

Stop The City

Our estimation of the numbers involved was perhaps a bit of an exaggeration. More like 1-2000 (not all in one place) throughout the day, depending on what was happening. The ratio of arrested now takes on a different angle: an average of 15%, providing a good revenue for the City coffers via the fines. Other late news includes:

A peace Convoy truck was taken over by cops but a couple of passing punks jumped in, knocked the police driver to one side and one of them escaped with the truck keys.

An attempt was made to occupy Rothschilds but the guards inside were too numerous and well prepared.

While the cops were out in force guarding the City, the offices of the Sun and News of the World newspapers were robbed of £125,000 by 2 separate gangs. Nice work. N.B. The town of Loccum in W. Germany was the venue for a 'dialogue' between pacifists and police. However over 150 anti-militarists thought that this was too much and blockaded the hall where the meeting was being held. They managed to smash the hall's P.A. and forcibly eject a police chief.

'I STOPPED THE CITY
BUT I DIDN'T STOP IT FOR A DAY.
I STOPPED THE CITY
BUT THE COPPERS CARRIED ME AWAY.'

Lindisfarne

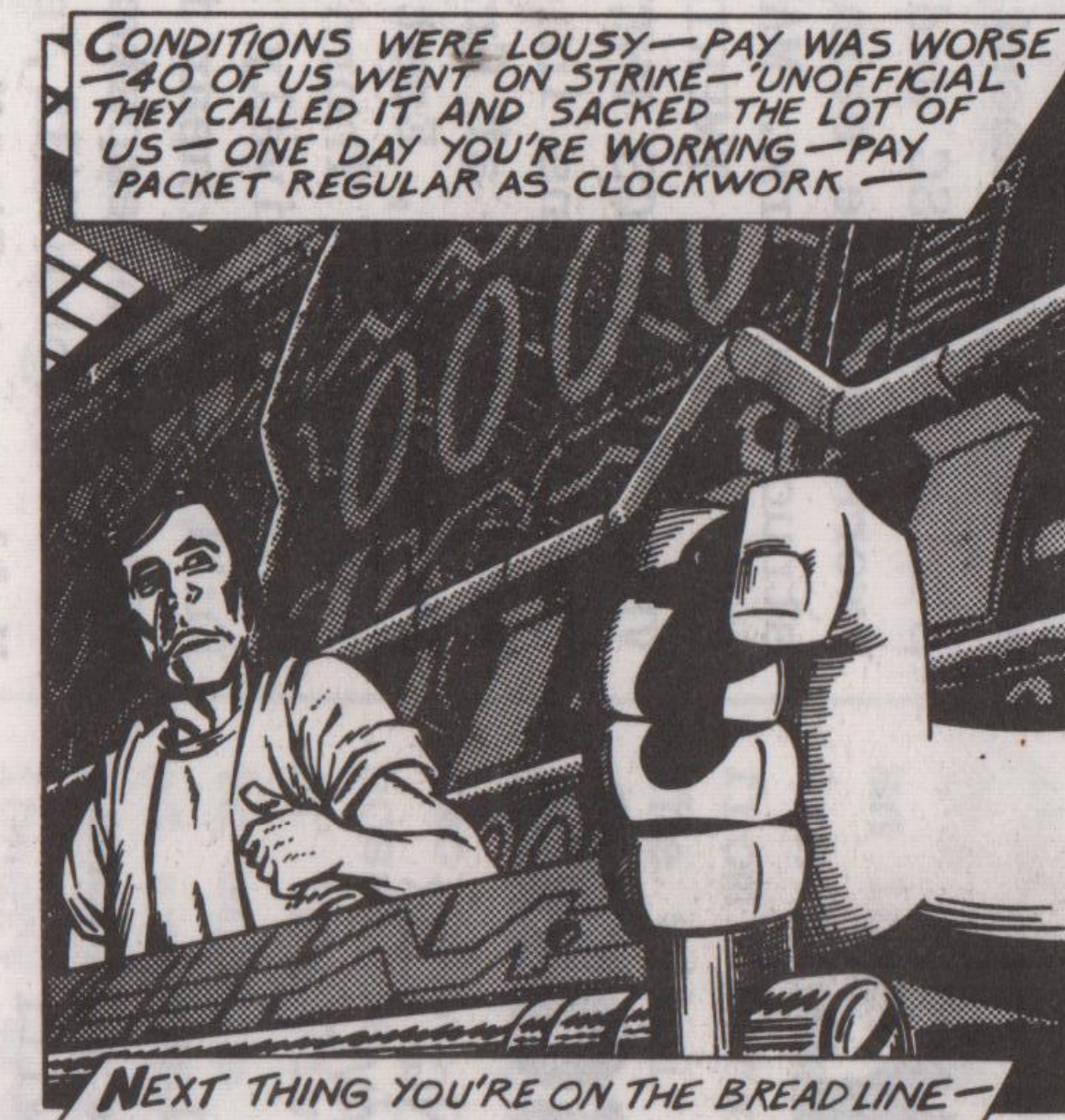
Ex-Lindisfarne vocalist/songwriter Alan Hull is having a hard time with selling his new single Malvinas Melody. Normally you'd expect the radio stations to plug anything new that comes out of the Lindisfarne camp. But Hull also got the same treatment with his previous record, Cruising to Disaster, which Lindisfarne did for CND. Whenever Hull has performed Malvinas Melody live it has gone down well and it has all the signs of a 'hit'. Its unlikely to get any big time distribution and no Newcastle (where Hull/Lindisfarne are from) store stocks it. The local MP has denounced it as sick and cynical. However the local left/anarchist bookshop, Days of Hope, has offered to sell and distribute the single. Other bookshops/distributors interested in getting hold of copies should contact them.

