

BLACK FLAG

FOR ANARCHIST RESISTANCE

30p

8-11-87

POLL TAX NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE CONFIRMED

IDENTITY CARD IMMINENT

Black Flag's prediction that the Poll Tax will of necessity involve a new national identity system and greater state surveillance as well as restriction on the use of local services by the non-registered have been borne out by recent reports.

A report by the National Council for Civil Liberties warns that those who decide to evade the tax by not registering on the Electoral Roll can be traced by simple searches through local authority housing

bodies and the Rates records as well as records, say, of applications for travel passes, and addresses held by libraries, etc. In addition a confidential Scottish Office report has declared that every individual eligible for payment of the tax will be given a unique identity number and a personal algorithm (computer bar code). With the latter it is logical to assume that some kind of card will carry the algorithm - and so we have an Identity Card!

The report emphasised that 'poll tax snoopers' will need to be employed by every municipal council - at least 10,000 throughout the country. The report emphasised that 'without an army of snoopers or an official identity system it will not be possible to locate the missing millions already not on the register of electors'. The report stressed that each council will be obliged to undertake its own annual census in addition to the national census. Councils will also be 'able to check on the use of local services like libraries and swimming pools' and other amenities. Again, this is something we asserted in *Black Flag* early on in the Poll Tax campaign.

specialist bureaux (eg CCN Systems PLC) to get biographical information on individuals and households. It is proposed, however, that in future such bureaux may be invited to takeover the debt collecting work of the Department of Health and Social Security. The idea is that the National Insurance debts incurred by the self-employed will be managed by private debt collecting agencies or credit companies.

Obviously such a plan would entail these private companies having access to National Insurance records. These records contain extensive biographical information - information that a debt collecting agency would deem essential in order to pursue claims.

The handing over of the management of a certain segment of National Insurance claims to a private company fits in with current government logic but also cross-references with the developments of the Poll Tax. The link between the two is the National Insurance number, which is allocated to all persons over 16 years of

The report estimates there could be as many as five million summonses issued each year in relation to Poll Tax evasion and non-payment - this would be a five-fold increase on the number of summonses issued in relation to non-payment of rates.

'I MUST MAKE A STAND'

...says Parkhurst prisoner Martin Foran in a desperate letter - possibly his last given his deteriorating medical condition and the wall of censorship that now surrounds him.

Martin has been inside for some years, convicted of robbery to which he has always sworn his innocence. The false testimony of a policeman, not even corroborated by the victim, sealed his fate making him a victim too. Now his life is in danger due to criminal negligence on the part of the prison authorities.

...In these places solidarity from comrades helps a great deal. Right now I am having trouble with my letters. They are holding them back and withholding leaflets from me that a comrade in Manchester has printed about my case.

So now I must fight the Police, the Crown and now the prison governors. I am starting a hunger strike in protest on November 1st for three reasons:

- 1. I am innocent.*
- 2. About my illness.*
- 3. In protest at the governor withholding my letters and stopping leaflets about my case.*

The said they stopped my mail for the good order of the prison. This is rubbish. How could leaflets about my case upset the prison?

So I must take a stand on this. Please ask for letters to be sent to the prison governor in protest.

What you could also do is write to the BBC as I am trying to get Rough Justice to look into my case. So the more people write in, the more notice they will take. Their address is: John Smithson, Rough Justice, Kensington House, Richmond Way, London.

...Yours in solidarity and spirit, Martin.

In response to Martin's request a countrywide publicity campaign has gotten underway.

On Monday 2 November a picket was held outside the Prison Department section of the Home Office in London by members of the Black Cross and the Direct Action Movement. A representative from the Martin Foran Support Group formally handed in a letter of protest, detailing Martin's case, to Home Office personnel. Copies of this letter have been sent to the national press, to Amnesty International, to JUSTICE, to the British Medical Association and to the Rough Justice TV programme. Leaflets were also handed out in the street outside the Prison Department's offices.

Elsewhere supporters from the DAM and the Black Cross have been sending letters to the Governor of Parkhurst. There is also a report that a picket of Strangeways Prison was held by the DAM in support of Martin.

Support and interest in Martin's case is growing.

Please write to the Governor, HMP Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX.

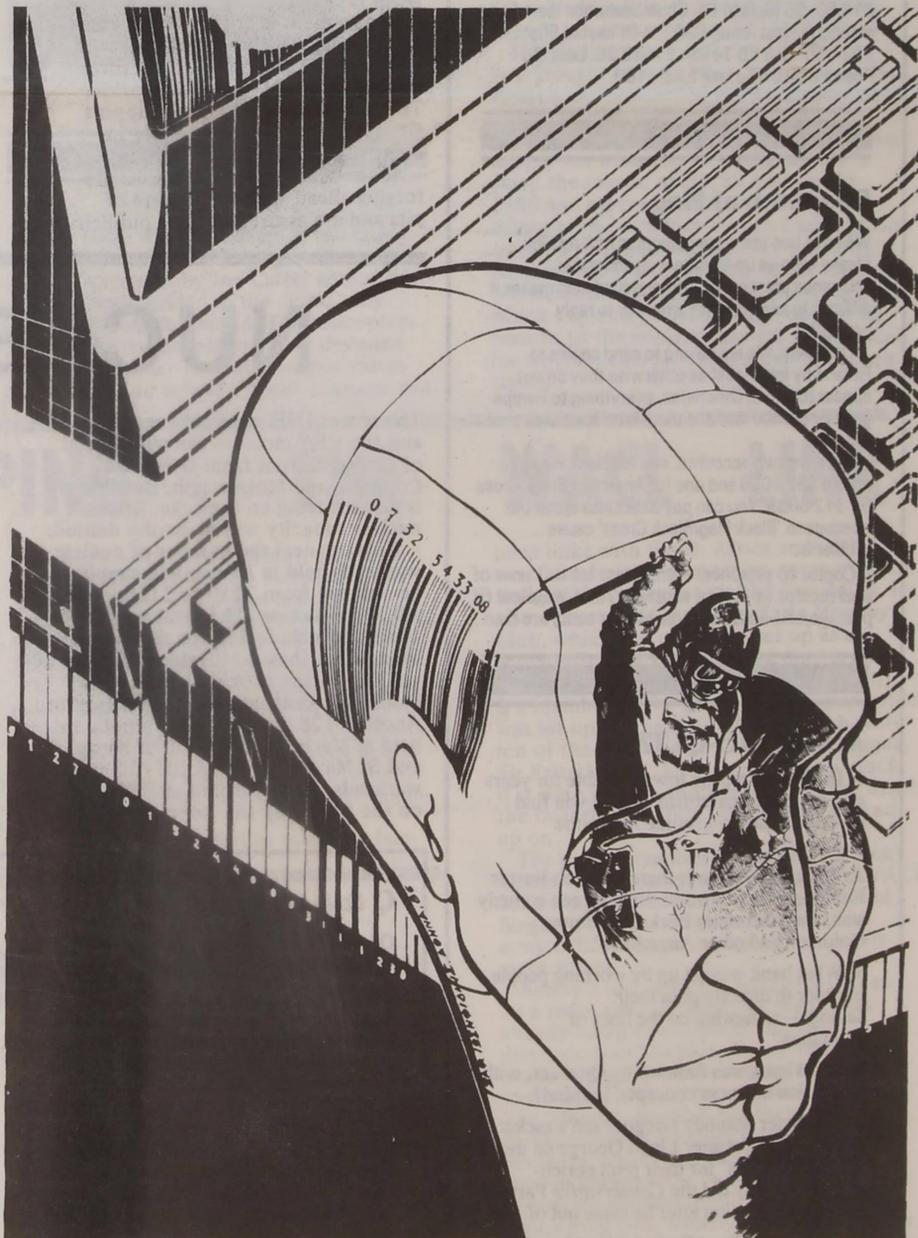
Despite the ban on communications to Martin, please also attempt to send letters to him: Martin Foran, C51796, HMP Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5NX, Britain.



Out of frustration Martin staged a roof-top protest to get his case re-heard, but this only earned him an extensive spell in solitary. Before long it was obvious he needed serious medical attention, but his requests for treatment were ignored. Finally he was rushed to an outside hospital where a colostomy was performed. But his troubles didn't end there. Back inside he was beaten up by guards because of an earlier incident when a screw was 'taken hostage' in order that he could get external medical help.

Now his medical condition has worsened. The infection has spread to other parts of his body. As a last desperate measure Martin has now commenced a hunger strike. He is demanding a retrial, immediate medical treatment in a proper establishment, and freedom to argue his case. The response of the authorities has been to increase the restrictions already imposed to prevent him from publicising his plight. They have pushed him into a corner. His health, as a consequence could now deteriorate even further, putting his life at risk. But in doing this the authorities will only succeed in drawing even more attention to his case.

We reproduce below part of a letter, dated 21st October, sent by Martin and passed on to us by a friend.



Parallel to these revelations has been the announcement that there are proposals in the pipeline to radically change the way National Insurance is to be collected - changes that are in no way unconnected to the Poll Tax reforms.

Debt collecting agencies and credit companies already make extensive use of

age. Without a National Insurance number we cannot claim Social Security or Unemployment Benefit, nor can we take part in work other than the 'black economy'.

Then there is also the move to combine the National Insurance number - the ideal

Continued on page 8.

BLACK FLAG—BLACK CROSS
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13p inland, 25p surface & 56p air.

Giro Account No. Black Flag

58 552 4009

*For a social system based on mutual aid and
voluntary co-operation—against State
control and all forms of government and
economic oppression. To establish a share
in the general prosperity for all—the
breaking down of racial, religious, national
and sex barriers—and to fight for the life of
one world.*

STATE OF PLAY

Financial position of Black Flag to date

	£	£
Subs and sales since last account	1116.45	
Donations: Alex (Corby) 10, J.40, A.50, Al 50, STE (Dover) 2,		1269.45
STE(Dover) 2,D (Scotl) 1		
Printing Bills paid to date	597.50	
Stationery (Envs esp)	79.84	
Postage	495.00	
(Plus tons of stamps)		1172.34
Which means we have in hand since last time £97.11 (which sounds great but we have some printing bills in hand too!) New overall deficit £4937.95		

Anarchist Black Cross accounts to date (These refer to London only)

Collection 121 Bkshp £5.50, Tapes sales via AD
£14.50, SB (Salish) £4, Chumbawumba (benefit, as
mentioned last issue) £900, A (N'castle) 50p:
£924.50. Plus 88.76 i/h: £1013.26. Less: To
Puerto Real CNT strike fund £100.

