

BLACK FLAG

ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY Vol. VII 7c No 121
13-11-84

25p

NUM APPEAL

THEIR HOUR OF NEED

The NUM are faced with treachery on all sides: from the TUC, from the Labour Party leaders, from scabs within the coal industry and from scabs in the related industries. Where old alliances are waning, new ones need to be sought. The Support Groups have been the mainstay of the struggle from day one: Now is the time for them to be mobilised, to rally round to give physical support for the final battle ahead. The Battle for Scab Coal.

Traitors

History is repeating itself in more ways than one. As in 1926 the TUC has backed away from providing the sort of support the Miners depend on to save the trade union movement from total defeat. TUC leaders, together with the Labour Party, connived to secure a compromise agreement through ACAS, the state sell-out agency. The pit deputies union, NACODS, won their dispute on the backs of the Miners, and then left them high and dry. There was a majority of pit deputies who wanted to strike but, with encouragement from the TUC - who saw the NUM as an embarrassment, showing up the TUC for what it is: a counter-revolutionary cancer guaranteed to contain militancy within 'acceptable' bounds - the NACODS leadership opted to pull out of the battle for the mines, knowing that the NUM would be isolated and that a quick settlement between the NCB and the NUM might have been imposed.

But the TUC and NACODS miscalculated. True: together they have pushed the NUM into a corner. But the will to capitulate to treachery was not there.

Raising the stakes

It's now a whole new ball game. The rail workers, together with the seamen's union and some dockers, are still continuing with the blacking of coal movements, and T & G workers in some power stations (see page 2) are refusing to handle new stocks, but a realistic analysis shows that unless the situation changes drastically the power stations might just be able to make it through the winter.

Around 650,000 tonnes of coal is needed each week by the CEGB to keep the main coal-fired stations and some of the auxiliary ones operating. The working pits can only supply around 500,000 tonnes per week. But current stocks at power stations stand at 16m tonnes. On this basis the main coal-fired power stations can probably make it to the end of March without the need for extra imports. The government's plan is to switch greater

emphasis to the oil fired and nuclear powered stations. This leaves the NUM with a number of options to go for if government strategy is to fail.

To return the balance in the favour of the NUM, all of the following must be achieved: some (but not all) of the oil-fired stations must reduce their output, oil imports must be prevented from reaching their destination, new imports of coal must also be impeded, workers in all power stations (whether coal or oil fired or nuclear) who are in any way sympathetic should be encouraged to take selective, unofficial, disruptive action.

The crucial make or break still, nevertheless, lies with the giant Midland power stations, serviced by the scab pits. One set of independent estimates has shown that during peak time in the winter months these power stations, despite the switch in emphasis to the oil-fired and nuclear stations, have insufficient capacity to fulfill the total requirement needed by the National Grid. A further 20% is required from the other, auxiliary coal-fired power stations outside the Midlands area. And it is these stations where T & G workers have already agreed to boycott all future delivery of new coal supplies. The big question is, are the current stocks in these peripheral power stations sufficient to keep them supplied. The answer is no (see page 2) and for this reason the CEGB is forced to reduce their operational function at these power stations until the blacking has been lifted.

Midlands hold the key

The Miners strike began with a battle against scabbing and that is how it will probably end. The scabs have chosen their side and they will face the consequences of their action for years to come. But at this moment in time these scabs act as the final obstacle to victory. Their treachery is the Tories most potent weapon.

For the striking miners their hour of need is now here. The NUM, through The Miner, has appealed for all support-



JOHN STURROCK/NETWORK

ers to rally round and provide direct physical support to end this dispute once and for all. The appeal went on:

'Our cause is absolutely just; our communities havens of decency...No matter what it takes we will continue to do all in our power to defend our union and communities. ALL WE ASK IS THAT EVERY PERSON WHO CAN, NOW JOINS US ON THE PICKET LINE'.

Mass picketing of the scab pits was thwarted by an army of police who imposed a state of seige in the coal mining areas. The time is now here when all those who support the striking miners and who are not prepared to see our class defeated by the forces of reaction, will need to organise to make certain no coal from the Midlands scabs is used any more to further the aims of this union-bashing government.

TUC help can no longer be relied upon and the NUM has made it clear that the whole labour movement must now be mobilised to lend physical support to the mass pickets.

This government has indicated that it is prepared to face many more months of industrial strife and all that that entails. But it is doubtful whether it will also be prepared to accept further massive economic collapse brought about by the widening of physical support.

The Support Groups and the labour movement beyond has the potential to form a vast army capable of marching on to the scab coalfields, to blockade the pits and the power stations and to reclaim the pits from the scabs once and for all.

It took 10,000 to stop Orgreave. It will take considerably more to stop the scabs. More than the NUM can muster. One thing is clear, however. If all else fails, if the power stations continue with normal output, if oil supplies to the oil-fired stations are not sabotaged (either by blacking or by more conventional means), if the government resorts to mass scab labour or the use of troops to move coal supplies to those power stations low on stocks so as to keep the Grid ticking over...then the Midlands coal fields must be taken. And held.

MINERS NEWS

Spartacus

Pickets from Kellingley Colliery arrived at Denby Grange at 6am on Thursday 25. Numerous police and mounted policemen met the pickets. It was rumoured that four men were about to go to work.