Days of Hope Bookshop, 115 Westgate Rd,
Newcastle Upon Tyne. NE1 England

PUBLICATIONS

KNOCKABOUT COMICS

KC was busted earlier this year, but have risen again to publish more issues. Contributors include Steve Bell ('Maggies Farm'), Cliff Harper and others. Also a piece on Eddie Horner. 95p. (its worth it) from KC, 249 Kensal Road, London W10.



THE LOBSTER

Investigative Stuff. Includes article on the Kincora Boys Home scandal. Available from Robin Ramsay, 17c Pearson Avenue, Hull HU5 2SX. Price 65p.

NEWCASTLE ANARCHIST GROUP LIBRARY

Can be contacted c/o 1a Wingrove Road, Fenham, Newcastle-UponTyne, NE4 9BP. All material/enquiries welcome.

BLACK MAIL

Anarchist Spasmodical. Special Anniversary Issue No. 2. 16 pages. Liquid Blast; Squatting in Sydney; Sabotage; Modern little Red Hen; Strength through Oi!? & more from: PO Box 13-407 Christchurch N.Zealand.

OUTTA CONTROL

Issue 40 out. Includes articles on the Supergrass trials, the abortion campaign in the south, and lots more. Only 5p (new price, new format) from Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast 1.

SEDITION

No 1, produced by some members of Birmingham DAM, c/o 18 Moor Street, Queensway, Birmingham 4. Includes articles on the CPSA strike, Episiotomies, local Labour corruption, etc. Price 5p plus postage.

