Poll Tax:
If you live here...
WHOOPEE!

or here...
TOUGH!

A Subsidy for THE RICH

See Report on Page 3
The Best Christmas Present!

On November 17th postal workers voted by a majority of 73,000 (55%) to 58,000 (45%) for industrial action to reduce the working week by 3 hours. Postal workers work the longest week of any group and there has been a steady reduction since 1965. Most workers have had a 40 hour week for decades and at a time when many look towards a 35 hour week we are only just beginning to take action.

Postal workers work long unsocial hours including compulsory Saturdays and deliveries have to be made in all weathers. The PO last year made a profit of £170 million and it’s a profit made in the Western World. This is probably the lowest paid and long hours - yet all the PO has offered is 1 hour less work with all the sorts of unreasonable stringed attached such as loss of night allowance, reduction in overtime rates, and so on.

CHOPPING BLOCK

Over recent months it has become obvious that postal workers are next in line for the chopping block. We are one of the few groups of organised workers not to be attacked and defeated by the Tories. Redundancies have hounded over 100 wildcats strikes - mainly in London and south east England. The Union of Communication Workers (UCW) rarely backs strikes and has tried to sabotage recent ones by telling workers to get back to work while the bureaucrats stitch something up with management. Mores strikes have been postponed due to the reduction of casual workers who work overtime and weakens our organisation against management. Many of the strikes have been successful and these offices are in a good position to fight anything management throws at them.

Pay Cuts Middle

WHEN IS A Pay rise not a pay-rise? Yes you guessed it: when it’s a pay cut.

The management of Yorkshire Rider Buses (Wetherby) have imposed a pay cut of between 11% and 14% and the bus drivers call it a pay increase.

GUT IT OUT

RAILWAY GUARDS at Lime St, Liverpool, members of the Transport and General Workers Union, have started a strike action. The proposed action is to take the form of a 24 hour strike. It is understood that the guards have already started work normally by the 9 guards at the centre of the dispute, and refusal of all guards to issue tickets.

The dispute arose in October when the guards on the ticket collectors were arrested for fraud after alleges that large numbers of tickets, at first those involved were suspended on full pay pending the trial result which could take up to 3 months. British Rail eventually decided not to dismiss them would be the short of staff but also that it would cost a fortune to keep men and women on full pay to just sit at tickets. Previously BR has sacked individuals in similar circumstances before the trial on the grounds that, in their opinion, they were guilty. This "right" was upheld by an industrial tribunal when the NUR fought the case of a person who was sacked but later found not guilty. The tribunal stated that it was necessary for BR to feel persons were guilty "beyond reasonable doubt" at the time of sacking.

HESITANT

In the Liverpool workers' case, it is believed that because of the large number involved, BR were hesitant to sack them on the spot. Instead they gave them 3 months notice of sacking and this, in theory, took all the staff shortage and problems out of the question and broke all national agreements and caused so much anger that they decided to strike and to sacked an unofficial 24 hour strike and demanded a ballot for further action.

If the guards are to defeat this attack it is important that they act cohesively as one. Already, elements in the union bureaucracy are arguing that an instruction to boycott work normally done at Lime Street shouldn't be sent to other depots. They say it would be calling for secondary action without a ballot. It is important that guards fight this as management may take the hard line they took in the so-called driver-only dispute when Glasgow guards were sacked, and in local disputes in Manchester where again guards threatened a 24 hour strike but management told them if it went ahead they'd be in breach of contract and would be sacked.

Guards at Lime St must organise a full day's strike for support directly to workers at other depots. If they are successful they must send out pickets to spread the strike. It's too good a chance for the NUR to do it on their behalf as the Glasgow guards did. As ordinary workers they themselves must control strike from the outset, seize the initiative and spread support as wide as possible. It's the only way to defeat an aggressive and over-confident management.
Scottish libertarians, including Scottish DAM held a conference in Glasgow on November 14th to plan a response to the poll tax. The tax will be introduced at 1989 rates on April 1st, 1989, and will increase in rates by 10% on April 1st, 1989. Scottish DAM has announced its introduction in England, also in 1990 - except for "high spending" councils, for example in London.

The morning session dealt with what the poll tax means for the working class. There will be 3 types - the personal poll tax, set by local councils, the one most of us will pay; the standard poll tax for secondary homes, will be lower than for first homes but only affects those rich enough to own 2nd homes; the collective poll tax is for homeless hostel dwellers and so on. Everyone over 18 must pay except prisoners, residents of old people's homes, the handicapped and long term hospital patients.

There will be an 80% rebate on housing benefit and income supplement (SI replaces supplement on April 1st, 1989). The rebate will be paid up to 20% of gross income, leaving 20% to be paid out of income supplement. From April 1989, people surviving benefit in England and Wales, as well as Scotland, must pay 20% and will get an extra 15% on the basic rate of £1,000 extra a week on the national average.

In the question and answer session that followed several points were made: The poll tax will give tax relief to landlords. This will contribute to local costs but it will be collected nationally and distributed by central government. Parliament will set the rate leading to central control of local authority money. The greater authority for poll tax because money from industry won't increase. It is to make higher poll tax rates unattractive to local authorities, and public services. Local authorities will have to increase the poll tax and central government to favour low rates. Tory councils will need less money for services.

