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BLACK + RED OUTLOOK

Your power lies in organisation



MONTHLY PAPER OF THE ANARCHIST
SYNDICALIST ALLIANCE

No 13



"Understand, comrade, we must combat those who seek to mystify us, and fight those who would have us chained to the benches of their ideologies. The task before us is to liberate ourselves."

HOMES FOR PEOPLE - NOT PROFIT!

A Fascist Milk Adventure

A TRUE STORY BY GARETH THOMAS

ON SATURDAY 31st MARCH ABOUT 2000 PEOPLE MARCHED ON THE IDEAL HOMES EXHIBITION HERE IN LONDON UNDER THE SLOGAN LAND FOR PEOPLE NOT PROFIT. THE MARCH WAS ORGANISED BY THE NEWLYFORMED HOMELESS ACTION CAMPAIGN WHO HOPE TO LAUNCH A CAMPAIGN OF DIRECT ACTION ON A NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL. SQUATTERS AND TENANTS WERE THERE (SOME WERE ABOUT TO BE EVICTED FROM THEIR HOMES AS WELL AS WORKERS.

HOWEVER, MANY OF THOSE WHO WERE ON THIS PROTEST MARCH "IN SPIRIT" WERE UNABLE TO TAKE PART. THE REPRESSION THAT CONFRONTS THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM BAD HOUSING IN LONDON IS SO OVERWHELMING THAT MANY PEOPLE CAN'T GET TOGETHER TO PUT THEIR DESPERATION ONTO THE STREETS. PERHAPS THIS IS WHY THE MARCH WAS A LITTLE DISAPPOINTING TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO CAME UNDER THE ANARCHIST BANNER. IT'S NAIVE THESE DAYS TO EXPECT THE STRAIGHT PRESS TO GIVE SYMPATHETIC COVERAGE FOR A CAMPAIGN FOR GOOD HOMES FOR EVERYONE; WHEN THIS AIM CANNOT BE REALIZED UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM WHICH PLACES PROFIT BEFORE PEOPLES' NEEDS. DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF COMRADES, THERE WASN'T A GOOD LEAFLETING EFFORT TO COMPENSATE FOR THIS. NOR DID THE MARCH END WITH ANY DIRECT INTERVENTION WITH THE EXHIBITION ITSELF. HOW MANY PEOPLE INSIDE THE EXHIBITION KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING? THE PEOPLE WHO ORGANIZED THE STREET THEATRE DID AN EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE WHICH REALLY RANG HOME TO THOSE OF US WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED THE BUCKPASSING AND THE STONE WALLING OF COUNCIL RULES BY WHICH PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO SUFFER TO GET A DECENT PLACE TO LIVE.

By PROTESTING AT THE IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION WE MAY GET AN INKLING OF WHERE OUR REAL ENEMY IS.

IN OUR LONELY SOCIETY WHERE ALL WE SEE IS THINGS AND THEIR PRICE, IT IS ALL TOO EASY FOR US TO BE TAKEN IN BY IMPERSONAL GLAMOUR WHICH IS USED TO SELL COMMODITIES -AND THAT INCLUDES HOUSES. WE SEE ONLY THE SHINEY SURFACE AND NOT THE POOR WORKMANSHIP HIDDEN BENEATH. NO WONDER EVERYTHING BECOMES DEPERSONALISED AND RULE-GOVERNED. LET'S EXPOSE THE CONSUMER SOCIETY FOR THE SHAM THAT IT IS, BY GETTING TOGETHER AS FRIENDS AND SORTING OUT THE MESS FOR OURSELVES. THEN A HOUSE FOR EVERYONE WILL NO LONGER BE A DREAM, FOR NO-ONE NEED BE ISOLATED FROM SHELTER, WARMTH, AND THE FRIENDLY CIRCLE OF AFFECTION.



THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CLAIMANTS HELD IN SWANSEA IN APRIL VOTED TO ADOPT A PROPOSAL FROM THE EAST LONDON CLAIMANT'S UNION TO PUT THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY, SIR KEITH JOSEPH, UNDER 24-HOUR OBSERVATION IN ORDER TO BUILD UP A DOSSIER ON HIS BEHAVIOUR.

THE MOVE WAS PROMPTED BY THE RECENT DECISION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY TO INCREASE THE NUMBERS OF INSPECTORS EMPLOYED TO WATCH WOMEN CLAIMANTS TO SEE IF THEY ARE 'COHABITING' WITH A MAN. IF THE DHSS DECIDES THAT COHABITING IS TAKING PLACE, IT MAY CUT OR STOP A WOMAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT. THE CLAIMANTS' UNIONS PLAN TO INSPECT THESE INSPECTORS AND DRAW UP DOSSIERS ON THEIR PRIVATE LIVES, WHILE LONDON UNIONS WILL DO THE SAME FOR SIR KEITH JOSEPH.

THE LONDON UNIONS WILL OBSERVE SIR KEITH'S MOVEMENTS OVER A PERIOD OF TIME AND COMPILE A DOSSIER ON HIS CONNECTIONS, PROPERTY AND BUSINESS INTERESTS AND WAY OF LIFE. THEY WILL ALSO BE WORKING WITH THE LEEDS CLAIMANTS' UNION, WHICH WILL BE INQUIRING INTO SIR KEITH'S BUSINESS INTERESTS IN LEEDS, WHERE HE IS AN M.P.

-PEOPLES' NEWS SERVICE

I WENT TO A FASCIST FRANCO SCHOOL IN SPAIN, ON THE ISLAND OF IBIZA, BEFORE THE TOURIST BOOM WHEN THE ISLAND WAS QUIET AND UTOPIAN. AT SCHOOL WE WERE TAUGHT ABOUT MATHEMATICS AND GOD, HISTORY AND GOD, GEOGRAPHY AND GOD, FRANCO AND GOD. THERE WAS A NEW MILK SCHEME INTRODUCED ONE DAY.

AMERICA, IN RETURN FOR ITS MILITARY BASES IN SPAIN WOULD SUPPLY FRANCO'S SCHOOLCHILDREN WITH FREE MILK. THE MILK ARRIVED AND ON THE FIRST DAY HARDLY ANY CHILDREN TOUCHED IT.

MILK, THEIR PARENTS HAD TOLD THEM, WAS BAD FOR THE STOMACH. MILK WAS FATTENING. MILK FOSTERED MALIGNANT GROWTHS. IN SHORT, THEY HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT MILK WAS THE SCOURGE OF THE EARTH (AND ALL BECAUSE THEIR PARENTS HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO AFFORD IT).

SO THE MILK WAS NOT DRUNK. THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL, A SENOR FERRER (A DIFFERENT FERRER FROM THE ONE IN BARCELONA!) CAME OUT ON HIS BALCONY AND SPOKE TO THE ASSEMBLED SCHOOL.

"IN THE CIVIL WAR," HE SAID, "WE DID NOT LIKE TO THROW GRENADES!" THE PRINCIPAL LOOKED SLOWLY ROUND THE SQUARE AT THE FROWNING CHILDREN. WE LOOKED AT THE PILE OF MILK CRATES, GROWING WARM AFTER THEIR SECOND DAY UNDER THE SUN, UNTOUCHED, VIRGINAL MILK.

"BUT IT WAS FOR OUR OWN GOOD. WE PULLED OUT THE PINS, COUNTED FIVE AND THREW THEM AS FAR AS POSSIBLE. AND SO WITH THE MILK: YOU DO NOT LIKE TO DRINK IT BUT IT IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD."

HE LEFT THE BALCONY AND WE OBEYED HIS INSTRUCTIONS. WE EACH TOOK A BOTTLE OF UNCLE SAM'S MILK, PULLED OFF THE TOP, COUNTED FIVE, AND THREW THEM AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

MORAL:

SENOR FERRER JUST COULDN'T CARE. WHAT THE KIDS ARE DOING, AS LONG AS HE'S THERE TO CLAIM A SHARE, SPAIN CAN GO TO RUIN.



The Myth of The State

YES, THE STATE IS A MYTH!
A GIGANTIC HOAX, A CONFIDENCE TRICK THAT HAS FOOLED PEOPLE INTO PAYING TAXES, OBEYING LAWS, AND FIGHTING WARS.

YET HOW ABSURD THIS WHOLE IDEA IS! HOW IT RELIES ON THE SPECTACULAR AND THE MYSTIFYING TO PERPETRATE THE HOAX! IT SURROUNDS ITSELF IN ARCHAIC WORDS, IN POMP AND SHOW AND IN RIDICULOUS ROBES, FROM POLICE IN BLUE, THROUGH THE PARAPHERNALIA OF THE JUDICIARY WITH WIG AND ROBE, TO THE MONSTROUS EXTRAVAGANCE OF PARLIAMENT AND THE MONARCHY. IN ITS EVERY ASPECT IT COVERS ITSELF WITH RITUAL, CEREMONY, AND JARGON, DELIBERATELY DESIGNED TO OBSCURE REALITY.

THE EMPEROR HAS NO CLOTHES

YET ALL THIS IS NOTHING BUT A FRAUD, A TRICK TO MAKE US BELIEVE OUR RULERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO COMMAND OUR OBEDIENCE AND OUR LABOUR.

LAWS ARE MADE TO DEFEND THE PROPERTY AND WEALTH OF THE RICH, AND THEIR RIGHT TO EXPLOIT US; THESE LAWS ARE SHROUDED IN CEREMONY AND SEEM TO EXPRESS WHAT IS "RIGHT". AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS SHOWN IN THE WAY THAT ONE DAY WORKERS CAN BE EXERCISING THEIR BASIC RIGHT TO WITHDRAW LABOUR IN ORDER TO SECURE DECENT WORKING CONDITIONS - AND THE NEXT THEY ARE ACTING UNLAWFULLY! ACTS SUCH AS THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT ARE NOTHING MORE THAN THE MEANS OF FORCING US TO PRODUCE WEALTH FOR THE BOSSES.

