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It's a Fare
Fight!

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Wanted — fists on the table!

IN SEPTEMBER the TUC will be meeting in Brighton. A number of left parties are planning marches and lobbies. The Workers Revolutionary Party and its youth organisation, the Young Socialists, will be lobbying on Thursday, September 9, while the Right to Work Campaign, in which the International Socialists have overwhelming influence, will be staging a march from London to Brighton for September 7.

Both the events point to growing opposition to the Labour Party and the TUC, yet both fall short of a real, revolutionary threat to their policies.

The Labour Party and the TUC have shown themselves in their true colours.

The memory of July 26 is still fresh in our memories, when the TUC gave in to the Government and the bosses over the 4½% pay deal.

These are some of the questions we should be asking ourselves—how many union branches have discussed resolutions beforehand?

How many of the delegates are directly elected?

The outcome of the conference can be predicted to a great extent.

Once again the nodding of the head to rising unemployment, to cuts and more cuts.

A minority of delegates will be opposed to these policies of class collaboration, some in sincerity and with the backing of the trade unionists they represent, others to preserve their 'left face'.

In this climate inside the labour movement it is fairly clear that one thing must happen if the working class is not to get a worse bruising than it has already received.

The class collaborationist leadership must be broken and ground to dust by an intensification of grass roots activity.

Unity

The crucial point in the destruction of the sell-out bureaucrats is the unity of the struggles in isolated factories, dole queues and estates.

Unity of rank and file activity must be built on a class basis.

This is a **fundamental** question.

It cannot be achieved without raising the question of social power: that is, who controls society at the moment and who must control it in the future.

Neither can this unity be achieved independently of local struggles.

Working class unity will have to grow out of hundreds of local experiences linking together first in the neighbourhood then on national and international levels.

In some ways the left manoeuvres in Brighton express to a degree this rejection of class collaboration. But at the same time they mystify and mislead.

The WRP-YS lobby calls for the

guarantee of jobs — but how can there be such a guarantee when capital is not prepared to and cannot provide it?

They call for the working class to force the Labour Government to resign, to be replaced by one pledged to socialist policies.

They do not call for the organisation of rank and file movements to fight Labour or Tory administrations and their masters the ruling class.

Instead they perpetuate a myth that somehow the Labour Party as a whole can be propelled leftwards.

Such a slogan is extremely dangerous and can if it is followed lead to more defeats for working people.

The Right to Work march and the lobby on September 7 will be a more successful attempt to unify dissatisfaction over the cuts and unemployment.

It avoids the trap of 'forcing labour in a left direction' yet it too is trapped inside reformist and defeatist slogans.

Some of the demands of the campaign come out against class collaboration but demands such as compulsory retirement at 60 are 'acceptable' solutions.

The very slogan around which the campaign cannot answer the question of how work can be provided by a system, when it's forced by its internal contradictions to slash jobs left, right and centre.

Even the Right to Work campaign, despite its much-vaunted successes, campaign mobilises—The Right to Work—fails to question the nature of work itself.

It fails to bring up the question of even basic socialism, let alone the concept of workers' self management has failed to attract significant numbers.

At this stage it is all-important to build a revolutionary alternative to the class collaborators and the inadequate campaigns in opposition.

Alternative

The Claimants Unions raised the 'Fight to Live' demands.

So far, it has been unable to organise in any effective way against unemployment; it has attracted no-one virtually, and its campaign hasn't 'congealed' at all.

It's time for libertarian socialist revolutionaries, and all those who have profound criticisms of the 'Right to Work' campaign, to mobilise around a Fight to Live campaign.



Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

This campaign has to be one that can effectively fight unemployment and the cuts...and ask revolutionary questions at the same time.

A campaign that can promote mass activity and self-managed struggles, and not detract from them or undermine them.

This campaign has still to be built and it will be difficult to build, but it must be done.

It can be built around real living struggles, like rent strikes, occupations and fights against fare, food, gas and electricity increases.

It can mobilise around concrete grass roots opposition to the cuts and

reductions in work forces.

FIGHT TO LIVE!

P.S. We welcome debate in AW on building this campaign. So please send contributions (not more than 1,000 words and preferably typed or clearly written) to 13, Coltman St., Hull.

Fishguard Police Seizure

PAMPHLETS seized by the Special Branch from Cardiff solicitor, Chris Short, have now been returned but, Dyfed-Powys police have refused to give Mr. Short any explanation as to why they were confiscated in the first place.

Altogether four publications, a copy of the AWA paper, then called *Libertarian Struggle*, a copy of *Peking Review*, a report by Amnesty on allegations of prison brutality in Northern Ireland and a Communist Party pamphlet on Ulster, were taken from Mr. Short's car as he was passing through Fishguard en route for the Republic of Ireland.

Mr. Short, who was going to Eire with two friends for a holiday said, "The car was completely turned over."

Personal belongings were also ransacked by police officers who also subjected Mr. Short to extensive questioning about his political affiliations.

Mr. Short told us, "One officer searched the inside of the car, a second went through the boot, a third searched the engine compartment, while a fourth just walked around."

"When they took the pamphlets they said they did not allow that sort of thing into Ireland."

"Why were they censoring the stuff anyway? All the pamphlets are legal in Britain and, if they're not in Eire then surely it's a matter for the Irish police and not the British Special Branch", said Mr. Short.

On returning to Fishguard a few days later, Mr. Short presented his receipt and asked for his property back.

He was told, however, that it had been sent to Scotland Yard.

Mr. Short threatened that he would take legal action against the police if his belongings were not given back.

Some weeks later, Mr. Short was told by Scotland Yard that his belongings had been sent back to

Dyfed-Powys Police HQ in Carmarthen from where he could now claim them.

He contacted Dyfed-Powys Police and later that day an officer travelled from Carmarthen to Cardiff to give them back.

What surprised Mr. Short was that he was asked to sign a receipt for the property that also included a statement to the effect that he proposed no further action against the police.

"I refused such a condition," Mr. Short told us, "and it was only after consultation with his Inspector that the officer agreed to accept a straightforward receipt."

Mr. Short also said, "I subsequently wrote to Dyfed-Powys Police asking why my belongings had been seized in the first place."

"I have had a reply offering apologies for the inconvenience but the police have not offered me any explanation at all."

ABORTION CUTS

ABORTION IS under attack again. The select committee set up in February 1975 to consider the James White Bill has made new recommendations.

They are the work of anti-abortionists as all the sympathetic MPs resigned from the Committee in protest against the built-in majority of entrenched anti-abortionists retained when it was reconvened in February 1976.

The rationale for the recommendations is to 'tighten up on abuses'. In fact they are a response to the right wing pressure to restrict abortion from the Catholic Church, the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, Life and so on.

The Committee wants these recommendations made law and intends to make a further report.

There are fourteen points in all which are summarised below with some idea of their likely effect:

1) *Reduction in the time limit for abortion to 20 weeks.*

If foetal viability is taken as the basis for deciding on this time limit, then its reduction could continue even further.

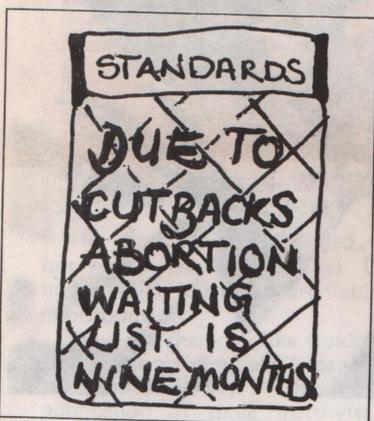
Disadvantage

A small percentage of abortions take place after 20 weeks and this proposal hits those already at a disadvantage — the schoolgirl afraid to tell anyone, the working class women who can't afford the private clinics if refused by the NHS.

2) *Licence and control of all fee-charging agencies providing abortions or even just advice.*

No criteria are laid down; this could mean anything.

3) *Financial separation of charitable referral agencies and nursing homes.*



The British Pregnancy Advice Service and the Pregnancy Advisory Service use profits from their nursing homes to subsidise their referral agencies and to help women who can't afford fees.

These organisations are filling a vital gap in abortion facilities which should be covered by the NHS.

4) *One of the two doctors who gives consent for the abortion must have been in practice for five years, and they must not have a common financial interest in the same nursing home or agency.*

No other medical operation is treated like this and it would also hit the charitable sector.

5) *More stringent requirements for non-resident women trying to get an abortion.*

A particular threat to women from Eire where the sale of contraceptives

6) *Increase in police powers to search clinics, advisory services and pregnancy testing centres, and to confiscate records.*

7) *Compulsory anonymity for witnesses who have had or been advised on abortion.*

This would facilitate malicious prosecution of more liberal doctors.

8) *Wider police powers to prosecute and heavier fines.*

9) *Acts 'done with intention to terminate a pregnancy, if such exists' must be notified in the same way as abortions.*

This could include menstrual extraction, dilation and curettage operations and even the coil... who knows?

These proposals will make abortion still more difficult to obtain and

regulations.

Getting an abortion will take longer, and more women will be forced to pay for private abortions.

These proposals will be presented as an attempt to tighten up on abuses and profiteering, but will also penalise many sources of voluntary and charitable aid, and remove control even more, from those directly involved, into the courts.

There is no provision for making up the loss of facilities in the NHS, and only the back street trade will

probably increase.

In 1969 roughly 60% of all abortions were done on the NHS; in 1974 only 33%: the total number of abortions notified doubled.

We must defend the existing 1967 act but that is not enough.

Only FREE ABORTION AS THE WOMAN CHOOSES, provided by the NHS can end the profits of private clinics.

Daycare abortion facilities will enable abortions to be carried out early in pregnancy.

Women need a real choice between free abortion and adequate support to have and bring up children.

We have neither, and what facilities there are are under attack from both the James White proposals and the cuts in the Social Services.

We must organise NOW to prevent these recommendations getting through parliament.

There will be a National Abortion Campaign Planning Meeting on September 4 at the Co-op Education Centre, Heathcote Street, Nottingham

doctors will hesitate if there is any chance of contravening unclear

TUC SELL-OUT ON TRESPASS

THE TUC General Council are only going to oppose two of the offences contained in the proposed criminal trespass legislation.

At a meeting on June 23, it was decided to oppose the offensive weapons section and

the section on obstruction of court officers.

But they are ignoring the other proposed offences — securing entry by violence, and those referring to the occupation of residential property and embassies.