Despatch of Flag

We have had some complaints of non-receipt.
Please keep us up-to-date with addresses.
Enormous pressure on our stretched help makes it
difficult to keep up with letters or to reply
promptly.

Overseas: We are having to send copies to
Finland by letter post as otherwise they do not
appear to arrive. Otherwise, everything to Europe
goes by printed rate and there is no special air mail
process.

We have two accounts, one for Black Flag giro
a/c 58 552 4009 and one for Anarchist Black Cross
51 172 0009. You can pay direct into either but
cheques to 'Black Flag/Black Cross' cause
problems.

Copies to prisoners (but please let us know of
non-receipt or end of sentence) and wageless (if
postage/self-addressed envelopes sent) are free.

ANARCHO-QUIZ

1. In what European town, notable for years
as a centre of anarchism, would you find
several statues to genuine Anarchist
militants?
2. What connection is there between Buster
Keaton, the Hollywood silent screen comedy
star, and Alexander Berkman, Emma
Goldman and other Anarchists?
3. What bank was set up by working people
in order to directly pool their
savings—somewhat on the lines of
Proudhon?
4. What bank was founded by Quakers, with
'Christian business concepts' in mind?
5. Fraudster Maundy Gregory ran a racket
with Liberal Premier Lloyd George on the
sale of 'honours' for their joint enrichment—
but why did the Conservative Party
give him a pension after he came out of jail?
6. Financier Albert Grant laid out London's
Leicester Square—'out of his City plants,' it
was said, when he was discovered to be a
fraudster. He had just been created a baron
by the king of Italy, so what was sung about
him in the music halls of the day?

Answers to Quiz on page 8

HOME NEWS

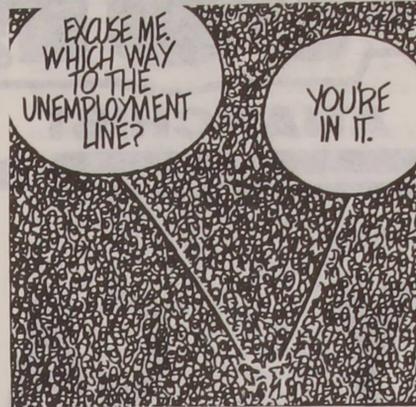
Postal Workers Strike Banned

Faced with a threat of possible industrial
action the Government first threatened,
then carried out, the break-up of the Post
Office monopoly. The private company,
TNT, has been allowed to set up a new
rival business service for postal users. At
the same time plans are underway to hive
off the Datapost segment of the Royal
Mail.

The postal workers union, the UCW,
is only organised inside the state monopoly.
It has no members inside the companies
that are breaking up this monopoly. Some
of these private companies are unionised,
mainly through the TGWU, but inter-union
co-operation is unlikely.

There is surely an argument here for
a single-industry union if competition is
to give way to solidarity. Rank and file
postal workers will sooner or later have to
broaden their horizon to take in rank
and file postal workers outside the state
monopoly. Presently the unions are compet-
ing against each other for their 'share of
the market' - which goes against the whole
grain of unionism.

By first breaking up the business of the
state postal service and handing over the



work to non-UCW members the Government
is effectively attacking the UCW's ability to
threaten industrial action. The argument
goes that if the UCW organises any strikes or
similar action then the monopoly will be
broken up even more and the UCW will
lose more members, with more work to
the private companies. Looked at in this
way the threat of privatisation is a sanction
against striking.

However since the UCW is known for its
right-wing approach anyway, any strike action
that comes about is to come from the rank
and file and not officially. The rank and file
are currently demanding a 40 hour week;
the Post Office are only prepared to reduce
the present 43 hour week by one hour.
Management also wants to see far more
part-timers. Unless the rank and file in all
the postal, distribution and communication
industries unite - and there may well be mov-
ing in this direction - then the battle will be
that much harder to win.

ACTION FOR JOBS

Rank and file workers at several work-
places have taken action against the
government training scheme, the JTS.
Strike threats have prevented JTS being
introduced at Wm.Lows (Dundee) and
Ferranti (Dalkieth). Also civil service
union members took strike action
against YTS in Bolton and West Brom-
wich.

This is the only way that these
schemes can be stopped altogether.

Elsewhere JTS managing agents
and induction meetings have been
disrupted and picketed by members
of claimants unions in Tottenham
and Lothian. And who said that the
non-waged have no industrial power?

SOURCE: Counter Information

British Coal Tightens Screw

The second part of a negotiated and
agreed pay rise will now be withheld
from all National Union of Miners
members. The pay rise will go ahead,
however, for all Union of Democratic
Mineworkers (scabs) members. British
Coal management stated that the
pay rise is being withheld until and
if the current overtime ban by the
NUM is ceased.

Management is hoping that a combi-
nation of this threat together with
loss of Christmas bonuses will force
miners to return to normal working.
The mobilisation of Strike Support
Groups is therefore even more im-
perative to assist in fund-raising.

At the same time British Coal are
forging ahead with the closure of
pits and are assured of little publicity

in the national press. Already Snowdown
colliery in the Kent area has been
set aside for closure. There are several
pits in the South Yorkshire area -
one of the militant heartlands - that
are also to be closed down. And there
are at least 8 pits in Nottinghamshire
that have been earmarked for possible
closure. These include Annesley-
Bentinck, Silverhill, Mansfield,
Sherwood, Clipstone, Blidworth,
Welbeck and Sutton (the latter's
closure already announced). These
closures would obliterate the North
Notts area field.

Meanwhile UDM members seem
quite content to see another round
of decimation take place. But will
they react when their own backdoor
is hit?

JUST ANOTHER DAY

Another fine example of Police
brutality and state injustice was on
public display in Bolton three weeks
back when three men, who were arrest-
ed and badly beaten up by several
police, were found guilty of assault
and given 6 month sentences. Books,
magazines, postal orders and letters of
support would be much appreciated.

Since the exact whereabouts of
the three aren't yet known all correspond-
ence can be addressed to: Stephen
Houlighan (W86696), James Vincent
Collins and John Gooden (number
also unknown), c/o 16 Wood St,
Bolton, Lancs.

NUCLEAR CON TRICK

The recent INF deal between the USSR
and the USA includes the withdrawal
of Cruise missiles from Greenham
Common and Molesworth. But this
is just the icing on the cake. Britain's
nuclear capacity will be hardly dented.

With the deal the number of nuclear
warheads held in Britain will simply
be reduced from 2250 to 2150, only
a 0.5% reduction. The total number of
warheads include 160 for the Poseidon
submarines (based at Holy Loch) and 600
nuclear warheads held at the US air
bases at Lakenheath and Upper Heyford.
Another 126 nuclear depth bombs are
held at Machrihanish (Mull of Kintyre)
and St Mawgan (Cornwall). 150 nuclear
warheads are also stored at Faslane,
on the Clyde, by the Royal Navy. A

further 100 tactical free-fall bombs
are held by the RAF as well as several
thousand battlefield nuclear warheads.

Plans are already being implement-
ed to add to that arsenal, especially
for the F-11 aircraft. And of course
there will be a new emphasis on sea-
launched (by submarine) Cruise missiles
and an air-launched variety - both of
which fall out of the scope of the INF
agreement.

The INF agreement has proved to
be an enormous con-trick. Instead
nuclear capability is to be increased
and new weaponry developed to meet
changing needs. The ground-launched
Cruise missile was always a white
elephant anyway. It was common
knowledge that it was wildly inaccurate

and that it was ready for replacement.

CAPENHURST ANTI-NUCLEAR DEMO

On November 14th there will be a
demonstration against nuclear
power as well as nuclear
weapons at the Capenhurst British
Nuclear Fuels plant. It makes fuel
rods for British nuclear power
stations as well as enriching uranium
to power Trident nuclear submarines.



The march leaves the Unemployed
Centre, King St, Ellesmere Port,
Wirral, Cheshire at 1:30 pm. The
route is along the A41 for 3 miles,
to the BNFL plant, where there will
be a rally with speakers and stalls.
Organised by Anti-Newkiller Network
and Merseyside CND, c/o 24 Hardman
St., Liverpool, L19 AX. Phone 051
708 7764.

Q & A on Anarchism

Q. Why are anarchists opposed to the British
monarchy? Surely it's harmless enough in
practice?

A. As the State is a means of oppression,
force, power, dominance, based on conquest,
and not representative of the people, some
method has to be used by the dominant class
to make it loved, or at least tolerated. As
the State cannot be loved for itself, myths are
woven round it, sometimes religious, some-
times political, sometimes national or racial.
People are encouraged to die for 'the country'
rather than for the State. Who would fight for
the tax collector? Whitehall is passed off as
'England'.

Monarchy is a similar parasite around the
grim edifice of the State, it is there to make it
acceptable. Real monarchy is the worst of
dictatorships (because hereditary) but the
British monarchy is not as bad as that except
that it perpetuates a running myth. Today it is,

like the flag in America, just a symbol (but of
something unhealthy).

Sold as running soap opera it serves as a
sauce for stinking fish. The elective dictato-
rship we have needs a sovereign to make it
acceptable, though no doubt the ruling class
could find some other symbol if they had to,
as the French have done (an idealised 'La
France').

