

Anarchist Worker

formerly LIBERTARIAN STRUGGLE

Hull Prison Protest

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October 1976 Number 31

10p

EACH DAY, several days each week, year after year, millions of people sell off eight hours of their lives.

They often have no idea who they are selling to.

They have no control over what this time is used for.

They have no control over they way it is used.

Are we talking about serfs in the Middle Ages, or zombies in a future hell in 1984?

NO! We are talking about the majority of people living in *this* society.

Machines

The minute we walk into the workplace we become machines: the pace is set by the office manager, by piece rates or by the production line.

We work at a routine which is not pleasurable and satisfying in itself but to make the maximum profit.

We know what this means from our everyday experiences: it means doing boring, often repetitive jobs.

Packing a toy in a box, turning a screw on the assembly line, ringing up a cash register, or filling in blanks on a standard form.

It means being cut off from other workers in the same workplace, or elsewhere.

The speed of the line, distance between workers and the separation work into small processes keeps workers apart: work becomes lonely as well as monotonous.

It means doing work whose purpose and function we cannot question.

Work that has no social use or that is damaging even, such as being employed for property speculators or making H-bombs.

Orders

It means taking orders on how the work is to be done from somebody who has likewise been ordered — we never plan the way half our day will be spent.

It means exposing our health and others' to danger, for example through industrial poisons or inadequate safety precautions.

The way work is organised affects our whole lives. The mental and physical exhaustion is carried over into our time away from the place of work.

The sheer toil we suffer stunts our desires to develop other activities

In the home women toil too by doing the housework required to keep the workers — sometimes including herself — fed, housed and rearing the next generation of workers.

The horrifying nature of work is obvious, but everyday we subject ourselves to that horror, pushed by the need to survive and fooled into believing that it is the only way it can be.

But work itself need not be like that: it is the way work is organised in a society whose basis is production for profit that makes work as shitty as it is.

Millions trapped in 8-hour horror!

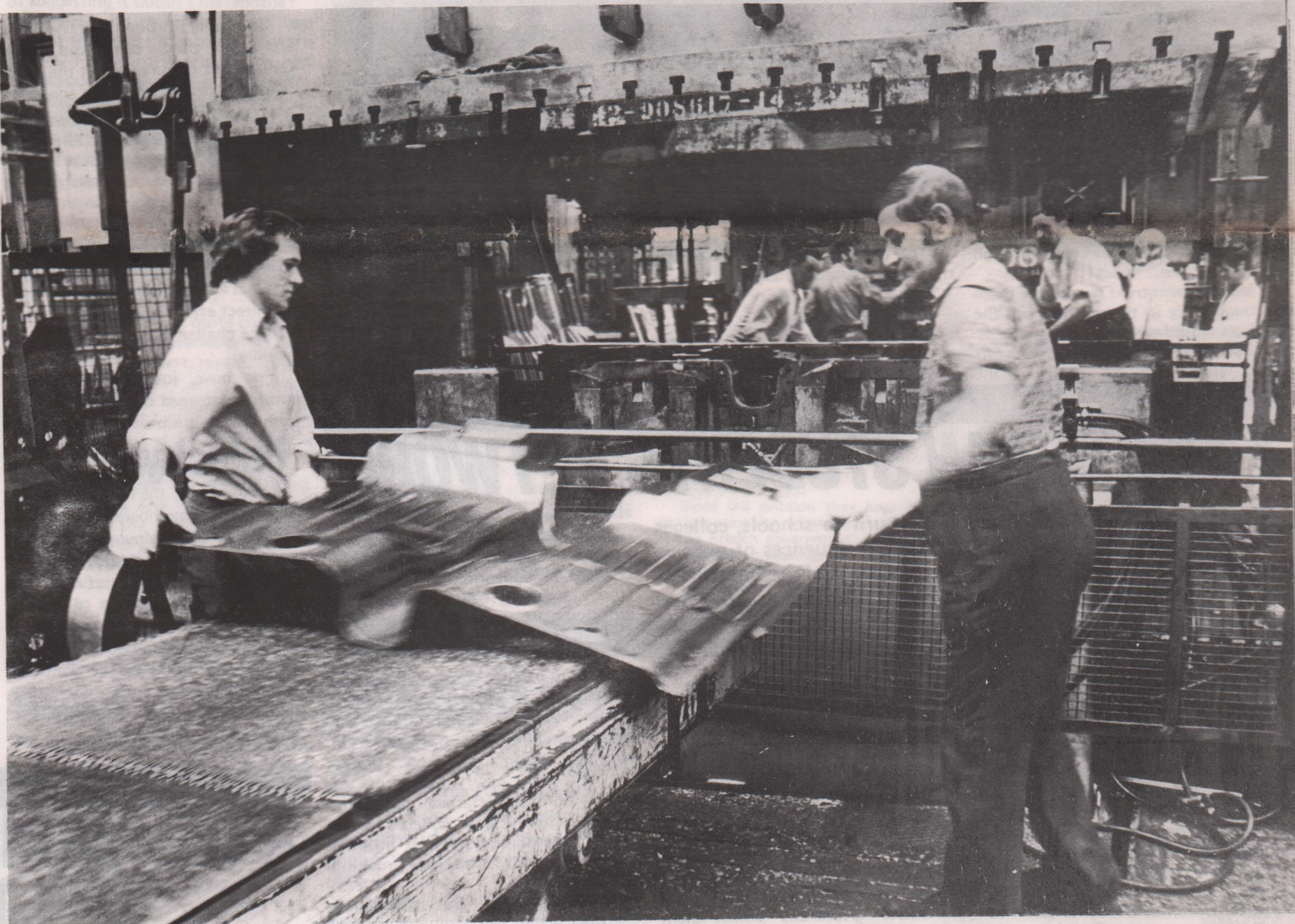


Photo Angela Phillips (JFL)

Most of us living in capitalist society have only one thing that interests the bosses: our labour.

The bosses need our labour to work *THEIR* machines.

They need our labour to produce *THEIR* goods.

They need our labour to create *THEIR* profits.

Because they own the means of producing the goods we need in order to survive, we are forced to sell our labour to the bosses.

We are slaves to their wages.

All this is turned upside-down in the way we are brought up to think

We are asked to be grateful that the bosses let us work so that we can consume (a fraction of) the goods *WE* produce.

Slavery in feudal days was easily recognisable for what it was — exploitation.

Wage-slavery, however, is hidden by the myth that we get 'a fair day's wage for a fair day's work'.

This is another example of upside-down thinking — it suggests that what we put in as work is paid back equally in wages.

In fact the value of the wages paid is only a fraction of the value created by our labour.

The rest is creamed off by the bosses for their profits, enslaving us even further as the bosses get richer.

The way things are produced, and the way that they are produced under capitalism are entirely distorted in

relation to human needs.

While thousands remain homeless and many more live in slums not fit for rats, adverts entice us to buy things we could do without or be better off without.

A basic need like housing becomes a luxury; a non-essential like a stereo becomes a basic need.

Whereas we have the resources to eliminate or improve many unpleasant or dangerous jobs, people are still forced to work at them.

Whereas we could organise jobs to be more satisfying as well as efficient, work is organised to maintain the authority of the employers.

To change the nature of work we have to change the basis of society.



TRICO WOMEN EQUAL PAY, NO LESS

WOMEN workers at Trico have been on strike for equal pay for over 18 weeks.

At consecutive mass meetings they have determined to stay out until their demands are met.



Photo Andrew Ward (Report)

Three months ago blackleg lorry drivers bulldozed their way through the picket line.

Management tried to smuggle them through early in the morning but the strikers would not let them pass.

The police showed whose interests they stand for by dragging the

strikers out of the blacklegs' path.

The women were held back while the lorries passed through.

Tribunal

Management took the case to the Tribunal which decided against the women.

This comes as no surprise as a TUC report on the working of the Equal Pay Commission revealed that the Tribunal has come out in favour of the employers in almost every case.

The Tribunal's 'impartiality' has been welcomed by those employers who did not manage to beat the clock against the Equal Pay Act by regrading women's jobs or moving women off the jobs done by men.

At a packed mass meeting to discuss action in the light of this result, the women voted overwhelmingly to stay out.

The strike was made official by the AUEW so the strikers are entitled to social security.

But the Hounslow Department of Health and Social Security has refused to cough up.

The DHSS at Ealing originally agreed to pay social security to strikers but later withdrew the offer.

There is reason to believe that the Ministry has been behind this.

Other workers at Trico's Brentford and Northampton plants have been laid off by the management.

Legally, they ought to receive social security, but they too have been refused.

Rejected

Management made an offer to the strikers consisting of the 4½ per cent allowed by the UNsocial CONTRACT, plus an additional sum, making the total offer up to the £5.50 claimed by the women.

The strikers saw through this con, which would have nullified existing agreements, such as safety regulations, piece rates.

At a mass meeting, again packed, the strikers voted almost unanimously to reject the offer.

The strikers' morale remains high but all support is welcome.

- * Join the picket line.
- * Invite delegates to speak at your union meetings.
- * Black all cargo for Trico.
- * Send all messages of support and donations to the strike fund to: Trico Strike Committee, AUEW House, 1 Woodlands Road, Southall, Middlesex.

TU all at Sea

AS THE TUC at Brighton was voting to preserve the 4½% pay swindle, Len Murray was seen to leave his seat several times and whisper to colleagues on the platform.

Was he looking for the culprit who farted during the Big Debate?

Was he scrounging around for a cigar?

Or was he wondering who could smuggle him past the pickets outside?

No; he had just been told the result of the National Union of Seamen's member ballot.

With a 38% poll and by a majority of 309, the members authorised their executive to call an all-out strike.

That's what made Lionel Murray OBE hop around.

Challenge

TUC and Labour hacks have harped on about the small majority. But even the *Sunday Times*, 12 September, was forced to admit that "the result was fairly convincing."

The press has pilloried the seamen for "holding the country to ransom".

Searching through Sunny Jim's archives, they came up with Callaghan's comment that the 1966 seamen's strike "blew the economy off course".

