

MINERS WOMEN AGAINST PIT CLOSURES/NUM

There will be a National Women Against Pit Closures Demonstration in London on Saturday August 11th 1984. It has been organised to draw attention to the hardship striking miners and their families are suffering.

The march will assemble at 12 noon, Temple Tube, London WC2 and will proceed via Trafalgar Square and the DHSS Hq (Elephant & Castle).

At 3pm there will be a gala in Burgess Park, Camberwell Rd, SE5.

For further information ring 01-582

01-582 0987 or 0742 700388.

NB. Women from outside London who are going to the march are hoping to find accommodation at South London Women's Hospital (if those occupying the building to stop its closure are not evicted beforehand!).

Some miners have also shown an interest in the Stop the City demos.

WATH-UPON-DEARNE

The NCB South Yorks area HQ staff car-park was redecorated recently. A sixinch deep layer of quick drying cement, tacks grease and broken glass was poured on to the exit and entrances.

TAKING THE BISCUIT

When clerical staff were dispatching McGregor's latest begging note some heartless sod put a biscuit in the envelope containing the letter. Thinking of hungry miners perhaps? The NCB Barnsley area were not amused, neither are the miners who got the biscuit and they are now searching for the culprits.

Cookie.

COAL SUPPLIES

Without the coal at strike-bound pits the Central Electricity Generating Board will have to make power cuts this Winter. 2 million tonnes in Scotland, 2.5 million in Yorkshire and 6 million tonnes in the North East is blocked off. Road, rail and sea move about 600,000 tonnes a week at great expense. A lorry carries about 12 tonnes, a 32 wagon train 1,000 tonnes. The scabs who move this lot have yet to have their homes picketed, although some lorry drivers have had their vehicles 'redecorated'.

SOME SCAB COMPANIES

NATIONAL: British Oxygen Company, Bowring, Amey, Tilcon, Securicor, Murphy.
LOCAL: Barnet & Graham, Quarry Garage, Stainton, Penrith (Tel Penrith 65181). Bayford Group of Companies, Pepper Lane, Leeds 10 (Tel Leeds 704941). Bernard Brogan, Nethan St Motherwell (Tel Motherwell 63144). Bowden Freight International -BFI-, Trent Lane, Castle Donnington, Derbyshire (Tel Derby 811736). Bulkliner, Beacon Road, Beeston, Notts (Tel 0602 258131). Butterfields, Watergate Rd, Consett co. Durham (Tel Consett 509337). Caledon Distribution Ltd, Three Acre Garage, Broxburn, West Lothian (Tel Broxburn 852418). Cannons Transport Levens, Kendal, (Tel Witherslack 255). Consolidated Land Services, Scunthorpe. Central Crane Hire, Furlong

St. Arnold, Notts. James Durran (Transport) Ltd. Phoenix Works, Penistone (Tel 0226 7633084). Farrow Group Ltd (Bucks). T. French & Son, Stonebriggs Farm, Cronberry Cumnock (Tel 0290 25164). RG Hamilton, Westinbank, Gilmourton, Strathhaven (Tel 035 74 322). Hazells Haulage, Nash Rd. Newport (Tel Newport 277692). WH Malcolm, Murray Street, Paisley (Tel 041 8898711), (part of Grampian Holdings). Mansfield Roadways, Stanley Road, Mansfield, (Tel 0623 22433). EJ Meeks, Summit Close, Southwell Trading Estate, Kirkby in Ashfield (Tel Mansfield 752978, or Newport 0623 754498). Murphy Group Bulk Transport, 832 Melton Rd, Thurmaston (Tel 0533 696111). John Owens Aggregates Ltd, Monksbridge Trading Estate, Dinnington (Tel 090 978 564191). Richard Read Transport Ltd, Monmouth Rd, Langhope, Gloc. (Tel 0924 275241). George M Reid, Wainsgate, Durris Tel Crathes 574) and Upper Grange, Peterhead (Tel 0779 3116). FT & RI Robinson, East Common Lane, Scunthorpe (Tel 0724 868193). Singleton Birch, Melton Ross Quarries, Barnethby, South Humberside (Tel 0652 688386). Carl Smith Transport (Leicester) Ltd, Wanlip Lane, Syston, Leicester (Tel 0533 601663). Tatler Bros, Church St, Eastwood, Langley Mill (Tel 077 37 3187). TK Transport, 154 Cramford Rd, Langley Mill (Tel 077 37 5599). John Wilson & Son (Coylton) Ltd, Curbiston, Low Coylton (Tel 0292 570477). William Wilson & Son (Johnstone) Ltd, Russell St, Johnstone (Tel 0505 21484). M Woodhouse Transport, Pine Grange, St Georges Quay, Lancaster, (Tel 0524 64115). Yuill & Dodds Greystones Place, Strathhaven (Tel 0357 21024/20225).

THE SUN SHINES BUT NOT FOR YOU SCAB!



BLACK FLAG

ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY VOL VII 6E No 116 6/8/84



POLICE scatter as pickets at Rossington turn on the hoses.

COPS FLUSHED

ROSSINGTON

1,000 pickets made of local miners, their families and friends took over the entrance to Rossington pit, Doncaster and twice barricaded it. 500 police had to be used to get 13 NCB managers out of their besieged offices. Usually they are allowed by the pickets to inspect safety levels but turned up accompanied by strangers and instead of talking to picketers ran inside. They spent 10 long hours there with pickets trying to get in at them. Eventually they had a police escort. The pickets meanwhile used trees barbed wire and corrugated iron to set up barricades. The NCB van the managers arrived in was put over and set on fire. A hosepipe was used to spray water on the cops who tried to rescue the managers.

The following day 11 people were all arrested in dawn raids on Rossington homes and taken by cops to secret destinations!

A coach load of day-trippers from Rossington were held for 18 hours after an alleged burglary took place nearby the car park they were in. 2 cops were assaulted and three men arrested who later received 4 month suspended sentences.

Cops claim they are being lured to 'ambushes' by youths who surround them and beat them up. Back-up for all cops who answer any calls is now standard procedure. In Askern a cop car was overturned after cops answered a call to a house. In another incident 30 people surrounded 2 cops and beat them up when they tried to arrest two youths, the cops say that the miners strike is just an excuse as few miners are involved. After 'break-dancing' will luring, ambushing and beating be the next in-thing?

