

DIRECT ACTION



No 13

DAM

IWA

20p

THE CRISIS

TO THE WORKERS OF NORTHERN AND WESTERN EUROPE.

Unemployment levels in the current economic depression are the highest since the war and the bosses are using this fact as a double edged sword to attack the workers. They use the huge "reserve army" of the unemployed to threaten and strike fear into workers while at the same time they take away the small victories that the reformist political parties and trade unions have 'won for us' in the past.

In the face of what is happening now, it is fataly shortsighted for the vast majority of the working class to put all their trust in the same old reformist elements, thereby neglecting to develop independent, rank and file, organisation and mobilisation.

It is obvious now, that reforms pushed through in times of boom are eaten away in times of gloom. Workers are now permanently settling for wage rises less than the rate of inflation or the increase in the cost of living, and this is because, lacking the will to fight, we substitute it with a desperate trust in empty promises.

The reformist unions do not even try to halt the enormous production of worse than useless armaments which are fin-

anced at the cost of our working class and used to the cost of workers everywhere.

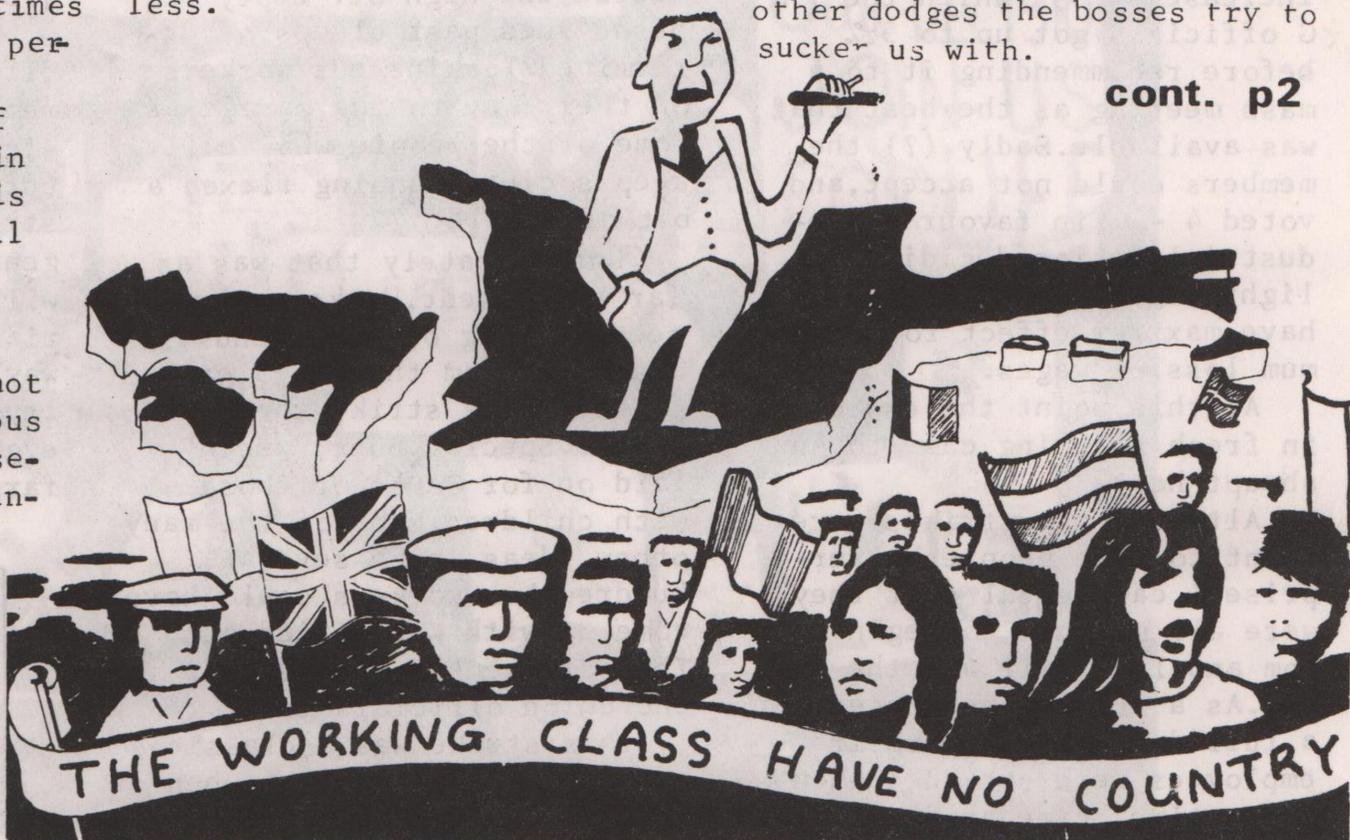
We are fast losing confidence in the reformist unions. This should be time for workers everywhere to act independantly for the causes which our 'leaders' ignore. For years the state has been able to sell itself as looking after the interests of all the people. It has handed back 'charity' to the working class from the very money that was taken from them in the first place, as taxes; the workers fork out most of the tax which the state collects. Now we can see the state for what it is. An instrument of oppression, in the hands of the ruling class, directed against the workers.

In the face of this attack the reformist unions, who only want to take part in the control of the state, stand helpless.

