

IWA Northern Sections Conference

40 delegates of the Northern European sections of the IWA met in London on April 6-7th at Hackney Labour and trades club.Organisations attending were the Norwegion Syndicalist Federation, Anarcho-Syndicalist Organisation(Denmark), Free Workers Union(W. Germany) D.A.M. and also participating the French National Confederation of Labour and a delegate of the O.U.B. the 15,000 member independant Dutch Syndicalist Union. THe Swedish Anarcho- Syndicalists unfortunately were unable to attend the conference.

Business included reports on the Danish General Strike, on analysis of the failure of the British miners struggle. Whilst the Northern I.W.A. sections pledged their continuing support for the sacked and imprisoned miners, aid to be channelled to D.A.M's National Secretary through Leeds D.A.M.TheF.A.U. plan a conference on new technology, and later this year there will be an I.W.A. conference on unemployment.

The acting General Secretary of the I.W.A.Carmen Lopez of the C.N.T. transport unio also outlined the I.W.A.'s attempts to gain new sections After the next conference Anarcho-Syndicalists in the C.O.B. Bolivias powerful union are likely to adhere the I.W.A.

The Northern I.W.A. is organising a summer camp in Denmark between July 13th and27 to which all I.W.A. comrades are invited, comrades should notifyA.S.O. six weeks before this date sending a £20 deposit.

The next I.W.A. Congress will be hosted by the French C.N.T. in September in Paris





In the wake of the miners defeat, and file conference washeld at Kellingley colliery on the 20th April come up with the goods

About 100 union delegates attended including representives of the Mineworkers Rank and File organisation and building workers Rank and File.

It was agreed that any future rank and file organisation should be made up of trade union members elected at branch level and of course unemployed group delegates. It was also agreed that a future rank and file organisation would be independant of political parties and BLOC which is geared to electing the vocally militant into the union hierarchy.A ten member steering comittee was elected to organise a larger conference for the end of the year. It meets in Bradford on May 25th.



After 13 months the strike one with a knife.But strikers go on and on... by domestics at Barking Hospwere arrested for the most ital continues with picketing fourteen hours a day.Amid rumours of secret payments Redbridge District Health so magistrates now impose Authority awarded the private picketing restrictions on top his attempt to launch a new cleaning company Crothalls a four-year contract.Four Tories that there are no cameras on the DHA voted for this, one Labourite voted against, and ten abstained. Those who abstained are just as bad as those who voted for Crothalls. In terms of cleanliness for the hospital, the decision is nonsense.No less than three independant enquiries have exposed the disgusting standards, especially in the toilets and on the wards. Infection and cockroaches are rampant. Inevitably in hospitals human waste ends up on the floor, yet Crothalls do not employ regular ward orderlies. They just wait for the complaints to build up from ward sisters, patients and visitors, then they send a team of cleaners into that area. When a DHA inspection is due Crothalls are informed and so

they get their scab workers to come in at 4.30am to smart. en the whole hospital up. The striking domestics have courage, staying-power and had hardly any consistent solidarity from other hospital workers at Barking or elsewhere, or from workers in other industries.Striking miners were one exception.NUPE and GMBATU bigwigs produced plenty air and not much else, despite the crucial nature of the issue at stake(see DA 23). Some of the strikers feel angry that their strike has not really been taken seriously by the Labour Movement^{*} because all but one of the strikers are women. Scab labour employed by Crothalls meant that the strikers could not sit at home and wait for the boss to come

begging cap-in-hand.BY NECESS-ITY there was a 24-hour, 7-day picket rota, mass pickets, nationwide speaking tours, attacks on the scab bus, heckling scabs in the town centre, disruption of shareholders

and DHA meetings, and formation of a support group. These initiatives had to be undertaken caused by the T.U.C's treachery a rank because traditional trade unionism had not and could not

It is a pity that more direct action did not take place, such as attacks or pickets on all and any Crothalls property or managers, occupations, and appeals or demands for sympathy strikes from any other groups of workers.

The police play their normal, anti-working class role during this dispute. They



Barking Hospital



around before they get heavyhanded themselves. Against all this is the

comradeship of the strikers. Not one of the original 92 has scabbed. As the saying goes "It's better to die on your feet than live on your knees". E.LONDON DAM

evil-smelling toilet that was blocked and covered in excreta which had been left in this state for five days.'





TEESSIDER REPORTS: ICI chairman John Harvey-Jones has been awarded a £2,230 a week pay rise (that's 68%)ICI made well over a billion pounds re-tax profit last year, it has been announced.ICI workers are up for their annual pay rise, but it's doubtful if the company will be as generous with them. One thing's certain: the money's there -- if there's a will to fight for it . . .

... and ICI aren't exceptonal.A leading director of rchant bankers Morgan Grenll had an annual pay rise of £37,000 (yes, about £100 a day) in 1984, while the chairman of insurance brokers Stewart Wrightson got a 37% rise of managers on pickets, including [£636 per week. The list could

.... And on the same subject, trivial incidents.Evidence has it comes as no surprise to us been fabricated by the police, to hear who's going to finance who are now very good at that, well-known union-basher Eddie Shah(of Warrington fame) in of fines.Police also make sure all-colour national daily.The presses are to be paid for by the Hungarian State Bank--so much for workers' control and international solidarity as racticed by the Marxists!