More Miners Updates Page 2 and Back

UPDATE MINERS UPDATE MINERS UPDATE

With the breakdown of the NUM/NCB talks the miners strike has been on for 21 weeks as we go to press. The dockworkers returned after their bosses agreed to continue to use only National Dock Scheme labour. The dock strike loomed as opening for a wave of solidarity strikes, putting shock into the Bosses and Govt. and TUC alike! The lorrydrivers blockaded ports on both sides of the channel and plans to use the Army were prepared. The rail-workers, seamen and some lorrydrivers continue to support the NUM and local Support groups - despite police harassment - continue to keep the money and food flowing to the miners.

Cortonwood whose 'safe pit' was suddenly threatened with closure under NCB 'streamlining & efficiency' plans struck. Their defiance brought solidarity from other miners who voted with their feet, not by ballot. Cortonwood is still out and their 120,000 supporters fight for each and all. That the injury began there is now history, its gone beyond that. The latest scheme of the bosses and Tory media to encourage a return to work via the loyalist Nottinghamshire scabs example. These scabs face expulsion from the union as have some lorry drivers whom the TGWU has ejected after they drove coke for the NCB. Solidarity through joining pickets, raising funds and food is now urgent to break the media and politicians onslaught against the miners. Given the police 'swamping' tactics the siege should be reversed onto the cop shops themselves. Already there have been skirmishes in Yorkshire.

NATIONAL RIOT POLICE

A national 'riot force' putting into practice the lessons learned in Northern Ireland and elsewhere such as the 'hot summer' of 1981 has been operating in England, Wales and Scotland. Its controlled by the Home Secretary Leon Brittain and the Association of Chief Police Officers operating from the National Recording Centre at Scotland Yard. Tactics such as road-blocks, telephone tapping, mail & personal surveillance, riot squads/weapons training and Army liaison are now commonplace. The use of undercover cops who join picket lines and then point out 'ringleaders' for snatch squads, often using stickers to mark out troublemakers is widespread too. All this is sporadic, the Police & Criminal Evidence Bill will officially sanction all these and other repressive measures, criminalising workers, unemployed and dissenters for 'short, sharp shocks' under the prison regime.

WITNESS EXPENSES

On top of a £90 fine for 'threatening behaviour' a Cortonwood miner has been ordered to pay £230 expenses for two Surrey cops to travel to Mansfield and persecute, oops Prosecute him. With his wife and two children he gets £24 a week from the Social 'Security'... £90 and £50 awards to pay for fares & lunches for cops are the going rate. Bail conditions banning miners from demonstrating and picketing are very common as is compulsory photographing after arrest.

PROFITS FOR SOME

The Dowty Group who make profits from workers who make coal mining machinery have just announced a £36.5 million profit. To cover themselves Director Sir Robert Hunt has expanded with aerospace and electronics divisions.

DEFENCE BEGINS AT HOME

DBAH have set themselves up in Yorks. They are attached to the 3rd Yorks Volunteers which will release the units of regular Army and Territorial Army. Their role? "To defend vital installations" (the local Tory Clubs?). Now 47 Companies of the Home Service Force will cover the County with their bases at Huddersfield, Scarborough, Hull and Catterick.

@ Mole

DBAH backers and plans are outlined in Black Flag 113.



Community Policing anyone?

Errr...no thanks!

As pickets flee in panic, the mounted policeman truncheons them from behind, at the same time appearing to crush another miner, whose arms are just visible in front of the horse, against the van.

CONVOYS AND BLOCKADES

500 miners blockaded the Humber Bridge after cops stopped them joining pickets at Scunthorpe. Pickets tried to arrive at 5.30 am and were stopped. At 7am 150 cars drove up to the North end Humber-Bridge toll booths and refused to pay. Meanwhile at the Southern end more cars stopped and cop cars had their windows smashed and were then turned over. 9am most of the miners drove off, no arrests a good one-off tactic.

FITZWILLIAM-KINSLEY

Following harassment of miners in Fitzwilliam (see last Newsbulletin) locals trashed the Kinsley driftmine causing damage estimated at £100,000.

SHIREBROOK

1,000 pickets turned out to confront scabs but they were driven back by cops. Later the police station had its windows smashed and cop car's tyres were nailed.

HEMSWORTH

30% of the workforce are unemployed, school leavers and the striking miners add to their frustration at survival on a pittance. When cops tried to make arrests they met resistance at a local pub. In the streets shortly after 50 locals faced 140 imported riot cops. 20 people were arrested and the local cop shop went under seige getting its windows smashed. Meanwhile PC Ian Womersley, local 'bobby' has been made Citizen of the Year by Hemsworth Rotary Club (sic.).

OLD BILLS

Electricity and gas workers have shown rare leniency and reluctance to cut off strikers (in solidarity or fear of confrontation?). Still better if they cut off supplies to the NCB and scabs homes Meter fiddling is widespread with those unlucky enough to be caught in the act fined on top of the estimated 'power seized' costs.

CEGB OCCUPATION

On Friday 20th of July, about 20 people occupied part of the CEGG (Central Electricity Generating Board) head offices in Holborn, London. The occupation was in support of the miners and an attempt to show the connection between the running down of pits and the rapid expansion of nuclear power stations. The demonstrators made their way to a front facing room on the second floor and barricaded the door. Then a number of banners were hung from the windows. After about half an hour of chanting etc. a van load of police arrived and a security guard then smashed a glass panel on the door to get access to the room. The demonstrators were escorted from the room and building but no arrests were made. However one woman was pushed over by a security guard and she cut her hand on broken glass.

T/Molly's

GREENHAM AND MINERS

On Tuesday 24th July at Port Talbot, South Wales, Greenham Common Women joined the 200 women's support group members and 300 miners who tried to stop lorry supplies of coke to Llanwern Steel works. Grass verges were set on fire billowing smoke across the M4 motorway and pickets sat in the road. Police arrested 34 after much struggling to clear the way for the scab drivers' lorries.

ATOM TRAIN

A train carrying radioactive waste was stopped by NUM pickets in North Wales after the guard and driver refused to cross their picket line. An off-duty Brit-rail supervisor unlocked level crossing gates and moved the train. 7 miners were arrested, 6 were found guilty of 'obstruction' and given 12 month conditional discharges.

