Once again the British election system has returned Thatcher to Number 10 on the basis of minority support. Thatcher has another five years to continue her reactionary revolution. Given the gross unfairness of the British system of so-called democracy and the divisions among her parliamentary enemies, she has been given power on a plate.

Just what does Thatcherism mean for Britain and how should libertarian revolutionaries respond? Thatcherism is capitalist rule at its toughest, short of fascism and military dictatorship. Through its manipulation of the political charade known as parliamentary democracy, it combines strong government (specifically aimed at shifting wealth and power to the better off) with legitimacy derived from election.

The main features of Thatcherism can be summed up as follows: 1. the strengthening of the bullying state in the public sphere, i.e. a loyal and well-paid police force and a clear commitment to defence (war); 2. a reduction in state involvement in the economy to allow the maximum accumulation of money by the already wealthy, directly at the expense of the less well off. Since 1979, the number of people dependent on Supplementary Benefit has doubled from 4 to 8 million. Poor families with children suffered a drop in income of between 15 and 27% in the same period and women in particular have been hit hard. Female unemployment rose by 18% under Thatcher compared to 14% for males and the concentration of women in the state sector has meant that they have been particularly hard hit by spending cuts.

On the other hand tax cuts have benefitted the well off most. For those earning less than £5,000 the average tax cut was worth £25 compared with £11,400 for those earning over £50,000. Out of a £12 billion tax reduction nearly half has gone to the top 10% but only 3% has ended up with the bottom 15%. The top fifth of wage earners increased their salaries by 22% since 1979 whilst the bottom 10% suffered a cut of nearly 10%. Since coming to power, the Tories have cut welfare spending by over £11,000 million.

Thatcher may well have squeezed the poor but she is a very clever manipulator. Whilst she has redistributed wealth and power to the rich and the middle class, she has built up strong support from among sections of the working class.
On 4 April 1987 Paul Davis, a 16-year-old Tottenham youth, was viciously attacked and beaten up in his own home by a gang of racist policemen from Tottenham police station. The attack left Paul with a 2-inch gash on the back of his head which required hospital treatment.

Paul had been visiting a neighbour's house when an argument occurred between him and the neighbour's daughter. She called the police who on arrival insisted that he leave. Her mother asked Paul to stay, but not wishing for any further trouble he left and went home. A number of the police followed him into his house where they (fully grown men) beat him unconscious - he woke up dazed in hospital.

Using their standard operational procedure the police have charged Paul with assault and投保 of his attackers. Neither of the thugs required or received medical treatment. This false charge is being used (as it has on many occasions) to smokescreen blatant racist violence used by 'our protectors'.

Since the attack, Paul’s family has been subject to police harassment, designed to intimidate into accepting the false charge.

The attack on Paul is not an isolated incident of state violence. Since the attack on Paul, there have been over 300 police attacks and harassment of people, pickets and protesters, carried out in the streets, on the road to a shop! This is 42% of the country's total (statistics of Nov '86).

When working people, employed and unemployed, black and white have defended themselves and their communities against police attacks and harassment they have faced a barrage of state and media lies and distortions. For example the police provoked uprising in Bristol September 1986 (under the pretext of "keeping the streets safe" and "prevention of crime") - a supposed crackdown on drugs, street crime and prostitution - when only 20 people were actually charged (70 arrested) and only cannabis found proved that the real motive was to attack and crush the resistance in St Pauls - especially that of the youth. The entire community is tarred with the same brush of criminality by the media.

The uprising on the Broadwater Farm Estate, Tottenham, London was treated with the same brutality and met by resistance of equal intensity. One policeman died. The media spread out its usual vicious drivel. Scapegoats were needed and found. After raiding 271 homes, removing innumerable personal possessions and making 362 arrests - they found not one single piece of evidence. After biased, distorted and prejudicial press reports, 3 men were found guilty of the murder of PC Blakelock. They were convicted without any forensic evidence or witnesses to prove the charge of murder. They were also denied access to their relatives.

Three totally innocent men now are being held in a crumbling overcrowded insanitary and inhumane prison system - a supposed "warning" for all. It is becoming more and more clear to hundreds of thousands of people, particularly young people, that the state's representatives on the streets - the police - are part of a greater system of social control and that order comes before law or justice. We can only hope that they are learning to see through the thin facade 'democracy and freedom' and realise that policing doesn't stop with the truncheon and charge sheet.

For more information contact:
P. Davis Defence Campaign, 40 10 Lymington Avenue, Wood Green, London N2. And:
Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign, c/o 12/16 Tangmere, Broadwater Farm Estate N17.

