

Libertarian STRUGGLE

for Workers' Power

Number 24
February 1976
10 pence

Proposed Law Threatens Workers And Homeless

THE LAW Commission are at present preparing a draft Criminal Trespass Law which they plan to present to Home Secretary Roy Jenkins by the end of this month.

Harold Wilson has said that when these proposals are known, he will push them through as quickly as possible.

The proposed law is an attack on anyone who takes direct action to defend their jobs or to secure a roof over their heads.

So what's the background to this proposed law?

The number of homeless has grown to an astronomic level in the last few years.

In London alone, it's estimated that 200,000 families are homeless or in sub-standard accommodation — and that's not counting single people.

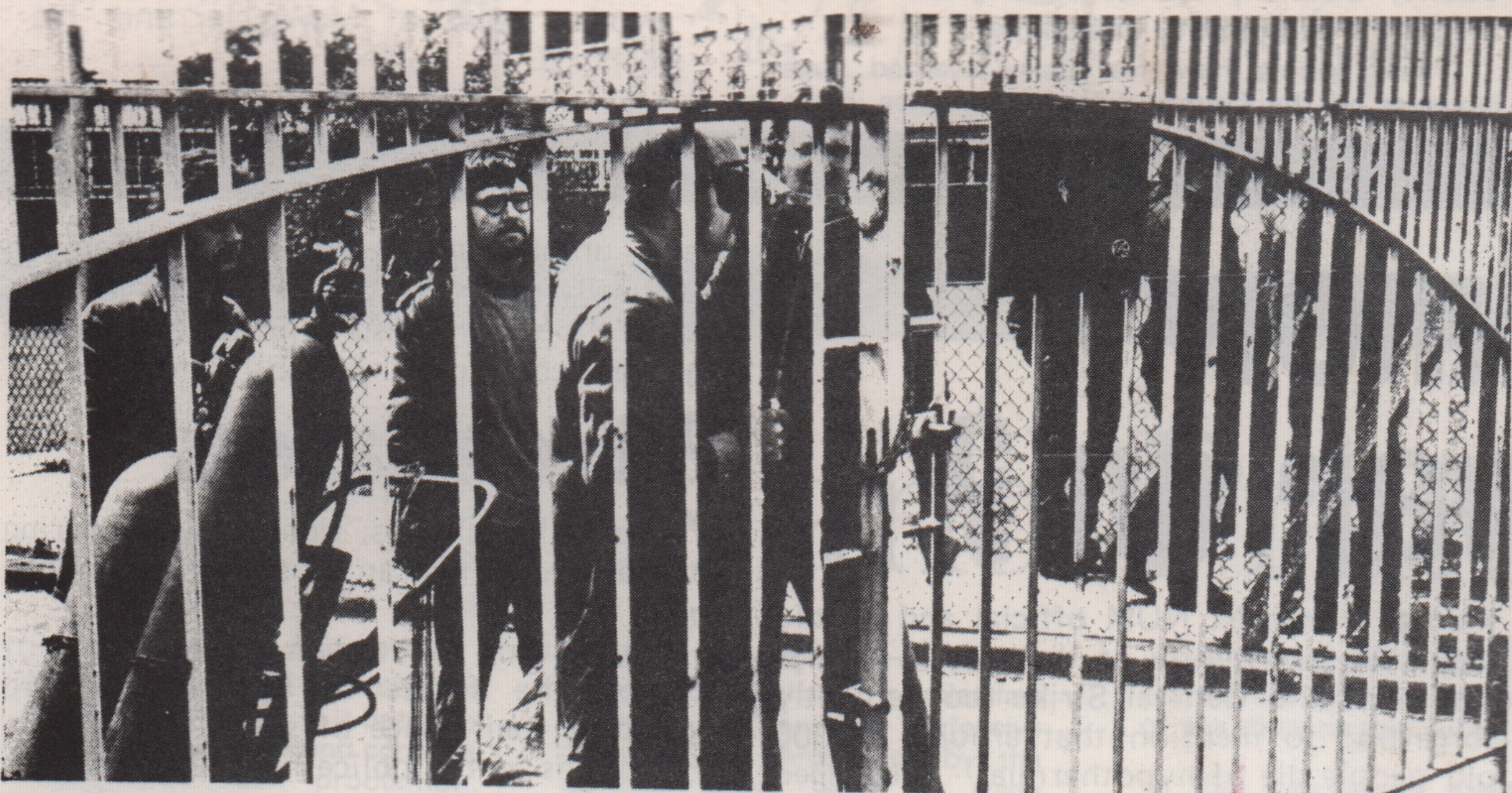
In spite of this there has been virtually a complete standstill in new house building.

The councils have made swingeing cuts in expenditure, and the private sector have found it more profitable to erect unwanted office blocks or, at best, luxury



ABOVE: Occupying the Ainslie wire plant, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

LEFT: IPD workers, Kirkby, Lancs, welding up the gates of their occupied factory.



Reds Away

REMEMBER October 11 last year? It was a Saturday. Down in Chelsea, 18 people got arrested. Manchester United away to Chelsea?

The 'reds' were there all right, but not the football supporters.

The National Front were holding their annual conference in the old Town Hall.

Four thousand workers went to demonstrate against this abuse of public facilities.

Kensington & Chelsea Council won't let the National Front in again, you might have thought.

Almost right. This time they've hired the hall to the National Party, the Front's ugly-sister organisation.

This letting is due to take place on February 21 — a Saturday again.

We call on all working people to be there to smash these fascists.

They must not be allowed to spread their evil doctrines: they must be nipped in the bud before they gain any real power.

M.Q.

accommodation that only the well-off can afford.

The system has failed completely to provide a home for everyone.

Yet hundreds of thousands of houses lie empty all over Britain: councils and housing associations own many of them; others are owned by wealthy individuals and companies.

Naturally enough, many of the homeless have organised to take over houses that are standing empty.

As the law stands, squatters must be taken to civil court for the owner to regain possession.

Under cover of a campaign of lies and distortions in the Press (especially the News of the World and the Sun) the Labour Government hope to introduce a law which would make it a crime to be 'unlawfully on another's property'.

This does not only threaten squatters, however, it is aimed also at stemming the rising tide of workplace occupations by people threatened with redundancies.

It would also make illegal sit-ins at council offices, DHSS offices, colleges and some pickets, as well as providing a handy way of dealing with council tenants on rent strike.

Non-protected tenants such as licencees

and sub-tenants whose landlords want to evict them quickly would also be threatened.

It is vital to understand the implications of this proposed law, which would severely restrict the ability of working people to take action to defend their interests.

Occupations of empty property are at present the only way the homeless can be sure of a roof over their heads; occupations of work-places are essential to workers fighting redundancies.

Everyone affected by the proposed Criminal Trespass Law must organise together to fight against it and the capitalist system that necessitates it.

Editorial Collective

DEMONSTRATE !

Saturday February 28th

AGAINST THE PROPOSED
CRIMINAL TRESPASS LAWS

1.30pm, Belvedere Road, SE1

more details from CACTL, (01) 289-3877

Exclusive

INSIDE THIS ISSUE we print a highly confidential Government memo which describes the location of 'Special Petrol Points for a Civil Emergency'.

These points are to be used by high-ranking Civil Service and Military men in the event of civil disorders.

It also mentions a mysterious 'Civil Contingencies Unit in the Cabinet Office'.

We can only guess as to the purpose of this unit but would not be surprised if it had something to do with strike-breaking and worker-bashing.

NOW READ ON !

INSIDE:

LABOUR CUTS FASTER
PORTUGAL
CHINA — BUREAUCRACY RULES
THE LIBERTARIAN FRONT
ABORTION RIGHTS
YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT
FRONTING UP TO FASCISM
FRENCH SOLDIERS ORGANISE
and more !

paper of the Anarchist Workers Association

Labour Cuts Faster

THERE'S still no halting of the avalanche of factory closures. Unemployment is near a million and a half, and still rising.

The Labour Government must be regretting its position as caretaker of capitalism for though it came to power under the banner of 'socialism', it obviously has no intention of doing any more than making the working class pay for the salvation of capitalism.

The reformist ideas of the Labour 'left' come almost as fast as the factory closures — and are just about as much help to working people as the shut-downs.

These include massive government spending cuts in every type of public and social service, which is in direct contradiction to their policies before they came to power.

They said then that the Government could reduce unemployment by increasing public spending and creating more jobs in

social services.

'LEFT-WING' NATIONALISM

This is followed by the pleas of the Labour 'lefts', of the Tribune group and union leaders like Clive Jenkins of ASTMS, for more controls on imports.

They think Britain can isolate itself from the world crisis, reducing unemployment by increasing investments.

There are few policies more reformist than import controls; on the one hand they allow the bosses to solve their problems at no expense to themselves by appealing to the workers to bail them out.

At the same time they divide the working class internationally, creating an illusory unity of workers and bosses in one country.

In this way the real interests of the working people of the world is concealed; an interest directly opposed to that of the rulers.

L.H.



Hard Times at the DHSS

ANYONE who's ever claimed supplementary benefit from the Department of Health and Social Security will know the frustration of trying to get money from them.

It's bad enough trying to live on the pittance they give you, but it's more infuriating when they mess you about.

Every so often someone explodes. Recently a student at Keele University, Gavin Rampersad, smashed windows and wielded a cricket bat at the Thornton Heath DHSS offices.

No less than ten police turned up and laid into Mr Rampersad with truncheons and riot shields — four of them were wounded when he defended himself with a cricket bat and a knife.

He was sentenced to three years imprisonment at the Old Bailey on January 14.

AND ON January 23, a man was remanded at Southend court charged with 'neglecting to maintain himself and his wife'.

Albert Thorogood, a registered disabled person, was prosecuted by the DHSS for not working for seven years.