The rest of the day was spent in discussing ideas for opposing the introduction of the poll tax. There was a number of suggestions including a television advertisement of the regional collection offices; building and helping local community-based campaigns; public actions at the Labour Party's and SNP's public meetings; a publicity campaign using leaflets, posters and council papers, pushing the tactic of collective refusal to pay; driving out canvassers when they come round; setting up a petition or questionnaire as a basis for building public meetings and local anti-poll tax groups; and spooling registration forms.

After discussion of these ideas the meeting felt that those there along with their contacts should take the initiative rather than waiting on the edge of things. People suggested a few areas to begin with, where a number of interested people live, or where there is already a strong local network of activity such as community newsletters and so on. The plan would be to draw a door to door, to build up further interest and then call a public meeting in the area leading to the formation of a local anti-poll tax group. Such groups would then be encouraged to form groups in other areas where contacts don't exist at present.

COLLECTIVE REFUSAL

Alongside this it is proposed to run a publicity campaign aimed at encouraging collective refusal to pay the poll tax taking care not to lose this message in screens of information. Although refusing to register and driving canvassers out, if done collectively, would raise public feeling, it has to be pointed out that this will not stop you being registered. As far as occupations go it was felt that these are useless without a groundswell of support having been built up first.

It is important that councils' promises not to enforce fines and so on should not not become a focus otherwise they will be seen as leaders of the resistance. Ordinary working class people must be encouraged to take their own actions. Councilors who refuse to prosecute will be sanctioned and, being interested in building their own career, there is no point in using a "religious" argument. The need to link this campaign up with the interests of council workers who are fighting privatisation, rent de-registration and attacks on their own jobs and wages. Furthermore, those of us who work to keep a watch and learn from the campaign and Solicitor's letter and prepare now to oppose the poll tax's introduction here.
For How Much Longer...?

On Sunday 8th November a bomb exploded at the Remembrance Day service in Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, killing eleven people. Was it an act of IRA terrorism, or one provoked off by British electronic counter measures? We will probably never know. It was, however, not an IRA attack on a civilian target. As long as the war in Ireland continues, every county anti-IRA militants will be forced to point out that it is a war, against a barricade of state propaganda, and in wars there are tragedies. The only solution is to total public education.

The republican movement admitted that IRA volunteers planted the bomb, but stated that it had not detonated itself. They expressed their deep regret, and left it at that.

Coverage in The British press was in marked contrast for, as the Daily Telegraph remarked, "If they can pin the blame on the IRA..." The British press even refused Irish objections to an extradition treaty... "Having acceded to universal revulsion in expressing regret, Britain freely indulged in an orgy of gloating and hysteria, shamelessly exploiting the human tragedy to sell papers and stir up hatred.

The aftermath of Enniskillen

In 1921 British war killed 15 of Ireland's 32 counties by the IRA's very successful guerrilla campaign. Today is different - the armed struggle is only really relevant to northern anti-unionists and has acceptance, but limited support, among them. For an all-Ireland solution it is necessary to involve and mobilise the working class. Sinn Fein has rejected a radical working class-based anti-imperialist movement, relevant to all the workers of Ireland in favour of a broad populist nationalism. While armed resistance is inevitable result of British occupation it offers no solutions, leaving the British anti-imperialists to build pressure for British withdrawal.

Enniskillen is only the tip of a iceberg.

Failed Problems For Us

The Lalonde Fronts' Remembrance Day march in London for the first time this year. The 2 Fronts were scheduled to march within 15 minutes of each other but could not agree who should march first. Martin Wingfield and 10 others were arrested and the rear were swamped by riot police and escorted out of the area. This is no real victory against fascism but if the ban continues it will complete a process which has been initiated by the fascists themselves.

Remembrance Day at the last 2 Fronts have been big events with hundreds of thousands of people.

No more Fascists for us

It's impossible to separate fascism from capitalism. Racism is a tool which is used by capitalists to control workers. Lay such a wreath on a memorial to the casualties of Britain's imperialist wars, from 1914-18 to the Malvinas/Falklands and Ireland, is staggering. The British Fronts demand that Irish fascists cease expressing our uncompromising opposition to fascism, and to strengthen the militant anti-fascists upon whom defence of the march would have fallen in the event of attack.

On Remembrance Day in central London anti-fascists marched to the Cenotaph and laid a wreath to the victims of fascism and anti-fascism. The day was marked by laying such a wreath on a memorial to the casualties of Britain's imperialist wars, from 1914-18 to the Malvinas/Falklands and Ireland, is staggering. The British Fronts demand that Irish fascists cease expressing our uncompromising opposition to fascism, and to strengthen the militant anti-fascists upon whom defence of the march would have fallen in the event of attack.

Gratton's 'You! You! And You?!' And what of the well-documented fascist sympathies of British troops in Ireland whose dead, in their defence of the sectarian state are of no account or importance nowadays?

