

BRISTOL D.A.M. FIGHTING BACK

No 2 - Jan/Feb '87

C.P. COMPLETELY POINTLESS

RESTART IS THE LATEST JOKE circulating the country at the moment. As usual the comedian is the Government who in previous years have produced some classics, such as YOPs, YTS and of course Community Programme.

Restart, just like C.P. is another 'con' to adjust the unemployment figures; a few thousand more off the list and into work (sic). Of course you have a variety of work places to choose from, all part time/temporary and low-paid. Basically, just a new formula to condition people to low pay while giving the image of 'hope' and no more idle days on the dole.

As the State gets more desperate to find new ways of keeping people happy over unemployment, it tightens the noose around the neck of every low-down scrounger on State Benefit. Restart is just a step forward in forcing people to work - get a job, or face a cut in money!!! Backed up by glossy, trendy adverts on T.V, the Government hopes to attract people to crap like 'JOBCLUB' - unpaid, full-time job searching.

I was taken off the dole list by getting on a C.P. scheme. I ended up £17 per week better off, but after taking off rent/bills etc was left basically with dole. The scheme I was on wasn't just a farce, but an infringement on every worker's intelligence. The site was run by Bristol Council - the site supervisor, on 3 times as much pay as I was, sat back, gave orders and sucked up to head office. Next up the management tree are the Council Staff, who visited us now and again for "well done, good job, keep it up" comments, underneath knowing you're just a number in their book. No-one listens to you, workers have no say over what's good for the community, even though they're part of it - SHIT POINTLESS WORK, FOR SHIT PAY!!

I would have left after 3 months, before rigormortis set in, but if you leave a C.P. you don't get dole for 12 weeks.

Nothing ever appears in the papers about what really goes on, on these schemes. The YTS is portrayed as a vision of the future, young school leavers joyfully being trained in new technologies. BOLLOCKS... more like forced labour camps of the 30s. Kids becoming slaves for a pitiful £25/week.

Work experience is going to be pushed down our throats for years to come. The use of threats and intimidation to force people onto a scheme will continue. At one end of the scale you have the patronising middle class graduates lecturing us about working for the community, the value of work etc, at the other end the DHSS threaten to cut off your social security if you don't get a job.

The Job Training Schemes are simply glorified conscription schemes.
STUFF 'EM!

...AND THEN HE SAYS,
'ARE YOU GOING DOWN THE
JOBCLUB THEN?'



Expose your C.P. scheme, your non - training scheme, your 'boss' etc etc, and tell all to; Bristol Direct Action Movement, c/o 37 Stokes Croft, Bristol 2.

DIVINE RIGHT?

OUR SOURCES TELL US that workers on the Community Programme run by the Churches Housing Association are getting seriously pissed off, on account of being seriously ripped off!

For a long time now C.P. workers employed as manual labourers to re-decorate and renovate Churches' decaying properties, have been unimpressed (let's say) by the princely weekly wage of £48, not to mention their working conditions - the damp, decayed, rotting state of many of Churches' houses has to be seen to be believed.

However, all this is par for the course for C.P. workers, most of whom are well aware that even by the standards of the low-paid wage slavery that is the norm in Britain today, they are extra exploited. Churches are notorious for banning their C.P. workers from joining a Union. The latest case though of management taking liberties with workers' rights really takes the biscuit.

Management corruption is nothing new of course, everyone knows that raking off a percentage of C.P. funds is common practice, but at Churches, the workers have been told to carry out repair work on the managers' own houses. This is not in the contract and needless to say is unpaid. It shows clearly, that while job schemes aren't proper jobs (they're temporary and badly paid) this isn't the only problem.

Workers will never have rights, until they have the power to control their jobs. This means workers democratically organising their own industries, for need not profit - this is workers' self management. Given the drastic state of Bristol's housing stock, renovation is badly needed. It can only be properly run by the people who know at first hand what bad housing is like, working class people. This society fails to provide proper housing, not because management is corrupt and incompetent (though many of them are) but because it isn't intended to.

PRODUCTION FOR NEED NOT PROFIT!

WORKERS' CONTROL FOR MORE OF THE
GOOD THINGS IN LIFE!

IT'S FOR YOU...

BRITISH TELECOM ENGINEERS ARE NOW INVOLVED IN THE MOST BITTER DISPUTE WHICH THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY HAS EVER SEEN.

Fighting a management which would like to be rid of Unions altogether and who would see Saturday working and compulsory overtime as the "normal": THE ENGINEERS NEED YOUR HELP!!!

.... SIMPLY DIAL 0 from any phone, on the hour, every hour.

It will cost you nothing, but it will put the telephone network under severe pressure and be an effective demonstration of your opposition to a macho management, determined to undermine basic Trade Union rights...

DIRECT ACTION AND SOLIDARITY
WINS STRIKES!!!

A.T.A. SMITH!!