We urgently need to mobilise the entire working class to resist the attack on us. We need to relearn the lessons which only the struggle can teach us. We need to expose the lies of the ruling class. Instead our reformist 'leaders' demand that we show discipline and obedience. They sap our will to fight by leading us into meaningless token strikes skirmishes which we are bound to lose, because they too want to rule us, and if you want to ride a tiger first make sure it is tame.

The bosses beat us with sticks and the reformists dangle carrots before us. One such carrot is the hope for a 35 hour week. Of course this must come, and come soon, but only if it means no speed ups, no redundancies, no loss of job creation through new technology no reduction in wage levels and no job sharing or any other dodges the bosses try to sucker us with.

cont. p2



cont from p1

Only with these controls in operation will the introduction of reduced hours not represent a fatal set-back for us, but to make sure they are in operation we will need to have much more control over what is happening now, in our work places. This demands that we now build the rank and file organisation which alone can put the power on the shop floor where it needs to be wielded.

In the end, though, even the winning of a fair 35 hour week will only be one small step forward, the basic system of our society; capitalism, will remain intact, and that system can never guarantee a worthwhile life for all.

The final goal: freedom, equality, and solidarity, can

only be reached through the overthrow of economic and political oppression. We must establish a society based on self-management in all its parts, on federalism, individual and collective emancipation and harmonisation of human society with nature.

The International Workers' Association is the Anarcho-Syndicalist International and works everywhere for these aims, which are also practised within its own ranks. We have no room for leaders, bosses, or, for that matter, sheep waiting to be led.

Anarcho-Syndicalism is the alternative to both western capitalism and eastern state capitalism.

Copenhagen 3/4/83

I.W.A. Northern Europe Section. (Trans. A.S.)

No to AT

Further to the article in the last Direct Action, where we told of the victimisation of Liquat Ali for trying to unionise the factory. A factory that pays no regard to safety and only paid £1.02 an hour for a 60 hour week, with compulsory overtime.

At the time of going to press the workers have returned to work, they returned in return for union recognition and a promise to negotiate with the union on pay and conditions.

On the Buses in SHEFFIELD

South Yorkshire county council prides itself on the socialist transport policy which has brought us the delights of 5p bus journeys into town. Unfortunately the conditions for bus workers aren't so idyllic. Their basic rate for a 42 hour week, including weekends etc., is £57 - so a lot of them are on family income supplement.

The passenger transport executive (SYPT) have got a new manager by the name of Kemp, who fancies himself as something of a Michael Edwards, the gnome of BL.

Accordingly, he opened negotiations for this year's pay increase at 3½% which the T & G officials got up to 5½% before recommending it to a mass meeting as the best that was available. Sadly (?) the members could not accept, and voted 4 - 1 in favour of industrial action, deciding on lightning strikes so as to have maximum effect for minimum loss of wages.

At this point the exercise in fresh thinking came to an abrupt halt.

Although the strikes were meant to take people by surprise, I can reveal that they were all planned to begin at 1pm and last till 4am the next day. As a result the bosses got a full day's work BUT their employees were stranded when "home time" came around. Could-

n't they have arranged to strike from 7am till 10 and let us all know in advance? Those with jobs could then have had a couple of hours lie-in but have still turned up for work and demanded a full day's pay.

Readers with logical minds may have already twigged that after a few 1pm strikes the element of surprise would have worn a bit thin. Could this mean that the union leaders never seriously considered having a whole series of strikes? Anyway, as it happened, there was only one.

The day it happened I was in town, and I was very impressed. In the High St. empty buses sped past clumps of determined looking bus workers on their way to the garage as some of the people who really keep society running flexed a bit of muscle.

Unfortunately that was as far as it went. Workers weren't seen handing out thousands of leaflets from the T & G explaining the strike to the public. Special buses weren't laid on for OAP's or those with children. None of the many other ideas which several hundred bus workers could have come up with were tried out. They all went home and left the union officials to it.

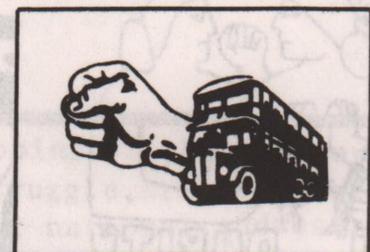
This strike was a classic example of what happens when power rests with a group of

officials elected for a fixed period. Surely the decision to reject these officials' recommendation of the 5½% offer should have been followed by a vote to elect new delegates who were more in tune with what the membership wanted, and would carry out the industrial struggle for which they had a mandate with some enthusiasm.

As it was, nothing happened for a while then a 6.9% increase was accepted by a demoralised work-force as the best deal possible. Talks on productivity are now in the pipeline. In other words the workforce will have to buy a significant improvement with job losses and speed-ups etc.

Things could have been so different with a union whose membership was used to exercising control of struggles through anarcho-syndicalist structures which represent genuine democracy, and were willing to use their industrial muscle in an imaginative way against those in authority rather than fellow workers e.g. by refusal to collect fares.

