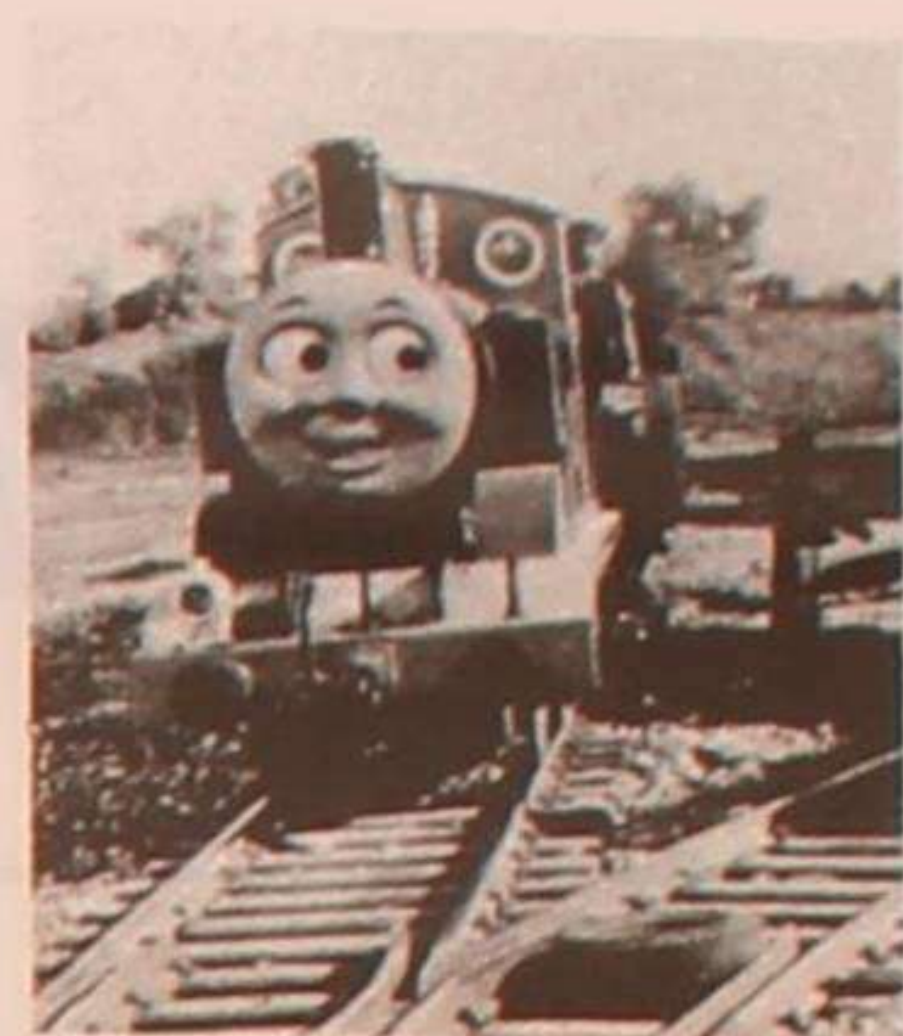


# **DIRECT ACTION**

**RAILWAY  
SAFETY**

**Page 2**



**The Voice of Anarcho-Syndicalism**

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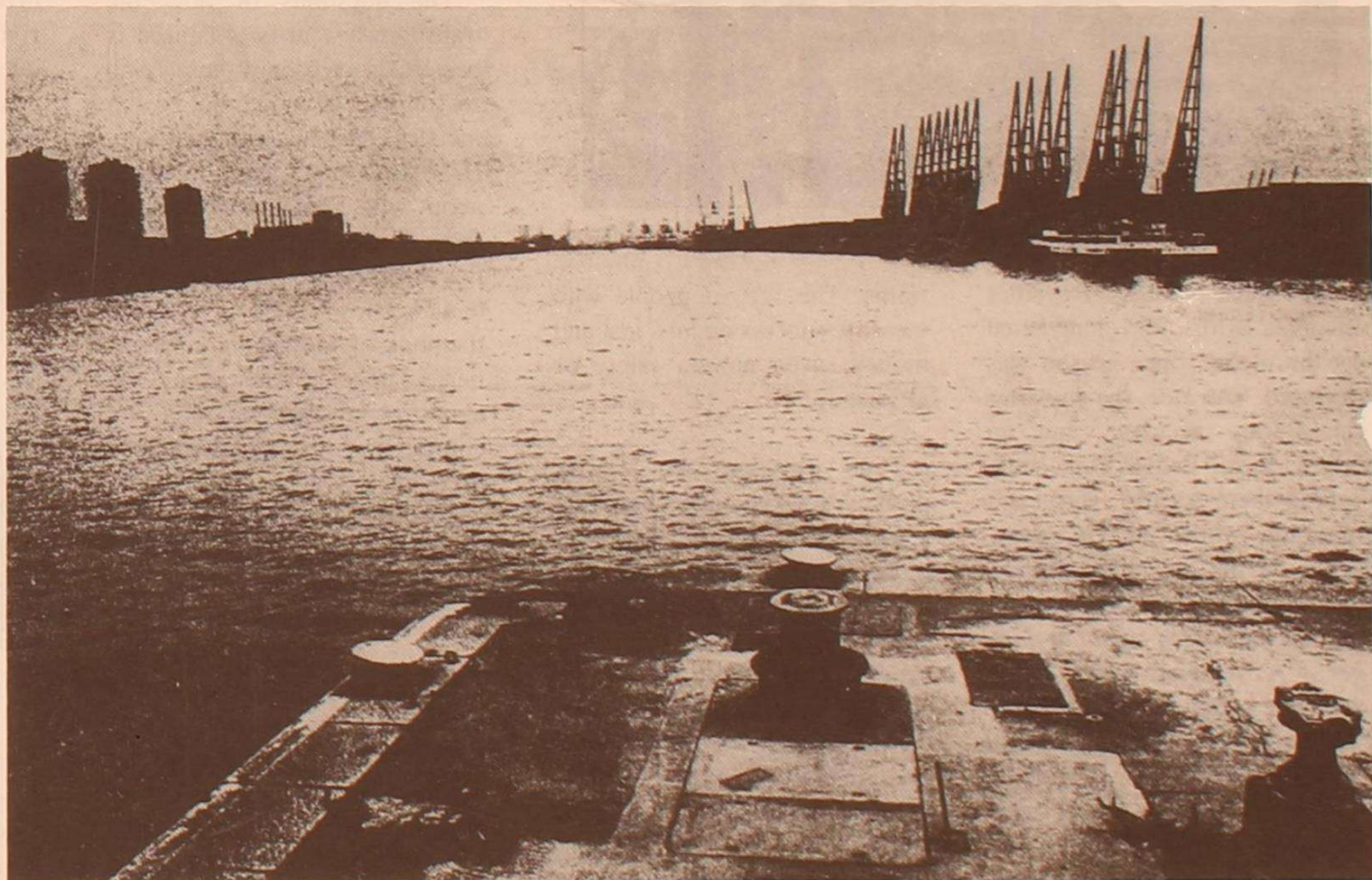
# **ON THE WATERFRONT**

Employment on a day-to-day basis can be desirable for your average middle class housewife looking for a release from boredom, but for dock workers the bitter reality of competing with your mates for starvation wages is still, in some cases, a living memory.

The National Dock Labour Scheme (NDLS) introduced in the 1940's has given dock workers some sort of guarantee against such day-to-day employment, although whether it has meant a 'job for life', or a 'cushy little number' remains a debatable issue. Dock work is not something to shout about, even with the invention of cranes it still remains a taxing, mundane, labouring job for many workers, and in comparison with dock employers the rewards are, of course, somewhat less exciting.

The reasons for the Government's intended abolition of the scheme are given as the usual derogatory, 'battle against antiquated anachronisms' bullshit. The real reason for their eagerness, and that of port employers, is the fact that even though many ports are now not covered by the scheme, it still has the effect of maintaining decent wage levels and conditions in these ports — i.e., workers in ports which aren't covered by the scheme can point to ports which are to gain the same (and sometimes better) wage levels and conditions. Abolition of the scheme will mean the bosses will have it all their own way, leaving workers again unprotected against the attacks on wages, conditions and the casualisation which is sure to follow.

This is, of course, not to say that it hasn't always been the dock workers themselves that have guaranteed their own protection in the ports,



but the NDLS has been a useful tool and it's well worth fighting over.

The bosses are banking on the TGWU (Transport & General Workers Union) calling any strike action only in those ports covered by the scheme, this is because they will be able to move freight through the ports which aren't. The TGWU will doubtless comply with the bosses' wishes to stay within the law on secondary action, and they will justify this with figures stating that 70% of UK trade by volume is covered by registered dock workers. This figure excludes oil and oil products as well as gas and coal which aren't handled by registered dock workers, and which actually account for 58% of UK trade by volume.

It's obvious, then, that all dock workers will have to be called out in order to win the dispute, and that's exactly what the TGWU the Labour Party, the Conservative Party and the port employers will be forming a united front against.

This fight demands total support from every dock worker, not just those in the scheme, as the consequences of its abolition will have a knock-on effect throughout the industry. The fact that workers have already begun to take protest action is an encouraging sign, the iron has got to be struck while it's hot. Time should not be wasted waiting on idiot bureaucrats who will doubtless be hell bent on selling it all down the river.

**Direct Action Movement — International Workers Association**



# OFF THE RAILS

The spate of recent train crashes has seen the usual attempts by both the media and politicians to use human suffering for their own ends. From Thatcher visiting the injured, to Prescott trying to revitalise his political career, and of course the disgusting coverage on the TV as the channels compete to get the best shot of the dead and injured.



## I DON'T LIKE MONDAYS

As these latest tragedies involved British Rail, long hated by the media, open season was declared. The *Star*, the day after the Purley accident, ran an attack on all British Rail staff, calling them scruffy, dirty and ignorant, whilst the *Guardian*, again on the day after Purley, had a front page headline declaring 'driver passed signal at danger'. A regional paper even went one better and published an 'exclusive' picture of the 'guilty' driver. Compare this to the treatment of a soldier who 'accidentally' kills someone in Northern Ireland.

## OVERCROWDED

If the treatment by the media was bad there can be no more sickening sight than Thatcher shedding tears over the dead and injured. The person who's government has cut support to the railways by £600 million and seen thousands of jobs on the railway disappear. A government which has installed a management made up of 'bright young things' who actually use McDonalds as an example of how the Rail industry should be run, who actually believe that if only staff would smile and greet passengers with 'have a nice day' then people won't notice they are travelling on thirty year old dangerously overcrowded

trains. The sort of people who measure success on jobs lost and money saved not on safety or efficiency.

Then we have the Labour party. They of course have the usual solution of throwing money at the problem, but only in the South-East. This couldn't have anything to do with the need to win votes in that area could it? And this would not be the same Labour Party who when in power in 1977 proposed to: cut 4,210 miles of track, cut 40,000 jobs (then 1 in 5) by 1981, and increase fares by 20%. Whats that Neil? It was the same Labour Party but we're not to worry because it will be different next time you are in power.

