

# Direct Action

P.4

**FIGHT THE  
POLL TAX**

**EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW  
WITH TOM WATT P:8**

The Voice of Anarcho-Syndicalism

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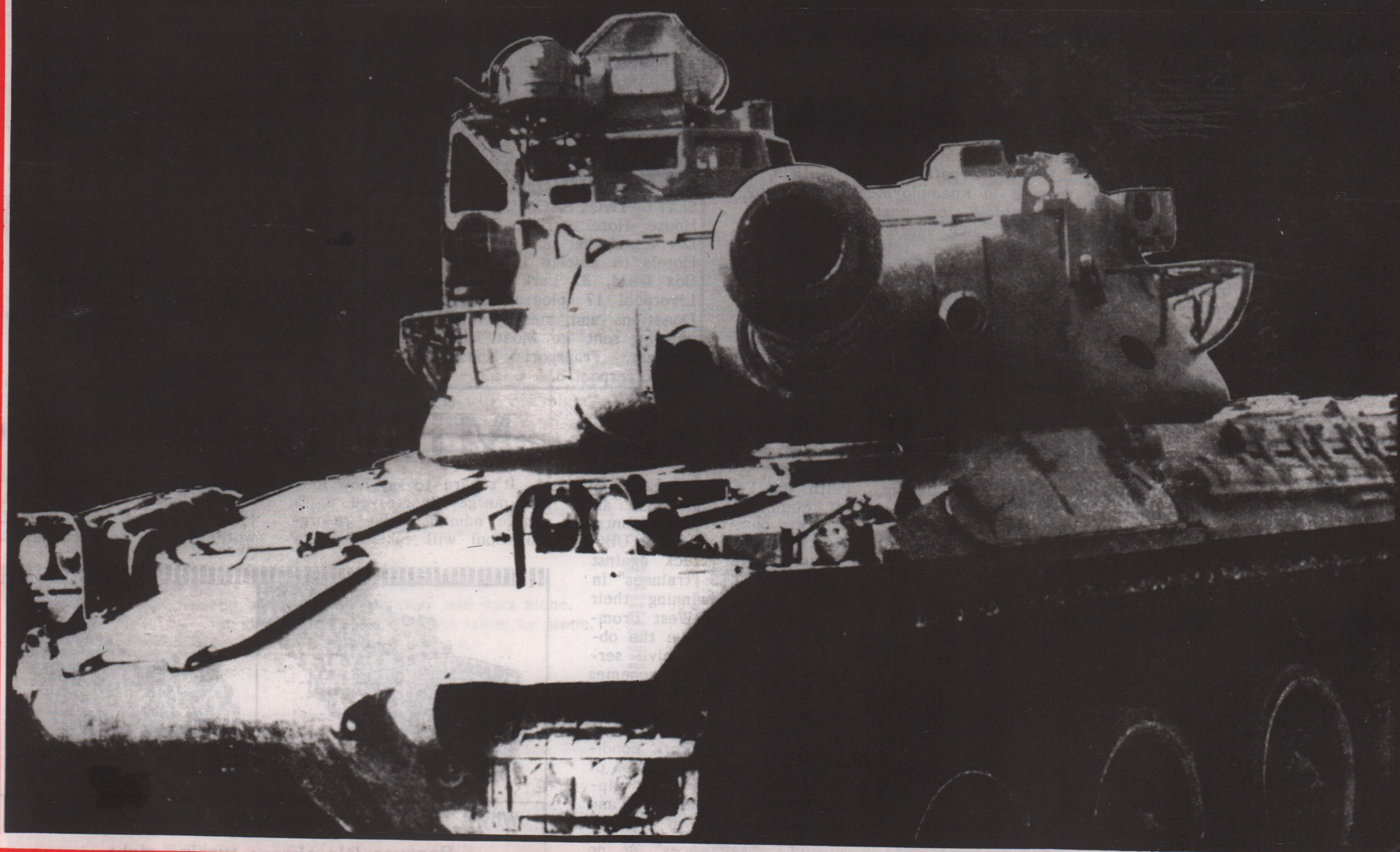
**THE**

**ARMS RACE:**

**CLASS ACTION**

**VERSUS MORALISM**

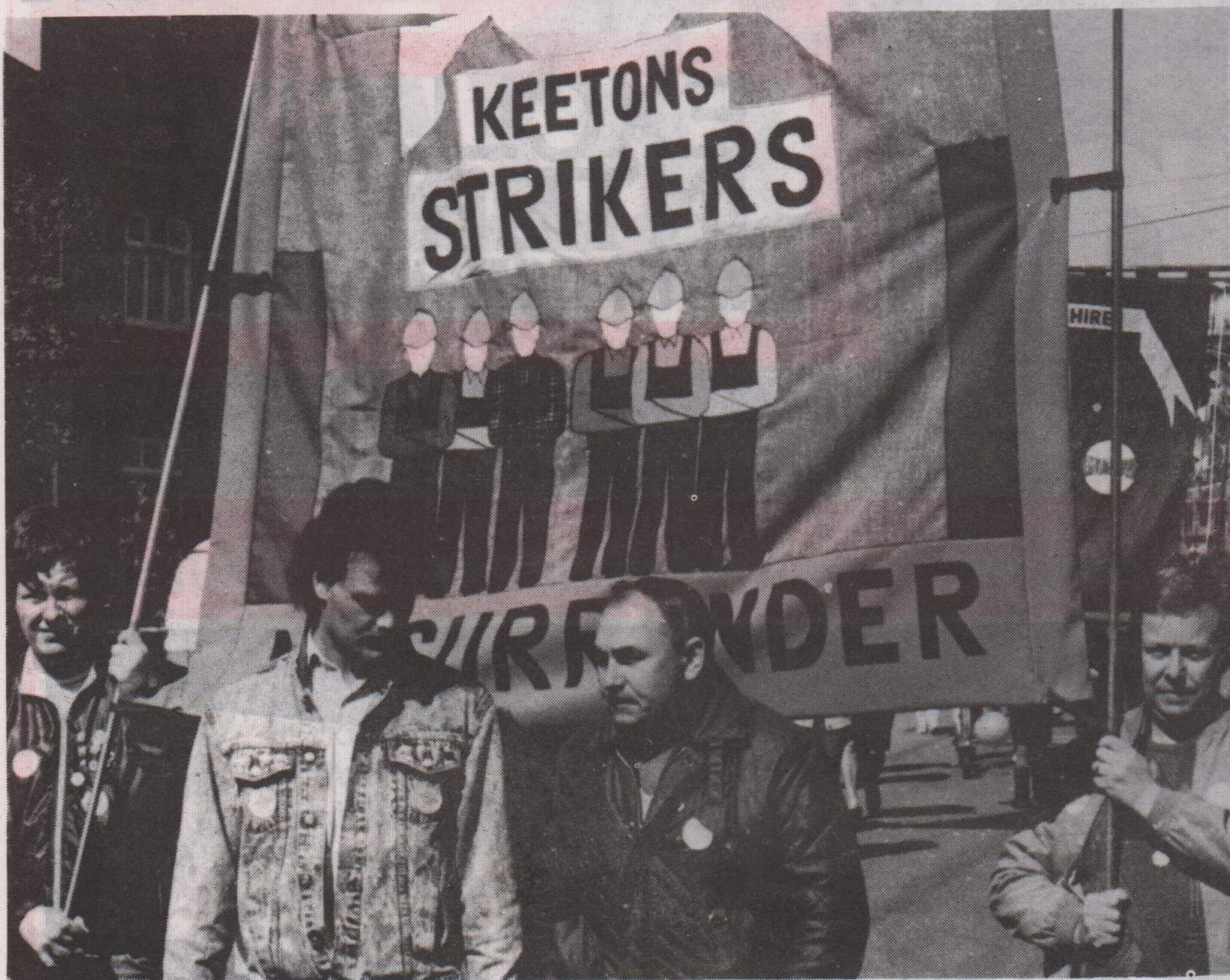
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Paper of the Direct Action Movement - International Workers Association



# The Long Struggle



**The dispute between sacked workers and Keetons' boss, Doyle (see DA 38), in Sheffield continued during September. Keetons make sheet metal working machinery, and formers and hollow bored bars for oil rigs, as well as gym equipment. 30 strikers have now had to fight the boss, scabs, fascists, police and poverty for well over a year. Direct Action interviewed 3 of the strikers:**

DA: What started the dispute?

KS: Doyle broke staffing and safety agreements. When we voted for strike action he informed us we were sacked 5 minutes after the result.

DA: What tactics have management used during the dispute?

KS: You can tell what Doyle's like from the fact that ACAS came in so he could find out what he could get away with. When they said a lot of what he planned to do was illegal he told them to go. At the last meeting with the stewards he told them not to come back for 6 months. The scabbing operation has included scab violence - one scab, Ian Moore, an ex-miner, punched a picket in the face. The police ignored it. If it was the other way round the picket would have been sent down. There are around 20 scabs who started after a fortnight. We used to win awards for our work - with the scabs, orders keep getting sent back. The worst scab haulier is A&E Transport of Ecclesfield. Keetons' lorry is a blue Bedford disguised under GKN markings. Two of us were following it and were ambushed by police and charged under the Conspiracy and

Protection Act 1875 - our case comes up at the end of September.

DA: What effect has picketing and solidarity had?

KS: Doyle admitted a £250,000 loss in the 1st year. Labour Research say they're losing £3,000 a week. The Nag's Head landlord scab you reported in an earlier DA has given up. He was fed up of riding to work in the car boot! Doyle tried to bribe us by sending pension scheme cheques that bounced and telling us we'd be able to cash them if we left the picket line. We took him to court but the coward didn't turn up and the court ruled he had to pay!

DA: What's support been like?

KS: Marvellous. Ordinary people donate to our stall outside the Town Hall every week and we've had great support from NUM, NALGO and AEU branches as well as unemployed centres. We've had benefit gigs and cricket matches but money is needed more than ever now as union strike pay ended after a year.

DA: What parts of the scabbing operation may readers be interested in?

KS: Doyle is known to deal with Taiwan and South Africa. Trailers go under the name LOCAR. Machine tools go through Carters of Blackpool. We've put out leaflets in conjunction with Sheffield Campaign Against Racism because the NF have claimed to be supporting us. These people are scum and we want nothing to do with them. We wouldn't be surprised if they weren't put up to this by the boss. No matter what the boss has tried we have stuck it out.

Please send donations and messages of solidarity to: Keetons' Strike Committee, AEU House, Furnival Gate, Sheffield. (phone 769 041). Remember, the AEU dropped strike pay after the first year. Strike support badges are available, price £1.

## MOAT HOUSE STRIKE

SIXTY TWO SACKED in the Moat House Hotel strike, Liverpool (see DA 40). A list of other Moat House Hotels in Britain is available from Box DAM, 82 Lark Lane, Aigburth, Liverpool 17 (please send an SAE). Donations and messages of support can be sent to Moat House Hotel Strikers, Transport House, Islington, Liverpool 3.

## DISABLED RIGHTS VICTORY

RECENTLY IN ELGIN, Morayshire in northern Scotland, a disabled woman, backed by workmates, won her right to continue working at the local unemployment benefit office.

Management gave her redundancy notice as she apparently failed a so-called health examination which they say meant she wasn't capable of doing her job. They said they warned her this might happen when she was first taken on but she denied this. Not surprisingly the exact opposite was the case, as a workmate said on the local radio that she was just as capable as any of them and in fact probably had a better attendance record than most.

