

BLACK FLAG

THE ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY

30P



10-3-'86

TNT HAS TO BE SMASHED

TWELVE MONTH PLANNING FOR TNT SCAB FLEET

We can reveal that Thomson Nationwide Transport, the scab haulage company that is aiding the print barons in their anti-union crusade, has colluded in the pre-planning for News International's move to Fortress Wapping in the twelve months prior to the move. There is strong evidence that TNT undertook contingency measures and was party to the scheme to sack the 5,500 print workers.

Details of TNT's involvement was leaked via the pages of the trade magazine, *Commercial Motor* where an article entitled "TNT's 'Secret' Fleet" describes how the several hundred plain white trucks specially bought by TNT for the News International exercise was "gathered over the past year". The article goes on to say that the fleet is "part of a new TNT newspaper section, code named Division 800, and that drivers all over the country are being recruited to drive them". TNT's UK manager, Alan Jones, told *Commercial Motor*



Alan Jones

Are you loathsome tonight?

that TNT also hopes to recruit another 2,000 drivers to take on work for the other newspaper barons. The fleet itself consists of mainly Cregitline Volkswagen LT45 vans. A list of TNT main depots follows:

TNT began putting the fleet together for Division 800 around the beginning of 1985, the fleet was developed secretly as the year progressed, and as Murdoch moved closer to his "D" day.

TNT - THE MAFIA CONNECTION

The TNT conglomerate has tried often unsuccessfully, to steer a course away from political intrigue. TNT's chairman, Australian magnate Sir Peter Abeles, has gone to great pains to cultivate friendships with those on both the right and left of Australia's political spectrum. TNT now has business interests in virtually every part of the globe (see below), but despite its attempts to keep a low profile, its dealings with unions has not always had a smooth ride. In the USA, TNT's launch was very nearly a fiasco when it was met with a campaign of arson attacks bombings and violence. TNT was able to survive this campaign because of the links it cultivated not with the political mafia, but with the criminal mafia (no doubt they interconnect though!).

The violence ceased as soon as TNT paid the handsome sum of \$250,000 as a first installment to mobster Venero "benny Eggs" Mangano and Lawrence "Buddy" Garaventi. This was not a simple case of "protection" money but payments made, according to TNT (USA), for the "services which the management of this group believe were in the interests of the group and were worth the monies paid for them". The services alluded to were in reality a deal struck with mafia and officials of the right-wing and corrupt Teamsters Union to "keep things cool". In other words wildcat strikes, no more violence (stage-managed by the mafia - controlled Teamsters), etc. Nor was the TNT-mafia connection simply a local one. Abeles himself was an acquaintance, for example, of Jimmy "The Weasel" Fratianino, a member of the West Coast mafia. Fratianino's link-man in the Teamsters was Rudy Tham, a Teamsters vice-president and close friend of TNT executive Peter Thomson. Tham was later jailed for embezzlement of Teamsters money. TNT's financing of the mafia has continued.

TNT - THE EMPIRE

TNT is a multi-national conglomerate with companies in most parts of the world. Its empire is expanding. In Britain it has around a dozen subsidiaries and has recently begun a new operation poaching mail contract work from the Royal Mail by flying out bulk shipments to Belgium and putting the mail through the Belgian postal service where casual, part-time and lower-paid young recruits are able to undercut costs; the consequence being that in several months time, thousands of postal workers in Britain might not have job security. This is a case of capitalism exploiting cheap labour on an international level, with unions unable to do much about it.

TNT expanded its business in Europe when it amalgamated with IPEC, freight-carriers. TNT-IPEC now has depots in most Western European countries and newspaper companies those countries

Continues on page 4

DIRTY DOZEN

Let us remind ourselves what Murdoch was demanding of the print workers before he sacked them.

- 1 No recognition of chapels or branches, and no negotiations at local level.
- 2 No strikes "or other industrial action for any reason whatever". The union must promptly repudiate any industrial action taken by members.
- 3 Immediate dismissal for anyone taking part in a strike or industrial action – with no right of appeal.
- 4 Union officials have "a special duty to enforce this section" of this agreement!
- 5 No closed shop – employees who are members of a union can leave it at any time.
- 6 Union representatives can be removed from office by the management issuing a written warning.

SCAB BUSTERS

SEVERAL MILLION VACANCIES AT LEAST!



Due to an intensification of anti-working class activity and taking into account the current malaise within the trade unions to effectively combat this activity, a massive number of Scabusters are needed to turn the tide and help the labour movement to move on to the offensive once more.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

To take direct action against all scabs, scab organisers and the property of scabs and scab organisers. To sabotage the activities of scabs and their organisers.

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Mass picketing, local picket support work, propaganda work, fund-raising, etc.

QUALIFICATIONS

No required. Just a belief in direct action and the desire to overthrow capitalism and destroy the State. Ability to work in small teams could be an advantage. Equipment (eg, pick-axe handles, molotovs, inflammables, etc.) should be self-supplied.

HOURS

Variied and probably anti-social. Little warning will be given as to when work is needed.

PAY

None. But rewards are high. Fringe benefits include experience in testing out new techniques, the opportunity, sometimes, of making new contacts.

TO APPLY

To no one in particular. Scabusters form their own local groups via friendship networks. They are responsible to each other and take orders from no one. They don't need leaders.

Scabusters is an equal opportunities network of class struggle groups dedicated to direct action.

SCAB BUSTERS
when solidarity lacks, we step in

advertisement

- 7 No union recognition for supervisors and management grades.
- 8 Complete flexibility of working with no demarcation lines.
- 9 No job security – complete freedom for management to change methods of working.
- 10 No minimum staffing levels – either by agreement or understanding. Management freedom to alter starting and finishing times at short notice.
- 11 Management's "exclusive right to manage" . . . to select people for jobs, "classify and reclassify" people, "hire, promote, demote, and transfer employees as required". They will also "suspend, discipline, dismiss, lay off employees from work" as they see fit.
- 12 Legally binding contracts, leaving the unions and individual union members open to court action.

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GIRO ACCOUNT NO: BLACK FLAG
58 552 4009

GIRO ACCOUNT NO: ANARCHIST
BLACK CROSS. 51 172 0009.

*For the release of all political prisoners,
the relief of class war victims and the
overthrow of tyranny everywhere.
Smash the State! Anarchy is freedom.*

BACK TO NORMALITY

Stainforth, the village adjoining Hatfield Colliery was the scene of rioting on 25th January, reminiscent of the strike days.

The police force (not just below the surface of 'normal' relations was seen in the numbers of police cars turned over and brick marks on the walls of the police station.

The speed was a police car rolling up to the gate. "The police were marching in like 'Starkey & Hatch' to lift a pretty (and young) criminal. The lad father

objected to the smash and grab raid, and in the meanwhile hatred of the presence of police and law or order started to well up.

The lad father had by this time been beaten by the police, and the balloon had gone up.

First the cars were turned over, and then a rash made on the cop shop. One old veteran of the strike, despite his walking age, had to defend himself but was lifted in the process.

By midnight, forty-five police cars and vans were streaming into the village and the police had to be spread from pub to pub and club to club. A full scale running battle was going on. By about 2.30am the fun was over and the cops were left soaking about the village. Peace returns - not for long that's for sure!

ATTACKS ON WOMEN PEACE ACTIVISTS INCREASE

On December 8th, four women broke into RAF (USAF) Mildenhall and hid in a maintenance hanger office. They were badly beaten up by US Security police. Said one woman: "We wanted to have totally lost control, it was like a scene from Rambo... they came leaping across the tables, screaming, glass was flying everywhere... they were dragged out and kicked. Some were on the grass, kicked, had their fingers trampled. One of them was kicked in the crotch. Another woman was picked up by the handcuffs, despite her screams of pain."

