

BLACK FLAG

FOR ANARCHIST RESISTANCE

25-04-88

30p

ONE BIG UNION OR NONE

The Government is reportedly looking at the Coal and Ferries industries to see if threats of industrial action can be stemmed by introducing individual contracts to employees.

In particular the Government wants to rid the Coal industry of NACODS, the pit deputies' union, which it sees as being all-powerful in bringing the coal industry to a standstill. One plan is to offer individual contracts to deputies while encouraging the UDM, the scab union, to pitch for pit deputies' jobs. A similar strategy is being designed for seafarers.

The UDM meanwhile has got problems of its own. The other week British Coal announced the closure of two more pits—one of which is Mansfield Colliery, in the heart of UDM territory, and which was promised by former Coal chief, Ian MacGregor, as guaranteed to stay open until at least the next century. The UDM are due to vote on whether to accept the closure—which is expected, especially as all the miners affected have been promised nearby relocation.

While a rebellion within the ranks of the UDM is unlikely—although in the long run they face the same cut-back problems of NUM members, despite the traditional favouritism—the majority union, the NUM, is turning outside the industry for support. One idea being aired is that of an energy-based super union. And appeals for such a collaboration have been coming from another direction too. Recently union representatives of nuclear power workers have been making noises to the NUM about a possible united energy strategy—except what the nuclear power workers really want is to 'conserve' the nuclear power industry, which they see as being threatened by the privatisation of the Electricity industry. For this reason they feel a common energy policy is likely to ensure that cut-backs are minimised. They also want to get wider industrial support for themselves—something they were loathe to give when the miners asked for solidarity during the 84/85 dispute.

The rail unions have also been approached by the NUM with a view to possible collaboration. They too will soon be facing a massive attack. British Rail plans to introduce a new system of negotiations with the unions. This will involve trade union representatives having to negotiate directly with local managers, with no right to bring in regional or national union negotiators. The implication of this is that disputes will become localised and any attempt to tie them in with similar disputes elsewhere in the industry will be prevented by legal action. Effectively this could mean the end of national disputes, creating legal precedents for other industries too.

This of course is already what has happened with the Ferry workers' dispute. Their attempt merely to win a national dispute led to the courts' sequestration of the entire assets of the union. The dispute therefore continued at a local level only, and against one employer—P & O at Dover. The arguments that cut-backs and the erosion of safety standards within the industry generally held no sway in the courts, which were determined to limit strike action.

The continuation of this trend generally would be catastrophic for all unions and all workers.

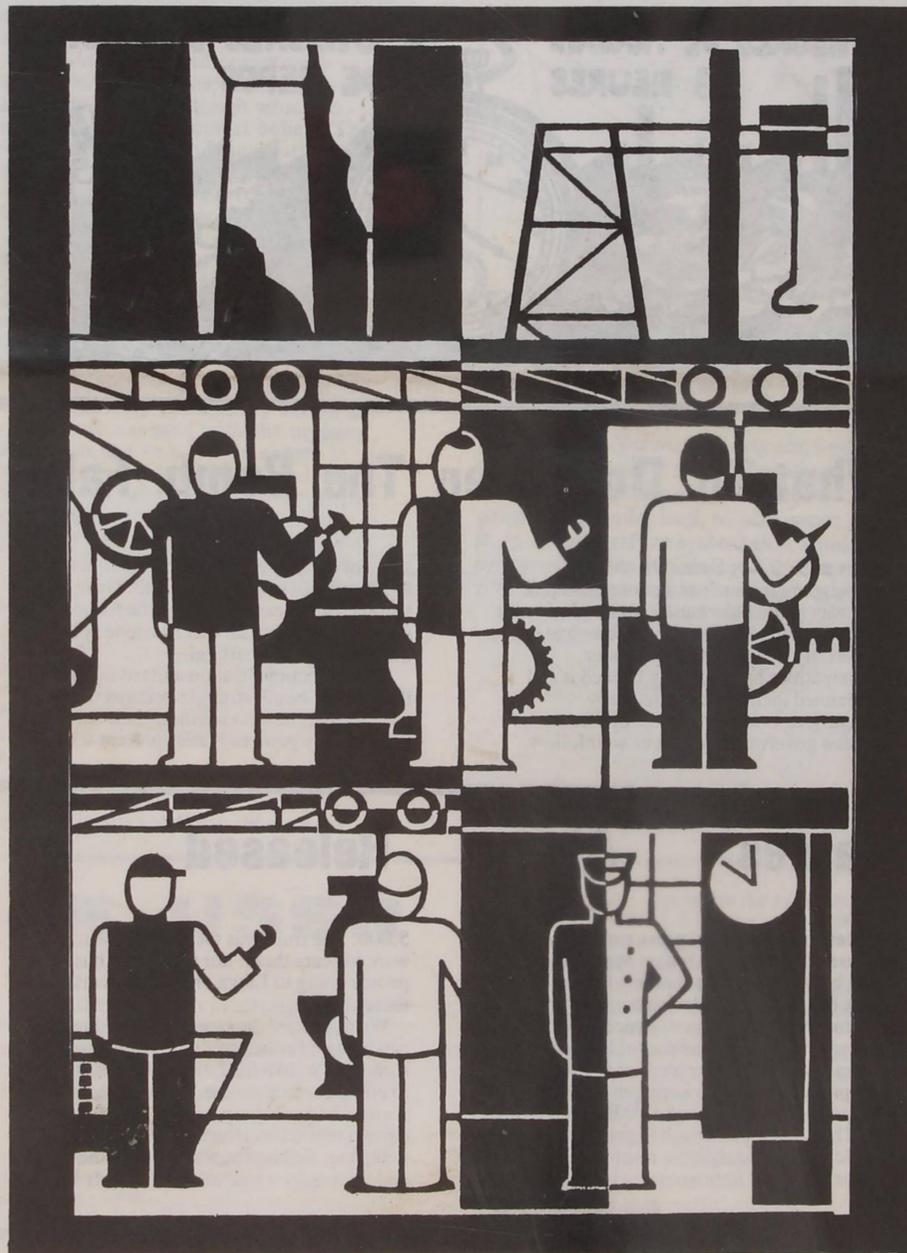
None of this means that secondary action is not possible—only legal when and if the government or employers decide that tactically they can afford to take the unions to court. In the middle of last month, at the time of the Budget, thousands of workers took illegal secondary action, without a ballot, in support of Health workers. And—apart from rail workers at Kings Cross—were not taken to court. This secondary action witnessed bus workers, dockers, miners and engineering workers all coming out in support. Two thirds of London buses were halted; there were stoppages in South Yorkshire too. There was a walkout by ship builders at the Harland &

Wolff yard in Belfast and dockers at Tilbury, Bristol and London took strike action. At one colliery—Littleton in Staffordshire—150 miners walked out after being addressed by a solitary nurse. Other strike action took place in Cardiff, Birmingham, Nottingham, Leicester, Coventry and Leeds. All this was secondary action, taken in disregard of the law.

The threat of court action was there all the time, but it was the massive response of trade unionists taking unofficial action that made court action unfeasible. When workers act together the courts are powerless. When they

act alone then they can be picked off. The support for the Health workers was the nearest we have come to a general strike for a long time. It wasn't a general strike of course, but it demonstrated clearly what can be done.

For the Health workers, the miners, the ferry workers, the rail workers, and all workers who are fighting back, united action is the only way forward. And that means creating a common organisation for mutual solidarity, whether the unions have got the initiative or not. Without such a common organisation, controlled by the rank and file, there is no real hope.



MASS RAIDS ON 'RED ZORA'

Spreading up the industrial Rhineland to Hamburg in the north east, the West German police moved on December 18 against the feminist movement critics of genetic engineering and State immigration policy.

200 Federal officers assisted by local police carried out raids on 33 addresses. They claim the sweep was to unearth the activities of 'Red Zora', a feminist women's guerrilla network.

Streets were sealed off, police forced their way, arms drawn, into women's homes, family members' homes, research centres and workplaces. Claiming to be acting against 'terrorism' they seized radio and video recordings, personal mail, address books, and

scientific material relating to genetic engineering, pre-natal diagnosis and reproductive technology research.

After the raids in Hamburg, Ulla Penselin, a well known feminist activist, was still under arrest, charged with membership of a terrorist organisation. On December 20, in Cologne, Ingrid Strobl was also arrested. The authorities now announce they have 'cracked two cells' of Red Zora and later bulletins announce a search for four more 'terrorists at large'.

Ulla (36) has been running a community printshop for ten years and organising the network exposing population control policy

NOT THE SAME BULLSHIT AGAIN

Paul Lashmar and Arlen Harris, reporters for the *Observer*, have come out with a scary story (April 10) about the 'growth in support for anarchism'. It would be nice if some of their remarks were true, and not just booze-induced. They say that there are now 'tens of thousands of young people who describe themselves as anarchists' (wasn't it a decade ago the *Sunday Telegraph* thought it saw anarchist newspapers being sold at every bookstall, giving 'hundreds of causes' for young anarchists to join?) This precious pair say they know two anarchists who were responsible for throwing the concrete block through Neil Kinnock's window (and are presumably guilty of aiding and abetting by concealing that identity?) but in general rely on the Economic League hand-out used months ago by Jamie ('I'll have to ask my dad') Dettmer in the *Sunday Telegraph* and later by the *Guardian* rewrite team. Animal liberationists are equated with anarchists because a few are; the DAM is dragged in as 'the most organised.. with 200 members' (out of tens of thousands?). *Black Flag* isn't attacked (because the Economic League avoided direct mention, inventing the Hurricane Group) but the story that 'prominent businessmen's homes and cars' have been attacked after 'anarchist publications' (us) gave their home addresses, stems from the Economic League's cowardice and bullying—it has been fingering workers for fifty years, leading to starvation, sacking, violence and blackmail—we published the addresses of their members and they haven't stopped screaming blue murder and terrorism since!

They refer to the squatters paper *Crowbar* (not having noticed it's a year since it last appeared) but at least it's an advance on Martyn Harris in the *Daily Telegraph* who thought the Anarchist revolution in Spain was still on, a year ago.

Needless to say, *Class War* ('sells 20,000 copies') which believes in telling the press what it wants to hear is specially singled out. But there is a statement—attributed to Andy Murphy correctly or not—that makes it plain they do not call themselves anarchists and 'have grown our own political theory'. No matter!

