

FREE

COUNTER INFORMATION

February / March '87

DOLE WARS



Members of Lothian Claimants Union brave hurricane-force gales to picket the Claimants Advisers training course at the Royal Scot Hotel, Edinburgh in November.

"YOU HAVE NOT been forgotten", Tory Minister Lord Young has reassured the unemployed.

Too right! The government is introducing measure after measure affecting claimants - all making things worse. More tests, more harassment, more benefit cut-offs. But there *is* resistance.

On 12th January workers at Tottenham, Brixton, Greenwich and 22 other Unemployment Benefit Offices (UBOs) in London took unofficial strike action against the new Availability for Work test. This follows a similar strike at Brighton UBO in November.

The Availability test is designed to rob people of their benefit. If claimants give the 'wrong' answer to any of the 12 questions, they aren't paid. Women with children are special targets. "Can you make immediate arrangements for their [your children's] care if you get a job?" asks question 8. 810 new Claimants Advisers are to interrogate claimants.

Round Britain claimants and workers have issued leaflets denouncing the test and giving the 'right' answers. In places like Edinburgh this has reduced the number of benefit suspensions. Claim-

ants have picketed Claimants Advisers training courses.

An effective boycott of the form by UBO workers would stop the Availability test. This is possible if the workers defy the CPSA trade union leaders who are sabotaging real opposition to the test.

RACIST

On 12th January the Department of Employment introduced 3 trial 'race check' schemes in Birmingham, Leeds and Nottingham. These involve claimants being analysed by 'ethnic origin'. Given the Government's racist record it seems unlikely such figures would be put to beneficial use.

As we write, claimants and UBO workers are picketing the dole offices in Leeds and Birmingham. They are urging claimants to refuse this 'ethnic monitoring'. In Birmingham on the 12th, 900 claimants

complied with the pickets' request to hand their 'race check forms' to them - while less than 100 were handed back into the dole office. In both cities some workers have struck, but others have worked on.

• 19th Jan. Dept. of Employment took out an injunction against the Leeds strikers. Though C.P.S.A. leaders successfully ordered a return to work, Leeds Claimants Union stepped up their leafletting against the race checks.

months 'training' (cheap labour) with an employer. You get dole-level 'wages'.

JTS is to be pushed for under 25s at Restart interviews. Heavy pressure is possible. JTS may go national this Spring. But the CPSA say they will actively oppose this if their grievances - e.g. about massive extra work and no extra staff - are not met.

Another major nasty on the way is the implementation of the Fowler Social Security Act, due in 2 stages in April 1987 and April 1988. This means major cuts in benefit. But both the CPSA and NALGO Union conferences have voted to implement the changes. ~~NOT~~

DISRUPT

By these attacks the Government aims to reduce the unemployment figures before the election and to drive the unemployed into rotten low-paid jobs, thus worsening wages and conditions.

To resist the Government's assault, claimants need regularly to disrupt the dole and DHSS offices country-wide (especially the top managers' offices).

We must develop the independent claimants groups, a movement controlled by claimants ourselves, rejecting - or taking over! - the bureaucratically controlled TUC and MSC unemployed centres. Significant links with dissident DHSS and Department of Employment workers are being forged. Claimants groups participate in the printers' pickets at Wapping. Such employed/unemployed unity is important, both in today's struggles, and as a step towards a united class movement which in the future could seize control of society's resources and bring them under the control of the whole community.

• If you're interested in joining or forming a claimants group, contact: Federation of Claimants Unions, c/o Plymouth CU, Virginia House, Palace St., Plymouth, T01 1 1 1. c/o 628 High Rd., London N17. Claimants Fightback, 448 Stratford Rd., Birmingham 11. Leeds CU, Flat 1, 158 Hyde Park Rd., Leeds LS6 1AG. Lothian CU, c/o 12a Picardy Place, Edinburgh.

The Restart scheme involves compulsory interviews for the long-term unemployed. Less than 1% are found a job. 11,000 have been deprived of their benefit for non-attendance at the interview or for being judged 'unavailable' for work. In 9 trial areas Restart has been extended to all unemployed for 6 months - this will probably go national in April. From Edinburgh to Plymouth claimants groups are leafletting against Restart and accompanying claimants to interviews.

HEAVY

The Job Training Scheme (JTS) was recently introduced in 9 pilot areas. It consists of 6



DIRECT ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID

Students in 16 American universities took action in late November against the universities' involvement with the CIA and Star Wars and their investments in South

Africa. The University of Brandeis in Massachusetts was occupied by hundreds of students.

