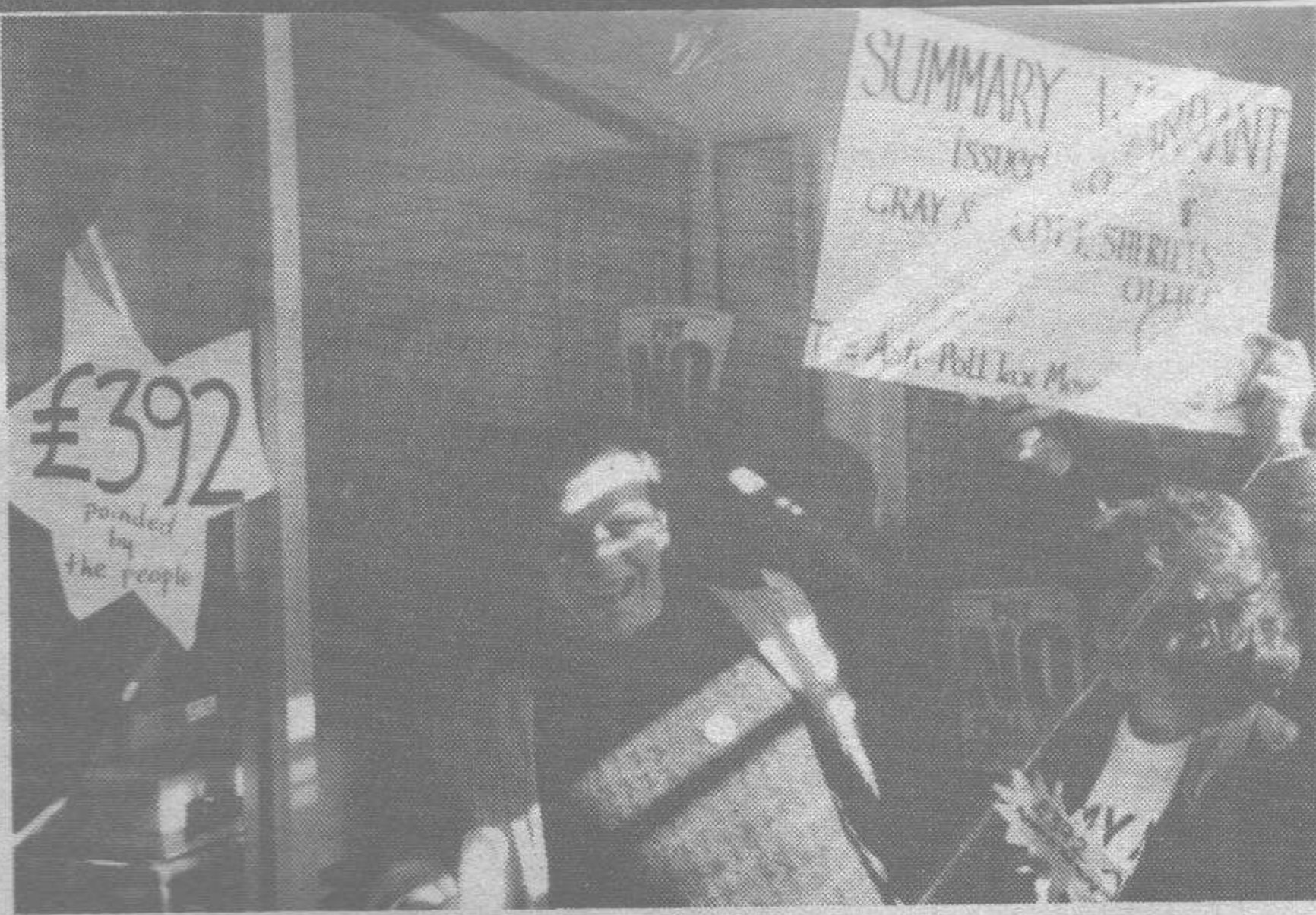


COUNTER INFORMATION

AUG/SEPT/OCT 1989



EDINBURGH, 7th June: 40 anti poll tax campaigners invade Sheriff Officers Donald and Scott to auction off their possessions in an "anti poll tax warrant sale".

MASS RESISTANCE ROCKS POLL TAX

Nearly 4 months into the poll tax and in Scotland around 25% of the population have refused to pay. In England and Wales millions have refused to register. The poll tax - introduced to boost the power of central government and to benefit big business and the rich - is in trouble.

With tens of thousands still not even registered, by mid-July there were an estimated 800,000 - 1,000,000 non-payers in Scotland (*Scotsman* 13/6, *Scotland on Sunday* 2/7). Many more are in arrears. Such is the chaos in Strathclyde that by mid-July non-payers had not even received a warning letter. Attempts to start recovering unpaid poll tax might not start until December! In Lothian recovery attempts were not due to begin till 22nd September at the earliest.

Over 50% of Londoners had not registered by the 21 days deadline. In Lambeth 75% had refused! In Leeds 60% had not returned the forms by mid-July.

SHOOT THE SHERIFF

Several Scottish Regional Councils have sent in Sheriff Officers to seize the goods of people who didn't pay fines for non-registration. But anti poll tax activists have resisted....

GLASGOW: 300 people gathered to greet the Sheriff Officers outside the home of Jeanette McGinn in Rutherglen on 4th July. When the state lackeys didn't show, the anti poll tax campaigners descended on the Sheriff Officers' city centre offices and occupied them.