The Labour government at that time used the seamen's dispute as an excuse to introduce a savage wage freeze.

But now, unlike 1966, the shipping industry will be able to switch cargoes to European ships.

What worries the TUC nobs is not the direct effect of a seamen's strike but the challenge it poses to the pay swindle.

For now, just like 1966, the government must defeat the seamen to squash claims from other workers.

Unlucky

In July 1975, the NUS won a pay award for its members. This was to be paid in 3 instalments, the final instalment being this July.

But the Social Contract rules out a rise for the seamen till next January.

Defenders of the Social Contract say that the timing of the Contract was unlucky for some (including their own members! Those in Jack Jones' and Hugh Scanlon's unions

are in a position similar to the seamen).

The truth is that the Social Contract was unlucky not for some but for ALL workers.

Unfortunately the seamen are not basing their claim on outright opposition to the TUC's policy, but are claiming that they are a special case.

Even this was enough to anger TUC nobs when the NUS executive voted unanimously for an all-out strike, starting Monday July 12.

Keelhauling

TUC executive members keel-hauled the NUS representatives at Brighton at the end of the conference.

"Are you willing to destroy the Labour government?" asked Jones.

The TUC made it clear that they would prevent dockers and drivers (who would be needed by the NUS to halt transfers to foreign ships) from supporting the NUS.

The ultimate sanction was used; Gordon Norris (NUS) told reporters after the 18 hour talks, that they had been threatened with expulsion from the TUC.

Determined

The NUS executive were determined to win the pay rise.

The TUC were equally determined that the contract should not be broken.

A package was agreed which would allow the rise through fringe benefits and thus give the impression that the contract had not been broken.

This package is being negotiated with the employers. Whether or not the NUS is successful, this is a setback.

A setback for the seamen because fringe benefits cannot be eaten.

A setback for the rest of us too because the challenge the claim posed has been concealed by the package.

The seamen had received support from building workers in Wimpey and from the Scottish miners. But this was not enough for the NUS executive when faced by Len Murray's cohort.

In acting in this manner the TUC nobs have shown themselves to be agents of control over their members on behalf of the employers.

K.H.

LIBERTARIAN STUDENTS NETWORK

AS students and educational workers return to schools, colleges and universities, they face the very real consequences of massive educational cutbacks again: college closures, staff redundancies, course cutbacks, and increasing ratios of students to staff and facilities.

Students continue to have no direct control over the nature and structure of their courses.

Lecturers and educational workers are set apart from students by virtue of the competitive aspects of education, their enforced role as 'experts', and their own lack of direct control over course committees, examination and college authorities, and directorates.

So what is to be done?

The teaching unions and the National Union of Students claim to act in the interests of their members by trying to bargain with government for token gratuities and handouts.

They might have marginal success in this, but in the end they only reinforce the interdependencies of education and capitalism, enabling the latter to manipulate education in the direction most profitable to its needs.

Education, like everything else, is integrally entwined with class society.

Because of the privileges which go with education it is seen in isolation to wider societal relationships.

The call for 'educational change' rarely takes account of the role of education under capitalism, and internal reform is confused with

revolutionary change.

Internal change — course reform, examination abolition, and so on — is all very well: any device which assists in reducing the extent of bourgeois conditioning should be taken up.

But such demands are of little relevance if education continues to be geared to ruling class needs.

On its own, such reform merely strengthens the elitist model of education.

For revolutionary educational change, we have to look beyond the immediate grievances which stem from the educational system.

Students and educational workers concerned to establish a truly free, non-competitive, non-hierarchical and non-elitist system of education realise that it cannot be attained with the constraints of capitalism, nor can it be divorced from class struggle.

Students in particular must reassess their roles as students: they must question *what* they are being taught, but, pertinently, *what* they are being taught *for*.

The Libertarian Students Network contains anarchist and libertarian socialist students, teachers and educational workers, who regard the problems of education as insolubly linked to the wider struggles of the entire working class, and who feel the only real solutions lie in the

abolition of class society.

The Network has a twofold aim. Firstly to agitate for revolutionary changes in education as inseparable from (amongst other things) mass working class activity aimed towards the end of capitalism.

Secondly, it seeks to propagate libertarian political and organisational principles by working through student unions, socialist societies, and so on, emphasising the principle of self-organisation.

The LSN is made up of autonomous libertarian groupings within schools and colleges, each group determining its own internal structure and decision making processes.

Organisationally, the strength of the LSN lies in the complete control of it by all members — from the formulation of policy to the mandating of instantly recallable delegates to carry out necessary practical work.

Now that the new academic year has just started, it is hoped that the LSN will engage in ongoing, collective militancy shaped by libertarian activity in schools and colleges up and down the country.

A national conference is being organised in mid-November.

A regular, free, bulletin is produced and is obtainable from:

20a Buckland Crescent,
London NW3 5DX

to which any enquiries about the LSN and the coming conference should also be sent.

JRC

ANTI FASCISTS GO UNNOTICED AT BLACKBURN

Unemployment and inflation
are not caused by immigration!
Are they caused by immigration?
Bullshit! Come off it!
The enemy is profit!

THIS WAS one of the slogans on the September 11 Blackburn demonstration when thousands protested against the National Party's racist policies and actions.

There was no violence, despite the threats of the National Party — and so we went unnoticed by the national press, along with the unexpectedly high turnout — in the pouring rain.

Many spent eight or ten hours travelling from the south of England or from Scotland; others were local. Trade union and trades council banners mixed with those of immigrant organisations and political groups.

Even the organisers were taken by surprise — the hall booked could only hold

the front half of the march for the planned speeches, and the rest held an open-air meeting.

Awareness of the dangers of fascism and the lies of the racists is spreading, and occasions like this help people to realise that not everyone finds it natural to be nationalistic and anti-immigrant.

Anti-fascists still have a lot of work to do, not only to ensure co-operation between those already active but in bringing it home to people that it isn't just a matter of being nice to blacks.

The problems immigrants are blamed for are real, but it is by recognising the causes in capitalism and by uniting with workers of all colours that these problems can best be fought.

A.R.

Plan to Axe Welsh Railways

PUBLIC TRANSPORT in Britain is quickly sliding into a mess. Many areas have had services axed or pruned and fares continue to rocket. It has taken 29 years since the nationalisation of the railways to talk about transport on a government basis, and over that period there has been no transport policy.

Dr. John Gilbert, the Minister of Transport, has produced a consultative document for consideration by the government.

Like other consultative documents it is supposedly placed before the public for discussion...But, at £3 per copy, the sincerity of this gesture must be questioned.

The National Union of Railwaymen have produced their own 'free' *Policy For Transport* which is available in bulk from their headquarters at Unity House, Euston Rd., London, N1.

The NUR are currently conducting a national literature and leaflet campaign. Such is the gravity of the situation.

One thing is obvious from the consultative document—it is anti-rail and orientated towards road development and road transport.

One of the reasons for that is the tremendous pressure on government from the road haulage lobby in parliament.

The document lists 200 railway lines claimed to take 6% of national passenger traffic. These lines may be axed. The report says:

Throughout the country there are many lines that do not cover their direct costs, even after taking account of the social benefits they confer...There is little scope for saving net costs through further reduction in service. Nor is much to be gained from increasing fares, since revenue is only a fraction of the total cost.

It argues that although no great saving on short-term subsidies would be made by closing non profit making services, the cost of maintaining stock, engines and lines would be avoided.

It suggests, as passengers on these services are being very heavily subsidised, there might be cheaper ways of providing public transport, like linking bus and coach routes with main line stations.

It is essential to realise here, that transport is a social service, not a commercial undertaking.

Our railways are subsidised at just under £500 million a year. In Germany, subsidies are running at £2,000 million a year.

The consultative document refers to the £630 million which it costs in subsidies in 1975 for all forms of surface transport.

It omits mentioning the £800m. it costs the taxpayer in loss of revenue by means of tax relief for company cars.

The travelling public get no such relief. No direct reference is made to the true cost of the roads, but we learn that road construction in Great Britain in 1975 cost £1,201m., road maintenance £515m., road accidents cost £875m.

Lighting cost £70m., policing and courts £80m.

We must add to this the polluting and anti-social bi-products of the car, as well as the huge wastage of irreplaceable items used in the

production and fueling of 'throw-away' cars.

To blind the public with the figures of £630m. in subsidies for all surface transport is dishonest.

Yet, it is not the motorist who is getting return for his money. The cost to the taxpayer of subsidising the juggernauts that block up our roads is £1,710 per vehicle per year.

Inadequate

In places like Wales, any further rundown in services will be catastrophic. Services are already inadequate.

Wales has lost 70% of its rail system since 1960. It is almost impossible to travel in some rural areas unless you have a car. Central Wales has become a sparsely populated area.

All lines in the country are covered by the phrase, "Other railway passenger services which account for 6% of the total nationally."

This sounds very little, an easy way of suggesting it doesn't matter.

Wales could be left with just two lines if the report is accepted: Severn tunnel—Fishguard in the South, and Shrewsbury—Holyhead in the North.

Urban areas of Glamorgan are threatened with the chop. Areas like Rhondda, Merthyr, and Rhymney valleys, and connections to Cardiff.

The problem of Welsh Transport is dismissed in six paragraphs at the end of the document.

It details efforts of government to introduce broad based industries following the decline of coal mining and iron working.

The Minister states, quite correctly, that the success of government efforts is heavily dependant upon good communications.

So what does he suggest? He argues that the whole problem will have to be settled within the context of the devolution proposals.

But the threat to the transport system is now, and has to be solved now, not in the 1980s when Wales gets an assembly.

By that time most of the trains and buses could be gone. The total subsidy to public transport in Wales in 1976 amounts to £10.5m., i.e. £6m. to rail and £4.5m. to buses; against a total of £250m. for roads.

Buses

In the past, when rail services were axed, people were promised alternative bus services, but many of these have since disappeared because the bus companies withdrew them in the name of profit.

The South Wales valleys are heavily dependent upon public transport, car ownership being less than the national average.