January 19th at Greenham Common, two women were attacked in their tents, and one was kicked. Nottingham Hospital they were treated for head and back injuries, and shock. Their assault-discrimination implies they were US servicewomen.

Only last week, a woman caught throwing eggs at a Cranes Transport came into the base, was stripped bare.

On the 11th of January, Sue Pitman had her finger pulled off as she was being dragged from the fence around a new bus shelter in Carmarthen, Wales.

SOURCE: *Tisane*.



SOURCE: *DAM-TWA*

HOME NEWS

WAPPING NEWS

BUREAUCRATIC HICK UPS

As is obvious by now, the SOGAT/NGA bureaucracy cannot be relied on to run the strike for us. There have been instances of people being thrown off the picket line by stewards. However, a rank & file print group has been formed and is organising solidarity.

One character in particular to look out for is Mike Hicks, SOGAT/TUC bureaucrat who installs himself at every meeting/demo/picket line and tries to get his hand (to which no-one else has any access) to proceed to sabotage effective solidarity.

He was the chief steward on February 24, 1985 who tried (and failed) to prevent solidarity with two Notts miners arrested at the picket line on the 23rd. On May 2nd last month he threatened violence from TUC heavies against a group of anarchists who would not get to the back of the march. He attempted to stop financial aid from the Feb 24 Defence Conference from reaching the concerned 'agitators'. Hicks was amongst the TUC bureaucrats who pointed out 'troublemakers' to the police on the film of the March 6 attack on chief scab Willis.

During the present dispute he has attempted to sabotage the picket of Wapping in every way he can. On Saturday February 17th after haranguing the picket of gate three through a megaphone until night, he took a vote on whether to disband the picket just as lorries were about to go out. Even though the vote went unanimously against him, he then told SOGAT members who would follow off the picket line to split it in half and rendering it ineffective. The only good thing about this is that increasing numbers of people are losing what little trust they had in the bureaucracy. Clearly it is up to rank and file print workers to point out those who wish to give genuine solidarity, to organise effective solidarity.

Miners and supporters down in London for the call for a national strike meeting & jailors are expected to join the picket and a women's event at Wapping on March 8th, International women's day is to take place... A National March on the Wapping fortress will be on March 22nd. Built on the site of Every Saturday, Tower Hill tube, 7.30pm.

Details of actions coming up outside London are welcome and should be sent in as reports, or allow fourteen day publication time please.

SABOTAGE TINT

Murdock's papers are delivered to news agents (by unmarked, usually white, transit vans) at about 5.00 am just before they open, giving just enough time for them to be torn, damaged. Stealing and dumping is better (but more difficult) as it makes it look like distribution has failed. The papers are left on the pavement unwrapped or in white plastic bags. However it might be worth checking that *Sars etc* are not being delivered in the form of other papers. This form of sabotage is easy and effective, but be careful, watchout!

ERNST & WHINNEY OCCUPIED!

Dear Black Flag,

Yes, on 16th February there was an occupation of Ernst & Whinney, King St, Leeds 1, from 1-3.40pm. They are the firm of accountants responsible for the segregation of SOGAT's funds.

This was arranged a few weeks ago at a meeting and the word put round the anarchist periphery, which meant we had a dozen occupiers inside, and a dozen outside to talk to the press.

As we were arrested, the accountants sent the police in to clear us out as little heads as possible - despite that the news made *Calendar, Look North, Radio Aire* and *Radio Leeds* news.

SOURCE: *Leeds DAM-TWA*



THE SUNDAY TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

WAPPING PICKETS

Thousands of print workers and supporters have been gathering nightly at mass pickets outside Rupert Murdoch's Fortress Wapping. On Wednesday Feb 19th, 3,000 pickets massed; the following Saturday, 5,000 more gathered.

The pickets are standing all entrances to the plant, having learnt from the pickets described in *Black Flag* N/65/50 where scab vans were smashed. Some unguarded police buses had windows smashed, and at one point a window was tipped over, blocking a side road, after police had towed away park cars to make a route for scab lorries.

There have been many arrests: up to forty on the Wednesday evening and more were to follow. Wednesday also saw a scab van rammed and broken. The next day two bus loads of print workers were prevented from attending a picket outside a distribution centre owned by Thomson Nationwide Transport (TNT), the multinational firm that is currently contracted to distribute the books and papers of the Murdoch/Murdoch's News International company. As the planned picket was organised over the telephone, and not in writing, the police claimed that the workers must have been 'tapping' the SOGAT and NGA telephones. This is always assumed, but is clearly now proved!

Solidarity actions are continuing. For example, in Ireland, where printers who are supporting the strike are not allowed to work, the printing group have refused to print copies of the Irish edition of *News International's News of the World*.

On Saturday March 1st 1986, printers and supporters held two marches from Tipton to a tube station boosting pickets to five thousand. Large numbers of scab papers were held up, delayed as police tried to clear the streets. Thirty-four of the pickets were arrested and some cops injured.

On Sunday 16th February: liberated the entire set of Murdoch/scab papers from McColl's Newsagents in Leeds. Burnt the lot! Here's a picture.

Hopefully, if the plan works out we'll have Murdoch in person, on the next one.

ELECTRICIANS RALLY SUPPORTS SACKED PRINT WORKERS

On Saturday 22nd February 150 - 200 Electricians, Communication Workers and Plumbers Union members rallied in support of the sacked printworkers.

The meeting was called by *Flashlight*, the left faction within the EETPU. They were joined by others from the floor by electricians that everyone sees as the convivings of the bureaucrats, headed by Eric Hammond. Shop stewards from Southampton said that the Wapping dispute had brought them out in support from electricians who had shown no interest in union organisation up till then. Later, at Wapping, a number of electricians supported the picket line.

Meanwhile as we go to press it has been reported that 1,500 print workers (earning £15,000 a year and bussed into work past pickets) have sent a letter to Bruce Mathews, managing director of News International, calling for an 'honourable end to the dispute'. This follows the decision of Congress during the EETPU to inform its members working at Wapping that they are doing the work of SOGAT 82 and NGA members who are in dispute. Whether they will in fact NOT CROSS PICKET LINES remains to be seen ...

Dear Comrades,

In response to your letter at Wapping last Saturday (Feb. 5th), better than the week before, however, I guess most people had to get home by public transport etc. I'm not in 'the print' but I met a couple of SOGAT members from my part of London (Croydon) who were picketing and staying the night on the line. I paid a visit, with about two hundred others, that great feeling of SOLIDARITY, and a brilliant atmosphere, intelligent conversations, laughing and joking and when the fleets of vans were lined up outside the print compound (this happens all right), the bottles flew and the abuse shouted at the scabs openly showing themselves was wonderful. Anyway, all night vans pulled up and hot soups were served. Scottish and Scotch comradeship were freely given, all sorts of people - no chance of going hungry or freezing to death there, brilliant! What I'd really like to say is obvious, DON'T GO HOME NEED SATURDAY STAY THE NIGHT, THAT'S WHAT ACTION HAPPENS! If comrades would stay the night we could make it happen, more than a 'nine-to-five' picket. We delayed the papers by a hour last Saturday, and there were only five thousand of us - imagine if the whole country did the same the night - the coys resources would be fully stretched - it's worth it just for the atmosphere, an education in itself.

See you all on the line, Love,
Nick

ARSONISTS AGAINST MURDOCH

Dear whoever,

Sunday 16th February: liberated the entire set of Murdoch/scab papers from McColl's Newsagents in Leeds. Burnt the lot! Here's a picture.