You'll be glad to know that 'Special Branch has six full-time officers monitoring anarchists in the capital'. What do they do all day? Bum up expenses? Since baby Jamie started it off they've been reported watching—surely, if true, they'd have found (or left) something by now?

and genetic technology. Ingrid (35), is familiar in many households after seven years as a journalist with *Emma*, a widely circulated monthly. She had almost completed a book on women's armed resistance to Nazism and Fascism (which she intends to finish behind bars, with the approval of her publisher).

Both women are denied bail and confined under special political prisoners' regulations which includes the now familiar 'white torture' technique (isolation; and restrictions on exercise, mail, lawyers' visits and books). Their detention has not abated the raids on feminists but harassment has increased under a new term 'Probable Attack Issues'.

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**For a social system based on mutual
aid and voluntary co-operation -
against State control and all forms
of government and economic re-
pression. 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.**

ANARCH-QUIZ

1. Which Head of State began his political career as a trade union leader turned police informer; and which as a soldier turned police informer?
2. What group of people are called 'tikki tikki' in Russia—and how does this racial abuse bound back?
3. Who discovered Australia?
4. Did Goebbels really say—it sounds very frank—that if you wanted to tell a lie, you had to tell a big one as it was more likely to be believed?
5. How has Prince Edward demonstrated his father's ideal of 'ending it without fuss' if the people so decided?
6. Vanessa Redgrave spoke at the Young Vic Theatre—where else?—for her new Marxist Party's debut, on 'Bonapartist Censorship'—what's that?

REPEATED QUIZ, REPEATED QUIZ

Dear Comrades,

After years of your never repeating Quiz questions and my always failing to get more than two answers, I was delighted to note I got 'em all right for once—though they sounded familiar. Did you perhaps repeat the Quiz in 179 again in 180 by popular demand Yours,

Fred

Eds: Pure mischance, as the Prime Minister said when she pressed the nuclear attack button instead of the bell for Denis's noggin

Q & A ON ANARCHISM

Q. Surely the cuts in social services, hospitals, housing, education etc. have now proved the need of the State (since when it withdraws its services we see we need it)?

A. And when there is no work we see we need the capitalist, runs a similar argument. But in fact State and capitalism depend on the people, not vice versa. Having put our social organisation in the hands of the State and our livelihood in the hands of the industrialist, they can deprive us of either, both, or everything at will, to serve particular interests or theories.

Employers like to think they 'give' work which they select to suit themselves; State administrators think of themselves as 'generous' or alternatively, 'firm' in dealing with what we produce.

If you entrust the key of your front door to a caretaker who is off for the night when you want to get in, that doesn't prove the caretaker is essential, even if one is wanted at that moment; it only shows the unreliability of the system.

We're sorry that the answering of letters is running late, due to our various problems tied up with our appearing late. We hope to sort out matters soon: meantime we hope our friends will bear with us... It's all a matter of tying up our activities with daily problems.

Insulting Words

A bigoted bookseller in Southend spent £50,000 (bribe?) to get the PO to frank all mail with *JESUS IS ALIVE*. This started a row, involving exporters to 'pagan' countries, most non-Christians and even the Arch of Cant who found it 'insensitive'.

A non-believer in God—nor even in the British Humanist Association—wonders if it is not just non-believers, believers in other Gods, or tolerant Christians who are offended, but if many respectable Christians of the Polite Society variety are not so too. Examples come to mind, for instance, of an Army NAAFI assistant complaining of a

(devout) soldier using 'bad' language in the canteen—she objected to the words 'Christ Almighty' thinking them obscene; an office secretary protesting at 'foul' language when a (devout) person threatened with court proceedings for embezzlement swore (as he would have had to do if charged) 'by the living Jesus'; and a burly policeman being so offended, during the miners' strike, at the words 'Jesus Christ have mercy' that he charged the offender with using 'insulting words'.

'Taking the Lord's name in vain' applies to the secret name 'Jehovah' (still dreaded by

orthodox Jews). Protestant nannies draw the line at Jesus.

Can the Post Office take another view on this occasion from the BBC? Auntie Beeb is concerned with 'bad language' and is 're-assessing' policy on what is 'acceptable' in daytime programmes. Michael Green, controller of Radio 4, is calling for a 'seminar on bad language' which intends to decide how much robust English used in Shakespeare and the Bible is acceptable or offensive to the nation's nannies. Will the graphic description of the plight of a stricken city be rendered more acceptable by altering the 'Word of God' to 'they shall drink their own wee-wee and eat their own No.2'? Who knows, someone may suggest Jesus Christ should be confined to late-night religious programmes unless they're low on cash, perhaps?

Solidarity Ban Widened

The recent case of the National Union of Seafarers being banned by the courts from even balloting their members on the question of a possible national strike within the industry has provided yet another legal precedent, with ominous forebodings. Elsewhere British Rail are attempting to localise all disputes. This all adds up to a major redefining of the secondary strike action laws. Ultimately the new trends set

could lead to a ban on all sympathetic action, even between one work place and another in the same industry. The real goal, though, is to get the courts to ban any form of industrial action where solidarity is threatened. An individual in dispute with the boss seeking support from other workers in the workplace: even this can be construed as 'illegal' secondary action.

The signs are there for all to see. The cult of

the individual should rule, according to this prevailing government. And if the courts do succeed in stemming, or even banning, all forms of solidarity action then the unions will in turn be redefined out of existence, as they will then be little more than rubber stamps, insurance brokers, etc.

Of course that's providing that there is no united resistance to these changes—and it must be said that so far that has not happened. All workers in all industries will be affected by these changes and therefore it is common sense that the fight back should not be sectional.

In our last issue we referred to the right to a general strike and demonstrated how that right no longer exists in the UK. The recent legal precedents now confirm that there is no longer a right to organise strike action within an industry, let alone across a country. Before it's too late these laws have to be smashed and the rights we have lost regained. Waiting until the rot sets in totally will be too late—by then we will be under an open dictatorship with a submissive populace too intimidated by threats of criminalisation to be able to do much about it.

While the unions refuse to organise any resistance that only leaves the option of a rebellion within the labour movement in order that combative unionism will emerge once again.



What To Do When The Bomb Falls

Easter after dreary Easter the worthy campaigners for nuclear disarmament plod their way from Aldermaston to London or the other way round calling for the bomb to be banned. By now some local Labour municipalities have actually banned it and proclaimed themselves unilaterally nuclear-free zones: for all the difference it makes a government might as well follow

suit, for surely no one believes that 'banning' the bomb will stop it being used. Once the ban-the-bomb campaign was the focus for the student revolt, but all that has done is to usurp the working-class struggle.

The institutionalisation and trivialisation of the ban-the-bomb struggle perhaps obscures the fact that, however remote their solutions, the evil they point to is ever present with us.

Some this year were saying that 'glasnost' has opened a whole new era. Perhaps (though doubtful). But most States can use the bomb. It cannot be disinvited. Nuclear power, whether beneficial or disastrous, opens a new field that the world cannot turn aside from: whether by using it for construction or destruction. Some claim that nuclear power can be beneficial: others that it must always be harmful, but nobody disputes that it can be used for total destruction and that dangers always exist for near-total destruction by accident, and that the world lives under mass terror which it chooses to ignore (or go mad).

James Abra Released

Readers of the national press read of the release of Mr James Abra on March 14th. Who knew before that Gaddafi had for three years been holding a British engineer in jail, sentenced to life, on no evidence, solely for having gone to Libya as part of his firm's contract work? Only readers of *Black Flag*. The press were told to keep quiet for fear of compromising the other 5,000 Britons. How so? They had time enough to get out; nor would even Gaddafi have reacted to criticism of one wrongful imprisonment by jailing

5,000. The truth was the Government didn't want to scare them; nor to prevent business people going to Libya or sending workers there.

We published the case in *Black Flag*; we can take no further credit. A reader wrote to Ron Brown, MP for Leith, who was involved in efforts to free another prisoner, and who seemed to have sympathy for the regime. Ron Brown replied on House of Commons notepaper that he knew nothing of the case; and the reader wrote to us. When Mr Brown

was told, he raised it with Gaddafi, and Mr Abra was released under a general amnesty. We are not all that grateful to Gaddafi—after all, it's easy for dictators to grant amnesties—Franco was always doing it—for people who shouldn't have been locked up in the first place. But we are pleased of the outcome of the case: though we never met Mr Abra and only knew of him through a fellow-worker's wife.

Sadly, Mrs Abra was not there to welcome her husband home. In a depressed state after his imprisonment, she confined herself to her own home, and sat behind drawn blinds. A few months ago, watching television for news that never came, it suddenly exploded: the shock brought on a fatal heart attack.

Squatters : A Final Solution?

We have it on good authority that a certain trotskyst Labour council has developed a strategy to rid itself of squatters once and for all. Never mind ancient squatters rights fought for by the dispossessed over centuries, this particular Labour council intends to use a recent Tory law to eliminate the problem.

Our mole has informed us that the council is getting legal advice in order that prominent squatters—especially the 'organised'

ones—can be targeted and evicted not through the usual court procedure but as a result of a legal precedent established during the police attack on the 'hippy' convoy. This legal precedent involved the amended Trespass law, applied as part of the Public Order Act. It meant that if one lot of travellers were prosecuted for trespass, another lot with obvious associations could also be summarily dealt with. The argument is that of linkage.

Now the council in question—we cannot name it for fear of revealing our mole—wants to not only use the linkage factor to get rid of squatters—and this is already done more widely through restitution orders—but to evict the squatters via the Public Order Act, on grounds of trespass. The long term aim of the council—and presumably other councils will follow suit—is to eradicate squatting altogether by arguing that most squatting is done through mutual aid and is therefore by association. Already we know of one group of squatters who have received summary execution of an eviction order in this way.

An ancient right is being lost with the consequence that the homeless will be tripled.

NEWS FROM DENMARK

An electrician who was fired in early November, because he refused to work in a house that was rebuilt for the South African Consulate in Denmark, got his job back after the case was taken to the Labour Court by his union. During the last half year, there have been major interruptions in the building of the new consulate as many workers have refused to work for the South African regime.

The Danish police want to introduce a new bullet for their pistols: the THV projectile. This THV projectile was developed to produce essentially the same effect as the dum-dum bullet. The dum-dum bullet is forbidden by the Hague Convention, so the THV projectile is an attempt to evade this convention. In the light of the escalation of police methods and the growing amount of clashes with demonstrators, this is alarming news.

