

DIRECT ACTION

No.12 **DAM**



IWA 20p

UNEMPLOYMENT

UNEMPLOYMENT is bad and getting worse. We all know that. Official figures put the number of people out of work at over 3,000,000. That means there are a lot more, of course, as government figures deliberately underestimate the number. Hundreds of thousands of young workers in temporary, low paid, govt.-sponsored job creation schemes aren't included (which is why the jobs exist in the first place, as well as being a handy source of cheap labour), and 150,000 don't even bother to sign on any more. And just to bring the numbers down a little bit more they've introduced a new way of counting the unwaged that takes out 250,000 in one go from the statistics. The true figure is likely to be 5,000,000.

At the start of November '82 the ABI Caravans factory in East Yorkshire took on 50 workers (obviously not all

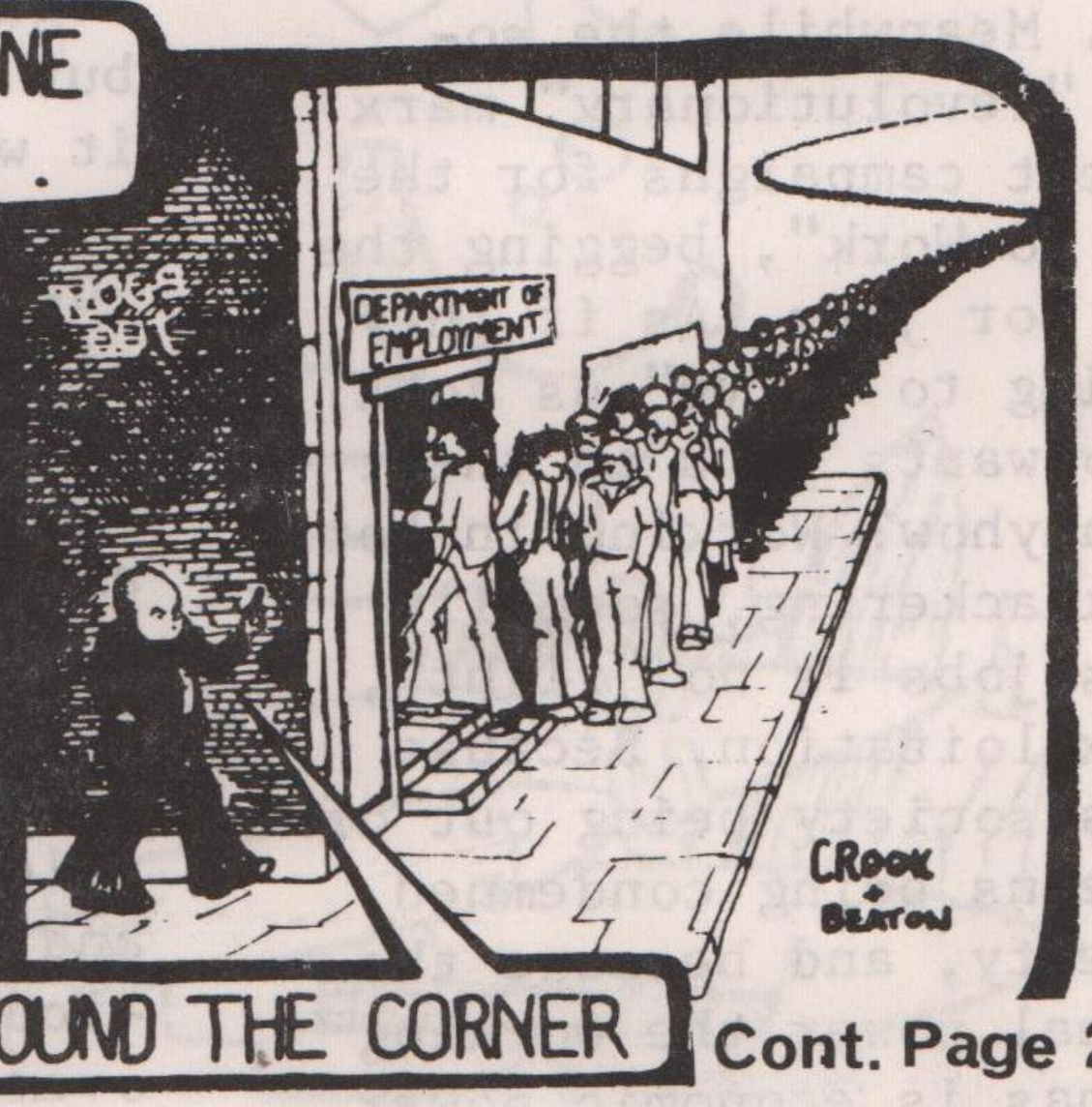
the capitalists are on their knees yet). News about the jobs spread by word of mouth even before official notices were put out and queues of unemployed workers grew outside the factory. There were 800 people chasing 50 jobs.. How long before we see cops with riot-shields at factory gates holding back unemployed workers?

Most working class people will have had first hand experience of what mass unemployment means beyond faceless statistics by now. If not through being hassled for a pittance at the SS office, then through having, friends, neighbours who have to live at subsistence level

But it's important that we realise what mass unemployment means in terms of our whole class. Unemployment is much more than an unpleasant product of the world recession. It's a very powerful weapon in the hands of our

rulers, and they're making good use of it to shift the burden of the crisis (of their own making) onto our shoulders.

The signs are everywhere for people with eyes to see. Mass unemployment has done its job well and we live in an atmosphere of fear. The working class is frightened and the bosses are walking all over us. People are accepting wage rises that don't approach the rise in the cost of living (i.e. a cut in living standards), and they're willing to work in worse conditions just to keep their job. Now the economists talk of zero wage rises, because inflation is going down (again, their figures, and not really surprising when we've no money to buy anything). It's ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL - "Don't rock the boat, there's plenty others that'd do the job for half your wages". Unemployed work



Cont. Page 2.

-ers are being used to keep the work places quiet.

Unemployment, along with rising prices and falling real wages are the realities of life today. We're feeling it because those at the bottom of the heap, the working class, always do. At the top profits have declined and the least profitable capitalists are going to the wall, but the rich are still able to afford private medical care (no NHS queues for the likes of them), flash cars, good food, expensive schools, big homes etc., while all around them the services the working class depend on are strangled. Altogether, it's an attempt to make us pay for their crisis. So far they're winning. When they say the nation must tighten its belt through these hard times etc., they mean me and you of course, not themselves.

FIGHT BACK

So far there have been few signs of anyone willing to stand up. The TUC and the Labour Party might mouth a few speeches and pass resolutions condemning "the most vicious Tory government in years" etc. (especially at election time), but we all know that shower couldn't fight their way out of a wet paper bag. And anyway Labour governments have been every bit as bad for the working class. We can't look to anyone to fight on our behalf. Such struggles against redundancies as there have been, such as at Lawrence Scotts engineering last year, have been unofficial (against the wishes of the union bureaucracy). Meanwhile the so-called "revolutionary" marxist Left campaigns for the "Right to Work", begging the bosses for jobs. As if they are going to "give" us jobs. And who wants jobs on their terms anyhow? Working in boring, knackering, socially useless jobs is no "right", it's exploitation. Because in this society being out of work means being condemned to poverty, and because the only real power the working class has is economic power on the job, we must defend

and even seek to increase employment, but on our terms, not theirs.

