

Anarchist Syndicalist Alliance

Aims

Our aim is to aid in the creation of a free society by any means consistent with this end.

By free society we mean that society in which there is no coercive authority; no civil service or bureaucratic machine, no political or other vested interest group, which by wealth or physical strength, can ever be in a position to tell anyone else what to do, and then by any kind of force make obedience mandatory. Therefore, each person will decide what course their life and activity takes in conjunction with others.

THE CLASSLESS SOCIETY

In order to achieve this free, classless society we organise for social revolution in groups based on friendship and solidarity. These groups are free from any central control, and are built around a geographic location, organising both at the place of work and in the community.

We reject all parliamentary activity, as this perpetuates the repressive machinery of capitalism and the state, and advocate direct action of the people themselves as the only way to achieve lasting gains, leading ultimately to the society of free people capable of using their own initiative.

DIRECT ACTION

Since direct action on the part of the individual often produces only partial and inadequate results, it is necessary for us to organise collectively. We advocate that the workers organise themselves into syndicalist unions, free from the craft divisions and bureaucracy of today's trade unions.

PROPERTY AND EXPLOITATION

The trade unions seek to be permanent wage bargaining institutions, nationally capable of little more than keeping decision making out of the hands of the rank and file, and their own pockets well lined at the same time.

Syndicalists see no value in the idea of 'A Fair Days Wage for A Fair Day's Work' but demand the abolition of the wage system, which widens rather than reduces the gaps between workers.

We demand the destruction of the property relations of existing society, property relations which lead individual workers to talk about 'my factory' when they don't even own the grime beneath the benches. Property relations which enable big corporations to throw thousands of workers out into the street at the whim of an economic system that promotes the side by side existence of wealth and poverty, dependent on a 'pool of unemployment'.

SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION

With geographical groups confederated, and workshop committees growing from these, the committees will be confederated also, into industrial syndicates. Such syndicates will not be wasting time in lobbying M.P.'s nor asking for affiliation to the Labour Party or the T.U.C., nor will they be agitating for national negotiating rights. Our aim is to destroy the crippling power structure of the present society, not to compromise with that which binds us in chains. The aim of the syndicates is to have the ability, through the knowledge and experience of the workers who form them, and through their own strength and solidarity, to lock out the bosses and administer production and distribution on behalf of the community which they are part of. All industrial syndicates will combine and co-operate as a confederation of labour.

INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION

The reconstruction of industry begins and ends at the place of work. It begins with organisation and ends with workers' management via rank and file dictation of working hours, conditions, and what is actually pro-

duced. As can be seen from the present set-up, the job gets done in spite of the boss not because of him, despite what they would have us believe.

In view of the Industrial Relations Bill, we urge all workers to build and to strengthen their own autonomous shop floor organisations and to break away from the authoritarian parties who have blocked progress and freedom for decades.

As the geographical groups confederate to this end, so will the industrial syndicates controlling and co-ordinating the whole economy of society. With production thus freed from the greed of those who now control our lives with their power and might, born of accumulated wealth, the energies of labour will be directed toward the satisfaction of human needs. With advances in technology providing the ability to control machinery better, and with no fear of economic privation, not only will the four-hour day be possible, but we will be closer in time to the abolition of mundane and dull work itself. We don't want a world where the probability of not dying from hunger has been exchanged for the certainty of dying from boredom. With no capitalism and no state, mankind will be freed from the necessity of authoritarian attitudes; fraternity and solidarity being the guidelines towards the free society.

Today we must combat the authoritarian encroachments of the state and capitalism. We must combat those who seek to mystify us, and must fight those who would have us chained to the benches of their ideologies. Not with idle threats and empty minds, but with the strength of a working-class united in full understanding of the aims of the free society, building now through our words and actions the new society in the shell of the old.

Devised by Manchester Conference of the Anarchist Syndicalist Alliance : 12th June 1971.

Red and black propoganda

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Northern Anarchist Conference
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general discussion. More details
from Bob Lees, 6 Coniston Ave.,
Werneth, Oldham, Lancs.

Manchester Anarchist
Syndicalist Group -
meets weekly. Details
from Matt Cunningham,
9 Briar Hill Ave.,
Little Hulton, Worsley,
Lancs.

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black & red OUTLOOK



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black & red OUTLOOK

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RESIST REDUNDANCY !

TAKE OVER THE

FACTORIES !

workers' control



Workers Control has been described both as "an idea looking for a movement" and "an idea on the wing". However the occupations at U.C.S., the Plessey factory in Dunbartonshire, a steel-works in Sheffield not to mention the proposed 'work in' by B.S.A. workers in Birmingham has again brought this idea back into prominence.

Before assessing the importance of such developments it will prove useful to clarify just what is and what is not meant by the term workers control. Far too often it has been confused with Nationalisation which is in reality a leap in the opposite direction.

Nationalisation necessarily involves the administration of industry by and solely for the benefit of the state, the workers playing the same nominal role as they do in the big business jungle today. At present in Yugoslavia a form of restricted workers control operates within the state system. In reality though it is a mere sham. The workers councils which supervise Yugoslav industry are not allowed an independent hand, but have been integrated into the state machinery. In the final outcome, decisions regarding the economy are made by communist party officials and state civil servants.

No master plan or blueprint can be laid down as to how workers control of the economy would operate in a libertarian society. The structure of such, though, must be one in which workers would take responsibility for organising their industries from the bottom upwards. This would be in direct antithesis to an economy in which a hierarchy of authority would be imposed from the top downwards. Some form of National Labour organisation would be needed to co-ordinate the activities of all factories, mines, mills, shipyards etc. It is imperative, though, that such an organisation should develop organically on decentralized lines.