Amongst all this clamour there seems to be little regard for what everyone claims to want most, to find out why people died in such horrible deaths so as to prevent it happening again. There is the usual inquiry going on but that is highly restricted. The Clapham inquiry is not looking into questions like, why was a patched up fifty year old signalling system still in use? Who chose the AWS warning system because it was cheaper than the SRAWS, a system under which it is impossible for trains to pass a signal at

danger? And why have countless warnings by the unions that safety was being threatened by cuts been dismissed with contempt?

## INQUIRY

No, the questions being asked at the Clapham inquiry are aimed more at blaming an individual. Thus the S&T (Signals and Telecommunications) man being asked questions like 'did you make safe the loose wire?' and 'have you known insulation tape to fall off wire in the past?'. All this and in the full glare of the media, lucky the man scabbed in last year's S&T strike. In any case even when inquiries make recommendations on safety are they carried out? After the Kings Cross inquiry London Underground went on with it's proposed 1000 job cuts, escalators are still constantly breaking down and the overcrowded underground remains an accident waiting to happen.

The questions of how the transport system is organised is basic to society and there is no reason why we could not have a modern, safe and efficient one. But this is not going to come about with Thatcher's dream of a car owning democracy, surely the car must be one of the most dangerous, least efficient methods of moving large numbers of people. Nor will it come about under Labour with it's commitment to spending more on roads and rail, even if they do carry it out. After all, even the Tories in the run up to privatisation decided that money had to be spent in selected areas.

One of the decisions made was to replace the ancient DMU trains, a multi-million pound investment. But because the thought of giving the contract to BR was too painful for the Tories, after all they have only been building trains for 200 years, they placed the contract with private companies who had never built a train. This resulted in the fleet of 'revolutionary' 142 railbuses developing cracks

in the wheels. This problem was solved by drilling holes through the wheels to stop the cracks spreading, but after so many holes had been drilled the wheel had to be replaced. Unfortunately the problem of the gear box dropping out of 142's due to vibration could not be solved so easily and so the fleet was withdrawn. Next came the more expensive 155 trains, these had the small problem of the sliding doors opening on their own at high speeds. At first the reports by staff of this happening were dismissed by management until a passenger just missed being killed when a door flew open. Again the whole fleet had to be withdrawn and have not been seen since.

## SHIFTWORK

Again, spending money won't help if the staff are half dead through working shifts and the way society is organised makes it impossible for many railworkers not to work shifts. There has been plenty of research into the effects of shiftwork on people but there has also been specific research into the effects of shiftwork has had on transport workers. In France in the 1960's a study of train drivers was undertaken after a number of incidents of drivers dozing off at the controls. The study found that drivers suffered from sleep deprivation and bodily exhaustion due to working shift patterns, this not only affected their work but led to an early death.



## ALL SMACKED UP

In Germany in 1970 there was a study of 1,000 drivers by Hildebrandt. The object of the study was to examine the relationship between shift patterns and the efficiency of the drivers. The research found that the vigilance of the drivers varied dramatically depending on the time of day and shift being worked, with the highest



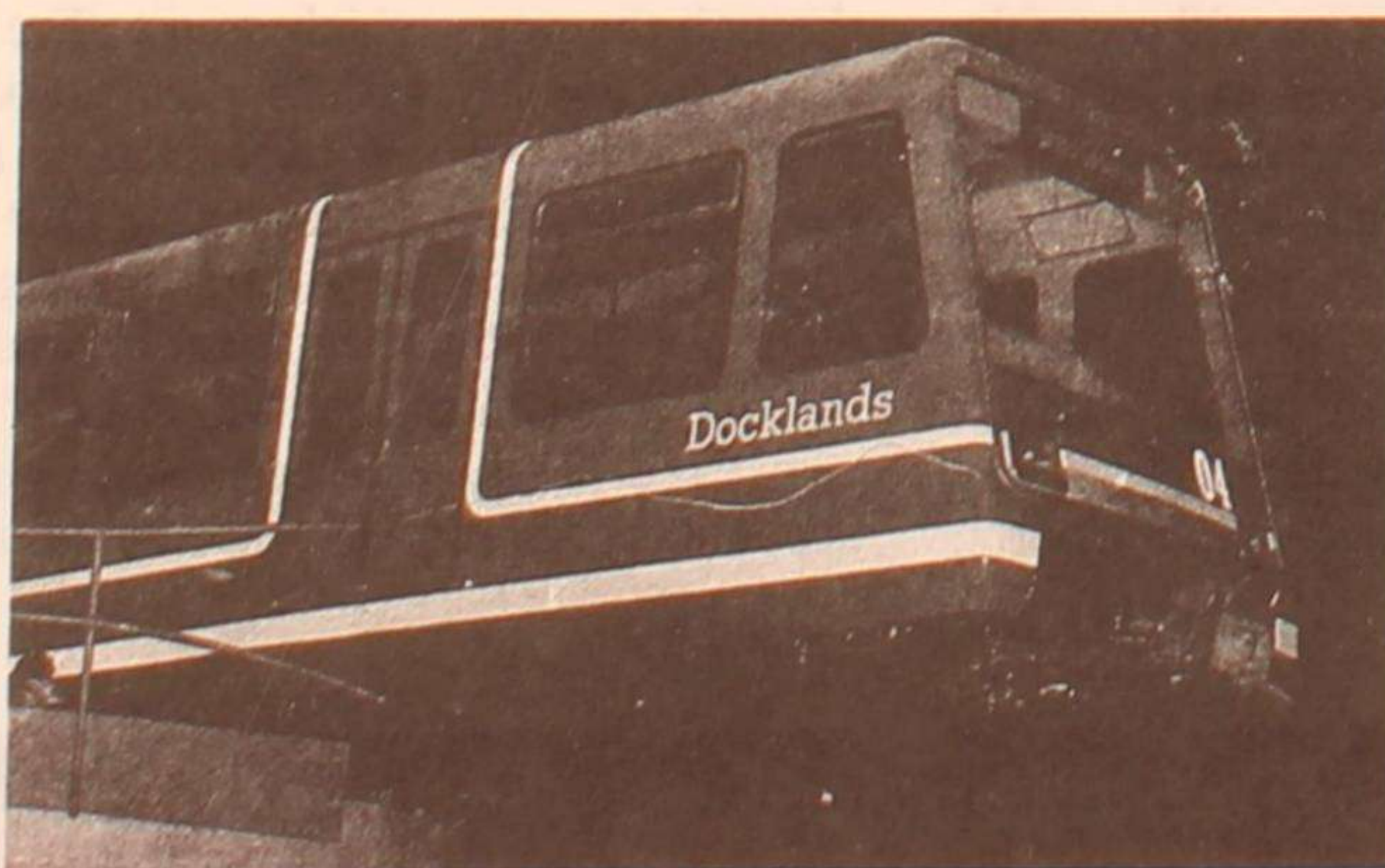
number of errors occurring between three in the morning and three in the afternoon. A national study of transport workers by Arronsson and Barklof in Sweden in 1980 on the effects shiftwork had on health and safety so alarmed the Gothenberg City authorities that on the modernisation of their transport system priority was given to improving the working environment and minimising the stress on workers.

Not that these reports seemed to have bothered BR too much. The S&T staff who repair and maintain the signal system went on strike last year in an effort to defeat managements plan to re-organise their department which included an increase in shift work. Again management have just informed the staff responsible for maintaining the track that they are increasing their shift to include a 13 hour day.

## DINOSAURS

Of course, in 1982, when drivers went on strike over the introduction of Flexible Rostering, a system which not only got rid of the 8 hour day but made their shift patterns far worse, the press and politicians had a field day. There we were portrayed as dinosaurs unwilling to adapt to modern working practises. There was not much sign then of the safety conscious media we've had since Clapham. A *Guardian* editorial dated 3/7/82 headed 'Roster of Intransigence' attacking union claims that only nine million pounds would be saved by the new rosters stated 'the new rosters will save over nine million pounds a year. Even so you could build a new hospital each year with the money'. Compare this with a recent editorial dated 7.3.89 and headed 'Safety Off the Rails' which stated 'but if it's a choice between a safe or more profitable railway there is not much doubt which way the British public would vote'. The *Sun*, of course, in 1982 was more to the point claiming that drivers did very little work spending their working time in night clubs.

The whole point being that the so called 'developed countries' have the technology and the resources to provide a safe means of transport, but that can only come about in a planned way reflecting fundamental changes in the rest of society. This will not happen with Thatcherite yuppies in charge who's only motivation is profit nor will it come about with the dead hand of state bureaucracy which has controlled large parts of the road and rail industry since the war. Progress will only be made when those who work in the transport come together with the wider society who depend on transport and the system is properly planned.



## OVER THE TOP



# IDENTITY CRISIS

The government feels that it should be able to prevent football hooliganism, but at the same time it feels powerless to prevent it. The government subjects us to high-minded lectures about the problem, but perhaps they should examine the role of the media in the growth of hooliganism, rather than the usual guff about victorian values.

The link between the macho nationalism of the hooligans, and the values of the *Sun* and other tabloids is obvious enough. Some newspapers have taken on the task of being cheerleaders to the thugs.

The *Sun* headlined the disturbances in Stuttgart 'World War III'. *Today* headlined an alleged incident where German fans threw a gas canister at English fans 'Nazi Gas War on Our Thugs' ('Our' as in 'Our Boys', perhaps?). The language used feeds the belief of the thugs that they are re-enacting an action replay of World War II.

It is well known that football hooligans eagerly follow the write-ups of violent incidents as avidly as the 'results'. Therefore, we know that the guilt lies with those who are responsible for these headlines and reports, whether to sell more papers or to win young people to politics they promote.

The government is now set to introduce ID cards for football supporters, and soon no-one will be able to get into a football match without one. The government appears to favour the intro-

duction of a 'smart' card with its own built-in computer chip and memory, which can be read in someone's pocket without them knowing it!

The National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL) wants the Bill currently going through Parliament to detail the information that can be stored, and how it can be read. The wording of the Bill is very vague about the technology to be used, and simply requires that there is provision for 'regulating the form and contents of membership cards'. The NCCL is concerned that 'the scheme could be a stalking horse for a national identity scheme'.

Colin Moynihan, the Minister

for Sport, favours a 'smart' card without contacts which doesn't have to be kept clean, so that the user can 'wipe' the card through a reader. The reader for a card without contacts radiates an electromagnetic field which induces an electric current in the card. The card incorporates a small transmitter that radiates data for reading. They can also add data onto the card in the same way.

The card is capable of holding a large amount of information about the fan/citizen, and the authorities can read the card or add fresh information without you knowing. As the Bill is drafted, card-holders have no right to find out what the card says about them.

The government favours the card developed by GEC, the electronics company. The card is already being used in a pilot scheme by a bank at Loughborough University. This card contains 40 Kilobits of memory, enough to store 5000 characters of text, or the equivalent to several A4 pages of information, which, of course, would tell the police what was significant about you.

If readers want to know more about 'smart' cards, they can get a copy of *Smart Cards* by R. Bright, published by Ellis Horwood (distributed by John Wiley), from their local library (the price of £24.95 is a cheek, as Bright is managing director of Smart Card International).