Forgotten are also Spanish workers who fought capitalism in fascist guile with socialists, and the many workers who were the core of the active British resistance before 1944 returned to Spain to fight and organise for 30 years against Franco and his fascist state. The British Fronts reproduce the CNT-IALI, Anarchist party, who whitewash the fascist repression of the anti-fascist resistance in Northern Italy after the fall of Mussolini. Well-documented fascist sympathies in the fascist state, but for our class. They crushed workers who struggle against the fascist state, and the fascist state, and the fascist state, and the fascist state.
CAPITALISM IS MURDER

Jim Merrry, a housing activist on Woodberry Down estate in North London, died at the end of October. He'd been investigating fellow tenants' fears about chemicals given out and used by Hackney council. His symptoms were those of chemical poisoning - a severe rash causing skin to flake off and difficulty in breathing. Although the council denies the connection with chemicals used by them, dizziness, nausea and headaches have been common complaints on the estate.

The chemicals are PCP, TBO and Lindane, used to treat timber and sod by Rentokill. Fourteen members of UCATT used them in Wales and the survivors are now engaged in a High Court action to get redress from their employers for deaths and serious injuries. Two men died from stomach cancer, 1 has a withered leg and 8 others have severe health problems as a result of using the chemicals, which are banned or severely restricted in the USA, Sweden and Japan.

The London Hazards Centre has a dossier on cases where timber treatments - mainly fungicides, have caused irreparable damage to health. The latest is that of Sue Matthews and her 2 sons, also on Woodberry Down estate. The boys have suffered from rashes and allergies which was given an aerosol, marked "absolutely safe, non-toxic, non-corrrosive, non-staining, with strong clinical smell". It contains hexachlorophene, approved for use only by parents of ill children in rigorous safety conditions. It mustn't be sold to or used by the public and puts children at high risk of developing cancer. The council says it's part of the handing out of the chemical which probably means more use of exempter of workers in the housing department.

DIRECT ACTION

Jim Merrry was involved in Expressing and in squattting empty flats a few years ago to provide homes for the families in bed & breakfast hotels around Finchley Park. He believed in direct action methods such as these and the occupation of a housing district office by tenants to get working class people what we need from the bureaucrats. The council hated him, calling him a "disruptive anarchist". As part of re-habilitation the estate all tiles were removed and replaced by new ones by a hire contractor. The old tiles were so sound that a huge profit was made by selling them to yuppies, which Jim exposed. Due to lack of welfare on the housing estate, tenants found it hard to face another. Since many are elderly this is even more criminal.

Hackney is involved in a lot of battles with squatters. Council meetings have been disrupted by squatters and tenants occupying the council chamber and holding their own meetings - real democracy! They claim they must evict squatters. Find homes for homeless families. But this means evicting property lying empty while they are supposed to be done up, something the council cannot afford because they waste so much money on evictions and boarding up empty properties. Only 1200 of the 4000 empty properties are squatted, making the evictions even more pointless.

There are far more homeless than empty properties so the housing problem cannot be controlled by those who live in it. State control over housing means supporting bureaucrats, profits for private contractors and corruption. It also involves the denial of working class living spaces. The Housing Action Team, Home Affair's and the Health and Safety Executive by central government. These provide, at little information and advice. At work, only strong workplace organisation and experienced union safety reps with access to relevant information and resources can maintain a good safety level.

It is because such things can only come by strong independent workers' organisations that anarchism is needed. It is precisely such organisation that bureaucratic unions are abandoning, in their efforts to search for industrial peace and optimism. Pro-Labour sympathies also undermine the independence of unions. In Hackney, housing workers opposed to evictions have no union forum for that opposition. In manipulating the right wings of the Labour Party is incapable of coming up with a plan to win support of whom believe in state control and want a passive working class that conforms to their distorted view of us.

Although revolution is the prerequisite of lasting, secure benefits for our class, we cannot ignore the thousands of working class lives ended or wrecked each year in Britain by the capitalists' and state class' irresponsibility. We despise those who believe in politicalicketing and in spontaneous revolt by an idealized "working class" and who get their heads dirty with "reforms". What we need is rank and file organisation capable of taking independent action, committed to its own control of our own lives, which challenges union bureaucracy and state control everywhere. Join us so we can fight effectively.

Danny And Trevor Mathis

The Paris Review

The Killing Floor

Film by Bill Duke, US, 1984 - 115 minutes

The KILLING FLOOR is a film that has recently been showing in independent cinema's here. The script is too good and deals with so many important issues that it would be a pity for any DAM member or class struggle activist not to see it if they have the chance.

Set before World War 2 it tells the story of a black American from the south who comes up north and finds work in the meat packing houses of Chicago.

Because of the union's inability to gain a contract with slaughter house owners, exploitation and bad working conditions ensured a bitterly divided workforce. The film is remarkable in that it shows the difficulties of organising and how the bosses use one section of workers against another either by means of race, nationality and so on. The same divide and rule goes on today.

Watch out for the credits at the end; they show how the union leaders went off and became more entrenched in the status quo and the rank and file, the real heroes, disappeared after these incidents. Great film! Don't miss it!

THE DAILY STAR, The London Evening Standard, The Sun, The Daily Mirror and Today all ran stories on the film that Tom Wauf (Eskander's "Long" was interviewed in October's D.A. All 5 tabloids discussed Tom Wauf. It is really said. These days, of course, most people expect distortion in the press. But not from Fleet Street journalists but the same trade union right grudge against Tom because he regularly picketed them during the Upping dispute.