ABERDEEN: In late April 70 people drove Sheriff Officers away from the home of a single parent. On 14th June police rescued Sheriff Officers surrounded by 100 protesters outside a flat in Victoria Rd..

EDINBURGH: In late April threats of massive resistance made at a mass delegation to a Council meeting forced Lothian Region to call off a

planned warrant sale against John Holloway. On 7th June 40 anti poll tax campaigners invaded Sheriff Officers Donald and Scott and auctioned off their possessions in an "anti poll tax warrant sale".

The Lothian Anti Poll Tax Federation plans a mass protest at the Regional Council meeting on 29th August to demand the Council do not pursue non-payers.

WORKPLACE ACTION

Poll tax work has been hit by the NALGO strikes. In Edinburgh and elsewhere anti poll tax groups have joined the strikers pickets and demos. Lambeth NALGO have a policy of boycotting poll tax work and have - to date successfully - pressured the Council to refuse to install an adequate computer and to refuse to chase up non-registrants.

CPSA branches covering around 15 benefit offices in Scotland have voted to refuse to deduct the poll tax off non-payers benefits. In London workers in some Housing Benefit offices (eg mid-Tottenham) are refusing to give information for poll tax registration. And Camden teachers Association are campaigning for all schools to do likewise.

Following rumours at Edinburgh's Cameron Toll Savacentre that non-payers might lose their jobs if their wages were arrested, Prestonfield Community Resistance Against the Poll Tax and the Lothian Anti Poll Tax Federation pressured the company. The management was forced to write to all employees assuring them wage arrestment would not lead to the sack.

WHAT NOW?

There is an important division within the 'Won't Pay' anti poll tax movement. The left-wing parties - and the many poll tax groups Militant especially dominate - emphasise convincing Labour Councils not to implement the tax (Militant's line) and pressurising the Trade Union

STREET-WISE

To beat the Poll Tax, organising at street-level is vital. Following is an excellent example in North London: Tottenham Against the Poll Tax write:

"We meet weekly aiming to make sure every local resident and worker is aware of what the Poll Tax means and how to defeat it. (mass non-co-operation). We aim for a Rep. in every street

(130 so far, our of 700 streets) and workplace (35 so far, mainly NALGO). In each of the 9 'wards', local Reps are holding public meetings to strengthen neighbourhood organisation. We have delivered 40,000 anti-registration leaflets to every household in Tottenham. A street presence is maintained by 3 stalls per week.

We now intend to put efforts into developing workplace and union involvement, as well as Tenants Associations and other community groups, whilst strengthening borough-wide (and London-wide) links".

Contact: TAPT, 72 West Green Road, London N15 Tel. 01 802 9804 (also contact for London Federation of Anti Poll Tax Groups, and thus for the 3rd Sept national meeting of anti-poll tax groups in London).

BIN IT, BURN IT - DON'T RETURN IT!

That's how to deal with your poll tax registration form, say anti poll tax groups throughout England & Wales. Forms have been burnt at many anti poll tax bonfires, but the biggest blaze was in Islington, North London when the Poll Tax office burnt down in June.

hierarchy to call industrial action against the tax (Socialist Workers Party's line).

But there's another strand of the movement. This emphasises the self-activity of working class people and aims to develop sufficient grass-roots resistance in the community and workplaces to make the tax impossible to administer. This attitude is shown by many open independent anti poll tax groups, some with an anarchist / anti-authoritarian presence.

The differences between these 2 approaches will become more and more obvious. The time for appeals to Councils, Union leaders etc is running out - in Scotland autumn / winter will see the (mainly Labour) Councils trying to use warrants and Sheriff Officers to collect the unpaid poll tax.

TIME TO CHOOSE

The anti poll tax movement will have to choose: either continue futile preaching in the deaf ears of Labour politicians, or develop as an autonomous movement in open confrontation with the law, Labour Councils and the state. Practically this will include - widespread physical defence of homes against Sheriff Officers - mass occupations of Council buildings - developing workplace self-organisation capable of fighting wage arrestment and attendant victimisation, outside the compromised Union structures, and against the law.

IF this mass direct action develops, the anti poll tax struggle could spread into generalised community resistance to payment and debt enforcement (electricity, rent, food, etc.), and could merge with existing resistance to the police (especially in inner city England).

PERESTRIKA!

"What is staggering is the fact that the miners showed such a high degree of organisation, without any involvement by the unions - This was one reason why they were so effective". So spoke a soviet bureaucrat about the very efficient and successful soviet miners' strike. The miners in Kuzbass, W. Siberia, started the dispute over pay and conditions, food rationing, the economy - you name it!

In a week, 350,000 miners throughout the USSR were out. From Siberia to Ukraine and Rostov-on-Don in the South to Vorkuta in the North.

Among the demands which were made (and later won!) were;

* From July 1 wage increases of between 20 - 40%

* Two days off in a week for all miners

* Three year maternity leave for working women.

By 29 July 51 out of 121 mines in the Ukrainian Donbass region were still out, the strikers wanting guarantees that the demands be adhered to by the state and that the demands should apply to all soviet miners.

No wonder Gorbachov and co. were worried by this show of workers power!

WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

OVER 45,000 miners in America came out on strike at the beginning of July to show solidarity with striking miners in Carterton, Virginia.

The miners are out because the Pittston Coal Company wants to cut pension and medical benefits and also to start round-the-clock shifts with only Sunday mornings off, and also to be able to bring in contract labour "when necessary".