**TWO PINTS OF LAGER AND A PACKET OF CRISPS PLEASE**

## SMASHING

A nasty variation of local councils' 'concern' for the homeless forced to squat is being introduced in Wood Green, North London. The local Housing Officer, a lefty who wears Nelson Mandela T-shirts, is getting more sophisticated in his vendetta against squatters in Moselle Avenue. Houses were raided at 8.30 am on Friday 24th February by the Police and the Electricity Board on the pretext of squatters 'stealing electricity'. They were accompanied by Council contractors who began to totally wreck the interiors of the houses when the occupiers were arrested and taken away. When asked about the charges at the Police Station the filth told the squatters that there would be none, that they had simply been removed to allow the contractors to smash the houses up while they were unoccupied.

This is basically a conspiracy by the Electricity Board, Police and the Housing Department of Haringey Council to remove squatters without having to formally evict them through the courts. Damage to the houses is incredible, with porches and window frames being kicked out and the interiors being totally destroyed. The Council calls this 'rendering the property secure' and claims that the homes will be refurbished (rebuilt more like) in March, a case of it being necessary to destroy the houses in order to save them. Rehousing families, always the excuse for such destruction, rarely happens when the damage is far less.



## DYING OUT

Just when people in their late '50's were looking forward to retirement, 'Madame Cholera' decides to move the goal posts yet again. Ministers are being told that they must prepare for the 1990's, which are being billed as the 'decade of the Senior Citizen'.

The Tories' policies for the 1990's are fuelled by the 'Demographic Timebomb' — changes in the age-profile of Britons will mean considerably fewer teenagers will be joining the labour market. Between 1989 and 1995 the number of young people will take a nosedive. Something like 30% fewer young people will be available for employers.

During the same period the number of elderly people will increase. The over-65's already are 8,800,000, and this figure will grow by half a million in the early 1990's. The boss class hope that this age group can be successfully tapped and will help them to overcome the shortfall in teenagers and young people.

The message from Whitehall to the elderly and also to employers is that the over-60's must be encouraged to live healthier lives, and work longer (Shot in the foot by health service cuts? — Eds.) The expectation that the increase in lifespan would mean more years of leisure will be thrown into the

rubbish bin. The elderly will be forced to stay at work until they are 70 or older.

Some supermarket chains are trying to get pensioners to return to work as packers and check-out assistants. Secretarial agencies are looking for pensioners to take temporary secretarial work. The government may even bring in legislation on the American model to prevent employers forcibly retiring el-

derly staff, however, the Tories would prefer to leave it to 'market forces' to coerce elderly people back to work.

Margaret Thatcher (63) wants to be the leader of the Tory Party at the next election, and therefore a 'fourth term' as Prime Minister. She has a personal belief that retirement at 60 for women and 65 for men is an anachronism, but the main input to the policy change is the loom-

ing labour shortage in the 1990's, when there will be fewer young workers to exploit.

The change will be presented in right wing pseudo-libertarian rhetoric, 'liberating' elderly people from the 'boredom and uselessness' of retirement (not to mention the poverty of old age).

Whatever, the economic climate in the 1990's is certain to involve a labour shortage, and there will be a return to something approaching full employment. This chance mustn't be missed, or wasted — it's a golden opportunity to roll back the defeats of the '80's. It is a chance, if used properly, to settle old scores with both the boss class, and the social democratic leadership of the trades unions. There's a place for the old and young in this battle.





# EUROPELESS

This article is a translation from the Italian section of the International Workers Association's paper *Lotta Di Classe*, highlighting what the probable effects of the European Market will be towards workers when it becomes a reality in 1992.

Hardly a day passes without the mass media trumpeting the mythical economic unity of 1992, pushing this date as a major step forwards and a milestone of progress and unity between different nations.

The reality of the matter is completely different from what they'd have us believe. It's a reality which we must begin to publicly lay bare because its consequences for the workers and the poor will obviously be negative.

The Europe of 1992 will not be a 'Europe of the people' because it's being constructed by governments and bosses. The working classes of the nations involved will gain neither economic nor social advantages from this policy, nor from future ones which the EEC is already preparing.



1992 will only serve the interests of the promoter states and their ruling classes. It is no mere coincidence that the multinationals, bankers, financial establishments and politicians of all types are the enthusiastic supporters and originators of the whole thing. It's no coincidence that the watchword is that of the increased competitiveness of the common market. Just as in the 70's and 80's the same watchword of competitiveness, tied to industrial restructuring, meant for the workers increased exploitation, deterioration in the quality of life, and in many cases redundancy.

The opening of borders and the consolidation of the internal European market will thus be to the sole advantage of capitalist profits (state and private).

The consequent restructuring of all sectors of society (economy, services, agriculture, transport, etc.) is being implemented, and will speed up in

the future in synchronisation with this strategic plan. It matters little if the workers and proletarians of more than half of Europe will be made to bear the costs. They will continue in the future, as they are today, to be exploited by any means, to be subject to redundancy and unemployment, cut-backs and the impositions of bureaucrats, employers and politicians, to see already low wages cut by taxes and price increases, and to see the most basic rights of union democracy denied them.



The difference will be that all this will now happen (probably more efficiently than before) with the blessing and control of the EEC.

The question of privatisation merits special attention. There's a lot of talk, for example in the Italian post and telecommunications sector (and also in France), that with 1992 approaching there will be privatisation, under the excuse of making it more efficient. To prepare the ground for this much propaganda is being made of the inefficiency in the postal service.

In fact it seems that the Post and Telecom management (who are really responsible for the existing disorganisation) are doing everything at the moment to increase already chronic workloads in the service, while doing nothing to improve the service (for example, recruitment of labour has for some time been blocked).

But the problem doesn't only apply to the postal sector. In the health sector too, also under the pretext of 1992, at a recent conference, the minister Donat Cattin let slip his wish to see a part of the public health service privatised. So, speculation on health also then, at the expense of the sick.

Then what is there to say about a European Unity tied up with more and more anti-strike legislation and the legitimisation of only reformist unions to represent workers (that is, sell down the river their class interests and suppress any challenge to the power system).

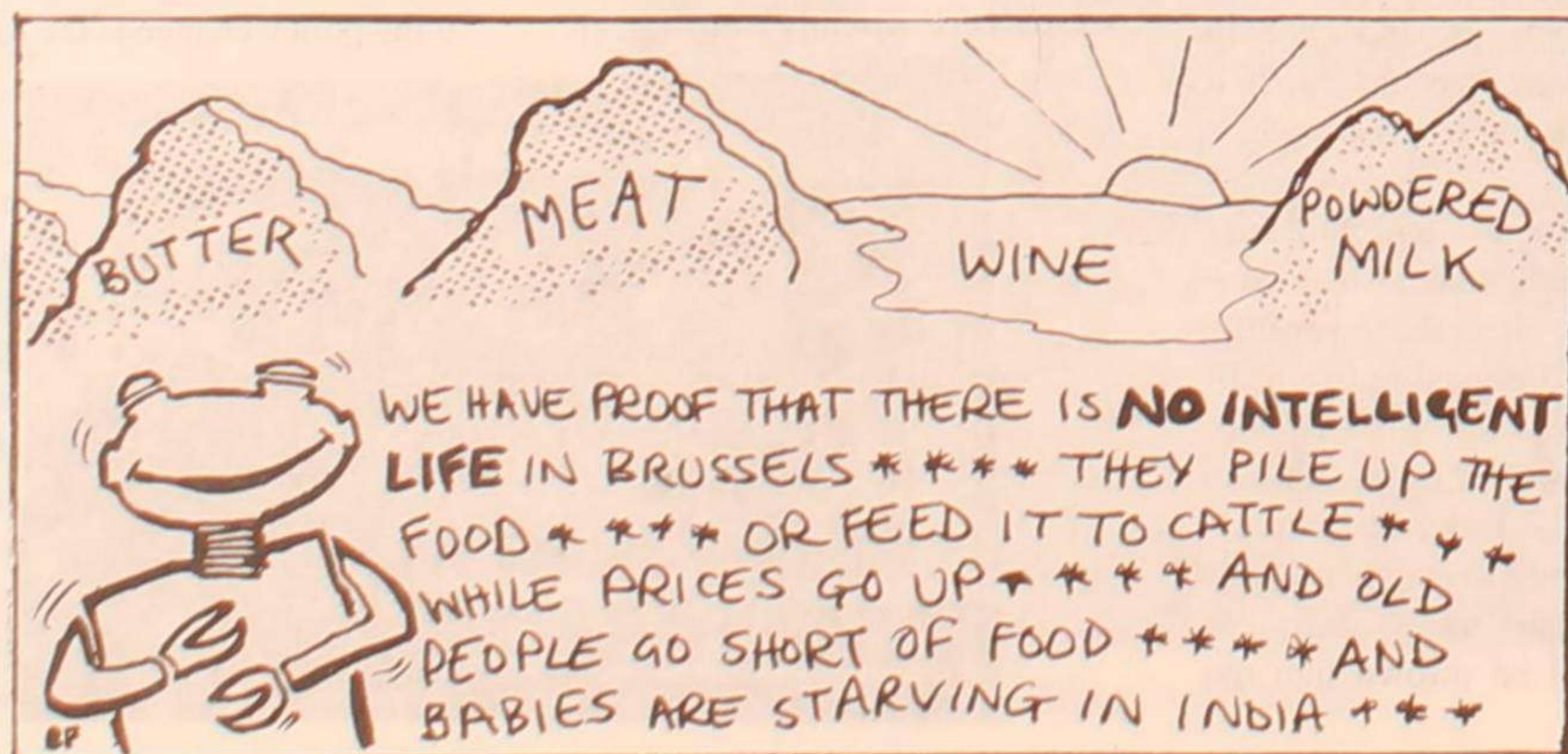
No space therefore for free union activity and the autonomy of grass roots structures (as in Germany and Britain, and as is happening in Italy also).

There's also another aspect of Europe which is looming on the horizon, that is the *Euro-racism* which is spreading. This is protected by discriminatory and authoritarian laws, favouring the exploitation of, and intolerance to black, arab, asian, etc., workers who today constitute an important part of the European population.

The parliaments of the European States who want to 'abolish frontiers' nevertheless play host to neo-nazi and racist forces which make opposition to immigrants (black or not) the central plank of their activities. Examples are Le Pen's party in France and the recent election of neo-nazis into the German Parliament.

Lastly, there's the Europe that's uniting ever more on a repressive, police and military level, and which regards 1992 as a date for all states to strive for with equal vigour, when the elimination of all class struggle and opposition will be complete.

This Europe, as wanted by governments and bosses, doesn't interest us. We'll fight it by trying to create the widest possible international movement of the workers of all lands. The Europe (and the world) that we want of course is one without frontiers. But it's also one without bosses and their governments, without exploitation of man by man and without militarism.



## BAD COMPANY

The loony right thinktank, the Adam Smith Institute, has come up with some new ideas on local government. Despite their extreme free market philosophy, they have to be taken seriously, as the present government has been very willing to implement their ideas previously. The report, titled *'Wiser Councils'*, envisages a future with completely privatised services and no socially-provided services of any kind. They want to end local authority housing by appealing over the heads of 'recalcitrant councils' to tenants willing to form co-ops. These co-ops could then if they chose offer below market rents, i.e., affordable rents, but the implication is that this would only be for a minority.

Councils would be based on populations of 40-60,000 and would offer few services. Central government subsidy would be abolished as would the Uniform Business Rate, which they argue is totally unrelated to a business's ability to pay. The inconsistency of that with similar right wing arguments over the Poll Tax is glaring.

