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THE TRIAL ENDS

After 111 days, and costs of nearly £1,000,000, a final compromise. Four jailed, Four cleared. What an unsatisfactory affair. The trial leaves great cause for concern on several counts :-

- these were SHAKY VERDICTS reached with the utmost difficulty.
- the four were found EQUALLY GUILTY - can this really be so?
- they were convicted under a BAD LAW - and a dangerous one.
- serious allegations were made against police and SUSPICIONS REMAIN
- the Angry Brigade has not been caught and the HUNT CONTINUES.
- the circumstances surrounding this trial show a THREAT TO CIVIL RIGHTS.

shaky verdicts

The verdicts were reached in the worst possible way. The judge first asked for unanimous decisions. Long wait. In desperation he asked for majority verdicts. Another long wait. What was happening in the jury-room? Obviously they were badly split. Perhaps 8-4, maybe 9-3. Failure to reach verdicts would have meant a retrial. Those hours must have been spent grinding down one or two to make ten. The pressure must have been enormous and increasing all the time. The judge made it worse by deciding not to send them to a hotel a third night but to keep them there. Finally someone broke and they got the necessary 10-2. Most unsatisfactory.

equally guilty?

The verdicts failed to distinguish between the four. They were found guilty of the same offences and received the same sentences. But were the jury asked whether they thought them equally guilty? Did they think they were each involved in one or ten or fifteen or twenty-five bombings? Shouldn't they be asked these questions? The judge himself decided. He said the four had been involved in the latter half of the conspiracy rather than the earlier part and restricted it to the bombings claimed by the Angry Brigade. But this makes nonsense of the famous associated set of 25.

a bad law

The law of conspiracy under which the four were hammered is so bad even the lawyers don't like it. Fortunately, you can't conspire with yourself; you still can't be tried for what is going on in your head. But this is the next best thing.

All that is necessary for a conviction is to show that two or more people agreed on certain unlawful intentions. This might involve a nod or a wink, as the judge said, or an idea, a philosophy, as Bond said. The conspiracy can go on without you - remember Jake Prescott, who got 15 years for a 3-year long conspiracy, yet he was in jail for all but 4 months of it. In using such charges, the prosecution are often less interested in who was actually responsible for certain acts and more interested in who they can 'prove' to have agreed on them. Hence the possibility of a political trial. Hence the possibility of convicting someone because of his political beliefs, personal associations and life-styles.

When they don't know who committed a crime, they will try to show that you knew someone who did it. Or who might have done it. And they will try to suggest agreement through similarity of belief of life-style. The fact that four they tried to get in this way were acquitted is no relief. They were fucked about for well over a year for nothing.

suspicious remain

The judge told Bond that the verdicts had cleared him and his squad of all the allegations against them. But is this true? Did the jury sound really convinced that the four were not planted? And what about the serious allegations made by those who were acquitted? Angela Weir had demanded her rights in the police station and had been told that people like her had no rights. Others complained of being kept incommunicado for a long time in spite of repeated requests to phone solicitors. Worst of all, Stuart Christie complained of constant police harassment over a period of years by the Special Branch, who were so obviously looking for a chance to pin a charge on him. They thought they had found such an opportunity and as a result he rotted in jail for six months, with the added strain of standing trial for six months. What compensation has he? He may sue, but what chance has he? They may investigate Jim's beating-up, but will the truth come out? It is far more likely that these charges will be swept under the carpet as quickly as possible.

(cont. page 3)

THEY CAME TO TAKE AWAY
THE MANGROVE NINE
BUT I DID NOTHING
COS I'M NOT BLACK



THEY CAME TO EVICT
THE SQUATTERS
BUT I DID NOTHING
COS I'VE GOT A HOME



THEY CAME TO TAKE AWAY
THE CLAIMANTS
BUT I DID NOTHING
COS I'VE GOT A JOB



THEY CAME TO TAKE AWAY
THE PICKETS
BUT I DID NOTHING
COS I'M NOT ON STRIKE



THEY CAME TO TAKE AWAY
THE STOKES NEWINGTON 8
BUT I DID NOTHING
COS I'M NOT ANGRY



THEN THEY CAME TO TAKE
ME AWAY
AND THERE WAS NO ONE
TO HELP



verdicts

James Greenfield, Anna Menleson, John Barker, and Hilary Creek GUILTY of conspiring to cause explosions, possessing an explosive substance, a Browning pistol, 81 rounds, and two sub-machine guns.

Stuart Christie, Christopher Bott, Catherine McLean, and Angela Weir NOT GUILTY.

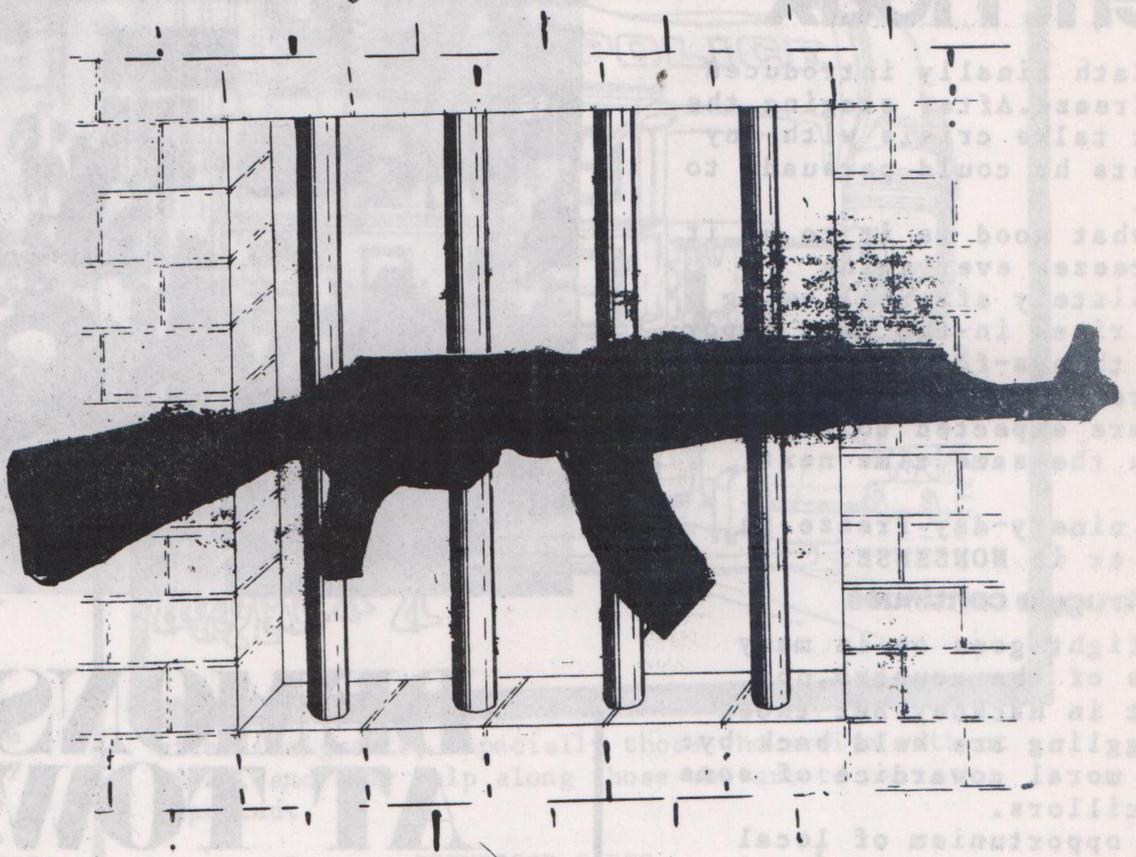
hunt continues

Bond has said that the hunt is going on. How many are they looking for? 2? 4? 6? Or 137 as they once said? He has also said that the bomb squad should be made a permanent force. No wonder. Over 120 bombings in England and Wales in the last four years and they have found enough evidence to convict two people of actually doing one of them (Alan Barlow and Robert Carver in 1969) In the atmosphere of anxiety that Bond is deliberately creating, his forces will become more repressive. And the conspiracy law will be used again.