JOE GREEN INQUEST

Joe Green, the striking miner killed on picket duty by a speeding scab's truck had the misfortune to have his inquest run by West Yorks Coroner Philip Gill. Gill ran the cover-up Inquest on Helen Smith, the young nurse who died at an illegal drinks party. Diplomats were present at the party so her death still remains a mystery. Gill refused the family and NUM request via Leeds solicitor Ruth Bundy for a jury.

WOMBELL-GRIME THORPE

Following harassment of locals by more imported cops, a cop car was turned over and smashed up and the local cop shop had its windows broken.

Cops Stop collectors

In an attempt to clamp down on door to door food collectors Welsh cops in Abernant, S. Wales stopped 4 miners saying that a "danger from break-ins at houses" existed. Why let the cops get away with it, support your local miners/collectors!

SECRET TALKS

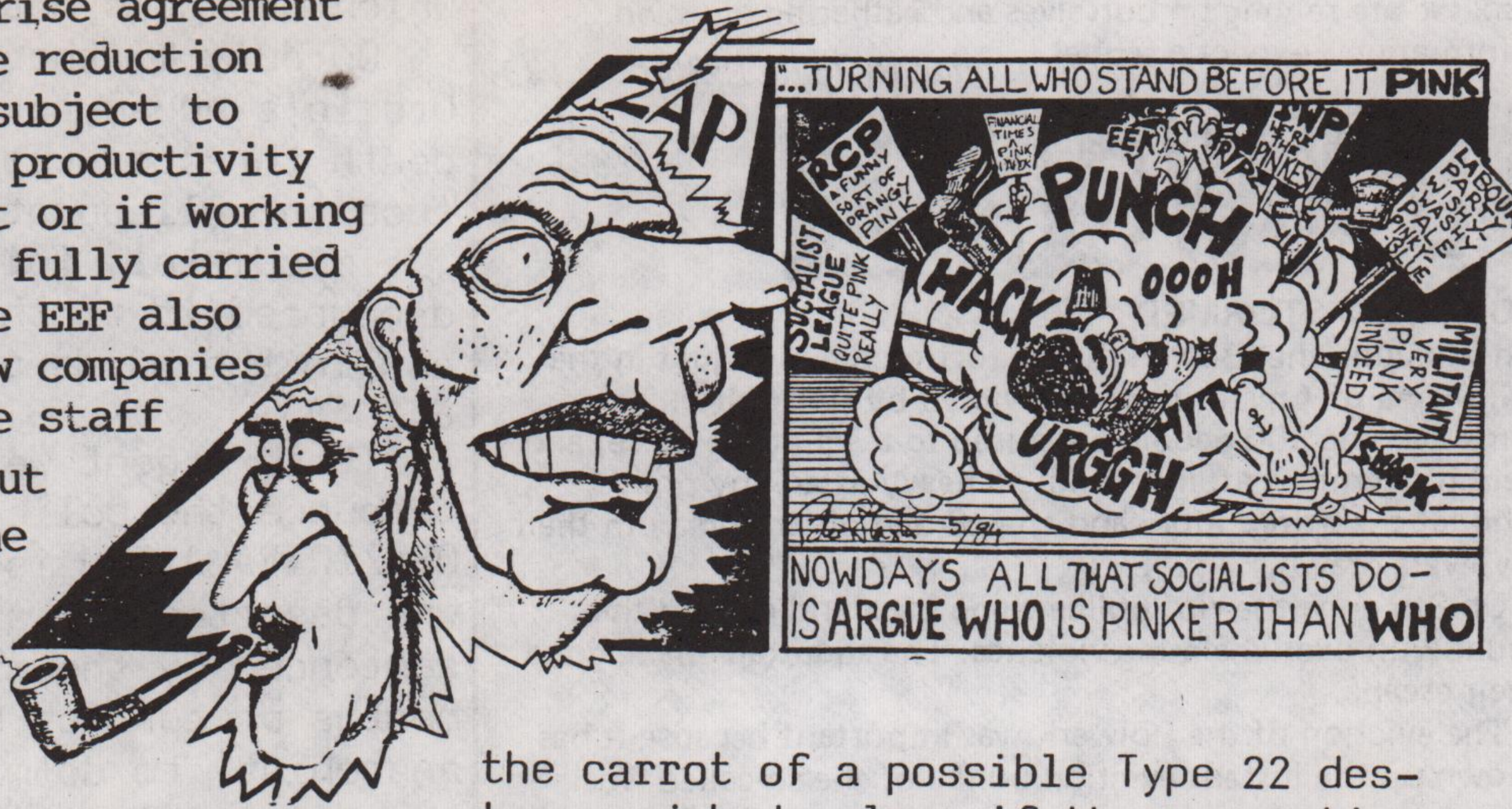
Another proposal is for the banning of all overtime payments and night work bonus and the institutionalisation of shift work. Any hours reduction in the working week would also have to be accompanied by a no-pay rise agreement for a period of time. The reduction agreement would also be subject to local management veto if productivity requirements were not met or if working practice changes are not fully carried out by the workforce. The EEF also wants to be able to allow companies to take on more part time staff if they so choose, without recourse to making up the full-time complement.

CAMMEL LAIRD OCCUPATION

Over the years lies about 'don't cause trouble, or take any action or we might not get an order' have been used to tame the workforce. Even now

'YOUTH CALL'

Three areas have been selected to 'test the waters': Oldham, Hertfordshire and Croydon. The schemes will be set up and monitored by an organisation called 'Youth Call', the director of which is a professor of sociology at Brunel University. 'Youth Call' will be seeking the cooperation of social workers, teachers, public companies and municipal authorities to make sure the scheme is successful. Now that YTS has made such a bad name for itself, Youth Call will attempt to takeover and put together a more fashionable image. The end result will be the same: low paid work, taking over the jobs the government have allowed to get rationalised away as part of the general cut-back trend. Youth Call recruits will be asked to help develop 'voluntary sector' employment (as opposed to public sector and private sector) as part of the state capitalist strategy of increasing the number of wage-less, without adding to the unemployment statistics.



L.D.A.G.

RAIL DISPUTE

With the Shildon works now closed and 1000 jobs lost, the NUR will content itself with its plans to black all rail cars made under private contract. The first batch of these cars are being handled by the coachbuilders, Walter Alexander of Falkirk. Both ASLEF and NUR policy is to refuse to operate the cars when they are handed over. British Rail also intend to pass a contract on to Metro Cammel of Birmingham. Meanwhile the non-cooperation policy by NUR members in the workshops is already implemented and this will culminate in a planned one day strike for August 10.