IT IS A WELL-KNOWN ADAGE THAT 'POSSESSION' IS 9/10 OF THE LAW. IF WE CONSIDER THAT LESS THAN 10% OF THE POPULATION POSSESS OVER 80% OF THE WEALTH OF THE COUNTRY, IT'S OBVIOUS IN WHOSE FAVOUR THE GREATER PART OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM IS BALANCED - AND IT AINT US! WHAT'S MORE, MOST WORKING PEOPLE KNOW THAT THE POLICE TAKE VIRTUALLY NO ACTION WHEN WORKING-CLASS HOMES ARE ROBBED, BUT SHOULD A JEWELLER'S SHOP OR A BOURGEOIS HOME BE BROKEN INTO, A FULL-SCALE MANHUNT IS ON!

CLEAR CLASS BIAS IS EVIDENT IN BOTH THE POLICE AND THE COURTS; AND SO-CALLED 'BRITISH JUSTICE' IS A COMMODITY TO BE BOUGHT BY THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD IT.

WARNING .M. Government
can damage
YOUR HEALTH

MORE ILLUSIONS

OTHER ILLUSIONS BESIDE THE UNHOLY TRINITY OF POLICE, COURTS AND PARLIAMENT MAINTAIN THE CREDIBILITY OF THE STATE. ONE OF THESE IS 'DEMOCRACY' - OR IN ITS MOST USUAL FORM, REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY. THIS ILLUSION IS BASED ON THE IDEA THAT WE (60 MILLION) ELECT REPRESENTATIVES (630) WHO WILL REPRESENT OUR INTERESTS IN THE RUNNING OF THE COUNTRY. BUT HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THESE SO-CALLED REPRESENTATIVES TO ACT IN THE INTEREST OF 100,000 PEOPLE AT ONCE? AND WHAT REAL SAY DO WE HAVE IN OUR OWN AFFAIRS BY TROTTING OFF TO THE POLLING BOOTHS ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS?

SOCIAL CONTRACT

THE SECOND ILLUSION THAT MOST NATION-STATES RELY ON TO JUSTIFY THEIR EXISTENCE IS THE 'SOCIAL CONTRACT'. THE THEORY IS THAT ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE LAND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH EACH OTHER FOR THEIR MUTUAL PROTECTION AND GOVERNMENT. THE GOVERNING BODY CARRIES OUT THE ORDERS OF THE SOVEREIGN, WHO, SUPPOSEDLY REPRESENTS 'THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE'.

IN SOME CASES THE CONTRACT IS THEORETICAL; IN OTHERS IT EXISTS IN THE FORM OF A WRITTEN CONSTITUTION, WHICH IS THE BASIS OF GOVERNMENT, AS IN THE U.S.A.

HOWEVER JUST AND EFFECTIVE THIS MAY BE IN THEORY, THE SIMPLE REALITY OF POLITICAL LIFE, AND THE LESSON OF HISTORY IS THAT POWER CORRUPTS. NO MATTER WHAT FINE IDEAS A GOVERNMENT MAY START OUT WITH, IT INEVITABLY ENDS UP USING POWER IN ITS OWN INTERESTS, AND THE INTERESTS OF ITS CLASS; THE IDEA THAT IN PRACTICE A GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS THAT OF THE U.S.A. REALLY DOES CARRY OUT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IS COMPLETELY ABSURD.

ANOTHER ILLUSION THAT SEEMS TO BE EVEN MORE WIDESPREAD IS THAT GOVERNMENTS CAN BE IMPROVED, WHETHER BY REFORM OR REVOLUTION. WITNESS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE NUMBER OF REVOLUTIONS AND THE RESULTING CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN FRANCE. EACH REVOLUTION WAS IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE, OF A BETTER FUTURE: YET EACH REPUBLIC, ONCE IN POWER BEGAN TO DECAY AND BECOME CORRUPT. FOUR REVOLUTIONS IN LESS THAN 200 YEARS AND THE FRENCH WORKERS ARE STILL POWERLESS WAGE-SLAVES!

GOVERNMENTS ALWAYS BECOME CORRUPT AND ALWAYS ACT IN THE INTERESTS OF A WEALTHY MINORITY. WE WILL ONLY RID OURSELVES OF THE EVILS OF CORPORATE BEAUCROCRACY, TECHNOLOGY BASED ON PROFIT RATHER THAN HUMAN NEEDS, IMPERIALIST WARFARE, WAGE SLAVERY, STATE REPRESSION, AND SO ON, BY BUILDING OUR OWN LIVES AND REFUSING TO ABDICATE IT IN A MEANINGLESS ACT OF VOTING: BY ORGANISING OURSELVES TO SMASH THE MYTHOLOGY THAT ENSLAVES US.

TRANSPARENT CHAIN

THE LAWS BY WHICH YOU BIND US
ARE PRIMITIVE AND COLD.
HOW CAN WE HAVE FREEDOM
WHEN FREEDOM HAS BEEN SOLD.
SOLD FOR YOUR SECURITY,
TO KEEP THE GAME THE SAME;
TO KEEP US FOOLS UNDER YOUR RULES
BY WAY OF PAPER CHAIN.
YOU ONLY THINK OF MONEY,
ECONOMY OF THE LAND;
THINGS OF HUMAN EMOTION
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
YOU TELL US IT'S A DEMOCRACY;
BUT WE RECOGNISE YOUR CRAFT:
SEE THE NATIONS IN CATASTROPHE
AGAINST A BILL YOU PASSED.

WHAT TIME IS IT?



TIME FOR A 4-HOUR DAY

A POEM WRITEN BY

A MENTAL PATIENT

The author of this poem was an old lady- an inmate of Sheffield mental hospital. She was described as "mute, inaccessible, psycho-geriatric, " and was seen to scribble from time to time.

After her death, her locker was emptied and the poem found.

What do you see nurses,
what do you see,
Are you thinking,
when you look at me,
A crabbit old woman,
not very wise,
Uncertain of habit
with far away eyes
Who dribbles her food
and makes no reply
When you say in a loud voice,
"I do wish you try",
Who seems not to notice
the things that you do,
And forever losing
a stocking or shoe.
Who unresisting or not
lets you do as you will
With bathing and feeding
the long day to fill
Is that what your thinking
is that what you see?
Then open your eyes nurse
you are not looking at me.
I'll tell you who I am
as I sit here so still
As I'm used at your bidding
as I eat at your will.
I am a small child of ten
with a father and mother
Brothers and sister who
love one another
A young girl of sixteen
with wings on her feet
Dreaming that soon now
a lover she'll meet
A bride soon at twenty
my heart gives a leap
Remembering the vows that
I'd promised to keep.
At twenty-five now
have young of my own
Who need me to build
a secure happy home.

A woman of thirty,
my young now grow fast,
Bound to each other
with ties that should last;
At forty my young sons
are now grown and all gone
But my man stays beside me
to see I don't mourn.
At fifty once more
babies play round my knee
Again we know children,
my loved one and me.
Dark days are upon me
my husband is dead
I look at the future
I shudder with dread;
For my young are all busy
rearing young of their own
And I think of the years
and the love that I've known.
I'm an old woman now
and nature is cruel
"Tis her jest to make
old age look a fool.
The body it crumbles
grace and vigour depart
There is now a stone
where I had a heart
But inside this old carcass
a young girl still dwells,
And now and again
my battered heart swells.
I remember the joys
I remember the pain
And I'm loving and living
life over again.
All too few-gone too fast
and accept the stark fact
That nothing can last.
So open your eyes nurses,
Open and see,
not a crabbit old woman,
Look closer- see ME.

MENTAL PATIENTS UNION (South East London)

Meetings will be held at: 170a Deptford High Street
S.E.8, each Tuesday at 8pm. Mental Hospital Patients
and ex-patients welcome. Contact Andrew Dewar at the
above address.

hospital workers

In contrast to the one day strike by hospital ancillary workers reported in the February 'Outlook', the present series of strikes has been only a qualified success in terms of impact.

The public extends sympathy to the cause, but that's not enough to bend the Government stand! We have had the 90% antipathy of the Press (10% impartiality to keep the record 'clean').

WHY NO PRESSURE ?

The standing failure of the strike is still that the action is unpalatable to perhaps even a majority of the ancillaries. There are several reasons for this: 1) fear- something hard to assess but inevitable among people striking for the first time.

2) tightness- when your income is low you can't be expected to stand the prolonged poverty of unemployment. A lot just take pocket money for part-time work.

3) the contradiction of 'emergency services'- what is really necessary is not the same as what the Press will tell you is necessary. This usually means the majority must stay on.

4) conservative union leadership- union officials don't want to rock the boat with management and have been fortunate enough to find ways of channelling off enthusiasm.

THIS DOESN'T ALWAYS MATTER

One London hospital that has come out and got into the headlines is Long Grove (Kingston Area Group actually in Ewell, Surrey)

It's a psychiatric hospital which didn't come out on March 1st but later had a token strike- the smell of the laundry had taken them back in a flash!

After the meeting to decide the return to work, the kitchen workers had a

ancillary
fight on.

Fine Tubes Strike - 3 Years

meeting and came out. Other sections of the work force were found asking if they could join in. They were welcomed - laundry workers and gardeners alike.

The weight of the organization in the hospital is T+GWU. There are some COSHE and NUPE members.

T+GWU pickets have manned the gates, and food lorries, except those carry-essentials, are turned away. Even the police have complemented the workers on the orderliness of the picket. The Press have failed to 'nail' the 'murderers'.

Long Grove has not been fully representative of hospitals generally. The patients are largely free to visit Epsom daily, and not eat at all in the hospital. They are not 'sub-normal' or 'cabbage'-rated.

The T+GWU has been building dynamically over the past months and was able to call on the mass of ancillary workers, paying strikers daily.

They didn't fully inspire the neighbouring hospitals. One by one they all failed to give any backing.

Epsom District Hospital had a meeting which, with a shambles of a vote, said no to a strike. Night staff couldn't get to a meeting.

On the other hand, the Manor Hospital (for 'sub-normals') began by rejecting action. Then the kitchen workers said that while they rejected a one-day strike, they would do a week's limited essential services.

