

DIRECT ACTION

IRA See Page 7



The Voice of Anarcho-Syndicalism

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30p

TAKING LIBERTIES

Observing the letter of the law is something that the present Conservative Government prides itself on. Except, of course, when they are wearing their deregulation, 'freedom of the individual' hat.

Freedom of the individual in today's sense apparently entails the following — the word individual actually means boss, and the freedom they are given is the freedom to shit all over their workforces whenever they get the chance.

The latest example of this is a directive from the Employment Minister, Patrick Nicholls, to the chief executive of Calderdale Council informing them that a firm in their area was not obliged to consult the union there before initiating redundancies.

According to the 1975 Employment Protection Act (which the present government has not taken the trouble to repeal) unions are to be consulted 'at the earliest opportunity' over any ensuing redundancies, but according to their 1980 employment legislation, bosses are not obliged to recognise unions. This, say the government, gives employers the right not to inform their workers that the factory will be closing next week!

The union still exists whether or not management accepts the fact and the law states that the union must be consulted when redundancies are imminent. So what we have is a 'tough' government 'upholding the letter of the law' and 'stamping out crime', encouraging flagrant disregard for the law. There's a contradiction there somewhere.

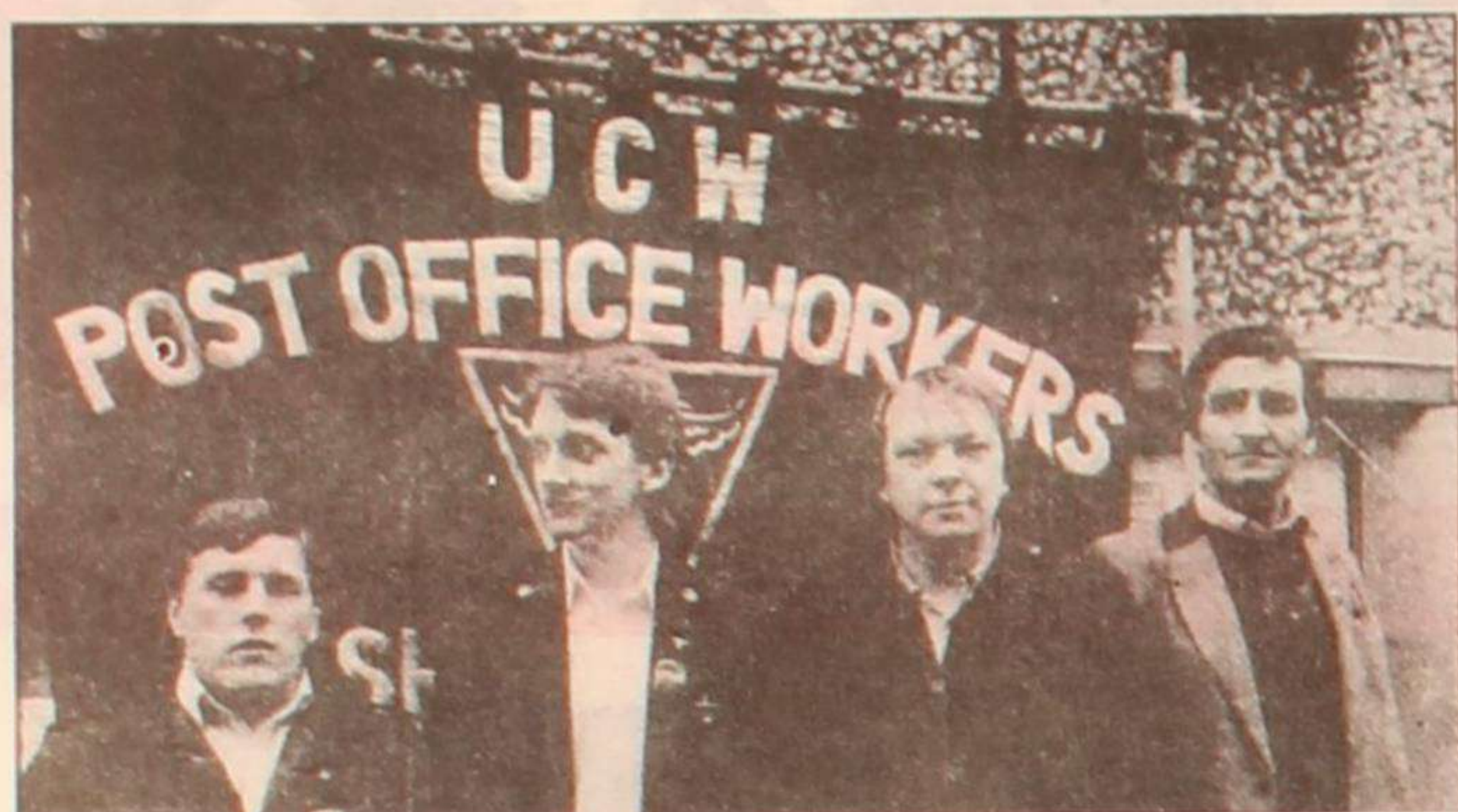
There have been the usual meek protests from trade union leaders, and apparently Labour MPs are going to ask questions! Neither have a chance of doing anything about it, the government will stitch it up in their usual slow, unobtrusive way.

Respecting the law has done nothing for the working class except deprive us of our hard-fought for rights. The government will continue with its wholesale slaughter of rights at work until people wake up and *take them back*.



Direct Action Movement — International Workers Association

THANKS FOR NOTHING TUFFIN



On Wednesday 31st August there was the first national postal strike for 17 years as anticipated in DA 51. This was officially a one day strike in protest about the introduction of the DRAS (Difficult Recruitment Area Supplements) bonus payment system to new recruits in the South East area. The DRAS system was the first move in an attempt to bring in office by office pay systems.

Recruits in the same office were getting different bonuses depending on what their supervisors said about them. In reality all the UCW (Union of Communication Workers) executive wanted was to get back on managements negotiating table from which they had been forced off. Postal workers on the other hand walked out because they were pissed off with the conditions they had to work under and so treated the one day strike as a general protest. This one day strike achieved nothing, but what is new with this?

The next day management stuck the boot in. They were not prepared to let the workers get away with a one day strike, they had to punish them. Casuals were bought in, which lead to walkouts in sorting offices with no agreements for casuals. Coventry was the first to go out. This was an obvious provocation as casuals were not needed and post boxes were sealed on the day of the strike so there was no backlog. Anyway, after bank holidays casuals were not brought in, that one day strike affected the post like a bank holiday. Offices who had agreements about casual labour could not be forced out, so management instructed drivers to go to striking offices and cross picket lines to pick up mail. When they refused they were suspended and the rest of the office walked out in support. In other offices the method was to instruct workers to load sacks onto private contractor vans or open bags of re-directed mail, and they all walked out.

IN WALK THE SCABS

By the middle of the next week, from what had begun as a few fragmented local walk outs, there was a national rank and file strike. The only part of Britain which was still working was Northern Ireland, and even then some of the workers there were out.

Meanwhile UCW boss, Alan Tuffin was at the TUC conference. Somebody told him that his union members were now on a nation-wide unofficial strike. Tuffin called an executive meeting and they decided that it would look good if they made the strike official, hoping that the members might like them (not likely you bastards). Then he returned to the conference and did his speech 'the record of my union is there for all to see — a responsible union with a responsible membership. This official stoppage is the first for seventeen years'. But hold on, there were 213 local wildcat strikes involving postal workers last year, obviously these strikes were not reasonable. Bollocks.

Then the UCW executive met with management and tried to get postal workers back to work with the minimum possible deal.



TAX IN POST?

MANAGEMENT LIES

As the strike went on management came up with all sorts of lies to tell the public. Depending on which day you were listening you heard that there was a backlog of between 50 and 150 million letters, and this figure kept going up and down. They also said that the workers wanted to return but there were no

signs of this — any potential scabs knew the consequences of scabbing. Then at last management told the truth, they moaned that Tuffin could not control his union members — too true.

A SELL-OUT

In the end the union executive came to an agreement with management, workers should return to work, but deals had to be finalised with local management. Yes, the same people who had forced them out in the first place. Although they had agreed to let in casuals and divert mail, some workers would not agree to this. Considering these were the things that caused the strike in the first place, this is not surprising. The return was delayed by local management putting unreasonable conditions on the re-

turn, eg sacking of all suspended workers and replacement by casuals. Plus, of course, postal workers were pissed off with the fact they had been on strike for almost a fortnight and had returned with nothing. The only thing gained was that the UCW executive had got back onto the negotiating table.



Some offices returned to work quickly and others took time, deciding that it was much better to stay out. The UCW executive then put pressure on these striking offices to return to work as soon as possible. South Wales walked out after a few days when management bought in private drivers and vans to do all the driving.

POLLOCKS!

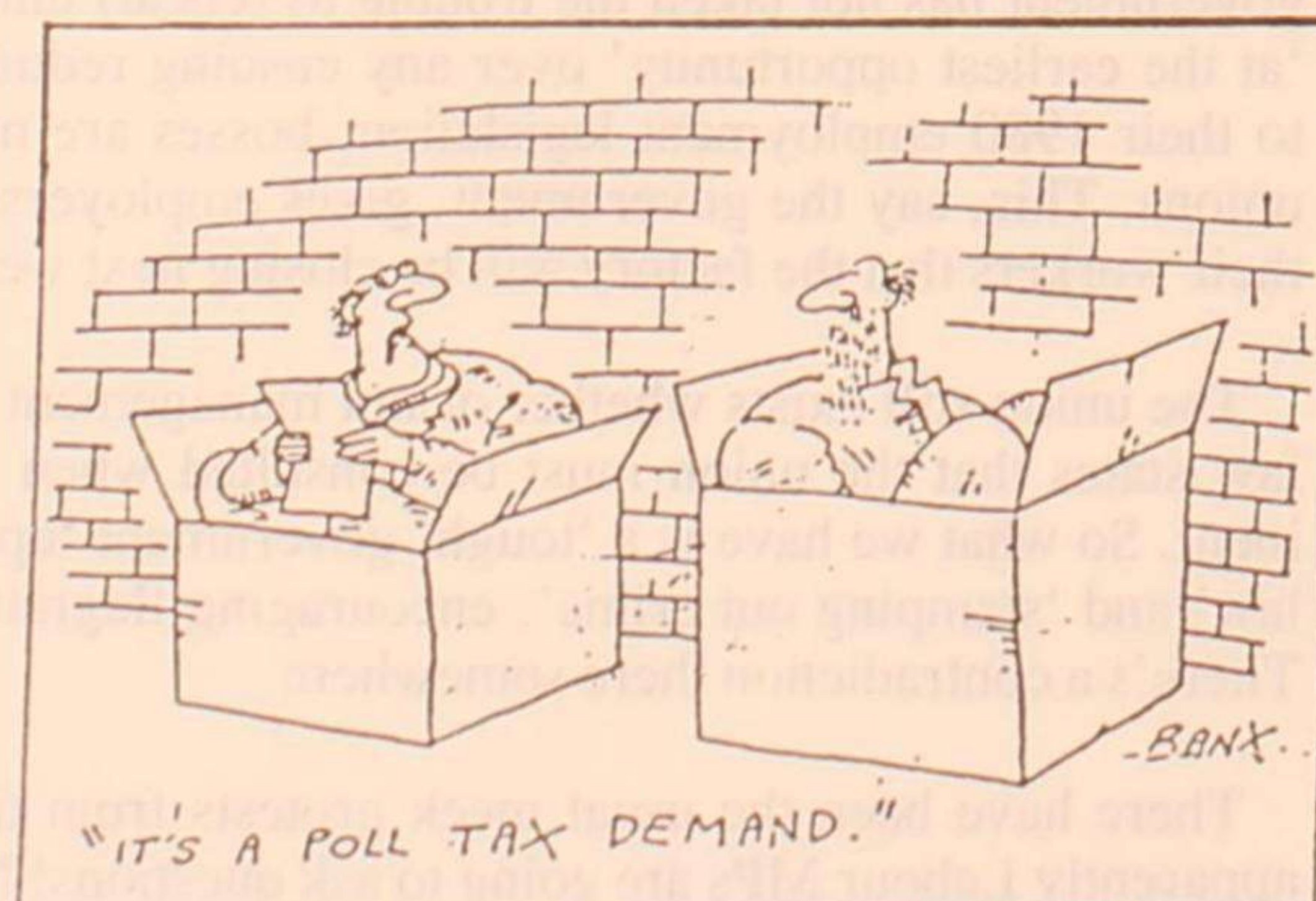
The second public meeting organised by Lewisham Against the Poll Tax began sedately enough. We heard that the Labour Party and Lewisham Council are opposed to the Poll Tax and they confirmed their support for the working class, claiming that they fully understood our plight. It all sounded just like the first meeting that held at Deptford Town Hall. Since then the council has provided new offices behind the town hall from where they will run the rates and poll tax systems side by side. So much for their stand against this unfair tax!