More than 2,000 miners have been arrested for "obstruction". Scabbing coal-lorries have been caught in "rolling blockades" where miners and supporters drive along in front of the scabs at 5m.p.h. slowing down coal shipments.

Almost 1,000 people now stay at Camp Solidarity near the pit, which the striking miners now hope will become a focus for picketing and community solidarity.

LATE NEWS; A police bus full of arrested miners and supporters ran out of fuel on the way to the state prison, and not a single local petrol station would give them any fuel!

London Greenpeace are calling for annual world-wide protests against the IMF/World Bank Congress.

This year the Congress is in

Washington USA from 26-28 Sept. Info on protests etc: Greenpeace (London) 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1

There could be a link-up with other wildcat workplace struggles.

Taking this optimistic scenario a stage further the struggle could develop towards a realisation that debt enforcement is a worldwide problem for the ruling class eg in South America.

It creates an opportunity to undermine basic capitalist structures like money, legality and the state. This in turn strengthens the movement for a free and classless society.

But back to the here and now, and the fight against the poll tax is at a critical stage. Everything now depends on mass non-payment standing firm in Scotland, and a big enough movement growing to make mass non-payment a likelihood in England and Wales next year. We urge all supporters of mass non-payment to GET INVOLVED in grass-roots activity with a local anti poll tax group - we can give addresses for many areas.

Poll tax info packs for existing and would-be anti poll tax groups: large A4 SAE to Pigeonhole CR, c/o 11 Forth St., Edinburgh EH1.

THE WRITING ON THE WALL

THE BELIEF that the State, Party and Army was responsive to 'the people' died with the thousands gunned down in Beijing and other Chinese cities.

The occupation of Tiananmen Square had inspired "many citizens to abandon their fears. But now the protest movement started by a few students at Beijing's leading universities has turned into a movement embracing every sector of society, from squads of primary schoolchildren marching behind their teachers to grandmothers pedalled around in wheelchairs. Workers who had until then been afraid of arrest, began to show their support more openly.....they turned up from work units including secret arms factories and the offices of the central committee." (Guardian 18.5.89)

The 'crocodile tears' of the Western powers - "As long as the profits come, who's going to pull out?" (British consultant, Wall St. journal) - was matched by virtual silence (Soviet Union) or support for their fellow butchers (East Germany, Cuba). The real solidarity, demonstrated world-wide, was against the barbarism that all States reserve, the power to militarily massacre opposition.

WORKERS ORGANISE

Amongst the first tents to be crushed in Tiananmen Square were those of the Autonomous Workers Federation. An eyewitness wrote: "They were angry at the wide discrepancy between the wages of workers and those received by the managers. They wanted to bring to public attention the corrupt bureaucracy and a privileged elite in China. They were concerned about the lack of workplace democracy, unsafe working conditions, and the declining living standards of workers. They wanted to put an end to the lack of freedom of speech, of information, of the press and of association in China. Above all, they wanted a union movement, independent of party and government control which could really and effectively represent workers." (Trini Leung, New Statesman and Society 30.6.89)

The unrest had been stimulated by a strike wave since the start of the year (see CI 22). The state is using the clampdown to victimise workers demanding improved pay and conditions, and to blame gangs of so-called "hooligans", unemployed youth driven off the land, as a counter-revolutionary force.

PEOPLES ARMY MASSACRES THE PEOPLE

The resistance to the military clampdown spread throughout eastern China, in Shanghai, Changsa, Xian, Canton, Wuhan, Hefei, Nanking, Changchun etc., and in Chengdu and Lanzhou uprisings were suppressed by public executions. The authorities acted to isolate the student movement in the cities, while in the countryside, 800 million peasants carried on unawares.

In Tibet and western China the Peoples Liberation Army has been continually used against colonised and subjugated people, as recently as March 1989 to quell the Tibetan 'intifada'. The belief of students and protestors that their own 'Peoples' army wouldn't be used to kill and suppress Chinese people was shown to be a 'blind faith' based on racist assumptions. The success initially when martial law was declared rested on the citizens of Beijing blocking the progress of troops. This tactic of passive resistance and fraternisation was overwhelmed by a determined planned military assault carried out by troops kept in reserve and unexposed to the popular mood generated amongst the citizens.

ECONOMIC REFORM = MORE EXPLOITATION

The policies of economic reform, mass unemployment and enforced poverty, and collusion with Multinational exploitation, are increasingly unpopular in the cities. The refusal to 'sweeten the pill' of falling living standards by sanctioning even limited 'glasnost' could provoke resistance that will go beyond liberal demands for parliamentary democracy and create a movement for the realisation of direct democracy through social revolution. The design of Bush and western capitalism is to link loans and trade to liberal reform. There is a growing realisation, East and West, that demands for Democracy on the western model are a means to perpetuate exploitation and class rule.

POLAND

Friday 21 April: For the past couple of months WIP (Freedom and Peace), the anarchist movement for an Alternative Society (RSA), and youth groups like 'Movement' have been conducting illegal Friday afternoon demos in Gdansk against a nuclear power plant called Zarnowiec nearby.

About 200 people participated in an action very much like "direct-action" demos in the West. There was no co-operation with the militia (cops) and no control by demonstration "peace-pig" marshalls trying to monitor the crowd. The demonstrators militantly snaked their way through the streets of downtown Gdansk with the militia only occasionally barking out "disperse!" to no avail.