A CHEQUERED STORY

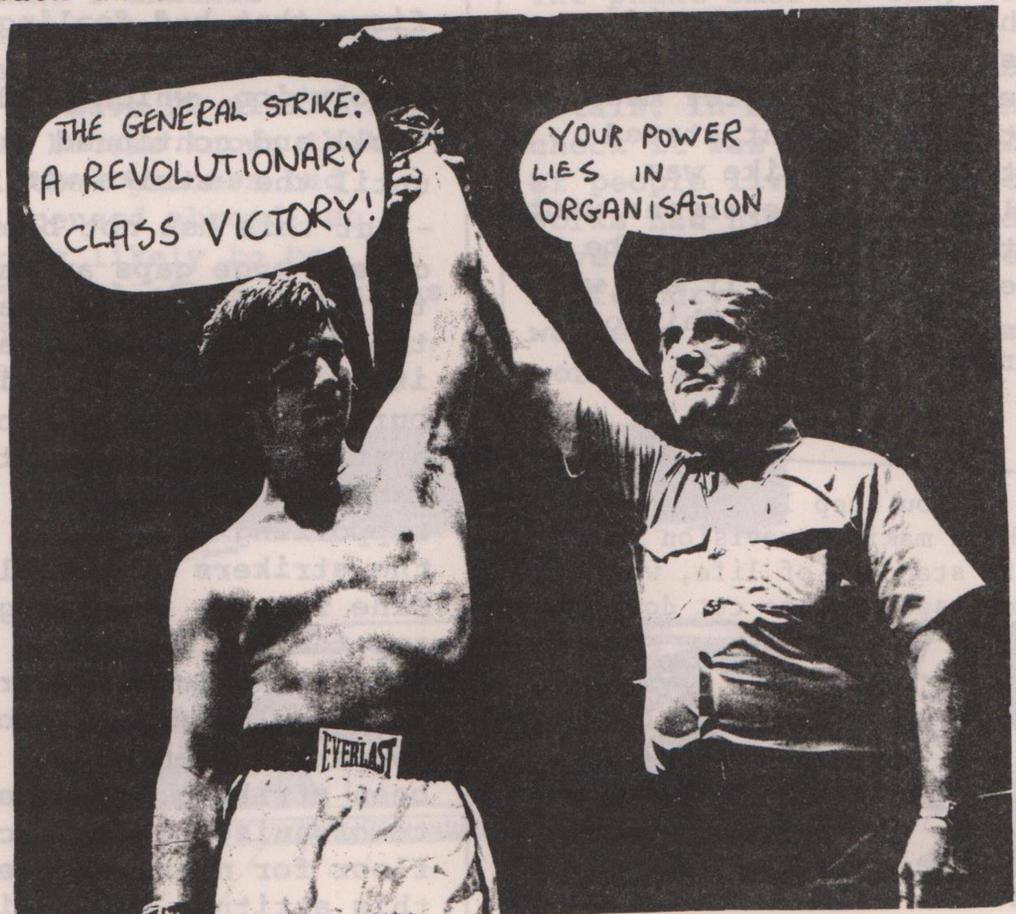
All in all there has, in that one sample area, been a gross inconsistency and lack of clarity in organization.

Perhaps when we see how little the struggle has achieved and how much it might have, the unions will get a bit better sorted out.

The strike started nearly three years ago on 16th June 1970, when 172 brothers and sisters withdrew their labour after the management had refused to negotiate with shop stewards over a pay claim. During the six months previous to the strike the company had had done everything they could to hammer the union including taking down all their notice boards and bringing on job-evaluation and a three-shift system without consulting shop stewards. At this stage the unions could hardly be considered militant - the shop-stewards were quite ready to make a package deal which included a productivity agreement.

The strike was made official by the two unions involved (T+GWU and AUEW) and a picket was put on the factory gates. After ten days the management started to take on blackleg labour and at the end of the second week they sacked all the strikers. At the end of the first month the management awarded the scabs a 9% pay rise back-dated 4 weeks.

From this point on it became clear that the strike had-nothing to do with money. The fight from then on was a struggle for the most basic right - to organise and strike. Suddenly everybody started to take notice as Fine Tubes was one of the very few factories in Plymouth with union organisation. It was one of many U.S. owned companies where the trend is to have an unorganised work force doped into accepting low wages and the sheer boredom of work by such gimmicks as life insurance, staff status and plush social clubs. Other factories started to award their workers pay rises as some workers, having seen which way the wind was blowing at Fine Tubes, tried to get things going at their own place of slavery. The situation could have been developed but it was held back by the local union bureaucrats who not only did nothing to further the strike but also labelled the strikers as trouble-makers and even tried to take away the credentials of one shop steward.



tubular thrombosis .. (continued)

So the strikers started to do it themselves - up and down the country they went, meeting fellow workers on the shop floor and getting the black on. For over a year they struggled against the firm, the unions, the social security, the media and the police.

After 15 months a government Court of Inquiry made its recommendations which were 90% in favour of the strikers, but the management refused to take any notice of them.

In the beginning of 1972 the blacking was really beginning to hit home - it really began to look as if the strikers would get the factory closed down if their demands were not met. And then in February the two unions managed to get the strikers to lift the blacking so that 'meaningful' negotiations could take place. It had taken many long months of struggle to get the blacking on, the union bureaucrats had managed to get it off in 3 days. This was a mistake the strikers paid dearly for. As one of them said at the time, "When you have got your knife in you should never be persuaded to withdraw it, you should twist it." A few months later the only offer made by the management stated that if the strike was called off and everyone went on the dole they would be given preference if and when the jobs came up. This of course was rejected.

But if you keep laying men off without making provision to increase their standard of life, we'll have to use sabotage to cut down output.



During this period the T+GWU put out feelers to see if the strikers would call it all off. They were told to fuck off. So the strike strikers were faced with the long struggle to get the blacking back on again. Off they went, up and down the country, but this time it was much harder because workers would not put the black back on Fine Tubes until they got the word from the union bosses in London. After many long and bitter meetings between the strike committee and the union bureaucrats the word went out - the blacking of Fine

We two, the State and I, are enemies.

- Max Stirner

Tubes was official. But of course the regional union bureaucrats did nothing to implement this. The strikers took it on again whilst cursing the bureaucrats for not doing the job they were supposed to do. One would have thought the strikers would have learned the lesson by now and taken matters into their own hands without expecting help from their representatives.

At the end of October 1972 a meeting attended by over 650 delegates from firm firms that had dealings with Fine Tubes passed a resolution which pledged "full and continued support until the strike was won". - But this has not been the case - huge gaps appeared in the blacking which enabled the firm to carry on and now it is not only the union bureaucracy which is collaborating the management. Many rank and file workers are supporting management against the strikers by not blacking Fine Tubes - reasons given are that if they were to black Fine Tubes their own jobs could be put into jeopardy. When people have been striking over the right to organise on the factory floor for nearly three years this attitude really is sickening.

The Fine Tubes strikers still say that either their demands are met or the factory closes down - but they won't be able to carry on the struggle against the factory and the unions to its conclusion without every support from the rank and file up and down the country.

So why is this strike sitting in the mud ?

The first mistake made was to walk out of the factory. By walking out the strikers gave the initiative to the management, who still control the factory - also this control is not challenged in any way. What could management have done if everybody stayed in at Fine Tubes ? - we realise that this was not on in a place like Plymouth 3 years ago, a town where there had had only been one other official strike since 1926. (Especially as this strike started before U.C.S. etc).

Well how could this strike be made more successful ?

One of the most pressing problems has been the number of people who have left the strike - strikers are now down to 36 in number. If the strikers had been drawn into the running of the strike far more (more than the weekly mass meeting and picket duty) they would have felt far more confident. Means of mass-involvement which increase the self-confidence, the autonomy, the solidarity, and self-activity of the strikers should have been developed. When people are left to sit in front of the TV they tend to get bored and pissed off. When most of the work is left to the few they fail to see themselves as creating their own history (as in fact they are not). It is something outside of them something they have no control over

£5000 x 630

£3 150 000

The fight against the firm must be extended until it challenges every level of everyday life. Everything must be brought into question. Can you really expect people to stay solid (especially after such a long period) when all they have to win is the return to the same old routine, the same old boring, alienating slave labour.

Many men left the strike after pressure from their wives - and who can blame the women, it is they who take the worst of the hardship, it is they who have to fight to keep the family fed and clothed on next to nothing. Yet the wives have been left out completely.

How many would still be on strike now if the wives had been able to participate in the strike - if they could be beside their men on the picket line, they could go to strike meetings, they could meet and help each other out, - perhaps a food co-op could be organised to help cut down food costs and put the whole strike in a better position

For most wives at Fine Tubes the strike has been very much the same as at any other time - except that now their husbands leave them at the kitchen sink to go on the picket line instead of going to work.

At the present moment some hope seems to be held out that the trade union sponsored M. P. 's can help things along - this can never be. The strikers at Fine Tubes must realise that it is only themselves, along with their fellow workers, who can win this strike and go on to pull down the whole system. Only through their own selves' activity and not by leaving it to the unions, politicians, revolutionary vanguards and all the other guardians of the old world.

- from 'Fire', the Plymouth situationist bulletin.

About 300 people from all parts of the country turned out in March to join a mass

We don't expect the bills for Concorde, or 'Defence' estimates, to rise by less than multiples of ten, or even a hundred million quid, but the above sum is one close to the heart of any wage-earner.

If all 55 million British citizens were contributing, it's 6p each. With a ceiling of 18 million tax-payers, it's 18p each. That's the cost to us of the farce of the farce of Parliamentary representation by 630 MP's every year!

WELL ACTUALLY IT ISN'T

Several Parliamentary toadies receive much more for their offices etc. Teddy Heath, for example, gets £26,000. They all get handsome rake-offs for secretarial expenses, official tours abroad, apart from their other fiddles as company directors and shareholders.

picket at the factory. Equal numbers of police were in evidence, and seven arrests were made as police held back the pickets to make way for blackleg labour. A meeting held afterwards expressed no confidence in the unions (T and GWU and AUEW)

The strikers need help in blacking firms that deal with Fine Tubes, especially suppliers of raw materials. Here's a short extract from the blacking list:

Henry Wiggins, Hereford
Babcock and Wilcox, Renfrew, Scotland.
Osbourne Steels, Sheffield.
Low Moor Steels, Bradford (these four are raw materials suppliers)
Rolls Royce, Derby and Castle Donnington
BAC, Bristol and Preston
UKAEA, all groups
Direct Nitrogen, Wallington, Surrey
Domestic Chemicals, Exeter

The address of the Fine Tubes Strike Committee is:

c/o 65 Breton Side
Exeter St.
Plymouth

But remembering they now pay taxes - reduced recently of course - we'll be conservative and mark them down for £5000 take-home from the national budget (not counting their investments).