Mr Thorogood, who suffers from angina, was sent on a course designed to 'revive his will to work and provide a sense of discipline' — but he left after two days.

The Department claimed he had 'considerable nerve' when he complained against his benefit being cut.

The prosecution took place in spite of the fact that he signed off last November, had applied unsuccessfully for about 100 jobs since, and is now a self-employed market trader earning £30 a week.

Thawing Out

THE £6 LIMIT on pay increases doesn't apparently apply to officials of Nottingham County Council, reports *Nottingham Voice*, the City's community newspaper.

These people have just been awarded huge increases by the County Policy Committee in the

name of 'regrading'.

For a member of the County Architects Department, pay is up £1,300 a year. For county playing field officers and their assistants, a rise of £700 a year; for youth service officers, up to £400 a year; for education area supervisors, up to £900 a year.

For Planning and Transportation Director Brian Collins' secretary, an increase from scale £2,853-£3,096 to £3,366-£3,702.

County Council leader Dick Wilson said the changes were not pay increases in the ordinary sense. 'Regrading is permitted under the terms of the pay policy', he said.

However, regrading for the male cleaning staff at County Hall was far from generous. Their pay was upped just 40p a week at the same meeting which approved the other rises.

(PNS)

School for Scabs

THE SUNDAY TIMES recently revealed that a private school has been set up in Oklahoma, which has been described by the American newspaper unions as 'a union-busting school for scabs'.

The idea is that newspaper executives are trained to operate the presses in case of a strike.

So far 2,500 people have gone through the school, allowing at least five newspapers to sack union craftsmen and still publish.

It has also advised publishers that if they have any trouble with reporters, they can turn executives into newsmen in a week's course.

The man responsible for this school, Robert Spahn of the Washington Post, boasts that he has smashed all eight union branches on the group's two daily papers.

Back in England, the Current Affairs Press set up by Ross McWhirter is still in existence, even though Ross McWhirter is not.

Various members of the ruling class have put up the money for a press capable of printing 3,000,000 newspapers daily in the event of a national newspaper strike, to put across the anti-worker ideas of McWhirter and his cohorts.

P.G.

THERE ARE some people who well understand the nature of the world today: those whose interests are threatened by the possibilities of change.

Just pick up a newspaper like the *Daily Telegraph* and you'll read all about the class war that is going on right now — from the viewpoint of the ruling class, of course.

You'll read all about wreckers, extremists, reds-under-the-bed, communist subversion, trotskyite infiltrators, anarchist bomb-throwers, and more.

But ask yourself — were all the pilots who dropped the bombs on the Vietnamese people 'anarchists'?

And what about the Tories 'infiltrating' the trade unions through a front organisation called Truamid?

When a building worker dies through insufficient on-site safety precautions, whose lives get wrecked, and who are the wreckers?

If the working class aren't thinking about class war, the ruling class certainly are.

The document on this page — Special Petrol Points for a Civil Emergency — shows this better than any polemic.

It was received through the post, anonymously,

Speculation

Leaving aside for the moment speculation about the nature of the "Special Contingencies Unit in the Cabinet Office", let's take a look at the *Daily Telegraph* colour supplement dated 16 January 1976.

In it is a six-page article by *Telegraph* hacks Robert Moss and John O'Sullivan entitled: "General Strike — Would We Survive", leaving us in no doubt who they mean by "We".

A Labour Government, desperate for an International Monetary Fund loan, brings in a stabilisation programme, the main points of which are social services and public expenditure cut-backs of £10-12,000 million, a total wage freeze and 'price increases linked to the cost of living index' (whatever they mean by that).

Didn't you know there's a war on?

A TUC alternative programme, including a total price freeze and expropriation of all incomes over £5,500 is rejected and a general strike is called.

A 'remarkably well produced' new union-bashing daily appears claiming that 'the chance has at last come to break the power of Britain's labour monopolies'.

Later on, in a Red Lion Square re-enactment, a student is killed by police.

In an angry debate on television that night, one of the Labour rebels declared that the police had run amok. In a sober news broadcast, the BBC observed that 117 policemen had been treated in hospital for injuries.

Len Murray calls for social revolution; Russia gives £20,000,000 to the British Labour movement and the *Morning Star* calls on trade unionists to 'look to their defences'.

The National Front do no more than

kidnap a marxist NUM official and an old lady dies 'apparently of the cold' — a first victim of the General Strike (conveniently forgetting to mention that around 10,000 old people die of hypothermia — prolonged and extreme cold — every winter because they can't afford the fuel).

Lord Robens is appointed as Chief Civil Commissioner, with ten regional Civil Commissioners, and smashing the strike is organised immediately.

The blackleg 'Organisation for the Maintenance of Supplies' is resurrected and army reserves called up.

A retired general says on TV: 'Communism must be stopped. If the Government is too feeble to act, there are others who will. Need I say more?'

They conclude with a Conservative Party proposing to smash the trade unions by a repeal of the 1906 Trade Dispute Act so that

trade unions could be sued, a ban on 'politically motivated' strikes, banning of the closed shop, compulsory postal ballots and imposed 'cooling-off' periods for disputes.

Police Weapons

The ruling class is, right now, preparing for class war. This can be seen in the police force, too.

With every policeman trained in riot control, the forces of law and order are extending their range of skills.

Sections of the police now practice with, and are called upon to use, different weapons: hand guns, automatics, 7.62mm rifles and shotguns.

It is not clear, however, how many police trained to use guns are stationed in any particular district.

According to *Leeds Other Paper*, the West Yorkshire force aims for at least 20 per cent of all police in the area to be marksmen.

LOP goes on to say that they have a ready supply of special ammunition to hand which is similar to dum-dum bullets — when it hits a person, it shatters.

Using this special ammunition, the effect could well be death through shock or mutilation; what would be a flesh wound in the arm with an ordinary bullet can cause the arm to be torn off.

It is no secret that the police are taught not to shoot *except* to shoot to kill. Their special ammunition will make sure.

Threatened

The bosses are preparing for class war; working people should decide their response.

Where factory occupations and the movement for workers control and social self-management are threatened and where all movements for real social change are under attack, we must be prepared to defend them.

We need to spread revolutionary ideas throughout the working class, preparing for popular power to oppose the bosses' power; only by revolutionary class unity will the ruling class offensive be defeated.

Eva Long

SPECIAL PETROL POINTS FOR A CIVIL EMERGENCY

Date of Information: March 1974

Responsible official: Mr Diston, Branch B of Personnel Management 5 (PM5) Division, Civil Service Department. Tel 839 7733 x66.

In the event of a serious and prolonged transport stoppage, in which petrol, even if not rationed, can only be obtained with great difficulty from the normal distributors and in which public transport is virtually non-existent, some essential senior Civil Service staff, and also some military staff in Ministry of Defence Headquarters offices, will be able to draw free petrol supplies from Government-controlled sources. This is to enable them to go home once or twice a week; on other nights they will be put up in their offices. Details are to be reported to the Civil Contingencies Unit in the Cabinet Office.

The following petrol points have been arranged for the Department of the Environment, the Ministry of Defence and Customs and Excise:

DOE

Hyde Park Point has 500 gallons at 2 star rating, but would be provided with 4 star rating petrol in an emergency;

Regents Park point — ditto:

MOD

Regents Park Barracks has 2000 gallons at 5 star rating.

C&E

Customs House Quay has 1000 gallons at 4 star rating; Lower Thames Street — ditto.

PORTUGAL

THE BOURGEOISE CRAWL OUT OF THE WOODWORK

“The first sign of change was the luxury cars in the street. They appeared once again with their uniformed chauffeurs. We thought they'd disappeared for ever, that they'd been sold abroad. But no, they were just hidden away in garages waiting for better days.

The second sign of change was the ladies' fur coats. Nobody had seen them for a long time. Even the high bourgeoisie, last winter, was dressing working class style: jeans and simple coats from the English style boutiques. Now the fur coats have come out of hiding from their wardrobes.

The third sign was the crowded restaurants, as full as they'd only

papers, the political statements. They still talk of socialism — but not of a socialist revolution: they still talk of a government at the service of the people — but not of the working class.

But there is a strange silence: silence over the house-to-house searches; silence over the repression of the farming co-operatives. Silence even in the streets, between the workers in the factories, between the socialists and the communists in the slums.

The business administrations are already beginning to break this silence. They announce to the workers that the negotiations for the collective contracts have been suspended.

Internal bulletins depict crises in lurid colours. The number of

THE RECENT EVENTS in Portugal, of November 25th onwards, are distorted by the British press, both the bosses' (Daily Telegraph, etc) and of the Leninists (Morning Star, Socialist Worker, etc).

The Communist Party and the other left organisations (the Leninist groups) have all along given great importance to consolidation of their positions in strategic areas, in the Government, in local government and so on.

At the same time, the Leninist 'extreme left' especially the Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat (PRP), the fraternal organisation of IS, have attempted to claim the newly-formed autonomous organisations of the working class as their own.

This went hand in hand with the growth of factory and field co-operatives, street and village committees, residents associations, and so on.

The PRP attempted to get the revolutionary workers to fall behind them by the creation of a movement of workers, soldiers and sailors councils (CRTSM).

The first demonstration called by this group attracted thousands of workers, but they quickly shied away, for they realised that though the CRTSM contained many good militants, including from outside the PRP, it was not based on the actual struggles of the workers.

When the left attempted to mobilise against the expected right wing coup by an armed uprising, they showed that their boasts of mass support were untrue.

They showed their absence of co-ordination and organisation, their failure to grasp reality, and where their collaboration with the Stalinists of the Portuguese Communist Party had led them.

The PCP encouraged the 'extreme left', while manoeuvring to take advantage of the situation with the military and the Government.

They washed their hands of complicity in the affair — after the right wing triumph.

