

# Libertarian STRUGGLE

for Workers' Power

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## FREE ABORTION: Extend the Fight

THE CAMPAIGN led by the National Abortion Campaign and the Abortion Law Reform Association is reaching great heights of activity in the weeks leading up to the demonstrations in Glasgow and London on April 3.

We urge all readers to attend this demo and to tell all their friends, neighbours and workmates.

The James White amendment which would limit abortion facilities must be smashed completely. This, hopefully, is on the cards.

But when this victory is won, we have to go further and fight to extend the already limited abortion facilities – this is vital.

The demand for free contraception should be added onto the demand for free abortion on request.



NAC March in Manchester last year.

Photo John Sturrock (Report)

The power of the State over people's bodies has to be fought.

It is up to everyone, to each individual, to determine their own lives – of course in consideration of others.

The fight for control over our own bodies is part of the fight for human liberation; an essential part.

The State and the Churches try to curtail the sexual activities of working people in order to protect the institution of marriage and the traditional nuclear family.

Marriage institutionalises and fossilises relationships and props up the nuclear family.

It isolates people from each other in compact units and inhibits co-operation and mutual aid on a collective level.

### Authoritarian

The set-up of the family itself is a replica of capitalism, with the husband and father at the head, and other members of the family subservient to him. Authoritarian relationships throughout society are shored up by the authoritarian relationship inside the family.

So the powers that be, the ruling class and its allies, the State and Church, attempt to block any changes.

The campaign that is now being fought has to be stepped up. Unfortunately, the various Leninist groups that work inside NAC are hindering expansion and growth of the campaign in many ways.

Their sectarian bickering at local NAC meetings and on a national level discourage people from getting involved.

What is important is the fight for free

abortion on demand, and not, as the 57 varieties of Leninists think, the fight to make NAC an area to poach militants and build the Party.

### Liberation

The women's movement, in spite of these hindrances, has a real chance of expanding and linking up with militants in industry, and in the community, and breaking from its isolation.

In the struggle for sexual liberation, the demand for neighbourhood workplace creches should be pushed.

In this way, women can gain greater freedom and help break down the old family units.

We think creches should be paid for by the bosses, but organised and run by people in the workplace and the community and not by social workers appointed by H.M. Government.

In this way we have control over our local activity, while not helping the bosses out of the crisis by financing social and cultural facilities ourselves.

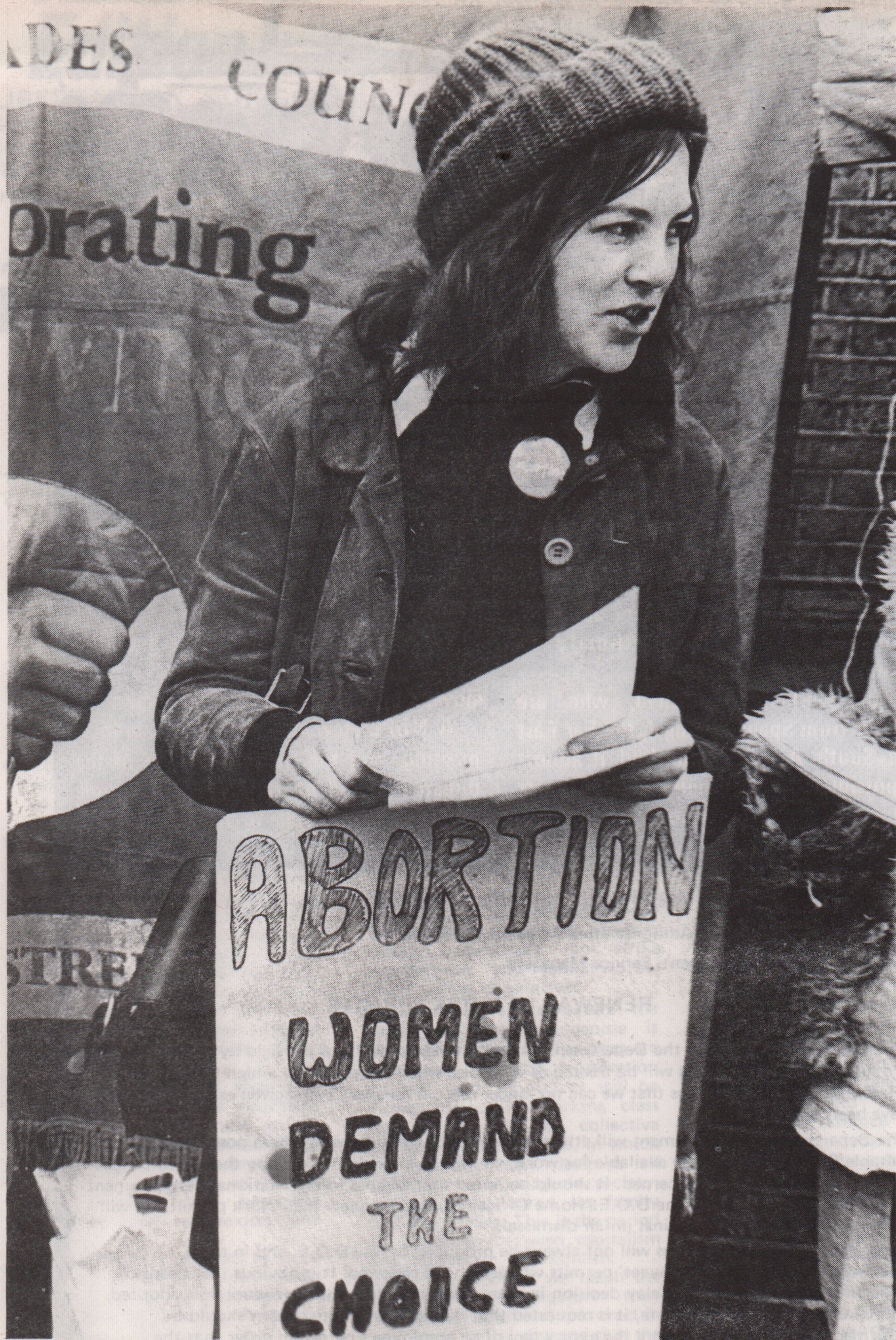
These demands will prove valuable in building a strong revolutionary movement over the next few years.

That is, as long as they go with a realisation that women's liberation, and the sexual liberation of everyone, cannot be won completely under capitalism.

**NO REVOLUTION WITHOUT  
SEXUAL LIBERATION.**

**NO SEXUAL LIBERATION  
WITHOUT REVOLUTION.**

Eva Long.



Demonstration at Hackney Hospital.

Photo Laurence Sparham (IFL)

JEANETTE ILJON, a Nottingham woman, is working on a film on abortion in conjunction with the NAC group, Woman's Group and two local doctors involved in the campaign, reports the NAC Newsletter.

The film is laying stress on the issues as they affect/affected women, interviewed in the film, in relation to their own lives.

It explores the attitudes of doctors, the women's immediate social surroundings, the attitudes of those people who tried to influence their decisions, and the resultant

effects on the women themselves.

The film is intended to stimulate and act as a focus for discussion in schools (if possible) women's groups, meetings, and so on.

The project separately needs financial help to the tune of £600 to complete the film; gifts and loans are being asked for by the group.

They would also like to get in touch with anyone in the Nottingham area who is willing to share their experiences of an abortion they have had.

Contact: Jeanette Iljon, 158A Alfreton Rd, Nottingham.

paper of the Anarchist Workers Association



# Trespass law protest

ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28, around 3,500 people marched to Trafalgar Square to protest against the proposed Criminal Trespass Law.

This proposed law could criminalise many forms of protest and direct action, such as occupations, sit-ins of Council offices and pickets.

It will make squatting a criminal offence, and will also threaten all council tenants and many others, such as licencees and sub-tenants who do not have a rent book.

Squatters, trade unionists and students took part in the march, in spite of the fact that the Law Commission postponed publishing its proposals until after the march.

This underlined the need for all those threatened by this law to link together in the fight against it.