Meanwhile in Rome, demonstrators attacked a South African Airline office during a march on October 25. Subsequently 7 Autonomists were arrested on conspiracy charges.

SOUTH AFRICA / COUNTER REVOLUTION!

The apartheid State's strategy is to isolate the townships from each other, detain and intimidate activists and prevent news of this filtering through to other townships, and the world outside the areas of repression. The press crackdown in December means that nothing can be published about the boycotts, strikes, detentions and civil disobedience and that all 'news' is released through the State. This will make it even more difficult for those resisting in one area to publicise their appeal for solidarity elsewhere.

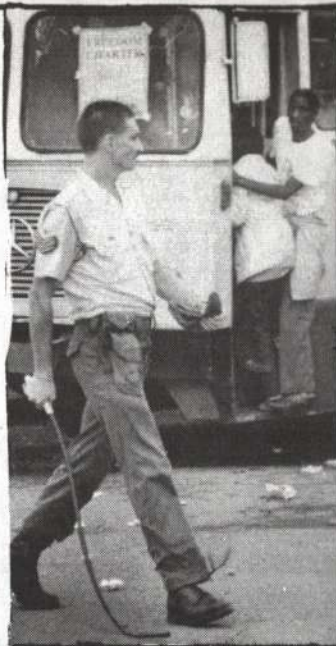
On top of this, the State has now set in full swing a sophisticated system of counter-insurgency called the National Security Management System which, through 500 regional and local secret committees, engages in 'dirty tricks' and disinformation measures to suit their ends. The local Committees also have the power to obtain and channel funds to readdress environmental grievances while issuing a barrage of propaganda aimed at isolating the efforts of those resisting the detention and torture of their comrades.

20,000 have now been detained, from townships, schools and workplaces. No less than 8,200 of these have been under 16, with about 4,000 children currently held in gaols and subject to torture, intimidation and reorientation programmes.

The threat of sanctions or disinvestment is increasingly ignored by South Africa's rulers. The engagement of U.S. companies leads to the sale of their subsidiaries to local managers who are tied into producing the same product under revised license agreements to the multinationals such as General Motors and I.B.M. This in turn will give the companies a freer hand to over-ride workers rights as in the recent 'General Motors' strike in Port Elizabeth when the new bosses appealed to the courts to sack the strikers.

Having called a General Election for the White Parliament, the ruling National Party is determined to demonstrate its ruthlessness to racist voters. Hence the new measures against the disruption in the schools [especially in the Eastern Cape and Transvaal] and the 2 year prison sentences for the display of resistance material or alternative syllabuses. In this, the regime is exploiting the division that has appeared between the Parents Committees as in Soweto and the informal networks of radical youth. The genuine wish for educational betterment on the part of the parents has to be matched against the repression that is being waged and the truth that 'liberation before education' is the only alternative to education under the barrel of a Security Forces Gun.

Your solidarity is needed more than ever and all firms exploiting apartheid campaigned against. We also appeal to contacts with informal links inside South Africa to help break the news blockade and publicise resistance as widely as possible.



DUNNES!

30 MONTHS ago ten women went out on strike refusing to handle South African goods at the check-out of a Dunnes Store supermarket in Dublin.

On January 1st this year the Irish Government banned imports of agricultural produce from South Africa. But when the strikers returned to work on the 5th of January management asked them to sign a new contract stating that they would handle whatever goods were available for sale!

They refused this piece of chicanery and are in the process of taking the store to a tribunal on the grounds of unfair dismissal.

ITALY - POLICE OPEN FIRE

IT STARTED AS a peaceful blockade of the Montalto di Castro nuclear site in Tuscany, Italy.

It ended with a young demonstrator nursing a gunshot wound in the leg after police opened fire - using live ammunition.

The 800 anti-nuclear activists had arrived at Montalto on 10th December to loud applause - from the workers building the nuclear power station! Downing tools, the workers joined the demonstrators in discussion.

Then the police launched their violent and unprovoked assault, wielding clubs and firing tear gas and pistols. Clashes continued for 5 hours. Despite the 1,000 strong police operation, normal work at the nuclear site was stopped for the day. And the 'over-the-top' police brutality compelled widespread condemnation even from the Communist Party, who had opposed the demonstration.

The State violence hasn't crushed the determination to take action to stop the power source which nourishes the world's elites, but menaces the world's people. The next anti-nuclear blockade is planned for Pugalia in Southern Italy in January.

