under Public Order Act. *No action taken.*
- Mick Hood, Ollerton Pit, Nottinghamshire. Working miner. Found guilty of assault. *No action taken.*
- Rick Phipps, Ollerton Pit, Nottinghamshire. Working miner. Charged with assault. *No action taken.*
- Jeff Baxendale, Thoresby Pit, Yorkshire. Working miner. Charged with riot. *No action taken.*

HOW SOCIALIST IS THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY ?



PAMPHLET
Wildcat

30p - includes postage.
Available from the Wildcat addresses.

STRIKE AT SILENTNIGHT

530 workers at the Silentnight Bedding Factories at Sutton in Yorkshire and Barnoldswick in Lancashire have been on strike since June. The strike started because the boss announced 52 redundancies after workers had agreed to a no wage rise/no redundancies package.

Since then Silentnight - whose chairman Tom Clarke has been dubbed 'Mr Wonderful' - by Thatcher - have sacked all the strikers. Scabs are being bussed in. Hull dockers are supporting the strike by refusing to handle Silentnight exports.

In October a coachload of mining women from Pontefract and Castleford joined the picket lines at the Sutton factory.

Info from, and donations to Sutton Silentnight Womens Support Group, c/o Mrs Pat McCormack, Northstead, North Rd., Sutton-in-Craven, Nr Keighley BD20 7PG.

From 'Counter Information', Box 81, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh.



1986:- YEAR OF THE PIG

The production of Wildcat 8 was delayed by the arrest of several activists and supporters in Stoke on Trent. Material for the production of this issue along with address books and correspondence files were seized when houses were raided.

The moronic planting of a bomb outside the home of a local vivisectionist was used by the Police as an ideal opportunity to investigate local revolutionaries and test out their newly extended police powers. The pretext for the raid was the listing of an old Wildcat address on the back of an old Animal Rights magazine. There was no evidence of any connection between that magazine and the bomb, and even less than none between the bomb and wildcat.

However this didn't stop the Police from arresting anyone they could find on suspicion of conspiracy to cause explos-

APPEAL

If you ever want to see the new IMPROVED Wildcat Again! Send us all your money

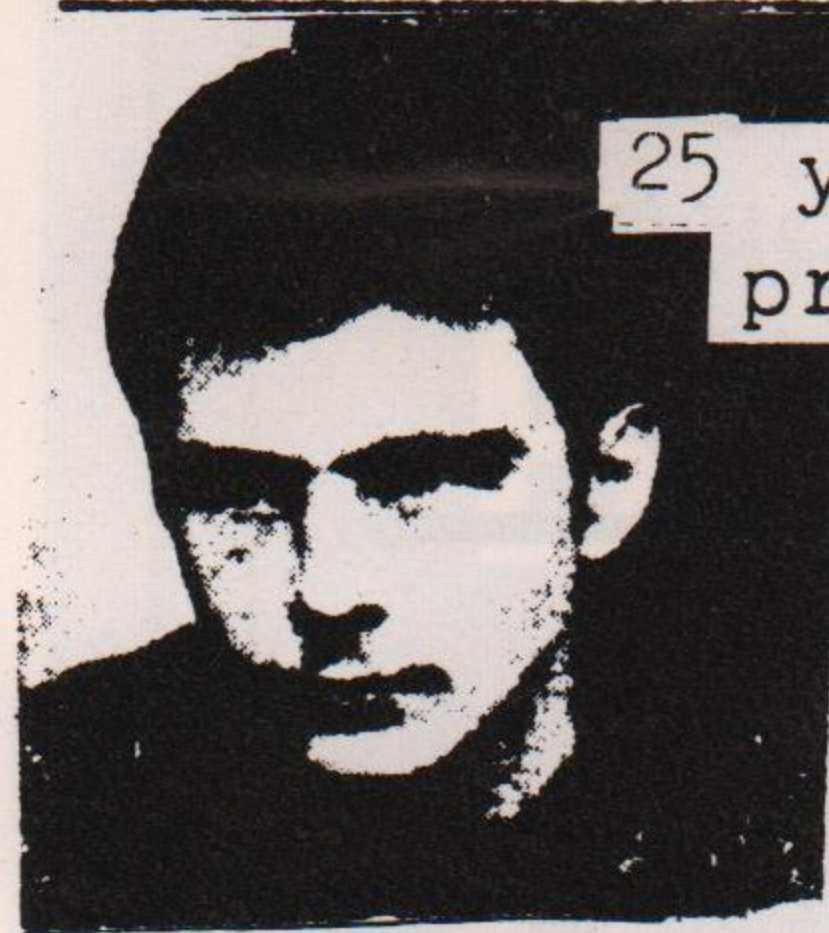
This is the biggest and flashiest issue of Wildcat yet. If we are to carry on getting bigger and flashier we will require large sums of money. We will accept any donation, however enormous. We're not proud.