What lies behind these proposals is pure class war, theirs against ours, and it should be seen for what it is. The future that the Adam Smith Institute wants is one where you pay for everything, so if you don't pay the refuse company your bins don't get emptied, etc. This would lead to a country divided even more so than at present, with working class areas deprived of services, businesses coining it in thanks to not having to pay any rates, and huge slum dwellings in the unfashionable parts of cities. Also, in most boroughs, the council is the largest employer, and the implications of their abolition are obvious. The flagship of the government's strategy is the Poll Tax, and we must beat it, but we should also be aware of what might come in its wake if we are defeated.

## BOB-A-JOB

The government's Employment Training schemes are failing to con or coerce as many 'workers without jobs' to do the jobs without pay as they had hoped. The number of places on schemes has been reduced from 300,000 to 265,000 in six months because of low take-up. So far, only lining the pockets of the advertising industry to the tune of £10.5 million, has gone according to plan. This is hitting employers using the scheme in the pocket, instead of supplying them with cheap labour. Cleveland County Council, for example, has attracted only 88 'trainees' on three of its schemes meant to employ 800, and is heading for a deficit estimated at £160,000. The Training Commission low take-up is due to 'falling unemployment' (where?), and that the 137,000 conscripts forced to do cheap labour for £10 a week on top of their dole was a 'fairly good start'. No figures are available for the numbers dropping out.



## FULL HOUSE

In another addition to the government's assault on housing, tough new rules on housing benefits have been proposed. If agreed they will come into effect on April 1st. They relate to the housing benefit subsidy that central government currently pays to local authorities. On Assured Tenancies (a new form of relatively insecure tenancy introduced by the 1988 Housing Act) the Rent Officer will assess whether a family is living in too large a dwelling. The government proposes that all children under ten, regardless of sex, will have to share a room too. There is no definition of size in the proposals, so it could mean children being forced to share a box room. The government would not pay the HB subsidy in cases where it was deemed that a dwelling was too large, leaving councils to decide whether to cut the family's HB, or to subsidise it from the rates — no prizes for guessing which is most likely!



# POLES APART

Polish militants within Solidarnosc have formed a new syndicalist opposition group. They aim to pull away from Lech Walesa and the increasingly conservative direction of Solidarnosc. The group aims for a renewal of struggle against both the State and private business. Whilst the rival parties are closing in around Jaruzelski and Walesa to divide up power, there are frequent violent protests on the streets of Gdansk and other cities.

The last street fighting was without doubt the fiercest since 1st May 1985. The aggression of the police, who even truncheoned the student sit-ins, was evenly matched by determined demonstrators ready for a fight. Gone are rallies with victory signs, patriotic songs, speeches and then quiet dispersal. Today, rocks, molotov cocktails and even home-made explosives are flying, with thousands of demonstrators forcing riot police onto the defensive and then retreat.



JUST LIKE THAT!

In the last few months of 1988, confrontations took place at intervals of several days. Why so much hatred? The renewal of violence is due, undoubtedly, to the injustice and anger felt by workers and youth. Injustice from a reform that once again only benefits the rich, anger at the compromises and sell-outs of Walesa who pretends to represent them but prefers to flirt with power.

As *Spartakus*, the anarchist paper put out by dockyard workers at Gdansk, pointed out, the so-called socialist regimes have nothing but meaningless reforms, resolutions and promises (all of which are never stuck to), to back up their shaky legitimacy; coming from the promise of an ideal society, without class or state, from which developed the totalitarian dictatorship we have known for many years.

So what's new now? Quite simply, the privatisation of large sectors of the economy to increase profits. It's a solution that appears to have very little to do with orthodox Marxism (nationalisation and state control), but is an economic policy designed to solve the bureaucrat's problems and worries of increasing productivity.

The new legislation brought out shortly before the Christmas festivities allowed any private individual with sufficient capital to buy a state-owned business or to start their own. Presented as a new measure towards increased democracy, it is nothing but insulting and fraudulent.

## NOUVEAUX RICHES

On the one hand, the state will lose no economic power whatsoever, allowing the sale of small and medium sized enterprises, but keeping control of the large production plants and means of distribution (mines, steel industry, construction and engineering, dockyards and textile industries). The result being that the large centralised industries maintain the dependence of all other industries, allowing whoever holds Nowa Huta, the Silesian mines or the Baltic ports to control the country's entire economy.

On the other hand, it is obvious that the workers will be totally unable to buy up their own industries, when they are already hard put to feed their families. The benefits of this reform are exclusively reserved for the privileged — communist party officials or the *nouveaux riches* of private enterprise. The bureaucrats always being quick to feather their nests, happily mixing public money with their private hoards, fast become transformed into western-style bosses. Wilczek, the new minister of the economy is a striking example; a zealous member of the communist party, he is no less the owner of a large factory. In the sharing out of the spoils, the communist party has put

aside a part of the economy for its rivals; the circle of private entrepreneurs, supported by the Church and the Catholic intellectuals.

There, undeniably, is the largest consequence of the state's tactics. No less than buying off the political oppression of the rising class by sharing economic power; surely the stakes in the current round table discussions.

## COMPROMISES

To win political power a political party is much more suitable than a union. The direction of the party is already prepared; Lech Walesa has gathered around him a 'committee of citizens' made up of his closest advisors; Mazowiecki for pluralism, Germek for reforms, Wielowiejski for charming the youth. Here is clearly the embryo of a social/christian democrat political party.



The prime minister Rakowski knows very well that the legalisation of Solidarnosc (very probable in one form or another), no longer means as in August 1980 the recognition of an independent workers' opposition. He also hopes to deal a serious blow to the workers by kidnapping their organisation.

Social peace is essential to Walesa as currency in his dealings for power. For the state the sole benefit of compromises with Walesa is his ability to contain the class struggle. In May and August last year he abused his mandate and called off the strikes without any consultation with the rank and file. Last October he sabotaged the beginning of a strike at the naval yards in Gdansk as well as suspending until this April the meetings held each Tuesday since last August, in fear that as previously, somebody might call a strike. On top of which Walesa declared to the FMW (Federation of Youth in Struggle) that there would no longer be payment of fines following arrests at demonstrations.

An awareness of the contradiction between the political party element and the workers' interests is growing among the workers, inevitably resulting in tensions and reactions. Beyond

accuse Walesa of having manipulated his Nobel Prize for his own profit, they denounce all those with high wages, be they



private individuals or communists who transform themselves into capitalists; the Church for their complicity in creating a new class of proprietors around itself, for which the group declares them the enemy of the workers, and also the split between Walesa's 'party' and those who stay loyal to the ideas of Solidarnosc is recognised.

The 'workers' group declared their support for the initiation of fighting syndicalist groups both in state and private workplaces, to oppose long hours and overtime, refusal to export industrial products and food (which is desperately short — much goes to the Soviet Union). Finally they call for support for the youth with regards to demonstrations, rather than wasting time in religious ceremonies.

The split in Solidarnosc is largely inevitable, in as far as the two tendencies are totally incompatible. Already the 'workers' group is supporting the independent workers of DYM (initiators of the August strike at Gdansk, against Walesa's wishes), and is to pay the fines of the demonstrators that Walesa abandoned. So there appears to be a renewal of syndicalist opposition, influenced by principles of anarcho-syndicalism, with independent and direct control of struggle at workplace level, rejecting compromise with the authorities, be they communist, capitalist, or both.

Whether this renewal will develop into a fighting organisation is hard to say, but it seems probable. However, by the time you read this the situation could have totally changed around.

In drawing closer, Walesa and Rakowski have stirred up the rank and file into challenging the power they would like to share.



To oppose the continual sell-outs of Walesa that boil down to treason, a structure parallel to Walesa's 'Committee of Citizens' has been started in Gdansk; a 'workers' group made up of militant workers. After a public meeting on 18th December the group put out a declaration of its principles.

The group denounced both East and West; the Soviet Union for its military interventions, and equally the West and the Soviet Union because each is as exploitative as the other. They



# THE BUSINESS

Many in the libertarian movement shy away from taking a position on the conflict between the CNT-AIT and the CNT 'renovada'. There have been a number of articles in the anarchist press reporting on the CNT 'renovada' victory in the SEAT works committee election and many have been lacking in political analysis of the situation. The following article is a translation from an article published in *Le Combat Syndicaliste*, French section of the International Workers Association's paper, which presents the case supporting the CNT-AIT.

On the one side there is an organisation, the CNT-AIT, who strive to maintain, in the midst of the labour movement, anti-capitalist and anti-authoritarian methods that are part and parcel of traditional anarcho-syndicalism. And contrary to certain rumours, that organisation still has an important mobilisation capacity. Witness the demonstration on 1st May 1988 where it mobilised between 35,000 and 45,000 people. Witness its decisive participation during last year's

Will we have to wait until the 'renovados' obtain an absolute majority on these works committees before we can pass judgement on the usefulness of participating in these elections, like others have waited until the social democrats obtain the absolute majority in bourgeois parliament before we can judge their politics?

During the press conference that followed the SEAT elections, 'renovados' delegates insisted on the fact that they were



teachers strike. Witness the struggle in Puerto Real where it was capable of spreading a workers' struggle to a whole region.

## REFORMISM

On the other side there is a group consisting of the reunion of two old minority splits of the CNT who have tried to appropriate the symbolic and material capital of the CNT-AIT, i.e., the name and the property that belonged to the organisation before Franco. The 'renovation' that this group proposes is, among other things, to participate in works committees. Their opposition to the CNT-AIT is not only based on tactics. In fact, the 'renovados' uses the prestige of a revolutionary organisation as a tool to achieve reformism.

Let's take the example of SEAT. The 'renovados' obtained 17 seats out of 53 in the works committee; are they going to be able to satisfy the demands of the electorate? Are they not condemning themselves to a seesaw of alliances which will allow the reformist unions to regain credibility at their expense?

and file unionism and never take any decision without consulting workers, which unions have never done at SEAT' (*El Pais*, 24th July 1988). There are no guarantees however that people, who are elected with no specific mandate and for any length of time, will not start defending one day or another their interests rather than those of the electorate. It has to be said that these

delegates dispose of 40 hours a month for union activity within the firm, which is a significant advantage when you work on an assembly line... Without wanting to be a spoilsport it has to be remembered that the bureaucracy phenomenon arose out of a certain form of organisation, and not out of the honesty or dishonesty of people. Members of the CNT 'renovada' have encountered this painful experience.

## INSECURITY

The case of Guillermo Argos, 'renovada' delegate of the firm Explosivos Rio Tinto de



Gometxa (Vitoria) is a case in point. The CNT 'renovada' representative had signed, as did other workers representatives, an agreement judged to be negative and anti-working class by his own union. As his signature could not be withdrawn his comrades asked him to leave the works committee, which he refused! Members of the Vitoria CNT 'renovada' were reduced to expelling him from the group. Six months later the same delegate was at the head of the CCOO union section (communist dominated), who are defenders of such revolutionary values as 'productivity, the well being of the firm' etc.

