NO-WASH PROTEST ENDS HUNGER STRIKE BEGINS!

A second hunger strike has begun, with Bobby Sands, who is serving 14 years for possession of a gun, refusing food on Sunday, March 1st. He will be joined later by others including it is thought, 2 of the previous women hunger strikers from Armagh.

On March 2nd the 460 blanketed men and 28 women in Armagh announced the end of the no wash protest so as to concentrate all energies on the basic demands of no prison uniform, no prison work and free association.

The no wash protest in Long Kesh began when the men were humiliated and often beaten on their way to the toilet and wash room. They refused to leave the cells and emptied the pots out of the window and under the door. But when the windows were boarded up and the urine swept back into the cells, protesters wiped their human waste on the walls.

The women in Armagh were forced on to a similar protest last year when their cells were wrecked by male screws and the toilets were locked up for a week.

Now that the prisoners have abandoned this tactic, they will presumably face the same conditions of harassment which forced them on to it. But they say this will be risked in order to highlight the hunger strike for their 5 demands.

PROTEST

On the outside the action groups have regrouped but with reduced membership which is explained by the confused ending of the previous hunger strike. The prisoners were given only a verbal promise a victory march was held within days of this before the consequences could be known.

There was also the famous document which said very little in concrete terms and few people in the action groups have been able to get hold of a copy.

Despite the slow start, there were about 5,000 on the march up the Falls Road on the same day as Sands began his hunger strike despite the cold, rainy day, the continued on Page 2

UNCLE SAM STEPS IN IT AGAIN - and what a bloody mess!

Even the liberals are appalled at the events in El Salvador where America is supplying military weapons, 25m a year, military advisors equal to that of Vietnam for military advisors read men trained in spying, assassinations, torture and counter insurgency techniques to prop up a ruthless tin pot military dictatorship. All this with the usual thirty year old slogans of stopping the creeping international communism, love of democracy freedom, etc.

CAPITALISM CREEPING UP THE INSIDE LEG OF AMERICA

For conservative strategists in Washington, the Sandinista revolution was far more menacing than Castro's Cuba: it was contagious. If Nicaragua could dethrone its dictator why not Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras? Even Panama? What has happened in Nicaragua is the natural result of several decades of autocratic rule over people who eventually decided they had had about as much as they could take. The Americans would have to ensure that it wouldn't spread. The Carter administration, anxious to clean up the human rights image of Latin America played a major role in the politics of El Salvador. It was closely involved in the overthrow of General Carlos Humberto Romero, who had some to power through fraudulent elections two years before.

continued page 3
"Shock Horror" Unemployment

Although the numbers of 'unemployed' is rapidly increasing, with the unofficial estimate reaching almost 20%, there seems to be little opposition or protest. Any militancy which the trade union movement may have had in its early days has been smothered by the bureaucratic and reformist tendencies within it.

The most we get is a delegation to Westminster, or a statement for the media decrying the 'economic madness of monetarism' and claiming to be 'appalled at the unacceptable level of unemploy-

ment'. The trade union leadership will even hold another demonstration in April. So what's new?

The left's response seems limited to a 'demand' for the 'right to work'. This demand is no more than a plea and the right to work amounts to the right to be exploited. And all nationalisation from the state to the 'market' variety. They must be applied not as begging for more crumbs, but as a short term struggle in the overall direction of opposing the ability of our rulers to rule and exploit us.

CO-OPS

There are three main areas of activity. The first is the creation of co-operative work. The complexities of advanced industrial man-

ufacturing will only arise if the workers of a firm which is about to close down, decide to take over and run it themselves. It is, unlikely that others would have the capital (!) to start such a venture if they could buy the new machines and the investments of goods on the market are several of the problems to be faced.

Co-operative work doesn't necessarily imply the 'setting up' of a co-op, but in general sense does. In all the time with people helping each other to look after children, fix the roof, repair a car, etc. What are we suggesting as well as the creation of service or productive co-ops, those with skills such as plumbing, could teach others and the 'gang' offer their services to the community. Either for free or at reduced prices.

The problem of income can be approached by either relying on the state, and exchanging needs (plumbing food etc) or by changing reasonable rates if you are struck off the dole or to pay for materials. The gang would pool the income and redistribute it according to size of family etc. Productive co-ops could range from the growing of foods to the printing of posters etc.

Because so much of co-operative work is not profitable many people will still have to remain on the dole. This is the case for the majority of the unemployed anyway. Co-ops should not become safety valves for the state.

The level of SS is pathetic and methods to improve it and make it available to all those entitled should be found. This is not a ref-

ormist demand, if we realise that the state has no 'right' to decide what we get.

That right is based on, and the ownership of the resources of wealth by capitalists and the state are what we must ultimately destroy.

There is always the meantime though. So long as we are aware of the source of poverty and hierarchy and so long as our methods include an attack on those sources we can avoid being bought off and contained. The demand for higher SS rates must be coupled with such an attack.

It is important that any unemployed action groups do not link up with the trade union bureaucracy. Contact and solidarity with local workers can only help, but the officials are only interested in channeling and using you to maintain their own influence.

Equally, petitions delegations etc have not only proved to be useless but are in themselves limited to asking. The occupation of dole, housing and electricity offices will bring a quicker result than a "please sit..." It may also bring the RUC quicker, but a plea brings nothing.

DIRECT ACTION

One of the surest ways of overcoming inflation is to reduce prices, and one of the surest ways of getting something cheap is to steal it. Now don't think that we are suggesting that, but if you insist on risking a fine, the safest way is to do it in numbers.

In Italy its called expropriation or price reduction. There, crowds went into the supermarkets and either, walked out with their shopping bags full, or queued up and let other customers at the till until the "inflated" price was brought down to a reasonable level. Rock concerts, cinema and buses are other obvious targets.

If say 1op is an agreeable 'unemployed' flat rate for public transport, and about 20 people boarded Husebeck's bus refusing to pay more than the most that could happen is they are asked to leave. With the bus being delayed while the driver (who should be challenged about his attitudes) got the RUC or the Whizzkidd himself (Husebeck personally removed 20 suspects from a Citybus today...) the tactic might catch on and become profitable.

The media, as usual, were very helpful in the collecting of the census, quoting every word that fell from Malley's reassuring golden lips....all the questions are really neces-

sary...none of the questions are unnecessary and go no further than friends would in, of course, be expected to. After the boycott-

ings and burnings, Mr. Malley made a heartfelt appeal to those unemployed citizens who had been misguided/coerced/ intimidated into filling out the census, saying that others who wanted a form should come and get one, and ask for a new one...No questions asked (strictly confidenti-

ally).

The media's line was one of "surely it would be in the interests of all who acquire the state of discrimination to fill in the forms, as these are used in deciding which areas need what amenities." What a joke. One point which was validly made was that few of the protests were over the actual basis of the census, either it was a British census, or the census was being used to highlight other issues - not the fact that it is a state census, for their purposes.