In protest the woman staged a sit-in/work-in lasting 4 days. During this time the management asked her to leave every hour and were seen taking names of workers who continued to pass on work to her in solidarity. The purpose of the name-taking was to harass and intimidate them into not helping the woman and, they believe, to go towards a blacklist against them.

The Scottish TUC threatened to give her their "total support" but luckily management gave in before that! So after 4 days it was announced that she could continue working as normal. The disabled, like other so-called "minorities", are part of the working class and deserve all the support we can give them. Every little victory counts!

## FACING THE FUTURE

ON THE WEEKEND of 12-13th September, about 70 DAM members met for a special summer school in London. Under discussion was the future direction of the DAM. Comrades gave reports on the situation in their industries. There were also discussions on employment law, the non-anarchist left, women and anarcho-syndicalism and the effects of social democracy. The first day concentrated on the current conditions facing us, and the second on our responses. After due deliberation, a consensus was reached on the priorities for DAM in the coming year. These are to strengthen DAM nationwide, embark seriously on a fund-raising campaign, and an intensive programme of propaganda. It was also agreed to put more effort into our industrial networks. The summer school successfully laid the foundations for the future development of the DAM. It emphasised our commitment to supporting working class struggles both in the workplace and the community, and how best we can offer our solidarity.

## STORM CLOUDS

GUESS WHAT this piece of bureaucrat-speak means: "GDP has risen consistently since 1981 but its rate of increase has been subject to policy-induced fluctuations with growth tending to peak in election years". Basically, even the bosses admit the Tories have been buying votes by creating short-lived "booms". While they may apologise for Thatcher in public and paint a bright future, bankers and financiers know trouble is brewing. In a little-publicised report published at the end of the

summer, Lloyds Bank predicted growth will fall from the present measly 3.25% to a pathetic 2% by 1989; a reverse in unemployment "drops" by the middle of next year; rising inflation and more stock market instability. What this will mean is a fresh round of attacks on the working class as the bosses try to protect profits by pushing down our living standards and attacking the right to organise. The bosses and their government are preparing for battle - are we?

## MERGER MEANS MISERY

THE GOVERNMENT begins a phased merger of the Unemployment Benefit Service and Manpower Services Commission on October 26th. Initially it will be at an administrative level but ultimately involves full integration into the UBS of all 11,000 MSC staff and most of the schemes now carried out by Job Centres, like Restart and Job Clubs. UBS workers are now increasingly administering Restart, in which claimants' benefit can be cut for not attending an interview. Also the government has made known its intention to make YTS compulsory for 16-18 year olds.

The merger will result in

an even more intimate linking of benefit provision with recruitment to slave labour schemes. With the advent of "work for the dole" Job Training Schemes it doesn't take much to imagine a claimant signing on for the first time being faced with the choice of work for dole or no dole. This industrial conscription must be seen as the government's goal, to keep a tight grip on the unemployed and driving down wages by forcing more and more claimants on to lousy schemes.

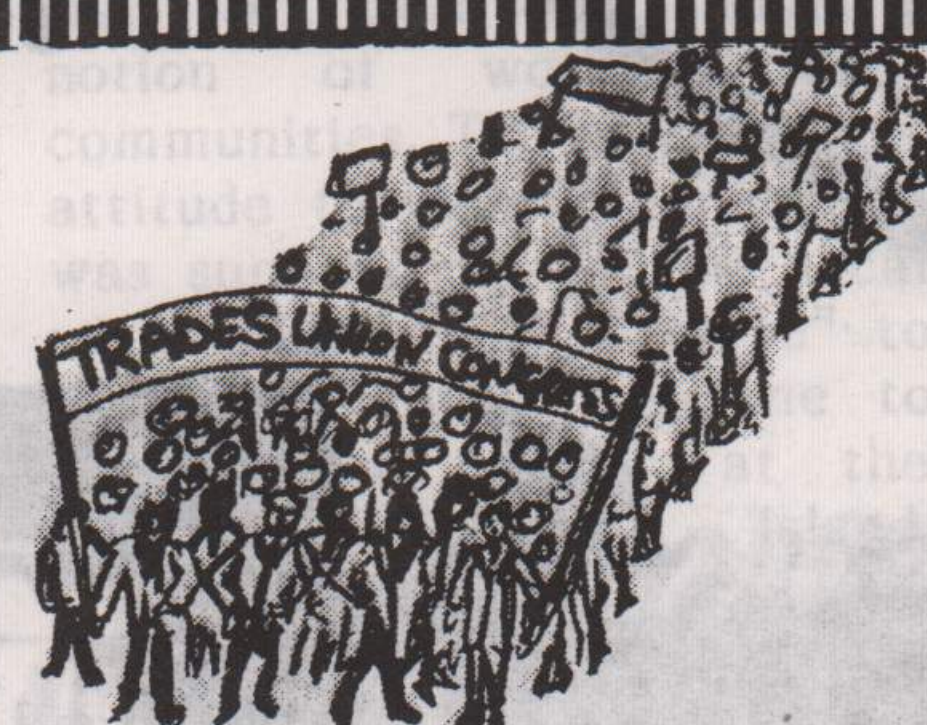
### ATTACKS

This isn't just a vicious attack on unemployed workers

(with the Fowler Review on all claimants) but also an attack on civil servants. West Bromwich and Bolton UBO workers have struck against the use of YTS "trainees" in their offices (winning their withdrawal from West Bromwich). We thus have the obscene scenario of civil servants administering schemes which not only offer industrial slavery to the unemployed but also drastically undermine their own work conditions and wage rates. 50% of Job Clubs are now run by rip-off private agencies - and we're supposed to believe Fowler's "assurances" of no staff or budget cuts and no privatisation!

It's hard to say how long the merger (portrayed as a simple administrative reorganisation) will take. But its

full implications must be identified and fought now by a joint campaign of UBS/MSC workers and the unemployed.



Why's the TUC always going round in circles?  
Because it's always turning right.



# NO WAR BUT THE CLASS WAR

The proposed reduction in medium-range nuclear weapons, a mere 3% of the total world arsenal, has been greeted as a justification of the west's strong stand. The real reason though is economic necessity. The USSR's fragile economy can't keep up the present rate of arms expenditure and in the US capital is needed to invest in the more profitable Star Wars project rather than obsolete missiles. In Britain a positive spin-off for the government will be the neutralising of CND and the wider peace movement.

The Cuban Missile Crisis weakened the 1950's/1960's peace movement demonstrating the fundamental irrelevance of Britain in general, and CND in particular, in the superpowers' life and death decisions. Also it showed they could retreat from the brink of the nuclear abyss. The Test Ban Treaty effectively ended the movement, satisfying the moderates, while radicals moved into the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign. CND revived in the late '70's with the New Cold War. This time it tried to reconcile its various factions by emphasis on local group structure and semi-autonomous sections.

## LITTLE IMPACT

The last election showed how little impact the peace movement has really had in the last 8 years. The defence debate was conducted on the same level as 4 years before. Thatcher simply played on the "Russian Threat" arguing that even if any state did disarm, at the first sign of trouble they'd re-arm - ie nuclear weapons can't be dis-invented. The peace movement has no coherent alternative to this. One group argue for more dependency on conventional forces, another for neutrality, yet another for a pacifist line, with numerous variations in between.

from "cranks and partisan extremists on the left". Consequently their strategy is to build support amongst local authorities, the professions, churches, as well as political parties and union leaders. On another level EP Thompson, the Marxist historian, argued that nuclear weapons have become the "central human feature" of world politics, that opposition to them should take precedence over other conflicts, especially class conflict. CND has seized this theory of "exterminism" to justify their position.

They argue that the arms race has its own momentum and can, in itself, lead to war, based on the experience of the pre-WWI arms race. Yet this doesn't hold together. Arms races can be a substitute for war, being used as an extension of diplomacy. The classic arms race, the Anglo-German naval race, ended by 1912. Austria-Hungary, which had not been involved was first to go to war. Britain, which had armed most vigorously was last. States do not stumble into war accidentally but only declare war when they think they'll win. Every nation who went to war in 1914 believed they could win.

The majority of the British working class hasn't been convinced by CND's arguments

Britain, and Europe as a whole, remains subservient to the super-power's dealings.

## CONTRADICTION

CND is caught in a contradiction from which it is unable to escape. It aims to abolish the tools of war without attacking its causes. It has failed to come to terms with four major points:

- No state has ever willingly abandoned its' major weapons of coercion.
- The knowledge to build nuclear weapons won't be lost. There's no guarantee a state won't re-introduce them in a "national emergency".
- Nuclear weapons are produced by centralised and bureaucratic states, capitalist and state-socialist. To oppose them means opposing all aspects of the states that produce them.
- The overwhelming bulk of arms spending is on conventional, not nuclear, arms.

It is no coincidence the New Cold War began with a wave of 3rd world revolutions, a sharpening of the contradictions within and between capitalist states and the rise of militarism in the USA. The British peace movement has no realistic view on the causes of war, taking the superficial view that war can be eliminated by campaigning against its' tools - if only everyone would stand up and object the sheer weight of feeling would be enough to persuade the state to disarm.

## MORALISM

This middle-class radicalism and moralism seeks to remove nuclear arms while retaining the capitalist system which produces them, a system in which they have a stake. Yet to ask states to unilaterally disarm is to attack

All of this is inadequate. A coherent anti-militarism is needed, recognising that all states are founded on force, that arms races cannot be isolated from social, economic and political circumstances in which they occur. Anti-militarism has always been integral to anarcho-syndicalism. It recognises that all states' military and police forces are there, not only to oppose other states, but to

tion to militarism and state control. To progress we must cross false national boundaries and fight for our class, then will we be able to attack the roots of militarism and not just its products. Only a truly international working class movement can do this, embracing anti-militarism as an integral part of a wider economic and political opposition to capitalism and the state.

They never said anything about this at the jobcentre



defend the ruling classes' economic interests. Thus they are ultimately for internal repression. Before WWI syndicalists were at the forefront of anti-militarist propaganda producing the famous "Don't Shoot" leaflet distributed to soldiers calling them not to turn their rifles on fellow workers, resulting in the arrest and imprisonment of several militants.

The state recognises only one legitimate use of force - its own - so any opposition to war must also oppose the state and any anti-state opposition must fight on an economic and political level. This does not mean we should embrace pacifism. Peace can only be achieved when oppression is ended. The state and its ruling class uses the ultimate threat of force to retain their status. Today this is re-enforced by military and economic alliances, NATO, EEC, Warsaw Pact etc. If one member state is threatened by external or, more importantly, internal aggression, the others can come to its aid.

Two world wars this century have profoundly affected the modern state, hastening centralisation and conformity and establishing the military at the centre of state affairs. "War is the health of the state" - and the cold war has been a means of maintaining a high level of internal stability without the uncertainty of major conflict. Major revolutionary situations have occurred when the ruling class has been divided. This includes uncertainty with and within the military. This can only be achieved through conscious working class opposi-

## The Missing Link

IRISH REPUBLICAN sources claim "hero" Capt Simon Hayward, recently caught drug-smuggling in Sweden, was going to sell them for untraceable cash to buy weapons for "plausibly deniable" death squads, the weapons being untraceable to the British army. With the Loughgall massacre earlier this year and the later near-fatal shooting of Belfast Sinn Fein councillor Alex Maskey British death squads seem to have become an increasing part of action against republican resistance. The Irish Republican Socialist Party also claim British Military Intelligence involvement in the recent INLA feud continuing a long-standing policy of assassinating IRSP leaders previously carried out by the RUC's Divisional Mobile Support Unit. Claims that Hayward is an SAS officer who organised and commanded the murder of IRA Volunteers Michael and David Devine and Charlie Breslin in Strabane haven't been denied. Hayward, "soldier A" at the inquest, gunned down the 3 unarmed men with one magazine of his Heckler & Koch assault rifle, emptied a second into them as they lay wounded, then shot each of them in the back of the head with his Browning automatic. That's what the British press call heroism.