It is because of this that people not involved in violent activity are at risk. You don't have to be interested in bombs and political violence to be affected by this trial. They wanted to kill as many birds as possible with one stone, and they will try the same tactic again. They are out to get a complete picture of what they regard as revolutionary activity in Britain.

You may reject the Angry Brigade and their methods. But the fact is that many legal forms of political action have been dragged through the mud in this trial. Those in the dock were involved in squatting, claimants' unions, womens liberation, and the Gay Liberation Front, and all these groups could suffer from the verdicts. Newspapers and pamphlets have been thrown around the court - The Womens Newspaper, Strikers Handbook, Frienz, Come Together, IT, Black Flag, Case Con, Black Cross Bulletin, Time Out.....

FOUR UP, FOUR DOWN



threat to rights

Th- threat to civil rights and the freedom of political dissent has become obvious in this trial. The judge indicated in his final speech that he thought the accused had put these rights in jeopardy. But equally guilty of this were the police who rode roughshod over their own regulations to get people.

It ought to be possible to be effective politically in this country without having to resort to violence. But if it isn't - if people involved in quite legal political activity and propaganda are at risk - then this will

scare off the timid, and make the brave more extreme. Rather way it's a disaster.

The verdicts will have dangerous political effects. And the four in jail should be regarded as political prisoner not as common criminals. A thieving gangster does not attack property in the same way as a political militant with a small bomb of symbolic value, if that is in fact what they did. There is a difference between a man who uses criminal means for a criminal end, and the man who uses criminal means for political ends.

But how near are we to jailing people who use political means for political ends?



The press has found links between those in the dock and the French, Dutch, German, Cubans, Irish, South Americans, Spaniards, the Black September, and the disgruntled of all nations.

Sounds really dangerous.

CUTTINGS

'Anarchy on a grand scale - amassing books and machine-guns to destroy anything that came to mind' (Express)

'One of his colleagues said, "Roy Habershon could probably retire on the damages for libels and slanders perpetrated against him over the last two years. But he's not that kind of copper.

He'll just shrug it off. And get on with the next job."' (Sun)

'Their Utopia was a Manson-style hippy commune' (Express)

'Undercover detectives have infiltrated extremist-cells in an attempt to trace those who escaped arrest in August last year. The detectives, all volunteers, have been warned that they risk death if their true identities are discovered.' (Times)

'Training manuals, war literature, theses of hate and how-to-destroy were found around the flat in which the militants made permissive love together while planning their vengeance on society' (Express)

'James Greenfield came to hate Cambridge and despise those who had got their places in the old-fashioned way, via the prep and public schools.

They had the money for the sports cars, the girls, the dinners out. He had nothing but; his brain. He frittered that away.' (Mail)

'They arranged their conspiracies the way they managed their love-lives - with whoever happened to be around.

...Sex was free and easy. Very free. Very easy.

...Sex and drug oogies..and sickening blood-soaked ritual slaughter' (Sun)

Great Frozen Rent Hoax

So HEath finally introduced his freeze. After staging the great talks crisis with any puppets he could persuade to play.

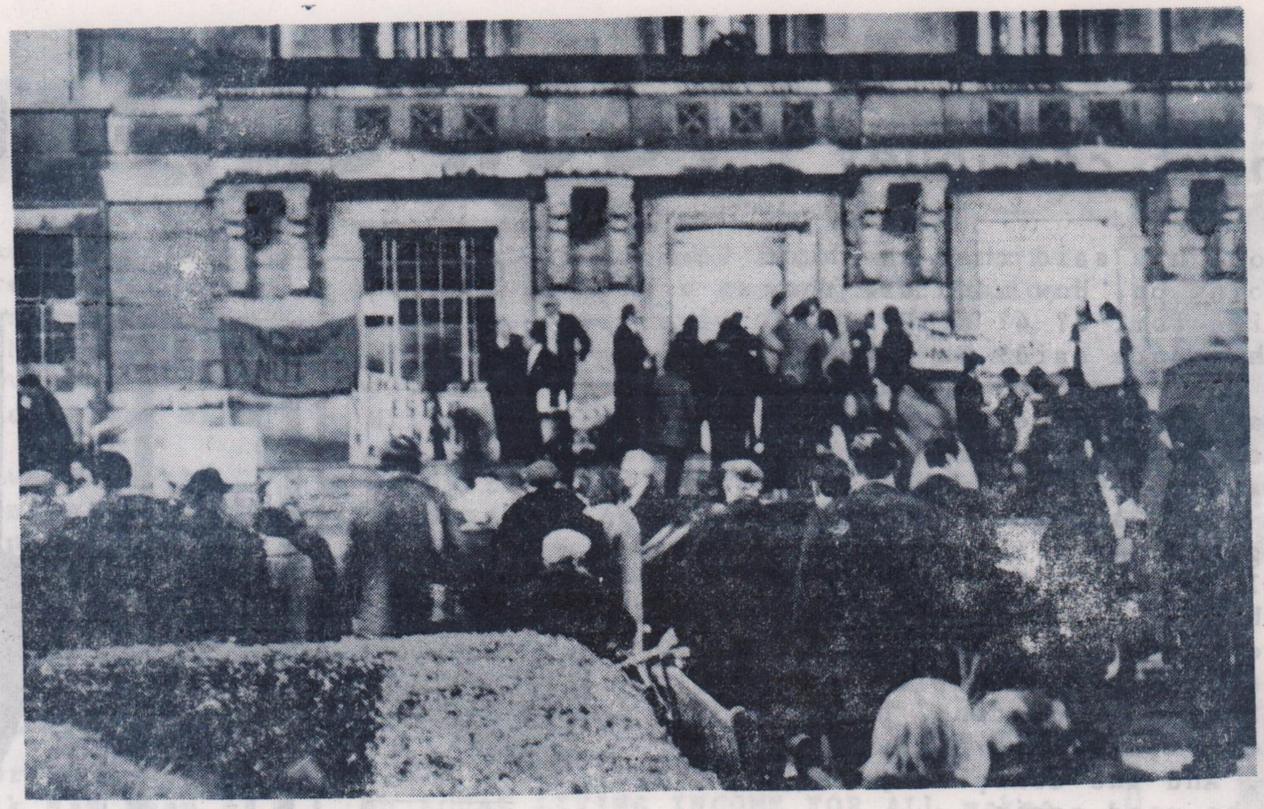
But what good is it to us if he freezes everything immediately after allowing huge rises in the most important things—food and rents. The rents rose in October, and are expected to rise again the same time next year. So ninety-day freeze in October is NONSENSE.

The struggle continues

- the moral cowardice of some councillors.
- the opportunism of local politicians hoping to maintain whatever influence they have, and of some left-wing revolutionary groups like the Maoists—hoping to take over the movement to their own advantage
- the fear of financial loss on the part of some councillors they stand to lose a lot of money in Camden, for example
- the respect for the law as such—even a bastard law like this one—of those who fail to see that the solution will not be found by reformists in this rotting capitalist system.

