

# DIRECT ACTION



The Voice of Anarcho-Syndicalism No. 66 Sept. 1990 30p

## War Games

As the war machines are revved up workers throughout the world are being submitted to the usual propaganda designed to whip us all into line behind our respective rulers.

We've had Hussein as the new Hitler, and soon it'll be Iraqis eat babies (they are already starving them). We've had the US "defending international law" - just like they did in Panama and Grenada, not to mention Vietnam.

The Iraqi propagandists, on the other hand, talk of the great anti-imperialist struggle and the wonders of Arab brotherhood.

For the ruling class, "morality" is only ever a convenient cover for their economic and strategic needs. Control of the oil fields is what this is all about - nothing more!

Iraqi propaganda is echoed by the various left groups over here calling for "Hands Off Iraq". For instance the Socialist Workers Party hopes that Saddam Hussein will give Maggie "a bloody nose".

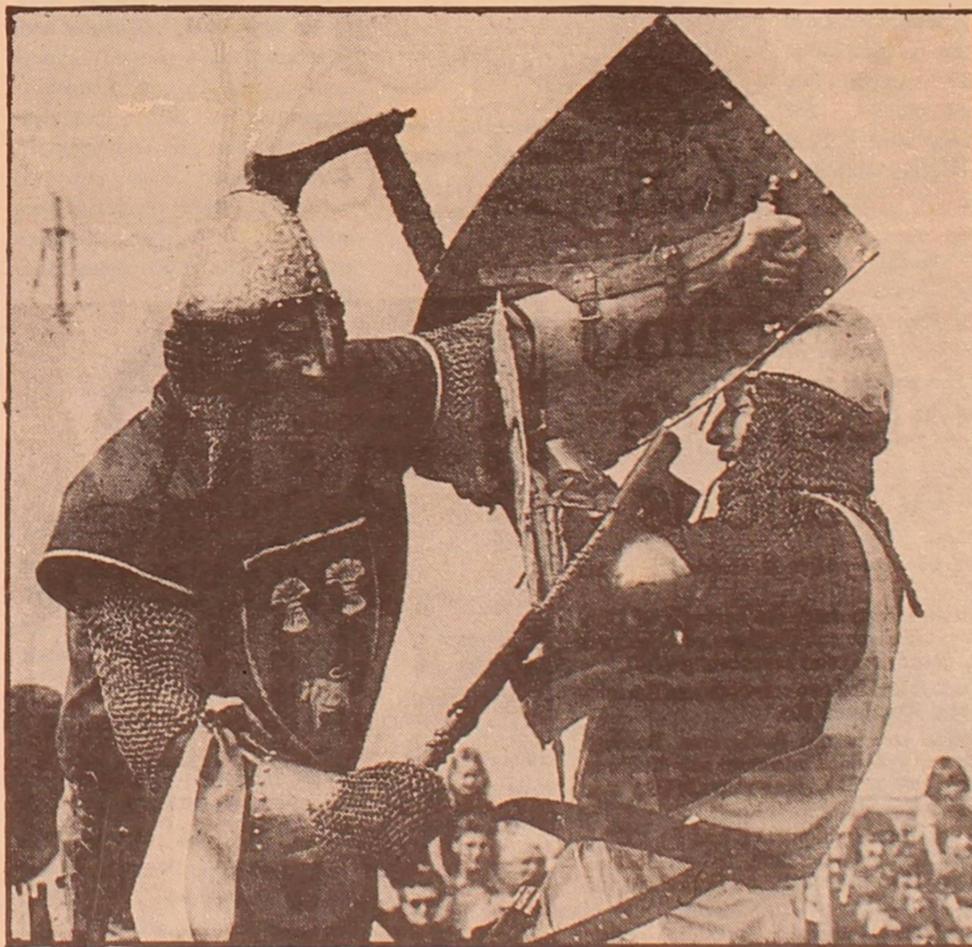
We do not. It is the working class that die in our rulers' wars. It is the working class that is made to pay for those wars - not just by cuts in living standards over here but, on the frontline, by starvation and destitution.

The propaganda is designed to take our minds off the war that is permanent to capitalist society: **the class war.** North Sea oil workers have shown the way by refusing to be blackmailed into giving up their fight "for the good of the country" (ie the oil companies' profits).

Our hope is that Iraqi workers will come increasingly to sabotage the war drive of their rulers, just as they did in eight-year Iran-Iraq war. The fraternisation of troops and the revolt of many Iraqi communities became so serious that Hussein was forced to bomb and gas "his own" people (no protest from the "defenders of international law" then).

It is the fear of the consequences of that happening again that holds back

# WE'RE NOT PLAYING!



"the Allies" from actively destabilising the Iraqi government. They would rather "madman" Hussein stay in power than give workers an opportunity to take their destiny into their own hands.

We refuse to be slaughtered in the interests of those twin gods, State and Capital. Rather, we welcome the day when all the "madmen" and "butchers" that make our lives a misery have been dealt with by the working class of the world.

That is why we anarcho-syndicalists of the International Workers Association will never cease in our fight for international solidarity between workers - across ethnic, racial and national lines.

We won't fight the ruling class's war games, which are waged at the price of working people's lives.

For us, there is no war but the class war!

# Striking Oil

Recent weeks have seen several 24 hour wildcat strikes in the North Sea for union recognition and safety. The long awaited Summer of Discontent is the biggest dispute in the 25 year history of the North Sea Oil Industry.

In these 25 years 600 offshore workers have lost their lives. The oil companies go along with Thatcher's return to Victorian values. Safety standards offshore are simply Dickensian. The bosses just find new ways for the workforce to die, because profit still comes before safety.

## SUBSTANTIAL PROFITS

The oil companies tried to claim that the strikers were holding back safety work on Emergency Shutdown Valves which stop gas from pipelines fueling a fire on a platform. The bosses have known about the necessity of ESVs for over a decade but did nothing until 167 offshore workers were killed in the Piper Alpha disaster in July 1988.

The Middle Eastern oil fields have never been secured by the western capitalists. Offshore workers in the North Sea, where production costs are very much higher, are forced to work 15 hours a day, 3 weeks on, 1 week off to ensure that the oil companies still make a substantial profit.

crashed into the North Sea. Another death during the strike was hushed up by the oil companies.

The seven offshore unions have been happy to be held back by government legislation and the non-cooperation of the oil companies, with a secret ballot for union recognition in case they might actually have to take some action.

This problem has been overcome by the strike being organised unofficially by the Offshore Industry Liaison Committee. It is an open rank and file committee that has been going for the last 16 months. It draws its members from the whole of the offshore workforce and is funded by their donations. However, the OILC strike committee makes important decisions without being fully accountable to the mass meetings.

## NEWS BLACKOUT

The OILC funds Blow-Out, an independent monthly paper which carries news and views the oil companies would rather not let the workforce see.

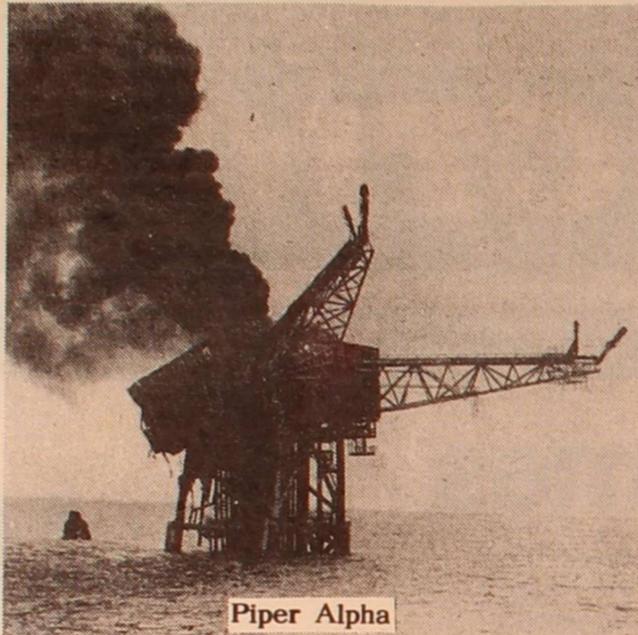
Throughout the dispute Shell and BP have tried to operate a news blackout, cutting off phone-calls to the OILC office and confiscating radios on platforms.

## SIT-INS

The OILC is mainly made up of construction, engineering and catering workers who are worse off than workers directly employed by the oil companies. Thousands of them, involved in maintenance work went out on strike.

After the first 24 hour strike 1500 workers began a sit-in on several North Sea installations because Shell and BP were flying strikers offshore, sending them home for a month without pay. Strikers picketed departure lounges to encourage other workers to keep up the sit-in. They occupied gangways between main platforms and accommodation platforms so that they could not be towed off and left isolated like last summer.

Strikers on the sit-in were sacked and workers coming onshore were forced to sign a no-strike agreement. Fortunately, it is not legally binding and the



Piper Alpha

action soon spread onshore. Mass meetings of the workers sent home marched on oil company offices.

## SPREADING SUPPORT

Women's support groups set up in Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh have played a very active part in the dispute. Thousands of onshore construction and engineering workers have come out in support. Even construction workers for Trident downed tools at the Clyde Submarine Base!



Offshore workers have showed their willingness to take the lead and use direct action and are prepared to jeopardise their jobs rather than return to business as usual.

Large pay rises earlier in the year didn't buy off the workforce. In some cases there had been no pay rises for 3 years and it still doesn't take them back to 1985 levels before the 1986 oil slump.

Whatever the outcome of the current dispute, they will continue their fight for a Continental Shelf Agreement giving trade union protection, regularly negotiated wages and conditions and the right for workers to sit in on safety committees in the whole of the British sector of the North Sea.