HOME NEWS

Support the Leicester 7

SEVEN ARRESTED DURING ANTI-NAZI PROTEST

On 2 May 1987 at Newark School, Imperial Avenue, Leicester, the racist and Fascist British Nationalists duly held a meeting for the council elections. Past experience has shown that racist events are merely excuses for Nazi-style rallies that promote racial hatred. The protest that was organised clearly showed the anger felt by local people about this event. In all, over 300 people turned out to protest.

POLICE PROTECT NAZIS

In line with their racist approach to these events the police turned out in force to protect the pathetic band of about 30 BNP supporters and limited the size of the meeting to stop local people going inside the hall in large numbers. All the fascists were let in. Several arrests were made as police singled out hecklers for violent treatment. Other arrests were made outside the hall, including one person who was arrested for crossing the road to a shop!

AFA DEFENCE FUND SET UP

Of the seven arrested, six face charges under the new Public Order Act, which states that you can be arrested for your language and gestures, unless of course your language is that of race-hatred and your gestures are Nazi salutes. The seventh defendant faces serious charges of assault against police officers.
Support the Leicester 7, cont.

Leicester Anti-Fascist Action believes that fighting fascism is no crime. All defendants want to prove their guilt to all charges. A defence fund has been set up to help the defendants and to raise the issues of fascist and racism in Leicester.

Money is needed for the court cases but the political issues are vital as well. Racism must be challenged and fascism must be stamped out. The political issues are vital as well.

On 15 May a chapel vote backed the NGA's decision to continue to support them. The vote went against him and printers agreed to continue with minimal action officials, who have done nothing to support them so far, will stak them in the back and try to kill them. Dubsins also suggested that the printers should canvass for Labour in the election. The incentive for this being to keep the full week's strike pay of £56 rather than having it cut to £33! (True Labore calling and concern wages; a vote for Labour was a vote for caring Capitalism). At a recent meeting £100 to the strike fund was opposed by one union bureaucrat because he was "wary of autocratic groups outside union control". But the NGA has done no better than SDGAT in their dealing outside union control. May Day was a good day for the strike. Money was raised and support found at certain rallies. But there was trouble at Chesterfield May Day rally. The Communist Party didn't want to let printers speak. Instead there was a Michael Waterman preaching the tentative Tory tactics of the Labore Party. The right of workers against bosses was not a nice subject to talk about.

On 3 May a fire burnt down pickets' huts at Heanor Gate. Scabs may have thought this would stop the picketing, at least briefly. But the pickets brought a caravan along and kept the 24-hour picket going without a break.

The picketing at Trader offices is becoming more militant. In Leicester on 6 May scab cars were blocked for half an hour. Then the scabs had a "Warrington-style mass picket".

Meanwhile in court the union solicitor is pursuing "unfair dismissal" claims. Pickering would probably be forced to pay compensation if he lost to the printers. But not to reinstate them.

This isn't good enough. The strike isn't just about money. It's a stand against all the attacks on workers' rights. If Pickering opens a non-union plant in the Midlands he can pay low wages and save money. And the spread of non-union workplaces will put more and more NGA and SOGAT jobs in the area at risk.

A printer said the strike could be won in two ways: either Pickering will reinstate the workers in a unionised factory, or the union will win a decent wage level, or the bastard can go bust.

If you live in the area the message is Don't Trade with the Trader. Information can be got and donations sent to: Trader Sacked Workers Dispute, c/o 144 Stonehill Rd, Derby.

Arbriade sell out

We have just heard that the dispute at Arbriade proves that in Aberdeen, Scotland, who supply lampshades and pottery mainly to Laura Ashley's, the manager has been a crook, just a crook.

Since last September the 21 women have been out over union recognition, low wages and appalling conditions. The public order act has been used to prevent the Tricolour. The copper has now taken to "riding shotgun" on trains so they cannot prevent the property of the ruling class from those who really need the coal. Still, this wasn't the law much good as those involved tend to use CB radios and can listen to the police waveband so, in general, they know what the filth are up to.

The police meanwhile, admit they are finding it an extremely difficult "problem" to handle. Tough.

trader dispute

The Trader dispute started in December 1986, when newspaper printers from Pickering's plant, Heanor Gate. Printers are ready to finish here and now. The Public Order Act in Britain represents a large breach of the peace. This has been used to prevent the flying of the Irish Tricolour. The Public Order Act may be a liberalisation but what will surely happen is that it will be applied almost exclusively to the Republicans and only in a token way to the Loyalists.