25 April: Over 100 people turned up for a rally at Warsaw University to protest a proposed anti-abortion law. The law would dump women who had abortions in prison for 3 years.

There were short speeches but it was mostly arguing and debate among the crowd. One woman gave a talk against the ban, noting women in the US are facing a similar situation and gave solidarity greetings from US women.

1 May in Gdansk reflected the major split in the Polish opposition. Pro and anti-Walesa forces had separate actions. Polish anarchists play a strong part in the anti-Walesa movement, together with radical fractions of Solidarnosc like 'Fighting Solidarity' or Solidarnosc 88.

On Monday the Walesa grouping met in a church and then marched hundreds strong to Old Town Hall. At Old Town Hall anti-government, anti-Walesa forces had illegally rallied. The Walesa crowd turned and were reportedly set upon by the Zomo (riot police) and dispersed.

Then about 400 radicals began a march along the same route. Zomo vehicles immediately appeared. The crown pelted the trucks with rocks.

"At one point a cry went up something like "Let's go up Długa Street!" which is where the official CP celebration was happening. Just an unguarded stage with music & performances - without much of a crowd. By the time we got to the stage enough passers-by had joined in that we swelled to 1,000.

The CPers panicked! The stage was seized - we wrecked their May Day".

Source: On Gogol Boulevard. Info: Wolnosc i Pokoj, Klaudiusz Wesotek, Ul Stupska 32/3, 80-392 Gdansk, Poland (Freedom and Peace).



Demonstrators burn the Swiss and Zurich flags in the Paradeplatz, "place of the banks".

Our Swiss correspondent writes:

"That Switzerland is not only about cheese, cows, watches and international finance is proven once more by the latest events in Zurich, Geneva and Basle.

It is impossible to find a room to live in in Zurich or Geneva unless you can afford to pay an extreme amount of money. Despite the City Council using all its power to defend the speculators and the rich by means of evictions and the police force, a strong squatters movement has formed making houses to live in, not to speculate with. The beginning of July saw a huge demonstration which ended in riots."

In Zurich the police opened fire with plastic bullets and tear gas. One woman lost an eye and old people and children were among the injured. The demonstrators fought back - banks, insurance companies, porn cinemas, fur shops and police cars were all attacked. The police-demonstrator clashes lasted for up to 11 hours.

"The movement in Basle is geared more towards the fight for an Autonomous Cultural Centre. Between April and June squatters were evicted from the main centres. Riots followed with police using tear-gas and plastic bullets fired at close range.

Our activities continue now "in exile" - on the streets and in public spaces. Switzerland can no longer be seen as that nice quiet little country producing cheese and watches!"

KANPUR WORKERS WIN

35,000 textile workers in Kanpur, India blockaded the railway tracks from 22-27 February, demanding that a union agreed tribunal 'award' be scrapped.

The agreement would have meant increased workloads at the mills and the loss of 10-12,000 jobs.

The workers stopped all the hundred or so trains which pass through Kanpur daily. After their shift in the mills about 10,000 workers would squat on the tracks until the next shift took over.

Established trade unions repeatedly called for the lines to be cleared, but to no avail as the workers were organising themselves independently. The government (who own 9 out of the 10 mills in Kanpur) argued that the workers' quarrel was with the mill management - not the Railways (also govt owned). Seeing the Capitalist machine as 'one thing' however, the workers ignored the authorities and after 5 days the state gave into the workers' demands.

NO MISSILE SITE!

Since April 1986 the people of Baliapal in Orissa, India have successfully thwarted state plans to set up a national missile testing range in the area. All entry points to the proposed site have been blocked. When an attempt is made to break the blockade, conch shells are blown, brass plates beaten and more people rush to defend the barricades.

In May 1988 hundreds lay down in front of vehicles when 5,000 armed police tried to enter the area. The people are even willing to die - forming a suicide squad in their determination to oppose the development.

If the site is established 100,000 people would be displaced, turned into refugees, marginalised and pauperised. The struggle has succeeded so far because of the defiance of those who have everything to lose and nothing to gain if the state's plans are allowed to proceed. Source: The Indian Post

AIDS ACTION

AN INTERNATIONAL network of people with AIDS, ARC, HIV positive and their supporters called ACT UP (The AIDS coalition to unleash power) has been making their presence felt.

In Portland, Oregon (USA) an ACTUP demo of 150 people forced the closure of the Food and Drug Administration office for the day. Demonstrators broke police barricades to enter the building, decorate the doors with red paint and blockade the office.

They demanded immediate free access to drugs which help those with AIDS and concurrent ARC treatments, with no placebos for those in AIDS drug tests.

Info: Ecomedia Seattle.

MONSTER MASHED

The Shell Research Centre in Amsterdam, just behind Central Station, was the scene of a mass protest against the monster multinational in April. Among other crimes Shell, through their massive involvement in South Africa, is a major prop for the repressive apartheid regime.

For 3 days there were people on the streets having demonstrations, performances, rallies and an extensive cultural programme. It became obvious that we couldn't really prevent workers getting to the building because the ME (riot police) were guarding the coaches they arrived in. There was fighting and teargas and there were injuries on both sides, but there was also a good feeling among the crowd (on the last day approximately 5,000!) about being there. It was all organised superbly

THE REFUGES ARE OURS!

Abused women from the Falkirk area in central Scotland held an emergency public meeting after hearing of Falkirk District Council's proposal to force the closure of Women's Aid refuges and slash their budget.