More dangerous than the proposals

the TUC oppose is 'securing entry by violence'.

The Law Commission's definition of the offence is "to use or threaten violence for the purpose of securing entry to premises on which another is present".

They say that violence should "include both violence against the

person and violence against property, but that otherwise it should be left undefined".

If this were made law, police could enter a workplace and break up an occupation if the management told the police they were being attacked or intimidated.

Management always face intimidation in an occupation when the workforce asks them to leave the factory.

The TUC believe that trespass is not involved because workers have a 'licence' to be in the workplace.

This licence only exists "for the purposes of working for their employer". They lose the licence if they are occupying.

Most occupations involve taking over the management's offices — to get to the switchboard, for files. Trespass is involved.

Sometimes workers have to occupy from outside their workplace, and this too involves trespass.

The TUC decision not to oppose this proposal goes against the motion adopted at the last TUC Congress which called for factory occupations "to be treated as accepted forms of industrial action with immunity from legal proceedings".

This is just like the way they have capitulated with their stable mates, the Labour Government, to the needs of capital, accepting cuts and more cuts, and unemployment.

They are trying to paralyse the rank and file, who may go further than the bureaucrats want them to go.

In ignoring the other proposed offences, they show their blindness to events outside the workplace, their fear of militancy, their sectional interests and their intention of helping the 'divide and rule' game of the boss class.

It's important to build a real opposition to the criminal trespass proposals at the grassroots level, an opposition based on action.

Only firm, united, opposition — workers, students, squatters organisations — can defeat the Bill, and, as CACTL say, it could outlive the campaign and be vital to the success of future struggles.

Dave Higgins



Street theatre on the February 28 CACTL demonstration.

The first means that the police can enter a house without a warrant and arrest people for the possession of any innocent object — a breadknife, a spanner...

The other offence will mean that any court officer can call the police to his assistance and the most passive form of resistance will be a crime.

If these proposals are made law, then squatters will face most of it.

But there is every chance that such laws will be used against occupiers of factories, universities and colleges.

For example, eviction orders Nos. 113 of the High Court and 26 of the County Courts were planned to be used against squatters.

Since then they have been used against students and workers.

Students at North East London Polytechnic occupying against the cuts were served with No. 113 and earlier they had been used at Warwick University and Crosfields Electronics.

Workers students and squatters must unite against the laws and attempt to stop them getting through.

The Campaign Against a Criminal Trespass Law (CACTL) is organising united resistance and they have groups in a number of towns and cities.

For information write to CACTL, c/o 6 Bowden Street, London SE11. Tel: (01) 289 3877.

Law Threat to Direct Action

THE Government has accepted the Law Commission's report on 'Conspiracy and Criminal Law Reform'.

It will come before parliament as a Bill this autumn.

The Law Commission sought to reform the conspiracy laws so as to make them more manageable.

This would create loopholes, one of which would be that 'trespassers' would no longer appear before criminal courts, because the police would not be able to intervene as conspiracy would now be ruled out.

Trespassers would be tried before a civil court.

The worthy members of the Law Commission saw that these trespassers were of the political sort — squatters, people occupying workplaces and colleges, and demonstrators occupying embassies as a protest.

So they started working round the clock to plug this loophole.

They and their masters were worried about the increasing amount of militancy and direct action — squatting on a large

and direct action — squatting on a massive scale, factory occupations — UCS, Fisher-Bendix, the Manchester sit-ins.

They brought their final report out in March. Included was the formulation of five specific offences.

These were to deal with, as the Law Commission said, the taking over of homes by squatters while people were on holiday, the violence likely to rise out of occupations and evictions, and the guarantee of safety against sit-ins at embassies.

They produced no evidence to prove that 'holiday squatting' took place.

What they did produce were vague and ambiguous proposals that need not necessarily be limited to squatters.

Two of the offences are possession of an offensive weapon as a trespasser and obstructing any court officer whilst executing a possession writ or warrant.

These proposed offences are open to a number of interpretations.

SQUATTERS SERVICE IN CRISIS

THE ADVISORY SERVICE for squatters is in grave financial danger and may not be able to survive beyond the end of this month.

They urgently need money.

ASS used to receive a grant from Shelter, but this was cut off in May 1975, after that organisation became more interested in parliamentary lobbies than direct action.

Since then, six volunteers have been running ASS, but even without paid workers, £1,600 a year is needed if it is to operate effectively.

ASS performs a great service to squatters. They have helped over 2,000 people since the withdrawal of the grant.

Of these many have found squats

directly through ASS or have been sent on to local squatting groups.

Others have been helped over the cutting off of gas and electricity supplies and when they are taken to court over possession orders.

ASS has often supplied 'McKenzie Advisers' in court and has put together a legal defences file, which can be used by squatters facing eviction.

Tenants, licensees and families wanting temporary accommodation from councils sometimes use ASS.

Over 5,000 copies of the *Squatters' Handbook* have been distributed by ASS and it is now preparing a new edition.

The number of homeless and the number of empty properties are both rising.

Not suprisingly, there will be an

increase in squatting as a result.

But at the same time, the attacks on squatters increase.

The Criminal Trespass Law may be passed, threatening squatters' circumstances a great deal.

The hiring by landlords of thugs to evict, cutting out the courts, seems to be on the increase, while the police in some areas seem more inclined to use charges of burglary and loitering with intent to stop people attempting to squat.

Please send what you can afford to ASS, 2 St Pauls Road, London N1. Their phone number is (01) 359 8814.

Anyone who can help or has any ideas about fundraising should also get in touch. A new ASS poster is also available at 30p.

A. Squatter

Lies Answered

THE Squatters Action Council (SAC) has produced a pamphlet containing a dossier of anti-squatting lies and 'The Squatting Charter'.

They list the categories of anti-squatting lies that have appeared in the papers:-

- * squatters steal people's homes while they are away on holiday;
- * they prevent 'genuine' homeless from being rehoused;
- * they operate a 'rent-a-kid' service providing children to single people to pretend they are families and thus get housing from councils;
- * they smash up houses they have squatted.

Examples are given of how these stories are used against people squatting GLC property.

Tony Judge, the chairperson of the GLC Housing Committee, is actively involved in spreading these stories, which are shown to be completely unfounded.

The stories are used to divide and rule, to blame squatters for the housing problem and help give the proposed Criminal Trespass Law an easy passage.

The dossier will be presented to trade unions, local Labour parties, students and the housing movement with a view to setting up a labour movement enquiry into the stories.

Write to SAC for details c/o 2 St. Pauls Road, London N1. Tel: (01) 359 8814.

Billy Williams

POLLUTION, PROFIT AND PEOPLE

SOMEWHERE IN ITALY—As most people, who are reading this paper, know, there was an explosion recently. But why all the fuss?

Seveso is a small town in Italy, close to the city of Milan. An explosion occurred in the Seveso factory, owned by the giant Hoffmann La Roche Corporation.

The safety valve blew on a reactor and 4½ lbs.(2k.) of a deadly poison was released over the surrounding countryside.

This poison is known as TCDD, or dioxin. It is one of the most deadly poisons known to science.

It was dispersed over the entire surrounding area, hanging in a cloud, and falling in showers of rain.

Pets and farm animals began to die suddenly. Children and adults began to blister and become feverish.

Yet the management kept quiet about the poison leaked into the air for over two weeks.

They knew the great danger that the local people faced. As well as dioxin, trichlorophenol had been released into the atmosphere.

It attacks the human system, affecting the heart, kidney, spleen, and brain.

It can cause cancer, and mutations in body cells, leading to the birth of deformed babies.

The management kept quiet because they were afraid a shut-down of the plant would affect their profits.

And meanwhile, people continued to eat meat and vegetables contaminated by the poisons—selling this contaminated food in Milan as well.

Rain has spread the poisons over a wide area.

It seeped into rivers in the area, rivers which flow into the biggest in

Italy, the Po.

Dioxin cannot be removed or dissolved. That's why every building in the area is to be destroyed.

At first the government wanted this done straightaway, but now it may be three years before this can be done as the dust rising during demolition would still be highly dangerous.

Burning

One foot of topsoil in the district will be removed and incinerated.

All the vegetation must be burnt at 1,000°C and 370 acres must be walled in and made into a no-man's land.

Every animal in the area must be put down and their carcasses burnt.

The management only revealed the danger after Seveso workers had gone on strike to demand what was happening.

The disaster happened because of profit.

The management hushed up the affair because they were thinking about their profits. They deliberately skimmed safety conditions to save money.

This disaster could have happened anywhere. In Flixborough, the big explosion occurred because of appalling safety conditions.

The same goes for nuclear power plants throughout the world.

Bradwell, for example (see AW27),

or BIBLIS in W. Germany, where a number of leakages have taken place.

There are rumours circulating that a number of workers have been taken to hospital suffering from radiation effects.

The BIBLIS firm, RWE, are hushing up the affair.

They plan to increase the plant's storage for spent fuel elements, thus increasing the dangers if an accident happened.

Solution

What is the answer to all this?

One of the first things to be seen is that the local people and workers in the plants have no control over what happens to them.

Do you remember Aberfan in 1966, when a huge slag heap came crashing down on a Welsh village?

The people there had been worried for some time about the slag heap, but there was nothing they could do.

The National Coal Board in London decided everything.

In the short term, it is important that local actions be started by workers to fight for better safety conditions, and the appointment of safety officers for every factory.

Local environmental groups should attempt to contact workers in chemical factories and nuclear power stations to find out how much of a risk is involved.

There is no real solution to these dangers except in the long term.

This means the running of industry by workplace councils in consultation with councils in the neighbourhood.

It means working out safety precautions, making sure the chances

of explosions and pollution are reduced to the minimum.

It means the dismantling of many industries based on the manufacture of harmful chemicals, often used, like napalm and dioxin, for attacking civilian populations in times of war.

New methods of technology can be worked out, making use of wind and solar power.

All this will be in consultation with and referring back to the councils, who will constantly review the situation.

The present system runs on profit. It doesn't care what harm is done to the population, the countryside, the rivers and the seas.

Already some scientists believe that the present drought and heat wave are caused by pollution.

There is an accumulation of non-degradable products, lead residues — especially as a result of lead in petrol — pesticide residues and toxic additives in food.

Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by 25% in the last 100 years — it may well double by the end of the century.

There will be vast, but rewarding, work ahead in collectivising

transport, making full use of the waterways and railways again.