There is potential for the unrest to become international as the workers fight for parity with Norwegian workers. The

offshore unions have agreed not to negotiate separately, encouraging moves toward one big union for the whole of the industry.

These anarchosyndicalist tendencies must be encouraged so that an oil industry union is established which is run by the workers themselves and not by union bureaucrats who've never set foot on a rig.

## Glasgow DAM

Thanks to Blow-Out for their help. Copies of Blow-Out are available from the Offshore Information Centre, 52 Guild St, Aberdeen AB1 2NB.

## BILL THE DRILL

I THOUGHT I SAW JOE HILL LAST NIGHT: A Personal View by Bill the Drill

Joe Hill was an American union activist who lived in the early years of this century. His exploits were legendary, and so neatly did he fit into the spirit of the times, that like most legends if he hadn't actually existed it would have been necessary to invent him. The authorities paid him a back handed compliment, labeling him as a trouble-maker and labour agitator, which of course was just their way of saying that Joe had a mind of his own and could see through their criminal activities which were being passed off as free enterprise in the most brutal and expansionist period of American capitalism.

The story goes that when Joe was on his death bed he implored his fellow unionists not to mourn but to organise. It was said that such was the strength of his personality and commitment to the cause that wherever there was a workers' struggle of any sort the spirit of Joe Hill could also be there. The hairs on the back of my neck never fail to tingle when I hear that story... Now put that on hold for a minute. Last trip the P&J carried some memorials to the lads who were killed on the Piper. For me it was poignant reading. Anyway it took me an hour or two to settle down. I'm sure you know the feeling. A name

here, a bloke you occasionally drank with, a mate you traveled with, a phrase there (Shine on Crazy Diamond, we remember you), and Christ, even some you never particularly got on with. The heartache behind every simply worded memorium left you numb, and as you read the ages of the children left fatherless, the numbness gave way to frustration and then of course anger set in all over again.

Psychologists have remarked on the guilt which many of the survivors felt. Well I can't comment on that but I know of my own guilt. I know that I burn with shame when I confront the fact that it took something like the Piper to waken me up to the farce come tragedy which daily passes for industrial relations and safety on the North Sea.

Look! Joe Hill wasn't being hard hearted or cynical when he implored his fellow workers not to mourn his death. We in the North Sea can't forget. We'll never forget We'll never ask for whom the bell tolls, but two years on I've made a conscious decision. As God is my witness, I won't mourn the souls of any of our colleagues and friends who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the crude rush to extract oil from these troubled waters. I'll remember each and every one in the spirit of Joe Hill.

DON'T MOURN,  
ORGANISE!



## UNREST

The industrial unrest escalated when 7 more offshore workers were killed in the last week of July this year. Six of them were killed when a helicopter owned by Robert Maxwell

# In bad health

In late June Leicester's local media released a shock story of job losses and ward closures at the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

For most of the healthworkers effected, this was the first they'd heard. Whilst the head of Leicester Health Authority talked of alterations in priorities, staff faced being kicked out and redeployed, increasing waiting lists and an ever

NUPE made no real effort to reach its members, simply putting up rather inadequate leaflets in very obscure places. As ever, the Trade Union bureaucracy was totally divorced from its members.

The strategy put forward by Leicester DAM was: "Workplace meetings must be held where a strategy of resistance is worked out including occupation of

closing wards, refusal to transfer patients and solidarity strike action by other healthworkers".

This was proved correct depressingly quickly as wards began closing only a week after the cuts were announced.

## DECIMATED

Nationally the Tories have set out to destroy the NHS and in Leicestershire over the last year the health service has been decimated. There have been nearly 1000 hospital beds lost and all we've had in return is a vague promise that new buildings (one of which maybe ready in Autumn 1991) may generate about 700 beds. To defend what we have, we must fight now. Healthworkers, patients and the public are shocked by such cuts as shown by the good response to a demo in early August in Leicester where about 300 people turned up and where some good militant images were portrayed.

Only by refusing to accept management budgeting and taking control of doomed wards can we force health authorities to search more urgently for cash to keep our health service from closing.

Geoff, DAM Healthworkers



increasingly stressful workload.

5 WARDS TO CLOSE, 107 BED LOSSES, 167 JOBS TO BE CUT INCLUDING AT LEAST 55 REDUNDANCIES!

Faced with these huge cuts, the Joint Shop Stewards Committee organised mass meetings to discuss the next move. Over 50 domestic staff, who are not directly involved, turned up and voted to walk out, but the turn out by nursing staff was only a handful.

A slightly more successful event was the lobby of the Health Authority meeting which was to confirm cuts. But even though there was good attendance at this event, no fightback was organised.

## DAM LEAFLETS

NUPE are the most active Health Service Union in Leicester yet Leicester DAM put out more propaganda than NUPE managed to. The DAM group did several mass leafletting sessions which got a good response.

# Occupation for Unemployed

A struggle to save Doncaster organised by taking on the Unemployed Worker's Centre Council and drawing support erupted in August. The from women's groups, Poll Council want to site the Tax campaigners and Centre in useless, shared organised workers. They and smaller premises. The claim that the Council do users of the Centre were not not like the Centre's happy when the plans (linked prominent (and valuable) to Poll Tax capping cuts) town centre location and were announced and went into want to make the unemployed indefinite occupation of the invisible. In response, the local unemployed and their supporters need to be as visible as possible!

The users group has shown the potential of unemployed people when they get P, Doncaster



# Rip-Off!

Recent revelations in the WPA checked the 60 page press show that some private bill, they found a number of hospitals have been charging anomalies. Among the 6,000 people £2 for an aspirin, items was a charge of £6.80 for a strip of £129.38 for a tin of baby elastoplast, £7.45 for a powder. This was adjusted as disposable razor, £10 for a 'computer error' but a sleeping pill and £68 for an charge of £982.96 for 22 injection of a drug costing injections was defended as less than £4.

Apparently, 7 million people are covered under private medical insurance schemes and more than £1,000 million is spent annually on private health care in Britain. Profit margins are uncontrolled.

In a row between Western Provident Association (WPA) and BUPA, it was revealed that a patient insured by WPA had a hospital bill for £52,000 for 10 weeks in hospital (including a month in intensive care). When the

bill at £70.66 compared to a pharmaceutical trade price of £19.90. With the internal market moving nearer as every day passes, we can clearly look forward to similar problems when Health Authorities are billed by either self-governing hospitals or those in the private sector they send their patients to.



## DEAD POETS

The government is to employ Saatchi & Saatchi to mount a £2 million TV campaign to recruit teachers. It will feature Robin Williams playing John Keating from the film "Dead Poets Society" (the NUT has asked him not to do it).

"Dead Poets Society"? Isn't that the film about a good enthusiastic teacher who is beaten into submission and flung out of the profession by an authoritarian headmaster and school regime?!



## BOOM BOOM BOOM

Government mouthpiece "Employment News" had a bold headline in July. "Boom Boom Boom" it said, proclaiming a bonanza for small business. A pity the bosses in the CBI had to spoil the party by reporting increasing closures and bankruptcies of small businesses due to high interest rates at the end of the month.

## ALL CHANGE

According to the Home Office, Wandsworth prisoners are allowed to change shirts once a week, while those in Liverpool and Pentonville can change their shirts twice a week. People held in Leeds, Durham and Birmingham are allowed three shirt changes a week. Underpants and socks can usually be changed twice a week.



## GREAT CAPITALIST CONTRIBUTIONS TO HISTORY Pt. 23

The edible pencil is set for the production line, according to its Californian inventors, Constantin Boyn and Laurene Leon. The writing implements (or snacks, depending upon when you last ate) will be fashioned from dough and carbon. "Pencils are bitten and chewed so much that they are never really used to their full capacity" says Mr Boyn, who has patented his brainwave.

# The Cauldron of War

With the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait sparking off the latest Middle East crisis and bringing forward the usual simplistic reactions, with Saddam Hussain cast in the role of a madman or the new Hitler, it is surely time to look behind the propaganda and examine why the latest events took place.

The region has always been of strategic importance to the capitalist world. From the building of the Suez Canal, the various colonial powers vied to gain control of the disintegrating Ottoman Empire. Later, the increasing dependency on oil of the capitalist economies made the need to maintain influence and control in the area vitally important.

## RISING NATIONALISM

After the last war the British and French withdrew from the region but attempted, with American help, to ensure lasting influence by setting up pro-western regimes and maintaining control of the oil fields. This was later challenged by rising nationalist feelings and one by one the Arab states took control of their own oil production and adopted a neutral position, trying to

play off the two major power blocks to gain both economic and military aid.

Western influence became more covert with the United States supporting various factions or states to ensure western capitalist interests were not

be conservative. Syria, Egypt and Iraq vied to become the leader of the radical wing of Arab politics. To the west these states were dangerous and attempts were made to destabilize them to ensure they did not become too powerful.



threatened. The attempted moves to Pan-Arabism were perceived as dangerous and usually floundered and soon the Arab states were seen either as 'conservatives' ie more inclined to the west or 'radical'.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE were ruled in an almost feudal manner and tended to

## ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM

The rise of Islamic fundamentalism complicated the situation. Despite western attempts to prop up the Shah of Iran, he was toppled. Arab leaders also feared this upsurge and played down any pro-western beliefs.

Yet the influence of the west was undeniable. Saddam Hussain himself was brought to power in 1963 with the help of the CIA worried about the growing strength of the Iraqi Communist Party. During the war with Iran, Iraq was supported by the US through Saudi Arabia. This support helped ensure that the war would go on as long as it did.