The dispute started in December 1986, when milli-
The old saying goes that there is "nothing new under the sun," while certainly not true in many cases, it does apply well to any Labour Party leader's record of sell-out and compromise. Yet, in so much of it, the Labour Party has never claimed to be a party pledged to social revolution. In the early years of this century as a parliametary party it had no choice but to serve the interests and meet the demands of those trade unions, or rather their bureaucracies. It was aided in this by the Independent Labour Party, formed of intellectuals and Christian Socialists out of the Fabian Society, made up of self-confessed individualists and anti-revolutionaries, such as the Social Democratic Federation, a Marxist body which would neither call the Labour Party refused to pledge itself to class war. Early declarations of its role can be seen in the First World War. In August 1914 they denounced war as an unjustifiable. This did not stop Henderson, the Secretary of the Labour Party from entering the August war cabinet, where he conducted the crucial 1914-1922 European labour policy. In the execution of the Irish War of Independence as a material, they as their ideological mouthpiece Sidney Webb was the one that it was seen to be important to give the representatives of the trade front and socialist organisations of the allied nations food and war effort until the end of the war and the justification of a war of aggression against the working-class ideologists. Too true, while Henderson was responsible for sending on the slaughter of millions, revolutions were being physically attacked and imprisoned for their opposition to the slaughter.

The Labour Party had pledged at the annual Congress of Socialist Parties in 1912 to prevent the outbreak of war and in 1913 it should have been able to utilise the economic and political crisis created by the war as a weapon. It is too simple an excuse to use the people and thereby to hasten the downfall of capitalism. Now these bold words were questioned arising in 1922, and the Labour Party followed the line of the war cabinet, where he condoned the destruction of the socialist organisations of the allied nations. They did not believe that the Labour Party has never claimed to be, and in case it should happen to be, the government's agent. The Labour Party, formed of intellectuals, was to take not to seek to alter existing conditions. It would not be a 'socialist' government, and in fact is a repeat of the capitalist framework, which in fact is a repeat of the 'capitalist framework,' which conditions and corrupts individuals. It is a pipedream to expect that salvation lies with the electoral process. They would do what their predecessors did, to buy influence and support in self-organisation in the workplace and through the Labour Party. Waiting for an election to solve our problems is a hostage to fortune because it is only a means to pacification, for it can only come through mass action, now and at every time.

By 1918 the Labour leaders were able to declare that the 'Labour Party is not a mass party but a National Party.' They did not believe that the Russian Revolution was the start of world revolution, and wanted trade unionism and the restoration of the national economy. Any mass attack by the workers on the bosses' interests were regarded by them as repugnant. The massive increase in the Labour vote in 1922, you would have thought, might have been a sign that was more adventurous. Some hope. Henderson is on record as saying workers should undertake not to seek to alter existing conditions but to accept a 'lockout. Trade unions should undertake not to seek to alter existing conditions by declaring a strike'. What fighting talk.

In the November 1922 election Labour won 22 seats and 15% of the vote, one of the Labour leaders, was now well on the way to forming a government and would undoubtedly dispel the criticism in one very important and vital area. That workers' rights were not a class government. I know there will be a few who will say that it is not enough to use a Labour Government to serve the interests of the working class, that we must also see the claim of certain sections of Labour. This is true, given the split between capitalist and financial interests, which had characterised the period. The Labour leaders were now bending over backwards to show how widely they were. Snowden on the Empire: "The British Empire is a fact. We have no views about the way it has been built up, but we have a duty to ensure that we do not lightly cast it off at all."

By 1923 Labour had a majority in the General Election. Their first action as a government was the signing of the Dawes Report, which led to the British Empire being turned over to the Labour Government. The treachery of MacDonald, raiding unemployment and the looming threat of fascism failed to bring them to more radical positions. The prevailing ideas in the Labour imperialist by sending in troops to crush an Indonesian nationalist claim. MacDonald praised Japanese troops in this dirty business as back then up. They again applied this tactic to crush the Saigon workers in 1948 when Labour used the Anti-Fascist Emergency Powers Act and again sent in the troops. The act was again invoked in '49 and finally a war measure put forward by Churchill government was used to arrest 7 London and Liverpoo dockworkers, but these charges failed to stand up in court (1951).

Image: The class enemy is the machine, which conditions and corrupts individuals. It is a pipedream to expect that revolution lies with the electoral process. They would do what their predecessors did, to buy influence and support in self-organisation in the workplace and through the Labour Party. Waiting for an election to solve our problems is a hostage to fortune because it is only a means to pacification, now and at every time.

