

EXPOSED: ANTI STRIKE BACKERS

An anarchist investigation into the far-right Freedom Association has revealed the extent to which that organisation and similar set-ups have been secretly working behind the scenes during the Miners strike to help fund and organise strikebreaking and influence government strategy.

While the 1984 Miners strike has seen the government take the central role in organising strike-breaking, the FA has clearly not been prepared to play the part of 'supporting cast'. Notwithstanding their influence over the years on the importance of legal injunctions in weakening the power of trade unions, the FA, through their various media, political and business contacts, are prominent in helping to coordinate support activities for the several working miners groups.

The FA's main office at Avon House in London's Oxford Street, functions as an information point for enquiries about increasing strikebreaking activities. Front-man Gerald Hartup is quite happy to give out information leaflets on the various campaigns set up to assist scab miners. He is also very free with advice: 'Don't do street collections. You'll just get beaten up. Instead try and antagonise local councils - especially lefty ones - by asking where one can leave food collections to help the families of working miners who suffer from intimidation'.

When challenged whether the FA had been actively assisting scabs from the outset, Hartup replied, 'Oh, but we have.' and went on to explain that the FA had been secretly helping out with a number of strikebreaking campaigns but didn't want this to be public knowledge as tactically it could go against the work of the scabs.

Hartup also boasted about FA involvement with the media. He mentioned that the FA had several contacts in Fleet Street who have been making sure that the 'correct line' was put out. Robert Moss is one such FA stalwart. Moss works for the Daily Telegraph. He also happens to be a founder of the FA and a co-director of the Institute for the Study of Conflict (CIA funded counter-insurgency think-tank based in Golden Square in London's Soho district).

Of course the FA is no newcomer to the field of strikebreaking and union bashing. In 1977 they were instrumental in breaking the Grunwick's dispute and they also obtained an injunction to prevent selective strike action by postal workers of mail and telecommunication traffic to South Africa. Over the past few years the FA has been backing a number of individuals involved in legal cases against closed shop agreements.

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STOP THE CITY...

STOPPING THE CITY (extracts from log of events)

1.00pm Saatchi and Saatchi occupied.. smoke flares let off ..windows smashed and we piss off quick. Reports of earlier Halifax Bank action, 70-100 people, windows smashed, police radio jammers worked so they had to use a phone box, they were hopping mad!... Police radio reports 'disturbances at Barclays'.... Legal office records only 79 arrests so far.....etc
1.30 Group of 10 cyclists leave Finsbury Square ...Police horses charge people gathered behind St Pauls for planned party... 30 occupy admin. buildings at London Zoo.....etc
1.45 30 more nicked by bank Tube.. One injured when pushed down steps by police...

Letter

Dear Black Flag,
Most people who took part in the last Stop the City saw it as a complete disaster. Very few of the host of good actions done in the March STC could be repeated and the most successful ones were done outside the City area anyway. Nevertheless with about 2000 of us this was one of the biggest anarchist demos ever seen in this country and though an incredible 470 of us got nicked only 35 of us were actually charged and we've already raised most of the cash to pay their fines. We cost the City a huge sum to mount a massive police operation and in effect to intern 450 people for the day.

What STC needs now is new tactics, eg, assembly points which can't be sealed off, a different target area, places to get off the streets when necessary, etc. The idea of Stop the

2.30 More free food arrives at Finsbury Sq..2 women graffiti Barclays, Nat. West and a church...100 or more run down Wood St past police station, get totally surrounded and marched altogether into the cop-shop...Horses charge in Gresham St, 30 chased and 2 nicked and beaten up by plainclothes police, press were obstructed from filming by horses... In West End Trafalgar Sq fountains are turned the colour of blood...50 strong group, dustbin thrown through Sth Africa Airlines window, smoke flares let off in Littlewoods-Skin Deep(leather boutique) and Debenhams lose windows, as well as other shops..this group head through Soho and trash a few sex shops before being attacked by plainclothes police.....etc.....

City remains sound, that of every group doing their own actions without leaders, and it takes ten times the number of cops to stop such actions than with a normal demo. There is talk now of a Stop the Country! or even a Stop Europe demo with everyone doing actions in their own area.

The September 27 demo failed because of a total police occupation of the chosen area and assembly points, because we were marginalised into mainly punks and anarchist activists, and because (it must be said) that most who came had not planned feasible actions (much could have been done in back streets, for example). With these lessons in mind we should refrain from moaning and attacking each other and plan urgently to improve our tactics before the STC's in Birmingham on October 11 and in Glasgow on November 5 (Guy Fawkes Day).

More on STOP THE CITY next issue...



MAKE THE STRIKE SUPPORT GROUPS PERMANENT

INDUSTRIAL

THE MINERS & SOCIAL CHANGE

Strikers now find themselves in major confrontation with the police. It is an eye-opener for all those trade unionists who have been elected to public office, to councils and to Parliament, who sit as magistrates or school governors or on tribunals and fancy themselves as part of the Establishment, to find that a determined government can at one blow wipe it all away. Miners - even the lower echelon of the union machine - are having to battle in the streets, to bleed under truncheons, to face political grilling in police stations, to be stopped at roadblocks, to have their homes searched, to be fined and imprisoned. All this has happened before, but to 'extremists'...suddenly the 'extreme' becomes nearer than they thought.

Only a matter of months ago one odd member of the anti-strike brigade was deprecating the printers of Fleet Street and their high wages (which were fought for over the years) saying how much more he would think of them (not that he would do anything) if they were to stop printing lies - regarding this as totally unthinkable. Now they have done just this. They have forced the Daily Telegraph and the Daily Mail to print the other side, they have stopped the Sun altogether because it wouldn't. ('An infringement of free speech!' cry those who think only a few proprietors have the right to freedom of expression).

Amongst the lies being hurled at the strikers is the one that says that this is all a bid for power by or for Arthur Scargill. Mr Scargill is being built up as the Lenin of the strike by the anti-strike brigade: those who fight for it are tarred as wishing to build up a Scargill Government, as puppets of Scargill, as bootlickers of Scargill, as minions of a Scargill dictatorship.

The miners are organised in an authoritarian body, the National Union of Mineworkers, and Scargill at it's head has the spotlight on him. But to imagine the fight is for 'Scargill' is to fall for the most obvious brainwashing we have had since we were told the war was 'won' by Churchill. Few men will undergo six months of voluntary semi (or actual) starvation out of hero-worship or blind following - against the brainwashing of the media - however eloquent or handsome Scargill is - and if they did they would not have the backing of the women who have emerged as the greatest of fighters.

Scargill happens to boss the NUM, but then the struggle is not for the NUM. It is the whole structure of the NUM - tied to the closed shop system beloved of British trade unionism because it saves them so much bother and normally excludes having to fight that has caused the division between workers. If an independent miners union wanted to fight and some people didn't want to, they could go and be damned.

In a closed shop union miners who want to scab - because of greed or

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fear of the consequences or concern for their families - want at the same time to remain as unionists because it is the only way they know to guarantee having jobs at all. If expelled they appeal to the courts. What have judges to do with a workers union? A union is to fight economic battles; not to be determined by every law. The fight would have been long won since if those who felt threatened by the closures had been able to part company with those who did not feel the threat affected them yet, and who think they can afford to wait until it does and work meantime, paying their mortgages and hire purchases and keeping their holidays and cars.

If those who had no stomach to fight had been allowed to leave the union, they would have seen there was no alternative but to fight. The notion that 'they should have balloted' (echoed by all the reactionaries who never hold ballots on anything affecting themselves) is a false cry. The only purpose of balloting would be to preserve the unity of the closed shop union. No miners would vote yes on whether they wanted pits to close. A number would have disagreed with striking - but obviously they would not be people being closed down, they would be ones in hopefully secure pits (or so they think).

The struggle has transformed the mining communities politically. Most older miners always hoped that the task of mining as it is known would eventually cease. But nothing is offered in its place. The NCB is taking the means by which whole valleys and communities live and ordering them to be extinct. This is being done by the nationalised coal industry, which was a 75 year ambition of socialism and trade unionism - something which the NUM forgets when it mightily attacks coal chief MacGregor.