Following the inept speech by Joan Ruddock we were faced with four smiling and laughing Tories, totally unaware of the fact that they were just about to be slaughtered. Predictably enough they spoke in favour of the poll tax.

One laughable attempt at justification for the poll tax came from a particularly out of touch middle class woman when she spouted that we all pay the same road tax, even a 'small Volvo' owner pays the same as a big car owner! I always thought that Volvo and small were a contradiction in terms, apparently I was wrong.

Nicholas Bennet MP was too much to bear, he just could not grasp the concept of hardship. People can not afford to pay the poll tax was the cry. His reply? 'Get a better job, or better still', he continued, 'move down the road to Bromley, it's only £200 there'. This lower poll tax was, he insisted, due to proper budget control and management by the council. Nothing to do with it being a Tory stronghold. He then continued to tell us that the reason that the poll tax would be so high in Lewisham was due to

the council funding unworthy causes and employing 2,000 too many workers! Imagine explaining this to one of the 2,000: 'Sorry about your job, but at least your poll tax is lower now'!



KILLER BLOW

Following another speech, by a 'sympathetic' Tory Euro-MP, the public were allowed to queue up for half an hour in order to put questions to the panel. There weren't many questions, mainly due to the fact that most of the people present were well versed in the technicalities of the tax, but all of a sudden we realised that we didn't know all of the

As we go to press the postal service is back to normal with all offices working as usual but you can expect to find more strikes soon, as workers get more and more fed up with management and the union officials who work together to stitch them up.

DAM

A nice little incident happened at Romford during the dispute. A woman stopped her car opposite the picket line and shouted out the window 'It's my birthday, and I haven't got a single card and it's all your fault etc. etc.' Pickets sang a rousing chorus of 'Happy Birthday To You'!



SPOT

facts because here was Nicholas Bennet, having picked up a point from the floor, telling us that the tax would only be £380 per person in Lewisham. Did he really know something that we didn't? In the nick of time, Joan 'Oppose it but still pay it' Ruddock restored our sanity. Her figure of £677 had been gleaned from a White Paper prepared by Government Central Office. A killer blow for dear old Nicholas who retired deflated and defeated.

Meanwhile, there was still widespread dismay and anger throughout the hall. One elderly man asked the Tories how they could justify the increase over rates for his household. Four people currently lived there at a cost of £500 per annum in rates, this would obviously quadruple with the poll tax. Someone else asked for leadership from the Labour Party regarding non-payment. None came. It must be up to the community itself to organise a campaign of non-payment. Talk to your neighbours, don't let them feel that

they're out in the cold, tell them that you aren't going to pay this ridiculous tax. We must stand solidly together, they can't imprison most of us.

The Tories' attacks on the civil liberties of the working class have united us in a common front in such a way that was not previously possible. Form your own local community groups to resist the poll tax through non-payment and direct action.

BOOKWORM REVOLT

Six months into the occupation of the three Hackney libraries taken over by workers and the community, the bailiffs eventually turned up. Labour having won two recent by-elections, the council decided that it was time to act on their re-possession order. The time of the eviction was obtained by the simple ruse of ringing the bailiff's office and pretending to be from the council. With less than four days notice gained, various initiatives by individual NALGO members were somewhat more effective in mobilising opposition than the patchy organisation of the local NALGO branch.

So when the bailiffs, and eventually, eight coppers turned up at Goldsmith's Row library in Haggerston at about 7:50 am on Friday 9th September they found a building filled with 50 people and a picket of 30 out-

At this point, apparently, the Council called the operation off, claiming that the defenders represented a 'threat to public order', though not so much of a 'threat' that Haringey's notoriously heavy-handed police

for resistance to the next eviction attempt needs to be addressed, and a protest strike, rather than the previous 'walk out and demonstrate peacefully' actions, must be resolved by the Council unions. Unfortunately, a factional battle seems to be developing between SWP/Militant and the stalinists over what action to take, with the trots trying to take up the dispute as a political football.

INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Escalating the action is very problematic (unless, like the trots, you see it as a matter of leadership), so despite the previous branch decision to ballot for an all-out strike, the NEC OF NALGO refuses to sanction a ballot (see DA 50). Furthermore, the meeting between national and local officers of NALGO and the Council leadership served to diffuse the anger generated by the Council's decision to go to the courts, not the negotiation table. As predicted in DA, talking to the council without escalating the action produced no results. While increased opposition to the bailiff's next visit can be achieved, escalation of industrial action seems remote.

The SWP/Militant axis is already blaming library workers for letting them down (!) by not striking, and our shop steward's committee for not providing leadership. Those of us who remember who it was who organised the occupation, with the SWP refusing to support us because we couldn't strike, think differently. The dispute has identified the activists to each other, and we are planning to meet to organise our efforts in this dispute better, and to strengthen our union's organis-

ation in the only possible way — from below.

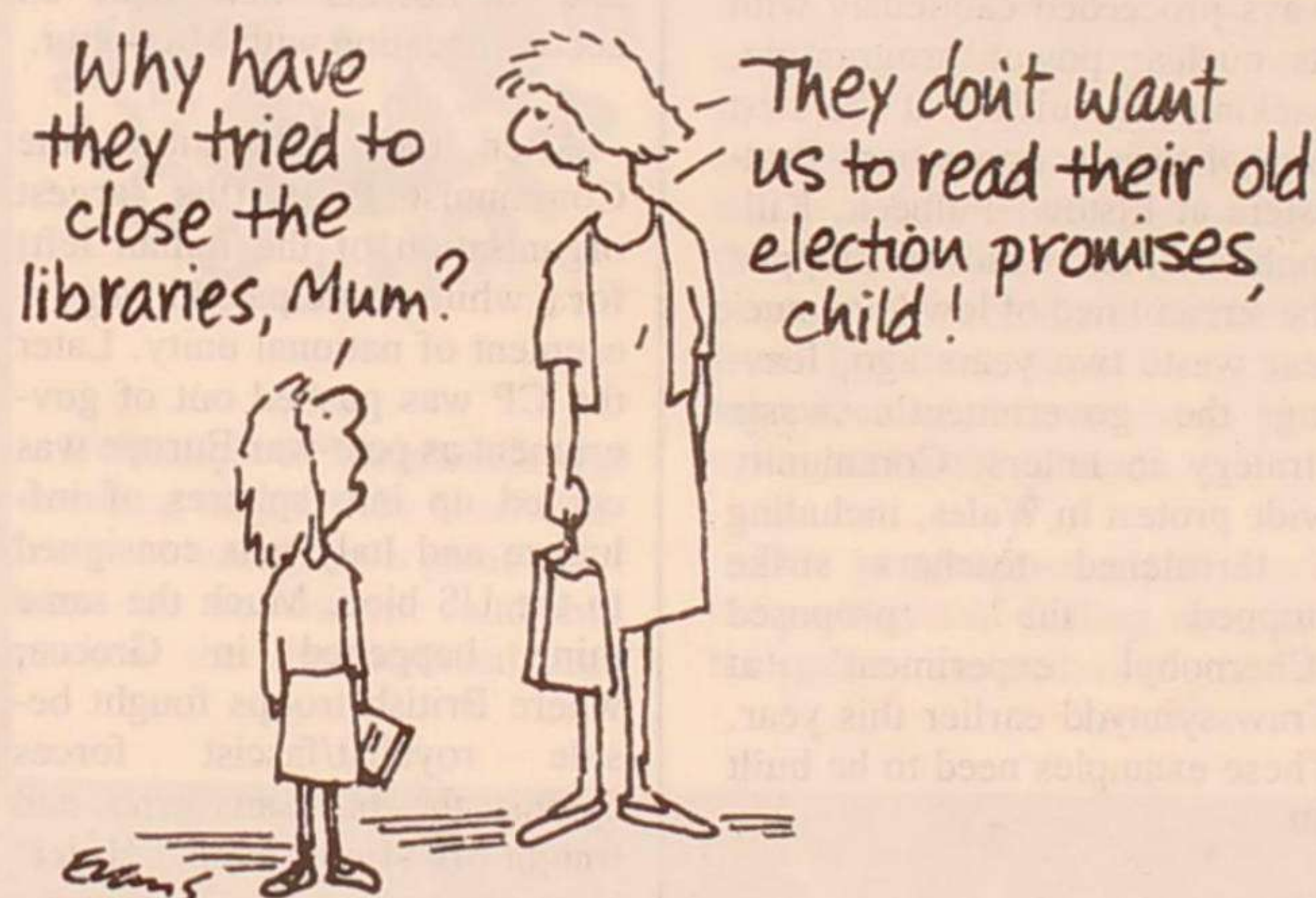
'GREASEBALL'

Elsewhere in the Leisure Directorate, the chair, Tommy 'Greaseball' Sheppard, not content with being a liar and a scab, is plumbing new depths. You've heard about political interference in Brent, well this is an example of the sort of crap that thousands of workers have had to put up with routinely. Having promised community groups that Shoreditch Play Park would re-open soon, our Tommy has been informed that it can not because of health and safety defects by NALGO, by the Borough Safety Officer, and even by the management. His reaction? Open it anyway. Knowing which side their bread is buttered, the management is choosing to lick his arse and break the Health and Safety at Work Act.

ably got the job because she's a one-parent family, bearing in mind that her salary is £30,000, give or take a couple of grand with a daughter at public school. As she once said, 'I don't know why these women are always complaining about creches, I never had any trouble!' Another insight into her idea of public services was the remark she once made that if there were proper livery facilities on Hackney Marshes, more people in the borough would own horses. Hackney is still 'Britain's Poorest Borough', the welfare state is still an exploitative con-trick.