Down and Connor (whose Diocese these Priests were mostly in) had been "extrem-

ely cooperative" in publicising the census and had agreed to appear in promotional material (i.e. Front page photos of citizens filling in a Census form), it appears that Philbin is now conducting his own census.

The Census, cost? page 1

A special Powers Act, the government denying that if they could, they would - at that time, their own intelligence systems were well under development, even so, the information from the census would have been useless base material.

Mass burnings of forms took place in Andersonstown, Ballymurphy, Ardoyne, the Markets, Springfield Road, amongst other areas. Reaction came from various quarters....Pauley and his supporters pledged that they wouldn't fill in their census forms until all bootboys were pro-

sacked (presumably, as it is Pauley was proscceeded, he'd be happy!) - The Presbyterian Synod, disfrusting Pauley's out-

landish antics took their usual slyphobes of the constitution position, and stated that those who didn't fill in their census forms were failing in their 'civic responsibil-

ity'...surely it is in the interests of all to fill in forms detailing our supposedly priv-

ate lives and passing them on to a higher power?

About 80 Priests boycotted the census (As calculating in their opportunism as ever, over the 'unjust operation of law in the North..." A Presbyterian minister was prompted to suggest that the loyalty of these Priests was called into question by their action... This particular action, which appears to have been the largest of the pro-

tests over the census, particularly 'buzzled' Mr. Malley, who said that the Bishop of Armagh.
The new Government which consisted of progressive army officers and civilian politicians (including socialists and communists) promised to end the violence and corruption. The army forces pledged that 'Order' would be dissolved and any other groups which violated human rights would be opposed; political parties of all complexities would be allowed to operate; an amnesty was declared for political prisoners (those that survived the massacre precipitated by the coup) and those in exile; free elections were to be held within a reasonable period.

Most political parties enthusiastically supported the new Junta's plan for agrarian and fiscal reforms in the interim period until elections could be held. Their enthusiasm was short lived. Three months later with the violence unchecked and all attempts at reform blocked by the economic elite (the 'fourteen families') and their allies within the military, the civilians in the Junta resigned.

When innocent people are being murdered by the State and various paramilitary groups acting on its behalf, at the rate of 12,000 a year, naturally the people will want to defend themselves, and are forced to take aid by whomever can give it whether it be from Cuba, Russia or Nicaragua. And when Haig, American Secretary of State, produces his thick document on evidence of getting arms from these countries he is only trying to justify the intervention and supply of arms to the junta which caused the problem initially.

In El Salvador the violence has reached quite a manic level of out of control terror, 12,000 killed last year and the recently uncovered 300 people murdered—the entire list of the 'legitimate' opposition kidnapped at a public meeting and murdered; four American nuns raped and then shot because of their work with the landless peasants, two American lawyers gunned down in the Sheraton Inn in San Salvador because they were associated with the movement for land reform. And all within a year of the assassination of Archbishop Romero, in short, the government of El Salvador is a military junta with a civilian president and a few civilian ministers, it used to have a lot more until a year ago when most of them through their lot in with the revolutionary left on the ground that the military were out of control. Even the Church is not immune from general repression and are forced to speak out against it which makes them a legitimate target for the junta.

In the next few weeks to counter the sympathetic reports of journalists against the Duarte regime so far, we will see the extensive black propaganda machine of the United States of America going into full production with all its dirty tricks and lies.

After the recent Reagan meeting, Thatcher is already supporting America in their proposed blockade of communist arms to El Salvador.

What they are really saying is for the American military junta to have free rein in disposing of an unarmed population who resist the dictatorship. We only hope that America can be forced to withdraw their economic and military aid now before they send in the B52s and make another Vietnam for themselves.

**Down with more radar**

N.A.T.O. is a so-called war alliance between the military machines of Europe and America and is very much controlled by the American military industrialists who are prepared to finance so much of the weapons used throughout the so-called 'free world'. American business interests are at heart, though they try to conceal it, their weird notions of making the 'world free' is what they tell us.

American missiles are stock-piling weapons all over, and particularly in Europe...where all the governments from Greece to Britain are only too willing to accept the American war-machine. And throw in billions of pounds, drachmas, or whatever to add their own defence.

As outlined in the last Outta Control, Britain is rapidly extending and developing an efficient radio and radar communications system as an essential back-up for war preparations. Latest at this time is a new radar and communications system designed for the Ministry of Defence, which is part of the British-American nuclear attack system, and further evidence of the importance of Ireland in the jingoist minds of the military. That it will also improve the color-T.V. reception in this part of remote Down is NOT really what the British government is up to, no matter what they say!!

**REIGN in SPAIN**

Everyone has heard of the attempted coup in Spain last week when Lt. Col. Tejero of the Civil Guard, led his troops into the parliament buildings.

But few people are aware of a trial in Spain, less than a month ago, when some anarchists faced charges which were first brought against them in '74, during the Franco Fascist regime.

They had been accused of complicity in the kidnapping of Spanish banker, Suarez, to demand the release of political prisoners. 'Evidence' was collected by cooperation between the fascist Spanish police and the police of those well-known Fascist countries—France and England.

Although the coup failed, and the anarchists were finally freed, it would be wrong to assume that Spain is now a "new" society. There is no doubt that it is nearer a social democracy than fascist (in political terms) but the recent events beg the question—how great is the difference?

The armed forces, judiciary and administration of fascist Spain have remained relatively undisturbed in the passage to democracy. Only certain sectors have been disintegrated. The Guardia Civil are the equivalent of our UDR and have the same reputation. They fit uncomfortably into the "social democratic" image of only using the police to deal with oppression but that image is gradually changing.

Also over 100 police resigned when fellow officers were charged with the murder after torture of a Basque. It seems as if the political parties have successfully managed the transfer of political power, but the whole apparatus in use was created under fascism and generally speaking does the job well—just a few hiccupas.

**Cutting our own throats**

During the turbulent period of 1919 a cabinet minister Mr. Bonar Law said there was no doubt that many people attribute the present industrial unrest to the lack and poor quality of beer.

The cabinet agreed to authorise an increase in production and in strength while reducing its price. So much for 1919.

Today in ghetto areas we have numerous drinking places, state controlled leisure centres, community centres, the slot machine joints and all the other counter insurgent techniques and plans designed to keep us quiet (not to mention TV). Social clubs at best give the people entertainment in the form of bingo nights, pop music etc.

