



**FEB.
FREE!**

AFTER THE PEACE CAMPS...

At the moment there are several peace camps scattered throughout Britain, including the now famous Greenham Common. What ultimately are these camps going to achieve?

The hopes of the people in the peace camps are that Cruise missiles can be kept out of Britain. This they believe will make war less likely than if we accept Cruise.

It is possible that keeping Cruise missiles out of Britain may alter the chances of war very slightly,

but no one can believe that stopping one missile will mean no more war. Why then do the peace camp people call their camps 'peace camps'? Surely this title means that they want peace, an end to all war and this aim is good. All sensible people should want an end to all wars.

CAUSES OF WAR

What the people in the peace camps do not seem to understand is what causes war in the first place or what causes society to accept the making of bombs, guns, missiles, etc.

The usual story from the media in Britain or even from the schools is that we need all these horrible weapons to stop horrible Russian

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DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN.

UNITED WE FALL

As we go to press, the water workers have just announced their intention to go on strike. But does the New Year offer any hope for this group of workers for a decent wage?

Since the election of this government, the lot of workers striking for wage rises has not been a happy one. Quite willing to spend billions on useless nuclear weapons and power stations, willing to give expensive bribes to their lackeys in the police and armed forces, and enormous wage rises to their friends the bosses, the government has been intent on grinding everyone else into poverty. To achieve this they have forced long disputes on workers in the public sector. First steel workers, then civil servants, railway workers and finally the hospital workers, all have been taken on for long fights and have been beaten.

unions against workers

The time has come for us to ask, why has this been the case? We can see three reasons for this. One, a tough government, determined to restore profits at the expense of our wages and benefits. Two, the recession, which has made wage rises even harder to come by, and intimidated striking workers with the threat of the dole. Three, the continuing reliance of workers on Trade Union to fight for them.

Some people may find it strange that we see the unions as part of the problem. So we must look more closely at what they do. For all their fine talk about unions encouraging workers' unity, in fact what they do is to divide workers. Look at the rail dispute - when one union (the NUR) was on strike, the other (ASLEF) told its members to work normally. When ASLEF struck and some NUR members wanted to come out in solidarity, their 'leaders' told them to go back to work. The health dispute was effectively

sabotaged by the unions. Despite massive support for an all out strike, the unions kept on putting it off, instead relying on partial disputes.

After months of struggle they finally called a DAY of action and then split up the national unity of the workers by calling regional actions as a follow up. Only when Christmas was coming, when the struggle was failing, did they make noises about an all out strike. Ofcourse by then it was too late - they were able to save their reputations when there was never any chance of being put to the test.



nalgo scabs

Locally their actions were even more blatant. When the Day of Action was called in September, the response was pretty pathetic, but the actions of one union might help explain why. NALGO has members in the Health Service as well as in other areas of public service. So what did they do? Recommend that all their members support their colleagues? NO! Their Stafford office sent round a letter, saying

they thought it would be a good idea if people supported the health workers, but of course they could not instruct anyone and members must realise that support would probably lose them a days pay, or possibly as it was a Friday, three days pay, and if they did, NALGO could do nothing to help. With those kind of friends, the government must have been laughing. The trouble is that this is not an isolated incident, everyone has some anecdote or other about the way unions act against their members interests.

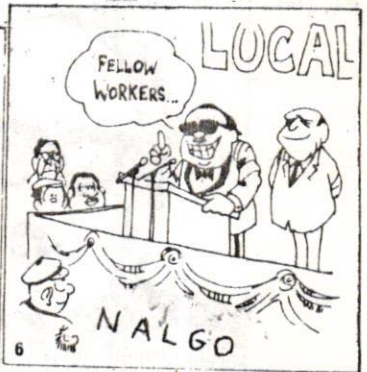
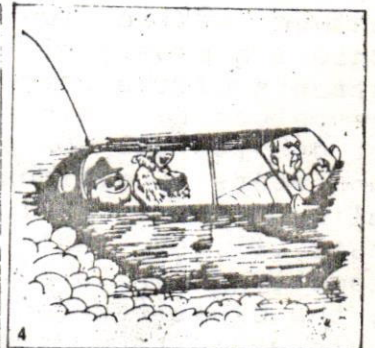
union reform?

Many people recognise that this is the case. But what do they say is the answer? Reform the unions, is the cry often raised. We think that this is a pointless exercise. It would take too long to get changes through the unions' rule books, or to get 'better' leaders elected. Even then there would be no guarantee that the new crowd would not behave in the same way as the old lot. In fact there have been enough examples of well-intentioned people getting elected and then behaving in the same way, to make us think this is more likely to happen than otherwise. Neither do we think that there is much point in tearing up your union card, especially as many people need them in order to get a job. What we should realise is that the unions are at best irrelevant to our needs, at worst harmful. To have any chance of success, strikes need to unite all workers in an industry or even to involve workers in others. The best way to achieve this is to talk to other workers, to picket their place of work and ask for their solidarity action. All strikes should be controlled by the workers involved, not by small committees of union hacks.

the next step

Even if strikes are carried out in this way, they can only lead to temporary improvements. Inflation and unemployment mean that we have

to constantly fight simply to maintain our standards. We need to go beyond such piecemeal issues as wages struggles, instead of fighting over the crumbs, we should be trying to take control of the bakery itself.