Free public transport could be provided, phasing out the need for most of the millions of motor cars belching fumes into the air.

Investigations into forms of propulsion other than the internal combustion engine could be carried out.

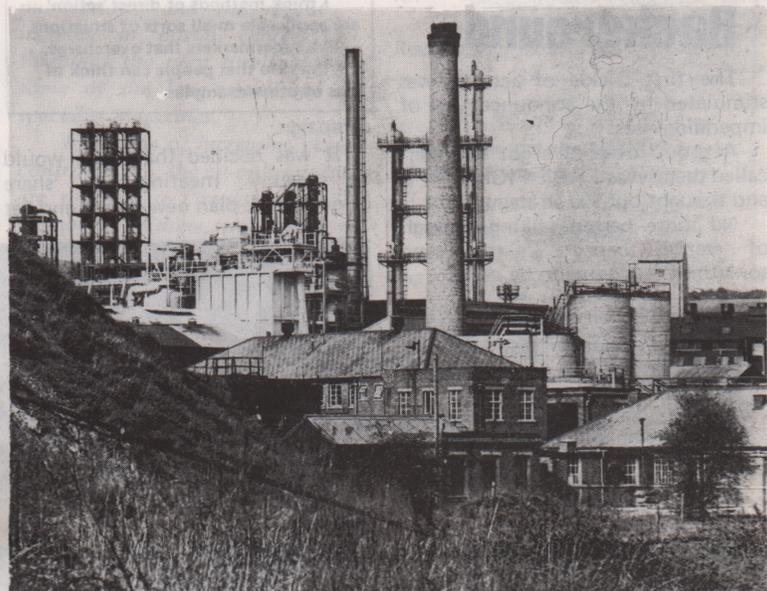
AWA members have a lot of criticisms of Murray Bookchin, the American libertarian (see his book *Post Scarcity Anarchism*, Wildwood House) but we must agree with him when he says:

"The cities must be decentralised to serve the interests of both natural and social ecology. Urban gigantism is devastating not only to the land, the air, the waterways, and the local climate, but to the human spirit."

All this means the destruction of capitalism, and the creation of a free socialist society.

This may seem like a glib statement, but there can be no other solution to the ever-increasing danger of pollution, and devastation, that threatens not just local populations, but the very existence of humanity.

Eva Long



Coalite, Oils and Chemicals Ltd., at Bolsover near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, the only factory which makes the same chemical as the chemical plant at Seveso from which a dangerous poisonous cloud recently originated. It has been closed down by the Government. Photo: John Sturrock (Report)

Islam: Religion of Repression

OVER THE LAST few months a series of exhibitions around the topic of the 'World of Islam' have taken place in London.

While the various exhibitions outline the cultural achievements of the Islamic world — in architecture, music, etc—they avoid one major fact: that the religion of Islam is based like all the other organised religions on repression and mystification.

Like Christianity, Islam sees a hierarchical universe overseen by an all powerful God Allah, with a punishment for evil-doers and reward for the good in an after-life.

Islam, along with the other religions, offers 'pie in the sky': it argues against fighting for better conditions and a better society accepting suffering in this world and pointing to a blissful existence after death.

It is particularly pernicious in its defence of the family and the traditional role of women. Here are some of the attitudes found in the traditional Moslem texts.

"Women are your tillage" says one scripture, and over and over again it is pointed out that the primary object of marriage is propagation.

Other texts state that a man may beat his wife. In one particular work we find the following:

"Men have authority over women because God has made the one superior to the other and because men spend their wealth (to maintain them).

So good women are obedient, guarding the unseen parts because God has guarded (them). As for those for whom you fear disobedience admonish them and banish them to beds apart and beat them; then if they obey you seek not occasion against them.

Sura 4:31

In one of the apocrypha of Mohammed we find "If anything could be a bad omen, it would be women and horses".

Under the Hanafi law there are no grounds for divorce in most Arab countries. The Hadith states "Of the things that are lawful the most hateful to God is divorce".

In the Moslem lawbooks we find that stoning is a penalty for adultery while the Koran advises a hundred lashes for this 'misdemeanour'.

Reforms?

Liberals inside the Moslem religion have attempted to grapple with the subjection of women but were overwhelmed by the weight of custom and practice.

Mohammed Iqbal said in 1928 "I, too, am most sorrowful at the oppression of women but the problem is intricate, no solution do I find possible".

The immense effect of Western influence and industrialisation had some impact on the Arab world, and some liberalising laws were passed in a few Moslem states on divorce and the wearing of the veil, another custom designed to reduce women to the level of a piece of property.

Over the last decade women have taken an increasing part in political activity: in Algeria against the French authorities, and more recently in the guerilla forces of the Palestinian people.

No further gains can be expected except through the militant action of Arab women and revolutionary groups.

This shows signs of happening, and will have a devastating effect on the Islamic religion, weakening its foundations drastically.

In the revolutionary struggles taking place around the world, the fight against religion is an important one.

To those in the Arab world who fight against feudalism and royalty,

against the nationalist regimes, and against Zionism, must come a realisation that power and privilege is shored up by Islam, that millions of workers are shackled by the mystification which stops them from fighting their oppression.

In this country too, for the thousands of immigrants who are members of the Moslem religion, must come a break with the old.

This can only happen in the course of struggle against racism and

exploitation.

These struggles must be seen as complementary to each other, and revolutionaries must expose the

fallacies of Mohammedanism at the same time as they fight the attacks of racists and fascists.

Lilith.

GAY CENTRE ATTACKED

THE East London Gay Centre was attacked late in the night on Friday August 13 by a bottle-throwing gang of twenty men.

As the 12 gays inside prepared to defend their centre the police arrived, and the attackers ran off.

The attack started when a bottle was thrown at the centre at 19 Redmans Road, Stepney, where the gays were having a party.

A small group immediately went to sit on the front steps with the aim of talking to the attackers who came from a big crowd of about 60 young people standing outside the pub a few yards up the road.

But attempts to make contact failed when an apparently organised group of men ran up the road shouting fascist slogans and throwing pub glasses and beer bottles.

In the ten minutes that followed one of the gays was knocked out by a flying bottle and windows and doors were smashed.

Gays at the centre believe that the attack is connected with the increase in national front activity in Tower Hamlets, and see their presence in the area as a vital part of the fight against fascism.

We are now planning a counter-attack on the pub, with leaflets explaining our aims, and attempting to enlist the support of locals against the real oppressors.

This attack was not an isolated incident, there have been similar, if less ferocious, attacks in the past and the North London Gay Centre has faced the same trouble.

Living outwardly as homosexuals in a community is bound to attract this sort of difficulty.

The question is why do we do it?

If homosexuals were born green then we wouldn't be oppressed in quite the way we are: the significant thing about being gay is that you can hide it. you can pass for straight.

Even with gay bars and clubs you can limit your gayness to one night a month or a week, and limit being gay to having sex.

But you're not just gay every night at the club or when sleeping with another woman: you are gay the whole time, at the laundromat, on the bus, at work and watching the telly.

A lot of the self-oppression we feel and the fear we hate comes from this living two lives, gay in some circles, straight, or passing for, in others.

This is then the first point of living in gay centres — by living with other gay people you can be gay all the time: going to the laundry becomes a fun thing and a political activity.

And you have the opportunity to work out all the problems of human relationships in a non-possessive way — who does the washing up, how do you organise the shopping, remembering the rubbish.

But living together isn't enough. If the whole of your activity is concentrated on your internal relationships — inward-looking to the group—then it will become incestuous, bitchy and destructive.

You need to move out, and this is the second point of a gay centre.

With the strength you gain living with other gay people, you can go out into the working world and actively challenge it in the trade union, in the canteen, over the desk, on the bus and in the street.

But everyone you meet, gay and non-gay, isn't at the same place, at the same time and the strength of liberation isn't something which comes like manna.

And this is the third point of gay centres.

It has to be a place where people can just drop in and chat, have a social scene without being ripped off, meet and share ideas and work.

Where you centralise resources to produce leaflets and posters, write, type, print, share skills and tasks.

Make contacts with local papers, publicise, take up campaigns, work with other liberation groups involved in struggle — get into their struggles and involve them in ours.

Each of us alone is totally oppressed, small groups of us together can be smashed but a growing force of people working together can change one another and the world.

If this is all that gay centres are about then why have we come under attack?

If it is a group of youths who don't like queers, this shows the strength of male fear and irrational hatred of homosexuality —because of the threat it poses to malepower, added to by stereotyped notions constructed by the mass media.

If this basic prejudice is being fed on by fascist organisations then it is another attempt to divide workers and to restore aged ideas of 'the women in the home, protecting the children, and a return to a romantic past'.

As such it will have an appeal for many who are depressed by living in East London.

We have to prove that throwing bottles at benders won't make us go away, won't make workers' lives more tolerable and won't provide a platform for fascists to organise on.

We'll need all the help we can get.

East London Gay Centre

Thousands Resist Tube Fare Increases

IT WAS just another bright sunny day. The drought was progressing nicely, people were packing themselves off to work, London Transport (LT) had just raised their fares 25%; everything was normal.

But wait — was that thunder approaching? a freak rainstorm? Was the complacent serenity of the drought going to be threatened?

No, but just as serious, the passengers flooding through the underground tunnels were fighting back.

The date, 18 July 1976, was host to an historic event.

Oxford Circus, bastion of LT's power, was hit by a veritable deluge of angry passengers wielding a new weapon — the *Fare Fight* deferred payment slip.

Hundreds of people, incensed at the new fare rises, had risen up that morning, paid 10p on entering the tube system and on reaching their destination had defiantly handed in their ticket plus a slip offering to pay the difference if LT chose to collect.

Travelling on the tubes would never be quite the same again.

Background

The first trickle of activity was stimulated by the announcement of impending rises.

A group of people got together, called themselves **FARE FIGHT** (FF), and thought out the strategy.

No more barren talking, enough of sterile theory — this time something was going to be *done*.

Labour GLC election promise: to hold fares for a year, then reduce to a cheap underground service.

RESULT — 118% rise in 18 months, four times the rise in the retail price index

The deferred payment slips were printed in books of 25, and an introductory leaflet produced (with a special tear-away slip).

Groups of people were contacted all over London who were willing to flypost the stations the night before the rises were due to come into force.

Operation Open A Credit Account With London Transport was launched.

Meetings

After the initial publicity splash and following wave of interest in the campaign, FF dug in for a long

THE argument over the fare rises, and London Transport's arrogant attitude, makes one thing very clear.