THE ONLY REASON for going on an "Avon Training Agency" course, is that you can pick up quite a few quid on 'EXPENSES'.

It goes almost without saying, that compared to the £1000 plus which you get for running an A.T.A. scheme, the expenses only add up to a few crumbs. However, we believe that we've found someone who has cracked that particular problem.

So let's take an example of A.T.A. training; that well known training course "XARIOUS". Most Xarious training is done by a seemingly endless supply of out-of-it Hippies and concerns I.T. (that's computers to you and I). The quality of the training was (surprise, surprise) useless!!! But putting that aside, consider how the courses were set up and run.

Most A.T.A. courses are padded out with the names of non-attending close personal friends of the people running the course. This ensures that enough names are on the register for the A.T.A. to pay up.

Xarious went several stages further and made up the names of non-existent people to attend non-existent courses. ONE THOUSAND POUNDS, for the price of a few stamps isn't bad! Xarious' next move was to stop paying the tutors who were running the few legitimate courses that do take place. Yet more money for Xarious, who have managed to hold on to all the A.T.A. cash.

Now this just isn't playing the game, however it's all a bit late for the parasites at the A.T.A., who even as they scurry to hide the mess are finding their own positions under threat. Rather than the Manpower Services Commission moving their money via the A.T.A., we hear rumours of direct funding in the shape of the new "Job Training Scheme". This is seen as an adult Y.T.S., with yet more wonderful 'skilled training for life',... "This is a telephone, this is a postage stamp,..." etc, etc.

At the moment it isn't clear if the J.T.S. will be compulsory, or just part of the current 'Restart' farce. What is clear, is that the 'Job Centre' is no longer just a 'Joke Centre', it's becoming a very sick joke indeed. No longer is it the place you visit to look for a job, rather it's the place you are ordered to go, to be forced onto the latest "Scheme", in a bid to lower the unemployment figures in the run up to whatever election is in the air.

Remember, whether they're 'lefties' or Tories, your Boss or the Manager of your job scheme -

- They're all PARASITES!

let's get them off our backs!

DIRECT ACTION FOR WORKERS' CONTROL!!

BLOODY SUNDAY

FEW PEOPLE IN BRITAIN KNOW OF THE BASIC REASONS FOR THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN NORTHERN IRELAND- FEW CARE!

The disgusting, cesspit-religious politics of Northern Ireland have been thrown together by the British Government for the last 6 centuries!

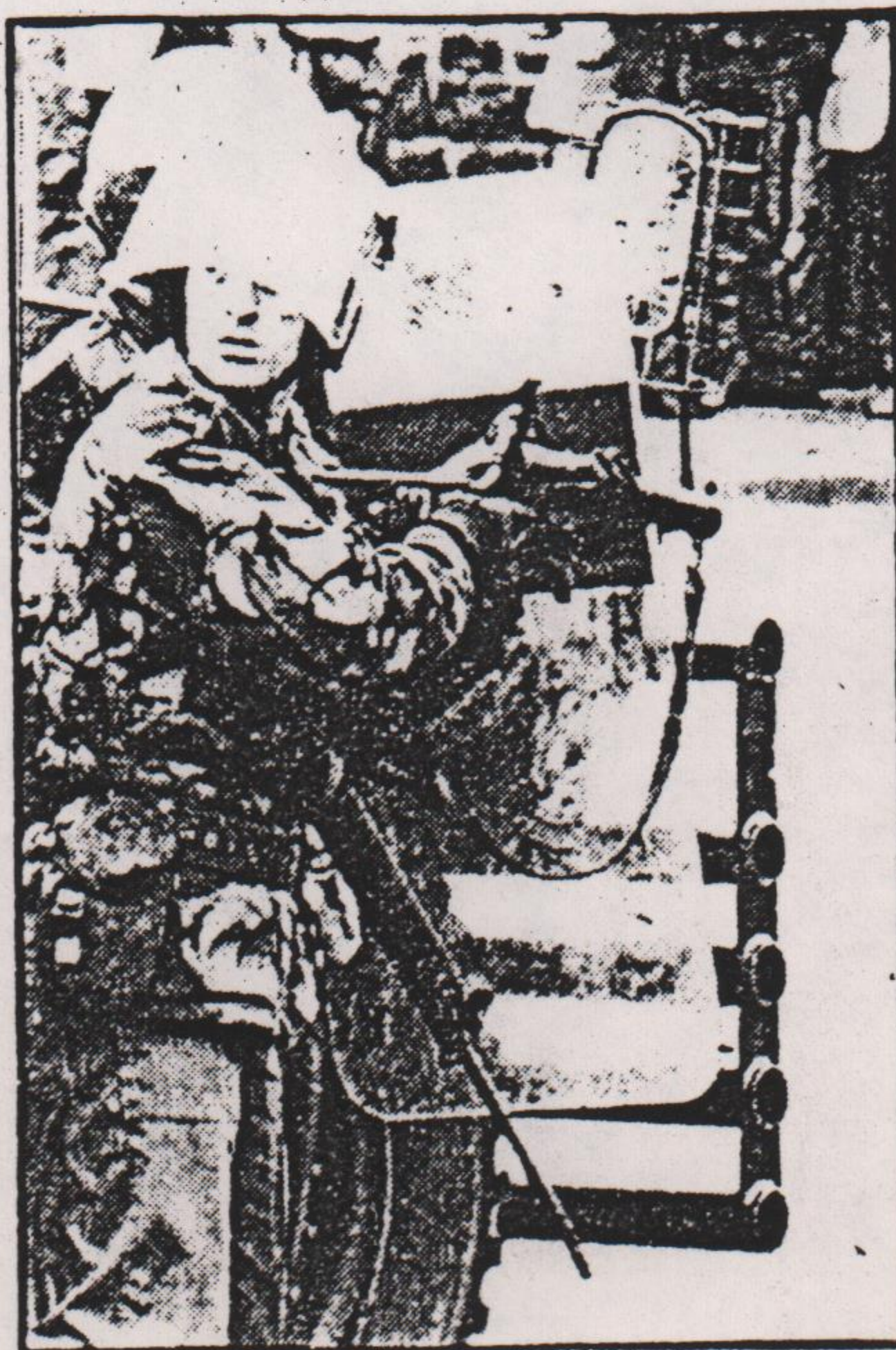
As with struggles and politics throughout history, the Irish people were fucked about in the name of Land, Profit and Colonies. These, not religion, are the reasons for the current WAR in Ireland. Religion is the war-lords' tool to split the Irish working class and continue the state of slavery.

