

DIRECT ACTION

**P&O Strike
See Page 6**



The Voice of Anarcho-Syndicalism

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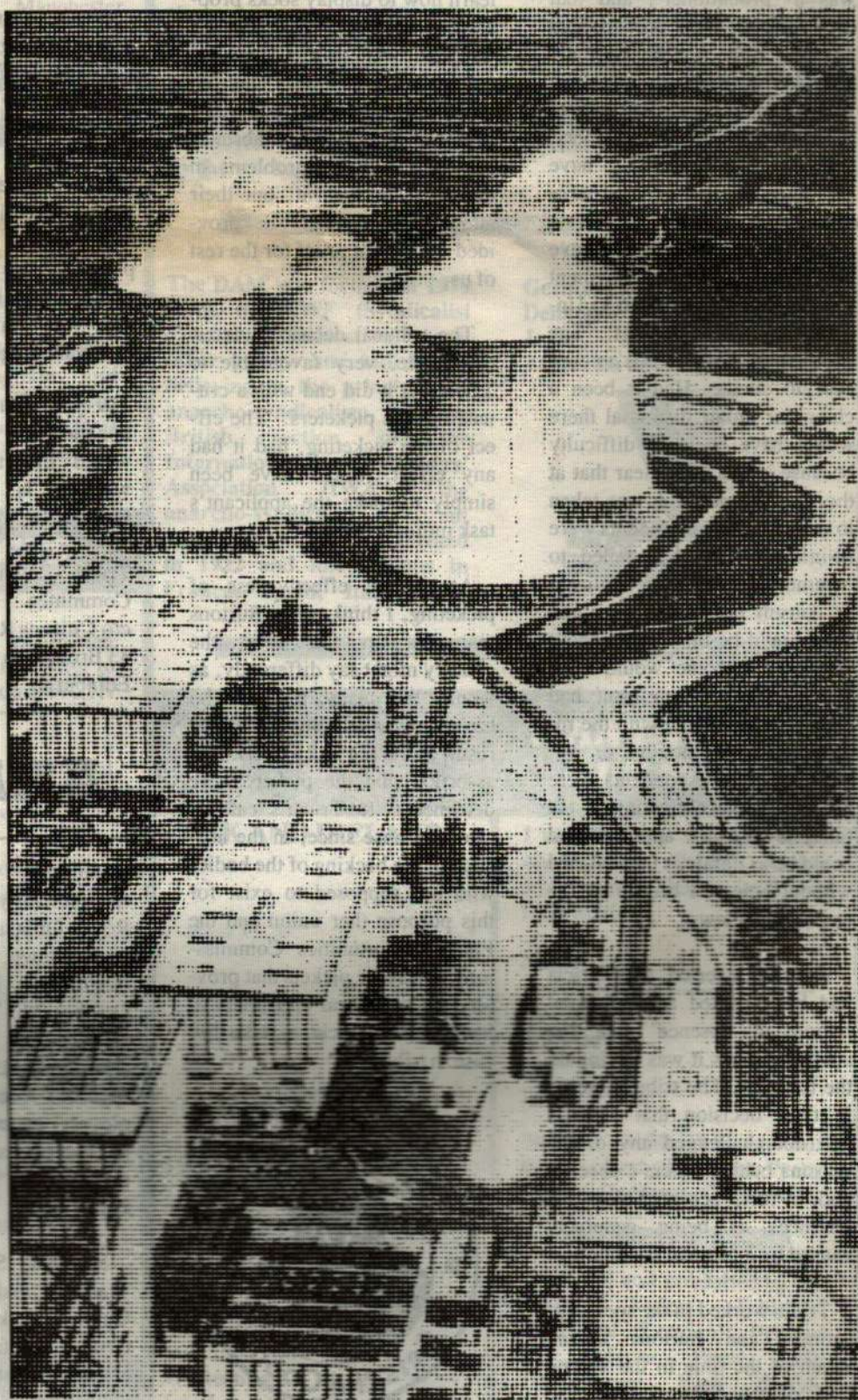
THATCHER'S GREENHOUSE

A confidential memorandum leaked to the *Financial Times* in November indicates that the Central Electricity Generating Board have done a U-turn on their policy of nuclear power. Until now the bosses of the CEGB have towed the government line, in other words, build as many nuclear power stations as possible in order to break the power of the National Union of Mineworkers. Now that privatisation is looming the bosses of the CEGB are more interested in keeping the potential shareholders sweet than the government.

The result of this change in policy is that the privatised electricity companies will want nothing to do with nuclear power stations unless the government is willing to pay for all the compensation when the bloody things blow up. John Baker, CEGB managing director and future chief executive of 'National Power' company said in the memorandum to John Guinness the Industry Department deputy secretary '...the CEGB view of the nuclear option is now quite different from its position before privatisation proposals, because it will need to become substantially more risk-averse to protect shareholder interests'. He also wrote that after privatisation the government must pay for the huge costs of building nuclear power stations and the enormous costs of decommissioning them assuming they (and us) don't go up in a mushroom cloud first.

This will bring him into conflict with the newly discovered green Toryism expounded by the government, a new excuse for the same old thing. Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley, the mastermind behind the miners strike, declared on TV the other day that us poor simpletons can't have it both ways - we moan about the greenhouse effect created by fossil fuels, therefore we have no right to grumble about being fried alive by nuclear waste and accidents.

So, a new excuse to hammer the miners and build nuclear power stations nobody wants, least of all a privatised CEGB - because a few warped Tory minds have suddenly discovered that they can manipulate public concern over acid rain, the greenhouse effect, and other environmental hazards caused by the misuse and inefficient use of fossil fuels.



Direct Action Movement — International Workers Association

VICTORY

On 30th August, Tricia Jennings finally received the decision of the industrial tribunal concerning her dismissal for being pregnant. They unanimously decided that Burtons were guilty of sex discrimination and had sacked her because she was pregnant. They awarded her £1780 — £1280 for lost wages and £500 for injuries to feelings. Tricia was not entitled to reinstatement or compensation for future loss of earnings because she had worked for Burtons for less than two years.

Burtons based most of their defence on the fact that Tricia was a 'probationer', and that they treat all their probationers equally badly, eg the Burtons-USDAW agreement for disciplinary and appeals procedures does not apply to probationers. Burtons defence seems to have prompted the tribunal to make an unusual criticism of the fact that probationary workers have no rights under employment law, they are not entitled to Unfair Dismissal Tribunals: 'The tribunal did not find this an easy case to decide. Had it been a claim for unfair dismissal there would have been no difficulty because it was very clear that at the time the decision was taken to dismiss, the respondents were ill-informed and had failed to communicate with the applicant or consult her in any way and there could be little doubt about what the outcome would have been. Since the applicant had only been employed with the respondents six months or so, however, the respondents were not under any obligation to act fairly towards the applicant and could be as unfair as they wished without being in breach of the employment laws'.

Burtons asserted that Tricia had been sacked for her 'total period of absence' and the adverse effects it was having on the business. The tribunal noted in their decision that Burtons had not challenged any of the reasons behind Tricia's absence and, in fact, 'accepted all of the absences as being genuinely caused by a medical condition'.

Tricia worked in the sock department and Burtons wasted much of the time in the second half of the tribunal trying to prove how much damage her absence had done to the sale of socks. We heard how it took six

months for new staff to learn 'the art of selling socks'. According to the manager, the staff are supposed to memorise where the socks are made, what they are made of, how much they cost, and how many are available. When one person on the tribunal asked him the obvious question — why can't the staff just look at the label? — the manager said that it looked more professional if they knew it already. Their lawyer even produced a series of photos of socks to show to the tribunal and then the manager gave us a little lecture on the different types of socks available: 'There are basically two types of sock — fashion and classic. The fashion sock is for the younger man... etc'.

He also stated that it took some time for new assistants to learn how to display socks properly — according to Tricia the 'display' was simply done by colour co-ordination! The tribunal did not accept Burtons evidence that Tricia's absence had caused major problems in the sock department, but their attempt to prove that it did provided some light relief for the rest of us.

The tribunal decision was on the whole, very favourable to Tricia but it did end with a criticism of the picketers: 'The effect of the picketing, had it had any effect, would have been simply to make the applicant's task more difficult...'.

As to the effectiveness of picketing, I think a few Burtons managers up and down the country might say differently, as would the many people who have boycotted Burtons as a result of the regular pickets. The assertion that the pickets were detrimental to Tricia's case is also nonsense since, in the absence of the backing of the bodies who are supposed to exist for this purpose (her union and the Equal Opportunities Commission), it was the pickets that provided all the moral and financial backing for Tricia to take her case to tribunal.



