

Anarchist Worker

Workers and management split on atoms

p3

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We demand the other 97%

CHANCELLOR Healey and his new boss Jim Callaghan have collaborated in the recent budget, to firstly try to drastically cut the living standards of the working class, but failing that to show how 'wicked trade unionists' are preventing 'innocent' people from receiving tax concessions.

How does all this work?

As most people know, Healey has offered to increase tax allowances by for instance £60 per year for a single person and £130 for a married couple with two children.

This offer is, however, conditional on the TUC accepting a 3% pay limit from June for about a year.

With inflation running at some 15% per annum what Healey offers is 3% wage increases plus something like 40p a week if you earn £3000 a year! — which over the next year means a massive drop in the living standards of working people.

It's argued that people will be better off because prices will be kept down, but what guarantee have we got of that?

Anyway, Healey is talking about

price stability in years to come, *not next year*.

He believes that working class standards of living must fall to pull capitalism out of the present crisis.

That's one aspect of the con.

Laughable

The other is that what he offers is really laughable tax concessions — 40p a week extra if you earn £60 — whilst knowing that if the unions do not accept the 3% limit there will be a massive outcry from certain sections of society, particularly the capitalist press, that the 'nasty unions' are stopping people getting their tax concessions and damaging the 'national interest'.

What a joke.

Workers' standards of living being cut by 10-12% in order to save the derisory sum offered in tax concessions and to prop up an exploitative social system.

But this is all part of the verbal warfare against trade unions, and especially against militants in trade unions who will fight against the 3% limit — even if it is accepted by the TUC.

Their crisis

And make no mistake — the TUC leadership may well accept Healey's package, for although at the moment they are making angry noises, they too accept that, in principle, working people's living standards must be cut.

This really is the main question — who pays for the present crisis? The people who profit from the system or the working class.

Healey is telling the working class to pay and we should reply with a firm "NO"!

Workers will fight to maintain their standards of living, which means wage rises of 10-15% or more, and not 3% plus a few crumbs in tax concessions!



Mayday : Origins

MAY 1 1886 saw 340,000 workers striking all over the United States demanding an 8-hour day.

In Chicago alone, 80,000 came out and here a number of anarchist militants agitated inside the labour movement.

The following Monday, the police fired on strikers at the McCormick Harvester works and six workers were killed.

The next day a protest meeting was broken up by the police. In the ensuing melee, a bomb was thrown at the police, killing one outright and fatally wounding seven others.

Evidence came to light later that the bomb had been thrown by a police agent.

The bosses, however, used this incident to victimise leading working class militants and attempt to break the labour movement.

After a farcical trial, with a jury made up of businessmen, their clerks, and a relative of a dead policeman, four anarchists were hanged, another committing suicide before sentence could be passed.

In 1888, the American Federation of Labour continued the 8-hour day movement with May 1 as a day of action.

The Paris conference of the Second International in 1890 fixed Mayday as an international day of solidarity for the 8-hour day.

That year, demonstrations took place all over Europe and America.

Ritual

Ninety years after the Chicago demonstration, where are we? the murder of five anarchist workers

is conveniently forgotten.

Just another institution, just another great yawn.

The United Kingdom finally follows the example of other governments of East and West, and plans to make Mayday into a public holiday.

It will not necessarily be on Mayday itself, but a Monday near it; so the working week is disrupted as little as possible.

Mayday, once a day on which the working class displayed its strength and organisation and its spirit

In Moscow every year, hundreds of tanks and ballistic missiles are paraded through the streets to demonstrate the might of Russian imperialism and the power of the state bureaucracy over the workers and peasants of the USSR.

In many countries of the West, Mayday has become just another public holiday.

Trade union bureaucrats and the social democrats make the usual empty and meaningless speeches about 'socialism', while the revolutionary origins of Mayday and internationalism, is now just a sentimental ritual to disguise the betrayals of the union leaders and the social-democratic and Stalinist parties.

What is important about Mayday is that 'once upon a time' there was the show of strength by workers on an international level.

This should be remembered in the years ahead, as we fight to resist the ruling class offensive and the co-option of working class initiatives by union bureaucrats.

To resist and build towards a libertarian revolutionary mass movement.

N.H.

Callaghan abolishes Monday

ONE OF Jim Callaghan's first gestures as Prime Minister was to announce that, due to its widespread unpopularity among the working population, Monday is to be abolished.

The new working week will instead start on Tuesday, end on Saturday, with a 2-day weekend — Sunday and Monday.

The Anarchist Workers Association immediately issued a statement condemning

this move as a typical Labour Government attempt to pull the wool over people's eyes and take back with one hand what they'd just given with the other.

The statement went on to say that the only way of ending the hatred of the beginning of the working week is to change the very nature of work.

Working people must control the means by the wealth of this society is produced in order for work to be satisfying and useful.

Introducing Anarchist Worker

BY THEIR very nature, anarchist ideas need to get over to large numbers of people for them to have any meaning at all.

Not for us the calling on leaders to do things for us; not for us substituting one set of leaders/bosses for another; not for us the building of a new, improved, elite, THE vanguard party.

For us, only the collective action of the mass of the people, the working class, will create the sort of society we would like to see.

Using *Anarchist Worker*, we aim to publicise, countrywide and abroad, those aspects of the struggle to change society that are ignored or distorted by both the establishment media and the left press.

As a part of this ongoing struggle, we

hope to draw together the strands into a unified total critique of everyday life in a capitalist system, thereby developing an organisation of libertarian communist militants active in every arena of the class struggle.

We intend to use our paper also as a way of working towards greater practical and political unity of the anti-authoritarian left, whether they call themselves anarchists, libertarians, left communists, syndicalists or marxists.

Many papers have come out and soon disappeared: Ink, Oz, 7 Days, Wildcat, Frendz, Black & Red Outlook, are but a few.

Having learnt some of the lessons, we hope to develop *Anarchist Worker* into a fortnightly news and comment paper sold the

length and breadth of Britain, worthy of the name anarchist.

But to be effective, an agitational newspaper relies on response from its readership.

Anarchist Worker ought not to be a commodity to be consumed leisurely, but a dynamic force in the class struggle.

We must break down the division between producer and consumer, to carry on a dialogue that reflects the day-to-day fight against capital in the workplace, the home, in schools and on the streets, and the struggle for libertarian communism, for a free socialist society.

Anarchist Worker is what people contribute — in the way of ideas, articles, resources, cartoons, photos, letters, andmoney.

NHS wounded

ON APRIL 2 women cleaners at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre Headington, Oxford, fought back against their employers' attempts to cut their wages.

The strike was against a plan for redundancies and reduced hours.

The cleaners' union, NUPE, opened negotiations and the employers agreed to suspend their plans and to pay the women for their day of action.

This is just one instance of hospital management attempting to implement the Government's demands for 'economy' in the NHS, i.e. cuts.

The Labour government is wielding the chopper that no Heath government would have dared consider.

Health for All

The NHS was created to provide free care and medication for everyone; now there are less NHS beds in hospitals than there were when it was started over 25 years ago.

New building is constantly postponed and each year the buying power of the budget is reduced.

No longer can we be temporarily pacified by this minimum service.

We need a real service to keep people healthy, a service run by the community, which of course includes health workers.

Treatment must be free, and use the best methods and materials available.

The money must be found as a priority, not given away as interest repayments to the bankers, profits to the drug companies, nor squandered directly or indirectly on private patients.

Campaign

The National Co-ordinating Committee Against the Cuts in the

NHS includes members of the medical profession and other public service unions; it called the April 25th demonstration in London.

Local action groups in a number of towns are already affiliated to the NCC.

They are organising local demonstrations, supporting action taken by health workers, and publicising the need to fight the cuts.

This is a set of issues which affect all of us.

It affects health workers doubly with the threat of unemployment and bad working conditions, but is also part of the general attacks on living standards and opportunities that have resulted from the decline in industry's ability to make profits for the ruling class.

Also, as their work is so essential, health service workers cannot readily press their claims by taking disruptive action...they need the support of the 'consumers' in their industry.

To quote from a leaflet produced by the National Co-ordinating Committee against Cuts in the NHS (NCC)

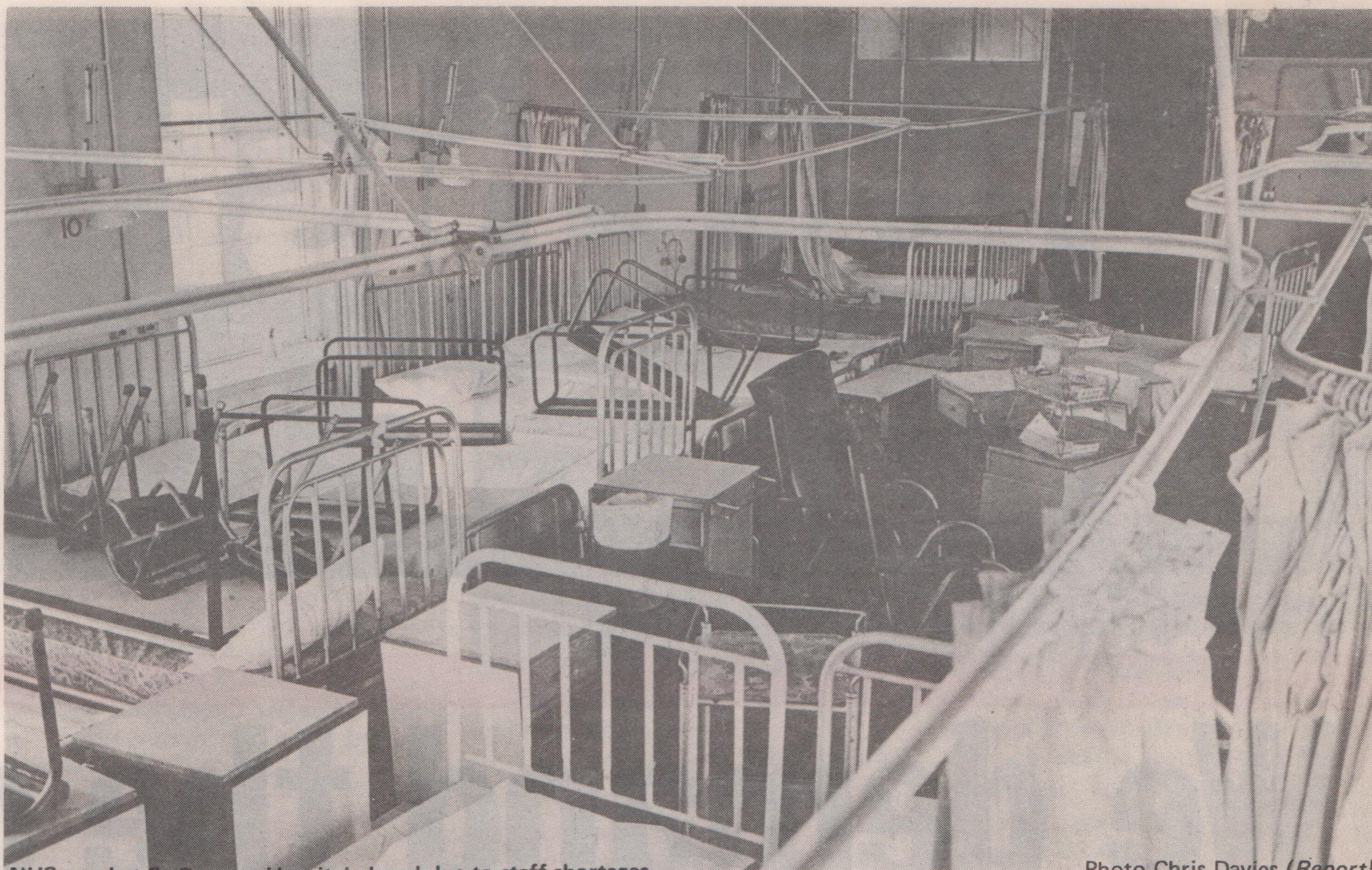
There is a shortage of nurses and technicians — an independent enquiry on nurses said: "It is common ground that the overall manpower shortage is approaching 20% — yet many area Health Authorities plan to reduce their manpower, including nurses and technicians."