Due to pit closures—e.g. Rhondda's coal output has dropped from 9½m. tons at the beginning of the century to 180,000 tonnes—the population has become more mobile, commuting to remaining pits and the new industrial centres.

Much of the latter are outside the valleys. The valleys are narrow, and most roads were constructed to suit the need of the pony and trap, not the motor car.

Road widening is difficult due to the very close proximity of terraced houses along much of the route.

An efficient public transport system is seen to be vital. The smaller of the two valleys of the Rhondda, the Fach, lost its rail passenger service some years ago.

The replacement bus service has dwindled to an alarming level. Maerdy, once known as 'little Moscow', at the

head of the Fach has become increasingly isolated.

One in three shops in the Fach has closed, and no new industry comes there. Unemployment is high of course.

The government's talk of closing down loss making lines and replacing them with a bus service is seen to be a deception.

The Western Welsh Bus Co.—a subsidiary of National Bus Co.—are planning to sack 622 men and will

reduce their fleet of buses in the valleys by 200.

Busmen at Porth depot, Rhondda, will be facing 64 redundancies this year, and twelve vacancies will not be filled because of the recent one man bus introduction on 76 Rhondda buses.

Travelling has become worse than ever since the advent of one man operation.

Journeys take longer because no buses can move off until the driver/conductor has issued all the tickets.

Traffic congestion increases as vehicles are unable to overtake buses parked at bus stops.

There are very few bus lay bys in

the valleys, most stops being on narrow, winding roads.

The National Bus Co. has stated that it intends to eliminate its operation deficit by 1979.

Community

Local Trades Councils have recognised the plight that faces the area, especially if the consultative document is accepted by government.

They are currently organising public meetings to fight further cuts. The fight back is in its early days yet, and full community participation will be an essential element if a victory is to be gained.



Photo Andrew Ward (Report)

FRENCH PRINTWORKERS BUILD SUPPORT

PRINTWORKERS fighting massive redundancies in the French printing industry came to England recently to publicise their struggle.

They spoke at meetings in Oxford and London organised by the AWA.

They occupied their workplace in September 1975 on the announcement of the closure of the enterprise.

The occupation was continued for ten months, until their eviction by police at 4am on July 16.

During that time they used the presses to print publicity for their own struggle and to support the struggles of other workers.

They reorganised the work in the

factory, breaking down the divisions between different categories of worker.

The occupation was structured in commissions, each commission discussing initiatives and making proposals to an assembly of all the workers.

Their union, the CGT-Livre, failed to give them any real support and completely disowned them after the IMRO workers held an Open Day at the factory to publicise the struggle.

Since the eviction they have stepped up their campaign, a fight against the policy of the French government, centralisation and massive sackings in the printing industry.

Solidarity committees have been set up in France, Germany and England and a new

edition of their newspaper *Special Licenciements* (Redundancy Special) has appeared.

A second speaking tour is planned for England later in the year and an English edition of *Redundancy Special* is planned called *International Press*.

£100 is needed to launch this paper, which will contain material on struggles against redundancies in both France and England.

Please send donations, however small, to: IMRO Solidarity Committee, 17 Hemstal Road, London NW6.

Copies of *Special Licenciements* and the badges featured are available, for a donation, from the same address.

P.G.

Cohabitation is dying

THE Department of Health and Social Security may change their ruling on cohabitation.

This is the major recommendation in a thirty page report just published, called *Living Together as Husband and Wife* (HMSO, 65p).

The reason for this proposed change is not that they have recognised and decided to do away with an obnoxious rule but merely that 'cohabitation' will in future be referred to as 'living together as man and wife'.

It is an indictment, although an unwitting one, of the secondary role of women in our society and, more particularly, of the governments' desire to maintain this status in the area of social security benefits.

Coming after the Equal Pay Act and the Sex Discrimination Acts, the latest proposals confirm that the state sees women as appendages to men.

In fact there was never a law requiring a man to support a woman living with him, but the DHSS use their 'discretion' to ensure that no benefit was paid to the woman in her

own right.

It has always been the man that can claim benefit, even if the woman is the partner in 'gainful occupation'.

Family Income Supplement is granted on a similarly discriminatory basis, as many couples where the woman is the breadwinner have found out.

FIS is only payable to a couple where the man is in work.

The basis for justifying withdrawal of benefit lies in the various insurance and pension schemes under which a widow's benefit could be removed if she became 'unworthy of a grant from public funds'.

Although this disgusting and demeaning phrase has been changed, the practice of penalising 'cohabiting women' is still the same.

The report fails to consider ways to allow claims regardless of sex and this possibility is left for the future when "society might eventually decide to make such provision, when it could afford the enormous cost".

Not everything is left for the distant future.

The report puts forward several moral rules for here and now, such as "the man . . . should accept the role of a husband and support his

'wife' and family".

Homilies such as this are used in place of any tangible evidence, and the report includes the comment that people affected by the rule accept it.

The facts contradict this assertion and support the demand for the abolition of the rule.

Official figures show that more than a third of people whose benefit is withdrawn claim again within 13 weeks.

In a sample of 44 cases, there were 16 in which the Supplementary Benefits Commission's action had been "prejudicial to the children's welfare", and in 10 cases there was an "effect on the claimant's physical or mental health".

An *Anarchist Worker* correspondent in the DHSS writes:

"The ruling may have been rendered technically invalid by the new phrasing adopted by the DHSS.

Among the guidelines defining cohabitation they state "a sexual relationship is a normal aspect of marriage", but elsewhere DHSS officers are specifically forbidden from asking questions about a sexual relationship."

Spread the word — 'cohabitation' is dying!

PAPER TALKS

LEEDS OTHER PAPER are organising a conference for people working on 'alternative papers', which will be held in Leeds on October 15-17.

The aim of the conference is to try and introduce better communication nationally between the alternative press, and to discuss the practical and political problems faced by the various papers.

LOP have sent circulars to those papers they know about, but if you'd like more information, get in touch with the conference organisers:

PAPER EVERYWHERE, c/o Leeds Other Paper, 30 Blenheim Terrace, Leeds 2.

TUC AT BRIGHTON: NO JOY FROM SEASIDE FARCE

IN SEPTEMBER, trade union officials and delegates met to spew up socialist rhetoric. Once again, they appealed to their members to meekly accept the attacks upon their living standards.

The spectacle of the annual Trade Union Congress is a great hindrance to working class struggle as it gives respectability to several lies.

The lie that the TUC leaders represent their members' views.

The lie that they are campaigning on behalf of the working class and against the capitalists.

The lie that workers must make sacrifices now for a better future.

Spectacle

This spectacle is strengthened by the enormous press and TV coverage it is given.

Such great champions of socialism as Jack Jones (TGWU chief) and Hugh Scanlon (AUEW chief) express their deep concern for the unemployed, their sad faces specially posed for the cameras — yes, posed — I was present at an interview.

At Brighton, I had the following conversation with GMWU chief Basnett:

Question: Since unemployment was the central issue of discussion today (8-9-76), why did you not allow a representative of the unemployed to speak?

Basnett: They were not democratically elected.

Q: Then why did you not invite delegates from the claimants unions, which are democratically organised?

B: Never heard of them.

Q: Were you democratically instructed to say the things you have said at Congress?

B: Yes, I am.

Q: Were you mandated by your union members?

B: No. I take my instructions from my Congress.

Q: Were the delegates to your Congress mandated?

B: (Walking away) No.

Q: Do you call that democracy?

B: (Still walking away and in an earnest voice) Yes I do!

This conversation occurred after Basnett had been interviewed by *World In Action*.

To demonstrate, in public, that he was a reasonable man, he deigned to talk to me.

In case you believe that trade union structures are democratic, here are some examples of the democratic spirit shown by TUC chiefs.

Manouvres

A series of manoeuvres were used prior to the Special Congress on June 16, to get the 4½ per cent deal accepted.

The TGWU Executive — constitutionally bound by its Delegate Conference — ignored the resolution of the 1975 conference which rejected the Social Contract unless certain conditions were met.

These conditions were, in fact, unfulfilled.

The UCATT annual conference — the union's decision-making body comprised of elected delegates — rejected the deal, but General Secretary George Smith denounced it as "unrepresentative".

He called a membership ballot and with the union journal arguing only his case (call that democratic?) he secured a narrow majority.

The manoeuvres began way in advance of this Congress. Block vote met block vote on composite amendments to composite motions.

The result? The smooth passage of pious motions.

One, stated opposition to all further cuts in public expenditure (8-9-76).

Too late, especially after Healey's last announcement of cuts in the region of £1,012 million.

Another called upon the government to introduce a socialist "economic and industrial strategy to deal with the unacceptable level of unemployment" (8-9-76).

Hugh Scanlon, introducing the motion, reassured delegates that this "was not asking the government to

change its economic strategy!"

Socialists?

Union chiefs say time and time again they are fighting for socialism.

Socialism, they tell us, will be built by the industrial wing (ie them) and the political wing (ie the Labour Government) of the 'labour movement'.

The two of them are building something — but not socialism.

They are building up the strength of an ailing capitalist system.

"We have played a more active part in the last 12 months in helping beat the enemy of inflation than any other organisation outside government and we cannot simply turn our backs on the role because the going's increasingly tough and rough". (6-9-76)

So spoke Cyril-the-bosses-Plant President of the TUC, to an applauding congress.



CPSA delegate presents 320 signatures supporting the seamen to Jim Slater

Photo Chris Davies (Report)

Obviously, the TUC chiefs see inflation as the enemy, and not capital, which is the cause of it.

Equally obvious is that in 'fighting inflation', they have not acted in the interests of the working class.

Unemployment rose by 127% to 1½ million since the social contract was drawn up.

Retail prices rose by 21.2% in the year ending March, higher than wages.

In fact, everything possible has been done to ensure the bosses' profits.

What fine socialists!

Plant went on to ensure the Congress that "the social contract has already brought great benefits to the mass of working people".

Nice one Cyril. Tell that to the unemployed, the homeless, patients on long waiting lists, workers whose real wages have declined drastically.