All governments, by their very nature, are anti-workingclass.Bearing in mind the European experience and the contempt shown for the miners by Neil Kinnock, can we doubt that if Labour had been in power, the last year would

building.

in their open use of troops as strikebreakers. Today in France and Spain the sister organisations of the Labour Party are in power. They too remain loyal to traditional "socialist" policies towards the working class. In France the steel industry has been savaged just as steel and coal have in Britain. In Spain, the same thing has happened to ship-

When in power last time round the Labour Party imposed a social contract negotiated over the heads of union memberships, which froze pay increases and cut workers' living standards.During the firemens' strike they surpassed the present government

Labour are in power they themselves constitute the ruling class--the last thing Labour Party betrayal of the they want to encourage then is NUM no good trade unionist a militant workforce! Look at the record of the Labour Party both in and out as syndicalists, just as we of power--they have constantly object to Labour's interferstamped on the workers, from the time the 1945 Labour Government (so lauded by the left) brought troops in to break the dockers' strike to their hostility to the miners' strike forty years

than that they pursue the dead end of a parliamentary road to socialism. -The Labour Party since its conception has bridled the trade unions with a philosophy ical funds.Obviously the based on conciliation and arbitration -- after all when

levy?YesandNO The Syndicalist concept of unionism opposes the domination by any political party of the labour movement. It calls on workers to set themselves free through economic opposition to the bosses and government rather

> should support Labour -- they are Capital's policemen.Yet ence in .unions, reducing them we object also to the Tories legislating to the unions. We believe unions should have their own "political" funds.Not to give Labour(or the SDP, for that matter) a leg-up at election time, but for union defence, for producing propaganda, for defending victimised workers, etc. We believe the unions must break away from the Labour Party, not because some other party tells them to, but because workers must realise that a unionism always kowtow- disputes.For this reason, in ing to laws, parties and government cannot defend them adequately, far less carry out Support Committees are transan offensive campaign for workers' control and liberty. Only a unionism which is democratic, decentralised and totally independant of all political parties can do that The government's ballot should be boycotted, but indiv- divide of employed/unemployed iduals can and should contract have gained great experience out of paying the levy and

still have seen the miners engaged in a struggle to save their industry, this time from a Socialist "Rationalisation"? Remember the policy of dismantling the Health Service was not begun by the Tories -- they simply followed Labour's lead. As part of the present government's Industrial Relations policy, we are now being asked to vote on whether or not unions should keep polit-Tories want the Labour Party to lose the massive finances it receives from the unions. In the aftermath of the



GC

the Labour Party.



Make The Support

Committees

Trade union militants in ing solidarity in industrial out Britain the Miners' forming themselves into general industrial dispute support committees, in the aftermath of the miners' strike.

These rank-and-file groupings, cutting across the fake of fundraising during the branches to disaffiliate from not the regional TUCs, who know able of. All syndicalists which workplaces will give solidarity to strikers. They,

> the motivation and contacts to class organisations. give meaningful support to workers in struggle.

For example, in Hull the many parts of the country are "new" disputes committee has realising the inadequacy of adopted the 2-year-old Hindles the TUC when it comes to giv- Gears strike, while by no means forgetting the plight of the victimised miners.Likewise, many towns and cities through- Crewe Miners' Support Group has become Crewe Support Group and recently held a meeting attended by 600 workers. It intends to help defend workers locally at the threatened British Rail Engineering Ltd works, and also Post Office workers threatened with "reorganisation".

PERMANENT

Such support groups are valuable in giving the solidacampaign for unions and their miners' strike, and it is they, rity trade unions are incapshould involve themselves in these ventures, pushing for their retention and developnot the union full-timers, have ment as independent working-

Industrial

What is DAM?

WHAT IS D.A.M.?

In March 1979 a number of class-struggle anarchists (including members of the Syndicalist Workers' Federation) came together to form the Direct Action Movement (D.A.M.).D.A.M. is an anarcho-syndicalist organisation affiliated to the I.W.A. and has established a network of local groups.

WHAT IS ANARCHO-

SYNDICALISM? The goal of anarchosyndicalism is the reorganisation of society on the basis of libertarian communism, which can only be achieved by the revolutionary action of the working class itself. Only the economic organisation of the workers,

not political parties can reach this objective. Anarcho-syndicalism combines the daily struggle for the economic and social advancement of the working class within the limits of present-day society with the revolutionary goal of common action by all workers to control the means of production and distribution.

WHAT IS THE I.W.A.? The I.W.A. (International Workers' Association), also known by its French and Spanish initials as the A.I.T., was founded in Berlin in December 1922. The I.W.A. is the international revolutionary syndicalist organisation, uniting workers worldwide.Today the I.W.A. has sections in 15 countries.

In the November issue of Direct Action we published an article with the historical heading "The Miners Next Step" In this article we stressed how the magnificent year long struggle of the miners, a struggle against all the forces that the state and capitalism could muster, was sustained by the solidarity of workers in other countries coming to the aid of the mineworkers, whilst the T.U.C of this country was vacilating, and the Kinnocks were more concerned about victory in a future election than victory for the miners During the strike, food, money, clothing even toys and sweets for the kids were sent by workers arround the world, many of them miners themselves.who know from their own experience the hardship, suffering and tragedy faced by those who in order to live must daily dig in the bowels of the earth.

East and West United in Struggle

These men and women of the mining communities around the world also know what a strike entails, know what it's like to see their kids go hungry, know what it's like to feel the blows of police batons, and to see their menfolk maimed, incarcerated in prisons or even killed, therefore they responded when help was needed. We said in the article that

"once the strike was won, this

This letter together with other international solidarity must information was sent to Mr. persist in a permanent organis- Scargill; we are not claiming that this is why on the on the 25th of ational form", AN INTERNATIONAL March he flew to Moscow to call have a wage system and workers UNION OF MINEWORKERS. such a conterance as advocated After this article was publibut we are saying that it must shed we began to receive letters be as a result of a growing from the mineworkers in other surge of mineworkers opinion countries, saying that they also for this need to be met that he recognised this need to cross has responded to such action, frontiers, for as the interests and in so far that he has done of capitalism crosses frontiers we applaud his action. so also must the interests of Should out of such a congress the workers cross those frontian INTERNATIONAL MINEWORKERS ers. One letter from the American UNION develop it could be a miners called for the calling magnificent step forward for of an International Congress of the whole International Workall Mineworkers, South African ing Class, a beacon to workers South American, Eastern Bloc Countries and those of the unfree in other industries and a tremendous force for world

Free World.





