

**BLACK FLAG - BLACK CROSS
BM HURRICANE, LONDON
WC1N 3XX**

Published, typeset and layout
BLACK FLAG COLLECTIVE

Printed by Aldgate Press
SUBSCRIPTION RATES

12 months: £12 inland
£15 surface, £19 Air.
6 months: £6.50 inland
£8 surface, £10 Air.

PRISONERS: Free on request.
GIRO ACCOUNT NO. BLACK FLAG
58 552 4009.

**GIRO ACCOUNT NO. ANARCHIST
BLACK CROSS**
51 172 0009.

*For the release of political prisoners,
the relief of class war victims and the
overthrow of tyranny everywhere,
Smash the State! Anarchy is freedom.*

HAVERS GIVES THE GO-HEAD TO TOWER HAMLETS

'One can understand the feelings of the residents who do not wish to put up with the mess and squalor caused by these people. If they take matters into their own hands it is scarcely surprising.'

Sy Michael Havers, Attorney General.
Wapping residents please note - it's ok to sabotage NT lorries, according to the Attorney General. Though we have to admit it was said in the context of assaults by British and American soldiers on Greenham women, vide *Guardian* 28.2.86).

The next issue of BLACK FLAG (No. 153) will appear on 14th April - delayed for one week to allow us to catch up on a backlog of work over the Easter holidays.

News In Brief

'ART ATTACK

Alan Jones' woman-hating sculpture of a woman in leather boots and gloves being used as a chair, was successfully destroyed by Women Against Violence Against Women. When they poured paint stripper all over it, while guards were distracted. Thousands of pounds worth of damage were done, and there were no arrests.

LITIGANT TENDENCY

The situation in which the Tapeworms are going to the courts to defend their 'right' to be in the Labour Party is echoed in the Workers Revolutionary Party (sic) where three Healeyite and one Healeyite factions are suing each other, and meanwhile in the States, Adolf Gelland, a former (Anarchist) SWP rep is suing to determine he's still a member. What will the trots do if they win these cases? Employ some *huffis* / *sequestrators*?

DELLA CHIAIE

We learn that a Spanish journalist has tracked down Della Chiaie, the fascist leader and neo-Nazi plotter who is the subject of a book by Stuart Christie (currently available at £3.95). Della Chiaie agreed to an appointment and asked the journalist if he would bring along the book. It is incidentally this book exposing the neo-Nazi international which a *Searchlight* reporter was referring to when speaking to a meeting in Newcastle as 'Italian fascist literature being sold at 121 Bookshop'. Oh well, he only missed out a word... ANTI!

MUNICH WEST GERMANY

The Anarchist monthly *Freiheit* published in Munich, was seized by the police during two raids on a bookshop and homes. Even copies were taken. The reason was it reported a guerrilla attack. The previous issue was seized last month as the words 'waise-y-stem' was used.

ONE FEED ON STRIKE AGAINST VICTIMISATION

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

On behalf of the striking workers at A. One Feed Supplements, I am writing to you to appeal for financial assistance for the workers in dispute over trade union recognition at A. One Feed Supplements Lyster Road, Boxtle, Liverpool.

THE BACKGROUND

We have been on strike since January 10 when we withdrew our labour, over the victimisation of 2 workers who were dismissed by management, the reason being that their work was not up to the standard required by A. One Feed Supplement. Coincidentally one of the dismissed workers was sacked also instrumental in getting the workforce organised and two weeks prior to his dismissal was offered a menial job by his former manager. Who stated in his opinion that Mr. Fred Thomas, was a conscientious and hard working employee who deserved to do well. Two days after taking the decision to strike in support of our victimised colleagues, management informed us that we were all dismissed.

SCAB LABOUR

Since the beginning of the strike we have maintained a 24 hour 7 day week picket, in an effort to bring management around the negotiating table. Prior to the dispute breaking out management had always insisted that they would never recognise the Transport and General Workers Union. As if to underline their intent, during the first week of the strike management took on scab labour from a Yorkshire area. Since arriving on site, the scabs have maintained a very provocative and intimidatory attitude, to the pickets and trade union supporters at the factory gates. Verbal abuse by the scabs to those on

the picket line, throwing missiles over the factory railings, waving missiles over at dismissed workers 24 hours it like to be on the 'dole' calls, etc.

Mr Eric Heaton a wharf old, was badly beaten up late at night, by a car load of strikebreakers who had obviously been drinking heavily. Two pickets were deliberately run down on Friday 24th of February as the convoy of strike breakers cars were leaving the factory. Unusually there was no police presence at the gate that night. One picket suffered minor cuts and bruises to the leg, however Mr Harry Nugent a shop steward from a nearby factory Associated Lead, was badly beaten and his back was injured. He suffered multiple bruising and abrasions, sustained a badly fractured cheekbone and almost lost the sight of his left eye.

The drivers of the vehicles involved in the hit and run incidents and the assaulters who beat up Eric Heaton, have been positively identified by the victims and independent witnesses and as yet the police have taken no action at all against them. Yet, on the other hand, 3 pickets have been arrested on the picket line for such trivial and alleged offences as obstruction and willful damage. Even Senior police officers have to admit that from the trade union side this has been a peaceful picket. Yet Mr Andrew Simpson company chairman, still persists in the making of outrageous and completely unfounded claims, about individuals and the TGWU. The following quotes are taken from a letter written by Mr Simpson to the Chief Constable of Merseyside Ken Oxford on January 25th. 'It is in my opinion that the racketeering and criminal manoeuvres of the TGWU is considerably more effective than the law and order that you are to provide... I have no wish for mediation between our company and the TGWU... Your officers

Nationality

The *Daily Mail* announced in headlines of two great victories for 'Englishness' - 'The Test team at cricket in the West Indies, and Frank Bruno's boxing victory over Coetzee (a South African). Congratulations, Frank! The *Mail* recognises you as a native-born Englishman! You are, of course - but make sure you keep winning and on top of the world, or the *Mail* will be taking you an 'ethnic immigrant'!

Remember the famous biographical entries - Edmund Burke, British statesman... William Burke, Irish criminal or Einstein's wry comment in the 20s, 'If the theory of relativity proves right, the Germans will say I'm a German, and the French will say I'm a citizen of the world...' if it proves

wrong, the French will say I'm a German, and the Germans will say I'm a Jew!

Letter From Michael Davies

Dear friends,

I thought I should let you know I saw some representatives of the Mental Health Act Commission today (10.3-'86). Yesterday they spoke to the hospital managers, and they (the commissioners) decided that of the five items of mail withheld I could have the printed material from the Peace Pledge Union, one of the leaflets from International Law Against War (but only in case I distributed them to patients), and none of the anarchist stuff. They agreed with the hospital managers that anarchist literature could have a bad effect if it got into the hands of other patients. In other words the commissioners might cause them to 'brand the rules' (they have a point, I suppose) They will be writing to me fairly soon to formally give their decision, with their reasons. When I tried to discuss the matter further I was firmly told that if I disagreed with the

decision I could write to the commission. It's too early to say if the hospital authorities will use this decision as a go ahead to confiscate anarchist material sent to me. As soon as I get the letter off the commissioners, I'll be writing and sending copies off to MIND, the NCCU, *New Statesman* and the *Guardian*. Their decision is a big enough blow to civil liberties to arouse attention... if they can decide to keep anarchist literature out of the hospital and get away with it, they may start to think of other ways they can use the Mental Health Act against dangerous dissident ideas... and the people who have them...

Michael Davies
Eliot Ward,
Park Lane Hospital,
Mughall Lane, Mughall,
Liverpool L31 1HW

QUESTION & ANSWER ON ANARCHISM:

Q: Unions only seem to help those who are employed and have a skill, so that they can only help those least supported by capital. Then why support them?

A: Why indeed? But what Anarchist workers need is not to support existing unions but build up those which can rally all free trade unionists to improve the quality of life, instead they are used

to divide workers. Who is to say what is a 'skill' and what is not? Having a table has a skill about it just as does the brain surgeon's job. But the criterion nowadays is how much power the job gives to claw back enough money from the system to give you a superior way of life. Orthodox trade unions do not support existing unions, but what does the trick is combination. An unemployed worker is a powerless individual (an unemployed shareholder isn't), but those who organise can be strong

are also aware of the activity of Mr Tony Hayes of the TGWU... He has followed our lorries all over the area, interferred with and closed off suppliers under a threat of industrial action. This man is running a sinister and serious conspiracy. I can see no reason why the police can not take any action against him'. Other letters to the Institute of Directors and Mr Connal George M.P. (Tory), continue in the same laird and totally baseless vein.