Property is theft

This law protects legal robbery.
 The law AS IT SHOULD BE would make it:
 A CRIME to make people homeless when there are so many buildings lying empty.
 A CRIME to demolish peoples' homes for the purpose of profit on redevelopment schemes, motorways, hotels, etc.
 A CRIME to live off immoral earnings as a rent parasite.
 These are MINIMUM DEMANDS for a Housing Act as it should be. Minimum demands until the day when the ownership of property is abolished, and people are given access to not only land and factories and workshops and the means of communications but also HOUSES.



DEMONSTRATION AT TOWN HALL

A lot of people turned up at Hackney Town Hall on October 25th. Why? They were led to believe that there was a chance of reversing the Council's decision to implement the Housing Finance Act. No Chance.

What happened was a deputation from the Trades Council and the Hackney United Tenants Federation. A rousing speech from Lou Smith to wake the sleeping and drown that tit Lobenstein. But immediately the Mayor announced that Council decisions could not be reversed within six months (ie from August 10th) and that he could not suspend standing orders.

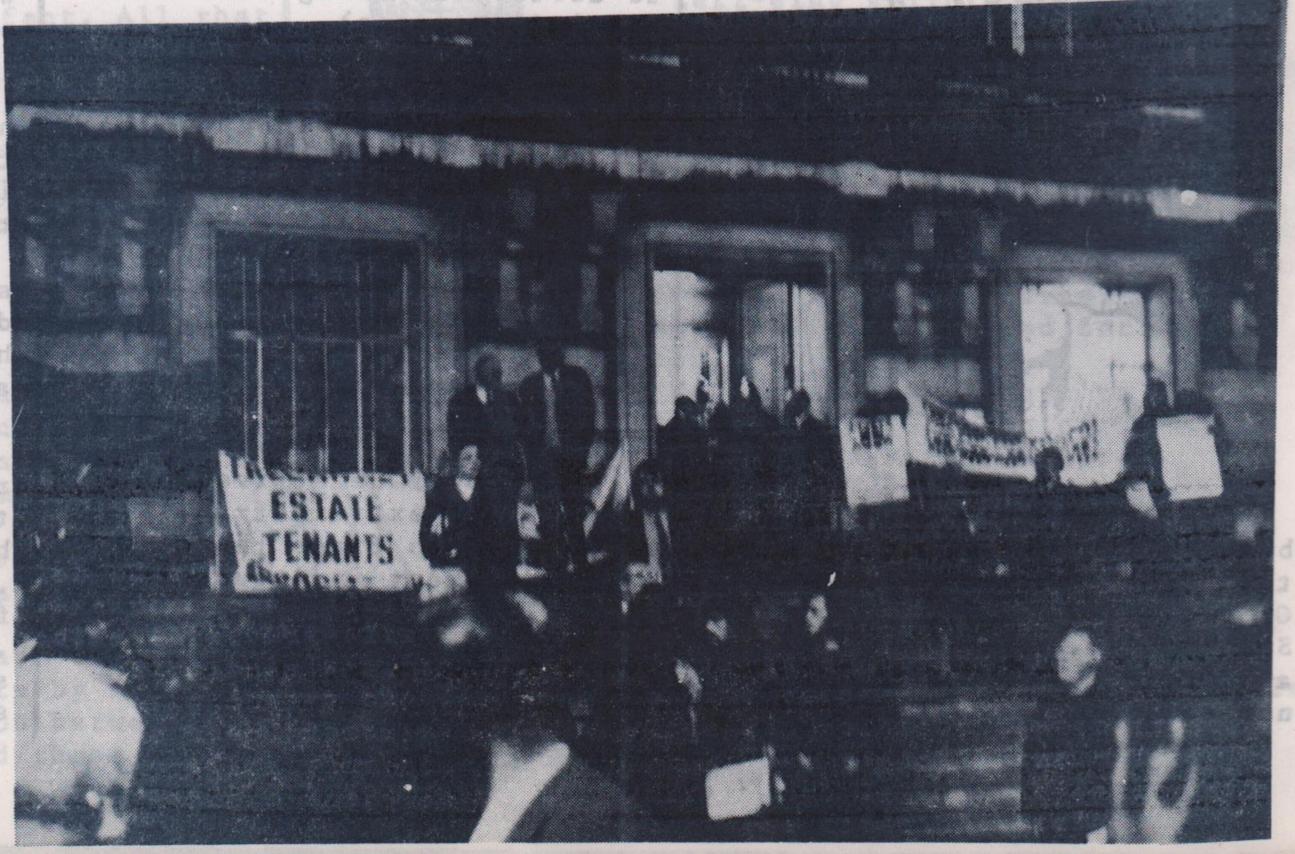
The trade unionists claimed afterwards outside the hall that it had been a great evening; but what a bloody con.

Should we expect anything from this Council? They are so full of their own importance.

They were so pleased that the place was full, with more outside trying to get in. Some basked in applause for having stopped their rent. This did not stop them carrying on the same old Labour - Tory bickering. We know it could well be worse under the Tories - they would like to whitewash the whole housing issue. But this is a Labour controlled Council which has failed us. We know that they too would do anything to avoid the real struggle.

Should we go even to protest? Yet again we have been taught not to hope for anything from the Council. They are irrelevant. Over three thousand Council tenants are already on rent strike. This is what is important. We must organise ourselves and not look to anyone to represent us. We must build up the struggle locally.

WE MUST FIGHT FOR OURSELVES.



Second Actel v. the People of Hackney

Squatters from the borough had to go to the High Court on October 25th, to answer an attempt by the Second Actel Housing Association to evict them from four houses in the Dalston area.

It looked bad at the beginning of the case, when the judge got so pissed off with all the kids laughing and screaming and climbing all over the court that he stormed out. He would not come back until a couple of stout matrons had taken charge and cleared the court of kids.

confrontation

The situation soon developed into a straight battle between one of the girls and Mr. Bullough, the Housing Manager of Second Actel, in the witness-box under oath. She went into a carefully prepared attack. Amazingly, the judge let her go on to expose the whole scandal of that worthy charity and read out the names and connections of the eight shareholders.

In fact the judge was not interested and was hardly listening. He said he had let her go on because she was not a lawyer!

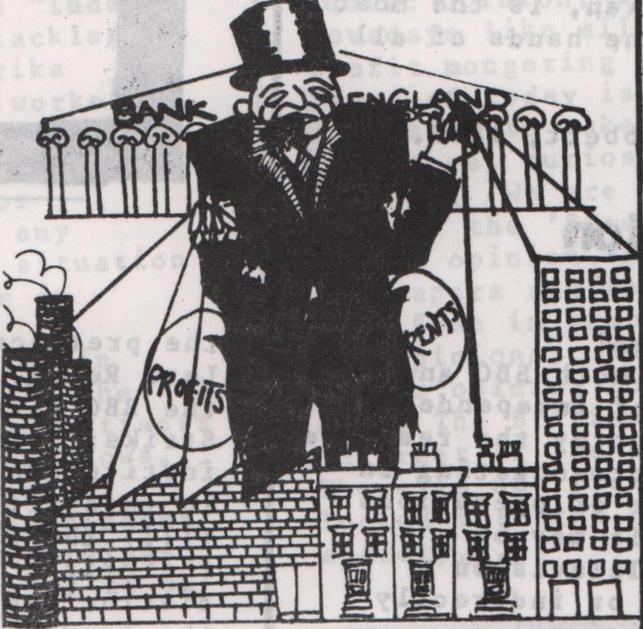


justice done

As it turned out, all the judge was really interested in was a case he had found in his book in which the Vice-Chancellor had decided that unless 'reasonable steps' had been taken to discover the identity of every occupant of such a building, the case had to be thrown out.