Plans are being made to provide a so-called "better service" by putting women fleeing from male violence in homeless persons accommodation. More than 70 women gathered to confront the Labour councillors involved, in a great show of strength and determination to stop their plans. As one woman said: "To actually believe that a council house on their own would be a better service than being with other women going through the same situation shows just how little you councillors and officials understand. We're horrified and angry."

"It will not be the last time a few men with a lot of power try to tell women what is best for us, taking little or no heed what women ourselves want or need. These men should be made to face the consequences of their actions..." said another.

The refuges are ours and we will fight to keep them!

Contact: Falkirk and Grangemouth Womens Aid, West Bridge St., Falkirk, Central Region,

FIGHT BACK

FOR 6 days during July 'white collar' workers in local authorities across Britain took strike action and demonstrated against the Labour and Tory council employers' attempts to cut wages and conditions.

This was the first national strike by this group of workers. Despite a substantial minority voting against the action in a ballot, it was well supported & particularly solid in the Metropolitan areas. To that extent the action was successful and a step forward. But there were important weaknesses that will have to be overcome if we are to beat the employers.

OPEN MEETINGS

The action was dominated by the Union apparatus with the majority of workers remaining passive. Activists in Manchester for example organised their own regular meetings open to all strikers irrespective of Union or district, but this wasn't typical. NALGO the main union attempted to dissuade picketing out of the manual workers who have a similar claim of their own with the same employers - this must be challenged next time. Some tentative links were made with striking railway workers, but generally there was a lack of awareness of the common attack we are all facing (especially in the public services) and the need for a co-ordinated fightback. NALGO is now proposing further futile

one day strikes plus indefinite strikes of up to 5% of 'income earning' staffs. They along with the other unions are working hard to keep the public sector disputes separate and isolated.

The proposed action may win some minor concessions from the employers but it will never win the full claim of 12% or £1,200 essential to the nearly 50% of low paid workers in Council offices. A settlement for a straight 1 or 2% more will be a waste of time and will help drive down the wages of other public sector workers.

COMMON ATTACK

All workers are facing a common attack involving:-

1. Cuts in the real standard of living
2. Undermining or abolition of national bargaining
3. More flexibility in working conditions re more for less
4. Cuts in jobs

Underground workers, Council workers, ambulance workers, oil rig workers, workers at the BBC, engineers and many more are all in dispute at the same time. We need ALL OUT strike action extending rapidly to all those sectors to achieve a massive and immediate impact.

This can only be organised by ourselves, linking across union and industrial divisions with common demands for:-

1. Large flat rate pay increases
2. No job losses
3. Maintenance of national rates and conditions
4. No victimisation

Together we can inflict a decisive defeat on the government & employers and build the strength to challenge the whole rotten system.

A Manchester Council Worker. 27.7.89.

STOP PRESS 11/8 : Union leaders have agreed a "no strings" settlement of 6.8% and called off the strikes. Action has won improvements on the original offer, but this is a poor compromise which does little to help the low paid.

LONDON UNDERGROUND : Meanwhile some tube workers have taken wildcat action to resist a Union agreed deal (see back page article "Underground Action")

MARTIN FORAN

In April Martin suffered a heart attack. Doctors say that another one will kill him. He also has cancer of the right eye, and his bowel condition has worsened. The prison authorities are giving him the wrong colestomy bags, and he was left for hours with shit pouring out of his belly, causing severe pain, for which he is being denied medication; pain so severe that he has asked to be placed in isolation in case he lashes out at a screw. So bad is Martin's condition that even the erstwhile Board of Visitors has complained to the Governor and, receiving no satisfaction, has approached the Home Office.

The West Midlands Police Force, who originally framed Martin, are currently the subject of investigations and much-publicised allegations. Supporters of Martin have recently leafleted in Belfast and will do so soon in Dublin. On the UK mainland supporters are active; also now in Belgium.

It is obvious that the prison medical aid in the hope that he will simply fade away, helped by media indifference. **WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS.** Graffiti, publicise, raise money, etc.

Write to the prison governor at HMP Frankland, POB 40, Finchale Ave, Brasside, Durham DH1 5YD, England. Letters of support to Martin Foran C51 746 at the same address.

A WORLD TO WIN

McWorkers Unite!

Unions in Denmark are boycotting and holding actions against McDonalds because the multi-national 'fast food' company have refused the workers the right to organise.

Construction workers refuse to work at building or rebuilding McDonalds restaurants. The unions also try to hit McDonalds at their supplies of meat, bread and milk and have stopped production of their 'milk' shakes.

The unions hope to involve the international Food Union to stop goods being delivered from Turkey, England and Germany.

Source: Ekomedica Arhus/Toronto

ARGENTINA

May '89: A state of emergency was declared in Rosario, Argentina's second largest city to quell huge food riots where people raided shops and supermarkets. The people took to the streets after the government announced emergency measures aimed at curbing hyper-inflation said to be 70% in May alone.

Dozens of similar riots were reported from other major Argentine cities.

CAN'T PAY WON'T PAY

A wave of spontaneous strikes and demonstrations swept Italy this Easter in response to the imposition of charges for basic health services. Car, metal, textile and other workers took action alongside health workers.

Following a well-supported Union-called "general strike" on 10 May the Union leaders have been trying to demobilise the movement.

MEADOWS NOT MONEYBAGS!

Riot police were brought in to move villagers protesting about a Barratts Luxury Home development on 35 acres of meadows and hedgerows in Birkenshaw, Bolton Lincs.