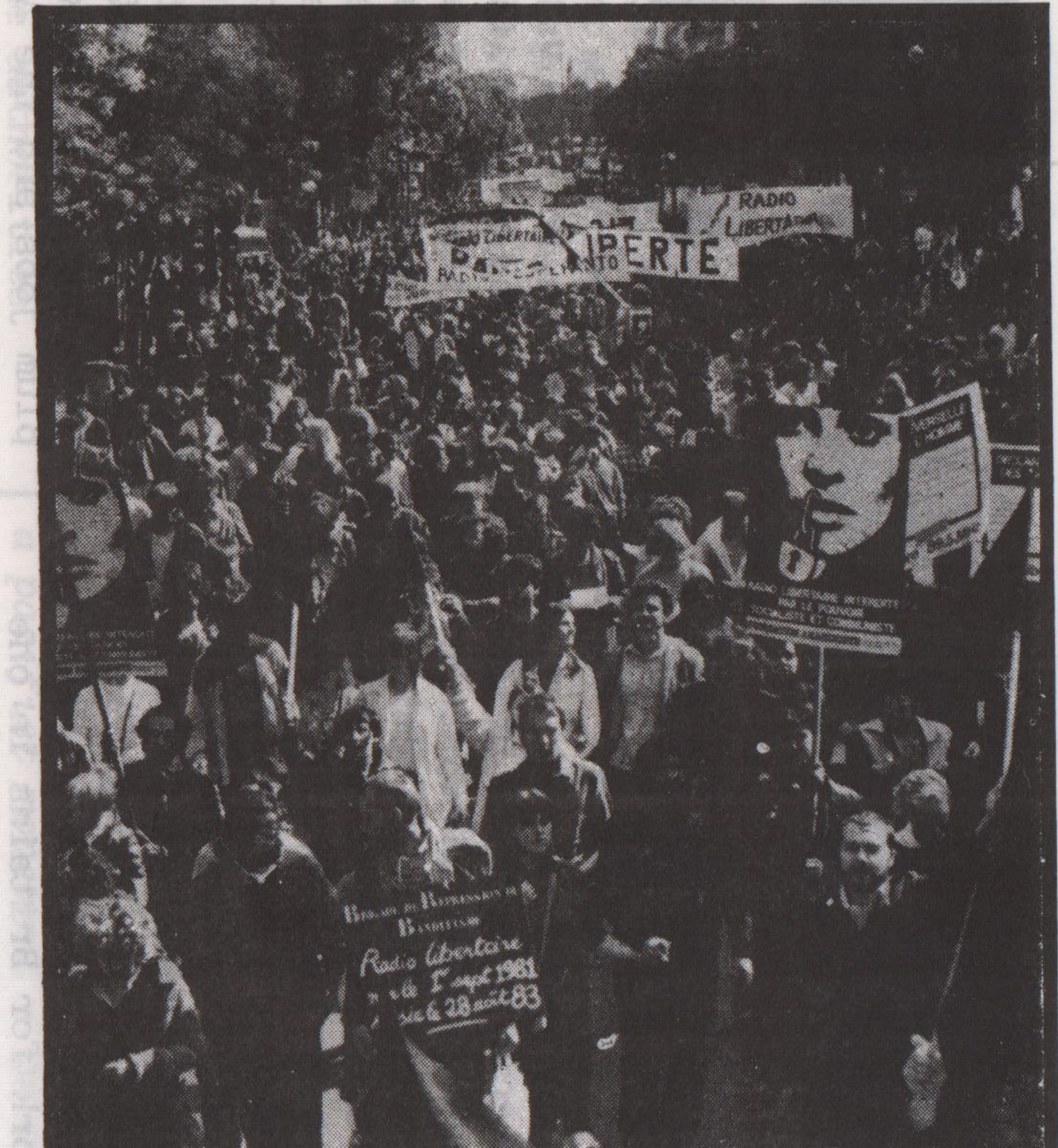
BLACK FLAG

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSBULLETIN VOL VII No. 4b 21/10/'83

CANADA

EXCLUSIVE THATCHER'S ATTACKER

Recently the national and international press ran front page stories on how a young man attempted to attack Margaret Thatcher when she visited Toronto in Canada. There was more to this story than meets the eye. The true story of what really happened is printed below. Kenneth Deyarmond was not a 'loony', as the bourgeoisie press would have us believe, nor did he attempt to physically attack Thatcher and risk long term imprisonment (attacking an international VIP is a serious offence in Canada). Deyarmond is an anarchist and a member of the Toronto support group for the Vancouver 5 (the five anarchists on trial accused of several actions, including bombing a cruise missile parts plant, robbery, possession of weapons and explosives, the firebombing of 3 video porn stores, the bombing of a hydro electric sub-station, etc.) At the demonstration outside the Sheraton Centre, where Thatcher was going to give a talk, Deyarmond arrived with 2 friends to hand out Vancouver 5 leaflets and leaflets against the Canadian governments attempts to set up a civilian spy network against political activists. The demonstration also included people protesting against cruise and the British occupation of the north of Ireland. The security cops were tense and when the crowd surged forward Deyarmond was pushed into a cop who, with the assistance of another cop, hauled him off into the Centre, where he was assaulted. Besides being charged with assaulting Thatcher Deyarmond is also accused of assaulting the cops and with possessing dope.



Mass demonstration in Paris in support of Radio Libertaire. More solidarity reports next issue.

Deyarmond says that he doesn't smoke dope, nor would he be stupid enough to take some to a demonstration if he did. Deyarmond accuses the authorities of deliberately provoking and causing an incident for their own ends (namely to justify the need for tougher security measures against political activists) and as yet another example of harassment against the Vancouver 5 supporters. Recently other examples of harassment against Vancouver 5 supporters in the Toronto area include: the threatening of Abe Weisfield with conspiracy in the Litton bombing because he refused to testify against the Five (a case of 'if you're not for us, you must be with them'); the raid on the Bulldozer Collective, who have been charged with sedition; and many other raids on political activists.

To stop the railroading of this activist by the police, write, donate to:
Ken Deyarmond, PO Box 6326, Station A
Toronto, Ontario M5W 1P7 CANADA