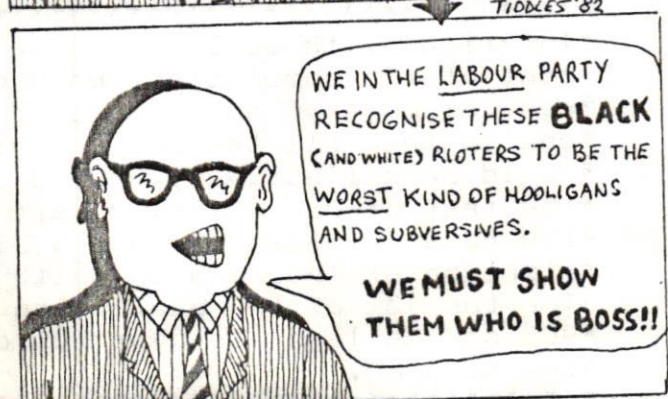
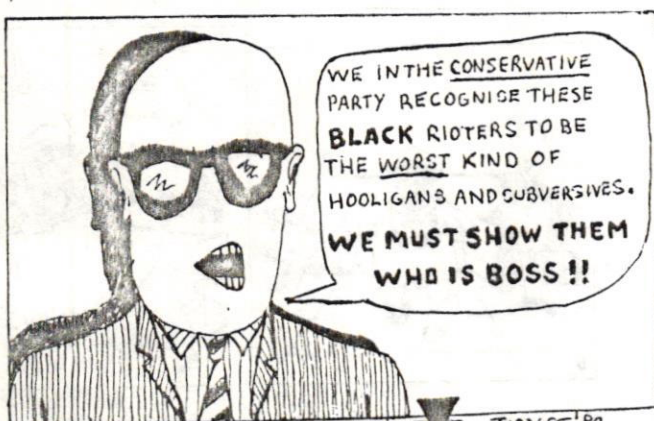
*In Britain, the wealthiest one per *
*cent of the population own and *
*control more of the accumulated *
*wealth than all the wealth which *
*could be collectively pooled by *
*the rest of us. (Final Report of *
*the Royal Commission on the Dist- *
*tribution of Income and Wealth) *
*The top 13% of the population own *
*90% of the land and over 50% of *
*the housing. *

POWER TO THE NATION.... OR WORKERS' POWER?

Nationalisation is the policy of the labour party and various other left wing groups and parties. They believe instead of industry run by individuals making personal profits by exploiting workers, industry should be run by the state. They also believe that the workers won't mind if the state takes the profit (as well as the taxes) since the state will (obviously!!) use this money in the workers interest!! We have all witnessed the calibre of person who is driven by ambition into achieving political power, the people who try to give the impression of saintliness and a desire to achieve justice always change upon achieving power; either power corrupts or the corrupt disguise themselves to achieve power. And yet despite all the evidence, the supporters of nationalisation believe that those in control of the state will use their increased economic power to help the oppressed or the exploited rather than use it to exploit and oppress still further

Some of the left-wing groups believe that state ownership will put an end to alienation, i.e. a feeling which arises from doing work and making things for other peoples' benefit, especially if it is pointless and boring work like making part T1394b all day, or shuffling bits of paper round an office. But is this likely? We will still be doing the same work, but instead of a boss we can know and hate, there will be the faceless control of a distant state, something more likely to increase alienation rather than reduce it.

After realising that Nationalisation and State Ownership are no better than private ownership and can sometimes be worse, the next step is to find an alternative for running industry, a way which benefits the people who work in it rather than those who own it, whether they be individuals or the state. This alternative is workers controlling their workplaces which will be owned by the community as a whole. This



BY ATTEMPTING TO SHOW THE PEOPLE "WHO IS BOSS" THE GOVERNMENT, BE IT "SOCIALIST" OR TORY REVEALS ITS TRUE INTENTION - SUPPRESSING THE PEOPLE.

DEMOCRACY WILL NEVER EXIST AS LONG AS THERE ARE GOVERNMENTS AND GOVERNMENTS WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST IF WE RETAIN CAPITALISM. KILL IT QUICKLY FOR THE PEOPLE'S SAKE!

can be achieved by workers organising themselves for direct action and strikes.

Workers control is not easy to obtain. For a start, the unions are worse than useless because they are run by political minorities who want to retain or increase the power and privilege they already have - they want Union control or State control, not workers control. By leaving the struggle to the unions, it is possible that they might win, but the workers will always lose.

It is also probable that the first attempts would have encounters with the law after trying to "steal" a factory. This would illustrate the real thinking behind the State and its machinery, which is to maintain privilege. The owners of the factories owe all they have to past exploitation of workers i.e. stealing from us; money is only given value by labour: you can not eat it or live in it, you have to pay some one to farm or to build. If you consider justice rather than law, workers taking control of the work place is taking back what is their

Workers control then, will be very difficult to achieve, since the owners, the government and the law will try to stop it, We can not expect the best things to come easily, we have to fight to get what is rightfully ours. Using a ballot box does not get us anywhere, when the alternatives are the same, when those in power stay in power and those who own in power and those who own us continue to own us.