Now the Government is attempting to dismantle the workers movement and take back the land from the peasants and the factories from the workers.

They want to turn Portugal in the direction of a bourgeois 'liberal' democracy like the UK.

This threat can only be fought by the Portuguese working class becoming conscious of their incompatibility with the military and the parties of the left, and 'extreme left' — in effect the left wing of capitalism.

These groups must be opposed, and the groups of the right and the ruling class, in a conscious and organised way.

We give full support to the autonomous workers movement, while encouraging the militants of Combate and of revolutionary anarchist groups to help this come about.

Nick Heath



DEFENSOR DOS INTERESSES DO DISTRITO DE SETUBAL

O SETUBALENSE

QUARTA-FEIRA
23 DE NOVEMBRO DE 1973
Travessa Jorge d'Aquino
25065/6

Este número é da responsabilidade dos seguintes trabalhadores:

MANUEL ABRANTES, ROGERIO SEVERINO, JOAQUIM MADEIRA, FATIMA BRINCA, ORLANDO CARINHA, ANTONIO PIRALIS, FERNANDO COUTO, JAIME FILIPE AVELINO, GRACA, JORGE GRACA, RUFINO MANUEL e CARMELINDA MARIA PALMA

Armas aos Trabalhadores, já!

A SITUAÇÃO É FAVORÁVEL À ESQUERDA

EMISSORA NACIONAL: Emissão contra-revolucionária

been in the winter of '73. People shamelessly munching lobster and toasting with wine the long announced crisis of the capitalist system in Portugal.

The rich have once again lost any shame at being thought of as the great capitalists, an old man said to me, and explained how complete and fundamental the change has been with these three apparently disconnected facts.

Luxury cars in the streets and silent faces in the underground; fur coats in the fashionable shopping areas and the euphoria of long political arguments in the streets disappeared (fear once again); full luxury restaurants and people in little queues for the almost bare shelves of the supermarkets.

At first sight, there has been little change on the television, in the

sackings goes up. 'The communists have got to be kept well under control' is the general tone. Still one more sign of change.

In the absence of a left-wing press rumours are increasing in number and importance. Everyone has seen young people being arrested, even if they didn't know who they were. And everyone knows at least one soldier sent home on forced leave.

And all the industrialists are happily looking forward to great and sudden changes: "We're going to have a disciplined working class". As one owner of a building firm said to me, "I'm not taking people on again until I find workers who don't think they can run the place."

And the ideas of Marcel Caetano are beginning to be put forward again, though no-one mentions their origin."

BUT NOT everything is so black. The piece above was taken with slight alterations (mostly cuts) from an article in *Nova Vida*, Setubal's town newspaper.

Run by its workers, and acting as a mouthpiece for the Workers and Residents Commissions and General Assembly (Comite de Luta) of Setubal, it appeared during the right-wing coup of November 25 with the headline 'Arms to the Workers now!' (illustrated above).

It was immediately occupied by the army and security police. Now it is back, with the name changed to *Nova Vida* from *O Setubalense*.

But, as far as I know, it is the only non-party organ of Popular Power left in Portugal.

The atmosphere really is like the piece says; it's far worse than I thought when I came over to London at Xmas. (The quote from the building firm owner was in fact said to me.)

Most of the left is now talking of 'Voutade Popular' rather than 'Poder Popular' for the workers and residents commissions.

This means they think they should be expressions of working class opinion rather than power! The change was initiated by the Maoist UDP.

Republica is closed; the land reforms are being dismantled, and as for what the article says about rumours, that's true.

The man whose house I live in — a social-democrat mechanic — told me when I came back that the PS and PPD had united as one great party of the right; that the PCP was out of the Government (all untrue) and that it was worse now than the times of Caetano. "People don't even have to speak now; they can be arrested for thinking."

Whatever 'illusions' he's got, the Government now is totally divorced from the working class, even from social democrat workers.

A more or less PPD paper, *Expresso*, is now talking of the dangers of a swing to the right!

And the bit about silence is true too: the papers, radio, TV, hardly say anything at all. News broadcasts are three quarters full of official communiques.

VIVA O PODER POPULAR!

G.S.

DIALOGO CON LA ORA
(Dialogue with the ORA)

is a 28pp pamphlet produced by Spanish libertarian communists with the aim of offering a clear alternative to revolutionary presuppositions.

Available in Britain for the AWA for 20p+post from AWA, 13 Coltman Street, Hull



SPAIN

JUAN LOOKS WAN

WHILE THE Portuguese workers face a temporary set-back their brothers and sisters in Spain are on the upsurge against the regime of Don Juan.

The struggle against the fascist regime is supported by broad sections of the liberal professions and intellectuals, all liberals and social democrats and by the Communist Party.

The former want a liberal democracy; the latter want a system of state capitalism. Both proposals would keep workers where they are — exploited and oppressed.

The mass movement in the recent wave of strikes shows what strength the working class has. It must not be held back by the liberals, the Stalinists, and the Leninist groups. The day cannot be far off when the dictatorship will fall.

When that happens, workers shouldn't be happy with half measures, as the bosses find new and not so blatant ways of extracting profit from their labour.

A victory for the working class in Spain would greatly assist the Portuguese workers, through example, and through the fact that the two neighbouring countries could move to libertarian communism together.

It would greatly affect the revolutionary movement throughout Europe and the world, and bring the total collapse of capitalism that much nearer.

Spain, where the anarchist movement was deeply rooted among working people, may again give examples of how society can be run through self-management and free collectives.

The anarchists in Spain need to rebuild their movement, learning from past mistakes and betrayals, and guarding against bureaucracy.

They can greatly help in the realisation of a sane and free society, now just a beautiful dream, but one day a reality.

J.deC.D.

CHINA - Bureaucracy Rules

The following address was delivered at a conference of the Organisation Revolutionnaire Anarchiste, our sister organisation in France, by a group of comrades from Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland who are members of a revolutionary anarchist group.

At this conference were delegates from the AWA and from German and Italian libertarian communist groups, and an initial step was taken towards building a real international movement
AGAINST CAPITALISM - EAST & WEST
FOR WORKING CLASS INTERNATIONALISM

WE AFFIRM one thing; that all 'revolutions' which ignore the real value of humanity always end up by turning against the people.

We hope that we can cut through the propaganda and the curtain of ignorance put up by the Chinese authorities, and those of your countries, to the tragic almost hellish everyday life that the Chinese working masses continue to put up with today.

This tragedy is the consequence of 3,000 years of despotism, reinforced by a hypocritical and hierarchical ideology, a remodelled confucianism, with which the ruling clique brainwashed the people in order to consolidate their totalitarian empire.

The degradation of this despotic and totalitarian regime was followed by the imperialist invasion of the foreign powers.

To the exploitation of the imperial authorities was added pillage by these invaders.

The situation lasted up to the beginning of this century when, under the weight of suffering and injustice, the Chinese working masses rose up in anger.

The desperate cry of 700 million exploited was raised against the native and foreign oppressors.

This was the movement of May 4, 1919.

The anti-feudal and anti-imperialist fury spread throughout the Chinese continent.

The overthrow of the monarchy in 1919, which raised hope and enthusiasm especially among the young intellectuals, led to an even worse situation.

A republic, where the people had neither voice nor power, where the warlords, first enemies then allies, crushed the people with hitherto unknown ferocity.

Possibilities

The introduction of revolutionary ideas from the west and news of foreign workers'

struggles had, however, taught young Chinese revolutionaries about the possibilities of a new society.

Among them, the young anarchists were the first to oppose the old regime with the idea of a free society without exploitation or external authority.

Without the power to put their ideas into practice, in a society where the working masses had not only no experience or organisation to fight the exploiters and imperialism, but were indoctrinated with the ideology imposed by despotism, these anarchists nevertheless pioneered the road to revolution.

During the May 4 1919 movement, China saw for the first time young workers and students demonstrating by the hundreds of thousands across the whole country.

This time it was not the charisma of a leader who claimed royal descent or to represent a heavenly power, but a popular struggle against the bloodsuckers of the people and against imperialism which mobilised the masses.

Unhappily, faced with this popular uprising, many young revolutionaries thought the social revolution was imminent.

A number of them wanted to speed this up at any price.

Envoys from the Soviet Union and the Comintern, bringing not only news of a successful revolution, but also offers of fraternal help against the open support from the foreign powers for the warlords.

Communist Party founded

Under the direction of the Comintern representatives, the Chinese Communist Party was founded in 1921 by a handful of intellectuals who scarcely knew the Marxist

classics let alone the workers movement.

Right from the 1st Party congress of 1921 its bureaucratic nature was clearly demonstrated.

Firstly, it was a hierarchy which had at its head the supreme authority of the

This revelation cost the life of this young militant.

The total corruption of the Kuomintang administration, eight years of war against Japanese militarism, followed by civil war had increased the suffering of the Chinese



Maoist solution to 'low consciousness'

Comintern which wanted to carry out its calculated political ends in the interests of the 'Socialist Fatherland' rather than an organisation capable of promoting the communist movement, and speaking of the real class struggle in China.

The Russian Communists openly showed their disapproval of the Chinese class struggle and even more so of their little Chinese comrades.

The Chinese communists - the receivers and executors of the strategy and orders of their Russian superiors - had nothing better to do than engage in power struggles amongst themselves or to launch campaigns amongst the people which were not based on the circumstances and needs of the working masses, but on conformity with their orders.

Certainly the political programme adopted by the congress, which fixed the fundamental task for the party as struggle against the warlords, Chinese feudalism, and imperialism, corresponded very well with the

people.

The masses wanted peace. They wanted a new force to put an end to all this.

It was against this background that the Chinese Communist Party advanced the appealing slogan: "Establish a New China".

The old regime was finally overthrown and a new China was established at the cost of countless human lives.