STOP PRESS

The bailiffs returned to the three libraries at about three am on Thursday 22nd September, smashing in the doors in the belief that the buildings were empty at the time. Teachers and council workers demonstrated against



side. Despite tactical support from Director of Leisure Services Christine Pointer, who according to eyewitnesses, had come dressed as the Angel of Death for the occasion, they withdrew. Promising to return in an hour's time, they then cased Somerford Grove library, where there were about 100 people including TV crews, local union bureaucrats, and most of the trots.

chose to intervene. The news filtered through to the occupiers at about lunchtime, along with news coverage on London television and radio channels, but to be on the safe side a presence was maintained until about three or four in the afternoon.

The current task, as DA goes to press, is to build up the rotas for a 24-hours-a-day occupation, to prevent any lightning-strike evictions. Stronger organisation



LIFE ON THE LINE!

Finally, our radical-socialist-appointed Director, Christine 'Hatchet' Pointer, is leaving us. Watch out Newham, this is what you're getting. Ms Pointer prob-

this action at a rally at lunchtime, and many stayed away from work. Goldsmith's Row library has been re-occupied and is now open again.

Who Cares?

Crewe's heritage centre was recently built to celebrate 150 years of railways in the town and was opened by the Queen with the view to getting publicity and the town a place on the tourist map.

Who was to benefit from this is another question. We were informed that the site would become a luxury hotel and a conference centre, a real help to the local community! While the 'celebrations' occurred, Crewe's actual Railway Heritage was being brought to an end as the government was planning to cut thousands of jobs at the locomotive works to 'streamline' it for privatisation.

It is sad that any chance of effectively fighting all this was sabotaged by Militant when they established a 'cuts committee'

that was nothing more than a vague concept sitting in their heads. True, many people, notably local union and Labour leaders, found this a convenient excuse for inaction. But Militant had blocked the way for any genuine community resistance by setting themselves up as the leaders that no-one would follow. A community's interests can only be served by its direct self control, without Militant or other left-wingers using us as cannon fodder for party building. Our interests can also only be served when we combine to fight alongside other communities.

Apparently Labour MP Gwyneth (scab) Dunwoody doesn't think so as she was arguing for Crewe as a special case that was more deserving than workers in Derby, York or America (where the contracts were going). In other words racism. An attitude just as prominent in other affected towns and one that ensured we were ruled by being divided. All railworkers jobs are still threatened as privatisation looms forward, perhaps we can learn from our own mistakes and fight back properly.

WHO'S HERITAGE?

The whole idea of the Heritage Centre is a scandal, having directly endangered a part of Crewe's cultural heritage. That is the decision to cut-off money to Crewe's carnival and fete in order to fund the centre. The carnival day and all that goes with it have been with us for over a century. That the local council were ready to sacrifice it

to plans for a businessmen's paradise shows how genuine is the concern for the culture and working-class people in Crewe. A culture and heritage that the council are attacking in other ways too.

Recently there was strong opposition from the council to a proposed multi-racial and cultural community centre — the Powerhouse project. Fierce opposition in spite of the fact that none of the money needed was required from the council, just their approval. The fact is that were the Powerhouse project to succeed it would provide a massive boost to all aspects of community organisation. It would however be under the direct control of the community with no control of the council.

IRRELEVANT

Not content with their carnival and fete action, or their folly with the Heritage centre, they oppose any genuine expression

of Crewe's culture and heritage, such as the Powerhouse, and instead force on us their own schemes for our past, present and future.

Our rulers in the council, the unions, government and political parties will never change their determination and control of our lives, culture and struggles. After all, were the idea to catch on they would soon become irrelevant. It is time for us to organise together to remember our real history and fight for a real future, in spite of the bastards efforts to the contrary.

DAM

The FBI's main computer went a bit wrong one day and resulted in 17,340 people being arrested because it had mistakenly listed them as wanted criminals. We wonder if it had happened before...

BOILING POINT

Two years after the Chernobyl disaster, the inquiry into a planned Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) at Hinkley Point C is due to start on October 4th. Some groups — Friends of the Earth, CND, Greenpeace Ltd., and other anti-nuclear groups, plan to stop the building of the reactor by contesting the streamlined inquiry with the CEGB. However, the inquiry system is simply a rubber stamp for the Government — designed to derail the protesters into harmless channels whilst the nuclear juggernaut rolls on. The anti-nuclear movement needs to start organising effective mass direct action and industrial boycotts now if the nuclear programme is to be halted.

The 1977 Windscale inquiry and the recent Sizewell B inquiry showed that the result of these charades was never in doubt. In spite of winning the arguments, a string of 'expert' witnesses, and the spending of thousands of pounds, they resulted in the case of the anti-nuclear protesters being largely brushed aside or ignored. This time around, many of the arguments will be outside the remit of the 'streamlined' inquiry. Even before the Sizewell inquiry opened, millions of pounds had been spent on research, building contracts had been signed, and work had commenced on the

site. Indeed, Peter Walker, the Energy Minister, admitted that regardless of inspector Frank Layfield's findings, Sizewell B would be built. At Hinkley it will be the same.

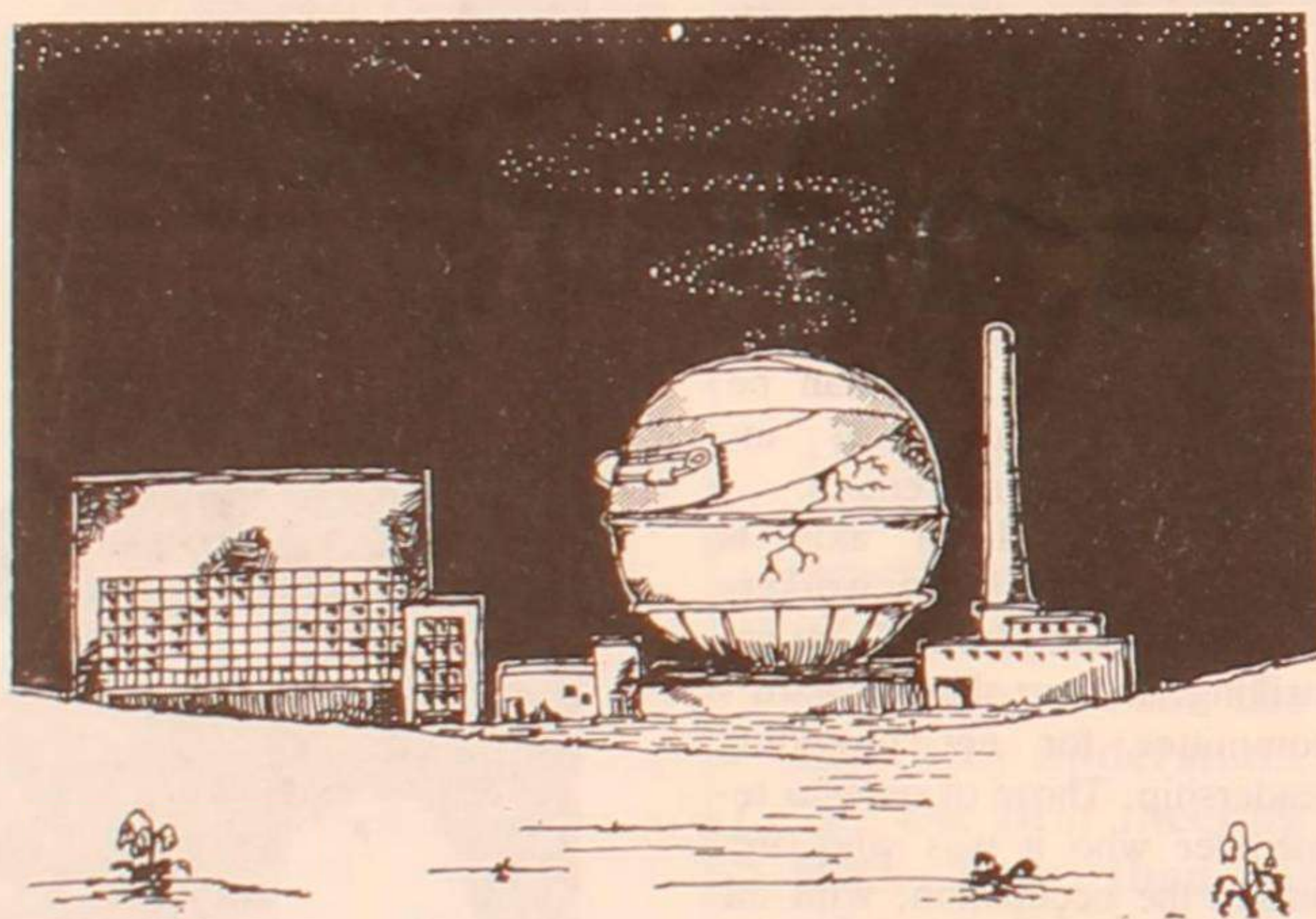
PASSIVE CAMPAIGN

Leaked Cabinet minutes from October 1979 show that the Thatcher government has always been committed to 'achieving a sizeable nuclear policy'. The document sets out the reasons in clear class terms — 'a nuclear programme would have the advantage of removing a substantial portion of electricity production from the dangers of disruption by industrial action by coal miners or transport workers'. The nuclear programme is also integrated to British and US weapons production. Despite Chernobyl, despite the evidence of child cancers such as leukaemia, despite public opinion, the Government's deter-

minations to build at least six Harrisburg-style reactors remains unchanged.

ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY

We have to stop playing by the rules set by the rulers. Only militant demonstrations leading to mass direct action at the site and against the firms involved in the nuclear construction industry, and industrial boycotts by workers supplying the sites, can stop the building of Hinkley Point C.



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The possibility that the British antinuclear movement will 'go European', learning from our

more militant comrades on the continent, has always posed a serious threat to the Government's plans. They look nervously at events in West Germany, where the proposed Wackersdorf reprocessing plant has provoked massive confrontations, such as the one last October when 240,000 people fought riot police for four days. The British government has al-



ways proceeded cautiously with its nuclear power programme, backing off quickly at the first sign of serious opposition. Protesters at Elstow, Fulbeck, Killingholme, and Bradwell stopped the streamlined of low level nuclear waste two years ago, leaving the government's waste strategy in tatters. Community wide protest in Wales, including a threatened teachers strike stopped the proposed 'Chernobyl experiment' at Trawssynydd earlier this year. These examples need to be built on.

The antinuclear movement needs an alternative strategy if it is not to sink demoralised into complete oblivion, as nuclear power stations are constructed virtually unopposed at Sizewell B, then Hinkley Point, Wylfa, Dungeness and Sizewell C.

Source: Anti Nuclear Network, c/o Jackson Lane Centre, Archway Road, London, N6.

RECORD REVIEW

DOG FACED HERMANS:
Miss O'Grady/Bello Ciao
(Calculus Records)

The Dog Faced Hermans hail from Edinburgh and call themselves anarchists. On this record they have a song about the old who will die needlessly from hypothermia this winter because they are poor, and on the flip side a pacy punk version of *Bello Ciao*, the Italian partisan song.

The partisans to whom this record is in part a tribute fought Mussolini and Hitler from the mountains of northern and central Italy. Many Italian towns were liberated by them before US and British troops and a new government arrived to take their guns off them. Most of the Resistance fighters were leftist workers. As usual, most liberals and 'democrats' had made an accommodation with Mussolini.

After the 'Liberation' the Communist Party (the largest organisation of the Italian left) for a while participated in a government of national unity. Later the CP was pushed out of government as post-war Europe was carved up into spheres of influence and Italy was consigned to the US bloc. Much the same thing happened in Greece, where British troops fought beside royalist/fascist forces against the partisans who had fought off Mussolini and Hitler! In both Italy and Greece the ideals of the Resistance were betrayed, by the US and Britain, and by Stalin, and collaborators and fascists were allowed back into power.