Reasonable steps, Mr. Bullough? 4 houses, 25 people - but he'd only asked a couple of them, and naturally they had refused to give their names

until they got some written assurances from him. Crucial was a letter from his solicitors - the fools - addressed to the 'occupiers' and not asking for any identification. And because of this, the judge decided that the squatters were quite justified in signing their reply 'the occupiers', and that this did not mean that they were concealing their identities. He dismissed the case.



true or false?

Second Actel will no doubt make another attempt to evict the squatters. It is vitally important that, before that happens, the truth becomes widely known about this 'charity'.

Under oath, Mr. Bullough said that:-

- the squatters are keeping out the homeless (!)
- he had made reasonable offers to the squatters
- empty houses are not left empty
- legal tenants are not evicted
- Second Actel is not a 'profiteering racket'.

The squatters claimed that:-

- they are the homeless and that, far from keeping out the needy, they are fighting for and on behalf of the needy
- this supposed 'charity' is a gang of financially interested businessmen, lawyers and surveyors
- massive profits are made on redevelopment - around £50,000 on 50 houses
- houses lie empty because the association is too greedy to sub-contract the work to others when they themselves are busy.

We know on which side truth lies. And so will anyone who takes a short walk through this borough.

Sit-in

Twelve homeless families have been found temporary accomodation at last by the Council. But it took a sit-in at the social services office in Drysdale Street to get it. Sir Keith Joseph, DHSS minister, had to intervene.

Shelter had accused the Council of failing to provide emergency accom-

Support the New Squat

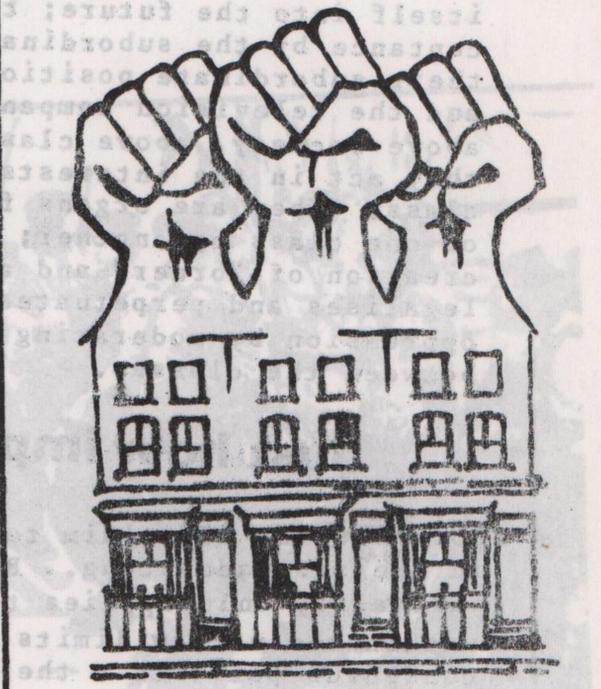
Squatters have moved into 98, Richmond Road, E.8. They needed a home. They also wanted to protest against the way the Council have left houses to rot in the Mapledene area while talking of 'redevelopment' (the same old story....)

The squatters have already accused the Council over an attempt to regain possession. Workmen were sent to try and board up the house when it was left empty for a few minutes. They broke into the house. This was an ILLEGAL act under one of the oldest laws in the land - the Forcible Entry Act - dated 1381 and still valid. It states that if anyone takes up residence in a dwelling, puts their own lock on the door, moves in their own furniture and makes it clear they are in residence, then "the storm may enter, the rain may enter.....but the King of England and all his army may not enter".

The Council needs a possession order or an eviction order. They must go through the courts. And they must give notice of this. Any action such as that tried on 15th. November is clearly ille-al.

The Housing Department admitted this by saying it had been a mistake and by calling off their workmen.

The defense still needs organising against such criminal action. The squatters there would welcome any help and particularly any furniture, bedding etc. which could be spared.



odation for the homeless. Not only is the borough very short of hostels etc, but they are also very stingy with money to put people in Bed and Breakfast or in -heap hotels overnight. They seem to prefer to leave people on the streets (see page 11 for the result).

Whether people choose to squat or to organise such a sit-in they need our positive support.

The freedom of the press ?

"If there ever was in the world a thing completely perverted from its original design and tendency, it is the press of England, which instead of enlightening does, in so far as it has any power, keep the people in ignorance; which instead of cherishing notions of liberty, tends to the making of the people slaves; and which, instead of being their guardian, is the most effective instrument in the hands of all those who oppress them."

William Cobbett, 1807.

State television

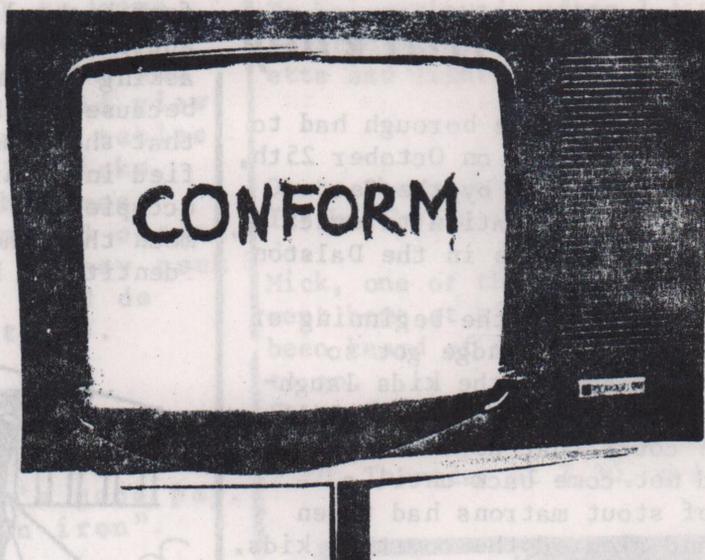
How much have things changed?

The official ideologies of both BBC and ITV lay claim to a degree of independence from the state not borne out by the realities of the situation. All TV broadcasting in this country has its sphere of operations determined by the state. It may be imposed directly (ie the Television Act, and the BBC charter) or indirectly (by manipulated "public opinion"). The state owns the television franchise. This is the central fact in a political analysis of television. The prime political function of television is to obscure the class nature of society. The existence of the state is dependent upon class mystification, on the myth of the "national interest" above class. The function of the state apparatus is to reproduce the existing exploitative conditions of production. To reproduce the means by which the present obnoxious form of society extends itself into the future; to maintain the acceptance by the subordinated classes of their subordinate position. The state and the television companies claim to be above society, above class conflict, but they act in the interests of the ruling class. They are organs for the oppression of one class by another; it is the creation of "order" and apathy which legalises and perpetuates this oppression by moderating the conflict between the classes.

Just how impartial ?

Both BBC and ITV claim to be impartial in their broadcasting. But this impartiality only applies to those who remain within the narrow limits of middle class consensus politics - the impartiality breaks down when the news deals with political or industrial activities - such as strikes - which go beyond these limits. When it comes to reporting the activities of the Trade Unions in their fight for decent wages and conditions - the press speaks of "a ruthless, noisy, bloody-minded minority, menacing Britain's democratic way of life"; ordinary workers are labelled "strife-makers" and "ruthless industrial gangsters" when they use the only weapon they have to maintain their wages - the strike.

Or the ideology of the state ?