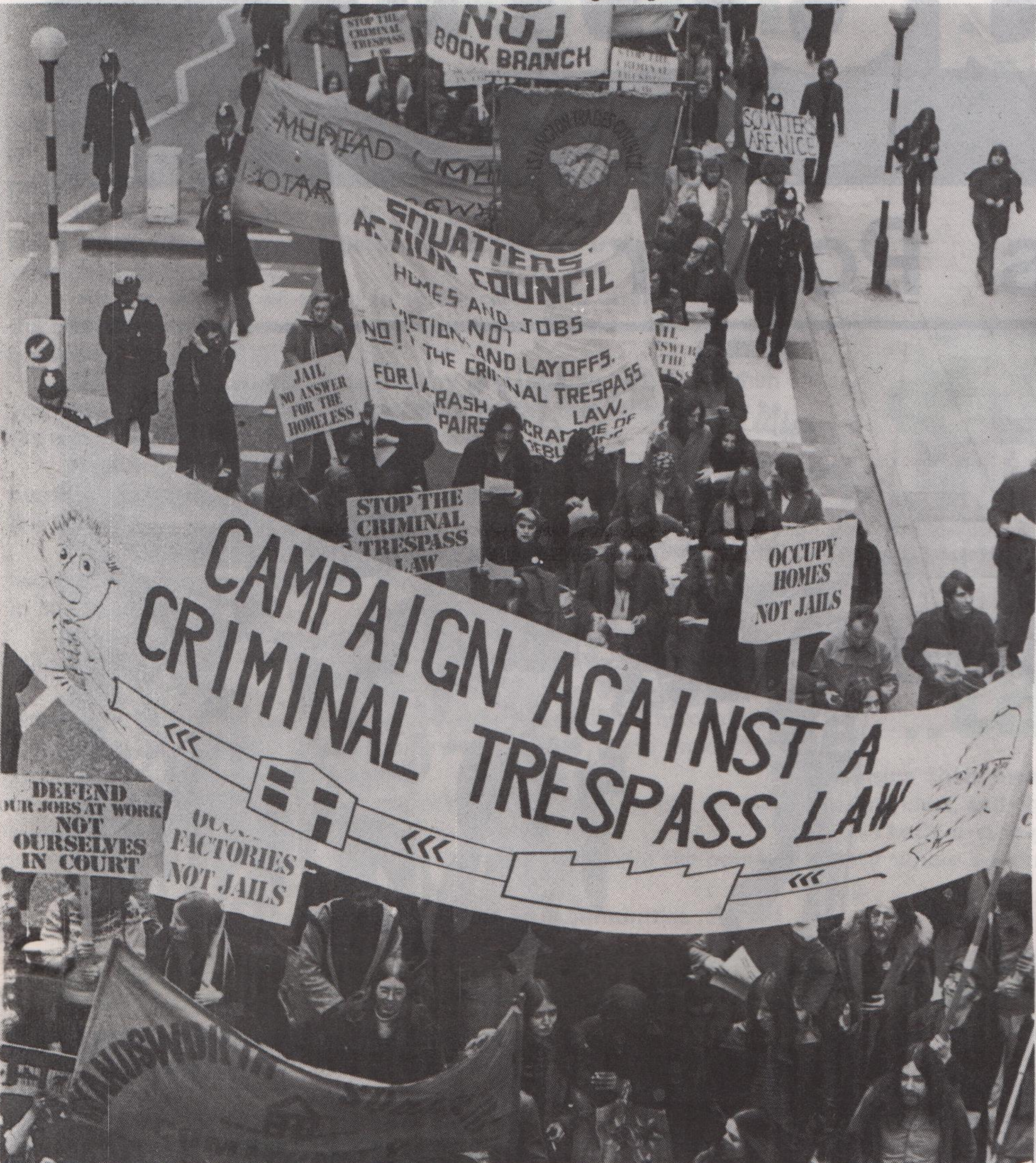


Photo: Paddington Printshop

## TORY DEMOCRACY

AT A RECENT meeting of the Students Union at Sussex University the Tory students voted en masse against a motion of 'no confidence' in the President of the Union after he had occupied the University Finance Office without a mandate to do so by the Union.

Strange to see the Tories apparently supporting direct action and conveniently forgetting about Union democracy when they spend so much time

arguing against the former and calling for more 'accountability of the leadership' in Trade Unions.

But then had the President lost the vote he would have had to resign and a 'left' candidate might have been elected.

As a prominent Tory said at the meeting, "It's nice to see initiative rather than leaders acting as puppets of the Union membership".

So much for Tory chatter about democracy — just like the rest of the ruling class they'll argue for it when it suits them and forget it when it threatens them.

## Free trim

WITH SPRING just around the corner, those citizens lucky enough to have a lawn will soon be oiling the mower and greasing the shears.

Not so the Chief Executive at Bury Town Hall: that is if last year is anything to go by, reports *METRO NEWS*, the Bury Area Alternative Paper.

In May '75, Mr Heaton — Chief of Recreation and Amenities — gave orders for a mower to be collected by council employees from Burrows of Salford. Strangely, no order form was required.

The mower — a 12" cut Suffolk Colt — was duly delivered by council men to 2 Sunningdale Avenue, Whitefield, home of the Metro's Chief Executive, Mr. James MacDonald (salary £10,000).

A couple of weeks passed and further instructions were given for the mower to be 'adjusted'. This completed, and a trim by a council worker into the bargain, nothing more was said.

September arrived and the order came for the mower to be collected and stored at the Council Depot in St Peters Road, Bury.

**Invoice**

So imagine the surprise in Town Hall circles when an invoice for the mower appeared, dated 25.9.75.

Where is the evidence of five months private use between the actual delivery date and September?

Will the same Suffolk Colt be trimming the MacDonald turf at the taxpayers' expense this year?

We'll just have to wait and see.

## Chrysler ask left lawyer to do TV ad

IN AN attempt to build public confidence in their product "in this age of oft-deserved consumer cynicism about corporate altruism," the Chrysler Corporation asked radical lawyer William Kunstler to endorse the company's 1976 warranty programme.

"I am gratified, as well as profoundly amazed," Kunstler wrote in response to Chrysler's proposal, "that left-wing people have apparently attained such a high degree of credibility with major American corporations to merit this solicitation."

"Until receipt of your letter I would never have thought it possible that our names could sell motor cars and what-nots to the general public."

"The vista that this opens is staggering — H. Rap Brown smokes Kools, Angela Davis uses Drisan, or Daniel Berrigan wears Supp-hose."

A sample script for the proposed television commercial had Kunstler saying, "Look, when it comes to cars I'm no expert, but when it comes to warranties, I know what to look for... When Chrysler says 'the first year's on us,' they mean what they say..."

Kunstler said he would agree to do the commercial on the nonnegotiable condition that he could add a last line for the announcer that would read:

"Now if we could just transfer the ownership of our corporation to the assembly-line workers whose energies and efforts build our products, that would be the real clincher — don't you agree?"

Liberation News Service/New York City Star



Right to Work scuffle: the police said afterwards that it was "very, very violent". Photo John Sturrock (Report)

## Police Riot

THE RIGHT to Work march was viciously attacked by police as it entered London on Friday 19 March.

After failing to prevent the march from entering a Staples Corner fly-over construction site, the police started a scuffle, in which they arrested five marchers.

Not satisfied with this sortie, they charged the march on two more occasions as it moved on into London. In all about sixty marchers were arrested.

Libertarian Struggle totally condemns this savage attack on an otherwise peaceful march, although we believe the Right to Work campaign to be inadequate.

The right to work on the bosses' terms would not be a real gain for the working class.

The AWA calls for the setting up of local committees of action to fight unemployment and the cuts in social services, with rank and file delegates from trade unions, tenants' associations, claimants unions and womens groups.

Closures and redundancies should be fought by occupations of work-places.

MAKE THE CAPITALISTS PAY FOR THEIR OWN CRISIS!  
SOLIDARITY WITH THE ARRESTED MARCHERS!  
T.G.

The march immediately before the police stopped it. Photo Andrew Wiard (Report)



## Threat to health workers

5,000 FOREIGN health service workers throughout London are threatened with the sack.

This stark message is spelt out clearly in a memo issued by the City and East London Area Health Authority to hospitals in that area.

The workers threatened, who are mainly from Spain, Portugal, the Far East and South America, will find it almost impossible to get their work permits renewed when they expire.

The directive — which emanates from the Department of Employment — with pressure from the TUC is designed to mask the unemployment situation by victimising foreign workers.

Health service workers must be given every support by the trade union movement to resist the redundancies.

A NUPE steward, addressing a branch meeting, said the implementation of the directive would be the "nearest example of nazism it's possible to find".

The memo is reprinted below:

City and East London Area Health Authority — City and Hackney District (T)

From: Dawn Hill, Senior Administrative Assistant, Personnel

To: All Heads of Department, Service Managers

### RENEWAL OF WORK PERMITS

We have been informed by the Department of Employment that the posts held by employees who are subject to work permits will be treated as vacancies when the period to which the permit relates expires and it follows that we can no longer rely on renewals being given as easily as they have been in the past.

The Department of Employment will attempt to produce candidates for these posts, and, if suitable British nationals are available for work, we will be expected to employ them in the place of the foreign nationals concerned. It should be noted that when a foreign national's employment is terminated as a result of the D.O.E./Home Office refusing to renew their work permit, we will not be subject to appeals against unfair dismissal.

Inevitably, suitable candidates will not always be produced by the D.O.E. and in these circumstances, existing employees' permits will usually be renewed. It is obvious that heads of department will not wish to delay decision in these matters and, as the procedure now adopted, will take some time to complete, it is requested that the personnel department should be informed at least 6 weeks before the expiry day of an employee's permit in order that the appropriate action can be taken. If heads of departments wish to apply for an extension to an employee's work permit they should send to the personnel department the employees passport, employment certificate, copies of relevant certificates, diplomas etc. The procedure applying to student nurses when they become state registered is unchanged

(DH/LK 21/1/76)



# Printer victimised

"ON FRIDAY 20 February I was sacked by my employers, Printarium Ltd., of Wembley, for union activity. My employers claimed that it was a case of redundancy. For other members of the workforce, however, the facts speak for themselves." Philip Green, a plate-maker and FoC of the National Graphical Association chapel, told *LIBERTARIAN STRUGGLE* the story of how he was victimised by his employers and betrayed by the union.

I WAS Father of Chapel (or shop steward) for the NGA chapel, which included six machine minders on double day shift, the foreman and two platemakers, including myself.

I had called a chapel meeting the previous Tuesday where the machine minders agreed unanimously to press for higher shift allowances.

This was the first chapel meeting held at Printarium since the firm was unionised some four years ago.

The employer, Alan Mead, was well known for his anti-union views, and had frequently boasted that he would sack anyone who went on strike.

He had successfully avoided any demands from the shop floor by having a 35-hour week for machine-minders and 37½-hour week for other workers.

Whenever anyone raised the fact that there were no tea-breaks, no sick-pay and

virtually no shift allowance, Mr Mead simply threatened to increase the working hours to the standard 40 hours.

The issue of the shift allowances had been discussed among the NGA members in the week prior to the chapel meeting, and I had made an initial approach through the foreman.

Mr Mead's response had been, "If you press for higher shift allowances, I'll go onto single shift working and sack one shift."

Despite this reaction, which had been expected by everyone, the chapel decided to go for a better shift payment.

The shift allowance is a payment on top of the basic wage for working anti-social hours — 7am to 2pm and 2pm to 9pm — and is 20-33% of the basic wage throughout the industry.

## DEVALUED

At Printarium, shift workers get £5, which is 8% of the basic wage of around £60.

Not only is this a pitifully small payment, it is not linked as a percentage of the basic wage, and is thus continually devalued.

It has remained the same since the firm started.

The day after the chapel meeting it became known that the firm had lost one of its main customers, and that it was quite possible that the management would bring in single shift working anyway.

A lot depended on the firm's relationship with some of its other customers, which was to be sorted out within the next week or two, and the chapel decided to postpone the issue of shift allowances until the situation was clearer.

On the Friday I was called into the foreman's office, where I was told that due to the run-down of work I was being made redundant, and I was given two weeks

money in lieu of notice.

I was also told that the plan to introduce single shift working, and make half the minders redundant, was now fairly definite.