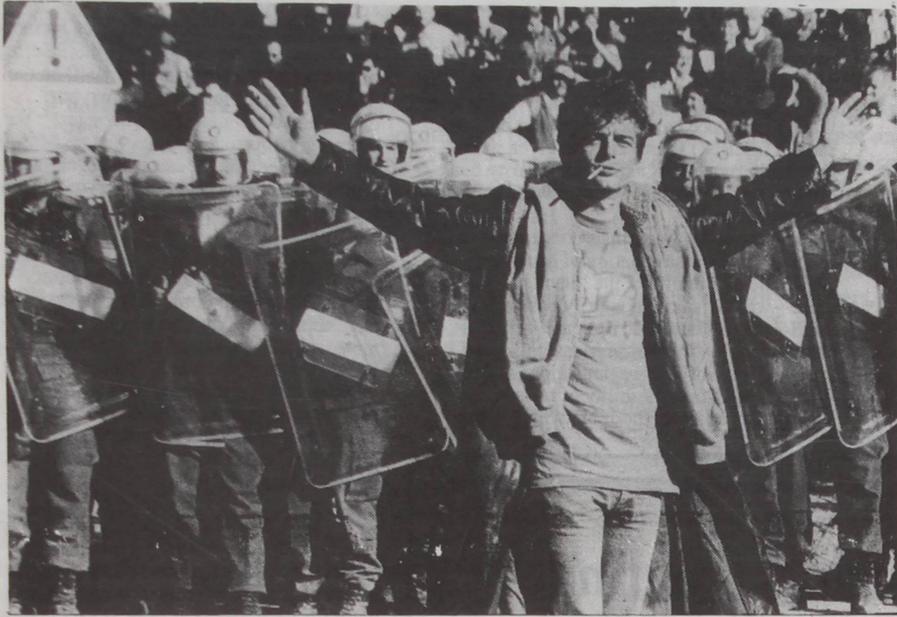
It is true the monarchy tends to eliminate
the sort of moneyed corruption existing in
America, to substitute snobbish corruption.
The Premier doesn't have to pass over bribes
in the form of office (as in US or France) nor
to reward wealthy supporters out of the public
purse, when all that's necessary is to dole out
titles, and present at Court.

Despite the media myth about anarchism,
anarchists have no real interest in the
monarchy one way or the other, given that
present-day monarchs are not dictators: it
would automatically vanish with a free
society.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WEST GERMANY

Demo At Wackersdorf



There were three days of decentralised action near the nuclear reprocessing plant under construction at Wackersdorf, in Bavaria, West Germany, which reached their height with a demo of 30,000 pushing through preliminary police lines and fighting a four hour pitched, if stylised, battle with the 5,000 police at the building site fence.

The demo to the site had been banned by the courts. The police brutality led a prominent Greenie to say it was a declaration of war by the atom state against the free rights state. (well, er, yes).

The demonstrators carried a 2x2 metre black cube. The 'black block' that the politicians and cops had been foaming at the mouth about in previous months, was carried by men wearing only black masks who shouted slogans against 'naked State terror'. The 5,000 cops were backed by 1,000 civilians. Building vehicles within fifty miles all had police escort. The actions in the first two days consisted mostly of barricades on roads and blockades, and damage to firms supplying building material. This is tactical practice for later campaigns against waste transport to the plant. The police also made countless checkpoints (jammed up traffic!). Houses where demonstrators were sleeping were searched at 6 a.m. on the 8th, and eleven Berliners were arrested as they slept fifteen miles away and held for the duration charged

with 'being suspected of preparing illegal acts' 78 others were held on this charge.

A co-ordination meeting on 7th October of 200 people was surrounded, the people were arrested and had ID details registered on the computer, then released after a few hours. As a dash more terror, police on the operation wore bullet proof vests, just to show the world we are the terrorists. Another plenum of 300 was surrounded, kicked, beaten, photographed and registered on computer the next day.

A 20 yr old woman had to strip to her underwear in front of a running police camera and had to repeatedly bare her chest. Press and lawyers had been expelled from the area.

The demo was swelled by the local steel works threatened with closure. 'So much money for this plant and the cops, none for steel subsidies?' Trade union officials waxed lyrical about solidarity.

At the fence the tear gas started up. Helicopters hovered at tree top level the whole time. The State had built a huge concrete ditch wall in front of the fence (a castle with a dyke!) Baton charges and the like followed. One fractured skull, one snapped neck; one person, blood gushing from several headwounds, was dragged across the ground into the plant, to discourage the onlookers from demonstrating again.

NEWS FROM BARCELONA

For those who were left in any doubt, the CNT 'split' - the minority breakaway from the CNT anarchist labour union - passed a motion at its Madrid Congress in early July of this year, renouncing anarcho-syndicalism as a viable form of struggle, and declared itself as no longer adhering to what they call 'the anarchist ideology'. As soon as this was done *La Vanguardia* - a best selling Spanish conservative paper - published an editorial which took the form of a long sigh of relief that at last 'the CNT' had 'come to their senses', and then predicted a short future for a union lacking any ideological base and which had 'only around a thousand affiliates'. *La Vanguardia* was careful not to mention the other CNT (CNT-AIT), with its 50,000 affiliates and its anarchist ideals and anarchist forms of organisation, still going strong.

Catalonia alone, (I've just seen the things stacked up waiting for mail out, just as I've seen the demos mentioned). French libertarians at the *Lib Ed* conference who believed that the *Renovados* are the 'true fighting CNT' might like to know that the CNT-AIT are the ones who promote assemblyism and direct dealing between the workers and bosses in industry and education, and that the *Renovados* are the ones who support elections to mediating committees known in Spain, quite correctly, as 'company committees' (which incidentally, were invented by Franco as a pseudo-representative con). To put the lid on it, at the Madrid Congress of the *Renovados*, the guest of honour was Marcelino Camacho, head of the communist union in Spain (the *CCOO*), who made a speech urging the *Renovados* to join his communist set-up. This was applauded by the majority of people attending the congress. All right?

the unconditional re-admittance of the two workers. In August of this year, the PRYCA chain tried to open a new branch on a public holiday, threatening workers with contract cancellation if they refused. Complaints from the CNT-AIT in the form of documents, graffiti and the old-fashioned spoken word were sufficient to stop this happening. The workers had paid holidays until the supermarket was opened on a normal working day.

the boss' as their advertising puts it.

The new anarchist news agency - the ANA, originally called TASS-TASS - is a reliable well-organised set-up, producing a weekly newsheet and keeping a computerised file of all news information received. To avoid dodgy information, the ANA is building up a network of correspondents around Spain, each using a code system to confirm that the news comes from them and not from dubious sources. The Barcelona representative for *Ekonomia* is getting in touch with them.

Maria Felip Romeu, the CNT-AIT affiliate who was forced to spend several weeks in the *Model* prison in Barcelona on a non-existent charge of terrorism (later fully acquitted) has publicly challenged Jose Barrionuevo, the Spanish Minister of the Interior, to meet him when he wishes, where he wishes, as long as it's a quiet spot: and the Minister appears unaccompanied by his usual security gorillas.



The Barcelona bike messengers, tired of low pay and ridiculous conditions, have formed their own co-operative (*Missatgers Trebol*), so that they can work 'without intermediaries, eg without

Coming soon: more on the *Renovada* sell-out, an interview with Abel Paz, anarchist education in pre-war Spain...

SOURCE: MT Barcelona



At the *Lib Ed* conference in Leicester this month (October) it became clear that the CNT-Renovados (the 'split') has given a lot of people in libertarian teaching circles abroad the idea that it is the larger of the two organisations. All propaganda and number games to one side, it is obvious to anyone living here in Barcelona which is the larger organisation. CNT-AIT May Day demos - the traditional show of strength for all Spanish unions - attract around 5,000 people, while those of the *Renovados* clock in at the 300 mark. The *Renovados* version of the *Solidaridad Obrera* newspaper was published twice in 1985-6, and sold on a nationwide basis with a print run of 2,000. The CNT-AIT's version of the paper has been published regularly since 1976 and has a print run of 4,000 in

In 1983, the CNT organised a mass boycott of the PRYCA hypermarket chain in Barcelona when two of their affiliates were sacked unlawfully. The picketing and other forms of direct action resulted in

Last August there was a nationwide labour and transport strike in the Philippines to protest against the sudden hike in oil prices. The strike managed to paralyse two key industrial cities—Manila and Cebu. The government had earlier tried to employ 'stop gap' measures such as the partial rollback of oil prices to dissuade people from striking. This proved futile. The following day, police operatives mounted a major crackdown on labour and militant organisations, still being implemented at the present time.

On August 28, Col. Gregorio 'Gringo' Honagan staged a coup d'etat. Most of his troops didn't know what they were up to. They were simply told it was part of their special operations training. Singlaub (still here) and CIA station chief Norbert Garrett had met Honagan before the coup-d'etat. He was even rescued by two US helicopters when they were cornered inside Camp Aguinaldo. Where he was taken isn't known but we've received unconfirmed reports he was brought board on the USS Missouri, docked at the US naval installation in Subic Bay.

On Sept 19 Leon Alejandro, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansanz Makabayan (Bayan) was shot dead as he was about to enter the Bayan office compound. He was organising mass action which took effect on Sept 21 to protest against growing militarism.

The growing unrest in the Philippines can be attributed to the CIA intensification of that programme. So far they've succeeded. The government has given in to their pressure, and the left has been temporarily neutralised by acts of terror against them. Fear has taken control. A lot have gone into hiding. The Anarchists will stick it out.

THE PHILIPPINES

FEAR TAKES OVER



Anti-riot squad gears up near the presidential palace.

(From our Philippines correspondent.)

THE ITALIAN CONNECTION

For well over a century poor Italians have swarmed out of Italy as economic refugees. Because of the total impossibility of work for revolutionaries, a significant proportion were also political. In the exodus, a few of those who accepted the system made great fortunes. In London's Clerkenwell, the firm of Negretti and Zamba prospered and became the 'godfather' to the Italian colony, which was dominated by the Church in Clerkenwell—still the centre of London Italian 'community' life.

In Switzerland, France, Argentina, North and South America, the Italians moved into work—and the anarchist faction helped influence the movement in those countries to a phenomenal extent unrecognised by labour historians. Not in England. Until the end of the Second World War there was a total block prejudice against Italian workers—except for a few marble masons. They were forced into catering and despised peddling occupations. (Even in 1945 when Italian PoWs were being recruited as agricultural workers, miners and

bricklayers I heard one Ministry official say he thought they could only peddle hokey-pokey!)