They also occasion the expense of, say, a secretary each. . . . £1500 x 630 another £661,500. And then there's the hangers-on, and the expense of keeping Westminster clean, etc

SO WHAT ?

Well, without looking at the House of Lords, we can see the bill mounting. It's a common thing for anarchists to denounce Westminster as irrelevant, but can it be when we are paying for it ?

As an MP there's no obligation to do a damn thing. You need never vote, let alone speak. Even forget all the sittings - you can't go wrong unless you take it seriously!

A JOB

So if you're low-paid or unemployed, think capitalistic! Start a small enterprise with £150 of stock. That's your deposit for election. In return you promise that if elected you will repay at least £2 for every £1 from the lucrative salary. If you forfeit your deposit, so do the shareholders.

NO PLATFORM

You know representation doesn't work; set out ideals like federal democracy and delegation, but don't expect to represent anyone but yourself. On the other hand, declare yourself open to mandate if ever there is such a structure.

This goes one better than any party manifestoe - it offers an immediate chance of 100% profit to your shareholders and an easy life for five years for yourself.

HUNDREDS DO IT LESS

HONESTLY, ORGANISE YOUR OWN SLICE OF THE CAKE

The Good, The Bad and

PRISON MUST GO

WE ARE ACCUSTOMED TO THINK OF PRISONS AS A PERMANENT FEATURE OF SOCIETY, WITHOUT WHICH THE SKY WILL FALL IN; IN FACT, HOWEVER, THE HISTORY OF PRISONS IS "SHORT AND DISMALLY UNSUCCESSFUL".

THE MAJORITY OF BRITISH PRISONS WERE BUILT AROUND THE MIDDLE OF THE LAST CENTURY TO PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE TO CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. PRIOR TO THIS THE "COMMON GAOLS" HAD HOUSED MEN AND WOMEN AWAITING TRIAL, TRANSPORTATION OR EXECUTION. BY LOCKING OFFENDERS UP, ISOLATING THEM FROM EACH OTHER SO THAT THEY SHOULD NOT CONTAMINATE EACH OTHER, AND GIVING SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE, IT WAS HOPED TO SHOW THEM THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS.

THE EXPERIMENT WAS A HOPELESS FAILURE, BUT INSTEAD OF ABANDONING IT, THE AUTHORITIES OF THE DAY WATERED IT DOWN A LITTLE, THOUGHT OUT NEW IDEOLOGIES TO JUSTIFY IT, AND BUILT MORE AND MORE PRISONS.

PEOPLE IN FAVOUR OF THE PENAL SYSTEM TELL US THAT PRISONS ARE NECESSARY TO REFORM WRONG-DOERS; AS A DETERRENT; AND TO PROTECT SOCIETY. NONE OF THESE ARGUMENTS HOLD WATER, FOR THE SIMPLE FACT IS PUNISHMENT VINDICTIVE, BARBAROUS RETALIATION, VENGEANCE PURE AND SIMPLE. WE CALL OURSELVES "CIVILIZED", WE THINK WE HAVE EVOLVED BEYOND THE BARBARISM OF OUR ANCESTORS, WE TALK OF LOVE AND WE PRAISE LIBERTY - YET WE CONTINUE TO LOCK OUR FELLOW-MEN INTO BRUTAL, SOUL-DESTROYING INSTITUTIONS AND DELIBERATELY CAUSE THEM SUFFERING - USUALLY MUCH MORE THAN THAT CAUSED BY THE ORIGINAL CRIME.

"BUT WE NEED PRISONS TO REFORM PEOPLE", SAY THE PENALISTS.

SURELY IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PUNISH AND REFORM PEOPLE AT THE SAME TIME. IF YOU'RE BREAKING A MAN'S SPIRIT, TAKING AWAY ALL RESPONSIBILITIES FROM HIM, AND MAKING HIM FEEL USELESS AND DEGRADED, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT YOU ARE TRAINING HIM TO BE A USEFUL, RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY?

BUT WHO DOES IN PRACTICE, BENEFIT FROM REFORMATIVE TRAINING? NOT THE WHITE-COLLAR OR MIDDLE-CLASS WORKER, WHO PROBABLY HAD A GRAMMAR SCHOOL EDUCATION; NOR THE SHORT-TERM INMATE (AND INTO THIS CATEGORY FALL 75% OF BRITISH PRISONERS); AND CERTAINLY NOT THOSE OF WEAK INTELLIGENCE, WHO NEED SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS GEARED TO

THEIR NEEDS. AND IN FACT TRAINING FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO ONLY 5% OF ALL INMATES OF BRITISH PRISONS AND BORSTALS.

TO SAY THAT EXPERIENCE OF PRISON DOES ACTUALLY REFORM PEOPLE IS ABSURD IN THE FACE OF THE FACT THAT A MAN IS MORE LIKELY TO COMMIT A CRIME AFTER HAVING BEEN IN PRISON THAN BEFORE CONVICTION. "UNIVERSITIES OF CRIME" IS APPROPRIATE INDEED!

THE MOUTHINGS OF THE THEORISTS ABOUT REFORM ARE OF COURSE IRRELEVANT, WHEN THOSE IN CHARGE OF PASSING AND EXECUTING SENTENCE (THE JUDGES AND THE PRISON ADMINISTRATORS) TAKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ATTITUDE. THE JUDICIARY, MOST OF WHOM ARE FROM MIDDLE- AND UPPER-CLASS BACKGROUNDS, AND WHO HAVE NO CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE THEY SEND TO PRISON EXCEPT IN COURT UPHOLD THE RETRIBUTIVE ATTITUDE - "THESE MEN MUST BE PUNISHED". THE PRISON GOVERNOR IS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELL-BEING OR THE FUTURE OF HIS PRISONERS - HIS PRIMARY CONCERN IS "KEEPING THEM IN".

"AH, BUT THE THREAT OF PRISON DETERS PEOPLE FROM COMMITTING CRIMES".

THERE IS LITTLE PRACTICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS CLAIM, FOR THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE HARSHNESS OF PUNISHMENT AND THE CRIME-RATE - INDEED THE CRIME-RATE HAS OFTEN BEEN HIGHEST WHEN PUNISHMENTS HAVE BEEN THE MOST SAVAGE.

"WELL, WE CAN'T HAVE DANGEROUS CRIMINALS ON THE STREETS".

AN OLD LADY IS SENT TO PRISON FOR STEALING CHRISTMAS CARDS; WE ARE TOLD WE NEED TO BE PROTECTED FROM "PEOPLE LIKE THAT". THE PROMISE OF PROTECTION IS A FALSE ONE, FOR UNLESS A MAN IS SENTENCED TO LIFE EMPRISONMENT HE WILL ONE DAY BE RELEASED, AND ON RELEASE HE IS MORE LIKELY TO COMMIT A CRIME THAN BEFORE GOING TO PRISON. NEARLY ALL THE WORST VIOLENT CRIMES ARE COMMITTED BY "GRADUATES" OF PRISONS.

TO ANYONE WHO PLACES ANY VALUE ON THE LIFE AND LIBERTY OF THE INDIVIDUAL, EMPRISONMENT IS COMPLETELY UNJUSTIFIABLE. TO LOCK UP AND CAUSE SUFFERING TO A IN ORDER TO DETER B; OR FOR C TO DEMAND THAT A BE THROWN INTO PRISON IN CASE HE INTENDS TO ROB C IS COMPLETELY UNJUSTIFIABLE ON MORAL GROUNDS, WHATEVER THEORIES WE USE TO TRY TO JUSTIFY IT.

WHAT THEN, IS THE ALTERNATIVE TO PRISON? FIRSTLY, IT IS EVIDENT THAT MERE ABANDONMENT OF THE PENAL SYSTEM WOULD IN PRACTICE BE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT OTHER LARGE CHANGES IN THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE. SECONDLY, IT IS NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND THE CAUSES OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND THE SOCIAL SYSTEMS THAT GIVE RISE TO IT. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS AN ATTEMPT TO DISCUSS SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS.



Call to behead killers

MR JONATHAN GUINNESS, chairman of the Monday Club and defeated Conservative candidate at the Lincoln byelection, called yesterday for the return of the death penalty and for it to include another category of crime - incitement to murder.

Mr Guinness told delegates at the NACRO conference that he would be prepared to carry out the execution himself "if it was my duty to do so." On the method of execution, he recommended anaesthetic pills, followed by any other form of execution, including beheading.

"Only by extending the power of the State can we produce a good society," he said. The priority in penal reform was to remove from society the people who were dangerous. "Prison is no good because they just become prefects there."

A spokesman for NACRO said later that Mr Guinness's outspoken opinions were "totally alien" to the views of the organisation and were greeted by jeering.

ORGANISATIONS WORKING FOR REFORM AND ABOLITION OF PRISONS

P.R.O.P. (PRESERVATION OF THE RIGHTS OF PRISONERS)

NATIONAL OFFICE: 96 VICTORIA AVE HULL (TEL HULL 400232)

R.A.P. (RADICAL ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON)

104 NEWGATE STREET, LONDON EC1 (TEL 01-600-4793)

The Ugly

WHO ARE THE CRIMINALS?

THE OLD-STYLE MORALISTS WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE THAT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ARISES FROM SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS - THAT PEOPLE WHO COMMIT CRIMES DO SO BECAUSE 'THE DEVIL IS IN THEM'. THIS GIVES RISE TO THE IDEA THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE INSTINCTUALLY ANTI-SOCIAL, AND THAT SOCIETY CAN BE DIVIDED INTO GOOD AND BAD - A MAJORITY OF 'HONEST, LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS' AND A CLASS OF 'RUTHLESS CRIMINALS' WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ANTI-SOCIAL ACTS. THIS 'US-THEM' DICHOLOGY ALLOWS THOSE WHO CLASS THEMSELVES AS 'GOOD' TO HAVE A SEVERE ATTITUDE TO THOSE WHOM THEY CALL 'BAD'. ALSO, OF COURSE, HAVING A SET OF VALUES, DESCRIBED AS DELINQUENT, TENDS TO REINFORCE THE SO-CALLED 'GOOD'.