On the 13th of October 1987, the right-wing and extremist patriotic organisation 'Den Danske Forening' (The Danish Union), held a meeting with the British ex-headmaster, Ray Honeyford, known for his sympathy for the separation of schoolchildren according to their colour.

The Danish Society is against refugees and immigrants, and is the upper middle-class attempt to make racism accepted.

Outside of the meeting, about 500 protesters showed their contempt. A contingent of approximately 80 masked militants wanted to throw the racists out but after an hour of street fighting, the police dissolved the demo.

Source: Ekopedia Toronto

TERRORISTS AND HUMBUGS

Kuwait, a self-confessed Islamic theocracy, backs Iraq, another Glorious Islamic state, in its war with Iran, a third member of the clan. A Shi'ite gang got on a Kuwaiti plane—presumably as fare paying passengers—and hijacked the plane and its passengers, forcing a touchdown in Iran where the gang were reinforced with men and weapons, making the other passengers and the crew slaves. During the saga, the gang of 'experts on terrorism' strut importantly over international television.

How delighted Israeli politicians must be to see one set of their bitter enemies fighting the other lot, taking the heat off the Gaza uprising! What a nerve to talk about 'revolution' in this context!

Is this 'terrorism'? Well, if the term means 'people who cause terror' presumably it is. But the term as now used is humbug calculated to deceive. Once the term meant those who fought against individual tyrants who were causing terror—then it was employed by anarchists. Later it meant almost the opposite—those who fought national wars by other means—the term 'anarchists' then was bandied around in an endeavour to blame the opponents of the State rather than the idea of the State itself—though this has generally ceased except for a few from the institutes for the study of humbug; the name 'terrorist' now describes religion-crazy zombies who are prepared to die gloriously in a war of martyrs and go to heaven, against which airlines have no redress.

Airline pilots should simply refuse to fly with religion-crazy zombies on board (how many of them would make a declaration denying their faith or forego their ridiculous garb?) on a touchdown where religious fanaticism runs riot.

INDUSTRIAL MIKADOISM

'The cream of Japan's high schools and universities' were initiated into the world of work on April 1 (reports the *Daily Telegraph*) by ritual ceremonies into their new status of 'shakaijin' (socially acceptable). They joined in company hymns all over the country after Exhortatory Addresses by the presidents of companies like Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, Toshiba, and others. Indoctrinated as docile citizens, taught to bow correctly and to obey their masters, the new industrial Samurai will have the same mentality drummed into them as was ever drummed into the soldiers of old Imperial Japan, in return for privileges such as the Soviet Union also grants to Party members. This is why resistance is growing in Japan.

Australia

Totalitarian Surveillance In Oz

The battle for a national identity card is by no means over. In fact we can reveal that unknown to Australian citizens the Australian federal government system has had set up and running for the past 10 years or so a national I/D surveillance system which logs comprehensive details on every one in the country. This surveillance system is top secret and it is only now that details of it are beginning to leak out through a number of disaffected civil servants.

The code name for this surveillance system is STRATPLAN (the Strategic Plan). Officially it doesn't exist but according to leaked information in one year alone over \$500m

was spent on developing the system. STRATPLAN unofficially is controlled by the Department of Social Security (DSS) and is head-quartered inside a government building in Canberra—the Deacon Centre in Kent Street. Officially this building is a telephone exchange and there is a sign on the outside saying this. But it is an unusual 'telephone exchange': it is built like a fortress and has armed guards on the outside. We also know that beneath the building is a gigantic nuclear secure emergency bunker in case of insurrection or civil war.

The other, more innocuous, name for STRATPLAN is the National Computer Centre (NCC), but this is not listed in any government directory. However according to civil servants working for the Department of Local Territories Administration, sharing the NCC mainframe computer facility are the Department of Social Security, the Department of Taxation, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Medicare (the Australian equivalent of the National Health Service),

the Defence Department, the State Computing Services (which organises the registration of

birth, deaths, marriages, vehicles, driver licences, land deeds, and holders of fire arms). Now it is known that the NCC has been running since 1975.

The combination of all the statistics married and cross-referenced together on one mainframe provides the opportunity for total surveillance on all citizens. It also makes the need for an I/D card redundant.

We are also reliably informed that the NCC is to be linked into the Electronic Counter Services network, currently near completion in Australia's post offices. This network handles the issuing of licences as well as certain banking transactions. The ECS is in turn to be linked to the major banking networks as well as private credit referencing

bureaux. With this addition, the NCC will have access to banking information as well as records on credit details. We should add that the ECS is based in the same building as the NCC.

The NCC is currently gobbling up information fast. For example, the result of the 1986 national census was put on the NCC, as were all Family Allowance records and taxation returns (although this is officially denied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics).

The NCC's other main offices are based in Melbourne and Sydney. Both, as with the Canberra HQ, are disguised as telephone exchanges. The Melbourne building is at 737-743 Punt Road; the Sydney building is at 76 Pitt Street.



200 Years Of Extermination

There won't be a lot of official talk about the near genocide of up to 80% of the Aboriginal population of Australia in the first 100 years - individual killings, mass shootings, rape, poisonings, disease, and the attempted destruction of a culture. Nor the next hundred years of neglect under the policies of 'protection' and assimilation.

The Aborigines have always resisted the white invasion - from guerrilla warfare through strikes of pastoral workers to countless protests. There won't be a lot of talk neither of how the whole continent was declared 'terra nullis' (vacant land) and taken outright despite at least 4000 years of a complex culture, land tenure and social organisation. Prime Minister Hawke has vaguely mentioned a 'compact' with Aborigines - but no real economic independence, no real rights to the land taken from them.

Recently it has become fashionable to have convict forebears and bicentenary Kitsch includes plastic manacles and pseudo pardon certificates on sale. No mention that the 60 years of the convict colony saw one of the most brutal regimes in history - where convicts worked as slaves hitched to ploughs.

One of the events of the bicentenary is the first international congress on Corrections - which is certain to emphasise how different things are now. In fact in late 1987 and early 1988 jails in four Australian states burst into flames, with riots and hostage crises and protests at the continuing brutality of the prison regime. In Brisbane the riot was over the re-opening of the underground cells - apparently to intimidate Aboriginal

opponents to the bicentenary Expo 88. Australia has a long and proud trade union history and working class history. Some nice safe labour history is certainly to be included. Less likely are the accounts of the desperate struggles against police repression of workers - from the police massacre at the Eureka stockade, through the militant shearers, miners, water-

siders, etc strikes of the 1880's to 1930's, up to the banning of the Builders' Labourers Federation and theft of their funds last year. There is unlikely to be mention, too, of the banning of the revolutionary syndicalist union, the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) in 1915 and the frame up of its members on faje arson charges.

Nor will there be mention of the less heroic side of the trade union movement - that it was one of the main supporters of racism that led to the white Australia policy being introduced. From the 1920's to 1972 Australia had an official white Australia immigration policy virtually banning all non-European migration. The bicentenary will of course feature many tokenistic multi-cultural events of the 'ethnic fancy dress and

dish' kind to prove our tokenance. But the racism is just under the surface and often breaks through as many Indo-Chinese refugees will testify to.

The final lie of the bicentennial view of Australia is the celebration of Australia as the 'lucky country'. Apart from racism, there is growing unemployment, and on any one night 100,000 Australians are homeless. Women earn only two-thirds of what men do. Environmental destruction is rife. Australia has been deforested faster than any continent - 80% in 200 years. Aborigines still suffer from one of the highest rates of infant mortality and preventable diseases, like trachoma and leprosy, in the world. This is the contemporary Australia we're meant to celebrate.



JOHN PEROTTI UPDATE

John Perotti, who has been attempting to unionise prisoners in Ohio, has recently written, giving an update on his situation. The courts refused to recognise the union branch which 400 prisoners wished to set up (and which has already been accepted as an official branch of the IWW). This is now being appealed against. John himself has been kept in solitary since a cell fire in December (cause unstated) in which he suffered third degree burns and had to receive skin grafts to his hands. They have confiscated all his personal property and his legal work. He also details apathy and opposition from inmates, a new generation of prisoners. 'They

are mostly drug addicts, and men with no principles. They're satisfied with a TV set and three meals a day. The few who have principles and ideas are locked up in isolation. They've closed down all the dayrooms here and plan to start 'unit management', as in Federal prisons, yet the men aren't even thinking about rioting or protesting'. John continues to struggle despite these disheartening conditions and represents his fellow prisoners in cases against the screws. Write to John at: John Perotti 167712, PO Box 45699, Lucasville, Ohio 45699-0001. Send donations to: Joan Perotti, 1142 Hall Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107, USA. Source: Resistance News.

LETTER FROM MARTIN FORAN

Black Flag recently received a letter from Martin Foran which is printed below.

Dear comrades,

As you know, I have a colostomy. So, like any other person with a colostomy, I have to carry a colostomy spray with me at all times, as I have no control over my backside and the discharge stinks. The spray saves a lot of embarrassment by masking the smell. Plus, when I use the toilet on a visit and release the colostomy bag, I must use the spray so that the smell doesn't upset the other inmates who must use the toilets, or other visitors.

I have now been told that I must not bring the spray on visits. For two years on visits I have had no trouble, thanks to the spray. It's only a very small, pocket size 25ml spray. Now I have been stopped, no reason given, out of the blue, and told that I can't have it while I am on visits.

After every visit I must be searched; they open the colostomy bag. So the smell will degrade me and embarrass me before

everyone. I am often too sore to get the colostomy bag on, and as people with colostomies have no control, to ask me to sit with my loved ones, having no control over the smell is too degrading for me.

I am a man, my health they have destroyed, now they want to take away my self respect and pride by degrading me on visits. To keep my pride and self respect, and not spoil other people's visits, by not letting me have the spray, I can't go on visits. I would be ashamed. Can you please write to the governor as there is no need for this degrading treatment.

They may as well say to my family 'have your visits in the toilet'.

They are forcing me to refuse visits, in order to keep my self respect and pride.

Yours,

Martin Foran.

Letters of protest concerning Martin's treatment should be written to: the governor, HM Prison Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight.