Even socialist groups who have control of 'social' clubs simply reflect any capitalist owned pub (who are out just to make money) apart from a few slogans. There is little or no attempt to develop any resistance or alternative culture in opposition to "establishment" type culture designed to reinforce the position and values of our oppressors. There are centres, although sadly not in Belfast. Their emphasis is not on drink but on political education. They show socialist films, put on political plays, have experimental music sessions, lectures, debates, exhibitions, alternative comics who don't resort to the usual sex, racist jokes. They are not interested in people slowly getting stoned but rather in getting people high on ideas.
We live in an exploitative and authoritarian society. It is exploitative because the primary aim of those who own (capitalists) or control (managers) the means of production (distribution, and exchange (of food housing, clothing, technology, money, leisure etc.) are motivated by profit, and not need. They are 'in business' to maintain and increase the wealth and power which they possess—not to ensure that the resources are available to satisfy people's needs.

It is also an authoritarian society because the social and political life is administrated by the STATE. The state is not a natural phenomena, but one whereby the wealth and power of the ruling class are protected by laws, courts, police, prison etc. Increasingly today the state is widening its sphere of influence and power. It has taken over many of the enterprises which are central to the running of society, but which were no longer profitable for capitalism—the post office, public transport...also because power by its very nature, encourages those who have it to gain more, the state is no longer just a protector and administrator for capitalism, it also has interests of its own and has, for example, created new 'profitable' industries of its own—oil, gas etc.

The state is composed of a vast bureaucracy of civil servants and administrators, as well as the more public group of politicians. The fact that you put paper marked X into a ballot box every 4 years is called 'democracy'. All we are doing is changing the face of the ruling class without changing the situation whereby we are always ruled, always told to do what.

**WHAT IS CRIME**

There are two types of crime. The first is the state's definition for those who break its rules, and ours, whereby the state and capitalism themselves are crimes against humanity. They exploit and enslave obedience in order to keep themselves in power.

Because the state and capitalism control the means of communication (newspapers, TV, film, books, theatre etc) it is too difficult for them to form public opinion. So the state's idea of what crime is is usually what society accepts.

The laws are made by the politicians (with the real power coming from different sections of the ruling class) and they have the means TV etc to persuade us that they are in the 'national interest'. It should be obvious though that the laws are made in the interests of the ruling class—in fact by them.

These laws are enforced by the police and the judiciary. The punishment ranges from fines to imprisonment (at the threat of if you don't behave). These agencies of the state which we have seen is a piece of blite in itself. It can hardly be seen as independent.

Crimes can be divided into two— firstly those which threaten the interests of the ruling class such as bank robbers, illegal strikes, destructio of state property or commercial property etc. The fact that capitalism steals the surplus wealth which workers create, enormous office blocks are built at the expense of public housing is of course not criminal. These crimes against wealth and authority are hardly dealt with by the courts.

The other type of 'crime' is anti-social behaviour. It is important that the state at least pretends to deal with this problem—firstly because it is a democracy after all and must be seen to protect its citizens, and secondly, if this behav iour were not dealt with it might interfere with the smooth running of making money and maintaining power. Again it is no coincidence that the anti-social behaviour of capitalism and authority is not dealt with by law.

As far as the taking back of wealth stolen from us and the destruction of business or state property we are no crime. But the problem of ant-social behaviour has to dealt with. Not only is the state's handling of this area counter productive but it ignores and condones whole aspects of violence.

In fact it creates the conditions of much of today's anti-social behaviour. People have little control over their lives and are alienated from it. We work for profit, not for ourselves or one community, but to sell on the market for profit for the bosses. The decisions as to what type of housing, information, transport etc we are taken by bureaucracy. Our own role is reduced to asking for favours and permission from these bureaucrats.

Our relationships with each other are conditioned by our relationships to the owners of power and wealth. The fact that our lives are ones of obedience to others, affects our social and personal lives. People, whose self respect and creativity have been stolen or squashed by authority, will find it difficult to respect others and form creative relationships. Our anger against authority can be redirected at those who are in immediate contact—relatives, lovers, neighbours etc. In this sense the state of the state and capitalism CREATES crime.

If we were to destroy these structures much of the origins of anti-social behaviour would be removed. But because our culture has had thousands of years of authoritarian and exploitative relationships and because since birth we are conditioned to accept these, the structures are not just external. We reproduce many of these traits in our own behaviour. This problem will be dealt with later.

**ROLE OF PRISONS**

The judiciary and police exist both to intimidat e most of the population into disobedience and to deal with the small numbers who ignore its laws. There is of course a vast number of capitalists and managers who ignore the laws on tax, land, equality etc. who are not prosecuted. We will not deal with these here as it is not the excesses of capitalism and authority which must be abolished but they themselves.

However, on another occasion we should pay them more attention. Prisons are the ultimate punishment for those whose crimes are serious or who persist in those who attack the values of authority and capitalism, and those whose repeated anti-social behaviour is embarrassing for the government.

For the first group of people it is obvious that prison is the weapon which the ruling class use to push those who challenge it. As such prison or 'crime' should not exist because capitalism and the state should not exist. By destroying these, we will automatically destroy the reason for imprisoning these people.

The second group of people we have called anti-social. This is because their behaviour is against people who are not one of their sources, or don't benefit from the authoritarian society. Examples are stealing from working class homes or violence against those who become the scapegoat for your own frustrations and alienation such as maltreatment against women, gang violence, parents beating kids.

The state claims in its laws and propaganda that prison is there to deter and rehabilitate these people. Anyone who has been inside or who has friends inside or who cares to do a little research will know that prison does neither.

It doesn't deter those who have already made the first move to defy authority and especially in the present recession with unemployment soaring and cuts in welfare benefits, people's frustrations are deepening. They violently express their frustrations and alienation is the product of this, life conditioning a more powerful force than the external threat of imprisonment.

Prison doesn't rehabilitate either. Because primarily it doesn't even try. Education and training facilities inside are so meagre as to discourage anyone trying. Even if facilities were to be improved they wouldn't begin to effect the reasons for anti social behaviour. In fact prison is a symptom of the society which creates such behaviour in the first place. The only effect re-continued on page 5
HAUSING SHOW BUSINESS

TIME Feb 1981
PLACE Lower Ormeau (could be any redevelopment area)

H OF OCCASION Housing meeting
CAST Housing Executive, SDLP and Alliance councillors, catholic priest, local housing association, chairperson, architect and builder

Department of the Environment, BL local residents

On entering a large room in the Church of the Word of God (honest we were confronted by three slide screens and dignitaries from outside the building. Although this was supposed to be an AGM of the local Housing Association to discuss the years developments and reflect on a committee it was soon evident that this was a public relations job. The chairperson had presumably invited the big wigs to answer questions and the audience were caught unaware. (Does this stress travel to other areas as well.)

Cooke, from Alliance, gave a short political party broadcast and was applauded (do people who also tap a tap on tv?)

his wasn't enough to get his speech in so he must be confident enough of resalection in the City Council in May the builders firm Taggarts, sent along two smooth talkers, Savage and Whiteside (who if Taggarts were a political party would surely make it to the Europarliament) the DOE representative Devlin was a bit uncertain in thought. Although his office (the area (office) was one of liaison between the DOE and the public he had no knowledge of the main departments such as water, roads, lights and he had he the more importante attributes of pretending to know.