The Italian anarchists were the first to organise armed resistance to Mussolini in the 20's as the blackshirts jackbooted their way to power and destroyed the labour movement. They later made an immense contribution to the 1943-45 Resistance, even having entirely anarchist partisan units in some areas.

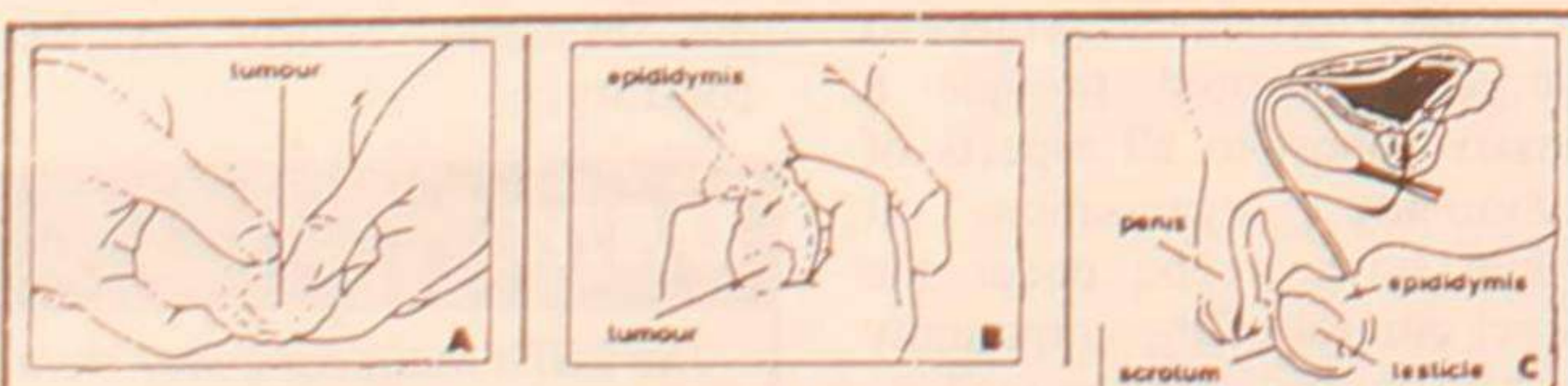
The Dog Faced Hermans couldn't really go wrong with as good a tune as *Bello Ciao* (an old work song adapted by the partisans). Like the Ex's treatment of a couple of traditional Spanish songs on their *Spanish Revolution* record two years ago, the Herman's version of *Bello Ciao* works well. Thankfully they don't sing the English lyrics provided with the record but stick to the original Italian. Some of the pronunciation is off the mark at times, but all in all they carry off a faithful but modern interpretation of this most unmilitaristic of battle songs. Buy this record.

DM

PAIN IN THE BALLS

Testicular cancer is the most common form of cancer among 25 to 34 year old men, and by the age of 45, 1 in 500 men will be affected. And yet, we rarely hear about this, although once it is diagnosed it is treatable with 100% success rate when treated in the early stages. It can be

spotted by self-examination, which should be carried out monthly. A guide to the correct method of examination is given in the guide below. A change in the way the testes feel should alert men to the need to consult a GP, although many GPs are ignorant of this type of cancer.



A step-by-step guide to the correct method of self-examination

Support the testicles in both hands, noting their size and weight. One testicle may be bigger in size than the other but it should not feel heavier (see diag A). Examine each testicle by

rolling between the fingers and thumb. Do not confuse the epididymis, the sperm-storing sausage-shaped structure at the back of the testicle (see diag C), with an abnormal lump (see diag B).

Feel for small lumps, or swellings in the testicle. Note any dragging feeling in the scrotum or dull ache in the lower abdomen. Few patients report actual pain with testicular cancer.

BULLDOZING BUILDER BREAKS THE BANK

A bank manager recently got his comeuppance after refusing a builder a loan. He came to work the next morning to find a dirty great thirty-foot bulldozer where his bank should have been!

The quarryman had been rather upset by the bank's refusal to grant him a loan, and after a night's brooding decided to take action. He nicked the bulldozer, drove it to the bank, and then drove it through it.

Unluckily he hadn't planned his getaway satisfactorily and was arrested on a double-decker bus near the scene.

Maybe next time he'll do it properly — bulldoze first and then ask for the loan — interest free, of course!

SALAD SUCKS

The dangers of pesticides have been admitted in a confidential Ministry of Agriculture report leaked to Friends of the Earth. Senior government advisors are concerned that the application of pesticides to crops after they have been harvested present a 'health hazard to man'. Most affected are crops where the poisons penetrate deep into the flesh and cannot be washed away, or detected during skin tests.

With more people becoming concerned about the quality of what they eat, the government is being forced to take some notice, but ultimately the corporations who wreak this damage are the same corporations who fund the Tory Party and those directors sit in the House of the Lords. Their intransigence cannot be overcome by enlightened customers buying org-

anic produce. It is something that should be on the agenda for the working class. It is not faddish or lifestyle to worry about the food we eat and the poison we consume — it is something that affects us all.

NEW GIGS FOR THE RICH

Recently Class War sponsored a nation-wide *Rock Against The Rich* tour featuring local bands but headlined by Joe Strummer with his new band. Strummer is the ex-lead singer and stalwart of the Clash, one of the best known of the 70's punk bands.



If the night in Manchester was anything to go by the tour, musically at least, was a great success. An enthusiastic audience packed the International and

Strummer, now in his 30's, and his band responded well, generating a lot of excitement, re-interpreting old Clash classics, as well as performing several new songs.

AMUSING ITEM

Politically though, what was achieved? A few days after the Manchester gig CW appeared on *Network 7* — one of the new 'youth-orientated' programmes that have sprung up recently. It concentrated on the recent CW candidate in the Kensington by-election, as well as their attacks on yuppies in the Docklands of East London. The whole piece came across as an amusing little item but not really serious — often a similar reaction they get to their paper. This was not helped by one member who hated yuppies but said that given half a chance would be exactly the same as them, as well as plenty of 'expletive deleted' from Ian Bone (*head? — Eds*) who seemed determined to put on an act for the cameras.

The programme highlighted the problems of dealing with the bourgeois authoritarian media

and press. Even if serious points are being raised, later editing can twist anything to fit the pre-conceived image that they need (and want) to present.

MINDLESS VIOLENCE

This has a further danger. The image of anarchism as mindless violence, bent on destruction for its own sake, and anarchists portrayed as people who are ready to get out the molotovs at the slightest provocation, unfortunately does attract some people.

These people then attempt to live up to the image. This in turn gives the media more opportunities to run 'shock horror' stories of the violent 'punk-anarchist' variety.

This is not to say that anarchism is pacific. Anarcho-syndicalists especially recognise that violence is frequently necessary and many have died in violent confrontations with the state. As well as uprisings and other acts of mass violence, this has included actions by individuals and small groups, such as armed resistance in Franco's

Spain. DAM members have also been at the forefront of combatting fascism on the streets.

PATHETIC ACTS

However, the kind of violence Class War is willing to be associated with by the media is of a different character. Although divided on this issue, the 'all publicity is good publicity' faction is currently dominant within Class War. Despite distancing themselves from such pathetic acts as glueing up estate agents' locks, and their public denials of anarchism, they are in effect being used by the media to portray anarchism as pointless, futile violence. Why organise when you can lob a brick, comrade?

We cannot twist the media/press now matter how sympathetic they claim to be. They will never put over any revolutionary working-class perspective unadulterated — we have to do this ourselves.

The idea of the tour and the music was good — the follow up was not. In this case the act was good but the goal was forgotten.

THEY SHOOT HORSES DON'T THEY?

In this clipping from a Dagenham newspaper you will notice on the right a certain Ron Ferrett wearing a black t-shirt with a Celtic cross on it. Ferrett, a local National Front activist, is marching to save horses.



Perhaps him and his mates are marching to save only *white* horses? And will the Lloyds Bank start to get hate mail and burning petrol through their letter boxes? The whole thing is further complicated because all the horses originally come from Asia and Africa. All in all this little incident just goes to show that the extreme right in Britain are completely out to lunch.

40W BULB

Readers of the July issue of *Searchlight* might be shocked to see a story claiming that that National Front and British Black Separatists have been holding friendly meetings, to work on anti-jewish campaigns and implying that they acted together to bomb a synagogue! This story is *untrue*!

The National Front involved in the *Searchlight* story is the 'official' National Front. This group claims not to be racist but racialist (so?), claiming that there are black supporters of the idea of the separate development of the races. To this end issue 105 of the *National Front News* carried a story claiming that National Front officials had held a friendly meeting with black separatists in Chapeltown, Leeds. It claimed that '...local NF members mingled with the rest of the audience and took part in extremely useful discussions'.

CLIMATE OF FEAR

Photos of an un-named NF official standing shoulder to shoulder with a so-called black separatist were printed to support the story. It is clear why the NF printed this story, they wish to create a climate of fear and mistrust between black and white anti-fascists, and (considering part of the meeting was

about Palestine) especially between the black and Jewish communities.

little factual evidence), claiming that '...in Leeds anti-fascists were shocked to see a local young black man selling a pro-Khomeni paper alongside the NF street-sellers...' and '...a few days after the NF held secret talks with fundamentalists in Leeds...a local synagogue was bombed'.



SEARCHLIGHT MOLE DISCOVERS NF SUPPORT GROUP

Searchlight appear to have taken the *National Front News* story at face value and have even expanded on the story (with very

The *Searchlight* article clearly implies that it was the NF and local blacks acting together that did the bombing.

NF MEMBERS

The fact is that both the NF and *Searchlight* stories are untrue. Although it is true that two or three NF members (including vice-chairman Graham Williamson, the un-named official in the *National Front News* story) did turn up at the meeting in Leeds, they told no-one that they were from the NF and did not discuss their politics. A black attendee at the meeting stated 'They just said that they were interested in finding out about Islam', adding 'they seemed to be yuppie types'.

The so-called black separatist in the photos turned out to be a Mr. Michael Chambers. Far from being a separatist of any kind, Chambers is an Afro-Caribbean convert to Islam. Chambers has apparently been trying to convert NF members to Islam; those who know Chambers say 'He talks to anyone'. Chambers himself described the label of black separatist, given to him by the NF, as '100% lies', adding profoundly, 'They will not prosper. In the eyes of Allah they are fools'.

BLURRED PHOTO

Leeds anti-fascists have never seen Chambers (or any other young black man) selling papers alongside the NF (although he has been seen talking to them). And as far as the Leeds meeting taking place 'a few days' before the synagogue

bombing, it in fact took place several months *after*! *Searchlight* printed the statement as fact when they knew the date of the bombing and knew that they couldn't be certain when the meeting took place!

The *Searchlight* article had several sensationalist parts, eg a blurred photo of a black man (Chambers) talking to a white man who *could* be holding a copy of *National Front News* is titled 'Collaborators At Work'.

CAVALIER ATTITUDE

Snide references have been made to people who have dared to suggest that *Searchlight's* current analysis of British fascism might not be correct — the 'facts' within the article are cited as proof of *Searchlight's* 'correctness'.