In any crisis situation the pretence of impartiality is abandoned. Lord Reith, then head of the BBC, said of the BBC's coverage of the 1926 General Strike: "since the BBC was a national institution, and since the government in this crisis was acting for the people (!?!) the BBC was for the government in the crisis too".....a very strange distinction between "the people" and the trade unions who represent the interests of the mass of the people. Similarly, in the reporting of the situation in Northern Ireland over the last two or three years, the media have acted more and more as a propaganda machine for the British Army - justifying or ignoring Army violence, while painting a picture of the Republican forces as vicious, evil minded terrorists. Eventually, Lord Hill publicly announced that "as between the British Army and The Gunman (what do the army use if not guns, Peashooters?) the BBC is not, and cannot be impartial." This bias in the presentation of important news is only one aspect of how the press and TV function in our society - in fact the share of total time and space given to all serious news by the national press and TV services is only around ten%, the other 90% is devoted to "entertainment" scandal stories and advertising. Thus, in so far as much more space is devoted to entertainment and advertising than to political matters, the mass media are not run overtly as agencies of political indoctrination, but this very relegation of politics to a secondary, non-controvers-

ial, taken for granted position is, in itself, conservative. The "non-political" world which the general exclusion of reference to public affairs creates is not without its clear social values of consumption, competition, and success.



The purpose of the entertainment industry - press and commercial television - is to make a profit. but that does not prevent the content of its output from having ideological and political consequences. A glance at the content of the programmes reveals such themes as the Nation, the Family, Religion, Free Enterprise, Individual Initiative - all the basic values of capitalist society. In popular fiction the heroes, time and again are paragons of anti-communist virtue. A film like "The Angry Silence" has as its hero the "independent minded" strike breaking blackleg, who works on alone through the strike called by his "sheep like" fellow workers. The emotional tone of most popular fiction especially that written for women advises always adjustment to a difficult or oppressive situation, rather than any attempt to struggle to change the situation - this is precisely the atmosphere in which capitalism thrives. Television is not so much interested in the business of communications as in the business of delivering people to advertisers. People are the merchandise, not the shows. The shows are merely the bait to get people to watch the adverts. "Entertainment is largely a form of propaganda for things as they are, relentlessly pressing us to be good conformers and avid consumers.

Since TV adverts sell goods by associating them with certain attitudes and values which are held up as admirable, it seems obvious that they are at the same time 'selling' the attitudes and values of the Great Consumer Society. They are 'selling' a whole style of life - a style of life founded on consumption and which is dependent upon competition and individual success. How much have things changed? In 1880, William Morris wrote "What is public opinion in our days of money rule?..... Public opinion, that is the Press, is nowadays like all private enterprise, a profit mongering mercenary concern. The Press of today is established, in the first instance, to make money out of the ignorance, curiosity, and credulity of the public". We are told that our society is part of the 'free world'; yet in our society public opinion is manipulated through the newspapers and television. A people are only free in proportion as they form their own opinions. Where the rulers manipulate public opinion the people are thereby enslaved. The British Press and TV serves the interest of the British Ruling Class. There is no "free press" or TV - they are locked into the class structure of our society.

NEWS OF THE WORLD EXPOSED



THESE FACELESS MEN ARE THE SCARE MONGERERS:

A vital investigation into a handful of bloody-minded militants and extremists who have taken over the News of the World and are bent on confusing the workers and destroying the British democratic way of life.

a small well-drilled group of disciplined, professional subversionists are menacing this newspaper and Great Britain. I can now reveal that notorious troublemakers who strive to manipulate the millions and disrupt the working class movement of this country have infiltrated this newspaper and are holding 15,500,000 readers to ransom. These wreckers, who plan an orgy of destruction, see the newspaper as a political weapon. They invent Feds under the bed and divide the working class against itself. When our special investigators spoke to these mindless militants, these faceless men bent on destruction, they refused to comment on the suggestion that they should be locked up as a danger to society.

"The law should be used as just another weapon in the government's arsenal, and in this case it becomes little more than a propaganda cover for the disposal of unwanted members of the public."
-Brigadier Kitson, Military Advisor to the Government.

THIS WEEK IN PARLIAMENT

Mr. More (Ludlow, Conservative) said they had to be prepared to create a machinery by which that section of society which deliberately opted out of the legal and political system must be segregated from the rest of the community.

For "opters out" (he said) I should like to see an entirely different type of prison. We should be prepared to turn our minds to some system which might be called national reclamation camps, the word "reclamation" having relation to those in the camps and the work they might usefully do.



HOW DO THE SOLDIERS GET THEIR KICKS ?

"Best of all is deployment onto the streets when riots threaten. It is perhaps a sad reflection on our standards of civilisation that all ranks find it exhilarating to deploy and face a situation of real danger."

-Alan Ross, Lieutenant Colonel R.E., commanding 21st. Engineer Regiment in Ulster.

FASCISM LIVES!



Lord Longford and his colleagues may be interested to learn that they have an infamous forerunner who pointed out the perils of pornography earlier this century in his chief work "My Kampf". Hitler was of the opinion "that our whole public life today is like a hothouse for sexual ideas and stimulations....if we do not lift our youth out of the morass of their present day environment, they will drown in it". "This cleansing of our culture must be extended to nearly all fields. Theatre, Art, Literature, Cinema, Press posters and window displays must be cleansed of all manifestations of our rotten world. Public life must be freed from the stifling perfume of our modern eroticism". (Volume one chapter ten, Mein Kampf).

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association

The Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association run day centres for people who have been in psychiatric hospitals and are not yet working. The Hackney one is near Clapton Pond. About a dozen people go there every weekday, sometimes as many as twenty five.

The Hackney Borough Council meals on wheels service go there once a day with a small meal and a sweet for those who have been sick and payed for it the day before.

Aims

The aim of the P.R.A. is to provide day centres and evening groups on a self help basis which will allow the mentally ill to come together in an effort to break down the tedium and apathy of their world view.

They sit around tables packing cocktail sticks into plastic tubes most of the time. On odd occasions - like now - they pack Christmas cards and do similar menial tasks.

Overheard

"I don't mind packing cocktail sticks - it's good pay. I'm saving for an iron".

"I'd like to get back to regular work but I don't think I could manage it. I do this three days a week. The rest of the time I spend in Epsom hospital".

"Silly, isn't it?"

"I don't like packing cocktail sticks. There should be more night centres open every evening."

"I was born in the East End. My last address was in Stamford Hill. I have been in Longrove for ten months. It's definately great to come up to London a couple of days a week. The sooner I get back to work the better."

If any of you out there could help them with constructive ideas i.e. buying their own stuff, or making or selling it,

PLEASE SPEAK UP.

Government Training

Put jacket on. Go to Labour Exchange. 'Would you like to be Industrially Rehabilitated?'

Of course the answer is yes!

'But haven't you had Shock Treatment like McGovernment's running mate? Well, haven't you?'

Yes. 'Well...we'll have to look into that. You will have to look into what? My bank book or my brain?'

'Your brain, mostly.'



After three months waiting on £4.10 a week, we all line up in the Gateman's office at 9.00, are then shown into a medium-sized office marked 'Cinema' and sat down. 'What's it all about?'

To be continued, after I finish scratching my head, rolling a cigarette and lighting it.

On to the workshop! It's called the Intake. Let's show them what we can do. Mick, one of the eleven starters, went home at eleven o'clock and hasn't been heard of since. Me down - ten to go. Start from home the first morning at 7.00, Tuesday at 7.10, Wednesday at 7.20, Thursday at 7.30, and so on.