Collaboration

The collaboration of the TUC in the interests of capital should not surprise us.

In their positions of power, they manage and hold back a potentially rebellious workforce through appeals to national interest.

The capitalists are only too happy to negotiate with such 'reasonable men', who act as their labour lieutenants.

After all, they're both in the same class both in terms of managing workers and in their earnings.

Union chiefs earn up to £10,000: this, however, is only a part-time job for them — they frequently have other sources of income.

Plant sits on the Race Relations

Board, £1,000 a year; and the Monopolies Commission, £2,250 a year.

And this is the man who spoke of not turning his back on the job even though the going is tough.

On the lobby of the Congress, an old age pensioner said to me as the delegates marched past: "Now, there's a secure job for you".

Sacrifices

Sacrifices, we have made. And plenty of them.

We were conned into them by the biggest lie of all: that wage restraint and public expenditure cuts were a temporary evil.

We were told they had to be made before the Labour Government could implement 'socialist' policies.

Instead of that promise, we have higher unemployment.

Alliance

In urging these sacrifices, the TUC chiefs allied themselves to the capitalists.

That is, they blamed the crisis on high wages and high public expenditure; they blamed the workers.

The AWA rejects this analysis.

The crisis is not confined to Britain: it is worldwide.

capitalist countries has been falling since the post-war boom.

Note, it is the rate of profit that tends to fall, even though industrial output may rise.

In the UK, profit rates before tax fell from 16.5% in 1950-54 to 9.7% in 1970: similar figures hold for the USA and other countries.

The Tories argue that it's taxation that is crippling the country, but while profit rates before tax dropped by 69% from 1950 to 1970, profit rates after tax fell by only 38%, according to figures in *British Capitalism, the Workers and the Profit Squeeze* by Glyn & Sutcliffe.

Taxation redistributes wealth alright — to the capitalists!

The falling rate of profit is a tendency built into the capitalist system.

The capitalists own the machines and the plants; they hire workers at a fraction of the value the workers produce, and so they make their profits.

A stage is reached where the value extracted from workers is not large enough to invest in more machines and plants to keep up their profits.

This stage is the crisis.

It was reached in the 20's and 30's averted in the 40's by the World War and has been reached again.

Divide & Rule

The bosses' solution is to lay off workers, cut wages, rationalise industry into fewer and larger enterprises.

All this is being achieved with the

collaboration of the TUC chiefs — 'unavoidable' redundancies, 4½ per cent wage limit, planning agreements.

What's behind the crisis is well hidden by the bosses' system of divide-and-rule.

They divide us into those in manufacture and those in service industries, such as the social services.

They blame too much spending on the latter as the cause of the crisis and so lay them off.

They divide us into producers and consumers, workers and non-workers, usually housewives who are in reality unpaid domestic labourers.

The producers' wage rises harm consumers, they tell us, so while prices rise 20 per cent, we have to accept 4½ per cent wage rises.

Some try to divide us into black and white workers, English and foreign workers.

They divide us in many ways: we have rejected their explanation of the crisis — let us reject their divisions.

Solution

The worker's solution is to destroy the system that exploits us.

We must take control of all the workplaces, take control of our labour, and thus of our own lives.

To do that we cannot rely on the Labour Party, the TUC or any other leaders to do things for us.

We need to take our affairs into our own hands, creating a revolutionary movement that will establish a free, communist, society.

K. Hopayan

Right to Work

LAST month's Brighton to London Right to Work March was the only noticeable protest against the eagerness of union bureaucrats to give the thumbs up to growing unemployment and the latest round of cuts.

Many of the marchers were angry and disgusted at the conditions they and others were forced to put up with.

They were angry at the Labour Party and the union leaders' cynical sell-out of their interests.

The marchers were prepared to do something about it — they were prepared to walk the fifty miles from London to Brighton.

The march got a lot of publicity and proved quite an embarrassment for the union leaders.

There was a hot reception for the officials who thought that the only interruption to their speeches would be the usual social life.

On expense accounts that amount to more in one day than some people get on dole in a week, they expected a cushy time.

Yet they were harassed and heckled when they came in and out of the Dome, and they were harassed and heckled when they tried to hold TV interviews outside.

Sectarianism

The march mobilised a lot of unemployed youth and it acts as a partial

corrective to those who might turn to the NF and NP as an attempt at a solution to their problems.

Yet right from the start it was marred by unwarranted factionalism.

Well in advance of the march, the Women's Right to Work contingent had been refused a banner on the march. Why? John Deason, National Secretary of the Right To Work Campaign, gave the reason at a pre-march meeting in Brighton.

Everybody would have to carry the same banners, he said, because otherwise the march would be difficult to organise and control on the road.

A compromise was allowed, with one Right To Work banner carrying 'A Woman's Right To Work' slogan along the top.

The London Gay Workers Collective and the Working Womens Charter group were similarly refused permission to carry banners.

Surely the best way to fight unemployment is by unity of those it affects, so why wasn't permission allowed?

Rhetoric

It was no surprise that the International Marxist Group pointed this out in a leaflet they handed out at the TUC lobby: it was in their own interests to do so, and we should not be surprised at this.

I spoke to a woman active in A Woman's Right To Work, and she expressed great dissatisfaction at the decision.

Similarly, it was tactically very bad to disrupt a fringe meeting organised by the Labour Party *Tribune* group on the Sunday night by an advance guard of fifty Right

B.W.N.I.C

THE NEXT national meeting for all supporters of the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign will be on November 20, 21 at the Redland Friends Meeting House, Redland, Bristol.

11am — General introductory meeting, for new supporters especially

1pm — lunch

2pm until evening — General meeting to discuss the plans, ideas, and work of the Campaign for the next few months — and to share round some of the work!

Noon, Sunday — Continues as needs be

There will be places for people to stay and all necessary facilities — please let us know if you're coming — or send us your ideas and offers of help if you're not:

B W N I C, c/o 5 Caledonian Road, London N1.



Right to Work Lobby photo Chris Davies (Report)

Hull Prison protest

IT WAS Wednesday September 1 and the police were managing to create utter chaos around Hull prison. Men and women fretted and fumed as they were prevented from taking their normal way to work. To the hundreds of queries, the same reply, "It's the prisoners on the roof at Hull gaol".

Fretting and fuming, I was caught up in a two mile long traffic jam; coming to a side street I shot down it, going through a maze of small streets heading towards Hull prison.

I arrived there at eight o'clock and surveyed the scene. Looking up onto the roof I saw around twenty men, all masked and done up like bedouins.

The flats opposite the prison walls formed a natural barrier which the police employed to keep people back.

Women I spoke to complained very bitterly against the police who had refused many of them access to their own homes all night.

The police and prison warders, freely mixing amongst the huge crowds from the Newtown Estate, had obviously managed to stir up some hostility towards the men on the roof.

They were intimating that the protestors were all IRA members, whereas in truth there were only two.

Another rumour that had been conveniently spread was that the tenants of Newtown could now expect bombs to be placed in the flats, and that there was a strong possibility of an attempted break-out.

The women were also afraid because bricks had been hurled through their windows.

Hurriedly I went from group to group telling them how they were being deliberately alienated from the men by prison officers and policemen, who were doing it all around the prison, diverting workers miles out of their way.

"The men were not demonstrating against people living in the flats," I explained, "but against prison officers and the police who are roundly hated by everyone in prison."

I went on to say that the stones were thrown not at the flat windows but at the

police, and as they were taking protection by standing directly in front of the flats, the stones were apt to miss their intended targets and accidentally went through windows.

Down below us the scene was now in uproar. Police came into the room which led out onto the balcony.

They would not show themselves on the balcony but spoke to us from inside.

"You've had your way, now come away".

We went back in to find two policemen in the room waiting for us. They accused us of forcing an entry into the old lady's flat and intimidating her into allowing us onto her balcony.

I told them that we had been invited in whereas they were the intruders and were now intimidating.

We walked past them down the stairs to the courtyard at the back of the flats where we were immediately surrounded by police and reporters.

Disturbance

An Assistant Chief Constable warned us that if we repeated this disturbance we would be arrested for "causing a disturbance".

I told him that we had caused no 'disturbance' — that was already being done by his own ranks.

I phoned the Home Office and told them of the situation as it could be seen down at Hedon Road.

I told them that I, a lecturer of trainee Probation Officers and the ex-deputy Governor of Wakefield prison would act as intermediaries and would guarantee that all the men would come down off the roof and return to their cells once we had taken depositions of their grievances and complaints.

They would ring me back.

They have both been deprived of even the minimum entitlements of prisoners: Noel is locked up for twenty hours a day in solitary confinement.

Neither have been permitted to receive visits — except parents and in-laws — nor have they received any of the hundreds of letters sent to them.

At this crucial stage, the Murray Defence Committee calls upon everyone who oppose capital punishment and prison brutality to support pickets, and give

FREE THE MURRAYS

DUBLIN — Now that Noel Murray has withdrawn his appeal against the conviction by the Special Criminal Court of killing an off-duty garda (policeman) after a bank raid, it seems almost certain he will hang within the next month.

Marie Murray's appeal is imminent.

In the face of this, defence committees all over the world have stepped up their campaigns to stop the hangings.

150 people marched by torchlight to Dublin's Mountjoy Prison, where Marie is being held, and a public meeting in that town was addressed by a Fine Gael branch vice-chairperson.

Irish Embassies as far away as New Zealand and Australia have been picketed and collections made, the money being sent to Ireland.

October 8 will mark an international day of action against the death sentences and the barbaric treatment that both Noel and Marie have been subject to whilst in prison.

by DICK POOLEY
National Organiser of Preservation
of the Rights of Prisoners (PROP)

Twenty minutes later they informed me they had discussed my proposals and felt that the situation at this time certainly did not warrant this type of intervention.