I refused to accept the fortnight's money, saying that it amounted to instant dismissal, and insisted on working my notice.

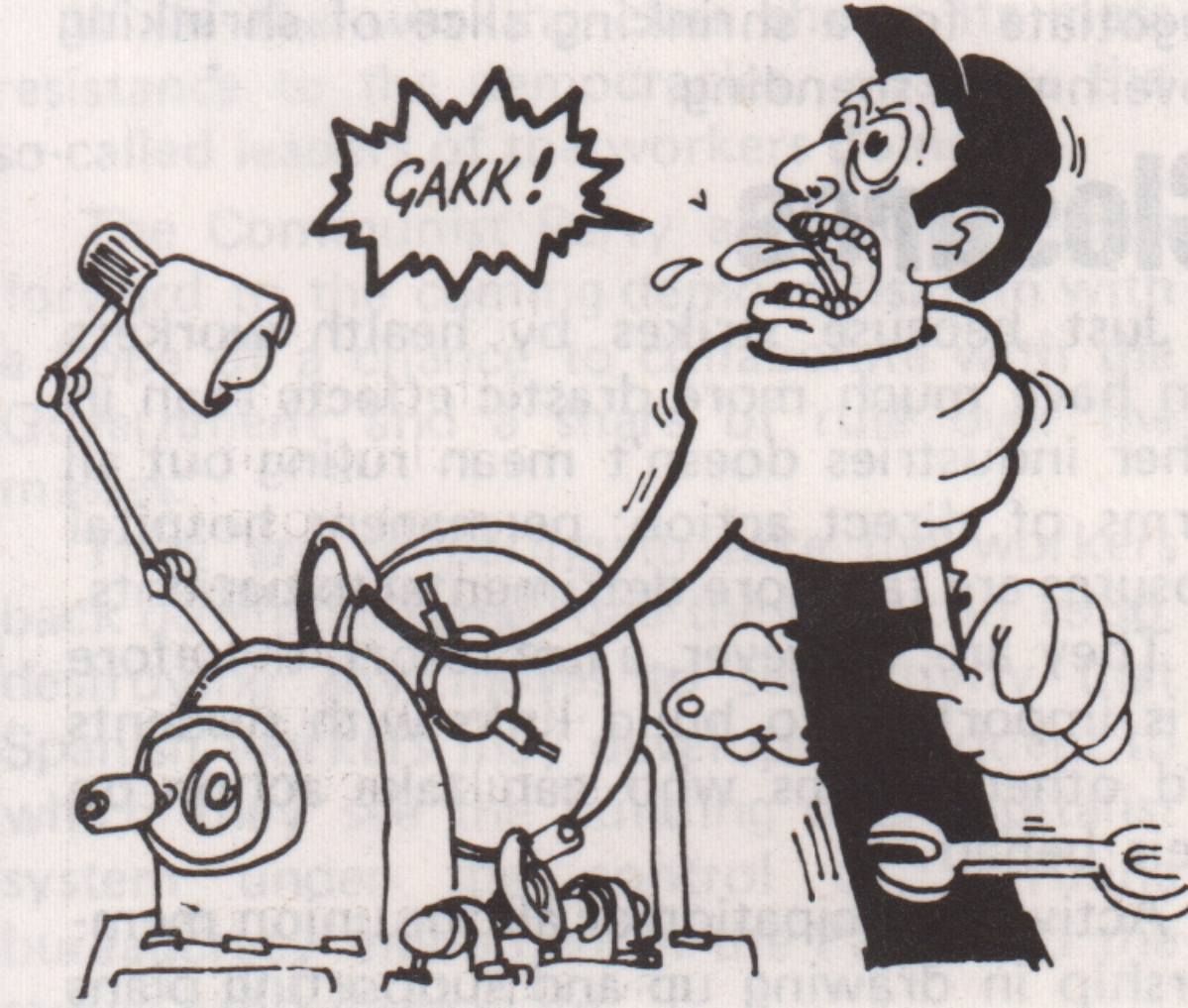
They made several attempts to persuade me not to, finally threatening to evict me if I showed up.

I rang the union and asked for someone to come down that afternoon, but was told that no-one was available until the following Friday!

## BURDEN

The workers at Printarium were agreed that the firm's problems were not their responsibility.

In good times we had not received a penny of the extra profit earned (apart from a £5 Xmas bonus and being allowed to work



more overtime) so why should we have to bear the burden when times were bad?

It was known that Mr Mead had recently taken over a firm of designers and was planning to buy a 25% share in another printers.

He was, at the time, thinking of buying a £50,000 house.

It was accepted in principle that the only acceptable solution to the run-down of work was to introduce short-time working on full average pay, with no redundancies.

However, the chapel was not prepared to press this because they feared that redundancies would only happen sooner, and because they were confident that the Union representative would sort things out when he came down on Friday.

I went in on the Monday, and the management avoided facing a confrontation by allowing me to work.

A hectic week ensued in which Mr Mead attempted to arrange a secret meeting with the Union. The foreman's loyalties oscillated rapidly between management and his fellow union members, and there were allegations that my talks with the management were being tape-recorded.

The union representative rang in the middle of the week and asked me to go to his office on Friday instead of meeting the chapel.

When I saw him he refused to take any action at all, and even refused to see the other workers.

## BITTER

The bitter truth for Printarium workers is that neither the employers — "we're all one big happy family here" — nor the union will act in their interests.

It is only their own activity, linking with workers in other workplaces, that they can rely on to defend their jobs and living standards.

Ultimately, the only way of preventing the lengthening dole queues and worsening working conditions and living standards is for working people to control their workplaces.

Make the bosses redundant, they're the most expendable!



# BODY SLAVERY

Prostitution....

IS A RUNNING SORE IN OUR AREA....

OUR CHILDREN ARE BEING BROUGHT UP IN A HUGE BROTHEL....  
WE INTEND TO REMOVE PROSTITUTION SO THAT ANY ORDINARY  
RESPECTABLE WOMAN CAN WALK THE STREETS, DAY OR NIGHT,  
WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING ACCOSTED.

THAT QUOTE was taken from a leaflet put out by the Derby Road Improvement Group in Southampton.

This group is led by Tony Larkin, who is already quite famous for his attacks on the 'moral dangers of prostitution' in the Derby Road area of Southampton.

Derby Road is a Victorian area of working class terraced houses originally built for the dockworkers and shipworkers.

The area had a big setback in 1912 when the Titanic sank with the loss of a lot of her crew, many of whom came from the Derby Road area.

This meant that many families lost their breadwinners.

We all know the old tales of how many lives on the Titanic could have been saved if economic greed had been less brutal, tales such as the refusal to unlock the gates between the 1st and 2nd class areas.

This area has seen real poverty in recent times mainly due to neglect by the council and the exploitation of tenants by property

owners such as Mrs Collier (and her heavies) and Mr Sarwin Singh (who served 18 months inside for beating up tenants).

Last year the area was declared a Housing Action Area by the local Labour council. It allocated a meagre £200,000 for house improvements whilst squandering considerably more on civic banquets.

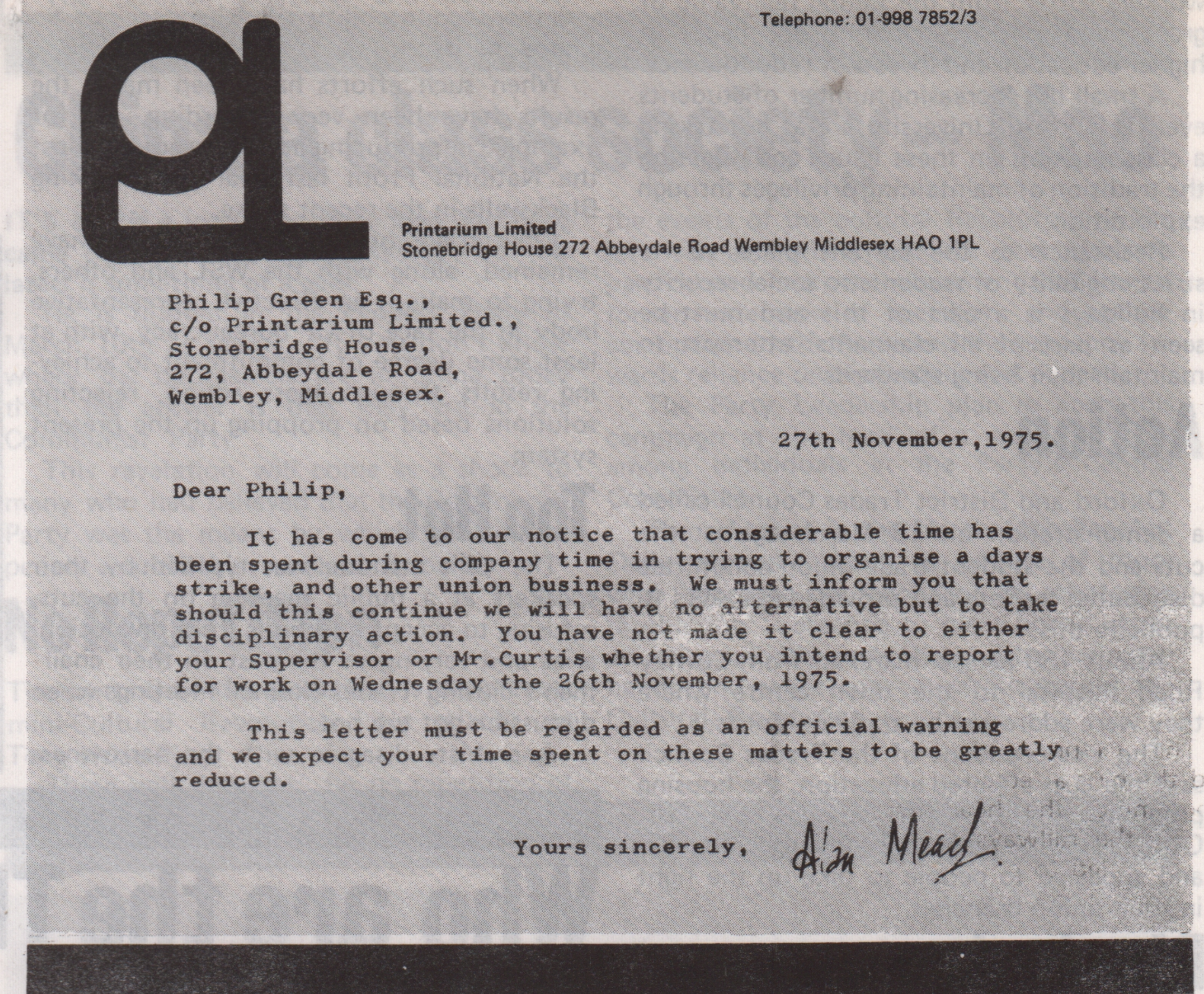
**What has all this to do with prostitution?**

Well, there are about 40 girls operating from houses in the area (there are over 1000 houses in the area altogether).