The anarchists who came to England before 1939 were largely poor, and vanished into poverty, or in some cases assimilated. I recall 'Joe the Tailor', Giorgio, Mintelli in the thirties, as people on the verge of starvation who held on to their ideas, though ridiculed by most workers and held fit only for peddling sherbert or organ grinding. Most British Italians resented this deeply and welcomed Mussolini: he was 'making Italy great again'; he was causing the English upper-classes to look admiringly at 'Roman achievements' which gave Europe culture etc., to imitate Italian ways, to point admiringly to the Fascisti. The Fascists and the Roman Church also lavishly spent on schools and propaganda trips home.

Italian ice cream makers (no longer peddlers) restaurants and fish-and-chip shops made profits in Glasgow, London and all over.

They became solid admirers of the Italian Fascisti and the English upper-class. Pictures of both Kings were mixed with the holy pictures and the fascist propaganda. Outside the anarchists, only a few liberal academics opposed Mussolini. But the anarchists opposed him vigorously. Throughout the twenties and thirties constant attempts on Mussolini's life were made (which bely the impression given in the TV film 'Mussolini' that he may once have been attacked by more radical fascists!) Every aid was given internationally, not out of national solidarity but out of a realisation that Fascism was an attack on the workers.

The reason the Anarchists concentrated so much upon the assassination of Mussolini (which helped reinforce the 'black hat' caricature—which had momentarily passed on to the Bolsheviks but came back as a result of anti-fascism) was because Mussolini had smashed the workers' organisations and there was no longer the possibility of resistance in Italy by any other method. Notwithstanding

the new pretence that Mussolini was really quite revolutionary and working class, he had set out deliberately to smash every manifestation of working class organisation (treating liberal dissidents harshly, perhaps, but not as compared with Hitler).

The People to People series on Channel 4 television, summer 1987, showed the effect of Mussolini declaring war in 1940 on the 220,000 Italians in Britain, a two-part documentary 'Dangerous Characters': the seemingly amazing paradox that anti-fascists were interned and the fascists largely went free. It sheds some light on anarchist history too, subject to falsification by Woodcock/Sansomry.

The Italian Fascist Party had 'become a powerful organisation with paramilitary camps, schools and branches in every major city' approved of by Conservative governments which saw Mussolini as the saviour of Italy, said the film, which however did not mention that it also saved Britain from the Mafia (as distinct from the USA) by itself controlling crime and vice. Its discreet handling of the police made them look favourably on Mosley and most of their energies went to combatting East London (often Jewish) criminal gangs (in commercial rivalry with the fascio), and anti-fascists, which they equated. Italians with good business approved of by the Fascio obtained naturalisation papers as easy as vaccination certificates even after war was declared. Anti-Fascists were labelled 'dangerous characters': naturalisation, even for those with thirty years residence, was impossible. While Fascist officials were allowed home to serve, their wives filling up from London stores what was unavailable in Italy, the anti-fascists, who had declared war on Mussolini twenty years before, were interned as enemy aliens!

The Anarchists who constituted the bulk of Italian anti-fascism had been decimated by grinding poverty, and mostly been absorbed into the English-speaking movement. The active Soho Italian Anarchists were in the main people who had survived economically (paradoxically some had made good by being boycotted by the Fascisti and being forced to open their restaurants to English custom, which opened up a whole new industry). Their children, now adult, appeared on the programme.

Curiously, most tried to evade the word 'anarchist'. 'My father was not only anti-fascist, he had his own ideas too', says Tamburini, son of one of the most determined anarchists—even Vernon Richards (son of E. Recchioni) avoids the word, though surrounded by posters of *Umanita Nova*, pictures of Malatesta etc (but the omission may have been the producer's intervention—the intention of the film being to show the Italians were 'our' allies all along).

Richards however perpetuates a typical cynical fudge when he says the reason the Anarchists wanted to kill Mussolini—his father having assisted—was because he was originally 'a revolutionary socialist...one of them... he translated anarchist pamphlets'. For the record, Mussolini was since birth a Parliamentary Socialist until bought by the French to become an Interventionist in WWI; then he was an independent MP until he started fascism. He translated *atheist* pamphlets (one by an anarchist), which led to his being snubbed by the Pope in his first interview as (constitutional) Premier, after which he professed Roman Catholicism.

The purely personal nature of his dictatorship—the first of its kind—made his attempted execution not only the only form of protest left, but effective if successful (when finally the king and the Fascist Council ousted him, facing military defeat, he said truthfully 'This is the end of fascism').

Richard Pankhurst (son of E. Corio) speaks plainly however about his father's anarchism. His mother (Sylvia) is largely remembered for her early direct action suffragism but she and Corio were active for years in Italian anti-fascism. However, it must be remembered that for people of an increasingly middle-class background, when working class action becomes remote, anti-fascism became as bourgeois then as pacifism became in the post-war era. (Corio admitted this himself in 1940 when I questioned his pro-Haile Selassie campaign).

Amongst the Italian group Dr Galasso was prominent (he was later killed on the *Arandora Star*—after years of persecution by the Fascio he was being deported to Canada as a dangerous character). His daughter spoke on the programme on their activities including starting Spain and the World, financed by the Italian group, and edited by the British-born son of one. It was quite independent of Freedom (which suspended publication to help its circulation and merged

Solidarity !

The prisoners union at Lucasville penitentiary, Ohio, is expanding and is campaigning for 'real' wages for all prisoners. The union is a branch of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) - the 'wobblies'.

The branch now has 400 members. But their IWW union cards have been confiscated by prison guards, as also all IWW literature sent to them. Prison officers have also prevented branch members from sending on their union dues. In response the IWW has filed suit against the Lucasville employers for 'unfair labour practice'.

IWW branch organisers inside the prison, John Perotti and John Steward, are coordinating the branch activity with the help of IWW organiser in New York, Paul Poulos.

The IWW has declared the dispute between the branch and the Ohio Penal Industries (OPI) as official. The Lucasville branch has charged the prison administration with interfering with collective bargaining rights.

Last year the OPI grossed \$15m in sales of prisoner made products (mainly license plates and road signs) while prisoners themselves are on pay averaging between 3 and 31 cents an hour. The IWW regard the relationship between the OPI and the prisoners as a standard employer-employee one but with slave labour conditions and pay.

On prisoners unionisation the IWW is currently setting an example second to none. It's an example that should be emulated where revolutionary unionists and anarcho-syndicalists are true to their cause.

Whether the Lucasville branch is officially recognised or not by the prison authorities is neither here nor there. The IWW recognises it and that's all that counts. And like with any other industrial dispute solidarity action is essential to win. Perhaps other prisoners branches will be inspired to organise and take part in a wider campaign? Certainly with the privatisation of prisons the employer-employee relationship could well be pursued. Although prisoners are coerced into having this relationship, with the advance of labour schemes and greater employment The comparison between prison life and 'normal' working conditions becomes more obvious.

Messages of support and/or donations can be sent to John Perotti, 167-712, IWW Organiser, Southern Ohio Correctional Facility, PO Box 45699, Lucasville, Ohio 45699-0001, USA.

On September 30th John Hughes received 3 months in jail for alleged assault on the son of a fur shop owner. John, as well as being an animal rights activist is also an anti-fascist activist. John is not allowed to receive any printed literature so it would help him if he received letters from comrades.

Write to him

Letters to: John Hughes, M52415, Unit 2, HMDC, Whatton, Notts., NG13 9FQ.

Mental Torture Continues

As reported in our last issue, time is rapidly running out for Katsuhisa Omori, the 38 year old anarchist sympathiser on death row in Japan for allegedly bombing government offices on Hokkaido Island in 1976.

Recent information from Japan tells us that a decision on his appeal (against the death sentence) is due on or around November 20th. Given that this appeal will be rejected, his case will then go to the Supreme

Court in Tokyo - where a final decision will be made. If the Supreme Court rules against him, execution is almost inevitable and is expected to take place around 12 months from now.

N.B. A 'Free Omori' public meeting was held in Osaka, Japan's second largest city, on July 19th. It attracted some 90 people. A similar meeting was held in Kyoto the next day.

How The U.S. Treats Refuseniks

Gillam Kerley has started serving three years in the notorious Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary, in Kansas, with a fine of \$10,000. For what heinous crime that needs to be punished in order that society may live in peace or which may serve to show him and others to mend their ways?

He has refused to register for conscription (called the draft in the US and the male blood tax elsewhere). Worse, he 'continued criminal activities', in the words of his judge John Shabaz (a.k.a. Pontius Pilate), by 'aiding, abetting and encouraging' others to do the same.

He was selected among eighteen others, five years ago, and entered a plea of 'not guilty by reason of sanity'. His arbitrary selection—about a million wouldn't register, but this has been cut by half with cutting off their student aid and job training—is an attempt to cut out the other half. The blitz is coming against vocal advocates like him, and against minority and working-class refuseniks.

Vote-catching politicians see a populist line in pressing for action against (other) people who don't agree to go into the lottery for death.

Black Cross Conference

December 5th and 6th. First day is discussions; second day is business matters. Accommodation can be provided on request. Workshops for the first day so far include Prison Privatisation, Women In Prisons, and Prisoners Unions. There will be a social/gig on the Saturday night with Chumbawamba.

The venue is in Yorkshire. If you want more details then write to Leeds Black Cross, Box JAG, 52 Call Lane, Leeds 1, who will

send them on. The conference is open to Black Cross members and supporters.

Don't forget, if you are an isolated Black Cross supporter, attending the conference will be an ideal way to meet other Black Cross members and find out what is going on in the ABC. (We will also be looking at the possibility of producing an internal newsletter). So come along, even if only for one day.



Continued on page 8.

LIFE INSIDE THE WALLS

BY JOHN PEROTTI.

The Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (S.O.C.F.) was opened in 1972 and located in rural Lucasville, Ohio on the Kentucky border. It is Ohio's only maximum security prison, replacing the notorious Ohio Penitentiary. The prison is designed so all movement is enclosed, except for recreation periods on the yard. Population is divided into 'L side' and 'K side'. J-Block and half of K side are isolation blocks. The cellblocks are two-tiered and contain 80 cells. Doors and crash gates are electronically opened and closed by guards in central booths. All corridors can be isolated by well-placed crash gates. J1 block super maximum isolation, where I am confined, contains 20 cells and was originally designed as death row. The electric chair and 24-hour watch death cell is located here. This block is comparable to the notorious control unit at the federal prison in Marion, Illinois and is where Ohio's most dangerous prisoners are housed. It's the very last place they can bury you alive in.

