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FIGHT THE CUTS

WITH the CBI calling for cuts in public expenditure of five billion pounds it becomes even more important that a stand is taken on a massive scale against the cuts.

Chancellor Healey tells us that WE — he means working people, not the rich — must take a cut in our living standards if we want to get out of the crisis.

The Tories, in particular Snatcher Thatcher and Keith Joseph, are in favour of public spending cuts and even higher levels of unemployment.

The US Treasury and the IMF have made further cuts in public spending a condition for the new loan to the Government.

Day of Action

Some of the public sector unions are responding to the cuts by calling a day of action on November 17.

The CPSA are banning overtime throughout November and are among those calling for action on November 17.

The National Union of Public Employees is calling for a mass lobby of parliament on the 17th, as is NUT, NALGO, NATFHE, NUS.

The South East Region of the TUC is also calling for support on the

day of action.

Does this mean that the public sector union leaders are getting tough about the cuts?

No, far from it!

The day of action would never have taken place if it hadn't been for pressure from the rank and file.

Cuts mean massive redundancies for public service workers and, not unnaturally, they are getting angry.

People like Alan Fisher, General Secretary of NUPE, are pushing the day of action as a token sign of resistance for the benefit of their members.

Fisher doesn't want a genuine fight against the cuts. He was one of the many union leaders, remember, who OK'd the social contract, part of which requires that cuts should be made in public spending.

If the union leaders were serious about opposition to the cuts, they would be calling for at least a one day strike on November 17.

CPSA originally called for a one day strike on that day but have now backed down, giving support to the afternoon rally, doing very little to mobilise its members even for that.

It's important that the lobby be as large as possible. That's why *Anarchist Worker* urges its readers to do their utmost to attend the rally and tell as many of their workmates as possible about the day of action.



On a trade union anti-cuts demonstration in Newcastle on October 16. Photo: John Sturrock (Report)

Officials of other unions have also been noticeably slack about informing their membership of the November 17 events.

One NUPE member I talked to was completely in the dark about the day of action.

The branch secretary hadn't bothered to let her or any of her fellow NUPE members know and, when contacted, seemed to frown

upon any idea that they should stop work for half a day.

This person now intends to go on the day of action and bring along as many of her workmates as she can.

What else can be done for the day of action?

Raise the matter at your union branch, and your trades council or shop stewards committee.

Pester your branch secretary,

your area officer to do as much as possible to notify the membership of support for the 17th and to organise transport to it.

Make them squirm.