After several years of protests and campaigns, bulldozers finally moved in on the site this July aided by nearly 50 cops and 20 Bailiffs.

Locals occupying the site, scuffled with police and chased lorries and diggers before the land was finally cleared. Later a youth chained himself to a 22 ton digger but was cut "free" by bailiffs.

LAND OR DEATH

Tierra Amarilla, New Mexico:

On 5 June a large crowd marched from their encampments, to a courthouse in the town centre, which had been taken over in 1967 as a protest to land theft by "development" corporations.

The encampment occupiers live in 5 bunkers with signs saying "Tierra O Muerte" (land or death) and are decorated with pictures of Emiliano Zapata - they are fighting for their land, which was given to them by the Spanish Crown years ago to be used communally and to be owned by the community in perpetuity.

AUSTRIA - February: An 'Eat the Rich' demo against the annual festival at the Viennese Opera House ended with demonstrators fighting riot cops who were guarding the rich opera fans. A good seat at the festival costs as much as an Austrian worker earns in a year.

GIRLS STRIKE

A GROUP of girls in Jui Cui village in Guangxi province in South China is striking because they are not allowed to go to school.

In rural China as in other rural areas of the world, children, especially girls, are kept at home to work rather than sent to school. 83% of the country's children who do not attend school are girls. The girls, aged between 8 and 15, are refusing to do housework, work in the fields or take care of brothers and sisters unless they are allowed to go to school.

SOURCE: Off Our Backs



Demonstrators blockade the gates of Detroit's new killer incinerator on 3 June to demand its closure. Info: Fifth Estate

INSIDE INFO

WOBBLY IN THE FRAME

John Perotti, who is trying to organise prisoners, who are used as virtual slave labour for the multi-million dollar Ohio Penal Industries, into the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW - famous as the 'Wobblies') the militant rank-and-file union, has been framed for a stabbing.

John, who has been beaten by screws on at least 15 occasions and is kept in isolation, was locked in his cage at the time of the stabbing. He was, however, due for parole, which is now scrapped. He desperately needs funds for this case, and others where he is prosecuting screws.

Write John Perotti Defence fund, c/o Counter Info

Letters of support to : John Perotti, (167-712), POB 45699, Lucasville, Ohio 45699-0001, USA.

THE MURRAYS

Marie and Noel Murray, who organised the Anarchist Black Cross in the 26 counties, and were jailed for life in 1975 for armed robbery, want to have a child before it is too late, and have gone to litigation.

The Irish Supreme Court cannot proceed with the case until the relevant documents are passed on by the High Court. So far, the latter has had the case papers for FIVE YEARS and shows no sign of sending them on.

It is obvious that the authorities are hoping that the Murrays will simply be forgotten about. Let's prove them wrong! Send the Murrays a letter or card of support.

Marie Murray, Mountjoy Prison, Dublin 7, Noel Murray, Limerick Gaol., Co. Limerick, Ireland.

Defence donations, case details from London ABC, BM Hurricane London WC1N 3XX.

More about these and other cases is published in 'Inside Information'. Send a stamp for a few copies. Donations needed. Prisoners need only send their address.

RESISTING RACISM

HERE TO STAY

Over 100 black people are being expelled from Britain every week. But people are acting together to combat this state racism - everyone should be able to live where they choose.

SAM MANNA of Moss-side, Manchester has won his fight to stay in this country after a 2 month battle with the Home Office backed up by a public campaign with strong local support.

FRANCIS OKANLAMI, supported by his union NALGO, has won his appeal against deportation as the order was served illegally. Despite this he still has to report to his local Police Station and the Home Office are appealing.

Defence Campaign: tel. 061 834 6564. Another NALGO member, **MARION GAIMA** from East London, has

STOP RACIST ATTACKS

Around 2,000 people, black & white, marched in Edinburgh on 3 June to protest against the growing tide of racial attacks & harassment in the Lothian Region and in particular against the racist murder of Ahmed Shek on 16 January.

Participants & organisers successfully resisted repressive police measures at this demo. Police attempted - but failed - to ban 2 banners with references to Ireland and to stop a Black Forum member shouting slogans through a megaphone. Police harassment of people collecting for demo expenses was publicly denounced at the post-demo rally.

Info: Lothian Black Forum, c/o 12 Picardy Place, Edinburgh

NAZIS KNACKERED

MAY 27TH: 200 anti-fascists, including many Asians, occupied London's Hyde Park speakers' corner, to prevent a rally of Nazi skinheads from all over Europe, congregating to be told the secret venue of the Nazi band Skrewdriver's concert. Fortunately the fascists turned up at Hyde Park in small groups which were met with a barrage of abuse and chased away.

defeated attempts to deport her to Sierra Leone. A Judicial Review found a 'case for political asylum'.

VIRAJ MENDIS and his new wife Karen are now virtually confined indoors and live in constant fear for their lives in Sri Lanka. Karen is in Britain at the moment to inform people of the situation and to help the campaign for their return.

Sonia Hughes, a black activist in Viraj's Campaign, was sent to prison for 28 days for police assault on May 11th after the appeal had acquitted 5 other activists who were white.

VMDC, c/o North Hulme Centre, Jackson Crescent, Hulme, Manchester M15 5AL

VICTORIA APETOR of Manchester - who has an 18 month old British

born son - has been given a deportation order even though she came here legally. She is at present appealing for a Judiciary review of her case.