BLACK FLAG/BLACK CROSS
c/o Box ABC, 121 Railton Road,
London SE24 (01)2746655

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Rents

Now that the rent of those claiming unemployment benefit/supplementary benefit is paid direct to the housing authority it is impossible to stage rent strikes. In the past those who were most prepared to strike were the unemployed, who valued the extra money saved as a result of the action. This weapon has been effectively taken away from their hands and those most likely to strike are now the lower paid. It is not impossible, therefore, to imagine in the not-too-far distant future the government seeking a way to curtail this threat too. A likely proposal would be to bring in a law that will enable councils to direct-debit from the workers bank account or even from the employer. Already many people are encouraged to direct-debit rate payments (its the only way you can pay by installments), so there is no need for a precedent to be set. Private tenants can of course find a way around all this bureaucracy: their rent payments are (if they are signing on as unemployed) paid to them in the form of a cheque to be passed on to the landlord. If there were a growing campaign to refuse to receive payment in the form of cheques (on the grounds that being unemployed there is no need to have a bank account, for which charges have to be made), then some authorities may be forced to pay the rent direct to the tenant (paying direct to the landlord would prove impossible as many landlords would not want to be paid in this way for tax reasons). More and more the government are hoping to squeeze cash out of existence; preferring to rely on paper transfers instead. Already they have got an agreement from Len Murray, the trade union leader, to abolish the right of workers to be paid in cash. This leaves the way open for the future when the government will try to deal with debts (and the renegeing of their payments) at source. The payment of rent by direct debit from the unemployment benefit/supplementary benefit may only be the beginning of things to come.

Fiddling

According to one British insurance company over £2m a day is fiddled from industry by employees. Unfortunately most of this is spirited away by yer actual bosses who specialise in computer and high level paper fraud. However one well known car manufacturer has recently put in a claim for over £75,000 worth of parts that have been expropriated by workers on the assembly lines. The parts were consistently taken from the main assembly areas and used to construct complete vehicles away from the plant.

Britain at its best

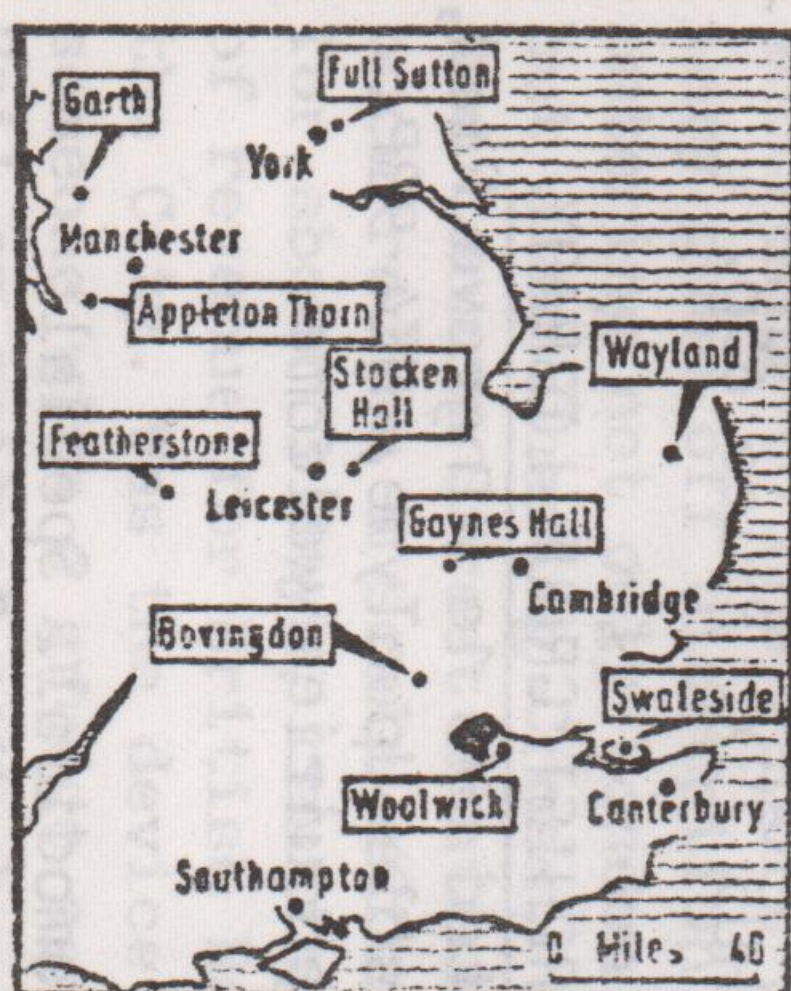
A Walthamstow toy manufacturer, Britains, enjoys high profits at the expense of other peoples misfortune. Much of the labour is farmed out to those in institutions. Waltham Forest Council's Adult Training Unit (sic) provides handicapped people to do piece work, as do Claybury Hospital where mentally disturbed patients are taken on as casuals. Prisoners at Northeye Prison, Bexhill-on-Sea, do assembly work for Britains in one of the prison workshops. The prisoners receive £2 a week for their work. Some of the prisoners complained that it was all a bit ridiculous, considering the widespread unemployment and they resent taking jobs away from others who are on the dole. The prison guards maintain that the arrangement with Britains is with the agreement of 'the unions'. They are right: the Prison Industries Joint Consultative Committee decide what work goes to prisons; the TUC sits on this committee which has no jurisdiction to decide on wages and conditions. An 8 week old strike has just ended at Britains. The strikers made no gains: they were demanding a shorter working week. Like the Aire Valley dispute much of the workforce are Asian (mainly women) and are badly paid and overworked. Much of the work is done at the workers home at even lower rates of pay. The factory itself is like a sweatshop and health and safety conditions are archaic. Last