The guards at S.O.C.F. are mainly illiterate and white, born and raised in this area. The prison employs the majority of the residents in this area and is their *only* means of employment, other than a small paper mill. Racism is prevalent amongst the guards and one of their tactics used to divide the prisoners. The Ku Klux Klan and more sophisticated Masons retain a high membership among the guards. 65% of the prisoners are Black, 35% are a mix between white and chicano. All are poor, as is the case in prisons nationwide. The rich can buy justice, but the poor go to prison, just as the rich go to summer camps and finishing schools. Under our present judicial system, justice is a commodity, bought and sold like a product on the marketplace. This is a fact that all oppressed people are aware of.

Guard-on-prisoner brutality is a fact of life at S.O.C.F. In 1984, ten prison guards brutally beat fellow prisoner Jimmy Haynes to death, in retaliation for a mentally-disturbed prisoner who killed a shop supervisor a month before. This set the scenario for a string of events to follow. Eight guards, one wielding a pocket knife, attempted to assassinate me in J1 cell-block. I disarmed and stabbed the guard. In the next two months, two guards were stabbed by fellow prisoners and my brother Maddog (Paul Brumfield) used a paper-mache gun to disarm guards while on a medical trip at Riverside Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. He then held hostages for 13 hours during which he detailed the brutality and inhumane conditions prevalent at S.O.C.F. In October, 1985, four brothers in J1 cell-block seized control of two guards and held hostage for 15 hours until the grievances were publicly aired over a local radio station. The grievances entailed the basic amenities of life that *all* prisoners should have anyway -- cosmetic articles, radios, adequate food and medical treatment, access to magazines and reading material of the prisoner's choice -- none of which long-term isolation prisoners are permitted!!

Every prisoner who is beaten by guards, myself on more than 15 occasions, is handcuffed and sometimes leg-shackled, then beaten by 6-10 members of the goon squad (guards who are over 6' and 220 lbs). Chemical mace and CN gas grenades are used daily, for no more reason than a prisoner asking a guard for toilet paper or complaining about the food. In 1979 the state cut off funding for most of the mental health facilities and those prisoners were transferred here. They receive no practical treatment and are often targeted for beatings and macing for no other reason than they are mentally incompetent. If they complain, they aren't believed. In 1985 alone, chemical mace and CN grenades were used on 98 occasions, usually on mentally-disturbed prisoners already confined to a cell.

The fact that the prison is located so far away from any major cities, where most prisoners' families reside, makes visiting from a prisoner's family nearly impossible. When they do visit they are subjected to the degradation of strip shakes, forced to disrobe in front of illiterate prison guards who make sarcastic comments, and sometimes made to squat over a mirror. They aren't permitted to bring food in to their loved ones and guards roam the visiting room. Isolation prisoners can only receive one visit per month, in a non-

contact visit room, where they are separated from their loved ones by a plexiglass and steel partition. Only four weekdays are set aside for visits.

Incoming and outgoing mail is often censored and xeroxed, mainly on known prison activists and jailhouse lawyers, who are targeted for abuses by all staff members. There are a small cadre of us in here who continue our work undaunted by these restrictions, and have devised ways around them for emergency purposes. The majority of us are confined to isolation, locked-down 24 hours a day except for 2 ten-minute showers a week and 2 one-hour walks in a dog kennel per week. I am handcuffed behind my back and wear leg shackles whenever I'm out of my cell, even for some attorney visits.

The main problem among the prisoners is a lack of unity. Snitches are prevalent and roam general population without fear of retaliation. Most of the brothers here are asleep and unaware of the real reasons for their incarceration. Most are afraid of speaking up or acting for fear of losing their T.V. sets and the sissies [?? -ed.] in the cell with them. They are controlled by the administration. Adequate medical treatment is withheld, physicians will not prescribe any narcotics or Class A's, even if necessary for treatment as security pulls the medical staff's strings. Even when a prisoner is sent to an outside specialist who recommends treatment, the specialist cannot order treatment. It is up to the discretion of S.O.C.F. officials to do so, which is not done. Drugs are a big business, controlled by higher-up prison officials who control the market and supply their own "pet" prisoners to deal for them.

The grievance system is a joke, the institution inspector a racist who has never found for a prisoner versus guard. Nepotism is prevalent, all staff are related to each other by blood or by marriage, including nurses and guards, which affects our medical treatment even worse.

The law library is staffed by prisoners, mostly snitches, who have no training in legal research. Prisoners in isolation are not permitted typewriters or direct access to the law library. "Inmate" runners are used. Legal work sent to be typed is often copied and sent to the state attorney general's office in advance, who then is forewarned. It is also passed around to prison officials to allow them time to falsify paperwork so as to cover their asses.

The small cadre of us here, who do attempt to bring about unity and change, are often thwarted by being isolated from each other and having our mail intercepted. Guards and paid inmate snitches spread rumors and lies to discredit us and undo what we have accomplished.

When one of us does eventually get released to population, one of the paid inmate snitches tells prison officials that he was threatened. A case in point is my brother and comrade Redbone (Roger Hall) who the warden personally placed in isolation upon arrival because of his past record. Every time Redbone is released to population, prison officials get one of their snitches to fabricate a story to have Bone placed back in isolation. In his 5 and 1/2 years here, he has spent 5 in isolation. I have been in isolation for 4 years straight now. This is a pattern and practice applied to all strong brothers here.

Another problem is that public opinion toward prisoners has moved to the right. All the rights we fought and died for in the early '70's have slowly been revoked by the Raygun Administration and Justice Department. The legislature continues to make harsher laws and sentences and refuses to allow us a voice. Ohio has no prison reform movement and is 10 years behind the times where prison reform is concerned. The A.C.L.U. only intervenes when the conditions are so atrocious that they cannot overlook it, but only seek publicity and funds. The token Correctional Institution Inspection Committee, formed by legislature to oversee prison officials, is totally ineffective.

The Scioto County Court of Common Pleas summarily dismisses all prisoners' petitions. The prosecutor caters to the prisoncrats and practices selective

and discriminatory prosecution on all prisoners. No guards have ever been indicted for crimes against prisoners, even in Jimmy Haynes murder.

I and my brothers continue to petition the U.S. District Court in behalf of ourselves and our brothers - most complaints are summarily dismissed, or dismissed so as to allow prison officials their "wide range of difference in matters involving prison discipline and security". We occasionally make it to trial and are successful.

In 1985 my brother Dennis Wolfel was awarded \$20,000 compensatory and \$5,000 punitive damages by a jury for his being beaten by a guard. Fellow prisoner Hill won his suit charging prisoncrats racially discriminated against him by denying his visitor the right to visit.

I personally have 3 separate civil trials coming up this year, where in two of them I'll be appearing pro se. One involves 3 beatings by guards occurring at the old Ohio Penitentiary, the other one involves deliberate indifference by the medical staff here, and the third involves 3 beatings at the hands and feet and sticks of guards here while I was handcuffed and wearing leg shackles. I will prevail at *all* three trials.

We also have a civil trial coming up where three guards, wearing KKK robes sprayed three of our brothers, Bird Dog, J.D. and Willie, with chemical mace and marched up and down the range shouting "You niggers shut up, we run Lucasville."

We've already won two major hostage criminal trials. We'll win the civil trials too. We must be the ones who send a message to prisoncrats -- "You cannot continue to oppress us, treat us like dogs, beat and kill us. You will be held accountable for your actions." If we cannot prevail in the courts, we will prevail on the battleground *inside* the prison. We will do whatever is necessary to call attention to the atrocious crimes being perpetrated upon our people confined in this nation's prison Kamps. We will be heard nation-wide and if we die, it will not be in vain as others will hear our voice and stand up to take our place as we fall by the bullets of our oppressors. **When Oppression is Law, Revolution is Order.** But we must unite, we must push aside all racial prejudices to stand united as one against our oppressors. We must make this a mass movement, a nation-wide movement. There is



strength in numbers, we must all stand united to bring about change. Change not only in our prison systems, but in our imperialistic and capitalistic government, where all people are *not* equal under the law, where hypocrisy is the rule. We must educate the people, who have been pacified by greed, lust and consumerism for too long.

Lastly, I would like to honor our fallen comrade George Jackson, a true revolutionary who saw and spoke the truth. If this comrade were still among us, he would urge all of us to set aside our prejudices and to not get discouraged and to continue the Movement. ★

John Perotti, #167-712
P.O. Box 45699
Lucasville, OH 45699-0001

A WHIFF OF THE GAS CHAMBERS

Flushed with their overwhelming victory on the political and economic fronts the upper class are becoming arrogant in a way they have not been for years. The workers are evicted from their houses, in the south with nowhere to go, in the north with nowhere to work. Once when slums were torn down and millionaire dwellings erected instead, the newly rich left houses down the line and somewhere at the end of it there was cheaper available accommodation. Now all is snapped up, with the new triumphant capitalism.

Working-class areas like the Isle of Dogs are now transformed into dream areas for the younger new rich (a quarter of a million pounds for a house that sold at five hundred a few years ago is nothing unusual).

Because young workers resent this (they have no houses to sell, and none to live in either) they attack the yuppies and their property. Tough new laws for the 'decaying inner cities' are announced. The police (who admit the problem is beyond them) are given draconian powers. 'Decaying inner city' is of course a political code word for young blacks; but they will take the brunt of the attack, the young white workers are going to get hit too.

Who are not going to get hit by the police are the rising young capitalists now in active class war with the workers. The so-called yuppies are drunk with power, money and self-importance; from early morning they scheme, stuffed up with pep pills, their social life in alcohol; they drive like maniacs or if they go by train, beat up the staff if the least thing goes wrong.

The yuppie class are generally engaged in a highly sophisticated form of gambling on the Stock Exchange. This has ceased to be an exclusive vice of one social class. The days when parsons inveighed against workers' gambling while they 'invested' on the Stock Exchange are gone. As those who can sell houses or jobs have money in hand they must spend or invest it—that does not make them capitalists (a capitalist is someone whose money works for them, or they for it). Workers always had a flutter, or studied from the way the Stock Exchange investor studied the market. With computerisation the manipulators on the Stock Exchange can fiddle the form in a way only a few could on horse racing. The 'whizzkid', the genius, is the one who manages to hide the fraud. Ultimately the frauds will get sanctioned if not found out too soon. The punters who worked for their cash will find themselves broke as the champagne corks pop in the City.