Firstly each work-place should be represented by a works council, directly elected by all the workers in the plant. These councils should remain autonomous, co-ordinating their activities with other factory councils on a voluntary basis. All factories involved in a particular branch of industry must be directly linked, as should all those in a certain locality or region. Councils would be formed expressly for this purpose. This network of industrial councils, committees, groupings, would be democratically confederated in a General Council of Labour. To safeguard democracy, all delegates would be elected, on this proviso, that they be subject to instant recall if so wished by fellow workers.

Obviously, if a high level of industrial administration is to be achieved a great deal of preparation beforehand will be needed. A study in managerial techniques of production and distribution of goods must be made to ensure a smooth take over from the capitalist class. The ability of the workers to continue production once the capitalists have been expropriated will be the one guarantee of success.

Cynics and authoritarians of all shades discount the concept of workers control as anarchistic utopian dream. But facts only uphold the reverse, that whenever workers control has been applied on anything more than a purely local scale, it has worked and well at that. Workers have asserted the right to control their own destiny in many revolutionary situations. In Russia through the soviets until the advent of Bolshevik power; the Italian workers occupation of the factories (1920); the social revolution with which the Spanish workers answered the military fascist insurrection(1936);

the Workers Council movement in the Hungarian uprising (1956); the worker-student occupations in France (1968).

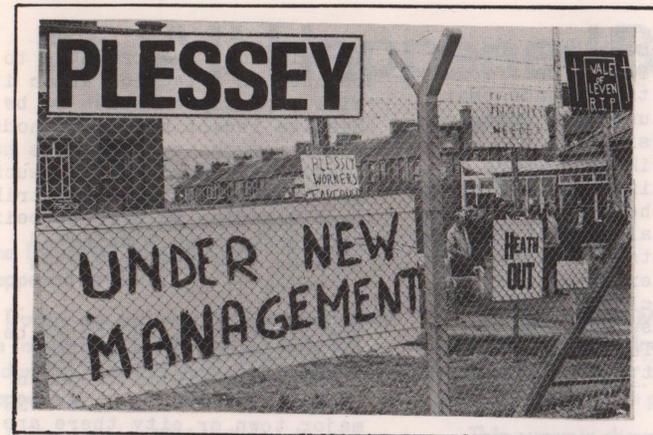
But what holds for the immediate future. The most encouraging aspect is the shift to direct action tactics by militant workers. But many are still misled into believing that Marxist political parties offer an alternative to the present organisation of society. If workers put their faith in these pseudo-revolutionaries, they will eventually find out, as did the Russian workers after 1917, that they have only succeeded in substituting the old rulers for new and more vicious ones. This will always be the case for the state affords any ruling group or party with the power and privilege necessary to negate a libertarian and classless society.

It seems likely the shop stewards organisations will prove to be the root from which a movement for workers control will spring. Because stewards are in daily, direct contact with their members and must therefore be answerable to them, there is less likelihood of their putting one over on the rank and file

It is up to each and every worker to take, hold and assert control as a body. When this point hits home then, the day of the workers Commonwealth may not be long in dawning.

R.L.

WAR IS THE HEALTH OF THE STATE



On Friday 3rd Sept., after they had been given redundancy notices, 300 of the 500-strong workforce of the Plessey Co. at Alexandria marched from the factory and burnt their notices in front of the main gates. Since then they have been occupying the works. Their main objective is to prevent the removal of machinery to Plessey's Ilford works. The closure of the Alexandria Works, will cause a rise in the local male unemployment rate to approx. 30%.

Until 1970 the factory was the Royal Torpedo Factory, a nationalised industry, involved in the development and production of the Mk.24 torpedo. The government, however, announced that they no longer required this torpedo and that the factory would have to be closed. At the end of last year, the Plessey Co. stepped in and announced that it had bought the factory from the Government and would employ up to 2000 people, making electronic components, but not torpedos as there was insufficient demand to justify it.

The price? A mere £650,000.



At its peak period Plessey employed about 700 people, but in May the company announced the first redundancies, soon followed by a statement that the factory was to shut down. About the same time, it was announced that a contract for the Mk.24 torpedo had been awarded to the Plessey Co. and would be manufactured at Ilford. From then on the workers at Alexandria campaigned to prevent the closure of the Alexandria factory and, in September, when the last redundancies were announced, took control of the gates and occupied the factory,

The workers know that the machinery in the factory is among the most modern in Britain, able to produce a wide variety of equipment.

PLESSEY MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO CARRY OUT THEIR 'DISGUSTING, INSINCERE AND DELIBERATE POLICY' OF THROWING MEN OUT OF WORK IN ORDER TO PROFIT FROM THE ASSETS OF THE ALEXANDRIA WORKS.

The management and police may try to forceably evict the men (this has already been threatened). Pickets from other factories are helping them to prevent this. They need money to publicise their campaign. They need your support.