The younger miners are battling against police and pickets. But this is not a battle for the streets and it will not be won there. If the police are defeated they bring in the army and all the reserve forces being built up by the new dictatorship. That front must not be neglected and it is one on which major support is needed, but like war the strike will be won or lost on provisions. In this the women of the coalfields have shown superb communal organising ability and received enormous support which has won the admiration of organised workers everywhere. They must not be allowed to perish for want of 'lease-lend'.

Albert Meltzer.

Guy Fawkes was right!

Day of Action against capitalism, etc in support of the miners. Nov 5. Countrywide. All day.

DOCKS SELLOUT

The Dockers union, the TGWU, and the steelworkers union, the ISTC, together with the assistance of the Labour Party came up with a classic sell-out deal to bring the docks strike to a quick conclusion. John Prescott, Shadow Transport spokesperson, played a leading part in scuppering the strike. There had been an earlier agreement with the Miners union, the NUM, to restrict supplies to the Ravenscraig steel works to 18,000 tonnes of coal a week, but the steel employers, the BSC, wanted a minimum of 22,500. In the end, thanks to Prescott, The BSC got its way and the TGWU agreed to end the strike in the docks. Later the NUM condemned the agreement and asserted that only a sufficient quota of coal to keep the steel plants operating, but without production, should have been agreed.

Although Ravenscraig had sparked off the strike in the first place, the action was taken, despite the public protestations, in support of the miners. Therefore to back off at the first chance of intervention was but an admission of defeat. In reality what Prescott had done was to get dockers leader, Connelly, off the hook - given that his union had split and support for the strike was diminishing - by coming up with an apparent face-saver. Connelly could easily have ordered a continuation of selective strike action in key ports servicing some, if not all, of the steel plants - even if only Hunterston terminal - instead of sabotaging the sympathy action completely. Selective action can still be on the cards in the form of unofficial action in order to stop steel production and maintain the plants at an operational level only.

NF SPURNED

Recently members of the National Front, not content with failing to get street credibility by trying to 'woo' anarchists, attempted to do the same with the miners. Contrary to what the press said it was not Labour Party members who discovered their ruse but members of the Anarchy Magazine Collective. The NF members in question - Adrian Wiltshire and Phil Andrews - booked a hall under the bogus name, Solidarity With The Miners Campaign. Posters advertising the meeting were printed by Andrews, a YNF officer, giving his Isleworth home as the campaigns' address. It was arranged that speakers from the NCCL and the NUM would be on the platform and it was only because of good detective work (the poster portrayed an NF logo - as shown on Nationalism Today - of a fist holding a Union Jack flag - filled in to appear black - while the typesetting and headlines were of a sort consistently used on other NF material) that the NUM and NCCL were prevented from suffering the embarrassment of appearing alongside fascists.

DIRTY TRICKS / MEDIA LIES / POLICE THUGGERY

From the occupied war zones of the mining communities, pickets and supporters are facing an intensification of the dirty war employed by police thugs as part of their long term campaign of psychological and physical intimidation. Attempts to defend the communities from attack are met with the usual barrage of media lies which provide the state with just the 'black' propaganda it needs to scupper any wider support at the critical period (eg when the pit deputies were poised to strike and when the NUM were negotiating with the power workers' leaders for solidarity). Many miners believe that police and army provocateurs are at large setting up 'juicy stories' for the media. But faced with brutal violence the mining communities have no choice but to use whatever measure they can to stop this encroachment. The cops are well protected and armed, with their dogs, night sticks, crash helmets, shields...The pickets have little but crude weaponry and their imagination. Inevitably the odds will need to be evened up.



*We're too late!
The strikers got
to the scab first.*

At Kiverton Park, South Yorkshire, a field was set on fire near to an electricity sub-station and petrol bombs were allegedly found by police.

At Rotherham the NCB wages office was virtually destroyed when someone drove a nearby bulldozer into it.

At Kellingly riot police charged pickets. During the resulting melee an ITN Television broadcast vehicle was overturned and set alight.

Outside Kilmanstone Colliery, Kent, mass police reinforcements convoying scabs fought with pickets. Many of the cops sustained injuries. One scab was prevented from strikebreaking when his home was placed under siege. Posters with photos of scabs were flyposted around the village. Later the police enforced a curfew in the area: anyone who was seen on the streets after 8.30 was threatened with arrest.

At Easington Colliery police rioted and dragged a miner from the picket line, beating him up. Local people took to the streets and there was hand to hand fighting with the cops.

At Markham Main Colliery pickets attempted to deter mass policing by erected a barricade of concrete blocks in the road using an expropriated crane as a hoist.

At Bentley Colliery barricades were built out of NCB vehicles.

Tyres were set alight and one police vehicle was attacked near Manton Colliery after police sealed off a road leading to the pit.

At Bedwas, South Wales, police attempted to stop 200 pickets gathering at the British Benzol plant. Pickets retaliated by attempting to set a truck on fire inside the plant. The electricity supply was cut off and firefighters refused to cross the picket line to put out a blaze. Later a petrol bomb was allegedly discovered.

DIRECT ACTION

At Maltby, South Yorkshire, riot police in boiler suits, accompanied by dogs, attempted to clear the area of pickets but were surprised and outflanked by more pickets who came out of a nearby wood. During the fighting an MP and an ITN journalist were attacked by the riot cops. The pickets attempted to defend themselves using road signs and bits of wall as barricade material.

Over 1500 riot police gathered at Silverwood to protect a handful of scabs from crossing picket lines. The cops encountered barricades blocking their way and so dogs were set loose to attack pickets. Pickets fought back and dogs and dog handlers chased off. The story the cops put out was that they were 'ambushed'.

At Bilston Glen Colliery, near Edinburgh, firefighters refused to cross picket lines to put out a blaze caused by rubber tyres that had been set alight.

At Hartlepool hundreds of miners attacked the nuclear power station. Two tankers were damaged and burning roadblocks were set up. (One half hour of direct action is worth more than three years of symbolic indirect action - ancient anarchist proverb).

In Manchester four rail workers were arrested for collecting money for the striking miners and as a result a 12 hour strike was called for the following week. The strike closed down Manchester Piccadilly station and a busload of miners from Bold and Agecroft Collieries turned up to lend support. The end result was that BR management have conceded that collections can now go ahead at the station. Also the charges against the four were dropped by the police.

John Kane of Carrickferus is responsible for the import of East German smokeless fuel. The fuel sells under the brand name of Brico and £1.53p cheaper than the usual stocks. Since Kane signed the deal with East Germany other coal merchants in the rest of the UK have followed suit.

Eldon Griffiths, the Tory MP for Bury St Edmunds and Police Federation representative for the last 15 years, has threatened that pickets may be dispersed in the future by the use of baton rounds (plastic bullets).

'Shifts' - a play about the miners strike - has been banned by the BBC but played by Radio Sheffield and other local radio stations. Now it may get air time on the Australian Broadcast Company's radio network after pressure from an Aussie Miners Support Group. Rebel Worker, the Australian IWA group, have recently sent money to the Northumberland Miners. Another IWA group, the Libertarian Workers Group, based in New York, held a social recently and is sending money over too.

According to The Miner collections have been pouring in from miners support groups organised around bars in all parts of the north of Ireland. Workers from both nationalist communities have helped out in the contributions. Their class commitment has overtaken all other considerations.

The NCB has stepped up its inducement offers to attract strikebreaking. Alternative employment in other areas after the dispute is over, free accommodation and transport, large cash bonuses and compensation payments are all on offer. Details from a former scab from Scunthorpe who had crossed picket lines at Brodsworth pit.

Doncaster contacts have the names and numbers of 26 Territorial Army soldiers who have been masquerading as police on anti-picket duty.

Howard Thompson, director of Cawoods Solid Fuels Ltd of Harrogate, has been using a disused airfield close to the Selby coalfield to stockpile Russian, South African and US imports.