Symbolic protest is not enough.

Such inconsistency is due to the peace movement's middle-class radicalism - it takes an essentially moral stand against nuclear weapons. It aims to be as broad as possible going for the "middle ground" in the electorate. As one former CND General Secretary stated, they wish to distance themselves

- in fact the Tories have shown a greater understanding of the situation. They knew once Cruise became operational people would quickly get used to the idea. CND's predictions of doom haven't come true and Cruise has become a fact of life. Now the latest development in the arms talks has once again shown how

their very structure. Here lies the contradiction. This is recognised by some Trotskyist groups who see unilateralism as a "transitional demand", one that seems simple but can't be achieved without fundamental change. They give critical support to CND partly in the hope of recruiting members.



# POLL TAX: DON'T MOAN ORGANISE!

It's no surprise that with the Thatcher junta's re-election that the pace of attacks on the working class has escalated. The Abolition of Domestic Rates, etc... (Scotland) Act - the Poll Tax - has now become law, having been rushed through Parliament before the election. It will be introduced on the 1st April 1989. Wales won't be affected until 1990 and England will have it phased in from 1990 to 1994.

The present rates are based on a building's size and value. The poll tax will be based on individuals so no matter how many people live in a house everyone over 18 will have to pay. In a town where the average rate is about £250 for a whole household the annual bill could rise to £1,000 under the poll tax. This will be charged with no regard to ability to pay, except prisoners, long-term hospital patients, the severely mentally handicapped and people living in nursing and residential homes. This means those on YTS, JTS, student nurses, and apprentices will be paying the full amount.

People on unemployment and supplementary benefit will have an 80% rebate. The remaining 20% will initially be covered by a top-up in their giro equivalent to 20% of the national average poll tax. However the Treasury plans to claw this top-up back by not increasing benefits in line with inflation in succeeding years. There are at present no plans to introduce an average only for

Scotland, so presumably Scottish claimants will have to find that 20% from their already miserly benefit until the rest of Britain comes into line.

This move only benefits the rich by shifting the rates burden to the poor. It also takes money from local councils - a back door way to

resources that have been and still are being ransacked by central government.

## "BETTER OFF" AREAS

A survey by Edinburgh District Council research unit established that out of Edinburgh's 62 districts only 7 will gain from the new system - in only 3 wards a household will profit by over £100. No



The north poll

cut government money to them. It will be their revenge on councils who ignored spending cuts imposed a few years back leaving poor councils with even less money to spend. Also with local authority spending cuts continually worsening, the poll tax will mean the poor paying more for

prizes for guessing they are the "better off" areas. A similar situation will occur in Glasgow and throughout Scotland. Severe collection difficulties will mean that income not collected in a particular year will be added to the following year's poll tax to make up the deficit.

A "community register" of people to pay the poll tax will include all those on the electoral register. To avoid payment people will have to get their names off the register. So only those who pay can vote - in effect voting will be privatised. Many people don't vote anyway but avoiding the poll tax will be further incentive to abstain. The penalty for not registering and not giving notice of address changes range from £50 to £200. Some people will be able to dodge the poll tax but with no proof of payment they'd be barred from local resources. It seems inevitable that an ID card to gain access to local services will be introduced as proof of payment. So the poll tax will also be a means of eligibility to use local authority resources - libraries, hospitals, housing, etc.

## DEVASTATING

Since the poll tax's consequences will be devastating - even death for those denied health care or homes - it's essential we organise within the community to fight it. The Labour Party, although opposed to it, only propose to fight its introduction in England - well thank you very much that will help us in Scotland a lot! Community health groups and squatting groups and so on, would be run by the people for the people outside the control of local or central government. During the miners' strike a massive amount of aid was given by ordinary working class communities. Industrial organisation returning such aid to community groups would

make them strong by uniting the two. Organisations from different areas uniting will be essential too. The government will adjust their tactics to account for unexpected methods of resistance. We must learn from mistakes and successes made in one place and apply the lessons everywhere. There is really little choice in a matter of life or death.

## RESIST TO EXIST

**SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER**  
**"RESISTANCE TO THE POLL TAX:"**

The Scottish DAM and other libertarian groups have organised a meeting to discuss the Poll Tax's effects in Scotland and the later repercussions in the rest of Britain. Topics for discussion will include past forms of civil resistance including the anarchist-influenced rent strikes in Glasgow during the world war 1 and more recent forms of protest as seen in South Africa besides the more central issue of the increased hardships this tax will inflict on the working class.

Further information on the time and venue from:  
Edinburgh DAM, Box 83, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh 1; or  
Bellshill/Glasgow DAM, Box DAM, Clydeside Press, 37 High Street, Glasgow.

**WELL-PRODUCED** leaflet "The New Poll Tax what will it mean to you?" available from Box A, 167 Fawcett Road, Southsea, Portsmouth 1.

# Educational Apartheid?

Since the start of September 25 kids have been held back from attending Headfield C of E school in Dewsbury. Their parents alleged that with 85% of pupils being Asian, the school could not provide the education they wanted; despite it being C of E there is insufficient emphasis on "Christian teachings"; X-mas is not celebrated; chapatis are made on Shrove Tuesday; and their children's abilities will be hampered by the large presence of Asian children. Recently they backedpeddled on these claims as they have no basis in fact - Headfield seems to be well-equipped and pupils' academic achievements are above average.

The parents' campaign is backed by right wing ex-Tory MP John Whitfield and the notorious ex-head of Drummond School in Bradford, Ray Honeyford. Other racists like the NF have been quick to jump on the publicity bandwagon. With the help of the mass media the whole affair has been presented in terms of parental choice and educational standards but it's perfectly clear that the real issue is racism. Press coverage has predictably refused to tackle this portraying the parents as "heroes". Amongst all the hypocrisy at least one parent has openly stated their true feeling: "I don't want any of my kids mixing

with any pakis".

Baker and the Tories have in the past pushed the notion of parental choice, but Dewsbury shows how segregation of children along race or class lines can easily occur. Those parents - middle class whites - who can afford to move their children to "better" schools will do so, leaving working class communities, particularly in inner cities, further "ghettoised". Most children would be trapped in a downward spiral of educational standards as funding is sucked into the most "popular" schools, giving the rest a 2nd rate status. In a racist class society Baker's



Parent Power in a racist society means a green light for educational apartheid

"parental choice" makes social apartheid inevitable.

Meanwhile the 25 children continue to be used as pawns in their parents' media campaign, as tools of their prejudice. A statement by Kirklees Black Workers Group suggests who the real heroes are - "The white parents of the children left at Headfield School who have made a stand for multi-racial education, and the Asian parents of the

children at Headfield who have been subjected to a smear campaign". The well-organised campaign hasn't gone unopposed. Local anti-racists and teachers have held demonstrations to highlight the campaign's racism. Anti-racists should draw attention to the real implications of the "parental choice" soon to be introduced to the education system and their effect on many working class communities.

# Tell Sid BP Means Apartheid

BP'S PRIVATISATION will earn the government several £billion. The new shareholders will be living "popular capitalism" according to the Tories. On their past record several MP's will "over-subscribe" - (buy shares under several names, etc). The law and media will ignore their "free enterprise" of fiddling unlike "dole scroungers" and other pilloried scapegoats. The workers who will actually produce wealth for BP shareholders will still be attacked by state forces - police, judiciary, etc - if they take industrial action. Perhaps the media will tell them they are "holding the multinational to ransom" on the lines of "holding the country to ransom" when it was nationalised. BP South Africa's wage-slaves are paid below minimum wages and endure shocking conditions. It's through such exploitation that BP makes its profits. How many shareholders will want an end to apartheid, wages and conditions improve and thus their profits fall? - very few if any! For so-called "popular capitalism" read "popular exploitation/popular apartheid" and tell Sid to wake up or get a black fist in that smug face.



# Working For Bureaucrats

Hackney, along with other Labour-controlled boroughs, is rate-capped again. Having set the same rate as last year at £145 million (a cut in itself), the rate cap is set at £128 million, also the same as before. Deprived of the money to actually provide services rather than the bulk which goes on vote-winning and funding a whole class of bureaucratic parasites created by trendy left councils, the first cuts are on the way.

True to form, the council and its managers are attacking the poorest people, and jobs and conditions of those providing services. Housing action areas, vital in supporting private tenants, are being wound up totally. Other housing department workers are resisting the offer of only 2 sub-standard, hastily done up choices of accommodation (usually it's 4) to people in bed and breakfast - a discriminating practice de-

signed to make people "intentionally" homeless. The targets are mostly Bangladeshi or Irish - it is no less racist than Liberal Tower Hamlets' policy from a council that's "really serious about equal opportunities".

Hackney's housing crisis is particularly acute, with thousands of empty properties waiting for years for repairs and about twice as many people homeless. The council

cannot house people but still treats squatters as part of the problem. To make it worse one proposed way to cut costs is to sell off assets, including empty council houses. These won't be bought by local people, but by developers, who will convert them to luxury housing for yuppies.

This is municipal "socialism" in action. The cuts will be blamed on the Tories, but not only are Labour more than willing to make them (and their anti-working class bias is seen in the targets) but are to blame for them in the first place. The Arden Report on corruption outlined what local people could have told them without Arden's vast fee. That is, although a very poor borough the small amount of money available to Hackney for improvements is largely wasted - up to 75% of it! This means cuts hit basic

services as management will make sure services and not waste is cut.

## A "SOCIALIST" LIBRARY SERVICE

The real waste is overpaid top-heavy and incompetent management. "Left" Labour councils thrive on endless memos, proposals, and point-scoring schemes about making services "community-based" by people who've no idea how to do it. Ask for decent pay and conditions or enough staff to provide an adequate service and you get stony silence. Learn the right phrases and write a load of bullshit using them and they're all ears (you'll probably get re-graded - about £25 a week more for senior management). Local Labour leaderships and council managements belong to the same trendy left bureaucratic class and it's in their, not the working class', interests that they act. Reports which play the right tune look good on their writers', and their equally careerist political masters' CV's.