While it is understood that mistakes can be made, *Searchlight's* cavalier attitude to facts is becoming all too common! To our knowledge this is the *fifth* time *Searchlight* has accused people of collaborating with the NF (the second time that they have accused black people of doing it), and each time their stories have had virtually no factual basis to them. Such ill-considered stories do the anti-fascist movement in Britain no good at all and therefore taint *Searchlight's* reputation. For the near future DA advises its readers to treat stories in *Searchlight* with a large pinch of salt.

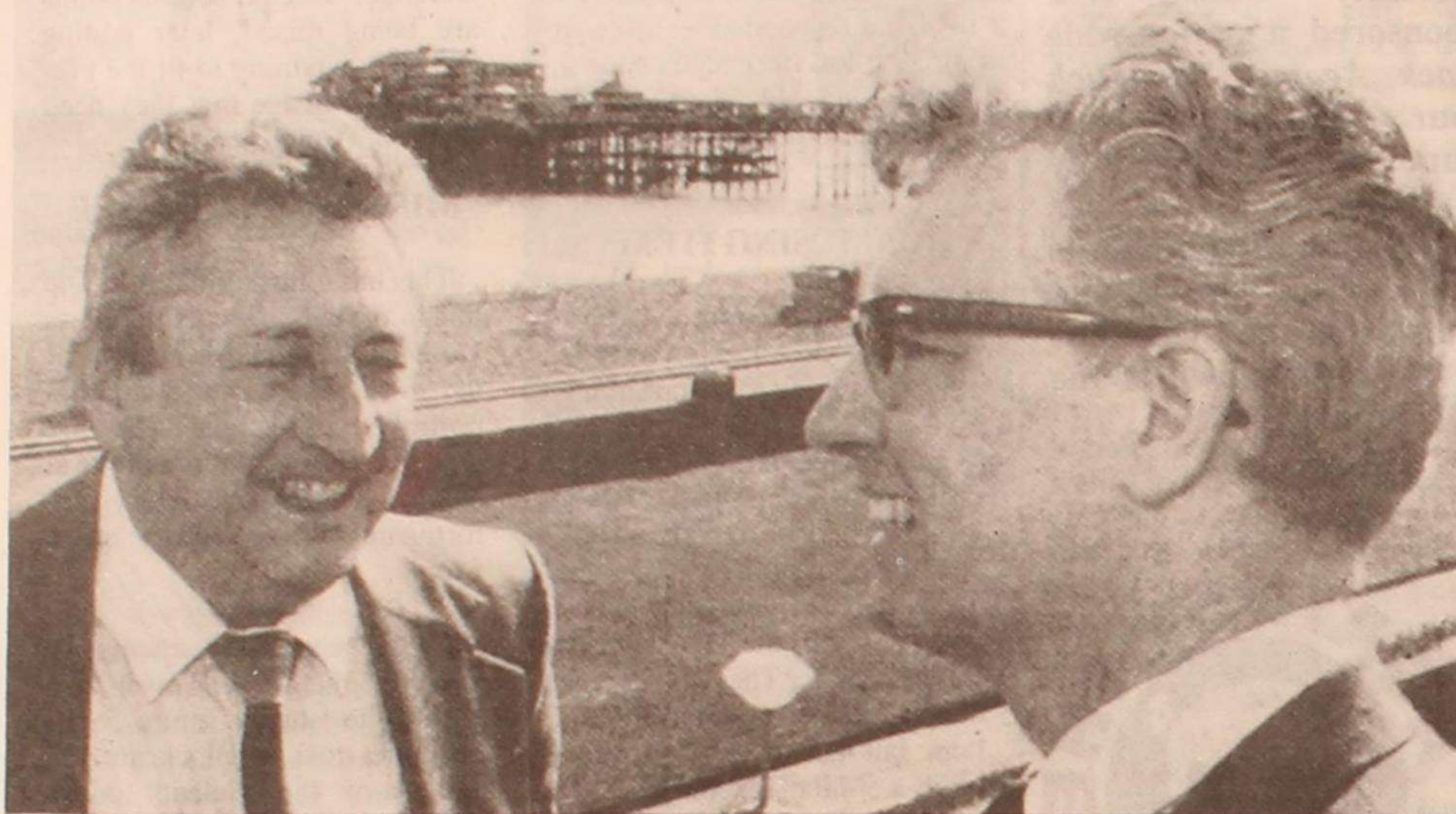
SHOTGUN WEDDING

This year the annual conferences of both NUPE and NALGO voted to enter into talks about a merger of the two unions. A historic beginning you might think — One Big Union for public service workers, which would then be the third or fourth biggest union in the country. The present phase in the development of the trade union movement in this Britain bears a superficial resemblance to the first quarter of this century, when union amalgamations were also common.

A major difference is that the previous amalgamations were of craft unions into general or industrial unions during a period of growing militancy and union membership. The Industrial Syndicalist Education League advocated union amalgamations, and many of its adherents, were active in the Amalgamation Committees. Today the bureaucrats are simply playing the numbers game, with over 750,000 members, NALGO was only recently displaced from the position of being the fourth largest union by the MSF merger of TASS and ASTMS.

but for reasons of corporate survival. Merger is a logical way of improving the prospects of both unions, the Hammond 'TUC' would be a serious competitor, so will the unscrupulous GMBATU and its scab white-collar section MATSA. Although left-wing members of NALGO's NEC have rejected 'no-strike' single union deals, whether this promise will stand up to competition from outright scab unions remains to be seen.

Not surprisingly, there is grassroots support for the merger from workers sick of



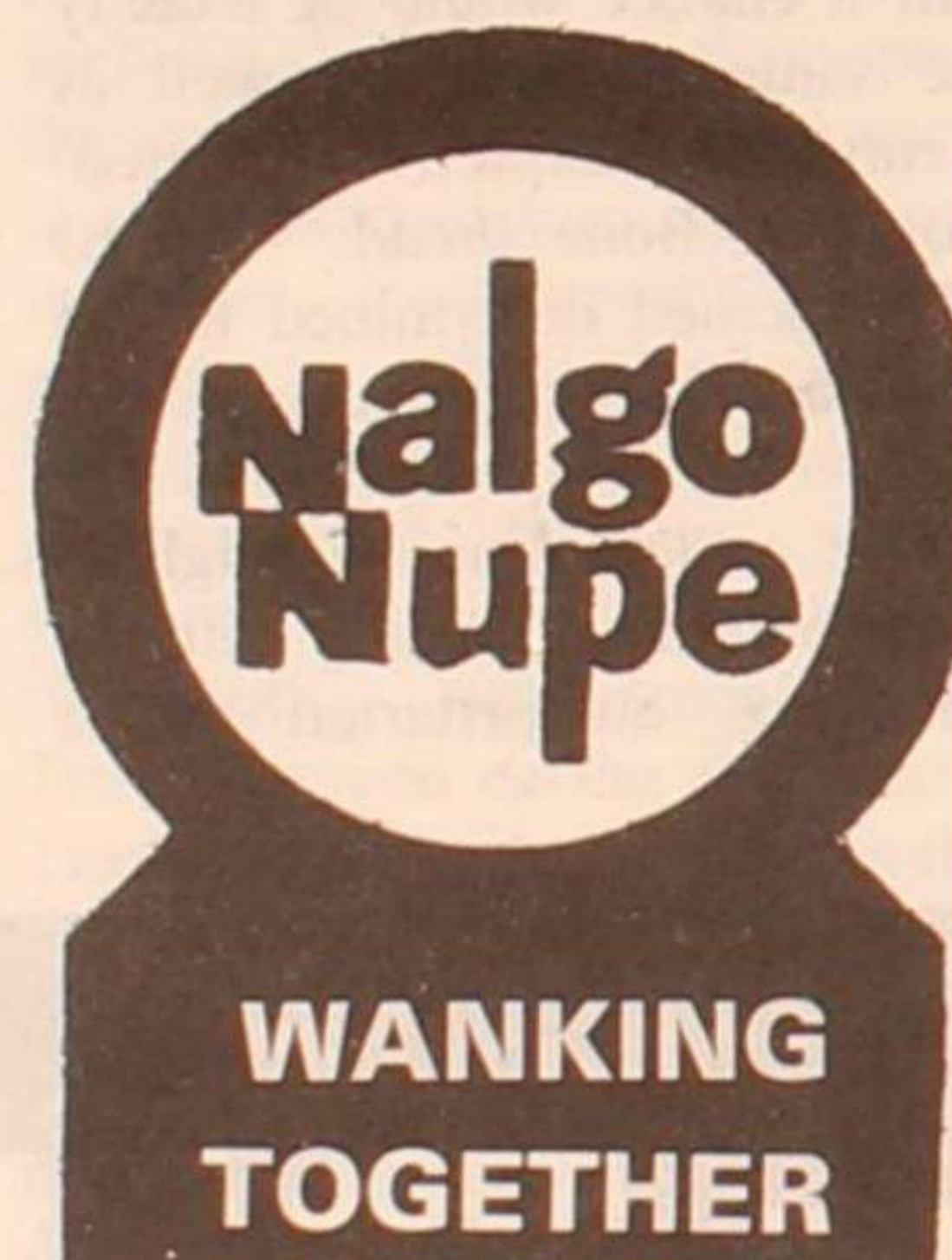
BEACH BUMS PLAN OUTRAGE AT BRIGHTON

opposition to the merger, it is not simply prejudice which divides NUPE and NALGO members. In many areas there is a serious rift due to the way NUPE has built Officers' branches by poaching NALGO members. Broadly speaking, NUPE recruited dogmatic Labour Party supporters (NALGO is unaffiliated), racists, perpetrators of sexual harassment, and generally right-wingers and scabs. Few NALGO members relish the prospect of this lot being back in their union.

BUREAUCRATS

Similarly, both unions recruit all officer grades, including management. The Officer/Manual division between branches in NUPE is rooted in the absurdity of having workers and managers in the same branch, but the conception of workers is dominated by the 'men-in-overalls' syndrome. 'White-collar' workers are not deemed to count, they have to put up with managers at branch and shop steward meetings, noting malcontents and militants, and also voting against effective union action. The dividing line is drawn between workers, not between workers and management, and this is unlikely to change.

Less of a problem for the bureaucrats, but providing greater scope for recruitment by the likes of MATSA, is the Labour Party question, a moot point in NALGO. NALGO activists have won for their union a reputation of being at the forefront of union radicalism, they have led the way on issues like deportations and equal opportunities. NUPE has a left-wing image, and in many Labour Party strongholds is the biggest union affiliated locally, but like the party to which it is affiliated it is for more conservative and right-wing in practice. This clash diminishes in importance because NALGO was also a pioneer of recruiting people who want cheap insurance and don't



POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE

So what do anarcho-syndicalists propose as an alternative to corporate union mergers?