The LT Executive, and the Greater London Council that control the purse strings, are answerable to no-one but the ruling class.

Part of Labour's GLC election manifesto was the gradual lowering of fares towards a free service.

And LT has consistently ignored the wishes and needs of both their passengers and the workers who actually run the system.

Transport unions have made several protests over the decline in the service and the fare rises, and are at present making clear their opposition to the Government's Consultative Document on transport, which proposes expanding private enterprise road transport at the expense of the railways.

The only way of running public transport in a way that would benefit everybody would be through a system of joint passengers and workers committees.

The Anarchist Workers Association strongly supports *Fare Fight*, a campaign that attempts to impose working people's decisions and the criterion of social usefulness on a public service.

important jobs hived out.

(Rising Free, 142 Drummond Street, NW1, Thursdays 8pm)

Not for FF though, the centralised committee, the orders from above to the masses — FF make do with a modest co-ordinating group, elected from an early Thursday meeting.

It's understood that if any of the group don't do what they're meant to, or exceed their mandate they'll be replaced.

The jobs are due to be rotated to different people in the not to distant future.

As far as I'm concerned this open structure is as important as the action that is FF's trade mark.

People have been involved at a level previously unknown to me (a victim of countless campaigns), and there has been a steady stream of ideas, comments and criticisms.

There are now moves for people involved in a particular area of London to gather their resources together, people, presses, ideas and cars etc., to organise their own printing, fly-posting — their own activity under the general banner of *Fare Fight*.

Forging Links

Now the campaign has started

"Simply complaining about the fare increases is futile," said JIM PATON, a *Fare Fight* campaigner.

"People did that last November when fares went up 26% and look where it got them.

London Transport are quite happy for people to protest, as long as they protest ineffectively.

In a dispute at work, when negotiations get nowhere, you go on strike. Well, this is the same — but as passengers, the only place you can take action is at the ticket barrier.

And after all, how better can you cope with the bureaucracy than by pulling its trousers down!

I think methods of direct action are applicable to all sorts of situations — like supermarkets that overcharge.

I'm sure that people can think of lots of other examples.

campaign.

It was decided that there would be weekly meetings to share information, plan new moves and get



IN ITALY a massive protest against fare increases began when Turin Fiat workers used bus passes that had been issued by the bus workers' union at the old price. This spread quickly throughout Italy. In some places, people prevented buses that were still charging the increased fare from running.

Within a short time bus companies were forced to reduce fares.

Fare Fight plans to bring an Italian bus worker to England this Autumn to talk about the campaign, as part of a national conference on direct action.

KEN POPE, London Transport's Chief Public Relations Officer, said in the first week of the campaign that only sixteen slips had been handed in on the first day of the fare rises, dwindling to four by the end of the week.

The following week he was forced to admit that this was a lie, but the figure was still "less than a thousand" he claimed.

Faced with figures that *Fare Fight* has obtained from ticket collectors, among which were Camden Town with over a thousand slips in four days, LT dropped numbers and instead referred to "a great number of slips".



TOM DONNIL, a tube guard on the Central Line, told Anarchist Worker:

"I support the *Fare Fight* campaign. When I first heard about it, I thought 'Great, some action at last'.

It's obvious that these continuous fare rises can't go on, especially with the Labour Government's 4½ per cent wage limit.

It's not just passengers who're affected though. Because the GLC has told London Transport to break even, when LT finds it's losing money due to the fare increases driving so many people off the tubes, the ticket collectors and operating staffs' conditions of work will worsen: LT will be employing fewer and fewer people to cut their wage bill.

I hope this campaign succeeds, uniting passengers and workers. I also hope people start questioning the conditions on the tubes — how dirty, unhealthy and boring they are to travel and work on.

For example, it wouldn't be difficult to put in some proper ventilation if the priorities were right.

Passengers complain about the fumes and the lack of air, but just think what it's like for us guards.

We're down here for up to four hours at a time.

MANY *Fare Fight* campaigners would like to see a free public transport system. Is this an unrealisable dream?

Already Nottingham and Milan have adopted free transport, and Budapest has a flat rate of one florint (2p) on its underground.

London Transport receives a subsidy of some £200 million.

A large proportion of this is spent on issuing and collecting tickets and accounting.

An undisclosed sum has just been spent, not on improving the service, but on installing a more foolproof (and slower) system of ticket barriers.

It would undoubtedly be cheaper to dispense with this whole apparatus, and transfer ticket collectors, sellers and inspectors to building, repairing and running trains and buses.

This would be a far better use of existing resources, leading to a more efficient and frequent public transport system.

This is the opposite direction from that of London Transport's policies, which must inevitably result in a decline in use — and thus a cutback in services and staff.

The choice is clear — expensive and infrequent tubes and buses, with congested roads; or a free, clean, efficient public transport system.

WE DON'T WANT AN UNDERGROUND TAXI SERVICE!

Open a Credit Account with London Transport

Just buy a ticket for what YOU think is a REASONABLE fare, and present it at the other end, together with a slip like the one below — why not tear this one off and use it tonight?

It will then be up to London Transport to recover the difference between their new rip-off fares and your idea of what's reasonable. If thousands of people are doing it, it'll take them years to sort out all those 'credit accounts', and their fare-collecting system will get entirely bungled up.

You can make the slips yourself, or get them in booklets of 25 from *FARE FIGHT*, together with helpful advice. (2p per booklet, plus post & packing). There's also a leaflet — 'Hanging It Out' — which tells you how bloody-minded you can be once they get around to actually sending you a bill.

it's perfectly legal

Published by *FARE FIGHT* — organising resistance to London Transport fare increases and the cuts in public spending which cause them. Flat 3, 76 Sidney Street, London E1. 790-9965.

To: LONDON TRANSPORT EXECUTIVE Date _____

I have today travelled from _____ to _____

and tendered a ticket for _____ p. Should you wish to recover the outstanding sum, my name and address is:

Name _____ Address _____

Signed _____

are having motions of support put to them.

FF has affiliated to the London Federation of Fight the Cuts Committees and there will be a FF meeting soon devoted to the question of cuts generally.

After all, LT has been subjected to a £17 million cut in subsidy and has been told to 'break even' — cuts

in services are bound to follow, as more people can no longer afford to use the tubes.

The participants in FF are fairly evenly split as to the meaning of the campaign.

There is the idea that we will force LT to lower their fares, force the GLC to stick to their election promises and maybe force the government to give an adequate subsidy to enable this to happen.

Others think there should be a greater emphasis on our own activity,

Oxford Anarchists are proposing a libertarian conference on fascism and in particular its interrelations with racism and nationalism.

Hopefully, this will involve coping with political analysis relevant to the present situation. The importance of theoretical differences will be revealed not only in interpreting historical differences but through divergent conclusions in practice. The conference is proposed for November.

For more information, please write to:
I. Gallagher, 38 Hurst Street, Oxford.



spreading the concept of controlling our own lives and moving away from the standard demands for 'THEM' to do things for 'US'.

Along with these discussions there has developed a healthy breadth to the campaign.

- Questions being asked range over:
 - 'who suffers the most from fare rises and why?';
 - 'what's the cost of the additional deaths and pollution caused by more cars due to fare rises?';
 - 'why are tubes so dirty, unhealthy and boring for passengers and transport workers alike?';
 - 'what would they be like if WE controlled them?'

Already *Fare Fight* is planning a national gathering of transport users and workers.

There has been a lot of interest from all round the country and we hope the ideas of self activity and direct action can be taken up in other places to force down fares.

Very encouraging as far as London's concerned is the support we've had from LT bus workers.

Will Fare Fight spread to London's buses? Watch this space!

Well, we may not see a free, sane, healthy public transport system tomorrow but whatever happens, the lessons of FF won't be forgotten for a long, long time.

West London AWA member

Fare Fight, 76 Sydney St, Bow, E1.

RIGHT — The form that fare fighters send to London Transport when they receive a demand for payment.

APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT OF DEFERRED FARE

From: LONDON TRANSPORT (RAILWAYS) / BRITISH RAILWAYS BOARD*

To: Surname (BLOCK letters) Ms/Mr*
Forename(s) in full (BLOCK letters)
Address (BLOCK letters)

Date of application: (day) (month) (year)
Date of alleged journey: (day) (month) (year) (time)

From: (state station) to (state station) (via) (state station)

Ticket tendered for: £
No. of ticket
Fare denomination
Route
Single / Ordinary Return / Day Return / other*
If Return, state whether: Forward half / Return half*

Issuing Station: (line) (If Station of origin write "S.O.O.") (If Line of origin write "L.O.O.")
Available to: (line)

Fare for alleged journey as from 18/7/1976: £
Fare for alleged journey prior to 18/7/1976: £
State amount of increase in this fare since 1/3/1975: £
If more than the rise in the Retail Price Index over the same period state reason (see Note 1):

Give reason for requesting this payment:

Name of Applicant (BLOCK letters) Ms / Mr*
Signature of Applicant
(on behalf of LONDON TRANSPORT (RAILWAYS) / BRITISH RAILWAYS BOARD*)
Grade: Number:
Department:
Application authorised by (see Note 2):

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY — DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

UT/7/893/c.a.	FF/1/ver.	FF/2/ver.	FF/3/ver.	A624/90/(A)	AW/13/HH.
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NOTES:
* Delete as applicable.
1 The rise in the Retail Price Index may be determined by multiplying the mean rise in the Wholesale Price Index, as set out in Department of Trade and Industry Bulletin DT176/AA/9 (statistics), by the fiscal revenue denominator (FRD) for the month prior to the month of application (except in a leap year, when it should be the 31 days prior) or the difference between the two multiples thereof, whichever is the greater.
2 Applications must be authorised by an officer above Executive Grade 4, except applications which exceed twenty pence, where authorisation of an officer of a Higher Executive Grade is necessary.
NB Costs for administration or postage must NOT be claimed on this form. Form FF5/76/790(B) should be used.

DISTRIBUTION CO-OPERATIVE

This autumn a co-operative representing over fifty socialist, feminist and cultural magazines and journals will be trying to ensure a fuller, and more effective distribution for these publications. This co-operative approach—resulting from several months research by a working party—will, it is hoped, enable them to be nationally 'represented' in bookshops, student unions, and other outlets, and to operate a fortnightly van, and parcels service (using existing commercial carriers).