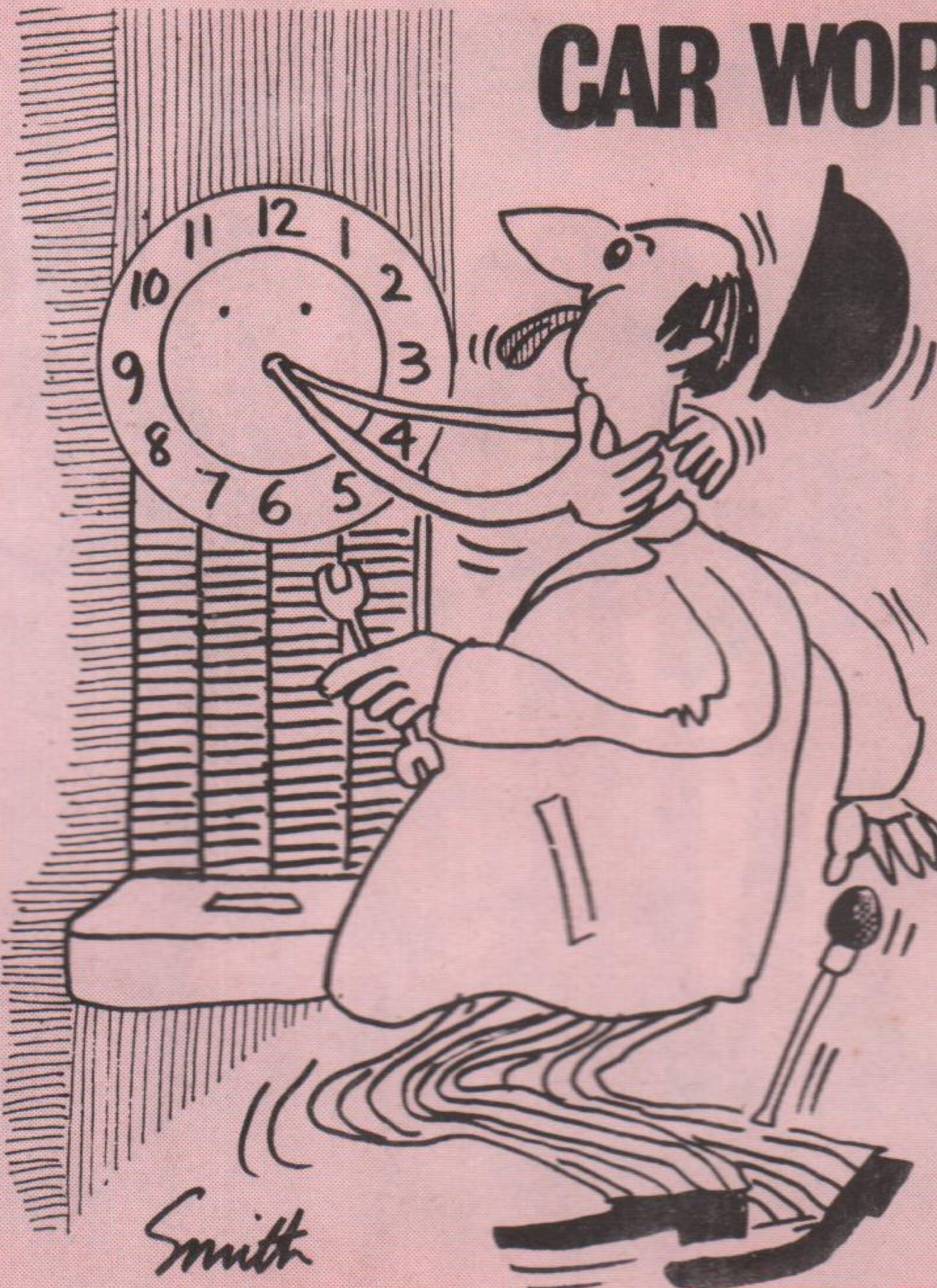
If we can turn November 17 into a real day of action we can start to build a serious opposition to the cuts, the social contract and the union leaders' sellouts.

N.H.



Trades Council meeting against the cuts on October 13. Photo: John Sturrock (Report)

CAR WORKERS MAKE THEIR OWN TIME



WORKERS IN some sections of Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant are free of the burden of 'clocking on' and 'clocking off' because the company's clocks are being continually wrecked, reports Liverpool Free Press.

A recent notice from the Car Assembly Production Manager, Mr. R. O'Neill, admitted that "as a result of extensive clock vandalism our time recording procedure is out of control".

Mr O'Neill reminded workers that it was not the job of supervisors to record and sign clock cards. "To do so . . . places a heavy burden on our Foremen," his notice said.

He appealed for help to "overcome our current clocking situation which is of considerable concern to the Company".

Vauxhall's Personnel Manager, Mr D. D. Irons, has also found it necessary to remind workers of the company's rules "due to continuing acts of vandalism with the apparent objective of enabling employees to either clock out early, or to avoid clocking out at all..."

So many clocks have been wrecked so often that management no longer bother to have them repaired. A common method of sabotage has been to put glue on clock cards and leave them in the machine.

Some time ago Vauxhall management thought they had discovered a "vandal-proof" clock. But their plans came to an abrupt end when their special clock shield disappeared before it could be fitted.

SECURITY OPERATION COVERS UP TUBE CUTS

DESPERATE attempts by London Transport to cover up cuts in Tube services meant a massive police operation on October 18.