It was their intended policy in this case to allow the men to come down off the

REMEMBER HULL 1976

Bars and burning lights sear our brains,
Showing us your immortality,
Your bland complacent smiling face.
We want to spit into your open gaping
mouth,
So you can taste the bitterness and hate.
The slow worm of time slows on,
Making us crawl beneath its slimy body,
Forcing us to cry unclean.
This crooked roof distorts our face in
pain,
This face you shall now see.
For all that's left to us you see,
Is hate.
Hate for the cold, the damp and the rain.
Hate for the bodies twisted up in pain,
And for the homes we shall never see
again.

DICK POOLEY, September 1976.

roof in their own time and to take no action to make them do so.

I told them that if this was the case they must accept full responsibility for any further damage and any possible injury or bloodshed that would most definitely occur if this was to be their non-committal attitude.

Secretly next day they sent in their own representative.

donations.

All enquiries to Murray Defence Committee, c/o Box 2, Rising Free 138 Drummond Street, London NW1 or 155 Church Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. J.C.

TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION

Speakers Corner to Kilburn
Friday October 8, 7.30pm
STOP THE HANGINGS!
FREE THE MURRAYS!

FARE FIGHT FIGHTS ON

LONDON — The campaign against the tube fare rises is gathering momentum.

Thousands of passengers now hand in 'deferred payment slips' for a part of their fare, and London Transport then have to try to recover the rest.

This tactic of clogging up LT's bureaucracy is paying off. No-one has so far received more than a couple of demands for payment, even though some people have handed in more than a hundred slips.

It is feared that many letters from London Transport have been lost in the post.

The campaign is gathering support in the labour movement as a number of union

branches and trades councils become involved.

Meanwhile, London Transport admit that the fare rises have driven many people off the tubes.

It is reported that 65,000 less journeys are made daily from Oxford Circus alone, and cuts in services have already begun on the Central Line.

FARE FIGHT, who are organising the mass resistance to the tube fare increases, holds meetings every Thursday at 8pm at Rising Free, 138 Drummond Street, NW1.

Books of deferred payment slips are available from FARE FIGHT, Flat 3, 76 Sydney Street, London E1.

P.G.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 2

MP John Prescott phoned me from London having cut short his visit abroad due to the situation in Hull gaol. He told me it had been arranged that he meet a representative of the Home Office and could I give him full details on the situation as it now stood.

On leaving the Home Office at 11.30am he phones my wife to tell her a meeting had been arranged for later that evening between himself, the Governor of Hull prison and the Home Office representative.

He thought, he said, it would be a good idea if I went along with him.

I spent the rest of the day outside the gaol giving the prisoner's point of view to the media, hindered by constant police harassment in the form of being moved on.

At eight-thirty that evening I received a call from John Prescott who had arrived back in Hull and was on his way to the meeting at the prison.

He said he would inform me of the outcome on his return.

I was flabbergasted.

He'd led me to understand that I would be present at this meeting as the prisoners' representative. There were heated words.

For him to go in there and not to speak to the prisoners, and not to take a prisoners' representative with him was tantamount to listening to just one side of the story.

The whole idea of his being called was to take statements from the prisoners.

He then threw a bombshell, saying he was unable to talk to the prisoners unless they asked specifically for him, which in fact they'd been doing since the day before.

Then he said he wasn't talking to any of the prisoners until they came down off the roof.

By doing this he was aligning himself completely with the prison authorities.

I accused him of betraying the prisoners: his only reply was to slam the phone down.

At 11pm that night I was waiting outside the prison for Prescott to reappear after the meeting.

● He came out of the prison and went across and talked to the occupants of the flats.

I stood amongst the crowd and listened to him brushing aside questions on the possibility of their being rehoused away from the gaol.

On spotting me amongst the crowd he turned on his heels and marched back to his car, leaving the angry housewives and protesting prisoners behind him.

I went home thoroughly despondent.

At 11.45pm Prescott phoned me again. He was extremely arrogant and demanded to know why he had betrayed the prisoners?

I told him and asked why I hadn't been taken to the meeting as he'd previously intimated before leaving London.

His reply was that he'd said nothing of the sort and if that was the message my wife had given me then she was lying.

My wife reiterated the entire conversation to him but he still denied it: Prescott seemed to me to be a great deal more interested in his public image than anything else.

By the time he'd rung off he had promised that he would hold himself ready to talk with the prisoners as they came down off the roof the following morning.

What had been said in the prison by Prescott, the Governor, Home Office representative, Mackman (prison visitor and punisher) and various other stooges of the Home Office will never be known.

What complaints and allegations were made will never see the light of day, but there again, it was never intended that they should do so.

It was said that the prisoners had agreed to come down off the roof at 9.00am on Friday on the conditions that they be met by their own Hull prison officers and not those deployed from other prisons and that no violence be done to them on their descent.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 3

Friday morning was ironically sunny, being the first morning the protesters hadn't been drenched by rain.

I went back to the flats opposite the prisoners, signalled to them I was there and told them to stay where they were, not to come down.

They began to chant "We want Dick Pooley. We want Dick Pooley". I managed to get out of the flats before the police found me.

Nine o'clock came and went and nobody moved. Immediately I telephoned the committee that had been waiting since the first day of the 'riot', all of whom came post-haste.

A message was sent to the Governor saying we would go into the prison and guarantee the men's descent from the roof once an independent note had been made of all their complaints and grievances.

Prescott was phoned. We were told he had taken the laundry to be done. So much for holding himself in readiness.

Forty minutes later — "he wasn't back yet but he should't be too long".

Again, "He'd phoned and been told of the urgency of the situation but the car had broken down and he was waiting for the garage to repair it"

Betrayal

The offer of being picked up and ferried down to the prison was refused, he would be along when the car was ready.

Later, "he was on his way". Still no sign.

Finally a telephone call to say that he'd been in touch with the Home Office and was on his way down to the prison immediately.

All this a good two and a half hours after the initial phone call at 9.00 o'clock.

We waited yet again, but three-quarters of an hour later still no sign. The prisoners had started coming off the roof and by mid-day he still hadn't appeared.

Not until the last of the protesters descended did he show his face.

For three days of discomfort, of being frozen by the wind, of being hungry, for three days those men had endured all this in a desperate attempt to have their voices heard, only to be betrayed by one man.

By Friday evening almost all of the prison protesters had been dispersed amongst other prisons in the north and with them went the true facts of what had led to this furious protest.

On Sunday September 5, we received personal reports of vicious beatings having been meted out on those who had been inmates of Hull prison.

We in P.R.O.P. ask for a public enquiry. A fact-finding, far-reaching probe into the British penal system. Something which is long overdue.

We ask that examples be made of the irresponsible in the prison system and that those responsible for deliberately goading prisoners into such outbursts be sacked.

Merlin Rees has called for an enquiry, but what sort of enquiry can we expect? Yet another whitewashing and with it the suppression of some very damning facts.

The blame must be squarely laid on the shoulders of those who help to perpetuate this system.

I ACCUSE the Church of England and Catholic Chaplains who know what is going on but do nothing about it, and worse still in many instances, cover up for the rotten system.

I ACCUSE the probation people who send in 'welfare' officers who also know what is going on, but turn a blind eye.

I ACCUSE the lay people and magistrates who sit on kangaroo courts in prison and help to plug-up the holes of this festering system but most of all

I ACCUSE those Governors of prisons who have received promotion to the Home Office and who receive substantial rewards for their silence.

To Work marchers.

It was the chance the press were waiting for to label the marchers as bullyboys.

It was understandable that unemployed people were angry faced with MPs and Ministers bearing a remarkable resemblance to their old headmaster, or their old boss, coming out with hypocritical rhetoric and 'socialist' cant (words full of sound and fury signifying nothing, to quote Bill Shakespeare).

It is quite in order to deny the racists and fascists of the National Front and the National Party a platform, but since when were Labour left wingers denied the right to speak.

Yet as we've said in previous *Anarchist Workers*, the slogan around which the campaign mobilised was severely limited.

It is not that the Right to Work demand is without relevance: clearly redundancies and unemployment must be fought.

Anyone identifying with socialism, of whatever variety, should be concerned to abolish once and for all the iniquity of the dole queue.

Our major disagreement with the Right to Work demand is that it does not go far enough.

For it is no more than an appeal to capitalism to provide us with worse jobs.

Even if the demand were to be successful, we would have made only the marginal gain of having a job as against a file with the Unemployment Office.

We would still be, to all intents and purposes wage slaves: we would still be

undertaking useless and alienating work suited to the requirements of profit rather than social need.

We would still be subservient to management and overseers: we would still lack control over our work, workplaces, and our lives.

From a libertarian communist perspective, the present Right to Work demand is a dead end because it fails to press the key revolutionary point of taking of our workplaces and the means of production.

Thus, the demand is reformist in nature.

Further, as the demand stands at the moment, it fails to encourage self-activity, and has the effect of channeling potential revolutionary self-organisation into a plea for others — the bosses, the TUC and the government — to do something about the situation for us.

In this sense it is defeatist.

Broadly speaking, it is for these reasons that we should seek to extend the Right to Work demand, by encouraging suggestions as to how workers could plan production themselves, as to how they could run industry themselves, by setting up local action committees against the cuts and unemployment.

The Right to Work demand should not be rejected out of hand.

Pertinently, it must be extended to accommodate the principles of revolutionary socialism — no compromise with capital!

Billy Williams



Photo John Sturrock (Report)

Review

BACK IN the sixties I came across a cheap 'pulp' science fiction paperback called *Anarchaos*: I can't remember the author.

Anyway, suffice it to say that the story was profoundly anti-anarchist.

It dealt with how a group of anarchists had colonised a planet, *Anarchaos*. Once there, their system rapidly degenerated and the planet became a dangerous place for outsiders.

The author had a superficial knowledge of anarchism — he quoted a long list of anarchist thinkers like Bakunin, Kropotkin, Malatesta, and so forth.

The story was meant as a cautionary tale about the dangers of anarchism.

In fact, the conditions prevailing on the planet were more similar to Victorian capitalism carried to its extreme conclusions — everyone for themselves, dog eat dog, the rugged individual.

Two Worlds

Now, many gifted writers are using the science fiction medium, in which they have greater flexibility, with experimentation in literature and concepts, speculative ideas about the future in all fields — cultural, sexual, social, scientific.