After the ceasefire Iraq was left with a huge army, a crumbling economy and a crippling war debt. For them an increase in the price of oil was seen as the way to revive the economy and pay off debts. Also, internal discontent meant that Saddam needed a diversion. The claims on Kuwait and pressure to increase prices were the build up to the invasion.

## GAMBLE

The Iraqi invasion was a calculated gamble that has not paid off. Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the other Sheikdoms had no interest in increasing oil prices. For them the second major source of income is from investments on the western stockmarkets. The last thing they want to see is the western economies in crisis.

It is certainly not in the interests of the Arab working class who remain impoverished and exploited while living in an area of the world with the most sought after of resources.

## BLOOD MONEY

Whatever the final outcome, one thing is certain: it is the working class, be it Arab, European, American or Russian, who will pay the price. It is workers who fight and die in the capitalists' interests. It is workers who produce the wealth that capitalism is so eager to defend. The price of oil is measured in dollars but it is also measured in blood. No other energy resource has cost so much in human suffering and death. This applies not only to the Middle East but to the North Sea as well.

As anarchosyndicalists we can only reiterate our basic belief that workers should fight for their class and not for any country. Only by uniting across artificial boundaries against the common enemy can we ever hope to end the poverty and misery that workers live in throughout the world.

Manchester DAM-IWA

## Maggies farm

Deaths as a result of farming accidents are at their highest for four years. Sixty one people were killed on British farms in 1989 - 90. Factories and construction sites are not the only dangerous workplaces.

These figures are just the tip of the iceberg of problems faced by people

This decreases the number of homes available and shoves up prices.

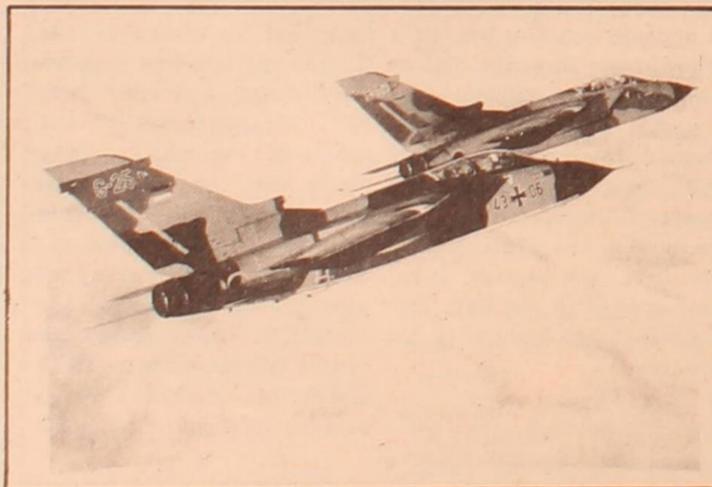
Job opportunities are limited and figures show the loss of 15,000 agricultural jobs in England alone between 1977 and 1986. The Poll Tax also causes problems for many rural workers, especially those living in tithed houses.



living in rural communities. As well as the 'usual' low wages and seasonal lay-offs, British rural workers now have housing problems caused by long distance commuters and assorted rich bastards buying up rural property for second (or third!) homes.

Perhaps it is time for a rediscovery of the tradition of rural uprising symbolised by the Tolpuddle martyrs in Britain and taken to greater achievements by the peasants of Spain and the Ukraine in the first 30 or so years of this century. The land to the workers!

## Call (another) air strike!



With oil supplies from the North Sea disrupted by the series of unofficial strikes organised by the Oil Industry Liaison Committee (OILC), is it only a matter of time before the government despatches destroyers, minesweepers and fighter-bombers, we ask ourselves?

Perhaps the Shetland Islands could stand in for plucky little Kuwait as the excuse for despatching a task force to sort out the OILC madmen

who have the audacity to demand union recognition and minimum safety standards. (Interesting also that the oil field employers are desperately crying for the official unions to take control of the wildcat OILC strikes, seeing as the employers wouldn't previously recognise even the feeble TUC unions.)

We say we don't give a damn about Thatcher and Bush's oil supplies. The only war worth fighting is the class war!

## Oil Up

Economic realities are just becoming apparent in Eastern Europe. The recent rises in oil prices after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait will have worried those countries more than in the past.

Before the upheavals, the Warsaw Pact states obtained their oil from the Soviet Union at a special price. But now they have been informed that they will have to pay the full market price, just like any other free market capitalist economy.

Czechoslovakia and Hungary already were contemplating a doubling of the cost of their oil and were worried about the effect on their economies. Now with the price increasing, even more strain will be put on them.

With unemployment already rapidly rising there can be no doubt that increased oil prices will add to more workers finding that western style capitalism is not all it's cracked up to be.

# Anti-semitism & fascism

The macabre attack on a Jewish cemetery in France, in which the newly-buried corpse of an 81-year old man was dug up and impaled on a spike, has focused attention on a series of such attacks throughout Europe. While they have achieved a level of publicity never given to the daily catalogue of attacks on black people and immigrants across Europe, their significance is being played down. They are characterised as 'mindless' or 'copycat' attacks, in the vain hope that their perpetrators will desist.

As Europe approaches the restructuring of frontiers which will produce, among other things, pan-European racist immigration controls in 1992, a pan-European racist movement is looking more of a reality. The rise of fascist electoralism in France and Germany, along with the virulent nationalist movements unleashed in Eastern Europe by the breakup of the Soviet empire, is giving the racists greater confidence.

## GENOCIDE

The Nazis' genocidal policy against the Jews (and the gypsies, Slavs, mentally-handicapped and homosexuals) of Europe has made the open expression of anti-semitism taboo as is no other form of racism. The neo-nazis are no less anti-semitic than their forebears, but they are aware of its capacity to alienate much of their wider support. Many who might be appalled by genocide have no qualms about immigration controls and deportations. Electoral parties in particular cannot afford to alienate such support.

It is a measure of the confidence the fascists feel that the anti-semitic attacks are now taking place. In Britain, a Jewish cemetery in Edmonton, north London, was attacked with sledgehammers and daubed with swastikas in May. Cemeteries in Leeds, Blakley, Manchester and Bushy, Herts., as well as a synagogue in Staines, Middx., have also been attacked. Attacks on Hasidic Jews (who have a distinctive appearance), particularly schoolchildren, in Stamford Hill, London, have increased in recent months.

The most openly anti-semitic of the active fascist groups is John Tyndall's British National Party, whose Hackney and Tower Hamlets

Branch (Stamford Hill is in Hackney) is organising in the East End around racial violence in schools.

Tyndall, of course, has a long nazi pedigree which goes back to the National Socialist Movement in the '60s. The party's leader, Colin Jordan, had declared "Hitler was right", but the open nazi stance caused it problems. Twelve nazis - including perfume heiress Françoise Dior, formerly Tyndall's fiancée and Jordan's wife - were convicted of fire-bomb attacks on 34 Jewish buildings in London. This ensured that race relations' legislation applied to Jordan, who was forced to change the party's name to British Movement.



BNP FUHRER JOHN TYNDALL

By then Tyndall had moved on to other things, becoming Chairman of the National Front in its heyday. The NF got neutralised as an electoral force, and marginalised politically for a number of reasons - they were physically opposed on the streets; the Anti-Nazi League successfully exposed the unsavoury backgrounds of Tyndall, Martin Webster and other NSM veterans; the respectable racists of the conservative party, notably Margaret Thatcher, stole much of their thunder.

## NAZI RUBBISH

Anti-semitism, for all its dangers, remains central to the nazis' politics. Their opposition to 'both' capitalism and communism, and to class conflict, requires an explanation which to the initiated is that both are tools of a 'World Jewish Conspiracy' using class conflict to divide and weaken the 'White Race' to ensure the dominance of the Jews. 'Black immigration' is a similar 'Jewish plot' to dilute and weaken the 'White Race'. That the nazis really

believe this rubbish can be seen from their booklists.



Pat Harrington

Promotion of social peace and racial nationalism are vital to the appeal of a successful fascist movement. To ban the lockout along with the strike is one-sided, and in practice they take the bosses' money to attack revolutionaries, whose internationalism and class solidarity they hate. The Third Position, developed by Italian nazi terrorists and championed by the wing of the NF which is now the Third Way Movement (led by Pat Harrington) is simply classic centrism dressed up by leftist rhetoric.

Trying to break out of the isolation of the nazi mould led to Harrington claiming in October 1988 that anti-Jewish members would be expelled from his party. Two hitherto key leaders, Derek Holland and Nick Griffin resigned in protest at this 'promise' and the party was subsequently renamed Third Way Movement to exploit confusion. Don't be fooled: Harrington was the author of "The Other Face of Searchlight" (the pro-zionist anti-fascist magazine) in which it was alleged that "the historical persecutions of the Jews have always started because of the actions of Jewish extremists".

NR, North London DAM

# POLAND

Polish revolutionaries have been maintaining levels of activity which puts their Western counterparts to shame. What follows is a chronology based on a report from the Polish Anarchist Federation covering just four months of 1990.

22 March 1990, Cracow - 300 anarchists marched to army prosecutors office demanding release of Mirek Mysior (facing trial for desertion), abolition of compulsory military service and dissolution of army "special force" units. Clashes with soldiers in full combat kit.

29 March, Cracow - Skinheads attack another demonstration of 500 for Mysior. Police have to save skinheads from being lynched.

31 March, Cracow - Anarchists, libertarian socialists and Trotskyists (KRET) picket British embassy in solidarity with anti Poll Tax movement.