So, where do we go from here? Is the working class a lost hope? If it isn't, how can it move from being on the defensive onto the offensive? Anarcho-syndicalists answer that the only way we will change things is through strong class organisation, getting rid of impotent union bureaucrats and conducting the struggle ourselves.

THE RIGHT TO WELL-BEING, WORK OR NO WORK.

The unemployed must organise to force the government to raise the level of benefits. Having no job isn't our own fault. Just because the system can't exploit our labour at the moment doesn't mean we're not entitled to a decent standard of living. As well as the unwaged organising themselves, those who have industrial muscle must show solidarity and bring pressure to bear.

UNITY

Workers must be united in opposing redundancies. One of the benefits of mass unemployment to our rulers is that it divides those in work from the unemployed, making it easier to crush any working class resistance. The industries belong to us all and should be defended by all (similarly they're no-ones to sell). Unemployed workers can help on picket lines, and waged and unwaged should work together to force the bosses to increase employment...

REDUCTION OF WORKING HOURS without loss of pay. Solid organisation will be needed, but if won on a large scale, it would force the employers to take on extra workers. The government is implementing job-sharing, with a view to cutting the number of unemployed. But as well as taking people off the dole job-sharing replaces properly paid jobs with part-time jobs, which are lower paid, with worse conditions, and in which it is more difficult to organise for improvement. Reduction of working hours won by workers on

their own terms though (without loss of pay), would increase employment and thus living standards for those who would otherwise be out of work, as well as giving workers in general more leisure time. If a six hour day (for example) seems little to our rulers let's see them work it.

GO FOR AS MUCH AS YOU CAN to defend living standards. No matter how bad the economy is they've still got plenty of money. It's a matter of having strong enough organisation to make them come up with the goods. Large rises are especially needed for the low paid, and young workers on MSC cheap labour schemes should organise themselves to win the proper rates for the job. If workers fought for equal pay, the basis for solidarity would be that much stronger.

Unemployment, poverty and misery will be part of our lot as long as we allow this system and our rulers to survive. We must do what we can in the present to combat them, but they are part and parcel of capitalism.

Only uncompromising class struggle will win us a better life.

YOSSER.

Stop

Press

The 22 workers at Aire Valley Yarns, sacked on the 15th March for daring to demand union recognition, have been mounting a 24hr picket at the factory. The appalling wages of £1.02 per hour basic rate with overtime only after 60 hours; the Victorian working conditions and the openly racist attitudes of their employer bring Grunwick to mind.

The police used intimidating tactics towards the picket and blatantly collaborated with factory management in helping scab labour get through, though a more softly-softly approach was used when the picket increased.

They are hoping for a mass picket on Thursday 28th April at Aire Valley Yarns, Coal Hill Lane, Farsley, near Pudsey, Leeds. Financial support will be very welcome and your presence at the picket.

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Defeat Again

By a process of open blackmail the U.S. owned Hyster forklift truck company intimidated the workforce at the Irvine plant in Ayrshire into accepting a 13% wage cut. This cut amounts to an average loss of £20 a week.

A fortnight before the workers voted to accept the cut Hysters closed down one of its factories in Oregon. There was no doubt in the minds of the workers that they would be next, unless they accepted the boss's demands. With unemployment already high in the area the workers would have faced a stark future on the dole.

However, this fear of the dole was not enough to force the issue, the company therefore created strong social pressure to seal the issue. The company promised to create 1,000 jobs in the area some time in the future. Thus the workforce knew that if they rejected the wage cut they would be held responsible for the loss of a chance of 1,000 new jobs. This vague promise was enough to create social pressure in the community at large. With a knife in the back and a carrot on a stick, the work-force had no choice but to accept. This defeat of the workers was widely publicised by the media as an example to the rest of us. Little mention was made of the closure of the plant in the U.S. and little mention of the widespread anger of the

workers. The media wished to create an image of happy self-sacrificing workers. This image will be used again against the workers.

The trend to force wage cuts is growing, and each new defeat is widely advertised. It just needs a single case of resistance for the blackmail tactics to be thrown into focus. It's a hard decision for workers to make, but the alternative is wage-slavery (low wages).

Sabotage

"Factory Rioters Smash 90 Cars" the Sun headline on the 18th of February screamed.

"Crazed car workers went on the rampage at a giant Ford plant - because they were laid off by a strike", continued the report in Britain's most popular scum sheet. The reality is less spectacular but still significant. The workers were rightly annoyed because their pay had been stopped due to a dispute earlier that week - they were not against strikes, just wage cuts.

The action at the Halewood plant was by no means unique, similar rounds of sabotage happened, in similar circumstances last year.

This form of action also cropped up in the recent water workers dispute, when, on the 7th of February, management called in the police to look into possible sabotage at a Thames Water Authority pumping station.

A rubber conveyor belt, which fed coal into the plant at Hampton Sunbury-on-Thames, was found cut in two places. The coal, used to power turbine pumps, was ferried to the plant by lorries until the belt was repaired.

This all took place shortly after workers learnt that some management and white collar staff were being paid more than £1,000 per week to scab.

Industrial sabotage is an old tactic of the class struggle, and not one to be ignored. It is no surprise to learn that union officials may be helping management to search out those responsible. Union officials have a distinct interest in stamping out independent working class struggle because it weakens their control over the workers.