PHILLIPS RUBBER LTD DISPUTE

BOSSSES THOUGHT CONTROL HELMETS SOON

Test application is thought to be with air-traffic controllers whose US battle with bosses they lost, their union deregistered and several active members jailed. These highly-skilled workers need attention clear and the scheme should find willing suckers as well as a sycophantic press and travelling public. After these tests, the much heralded computer-operators themselves will no doubt be locked into their own machines so the Boss gets best standards of mental sweat.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

HOLLAND

CRUISE MEANS CIVIL WAR!

In Holland the Peace movement has acquired a truly radical wing, with squatters, anti-militarists and anarchists uniting. Everyone knows the majority are against Cruise Missiles but the politicians are trying to get them to carry out a host of different actions to get them into the Parties. The huge blockades at the missile site in Woenselrecht, scheduled to last 3 days, have continued for a month, with a permanent camp being set up, despite heavy police attacks. Elsewhere the campaign has been successfully widened, and joined to general anti-militarism and struggles against dole cuts and evictions. Here are some examples:

FUCK ALL PARTIES

Just before the Euro elections the VVD ('socialist') offices in Amsterdam were taken over and totally trashed (see picture).



All their files and election literature were thrown in the street and burned. This was done because of the blatant sell-out over accepting Cruise Missiles, as well as the dole cuts & widespread evictions.

Further, the offices were barricaded and held for 4 days, till they were stormed by riot police and 40 people arrested. All refused to give their names and most are facing heavy charges.

BURNING BARRICADES

Nijmegen is a small city in Holland with a radical tradition. The squatters there have had a hard time, fighting off both police and local fascists (the Fascist Party now has an MP in the Dutch parliament).

On 1st June about 1000 people gathered in Nijmegen, in an anti-Cruise action which ended in fighting and looting. A month of action was declared and on 14th June, as Cruise was debated in Parliament some rioting broke out. Here is a summary of some of the actions:

Overnight many groups were active and had thrown up burning barricades across six major streets and smashed the windows of the main police station, the dole office and a shopping street. Slogans appeared on walls all over the city, and stickers saying 'Left & Right - you are both shit!' Even the bridges and the trains themselves were daubed. A fake bomb was placed in front of the police HQ, which threw them into chaos for several hours...In the morning the actions continued at 10am Trajars square was blocked, then people proceeded into the City, jumping the police crowd barriers and totally snarling up traffic...Splitting into smaller groups, the Graafse Street was blocked by a burning car barricade, a group put graffiti and stink bombs inside the Council offices....Around 33 people started running towards the police station, but they were turned back by loads of riot police in full gear. The march grew to about 1000 and marched all around the town. 4 plain-clothes police were discovered in the crowd, they drew their revolvers and were chased away. The demo ended around 7 pm at the Kings Square 9 people were arrested altogether and on the following 2 days demos were held at the prison until they were released.

We feel that we are fully justified in resisting totalitarian police methods and will continue to resist the imposition of Cruise missiles by all means possible.



CNT-LIBERTARIAN PRISONERS UPDATE

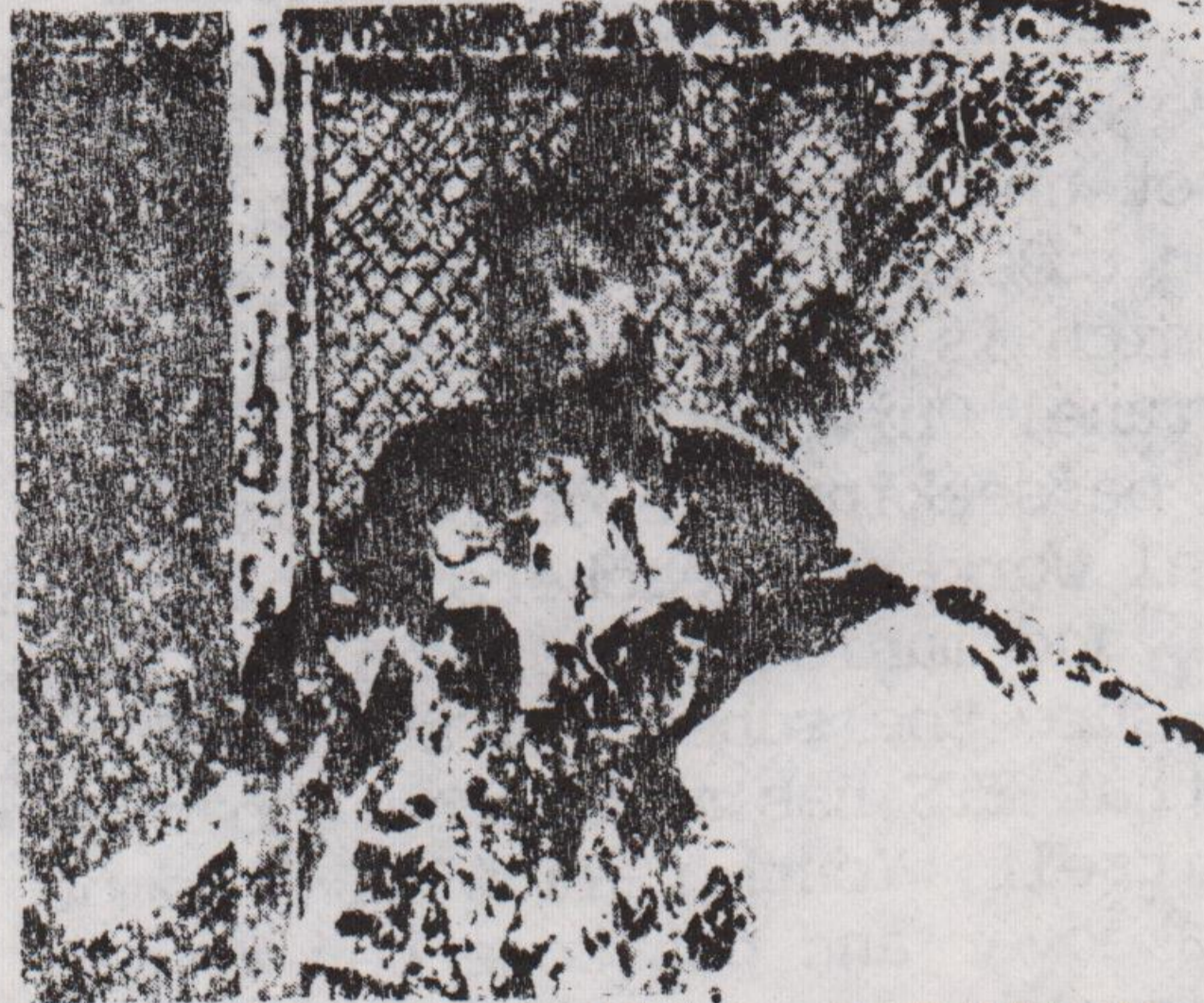
Since publishing the CNT/Libertarian list in Newsbulletin 113 we have got a more up-to-date version from 2 Spanish prisoners. We hope to publish this in the next Quarterly, although if groups and individuals want a copy immediately we can send it on free