But soon the people saw that all the changes were no more than superficial; the old privileged classes had been overthrown only to be replaced by a new class.

Liberty

Liberty is no more than an empty word, it is taboo, a word not to be used for fear of being condemned for anarchism, or even for being counter-revolutionary.

Exploitation and repression are perpetuated.

Is this the tragedy of China or the tragedy of the Revolution?

One thing is clear: it is the logical conclusion of a revolution confiscated by a party imbued in spirit and structure with bureaucracy and authoritarianism.

The Revolution is dead.

History repeats itself. The Chinese people are silent.

Psychologically, Mao is no different from the founders of dynasties before him - he dreams like his predecessors of establishing a great unity of all China after his own visions.

The campaign against Confucius is not from the point of view of a revolutionary critique, but an attempt to replace him with Mao himself.

Playing the game of the traditional intelligentsia, and versed in Chinese history, he knows very well the importance of Confucian virtues in the art of governing.

He knows how much a complete muteness in a country so vast and so populated would

Bureaucracy in embryo

But one can see in this programme the embryo of a bureaucracy which developed with the growth of the party.

In 1942, the 'revolutionary' base of Yen-an was transformed six years after its installation into a paradise for political adventurers in pursuit of their ambitions.

According to the description of a young party militant living in Yen-an at the time, this 'revolutionary' base was nothing more than a continuation of class society, where the high level leadership enjoyed all the privileges - even organising balls - while the rank and file suffered all the evils of the old society.



Mao toasts Chiang Kai-Shek in 1945 in the 'Anti-Imperialist Front'

Building the libertarian front

be strange and horrifying.

He rejoices on one side in the opinion of the people, and on the other side, he curbs their free expression.

A uniform literature presenting the model of a 'new man' is one of the attempts to reshape the 'social personality' of the Chinese people.

Mao has made an old fashioned mistake in believing that it is still possible to transform humanity following his own will and his own visions of the world.

With perhaps different intentions, the other party bureaucrats treat people in the same way.

Like a pack of dogs fighting over a bone, they compete for the trust of the people.

In their jargon this is 'the struggle between the two lines.'

Discontent

Mao, as much as the other bureaucrats, does not ignore the discontent boiling up among the working masses against the Party bureaucrats who form a privileged class.

They don't hesitate, in the best Stalinist tradition, of starting campaigns one after the other, with the aim of supplying 'scapegoats' and 'sacrificial victims' to appease the anger of the masses.

Cultural Revolution

In 1966, exploiting popular anger again, the bureaucracy and the naivety of youth, Mao managed to start a mass movement: the Cultural Revolution.

This political campaign was started by the Mao group to attack a certain part of the bureaucracy in the government and the party, and became immediately a struggle against the entire bureaucracy amongst the people.

The bureaucracy is not a phenomenon limited to certain leaders, as they want the people to believe, it is part of the structure and ideology of the party.

The entire Chinese Communist Party is a bureaucracy, superior, certainly, to the corrupt and reactionary one of the Kuomintang, but it is still a bureaucracy.

The development of events during the Cultural Revolution has shown, as well as the craftiness of Mao & Co., that the people have not been robbed of their intelligence, and that the new generation have not been halted in the development of a new revolutionary consciousness.

The question 'Where is China going' that was circulating among the young during the cultural revolution announces the end of Mao worship.

The government apparatus — State, Army, police, prisons — were unmasked and showed their repressive face.

Massacres

The people, in particular young workers and students, started to fight fiercely, to destroy them in the hope of establishing a popular and free commune in China.

Massacres followed: the revolutionary masses again suffered repression.

The state apparatus of repression and exploitation was re-established. The lies continued.

The bureaucrats congratulated themselves, but the masses no longer believed these masters who pretended to lead them to communism.

The Chinese Communist Party and its state apparatus have clearly shown their conservative and reactionary nature. This reactionary armed force is stronger than ever.

But every repressed revolution, every drop of spilt blood reinforce the faith of the people in the revolution and reawakens their consciousness of the real value, the real purpose of life.

One day soon we will hear the victory cry of the revolution in China, as in every other country, when the working people of the world unite in the revolutionary struggle.

This is a natural tendency of Social Revolution.

Long live the revolution. Long live the people.

November 1975.

AS MEMBERS of an anarchist revolutionary organisation, we see one of our main tasks as helping to create a broad based libertarian communist movement, a libertarian front.

The anarchist revolutionary organisation doesn't see itself as a vanguard capturing as many positions as it can inside the working class — it sees itself as a group constantly advocating that working people take control of their own lives and their own activity against capitalism.

It hopes to act as a driving force within a broader movement, and it seeks to encourage this movement and push it to further radicalisation and unity.

We look at all the different struggles going on in different parts of society and see how very often they are divorced from each other, don't have a complete grasp of why they are fighting back.

We stand by the old motto of the working class — *Unity is Strength* — and try to link up all the struggles and bring a realisation that for any deep social problem there can be no long term solution under the present system.

All struggles

We regard the industrial struggle as vitally important and see that no revolution can be won without control of the workplaces and the transport systems.

However, we don't see other struggles as being 'secondary'. All struggles are important and complement each other. The revolution must be as far-reaching as possible, and affect every aspect of everyday life.

That's why we see the struggle against sexism and racism, and in housing, education, transport and the environment as being an integral part of the class struggle.

These struggles have to be extended and intensified.

In the womens and gay movements, we see our tasks as helping clarify positions, and pointing out that sexual oppression is intimately linked to class oppression.

Capitalism relies on the many divisions among those it dominates and seeks to maintain and deepen these divisions. Hierarchical society's values are reflected in the oppression that women and gays undergo.

MEETINGS

ON SATURDAY 17 January, there was a meeting of delegates from Solidarity (London), Social Revolution and the North London group of the Anarchist Workers Association.

The meeting, called by Social Revolution, was to discuss their suggested calling of a national conference of libertarian socialists to discuss points of agreement,

difference, and ways of co-operation.

It was agreed that a national meeting was to be aimed for in the future and in the meantime, more London delegate meetings would take place, leading to jointly-sponsored seminars.

Four topics were initially suggested for discussion — trade unions, the Labour Party, fascism and anti-fascism, and Reich

It is important that these groupings take on an openly anti-capitalist position. We work towards a break with liberalism, reformism and separatism in the womens and gay movements and the need for a class conscious regroupment of these forces in the fight against sexism.

In the claimants unions and other unemployed groups, the militants of the anarchist revolutionary organisation have to argue the case for links with employed workers-solidarity action against redundancies, a fight for the right of unemployed to retain trade union membership, affiliation of claimants unions to trades councils.

This campaign has to be answered by the employed, through activity on the shop floor, in union branches and trades councils, around the plight of the unemployed.

The revolutionary anarchist organisation has to push these ideas and help revolutionise the struggles of unemployed workers.

In their rejection of the reformist 'Right to Work' slogan and the recognition of the need for a socialist society, the claimants unions are already moving in this direction.

Similar work needs to be done in the field of housing. Squatters groups and tenants associations should be linked in struggle.

In the constant stream of propaganda directed against squatters lies the risk of isolation: the wrath of 'legal' tenants about the housing problem must not be directed against squatters.

In activity against the proposed Criminal Trespass Laws lies the possibility of employed and unemployed, squatters and other groups allying to fight against something that threatens them all.

Class solidarity

A vast effort in clarifying and uniting the different areas of activity against capitalism lies ahead for working people and the revolutionary anarchist organisation.

Out of this effort must come a mass movement that has 'globalised' its viewpoint, that fights on all fronts and recognises social happiness as only being possible with the building of a free socialist society.

The unity of struggles and the creation of a libertarian front needs to be actively fought for by the AWA.

Nick Heath

and sexual politics.

If you would like to know when any of these meetings are scheduled to take place, get in touch with:-

AWA, c/o 136 Kingsland High St, London E8
Social Revolution, Box 217, 197 Kings X Rd,
London WC1
Solidarity, 123 Lathom Rd, London E6

R.M.

Review: Murals

THE MURAL KIT by Michael Norton is a collection of articles about murals in America, in this country and contains helpful information on how to do murals.

It is useful and enlightening because many murals in America often have a progressive political content: many also involve, or are made by, members of the community who will look at them.

Often Chicano — Spanish-speaking Americans — or black communities have produced murals using imagery and ideas of their own.

In this situation, groups of artists have become organisers and technicians, fellow workers and agitators.

In New York, Chicago and other cities, 'Public arts workshops' have been organised to help this 'Mural Movement'.

Consciously, these murals are a cultural and political expression of the inner city ghetto and so perform the very important task of reflecting back the aspirations of these communities.

USEFUL

The Kit is useful in a practical way and suggests that a similar movement is necessary here.

The murals in this country so far have been mostly 'professional' 'fine art' extensions of the art gallery.

They are almost as alien to the local people as the concrete or brick that they cover.

The Mural Kit can be obtained from Michael Norton, 14 Saltram Crescent, London W9, costing £1 + postage.

J.Z.



Abortion Rights

*A report and comment of the Abortion Law Reform Association conference
on Abortion Rights and Community Health Care
held on January 17 1976 at the Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London.*

THIS CONFERENCE was attended by about eighty people. Speeches were made by people active in the campaign for free abortion on demand. They were listened to by an audience consisting mainly of people connected with Community Health Councils.

Speeches were given on the ethics and law relating to abortion by a vicar and a barrister.

Some members of the Anglican Church are attempting to find an acceptable ethic for abortion. They are saying that not just the foetus should be considered, but the total situation: the mother, the family and other involved factors must be concentrated on as well as the foetus.

This is true. The anti-abortionist brigade is only concerned with the rights of the foetus and the sanctity of human life. But for them the sanctity of human life only applies to the foetus.

They are not concerned about the sanctity of human life when it comes to people being killed in Northern Ireland or babies starving to death because their parents

cannot cope.