Waiting lists have risen to 18 months for tonsillectomy and 12 months for gynaecology, whilst similar operations can be obtained privately within weeks.

Private health schemes are flourishing as a direct result of the inadequacies of the state service.

We need to fight these cuts along with those in education, housing and transport.

This also links up with anti-sexism



NHS ward at St Georges Hospital closed due to staff shortages

Photo Chris Davies (Report)

and anti-racism; for example, women and coloured and migrant workers make up a large proportion of public sector workers, but are among the first to be laid off.

Women's health services such as abortion facilities are particularly inadequate.

They also find it especially difficult to get housed, except of course as dependent wives.

So do immigrants, and yet they are often completely wrongly blamed for housing shortages, the pressures on NHS facilities and unemployment.

The real cause however is not

lack of bricks and builders/medical knowledge/work to be done, but the system by which priorities are decided by a few, and the minority controls the access to social facilities and the means by which they are produced.

A.R.

Her Majesty.

Forced by public opinion to adopt a policy of rehabilitating houses, Islington Council has nevertheless done its best to keep private firms solvent.

It reckons to pay contractors £27,000 for each house rehabilitated — a staggering sum and more than that paid by any other London borough.

Sympathetic

Even the capitalist press has attacked Islington's housing record. Articles fairly sympathetic to the Islington squatters have appeared in the *Guardian*, *Hackney Gazette* and most significantly in the usually strongly anti-squatter *Evening News*.

There has also been encouraging support from local people ("It's good to see you young people doing something about it").

Local workers have also pointed out to the squatters other vacant houses in the area which could usefully be occupied.

Charteris Road squatters emphasise in their publicity that squats cost nothing in repairs to the Council (= ratepayer). Squatters in the street have made extensive repairs to the plumbing and roofing of houses.

"We are not in the least afraid of ruins. For we know how to build. The bourgeoisie can bomb and blast its way off the stage of history. We carry a new world in our hearts. It is growing this minute."

On the front of three of the Charteris Road houses is Durruti's slogan from the Spanish Civil War.

By refusing to allow themselves to be evicted they are saving a house from being made useless: the Council already has a long backlog of gutted houses and any further gutting will not mean immediate rehabilitation.

Also of course by sitting tight they are refusing to join the queues for council housing or to increase pressure in the 'free market'.

Interviewed by *Anarchist Worker*, they emphasised that they reject the purely defensive strategy.

"We're not poor threatened victims. We don't wait quietly in terror. We're still gaining support by contacting other groups and the Press. We harass the Council at its meetings and we won't lie down. What we're doing is something positive".

So far with notable success.

A.P.



Special Patrol Group watch as house is blocked up



Building the barricades

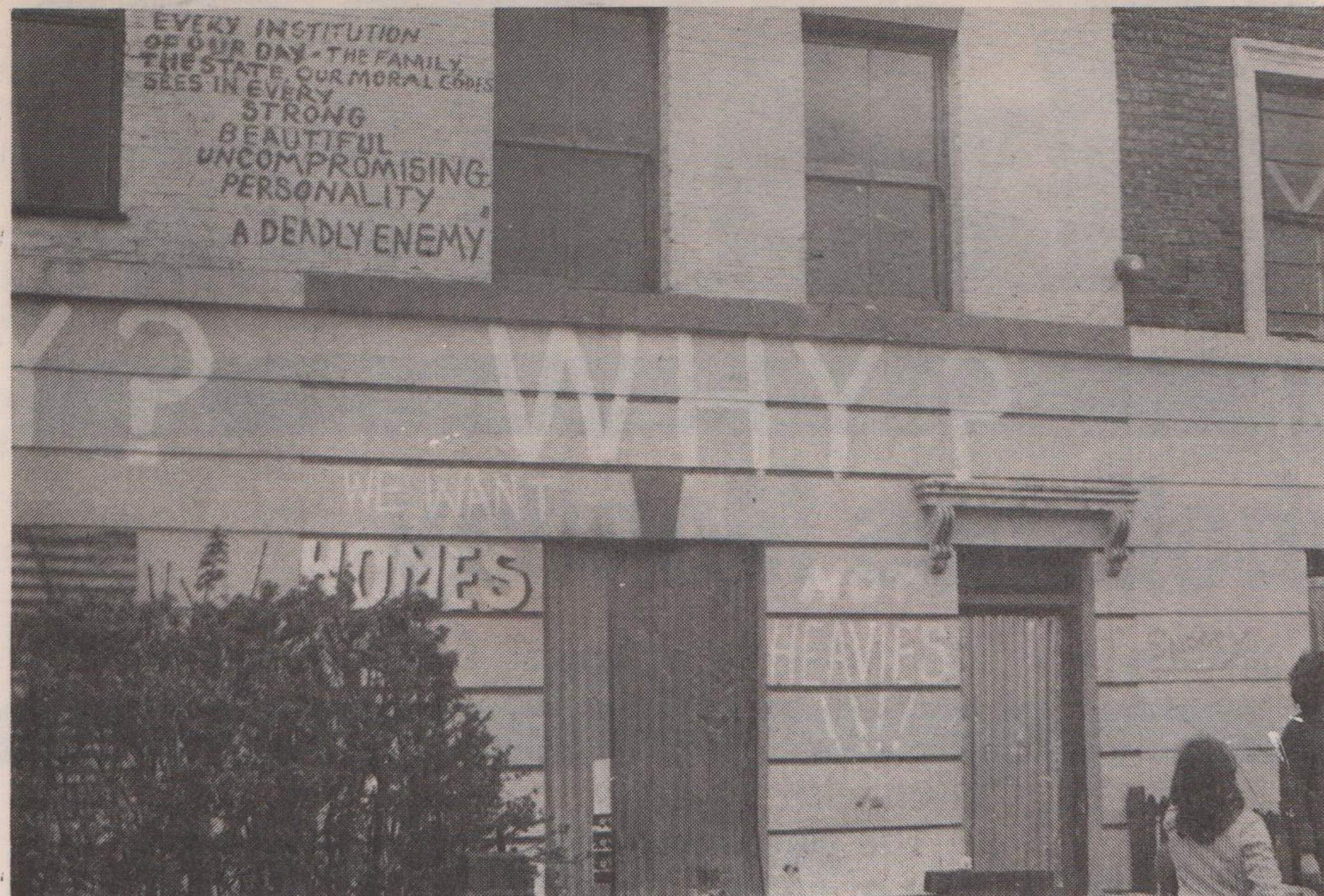
HIGH RISE flats give better value for money than traditional low rise housing.

This is one of the surprise results of a recently completed £40,000 research study by Manchester University School of Architecture, reports *Manchester Free Press*.

The survey showed that on three high rise developments — College Bank, Rochdale; Queens Park, Blackburn; and Marquis Towers — 81.8% of tenants claimed they got good value for money.

In the low rise sample — Pollards Hill, Merton; and Longside, Manchester — only 71.5% thought they got good value for money.

The research was sponsored by the Otis Elevator Company.



Unafraid of ruins

LATE in March Islington Council sent a 'Courtesy Note' to three of the ten squatted houses in Charteris Road.

It kindly informed the squatters that bailiffs would arrive to evict them in three days time.

The effect of the note was shattering — not for the squatters but for the destructive plans of the Council.

With the sense of unity against the common threat the morale of the squatters got a great boost.

By an energetic campaign to mobilise interest of TV and the newspapers they put the Council's planned violence and waste to the spotlight.

Several TV crews were waiting to welcome the bailiffs at the time scheduled for eviction. As a result, eviction has yet to be attempted.

Charteris Road is in a decayed area of North London's Finsbury Park. The decay has occurred partly through the decision of Islington Council, which first allowed council houses to go without repair when occupied, gutted them when empty — and has left them in that condition ever since.

Squatters organisation in the street has helped publicise the Council's important role.

Wrecked houses now have painted on them the fact that they were gutted by the Council and the date of the official wrecking.

The squatters' houses with their contrasting decent appearance make the point as to who are the real vandals in the area.

The history of Islington's housing policy is one of waste and incompetence on a scale unusual even in London.

Until recently, their publicly claimed policy was to gut and then demolish all old property and then wait for the (remote) date of rebuilding.

As a result, in several areas like Archway large tracts of land where useable high density housing stood have been uninhabited for over five years.

Bad News

It has been proved that rehabilitation, rather than demolition and rebuilding from scratch, makes good economic sense for councils.

Precisely for this reason rehabilitation is bad news for the building firms that make enormous profits from council contracts.

Islington Council has special sympathy for private building firms.

North Islington's notorious Labour MP O'Halloran — anti-abortion and a professional Roman Catholic, he supported both sides in the Common Market Campaign — was a Personnel Manager for local lump builders, Murphys, where several of his former colleagues were recently sentenced to terms as guests of

Passport Scandal

COMPLAINTS have been made by Asians that they are being forced to produce their passports before being allowed to submit claims for social security at the Norton Street offices in Leicester.

Leicester Claimants Union are investigating the reasons for the practice by the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS).

Members of the Claimants Union visited Norton St DHSS on several occasions and found that Asians were showing passports at reception and in the interview booths.

Claimants said that they had been told to produce their passports in addition to the usual documents such as rent books and insurance number.

Recorded

Two senior spokesmen for the DHSS gave conflicting explanations as to why this practice was being carried out.

One said that some Asians had some difficulty in speaking English and that passports were asked for to determine names and ages of the claimant and his or her dependents.

Another, more significantly, stated that the serial number of the passport was recorded.

When asked why this information was required, he refused to comment.

West Indians and other nationalities were asked if they had

to produce passports, and none of them had been asked.

The DHSS appointments slip lists the documents which have to be produced and passports are not listed.

Jack Gaunt of the Civil and Public Servants Association said that CPSA members were refusing to co-operate with the DHSS instructions.

When asked, he flatly denied that the DHSS were working in conjunction with the Home Office to check up on illegal immigration.

Meeting

A meeting was arranged by Leicester Claimants Union with Ms Kathleen Hamylton, and she agreed to carry out an investigation under Section 17 of the Race Relations Act.

Dr Sayeed, a spokesman for the Asian community, had told the Claimants Union that he has also received similar complaints from Coventry and Birmingham.

It is too early to say definitely at this stage that the DHSS are working in collaboration with the Home Office.

What is certain is that demanding a document which only one section of the community has to produce is a clear case of race discrimination.

The Claimants Union and the Anarchist Workers Association actively oppose any attempts to divide the working class on grounds of race.

RAY BURMAN

Nuclear Ludo

THE VILLAGE of Bradwell in Essex lies in the shadow of an enormous giant — Bradwell 'A' nuclear power station.

Heated debate has been going on over the safety of the power station and plans to build a second.

Some power station workers appeared on a *Nationwide* TV documentary recently to publicise the lack of adequate safety precautions.

They wore hoods in front of the cameras to avoid being recognised, and victimised, by the management.

After the programme had been screened, the management showed clips in the power station to workers, *one by one*, in an attempt to identify the ones who had 'spilled the beans'.

Workers at Bradwell power station told *Anarchist Worker* that they would like to see all safety precautions doubled.

Heart Attacks

A major cause of concern is the fact that one person suffers a heart attack on average every ten weeks.