Before the scab van arrived the pickets began to push accompanied by the usual chorus of 'Here we go, Here we go!'. The police clearly under strain, began to slip back. They then split ranks, drew batons, and charged the miners. The pickets were forced back except for one man who managed to pull a policeman off his horse. Police closed ranks; their vanguard being the cavalry. One miner then threw a firework in the air; the explosion causing the police horses to back into their own ranks. Horsemen then retreated into the rear.

Next miners raided a nearby timber yard for ammo. Whereupon the Chief pig ordered pickets to disperse. The pickets front ranks split revealing their rearguard armed with sticks.

The police then ordered the miners to put down their 'weapons', whereupon a picket shouted out 'I'm Spartacus', holding a stick in the air. The remainder then followed suit. (To appreciate this act of solidarity you must be familiar with the Kirk Douglas epic of the same name. The scene this parallels is the one where the victorious Romans - ie, the police - promise to spare the slaves - ie, the pickets - if they betray their leader. The slaves refuse with the cry, 'I'm Spartacus' too.)

After this the pickets then began to chant and to bombard the police with their sticks. Those police who did not wear protective riot gear sustained casualties. The cavalry then charged pushing pickets back in to the Timber Yard, using a riot squad charge. The pickets beat a hasty retreat.

Barricades were erected, using wooden stakes. The police were halted. The police then retreated, pursued by pickets. Once more the police charged, only to be pelted by stones, bricks and sticks. This tug-of-war continued three more times. Eventually the police won and the cavalry forced the pickets to retreat into a nearby field. A chase then ensued until the pickets were driven back to their cars. 8am and the Kellingley pickets left Denby Grange.

Power Workers Show Support

T & G members at the following power stations have refused to handle new coal stocks: Aberthaw, Drax, Ferrybridge, Skelton Grange, Fiddlers Ferry, Thorpe Marsh, Eggborough, Tilbury and West Thurrock.

A vote was taken at each power station to block all new supplies from now on. Although these stations are not part of the crucial Midlands complex, they do have a part to play in the government's emergency strategy. At peak time during the winter months these stations are expected to provide up to 20% of the capacity needed for the National Grid.

None of these stations have supplies capable of lasting more than FOUR MORE WEEKS. They are therefore being run down and are only operating at a ticking over rate.

At some point in time the government will attempt to move fresh coal supplies in and will hope that the T & G workers will by then have been broken. But word is that is highly unlikely.

Disabled woman attacked by scabs

This is almost the reverse of the 'shock horror' stories you read in the gutter press. Needless to say the dailies have refused to cover the story.

Brenda Stout, an active member of the Bickershawe Miners Support Group has often been on picket line support, despite the fact that she is disabled and confined to a wheelchair, and in one incident she was even assaulted by cops.

But the crunch came when three masked scabs broke into her house and beat her up, knowing full well she was defenceless and they could get away with it.

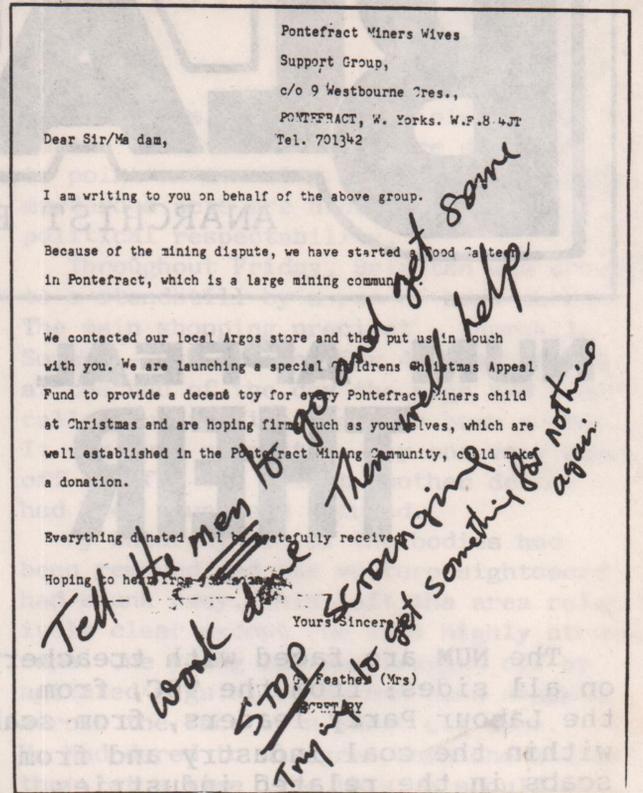
Just after her husband left for picket duty the three smashed their way into her house, wrecking the place. They then assaulted Brenda, slapping her in the face and called her a 'decrepit spastic scrounger for the miners'. But worst was to come. One of them then pulled out a Stanley knife and tried to slash her across the face. Bravely, Brenda tried to defend herself and ended up getting a cut arm. This only seemed to drive the scabs even more insane: they grabbed the telephone cable, yanked it out of the socket and wrapped it around Brenda's neck, trying to strangle her. Brenda blacked out and fortunately came to about an hour later.