The Defence Committee in Edinburgh are in the process of



writing a pamphlet about Tricia's case since we feel that it is important that it is not forgotten about (As we go to press, Burtons have not appealed against the decision, so it is quite obvious that they hope all the fuss will die down). The case is important legally since it sets a precedent for other sex discrimination cases, but, more importantly, it proves workers can succeed in fighting their cases without the backing of the official bodies and hopefully Tricia's success will encourage other people to take up their cases — already the Citizens Rights office in Edinburgh have had several enquiries from people whose cases have been turned down by union officials and who have 'heard about Tricia Jennings'.

If you would like to make a donation to the pamphlet or would like to receive copies when it is published, please write to:

Tricia Jennings Defence Committee
c/o Citizens Rights Office
43 Broughton Street
Edinburgh

ARMED STRUGGLE

Hundreds of workers spontaneously walked out at the Royal Ordnance's factories in Bishopstown, Glasgow and Patricroft, Manchester on October 7th. There were scenes 'reminiscent of industrial relations in the 1970's'. The strikes occurred because of the employers' announcement to close the two plants in 1990 and 1991 respectively, thus threatening 2,300 jobs.

National Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union Jack Dromey (of Grunwick infamy), said members at the other 12 RO factories will boycott any production which is scheduled for the two other plants. It would be more effective to stop all production

RABBIT

The continuing terrorisation of the Palestinian people in the state of Israel means that, to date, nearly 300 Palestinians (and 10 Israelis) have been killed. Many of the dead are women and children.

According to Reuters on 28 September, Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Defence minister, gave orders that the Israeli Defence Forces should (must ?) shoot demonstrators and strikers with live ammunition, presumably to terrorise the indigenous Palestinian population into complete subservience.

The naked brutality of the Israeli State has led some Palestinian demonstrators to carry banners with slogans and swastikas on them, equating the

The recent elections have borne this out with the Likud party holding one more seat in the Knesset than Labour, and set to form a coalition government with a handful of right-wing, nationalist, religious parties who hold the balance of power. This means that any chance of justice for the Palestinians is even less likely. Yitzhak Shamir, Likud leader and future Prime minister, has already stated that he will not negotiate with the Palestinians at any level, and he will seek to crush the Intifada, as the 11-month-old Palestinian uprising is known, even more brutally than at present.

This will be disaster not only for the dispossessed Palestinians but also for Israel itself — the United States is threatening to withdraw its support, both moral and financial, if the Israelis continue to refuse to go to the UN negotiating table. The loss of the US dollar will mean the economic collapse of the Israeli State.



DON'T BULLSHIT ME -

I KNOW A MILLWALL SCARF WHEN I SEE ONE!

Israeli Defence Force with the Nazis of Hitler's Germany. While this analogy is inaccurate, there is no doubt that the Israeli State is displaying its most aggressive, right-wing and militaristic face yet in what is one of the most disgusting examples of oppression in the world today.

Meanwhile we must continue to support the Palestinians in their struggle for freedom and self-determination and we must also support those Israelis who are horrified and angry at the oppression perpetrated in their name by the Israeli State.

group, British Aerospace, are reportedly selling the two sites of prime land for £400 million. The government sold the sites to British Aerospace two years ago for a mere £3 1/2 million. The bosses and shareholders of British Aerospace stand to make a financial killing at the taxpayers' expense. As usual it's the rich who get richer. The workers of course do not do as well — 2,000 redundancies.

DAM

Legislation to abolish child chimney sweeps was consistently thrown out of the House of Lords in the 18th and 19th Century because their Lordships might have had to pay for alterations to their chimneys in order to get someone in to clean them.

SPOT



11th HOUR

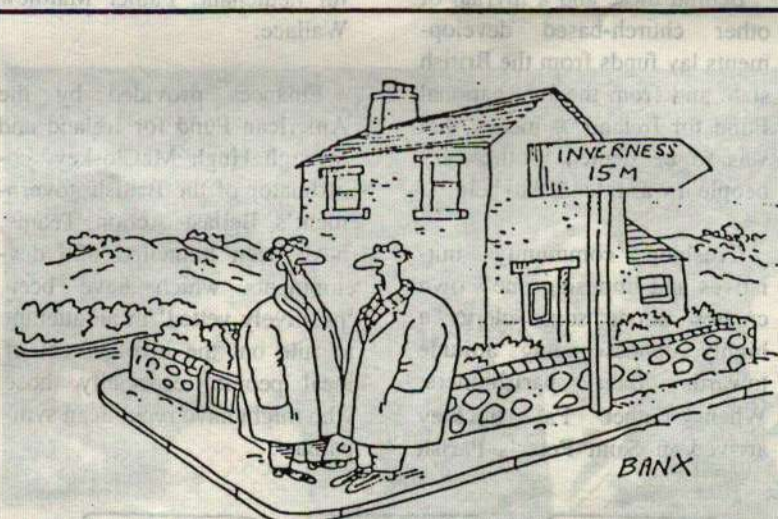
The Poll Tax in Scotland has gathered further momentum during the summer. The non payment campaigns have joined forces in recent months under the umbrella 'Federation of Anti Poll Tax Groups'. The Anti Poll Tax Union, Community Resistance Against the Poll Tax, Citizen's Against the Poll Tax, Labour Movement Against the Poll Tax, and other non payment community groups such as Tenants Associations are now working together.

A conference of the East of Scotland Anti Poll Tax Groups was held in Musselburgh (just a few miles from Edinburgh) on the 4th September in order to discuss and plan future strategy. More than 200 delegates were present, coming from Aberdeen to Galashiels. Some trade union branches sent delegates too (NALGO, Rosyth shipyard workers among them). A similar conference was held in Glasgow earlier in July with 350 delegates attending.

One of the major decisions that was taken at the conference was to move the campaign into the Trade Union movement while keeping the momentum within the communities. The reason being that in order to best defend ourselves when non payment starts to bite — the authorities will be able to arrest wages or deduct it from benefits. The role of the Trade Union movement could be crucial, as solidarity action to protect those affected could make all the difference. Employers are far less likely to help in the collection of the Poll Tax if threatened by walkouts or general strikes. The same would apply in benefit offices where workers could refuse to deduct the Poll Tax from benefits. Workers in the Department of Social Security and Department of Employment should be approached to get their support.

These combined actions should put a stop to the govern-

ment lies that the non payment campaigners are onto a loser. The same information has been prevalent during the delaying



registration, with supposed figures that 90% have already registered. The fact is that the figure only relates to people who have not sent their registration, but does not take into account the ones who have sent it back with requests for further information; and also that the 1st October deadline for completion will not be met while many have still to register. We would also like to extend our thanks to the militants in the Union of Communication Workers who have delayed registration further by their strike.

There are however tensions within the Federation over some of the strategies. Militant's attempt to use the Federation to recruit members for the Labour Party led to an outcry and angry exchanges. They were forced to withdraw that motion.

Meanwhile, the Labour Party leadership is happy that at its recall conference at Govan on the 17th September, it managed to defeat calls for a non payment campaign. This was to be the culmination of the STUC week of action which saw demonstrations throughout Scotland on the Saturday before, with the increasingly isolated SWP calling for Neil Kinnock to give a 'lead'. The STUC really gave

their all on Tuesday the 13th, with a staggering 11 minutes general strike. It also happened to coincide with the 11 O'clock tea break, with revolutionary tactics such as beeping car horns, ringing car bells, etc. The Tories must have died laughing.

However, with the Labour Party question out of the way (will they or won't they lead a campaign of non payment), the Federation can now pursue its strategy of collective non payment based in the communities and the workplace.

many different ways (heckler — 'Ever heard of the working class?'), and we should seek a 'cross-fertilisation' of the reactions. A feminist claimed that non-payment was a male idea because violence(?) was innately alien to women (sexist prat)!

The only constructive comment came from the DAM member present — divide the borough into districts, leaflet flat by flat, organise local meetings where pensioners and women with kids (two groups who will be hit very hard by the Poll Tax) could come, and prepare to support people who won't pay it because they can't afford to. Local libertarians are going to organise a non-payment campaign, so stay tuned.