The FARE FIGHT campaign against the 25% fare increases imposed last July, had pointed out that fare rises must inevitably lead to fewer passengers and consequent reductions in the frequency of trains.

The first reduction took place on the Central Line on October 18, and was accompanied by deliberate misinformation by London Transport.

Reporters ringing the LT Press Office were told that no cuts were planned on the main stretch of the line, while the internal *Traffic Circular*, restricted to LT workers, revealed a 25% cut in afternoons on the busiest stretch from Marble Arch to Liverpool Street.

FARE FIGHT organised a day of action for October 18, putting up posters and leafletting passengers to point out the truth about the cuts.

LT responded with a huge clampdown. Many leafletters and flyposters were arrested, and LT officials rushed about grabbing leaflets off passengers. One commuter rang FARE FIGHT

saying how officials boarded a train, demanding that passengers hand over leaflets they had been given.

At first the majority of passengers refused and the officials refused to allow the train to be started.

Most people, intimidated, gave up their leaflets, but three passengers refused; ultimately the LT officials were forced to let the train start.

The cuts in the services involved the loss of ten jobs: FARE FIGHT is concerned that LT's policies are leading to the rundown of the underground system in London.

Fare rises over the past two years have totalled 114%, and there are more to come in the new year.

Huge numbers of passengers have been driven to private transport, which has resulted in increased congestion on the roads.

This policy means that Underground workers' jobs are threatened as public transport in London becomes a skeleton service.

Transport workers' trades unions have taken virtually no action over the policies. It is clearly up to workers and passengers to defend public transport.

P.G.



LT officials and police at Epping station: on the left is a torn down FARE FIGHT poster.

FREE THE MURRAYS

TWO DUBLIN anarchists, Noel and Marie Murray, are at this moment sitting in prison waiting to hear whether they are to be hung for allegedly murdering an off-duty policeman during a bank robbery.

After several days of beating and torture, the Murrays were tried by the 3-man 'Special Criminal Court', without even the benefit of a jury.

Ronan Stenson, the third person picked up with the Murrays, suffered so much from his beatings that he had a nervous breakdown and was unable to stand trial.

He is now reported to be in a 'vegetable' like condition, having gone from 9 to 14 stone, and is also being subjected to sensory deprivation.

All over the world, pressure is mounting for the death sentences to be commuted and for the Murrays to be freed.

Prisoners in Gartree - who earn 25p a week - had a collection, raising the phenomenal amount of £62, but the prison authorities refused to allow them to send it out.

Instead they bought individual postal orders and sent the money out that way: to date only £32 has turned up.

Members of the Irish Republican Socialist Party leafletted the Gaelic Games in London recently, informing spectators of the plight of the Murrays.

In Belfast, a newly-created Defence Committee occupied the offices of the *Irish Independent* for two hours to gain publicity for the case in the North and to protest at the almost complete press censorship of news in the South.

They also organised a public meeting on October 8, which drew in 500 people.

Murray Defence Committees now operate in London, Dublin, Belfast, Bolton, Manchester, Glasgow, Warwick, Birmingham.

In other parts of the world, solidarity

activities have been going on in West Germany, France, Sweden, Japan, New Zealand, Holland, Australia, the USA and Canada.

London Bookshops branch of ASTMS passed a motion condemning the hangings and sent it to the Irish Embassy.

Newham NALGO sent £20 to the defence group and Warwick University Students Union donated £31.

YORK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



Torchlight demonstration against the hangings on October 8. Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

UNION passed the following motion, proposed by York Libertarian Socialists:

This Union condemns the death sentences passed by the Special Criminal Court in Dublin, on Noel and Marie Murray, two Dublin anarchists accused of the murder of a policeman in Dublin.

It recognises that evidence used to convict the Murrays was extracted under torture, and that their trial was of a political nature, designed to aid the suppression of dissidents both in the North and South of Ireland.