6 April, Cracow - "Freedom and Peace" (WIP), KPN and Anarchist Federation demonstrate against rising fascist and nationalist currents.

6 April, Warsaw - RSA (Alternative Society Movement) hold 200 strong anti unemployment demo to cabinet building.

7 and 8 April, Rabka - Anarchist seminar organised by Black Alliance attended by delegates of many groups.

11 April, Warsaw - Anti militarist demo outside embassies of USA and USSR.

19 April, Cracow - Flyposters announce opposition to Solidarity leadership on day of their Congress. 500 activists demonstrated against collaboration, unemployment and exploitation. March

to Solidarity Civic Committee ends in occupation and chasing away of bureaucrats with CS gas canister.

1 May, Jaworzno - Anarchist organised demo against unemployment and plan for 24,000 mining redundancies.

1 May, Warsaw - Joint anarchist/left demo at 10 am to Culture Palace. At 1 pm several hundred anarchists returned to Culture Palace and fought with nazi skinheads guarding right wing parties meeting inside.

3 May, Warsaw - Anarchist and anti-militarists demonstrate against military parades commemorating 3 May Constitution (1791).

5 May Warsaw - Anarchist Federation picket British Embassy to call for end of war in Ireland on anniversary of death of Bobby Sands.

13 May, Warsaw - Anarchist Federation picket Chinese Embassy to commemorate Tiennanmen Square events.

15 May, Cracow - Anarchists demonstrate against death of Piotr Siouda (killed by KGB in USSR). Soviet Consulate attacked.

16 May, Warsaw - Anarchists block entrance to Soviet Embassy to protest against murder of Piotr Siouda.

19 May, Warsaw - RSA and others picketed Canadian Embassy to protest against brutality against Innu people (native North Americans).

24 May, Cracow - Street battles during demo for Siouda. Cops injured and 22 arrested. Two facing serious charges.

1 June, Gdansk - Violent demo at Soviet consulate over Siouda murder. Fire started and Soviet government demands protection of Soviet diplomatic offices in Poland.

1 June, Warsaw - RSA demonstration of Solidarity with Peking students outside Chinese Embassy.

4 June, Warsaw - Amnesty International, libertarian socialists and anarchists demonstrate outside Chinese Embassy. Chinese flag burned. Clashes with riot police. 9 arrested. One comrade hospitalised after beating from riot cops.



Polish riot cops

# AMAZON

The destruction of the Amazon jungle began with the arrival of European colonisers in the 16th Century, thus ending more than 20,000 years during which the indigenous population, calculated at between 2 and 10 million Indians, maintained a harmonious balance with the environment.

The devastation of the tropical forest has increased alarmingly during this century, particularly since the 1960's. The forest fires caused in 1987 and 88 alone destroyed a surface area comparable to that of Spain. If the destructive spiral continues in this way, the Amazon will have disappeared within 20 years.

## THE CAUSES

The blame must lie with the ruling class of the Amazon countries, as well as with an unjust international system. A system in which the directives of the International Monetary Fund and the developed nations are followed at the expense of exhausting the resources of the underdeveloped countries.

It is well known that Brazil is a country dominated by the military and the landowners. On taking power in 1964 the Brazilian military began a policy of 'integrating' Amazonia so as not to lose control, avoiding a so-called internationalisation of Amazonia. According to them this would be the consequence of 'non-occupation' of this vast, 'empty' space (they forgot, obviously, the natives and emigrants living in the jungle).

The most significant military project was that of Calha Norte, which involved making a clearing some 150 kilometres wide along the northern frontier of Brazil 'in the interests of national security' (?) endangering the way of life of the Yanomani people as well as the National Park of the same name.

## ESCAPE VALVE

Amazonia has served as an escape valve for the uncontrollable social pressure of the poor, due to the absence of agrarian reforms and to great social differences. The concentration of land in Brazil is in the hands of



very few. 1% of owners hold 45% of the cultivatable land. 800,000 square km of agricultural land in the south of the country, in the hands of the big landowners, is under-used or dedicated to speculation.

Thousands and thousands of families see the jungle as somewhere they can take over land for cultivation or where they can get rich by mining gold and other minerals.

This enormous mass of people is being swindled through the colonisation projects undertaken by the government and financed/dictated by the IMF. These projects do not take into account the meagre

or zero agricultural/cattle-raising fertility of the jungle, and promote crops that are not suited to the special characteristics of the soil of the Amazon ecology.

Consequently the agricultural policy that has come to be practised is one of deforestation - exploitation - exhaustion - abandonment and taking over of new areas - deforestation... (the cycle is repeated). A trail of destruction is thus left.

## MULTINATIONALS

Repayment of the foreign debt, in Brazil (\$120,000 million) as in the other countries of the region, has

given rise to the penetration of the multinational corporations and the dictates of the World Bank. The large-scale economic projects demand enormous investment, which in turn necessitate new loans, thus leading to a vicious cycle of debt and inflation (currently 1,000% a year).

The multinationals have fixed their sights on the vast resources to be exploited in the jungle. Nippon Aluminium, Rio Tinto Zinc, Reynolds, Volkswagen, Kawasaki Steel, Bethlehem Steel and Shell are amongst them.

We can look at the Albras

and Alunorte projects for the exploitation of aluminium mines to provide the Japanese market. The Carajas Grande plan jeopardises the survival of an area of forest as large as Spain, Portugal and Italy put together, together with the indigenous life and culture, in order to mine iron ore and supply the EEC with half of the metal it needs in the next few years. There are also projects to exploit manganese by the US (Amapo), tin (Rondonia), cellulose and paper (Jaray), petroleum, cattle-raising and agriculture for export, etc...

## IRRATIONAL

For these purposes huge hydroelectric plants are necessary (like those of Tucuruí), which will flood enormous areas so as to be able to supply the vast amounts of energy required. The building of roads to give access to these raw materials will demand the deforestation of extensive areas.

The consequences of the destruction of nature, the irrational exploitation and exhaustion of resources, and the contamination will be paid for by the Amazonian countries and by the rest of humanity, while the benefits will line the pockets of a few in the so-called developed nations.

(Translated from the July issue of 'CNT')

# WHY THE AMAZON MUST LIVE

With a circumference of some 6 million square kilometres spanning Brazil (where more than half of its area is concentrated), Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Surinam and the Guyanas, Amazonia constitutes the largest uninterrupted mass of forest on earth.

It is also the largest water collecting basin on the planet. The Amazon river contains a volume 4 or 5 times greater than the river Congo, 17 of its tributaries are longer than the Rhine... One fifth of all the world's fresh water flows along it.

## GENETIC BANK

It is the major 'genetic bank' of our planet, with

no less than 2 million species of plants and animals. The majority remain undiscovered or not scientifically recorded and are exclusive to this habitat. It encompasses more than 1 million known species of fish, one eighth of the planet's birds...

The lush vegetation is the cause and effect of the constantly high temperatures, the abundant humidity and water. However, the soil is extremely poor, since it retains no nutrients or mineral salts, this wealth being found in the plant material itself.

Because of this, when the forest is felled fertility is lost and inexorable erosion sets in. Obviously

such land is inadequate for conventional agriculture and cattle-raising.



## GREENHOUSE EFFECT

The disappearance of the Amazon will bring the destruction of the indigenous population, already reduced to less than

1 million.

The ecological consequences of its destruction will effect the whole planet. The climate will be effected, drought will be increased, as well as the GREENHOUSE EFFECT by the increase in Carbon Dioxide. The 'sponge effect' will disappear with which rainfall will become erratic and will produce devastating floods. Also, the circulatory system of the winds will be altered. An immense genetic inheritance of flora and fauna will be lost.

In the South American regional economy capacity for food production and meaningful economic self-sufficiency will be reduced. ('CNT')

# British Justice

The release of the Guildford Four last year, as well as the quashing of the convictions against the Winchester Three, has seen the start of a process where the system of legal repression of anti-unionists in Ireland and the Irish in Britain has come under significant pressure. This has also led to it losing much of the credibility needed to fulfil its function as, in General Kitson's phrase, "a propaganda cover for the disposal of unwanted members of the public".

However, the function of the Prevention of Terrorism Act as a means of gathering low-level intelligence on, and intimidating the Irish in Britain remains largely intact.

The British State is also carrying out damage limitation procedures. This means, for example, that the Winchester Three, released on a "technicality", are immediately served with exclusion notices and deported. This measure being calculated to suggest that they were really guilty, but were freed by the "fairness" of British Justice.

## MAGUIRE SEVEN

The "confession" of Gerry Conlon, one of the Guildford Four, also implicated his aunt, Anne Maguire, who was convicted, along with six other people, of running a non-existent bomb factory. These are known as the Maguire Seven. On 11th July, the Home Secretary referred their case to the Court of Appeal, on the basis of the findings of the May Report on the convictions.

The fact that the dodgy forensic evidence crucial to the Maguire case has been demolished is good news for the Birmingham Six, who were convicted on the basis of similar evidence as well as their forced "confessions". Along with the discrediting of the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad, who beat the "confessions" out of the Six, this makes their release a matter of time and pressure. Damage limitation is the reason for the delay in exonerating the Six, just as it was for the release of the Guildford Four.

## TABLOIDS

Daily Mirror mouthpiece, Joe Haines, has challenged the view that "everyone knows"

the Birmingham Six are innocent. An interesting piece of schizophrenia from the Labour right - keen to score points off the Tories by pushing for the cases to



● The Birmingham Six: (clockwise from top right) Hugh Callaghan, Bill Power, Gerry Hunter, John Walker, Dick McKenny and Paddy Hill

be reopened, but needing to shore up the system. The Sun's Garry Bushell went even further.