NEGOTIATIONS?

On Thursday February 20th, talks were held between the TGWU's management and representatives of the TGWU, through the offices of ACAS (the arbitration body) at the request of the company. At the conclusion of the meeting which took five hours, the main points to emerge were (from the Company Chairman):

- 1) That there would be no reinstatement of sacked workforce.
- 2) There would be no recognition of the Transport and General Workers Union.
- 3) That if A. One Feeds could not guarantee an adequate supply of Soya Beans during the dispute, (there has been a successful embargo on raw material destined for A. One Feeds by sympathetic trade unionists) then management would close the plant down and if necessary pull the factory down brick by brick, if a buyer could not be found. Andrew Simpson after issuing these threats then stated that he could not understand what the workers were really wanting, after all he did organize a company paid barbecue for the workers every year. Much to the embarrassment of the ACAS officer, who thought he had gone through the looking glass with Alice.

OUR DETERMINATION

As you can see we are dealing with a totally erratic, unscrupulous and anti-trade union employer who will stop at nothing to maintain a 19th century attitude towards his workers, along with conditions and wages paralleling that attitude. However all of the strikers are determined in their resolve to win and dispute, get our jobs back, obtain recognition for the TGWU and improve the horrendous working conditions at A. One Feeds. With your continued support, we know we can achieve our aims and win a tremendous victory for the trade union movement.

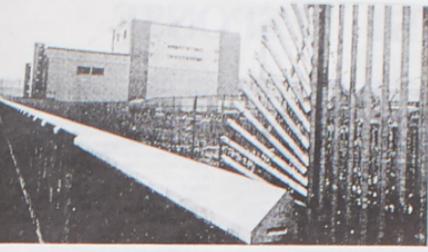
Yours Fraternally Paul Shaw.

DONATIONS TO A ONE FEEDS STRIKE COMMITTEE, A. ONE FEEDS STRIKE COMMITTEE TRANSPORT HOUSE, LIVERPOOL 3.
The scabs are now not only working in these horrific conditions, they are also sleeping in the factory as well... Boss Mr Simpson has informed them, that he can no longer afford to pay their board and lodging allowance.

The parent company of A. One Feeds is Rainleigh. In 1978/'84 accounts increased sales by 37%, profits by 600% and its Directors' fees by 43%. All of the issued shares are owned by Mrs. M. and Mr. Simpson and annual fees subsidiary contributes to 95% of total sales.



INDUSTRIAL



UP THE INJUNCTION

The National Graphical Association, in the print workers dispute against Murdoch, has got itself into a wrangle over court injunctions and the boycott of work at are owned by Times Newspapers Ltd.

In January the NGA made a boycott order against the printing/typesetting of the supplement *Times Educational Supplement*, *Times Higher Education Supplement* and the *Times Literary Supplement* — but this was dropped as a result of an injunction brought about by Murdoch's Times Newspapers Ltd on January 28. The injunction was granted on the basis that the NGA had not balloted its members and because the plaintiff had argued that it was a case of secondary picketing. Normally this would not have been the case but the employer involved in the dispute is 'not' the same employer who owns the supplement. Therefore, under the Employment Protection Act, the printers 'Type Matters of Clekenwell and Northampton Mercury Ltd can be defined as suppliers, who can be boycotted. But Murdoch is one step ahead.

Murdoch's ruse was to create a buffer company — News International Supply Ltd — in order that any boycott can be interpreted by the courts as secondary action. And it was this company, not the Times Newspapers Ltd, that took out

contempt proceedings against the NGA as the union reimposed its boycott order.

Prior to the NGA being taken to court for contempt, the union dropped its call to boycott a second time, which meant that although it was fined £25,000 for contempt, it did not have its £17m assets seized by the court. Within an hour of leaving the court the NGA then reimposed its boycott order for a third time, pointing out that it had undertaken a ballot of its members at the two firms and was therefore legally entitled to boycott the work there, and that it was also prepared to go on challenging the interpretation that its boycott was secondary action. Before long — in a matter of hours — Murdoch had once again arranged for another contempt hearing and straight away the NGA said its boycott order had been lifted, yet again, and so it goes.

The latest round of ballots by print production workers at firms contracted out by Murdoch for work on his three *Times* supplements resulted in workers at two firms voting not to take industrial action and workers at a third (all three) typesetting firm, deciding to boycott the papers. They were then transferred to another branch of the firm.

The likelihood of the courts deciding that the action would be secondary is

certain, especially when it is taken into consideration the lengths Murdoch went to in creating several bogus companies prior to the dispute, in order to facilitate the passing of court decisions in his favour. As a contingency planner he surmises, almost, even the government's role in the lead-up to the 1984/85 miners strike!

Altogether Murdoch created six sham companies. These were: News International Supply Co. Ltd (formerly Wythystock Ltd), News International Distribution Ltd (formerly Spark Crown), News International Advertising Ltd (formerly Tyrosole), Times Papers, Times Printing and Times Publishing. The first three companies' previous titles were all given innocuous sounding names so as not to give the game away. All three had the same common director, GW Richards of the solicitors firm, *Farrers, Murdoch's own solicitor* who had advised him in his strategy to dispose of the workforce by sacking them after provoking them to strike, thus saving £40m in redundancy payments. Clearly the solicitor's involvement in the conspiracy was by no means purely advisory.

To confuse matters further — or to expose the conspiracy even more — the current sabbats at Wapping are not employed by Times Newspapers Ltd or News Group Newspapers Ltd (publishers of the *Sun*), as one would expect, but by London Post. The reason why they are employed by a company with that title is because it

was part of the ruse to have everyone who would be brought right up to the last moment that the Wapping plant was for the production of a new London newspaper, *London Post*. Murdoch alleges this will still be produced, few believe him. The current, now transparent, is that Murdoch wished to make certain that if the other workforce (ie. scabs) ever decide to take action they will not be the courts will decide that their industrial action is 'secondary'.

What all this boils down to is that Murdoch — and any other employer can follow his example — has managed to use the anti-union legislation to make certain that any industrial action taken against him will be declared illegal.

At least in this respect Murdoch has performed a service (ie. to the trade union movement, demonstrating just how much of a crap it is for the unions to try fighting anti-union legislation on a legal basis. The only unions have so far shown an incredible ability to be beaten hands down. These Laws were made in order to break trade unionism, and they are doing just that. Only direct action by the wider labour movement will beat them.

In Brief

LETTER

Dear Back Page

Some thoughts on stopping TNT & other scab letters:

- 1) Lorries don't just sit in jerry parks, they can be found at transport cases and in industrial estates.
- 2) Always have lookouts, at least two and transport, using false plates to get away quickly. Lorry drivers are for the most part, right-wing thugs and will give you a good hiding if they catch you. (I know because I used to be one.)
- 3) Don't carry out sabotage which will endanger other people. A 40-ton lorry out of control can kill a lot of innocent people.
- 4) Sugar in the fuel tank is still a good one because it works slowly and lasts a while, costs a lot of money to put right.
- 5) The best quick method is to find the drain tap on the vehicle air tanks. These are long, round and alid, underneath the lorry. If you have time to get the tap on first and let all the air out. If you haven't got the time give the whole tap a hit with a heavy hammer and knock it off. This will immobilise the vehicle because it will cause all the brakes to stay full on and will take time and money to put right.
- 6) Last but not least, don't forget the 'P's' — 'Proper Planning Prevents Piss Poor Performance'!

Salvo

Sid Sabot.

SCAB BUSTERS HANDY HINT NUMBER 43

If disposing of Murdoch's papers in the early hours of the morning, look out for an invoice with the papers. Keep that!

If you hit the address of the distribution point — a mass picket or sabotage etc. — can then be arranged.

Mystery of the missing papers

NEWSAGENTS throughout Newham have been complaining to the police about disappearing newspapers.