It is necessary to examine the conflict between the two CNTs in the political and economic context of Spain. With the prospects of the single market in 1992, the Spanish economy is pursuing a process of restructuring that condemns an ever increasing number of workers to insecurity and unemployment. There are currently four million unemployed in Spain. It is estimated that two million work in the black economy and that 21% of the workforce are on temp-

of their audience.

The PSOE actually in power have all the reasons to support groups disposed to play the game. The CNT 'renovada' has already benefited from the state. It has received a number of union premises and has been given a village in the Huesca province. Such generosity cannot be the product of chance. The PSOE favours this group for two reasons. Firstly because it limits the influence of the CCOO, a union that the communists use to preserve some political clout, considering their parliamentary weakness. And then because the existence of

two CNTs creates confusion in circles sympathetic to libertarian ideas and it weakens the movement as a whole.

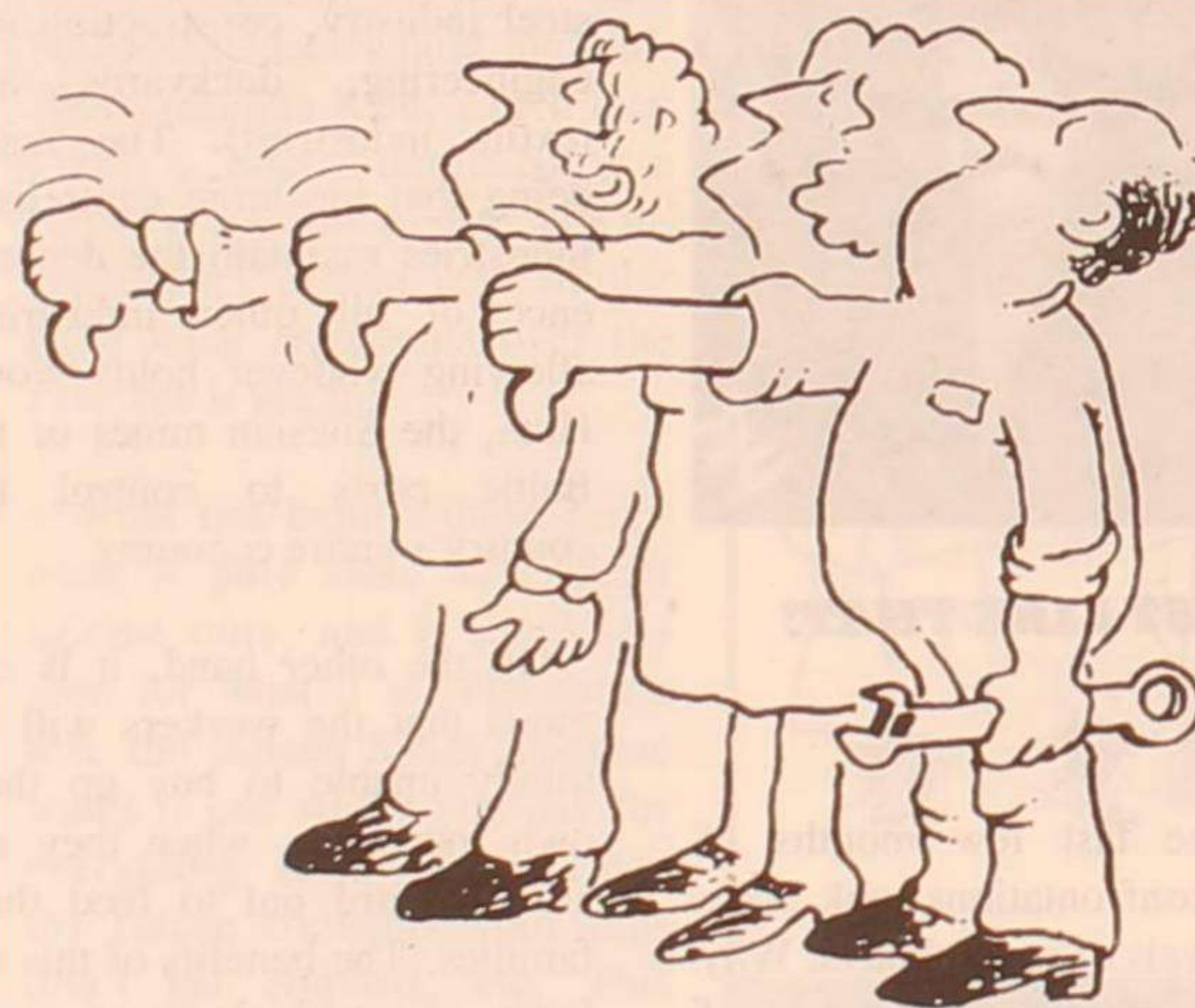
Anarchists should look closely at what is happening in Spain and learn lessons from it. Historically, anarcho-syndicalism has always been threatened by pure and simple unionism. The immense merit of the CNT-AIT is to have been able to preserve, despite great difficulties, creative libertarian ideas in large sectors of the Spanish population. That is why the CNT-AIT and not the 'renovados' should have the support of the anarchist movement world-wide.

## CLEANED UP

Comatec is a French private company created in 1986 which has taken over the cleaning of the Parisian public transport network, the RATP. It employs 1200 workers including 300 on temporary contracts.

strikers at: CNT/RP, 33 rue de Vignoles, 75020 Paris, France.

N.B. We have just heard that the strike is over and although not all the demands have been conceded some important ones have



In February the CFDT union and the CNT union (DAM's sister organisation) called a strike in order to: reinstate a CFDT activist sacked by management; increase wages and fix a minimum salary of 5500 francs per month; gain recognition of qualifications; change the status of temporary staff into permanent full-time employment and improve working conditions.

been; 5150 francs net per month (excluding bonuses); no sanctions taken against strikers; improvements in working conditions; steps to change status of temporary to full-time contracts (30 so far) and discussions on further changes.

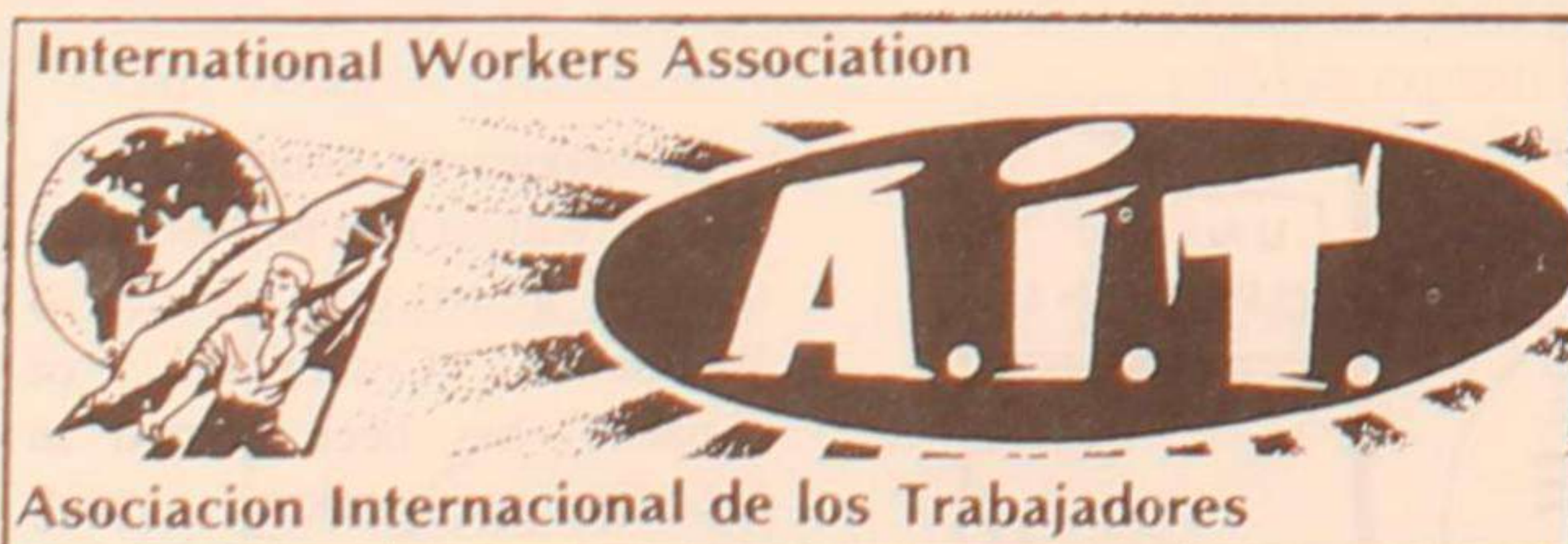
On Tuesday 14th February a strike committee was formed, made up of 23 people including members of the CFDT and CNT. Neither the communist-led CGT or the FO unions support the strike although individual members are involved in the dispute. Daily mass-meetings of the strikers decide on which course of action to take.

Management has employed scabs to break the strike and refused to negotiate with the strike committee. It has even employed armed scabs to attack strikers.

You can send messages of support and donations to the

## NOT SO GREEN...

The Greenpeace environmental organisation have made another balls-up. Last summer a Spanish court prosecuted them for dumping rubbish in Ibiza. Then this January Greenpeace admitted polluting the Derwent River in Australia by spilling diesel which caused a 100 metre wide slick. These two events can be forgiven because anybody can make mistakes. However we will not forgive Greenpeace for arranging strike breaking at their offices last August (see DA 53). Liberal organisations rarely seem to come to much good.





# ROCKY HORROR

This is a *Private Eye* investigation into the government's (and its press supporters') campaign of disinformation into the Gibraltar killings. Murder is the *Eye's* conclusion which should surprise nobody, but what *Rock Bottom* does reveal is a conspiracy by both the British and Spanish governments and the press, notably Murdoch's *Sun*, *Sunday Times* and *Times*, to cover up the murder of three unarmed IRA members in an ambush.

It all started with the Ministry of Defence (and Disinformation) releasing two statements on the day of the murders (6/3/88) stating that three suspects had been shot by civilian police and that a suspect bomb had been dealt with. This story later changed to the security forces being in-

not turn up at the inquest was over their claim to Gibraltar. A different view is that Thatcher promised Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish socialist PM, help in joining the Western European Union if no Spanish police witnesses would appear. He wasn't the only one.

## BOOK REVIEW - ROCK BOTTOM

civilian witnesses heard. What was not revealed at the inquest was that 'Officer P' was his brother Harry. Another police officer, Inspector Revagliattile, who was in the police car whose siren sounded, said he knew nothing about the terrorists. This was rather surprising as in a confidential document, Revagliattile was named as the officer in charge of two firearms teams in the operation against the IRA.

The *Death On The Rocks* programme tried to unravel the true story. The *Sunday Times* claimed that it contained 39 errors in its efforts to discredit the findings. This led to Thames TV setting up an independent inquiry which after four months of sitting cleared the programme. The *Sunday Times* team also covered the story. Three journalists resigned after their reports were rewritten to fit the government's story. By discrediting Thames Murdoch may have hoped it would help his aims of taking over TV with his initial step being Sky satellite TV which would be loyal to the Conservative government.

*Private Eye's* conclusion was that the three IRA members were led into an ambush. Unfortunately the disinformation had done its job with the jury accepting that the SAS's killings were lawful. While some elements of the press were in uproar over this, every day there are injustices against working class people, and those who refuse the lies we are offered. Martin Foran is in prison for a crime he didn't commit, and the case has been shut on who killed Hilda Murrell. The Stalker/Sampson inquiry into the shoot-to-kill policy against the IRA was halted by a smear on Stalker.