Hopefully, if the plan works out we'll

have Murdoch in person, on the next one. Direct action - secondary action of course it's a needle in the haystack. We're not asking for a grain of corn, we're not demanding a meal, we're taking the whole fucking haystack down!

Hope the idea catches on!
Love, Arsonists against Murdoch.



ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

FRANCE

CONSCRIPTION? NO THANKS!

Christian Frigoult

Christian Frigoult was arrested in May '85 for refusing to be conscripted into the army. He was brought to trial on October 22, 1985, and received a prison sentence of nine months. He was to have been set free on December 1st after having served seven months of his nine-month sentence.

At eight o'clock on December 10, we waited in front of the Jacques Cartier jail in Rennes for Christian to be released. At nine o'clock, a prisoner who was also being let out that day informed us that Christian had been released earlier in the morning at seven o'clock. In effect Christian was being held at the copshop after once again having refused conscription into the army.

At two o'clock he was in court again, charged with "refusing to obey an order," but because he demanded a lawyer's presence the case was put off until January 14th.

However, the court was in a position of having to decide whether Christian would remain in prison until his trial date. After having judged that he would not be kept in preventive detention, the court washed its hands of the case and referred it to the tender mercies of the army... the army. Christian is now being held in strict detention in the Foch armoury in Rennes until his trial date. Translated from *Courant Alternatif* No. 52

Alain Souche

Alain Souche's trial date for having refused conscription has been set for February 28, 1986. In 1976, Alain decided to leave his town on Lyon and the country of France to avoid conscription and moved to Holland. He was active in the Amsterdam libertarian group, which included the Onkruit group. He was also involved in support work for anti-conscription activities in France (such as the occupation of the French consulate).

Through Aide de Recherche, a support journal which was going through a period

of police and court harassment, he established on going contact with a number of French draft dodgers. In 1981 Alain was notified that he was to be given amnesty. (1)

In June '85 he was stopped at a check-point on the Paris-Normandy highway and was taken into custody. He was informed that a search warrant had been issued by judge Hamy on the first of April. After being kept for four days in Rouen, he was taken to Lyon and charged with having refused conscription before judge Hamy. He is presently in army custody in Lyon.

At his trial on February 28, Alain will be facing a two month to one year jail sentence. J.D.

Translated from *Le Monde Libertaire* No. 6/85 by M.W.

(1) Yes, the Socialist government took power in 1981, so political prisoners received amnesty (with the exception of most anarchist prisoners).

Note: We are expecting an update on the results of Christian's trial shortly.

BRUNO SANCHEZ

Bruno Sanchez was arrested in Nievre for having refused to be conscripted into the army, and was transferred to the Dupuis barracks in February 19, 1986.

The address of his support committee: *Emancipation, 64105 Bayonne cedex, FRANCE*.

ERIC HEBERT

Eric Hebert is a member of the Anarchist Federation. He was arrested on February 5, 1985 for having refused to be conscripted into the army. His trial is expected to take place shortly. Petitions and support letters can be addressed to:

Compte à tenu à E. Hebert, U.F., B.P. 58, Darjeau, FRANCE

SOURCE: *Le Monde Libertaire*.

TNT DEPOTS - WHERE THEY ARE

HORNSBY

BRISTOL
Grove Ind. Wood,
Bath Road,
Old Soudbury,
Bromsgrove B65 4RS.
Tel.: (0438) 323223
Telex: 444571

BUXTON

Bracklands Ind. Park,
Carrington,
Buxton SK15 0YU
Tel.: (0963) 555555
Telex: 444572

STREATHAM

Wimbley Road,
Cambridge CB2 5SH
Tel.: (0503) 77251
Telex: 474234

BELFAST (Depot)

14 Bellar Road,
Newtownabbey,
Crusland AB4 8RR
Tel.: (0231) 43421
Telex: 474235

BIRMINGHAM (Sales Office)

Offices
Grafton Row,
Kingston Industrial Estate
Cardiff CF3 4JL
Tel.: (0228) 48801
Telex: 647210

DURHAM

Mercantile Road,
Rassau Ind. Estate,
Eshott,
Tyne and Wear DH4 5PL
Tel.: (0783) 489955
Telex: 474236

EXETER

Lodge Trading Estate,
Breadstree Station,
Exeter EX2 4LY
Tel.: (0392) 666808
Telex: 42642

GLOUCESTER

Ridgefield Industrial Estate,
Bellshill,
Lanark ML4 3JL
Tel.: (01695) 49965
Telex: 777337

BRADFORD (Depot)

Bridge Street, Morley,
Sheffield S17 0HJ
Tel.: (0747) 688005
Telex: 925376

BRENTWOOD (ODD)

Units 5-6,
Brentwood Industrial Park,
Brentwood, Essex CM13 3XP
Tel.: (0170) 819393
Telex: 925377

BRIGHTLINGSEA

4 Kirkhurst Court,
Brightlingsea,
Colchester,
Essex CO6 2LS

HOUNSLAW

Phoenix Way,
Cranford Lane,
Hutton,
Hounslow,
Middlesex

MILTON

B10 2SS
Milton Trading Estate,
Quinton, Birmingham,
West Midlands B33 4TH
Tel.: (0235) 832323
Telex: 383721

WORCESTER

Unit 134,
Hartlebury Trading Estate,
Hartlebury, Kidderminster,
Worcestershire DY10 4JY
Tel.: (0929) 250004
Telex: 338305

MAIDSTONE (Depot)

Hall Road, Aylesford,
Kent ME19 4JL
Tel.: (0622) 70171

NEWCASTLE

Leviathan, Kent ME1 2HL
Tel.: (0622) 666449

STOURPORT

Phoenix Way,
Stourport-on-Severn,
Worcestershire
WR5 1JL
Tel.: (0563) 832323
Telex: 383721

WORCESTER

Clayton Le Moors,
Roscindale,
Worcestershire
WR5 1JL
Tel.: (0563) 832323
Telex: 383721

GREECE

COPS REALLY SCREW YOU UP

An interesting article recently published by the *Guardian* newspaper reported that "local residents" had been arrested by police for selling drugs dealers in Exarchia Square, Athens.

In fact, the eight people arrested were also anarchists fed-up with drug dealers operating in Exarchia Square, a meeting place for Athen's growing Anarchist community.

In response to police inaction over the problem of dealers in the area an anti-drug patrol was formed by anarchists and on Monday February 7th they dealt successfully with a heroin dealer and smashed up his car. Local police have

not only done nothing to deter dealers in the area but they are also known to protect dealers and push drugs them-selves.

For using direct action against one dealer, the eight anarchists were arrested and put on trial two days later. Fortunately, all eight were found not guilty (possibly due to sympathetic coverage in the media) and immediately released. Being total herion, they don't deter dealers!

LATE NEWS: Eighteen anarchists and anti-fascists are due to be tried on March 10th for alleged involvement in anti-fascist actions in Athens in 1984, just before French fascist Le Pen visited Greece.

BE LGIUM

The Repression Continues

Forty eight arrests took place when approximately one hundred people held an illegal demonstration in support of Chantal Paternoster¹ in Brussels. Jean Louis Carpenter², his sister and a fifteen year old youth were beaten and arrested. The demonstrators were let out without being charged (although photographs and fingerprints were taken, which is technically illegal if no charges are laid). Later, the residence of a person present at the demonstration was searched.

Radio Air Libre, a station at which Chantal was working, has become the object of a vehement campaign in certain sectors of the press, which have offered outrageously absurd evidence as proof in attempting of being linked to the CCC. In a communiqué, Radio Air Libre states: "We affirm that we

have been involved with the CCC, or that we have a common strategy is a product of the wildest fantasies; or else it represents a desire to discredit criminality and all discordant voices and to discredit the work we have been carrying out on a daily basis to offer a free medium of expression". Radio Air Libre has been searching for, and has been burnt off, the air three times.