Freemantle Prison Riots & Hunger Strikes

As a result of the Freemantle prison riot in January, in which warders were taken hostage and later released unharmed, 12 men on hunger strike were held in the Special Handling Unit of the prison. At least three of these people did not participate in the riot, and all of them are long termers. It appears that Superintendent Knight used the riot as an excuse to 'get' at certain people towards whom he holds personal grudges. The men were not allowed contact visits (non contact visits are subject to continual verbal harassment from the screws), they had no reading or writing materials and were isolated from each other—the prison authorities were deliberately attempting to destroy any solidarity between them. The physical condition of the men deteriorated rapidly—the family of at least one man feared for his life.

A total of 25 men took the action of hunger striking, as a means of drawing attention to their demands for a public enquiry into conditions in the prison, which are archaic to say the least. The men are kept in cells with locked windows for at least 14 hours a day. By law they are entitled to two hours exercise a day. This has never been enforced.

The men took the action of a hunger strike because the riot did not result in any of their previous demands being met. In fact the riot resulted in many charges being laid randomly against many men, withdrawal of almost all privileges and severe harassment by the screws. This is despite the screws being released unharmed.

The prisoner's family support group

demands, as well as a public enquiry, legal representation for prisoners on charges within the prison—many men have been sentenced to solitary confinement on trumped up charges. They also regularly lose privileges and can have time added to their sentences. Freemantle prison warders are permitted by law to work 16 hour shifts. This is crazy for obvious reasons, and it is easy to conclude that big money can be made (is being made) out of locking people away. Freemantle also has the highest rate of re-offenders in Australia. Everyone knows that no rehabilitation whatsoever occurs within those walls.

The hunger strike is now over, but men are still being held in the Special Handling Unit. The acting minister for corrective services, Mr. Grill, has said that the prisoners decided to end their strike after the Corrective Services Executive Director told them that the government would investigate ways of improving prison conditions. This does not mean that the demand for a public enquiry is no longer necessary—quite the opposite is true. Since it is highly probable that a government enquiry will lead to nothing at all, it is important to continue to push for a public enquiry.

Demands should also be made to have the 10 men still held in the Special Handling Unit removed from there. These people are quite possibly being held illegally and are finding it impossible to sleep at night due to continuous loud noise outside their cells.

Vacant Lot No.7, Australia



NOW, THE GOOD NEWS...

We are happy to announce the release on December 18 last, by the Polish authorities, of Robert Chechlacz and Tomek Lupanow. They were condemned to 25 and 13 years respectively in September 1982 for having accidentally killed a militiaman, Sergeant Karos, just after the declaration of martial law, while trying to disarm him.

Some sympathisers were able to meet them in

the beginning of January 1988. Robert and Tomek are free but still under judicial control. They hope to continue their studies.

The 'Friends of Robert and Tomek Support Group' has been self-dissolved having achieved its goal. Robert and Tomek, their families and friends thank once again all the people who here and in the rest of the world have supported them during their six years of suffering and struggle.

News In Brief

Prisoner John Bowden is trying to get hold of two books to read: *Love And Rage* by Carl Harp, and *The Angry Brigade* by Gordon Carr. If anyone has unwanted copies of these or can locate them, could they please send them to: B41173 John Bowden, HM Prison Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 5TZ.

Gari Allen and Lesley Phipps are on remand, charged with ALF actions. Both would appreciate letters of support and solidarity. Also visits and stamps. How about people in Bristol and Birmingham visiting them?

Gari Allen,
W62615,
HM Prison Winson Green,
Birmingham,
B18 4A5.

Lesley Phipps,
T 82697,
HM Remand Centre,
Bristol,
BS17 3QJ.

Sunshine of Manchester have just had a leaflet printed on Martin Foran. If anyone wants a copy to make their own, just send a SAE or if you've no access to printing, get in touch if

you want a bundle. It won't cost much. Write to: Sunshine, c/o Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester, M1 2BU.

OMORI PROTESTS

Anyone wishing to send letters of protest to the judge responsible for the reconfirmation of the death sentence on Katsuhisa Omori can write to the judge himself:

Fumoto Mizutani, Sapporo High Court, Odori-mishi 1/- Chome, Chuo-ku, Sapporo Shi, Hokkaido.

Letters can also be sent to:
Yuhio-Hayashida, Minister of Justice, 1-1-1 Kasumi-gaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.

The Immigration Appeals tribunal has told the Home Office (which thinks it owns the country) that Astrid Proll, now 40, should be allowed to re-enter Britain, where she was working as a garage mechanic instructor on a community training project before being deported to West Germany to face trial and imprisonment for alleged activity in the old Red Army Fraction.

Prisoners & Aids In The USA

The US penal system is more interested in persecuting prisoners who test positive for AIDS than in taking steps to reduce its spread, and some prisoners are attempting to educate themselves about the disease. Ed Mead, an AIDS activist in a Washington state prison, says 'Who will protect prisoners from the AIDS disease? Prisoners must'.

According to a recent issue of the Tacoma News Tribune, Washington state prison director Riveland has announced plans to isolate (place in 23 hour a day lock-up) prisoners who test AIDS positive. Meanwhile, Attorney General Meese announced in June '87 that federal prisoners who test positive may be deemed ineligible for parole. Soon afterwards, Bureau of Prisons (BOP) chief Bennet said that there would be no parole for prisoners who test positive. To top this off, some US politicians have advocated tattooing prisoners who are HIV-positive. The BOP refuses to allow prisoners to obtain sterilised needles or condoms to prevent the spread of AIDS, although they know that prisoners have sex and use needle drugs. The AIDS test, which is unreliable, produced positive results in 4% of a group of Washington state prisoners. In the face of 124 prisoner deaths from AIDS in 1986 and twice that many in 1987, prisoners in New York state's Auburn prison

have organised the Prisoners Education Project on AIDS (PEPA) to address the need for AIDS education in New York prisons. This is the only prisoner-run AIDS education project in the USA; its basic goals are to curtail high-risk practices, counteract the hysteria and division amongst prisoners by fear of casual contact, and promote humane treatment of prisoners with AIDS. Prison authorities constantly undermine educational efforts by prisoners, for what officials term 'security' concerns (at Auburn, for instance, five PEPA members have been transferred to other prisons).

PEPA proposed having prisoners trained as AIDS educational counsellors, setting up discussion groups, sponsoring special programmes such as movies and speakers, and writing articles for the prison journals. The Auburn administration rejected all but the first proposal, apparently feeling threatened by a well-designed prisoner run programme. Since virtually every major study on AIDS reports that peer counselling is the easiest way to reduce risk, the prison system has instituted death sentences for thousands of prisoners by failing to address these needs. To urge the Auburn administration to accept PEPA in its entirety, write to: Superintendent Robert Henderson, 135 State St., Auburn, NY 13021, USA.

Pay As You Rot - Part 2

About 40 private contractors have been invited to tender for Britain's first set of private prisons. So far they have not been asked to submit for the running of these establishments, although this possibility cannot be overruled. Already the 'job for the boys' syndrome has set in with the announcement that Sir Edward Gardner, QC, and former head of the Commons select committee which recommended the privatisation of prisons, has set up a new company specifically to bid for these new prisons. The company is called Contract Prisons PLC (remember we warned against 'British Prisons PLC'?), which in turn is owned by a property development company, Rosehaugh PLC, the electronic security services company, Racall-Chubb, and a specialist US prisons management company, Pricor. So here we have the private security market, the prison management market, and the property development market uniting together for a killing and a fast buck made on the backs of a 'captive audience'.

Contract Prisons PLC has already stated that it is also willing to look at converting old mental hospitals and disused buildings into prisons as part of the prison expansion scheme. Pricor intends to utilise its expertise in replacing prison officer personnel with low cost sensory deprivation designs backed up by hi-tech security devices. And this is where Racall-Chubb comes in. It too has experience in providing prison security systems namely for rich oil sheiks.

Other companies set to compete with Contract Prisons PLC are: Mowlem—the contract builders, Corrections Corporation of

America, Tarmac, the Midland Bank, and Group 4 Securities Ltd. All the UK firms, incidentally, are (with the exception of Midland Bank which recently pulled out after



the recent publicity) subscribers to the Economic League. Mowlem is owned by Sir Robert McAlpine, who has also regularly contributed funds to the National Front.

STATE SECURITY FOR PRIVATE PROFIT

A division of State surveillance, that includes members of the police Special Branch as part of their activities, is to receive official government sanction to go private and sell its services to the highest bidder. We can reveal there is opposition to this move from within the Police Force at the highest level. Basically the surveillance and blacklisting market is open for grabs - and the in-fighting is only just beginning...

The surveillance division we refer to is that which specialises in monitoring mail on behalf of the Intelligence Services. It is based at a building in St Martins-le-Grand in central London, but is also integrally tied to the Investigation Department of the Post Office.

The Post Office Investigation Department (POID) employs around 500 specialist investigators - mainly ex-police - around the country. Each branch includes members of the Special Branch seconded for surveillance work. The POID is also employed by the Post Office for internal investigations of employees, not just concerning petty crimes (eg pilfering) but also white-collar fraud, etc. As an internal policing organisation it is the largest of its kind in the country. The POID has years of experience of working closely with the Police on all matters of security, as well as on the assistance of crime follow-up work (eg after robberies). The POID is also expected to take some responsibility on checking the credentials of employees - for example, whether they have criminal records, or whether they are known political agitators. Obviously here they would work closely with the Police, through their contacts in Special Branch, and with specialist blacklisting organisations (such as the Economic League and IRIS - Industrial Research Information Services) which also work with the Special Branch.