On a less serious note, *Rock Bottom* is an expensive read at 50p for eight pages, but makes interesting reading. It could accidentally fall into your copy of *Radical Gardener* at the newsagents though.



### BRITISH INTELLIGENCE

involved and a suspect bomb had been dealt with. The next day, Ian Stewart, the Minister for the Armed Forces, said on the *Today* programme that a large bomb had been defused.

The true story was that there was no bomb, so no defusing, and no arms. The photograph on the front cover of *Rock Bottom* shows a gun next to the bodies, this belonged to the police, not the IRA members, which subtly suggests the 'shootout' scenario. A few days later a car was found in Spain with explosives, not a bomb. The suspected white Renault 5 which was believed to be carrying a bomb by MI5/explosives experts was empty. The ITV programme *Death On The Rock* questioned the error as a retired bomb disposal expert (Col. Styles) said that by just looking at the suspension you could tell that the car contained no bomb.

Another inconsistency from the government was that the Spanish Police who trailed the IRA team up to the border handed them over to their British counterparts. This story had to change as it did not tie up with the later ambush story, when the Security Forces said the appearance of the three took them by surprise. The reason given in the press why the Spanish Police did

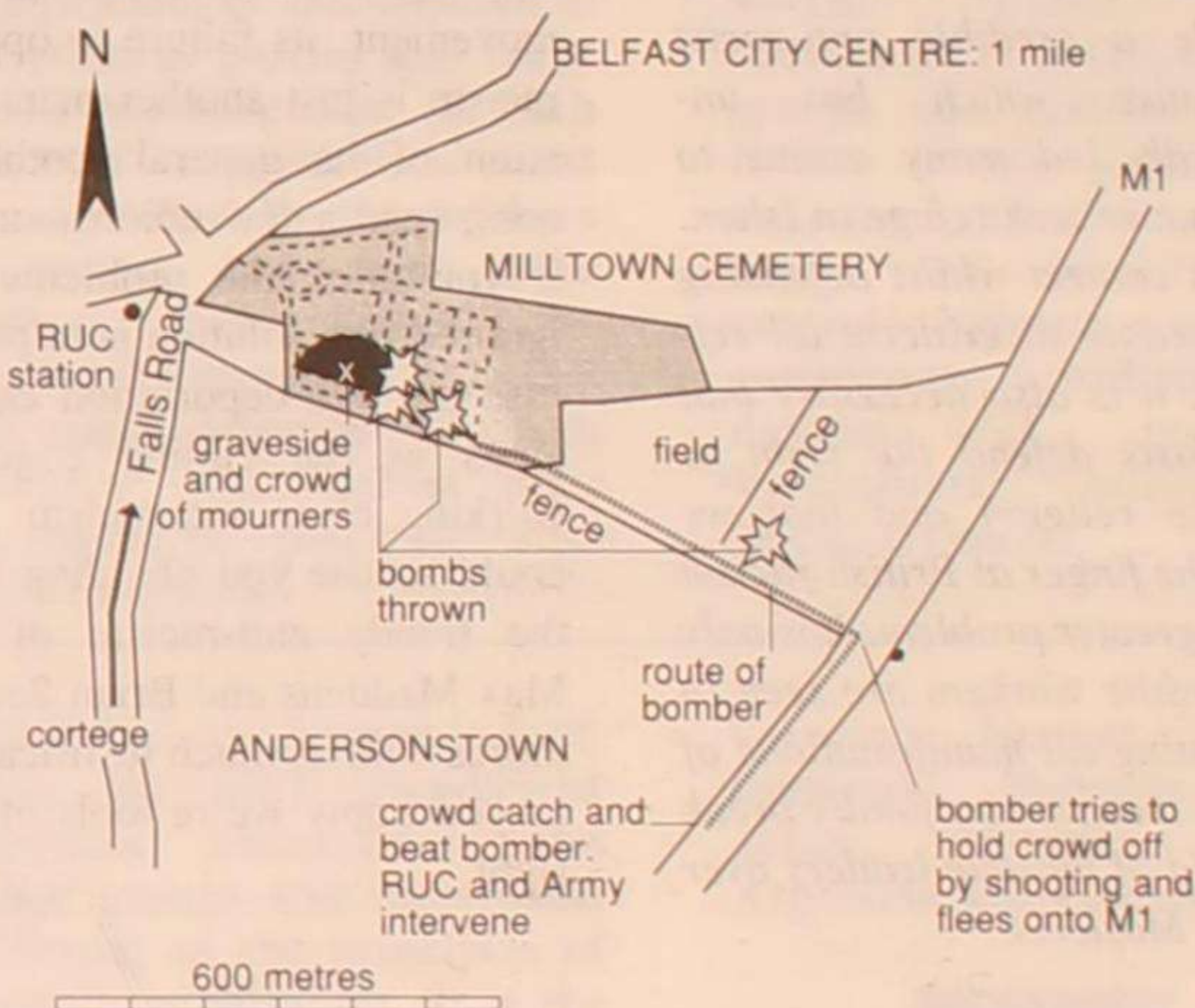
# ROLLING STONE

Michael Stone, the loyalist assassin who launched a gun and grenade attack on mourners at the funeral of the Gibraltar Three last year, has been sentenced to a minimum of 30 years imprisonment. The sentence, imposed for three other murders as well as for the attack which killed three people and injured 60 in Belfast's Milltown Cemetery, will run concurrently with 648 other years for a total of 38 offences. Stone has been held at the Crumlin Road jail in Belfast, where he is recognised as a UDA prisoner by its command structure, since his rescue from mourners who captured him by RUC men armed with plastic bullet guns. His sentence, which stands in marked contrast to the light or recorded sentences often meted out to loyalist killers, is accounted for by the public circumstances of his last attack and subsequent arrest.

Stone was no lone nutter, he was a professional who carefully planned and coolly executed his attacks, and had access to aid from loyalist paramilitaries throughout the Six Counties. He

of Belfast in two minutes. Fifteen to twenty minutes after the attack began they arrived to rescue Stone from his captors.

The funeral was the first of 30 Republican burials not to be sat-



has admitted to making several attempts to kill leading Republicans, including Martin McGuinness in Derry City, Owen Carron in Enniskillen, Peter Bateson and the late Cllr John Davey in South Derry. The three other murders he was convicted of took place in Belfast, Lisburn and Tyrone — Stone got around, which takes contacts and organisation. Part of the organisation has always included links with, and aid from the RUC and UDR.

Milltown was no kamikaze attack, Stone wore gloves, with a plaster over a fingertip left bare for better trigger control in order to avoid identification. He had an escape route, along which he calmly retreated once pursued, towards an unmarked white van parked at an exit along the M1 motorway. Stone turned to fire and throw grenades at his pursuers, and killed one, but was caught when his getaway vehicle pulled away to avoid his pursuers, and he was hit with a wheel brace. The RUC claim the van was attached to their traffic division, and it could not arrest Stone because its occupants were unarmed. Direct aid, or covering up a loyalist getaway? The RUC responds to shooting incidents in anti-unionist areas

urated with Crown Forces personnel, to make his attack Stone must have known this. Well in advance, because his supplies of grenades and two guns — a Browning automatic and an RUC-issue Ruger .357 Magnum



### LOOK - NO HANDS!

handgun with the serial numbers filed off — would have taken some time to assemble. The deliberation with which Stone made his attack and attempted to escape indicates careful reconnaissance and planning. Stone also stated on his arrest that he had 'read the files' of his victims and that 'they were legitimate targets', which alongside the appearance of mugshots of assassination victims in UDA hatesheets is further evidence that the RUC Special Branch provides targets and intelligence to the paramilitaries, and gives its protection to them when they plan an attack and equip a Stone to carry it out.



# LETTERS

Dear DA,

The article 'Talk of the Devil' (DA 56) on the Rushdie affair completely failed to tackle the racist hysteria which has been whipped up against Moslems in this country. Whilst it is absolutely correct to oppose censorship you do little else but join in the chorus of anti-Islamic abuse which has been orchestrated by the right wing gutter press. The media have quite clearly used the affair to fuel racism. Moslems have been told to obey British laws or go back home. And, of course, for asian immigrants, British laws mean passport checks, detention centres, immigrant 'fishing' raids and deportations. This state racism underpins and legitimises everyday racial violence and discrimination. It is the abject failure of the British labour movement to provide a credible anti-racist alternative which has undoubtedly led many asians to continue to seek refuge in Islam. In this context whilst defending the freedom to criticise all religions, it is also necessary that anarchists defend the right to practice religion and that we point the finger at British racism as the greater problem. It is only when white workers are seen to be fighting all manifestations of racism that we can finally break the hold of mosque leaders over British Moslems.

Yours in struggle,

D, Secretary, London Anarchist Workers Group.

## REPLY

Yeah, we read *Socialist Worker* too, but for the news, not to form our opinions. As Anarcho-Syndicalists we remain militant atheists, we are not interested in having it both ways and courting liberals who, if they're honest, the SWP/AWG despise as much as we do. The right to practise religion means, in practice, the right to deny the humanity of unbelievers, not a great deal of difference from racism. It also means the right to indoctrinate children, to torture millions of young women with guilt about their sexuality, to deny them knowledge of, and control over, their own bodies, to confine women to a life as chattels. We have taken digs at Judaism and Christianity in this paper, we are not tools of the right to point out Islam is no better. Above all, it preaches deference to a supreme authority, something Anarchists are fundamentally hostile to, regardless of contemporary politics. Even 'progressive' schools of religion, like Liberation Theology, preach class collaboration and populism, and vigor-

ously oppose those of us who recognise and practise the class war.

We fight both state racism, as manifested in the police, immigration controls, the PTA, the Education Reform Act, etc., and its agents within the white working class. In the latter case we do it almost alone with Red Action and some elements of AFA, because we recognise that the way to break racism within the white working class is to demolish the myth that anti-racism is solely middle class guilt, and as (mainly) white workers we are seen to oppose racism by our peers, which has always had more impact than poncing about being politically correct. When you walk it like you talk it you can slag us off. As for the labour movement, its failure to oppose racism is just another manifestation of its general toothlessness, read a few union journals if you think the problems are ignored, the solution is to prioritise the anti-deportation campaigns as the cutting edge of working class anti-racism. We could accuse you of siding with the trendy anti-racism of the Max Maddens and Brian Sedgemores with as much justification as you imply we're tools of the right.

DA

The recent article in DA 56 entitled 'Maggie's Murderers', about the loyalist killings of IRA terrorists and their spokespersons, which the article claims were random sectarian killings, is totally untrue, both were legitimate targets. They were involved in the IRA campaign of genocide against the Protestant community.

The IRA for the past twenty years have launched this campaign, attacks like Kingsmill, Enniskillen, Tullyhanna and the most recent attacks at Coagh, clearly point this out. All these attacks were directed at innocent Protestants.

In a retaliatory attack, James McCartney was shot dead. In a statement after the attack the mother of McCartney claimed that the IRA were entirely to blame for the death of her son for their attacks on innocent civilians.

These attacks will only cease when the IRA stop the unprovoked attacks on Protestants.