MICK



slave labour AIRE VALLEY YARNS

within a 3 month period, in which a contract of employment will be signed with the union. Unfortunately the employer refused to take back Liquat, Malic and Suliman. Liquat's tribunal has ended but the verdict has not yet been given. The workers agreed to go back into work pending the decision of the tribunal. The dispute is not yet over because if the tribunal finds against Liquat, or even for him and the boss refuses to

Aire Valley. The union official was taken to court, for indulging in secondary action, and gave a promise not to encourage the workers. This he did, but the workers still refused to release the work. The boss then got a second injunction and sent in the police and a gang of scabs to



abide by it then there is a chance of the strike being resumed. Then the problem will be backing from the T.G.W.U, because if they have signed a 3 month no-strike agreement (as is rumoured) this may be a problem.

One interesting episode in the dispute happened when the workers at Busfields of Guisley refused to handle work for

steal the work from the factory.

The action by the Busfield workers was commendable, and is one that should be used more often, because if all the workers suppliers firms had refused to release work then the situation would have been more desperate for Aire Valley Hitler look alike boss, Derek Bedford.

SIGMA

In the last issue of Direct Action we carried an article on the Polish group Sigma. Since then we have learned that the majority of Sigma have decided to maintain a legal existence by working within the official Communist student organization at Warsaw University. As a result of this decision, we understand that the anarchists in Sigma decided to leave the group. However, the German and French groups aligned with the International Workers Association have contacts with the Polish anarcho-syndicalists mentioned in the Sigma article and are collecting funds on their behalf. Money should be sent to Hans Jurgen at the following address:

Direkte Aktion
Ortsgruppe Dortmund
Postlagerkarte Nr. 073654A
4600 Dortmund 1, West Germany.

The following motion on Poland was passed at the recent conference of the Northern sections of the I.W.A. (anarcho-syndicalist International):

"The Northern IWA conference at Copenhagen on the 1st and 2nd of April 1983 declares that it must be a duty of all the sections to support the free trade union movement "Solidarnosc" in Poland. This must be done in a concrete and if possible direct way. The conference also declares that we have a responsibility to support libertarian comrades in Poland if adequate contacts exist. Because of this it must be a duty to get this contact and support them".

(Information from "Ideas and Action", the N. American anarcho-syndicalist journal).

REVIEW

BOOK REVIEW. WITH THE PEASANTS OF ARAGON. AUGUSTIN SOUCHY BAUR TRANS. ABE BLUESTEIN. Available from Refrac Publications BCM Refract London WC1N 3XX price £2.00 + 50p p&p.

This book by a veteran anarcho-syndicalist describes the creation of an anarchist society in the Spanish Revolution of 1936-7. Workers of the CNT/FAI seized the initiative in

liberating the countryside from fascism and capitalism; and, in contrast to the Bolsheviks in the Russian Revolution who imposed authoritarian communism on the peasants, initiated village assemblies where anarchists, socialists and individuals of good will built libertarian communism, a concept which was dismissed by those who thought they knew better as "utopian".

The book is valuable for the details it gives of peasants self-organisation with land

and produce held in common, no more bosses, unemployment, starvation, or repression. Of special interest is the eyewitness report of an FAI concentration camp for fascists run on libertarian lines. Here guards worked, ate and slept the same way as the prisoners, without uniform. Work was productive labour with local peasants instead of stifling inactivity or useless drudgery.

"All prisoners are permitted to receive visits from their
cont page 4.

ST. JAMES' BLUES

This article was commissioned from a striker by a member of DAM who supported the picket.

We'd always had a strong union force within the dept., everyone was a member of the union, but with a new manager arriving relationships inside the department took a turn for the worst. Already one technician had been disciplined for refusing to teach someone already a grade higher than himself; and now another sacked for incompetence, so the strike began.

The person sacked had come straight from college to his job on the condition that he was given practical training, none was given. When he was sent on a practical course, he passed with 98% in the exam. Possibly he was sacked because he is an Asian.

The strike was made official on its first day only due to bungling in the 'managerial' posts in the union, but no other union was ever informed of this matter. Some people thought the picket line was a continuation of the pay dispute still, or the water workers secondary picketing.

So people still went into work, with only 14 people in department striking, (3 still working). There are five gates into the hospital, therefore it was difficult to stop lorries with so few of us.

Still the pickets stayed - the full time officer and the shop stewards visited sometimes usually to the union office across the picket line. To receive strike pay we were expected to leave the line and follow them into the office.

The other unions were not interested; NUPE and COHSE shop stewards went in, without a hint of support, in cars. An SWP 'activist' used to lower her head and charge through the picket, but still we stayed. One picket who lived in hospital accomodation was forcefully removed from the premises.

Other hospitals were asked

not to do the work, but scabs were present and working all round the clock to cover the presence of new machines. Especially the management brought in new kidney machines to replace broken ones, being under guarantee,,manufacturers could be brought in to mend them. Which means that there are now about 20 kidney machines not in use.

The appeal for the sacking wasn't going well, after one let down, the appeal board asked management to reinstate the sacked worker and give him further training. Management refused so the tribunal sat again. The trade union/ Labour Party member on the board left the meeting before the case was discussed, which is one way out.

So a mass picket was called, ASTMS asked for a 2 hour strike over the lunch time period and then, apart from the strikers themselves, forgot to organise for it. Other unions weren't informed untill about 5 days before and they didn't put much effort into organising for it. So the picket went ahead, not all the ASTMS stewards came out, some that did had turned up for the first time in 2 months.