WHERE TO FIND US

Wildcat has members in Manchester, London, Stoke-on-Trent, Leeds, Bradford and Mid-Wales.

Robert CHECHŁACZ

Tomasz ŁUPANOW



25 years prison



12 years

SUPPORT THESE CLASS WAR PRISONERS IN POLAND

We are appealing for money to support two class war prisoners in Nysa jail in Poland. They were part of a small group in Grodzisk which, two months after martial law was declared in December 1981, planned armed actions to free prisoners interned in Białołęka jail, and also against a police-station used by the militia. A sergeant in the militia was shot when they tried to take his gun from him, and he died later in hospital.

Three months before martial law, 150 people had been helped to escape from Bydgoszcz jail. After martial law, many working class people - e.g. Szczecin shipyard workers - took up arms. This was the context of the Grodzisk group's actions. They were not terrorists.

These two comrades had no contact with the structures of the Solidarność trade union. They have not been freed from jail along with bureaucrats like Lech Wałęsa, who was proud to describe himself as a social "fireman", trying to extinguish the flames of class struggle. Neither were they amnestied along with the bureaucrats on the left wing of Solidarność, who aimed for more workers' involvement in the management of their own exploitation.

You can send donations direct to us at the WILDCAT LONDON ADDRESS.

Remember to make it clear what the money is for.

We send it to the prisoners' families in Grodzisk in Poland via an aid group in France whose address is : Les Amis de Robert et Tomek, B.P.4, 93 301 Aubervilliers cédex, France.

Tears of blood

In 1980, we saw the Polish ruling class cry tears for the return of capitalist order in production and on the streets. They were promptly joined by Western bankers and the organisers of Russian capital. Working class people were attacking this order daily, in struggles which took varying offensives : strikes, requisition and then distribution of goods, looting, organisation of wildcat strike committees and mass assemblies,... Wildcat strikes continued throughout 1980 and 1981, and were mostly explicitly opposed by the Solidarność bureaucrats, who wanted to "save Poland" by sharing management of the capitalist economy with the State.

Since 1981 we have seen Polish would-be trade union leaders cry tears for the return of their democratic national consensus, to say nothing of the crocodile tears cried by Western politicians in the aftermath of martial law.

These tears cried by the defenders of the old world must be made into tears of blood. This can only be done by working class people rising up again, more ruthlessly determined to take on all of our enemies, to learn from our self-organisation, to smash whatever stands in the way of victory in the war for working class power and the abolition of wage-labour. Without this, the tears of blood will continue to be ours.

Available from us is a 4-page A4 text on the situation of class struggle in Poland over the last few years. There is no fixed price, but all donations will go to support the two prisoners.

We also highly recommend the book "POLAND 1980-82. Class struggle and the crisis of capital" by Henri Simon. Published in 1985 by BLACK & RED and available from WILDCAT for £1.50 inc postage. (Bookshop price is £3.50 so unless you can lift it, get it from us).

The Bold Face of Print

Wapping looks like the end of an era for newspaper workers in Britain. The fact that British print is about ten years behind the rest of the world in technological development bears testimony to the bitterly fought struggles of print workers in recent years.

The traditional strong position of print workers has relied on the dependence of the bosses on highly skilled labour and a production process which is very easily disrupted. This has meant that printers have been able to win concessions from their bosses by means of small-scale section by section strikes (with perhaps some 'sympathetic' blacking by other printers), which are perfectly compatible with the structures of trade unionism and the maintenance of craft divisions.

This has always been the form that struggles have taken on Fleet Street, and Fleet Street workers are probably the most trade unionist section of workers in the world. The only time there has been united action was when they were

picketed out by the miners during the 1974 strike. It took three days!

Now, though, it's different. Sectional struggles cannot defeat major technological restructuring. Craft manual workers like compositors and proof-readers, whose key skills put them in such a strong bargaining position can now be got rid of completely by 'single keystroking' - the editing and composing of text for printing by a single operator (usually a journalist). The production of large-circulation papers and magazines can now be divided between several different locations, making it easier for bosses to limit the damage done by strikes in one plant.

We see nothing in the present struggle so far which suggests that the printers are overcoming their past limitations but this doesn't mean they inevitably won't. To the thousands of printers who've already been sacked, and increasingly have nothing to lose, it must be more and more obvious that the old methods of struggle are a dead end.

Chopper Jobs Chopped

Heseltine and Brittan have each got the boot over the Westland affair. More members of the ruling class may follow. Great!

But the press has played up these 'redundancies' with hardly a mention of the fact that whichever deal gets accepted, European or American, nine out of ten of the workers at Westland in Yeovil, Somerset will be sacked.