The syndicalist OVB union in the Netherlands has been raising funds and have produced a pamphlet on the miners strike. Support Groups have been formed by squatters and anarchist groups in Amsterdam. Meetings, video shows, benefits with punk bands and levies on the beer drunk at squatters bars have all been organised. The Amsterdam Support Committee raised £2,500 which paid for holidays for 40 people (32 miners' children and 8 adults from the village of Church Warsop, Derbyshire). They stayed for a week, going sailing and spending time at an anarchist summer camp at Appelscha. Others stayed in squats and with Dutch families. Another holiday for another group is planned for soon.

Andrew Bradley, the Derbyshire miner sentenced to 9 months for criminal damage, has now been moved to Sudbury Open Prison.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

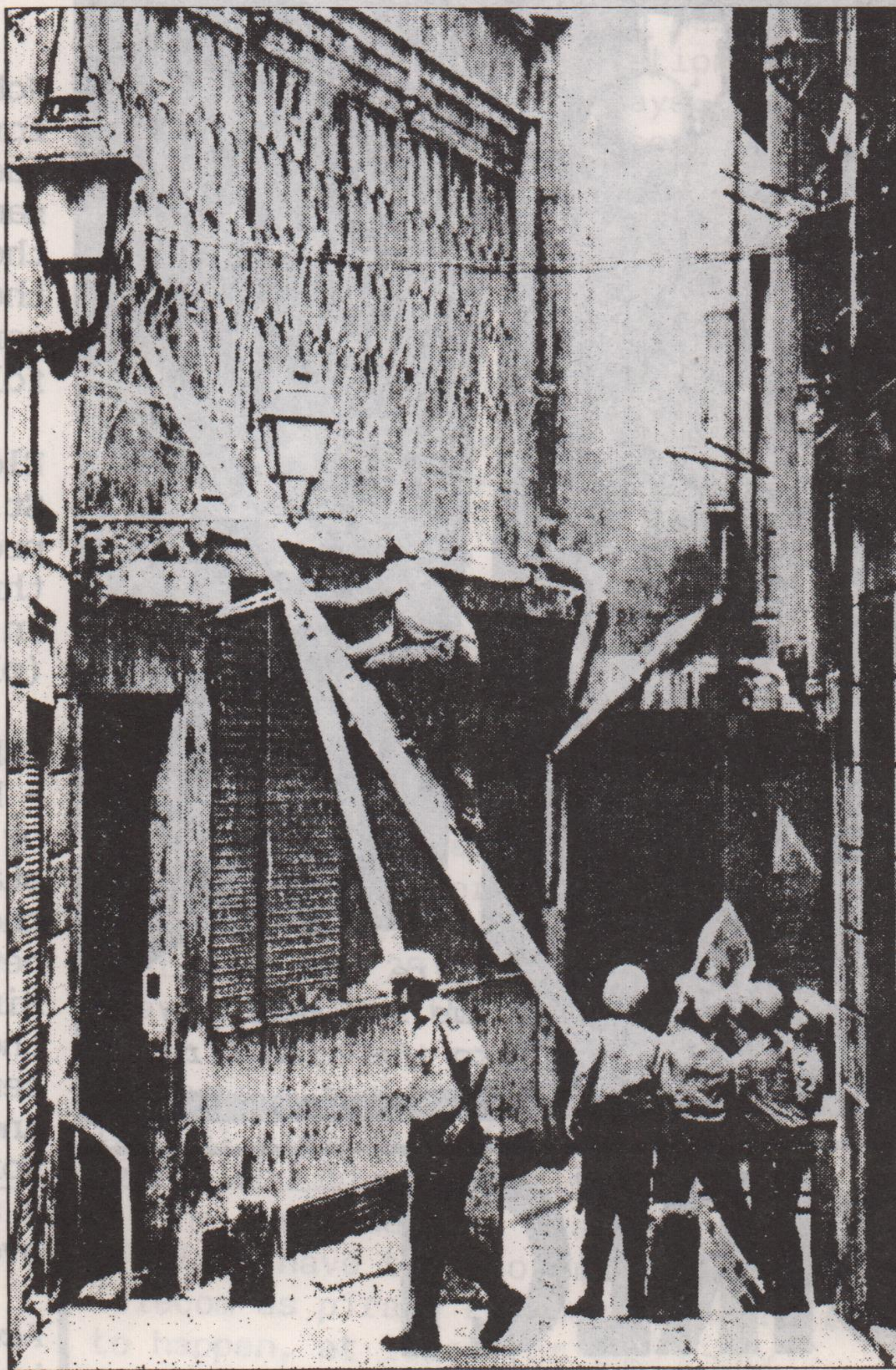
CNT EVICTED

On Tuesday Sept. 18th from 9am until 1.30pm the CNT-AIT were evicted from the offices in Portaferissa St. Barcelona.

Originally the building was used by the CNS (a falangist trade union) at a low rent of 600 pesetas (approx. £3) per month. After Franco's death, the building was occupied by the CNT (as was the case with many of the buildings used by fascist organisations which suddenly ceased to exist after he died - the socialists did the same) in 1976.

In 1981 the landlord began legal proceedings - it goes without saying that the landlord was a falangist, and used various excuses to get the CNT out. It was difficult, because the CNT had always paid rent, but in July 1984 the courts accepted that the CNT had to leave and sent police round to give notice. One militant was arrested and demonstrations took place all over Barcelona, violent demonstrations. The militant was released after one and a half days. Yesterday a large number of cops turned up for the final eviction. Firemen broke all the windows with hoses and truncheons and then doused the premises with their hoses. At first the firemen refused, and under Spanish law they are not required to comply with orders which don't have anything to do with putting out fires, but the socialist Mayor of the city, Pascual Maragall, then gave them a direct order to go ahead with police instructions; police and firemen together tried to break in; bricks, bottles and fire extinguishers (!) were thrown at them and four people were injured: one fireman, two policemen and one cop officer.

Then smoke bombs and teargas canisters were thrown into the building and the 15 militants inside climbed through the skylight onto the roof. The cops broke into the building (they threw up



because there was so much teargas) and found noone. They started running about like lunatics because they thought they had killed everyone, until someone spotted the 15 on the roof. They arrested all of them, but they were all released at 2am the following morning - probably because the authorities didn't want a repetition of the events in July. While all this was going on the Rambles (the main boulevard in Barcelona) was barricaded by CNT sympathisers.

SOURCE: M.T.

GERMANY HOFFMAN TRIAL

The trial has begun of Karl-Heinz Hoffmann, leader of the fascist WSGH. Hoffmann was involved in the Munich Beer Festival bombing as well as attacks on US bases in order to get arms/explosives, etc. Hoffmann is not accused of any of these crimes in court, but of the murder of a Jewish publisher (Shlomo Levin) and his woman friend in Erlangen in 1980.

The WSGH (Wehrsportsgruppe Hoffmann) has direct links with the terrorist neo-nazi organisation, the League of St George, based in London. One of the WSGH's top men, Arndt-Heinz Marx, was the military instructor for the WSGH and was their main liaison officer with the LSG. Marx belonged to the Sturm 7 section of the WSGH, based at Frankfurt, and trained the WSGH operative, Gundolf Kohler, who planted the bomb at Munich, killing 13 and injuring 25. Another LSG contact man was Abalt Kraus (also of the VSBD), who was safehoused by the LSG, via Brown Aid, at the home of Owen Master (ex-LSG International Liaison Officer, NF Parliamentary candidate in Gloucester, KKK member; last known address: Orchard Cottage, Thombarry Rd, Alveston, Bristol BS12 2LJ and/or 7 Beech Close, Alveston, Bristol.) Masters

was also a mate of Manfred Roeder (head of the DBI - German Citizens Initiative - and the German Action Front and was responsible for a series of bombings on refugee camps and residential centres for displaced Vietnamese) who was safehoused by Rod Roberts (last known address: Central Avenue, Longbridge, Birmingham 31), arsonist (7 year sentence), arms collector, Column 88 member, KKK sympathiser (he also safehoused KKK leader David Duke), British Movement election candidate for Birmingham City Council, League of St George and Brown Aid member.

Altogether there are around 160 known fascist groups in West Germany.