Accordingly this Union

- 1 Fully supports the activities of the Murray Defence Group and donates £20 to it.
- 2 Fully supports the activities of protest organised in Leeds by the George Cummings anarchist association.
- 3 Mandates the External Vice President to write to the Irish Embassy in protest against the sentences and demanding a retrial by jury as well as the abolition of hanging in Eire.

LIBERATION, the French left-wing daily reports:

Last Thursday (October 7), 40 militants of the *Comite Irlande, Lutte Ouvriere* and the *Ligue Communiste Revolutionnaire* took part in a picket in front of the Irish airline company, Aer Lingus, in Paris to protest against the death sentences on Noel and Marie Murray in Southern Ireland.

They denounced "the scandalous conditions in which the Murrays have been condemned to death... and the torture used in the south as in the north just as the state of siege is being decreed" in Southern Ireland, and called for the immediate abolition of the death penalty.

BOB PREW in Birmingham writes:

The picket of the Irish Tourist Board Office on Saturday October 9 was quite successful.

There were over 20 people on it and we got a mainly favourable reaction. Quite a few passers by said that they wanted to be kept in touch of events.

A reporter from the Evening Mail turned up but nothing appeared (surprise, surprise!).

We're planning to have a public meeting with Noel's uncle and sister speaking on October 28.

LATE EXTRA

Dublin (Correspondent) — There was an international demonstration here on October 30.

Among the 3-400 people marching to Mountjoy Prison were members of Murray Defence Committees from Coventry, Glasgow, London and Paris.

STERLING CRISIS

NO DOUBT we are going to be told that the recent sterling crisis and the sharp rise in interest rates have 'blown the country off course' (as Callaghan said the 1966 seamen's strike did) and that they were caused because 'we' haven't tightened 'our' belts enough.

However, while the state and capitalist interests lie to us as a matter of course they often tell the truth to each other.

Figures published by the Central Statistical Office show that the short-lived recovery in industrial production had stopped well before the recent well publicised events.

The fall was almost 1% in August and 1½% in the period June-August, compared with the previous three months.

So much for the official myth of a 4½% annual increase in gross domestic product! So much for the 'upturn'!

It must be pointed out that this is the case not just in Britain but is a trend throughout the world.

Those who look for a 'national' solution to the capitalist crisis by either wage control or import control are not just 'blown off course' — they've missed the bloody boat entirely.

The crisis is capitalism which has reached the limits of its unplannable, accumulation driven development.

Now it has only one way to defend the making of profit.

It does this by destroying goods and means of production which it cannot gain from at the moment.

Capitalism has reached the stage where it is actually destroying production to maintain profit.

The answer lies not in trying to square the circle and make capitalist production profitable and expanding and able to give a decent standard of living.

No, the answer lies in imposing planned production for need under the control of the working people as the only way to provide the means of life for everyone.

K.N.

Lightning strike wins reinstatement of sacked shop steward

LEICESTER — Workers at Greenlees & Lennards, the Easiphit shoe warehouse, succeeded in getting their shop steward reinstated after he had been sacked for starting a union branch.

About 60 workers had joined the USDAW branch at the warehouse and elected Ray Burman shop steward. He was immediately sacked.

The workers walked out at 7.30am, and asked drivers and office workers to come out in support.

Four-person pickets were set up at the warehouse's two main gates, and by 9 o'clock the warehouse was virtually paralysed with supplies neither going in nor coming out.

By 9 o'clock, the warehouse was virtually paralysed with supplies neither going in nor coming out.

At 10 o'clock higher management asked to negotiate with union official Pete Davis: by 11.30, they had agreed to the workers three demands:

- Reinstatement of Ray Burman;
- Guarantees of no further victimisation;
- Payment of loss of earnings to the men on strike.

At midday a vote was taken to return to work at 1.30 in the afternoon.

This victory, coming at a time when many struggles are being defeated, is all the more remarkable in that very few of the men had previous experience of trade unionism; indeed, nearly all had only just joined the union.