Magazine distribution is dominated by near-monopolies like Smiths and Menzies; the few small distributors, relying mainly on 'soft porn' are uninterested in small political and cultural publications; and the recent increase in postal charges threatens the very survival of some of the long-established specialist magazines.

At a time of increasing class confrontation, the co-op's targets are to increase circulation of member-publishers, to enable more people access to socialist, feminist and 'alternative' ideas and practice.

But to successfully establish this project we need your support.

The co-operative is attempting to raise an initial £3,000 to acquire London premises, employ a full-time co-ordinator, and finance the deficit expected in the first four months, until, at the end of 1976, it becomes self-financing. Already the member-publications have pledged £1,000 in loans, or advance payments, and they will all be asking their readers for whatever level of support they can afford.

Please make cheques, or postal orders payable to 'Publications Distribution Co-operative'; all donations are being held in a separate account, and if by chance the project does not proceed the money will be refunded. If you would like a more detailed statement of the co-operative's proposals please send a stamped addressed envelope to:

The Treasurer, PDC, 282 Park Road, London N8.

ANARCHIST WORKER is participating in the establishment of the Co-operative, and invites all readers and friends to support financially, materially, and through publicity, the activities of the Co-operative.

A REVOLUTIONARY anarchist, Giovanni Marini is still rotting in prison after being given twelve years for protecting himself from a fascist gang who attacked him and another comrade in the streets of Milan.



Italian anarchist Giovanni Marini.

In the ensuing fight, one fascist was stabbed to death with his own knife, and Marini was arrested.

The authorities have tried by many means to wear down Marini's resistance.

On July 17, he completed half his sentence and could now be released on parole, in accordance with the laws of the Italian state.

This chance of parole is jeopardised by Giovanni's courage in denouncing the class system and the Italian prison set-up.

Demonstrations all over Italy are

planned to demand his release; here in Britain, people should send letters protest and trade union branch resolutions to the Italian Embassy, 38 Eaton Place, London SW1.

In December 1968, bombs exploded in Milan and Rome, including one at the Banco dell'Agrocoltura where several farmers were killed.

The press, TV and radio — and the police — without the slightest shred of evidence, immediately accused the anarchists of this atrocity and began rounding them up.

A respected anarchist, Giuseppe Pinelli, who had fought in the resistance against the fascists and who was active in his job as a railwayman, fell to his death from the police HQ.

It is now generally accepted that he was thrown from that fourth floor window — murdered by the police! A number of anarchists were accused of the bombings, among them Pietro Valpreda.

Evidence has since come to light that fascists were responsible and had attempted to create a reaction against revolutionaries. One fled the country and two others are on trial.

Despite this, Valpreda and the others are on provisional liberty and face a trial themselves!

The fascists were aided in this plot by members of the Italian Ministry of Defence's counter information service and its head, General Micelli, has been sent to trial in Rome, although he is claiming parliamentary immunity.

During attempts to prove Valpreda and his comrades innocent, five anarchists were killed in a car outside the estate of fascist leader Valerio Borghese, when a truck driven by a fascist smashed into them.

For more details of the affair, read The Valpreda Papers, prison letters of Pietro Valpreda, expensive at £6 so get it from the library.

M.G.

see below.

Similar circumstances face two women political prisoners in Switzerland, Petra Krause and Verena Schob.

Both have been in solitary confinement — Petra for 17 months and Verena for 10. Both face similar charges—they haven't been tried yet!

Verena Schob faces an explosive charge, and Petra Krause charges of theft of weapons and arson. Also she is a suspected member of NAP, an Italian left group, that has engaged in bomb attacks on State property.

Both are unwell and are being refused medical treatment.

Letters please to Bezirkgefängnis 8026 Zurich Postfach 762. Food, etc., parcels to 8004 Zurich Kanzleistrasse 48.

Letters of protest to prison governor, Herr Ruegg, Gefängnisverwaltung des Bezirkgefängnisses Zurich, Kanzleistrasse 8004 Zurich.

International State Terrorism

ULRIKE MEINHOF

WHEN Ulrike Meinhof was found dead in her cell near Stuttgart on May 9, many on the left in Germany immediately blamed the State.

Defence lawyers attributed the supposed suicide to the mental torture inflicted on Meinhof during many months of 'sensory deprivation'.

It appears now, however, that her death was not so complicated.

It seems that she was murdered. In a case where the left is, understandably, liable to overreact in its propaganda, it may help to look at what the German authorities themselves claim.

In the first place, the various accounts of prison officials, as to just how Meinhof is supposed to have hanged herself, contradict each other. More importantly still, the official autopsy reported finding on Meinhof's body traces of sperm, as well as of the discolouration typical of victims of rape.

This report, coming from a source with no obvious reason to invent it (and in fact with good grounds for wanting it suppressed), is almost certainly true.

Strangled

It is now widely believed that the marks on Meinhof's neck were not compatible with the official theory — that she hanged herself with a towel. Instead, there are facts which point to a very different theory.

The official autopsy of the body was carried out within hours of the death's being discovered. No independent medical presence at the autopsy was permitted.

And when the body was eventually handed over to a specialist named by Meinhof's family, Professor Werner Jansen of the Hamburg institute of forensic medicine, so much of the neck had already been cut away that no direct check on the 'towel' theory was possible.

Again, it helps to remember that the West German government probably has a moderately efficient propaganda machine.

If it does, and if Meinhof died in the way claimed by the government, why was the opportunity not taken to confirm the official version by allowing independent medical inspection?

When the country's most famous

political prisoner dies a violent death in a state prison, the government can hardly reckon that such confirmation would not be useful.

Most probably, it was simply impossible to confirm the official story — because Meinhof did not kill herself with a towel.

She was raped and then strangled by one or more employees of the West German state.

Traditional

The killing of leftists in Germany is not something which ends or begins with the Third Reich.

When Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht were murdered by government forces in 1919, a Social Democratic regime — then as now — was in power.

And considerable evidence emerged after 1919 that a Social Democratic minister, Gustav Noske, collaborated in the two murders.

It was again the Social Democratic government which, after World War 1, organised the *Freikorps* — right-wing militia whose job was to crush by force the widespread attempts at left revolution in the early Weimar Republic.

Here is part of a letter, written in April 1920 by a member of the SD-created militia, describing the treatment given to captured left militants and nurses:-

"Yesterday morning I got to my company and at 1pm we made the first assault. No mercy is shown. The enthusiasm is marvellous, almost incredible. Our battalion has two dead, the reds 200 to 300. Anyone who falls into our hands gets first the gun butt and then the bullet. We also shot dead instantly ten red-cross nurses each of whom was carrying a pistol. We shot at these abominations with joy, and how they cried and pleaded with us for their lives! Nothing doing! Whoever is found carrying arms is our enemy and gets done. We were much more humane against the French in the field. The population gives us everything. In the pubs we often get free drinks, 20 to 30 of us. My

ARGENTINE

THE ARGENTINIAN government is attempting to crush any resistance from the working class in line with the establishment of a police state in the country.

Among the publications to suffer are *La Protesta* and *Accion Directa*, anarchist papers whose printing and circulation have been banned.

There is still significant anarchist influence among the Argentinian working class.

Please send letters of protest, financial contributions to Argentina Resistance Fund c/o 84b, Whitechapel High St., E.1.

address is: Oberjager Max Ziller, Student, 11 Kompanie, Brigade Epp, Post Rokow in Westfalen."

As the historian Sebastian Haffner has written in *Failure of a Revolution: Germany 1918-19*, of the early Social Democratic movement, "in the Freikorps... it gave birth to the frame of mind and attitudes of the future S.A. and S.S., which were often their direct successors."

Those with a similar frame of mind today must draw great encouragement from the protection, given by another Social Democratic government, to the murderer(s) of Ulrike Meinhof.

M. Evans

UBUGUAY

THE URUGUAYAN anarchist Gerado Gatti, has been imprisoned in Argentina.

He is 45 and has 3 children and was a member of the Bookworkers Union.

He published *Lucha Libertaria*, *Rojo y Negro* (anarchist papers) and the daily independent *Epoca*, and was a founder member of the Uruguayan Anarchist Federation (FAU).

After going to prison in 1970 for publishing a book attacking the military, he had to flee to Argentina in 1973, where he was arrested June 10 this year.

He is in great danger as already another anarchist, the chemical worker, Gilberto Coghlan, has been tortured to death in Uruguay in December 1973.

Letters of protest to General Harguindeguy, Minister of the Interior, of the Argentine Republic.

SPAIN

DESPITE THE bleatings of the French government that they are republicans and opposed to the regime in Spain, it does not stop them arresting some victims of the repression and attempting to send them back.

This may happen in the case of the Spanish anti-fascist Pedro Astudillo.

He has already been horribly tortured by the Spanish military police and will almost certainly be murdered if he is returned.

Astudillo has threatened to kill himself rather than suffer at the hands of the State thugs of Juan Carlos.

Please write for information, letters of solidarity to his lawyer: Maitre Boutonnet, 16, Rue Seguiet, 75006 Paris, France.

The French government has also arrested thirteen Basques and a Catalan refugee.

Among these were four Basques who had escaped from Segovia Prison. They too face extradition to Spain.

THE EDITOR of the Mexican anarchist paper, *Voz Critica*, has been arrested in Querataro and tortured before being sent to prison.

The Mexican Government is trying to suppress the paper, which has widespread influence amongst peasants and workers.

Many peasants have recently taken over land, and there have been a number of strikes in industry.

The police are viciously attacking these actions. The Mexican Anarchist Federation asks that letters of protest be sent to Antonio Calzada, Gobierno del Estado, Querataro, Mexico.

THE MURRAYS MUST NOT HANG

TWO DUBLIN anarchists, Marie and Noel Murray, are facing the threat of hanging.

They were tried by the Special Criminal Court, that tribunal of three monkeys who see no torture, hear no evidence and speak no truth.

Their appeal to the Supreme Court is due to be heard in November, and in the meantime the Irish Government is harassing anyone who opens their mouth in the Murray's defence.

Hibernia, Ireland's only liberal magazine, has been threatened with closure, and their goods and assets seized for publishing a letter from the Dublin Murray Defence Group.

This letter pointed out that the Prosecution's use of unsigned statements extracted under torture constitutes perjury.

Every member of the Defence Group has been pulled in at least once for questioning.