A classic example of waste versus services and Labour-approved managements' class bias is "management restructuring" in Hackney libraries. The first alarm bells rang when staff shortages caused by management cuts (unfilled vacancies) were ignored. Over 10% of staff are missing - a real problem when trying to provide a service. The next came when it was proposed to remove senior staff from useful jobs to make them into a workable management structure, creating a 15-20% staff shortage! It means library assistants (like shop assistants) doing senior staff's work as well as their own. No chance of re-grading (a living wage at last?) for them but for existing management who do nothing useful it'll be automatic even though they are merely raised to the top of the whole structure. And it'll fuck the public up because there'll never be staff

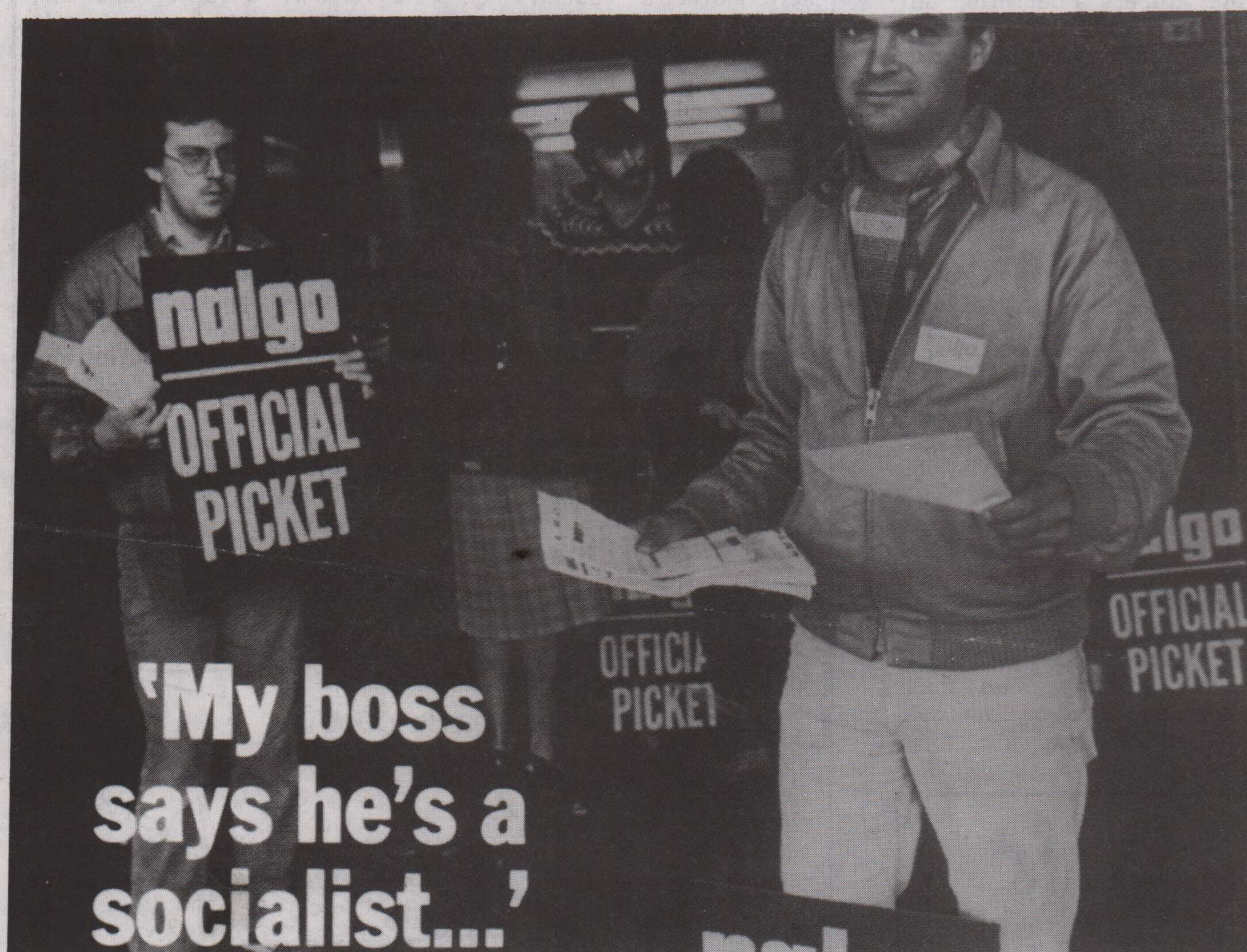
enough in libraries to get them open. Existing management get enough between them to pay for about 10 library assistants. Cutting the bastards and creating a worker-managed structure would do a lot more good. Now that would be a truly socialist library service.

## EXPULSION MANAGEMENT

With rate-capping attacks starting and privatisation due once Tory Westminster has tested it out council workers need to fight back. We are hampered by the number of council unions, and by the fact that white collar unions recruit management grades as well as workers. Many manual workers refer to their management as NALGO as they are often members of that union. Workers in NALGO must unite with manual grades, and the first step is expelling all senior managers from our union. These bastards are our enemy. They are to blame for waste, inefficiency and cuts which affect council workers and service users alike. We must then build rank and file unity across the unions on a class basis, act, and argue our case with the public to gain support.

In March Islington housing advisors struck when suspended for taking minimal action in support of a re-grading claim (see May DA). They won through solid action supported by other workers and are negotiating to regain pay lost in the dispute. If we strike we must do so secure in the knowledge we are acting in the interests of those who use public services, and let them know that. We must also be united, and only the rank and file can achieve that unity, not official empty declarations. Unite and fight against the management, and all bosses!

Contact: DAM Council Workers,  
84b Whitechapel  
High Street,  
London E1.



## Wage Demolition

A STRUGGLE over wages and conditions has been going on for over 3 months at an Ogdens building site in Liverpool. The TGWU had managed to unionise about a dozen workers when Ogdens started victimising the shop steward and on Thursday 25th June - the wettest day in June since 1920 - he was told to work without any wet weather gear or go home, so he went home. The next day the workers downed tools because Ogdens wouldn't pay him for the day before and refused to let him on the site.

About 30 scabs were brought in so calls went out to other workers and the picket line grew from a dozen to hundreds. The day the scabs lost there were 800 pickets. The police were totally outnumbered and didn't even attempt to take the scabs

MERSEYSIDE Health Authority are forcing yet more cuts in their hospitals by getting cheaper firms to do tendered work, buying less supplies and - most dangerous of all - changing nurses' rotas to reduce the overlap between shifts. At Crewe's Leighton hospital the changes have already been accepted in the accident and emergency section. Staff in 1 of the most overworked parts of the hospital now work 12 hour shifts for 3 days at a time.

through. The shop steward won full pay for lost time and the workers returned on July 20th.

On the first week back, however, Ogdens dropped the wages to £80. So again the workers have gone on strike. Attempts to spread the strike to other Ogden sites and other building sites regardless of employer and calls to other workers on Merseyside for solidarity must be made. If workers run the strike themselves, elect their own strike committee delegates subject to recall, hold regular assemblies to work out what to do, then chances of victory will be improved.

## Healthy Anger

Management forced through change by conning workers that they'd be consulted first. In fact staff were asked what shift change they preferred rather than if they wanted one and to put their names to their opinions. Workers at the hospital tell us that despite widespread anger there's not much chance of action. But it has resulted in some interest in the Health Workers' Action Group - a rank and file health workers' group.



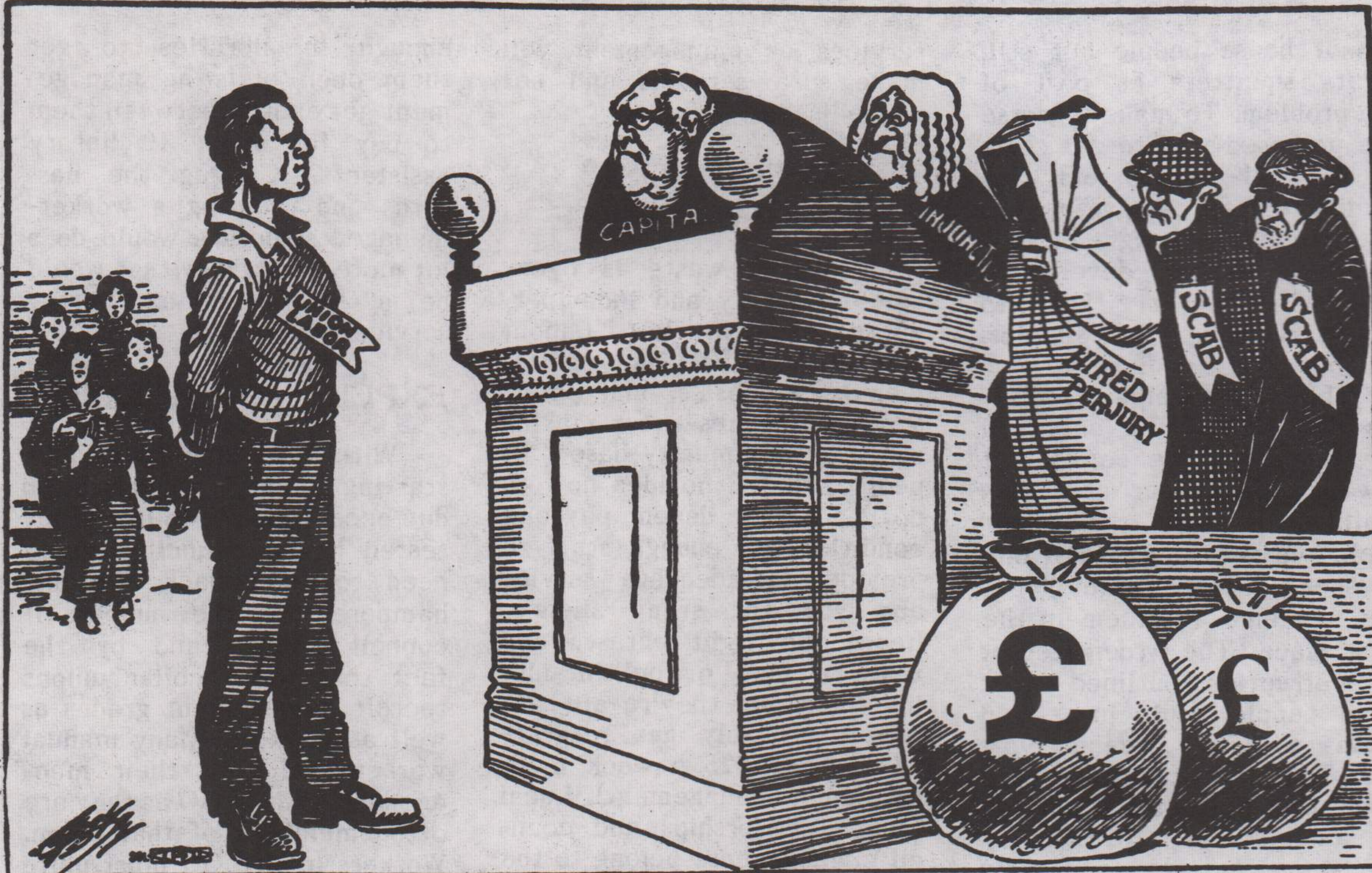
## FAT CATS!

CPSA GENERAL SECRETARY, John Ellis is up in arms as his union's "Militant"-dominated executive has decided to cut his pay rise and sell his "company" car. He even tried to convince John Macreadie that this was the same as attacking "his" members' working conditions, and that even if he was paid £100,000 he'd feel the same way about them. As he only gets paid £27,000 a year, 4 times what UBO workers get, I don't doubt this is true, it has obviously never occurred to him that that in

itself is wrong. Another complaint is that the Trotskyists cannot grasp the idea that they themselves are employers. Militant employs printworkers in its press and pays them union rates, but most which is above dole level is "donated" to the party. Macreadie is elected for a term of 5 years and is not recallable. As a member of Militant he is answerable not to any CPSA members, but to the leadership of Militant. Which do you prefer, right wing bureaucrats or Trotskyist ones?



# Lying With Two Tongues



History is the on-going struggle between authority and liberty.

"YOU TELL ME your truth and I'll tell you mine" - this was the basic idea of the Channel 4 series "The Dragon Has Two Tongues" that ended its repeat showing last month. Two historians - Wynford Vaughan Thomas, giving the "traditional" view and Professor Gwyn Alf Williams, the Marxist "alternative" - argued their way through 2000 years of Welsh history.