Support letters for Chantal and Radio Air Libre can be addressed to the Minister of Justice by writing to:

*Me. Gérard Gol, Ministre de la Justice,
Place Poelaert, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgique.*

1. Chantal Paternoster, a woman who is still being held in total isolation after having been falsely accused of being a member of the CCC.

2. Jean Louis Carpenter was also falsely accused of being a CCC member (see BLACK FLAG, p. 143) and was later released.

Information from Le Monde Libertaire

BELGIUM

ANTWERP/BORNEM

(Head Office)
Kiekebaedekersstraat
2600 Bornem

Tel.: (03) 8895321

Telex: 33448

LEIEG

Tel.: (041) 480713

DENDERMONDE

Tel.: (03) 7209460

KORTENBERG

Tel.: (03) 224922

FRANCE

(Head Office)

10 rue des Petites Filles
Mignonnes

75004 Paris

Tel.: (01) 430 81107

Telex: 213353

CERGY-POITOU

Tel.: (01) 372342

Telex: 777932

THIERS

Howell Way,

Eastgate Industrial Estate

Northants NN10 8JU

Tel.: (0438) 228851

Telex: 474795

LYON

Tel.: (07) 902999

METZ

Tel.: (03) 772123

PARIS

Tel.: (01) 4467250

GRENOBLE

Tel.: (07) 676363

LYON

Tel.: (07) 8662370

SAINTE-ETIENNE

Tel.: (04) 773070

STRASBOURG

Tel.: (06) 8670840

ITALY

MILAN (Head Office)

via Mercante 30/24,

20138 MILANO

Tel.: (02) 5664181

Telex: 333398

GOTTERSBORG

Tel.: (03) 70330

HELSINGBORG

Tel.: (042) 216750

NORRKÖPING

Tel.: (031) 800190

STOCKHOLM

Tel.: (08) 9663740

SWEDEN

STOCKHOLM

(Head Office)

Norra Koldenvägen 16,

Stockholm 112 00 omnia.

Sven Sköldström.

KARLSSON

Tel.: (08) 813051

MANNHEIM

Tel.: (0621) 310085-89

MUNICH

Tel.: (089) 3302006

NEUWIED

Tel.: (0263) 54731-33

NUREMBERG

Tel.: (091) 120556-57

SAARBRÜCKEN

Tel.: (06521) 18055-76

STUTTGART

Tel.: (0711) 31036

VILLINGEN

Tel.: (07721) 55075-76

INDUSTRIAL

TNT HAS TO BE SMASHED

Continued from front page

are eagerly awaiting the outcome of TNT's Division 800 to see if the same strategy can be employed in their local fight with management.

Elsewhere in the world TNT owns many packing and freight forwarding concerns. These include Altrans (USA), Seafast International (USA), Trojan Freight (of Canada), Railfast (Canada), Pilot Freight (USA)... In Australia TNT owns the fast food chain ASPIRE, Express Freight Experts, Union Bulkshippers Ltd, Queensland Bulk Handling Ltd, Atlas Offshore, Sealiners Terminals Ltd, a new coal-loading facility on the Brisbane river and holiday complexes on Hayman Island (as well as Vagabond, formerly the Vagabond Inn). TNT is also involved in refrigerated transportation, waste and rubbish disposal, etc. Future TNT plans for Britain include the purchase of dock facilities, the setting up of a print post system, the purchase of parts of British Rail, the purchase of local privatised rubbish collection facilities and the purchase of an airline company. In Australia TNT owns a huge chunk of Ansett Airlines, the rest being owned by Rupert Murdoch. As well known in business circles that Ansett's reward for helping News International to secure the distribution of scab papers was a promise from Murdoch that he could purchase his share of Ansett.

TNT CAN BE STOPPED!

TNT's anti-union activities has to be stopped by whatever means possible. While Murdoch is the prime mover in the exercise to sack over 5000 print workers from their jobs (preparing the way for demolishing the print unions),

it is TNT who distribute the scab papers. TNT was crucial to Murdoch's plan from the beginning. Its record of scale labour has been built on advice of the advice given by Murdoch's solicitors to News International, that the printers should be provoked into strike action to allow Murdoch to sack them and thus take away their redundancy and pension rights.

TNT will not stop there. It is clearly TNT's objective to cooperate in the distribution of other newspapers that take up Murdoch's lead. Sure, there are other foreign companies that can compete for those contracts, but TNT needs a reputation within industry as strike-breakers, which they will capitalise upon if they can.

DIRECT ACTION

Because TNT's activities are multi-national then the offensive against TNT must also be international, as well as national. TNT's depots cover Europe as well as Britain and trade unionists and labour activists in Europe have an important role to play.

Where TNT depots cannot be blockaded by massive police action, then the trucks and offices and retail outlets will become targets instead. The number of incidents involving scab-busters attacking TNT vehicles, smashing their wind-screens and assaulting their drivers are becoming more frequent.

On another front too, print workers are preventing TNT from advertising in trade journals that form an essential part of TNT's media strategy. Print workers at *Flight News Express*, for example, have

refused to print the magazine while TNT ads are included. The magazine's management in turn refused to accede to a TNT request to seek a court injunction against the print workers on the grounds that advertising space can always be sold to someone else, and why should they risk union trouble anyway? TNT are reportedly still seeking to overturn this secondary action and are hoping that other print workers on other trade papers where TNT advertise don't take similar action.

The action taken by print workers at *Flight News Express* is just one by other print workers could well become the start of a campaign to prevent TNT from taking advertising anywhere. Not just the trade press, but also in the national press, and even on television and radio. Print workers in Fleet Street and elsewhere will strike together and TV companies come a time when this secondary action would be outlawed by the courts, leaving unionists to decide whether to continue and face fines or sequestration. That point will either be the breaking point of the campaign to stop TNT advertising, or it will be the

beginning of the campaign's success.

On another front, TNT can be stopped — again through secondary action by the effective blocking of essential supplies such as fuel, gas, electricity, water, etc.

All in all, the offensive against the distribution of *News International's* papers — whether by TNT or whether

by any other haulage company — can be at least delayed, mended up or sabotaged if effective action is continued by print workers worldwide individually

and as active participants throughout the labour movement. The Strike Support Groups that evolved throughout the 1984/85 Miners Strike should organise re-mobilise. Take direct action against their nearest depot, as well as send regular delegations to London, Birmingham and Kinning Park, Glasgow to add to the growing numbers on the picket lines. *News International* papers outside newsagents are, unfortunately, to be found in most high streets of most cities and towns.

The dispute is winnable, but without solid support it could become another turning point in the battle to crush any organised working class resistance to the State and employer's exploitation.



ARGENTINA CAR WORKERS TAKE CONTROL

In Black Flag No. 137 we reported that Ford car workers at the Gral. Panchecho plant (Buenos Aires) had gone on strike in response to the sacking of 33 workers (with a further 338 redundancies to follow) in early July 1985. Since then we have received more detailed information on the strike and its consequences. We reproduce below the main facts behind the strike.

THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

In early July the management at Ford's Gral. Panchecho plant announced its intention to sack immediately 33 workers despite previous assurances that no workers would be sacked that month. Workers at the plant organised a mass meeting in response to the provocative

action of the management and unanimously decide to go on strike and occupy the factory, much to the dismay of SMATA (the largest union in the plant) and the CGT (a peronist union).

The Ministry of Employment swiftly declares the strike illegal. The Church even steps in to try and avoid any type of confrontation between workers and management. The mass media (newspapers, TV and radio) do not announce the strike as an irresponsible action.