However, the Church appears to emphasise the marriage relationship, which is not the context in which everybody has or wants to have children.

The laws which originally made abortion a crime were passed at the height of Victorian paternalism, but it seems they were not necessarily supported by the courts or doctors.

A good defence could be put up by saying that a woman's life was in danger.

It is still true to say that having an abortion is safer than giving birth. Deaths at present from deliveries are 11 per 100,000 and deaths from abortion are 4 per 100,000.

The audience was addressed on the medical aspects of abortion by Professor Huntingford of the Department of Obstetrics

and Gynaecology, St Marys Hospital, Paddington and Mr David Paintin MD FRCOG, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the London Medical College and St Bartholomews Medical College.

Generally there is no need for the woman to stay in hospital for an abortion unless there are complicating factors, such as the stage of the pregnancy.

Therefore it is perfectly possible to set up out-patient abortion units, thereby freeing scarce hospital beds.

Guilt

Junior doctors are usually only non co-operative when working with an unsympathetic senior. As for the woman feeling guilt about the abortion, this is largely engendered by the people around her.

The staff in the hospital have their own hang-ups about sexuality; they see the patient as cluttering up the clinics when there are other patients with more urgent problems.

Possibly the nurses, who having started training young, will not have come into contact with situations where a woman needs an abortion.

In studies which have been done on women who have had abortions there is always a hard core of approximately 10 per cent who wish they had not had one.

Out-patient units could be staffed by sympathetic people. Women would feel happier about going to them and, therefore, would come earlier to request an abortion.

Delays in obtaining an abortion would be cut down, and it is better anyway to have an abortion as soon as possible.

Hopefully, the people from the Community Health Councils and others went away from the workshop on abortion and the NHS with ideas on how to ensure that there are adequate abortion facilities in their areas. Too many areas are inadequately served if at all.

Self help

Women must organise together to ensure that there are adequate facilities. The local health authorities can be hassled.

We can try talking to the people working in the hospitals and we can form self-help groups to find out more about our bodies.

'Our Bodies Our Selves' (Simon and Schuster £2) by the Boston Womens Health Collective is a useful book on this subject.

It is much cheaper to have an abortion than for the authorities to support an unwanted child, and it is cheaper to set up out-patient units than to perform abortions

in hospitals.

Unfortunately at this moment we are fighting to defend the rights won with the 1967 Abortion Act, which has not even been fully implemented.

A mediocre politician (who when the opportunity arose for them to put forward a private member's bill could not think of anything better than to attack the '67 Act) assisted by another politician who nicks other people's bills and assorted members of the hang 'em and flog 'em lobby is trying to turn the clock back.

The White Bill is an attempt to erode the rights for which women have been struggling for so long, and have still not really achieved. Nobody must be allowed to reverse our struggle.

The bill threatens the woman who cannot afford to go to Harley Street for her 'appendectomy'.

There will be no equality of opportunity if a woman cannot keep her job secure and neanderthal man denies her the right to a safe and legal abortion when she needs it.

Inadequate

Even now, the '67 Act is not adequate. The decision to have an abortion still does not rest completely with the woman herself.

Perhaps it would be a good idea to start fighting for that aim now. For too long we have been on the defensive against SPUC.

In February discussion and voting on the reconvening of the Select Committee — selected for its anti-abortion bias — will take place. It will consist of the same people as previously.

Both the Lane Committee Report and evidence previously submitted to the committee have shown that there is no need for tinkering with the '67 Act.

No government should be allowed to dictate to us how to look after our bodies.

It was unfortunate that there was not enough discussion and the working woman at the conference. For it is the working woman and her sisters (who cannot afford Harley Street) who will suffer if abortion is not safe, legal and FREE.

AFTERNOTE

One topic which was not much discussed was the role of the father or companion. What happens is the mother and father disagree about having an abortion? What part should the male have? Perhaps a male reader would like to comment on this aspect.

There is a good article on the ideological aspects of abortion in *Radical Science Journal* No 2/3.

Ann Reynolds

Youth Unemployment

ONE SECTION of society particularly devastated by this recession of the economy are school-leavers, who come fresh-faced from school only to find themselves flung on the dole queue.

Between 125,000 and 165,000 young people found themselves in that situation in September — not just numbers, but a vast amount of broken hopes and dreams at being told, in capitalist terms, that they have 'failed'.

But of course, the system doesn't care about the human problems its workings cause: all that matters to it are things like 'cash-flow problems' and 'labour reduction potential'.

However, you can bet that the 'old school tie' brigade are still doing alright, crisis or no. Jobs will still be found in the upper ranks of business for those leaving public school, Oxford or Cambridge with the right connections.

The ones worst affected will be those who never got a chance at school, those from the 'wrong background', who left school with little or no qualifications.

You begin to realise the lunacy of capitalism when you consider the situation that is happening now, when unemployed school leavers without the right qualifications are standing in the dole queue beside unemployed teachers.

The pressures on a young person who has been rejected by the system are enormous.

No-one particularly cares for work itself, for most of them have been bored out of their minds at school, and recognise that very few of them will get jobs they look upon as worthwhile or fulfilling.

It is the wages which are important, and the new 'freedom' that money brings.

If a young person doesn't get a job, they feel they are 'letting down their family' — and there's always some clown about who insists all that's needed is a bit more effort.

So what can be done about the problem?

On the face of it the social democrats seem to be tackling the problem effectively. They have reduced the original figures of 165,000.

Useless

However they have only achieved this by shoving young people into useless 'training and occupation schemes'.

These are useless because they have been set up not for education reasons but simply to reduce the unemployment figures.

This is proved by looking at the resources

allocated to these schemes. They are pathetically inadequate for any genuine educational purpose, but are quite adequate for providing the trappings of a 'course'.

Schools, too, are suffering from large numbers of young people who are returning, simply to avoid going on the dole.

And of course, there's always the Army. The system can't use them to work its machinery, but they can still be used as cannon-fodder, to protect the boss class from the IRA/the Russians/the workers.

All these 'solutions' must be opposed. Equally, the 'solutions' of the ultra-right ('wogs' coming over and taking our jobs) must be prevented from taking hold amongst the young unemployed.

Trap

However, it is important not to fall into the reformist trap that the 'right to work' slogan leads to.

Very few people under the present system give a damn about work. All that matters to them are the wages, for until workers control their workplaces, jobs will be boring and soul-destroying.

Substitute 'the right to be bored, pissed off and exploited' for 'the right to work' and the real danger of that slogan is made clear.

Young people must be persuaded that they are not at fault, that it is the system which is crazy.

To this end the following demands should be pressed for:

*Full wages for all, work or no work — to ensure that the living standards of the unemployed are protected.

*Resistance to the Government's youth subsidies, which only pit one section of the unemployed, against another in the scramble for jobs.

*Resistance to the patronising plans of local authorities and their cheap labour schemes 'to keep them off the streets'.

*All assistance to be given to the youth unemployed to organise themselves through the claimants unions. Facilities to be given by trades councils, students unions, etc.

*Solidarity and resistance by those still at work in order to prevent further redundancies and to force the bosses to create more jobs.

**FULL WAGES, WORK OR NO WORK!
DON'T TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
BOSSSES TROUBLES!**

Dave Paterson

member of the National Union of School Students



Dole queue in Birmingham

New Towns

IN DECEMBER'S *Libertarian Struggle* we printed an article about New Towns — entitled *New Opportunity* — where the role of speculators and developers who make enormous profits from the building of housing estates in these areas, was exposed.

A recent glaring example of this was brought into the open when the Press reported the £7,000,000 Sussex land deal negotiated by millionaire Lord Ryder — who is now Chairman of the National Enterprise Board, the outfit which carries out nationalisation.

Two months after permission was given for the land to be developed, Reed International bought

600 acres through a specially formed subsidiary, Keatfold, for £3½m, and then sold some 325 acres to Crawley Council for £7m.

Horace Broad, Deputy Chairman of Reed International and director of the other companies involved said, "That's profit. It's quite usual."

He could have said, "That's capitalism". Councils encourage this kind of speculation, which in the long run is paid for by the working class.

It's been estimated that future council tenants in Crawley will be paying £1 a week each in their rent to foot the bill for Ryder's profits.

V.J.

Letter

Dear *Libertarian Struggle*,

I was thinking, after reading the article in your January edition on the proposed railway cuts, how difficult it is to understand quite what H.M.G. are up to.

Probably as railwaymen and travellers get irate, British Rail will be able to announce that after "fierce and hard hitting negotiation" only 1,000 miles of track is to be scrapped. "A victory for common sense", smirks Richard Marsh!

But it won't be. It will be a stage-managed public relations job for the men with £sd-crammed heads, who are out to get more money for your trips.

It won't work! We don't want, and we're not going to get, more roads. The present ones are over-crowded and dangerous.

But what do the road haulage men care

about lives and living standards?

And the fares on the surviving public transport? Already a big bite comes out of everyone's pocket on getting to work — will it be worth paying more?

Cars get ever more expensive to run, and approximately three-quarters of the population don't even have the privilege of using one (children, old folk, many women, etc.).

If you cycle or walk, you'll spend longer, and, as I do, run the risk of early retirement through injury.

This seems to be a real likelihood, not a routine left-wing nightmare. The rail unions are still doing bugger all worth noticing. Are AWA rail workers actively working to keep all track and trains?

Freda Donnelly

Fronting Up To Fascism

THE RECENT split between the different factions of the National Front shouldn't make people lose interest in the fight against fascism.

The split that developed inside the Front was based on the differences between Tyndall and Webster, the old guard with a long history of membership of Nazi groups, and the 'legalist' wing of Kingsley Read and co.

The latter are worried about the reputation of Tyndall and his crew and they are attempting to live down the slur of Nazism effectively levelled at them by left wing groups.