They were prepared to support their shop steward because he had pledged, with their support, to take on a viciously authoritarian management.

Now that the initial battle for union recognition has been won, the next stage in the struggle will include negotiations for better wages and conditions.





Photo Chris Davies (Report)

Victory for women in equal pay dispute

BRENTFORD (PNS) — The 350 women workers who produce car windscreen wipers at the Trico plant returned to work victorious on October 19 after a 21 week strike for equal pay.

The US-owned company caved in after its attempt to use the Industrial Tribunal against workers failed, and the threat of a ban from other trades unionists on substitute wipers loomed larger.

There was a unanimous vote to accept the agreement which provides for the introduction of a common operational payment-by-results rate, applied regardless

of sex.

The women are continuing to produce a monthly bulletin and are writing a history of their struggle, which will include a list of the 2000+ donations.

They walked out on May 24 after the management had refused to eliminate the £6 gap between men and women's pay.

There were frequent attempts to break picket lines, with midnight convoys supervised by police.

But the pickets stayed throughout the

21 weeks and the victory has justified their decision to boycott the Industrial Tribunal after the company took the case to it.

One of the women, Doll Wakefield said: "I've learnt a lot in these 21 weeks. We want to thank everyone who gave us lots of encouragement and great support to our hardship fund. People brought food to us on the picket line, as well as money, and there were lots of people doing little things to help us too."

NALGO HAS LABOUR PAINS

LIBERTARIAN socialists in the National Association of Local Government Officers are fighting moves to affiliate the union to the Labour Party.

At the last conference of the rank

and file group inside Nalگو, the *Nalگو Action Group*, there were three resolutions calling for affiliation of the union to the Labour Party

Two of the resolutions were supported

by members of the International Marxist Group and by members of the Communist and Labour Parties.

These two resolutions wanted the demand for affiliation to the Labour Party to be put high on the list of group priorities.

Direct Action Conference To Take Place

THE Campaign Against a Criminal Tresspass Law are organising what promises to be a very interesting and important conference in Reading on Saturday and Sunday November 27 and 28.

The conference is organised around the main topics of direct action and criminal trespass.

It aims to provide information on the Law Commission's Conspiracy and Criminal Law Reform Bill, and place it in the context of the state's response to direct action.

Also examined will be the strategy of direct action and all the problems it

entails.

Practical ways to defeat the Bill will be discussed and it is aimed to provide a forum for activists in industry and the community to exchange ideas, experience and information.

exhibitions

Throughout the conference there will be exhibitions on the history of direct action on display.

There will also be a series of workshops, each run twice so that those attending other workshops have a chance to go to some outside their own areas of action.

Workshop topics will include:

Green bans
direct action in Italy
workplace occupations
squattling
rent strikes
student occupations
direct action and the cuts
dossers, single homeless, gypsies
mass trespass
women and direct action
state response to direct action

Three films will be shown: *Coup pour Coup* (about a workplace occupation by French women); a new film on the Fisher Bendix occupation; and *Behind the Rent Strike*.



Police at the February 28th CACTL demonstration: a criminal trespass law would give them new powers.

NATIONALISATION OR SOCIALISATION ?

"Aye, lads, we all want nationalisation, but not the kind they've got in the mines nor in the railway stations,
We want workers' control and not participation,
THAT'S the first step on the road to the socialist transformation".

That verse is lifted from a song-book published by *Militant*—a Trotskyist group in the Labour Party. It brings up the issue which is central to the revolution—how do you organise industry in a socialist society?

The demand for nationalisation under workers control is raised by most left-wing groups.

There are also various schemes for workers participation operating in many capitalist countries at the moment; indeed, similar schemes are planned for Britain, with the cautious approval of the TUC.

This is one of the areas in which the anarchist point of view differs from that of the 'orthodox' left (revolutionary or reformist).

Those differences are not only about how we would organise industry after the revolution, but what sort of political development we would like to see at the same time.