Typically the police, as they do when ever there is a racist attack, suggested to Brenda that her wounds had been self-inflicted!

Apart from the left papers and those papers who support the Miners in their struggle, you would be hard pressed to see this story in any of the national dailies. It's the sort of story the media prefers to forget about.

Stonewalled

There's been more trouble at Wooley Colliery recently when police tried to escort a scab - Tony Haller - through the picket lines. This provocation led to over 1000 miners enforcing a blockade. Fighting was heavy. Clashes occurred in the road and in neighbouring fields. Over 23 cops were injured, 3 needed hospital treatment. One cop, PC Jennings, had to have 5 stitches in the head. A Superintendent was also wounded in the head. Burning barricades were built by the pickets across the road and even a stone wall was built (later demolished by cops - see adjoining photo) with the use of bricks nearby. There were no arrests.



Which side are you on?

A letter from a Pontefract Miners Wives Support Group - one of 30 sent out to various concerns - asked Argos Stores if they would contribute to a scheme - the Childrens Christmas Appeal Fund - which would provide one toy for every Pontefract miner's child at Christmas.

However instead of a donation, or even a polite refusal, the appeal letter was returned to the group from Argos central office at Edgware with the words, 'Tell the men to go and get some work done. This will help. Stop scrounging. Trying to get something for nothing' across it.

The Kellingley NUM branch has called for a boycott of Argos by mining families during the remainder of the dispute and to continue once the dispute is over. Argos have responded by denying that the letter was handled by any of their own customer relations staff but have so far not come up with any dough.

Well it's time they decide whose side they are on and whether they value their customers or not. By prevaricating in this way Argos will easily set itself up as a target for retaliation.

Satanist cop

A nutty police chief has publicly stated that he believes Arthur Scargill, the NUM President, is controlled by the devil.

Inspector Malcolm Biggins, based at Sutton Coldfield, said that he and other Christian police have seen pickets who were 'demons possessed' and said that after he went away from the picket line to pray for their souls he returned to find that the mood had changed. Biggins, who wrote an article in the newsletter of the West Midlands branch of the Christian Police Association - of which he is Branch Secretary - went on to say that during the past year God had raised up Billy Graham to try to save Britain and Satan had raised up Mr Scargill to wreak havoc.

The loony Christian Police Association is the same body that employs off-duty police thugs to intimidate dissidents who turn up at right-wing fundamentalist rallies, such as those organised by Louis Palau.



RUBBLE left after the pitched battle outside Woolley Colliery.

BEWARE THE THIRD POSITIONISTS

The English fascist groups are now, far from being useful to the ruling class in attacking workers (as still in Spain, Italy, etc), an embarrassment. They served a fringe purpose in anti-immigration campaigns, but since the skins and yobbos prefer to attack Asian shopkeepers with a classic capitalist mentality, rather than 'black rioters', the financial backers have backed off. The job they wanted done is well done by a Conservative Government, which has now a leader who does not need right-wing pressure groups.

What, however, are the punters to do who started their careers on being professional Nordic Heroes and find themselves stranded like faded Valykries and Brunnhildes of touring opera companies out of an engagement and without even the train fare back?

Martin Webster is going out in a blaze of litigation against his former NF comrades-in-arms; Colin Jordan hasn't lived down stealing cami-knickers from Marks and Sparks; and John Tyndall mingles with the continental nazis in cosmopolitan Brighton.

The only way to get back to the more secure politics of the Mosley era is by chucking Mosleyism overboard and resurrecting the Strasserite myth, as pioneered by William Joyce (whom they don't like to talk about too much). Hitlerism is disowned by the 'trots' of fascism. This entails attacking Capitalism and

GUN SPECIALIST

During a recent police raid on the home of an anarchist - nothing whatever to do with politics, and the charge was not held good by the magistrates - two address books were seized. They were not signed for nor returned. However that's neither here nor there...the poor guy had been suffering from pyorrhoea and his dentist had recommended the sort of highly regarded medical consultant in the West End that gets into the Honours List, a gum specialist. His phone number was listed. The piggies read the entry as 'gun specialist'. Need we relate the rest of the story?...

ORGANISERS

A contributed article in the last issue on a Birmingham Stop the City referred to the organisers having been arrested. In fact they weren't, though there were some arrests.

INCITEMENT

Anarchists, along with other political activists, have been selling papers in the Lands Lane precinct area of Leeds on Saturday mornings for several years now. But on Saturday October 13 a comrade of the Leeds DAM (Direct Action Movement) was nicked for selling anarchist papers and later charged with incitement to cause a breach of the peace, which could result in a heavy fine or a jail sentence.

The reason the police picked on him was the front page of the paper he was selling: it showed a picture of Charles (Prince) and Di (Princess) with Prince Harry, headlined 'Another Fucking Parasite'.

The only breach of the peace was done by the filth themselves, who try to suppress freedom of thought and use Gestapo-type tactics in pit villages such as Grimethorpe. Let it be understood: this is police state censorship.

Leeds Dam.

Bolshevism - but as they have not too much experience from doing it from a working class point of view the Front are all out to hijack as many 'fringe' issue groups as they can: hence their sudden interest in ecological stuff, animal lib, anti-nuclear politics, etc.