Still it looked good on the day, to the outsiders anyway; NUPE? Well, a few turned out, they wandered along in passing, maybe they were having their pre or post dinner constitutionals. COHSE weren't seen or heard, was it lazyness? Well, the branch secretary has been very busy campaigning to get herself elected as a labour councillor, therefore the picket flopped. Many outsiders from other hospitals, and political organisations came. Thanks to them it looked good.

Depression had set in, discussions on returning to work started but luckily management beat us to it. They sent us a letter saying to 'come to work or get dismissed', so we could return having been forced, which didn't look as bad.

That was the end of the strike.

Relationships in the department still haven't improved. Now privatization is setting in I don't know that anyone has got the passion or energy left to fight. Still we heard later the sacked worker had got a similar job elsewhere.

Paul and Ann.

At the time of going to press laundry workers at St.James' hospital have just ended a sit-in over management attempts to cut the wages for low paid workers. Average take home pay for the 28 women, on a 32 hr week is £45, and for the 5 men, £77 for a 46 hour week. The intention was to cut the bonus payment from 33% to 27% followed shortly by a cut to 5%. The cut was implemented which led to an escalation from lightning walkouts and sit-ins, to an indefinite sit-in. The sit-in ended when management agreed to restore the wages, but the union agreed to negotiate on the bosses period negotiating scheme, which means that after the 3 months the wages are liable to be cut again.

CUTTING BACK ON THE HEALTH SERVICE DOES NOT MEAN WE HAVE LESS PATIENTS, IT MEANS WE JUST HAVE TO IGNORE A FEW MORE OF THEM, BUT I'M IN BUPA



cont. from page 3

family every Sunday. They are given passes for the camp and surrounding fields. There is no sexual torture that so many prisoners experience in other countries...The anarchists of the FAI are the first to introduce this humane reform".

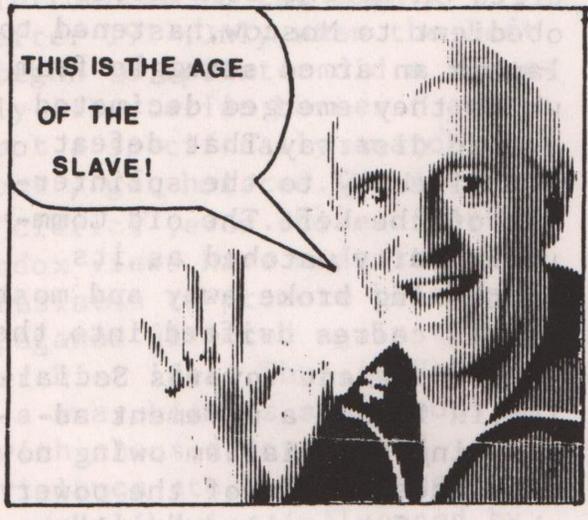
How to deal with the reaction is a question many have tended to ignore. An exception was Alexander Berkman who put forward the concept of "prisoners in freedom" as a result of his experiences in Russia. Contrast this ideal to the Francoist death camp at Albatera in Alicante as described in Black Flag No.3, where 1000s died of hunger and neglect. Cont page 8, column 3.

HORWICH WORKS FOR THE WORKERS **Horwich fight back**

The workers of British Rail Engineering and the towns-people of Horwich deserve our support in their fight to keep the works open.

All the ordinary people who need the railways to be fast, safe, cheap and reliable means of transport would agree that the work of building and repairing rolling stock is essential. Those who do this work should have as good and secure a living as anyone else.

BUT DON'T BE FOOLED by politicians, whether Labour, Conservative, (or any other party). Both Labour and Conservative govts. have presided, since the 1950's, over the run down of the rail system. After nationalisation the railways were supposed to belong to all of us. Yet even those who work in the industry are treated just as before - with incompetent, useless bureaucrats paid huge salaries, while those who supply the hard work and know how get paltry wages and redundancy threats. And rail union leaders



nationally have a poor record for resistance over the years. No, we can't trust politicians of any party - or trade union bosses either. (We never could). Horwich Works should be run cooperatively by those who actually do the productive work. Bosses and bureaucrats are not needed. So lets not campaign to keep jobs under the old conditions.

LETS SUPPORT DIRECT ACTION (eg. WILDCAT STRIKES, OCCUPATIONS etc.) BY WORKERS TO WIN CONTROL OF AN INDUSTRY ESSENTIAL FOR THE WELL-BEING OF US ALL!

BOLTON ANARCHISTS/DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT c/o 55 THICKETFORD ROAD, BOLTON

The Government and B.R. are determined to axe 3-700 worker-s jobs in the Engineering

works of Horwich, Shildon and Temple Mills. This will mean immense hardship in already economically devastated areas.

HINDLES GEARS

STRIKE! You're all sacked! says the boss.

The workers at Hindles' Gears have been on strike since Friday 11th March in pursuit of a pay claim and to try and halt redundancies. The dispute started last Friday, when shop stewards approached management about wages but Hindles did not want to discuss it. Therefore lightning strikes escalated to an all out strike. At one point the workers occupied the factory but only for four days, because they were intimidated by threats of imprison-

ment if they didn't obey a court injunction. Unfortunately they lacked information to fight the order, and got no backing in the occupation from the Union (because it was illegal), and some of the workers were understandably not prepared to be jailed.

The strikers were sacked after Hindle wrote to their wives, which did not bring the intended result. In fact now the wives have organised a wives support group, which has organised regular women's pickets of the factory.