year Britains made a profit of £945,000 (30% up on the previous year). Curiously the shop steward at Britains has the same name as one of the strike leaders at Aire Valley Yarns, Liaquat Ali. The similarities don't stop there. The white workers at Britains refused to back up the Asian workers and when the strike first began, they resigned from the union, the TGWU. The office staff and skilled production workers are also white and are largely non-union. Within the factory a kind of caste system therefore predominates, with the white workers with all the plum jobs and the Asian workers with the lowest wages. Not to mention handicapped and mentally ill workers and prisoners who are treated as slave labour.

According to Liaquat Ali the strike was broken because of the intervention of the police. Altogether 18 people were arrested for striking. Pickets were threatened with arrest if they even tried to talk to scabs and one press photographer was arrested for simply taking a photo. Strikers have found it difficult to trace the source of the plants suppliers as police have prevented them from making enquiries (when one striker tried to follow a scab truck the police arrested the striker for obstruction).

Meanwhile Britains is getting away with murder. They are not the only ones to use slave labour by exploiting those in institutions: firms all round the country do exactly the same, with the blessing of local councils and the TUC.

SORCE: New Statesman, etc.



D.I.Y. Prisons

(DIGGING YOUR OWN GRAVE)

YTS and MSC recruits will be placed on schemes to help build 10 new prisons throughout the country. These will provide around 5,000+ places for offenders, costing £193m. It is envisaged that these prisons will help relieve much of the present overcrowding; many are low cost/low security prisons for category 'D' and 'C' inmates. The Home Office says that prisoners in both these categories 'do not have the ability or resources (or motivation) to make an escape attempt.' These low cost units will also be used to incarcerate young offenders, employing the 'short, sharp shock' treatment. In the meantime until these prisons are built young offenders will be sent to emergency prison camps (ex-army barracks) such as the one at Rolleston Camp, Salisbury Plain (utilised during the '81 riots). Sentences of week long solitary is also being pushed as policy: young offenders would be placed in cells that contain the minimum of facilities, including no furniture, no right to possessions, etc. The more permanent variety of these

units are either currently under construction or about to commence construction. MSC and YTS low paid 'workers' are being used on the construction work. MANY ARE LIKELY TO END UP BEING IMPRISONED INSIDE THE VERY BUILDINGS THEY ARE WORKING ON! The 10 prisons in question include Wayland jail at Griston, near Norfolk, Stocken Hall, East Leicestershire and Appleton Thornton, near Warrington (both exclusively for young offenders), Full Sutton, near Humberside, Bovingdon near Hemel Hempstead, Swaleside jail at Stanford Hill, in Kent, Gaynes Hall, near St. Neots, Garth Prison, near Preston, Featherstone prison, near Wolverhampton (for women prisoners) and Woolwich prison, E. London. The last four are still only at the drawing board stage and work may not commence for at least another year. There are several things that can be done. Workers can refuse to work on the construction; if this doesn't work out then a campaign of sabotage can be employed by those who end up on the sites. If the site is unionised raise the issue locally within your branch. If it is not unionised, form a local action group, or a section of the Direct Action Movement (the anarcho-syndicalist union) and 'black' the site. Find out if there are any YTS recruits working for supply firms; if so, they may be able to help out with secondary actions. If the construction is too far advanced, try and make drawings of the interior (they may come in useful one day when prisoners are liberated).

JOIN THE YTS - ITS A SABOTEURS LIFE!

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

South Africa

Throughout the last two months there has been a boycott of buses in the Ciskei. In July fares were raised by 10% and many workers who have to travel many miles to work each day to service the predominantly white and 'coloured' cities of East London and King Williams Town, are demanding that the increase be dropped. The result of the boycott has been that the white areas have been plunged into chaos as black workers get in late or not at all. The authorities have responded by sending in vigilantes and death squads to deal with militants. Altogether at least a dozen people have been killed by the death squads while the boycott has been on. The ANC, for their part, have responded with retaliatory actions against the Consulates-General in Johannesburg and Pretoria. Meanwhile trade union activity has been banned altogether in the Ciskei. This means that a curious situation has developed: a Ciskei worker may legally be a member of a union in, say, East London, but cannot be a member where they live.