Since the News International dispute began copies of the *Sun* and *Times* have been vanishing from outside their shops.

Papers have either gone missing or been burnt and more than 200 shops reported missing newspapers. At least 100 newspapers disappeared from outside a newsagents in Fishet Road, Plaistow, on Thursday at about 6am.

On Friday 42 copies of the *Sun* and one of the *Times* were missing from a shop in Katherine Road, Forest Gate, and when owner Jaysun Pall, tried to open the door at 6.30am he found his shutters stuck down with superglue.

Police say they don't know whether the papers are being removed or just not being delivered.

NEW SCAB TARGET

Recap Murdoch, the print baron of Fortres Wapping in East London who has sacked 5,500 workers, has transferred the printing of 100,000 copies of News International's *News of the World* to a new print plant in Sussex. The print plant in question is that of Portobello Press (any info on this outfit?), which is in Worthy. A target, perhaps, for secondary mass picketing?

MURDOCH'S SCABS

Foster Wheeler, a company based in Southampton is still being used to hire scabs to work at 'Fortress Wapping'. The scabs:

- * get up at 5.30am for the bus to London, switch from 'civilian' to 'semi-military' busses for the picket-line area
- * have been told to work a longer day, 'to stay in colour-coded sections, and not hold conversations with other workers, especially other sections.
- * told they have no bargaining rights.
- * told the free canteen is no longer, it is in fact expensive.

- * told to accept injuries — 148 deaths in a month of operating the machinery — including a rumoured tipping off of an arm (subsequent death from blood loss and shock is also rumoured) by a press.

Allegations that circulation has dropped

ed 50% for the *Sun* and *Times* (many of these former readers may never go back) may be the reason why Murdoch let out signs of warning to negotiate.

The EFTPU also has fears. Protected by the TUC 'Bridlington' agreements that stop TUC affiliates 'poaching' (ie. taking other unions members) may be paid union it too negotiates. In the past Fleet Street electricians tried to leave EFTPU and join SOGAT (who will be strongest if it does) the proposed merger with the NGA) and many more may leave EFTPU now. It is ironic that the EFTPU Leader for life and no questions asked authority was imposed by the Communists in the past. Chapple left the CP but liked the centralism and turned it against the left, a routine which Hammond has streamlined for today.

The following are the wholesalers who distribute Murdoch's rags: *The Star*, *The Times*, *The News of the World*. Why concentrate on the production plant at Wapping?

- 36 Cavendish High St, Camden Town, NW1 3JH, 081 286 7867
- TIBBALS & SONS LTD
- Brooklyns Walk, Brooklyns St, N1 677251
- W DUNCLMB LTD
- 69 West New Lane, Stratford, E15 4PJ
- 534 7167
- J HILDEN 135, Borough St, SE1 4QJ 49740914
- JW MAYNARD LTD 20 Turnmill St EC1
- MAYOR BROS 47 Madder St, Bishopsgate, W.1
- W.1 488 3311
- CHERRY & WILSON (LONDON) 30 Ball St, Edgware, W.11 08X 733 3631
- W H SMITH & SONS LTD 423 Castlemead Rd, Keston, Cray, N1 880 603 8788, Claf St, Hammermill W11 221 4747, 88 108 Clapham St, Fenchurch St, E3 7NS1
- Seapark St, Hoxton E9 6NE 5511
- 82 Harland Rd, Wembley W19 3TB
- 842 2321

- YOUNGS NEWSAGENCY LTD Pump Lane, Hayes, Middlesex, 848 0202
- J MENZIES PCL 8 St Johns Lane EC1 2E3
- 9422, 102 2 1/2 India Pavement First Way, Wembley, 802 0911, Unit 10, Bricklayers Rd, Bricklayers Estate, Defford SE8 5HY
- 692 7231, Highbury House, Defford Park, N2 22R 911, Pentall Rd, Chertsey, SE7 8BB 8558, Unit 11, 10000 Winton Way, W.1, Referece SW11 4AN 228 1141/ 8528, 18 Casworth St, Leyton E15 5Q4062



MIME A SYNDICALIST RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION

Of all the issues facing the working class, the most vital is that of new technologies, and other issues pale into insignificance. Indeed, most of the other issues have a large new tech component. For example, unemployment is a large new tech component, jobs are restructured out of existence, whole industries are made redundant. The miners struggle, perhaps the most important industrial conflict since the war, revolved around two poles. First the aim of the State to destroy the solidarity of the working class and to wipe out any focus of opposition to the regime. Secondly, and only marginally less important, was the wish to restructure the mines, to replace workers by high-tech machines, to have small, 'clean' and mechanised mines that guarantee no strikes and plenty of profits. Such 'clean' mines are being built, and more are planned, especially in the coal areas. The print industry is another where problems of technology are to be used in order to break the back of the labour movement.

Yet it is in the issue of new technologies that the working class movement has failed to find a clear and strategic response. Union responses have usually been one-off, tactical agreements, where agreements exist at all. This is no way to move forward. The State and private industry are working to clear strategic responses, they know what they want and where they are going. Adding on another paragraph to this year's pay claim and hoping the problem will go away is a sure way of getting nowhere.

What is required is an understanding of where things are going and what the new technologies mean. This is partly a technical problem and partly a political problem. If anything, trades unions have started to take up some of the technical issues. There is a lot of work in programming, micro-technology applications etc have been taken up by various unions for shop-stewards and activists. There has also been some good material on the health and safety aspects of new technology produced, some by the unions and some by various other groups. There is much to be done on this score, they are definitely underdog.

It's the political understanding of new technologies that has been lacking most. Partly this is because there is widespread ignorance of what science and technology are, how they work and what they do. In the absence of understanding responses tend to fall into two camps. First there is the 'gee whizz' kind of response which regards science and technology with awe. Failing to understand science means accepting it open mouthed with wonder and not realising that science is and must be criticised, debated and held to account. Science is not an abstract activity performed by white coated men in white coats in some kind of social vacuum. It has a social and economic input and output. It has a purpose just like anything else in society.

The second major kind of response is one that laments and anathematis are also prone to. It sees science as a total evil to be destroyed. The smash the computers back-to-nature response is both blind, impractical and stupid. Technology and science are such a large part of society that it would be impossible to cut them out of our lives. Whether people like it or not science and technology have to be used to improve our lives. Anyone fancy a world full of small-pox? Science and technology are the problems. It's the society that directs and uses them that is the problem. However that's not to say science and technology are just tools to be used, nothing is neutral or simple, as I'll show later on.

This article is a first attempt to inject some direction to the response to new technologies in the syndicalist working class movement. It's important that we have a clear response, not only in the work-place and in the community. In a few years time it could be too late for an effective policy to have any effect at all.

IS TECHNOLOGY NEUTRAL?

The belief that technology is neutral is so widespread, except among the back-to-nature drop-outs, that it's almost never questioned. People seem to believe that it's not the technology but the uses put to it that counts. On the face of it this seems fair enough. Indeed almost every Party bureaucracy it's a signpost never to be questioned. However as every technologist will, (or should), admit, it is not true. Technology is NOT neutral.

Inherent in every piece of machinery are a set of design plans. These plans, drawn up by technologists to the demands of the user, decide how the machine will function, how fast, for how long. The most important of these design parameters is the question of control. How much control will the worker have over the machine (he or she works with)

The machine is not neutral to be used or abused at will. Instead the machine is designed so that it can be used in a certain way, and controlled directly or indirectly by certain people. This is a vital point and any working class response must necessarily revolve around this point. Largely it's a matter of control, pure and simple.

Historically, technology has had a major role to play in the capitalist system. Changes in the economy and changes in technology go hand in hand, they are inseparable. Furthermore, technology has often been a response by the bosses to the current state of the class struggle. It is the issue of control, and hence power, that has been at the forefront of technological advance.

For example when the machine was directly controlled by the shop-floor worker then it was open to sabotage, go slow or withdrawal of labour. When the machine required skilled working, the position of the worker was also more powerful, he or she could not easily be scabbed out of a job. The response of the bosses has been to exempt to de-skill labour as much as possible. On the one hand various pseudo-scientific 'time and motion' systems were used to reduce skills to a small number of simple and repetitive tasks, so that it is turn people into machines as much as possible. The second method, often part and parcel of the first, was to introduce new or refined technology that both deskilled and reduced workers control.