BANKERS

Clerical staff at Lloyds Bank are currently in disagreement with their management about extending the opening hours until 4:30 pm. The workers' union BIFU is advising an overtime ban. At the moment clerical staff must work at least half an hour extra before they can claim overtime payments. Although there are no plans yet to lengthen the 35 hour week, BIFU says workers will have to do more than half hour periods of unpaid overtime to cope with the workload.

Meanwhile, staff at Eagle Star Insurance Company are being balloted for industrial action in a dispute over union recognition. And, the Bank of Credit and Commerce announced redundancies (prior to the October drugs scandal), as did the stock exchange (85 jobs going).

White-collar workers sometimes consider themselves above the blue-collar workers. The above events illustrate that the ruling class think that we are all just plebs to be hired and fired at will, and to be paid as little as they can get away with. We say that workers in any given industry should stand by each other, regardless of job, in the fight against the bosses. In other words, blue and white, unite and fight.

CAR TROUBLE

Production of Jaguar cars in Coventry was halted at the beginning of October when 3,500 workers went on strike. They struck because a worker was transferred to a different job without consultation. We are pleased to report that the management gave in after two days. The workers united can never be defeated!

Industrial unrest has been simmering at Jaguar for most of this year and it's not over yet. Union delegates met on October 5th and overwhelmingly rejected a company offer of 2.9%. Watch this space for more news...

DIGGING IN

At the end of September, workers at 14 of Tarmac's 80 quarries went on strike in defence of national pay agreements. Some of the workers are in the Transport and General Workers Union, and some are in the General, Municipal and Boilermakers Union. The TGWU has a delegate conference this month to consider escalating the action to an all-out stoppage.

BEACHED PARTY LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

The conference was too boring, even for me, to deserve a long report here. But I must mention two things.

Firstly, the EETPU electricians' union. At the beginning of conference there was a motion to expel them because the EETPU leadership organised the biggest scabbing operation in recent years at Wapping. Scabbing is one of the worst anti-working class activities possible, but that is obviously not a good enough reason for them to be expelled from the Labour Party...

Secondly, you might not realise it but the Labour Party Conference actually makes a profit. They had 86 stalls this year and charged £2,900 for each one for the week. Stalls were hired by, among other people, British Nuclear Fuels, the Falklands Island Company, and the Sunday Shopping (and working) Campaign.



Is there anyone out there who still believes that the Labour Party is a workers party?

Suddenly I've begun to feel like a jerk!



Labour Party man Dennis Knight just scraped home to win a seat on the Local Council in Redruth, Cornwall in September. He got 94 votes, a mere 26 votes more than the runner-up. Who was second? Was it the Tories? The Democrats? Class War? No, in second place with 68 votes was Freddy Zap of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party. Nice try Freddy.

HACKED OFF

A mixed bunch of libertarians decided to check out our local Haringey. Against the Poll Tax group at their public meeting on September 18th. No surprises, although I'm always struck by what poor speakers Labour MPs are. The meeting was chaired by a woman vicar who chain-smoked — well radical, eh? Speakers from the Child Poverty Action Group, and the National Council for Civil Liberties told us the facts, Bernie Grant waffled on for 45 minutes over the same ground, and said he was going to be a martyr 'cos the fines were only £50 then £200 — nothing on an MPs' salary.

The speaker for HAPT then told us how she and her friends had dressed up as peasants and ponced about at various events, generally having a good time. As a worker from Kent, I've always looked on the Peasant's Revolt as part of my heritage, I felt insulted.

From the floor the SWP told us to pass a resolution through our trade union, and call upon Kinnock and Willis to lead us! Some gluesniffer from the Communist Party rambled on about how wonderful and interesting it was the the Poll Tax affected so many groups in so

RACKETEERS

WHATA CHOKER!

The Catholic hierarchy has never sided with the Irish people against their oppression, but recently Bishop Cahal Daly in Belfast has joined forces more openly than many of his predecessors with the institutions which attack his own flock.

Daly repeats, without any additions or amendments, the propaganda of the British government, and his diocese is becoming a vehicle for British policy, destroying community development in North and West Belfast.



BISHOP DALY

Father Des Wilson has been involved for over 20 years in community self-help schemes, and is deeply angered by the involvement of his church in Thatcher's strategy. *An Phoblacht/Republican News* Tom O'Dwyer reviewed a new pamphlet published by Comhar na Grupaí Pobail which indicts repression under the guise of religion.

'Half a dozen major commercial organisations have been established by the Catholic hierarchy of Down and Connor (Catholic diocese including Belfast), supplemented by two dozen Church-controlled ACE (Action for Community Employment) schemes. Priests announce job vacancies from their altars on Sundays. Nuns are employed and paid by government agencies. Christian Brothers are being relieved of their teaching duties and, after specialised training, are being assigned to governmental employment as ACE supervisors and Community Care officers.'

West Belfast — The Way Forward? is a report by Father Des Wilson and Oliver Kearney exposing the murky world of the Catholic Church's involvement with British policy in the city. It is a course of action promoted by Britain's chief military strategist, General Frank Kitson.

The diocese has set up an impressive array of companies dominated by the Catholic business class. These companies work in

close collusion with the Department of Economic Development at Stormont Castle, and their object is to squeeze out employment initiatives organised by local groups of working people, replacing them with projects owned by the Church and run by the rich.

It's not the first time that community economic development projects have been crushed. In 1979, Whiterock Industrial Estates Ltd which was training 150 people for light industry was suddenly burned out and replaced by the massive Fort Jericho British Army base. It's training facilities were removed to a loyalist area three miles away.

The confidence which is generated in a community which creates jobs for itself is something which no colonist (or any state — eds.) can afford to tolerate, but the protest which followed the closure of the Whiterock initiative meant that British strategists had to try another way of defeating the community.

Cathedral Community Enterprises (owned by the diocese of Down and Connor) and the host companies linked with it fitted the bill. Its particular target was to replace local initiatives organised in the Lower Falls. When parents organised the Divis Play Project for infants in 1985, they found it almost impossible to get a Fire Authority Certificate of safety.



But an alternative play project which started up soon after the parents' initiative had no difficulty in getting a fire certificate. It was organised by Sister Bernadette Crowley, one of the directors of Cathedral Community Enterprises. Any children

attending the residents' own play project were excluded from the church one. When the Divis Residents' Association opened a people's canteen, the nuns opened a rival canteen. When they opened an advice centre, the nuns once again set up theirs.

CONDESCENDING

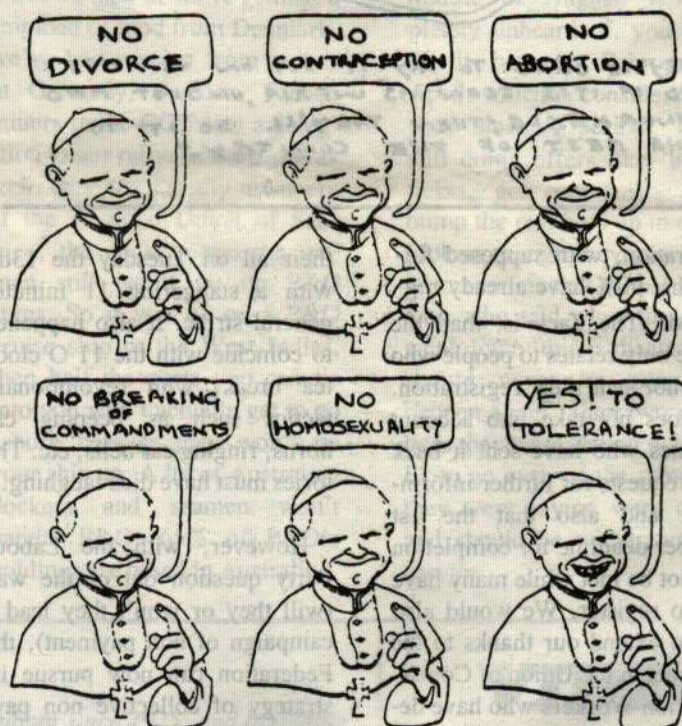
Behind these and a myriad of other church-based developments lay funds from the British state and from the International Fund for Ireland — money that was to be denied to the very people it was intended to help.

Crushing community initiatives and imposing one's own creates among some clergy a highly condescending attitude towards their parishioners. When Father Pat Buckley arrived in Saint Peter's Parish

government ACE schemes. The wages on these schemes vary from £50 to £100 per week but they can be topped up by any earnings made through the project.

Staffing for ACE schemes in nationalist areas has been frozen except where the Church is involved and since 1985 Church involvement has grown and grown under Daly and his faithful lieutenant, Father Matthew Wallace.