The management claim that this is

not abnormal, but in a workforce of about 200, this means a rate of heart attacks of 2½% per year. The average in the population as a whole is 0.1%.

Workers are also worried about the management's attitude to safety. When alarms go off indicating dangerous levels of radiation, they simply alter the warning system by increasing the radiation levels necessary to trigger the alarms.

Contempt

While workers wear space suit-like protective clothing, power station executives are walking around in shirtsleeves, displaying their contempt for the safety precautions.

Recently, some nuts and bolts dropped into the reactor and had to be retrieved by a probe fitted with a closed circuit TV camera.

The probe revealed that parts of the reactor, inaccessible for inspection and repairs since it was built, are cracked and breaking up, and metals are corroding.

Another source of anxiety is the capacity of the 'ponds' where spent reactor cores are immersed and de-activated, prior to being sent to other stations, such as Windscale, for

reprocessing.

The reactor cores are uranium pellets in a finned casing made of Magnox (an aluminium alloy).

In an emergency, the ponds would take all 40,000 cores from the reactor.

However, at present they already hold 9,000 cores — as against a 'desired' level of 2,000 — and should an emergency arise, the ponds would not be able to take all the cores in the reactor.

Workers claim the management don't really know what they're doing.

Guesswork

A Magnox type reactor of the first generation of nuclear power stations built in Britain and without real experience of the hazards involved, it was suggested that safety levels at Bradwell were mostly based on guesswork, and are much too low.

The plan to build another reactor, Bradwell 'B', has run into a great deal of opposition, both from local people and from workers at Bradwell 'A', who told our reporter that they wouldn't like to see another nuclear reactor built.

This is in spite of the fact that they would otherwise be unemployed in six years time, when the projected

life of Bradwell 'A' ends.

The planned reactor is of the American advanced gas-cooled type, which cannot be tested as thoroughly as the Magnox type.

Since the nuclear reactor programme was first begun, there have been hundreds of accidents, including two or three explosions in the USSR.

At Dounreay, Scotland, pumps circulating molten sodium siezed up, and recently waste cesium from Bradwell burst into flames at Berkely, near Bristol.

When asked what would happen in the event of an earth tremor, or an accident to one of the trains carrying radioactive nuclear waste, one worker said, "God only knows!"

A large movement has arisen aiming to put a stop to nuclear power on the grounds that it is too dangerous.

They point to the fact that Britain's nuclear power stations release into the air the equivalent of a one-megaton atomic explosion every year.

Fission products are virtually indestructible, and eventually reach what we eat and drink through food chains.

They cause, among other things, cancer.

One pound of Plutonium-239,

manufactured in most nuclear power stations, has the potential for nine million human lung cancer doses.

Plutonium has a half-life — the time it takes for its radioactivity to be reduced by half — of 24,000 years.

Research into nuclear energy began in 1945, utilising the experience of the scientists who had worked on the A-bomb.

In 1954 the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority was set up to put it on a commercial basis.

Right from the start, the key motivation was profitability, both in terms of cheaper energy in Britain and in selling reactors abroad.

Safety thus became a factor in the economic equation, to be judged by a cost-effectiveness yardstick.

In its short-sighted search for profits, capitalism is jeopardising not only the health of its workforce but the very future of the planet.

It is imperative to remove the decision-making process out of the arena of profitability and into the arena of social usefulness.

Right now it is impossible to say what the future should be for nuclear power: for one thing, the information necessary isn't available — it's all closely guarded secrets.

Only an informed working class can take this decision.

P.G.



The irradiated fuel cooling ponds at Bradwell.

Blood in EEC wine lake

WITH good wine being distilled and the public being passed off with the poorer stuff as 'vin ordinaire', latest information suggests that present stocks of wine equal seven years drinking for the French.

Ever increasing production is being encouraged by the EEC agricultural policy and when too much is made, prices are kept up by hoarding and destroying stocks, partly compensating the producers.

On March 1, half a million gallons of Italian wine were destroyed by 100 Languedoc vine growers.

Then growers Michel Olive and Salvador Domench were arrested.

The Union of Vine Growers called a region-wide alert on March 3.

As a preliminary action, 200 vine growers set up a blockade on the road between Penzas and Montpellier in the evening.

In Beziers, two tankers containing 26,000 pints of Italian wine were stopped and their contents poured away.

At about 10pm a thousand vine growers laid siege to Narbonne.

Tax offices were attacked and set on fire and at 10.15pm, when the news broke that the two arrested were to be sent outside the region, a group of vine growers organised a blockade of the town while another group lockaded the railway lines.

MARCH 4: By the afternoon, 3000 vine growers had succeeded in

enforcing a total stoppage of trains.

A first detachment of CRS police arrived in armoured vehicles.

Projectiles were thrown and some armed peasants fired gunshots at the police.

Then a large number of CRS armoured buses arrived.

The 3,000 stopped them at a crossroad.

First they fired skywards and then aimed at the commanding officers,

SPAIN ANARCHISTS ORGANISE

SOME OF the most promising European political news in years has emerged recently from Spain.

It comes partly from *Le Monde*, doyen of the international bourgeois press.

Since the bias of *Le Monde* will lead it to play down the scale and significance of any libertarian developments it mentions, what the paper now admits is of great significance.

We quote (*Le M.*, 6.3.76):

"In Madrid the building workers strike was initiated by independent groups, with anarchist tendencies.

In Barcelona, the Workers Commissions, after obtaining a wage-rise for unskilled building workers — at 19,000 pesetas a month, one of the highest in Spain for this category of worker — were obliged to denounce publicly the more or less spontaneous strike pickets which were giving new muscle to the strike.

The CNT, the old anarchist trade union confederation, all powerful at the beginning of the Civil War, and which was thought to be dead, is returning from the grave.

In Barcelona, a congress with four hundred participants has just taken place.

Another will be held shortly in Valencia."

It should be remembered that membership of the CNT at present is illegal, and carries heavy penalties.

Any congress of the CNT, therefore, is likely to reflect only a small proportion of the support and sympathy which the confederation has.

Commissions

A further hopeful development in the Spanish working class movement is the growth of Representative Commissions.

These are the outcome of elections at mass meetings in factories, and have served as instruments for the co-ordination of the mass struggles that have taken place in the Basque country, Catalonia, Valencia and Madrid.

They are one of the major factors in the present political crisis.

Anarchist Worker's information comes from the *News Digest* of the Libertarian Spain Committee.

The *Digest* goes on to report that "...A group of students from Valencia, recently arrived in this country, has informed us of the proliferation of demonstrations throughout the country (two a week in Barcelona).

satisfaction'.

In Narbonne the iron gate of the Sous-Prefecture was blasted, two motorway offices were sacked and the Paris-Toulouse-Marseilles-Italy railway was destroyed at many points.

Shortly after these events, the two vine growers were, not surprisingly, released from custody and Poniatowsky stated that the Government "intends to maintain security, firmly but with justice".

During the following night, seven squadrons of Gendarmes Mobiles (a police corps under direct control of the defence ministry) arrived in Montpellier by plane, with light armoured cars and ten 'Puma' helicopters, just in case...

MARCH 6: 20,000 people attended the funeral of Emiles Pouytes in his home village, Arquette.

They also informed us of the loss of influence of the (Communist Party inspired) Junta Democratica among students and their representative bodies in colleges, of an increase in self-organised activity, and of the growth of anarchist groups, which have been heavily repressed, but by no means exterminated.

These students, not themselves

This was the reply to Poniatowsky who, two days before, had said that the troubles were the work of a handful of 'rioters posing as vine-growers'.

MARCH 9: Funeral of the dead CRS, Le Goffe, in Toulouse.

Poniatowsky attends, saying 'People guilty of inciting riots and crimes (the Montredon shooting) will be searched out and detained'.

In Toulouse 23 people were kept in custody and interrogated for 24 hours, but nothing seems to confirm that anarchists or any 'uncontrolled' people had taken part in the shooting of Montredon.

No findings from searches of these people's homes.

A vine grower leader said: 'It is as if we were waiting for a violent storm'.

anarchists, saw the development of anarchist groups as a sign of real hope."

The Libertarian Spain Committee can be contacted, provisionally, c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1, and welcomes all information on day-to-day activity in Spain.

So does *Anarchist Worker*.

M. Evans



Ireland : An Alternative Approach

AT OUR National Conference in February, the AWA agreed on the policy on the Northern Ireland situation shown below.

This policy represents a complete break with the policies put forward by most left wing groups.

It was the subject of much discussion at our conference, and a substantial section of AWA members voted against it, preferring a 'Troops Out Now' approach, stemming from the 'British imperialism' analysis.

Many of the ideas in the new policy are radically different from all previous analyses of the situation; so it was thought useful to explain in detail the reasoning behind the policy.

It is by no means the last word on the subject; it is more an attempt to come to terms with the situation in Northern Ireland and from that to see what steps are needed to resolve the situation in a libertarian communist direction.

Imperialism ?

The first two paragraphs deal with the problem of British imperialism. It is a fact that, whatever the history of Ireland, it is now the subject of much wider exploitation than just Britain.

Throughout Ireland we find American, West German and Japanese capital, as well as native Southern and Northern Irish capital. Economic exploitation is being carried out just as vigorously by the 'native' bourgeoisie as it is by 'foreign bourgeoisies'.

This is because the nature of capitalism has changed: it is now an international finance system, no longer recognising the boundaries of nations.

Thus, we have subsidiary companies of British Leyland in Italy, Spain, Israel and Northern Ireland. We have American and Japanese companies in Britain and Northern Ireland. This international club has even grown to include the USSR and China.

Bosses in all countries freely co-operate to exploit the workers in all countries.

Of course, this does not apply to countries where there is no native bourgeoisie, in other words where industrialised countries are simply removing the raw materials of a non-industrialised country. That is the classic case of imperialism.



But it is not the case in Northern Ireland. The Northern Irish bourgeoisie are willing members of the club. It was not the English bourgeoisie which, at the turn of the century, first violently opposed Irish Home Rule — it was the Ulster ruling class, rallying behind Lord Carson.

In the end it made no difference. The independence of Southern Ireland is only formal: Eire is now as strongly linked, economically, to Britain, and now Europe, as it ever was.

Britain has never pulled out of Southern Ireland; it will never pull out of Northern Ireland either because the links of international capitalism are too strong.

Put another way, Northern Ireland will never pull out of Britain, or Europe. They are part of an international economic system.

Nor would a formal withdrawal of political control make any difference.

Political control derives from economic control. Because of the integrated nature of capitalism, the political control is, in any case, only formally exercised from

Westminster.

Changing the formal holders of power in Northern Ireland would not change the nature of that control. Therefore, we do not recognise Northern Ireland as an imperialist situation.

You cannot have a socialist Ireland without a socialist Europe, because the economic structures of all the countries are too closely linked.

Para-military

The third paragraph deals with the way in which the people of Northern Ireland have concretely attempted to deal with their problems.

The para-military groups arose in response to conditions in the Six Counties, but they have also gone on to shape new conditions.

They are essentially elitist organisations, in that they have no internal democracy. Whatever their popular support at any

life of slightly increased privileges in the Union.

Neither side offers a socialist solution.

The most immediate element in the Northern Irish crisis, one that can be dealt with in the short term, is the role of the troops in Northern Ireland.

It is important to grasp what function the troops serve for capitalism. The troops act as an instrument of the bosses because they help to keep Catholic and Protestant workers from uniting.

They were sent in 1969 to keep the warring factions apart. Since then, they have been used primarily to oppress the Catholic for two main reasons.

Keeping the Catholic population in an inferior position with regard to job and housing facilities is part of the economic structure of Ulster.