After an active campaign **BABAR HUSSEIN** of Glasgow won his fight against deportation to Pakistan.

FIGHTING FASCISM

Mixed fortunes on the anti-fascist front in recent months in the North of England. The NF flag group were prevented from holding their St George Day event in Rochdale in April when anti-fascists from across the North joined local opposition.

The BNP faced opposition too in Leicester, just a couple of days after local nazi John Peacock had returned from a Hitler's birthday party to find his house gutted by fire.

Opposition to the June BNP rally in Darlington though was poorly co-ordinated and despite being chased around the ring road the fascists could claim the day as a success.

A fortnight later a massive police operation allowed the BNP to rally in Dewsbury, and then roam the town centre freely. Anti-fascists and local Asian youth were penned in and driven back into Savile Town by riot squads. The 'Scarborough' pub, a haunt of fascists, was badly damaged. There were 59 arrested and a defence fund has now been set up.

Some were beaten up and had to be rescued by the police. The fascist rally did not take place.

Though the Skrewdriver gig went ahead, only 400 of the expected 1,200 Nazi thugs managed to find it.

ON THE WATERFRONT

On the 100th anniversary of the Great Dock Strike, the TGWU (Transport & General Workers' Union) leadership decided to give up the fight over the Government attack on the NDLS (National Dock Labour Scheme).

Dockers on the river Forth, Glasgow, Tilbury and at Liverpool and elsewhere were still out on strike when Union leaders voted to return to work.

Dockers' actions were on the point of escalating eg Grangemouth dockers picketing Invergoron to stop new "G" reg. Nissan cars being unloaded by unemployed scab labour, Liverpool and Tilbury dockers picketing ports where workers had returned under threat of redundancy and loss of pensions.

International solidarity was forthcoming. In Amsterdam, dockers refused to unload a ship diverted from the UK and Belgian and French dockers were holding talks.

The action by their union leadership should not be seen as an ending to the dispute - but the beginning of a new struggle, with private companies who want the dockers to accept worse pay and conditions and longer working weeks.

To win these future fights dockers will need to rapidly spread strikes to all ports and beyond, disregarding the TGWU's craven obedience to the Tory government's anti worker laws on ballots and so-called secondary action. The recent national strike was fatally weakened by the long delay before the action started and by the failure to spread the strike to the non-scheme ports, rail and road transport, etc.. The dock strike has yet to happen!

ET ON STRIKE

Workers in over 50 job centres and Employment Service Offices in London have taken strike action against the Employment Training Scheme (ET). The 26th June and 3rd July walk-outs were to stop this "work for your dole" scheme coming into the Civil Service.

Workers and the unemployed are fighting ET together. Greenwich Action Group on Unemployment, Barnsbury Claimants Union and the very active South East Region Anti Workfare Movement have initiated and participated in anti ET pickets of Job Centres, along with the strikers.

To take the all-out action needed to win the

UNDERGROUND ACTION

A lengthy series of one day strikes by tube workers has hit the operation of business in London. The workers are fighting for higher wages and against management attacks on working conditions.

Management want more work from less workers and measures like the replacement of promotion by seniority by management choosing according to "suitability". This would give management the power to exercise favouritism and their racist and sexist prejudices.

Initially the underground strikes were unofficial, with mass meetings and unofficial co-ordinators organising the action. However the much-needed link-up with the bus and rail disputes was never really made. The Union leaders kept the struggles isolated from each other, the bus and rail workers settled in July, and now the NUR and ALEF leaders are calling official one day strikes, while fostering the divisions between the ASLEF drivers and the NUR guards and station staff.

As the *Action Group for Workers Unity* write in their leaflet on the transport strikes: "We (workers) can only take effective action, we can only overcome the divisions between us, by relying on our own strength: - on wildcat strikes that don't wait for ballots or injunctions - on our own mass meetings to control the struggle at every stage - on joint meetings between workers form different sectors... - on our own pickets and delegations which aim to spread strikes as widely as possible."

Info: AGWU, c/o TURC, Markhouse Rd. School Complex, Markhouse Rd., London E17

civil servants will need to defy their CPSA Union National Executive who are opposing the anti ET strikes.

Meanwhile, the unemployed continue to resist coercion onto ET through Restart interviews, etc.. The government is around 111,000 short of their original target of 300,000 ET slaves every 6 months. Only 4 out of 10 referred to the scheme actually go on ET. And an estimated 80% of these starting ET walk out within 6 weeks.

Contact: CPSA, c/o Susan O'Shea, Job Centre, 4 Upper Street, London NI ONW. Greenwich Action Group on Unemployment Tel 01 854 4989

CONSTRUCTASTRIKE!

At the beginning of July, one year after the Piper Alpha disaster, an indefinite strike was called for by the oil-industries construction workers, who say that safety and conditions haven't improved one bit since last July.

Twenty-one oil rigs came out on strike immediately and more followed. The oil companies (Shell, Texaco etc) tried to meet workers' demands with the exception of safety and union recognition, but BP also tried intimidation in actions such as cutting telephone lines to stop support spreading further, towing away an accommodation platform to "isolate" the workers who were having a sit-in, and BP also flew in scab labour to break the strike.

With the lack of union recognition the workers have now decided to spread the strike to "on-shore" sites such as Grangemouth - where the local workforce have responded favourably to the calls for solidarity. This is one way of letting the bosses know that safety should come before profits.