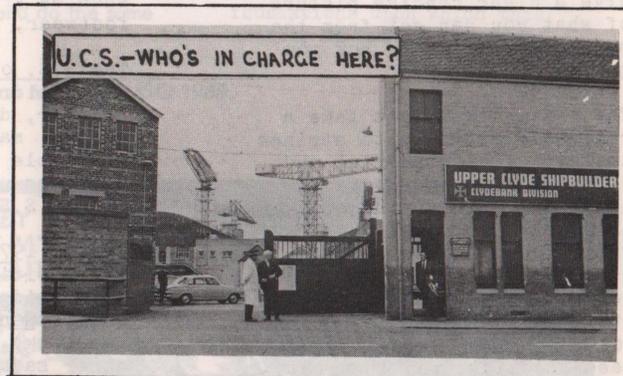
Donations to:- The Treasurer
The Shop Steward's Committee
Plessey Works
Alexandria

IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT PLESSEY NEVER INTENDED TO DEVELOP THE ALEXANDRIA WORKS. They paid the Government £650,000 for a factory full of machinery worth millions on the basis of promises that 2000 people would be employed. At its peak, the factory work-force numbered about 700 workers and now the Company intend to move the machinery south! They have completely fucked the workers about and seem to have conned the Government as well.

A final word from the convenor of shop stewards.

"If police or even the army are called in to get us out of the factory then all I've got to do is lift the phone and I'll get the support and solidarity shown here today (5,000 on demo.) - and then it would take 10 battalions to get us out"

* Plessey Worker's handout.



The response of the Plessey workers to their situation has been the only reasonable one -

WORKERS CONTROL

Compare this with the situation at U.C.S. There, the Communist Party control the farce of a "work-in" but in fact

the liquidator still liquidates
the management still manage
the workers still work
(not for themselves, but for the bosses)

The action of the C.P. in this case is odd, neither being militant enough to force the kind of confrontation the papers feared or 'reasonable' enough to break up U.C.S. into diff. yards and encourage the men to go to jobs in the Lower Clyde, so that one might be forgiven for thinking that the whole affair was being used as a public relations exercise on behalf of the C.P.

But what do the C.P. really think about workers control?

"The work-in is not an attempt to establish 'workers control' on a permanent basis. Such a conception would lack credibility."

new C.P. booklet on U.C.S.

Photos: Skelf

REVIEW



Claimants Union

Handbook for Strikers

This booklet is an invaluable asset for anyone who is on strike or likely to be in this position in the future.

Together with practical knowledge of how the social security system works the federation of claimants unions combine their experience gained in strikes notably the postal workers strike, to give a clear concise picture of what you can get from the social security and how you get it.

The claimants unions take a realistic attitude to strikes instead of sloganeering and cliches, which are of no practical help to the striker, they point out the advantages which the boss has - control of the T.V., Press, government backing, bent T.U. officials, etc. This is compared to the lot of the striker - how to feed the kids, pay the rent, keep up the H.P. and most important, being isolated from ones workmates. Whether one gets strike pay is dependent on whether your strike is official - however, who can live on the strike pay that most unions dole out?

Many more workers are wising up to the fact that social security can be claimed while on strike. For example £4 million were paid to striking postmen, but it could have been at least 3 or 4 times as much. But, strikers only get their entitlement by fighting for it like all other claimants, the postal strikers found they were forced to wait hours in uncomfortable offices and make several visits before they get anything. The Dept. of Social Security certainly do not want to pay out money to keep strikes going, in fact they often act as strike breakers by deliberately not giving strikers

their entitlement e.g. by refusing benefit to unofficial strikers, on the grounds that they are "voluntarily unemployed", and refusing aid to unmarried strikers. There is a warning against using T.U. officials to help in dealings with the Social Security as the handbook points out, they often have no more experience of dealing with claims than the strikers themselves, and also tend to look at problems from the point of view of Bureaucracy.

The only way to win is collective bargaining by the strikers themselves, with the help of Claimants union experience. The next step is the setting up of a strike Claimants Union. (This has been done at Fine Tubes, Plymouth) with the participation of all the strikers and their husbands/wives and dependants. An outline of how to do this, together with advice drawn from past experience is included together with details of how a claim is assessed, what other benefits one can claim for - such as grants for clothing, footwear, etc.

The S.S. only pay out for wives and children of strikers, however, during the postal strike, many single strikers were able to claim emergency payments under section thirteen of the S.S. Act.

In the 1971 Social Security Bill the position for strikers will be considerably worsened (see appendix lll) in Strikers Handbook) as is the case with other savage attacks on the organised working class, such as the Industrial Relations Act, the Tory gout is coming down hard on the striker, Its main provision is that ALL strike pay is to be considered when a striker puts in a claim for supplementary benefit, which has the effect of cutting down the income of a striker's family to less than the bare minimum level of Social Security.

NEVER MEET THE SS ALONE!



THEY NEVER MEET YOU ALONE!

If going out on strike is to be used as a tactic, which it will probably continue to be, despite recent use of methods which anarcho-syndicalists have traditionally advocated, such as occupying factories, strikers must organise to prevent being sent back to work defeated because they cannot afford to stick it out.

The first step, as stated before, is for strikers is to try to set up a claimants union among themselves. In every major town or city there are Claimants Unions which will give assistance and advice. Strikers should be prepared to use many tactics to stop the D.H.S.S. breaking their strike. The Striker's Handbook suggests, for example, making the wife of a striker the householder (if she isn't already) to increase benefits. Union members should press Unions to arrange payment of strike money, in a way that makes it easier for strikers to get supplementary benefits

The way to win, whether it is a strike, or any other action, lies in the workers organising themselves.

The theory behind Claimants Unions and their actual structure is based very much on this premise. Through the success which they have had so far, they have gained experience which is of great value to anyone who has any dealings with the D.H.S.S.

"Claimants Handbook for Strikers" available from your nearest Claimants Union. Details from Manchester Claimants Union, 40 Crosscliffe Street, Manchester 16. Also available "Unsupported Mothers Handbook" from Pauline Giff, 66 Ivor Road, Sparkhill Birmingham 11.