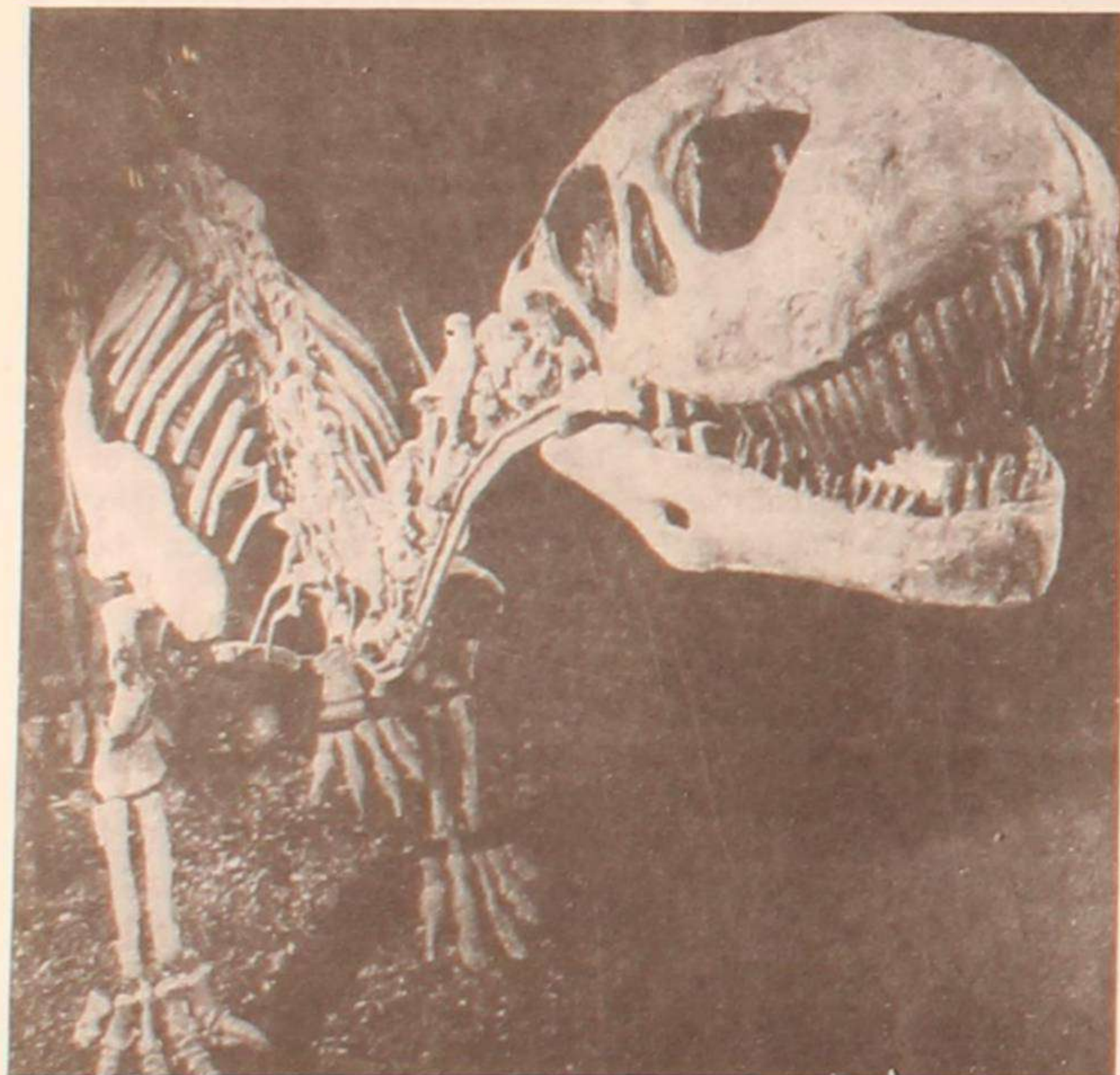
- Workplace branches comprising all grades of worker in the industry (no managers) based on class solidarity and class war.

- Local, regional and national federation of these branches to form industrial unions, with funds decentralised as far as possible.

- No bureaucrats with the power to stitch us up. Directly elected lay officers recallable by regular mass meetings, and holding office for a limited period.

- No more sell-outs, no more 'unofficial' strikes. All negotiators to be directly elected by workers in dispute on a strict mandate. Negotiations must be open for any worker to observe.

- Real political independence, ie. direct action against state repression and bosses' laws. Why further the careers of politicians further when we can win back all that has been stolen from us?



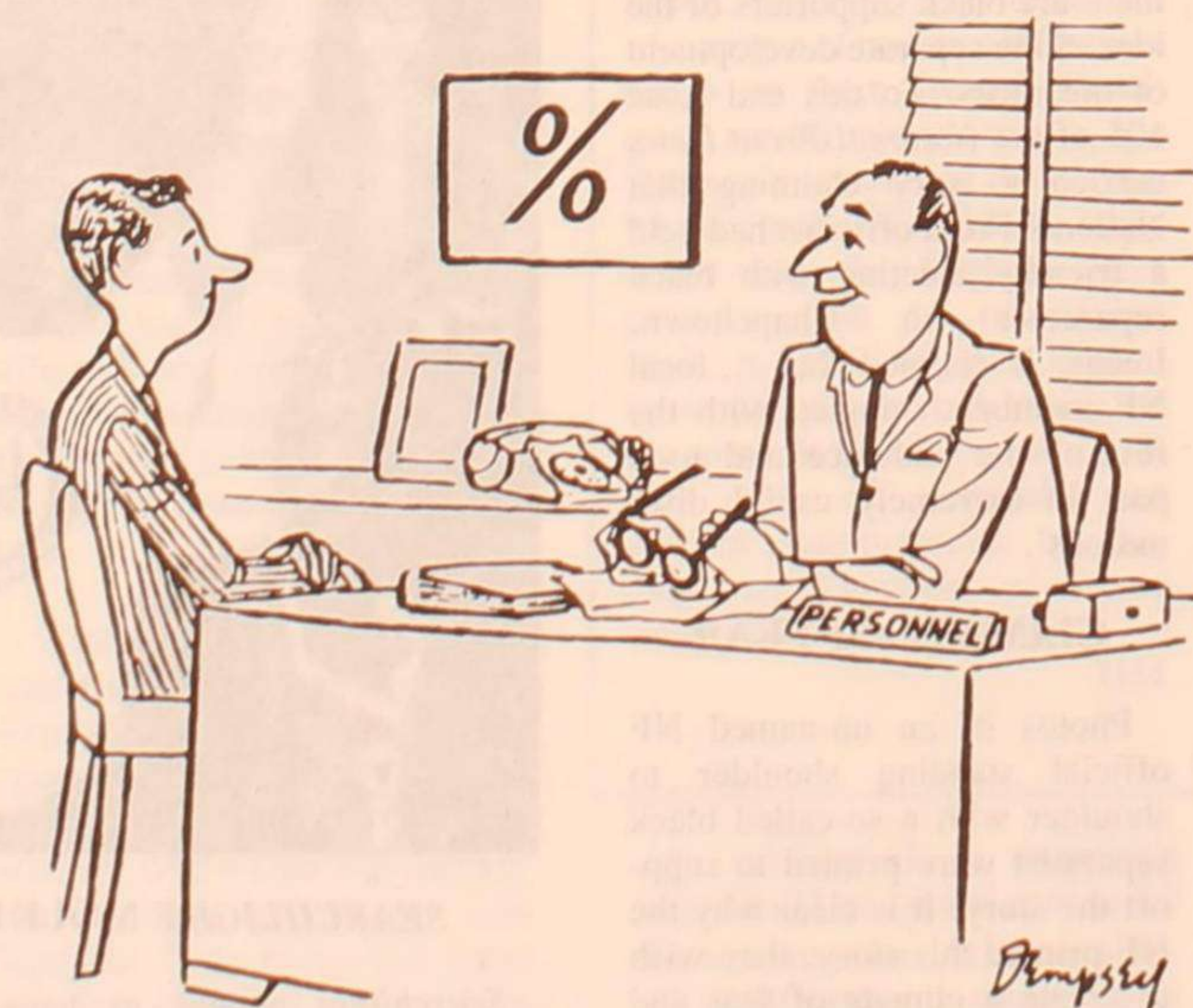
NEW MODEL UNION

In local government the merger will, in theory, remove the union barrier between low-paid 'white collar' workers and low-paid manual workers. This has institutionalised a great deal of prejudice between the two groups of workers, knacker industrial effectiveness and solidarity. Is removing this barrier the noble motive of mergers, and union leaders such as Daly and Bickerstaffe? Wrong — both unions, with competition from GMBATU, are seeking to win single-union deals with privatised services in order to maintain their membership levels. NALGO has even changed its rules to allow the recruitment of manual workers to ease this process.

A long history of poaching and other disputes is being put aside not out of class solidarity,

being scabbed on by members of another union. But it is unlikely that the new union will be organised on a workplace basis, with all grades in each directorate/hospital in a single branch. The white-collar/manual divide will probably remain institutionalised in separate authority-wide branches, which is the practice of NUPE. Local officials will jealously guard their own territories, and prejudice and scabbing are likely to continue, which will please full-timers by making militancy easy to control. It is not size but structure which anarcho-syndicalists identify as the major weakness of the existing labour movement, a bigger corporate union is not more effectively industrially, it is simply less easy for its members to control.

There will also be grassroots



'We're looking for someone who's willing to start at the bottom and stay there.'

'THE PEOPLE'S ARMY' IRISH REPUBLICANISM — PART 1

During the past couple of years anarchists in Britain have begun to support activities around British withdrawal from Ireland, and also against repression and Orange fascism. Although anarchists were prominent in supporting Civil Rights and opposing Internment at the beginning, the domination of the liberation struggle by the Republican Movement from 1972 alienated most.

DAM is committed to supporting the broad withdrawal movement in Britain and its demands. You rarely hear the cop-out 'We don't support Republicanism' (true we don't) nowadays, but it would seem that this indicates not political maturity, but uncritical endorsement of the national liberation struggle. DAM distinguishes clearly between an end to partition and the organisation leading the national liberation struggle, we believe a critical assessment of the Republican Movement is timely.

As internationalists we support our class world-wide, our opposition to imperialism stems from this, not from liberalism. Therefore, we support those who share our class perspective — in South Africa the 'workers' in COSATU, in Ireland the anarcho-syndicalists 'Organise!'.

ARMED RESISTANCE

The chief feature of Republicanism in the 80's has been its development of a broader base for national liberation instead of just armed struggle alone. The Republican Movement is a partnership between Sinn Féin and the IRA, where previously the former could be numbered among IRA auxiliaries which make up the rest of the movement. The different roles of the two main organisations need to be treated separately, although they both need each other.

The Provos are a product of history, arising from the failure of the contemporary IRA to defend the anti-unionist communities from loyalist pogroms spearheaded by the RUC and the B Specials in 1969. Internment in August 1971, which was directed at all anti-unionists, and Bloody Sunday in January 1972, ended the Civil Rights phase of resistance and heralded in war. Blanket, bloody repression created the need for armed resistance, the Provos grew to meet it.

BOMBING CAMPAIGN

Republicans usually reject any criticism of the armed struggle, either regarding it as above politics, or its critics as armchair revolutionaries because they don't practise it themselves. It is a fact of life, its origins are defensive and it will continue until the British state, the aggressor, withdraws. But it is more, it is the central political tactic in the

captured after the Balcombe Street siege later admitted responsibility for the Guildford Pub bombings. IRA apologists usually say Britain has inflicted war on their people and they have a right to take the war home. We do not distance ourselves from IRA actions on the mainland because they are un-



CITIZEN'S MILITIA — OR JUST PAINTING THE TOWN RED

overall Republican strategy. It is intended to force British withdrawal onto Westminster's political agenda, to make the Six Counties ungovernable and completely de-stabilise them. How the IRA has sought to achieve this goal matters.

In the 70's IRA strategy was based on an economic bombing campaign, aimed at destabilising the Six Counties. It has since largely been abandoned as counterproductive, and was of questionable value in a society so politically and economically unstable. While the campaign cost the British state added millions in compensation on top of the repression budget, it never shook the political will to pay out those millions. Businesses are, furthermore, civilian targets, and bombing shopping centres, pubs and hotels is at least irresponsible. Warnings can be bungled, they can also be ignored by a cynical state keen to reap the propaganda harvest of civilian casualties.