They have failed to have any impact on the trade union movement and they are gradually creating for themselves a wilderness within their own nationalist ghetto. Many of them work closely with the police; for this reason we wish to caution comrades to be specially vigilant of likely fascist candidates, especially provocateurs. Loose-knit groups, open to all-comers, are particularly attractive to subversion from counter-revolutionaries.

This campaign is necessarily directed against the anarchist movement - to divide it and to destroy it, but to steal from it too. Seemingly patronising articles, cartoons and views are lifted from Black Flag into National Front and National Action Party (whatever that is) propaganda, though the attempts at infiltration are directed at the squatters, pop groups, and skin/punk scene, using 'peace, man' and aggro types alike for divisive attacks on organised anarchism.

Ignore this warning at your peril.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS.

BEST OF THE SUMMER WHINE

Has Freedom now anything to do with the anarchist movement? Let us consider the November issue as the latest to come our way.

Having mysteriously taken over from Vernon Richard's hand-picked old collective, without any attempt at a 'ballot' by anyone or any semblance of agreement by readers (if any) the new collective proceeded to damn the miners' union for not having a ballot - and damned Black Flag for supporting the miners, with gross personal insinuations. However some miners moved in asking for support and personal contact: suddenly Freedom switched - for the first time it supported the miners' case in an article 'Occupy the Pits', cribbed from an earlier issue of Black Flag.

This however was the only anarchist article, the rest was the same old crap: on the front page AK Brown repeated the tired old pacifist arguments against the Angry Brigade, all of which have been refuted many times; while on page two, one Walter Westphal slags Black Flag together with Freedom because we 'never see people selling it on the various marches'. Note, Mr Westphal, we are not in the business for business. The marches we are interested in are not for selling papers - that's for the trots. Class War, he says, though 'unnecessarily crude and insulting', beats us hands down - because it sells well. Obviously if we 'Fuck the Queen' or something similar on the front page we would sell better, especially by cashing in on demonstrations. But is Class War anarchist or anti-anarchist? At the crunch it is council-communist and opposes organised anarchism.

On page three of the November issue of Freedom Brian Bamford touches a real low even for the degenerated Freedom by attacking 'DAM Bootlickers and Creeps'

AGENT PROVOCATEUR

A Conservative MP was accused of groping a plain clothes policeman in a gay club. It appeared the policeman was dressed in tight trousers, trying to look as attractive as possible to the assorted gays. The MP said the groping, if any, was accidental. It was on all accounts a classic case of the agent provocateur - for which, hypocritically, there is no word in English but a great deal of the thing. The jury, because the agent provocateur was involved, could not agree; the judge, because an MP was involved, suggested the case should not be retried.

Within days came an order from the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Kenneth Newman, that policemen in plain clothes should not be used as agents provocateurs, defining the word as 'a person who entices another to commit an expressed breach of the law and proceeds to inform on him in respect of such an offence.'

Congratulations to the MP for getting this established practice so quickly banned! It has been used against chartists, socialists, anarchists and trade unionists for generations. We recall one obvious policeman coming into a pub in the Angry Brigade days and saying he was an off-duty soldier and offering arms...recognised for what he was and told to piss off, he made no charges, but a year later swore evidence that he made such an offer but that the person he made it to was 'drunk and aggressive'.

- bootlicking according to him means selling one's soul by expelling a member who disagreed with them! How the lad gets worked up about nothing! Aren't bootlickers and creeps people who disclaim actions and rush to repeat pacifist cliches? What's that but selling souls?

Despite the assurance of the previous Freedom that the old gang had terminally parted, page three finds Philip Sansom back again, and page five devoted to two huge articles on Ireland in the real old Freedom style. Forget about the context, listen to the exhortation. 'Most anarchists' know of the raids on 121 and the Brixton squats but they have to realise in Belfast this is commonplace...and so on: the old story of the writer in Freedom trying to pose as the lone heroic understanding voice against the brutally ignorant anarchist masses who must learn to understand...The other article, more racist in tone, suggests that 'British anarchists' have a poor response to the Irish question since the writer (obviously English) regards Freedom as their organ.

People who write and ask us what objection we have to Freedom may be assured that it used to be because it was milk-and-water liberalistic pseudo-anarchism: now it is anti-anarchist.



Join...
DIRECT ACTION
MOVEMENT

FEEDBACK

Jack the Painter

Portsmouth Anarchist FREE paper. No. 1 and No. 2. 8 page A4 format duplicated. Articles on Rent Rises, Belfast 'Super-grasses', 121 eviction threat & raid news, Miners, Cleaners, Telephone tapping, and lots more. Jack the Painter was the nickname of James Hill, who worked as a painter in the Portsmouth dockyard. He tried to help the American republican movement with a plan to set fire to naval dockyards. His plan failed and he was arrested in March 1777, tried for treason, hanged and his body left to rot in a cage at the entrance to the harbour. Contact address: c/o Spice Island, 30 Osborne Road, Southsea, HAMPSHIRE.

LWG-IWA Conference

November 23 at 339 Lafayette St (near Bleecker), Manhattan, New York City. Begins 9.30am and continues until the Sunday when there will be a cultural event/party. Organised by the Libertarian Workers Group (IWA), Room 202, 339 Lafayette St, NYC, NY 10012. (Tel 212-505 6590). It is hoped the conference will help create a nationwide libertarian workers organisation as the US section of the International Workers Association (the anarchist-syndicalist international).