These performers were compared by the chairman Ceremonies our very own chairperson, who invited questions, problems and points of view. Damp, condensation, low water pressure etc. were all dealt with individually and if the resident proved unsatisfied and persistent there was a personal assurance that the builder/architect would personally come round and see the house in person would you take that persons name down Mr Chairman and remind me to pay them a visit next week An older man at the back who suggested the redeveloped houses in Essex Street were better off before and would be better off now demolished didn't get a reply but an embarrased silence.

The Housing Executive had two speakers (plus at least three other hackers). The first Bats, tried his best to wriggle out of complaints about incompetence but wasn't self confident (blippery) enough to carry it off. But the biscuit must go to Williamson the manager of the local area office in Ann St. He didn't even try to play the games and brushed objections and problems aside by implying we were lucky to have houses at all.

To a slight degree the builders and councilors are conscious of public reaction; the latter increasingly because of the May elections the former are operating an open market (open to corruption) and subject to competition from other firms for contracts so they must at least respond to the dissatisfied tenant. But the Housing Executive have a monopoly over public housing and judging by Williamson don't give a shit about such a puny derelict area as the Lower Ormeau. The HE are an underfunded and over bureaucratic wing of the state and get sick day in and day out. They don't confront the problems but employ a vast workforce who delete, discard or plant frustrated tenant. Poor Williamson must be fed up and after all is only human―I wonder does he blead?

Newberry-no, not a poisonous fruit is the local Catholic priest who controls the state financed community facilities (youth club nursery etc) and is leading contender for boss of the proposed new community centre

He appeared half way through the meeting and was called by the chairperson to share the small platform with him—which he did beam ing and embarrassingly laughed at a satirical joke on one of the builders because everyone else laughed. He said nothing but took all in and helped reinforce people's alienation from their OWN meeting and the chance to discuss THEMSELVES what to do with the area.

On several occasions I nearly spoke—I nearly shouted—I nearly attacked Cooke etc. But what I did was leave half way through. The meeting was too vague to come to terms with. What was the point of talking to apologist like the councillors, builders, HE? It was the residents I wanted to talk to, to say—If we want to discuss our own business and our tactics that we don't invite this lot (they don't invite us to their planning meetings) We should be collectively deciding what was wrong with the area, who caused it what needs to be done, and how we can do it. We don't need the ritual of voting in a committee who would be important in the 'dialogue' with professional talkers from the HE. We ALL have the responsibility to make the changes we want in the area, and should delegate that responsibility to a committie who always accept the rules of the HE: and who anyway especially that night becau se a show piece so the HE can say we will always consult you.

But I said nothing. I left and realised probably why only 60 out of a couple of thousand bothered to turn up. The whole range of counter insurgents were there (priests, councillors, community workers and HE hacks) and I didn't want to advertise myself as a subversive because I do want to subvert their plans for control over us.
The occupation of the Euroweld engineering plant still continues after six weeks and despite the fact that the security guards were able to lock the workers out one night when no one was actually occupying (oops)!

TRADE UNIONS USELESS
So far the occupation has received no official union backing and the workers have never even received a single visit from any trade union official.

Before the firm went bust, the officials were brought up to negotiate about future lay-offs and at every stage sided with the management's recommendations which the workers resisted.

All this is not surprising when you consider the bureaucrats in charge of the unions. Periodically they are wheeled in front of television, Carlin, Hall and company and condemn the latest unemployment figures and closures but they are the last to support any action against unemployment. In the Euroweld occupation they have deliberately misled other trade unionists so they are now against unemployment as undermining their bankrupt ideas and passive position and threatening their cushy jobs.

WORKERS ARE NOT BLAMABLE
It is not surprising however that these appointed bureaucrats get away with it when you look at the trade union membership as a whole. Most people who belong to a trade union do so only because they need a card to hold a job. They are apathetic to any trade union involvement and leave the running of it to a small clique. Times are changing and people will have to consider the consequences of their inactivity and reliance on leaders, the consequence of which is a complete demoralisation against fighting unemployment.

SOLIDARITY
Workers should consider the various ways so that they can directly fight unemployment. Especially the thousands of workers that surround the Euroweld plant, for it is they who can give the immediate support to the Euroweld occupation. So far it has been only individuals.

EVEYONE FOR THEMSELVES
The technicians and staff of Euroweld have foolishly taken the firm side even when they have been exploited and are without jobs as any manual worker. They have deserted the 140 workers who have chosen to occupy.

MOTIVATION
The Euroweld workers are highly trained and would have no difficulty in finding a job elsewhere (except maybe for the shop stewards who would be victimised). Their product (producing tanks for containment of substances such as gases etc) is made nowhere else in Britain and they see their task as keeping their skills within Northern Ireland whereas closure would probably mean the loss of these skills.

CO-OP ON THE HORIZON
At present they are formulating a plan to collectively put their redundancy money together and buy the plant themselves and turn it into a workers co-operative. They believe they have enough money to make the company viable. (Although no doubt in a capitalist society hostile to any form of workers self-management there would be problems). So far the receiver has given them no assistance although he has given information to other potential buyers.

If setting up a co-op is a last ditch attempt through not finding a buyer, as a means of just holding onto jobs, then it will probably adopt the same roles and structure that existed under their previous employer. To see a co-op as not only an alternative to the capitalist system but a challenge to it, and not just economically, is by far the most visionary. The workers are bound not simple through working for the same 'firm' but by the idea of creating a better, free society for themselves and others.

They work collectively taking decisions together producing or selling a product which is socially useful relating and sharing skills. This shared work experience without the need for leaders can contribute to the confidence of the individual and the group. Sex roles and sexism are broken down. Wages are based on what a person needs and gives what they can. Surplus money gained is not seen as the co-ops private funds. The workers have a responsibility to use the surplus in a productive way for the benefit of the community and not themselves personally.

There will obviously be limitations that the militant co-ops will suffer from. They are surrounded by capitalist enterprises who constantly service them. If the co-op pose any real threat it would be very easy to isolate and destroy it.

STATES POLICIES
It is unlikely that the Thatcher government will step in and pay off the creditors and provide money to restart the firm. They are more prepared to give money to tried and tested capitalists like De Lorean or O'Neill the original owner of Euroweld. He was given the grants to pay for the machinery and the new extension, (even at the opening of the new extension they knew the firm was sliding into trouble) and at one time most of the workforce were receiving wage subsidies from the state.

KEEP CLEAR: STATE AT WORK
If the workers do manage to form a co-op out of Euroweld hopefully they could do it with as few strings attached to the state as possible, the state were largely responsible for the legal rip off and results in the first place.