Finances provided by the American Fund for Ireland and through Hugh McCloskey, co-ordinator of the British government's Belfast Action Teams, have been funnelled into developments which have been 'positively vetted' in an attempt to rule out the involvement of local people, especially those who might have republican sympathies.



(which includes the Divis Flats), he was told by one of his clerical colleagues: 'This place is hopeless. The people here are as thick as pig-shit — there's absolutely nothing you can do with them.'

This priestly contempt was echoed in the now famous Good Shepherd Sunday sermon delivered by Daly on April 24th, when he called for a 'New Deal' for West Belfast: 'Part of West Belfast's problem is that there are so few people with sufficient experience and resources to bring forward plans for new projects and to research them.'

But it has been contradicted again and again by the people of the Lower Falls as they developed their own organisations centred on the Conway Mill. These projects depended on the

The effects of these developments, as Wilson and Kearney point out, have been to increase the powerlessness and dependence of communities. 'Listen and obey your betters' is the lesson preached by clerics like Daly.

'The Catholic Church in West Belfast has been transformed into a business empire which currently controls 500 jobs, representing an annual contribution from government funding of approximately £3 million. The business will shortly benefit from the inflow of approximately £100 million over five years, which has been earmarked by the government for industrial development in West Belfast.'

SOURCE: *An Phoblacht/Republican News*

Loyalist death threats against Catholic workers in the Northern Ireland Civil Service met a response of united strike action two years ago. The September issue of the Ulster Defence Association magazine *Ulster* repeated the scenario. The legal paramilitary group's organ carried an article by Steven Taylor attacking the 'infiltration' of Hollywood Road DHSS in East Belfast by Catholics from 'pro-republican ghettos'. Such articles usually herald a wave of sectarian assassination attempts, rooted in the Loyalist belief that as long as there are Protestants on the dole the employment of Catholics is discriminating against them.

On Monday 19th September 80 workers at the office walked out in response, a spokesperson saying that they were 'determined that they should not be divided on sectarian grounds' and that 'they had no alternative but to withdraw from the office'. Members of the Northern Ireland Public Service Association closed down nine DHSS offices altogether as part of the action. The action was called off on the Thursday when the UDA issued a statement claiming that workers had 'nothing to fear' from their organisation. While the UDA's history gives the lie to this statement, the Loyalist assassins have almost certainly taken the hint.

Swift effective action has in this case saved lives, and is an example to the entire Six County labour movement of how to deal with the manifestations of the sectarian state. Sure this has happened in a 'mixed' industry, not one of those dominated by loyalists through job discrimination, and it will remain necessary as long as the state exists, but it shows sectarianism can be defeated if taken on directly. Such actions must be built on.

HITMEN

Private David Holden who shot dead Roman Catholic Aiden McAnespie in February has just been cleared of all charges because he said 'it was an accident'. The British government ruled in January that members of the RUC should not be prosecuted for criminal offences 'in the public interest'.

Private Ian Thain, jailed for life for the murder of an unarmed Belfast man, Thomas Reilly, has just got out of prison after only two years thanks to string-pulling by the Ministry Defence. One law for them...

DESERT RATS

200 dead, a State of Emergency, tanks and troops on the streets... The recent popular uprising in Algerian cities has a ring of déjà vu about it.

In the fifties and early sixties, the Algerians fought a guerilla war to drive out the French colonialists. The French authorities tried massive repression to defeat Algerian nationalism, but despite their most barbarous efforts they could never totally eliminate the National Liberation Front (FLN). No matter how hard they tried they could never pacify the Casbah. It was a war as vicious as any, with bombs, ambushes and systematic torture. Eventually the French were forced to pull out and the FLN came to power in 1962 on a platform of state nationalism and socialism.

The recent riots have smashed forever any myths about Algeria being a progressive, socialist country. The FLN government has had to send in troops against its own people. And just as during the independence war, the Casbah was the heart of the uprising.

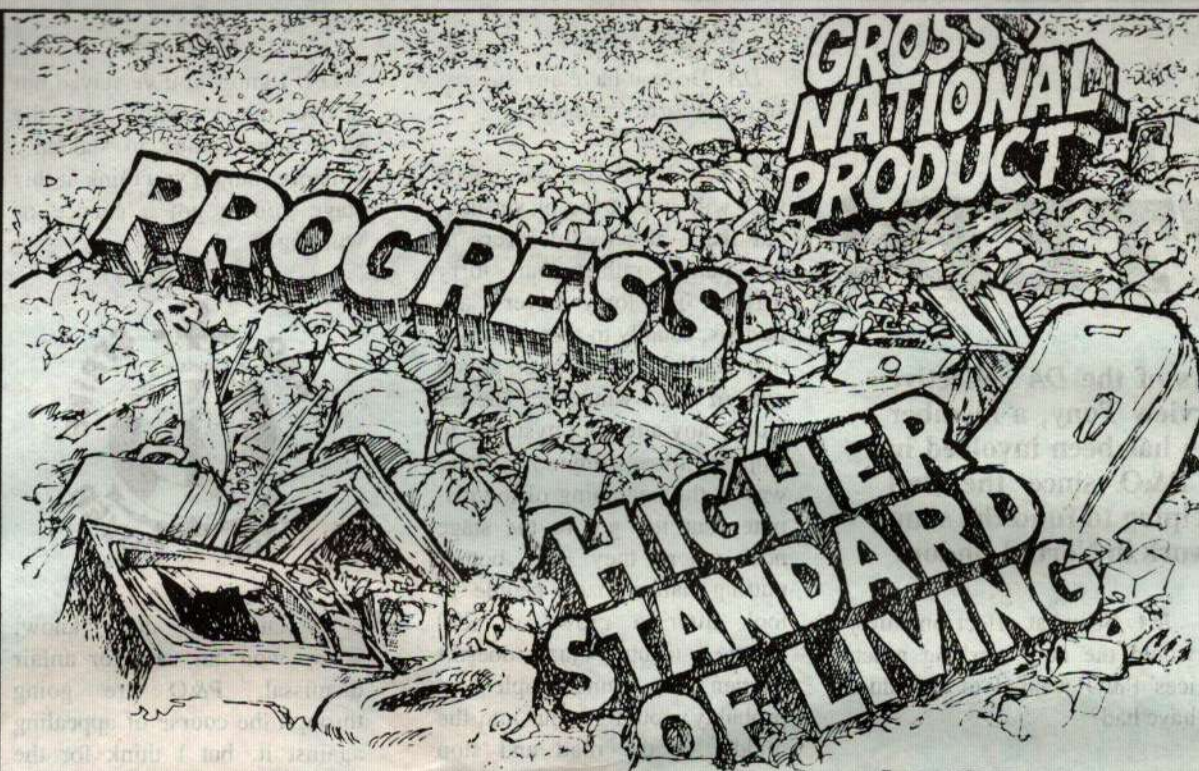
This was a revolt by Algeria's urban poor against price rises and a society with no prospects for its overwhelmingly young population. The FLN government has had to impose an austerity programme to pay off the country's huge foreign debt. Unemployment is around 40%. At the same time, the government is handing back sections of the economy into private hands in a desperate attempt to see a way out of the crisis. By all accounts, muslim fundamentalism is not a strong force in Algeria, and played little part in the uprising. This was a working class revolt, sparked off by economic grievances.

The freedom fighters of 26 years ago have become the governors of today. The FLN government is prepared to shoot down their own people, just so they can remain in power (though apparently some of the FLN rank and file old guard sympathise with the rioters). History is giving us yet another lesson on the shortcomings of nationalism and the fundamentally corrupt nature of the state.

DAM

Chaos and panic erupted in a courtroom in Mombassa, Kenya when a giant monitor lizard, over three foot high and very dangerous, walked in during a trial. During the pandemonium the lizard got beaten to death with chairs and benches. Meanwhile, twenty prisoners legged it to freedom.

SPOT



ROBB

LEAF US ALONE

On Monday, August 8th, the Seattle Greenpeace phone bank was shut down. This was a blatant attempt to crush a union organising drive mounted by the Seattle Greenpeace Workers' Organising Committee (Industrial Union 670, IWW). The work of the Seattle phone bank will be transferred to the Boston Greenpeace office where there is currently no union organising drive.