The old-fashioned industrialist, who once despised the speculators, now bows to them; the law has let them into power. But the industrialist in turn power over the workers on a scale unknown for half a century: due to the political collapse of the Labour movement, and its take-over by the academic middle class. The trade unions, who pinned their faith on Parliamentary backing, have been left defenceless. The capitalist uses rising unemployment; the take-over bids close down factories and the rest follow by stripping first the unions, then the workers, of any rights.

But take note that these new rulers are the greatest of cowards. Their rule is of paper. They need to hire thugs from the working class to get their way, and to do it they use media indoctrination to an extent unheard of.

Note some recent shock horror panic regarding ourselves. Recently we and also Hooligan Press listed some addresses of company directors, industrialists, managers. The Economic League—which has been doing this for years of workers—protested that this was an incitement to violence though nothing was said. It has however occasioned violence and even starvation by its often illegally obtained lists.

Then there was the fuss about pirate television—what's so terrible about the media slipping away from State control? Because at the moment (though Julian Critchley, a Tory MP, pointed out we had the 'best television and the worst press in the world') the BBC is under attack, all television is to be regulated, and the press is abandoning any pretence at journalism in the move to porn and propaganda.

If one considers all this, we may conclude that the claim by Linda Bellos—a politician with whom we never normally agree—that 'there will be gas chambers for black people in seven years' is not as extreme as it sounds... if by 'gas chambers' is meant not the actual techniques used by Hitler

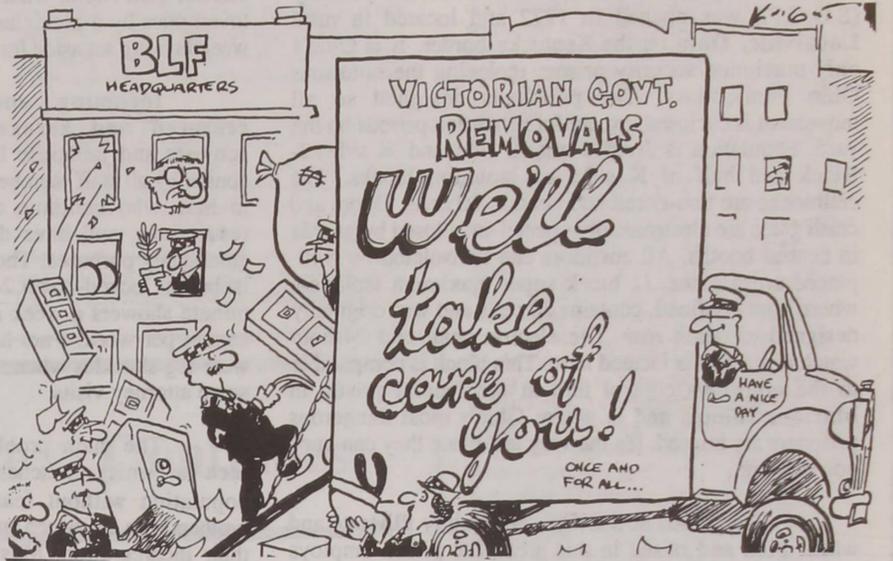
but a Final Solution which means clearance by one means or another. Belfast shows there is no moral objection to this by the ruling class. The Clearances in the Highlands and the transportations to Australia, or the selling into slavery in the then American colonies, afford a precedent—but there is no land left to send anyone. Perhaps it will be done by neglect of the health services—and we have the sinister precedent of the State Plague (artificial creation of AIDS) to indicate a way they might choose.

On this basis we may say with seriousness it will be the logic of present events that it will be 'gas chambers' for blacks in seven years, and for whites in fourteen.

It will not be on the basis of colour. The shortsightedness of racism should not make the rest of us myopic to the fact that the new capitalism wants to reject us all the way it has done in the past with large classes that failed to fight back and win, and the young blacks will be the first to go. If one substitutes the word 'Clearances' for 'gas chambers' who can say it is unlikely that those unabsorbable into the new servitude are now to be the subject of extermination and deportation one way or another?

If people are to be forced out of productive and reasonably paid jobs—which close daily and in parts are wiped out entirely—and into domestic, servicing-type jobs which pay peanuts—and if at the same time houses are to increase so rapidly in price as to be out of reach for all, with no homes left even at the bottom of the heap—there must be clearances. There is no alternative. Gas chambers? The whole point about Hitler's gas chambers was the secrecy which helped to stabilise; that way is impracticable because at the first whiff of gas everybody will know what is afoot. But however the Clearances are carried out—viciously and inhumanly, most likely, or gradually and carefully—and both have been tried and tested in the past—they are coming. Those destined for obliteration (and young blacks just happen to be in front of the queue) are not united. If they resent what they know in their bones is going to happen, they resent each other.

TERROR POLICE RAID LABOURERS



Anti-Terrorist Police were among the police squads that raided the offices of the Builders Labourers Federation in Melbourne, Australia. Documents were seized and assets sequestered.

The next day around 1000 took to the streets to protest. The inevitable heavy-policing brought about an appropriate response. Street battles ensued with police becoming targets of handy tinnies and beer bottles. Prior to the fighting there was a march on Parliament House where the BLF's were joined by members of the Royal Australian Nurses Federation, who the BLF had supported when the nurses were on strike late last year.

The march then moved on to the offices of the much-hated state Arbitration Commission. An attempt was made to storm the building. After hand to

hand fighting the march then went on to the main shopping area.

One of the pretexts of the police raid on the BLF offices was in connection with allegations of financial impropriety made against the BLF's maoist general secretary, Norm Gallagher. Having a reputation as being a bit of a 'hard man', Gallagher denies the charges claiming that any trickery was done to protect the BLF's assets from sequestration. If the fraud is proven then BLF members will no doubt be assessing how the union can be reorganised by the

rank and file for the future. It's members have faced de-registration, police-organised scabbing, assault, and now legalised theft. And all because they won't tow the Labour Party line.



Big Business Terrorism Part 2

The Conservative government has allowed Britain's arms companies to make big profits by supplying both sides in the Gulf War. An article in *South* earlier this year reported the construction of chemical war factories in Iraq by British companies, while the export of 'protective' kits (without which the development of chemical weapons capability is almost impossible) manufactured by the British Government's own germ warfare establishment at Porton Down, and again exported to Iraq, has been widely reported.

Kenneth Timmerman (*New Statesman*, 24.7.87) exposed the methods used by European munitions makers to ensure the supply of explosives to both Iran and Iraq. Through a cartel organised by the European Association for the Study of Safety Problems in the Production of Propellant Powder (EASSP), Europe's major producers of military gunpowder arranged the orderly supply of munitions to the warring Gulf States. The cartel comprised a core group of thirteen companies, including Nobel Explosives of Scotland, all of them interested in killing and maiming as many people as possible in their relentless pursuit of profit.

Timmerman failed to mention in his article that Nobel is a subsidiary of ICI (Imperial Chemical Industries) whose board of directors includes representatives of four major British Banks: Barclays, Lloyds, Midland and the Royal Bank of Scotland. The ICI board also includes two prominent members of the CBI and one of them, Sir Robin Ibb, is an adviser to the Prime Minister.

The conspiracy to arm the State terrorists of Iran and Iraq clearly involves people at the very heart of the British establishment and while it suits the economic interests of British industry and the geopolitical interests of the Conservative nomenclature, it is likely to continue.

M.E.

LETTERS

DON'T BAN IT—BIN IT!

Dear Flag,
For all you say anarcho-syndicalism differs fundamentally from what we know as trade unionism, the rules of the CNT scarcely seem any different. 'Don't allow anybody to work without a union card'... 'obligation to accept majority decisions'... 'don't criticise the committees in public'... 'don't criticise people who hold positions of responsibility' sounds to me more like fighting for our own dear TUC than for anarchism.
S.M. S.W. London

If it sounds like that, it is by taking matters out of context. The closed shop policy in England where one can't work without a union card but also can't get one if one wants it, is vastly different from a union which opens its doors to all trades and crafts. Criticising delegates in public—which in certain circumstances could mean their loss of livelihood, liberty or even life in Spain—when they can be instantly recalled, is different from not criticising union officials here, in for five years or sometimes for life. The non-criticism of persons 'holding positions of responsibility' can of course, and has been, abused; though the same principle applies (but usually because the instant recall policy had been in abeyance). In an industrial situation, how can one not accept majority decisions?

NEWS OF WELSH MINERS

Dear Black Flag,
Dean Hancock and Russel Shankland, two Welsh miners jailed on a manslaughter charge for eight years during the 84-85 strike, are still in Gartree maximum security prison. They got no joy from a parole board in August, but are both in good health and spirits. Russell's birthday is Dec 10th and we urge all Black Flag readers to send cards and messages of support to show him and Dean that working people haven't forgotten them.
The address is: Russell Shankland, A 83 752, HMP Gartree, Market Harborough, Leicester LE 16 7RP.
East London Direct Action Movement-IWA

JUST ANOTHER KILLING

Dear Black Flag,
I was disgusted but not surprised at the acquittal recently of an RUC policeman of killing a republican demonstrator by hitting him in the chest from virtual point blank range with a plastic bullet.
—It astounded me to see little or no outcry from the general public who have become so muted and de-sensitised that they let people die and show no compassion, either through religious, political or self-made bigotry and ignorance.
—The killing of Protestant marcher Keith White recently showed that the Army and Police do not aim to protect but to dissect the Irish community by segregating them at any cost and stopping real peace in Ireland coming about. They shoot any dissent down in cold blood whether it be Catholic or Protestant. I see ordinary Catholics and Protestants rejecting their megalomaniac leaders and turning to themselves for the real answers and breaking down Statist barriers which allow the British ruling system to steal Irish land, money and peace.
—We don't need Paisley, Adams or Thatcher!
—Anarchy, peace and love.
Alex Pylypiw

LEAGUE INFILTRATION

Black Flag's allegation that Jamie Dettmer, the Sunday Telegraph's political editor who penned the article against Hooligan Press and the 'Hurricane Group', is connected to the Economic League is quite true.
Jamie Dettmer is the son of John Dettmer, who was listed in Black Flag as an Economic League director. Clearly the story attacking Hooligan on publishing a list of 100 top business types came straight from the Economic League, as alleged.
More interesting, perhaps, is the fact that Jamie Dettmer, prior to joining the Sunday Telegraph, worked for the Tribune, the leftist Labour Party paper.