The third person who stood accused with the Murrays of the murder of an off-duty policeman following a bank raid in Dublin last year on 11 September, Ronan Stenson, was declared psychologically unfit to plead.

Torture

This was only after his evidence — extracted under torture which caused him to break down — had convicted the Murrays.

He will be given a fresh trial once the Murrays are out of the way; the Murrays however have been refused a retrial.

Fortnightly meetings are being held by the Defence Committee in a trade union hall in Dublin.

When they arrived for the first time they found themselves locked out, despite having booked and paid for

the hall.

Some of the members of the Defence Committee, being in that particular union branch, immediately went to see the Union Secretary and the decision to exclude them was reversed.

Support is being received from the Automobile General Engineering & Mechanical Operatives Union, which is ironical, as nearly half their members are in the army, repairing tanks!

A petition is circulating and has received considerably more support than could have been expected considering the silence of the Irish press on the whole case.

Liberal organisations such as the Irish NCCL are, however, showing great cowardice and not speaking out in the defence of the Murrays.

Rumour

The Official IRA has been spreading rumours which connect the Murrays with various assassinations, all of which are untrue — one case is well documented as being the responsibility of the UVF.

This is going on in the background of an election coming up in the autumn and pressure from Westminster to curb the IRA, which has brought the political parties out on a lor'n' order platform.

The Curragh military prison has been enlarged and 800 more police been recruited, mostly in the Dublin area, whilst the armed forces are at maximum strength.

Michael Murray, general secretary of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union has called for the death sentences to be commuted, as has the Belfast Telegraph.

In Britain, the annual conference of the National Union of School Students sent a protest to the Irish Government, as have the electricians'

union, the National Union of Students the T&GWU 5/833 and Glasgow Trades Council.

Pressure must be brought on the Irish Government for a retrial with a jury.

Pickets are being held at the Irish Embassy in Grosvenor Place, London every Saturday from 10am to 2pm.

There is a public meeting to be held in the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC2, on Tuesday September 10 at 7pm.

Defence groups are also operating in France, Italy, Japan, Spain, West Germany and the United States.

In July, a special supplement of *Anarchist Worker* was rushed out reporting on the trial and background and can be used, as it is in Dublin, as the general back-up information sheet to any local leaflets that are produced.

These supplements are available from North London AWA, c/o 136, Kingsland High St., London E8 2NS

Defence groups can be contacted in Britain at the following addresses: Glasgow: 163 Great George St.

(tel: 336 7895 evenings)

London: c/o Box 2, 142, Great Drummond St., NW1. (tel: 359 4794)

Manchester: c/o Grassroots 109, Oxford Road, Manchester 1.

Oxford: c/o EOA Books, 14, Cowley Road.

and in Eire at:

155, Church Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.

We should have no illusions about the outcome of the appeal; the present Irish Government has been more corrupt than most in appointing its hacks to the Bench.

It wants to draw blood, and the British Government, which proudly boasts the close collaboration of the two nations' security forces, is quietly encouraging it.

THEY MUST BE STOPPED!

K.H.

URGENT!!

The Irish Murray Defence Committee are attempting to raise £3,000 before November to take the case to the International Court at Strasbourg.

Send donations to: 155 Church Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, EIRE.



B. Traven — MAN OF MYSTERY

"My biography would not disappoint you, but it is my own private affair, and I want to keep it to myself. I do this not out of egotism....the biography of a creative person is completely unimportant. If the person cannot be recognised in his works, then he isn't worth a damn, and neither are his works."

B. Traven, letter to his publisher.

B. TRAVEN was the author of *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* (made into a film with Humphrey Bogart), *The Death Ship*, and many other novels written between 1920 and 1940.

In the sixties his books began to be reprinted, and many radicals and revolutionaries began to read him.

They felt great admiration for his depiction of working people's lives and of the great elemental forces that run through times of working class revolution.

Little is known about him. Even what his real name was. He deliberately kept quiet (see above) because of the revolutionary activities he had been involved in. No one knows where he was born.

He appears to have lived in Germany as a young man, going under the name of Ret Marut, and worked as an actor. Then he started bringing out a fiery little anarchist magazine, *The Brickburner* (*Die Ziegelbrunner*) railing against the war and the ruling class.

In 1919 revolution broke out in

Bavaria and workers formed councils and armed militias. He participated in this uprising, and when troops from Berlin viciously smashed this manifestation of freedom, he was sentenced to death by a military tribunal.

He escaped and continued to publish the *Brickburner* from the underground.

He probably left Europe in 1924, arriving in Mexico. Here he claimed that he was American, born in Chicago of Scandinavian immigrant parents.

About this time he began to write his books, adopting the name B. Traven. The first of these were published in Germany.

Not until on his death bed did he admit that he was Ret Marut. This is backed up by photos of Marut and Traven—definitely the same person.

He continued to remain obscure because of the exposure in his books of the terrible exploitation of the Mexican Indian peasants and because he had become an organiser for the Wobblies (the Industrial Workers of the World, a revolutionary workers' union based in the States). He masqueraded under the name

T. Torsvan and even worked as a consultant on the film *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*—never revealing that he was the author!

I've read three of his novels, currently available in paperbacks here. One *The Death Ship* must be regarded a masterpiece.

It tells the story of Gerard Gales, a New Orleans sailor. He is stranded in Antwerp without papers.

He becomes the stateless person shuttled from country to country, and harassed at all turns by the bureaucracy and the police. In the end, because he cannot get a job on a 'decent ship—because he has no papers—he is forced to work on the Yorick, the *Death Ship*, a ship that runs arms to whoever will buy.

The book is a brilliant exposure of the evils of the Nation State and of Frontiers.

Everything is seen through the eyes of Gales, not a political militant—just an ordinary sailor with a sharp mind, a warm and sympathetic character.

The *Death Ship* itself represents all the horrors of the system of exploitation—militarism and profiteering out of war, and the utter degradation its sailors suffer.

Yet through the agonising conditions that they face, we see them preserve their humanity and their willingness to resist.

Indians

Two other novels deal with the lives of the Mexican Indian peasants—how they are fooled, exploited and beaten by the landlords and the servants of the police and the foremen.

In the first, *March to Caobaland*, Celso, a young Indian, learns what it's like to be constantly tricked by the lumbercamp bosses, also their

ladinos, the white gentry, who prey on his illiteracy, their status, and the knowledge that the police are at their beck and call.

They steal his money, and force him into long contracts working on lumbercamps. Yet during his tribulations, Celso learns to fight back, not openly but through stealth and cunning.

His health depends on it. From being a poor dupe, he gradually changed into a person who wants to resist.

He succeeds in murdering two of the brutal foremen without being detected.

In the *Rebellion of the Hanged*, Celso appears again. Once more the ladinos tyrannise and deceive, and again we see the hells of the lumbercamps.

But revolutionary agitation is sweeping through Mexico and it infects the lumber workers who rise and destroy their bosses and overseers.

Tit for Tat

These two books are filled with scenes of brutality; the revolutionaries in their turn inflict brutality on the bosses.

But as Traven points out: "It was no fault of the rebels that they were animated by sentiments of death and destruction.

They had never been consulted about anything....Even if workers should have proposed an amicable discussion with the bosses on a basis of equality, the bosses would have replied with machine-gun fire..... Hence it was not mere savagery which drove the Indians to kill and despoil.

They gave proofs of cruelty only because their adversaries and oppressors were a hundred times

Iron Curtain News

USSR—In our last issue of *Anarchist Worker* there was an article indicating the reappearance of awareness of the anarchist traditions in the USSR.

As a short rider to that, it may be remembered that the Hungarian and Czechoslovak uprisings of the post 1945 era have revealed left dissidence to be present in other bureaucratic socialised states.

Sybille Plogstedt, a left scholar writes in the present edition of *Critique* (a bi-annual predominantly "Marxist" academic journal of Soviet studies and socialist theory) of the harassment she is now receiving as part of the contemporary repression of the West German left.

By way of introduction, however, she also tells of the 2½ year stretch she got from the Czech authorities in 1969 for 'anti-socialist subversion'.

Sybille was deported after serving this sentence, and it is her recollection of how, upon beginning her exile, she described the purpose of her activity in Prague, that is particularly interesting.

"For a hundred years our goals have been the goals of the revolutionary labour movement.

When we are sentenced today for our desire to eliminate the state organs of suppression—police, prisons, army—and to replace the state by workers' councils, this only shows that the Communist parties have left the road to socialism and communism."

Perhaps Sybille would not consider herself an anarchist, but it is significant that revolutionaries in her position are having to explore the areas of inevitable contradictions between state power and workers' sovereignty.

Incidentally, the main articles in this *Critique* No 6 are M. Lowy: *From the Great Logic of Hegel to the Finland Station in Petrograd*.

H. Ticktin: *The Contradictions of Soviet Society and Production*.

F. Galassi: *Surviving as a Satirist in the Soviet Union*.

G. Kay: *The Falling Rate of Profit, Unemployment and Crisis*.

M. Reiman: *Solzhenitzin's Gulag: A Reply from Eastern Europe*.

It has 136 pages, costs 70p and comes from 31 Cliveden Road, Glasgow GR OPH, Scotland.

more cruel and savage than they themselves, and such proofs were provided only to safeguard their interests".

Traven appreciates fully the power of mass action. As one of the revolutionaries says, "If you are in mass, you begin to be worth something

With the mass you possess a thousand heads and two thousand vigorous arms; and when you're in mass you have the superiority...the strongest lion is disarmed when he faces ten million ants and is compelled to abandon his prey which he wishes to capture.

You are the ants and the bosses are the lions".

Mexico

Traven writes with intimate knowledge of working lives, especially the Mexican Indians.

His descriptions of Mexico are colourful and capture a lot of the essential spirit of the country.

Anybody who wants to know Mexico should read these books. At the same time he manages to make his plots gripping and interesting.

Traven's books aren't pretty. They are not about refined, cultured people with complicated psychological problems.

They're about the wretchedness of the earth. They're about revolution. They're about class struggle.

As the sailor Stanislav says in *The Death Ship*, "There is justice in this world. Heaps of it.

But not for sailors, and not for working men making trouble. Justice is for the people who can afford to have it."

The Death Ship. Panther, 50p.
March to Caobaland. Penguin, 35p.
The Rebellion of the Hanged. Penguin, 30p.

letters

More on Russia

Dear Comrades,

I was pleased to read the article "Russian News", reprinted from the *International Libertarian Communist Review*, in the latest issue of *Anarchist Worker*.