On the positive side, workers at factories nearby, neighbourhood and political groups, including anarchists, all come to the support of the strike.

On July 10th three days after the strike began, the workers demand and decide to re-start production using libertarian (non-hierarchical) methods of work, not capitalist ones. This horrifies the state who accuse the workers involved of further illegal

action and respond by putting law 20840¹ into operation in the interest of 'national security'. President Raoul Alfonsin, Argentina's head of state, denounces the occupation and emphasises that such actions (ie. Direct Action by workers and libertarian organisations at the workplace) cannot be tolerated any where in the world. George Schultz, North America's Secretary of State, backs up Alfonsin's statements by saying 'You can't help but admire the way Alfonsin has acted... Democracy has given Latin America a special power to contribute to the world in spite of its economic difficulties' (July 5th 1985).

After nine days on strike the workers at Ford are forcibly evicted by 1200 police and the experiment in self-management is over.

The strike and occupation is far from a total failure. The minimum objective of the strike, to get management to reconsider the sacking of thirty-three workers, is achieved. A mass meeting called by the workers during the occupation brings 3,000 workers together (out of a total workforce of 3,500). More importantly, the workers at Ford proved beyond a doubt that a workplace can be run efficiently on libertarian lines without any preparatory of 'transitional' period.

Source: La Proletaria.

1. Law 20840 was also the law used by Argentina's military junta between 1976-1983 to justify its policy of genocide against political opponents resulting in 30,000 people murdered.

Additionally, the pamphlet offers a Stitch network, whereby women wanting contact with others can be given the names of other patients living near them.

The *Cervical Cancer Prevention Guide* by Ros Kane-Stitch Network, 15 Matcham Road, London E11 £2 plus 25p p/p.



STITCH NETWORK

Each year between three and four thousand cervical stitch operations are performed in this country. Most of these are on women who have previously lost babies in

mid-pregnancy, normally due to an incompetent cervix, yet little has been written about the cervical stitch. Now Ros Kane has taken the initiative away from the medical profession by collecting the detailed accounts of 146 women who between them have had 231 stitches.

MINERS NEWS

MINE CHIEFS DEMAND PAY CUT

Mineworkers at the slate mines in Blaenau Ffestiniog, North Wales, have been on strike since last August, 1985 demanding better bonus schemes payments. The bosses have been insisting on a 40% increase in output, but are refusing to provide bonus payments for each extra tonnage taken per day, average £10 per ton. In fact the bonus payments are actually being reduced by £2 per week, as part of a 'cost cutting' exercise. The workers are all members of the Transport and General Workers Union, which eventually made the strike official.

The employers, Owen Glynn Williams and his brother Eifion, have refused to negotiate the matter even though the strikers have offered to go back to work without any pay cut.

Virtually all those who work at the mine have soldly stayed out (only six have

stabbed).

Financial assistance for the strikers has been going on. The Strike Support Group has been sending money to the miners of the South Food was sent up to Christmas in vans of the Miners Lodge in the Cynon Valley; turkeys were sent from the Ammanford Lodge; more financial support has come from the Film Street group and contributions from Cardiff and all members of the Swedish union SAC. At the local supermarkets at Blaenau, collections for the miners are regularly made and the local Miners Transport and General Workers Union has consistently provided money from the beginning. So far, because the strike involves only about fifty workers, the State has not got stuck in to criminalise their action; nor have the courts been used to force an end to the strike. However, when trying to bring out eighteen strikers have been sacked so far. Financial aid would not go amiss. If you happen to be in the area, don't forget to drop by to lend a hand.

INTERNATIONAL

HAITI - WHAT'S UP DOC?

Events moved rapidly in Haiti towards the end of the twentieth year reign of the Duvalier dynasty. After decades of slavery policed by State terror when an estimated 50,000 people were murdered.

While the Catholic Church hierarchy, vocal priests, middle-class and military dissenters who sparked the revolution, the slum dwellers who sparked the rebellions. The absence of an 'armed vanguard in the hills' or 'left-wing' Parties was not missed by the US Government who sent agents who hoped to dispose of the fat little dictator before he was engulfed. As we go to press黎波里在地獄裡，而我們在天堂裡，而美國的上帝沒有他，而法國人現在想要我離開，因為我太熱了。

Domestic disease and pestilence as well as the country's dependence on bauxite and coffee compounded poverty. Until the current AIDS panic, human blood was exported to the USA for use in transfusions.

'Haiti for the Haitians'

Papa Doc used race, Black nationalism – African roots ('nostra etc'), to keep out foreign investors and 'muzzled' from political power sharing and the black masses on his side through fear of the Tonton Macoutes, death squads, torture. Once in time in the 1960s the US Kennedy administration tried to oust him, thinking he had served his anti-communist bulwark too long going after the far left with the CIA-backed squads, frightened by the Graham Greene's novel made into a Hollywood movie *The Comedians* (portrayed) etc.

When his father died, Papa Doc took State power. He let in foreign investors, married a 'mulatto', cracked his mother and cracked the previously solid monolithic society. He set up several rival factions competing against each other for his favours and power. His wife Michele, now one of the wealthiest women in the world, became a multi-million consumer, shopping in France for jewels, clothes and got together the biggest collection of furs in the Caribbean. While the former slaves and mostly loyal poor starved at subsistence farming or low-pay working for US 'off-shore' light industries, the Government became rich or the Army the biggest area of the economy. Corruption grew as money value fell and wiped out the savings of those with them and pushed prices up.

Going west 1000 miles from Miami resembles the drought stricken Sahel in West Africa. It never seemed to receive any 'aid' due to corruption. A supply by the US of napalm and phosphorus weapons for use by the renamed Volunteers for National Security, the Tonton Macoutes (translates as Kill and Go!).

Gonaives Rebellion Grows

In 1983 an anti-government demonstration took place in Gonaives which was ruthlessly suppressed; people 'disappeared'. Gonaives was where one hundred and eighty years ago the slaves declared their independence from France.

In April 1985, due to US pressure for 'humanitarian' (Reagan and his fear of Cuba getting into the Cuban lack of interest in Haiti to date!) 'Doc' permitted some political parties to have a few reforms. Sixteen groups who had made a landing from Florida, were caught with weapons and killed.

In June 1985, ten marchers planned to march to Port au Prince. Six editors of the opposition magazine *L'Intransigeant* were arrested for calling a boycott of the coming 'referendum for Democracy'.

In July 1985, hundreds of people at gun-point were forced to vote several times in the 'referendum' which the Government 'supervised' and claimed 99.9% (1) voted to back Duvalier's proposal for democracy.

In August 1985, the National Progressive Party benefits from 'liberalisation'; it becomes the officially recognised 'loyal opposition'.

In September 1985, a meeting at which three 'opposition' Leaders are to speak is banned anyway.

In October 1985, more demonstrations occur in Gonaives that are organised by slum-dwellers against price rises, food and petrol shortages.

In November 1985, more demonstrations occur until on the 27th, with more people joining in including subsistence farmers and school students. Four youths are killed as they protest at the new law which goes with the Constitution (Duvalier is President for Life, and can choose his successor) and 'Down the Misery'. Next day schools are boycotted and the government represses the protesters in the town to occur.

On December 15th 1985, a Gonaives Schoolboy, 14, is beaten to death and tortured to death in police custody. All newspapers are silent on events, the Catholic Radio Soleil is closed down for reporting the murder. The Government claims it was self defence.

The Government has been sued and News speaks word of mouth now.

Duvalier sends a Minister off to the USA as the Reagan administration attempts to cut off US aid to stabilise returns. Young super-millionaires retire early as Duvalier reshuffles his Cabinet in an attempt to appear moderate and US government.