NO JOB-NO HOME

Private medicine has cheated the NHS out of about £60 million a year -- and that's the official version. The Auditor General has complained of "serious and persistent failures" by Health Authorities to collect income due from patients using private pay beds in Health Service hospitals -- in other words consultants have been carrying out frauds resulting in the NHS subsidising their private patients.

No wonder they can afford it -- the take-home pay of an SEN is around £67 per week, and a ward sister with five years' experience may earn only £89 weekly(compared with a London policeman under 19 who grosses £170 or so). This years pay rise will say the government be limited to 3% or less.

an attempt to save £170million. Unemployed people who are entitled to supplementary benefit have their mortgage interest paid agenda. by the DHSS, but government minis-UT has so far attracted ters are considering proposals £12million in deposits and with under any party control. that will halt this payment for current union assets totalling the long-term unemployed. Since 1979 when the Tories came^{around} £500million (not countng sequestrations) there is to power the number of jobless plenty of room for growth. home owners has risen from Alas the UT is being run 98,000 to 235,000. The idea of solely on commercial, nonending their mortgage interest political lines, and supports payments has led to opposition the whole range of capitalism's Frankenstein monster, control from the building societies, who point out that any such move would used injustices. So what much remain firmly in his own wuld be used as a major cause a dramatic increase in the financial means towards workers' THIS POSSIBILITY OF AN INTERnumber of repossessions of self-determination becomes no houses from unemployed people. more than a pillar of the Whatever happened to the establishment. Tory philosophy of everyone a HUDDERSFIELD home-owner? DAM. DONCASTER DAM



these people did not fight to hand over their power to the kremlin

Pillars of the Establishment

The role of the unions in providing actual support for the of their Kremlin masters, be structures of capitalism is nowhere better illustrated than through the vast financial res- it does not detract from what erves held in the form of union the value of an International pension funds and the like. Britain's newest Trade Union The government is considering Financial institution, the Unity hitting unemployed home owners, in Trust is yet another demonstration of the unwillingness of ITS RANK AND FILE, this means union leaders to place the rad- the incorporation of such ical use of union wealth on the principles as decentralised

peace.BUT and alas it's a big but, MOSCOW? THE SOVIET UNION? that socialist land where they have bosses, very, very, forceful bosses, a land in which the Unions must be official and serve the interests of the state a hierarchy of priviledged bureaucrats who ruthlessly use the power of the state to obliterate any who dare to oppose them, as recently witnessed in the case of Solidarity in Poland, as witnessed throughout the Bolsheviks bloody history.

the formation of an International Mineworkers Union would be readily welcomed, by the Communist Party, they would readily assist in its development, but not because they see in it a tool of emancipation for the working class but because they would see it as a possible weapon to manipulate to further the interests under no illusion about that. Even so, bearing this in mind, Mineworkers Union could be IF BUILT IN SUCH A WAY THAT CON-TROL OF SUCH A UNION IS ABSOL-UTELY VESTED IN THE HANDS OF federalism, delegation subject to recall, and above all not If this is to be the miners next step then let him take it with great caution and now if he sees the pitfalls ahead he is not going to make the mistake of building a powerful machine which can become a

hands. NATIONAL MINEWORKERS UNION IS A KEY WHICH CAN OPEN A DOOR

MAKE SURE IT IS A DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY NOT THAT OF A LUBIANKA CELL.

real working women

By women workers I don't mean solicitors, MPs and executives, whose main worry is how. to climb to the top of the tree against unfair male competition, but those women workers who take orders, not give them; whose jobs are an economic necessity and not a status symbol.No-one has a burning vocation to spend forty years behind the till in a supermarket, night-cleaning offices or packing fishfingers. This is the kind of work where women have real problems yet it is practically ignored by the trendy, Guardianreading feminists.Of course a lot of problems are faced by all women, regardless of social class--but who is really oppressed and exploited: the bored middle-class housewife frustrated because she's at home all day with the kids while her husband has expenseaccount lunches -- or the woman whose young children are at nursery five days a week because she has no alternative or battering, the unjust pension isation welding together the but to work full-time to supp- and social security rules, dis- workplace power of those ort them, not in a challenging career-type job but doing boring, poorly-paid shit-work?

we'll only go and start women that is without wealth



Working women face a whole range of problems unshared by men that better-off women can frequently buy their way out of. Our education rarely assumes that we will do anything much more skilled than office-work; the only apprenticeships girls are encouraged the system as it is, not to to take up seem to be in hairdressing(notorious for low wages).We're conditioned to accept that we'll only get low pay because we aren't worth training when we'll only go and start a family--even though lots of mothers need to take jobs precisely because of their families.We accept for the most part without question that where a married couple both have jobs the wife will be the one who does all the cooking, cleaning, housework, etc -- not just unpaid, but without the least recognition that what she has done is in fact WORK (And that work not only benefits her husband but indirectly hi employer, since working long hours for inadequate wages is far more acceptable to a worker who is waited on hand and foot at the end of the day.)Women with small children have the same problems even worse.Even if you choose to stay at home to care for them what you do is never seen to be work, or rewarded as such, although rearing the next generation of workers is surely the most productive activity of all, even keep it weak. This is why we in capitalist terms. The list of need an organisation uniting ways in which women lose out



could go on for ever -- the con- the whole class against all stantly-present threat of rape forms of oppression, an organcrimination against part-time presently in employment, with workers, unfair immigration laws, sexual harrassment... they for any reason without paid all bite sharpest on women, and privilege, not Shirley

TO HEVER BE ABLE divisive, exploitative and e

Women seek various ways of fighting back against this state of affairs. Some join single-issue campaigns(like the National Abortion Campaign, Movement demanding the right to Womens' Aid, Women Against Violence Against Women, etc) ut these are not enough, for ... the root of the problem is that movement towards a single rev- their libertarian rivals as our whole society is divisive, olutionary union, embracing all exploitative and hierarchical. sections of our class, through-You can change little bits it but while production takes place for profit, not for need you can forget about taking control of your own life. The same applies to the Unions-they're worth joining by all means and can help to improve wages and conditions or defend jobs, but eventually they each according to their ability never gain power without mass sell people out because they are committed to maintaining





one revolutionarÿ union

To eradicate sexism we need to attack and destroy its root causes.We have to recognise that capitalism --- the present system where one class produces wealth while a smaller one consumes it -- will always seek to divide the working class, pitting men against women, white against black, employed against jobless, in order to



the community support of tho work, expressing the common interests of both.