The claims that the IRA three shot in Gibraltar were executed are a pack of lies, the only people executed are the ones the IRA gun down in Northern Ireland. And DA's claim to support working class people is a load of balls. Your continuous support of the IRA, when they kill working class people, and to make many of them unemployed, is pure hypocrisy.

I look forward to seeing if this letter is published, or if DA continues to lie about the Ulster situation.

Ulster Loyalist — No Surrender

R, Belfast.

## REPLY

DA does not claim to support the IRA, nor do we moralise about violence. Anyone, including the Republicans, who is interested in peace (which will only come through justice for the anti-unionists, ie., a 32 County secular Ireland) recognises that there is a war going on. Anyone who opposes the British state is a 'legitimate target', no matter whether they are Republicans, socialists, anarchists, or lawyers, and no matter what methods they use. Sinn Fein doesn't hypocritically claim that its casualties advocated peaceful methods, their deaths prove a point — it is not the illegality or violence of the IRA which is the issue, but its opposition to British rule.

We never claimed Pat Finucane or John Davey were victims of random attacks, we pointed the finger at the RUC Special Branch, with which the UDA/UFF works.

It is rank hypocrisy for you to claim all opponents of the British state as legitimate targets, yet accuse the IRA of genocide — who was it who attacked Derry and the ghettos in Belfast in August 1969, when the IRA was virtually demilitarised? Who was it who launched a campaign of sectarian murders during the last truce which, incidentally, ensures the IRA will not lay down its arms until the British army has left and the RUC and UDR have disbanded? The UDA/UFF and the UVF, Red Hand Commandos, etc., do mostly assassinate innocent Catholics (and the odd Protestant in a Catholic area by mistake), when they kill Republicans it is at the behest, and with the aid, of the British. How do you like being used?

In wars innocent people die, in DA 52 we pointed this out among many criticisms of the armed struggle, this includes the killing of two innocent Protestants alongside a UVF commander at Coagh on 7th March, and accidents like Enniskillen. Some recent victims of the UDA/UFF have been killed because the RUC Special Branch files given to them were inaccurate, but the vast majority of loyalist killings remains a form of collective punishment of the anti-unionists for daring to demand civil rights, for voting Sinn Fein, for what the IRA does (not just when the IRA kills innocent people).

In the final analysis all military methods are vile, once this is recognised the quality of the violence has to be examined, along with its political objectives. Loyalist violence is in support of the sectarian state, is largely random, and is designed to make the 'croppies lie down' again; IRA violence is directed against that state and is discriminating, if imperfect, and ultimately designed to bring peace and justice. We don't support the armed struggle, but we don't hypocritically condemn the IRA for taking up the gun, our sympathies lie with the oppressed, not with workers who are fighting for their bosses' cause. The croppies won't lie down, so face a few real facts.

DA

In reply to P, London in last month's Direct Action concerning nuclear waste we would like to explain our position more fully.

The position of Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and other anti-nuclear groups, including the local LAND (Lancashire Against Nuclear Dumping) group, about the proposed nuclear dump at Heysham is that they support a dump/store for nuclear waste produced from the Heysham nuclear power stations but oppose a national store for AGR spent fuel at the site. So they are not opposed to the dump in principle but are solely concerned with the amount of waste and its place of origin. The point of view of the groups involved in the Anti-Nuclear Network is that we are opposed to any expansion of the nuclear industry and for a campaign based on direct action to close the industry down. For this reason we would support any local group no matter how NIMBY (not in my backyard) in character who oppose this dump.

What P is saying is 'the waste has been produced — it has to be dumped somewhere'. But this is simply looking at the problem from the government's point of view. The anti-nuclear movement has quite a different prob-

lem — 'how can we close down the nuclear industry as soon as possible?' So far, in Britain, nuclear waste has been the achilles heel of the nuclear industry. Whilst local populations, such as the one at Heysham, have accepted nuclear power stations because of the jobs involved — nobody is prepared to accept the waste. In 1987 NIREX (the government's nuclear waste executive) were prevented from using four shallow-dumping sites by local campaigns involving direct action. We stopped the government and NIREX then. We can stop them at Heysham. Each time they try to find a new site they politicise more people against nuclear power. Each time they fail to find nuclear waste dump sites the end of the nuclear industry is brought nearer.

The point of view of the anti-nuclear movement is that there is no solution to the problem of nuclear waste. Even when the nuclear industry has been closed down we are going to have to get used to the fact that certain areas of the planet have been radioactively poisoned for the next quarter of a million years and try to limit the damage. Our present priority must be to stop the source of that pollution. It is certainly not, as FOE/Greenpeace have done to find 'reasonable' solutions which are 'acceptable' to both sides, and would still allow the nuclear industry to continue.



The position of the Anti-Nuclear Network does not stop us supporting protests organised by LAND. They oppose the dump and so do we. People, many of whom were previously pro-nuclear, are angry about the dump and rightly so. We hope to work alongside them and persuade them to oppose all nuclear power stations and all nuclear dumps.

Anti-Nuclear Network

Dear Direct Action,

We are writing to inform your readers about the creation of an anarcho-syndicalist union for riders, drivers, mechanics, and office staff in the despatch industry. We would like anybody who is interested and working in the industry to get in touch with us at the following address: Despatch Industry Workers Union, P.O.Box 574, Brockley, London, SE4 1DL.



## P & O STRIKE

Six hundred seafarers are still on strike against P&O European Ferries in Dover. The leaders of the NUS union are giving sod-all help. The dispute is kept going purely by working class support. Donations are urgently needed. Contact the Women's Support Group, c/o Hackney Trade Union Support Unit, 489 Kingsland Road, London, E8 (Tel: 01 249 8086).

## SUPPORT DIRECT ACTION

Many thanks to the comrades who sent donations to *Direct Action*. The following is a list of all the money banked in February. March's donations will be featured in DA 58.



The people listed here have set a fine example. If you like

*Direct Action* put your money where your mouth is and send us a donation.

Teesside DAM, £86.30 (benefit); Durruti, Brighton, £15; Manchester DAM, £19; A, Corby, £5; RK, £1.60; M, Lambeth, £10; N, C&N London DAM, £10; M, Doncaster, £20; P, Deptford, £10; J, Lancaster, £100.88; A, Leamington Spa, £10; Anon, £20; G, Notts, £5; J, Brighton, £2.

## DAM AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

1—The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation.

2—Our aim is the creation of a free and classless society.

3—We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for need, not profit.

4—In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution. We are the sworn enemies of those who would take over on behalf of the workers.

5—We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is by independent organisation in the workplace and the community and federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent of and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies. All such workers' organisations must be controlled by the workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers' movement. Any and all such delegates of such workers' organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.

6—We are opposed to all states and state institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all states do not exist to protect the workers of those states, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class.

7—We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and environment.

8—The Direct Action Movement is resolved to initiate, encourage and wholeheartedly support the creation of independent workers' unions based on the principles of anarcho-syndicalism.

9—The Direct Action Movement is a federation of groups and individuals who believe in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism: a system where the workers alone control industry and the community without the dictates of politicians, bureaucrats, bosses and so-called experts.

The DAM was formed in 1979 from the SWF (Syndicalist Workers Federation) and other groups and individuals believing in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism. It is the British section of the International Workers' Association (IWA), the anarcho-syndicalist international, which was formed in 1922 and has sections in France, Spain, Italy, West

Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Bulgaria, USA, Japan, Australia, Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela.



## SUBS SUBS SUBS

### UK

6 issues £3.50 -----\*  
12 issues £6.00 -----\*

### OVERSEAS

6 issues £4.50 -----\*  
12 issues £8.00 -----\*

\* Tick where appropriate and send to *Direct Action*, PO Box 761, Camberwell SDO, London, SE5 9JH. Cheques

and Postal Orders should be payable to *Direct Action Movement*.

## WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

I would like to find out more about the Direct Action Movement. Please send me information:

Send to DAM National Secretary, Second Floor, 27 Priory Road, Sheffield, S7 1LW.

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Name  
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Address  
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E1 7QX. Send all donations, letters, orders, etc., to *Direct Action*, PO Box 761, Camberwell SDO, London, SE5 9JH.

# DAM CONTACTS

## SOUTH EAST

Brixton DAM — c/o 121 Railton Road, Brixton, London, SE24 0LR.

Cambridge DAM — Box DAM, c/o Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge.

Central & North London DAM — c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7QX.

Deptford DAM — PO Box 574, London, SE4 1DL.

East London DAM — c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7QX.

Kent DAM — PO Box 574, London, SE4 1DL.

Lambeth DAM — PO Box 761, Camberwell SDO, London, SE5 9JH.

Norwich DAM — Box DAM, The Greenhouse, 48 Bethel Street, Norwich.

Oxford DAM — Box A, EOA Books, 34 Cowley Road, Oxford.

For contacts in Hertfordshire, Reading, St. Albans, Salisbury and Southampton, write to South East DAM secretary, c/o Deptford DAM.

## NORTH WEST

Bolton DAM — Box DAM, Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester.

Burnley DAM — 5 Hollin Hill, Burnley, Lancashire.

Liverpool DAM — Box DAM, 82 Lark Lane, Aigburth, Liverpool 17.

Manchester DAM — Box DAM, Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester.

Preston DAM — PO Box 172, Preston, Lancashire, PR1.

For contacts in Crewe, Cumbria, Lancaster, Rochdale, Salford and Stockport, write to North West DAM Secretary, c/o Manchester DAM.

## NORTH EAST

Doncaster DAM — PO Box 96, Doncaster 4, South Yorkshire.

Leeds DAM — Box DAM, 52 Call Lane, Leeds, LS2.

Teesside DAM — Box DAM, 52 Call Lane, Leeds, LS2.

For contacts in Newcastle, Sheffield and York, write to North East DAM secretary, c/o Leeds DAM.

## SCOTLAND

Edinburgh DAM — PO Box 516, South West DO, Edinburgh 10.

Glasgow DAM — Box DAM, c/o Clydeside Press, 37 High Street, Glasgow.

## OTHER GROUPS

Bristol DAM — Box DAM, 37 Stokescroft, Bristol 2.

Leamington Spa DAM — c/o Box 123, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Nottingham DAM — Box 4, Hiziki, 15 Goosegate, Nottingham.

Plymouth DAM — PO Box 105, Plymouth, Devon.

For contacts in Corby, Cornwall, Kettering, Swindon and Wolverhampton, write to DAM National Secretary, Second Floor, 27 Priory Road, Sheffield, S7 1LW.

## INDUSTRIAL

DAM Civil Service Workers — c/o East London DAM.

DAM Council Workers — c/o Doncaster DAM

DAM Despatch Riders — c/o Deptford DAM.

DAM Education Workers — c/o Manchester DAM.

DAM Healthworkers — c/o Cambridge DAM.

DAM Postal Workers — c/o East London DAM.

DAM Railworkers — c/o Manchester DAM.

## CONTACTS

ASP (anarchist publishing group) — BCM Box 3714, London, WC1N 3XX.

Black Flag (anarchist monthly) — BM Hurricane, London, WC1N 3XX.

Anti-Nuclear Network — Box 30, 187 High Road, London, N22.

Haringey Direct Action Group — Box 30, 187 High Road, London, N22.