Six Killed by Troops

In case you haven't heard, six people - civilians - were reported killed by NATO security forces taking part in the massive Operation Lionheart exercise. Also a soldier had his head decapitated by a tank. None of this got reported by the media of course, all the pet journalists and television PR types going for the official government line. 'D' notices were served on the six deaths - the only way you'd hear being the grapevine (in our case, Ekomedia). Lionheart, of course, has a dual role: preparation for nuclear war and prepar-

ation for civil war. There were around 130,000 troops taking part in the exercise. There was some attempts made to disrupt the operation (classic resistance stuff: changing road signs, interfering with radio traffic, road blockades, etc).

One US commander, Lieutenant-General Robert Wezel stated that all US troops would be defended from attack by protesters. He said, 'I will do everything within my power to ensure that anarchists and criminals' (surely the two are synonymous in the state's eyes?) 'who damage US property and endanger life are arrested by the proper German police authorities and are prosecuted fully under German law.' Later police were reported to have fired warning shots at pacifists demonstrating at Hanau, near Frankfurt.

DENMARK War Shipping

The headoffice of DFDS, a big Danish shipping company in Copenhagen was fire-bombed earlier this month. About 50 people from the group "Active Peace" entered the premises, went to the first floor wrote slogans "DFDS out of NATO" and "DFDS are war-lovers" on the walls, and threw a fire-bomb. Everyone got away before the cops arrived. During the NATO exercise known as "Operation Lionheart", DFDS are managing some of the troop transport.

SOURCE: Ekomedia

PORTUGAL

Three bombs have exploded outside the homes of landowners in a district 50 miles south of Lisbon. The three were all guilty of repossessing land that had been expropriated by rural workers after the '74 revolution. The Socialist (sic) government passed a reform act in '77 making it possible for the land to be repossessed. Since then there have been many protests and in one incident three farm labourers were shot by police. It seems the three landowners therefore got off comparatively lightly. The bombings were claimed by the leftist revolutionary group, FP25.

CHILE

Since our last news bulletin there has been an intensification of the street violence by police and death squads. Street execution of political dissidents has resulted in over nine deaths: in Concepcion two leftists were chased and killed during pursuit, a third was summarily shot for allegedly possessing political leaflets; in Santiago two politicals were killed by the secret police as they tried to run away from their kidnappers. There were others.

Within the shanty districts police squads have stepped up their terror raids. Witnesses have reported the shooting of a priest known to support 'liberation theology'. Ironically he was murdered the day after the Pope's denunciation. Indiscriminate terror tactics are employed on a daily basis. One regular torture technique is to grab someone off the street, strip them and hold the victim over an open fire until they are nearly burnt alive. Scalping is another police favourite.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Members of the 20th Special Forces Unit of the Alabama National Guard are involved in covert operations in Central America. Two members were recently exposed when a helicopter the two were flying was shot down by Nicaraguan troops. The two, together with four others, were part of a paramilitary group calling itself Civilian Military Assistance. The CMA is based in Huntsville and employs counter-insurgency instructors. According to the US Army the mission of the Special Forces is 'to plan and conduct unconventional war operations' and to support the war efforts of US allied 'indigenous forces' in countries involved in internal warfare'.

The CMA has around 1000 members. The CIA has denied any involvement.

Source: AANN

USA

The offices of the South African Consulate-General in New York were bombed within days of the police riots in South Africa. A few days later another bombing occurred at a Union Carbide chemical plant. (Union Carbide has extensive mining interests in South Africa).

Earlier this year the United Freedom Front bombed a IBM office in New York in reprisal for the execution of three guerrillas by the SA authorities. IBM is one of the many US corporations that have investments in SA.

The UFF issued a statement at the time: 'It is clear that support from US high-tech companies bolsters the fascist SA government and the war machine that enforces it. Collaboration with apartheid by US companies, including IBM, by supplying equipment, products, technology and training is equivalent to those criminal enterprises in Nazi Germany that built the Nazi war machine and concentration camps that were the underpinning of fascism. Millions died and suffered as death merchant corporations made millions in profits.

We know who the collaborators are. We have attacked IBM in the past. We attack them today and will continue to attack them in the future unless they cease their support and dealings with the illegal government of SA. (All governments are illegal - typist)

After our last bombing attack against IBM facilities, which caused extensive property damage, the IBM bosses offered a \$25,000 reward for our capture. They encourage collaboration with the enemy on every level. We say - give your 25 thousand blood money to the families of those murdered while in the detention cells of South African jails.'

SOUTH AFRICA

On the day PW Botha was elected by his newly formed 'multi-racial' (to the exclusion of the black majority) electoral college as South Africa's first executive president, a limpet mine, constructed with a sophisticated timing device, was planted in the Supreme Court building in Johannesburg. Sadly the device was discovered and later detonated outside the building by a bomb disposal team. The bomb was the fifth to be planted within two weeks. In addition there had also been a series of attacks on power stations in NW Transvaal. Other targets have included police stations and government buildings. The ANC (African National Congress) are thought to be behind the attacks.

The bombings also occurred during a time of some of the worst police violence witnessed since Soweto. Over a few days there were hundreds arrested and injured and over 60 people killed. In one incident alone 500 people were arrested for taking part in a funeral of one of those murdered by the police. The funeral cortege was eventually broken up by armed security personnel using tear gas and rubber bullets. During the riots in the townships - provoked by a massive increase in taxes, rent and fares all round, police swamped the area with armoured vehicles and shot at people at random.

On the industrial front a partial victory was won by the, all black, National Union of Mineworkers. They got a 16% pay rise (instead of the 13% offered), which was considerably less than the 25% originally demanded. The NUM brought the strike to an end after only one day and it was clear that the majority of the membership wanted to press for a better offer. In some mines the strike action was continued unofficially and in others - where non-unionised miners demanded unionisation - illegally. At the Durban Deep Mine over 100 miners were injured when police used baton rounds and dogs to break the strike. At the Welkom mine over 250 miners had to be taken to hospital for treatment after police went berserk and attacked pickets with force.

LATEST: In the township of Dudoza riot police used baton rounds, teargas and shotguns against protesters. A post office was set on fire and cars overturned. In the township of Katlehong three petrol bombs were thrown at government offices. In Soweto a protester was shot by police. There has been a bomb explosion at a technical college. In the Lebowa 'homeland' more than 1,500 asbestos miners had their work permits revoked for going on strike in support of a pay demand. They join over 134 fellow workers laid off because they

contracted asbestosis (in the SA mines dust levels are 65 times higher than the SA 'legal limit' and 250 times higher than the limit in Europe). More than 700 workers have contracted asbestosis in the SA mines over the last 10 years.

INDIA

BONDED LIBERATION FRONT

The Bondhua Mukti Morcha (BLF) was set up as a union in 1980 by 'bonded labourers' from the stone quarries of Faridabad district (near New Delhi) many of whom were illiterate.

Virtual slaves, drawn from the lowest Hindu caste of 'harijans' or 'untouchables' they have no land, jobs or prospects of work in their ghetto villages and are easy prey for exploitation by 'jamadars' / middle men who lure them to jobs with cash advances from future wages. Once in the job debts to build a home, buy tools, food and clothes as well as medical treatment for work injuries quickly mount up. Dangerous working conditions lead to serious accidents and more debts, those not obedient are left to look after their own injuries, often where they lay...

Any improvements have been fought for & won by direct action and self-managed organisation. No-one else is willing or can get emancipation for these slaves but themselves.

A law passed in 1976 that abolished the Bonded Labour System has never been implemented.

BLF members drove into the quarries and told workers of their rights, helped those who wished to escape and brought them to New Delhi where they told their story to the press. Once the publicity 'novelty' wore off the labourers were left down and out.

The local Haryana State Chief Minister, Bhajan Lal, claimed there were no bonded labourers in his area yet investigations showed he owns some of the biggest quarries where bonded labourers are exploited!

The labourers earn less than 13 rupees (about 75p) a day - the Indian minimum wage.