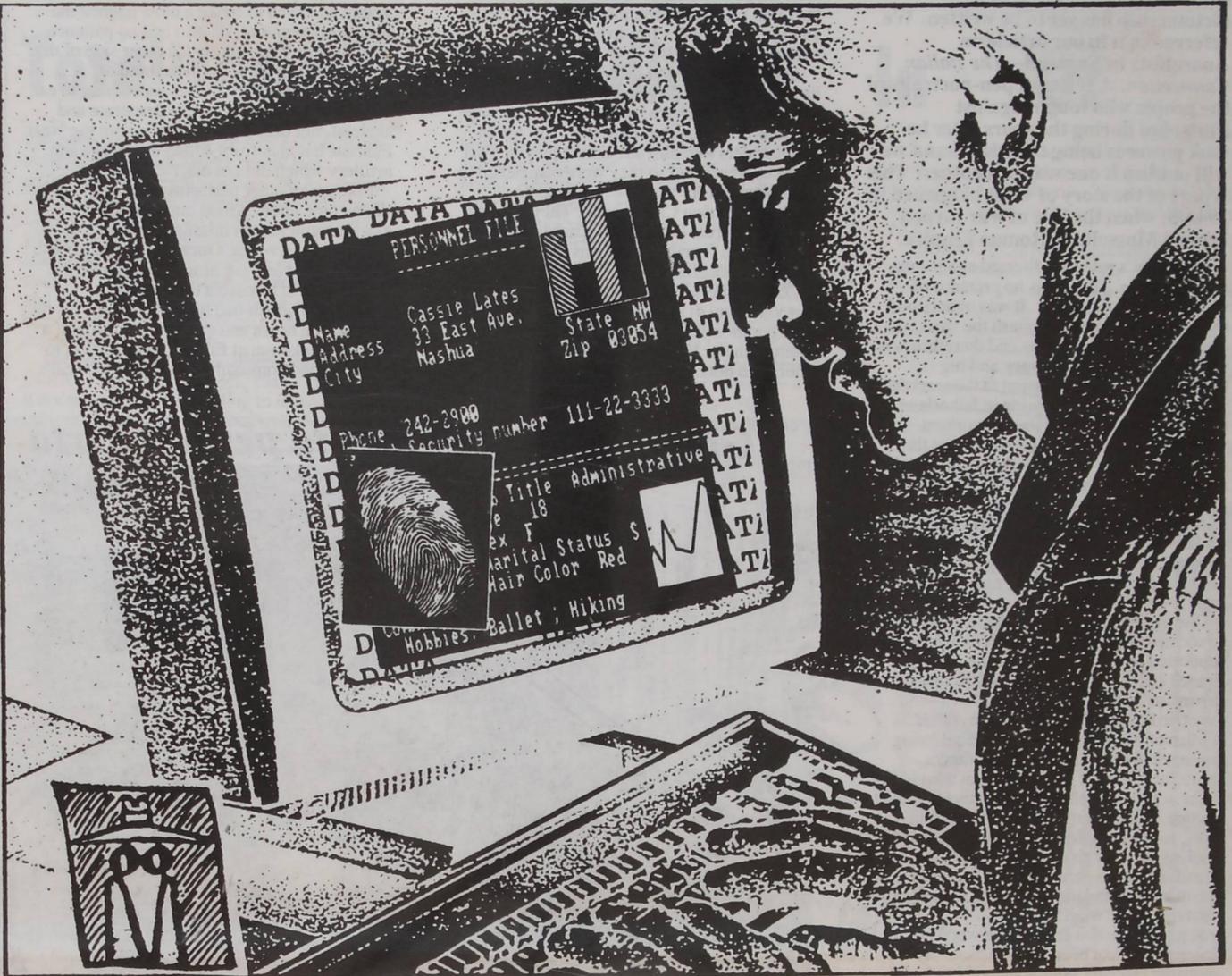
The work of the POID has necessarily involved work with or on behalf of the Special Branch, and the privatisation of the POID would also, as a matter of necessity, include a transfer of Special Branch expertise into any new organisation. The interesting thing to note is that the stated privatisation of the POID has full DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) approval, and therefore, by implication, Cabinet approval. Presumably the Government would see a privatised POID not only as a test case for a division of the Post Office, but as a means of opening up the surveillance and policing business to the free market. And it is this latter aspect that has created a huge row

within the senior ranks of the Police Force.

Union representatives of the POID have received letters from two chief police officers threatening to withdraw all future co-operation with the POID should their privatised venture go ahead. The chief police officers concerned we can name as Kenneth Oxford, the police chief for Merseyside, and James Anderton, the police chief for Manchester and currently the head of the Association of Chief Police Officers. Presumably both Oxford and Anderton see the new direction of the POID as a threat to their policing monopoly.

To a certain extent their threat to withdraw co-operation can be seen as a bluff - after all, if the Government have given its approval to the new scheme then their is little senior police officers can do about it. The significant thing, though, is that they issued this threat in the face of Government approval - which would seem to indicate the extent of their concern over the privatisation scheme - presumably because they see the POID scheme as the thin end of the wedge, with other firms being allowed into the market place too.

This concern needs to be measured against moves within the Police Force itself to totally re-organise the Police on a scale never before contemplated. About a year ago the Home Office decided that the Police could be doubled in terms of employees by niving off certain functions. For example, clerical and administrative duties undertaken by police officers could be taken on by an ancillary civilian department. There would be no redundancies, simply a transfer of duties. More controversially the specialist squads of the Police would be seperated from the main forces altogether and given their own status. They would be independ-



ently run, working directly to the Home Office, and they would 'sell' their services to the different constabularies.

Now it is more clear that this plan will be enhanced by a second, more ambitious, plan to invite private security firms to compete against the hived-off police specialist squads. And in some careful leaking to the national press it was announced recently that finance and insurance companies will be invited to tender their expertise in competition with the POID to sell themselves in the security market as investigation agencies specialising in fraud, white-collar crime, etc.

According to the grand scheme this will leave the Police proper to concentrate their resources on more general crime, which has a lower clear-up rate, and on general public order. The implication of this change in direction is that policing will be expanded but also split up with the Police as we know them becoming much more obviously political in their overall brief, with non-political crime being funded and controlled by private industry. The POID experiment is to become the guinea-pig of this new scheme.

Already it has been announced that the POID will be likely to take on its new role after April 1st of this year and is to be renamed Grosvenor Place Services PLC. Furthermore GPS will be expected to sell their expertise to companies, particularly banks and finance houses in the area of cheque fraud, etc, and to arts establishments in the area of antiques

fraud. Other security organisations will be invited to compete against GPS, as also the Fraud Squad attached to Scotland Yard. Already it is known that Securicor Ltd will be tendering for work previously associated with the Immigration Department of Scotland Yard. The up-shot of all this is that the number of agencies involved in policing, surveillance and security work generally will multiply. Policing will gradually become privatised, with companies directly funding policing agencies, and the policing and security business will proliferate. In the not-too distant future we may well find ourselves confronted by an array of policing and security officers, each sanctioned by law to curtail our liberties and given powers to question and search and harass.

Already this can be seen to be happening in certain parts of the country. In Lon-

don's docklands, for example, major firms and housing corporations have taken over the policing responsibilities of the area. Complaints are surfacing from long-time residents that they are constantly being stopped and harassed by security guards, who have no special powers under law, but are using their status to act in the same way as the police themselves.

For years, too, security firms have worked unofficially with the Police and with Special Branch to monitor individuals on behalf of private firms. The most notable organisation in this field has, of course, been the Economic League. Under the new regime the Economic League could well move into the open and compete with the State surveillance agencies in providing monitoring services. There would be nothing to stop the Economic League from expanding into new areas, or even setting up new security firms in conjunction with State-managed specialist policing agencies. This liberalisation or de-regulation of the policing and security market is, of course, not out of sink with the general de-regulation strategy of the Government as a whole.

And if the idea that private security firms working openly with state security firms in newly set-up agencies seems a bit far-fetched, well the press release of the emerging Grosvenor Place Services places emphasis on the fact that GPS employees, although in the market place to sell their services to the private sector, will retain their status as Crown Agents. In other words they will have the same immunities and privileges as the state police, but will be able to sell themselves to the highest bidder. Furthermore GPS will continue to service the Post Office and work with Special Branch on surveillance and mail opening - which activities will provide a privatised security agency with unique access to people's mail and with the files and dossiers of the Special Branch. This relationship the Economic League have boasted about privately for decades - but now they will have a competitor!

The consequences of all these behind-the-scenes changes will be that multi-agency policing will expand into the private sector and that we will be subjected to an expansion of the policing business to the further detriment of all our liberties.

N.B. With the privatisation of the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) we should ask how this will affect the role and status of the Nuclear Police who are independent of the CEGB but who are employed alongside it to protect Britain's nuclear establishments. Let us not forget that they are a non-Police agency with all its operators armed and having official jurisdiction anywhere and everywhere throughout the country. Under privatisation the Nuclear Police could have their powers extended further to take on a pro-active, anti-terrorist role. The Nuclear Police are accountable to the Department of Energy, not to the Home Office, just as Grosvenor Place Services will be accountable to the DTI. At this rate every government department will be able to set up and sponsor specialist security agencies working to their own needs, in competition with the Police and agencies set up by big business. The Department of Health & Social Security (DHSS) already has its army of social security snoopers - will they see their services opened up for tender too?

MORE WAYS TO BEAT THE POLL TAX

A leaflet is being distributed jointly by the Community Resistance To The Poll Tax group and the Anti-Poll Tax Union which provides several ideas for sabotaging the registration of payees.

The leaflet suggests that any registration forms sent by post be returned and marked 'Not at home'; alternatively you inform the Registration Officer that the dog ate the form. One delaying tactic is given where you return the form after a couple of weeks and ask a question relating to the form. The same process can be repeated ad infinitum.

The leaflet advises that the resistance to the tax must be a collective one if it is to work. It mentions organised anti-Poll Tax groups in several Edinburgh suburbs and neighbourhoods. In one estate virtually every house displays 'No Poll Tax' posters on the windows. The leaflet also suggests that when the Poll Tax canvassers come around they should be harassed and generally made unwelcome.

ANARCHIST PARTISANS IN ITALY

The action-packed history of Italian Anarchism under the Fascist dictatorship has yet to be written. We referred to it in our article on Anarchists in England—*The Italian Connection*. A series of pen-portraits of the people who fought against Mussolini during the years after he took power is being translated and we will publish it one way or another. This is part of the story of what happened in 1944/5, when the tide of war turned against Mussolini's Roman Empire.

Mussolini's rule was directed against the working class. There was no pretence of socialism as in Germany. It was understood that it came to power to smash the worker's occupation of the factories and therefore was the darling of the aristocracy and big business. Its only concession to the workers was the populist one of pride in fatherland (for which many exiled Italian workers forgave it); the major opponents were the anarchists—Italy was almost the homeland of anarchism since the First International—but as Mussolini could take no criticism however mild, he rode roughshod over the liberal and socialist parliamentarians and academics (treated to internal deportation) who offered no resistance (how could they by their own logic?)

One or two liberals went into exile and advocated war, but foreign governments supported Mussolini, though one or two in France and England saw his policy of colonial expansion had to be at their expense—and they tried to buy him off with Abyssinia.