At present no such organ-Williams or Margaret Thatcher. isation exists, but recent events have shown women and outside them) uniting in such

a way; while at the same time the unemployed have to some extent organised, with the National Unemployed Workers' From fragmentary initiatives such as these could grow a

out the community, controlled only by its membership, without manipulation by political

best but the only means of and granting to each according

overturning it

amphlets and letters have played vital role in the development f the anarchist movement.But nese writers did not develop the their ideas from a position of solation; they were constantly involved in actual social cone flicts.So while anarchist theory acks a bible substitute like "Das Kapital", it has evolved from the realities of working class truggle.

In essence anarchism is a revolutionary theory that has grown men in mining communities (and from the practice of the workers' movement.Consequently it is a view of the world--and of the fight for social liberation -- as seen from the standpoint of the ppressed themselves.

Marxists have always been union membership for the jobless quick to attack anarchism on basis of its origins. Marx and Engels were first to condemn "petit bourgeois", while Lenin scribed anarchist theories as bourgeois morality turned upide-down".Yet at the same time eading Marxists -- Marx and Lenin among them -- have consistparties purporting to speak "on ently seized upon anarchist our behalf", or domination by theories and policies in ord theories and policies in order greedy, power-seeking bureaucrat to gain credibility with the Such a union would be not the workers' movement. The apparent paradox is easily explained. The creating a society, taking from authoritarian socialists could upport; they could not build such upport unless they paid lipervice to mass aspirations. Thus 1917 Lenin could be accused by s fellow-Bolsheviks of embracng anarchism. To the present day, rxist theory tries to absorb and defuse the demands of workers women, black people, gays ... all the oppressed sections of society. Anarchism on the other hand, is ot imposed upon social struggles but arises from them. Anarchists are often criticised by opponents the Left for not paying enough attention to political theory.But this misses the point that the roots of anarchism lie in the

xperience of a movement for the ransformation of society, That is ne greatest theoretical heritage could possess



Social Struggles

Tory Party's new Steal Or fascist trend Recently the media were

wallowing in reports of hooliganism at the conference of the Federation of Conservative Students at Loughborough University.Reports varied concerning the amount of damage that was actually done, ranging from £1000 to £3000.As John Selwyn-Gummer (Tory Party chairman) withdrew the party's annual £30,000 grant to the FCS and promised (yawn) an inquiry into what he called "hooliganism and sheer vandalism", the media unequivocally pointed their collective finger at the newly emerged (in Britain at least) far right "libertarian" movement as the perpetrators of this heinous crime. It seems clear now that the real cost of the damage probably didn't exceed £100.So what were

Gummer's motives in withdrawing the grant? And who are these socalled "libertarians"?

Although the new far-right .ement in the FCS delight in alling themselves "libertarians" and "anarcho-capitalists only a cursory glance at their organisation, aims and beliefs is necessary to show how little they have in common with traditional libertarian thought and practice: The politics of these groups is perhaps best summed up in one of their favourite slogans -- "If it moves -- privatise it". The foundation of their hideous vision of a future society lies in their belief that capitalism should be left to run on a free rein; that society should be geared to making money, and only to making money; that exploitation of those with elittle money by

those with most money should be actively encouraged, with an end to taxation(hence another favourite slogan:"All taxation is theft").

PRIVATE POLICE

While they oppose all state intervention and state monopolies, their greatest bugbear is intervention preventing the smooth running and progress ion of capitalism. Their call is for the privatisation of the police, the emergency services, the health service, education, the lot; their philosophy -- if you can't afford it, you don't deserve it.

This far-right element in the FCS sees South Africa as its guiding star, and although half-hearted calls for an end to apartheid have been voiced many members are to be seen proudly sporting their new "Hang Nelson Mandela" badges. Their politics then can be seen as a mixture of extreme free-market economics and fervent anti-communism. Whereas true libertarian thought begins with the premise of mutual aid, these "libertarians' stress a basic dog-eat-dog philosophy.



Gummer, worried?

What is the real strength of these fanatical capitalists? The answer is disturbing and perhaps surprising.Here in Britain they are organised from the Adam Smith Institute, a think-tank independant of any political party, run by the "godfather" of the far right, Madson Pirie. The Adam Smith Institute is a propaganda organisation producing a constant stream of "libertarian" publications, ranging from journals of current anarcho[capitalist ideas, to books and pamphlets on the strategy of infiltration, something we are all too familiar with, though we would usually associate it with Trotskyites in somewhat different organisations. This strategy is hard-hitting and aggressive but above all it is successful. The extremist take-over of the FCS was widely publicised but less well-known are the major coups in many Scottish, and East Midlands Young Conservacive grpups, as well as the Greater London YCs, the latter a major embarrasment to the Conservative Party itself.

Left Monitored

Equally disturbing are the contacts the far right have made abroad. The movement's leaders have attended dinners at the South African Embassy, and they make no secret of their contacts with right-wing guerilla groups, among them the Nicaraguan contras, the Unita forces of Jonas Savimbi in Angola, and South-Africanbacked forces in Mozambique.But perhaps most worrying are recent associations woth the American movement "Western Goals' The British anarcho-capitalist paper "Capitalist Worker" recently reported on their visit to the US as guests of "Western Goals" Founded in 1979 by Larry McDonald, this organisation aims, among other things, to develop a computer file on anybody and everybody with vaguely left tendencies -- reminiscent of McCarthyism. On their return the activists in FCS proposed at their next conference a "Student Monitoring Project". In view of their widespread foreign contacts it hardly seems far-fetched to suppose that this movement receives funds from abroad, so Gummer'stemporary refusal to fund the FCS will inevitably prove ineffectual in combatting them.