Union Chiefs All Set to Sack Militants

Like lambs to the slaughter, this is how the mill workers of Lancashire are being treated, during the present spate of mill closures and redundancy in the district. Now there are 11,000 less workers employed in textiles than a year ago, a fall of 10% - Textile Council Report.

Mill workers seem to get the worst of everything. For when it comes to making sacrifices, working shifts, undergoing work study, agreeing to redeployment and labour flexibility, the mill worker gets a Hobson's Choice; such things usually being forced upon them by managers often with the passive or active support of the union officials.

In spite of all this readiness to comply with the bosses, mill workers are periodically laid-off on short time, a practice which cuts the workers' wages usually at holiday times.

The union leaders in textiles have sat back and put up with this situation for donkey's years. They have rarely bothered to consult their members, and have mostly fallen in with the employer's proposals for the industry.

This policy of constant surrender has not solved the industries problems, and the failure of the unions to press wage claims has often let wage rates in the cotton industry fall well behind the national average.

The Case for Shop Stewards

With such a record of failure, one might have thought the union leaders would have been ready to listen to calls to make the textile unions more effective by having shop stewards.

Not a bit of it, they have stantly opposed the idea of shop stewards, perhaps because, as H.A. Turner suggests in his "Comparative Study of the Cotton Unions", work place representation would subject them to greater pressure from the rank and file.

The need for shop stewards in the mills still exists however, and it was pointed out by L.C. Tippet in a paper to the 1954 Cotton Board Conference. In 1954 "changes made by management were often not challenged by the unions because they did not know of them."

Without shop stewards, mill workers are isolated and to all intents and purposes at the mercy of the employers. On top of this the union bosses can't represent their members properly, when owing to the absence of stewards they lack a good grasp of their member's case. Being relatively uninformed on the shop floor situation under which their members work these union leaders are realising they can't negotiate off their own bat, and are coming to rely increasingly on the misleading advice of work study engineers.

Clearly the officials in the cotton unions shape badly in their dealings with the employers, and H.A. Turner has it that "the efficiency of the unions is impaired by their lack of mill representatives!"

Outside Bodies"

The cotton workers have never had shop stewards in the mills, because their unions, and the cotton trade in general, were declining at the time when shop stewards were becoming officially recognized in other industries.

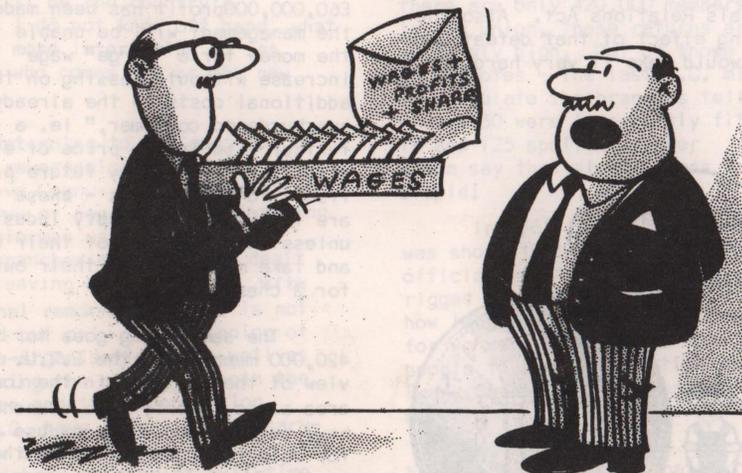
The events at Arrow Mill last May, when the management and police broke up a sit-down strike of multi-shift workers, brought the matter to the boil, and a campaign for shop stewards was mounted in July, at Oldham.

The union officials have reacted bitterly, and the N.U.T.A.W. has been very hostile bending the rules and bullying members in an effort to prevent proposals for shop stewards being put to the members.

After the Rochdale half-yearly meeting of N.U.T.A.W. the Rochdale Observer reported that "A n outside body was accused of disrupting the workings of the Rochdale Branch of the National Union of Textile & Allied Workers."

The Oldham Provincial Union of Textile & Allied Workers has just had a special meeting of all districts for the "purpose of submitting a recommended change of rule, the primary function of which is to protect the interests of members and the Association in general from the influence of an outside body." The change of rule, which was unanimously opposed at Shaw district, would effectively outlaw all meetings, assemblies, and propaganda, which went against the official grain.

Faced with possible victimisation at work, and expulsion from their unions, the militants in the campaign for shop stewards are really up against it. The Oldham quarterly meetings at the end of October should show if the bullying tactics of the Union bosses have succeeded in intimidating the union members.



"I'd prefer it if you didn't bring my money over with the men's wages!"

the sparks are flying

Once again the wage negotiations for the electricity supply industry are due for renewal. After last year's catastrophic work to rule - defeated by the manipulation of public opinion by the gutter press - it is unlikely that similar action will be tried this year, although last year's failure is not the only reason.

By their acceptance of the Wilberforce Report at the last settlement, the unions now find themselves in the position of having no more conditions to save; some would say no more to sell. To work in the supply industry was once regarded as a good job, pay was low but one need have no fear of losing the job. Things were more or less the same in all of the nationalized industries. Then along came the work-study men and the union bosses willing to do any favour for any government in the way of job rationalization. A few years ago Les Cannon, late and unlamented General President of the E.T.U. warned of the forthcoming cutback in the labour force and of the introduction of new work techniques. Many scoffed at this at the time, but since the introduction of pay and productivity schemes, at least 28,000 workers have left the industry in one way or another.

