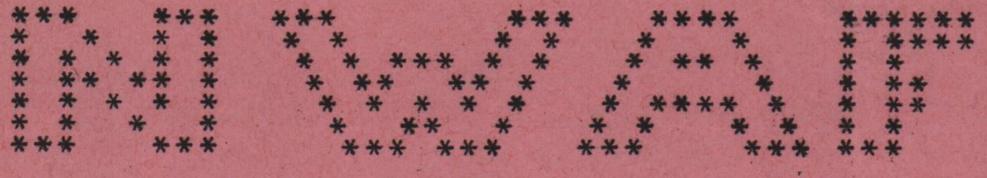


MAY, 1978



NORTH WEST
ANARCHIST
FEDERATION

L A S T M E E T I N G

The last meeting was held in Bolton. Burnley anarchists presented their leaflet against racism. This was discussed and it was decided to print a thousand of these for distribution at the anti-N.F. picket in Blackburn on May 5th. Following this there was a discussion about the possibility of a paper, with the newsletter being for internal distribution only, but it was felt that we had not got the resources to produce a regular paper and agreed to raise the issue again at the Lancaster conference. At the moment we should continue to sell existing papers and those interested in a more industrial paper will distribute the Direct Action broadsheet.

N E X T M E E T I N G

The next meeting will be held on Sunday May 21st at 6, Stockley Avenue, Harwood, Bolton at 2.30pm. For further details and direction please 'phone Bolton 387516.

ANARCHA-FEMINIST CONFERENCE

A women-only conference to be held in Manchester on May 13th and 14th, at "The Squat," Devas Street, Manchester. Information and registration - contact Mary 28 Brundetts Rd., Manchester. (061-881-0477). Registration is £1.50 (£2.00 on the day) including simple lunch on both days. Please let them know if you require accommodation, or if you are bringing kids to the creche.

DON'T FORGET the anti-N.F. picket in Blackburn on Friday 5th. May at 6.00pm outside King Georges Hall, centre of Blackburn. Let's have a real anarchist presence.

* ANARCHISM IN MAY - THE *
* REVIVAL OF THE C.N.T. *
* Meeting on Wednesday, *
* May 24th. at 8pm at *
* The Castle, Oldham St., *
* Manchester. *
* Organised by M.A.O. *
* and S.W.F. *

FINANCE

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Cash at 1st. April: | |
| (excluding amount for subscriptions) | £3.95 |
| Cost of newsletter in April | £2.75 |
| Less met by subscriptions | 1.80 |
| | <u> .95</u> |
| | 3.00 |
| Donations received in April | <u>2.00</u> |
| | £5.00 |
| Cash at 30th. April, 1978 | ==== |

The subscriptions do not cover the cost of the newsletter - we keep going on donations only. It is important if we want to finance meetings, leaflets etc. that you send in subscriptions (and donations if you feel so inclined!). If a tick appears here your subscription is due, please pay it. Subscriptions are:

- 10p for one copy
- 15p for up to 4 copies
- 20p for up to 8 copies

Picket against the implementation of the Criminal Trespass Act by Manchester Council. Picket to be held outside the Town Hall, Albert Square, Manchester on May 31st. at 12.30

LANCASTER CONFERENCE will be held on weekend of June 16th. For further details contact Lancaster Anarchists

SCRAM TO TORNESS

Protest at Torness, May 6th. and 7th. To protest against the spread of Nuclear reactors. Assemble May 6th, mid-day for a march and mass rally at Torness. For further information contact SCRAM, 2a Ainslie Place, Edin 3 (031-225-7752)

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

"The Anarchist Communist Association is launching a new monthly paper. At the earliest the first issue will be out in June. At the latest it will be out for the first of August (By which time we will have decided on a name for it!) It will be nothing like any paper at present in existence - and that includes papers which call themselves anarchist or communist. There will be no following the middle-class fashion. There will be no academic waffling. There will be no evading awkward questions. There will be nothing written in a style so obscure that it MUST have something to hide. On one level the paper will be an A.C.A. paper. It will help us to get our ideas widely known, ideas which are going to change the world. On the other hand we don't pretend to have all the answers. We know that the revolution will not be the work of any small group. Freedom has to be won by the whole working class. So the paper will be aimed at, and most of the articles written by, ordinary people. Which will make it an EXTRAordinary paper. There will be room for opinions as well as news. These don't have to be the opinions of the A.C.A. and articles written by A.C.A. members certainly won't always be of the same opinion. However there will be no watering-down of our politics. What is more important is that more and more people become aware of anarchist and libertarian ideas and what they have to do with their lives. Hopefully many people outside the A.C.A. will share this aim. Hopefully they will contribute articles and help to spread their ideas by selling the paper. Would you like to subscribe to this paper? £2.50 for twelve issues. Would you like to sell the paper? Would you like to write for the paper? How about writing to us now? ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION
43, Lilybank Gardens, Glasgow 12."