Mussolini made the mistake of believing too much in Hitler, and unlike Franco, committed himself to war. Britain used Italy as the soft underbelly through which to invade Europe. The Italian workers on land and farm, for so long degraded and humiliated by fascism, arose with a bang, not to defend their homeland but to smash fascism—even if it meant welcoming the invader. Nationalism went out of the window.

Since Russia had entered the war, the Communists had been making headway opposing fascism; but the Anarchists had a long history of struggle against it. British Army officers, most of whom came from a class that had always supported Mussolini, were amazed to find the most unlikely allies. This is why the true story has always been concealed. Who knows, for instance, at the moment when the fascist dictatorship was most vulnerable, of one of the first (and toughest) partisan formations—the Gino Lucetti brigade, organised in Carrara by our late comrade Ugo Mazzucchelli? (Yet the material has lain in the Imperial War Museum). The significance of Gino Lucetti is that the name commemorates one of the many Anarchists who tried to take Mussolini's life, but were thwarted by the joint efforts of the British and Italian police. The Gino Lucetti formation was but one in the Corpo Volontari della Libertà which sprang up wherever the centres of anarchism had been.

We give here the story of Goliardo Fiaschi, whose later life may be known to some through Miguel Garcia's *Franco's Prisoner*. At thirteen years old (passing as 18) he entered the Italian Resistance in his home town Carrara in 1943. The local anti-fascists gave him the mission of helping the military spirit away and then retrieve the jettisoned weapons which later armed the partisans. He passed unnoticed with a handcart loaded sometimes with wood and sometimes rags and paper, but always concealing weapons, munitions, food and clothing—frequently under the nose of the Nazi Fascists, often under heavy fire from both sides. The supplies were transferred to the dumps of the National Liberation Committee (CLN).

'I was always fond of this activity,' says Goliardo. 'I may have been only a child but I had been brought up by my father and other old Carrara anti-fascists to despise fascism and the Nazis. I quickly learned how to strip and assemble 91.38 rifles and muskets and later how to shoot properly, though not with a .12 calibre cylinder pistol. I had to use both hands before I could empty it. One time I test fired it and the pistol jumped out of my hand, bruising it, but in December 1943 I managed to rob a German Army vehicle of a machine gun pistol and a Walter 7.65 handgun. This suited me beautifully but the machine gun came to grief when I needed to strip it down.'

We did not know that in order to disconnect it from the breech block one had to push the grip firmly forward, giving a half turn to the right, so as to slip off the trigger spring and so, one way or another, we ruined it.'

This was Fiaschi's initiation into the Resistance in Carrara, in the CLN, and when the Gino Lucetti Formation was started in 1944 he came under fire from the Nazis within Carrara itself.

At the close of 1944 he crossed the German lines to join the Allies on the Stravezza front. They had halted there for months and showed no signs of advancing. However, the Allied commanders told him and others they needed men elsewhere and so they were dispatched to the Abetone front with the 3rd Brigade, Modena Division Castrignano. They entered Modena to great enthusiasm, paraded with flowers, and found the war was over so far as Italy was concerned.

Goliardo personally made his way home by foot via Bagni di Lucca to find his family safe, but their house half demolished by bombardment. He had not left, as many others had done, to save his skin, but against

the wishes of his mother, who had followed him weeping and pleading. He was not only young and keen to strike a blow against the fascist government, he also had no patience with the army staying on the other side of the lines unable to make up their mind to advance. As a result, there was nothing to eat in the town and people were desperate and skeletal, not only facing danger from the Nazi Fascists but also from Allied bombings and artillery which did not discriminate.

Like many other partisans, Goliardo had often come under Allied bombings and machine gun fire on missions to Massa di Carrara and Avenza. Once in Avenza a bomb had exploded leaving him half buried in the mud, while in Bonasola the partisan detachment which had brought in arms for the peasants on horse and cart driving through a fascist checkpoint at full trot, was subject to heavy Allied bombardment. Goliardo recalls

how an Allied barrage blew the back of the head off a woman who was ferrying milk to the most needy.

At Bergiola, the Gino Lucetti collected arms promised them by the partisan commander, and in the battle of Monte Lancio on the slopes of Monte Cimone they attacked the fortifications in daylight, under a hail of gunfire. The attack was led by a young partisan boy, Filippo, as commander; he was killed outright. Coming up the brow of the hill were Goliardo and others who had occupied part of the fortifications and after a short interval were attacked by heavy bursts of machine gun fire and artillery from the besieged German soldiers.

On the next day the last fortification was seized and they pressed on to Fanare, Sestola, Pavullo, Sassuolo and so to Modena—a march filled with ambushes and mined roads. (trans PS, comm AM)

Gli anarchici nella lotta per la libertà



Il partigiano quattordicenne carrarino Goliardo Fiaschi al centro nella foto sfila per le vie di Modena liberata (aprile 1945), in testa alla 3ª Brigata Costrignano, Div. Modena.

Foto Archivio Storico della Resistenza, Modena.

The 14 year old anarchist Goliardo Fiaschi (with flag) marching with the 3rd Brigade

Costrignano (Modena division) into liberated Modena.

Photos: Archivio Storico della Resistenza, Modena).

THE RABID RIGHT AND SURVIVAL

Has the, chiefly American, rabid right got a point when it talks about survivalism? It accepts (and in many cases urges) mass slaughter by nuclear catastrophe. Fortified by the revival of Fundamentalist religion—which whether in Protestantism or Islam, gives a comforting assurance of 'survivalism' anyway—backwoods America arms itself, builds up stocks to survive the twilight years, learns how to fight and defeat any attempt of the remainder outside their nuclear hide-outs to share in whatever is left over of food and water.

Though this type of survivalism cult has been the background to many crimes of violence (which has spread to G.B. in cases such as the Ryan murders in Reading) the police are always reluctant to act and the politicians hesitate to condemn it in real terms because it is too near their own aims.

Naturally, even American statesmen don't like people going around letting off guns or garrotting on their own initiative but it is a

small price for them to pay for ensuring their own survival. British politicians play it cooler—they don't have an entrenched Fundamentalist Survivalist belt and need to consider plenty of spoilsports who think massacring people is wrong. The same pattern of survivalist technique is followed. But it is less individualistic than in the US where individualism rather than collectivism forms the basis of fascism.

For one thing, they are secretly stockpiling ration books without any knowledge of what food will be available, to make sure that there will be a legal means of feeding those who have their fall-out shelters prepared. There are regional commands ready to shoot down people who escape from the disaster stricken towns, there are concentration camps ready for the dissidents or victims, there are safe bunkers ready for selected members of the Establishment.

Do we have to accept that the disaster they bring must be borne by us?

By what right or reason is the world and its potential theirs alone?

The survivalist movement, especially in the US, but as imitated elsewhere, is a parody of a revolutionary force. It caricatures resistance and guerrilla movements, acting not so much in the service of the current State but of a new paramilitary one.

The time of nuclear disaster must not be an opportunity for the Morons to take over. The reality should be ready, not the parody. Governments faced with revolutionary survivalism rather than with the reactionary parody as a consequence of atomic war, won't wage it. At the lowest level, if people announced they were prepared to leave the inner city areas which will become death traps, and fight off the troops confining them there, to occupy the leafy suburbs, suburbanites would be less enthusiastic now for a 'tough' policy on keeping nuclear bombs.

COMMENT

MUTUAL AID REVISITED

Mutual aid is not about charity, nor is it some abstract notion but is about practical solidarity. More importantly mutual aid is about creating the anarchist social revolution, here and now, by constructing a strong, cohesive social and organisational base for our future society.

Part of the offensive of capitalism is to break up strong bonds of loyalty and the sense of community that we have as a class. The free-marketters do it by getting us to compete economically. The state socialists do it by getting us to abdicate our responsibilities to each other and hand over those responsibilities to a centralised welfare bureaucracy. With the former we are expected to see mutual aid as being equivalent to charity, paid for by our own voluntary labour or the liberal middle classes; with the latter we are made to understand that mutual aid is nothing but another name for private enterprise or selfish individualism. This is propaganda. And for decades this kind of propaganda has whittled away at the foundations of how working class people organised to defend themselves.

The policy of successive governments has been to isolate workers from their own class. Dependency on the welfare state has been one device; the dismantling of effective trade unionism and the physical breakup of working class communities are others.

Before we can begin, as a class, to fight back, we have to literally recreate that class. And where we were strongest was our respect for each other. What a Tory would call values, but really means law and order. What a state socialist would call solidarity, but really means deference to elected authority. Through this sort of propaganda our values have been turned upside down.

Respect for each other is the basis of mutual aid. The free-marketters want to put a price on everything: education, the health service, basic living conditions. The state socialists maintain that we can get a better share but that the cake itself cannot be baked bigger. Our fundamental rights to well-being become a market commodity to be negotiated or bought and sold, with the state holding the purse strings. In this sort of climate it is no wonder that values become distorted and even lost. The re-appropriation of those values is as much important as the re-appropriation of the resources that the capitalists have sequestered from us in pursuit of their class war.

Opposing capitalism and the state is only one side of the war we are involved in. The other side of that war is about expanding our own society, based on our own class values. Mutual aid is where this

all starts. And the process is about the creation of an infrastructure that reflects those values

The nearest we ever got to witnessing an anarchist society was with the social revolution of 1936-8 in Spain. But that social revolution didn't happen overnight but as a result of decades of organisation, of the setting up of coordinating structures on a countrywide basis. These structures and organisations were on anarchist lines: no hierarchy and based on mutual aid. In almost every part of the country the anarchists had organisations in the workplace and in the community. Workplace branches were dovetailed with community organisations. There were neighbourhood and district anarchist community centres, doubling up as centres of learning, where educational resources were on hand. These educational centres, or 'ateneo's', as they were called, were for the whole community, not just the young. They acted as a focus for the community, as meeting places, as places to organise and fight back. Another important focus for the community was the workplace 'local', where the branch of the anarchist labour movement - the CNT - would meet to fight industrial issues.

These industrial and community structures enabled anarchists to create their own society through which to put into practice anarchist beliefs. They enabled anarchists to launch offensives at local level, at regional level, and finally at national level. Strikes took place with the full support of the local community, often supported too by local uprisings. During these uprisings industry would come to a halt, workplaces occupied, and municipal and other important buildings seized. They would be put down by force, sometimes with many killed.