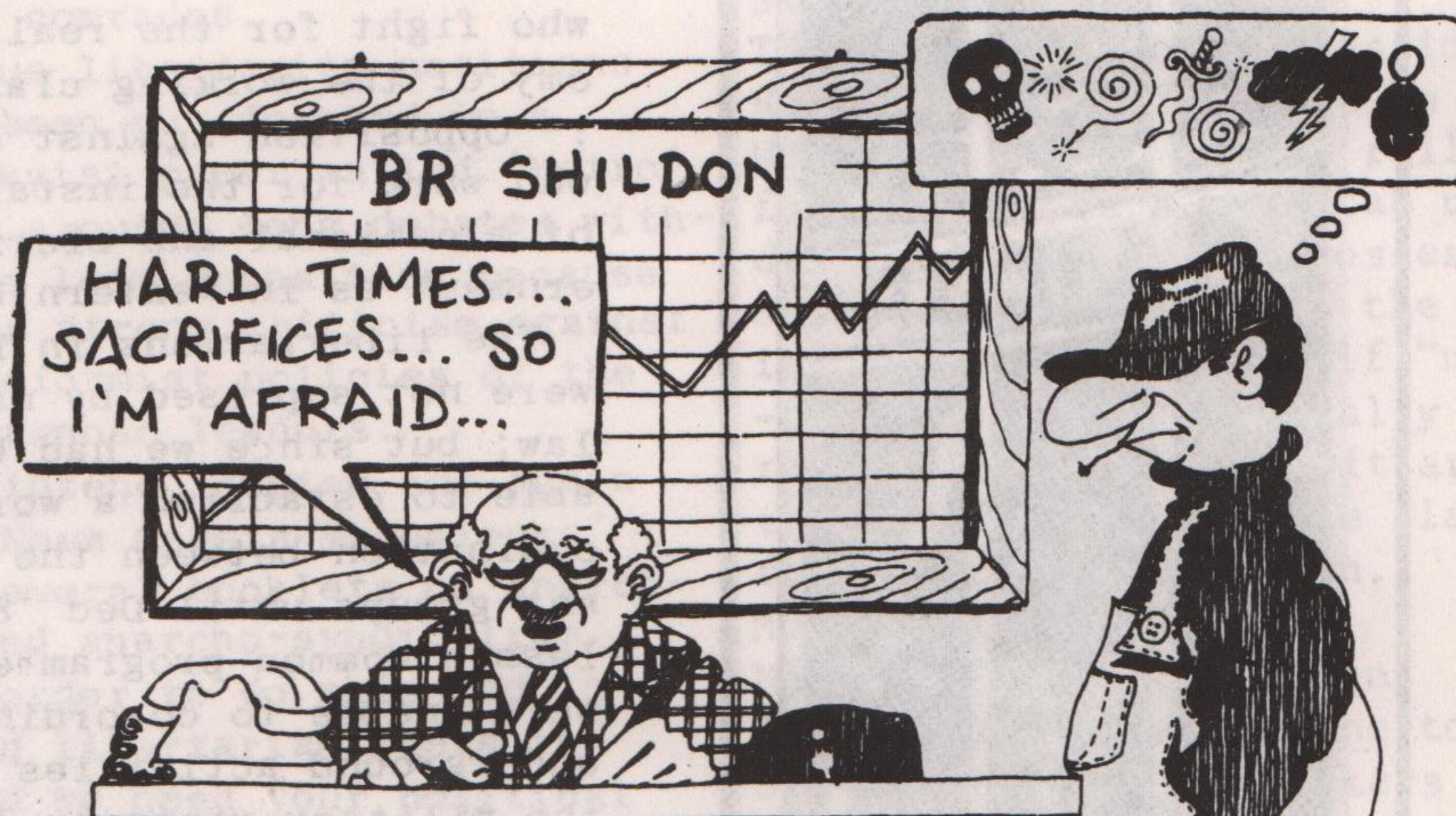
Union and working class organisation is essential for the defence of our class but we should always beware of those who, claiming to represent us, would become our bosses. Their actions will always show the lie to their rhetoric. This becomes clear when they act as an arm of management in detecting and disciplining the workers, to the advantage of our class enemy.

If sackings result from these recent acts of sabotage then only unofficial industrial action, in the face of any Union opposition, will be an adequate show of solidarity.

GROSVENOR STRIKE

Under the guise of re-organisation 27 workers of the Banqueting Section of the Grosvenor Hotel in London were sacked. The sacked workers, members of the GMBATU, had asked for the recognition of basic union rights and for contracts of employment (even though some of them have worked there for 25 years they were still classed as casual).

The real aim of Trust Houses Forte was to smash the union at the Grosvenor. The sackings were clearly part of this policy. Some union members were not sacked in order to divide the workers.



Wobbly

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SIGMA GROUP WARSAW

The following article was sent to us by the F.A.U. (the West German Anarcho-syndicalist organisation). They received this letter from the Polish underground via roundabout ways. The copy we received is obviously a translation from a translation and therefore the grammar is not perfect so I have tried to make the meanings as clear as possible whilst typing. Phil.

Anarchist Group "Sigma" Warsaw.

Proclamation to the libertarian movement in the West.

We are a group of anarchists and anti-authoritarian left-wingers in Warsaw who came together in a discussion circle (SIGMA) at the beginning of 1980. We all agreed to keep a distance between ourselves and the existing political system in our country. Most of us came to anarchism through literature. For example: in the early 50's some works of the Russian anarchist, Peter Kropotkin, were published in Poland (Mutual Aid, The French Revolution, Memories of an Anarchist and Ethics) in small editions. All were accessible to people in public libraries. Another important authority for us was a series called "Biblioteka Mysli Socjalistycznej". During the 60's it printed works by Owen, Saint-Simon, Fourier and some works of Proudhon (2 Vol) and Bakunin (2 Vol). In addition a very poorly edited collection of works of the most important Polish anarchist - Edward Abramowski - was published as well.

These texts, although involved in official Marxist-Leninist comments and often disfigured by arbitrary editings, nevertheless awoke some interest in anarchism especially amongst students.

Until martial law was declared in December '81 it was possible for us, although under severe bureaucratic and financial difficulties, to visit western countries. There we came into contact with libertarian groups and got additional literature which strengthened our interest in anarchism.

When the great strike move-

ment developed in August 1980 which resulted in the foundation of Solidarnosc, the first independent trade union in Poland since World War II. With the founding of Solidarnosc an atmosphere of change permeated the whole of Polish society and so we decided to publish and propagate anarchist ideas.

At the end of 1980 we gave out the first edition of our review, "Nowa Gazeta Mazowiecka" planned as a theoretical discussion forum and organ of the anti-authoritarian left-wing in Poland. Besides opinions about the current political situation, poems and satire we published short articles about the theory and history of anarchism. These included "A Short History of Anarchism" and an essay on "The Kronstadt Rebellion 1921".

Within a short period our review became very popular with left-wing members of Solidarnosc and students; so much so that the Russian Ambassador in Warsaw protested very strongly against its further appearance. Some of our articles were reprinted by other groups - in Krakow and Wroclaw - this meant that each edition was about 6,000 copies.



Besides 'Nowa Gazeta Mazowiecka' we gave out a series of booklets (Archivum Lewicy) in which we published detailed texts about anarchism and anarcho-syndicalism.

Until the declaration of martial law we gave out 6 volumes of Nowa Gazeta Mazowiecka and 5 booklets. These were spread all over Poland by a network of private contacts. Both publications were printed at Warsaw University whose leaders took quite a liberal stance against the opponent student groups during the Polish Summer (1980).

Besides our publications there existed another anarchist review at Wroclaw but we were informed about its existence only by chance after Dec 1981.

(During an examination this review was shown to one of our members and he was asked whether he had any contact with the group in Wroclaw.)

Several other left-wing publications (reviews, booklets and books) were given out in Poland and reflected some sympathy for anarchism and anarcho-syndicalism until the declaration of martial law.

The political position of our group, expressed in our publications, can be defined in this way:

- :- Total opposition against the Moscow controlled totalitarian Jaruzelski regime.
- :- Support for the self-determination of the Polish People.
- :- A critical solidarity with Solidarnosc and the movement for civil rights, i.e.
- :- The support for all those who fight for the real autonomy of the working class, and
- :- Opposition against all those who work for the installation of a national and clerical government as in Western countries.

The libertarians in Poland were not surprised by martial law; but since we had been unable to establish a working coordination between the different groups until Dec '81 (much less a common programme), we were unable to co-ordinate our underground activities after the military riots by Jaruzelski.

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GROSVENOR cont.

Some of those in the union have come out in support of their colleagues, others have not.

One of the problems is that T.H.F. have their own non-unionised warehouses and vans, which means supplies still get into the place. However, the morale of the strikers is still fairly high, and they expect to go to a Tribunal soon. They believe that Forte will offer reinstatement to some if they drop all union activity and membership. This is another divisive tactic of the bosses. Such conditions will not be acceptable to some of the strikers, but the bait might be too great for some in the cut-throat catering industry.