The assembly-line was a mixture of both methods. Each worker had a fixed set of robotic-like tasks to complete in a fixed time. He or she could neither slow down or deviate from the rate of work dictated by the speed of the line. Control of the line rested firmly in the hands of those of the management who could speed-up when ever they wanted to.

The response of the working class was to switch to new tactics. Deliberate sabotage to relieve tension, deliberate slowing to slow the machine down or stop it altogether, wild-cat strikes. Some groups of workers also retained sets of skills which still allowed them some degree of power. Previously individual workers had skills which gave them power, now it was groups of workers.

Now the latest technology, robot arms, computers etc are being used to replace groups of workers on the assembly lines. Further they are turning individuals who give them power into men with their workmates. And as experience has shown the assembly lines are running to the satisfaction of the machines rather than the workers.

I have discussed the assembly line type of arrangement but it's a good example. But it's not the only one by far, in all types of work-places new technologies are being used to give greater control and more profits to the bosses.

Having said all that, it then seems that the only response worth making is to smash the boss machine before they take root! But that's not the point. Just as control by the bosses can be designed into a system so it can be designed out. Potentially the new technologies have a great deal to offer the working class. Much mind-numbing back-breaking work can be done by machines, dangerous and dirty jobs can be done by machines. It's just that it's got to be the RIGHT machines.

THE SYNDICALIST RESPONSE

A properly organised work-place, office or factory), should be ready to respond to new technology with its own set of proposals clearly set out and agreed by all. Technology should be accepted, and even demanded, when it's clearly in the interests of the shop-floor. With a clear understanding of the political implications involved decisions can be made. Bearing in mind the question of inherent design parameters, which are easily hidden, a clear set of demands exist:

capacity to record its own performance.

For example some word-processors record the key-strokes so that the bosses have an instant record of who's working hard. This perpetual time and motion study will be used against individual workers, or used to provide competition between workers. Demand that such systems are removed from the machines, (this applies to all sorts of machines out just work-processors).

iv. Employment. Obviously employers would like to replace people with machines. An organised work-place with their own counter-plan would be in the best position to fight redundancies. Again if the machines are controlled by the people that work there it's that much harder to sack people.

v. Education. It's vital that workers are educated into using and understanding new technology. This means going beyond the bare minimum of knowing how to run the machine. It means knowing enough to be able to understand how the machine works, how it can be changed and how it can be used in our interest. Also with the spread of knowledge and skills there is less dependency on experts or the bosses.

vi. Health and safety. For once you might be able to get some use out of union bureaucrats. However it would be an even better idea if each shop-floor had people actively looking into this area. Local trades councils or syndicalists could bring people together from different work-places to do this.

The list is by no means comprehensive but covers some major areas which must be borne in mind. Basically the syndicalists view is that workers should use new technology where it is in their interest to do this.

At this point it should be mentioned that new technology could well be used to further divide workers into the 'computer literate' and the 'computer illiterate'. For this reason education is vital for all workers and activists. At present it may be said that most syndicalists are firmly on the 'illiterate' side. How can syndicalists expect to play a role in the working class struggle when they know longer all about this major issue in society?

Sympathetic engineers or scientists can also play their part here. They have the knowledge and information to ADVISE shop-floor workers and activists who don't have enough background. Many scientists and engineers complain that they are misunderstood, now's their chance to put that right.

THE NEW ECONOMY

In the introduction I mentioned the fact that

there was a direction in which the economy was moving. Making no claims about 'knowing' the future, (I'm not an economist), it is possible to discern some of the trends visible at present.

In the past it's all types of economy, the system of feudalism, capitalism, imperialist, state communism etc. The direction of the economy is the politics, religion, sociology etc. of that society. Industrial capitalism, based around the extent the superstructure of that society, that society needed heavy industry, high concentrations of labour, sources of raw materials etc. people left the countryside to come to large cities, other countries were exploited for raw materials, transport systems were built. The whole of society evolved around the basic industrial form of production.

At present this heavy industrial type of society is best seen in Eastern Europe in the so-called 'socialist' countries. There the system has evolved around the state communism model of industrial society.

The response of the working class also reflected the type of production of that society. Medium sized craft unions were a specific response to the earlier form of industrial capitalism. Larger industrial federations, like the National Union of Miscellaneous Workers, were a response to the later monopoly capitalism. Both these responses were specific to the set of circumstances and the response evolved as the circumstances evolved. Those responses weren't the only ones possible - syndicalists had long argued for a revolutionary response, and in some countries that was the direction the working class took. In Britain, apart from a small period during the first world war, the trade unions have largely been controlled by Methodist and social-democratic bureaucrats.

Britain no longer serves as a good example of industrial capitalism, because its economy is going through a period of change. This change is common, to a great or lesser extent, to all advanced Western-style capitalist countries.

Before going into detail I think it's important to stress that the State and the bosses didn't sit down one day and decide that they were going to change the economy. There is no one plan created by a bosses conspiracy. Instead the change is the result of the evolution of capitalism, changes create more changes. New technologies used to solve specific problems have a knock-on effect, they are used in other industries, they are modified, improved and used as a basis for an ever newer technology. The basic plan that the bosses have

Continued on next page



© Juppitt Press, London SW20 9EH.

COMMENTARY

THE NEW TECHNOLOGY

had, is more like a vision of how they would like to see things run. They want maximum profit, high productivity, and no trouble from the workers. This vision is the same as it was a couple of hundred years ago. However now there is a way to achieve it.

The trend in the capitalist class that Thatcher represents is probably the most advanced and powerful. They have definite plans and aims for the future, they are very forward looking. What they aim for is a Decentralised Totalitarianism that would guarantee total profits and almost total control.

They no longer see heavy industry as viable profitable in West Europe and they will deliberately ruin it down. The organised working class from those in reform nations demand too much in the way of pay and conditions. Nationalisation, the tactic of one section of the ruling class, is being largely abandoned. The answer has been to destroy industry in West Europe while investing in heavy industry in the third world. The reasons are obvious. The third world states guarantee low pay and no strikes. The 1984/85 miners strike was a direct result of this policy. The state wishes to turn the mines into highly profitable small scale units, with few workers and unions.

If we accept that the state no longer wants of needs a manufacturing industrial base, what is the real aim? The answer seems to be small scale hi-tech factories with few workers and in-house (or bossed) union. The trend will be away from centralised industry with centralised workers movements and towards highly organised decentralisation with no real workers movement. These small units emerge either in hi-tech manufacturing (computers, telecom, weapons systems etc.) or services (programming, analysis etc.) would depend on the manufacturing base of the Third World for components and raw materials.

The government has bent over backwards to accommodate this sort of system. Places like South Wales have been opened to hundreds of new-tech companies. Nearly all of these companies operate in small units. IBM, the biggest company of them all, operates in small units. Many small units of professionals are given corporate autonomy to work almost independently, only within the IBM family. It's as surprising that unions are not allowed at IBM. And out of course all the shit work is done by poorly-paid workers in South East Asia.

Suppressing this hi-tech decentralisation spreads, what happens to those unemployed? There are heavy industries which have already been destroyed by hi-tech firms are encouraged to move in. Previously militant work forces, having faced misery on the dole, gladly accept

employment in new small factories vastly different to what they had before. Unions, where they exist, are paid off and bound by no-strike agreements etc. And of course small units employing at most a couple of hundred people can close up and open somewhere else just by moving the machines and computers (less bulky than cars plants, you'll agree).

Those not employed in the new industries, especially formerly active of previous military occupation, will become part of a permanent unemployed. Those people will never work. They will be a class to frighten the employed and are simply not needed anymore. The tensions between North and South in Britain will spread, become almost permanent. Black people will almost certainly be a large part of the permanent unemployed, and excellent for exploitation by racists. Inner city and suburbs, professional and manual. All the tensions that already exist will get worse, much worse.

The state is well aware of what is coming and they are already arming themselves with new laws. The miners strike and mass demonstrations give them more experience and are leading to an evolving national police force. Again the new technology is what the state wants (why do you think it exists?). Computers, better communication, new arms all are excellent instruments of oppression. The police will equip itself with all that it can use, and it can use a lot. And it will be aimed at the inner city unemployed, and the population as a whole, just the minority of revolutionaries. Places like Braxton, Toxteth, Handsworth and Peabody will be under police occupation, the likes of which only Ireland has so far seen.