Only recently, too, this same pattern of joint industry-community action at a local level was seen with the uprising in Reinosa and to a certain extent in Puerto Real. Decisions were made by mass general assemblies of local people, who resorted to direct action. Their solidarity would have been impossible if it were not for the tradition of having no distinction between industrial struggle and community struggle.

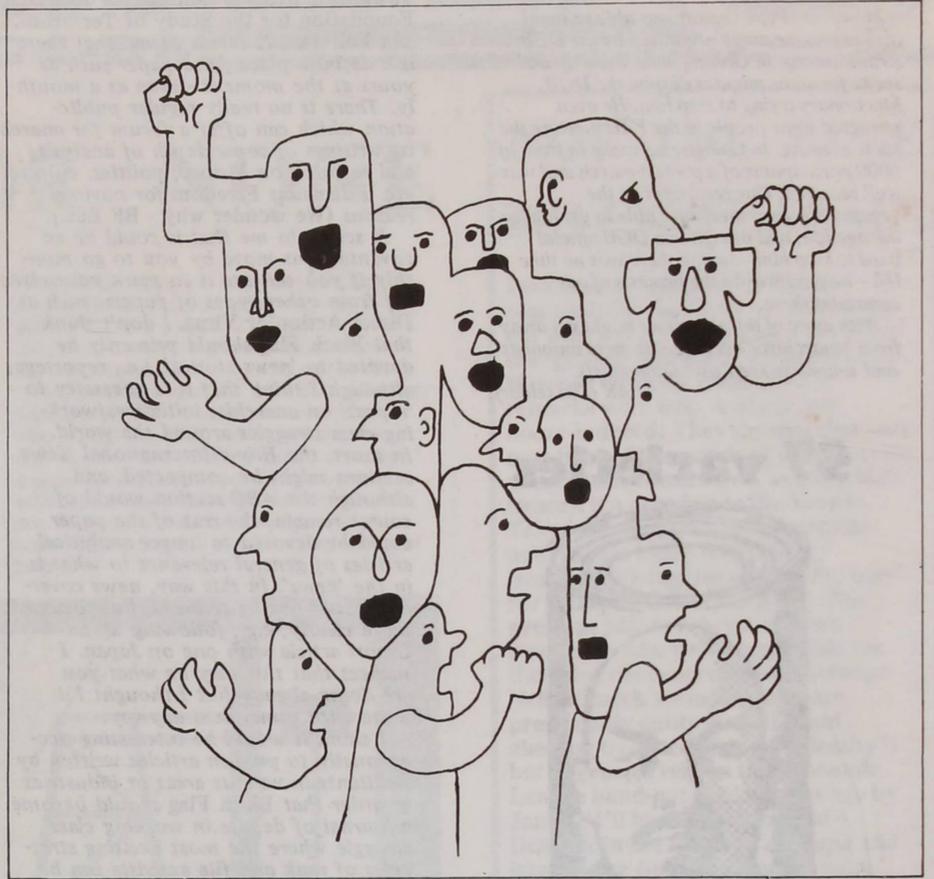
In Britain, too, this same tradition reappeared during the 1984-5 Miners Strike. It is a tradition that is common to all working class communities, but has been eradicated in some areas as a result of political interference and social engineering.

These traditions have to be recreated. Our most powerful resource for recreating them is our solidarity. We cannot

organise overnight but we can begin where we are already organised and we can link up as more of other similar organisations are set up too.

WE are now living in a capitalist society where a significant number of workers are no longer needed as workers, where unemployment is seen as a necessity, where basic rights to well-being are fast

disappearing, where education and health will soon have to be paid for, where decent housing is for the few. And this philosophy is not only being practised by the Tories in government but is being imitated by the state socialists who seek power. Our only hope lies with our own self-organisation. And to seize back the resources that have been stolen from us.



Kropotkin 1 Huxley 0

An article in *Nature* recently showed the latest scientific theory based on archaeological discovery is that the primitive peoples had, as one paper put it, 'a social welfare system that would put present-day legislators to shame'. The first true humans were the Upper Palaeolithic who faced harsher climatic conditions 'but new evidence shows that individuals did not have to be strong and powerful to survive'.

An Italian-US team found in southern Italian caves evidence from buried skeletons of early people who were obviously cherished by the community. According to Dr Paul Bahn, a British archaeologist, there is proof that the community took good care of—and even

accorded special importance to—physically disadvantaged individuals. The present discoveries 'demonstrate that the first modern men and women showed extraordinary care for the sick and disabled' and 'believe these factors were significant in the gradual dominance over the more powerfully built Neanderthals.'

These findings vindicate two hotly-contested theories. The first is that of Peter Kropotkin, who maintained that mutual aid was a factor in evolution, as against Thomas Huxley's 'survival of the fittest' theory of competition (it is now stated it was mutual aid that helped in the survival of humans against Neanderthals); the second is that of those anthropologists, of whose theories Elaine Morgan is the most popular, that evolution was not pushed forward by 'Man the Hunter' (which took account of half the human race), but by an adaptation reflected in child care.

BACK IN THE USSR

Stalinism has a long and disgusting history of smearing its critics as Fascists. In the 1920's, Social-Democrats were dubbed 'Social Fascists', the followers of Leon Trotsky were denounced as 'Trotskyite Fascists', while opponents of World War II were branded as 'Hitler's Agents'. Nowadays, this inglorious tradition is carried on by the self-styled anti-fascist organ *Searchlight*, which journal is not entirely unconnected with various ultra-tankie Stalinoids. The anonymous authors have upon the basis of the most flimsy and unsubstantiated evidence, concocted an absurd conspiracy theory which attempts to link assorted Nazi thugs with Class War, the Direct Action Movement, the information bulletin on eastern Europe, *Volya*, and its publishing imprint Kulak Press. Be that as it may, if one wants to see a society where racism and anti-semitism, both official and unofficial, flourish, and where there is a growing rabidly reactionary ultra-right, one need look no further than the Soviet Union.

While the new policy of glasnost has led to the formation of the first aboveground socialist opposition for over half a century, it has seen the emergence of some particularly unpleasant racist organisations. Ostensibly, Pamyat (Memory) is a society for the preservation of ancient and historic Russian buildings. However, its real purpose is peddling racist, reactionary, religious politics. All of Russia's numerous social ills, from the burden of bureaucracy to the abuse of alcohol are alleged to be the work of a vast Judeo-Masonic conspiracy headed by the Devil himself. Marxism and christianity are rejected as Jewish creeds while the plotters are accused of creating food shortages, destroying 'Russian genius' and smuggling Jewish and Masonic symbolism into the arts. The destruction of pre-revolution architecture is said to be the work of the Jewish moles in town planning agencies. It has been claimed that Gorbachev is a tool of Arbatov, head of the academic USA Institute and a foreign policy advisor who is alleged to be a Jew. It goes almost without saying that Pamyat continues the tradition of the Black Hundreds and of the anti-semitism of the late J.V. Stalin who used Jew baiting as a weapon in his power struggles with Trotsky and Zinoviev, and who constructed his own paranoid conspiracy theories about plots by Jewish doctors to kill him.

While Pamyat is opposed to the reformist tendency in the CPSU, it has the support of many Party officials, particularly in the Russian provinces, and there are links between it and the military. Its propagandist Kazantsev, it should be noted, was expelled from the CPSU, not for reading from that notorious forgery *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* at public meetings, but for slandering leading Party and State officials. Pamyat draws much of its support from the lower ranks of the bureaucracy who fear popular anger at the failure of perestroika to bring improvements in living standards and the exposure of their own inefficiency and corruption and therefore seek to place the blame on that traditional scapegoat—the Jew.

Nor does it end there. There are other neo-Nazi groups at work in Soviet society spreading their anti-semitic poison. The Young Communist newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* in its issue of December 16th, 1985 reported on the activities of a group of neo-Nazi youth in Voroshilovgrad in the Ukraine. The activities of this group, all of whom were also members of the Young Communist League, included gang rapes. In the town of Belaya Tserkov, a group of young people formed a Fascist group in imitation of the Italian Blackshirts they had seen depicted in the movie *San Babila Oro 20*, which was put on general release in the USSR. The members of this group were not arrested or tried although one of them was conscripted into the military. Such groups have been in existence since at least 1982 when the Munich based journal *USSR News Brief* reported on

the activities of youth groups in various Soviet cities, members of which dressed in black uniforms adorned with swastikas and staged demonstrations on Hitler's birthday, which often ended in violence and vandalism. An article in the youth magazine *Znamya Yunosti* of March 27th, 1986 complained that during the screening of the war movie *Battle of Moscow*, young people applauded every time that Hitler appeared.

The theory of such groups reflects official anti-Zionism, the average person in the street taking the term Zionist to be a code word for Jew. Typical of this is the pamphlet *The Truth About Zionism* by one Roman Brodsky published in English by Novosti Press. Brodsky states: 'There is no falsehood that the Zionists would not use against the Soviet Union, in the hope of compromising it, of undermining the trust and friendship given to it by the peoples of the world and of misrepresenting its policies. No lie, provocation or trick is too low as long as they serve their purpose'. Substitute Britain for Soviet Union and these rabid ravings could be straight out of the pages of *Spearhead* or *Candour*.

And in the anti-semitic atmosphere which this propaganda creates, organisations like Pamyat and the neo-Nazi youth groups can flourish and grow.

Continued on page 8

LETTERS

Dear comrades,

Pepe Gomez and another comrade from Puerto Real came to West Germany for a tour organised by the FAU. In their talk and slides they informed us about the successful struggle—meetings being attended by sixty to 200 people. Sadly, those attending were mostly from the anarchist and autonomist scene—in Rheinhausen too, where a similar struggle is taking place, but only two or three of the nearly 5000 working at the local steel plant attended.

However, Pepe Gomez was able to speak also at two meetings organised by the DGB (trade union). In Gottingen he stood up and spoke for some minutes despite the DGB functionary trying to stop him. He even attracted some people to the FAU meeting the same evening. In Cologne he spoke in front of 6000 participants of a protest march and was well received. Our comrades on the organising committee were able to get him on the agenda, and though one DGB official tried to stop him—saying there was no time left—he gave way to the protests of our comrades there.