Putting it simply, the alternatives to the way in which industry is run at the moment, i.e. the forms of new industrial democracy, come in three varieties:

workers participation
workers control
and workers self-management.

SO WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

WORKERS' PARTICIPATION is where a number of workers are allowed to sit on the board of directors or some sort of work's committee.

They are outnumbered by the management and bosses, but they can put workers' case more directly.

However, ultimately they have no power.

Workers participation quite often leads to workers participating in their own funeral: this is why Leyland carworkers rejected participation proposals this year.

In Sweden and West Germany, participation has provided benefits, but this depends completely on the state of the economy. When the axe falls, participation cannot stop it.

That is the idea behind the *Militant* song: that nationalisation of the sort you have in the coal industry or British Rail is hopeless from the workers' viewpoint.

If participation was any good, why do miners and railway workers keep striking? Against that system, there is workers control.

However, it was the third resolution, put forward by members of the International Socialists, that was voted in.

This resolution supported the idea in principle, but put it low on the list of priorities.

WORKERS CONTROL is where the workers have a majority say in the day-to-day running of a workplace.

This is better than participation, but it still doesn't go far enough, because of the effect of nationalisation.

If every industry in this country was nationalised, what would this mean?

It would mean that everything belonged to the State: the State would not be controlled by the bosses, as it is today.

Theoretically, it would be a workers state, but there is very often a difference between theory and practice.

A state is a machine for ruling: it has a bureaucracy, an army, a police force and judges.

This machine would in theory fall under the control of the workers. Therefore... what the state owns, the workers own.

But this has never worked in any of the 'socialist' countries. In practice, state power has always remained in the hands of a party, or simply, the bureaucrats who ran it before.

Nationalisation under workers control means workers still battling against the faceless men from the central offices.

The economy is not planned by the government; it is planned by officials of the government.

And as we can see from the USSR, that government is certainly not under workers control.

In the USSR industry is run by a management, with the workers supervising and criticising—but in the end obeying, because industry is owned by the State, not by the workers.

So what's the alternative?
The alternative is **WORKERS SELF-MANAGEMENT**, where the sole decision-making body in a workplace is the workers council.

This is because all industries are owned collectively by the entire working class.

There is no 'state' which has the ultimate power: decisions are no longer made by bosses or officials, but by workers themselves.

I.W.

IS members in Nalگو were instructed to vote in favour of this by their Central Committee — even though some of them were against the idea.

In our view, it is up to the group of militants active in a particular industry or union to formulate strategy, in consultation with the others in the political organisation of which they are members.

This doesn't mean a central committee telling them what to do, overriding the experience of militants in a particular struggle.

Hierarchy

Apart from these developments, a Campaign for Nalگو Affiliation to the Labour Party is being pushed by members of the Labour Party, some of whom are also members of Trotskyist groups.

Some Nalگو officials would welcome affiliation to the Labour Party, as this would mean they could have access to the Labour Party hierarchy, and would help further their careers.

The majority of Nalگو members have, however, shown their opposition to such proposals on two occasions and are likely to do so again.

This is hardly surprising after Nalگو members have been involved in industrial action and demonstrations against cuts in public spending directed by a Labour government!

We consider it very important indeed that a determined fight is started in the unions and throughout society to break the stranglehold of the Labour Party over the working class.

The illusion that the Labour Party stands for socialism and for the defence of working class interests must be dispelled if an independent working class is to be able to develop.

The debate over the Labour Party inside Nalگو diverts discussion away from the attacks being inflicted on working people by that same party!

All Nalگو militants opposed to these moves — which includes anarchists, libertarian socialists and libertarian marxists — should write for a copy of the *Libertarian Public Health Services Bulletin*, the first issue of which contains an article on this subject.

The *Bulletin* aims to provide a forum for libertarians in the public service to exchange ideas, problems and information about the work they do, as well as co-ordinate militant activity.

Copies of the *Bulletin* are available from Mike Ballard, Flat 12, 152-154 Spring Hill; please enclose a donation.

Eva Long

Nick Hillier