At last it is possible to find a work dealing with anarchism and libertarian socialism to rank with visionary works

URSULA LeGUIN's THE DISPOSSESSED

like William Morris' *News From Nowhere*. This book is *The Dispossessed* by Ursula LeGuin (Panther Science Fiction, 75p) and I wholeheartedly recommend it.

The book deals with two worlds, that of Urras and that of Annare.

Over a million people had emigrated to Annare from Urras: these people were anarchists.

They called themselves Odonians after the woman Odo, who had formulated theories of anarchism, of non-authoritarian communism.

Annare was offered to the Odonians after the Nine Month Strike on Urras which threatened to undermine 'law and order'.

Annare is not a particularly healthy planet and the anarchist communism practised there is affected by food and material scarcities.

"On arid Annare, the communities had to scatter widely in search of resources, and few of them could be self-supporting, no matter how they cut back their notions of what is needed for support."

They cut back very hard indeed, but to a minimum beneath which they could not go; they would not regress to pre-urban, pre-technological tribalism.

They knew that their anarchism was the product of a very high civilisation, of a

complex diversified culture, of a stable economy and a highly industrialised technology that could maintain high production and rapid transportation of goods."

It is significant that Ms LeGuin makes the chief theoretician of Annareti anarchism a woman — Odo.

However, she obviously does not feel capable of making the main protagonist of the novel a woman.

This is probably because the story revolves around the two worlds — Urras, very similar to Earth has a capitalist democratic set-up in the land of A-Io, and state capitalist (Russian-style) set-up in the land of Thu.

The societies of this world are male-dominated and riddled with sexist ideas, as is graphically illustrated in the book.

For the hero, Shevek, to be a woman relating to the Urrasti world of patriarchy would present great difficulties for the author in the flow and credibility of the book.

Shevek, from Annare, is a scientist who discovers that his work is being blocked and hindered by colleagues and by the administration.

He soon comes to see that complacency, the force of custom, and the growth of bureaucratisation and privilege among

administrative workers are presenting a great threat to development and to the anarchist system.

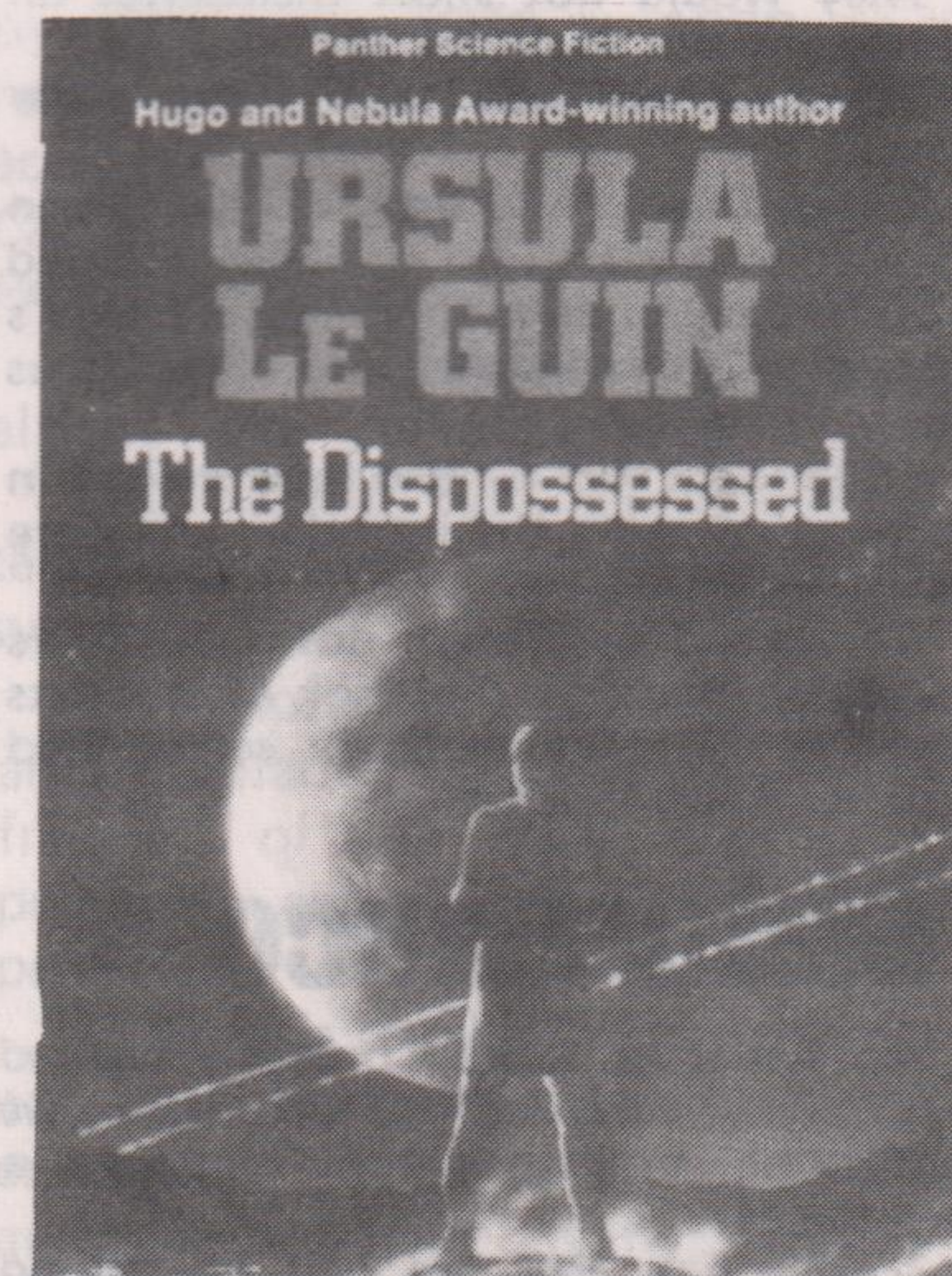
The book doesn't view anarchism through rose-coloured spectacles: it sees the difficulties of a libertarian system in a world that suffers from scarcity.

It sees the dangers of a growth of bureaucracy and the power that a rigid 'public opinion' can present.

Yet at the same time it points out and highlights the great achievements and rewards of a libertarian socialist system.

Eternal vigilance is the only safeguard of a free society, it argues.

The book is at times immensely moving in its portrayal of the society of Annare and of the warmth and humanity of its people.



Shevek visits the world of Urras, and his inability and unwillingness to understand and cope with Urrasti values are handled with biting wit.

For example: "He could not force himself to understand how banks functioned and so forth, because all the operations of capitalism were as meaningless to him as the rites of a primitive religion, as barbaric, as elaborate, and as unnecessary."

In human sacrifice to deity there might be at least a mistaken and terrible beauty; in the rites of the moneychangers, where greed, laziness and envy were assumed to move all men's acts, even the terrible became banal.

He had reflected, quite early in his stay on Urras, that the Urrasti lived among mountains of excrement, but never mentioned shit."

There are plenty of other caustic comments, on buying and selling, on the denigration and commercialisation of art in a capitalist society, and on the role of women.

One defect I found in the book was its lavish praise and idealisation of the long-standing and virtually exclusive couple relationship over all other sexual relationships.

Notice, I don't include the word 'heterosexual' as sexuality as a personal preference is an accepted thing on Annare, and homosexuality is not stigmatised.

Apart from this criticism, I found *The Dispossessed* a beautiful and moving work.

It can be offered to those who initially find a non-fiction work on anarchism indigestible.

It should be read by everyone.

H.N.

Racialist Attack in Oxford

OXFORD — The offices of the Committee for Community Relations were vandalised late on the night of Saturday, July 24.

The raiders poured creosote and paint on the files and equipment, causing £2,000 worth of damage.

This was only the latest of a number of attacks on Community Relations Centres, following others in Wandsworth, High Wycombe, Luton, Slough and elsewhere.

Fascists in Britain have applauded this attack, as they have the physical assaults on black people which have occurred recently in various cities.

A demonstration through the streets

of the town on August 7 to protest against this attack was organised by the Oxford Committee for Community Relations, the Oxford Anti-fascist Committee, and the Oxford Asian Co-ordinating Committee.

This finished at the Community Relations offices with a public meeting. Speakers included Evan Luard, the local Labour MP, and representatives from the immigrant community and the Anti-fascist Committee.

Luard's views contrasted strongly with those of some of the other platform speakers and those put from the floor.

He thought the British should recognise the contribution of Asians and Africans to His Majesty's Armed Forces during the war, and that the Government was right not to take any action directly against the

National Front and other fascist organisations.

However, we cannot be expected to support blacks and other immigrants as a favour for their being drafted to help British capital in the war.

Support comes when workers realise they have a common enemy; the system which brought immigrants here in the first place as a source of cheap labour in the boom periods, and which also causes the bad housing and unemployment for which the immigrants are now used as scapegoats.

Black immigrants are not a problem; they are the scapegoats for deeper problems like unemployment, lack of housing, schools and hospital beds. These are the results of the division of society into owners and workers, rulers and ruled.

At present the government of which Luard is a member is making these problems worse, and also the persecution of immigrants, by cutting public spending to raise the profitability of industry.

Immigrants don't cause this situation, and indeed are often the first to be laid off, the last to be fully aware of their welfare rights.

Luard claimed that government spending on welfare could not be increased

— but millions still go on defence and on interest repayments.

The Government will do nothing to solve the problems of working people; it is dominated by traditional seekers of personal power and by business interests.

The solution proposed by the Labour 'lefts' and trade union leaders is little better; they want import controls which will only further beliefs in national boundaries and interests and even if they temporarily 'succeed' the problems are forced onto workers in other countries, and will come back to us eventually.

It is only by overturning the present system that we will be able to create a society in which the ideas of racists and fascists will no longer gain any support.

The Oxford Committee for Community Relations is still undeterred by the attacks and continues to work with the help of facilities and funds from many sources such as the local polytechnic and an appeal launched by the Mayor.