The Catholics make up a permanent pool of unemployed, which helps to maintain the profit levels of the bosses. Also, there is a

Protestant workers that the Republic is not for them. Looking at the Constitution of Eire and the welfare facilities there, it is not surprising that Protestant workers feel better off as they are at the moment.

It is true that both wings of the IRA stress the need to change the system in the South, but very few Protestants would trust the IRA.

So if the troops were pulled out tomorrow nothing would really change because the same basic divisions still exist.

The Protestants, via the UDA and the Ulster Defence Regiment are quite capable of mounting the same sort of repression against Catholics as is now being carried out by the British Army.

The Republic's troops might become involved, but the Protestant working class cannot be bombed into the Republic.

At the moment, pulling the troops out would be meaningless. Therefore, it is a question of working out how withdrawal would be important.

The troops might be forced out by united class action in Northern Ireland: that would be meaningful.

The troops themselves might recognise their role and rebel: they might be forced out of Ireland by the action of workers over here.

Only when that sort of situation was reached would "Troops Out" have any meaning.

Action

This does not mean that we all sit back and wait for the Irish to sort it out for themselves. Part of our analysis is that British workers, and workers in the Six Counties of whatever religion, have more in common with each other than they have with their bosses.

It is the job of British workers to try and force the troops back to their barracks in Aldershot or wherever for two reasons: first we should not be sitting back and letting the British Government use troops to oppress workers anywhere in the world: second, you can be damned sure that techniques learnt by the British army in Ireland are going to be used eventually against British workers.

So one thing that comes from our policy is that we have to work to get the troops out *not* necessarily because that will be the solution to the Irish problem, but because we should always link our own problems with those of workers all over the world.

As stated at the beginning of this article, it is by no means the last word on the subject. It is more an attempt to arrive at an analysis of Ireland which is not just the mindless repetition of worn out left wing clichés.

It is an attempt to find an approach which does not alienate one set of workers from another, an approach which is based on working class solidarity — British, Irish, Protestant and Catholic.

We will try to publish all comments which are received on this new policy in the next issue of *Anarchist Worker*. Readers are asked to keep their contributions as brief as possible for reason of space.

J.C.

AWA Policy on N.Ireland

The situation in Northern Ireland is that capitalists from all parts of the world are exploiting the Irish working class and that religious, national and cultural traditions are being used to divide and further exploit the working class.

The AWA rejects the concept of an anti-imperialist struggle. We recognise that capitalism is an international system and that the struggle must be against both the international and the domestic ruling class. The struggle in Northern Ireland should be linked with struggles for workers power, throughout the British Isles, Ireland's economy being an integral part of the economy of Britain, Europe and the world.

We reject all para-military groups as nationalistic, elitist and divisive.

The troops presence in Northern Ireland maintains divisions within the working class that ultimately benefit only the capitalists. The only way that the removal of the troops could be meaningful is if they withdraw through united class action, including the self-activity of the troops.

The struggle will only be resolved when the people of Northern Ireland realise that their best interests lie with each other and not with para-military groups, capitalists and religious and other sectarian organisations.

As agreed at the National Conference in London, February 14 & 15, 1976.

time (and it has varied greatly) they take decisions without reference to the people they claim to represent.

They are not under the control of the Northern Irish people in the way that a workers militia would be.

It is also quite clear that they impose their ideology, often unsuccessfully, upon working people.

The Provisional IRA, for example, may have begun life as a Catholic defence force, but it has also done its fair share of intimidating Catholic workers as well.

The abstentionist campaigns run by Sinn Fein have been largely unsuccessful; they have failed to impose their ideology onto Catholic voters.

The ideology of the Provo leadership is fundamentally bourgeois nationalist — Green Tory. It is not the sort of republicanism which is likely to appeal to Protestant workers.

Groups like the UDA perform a similar role: they reinforce the idea that Protestant workers will do best by keeping Ulster in its present form, ie maintaining Protestant privileges.

They do not point out that for a worker, Protestant privileges amount to a better chance of employment. The real privileges are reserved for the businessman.

The para-military groups, by their ideological intervention, keep both sections of workers divided. The Provos hold out a

real potential of a socialist upsurge coming out of the sectarian politics of republicanism.

For both these reasons, it was inevitable that the troops would eventually be used against the Catholics.

However, the troops are not responsible for the divisions within the Ulster working class — those divisions existed long before the British Army went in.

It has been said that British involvement is the 'tie-breaker' in the Northern Ireland crisis. We have seen that British involvement will never *realistically* end until capitalism collapses, but there is still the question of whether pulling the troops out would help to solve matters.

If the troops came out of Northern Ireland tomorrow, what would happen?

To answer this question, it has to be remembered that the working class was divided before the troops went in, and also before the Republic became independent.

There is a tradition of Protestant working class opposition to republicanism which goes back several hundred years.

Religion was the main tool used to divide the workers. It is still being used, but other arguments are also employed to convince

A large number of AWA members disagree with this article, and recognise the need to work for immediate withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland. We see the British Army as being the main obstacle to working class unity and political activity. There will be an article in the next *Anarchist Worker* to put this position.

The scent of profit

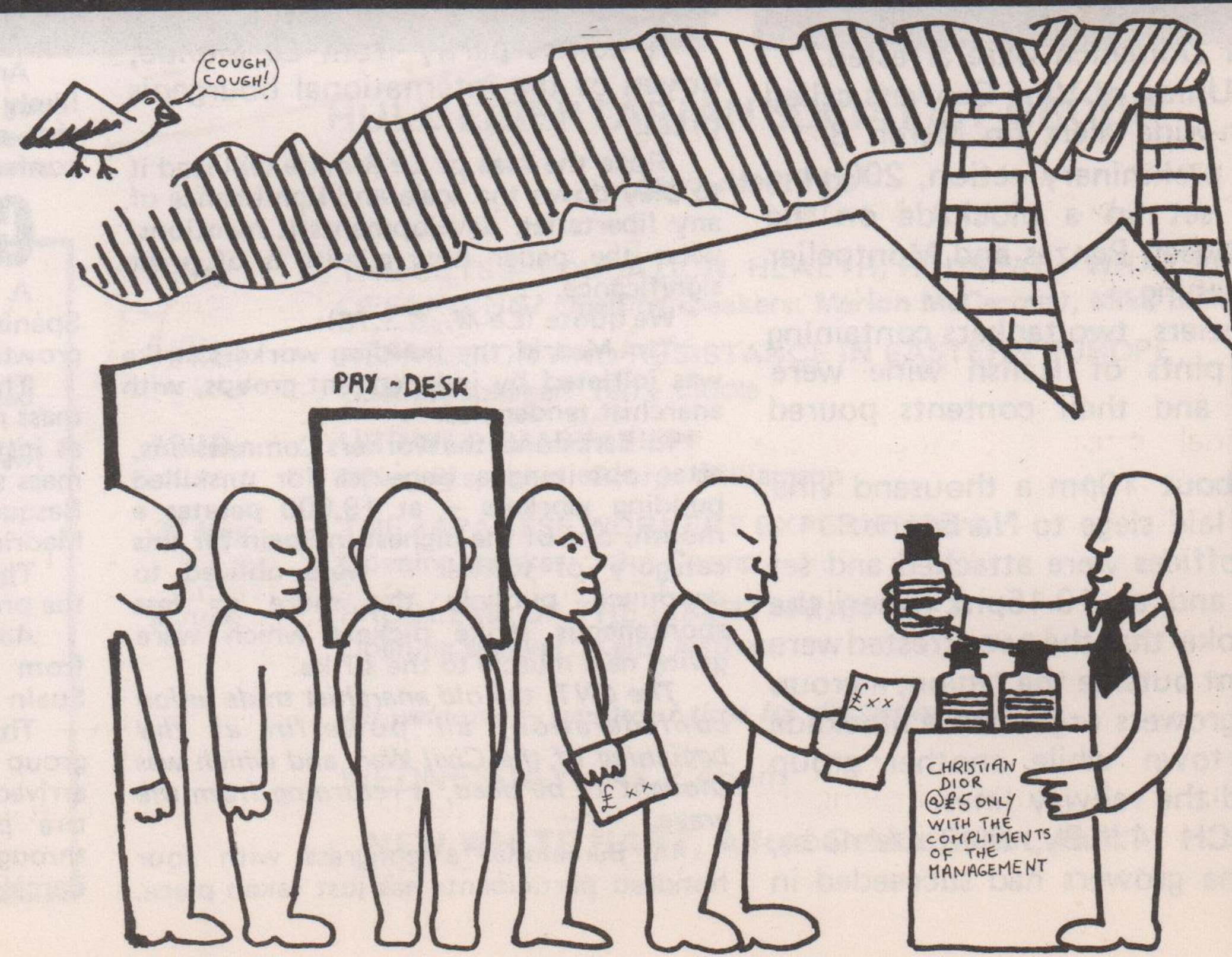
WHEN workers at a foundry in Ipswich complained of the fumes coming off a new resin sand moulding process, management got to grips with the problem immediately.

They put a scent in the sand to make the fumes smell sweeter.

Needless to say the ungrateful workers weren't satisfied by this lavish gesture and the employer may be driven to the expense of installing local exhaust ventilation.

Rumours that the Engineering Employers Federation is experimenting with joss sticks to defeat the problem of welding fumes are, of course entirely unfounded.

Hazards Bulletin



Politics of Scandal

SCANDAL is far too important to be left to the capitalist media. When the former Foreign Secretary gives a slurred radio interview on the Red Peril and then collapses drunk into a gutter; when Prince Bernhard is accused of equipping the Dutch Airforce with Lockheed planes so as to finance his Parisian 'pussy'; when the former Postmaster General runs off in disguise to Australia; when the President of the US is caught obstructing justice, many on the left feel "this is just what we expected, isn't it?" and don't bother to notice the details. Yet, by ignoring scandal we miss important lessons — both for ourselves and the people we talk to who aren't yet libertarian communists.

SCANDAL SHOWS the vulnerability of the ruling class — a class which includes the bosses of private and state industry as well as many politicians.

This class is a coalition of immensely greedy persons, and with this greed often goes a willingness to risk the interests of their entire class.

When the Tory eminence R. Maudling collaborated with the Mafia-connected (and subsequently jailed) J. Hoffman in an offshore property swindle (something the press has kept fairly quiet about); when Bernhard turned his dishonest dollar; when Agnew took bribes from Maryland contractors over his desk in the White House, they all knew that they were liable to do great damage to the ruling groups they belonged to.

Scandal shows that it's wrong to think of the ruling class as made up entirely of people dedicated to its preservation, people who would die for their group — like self-sacrificing bees.

In a social revolutionary crisis we must of course expect a large section of the ruling class, and of the privileged underclass it protects, to fight for their interests.

But we shall have on our side the fact that many in these classes will, with the same greed which in normal times allows them to undermine their mates, be looking not for ways to fight but for ways to grab some of their property and run.

Demoralisation

Demoralisation within the ruling class is something socialists rarely seem to allow for. Yet this too can be an important ally in a revolutionary crisis.

When the Greek Colonels crept out of office after the Cyprus fiasco, one junta member was reported as saying "We are the most ridiculous government in Europe".

The Spanish Government is at present said to have a serious problem of morale.

Scandal and ridicule help greatly to create these crises of morale: politicians are very sensitive about what they suppose their public image to be.

This is probably why J. Stonehouse is ostracised at Westminster — because he's doing a great job bringing Parliament into disrepute.

Subversive

The left press should give Maudling, Stonehouse, Poulson and banker Thorpe all the help they can to carry on their important, subversive work.

Just because we already have firm views ourselves on the morality of the ruling classes, there's no reason for ignoring the detailed, scandalous evidence which will help us convince others.