In the course of an article on the "Armagh Four" - four members of the Ulster Defence Regiment convicted of a sectarian murder in 1983 - Bushell painted an absurd picture of mass media controlled by left-wing pro-republican forces.

## ARMAGH FOUR

Winston Allen, Noel Bell, Jim Hagan and Neil Latimer were convicted of the murder of Adrian Carroll on the basis of dodgy identification evidence and forced "confessions". The case has come to light as a result of campaigning on their behalf by friends and relatives, including a six-day hunger strike in February.

Ulster Volunteer Force(UVF) sources admitted involvement in the killing of Carroll back in November last year. Why the RUC were so keen to convict the Four is a question that needs answering. Carroll came from a well-known republican family. His brother Roddy was an INLA member assassinated by the RUC in one of the "shoot-to-kill" killings investigated by Stalker. Another brother, Tommy, is a prominent local member of Sinn Fein.

The hit may have been intended for another member of the family, and set up by MI5 or the Special Branch. Framing four members of the UDR, notorious for its

sectarianism, would have been an ideal cover-up.

## PAISLEY

These questions are not being raised by the Four's establishment "supporters". They are cynically using the case to fuel the "Hands Off the UDR!" campaign of Ian Paisley's DUP.

The February hunger strikers summed up their demands: "All we ask for is British Justice, not just for the

UDR Four, but for anyone who has been wrongly convicted and imprisoned by the [no jury] Diplock Courts".

When it comes to the crunch, the unionist population of the Six Counties can no more expect justice from the British State than anti-unionists can. It will always dispose of their lives as it sees best. Writer Robert Kee, whose book "Trial and Error" helped publicise the cases of the Guildford Four and Maguire Seven has pledged support to the Armagh Four, and says that the Dublin-based Free the Birmingham Six Committee is also willing to help. Anarcho-syndicalists and anti-imperialists should support the campaign to get to the truth about the Armagh Four.

## JUDITH WARD

We should also not assume that the Birmingham Six and Judith Ward (another frame-up victim from the 70's) will get released as a matter of course. The greater the pressure the less damage the state will be able to repair.

The Irish victims of frame-ups and show trials must be supported, not because they are the only people for whom there is no "British Justice", but because the fight against injustices against Irish people is a blow against all injustice. It is no use saying that no-one gets justice from the British state, that way leads only to apathy. By



establishing that Irish people are oppressed in specific ways for specific reasons we raise the question of how and why WE are oppressed.

Finally, Home Secretary, David Waddington's statements that he is considering giving defence solicitors greater access to prosecution evidence, as a result of the May Report, should be taken with a pinch of salt.

Solicitors working for the Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign met stiff resistance to their requests for all the photographic and video evidence from the events of 31st March. This evidence is believed to prove that police used riot units without provocation and engaged in indiscriminate violence, only shots which suit the prosecution case were being released. Political trials are governed by political considerations. They can and must be fought on that basis.

F.O'NEILL

## Dirty Den

After the recent remarks in the Spectator by Nicholas Ridley another right-wing bigot has shown his colours.

This time Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, has taken the opportunity to confirm what we have always suspected.

In an interview he stated that the death penalty should be used and that the Guildford Four and the Birmingham Six should have been hanged.

He claims the Guildford Four were probably guilty and "we shouldn't have all those campaigns to get the Birmingham Six released. If they had been hanged they would have been forgotten



and the whole community would have been satisfied."

He also had a go at a few establishment figures and called Leon Brittan "a German Jew telling us what to do with English law".

The only question remaining is are the ramblings of Denning and Ridley simply that or are they the beginnings of a wider campaign to raise racism and national chauvinism to a new level?



## Constructive Anarchism

THE FOLLOWING IS A SHORTENED VERSION OF AN ARTICLE THAT APPEARED IN 'MERSEYSIDE ANARCHIST'

Anarchism is constructive, and because of this undeniable fact, anarchist theory totally rejects the charge of idealism or Utopianism. It uses the historical method in an attempt to prove that the society of the future is no anarchist invention but the irresistible product of social history.

And because Anarchism is constructive, Anarchism is organised living society - order, not disorder, the natural order in contrast to the artificial order imposed

One of the biggest hurdles to overcome is parental possessiveness and the "my way is the right way" attitude. We all relate to people differently and it is a part of growing up for children to learn this. While adults are looking out to see how the parents are reacting they are not looking out for the child. Parents must learn to trust other adults but this will only come when that trust is earned.

collective responsibility for childcare, there are some who do not wish to spend their time looking after children. This is something that the "it's your turn in the creche" brigade refuse to accept. We must be free to choose where to put our energies: though we may not be a doctor, we have an obligation to ensure the sick and injured receive the health care they need. The same obligation applies to children.

As with most things, there is a contradiction between how we should act and demands we should make on the bosses and state. Even in workplaces safe for children, no boss is ever going to allow the efficiency of his business to be effected by children running in and out of playrooms and workers taking off time to play with them. So we have to demand workplace creches, nursery schools or other restrictive means of childcare. But at the same time we must be aware that these methods are not building the structures and attitudes of the free society we are aiming for.

Malc, Doncaster

from above - it is true unity as opposed to the false unity brought about through force and domination. Anarchism is the highest degree of liberty and order to which humanity can aspire.

### CLASS ORGANISERS

Those so-called 'Anarchists' opposed to organisation make the fundamental error of believing that organisation is impossible without authority, and so reject any kind of organisation. But I would still prefer the authority which imprisons and saddens life to the disorganisation which makes it impossible.

Anarchists are not only the

massive surplus produced not in the interests of feeding the world's population but to satisfy capitalist economic food quotas and price manipulation of the markets. The vast consumer society of the west is not created in the interests of free consumer choice but of capitalist competition and higher profits.

This fact has not in any real way stopped people in the west from accepting it or people in the 'developing world' looking towards it as the ultimate goal in society - freedom of consumer choice. It doesn't matter that, for example, the dozens of different washing powders are all made by the



protagonists of true organisation, but first class organisers. However, this new organisation must be established freely, socially, and above all from below - for and by the working class. The principle of organisation mustn't issue from a centre created in advance so as to impose itself on society, but it must come from all sides of society to create co-ordination and natural centres to serve all.

What a Social Revolution will put in place of government is Industrial Organisation. This new organisation will push to the fore of society the principle of 'self-management' - workers control of the means of production, community control of cultural society ie, communism in its truest and most creative form.

### CONSUMER CHOICE

The western capitalist system is geared towards making the greatest profit possible. The creation of massive food mountains left to rot in huge warehouses is due to over-production - a

same company and that there is no such thing as true competition because you get what you pay for (usually rubbish as you're paying for a name). It really is one big enormous con.

But society is ultimately geared toward feeding the masses, for the economic system (whichever one) will not survive if it can't produce enough food, energy, warmth etc. Capitalism has survived, grown and expanded from the west at the expense of the vast majority of people across the world. It holds down the oppressed through its State machinery of courts and police and those in the 'developing' world through military might.

Past experience has demonstrated that Social Revolution increases demand and diminishes production and the country that engages in it will find itself encircled by Imperialist aggression.

These circumstances result in shortages and hunger. Hence it is vital to prepare in advance to prevent or

## Not Seen And Not Heard

There has been a lot of talk in the press recently about the need for workplace creches in order to attract mothers back to work. The demand for creches has been widespread amongst leftists and the women's movement. But what exactly does a creche mean?

Creches or nurseries mean a number of things. First of all they separate children from adults. Secondly, they lead to the creation of full-time or professional childminders. In general, they draw divisions between those who are and those who aren't responsible for caring for children.

The care of children is a non-stop affair and not something that can be switched on and off. As social revolutionaries we believe that the caring for and rearing of children is ultimately the responsibility of the whole of society. Dividing children from adults is alien to these ideas.

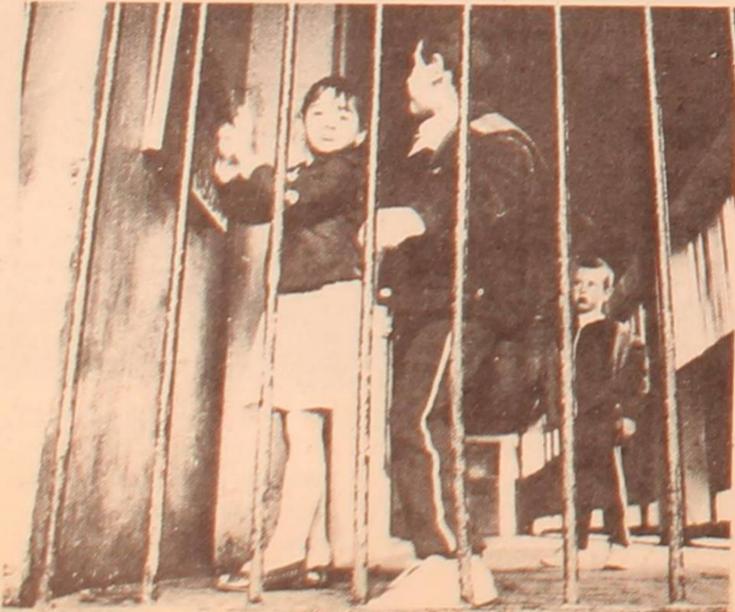
Creches are like schools, separate from the real world. As schools lead to the creation of 'expert' teachers, creches lead to 'expert' childminders. This division with experts who 'know best' is totally against any natural process of education, personal development and relationships.