The dispute is part of an

But, given the will, the workers can fight back.

To defeat this maximum solidarity is needed between various unions in the industry. This means practical action such as sympathy strikes, occupations, rank and file support from other industries. Eventually workers must establish direct control of the railways by the workers themselves.

Workers in France, Italy and the Spanish Revolution have shown that the railways can be run by the workers themselves. Only then can the threat of unemployment (and low wages due to the fear it produces) be combatted. Help the fightback now.

Send support donations etc. to
HORWICH JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE, CONVENORS OFFICE, HORWICH LOCO WORKS BOLTON.

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emerging pattern of vicious management responses to any Union demands. At Hindles Gears the aim appears to be to smash the Union organisation, particularly as the other factories in the Hindles Empire are non - unionised, and have been given a pay rise.

The workers need all the financial and practical help they can get; they have themselves traced some of the suppliers of the factory and have made trips to Peterborough and Manchester, where they have successfully persuaded workers not to handle goods intended for Hindles Gears.

cont page 8

ANARCHISM AND LATIN AMERICA

Venezuela

Venezuela beneath the surface - the prospects for and characteristics of anarchism Venezuelan-style.

It would be too presumptuous of us to prescribe the guidelines of any expansion by a native anarchist movement because, for one thing, that expansion and development will be determined by the activities of groups that come together and fall apart in accord with the dynamics of events as they emerge; for another as Venezuela does not share the anarchist history peculiar to other parts of the continent, like Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay, Peru, etc., we have no handy point of departure, no historical reference to wield its fascination over up and coming generations of revolutionaries and those advocating social change.

Bereft then, of any historic anarchism in social movements (despite the fact that we may detect libertarian elements in certain thinkers and personalities in our more recent past) we find this turning into something of an advantage in that the very history of Venezuela is the history of a country shackled by the dark dungeons of a prolonged dictatorship which, to all intents and purposes, persisted up until the early 1960s. Officially, the Gomez tyranny ended in 1936, but Gomezism continued to rule the roost for a further 9 years, at which point a civilian-military coup of a populist nature and led by the founders of Accion Democratica, ousted the old cabal linked with the tyrant Gomez from power. The glimpse then afforded Venezuelans of civil freedoms and the exercise of political rights within a framework of bourgeois democracy, lasted a bare 3 years. In 1948 the military seized power and launched a despotic experiment that persisted for a whole decade.

BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY

After 1958 Venezuela entered a period of bourgeois democracy. About the same time and under the influence of the

Cuban Revolution, the Venezuelan Revolutionary movement, urged on by the communists obedient to Moscow, hastened to launch an armed struggle from which they emerged decimated and in disarray. That defeat led directly to the splintering of the Left. The old Communist Party watched as its youth wing broke away and most of its cadres drifted into the MAS - Movement towards Socialism, in 1970 - a movement advocating a socialism owing no obedience to any of the power-bases of so-called "real" socialism. Another group by the name of La Causa R. emerged, with views akin to those of the MAS but with more pronounced libertarian stirrings. Then again, still on the scene are tiny groups fiercely loyal still to Marxist-leninist precepts and professing obedience to China, Albania, Cuba etc., but their roots in the ranks of the populace are exceedingly few. The so-called PRV (Party of the Venezuelan Revolution) led by Douglas Bravo and having its origins in those who would not agree to return to the fold of the Venezuelan CP, but persisted with their armed struggle, is another factor to be considered. The PRV, now deeply committed to above ground politics pursues a policy substantially different from the policies of other Venezuelan leftist groupings. Recent debates within the PRV have made noises favourable to a libertarian brand of socialism and its theoretical journal has carried discussion articles arguing for the superiority of Bakunin's ideas over Marx's scholasticism.

Such then, in broad outline, is the panorama of the left in Venezuela - the Labour movement, though, is subject to the hegemony of Accion Democratica exercised through the CTV (Confederation of Workers of Venezuela), the leader in the realm of trade-union bureaucracy. Also, still around, are a few workers groupings controlled by the communists, or the Christian Democrats; there is even one that is a perfect

model of trade union gangsterism. In the past decade, however, the labour movement has come together, as has been shown in prolonged and spectacular strikes, which, alas, have been ended by repressive measures by employers and the government. Thus there is an anarchist strand within the labour movement and there we might detect libertarian awakenings and even the odd councillorist group - these, though have no great influence within the larger context of the overall working class in Venezuela.

The installation of a bourgeois democracy in 1958 had led to the burgeoning of a middle class with university background and thus has owed its advancement to the needs of public and private owners to be able to call upon suitably qualified personnel to run their businesses. Even this middle class displays some libertarian stirrings such as neighbourhood associations, ecology groups and environmental groups. But these have no knock-on effect outside the purely legalistic...no questioning of the State as such.

PETROLEUM POWER

In Venezuela it is very hard to conceive of the State as portrayed in the teachings of Anarchism. For the fact is that - up until the nationalisation of hydrocarbons in 1975 - the Venezuelan State profited from the royalties of oil industry. Such is the all-pervasive role of petroleum in Venezuelan life that ignorance of it is tantamount to ignorance

of the country itself. By means of the tax earnings of its hydrocarbon resources Venezuela has been able to equip itself with an economic and social infrastructure which while still inadequate, would not be there at all, were it not for the petroleum earnings.