It should always be remembered that for many people in this country the rumours about Nixon, Maudling, Stonehouse and the rest were *incredible* until they were proved to the hilt.

We must never let that attitude grow again.

Scandal must not stop at the bourgeois limits of the word. The suggestion of the capitalist media in time of scandal is always that a scapegoat figure should be replaced by a Mr (or Ms) Clean: connoisseurs of Watergate will remember that Agnew was at one stage hailed as Mr. Clean.

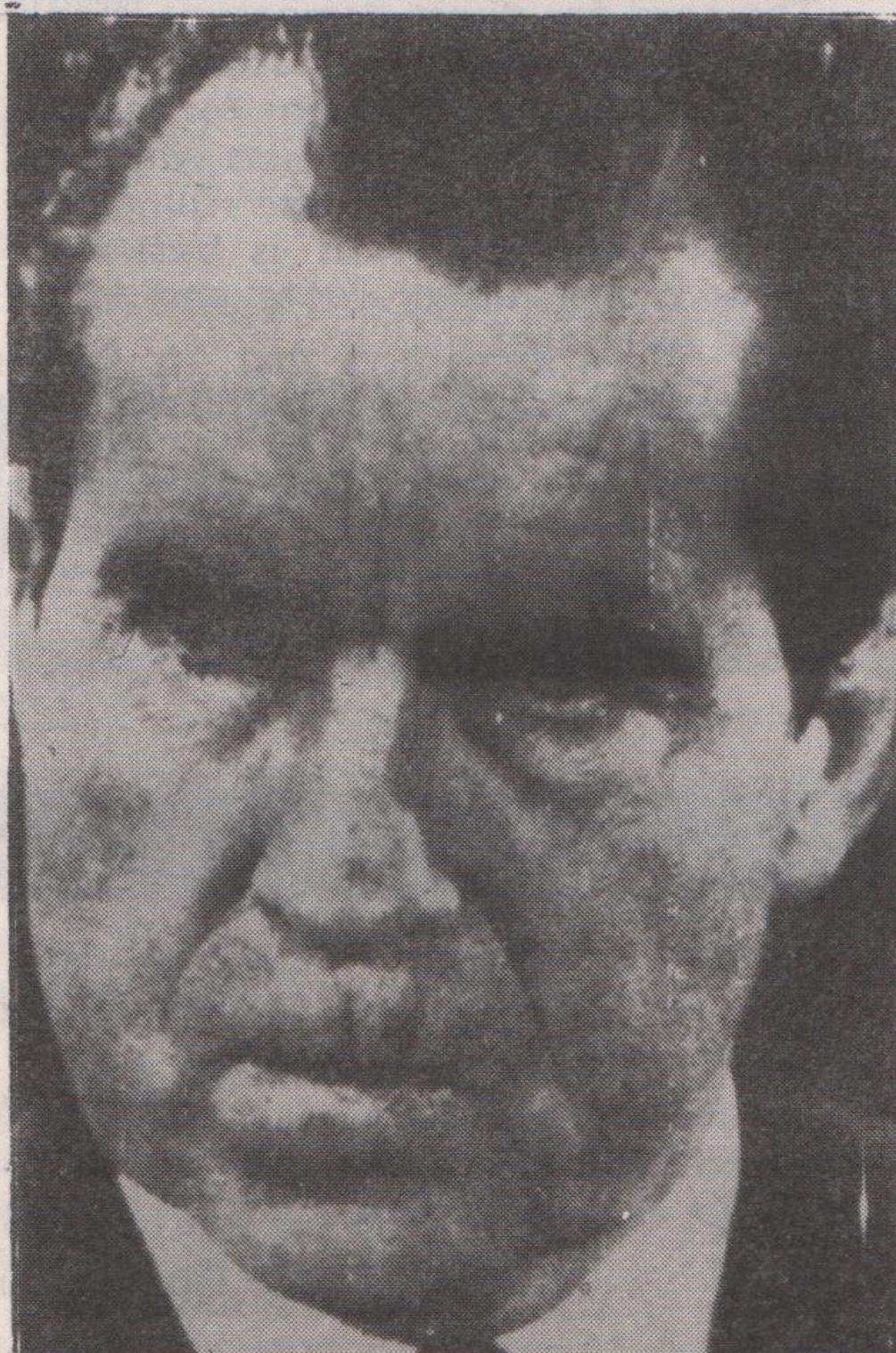
It is important to avoid giving the impression that it is possible to get rich in an honest way, or that some



Nixon, Poulson and Maudling are three ruling class crooks who have been exposed. They have been caught out by the double standard of bourgeois morality that prescribes strict standards of behaviour for its public figures in a society based on corruption and trickery.

Poulson may have taken bigger bribes; Nixon may have been a dirtier politician. More likely they were just the ones that slipped up, and no longer had the influence to cover up for themselves.

And after all, the ruling class always needs a scapegoat.



NO CASUAL reader of a newspaper can have missed the recent publication of the Law Commission's report on Conspiracy and Trespass.

This is the 'liberalisation' of the rusty old Conspiracy laws, which will, if passed, limit the scope of the offence of conspiracy to commit crimes and create new crimes to take away the liberty thus gained.

In particular, the Commission has come up with a package of measures presented in the media as an attack on squatters.

politicians govern properly.

It is probably a desire to avoid doing this which keeps many leftists from scandal-mongering in the capitalist sense of scandal.

But although the capitalist definition of muck is too narrow, their muck is usually muck alright, and helps us to introduce people to muck as we see it in capitalism — everywhere.

Cynicism

Scandal on its own cannot produce many revolutionaries. The greatest scandal (in capitalist terms) of this century, Watergate, demoralised the US establishment without producing any obvious wave of radicalism.

Cynicism about government needs to be joined with an optimistic ideology drawn from a knowledge of what can — and has been — achieved in socialist, government-free organisation.

Nor should scandal be a snobbish chronicling of top people's sex lives: the sort of thing that *Private Eye* combines with much more important news.

The scandal about, for instance, royalty is that they exist — not what they do in bed.

News-of-the-World stuff is sometimes useful, though.

Anyone who has had to deal with the Festival of Light mob should know 1) that Mrs Whitehouse has recently been shown to have been in her youth rather less inhibited than she is now in her attitude towards having an affair with one married man, and that 2) anti-porn campaigner and former Labour MP Raymond Blackburn was recently convicted for drunkenness after taking off his trousers in a police station and waving them around his head.

It's good to be able to show how sexual repressiveness is rooted in people's own guilt and repression.

The People's Rolls Royce

Finally, it's often thought by leftists to be pointless (or even unfair) to call attention to, for instance, the country estates of Callaghan and Healey, to the five houses of Harold Wilson or even to Lenin's Kremlin residence and Rolls Royce — still proudly displayed in Red Square.

Certainly the personal luxuries and privileges of top Leninists and social democrats aren't the whole explanation of their policies, but they may well be part of the story.

Once you realise how expensively they live, and are willing to be seen living, you know something about the class society at which they are aiming.

Lenin's Rolls Royce is important, less as a scandal in itself than as a memorable symbol of the immense tragedy that can occur when a labour movement is captured by bourgeois ideas.

Marion Evans

Trespass on an Embassy carries a year in jail and possible deportation to the offender's homeland (eg Iran, Chile, Haiti...).

Trespass with an Offensive Weapon and Violence for Securing Entry could both be used to break up or deter factory occupations, as could Bailiffs' powers of arrest.

That police could arrest on suspicion and without warrant for any of these offences, and for Trespass on Residential Property, would facilitate the ending of any occupation or squat.

National Front in Edinburgh

The National Front held a meeting in Edinburgh on April 3rd around the slogan 'Stand By Ulster'.

Not more than 30 people attended the 'rally', probably due in part to the counter demonstration of well over a hundred people.

The police were there too in large numbers.

Prayer

The Front meeting started off late with Councillor Michael Brooks from Castlereagh in N.Ireland.

This sad specimen started his speech with a prayer, calling on God to bless the meeting and the National Front's politics. Even arch-fascist John Tyndall couldn't help smiling at that!

The rest of Brooks' speech was pretty predictable.

Since the audience consisted largely of hard-core Orange bigots it went down very well — especially the bit about how that heroic individual Ian Paisley had demonstrated against the Civil Rights Movement.

This, of course, was really — you've guessed it — an IRA front!

The first trouble came when three or four anti-fascists suddenly started

chanting "Smash the National Front".

They were grabbed by Front stewards and beaten up for their pains.

A policeman standing in full view of the violence took no action whatever, except to look the other way!

Front Chairman Tyndall spoke next. Again we got the line about dirty, 'foreign' demonstrators (all Commies, of course).

Suddenly another young guy started chanting the same slogan: he was surrounded and beaten up before being thrown out.

The police outside the open door again did nothing!

The counter demonstration was partly organised by the local Trades Council, and partly spontaneous — a good turnout on one day's notice!

An anti-fascist success? Yes, but the fight to stop the fascists linking up with the lunatic fringe of British and Irish Orangemen will be a long and hard one.

There is a need to publicise the danger of their lunacy, and our alternative solutions.

Then enough people will mobilise against the Front's policies to be able to make an effective intervention in their meetings without our comrades being beaten up.

Bob Spence



John Tyndall with Martin Webster at a National Front Press Conference

Clydesider

THE FIRST issue of a new Glasgow alternative paper called THE CLYDESIDER has just hit the streets and newstands at 5p.

"We see the paper as a focus on the everyday problems of working class life in Glasgow," a member of the CLYDESIDER collective

told *Anarchist Worker*.

"It will cover issues ranging from ever-increasing bus-fares, rents and rates to evictions, warrant sales and gas and electricity disconnections," he stated.

Offers of help, information and contributions should be sent to: CLYDESIDER, c/o H. Daly, 171 Miln Park Street, Kinning Park, Glasgow.

R.M.

Although the Law Commission has not proposed a blanket law of criminal trespass, affecting all situations, the proposals contain potential for an attack on all of us.

The principle of criminal trespass, admitted to deal with squatters, could be extended to cover other situations.

CACTL intends to campaign in the

trade unions, in housing groups and in the Labour Party to stop the Bill being presented next autumn, and to do away with the vacuous crime of conspiracy.

Anyone interested should contact CACTL, 6 Bowden Street, London SE11 (01-289 3877) and watch out for the next public newsletter.

Reporter

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AWA, 13 Coltman Street, Hull, Humberside

Callaghan, man of the Right

AS WAS INTENDED by the timing of Wilson's resignation and telegraphed by the barrage of 'Statesman-building' propaganda from the Tory press, Wilson's right hand man Jim Callaghan came out of the Parliamentary Labour Party ballot as its new Leader and automatically the fourth Labour Prime Minister.

Like Wilson, Callaghan projects himself as a man of the centre, but his record shows a willingness to bend under pressure from the right.

In this he is probably the ideal man — from the point of view of the ruling class — to be leader of the Labour Party at this time.

An avowed right-winger like Jenkins or Healey would provoke opposition to the Labour Government's creation of unemployment, wage-cutting and the destruction of the social services.

Left - over

Left-talking Foot is not yet needed, he is the last card which might still be needed to head off the working class if things get really tough.

So by a good old-fashioned British compromise (really a good old-fashioned British fix) we have Jim 'the working-class lad made good' alias Jim 'friend of fringe banker Julian Hodge' to keep us safe in our beds.

Callaghan's record in office began



with his period as Chancellor of the Exchequer (1964-67) where he was regarded as a puppet of the Treasury, and presided over the first devaluation of the current crisis.