PAUL BEAUVANT IS serving a 4 month sentence for his anti-fascist activities at Rudgade Prison, Wetherby, West Yorks, would welcome messages of support and solidarity.
Capitalism's Scrapheap

Winter: the season of snow and Santa Claus, when Bing Crosby breaks the broadcasting monopoly laws and Noel Edmonds spoils your appetite or turns your hangover into insomnia. The season when the queen shows us family snaps and expresses concern about poverty and the News At Ten tries to make us feel guilty about famine in Africa as if we were in some way responsible.

What they forget to mention is the annual winter-time tragicomedy of our own aging parents. In the winter of 1985–6 some 172,000 old age pensioners died. Most spent long hours in mortuaries factories on low wages; watched their brothers, husbands and friends fight and die in campaigns, and then were left to rot in some factory. The price for the sacrificial lamb (in our eyes) usually about 50 years ago is now a cold and

Old people are facing hypothermia again this winter.

The productive chain then people too, once they cease to be profitable can go the way of outdated machinery. The capitalists, through the

divide and rule tactic, have succeeded to some extent in making us accept the problem of old age as something separate from the problems affecting the working class. This is not the way it should be. Old people die because they're old but because the necessary state of capitalism, food, shelter - are kept from them by the working class of society: they are working class and unprofitable - a fatal mix.

The problem is that one individual is affecting the working class as a whole - that is, we're all dependent on the profit control of the technology that would ensure real peace and prosperity for all. Only workers' control of society can ensure that. The need for united action in pursuit of that free socialist society will be all the more pressing as Britain's decline continues to accelerate.

Apartheid in Australia

For native people the 1988 Australian Bicentenary is the worst scenario. Australia continued to be the second worst country in the world for the indigenous people. In the USA, Ireland, Scotland & Wales. As jews overflowed "transportation" to Australia and America to dump convicts was used. For "crimes" like poaching and fishing. These were among the first groups to new the colonies. The American revolution ended the transportation there, though not slavery for another 50 years. Shipments to Australia continued for decades.

The land in Australia was taken by force, then became put into water holes, alcohol and drugs. The first generation was hunt ed like hares by red-coated, horse-mounted thugs. As many as 100 at a time were rounded up and put in cattle corrals to receive "ration" in re al life murdered in cold blood. Repression, deprivation, rape, torture and castration were widespread. Testicle bags became tobacco pouches for the "soldiers." By 1869, in Tasmania, south of the mainland, only 1 tribal woman - Tugur nini - was left alive from an original 200 tribal islanders from the north east (Queensland) coast were kid napped into slavery for farmers and the sugar cane industry as there weren't enough convicts. This is known as the loc als for the bosses' expanding empires. Unlike other former British colonies like Canada, USA and New Zealand, Aus tralia has never legally recog nised that the indigenous people had prior ownership of the land.

APARTEID

White Australians learned little of this history as the only publicised ver sion was written by the colon ising "victors." There were many decades of resistance, guerrilla warfare, fighting down to the last man. Another feature of religion sanctified slavery and transportation so it ignored or blessed the pogroms against black people in Aus tralia. Children were taken by force from parents and extended tribal families and

beaten into the Christian/ private property value system. They grew up with religious tyrants on "missions" and then became servants or unwaged slaves on farms.

The land not suited to British style farms became "reserves" but such fenced in land often had mineral waste evictions for mining compa nies continue today. The South African "pass laws" were mod elled on those in Australia to keep Aboriginal people on reserves. You were only able to leave a reserve with a pass from its white director (often a religious and racist dictador). Being caught without a pass, for example in a town, meant a flogging, days in a cell and then being thrown back on the reserve for further punishment. You were denied freedom of movement and speech, decent education, housing, health care, sanitation and health care. You couldn't even marry whom you liked.

Australia's labour movement was always racist. The only exception being the aboriginal syndicalist industrial Workers of the World. They welcomed any enemy of the state and bosses - be they black, Asian or female. In contrast to the authoritarian bureaucratic unions. Alias the IWW was smashed and criminal

housing, toiletries, clothing, food and an end to child labour, compulsory education of women and the poverty that trapped them to the bosses.

Eighteen year old Eddie West was the 15th young black to die in police custody this year. There are under 500,000 Aboriginal people in Australia's 16 million population yet the police kill between 9 and 10 times as many as the average rate. Besides deaths in custody there are many suicides, deaths caused by alcohol and drugs, road deaths, murders in custody, a high infant mortality rate and lower life expectancy. Black Australia is more like any others to be sick, unemployed, undeserved, poor, imprisoned or dead. The national Labour government wants to defuse protests over deaths in custody and keep up the good image of the Ill-con censual by holding a Royal Commission inquiry and prom ising a new deal, a treaty. Most people think this is a whitewash. The government has ever come "from above", only through struggle. Previous broken promises remain that

STRUGGLE CONTINUES

The Aboriginal "industry" in government departments and Aboriginal professionals, university graduates, artists, sports player and students are now very isolated and beginning to see that they are no longer isolated with national and international understanding of their situation and desire for social liberty and justice. In the USA the bicenten nary was a national day of parading for or against the Indians: "It was like having a party and the people who pro tested the grants were not even invited...still in near ly 500 years we have not brought to the Indian in a way the same fight for mythical cities of gold and freedom of youth to the simple recogni tion of the land is essential for human existence." (Bill Means of the American Indian movement).
Every time I return to New York I’m struck by the extent to which whole neighbourhoods have been cleared of their inhabitants and replaced by newcomers. The newcomers are rarely native to New York. They are mainly white (although Harlem is being taken over by the black middle class) and are always wealthy. “Yupification” has reached an extent which makes the same process in London seem minimal.