In the organised quarries where BLF membership is solid one of the workers huts has become a union office, members of the press visit without fear for the labourer or journalists. In the the recent past 'goondas' or thugs sent by the owners and middlemen attacked both for revealing the miserable conditions. No water supply, malaria and dust related diseases, harassment and beatings, no proper treatment of accident victims, whole families living in tiny, low roofed huts made from bamboo and stone covered in dust.

The lesson is to organise, if the labourers can federate with other workers in the region then solidarity & mutual aid can arise from the ashes of religious, racial and profiteering rackets.

SOURCE: N.S.

VENICE OBSERVED

The Pinelli Centre for Social Studies in Milan organised a week-long conference at Venice during the last week of September. A huge marquee in one square housed an exhibition on Anarchist movements and showed videos while another square was taken over by the gathering of some 3000 anarchists from all over the world. There was a bookstall overflowing with international libertarian literature; information and meeting tents and a street theatre. The BBC TV turned up the first day but when they found there was nothing sensational

to film they left - despite the frantic attempts of the French and Italian press to describe punks sleeping and making love in the squares.

The Black Flag/DAM contingent of four had many emotional reunions or first time meetings with friends of many struggles from the Spanish War to the First of May Solidarity Movement; or ex-prisoners for whose release we worked; and there were many animated discussions with comrades everywhere.

But the conference (in the Continental sense - it was not a 'congress') was

not an unqualified success. As predicted the lectures (one could hardly call them discussions) at the School of Architecture (taken over for the occasion) revealed a clear-cut division between live anarchism and a putrid, largely academic, libertarianism (whether 'capitalist' or 'communist').

A more comprehensive analysis will subsequently be published in a future issue. The need for a definite break between the anarchists and the 'libertarian' ringers is apparent.

A.M.

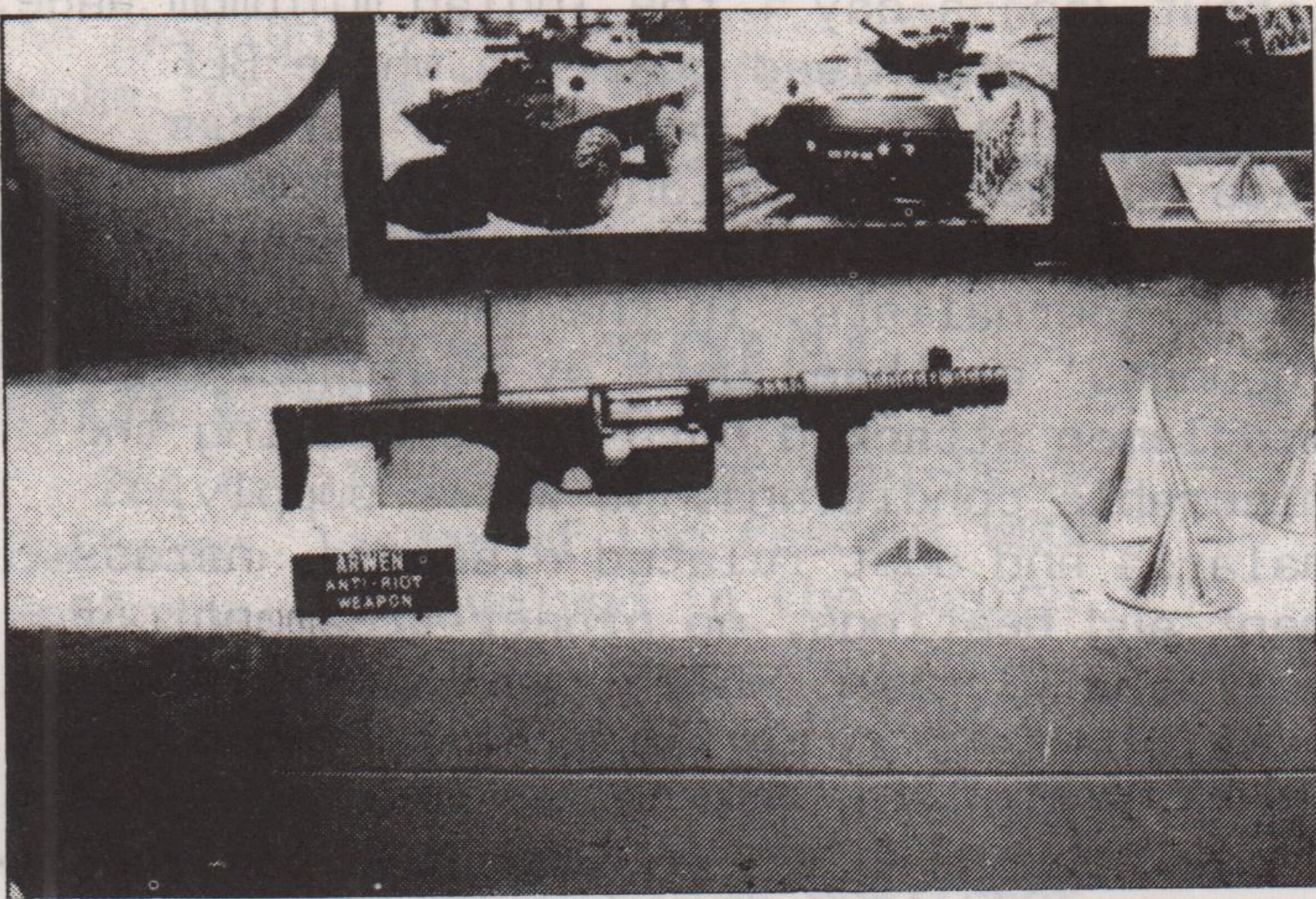
ARWEN 37

A photo of the ARWEN 37, the rapid fire plastic bullet machine-gun developed by the Ministry of Defence, has been received by the New Statesman and is reproduced below. The ARWEN (Anti-Riot Weapon Enfield) was first described in detail in the Winter '83/'84 issue of Black Flag Quarterly. This terrifying weapon has a rotary magazine that has the capacity to fire up to 60 rounds a minute. Loading is child-play. The maximum range for the ARWEN is 100m, but with an explosive grenade (of which it is equally capable of handling) the range can be increased to three times that distance. In addition the ARWEN has a special built in stabiliser - never before found in any other baton round weapon - which improves accuracy.

According to the Royal Ordnance Factory at Enfield the ARWEN has already been deployed in civilian situations in the USA and orders have been fulfilled with at least two US police forces - Kentucky and Maryland. Also 'third world' sales have taken place but the ROF refuse to say to whom.

The MOD have denied that the ARWEN is to be used for counter-insurgency situations, either in the UK or abroad. They specifically deny that it is to be used in the north of Ireland. But the MOD first set about designing the ARWEN in order to create a weapons system that would overcome some of the shortcomings of the current baton round system in use in Ireland. They required bullets that were potentially less lethal and more accurate and a weapon that was more accurate. The ARWEN fulfills this requirement and therefore it is hard to believe that after some years of R & D the MOD/Home Office will not use the weapon to their advantage. Such a weapon would also be ideal for use as a contingency requirement in the event of widespread civil disorder or insurrection within Britain itself.

*MOD - Ministry of Defence



ALBANY STREET

"Albany Street Books" was an anarchist bookshop situated in a squat, not 20 yards from Albany St. cop shop, where the infamous "terrorist squad" operates from. We gave squatting advice & info., we were a contact address for Class War & 5 other anarchist papers, we sold books.

The neighbours, the Council, the local newspaper (the Camden Journal) started a witch-hunt against us. They wanted us out.

It all started when we squatted an empty house a few doors away & upon finding out that someone was just about to move in, and the house was to be a home for South African refugees, we left again, changing the lock back to the original. The bloke who moved in then put a notice on the door which was derogatory to squatters & mentioned "breaking & entering".

ANARCHIST RADIO LIVES

Just when the authorities have begun a new clampdown, especially on smaller ethnic and political pirate radio stations, we have good news that Rebel Radio has come on air in Bristol. The station has been broadcasting on Sundays, 5pm to 9pm on 103.5 FM and describes itself as providing 'a voice for those decent individuals bent on subverting the police state'. Rebel Radio has already put out programmes on police violence, Stop the City, striking miners, civil defence and the Vancouver Five, as well as lots of 'loud obnoxious music'. They have been broadcasting from a 'top secret hideaway in downtown Bristol' and the Dept of Trade and Industry have been watching their every move, but have failed to catch them in the act so far. Send your tapes and cheques c/o Box FR, 116 Cheltenham Rd, Bristol.