Members of our South London branch have gone down to support the pickets and have been warmly received. However, the pickets face an uphill struggle in one of the most ruthless and exploitative industries of them all.

S.L.D.A.M.

St James' Hospital STRIKE

A.S.T.M.S. technicians in the Medical Physics Department at St. James' Hospital, Leeds have been on strike since Friday 4th February.

It began when a worker was sacked from the Dept. for allegedly being "incompetent". Although to be more accurate it was an example of management incompetence - the worker was taken on straight from college with no previous practical experience and promised training which never materialised.

Within 40 minutes of the strike decision, management were chasing the sacked worker, asking him to resign, he refused as he had already been sacked.

The strikers claims of inadequate training have been supported by an independent report, which found that there "is a general lack of direction, coupled with

Guide to Workplace Survival

WHEN YOU THINK
YOU NEED HIM TAKE
YOUR FULL-TIME UNION
OFFICIAL WITH YOU
TO MEET MANAGEMENT...



communication difficulties in the department... there are great difficulties in maintaining adequate staffing levels ...no appraisal and staff development scheme in operation or envisaged." The report also noted "a lack of awareness of Health and Safety regulations."

The strikers at one stage placed great hope in the Appeals Committee, which after its first hearing 'recommended reinstatement or redeployment. The management refused, the appeal then upheld the refusal in a session from which the press, strikers and public were barred - the Area Health Authority, acting as a kangaroo court, upholding its own managements decisions, (the only labour councilor represented walked out before the dispute was discussed, presumably so as not to be embarrassed). The strikers feel that the bosses have rewritten the rules, as they go along, for instance the failure to enforce the Appeal Committee recommendation for reinstatement. The workers have also suffered from harrassment, for

instance a worker was attacked by one of the bosses in the canteen for leafletting - it wouldn't do to allow such subversive things as truth and free speech.

On Thursday 31 March a mass picket was held, which helped morale, which was needed because of the lack of support & solidarity that had been received from the other unions (or other A.S.T.M.S.) members, in the hospital.

The management style in the hospital is extremely authoritarian, and inefficient, the union demand for a proper training scheme in the hospital goes back a long way, but these highly paid executives have done nothing about it for years except talk. The workers suspect the aim is to give the work to private contractors to line the pockets of the rich, even though it would be more expensive.

The feeling amongst the strikers has been that they could organise the department more efficiently themselves, (the union representative was prepared to oversee the training of the sacked worker himself when the worker was reinstated).

The strikers need more solidarity in order to continue and win the strike.

Donations and letters of support can be sent to: Cliff Jayne, A.S.T.M.S. Office, St James' Hospital, Beckett, Ls 9

BLUE MURDER

Tebbit's advice to get on your bike and find work appears to have been acted on by some. CHAR the organisation that campaigns for the single homeless estimates that there are about 30,000 living rough or with no fixed abode in London.

Commenting on recent reports that 16 people had been murdered, Chris Holmes, the director of CHAR said he was shocked but not surprised by the reports. In the last few years the slump has led to a large increase in the number of people with nowhere to live as more and more of the jobless go to London in search of work.

CNT VI CONGRESS

A REPORT



An imaginary scenario: Following a spate of familiar union-bashing by the press and politicians, set back some 40 or 50 years ago, an English military dictator had suppressed trade unions, shot one in ten of trade union members in every factory, forced through fascist corporation "bargaining" to replace trade unionism, refused to allow the very name of the union to be mentioned, sentenced thousands of former trade unionists to corrective and forced labour camps, imprisoned and garroted those who held out and sent others into exile.

What would be the state of the British trade union movement today? And let us suppose (to make a parallel with Spain) the dictator was now dead and trade unionism permitted, but without the means of legally negotiating, without the funds for paid officials, and faced with competition by phoney unions with ample funds legal recognition and paid officials who had never undergone suppression.

What do you suppose the membership would be? Would the TUC be a propaganda group made of conscious militants - and about the size of DAM? Would it be as much? Might it not just consist of a few ex-officials in exile in Paris hoping for the resumption of their careers? How would you assess the TUC today if it had undergone the experience of the CNT - the anarcho-syndicalist union - in Spain?

Never be fooled by the nationalists who try to tell you this is due to "national"

characteristics". There is no national characteristic that "explains" militant anarchism in Spain - or diehard Carlism - or Nazism in Germany, Bolshevism in Russia etc. If there were it would have to explain their opposites too.

Marxism did not have a chance to grow in Spain since Marx opposed the Internationalists; as a result Leninism could not grow because it had no soil to grow on. Socialism finally only prospered because Socialists entered the Primo de Rivera dictatorship to build Socialism as a parliamentary force and its own form of trade unionism. The Communist Party came in as an exotic growth during the Civil War. Because of this lack of the Marxist left, the working class came to cherish anarchism as its own - without being deflected by a middle class leadership, as had been the case everywhere at the turn of the century.

This is the background to the CNT conference. That is why the conference is so encouraging to foreign eyes - though a bit exasperating to Spanish ones (and owing to personal circumstances I always see it through both sets of eyes, as it were).

The conference was held in the Sports Palace in Barcelona - a huge stadium, with hundreds of delegates in the floor, and hundreds of visitors around in what is normally the ringside auditorium. Altogether some thousands, representing the whole spectrum of age groups, about a million years in terms of imprisonment in Spain, France and Germany over the years, scattered around the hall.

This year the press took eager notice of it, encouraged perhaps by the nationalists and Marxists who tried to enter the CNT and failed in an entry tactic inside the CNT and who have kept up a chorus that the CNT is dead, that it has lost x number of members and that it is hopelessly be-

hind the times.

The crisis in the CNT

Though after the last congress there was a split and two "CNTs" emerged, both have the same problems and the same aims, and it seems that the fusion of both sections cannot be long delayed. What follows belongs to one section of the CNT but could equally apply to the other).

Under the revised labour laws of Spain, everyone in a place of work has an industrial vote, and can vote for members of the committee. The vote was on parliamentary lines, the candidates being from each of the "recognised" unions (UGT, Comisiones Obreras and the other unions, but not the CNT which has boycotted it). To be recognised, one had to accept the "Pact of Moncloa" (similar to Wilson's "Social Contr-

act"). The result has been that the CNT has been pushed out of negotiating except as a "wild-cat" co-ordinator. Yet in many cases it could take over factory committees wholesale.

Now that the new Socialist government has omitted acceptance of the Pact of Moncloa as essential, some CNT militants have put themselves up for election and won, whereupon the CNT branch has expelled them. Many ask why - why should the CNT not be on the negotiating committees officially anyway? Others see this as the slippery slope to class collaboration (it can be, but isn't necessarily, as those of us abroad, who have had experience to work within the socialist TUs and been on committees and the lower echelons of union work, know well). This was the main feature of a heat

-ed debate and a point that took three full days and finally went on all night to 4 a.m. in order to try and resolve it (it still hasn't been resolved).

Another point arises out of it: why should the socialists and/or communists be allowed to control so many municipalities where the majority are anarchists, because the anarchists don't vote? This didn't arise as such at the conference but is very much a likely question to be raised if the CNT accepts the clause on factory committees. (But nobody suggests, even remotely, relaxing the ban on governmental voting).