Where do all the people go? Just as the old buildings disappear, the neighbourhoods where they lived disappear. The working class community with its laundromats, candy stores and mom and pop corner markets. Now, wherever you look there are bistros, novelty shops and designer sweatshirt stores. This is the future to which Mayor Koch told several years ago soon you’ll need to make $30,000 a year minimum to live in New York City. The working class has been pushed out of the city and into outlying areas.

HOMELINESS
In the process most people find themselves homeless. The Coalition For The Homeless estimates that 60,000-80,000 are homeless in New York (not including the thousands who squat, double up in apartments or sleep in shifts). Of these 35-40% are homeless due to job loss; 33% are Vietnamese, Haitian and black. 23% are Hispanic and 22% of homeless youth are from foster homes. Their figures comprise a head-count of those in private, city and state shelters added to an estimate of those who sleep rough, a number almost impossible to calculate. No one knows how many sleep in subways, foyers, alleys or parks, on the streets or on the street. Also, you must add the thousands who are in jail due to vagrancy or other “crime” caused by homelessness. Here are thousands of people in psychology classified as "mentally incompetent" due to their homeless status. What their combined numbers are 150,000, 200,000 - in New York City alone.

LIVING IN A SHELTER is no free ride. As the self-appointed self-satisfied “exports” on the homeless crisis would have us believe. In September I visited a men’s shelter in the South Bronx. The men told me it was like jail. They have to go through a metal detector on entering the building and are subject to a long list of rules enforced, often arbitrarily, by the guards. Anyone caught act-

DIGNITY
At the shelter I went to a meeting on squatting. The men wanted me to tell them about squatting in Britain. For them and for others I spoke to about squatting seemed the only alternative to the regimentation and wage-slavery of the shelters. But squatting in Britain is far more difficult than here. Getting into a building means sledgehammering the bricks blocking the windows. Getting into a building means building floor boards, internal electricity or heating and plumbing consists of a series of buckets and a stand-pipe on the street. With temperatures below freezing for several months, the constant threat of arrest and harassment by junkies, squatters face a very difficult life. However the men unanimously agreed nothing could be worse than the shelters, the racism of some communities. Like London, New York has had a series of waves of race attacks, some perpetrated by youths, some by police. Last October an elderly black woman was shot by police when she tried to evict her from her home in the Bronx. Her killer was acquitted. Last December a gang of white youths chased a black woman down 126th St. in Manhattan and attacked her with bricks. They ran her him over and killed her. Out of 5 black youths were attacked in Brooklyn by 20 whites brandishing baseball bats.

RICH PLAYGROUND
Clearly the American government knows how racism divides the working class and how it thrives in an atmosphere of housing shortages and unemployment. Local government in New York City is running thousands of squatter’s homes from under them paving the way for the city to re-colonize a playground for the rich and workers commit to the cruelty to themselves for jobs and housing. When the workers become unamnagable or their numbers too large they are shoved off to other parts of the country as under the “mobility plans” of “spatial de-concentration”.

The British government has also learned these lessons. “Yupification” is no less a threat here than in the US and racism is as handy a tool to our rulers as to any others. I have yet to hear of “spatial de-concentration” in this country, but as one government seeks to learn the lessons of others it won’t be surprising if detention camps are used and the authorities moved toward a similar programme. If the governments of the world do not act, the workers will act. There is only one way to fight the workers to fight and life all their experiences across national boundaries and unite to fight its common enemy.
Mike Grindley, a trade unionist at GCHQ Cheltenham, who is engaged in the current dispute. He gave a graphic account of the conditions faced by the remaining 26 trade unionists out of a workforce of 7000. They don't get various allowances given to other workers which amount to between £400 and £2000 a year for each of them. Also those who originally accepted government compensation for leaving the union have been fined £1296 each. The government has resorted to desperation by trying to reduce the number of trade unionists still at GCHQ. Recently, a 26 year old unionist was offered early retirement and a lump sum. In my view this is a new threat of dismissals.

Dear Comrades,

The letter in issue 43 of Direct Action entitled "Fascism At Work" makes a serious error in confusing the various strands of authoritarian communism with fascism. Stalin's Russia had its origins in various nationalisms or nationalities that were in conflict with each other, but none of these could be compared with the totalitarianism of National Socialism.

Although the author does not claim to be a fascist, his argument is that the workers' movement is divided, that the NSSU is not the 'Fascist' section, but is a genuine labor movement. He states that the workers' movement is not fascist, although it is divided. He concludes by saying that the workers' movement must be united against fascism.

Authoritarianism is something which transcends the boundaries of any political ideology other than anarchism; it is not therefore, synonymous with fascism.

The comrade was right to object to the question of his graffiti being allowed to remain in his flat. He is not wrong in saying that his subversion of the Bolchevist state is a threat to the Bolchevists themselves. He is the job of anarchists to prove this and to see why the Bolchevists are wrong.

In solidarity,

CH.

Amwyl gynrwyd,

The Direct Action Movement has always claimed to be anti-racist. After a letter in DA 43, I now doubt that, if it is not in accordance with a workers' movement, which is both a Communist and Welsh.