So what if we outlined above is anywhere near correct, Britain will be transformed into a powerful decentralised totalitarian state. The class of professionals living in the suburbs will have considerable economic power and social freedom (as long as they don't get angry). They will live in comfortable houses and most likely work from home using home work-stations (this already happens on a small scale). Those still employed among the working class will have less freedom to organise and be less central to the economy. The large number of permanently unemployed will be stuck in the inner city with little hope of getting out. They will be permanently at the mercy of the police and unfortunately, among themselves.

It's not hopeless. The process of moving industry into the Third World will take time. The working class still has power. It's by no means certain that the hi-house unions will not turn into genuine workers unions

The unemployed can do much to organise. Resistance is vital. And of course we can start by using their weapons against them.

AN ALTERNATIVE

The bosses 'Apostrophe' have to happen. Just as the workers have always got a pointer in the works so we do now. However it will need a decisive strategy using syndicalist tactics to force a change.

The Labour Party offers no solution, while the bottom layer of Trots actions offer us a diet of nationalisation and state control, the upper layer offer us 'public works' à la Mondragon's factor fly. Some choice? The miners work in a nationalised industry and a far lot of good it did them. While in France the 'socialist' Mitterand follows the same policies as Thatcher, their mines and steelworks have been decimated too.

The TUC bureaucrats will either blindly follow Kinross to no. 10 or if Thatcher keeps control they'll try and play the AUEW. The TUC has always been better at keeping us in line than at anything else.

Our job is to frustrate the bosses at every turn, try them up at ever. 'Yellow' unions and bosses unions can either be destroyed or taken over. In the case of 'Notts', such a policy of destroying their union is the only

way. This can be done by exploiting the top levels for the union they are, by showing that only the NIMM grassroots will fight for what's best etc. In the case of 'Notts' the 'Notts' and no-strike deals the answer lies in getting good activists into the unions, or better still showing the workers involved that they don't have to toe the line. It'll only take one wildcat strike to destroy the no-strike deal and to show those who follow the union bureaucracy to hell!

Campaigns of counter information and direct action can strip the state control aspects of technology. For once smashing congress will be the correct response. Solve the records, wipe out memory files!

By only allowing new technology into the work-place and community when it suits us we will be increasing our own power. Instead of the new tech being used against us we must ensure that we can use them for our own ends. Who knows, new tech could turn out to be the biggest own-goal scored in history.

Just as the centralised union, tightly controlled by a hierarchy of politicians, was a specific response to industrial capitalism, the syndicalist union is the best response to post industrial capitalism. By its very nature the syndicalist union is a flexible organisation that reflects the current needs of its members. The bureaucratic union is inflexible and slow, it can only respond to anything less than all of its members.

If the future is decentralised and small scale the syndicalist union is the perfect response. Syndicalist organisations are decentralised, rooted in the workplace and in the community but following basic principles. Able to respond immediately due to its very structure it can operate on a massive scale when necessary and in a small scale when necessary. Lacking full-time bureaucrats and jobs for life it's a million miles from the TUC.

Can we really imagine a future society where such syndicalist structures can and should be created. Perhaps by the federation of rank and file groups, or by the creation of new unions in new work-stations, or by the distance according to circumstances. For us the new technology issue is more than just a matter of organising and training a great teacher and his lesson should be learned and put to use. It's about the need to attempt to subvert the intentions of the bosses, by using some of the policies outlined previously and following a radical industrial direction, we shall be asserting our power as workers, free from the dictates of union bureaucrats and politicians. A new victory and defeat, will be further experience to be put to use in winning the social revolution.

Maxwell Black
September 1985

MENSA - THE BRAINS TRUSS

One of the connections missed in the central media publicity about the FCS (Federation of Conservative Students) and the activities of some so-called 'libertarian' factions is the link with MENSA. For those who don't know MENSA is the high IQ society. To join you have to have a score above 148 in a supervised IQ test, whether IQ tests measure intelligence or merely the ability to do IQ tests is left open to question and debate. Currently MENSA membership is on the increase, it stands at around 13,000 in Britain, (American MENSA membership stands at 50,000, worldwide membership is over 67,000).

Basically MENSA functions as a social network, the vast majority of MENSA meetings are just drink-ups. In fact MENSA's spend much of their time trying to decide what MENSA should become. Why does it exist?

So what does MENSA have to do with the New Right? Official MENSA policy states that MENSA has no corporate point of view or policy. All points of view and nothing else. But that hasn't stopped a well organised group from exercising a degree of control that is causing grave concern among some sections of the membership.

The group that currently has such a degree of control includes the MENSA

Chairman Eric Sinclair (Thatcher's favourite maker), Professor Madsen Pie (a friend of the Adam Smith Institute, a right-wing think tank) and executive editor of the magazine *Simon Clark* (the current paid editor of the magazine, written up by Sir Clive R. Pie despite stiff opposition).

The glossy magazine usually contains a full page advert by the author, thus the magazine is financially dependent on this regular income. Sinclair has brought commercial adverts to an overt political degree (this is not unique in this country). He uses his advertising to advertise to push the cases he agrees with. He has also put out political adverts in the national press selling in the form of the *Financial Research* as the way of the future. (See *Black Flag Quarterly* No 7 article 'Decentralised Totalitarianism').

Madsen Pie set up the Adam Smith Institute to push his vision of laissez-faire capitalism. From a fringe group he has found increasing favour in the Conservative Party and in the Cabinet. The institute is straight 'libertarian capitalist', the privatisation of everything, the end of taxation, every person a capitalist etc. It is the Adam Smith Institute that has been behind the New Right's rise in the FCS. They revel in using a mixture of Trots envy/infiltration and shock tactics. Rather than a bunch of mindless

right-wing yobos they are a highly organised and motivated group with a full set of both short and long term aims.

MENSA has carried articles about FOREST, a pro-smoking pressure group that is funded by the tobacco industry. FOREST uses some 'libertarian' rhetoric to justify the cancer industry. It also employs ex-FCS leaders and has some cabinet support. Pie also gets the chance to promote his ideas as best institutions. The magazine also carried an article by Kevin Bell singing the praises of the PR industry.

It was only later revealed by London MENSA's that Bell had earlier lobbied MP's to support a motion condemning the C of E for withdrawing Church funds from South Africa. What if it were MENSA has no opinion that hasn't stopped the Right using MENSA as a platform for spreading their views. For example where else can you read about the joys of militarism, going for all, sperm banks for high IQ's, biological determinism and radio transmitters in the brain for criminals so they can be traced, (that last one is Sinclair's idea).

I'm not talking about a small number of isolated cranks in MENSA, after all the organisation will attract cranks. MENSA exists as a social network so that individuals with a particular common interest, (Chess, Space exploration, Conservation oops Conservation, Puzzles, Wine etc.) can get together and swap ideas. It can help prevent MENSA Leadership are using MENSA as another

platform to spread their political ideas. Those in MENSA who object to this are up against a well organised group. And after all, who can match the resources of one of Britain's richest new capitalists?

SOURCE SLIDAM

Further Reading:
'Decentralised Totalitarianism' R.F. Mag No.7, *Might of the Student Right* 'New Statesman'
'Getting to the Political Right' *Political News* 12 from the *Libertarian Alliance*
MENSA Newsletters & London MENSA Newsletters

Boycott:

FRENCH CONNECTION

A series of flash, trendy like adverts are on television screens at peak time at present, pushing the 'French Connection' clothes. The owner of Contracts Ltd, a subsidiary of French Connection said in an interview I believe in dictatorial and authoritarian workers who have been on strike since 17 September 1985 to improve their lot (100 Y's) but who can get 4% without meal-breaks, compulsory overtime, a disc system to use toilets, dismissal without warning, a net of 9 sacked and 1000 dismissed. The school Contracts Strikers c/o NUS Building, Corporation St., South Shields 125L.
Eye and News, Tel. 091-4561428.