His Home Secretary stint (1967-70) saw the capitulation to racism in the 1968 Commonwealth Immigration Act which took away the rights of black British citizens whilst in no way restricting white immigration.

Don't let them steal your power

NOW the ruling class feel threatened by inflation and the threat of 'Britain becoming ungovernable', the Tories are attempting to organise in the trade union and student movements as a way of protecting their privileges.

It's only in the past two or so years that Tory Central Office has started to pump upwards of £15,000 a year into the Federation of Conservative Students.

In order to gain support from the less well-off majority they have to con them into believing it's always someone else who'll take the wage cuts or lose their jobs or grants.

This means restricting opportunities for students and workers to discuss the real problems, such as unemployment, cuts in public spending, sexism and archaic courses.

The AUEW has already lost the use of union meetings to discuss and decide on the merits of various political solutions and elect delegates; the postal vote is at the mercy of the establishment press, which naturally supports the Tories and 'moderates'.

The Federation of Conservative Students is trying to establish direct elections to the NUS Executive (the Newcastle Amendment) and the sovereignty of small councils and referenda — slogan: 'Don't let them steal your vote'.

Threat

At least the Monday Club recognise that any form of organisation with the potential for mass participation is a threat to them and oppose this adventurism!

Liberty Hall

LIBERTY HALL is a social club (for discontented people) situated in the centre of Liverpool.

It is open every Sunday evening with a late bar and provides a place where scousers of the far left can meet, talk, drink and enjoy themselves.

Politics creeps in in the form of a speaker every month (Farukh Dhondy, Sheila Rowbotham and Tony Lane so far) and the occasional film and discussion meeting.

Other Sundays are devoted to local music and five-to-ten year old commercial films.

The idea of a non-sectarian social club has been floating around for some time but it was always premises which were the stumbling block.

The breakthrough came with the offer of a room with bar in an already existing commercial club for rent free and with bar prices reduced from the normal club level (!).

The offer was too good to miss so an ad-hoc group of about ten friends began organising a three-month programme of films, speakers and music.

After three months planning the club opened on February 1st and has been open every Sunday evening since.



Ireland

In this job he presided over the re-introduction of British troops to Northern Ireland to continue keeping down the Irish in the proud tradition of the Black and Tans and Cromwell's peace-keeping expedition to Drogheda.

Under Wilson since 1974 Callaghan has been very quiet — obviously he has known for some time that he would inherit if only he didn't do anything to upset the inevitability of his succession.

So the man of compromise comes to lead the party of compromise.

The only thing which upsets this 'moderate' wonderland is the reality of the crisis which drives the ruling class to go to war with the aim of destroying all the gains made in working class living standards, and any working class counter offensives to this attack.

In this period, the Labour Party and the Trade Union bureaucracy, together making their living balancing

between the working class which created and sustains them and the ruling class which they collaborate with and seek recognition from, have very little room for manoeuvre.

Future

The only *capitalist* way out is to cut costs and raise profits. This means lower wages and higher prices.

The Government has to deliver this and only a Labour government, with its friends in the TUC can hope to make the working class take this beating by misleading and dividing it.

This opens the enormous danger for them that working people will realise just whose side they are on.



As the fight heats up and Labour's twists and turns become more obvious, as profits rise and living standards fall, the whole game of snakes and ladders which Callaghan has just won will be recognised as the simple diversion that it is.

K.N.



Steve Moon, FCS delegate, speaking at NUS Conference — Photo Chris Davies (Report)

risked losing a vote if the meeting became quorate — that didn't last long though...

So much for free speech!

In a recent referendum at Oxford University, students voted 2 to 1 against general meeting sovereignty and for direct elections.

This is a paper victory for the Tories as the 1,000 who lost have shown themselves more prepared to act on their convictions than the 2,000 who won.

Union meetings can establish themselves as sovereign even in defiance of bureaucrats who are in a superior position to manipulate the Constitution.

Left students are at last beginning to see their struggles as part of the class

struggle.

The need for direct democracy is only relevant in the context of students own interests which they can fight for through local unions and NUS; interests which are counterposed to those of the ruling class (whether their position is based on property ownership or 'vote and forget about it' elections).

This doesn't mean abstention from all elections; it means pushing for control over our lives and specifically for union constitutions developed and structured by the membership to ensure participation, and under their control.

Oxford AWA student

Child labour

DOES child labour still exist? A leaflet published by a Tameside action group says that it does.

The leaflet names a plastics factory in Dukinfield which for at least 18 months has employed boys of school age, 13-15, working 21 hours a week operating plastic welding machines and even a guillotine.

Mole Express, Manchester's 'Other Paper', spoke to a 15-year old who had worked at the factory, J&D Plastics Ltd., Charles St., Dukinfield, for eight months from April last year.

He said that his working hours were 6pm-10pm Tuesday and Wednesday and 9am-4.30pm Saturday and Sunday.

On these full days there was a half-hour dinner break and two 15-minute tea breaks — a 23 hour week for which he was paid £7.

He did not have National Insurance cards, nor did he ever see the form from the local Education Department (Tameside) which, by law, an employer must complete if schoolchildren are employed.

During his time there, the workforce of ten or eleven boys seemed to be the only production workers — as far as he knew, only the boss, his wife and a secretary worked there during weekdays.

Guillotine

Most of the lads worked on plastic welding machines although he remembered seeing a 13 year old working the guillotine, a job which involved one lad pushing strips of plastic under the blade, and another stacking the cut lengths.

Another occasional task was to fill buckets with soap powder, an unpleasant dusty job. No breathing masks were provided.

As he related, two policemen called one day. The boss "ran upstairs to the workshop and told us to go down the back stairs till the police had left".

What does the law say about the employment of schoolkids of 15 or under? They:

- * must not work more than two hours after school;
- * must not work after 7pm;
- * must not work more than two hours on a Sunday;
- * must not work more than 20 hours a week;
- * must not work more than four continuous hours without a one hour continuous break.

J&D seem to have been breaking all these regulations, to say nothing of the rules regarding Insurance and the employment of young people on industrial machinery.

Mr DA Edwards, Chief Education and Welfare Officer for Tameside, told *Mole* that the firm had been given a warning concerning its activities, and the appropriate authorities had been informed.

It turns out that although the Education Department did inform the Factory Inspectorate, they said that the boys were only employed during school holidays.

J&D Plastics was started by Jim Shawcross and Don Grant. Mr Shawcross retired some months ago following a heart attack and the business is now run by Mr Grant.

Mr Grant told a reporter that the firm now employed about six school-leavers. He confirmed that J&D has been advertising jobs in the local press recently, and said that the factory was now closed except for maintenance at the weekend.

Mr Grant denied knowledge of any warning from Tameside Education Department.

The Tameside Workers Action Group, who produced the original leaflet, believe that this firm has been breaking the law for at least the past 18 months and using these lads as cheap labour.

This comes at a time of high unemployment — in Tameside alone there are over 4,000 without work.

And they are not the only offenders.

Attendance has ranged from 35 to 70 people which is good but the room can take more and at least 60 people are needed each time to cover the costs of the rather ambitious programme. However it is early days yet.

All visitors to Liverpool are welcome at...

LIBERTY HALL

(Cindy's Club), 75 Victoria Street, Liverpool 1

For further information write c/o 66 Devonshire Road, Liverpool 8 or phone (051) 227 2514 during the day.

Bob Dent

what's on in May at

LIBERTY HALL

May 2 — 'JOE', a film

May 9 — 'Fighting the Cuts', a film by

students at the National Film School, shot in Sheffield and London's East End

May 16 — the General Will Theatre Group

are putting on their new play on immigration

May 23 — to be announced

May 30 — an evening of music, film and speakers

arranged by Liverpool Chile Solidarity Group

HULL LIBERTARIAN SOCIALIST GROUP

—Open Meetings—

5 May THE CUTS — EDUCATION, HEALTH, HOUSING — WHAT ARE WE DEFENDING? Opening speakers: Marion McCartney, Mike Ballard

12 May REPRESSION AND RESISTANCE IN EASTERN EUROPE Opening speaker: Terry Liddle

19 May URBAN DEVASTATION Opening speaker: George Williamson

26 May THE JAPANESE WORKERS EXPERIENCE Opening speaker: John Crump

2 June PROBLEMS OF THE LIBERTARIAN LEFT Opening speaker: Keith Nathan

All welcome — plenty of time for discussion

WEDNESDAYS AT 7.45pm

NEW WHITE HART, Alfred Gelder Street, Hull

Letters

Convoy

Dear Comrades,

The budget promises to tighten rules for fringe benefits, such as company cars, yachts, furniture, services and cheap loans. This affects directors and employers earning over £5,000 although it is not to be implemented until next year.

As a long distance lorry-driver I don't have any of the above mentioned fringe benefits; I do however get £4.50 whenever I spend a night away from home.

The Government is not going to wait a year before clamping down on our wanton and luxurious spendthrift tax-free bonanza of £4.50; they are going to start clobbering us right now as from 1st April.

It is no secret from our employers that as well as getting an average £4.50 for every night that we do spend away from home we also have our 'fiddles' which work like this: when the maximum number of hours that we are allowed to work by law run out, if we are, say, 50 miles from home we park our lorries and get a lift home from another lorry driver.

Obviously we claim £4.50 for a night when in fact we are at home.

The Government is now taking firm and resolute action to stamp out this pernicious

activity on the part of long distance lorry drivers which is so obviously ruining the economy of the country.

In future we are to be taxed on all expenses money we receive apart from that which we get while 'away from our normal place of abode'.

Many of the places that we lodge at are small private houses run by single women on small incomes, old age pensioners, etc. who very reasonably do not declare all the money that they receive from putting up lorry drivers to the Inland Revenue.

By forcing lorry drivers to put V.A.T. numbers on all expense forms the Government will force many of the 'digs' to close down.

My wife does not know on any day of the working week at what time I shall be coming home or if I will be coming home that night or any night for the rest of the week.

If British Road Services were to pay my wife £4.50 every night of the week for the inconvenience she experiences in never being able to plan meals, and never being able to know ahead of time if I am likely to be at home to baby-sit so that she can have a free evening, if on top of this I were paid full and reasonable expenses, then I still don't think I should be taxed on money I spend in the course of making profits for my employers.

I would like to compare the position of lorry drivers and our expenses with the advice given in a magazine for persons on the unemployed executives' register "even an expense account dinner for two at the Savoy every day of the week *only* comes to £5,000 per year so don't be swayed by this sort of expense account when choosing a job".

Fraternally,
Libertarian Communist Lorry Driver,
Norfolk.

Not enough nurseries

Dear Comrades,

I read your paper for the first time this month and found it to be of very interesting reading. I can honestly say it is the first paper I have ever picked up that I have read thoroughly from cover to cover.

I was born and educated in Argentina, of English parents. One of the good things I can say about the Argentine is that ordinary working people do not pay taxes.

Here they do — and they pay a hell of a lot — and it is spent on useless things like defence and M.P.'s salaries.

My husband's firm are making hundreds of people redundant, because the bosses are dissatisfied with the fact that they are not getting as rich as they would like to be.

We have, after four years of marriage, only just been able to afford a house and got a mortgage by relying on his overtime. The company have decided to stop most of the overtime, so we are now going to be very poor.

I am 34 and can never hope to have children, as my husband does not earn

enough to support me. There aren't enough creche facilities or nurseries in this country.

One thing that angers me about my present and past jobs. In order to be able to earn enough to survive, one has to work for capitalists and one works in order to make them even richer.

If one tries to get a really worthwhile job like looking after children or animals, the pay is usually terrible. Is there no answer to this problem?

I thoroughly agree with your article on free abortion. I had an abortion several years ago on the National Health, but one doctor almost objected. I agree with your article on body slavery.