Anarchism & British Labour

16-18 November at Moat Community College, Maidstone Rd, Highfields Rd, Leicester. Starts Saturday at 9.30am. Talks on Anarchist History, John Creaghe, Ambrose Barker, Malatesta in London 1881-1919, Kropotkin and the New Unionism, Working Class Anarchism in East London, and more. Bookings/details from Cooperative College, Stanford Hall, Stanford, Loughborough (Tel 050-982 2333).

Rebel Worker

Vol 3, No 5 out now. 30¢ per issue or \$3 (Aust) annual sub. From: PO Box 92, Broadway 2007, Sydney, Australia. Includes articles on the Miners (British) Strike, SMOT (underground Soviet trade union), Polish Syndicalism, Brazil, Syndicalism and Australian Railworkers, etc. Excellent read.

Knee Deep in Shit

30p from KDIS, c/o 127 Thornton Rd, Bradford 1. Includes Part 2 of a well researched dossier on local Freemasons. Also much scandal and funnies.

Apologies

Apologies are due to White Dwarf Editions (Canada) whose address we got wrong in a previous issue. Their correct address is: CP 282, Succ E, Montreal, PQ H2T 3A7, Canada. The booklet, 'A Day Mournful And Overcast' (reviewed in BF no 118) can be obtained from the above address and not the one we printed earlier.

Haringey Anarcha-Feminists

We're a newly formed group of active anarcha-feminists who're meeting at Haringey Women's Centre, 40 Turnpike Lane N8, every Thursday at 7.30pm. If you want to find out more come along. We'd also like to make contact with other similar groups, write c/o Women's Centre.

Buckinghamshire Group

A new contact address: Bucks Area A's, c/o 'Cornerstones', Sly Corner, Lee Common, Great Missenden, Bucks.

BLACK FLAG PAGE FOUR

Green Anarchist

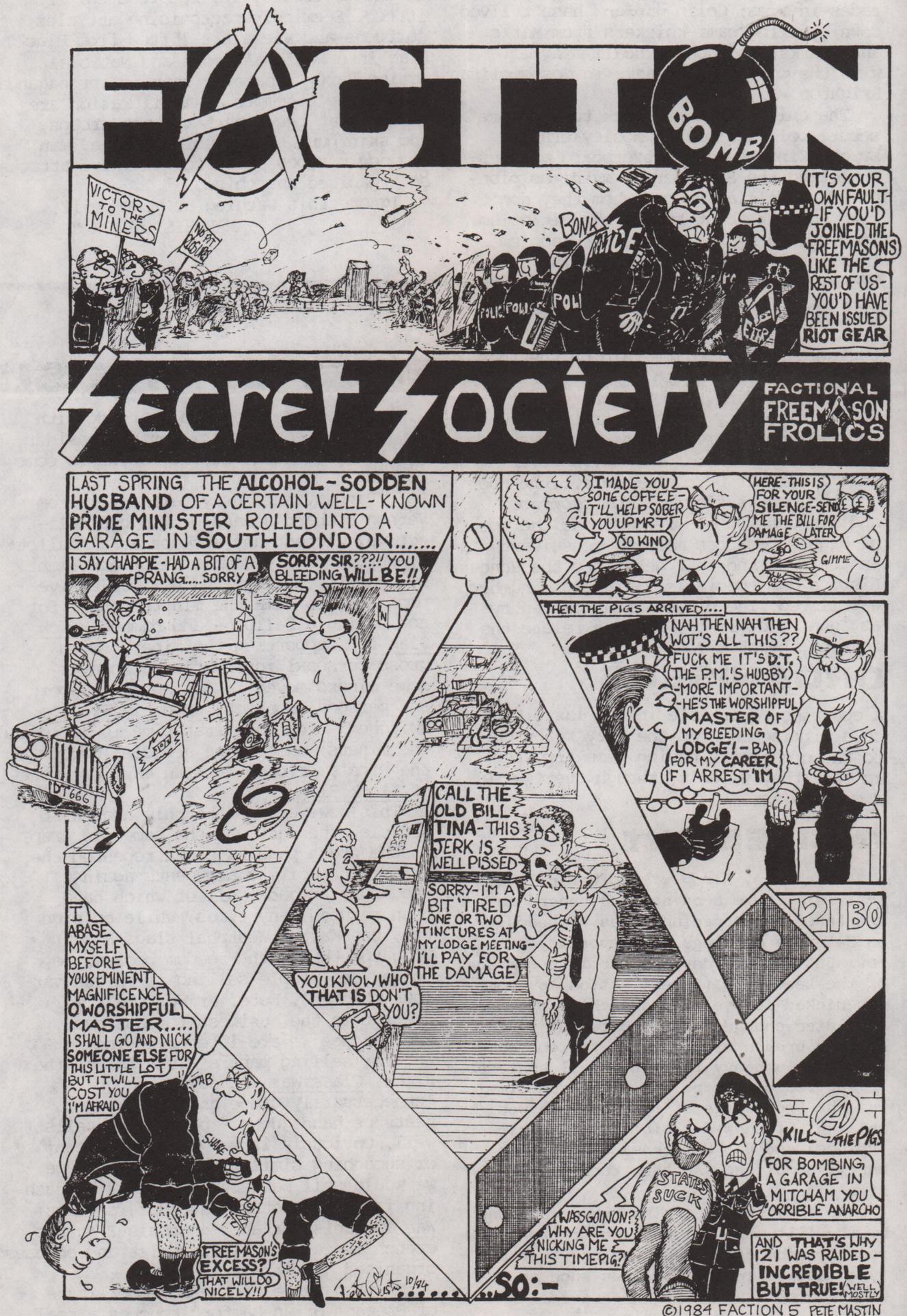
At first glance the *Green Anarchist* could be seen as a useful road for pissed off CND'ers to enter the Anarchist Movement. At second glance the views expressed are more like the daydreams of a middle class passivist back to the lander than anarchism. At third glance the paper drives me wild...For eg. the main *Where We Stand* article declares that "revolution is not an option" because it could only happen through unacceptable violence. Instead it says we should campaign for tax reductions (!) which will lower the cost of living, making co-ops more competitive. Then "there will be a regression in technology and we won't be able to build the bomb". To me this loony rubbish is a portrayal of anarchism. The best thing any class war anarchist can do with this paper is to stick it up a rich pigs arsehole!