People relate to one another

in one of two ways, either on an individual basis (as lovers, friends or family) or in larger groups for collective activity, work, leisure or political events. Creches do not allow adults and children to relate as individuals nor is it shared activity. Like school, it is a battleground, with children either competing for the attention of adults or trying to avoid it.

For childcare to be taken on by the whole of society all adults must be aware of the needs of children. This means being aware that children need to be cared for, educated and protected. This is a non-stop thing and isolating children into schools, creches and the family home cuts adults off from their responsibilities.

Within our own organisations we must allow children to "be" at our meetings and activities. Children should be allowed to mix and play around events, as well as having a space where they don't have to be quiet. We all have to be responsible for children, shepherding the younger ones and talking with the older ones. It means allowing children to participate and explaining the whys and wherefores of what we are doing. It means not shooting into the pub after events, leaving the parents and children stuck outside.





**"Constructive Anarchism" continued**

diminish such circumstances. It needs to be decided by whom and on what principles production and the defence of the revolution are to be organised. Such measures require Anarchist organisation of the highest degree. For Anarchists to fail in this would be criminal.

The new society resulting from the Social Revolution will seek ways and means to assure the integration of labour, breaking all monotony. A syndicalist society will also struggle to bring about the ever closer co-ordination of industry and agriculture.

**FREEDOM OF LABOUR**

The Union, based on Anarchosyndicalist principles, will be the main form of economic organisation.

In the interests of achieving smooth functioning and efficient communism in industry and to prevent the possibility of one industry or workplace going against collective interest, a system of unification needs to be established. This would be an economic federation with a supreme assembly at its head. Unification would ensure the technical and administrative means to join all industries into one organisational whole, ultimately on a world-wide scale. The Assembly would balance supply and demand, direct, direct, distribute and share out world

Anarchosyndicalism totally rejects compulsory industrial mobilisation or labour battalions. The main principle of syndicalist production is 'freedom of labour' ie everybody's right to choose the type of activity most attractive to them, the right to change jobs etc, with consideration to the prevailing social and economic circumstances of the day.

industrial production amongst the different federations and therefore crisis in trade and employment, enforced stagnation, world poverty and hunger should all disappear.

**FREEDOM OF INITIATIVE**

The principle of 'equality' ie equal sharing in accordance with increasing production, is fundamental. The criteria for this must be the minimum necessary for human subsistence, with allowances for dependents and special needs. This bare minimum will increase as production grows.

As for small scale industry, Anarchosyndicalism, rejecting the idea of compulsory integration into large scale production, will implement the principle of co-operation, encouraging freedom of initiative.

Each person will have the right to work. This fundamental principle places on society the obligation to

provide everybody with reasonable socially useful work. In the event of not enough work to go round, society has the obligation to maintain people on a level equal with everyone else until work can be provided.

As for those who, though fully capable of work desire to have their right to indolence, society will make no effort to limit that right but will leave them to die of starvation. A society whose very foundation is work must carry out the principle "Those who do not work of their own free will shall not be a part of society". Those who cannot work will be fully provided for in every possible way as will retired people, keeping them on an equal footing with others in terms of the necessities as well as comforts of life.

Communism is a social order based on liberty and the material well-being of all. Under such a system there will be no need to struggle

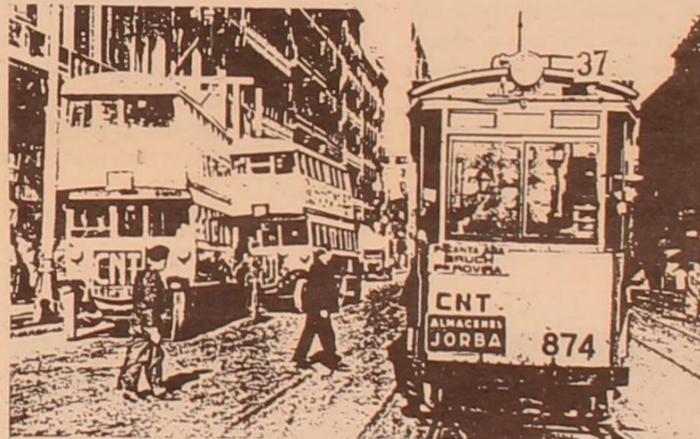


for the rights and protection of labour. Labour, ceasing to be an object of exploitation, will become the guiding principle in the socio-economic order. Society as a whole will take care of the health and labour of each individual and vice versa, while respecting each others rights.

Society will have an obligation to provide a comprehensive education system preparing young people for socially useful work. All forms of inequality and discrimination based on sex, race, sexuality and age will be fought in every way.

**IN TRANSITION**

In the transition period wages will be abolished because hiring somebody's labour will be abolished. The producer will not be a hired worker but an active and equal member of society. Every participant will receive an equal share of the public wealth. The size of this share will depend on the efficiency of production which in turn depends on the members of the communist economy themselves.



Anarchists are federalists and this structure is a dual one: economic in the form of a federation of self-managing workers associations and administrative in the form of federations of geographically organised community associations.

**FEDERALISM**

Industrial organisation would be on a federalist basis. Past experience shows that centralised state-planned economies lead to the bureaucracy, the emergence of an 'official' class, the removal of workers control and ultimately to economic crisis as can be seen all too clearly in Eastern Europe and China.

Anarchist Syndicalism calls for production to be organised on the lines of technical concentration and administrative decentralisation. We're not against centralisation just for the hell of it - but because it doesn't work. We advocate a form of non hierarchical democratic planning.

**Knee-capped**

Nancy Gracey is organising a campaign against kneecapping in the north of Ireland. Her activity started following the kneecapping of her son after he had a fight which involved a man who had done time for IRA activity. The fight was on a minibus returning from a charity evening when one group objected to the singing of republican songs.

were then brought out to see him.

After being questioned by the IRA, five men smashed their way into Paddy Gracey's home but he managed to escape. Twice more they came for him and both times he escaped. Three times his mother went to see the local "boys" and three times she got Paddy's safety assured.

Last year there were 96 kneecappings in republican areas (and 65 in loyalist ones) as well as numerous beatings. This is the highest total for 15 years.

Eventually, Paddy, his girlfriend and their four year old son agreed to a meeting in a pub to discuss the situation. Armed men took Paddy outside and shot him in the left leg. Only a jammed gun saved the other leg. His girlfriend and son

British state propaganda would have us believe that these kneecappings are the result of terrorist godfathers keeping control over a reluctant community. IRA supporters would have us believe that it is the only way to keep down anti-social

elements in areas where there is very little trust in the police. The reality is probably somewhere in between.

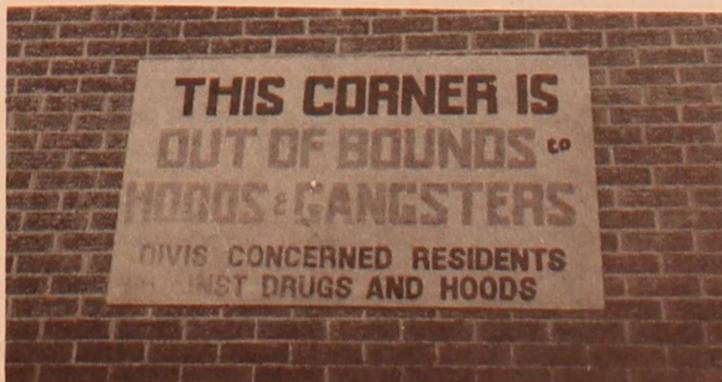
If, as supporters of the IRA claim, they are anti-social elements and at the same time the IRA has widespread support in these communities, then why resort to kneecapping? The naming of individuals involved in crimes against the community could be circulated, resulting in the person being barred from pubs and clubs, not being served in shops or getting lifts in

taxis. This form of community retribution would be highly successful in the enclosed communities of places such as Belfast. Of course such actions would give power to those without guns.

**INDEPENDENCE**

Of course physical retribution may be necessary, but ultimately it is a sign of weakness and not of strength. A community that could enforce curfews on people or do justice to people who have been wronged would be a community that would be independent. It is this independence that the IRA is opposed to.

The IRA is involved in a war with the British state but you don't win a war by putting more bullets into your potential supporters than you do into the enemy. As Nancy Gracey says "I don't understand why they do it. They are making enemies for themselves."



# OFF THE ROAD

"Don't run screaming from the room", is the first piece of advice given by NALGO's National Lesbian and Gay Steering Committee to heterosexual women when meeting Lesbians. Other gems on this list of so-called advice include "Don't assume you're not attracted to her"; "Don't invite her someplace where there will be men unless you tell her in advance. She may not want to be with them". And lastly, "Don't assume her heart will leap if you touch her arm".

Let's pretend for a minute that this is a guide for

of this guide assume a Lesbians' sexuality is so ever-present on her mind that that would be the thing she'd chat about when say, going for an after work drink with a co-worker. Why wouldn't she be as likely to chat about rubbish telly programmes like anyone else? By the time most people get around to the details of their personal lives, they would have already sussed if they got on with (and trusted) a particular person.

Surely a more useful publication from NALGO (or whoever) would be a guide



hetero women when meeting hetero men. How then do these words of wisdom sound? "Don't assume that he's dying to talk about his sex life and relationships - but don't expect him not to"; "Don't immediately start telling him about your boyfriend or husband. Don't assume that he is not attracted to you".

This Steering Committee has just driven right off the road. The point about meeting people is that it should be done on a one to one basis - not just swapping reactionary stereotypes for 'right-on' ones!

The divisions in our class arise out of ignorance and fear. By underlining sexual stereotypes, albeit in a supposedly right-on way, a guide like NALGO's is reinforcing divisions. Why on earth would a Lesbian be more inclined to talk about her relationships than anyone else?