INTERNATIONAL

CHILEAN ANARCHISTS FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL

When the fascist Pinochet took control of Chile 13 years ago he tried to stop opposition to his *mass Junta by torture and mass genocide of anyone who stood in his way. Although Anarchists, along with other anti-fascist organisations, went underground they are still fighting bravely against Pinochet today, and have had to adapt to life under severe State repression. Needless to say, Anarchists in Chile are under huge risks by actively opposing Pinochet and deserve our full admiration and support. The following text, which was sent directly from Santiago, outlines the position of the Libertarian "Movement in Chile today. The Anarchist Black Cross sends solidarity greetings to the Libertarian Movement of Chile and we hope to start sending financial assistance too.*

*In South America and Spanish countries the word "Libertarian" is interchangeable with the word Anarchism.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES FROM THE LIBERTARIAN MOVEMENT OF CHILE.

The Libertarian ideology is a decentralised and anti-imperialist doctrine whose aim is total emancipation for all on a social and

economic level. It enables a person to fully enjoy two fundamental necessities: Freedom & Wellbeing.

On a sociological level it bases itself on a rationalist, anti-dogmatic and relative philosophy. It represents a humane concept of existence that allows and guarantees full development of the individual and their personality. At the same time it frees men and women from economic exploitation and slavery including State, Cultural, Religious & Political controls.

The Libertarian Movement stands against State Capitalism, man's exploitation of man, private property (individual and State), the repression of initiative and the repression of individual and social freedom. It is an anti-State movement that acknowledges and supports all those attempts at self-organisation by the people. It believes that true direct democracy can only prevail through self-organisation. Future direct control of the economy will be by those who produce. They will replace the State and the Political Parties who now run the public administration and the economy.

The Libertarian Movement opposes and resists all parliamentary and electoral activity, including collaboration with legislative bodies. It believes that the

flagrant contradictions at the heart of society as it stands won't wither away by themselves.

In response, the Libertarian Movement backs direct action and adopts it as a method of struggle. It supports strikes, boycotts, civil disobedience and any other tactics designed to combat economic, statist and cultural monopoly.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Libertarian Movement is made up of individuals and groups who believe in de-centralised and anti-imperialist ideals and who are prepared to agitate on its behalf.

Its main structure is composed of spontaneous and localised groups who agitate in the work-place, at colleges, or in their own region. These spontaneous groups may involve people who are of the same age, friends or people with the same view. They will increase in numbers whenever state capitalism rears its ugly head.

These spontaneous and localised groups keep in regular contact with other similar groups and are co-ordinated in a non-hierarchical fashion. They adapt to local circumstances, creating their own methods of propaganda and funding. Each group deploys its resources,

or a part of them to mobilise opposition and re-inforce the weakest links in the network through solidarity. Coordination must also be flexible and able to adapt to circumstances. The task of co-ordinating should not be done by the same people each time and each spontaneous group must be autonomous. The constant rotation of responsibility ensures maximum participation of those involved, disproving the myth that the masses must be controlled or guided en masse by an authoritarian organisation.

These same organisational characteristics should contrast with hierarchical organisations like neighbourhood groups and trade unions. When spontaneous groups are active with such organisations they should produce libertarian 'currents of opinion', favouring open rather than authoritarian forms of organisation.

Spontaneous groups should be strongly federalist in structure. They should be organised from the bottom upwards. The rank-and-file should control the groups, then delegate a representative to contact the National Secretariat.

This Secretariat will rotate every six months and must report weekly on its activities in front of delegates from the groups. These delegates decide future activity and plans of action.

NEWS FROM DENMARK

FASCISTS

On the 19th December 1985, two members of the fascist group Greenjackets tried to blow up a police van. The police van, a so-called 'mobile police station' (Danish variant of the community police informing scam), was stationed in the area of Copenhagen where the young fascists live.

The two fascists placed an explosive charge of trinitol under the front part of the van. The explosion didn't kill or hurt any policeman, but the four cops inside were reported to be "rather shocked".

On New Year's eve the 22 year old leader of the Greenjackets tried to "capture" a bus at the Town Hall Square of Copenhagen. The driver of the bus, who was not aware that he was dealing with the 'boss', wanted the fascist to pay his fare. In reply the fascist kicked the shin of the driver and threatened him with a knife before he was arrested.

These fascists are badly organised compared with fascist organisations abroad and is still merely a Copenhagen phenomenon. They sympathise with the Ku Klux Klan and build their "brotherhood" on racism. Obviously they are not very smart, and the lack of discipline prevents a major breakthrough. But in the hands of a fascist-populist organisation they would be dangerous tools, due to their unscrupulous and anti-social behaviour.

SQUATTERS

The 11th of February 1986 saw the start of 63 Ryegade, Copenhagen evicted by the police in the morning. There was no warning before the evictions, taking the squatters by surprise.

In the afternoon the squatters used tear gas (1) to drive the police out of the house next door (65 Ryegade), where they had hid. Out on the street the cops were met by stones thrown by squatters. The street fight did not alas, stop the police from sealing up 63 Ryegade (not to be mistaken for the squatters stronghold at 58 Ryegade).

PHONY 'SOIL'

The phony CNT in Spain, the so-called 'F.R.O.P.C.U.' (or something like that), is trying to spread the 'split' and the confusion. The Anarchist Bookshop in Copenhagen has received the false numbers. The famous CNT Barcelona paper the *Solidaridad Obrera - Workers Solidarity*. They are easy to differ from the real 'Soil', that the CNT-AIT has published

regularly since the breakdown of the Franco dictatorship.

DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION CONGRESS

The thirteenth national congress of the Danish Anarchist Federation (AFID) was held in November 1985.

After the secretariat's statement of account and report on international relations, there was an evaluation of the Federation's anti-election propaganda up to the Danish municipal election on the 19th Nov. 1985. There was also a long debate on 'Anarchism in Denmark today'; several steps to strengthen the relations between anarchist groups and individuals was discussed, and a conference was initiated.

An observer from the Swedish Anarchist Network (Anatet) was lively contributing to the debates and also gave an account of the Swedish anarchist movement, and gave an invitation to a Nordic Anarchist Festival in Goteborg, Sweden 1-4 May of this year celebrating the Spanish revolution and commemorating the Haymarket martyrs.

The Aim-formulation of the federation was made more succinct and thus braced up. This was unanimously approved. So was a Structure-formulation, which was a written statement of praxis.

Greetings of solidarity, unanimously resolved, were sent to Katsushia Omori, our Japanese comrade facing the death penalty, and to the Swedish Anarchist Network which was to hold its congress, the weekend after ours. Finally a birthday

greeting was sent to a 70 year old Danish anarchist veteran, Carl Heinrich Petersen who is known for his inspiring works and historical research on the revolutionary workers movement, syndicalism and anarchism.

The Anarcho-Syndicalist Organisation (ASO) is the Danish section of the (IWA) moved from Copenhagen to: ASO - International Group Kirkebakken 70.

4736 Karrebakkevej, Denmark
The Anarchist Black Cross of Denmark can now be contacted at: ABC - Denmark
Boston Tea Party
Nansensvej 43
1306 Kbh. K., Denmark.



"Fight Back Against the Police State" demonstration in Denmark.

Destabilisation In The South Pacific

Dr Ray Cline — the infamous former CIA director, now a director of the Georgetown Centre for Strategic and International Studies and a prominent figure in the World Anti-Communist League — has been appointed as head of a new US think tank on NZ (Australia-New Zealand USA) affairs. That Dr Cline, who supported a prison in the US security administration, should be assigned responsibility for security matters in the Australasia sector does not bode well for those living in that part of the world: certainly it can be taken as a clear signal that Washington has allocated a higher security priority for Australia/New Zealand.

It is also known that his appointment to the think tank took place before the DGSE bombing of the *Rainbow Warrior* Greenpeace boat, and that he has made at least one clandestine visit to New Zealand since. Not long after that visit the NZ media reported on a split inside the NZ military, the split was regarding policy on security matters and current NZ policy on USA relations in the light of Prime Minister Lange's refusal to allow US nuclear powered ships into NZ waters. That a section of the NZ military/intelligence establishment are strongly pro-nuclear and favour stronger military links with the USA might well explain why French intelligence agents were able to roam NZ openly in the days leading up to the R W bombing. Nor is it insignificant that the new US ambassador is a staunch WAJL member (this dates back to Paul Cerlib's days at the US embassy in South Korea).