Last June, Greenpeace's National Phone Bank Director Lisa

Goldberg implemented new policies at the Seattle phone bank including insensitive, high pressure marketing techniques and plans for illegal audio surveillance of phone calls. Dissatisfied with the local implementation of her edicts, she had the phone bank supervisor removed and arrived on July 7th to take control of the phone room herself. During her brief tenure she carried out selective reprisals (firing and probation) against union members who played an active and visible role

protesting these policies.

Shutdown came in response to the union's nation-wide publicity campaign. The organising committee is demanding that the Seattle phone bank be reopened and that all the workers be reinstated. Other demands include recognition of the union, no electronic phone surveillance, and an end to high pressure marketing techniques and negotiations for a more democratic workplace.

On Thursday, August 18th,

more than 50 demonstrators picketed in front of Greenpeace NW headquarters in Seattle carrying signs with slogans such as 'Save Greenpeace From Toxic Management', and 'Greenpeace Needs A Union'. Marching behind the IWW banner and chanting 'Union Busting Is Disgusting', and 'Give The Wobs Back Their Jobs', the group moved directly to the lawn in front of the Greenpeace offices for a brief rally. Allen Thompson spoke for the Seattle Greenpeace Workers' Organising Committee and was followed by a number of statements of support from individuals and organisations.

Future activities included another demonstration on Sunday, August 28th in front of a Seattle benefit concert for Greenpeace, the filing of unfair labour practice charges, and further national publicity including talking to Greenpeace workers throughout North America.



MINE ALL MINE

On the 19th July 1988, as part of an international day of solidarity action with the Spanish CNT-AIT, members of the COB, Brazilian section of the IWA, demonstrated in front of the Spanish Embassy in Brasilia and handed a letter to the Embassy demanding the return of the premises confiscated from the CNT-AIT by Franco and denouncing political repression, and torture in the Basque countries, and the imprisonment of Jean-Phillipe Casabonne.

The consul, who received two of the demonstrators, denied everything. He pretended to have never heard of Jean-Phillipe Casabonne, and that there was no torture or political prisoners in Spain.

As few people in Brazil know what Western democracies are like we propose to send the Brazilian press files on torture and repression that happen here in order to unmask our pseudo-democracies.

On the other hand, COB activists are under work suspension still since the strike they were involved in. We must show our solidarity by writing letters of protest to the Sarney government in Brasilia, and besiege Brazilian embassies.

Following on from last month's article in DA about the Peruvian miners' strike, we were looking forward to reporting that the strikers had won. Indeed, by the end of September the employers and government did concede to pay rates linked to inflation (114%), a six hour day, retirement at 45 and national collective wage bargaining.

However, as we go to press, the dispute has flared up again because the bosses are not honouring their promises. Miners at Cobriza, Toquepala, Cuajone and Ilo, comprising about 50% of Peru's miners, stopped work in the beginning of October and the strike has been spreading ever since.

The National Mining Society, a bosses' organisation, is taking steps to make the strike illegal. Just like in Britain, any effective industrial action ends up with the judiciary attacking the workers.

On the eve of the strike a miners' union representative was assassinated in Morococha, and five others received death threats. Two days into the strike two miners were shot dead by Sendero Luminoso gunmen in La Oraya.

If the government does not give in soon, the economy of Peru is liable to collapse.



TOAD IN THE HOLE

President Kenneth Kaunda's sixth successive election victory in Zambia on October 26th came as no surprise. He was the only candidate. As a liberal gesture the ballot papers also had a box available for voters to cross for a non-existent candidate, ie someone other than Kaunda.

Due to Zambia's 60% illiteracy rate, pictures were used to symbolise the candidates. The symbol for Kaunda was an eagle, the Zambian national bird, the other box had a toad in it.

DAM

IWW union members in America banded together to buy one of their comrades a wooden leg after he had one of his amputated. Fair enough, but a few months later the one-legged man scabbed on the IWW during a strike. IWW strikers promptly went round and took the wooden leg back.

SPOT

Following the election Kaunda had the cheek to tell reporters that people in South Africa were dying in order to attain a 'fully-fledged democracy' such as Zambia's.

GET KNOTTED!

Recently one of the members of the DA collective had the opportunity to interview Tony, a member of the NUS from Dover, who has been involved in the current dispute with P&O since the 2nd February. He is currently helping to fund the soup kitchens through voluntary work in North London.

DA: You used to work on the *Herald Of Free Enterprise*, would you tell us what the safety conditions were like?

T: Well, you've still got practices where the ballast of the ship, which was one of the major factors in the *Herald* sinking, is gauged by somebody who walks to the front of the ship with a lump of lead on the end of a rope with knots tied in it. They walk to the front of the ship and drop it over, then walk to the stern of the ship and drop it over, and if the same amount of knots comes up both ends it's stable.



The bow door lights, which obviously we didn't have on the *Herald*, the ones that have been installed now are the ones that shouldn't have been installed. They were told not to use them because they do go wrong. Fire alarms are deliberately switched off because they're faulty, there was a fire on there not so long ago which was caused by a bucket underneath a leaking oil pipe. It was reported to the company, who obviously did nothing about it, and these things have been happening on the *Herald* for years.

When P&O took over they forced everyone to wear safety boots, make sure everyone had the right protective clothing on all the time, but what sort of use is that when the basic design of the ferry is unstable? The fact is that any roll-on-roll-off ferry, if holed beneath the waterline, will sink in 90 seconds, and if it hadn't been in shallow water it would have just turned turtle. The basic design of them means that they are top-heavy.

DA: So what effect on safety would the new working practices P&O wanted to introduce have had?

T: The simple fact that tired people make mistakes, and if you're going to force somebody to work 24 hours without a break, they are going to be tired. We've had cases of people falling asleep at the wheel on the way home, and that was under the old conditions, where you had a two day recovery period. Now you are only getting 24 hours, if that, the recall system means that you could be working up to three days — a 72 hour shift.

DA: Did the management try and negotiate the new conditions, or listen to what you had to say about them, or did they just dictate it?

T: There were talks before they came out with it, but when the talks broke down they just said 'sod you, this is it, you will work it, we won't negotiate, and you can like it or lump it'. After we did come out on strike they said they were going to ACAS to sort it out, then they came back with a new agreement, which was just the old agreement. They said that this was what ACAS had come up with. With subsequent investigation, letters that have come from ACAS said that the two groups had never even met while they were at ACAS, and that nobody from P&O actually spoke to anyone from ACAS, and this was supposed to be an ACAS proposal that they came back with.

DA: What kind of state is the strike in, how many of the original workers are still out?

T: There are 635 actual full-time pickets that have never worked, plus approximately 4-500 that have taken other jobs but are still involved in different ways, still get down the picket line, some of them help with the soup kitchens, etc. We still maintain the mass picket of 200 people in the mornings between seven O'clock and half past nine, when the crews change over. Then there's a smaller one in the evenings between seven and eleven when the crew changes. The rest of the time it's just one or two people on the picket line.

DA: Do you have any success stopping lorries and that?

T: We do get the odd person who will stop at the picket line, but that's usually members of the public rather than lorry drivers. The lorry driver's attitude is, usually to come through then stick their fingers up at you out of the window. There's hardly any attempt physically to stop the lorries anymore, there was in the beginning of the dispute, but it's got to the stage now where they only bother putting half-a-dozen people to look after a crowd of 200 people, trouble just doesn't happen. The young people who probably would get out into the middle of the road and stop traffic are the ones who have gone away fund-raising, and aren't even in Dover. The union threw Terry French off the picket line for agitating — he was politely asked to leave and not come back, we didn't need the miners — which I think was a relatively stupid thing to do.

DA: Does most of the money come from street or workplace connections, or from big donations from union branches?

Most of the big donations come from union branches, but I think the main thing is that we have to get out on the streets and do the bucket collections and the stalls in the high streets, because there's still a hell of a lot of people, even in London with all the support groups that have been set up, that think we're all back at work and the whole thing's over. So, I think the bucket collections side of it is more important in that sense.

DA: I know you've stayed out nearly nine months and the strike's not going to suddenly collapse, but do you think at this stage you've got a chance of winning?



T: (laughs) I don't know, we've won our case for unfair dismissal, P&O are going through the course of appealing against it, but I think for the people who are left on the picket line now, they won't be going back to work now anyway, even when this is over. I think the vast majority of people feel like that, we just ain't gonna work with scabs. And as long as any scabs stay on there, the people who are out on strike won't go back. The only thing we can really expect out of it is a couple of thousand pounds cash payment. But it ain't gonna change the fact that we consider the fucking things unsafe.