A FURTHER CORRUPTION OCCURS WHEN THE TERM 'SOCIETY' IS USED AS A PHANTOM OR BOGEY TO UPHOLD CERTAIN VALUES - FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN POLITICIANS PRETEND THAT THE 'SILENT MAJORITY' SUPPORTS THEM, OR THAT 'SOCIETY' NEEDS TO BE PROTECTED FROM CERTAIN GROUPS.

WHEN DIFFERENT PEOPLE TALK ABOUT A THING, THEY USE DIFFERENT WORDS TO DESCRIBE IT, AND OFTEN SEE IT IN COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WAYS. WHAT AROUSES INDIGNATION IN ONE PERSON MAY BE ACCEPTABLE TO SOMEONE ELSE. HENCE WE HAVE A WORKING-MAN EXPRESSING A MILD REACTION, OR EVEN APPROVAL, TO, SAY, "LIVERPOOL KOP RULE OK" PAINTED ON A WALL, WHEREAS A MEMBER OF ANOTHER CLASS MIGHT BE OUTRAGED AT THIS 'DESECRAT OF PROPERTY'.

THIS IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO A DISCUSSION ON ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, SINCE THOSE WHO DECIDE WHAT IS ANTI-SOCIAL, AND WHO MAKE OUR LAWS, HAVE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SET OF VALUES FROM THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO LIVE UNDER THESE LAWS.

YET THIS SAME CLASS OF PEOPLE THAT DECIDE WHAT IS ANTI-SOCIAL AND CRIMINAL OFTEN BEHAVE IN EQUALLY, IF NOT MORE, ANTI-SOCIAL WAYS. THEY MAY CAUSE HOUSE PRICES TO DOUBLE BY SPECULATION; THEY MAY MAKE FORTUNES OVERNIGHT FROM HUGE MERGERS THAT THROW THOUSANDS OUT OF WORK; THEY MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WASTING BILLIONS ON USELESS 'DEFENCE' EQUIPMENT, POURING TONS OF POISONOUS CHEMICALS INTO THE AIR AND THE RIVERS, OR KNOCKING DOWN HOMES TO BUILD OFFICE BLOCKS THAT WILL LIE IDLE FOR YEARS: THESE ACTS ARE ALL CRIMES INFINITELY GREATER

THAN STEALING FROM A SUPERMARKET OR PILFERING AT WORK, BUT THEY ARE USUALLY ACCEPTED AND EVEN APPROVED BY MEMBERS OF THEIR SOCIAL GROUP.

SO THE STOCKBROKER MAY HAVE THE SAME MOTIVES AS THE JEWEL-THIEF, AND THE BRUTAL PRISON-WARDER THE SAME AS THE VIOLENT CRIMINAL HE IS PAID TO GUARD: IT'S JUST THAT THEY'VE FOUND AN UNPUNISHABLE WAY OF EXPRESSING THESE DRIVES. BUT THE PROBLEM REMAINS - WHY DO PEOPLE BEHAVE ANTI-SOCIALLY?

TAKE A WALK. LOOK AT THE GIANT FACTORIES, THE HUGE BLOCKS OF FLATS, THE CARS SHRIEKING ENDLESSLY ALONG THE ROADS. WHERE IS THE INDIVIDUAL IN ALL THIS?

'SOCIETY' SURELY MEANS A COLLECTION OF INDIVIDUALS UNITED IN SOME WAY. WHEN THIS BREAKS DOWN AND SOCIETY BECOMES THE MARKET, THE NATIONAL BUDGET, OR THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, WHEN PEOPLE BECOME UNITS OF CONSUMPTION OR PRODUCTION, WHEN WE FEEL DWARFED BY HUGE INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND CENTRALISED GOVERNMENT, WE NO LONGER HAVE A UNITED GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS - AND THE IDEA OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR BECOMES MEANINGLESS. ALIENATED, FRUSTRATED, POWERLESS AND LONELY, NOT KNOWING WHERE HE FITS IN, THE INDIVIDUAL NO LONGER FEELS BOUND BY 'SOCIAL' IMPULSES.

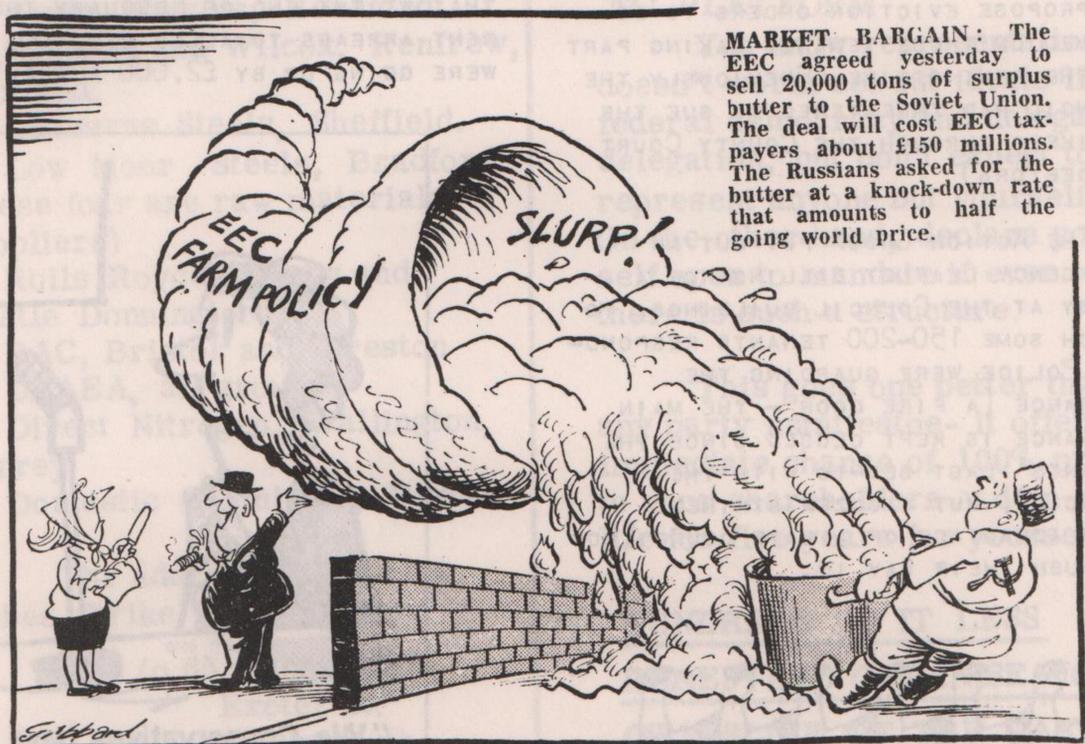
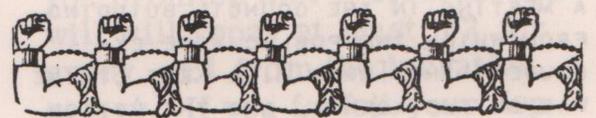
ALL THIS IS OF COURSE AGGRAVATED BY THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM THAT IS BASED ON DEPRIVING ONE SECTION OF THE POPULATION IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A WEALTHY SECTION.

PUNISHABLE DELINQUENTS USUALLY COME FROM DEPRIVED BACKGROUNDS. FAMILIES ARE NON-COHESIVE AND OFTEN BROKEN, AND MANY ENGAGE IN DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR, ESPECIALLY VANDALISM, SIMPLY AS AN ESCAPE FROM HOME PROBLEMS.

SCHOOL IS A FRUSTRATING EXPERIENCE FOR THE DEPRIVED CHILD WHO IS UNABLE TO COMPETE WITH THE MIDDLE-CLASS CHILD. HE FAILS TO IDENTIFY WITH THE GOALS THAT SOCIETY SETS IN BOTH EDUCATION AND WORK, AND IS EASILY ATTRACTED BY A DELINQUENT SUB-CULTURE. HIS LEISURE IS BLOCKED - COMMERCIAL LEISURE IS OUTSIDE HIS REACH AND INSTITUTIONAL LEISURE, SUCH AS YOUTH CLUBS AND BOY SCOUTS, IS SPURNED.

IT IS A MISTAKE TO THINK THAT 'STRENGTHENING FAMILY LIFE' OR 'GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE SOMETHING TO DO' ARE SOLUTIONS - THESE CAN, AT BEST, CURE THE SYMPTOMS BUT GO NOWHERE NEAR ATTACKING THE ROOTS. PROBABLY THE ONLY GENUINE CHANGE WITHIN THE SYSTEM AS IT STANDS IS A REVOLUTION OF OPPORTUNITIES IN BOTH SCHOOL AND JOB.

HOWEVER, REAL CHANGE WILL ONLY COME ABOUT THROUGH FAR-REACHING CHANGE IN THE VALUES AND STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY. WE MUST NOW TRY TO BUILD A SOCIETY THAT HAS ROOM FOR PEOPLE, FOR LOVE, FOR CO-OPERATION AND FOR FREEDOM.



MARKET BARGAIN: The EEC agreed yesterday to sell 20,000 tons of surplus butter to the Soviet Union. The deal will cost EEC taxpayers about £150 millions. The Russians asked for the butter at a knock-down rate that amounts to half the going world price.

"Behold, the wondrous fruits of Capitalism"

KIRKBY RENTS

TENANTS OF TOWER HILL ESTATE, IN THE KIRBY AREA OF LIVERPOOL, HAVE FACED MASSIVE RENT RISES FOLLOWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "FAIR RENTS ACT". LAST OCTOBER RENTS WENT UP £1; LAST MONTH RATES WENT UP 35P-45P; AND NEXT OCTOBER RENTS WILL GO UP ANOTHER 50P. THE TENANTS ORGANISED THEMSELVES INTO AN UNFAIR RENTS ACTION GROUP AND HAVE FOUGHT A CONTINUAL BATTLE AGAINST THE ACT. THEY HAVE BEEN ON RENT STRIKE SINCE OCTOBER 11TH LAST YEAR, AS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY 'BLACK AND RED'.