In northern Transvaal tankers at a railway station were blown up by limpet mines. Two others were found attached to a door of the local municipal office and were defused. It is thought that the mines were placed by the ANC in retaliation for the massacre of black strikers in the Ciskei for participating in a boycott of the bus services because of rising prices. One report (unsubstantiated) claims that around 90 were murdered by troops and police outside the railway station of Midanstane.



France

According to the fascist paper 'Nationalism Today', the 'serious' paper of the National Front, at the height of the right-wing riots earlier in the year, the Parti des Forces Nouvelle and the Group Union et Defence (Both neo-fascist organisations) had their common HQ attacked when 8lbs of plastic explosive blew out 3 floors, destroying offices, printing presses and files. The National Front argue that one of the lessons to be learnt from the French riots are that fascists do not always need to see themselves as being outside mass popular demonstrations; instead they can be at the forefront leading them. The NF then go on to argue that fascists in Britain should get more involved in workers struggle, against unemployment and wage cuts, etc. The collaboration between the left and the establishment once 'socialists' are elected to power, and the acquiescence of so-called militant left organisations in the face of left-wing austerity measures, is proof, according to the NF, that the right have as much claim to popular revolt as anyone.

SOURCE: Nationalism Today

Vancouver 5

In the 'Peace Movement' of North America, the ideals of pacifism are being applied very dogmatically to a mass social struggle, and have become entrenched as 'ideology of non-violence'. Often times, adherence to the ideology appears to actually take precedence over the realisation of the goals we are seeking....

If we, as a movement, restrict ourselves to non-violent tactics only - in other words if we are strictly a pacifist movement - we will continue to make definite advances from here, but eventually we will find ourselves prevented from going any further by the repressive forces of the state... It is true that all revolutionary movements in power have become statist regimes, but it is false to conclude that this is because violent tactics were used during their liberation process. Instead, it should be attributed to the fact that such movements operated according to an authoritarian statist ideology...

To a great extent the movement now operates with a protest mentality... Because we imagine that through protest the powerful will eventually be pressurised to change, we are mistakenly wholly engaged in a form of struggle in which the outcome is ultimately left in the hands of those we oppose... A resistance mentality is based upon the premise that the powerful will ignore our protests, and therefore that we must build a movement with the commitment and determination to utilize means of struggle by which we ourselves can stop the projects that we oppose....

The above is an edited version of an interview with two of the Five: Ann Hansen and Brent Taylor. Taken from 'Kick It Over', No. 8.

The trial of the Five has been moved from Vancouver to the town of New Westminster. The reason for this is twofold: to make it as difficult as possible for friends and supporters of the Five to attend the trial, and to ensure that the jury that is selected are more conservative types (New Westminster is generally a more reactionary area).

Italy

FRANCO LEGGIO & GAINNI CERAVOLO FREED

Our two comrades Franco Leggio and Gainni Ceravolo have finally been released from Ragusa prison after serving a six month sentence for 'insulting the judiciary'.

Although the threat of imprisonment had been hanging over the heads of our two comrades for some time, the authorities chose to jail them just before the popular anti-militarist protest against the US missile base at Comiso, of which they were in the forefront, could get fully underway.

Now that the protests at Comiso have all but fizzled out the Italian government feels safe to release our comrades. Good luck and best wishes Franco & Gainni!

Source: Le Monde Libertaire



On September 7 the statue of Franco was taken down from the central plaza in Valencia. There was applause - there were also boos and insults from a minority of fascists, threatening the demolition workers. It has taken some time for the municipality to pluck up the courage. But has Franco really died? As in the execution of Charles I - when the hangman was masked - the workmen were protected from fascism by being masked. They were said to be volunteers but presumably were employees of the municipality, yet the municipal police stood by passively while the fascists shouted threats and insults - in contrast to the swiftness of sending for the Assault Guards when the anarchists demonstrate. Fascism will not have fallen until unmasked workers feel they can safely blow up Franco's sepulchre, the Valley of the Fallen.

Montjuich

28 workers were sacked from the famous amusement park at Montjuich (the mountain that dominates Barcelona and is topped by the notorious military barracks). The anarcho-syndicalist union, the CNT, declared a strike, reinforced by a boycott which is now operative.

Note that in this country, the TUC has never organised fairground workers, despite gross exploitation and total disregard for labour laws (including insurance). Nor has it successfully organised catering workers whereas they formed the strongest unit in the Catalan CNT. (They were among the first syndicates to collectivise their industry in 1936). The recent attempt of the TGWU to organise foreign workers (attracted by the possibility of working without legal permission, despite low pay) has not come off, though the CNT is numerically far inferior to the TUC, the only union centre in Britain. When I tried to get NATKE approval to set up a fairground and circus section forty years ago, I was told 'They're not worth organising mate - here today gone tomorrow'. With all its problems the CNT has always managed it.

A.M.