Additionally to the conference, there were many activities going on: the "cultural week" consisting of meetings with well known speakers, and films (I have taped two - "Rebellion in Patagonia" and the "Short Summer of Anarchy" - which are now available in video cassette from 121 Bookshop, alas without English translation - real anarchist cinema). Also the "lost archives" collected from Amsterdam are back in Spain and there was an exhibition of them in collaboration with the Catalan history institute (very similar to the exhibitions organised by Emma Goldman, held in England during the civil war).

ALBERT MELTZER.

MIGUEL GARCIA

In these depressing times it's not often we come across examples of heroic self-sacrifice for the common good. This book is a timely reminder of the struggles that people have fought and died for. The first part of the book is an autobiographical account of Miguel's early years and leading up to the period just before the fall of Madrid. It's a lively story, human, and written in an informal sort of way. This story is inspirational, if people become anarchists through reading books then it's more likely to be this sort of book. Rather than demand abstract theory I would much rather ask for this kind of human narrative.

If Miguel Garcia had been a Marxist he would never be forgotten, let us ensure that his contribution in the struggle for social revolution is not forgotten.

M. BLACK

Miguel Garcia's Story, edited by Albert Meltzer, published by the Miguel Garcia Memorial Committee and Cienfuegos Press is available from Refract Publications, BCM Refract, London. WC1N 3XX. Price £1.50

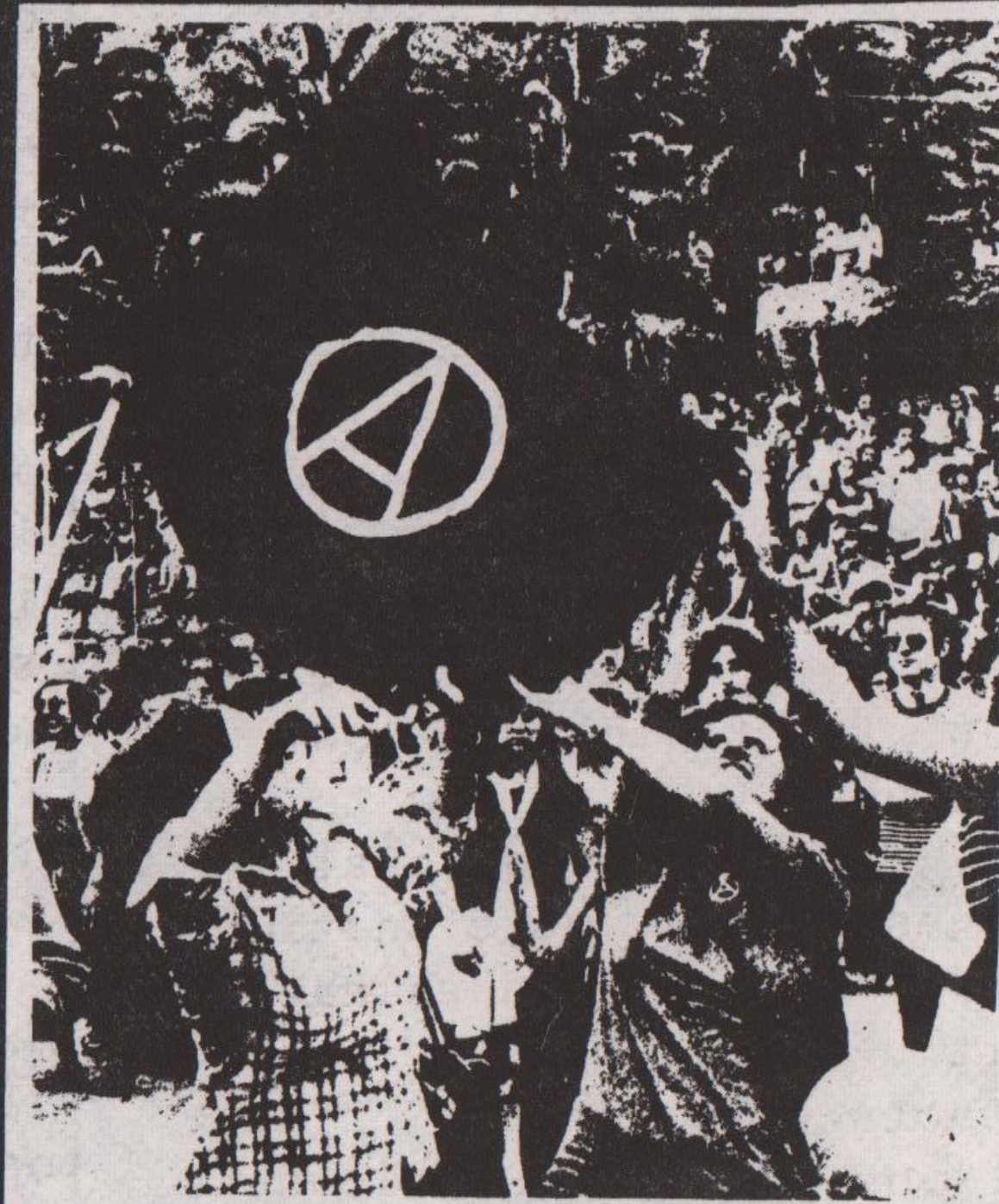


GENERAL STRIKE

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The strength of labour is not on the field of battle. It is in the shop, in the mine and factory. There lies its power that no army in the world can defeat, no human agency conquer.

In other words, the social revolution can take place only by means of the GENERAL STRIKE. Alexander Berkman ABC of Anarchism.



ANARCHY IN JAPAN

Despite growing repression by the police, the Japanese anarcho-syndicalist movement seems to be expanding.

When a section of the Public Health Workers Union began a strike with the support of our comrades in the Saitama region (near Tokyo), the police intervened violently to smash the strike and arrest a number of comrades.

The police also made a search of the home of one of our friends, rifling address-lists of adherents, and wrecking the place. Our sympathisers have also received death threats from fascists of the extreme right.

In spite of this wave of repression the struggle goes on. As well as the publication of bulletins and pamphlets, a new issue of the monthly organ of the Japanese anarcho-syndicalist organisation: Rentai (Solidarity) has just been published. The first issue of Rentai (March '81) contained a report of the International Workers Association Conference as well as a translation of the manifesto presented to that assembly of workers. Rentai has also published several manifestoes calling for a revival of the Japanese workers' movement. One of these denounces trade unions for foisting on the movement a policy of class collaboration whose false arguments hinder direct action.

At present anarcho-syndicalists only constitute a minority, but there undeniably exists a rebirth of the workers' movement.

Our Japanese comrades otherwise concentrate their efforts on the necessary task of organising effective solidarity between the workers of Asia and those in the West in order to fight against Japanese capitalist exploitation. To attain this goal it is necessary to try to bring about international strikes against multinational firms. The comrades have started to establish close contacts with workers' organisations in Latin-American

countries which are in the process of being invaded by these multi-nationals. As a result of such contacts in Mexico, an important strike developed there recently against the Japanese firm of Nissan.

An appeal is being launched by our comrades in support of Japanese workers in their struggles.