Not so lucky were Sheffield Peace Radio who were followed wherever they went. They were finally busted on May 20 and are facing heavy fines and the loss of all their gear. They got lots of support and have a booklet about their experiences: available 50p from SPR, c/o 55 Ashland Rd, Sheffield 7.

The long-awaited 'clampdown' by the DTI* (who have taken over from British Telecom as pirate catchers) has failed to happen, at least for the 7-day commercial pirates who are booming in the London area. However many small stations have been busted off the air, including DBC (the only black station), one Arabic and two Turkish or Greek stations. These now face fines up to £2000 per person caught under the new laws which came into play in July '84. It's easy to see why ethnic, community and political pirates (like Cambridge Community Radio, Our Radio,

*DTI - Dept. of Trade & Industry

Sounds Alternative, DNC, SPR etc) are wiped out while commercial pop pirates are tolerated.

It's easy to see why the Tories tolerate such scum (the other seven day pirates are mainly in the same mould as Jackie). Up to now the Free The Airwaves organisation has supported all pirates. FTA is run by survivors of the smashed Cambridge Community Radio and bring out regular bulletins as well as fact sheets and excellent legal and technical aid services. (To join FTA send £2 to Box CCR, c/o The Bath House, Gwydir Street, Cambridge.) It's obvious now that if the airwaves were 'freed' tomorrow we would be swamped by Thatcherite commercial stations; as anarchists we would be better off campaigning for a federation of community worker controlled local radio stations.

It's clear at present that any radical pirate in the UK must adopt new guerrilla tactics and have considerable backing to survive. However between all of us we have enough experience and even a lot of the equipment to set up an excellent anarchist guerrilla pirate and get away with it. Such a station could also count on help from comrades in Paris and Amsterdam. (It's interesting to note that according to Monochrome No 1 considerable help in setting up Radio Arthur, the miners pirate radio which has hijacked Radio Trent news broadcasts (see Black Flag no. 118) came from the Vrijie Keizer TV group in Amsterdam who in '82 operated an anarchist pirate TV station.) All we need is for sufficient dedicated people to 'go for it'. We hope to continue this discussion in a future Black Flag. If you are interested or can give info or help, especially technical, cash or backup aid, please write to Radical Anarchist Transmissions (RATS), c/o BM Hurricane, London WC1N 3XX.

to think "the masses" need prodding (unlike themselves?). The Red Cross acts for victims of war; it, and Amnesty, never give any support to victims of the class war. Unless we give it, resistance, where it exists, will collapse. The miners struggle - no matter how it is lead - is a significant development and the families need to be fed and the children clothed if it too is not to collapse. In doing so one should not peddle politics, as the Trots do, and as the Sally Bash peddles religion when it uses the destitute to build up a vast charity business, a vastly different matter.

Questions & Answers on Anarchism

Q: Aren't the activities of the Anarchist Black Cross parallel with those of the Red Cross as regards prisoners etc? (Is not the point of the name?) And aren't collections for miners' families by Anarchists no different from the Salvation Army? Isn't it better to be working for social revolution.

A: It is a caricature of revolution to suppose it is a sudden event carried out by starving people. The "armed scholar" - as well as the quietist - type likes

Someone set fire to this notice and the neighbours saw it happen. The front page of the Camden Journal, the neighbours, and the Council all started claiming we were racially abusing and attacking Asians who lived in the same street, trying to burn their house down: TYPICAL ESTABLISHMENT LIES.

We heard of the impending eviction from a contact in a Council Department, we thought we had 6 weeks to prepare resistance: we weren't giving up the bookshop & our home to State bully boys & bullshit without a fight. Things started moving too fast: we received a solicitors letter, claiming that we were to be evicted because we threw human and animal shit into the neighbours gardens and tried to burn their houses down: we had to be evicted quickly, before the neighbours lives were put at risk! We were in High Court the next day and the day after (Sept 14th) the bailiffs

were knocking at the door. As no cops were to be seen, someone opened the door to try to talk to them, spit at them, throw shit at them, try to burn them alive or whatever!

3 vanloads of pigs, all wearing riot helmets and carrying shiny, new sledgehammers, went charging into the house (they had been hiding round the corner), one of them shouted "Where's the books, where's the printing press". Everyone was marched out of the house without being able to touch anything, one bloke and his trousers round his ankles and wasn't allowed to pull them up!

The cops "seized" £500 worth of books and smashed everything else up: we've been evicted.

All the time the cops were in the house, they kept asking if we printed this or that book - did we print our own stuff? They obviously thought we were very organised & needed to be dealt with before we became something of a threat?

LETTERS

Dear Black Flag,
I was pleased to see the letter from RG (Exeter) in the Flag No. 116. I had been furious about the article "The Miners and the Left" and had intended to write to you myself.
I am stunned that any Anarchist can write that the structures that the miners, or any other strikers, work within are "irrelevant". When I read the article a picture immediately entered my head of a hypothetical union run on fascist lines and headed by a dictator. One sunny day the dictator called a strike and threatened to expel/beat up/ murder every worker who did not support it. As it happened a group of Anarchists supported the premises of the strike and joined the dictator and a small band of others in their actions. A few of the @s had some qualms about it and asked: "Is it really libertarian to work with a dictator?" But their newspaper hastily reassured them that the structure of the union was irrelevant.

You can't be serious.
I thought M (Doncaster)'s reply was useful. It clarified a lot of points which should have been said more clearly in the original article. There's a lot of difference between "running in during disputes, attacking the structures and generally being negative" — which I am sure no @ would advocate — and seeing the structures as "irrelevant".
I was amazed to learn that the article was written to stimulate debate about the nature of solidarity. You could have fooled me! I thought it was a thinly disguised attack on the SWP. Next time could you make it a bit clearer. An interview with the miners as to their idea of useful forms of solidarity would have been far more interesting.
Another point about Ms reply to RG. It was couched in terms of disagreement yet to me M seemed to be making very similar points to RG. eg. I was glad to hear that M does recognise as does RG, that criticism if it comes from people clearly giving solidarity can be constructive.

Last point— above all "The miners and the Left" was a waste of valuable space which could have been filled with info about workers' struggles — in particular about the miners strike, which to me, is the most important industrial action for years and deserves all of our informed support. Fighting with the miners, C.G. Hackney/London E8

To CG, Hackney,
For your information, the article "The Miners and the Left" was written from a report 'Bores Under the Floor', which happened to be written by a miner for miners; also from conversations with miners on picket lines; as our neighbours; as our friends; and as our comrades. Of course it was about the nature of solidarity. As for the attack on the SWP, that comes directly from the miners.

Perhaps I'm wrong, but your hypothetical case seems to be a thinly disguised, cheap and safe attack on A. Scargill! He did not call the strike — this happened as a direct result of miners coming out in support of the Cortonwood men whose pit was threatened with imminent closure. Scargill & Taylor had nothing to do with it — see previous issues of Black Flag which spells this out quite clearly. Expulsion of scabs is a call from the rank & file. Of course there are doubts about this, but it is up to the rank & file miners to decide. Plus, the deaths in the strike have been the deaths of pickets; people are lying in intensive care with broken skulls & suspected brain damage — they are pickets injured by thug pigs.

Old women, have had their homes broken into by pigs wielding truncheons. Children have had limbs broken by these same pigs.
Having been involved with this strike from day one, not only on picket lines daily but also giving economic support, moral support, our time and energy to the communities involved in this dispute — including our own — I find your cheap jibes insulting. If you believe that debating about the nature of solidarity is a waste of space then there's something wrong — because the nature of solidarity is about workers struggle and vice versa. Our reporting of the strike in this area for Black Flag has been informed — if you want interviews with miners go on the picket lines — you're not too far from Kent, & talk with the people involved there.