Tactical

They strongly disapprove of the use of strong arm methods — it should be pointed out that this is purely tactical.

Kingsley Read wouldn't hesitate to use physical force to destroy the working class movement if he thought his group was strong enough and the time was right.

The 'legalists' were also fed up with the way Tyndall and Webster have dominated the National Front and attempted to stifle any different viewpoint inside their party.

It is a mistake to think that the danger of the National Front has passed. John Tyndall

and Martin Webster still continue to spread their racist and anti-working class poison throughout society.

Violence

Along with other lunatic Nazi groups, like the British Movement, they will use violence against organisations of the working class and the left (like the attack on the meeting of the National Council of Civil Liberties held in Manchester on the subject of Ireland which was broken up by 30 National Front thugs using bottles and chair-legs).

Kingsley Read and his friends, self-styled 'British Patriots' have formed the National Party.

They are no less fascist and no less racist than the National Front. They want to create a strong state and to smash the working class just like the National Front.

So far the left wing have used the Nazi past of the leaders of the National Front to discredit them. This will not wash with the National Party.

Socialists will be forced to think more clearly about ways in which to fight fascism.

Alternative

The most effective way of defeating fascism is by offering an alternative.

This means involvement, activity. Activity that is consistent and intense, that fights around the problems of unemployment, bad housing; and mobilises on a mass basis preparing the working class for power, winning short term demands at the same time.

The Communist Party in the '30's realised this. In London's East End they involved tenants in a series of successful rent strikes against the landlords which the fascists refused to support.

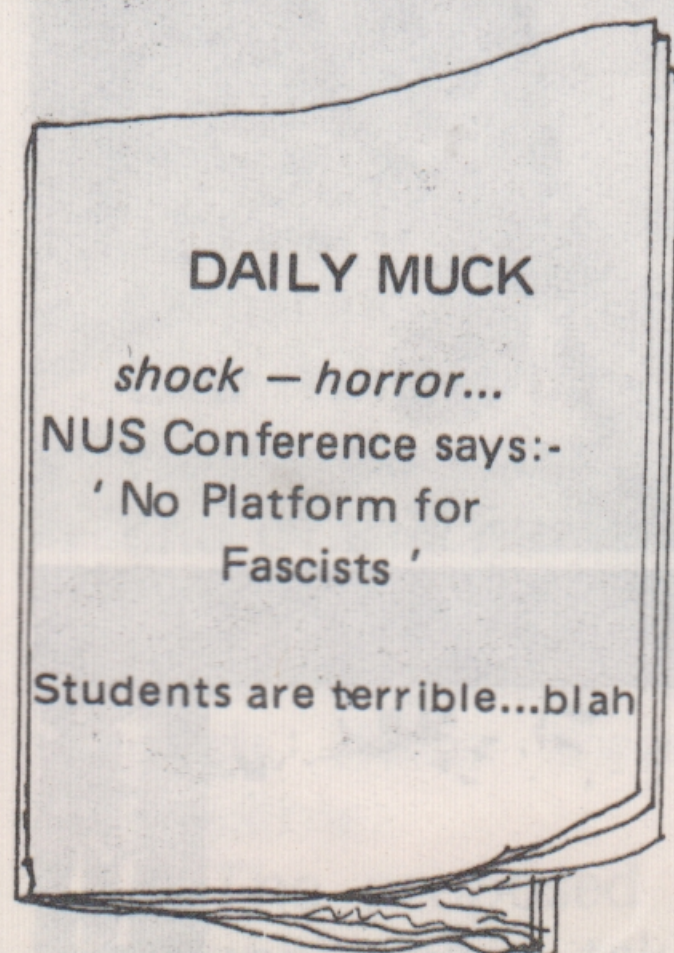
Pretence

By showing up the fascists as only making a pretence of supporting workers' interests, their influence was drastically reduced in East London.

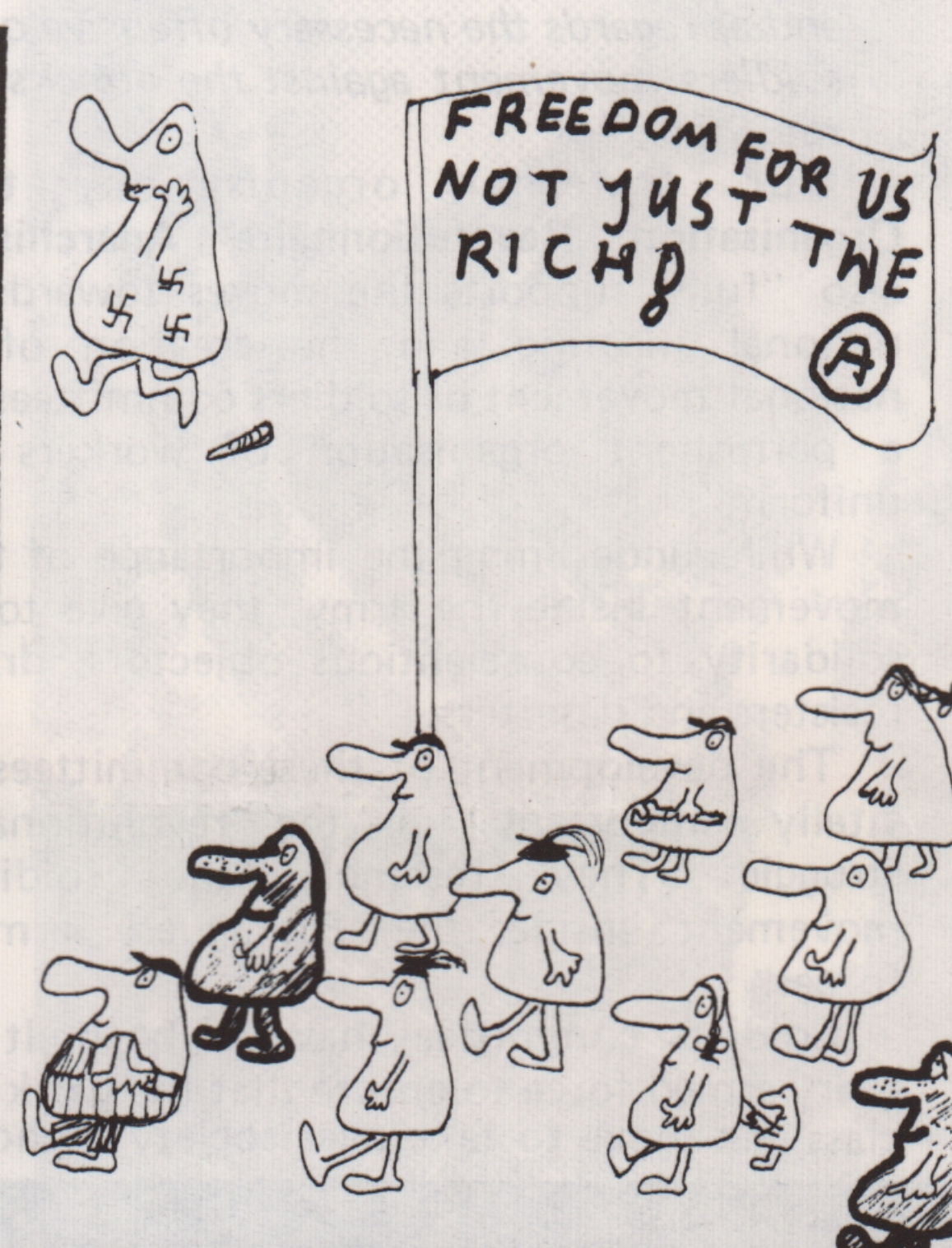
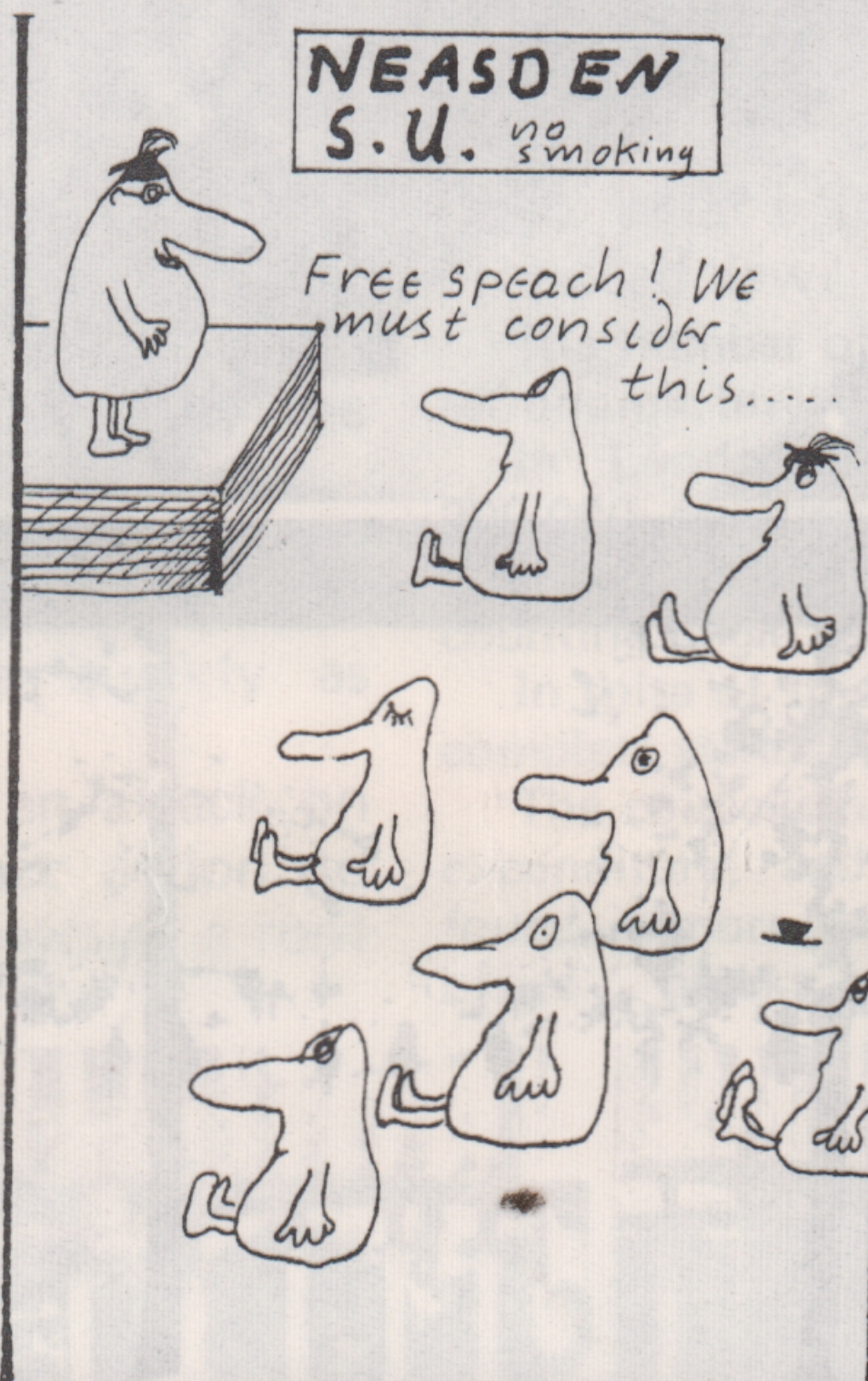
While we don't want to emulate the Moscow Appreciation Society of King Street, we regard their '30's approach to anti-fascism as realistic, but at the same time continue to stress the need for free speech to be denied to the fascist groups.