If he had been a Communist and black and white would DAMP published this uncritically? Of course not, but it seems that a minority who have to face the racism of the State and the ignorance and xenophobia of the English left.

As a Welsh socialist, I'm for international workers' unity against narrow nationalism. However, you can't present workers' liberty when minorities or nations do not have equal rights. It sounds obvious but it's got to be said time and time again for English revolutionaries to understand that liberty begins at home. Until anarchists within the British state face up to the reality that England's ruling class has constructed a British nation (so beloved of such progressives as the NF and CPGB) which must be smashed, then you remain part of the problem. National liberation for Wales remains part of the solution.

Yawn fawr,

M V Jones

Dear Direct Action,

The article in the October DA on the Keelagat strike in Sheffield ("The Long Strike") got me thinking. Anarchist-syndicalists and other militant workers have, since the miners' strike, been involved in supporting a whole series of long-strike struggles and kept isolated by the unions involved (News Letter national, Addenbrookes, Silverright, to name a few). These strikes have gone on for 6, 12, 18 months only to be defeated.

Supporters raised thousands of pounds, and they've won a minority who have to face the racism of the State and the ignorance and xenophobia of the English left.

Secondly, some of us have had more than enough of conformity in the way it's been. After all, if we are serious about changing society we must create our own world, which is possible by the methods based on freedom, equality and mutual aid which can abolish capitalism by using the tactics of solidarity.

The Spanish CNT (an anarcho-syndicalist union) members were originally in the UGC (Germany's largest trade union) but decided to go on their own in 1911. We should follow their example.

AW.

CONSOLIDATED GOLDFIELDS PARTNER IN APARTHEID - 48 pages, 95p.

"CONSOLIDATED Gold Fields of South Africa is involved in the national mining and construction material groups in the world that are the largest mining finance house in the world, and in control of the Rio Tinto-Zinc, with pre-tax and interest profits of £162 million in 1978.

This pamphlet deals with Consolidated Gold Fields' involvement in the South African economy, its industrial relations record and their defence of apartheid. Further information can be obtained from: Counter Information Services Ltd, 29-35, Soho Square, London, W1V (Tel: 01-439-3764)
THE PREACHER AND THE SLAVE
Words: Joe Hill
Music: Traditional: Sweet Bye and Bye

Long hair'd preachers come out every night,
Try to tell you what's wrong and right,
But when asked about to eat,
They will answer with voices so sweet:

*REFRAIN*

D7 G G G C G C G
you will eat by and by
In that glorious land above the sky
Work and pray, live on 'way.
You'll get in the sky when you die

And the starvation array they play,
And they sing and they clap and they pray,
Till they get all your coins on the drum,
Then they tell you when you're on the bum;

Chorus

If you fight hard for children and wife-
Try to get something good in this life.
You're a sinner and bad man, they tell,
When you die you will sure go to hell.

Chorus

Working folk of all countries unite,
Side by side we for freedom will fight;
When the world and its wealth we have galvanized,
To the gravers we'll sing this refrain:

Final chorus:

You will eat, bye and bye;
When you've learned how to cook and fry;
Chop some wood, 'till you good,
And you'll eat in the sweet bye and bye.

JOE HILL arrived in America from Sweden in 1901 and joined the syndicalist union, the IWW in 1911. He spent 3 years as a migrant worker and IWW activist. In 1914 he was framed on a murder charge and sentenc

DAM Charities

Midlands

Corby/Keetworth: c/o DAM National Secretary, Box DAM, Cambridge, Freepress, 25 Gwydir St, Cambridge.

Manfield & Ashfield: 28 Lucknow Dr, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.

North East

Doncaster: PO Box 96, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN4.

Huddersfield: PO Box B20, Huddersfield, HD1.

Leeds: Box DAM, 52 Calile Lane, Leeds, LS2.

Newcastle: c/o Tynefield Press, 5 Charlotte Square, Newcastle, NE1.

North West

Bolton: c/o Bolton Socialist Club, Wood St., Bolton, Lancs.

Burnley: 5 Hollin Hill, Burnley, Lancs.

Craw: c/o National Sec., c/o Cambridge DAM.

Liverpool: Box DAM, 82 Kirk Lane, Aigburth, Liverpool 17.

Manchester: c/o Box DA, Raven 75, Piccadilly, Manchester.

Tameside: c/o 3 Stanhope St, Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside, OL6.

Scotland

Bellshill, Lanarkshire: Box DAM, c/o Clydebridge Press, 37 High Street, Glasgow.

South East

Brixton: c/o 121 Railton Road, Brixton, London SE24.

Cambridge: c/o Box DAM, Cambridge Freepress, 25 Gwydir St, Cambridge.

Central North London: c/o 84 Whitechapel High Street, London E1.

Deptford: 17 Turner's Road, Limehouse, London E1.

East London: c/o 84 Whitechapel High St, London E1.

Oxford: Box A, EOA, Books, 34 Cowley Road, Oxford.

SW London: c/o 121 Railton Road, Brixton, SE24.


DAM Council Workers — c/o Central North London DAM, 84 Whitechapel High St, London E1.

DAM Despatch Riders — c/o Deptford DAM, 17 Turner's Road, Limehouse, London E1.