Along with the other organisations fighting racism they are trying to give the immigrant community confidence and mobilise the whole community in their support, showing the real dangers of racial prejudice and exploding the racists' anti-immigrant myths.

Black and white need to work together more closely in such organisations, and as rank and file trade unionists, in defence against racism and in attacking its economic roots.



HEALTH FESTIVAL IN LEAMINGTON

LEAMINGTON SPA — The town's first Health Festival, held here on September 4 and 5, was an enjoyable and thought-provoking event.

The slogan of the festival was "Health is for People" and there were many demonstrations which illustrated techniques anyone or any group of people could use without 'professional' training.

Included were various sorts of massage, yoga and relaxation and Women's self-examination.

There was an accent on healthy eating, with the aim of preventing illness rather than curing it once it has progressed.

Interpretations of what 'healthy eating' meant, though, seemed to vary from an average Western European diet, but with less carbohydrates, through vegetarianism to a vegan diet.

Vegans not only go without meat, but also animal products such as milk, eggs and honey.

Food production and distribution was also dealt with, and there were stalls and demonstrations by various organisations

promoting organic farming, keeping allotments, smallholdings and bees.

Birmingham Food Co-op had representatives on hand to give advice on setting up food co-ops, and Friends of the Earth were promoting their campaign called 'Food is for Sharing'.

This aims to get people thinking and talking about food distribution, and help set up food co-ops and communal groups for cooking and meal sharing.

Some demonstrations went quite a way towards breaking down the mystique surrounding health matters and eroding the medical profession's monopoly of health care — all aims with which libertarian socialists are in full agreement.

Here I include the women's workshops on self-examination, childbirth and breast feeding, and others on questions such as restoring eye-sight without the use of glasses.

But two areas seemed to me to be neglected — one was health and safety at work.

There was no bookstall and no leaflets on this subject, and although a talk had been arranged it was cancelled because of 'lack of interest'.

POLITICAL MURDER IN ARGENTINA

FREQUENT reports of political murder and kidnapping in Argentina have reached Britain lately.

The victims of these crimes have increasingly been refugees from the fascist dictatorships of Uruguay and Chile.

In January 1974, Argentine's Peron Government passed legislation to give travel documents to all exile Chileans.

This was to change with the rise to power of the ultra-right Peronists, particularly Minister of Social Welfare (sic) Lopez Rega.

The unmarked cars of the right-wing death squads could always be seen outside his Ministry and it was obvious who was directing the killings.

Burgled

When Videla came to power it was made clear that the refugees were even less welcome than before. All refugees had to register with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) within a month.

This registration gave no protection to the refugees, and when the offices of UNHCR were burgled and the files seized,

refugee hostels were raided.

Since then, refugees, mainly Chileans and Uruguayans, have been abducted, interrogated and tortured.

The attitude of the Videla government to the fate of refugees has been made explicit by statements from the Finance Minister, Martinez de Hoz: "These people help terrorism—we cannot protect them and we would be happy if they left."

Help

A few have managed to leave—some are going to Cuba, 1,000 to Canada. In October and November, 75 families are coming to Britain.

These will be mostly Chileans and Uruguayans.

Your help is needed—both financial and practical. If you give money to help bring more refugees out of Argentina, then also you could help those already here by introducing them to your local Claimants' Union.

The children need settling at school, accommodation and jobs must be found.

You can get more details from local Chile Solidarity Committees, Chile Human Rights Committees, or local branches of Amnesty International.

The
tyranny
of
sTRuCTurEleSSneSS

by
Jo Freeman

5p

In this pamphlet Jo Freeman attempts to sketch out an approach to organisation that would prevent the growth of elitist leaderships which both highly centralised and highly informal groupings tend to produce.

In revulsion from the tyrannical structures of governments, unions and other organisations some anarchists have shied away from any meaningful consideration of self-organisation.

The Anarchist Workers Association played no part in the writing of this pamphlet but has found it highly applicable to the ineffectuality of anarchism in Britain in recent decades.

Send 5p + 7p p&p to AWA, 13 Coltman Street, Hull, Humberside for a copy. 10 or more 3½p each. Please make cheques/POs payable to: 'AWA General Fund'.

Eye, Eye, what's all this?

It does not seem to me that the *Eye* merits the support of a paper purporting to be an organ of the workers movement.

I don't agree that Waugh is naive. In his recent tv programme, he cleverly made viciously reactionary propaganda, by editing and lumping together interviews with figures like Tariq Ali from the IMG and the anarchist Philip Sansom with starry eyed hippies and a particularly

Yours fraternally,
Toff, Oxford

Open Day School

MARXISM & ANARCHISM

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Womens' Health

Review

Basic self-examination
The menstrual cycle
Period pains
Menstrual extraction

So although it is only a small book, it contains an awful lot of



A SELF HELP GUIDE

P.W.

***WOMENS HEALTH HANDBOOK – A SELF HELP GUIDE**, compiled by Nancy MacKeith, is available for £1 + 25p p&p from **Compendium**, 240 Camden High Street, London NW1 or direct from Nancy MacKeith, 16 Methley Terrace, Leeds LS7 3NL.

OUR BODIES OUR SELVES (a new enlarged edition can now be bought from **Compendium** for £3.25.

AIMS & PRINCIPLES

- 1 Capitalism is a class society
- 2 The basic irreconcilable contradiction within it is between the class which owns and controls the means of production, distribution and exchange, the bourgeoisie, and the class who produce the agricultural and industrial wealth, the working class.
- 3 The social enslavement and exploitation of the working class forms the basis upon which modern capitalism stands, without which capitalism could not exist.
- 4 The state is the instrument of the ruling class. To destroy the power of the bourgeoisie, we must destroy the power of the state.
- 5 Russia and China are class societies in each of which a ruling class of administrators collectively owns and controls the means of production, distribution and exchange, and in which a working class, the sole producer of all wealth, is exploited by that class. These states we define as corporate state capitalist in that the ruling class is totally integrated with the state, as is the trade union structure.
- 6 The class nature of society is reflected in all the dominant philosophies: class, race, sexual, social and personal relationships. The class relationships are expressed through all social relationships and generate attitudes such as sexism and racism.
- 7 The conflict of interests between the two classes generates the class struggle. In the history of society, the class struggle has been the primary factor in the determination of the form and structure of society.
- 8 The day to day struggles of the working class reflect the class struggle. The position of the working class as the collective producer of society's wealth

makes it the only force capable of replacing capitalism by a classless society. The existing defensive organisations thrown up by the working class, such as trade unions, whose bureaucracy is increasingly incorporated into capitalism, are not adequate for the smashing of the capitalist system, and the building of a free classless society. However, the working class rank and file organisations such as democratically controlled shop steward committees, factory committees, strike committees, are developing through the place of work. These organisations are the forerunners of workers councils which are the expression of working class power. Outside of work, the working class has developed other forms of organisation that are potentially revolutionary, such as tenants action committees, rent strike committees, and tenant-worker joint action committees. Dual power exists before the power of the bourgeoisie is smashed. If the working class are successful, then the organisation of the needs of society will be firmly based in working class hands. This is the collective working class in power, in which the working class destroys all remnants of bourgeois society, such as racial hatred, the family and hierarchies. This is the period of transition between capitalism and libertarian communism. From our analysis we reach the inevitable conclusion that capitalism cannot be reformed in any fundamental way and that the only meaningful transformation of society is through the development of working class organisations and by means of a violent social revolution. Violence becomes inevitable for the

working class to defend themselves against the onslaughts of the dispossessed ruling class.

The role of the AWA

- 1 The task of the AWA is to aid the preparation of the working class for their seizure of power. The establishment of an anarchist society is something that has to be consciously fought for by the working class. The AWA is a conscious organised expression of libertarian communist ideas. Through the shared experience, information and knowledge of the class struggle, AWA must be able to analyse and disseminate the nature of the problems facing the working class, and apply these lessons in the class struggle.
- 2 The AWA aims to offer a lead within the working class movement by example and explanation; and to build into the movement a high level of political consciousness so that it is capable of defeating capitalism and fighting the creation of a new ruling class. Fundamental to this is the contradiction between the organisation as a tendency within the class and its being in ideological advance of it. This contradiction can only be resolved with the establishment of a libertarian communist society. During the period of transition, the potential basis for the emergence of a new ruling class is progressively removed so that the need for a separately organised libertarianism will decrease.
- 3 The AWA seeks to develop and support working class organisations which are the forerunners of workers councils and to develop in them revolutionary consciousness. The AWA does not seek independent power for itself but seeks to work through the working class

organisations.

- 4 The AWA seeks to establish international links with libertarian revolutionary organisations and groups with an aim of establishing an international libertarian communist movement.
- 5 The AWA seeks to combat attitudes of sexism, racism and national chauvinism as attitudes that help maintain class society.

The form our organisation takes is a realisation of libertarian perspectives in the current situation. We recognise that it is not a social model of a free society and must itself develop in interaction with the developing liberation of society.

- [1] We are a membership organisation.
- [2] Membership is open to those who agree with our analysis of society and its transformation, and who work towards this end.
- [3] The main policy making body will be the National Conference. Between National Conferences there will be held bi-monthly Delegate Conferences to co-ordinate and carry out National Conference decisions, to decide interim policy and to initiate activity. Delegates are mandatable and rotated. Delegate Conference decisions can be revoked by National Conference.
- [4] We seek to establish AWA groups in all areas, not only geographical but also industrial, educational, etc. Groups interpret National and Delegate Conference decisions to relate tactics to their local experience.

*As agreed at the National Conference
in London 31 August - 1 September
1974*

SINCE launching the Press Appeal Fund, we have received £119.75 of the £200 needed by way of contributions from our readers.

ANARCHIST WORKER thanks all those who have donated, and again we emphasise our reliance upon readers to help raise the remaining £80.25.

The headliner (which is what your donations are going towards) should be in full operation by the next issue.

Regular readers will already be familiar with our enthusiasm for this piece of machinery.