There seems to me to be too much attacking of the NUM in this strike* and not enough attacking the NCB, the government, or the pigs. The structure of the NUM may not be perfect, but attacking that during the middle of the most important workers struggle in the country for years, is counter-productive. Miners themselves have started to question the structures but want unity now & we should respect this. This is not defending the bureaucrats, only the rank & file. Talk with members of the mining communities, don't patronizingly spout purist platitudes from the safe confines of Hackney. And if you want articles on workers' struggles, and can't get to Kent, why not try writing about those struggles in your area — or aren't there any?!

At the moment we in mining areas feel that we are in a country that is occupied by an enemy force — which we are. Pigs from London, Manchester, in fact from all over the country, are occupying our streets and attacking us. Living here doesn't allow itself to us wasting time on cheap jibes about a union. Our solidarity is with the men, women and children who make up the pit communities, & we shall continue to fight with them, and report about that fight.

Fighting with the miners (literally)
J & M (Doncaster)

* by people who know nothing of its history, structure and nature.

Hello friends,

Thanks a bunch for the letters. I was meaning to write and let ya'all know how things went. They went just great. Matter of fact I received so many responses to the advert in Black Flag that I couldn't find the time to answer/respond with them all so I gave some letters to my fellow inmates and I am happy to say that all concerned are quite pleased with the way things turned out. I received letters from all over the place, England, France, Scotland, Ireland, Greece, Canada, Denmark and even here in the US.

They keep us pretty busy here making us work and what not (for 10 cents an hour!) but if you want to drop a line my way I'd enjoy hearing from you. I'll be here till 88 or 89 at least. And if you have any questions about this place or my situation just ask. I like sending cassette tapes as correspondence better than writing as I don't spell so hot. But all correspondence tapes coming into the prison must be made of the clear, see-through type plastic, which are difficult to find I know. I imagine you're pretty busy too, so I'll understand if ya don't have the time.

keep breathing,
Sparrow. (K. Aikman 43886, Box 3400, Goodyear, Arizona. 85338 USA

FEEDBACK

ASDNN

From now on the Urgent News Mailings will be handled directly by the Anarchist Black Cross. Documentation enquiries will be dealt with by the Kate Sharpley Library (Box KLS, 121 Railton Road, London SE24). All ASDNN (Anti-State Documentation and News Network) subscribers are asked in future to work through the Black Cross network. All Black Flag subscribers should note that they will automatically be placed on the Urgent News Mailing List. For administrative reasons the mailings are available to subscribers only (as well as existing ASDNN subscribers and all known anarchist/anarchist-syndicalist periodicals and organisations). All items for the Urgent News mailings should be addressed to Urgent News, ABC, BM Hurricane, London WC1N 3XX

COVENTRY A's

A new group. Can be contacted via: PO Box 125, COVENTRY CV3 5QT.

SWEDEN

In case any comrades in Sweden haven't realised yet, there is a Swedish version of Black Flag produced by comrades in Karlshamn. They have distributed around 500 copies already. For copies write to: Ekomedia-Karlshamn, Hautverkaregatan 19a, 5-29200 Karlshamn. Perhaps the idea will catch on in other countries, so creating a truly international anarchist paper, news service and support network.

BOMBAY APPEAL

We have received an appeal for anarchist literature from a resource group in Bombay, India, through the Kate Sharpley Library. Please send money, books or pamphlets to Indian Books Appeal, Kate Sharpley Library, 121 Railton Rd, London SE24.

FILM APPEAL

A video film was recently sent to us from the USA about radical trade unionism in N America, with interviews with the Dolgoffs, IWW people from New York. Any contributions towards getting the video transferred to VHS English System would be greatly appreciated. Contributions to: Video Appeal, BM Hurricane, London WC1N 3XX.

ICELAND

Hello, I'm 17 years old, female and I'd like some penfriends in Britain. My interests are anarchism, music, acting and animals. Favourite music: Joy Division, Bauhaus, U2, Birthday Party. Gitta, Skolavordustig 26, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland.

PIG POSTERS

Pig Posters (a la policing and the Miners Strike) are available from Derby Agitator, 39 Denbigh Street, Chaddesdon, Derby.

Anarchist Black Cross

In the near future we intend to organise a meeting, somewhere central but outside London, to which all Black Cross contacts are invited. Those contacts who wish to attend should write in soon and we will send the details on.

The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the organisation of the Black Cross network and how it can be expanded, the work of the Black Cross, tactics, propaganda, mutual assistance, improved intelligence gathering, as well as short and long term strategy.

ABC - London Chapter.

MURRAY'S APPEAL

Has a woman the right to have children? Is she condemned to barrenness because the State has convicted her? The question is even more important in countries which deny women the right to choose because of religious dogma, yet force women in prison to a lifetime of enforced celibacy.

The matter is being challenged in the European Court by Marie Murray and Noel Murray, both currently in Limerick Gaol.

Marie and Noel are both anarchists who were sentenced in Dublin some years back for the alleged murder of an off-duty policeman during the course of a bank robbery. A third person was involved but he was not charged because he had been too badly beaten up by the police to appear in court. Marie was sentenced on the basis of a 'confession' (made in earshot of the sounds of Noel being tortured). The two were given life by a non-jury court.

Recently we were contacted by friends of Noel and Marie and asked if we could help in raising the legal costs of the forthcoming court hearing. They need £5000. They would have needed far more had it not been for their barrister — Sean McBride (an ex-IRA Chief of Staff — in a time when such a position was deemed respectable by the Dublin authorities — and Nobel Peace Prize winner) who is offering his services for free.

All Black Flag readers are asked to send as much as they can and to start collections now. We have to have the £5000 by the end of December. Perhaps a fiver all round?

Black Flag, BM Hurricane, London WC1N3XX

NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Combined Subscription:
Quarterly Magazine & fortnightly News Bulletin:

12 months: £12 Inland & Surface,
£19 Air.
6 months: £6.50 Inland & Surface,
£10 Air.

We have had to increase the subs (the first time for 2½ years) because of increase in postage costs and the cover price. Current subscribers whose sub has not yet run out will get their copies of Black Flag sent as usual, without having to send on the extra money.

UNEMPLOYED SOLID@RITY

GLASGOW BACKS THE MINERS

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ANARCHIST

The 12 Anarchists have been charged with "breach of the peace" and "malicious damage". They face considerable fines and will be on trial on the 10th of December. Since all 12 defendants are on the dole they will find any fine hard to meet. All contributions to their defence fund and solid@rity greetings: Autonomy Press, 4th Floor, 64 Queen Street, GLASGOW

PRICE WATERHOUSE OCCUPIED

THE DAY WE TOOK THE WHITE TOWER

At 7.30 am on Tuesday, 4th September, 12 Anarchists stormed a multi-storey office block in Glasgow city centre. They went in to occupy the headquarters of Accountants Price Waterhouse the millionaire outfit which sequestered the South Wales Miners Funds. As the newspapers in Scotland reported, the operation was executed with almost military precision. It took the team 10 minutes from entering the building to securing themselves behind metal-sheeted doors on the 13th floor.

About 600lbs of equipment, including hammers, drills, saws and timber, were carried past the startled staff. Lifts were occupied and protests ignored. All the keys were lifted from the security guard's desk. Everyone knew their task and skilfully completed it.

Not that everything was perfect. The security guard managed to regain entry to the foyer before all the equipment had been moved in. The elevators were too small to easily accommodate the 8' by 4' metal sheeting. An officer had to be ejected from Price Waterhouse as the occupation got under way. It proved impossible to commandeer all three lifts for the 13th floor and so that area came under police control sooner than planned. An early casualty was the driver who was arrested at the Hire Depot as they were returning the van which the team arrived in.

In spite of these reverses the operation was a complete success. Fire doors leading to the common stairway were nailed up. The twelve had captured the offices of Price Waterhouse and were securely barricaded in. The police arrived at 7.50am and could only rage, threaten and kick impotently at the steel doors out in the corridor as those inside calmly outlined the reasons for their peaceful occupation.