SOURCE: Robin Ramsay

RESULT OF BLACKMAIL

A new twist to the Irangate saga has come about as a result of some investigations recently published by the Lobster people. Basically the claim is that the arms to Iran were arranged not necessarily because of the hostages held over the last couple of years or so but because the Reagan government has been the subject of a long-term campaign of blackmail by the Khomeini regime. And the basis of the blackmail? Simply that the Reagan administration, prior to Reagan's election in 1980, had conspired with Iran to delay the release of the 52 hostages held by Iran and which contributed to former president Carter's downfall. Also, that the failed helicopter mission sent in by the Carter administration was deliberately sabotaged to ensure Reagan's victory at the polls.

There is some evidence to back up these claims and there are a growing number of reports in US newspapers that suggest that the conspiracy to delay the release of the hostages was planned by aides who later helped to head Reagan's own arms-to-Iran operation as well as the Contra supply operation.

It is alleged that the conspiracy began with a meeting in 1980 between representatives of the Khomeini regime and representatives of the Reagan campaign. According to the Iranian politician Bani-Sadr the Khomeini side involved Rafsanjani (now Speaker of the Iranian parliament) and Ayatollah Behashti. Present at these negotiations were Robert McFarlane and Richard Allen, both to later become National Security Council advisers and the former an Irangate hearing 'star'.

Not long after Reagan took office arms began to flow into Iran via Israel. These shipments were arranged by McFarlane (this was revealed by the then Israeli defence minister, Ariel Sharon, in a May '82 interview with the Washington Post). On top of this a second, parallel, arms deal was negotiated at the same time by the CIA with 'independent' arms dealer Cyrus Hashemi. Later Hashemi (who was to die in mysterious circumstances) introduced NSC representatives to Adnam Khashoggi, the initial go-between in the '83-86 arms scam that was to be termed Irangate. Hashemi is also believed to have been present at the original secret negotiations between Reagan's campaign team members (McFarlane and Allen) and the Khomeini people in 1980.

It is now admitted that the Reagan campaign set up a special group to head off a Carter victory based on a late 'surprise' release of the 52 hostages. This special group was simply known as the 'October

Surprise Group'. Heading the group was Richard Allen.

The scenario planned by the group was to have the hostages released after Reagan's inauguration. Obviously the Iranian's would not agree to such a proposal unless there was something in it for them. And those early arms shipments via Israel, provided with the approval of the incoming Reagan administration, was essential for them in their planned confrontation with Iraq - a confrontation that is now acutely affecting US strategic interests.



Then there was the matter of the failed mission to release the hostages. Three helicopters were sent by the Carter administration but crash-landed in the desert only 200 miles outside Tehran. The helicopters sent on the rescue mission were designed for maritime use. The small plastic valves fitted to the air intake weren't changed and

tailed in the desert environment. The decision that this mission also was sabotaged gains credibility when it is understood that one of the chief planners of the attempt was none other than General Richard Secord, then working to the Pentagon, but much later implicated in the Iran/contragate affair. Another of the planners was Richard Gadd, who was also implicated in Contragate in setting up supply operations to the Contras.

There is also some evidence that Iran was warned of the rescue attempt in advance. (There was even a secret plan by the Carter administration to invade Iran, but this was called off at the last minute when it was learned that Soviet tanks had amassed on the Iranian border). Prior to the rescue attempt there was a series of press releases and leaks about the mission, as well as more straightforward disinformation. One such leaker was ex-CIA agent Miles Copeland, who gave a clear idea as to what was to happen only a matter of a couple of days beforehand. It is also believed that the Reagan campaign got inside information about the mission from pro-Reagan personnel inside the CIA and the NSC. One such person was Robert Owen, a member of Carter's Iran-crisis planning group and who later was to be appointed by Reagan on to the 'Secret Team' that ran the Contra supply operation.

More and more information is now coming out in the US press about these allegations. It could well be the start of a Irangate 2, incriminating not just Reagan but a whole host of senior officials in the CIA, the NSC and the Pentagon. Already many of the allegations that have surfaced have pointed the finger at George Bush, who at the time of the 1980 crisis had considerable influence inside the CIA and headed his own 'free-lance' operators, and Casper Weinberger, who was Secord's line-manager in the Pentagon when Secord was put in charge of Middle East Arms Liaison during the 1981-83 period.

The final arms-deal period - 1983-86 - was thought to have been forced on to the Reagan administration not because of any concern for the recent hostage taking but because the Iranian government threatened to spill the beans on the Reagan deal to delay the release of the 52 hostages in 1980 and on the sabotaging of the rescue mission. The fact that the arms sales profits went on to fund covert action in Central America is neither here nor there. Reagan was held ransom by the Khomeini regime, which explains perfectly why, despite all reasons to the contrary, the US government for several years provided arms to a sworn enemy.

ANC KIDNAPPING - THE WACL LINK

The shit has hit the fan with the release, during trial, of three men charged with conspiring to kidnap members of the African National Congress. Several leading Tories have been implicated, but a cover-up has only resulted in demands for an investigation. A obvious - and a not so obvious - link with the World Anti-Communist League, provides some clues of the overall intent.

The three who were on trial were Evan Evans, a former mercenary, Frank Larsen, who uses a number of aliases, and Jonathan Wheatley, another mercenary. The Tories named in the plot are Julian Amery MP,

a former government minister, Sir Edward Gardner MP, and William Marsden of the Foreign Office. The police and security services have claimed the documents linking the three to the plot were forged in order to provide cover for Larsen and friends in their recruitment activities. But at the same time at least two of the three Tories named are controversial figures in their own right in maintaining strong support for the South African regime and in having known dealings with dirty tricks organisations.

Amery, for example, has extensive bus-

ness links with South Africa and with sanctions busting companies, some of whom trade with the regime via the Seychelles. He is also a prominent member of the Monday Club, which was originally set up as a pro-South African lobby. Gardner is also a Monday Clubber, but more importantly is a member of the far-right 92 Group, which was set up by the head of the British section of the World-Anti-Communist League, Sir Patrick Wall. This may not seem much if it were not for another WACL link, which the mainstream press have already picked up on.

The prime organiser of the plot - Frank Larsen - is an associate of the head of WACL, John Singlaub. In fact Larsen introduced Singlaub to several sympathetic British army officers when on one of his recruitment sprees.

Amery's link with the Seychelles takes on a more sinister character than it has already when one looks at the wider dimensions of the plot. Today the Seychelles is an important staging post for companies involved in sanctions busting. The 'Marxist' government there has developed close links with the regime in South Africa. In fact the business relationship between the two regimes was negotiated by another implicated in the ANC kidnapping plot, namely Johann Neimoller, an agent of the South African security forces.

Amery and several other Tories nevertheless wished to see a change of government in the Seychelles. This did not suit South African interests. Neimoller was then instructed to sabotage the ANC kidnapping plot to embarrass MI6.

Project Democracy

A couple of years back President Reagan gave a speech to both houses of the British parliament announcing his launch of what he called 'Project Democracy'. This plan was devised initially by none other than ex-CIA terrorist Edwin Wilson (see last Black Flag) in the days prior to his capture by a District Attorney.

Reagan's speech was full of the usual anti-communist rhetoric but disguised the fact that what he was really talking about was the then planned for Contragate operation. Before Wilson was taken into custody he drew up a plan he called Project X

whereby he would set up a number of private operations to takeover the drugs trafficking operations involving the South American-Miami route, launder money to arms suppliers, arrange trade-offs with sovereign states, and use the profits from the deals to bypass Congress and fund the Contras. Sounds familiar? Wilson wrote to the National Security Council about his plan while in Libya. However he was no longer trusted and the plan was handed over to Oliver North.

It was at this stage that the plan was renamed Project Democracy and given presidential approval.

I.D. CARDS IMMINENT

Continued from page 1.

'unique identity number' - with a national I/D card. This process has already begun with the issue of National Insurance plastic cards to new applicants. The plan eventually is for everyone who is over 16 years of age to be issued with this new plastic card. There are, however, no plans as yet to make carrying the card compulsory - although we believe that will be the eventual next step. Interestingly the card already contains a magnetic strip - whether that magnetic strip already contains some information is, at this point in time, anyone's guess.

But this is where the Poll Tax comes in. As the Scottish Office has admitted the Poll Tax will necessitate everyone eligible for payment being issued with a Poll Tax number and a machine-readable computer code. To avoid duplicating existing procedures it would be logical to assume that the state will make use of the present national I/D numbering system - the National Insurance number - for the Poll Tax. And presumably the National Insurance card's magnetic strip could include the bar-code in order that the Poll Tax details could be added to the card in one combined operation.

Magnetic strips are able to contain much more information than that. They could, for example, be processed to say whether the holder has paid the Poll Tax. In this sense the plastic card would then function as a sort of credit card. In this way we may end up taking our National Insurance card to the Poll Tax office for payment, it is

then passed through a standard credit-card-machine, the magnetic strip is 'read' with a light pen and the payment is recorded on the card as well as by the computer terminal to which the light pen is connected. The National Insurance/Poll Tax credit card would then be used for paying for local services. In other words when we go to the local library or leisure centre we would be asked to present the card to be read to see if we have paid the Poll Tax.

Any random checks by police could mean that we end up showing our National Insurance card as proof of identity. The problem here is by inputting the NI number the police will have an immediate check on our biographical details, including basic information of our financial status. This would be but the beginning of a long slippery slope on the way to consolidating a link between straightforward criminality and economic status - something that has always been the case but which has not officially been institutionalised. An I/D card with financial information encoded on it would provide the police with an instant, verifiable means of defining the suspect in terms of their social-economic position.