It will save the production collective both time and money and, owing to the numerous variations of typeface fonts, the appearance of ANARCHIST WORKER will (we hope) be improved.

A number of comrades have also sent in suggestions as to how the layout and design of the paper might be improved.

Unfortunately, experiment and improvisation are subject to one thing — cash.

For example, we would agree that more use could be made of colour — but financial constraints place a limitation upon this.

Again, this demonstrates the importance of your donations.

If **ANARCHIST WORKER** is to meaningfully reflect the ideas of its readers, then we need your active help in doing so.

By selling the paper and sending us any donations — news as well as cash — no matter how small, you are contributing to making ANARCHIST WORKER a more effective newspaper. Assist in promoting libertarian communism!

Please send donations and orders for bundles, making cheques payable to 'AWA General Fund', to:—

AWA, 13 Coltman Street, Hull

Anarchist Worker

AT COWLEY on August 19, four shop stewards in T&GWU 5/293 branch called a meeting during working hours to discuss the sacking of a member.

They and other activists have been accused of representing anarchy and destruction.

But in reality they recognise that their members' interests have to be fought for.

It is the union senior officials who are following their own individual interests by claiming that interruptions of work can do the members no good because they affect profits.

They deny their members any active role in disputes.

Reg Parsons, senior T&GWU steward, produced a leaflet saying:

"It is becoming increasingly difficult for me as your elected Senior Steward to continue in this very responsible job, particularly against a background of corrupt agitators who are financed by outside political forces to bring Leyland to its knees for political reasons. I just cannot carry on against such pressure on my own. It is too much for any one man."

He called for the setting up of a right wing caucus which would exclude members of the International Marxist Group, Workers Revolutionary Party and Workers Socialist League.

Parsons and other union officials supported the management in withdrawing recognition from the four shop stewards and flooded the factory and the local press with denunciations.

But at mass meetings called in the various sections, workers voted support for the four shop stewards, and sections of production were stopped for several days.

However, this was not enough to reinstate the stewards. They were not given permission to address meetings outside their shift, and the workers had lost a lot of pay.

There was a return to work. But the shop stewards continue to press for recognition of the importance of their right to act and involve their members in action.

The 350 members of the Joint Shop Stewards Committee unanimously backed the four at an emergency meeting on September 2, and produced an explanatory statement for all the membership.

Some backing has been given to the stewards by the AUEW, who are pledging refusal to do the job of any T&GWU member involved in the dispute.

Anarchist Worker talked to a shop steward in the T&GWU 5/55 branch, and we print the conversation below:

What led to the withdrawal of credentials and facilities from the four shop stewards?

It all started when Brother Hussein, one of the members, was dismissed for alleged inefficiency in doing his job.

He had been working on the Maxi line for a couple of weeks when he asked to discuss the difficulties of the job and his assignment sheet.

ANARCHY AT LEYLAND!

Instead he was sacked.

It was taken to a tribunal which upheld the management's decision.

This caused a lot of concern and the four shop stewards went to a meeting to inform the membership of the decision.

The line was stopped for about an hour. They had the meeting without the company's permission, in a manner unfortunately outside the constitution between union officials and management.

The company reported it to the T&GWU with the result that management and union officials decided to no longer recognise the four shop stewards.

With that, about forty people in their area, on the night shift, stopped work.

How did the rest of the shop floor react to these actions?

People did not respond very much except where it was all taking place.

Some did feel they were acting in an unconstitutional manner, and that was why the response did not come spontaneously.

Once a few took action but it threw quite a lot out of work: the company laid people off and when this happens it makes things worse.

People resent losing pay because of other sections' industrial action, nevertheless people did think about the way the company had acted, more wasn't expected.

Why do people elect shop stewards with well-known far left views when they have not been prepared to go into action with them?

People elect the left because they feel it makes their position more secure: they know the stewards will defend them at all times and would never let anyone go into the lions' den undefended.

The stewards make them think 'who's next?'

Saying that, when it comes to the crunch people are frightened of taking action because of all the threats and pressures on them — thousands out of work already in Oxford, rent rises and mortgages, children and families.

In some cases they feel the left is more of a threat to them than the company.

It makes a great deal of difference when an injustice does take place and the only way to win it is by industrial action.

On many occasions it is just not possible to take action.

That's why the company is able to make a lot of progress in their way, using the threat of what will happen if there is any more industrial action.

In the popular press it is always made out to be a case of the actions of a few individuals. In the past Thornett was

"AS THOUSANDS of British Leyland car workers at the Longbridge, Birmingham, plant were idle today in the ... total shutdown of the factory for years, a senior union man accused shop stewards of plunging the plant into anarchy." London Evening Standard, Friday September 3

FELLOW anarchists should not raise their hopes that a major anarchist movement is being born in the womb of the British Leyland Longbridge plant.

Duffy, the right-wing senior AUEW shop steward who raised the cry, was playing on the other meaning of the word — chaos.

What was he describing as chaos?

The fact that the toolsetters at Longbridge took matters into their own hands.

Manning levels had already been cut from 300 to 200 when a 'training officer' was appointed to do the work of toolsetters.

The toolsetters struck.

Management answered by laying off

the toolsetters without pay.

This is part of a get-tough policy to smash the shop stewards and any shop floor resistance to management plans for speed-ups to increase productivity.

The Longbridge shop stewards met and passed a motion banning strike action before 'correct procedures' have been followed.

This was a mistake.

Those involved in the dispute must be the only ones to control its direction.

This can only happen when power lies at the base.

The good behaviour promise only plays right into the bosses' hands.

Negotiating with the union officials, the bosses have little to fear.

When confronted by a determined workforce, both bosses and union bureaucrats fear anarchy.

But our anarchy means a society which will render impossible the growth of a privileged class, and the domination and exploitation of one section of the population by another.

This means working people as a whole controlling production and their own lives.

The way to achieve this type of society, a self-managed one, is through self-management in the struggle.

R.R.

Do you think workers will get more militant as their conditions get worse? What would you like to see happen?

They are likely to get more militant, but it will take a little time.

They'll respond to lots of things by a lot of action when they become more aware of what is going to happen to them.

One thing I'd certainly like to see is workers having more say in the work which goes on at British Leyland, running the industry in a way suitable for them, not just the chosen few.

At present the workers have no say whatsoever and I'd like to see the people who do all the work which makes all the profits for the industry having more say in its running and what happens to what they make.

So the interests of British Leyland as a business enterprise, of its managers, are not the same as those of its workers, but what you would like to see is the interests of the workers being served by what they are producing?

That's true, the workers aren't considered at all.

Now that they're in the EEC it's just a multinational business; like other multinationals they are not taking any interest in the workers who actually produce their capital.

The company is essential to the government now, with the 51% of shares they hold, rather than to the people themselves, who actually give all their lives, in bad conditions, for the sake of making a great deal of capital for the rich.

Are the present union leaderships capable of fighting for their workers against the management?

No, they are not doing that because of what they consider the economic crisis to mean — the cutbacks, the recession in jobs.

At one time the unions were there for the purposes of job security, wages and conditions.

The unions are not in a position now to produce these.

They are part of the establishment and no longer serve the function they were set up for.

LIBERTARIAN SOCIALIST DISCUSSION MEETINGS

to be held at Gay, Centre, 19 Redmans Road, London E1.
all meetings on Thursdays at 7.30pm

October 14
THE LEFT

October 28

UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE CUTS
—HOW TO FIGHT THEM

November 11

THE WOMENS MOVEMENT
AND SEXUAL POLITICS

convened by East London AWA

London School of Economics

ANARCHISM, ASSESSMENT
AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD

speaker: ANTON POWELL

The Old Theatre, 1pm Wed. October 6

Anarchists and libertarian Marxists in West/Central Scotland interested in forming serious group to work in organised class struggle revolutionary activities please contact Ian S Sutherland, 64 Moorfield Avenue, Port Glasgow. Tel: Port Glasgow 42554.

Libertarian Education

an anarchist magazine concerning itself with the world of (mis)education.

Number 20 centres around media study 22p (incl post) from:
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Women In Media Seminar
on the Sex Discrimination Act

Saturday October 23

Bedford College, Regents Park

Register with Women In Media,
13 Elgin Crescent, London W11

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elected but similarly refused recognition by the company. Is it really a question of how much management and officials allow the membership to freely elect shop stewards?

Yes. It all stems back to the victimisation of our colleague Brother Thornett. When his credentials as deputy senior steward were taken away that was very serious indeed.

He is not the issue, it is the post, which is the property of the T&GWU, and that should be respected whoever is elected. Regarding the four, now, this has opened the door to any injustices that might occur.

It is not for the union officials or the company to say if anyone is to be removed.

If a shop steward now recommends direct action at any time we have to be very careful: it will make a lot of difference to several issues.

The union official, alongside the company, are not allowing us official recognition in many ways, which puts shop stewards in a very bad position.

What do you think about the calls made by shop stewards for stoppages, which often the membership are very doubtful about because of the immediate difficulties it causes them? Do they do any good by drawing attention to problems which management and union officials just talk about?

On many occasions shop stewards have acted rather hastily, not having won full support for their actions.

It would be better in a way to make the membership more aware of what is going on rather than jumping the gun before you have a feeling of how much support there is behind you.

I feel it is important we should look at an issue far more collectively before recommending action, otherwise it gives the company and the officials the chance to get away with removing stewards.

Although I support the stewards on many things, it's not always possible to do the best thing: you've got to have the support — that makes all the difference.

The best thing to do in difficult circumstances is to talk to the membership and make them aware of what goes on between the company and union officials.

What is attendance at union meetings like?

Union meetings are very slim. After you've had a hard day in the factory, it is difficult to give up two hours for a union meeting.

There are the Joint Shop Stewards meetings on the shop floor and the mass meetings, but that's not quite the same.

It would be good to get a lot more people along to discussion meetings, but if attendance did improve we'd have a job to find facilities for the thousands who work here.

In that case, the meeting called in working hours to discuss Brother Hussein's dismissal did involve more people than it would otherwise have done.

Yes, there were a lot more there than if