In other words, the authors

countering myths (ie myths about Lesbians and s & m; myths about why women choose to love one another sexually and not men, etc) and stereotypes (ie "there's always a dominant one and a passive one") and which presents sexuality in a positive healthy way.

MA and DS, S Yorkshire



Dear DA,

The short article in the last issue of Direct Action (DA no 65) regarding the world cup entitled "ITALIA 90" was to say the least crap. Whether or not it was written to stir up response and open up a letter's page is besides the point.

To say that: "I don't think it's very useful for revolutionaries to indulge in sterile moralising on these occasions" sounds like a mouthful of marxism to me. It's true that the World Cup only comes around every 4 years and that we see some of the best football the world has to offer in the space of a month, which I enjoy, but to write off the deaths of 26 working class Italians by making out that anybody who protests too loudly is a moralist is not only insulting to building workers the world over but also totally misses the point.

The rush job made of the stadium was down to bad

## LETTERS

planning and more than likely the usual corner cutting by those in charge. The deaths were defiantly not some unavoidable or 'necessary evil' without which the world cup couldn't have gone ahead. It goes without saying that the stadiums could have been built without serious injury.

To protest the deaths of workers at the hands of big business has got bugger all to do with moralising. After all, I don't think anybody suspects DAM of being the Colin Moynihan Fan Club but that we are quite simply interested in safer working conditions.

Cheers, Mick, Glasgow

### REPLY

Dear Comrade,

Either you didn't read my article fully or I didn't write it very well. (Probably a bit of both...)

Of course 26 needless deaths and all that money spent not least to glorify the Italian State are indefensible. I thought I said that in the article. And of course it was right for the Italian anarchists and others to protest against the tide of red, white and green triumphalism, just as the Spanish anarchists are right to be already gearing up to protest at the Barcelona Olympics and the celebrations of the 500th centenary of Columbus' "discovery" of America in 1992.

What I meant by "sterile moralising" is that attitude which some adopt of totally ignoring the event, usually because they don't particularly care for the sport anyway. Much better to be a cynical observer (and protester) than go off to be a hermit in the desert for a month.

And of course we'll have things like the Mondiali 26, Hillsborough, Heysel, Bradford etc, for as long as the bastards dictate the rules of the game...

D.M.

THE FOLLOWING WAS SENT TO 'DA' IN JUNE. WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH STUART SINCE AND HE IS NO LONGER ON HUNGER STRIKE. HOWEVER, HIS FIGHT FOR JUSTICE CONTINUES (HE IS IMPRISONED ON ROBBERY CHARGES). STUART NEEDS PEOPLE TO WRITE TO HIM AND SHOW THEIR SOLIDARITY.

Dear Sir/Madam

I write to inform you that as from 07.06.90 I have been on hunger strike ... and will continue until my 5 demands are met. I fight for justice so that my son and my nephew and nieces may not have the chance to become the next figure on the already high list of victims of injustice.

I cannot sit back and watch while people like the Birmingham Six are still imprisoned for a crime they did not commit. I will continue to fight so that one day the British and Irish people may feel safe about the judiciary system.

I ask for support so that together we will force the people in higher authority to create safeguards so that our children and their children may be protected from corruption in both the British justice system and the British police.

My demands are as following:

- 1) Retrial where I will be able to call witnesses.
- 2) The Home Office take my protest seriously and look into my case.
- 3) An independent enquiry into the tampering of my mail here at Full Sutton which I have proof of.
- 4) No more forcing us to work in low paid jobs.
- 5) More educational projects instead of jobs such as Cut and Sew and lawnmower repairs.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Dilsworth

BG2179 Dilsworth  
HMP Full Sutton  
York YO4 1PS



## Gloves Off

On 6 August Sheriff Officers were attacked in Belshill outside Glasgow when they attempted to carry out pointings in the homes of Poll Tax non payers. 50 people surrounded their car, rocking it. The car was damaged with 'Scum' smeared on the body-work with chips. They didn't bother coming back 4 days later when 200 protesters turned up to physically stop pointings planned at 12 homes in the town.

After the first day, 50 Poll Tax protesters occupied the offices of the sheriff

WE'RE NO PAYING



THE POLL TAX!

officers responsible. The police forced their way in and arrested them, causing thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Fortunately, Strathclyde Police Force has had to be cut because of non payment of the Poll Tax. Another bloody good reason not to

## BYE BYE £327MILLION

"Non payment of Poll Tax to Poll Tax capped councils already outweighs what they will lose from capping over the whole year". So said Municipal Journal after a surgery at the end of the first quarter of the financial year. The report suggests that the quarter's total shortfall for rates and charges in the 21 capped authorities could be as high as £ 327 million. Patten

wanted the councils to cut £216.7 million in the financial year

The figures show that mass non payment is having an effect. The councils must be pushed into a crisis situation across England and Wales, and council workers must unite against not just capping but against the whole Poll Tax fiasco. The government must be faced

with the wholesale collapse of local government and a total revolt of council workers spreading to the rest of the public sector and beyond. United we will win.

\*\*\* Join your local anti Poll Tax group.

\*\*\* Fight for workplace action against wage arretments, cuts and the tax itself.

Dear DA,

Please could you advertise the next meeting of the Class Struggle Anarchist Network?

It will take place at 11am

on Saturday 29 September in Huddersfield Polytechnic. More details can be had from CSAN, PO Box 446, Sheffield S1 1NY.

Many thanks,  
Keith, Liverpool DAM

Letters continued

Dear D.A.,

I feel that Malc missed an important point in his article on the corruption allegations against Scargill in the last issue...

As Malc said, an anarcho-syndicalist union has no bureaucracy, any office holders remain workers (or are paid the average wage in the industry), and they're recallable and accountable. Which is a million miles from the fat cats of the bureaucratic TUC unions.

But just as the invasion of Kuwait is not what the Western powers are concerned about in the Persian Gulf (but rather oil and geopolitics), when 'The Mirror', 'The Sun' etc. attack Scargill they are not really concerned about his not inconsiderable wage, £125,000 home, or the fact that he's N.U.M. President for life.

Scargill has been a bete noir for the ruling class for years, long before they dredged up the issue of the donations by miners in the USSR during the 84/85 Miners' Strike, because quite simply he's the best of a bad bunch. Scargill has his faults, he's an unreconstituted stalinist, and no doubt he mad "mistakes" during and in the aftermath of the strike. But to his credit, and uniquely for a British trade union official, he actually believes there's a class war going on. Which is why they hate him so much.

Of course we have to say that leftwing bureaucrats are not the way to regenerate unionism. But we also must be clear that the anti-Scargill hysteria is mainly about besmirching an incredible year of struggle, the 84-85 Miners' Strike. They want their version of history to prevail, as victors always do. We have to defend our class history.

Dino, Middlesborough

CONTACTS

IWA Secretariat: Postfach 10 12 23, 5000 Koln 1, West Germany.

DAM National Secretary: c/o Manchester DAM.

DAM International Secretary: c/o Edinburgh DAM.

CENTRAL REGION:

Nottingham DAM, PO Box 12, Carlton, Notts NG4 3SW. South Yorkshire DAM, PO Box 106, Rotherham S60 1NW. Leicester DAM, c/o Notts DAM. for contacts in Corby, Scunthorpe & Leamington Spa write to Central Region Secretary c/o Notts DAM

NORTHEAST REGION:

Leeds DAM, Box DAM, 52 Call Lane, Leeds LS2. Middlesbrough DAM, c/o Leeds DAM. for contacts in Bradford and Huddersfield write to NE Secretary c/o Leeds DAM

NORTHWEST REGION:

Burnley DAM, 5 Hollin Hill, Burnley, Lancs. Liverpool DAM, PO Box 110, Liverpool L69 8DP. Manchester DAM, PO Box 29, SW PDO, Manchester M15. Preston DAM, PO Box 172, Preston, Lancs PR1. for contacts in Bury, Cumbria, Lancaster, Salford and Stockport write to NW Secretary c/o Manchester DAM

SCOTLAND:

Edinburgh DAM, PO Box 516, Southwest DO, Edinburgh EH10. Glasgow DAM, PO Box 239, Glasgow G3 6RA

SOUTHEAST:

Norwich DAM, Box DAM, 48 Bethel St, Norwich. South Hertfordshire DAM, PO Box 245, St Albans, Herts. Deptford DAM, PO Box 574, London SE4 1DL. East London DAM, 84b Whitechapel High St, London E1 7QX. North London DAM, c/o 187 High Rd, London N22. South London DAM, PO Box 761, Camberwell SDO, London N22. for contacts in Kent and Reading write to SE Region Secretary c/o North London DAM

SOUTHWEST:

Bristol DAM, 37 Stokescroft, Bristol. for contacts in Somerset and Plymouth write to Bristol DAM

INDUSTRIAL:

DAM Council Workers c/o N. London or Manchester DAM. DAM Despatch Workers c/o Deptford DAM. DAM Education Workers c/o Manchester DAM. DAM Railway Workers c/o Manchester DAM

OTHER CONTACTS:

Sheffield Healthworkers, PO Box 446, Sheffield S1 1NY. Despatch Industry Workers Union, PO Box 574, London SE4. Anti Nuclear Network, Box 30, 187 High Rd, London N22. ASP (anarchist publishers), BCM Box 3714, London WC1N 3XX. Black Flag (anarchist monthly), EM Hurricane, London WC1N 3XX. Organise (anarchosyndicalists), 7 Winetavern St, Belfast 1.