(Taken from the Bulletin of the International Workers' Association) Trans. D.P.

Letter from Italy

The great workers' agitation of last January finished as was foreseen; the institutional unions signed a sell-out agreement with the bosses and government, betraying the interests and the struggles of the working class. The agreement concerns the "cost of work" and labour contracts, and the consequences on wages and employment are extremely grave for the proletarian masses.

All the government parties and the Communist Party as well judged the agreement positively; disorientating and abandoning the workers betrayed twice over.

Notwithstanding this, entire factories came out against the union bureaucracies for their collaborationist politics; many Communist Party workers were in strong opposition to their own party. The revolutionary left, anarchist workers and anarcho-syndicalists attempted to make it clear to all workers that it concerned an anti-worker accord, and on the whole this activity was well received with in the class.

It was a great defeat for the Italian working class, but at the same time it was also a defeat for reformist unionism, never so negated, on trial, repudiated and contested by the grassroots workers in at least ten years. And this crisis of the unions is destined to grow with the worsening social situation.

Large spaces have in the meantime been created for revolutionary and libertarian opposition. The FAI (Federaz-

ione Anarchica Italiana) also, with its federated groups and those closest to it politically, put out all the counter-information possible, aligning itself with the existing autonomous fighting structures.

In Livorno, in the last few weeks an unemployed organization on practically anarcho-syndicalist lines has been formed which has begun to work on a local level. Furthermore we have an anarchist workers' group inside the largest metallurgical factory in the area (SPICA, part of the Alfa Romeo group).

The anarchists' intervention in the workplaces is one of the questions upon which the FAI's next national congress (scheduled for the end of April) will deliberate. Other issues will be anti-militarism (US missiles at Comiso) and repression.

Marco.

Ireland

We're glad to welcome a new addition to the ranks of the anarchist press: RESISTANCE, paper of the Dublin Anarchist Collective. The first two issues exhibit a sound, down to earth approach that readers of Direct Action will appreciate. This probably reflects the fact that the group is doing consistent work in the areas they write about: women's struggles, unemployment etc.

The second issue contains an International Womens Day Special, and a report on the important dispute at the Dublin factory Ranks where occupying workers were jailed and then released through rank and file action. RESISTANCE deals mainly with issues in the South of Ireland, which nicely complements the coverage of the North provided by the Belfast Anarchist paper OUTTA CONTROL - get them both.

The DAC have also produced a statement of their views in the form of a pamphlet: "Nobody Rules OK". This covers topics such as Feminism, Unemployment, The North, Crime/Prison, and the Church. The section on the North will probably interest British readers

cont. back page

SIGMA

Another problem was that some groups work from the start in secrecy which made contacts very difficult. One week after the declaration of martial law we found out, by chance, of the existence of another anarchist group in Warsaw. We got this information from a leaflet distributed at the university, which propagated an active resistance against the military junta.

After Dec 13th we had to go underground after the temporary arrest of some of our members. All the printing presses and other materials we had used for distributing our review had been confiscated or destroyed by several police raids. At present printing presses, paper and inks are not available; it is even difficult to get them on the black market and the prices there exceed our financial capacity.

With the loss of our technical equipment and the permanent fear of being watched by the police the only way for propagating our ideas during the first months of the military junta was to write leaflets by hand and to graffiti the walls at night, which was quite dangerous for us.

After the first great wave of repression we got in contact with other undogmatic left-wing groups in Warsaw. In May '82 we were able to give out and distribute the underground review 'Rownos' (Equality) together with other comrades in Warsaw.

Besides this, as we were informed the other day, an edition of the anarcho-syndicalist paper 'Przelom' (Subversion) is being planned. But we have only just got in contact with these comrades.

Vague libertarian positions have been put forward in a Trotskyist paper called 'Metro' which aroused long debates within the left opposition because of its strong criticism against the reformist policies of the Solidarnosc leaders.

We intend to give out again our 'Nova Gazeta Mazowiecka' and several booklets on anarchism and anarcho-syndicalism.

In order to do this and to spread libertarian ideas in Poland we need your political and material help urgently. So support us in our fight.....

:- against the Jaruzelski junta and all nationalistic and clerical forces.

:- for the self-determination of the Polish people.

Yours fraternally
Group "Sigma" Warsaw.
September 1982.

German comrades have started a solidarity fund and can be contacted at the following address;

Jochan Knoblauch
Postscheckkonto-Nr. 4515 23-109
Postscheckamt Berlin West
"Solidarnosc".

UNION NOTES

EEPTU AGREE TO YOUTH EXPLOITATION

In a deal with the Electrical Contractors Association the EEPTU has agreed to a cut in apprentices wages of more than 25%. Under a new training scheme the existing £41 a week initial pay rate is to be replaced by a £27.88 allowance paid by the Manpower Services Commission. Formerly, wages of apprentices increased as they got older and until they were fully qualified after several years. Now wages will go up as stages of training are reached to £46 then £65, 20% less than the age-based wages.

EEPTU is presided over by born-again ex-communist Frank Chapple. In his need to serve some master - be it the CP or the ECA - it's always the same people who loose out: the workers.

SCAB RAIL UNION

The Federation of Professional Railwaymen (as if people in the NUR only worked on the railways for a hobby) is a new scab union designed to help the bosses destroy what's left of the industry. It calls itself "non-political" ie, fanatically right wing. Supporting it are those defenders of wage slavery the Freedom Association.

MORE SMOT ARRESTS

Now that KGB hatchet-man Andropov has reached the top of the heap in the workers state determined efforts are now being made to crush SMOT

(Free Interprofessional Union of workers) the independent trade union opposed to the corrupt government unions.

In December last year police in Leningrad arrested Alexander Skobov, anarchist and founder of the New Left Opposition, Irene Tsourkova, wife of imprisoned Arkady Tsurkov and Lev Volokhonsky. These arrests were in connection with their known membership of SMOT.

The highest paid job in the T.U. movement is coming vacant next year when Geoffrey Drain retires. If you're a member of NALGO don't think of getting yourself nominated because the appointment will be made from a short list drawn up by an advisory committee.

Mr. John Daly, the union's deputy general secretary is most likely to be next general secretary and move into the £31,000 bracket.

Anarcho-syndicalists believe that all officials in the workers' organisations should be elected delegates subject to instant recall, and that if these officials are paid then they should not receive more than the average wage currently currently paid in that trade or industry.

YOU CALL THIS LIVING?