Why did the Conservative Party encourage him to' take this unprecedented action? It certainly wasn't in response to the vandalism. Two motives seem most obvious.Firstly it is undeniable that the right-wing libertarian philosophy is a natural, if extreme, extension of Thatcherite free-market policies. Is this, perhaps, a case of too much, too soon?Are these extremists giving the game away?Of course this is pure supposition, but it should not be rejected out of hand. The Conservative Party is being seen to do something, but just how much remains to be seen. Secondly, and this is fact, the moderate members of the FCS are becoming increasingly afraid of their own movement and are steadily defecting to the SDP -- not a prospect the Conservatives view lightly!

Fascists in the Commons

How seriously should we take these extremists?Very seriously. The big names in the FCS are the Tory MPs and industrialists (whose interests they represent) of tomorrow.Sixty-one of the current Tory MPs were Conservative students. It could of course be argued that student politics have always been radical, and that students do tend to mellow their views as they get older.But traditionally it has been left-wing student organisations that have been political embarrasmen to their elders, not those on the right. To what extent can we trust these far-right extremists to moderate?We can at least take it for granted that they will remain more extreme than current Thatcherites.Apart from their success in infiltrating the Young Conservatives, many of the active FCS extemists are already working for current Conservative MPs in the House of Commons. One, thing is certain. We cannot leave it to the Labour Party to combat this menace. They have already proved how utterly ineffactual they are faced with Existing Thatcherite policies. It is , therefore, up to us, as indivjuals and movements, to warn eople of this obscene progression

id to combat these "libertarians" I whatever way we see fit.We annot sit back and allow these eople to abuse the name of .iberty, and we must act now, not sait for these sick individuals to gain yet more footholds.



After two years on the dole debts had accumulated for Ian Honeyford, of Rochdale. He used up all the grant of his recently started Polytechnic course paying them off, and dropped out. Though he was penniless, the Rochdale DHSS would give him and his family nothing. So he left home home thinking that at least his wife and children would not be allowed to starve.

How he misjudged the times in which we live -- times in which bankruptcies flourish and charging orders fill the County Courts.A beano for debt collectors collectors and solicitors.All the Rochdale DHSS gave his wife was advice on how to claim maintenance from her husband in the Magistrates' court -they can get water out of stones. Even in despair Ian is a practical man; it was not in his nature to go shoplifting for chocolates and other romantic frivolities to cheer his wife and kids up.No, Ian decided a side of beef was more suitable to the needs of the moment and duly caved in a butcher's shop window to get one. But Ian had reckoned without the weight of the plate glass in the window, which falling all but amputated his hand.Later, while it was stitched back, the police accused him of burglary. Yet still at the time of

writing (almost one month after the offence)Rochdale DHSS are refusing to pay his family a penny. Tou do not have to believe in

a system of state welfare, and the degradation the system inflicts inflicts on claimants and functionaries alike, to question

a state of affairs which gives people the option to steal or starve.Nor need we politely accept accept the bad manners of the twentieth century Fagins who run the DHSS with such tightfisted aplomb that can only serve to cultivate the current crime



BB ROCHDALE DAM.

wave.

After the nine month strike by DHSS computer staff in Newcastle, which cost over

£200million to break, the government ment is radically reshaping the computerisation of social security benefits to guard against the effectiveness of similar industrial action in the future.

There are now likely to be seven computer centres, rather than the previously planned three.Along with increased decentralisation of computer centres, there are to be enlarged training programmes to ensure that there are back-up staff available to scab on any industrial action, and the introduction of more simplified operating procedures, to allow computer operators to learn and adapt more easily. DONCASTER DAM.





MAY DAY witnessed large demon-a day or two; soon, others will strations by Solidarity in Poland, despite the claims of the Polish media and the lack of news coverage in the western press. The union is as active as ever, its militants keeping shop-floor organisation together and printing literally thousands of bullet-courageous. ins. The situation is hotting A: Although an action of this up in Poland, with workers showing their hostility to the latest round of price rises.

activists of the Ursus factory, reprinted from VOICE OF SOLIDARITY #4.

WHAT WILL THE NEXT STRIKE BE LIKE?

TM: The TKK has stated that the the Union may call for a strike when the third stage of the price rises is introduced.

B: It must do this. In 1980, price rises were introduced in July. Ursus went on strike first In winter, people are then. afraid to strike.

C: It's the workers who will decide when to strike. We can provide the inspiration, but they must also be convinced inside. They've never before complained so bitterly about how difficult it is to make ends meet.

B: There's still time for all TKZ (Clandestine Factory Commissions) to be consulted. In February, we were presented by the TKK with an accomplished fact, though in the past, we'd always been asked for our advice. The strike call should be given much earlier, since news of it is slow to reach the people; two weeks before the 28th, many people even know about the didn't And another thing: strike. 15 minutes is no strike.

A: But people are so bloody afraid to strike. A 15-minute successful. strike can be However, it's best to commence morning, since if a in the worker is intimidated by the manager for two hours after coming to work, the strike may well not come off at noon.

B: But 15 minutes is no strike! It just makes the Security Service laugh to see everyone rushing off to the toilet, or to the queue in front of the kiosk. Perhaps the strike shouldn't be to get more restless, but they given a specific time period.

in, and 1980 will be join repeated. Surely that's what we're aiming for.

TM: What do you think is wiser: a 15 minute strike, or a rally as proposed by the TKK for 1 April?

B: I think a rally. In a crowd, people are more anonymous, more

nature is more risky for activists. During a short strike which has been called for earlier, the

activists just stops work like Here is an interview with everybody else; during a rally, he must be active. He must think something that will stop people before the gates, like we did on 28 February by broadcasting a Radio 'Solidarnosc' programme.