The Direct Action Movement was formed in 1979 by the Syndicalist Workers Federation and other groups and individuals believing in the the principles of anarchosyndicalism. The DAM is the british section of the International Workers Association (IWA). The IWA, formed in 1922, presently has sections in France, Spain, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Germany (East and West), Japan, Australia, Argentina, Brazil and the USA, and a provisional section in Finland.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

If you like the sound of what Anarcho-syndicalists have to say and would like to find out more about the ideas and activities of the Direct Action Movement - International Workers Association, you can write to the DAM National Secretary, or to your nearest local group or relevant industrial contact.

Deadline 12th Sept

DONATIONS

DT, St Albans.....£5.00
PN, Rotherham.....£10.00
T, London.....£5.00

Thanks to those readers who sent us donations this last month. We are extremely grateful for any donations we receive.

Direct Action has always been run on a shoe-string. Donations, large or small, make a real difference. So, if you've got some spare cash lying around you now know where to send it!

SUBSCRIBE

If you support Direct Action and want to help it continue and prosper, one way you can show it is to take out a SUPPORTERS SUBSCRIPTION.

If you take out a Supporters Sub now you will receive a copy of the book, A Year of Our Lives, the story of the Miners Strike in a Doncaster pit village.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UK:-
6 issues.....£3.50
12 issues.....£6.00
SUPPORTERS SUB.....£12.00
EUROPE:-
12 issues.....£8.00
N/S AMERICA:-
12 issues.....£12.00
REST OF WORLD:-
12 issues.....£13.00

Name.....

Address.....

Send to: DA, PO Box 106, Rotherham S60 1NW. Cheques payable to DAM.

WE GOT IT WRONG

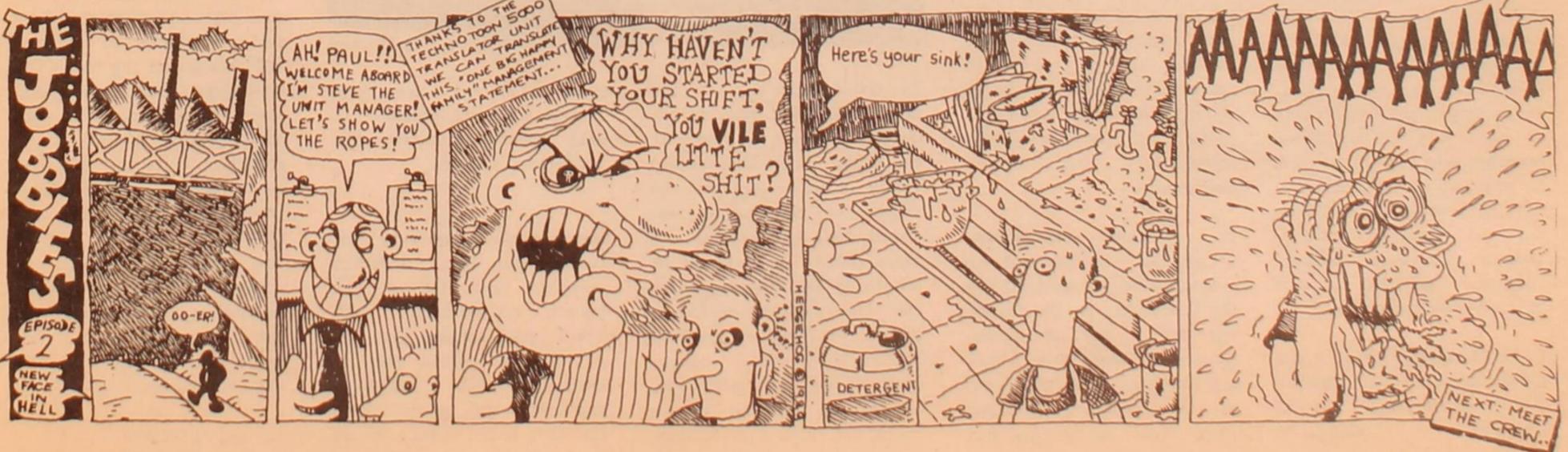
The address for the anarcho-syndicalist publishers, ASP, which we carried in the last two issues of DA was wrong. Their catalogue can be obtained from:

ASP, BCM Box 3714, LONDON WC1N 3XX.

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.

Produced and published by the Direct Action Editorial Collective (South Yorkshire and Manchester). All correspondence to PO Box 106, Rotherham S60 1NW. Printed by Clydeside Press, 37 High St, Glasgow. Distributed by Glasgow DAM.



# DIRECT ACTION

ANARCHO-SYNDICALIST  
SUMMER SCHOOL  
MANCHESTER 22 SEPT.  
CONTACT LOCAL GROUP

## Poll Tax

# WE'RE NOT PAYING!

Haringey Council in North London set the highest Poll Tax rate in Britain back in March, but the figure of £572.89 was below the Government's Standard Spending Assessment of £573. When Haringey was listed as one of the 21 Labour councils "charge capped" in April, it was put down to sheer vindictiveness. The Council dutifully slashed £13.9 million off its budget, which on its ludicrous 95% payment rate estimate would have meant a Poll Tax of £508. However, it revised its estimate of payment rates to 90%(!) and cut the Poll Tax to £536.

Enter Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment. In spite of the ridiculous optimism of a 90% payment rate - the reality is about 35% - Patten thinks it is not on for the Council to revise its estimates. So, our hero has got leave to appeal against this decision not to cut the Poll Tax to £508, and the new bills printed at a cost of £8,000 cannot be sent out.

### CUTTING SERVICES

The £13.9m cut works out like this: 2 libraries closed, 2 others merged; homes for the elderly and children with learning difficulties will shut; 2 social services area offices will be closed; Youth Services will be halved, as will the Adult Education budget; charges will be introduced or increased for Home Helps, Meals on Wheels, Playschemes and Nurseries, as well as Adult Education; homeless people will be put in prefabs. 150 vacant posts will be deleted, in addition to the regular vacancy levels required to balance budgets, and 500 workers will be made redundant.

It is blindingly obvious who these cuts will hit hardest - the poorest people in the borough. Corporate

"services" required for the building of political and administrative careers are being left relatively unscathed, and the reduced services have the same huge management structure as before.

The cuts should begin to unite and broaden active opposition to the Poll Tax, which has so far been limited to Haringey Anti-Poll Tax Union and its constituent groups. The Haringey Forum for the Defence of Jobs and Services got off to a promising start.

### BUREAUCRATS

The same cannot, unfortunately, be said for the Council unions, of which only NALGO, with no ties to the Labour Party, has responded forcefully to the cuts. NALGO nationally identified Haringey as a key area in the fight over Poll Tax capping, but the meetings of "capped" branches seem to be intended more as a way of controlling opposition to cuts than of building and spreading it.

The union's objective is to limit opposition to service conditions issues, and head off demands from the activists for political strikes. They can do this because of the way the union's structures separate activists from the mass of the membership, and allow the bureaucrats to come over as the voice of reason to members who have not heard the debates which have taken place in shop stewards' committees and branch executives.

In Haringey, industrial action was organised and was overwhelmingly supported by the membership on the first, and only, day of strike action on 23rd July. That was supposed to be the first of 8 days of all-out strikes in 60 days, to be supported

by indefinite strikes by "key workers" like Poll Tax. But the strike demands were only for talks about the cuts, and guarantees of no COMPULSORY redundancies and the honouring of national and local agreements.

### CLASS CONSCIOUS

NALGO's proposals to the Council on HOW TO SAVE THE MONEY are even more significant. They want an improved voluntary redundancy scheme, a recruitment freeze and "proper redeployment". This

of jobs and services harmonises the interests of workers and working class people who use public services, illustrates the limits and fatal weakness of trades unionism. This is why, for all the TUC's 9 million members, the Labour Movement has been so consistently defeated since 1979.

### NON-PAYMENT

The fight against the Poll Tax cuts, in effect the demand for non-implementation of the Poll

fighting the Poll Tax by opposing, on principle, the cuts it causes that represents the greatest potential for defeating it. The maintenance and strengthening of mass non-payment is vital to the morale of the anti-Poll Tax movement, but more effort needs to be put into encouraging and supporting workers' action.

### WORKPLACE GROUPS

The key to such a strategy is the building of workplace anti-Poll Tax groups. These groups should not degenerate into mere "rank and file" groups making demands of union leaders, but should base themselves on practical activity. Finding out who is likely to get their wages arrested, and building support for industrial action in their defence is vital. So is supporting any fight over conditions which is caused by the Poll Tax, and arguing in the workplace that the fight should be broadened out into one against the Poll Tax itself.

### CRACKS

The Government believes that the non-payment campaign is run by "about a thousand militants" and will disappear after another year. This kind of complacency is a gift for the resistance, and suggests that once non-payment enters its second year in England and Wales and its third in Scotland the cracks will start to appear. But non-payment will be a war of attrition and its costs will be heavy. The final offensive that will open wide the cracks and shatter the Poll Tax will be workers' fight for non-implementation. Anti-Poll Tax activists must help build the organisations that will start that fight.

NR, N.London



Balliffs blocked

is not a fight against the cuts, although many of the union's members will see it as such. It is the age-old trades union demand for the right to negotiate over conditions. According to this logic, if you fight something all the way down the line you miss out on a chance of a say in how it's implemented. This narrow view of members' interests, as opposed to the class conscious view that defence

Tax, will not come from trades union structures. It will have to come from the workplace, though.

Non-payment alone will not defeat the Tax. Scottish councils have sat out one year's non-payment with little real difficulty. All it can do on its own is cause councils budgetary problems, and we all know how they solve that. It is