Not to say that the Irish have ever been afraid of fighting back. During the 1930s, Ireland saw unemployment riots, Catholics and Protestants fighting the system together. The 10s and 20s saw waves of strikes across religious camps. All this was too much for the Protestant (British) establishment & their servant, the Catholic hierarchy. They intensified sectarian divisions to break the back of the working class movement.

It was not until the 1960s that the country came alight again. In 1969 the Brits moved in and were initially welcomed by the Catholic population as some protection from the Protestant paramilitary Police who had drawn up lists of Republicans and Catholics for internment. On the 30th January 1972 it became clear that the Brits wouldn't be protecting anyone except the status quo, this was BLOODY SUNDAY! An entirely peaceful civil rights demo of 15000 people against internment, was fired on by British Paras killing 13 Catholics, wounding 29.

Paramilitary holds on the population of both sides needs to be eradicated now. The British presence is the reason why they still remain, that and the fear promoted by the Church on both sides. British people should stop saying that Irish politics are too complicated for them to understand and start refusing to send 'their boys' to Ireland to shoot, maim and kill innocent people.

GET THE TROOPS OUT NOW!!!



I can arrest you if you are.....

.....black, Irish, lesbian, gay, young, a punk, a skinhead, long-haired, a trade unionist, a peace campaigner, a political activist, a woman without a handbag, a person driving an old car (particularly a Ford Cortina or a Morris Minor), a black person driving a flashy new car, anyone riding a motorbike.....

and hold you in a police cell for 4 days before I charge you.

PUBLIC ORDER & YOU

THE PUBLIC ORDER ACT.

ON THE 1st JANUARY 1987, A BILL CAME INTO EFFECT WHICH TAKES AWAY A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT: - THE RIGHT TO VOICE YOUR OPINION!

The Act is called the Public Order Act and with these new laws you can be arrested for organising or participating in a demonstration without Police permission.

Even if the Police do give you permission to demonstrate, they can dictate to you; the time, location, duration and size of the demo. They can do this whether it's at a factory, a shop, an embassy, a public place or even if you're demonstrating in favour of a zebra crossing.

Organisers of banned demonstrations now face 3 months imprisonment and a £1000 fine, as well as having to pay the cost of policing. Taking part in a banned demo, now means you can face a £400 fine.

SPONTANEOUS DEMONSTRATIONS ARE NOW ILLEGAL! These new laws will also affect pickets and demonstrations at the work-place. They are the clearest possible sign of the increasingly militarised, centralised and authoritarian attitude of the British Government towards the working class.

After the Great Coal Strike of 1984/5, Dave Douglass the NUM branch delegate at Hatfield Main Colliery near Lancaster, wrote a pamphlet about the role of the media in the strike*. He wrote,

"Oh yes 1984 arrived and peoples' minds have been seriously interfered with, though a lot of people sadly don't yet realise it."

After the 1987 Public Order Act, how can we avoid realising it?

*This and other D.A.M. pamphlets are available from Full Marks Books 37 Stokes Croft Road, Bristol 2.

To find out more about the Act, contact Campaign Against Police Repression, 83 Blackstock Road, London E4. Tel'-01.881.2938