WILL WE GIVE IN ON WORKING HOURS?

TM: Your management is already making use of the new decree on working hours. How have people reacted?

A: Before the end of the shift on 13 February, the manager announced that we were to have two days off because of shortage of gas. Some said they would work normally in any case. There were disputes with the manager - he said: "It's not my decision", or: "You're here to work, I'm here to govern." This was really all the protest there was.

C: That isn't the best example. There was an exceptional freeze, and the workshops were cold. At first, many people - who weren't by any means stupid were downright pleased. It wasn't until they had to make up those free days on the Saturday that the curses came.

B: Also, in the case of Ursus, where, for example, in the Ferguson Department and the forge there is no work for weeks, those two days won't help the management.

A: In time, people are bound must first feel the results of the Then, somewhere it may last for new regulations on their own ELEMENTY REFORMY GOSPODARCETJ



I. DYSCYPLINA

DISCIPLINE



T. BODZCE ELEMENTS OF ECONOMIC REFORM INCENTIVE



TT. WYDAJNOLC PRODUCTIVITY

protest considered.

A: There is routine activity. We

collect (Union) dues - over 1,000 people pay them. About 10 allowances a month are paid out. In the past, not everyone applied for these, saying that since the Union didn't have much money, they would manage on their own. Today, things are so hard, that nobody refuses and even those who once did are now applying for overdue allowances. We help (political) prisoners' families, of course. There is distribution (of underground press). While we're on the subject - we have difficulties with 'Tygodnik Mazowsze'. We should receive 1,000 copies, but unfortunately, often get less. We organise meetings: most recently there was one with Jacek Kuron and Henryk Wujec (Adam Michnik was also to have attended.) On the anniversary of March 1968, there was an interesting meeting with]an Jozef Lipski on the subject of anti-Semitism.

C: Things aren't so good on that score. Sometimes something is achieved at departmental level, but in the factory as a whole, not much. There was, for example, much resentment at the new pay system, but it proved impossible to get together three people from every factory in order to go to the management. People are afraid. 'Tygodnik Mazowsze', No.121



SW17 7BN.



skins. Soon, the summer period will come, when people plan their weekends - they won't agree so readily then to have their free Saturdays taken away. This also ought to be exploited when the timing of the next actions is being

THE 'SOLIDARNOSC' FACTORY COMMISSIONS

TM: Are you managing to get anywhere with the management in regard to working matters?

Since January 1985 the Solidarnosc Information Office has been producing a new monthly publication VOICE OF SOLIDAR-ITY, which extends the coverage of their previous excellent monthly bulletin to cover

news of workers' struggles in other Soviet bloc countries besides Poland.An annual sub- eous strike action and nosc Information Office, 215 Balham High Road, London





IS A REPORT ON THE RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE F.A.U. (FREE WORKERS' UNION) work. SISTER ORGANISATION OF THE D.A.M. IN WEST GERMANY.

1984 saw West German workers threatened with mass unemployment and new technology. The number of unemployed rose, officially, to 2.8 million but these figures only take into account those who receive financial aid from the labour exchanges.Politicians estimate that the number will rise to 4 million, but the unions talk of over 5 million jobless

World News



Last year's strike of metal-workers for a 35-hour working week, was a significant demonstration of workers' dissatisfaction with a treacherpus trade union leader ship unopposed to the freeenterprise economy. The leaders' ineffectual approach resulted in a hesitant response to the strike call, the most militant strikers being among print and metal workers. The compromise result of a 38.5-hour week tells its own tale. The uncompromising attitude of the FAU drew attention to the organisation and resulted in metal workers in one town affiliating to it.

Our activities also included organising solidarity for the British striking miners.Local groups managed to raise 198,000 marks for the NUM. The local group in Koln (Cologne) deserve special mention for inviting twenty children of striking miners to Germany for a two-week holiday as an act of solidarity.As a result organisers from the FAU were invited to speak on radio and the regional television about our movement.

Many comraues were angereu by the refusal of solidarity by the DGB (German TUC). This feeling was expressed at a meeting in Duisburg, where an NUM representative was present FAU members and other unionists. The speakers emphasised the need for direct solidarity based on spontanscription is £12 from Solidar denounced German union leaders as traitors to their own class.A speaker from the Communist Party was the only one to be booed.Never before has the DGB received such sharp criticism

We continue to show solidarity for the imprisoned miners and their families. It goes without saying that the FAU also takes part in peace demonstrations.Our pamphlets ask all workers to refuse to collaborate with the armaments industry.

Initial preparations are no now under way for a congress to look into the future of

Our magazine Direkte Aktion is now the best-selling libertarian paper in Germany.



The First

The roots of May Day lie without doubt in the traditio- were killed and many wounded. nal pagan spring festivals oi the European peasantry.Up to the Industrial Age it was a festival of the people in celebration of spring and fertility.With the Industrial Age it eventually developed into INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY.

The origins of May Day as They were: Albert Parsons, a day of international working August Spies, George Engel, class mobilisation lie in the Adolph Fischer, Louis Lingg, struggle for shorter working Samuel Fielden, Oscar Neebe, and hours by American workers at Michael Swab.Six were German, the end of the last century. one English and one American. At a labour movement congress in Chicago in 1884 it was prop was produced to link the eight osed that the eight-hour day should be imposed by direct action from May 1st 1886. The proposal was taken up by the American labour movement and was supported by the revolutionaries.

On May 1st 1886, 800,000 workers of various trades came out on strike for the eight-hour day across the USA.Feeling was particularly strong in Chicago, a stronghold of immigrant labour and the anarchists, where 300,000 workers struck and marched through the city in a massive display of power.