Any state interference in the running of the factory would only mean exchanging one set of incompetent bosses for another.

HELP
Right now the Euroweld workers are looking for support, financial or otherwise in order to continue their struggle.
"MASS LAWLESSNESS" IN ZURICH

Over the past few weeks, there has been a fresh outbreak of "mass lawlessness" in Zurich, following the events of last year, as outlined in this article (translated from the French magazine, Agora), which rocked the previously "calm boat" of the Swiss state.

The Zurich youth have been waiting for 10 years for the finance from the Author- ities, necessary in order to open the "Rote Fabrik" (Red Factory), an autonomous culture and leisure centre. In 1977, the people of the city voted in favour of the project but in May 1980, no changes had been made to make available the building. On the 18th May last, tired of waiting for the 5 million Swiss francs necessary for the renovation of the "Opera" (the bourgeois culture certainly ruses things!) credits finally voted for on the 8th of June - tired therefore of being fooled about/ignored, hundreds of youth assembled in front of the Opera on the occasion of a premiere, facing an extremely hardened police. The next day, a second demonstration was charged by the police: broken windows, doors beaten down, fires started, new arrests and even more injured!

These two days were the "spark to light the fire" (bulletin of birth) of a movement which has kept in operation ever since. On the 4th June, there was a general meeting where film was shown of the police brutalities, a film which was banned the next day by the public education chief - the two students who made the film were hounded, which provided the extension of the movement into the schools and universities. On the 9th June, the film was shown at the university in front of 2,300 students. The demonstration in the town is broken up and ends with further confrontations with the police.

Two days later, a massive demonstration of 4,000 people is held, the police, present with all their anti-riot paraphernalia, intervene...Finally, on the 26th June, the council in Zürich gives in, "the young people shall have their centre", but the Socialists Party, which is leading in the building and, in fact, would control everything!

On the 2nd July, the city opens the "autono- mous" centre, but during the night of 12-13 July, 6,000 people go onto the streets. There, the movement goes further than the theme of an autonomous centre. Having taken "No power for anyone" as a slogan, the demonstrators pass in front of the city hall, shouting "Make cucumber salad of the state!" Attacked by the police, the demonstrators take a different direction: a veritable night of barricades.

After a brief summers break, the move- ment starts up again and expands. At first, a demonstration in Berne demands the creation of an autonomous centre there. In Zürich, on August 30th, 1,000 demonstrators have to suffer as the police charge yet again. A second night of barricades occurs yet again on the night of 6-7th September.

As long as the pretense of the continuance of the troubles as a pretext, the council decides, not to dismantle the existing riot squads, but to close the "autonomous" centre. On the 10th Sept, this provocation brings about a further night of barricades. Two days later, the pigs, once again, spread disorder in the centre of Zürich... At first being relatively isolated, this movement grows from demonstration to demon- stration. It was capable of furnishing itself with structures open for all to express themselves in, but also with an infrastructure which was put to the test during these past months, like the general meetings, or even the pirate radio, particularly useful at the time of the confrontations in order to inform the police manoeuvres. Up until now, these young protesters have continued to ridicule the authorities. Thus, on 2nd July, two councilors who made the mistake of accepting a television debate against two of the protesters, had to face two young people who kept mocking and using their interventions on the theme "we must shoot all young people!"

Let us point out in our conclusion that the Zurich Anarchist movement plays an active role in this struggle with a libertarian character. If some comrades have a few problems as a result (fines, court cases etc...).

BRITISH PIECES

The INLA are held responsible for the continuing existence of left opportunists. MP Anthony Waggensroll, Benn, accord- ing to the New Statesman Airey Neave had planned in 1979 with ex MI5 agents Benn's assassination if a left Labour Party came to power. The choice between Benn and Neave must be difficult!

Tara Mines are one of the two remaining mining companies in Donegal, successfully to get a renewal of their licence to mine for uranium from the Department of Industry, Commerce and Tourism. This was despite the local opposition, including a resolution against such a renewal by the County Council.

AMSTERDAM

Dear Friends,

The squat here is rapidly coming together, we had to completely renew the electricity and are now painting and putting in the windows. It is used to belong to Hana Preel, but now by a big builder, who is determin- ed to get us out. He already got in once but the place was repossessed, his Merced- es wrecked and his ladder thrown in the canal, there are plenty of squat here and they are quite well organised, though we have recently two deaths—the Grote Watering, 5 houses together, which were taken with the help of 2000 riot police tanks, dogs, horses, the lot. Greatly enjoyed the subsequent riot and the As organ- ised some good direct actions around the fringes. It's quite different here—all about propoganda and play battles, though with the recession the state is moving quickly to the right.

MRCM

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Sermon on the mount
So what's new—that's history
Flash in the dark—expected mystery
The great man hoons a new account
Helfire, arms and a damned nation
Statements sweeping, jailing and some gnashing teeth

To be certified or 'armless—fake or otherwise?
Sermon on the mount
The price of peace or war
Five hundred heads on discount
At one body trained by white
Licensing dogs of war saluted a legalized police
In waves hearts flutter Paisley patterns
White papers flap on windy words
And other summit talks

MSF
t

DENMARK

Dear Friends,

Many thanks for the Outra Controls you send me. Shit, the situation is real terrible in the prisons. It was covered quite well in Danish newspapers, but not in the way which can help the H Block prisoners. I hope that other European countries can put pressure on England to change its repression in Northern Ireland.

On the action side we are concentrating on the French nuclear tests, the repression of the French polytechnic and the development of the nuclear Free Pacific (Fernanou).

WEST OF THE BANN

Dear Sir,

I am a fifteen year old who has realized how it is not worth the bother of studying for O levels as I will reduce myself to a mindless run of the mill citizen. I don't want a job in which I'll feel like a caged animal! "I wanna be me" (See Piatto's song as if you didn't know). So, while listening to some Grass record I spotted this address and here I am.

DAVID
NON CENSUS DAY

April 5th is census day, and by then every house in N.I., Scotland, England, and Wales will be issued with census forms. Information sought includes details of our home, our work, our relationships, our education, our transport methods, and how these have all changed over the years.

Responsibility for the census collection and the information it supposedly holds is the Registrar General of the Dept. of Finance. However, he is directly responsible to the Secretary of State, H. Atkins. The "collated" results will be computerised, and stored at the Computer Services Division of the Civil Service at Stormont. The results are reported as being for the use of central and local govts., social researchers, the health and education services, market researchers and industrialists, though it is supposedly a "confidentiality clause" whereby no individual can be identified either by direct access to the computer data, or by cross-referencing by outsiders. However, as we shall see, all this rather dubious, a mere ploy to get us to fill in the form in the first place.

The first British census was taken in 1801, and the first year of every decade since. The purpose of the 1801 census was to enable the government of the day to assess potential military strength, to evaluate the cannon fodder available at a time when European ports were lining up for or against Napoleon. (Since 1801, most Western industrialized states have come of census, now being traditionally sanctioned by the United Nations.)