The Montalto blockade followed similar actions at 3

different Italian nuclear sites during October and November. The main organisers, the Autonomists of the 'Anti-Nuclear Anti-Imperialist Co-ordinating Groups', see the opposition to nuclear power as part of the class struggle against the State and the capitalist system. They try and create links with the nuclear industry workers, for example declaring opposition to proposed redundancies among nuclear construction workers, and urging that the workers demand work on alternative forms of energy creation.

Meanwhile, back in the UK...in December, Galloway sheep were 50% more radioactive than they were 6 weeks after Chernobyl. And resistance? Despite pacifist tendencies, positive actions have been mounted against nuclear waste dumping and especially against the Cruise missile convoys. Could the Italian and West German examples encourage anti-nuclear direct action in Britain to develop further?

Note: for material in Italian send an S.A.E.

MALE VIOLENCE

WOMEN in Nottinghamshire in November made a spoof police order giving notice of a curfew asking men to stay off the public highways on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The notices were pasted up around Notts., claiming it was a move to "combat the recent increase in violent crime against women".

Police received numerous phone calls from women who thought it was a good idea!

From: Outwrite.

HIGH TECH FUN

THERE IS STILL a lot of fun to be had from the simple telephone. In the USA, Edward Johnson programmed his home computer to telephone the freephone number of Jerry Falwell's born-again movement - every 30 seconds! During the 9 months it took them to track him down he increased their phone bill by an estimated \$1/2 million. Here Telecom have introduced direct dialling numbers and, guess what, the Territorial Army are one of the first. A popular number from phone boxes on (0) 800 555555!

Source: Black Chip magazine.

OCCUPATIONS

THE STUDENTS' revolt in France has inspired an upsurge in anti-establishment activity by students in several countries.

Occupations and strikes have hit schools, universities and colleges in Italy. Demonstrating solidarity with the French students and dissatisfaction with the Italian education system, students took to the streets throughout Italy on December 12th.

In Milano a delegation of French students marched in the demo. Following a government ban on the Rome march, demonstrators and police clashed in the capital.

In December 100,000 Mexican students campaigned for university reform. The universities backed down and consulted students.

17 December - 30,000 Spanish students demonstrated. Police attacked with rubber bullets and gas grenades. Students retaliated by building barricades and throwing stones.

STOP PRESS: 21 Jan. Over a million university and school students built barricades and held marches throughout Spain, for free access to university and against poor educational facilities.

WINTER OF DISCONTENT

THE FRENCH RAIL strike was started by non-unionised drivers in early December.

Office staff quickly supported them. It was co-ordinated by committees elected by mass assemblies, not the C.F.D.T. (Socialist) or C.G.T. (Communist) Unions who opposed it.

Drivers' earnings had been reduced, particularly bonuses, which account for one-third of their wages. The unpredictable hours of long distance drivers and shoddy overnight accommodation are extremely stressful. Train drivers have a life expectancy of 58 years. The last straw was the introduction of the 'Grille de Merite'. Under this system, pay and promotion are determined by flexibility over working - sucking up to the boss - rather than length of service.

Initially the assemblies were open to other workers and the unemployed. Their demands went beyond purely economic considerations. Attacks were made on the political system, trade unions and modern wage slavery.

However, some strikers

complained that their original demands were being swamped and that more radical demands would lose support. The assemblies were restricted to strikers only. Strikers also tended to over-rely on assembly decisions. This reduced spontaneous activities like flying pickets and stopping road traffic.

The strikers occupied signal boxes and stations. The railway lines were blocked. By Christmas few trains moved. A regional co-ordinating committee was set up in S.W. Paris on December 24th. This was followed by Lyon, Rouen and Paris West. On December 26 a national committee was called. All rail workers, regardless of grade or union affiliation were requested to send delegates. The unions showed lukewarm support

and attempted to suspend the strike over the holiday, arguing that it was unpopular.

By early January management offered to drop the Grille de Merite. The assemblies, seeing an attempt to divide and weaken the strike, rightly rejected it.

SABOTAGE

Desperate to gain control the C.G.T. called widespread token strikes in the gas, electricity and shipbuilding sectors. On January 2 they set up a rival co-ordinating movement through the public sector. "The C.G.T. hope to act like the fire brigade saving the French State" (strike leaflet).

The government called in 4,000 more riot police and the National Front threatened attacks on pickets. Typically, on January 3 the C.G.T. attempted to end the long-running seamans' dispute which had blocked the ports. Fortunately 7 ports voted to continue. In Dieppe striking

railmen blocked ship' loading ramps.