They advertise their bodies by sitting in the windows, and have to sit motionless, ignoring the sexist insults of passers by, so as not to be arrested by the local vice squad for soliciting.

Of course, there's no comeback on the prostitute's client, many of whom drive round Derby Road in Rolls Royces and Jaguars — hardly working class forms of transport.

Last summer, Tony Larkin was ousted from another local community action group



## Red Herring

for writing and distributing a blatantly racist leaflet which implied that many immigrants in the area were responsible for the decay of the area.

How rising damp is caused by black people and not white I don't know!

He is now demanding the removal of prostitutes in order to 'improve' the area.

*This is nothing more than a red herring — if the prostitute a few doors from where I live moves, I can't see how it will stop the roof leaking.*

The whole issue of housing, play facilities and council neglect of the area has been diverted into one of 'prostitute-bashing'.

## Exploited

Prostitution is a reflection of a society that commercialises and uses women.

A bloke who takes a girl to a flash restaurant in order to sleep with her is really doing the same thing as paying £10 to a prostitute.

The prostitute realises her exploitation as a woman and decides to take advantage of it, or else has been forced into the trade by a pimp.

Prostitutes are exploited by the pimps,

customers and the corrupt Vice Squads.

They are harassed by the police and by local councils so concerned with moral purity in their areas they tend to forget about the leaky roofs and rat-infested houses, the product of years of poverty and neglect.

A few weeks ago, in Southampton, a window girl was prosecuted for soliciting; she got off, only to have the full attention of the press turned on her, as well as the attention of sleeping dogs like Tony Larkin.

The question of prostitution has been largely neglected by the left, who tend to sit back and mutter in altruistic terms about the oppression of women, without looking at the day to day reality of prostitution.

The fact that, in the words of one prostitute, "We stop two rapes a day in Southampton!" and the fact that the Street Offences Act is aimed wholly at the girls and not the customers and kerb-crawlers.

As long as prostitutes are used by the bourgeois moralists as a yardstick of their sexual repression and behaviour, we must help prostitutes in their struggle for liberation and escape from the bondage of men and capitalism, and we must fight the authoritarian and sexually repressive class society that created this mess in the first place.

Derby Road Tenant

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

ANARCHIST WORKERS ASSOCIATION, 13 Coltman Street, Hull, Humberside.



# Forging Links In Oxford

**THE RECENT successful strike for trade union recognition at the Oxford bookselling and publishing firm Blackwells showed how workers and students can effectively organise together.**

A student/trade union committee has arisen out of the strike support committee, sponsored by Blackwells T&GWU 5/833 branch and calling for trade and student unions in the area to affiliate so as to provide a permanent basis for cooperation.

During the strike a regular bulletin was produced; future bulletins and public meetings will supplement the mandating of, and reporting back by delegates to their unions as a means of involving the membership.

The first issue taken up has been the fight against the Labour Government's cuts in public spending.

Unemployment among teachers, nurses and other trained staff is rocketing and the workload on those still employed approaching intolerable levels.

Graduate unemployment is 15%.

Culham Teacher Training College is threatened with closure.

The closing down of wards and postponement of the completion of the new John Radcliffe Hospital means minor operations such as tonsilectomies, varicose veins are put off for years.

Children approaching five are no longer admitted to schools and there is certainly no money to introduce progressive methods.

Because of TUC and Labour Government collaboration with those who benefit from increased industrial profits at the expense of wages and public spending, students and workers suffer from the falling real value of grants and pay, restrictions on places in higher education and threats of redundancies.

A small but increasing number of students even at Oxford University are at last taking a class position on these issues and rejecting the tradition of maintaining privileges through exploitation.

Resistance to the current plans to restrict eligibility of students to social security in holidays is a part of this and must be seen as part of all claimants' attempts to maintain their living standards.

## Action

Oxford and District Trades Council called a demonstration on 13 March against the cuts and the student/trade union committee distributed leaflets and provided speakers to publicise this.

About 150 people marched from Cowley Road hospital to the town centre where they were addressed by trade unionists.

The vice-president of the Trades Council said the cuts affected education, the housing programme, the health services, the Post Office, the railways and all public services and appealed to people to take up the fight in their union branches.

## Blacked

This demonstration was blacked by Communist Party (CP) dominated unions in the local health service, although the Trades Council stated it was prepared to support any future demonstration called by them as well.

This followed a series of disagreements between the CP and the entrenched bureaucrats, and groups to their left, mainly the Workers' Socialist League (WSL).

Neither side has a particularly brilliant record.

When a committee set up to work on the cuts was asked to report back, a member of the WSL did so — without the committee (apart from the WSL members on it) ever having met. However, it has met since.

The CP bureaucrats on the Trades Council, following a secret meeting, presented a set of proposals to the Annual General Meeting to remove some of its powers to a more select group, halve the frequency of meetings to monthly and support criticism from some branches that it was 'too political'.

This was disallowed by the acting secretary as, apart from anything else, insufficient notice for a constitutional change had been given.

The CP then walked out, leaving a majority of delegates, including Trotskyists,

libertarians and independents behind.

They have held meetings at the normal times since, reaching the fifth highest attendance this year despite a TUC recommendation to suspend activities pending an enquiry.

The CP's methods of fighting the cuts have shown them to be more concerned with maintaining their public image and the credibility of union leaders than with proposing anything really effective.

It's no good congratulating ourselves for having a better health service than in the 30s.

The NHS was won in the post-war boom, it never was adequate and now is declining rapidly because the Government has decided it must take a portion of the burden of industry's declining profits.

We need to push for welfare to be made a priority, needs decided by consumers and workers and then the money demanded, not negotiate for a shrinking slice of shrinking government spending.

## Closures

Just because strikes by health workers can have much more drastic effects than in other industries doesn't mean ruling out all forms of direct action; permanent hospital closures are far more detrimental to patients.

They are, however, a last resort, therefore it is important to build links with students and other unions who can take action on their behalf.

Active participation of all the union membership in drawing up and supporting plans for action is also important.

It is true that in the past the Trades Council has passed radical motions of which most of the membership was ignorant or dubious.

But almost all motions come from a branch, not from individuals, and the answer is to improve participation in union meetings and the accountability of delegates, not to ignore the issues.

When such efforts have been made, the results have been very rewarding, as, for example, in producing a high turnout against the National Front last year and blacking Blackwells in the recent strike.

Libertarians on the Trades Council have remained, along with the WSL and others, trying to make it an effective representative body in the face of CP bureaucracy, with at least some degree of commitment to achieving results through mass action, rejecting solutions based on propping up the present system.

## Too Hot

The CP's attitude was typified by their speakers at a public meeting on the cuts, refusing to accept questions from revolutionaries and relying in the past on their chairman's closing Trades Council meetings when discussion got too hot.

Anarchists disagree with the narrowness

of the WSL's goals (slogan on the 13 March demonstration: 'Wilson out, Nationalisation in'). Well, Wilson is out and what difference does it make?) and with their attempts to cream off militants into a 'revolutionary leadership'.

It is clear, however, where we stand in the choice between active participation or bureaucratisation.

Members of unions in the Oxford area interested in affiliating to the student/trade union committee please write to

D. Thompson, Sec., T&GWU 5/833 branch, 8c, Crick Road, Oxford.

As we go to press, the Law Commission have just published their final report on Criminal Trespass.

They propose to make occupying a residential property a crime, with a six month prison sentence as the penalty.

This would apply even to 'second homes' used only once a year.

The other proposal is to give property owners the right to break into, and forcibly evict, squatters from residential property thus occupied.

With an unclear definition of residential property this will very probably lead to landlords, raid thugs and the police carrying out otherwise illegal evictions.

By reason of its vague definition, such legislation could extend to occupations by (amongst others) workers, tenants and students.

## Anti Zionist picket



Picket at the Israeli Embassy over the repression of Palestinians on the occupied West Bank, on March 20.

Photo Andrew Wiard (Report)

## THE FORGOTTEN VETERANS

A concert in aid of the disabled and war-wounded of the Spanish Civil War in exile who receive financial support neither from the Spanish nor British Governments and who are left dependent upon charity for their 'crime' of fighting for liberty in Spain against Franco's fascism.

Those artists giving their time and talents in order to focus public attention on these forgotten veterans include:

JOHN WILLIAMS *internationally famous classical guitarist*  
CARLOS BONELL *Spanish guitarist extraordinaire*  
VIRAM JASANI *sitar player with tabla accompaniment*  
'COKAYGNE' *Birmingham based folk group*

SATURDAY 3 APRIL, at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. £1.  
starts 7.30pm; Buffet and Bookstall open 7pm.

Organised by the Organisation of Spanish Civil War Wounded and the Spanish ex-Combatants Association. All money raised in aid of those wounded, crippled or mutilated in the Spanish Civil War. Further details from Centro Iberico, 83a Haverstock Hill, London NW3.

## Who are the Thieves?

**AT FIRST** the presiding magistrate is inclined to be indulgent. "The police tell me you are a hippy," he says, with a smile that invites the accused to share his amusement.

But 19-year-old Claire Bostyn, militant member of CAP, the French prisoners' action group, is not to be deflected from her purpose.

She has admitted to stealing £20 worth of food from the huge Mammoth supermarket.

She is conducting her own defence. She intends to present to the court of Bobigny and the public (CAP has invited the press) her case against society and the profit motive.