Nowadays, the interests of social welfare and civic responsibility are concerned with the military and internal security, and census data is widely used. The previous census in 1971 was the first to be computerized and was based on an entirely new survey, 1 mile square. In 1981, however, with the rapid growth of computer technology, the units of reference are much smaller, 100 square metres in urban areas and 1 square mile in the towns.

Quite precise details of our existence is thus being collected on April 5th (though the question on religion is voluntary, kept in at the request of nay social scientists) but the uses to which this information can and will be put, leaves us with no choice but to somehow submit this state collection.

WHY AND HOW?

Firstly the record of all governments but particularly the British on computer data—its storage and uses—is much too much to be desired. Data banks—with information on our lives and habits are held by the government services, the security industry and private industry. British governments have consistently refused to implement any sort of data law—there are absolutely no safeguards as to what information exists on data banks, how it is put there or the uses to which it is put. A Data Protection Committee was set up in 1979 to look into this very problem and its report in December of that year outlined a whole series of provisions aimed at controlling the abuse of the data banks of information, the most important provision was for anyone to be able to find out just what information was held on them on computers. Not surprisingly the government ignored the report. Again in 1981 a set of international guidelines have been just published by organisation for economic co-op and development, and Council of Europe. The draft convention is to be signed by European states, but even though the British government helped set out the principles it is yet not committed to signing. Change in the British system is possible in the near future (mainly because of pressure by multi-national computer firms who fear that the British government sanctioning of computer abuses is destroying confidence in computer technology) but is most unlikely to cover all of the European Council proposed legislation: data should be collected lawfully with knowledge of those concerned; data used only for specific and legal purposes; data should be available to individuals. The government uses of computers is not to be hampered by silly liberal laws concerning privacy. It has much greater uses and the best that could be hoped for is that the government would set up another bit of bureaucratic authority which alone would handle access to the information and the data banks and then only covering private data banks not what they currently hold. Not a particularly reassuring situation as we shall see.

Take for instance the new computerised electronic mail facility which began operation in June 1980 with a link between Britain and Canada. It has now been localised, and a link between Northern Ireland and Britain was set up in February of this year with facilities at the Post Office HQ in Belfast. Users can send data information from computer to computer but codes can be used IF AND ONLY IF THE GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDED WITH A KEY. In effect this entails the government getting a copy of all this essentially private data information all of which can be transferred onto SB or army computers. No wonder the government and the security industry are so unwilling for people to know just how much is kept on us all.

THE SECURITY INDUSTRY AND COMPUTERS

In 1971 the Army and Police were beginning their computerization of the entire population of Northern Ireland. The past ten years communications—information technology has seen an ever increasing boom with industry, government bureaucracy and state security employing it at will, the only restraint being the rapidly developing level of the technology. Such technology can now hold much more information and carry it at a much faster rate. Like wise it is possible to break computer links to obtain confidential files. If this can be done by outsiders—apparent now—what can be done by the giant sophisticated computer linked operated by the British Army at Lisburn which currently holds 65% of us on its files? The answer to curiosity on the part of the census existing in Britain do not even apply here...the Registrar General and all that data handed up in Stormont by the CS is unanswerable only to Atkins.

The security industry in Britain (SB, MI5, MI6) can claim information on the basis of national security in Northern Ireland, all information is subject to the catch all phrase..."subject to the over riding requirements for dealing with terrorism." Like phone tapping, letter opening if that means census information going to Lisburn as well as Stormont or to be it. If it can be done without the CS even knowing it is filling in a census form is just like registering with the BA at Lisburn. (There is even the possibility of ID cards based on a computer-indexed numbers—the census is a vital step in this direction). Data from the census can be combined with other computer data. It can be transferred from one information system to another. Such census checking can reveal yes further stores of information for the state data banks. Who can stop the census information from getting into the hands of the Lisburn collator? Who can stop them cross checking with the DHSS computer?

So successful has the army's use of the computer been in Northern Ireland that the British Army in Europe now uses a computerized message system for manoeuvres. Developed by Plessey at the cost of £5m it means that infantry can send message to each other via radio links, though picked up by mobile computer terminals. Also again in Belfast, not only is information kept on as much of the population as possible, but a computer at Belfast telephone exchange is used to monitor literally hundreds of phone calls.

So it is not a good idea to be filling in that form on April 5th, no matter who you are. It is rather spurious to blame the civil responsibility of the National Security and Social Welfare, transport planning, and can be cleverly much more effectively, if not shining, the aim, wouldn't something have been done this past 200 year? We need to build up computer files to know that our transport system kills, our welfare services are crumbling, our education system is sectarian nonsense. The census will not help. Nor can it be justified by statistician to call social historians...a very weak argument for an increase in state security to that academics can talk to themselves. The function of the census is for the State bureaucracy and state security to increase its information and hence its power over us. It doesn't seem to make such sense merely to refuse to fill in the form, wait to get prosecuted (over 400 prosecutions in 1971...a mere £10 fine, but a refusal to pay the fine means jail)... that much too reminiscent of the Rent and Rates Strike of the early 70s when politicians encouraged a strike only to leave people suffering under the Payment for Debt Act many years later. There are other ways to subvert it:

(i) there is no form date for handing back the forms...delaying until the last minute is a start
(ii) the form doesn't have a built in lie detector...so there is no good reason why any Information given has to be accurate
(iii) the best loop hole is to say that you were somewhere else on April 5th and April 6th...technically you should fill in the form and that other address...and if everyone in your house was 'away' for those two days, there is no reason why your house should be returning a form at all...now is there?
The right to vote, or equal civil rights, may be good

demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the

polls, nor in courts. It begins in women's soul. History
tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation
from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary
that woman learn that lesson, that she realise that her
freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve her
freedom reaches.

EMMA GOLDMAN 1911

For the motions, no one spoke against them but the whole thing was a farce.

What made it more of a farce was that the motion calling for more special

women’s courts between women in the north and south was passed by a big majority. The voting

was all by show of hands. One woman said one of the reasons the vote was for, the

Armagh women was so small (perhaps 40 out of 600) was because of the way the

last support campaign was run by Sine Fin. I don’t really accept this

though. It was all very disappointing, to say the least. Other things that sticks

in my mind was the applause I got when I said that women had to stop making

demands on politicians who had no interest in doing anything for women and

begin to do things on our own. However the chances to speak from the floor were

minimal. Its a shame for you could feel the potential there....its given me food

for thought.

We would like any women who wants to make comments, to write a small note

items, stating events to contact us at CTO

7 Whitehaven Street, Belfast 1. Tel 354326

In a popular TV series...
This is the first of what is likely to become a feature of Orta Control—a women's supplement. At present there are no women's papers being produced in the North and we hope this will go some way to filling the gap until a new women's paper appears.