By linking National Insurance records with Poll Tax payments it will become easier to cross-check whether someone has paid their Poll Tax. If eventually the payment of the Poll Tax is privatised - and current trends would seem to indicate that this would be a possibility - then again a private company with a suitable database, such as CCN, could take on this task. False I/D's will therefore mean the possibility that the holders will be asked to pay the Poll Tax more than once, according to how many I/D's they hold.

THE ITALIAN CONNECTION

Continued from page 4.

into the Glasgow Fighting Call). It is quaint to note how the early issues all avoid class struggle even when listing the collective achievements in Spain, concentrating on conventional anti-fascism.

Later there was an unpublicised split; some forming an FAI (Federazione Antifascista Italiana!) which ditched anarchism for pop-frontism (and some good comrades like DaGiani, whose daughter appeared on the programme, becoming CP at last with Russia entering the war); Spain and the World, under the influence of M.L. Berneri, drifting to the English-speaking movement. The seeds of many subsequent dissensions are contained there. The worst thing done in the name of conventional anti-fascism was to enlist the aid of the British Labour Party—which approached the Home Office on how these convinced anti-fascists could help... the Home Office responded with a request for a list of who the activists were. The secretary of the Labour Party, Willis, asked for—and received!—the

list which he handed over. Could one not say that this was a mistake equivalent to the Spanish Anarchists entering the Popular Front Government? That list was a death list. The lesson of the whole episode is that it was not an anti-fascist war merely because that was the enemy's ideology (something impossible it seems for people to grasp). The first world war was not anti-Imperialist; the second was not pro-Communist, nor from Germany's side was either anti-Imperialist. There were in the second world war many fascist officers (it seemed sometimes a majority—despite the 'what, me? I fought against Hitler' post-war tack). The British ruling class was inundated with fascism. The anti-fascists were held as dangerous characters at worst (or 'loony left' at best—but that was when they used the word 'pinko' instead). It wasn't mistakes that led the Government to drive anti-fascists to their deaths. It was only the use of these policies not just against anarchists and anti-fascists but against non-political German-Jewish refugees, often famous in the arts or sciences, with Establishment figures to speak for them, that led to the reversal of these policies.

Albert Meltzer

Answers to Anarcho-Quiz

1. In Carrara, Italy, where marble workers have been anarchist since the days of the First International. One statue is to murdered Spanish educationalist Francisco Ferrer, the other, in the main part of town, to Alberto Meschi, 'anarcho-syndicalist and anarchist, who helped bring the marble workers to organise'.

2. Berkman and Goldman were among the many Anarchists, Marxists and Social-Revolutionaries deported to Russia in the s.s. Buford after the First World War; as a protest against their treatment they wrecked it so greatly before leaving the boat that it had to be scrapped—Buster Keaton bought it for one of his films.

3. The Scottish crofters set up their own Trustee Savings Bank which, as it became larger moved farther away from them—and finally was taken over by the directors in the TSB share flotation last year.

4. Barclays! How the Quakers want to live that one down!

5. Quite simply, and admittedly, they wanted him to keep quiet about other crooked deals he had had with them.

6. 'Kings can grant honours, honour they can't, Honours without honour make but a barren grant', was sung of Baron Grant by the 'Lions Comiques'—in the Leicester Square Theatre.

News In Brief

STRIKES AT WINFRITH

Nearly 1000 workers at the Atomic Research Establishment at Winfrith, Dorset voted on Tuesday for a 24 hour protest strike after police at the establishment searched the locker of a worker who was off sick. A further walkout took place on Thursday after establishment police searched the worker's house. 300 white collar staff refused to cross picket lines.

Source: Anti-Nuclear Network Newsletter.

BM HURRICANE ?

In the power cuts after the 100 mile an hour gale, numbers of shops were looted in Sussex and London.

Peckham, Brixton, Streatham, Wood Green, the West End and Ealing had windows smashed by the storm, helped by local people Police

'turned a blind eye according to press reports, while people helped themselves to clothes, food and electrical goods. Maybe it wasn't exactly concern for public safety that caused the authorities to tell people to stay inside as the storm died down.

ROBIN HOOD LIVES!

Gangs of villagers in South Wales who have been expropriating coal from coal trains and then re-distributing their loot afterwards have been dubbed by the media as 'Robin Hood raiders'. In recent raids it has also been reported that those taking part have been armed with air pistols and CB walkie-talkie radios.

BOOK REVIEW

The History of British Trade Unionism, by Henry Pelling (Pelican 4.95)

The main stages in the history of British trade unionism have been the struggle to establish legitimacy, which had been largely won by the 1860s, the emergence of general unionism which took place in the early decades of the present century, and the growth of white collar and public service unions in the past 25 years. In the same period the most significant high points of the class struggle have been the syndicalist agitation between 1911 and 1914 followed by the shop stewards movement during the 1914-18 war, the 1926 General Strike, a revival of the shop stewards movement during the 1939-45 war and a general readiness to use the strike weapon among workers, especially dockers during the 1950s and 60s. Generally unfavourable circumstances since 1970 have led to a decline in this militancy, though instances do continue to occur.

What struck me about this brief overview was the slight extent to which the development of trade unions was related to the level of class struggle in society at the time. I regard it as certain that there does exist a connection between trade unionism and the class struggle but the nature of this connection is rather difficult to determine precisely. It can be borne in mind that it is to the advantage of working people that, in its prosecution of the class struggle on behalf of the employers, the present government seeks to restrict the powers of trade unions, presumably because as no members have any experience of trade unions, they do not know how they work and regard them as the only expressions of working class resistance and organisation.

Trade unions certainly have some role in the organisation of working class resistance to employers' attempts to erode working conditions and increase exploitation. Because I do not agree with the simplistic view that trade union officers always settle for less than they could get or that workers are always ready to take action to secure better than they are offered, I find it difficult to be precise about the relationship of trade unions and the class struggle. It does seem clear however that active trade unionists should make their primary purpose the strengthening of rank-and-file militancy and always treat any trade union office they may hold as of secondary importance to this. Otherwise the detailed technicalities of the office become more important than awareness of the opinions and wishes of the rank-and-file and the prospects of getting actual support for what one is seeking.

I regard the connection between the class struggle and the work of trade unionists as

vitaly important. Any activist will be aware of this connection. The commitment of the membership is the essential motor of any successful struggle. This factor is not adequately stressed in Henry Pelling's History of the British Trade Union Movement. Activists will learn little new about the main periods of rank-and-file activism from this book, though it is useful as a history of trade unions as organisations. Of more interest to the student than the activist, I enjoyed it probably because I like to regard myself as both. This is a new edition with a chapter bringing the account into the 1980s and considering the developments during Mrs Thatcher's premiership. Looked at in the short term there is little cause for hope and none for optimism. It may be that working people will develop new methods of organisation for the conduct of their struggles. Syndicalist methods could be a significant element in this process, and efforts by anarchists to extend its influence are of considerable importance in developing a strategy for struggle independent of the corporate trade unions which now dominate and smother the aspirations of the working class. Let's campaign for working class struggle that involves the rank-and-file and keeps wider social goals as part of its long-term aims. Successful or not, such work will implant wider and richer perspectives into the mundane bread-and-butter demands, mainly make up trade union work.

Peter Miller

THE MINISTER'S MEMORIAL

Our Lord who art in the Treasury, whatever be thy name, thy power be prolonged, thy will be done throughout the empire, as it is in each session. Give us our usual sops, and forgive us our occasional absences on divisions, as we promise not to forgive them that divide against thee. Turn us not out of our places; but keep us in the House of Commons, the land of Pensions and Plenty; and deliver us from the People. Amen.

William Hone

For this parody of the Lord's Prayer, radical Fleet Street pioneer William Hone was prosecuted for blasphemy! Despite three attempts by the Tory Ministry to have him imprisoned, three juries acquitted him, in December 1817—despite his facing the notorious Lord Ellenborough, one of a long line of Government judicial stooges. How radicals looked forward to the time when such parliamentary conduct was unknown, such malicious prosecutions impossible, such judges forever abolished—even if it took 170 years! Is it going to take two hundred?

COMING EVENTS

TELEVISION

THE PEOPLE'S FLAG is a series of five hour-long documentaries telling 'the story of the British Labour movement from the earliest days to the present' bringing 'representatives of a political tradition which believes that socialist politics is not about running capitalism more efficiently, but about changing the system altogether'. Anarchists should be included but we'll report when we see it. It started 26th October (TV Channel 4) at 11.00 p.m and runs on for four more Mondays.

HISTORY WORKSHOP 21, Friday 20-22 November definitely contains a section on Anarchism; details from HW 21 Tyneside History Workshop Centre, Newcastle Trades Council, 4 The Cloth Market, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 1EE.

In a showpiece of planning the **Anarchist Book Fair** is held on the same date as the workshop on anarchism for the second year running: it will also have an anarchist section, and takes place on Saturday 21 Nov Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1, 10am to 6pm. (food and drink available). Nearest tube: Holborn.

ANTI-BNP DEMONSTRATION

There will be an anti-British National Party (fascists) demonstration in York on Sunday November 8. The BNP are marching in York to celebrate their all-white militarist culture on Remembrance Sunday.

Assemble 10am, city centre. Be there!

NORTHERN ANARCHIST NETWORK

Developing communication and solidarity between Anarchists in the North. Next meeting; Saturday Dec 12th 1pm in Bradford. For venue and further information contact 1 in 12 club, 21-23 Albion St., Bradford, West Yorkshire.

New Publications

DOING BUSINESS

A booklet published by the 1 in 12 people. It is described as a beginners guide to investigative research (but doesn't cover the same ground as the Stuart Christie book). It lists sources to tracking down businesses, includes a brief guide to the law and on writing up stuff. It costs two pounds and is available from 1 in 12 Publications, 31 Manor Road, Bradford 1.

The Bolsheviks & Workers' Control (1917-1921), by Maurice Brinton. One pound plus 40 pence postage (reductions for bulk orders). Reprinted by Bolton DAM with a new introduction and cover and their contribution to the current anniversary hype. This short classic gives a factual blow-by-blow account of the Bolshevik counter-revolution against the Russian workers' movement.

Orders to: Bolton DAM, 16 Wood St, Bolton, Lancs., Britain.