The European deal offers to keep only 375 full time jobs for 3 years, the Sikorsky deal even less, just 250, but for 5 years. This from about 3000 presently making and developing helicopters at Westland.

The issue of who owns Westland may be important for the "national interest" but it makes sod all difference to the interests of the working class.

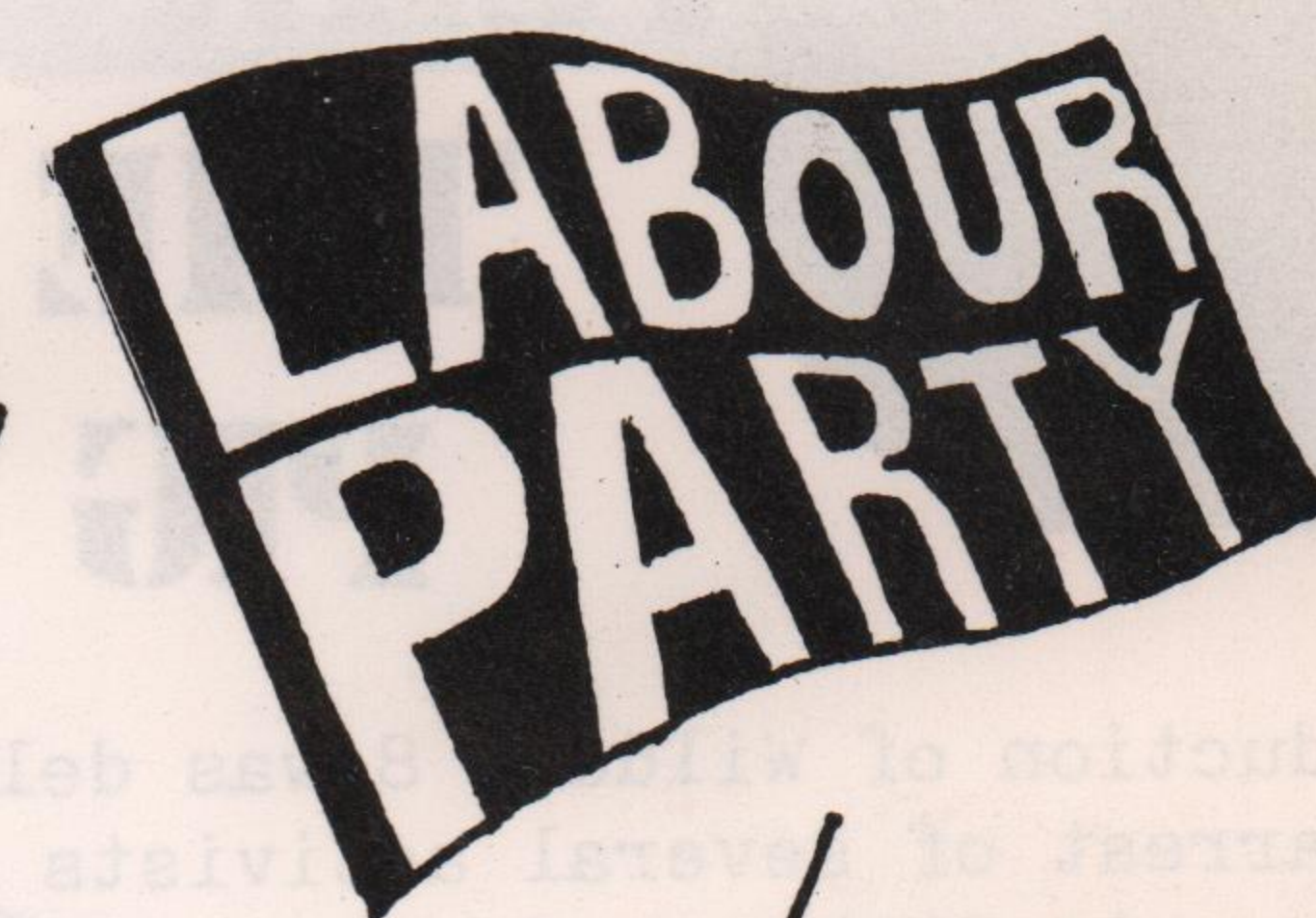
UNION SAYS SACK STRIKING WORKERS

Vauxhall motors bosses were given an early christmas present by shop stewards at the Ellesmere Port car plant. Over the past year unofficial strikes and high absenteeism have cost Vauxhall and Bedford well over 100 million quid in lost production. At the end of November these union hacks, worried about their lack of control over the workers, told the bosses they could sack any worker involved in unofficial strike without any fear of union opposition. They accepted that the union should make efforts to curb absenteeism.

This is just one more example which shows that the union screws you up. If you know of similar incidents we want to publicize them. Write to us and watch this space.



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