The most important thing for the workers in the supply industry to remember is that the government are their real employers. The industry has on many occasions been used as a test bed for new ideas on administration and the organisation of the labour force, ie. abolition of lines of demarcation and the introduction of extensive and highly complicated pay and productivity schemes. As this has been the practice in the past there is no reason why this should not be tried again, and this possibility must always be kept in mind.

The present government have shown a willingness to sell off the more profitable parts of public industry to their friends in the private sector, ie. the sale of Thomas Cook, the state owned travel agency. The British Steel Corporation has changed hands so many times that the speculators and politicians become dazed when their thoughts pass in that direction. Despite the wishes of the workers in the Clyde shipyards there is still a strong determination to sell them off. Bringing the story nearer to

our own doorstep, we ere recently informed that the gas industry is to be sliced up and sold off in job lots to private enterprise. Most small showrooms have already been closed, the big ones are to be sold. All the maintenance and fitting departments are to be hived off and presumably the workers will be transferred - although much reduced in numbers - to new bosses. Up until now the Area Boards have retained a large degree of autonomy of management, this is now to be changed, everything that is left after the sales is to come under one centralized management. The gas boards will now only sell gas, nothing more.

In theory, wage negotiations consist of management and unions waving their respective sanctions at each other until a mutually acceptable compromise is reached; failing this the issue is either taken to arbitration or a strike or lock-out results. However, in practice one begins to seriously doubt that this is the case when one looks at the kind of deals the unions condemn their members to work. From this must follow the rapidly circulating truth that the trade unions are no more than an extension of the state machine.

After last year's fiasco, led by that glorious leader of ours, Frank -you won't get a knighthood till you're dead- Chapple, the effect of public opinion against the workers will no doubt stop him from repeating the procedure this year, even if he wanted to, disregarding the fact that it is contrary to the Industrial Relations Act. Also the depressing effect of that defeat upon the men would make it very hard to

gain their support for similar action this year. There is the possibility of Chapple making a stand against further redundancies and the non-acceptance of lead-in-payments; and then changing his attitude completely in December or whenever the negotiations are over. One of the reasons for this being that twenty-seven power stations have refused to accept the latter and some of the other unions involved in the wage deals are calling meetings to discuss redundancy. Chapple could get away with this change of heart because some of the Wilberforce recommendations have not been carried out, ie. the specified lower manning levels have not been reached. These lower levels were agreed upon, so Chapple can make a lot of noise about redundancy and then disown the responsibility when it is increased, saying that it is part of last year's agreement. There is also a small clause in that agreement which states that the boards cannot guarantee against compulsory redundancy for those employees who do not cooperate with pay and productivity and lead-in-payments. Two of the demands so far by the E.T.U. have been for a reduction in the working week and another week's holiday, but half an hour off the day will make little or no difference to those on pay and productivity.

If the unions or board ask for or offer more than 5% increase in pay then they will probably find that they will be beaten with the big stick of "restraint" supplied by the CBI. The industry for the financial year 1970/71 showed a loss of £56 millions, the first since nationalization: every other year at least £60,000,000 profit has been made. So the management will be unable to find the money for a "large" wage increase without "passing on the additional costs to the already overburdened consumer," ie. a further rise in the price of electricity. So a gloomy future promises itself to the workers - those that are left - in the supply industry unless they snap out of their apathy and take matters into their own hands for a change.

The same thing goes for the 420,000 members of the E.T.U. in view of the fact that in the London area alone, twenty five branches have been closed. The excuse given for this re-organization is that it is in the economic interests of the union to merge and close branches. These blanket statements can of



course, be questioned, but the union bureaucracy - like most others - is answerable to no one. This step is just another in the road to complete centralization of this union. Branch delegates to union conferences from the big cities like London, Manchester and Glasgow have in the past had a habit of being highly critical of the union leadership and prone to reject suggestions put to conference by the executive council. This re-organisation therefore is a way of reducing the representation of the "leftwing" at such conferences, and this argument has been used widely by C.P. members, who, according to general rule 9 cl. J. are not allowed to hold office, and their sympathisers.

Out of the blue the E.C. have shattered this argument. We learn from the Financial Times of Oct. 11th that they are to recommend to the rules revision and policy conference later in October that this clause be deleted from the rules. So after many years of consistent vilification the C.P. are to be let in from the cold: again according to the F.T. this rule has been an obstacle to merger talks with other unions, and that it could be illegal under the new Industrial Relations Act. Some rank and file comment think however that Chapple, once a Communist Party man, may be getting lonely at the top now that Cannon is dead, and that a few of his old friends from King Street may cheer him up a bit. It seems highly unlikely that this rule hampered in anyway the merger talks between the E.T.U. and the G.M.W.U. which broke up in non-agreement a few years ago. This, many observers at the time said, was because Lord Cooper of the G.M.W.U. could not convince the Barons in his union that it was such a good idea to let Cannon be boss of the new union when he himself passed on to greater things. It could though, hamper the forthcoming merger talks between the E.T.U. and Britain's second biggest union, the A.E.U.W. Whether any new union coming out of these talks will be the country's biggest I do not know off hand, what will be more interesting to see will be who comes out as the new leader.

Returning to the question of branch re-organisation in London, Executive Council minutes nos. two and three of February 15th, 16th and 17th informed us that thirty-seven branches are to be so dealt with, leaving a mere twelve, with the final remark that this is not the end but only the beginning of such re-organisation. As well as minimizing the number of both the branches and their opposition, "The E.C. have found it necessary in view of the increase in the size of branches- to appoint full-time branch officers" and one doesn't need to be told what kind of person is going to get that sort of job!