## Indignant

"To steal from supermarkets is simply to recover what has been stolen from us," she declares. "Supermarket owners are legal robbers, and you" — she points to the three magistrates — "are here to legitimise theft."

The bench is indignant. "Watch your tongue," says the presiding magistrate. "I'll prove it to you," retorts Claire.

The first witness is Serge Livrozet of CAP. He develops the theme of the defenceless customer, dazzled by cunningly displayed goods he cannot afford to buy.

Many of the so-called discounts are a swindle. Some of the products are toxic.

When he claims that the big stores foster crime, the bench is unmoved: but when he starts to name specific cases like Tessire, soft drinks manufacturers, they attempt to cut him short.

He persists, and finishes his indictment.

The next witness is Charles Lorient of the Mouvement Francais pour l'Abondance. He underlines what is involved in 'keeping the market healthy'.

Last autumn, thousands of tons of apples were dumped. Destroying harvests in a hungry world he calls a "social crime".

Claire begins to read aloud a document she has prepared to substantiate her charges against the supermarkets.

Quality no longer counts. Colouring and additives that are suspected of causing cancer are not outlawed. Food whose date-stamp is long past is still on the shelves.

The presiding magistrate interrupts. "You cannot monopolise the court's time. Other people are waiting to have their cases heard."

Claire reads on. A certain well-known store is selling frozen chickens that should have been withdrawn a month ago. For an offence that could give its customers food poisoning, it risks a modest fine.

Yet if a customer stole one of those chickens he would get two months in prison.

The magistrate has had enough. He declares a recess. There are cries of protest from the body of the court. "Claire is defending herself, if it had been a lawyer, you wouldn't have stopped him!"

## Adjourned

Fifteen minutes later they are back. The hearing has been adjourned for a week.

"You will leave us your notes, and after careful consideration we will pronounce judgement."

The sentence — two weeks prison, suspended. Fined £40. Claire does not accept the verdict. Her case will go to the Court of Appeal in Paris.

Source: Radical Alternatives to Prison, Eastbourne House, London E2. (01) 981 0041.



# The Impending Con of Spanish Democracy

AS THE working class in Spain show their out and out disapproval of the Spanish ruling class, by mass demonstrations and strikes, the blue print of the state's next moves are becoming apparent, in their moves to adopt a liberal facade, along with talk of a return to bourgeois democracy and an aim of joining the Common Market.

However, this 'liberal' mask dropped recently with the gunning down of five workers and many others wounded in early March during the great wave of strikes and demonstrations.

The sight of so many working people on the streets has really panicked the Government who, through the Minister of the Interior Fraga Iribarne, shed crocodile tears about the "tragedy" and attempt to patch up their liberal facade.



A street scene in Barcelona, March 1976

Photo: L'Express

## SLP: Scots Mist?

THE PAST few months have seen the foundation and expansion of the Scottish Labour Party (SLP) as a breakaway from the 'official' Labour Party in Scotland.

The motivation behind the SLP has two major aspects.

Firstly, a genuine dissatisfaction on the part of many Labour voters with the Wilson government's backpedalling on devolution.

Secondly, the rampant panic among Labour MPs in Scotland who will try anything to save their seats from the nationalist onslaught.

They hope that by backing a 'socialist' Party committed to devolution they can win back from the nationalists the support of the many working-class voters who turned to them out of sheer disgust and frustration at the 'official' Labour Party's refusal to even acknowledge the desire of the Scottish people for more control over their own affairs.

This working-class support for the nationalists has been greatly increased by one factor.

### Centrist

They have carefully promoted their 'neither left nor right' image which has allowed many to delude themselves into believing that the SNP is not anti-working-class and not blatantly right-wing!

As one SLP member put it to me 'If we can show the Scottish people that they can have a Labour Party and devolution, then the Nats. will be left with only middle-class and right-wing support.'

It's probably true that the stronger the SLP becomes, the weaker the nationalists will become.

But while the Scottish Labour Party is less repulsive than the Tartan Tory SNP, we should have no illusions about what we can expect from it.

The SLP is sticking like a leech to the

'moderate social democrat' line laid down by Wilson and Co.

Sure, it's slightly to the left of the Labour Party nationally — Scotland is one of those places where the workers are that bit harder to fool.

But don't expect anything more than a few more conference motions and a little more hot air about 'the workers' and 'socialism'.

Don't expect the SLP, any more than the Labour Party, to actually do anything about fighting the cuts, unemployment or anything else — except its own election campaigns.

They're just as happy as Wilson and Healey to see the working class pay for the crisis capitalism got us into.

### Glimmer of Hope

Many of the Scottish Labour Party's supporters are young people, committed and uncorrupted by the bureaucratic mire of Labour politics in Scotland.

The SLP is promising an unbureaucratic, genuinely 'socialist' Party. That's a promise they couldn't keep if they tried.

As the crisis deepens, and it becomes clearer and clearer that the SLP is no more serious than the rest about fighting it, more and more people will leave its ranks.

If these and others are not to give up the struggle in disgust, revolutionaries in Scotland must point out the alternative to the parliamentary piss-up of Social Democracy: its Tory policies and its 'don't make waves' attitude.

A libertarian revolution made by and for the working class.

Anarchists must do their utmost to help in the Scottish people's fight against right-wing nationalism and 'Labour' bureaucracy.

We must help organise an effective fight against the attempt to make us pay for their crisis. Outfits like the SLP don't bother or don't know how!

BOB GIBSON (Edinburgh AWA).

The crucial word for the ruling class is 'democracy', because this is the system of rule they plan to use to con the working class out of taking the revolutionary road to self-management.

'Democracy', which in the Spanish context can only mean bourgeois democracy, is the biggest confidence trick ever perpetrated by the State against Spanish workers.

Unfortunately it is also one of the most successful forms of making the people dance to the tune of capitalism.

This is why revolutionary anarchists point out that while we are being told we have a choice of government, we have no choice at all.

'No war but the class war' should be the slogan of the Spanish workers, and those of the other democracies.

While the working class shows its mass resistance to the democracies, what are the so-called leaders of the workers doing?

The Communist Party applaud and look forward to the coming democratisation with a hope of a chance to collaborate with the Government and a share of rule over the masses.

They are preparing to take the workers back down the same road they took in 1936, destroying any moves to self-activity that Spanish workers may develop subsequent to which they see the building of a capitalist system under the control of a ruling bureaucracy embodied in the Party and the strong centralised state.

The moves towards liberalisation may come too late; the fascist state that Franco constructed proves very difficult for his heirs to dismantle.

Working class militancy may fast outstrip these moves and result in the building of a libertarian communist society.

The Spanish anarchist and libertarian

movement is showing signs of revival and can help their brothers and sisters in the working class to see through the deceptions of Juan Carlos and his cronies.

There is a great interest in this country among libertarians about the conditions of the Spanish anarchist movement, which before Franco's bloody rise to power had mass support.

The comrades of our sister organisation, the *Organisation Revolutionnaire Anarchiste* of France inform us that lots of libertarian groups are very active, mainly in Catalonia and Madrid.

After 1967, lots of young people (students and young workers) became interested and involved in libertarian ideas and actions.

Most of the time they had no real contact with the CNT-FAI (the anarcho-sindicalist union and the Spanish Anarchist Federation respectively) which still exists in Spain.

The present tendency seems to be a gathering of all these groups in order to build a stronger CNT inside Spain.

However, it seems that many of these comrades are not anarcho-sindicalists as the old CNT was.

They speak of 'working class autonomy' and libertarian communism: they're trying to change the CNT from inside, bringing new analysis to the union.

They realised that the secret organisation of the CNT is useful inside Spain to co-ordinate the activities of the libertarian movement.

The CNT still exists and is very active in some parts of the country — Barcelona etc — but they are faced with many problems in keeping their heads above water due to the severe repression they have to face with their militants continually being arrested and harassed.

N.H. & L.H.

## China a class society — Mao

IT'S BEEN a long time since Mao Tse-Tung came out with any new 'sayings', but his latest is something of a gem.

He is quoted in the *Peoples' Daily* of March 10th as saying, "If you don't know where the bourgeoisie are in China today then the answer is that they are in the Communist Party".

This revelation will come as a shock to many who had believed that the Communist Party was the means by which the Chinese people would achieve a classless society.

### No Repetition

The context of this quotation is the present mini-Cultural Revolution, the attacks on Teng Hsiao-Ping.

There will, however, be no repetition of

the events of the cultural Revolution of the late sixties, where workers and students participated in a mass movement that fought for an extension of socialism, and against corruption in the Party and the tendency towards reliance on hierarchies and experts.

The Party Leadership plan to keep this campaign at the level of a power struggle among individuals in the Party's Central Committee.

The editorial in the March 10th *Peoples' Daily* warned readers to beware of those who "sabotage the revolution by sabotaging production", referring to those horrid workers who actually took things into their own hands and went out on strike during the Cultural Revolution.

T.G.



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.



# Free Ralf Stein!

**RALF STEIN, an anarcho-syndicalist in Cologne, was arrested in June 1975 under West Germany's 'Emergency Powers Act', which is very similar to the 'Prevention of Terrorism Act' in Britain.**

He has now been in jail for nine months, and will not be brought to trial for another three months. This delay is to enable the prosecution to perfect the case against him.

He is now charged with eight offences, the most serious of which are 'supporting a criminal association', 'offence against the Firearms Act' and 'aiding an escaped prisoner'.

## CONDEMNED

Ralf Stein does not even belong to an officially proscribed political group.

The group of which he is a member, *Befreiung*, condemned the methods of the Red Army Faction and the 2nd June Group, but like many respectable liberals — who have not been arrested — were concerned about the defence of the Red Army Faction.

Please continue to send protests about Ralf Stein's continued detention, which is frustrating his preparation of his own defence, to:-

### Judge:

Amtsgericht Köln, A.B.T., 203.7.47,  
Richter Tüpel, 5 Köln 1, Appelhofplatz.

### Prosecutor:

Bundesanstalt Karlsruhe 2H.D.  
Herrn. Bieger, Köln.

### Trade Union:

I.G. Metall, Orteilung Köln,  
Hans Blocker Platz.