US concern for its strategic relationship in the South Pacific has also come about at a point in time when the future of its claims in the Philippines is in question. After Subic Bay — the largest US base overseas — only a scanty WAJL member has the sufficient resources for regional operations. Subic Bay, in the Philippines, is far larger than Guam and transfer to Guam of the Subic Bay facility is regarded as being out

of the question by Washington. The only other option considered by the Administration would be to buy back the Marshall Islands, which come under US jurisdiction.

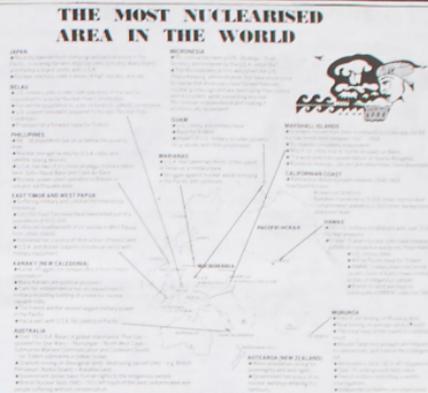
ISLANDERS COOPERATE

It was in fact, in May and June of last year that the local population of Rongelap in the Marshall Islands were assisted in their transfer to Kwajalein Atoll (about 90 miles away) by members of Greenpeace about the *Rainbow Warrior*. The islanders had sent a plea of help to Greenpeace as their island had been contaminated as a result of a one-megaton bomb blast at Bikini Island as far back as 1954. The consequences of the blast had become more noticeable (the usual symptoms: disease, early deaths abnormal amount of cancer cases etc) and so the entire population decided to leave their homes and start life afresh elsewhere.

Shortly after helping the people of Rongelap the crew of the *Rainbow Warrior* sailed for Vanuatu, a former French colony (then known as New Hebrides) which had only a few years back been given independence after a sustained campaign of resistance by the indigenous population.

Vanuatu is also a vigorous campaigner for a nuclear-free Pacific and it is Vanuatu policy to form an alliance with islanders in the South Pacific (eg New Caledonia and Tahiti — both under French rule — the Marshall Islands and New Zealand). A strong anti-nuclear movement is also developing in Tahiti where to ever voice criticism of the French regime or nuclear politics generally, can result in imprisonment (as happened recently to several of the Opposition party belonging to the independence movement).

In New Caledonia, the far-right Caldoches (French settlers) are well armed to sustain their claims to sovereignty over the indigenous Kanaks. Only recently was it shown that the Caldoches have been smuggling arms, to supplement those held by the French Gendarmes, from Queens-



land in Australia. In January of this year the NZ authorities were able to trace one shipment of arms heading for New Caledonia via Auckland. Australian intelligence immediately sent out press notices alleging that the shipment was meant for the Kanaks; they followed this with an allegation that the Kanaks had been invited by the Libyan Leader Gadhafi to an international conference of representatives from national liberation movements. A Kanak leader in exile straight away put out a statement proving the allegation to be false: an invitation had been sent out but was not accepted. Nevertheless, in the wake of the allegations there were calls in Australia from politicians of both right and left for Australia to distance itself from the FLNK (the Kanak liberation movement) and for the Kanak trades to be reprimanded.

POSTSCRIPT: According to women from Belau Island, a US protectorate, their home may well become the next major nuclear base in that part of the world. At present it is nuclear free, but the US administrators are pressuring the islanders to change that policy. The islanders ruler, President Seliu, is in addition being asked to disregard popular opinion and agree to a direct deal. If the US gets its way, the islanders will become a base for Trident missiles, as well as take on military airfields and become a storehouse for weapons (including nuclear weapons) as well as to provide back-up or become a part replacement (depending how the events turn out in the future) for the Subic Bay/Clark Airbase complex in the Philippines.

When The Turtsys Have To Stop

For Romantic historians, one of the 'greatest crimes' of the Bolsheviks was the killing of the Tsar, Tsarina and their family at Ekaterinburg.

Yet it was not typical of Lenin who was quite cold-blooded in his approach in planned extermination of hundreds of thousands, if necessary to his goal, but was not blood thirsty. Some say it was in retaliation for the murder of his brother by the previous Tsar. Yet the Bolsheviks did not have control of the situation (Lenin would probably have been a Russian royal family for trade concessions or whatever), in the Ekaterinburg situation the left Social Revolutionaries were in control. They glorified the peasants, and it was their drunken peasant soldiers who killed the Tsar and his wife, and then raped and bayoneted the daughters.

In a book by Peter Kurth *Anastasia — Did Anastasia Survive?* — Collins at \$2.95 — it is all down fairly conclusively that Anastasia survived and was the woman well known as Anna Anderson, one of the soldiers who raped her escaped with her to Rumania, married (or went through some ceremony with) her and was killed. She made the journey to Berlin, hoping to find her relatives — and, bewildered by the world, somewhat mad as all the royal Romanovs were, driven over the mental border by her boyhooding and rape, tried to drown in the canal. Her reception by her relatives proved a greater ordeal than the incident at Ekaterinburg, she suffered all her remaining life from a highly organised conspiracy to deny her identity.

She made no claim to be reinstated Grand Duchess, which would have been pretty stupid any way (though most of the empires did it), the only said she was 'Mrs Tchaikovsky'.

She felt 'dirty' because she had been raped; the Russian empires would not accept a woman who had been raped could possibly be the daughter of their 'All Highest'; and they (like her) shuddered at the fact that she had left a son behind in Rumania who might claim to be the rightful Tsar (he still believed the dynasty might be restored). She herself indignantly retorted that she wanted the 'bastard' to become Tsar.

ALL THE CONSPIRATORS

Bear in mind that the royal family were the most of their kind in Europe including the British. All of them were stringing along with Hitler (fortunately for them) the Royal Mountbatten married the grand-daughter of a German Jewish multi-millionaire, thus preserving himself from association with the Nazis and from relying on anyone else's money; he was able to preserve himself from Nazi influence and bring him up as an Englishman; but Princess Michael is by no means the only one with Nazi parentage and past association — indeed the exception is the other way, with Philip, but Hitler was not his sire. All the important people were intriguing with Hitler for armed intervention in Russia on their behalf (and he got fed up with them), they were living as fashion house proprietors, cooks, restaurateurs, marrying into America, and just as they were the finish of the Revolution, a British boat sailed away from St Petersburg with 5,000 royalists, aristocrats and servants to come and live at British expense ever since, with 'grace and favour residences' in Hampton Court made over to them to the present day.

There grew up a conspiracy not just to deny Anastasia, but to actively persecute her. She knew no more than any. Her dear uncle Bertie (Grand-Duke of Hesse) recognised her (and that he found she was mentioning casually she met

him in Moscow during the war (when his mission, as a German prince, was treasonable).

The Bank of England seems to have had money set aside for the royal sisters and quietly taken it over.

After twenty years of privation, ayllims and unreasonable pressure, poor crazy Anastasia, arrogant and imperious still, was faced with the problem of her own nuclear make-up and had to declare she was mad impostor — yet the task of sustained impersonation, she the doctors agreed, quite beyond her. The loving relatives had an answer to that: she was a Polish factory worker, but the Grand Duchess's mischievous ghost had entered into her and was prompting her...

How does a royal princess manage when the Royal circus is over? Anastasia had to find out the hardest way of all. When Ingrid Bergman starred in the version of the French stage play based on her life, she became the centre of international attention. Everyone wanted to believe in the lovely Ingrid Bergman's Anastasia, nobody wanted to believe in the real Anastasia, known as Anna Anderson, growing old and ugly, unrecognised by all the important people in her family and only recognised by those without a stake in her non-existence. How could these highly placed royal ladies act so 'causally' asks the author: Because they were not persons, but personages, he answers. Every one represented a vested interest — in the possible financial stake (that the Bank of England pocketed), in the political stakes (she stood in the way of the succession), in hiding past treachery — and a multitude of lawyers stood between them.

How much better of she'd have been if her family had been one of the many dispersed by the Tsar and only reunited after years of suffering!

WHEN WILL THEY EVER LEARN?