Before petroleum, Venezuela was an agrarian nation no better than Paraguay or Central America. Thus the petroleum-producer Venezuela and its State is father and mother to its subjects, every one, and has pursued its paternalism and its maternalism so vigorously that nothing - and absolutely nothing - is conceivable except in terms of that omnipresent State. Inured in this statism,

Venezuelans have been conditioned to seek their salvation from the upper echelons of the country, and in Venezuela statism is the official religion.

The emergence of a native bourgeoisie, protected by the vast financial assets of the State, has similarly been a result of the actio of the State. The Venezuelan private firm accounts for a small percentage of economic activity as yet, but recent forecasts indicate a major upsurge in private enterprise.

Such then are roughly, the socio-economic realities of Venezuela today. In Venezuela the ideological field has until very recently been dominated by Marxism...and not even a true Marxism at that, but a soviet-style version

which has ruled the roost in the university chairs and was introduced to the country after 1917. Only when the left began to splinter did a vaguely libertarian banner (and not a specifically anarchist one) get hoisted. The Marxist "clerics", even those of heterodox views have made it their business to promote black propaganda directed against anarchist ideas. Thus, in Venezuela - a anarchism is synonymous with chaos, disorder and violence etc. And so some comrades likewise influenced by heterodox Marxism, argue that those of our persuasion should drop the label "anarchist" in favour of "libertarian". Despite everything we were able, some years ago, to launch courses on Anarchism in Caracas University's School of Philosophy and efforts were made to build up a grouping but this fell through, probably on account of many comrades refusal to accept certain tactics.

Broadly speaking the experiment with the course of lectures was quite fruitful. These fruits cannot as yet be assessed, since the lectures sowed a seed of an idea that germinates at a rate that cannot be predicted. The lectures were attended not only by students but also by folk connected with social and political movements. We might say that, just as heterodox Marxism is of recent birth, it will be some time yet before anarchism finds expression in any organised movement. But that does not mean that it is not an influence constantly working upon the debate within leftist movements as we noted earlier.

For all the obstacles placed in its path by the specific environment in Venezuela, a Venezuelan brand of Anarchism, when it does emerge, cannot be tied to any one school of anarchist belief. This means that there will be some comrades active in the unions and pushing in a libertarian direction while others might

Brazil

BRAZIL PRESS APPEAL

The Brazilian state, with a record debt of 90 billion dollars, has announced austerity measures which, as usual will make the people pay for the crisis by cut backs in wage rises at a time of high inflation. Already this year cracks are beginning to show with riots round Sao Paulo.

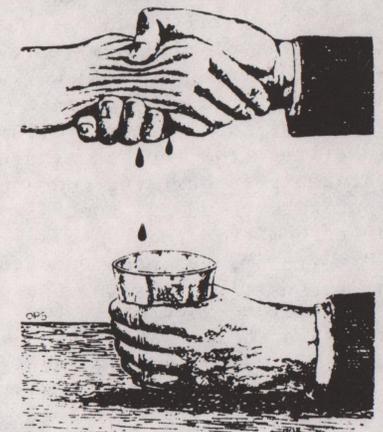
Since 1978 there has been an upsurge in the workers move

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Anti-authoritarian Perspectives on Latin America and the Caribbean

No Middle Ground

No. 1 • Spring 1983 • \$1.50



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No Middle Ground, magazine of Anti-Authoritarian Perspectives on Latin America and the Caribbean; No. 1 Spring 1983, \$1.50.

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"In our view, there is no middle ground between oppression and freedom, no rationale for revolt if not for genuine liberation".



cont page 8

Venezuela cont

prefer instead cultural activity or work at barrio level. Thus this range of tendencies tends to lead to a dispersion of effort instead of leading to an organic unity. So far, attempts to reach organisational unity have come to nothing, which does not augur well for the future. Anarchism as yet a novelty in Venezuela and possessed of its universalist features in every manifestation it assumes, can withstand such diversification. Thus, some comrades who subscribe to the anarcho-syndicalist view, have come together to form a Venezuelan section of the International Workers' Association, and are in close touch with the Spanish anarchist movement.

(From El Compita, Mexico).

BRAZIL

cont from page 7

ment in Brazil which has been the victim of military repression, company unionists working for the bosses and a legacy of fascist corporatism inherited from the Vargas dictatorship. In building independent workers unions the talk of reform from the top ("Abertura") has been exposed as a con-trick. This was shown in the state's response to the mass strike waves, such as that of 200,000 metalworkers in the A.B.C. suburbs of Sao Paulo in 1980 (Santo Andre, Sao Bernardo do Campo, Sao Caetanod do Sul). According to a recent book ("Brazil State and Struggle", Latin American Bureau) the run up to the strike saw a "level of mobilization...unparalleled in Sao Paulo's labour history except perhaps by the great anarchist strikes at the turn of the century". Though the strike was lost, the forces of repression who had occupied the area were forced to withdraw in the face of united popular resistance.

Like most of Latin America the basis of the workers movement was laid by the anarchists who fought for the self-organization of the workers, opposed class collaboration, and advocated the overthrow of capitalism and the state through the revolutionary general strike. Anarcho-syndicalist agitation produced mass strike waves in 1917 and 1919



'DON'T FORGET
MUTUAL AID,
COMRADES!'

and an abortive insurrection in 1918. However, the rise of authoritarian communism and decades of repression wore down the movement.