If one fights, one gets arrested. I disagree with violence in any form, but I think more meetings and demonstrations are called for.

I am enclosing cheque for £2.00 as a subscription to your paper and hope this letter gets printed.

Yours faithfully,
Anne P. White (Mrs), Croydon, Surrey.

Trouble in Motion

ELECTRO Motion of Leicester claim that they sacked their entire work-force because they were 'trouble-makers'. That is, they joined the AUEW to improve working conditions.

Thousands of employers ruthlessly follow this vicious tactic. Others choose to close down, or move abroad, or move around the country to thwart a strike.

Fortunately this is not the usual outcome when a well-established and organised union exists already. Then, even after an unsuccessful strike, everyone gets their job back, and there's no victimisation.

Not only do strikes in these weakly unionised situations prove ineffective, they often do the very thing the bosses want — get the workers off the premises — as can be seen at the Electro Motion.

The men have been picketing for over two months, while the firm conspire to employ blacklegs.

Whoever controls the means of production holds all the aces. But it goes further, not only a tactical manoeuvre to force the bosses' hand, this is a direct threat to the capitalist system.

This way, you deny their control of the commodity and workers all in one go.

People may find they no longer need the bosses, as they would run the factory successfully without them.

Clydeside ship yards and Meriden motorcycles collective are two instances of useful occupations, maybe not convincingly as both are only isolated islands of limited workers' control within a capitalist system, but sufficiently to worry the State.

To worry enough to prepare for the time when a serious attempt at a workers' controlled occupation occurs in a firm that is not bankrupt, and which they are not prepared to allow to carry on (i.e. to hand over to the working class.

The proposed criminal trespass law may yet get toughened and extended to make occupations illegal, wide open to police violence.

If the Government can learn from past sit-ins and prepare laws to cripple the working class, then the workers can also look to sit-ins of the past to

pick up some practical hints from workers who have had experience of violent attempts to remove them.

One of the most dramatic sit-ins, in violence, scale and determination of the workers, was the Flint occupation against General Motors (USA) in 1936-7 for Union recognition.

As already mentioned, union recognition is always the most strongly resisted demand, and was the cause of the bitter struggle in General Motors, Flint.

Throughout the sit-in the workers were resolute, and committed to each other totally. But the most essential part of any sit-in is the solidarity of all working class people to recognise the struggle of one firm's employees as the struggle of us all.

Other car workers showed solidarity in the form of a financial levy. Also turning up in their thousands to picket and give moral support was crucial in the final success of the GM sit-in.

Wives' Militia

The men involved had total support from their wives, who formed a women's militia that actually fought the firm's thugs and police with wooden staves.

They also broke the windows of the plant to let fresh air in after the men had been attacked with tear gas by the National Guard (who had them surrounded with machine guns).

The British Press and TV have, in the past, tried to divide wives from their husbands by giving press cover to those women calling for a return to work.

This shows that the state recognises the importance of a wife's role.

Thus it is important for workers to be united on this issue, to destroy the possibility of the press exploiting any misguided calls to cancel any sit-in so as to get their husbands home.

In fact a shift system was worked by the GM men allowing them to have home leave to avoid this problem.

All these things put together can help in making future occupations as successful as the GM workers one turned out to be.

The union was recognised, along with all the other demands.

Syndicat

Dear Comrades,

Following the article on the soldiers movement that appeared in the February number of *Libertarian Struggle* (French Soldiers Organise by Dave Higgins) we would like to thank you fraternally for the support you are giving us.

Furthermore, we take this opportunity to give you more details of the soldiers movement and let you in on the debate that is going on within the Organisation Revolutionnaire Anarchiste.

1) the group *Soldats Communistes Libentaires*

It has as its aim the regroupment of libertarian communists, conscripts and volunteers, won to revolutionary perspectives, eventually forming a Union of Libertarian Communist Soldiers.

Why? Such are the level of demands, forms of organisation and perspectives of the soldiers movement that it takes on a mass character: a character that has been especially reinforced since May 1 1975.

And it is this mass character, this aim of becoming a mass movement that determines the appearance and organisation of revolutionaries in the Army.

Libertarian Communists? Because there has already existed for about three years:

a) Revolutionary Soldiers, Sailors and Airforce Front (FSMAR), close to the Ligue Communiste Revolutionnaire; and for around a year:

b) Revolutionary Alliance of Soldiers (ARS), close to the Organisation Communiste Revolution (a split from the LCR).

That we were unable to join either of these organisations explains the move towards forming a Union of Libertarian

Communist Soldiers.

2. Participating in the self-organisation of the soldiers movement in so far as it is a mass movement, we believed that it was necessary to consider the problem of building a soldiers union [*syndicat*] and since the debate is only in its initial stages we support the creation of a class union of soldiers in the terms defined by the St Cyr Soldiers Committee (published in *Front Libertaire* No. 46).

The founding of a National Movement of Soldiers Committees is a necessary preliminary stage, in order to get a clearer perspective on the problem of organisation and launch more important initiatives among the barracks and bases.

3) These positions have provoked a debate within the ORA, which is voiced in *Front Libertaire* Nos. 46 and 47.

The two positions are summed up here: —the first restating our positions and considering the struggle in the barracks as priority; —the second considering that the struggle of deserters, conscientious objectors and the undisciplined is to be placed in the same plan as the soldiers struggle.

This position would consider that a mass organisation of soldiers cannot exist taking into account the fact that the Army is a structure separated from society and that class struggle does not cross over into it and hence no class nature can be ascribed to the elements that make it up.

This leads to proposing an autonomous organisation of revolutionary soldiers, regrouping the revolutionary soldiers and soldiers committees sufficiently 'left-wing' as to have as their aim the destruction of the army above all given that the heterogeneity of the army does not permit mass work.

Fraternally,
Soldats Communistes Libentaires
Paris Region

Occupy

Not so if the workers had occupied the factory. The means of production is everything that matters to both sides.

These groups (Marxist/Leninists) regard the working class as only capable of a low political perspective, usually termed 'trade union consciousness'.

Therefore they see themselves at the class' head. (the revolutionary Vanguard). They then lead the class to socialism!

All Leninist parties are similar, in that they are sure only they can be the true 'Workers Party'.

The servile relationship between the party and the class is mirrored in the internal dictatorship within the party bureaucracy.

Whenever any of these 'vanguards' has managed to grasp power, it has resulted in the crushing of all real revolutionary initiative, as the new ruling class tighten their hold on the state.

network of community councils using modern communications to ensure total exposure and control of decision making, the revolutionary transformation of society could be managed by the working class for the working class.

Free expression of all socialist ideas is essential for the development of the revolution.

Leading from this, the councils will be able to plan the new economic/social structure.

These councils, we believe, should be composed only of industrial, agricultural and community delegates.

This would ensure all the working class being represented.

No political party or group, etc. should be allowed delegates as a 'right' — this would help to eliminate dangers of political 'take-overs'.

All power must rest with the rank and file.

creating a strong libertarian communist tendency within the working class.

We think that it is essential that revolutionary anarchist ideas are widely known and discussed if any meaningful change is to take place in society.

To this end we publish agitational material, including a paper. Our members are active in working class organisations advocating direct workers power.

AWA policies include working within trade unions, though not as full time officials; all rank and file groups, claimants unions etc; drawing 'liberation movements' such as 'Gays' into a clear perspective of their oppression; when supporting resistance to the bosses' offensive we advocate:

- total non-co-operation with the governments policies
- all layoffs to be met with uncompromising hostility
- redundancies and closures turned into occupations

What is the AWA

THE affluent society created in the fifties and sixties is now clearly collapsing. East and West working people face price rises, sackings and slashed public expenditure.

On the factory floor this means productivity deals, a deterioration in working conditions and the spectre of the dole.

On housing it means higher rents, more evictions and petty restrictions on tenants. In education, the health services, it means bigger classes, larger waiting lists, with savage attacks on the unemployed.

This is what capitalism means in practice. The slump is worldwide.

The Government is powerless!

The Anarchist Workers Association rejects state intervention to solve the crisis. The evolution of the parliamentary system has created the illusion of democracy.

This allows bogus appeals to 'National Unity' in times of trouble, while continuing the inequalities of capitalism.

Just as bogus is the myth of 'National Sovereignty', as capitalism is international.

In reality government, whether Tory, Liberal or Labour is powerless in comparison with the multinational giants, the corporations and stock-exchange speculators.

In simple terms, governments float like scum on the tide of international capital.

idea that gradual reforms can create socialism.

But changing laws does not change people's attitudes and the rich always afford to find loopholes or evade laws altogether.

Governments rely on the myth of their infallibility in order to impose laws and restrictions on people who would never themselves propose such measures.

Socialists who accept the parliamentary system (the Communist Party, left wing Labour Party etc) imagine that it is possible to reform the nation by a series of changes in government policy.

Mistrustful of the working class' ability to create the new society, reformists firmly oppose independent grass roots struggle.

This plays into the hands of the bosses. Whenever a genuine attempt has been made to change the economic balance of society to favour the working class, the owning class has removed its 'liberal' mask, and resorted to armed repression.

The most obvious case of this was the suppression of strikes and occupations by the Allende Government in Chile, then with the workers weakened and unarmed the military fascists siezed control.

The peaceful road to socialism of Allende has been swamped with workers' blood.

No to the party dictatorship!

The AWA condemns all attempts by revolutionary groups to snatch power in the name of the working class.

So what is to be done?

The working class, unwilling to shoulder the burden of bankrupt capitalism, and rejecting the party of slavery 'solution', must create its own grass roots organisations.

This is not forming new unions, or counter unions, it is the by-passing of union bureaucracy in the prusuit of class interests.

Rank and file groups with cross communication, and decision making, co-operation and acts of solidarity with other areas will be natural developments as the struggle develops and overlaps. (industrial struggles linking with claimants unions, community action, rent strikes, price pickets, etc)

In this way a united working class can be achieved, as confidence is built through action.

The open, democratic manner in such a movement will ahve a dramatic effect on everyday life.

People will for the first time make real decisions concerning themselves and their society.

This will however only be fully realised with the total destruction of capitalism.

What's libertarian communism?

The AWA calls its ideas Libertarian Communist. We think the people who create the wealth in the world are quite capable, armed with political insight, of overthrowing capitalism and creating a socialist society, run by a co-ordinated

The undermining of sexism, racism, religion, etc, will increase as sane economic and social policies, based on need and use, become effective.

When conditions have been favourable to self-expression, workers have displayed amazing abilities.

Much was achieved in Catalonia and elsewhere in Spain in 1936. Widespread, highly successful 'collectivisation' was accomplished.

Production continued though often the methods and products changed considerable. Public services under workers self-management were more efficient and reliable.

The situation was only changed by the military might of the ruling class, who imposed General Franco in a tragic three year war.

From this and other examples it is apparent that socialism cannot be created in isolation. The workers movement must be international.

The AWA believes that the defence of the revolution must be based on the arming of the working class.

A workers militia, not a 'new' professional army, would give workers power real 'teeth'.

Here and now
The AWA has set itself the task of

Our organisation

The organisation was formed at the end of 1971 by revolutionary anarchists who were disgusted with the chaos of the Anarchist Federation of Britain'.

The original name of the organisation was the Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchists.

The name was changed to AWA in January 1975.

We are a membership organisation of moderate size. Our members accept the principle of collective decision making.

There is an agreed set of Aims and Principles and a formal constitution, which are revised at National Conference. This is usually held every six months.

There are bi-monthly delegate conferences, where the Association coordinates its activities.

We seek to create local groups in all areas to affect the struggle on a national basis.

Local groups interpret National Conference and Delegate conference decisions to relate tactics to their local experience.