Letters of solidarity may be sent to:  
Defence Committee for Ralf Stein,  
c/o R. Aurand,  
5 Köln 30,  
Tieckstrasse 49.

S.H.

Dear Libertarian Struggle,

I would like to offer some criticisms of NB's article on the National Federation of the Self Employed: 'Listen Little Man' (LS, Jan. 1976).

Describing the self-employed as "above all, small capitalists" indicates a failure to make a number of distinctions:-

(1) To distinguish between the small employer and the literally self-employed, ie neither employed nor employer.

(2) To distinguish populism from fascism.

(3) To distinguish the motives behind people who embrace fascism from a stereotype of petty-bourgeois reaction.

(4) But, most importantly, to distinguish the new alignments of winners and losers which the change from a Keynesian managed capitalism to a corporate-welfare-state economy has created since the 1950's.

The answer to these distinctions deserves a longer and deeper appraisal, which I hope

may be initiated in these pages.

For now, let it be said that a narrowly economic class-analysis of motivations barely scratches the surface.

The complexities of a process whereby a great many workers and middle class people embraced rightist, charismatic leadership in Europe in the 1930's, holds a lesson for us now.

Fascism is far more than the lashing-out of the system in crisis. It offered, and potentially offers now, a great initial release to many worried, misused and frightened people.

From populism to fascism is a definite step... "fighting them tooth and nail", without explanation is a means to achieve such a transformation — far more rapidly than the most earnest recruitment by existing, neo-fascist organisations.

Fraternally,

Mark F. Imber, Southampton.

I would like to point out:

a) The small employer and literally self-employed are different but their attitudes are similar.

b) Fascism feeds on populism. Populism is one of the bases of fascism, though populism can manifest itself in Leninist forms, eg Maoism. This point is relevant, and I agree that I should have expanded it in the article.

c) There is a link between the two — see above.

d) Is comrade Imber trying to say that classes don't exist any more? If so, he's living in a confused, early 60's bourgeois dream. For a start, distribution of wealth has hardly changed and the welfare state acts as a 20th Century Poor Law, with the obvious complication of Keynesian consumer encouragement.

Admittedly I did not deal with the question of authority and the state, but the state exists primarily to defend the bourgeoisie and authority is ultimately the means by which the capitalist survives and exploits.

Fraternally, N.B.

## Hospital Cuts Escalate

THE EXTENT of the cuts are seen in the Department of Health and Social Security circular which recommends cuts in spending on hospital services in Inner London.

Only the 20 large hospitals in the area can have their future guaranteed. The existence of 130 other hospitals is precarious, none will be improved for many years and many others will close completely.

No increase in finance will be available for "several years". And finally "It is assumed that all existing hospitals which do not have a function as a district general hospital or a community hospital would close".



The Coventry anti-NF march.

Photo Dave Evans (IFL)

National Party members, already deserted by their audience, and there was another scuffle.

An anti-fascist meeting was held on the spot, which attracted some bemused attention from the shoppers.

## Pelted

Later, after we had finally dispersed, I heard that the National Front had in fact mustered a march of around 250 supporters. The papers reported that it was barracked and pelted with eggs.

The events after the main anti-fascist demonstration seem to raise three points for consideration:

*Firstly:*— much of the confusion arose from the lack of debate about what ought to have been done.

Consequently, some people were excluded from deciding whether or not they supported the idea of stopping the National Front march.

Also those who eventually went looking for the Front became scattered and divided.

*Secondly:*— anyone who has seen the NF 'honour guard' types in action, so read about them, should realise that facing fascists in a disorganised way places individuals at greater risk.

The question, however, of how to implement the 'no platform for fascists' policy has implications beyond the physical dangers involved in taking on the fascists.

The disorganisation of the Coventry splinter demonstration led inevitably to 'no platform' being imposed by fights between small groups rather than by real mass involvement (such as blocking the Front's road or disrupting the National Party's meeting by simply shouting it down).

Demands for massive wage increases like the recent miners' claim for over £100 a week have a more directly political significance as they show a desire to have a share of the profits rather than just a few crumbs.

The state is shown to be a crucial factor in the stabilisation of capitalism; government spending now accounts for over 60% of Gross National Product (even though about 40% of that figure is transfer payments — dole money, pensions, student grants, etc.).

But the real impact of the state is deeper.

The state now has the ability to control capitalism and prevent hyper-inflation.

That's why the crisis that we're going through at the moment is different to that of the thirties (though the cause is the same) and why the results will be different.

The results that seem probable are a greater move to manage capitalism (a la Tony Benn) or a slip into monetarism.

Unfortunately, the book does not deal sufficiently with the possibility of world war

resulting from the search for markets to pull out of the slump — as has happened before.

But the stress put on the centralisation of capital (unreadable) and deficit financing by the state (this is how the USSR controls inflation) are aspects ignored by many left groups.

Anarchists have tended to ignore economics (and class analysis) for so long — primarily due to historic factors.

The idea that anything Marx dealt with is taboo is ripe among anarchists: it's interesting to note, however, that Bakunin translated Marx's *Capital* into Russian.

Obviously, the AWA has major disagreements with Marxists over questions of authority, the state, the nature of the class struggle, and so on, but the framework of economic analysis synthesised by Marx is crucial to understanding capitalism.

I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to analyse the crisis even though I have reservations about its academic nature.

Harry Phips

# Anti fascist shambles

THE FACT that I attended the 28th February anti-fascist demonstration in Coventry might lead you to believe I could enlighten you about what went on there.

Unfortunately the events of that day were such that I couldn't help becoming confused about what was happening — as, it appeared, were most others there.

The demonstration raised some important questions about such affairs and about anti-fascist demonstrations in particular.

It was an attempt by the National Front and its splinter organisation the National Party to capitalise upon the present level of unemployment by raising scapegoat, divisive and subtly racist slogans such as "British jobs for British workers" in the recent Coventry by-election.

## Provocative

Trying to outshine the National Party, the National Front called a provocative march through immigrant areas of the city. It was to counter this that the anti-fascist march was called.

It brought out 1-2000 marchers. I got the impression that many bystanders were sympathetic, or at least interested in the marchers' slogans and leaflets.

As we assembled we were met by the news that the fascists had decided to postpone their initiative.

So far so good. During and after the meeting which concluded the main demonstration, however, the shambles began to set in.

Groups of us were approached by very agitated comrades who claimed that, contrary to earlier information, the National Front were at that very moment assembling in

another part of the town.

They added that plans had already been made according to which we should split up into small groups and make our way to another rallying point where we could regroup and go to stop the National Front.

Different people were however given different rallying points.

They didn't want to debate the new circumstances before the entire demonstration in case the police might hear.

## Confrontation

The next thing I noticed was that a steady stream of people were moving off from the rally in dribs and drabs in a common direction. Following this I eventually came upon a 'confrontation'.

There was a group of about 2-300 demonstrators being restrained by several police from attacking a small gaggle of fascists.

I learned later that this was outside the local National Front office, which had been stoned to the accompaniment of a few fights. One comrade had suffered a head injury.

At this point the demonstrators were still quite scattered. I was unable to find any identified stewards, though a few people were chanting out contradictory orders and the splinter demonstration eventually re-grouped in a side street.

By this time there were about 500 of us, and we made our way to the city centre shopping precinct to hold another meeting.

Here we discovered the National Party already holding a meeting, which raised excitement and confusion again.

We all supposed we should stop the meeting, but no-one seemed very clear how.

Eventually a few people dashed at the

It also links up political implications with economic ones.

One of the book's weaknesses is that it slips into an academic monologue on the Marxist theories of value and does not clearly link up this analysis with the rest of the book.

The first chapter is excellent, dealing with 'the appearance of the crisis', which is a brief resume of the rest of the book, demolishing the monetarist arguments of Keith Joseph and his ilk over the causes of inflation.

It shows how the state is forced by the demands of capital to print money and how wage rises are not a major factor in causing inflation, but more of an effect.

High taxation acting like wage restraint has meant that demands for 22% increases on wages of £40 a week (for a single person) in real terms is nothing more than a demand to keep up with inflation.

It's important to remember that figures for wage increases used by the ruling class quote wages before tax.

# review

## CAPITALISM IN CRISIS

— Inflation and the State

by A. Gamble & P. Walton, Macmillan 1976, 206pp £2.95.

THIS RECENTLY published book is one of the better economic analyses around.

Though primarily Marxian in outlook it does not push a party line or worship Marx and spends a good deal of space dealing with the role of the state in the economy.



# Letters

Dear comrades

I've just received a copy of December's **Libertarian Struggle**. Here are various comments I'd like to make on this issue.

For reasons of time I will restrict myself to the article on Portugal.

For the past two months I've been living on a co-operative; before that, a crucial period for Portugal, I was in Lisbon for several weeks, so I feel qualified to say something about the article and related matters.

As we said when we published the article, we didn't entirely agree with the analysis, but we thought that it was important to publish eye-witness accounts. You are right to note that the Maoist groups did not participate in the FUR, and we would also agree that jargon terms like 'soviet' suffer from over exercise, and can sometimes be misleading.

Dear Comrades,

I enjoyed reading the March edition of **Libertarian Struggle** which gets better with each issue. However I found the letter by Lorraine Robinson a bit dubious, and was surprised to see no editorial reply.

The letter does make a good valid point that a right to have an abortion or a baby is limited under capitalism.

Having said this I think LR has misunderstood the meaning of the term 'Right to Choose'.

1. Your coverage of Portugal, like that of most of the anarchist press, has been almost non-existent.

I understand some AWA people were here during the summer, so you must have contacts for further information.

2. As you say, on-the-spot reports can be very valuable, e.g., the PM's letter in an earlier issue, but was there any point in publishing the December article when the situation was changing day by day, and would be old news by the time you went to press, even if you didn't know how drastically the situation would turn out at the end of November?

I appreciate the problems of being a monthly newspaper, but it is something you have to come to grips with until the paper appears more often.

It can do us no good if such dated and unrealistically optimistic material as the Portugal article appears in what is trying to be a large circulation anarchist press.

In the February issue of **Libertarian Struggle**, we carried an article strongly criticising the adventurism of the 25th November insurrection, and we would agree that the armed workers' rising, given the level of co-ordination at the time, would probably have resulted in an even worse defeat.