DA: So do you reckon then that, when the dispute's over, there'll be no kind of union organisation on the ferries?

T: No, definitely not. This monkey operation they've got going at the moment, this European Ferryman's Association, that's nothing. It's not even worth talking about. The people who set it up were basically the corrupt officials in the

for years that there was a leak in the NUS office in Dover, the management were hearing about everything the union was trying to do before the actual members did. It turned out that the gut who was giving them all this information was a guy called Dave Andrews, and he's one of the principals who've set up this new bloody union. It is rumoured that the head of the new union was given a company car by P&O, a fella called Robin Kember. He was the one who set up all our agreements that we were working on before the strike, he was one of the first buggers to go back.

DA: Do you think that there's a chance of spreading the dispute into a national ferry strike on the grounds that if P&O got away with it, it's everybody's job next.



T: We still send people out every now and then trying to pull out the other ports. There's a little support in places like Felixstowe, Hull and Norwich, and Liverpool, obviously. Portsmouth union officials turned round and said that if McCluskie, even, calls everybody out, which is very unlikely, then they'd pull out of the union rather than go on strike. You've got ports like



UP AND DOVER

You don't get more money from doing bucket collections, but at least you're letting people know that you are still there and you are still on strike.

NUS, all the scum off our Port Committee. Half of them went back to work anyway, and they're the ones who've set up this new union. We were sure

**CONTINUED
ON PAGE 7**

GET KNOTTED!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Portsmouth and Southampton, little nothing ports where nothing ever really happens anyway, where we haven't got any members and those we've got are really right-wing, they're doing P&O's job for them. It's obvious that they're gonna be next, but they just can't see it that way. Presumably they'll just accept any new conditions that come up, no matter what it entails.

Although we do send people out to places like Liverpool, they were very upset about being called back the first time. People I've spoken to from Hull were extremely upset that they were sent back to work by McCluskie. Now, because they came out and were told to go back, they say they won't come out again. His calling everyone back to work like he did ruined any chance of solidarity work for the future. So, although we do try to send people out you're fighting against the union anyway, because they don't want them pulled out,

DA: What kind of reaction was there among the strikers to the court decision that went against you?

T: We think McCluskie backed down on five or six occasions and he shouldn't have backed down at all. He should have kept the national strike up, and he should have kept all the ports out and told them not to go back to work. Some of the thing the judge came up with in court are pretty disgusting. We were told that we couldn't take photographs of the scabs in the buses, two weeks later pictures appeared of the pickets that had been taken by scabs from the bus, and they were produced in the court as evidence.

We knew the courts were against us anyway, the judge is a P&O shareholder, not only that, he's in the same Masonic Lodge as Sir Jeffrey Stirling. We were told by our own union's solicitors that it wouldn't be worth kicking him out and getting a fresh judge, because the Old Boy network would mean that the new judge you get would be just as bad. If not worse, I think in the end McCluskie did go too far, it's not very helpful to you when you're on strike, when he's in there almost begging 'please give me my money back'.

We don't consider we were breaking the law anyway. The fact is that the judge has interpreted the law and that has become the norm now, things that were not actually law before this strike now are because of what the judge said during the dispute. Before it was eight, now it's six pickets on the line,

thanks to Judge Michael Davis. A lawful demonstration of 200 people standing along a road has now become an illegal demonstration.

DA: So you're saying that unless you stand up to the courts, they actually will make up further powers.

T: Definitely

DA: Apart from McCluskie's role in sabotaging solidarity, what kind of backing have you had from your union officials, have you been getting strike pay?



P'LL NAME THAT TUNE IN ONE

T: We weren't getting strike pay before the sequestration, however, after the sequestration, although we haven't got our money back yet, he then took out a 1/2 million pound loan from Unity Trust Bank, and he gave us all a £500 payment, which was supposed to be £17 a week strike pay back-dated to the start of the dispute. It was just one lump sum, they weren't actually paying strike pay. Although there were plenty of times before the sequestration when he could have started paying us £17 a week strike pay, but he didn't bother. It seems to me like a rearguard action.

DA: Other NUS members that I've talked to have said that the NUS hardship Fund, run by the TUC, out of which they were supposed to get bills paid out, never got paid out, except after the ports came out, almost like a buy-out of militancy.

T: We have had about £500 in payouts, £100 here, and £50 there from the TUC fund. When it first started Norman Willis said, 'you're OK, we've got £1 million in the account, you'll be getting this money'. After the first couple of payments, their money dried up, and when asked why we weren't getting this £1 million he said that it was a bit of an overestimate, he had only got 1/4 million. I'm not sure when

the last TUC payout was, I know they're erratic, they're not allowed to be paid on a regular basis, presumably because they're for hardship, so you never know when the next one's gonna come up.

You always get people down on the picket line spreading rumours 'there's going to be another payout tomorrow', everyone gets worked up expecting this payout, and when the day comes it doesn't arrive and people get depressed. It hasn't been regular at all. The latest thing is the union told us we could sign on the dole, later investigation showed that we can sign on the dole, but if we do we're no longer in dispute. I dunno how many people are going to go out and sign on, but

en first, they got off the ground first, and through their example the support groups sprang up in other towns. That was how they were set up, the one in Deal was set up as a result of the miner's dispute and the others just sprang up when everyone realised that it wasn't just going to be a big dispute. It was gonna drag on.

DA: Where does the money raised by the support groups go to?

T: The money that we raise goes directly into the soup kitchens, we manage to raise just about enough money each week to keep the kitchens going for the next week. All it does is pay

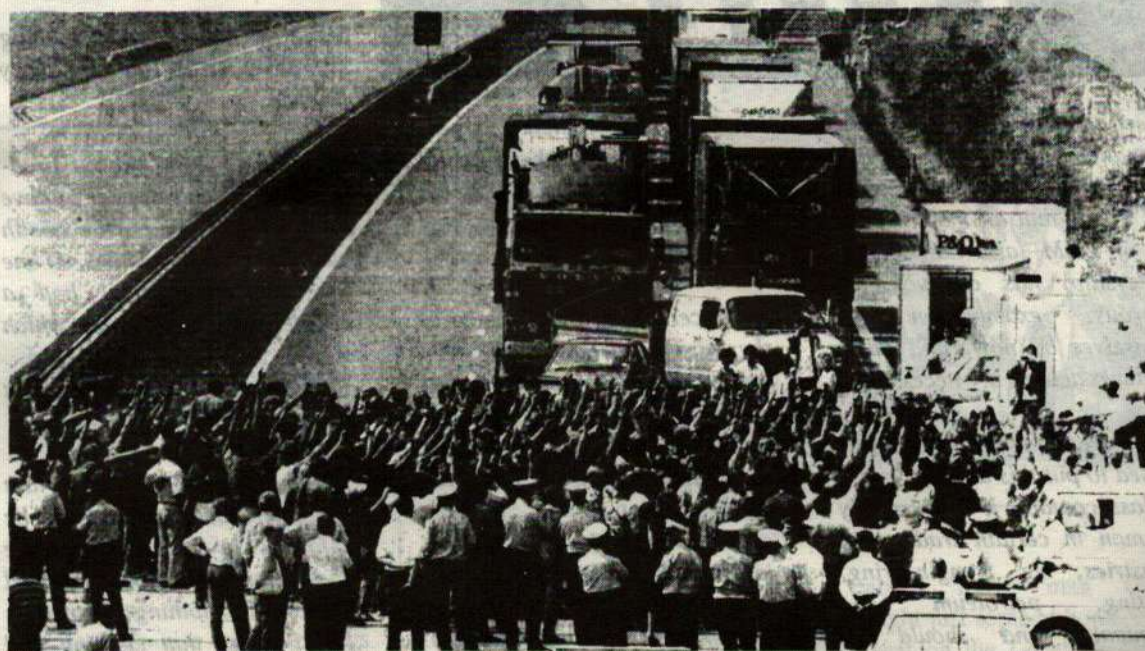
DA: So, it's really from that, that a lot of the more active strikers have been out fundraising around the country?

T: Yeah, London, Birmingham, Barnsley, Sheffield.



DA: You have a problem really that the popular press only want to know if there's been a row on the picket line. Usually they're caused by scabs or coppers, but blamed on strikers, it's a case of bad publicity or no publicity.