The family of the late Papa Doc Duvalier escaped Haiti, the secret police — the Tonton Macoute — have not, and are pursued and massacred. Years of the most obscene and disgusting repression and torture have been endured. It is hoped, for ever, and the secret police which carried it out — where they have not made their escape — must face the consequences of their actions. Just as the Shah of Iran's secret police faced the problem of escape or death, so the Duvalier secret police now face their turn. It is yet another re-run of the scenes of the French Revolution. Yet there are still people who do not learn the lesson: 'I was not responsible — I only carried out orders... Why do they hate us so?'

But in a few countries they do learn — like Franco's Spain, now under a Socialist government, where the torturers remain in power, 'the same dogs with different collars' and 'off duty form their fascist parties unless police protection'.

In England, they are happiest of all: they are nowhere near the worst in regards to torture and repression. But they are the most secret: They are clever enough to make people think they do not exist. The Political Squad is not flaunting itself under gang-boss titles like Tonton Macoutes. They call themselves the 'Special Branch'. These were the people that trained Amin, the former dictator of Uganda.

FEEDBACK

LONDON ANARCHIST FESTIVAL



The London Anarchist Festival is to be held on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th April 1986.

The aim is to include as great a range of events as possible — so if you have any ideas; spare time etc. to help out; stalls; exhibitions; films... please get in contact. Space is no problem with plenty of room for accommodation if required and food should be available.

The festival will hopefully not only be a social get-together for London's Anarchists, but the basis of something more permanent. There will be plenty of time for discussion on subjects such as the possibility of a London federation, the viability of a national anarchist organisation and whether a collective response can be given to major national or local issues (particularly at this time of the printworkers' dispute).

Regular organising meetings are now being held. If you want to get involved or come along on the day contact: All Systems Go 121 Bookshop, 121 Ralston Road, London SE24 Telephone 01-2746555 afternoons.

LETTERS RECEIVED

Dear friends,

I was a bit concerned when I read the piece in the last *Black Flag* about the print-workers, and what seemed to be the writers unconditional support for them. These are, after all, the people who have been producing Murdoch's fluff for years, who used their craft status to deny employment to women and Black people for a long time, who seem to represent the worst aspects of craft unionism. Nowhere on the agenda do I see questions about control of the media, access to the media, the way in which new technology can be used to give greater access to and control over the printed word. When all is said and done we haven't come a long way since Caxton. Don't get me wrong — I know that the dispute is as much about the rights of unionists as the right to work for Murdoch, and as such, the struggle should be supported. But do not ignore the discontent within various EFTPU branches, that is caused by the principles and policies of the leadership; and do not jump on every workerist band-wagon SWP style, in the hope of gaining a short term political advantage. *Black Flag* is in a very important position, as it shows what can be achieved with new technology... I think that the print-workers campaign poster says it all: 'My Dad helped Mr Murdoch make millions...' And given the chance, he'd help him make millions more!

M.C. (Birmingham)

REPLY: With respect, this letter shows the influence of liberalism which nowadays passes off as trendy non-traditional anarchism. It is liberal arrogance that says that nobody and nothing is of any use 'saving' because catering workers kill animals, printworkers print rubbish clothing workers make uniforms, the miners are 'breathing in coal dust' — all of which is true, but irrelevant. The workers need to take over production

and run things in the way the people want things to be run. As we have said, the slogans are worthless — especially 'the right to work' which is the right to be exploited. What the struggle is essentially about is the right to a living, indeed the right to prosperity. Anything less is theft. The SWP 'bandwagon' rides on any populist cause, but 'SWP' is no slogan to rally people from establishing their rights. (That is to echo the media).

All the facts are stated wrong. Blacks have never been discriminated against by Fleet Street unions. Women were discriminated against in the NGA but that battle has largely been won. Only one print union is a craft union (the NGA, which represents a dying craft). People thrown out without redundancy, on a financial trick by advice of a crooked lawyer, are not in a position to battle for control of the media. Only with social revolution would they be in such a position. The campaigns for 'access to media' etc. meant by journalists, who are writing in the press now and are responsible for it, not the printers.

This 'anti-work' attitude poses the question: What is the acceptable way of earning one's living under capitalism? State grants? Private means? What?

Dear Black Flag Collective,

Please don't send me your paper anymore. After reading it for some months I have decided that there is too much violence in it. I would beg you to remember 'that violence is the embryo of our new oppressors — the new state.'

J.B. (Norfolk)

Reply: And non-violence is the hatched egg of our old oppressors, the old State — so what?

Is it 'violence' — really? — that he objects to, or the reporting of action against oppression?

LATE NEWS

EAST LONDON ANARCHIST CENTRE OPENS

The East London Anarchist Centre has opened at 17 Turners Rd. Limehouse E3. It is open from 1-7pm Tues-Sat. It has a meeting place available for all anarchist, ecology, women's, squatters, anti-militarist groups etc. It also has books on Anarchism; anti-racism; feminism and other radical subjects.

Squatters advice is on Wed. 2-7pm. Nearest Tube is Mile End.

VIDEORAMA HIT

On January 27th 1986, the pornographic Videorama distributors was destroyed by a group 'fire-power' against sexual violence. Videorama distributors nearly all pornovie movies in Holland. There was 13 million guilders damages and its distribution was stopped for quite some time from Landsmeer its ex-centre.

PUBLICATIONS

COUNTER INFORMATION, March/ April Issue No. 9, Free. Published by Counter Information Collective. Interesting A4 newsletter and supplement on the printers dispute; coal miners; action against apartheid plus resistance worldwide. Available from Counter Information, Box 81, c/o 43 Candelmakers Row, Edinburgh.

JAIL NEWS No. 33 Vol Dec 1985. Very good, consistent small prisoners magazine from Australia. Articles include: Methadone, Homosexuals and Aids; The Mickelberg Stitch; Verbals; Screws and lots more. Available with subscription of \$A8 (prisoners free) from: Breakout, PO BOX 397, Rozelle, 2039, NSW Australia

DIRTY FINGERS IN DIRTY PIES A Sky & Trees Booklet. Written etc. by Boff & Nobbercon, Sept-Nov 1985. Illustrations by Zof Research, Sky & Trees, Box 4, 39 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2. No price listed. Send donation plus stamped self addressed envelope. A lot of research has gone into this 30-page booklet. Lists of companies associated with various oppressive regimes and occupations: Tory funding; Arms traders; Vivisection; Record companies; Nuclear power; Banks; Nuclear Weapons and Cash crops. They say in the introduction that 7% of people in the UK own 84% of the country's wealth. I feel that a listing of these few thousand gentlemen and women, their daily time-tables and whereabouts would do a lot more to decrease the activities of these insidious parasites.

HARPY — Anarcho-feminist paper, No. 3, 20p from KIO, PO Box Marks, 37 Stokes Croft, Bristol. Articles against social workers, women in the army, and 'Coming out of the Kitchen'.

KICK IT OVER Winter 1985/86, No. 14 75p from KIO, PO Box 5811, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1P2. Interview with Poison Girls, article on 'sexual anarchy'. Some unfortunate pacifism, but some good stuff on sexual politics.

OTHER MAGAZINES RECEIVED:

A PINCH OF SALT (England); STRIKE No. 39 (Canada); WORKERS SOLIDARITY No. 15 (Ireland); CHARTIST No. 108 (England); SYNDICALIST No. 2 (England); DAM — Leeds Anarchist News No. 3 (England); THE BEANO — Is This The Road to Anarchy (England); OUTRAGE No. 23 (USA); GREEN ANARCHIST No. 10 (England); PROCESSED WORLD (USA); DIRECT ACTION No. 29 (England); BOOT 'EM (England); SCOTTISH PRISONS: Lift the Lid! (Scotland); INDUSTRIAL WORKER Feb. (USA); THE ALTERNATIVE! No. 5 (Ireland); REBEL WORKER Feb-March (Australia); NO LIMITS (England); THE ABOLITIONIST No. 20 (England); COVERT ACTION No. 25 (USA); MONOCROME No. 12 (England); ARVISTA ANARCHIA No. 135 (ITALY); AKTION No. 6 (West Germany); TOT ODER LEBENDIG No. 3 (West Germany); DOCUMENTATION ON THE DEATH OF GUNTER SARE (West Germany)