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Liberty Hall

At the Everyman Bistro, Hope Street, Liverpool. Starts at 8.00pm. Events followed by social and disco.

- 7th. May. WEST GERMANY - "THE MODEL STATE". A member of the Campaign against Repression in West Germany speaks on the current situation there
- 14th. May BE REALISTIC, DEMAND THE IMPOSSIBLE - FRANCE 1968
Members of Liberty Hall present as documentary reproduction of the events in May, 1968
- 21st. May KING AND COUNTRY - anti war film starring Tom Courtenay and Dirk Bogarde
- plus INCIDENT AT OWL CREEK classic film about a man sentenced to death during the American Civil War
- 28th. May WOMEN AND HEALTH. Discussion lead by women from Leeds Women's Health Group

'68 Club

At the New West Indian Sports and Social Club, Westwood Street, Moss Side, Manchester. Events start at 8pm

- 7th. May. PANO WON'T HAPPEN. Film connected with the insurrection which took place in Paris in 1968
- 14th. May SOCIAL EVENING
- 21st. May COUNTER PLANNING. Return visit of John Quail
- 28th. May. KAREN MARGOLIS, member of the State Research Group and co-author of "The Technology of Political Control"

A N A N A R C H I S T P E R S P E C T I V E O N I M M I G R A T I O N

Immigration control is simply a government device to observe and perhaps regulate how many people enter or leave a country. In Britain there was no immigration control until the turn of the century when it was introduced in order to regulate the number of Askenazim Jews entering. This was done to placate one Evans-Gordon the Enoch Powell of his day. During the second worldwar, immigration control was tightened to its highest pitch, it was not permitted for anyone to enter or leave Briatin without an exit permit or a visa (as the case may be) stamped in a passport. After the war ended, by agreement with various continental countries, all this was very much relaxed. Exit permits virtually ceased to exist, and visas only applied to aliens intending to stay more than three months. Imperialist doctrine was that anyone in the British Empire was a British subject, and as there was no such thing as British Citizenship this meant to say that an Indian could enter Britain without a visa. An American however, would need one to stay more than three months.

The point of all this is that the whole concept of immigration control is essentially a security device. In U.S.A. immigration control was to keep out anarchists. Nowhere was it ever suggested that it had anything to do with the alledged problems of over-population. No government has ever really been troubled by over-population (the Indian government has been troubled by bottom-heavy social structure, which is not the same thing), infact they are much more troubled by under-population, because this in its turn is linked to how much cannon-fodder is available. The "Russian steam-roller" was entirely dependant on rural recruitment. The Royal Commission on Population (1949 Cmd 7695) was concerned with how to increase the British population. 1949 was also the year Commonwealth immigration really got going, and the first west indians were nearly all ex-airmen and hence available for military service and certainly no security risk.

After the second world war, several governemnts in Europe and Asia, recalling that German-speaking populations in Czecho-slovakia and Poland were a factor in prarking off the war, systematically deported ethnic minorities which remained after frontiers wre redrawns They called it "ethnic balance" but they meant loyalty to the government. In the same way and for the same reason, the Volga Germans wre deported to Siberia during the war lest they make common cause with the advancing German armies.

So, governemntswant as high a population as possible, to man the infantry, but as they propose putting weapons in their hands, they don't want enemy elements in that population. Hence, ethnic minorities of foreign origin fall over themselves to demonstrate their loyalty to the government. The Muslim minority in India goes out of its way to demonstrate love for India and hatred of Pakistan. The Jews in Britain in 1915 went out of thei way to anglicise themselves and give up German speech (Yiddish is a form of German) and names. Every synagogue service includes a prayer for the queen (in English). This is also true of the Catholics, who in the past have been seen as of doubtful loyalty.