NO PLATFORM FOR FASCISTS!
STEP UP THE CLASS STRUGGLE
TO DEFEAT THE OFFENSIVE
OF THE FASCISTS AND THE BOSSES!

Dave Higgins



I'm not terrible!



Aims and Principles

- Capitalism is a class society
- 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.
- The social enslavement and exploitation of the working class forms the basis upon which modern capitalism stands, without which capitalism could not exist.
- The state is the instrument of the ruling class. To destroy the power of the bourgeoisie, we must destroy the power of the state.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- The AWA seeks to establish international links with libertarian revolutionary organisations and groups with an aim of establishing an international libertarian communist movement.
- 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.

Review: ON TARGET

THIS IS A NEW independent socialist magazine focussing on Israel and Palestine, with coverage of other issues in the Middle East, sponsored by the Middle East Research & Action Group.

The editors say in the introduction:-

"We feel that the absence of a flourishing medium of communication between socialists concerned with the Middle East is a serious problem and we hope that the production of this magazine (alongside others) will go some way to rectify the problem. Consequently we should like to open the pages of this magazine to our readers." (emphasis in original).

The first issue contains an interview with Simon Louvish, maker of the film *To Live in Freedom* (distributed in this country by MERAG), Akiyah Orr on nationalism and the idea of the state, which he defines curiously enough as "any political system", an interview with the French professor and author Maxime Rodinson, and a document written in 1970 by Lafif Lakhadar and former member of the Internationale Situationniste Mustapha Khayati called 'Waiting for the Massacre'.

ON TARGET costs 25p and can be obtained (postage extra) from:

ON TARGET, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1.

A Woman's Right to Choose have produced a good pamphlet on campaigning for better abortion facilities in your area. It is obtainable from AWRC, 88A Islington High Street, London N1 8EG.

East London Portugal Solidarity Committee have produced two pamphlets of translations from the Portuguese Revolution. The latest is from a pamphlet put out by the *Combate* group on the nature of capitalist crises. 20p + post from: 41 Bromley Street, London E1.

Social Revolution — paper of the Social Revolution group. Issue No3 contains articles on Denmark, Angola, immigrant workers and more. Available from R. Knight, Box 217, c/o 197 Kings Cross Road, London WC1, for 6p + postage.

Direct Action — published by the Syndicalist Workers Federation. 10p + postage from Direct Action, c/o 109 Oxford Road, Manchester 1. Issue No10 contains articles on Russian Labour Relations, tax and education, and more.

Anarchy — No18 is concerned with the class nature of this society. Articles on the working class and revolution, class and privilege and the unions. Produced by the Anarchy Collective, 29, Grosvenor Avenue, London N5. 10p + post.

Libertarian Communism — the discussion journal of Social Revolution. Issue 9 contains SR's draft manifesto, tyranny of jargon, paedophiles, 8p + postage from address above.

Scottish Libertarian Federation Newsletter No5 has just come out. Contributions and enquiries to Box 23, APP, 167 King Street, Aberdeen.

Libertarian Womens Network Newsletter has now reappeared (price is 50p for 3 copies, which includes postage). Available from Alison Malet, 1 Lynnewood Place, Dundee, Angus, Scotland.

Press Fund

A REVOLUTIONARY newspaper can never support itself financially by sales alone: it can't get those full page ads from the Gas Board or Bristol Channel Shipyard.

As soon as it looks like we're getting near to breaking even we start thinking about how we can expand — can we afford to go to 12 pages?...a second colour as a regular feature would be nice, only...then again, we ought to get it out more often, say fortnightly...

But all the time, costs are shooting up — we've got to pay the printing, typesetting and distribution bills each time.

We also badly need a whole load of new equipment, like a bromide camera and a headliner to make *LIBERTARIAN STRUGGLE* a better looking paper.

This all needs money. Lots of it.

At the same time, we are happy to say that sales are increasing and we will be printing more with each issue if things carry on like this.

This is very encouraging at a time when the 'traditional' left is falling apart with splits and declining membership.

These parties duplicate capitalist society in their values and their hierarchical organisations — as capitalist society falls apart, we see this reflected in the crisis of the left.

We shall not tire of repeating that it is vitally important that we get over libertarian communist ideas to wider areas — the ideas of running society in a free and self-managed way where there are no longer any classes, no money, and where work is transformed into something pleasurable, that we need to control our own struggles as we fight back against the capitalist system.

But we need to organise as a class to change all this. You can assist us by giving as much money as you can afford; and support us by taking a bundle of papers, sale or return, for workplace, dole queue, tenants association, womens group, wherever you're active.

Our paper wants to stimulate activity, and unite activity too, so write in and let everyone else know what you are doing, what you think. Send us reports, letters, cartoons, etc.

ALL DONATIONS, LETTERS, ARTICLES, SHOULD BE SENT TO:
AWA, 13 COLTMAN STREET, HULL.

French Soldiers Organise

The march at Draguignan



THE FRENCH ARMY, a conscript one, was shaken recently by the development of soldiers committees, which ex-paratrooper boss Minister of Military Affairs Bigeare is attempting to crush.

He insists it is part of a general, left-wing, terrorist plot (unproved and very tenuous connections with the Baader-Meinhof group).

There were spectacular demonstrations of soldiers at Draguignan where amongst other demands was a stand against racism, and at Karlsruhe in the West German Republic (French Army in occupation). This revealed a resistance inside the barracks.

This was followed by a demonstration of soldiers in Paris on May 1 1975, and an explicit recognition of the fact that the soldiers considered themselves as part of the working class, and that they would only use their weapons to defend the working class.

Repression followed, but soldiers committees mushroomed in many of the barracks in France and Germany.

An appeal was issued by a hundred soldiers — 'The Appeal of the Hundred' — demanding better conditions and pay, free travel and freedom of association, meeting, expression, and protection against the

military courts.

Several soldiers committees are calling for a national meeting of soldiers committees in order to create a national movement.

A statement from a grouping of libertarian communist soldiers says:

"We give full support to a national meeting already called for by many soldiers committees... we affirm our solidarity as regards all cases of repression and as regards the necessary offensive of a soldiers movement against the attacks of the State."

Our fraternal organisation, the **Organisation Revolutionnaire Anarchiste**, also "fully supports the moves towards a national meeting and the creation of a national movement of soldiers committees — a permanent organisation of workers in uniform".

While underlining the importance of the movement inside the army, they give total solidarity to conscientious objectors, draft resisters and deserters.

The development of these committees is vitally important for the revolutionary struggle. They resemble the soldiers movement inside the Portuguese armed forces.

Soldiers committees have to be built in every armed force to ensure that the working class can move to take over society without

attacks from an army loyal to the State and the ruling classes.