That anarchist and libertarian communist activity, albeit on a very limited scale, continues in the so-called USSR even after all these years of

repression, is certain.

Peter Archinov was "liquidated", and thrown into a labour camp, around 1935; a number of fairly well-known *Makhnovists* were arrested as late as 1936 and 1937.

A few survived the "Great Patriotic War", and during the strikes and uprisings in a number of Siberian labour camps, not only members of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), but also Ukrainian anarchists, took part.

At one camp in the Taishet complex, during an uprising in 1956, a group of Ukrainian anarchists — probably *Makhnovist* "remnants" — raised the black flag of Anarchy over the camp for three days!

Regarding "Radio Anarchy", this clandestine station did exist; but it was over six years ago, and most certainly no longer operates.

As for the "clandestine group" reported in Leningrad in 1974, the first information

I received was a report from comrades of ORA Francaise that a small ORA-type group was functioning, somewhat precariously, in that city.

Knowing Leningrad, and having been there, I think this is quite possible.

Whether the group, which did in fact publish *The Truth About Kronstadt*, still exists I cannot say.

I have walked through the working class district of Vyborg where, in 1918, *Golos Truda* was published as a daily paper.

And, of course, over the last few years, there have been quite a number of more "sophisticated", post-Stalinist, books and reviews on anarchism published in the Soviet Union.

Readers of *Anarchist Worker* may be interested to know that S. Semanov, in his book *The Liquidation of the Anti-Soviet Mutiny of Kronstadt — 1921* attacks not only Paul Avrich (for his views

in his book *Kronstadt — 1921*), but also the libertarian communist views expressed by a member of the Anarchist Workers Association — the writer of this letter!

Obviously, to a small degree, we have the state-capitalist bureaucrats of the USSR rattled.

We shall, I am sure, hear more about "counter-revolutionary" anarchism in the Soviet Union as time goes by.

Yours Fraternally,
Peter E Newell, Colchester

Manouvres Survey

Dear Anarchist Worker,

I am compiling a survey of authoritarian practices within Trotskyist and other Leninist organisations in this country, and

would like to ask the help of your readers.

Anyone who has knowledge of political manoeuvrings within trade unions by such parties; of manoeuvrings within their central committees and branches or factions — and the outcome of these (eg expulsions), I would be very grateful to hear from.

Anyone who does send me information (at the address below) is welcome to do so anonymously.

Evidence and detail (eg party newspapers or references to them, dates) for the stories would be especially appreciated.

Thank you.

K.M.H.,
3 W 1,
c/o University College London Union,
Gordon Street,
London WC1.

NOT TO BE MISSED....

RED LADDER THEATRE GROUP

I MUST ADMIT that I've often found performances by left wing theatre groups more of an ordeal than a pleasure.

Many of them are so concerned with getting their message across that they forget the need to be entertaining as well.

This is self-defeating, as the whole value of this type of theatre is to make a political point concretely and vividly, to put it into human terms, and to complement the usual political speeches and discussions.

Theatre

However, I'm delighted to say that the Red Ladder Theatre Group do not make this mistake; their plays, *A Woman's Work is Never Done* and *It makes You Sick*, which they recently performed in Hull, are highly entertaining, very funny and don't talk down to the audience.

A Woman's Work is Never Done traces the experiences of a young woman through marriage, having kids and going back to work.

She gets involved, unwillingly at first,

in union activities, learns the value of solidarity, and overcomes the contemptuous or condescending attitudes of the men around her, including her husband.

Despite a small cast, the group really make you believe in and sympathise with the characters, as well as being able to laugh at them.

It Makes You Sick deals with the National Health Service, looking at it through the eyes of a factory worker who gets a stomach ulcer, and his wife who has to cope with the family's problems, including finding a job for herself.

Again with a very small cast, it gives a vivid picture of the understaffed, underfinanced, overworked system on which the private patients and consultants are parasites. The consultant's song about BUPA is not to be missed!

The major characters seem like real people with strengths and weaknesses, and not just symbols.

The very large audiences in Hull really enjoyed both plays, even joining in the songs, which I've never known to happen here before!

The discussions which were held after the performances were also very useful.

All in all I can thoroughly recommend either of these plays for any type of audience.



Red Ladder Theatre Group in 'A Woman's Work is Never Done'.

The group prefer to be booked by working class organisations such as trade union branches, tenants or community associations and so on, because, as they say, their shows are primarily designed for non-political working class audiences.

They usually charge the organisers a minimum of £40 (which you should be able to get back in ticket sales), and try to make up the rest of their costs by a subsidy from the Regional Arts Association.

If you live in the North of England and are interested in booking the Red Ladder Theatre Group, please write to them at 20 Westminster Buildings, 31 New York Street, Leeds 2.

M.M.

AIMS & PRINCIPLES

- 1 Capitalism is a class society
- 2 The basic irreconcilable contradiction within it is between the class which owns and controls the means of production, distribution and exchange, the bourgeoisie, and the class who produce the agricultural and industrial wealth, the working class.
- 3 The social enslavement and exploitation of the working class forms the basis upon which modern capitalism stands, without which capitalism could not exist.
- 4 The state is the instrument of the ruling class. To destroy the power of the bourgeoisie, we must destroy the power of the state.
- 5 Russia and China are class societies in each of which a ruling class of administrators collectively owns and controls the means of production, distribution and exchange, and in which a working class, the sole producer of all wealth, is exploited by that class. These states we define as corporate state capitalist in that the ruling class is totally integrated with the state, as is the trade union structure.
- 6 The class nature of society is reflected in all the dominant philosophies: class, race, sexual, social and personal relationships. The class relationships are expressed through all social relationships and generate attitudes such as sexism and racism.
- 7 The conflict of interests between the two classes generates the class struggle. In the history of society, the class struggle has been the primary factor in the determination of the form and structure of society.
- 8 The day to day struggles of the working class reflect the class struggle. The position of the working class as the collective producer of society's wealth

makes it the only force capable of replacing capitalism by a classless society. The existing defensive organisations thrown up by the working class, such as trade unions, whose bureaucracy is increasingly incorporated into capitalism, are not adequate for the smashing of the capitalist system, and the building of a free, classless society. However, the working class rank and file organisations such as democratically controlled shop steward committees, factory committees, strike committees, are developing through the place of work. These organisations are the forerunners of workers councils which are the expression of working class power. Outside of work, the working class has developed other forms of organisation that are potentially revolutionary, such as tenants action committees, rent strike committees, and tenant-worker joint action committees.

- 9 Dual power exists before the power of the bourgeoisie is smashed. If the working class are successful, then the organisation of the needs of society will be firmly based in working class hands. This is the collective working class in power, in which the working class destroys all remnants of bourgeois society, such as racial hatred, the family and hierarchies. This is the period of transition between capitalism and libertarian communism.
- 10 From our analysis we reach the inevitable conclusion that capitalism cannot be reformed in any fundamental way and that the only meaningful transformation of society is through the development of working class organisations and by means of a violent social revolution. Violence becomes inevitable for the

working class to defend themselves against the onslaughts of the dispossessed ruling class.

The role of the AWA

- 1 The task of the AWA is to aid the preparation of the working class for their seizure of power. The establishment of an anarchist society is something that has to be consciously fought for by the working class. The AWA is a conscious organised expression of libertarian communist ideas. Through the shared experience, information and knowledge of the class struggle, AWA must be able to analyse and disseminate the nature of the problems facing the working class, and apply these lessons in the class struggle.
- 2 The AWA aims to offer a lead within the working class movement by example and explanation; and to build into the movement a high level of political consciousness so that it is capable of defeating capitalism and fighting the creation of a new ruling class. Fundamental to this is the contradiction between the organisation as a tendency within the class and its being in ideological advance of it. This contradiction can only be resolved with the establishment of a libertarian communist society. During the period of transition, the potential basis for the emergence of a new ruling class is progressively removed so that the need for a separately organised libertarianism will decrease.
- 3 The AWA seeks to develop and support working class organisations which are the forerunners of workers councils and to develop in them revolutionary consciousness. The AWA does not seek independent power for itself but seeks to work through the working class

organisations.

- 4 The AWA seeks to establish international links with libertarian revolutionary organisations and groups with an aim of establishing an international libertarian communist movement.
- 5 The AWA seeks to combat attitudes of sexism, racism and national chauvinism as attitudes that help maintain class society.

The form our organisation takes is a realisation of libertarian perspectives in the current situation. We recognise that it is not a social model of a free society and must itself develop in interaction with the developing liberation of society.

[1] We are a membership organisation.
[2] Membership is open to those who agree with our analysis of society and its transformation, and who work towards this end.
[3] The main policy making body will be the National Conference. Between National Conferences there will be held bi-monthly Delegate Conferences to co-ordinate and carry out National Conference decisions, to decide interim policy and to initiate activity. Delegates are mandatable and rotated. Delegate Conference decisions can be revoked by National Conference.

[4] We seek to establish AWA groups in all areas, not only geographical but also industrial, educational, etc. Groups interpret National and Delegate Conference decisions to relate tactics to their local experience.

As agreed at the National Conference in London 31 August - 1 September 1974.

Press Fund

THANKS FOR all your donations to the Press Appeal Fund.

However, a lot more money is still needed to pay for the Headliner we bought recently.

To date, we have collected out of the £200 we need — £160 for the machine and £40 for typeface fonts.

Over the summer months, press fund contributions tend to fall off, so please, if you've just come back from your holiday and you've got a little money left over, remember ANARCHIST WORKER.

And if you'd forgotten about us because of the July/August double issue, tie a knot in your handkerchief and send off that lolly — even if it's only 20p.

Everything helps (though we prefer folding money, obviously!).

Until we have paid off the debt on the Headliner, we cannot hope to expand the paper into a 12-page monthly, then to go fortnightly.

This will help revolutionary anarchism become more influential and ANARCHIST WORKER more effective in spreading libertarian communist politics.

This depends a great deal on the readers — an anarchist newspaper should be a collective effort, not a part of the spectacle.

So rush those articles about what you think and what you're involved in, in your area, orders for bundles of the paper — and money — to:

AWA, 13 Coltman Street, HULL.
(Please make all cheques/POs payable to 'AWA General Fund')

Anarchist Worker

RIGHT IN THE



The *Eye* is now threatened with suppression.