Consequently, if security is not an issue, a government does not care a jot about immigration. Racial considerations are of little account, although it is useful to have an ethnic minority whose only career outlet is the army. Then they can have a romantic swash-buckling war and make a lot of money from armaments without too many complaints about casualty lists. The amaricans made heavy use of blacks in Vietnam. Similarly, any complaints about war crimes can be off-loaded onto the ethnic minority; as also happened in Vietnam.

Howver an aspiring politican can ride to notoriety by making the presence of an ethnic minority into an election issue. This was done by Evans-Gordon, by Hitler and by Enoch Powell, the first two with Jews and the third with non-whites (particulary Asians) as scapegoats.

Once in power the government wants to stay there, there may be all sorts of reasons why a government's situation is precarious. Such a government will try to direct the electorate attention away from the issue causing sensitivity and the best way is to focus attention on to an external enemy. If this is not possible

another way is to invent and focus attention on an internal enemy. Hitler did this with the German Jews, Idi Amin did it with the Ugandan Asians. A visible minority makes just as good a scapegoat, in some ways a better one, than an invisible group. True, you can't say of a visible scapegoat that they are infiltrating all levels of life, like you can of an invisible group such as the Jews, but you can drag in talk of "cultural difference" and the like.

National Front election gains are laughable, but if ever they did get into power, or, even more likely, if some new fascist party with really competent leadership and social standing were to form a government, they would probably have done so by promising to "solve the race question". But once in power, it is most unlikely that they would actually deport anyone. Hitler did not start on his "endliche Lösung" until ten years after gaining power, and only then when he was losing credibility. It is more likely that a fascist government would allow immigration (they might even increase it) and explain to the electorate that they had "solved the race question" and that anyway there were only a few of them, loyal to the regime. They might even start up a Bantustan - it's an old trick. Never believe what fascists say - they are not people of principle, their promises are as sincere as a head-waiter's handshake. A competent fascist knows perfectly well that immigration doesn't matter, but can be exploited as a means to power, a means to stay there, a source of cheap labour, and bodies for the army. France made heavy use of Moroccans for intimidating populations. If Webster ever became Prime Minister (which is unlikely - he hasn't the charisma of Adolf Hitler or Benito Mussolini), he might well employ coloured bully-boys to beat up opponents and then disclaim all responsibility pleading his reputation as a racist in evidence, and even using the incident in his own favour.

The anarchist position is that immigration control is an authoritarian device of governments and is just one in a battery of mechanisms of social control. To an anarchist it performs no useful function but is a direct challenge to the freedom of the individual. The earth is a common heritage for everyone to share, it is not for anyone or any group to appropriate to itself. Hence the whole concept of immigration control is immoral. Anyone should be free to go anywhere without let or hindrance, subject only to this not infringing the right of others to do the same. Oddly enough, the authoritarians concede this - they claim the right to go anywhere they please, but the difference is that they reserve the right to themselves. If Webster or Tyndall wanted to go to India or Jamaica, they would claim the right to do so, but they would not reciprocate, at least not in theory. (I expect they would welcome the leader of the R.S.S., the Indian fascist party.).

Many people oppose immigration control besides anarchists. Many others what you might call the nationalistic liberals, have been so impressed by the propaganda that they will agree to some control, provided that it is humane. This is not good enough. No anarchist can have any truck with immigration control. This is nothing to do with helping developing countries or compensating for the ills of imperialism. Such concepts spring from nationalism. No anarchist can speak of "us" and "them" in this context. There can be no question of "We should allow them to come to our country". The world belongs to everyone and is for everyone to share.

Finally, and this is the point where anarchists will attract severe criticism from the authoritarian left, when we say "everyone" must be free to go wherever (s)he chooses, it means precisely that. So if an idiot like Dukes can get himself to Britain, even though he calls himself Grand Wizard, he has the right to do so. If he does something to infringe someone's liberty, he must be stopped. Even so I cannot see that an anarchist can advocate deportation. It is not a question of quid pro quo, it is a question of principle. Hopefully, if the State and its institutions were abolished (actually they would have to be phased out) the Tyndalls, Amins, Dukes and the rest of them would be so overwhelmed by the delicious air of freedom that they would have neither wish nor incentive to return to the cages they constructed for themselves as much as for other people.

John H.