'Working in a rehabilitation centre is just like being in the army. You are in the army now, you're not digging a ditch or behind a plough, you're in the army now!'

I think the government is going to send me up to Glasgow to paint black spots on Fresian cows.

JUSTICE IN ACTION

A local man, a 75-year old pensioner from Hackney, has chosen to stand trial before judge and jury on a charge of stealing 16p worth of sweets. This brave gesture has drawn attention to a number of squalid little prosecutions which come before the magistrates each week.

The real culprits? British Home Stores in Mare Street who have brought the case.

And only a couple of weeks after a similar case in another court over £1.10. The magistrate dismissed the case, ordered the court to pay the money and criticised the firm for bringing the case.

Again it was British Home Stores. One more and we should

START A BOYCOTT.

WHO CARES?

Securicor does



Many people still don't believe that this country is moving towards fascism. This is because fascism is coming not as the result of an ideological passion, such as German Nazism and not through the lust for power of a few fanatics but by a quieter, more insidious process - as a by-product of the drive for efficiency.

Many people are reluctant to abandon the idea that we do live in a real democracy. This means that they don't confront their oppression, they don't demand real democracy, and they don't understand that their traditional liberties are being eroded more and more every day. As a result power is concentrated in fewer and fewer hands and people are being restricted in their efforts to fight it.

Mercenaries

Yet the rich and the powerful - the pimps in this society who live off the labour of others - need more forces to protect their property and their wealth. The police force no longer suffices. Hence the sickening growth of firms such as Securicor.

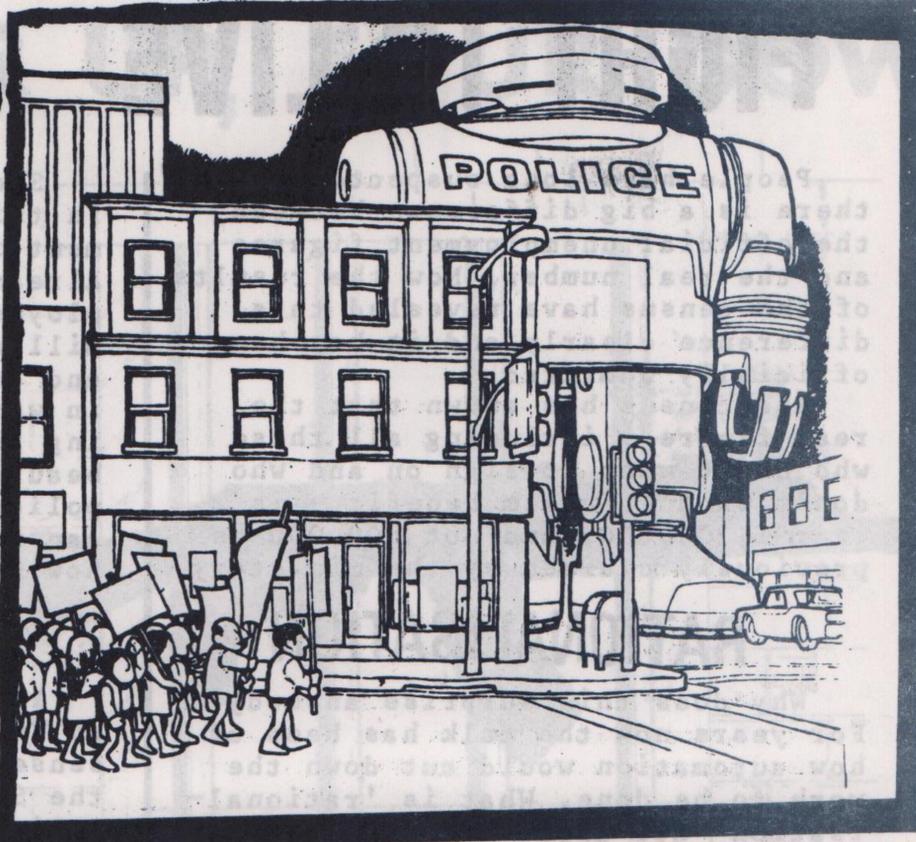
In a society in which success and enterprise are respected in themselves, firms like Factoryguards, Security Express and Securicor can grow fat off dirty work. They provide jobs for thugs, ex-policemen and ex-soldiers, and of course meat for their dogs, but they are parasites in the worst sense. They help society in no way. They are not even fascists - but worse - they will serve anyone.

Into Industry

They are used most where our bosses fear change most - at the place of work. Security Services said in 1963 that they would report on anyone "who may be suspected of causing dissention or inciting employees to disaffection". They avoid getting involved too openly in any strikes, but they help to make sure that the place keeps running efficiently. They guard it like a prison from the outside; inside they are part of the supervisory staff. An increasing number are needed as the planners demand more and more control, greater speed, higher productivity etc. This is not expansion, but intensification of labour and more infiltrators and informers are needed to cut down resistance and resentment.

Private security firms like Securicor can be used against anyone who is working for change in this society. They would very much like to build up a complete, computerised register of suspect characters with a National Crime Register and universal fingerprinting system to go with it.

And of course they protect this nice white land of ours from too many immigrants. They like looking



after immigrants, especially those who arrive without visas, and they help along those who are to be deported.

Because SECURICOR CARES.

The Facts

If we look at the facts we see why such companies are attracting more and more unfavourable publicity these days.

It is now very big business. In all the industry employs 50,000 people, has a turnover of £75 millions and annual profits of over £10 millions. It is expanding very fast and expects a turnover of a £100 million by 1975.

Securicor is the fastest growing private security organisation, with a turnover of £20 millions and one million in profits every year. It began in 1935 as Nightwatch Services, with guards on bikes protecting Mayfair. Protecting property was always its main concern, whether by the wide variety of devices they developed or by men. Not surprising then that they are owned by Kensington Palace Hotels, who are owned in turn by Associated Hotels and Norwich Union (insurance.)

They already have quite a grip.. 153 branches in the U.K., 22 overseas. Nearly 14,000 staff here 6,750 abroad. 11,000 armoured vehicles in the U.K., 75 overseas. They already have 35 strong points here and 70 short wave radio masts. They have even bought some barren land in Scotland for training.

Beautiful People

Of course they care. They can afford a bit of charity. To directors who lend their names for a few minutes of their time and a few thousand pounds. Men like Robert Carr, who was a director of Securicor and Security Services in the sixties. Now, conveniently he is Home Secretary. (After Maudling, Carr....)

Perhaps now the private security firms have a chance of real cooperation with the official forces. Certainly they will not be satisfied until they have access to official records in their struggle to build up a complete picture of all those fighting the basic injustice of this society. They are a danger to us all. They work quietly - they get in the news only when one of their nice dogs eats some poor child who plays too near them. They are hired men, and they are in the war

AND THEY ARE ON THE WRONG SIDE.

FIGHT TO LIVE

People have long suspected that there is a big difference between the official unemployment figures and the real number. Now the results of the census have revealed this difference clearly and it has been officially admitted.

The census has shown that the real figure - including all those who don't want to sign on and who don't want to claim benefit - is over 1,300,000, and not 800,000 as previously claimed by the ministry.

RATIONALISATION

Why does this surprise anybody? For years now the talk has been of how automation would cut down the work to be done. What is 'rationalisation' all about? Great ingenuity has gone into saving manpower. Is it surprising that manpower has been saved in agriculture, coal, steel, the docks and hundreds of manufacturing trades?

And clearly this is going to continue. What do the traditional trade union demands for the right to work mean in such a situation? Does it really make sense to demand equivalent jobs after lay-offs due to rationalisation?