We have fraternal links with international organisations, with the aim of eventually forming a Libertarian Communist International. Much needs to be done before this becomes practical.

Anarchist Worker

BIRMINGHAM...

BIRMINGHAM has over two million square feet of empty offices. Whole blocks in the city centre stand as monuments to senseless speculation. Yet at the same time, Britain's Second City has no decent Eye or Accident Hospital, over 20% of all families don't have either hot water, an inside toilet or a bath and there are over 30,000 on the waiting list for a home.

During the last ten years the developers have been able to totally transform the city centre with hardly a murmur of protest.

Now the fight back has begun.

SATURDAY March 20. Around lunch-time over 300 people marched through the city centre as part of a campaign to prevent the demolition of the city's Victorian Post Office and its replacement by yet more office blocks.

It was the first time ever that trade unions and conservation groups had held a joint demonstration in this country, and it was the first public protest in Brum against property speculation.

Among the marchers were many building and construction workers and there is now a very strong possibility that the Post Office building, although hardly the most beautiful in Britain, could be the scene of Britain's first Green Ban.

Yet it is only recently that the redevelopment of the Post Office site has become such a controversial issue.

In January few people knew of the plans and those who did looked forward to the huge profits they were going to make out of it.

As so often in the past in Brum, a highly efficient 'old boy network' had been at work.

The first application for planning permission had been submitted in March 1972 by Siefert & Partners, acting on behalf of the Post Office.

The new buildings proposed were to be used mainly by the Post Office themselves.

Whilst the first application was being considered, Comprehensive Development Associates (CDA) was registered as a company and appointed to liaise between Siefert & Partners and the Labour-controlled Council.

Decisions have been left for far too long in the hands of a few 'experts' and 'profiteers'.

Val Stevens

One of the partners in CDA is Sir Frank Price, a former Labour Lord Mayor.

Although this first application failed, a second succeeded after consultation with the planners. Sir Frank was proving very useful!

At the same time, much of the development was now for non-Post

Office uses: the scheme had turned into yet another speculative property venture.

The Post Office let it be known that it intended to license a private firm to do the actual development!

At this stage it looked as though nothing could stop the property developers.

Detailed planning permission was hurriedly given on December 18, with objectors being given only 16 days to object instead of the statutory 21.

Once again, the law was twisted to help the property speculators.

But Sir Frank and his friends had reckoned without the appearance on the scene of Jack Munday, the former General Secretary of the New South Wales section of the Australian Building Workers Federation.

On January 7 this year, Jack Munday addressed a packed meeting of conservationists and building workers.

I went to Birmingham at the invitation of some environment groups who are fighting to save their old Post Office. Man, what a ghastly city! That's the ultimate in what we don't want, cars out in the open air and people in the dark underground. But they're determined to fight there now for the bits that are left and hopefully it will spread.

Jack Munday

Munday explained how the Green Ban emerged from the 1971 'Battle for Kelly's Bush', the last remaining piece of unspoiled bushland left in Sydney.

It was as a last resort that the residents had turned to the building workers for help — they asked for the development to be blacked.

After the protesters showed the labourers the strength of their support, the developer was told that if "one blade of grass" on the Bush was touched, the union would ensure that no further work would be done on a half-completed office block which he owned.

The strategy worked, and during the past four years over forty Green Bans have been imposed on high rise office blocks and luxury housing developments.

A total of £2,000 million worth of development has been 'banned'.

This has brought the building workers into conflict not only with the ruling class but also with many trade union leaders who have argued that Green Bans have nothing to do with pay and conditions of work.



The workers' reply has been crisp and to the point.

As Munday says, "What the hell

Only they have the power to enforce a Green Ban. And enforce it they will almost certainly have to.

Despite all the petitions and demonstrations, Birmingham City Council is unlikely to revoke its planning permission as this will mean paying out thousands of pounds in compensation to the developers.

Yet another example of a ludicrous system.

A lot of people are watching what is happening in Birmingham, for once people start fighting not only for the right to work but the right to decide what we're working for who knows what might happen?

Bob Prew

Anyone who supports this type of Fascism or extreme communism will want his head examining.

Sir Frank Price

WHILST ON THE SUBJECT...

Anyone wanting to know more about the campaign should write to: Green Ban Action Committee, c/o Val Stevens, 77 School Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 8JQ.

The first issue of *Broadside*, which contains a more detailed article on the campaign, can be obtained from 173/5 Lozells Road, Birmingham 17 (15p + postage).

... Building Workers act

Constructive Construction?

SOME kind of satisfaction may be had in building something socially beneficial (a hospital perhaps) but at present even this satisfaction is fleeting.

To think... 750 workers will suffer injuries in our industry this year and 224 will suffer fatal accidents.

Most of these workers won't even have built anything useful to society and none will even have thought that they themselves could have had the collective power to decide whether or not the building they were putting up was a good thing to be putting up in the first place.

Profits

And even if we workers do have it cushier than the poor devils who humped stones for the Pyramids and Stonehenge, the construction bosses are doing noticeably better than the Pharaohs.

The most recent figures for Company profits (31.12.74) show £35,956,000 for George Wimpey & Co., £13,643,000 for Taylor Woodrow and £12,850,000 for Richard Costain to name only three.

Higgs & Hill with only 3,408 employees still managed to net £1,449,000.

And if we're getting the £6 rise, so what? We're only getting the crumbs off the table.

We're still living modestly and how many of us are getting any closer to what we'd like to be doing?

Meanwhile, the George Wimpeys and Taylor Woodrows and all their kind live very well, having walked off with the Earth.

Looking Ahead

Consider... isn't the comparative poverty of our lives something to do with the fact that, as workers (people who supply the bosses with profits) we haven't really started to think clearly about what we are doing with our labour?

Isn't it possible to find our way out of this poverty we should look beyond, as well as at immediate issues of wages for the job and conditions of work?

Can't we begin to talk about the tremendous political power which we as building workers hand over along with all that profit to those for whom we work?

That is, the power to completely change the landscape in which we have thus far eked out our lives.

UCATT member

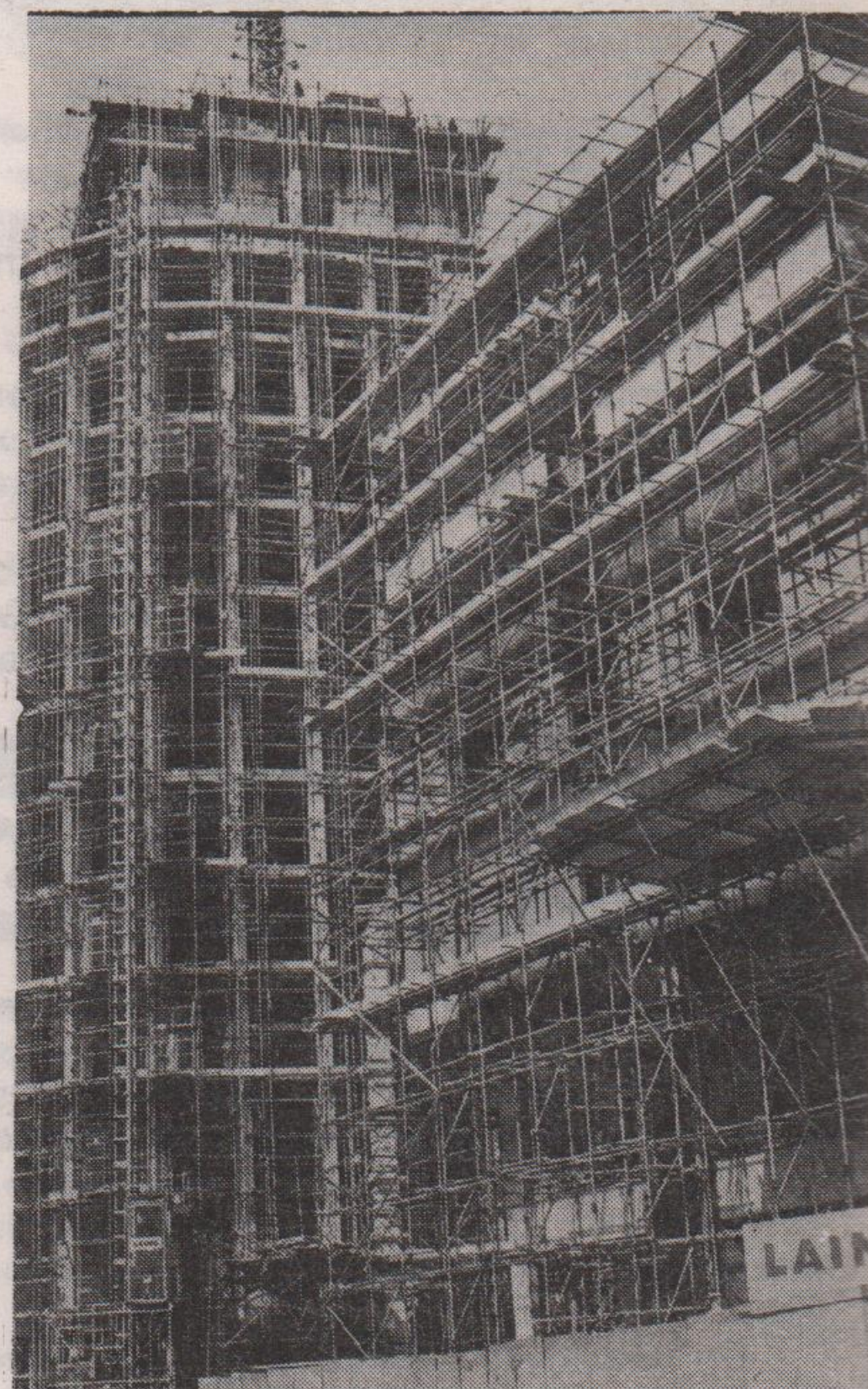
public meeting

BIRMINGHAM

Who should control —
speculators or builders?

Hear building worker Dave Coull talk on the problems of the building industry and the environment, putting the anarchist point of view.

Thursday 27 May, 8pm at the Wellington, Bristol Street, Birmingham City Centre.



Libertarian Womens Network
NEWSLETTER

Vol 2, No 2

THIS IS the first issue for some time. It contains several articles, a reading list and a contact list.

Articles cover 'What is Libertarianism?' and how it can be useful to the women's movement; contrast it with the authoritarianism and elitism as practised in the women's movement and in personal experience; and there is an analysis of how the organisation of relationships in society imposes controls on people.

I feel, however, that it lacks any consideration of the economic bases of control and repression.

It rejects forms of organisation which alienate or remove the initiative from any of their membership, while not exploring non-hierarchical organisation based on collective responsibility and control — a necessary step if the women's movement is

to do more than (albeit importantly) communicate and raise consciousness.

However, this is just the beginning; to quote from the *Newsletter*: "... the practice of the women's movement as a whole is essentially libertarian/anarchist, challenging authority and hierarchy and developing ourselves as self-directing individuals and groups".

The contributors feel that among the reasons for a *Libertarian Womens Network* is that women are especially aware of the dangers of authoritarianism and so can develop libertarian ideas for the benefit of everyone.

It is refreshingly free of 'anti-men'ism and implicitly recognises that men are also oppressed.

It does lack much in the way of getting their ideas across to other women in any numbers, or for action on practical problems, but this too will hopefully come in future issues.

This is one of their intentions — to quote from the editorial: "analysis and theory without actions and unrelated to them are useless".

So it's worth sending off 50p for a subscription — men as well as women. They say that all contributions will be duplicated and sent out, time and money permitting.

The *Newsletter* is available from Alison Malet, 1 Lynnewood Place, Dundee.

Anita Richards

GROUP STAMP