For this issue we are looking briefly at some of the issues the women's movement have raised and will go into them in depth in later issues.

WORK

To work in our society means to be exploit-ed, to be controlled by other people, to have little say in how we spend a large amount of our time. To be unemployed is also be exploited—it means being stigmatized, called a scrounger, yet having a pittance on which to survive. In neither case can you win unless you are the boss or the government.

But within the world of work there are some jobs which are more desirable than others because they are cleaner, or the hours are shorter for the basic rate, or the money is better—for the most part in the work situation women end up in the bottom scales—they are likely to be working in low paid jobs (cleaning, catering, factories, nursing) as unskilled workers and in part time work (least protected workers).

Women workers are also hardest hit by the recession and more likely to be unemploy-ed. But because if they are married they receive no benefits, less likely to sign on.

Why do women end up in this situation? Partly because of lack of encouragement in school and at home to go on and get qualifications because their destiny is seen as marriage and partly because most higher positions in the workforce hierarchy are held by men who largely don't take women seriously because women's first responsibility is always seen as the home and not the workplace.

The women's movement sees women's access to the workplace on equal terms with men as important because only when women have economic independence can they act as individuals in their own right.

The campaigns for the Equal Pay Act and Sex Discrimination Act were attempts to change the position of women in society especially in the workplace but after 5 years in operation they have done precious little for women because they were full of loopholes and because laws change nothing when society's bosses don't really want to change...all the two acts did was to keep women quiet for a while.

Perhaps though we should be asking do we want to be equal to men in exploitation—do we want to produce useless goods like nuclear weapons or power plants that are going to destroy not only ourselves but the human rate and probably all life on this planet, or to mine asbestos or any of the other materials likely to kill us.

Asking for equality in the workplace is only a temporary reform—real equality comes when all socially useful activity is regarded as work and rewarded equally. That means that childcare, housework, cleaning the roads are seen as just as impor-tant and as useful to society as brain surgery or whatever—which means a new type of society.

Reforms in the workplace will help some women and men but ultimately only real change will mean equality.

CHILDCARE

There are still only five full day care nurseries for the under fives in Northern Ireland, all of them privately run. There are few registered child minders, less than 5% of under fives nursery school places and no hope for any improvement in the future. Legislation like the Employment Protection Acts and Sex Discrimination Act is hardly a gain for women if there are no childcare facilities.

Women have to rely heavily on relatives, neighbours and friends to look after their young children. They enrol them early into primary school (70% of 4 year olds in primary school) enrolling them in a daily schedule which is too much to expect from such young children or any child for that matter. At a time when they should be playing co-operatively together, sharing skills, experiences, tantrums and tears, they are deposit boxes for formal studies, competitiveness and individualism.

The Lower Crescent group are still waiting funding to start their day care centre and the proposed Markets day care centre hasn't opened yet although having received an EEC grant it looks more hopeful.

CONTRACEPTIVES

Available free yet not freely available. Different religions, notably Catholicism, have a strong line on this issue and this is reflected in the views of Northern Irish women. Although under the British health service contraceptives are free to anyone over the age of sixteen in Northern Ireland, knowledge of contra-ception and how to get it is poor: sex education in schools or in the home is at best confined to the biology class and usually non-existent, many believing it encourages 'sex before marriage' and sleeping around. The number of unwanted ad pregnancies and women going to England for abortions rises each year.

The Catholic church with its eunuch priests and its nuns educates girls in some Catholic secondary schools on why contraception is wrong and most Catholic schools show films on abortion and the 'murdering of innocent babies'.

Catholicism pervades other areas of family planning as well. In Newry, for example, there are only one or two chemists who sell contraceptives over the counter and Catholic doctors opposed to contraception are not forthcoming with help and advice; there is only one family planning clinic in a population of 100,000. Women all over Northern Ireland are generally referred to the Health clinics and FPA clinics by their GPs who are often ill informed on contraceptive meth-ods and what is best for the individual woman, irrespective of the doctor's religion.
DEMANDS OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

There is no safe and effective contraceptive. What with more research on the pill, IUD, various arrangements and creams, and the research on the rhythm method which concludes that a higher percentage of abnormal babies are born using this method because the women have conceived at the end of the "w Guinness" period when the egg is old and deteriorating, we are constantly aware of the risks we are taking with our own bodies. Yet when we complain to our doctors we are treated as neurotic and un-operative patients—how many times I have been asked if I am a nurse—even though medical research is proving us to be right all along.

There has only ever been one self help group in Belfast (in the early 70s) and there is an increasing need for more where we can share our problems, exchange treatments and support each other.

ABORTION

Abortion is a topic not often discussed in Northern Ireland. At the present time abortion is illegal here except in a few very narrow cases and most women wanting abortion must travel to England meaning extra worry and more money—around £200 for travel, accommodation, counselling and abortion. For many this is often impossible and women with no means, child, or, go on the black market. Eighteen months ago a woman Charlotte Hutton, died as a result of such an abortion, and many women have faced complications or sterility in the same situation. Other women have abandoned their babies shortly after birth—in the last year 3 babies (all dead) have been discovered abandoned here— one can only guess at the anguished and dreadful situation of women who feel forced to abandon their babies in this way.

Until there is 100% effective contraception a woman's control of her own fertility will need the back up of abortion services. But a real choice will only exist when women can have children without stigma when having a child will not affect your work/career, your very being. Today abortion is often a necessity because of the pressures of having a child alone, of having little money (single parents are one of the largest single poverty groups), or the impossibility of keeping one more child in a larger family.

The women's movement is not advocating abortion for every woman BUT CHOICE—every child a wanted child, every mother a willing mother, in a society which genuinely cares for and has responsibilities towards its children not just paying these phrases lip service, but in a material way.

EDUCATION

Education is a form of social control. It is designed to educate children to the right values of society—to make them obedient, to respect authority, to keep good time—all of these will be useful in later life when they go to work or set up families and pass the values down to their children.

Education also passes on values about behaviour especially the behaviour expected of boys and girls—boys to be masculine, girls feminine, and although most children do arrive in primary one with already formed ideas about boys and girls—education will spend the next 11 years reinforcing and underlining those ideas.

If you look at reading books like Peter and Jane, Janet and John, the girls are always the passive ones, they are always looking at John or Peter doing things and help Mummy in the house while the boys have fun. In the classroom teachers reinforce this by getting the girls to do traditionally feminine jobs like cleaning the tables and clearing away whilst the boys lift the milkcrates, rearrange the tables etc. This all extends into lessons so that by 15-16 boys are far more likely to do applied and scientific subjects and girls to go for the arts or languages. In exams though girls generally get higher passes in O and A levels, less go on university and further education although they have the ability.