A great stumbling-block is the old respect for work as such and the supposed shame attached to being out of work. A fair day's pay for a fair day's work. ('Fair' is now a favorite Tory word. We must pay a 'fair' rent, we must be 'fair' to the bosses, etc.) The old work ethic respects all work, even if socially it is quite useless.

SICK ATTITUDES

The sickness in this society is not unemployment as such nor the extent of it, but the common attitudes towards it. Even though in the last few years hundreds of thousands of people have deliberately been thrown out of work by calculated government policy, the idea that they are out of work because they are lazy good-for-nothings dies hard.

It hasn't died, in fact. All that has changed is the attitude towards starvation. It is generally agreed that in a self-respecting liberal society, you really should not let people die on the streets. So you have the Social Security to keep them alive. Just.

FREE FROM WORK

In a different situation figures would be applauded which showed that less people were needed to do less work. Freedom from labour is surely something to be aimed at. The idle rich have always been envied, the idle poor have always been scorned. We should not respect jobs as such and we should not increase the injustice in society by making such a rigid distinction between those who have jobs and those who haven't.

whats all this talk about oppression?

Should we demand full employment in this society's terms? Full employment in dumb stupid shitty jobs? Already far too many people are employed in socially useless labour. Millions are 'malemployed' in arms and car industries, in transport, in wasteful distribution and catering industries, in government and bureaucracy, in the law and the police force, and so on. These people can never benefit society, no matter how hard they work.

EQUAL INCOMES

In this situation the demand for an EQUAL LIVING INCOME FOR ALL makes sense. This cannot be provided by the State, because within the capitalist system the State will always restrict allowances to mere subsistence level. It needs the poor as it needs the unemployed.

WE need a society in which every person is respected and every person has the necessities of life as of right. Whether in work or out of work, whether sick or healthy, and whether in a 'normal' job or into alternative work.

Claimants can help build up towards that situation. They are the 'dregs' and 'scroungers' as capitalism needs and defines them. By strengthening their own situation, they make it more difficult to force people into shitty low-paid jobs, by making those people less afraid of unemployment. They help the men who are forced to do long hours of overtime to earn a living wage. They help indirectly any section of society which is kicked around.



WORK FOR CHANGE

In the short term, the trade unions are fighting to keep men in their jobs because they know that they will be shat on by this society if they are made redundant. But in the long term, the claimants are for a society with a different attitude to work.

Left-wing splinter groups scream about the necessity for united revolutionary working-class consciousness. But so little would change if there was a political takeover tomorrow. More fundamental attitudes have to be changed by direct social action. Again claimants can help, by mutual aid systems, by social experiments in living patterns, by real human services with and for each other.

We can all contribute to the attack on the work ethic and the slave-labour system. Simply by learning to help ourselves. And taking for ourselves REAL POWER.

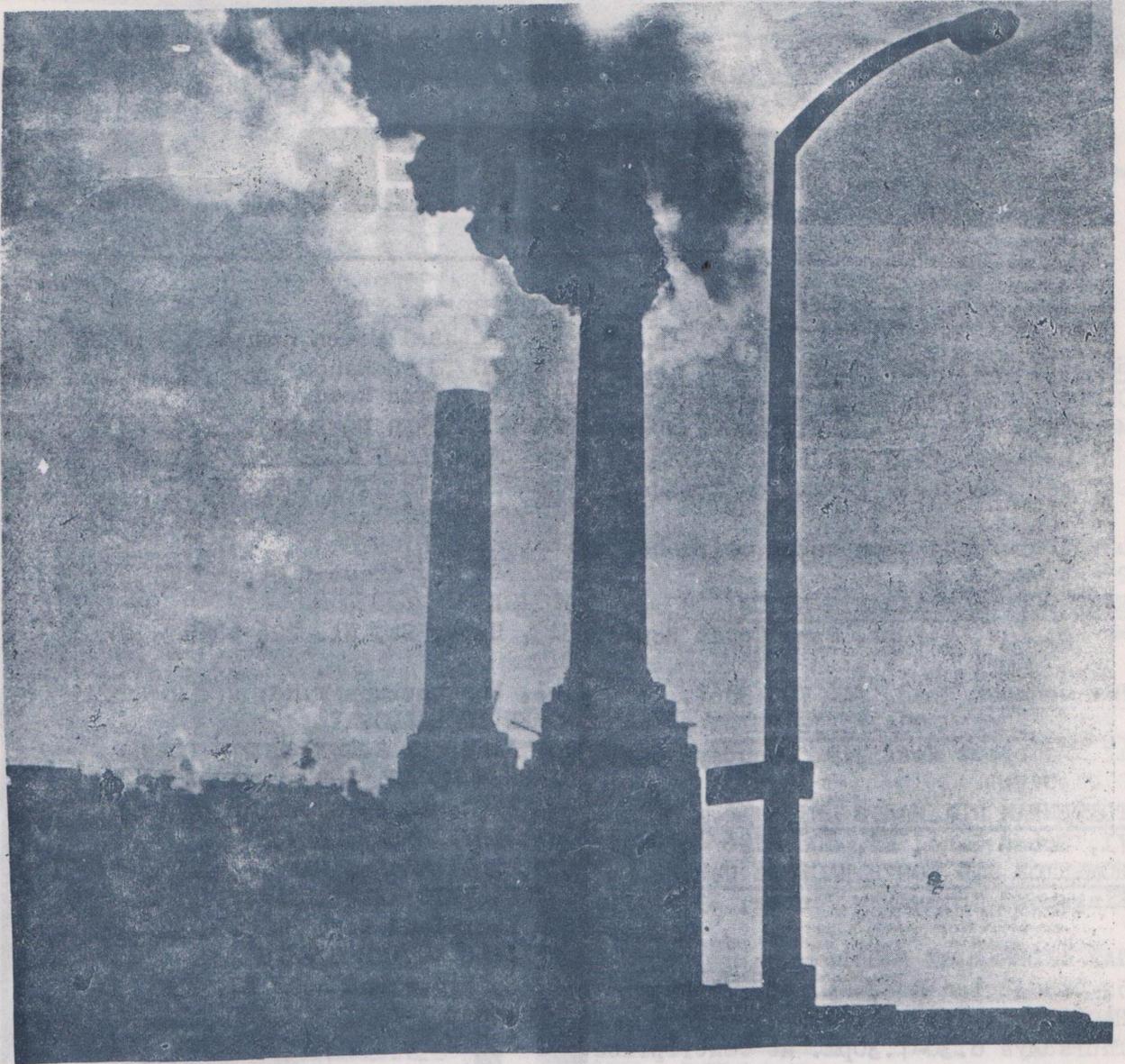
(An interesting 30-page pamphlet on 'THE RIGHT TO WORK? OR THE FIGHT TO LIVE!' is still available, for 10p. from F. McKenzie, 102 Newcastle St, Staffs. ST5 6PL.)



A MODERN PARABLE

There was once a factory which employed thousands of people. Its production line was a miracle of modern engineering turning out thousands of machines every day. The factory had a high accident rate. The complicated machinery of the production line took little account of human error, forgetfulness or ignorance. Day after day, men came out of the factory with squashed fingers, cuts, bruises. Sometimes, a man would lose an arm or a leg. Occasionally, someone was electrocuted or crushed to death.

Enlightened people began to see that something needed to be done. First on the scene were the Churches. An enterprising minister organised a small first-aid tent outside the factory gate. Soon, with the backing of the Council of Churches, it grew into a properly built clinic, able to give first-aid to quite serious cases, and to treat minor injuries. The town council became interested, together with local bodies like the Chamber of Trade and the Rotary Club. The clinic grew into a small hospital, with modern equipment, an operating theatre, and a full-time staff of doctors and nurses. Several lives were saved.