In Britain we are faced with a volunteer army — recruiting in the main from areas where unemployment and repression is

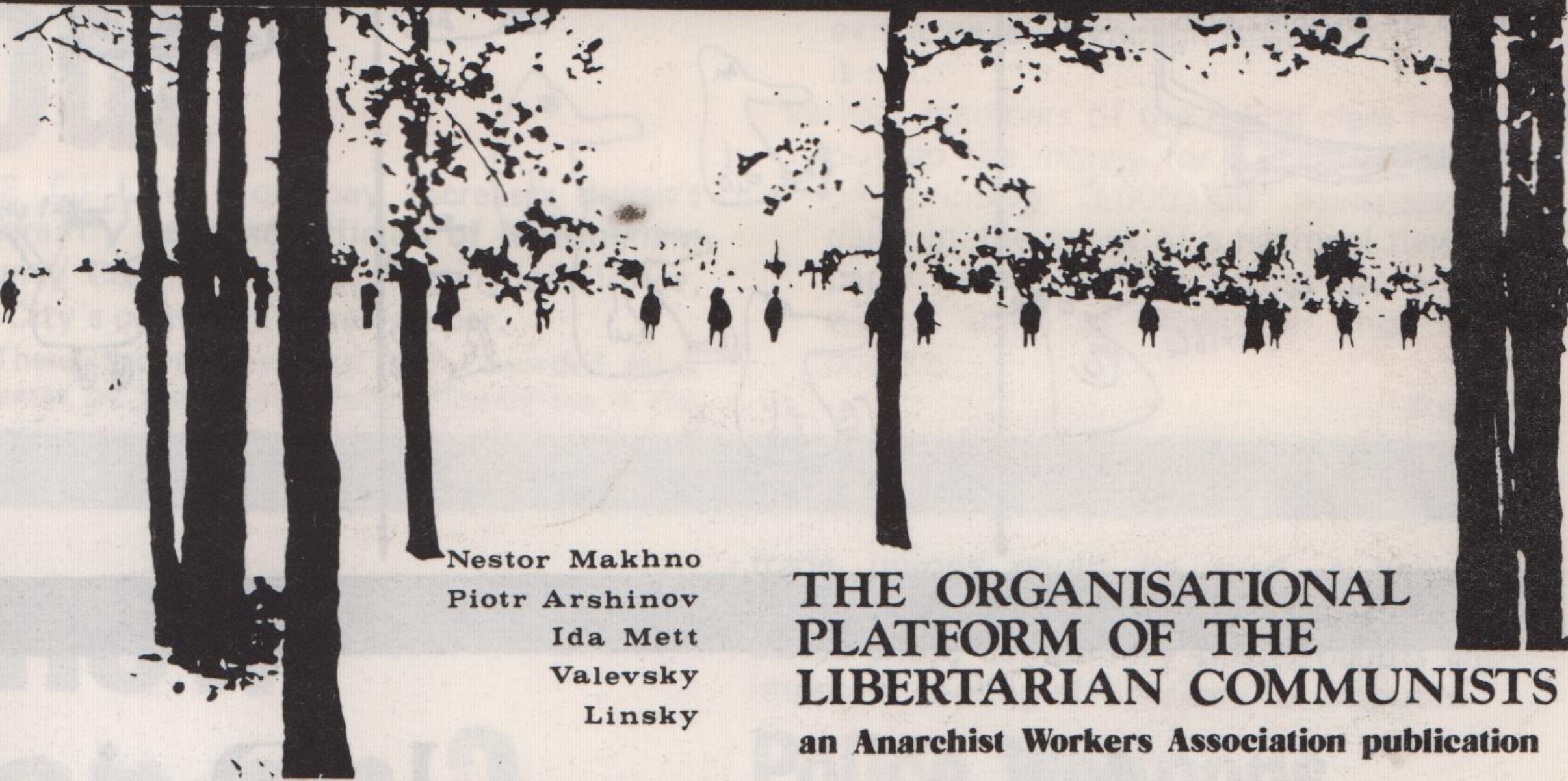
chronic.

All serious militants and socialists should fight against the recruitment programme, and give full support to those soldiers wanting to leave the Forces or buy themselves out.

At the same time, they should encourage the organisation of servicemen inside the Armed Forces.

Dave Higgins

A demonstration at Verdun



Nestor Makhno
Piotr Arshinov
Ida Mett
Valevsky
Linsky

**THE ORGANISATIONAL
PLATFORM OF THE
LIBERTARIAN COMMUNISTS**
an Anarchist Workers Association publication

The **Organisational Platform of the Libertarian Communists** was written by a group of anarchists who had participated in the Russian Revolution and the ensuing civil war.

They attempted to communicate their experiences and what they had learnt to the international anarchist movement, stressing the need for disciplined anarchist organisation, built on and relating to the working class.

The **Platform** was severely attacked by the anarchist 'celebrities' almost without exception, who saw the formation of a structured anarchist organisation as a threat to the inalienable rights of the individual.

This historical document has been rediscovered, and has been instrumental in the development of organised class anarchism in the 1970's.

To obtain a copy, send a cheque/P.O. for 20p + 7p p&p made out to 'AWA General Fund' to AWA, 13 Coltman Street, Hull, Humberside.

French soldiers
on rifle
practice

Subscribe

I enclose for 12 fun-packed action-special 57 colour issues of **Libertarian Struggle** !

£2 or \$5 UK and seamail abroad
£4 or \$10 airmail
£5 or \$12 all institutions

Name

Address

Please make all cheques/PO's out to 'AWA General Fund' (abroad IMO's only) and send them to:

AWA, 13 Coltman Street, Hull.

Superstitious nonsense!

FOLLOWING ON from last month's piece about the Papists pillorying an employee, we feature in this issue another religious swindler — His Divine (dis)Grace Swami Prabhupada, the head of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

It's important to expose the ideas of organised religion, in whatever form.

The mumblings of these mystifying mind shacklers stop people from thinking for themselves, make them accept authority, and the status quo, and makes them unwilling to fight for a better life because they can get 'pie in the sky when they die'.

Many young people who would otherwise become radicalised are fooled into joining the 'new' religions like Hare Krishna and the Divine Light.

The smarmy swami condemns himself from out of his own mouth: the whole essence of his religion is based on the need for rulers and ruled, and for elites of 'perfect' men.

"How can there be a classless society," he asks, "As long as society is maintained, there must be higher and lower classifications....There must be one class of men to administer the government and one class of men to sweep the streets".¹

No, he says, forget about all this and love Krishna.

This entails becoming complete slaves to this grotesque guru:-

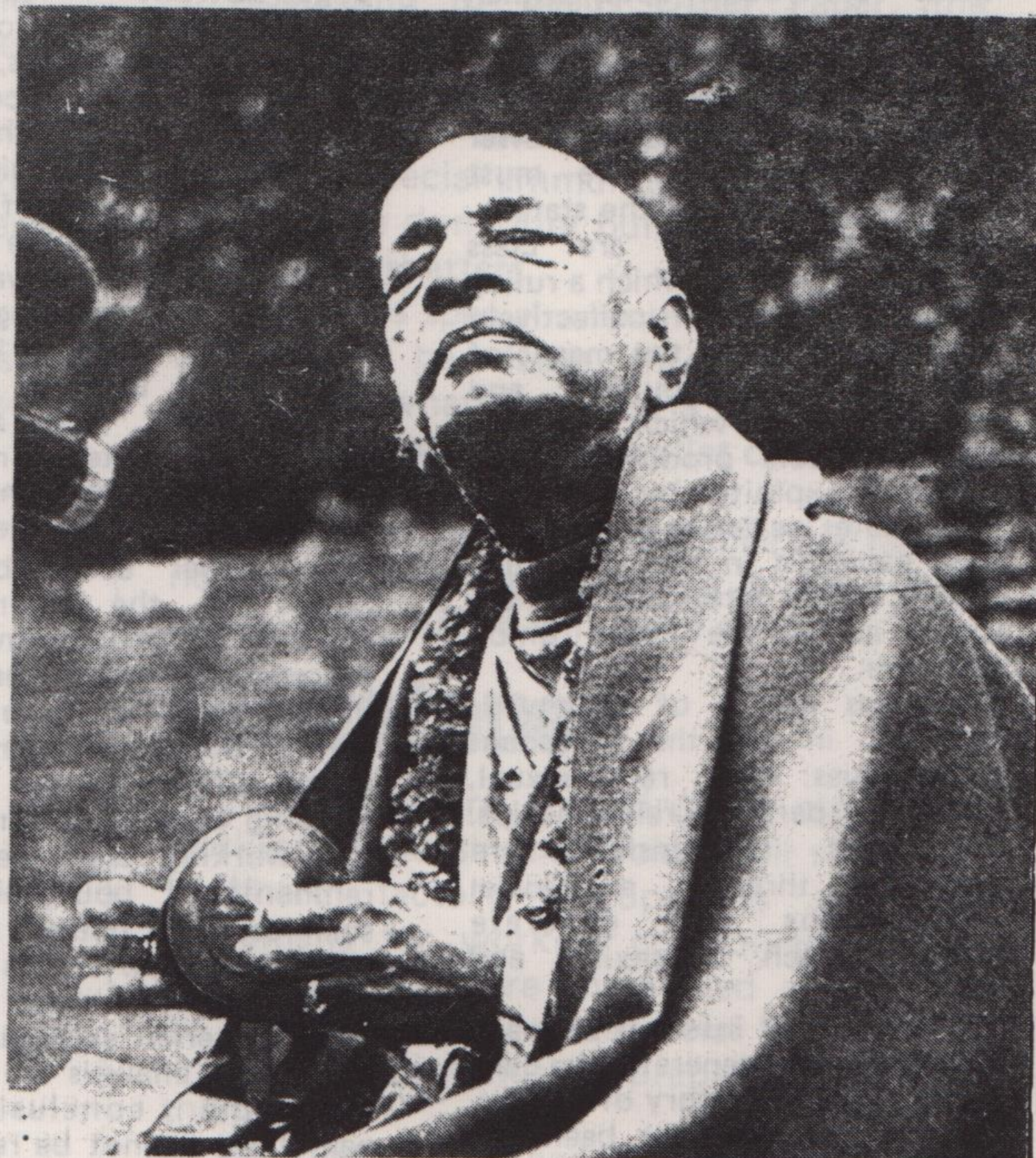
"Everyone in the Society must be able to say 'Yes, here is a perfect man. Let him sit in a chair, and let us all bow down and work like menials'".²

The barmy swami and other religious crooks like him exploit the gullibility and idealism of youth to line their own pockets and bolster their egos.

They should be exposed and put on the run.

MEPHISTOPHOLES

1. Back to Godhead Vol 10 No 9 pp 4-5.
2. Ibid, p 5.



"I am sitting in a chair, and you are offering me garlands and the best food. Why? Because you can see a perfect man whom you can follow. That mentality must be there. Everyone in the society must be able to say, 'Yes, here is a perfect man. Let him sit in a chair, and let us all bow down and work like menials.'"