The October conference mentioned earlier is the Second Biennial Delegate Conference, to be held in Blackpool, Oct 28th to Nov. 5th. This conference is usually held in March, and this year there is also a Rules Revision Conference, (general rule 8 cl. 3a.) Due to a number of awkward - or much welcomed, depending on who you are- circumstances, it has been delayed until October. The circumstances -

- 1) Death of Les Cannon, General President.
- 2) Election of General Secretary, (General rule 12 cl. 4) Post held at the time by Frank Chapple.
- 3) Attempt by Mark Young (National Officer) to put up for the election of General President.

The early death of Les Cannon CBE. (awarded a post-humorous knighthood) may have been a blow to the establishment, but to many of the union's members it was not soon enough, especially to those many thousands standing in the dole queue because of his grovelling acceptance of management policies. The unlamented death of Cannon, contrary to all Chapple's hypocrisy in vol. 3 no. 1 of "Contact", the union journal (comic) could not have come at a better time for him- When the election for a new General President is going to take place no one seems to know. New note paper was hastily issued leaving out Cannon's name and only mentioning Chapple's, perhaps there is a move afoot to amalgamate the two jobs?

The election for General Secretary is over and done with for another five years, leaving Chapple in complete control to "carry on the good work of Brother Cannon". He had two opponents in the election, Fred Gore, a pro C.P. man and Jim Dormer, a member of the Socialist Labour League. Chapple romped home with a massive vote of 60,000 the other two collecting 35,000 votes between them.. Considering that there are only 420,000 members in the union, these returns are extremely high. Out of those 95,000 votes - the last E.C. minutes to circulate the branches tell us - only 30 were incorrectly filled in and 125 spoiled...never again say that electricians are stupid!

In 1961 in the High Court it was shown that the Communist Party officials of the E.T.U. had rigged certain election ballots, how long they had been doing it for we were never told. One of the people to bring the action was Frank Chapple, once a party member.

Les Cannon's ashes had barely cooled before the vultures descended from the trees hoping to jump into his lucrative position. The prime vulture being Mark Young,

National Officer, who took the union to court over the rule book. According to General rule 12 cl. 1 (d) a National Officer is deemed to be a full time official. E.T.U. rule 9 cl. g states that a full time official is not entitled to nomination as an Executive Councillor. So according to the rule book Brother Young could not stand for General President, as General Rule 9 cl. b states that the General President is an Executive Councillor. (For clarification the E.E.P.T.U. rule book is in three sections, general rules, electrical section rules, and plumbing section rules.) Needless to say he lost his case against the union and the chance to contest the vacancy of General President. This costing him £5,000. The judge could see no reason why the election should not be held over until after the Oct. conference, and no doubt neither could Chapple. The Financial Times, before the court case, relayed the rumour that the C.P. were sponsoring Young, only three years after "renouncing" him for something or other in the Morning Star. Will the party be paying the costs of their mistakes?

All through the hue and cry raised by the introduction of the industrial relations act the union leadership were as expected, silent. They have, however, at last committed themselves to action. The EC's report to the October conference states, section 2 Policy cl. 1b. "... the Executive Council decided to give full support to the stand taken by the General Council of the Trades Union Congress." What Stand?

In the same issue of Contact that contained Cannon's obituary, there was also a long list of some of the other organisations he belonged to. Most of them are well known if not well received organisations, one or two however did catch the eye. Member of the Council of Management, Ditchley Foundation. Fellow governors include Lord Cooper, Major General Sir Kenneth Strong, a former director of intelligence, and a liberal sprinkling of British and American big businessmen, as well as politicians and academics. Member of Foundation of Employment and Automation, which is sponsored by U.S. Industries Inc. and American machine tool manufacturer. Director of F.E.A. is



cont'd on p. 8

U.C.S. Total Confrontation or sellout

/cont'd from p.7

By the time this article goes to press, it should be known if a compromise has been reached between the labour force and the government, or if the situation has developed into a large scale confrontation between the labour movement and the state.

Mr. Hugh Stenhouse, chairman of the government backed company, has stated that if no agreement is reached there would be 'a mighty big desert in the centre of Glasgow'.

The stumbling block in the discussions is the John Brown Clydebank Yard which Mr. Stenhouse refuses to incorporate into his new Company. The shop stewards of U.C.S. have always insisted on the retention of all the yards and no cut in the labour force. To this end the stewards have mobilised support throughout Scotland and the rest of Britain. A time limit has now been applied by the government to pressurise the workers into changing their positions and accepting the closure of John Brown's. The workers have restated their position and are refusing to be shoved around. Mr. James Airlie, chairman of the shop stewards committee, has said that they 'will not co-operate in our own butchery'. Obviously they are banking on the increasing support of mass public opinion in Scotland, which holds that it is the government - not the stewards - who are to blame for the situation. If this position is maintained and the government continue tightening the screw, working capital drying up and not being replaced, the stewards will be forced to play their last card - a call for a general strike, or better still, a call for the occupation of industry. It is impossible to gauge what kind of support this would get in Britain, but in Scotland its effects would be widespread.

Once the working class moves against their oppressors, they must not be sidestepped into reformism of the type advocated by the Communist Party, but instead go on to create the social revolution. It is the work of the Syndicalists to ensure that this struggle is not betrayed by politicians or union bureaucrats.

Much will depend on the next few weeks: will the stewards weaken? will the government agree to union proposals now and then allow the yards to run down quietly over the next few years. One thing is clear; anarchists and syndicalists have a long fight ahead - but our ideas can be, and are being accepted by more and more people all the time.