IRA STRATEGY

The mainland bombing campaigns have been a more direct attempt to put withdrawal on the political agenda at Westminster. The pub bombings are a minefield of denials, repudiations, agent provocateur stories, bungled or ignored warnings and government propaganda. Sanctioned officially or not, actions like these and the Harrods bombing have been carried out by IRA personnel. The IRA unit

popular — the British state is a legitimate target. What we oppose is the nationalist mentality which saw people in Britain as a legitimate target, and atrocities which followed from it. It is what, not where, the IRA attacks which counts for us, we condemn any indiscriminate violence.



GERRY ADAMS

In the 80's, political developments within the Republican Movement as a whole, characterised by the rise of the less militaristic 'urban northerners' like Gerry Adams, have been reflected in IRA strategy. This demands the maximum support for British withdrawal combined with a broader base of support within Ireland for the Movement. The armed struggle became less intense and Volunteers more highly politicised, discipline was strengthened and control over arms stacks exerted.

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

The emphasis is now on military targets in the Six Counties, and in mounting British casualties exerting pressure to withdraw. As a rule great pains are taken to avoid civilian casualties. Although Republicans admitted long ago that they could not win militarily, this does not diminish its importance for them as a tactic. The past couple of years have seen an intensification of the campaign beginning with a highly successful series of demolitions of RUC posts.

Since the Loughgall massacre in May 87 that has petered out, but the shooting down of a Brit-

onnel and injuring 19 others. On August 4th it killed two unionist civilians who'd been working on an RUC post despite repeated warnings. While the killing of 'collaborators' is logical to militarists, the logic of armed struggle is no good reason for it.

SECTARIAN

Unionist workers are forced to do such work despite its risks because of unemployment, and because of this the RUC and UDR are now important areas of employment. If shooting collaborators is designed to isolate crown forces it is pointless, because the impact of 'Ulsterisation' makes it impossible to isolate them from unionist communities as it is to isolate the IRA from anti-unionist ones. However logical it is, it will be seen as sectarian by protestants, and will store up bitterness harmful to unity after British withdrawal.

The armed struggle is in many ways a trap, its limits and logic makes it a double-edged weapon. The Republicans' aim is a genuinely united Ireland, but while British and Unionist politicians and military strategists must take the blame for the results of their 'Ulsterisation' policy — making the Irish fight each other — the IRA can not break out of this trap.

ARMY COUNCIL

Anarchists have never been squeamish about political violence, we have a good history of tyrannicide. We advocate workers' militias, we support and exercise our class' right to defend ourselves from the state.



'ACCIDENTS OF WAR'

Such a level of activity will still not be sufficient to reduce Westminster's will to wage war. In addition, as we argued after Enniskillen, the greater the level of activity, the greater the incidence of IRA casualties and of 'accidents of war'. A school girl seriously injured by a bomb intended for the UDR member who driving her bus, three members of the Hanna family killed in mistake for Judge Higgins, on one day Volunteer Seamus Woods killed by a premature explosion and two West Belfast people killed in an accidental detonation at Falls Baths. While we agree with the logic of defensive armed resistance, as an offensive tactic armed struggle reveals its militarist nature (however carefully planned and carried out it is) and has a bitter cost.

The IRA demonstrated its effectiveness in a wave of attacks from July 27th to August 3rd, killing five crown forces pers-

the bosses and fascists. What we oppose is militarism. The IRA is the most discriminating and effective nationalist guerilla group operating today. It recruits men and women on an equal basis, elects its leadership, and is a part of the working class communities in which it operates. It is responsive to these communities, but it is not controlled by them, it operates under military command and discipline and recognises no higher authority than its Army Council.

The IWA advocates workers' militias controlled by workers' organisations in the service of social revolution. The IRA's militarism is the source of its limits and mistakes. While recognising the ultimate responsibility of the British state for 20 years of war, we remain critical of the IRA's part in that war.

LETTER

Dear DA,

Like MA (DA 51) I am an anarchist. However, what I know about job discrimination in north-east Ireland causes me to oppose his arguments, which are very superficial. Job discrimination is central to any class analysis of the partition of Ireland because of its role in two corner-stones of the Six County state — suppression of Catholics and the quiescence of the Protestant working class. It prevents the imposition of any 'analysis' based on 'normal class politics'.

To characterise support for the MacBride Principles as 'extolling the virtues of... laissez-faire capitalism' is a joke, they are patently a restriction on it. Their use as a political lever has had results, mostly because the Irish American ranks alongside the W.A.S.P. and Jewish lobbies in influence. In spite of the efforts of the Irish Embassy, John Hume of the SDLP, and pro-imperialist trades unionists shipped over to speak against them, they are the teeth of a long-standing campaign drawing a direct parallel with the campaign for disinvestment from South Africa. The parallel with Latin America does not follow because Hispanic Americans have no power base comparable to the Irish Americans.

The MacBride Principles are not about sacking Protestant workers, they are about ending discrimination in recruitment. As stated in DA 46 there is a

20% annual job turnover in the Six Counties, no-one will get sacked. Where the Principles have obviously had an effect is in the case of Short Brothers' Engineering, which announced earlier this year that the percentage of Catholics in their entire workforce has increased from 5% in 1979 to 11%, and among apprentices from 6% to 17%. The dramatic rise in Catholic apprentices points to the achievement of this through recruitment, not the sacking of Protestants MA predicts for Harland & Wolff. The reason for this change is Shorts' need to win US military orders for the aircraft and missiles it produces (and save jobs), illustrating the real effects of the MacBride Principles. The Apartheid parallel has proved a potent weapon, Shorts' progress indicates that without the buffer of British state funding it will be in the interests of Protestant as well as Catholic workers to end job discrimination.

Is it liberalism or political cowardice for DA to note this development, and conclude that it will weaken working class loyalty, and ultimately British imperialism? That is all DA said. The workforce of the Six Counties is notoriously placid, and is marketed to international business as such, because of the unionist-dominated labour movement. Protestant domination of engineering and ship-

building has made them hotbeds of reaction where workplace organisation and loyalist paramilitary organisations are inextricably linked. MA has evidently never heard of industrial East Belfast's most famous shop steward — Billy Hull, founder of the Loyalist Association of Workers. This organisation's workplace strength was the key to the success of the sectarian general strikes called by Vanguard in 1972 and the Ulster Workers' Council in 1974. Along with the two others called by Paisley in 1978 and 1985, which succeeded due to support from the 'security forces', these actions sum up the character of the Protestant working class. The only notable exceptions to the sectarian tradition in the past 20 years have been a civil service strike in protest at loyalist death threats to Catholic workmates, and fights against cuts and privatisation in the NHS, both, significantly, in more 'mixed' industries. It should never be forgotten that when the Catholics were expelled from the shipyards in the Belfast pogrom of 1920, the 'rotten prods' — socialists, syndicalists, and workers too friendly with Catholics — were driven out at gunpoint too.

It is in the interests of the working class as a whole to break loyalism's grip on the Protestant working class, to do it job discrimination has to be broken. Real political cowardice lies in ignoring the realities of working class politics in the Six Counties or, like the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Council of Trade Unions, in ref-

using to recognise the existence of job discrimination in order to avoid losing Protestant members. DA has come off the fence, consistent anti-imperialists must face up to the fact that loyalist workers are reactionary, anarcho-syndicalists can only support Protestant workers in Ireland when they have broken with loyalism. I like to think the MacBride Principles will bring that day closer.

DAM has taken sides over the war in Ireland, it recognises that the British state, not the IRA, is the real barrier to working class unity. It does not confuse guns with social revolution, it recognises the armed struggle as simply a fact of life, as the defensive side of a war, not as a revolutionary instrument. It recognises that the maintenance of working class loyalty through job discrimination is as big a prop to the Six County state as is the suppression of Catholics. It does not support Republicanism, but argues that revolutionaries must take up the task of building a 32 County anti-imperialist workers' movement (see DA 46, again).

The reason it goes on marches is because it supports complete British military and political withdrawal, for which it should be respected, not be the target of insults and conjecture. I will consider the anarchist movement to have grown up when the 'let's get 'em brigade' cease to confuse violence with social revolution, and when others dig out and analyse a few facts before sharpening their pens.

In solidarity,

NR

S.O.S.

For approximately five years, the membership and president of Local 61 of the Industrial Union of Marine Shipbuilders of America (IUMSWA) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, have been defending the local and its membership at Tru-Weld Grating, Dravco and other companies against the bosses' attacks. Tru-Weld workers were organised in Local 61 until the boss closed the doors on them and reopened cross-town with the national union's consent. Local 61 is also currently organising a Dravco location that has reopened after many years of being shutdown. A long and bitter struggle against bad wages, benefits and job conditions ensued, with the local being pitted against the national union by the boss.

Local 61 is an active, aggressive, non-hierarchical, democratically run organisation. The local is also leading a fight against the national union along with other IUMSWA local unions. Local 61 has also maintained contact with the Puerto Real CNT/AIT local union in Spain.

Support is urgently needed. Local 61 president Darrel Becker is currently on a three month to one year prison sentence for a civil disobedience action taken three years ago. Hardship funds are badly needed not only to support Becker and his family, but to help the local in their fight to retain control of their Union Hall from the national union. An occupation is currently underway.

More info:

Local 61 Union Defence Fund, Elmwood Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15227

WSA, 339 Lafayette Street, Room 202, NYC 10012

HEAVY METAL

Miners in Peru are fulfilling their employers' worst nightmares by organising for better wages and conditions collectively across the industry. Until now the employers have managed to divide miner from miner with different pay settlements. Consequently, average monthly wages are only about £20.

Workers at Peru's largest copper corporation, SPCC, have been on strike since the middle of July. Silver miners at Carolina, among other places, are on strike. Zinc miners at Chanchamayo, steel workers at the Siderperu Company, and silver miners at Arcata are all threatening to join the strike.

The miners are demanding a large pay rise, a six hour day and retirement at 50, or after 20 years of mining work. Obviously we wish them the best of luck in their battle against the bosses. But unfortunately, there is a terrible irony to the last of their demands because the average life expectancy of Peruvian miners is only 40 years.

DAM

Workers at one of the world's largest copper and gold mines are on strike for the third time this year. The dispute at Ok Tedi mine in Papua New Guinea is over work conditions. This time the strikers mean business — roads have been dug up, air-strips blocked, telephone lines cut and some commercial premises looted. The mine's general manager said quaintly, 'The situation is serious'.

SPOT

GILLINGHAM OWN GOAL

A mole on the terraces at Gillingham FC tells us that P&O European Ferries are sponsoring everything that they can get their grubby hands on. So far this has not gone as far as shirts, but does include tickets, balls etc. Given that the Gill's shirts are sponsored by Chatham Maritime — Medway's equiv-

alent of the LDDC, it seems they're going from bad to worse. Militant Gillingham supporters are calling for a boycott of any souvenir with P & O's name on it, and if shirts with the scabs' name are introduced, a campaign will start to get the players to refuse to play in them.

BAGS OF TROUBLE

Women postal workers in Canada are not allowed to carry handbags to work because Canada Post management is accusing them of stealing mail and drinking on the job. They say that handbags allow the workers to conceal these items. Instead, they are demanding that women keep their belongings in lockers away from their station. These however, are unsafe, as break-ins have occurred — especially by nosy management.