Under pressure, rail-workers adopted new tactics. In Lyon they occupied the Stock Exchange. Elsewhere phone lines were cut, signal boxes and electrical installations were sabotaged. Wagons were uncoupled and their cargo tipped on the tracks.

In the meantime official and unofficial strikes occurred in the bus and Metro services, docks, munitions and postal services. Power workers produced selected blackouts aimed at factories and supermarkets. In some areas they switched customers to the cheap night rate and refused disconnections for non-payment.

On January 9th Chirac conceded most of the railworkers economic demands. The assemblies met and about one-third voted to return to work. Continuing resistance was demonstrated on January 12 when strikers waded into an anti-strike rally and beat up an M.P.

A Lesson in Democracy

FRENCH SCHOOL AND university students caught the popular imagination recently as they successfully fought against the government's University Reform Bill. This aimed to decentralise universities and finance them by private enterprise. University fees were to be increased, passing the university entrance would no longer mean automatic acceptance and the standard national degree would be abolished. In effect, only the rich could afford high education and commercially 'non viable' subjects like arts and literature would be removed from the curriculum as universities became subject to the profit motive.

By mid-November the students had mobilised. They called a general strike of all universities; each with a strike committee of delegates elected at a General Assembly. At this point the campaign focussed exclusively on student issues and was dubbed 'apolitical' by the media. On 27 November, 600,000 students and teachers from all over France demonstrated peacefully against the Bill. The government continued to ignore their demands. On 4 December one million people from all sectors again took to the streets. In Paris the State's response was to attack. Riot police used tear gas, water cannon and baton charges against demonstrators in street fighting which lasted 5 hours. By the end 72 demonstrators were injured and one student killed.

Confronted with this lesson in democracy, the students' demands were radicalised. On 5 December the Sorbonne University was occupied. A General Assembly formed and students appealed to "All workers to show solidarity with the students in their struggle". In response parents' associations, and 80% of workers joined in a one day strike and unions warned that unless the Bill was dropped, they could not 'control' their members.

The government deployed 'divide and rule' tactics by insisting that the campaign was a student issue only. But workers, immigrants, young people (employed and unemployed), used the occasion to voice opposition to other repressive laws passed by the State (e.g. the clampdown on immigrants, harsher sentences for drug addicts and increased police powers). Unions described the actions as an 'inspiration' which could lead to workers taking up their own demands. Young people debarred from higher education saw that the struggle should be broadened - "We are with you, we will not go to the factories, we criticise the educational system which excludes us and debases you". "We are against low wages, racism, lying media, educational selection at all levels".

Faced with an imminent crisis, the government dropped the Bill to prevent the movement spreading to workplaces. The students' actions show that it is worthwhile mobilising and that you can win. They have also shown that it is no longer possible to dismiss their generation as being apolitical and self interested...

"We also reject the misery of technology, unemployment, racist expulsions, police power. We are rising against all that. We have no leaders, no 'stars'. Each of us participates in our own way and there are a lot of us..."



Revolts

THE ROOFTOP protests at Barlinnie, Saughton and Peterhead demonstrate a determination to publicise brutality and overcrowding in Scottish prisons, which have the highest 'inmate' population in Europe.

Here an ex-prisoner puts his view of it: -

"The rebellion going on in Scottish prisons reminds me of the start of a decade of similar uprisings in all the prisons in Britain between 1970-80. I was inside for the whole of that period in various top security prisons: Gartree, Albany, Parkhurst, Dartmoor and Hull (after which I lost 30 months remission and was in solitary for 10 months). In all of them there was a continuing fight by prisoners against the regime."

The riots, strikes, sit-ins and lots more individualised rebellions were fuelled by simple facts:

1. That 99.9% of all prisoners are from the working class.

2. That the real criminals - the Government and its institutions of control - constantly use prisons and prisoners as an alibi, a smoke screen, to cover the real crimes - 4.5 million unemployed, daylight robbery of millions in the City every day, murders such as nuclear missiles and war (the Belgrano being just one incident of 420 murders) - and prisoners knows this - prisoners are *political prisoners*; all of them.

There are internal reasons for riots and uprisings too; the use of control units, segregation units, various other forms of punishment including the boot, the truncheon and the mind games.