THE POLICE VIOLENTLY EJECTED THE FIRST FOUR IMMEDIATELY, AND THEN RUSHED AFTER THE OTHERS WHO HAD BY THIS TIME REACHED THE FIFTH FLOOR, WHERE THE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING WAS BEING HELD. THESE EIGHT RESPONDED BY SITTING DOWN, WHEREUPON THE KIRBY BLUE BOOT BOYS DRAGGED FOUR OF THEM OUT BY THEIR HAIR; SQUEEZED THE TESTICLES OF ANOTHER; THREW A PREGNANT WOMAN VIOLENTLY AGAINST A WALL; AND ONE POLICEMAN (NO. 806) WENT SO FAR AS TO GIVE A SAVAGE BEATING WITH HIS BATON.

BY FALSIFYING THE NUMBER OF TENANTS ON RENT STRIKE (THERE WERE 751 AT THAT TIME) THE COUNCIL HOPED TO WEAKEN THE SOLIDARITY OF THE STRIKERS (THIS TACTIC IS USED BY COUNCILS IN OTHER AREAS TOO, AND THE PRESS— BOTH LOCAL AND NATIONAL — VIRTUALLY IGNORE THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WITHHOLDING RENT OR RENT-INCREASES IN PROTEST AGAINST THE FAIR RENTS ACT.)

THE HOUSING COMMITTEE DECIDED TO PROPOSE TO THE COUNCIL THAT EXISTING EVICTION ORDERS BE EXECUTED AND THAT FURTHER EVICTION ORDERS BE OBTAINED. AT THE MARCH 26TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL THIS PROPOSAL WAS TURNED DOWN AND THE COUNCIL STATED THAT NO NOTICES TO QUIT OR EVICTION NOTICES WOULD BE SERVED ON STRIKERS.

THE VERY SAME DAY BAILIFFS HAD BEEN ISSUING SUMMONSES TO TENANTS ON THE RENT STRIKE ON TOWER HILL ESTATE (THESE WERE MONEY JUDGEMENT ORDERS, NOT EVICTION ORDERS.) THE ACTION GROUP ORGANIZED A DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL BUILDINGS TO PROTEST AGAINST EVICTION ORDERS, AND WHEN THEY ASKED COUNCILLORS ABOUT AN EXPLANATION OF THE SUMMONSES, THE COUNCILLORS SAID THEY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THEM. AT THE MEETING ITSELF THE COUNCIL CLAIMED TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THESE SUMMONSES.

TOWER HILL TENANTS ARE GETTING INCREASING SUPPORT FROM FELLOW-TENANTS JOINING THE RENT STRIKE; AND WHAT'S MORE, OWNER-OCCUPIERS IN THE KIRBY AREA ARE GOING TO PROTEST AGAINST THE RATE INCREASES.



Cartoon special
SMILE— YOU'RE BEING EVICTED!

"No. 17 Bagniey St? Hold on a minute, that's my house"



"Now come on, stop messing about. You can't all be Jones of No.13"

ON MARCH 16TH KIRBY COUNCIL'S HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE HELD A MEETING IN THE COUNCIL BUILDING, FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED. THE TOWER HILL RENT STRIKE WAS ON THE AGENDA, AND THE ACTION GROUP HAD HEARD THAT WINSTANLEY, THE HOUSING MANAGER, WAS INTENDING TO PROPOSE EVICTION ORDERS TO BE SERVED ON THOSE TENANTS TAKING PART IN THE RENT STRIKE. (PREVIOUSLY THE COUNCIL HAD THREATENED TO SUE THE STRIKERS THROUGH THE COUNTY COURT AS DEBTORS)

THE TOWER HILL TENANTS ARE FACED WITH A CAMPAIGN OF LIES AND DISTORTION. AT THE 12TH MARCH MEETING, WINSTANLEY REPORTED THAT ONLY 261 TENANTS WERE ON THE RENT STRIKE YET IN THE SAME REPORT HE STATED THAT AT THE END OF FEBRUARY THE RENT ARREARS TOTALLED £75,000, AND WERE GOING UP BY £2,000 A WEEK!

THE ACTION GROUP PUT OUT AN EMERGENCY LEAFLET CALLING FOR A LOBBY AT THE COUNCIL BUILDINGS, TO WHICH SOME 150-200 TENANTS RESPONDED. POLICE WERE GUARDING THE ENTRANCE (A FIRE DOOR— THE MAIN ENTRANCE IS KEPT CLOSED SINCE THE TENANTS' LAST SET-TO WITH THE COUNCIL), BUT A DOZEN STRIKERS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF A LATE COUNCILLOR TO PUSH THEIR WAY IN.



"We Conservatives have always believed in home ownership — I personally own over a hundred and fifty!"



RTZ - a killer

The Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation is a world wide mining and natural resources company. The basis of the company's action is profit maximisation-or in ordinary terms, greed. R.T.Z. is both a product and an accelerator of the economic system which it serves.

AVONMOUTH

In 1967, The Imperial Smelting Corporation (owned by R.T.Z.), opened their £15 million continuous lead and zinc smelting plant at Avonmouth. Two years later, the Factory Inspectorate, a government department, found 50% of workers checked had "excessive" amounts of lead in their blood, and that 13% had "dangerous" blood lead levels; and these official classifications are by no means as "telling" as they could be. The result, after many high level meetings, was to close the plant for "major alterations" to make it safe.

In January 1972, after much local agitation, the T.U.C.'s Chief Medical Investigator, Dr. Murray, went to see the plant for himself, and commented that he found the worst working conditions he had seen for 25 years. Confirming this are the facts that in the same month 100 workers were suspended (on full pay we hope!) because their blood/lead level was too high; and a further 500 workers had blood/lead levels of the 'dangerous' classification.

In February 1972, the company doctor admitted under pressure, and presumably to save his own professional neck, that he had warned management about the danger, but they took no notice. Two weeks after the doctors admission, R.T.Z.'s chairman was quoted as saying "R.T.Z. policy has always been, and always will be, the necessity

to avoid endangering the health of our employees".

Also, the first few months of 1972 brought some other highly relevant facts to public notice. Dr. Nickless of Bristol University, reported that the levels of absorbed metal in shellfish in the Bristol Channel was dangerously high; these shellfish being edible. If compared to U.S. health limits, the shellfish contained a combined metal content 1,700 times greater than the maximum limit!!! He also explained that this massive overdose of metal poison could cause a disease usually known in the Far East, and called 'Itai Itai' This would be possible to contract if a man eats one shellfish only every other day. In extreme cases it would lead to the destruction of the calcium in the body, which gives strength to the bones, therefore causing them to turn to a chalk-like brittle form.

It is now openly admitted by RTZ's chief executive in Britain that, the plant's initial construction was 'skimped', and that 'corners were cut' so as to save £2 million. It also became known that this lethal process had been licensed abroad, so now it is likely to be copied in 11 other countries including Italy, China, France and Canada.

LLANSAMLET

The Llansamlet works, near Swansea in South Wales, is also admitted to be a pollution risk. The local children cannot be allowed to play in their school yard because in the past they have had violent coughing fits.

The acidic gas which the plant pushes out into the atmosphere is so strong that it rots grass and turns it brown, and even 'eats' through galvanised nails used to secure the slates; so the local houses are constantly losing slates. Local housewives know that if they leave their windows for a week, a brown sticky mess forms on the glass.

All this being true, if the gas is so strong - what is it doing to your lungs!

The plant was due to close in September 1972, with the loss of 680 jobs.

HULL

In 1968 or 69, RTZ came to own the firm of Capper Pass and Sons, of North Ferriby, near Hull, Yorkshire. The plant smelted tin, copper, lead and produced alloys with silver and other precious metals. In a local health check it was found that 25% of people living near the Works had high blood/lead levels, which was expected of foundry and smelting workers. But none of them worked at the firm!!!!

IF A LITTLE
AIR POLLUTION
IS ALL WE HAVE
TO PUT UP WITH
TO MAKE LIFE
A BIT MORE
COMFORTABLE
-I'D SAY IT'S
WORTH IT!!



rtz—continued

ANGLESEY

The Anglesey Aluminium Company (43% owned by RTZ) uses a process which pushes out a chemical called 'Fluorine' into the atmosphere. This chemical is dangerous to all types of life, and the government's Medical Research Council recommends that it should be kept away from towns etc. The Anglesey works is right next to the town of Holyhead, and the chemical fallout from its waste smoke etc. falls on the town of Holyhead, a primary school which stands a few hundred yards away, and a local population of 16,000 homes.

The process could have been made to emit only 5% of the killer chemical instead of the 1968 figure of 55%, by spending a further £250,000 in the construction stage. RTZ is a multi-national firm with profits running into the hundreds of million each year; why could they not 'afford' a mere £¼ million to safe-guard health?

Locally, this chemical Fluorine is strongly believed to be the cause of:-

- i) the chemical attack and damage to car wind-screens.
- ii) the shrivelling up or changing colour of plant and shrub life (in one recorded case, green cabbages turned red)
- iii) the residents of Rhoscolin, 4 miles away but in the wind stream from the plant, complain of coughs and throat-soreness.



A recent report on RTZ states, "On the evidence of Avonmouth and Swansea the residents have little reason to believe that their interests are properly protected by a combination of RTZ and the government's Alkali Inspectorate".

SNOWDONIA

If the Snowdonia Open Cast copper mines go into full production, it will not be of immediate danger, in the health sense; but it will tear up 8-10 square miles of National Park land. The whole reason for a National Park is supposed to be to preserve more natural areas so the industrial workers etc. can get out of the smokey, concrete jungles for a while.

RTZ will ruin Snowdonia with massive open cast workings, dams, slagheaps, ore processing plants, fleets of heavy lorries etc. RTZ not only fill you full of smoke and chemicals at work, but also destroy the clean, supposedly state-guarded countryside as well. Where do you have to go for fresh air?

RTZ AND YOU

RTZ makes big profits at the expense of its workers, local inhabitants, and the population in general. A £1 share in RTZ bought in 1962, was worth £10 in 1972, proving the very profitable nature of its complete disregard for human life.