Germany

The German State claims that 3 million people organised through a large forum of protest groups (ranging from the pacifist, religious, political to 'anarchist') will take action against the militarist build-up. Petitions, pickets, blockades, demonstrations, occupations, sabotage & pirate radio broadcasts will take place. In Bremen 'radical anarchists' (not conservative lot?) clashed with police and further 'riots' are to come. Good luck!

Surveillance

Commissioner Newman's four Information and Surveillance centres are soon to have at their disposal a special computer with a multi factor searching capability. The information fed into this computer by the police can be used for sophisticated targetting. For example, if there is a break-in and the suspect has a green Rover car, is around 6' 3" tall, is male, and speaks with a Welsh accent, then the computer could produce a profile of known persons who fit that description and whose names/wherabouts have been logged. The computer will not only be fed information about convicted persons but also anyone who the police has information on (e.g. politicals). On this basis an at-the-scene-of-the-crime description from a witness is not really necessary for raids to be made. Raids on suspects, based purely on their past convictions or operating style, etc, is common with your average theft, but maybe increasing more common in the future with the 'political' crimes. The computer will be able to answer the question, who is likely to commit this crime and then print out a list of possibilities, which the police can then go through and eliminate those who have cast iron alibies (although not necessarily) and those who manage to stand up to intense interrogation. For those who can do neither, hard luck: a case will be made and convictions will be sought.

Policing



Neil McGeehan complained about the police treatment of Manchester United supporters. But after a court hearing he was forced to pay £115 in legal costs and £250 to Derbyshire's Chief Constable, Alfred Parrish, to be paid into his personal account. Parrish claimed that McGeehan's allegation was an insult and threatened to sue him for £1,000. McGeehan said all he had done was to have written a very polite letter of complaint to the chairman of Derby County. It pays to be a copper.

Whether you did it or not the computer will make certain some one will go down. Targetting, and the neighbourhood watch schemes, is not just about collecting information, but about clearing up unsolved crimes from the books. Once developed fully the computer will be reproduced and installed with other policing authorities. What Newman is hoping is to introduce to the mainland what he practised in the north of Ireland for several years. Namely, intelligence gathering undertaken not just by the political police (i.e. Special Branch, etc) but by the other branches, social workers, teachers, bureaucrats, officials, and loyal citizens. In the east they call this totalitarianism. There will be many on the left who will support the neighbourhood watch schemes, as part of the increased surveillance. After all they would argue that by involving the 'community' policing becomes more 'accountable'. This distorted logic is based around the idea that if you can't get rid of the cops then you might as well decrease their power by involving as many people as possible (not real people, but 'representatives') in the policing business. The left probably conceives this as 'alternative' policing or 'self-policing'. The opposite is true: the cop becomes social worker, and the social worker becomes cop; they become inseparable as the agencies of social control increase their territorial jurisdiction. It is we who then become accountable for the way we act and think, not the cops.

Liverpool's Labour controlled council is to install a hot-line to the city police in case the council chambers are besieged. The councillors are alarmed at the idea that a certain incident - where a committee was locked inside a committee room by angry women - would repeat itself. The women were demonstrating at the council's spending policy for the inner city area: most of the £300m allotted was going towards subsidising businesses and useless projects while the income of those who lived in the area was remaining static. A case of corporate management overriding people's needs.

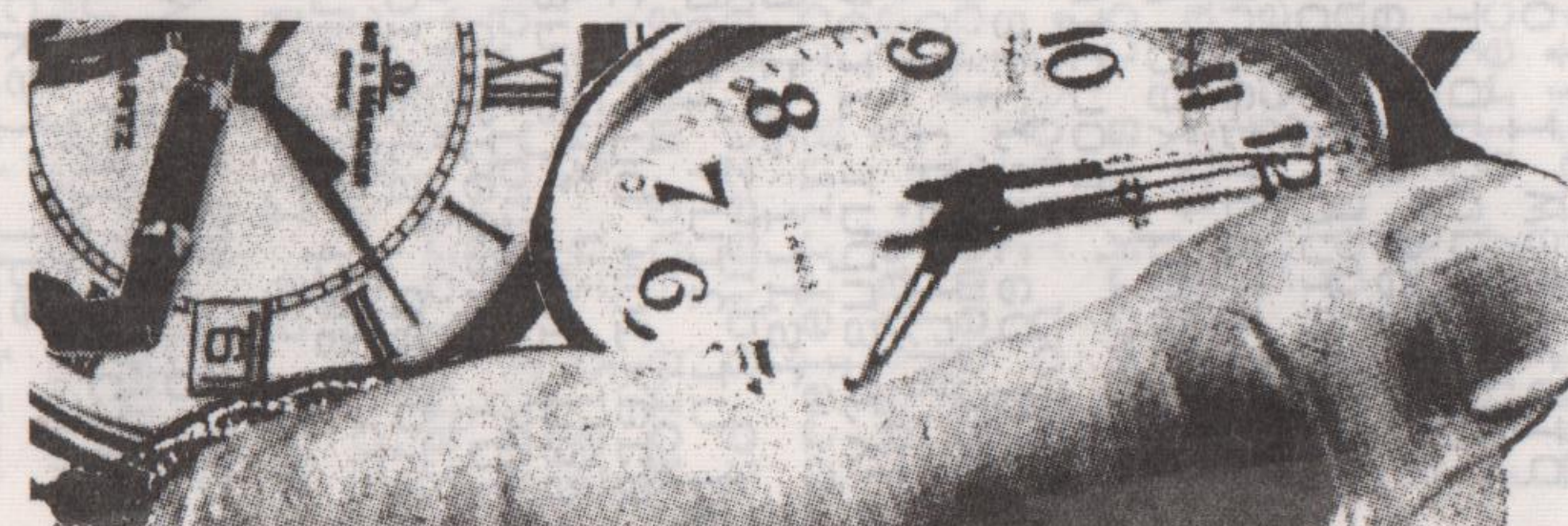
SOURCE: ASDNN.