When riots occur, they are portrayed as unorganised etc., and to some extent this is true and to some extent this is true about the start of riots - they usually happen *spontaneously*, but they also quickly become very organised. There is a great upsurge of solidarity amongst all prisoners taking

part; the struggle throws up its own organisation.

It is like being at war without having the full means to overthrow the ruling agencies. They are always met with bleatings about "What is wrong with our prisons?" Meanwhile the struggle goes on.

WILDCAT!

Thousands of clothing workers have been involved in "unofficial" wild-cat strikes at seven J. & J. Fashions in Tyne on Wear.

The strike started on the 10th November when union officials (National Union of Tailors & Garment Workers) recommended a 4.5% pay rise. The workers being disgusted at this pitiful rise decided on action of their own - **get better pay and annual holidays!**

By 13th November management offered to meet the workers on condition they return to work - this was rejected.

This led to workers organising picket rotas, handing any publicity without interference from union bureaucrats and dealing with management directly.

Strikers visited each others picket lines and by the first week large picket lines had appeared at each one of the seven factories in dispute.

On the 17th November the management of the companies involved gave in to the demands over pay and annual holidays.

The workers have now returned to work.

This was all done against hostility from the local union bureaucrat who was wanting the workers to toe "his" 4½% line, but the workers were determined to see thro' this dispute.

As one striker said "What right have union officials got to tell us to take such a small pay rise while they are driving around in £10,000 cars paid for out of our union dues!"

Source: The Syndicalist.

ONE YEAR ON

THERE IS NO let-up in the activity of the sacked printworkers from the scum-infested plant at Wapping on the 24th of January a mass demonstration has been called.

But this is no token affair. Marches and efforts to blockade Murdoch's Fortress occur every other day. *Picket*, the news digest of the pickets, reports that on the 13th and 14th of December they outflanked the filth and caused lost paper distribution. On the 18th a demonstration took place outside the EEUPTU (Electricians) HQ in Kent, but Hammond had the day off!

STRIKE!

21 women from Arbride Products factory in Ardrossan have been out on strike since September.

Arbride supplies **Laura Ashleys** with lampshades. The shades are sold as 'handmade' for between £15 and £80 each. In fact they are made by machine by workers who are paid little more than £40 a week, a rate of between one and two pence per shade.

Working conditions are appalling. Women are at risk from solvent fumes, dust, machines without guards etc. Levels of silica dust have been recorded that are 6 times the acceptable limit.

The owner, Stuart Ross, a

The death of a local man on the 10th of January brought attention to the extent of police protection for the TNT drivers when one of them was responsible for a 'hit and run'.

In Glasgow, the Kinning Park plant was picketed on the 28th of November when 700 assembled. Instead of organising regular resistance, SOGAT leaders appealed for their members to report troublemakers to the police. As *KP News* said: "It's prevaricators, not provocateurs, that are the bloody problem". Some damage was done to vans trying to enter the plant - the Union called off follow-up mass pickets!

'model entrepreneur' has made his money on the backs of women workers who are seen as both cheap and expendable. When they first complained about pay and inadequate ventilation Ross replied that there were plenty more at the local dole office willing to do their work. When they then demanded £2.50 an hour and recognition of the T.G.W.U. he sacked them and brought in scab labour.

The T.G.W.U. has paid only lip service to the fight - they have refused to issue strike pay saying the women had only been in the union for 26 weeks, not the 32 weeks required by the rule book. Organising the picketing and boycott of the factory and its products has been done by the women themselves.

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, in the hope of encouraging 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, C/O 43 CANDLEMAKER ROW [PIGEONHOLE 81], EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND, U.K

NOTE: The views expressed in reports from outside the collective are not necessarily totally shared by Counter Information.



COUNTER INFORMATION

NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT TO NO. 13 (28.1 87)

STOP PRESS: 21st Jan. Job Centre workers in Milton Keynes and London struck against national staffing cuts in Jobcentres.

MORE ON ITALIAN STUDENTS



END COMMENT

Reading Counter Information, you may think that we are preoccupied by reports of struggle, resistance and direct action.

YOU'RE RIGHT. But this doesn't mean that we see 'information' gathering as the ONLY means of winning the argument for social revolution.

Many of the most crucial developments in a society at a given time are instigated by our enemies, the rulers, and can have far-reaching consequences for the areas in which resistance is likely to arise in the future. It is also the case that attitudes of individuals can change outside struggles by 'seeing through' the ideology of this society as conveyed in the media, advertising or in social relations.