The directors, received massive salaries for this blatant exploitation and also a large number of shares as well; and who decided on these salaries? - the board of directors. The chairman, Sir Val Duncan got £50,000 in 1971, not forgetting his shares etc., worth some £310,000; and another 8 directors each received over £20,000.

What do the workers get? They are subjected to murderous safety and health risks in the mines and smelters. RTZ kills people, kills plant life, poisons fish life, and exploits the working life of its employees.

LIBERTARIAN STRUGGLE

monthly paper of the Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchists. News and analysis of all aspects of class struggle.

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29 Cardigan Road
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Please make P.O.'s & cheques out to
O.R.A. General Fund

Nothing can stop RTZ except the working class of this country, (and the other countries where they operate) saying NO! to them, and backing it up with action. The government is scared to upset RTZ or perhaps they do not want to; as they have given it grants of tax-payers money to help in these schemes. While the Board Room bosses and the politicians talk, and talk, and talk, the working class is getting shit on again. It is time we all said NO! to RTZ and got in there ourselves, and either run the works safely, or make sure that they never run again.

If we must work to live, must RTZ make us work to die?

I strongly recommend everyone to get a copy of "RTZ Anti-Report", price 25p from C.I.S. 52 Shaftesbury Avenue., London W.1.



ACTION AGAINST TRAFFIC TYRANNY

ANYONE WHO LIVES IN LONDON OR WHO FOLLOWED THE G.L.C. ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN THE PRESS WILL HAVE REALISED THAT MOTORWAYS, 'JUGGERNAUTS' AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT WERE BIG ISSUES.

THE PARTY MANIFESTOES WERE DIFFERENT. THE TORIES WOULD HAVE MOTORWAYS "TAKE TRAFFIC PAST THE COMMUNITIES"; "JUGGERNAUTS MUST BE CHANNELLED OVERHEAD/AROUND LONDON". THE LABOUR VIEW WAS AMAZINGLY (FOR THEM) FAR-SIGHTED - WHOLESALE BACKING AND EXPANSION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, CARS TO BE PARKED OUTSIDE LONDON, SCRAPPING MOTORWAYS, AND BANNING JUGGERNAUTS. IT MUST HAVE CONTRIBUTED HEAVILY TO AID THE WEIGHT OF THEIR SUCCESS ON APRIL 12TH.



BUT LABOUR HAD NOT FULLY CONSIDERED THE PROBLEM OF PARKING OUTSIDE LONDON - WHERE, AND AT WHAT COST TO THESE AREAS? AND OF COURSE THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THE MODERN WORKER BEING A SLAVE TO HIS MOTOR-CAR (AND THUS, INDIRECTLY, TO THE CAR-MANUFACTURERS - CORNERSTONE OF BRITISH CAPITALISM).

AND YET AGAIN THEY MADE NO SCHEDULE, NO HARD COMMITMENTS; THERE WERE ONLY OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS PERHAPS.

THIS WAS CLEARLY INSUFFICIENT FOR COMRADES IN THE COMMITMENT GROUP. THEY WERE DETERMINED TO PRECIPITATE A CONSIDERATION OF THE WHOLE PROBLEM, TO MAKE POLITICIANS SHOW THEIR REAL COLOURS, AND EXHIBIT THEIR INEFFECTUALITY AND THEIR IGNORANCE OF THE PROBLEM.

IT WAS DECIDED TO TRY TO CLOSE PICCADILLY CIRCUS TO TRAFFIC ON MARCH 31ST, AND FORCE POLITICIANS TO REACT TO THE COMMITMENT PLAN AND THE CLOSURE ITSELF. THIS SCHEME RECEIVED WIDE INTEREST, AND WE ARRIVED IN PICCADILLY CIRCUS TO FIND IT SWARMING WITH BLUEBOTTLES.

AS IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE CLOSURE WOULD DEPEND ON THE FEW ACTIVE PEOPLE, NOT THE HUNDREDS OF SYMPATHISING ONLOOKERS, PLANS HAD BEEN LAID TO MAKE TOKEN OBSTRUCTIONS TO TRAFFIC.

ON THE DAY, POLICE WERE PLAYING RING - A RING - A ROSES AROUND THE ONLY GROUP IN FESTIVAL ATTIRE AROUND EROS. AT 3.30PM THE

WOULD-BE TRAFFIC-STOPPERS RAN CHAINS ACROSS, SAT DOWN, AND PUT UP NO-ENTRY SIGNS. THE RELATIVELY FEW POLICE ON THE SPOT WERE ABLE TO THWART SOME OF THE DEMONSTRATORS, AND GOT THE REMAINDER CLEARED OFF AFTER A FEW MINUTES.



THEN FOLLOWED THE WAR OF ATTRITION. GROUPS WANDERED OFF IN ONE DIRECTION, THEN SUDDENLY SAT DOWN IN THE PATH OF THE TRAFFIC. THIS TACTIC WENT ON FOR HOURS (FOR THE COST OF 13 ARRESTS ...TOTAL £135 FINES).

MOST OF THE MILITANTS WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE SHEER WEIGHT OF THE CROWD COULDN'T KEEP THE TRAFFIC OUT. NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE WERE THERE. WHAT IT DID SHOW TO ALL OF US WAS THAT YOU COULD NOT ONLY DISRUPT, BUT ALSO THAT YOU REALLY DO DIRECT ATTENTION TO ISSUES IN THIS WAY. THE PRESS DID ITS BEST TO IGNORE OR TRIVIALISE, BUT THE TELEVISION GAVE GOOD COVERAGE.

THE UNINVOLVED PUBLIC WERE HEARD, TYPICALLY, TO SAY, "AT LEAST THEY'RE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT"

THE DEMONSTRATION WAS INSPIRED BY A HARD CORE OF THEORY SUPPLIED BY THE ORGANISERS OF COMMITMENT. THE POLITICAL ECOLOGY GROUP. THEY CHOSE TO CAUSE THE UTMOST EMBARRASSMENT TO THE G.L.C. BY SETTING OUT WHAT VESTED TRANSPORT INTERESTS WERE DOING TO THE METROPOLIS. IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT SUCH A PUBLICIST APPROACH WOULD MEAN A HUGE TURN-OUT OF LORANORDA. THEY HAD TO PREVENT EVEN A TEMPORARY CLOSURE!

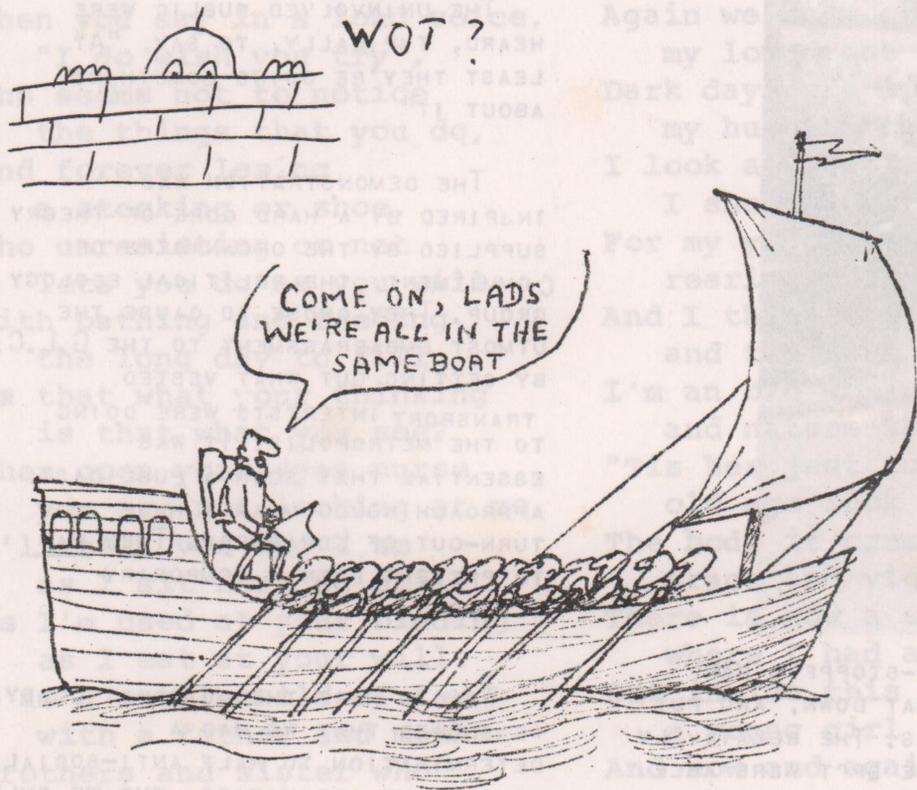
WE DID HURT THE MOTORIST LOBBY, WE SHOWED THAT WE HAD A DETERMINATION TO HALT ANTI-SOCIAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES, BUT WE ONLY THREATENED THAT WE HAD A CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

STRIKES AND MENTAL ILLNESS

THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF STRIKES AND GENERAL UNREST AMONG WORKERS HAS BEEN UNDER A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF RESEARCH RECENTLY. IT HAS NOW BEEN FULLY ESTABLISHED BEYOND ANY DOUBT THAT BEHIND THE TENDENCY TO STRIKE LIES A SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS, WHICH HAS TO BE TREATED BY PSYCHIATRIC TECHNIQUES. THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM WOULD BE TO OPEN PSYCHIATRIC UNITS IN EVERY MAJOR CORPORATION WHERE THE WORKERS COULD BE SCREENED FOR MENTAL FITNESS.