U.C.S. could be the turning point in the history of British Anarcho-Syndicalism. Are we ready to seize this opportunity?

Lord Douglas who is also a director of IRIS, a group of retired reactionary trade union officials directing right-wing propaganda at those unions which still have elections. Another defector of the F.E.A. is H. Wills of tobacco fame, also governor of Ditchleys and director of the Atlas foundation which is sponsored by the CIA. Cannon was also a member of that now dubious organisation the Fabian Society. What the article does not shout about is the £400 annual donation to Public Services International. Between 1958 and 1964 the London H.Q. alone of the P.S.I. received \$60,000 a year from the CIA, (Washington Post Feb. 23rd 1967). How many more of these dubious foundations and organisations he was mixed up in we may never know, but what we do know is that there is much more to being a union bureaucrat than meets the eye.

JOHN BROWN.

bureaucRAT



wash day

blues

The real danger of facism in Britain does not come from the 'Mosleyites' or the National Front, but from such Right wing groups within the Tory Party as the Monday Club.

The Club has been very influential in swinging the Tories to the right and at present a number of Government ministers - Rippon, Common

Market Negotiator, Amery, Peyton, Taylor, are in its ranks.

In the summer edition of 'Monday World', they have taken to openly praising the ideas of Charles Maurras French fascist and violent anti-semitic. In this article, by Ronald King, we read such gems as - "The harmful effect on tradition, culture and society of an important political community in the heart of a nation was a problem about which Maurras thought deeply. It is of course especially relevant to us today."

And outright advocacy of dictatorship "Government is too important to be left to democracy" appears in the same article. Perhaps some people would ignore these ideas surfacing within the Tory party, but we have to consider that these ideas were a major influence on the fascist ideologies of Franco's Spain and Salazarist Portugal.

An editorial in the same issue welcomes the "extra-parliamentary forces" on the right, as making "notable contributions". From this, the conclusions are clear. The extreme right of the Tories are drawing on the fund of fascist ideas, such as the corporate state to "harmonise the present industrial conflict between workers and bosses by forcing the workers in corporations with their employers and putting an end to autonomous class activity by members of the unions."

Its All Happened Before

loranorder

The Industrial Relations Act - it's all happened before.

During the last war, similar restrictions on industrial disputes existed as in the Industrial Relations Act, and look what happened.

In December, 1941, after a dispute over working conditions at Betteshanger Colliery, Kent, 4,000 men stopped work after arbitration failed. Under the prevailing war-time regulations, this strike was illegal. The secretary for mines, with cabinet backing, decided to prosecute the strikers.

Of the 4,000 strikers, the dispute had started in one section of about 1,000 men, so it decided to concentrate on them.

Extra police and magistrates were drafted into the area to write and review all the summonses. It was realised that, if all the 1,000 men pleaded not guilty, the cases would take months to hear, so "in the national interest, and in the interest of the war economy", it was agreed by the government and the NUM to prosecute only three test cases.

When the magistrates sat at Canterbury, the local coalfields made it a public occasion with colliery bands, coach trips and an "all the family" atmosphere.

The union officials accused pleaded guilty; the branch secretary got two months with hard labour, the local president and another executive member got one month with hard labour. Of the strikers, thirty-five men got £3 or one month, and the remaining thousand or so men got £1 or two weeks.

But the government had been too clever for itself. The only men who could call off the strike were inside, and the men would not re-start without them. After urgent consultations between the NUM national president, the secretary for mines, and the Home Secretary, the officials were released after serving only eleven days inside.

But what about the fined miners - of about 1000 miners, only nine men bothered to pay.

Before the county court could send out warrants for non-payment of fines to them, it was realised that the local jail could only hold a few at a time, and to imprison all the men on a rota basis would take years. The men were now back at work and neither the mine owners nor the government wanted to start these sort of proceedings all over again, so it agreed not to enforce these unpaid fines.

In 1950, the NUM asked for the re-payment of these nine fines to close the matter once and for all, but the union was told politely to piss off.

This example shows what can be done against the Industrial Act. In this case the union co-operated with the company and the government in only prosecuting a few men, but if they had not, and the government had had to prosecute 4,000 men, then prosecute them again, for non-payment of fines and finally try to imprison them all, it would take years.

If they decide to prosecute just the stewards alone, so long as the workers stand solid, the company will be no better off, and it will force companies in the future not to resort to the law to solve their labour problems.

If it can be done in 1941, let's learn from our past victories, and do the same again.

* details from the Donovan report, HMSO 1968.



BARBER CUTS ▷ SCHOOL MEALS UP ▷

The Manipulation of Florrie Capp



The cloying sentimentality of pop-songs, too, has its own language to describe women: "Sugar, Sugar, you are my an candy girl", "Baby face", "Rag doll", "Living doll". You are allowed to be seen walking, talking, and having your hair brushed, but never let your plastic smile crack, otherwise no owner will 'love' you enough to buy you.

WOMEN - PADDED & SQUEEZED

Any 'late developer' who has lived through the agony of school showers will appreciate the status value of the bra. Girls gaze at each others backs in class for the important straps. The last girl in the class to obtain one is congratulated, even if the bra is a 30AAA cup with 1/4 inch empty for a nipple and 2 inches thick padding (usually acquired through mail order catalogues). Before these were available, girls resorted to handkerchiefs stuffed into the cups and in one case I know, socks.

The squeezing tends to come later; enough to make nervous lack of appetite, a regular cause of female malnutrition.