N.J.

Letter from Australia

Dear Comrades,
The last issue of *Black Flag Quarterly* maintains the usual high standards set by past issues. I myself was pleased to read, after mention of it several times in the past, some details on the Soldiers Councils in Egypt. In our last letter we mentioned that we had started a Solidarity Fund for the Miners in Britain. Well so far we have raised and sent £300...A small sum perhaps when compared to the £30,000 raised in 1889 by an insurgent Australian union movement for the London Dock Strike. However, considering the size of our group, we were pleased with the response we got, especially money collected within the workplaces.

Jim Couch,
Rebel Worker Group
Australia.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

hunger strike continues

Doug Stewart, one of the Vancouver Five, is now (as we go to press) in his fifth week of a hunger strike. The Five received sentences ranging from 6 years to Life for their part in anti-state/anti-militarist actions (eg, the bombing of a Cruise Missile parts plant and a hydro-electric station, etc), claimed by the anarchist guerrilla group, Direct Action, and anti-porn actions (firebombing of porn-video outlets), claimed by the Women's Fire Brigade.

After sentencing Doug was 'ghosted' to Archambault Penitentiary, outside of Montreal. Trouble is he is now several thousand miles away from his friends and family and Doug is unable to communicate with anyone (the prison is in a French speaking region, Doug only speaks English). So far his time hasn't been so good: he has been given poor work to do, has been refused permission to attend study courses, and has been put into an isolation unit for making complaints.

Doug began the hunger strike on October 6 and has demanded that he be transferred to another prison where English is spoken and where he can be closer to his friends and relatives. In the meantime the prison authorities have responded by attempting to force-feed him.

Recently several demonstrations have taken place in cities throughout Canada on Doug's behalf. The Anarchist Black Cross also helped to organise a picket outside the Canadian Embassy in London and have written directly to over 100 ABC contact groups throughout the world to show solidarity.

Readers can help by sending telegrams/letters of protest to: Svend Robinson (MP), House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; Elmer McKay, Solliciteur General, Chambre des Communes, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; M. Viau, Directeur du penitencier Archambault, CP 1210, Ste-Anne-des-Plaines, PQ, JON 1H9, Canada.



LATEST: It's rumoured that the hunger-strike is off, but there is no confirmation that Doug's demands have been met.

FRANCE

A group calling itself, Boom Boom, has claimed responsibility for the bombing of 400,000 volt power cable in an area around Paris. The cable carried current from a nearby nuclear power plant.

INDIA

To date the number of people killed in India because of the Sikh assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi tops 1000. These killings include the most brutal torture, rape and violations of personal dignity. We find it hard to understand the police mentality of those who so identify with their rulers that they attack other people, with the same problems of oppression but differing in nationality, race or religion, and then hold them all for the actions of one, a dozen or a sizeable minority.

Leave such actions to the police. If this had happened to our beloved Prime Minister we individually might have been dancing in the streets and distributing sweets to children, as some Sikhs were doing in Southall, but doubt very much if even from patriots there would be any such reaction against the Irish (who would probably be the ones capable of carrying out the deed).

Is it the absence of religious feeling? What use the 'enlightenment' of all the gurus when you can be dragged off a train and burned because someone of the same spiritual credo whom you never met shot a dictator of another spiritual credo?

SPAIN

Half a dozen big time crooks escaping from British police and possibly a couple of hundred, only half-wanted, small fry are living in Spain in various degrees of luxury along the coast. One or two of them have needled the Home Office so much that it is pressurising the Spanish authorities into a new Extradition Act.

The Spanish Government is able to extract the maximum political concessions - a diplomatic representative has pointed out that in 100 years of the old Treaty (which expired six years ago) 'only one man had been extradited from Britain, and he escaped' and the treaty should not be 'one way'.