ANARCHISTS BESIEGE MUNITIONS BASE

As part of the anarchist alternative to the Whitsun music weekend a demonstration was organised on Sat 9th June at the munitions warehouse complex in Keenhuizen (Nth Holland). The aim was to focus attention on the place, and to spread the anti-militarist agitation from just opposing the emplacement of Cruise Missiles at Waensdrecht.

In the morning the people at the Festival were informed and a meeting was held where everything was explained & arranged, lawyers and journalists had been informed, but no permission was sought for the demo as the police had disrupted a similar attempt in March '84.

About 2pm a long procession of cars and vans arrived, unhindered at the base. The stage was set up quickly, outside the main gate and a band struck up a lively tune, it seemed to be going well...Then a huge fire lorry drove up, inside the gates, and began spraying water and foam. The demonstrators reacted unexpectedly by dancing and frolicking in the spray (see photo). We were ready for the 'photo expedition'



as cops began to arrive, how would they react? With the diversion set up the procession set out along the double fence of the 90 hectare base, taking photos of the 192 bunkers. Vans of police were driving nervously back and forth, but didn't try to snatch anyone. The result was loads of photos, holes in the fence, and guards equipment wrecked. Then we all pushed back to the main gate, just in time, as a heavy fight had broken out when the cops tried to arrest people. Lots got stuck in and the cops had to withdraw, losing a lot of dignity and one hat! In no time we were all aboard and back on the road to Appelscha. Everyone felt it was a very successful action, and it was widely reported in the local press, breaking the silence about the Veenhuizen base. The authorities did not react, but we expected that also, we are relying on ourselves and gathering our own information...expect a sequel...Stefan (SOURCE:Bluf No 123)

BOLWERK

FORTRESS STORMED

On 7th June the 'Bolwerk' (the fortress), a big squat in the 'Pijp' area of Amsterdam was evicted by riot police. That same evening 300 people organised to resquat the place, and held it overnight after repelling a heavy attack by police, who let their dogs loose and chased demonstrators with their revolvers drawn.

On 8th June the riot police came back and evicted the squat with overwhelming violence. The squatters made good their escape.

The eviction of the Bolwerk was important because it has shown up the instant eviction policy of the so-called 'socialist' council, and because it was done in a suburb where the squatters are strong. Local anarchists were in the forefront of organising the huge squat and the successful re-squat. They feel that despite this defeat they have gained much support, due to the incredible violence shown by the riot police in the Pijp suburb. Though on the retreat the squatters are fighting back with courage and daring.

SPAIN

for a Stamped, self-Addressed Envelope

Comrades recently released are Jose Conesa Sanz, Miguel Angel Moreno Patino, Fernando Merino Del Rio, Jose Luis Piquero Perez, Emilio Nieva Reparaz. Please keep writing to those still inside.

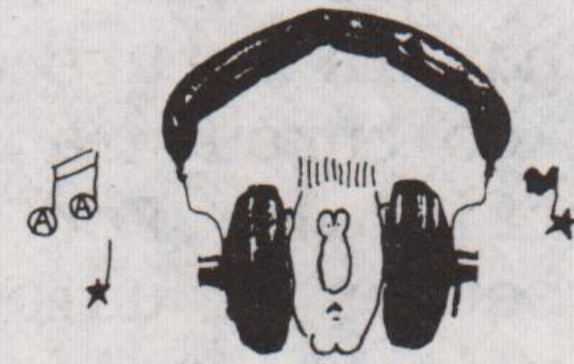
We must also apologise for including Jacinto Avalos Cardona on the last list as this comrade is now dead after he committed suicide (due to harsh prison conditions) while being detained at Carabanchel prison Madrid.



AIT-IWA

PORTUGAL

We have received information that the anarchists in Portugal are trying to start a radio station under the name of *Radio Liberdade*. There was a test transmission on 1st of May 1984. The station hopes to transmit counter-information and anti-statist news!



FRANCE

ORAZIO VALASTRO

On July 21st while working in the Ardeche in the south of France, anarchist comrade Orazio Valastro was kidnapped by three individuals in plain clothes who identified themselves as police. Near the town of Privas (about 100 miles from Lyons) he was taken by car to open countryside where he was beaten and threatened with death unless he agreed to collaborate with the police by infiltrating presumed armed groups existing (so the police say) in Paris. Orazio was also offered money, and was questioned concerning the group "Action Directe" and "Colp".

Orazio naturally refused any collaboration whatsoever with any type of police. Nor did he say anything concerning the groups, which he knows nothing about.

On July 25 there was a phone call at Orazio's house asking for his reply and death threats were repeated should he refuse to collaborate.

Immediately following his ordeal Orazio denounced it to the judiciary. The case is now in the hands of Judge BOREL (tel. 75/642044).

It is urgent we defend our comrade and denounce the police terrorism and threats. ORAZIO VALASTRO is the anarchist comrade who deserted the army in Italy and was sentenced by the military tribunal to five months prison for having refused, as an anarchist, to do military service. He has been living in exile in France for the past two years.

Letters of protest to:

French Embassy-Consulate General,
24 Rutland Gate, SW7 Tel 01-581 5292.

Or the nearest French Officials to you.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

CNT-AIT MADRID OFFICES EVICTED.

We can now confirm that the CNT-AIT Hq in Madrid (6, Magdalena St) were evicted on 26th June 1984. The building also housed the Prisoners Committee office.

For several months the CNT-AIT had been refusing the pay rent on the premises because the "socialist" Govt. has been refusing to pay the CNT-AIT compensation (around £12.5 million) for the CNT-AIT buildings and machinery stolen and sold by Franco at the end of the Spanish Civil War.