The 'Guardian', 6-10-71, tells how a photographic model forsook a degree course in economics for a career in 'Glamour Photography'. Her natural bust size was 34", but silicone plastic, inserted through an operation, increased it to 36". Unfortunately, she fell at a motor show, splitting her left breast, necessitating the removal of the silicone plastic. With only 34" her earnings plummeted from about £25 a week to a few pounds. The anonymous consumers clamour for their pound of flesh.

WOMEN - SEXPLOITED

Most job opportunities for women are sex related, in terms of being glamorous or sacrificial. Secretaries and air hostesses are paid partly for their looks as part of the service rendered. At 30, an air hostess loses her job. Secretaries answer advertisements for "intelligent and pretty birds". Nurses and primary school teachers do not receive the extra bonus for their beauty. In order for them to continue working conscientiously, for a low salary, they are indoctrinated into

believing it an honour to be useful. For nurses to be paid a proper wages would require the patients to go on strike and refuse to get well. London teachers are learning, but their provincial sisters are racked by such questions as it being their fault if a child were run over the day they were on strike. This ridiculous argument is proffered somewhere with apologetic guilt of course, whenever the N.U.T. suggest withdrawal of labour.

Although this is not the case at all, many women see their career as the interim before they sign away their identity in the slave-system known as marriage; willing sacrifices, blinded by romance. It is interesting that men do not indulge in the weekly slop purveyed in womens magazines. The less attractive the proposition; the more attractive the packaging needs to be made. Somehow every girl is going to make sure that her marriage is better than her mothers. They see marriage as not only 'normal', which makes it compulsory anyway, but a delightful way to fulfil their biological destiny. "Vanity Fair" and "Nova" assume that some readers will live with men by whom they are not legally owned; but they still purvey advice based on the same role assumptions. "Vanity Fair"... " always keep something different in the fridge for the following morning - he'll love you for your originality"- compare this with "Woman's" Wooden Spoon Club.

LIBERATION

..... is what it feels like inside your head. If it doesn't hurt, perhaps you are so well conditioned you'll you'll make a supreme sacrifice; or perhaps you died recently. If you accept that "it's the women who bear the pain and take the blame" then no-one is trying to push you in any direction in which you don't want to go. Just remember mother's warning; "It's alright now, but think of when you grow old."

The following article contains an indoctrination test; some insults; some revelations; and some comfort including one address and six book titles.

DO IT YOURSELF INDOCTRINATION TEST

Instructions - read the story and attempt the questions below.

A father was driving his son to school when the car was involved in an accident. The father was killed and his badly injured son taken to hospital. He was laid out on the operating table. When the surgeon saw him and cried, "My God, my son, my son."

How do you explain it ?

INSULTED WOMEN

The language people use, especially when angry, indicates much about their underlying attitudes and values. Women are called 'bags' by men who see them as 'prick receptacles', not people. A recent English lesson on Radio 4 taught that the superficially sexless creature the 'dragon' was " a word used to describe an aggressive woman, never a man". Somehow, 'dog' and 'bull' fail to convey the same impression as 'bitch' or 'cow'.

If you sometimes feel very alone in objecting to your ambitions being constricted; your imagination dulled; your generosity exploited; your independence removed; your self respect hacked at; then you need company now. Create a group before you give up and lose sight of what you stand for. If you want to join a ready made group, write to the following address who will tell you about the nearest one

Leamington Information Service,
14b Adelaide Road.,
Leamington Spa,
Tel Leamington 28862.



HERE AND NOW CAMPAIGNS

Whilst assuming that nothing short of a fundamental change in the structure of capitalist society will make possible human liberation, most Womens Liberation groups feel that the following five reforms would do much to increase the control that women hold over their own lives.---

freely obtainable contraception
abortion on demand
24 hour nurseries
equal pay and job opportunities
equal educational opportunities

SIX BOOKS TO AMUSE AND INSTRUCT

Simone de Beauvoir- "The Second Sex"
Anne Anastasi- "Differential Psychology"
Betty Friedan- "The Feminine Mystique"
Germaine Greer- "The Female Eunuch"
Kate Millett- "Sexual Politics"
Shulamith Firestone- "Dialectics of Sex".

THE ESSENCE OF LIBERATION IS THE WAY YOU THINK OF YOURSELF

As Ibsen wrote at the end of "The Doll House", nearly a century ago:-

Helmer: "Your duty is to your husband and children"

Norah: "I have another duty...to myself...I believe that before everything else I'm a human being &...or at any rate I shall try to become one...I must think things out for myself and try to understand them."

.....And the answer to the story in the first part of the article, which incidentally left my womens lib. group completely blank, the surgeon was the boys mother. Evidently the accident did not occur in Britain.

ROSA HOBHOUSE.

Poem

Why a politician is like a zoo.

Speaking of pedigree,
You always were a bastard creature:
you stole
the fire from the eyes of ancient tigers
leaving them cold and dead
you stole
the split quick tongue of
the most venomous snake
and a few of its habits
you stole
the rabid madness from the
sick dog
and used the laugh you stole from the hyena
as the madness was passed to others
you stole
the tears of the crocodile
when the children burned
you stole
the head of the ostrich
held it high and buried the treasure
when humans grieved
you stole
the bloodthirst from the vampire
and the anaemic victims work on
(white meat for your vultures)
you stole
the pig's swill, turned it into words
and made it appear more palatable
But the biggest job you ever pulled
you stole
the world.

by John Cooper Clark.



'There's only one snag—you have to find a job first'

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