In recent years due to pressure schools have tried to break these barriers down but education REACTS the society in which it is found and to that end, our education mirrors a largely sexist, hierarchial, competitive and exploitative society—again without a real change in society, change in education with any real meaning is impossible.

VIOLENCE

Why do men have so much contempt for women?

Take domestic violence: its brutal. Women are beaten up or are threatened with a beating. They are harassed and humiliated and often weapons are used. Two women were beaten to death in Belfast last year. Take rape: women are seen to be asking for it. They invite rape by being "feminine young and blonde," a myth perpetuated by male society and played up by the press.

Take women prisoners: they have been beaten, slapped about the head with threats of sexual humiliation to gain so called 'confessions'. They are denied proper medical care, (a couple of sanitary towels for each period), proper anti-natal care, harassment and humiliation from male screws.

It is too easy to blame the system—men are exploited, alienated so they take it out on women or he was unemployeed, lived in bad housing and got in with the wrong crowd etc etc. This view legitimizes the myth that only the underprivileged assaulted women. Men of all ages, of all classes, all positions in society including that of power over other men, assault all women. Violence against women is a universal and as old behaviour. All men have the power to terrorise women in our society—to this extent they are each responsible for their own acts of violence.

Women's Aid

There are now 4 refuges in Northern Ireland and they are all overcrowded and barely financed by the Social Services. Successive Unionist housing policy for sixty years and the now heavily burdened and under financed Housing Executive has meant a severe housing shortage (Women may have to wait up to six months even though they are put on the emergency housing lists) and the sectarianism here has forced women back into areas where they are still at risk from the same men. There are two advice centres in Belfast run by Women's Aid to give women help, information and solidarity.

Reclaim the Night

There have been two reclaim the night marches in Belfast, called in response to specific rapes, one in South Belfast and one in West Belfast, and the continuing violence and harassment in society against women.

Rape Crisis Centre

Talks are under way for the setting up of a rape crisis centre in Belfast.

LAW

Someone once said "that the law like the Blitz was open to everyone". There is a lot of truth in that statement, the poorer you are the harder the law is on you—the richer you are and the more contacts you have the easier it is. Consequently, most people who end up in prison come from working class backgrounds while the "crimes" of exploitation and robbing of working people in it's various legal forms goes unheeded.

One thing to remember about the law is which it always works in the interests of the established power in any society—law is another form of social control. Consequently when the law is reformed or changed it is done for a purpose—either to keep people quiet or to give the illusion that change is taking place.

Even if law didn't work to bring about equality Northern Ireland has always lagged behind Britain in terms of social legislation (eg the Abortion Act and Homosexual Act brought into Britain in the 1960's were never made law here), the Divorce Reform Act, the Domestic Proceedings Act, the Divorce Reform Act came in much later with Direct rule and the EPA and SDA have not been tested here as in Britain.

In Northern Ireland the establishment—the ruling class and the churches oppose social reform because they refuse to let to total control of population in ALL matters go out of their hands. But even if the laws here were exactly the same as Britain would it make much difference, in fact does reforming the law ultimately change things? Basically it doesn't. Real change comes about not by changing the law but in the practice of society—for instance the race relations acts do not stop people being racist nor the existence of groups like the National Front—similarly with the EPA and SDA which have not been successful because of entrenched positions which remain unchaged and the inability of the male dominated and elitist legal system to bring about change because it would affect their positions of prestige. That is why change in the law only becomes effective when it directly challenges the powers that be and the powers that be are not interested in changing the law to the extent that it would do—that we are therefore caught in a vicious circle.

SEXUALITY

We live in a society which controls us not just socially but also sexually. We are brought up, especially, in Northern Ireland to see marriage and the family as the proper place for sexual behaviour. This both reinforces the family and often due Continued on back page
Continued from page 3

to the lack of sex education in schools leads to frustration and many teenage marriages for young people, long before they have had time to come to terms with their growing desires. Sex is taboo, and the sexual identity of a society, which sexuality is freely expressed is a free society and that is not what is happening. In most areas of our lives, particularly the social, our society is biased against being receptive to new ideas, yet alone change, and so it is hardly surprising that women are seen in very traditional roles at work and in the home. Women's magazines, television, the role of women in the present political situation, alternative and feminist literature, have all to a more or less degree brought more discussion of sexual matters and women's assigned role in society, but the women's movement, although growing, is very small and opinions very entrenched and against women being total and separate human beings.

Women are demanding more rights, mainly thorough reforms, but, to some extent they have been accepted, although any threat has been absorbed and neutralized within the male definition of women's role. We are constantly being bombarded with how to be a woman: what uniform to wear this season (a skill which most women are not given enough credit for) and how we should perform as women. The facts that most of us can't make it or get married and adopt another role model, ending up either way feeling inferior and self-hating, is an important role as those few who manage to carry off the act successfully.

Lesbians only exist when it benefits the state for them to do so—inc custody cases over children for example—and even in the left press they are not given credit. At the Armagh pcket on International Women's Day last year, the republic and authoritarians left failed to report that a major number of the women who came over from England to support the prisoners were lesbians and it has never featured articles discussing lesbianism.

Belfast Women's Centre

The Women's Centre was opened over a year ago by the Northern Ireland Women's Rights Movement with a grant from the City Council. Since then the centre has become a meeting place for many groups including Women's Aid, Northern Ireland Abortion Campaign, the Rape Crisis Group as well as the Northern Ireland Women's Rights Group themselves. The centre is open to all feminist groups and meetings and there are generally open to all. Recently, the NIWRM have managed to get a grant of £2,000. They have decided to use this to employ a part-time worker for the centre so that it will be open six days a week and so become used even more than at present. They hope to supplement the money with money from the Women's Aid concert which they have organized on March 7th. So they are hoping for a large turnout. If you are interested in applying for the job (see box below) or in helping in the women's centre generally contact them at 43363 or see to 18 Donegall Street, Belfast.

Dundalk Women's Aid

Women's Aid open by 4th March

Protest outside the headquarters of Eastern Board, 65 University Street at their decision to defer a grant of £5,000 for the new refuge in North Belfast to meet the fire and health regulations. Women's Aid is moving to find the money themselves.

Thursday morning: 5th March 11.30am

Protest at Housing Executive offices at back of City Hall for the continual hassle that battered women have to put up with to get a house. This can mean producing medical reports, proving cruelty, solicitors letters, police reports, legal separation proof. Social workers reports are not accepted.

Saturday morning: 7th March

Caravan in Cornmarket. Women's Aid (all volunteers welcome) will be giving out leaflets on the new Domestic Violence Order which came in on Dec. 1st and has not been given adequate coverage. A battered woman can now get an exclusion order to keep her husband out of not only the house, but the street or area as well. One such exclusion order was served on a man from Ballymurphy. She can get a Personal Protection Order for herself as well. In cases of emergency this will take only a day to come through—a woman sees to her JP.