DAM Education Workers — c/o Bolton DAM, c/o Bolton Socialist Club, 16 Wood St, Bolton, Lancs.

DAM Health Workers — c/o Central North London DAM, 84 Whitechapel High Street, London E1.


DAM Railworkers — c/o Manchester DAM, c/o Box DA, Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester.

DAM Unemployed/NASC Workers — c/o Tower Hamlets DAM, 17 Turner's Road, Limehouse, London E3.

Other Groups

Bristol: Box DAM, 37 Stokescroft, Bristol 2.

Norwich: Box DAM, The Greenhouse, 48 Bethel Street, Norwich.

For contacts in S. Wales, Midlands, East Anglia, Kent, etc., write to the National Secretary, c/o Cambridge DAM.

Industrial

DAM Building Workers — c/o East London DAM, 84 Whitechapel High St, London E1.

DAM Civil Service Workers — c/o South West London DAM, c/o 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, London.

DAM Council Workers — c/o Central North London DAM, 84 Whitechapel High St, London E1.

DAM Despatch Riders — c/o Deptford DAM, 17 Turner's Road, Limehouse, London E1.

DAM Education Workers — c/o Bolton DAM, c/o Bolton Socialist Club, 16 Wood St, Bolton, Lancs.

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DAM Railworkers — c/o Manchester DAM, c/o Box DA, Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester.

DAM Unemployed/NASC Workers — c/o Tower Hamlets DAM, 17 Turner's Road, Limehouse, London E3.

Other Contacts

Ayrshire: c/o Just Books, 7 Winetavern St, Smithfield, Belfast 1

Anarchist/Syndicalist Publications (ASP) — c/o BM Hurricane, London WCIN, and PO Box 96, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN4.

Black Flag — c/o BM Hurricane, London WCIN.

Luton Class War — Box CW Europa House, Vicarage Street, Luton.

Organiser: c/o Just Books, 7 Winetavern St, Smithfield, Belfast 1.

Deadline — Jan 16th

1. The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation.
2. Our aim is the creation of a free and classless society.
3. We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and all other forms of domination and replace them by self-managed production (or need not profit).
4. In order to bring about a new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution. We are the sworn enemies of those who would take over on behalf of the workers.
5. We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is by independent organisation. In the present day, place and community and federation with other similar industry and locality, independent of and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies. All such workers’ organisations must be controlled by the workers themselves and must unite rather than divide. The workers’ movement. Any and all delegates of such workers’ organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.
6. We are opposed to all States and State Institutions. The working class has no confidence in the state, which is world-wide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all States do not exist to protect the workers of those States, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class.
7. We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the rights of all people everywhere to control their own lives and environment.
8. The Direct Action Movement is a federation of groups and individuals who believe in the principles of anarchism and syndicalism; an association of workers who have come together in order to bring about a new social and economic order and to develop the means of production and distribution. The DAM was formed in 1979 from the SWP (Syndicalist Workers’ Federation) and other groups believing in the principles of anarchism and syndicalism. It is the British section of the International Workers’ Association. This was formed in 1922 and has national sections in more than a dozen countries.

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Send to DAM, c/o Bob Centre, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to DAM.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

I would like more information about the Direct Action Movement. Please send me information.

Name: __________________________

Address: __________________________

Send to DAM/IWA, c/o DAM, Cambridge Freepress, 25 Gwydir St, Cambridge.
On February 16th, 1987 Westminster City Council put out to "competitive tender" 13 manual services: refuse collection, street cleaning, social services catering, and housing estate porters, etc. Two weeks after the general election, Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley announced the reintroduction of a bill forcing all local authorities to put 6% of their services out to tender. Tory MPs have since amended this adding another 33 services including public libraries and social workers. It's clear that whatever number of services the Tories eventually implement, this represents a massive attack on jobs, wages and working conditions of at least one million local authority workers and that Westminster is widely seen as the test case.

Westminster also decided on the backs of the 200 strong special team including estate agents will get a commission on each house sold. The properties - half its housing stock - are mostly "eligible" to buy in. The council has already disposed of those (who can't or won't) and existing tenants who can't or won't buy their existing houses under "Right to Buy" legislation more cheaply. The real purpose is to sell to yuppies from outside the borough who can't afford to buy. This comes in the wake of the Tories' madly "vandalised" election promise now a forthcoming bill, to break up the council's accommodation division and bring in private landlords and developers.(5) Westminster has 14,000 homeless families in private beds and breakfast accommodation will be moved out of the borough to hotels as far away as Heathrow Airport, or to specially constructed Porta Cottages on South Barnet Lido. The current housing waiting list of 10,000 will have even less chance of a local council home. Transfers will be virtually impossible.

**"BEST" DEAL**

What's been the response to all this? NUPC representing manual workers, initially reacted to competitive tendering by going for "in house" tenders as the "best possible deal. Westminster Workers Against Cuts, a group of rank and file NUPC members and shop stewards, has pointed out the contradiction in a union which supposedly represents its members' interests, that negotiates down existing wages and conditions to save some jobs but we have been branded scabs. NUPC branch secretaries are on a "management buy-out" of street cleaning and refuse collection by 3 senior managers on the grounds of "better the devil you know." A similar bid has been put in by leisure services management, also with branch secretaries' support. These estate porters, particularly vulnerable because they live in tied accommodation, haven't even been guaranteed they'll keep their existing jobs even if the tied deals are withdrawn. No doubt if it's a "for sale" area they'll be told to move to more "desirable" areas to make way for the yuppies.