FED UP OF BEING ORDERED ABOUT AND EXPLOITED? Sick of living in poverty while the profit system benefits a powerful few? Angry about men oppressing women? Disgusted at the many other injustices in today's society?

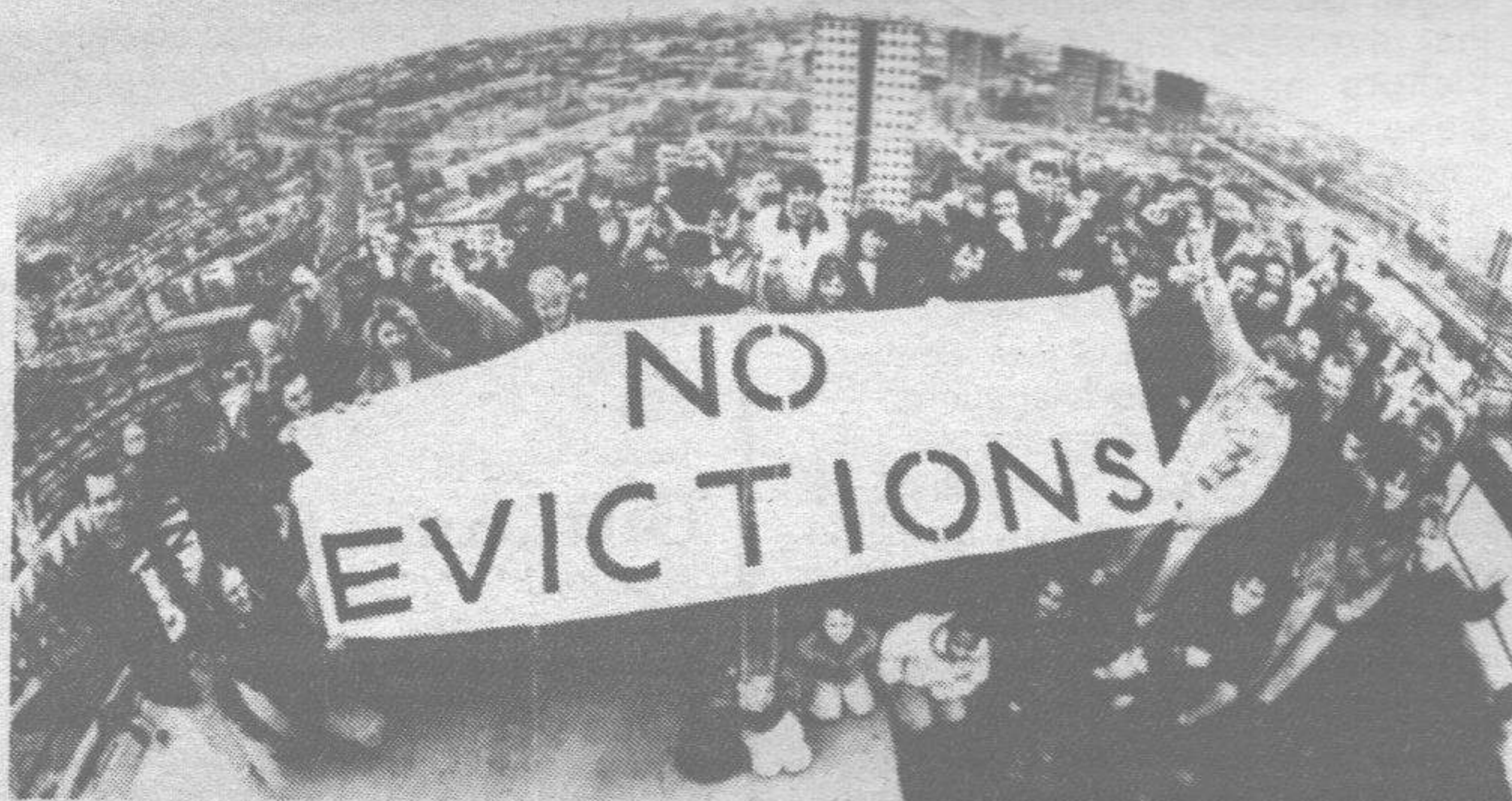
You're not alone. Lots of people round the globe are not only fed up, they're fighting back. In Counter Information we report this often-censored resistance, to encourage more such activity.

We stress the importance of people directly controlling their struggles, outside the control of political parties, trade unions or any leaders. Replacing one set of rulers with another - as has happened in the 'Communist' Party-ruled regimes, and as left-wing parties and national liberation movements want - is no solution. We encourage today's resistance to aim for the complete overthrow of all relationships whereby some people oppress others. The world's resources should be owned and controlled by all, and used to satisfy human needs.

The Counter Information collective invites people to - send us articles and information - take bundles of the news-sheet to distribute - make a much needed donation towards our printing and postage costs - write for info on our Readers Meetings and the CI Supplement - contact us if they'd like to join the CI collective. We wish to co-operate with all who share our aims.

COUNTER INFORMATION, PIGEONHOLE CI, C/O 11 FORTH ST, EDINBURGH, UK. For information on local CI distribution and other local activities write: For the north of England - Red ant Black, c/o Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester. For the west of Scotland - Glasgow Anarchists, PO Box 239, Glasgow G5 0LW

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Tenants in short life flats in West London's Elgin Estate protest at Westminster Council's threat to evict them. In Haringey too occupants of short life housing are fighting evictions: They point out there are 750 empty Council houses in Haringey.