The new address is (about 50 yards away from the old building) now at:
Comite Nacional de la CNT, Plaza Tirso De Molina, 5, -2º, Madrid -12 SPAIN.

LETTER

Dear Black Flag,

Having just read your article "The Miners and the Left". I feel compelled to write to you. Whilst I agree with most of the article - am similarly sickened with the "revolutionary lefts" redefinition of solidarity as selling "THE PAPER", I believe that funds raised for the miners should go *directly* to the miners; etc. - I disagree with some of the conclusions you made, which seem to be concerned with how @s should behave during disputes generally.

Firstly, as an anarchist, I don't like to be told what "my job" is - that, I see as authoritarianism. We're all continually told what to do by the State and its various forms without other @s doing the same. Surely one of the things which makes @ different is its toleration and support of a *variety* of actions/means of changing the social order.

Secondly, I question the writers assertion that any papers or leaflets distributed on picket lines should merely *inform* people of the particular struggle they are participating in. Don't you think that people on picket lines are aware of why they are there? Leaflets, it seems to me, are useful in describing the particular struggles of those people in the context of the wider struggle (that we are involved in and fighting).

Finally, I don't entirely agree that we as anarchists should not be allowed to make any criticism of striking workers and I do not believe that, in the case of the miners or any other group, "the structures they choose to work with-in are irrelevant". Whilst I obviously support the premises of much industrial action, as an autonomous, thinking

person I do not always unreservedly support the action of pickets - I'm not exactly crazy about the sexism of some of the striking miners, for example. I think we should move away from this very middle class, vanguardism view of striking workers as somehow beyond any criticism, "sacred". Constructive criticism can help bring about change - particularly if its from people who are quite clearly showing support and solidarity on picket lines, demos or in any other ways.

R. G. (Exeter)

REPLY: The purpose of the article was to stimulate discussion and debate about the nature of solidarity and how it should affect the way anarchists work.

Written propaganda should be used to educate people about the goings on and reasons for a particular struggle and should be directed at those outside the struggle. The widespread ignorance and acceptance of misinformation even amongst political people during the miners strike, points to the need for alternative news. But as anarchists we should not abuse the position of providing alternative information by trying to direct struggles or cause divisions and weakness amongst those we are supporting.

There is no need for us to uncritically support workers involved in struggles, but we should be aware of where our opinions and ideas are going to, and the effect they will have. There is only one way to be sure that our 'criticisms' are constructive and not divisive and that is through personal contact made through giving practical solidarity.

As anarchists we believe that people are capable of organising their own lives and although the NUM may not be organised in the pure libertarian way we would like

it has been created by the miners for the miners. The reason why the NUM and all other unions are not organised in a libertarian way, is because of the failure of anarchists over the last 100 years to convince people of the advantages of non-hierarchical, federalist forms of organisation. For us to go running in during disputes (and to be honest how many anarchists gave a damn about miners, mining communities and the NUM, before this strike?) laying down the line, attacking the structures and generally being negative, neither does our cause any good or helps those involved in fighting against the state and bosses.

Also we must not let our idealistic purity to get in the way of our basic beliefs. People involved in struggle are quite capable of questioning the structures they are involved in and the wider society as a whole, and people do try to change things. During the miners strike great break-throughs have been made in the struggle for women's equality (sexism confronted, women organising etc.) in altering people's attitudes to the police, in questioning local power cliques and society generally. Our solidarity besides helping to win the direct struggle, can also go to strengthen and develop new attitudes, but to do this we must be trusted and respected, which means being involved in practical solidarity on a grass roots level without pushing our politics, self-righteousness and arrogance.

M. (Doncaster)

MINERS UPDATE

Ammanford SOUTH WALES

On 21st July 1984 a march in support of the miners struggle took place. The march was mainly by local miners plus miners from North Staffordshire. Members from FAU (German section of the IWA), CNT (Spanish section of the IWA) as well as DAM took part.

A public rally, attended by some 4-5,000 people, was held in an open field at the end of the 2 hour march. Speeches were made by NUM Officials, a prospective Labour Candidate (who apparently was not invited to speak!) and, a speech was made by a representative of the CNT-AIT. It serves as a reminder to us of the importance of international solidarity. Messages of support were also read out from FAU & IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) North America.

"To the leaders, everything seemed to be in the melting pot, because the men insisted on taking a hand in the conduct of affairs. There was much vain talk on the leaders' side about 'the growing spirit of anarchy', which was bringing 'chaos' into the coalfield. And on the men's side, a growing distrust of leadership, and a determination to gain more control."

The Miners' Next Step 1912.

(Published in Tony Pandy in the Rhondda Valley).



WISE UP!
ORGANISE
MUTU@L @ID

CNT SPEECH TO MINERS

Dear Friends,

We are here to pass on fraternal greetings and a message of solidarity to you from all anarcho-syndicalist workers of Spain.

Your fight is our fight for 2 reasons: **FIRSTLY:** As internationalists and libertarian workers, we feel that any worker's struggle in defence of jobs and for the economic well-being of workers in any part of the world is also our struggle. **SECONDLY:** The fight for Worker's Associations, for Trade Unions, which constitute our only defence, is also our fight.