Before the May Day strike action began in Chicago, a bitter fight over pay had already led to strikes and 1,500 workers being locked out at the McCormick Reaper Co factory(part of the McCormick Machine Co, now International Harvester).On May 3rd pickets at the factory tried to stop police and Pinkerton gunmen from taking the blacklegs hired in their place into the factory. The police opened fire on the strikers, killing six and wounding many. In protest at the atrocity a demonstration was called the following evening in Haymarket Square.Workers were urged to "arm yourselves and appear in full force."Speeches at the rally were given by three leading anarchists

Albert Parsons, August Spies Samuel Fielden. The protest meeting had passed off peacefully.Rain fell as the last speaker (Fielden) wound up and the crowd began to drift away, when 200 police marched in and ordered the meeting to disperse.Fielden objected that the demonstration had been peaceful and was State. about to end, but the police captain insisted.At this point eight-hour day was relaunched bureaucrat.For us it's a a bomb was thrown into the police ranks, killing one out- were called in America for May martyrs who gave their lives right (others died later) and 1st 1890. This time the move- for our class' gains in the

ice went berserk and fired into the crowd. In the fighting which ensued 20-30 workers In the aftermath of the Haymarket fighting there was a systematic round-up of anarchists, including the three speakers and other well-known figures.From those rounded up eight anarchists were eventually brought to trial for the murder of the policeman. At the trial no evidence

MayDay

with the bomb. In fact six of them weren't even present when the bomb was thrown, yet they were all found guilty by the jury of businessmen and their clerks (and even a relative of demonstrations took place all ict was a product of mediacreated public hysteria and a ernational working-class kangaroo court, with a trial which concentrated almost entirely upon the defendants' political beliefs. Appeals failed and the convictions were upheld.

Oscar Neebe got fifteen years and the others were sentenced to death.Michael Swab and Samuel Fielden had their sentences commuted to life paign involving not only anarchists but all socialists failed to save the condemned men.On November 11th 1887 August Spies, George Engel, Albert Parsons and Adolph Fischer were hanged, Louis Lingg having taken his own life the day before with explosive smuggled in to him by a fellow anarchist. For many years afterwards November 11th was commemorated Day was turned into a State by anarchists and socialists around the world, The five Chicago anarchists became martyrs, and August Spies' last words were quoted many a will come when our silence from the grave will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today!". In 1893 the imprisoned men were pardoned by the governor judge and the trial and found that the evidence had not shown that any of the eight anarchists were involved in the bombing (which may even have been the work of an

agent provocateur). The five dead anarchists had been judicially murdered by the In 1888 the fight for the

and strikes and demonstrations commemoration of the many wounding many others. The pol- ment became international, and past, and an expression of



the dead policeman). The verd- over Europe. May Day became established as a date for intsolidarity.Year after year, May Day saw huge demonstrations around the world as workers took to the streets to voice their demands and remember the Chicago martyrs.

Ironically, in North America May Day was to be abandoned by the reformist unions in imprisonment. A worldwide cam- favour of the more placid Lab- ate and impoverish the working or Day. In Britain things went the usual way. The first May Day in 1890 fell on a Thursday, ing hours without loss of pay. The reformist socialists and the majority of the labour movement under their control observed it on the nearest Sunday, only the anarchists and overnight. Even just a ban on revolutionary socialists insisting on May 1st.

In Russia, following the decay of the revolution, May occasion, and in all the "communist" countries today it is the excuse for a display of military strength and the dictatorship of the Party. time in their honour:"The time Meanwhile, in the West, May Day struggle with the full force has been absorbed as a harm- of the State ranged against less public holiday in many ed in Britain in 1978 with the left them to fight alone. In first Monday of May becoming a "communist" Poland wokers' Bank Holiday. The British Trade May Day demonstrations of Illinois, who criticised the Union movement still prefers the nearest weekend. In fact we seem to have

forgotten what May Day is about altogether.For us syndicalists (revolutionary unionists) May Day isn't simply a matter of a Saturday afternoon stroll by a handful of trade unionists through the town centre, to be harangued later by some Labour Party or TUC

life in the future. Many workers still, in 1985, are forced to work longer than eight hours a day in order to earn enough to live on.While millions who are no longer needed by capitalism are without work, those with jobs are forced to work harder than ever. The reduction of working hours remains as imperative in 1985 as it was in 1886. The only way to defeat unemployment (a tool used to intimidclass) is for the demand to go up for a reduction of work-The 35-hour week would solve the "unemployment problem" (a problem for us to be sure, not for the politicians) overtime would, if widely carried out, force the employers to take on hundreds of thousands of workers.What is lacking is the will and organisation to win these demands.

In the "Free World" last May Day the British miners had entered into a bitter them, and most of the rest of countries. This finally happen- the British workers' movement are usually met with tear gas and baton charges ... So, we syndicalists insist on a return to the roots of May Day.We'll observe it this year as best we can, and shall continue to observe it till the day May Day once again sees millions of workers all over the world streaming on to the streets to conquer their future. -





The IWA today, C Longmore . A short account of the I.W.A and its sections, 32 pages illustrated 50p.

Syndicalists will have eagerly awaited the publication of an account of the Syndicalist International, the I.W.A. However this pamphlet is a great dissapointment on three counts, its villification of independant Syndicalist movements as opposed to Anarchist led ones, its historical inaccuracy and its tendency to exaggerate.

Many Anarchists tend to triumphalism, "why not add an extra nought to make a membership figure more impressive", the I.W.A. " when in fact thus the Norwegian Syndicalist Federation is accredited as having 20,000 members at the time of the firstI.W.A congress miners to its Hull branch. (it has never had more than 3,000)

We are also told the fiction that the modern N.S.F distributes its paper Arbeiter Solidaritet free to all local unions of theL.O(Norwegian T.U.C). There are 16,000 such locals in Norway, Arbeiter Solidaritet's print run is

less than a thousand. Such exageration does not help our movement, the organization for telling lies is. on the contrary, the Communist Party.