Kenneth Robinson
British Steel Corporation
33 Grosvenor Place, London SW1

-Management in Action
November 1972



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A RICH MAN HAD A PIECE OF LAND ON WHICH A MULE WAS PASTURED. "I SHALL YOKE YOU TO THE PLOUGH", SAID THE MAN TO THE MULE, "AS I AM GOING TO MAKE A MELON-PATCH OUT OF THIS PIECE OF LAND; I AM VERY FOND OF MELONS, AND THE STALKS WILL SUIT YOU CAPITALLY FOR FODDER". WHEREUPON THE MULE ANSWERED, "IF I AGREE TO WORK UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, YOU GET ALL THE MELONS AND I THE DRY STALKS: I SHOULD BE WORSE OFF THAN NOW, WHEN I HAVE THE FRESH GRASS. NO, THAT I SHALL NOT DO!" "HOW STUPID YOU ARE," REPLIED THE MAN, "YOUR FATHER HAD NEVER ANYTHING BUT THISTLES TO EAT, AND YET HE WORKED 16 HOURS A DAY, AND OFTEN MORE, WITHOUT GRUMBLING." "TRUE ENOUGH", RETORTED THE MULE, "BUT YOU ALSO KNOW THAT MY FATHER WAS AN ASS".

FROM THE SHEFFIELD ANARCHIST
 OCTOBER 4TH 1891

'I sit on a man's back choking him and making him carry me and yet assure myself and others that I am sorry for him and wish to lighten his load by all possible means—except by getting off his back.'
LEO TOLSTOY

THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF ANCIENT AND MODERN STATES IS MERELY A SERIES OF REVOLTING CRIMES

—MIKHAIL BAKUNIN



Black Flag ORGAN OF REVOLUTIONARY ANARCHISM.

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This issue of 'Black and Red Outlook' was produced by Sheffield anarchists and lumpen-proletariat (with a little help from our friends) under the Incredible Rotating Editorship system. We've heard that it's the monthly paper of the Anarchist Syndicalist Alliance, whatever that means, and if anyone else is stupid enough to want to write for it, they should get in touch with the co-ordinator:

Dave Bell
559 Didsbury Rd.
Stockport
Cheshire

This pretentious group suggest that if you want to part with any of your hard-earned cash to support their seditious activities, you should send it to the treasurer,

Ann Roberts
118 Albert Ave
Prestwyche
Lancs

All criticism of this issue, together with summonses for infringement of copyright and any other boring correspondence, should be sent to the secretary,

Kathy Perloe
3 Grange House
Highbury Grange
London N5

Praise etc to:
4 Havelock Square
Sheffield 10

where further copies of this issue can be obtained (pay what you like, remembering that it costs 5p to produce and 2½p to post).

The Industrial Network is a list of contacts in various industries. If there's no contact in your job, why not become one?

Write to the network co-ordinator.

Notices

MANCHESTER FREE FOOD GROUP
MEETINGS:
3PM SATURDAYS AT 100 OXFORD RD.
FOOD GROWING, ALTERNATIVE
TECHNOLOGY, RECYCLING

SPAIN - THE FORGOTTEN RESISTANCE

A FILM SHOW AND TALK ON
THE LIBERTARIAN RESISTANCE
MOVEMENT IN SPAIN BY MIGUEL
GARCIA.

TO BE HELD ON MAY 10TH
AT THE ARTS THEATRE CENTRE,
COLEG HARLECH, HARLECH,
MERIONETHSHIRE, N WALES.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS,
CONTACT G BRIGGS c/o COLEG
HARLECH

We invite Working Men to inform us of all cases of Sweaters' oppression and Landlord Robbery which come to their notice, so that we may place such acts before our readers, and place the authors of them in the Pillory of our columns.

*This notice first appeared in the
'Sheffield Anarchist' of 1891*

Film

WATCH OUT FOR A FILM GOING ROUND AT THE MOMENT CALLED "BOXCAR BERTHA". LIKE THE FILM "JOE HILL", IT IS SET IN THE RADICAL PERIOD IN THE UNITED STATES DURING THE DEPRESSION BEFORE ROOSEVELT'S "NEW DEAL". BERTHA HITS THE ROAD, TRAVELLING BY HITCHING LIFTS IN RAILROAD CARS, AND ON HER JOURNEY MEETING WITH THE OUTLAWED UNION MAN AND OTHER ANARCHIST INDIVIDUALS. THEY GET INTO SOME INTERESTING ADVENTURES WITH PRISON OUTBREAKS AND ROBBERIES - AND THERE'S A REALLY GOOD BLUES SOUNDTRACK.

GROUP ADDRESSES

BATH
3 ABBEY STREET
BATH

BRIGHTON
29 ST. MICHAELS PLACE
BRIGHTON

HARLECH
R LONG
COLEG HARLECH
HARLECH
N WALES

LEEDS
21 KELSALL TERRACE
LEEDS

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3 GRANGE HOUSE
HIGHBURY GRANGE
LONDON N5

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35 PRIORY RD
SOUTHAMPTON

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INDUSTRIAL NETWORK CO-ORDINATOR & BUILDING WORKERS

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127 HAMILTON RD.
MANCHESTER

ENGINEERS

R HICK
9 HILLCOURT GROVE
LEEDS 13

ROAD TRANSPORT

T WEBB
c/o 3 EAST MEDWAY
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487 CUMBERLAND ST.
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MANCHESTER 16

EDUCATION

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WHERE WE STAND



ANARCHIST SYNDICALIST ALLIANCE

Our aim is to aid in the creation of a free society by any means consistent with this end.

By free society we mean that society in which there is no coercive authority; no civil service or bureaucratic machine, no political or other vested interest group, which by wealth or physical strength, can ever be in a position to tell anyone else what to do, and then by any kind of force make obedience mandatory. Therefore, each person will decide what course their life and activity takes in conjunction with others.

THE CLASSLESS SOCIETY

In order to achieve this free classless society we organise for social revolution in groups based on friendship and solidarity. These groups are free from any central control, and are built around a geographic location, organising both at the place of work and in the community.

We reject all parliamentary activity, as this perpetuates the repressive machinery of capitalism and the state, and advocate direct action of the people themselves as the only way to achieve lasting gains, leading ultimately to the society of free people capable of using their own initiative.

DIRECT ACTION

Since direct action on the part of the individual often produces only partial and inadequate results, it is necessary for us to act collectively. We advocate that the workers organise themselves into syndicalist unions, free from the craft divisions and bureaucracy of today's trade unions.

PROPERTY AND EXPLOITATION

The trade unions seek to be permanent wage bargaining institutions, nationally capable of little more than keeping decision making out of the hands of the rank and file, and their own pockets well lined at the same time.

Syndicalists see no value in the idea of 'A FAIR DAY'S WAGE FOR A FAIR DAY'S WORK' but demand the abolition of the wage system, which widens rather than reduces the gaps between workers.

We demand the destruction of the property relations of existing society, property relations which lead individual workers to talk about 'my factory' when they don't even own the grime beneath the benches. Property relations which enable big corporations to throw thousands of workers out into the street at the whim of an economic system that promotes the existence of wealth and poverty side by side, dependent on a 'pool of unemployment'.

SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION

With geographical groups confederated, and workshop committees growing from these, the committees will be confederated also, into industrial syndicates. Such syndicates will not be wasting time in lobbying M.P.s nor asking for affiliation to the Labour Party or the T.U.C., nor will they be agitating for national negotiating rights. Our aim is to destroy the crippling power structure of the present society, not to compromise with that which binds us in chains. The aim of the syndicates is to have the ability, through the knowledge and experience of the workers who form them, and through their own strength and solidarity, to lock out the bosses and administer production and distribution on behalf of the community which they are part of. All industrial syndicates will combine and co-operate as a confederation of labour.

INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION

The reconstruction of industry begins and ends at the place of work. It begins with organisation and ends with workers' management via rank and file direction of working hours, conditions and what is produced, for the good of society as a whole. As seen from the present set-up, the job gets done in spite of the boss not because of him, despite what they would have us believe.

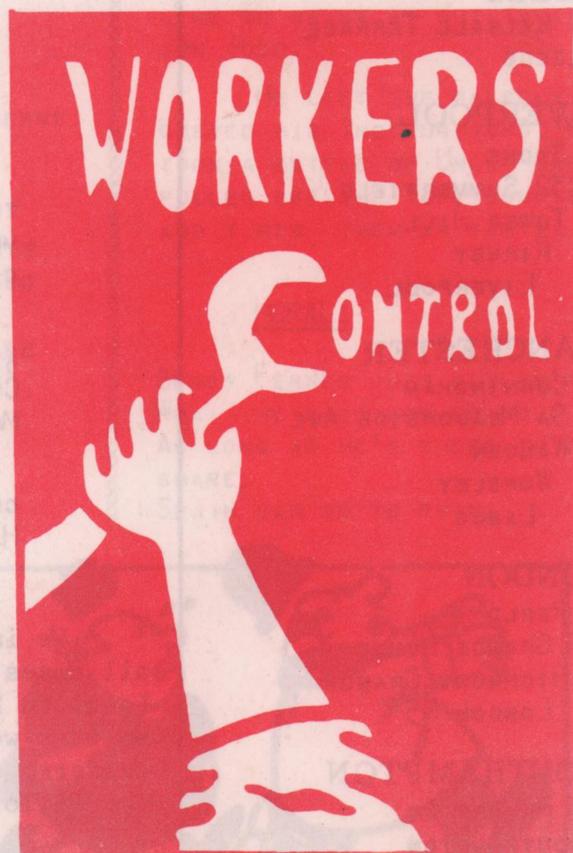
In view of the Industrial Relations Act, we urge all workers to build and strengthen their own autonomous shop floor organisations and to break away from the authoritarian parties who have blocked progress and freedom for decades.

As the geographical groups confederate to this

end, so will the industrial syndicates controlling and co-ordinating the whole economy of society. With production thus freed from the greed of those who now control our lives with their power and might, born of accumulated wealth, the energies of labour will be directed towards the satisfaction of human needs. With advances in technology providing the ability to control machinery better, and with no fear of economic privation, not only will the four-hour day be possible but we will be closer in time to the abolition of mundane and dull work itself. We don't want a world where the probability of dying from hunger has been exchanged for the certainty of dying of boredom. With no capitalism and no state, mankind will be freed from the necessity of authoritarian attitudes; fraternity and solidarity being the guidelines towards the free society.

Today we must combat the authoritarian encroachments of the state and capitalism. We must combat those who seek to mystify us, and fight those who would have us chained to the benches of their ideologies. Not with idle threats and empty minds,

but with the strength of a working-class united in full understanding of the aims of the free society, building now through our words and actions the new society in the shell of the old.



POWER WORKSHOP, LONDON