Today comrades are trying in difficult but hopeful conditions to rebuild the anarchist movement in Brazil. They have formed a social studies centre to publish anarchist pamphlets and a magazine. Direct Action Movement have volunteered, with the Black Cross, to supply an offset litho to the group "O Inimigo do Rei" from Salvador (Bahia). SHOW WORKERS INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY; SEND DONATIONS TO:

Brazil Press Fund:

Manchester DAM, Autonomy Centre c/o Raven Press, 8 - 10 Great Ancoats Street, Manchester 4

ENDNOTE: July 22nd saw Brazil hit by a 24hr general strike. This was called in response to an announced 7.7% cut in wages for the next 12 months. In the suburbs of Sao Paulo two thirds of the large industrial plants were brought to a standstill; while in the city centre many shops remained closed, fearful of a repeat of last April's rioting and looting. In Rio de Janeiro there was one of the largest demonstrations in recent times - some 50,000 strong.

The government took no chances: leaders of trade unions were removed from their workplaces before the strike began and news of the strike was censored; 300 arrests were made and 20 strikers are to be charged under the national security laws.



cont from page 5

Hindles latest tactic is to sue for £20,000. He claims this in regard to loss of profits during the workers occupation last April. This has been resurrected by the bosses at the same time as the workers have been informed, by the bosses solicitors that their picket of Power Unit (Hindle) Ltd was secondary picketing and therefore illegal.

The factory is on Caledonia Road, near the centre of Bradford, just off the Manchester Road, your support is needed. The boss J. N. Hindle, lives at 2 Leylands Grove, Bradford 9

Donations for the strikers can be sent to Hindles Gears Strike Fund, AUEW Offices, 2 Claremont, Bradford 7.

Press Appeal

Thank to the Comrades who sent in money to help us produce this copy of Direct Action, readers are asked to send donations in, no matter how small to;

Leeds D.A.M/I.W.A

Box LAP A

59 Cookridge Street,
Leeds.

LS2 3AW.

Book review.

cont. from page 4

The book ends with a human account of the anarchist struggles over the years in the village of Alcampel, Huesca by Victor Blanco which is good in illustrating the links between anarchists in Barcelona and the countryside, and in showing the negative attitude of the local P.O.U.M. so beloved by today's Trots.

In short this book is an antidote to the mountains of theoretical texts churned out by Marxists and Labourites in that it shows how socialism can be achieved in practise and with freedom. It also has direct relevance to those parts of the world today which have a large number of peasants.

TCB

HOLCROFTS FROM CANTEEN STODGE TO STARVATION

DIETS to slim by is what they are now serving in Holcrofts canteen (Rochdale).

Gone forever are the mince rolls, spud pies, curries, hot pots, burnt sausage and all the crude delicacies of canteen cookery to be replaced by fast food for weight watchers.

Tommy Turd has been pensioned off, and his era of troughing is at an end. No longer will we have to wade through the boring stodge, which was criticised in Direct Action two years ago.

GREENWOOD'S GRIPE WATER

Jack Greenwood has solved all our slimming problems. Since he took over the canteen, when he became personnel manager, he's been a model of thrift and frugal restraint.

Mrs Thatcher must have had Jack in mind when she went up Bacup, a suburb of Rochdale, and declared her faith in hard beds and Victorian values.

When he made part of the canteen staff redundant he established a criteria for selection based on weight. Thus the heaviest and most overweight canteen ladies were sacked.

This gave us all an incentive to curb our appetites.

Some silly shopfloor workers urged on by a notorious food freak in the electrical department signed a petition calling for more imaginative food. But that would only encourage more overeating.

Far better is Jack's policy of the lightest of snacks (busties) and a soup which could pass as gripewater.

Equally sensible is the managements' attempted abolition of unofficial practices such

as tea breaks and the reading of newspapers. Tea as everyone knows is bad for the kidneys and newspapers weaken the brain. In 1984, Orwell said there would be one newspaper, Mr Greenwood is really ahead of his time.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

In keeping with the spirit of the Age, NOTHING is slap dash any more at Holcrofts.

Gone is the trough - gone is the thick toast, together with its layers of catering margarine.

Now it's as if we've been taken over by a branch of the Weights and Measures Dept.

The precision, the meticulousness, the scrupulous measurement of everything within reach, is like something out of Alice in Wonderland.

This era of measurement hit a peak when Jack Greenwood took to measuring a golden grain loaf to see how many slices it would run to. The corn beef, cheese and cucumbers had a similar fate.

It's obvious Jack has never shaken off the instincts of his previous profession - that of rate fixer. But that's what makes him by far the best man to have as a weight watcher.

Still it is depressing to learn from 'Caterer and Hotel-keeper' that the favourite lunchtime dish of the British is fish, chips and peas, followed by ice cream and coffee.

On the bright side, I see the Russians have got the Greenwood message; No cookery books are published in Mother Russia, and few ingredients are available anyway, even if

you did have the recipes (1).

Similarly the Italian fascists (2) frowned on heavy food saying that "spaghetti is no food for fighters" and that it "... is anti-virile."

May be hot pot gives you the droop as well.