This was all quite interesting but beneath it lay the 2 dominant historical viewpoints on offer today. One, the liberal "common sense" view is propagated through school, the media and popular culture and sees history as a progression from savagery to enlightenment. It also sees the state as the agency that assisted in this. The "common multitude" is slowly absorbed and pacified by higher authority. The alternative Marx-

ist viewpoint has become dominant in many further education and academic circles. This sees history as a dialectical development through epochs to the inevitable triumph of the proletariat. This means that only when certain stages are reached can a new era begin. Generally this, like the liberals, sees history as a progression from a bad past to a better future.

## CLASS WARFARE

These views were more evident when the series reached the period 1880 to 1914 which witnessed the rise of socialist thought and working class agitation in Wales as well as the rest of Britain. Amazingly both historians managed to talk about events in 1910-1914, with open class warfare in South Wales, without reference to syndicalism which had become the dominant working class revolutionary curr-

ent especially with South Wales Miners' Federation militants. This wouldn't have fitted in their historical theses so it was ignored. The Welsh had to support Lloyd George or Karl Marx. There could be no interlopers especially a political idea that grew from action not theory.

What we need is another alternative - a view of history that takes into account the actions of ordinary people, that sees history not as a progression but as a dualistic process with a struggle constantly being waged between rulers and ruled, authority and liberty, order-givers and order-takers. Only then will events such as the syndicalist revolt be afforded its proper place, only then will working class history be of the working class themselves and not of the self-appointed leaders.

# State Censorship - No Way!



The band that shocked the moral majority

**THE FAR RIGHT** Parents' Music Resource Centre's campaign to "clean up" music was set-back recently when Jello Biafra of the American punk band, The Dead Kennedys, and Michael Bonnano, ex-Alternative Tentacles Records, were acquitted of "distributing matter harmful to minors". The offending article was a free poster juxtaposing human genitals with butchers' slabs making a statement on how sex is used as a commodity".

The judge declared a mistrial when the jury voted 7-5 for acquittal and refused prosecution demands for a retrial. It was clear that the Dead Kennedys' beliefs were on trial rather than the poster - songs were played and the prosecution analysed the lyrics at length. The band is extremely vocal in opposing the Moral Majority, so are prime targets for state censorship. The Los Angeles City Attorney who brought the case

after PMRC complaints admitted he aimed to cripple the band and silence Jello Biafra who faced jail if convicted.

## CLAMPDOWN

This is just one aspect of an attempt to clamp down on forms of culture not conforming to the White Anglo-Saxon Protestant ideal. New regulations are on the way to stop certain kinds of musicians, journalists and speakers entering the US. Considering the influence of American ideology on Britain's rulers the trial has serious implications. Music is an immediate and direct form of communication and, as in the Spanish revolution, is an ideal medium for expressing anarchist ideas. Attempts to suppress dissent must be resisted.

Due to of their fierce independence and refusal to deal with major record companies the band received virtually no support from the recording industry, and have relied on collections and benefits to meet \$65,000 legal costs. To make a donation, or for more information, contact: No More Censorship Defence Fund, c/o 61-71 Collier Street, London N1.

# —OBITUARY—

ON THURSDAY August 27th 1987, Keith Campbell, a dear comrade and friend of ours, died suddenly of a heart attack at his home in Dunganon, County Tyrone. He was 23. We know he had many friends, not only in West Yorkshire, but throughout the country via Black Flag and DAM and we would like to let them know of his death. Keith's wit, courage and friendship will be sincerely missed here and, we're sure, by all others who knew him. We shall always remember him with fondness as a friend and for his invaluable contribution to the Club.



From all at the  
1 in 12 Club,  
Bradford.

# Unemployed Victory!

**BOLTON** Unemployed Workers' Centre (BUWC) recently took and won a Social Security tribunal case which could set a precedent for thousands of other claimants.

The case involved a young woman who had been living in her mother's council house but who was forced, because of violence against her by her mother, to move to other unfurnished accommodation.

The claimant then applied for a single payment to cover the cost of furnishing her new accommodation, eg for a bed and bedding, a table, chairs, a cooker, etc.

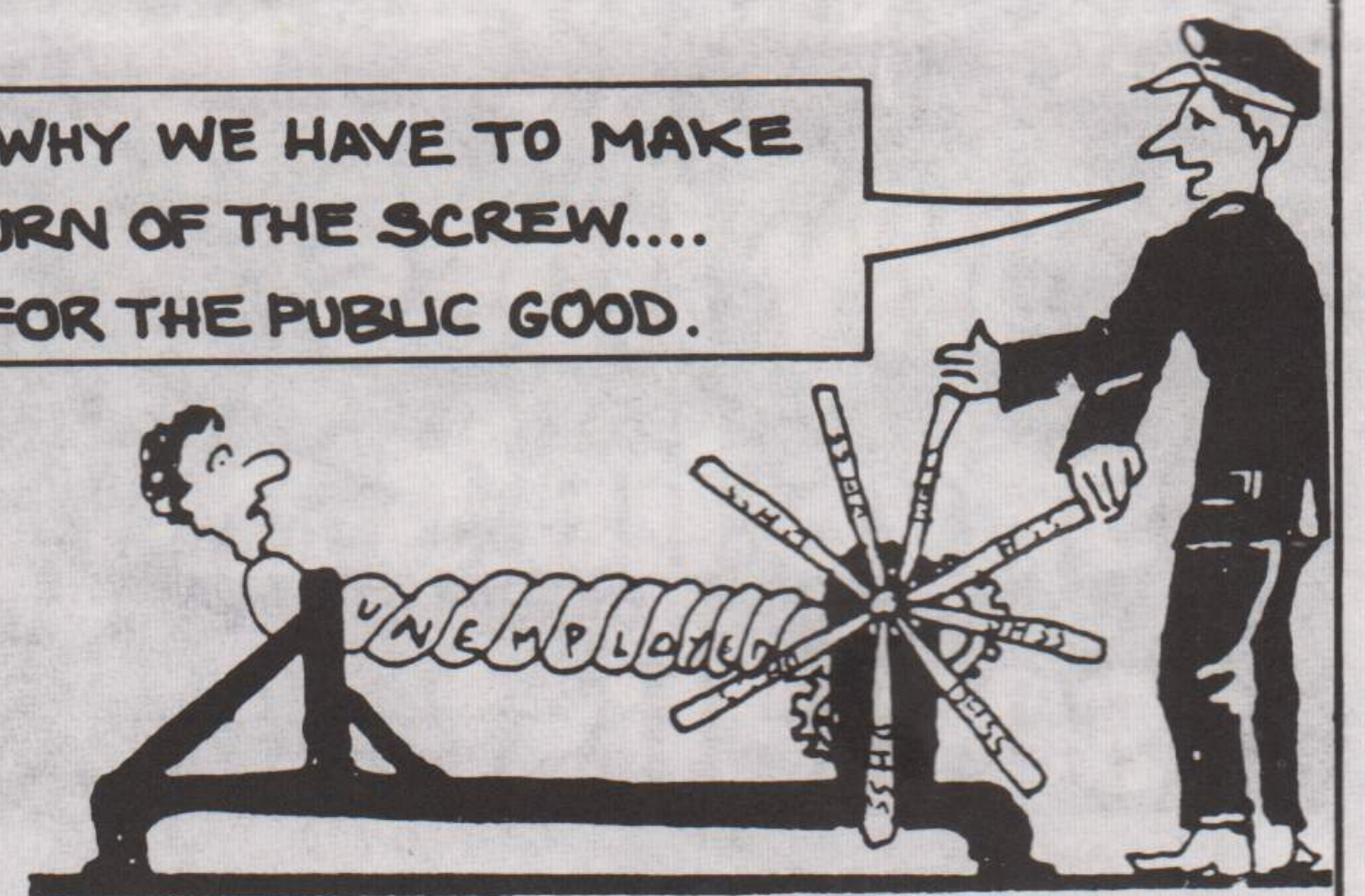
Her claim was refused, and the appeal was centred on the adjudication officer's argument that in the terms of the single payment regulation 13 (1) (c), the claimant was not a "partner" in a "relationship" which had broken down.

The tribunal though ruled that "the construction put on the regulation by the DHSS that it only applies to cohabiting couples is not correct and that it could apply to other relationships, such as two members of the same sex or parent and child. So, 2 friends, a father and son, a brother and sister are only some of the many possible variants of "relationships" which could be affected by this ruling.

Whilst BUWC deserves credit and congratulations for winning this case, what is most important is that other claimants, appellants and groups representing them make use of it - the definitions of "partners" and "relationships" can be extended.

Bolton Unemployed  
Workers' Centre,  
16 Wood St,  
Bolton,  
Lancs.

YOU KNOW WHY WE HAVE TO MAKE  
ANOTHER TURN OF THE SCREW....  
IT'S ALL FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD.



# —BREAD RIOTS—

**VOICE of Solidarity** has reported a series of riots and workers' demonstrations against food shortages in Rumania. These particular events, in the town of Cluj, came after a bread queue which had apparently been waiting for 10 hours, was informed there would be "no bread today".

The shop was turned over and the brave police, when they arrived, were chased to the top of an apartment block. After trying to defend themselves by throwing water over the demonstrators they were attacked and beaten. Interestingly enough bread duly arrived but not before demonstrators had painted "Down with the Ceausescu dictatorship" across walls and shop-fronts! Similar demonstrations took place in factories calling for better wages and public provisions but, as the **VOICE of Solidarity** correspondent points out, "these protests soon died, because the regime was wise enough to

send a lorryful of bread instead of the police or they send some unidentifiable meat which is quickly distributed free of charge".

Clearly the Rumanian state - with a new twist to 57 varieties of Marxism, attempting to institute "dynastic Communism" under the benign gaze of the Ceausescu clan - is fearful enough of the mood of a working class who endure the worst living standards in Europe, not to risk widespread militancy. The lessons of the '70's when a free union movement developed in Rumania have been learnt by the state. It remains to be seen just how long the Rumanian working class remains satisfied with meat and bread hand-outs in place of the decent living standards that are their, and our, right.

Source: Voice of Solidarity,  
215 Balham High  
Road,  
London SW17.  
(sub £12 per year)



# STRUGGLES AHEAD IN SPAIN

At the AESA shipyard in Puerto Real in Andalusia, southern Spain, the anarcho-syndicalist union, the CNT-AIT (National Confederation of Labour, Spanish section of the IWA) has been in the thick of the struggle against re-deployment which involves many workers losing their jobs (see DA's 41 and 42). The following is an interview taken from September's *Le Combat Syndicaliste* (paper of the French CNT-IWA) with Pepe Gomez of the CNT union section in Puerto Real:



Resisting police attacks

Q: Now you've won some concessions notably construction of a ship, won't this risk demobilising the workers?

A: Since the last general assembly called by all union sections (CCOO, UGT, CNT, CAT) on July 9th we've broken relations with the others as they wanted to sign a worse agreement than previously. We decided to continue the fight and prepare a general strike throughout Cadiz industrial zone. The following week we called an assembly attended by 1,500 workers.

Workers well understand the contract is due to their struggle. As other unions and the works committee no longer want to call assemblies the contract will give the CNT a few months' respite...to hold meetings throughout the district, with slides of the struggle and to denounce the agreements signed and other unions' refusal to organise assemblies. We want to show that 1 ship means nothing... Once we've covered all of Puerto Real we'll call a general assembly of the population - if other unions don't join us (we'd like to call it together) we'll denounce them and do it in the CNT's name.