January 11th 1986, in Port au Prince the capital, trials calling for a general strike 'operation uproot' are circulated,

with small response. Duvalier admits to holding sixty political prisoners. The pseudo liberalisation is not working. Demonstrations occur in more and more towns as the US's informers and police cannot find leaders.

January 20th 1986, slim dwellers try to march on the US Marine Building Presidential Palace, using gas and volley rifle fire. Panicing, the Government arrests a militia chieftain and accuses him of murdering the youths in Gonaives. The US Marines call for a 'Food, Justice and Freedom' rally.

Two hundred tourists and holiday-makers arrive in a newly built resort at Labadee near Cap Haitien, controlled by locals Apatheticville. In Cap Haitien itself there are riots over unemployment and police violence. The US Marines are asked to officially 'abolish' (they appear Washington image makers and locals), but the Government strengthens the Army's anti-insurgency force. The two hundred rejected net millions of Port au Prince begin looking for better climates and the flow of capital from the country begins in earnest. Some 100,000 Haitians have got overseas at least \$400 million. A promise of 'elections' to be held in 1987 is made by Duvalier, this will allow an elected President to come in who will withdraw Duvalier as President. The US occurs to Haitians in exile in Florida, US occur to the ground as locals take over their towns and barricade highways between regiments.

At 4am on February 17th, a US Special C-41 Transport plane (unmarked and in darkness) too Duvale, his wife and an entourage of twelve, including his ill, out of Haiti finally landing in Gleneobles, France. He was expected to stay for a week and faces demonstrations outside his Alouette.

Celebrations, a rerun of the premature downfall of Duvalier a week previous, occurred all over Haiti: in Boston, exiles storming Haitian embassies, waving flags and portraits of Baby Doc. In Miami a gigantic street party took place. The Jamaican Minister of Social Security, Dr. Nevill, was shot. A group of Haitians in Baby Doc is thought to be the one who persuaded him to flee for his own life.

Crowds in Port au Prince, the Tontons who had been granted to escape the Dominican Republic or boats offshore. Their homes were also targeted by locals in a 'revolutionary' sweep. In the city, heads of Tontons were put on display, as had the heads of rebels decades before.

The Army, fed by the US as a source of muscle, is a role of new police-force channelling the violence so as to direct it for their own ends. A new Government is formed by a group of old Duvalierists headed by Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy, chief of the armed forces general staff. They try to impose a curfew. This was ignored. In Port au Prince houses were looted and dismantled. The tomb of Papa Doc was besieged, and the remains of lots of graves were dug up and burned.

Duvalier, who had been squeezed in between Mickey Mouse cartoons, appeared on TV saying he was handing over power to the Army.

The last few years of the US and French Governments over Haitian human rights – is as far as the existence of the 'coconut' of Cuba. Could it be that all States, no matter who runs them, fear any revolution which once begun may not be stopped? Duvalier had to leave because he was visibly losing his grip, powerless, without friends (save those he can pay) or country now. Botha, Zia, Pinochet, Bush, etc. all lost power because their control still appears to be there despite protests, riots and strikes. It is clearly revolutionary, which might be good for us, as Anarchists our history shows we reserve our violence for the property of the State or it's heads. How many more States are willing this last year if the poor organise their own emancipation without waiting for religious or political parasites to give them a hand?

In Haiti, one hundred years after they threw off their Gods and Masters and became the first successful black slave revolution, a liberating live on. After the revolution? It has barely started! It is not over yet. A second revolt against the military itself, or a mutiny by a section of military.

The 19,000 six-month contract labourers who were to slave in the Dominican Republic. Who are they and where are they? Were they their Gods and Masters? Are they still there? Are they and their families still there? Is there still a market for kola nuts? Is there still a market for political prisoners? The occupation lasted twenty years. Haiti may not be as easy to take over as Cuba, but the US's close proximity to the Dominican Republic and Jamaica may start a chain reaction in the island chain itself.

Going Going Gone

Through Radio Soleil etc, the Catholic Church has channelled their anger revolt into a direction of use to itself, but refrains from ousting their own corrupt Leader, who is the son of Baby Doc, and pleads non-violence. Yet the US Marines and slave army the return to the State side for a change.

The US Government claims that Baby Doc had left the country, causing premature jubilation. Duvalier goes on TV and Radio to say he has not left and declares a state of siege. Celebrations turn into rioting, burning and looting as the US Marines join in with the snipers and angry crowds. Estimates of four hundred people murdered by the State and community, many 'disappeared'. Emboldened, the US Marines return to Haiti, Government offices are razed to the ground as locals take over their towns and barricade highways between regiments.

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DEATH SQUADS LINKED TO SPANISH POLICE

More evidence has come our way of collaboration between Spain's para-military police, the Guardia Civil, and neo-nazi terrorists.

The new information has come from Jose Luis Cervero, a Guardia Civil officer who gave up his service in 1982 after seven years in Gossi. (The 'Action Commando' of the Secret Service information branch of the Guardia Civil). Cervero claims that his work changed direction from spying on 'subversives', especially against political parties and planting microphones in trade union offices to blatant state terrorist operations under the new leadership of General Santamaría, Leon, the Catalan and General Casinello).

The first terrorist act master-minded by the new Guardia Civil leadership was the kidnapping of the Minister of Maritime and Colonies, Martínez Soler, in 1983. A low-ranking Guardia Civil (still working today) was later implicated in this plot along with a neo-nazi called Guaza y Sierra. Guaza y Sierra went on to murder Arturo Arribalzaga, a Basque who he was arrested. He eventually escaped from prison with the help of friends in the Guardia Civil.

In 1980 General Santamaría was

appointed Guardia Civil Governor for the Basque Country and Casinello became head of the Guardia Civil's General Staff in Bilbao (the Basque Capital city). Spain's Basque region has its own language, culture and independent movement. It is highly industrialised with a high rate of urban and industrial resistance. Kidnapping and bombings increased dramatically from 1980 onwards on both sides.

Cervero claims that GOSSI blew up several high voltage pylons and later blamed the bombings on ETA (a Basque nationalist armed group). GOSSI also sent letter bombs in marzipan tins to several industrialists known to be pro-Spanish. The 'revolutionary tax' (a tax on imports) is also accused of setting up the terrorist organisation ETA (Anti-terrorist ETA) with the help of several neo-nazis. 'ETA' is known to have assassinated several ETA members. Two other anti-monarchical organisations active at the same time, 'Group 1' and 'Group 2', also freely collaborated with the Guardia Civil.

'Group 1' was controlled by Spain's Army General Staff while 'Group 2' recorded its orders direct from the government. It was in this latter group that several Italian neo-nazis (delle Chiaie,

Calzona, Vanoli, Cicatelli and Concetti) were involved along with ex-members of the OAS (Chérif, Kihlar) and Argentinian mazi Boccardo. All were free from the threat of extradition as long as they agreed to carry out 'dirty' work on behalf of the intelligence services.

Casinello is also suspected of taking part in the murder of four lawyers at Atocha (Madrid) in 1977. Two Nazis, Carlos and Francisco de la Cova (Covisa head of the fascist 'Guerrillas of Christ the King' death squad), were charged afterwards but they claim that a Guardia Civil, Adolfo Prieto, carried out the killing and supplied the guns.

Ironically, state terrorism has increased since the social transition took power. In October 1983 a new State-funded terrorist group 'GAL' was founded. The Basque 'Black Flag' (Black FLAG 140 for details). 'GAL' has so far assassinated over 20 ETA members and there is little sign of it stopping its murderous activities.