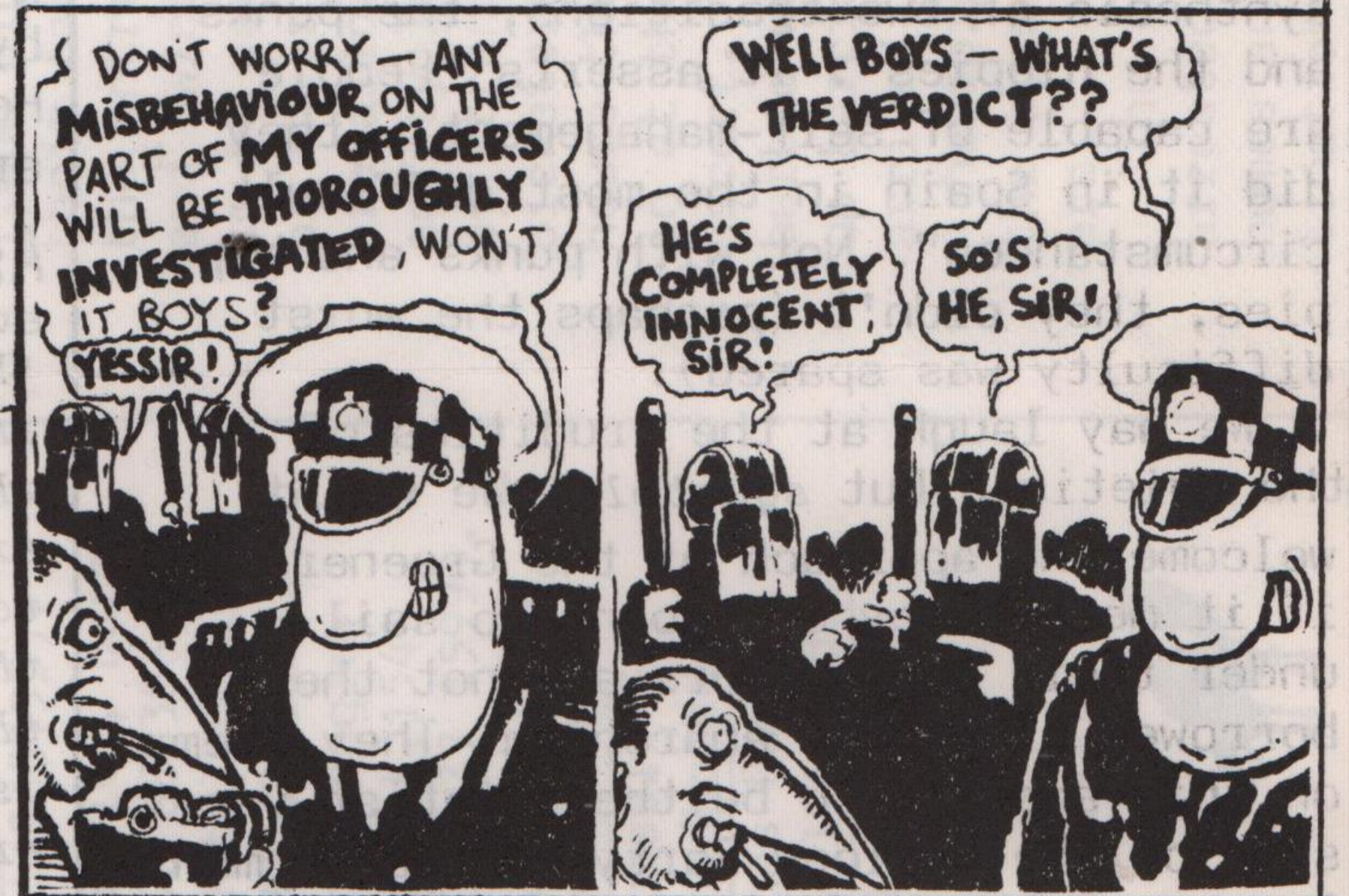
Workers who live in Spain are at this moment fighting hard to keep autonomous unions, controlled exclusively by the workers themselves, and relying neither on bureaucracies or political parties.

For these reasons I say that your strike is ours, our struggle is yours.

We must learn to show international solidarity and to unite on an international level. Our union must push aside frontiers and individual interests. This is the only way to defeat the upper-classes.

Spanish workers found out for themselves the importance of international solidarity 50 years ago. (During the Spanish Civil War).

In our daily struggle we have learnt that our fight as workers goes beyond nationalism, regionalism, the Army, bosses, and the State. When these things have interfered in our struggles, then we have lost them.



We as workers, are the only people who produce, the only people who operate the machines. How can anyone tell us that we can't stop working and can not stop operating these machines that we ourselves use?

If nobody does our work for us then nobody decides for us.

We have also learnt that in any struggle you have to go all the way.

Struggle has taught us that dignity and well-being, or freedom, isn't sold or given to us as a reward, but has to be taken.

Dear friends and comrades, we are sure you will win. The British upper-classes know only too well that you, the miners are the heart of British unionism, and the heart of the British Worker's Movement.

They want to defeat you because of this. They want to disorganise you, to destroy your union, to impose secret ballots and redundancies.

We don't doubt your victory. It will be a very important one for the worker's movement.

Long live the miners struggle!
Long live international solidarity!
Long live freedom!

BLACK FLAG - BLACK CROSS
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'ANARCHIST SQUABBLES'

BLACK FLAG VERSUS FREEDOM ETC.

A curious letter in *Freedom* (anarchist monthly?) dated Cheltenham imagines that "London groups" (citing *Freedom* and *Black Flag*) spend their time "squabbling" with each other. Difficult, perhaps, for them to see that, notwithstanding the recent problems of *Freedom*, on which we have not yet commented, and the departing of the quietists, succeeded by their shadows, which has nothing to do with *Black Flag* and from which scene we broke on policy, years ago, we never meet them at all (outside A distribution) since they vanished from any conceivable scene in which we might be interested long since. As well say we "spend our time squabbling with the SPGB" (the Marxist purists who put up parliamentary reps at Election time).

One of the 'offshoots' of *Freedom* is the new, gig-financed *Green Anarchist* started by Alan Albion - to be a more pacifistic version of *Freedom*. Few thought it possible. "Green Anarchism" is, we are told in the first issue "a synthesis of two traditions, the punks and the hippies". It asserts "People are capable of self-management...they did it in Spain in the most difficult circumstances". Not with punks and hippies, they didn't (perhaps the worst difficulty was spared).

We may laugh at the crudities of the quietists but *squabble*? We would welcome the approach of the Greeners if it meant they are going to sail under their own colours and not the borrowed plumes of anarchism. They seem on this showing to be the quietist version of the Ecology Party or the German Greens, only abstaining from voting. We can look on them with a kindly eye if they distinguish themselves as different from us, instead of confusing people and fouling the atmosphere, as *Freedom* did for years, by insisting they were part of the "anarchist movement". One can respect them if they show their differences from it honestly as the so-called "right-wing anarchists" have done.

An intriguing clash of loyalties comes up between those of the Green Movement with the invasion of Hampstead Heath by so-called "travelling people". Gypsies are of course an ideal 'ethnic minority' to be patronised - not that these are gypsies, but "travellers" is an accepted package-deal loss leader.. but what about the destruction of the environment, ecology and all that? Hampstead Heath has been for years the happy day out for London workers, now being encroached on by small trader invasion, but workers don't rate much in package deal politics (that is down rated as 'workerism').