We want it all to coincide with what will happen from October, November and December onwards with the thousands of workers whom 3 years ago the government promised and signed new jobs or re-instatement if they agreed to go on the FPE (National Fund for Promotion of Employment - workers would be paid 80% of basic pay for 3 years). As we know they can't keep their promises we can expect important struggles throughout the country.

Q: Nationally, what precisely do you see happening given the UGT and CCOO remain the largest unions?

A: We've prepared meetings with all minority unions like

the Left Current in Asturias, a major force in small and medium yards with some prestige like the CNT in Puerto Real; INTGA, a Galician nationalist union which also has a good base; CAT of Euskalduna in the Basque Country which is a significant force there...if we unite our potential we can mobilise 20-30,000 shipyard workers outside the bureaucratic unions. We'll have the meetings without the UGT and CCOO who favour a social contract with the state and bosses. Although they haven't signed the new pact, they'll reach a tacit agreement...

From this the CCOO particularly, will expose its contradictions. For example in the ASTANO yard (Asturias) the majority of workers are in the CCOO, which will have to call an assembly and if, simultaneously, we do information work and our call is sufficiently solid and united, we can develop a strategy of direct action in the affected areas - something that is difficult to do alone.

Q: What makes the CNT's actions so difficult?

A: When for example, we called the last workers' assembly in Puerto Real alone there were cops from all over Andalusia, sent by the civil governor. From the start all acts of terrorism, delinquency, and sabotage of telephone lines have been systematically blamed on the CNT. When we made a call alone the governor seized the opportunity to hit our organisation hard.

## POLICE SET-UPS

We must be careful, especially now, to maintain momentum, not get isolated and avoid police set-ups as have happened before. Most importantly for the CNT in Puerto Real is that the struggle and radicalisation continues to be taken up by the workers' and community assemblies. Our

role is to organise the means to defend all workers.

Our outlook is that after this summer the struggle will broaden but in the future, on the fundamental question of re-deployment, we won't succeed. The balance of forces today favours the Socialist Party who can rely on the UGT to dampen social protest, and the CCOO who give the impression that it's radical but in

practice prepare ground for the Communist Party and its electoral project within the "united left". Thus they need to demobilise so workers remain dependent on politicians and their pipedreams. However they are in a deep financial crisis in maintaining their bureaucracy. Although, on the fundamental question we won't succeed, the conflict create a revolutionary dynamic - many CCOO comrades have torn

up their membership cards and joined the CNT.

It's clear redeployment is worldwide and that today's situation favours capitalism. The exemplary struggles waged by workers over the last 10 years and the fact they've seen in practice how they are manipulated, frustrated and betrayed forms a base from which the CNT can grow and build its organisation.

## A Leap into the Fire

"Tulips from Amsterdam" goes the Radio 2 favourite. "A Direct Action gardening spot?", you ask - no, but the point is the majority of workers in the bulb fields and export factories are British or Irish youth escaping the poverty of life in 2 of the fastest declining economies in western Europe. However, the "escape" isn't from rags to riches but to some of the worst working conditions I've endured - badly paid work in primitive and insecure employment. It's merely a leap from the frying pan into the fire.



Behind the glossy image lies a painful reality

There are 2 categories of employment. "Peelers" get a piece rate - machine workers are on a fixed hourly rate on a sliding scale according to age (a 23-year old can earn almost double that of a 17/18 year old!). Peeling is dirty, and boring. If you work very hard, you may get about £1.10 an hour - most get less and the majority can only stand 4 or 5 hours' work a day in the most mind-numbing job I've ever done. Prolonged contact with bulbs can cause a form of dermatitis - the flesh under the nails becomes raw and extremely painful putting you out of work. Machine workers are better paid but work a 12 hour day with no overtime

rates and little more than an hour for breaks.

There's no canteen facilities; washing facilities are often no more than a solitary outside tap; toilet facilities, particularly for women (often 60-70% of workers) are primitive and unsanitary. A new twist in recent years is the night shift, introduced in 1 factory last year as "a temporary measure during the rush" but now becoming a permanent feature. Night shift workers - all sorting or counting machine ops - again do 12 hours' work with the same breaks and no additional overtime, night work or free meal bonuses.

As the point of coming to Holland for many of us is the chance to spend some money on the good things - and sometimes the bad things - in life, many resort to taking uppers, with the resultant damage to health, in order not only to stay awake during the long hard 12 hour shift but also during the weekend. If anything keeps body and soul together it's Friday and Saturday nights on the town. If you don't work these hours you're sacked and, as accommodation - often no more than a couple of square yards of "campsite" in rough land behind the factory - usually goes with the job, you end up homeless as well as penniless and to swim the English Channel is difficult! Incidents of workers being stropky and getting sacked, with no savings to move on or find a house with are common.

## ORGANISATION

Yet it's true that for those who stick it a good time can be had. The vast majority are young, footloose and sharp enough to find an opening and, in the meantime, there's enough common solidarity so nobody goes without a bite to eat or a drink. But the fact also remains the work needn't be hard, badly paid and insecure. Given the product's fragility, a 2-day strike could ruin a quarter of the crop. A little organisation and commitment could get a better deal all round.

There have been wildcat strikes, often lasting only 2 or 3 hours bringing instant reward. Employers are often reluctant to call the police to evict workers risking prosecution for employing labour on the black economy. So the bulb farmers' situation is extremely precarious and could be easily exploited by united action. But effective industry-wide action won't come through 1 or 2 isolated militants. What is needed to organise migrant labour in Holland and, by example, thousands of other migrant agricultural workers in Europe, is people on the spot clued up on labour legislation to assist the isolated rank and file agitators on the farms. Only then will we see change, a change benefiting anarcho-syndicalism not only in Holland but further afield and in Britain too. We await a response from comrades both inside and outside the militant anarcho-syndicalist influenced Dutch union, the OVB.



# Watt's Going On?

DA32, September 1986, featured a disclosure by Tom Watt in City Limits that he is an anarcho-syndicalist. This puzzled us somewhat as it's not unusual for vaguely liberal types to call themselves "anarchist" but "anarcho-syndicalist" is a bit more specific. In August Direct Action interviewed Tom about his activities (political or otherwise), "East Enders" and the acting profession in general.

Q: What was your background before being an actor - like work and union activities?

TW: My background was a nice comfortable middle class one. My parents were both teachers. I grew up in Holloway/Finsbury Park - round there. When I left school I worked for a year at an electronics factory and the words "trade union" were never mentioned. I wasn't particularly concerned or interested at the time - only in doing the job, getting the money and getting drunk. Then I went up to Manchester and did a degree in drama. At the same time I started a theatre company called the "Inner Threat" which did two or three productions.

Q: Political productions?

TW: Well no, it was more political in the way it was organised. One of the plays was political called "Lay-by" about rape and pornography and the connection between the two. These were away from the university and mainly for theatres in Manchester.

Q: Fringe theatres?

TW: Well, we did do some at the Lesser Free Trade Hall. Manchester council are quite good like that. They'll let anyone use premises and if you write them a nice letter they'll give you £500 or so ...Then I left the country for a couple of years, travelled in Guatemala and Mexico and lived in San Francisco working as a bicycle messenger for a year...Then I came back here and started a theatre co-op with a group of

like-minded people who wanted to do theatre in a particular way...its one thing to talk about doing political plays - that's one small part of it - it's much more important in how you organise what you're going to do. There's a lot of, well, boring political plays that aren't going to reach anyone who doesn't already know what you're talking about.

Q: We realise you don't write "Eastenders" but do you agree it has a liberal perception of working class people, for example the unemployed are portrayed only as victims who either become prostitutes or have breakdowns; there are no trade unionists or community activists who may see their condition in any kind of political light.

TW: Yeah, I think that's a fair observation. (laughter)

Q: Well, do you discuss it with the scriptwriters?

TW: No, you don't have any say in what happens, you only have a say in the words they put in the character's mouth.

Q: There are complaints by 1 actor in "Eastenders" about the portrayal of black people.

TW: I haven't talked to her about that, about what she was getting at, but you've got to appreciate that the thing was written and thought up by middle-aged, for the most part middle-class, white people. So I don't think it's a question of conscious racism or anything like that... I'm sure if you put them on the spot about what their

values are they'd claim to be non-racist, non-sexist, etc. It's not just in "East Enders" - it happens everywhere - there's so few black writers, directors and producers. That means no matter how hard people try to be motivated about things they end up writing about things they know nothing about. The trouble with television is that subjects like racism and industrial struggles are always dealt with as something separate. They might have a drama or documentary about, say, the miners' strike, but you

Q: So why get involved?

TW: Well, I still think you have to stand up and be counted. I'm not a great one for "not doing". I don't think that "Hands Across Britain" will be instead of other activities.

Q: But "Hands Across Britain" included Tory politicians and bishops - we don't think that was a small step in the right direction but a positive hindrance to effective action.

TW: Yes, I understand what

instead of going to Wapping or doing other things.

Q: You're a member of Equity - do you "black" people who have worked in South Africa?

TW: 3 or 4 years ago the membership voted to "black" all performers who worked in S Africa and to an extent it was successful although it's difficult to tell on the shopfloor, so to speak, whether British actors are placing work in South Africa. I haven't heard of anyone being barred from the union.

Q: Would you personally refuse to work with someone who had worked in South Africa?

TW: Yes, but that's easy for me to say, isn't it.

Q: Have you or any others attempted to influence those involved in commercials for firms in dispute. We were thinking particularly of the recent Silentnight dispute?

TW: I'd have to say no. The only situation in which I've ever tried to talk to other actors is about things like Wapping, South Africa and sexist representations in the media. I wouldn't try to talk an actor out of a job or to try and talk an actor into a particular way of doing it. The profession is structured so that we are all self-employed and it's not as though anyone ever talks about their contracts and terms of employment. I don't believe it's up to me to get on a high horse about it. I don't personally like it which is why I'm part of an actors' co-op who do discuss conditions, what we're doing, etc.

Q: Did you vote in June?

TW: No, I didn't even get down to the polling booth this time. The last 2 elections I went down and spoilt my ballot paper.



won't find it related to people's everyday lives.

Q: You were involved in "Hands Across Britain". Don't you feel such stunts encourage people to passivity instead of taking direct action to affect their lives, and to rely on "personalities" to embarrass the government into some kind of action?

TW: Yes, I do.

you're talking about. Obviously it was a wet fart of monstrous proportions, but I don't know to what extent energy was diverted by it. People are just as likely to think: "Well, that didn't do any fucking good, did it, what should we be doing?". I take your point but I got involved believing that pissing against the wind is better than not pissing at all. It wasn't something I did

## Letters

Dear comrades,

RECENTLY in my workplace I discovered the intimidating aspect of fascism in 2 categories, ie Red Fascism and Blue Fascism.

The bewildering phenomenon arose when a large crate arrived from the postal bay with the spray-painted message, "Victory to the Ulster National Front", across it. The fact that there's a large section of black/immigrant workers employed at my factory inspired me to attack this racism. I jumped out of my seat and raced towards my supervisor demanding that the graffiti be removed and that I and the black employee who

supported me be assured that no racist view would be tolerated in the workplace.

The response was very patronising and misguided because, as my supervisor is a Communist and Welsh, he explained it did not affect him and it was only graffiti. He also accused anarchism of wanting to wipe out millions of people which I countered saying we'd use the necessary force to counter the bourgeoisie's violence and that we wanted unity not race war. In the end we demanded the graffiti be removed by refusing to work (a sackable offence), explaining the slogan on the crate was insulting to the ethnic minorities in the workplace and stressing that I was the son of a Ukrainian who suffered at the Fascists' and Communists' hands in the

war and after the Russian revolution.