That terrorism is still responsible for setting up terrorist groups is not news to anarchists. It is, however, news to the majority of people and as time goes on, governments will find it more and more difficult to hide the truth.

ANARCHIST THEATRE

ON THE LIVING THEATRE



Julian Beck, the anarchist co-founder of the Living Theatre died recently in New York city. Michel Mattieu is a founding member of the Théâtre de l'Acte, which put on the play *Tout Homme (Everyman)* in conjunction with the Living Theatre in 1969. The interview with Michel is taken from the French anarchist journal *Agora Liberte*.

Agora: To what extent has the Living Theatre modified theatrical method?

MM: Between 1967 and 1974, for many independent groups, the Living Theatre was a true inspiration because the American group found itself at the head of a movement of revolutionaries. On the one hand, an internal revolution in theatre circles which consisted of a reassessment essentially based on the work of Brecht and Artaud; on the other, a worldwide political, moral and cultural protest movement which appealed to signal the end of the 'old world'.

The group was exemplary, because during a certain period it was truly able to link demands and unconfused revolutionary desires which were present in millions of people with the creation of a political language which contained all the added accoutrements, and attempted to renew contact with its essence. From our perception of the Living Theatre, this represented a desire to create a human community which was revolutionary in its internal functioning, and also to renew the audience's attention on focusing society as a whole's attention on all the sources of domination, violence and exploitation.

In 1969, the example set by the Living Theatre gave us the courage to sever our personal ties with society in order to define ourselves collectively. We then set up our own community at the 'Château de Perrin-Bas', and apart from the performances from which we earned our living, we were involved in many types of 'street or intervention theatre' which were linked to the social

movement. This was our first 'debt' to the Living Theatre.

In the realm of theatrical practice itself, the Living Theatre, or more precisely Jo, who was later the founder of the Open Theatre, tried to free the actor's spontaneity and develop his/her corporal imagination, and to favour collective creation.

The Living Theatre also represented the 'blue jean method', in other words publishing a more direct contact with the public by leaving everything that did not consider theatre as a means of communication, costumes, lighting and scenery. The Living Theatre in this sense was on the same path as Grotowski, another great innovator.

Agora: Is the Living Theatre style still possible in 1986?

MM: Certainly not the Living Theatre style precisely, because there has been a 'Living Theatre' style which was a movement, a code which preceded it. On the pretext of attempting to involve the public, or in the search for a cry of revolt, all kinds of performances were created which began to appear. What had been a profound explanation for the Living Theatre, at the same time personal, very concrete, involving and dangerous, has since often been taken as a collection of recipes. It ended up as a 'genre', and sometimes it becomes a genre. It can already be said that what was alive has departed.

Living Theatre itself, in this sense, after their period in Brazil (the 1974 Seven Meditations), let itself be trapped in an image, or rather in a fixed discourse which in effect had little to do with theatrical practice. The miraculous artistic/political convergence which had been the group's revolutionary strong point was no longer present. The discourse which remained was very far removed from concrete situations and the public's everyday experiences. At least this seemed to be the public's reaction in France.

THEATRE LIBERTAIRE

After a series of ups and downs, the Théâtre Libertaire has now settled down in the Déjazet theatre, a nineteenth century theatre which is one of the most attractive in Paris. Comfortable seats, a spacious stage with a red and black background and two balconies provide a warm atmosphere. The sound system is very quiet and impeccable, allowing the audience to appreciate the performance to the fullest extent.

In the last two months, the exterior has been redecorated in the original style and the interior has been entirely renovated.

For libertarians, culture, art and education have always played an important role. But if the TLP has received widespread attention, distinction has also been drawn between the demand for free expression and Culture (with a capital C). In effect, present day so-called art is usually synonymous with bourgeois art, whether within an educational framework, serving as a social reference point, or when it is applied to the notion of 'the masterpiece' (an arbitrary and dogmatic concept). Culture owes its existence and importance to the fact that it dissolves political and social boundaries' (Rudolf Rocker).

The demand for free artistic and cultural creation is equivalent to an ongoing attempt to free ourselves from the misery of daily life. Culture thus becomes a conscious act, which is continually manifested in our everyday activities. Most cultures have now dis-

appeared, 'replaced' by the pounding of the media; they have become more and more something which is imposed.

so that for the culture and who present performances? We also wish to support music (which does not emphasise form to the detriment of content). In a music hall tradition, 'American' and 'English' style opening acts will also be presented, allowing the audience to discover little or unknown performers.

Independent of the monthly schedule, the TLP Mondays will provide a trampoline for singers, musicians and groups.

To begin the season on the right note, the inaugural evening will feature Leo Ferre (11/1).

Theatre Libertaire de Paris.
Translated from *Le Monde Libertaire* No. 603
by M.W.

TLP-Déjazet,
41, boulevard du Temple, 75003 PARIS
FRANCE Tel. 48 87 97 34

Reservations are available at:
Librairie Publico, 145 rue Amelot,
75001 PARIS FRANCE

(U) Leo Ferre is an anarchist singer-songwriter who is very popular in France and French speaking countries.

A friend just back from France informs us that the TLP is off to a very good start and is attracting two hundred or more people for every performance.

TLP

DÉJAZET

The group then put on Brecht's *Antigony*. Despite the death of Beck, perhaps the group will reach their former level and find new sources of inspiration.

But in the case of the Living Theatre, it isn't the question of form that is important. What remains just as relevant today in my opinion is how demanding they were, because they were saying that theatre is an act which involves a group of actors that are capable of making the individual actor in his/her entirety physically, emotionally, mentally, philosophically and through the actors political decisions.

The action and ideas of the Living Theatre are worth working considering today's climate, which usually tends to be self-confining. Performances are thought of as finished products designed to dazzle in a saturated market. In a period in which an onslaught of racist and chauvinist tendencies is competing to fill

a political void, the Living Theatre represents what is fundamentally healthy... a gut reaction to the rampant anesthesia that is the true face of the infamous 'consensus'.

Agora: Can the theatre be an important means of revolutionary communication?

MM: That is a theoretical question! No revolutionary practical project in classical political terms in this sense, today is very hard to find a revolutionary project. Perhaps it is more appropriate to speak of a belief in the social act; it may be that a revolutionary movement is passing a course which is outside the critique of the classical theorists. On the other hand, perhaps we will escape the capitalism/terrorism predicament through a new approach, which will give a true coherence to revolution.

Personally, I'm very pessimistic, but I know that like myself thousands of other people refuse behind this facade must be an alternative. There is a possibility that if theatre is linked to a palpable revolutionary movement, I believe that it can represent an important means of revolutionary communication. Lacking this it can at least serve as a cleansing act, in other words that it can help us to free what is imposed by the dominant ideology. But to do this, it will first have to set its own house in order.

Important Yes, because theatre is an undeniably situation, one that is direct, uniting and in a sense arachic. Paradoxically, this is what is most promising in a situation in which mediation is becoming more and more the norm. Theatre remains a mediator for the conflict. This is the situation, and the goal that we should always set for the theatre.

Interview by Claude Arroy. Translated by M.W. The address of the Théâtre de l'Acte is 32, rue des Blanchems, 3100 Toulouse, FRANCE



FEEDBACK

LETTERS

We got a letter from someone saying 'It's a good paper, I remember when Freedom was a weekly and now you're outdoing them' who goes on to raise a subject which needs to be aired.

You don't seem to recognise that some Anarchists (perhaps a small minority) are anti-abortion, without supporting any Laws. It is Authoritarian to deny unborn humans their very life. And to state that a child is not a person simply due to its location (inside the womb or out) is blatant nonsense. Biologically a member of the species Homo-Sapiens – a human is a human from conception onwards. It's weird for Anarchists to side with the pro-

RECEIVED

abortionists such as Adolf Hitler, Stalin, Margaret Sanger (a racist – founder of planned parenthood), etc.