"All they think about is money..."

The women refuse to accept this, saying that it is unfair as they need the bags to keep their sanitary towels in when menstruating — Canada Post says that they should report to male guards during their periods to get permission to carry them!

Many women workers have been suspended for disobeying this rule. Postal workers have been wearing clothes with lots of pockets and the mail has been slowed down in protest. There is talk of strike action in the near future.

DAM

Last month the government launched a £10 million advertising campaign to get more people to join the Territorial Army, and especially more 'officer material'. Tommy Macpherson, chairman of the National Employers Liaison Committee for the Reserves, who is leading the campaign is not exactly subtle — 'What we are after is the yuppie', he says, 'or more precisely the yuppie-at-arms'.

We can only hope that the yuppies get plenty of bullets through their earholes.

SPOT

AIRPORT '88

The incredibly unpopular London Dockland Development Corporation has been carrying out tests with the BAe 146 jet at London City Airport, despite assurances when it opened that there would not be any jets being used. The noise from jets will affect a considerable area of Newham, Greenwich and Thamesmead. The jets are twice as loud as the current turbo-prop planes, but the airport needs them to make more profitable long distance flights to Madrid, Milan, Vienna and Oslo. Residents are already fighting back against the encroachment of something they didn't want or need in the first place.

ELECTRIC BLUES

In August the EETPU won the vote 43-49 to be the sole union on the Docklands Light Railway. The NUR is claiming vote-rigging because nine workers did not get ballot papers. Never the less, the scabby leaders of the EETPU are jubilant and now fancy themselves becoming the sole union at the London City Airport, the Channel Tunnel, other parts of London Underground and all the new firms in London's Docklands.

The EETPU style of unionisation is not to approach the workers but to slog around all the employers offering strike free deals. Employers are undoubtedly attracted to this. This policy will come unstuck sooner or later when the current high wages in Docklands start to fall and strikes start occurring. Then the EETPU will be as frantic as the bosses trying to get the workers back to work, and it will then be obvious to anyone with eyes in their head that the EETPU is just like another wing of management.

P & O STRIKE SUPPORT

At the time of going to press the seafarers involved in the dispute against P&O European Ferries are still going, but only just. Support is much needed. Donations, etc. to:

DOVER SUPPORT GROUP,
210 LONDON ROAD,
DOVER, KENT.



A new P & O Strike Support Group has been set up in Woking, and would like people in Woking and the local area to get involved in their work.

Contact: WSSG, Woking Labour Party Offices, Owen House, Heathside Crescent, Woking, Surrey, GU22 7AG.



SUPPORT DIRECT ACTION

Have you got a secret? We've got the photos. For safe return of the negatives, send all your money to Direct Action, Box DA, c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7QX.

Please note: Direct Action now costs 30p. Quite cheap considering the sparks of rebellion that it helps to ignite are worth more than all the money on earth.

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.

DAM CONTACTS

NORTH EAST

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

Huddersfield—PO Box B20,
Huddersfield 1.

Leeds—Box DAM, 52 Call
Lane, Leeds 2.

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

SOUTH EAST

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

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

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

Deptford—PO Box 574,
London SE4.

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

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

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

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

DAM Postal Workers—c/o
East London DAM.

DAM Railworkers—c/o
Manchester DAM

DAM Unemployed / MSC
Workers—c/o Manchester
DAM and Norwich DAM.

OTHER GROUPS

Bristol—Box DAM, 37
Stokescroft, Bristol 2.

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

For contacts in Corby,
Kettering, Nottingham and
Wolverhampton write to Box
DAM, c/o Cambridge Free
Press, 25 Gwydir Street,
Cambridge.

CONTACTS

ASP (anarchist publishing
group)—for catalogues write to
BM Hurricane, London, WC1N
3XX.

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

Ford Workers Group ('The
Combine')—c/o 634 Green
Lane, Ilford, Essex.

Luton Class War—PO Box
196, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2.

Nottingham Anarchist
Socialist Group—Nottingham
ASG, Box 1, Hiziki, 15
Goosegate, Nottingham.

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

Plymouth Anarchists—PO Box
105, Plymouth, Devon.

NORTH WEST

Bolton—c/o Bolton Socialist
Club, Wood Street, Bolton,
Lancashire.

Burnley—5 Hollin Hill,
Burnley, Lancashire.

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

Manchester—c/o Box DAM,
Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly,
Manchester.

Preston—c/o Black Cat Press,
16-18 Lancaster Road, Preston.

For contacts in Crewe and
Cumbria write to North West
DAM secretary, c/o Burnley
DAM.

SCOTLAND

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

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

INDUSTRIAL

DAM Building Workers—c/o
East London DAM.

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DAM.

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Doncaster DAM and East
London DAM.

DAM Despatch Riders—c/o
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DAM Education Workers—c/o
Bolton DAM.

DAM Healthworkers—c/o
Cambridge DAM.

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 inter-
national, which was formed
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Deadline — October 24th

DIRECT ACTION

BASH THE FASH

Remembrance Day
Counter Demonstration
Sunday Nov 13th
Central London

ROCK THE BOAT

Every week more than 30 black people are deported or forced to leave this country as a result of racist immigration laws. These laws are the result of media hysteria and political pressure from neo-nazis and other racists in the late 1960's and 1970's, and of the efforts of the media and nationalist campaigns on the Tory far right. They are the institutional basis of racism which is still strong in spite of the demise of the neo-fascists from all but ghetto politics. This racism blames black people for unemployment, poor and scarce housing and health problems, and indo-British kids for a lousy education.

The response of the labour movement has consisted largely of empty declarations, and safeguards against effective direct action. Direct links between British and South African workers have been fought off more in fear of their possible effect on black trade-unionists than in sympathy of SACTU's stalinism. However, proportionally more black and asian workers are members of trade unions than are white workers, and just as the immigration controls are the cutting edge of state racism, so are anti-deportation campaigns leading the way in the labour movement.

POLITICAL ASYLUM

Probably the biggest such campaign at the moment is in support of NALGO member Marion Gaima from Newham who has lived in Britain for more than 15 years. Quite apart from the sheer length of time Marion has lived in Britain she has made a valuable contribution to the life of the community in which she lives and works, being employed in the London Borough of Hackney in environmental health, and doing voluntary work in Newham. In addition, her family was active in the politics of her native Sierra Leone, and the military government is persecuting them as a result.

After four years as a student, Marion's application for further leave to live in Britain was rejected in April 1978, but she was never notified. In August 1984 she was arrested, served with a deportation order, and detained in Holloway prison for two weeks. She was released in order to marry, which would have greatly strengthened her right to live here, but her partner became violent towards her and she left him. In October 1984

she was again arrested and detained in Holloway, and took advice to apply for political asylum, with the result that she was released in December pending consideration of her case. Asylum was refused in October 1986, and an application for judicial review was rejected by the High Court in July 1988. An appeal against this will probably be heard in October or November.

GROSSLY SEXIST

NALGO has taken up the case nationally under the slogan 'compassion not deportation', but the very fact that Marion is under threat of deportation makes such a slogan irrelevant. If the immigration laws were genuinely based on the dubious



concept of merit to stay in Britain, then 'compassion' would be an option for the home office, the total lack of compassion merely underlines their racist nature. The union's NEC had to be defeated at NALGO's annual conference in June in order to give Marion's campaign full support.

The kind of action taken so far has been petitioning and urging people to write to the Home Secretary. Petitioning is a good means of publicising a campaign locally and making contacts, but it should be seen as a means of raising support for direct action, not as an end in itself. Although individual cases can win, and NUJ member Som Raj won on 27th June 1988, the immigration laws are an attack on the working class, and require an adequate response — they have to be smashed. As well as being obviously racist, they are grossly sexist. Marion Gaima had to choose between deportation and marriage to a violent man. Another NALGO member facing deportation, Lisa Huen, left a husband who put her in hospital four times and was rewarded with a deportation order.

STREET CHECKS

Black and ethnic minority workers are being systematically criminalised. The new Immigration Act has been likened to the South African pass laws, because it makes 'overstaying' a visa by just one day a criminal offence punishable by deportation without appeal. All black and ethnic minority workers are now 'overstayers' until proven innocent; street checks on immigration status, raids on workplaces and home, already facts of life for many workers, are going to intensify. The message is don't stick your neck out, don't be an active trade unionist, don't strike, don't leave a violent husband.

We usually stress the need for direct action on the industrial front, but it is needed on the political front too, to resist the encroachment of the state on our lives and to fight off attacks. Even un-affiliated unions like NALGO are not really independent, but rely on parliamentary action, ie the Labour Party. Hackney Labour Council have pledged 'full support' to the Marion Gaima campaign, but dock the pay of her fellow workers when they leave work to show their support for her. Like NALGO's bureaucrats they are hypocrites playing a double game, 'supporting' right-on campaigns but blocking any action which threatens the system that they live off. Since it is that system we are having to fight, they must be swept aside.

BLOOD MONEY

In July, Thatcher stated in the House of Commons that sanctions against South Africa could only cause poverty and suffering for South African blacks, conveniently forgetting that this is already their condition, and it is they who shout loudest for sanctions. She pursues only the interests of British capital, while making assurances she knows will be empty about the possibility of talking away apartheid. South Africa is one of the most brutal regimes in history, one that has recently criminalised all opposition, no matter how mild, yet faces criticism from within its own ranks for being too soft.

Britain is the biggest foreign investor in South Africa. One of the worst companies, *Rio Tinto Zinc*, can even boast the Queenmother as being one of their shareholders. It is clear that the white masters of South Africa are not the only ones riding on the backs of the black South Africans. The rich masters of Britain make a sizeable profit from apartheid, and have no intention of losing it.

Countries with less sizeable investments in South African slavery can afford to shout louder. But they have just as little interest in seeing the apartheid regime fall. The sanctions they impose have less bite than bark, designed to be seen to be doing something, rather than actually fighting the apartheid state — who have never had any difficulty getting around them. Some of the countries that impose minimal sanctions are at the same time directly helping South Africa's destabilising of, and military attacks into, neighbouring countries.

CANNON FODDER

Through its control of Namibia, South Africa continually attacks Angola in support of UNITA, who themselves effectively operate as part of the South African war machine.

They, and therefore South African's interests, are also being funded by the US, Israel and Zaire. Far from an effective way to fight apartheid, but a policy that has in fact put 1 1/2 million Angolans in danger of starvation and has killed or mutilated a further 1/4 million. The Namibian people themselves are continually attacked, raped and killed by the death squads of the South African controlled puppet government. They are also used

as conscript cannon fodder by the South African military. Again, British companies, controlling 70% of the Namibian economy, are making a lot of money that they would lose if there was an end to South African control.

BASTARDS

The only people who can get rid of apartheid are the ones who are directly under its thumb. The organisations which they use to fight are not ones which are sympathetic to western military or economics in southern Africa. The growing militancy of the Namibian people is shown in the resurgence of a trade union movement and mass mobilisations.



Western powers cannot afford the price of the downfall of apartheid, and therefore effectively help it. We however, can not only afford its downfall, but would positively benefit from it. It is the same group of bastards making a killing from apartheid that are screwing workers in other countries. By waging a class war against them we can provide the strongest help for people struggling under apartheid and at the same time, best serve our own needs. We can build a free world without being robbed of our wealth, our freedom and our minds.