James Goldsmith, the millionaire boss of Slater-Walker, has issued 93 writs against it, following an article in the *Eye* which named him in connection with the suicide of one Dominic Elwes. (Elwes also alluded to Goldsmith — in his suicide note.)

Goldsmith states that he is not intending to drive *Private Eye* out of circulation. This denial is plainly untrue.

Goldsmith has recently made an arrangement with several of the paper's distributors, withdrawing his writs against them — on condition that they cease to handle the *Eye*.

In his fight against the paper, Goldsmith has sought financial help "from a score of handpicked millionaires" (*Sunday Times* 15.8.76.



He has also resurrected the rarely-used law of Criminal Libel under which journalists are liable to imprisonment.

Now if a character like Goldsmith were to use his immorally large wealth to suppress — say — the obscure publication of some trotskyst or maoist sect, it is probable that the left as a whole would mount a defence.

And yet most left-wingers seem to be quite unworried about what is happening to *Private Eye*. Why is this?

Crimes

The *Eye* has committed serious crimes in the view of many leftists.

It refers, improperly, to the fact that various of the undesirables it attacks happen to be Jewish.

Of the paper's two named columnists, one — consistently left in viewpoint — is the ex-CP'er Claude

Cockburn.

In the 1930's, under the pseudonym 'Frank Pitcairn', Cockburn published in the *Daily Worker* various untruths about the anarchists in the Spanish revolution — untruths which are described and refuted in Orwell's *Homage to Catalonia*.

The other named columnist, however, is A. Waugh, a rightist of the "What the lower classes simply don't realise..." variety.

On his TV programme, Waugh recently defended his occupation of a luxurious Somerset mansion with the argument that "Working class people wouldn't want to live here anyway. They couldn't afford the bills".

But Waugh's naivete (witness the above claim of his), and his use of shrill exaggeration as a substitute for wit, make him an unusually ineffective writer by *Eye* standards.

As a political influence, his *Eye* column can be ignored.

For many people probably the main sin of *Private Eye* is to have satirised the left, and to have done so with great skill.

The paper's 'Dave Spart' column is likely to have offended many socialists precisely because they have seen their own, and their comrades' faults reflected in it with such accuracy.

'Spart' parodies the confident, spurious, claims about imminent revolution ("One day soon the working class will... Cont p.94") which will be familiar to readers of the old *Workers Press*: compare also the prophecy implicit in the phrase, common on the left, 'late capitalism'.

Well parodied too is the inept verbosity of student leftists and others: ("Er, basically, the problematic of the situation is...").

The writer of this article has recently heard people at left meetings talking about "specificities" (=details), "concrete perspectives" and "the problem of tackling redundancy situations concretely".

The weary exaggerations found in some left rhetoric ("totally fascist"), and the anxious attempts of people with workeritis to identify with the industrial working class, also get the 'Spart' treatment (Dave Spart is the General Secretary of the National Amalgamated Union of Sixth Form

Operatives).

Sins

How should we react to a paper which commits such sins? It's pretty unhealthy if we can't enjoy, or even tolerate, well-aimed jokes at our own — avoidable — faults.

More importantly, if we are serious about spreading our ideas among working people, then we had better know what the mistakes are which can sometimes make leftists appear ludicrous.

What is the probable reaction of working people, when they come to a left meeting for the first time, and hear the comrades talking about 'specificities', 'problematics' concrete perspectives' etc. etc.

Spart's column could be profitably used to diagnose some of our own faults.

Yes, but what about the right-wing stuff in *Private Eye*? In the first place, there isn't much of it compared with the left-wing, or just anti-establishment, sections of the paper.

The longer, more solidly researched articles have been consistently left in intention and effect — and not only in the days when Paul Foot worked on the *Eye*.

There's also an important general principle at issue.

If we knew of a factory canteen, or a student union (or even a pub), where left-wing and anti-establishment views predominated, but where some right wing stuff also got uttered (and such places have been known!) and if some right-wing millionaire tried to close down the place entirely, we should probably have no doubt that the place would have to be defended — if necessary, warts and all.

The position of *Private Eye* seems very similar.

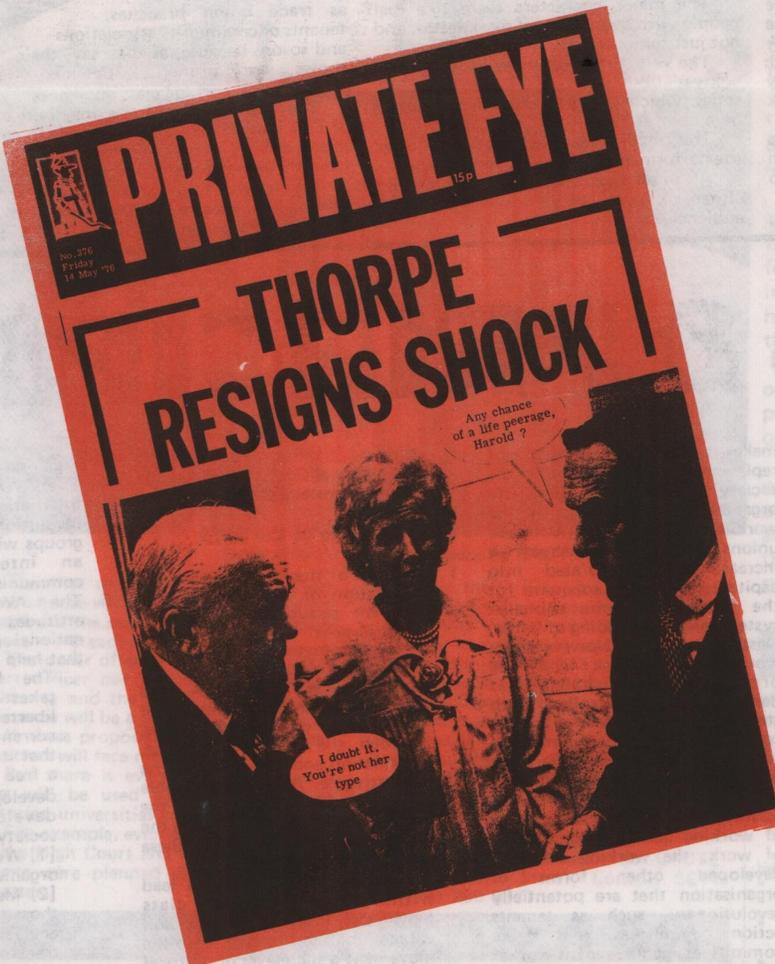
It is not the product of a single mind, with occasional right-wing excrescences. It is the work of a collection of journalists who have conflicting views — and who are given an unusual 'freedom' to express them.

If Goldsmith gets his way, then we lose the only effective scandal sheet in the country — the paper which has exposed — among others — Maudling, Lonrho, Slater-Walker, Concorde and the National Front.

A few left-wingers with under-developed senses of humour may be glad to see it go. But there's no doubt as to who would feel the greatest relief if *Private Eye* were suppressed — the British ruling class.

A. Powell

(The writer of the above article wishes to make it clear that it contains his own, and not necessarily the AWA's, opinions. He also wishes to make clear his opinion that financial support should be given to the Goldenballs Appeal Fund, *Private Eye*, 34 Greek Street, London W1.)



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Please make all cheques/POs payable to 'AWA General Fund' (abroad IMOs only) and send them to AWA, 13, Coltman Street, Hull Humberside.

The tyranny of sTRuCTurELeSSneSS

by Jo Freeman 5p

In this pamphlet Jo Freeman attempts to sketch out an approach to organisation that would prevent the growth of elitist leaderships—which both highly centralised and highly informal groupings tend to produce. In revulsion from the tyrannical structures of governments, unions and other organisations some anarchists have shied away from any meaningful consideration of self-organisation. The Anarchist Workers Association played no part in the writing of this pamphlet but has found it highly applicable to the ineffectuality of anarchism in Britain in recent decades.

Send 5p + 7p p&p to AWA, 13 Coltman Street, Hull, Humberside for a copy. 10 or more 3½p each. Please make cheques/PO's

LIBERTARIAN SOCIALIST DISCUSSION MEETINGS

to be held at Gay Centre, 19 Redmans Road, London E1. all meetings on Thursdays at 7.30pm

September 16

REVOLUTIONARY ANARCHISM

September 30

THE UNIONS

October 14

THE LEFT

October 26

UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE CUTS —HOW TO FIGHT THEM

November 11

THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT AND SEXUAL POLITICS

convened by East London AWA

Anarchist Transport Workers contact ADAM 01-247 4829

Spain — Anarchists and libertarians in prison in Spain need assistance.

Please send donations to: c/o Comite Pro-presos, 87 rue de Patay, 75013, Paris France.

WOMEN & EDUCATION

Practical approaches to non-sexist teaching and learning. 10am—5pm, Saturday October 2, registration £1.50 for unwaged, students, includes costs of reports from day.

—Open to men and women— Register with: Women & Education Group, c/o 4 Cliffdale Drive, Crumpsall, Manchester 8.

CALLING ALL ANTI-RACISTS TO BLACKBURN LANCs..!

March & Rally **Sept 11**

STARTING AT 2pm FROM BROOKHOUSE LANE, WHALLEY RANGE AREA, TO RALLY IN KING GEORGE'S HALL AT 3pm

The fascists have publicly stated we shall not be ALLOWED to march. They have promised "Blood in the streets". We will march—with a mass turnout.

Organised by Action Against Racism (AAR)

Women in Media Seminar on the Sex Discrimination Act

Saturday October 23

Bedford College, Regents Park

Register with Women in Media, 13 Elgin Crescent, London W11

AWA OPEN DAY SCHOOL AWA OPEN DAY SCHOOL AWA OPEN DAY SCHOOL

The State and Workers Power

covering the Marxist and anarchist theories of the state and their application in the revolutions of this century.

Saturday October 23, 10am—6pm O.S.A. Rooms Leeds University Union

for more details ring Leeds 757961

LABOUR'S POLICIES IN THE N.H.S.

A pamphlet from the National Co-ordinating Committee against Cuts in the NHS.

It contains detailed information on when and how the cuts in the NHS are taking place and their likely effects.

For example, 7,000 beds have been lost in South London through hospital closures.

In Dorset, cancer patients had to wait up to six weeks for operations, allowing tumors to spread.

Available from NCC-NHS, 55, Bridge Lane, London NW11. The NCC-NHS is also appealing for any further information on the cuts, and campaigns against them.

They will also provide copies of their petition against the cuts.