When the postal bay representative arrived the supervisor reluctantly complained. A very meek letter was sent to the union saying "certain members of staff find the graffiti offensive and so can you please have it removed". The supervisor still found it amusing and I had to suffer the usual taunts of "all Ukrainians are Nazis". I think the attitude of the Communist supervisor shows how half-hearted the left are in believing in certain liberties like gay rights, anti-fascist campaigns, etc. Also it's a fact that both Fascism and Communism, left and right tend to rotate full circle and express their totalitarian fascist tendencies.

Due to the recent attacks upon us by the RCP and the looming spectre of the NF I think it necessary that we as individuals act against racism and fascism in the workplace AND community and combat them on every level. The feeble and complacent argument of "ignore and they'll go away" is disgusting, trivial and crass in my view and only direct action can fight racism, organised or otherwise, effectively.

In my workplace there are many divisions - maybe work is a microcosm of society in general - we have Protestant, white, male-dominated structures which unfortunately encourage racist, sexist, patriarchal attitudes.

Consequently fascism, left or right, is a threat to peo-

ple's freedom. I feel the racism/fascism I encountered serves as a warning to anarchists - we must live the struggle day-to-day and be under no illusions about how formidable our enemies are. We must not shirk the responsibility of fighting oppression to someone else - we must use our solidarity to its full extent and fight state-condoned racism. The very fact that a crate carrying that diseased message was allowed to be wheeled around for weeks for the workforce to see was a startling fact of apathy and self-denial and it is up to all sound-minded, concerned individuals to combat the threat of fascism and destroy it forever more.

Yours in struggle,

AP

## FASCISM AT WORK



# Ideas Live On

The time will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you are throttling today!

- inscription on Haymarket martyrs monument in Chicago.

Last year anarchists and syndicalists remembered the centenary of the Haymarket riot in Chicago - the 1st Mayday - which started the train of

events leading to the suicide of one worker and state murder of 4 others. These men have become known as the Haymarket martyrs.

## MEETINGS

"All Our Lives" video and discussion on women organising in the Spanish revolution:

Glasgow: Friday October 23rd - 7.30-9.30pm - City Halls, Albion St.

Edinburgh: Saturday October 24th - 2.00-4.00pm - Gateway Exchange, Abbeymount, E2.

Russia - Revolution and Counter-Revolution:

London: Tuesday 13th October - 7.30pm - Amersham Arms, Amersham Road, New Cross, SE14.

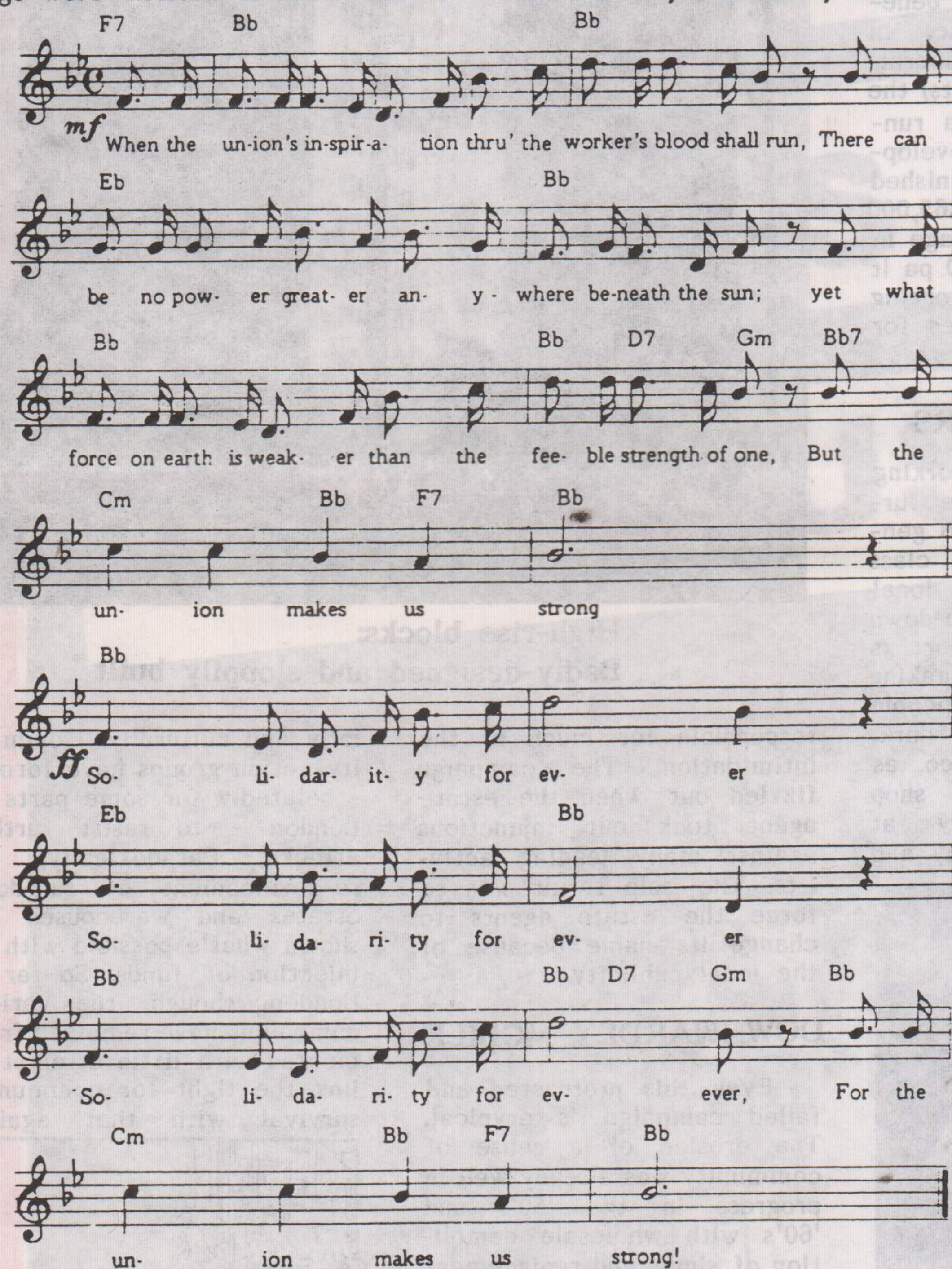
London: Monday 26th October - 8.15pm - Streatham Library, Streatham High Road, Streatham.

## Songs of Resistance

"SOLIDARITY FOREVER" is one of the most famous IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) songs. It was written by Ralph Chaplin, an active "Wobbly" organiser, poet, cartoonist and journalist who was inspired by the great Kanawha Valley miners' strike in West Virginia. Many IWW songs were written to traditional or

popular tunes, partly to make them easier to spread, partly as parody. "Solidarity Forever" is sung to the tune of "John Brown's Body".

If you have any songs and music you would like included please send a copy to SRR, c/o Doncaster DAM, PO Box 96, Doncaster, South Yorks.



Is there aught we hold in common with the greedy parasite  
Who would lash us into serfdom and would crush us with his might?  
Is there anything left to us but to organise and fight?  
For the union keeps us strong.  
Chorus...

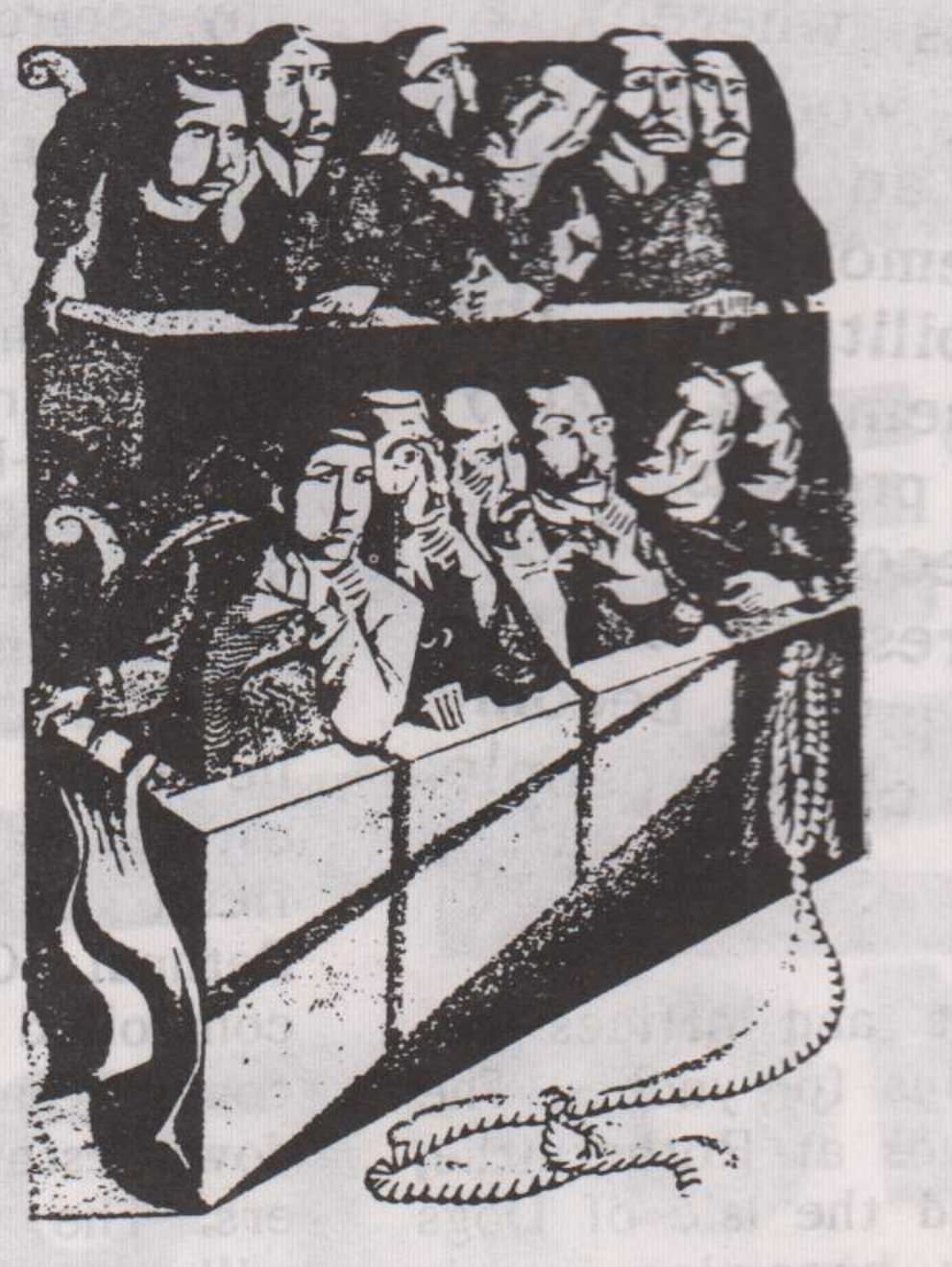
It is we who ploughed the prairies, built the cities where they trade,  
Dug the mines and built the workshops, endless miles of railroad laid.  
Now we stand outcast and starving 'midst the wonders we have made,  
But the union makes us strong.  
Chorus...

All the world that's owned by idle drones is ours and ours alone.  
We have laid the wide foundations, built it skyward stone by stone.  
It is ours, not to slave in, but to master and to own,  
While the union makes us strong.  
Chorus...

They have taken untold millions that they never toiled to earn,  
But without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn.  
We can break their haughty power, gain our freedom when we learn  
That the union makes us strong.  
Chorus...