AGAINST LETTERBOMBS

There has been a recent blitz (by British standards) of letter bombs in the country. One was left at a local Tory party office in Leeds, and led to police raids on anarchists in that city and elsewhere, DAM members among them. Four have been sent to Soviet targets in London: the Soviet Embassy, the Soviet Weekly offices, the Intourist offices and Aeroflot. Police initially reported that the Jewish Defense League claimed these, but later a group calling itself "Makhno's Anarchist Army" (in a letter to the Guardian) said that the police were lying and that they (MAA) were responsible. The Animal Rights Militia sent letter bombs to: a Hull furrier, a man in Manchester, Peter Walker the minister of Agriculture, Edelson furriers Manchester, Bristol University Animal Research

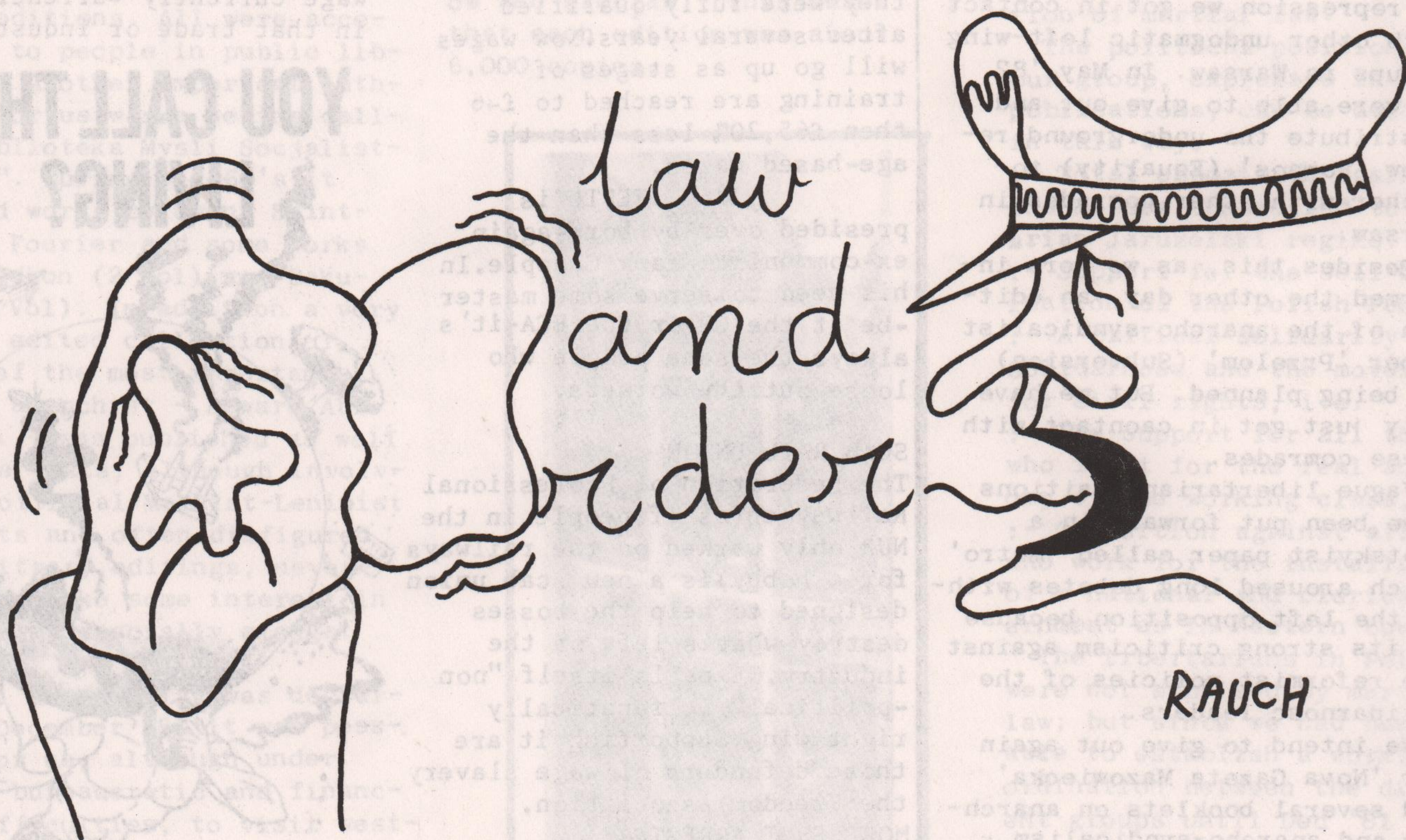
Centre and Professor Roy Calne. Lastly, the Scottish National Liberation Army sent a letter bomb to the Lord Provost at Glasgow city Commerce centre on the day of princess Di's visit.

No matter how notable the sentiments letter bombs are not, and have never been anarchist tactics. Letter bombs are dangerous, they are liable to blow up whilst being handled by innocent postal workers. And if they do arrive intact then the lowest in the pile are likely to open them. Anarchists do not aim to blow up low paid clerks and secretaries. Our real targets are the bosses, the politicians and the state bureaucrats, the very people who are not in danger from letter bombs. However they are in danger from an organised and revolutionary working class movement. That is our aim.

CROYDON

ARSON

Early in February a black peoples centre in Croydon was fire-bombed by fascists. No group has yet claimed responsibility, however nazi slogans were daubed and rumours suggest the Anti Paki League may have had a hand in it. The building was used by the Croydon Black Peoples Association and the Thornton Heath 10 Campaign. The bombing is the culmination of a combined police/council/press campaign against this autonomous black peoples organisation, an organisation free from second hand leftist cliches and actively involved in self defence against racist attacks. The national Front headquarters are in the same area. A paper, printed by the CBPA, the Sniper, has achieved a certain notoriety for its outspoken exposes of local policing. Messages of solidarity would be welcomed at; 43 Wellesley Rd, Croydon London.



RAUCH

Sheffield Peace Centre

By the time you read this the Sheffield Peace Centre will no longer exist. Our "Socialist" Labour council has decided that the £25,000 they stand to gain from leasing the Masonic Hall to Mansfield Brewery is more important than the Peace Centre despite advertising spreads in the local papers on their "commitment" to the peace movement and the nuclear free zone.

The Masonic buildings were occupied on January 10th by Sheffield Peace Action who have opened it to the public as a Peace Centre with a library and bookshop of anti-militarist and anarchist literature, facilities for holding meetings and workshops, an exhibition area, a vegetarian cafe and creche facilities. Most importantly it has provided the peace movement in Sheffield with a focus for its activities, a meeting place with a friendly and active atmosphere where people can wander in and get information and exchange ideas about anti-militarism.

The Peace Centre has received messages of support from peace groups all over Britain and Europe and is gaining support in Sheffield with 2000 visitors in the first 10 days. It has not however managed to gain the support of the CND who claimed the occupation was "misdirected" action against "a local authority with a record second to none in their stand for the cause of peace".

Unfortunately this "stand" by the council of "Peace City" does not extend to providing alternative premises for the peace centre and the last few weeks have been dominated by fruitless bargaining with councillors such as Blunkett who happily pledge personal support knowing that the council have no intention of supporting such an autonomous enterprise. Instead they have given the go-ahead for a peace shop to be run by CND and selling approved CND literature,

a very different proposition to the centre being both less threatening and less effective.

The Peace Centre is now faced with the unhappy prospect of meekly walking out of the centre before being evicted and occupying another building in the hope that the council will eventually "allow" them to stay somewhere.

This seems a pretty slim hope. Bureaucratic hierarchical organizations like the city council are hardly likely to assist a set up like the centre which is not open to their control. The council have even refused to negotiate directly with the individuals involved but insisted on working through the Peace Liaison Committee which is an odd assortment of Labour hacks, CNDers, Trots, Pacifists etc.