For this was no exercise in bravado but a serious social act. The anarchists were convinced of the need for direct action against Price Waterhouse. Contrary to popular report, this Company did not simply carry out a mundane legal job of sequestration against the miners; they entered into the fight with all the commitment of partisans. Price Slaughterhouse went much further than their Law demanded. Not content with seizing the £350,000 administrative funds belonging to the South Wales Miners, they proceeded to grab additional £400,000 in the Provident Fund and money collected for hardship cases, food and clothing for the families. To permit these gangsters to commit legalised robbery without protest seemed to all Clydeside Anarchists an invitation to more adventurous tactics by the boss class.

By 8.30am, a senior police officer was knocking at the door seeking to parley. He was told: 1) That his minions had threatened violence (true); 2) that all the Anarchists had been medically examined and photographed the previous day (not quite true); 3) that they had nothing more to say to him and that he should fetch a representative of Price Shithouse to consider some important questions.

At 9am, a Mr. Campbell arrived. He said he was a Partner and senior executive of the company in Scotland and that he and the staff (30) were seriously put out by the occupation and were anxious to come in and start work. He was informed that the Welsh miners and their families were being even more seriously inconvenienced by the actions of PW. Two conditions were put to Campbell for the evacuation of the building: 1) that PW undertake no further sequestrations; and 2) that the funds of the South Wales Miners be restored to them. Campbell said it would take a little time to get a response from the Head Office in Birmingham. The occupants promised to be patient.

An hour later (10am) Campbell slipped a typed letter over the steel door. In it he acknowledged the anarchist action but replied negatively on both points. However, the note went on to say that if the South Wales miners would identify those funds which had been earmarked for clothing and food relief, PW would release them. Campbell was told to wait half-an-hour while a meeting was held to consider the letter. He was reminded by one of the group that there was a lot of valuable equipment in the offices and that any violent action could inadvertently result in an awful lot of damage. (The suite of offices contained about 18 rooms — the entire floor — and was ultra-modern. There were no manual typewriters, only a few IBM golf ball typewriters. But the place was stiff with terminals, VDUs, word processors, telex machines, photo-copiers, etc. — certainly £100,000 worth of equipment. The really valuable stuff, however, was the Diskettes; mini discs containing all the files plus work in progress. About 900 of these were lying around all capable of storing 10,000 words. However, the threat was an empty one as the group had decided not to cause malicious damage. Nevertheless, it seemed to give Campbell some cause to stay the hand of the gendarmes.)

By this time the building was surrounded by the guardians of law and order. Two 60-foot banners were stretched round the 13th floor reading: **GLASGOW BACKS THE MINERS** and **UNEMPLOYED SOLID@RITY**. Electricity had been cut-off, several phones were out and large numbers of police occupied the corridors.

At 10.45am Campbell was informed that the meeting had considered his letter and would investigate the authenticity of his claim about their willingness to release identified funds.

The next several hours were spent in talks with the South Wales Miners' headquarters by phone and to PW's Man Outside The Door. This period afforded many opportunities to go through the extensive filing system. It was a real eye-opener. This multi-million pound outfit has accountancy as only a small part of its business. It concentrates on handling take-over bids, forecasting money market trends, overseas investments etc. It was clear that a big percentage of the big monopolies are clients of PW.

Dinner was served at around 12 but almost all resisted the temptation of PW's extensive cellar (Barsac '79) not a great year, but... Leaflets were scattered at 5 minute intervals. Supporters were gathering in the streets below and news agencies contacted about the occupation and the reasons for it. The South Wales NUM said it was being reported locally and were delighted by the action. Meanwhile, the cops were bored and were boring! Stealthily, they were trying to gain access through the fire door; but it simply hadn't been nailed up — it was the subject of a superb piece of civil engineering by the Castlemilk Constructors (unemployed). The boys in blue were disappointed.

The discussions with the South Wales NUM revealed that they were not prepared to identify those seized funds which were for the relief of hardship. They claimed that to do so would be to recognise the Courts which was contrary to union policy and in conflict with the Wembley Conference decisions which had been reinforced by the Brighton TUC the previous day. One of the team, Enrico (Malatesta?) in speaking to Emlyn Jenkins (SWNUM) observed that they would prefer not to recognise any Court. However, the Anarchists did not see their task as that of making demands of the miners but of exposing the scab outfit of Price Waterhouse.

Certainly some publicity was being gained: radio, TV and newspapers were carrying reports of the action and giving garbled accounts of the reasons for it. Leaflets were being distributed at job centres and SS offices but sympathisers were being warned off by the cops from giving out material near the occupation.

As the afternoon progressed several things became clear: 1) It was not possible to force PW into restoring the miners' funds; 2) the cops were becoming increasingly restive and seemed likely to indulge in heroics; 3) one of the doors was less secure than the others and seemed vulnerable to a determined assault. Considering these factors it was decided to dismantle the barricades. Campbell of PW conceded that if no malicious damage had been done then charges would not be brought against the occupying Anarchist force. There were serious doubts about this.

At 4.15pm, having removed most barricades, the police were allowed to enter by one door. The twelve militants were invited to collect their tools and belongings and proceed to the exit where large quantities of police awaited them. The steam coming from the Inspector's ears warned the Anarchists what was to come. "I'm In Charge Now" he cried, and went on to announce that the group would be handcuffed in pairs taken to the local sty and charged with breach of the peace and criminal damage.

Thereafter, the twelve were subjected to the usual indignities: photographed, finger-printed, given a body-search and locked in single cells for the night. No violence was used but it was particularly hard for those nine members of the group who were vegans and had virtually nothing but bread and water for 24 hours.

Next day they were packed six to a cell (5' by 10') and later appeared at the Sherrif Court. There they pled not guilty to all charges and were released on bail. Trial was fixed for 10th December.

In retrospect, the group felt that the action was relatively successful — not from the narrow view of publicity for the Clydeside Anarchists — but because it was a positive action on behalf of the miners to the ruling class offensive. The negative aspect lies in the Anarchists having to do the job at all. The impotent and ossified Trade Unions seem incapable of anything but a negative reaction to the boss class.

Social democracy and the bureaucratised TU movement have disarmed the working class. Lullabies of class peace, parliamentary and legal paths to social harmony have virtually paralysed the proletariat's instinct for self-defence.

The group hopes that the action has helped forge closer links between Clydeside Anarchists and the miners for whom they have campaigned and collected more than £2,000. Perhaps it will galvanise more workers into direct action and show them that defence against the boss is not confined within the narrow limits of branch resolutions and letters to MPs and councillors. At the very least, Clydeside Anarchists have given the lie to those who charge that we couldn't organise a booze-up in a brewery. Price Waterhouse can testify to that.

Glasgow, 13th September, 1984.

Brian Biggins



SCAB BACKERS

continued from front page

One of the FA's main policy planks for 1984 is: 'To stiffen government resolve to develop realistic policies to tackle the growth of violent, intimidatory and anti-social behaviour'. With their contacts in the Tory Party (FA members/supporters include: Sir John Biggs-Davison MP, Jill Knight MP, Nicholas Ridley MP, etc) they are in an ideal position to push through their aims. Ridley in fact is a regular speaker at FA meetings. Back in April he addressed a meeting of the SE London FA at which he equated anti-free market economy politics with anarchy. Norman

Tebbit MP is another FA stalwart, as are Leon Brittan and Rhodes Boyson. All three were members of the National Association For Freedom, as the FA was then known.

The NAFF was helped set up thanks in part to the finances of Sir Frank Taylor of Taylor Woodrow. Taylor (Long Common, Wanborough, Guildford), according to The Miner, has huge investment interests in private open-cast mining and has been directly involved in supplying funds to the working miners' groups.

The FA office displayed copies of a poster for the Moderate Miners Wives Return To Work Campaign, which it was giving away. The campaign material is produced by a Gordon Fjaelberg, 287

Dover Road, Deal. The Secretary of the campaign is Mrs Irene McGibbon and the chairman (sic) is Mrs Jane Fjaelberg. The Fjaelberg's and McGibbon are responsible for the placing of advertisements in various local papers appealing for funds to support the working miners and for a return back to work. The campaign boasts that it is in the process of compiling a register of potential scabs.