In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold,  
Greater than the might of armies, magnified a thousand-fold.  
We can break their haughty power, gain our freedom when we learn,  
For the union makes us strong.  
Chorus...

The 8 charged men were subjected to a year-long trial before the state finally condemned them. On the last day, Louis Ling told the court: "I despise you. I despise your order, your laws, your force-propped authority. Hang me for it!" He then deprived them of that satisfaction by ending his own life in his cell. Four others - August Spies, Adolph Fischer, Albert Parsons and George Engel - were executed on November 11th 1887. The others - Oscar Neebe, Michael Schwab and Samuel Fielden - were jailed until pardoned 7 years later and declared "victims of government injustice". In effect the state admitted using persecution, provocation and murder to fuel an anti-anarchist panic and crush union resistance.



These tragic events are remembered by the IWA as an example of the brutality of the enemy we face, and the martyrs are remembered for the nobility and class loyalty shown in their final speeches. Last year our American section held a meeting on the anniversary of the Haymarket events:

"If we are to commemorate anything we should in fact commemorate the ideals that the Haymarket martyrs were imprisoned and died for. Let their memory and lives act as an inspiration to every worker that the fight must go on, that the ideas of all those gallant fighters must continue. That is the only real tribute we can pay to the Haymarket martyrs.

- Mike Harris, Workers' Solidarity Alliance - IWA.

"That the ideas of all those gallant fighters must continue" DAM is launching a November 11th Solidarity Fund. Please send donations, however small, to "November 11th Solidarity", c/o Box DAM, Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge. (Make PO's and cheques payable to DAM.) By contributing to today's struggle on November 11th, you will be paying tribute to those who fought in the past.

## NEW CONTACTS

Corby/Kettering: ----- c/o DAM  
National Secretary, Box DAM, Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir St, Cambridge.

Norwich ----- Box DAM, The Greenhouse, 48 Bethel Street, Norwich.

Oxford ----- Box A, EOA Books, 34 Cowley Road, Oxford.

DAM Despatch Riders ---- c/o Deptford DAM, 17 Turners Road, Limehouse, London E3.

DAM Unemployed/MSW Workers --- c/o Tower Hamlets DAM, 17 Turners Road, Limehouse, London E3.

## DAM-IWA

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 by 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 the workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers' movement. Any and all delegates 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 environment.

8. 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.

The DAM was formed in 1979 from the SWF (Syndicalist Workers' Federation) and other groups and individuals believing in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism. It is the British section of the International Workers' Association. This was formed in 1922 and has national sections in more than dozen countries.

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Deadline - Oct 19th



# Direct Action

NEXT MONTH

70th

ANNIVERSARY EDITION  
OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

## INVASION OF THE YUPPIES

Gentrification describes the process whereby a previously working class area, or working village, is gradually turned into an upwardly mobile and middle class area by removing working class tenants and re-habilitating the houses and flats before selling them as luxury units to affluent parasites. The process, once started, snowballs as an area becomes "desirable" and developers put more pressure on existing tenants to quit and house prices become more impossible for working class people.

Pressure takes a number of forms and legality is only a consideration while effective: neglect: a property is allowed to deteriorate by failure to do maintenance work until the tenant is forced out; bribery: the tenant is offered a few hundred or sometimes a few thousand pounds to abandon legal "rights" and seek alternative accommodation; violence and intimidation: this can range from the simple visit by a couple of "heavies" suggesting a change of scenery would be healthy, to the slightly more subtle method of arranging maintenance work on the plumbing, say, often meaning no water for months until the tenant gets the message - where all else fails, in the case of a particularly stubborn tenant, they will simply be attacked and hospitalised.

luxury flats and offices beside a marina for yachts. The old docklands at Rotherhithe, Wapping and the Isle of Dogs are rapidly becoming yuppie ghettos. Ironically the old warehouses where working conditions were always rudimentary, are luxury apartments, selling for up to £1 million.

As the old port of London (which even in the '50's employed 40,000 dockers besides many thousands of service workers) succumbs the original working class residents are reduced to ghettoised enclaves of badly maintained, badly serviced estates or move out completely. In the present climate even these attract the ever-greedy property developers' attention. It's increasingly likely that such estates will eventually become available for "re-de-

velopment" and sale - either through a sympathetic local council (as in Liberal-controlled Tower Hamlets) or through directives from central government. Tory-controlled Wandsworth council in South London has shown the way by removing tenants from estates and tower blocks earmarked for sale to private developers. Estates were re-developed and sold as "secure" residences with high walls, fences, security cameras and electronically-controlled gates. Standard 20-storey tower blocks have been cleared and re-developed, including floors for indoor gyms, and swimming pools with 24-hour guards at the entrances. In these blocks 1-bedroom flats sold for £120,000 (worth £140,000 2 months later) to mainly single business people. It's necessary to demonstrate the lie that selling off council estates is in any way beneficial to local people. In Bethnal Green (in Liberal-controlled Tower Hamlets) the council has just sold a run-down estate to the developers. The flats when finished will cost around £65,000 each. As the average wage in Bethnal Green is £7,000 pa it is impossible for working people to get mortgages for these properties.

### YUPPY INVADERS

For the remaining working class tenants there are further knock-on effects to gentrification. The middle class tend not to rely on local schools which become run-down or close. Public transport is drastically reduced making many working class people virtual prisoners after dark. The local shops close too, as the yuppie invaders shop weekly or fortnightly at supermarkets miles away and



High-rise blocks:  
Badly-designed and sloppily built

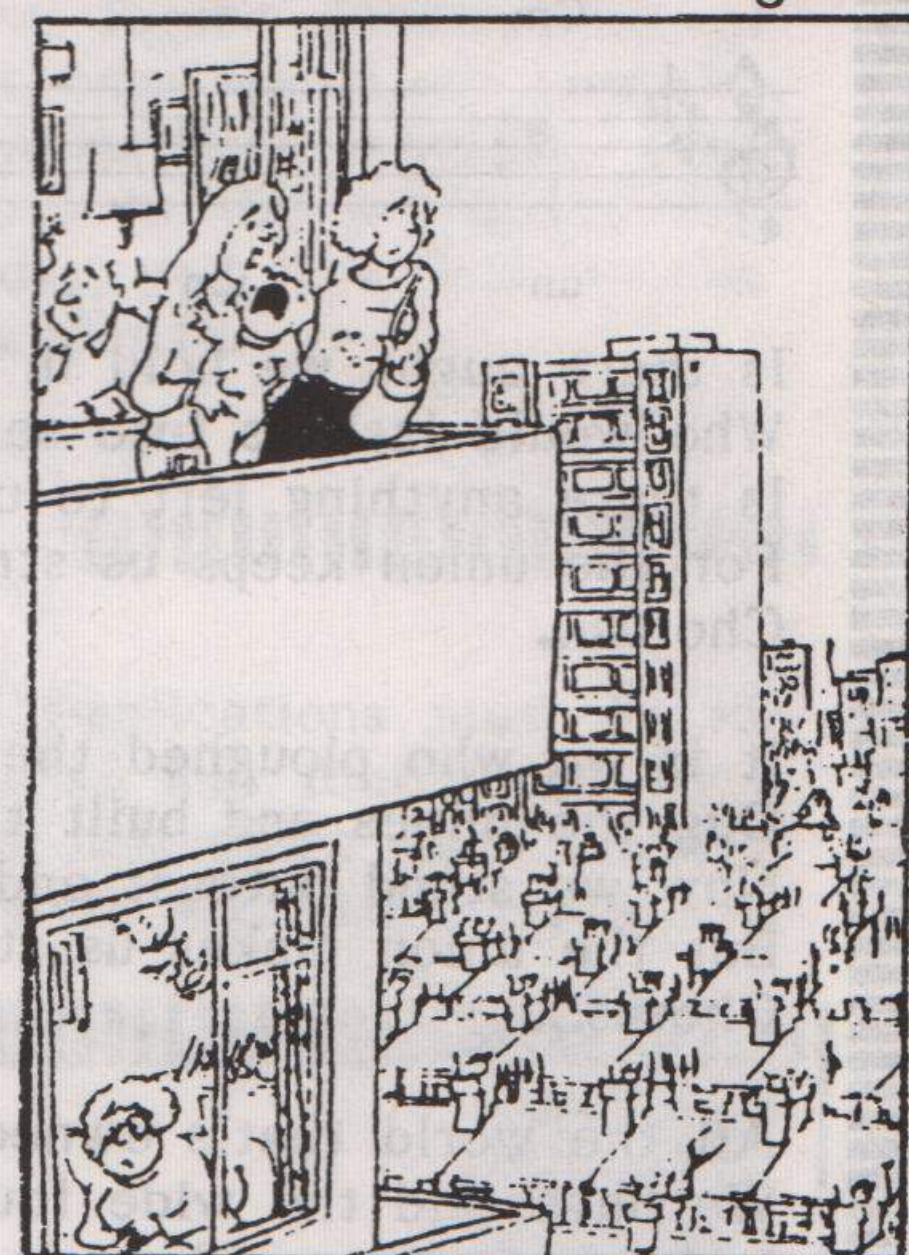
responsible for much of the intimidation. The campaign fizzled out when the estate agent took out injunctions against many leading activists. The sole result was to force the estate agents to change its name because of the local publicity.

### DOWNWARDLY MOBILE

Even this protracted and failed campaign is atypical. The erosion of a sense of community was already well in progress in the '50's and '60's with wholesale demolition of slums and replacement with alienating, badly-designed and sloppily built high-rise blocks with little or no social amenities and no sense of collective power or responsibility. To many there was little worth in defending these prison-like structures. Only downwardly mobile middle class lefties had any affection for their own romantic notion of working class communities. The more typical attitude to many communities was summed up by one local wit's addition of "You're" to the large sign: "Welcome to the Isle of Dogs" at the entrance to the island.

Despite people's ambivalent feelings towards the conditions they are forced to live in there's a real hatred of middle class interlopers who have come to dominate their areas politically, soc-

ially and culturally. Community action groups have formed - belatedly for some parts of London - to resist further attacks. Paradoxically, the re-development of run-down estates and warehouses has shown what's possible with an injection of funds. So far in London, though, the various campaigns have remained fragmented with little attempt to link the fight for community survival with that against



"On a clear day you can see the Yuppies decorating the uninhabitable terraced slum we were moved out of"

privatisation and job cuts. Only a co-ordinated campaign of communities, health, education, and other public service workers can bring any pressure to bear on those who administer the destruction of working class communities.



The Isle of Dogs: Poverty and plenty

### YUPPY GHETTO

Gentrification isn't confined solely to London though it is most advanced there. What began in the '60's as a trickle of young middle class professionals grew throughout the '70's as the potential of inner city sites was realised. With the advent of council house/flat sales we now see the character of whole areas changing. St Katherine's Dock at Tower Bridge, once a working dock, is now

development" and sale - either through a sympathetic local council (as in Liberal-controlled Tower Hamlets) or through directives from central government.

Tory-controlled Wandsworth council in South London has shown the way by removing tenants from estates and tower blocks earmarked for sale to private developers. Estates were re-developed and sold as "secure" residences with high walls, fences, sec-

the remaining shops sell luxury items.

Resistance to the steady destruction of working class communities in London has been piecemeal and often confused. In the early '70's tenants and squatters united in a campaign of nearly 2 years against gentrification in Islington, North London, involving public meetings, leafletting, occupations and a regular picket of an estate agent - Prebbles - considered