When the writer of the article concludes

What it boils down to is that a woman should be the one responsible for deciding to have an abortion or not, and not the Church, not the State, and not the medical authorities.

People involved in the campaign realise the nature of the problem. To quote from an Abortion Law Reform Association handout: "A Woman's Right to Choose means not only the right to abortion on request but the right to keep her child, and look after it herself. This right is endangered not, as

For regular and recent reports, why not use PWCC and People's News Service reports?

3. About the article itself; FUR (now dissolved) did not include any Maoist groups, e.g., FEC, UDP, as stated in the article.

It was made up of LUAR, PRP, BR, LCI, FSP, MDP/CDE, MES.

To say resistance was organised partly through FUR is nonsense.

It was never anything in concrete terms and broke up quickly enough after 25 November.

4. The writer seems to suffer from a predominantly Leninist disease of form fetishism, i.e., the use of the word 'soviet'.

What exists at Setenave and Lisnave, and hundreds of other places are general assemblies electing workers' commissions.

Every IS comrade I met here talked about 'soviets'. To do so is to fail to recognise that every struggle will find its own forms; soviets in Russia, councils in Germany and Hungary etc.

That revolution is the only solution, this means that revolution is the only solution for the working-class, rather than the only possible outcome of the situation.

As to the points you make concerning the regularity of the paper, we wholeheartedly agree.

We do work with the PWCC and other local solidarity groups, but having a monthly

some people have claimed, by pressure from husbands, parents and boy-friends, but by the lack of facilities to support poor or single mothers... It is the problem of housing, nursery accommodation, and other problems... that faces the pregnant woman when she contemplates keeping her child... Without real support for one-parent families and for other mothers with problems, a woman's right to choose becomes meaningless."

making sure everyone can afford to come.

The delegates select material from what has been written by AWA members and sent in from outside, and mandate people to close any gaps.

They also look ahead to suggest issues and events worth covering in the following issue.

LS is never edited by the same group of people; local groups rotate their editors regularly.

Copy that is ready is then taken to London and typeset by *Bread'n'Roses* - with some help as others are taught how to use the equipment.

Doing away with the division of labour is an important part of our political practice.

5. Having stated at the beginning of the article that there are three solutions to the crisis, the writer ends by saying that the only solution is revolution, a statement proved false by events.

With scarcely a shot fired, the workers of Setubal were (temporarily) defeated.

6. The writer mentions armed defence of Setubal.

On 25 November, workers demanded guns from the local barracks - these were refused.

Perhaps this was good. The working class is generally unarmed and lacks the necessary degree of co-ordination to make a successful armed insurrection possible.

This isn't an argument for a revolutionary party, but simply that the commissions of workers, residents and soldiers must come together on a local and national level.

This is the way ahead.

Solidarity,

Paul Gordon, Lisbon

paper does put limits on accuracy.

To solve these problems, we are building towards a fortnightly publication, but this is obviously determined, to a great extent, by the amount of money received by the Press Fund.

Since our copy date is later, you can send late news nearer to the time of publication.

The Editorial Collective

Nuff said?

Anarchists should get involved in the abortion campaign and lend it their support, which I'm sure many are doing already.

That's the only way to get out ideas over on abortion and the right to choose - i.e. that they must have revolutionary implications.

It would be tragic if we remained outside with verbal support only.

Yours fraternally,  
W. Hooper

## Libertarian STRUGGLE

### Final Edition!

**LIBERTARIAN STRUGGLE** is a democratically run newspaper, controlled by the membership of the Anarchist Workers Association as a whole.

How do we do it, and why?

Throughout the production process, from editing through design and

despatch to even selling, it is produced by a genuine collective effort.

We have no central committee, editor-in-chief or team of professional journalists to churn out copy by the ream - thereby dictating the political line of the paper.

From start to finish, so that elites do not form within the organisation, and so that skills can be shared, we try to structure the production process so as to involve as many people as possible.

We do this in a non-hierarchical way, trying to make working on the paper as non-alienating as possible.

Towards the middle of the month, delegates from each of the local groups meet in a town up or down the country.

A pooled fares system operates,

making sure everyone can afford to come.

The delegates select material from what has been written by AWA members and sent in from outside, and mandate people to close any gaps.

They also look ahead to suggest issues and events worth covering in the following issue.

LS is never edited by the same group of people; local groups rotate their editors regularly.

Copy that is ready is then taken to London and typeset by *Bread'n'Roses* - with some help as others are taught how to use the equipment.

Doing away with the division of labour is an important part of our political practice.

Unlike on other left papers, the typesetters have a say in the design process and are not merely 'interested' wage slaves.

The editorial collective delegate one of their number to work on the paper and to ok late news - so the paper is as topical as possible, given that it is as yet only a monthly.

Layout is done in a workshop in a squat in northwest London by a Production Collective made up of people from the London groups and other friendly artists.

Here again, we try to involve as many as possible in the physical production, non-members too, as skills learnt here can prove useful in production of rank and file bulletins, community newspapers and so on.

The layout is then sent to the hard-working printers who work day and night to meet the deadlines and get it out on time.

We realise that there are probably more 'efficient' ways of putting out a newspaper; you certainly couldn't produce a daily like this.

However, this way is more satisfying, both politically and personally.

That's the story of **Libertarian Struggle**.

Next month we change the name to **ANARCHIST WORKER** as we feel it is a more easily understood name and likely to get over to a larger number of people the sort of things we stand for.

Last month we launched an appeal for £250 to buy a headliner - a machine that will save a fortune in Letraset and save a lot of time.

This is the first step towards going fortnightly, having the necessary tools at hand. The total stands now at £38.56, which means that £25.96 came in last month.

An appeal is what it says. We appeal to you, our readers, to assist in working towards a mass circulation revolutionary anarchist newspaper by sending as much as you can afford to the Press Fund.

Write about your experiences, and what is going on in your area or workplace.

Take some papers to sell - it isn't that difficult; after all someone sold you this one.

Please send any articles, requests for bundles to sell and cheques/POs to A.W.A., 13, Coltman Street, Hull, Humberside.

Please make cheques/POs payable to A.W.A. General Fund.

Thankyou.

# Aims and 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.

9 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.

10 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.



# Libertarian STRUGGLE

## Heads they win

LOST ANY MONEY on the horses recently? Or in a one armed bandit? I know I have, and that makes us both part of the biggest con the bosses have ever pulled on working people.

We are exploited at work, and then at the end of the week we're hardly down the road before the bosses are trying to get our wage packets back off us.

All the money we spend in this society goes straight back to the bosses, because as well as being the producers we're also the consumers.

The worst example of this irony is gambling. At least when you buy food you can eat it; gambling means that all you have at the end of the day is a hole in your pocket.

The rise in unemployment is forcing more people into the bookies in a hopeless attempt to win a decent amount of money to live on.

They don't win. The people who win are the bookmakers and football pools owners — when was the last time you saw a bookie in the dole queue?

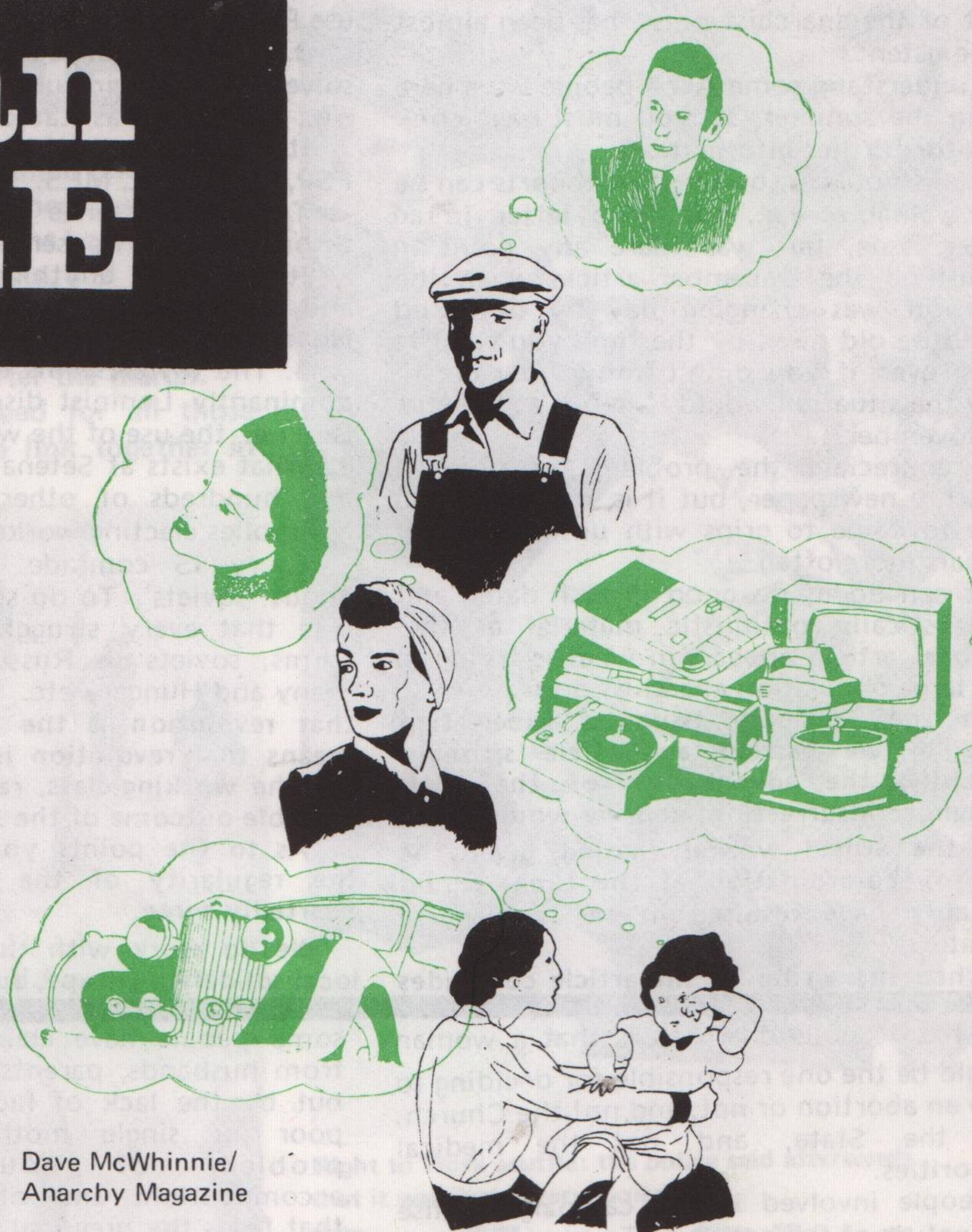
Sometimes they don't even wait for you to get out of the place where you work.