Organise (anarcho-syndicalist group and newspaper based in Ballymena) — c/o Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street, Smithfield, Belfast 1.

# Deadline — 5th May



# DIRECT ACTION

**MAYDAY**  
**Haymarket Martyrs March**  
**1st May**  
**Holloway Tube, London**  
**11:00 AM**

## NAZI IN ACTION

Within the last six to nine months a new paper has emerged on the gay scene. Appearing in pubs and clubs all over the country, the free monthly *Action* claims to be the new gay man's paper, containing violently anti-lesbian and racist propaganda and lies. It was at first seen as a gay *Sunday Sport* but has, if it is possible, become even worse than the gutter *Sport*.

The first edition I ever read stated that *Action* is a paper for the gay man, as if lesbians were suddenly no longer a part of our community. It went on to say 'The gay man must be put back in the driving seat, back on the pedestal where he belongs'.

The content of sexism was not just extreme but dominated nearly every article in the paper that claims to be taking over from the 'lefties, pinks and feminists' of *Capital Gay* and the *Pink Paper*.

This, however, is only the tip of the iceberg. *Action* has continuously called for more gay pubs to be exclusively male and at one stage for 'incompetent and unhygienic dykes to be super-glued at both ends'.

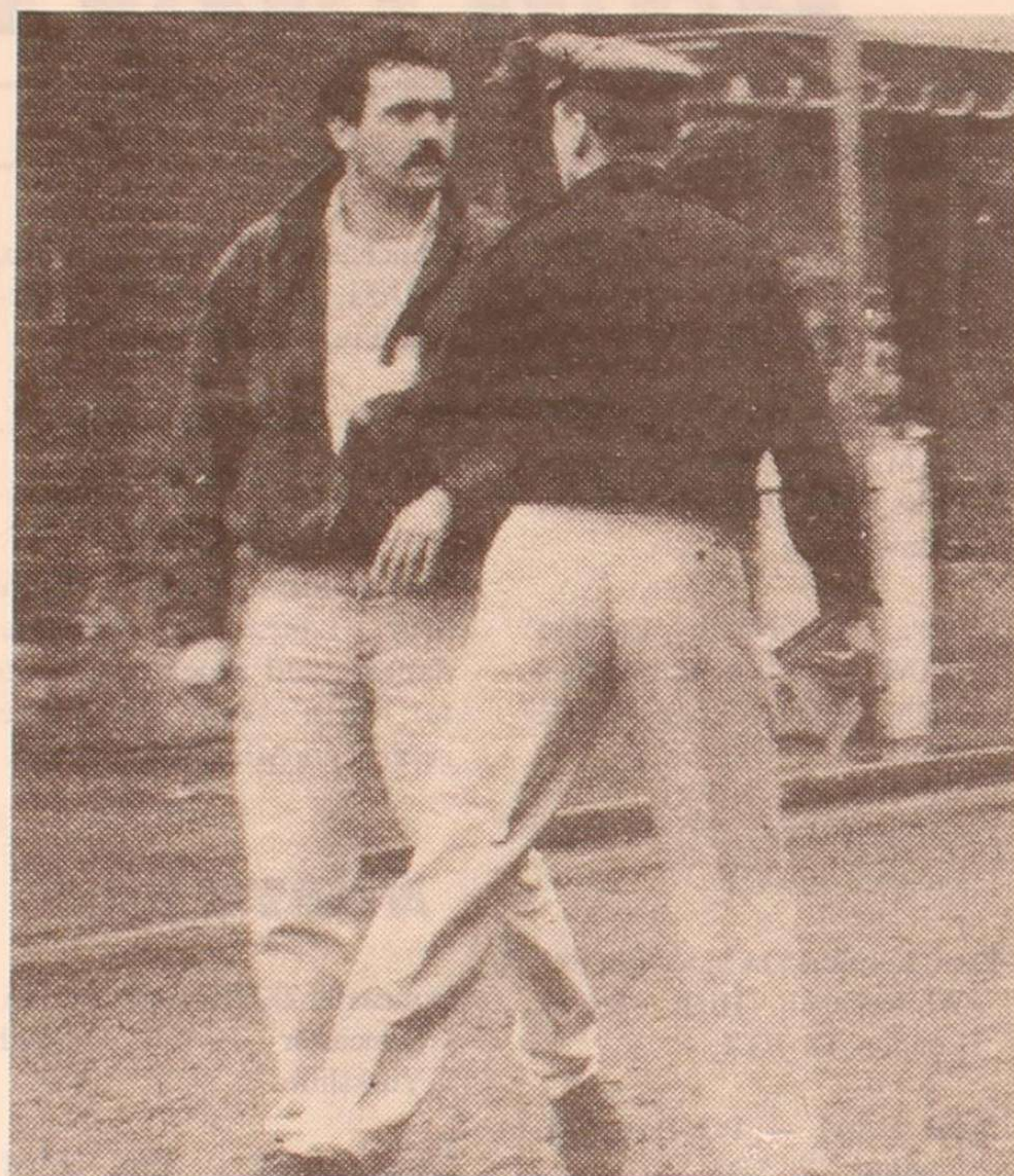
*Action* has, in the latest March edition, turned from right-wing to fascist, calling for black thugs to be 'hung, drawn and quartered without a court case'.

It would appear that there is one man behind the paper. Living at 143 Streatham High Road, London, SW16, Tony Chadwick, the paper's publisher is a man who may have considerable military experience. According to the *Pink Paper*, Chadwick used to run the Greenshirts, a secret paramilitary group who regularly met at a training camp near Gatwick Airport. We are also told that members of the Greenshirts who disobeyed the rules were 'tied to a whipping post and flogged'.

The *Pink Paper* is leading the investigation into Tony Chadwick and *Action* (which, incidentally was the name of the fascist Blackshirts' paper in Britain during the 1930's). When they visited him he became immediately violent and desperately tried to smash their camera, assaulted both journalists and vandalised their car.

The following Monday, the *Pink Paper* returned and Chadwick closed the door on them saying: 'You are thugs. I have nothing to do with you. You are nothing but a wanker'. Strangely enough, the rest of the gay press seems to have turned a blind eye.

Lambeth Council say they deplore the racist and sexist sentiments in *Action* and will refuse to renew licenses to pubs that insist on stocking the paper. Lambeth say they will look into whether Chadwick can use his home address as a business address. A fat lot of good that will do. The only other legal opposition to Chadwick is the police, who are of course very concerned.



Chadwick (on right) accosting the pink paper's editor

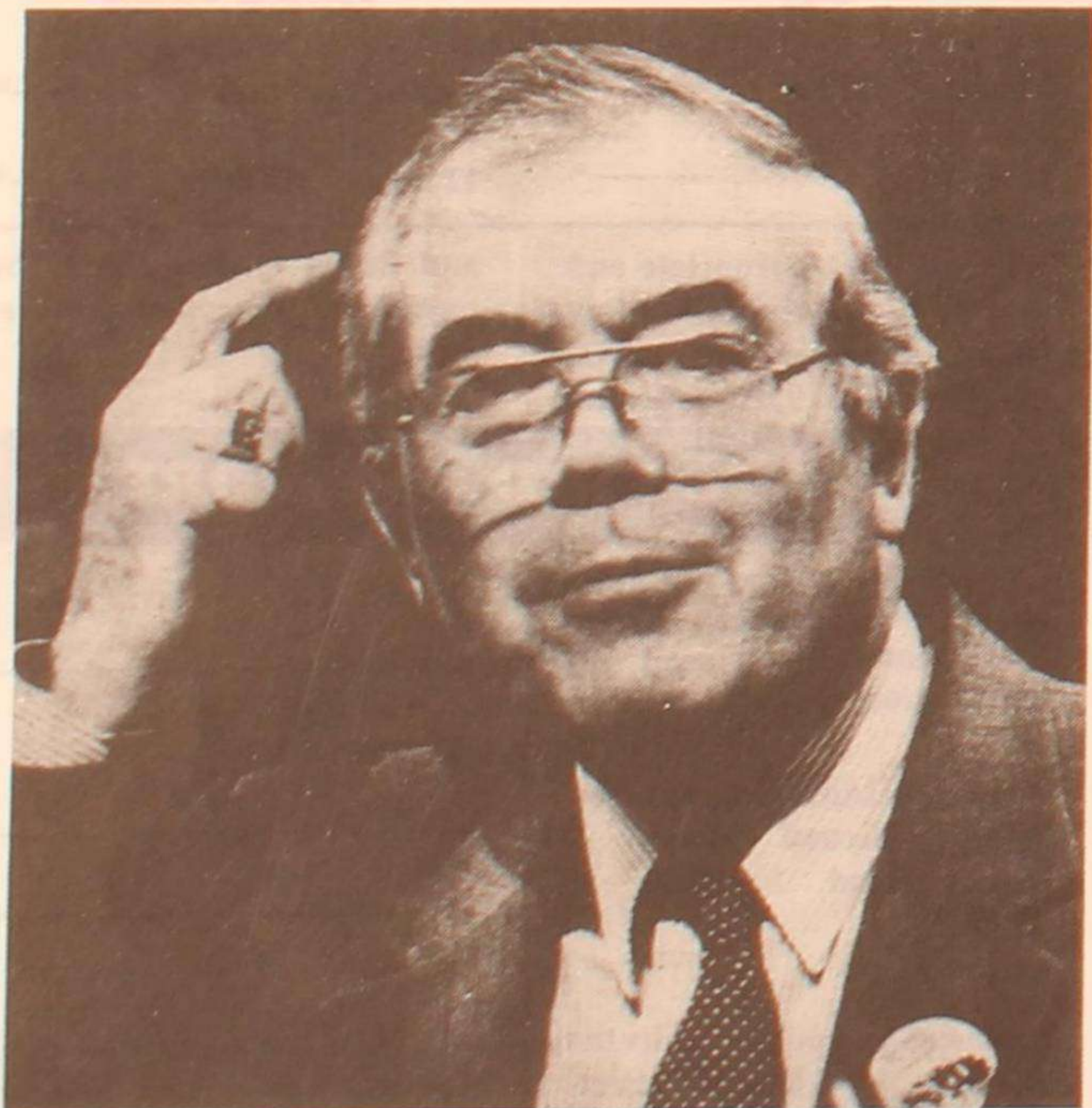
Reprinted below is one of the articles that typifies *Action's* racism. The only true part of the story is the report of the Kings Cross incident, although those were involved were nicked.

West Mercia Police confirm the story about Ross-on-Wye never happened. Everything else in *Action's* article is pure fabrication. However, the following up call for 'new sweeping

powers for our nation's police' is not just crazy coming from a gay man in the light of police attacks on our community but is also completely fascistic.

*Action* is not a gay man's paper. *Action* is a collection of sick, perverted, right-wing ravings of a very dangerous man and should be dealt with accordingly.

A gang of black thugs robbed and mugged terrified passengers in the middle two carriages of the train after they had boarded it at St Albans, Hertfordshire. Five police officers and many passengers had to be treated in hospital for knife cuts and severe injuries. Action's voice says that these thugs should be hung, drawn and quartered without any reference to the Courts. All muggers, murderers, rapist and violent offenders should be shot on sight without a word! The police force of our nation demands action and the sooner that our police have new sweeping powers to deal with these thugs, the better.



TOP OF THE LEAGUE