Sounds fair? But consider that during that 100 years, for well over 40 of them Spain was living under an illegal military dictatorship imposed by foreign rule, and for at least another 30 it was either under military rule or in the throes of civil war. The extraditions it wanted were for purely political reasons and the intention of those extraditions was the murder of the people concerned. It had the close cooperation of Interpol throughout, the British police cooperated with the various dictatorships and all it lacked was the agreement of the British Government to send the people back. No government dared do it for political reasons.

Now the image of Spain abroad has changed and the government could do it. But the Spanish reality has not changed. The criminals who made up Spain's army and police forces in various guises have not abdicated power. All that has happened is Franco died in bed. For the price of getting back a few mobsters will 'Britain' acquiesce to murder?

CHILE

Latest news on the guerrilla front. A police bus was blown apart in Valparaiso. Four cops died, twelve wounded. The bomb was a remote-controlled device.

In Santiago the government announced that the notorious Pisagua detention camp (last used in the aftermath of the '73 coup) will be reopened and used as a holding centre for internees taken from the barrios. Censorship had been extended in advance of the one day general strike.

Around 20 bombs went off in Santiago the day before the strike. Other cities were also hit. Targets included banks, public transport vehicles, etc. No one was hurt.

On the day of the strike the riot cops went berserk: 9 people died, 60 injured and almost 200 arrested. Pinochet threatened to restore martial law if the disturbances did not stop.

DENMARK

dockers

At the port of Aarhus dockers picketed the entrance in an attempt to stop scab truck drivers from moving South African coal on to a British ship, 'Militence'. The coal was to be used against the Miners strike in Britain.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

9,000 self-sufficient rural Indians face eviction by 'development/energy' interests.

For general information and to get involved:

Big Mountain Support Group
1412 Cypress St.
Berkeley CA 94703
(415) 841-6500



BLACK FLAG - BLACK CROSS
BM HURRICANE, LONDON. WC1N3XX

Published, typeset & layout "Black Flag Collective."

Printed by Aldgate Press.
Shop and bulk distribution by
A Distribution, 84b Whitechapel
High Street, London E1.

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.

BRIGHTON BOMBING BACKGROUND NEWS

Monday, October 8...saw the beginning of the Tory Conference at Brighton - in true fascist style. That night 50 male thugs trashed a model Trident built by the local CND group. They were cheered on by their girlfriends as they left a Young Conservative disco. The only one arrested and charged by the filth was one Huw Shooter, a Monday Club member with British Movement connections. A nasty piece of work. Later that night a group of anarchists retaliated by bricking the local Tory club - disregarding some thuggish watchdogs.

Tuesday morning...one of the anarchists, a woman, was pushed into an alleyway by three right-wing thugs, one of whom she recognised from the previous night. They threatened that she would be 'dead' if she was seen anywhere near the Conference. They mentioned 'hit lists' and said they could easily find out her name and address by watching the local unemployment office. One of the men kept saying, 'why don't we just thump her!' The woman said she was not frightened and refused to be intimidated. It was made clear to her that they would be prepared to hurt people that she cared for. They then said, 'we have been nice to you this time' and left her alone. However she later realised that she was being followed by one of them. Feeling worried about leading him to her own or to a friend's house she went to a pub and telephoned for a male friend to come and meet her. She had no problem after that. This cowardly behaviour was totally disregarded by the press. (We assume the woman must have told the local press about the incident - BF Collective).

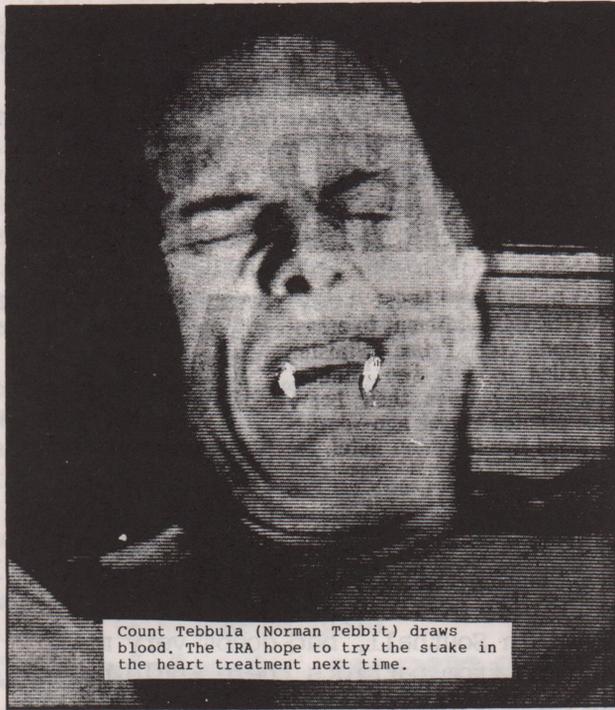
The next day the woman, plus a few well chosen friends went to a Monday Club fringe meeting on Northern Ireland in an attempt to show that they would not be intimidated by these thuggish tactics. After a Troops Out Demonstration disrupted the meeting all of the anarchists present were violently evicted to the chants of 'scum, scum' - but not before the Monday Club had taken plenty of photographs (with the assistance of the local police who held people still whilst the photos were taken).