NUPC branch secretaries (there's the farcical situation of 2 branches, 1 north of Oxford St, 1 south) have underlined calls for indus-
trial action and have worked hand in glove with management in attack union members arguing for it. After a day one day strike by NALGO members against the council's action, the union and shop stewards bargained for white collar staff and against privatisation of manual work, which NUPC decided to ignore, one branch secretary wrote to the London Evening of sectional protest at an article which had suggested the strike was supported by dastardly.

Thus management is free to attack and victimise union members known for opposing privatisation and Westmin-
ster's policy of "designated" sales of empty council houses. In one case a shop stew-
ard was disciplined for attending another disciplinary as a witness. In another, a sweeper's shop steward was given a final written warning for swearing at a supervisor.

Westminster Workers Against Cuts consistently argued for joint action by NUPE and NALGO members and tenants against various threats fac-
ing us. We've argued for mass meetings by all workplaces; and that only out strike action will protect existing wages and conditions, and defend existing services. NUPEC's sop to the membership was that no sectional meetings after work during 2 weeks in June the best at-
tended was for street sweepers attracting 44 (out of 300), the one for the refuse collectors 3 (out of 300). The response by tenants to the policy of designated sales has been much more co-
ordinated. The first 2 attempts to hold meetings of a housing sub-committee to rub-
ber stamp the decision were broken up by angry tenants on September 2nd and 4th. Eventu-
ally this meeting was held in private.

**£100 "FAIR" RENT**

On September 22nd NALGO members held a day one strike to support council tenants, again this was only supported unofficially by odd pockets of NUPEC members. Following a demonstration of several hun-
dred NALGO strikers, tenants and rank and file NUPE members, there was a housing committee meeting. The coun-
cel solicitor admitted that in the new Westminster, the Tories want to create council house rents would rise. His idea of "fair" rent was £100 a week! The housing committee chair, councillor Peter Hill (Lib Dem), during the meeting and sent in the police including members of the Territorial Support Group to clear the gallery. 4 NUPEC stewards, 6 Labour councill-
ors and 1 housing activist were arrested. The nature of those arrested - especially the 4 NUPEC stewards - was known for opposition to the council's policies - clearly shows the police were told by the Tories who to go for.

The Labour Party have not, surprisingly, played this for all they can get. There's some truth in the suspicion that Westminster want to do another Wandsworth4(1) - in the May 1986 local elections Labour came within 100 votes in one council ward of taking control. But, good intention by many Labour activists and a few Labour councillors notwithstanding, it's hard to avoid the conclusion that the issue of destruction of work-
ning class communities, which Westminster's housing polic-
ies will lead to if they get away with it, is seen first and foremost as a battle for political survival. To-
wards the council workforce with less - if any - constitu-
ency of local support to de-
feat, their attitude is more than lukewarm which is even less surpising when you consider that, nationally, NUPEC now recommends that local unions face with competitive tendering "minimum" job losses (that is, accept same).

**ACCOUNTABLE**

Competitive tendering of council services and break up of council housing provision are a serious attack on the working class - on both our living standards and our com-
unities. The issue isn't one of greedy private contractors accentuating "ac-
countable" local authorities. In the short term it's a case of cutting just to keep our heads above water. Whether reductions in jobs and wages and worsening conditions result from outright privatisa-
tion or an "in-house" stitch up between management and local unions makes little difference to those of us at the receiving end. The record of Tory councils as regards their workforce and housing provision is hardly different from the Tories.

**CRAZY SYSTEM**

In the short run, only all council workers and tenants will be affected in the long run we need to think beyond the whole crazy system where the decisions of local bosses - as with all bosses - play havoc with our jobs, our services, our liveli-
hoods and our communities, which is another story...

A member of Westminster NUPEC

(1) Led by Teresa Gorman, new right wing Tory MP for Harvey Proctor's old seat in Bif-
bere, and former Westminster councillor. Guardian report, 23/10/87. She is also at the forefront of moves to break up the Post Office.

(2) That is, poaching 9-11 of the council's eligible-

ility: "persons who have worked within the city coun-

cil for the last 3 years"; "persons who live outside Westminster who have a firm offer of employ-

ment or who are already work-

ing within the WCC area but for a period of less than 3 years".

(3) This has already happened in Westminster on the Walter-

ton and Elgin estates: in re-

turn for doing up houses and flats, the developer "will be paid £3 mil-

lion by the council plus one-

tower block of 104 flats which they can sell privately, for £8,000,000 for a bed-

sit and £39,000 for an one-

bedroomed flat. The existing tenants who want to stay, will be re-housed elsewhere.

(4) Battersea, a seat repre-

sented by a Communist in the 1920's, and always thought of as a solid Labour seat, went to Tory in the recent general elec-

tion - largely due to Wandsworth council's policy of selling off council house-

housing and letting in the priv-

developers.

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**BLOODY SUNDAY**

Commemoration March, London, Saturday Jan 30th. Contact TOM, PO Box 353, London, NW5. (Organised by the Committee for British Withdrawal from Ireland) 1743