T: There was a guy called Gordon Hay who was a picket. It was about a quarter to eleven at night, and everybody had gone home early. There were two people left, him and Alan, who's like our picket stalwart, he more or less lives on the picket line. He actually lives in this — I'm not actually sure what you'd call it, just a bit bigger than a broom cupboard, probably sell for about forty grand up here — he's actually living there because he was kicked out of his flat. So he's our picket marshal down there, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and there was him and Gordon left down there. The police stood by and watched as two drunken scabs came staggering out of the docks, staggered across to the doorway of this pub where the two of them were standing, and punched him in the mouth. The police stood by and watched it, and it was only after they punched him that they all came running over and jumped on him. They knew it was scabs — they were dressed in full uniform.



TURNING THE TIDE

T: Deal was the first to set up, obviously, being more of a mining town more than the others involved, they had their contacts there already from the miner's dispute. They set up their kitchen

food vouchers, which are handed out on a per head basis once a week. Whether you use the kitchen or not, you're still entitled to a food voucher, we are in great financial difficulties.

**CONTINUED
ON PAGE 8**

GET KNOTTED!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Johnny Woods — who we consider to be the leader of the strike, just a Port Committee member really, when we occupied the union offices. We had six people who broke into the union offices and occupied it. He was caught passing food through the window, and they said, 'don't do that, you can't be seen to be helping them', and Johnny passed the bag up anyway, he was then jumped on by four policemen, who dragged him around and kicked him a few times, punched him, and arrested him. He's now on charges of assaulting three police officers, which of course is completely untrue.

DA: I know the union threw Terry French off the picket line, but he ended up getting exiled to Scotland. How did that happen?

T: There was this pub called the Forester's in which a group of scabs had been getting together, and they'd been going out and beating up pickets. Some people broke into The Forester's and destroyed the pub and everybody in it. The police that night went on a purge, and anybody who had been pulled in before, or that they knew to be a striker, was automatically picked up and locked up. That's what happened to Terry.

DA: So any attacks on scabs have been defensive?

T: Yeah, they've been deliberately been going round. A lot of the youngsters used to drink in the same pub and they've got a leader, a big fellow name of Paul Townsend. He's always been a Conservative, a true blue Tory, when he said, 'I

don't believe in this strike, I'm going back to work', they all went back behind him. They formed themselves into this little group which goes around deliberately trying to cause trouble.



DA: Seafaring is an international job, it's always been a way that revolutionary ideas and unions, like the old IWW, have spread. Have you had much international solidarity?

T: We have had support from the French and the Belgians, but their laws are so different to ours. We consider that our trade union laws are regressive, but the law in Belgium, I'm not sure what dispute it was, but a guy was arrested for being a leader of a strike, the laws are such out there that he was fined £40 a week for the rest of his life! The French refused to tie up P&O

vessels, and within four hours the French government sent in the riot police to get rid of them, so P&O got their own men to tie up the ships. Although the support is there — the Belgians had a one day strike in support of us — P&O have got a 10% share of the Belgian ferry operation, they've just been hit with the same agreement we have.

We've had, or we're getting, a shipload of food from Denmark, we've had support from unions in Germany, Sweden, French miners in the CGT sent a delegation to our rally. In Barbados as well, they are actually members of the National Union of Seamen, the dockers and the seamen still won't tie up P&O ships. So if you go on a P&O cruise ship to the West Indies, then half the ports you can tie into you won't actually get to go ashore because they won't tie your ship up. A lot of Australian dockers and seamen won't handle P&O, 65% of P&O's holdings are based in Australia.

DA: Has this had much effect on P&O's operations?

T: We estimate they've lost £40 million in Dover, they've admitted to losing £25 million up to June, but obviously the summer period is their busiest period and they were still doing the Sun's day trips for £1 in the

middle of August. It's completely unheard of, you usually do it between February and April, which is considered to be your slackest period. They're still doing offers like 'buy one ticket, get one free', just to bump the numbers up to make it look as though they're winning. It amazes me that people like the Sun, who said when the Herald went down 'this is disgusting, it should never be allowed to happen again', then two months later they were selling tickets for £1 to go over on the same ships they were saying were unsafe, and should be withdrawn from service.

NUTTY NORMAN

P&O European Ferries will be trembling in their boots now. TUC General Secretary Norman Willis has just written a letter to 7,500 travel agents asking them not to book passengers with P&O. Willis' letter emphasised how unsafe it is for passengers to travel by P&O rather than the facts about the sacking of the P&O seafarers in Dover last February.

Norman 'Useless Sod' Willis has yet again missed the point that grovelling to the bourgeois never gets workers anything but contempt. Travel agent bosses come from the same mould as the P&O bosses; ie they don't give a damn about the workers.

The only way any dispute against the bosses was ever won was by industrial muscle or the threat of it. P&O have admitted that this dispute has already cost them £25 million. The sacked P&O seafarers' only hope is to get solidarity strikes going in Dover and elsewhere. The travel agents will merely laugh at Norman Willis' letter as they throw it in the bin.

STOP PRESS: The NUS sent out two letters dated 1st September, and one dated 24th October, to union branches throughout the country, saying that no money should be given to 'maverick' support groups, but should go through the union. Sam 'Useless Sod' McCluskie was unavailable for comment, apparently at death's door, but still managed to attend the Labour Party NEC on the 26th October (in his capacity as Labour Party Treasurer).

LETTER

Direct Action is to be congratulated on its article on testicular cancer Pain In The Balls. It is hoped that all male members of DAM (and half of the readership) has conducted a rigorous examination of themselves by now, and taken whatever actions are necessary.

However, an opportunity was missed to put this disease within a class context. It is extremely common in certain trades and industries, eg., engineering, printing, petroleum and chemicals, and should be classed as an industrial disease.

While self-examination is important in dealing with the disease, safety precautions and workplace hygiene should be highlighted as well. Women can suffer from a female equivalent, cancer of the vulva, which may

be the result of their own exposure to oil and chemicals at work, or having sexual partners who work in these trades and industries.

Cancer of the balls is one of the most investigated illnesses, being first noted over a hundred years ago in the oil industry. Today, the automatic tool making industry with the pressures of production makes for the speed up of, and the subsequent increase in oil flow. Production is paramount with little or no concern for health and safety. Oil can cause a variety of diseases. Dermatitis is a very common industrial disease, and about 20% of industrial dermatitis is due to oil.

Oil mist can cause cancer of the stomach and the lungs. Oil-mist pneumonia has been known

about since 1925, and breathing in mineral oil causes pulmonary fibrosis.

The majority of the oil producing companies appear to have little information on the health hazards of their products. At one time, Burmah-Castrol had a booklet on skin health which stated that 'Any discussion... should not be allowed to get out of perspective'.

Personal hygiene is important but safety measures should be enforced by a knowledgeable and informed workforce, and protective clothing provided. Firms stress that clothing and overalls should be washed regularly and thoroughly but tests have shown that supervised washing of clothing rarely removes more than 50% of the contaminating chemicals from overalls, etc.

JCB

VIDEO NASTIES

Viewers of HTV's local news were treated to an example of a new style of 'community policing' last month.

After a high-speed chase across Anglesey, two men were caught by four police cars. Several pigs then proceeded to kick the crap out of them.

Unfortunately for the cops a cameraman who just happened to be testing his equipment filmed the whole incident. So viewers saw the two men, who offered no resistance, forced to the ground, punched, kicked and beaten. One of the cops was sitting on the chest of one of the men who could be heard screaming from underneath.

Both men sustained bad injuries to the face and back, one of them being knocked unconscious.

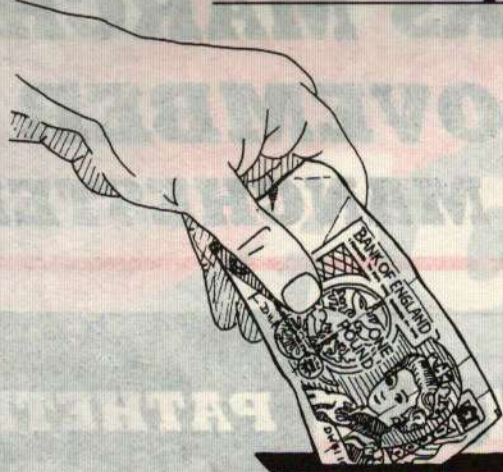
One pig has been suspended and the others' positions are being reviewed as an investigation is now taking place. Their crime presumably is being caught in the act with the evidence being recorded.

They will have to come up with a better lie than 'he just fell down the stairs, sarge', but as we know, thinking is not the average cop's strong point.

Both of the victimised men have lodged complaints and must have a better than average chance of winning against them unlike the usual whitewash that happens in incidents like these.