With more of this action we might get away from 'anarchists' seeing us as mere unionists and unionists seen as 'autonomists'

AK (Dusseldorf)

57 varieties



All unfit for human consumption

Dear Comrades,

I'm happy with your special interest in class struggle, but I don't see the reason for fighting Marxism wherever possible. The West German autonomous movement seems to be one step further; it is getting common to study the successful and not so successful revolutionary movements in Russia, Spain, Italy of the 70s e.g. Red Brigades, Autonomia Operaia, Primera Lintia as well as the British riots of the 80s. There is a lot of studying Marxism, using it as a tool without copying the Communist sects and repeating their disastrous mistakes of organisation. There is a new movement within autonomous groups to go into factories and sweatshops to organise fights from within, without the hopeless attempts to use the trade unions for it. We are very interested in the hospital struggle—anything you can report?

In solidarity,

Karsten (Germany)

Comment: Sweatshops are by definition places where there is no trade union of any sort; Marxist-Leninism an elite over the workers, a hardly autonomist vanguard; any 'mistakes' are in the acceptance of the ideas of Marx, let alone the marxist parties.

Dear comrades,

I received Black Flag no. 179 today and saw your editorial announcement that you were being forced to go monthly. I am very sorry to hear this, and also it reminded me to pay up my long overdue Black Flag subscription. (Much appreciated. Anyone else out there? - BF Eds.)

I enjoyed the latest issue, particularly the articles on: Japan and State Terror; Towards a Workers' Militia; the Research Foundation for the Study of Terrorism; and Poll Tax. It seems to me that there is a definite place for a paper such as yours at the moment - even as a monthly. There is no really regular publication which can offer a forum for anarchist writings of some depth of analysis and research on history, politics, culture, etc. I discount Freedom for obvious reasons (We wonder why - BF Eds.).

It seems to me that it could be an advantageous move by you to go monthly if you can use it to mark yourselves off from other types of papers, such as Direct Action or Virus. I don't think that Black Flag should primarily be devoted to 'news stories'; i.e., reportage, although I think that it is necessary to 'report' on anarchist initiatives/working class struggles around the world. In short, the Home/International News sections might be compacted, and although the ABC section would of course remain, the rest of the paper could be devoted to longer analytical articles of general relevance to what is in the 'news'. In this way, news coverage would not be reduced, but focussed more clearly, e.g., following up an Omori article with one on Japan. I suspect that this may be what you are doing already but I thought I'd write with some ideas anyway.

I think it would be interesting occasionally to publish articles written by militants in various areas or industries in order that Black Flag should become a journal of debate in working class struggle where the most exciting strategies of rank and file activists can be discussed. This would mean that perhaps publishing stuff which is not 'anarchist' as such, but that does not mean reducing the 'commentary' side of the paper. It might be worth choosing special topics for each issue and preparing an anarchist discussion on just a few, but in some detail and from a wide range of sources. For instance, it would well be worth having an attempt at discussing anarchist economics - you might think that such a thing didn't exist from discussions in anarchist circles. It would be interesting to provide a detailed contrast between 'council' models of communism and 'syndicalist' ones, or a view of the new syndicalists' theoretical stance in the Phillipines, South America and South Africa - from their own publications. I think that Black Flag could be a smaller but more regular version of Ideas and Action, the excellent WSA paper, without declining into Virus type general theoretical irrelevance. I am doing some research at present on South African workers movements and syndicalist influences and I would be happy to contribute something in a few months time. I am sure that with your excellent contacts it would be possible to schedule really good, useful and relevant debates and to arrange for appropriate persons to write articles.

I hope that you don't mind me sounding off like this, I thought you might appreciate some definitely constructive criticism. Perhaps you think that this is so obvious that its not worth saying - never mind.

Yours in solidarity,

Alex, Bristol.

for which crime he was sent to an asylum for the criminally insane. A group called the Russian Liberation Movement circulated pamphlets claiming that the Politburo had been captured by Zionists led by Brezhnev.

Anti-semitism is not the only manifestation of racism in the USSR. There are in the Soviet Union over a hundred nationalities many of which, Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Georgians, for example, were incorporated into the Soviet state by force of arms. Many have suffered terribly from artificial famines and mass deportations. Under the Red Tsars the USSR remains the prisonhouse of nations that it was under Romanov imperialism. And as recent events in Armenia and Azerbaijan have shown, within the walls of that prison there is more than enough material for a major explosion.

Source: Taras Malenko.

BOOK REVIEW

Ray Hill with Andrew Bell : The Other Face of Terror (Grafton £3.50)

Ray Hill was a convinced nazi leader and a capable organiser, whose one talent corrupted lots of young impressionable punters seeking an easy solution to their problems—consoling themselves that a white skin meant superiority denied by injustice. He went to South Africa to find such an 'ideal society' only to find that the reservation of top places to white skins did not mean people with white skins could necessarily get them—one stroke of bad luck, a road accident, meant that his family were on the skids and could be only saved by the usual propaganda job, and finally by returning to a society which tolerated whites being poor. Whether because of disillusionment, or because of seeing the effects his own personal influence had upon an Indian family—squatting on a tent outside the house from which they were evicted because of the National Front's insistence the police enforce the apartheid laws in a run-down area unwanted by whites (his version), or whether because, as his fellow fascists allege, he was hard up and money changed hands, he switched

from being an ardent supporter of fascism and organiser of the English-speaking fascists in SA. to being a mole for Searchlight, a paper which campaigns for fascism to be made illegal.

Was it such a great difference? He claims so, pointing proudly to his record of subsequently disorientating the minor fascist groupings, by espionage, exposure and agent-provocatourism. These methods are pretty disgusting by any standards, and reminiscent of classical nazi tactics. He consoles himself frequently that they were disruptive of the nazi parties for the demise of which he takes credit. He was supported by the notoriously Stalinist Gerry Gable and his apparently limitless funds.

Naturally, they did not hesitate to co-operate with Special Branch, though it is noticeable that SB seldom acted (as it would have against revolutionaries); it has often been alleged that the whole Searchlight set up is utilised by SB for an exchange of information, getting an entry into left wing organisations by dropping information about the minor, discredited and discreditable fascist parties. Significant ones such as the Economic League, or the 'individualists' in the Conservative party, are ignored.

Hill, like Searchlight, is an amusing sideshow with the nuttier nationalists' dirty linen on display, but can one afford the admission price—a tradeoff with SB?

FEEDBACK

ECONOMIC LEAGUE PROTEST

Copy this and send it to any major firm you deal with:

The Economic League is in my view a terrorist organisation and is into spying, intimidation and industrial trouble-making; it lends itself to blackmail and is a classical fascist organisation. No profit from my savings or purchases will knowingly be used to sustain it. Please advise me if you donate or subscribe.

The Midland Bank has already cancelled its donation.

ANARCHIST SONGBOOK: Submissions for the book are requested by comrades in Philadelphia (what better could they do than have a look at the A Songbook published by Brixton comrades a couple of years ago, now alas out of print?) Favourite protest songs with tune or sheet music should be sent to: Anarchist Songbook, c/o Wooden Shoe, 112 South 20th Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103, USA.

SAWCO

The Samcol Workers Cooperative set up the SAWCO Players to tour a play they had devised about their lives in Mpophomeni, combining mime and improvisation with a record of the dispute with the giant British multinational BTR.

Following the declaration of the strike in March 85, 970 workers were dismissed, and they set up SAWCO to provide an income for them. The play was brought to Britain after touring South Africa, both to demonstrate the reality of apartheid and to raise money for the cooperatives. (More info from SAWCO c/o 12 Manor Road Extension, Leicester LE2 4FF).

A cassette of the play, with African music, has been made -available from CRS, London Region Political Committee, 78-102 The Broadway, London E.15 1NL. (Cassettes cost £4—cheques to SAWCO, proceeds to their Solidarity Fund).

ANARCHIST INFORMATION SHEET

Spectacular Times have just started up an anarchist information sheet, with addresses of anarchist organisations/newspapers/publishers/bookshops, etc. If you would like a copy or details of your group/publication included, etc., contact Spectacular Times at either:

Box 99, or Box 99,
Freedom Press, Acorn Bookshop,
84b Whitechapel 17 Chatham St.,
High St., Reading,
London RG1 7JF.
E1 7QX.

Please send at least a 1st class stamp to cover postage. As always, donations are always appreciated.

Would anyone be interested in studying/researching/teaching history (anarchist/labour etc), or also interested in creating an informal group or network to perhaps exchange info/undertake collective research/give help etc., with a view to perhaps producing work/conferences etc. If so, please send an SAE to Eddie May, c/o Dept of History & Welsh History, University College, PO Box 78, Cardiff CF1

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Ronald Reagan rose to power in the Guild of Actors, with communist support, before becoming an anti-communist spy for the CIA; Adolf Hitler, as a corporal, became a political spy and perhaps the same goes for Kurt Waldheim of Austria, second-lieutenant and stool-pigeon.

2. Japanese tourists in Moscow are called 'tikki tikki' since Chernobyl as they are said to use computers to check out nuclear reactions of food; but if they save on eating polluted food they have the last laugh.

3. Probably the Papuans, possibly Fijians; but it seems to have been later colonised by Melanesian and Polynesian tribes who became the 'aboriginals'; a couple of millenia later, a storm-tossed Portuguese ship spotted it, took one look and straightway went back.

4. He did say it; but he wasn't being frank, he was talking about Lord Northcliffe's propaganda in World War I.

5. He got a job in a royalty-backed theatre company to learn 'from the bottom'—without giving up his Civil List salary—and turned up with a packet of teabags... and a police bodyguard -which is the way they'd like to end it if they have to!

6. A good cadre is expected to know Marx used the phrase to describe the French censorship under Napoleon III—which was a lot less stringent than the mildest Marxist censorship even out of power. What distinguished it at the time was that as the political police had been founded by a traitor to Napoleon I and was out of favour in the new regime, a new approach to policing was made in the form of what's now called 'dirty tricks'—lies and conspiracies against opponents.

BACK IN THE USSR Continued from page 7

Anti-semitism is also used as a weapon against dissent. For example, when in 1968 a group of dissidents staged a protest in Red Square against the invasion of Czechoslovakia they were physically assaulted by people shouting 'they're all Jews!'

Official anti-Zionism is again reflected in anti-semitic samizdat. A leading author of much of this was Vladimir Yemelyanov, the head of the Arabic department of a prestigious Moscow language institute and writer of many anti-Zionist works. In one essay he developed the Judeo-Masonic conspiracy claiming that President Carter was a 33rd degree Mason. Yemelyanov later murdered his wife and dumped her body on a rubbish tip