Finally, the factory management, seeing the good that was being done and wishing to prove itself enlightened, gave the hospital its official backing, with unrestricted access to the factory, a small annual grant and an ambulance to speed serious cases from workshop to hospital ward.

But, year by year, as

production increased, the accident rate continued to rise. More and more men were hurt and maimed. And, in spite of everything the hospital could do, more and more people died from injuries they received.

Only then did some people begin to ask if it was enough to treat people's injuries, while leaving untouched the machinery that caused them.

HACKNEY DOSSERS

Volunteers walked round the whole borough one night in October counting all those who were sleeping rough. This was part of a survey organised throughout London by the St. Mungo community in response to government surveys which always try to minimise the problem.

Regular dossers face police harassment so they stay well hidden if they can. In fact the police were out in force on the night to try and clean the place up a bit before the volunteers got there. There were also signs that some who normally slept rough had heard of the survey and had moved on that night.

Nevertheless, more than twenty were found in Hackney, in a wide variety of places. Derelict buildings, demolition sites, parks, huts, churchyards, railway stations, laundries and boiler rooms on council estates. Apart from a few young people stranded for the night and a couple of women sleeping rough, they were, mostly middle-

aged and old men who slept out regularly and who preferred not to use hostels such as the Salvation Army. There is anyway a shortage of hostel accommodation in Hackney, and no hostel which uses vouchers.

The survey highlighted yet again the scandalous number of empty



houses in the borough - well over 400. The squatters are a constant reminder of the same scandal in a borough where there are so many homeless. It also pointed again to the way in which redevelopment schemes have broken up the communities which could have saved these people from the isolation and desolation of sleeping rough. And how the affluence of some has turned their hostels into hotels, their cafes into fancy bistros, and their pubs into smooth bars doing executive lunches.

help needed

Not only is there a shortage of accommodation for people who would otherwise sleep rough, but there is also a shortage of information about what is available; not only for regular dossers, but also for those stranded after a night out, or turned out of their flat at short notice. So volunteers are going out again in the New Year to collect information from notice boards, transport cafes, etc.

Anyone who might like to help should get in touch with Neil and Jill, 6 Tyssen Road. (249 2847).

GUTTER ADDS

ORGANISATIONS

HACKNEY CLAIMANTS UNION

Centreprise, 34, Dalston Lane, E8.
Meetings open to all claimants every
Wednesday at 12.30pm.
Office open there 2-5pm. on Tuesdays

and Thursdays. Come round or phone
254 9787.

EAST LONDON CLAIMANTS UNION

Wednesdays, 7.30pm. Dame Colet House,

Par Johnson Road, E1. 790 3867.

WEST LONDON CLAIMANTS UNION

18, Ashbrook Road N19. Tuesdays 8pm.
272 0029.

TOTTENHAM CLAIMANTS UNION

71, Broad Lane, N8. 808 8126

HOMERTON AND SOUTH HACKNEY C.U.
Kingsmead Community Centre, E9.

GAY LIBERATION FRONT

5, Caledonian Road N1. 837 7174

HACKNEY CITIZENS RIGHTS

Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm. at Centreprise
254 1620. Free aid and advice - legal
financial, housing, social security.

PRISONERS UNION

18, Ashbrook Road N19. 272 0029

RADICAL ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON

104, Newgate Street E1 600 4793

SN8 DEFENSE GROUP

c/o Box 359, 240 Camden High St. NW1.
NCCL

152, Camden High St. NW1. 485 9497

RELEASE

1, Elgin Ave. W9. 289 1123

24-hour emergency 603 8654

AGITPROP bookshop

248 Bethnal Green Road E2. 739 1704

GRASSROOTS bookshop

54, Wrightman Road, N7.

BLACK PANTHER MOVEMENT

154, Barnsbury Road N1. 278 1791

WOMENS LIBERATION WORKSHOP

3-4 Shavers Place Sw1 389 3918

CHILDRENS RIGHTS

Box 70, 55, Stewart Grove SW3

ADVISE

313, Upper St. N1. 226 9365

BIT

141, Westbourne Pk.Rd. W1. 229 8219

WOMEN IN HOLLOWAY

18, Ashbrook Rd. N19. 272 0029

STEPHEN MCCARTHY DEFENSE GROUP

c/o 50, Courtney Court, Drayton Pk. N5

ANTI-INTERMENT LEAGUE

139, Holland Rd, W14

PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

21a Kingsland High St. 254 9753

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

(a) 236 Kingsland Road E2. 739 7300

Closed 1-2pm.

(b) 236 Mare St. E8. 985 2723 10-5

weekdays

(c) 28 Commercial St. E1. 247 4172

Mon. & Fri. 10-4. Tues. & Thurs.

6.30-8.00pm.

Ridley Rd. Market - Information stall
every Sat. 10-3.

SQUATTERS

c/o 8 St Marks Rise, E8.

HACKNEY BLACK UNITY AND FREEDOM PARTY

31, Belgrade Rd. N16.

CHILD POVERTY ACTION GROUP

1, Macklin St. WC2. 242 3225

mad mac

He has gone to Marlborough Street
Magistrates Court - so beware if you
are nicked in the West End.

Many of his old friends may want
to send him good wishes. You can write

to him at his address - Stone Cottage,
Abthorpe, Nr. Towcester, Northants. OR
Or telephone him at Silverstone 3100

His departure is marred by one
thing - his replacement, TERRIBLE TOBY
Springer. One cop from Hackney nick
described Terrible Toby as six times
as bad as Mad Mac.

Neil (Mad) McElligott has been
transferred away from Old Street Magi-
strates Court, where he has been as
chief beak since 1961.

The Hackney Gutter Press has cam-
paigned against Mad Mac in most of the
the previous issues. He is well known

to people living in Hackney and his
departure will be most welcome.

hackney workers

education association

Hackney W.E.A. was set up to run
courses about anything that enough
people wanted to run courses about;
but we're especially concerned to
run courses on subjects not covered
by the more conventional educational
institutions. The Housing Finance Act
the Welfare State - these are two is-
sues covered in courses we've already
run. Planning in Hackney, A
People's Autobiography of Hackney
- these courses are running at the
moment. Future possible courses for
which we require encouragement, advice
help etc. include the following
issues and subjects: Hi-rise living,
basic political economics; the laws
about squatting; welfare rights; pop
music; civil liberties. We'd also like
to revive a speaker's corner in
Victoria Park as part of the
Hackney Festival next year. All
enquiries to Centreprise, 34 Dalston
Lane, E8 254 1620

PEOPLE'S

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

This is one of the ph-
otos of life in Hackney
earlier this century
brought to light by
the People's Autobiog-
raphy of Hackney course
- part of the Hackney
W.E.A. programme. course
meetings every Wednes-
day 8pm. Centreprise
34 Dalston Lane.



gutter press needs help

THE GUTTER PRESS NEEDS HELPERS IF IT
IS TO KEEP GOING. IF YOU CAN HELP IN
ANY WAY: BY HELPING TO WRITE, DRAW,
TAKE PHOTOS, DO THE LAYOUT OR THE
PRINTING, OR HELP SELL THE PAPER.
PLEASE COME TO THE NEXT OPEN
MEETING AT CENTREPRISE ON
TUESDAY 9th JANUARY. 8pm

ALL WELCOME: MANY HANDS MAKE
LIGHTER WORK!