For Life and Freedom
Billy.

Firstly let us clear some myths to set aside the 'guilt by association'. Hitler was not 'pro-abortion' but faithfully followed the 'Catholic Line' on abundant births, in the case of Germans of Aryan Nordic birth. His views on sterilisation of the unfit and prevention of non-Aryan births notwithstanding. In the new Soviet Union, Church views on birth were enthusiastically thrown off, to be reintroduced by Stalin who also wanted to have plenty of cannon fodder and, unlike Hitler, had no racial

theories.

Margaret Sanger might be termed a racialist but to her, and in her day, 'racialism' meant something quite different. She was not a hater of other races than her own; but like other contemporary eugenics believed in 'improving the quality of the race'. Some racialists made use of her theories but despite some erroneous ideas she was in her day a progressive fighter for the rights of women, particularly working class women to control their own bodies.

The idea that life begins at conception is purely a religious idea, and on it the Catholic Church in particular bases a lot of assumptions, some of which would never have been made had women been in the priesthood. The Church has had to give way on several points involving contraception though it maintains its laws, knowing that they are ignored even by many of the faithful.

Neither Anarchists, nor most independent thinkers on the subject are 'pro-abortion' in the way the Catholic or religious influenced are 'anti-abortion': they assert the right of women to have control of their own bodies, and once this is freely granted, conception would rarely follow, since unwanted pregnancies are largely the result of religious influences which, even now, frustrate contraception.

The libertarian conception of 'rights' is that they are taken; the authoritarian conception is that they are granted. The foetus can hardly be said to have 'rights' in the libertarian sense, if the mother has rights she can give birth or not as she chooses.

Economic security would probably mean that there would be fewer unwanted pregnancies anyway.

Abortion is not something that is desired or fought for – whereas anti-abortion is (because it justifies a religious prejudice) – but it is something a woman should decide for herself.

Dear Black Flag,

I'd like to suggest you run a series on the various British left groups and parties. The *Introduction to Modern Politics* was useful but, I felt, very generalised. You go into useful depth on various extreme right groups, but I think you tend to assume that people are already well up on the ideas and histories of the SWP, WRP, Militant, etc. I have a degree of knowledge of them but, as I say, I'd like some full-scale articles to increase my awareness.

As much as the Trotskyites, I want to learn more about the Stalinist NPC and those in the CP. I'm amazed and appalled at the way such people still go on about Russia as if it has a totally unblushed history and is a 'workers' paradise'. So if you do decide to run such a series I'd appreciate an attempt to deal with the psychological angle as well (ie. how can people comfortably accept or ignore the concentration camps, muzzled press and cultural life, denial of the right to strike, etc. in some countries, and yet protest vigorously about such things in others?)

Hope you find this a worthwhile suggestion. In a way, it's also an attempt to say the paper needs a bit more 'home' content as lately I've felt you have tended to cover foreign events rather more extensively than those here. That's certainly not meant as a chauvinist remark, but just to urge you to keep in mind a rough balance of the two (No. 147 is about right, in my view).

Yours in solidarity,

A.J.

*Reply: The *Introduction to Modern Politics* was an effort in this direction, and we hope to do a series on the 'left', but would appreciate more insights from readers [it was a teenage Marxist! Shock-Horror!]. We received a letter from a comrade in Holland which requests we do a series on religions too; again, any help from atheist readers is welcome.*

BOOK REVIEW

THE SELF DESTRUCTION SYNDROME

Steve Edwards.

Pub. The Book Guild Ltd. at £9.95.

Most books which attempt to peer into the future make a sort of leap from where we are to where the authors will imagine we will arrive. The future is broken from the present and therefore is that much more remote. Sometimes such works focus on new forms of society and means of living as a result of dramatic technological change and developments; the optimist looks to a warm future wherein conflicts have been resolved.

The view this work takes of the future is disturbingly familiar: there is no break between the present and the future, all the events taking place in this 21st century world can be clearly seen as having their origins with our society. The book is distressingly plausible, and offers no brave new tomorrow, rather we have the venial environmental sins of today magnified into the mortal sins of the next century.

"It's hell out there, you'll need oxygen to move about soon, comes through the filter masks." . . . "Simon sat down, Sulphur level is up eight per cent on last year, and carbon fifteen."

"They'll have to do something" Paul said cheerfully.

"Why?"

"Well, they'll have to won't they . . . they

can't go on poisoning the atmosphere indefinitely".

Many progressive people have a sort of innate belief that society has in its possession a safety valve which won't allow things to get too bad before the masses rise up and stop it. This book suggests that the earth could be on the point of torturous extinction and people would still continue to accept it.

"Perhaps they could call for an emergency debate on a government-backed de-pollution scheme. It did not matter that the ideas would not be carried through because they were not economically viable and their implementation would undermine the whole system. The important fact was that they were presented and that tens of millions would read and believe them."

What if? has been asked before, this time it poses the sickening conjecture, if things don't get better and all the bad things continue to get worse, where will we arrive, what if acceptance of the powers that be continues, despite a world dying of forced consumerism, poverty and pollution? What if urban crime continues, and the permanent army of the unemployed become totally alienated from the minority working population?

This is not the future any of us want to see, but this book presents it as a plausible, and all too plausible, possibility.

David Douglass

POETRY CORNER

PIG CITY

If you go downtown just beware
there's a demonstration in the square
the boys in blue are everywhere
see the blacks in the park

hear the doors slam, hear the dogs bark
they're keeping the city safe after dark

the minister for corruption's working late
he wants a piece of the action in race &
no s.p. here, he rings interstate

the blacks at aurukun have to go
to keep big business on the go
while joh gets shares in camaleo

who was the bogman, who was the hitman
who were the frontmen,
who were the big men
in the national team

hello, hello, is that you dear?
what's that clicking noise I hear?
walls have eyes and phones have ears

go to a dance to have some fun
here come the boys with their dogs and guns
they don't like punks, run johnny, run

who's that knocking at the door
at 6am it must be the law
right, you know what we're looking for

a state of emergency for the 'boks
and then to show the workers who's boss
you think you got rights,
they're already lost

so you don't want to know,
you've heard it all before
but if you cop this lot, you'll sure get more
where to now from 84?

Aboriginal people and travellers gather in Musgrave Park until police clear them out.

SP Bookmakers for horseracing are not allowed in Queensland so bets are placed interstate to New South Wales.

Comalco is an aluminium corporation who used the State government to evict aborigines from their homeland so bauxite can then be mined for a profit.

In the 1970's the South African Springboks rugby tour of Australia ended in tear gas and baton charges as anti-apartheid groups disrupted the tour and Joh Bjelke-Petersen the Premier declared a State of Emergency.

More recently, electricity workers who generate the State's supply had their union busted and many sacked. Individual workers face up to \$5,000 fine and jail for any industrial action at work, ie. go-slows or work to rule etc.

Born into a world of fear,
and isolation,
born into a world at war.
We cry in the darkness,
and consume the poison.
We feel the pain,
our fear is mutual,
our prison within this system.
No love, no freedom
within its framework –
Our vision lies outside
Where we can live and care.
We sow the seeds of peace
and learn to understand
Anarchy
we are not alone
our voices will not fade
we confront and question
our vision is absolute.

A.B. Nijmegen

Demonstrations are banned in Queensland Australia, meetings in Brisbane can take place in the city square supervised by cops there to prevent it becoming a march.



Faction 27 ©1986 Ete Mafin Hartfuffe - Leader Left Luddites Inye Lurch!