During the next couple of days several known nazis - such as Patrick Harrington (the NF Student Organiser at the centre of the N London Polytechnic row) - were noticed at the Conference. Unfortunately an unknown nazi (wearing NF and BM badges) managed to take lots of photos of local anarchists and TOM supporters. The NF took the opportunity to peddle their propaganda to an eager audience. Some of the conference delegates - such as Peter Thomson, recognisable by his 'Maggie Thatcher' T shirt - spent an unhappy week looking out for potential left-wing subversives, ignoring the right-wing ones.

At the next meeting of the Monday Club - on the Thursday - the chairman opened the meeting by saying, 'after the intrusion at yesterday's meeting by left-wing infiltrators I hoped you have all checked under your seats for bombs?'. If only he had known!

Thursday evening found the local CND group on the beach in front of the Grand Hotel - having a party around the remains of their 'Trident'. An hour after they left their was a big bang and the beach where they had been was showered with glass and rubble.

As the dust settled on Brighton sea-front on Friday, the Sussex police were



Count Tebbula (Norman Tebbit) draws blood. The IRA hope to try the stake in the heart treatment next time.

out in force looking tired and neurotic. The whole area around the Grand Hotel was closed off right down to the sea-edge. At about 1pm a noisy demonstration made its way along the sea-front towards the Grand. Shouts of 'Maggie, Maggie, Maggie - out, out, out' echoed through the unearthly silence. Old aged pensioners/unemployed and students had decided to go ahead with their planned demonstration against government cuts. The cops were not impressed and they tried to force people off the road even though there was no traffic since the road had been closed. People taking part in the demonstration - especially the old aged pensioners - made moving speeches that exposed the government as the callous bastards that they are.

As the media went to town with their criticism of the 'mindless slaughter of innocents, etc...these demonstrators stood their ground and spoke the truth about the situation. An OAP said, 'when that woman is on TV this afternoon with her mock tears, you should question who are the real murderers in this country.' Too many old people die of hyperthermia due to this governments well-calculated policies. During the past five years there has been alarming increase in the suicide rate amongst unemployed people. People are dying daily because the government prefers to buy weapons instead of supplying essential dialysis machines

to hospitals. Government violence is subtle and extreme. They are so quick to point an accusing finger whilst their murderous acts are hidden by a veil of political respectability.

Throughout Friday, Brighton was brought to a standstill by a run of bomb threats. The main shopping precinct - Churchill Square - was cleared for 45 minutes and at the end of the day the pigs had been called out to five separate bomb scares. It was even suggested - by one very pissed off traffic cop - that another device had been found and defused.

By Saturday all of the bodies had been removed and the vulture sightseers had slunk away. This left the area relatively clear except for some highly strung cops. One young lad was dragged off by agitated pigs after he had been slapped across the face by a sweet old dear. He had dared to disagree when she stated that 'at a time like this we should be helping the police. What about those poor people in hospital with bandages on?' The lad had responded, 'What about the people that are suffering because of this government?' He was told off by the pigs and later released. Later that night a crazed TOM supporter ran along the seafront chanting, 'IRA, IRA - Bomb the government, kill the pigs'. He was soon pursued by nasty piggies and irate citizens. A cleverly placed foot sent a pack of pigs sprawling 'key-stone cop' fashion, allowing the would-be 'terrorist' to make his escape and earning me a telling off by a detective inspector.

Bomb disposal vans soon became a regular sight in Churchill Square and there are still an inordinate number of cops in the area. Many lefties selling their papers were constantly approached by children asking, 'why didn't they manage to blow her up?' or 'why didn't they just shoot her?'. Tomorrows revolutionaries we hope!

COMMENT: It was interesting that virtually all the trot papers ignored the bombing or gave it only a passing mention, so as not to appear 'disrespectful'.

As for the fascist presence at the Conference this was to be expected given Brighton - the HQ of many of the fascist higher echelon - was the Conference base. Under such circumstances any 'subversive' types are bound to be singled out unless they are well protected and have a reserve in case of trouble.

FROM THE NUM

Dear Comrades,
Congratulations on Black Flag; a serious and theoretical Anarchist Journal has been badly missed since the mid-60's. Would-be Anarchists have too readily swallowed the 'non-political' tag and took that to mean a rejection of all political processes (including Anarchist ones). Anarchism had become equivalent with apathy and fashion and a spray paint can.
Hopefully Black Flag will raise the level of political consciousness on the left generally and at least stimulate a more serious discussion of the issues and nature of the beast.
Your non-preaching, solidaristic, extensive coverage of the Miners Strike has been second to none.
It is appreciated.
Revolutionary Greetings,

David Douglas,
Hatfield Main Branch,
NUM, Doncaster.

REPLY:

On the 'non-political' tag, for years the anti-syndicalists, individualists and wishy-washy liberals desperately tried to hijack Anarchism and make it into something it never was.

They each fell for the smear - put out by authoritarians of both left and right - that anarchists were opposed to organisation. The truth was that where anarchism was shown to have wide support, organisation (a central requisite for anarcho-syndicalism) proved paramount.

Fashion - whether hippie, punk or whatever, has nothing to do with yer anarchism and Mr Douglas is quite correct to damn those who reject political organisation/class organisation.