The examples cited above are just a few of many instances of Labour's performance in power. Why should we think Kinnock would have been any different? He promised a lot less than previous Labour leaders, when they came to power, reneged on practically everything. The 'New Statesman' was critical on how different. Neil would be, until the time the Kinnock, after the back in the Zircon - Duncan Campbell episode. Kinnock came out in clear support for government secrecy and non-accountability. He pledged to aid Britain of American nuclear weapons and to campaign on NATO's nuclear strategy. But he fudged on these issues, implying that 50% of the population would be left nuclear unemployed. He can never be trusted on the few promises he has made, like abolition of nuclear power in Britain. A Kinnock administration would have lead to more of the policies that Callahan carried through, attacks on working-class, living standards and self-organisation. It would have been thoroughly pro-imperialist.

None of the Labour betrayals are accidents. It's not because Labour has 'northern' leaders who should be replaced by 'nice' ones that promises are broken. It is a party that has grown up at Party Conference are ignored. Labour is based on the gradual reform of the capitalist framework, and has to operate through the state machine, which conditions and corrupts it. It has to respond to media pressure, to coddle up to the CBI, to accept the cuts in the National Health Service, and the National Education System, and the National Health Service, and the National Education System.

A Kinnock administration would have lead to more of the policies that Callahan carried through, attacks on working-class, living standards and self-organisation. It would have been thoroughly pro-imperialist.
Labour's anti-racism

The Labour illusion that it is a party of equality, the party that champions "anti-racism" and "anti-sexism" must surely be buried: the swiftness with which prospective Labour candidate, Sharon Atkin, was removed from the party was graphically illustrated that the Labour Party will never be the platform for black people to fight racism from, nor will it or can it allow Black people (or any others) to have an independent voice within it.

The attack on Sharon Atkin was the culmination of a campaign against Labour Party Black Sections, which began with the attacks on Black Sections at the 1986 party conference. The leadership made it clear that it would tolerate nothing that wasn't straight down the party line. What has happened then is that the Labour Party went on a desperate attempt to publicly clean up its image before the general election.

The latest attack began when Roy Hattersley and Tony Benn, two Birmingham MPs publicly demanded that a Black Sections rally planned for Birmingham be cancelled; this was then leaked to the press, obviously as a show of how "reasonable" and "anti-extremist" the Labour Party now was. The meeting went ahead anyway and it was here that Sharon Atkin made her speech "... and I don't give a damn about the racist Labour Party ..." and was then promptly summoned for "investigation".

She, along with Phil Murphy, a Birmingham councillor and Black Sections supporter, were expelled for breaching Labour Party constitution.

Though the events were hardly surprising given the Labour Party's rush to the Right, the response of Black Sections to the attack was even more disgraceful. An organisation which prides itself on defending the rights of black people, refused to take any sort of a stand on the issue; the attitude was obvious "we'll keep our heads down and hope that we aren't next."

"Nothing can stand in the way of Labour getting elected" stated Sharon Atkin's previous friends and colleagues, Bernie Grant, Russell Profit, Black Abbot and Shani Teng, who are all prospective candidates in safe Labour seats. "Black Sections is secondary". In other words we're safe, so sod you. Even Sharon Atkin and Phil Murphy have continued with their support for the Labour Party. Sharon Atkin (who has now been replaced by Mohamed Milan, a black councillor who led a campaign against gays and lesbians in Nottingham) at first denied that she even made the remarks and then refused to fight the expulsion. Phil Murphy has continued with his support for the Labour Party and also refused to defend himself. Once again the 'Labour first, black people second' mentality prevailed.

This in itself is a reflection of the basic philosophy of Black Sections, which themselves are known to be vehicles for the up-and-coming black middle classes to get into positions of power and prestige; there has never really been any question of representing the masses of black people, just of ensuring that the avenues are open to get a handful of middle-class blacks to 'get on in life', as in America, where black faces in County Hall or the Senate have done nothing to change the racism and poverty faced by most black people. Black Sections offered nothing except the chance for a few token black faces in 'high' positions. Fighting racism never really came into it.

The whole sorry episode has only gone to show the futility of trying to re-form organisations (or society as a whole) from the 'inside' which is what many Black Section supporters would claim to be doing. And once again, it's been shown how, though lip service may be paid by certain groups (such as the Labour Party and the Race Relations Industry) to anti-racist principles, as soon as the moves are seen as unpopular or there is any pressure over the issues and it comes to the core, they backtrack quicker and further than they went forward.