A factory-worker was telling me about one of the places he worked in which had two or three one-armed bandits in the canteen. Every pay-day fifty or sixty quid would go in these machines, straight back to the bosses' pockets.

Of course betting is part of working class culture, but all that means is we've been conned so long we like it!

However, there is the point that if we didn't gamble the money would go back to the bosses in any case.

But if people in factories and local communities started



Dave McWhinnie/  
Anarchy Magazine

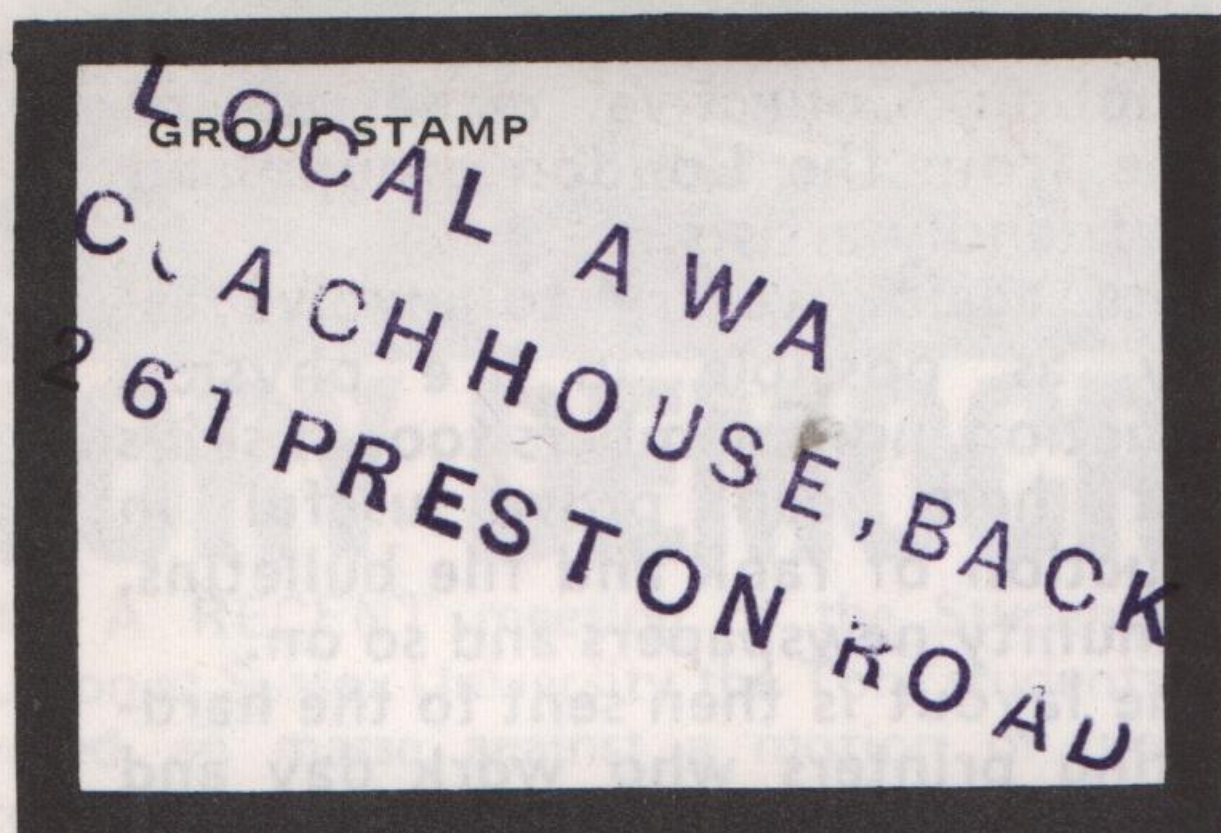
## ...tails you lose

organising their own betting systems, the money would stay in the working class, and could be employed usefully.

That's a stop-gap measure, because what we really want is a society where we don't have to gamble to get a decent standard of living.

Think about it next time you're in the bookies.

C.M.



### SCOTTISH LIBERTARIAN FEDERATION

Edinburgh Anarchists are organising the next conference of the SLF. All who are interested in attending are invited to write for details to:

Bob Gibson 7, Union Street, Edinburgh 1

### OXFORD AWA

public meeting

#### 'Organisation'

- 1) In defence against the cuts
- 2) To work for positive changes

At this discussion we will try to clarify what the approach of the AWA is; why its ideas on organisation are fairly strong and how to develop our response (at present limited) to the crisis.

Cape of Good Hope, The Plain, Friday April 9, 8pm

### ANARCHISTS IN INDUSTRY

trade unions are now a permanent feature of capitalism  
to what extent are they useful  
vehicles for spreading revolutionary ideas?  
'rank and file'  
is a much used term  
what do we mean by it?  
what is the nature of work  
in a capitalist system?  
can work be transformed into  
a useful and enjoyable way of passing time  
who will make a revolution?

North London AWA are holding a discussion meeting on 'Anarchists in Industry' on Tuesday 13 April at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8 (nr Dalston Junction), 8pm.

interested in setting up a

### LIBERTARIAN STUDENTS NETWORK

please contact A. Richards  
25, Maidcroft Road, Cowley, Oxford

### SCIENCE & SOCIALISM

A series of meetings emphasising the interaction between science and politics, to be held at the Adams Arms, Conway Street (near Warren St tube) (London at 6.00pm.

April 6 — Health & Safety in Industry

April 20 — BSSRS—The Politics of Ideology

More info from Dot Griffiths (01) 452 6249

### HULL LIBERTARIAN SOCIALIST GROUP

present

Nick Heath

Revolution — the libertarian alternative

Wednesday 28 April, 8pm

at the New White Hart, Alfred Gelder Street

—all welcome—

### Coming soon

## Anarchist Worker

The boss won't like it!

### EDITORIAL

## Government Wins Confidence Trick

LAST MONTH finally saw the much-heralded Tribune MPs' rebellion.

This long-awaited event, upon which so many 'revolutionaries' who should have known better have pinned their hopes, is nothing more than a piece of political abracadabra.

Political groups, and many sincere socialists in the Labour Party, have talked a great deal about 'making the lefts fight'.

Well, a group of MPs actually did put up some sort of fight; they voted against the Government's White Paper on Public Expenditure.

But what does this rebellion really mean?

### TRIBUNITES

The Tribune Group in Parliament, allegedly 70 strong, has sat back for two years while this Labour Government has been making a series of attacks on working people's living standards which are equally as vicious as those carried out by the Heath Government.

At the same time the Government has been cheerfully selling arms to the Chilean dictatorship and fraternising with the hiers of Franco's fascist state.

Reactionary amendments to the abortion laws have been proposed, and a Select Committee now composed entirely of anti-abortioners is still in existence and planning more.

Unemployment has reached 1½ million

and at the same time huge cut-backs in public expenditure are daily attacking our living standards.

And what have the 'left' MPs done about it?

Eric Heffer got himself sacked over the Common Market issue. Joan Lester resigned from her Ministry and Judith Hart left her post in Overseas Development.

And the six pro-Abortion MPs have quit the Select Committee on Abortion.

Weighed against the level of Government attacks and given this supposed membership of 70, this is not exactly an impressive record on the part of our 'socialist comrades' in Parliament.

In fact it's an appalling record. The voting last month was by no an improvement.

Boldly, the Tribunes stayed in their seats when it came to the vote; they didn't even vote against, they simply abstained.

And as soon as this courageous move was over, Tribunes were falling over each other to say that they did not want the Government to resign, and did not want their actions to be interpreted in that way.

Thus it came as no surprise to anyone that when it came to the vote of confidence the next day, the Tribunes all dutifully trotted into the Government's lobby to preserve the status quo.

So what will happen now?

The simple answer is, nothing of any real importance to the working class.

It is possible that for the sake of party unity the Government might make a few alterations to the cuts to appease the Tribunes' consciences.

This, of course, will give the 'left' MPs an opportunity to get off the hook.

It is quite clear from their previous behaviour that these MPs will be only too pleased to take that opportunity.

Of course, the Government need not bother making any real concessions: they can simply dare the Tribunes to defeat the Government and force an election.

And again, it's quite clear that forcing an election is the last thing the Tribunes want to do.

### FAKE REBELLION

This fake rebellion in Parliament can be used very profitably both by the Labour Party and those who argue that socialism can be legislated through Parliament.

The rebellion makes it look as if the Labour Party does have some sort of revolutionary potential.

People will be able to work for and vote for the Labour Party on the basis that they support the Tribunes, and are preparing for the day when the 'left' MPs will be in the majority.

But the practical effect of any work for the Labour Party is to keep this present Government in power.

A government which has proved itself

to be an enemy of the working people who elected them.

The Government may have won the confidence of the Tribunes; but they have not won the confidence of the working people.

The shenanigans of Parliament have never been any use to the working class.

Whichever lobby the 'lefts' wandered into, the concrete effects on working people are going to be cuts, cuts and more cuts.

Parliament is a farce.

It's the place where the bosses manipulate their puppets, Labour, Liberal or Tory.

It is no surprise that the Labour Party has so few active members, compared to the number of workers in this country.

Ordinary people realise that all governments are the same; the only time they are interested in working people is when it comes to voting time.

We can't rely on MPs to legislate a revolution; they are not interested in revolution.

They want power for themselves.

So we have to organise ourselves to take control of this society, and run it for ourselves.

The only reason why we need to pay attention to Parliament is to watch out for where the next attack is coming from.

Editorial Collective