Ironically, one of the men has been charged with 'assault with intent to resist arrest'. Maybe he grazed the knuckles or scuffed the boots of one of the wonderful boys in blue.

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DAM AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

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 wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for need, not profit.

4—In order to bring about the 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 workplace and the community and federation with others in the same 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 such 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 country. The class struggle is worldwide 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 right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and environment.

8—The Direct Action Movement is resolved to initiate, encourage and wholeheartedly support the creation of independent workers' unions based on the principles of anarcho-syndicalism.

9—The Direct Action Movement is a federation of groups and individuals who believe in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism: a system where the workers alone control industry and the community without the dictates of politicians, bureaucrats, bosses and so-called experts.

DAM CONTACTS

NORTH EAST

Doncaster—PO Box 96, Doncaster 4, South Yorkshire.

Huddersfield—PO Box B20, Huddersfield 1.

Leeds—Box DAM, 52 Call Lane, Leeds 2.

For contacts in Newcastle, Teeside and York write to North East DAM secretary, c/o Leeds DAM.

SOUTH EAST

Brixton—c/o 121 Railton Road, Brixton, London SE24 0LR.

Cambridge—Box DAM, c/o Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge.

Central & North London—c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7QX.

Deptford—PO Box 574, London SE4.

East London—c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX.

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

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

For contacts in Hertfordshire, Kent, Reading, Salisbury and Southampton write to South East DAM secretary, c/o Deptford DAM.

DAM Postal Workers—c/o East London DAM.

DAM Railworkers—c/o Manchester DAM

DAM Unemployed / MSC Workers—c/o Manchester DAM

OTHER GROUPS

Bristol—Box DAM, 37 Stokescroft, Bristol 2.

Leamington Spa—c/o Box 123, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

For contacts in Corby, Kettering, Nottingham and Wolverhampton write to Box DAM, c/o Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge.

CONTACTS

ASP (anarchist publishing group)—for catalogues write to BM Hurricane, London, WC1N 3XX.

Black Flag (anarchist journal)—BM Hurricane, London, WC1N 3XX.

Ford Workers Group ('The Combine')—c/o 634 Green Lane, Ilford, Essex.

Luton Class War—PO Box 196, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2.

Nottingham Anarchist Socialist Group—Nottingham ASG, Box 1, Hiziki, 15 Goosegate, Nottingham.

Organise (anarcho-syndicalist group and paper based in Ballymena)—c/o Just Books, 7 Belfast 1.

Plymouth Anarchists—PO Box 105, Plymouth, Devon.

NORTH WEST

Bolton—c/o Bolton Socialist Club, Wood Street, Bolton, Lancashire.

Burnley—5 Hollin Hill, Burnley, Lancashire.

Liverpool—Box DAM, 82 Lark Lane, Aigburth, Liverpool 17.

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

Preston—c/o Black Cat Press, 16-18 Lancaster Road, Preston.

For contacts in Crewe and Cumbria write to North West DAM secretary, c/o Burnley DAM.

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh—PO Box 516, South West DO, Edinburgh 10.

Glasgow—Box DAM—c/o Clydeside Press, 37 High Street, Glasgow.

INDUSTRIAL

DAM Building Workers—c/o East London DAM.

DAM Civil Service Workers—c/o East London DAM.

DAM Council Workers—c/o Doncaster DAM and East London DAM.

DAM Despatch Riders—c/o Deptford DAM.

DAM Education Workers—c/o Bolton DAM.

DAM Healthworkers—c/o Cambridge DAM.

The DAM was formed in 1979 from the SWF (Syndicalist Workers Federation) and other groups and individuals believing in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism. It is the British section of the International Workers' Association (IWA), the anarcho-syndicalist international, which was formed in 1922 and has sections in France, Spain, Italy, West

Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Bulgaria, USA, Japan, Australia, Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela.



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Name -----

Address -----

Send to DAM-IWA, c/o Box DAM, Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge.

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Deadline — November 28th

DIRECT ACTION

MANCHESTER MARTYRS MARCH 20th NOVEMBER CENTRAL MANCHESTER

OUT OF THEIR LEAGUE PATHETIC

The Economic League has been receiving some bad press recently, three *World In Action*'s, an exposé in the Sunday paper, *The Observer*. Here, Manchester's *City Life*, issue 7th Oct to 21st Oct, has published its own enquiry into the EL and has obtained a copy of the League's North West blacklist which runs to 6,000 names of 'subversives and troublemakers'. In the article, *City Life* issued an invitation to political activists to contact them if they wanted to know if they were on the list or not. I thought I'd take them up on their kind offer. I was able to look at my own entry which gave an address that was many years out of date.

Once I'd established my credentials, I was allowed to examine the lists further, and was able to read the names and addresses of people I'd not heard of for years. Many of the activists I knew well were given at addresses which were hopelessly out of date. In some cases, the political affiliation was out of date or just plain wrong.

Some of the names date back more than four decades on the assumption that 'once a troublemaker, always a troublemaker'. In the case of CP members, some of them are well over retirement age, and won't be applying for another job in their lifetime.

Ironically, some of the activists are self-employed, and in one case (a CP member), an employer of labour in a small firm!

On the basis of what I've been able to read, I wonder if the League's subscribers are getting value for money. Surely they must update their lists from time to time.

City Life writes, 'The controversy surrounding the revelations has already embarrassed a host of leading businesses which subscribe to the Economic League, some of whom — including Asda and the Building Employers' Federation — have stopped subscribing after reading in the *Observer*, minutes of the League's purportedly secret internal meetings'.

It would appear that the League is dissatisfied with its own records and surveillance techniques. The League's director, Michael Noar, is quoted as saying that 'There has not been sufficient control of the registers'. They admit that there has been too much reliance on the papers and magazines put out by the left.

In addition to names on the left, there are a number of entries on the extreme right, and those who were anarchists but are now on the right. I remember Bill Jamieson whom when he was at Manchester University, described by the League

as a member of the Anarchist Federation. I was interested to learn that he has now made his peace with capitalism, and is now deputy city editor of the *Daily Telegraph* — being on the League's blacklist didn't do him any harm!

I always had a soft spot for the Henry twins who were militant student members of the International Socialists (now the SWP). Their pranks (or was it direct action?) gave us many a laugh. I liked the incident where curry was thrown at a cinema screen during a showing of 'The Green Beret'. One of the twins

to think that it was someone of a more libertarian persuasion. It is a pity that Ms Wendy Henry is now editor of the *New Of The World*, perhaps Rupert Murdoch doesn't have a sub to the Economic League!

Joking aside, to point out the shortcomings of the Economic League is not to play down the threat to solidarity and working class militancy that it encourages. Many ordinary trade unionists' names have appeared in their files, giving information about their union activities, trade or industry, and in many cases the national insurance



THE ECONOMIC LEAGUE'S NORTH WEST HQ

was arrested for the offence, and the other sister turned up in court and was acquitted. Somehow I don't think that the court realised that there were two of them.

They were also strongly suspected of painting anti-Vietnam War slogans on police vans in the police vehicle car park at one of the local stations, but I prefer

numbers of militants in the building and construction industry. Also, in these industries, it is obvious that information has been passed to the Economic League by employers, whereas most of the names and addresses have been obtained from the pages of left wing papers.

JCB

One weakness of the trades unions can be gauged by the loss of NALGO's 1988 Pay Claim ballot on industrial action. In a 60% turnout coinciding with the recent postal strike, local government workers voted 172,177 to 138,015 against a national one day strike, and two regional two day strikes spread over two months. That's right, the same kind of pathetic 'action' which proved ineffective in the civil service dispute last year.

Aside from the immediate thought that it was all an inspired bureaucratic conspiracy to avoid paying strike pay (NALGO only pays it for action longer than two days), why do union bosses want to save the employers a week's wages for each union member, and limit action to the derisory gestures proposed? Despite being potentially a very powerful organisation, NALGO, like most of its peers, is committed to negotiation as the only means of pursuing its goals.

In this context industrial action is merely there in case the employers don't believe the ballot result, which is all the union bosses really want. Union members are urged to vote for strike action so they won't have to take it, and the action proposed is so limited that there is no chance of the bureaucrats losing control. This is mere grovelling for rewards for not harming the employers. We've got the power to take what we want, its time we shaped up to the bosses, ignored their fire brigade, and used it.

Thank God for Religion! an everyday story of cross-bearing folk.....



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