The Atkin' affair has also highlighted the opportunistic and unscrupulous the followers of Black Sections are: none were prepared to stand up and openly support her and, if they can't even defend one of their own members from racism within the Labour Party then how do they propose to defend black people generally?

So what does all of this mean for black people, some 80% of whom voted Labour in the 1983 election? Well despite Labour's appalling record on fighting racism and its catalogue of racist legislation (the 1969 Commonwealth Immigrant Act, support of the 1971 Immigration Act) many black people have put their faith in the Labour Party and thus in the electoral system only to have it thrown in their faces time and time again.
The recent riots in West and East Berlin may have marked a new chapter in German class solidarity. The West German government declared a state of emergency in the divided district of Kreuzberg erupted on May 1, 1987. East German youth directed their frustration at "their" police, the other side's police, the Wall, and the West German government. This developed independently in both parts of Berlin. "The Internationals" (a traditional revolutionary song) was sung and police attacks resisted.

It may be that these youths are under the illusion that the West is paved with gold, Chants for freedom and democracy were heard along with calls for Gorbachev and Kossen in the 1980s. The rest is history. It is somewhat surprising that these rebellious youth rebelled so totally to hear a gossipy western pop band on full knowledge of their Western brothers and sisters uprising in May.

The similarities between the two German's systems of social and economic control becomes increasingly apparent - I.D. cards, hard living standards, low social movement support, suppression of alternative culture and politics. All these factors create discontent. Discontent is a stepping stone to rebellion.

If the East German dispossessed have contact with their western counterparts (especially those involved in the active and growing Anarchist movement), then the possibility of a United Germany will draw closer. Unify, that is, of class not of patriotism or Nationalism, and a hatred of the State in its 'democratic' and bureaucratic forms. Only time will tell.
URUGUAYAN ANARCHISTS ORGANISE

Recent years have seen a rebirth of the anarchist movement in Latin America. The Uruguayan Anarchist Federation (FAU) has carried on the libertarian tradition that has been working in the union movement but has also been involved underground for over 10 years. The secret group has split into the development of an important revolutionary current in the unions of the FIT-CNT and there are hundreds of FAU militants in printing, the rubber industry, electricity, teaching, direct action and shop workers. Also many FAU militants are active in the student movement and organisations of shanty-town dwellers.

This rebuilding of the anarchist movement has shown positive results. In January 1986 in Montevideo, some 2500 people attended.

The FAU is not only important for our current; it is important for the whole of the Uruguayan and Latin American left of which it constitutes a determining factor for any advance of the revolutionary movement.

The struggle of the FAU has been a hard one, often under severe state repression. We should remember the FAU comrades tortured to death under the dictatorship: Gerardo Gutiérrez, Juan Santos, Gilberto Coghlan, Hugo Mendes, Matos, Santana, among others. The latest and most prominent repression of anarchism has re-emerged in Uruguay. So matter how they try, they cannot defeat anarchism.

There has been a debate about economic hardship in Uruguay, about the imposition of such a state of affairs on those deemed "worthy" parents are often overlooked. The law can always be twisted to establish its own ends and so the fact that such issues are fought out in legal circles points to ominous consequences.

The Eternal Contradiction

For generations women have been faced with the contradiction between their prescribed role as "ideal mother" which restricts the control of all areas. Control is, instead, imposed from above by the patriarchal, sexist, racist society. We 5 Communism is a determination for women to be able to plan fertility in their own interest.

The Coordinadora's structure is based on open assemblies which make decisions. Coupled with its method of direct action it has succeeded in breaking down barriers of authority from governments both left and right. But the ruling Socialist Party will not give in here the struggle is sure to continue.

There are anarchist and libertarian groups in...
Despite the Tory victory, a further period of Thatcherite rule will intensify class divisions and social conflict. It will give anarchists a clear enemy to oppose and hopefully make our ideas more accessible to those on the receiving end of Tory policies. And, given

that the great mass of the population is anti-Tory, there exists a real basis for shifting the focus of opposition to capitalism from parliament into extra-parliamentary fields.

A famous anarchist once said that "the urge to destroy is a constructive urge." We must set about the task of creating networks of resistance and defiance. We must create popular organisations of mutual support, solidarity and combat, to coexist and grow within capitalist Britain to organise for its eventual overthrow. We must help people to grow in confidence and comidity.

We must develop the means of destroying the system which daily crushes so many of us. This means building a popular, mass libertarian alternative. The task is urgent - start the movement now for a future of freedom, justice and prosperity for all.

As a matter of urgency, anarchists must concentrate their efforts on those who are suffering most, so that the majority of the population can become a fighting force for their self-liberation.