Throughout the pamphlet the Syndicalist(called revolutionary Syndicalist here)organisations have slurs cast upon them, they are shown as ideologically backward, nationalist and as divisive within the International. We are told that the Italian Syndicalist's Union(U.S.I) "social and political awareness of their membership was not that well developed and with the coming to power of the facists were in no position to fight back". This is a grave insult to the dead of the U.S.I, contrast the truth

During the period of ever present fascist violence, the U.S.I fought hard at the side of the workers in defence of the rights of associative life. It had its halls burnt down and destroyed by the combined attacks of facists, monarchists, police, and military forces which took the Italian people back to the massacres of 1898 in the Liguria, Milan, Sicily. Its best militants were arrested shot or forced into exile. Some regional unions resisted along time Piambino isted a long time as at Piambino Genova etc.Armed workers repulsed the Fascists on more than one attack and inflicted heavy los'ses. But in the end even these Bastions of the Proletariat were crushed." Thus we see the U.S.I not beaten because their membership weren't animated by the infallible light of

Anarchism but because they were militarily crushed(even so it took 4 years of fascist rule to eradicate the union from Italy). The pamphlet claims the Workers Solidarity Alliance

of theU.S.A.as an I.W.A. section when in fact it has merely applied to the international, the success of its application still being in doubt.

We are treated to Longmores belief that the "British working class are by nature very conservative" this just after the militancy of the year long miners strike. I suppose then that the reason the Spanish working class cont many Anarcho-Syndacilists is because they are by nature (being hot blooded latins) revolutionary! On and on the inaccuracies stumble acr oss the pages culminating in the statement that the Labour movement is today controlled by the "Methodist Mafia?", but it is Syndicalism that Longmore really hates. The modern French C.N.T is stigmatized as naving certain sections opposed to the presence of any propoganda groups within this union liased closely with D.A.M. sending thousands of pounds for the The French C.N.T's membership has been (according to Longmore)"held back from involvement in the work of the I.W.A" who by? The wicked Syndicalists?

> SYNDICALISM AND ANARCHISM. We can not recommend this well produced well illustrated pamphlet to any worker wishing by Universities.i believe it to understand our ideas, it states "the Syndicalist had no long term view of the reconstruction of society" Read "The Syndicalist", paper the British Syndicalist movement at the turn of the century that disproves this idea, it is the Marxists who carp on about the lack of ideological sophistry in Syndicalism. Longmore claims that Syndicalists state there is only one field to fight on, the economic who produce the wealth of "and that the Syndicalists should come out of their factories and move into the community at large".

It may be news to Mr Longmore but Syndicalists don't need Anarchist ideology to acheive this, for example, the Syndicalist Bolivian Workers Central has family membership thus bringing the union into the community. The Dutch O.V.B syndicalist union has general unions which organise the unemployed in the community. The Frish T.G.W.U ,when syndicalist at the time of Jim Lankin, at the turn of the century, even bought a peoples park where union members families could enjoy leisure activities. Syndicalists believe that the

union is not a transient form of organisation but the way that the future society will be organised. A history of theI.W.A would be a most useful addition to our propoganda, we await its future production.

AVAILABLE:a poster specially designed to commemor#ate the 40th anniversary of Yalta It measures 15" X 12" and is in red and gold on glossy black.Send £1.50 plus 45p post and packing to Park House, 64-66 Wandsworth Common North Side, London SW18.Proceeds are to help with publicity in Britain and underground printing work in Poland.



Dear comrades, it is good that we have opened up adiscussion on the nature of power and the role of the unemployed. As far as terminology is concerned; Syndicalism may mean little to British workers at present, but is it not the job of D.A.M. to make it a household name just as the first British Syndicalists such as Tom Mann and Guy Bowman did.Comrade Bamfords preference for the phrase "Direct Actionist" is strange.Direct Action is not a coherent theory, Syndicalism 15.

Here in France Revolutionary Syndicalism is taught by our experience of work and working class life, it is Marxism which is being taught is the same in your country. Comrade Bamford cannot imagine any Anarchist analysis of a social relationship , which has a powerless party. What is the power that the starving millionsof Africa have, the old, the infirm, they have none. These people do have most to gain from a revolution but it is not they who are in a position to bring it about, it is those society those in paid employ. I would on the remarks made by the U.S.I. comrade that all the imaginative Syndicalwork to rule, are methods of withholding labour, Syndicalists will always support these methods. However I disagree with the comrade when he suggests the setting up of workers cooperatives inside Capitalism, apart from as a defence against unemployment they have no revolutionary content.We cannot have workers self-management outside of a Syndicalist society.

Best wishes, your comrade;



moverrier

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT

(1) The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation

sworn enemies of those who would take over on behalf of the workers.

(5) We believe working class to achieve this is for independent rganisation in the workplace and community and parties and trade union bureaucracies All such workers organisations must be controlled by workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers movement. Any and all delegates of such workers organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.

(6) We are opposed to all States and State institutions. The working class has no country The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all States do not exist to protect the workers of those States, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class.

(7) We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and the environmen

(8) The Direct Action Movement is a federation of groups and individuals who believe in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism; a system where the workers alone control industry and the community without the dictates of politicians, bureaucrat s, bosses and so-called experts.

I would like to know more 'about the DAM/IWA. Please send more information. I enclose a stamped addressed; envelope. NAME ADDRESS..... POSTCODE OCCUPATION ist tactics be mentions e.g. TRADE UNION

> Cut out and send to: 'DAM/IWA, c/o 223 Greenwood , Road, Benchill, MANCHESTER ' 'M22 7HB.

> Jansan and an and an an an an an an an and

------Subscription rates per 6 issues: UK & IRELAND £2.00 wish to subscribe to Direct Action. ADDRESS POSTCODE I enclose £ 'I also enclose a donation of: £ Les es est

Cut out and send to: DIRECT ACTION, Dept D.A. PO BOX 102, HULL. Cheques and postal orders should be payable to DIRECT ACTION.

IMPORTANT:NEXT COPY DATE JUNE 20th