BLACK FLAG SUBSCRIPTIONS

£9 Internal. £9 Overseas-surface.
£17 Overseas-airmail.
WANTED: readers to distribute the Flag! Why not take 5 copies to your local newsagent on sale or return basis. They keep a third or you do if you street-sell. @-Distribution covers the 'radical bookshops' but we need to get out more.



This is the state
stripped of all slick
moralisation!

MOLLY'S CAFE

Living in London or passing through?
Drop into Molly's cafe, 287 Upper St N1.
Open Tues-Fri: 12-3pm. Sat: 2-5pm.
Sunday nights women only cafe from 5pm.
Cheap meals for the unwaged every Wednesday night 6-8pm (around 50p for a meal and a cuppa...). On July 28th a miners benefit day was held with jumble sale & videos. Future plans include cheap film shows, self-defence classes for women, cheap printing facilities (a duplicator needs work/help anyone?). The GLC own the premises and want to sell it off to raise money to advertise how the GLC is working for London! The occupants want to stay as Londoners working for each other and won't be evicted without a fight. Also it is a home for those who live upstairs. This cafe run by yer real unemployed needs your support.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON ANARCHISM

Q: Aren't older anarchists imprisoned by the past in seeing the Workers as The Hero still despite the fact that they are now the most reactionary class of all?

A: Bunkum! The myth that anarchists (or even Marxists) ever saw the workers as "heroes" has always been put forward by anti-socialists so as to refute reality which is that those most economically exploited will be the most susceptible to conform with the ruling line, unless they make a conscious effort to break the deadlock. But anarchism - and socialism generally - was evolved by the workers themselves NOT by thinkers or philosophers though they may have helped to clarify (or distort) the aims and ideas of the working class.

As to the 'most reactionary class of all' - what class is it suggested is more revolutionary? The truth is the most reactionary class (or part of a class) is that which takes over the aims and ideas of another class, intended to solve other problems. (e.g. combination is a progressive and sometimes even revolutionary idea among workers, the same form of organisation is reactionary among, say, industrialists - as monopoly - or soldiers - as in a military junta; conversely, individual competition makes capitalism push ahead, but between workers, holds them back).

People as they get older sometimes get more drawn into conventional society by family commitments, disinclination to struggle, tiredness and so on. If parliamentary socialists, they may become reformistic. But if anarchists, they're either anarchists or they're not; distinction between "older" and "younger" anarchists only exists in musical circles.

EARTHWORKS

The Newcastle Anarchist Group has produced its first issue of a paper entitled *Earthworks*. Contents include an article on the Tyneside Unemployed Workers Union, Retrieving North East Anarchist History, Mental Hospitals, May Day & more. 10p from *Earthworks*, PO Box 10, Forest Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne. Stamped Addressed Envelope / Donations no doubt appreciated.

Source: NEAF Bulletin July 1984.

FEEDBACK

CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE

We need AT LEAST two weeks notice for any forthcoming events to be listed (layout, printing & distribution) as it wastes our time and is futile for readers to read about late. Why not send in a report of what happened as anarchist ideas/news...



SOUTH YORKSHIRE ANARCHISTS

South Yorks Anarchist Group has been formed making all previous addresses now suspended. Those interested should contact P.O. Box 96, DONCASTER DN4 0QU. The Doncaster Anarchists have helped out with local miners printing needs at cost or free when donations have been received, please support their good work.

HUNGARIAN WORKERS REVOLUTION

Kulak Press (London & Doncaster) have republished the Syndicalist Workers Federation pamphlet of 1957. *The Hungarian Revolution* was a shot which went the length and breadth of the post-war Stalinist empire. This short but useful introduction to a subject of great historical interest is also an inspiration for the struggles that are to come. An introduction by Terry Liddle begins this excellent work. Its 20 pages A4 folded format. 80p from SYAG, PO Box 96, Doncaster DN4 0QU OR Volya, 83 Gregory Crescent, Eltham, London SE9 5RZ

STRIKE

After 5 years in print the Anarcho-communist paper *Strike* is trying to expand its circles of readers and writers. Articles & Artwork of interest to a North American audience, & offers to exchange publications as well as Subscriptions (\$7 per year US currency) to Box 284, Main Station St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 6T7 Canada

DIRECT ACTION NO. 17

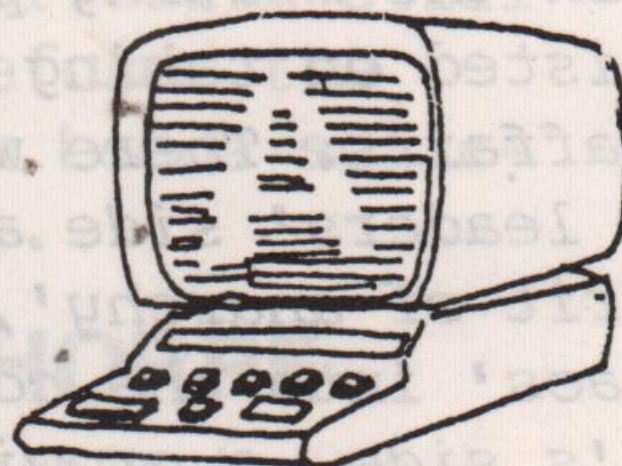
Large A3 format. 20p (plus postage). Contains reports on the miners strike. Cuba today, the Barking Hospital strike plus lots more. 8 pages. Box DAM, 59 Cookridge St, Leeds LS2 3AW

STOP THE CITY LEEDS

Meets up at 10am AUGUST 9th, Thursday. Starts outside Art Gallery on the Headrow, not far from the Townhall..Info. point is City Square..Legal Advice No. 491100 (24 hours)..Organisers leaflets posters, handouts etc from URG, 59 Cookridge St, Leeds 2 W. Yorks. August 9th is the day the second nuclear bomb was dropped at Nagasaki, in 1945.

COMPUTER APPEAL

A Distribution launched an appeal in May for £500 to buy a computer. The good news is we've been offered a system secondhand. It's better equipment than we could have afforded new, and even though parts of it need servicing, we can still bring our target down to £450.



Donations to 2 July 84: £4 (Liverpool DAM); £100 (Anon, Camden); £5 and £1 (given in Freedom Bookshop); £5 (JS, Malvern); £10 (AS, Winlaton); £35 (AP, London); £50 (LCW, NW6); £6 (JB, Australia); £5 (RA, SW 20); £1 (JAB, Brentwood).

Total so far: £222