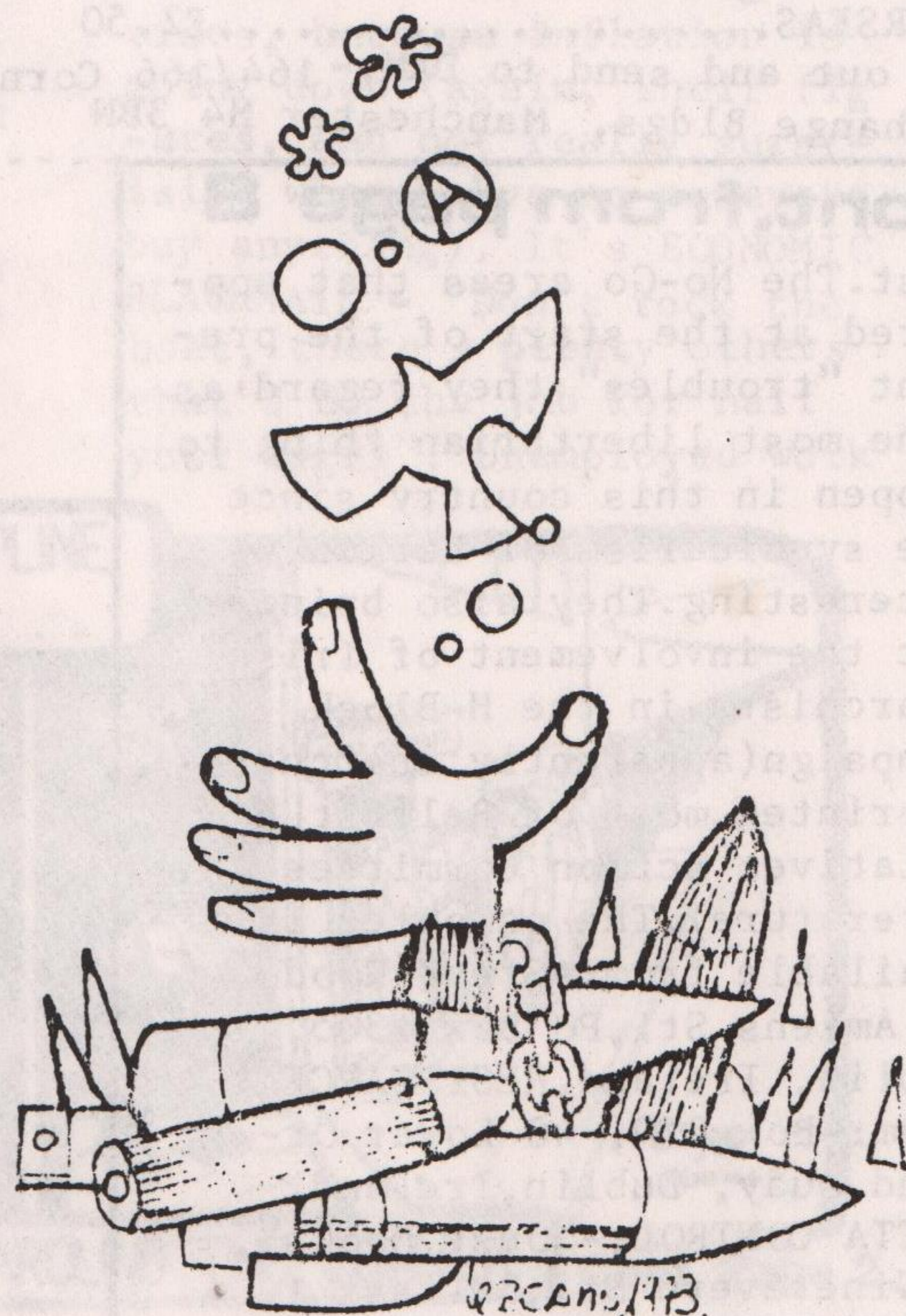
In the last few weeks a lot of energy has gone into agonising over the relationship between the centre and the council and playing for time while the council has been stringing them along with meal-y mouthed expressions of goodwill backed up by threats of eviction. This "goodwill" has not been translated into offers of any of the numerous council-owned buildings in the city centre which have been empty for years.

It will be interesting to see whether the peace centre moves out or waits for the council to evict them as even the media would be hard pressed to present the council in a sympathetic light if it evicted peace campaigners when the council is supposedly committed to peace, from a public building, when they are supported by a great number of that public. However people at the Centre are unwilling to give the council any bad publicity as they seem to share the illusion that Sheffield City Council is somehow different from other organs of government and that they can be trusted to act on behalf of the people rather than in

their own interests. They seem to be falling into the trap of asking other people to do things for them i.e. provide a centre. If they seek legality renting a venue would have fewer strings.

Whatever the outcome it has been a good example of libertarians working together in a constructive way. It has provided Sheffield with a centre which has attracted all sorts of people and provided information and ideas about anti-militarism and has gone some way to dispelling the myths about anarchists in a practical way. Strangely their naive assumptions about the Labour Council is contrasted with their own vehement structurelessness which has allowed a few individuals to sign contracts with the council which affects the whole centre. The result is a confused situation where no one knows whether the centre as a whole intends to leave or wait for the council to evict them. It is possible to have organisation without authority, when a large meeting delegates individuals to pass on their decisions rather than giving them decision-making powers as with MPs. The Peace Centre has shown that without a non-hierarchical organisation the result is confusion and a few people making decisions for others.

H.N.





DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT
(anarcho-syndicalist
organisation)
BRITISH SECTION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL WORKERS
ASSOCIATION(anarcho-
syndicalist International)

Direct Action is launching a
PRESS APPEAL. With more money
we can improve the paper(per-
haps put the confederal col-
ours - black and red - on the
masthead) and bring it out
more frequently. Fellow workers
support YOUR paper.

I would like to know more about the
DAM/subscribe to Direct Action.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

TRADE UNION.....

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:-

UK & IRELAND.....£2.00

OVERSEAS.....£2.50

Cut out and send to DAM:-164/166 Corn
Exchange Bldgs, Manchester M4 3BN

cont.from page 8

most. The No-Go areas that app-
eared at the start of the pre-
sent "troubles" they regard as
"the most libertarian thing to
happen in this country since
the syndicalism of Larkin" -
interesting. They also bring
out the involvement of Irish
anarchists in the H-Block
campaign(apparently anarchist-
s printed most of Belfast's
Relatives Action Committee
literature). The pamphlet is
available from:-Steve Woods,
46 Amiens St., PO Box 1305,
Dublin, Ireland. RESISTANCE
from:-Box G19, 40 Lower Or-
mond Quay, Dublin, Ireland.
OUTTA CONTROL:-"Just Books",
7 Winetavern St., Belfast 1
IRISH COMMISSION - DAM.

Direct Action Movement

Aims and Principles of the Direct Action Movement

- (1) The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation.
- (2) Our aim is the creation of a free and classless society.
- (3) We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for need not profit.
- (4) In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution. We are the sworn enemies of those who would take over on behalf of the workers.
- (5) We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is for independent organisation in the workplace and community and federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent of, and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies. All such workers organisations must be controlled by workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers movement. Any and all delegates and representatives of such workers organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.
- (6) We are opposed to all States and State institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all States do not exist to protect the workers of those States, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class.
- (7) We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and the environment.

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

LOCAL CONTACTS

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