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rail bomb

An incendiary device was found on the main line leading into London Bridge Station, the main terminal for commuters coming into London from the south-east. Reports in the press indicate that the bomb hadn't worked properly. Apparently the timer (a clock) had set the fuse (firelighters, a bulb and matches), but the main incendiary (paraffin or petrol inside 3 beer or cider flagons) had not ignited. Discovery of the device ensured that all power on the line was switched off for a period of 1½ hours until the all-clear was given. According to explosives experts it was a 'viable device' that could have wreaked untold havoc on the line, especially if it had detonated prior to rush-hour. Later police said they did not think that the bomb was placed 'by terrorists'. At first they tried to connect it to a fire that broke out at the same spot around 3 months ago, but later a spokesperson from British Rail said that there was no connection at all, implying that the previous damage was caused accidentally. According to one report had the incendiary gone off disruption to trains entering not only London Bridge Station but also Charing Cross, Waterloo East and Cannon Street stations would have occurred on a scale affecting traffic for about 3 days, causing untold loss of revenue for British Rail and to the City. Was the device planted by someone with a grudge against British Rail or against commuters? Was it the work of fascists? So far no one has claimed responsibility. One thing is certain: as an act of sabotage, had the device worked, it would have proved to be a highly effective means of causing chaos to the City, without danger to life (trains would have ground to a halt as the power went off).

N.B. It is possible that the device was planted because of the intended cut-backs by British Rail. Alternatively it may have been a belated protest for 'Stop the City'; a better late than never act of solidarity.



matt lygate

Matt Lygate was welcomed home to Glasgow after 12 years in jail. It will be recalled how members of the John Maclean Society went to prison for alleged bank robberies - one who turned Christian got a few months, the rest (unashamedly Maoists) got the book thrown at them. Matt Lygate affirmed in the words of Maclean that he was accusing capitalism, not they him. (Press reports in Glasgow referred to Maclean as the 'notorious anarchist' - that, and the association with armed robbery, must have sent poor old John a twirling in his grave.) Lygate's famed Scottish Workers Party (Marxist-Leninist) disintegrated as the rest disavowed him and the fellow Communist Party of England (Marxist-Leninist) declared that they had nothing to do with him. We argued his case in Black Flag and got no support outside anarchist circles, though we disagreed with his Maoist nationalism. The 'left' was totally silent. How then did Matt get a stirring welcome after a bum's rush out? Well, he had meanwhile become an associate of the Scottish Republican Socialist Party and was welcomed with a militaristic flag party from them and a drum roll from the Paidraig Pearse flut band. Dominic Behan - name me the trend and I'll name you the creed - spoke, together with the Siol nan Gaedhael, Troops Out Movement, Sinn Fein, SRSP and so on....Where were they in protest when Matt was convicted? What protest was made by them when the Maoists washed their hands of him? Well, there are fashions even in armed struggle and bank robbery and armed raids have become fashionably accepted since twelve years ago - at any rate among Irish influenced 'republican socialism'. But good luck to Matt anyway. He'll need it with that bunch. And it won't stop us supporting him in the future as a class warrior if ever it becomes necessary.

More Makhno's

Letter bombs ascribed to 'Makhno's Anarchists' were sent to a Police Federation office in Limehouse and a police admin building in Victoria. Other ones ascribed to the same group in the past include targets such as the Institute of Directors and Aeroflot. The latest two didn't explode: according to the press they consisted of matches, gunpowder, etc. More symbolism or police disinformation?