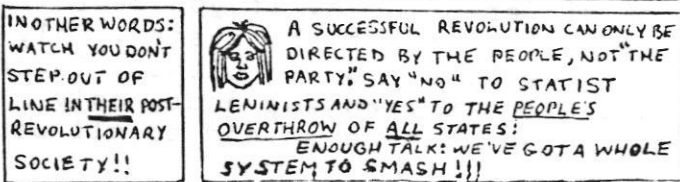
Leaving our problems for the unions, the government and other institutions to sort out, not accepting responsibility for ourselves is not only laziness - it is suicide! What we must do as quickly as possible is ORGANISE OURSELVES!!

IDLE CHATTER

Military spending now totals close to £1,000,000,000 a day while UNICEF, trying hard to help those children in the worst poverty, had a total income of £171 million in 1981. That is the equivalent of 4 hours 10 minutes military spending. (from 'World Military and Social Expenditure 1982')

The number of people estimated to have starved to death last year was over 30,000,000. This is the same as a catastrophe on the scale of Hiroshima every other day. while people are dying in desperate need of food the productive powers of society are used not to satisfy this hunger but to produce the equivalent of 4 tonnes of TNT for every human being.

Production of wealth is carried out only if a profit can be expected by those who own the work places and equipment and materials. That is why food is not produced and transported to the millions who are starving. That is why luxury office blocks are being built for businessmen while there are in Britain alone over 12,000 registered homeless families.



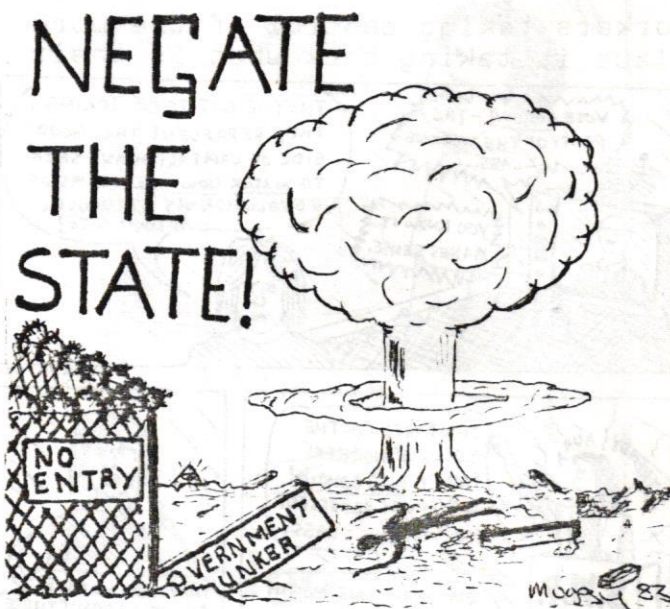
communists from killing us or taking over our country. This is rubbish. The average American, Russian or Chinese person is going to be concerned about normal things, like getting to the shops on time or being poor, not how soon can they invade Britain. Just as the working class in Britain do not all want to go and live in Russia, the Russians will not really want to live here. The people who really want the Bombs and Missiles are the Leaders and the wealthy scroungers they represent. Mrs Thatcher, Ronald Reagan, Andropov, Michael Foot and the Royalty, they all have great wealth and power, this is what the bombs are to protect. If one or other of the world leaders thinks that their position of wealth and power can be made greater or more secure by war, then she or he will order ordinary working class people to go out and fight whether with conventional or nuclear weapons as required.

THE GREAT DECEIT

It seems insane that the masses of the world accept this crazy, frightening situation, but it is not that ordinary people are stupid, it is the cunning that the leaders and the rich use against us. They make us run our lives for money, we work for it, we use it, we come to need it, and often we die for it, yet money is only so much paper or metal. Gold, on which the economy of the world is based is just a pretty metal not really much use at all. You cannot eat it. But of course the rich make sure you cannot live without money, by even charging tax and rent for the land we live on. We know the rich and their leaders did not actually make the land. They never actually make anything but they claimed it years ago, so we must grin and pay up.

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When you ask why we cannot organise a world where all the workers cooperate together you are told it is impossible, no one would work, there would be crime everywhere and that we, the ordinary people of the world, cannot do without leaders and governments. We are capable as workers of making everything ever made, of understanding all the stupid rules and laws, but not getting on peacefully with each other. In answer to that we might ask, "when have the workers ever started a war?". There is a whole rotten system of lies that makes up society today. It tells us that 30 million people starve to death each year while we cannot afford heating for the old or care for the sick, but we can afford Rolls Royce cars and palaces and missiles. The whole capitalist system is disgusting and should be got rid of. Let us see what the workers could do without bosses.



BEFORE ITS TOO LATE...

Go to the people in the peace camps I say, welcome to the struggle, but do not mistake the symptom for the illness. Capitalism kills in lots of different ways. If you want peace then fight the system. Only when we have a world without leaders and without rich and poor, only then can we have an end to all wars.