MAYDAY

During the latter part of the last century numerous demonstrations and strikes took place in support of a reduction of working hours to an 8 hour day. One such demonstration in Chicago, U.S.A. on May 1st 1886 led to the deaths of many demonstrators and several police thugs. Soon afterwards the organisers of the 8 Hour Day campaign in Chicago, all of whom were anarchists, were arrested. Five were executed after a show trial, the rest were given a free pardon after a few years in prison.

At the International Socialist Congress of 1889, which was held in Paris, May 1st was designated as an international day of action in support of the 8 Hour Day, and in memory of the Chicago Anarchists. Mayday has since become a traditional day for working class protest.

Despite almost a century of struggle the 8 hour day is with us on paper only. In many industries workers have to work more than a 40 hour week to earn a living wage. Recent figures show that on average overtime payments account for 15% of the average weekly wage. This is in spite of increased productivity and massive improvements in technology, which in any sane society would mean less work and a higher standard of living for all instead of unemployment for some and long hours for others. This is made worse by the insane situation where people work at jobs which have no useful function or are downright anti-social.

This is not surprising considering that the work we do is dictated by profit rather than need. After all why is it that many people live in slums or are homeless, yet there are a large number of building workers who are either on the dole or are employed in building useless office blocks.

WHAT TO DO

First of all what not to do. Any reformist campaign along the lines of the 'Right to Work' campaign are a total waste of energy. All these do is beg the state and the capitalist to exploit us. Don't forget that the inmates of the Nazi death camps had the right to work. Of course, this is not to say that we shouldn't fight redundancies, because any reduction in working class living standards must be fought tooth and nail. Any right to work campaign is bound to fail because capitalism needs a pool of unemployed to keep wages down. Therefore the government is unlikely to cut its own throat by curing unemployment, even if it could.

The only way out of this mess for the working class, is to take over industry for ourselves, and to run things on the basis of production for need and not for profit. As well as this we must take over every other aspect of our own lives.

As the first step towards this we must take the lead of the Spanish anarcho-syndicalist union, the C.N.T., and form autonomous rank and file groups, which should be federated on the basis of both industry and location. These would need to be complemented by similar organisations in other walks of life.

Finally, there is no point in relying on Parliament or the social democrat politicians who control the trade unions, to solve our problems for us. After all it was by letting Big Brother do our thinking and run things for us that we have got ourselves into the mess we are in.

DUMP THE BOSSES OFF YOUR BACK—
ORGANISE !

C O N T A C T L I S T A N D U S E F U L A D D R E S S E S

The addresses below are for information only. Those marked * are members of N.W.A.F.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Anamus Bookshop, 1, Market Street Lane, <u>Blackburn</u> | *North West Anarchist Federation, c/o 6, Stockley Ave, Harwood, <u>Bolton (387516)</u> | Industrial Network 30 Belmont Ave., Clifton <u>Manchester</u> |
| *Bolton Anarchists c/o 6 Stockley Ave <u>Bolton (387516)</u> | News from Nowhere 100, Whitechapel <u>Liverpool 1.</u> | Zero c/o Rising Free 182 Upper St., Islington <u>London N1</u> |
| *Burnley Anarchists 5 Hollin Hill, <u>Burnley (23607)</u> | *Preston Anarchists 15a Charlesway Court Blackpool Rd., <u>Lea, Preston</u> | Lancaster Anarchists 41 Main Road Galgate <u>Lancaster</u> |
| Freedom 84b, Whitechapel High Street <u>London E1</u> | *Manchester S.W.F. c/o Grassroots 109, Oxford Rd., <u>Manchester 1</u> | Manchester Anarchist Organisation (MAO) c/o Jack or Jill, 21, Holmfirth St., Longsight <u>Manchester 13 (061-224-3028)</u> |
| *P. Good 16 Kingsmill Ave., <u>Whalley (2783)</u> | Single Step 78a Penny Street <u>Lancaster LA1 1XN</u> | |
| Grassroots 109, Oxford Road, <u>Manchester 1.</u> | | |

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The articles in this newsletter are individual contributions and do not necessarily represent the views of the other members of N.W.A.F. Anyone wishing to comment or contribute to the newsletter should send their articles to N.W.A.F c/o 6, Stockley Ave, Harwood, Bolton. Printed & published by N.W.A.F.