Nobodies saying Greenwoods' gripe water is an aphrodisiac, but perhaps Jack's not the eccentric measurement pervert we took him to be. At least some other people despise food almost as much as he does.

Dobber.

(1) Colin Spencer's Food Column in the Guardian April 15th 1983.

(2) Elizabeth David - Italian Food.

As you perhaps know some of our policies have been questioned of late.



THE NUM. AND RUSSIA

John Cunningham is a face worker at Dinnington Colliery; he is also NUM delegate to the Sheffield District Labour Party. In April of 1983 he was at a union branch-meeting which was informed of a planned visit by the S.Yorks and Humberside Assoc. of Trades Councils to Russia. Knowing something of the repression of workers in the USSR he proposed a motion for a letter to say NUM officials should not go, but could not even get a seconder. He decided to take up the cases of Vladimir Klebanov and Alexei Nikitin, two Ukrainian miners who were sent to mental hospitals for industrial agitation. "It's been like walking a tight-rope," he told me, "trying to criticise the Soviet Bureaucracy without being associated with the Tories. Very few people are genuine on their stance on Russia: the right attacks it for political propaganda, and so the left tends to become very defensive about it. I am just trying to publicise the simple fact that the system in Russia does repress the workers there".

Ironically, Sheffield is twinned with Donetsk where Klebanov and Nikitin used to work and there was an official visit to Sheffield recently. In reply to a letter on the

subject, the council's leader, David Blunkett, said he was only able to raise the question in general terms because it is such a difficult and loaded question. "I didn't join the demonstrations outside the town hall during the visit; if I could have got a delegation of miners together perhaps I would have, but you have to be careful who you are associated with."

Although John says he had a positive response from all the miners he has spoken to, the union hierarchy has been totally uncooperative. A letter to Arthur Scargill asking him to enquire about the two men's whereabouts received an evasive reply which insinuated he was right wing, was ignoring El Salvador and had an anti-soviet bias without answering the question. A letter asking for a direct reply and an apology received a straight refusal.

"King Arthur the permanent's" attitude is possibly related to recent international developments. Britain and Australia recently left the International Miners Federation and are trying to set up an alternative which includes Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. "Basically he just wants to carve out an empire for him-

IF I'D KNOWN WHAT A GHASTLY REGIME I'D BE CREATING IN RUSSIA I WOULD HAVE RETURNED THAT RAILWAY TICKET TO THE GERMANS AND FINISHED THE SEASON SKIING IN SWITZERLAND



self", John concluded. "I campaigned for his election as he is a good fighter, but I think he's politically crippled by tunnel vision. Everything has to be done formally with him which is why he won't recognise Solidarnosc, because its unofficial. Ironically he partly rose to power himself through the miners forums which was an unofficial rank and file network in the early seventies. Good trade unionism isn't enough in this crisis, you need the political vision to back it up, and that's what he lacks".

At the moment John is carrying on his campaign by writing articles, organising petitions, he's preparing a leaflet for the T.U.C. congress and lobbying the miners' M.P.s, and other organisations. Unfortunately he is not getting the support he should from the

THE BRITISH STATE AND



DISSIDENTS



leadership of his union to whom political manoeuvring is more important than workers' lives. Editors: We thought this article would be of interest to our readers and are printing it as

it stands. However we have to point out that anarcho-syndicalists do not look to union bureaucracies for support; furthermore we would point out that the Labour Party has used

concentration camps, internment without trial, juryless courts and institutionalised torture against dissidents in N. Ireland.
Leeds DAY

ARMY 0 PEACENIKS 1

As part of anti-militarism week twenty multi-coloured hairstyles who represent part

of Sheffield Peace Action took over the local army recruiting office.

The tactic of total pacifism was in this case a great success. When half the group walked in and sat down the squaddy on duty jumped up as if pre-arranged, locked the door and



cont. back page



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.

I would like to know more about the DAM/IWA.

NAME.....
 ADDRESS.....

 POSTCODE.....
 OCCUPATION.....
 TRADE UNION.....

Cut out and send to DAM/IWA:-
 c/o The Autonomy Centre, Raven Press, 8 - 10 Great Ancoats Street, Manchester 4.

MANCHESTER DAM/IWA:
 The former mailing address for Manchester DAM at the Corn Exchange has been discontinued. The new address is now: the Autonomy Centre c/o Raven Press, 8 - 10 Great Ancoats St. Manchester 4.

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 door, and resigned himself to his fate i.e. seeing the place re-decorated with balloons and streamers. The transformation of the outside was total and was carried out before a few of the local constabulary whose leader looked on and smiled patronisingly.

I don't know why they let the place be taken over for a day without raising a finger, (the fact that they did proves pacifism can sometimes be the best tactic) but it still leaves unanswered the question of what would have happened next if the protest hadn't ceased about 4pm when "the hostages" began to moan about wanting to go home for their tea.
 Mick

WAR IS THE HEALTH OF THE STATE

CLASS STRUGGLE

Various branches of the DAM (in Birmingham, Burnley, Hull and Middlesbrough) are now pro-

ducing their own broadsheets or papers (Class Struggle, The Agitator, Strike Back etc.). The Hull branch inform us that

copies of their paper, Class Struggle, are available from our national address. Send an SAE.

LOCAL CONTACTS

The DAM (anarcho-syndicalist organisation)
 British section of the **INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION** (anarcho-syndicalist International)

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