Let's face it, revolutions won't break out by distributing broadsheets. But if this is by the tens of thousands, and if it is well produced, easy to understand (while not being patronising or simplistic) and imaginative it can help 'prepare the ground' for changes in social consciousness. Such changes are most likely to be developed in the actual experience of struggle, especially when faced with the State being employed to suppress the self-organisation of the combatants.

Back to 'square one' - struggles and spreading news of them, encouraging a sense of solidarity between actions that otherwise might be seen as marginal to others engaged in different actions. But surely there are more momentous developments in the world? What about anti-imperialism you might say? Here we have a problem. Our concern is with the people, of say Nicaragua or the displaced Palestinians. But their struggle is under the banner of defending or establishing a national state, tied to a collective capitalist economy. We therefore must reserve the right to distinguish between the interests of the rulers and the ruled - in the long-term. National Liberation (in a global economy) is a contradiction in terms, and stems from the theories of Lenin which have served the rhetoric of identifying emergent nation with class. For us, there are no easy answers, we report struggles and draw attention to the forces that inhibit the development of genuine anti-capitalist resistance, worldwide.

SQUAT RESISTANCE

- On 11th Jan. squatters, backed by the local tenants association, successfully took over a block of 16 council flats on the Holmleigh Estate, Stamford Hill, North London.

Solidarity with the French students is one motive. And the Italian students have their own demands too:

- More resources for education
- Abolish compulsory religion in school
- No to the government's university reforms.

December saw students occupying dozens of schools and colleges in Rome. University faculties in Venezia, Pisa, Torino and Firenze were all taken over. In Milano the self-managed school occupations have been going on since the beginning of the school year.

- Supporters of the defendants picketed the Old Bailey on 14th January at the start of the trial of those accused of killing PC Blakelock during the 1985 Broadwater Farm uprising.

- This is the press release issued with the Notts. 'Notice of Curfew':

"We are furious that although it is men who commit rape and assault it is we women who are forced to keep in our homes or walk in fear. Men are the problem, *not women...* The threat of violence affects all women and girls in this country, it is a massive problem...and should be treated seriously. We are

NEO-COLONIALISM ATTACKED

WHAT DOES National Liberation or Independence mean? For copper miners in Zambia ruled by Kenneth Kaunda's United National Independence Party (U.N.I.P.) it means living in slums outside the copperbelt towns of Kitwe and Ndola.

In return loans Kaunda's government introduced an 'austerity programme'. Party politicians cried 'I.M.F. imperialism' while their million dollar headquarters, Freedom House, was being built in the capital Lusaka.

Subsidies on the staple food, maize, were removed on Dec. 5th 1986, making it unaffordable. In protest thousands of Kitwe's slum dwellers blocked the main roads. Disturbances spread rapidly to Ndola. Amid fierce street fighting food stores were emptied, luxury shops looted and destroyed. Government buildings and houses of U.N.I.P. officials were singled out for special attention.

Rioting erupted in other towns including Lusaka. The U.N.I.P. headquarters had to be protected by heavily armed guards. Maize subsidies were rapidly reinstated.

sick of warnings and advice - we want solutions."

Whilst supporting the action of the women in Notts. - it must be remembered that most crimes against women and girls take place in the home, and a curfew on men does not recognise this.

No one was arrested for this daring and imaginative leafletting campaign, which certainly raised a lot of consciousness among the people in Nottingham and sparked off much discussion about violence against women.

Info: Outwrite.

CONTROVERSY

In case you think Counter-Information is monolithic, there are a couple of articles in this issue which have been included despite grave misgivings on the part of individuals in the collective. Firstly, the 'Curfew' article taken from "Outwrite", which some feel could be taken to imply that the police could actually carry out curfews and that women might be deluded into making appeals to the State for protection. Secondly, the prisons article which was written by an ex-prisoner now living in Edinburgh. One individual thinks it inadequate to say that all criminals are political, that the State can use the device of criminalising political dissent (e.g. Italy, Northern Ireland) and that much more identification by revolutionaries should be with the victims of crime where they are not wealthy or where ordinary people have been terrorised by violence or sex attacks. Clearly many crimes ARE defined by the property laws, but many of those criminalised have carried out anti-social acts and have set back the cause of changing society.

READERS MEETING: Edinburgh Unemployed Centre, 12a Picardy Place, Edinburgh. (Tel. 031 557 0718). February 21st (Saturday) from 6.30 pm. Supporters and critics welcome.

COPY DATE: Next issue, no. 14. Please send reports by March 7th to Box 81, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh.