Tory, Labour, Alliance...

IT'S TIME TO WRECK THE PARTY

AND BUILD A REAL WORKING CLASS ALTERNATIVE
Strikers Drop Weak Kneel United

The Ardridge strike enters its 8th month with the workers having to put the feet from under the strike. The story is one of a trade union movement out of control: 13 weeks in the pit and the reality for the working class in Britain today. The struggle of the workers at Ardridge, a small colliery in the West Midlands, against the relentless onslaught of the coal industry and the miners' own management and taking action. You might expect them, with an industry that is paying the T&G to take action against appalling and increasingly frequent pit closures and to better wage rates, that the union would be in a strong position to win the demand. To force legal action against the death trap factories. If that is what you expect, then you are wrong.

ROSS ON THE RUN

After months of the T&G refusing to support striking miners and the Internationale picket of Laura Ashley started to make a full-scale attempt to support strikers. In early March Ross official action was much welcomed by the workers. A joint action was started to force the T&G to accept Stuart Ross proposals. The proposals were:

Re-engagement, not re-instatement.
A clear date for the return to work between May 1st and June 1st.
No disciplinary action against one by one his delegation.

The T&G refused to do both. The 2 supervisors on strike were to go back and work under those they fired.

We refused these proposals. We told T&G officials present that re-engagement was of no use to us - Stuart Ross could sack us in a matter of weeks simply by saying he did not need enough work for a large workforce. Therefore under re-engagement he could terminate our employment. It was a possibility that we could not accept. We told this acceptance was a weakness and it was a chance we were going to have to take. As to the 2 supervisors, we have no faith in those they had trained, we said we was out of the question. We were then, told by Willie Quinn of the West Midland District of a conversation he had with 2 of them that they would be returning to work as they had been promised.

STRIKING ALONE

The T&G, unwilling to publicly accept the strikers who have widespread support in Ardridge, said; "If they turned down this recommendation we would have to put it to the joint committee and that there was a possibility that they would decide to take no further action." In other words call off the strike or we'll do it for you. The full-time tipper in the Blackwood: "you're putting us down after all the work we've done for you." He was reminded that the T&G did absolutely nothing, that it was the strike committee and support network set up with the help of the ILA that brought Ross to the table. The strikers' response was one of determination to carry on full re-engagement and the establishment of a united committee to provide a safe line and the dispute will now be carried on through the strikers' own organisation. As Ann Druggan said of the T&G: "The union can turn its back as well as its cost. We have found out for what it is. I am very pleased with this.

David Shout, Scottish TGWU:
Getting back-stabber!

Nottingham Anarchists, Notts, DAM and Notts. ACF picter Laura Ashley

SUPPORT NEEDED

Laura Ashley have put it about that as the T&G have been dropped that somehow the battle is over. They couldn't be further from the truth. As we go to press on this we have heard that Laura Ashley in Denmark are picketing Laura Ashley's shoes and the T&G, and the CNT, have written to the strikers offering full support promising to continue to picket Laura Ashley shoes in France. The international campaign for help has now spread to Europe about to stretch into Asia and Australia. All our actions are to picket in Tokyo and Melbourne. On the day of action called for May 16 there were pickets in Bristol, London, Liverpool, Brussels, London (S), and Sturtfield, included.

Again we call on all DA readers to support the strikers in their struggle against the sweatshop trade. Call on your union branch, trades council or your local anarchists to back the Notts. Remember, by picketing the Laura Ashley shops you are not only giving the strikers badly needed support but also helping to ensure that next week consumers everywhere of the consequences of open shop and sweatshop. The Ardridge strikers is a victory for all us working people. It was the start of the battle against all profit mongers. For your local pickets in your area contact local DAM groups (see contact list in DA 29) or contact DAM headquarters 541-520 at 22 Newstry, Birmingham, or Free Press, 25 Gwyddel Street, Cambridge.

62 Sacked

Fifty four full-time and 13 casual staff at the Most House Hotel, Paradise St, Liverpool, have been sacked. The sacked workers are the 62 workers - maids, barstaff, waiters & waitresses, cooks, laundry and office workers, porters and cleaners - decided to strike, management sacked them saying they had not signed the contracts but strikers find this new-found respect for the law hollow. Some of the sacked have been with the hotel 15 years to 19 years. We, well we're no argument with the first part of your government, Mr. Nott, but we take issues with your belief that we're anti-union.

As part of the International Workers' Association we are proud to be associated with other unions such as the COB (Brazilian Workers' Confederation), NCO (National Confederation of Labour) who - unlike the T&G - are run by the rank and file and booked by no one. We urge you to support the strikers at Most House.

SST - ATTACKS CONTINUE

Since the end of the News International newspaper dispute the press barons has never been higher. The "Street" has completely changed - many shops in the west end are being praised outside London. In early April its profits rose by such as the thirty two and a half week of the Seattle "Street" attack. Recently a member of the SOGAT RIRMA chapel at the "Express and Star" was suspended in the morning of the "Telegraph Office" by the chairman, Elders. We hope that its victimised and redundant continuance. We hope that its a false alarm which means they have to pay more. Donations and messages of support to Most House Hotel, Transport House, Islington, Liverpool 3.
Production-line Education

The "riving right" has many scape- goats for Britain's economic decline: trade union power, "unfair" foreign competition, etc.; but one target is the education system. For over a century it has been claimed there is over- emphasis on "academic" subjects to the neglect of sciences and other subjects relevant to work. To those people youth unemployment hasn't been caused by a lack of jobs but by lack of the right training. Their answer is that Britain's system is a crude system of training for work. This thesis is being tested by the new vocational education in school as well as such schemes as YTS and also the new Job Training Scheme which is supposed to give even more training after the YTS training has failed to create a job out of thin air.

YTS was introduced in '82 replacing earlier YOPs and TOPS schemes introduced by the last Labour government to cut the already rising youth unemployment. YTS is supposed to give young people the training for work they are supposed to have missed at school. The fact it gives employers a source of cheap non-union labour is boffal. At school vocational education is mainly being introduced by the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative (TVEI). This system (footnote in all schools) is designed to give education for jobs while at school. Where it has been introduced it has been found that many brighter pupils who would in the past have done O or A-levels are doing it instead (for course the least bright kids, who don't get jobs anyway, haven't done any better out of it).

Both YTS and TVEI are run by the Department of Employment through the Merseyside Education Committee, a clear step backwards. It will move away from the Department of Education and local councils which in the past had almost a monopoly. More importantly employers have got a bigger say in the running of the scheme before the board of the commission for vocational education cut out 4 employers and 9 members. Some might say: "But why?" The answer lies in the fact that the training for work is education? After all it's them who give out the jobs." Well, for a start, education shouldn't just be a factory for training workers but a way of developing all our natural skills whether or not they are useful for capitalism. Secondly it also assumes employers are education- al experts who can predict what skills workers will need in up to 5 years' time - they aren't and they can't. Most of Britain's top employers are ex-public school boys to whom a balanced education means rugby, Latin and a haggling in the head's office. Thus kids are trained for jobs that simply may not exist when they leave school. And because the MSE defines vocational education as that "directly relevant to work," kids get such a narrow education they may not be able to get work in any other field.

Vocational education has other bad effects - more pupils leave school because they have the mistake that YTS will continue training they got with TVEI and also give them a wage, children from less well-off families especially are cut out into taking a 2nd rate education while those whose parents can afford to keep them at school do A-levels. The National Union of Students put it: "Young people are dying of un- educated gasts...at 16, or more likely at 14. . .The process has already begun in some cases with the introduction of TVEI." It is clear that education is being sabotaged by over-emphasis on skills that derive from others' often mistaken view of what the economy needs. (Professor Price, Department of Education, Exeter University and an assessor for TVEI.

What can we expect from the parties? The Tories are obviously committed to vocational education and training courses. For the Labour, it was the first time to hide rising youth unemployment behind the phrase "the plan of the government." The answer is work disfigured as training while the best education they can expect from them is an expanded YTS/ TVEI scheme (possibly under a different name) and a further expansion of so- called vocational education.

Some have suggested without the encouragement of the education systems - e.g. alternatives - educating your children at home or via "free" schools. These present many problems for working class people. Perhaps this is why those that advocate such ideas often aren't working class themselves. Education at home is a partial solution for those with enough time and money and have the education themselves to do it, ruling out the mass for us. At the end of the day, however, children still need community contact, competition etc. Increasingly these are polluted by the ideas of TVEI and YTS. Also teaching kids at home is dependent on the agreement of the government and sometimes of authorities. If they began to see it as a threat to the established order they could just as easily make it illegal as able, as they have almost done with the free school movement.

The problem we face must be one of trying to vain in a production system that capitalist education system can't work because capitalism itself is an unwrorkable system. What we must do is reduce the barriers to pay the costs of education. Not all people can have the education they want, not the controlled training that wants for work capitalism wants."

Conservatism Run Amok

The reactivation of Republican governor, Evan Mecham, described as "perhaps the most conservative major office holder in the United States," is a comment on many American politics, if little else, a reliable indication of the trend in the west. Mecham first act as governor placed Arizona in the national spotlight with his declaration at Martin Luther King's birthday as a state holiday. The head of the nation in a man whose friends belong to such organisations as the arch-conservative Unification Church (moines) of Korean Revender Sun Myung Moon. This is no quaint beliefs that the US con- servatism is to God, now under attack by a socialist conspiracy led by bankers with "foreign entangle- ments.

And this ignorance of things foreign is pervasive. The average Arizonan evacuation, flying into Mexico (which, after all, is a close neighbour), in order to avoid the lack of worldliness, can lead to some amusing misconceptions, as witnessed by a recent Arizona Metro magazine: "Even a small-time hotel in the border town of Nogales, Arizona, must go on a high profile. Never eat in a restaurant that's not right next to your hotel. Never eat in a restaurant that's not right next to your hotel. Never eat in a restaurant that's not right next to your hotel. Never eat in a restaurant that's not right next to your hotel. Never eat in a restaurant that's not right next to your hotel. Never eat in a restaurant that's not right next to your hotel.

OR THEY MIGHT HAVE HELP

A conventional war would spread radioactivity over a wide area of Europe, which might be alleviated and made useful. A conventional invasion of West Germany as many have anticipated would be destroyed by bomb- ing. A report by Dan Pechel of Bradford's nuclear power station makes an attack on the 1.2 megawatt plant at Fiddlers Ferry "inevitable". A test of a German border. The report states that the weapon could pack a research reactor could size would require an immediate evacua- tion of some 750,000 people from the German towns which would be uninhabitable for for years. There are 30 reactors in the British and it's city of London as a whole. The effects should one bomb be dropped, could not be avoided even with conventional weapons don't leave much to the imagination.

The findings of the most extensive British survey of health and education, were presented to the 1987 con- ference of the British Medical Association, held in London. The conference shows that workers, mostly women, take more sick leave and complaints of more muscular aches and pains, headaches and stress than other workers. Over 80% of VDU workers reported eye and vision problems.

The conference, attended by 120 trade union representatives and VDU users, highlighted this problem. It has been found that the incidence of health complaints and the amount of time off work due to stress among VDU Workers Rights Campaign's demands for the government to employ 50% of the working day to be spent on a VDU, the right of prospective parents to be employed in their children's education, the support of four white collar unions (CPSA, NAG, NGA and SCPS) as well as women's and community groups.

Meanwhile, the Department of Employment has given VDU's a clean bill of health, dismissing the list of potential health risks. The guidelines warn VDU users to avoid strong lights and to take care not to sit for long periods in the same position, much like eyetrains, but they see no scientific grounds for attributing radiation and muscle stress to VDU work.

The HSE consults expert bodies such as the National Radiological Protection Board who state that the hazards so far generated by a VDU is well below the levels considered dangerous. The HSE also dismisses the use of protective devices like screen shields with a simple "no." There is little evidence that VDU work has any serious effects of VDU work on pregnancy and the latest figures on the amount of clusters of reported birth defects down to "statistical chance".

More about these issues and the research behind them can be found in a report of the conference - available from: City Centre Court, 19 Fenchurch Street, London ECI - price £1.00.
**Enough of Dictatorship**

"We call on our comrades of the IWA and Chilean comrades in Europe, not to forget the political prisoners that are still alive in Chile, people that are fighting for libertarian ideas. Don't leave us isolated. In these times of struggle against the Dictatorship, we need the solidarity of all."

**Grupos De Acción Directa**

The following is adapted from a statement issued by the Grupos de Acción Directa (Direct Action Groups) after a meeting they held in Buenos Aires at the start of January. Since the end of 1983, the Direct Action Groups (now aligned with the IWA and the IWA General Secretary. At the meeting, they asked that any financial support from the outside be made to Chile. Contacts with Chile are being normalised.

The situation in Chile worsened after 78 when unemployment increased and hunger. The major problem for Chilean people, began to strike - neither the dictatorship, the Catholic Church or the political parties have solutions - not even the Marxists, they are too busy caught up in power struggles, forgetting people's problems. To fill this vacuum, the Direct Action Groups, who are trying to form the FACH (Anarchist Federation of Chile), are involved in the popular struggle of "Los Campesinos" to combat hunger with dignity, "Los Pueblos" for the liberation of movement, for unity and fighting to get their land, and for the land, occupying the wealthy minority's property. In an occupied area a "police" council schools, work co-operatives, libertarian centres and homes are set up. All organizational is horizontal - the whole community decides everything internationally, for example, the government's refusal cracks down on this positive work heavily - such as a camp set up in 1989 (the Magallanes camp - named after a dead comrade) ran until the dictatorship took it over. It now calls itself "Los Pueblos".

There are attacks from all sides - by capitalists and marxists, stealing, in the case of the "Los Pueblos"\footnote{They are exiled from the countryside co-operatives and ports in a self-managed way, Direct Action Groups in the Santiago area direct their efforts toward re-constructing the co-ordinating group and defending the right to organize.} of goods from the countryside co-operatives and ports in a self-managed way. Direct Action Groups in the Santiago area attack the port for trying to sell the goods from the countryside co-operatives and ports in a self-managed way. Direct Action Groups in the Santiago area direct their efforts toward re-constructing the co-ordinating group and defending the right to organize.

Direct Action members do not support the "national" front and the unified struggle. They want to present their own ideas that they see as suicidal and a failure. However, many of the people in the country under this trap and some have died - their barricades are invisible to the naked eye. The struggle for the Direct Action Groups will not make the same mistakes as in Allende's day, when they were offered a new lease on life. The people who are determined to defend themselves from the threat of the dictatorship are as numerous as before and they are all fighting for their lives. Therefore they don't align themselves with anyone, even Marxists.

**Spanish Working Class Fights "Socialist" Con-tricks**

There have been well over 300 anti-government demonstrations in Spain since the start of January. Since the "Socialist" government launched its one step further to the right this right year, many sectors of industry - airline staff, teachers, day-workers, miners, car workers, farmers, dockers, doctors, steel and transport workers - have come out in strike. The main grievances centre around wage freezes (a "Socialist" minister, Carlos Solchaga, recently told the press that the government works are trying to get their services on strike.)

One struggle the CNT-AIT (National Confederation of Labour, an anarchist syndicalist union in Spain) has been a real success in recent times. The men, women and children of the famous Garzón Rivas in Spain (the paramilitary police) and many others, have been arrested, and some are CNT-AIT members. As with Wapping and the miners' strike "outside agitators" are being blamed for all the trouble, yet to evidence has ever been produced.

Even more bitter is a steelworkers' strike in the northern town of Reinoesa, near Santander. When management threatened to lay off some 1200 people a strike was called and, to underline the fact that the strikers meant business, the President of the company was taken hostage. Since that day, in mid-March, Reinoesa has been under a virtual "state of siege" as most of the town's population (some 13,000 people) clash almost daily with the armed police and army (backed up by the way with tanks and helicopters), as the tension builds up further on 4th May when a 32-year-old worker, Gonzalo Ruiz, died in hospital after inhaling an excessive amount of tear gas.

The intensity of the strikes has caught both the CCOD (Consolidated Union of the "Socialist" (UGT) (Socialist) unions and the CCOC in favour of the general assemblies. This can only be good news for anarchist syndicalists and the CNT-AIT in the future.

**Anarchist Exile Held Under P.T.A.**

At Liverpool, Roberto Torres, a Chilean exile, about to start the Irish leg of a European speaking tour about resistance to the P.T.A. arrest, was told by Special Branch officers: "If you stop speaking, you'll be arrested". This was after being held for 2 hours. The arrest was based on police notes for the IWA in a newspaper. During the hearing, the police noted that there were links between the situations in Chile and the 6 Counties. There were no links between the prisoners in Chile and the 6 Counties. Times to be made too for the 6 Counties.

The planned meeting in Dublin on April 14th was turned into a protest at the exclusion. After a brief talk about what happened and the use of repression in the IWA, the meeting was about Chile and the British citizens act as a reminder that the FPI is not a movement and that the whole of the PIA and expressing solidarity with Chilean Anarchists.

**Spanish Working Class Fights "Socialist" Con-tricks**

"Socialist" government send the troops in to suppress Renninsa

In March the Yugoslav government ordered a second wave of political arrests. The response of workers was a wave of wildcat strikes, with several large strikes in late April and early May. These included strikes at the country's biggest steel complex, Smедерovo near Belgrade, the capital; a rolling stock plant in Kragujevac in Serbia and many smaller plants near the capital. Coal miners struck in early April demanding a 10% pay rise and the removal of several managers. At the Rasa coal mine 100 strikers were joined by white collar workers. The miners returned to work on the 11th of May after 33 days, winning a 46% pay increase and the resignations of a number of managers.
The Myth of Electoralism

I

n the last 8 years Thatcher has head- class. Hospitals have closed; a legal straight-jacket placed around the trade unions; wages cut; whilst the unemployed bear the brunt of the squeeze. Yet what alternatives are now presented to us? The Liberal/SDP Alliance are recognised as 2nd rate. The Tories offer a raw deal too: only a million "jobs" (large housing schemes) in 5 years; Cruise to stay whilst arms talks drag on; and more bobbies on the beat. Considering Labour's past follies, if this is what they offer before the election, what can we expect if they get there?

To answer this, look at the "radic-

ally" oneLabourian struggle, the "people" who are now voting for cuts and Ealing, Ilton-

and Camden who are attacking their workers in a way which will gain in inten-

sity whatever happens in the general elections. Even the militantly-controlled Liverpool council threatened to lay off workers. Despite all the left at the beginning of the 80's, Lab-

our has moved back to the right with the left capitulating in every step. The truth is, Labour has always acted to the benefit of the bosses but not to the bene-

fit of workers. A Labour Premier introduced nuclear weapons to Britain without even consulting the cabinet, let alone Parliament. Labour's introduction of the first racist immigration laws, sent troops to Ireland and introduced the repressive Prevention of Terrorism Act, has sent troops in strikes more than the Tories. When Labour."The Blair" will reverse the Public Order Act or anti-

trade union laws?

Labour is the political expression of the trade union leadership

To understand this behaviour we must understand the capitalist system and its electoral process. The myth of electorate is the belief that capturing the existing capitalist political insti-

tutions is sufficient to bring change. Parliamentary democracy is political power from the economic sphere - a working class in the point of production whereas lies real working class power. Anarchists-syndicalists argue that even in the event of a Labour government elected on a "socialist" programme the real masters would be company directors, bankers, law lords, top civil servants, security chiefs and army generals - the ruling class. For these puppet masters the public school boy network oper-

ates, rather than the limited elective principle of bourgeois democracy. These are the people that Kinnock must rely on. Anarchists argue that it is the working class that must take the prevention of democracy in its hands, here are all the means at their disposal in the hands of a few. This is why Kinnock condemned the miners and printers, why Labour's loyal trade union leaders have abandoned strike after strike. The defeat of the miners could never grab the antiunion laws and fudge over nuclear disarmament and why the teachers were asked to suspend industri-

al action during the election campaign.

We can see what has happened under Labour's counterparts governing in other countries. In France, under the "social-

ist" government of Mitterrand, workers faced austerity measures (cuts) now carried on by Chirac's conservative government. The blueprint for nationalisation. This did not happen as those in socialism by the rationalisation that had taken place before, during and after the war, that would result in the revolutionary upheaval and to channel militant working class activity into the parliamentary system and the dead-

ening passivity that goes hand in hand with it. It was a victory for Fabianism and especially for the TUC who, through their Party and parliamentary networking, ensure that the programme is "socialist" and then decay by an elite group could be saved from chaos. Apathy is good for capitalism.

Since the Labour Party was formed, as Bevis put it, "out of the bounds of formulating the TUC", to give the reformist trade union leadership a voice in parliament, it has adopted the basic principles of capitalist democracy. From the start it wasn't a workers' party but the vehicle of people who want to maintain capitalism. The trade union bureaucracy is a mediator between the bosses and labour force so, although its power is based on the workers, it has a vested interest in a healthy capitalist system. Anyhow, not just parliamentary networking - there is an active opportunity for change was lost. In the years up to 1914 Labour had no socialist policies and was recognised by the Liberals as the "best weapon against the socialist movement", who were at the heart of the massive upsurge in working class militancy.

During the years 1910-14 the British parliamentarians, Wave after wave of strikes occurred with whole communities taking to the streets to fight pitched battles with the police and army. Convicts moved into the Mersey, guns train-

ed on working class areas, after workers took over the docks (firms such as P&O had to ask for dockers' dispensation to move goods. All over workers fought for control of their own lives, Striking miners dynamited the masters' houses, striking railworkers sabotaged signal boxes; women we up burning barricades to stop intrusions by mounted police into working class districts. "Direct action" was on everyone's lips; the co-

munity, French workers on the railways and in other sectors are now building forward through militant class struggle run by active assembly and council insti-

ments. Meanwhile Spanish workers have borne the brunt of Gonzales's "socialist" aus-

terity. Out through the strikes and "socialist" the workers blocs, a million unemployed. Countrywide strikes have culminated in pitched battles with police in response to a government that is laying off the small and depressed and cutting real and real wage levels have dropped by 2% since gaining power.

So whether Labour, Tory or Alliance government the trade union and parliamentary democracy remains a facade - a mask that covers the true process which they can give nothing but empty promises and sellout to changing the system. The working class must organise on the basis of mass membership - the principle that those who benefit from a policy should also carry the burden of its consequences. Labour, Tories and Liberals will do back the mining communities. It is the Labour Party that has channelled working class milit-

ant and direct action through Parliament and the courts. The class war is not just in the back of the working class through the reformist landlord trade union leaders. It is the Labour Party that has channelled working class milit-

ant and direct action on the shop floors and parliaments and courts. The class war is now coming to the class. Labour governments have replied by returning us just as viciously as the Tories. When in opposition they have the duty to keep up the pressure and expose its denunciations of striking miners and printworkers. It is now clear, more than ever, that our class must build its own organisations to take control of our own lives, an organisation that doesn't provoke and divide power over to professional politicians and trade union bureaucrats.

In Australia, the Labour government recently announced a mini-budget, cut-

ting public expenditure by over £420 million and cut in welfare benefits and emp-

loyment and more "necessaries" - the budget and real wage levels have dropped by 2% since gaining power.

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Parliament Diverted by Labour

Parliament has always been the pre-

serve of the British ruling class. After the industrial revolution the bourgeoisie demanded political power to go with the economic position they had attained, the working class in its turn demanded equal political rights this was rightly seen as a revolutionary demand.

Charlism, the first British working class political movement was simply a struggle about parliamentary representation but about the whole ques-

tion of democracy. But in the work-

places and communities which had come under pressure with the increasing state intervention into working class life, slow-

ly the right to vote was won, but only when the ruling class knew they could retain control. The rules of the game were changed; power was transferred to the state bureaucracy and the vote because a method of diverting pressure for change into acceptable channels - an alternative to revolution. Democracy was granted to capitalism but was confined to the political sphere - economic exploitation continued. This produced a passive electorate with workers treated as cogs but the ruling class were convinced to believe that only by handing the responsibility for social policy to an elite group could be saved from chaos. Apathy is good for capitalism.

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Militant workers' unrest did not reflect a "socialist" revolution but a reaction to the radicalisation that had taken place before, during and after the war, that would result in the revolutionary upheaval and to channel militant working class activity into the parliamentary system and the dead-

ening passivity that goes hand in hand with it. It was a victory for Fabianism and especially for the TUC who, through their Party and parliamentary networking, ensure that the programme is "socialist" and then decay by an elite group could be saved from chaos. Apathy is good for capitalism.
inequality between the classes grew - as the top 5% became richer, the bottom 50% grew poorer. Do we seriously want them back? Will they be different now?

Now the Labour Party under Kinloss and Hattersley try to put forward a new brighter image. The "socialist" image of nationalisation and state control of industry has been discarded. As Tony Benn said on May Day, 1978, "The present Labour movement is for the whole labour movement to face the harsh realities, take up the challenge, and reorganise its own role, put up new working-class candidates, and get them elected."

The fact is, Labour is a prisoner of the system. Instead of seeking a change to socialism, it is part of the system, seeking "corporatism" where union leaders, the state and employers co-operate to run industry. This allows the working class organisations, the unions, to become part of the state control apparatus working against our class. In the past, Labour tried to contain workers with "social contracts" protecting both the position of the trade union leadership and the bosses' profits. Last time this ended in the 1926 general strike that cost the whole lot collapsed under the weight of working-class militancy. Labour has no choice but to attack workers like the Tories do. The last Labour government agreed to enforce cuts to get an International Monetary Fund loan. Now there is a crisis and the world of commerce and industry prefer their friends in the Tory Party to govern.

The crisis is very real. It extends through the whole world, and is part of the trade-off, world, both the "Socialist Eastern Bloc" and the "Capitalist Western Bloc". Any government whether Alliance, Tory, or Labour can only offer a class as much as it can at any time. Over the last 20 years there have been rumblings of the working-class movement, but they are not strong enough and have not been organised.

DEVELOPING THE FUTURE......

For many communities capitalism now offers no hope

The only jobs being created are in the low-paid, often non-unionised, service sector. And in a desperate attempt to lower unemployment figures (and provide cheap labour) many of us are forced to work in various CP and YTS work-for-the-dole schemes which are supported by all parties. The Tory-proposed JTS scheme, to be administered for profits by the private sector instead of job centres, men people having to work for what they get on the dole. The scheme is also to be compulsory amounting to industrial conception. Such a mobile, unorganised cheap labour force is also an ideal strike-breaking weapon.

The future looks bleak - a low waged economy based on temporary and part-time workers, many on government schemes. This is not to say that everyone will be poor - but there will be a greater degree of division between the classes and a lowering of the average standard of living.

The LEFT is IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

The left in the Labour Party often blame Kinloss for pandering to the press, distorting "socialist" policies. This right-wing Gallup cannot be the party's Political Department has worked so hard to moderate that they only serve to feed the Tories. The leadership scapegoats the Militant Tendency and so-called "bony policies" but is not prepared to listen to the voices of those who believe that socialist policies and a socialist programme are necessary to win votes. Although Labour's promises have often become indistinguishable from the Liberal/SDP "centre" they have not accounted for Labour's declining popularity since 1983 when it had the support of over 50% of the electorate.

Why a socialist strategy? Because a number of workers are disillusioned by the Labour government. Kinloss blames the left for Labour's declining popularity. The left didn't stand a chance. To force through even the limited reforms they offered, the support of rank and file workers was needed, but given the economic climate workers felt they had to support their own jobs more than anything else. In the union leaders' shift to the right following Thatcher's re-election in 1983 with Len Murray's "New Realism". An unions exit to negotiate the price of labour within capitalism, "New Realism" is a concession to the Tory idea that greedy workers must pay for the crisis. The leader's argument can't get away with this, that only Labour could regenerate the economy. Since the Labour Party was created by the trade union bureaucracy to represent their interests it must come as no surprise to revolutionaries that the Labour left were bound to bow to their strength.

The Labour left's power is in the Constituency Labour Parties (CLPs). But at the 1983 conference they had 614,000 votes compared to the 5,871,000 bloc of votes of the unions. The unions have the largest single block of representatives on the party's National Executive Committee (NEC). The NEC elects 12 members on to the NEC elected at conferences from a Socialist Society representative there are a handful on but not necessarily bound by conference decisions. Labour's right-wing faction is ultimately inevitably from the "New Realism" due to the power of the trade union bureaucracy.

The future looks bleak for socialists in the Labour Party. Those who demand a change in the leadership will be forced out of the party as it is now. The fate of these leaders will be to organise, and probably get forced out, absorbed or just bought off, in the end they are trapped by Labour's electoral strategy to continue in the next election or the one after that.

The Struggle continues

It is therefore clear that the priority for the British working class is not the ballot box but surely the re-establishment of confidence at a rate and on a level which means building an organisation, a run and controlled by members, based on the shop floor and on the streets as an alternative to the charade of social democracy of the Labour Party. Such an organisation would be a defence against the intrusions of capitalism on our already low living standards; it would carry the fight forward so that we as a class can challenge capitalism's hold on society and would be a fundamental arm of any future revolution; it would be the means whereby, by following our traditional line, we can run society as a class. It would be a taking back responsibility for our own lives. This would be a new organising campaign, a revolutionary union which we must begin to build. The only way of building such a movement is by community action groups. It is essential that we prepare for the breakdown of the existing organisation in the class struggle. To demand what the capitalists say is impossible must be what we new revolutionary working-class leaders do.

Another priority for our class is to overcome the issues that divide us - racism, anti-semitism, anti-black, anti-Semitism, British nationalism and in some cases religion. These issues are not unimportant, they are not unimportant, they are not unimportant, we advocate a society run through mass assemblies in which everybody in a given workplace or community can participate. Administrative functions and co-ordination will be carried out by workers' councils with all delegates mandated and subject to immediate recall through their respective assemblies. This sort of society is not just a distant dream, it is a task that we only come out of the class struggle between the 1926 and 1933. This new class there is only one alternative - we must organise as a class to fight against the attacks upon us and ultimately to smash this system.

ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM

Yes, the working class has the power to create a living, breathing form of society which will involve ordinary people at the level of their everyday lives. We must organise with the working class to create a new anarcho-syndicalist state.
Build All Out Strike Action

During the first rolling strike by civil service workers in the history of the 1987 pay claim, the issue of emergency payments caused considerable arguments amongst activists. The question was whether NALGO members in towns should make the emergency payments in sections 1, 12 and 138 payments or the so-called "blanket payments." The first type are limited to those with dependent children, pensioners and disabled people while the second would be made to any claimant providing adequate identification.

Opponents of blanket payments argued that NALGO members were already inordinately paid out money to claimants amounted to doing CPSA members' work. In Hucknall and Southwark, for example, the Labour councils refused to make blanket payments saying it was strikebreaking. In Lambeth, matters were further complicated by the fact that DSS and Unemployed Benefit Office workers were voted for by the government payments only. However, Lambeth leader, Linda Bellis, declared she'd make payments of £14 to every adult and £10 for each child, regardless of what CPSA and NALGO members voted for. This was also quoted: "If I face... cross their f... picket line... I'll get private security guards to f... pay the money." (Guardian 11.5.87). Bellis has since claimed she was misquoted but her intention was no less confrontational amongst strikers. Although NALGO members blockaded the work, payments were made by volunteers.

INADEQUATE

This disparity can only enable a wedge to be driven between civil servants and unaged workers. The union's pathetic "we're on the same side" leaflet was completely inadequate to combat this, only apologising for the strike. The union must be blamed for leaving its members completely apprised for the ensuing arguments. The problem is how best to win claimants' support without unduly weakening the strike. The first point to be made is that while DSS and UBO workers are traditionally more militant there are other strategic civil service sectors - the Passport Office, Air Traffic Control and especially the currently unstable administrative chaos. To concentrate on the DSS and the UBO's as CPSA shock troops is to make the emergency payments issue more important than it should be.

Secondly, events have often overaken expectations and have gone over the heads of both sides, such as local government's claimant checks not being made. Councils have made blanket payments and more significantly claimants will go back to the Council chambers demanding money. In the first stages of the strike, claims were not necessarily a key to victory, it would be difficult to argue that claimants should go without money. For revolutionaries, it was important to support such actions as town hall occupations and not to end up arguing against them. With Tory ministers suddenly meeting of many for claimants and the likes of Linda Bellis big in the media, the strikers could well lose the argument. NALGO members were supported by the local government policy which is unpopular amongst claimants and Labour councilors alike very much.

The strike continues

Two of the three unions involved debated the "way forward" at their conferences. The Society of Civil and Public Servants (SCPS) re-affirmed their disapproval of all-out action. After a lengthy debate at the Civil and Public Servants Association (CPSA) conference, 53% voted against a call for an all-out strike. A motion was adopted calling for a further action in April, to join the selective regional strike lines. There may eventually be a ballot on all-out strike action if this strategy fails.

The action chosen was as much to preserve the fragile unity of the union coalition and the government, as to authorise talks between the unions and Treasury. This only produced a wooly promise to review wage levels at some indefinite time in the future. Treasury have sought to continue the divide and rule policy, recently buying off minor civil servants with a 12.5% pay rise giving them (and MPs whose pay is linked to 40% a week - twice what the unions are demanding. The surrender of South Eastern civil service workers with a £10 a week "regional allowance", was also attempted.

The strike is the most important in civil service history. A defeat would see the introduction of regional pay, merit pay, and the formation of public corporations, instead of departments, offering their own rates - an obvious recipe for chaos and wage-cutting. All an out strike will be the only guarantee of success but lack of confidence and local co-ordination will hamper efforts to build it. Many on the left are already sounding the bells of doom saying we should work for the election of a Labour government.

RANK AND FILE CONTROL

For an all-out strike to take place the rank and file membership would have to take management break the bureaucracy. We must ensure such initiatives as the mass meeting of activists in Lambeth Town Hall which cut across the union's sectional divisions whereby DSS workers have no contact with UBO and Job Centre workers. Local inter-union strike committees must be elected by administrators agreeing to be done in a number of offices. Activists should discuss the area strike lines selected by mass assemblies to replace present regional and town committees which have been compromised from above by compensation of bureaucrats and a mystery to most below. A priority of the shop-floor is to build its strength locally. Readers of DA interested in a rank and file civil service workers' organisation can write to South West London DSA, c/o 121 Railton Rd, Battersea, London SW11.

Civil service workers (CPDA)

BOSS "HAPPY" TO LOSE MONEY!

As reported in DA 29 thirty members of the AEU (Amalgamated Engineering Union) have been on strike since July last year to take control of annenal strikes and get better rates. The workers were sacked within 5 minutes after they voted 2-1 in a secret ballot in favour of strike action.

Since then ACAS officials agreed to mediate between strikers and management but talks never took place as Keents said it would not hold talks with ACAS. After losing £3,500 a week since the strike started he still believes he can force the strikers back. Management have contacted all firms who are boycotting them trying to win back business but this has been due to the strike but the boycotts remain and letters pleading they have been affected by the strike.
At Loughgall, County Armagh, on the evening of Friday, March 4th, IRA volunteers and a civilian were killed in an ambush by a large force of heavily armed men. The IRA, backed by the Special Support Unit (SSU) and a large number of sympathizers, attempted an attack on the RUC post in the village, but a bullet fired from a car 200 yards from the barrow and his brother was seriously wounded. The IRA operation was one of a long series of attacks aimed at preventing the security forces issuing press statements or acting effectively outside the range of its most heavily armed units.

Although the number of deaths is almost unique in the IRA's history (12 men were killed at Clonmon, County Cork in the opening years of the Black & Tan war), the outcome of the ambush and the ambush itself is a symptom of the overall situation. On 23rd February 1985, Charlie Brinnamon, Mick Feeney, and David Devlin had returned their weapons to their arms dump near Ballymoney, County Tyrone. When a large force of SAS and RUC opened fire on them from a carefully prepared ambush. They were shot down unmarked and shouting: "Don't shoot! Don't shoot!" As well as being killed, the gun barrels, each man had a single pistol bullet in the head.

EXECUTION

The Loughgall ambush was similarly designed. The IRA claims that some of the unit executed were former South Armagh comrades who had been wounded or arrested. It was also designed as a propaganda coup, as a demonstration of the effectiveness of IRA operations. In particular the ambush was a response to the death of Fergus Gibson, a member of the Newry and Armagh Brigade, who was killed in a shooting incident at Downpatrick.

The context of the Loughgall ambush is one of sustained attacks by the RUC and the SAS against virtually every community in the six counties of Northern Ireland. The IRA has been accused of using civilians as human shields, and of carrying out indiscriminate attacks on civilians.

At Finbarra McKenna’s funeral on 6th May 1985, the RUC used the funeral to propagandize the community, making the funeral a public demonstration of their power. In this way, the RUC is trying to undermine the community's support for the IRA.

It has recently been revealed that the IRA has a program of psychological warfare, which aims to destabilize the community by creating fear and uncertainty. This program involves distributing pamphlets and leaflets, setting up roadblocks, and using propaganda tactics to instill a sense of helplessness and powerlessness.

Not only are psychological problems increased when these two operations are combined, but the community is left more vulnerable to harassment. The community’s women are six times more likely to be harassed than those not directly involved. This combination of harassment and psychological warfare has a devastating effect on the community.

If you are one of those who are still deciding whether to support the IRA, consider the following:

- The IRA is fighting for a free, democratic, and united Ireland.
- The IRA is fighting against the British military occupation.
- The IRA is fighting for the rights of all Irish people.

If you are still undecided, consider the following:

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Defiant in Struggle

Defiant printers involved in the Midlands Trader dispute have pleaded with the Gutter Radicalism to go on strike. The Gutter Radicalism, in turn, has called a strike to support the taxi drivers and the North-West Regional Council for Taxicab Owners, drivers, and passengers. The strike is expected to last for four days, starting on Monday.

The strike is a response to the recentralization of the taxi industry, which has led to a reduction in wages and working conditions for drivers. The Gutter Radicalism is demanding better pay, safer working conditions, and the right to vote on industry matters.

The strike has been well supported by the public, with many people expressing solidarity with the drivers. The Gutter Radicalism has called on other workers to join the strike, and they have received support from other unions and community groups.

The strike is a test of the Gutter Radicalism's ability to organize and mobilize workers, and it is expected to have a significant impact on the taxi industry. The Gutter Radicalism is hoping to win a genuine voice for workers in the industry and to challenge the power of the central government.

Guinness Goes Yuppy

Guinness, the world's largest brewery, has announced that it will be launching a new range of yuppy beers in the coming months. The new range, called "Guinness Yuppies," will be targeted at a younger, more trendy audience.

The beers will be available in a range of flavors, from classic Guinness to more experimentalIPAs and stouts. The company has also announced that it will be introducing a range of exclusive "Guinness Yuppies" t-shirts and other merchandise.

The move is part of Guinness' wider strategy to appeal to younger consumers and to stay relevant in a rapidly changing market.

Midlands Dam

A dam named "Midlands Dam" is under construction in the town of Kettering. The dam is being built to provide water for a new industrial park and to improve the water supply for the local community.

The dam is expected to be completed by the end of the year and will have a capacity of 500 million cubic meters. It is expected to provide water for industrial and domestic use for the next 50 years.

The construction of the dam has been met with mixed reactions. Some residents are concerned about the impact on the local environment, while others welcome the job opportunities it will create.

The dam is funded by a combination of state and private sector investment, with contributions from local businesses and the state government.

Deadline for DA 40 is June 20th

The deadline for submitting applications for the DA 40 grant is June 20th. The grant is aimed at supporting small businesses and startups in developing their products or services.

Applications must be submitted online through the DA 40 website and must include details of the business, the proposed project, and the expected outcomes.

For more information, please visit the DA 40 website or contact the DA 40 office directly.
The following shortened interview with Dave Kerin, a rank and file activist in the BLF (the Builders’ Labourers Federation), was conducted for Direct Action by a DAM member who was at the time a member of the ASF (Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation) in Australia. Readers of DA’s 35 and 37 will remember that the BLF is a militant union which faces heavy-handed State reprisals.

DEREGISTRATION

DA. - What is de-registration?

D.K. - De-registration was first introduced in the late 1950s by the Industrial Courts and Federal and State awards governing wages and conditions. Which is fine – it means we can negotiate with our employers. But "cannibalisation" really hurt the A.L.P (Australian Labor Party) when it went to its agents in the union movement saying: "Right, there's power and a quid in this for all of us - get the BLF - we want you to kill your union." This is why the coppers certainly don't like them and the bustling Builders' Association (the bosses) organisations don't like them - so go for it. In that process we were also criticised - we've been averaging 3-4 arrests each day.

DA. - Does de-registration mean that you can't operate as a union?

D.K. - No. Even under capitalist law we still have a right to free association. These arrests a day prove we're criminalised - but we're fighting. [at the moment] it's only us and the smokers fighting at job level. In Victoria they also brought in the "BLF De-registration Act" where they've got the right to separate union property and assets. For the working class it's nothing new, but the background is pretty unique. In the Australian union movement the BLF has always been a spearhead. We've set the pace and labourers have over the years - and so has the boss - been targeted by the cops and the bosses. In our industry, with a 4-year boom/bust cycle, we were sacking at the snap of the bosses' fingers. To offset this we needed a strong union. Also, in the early 70's we were averaging one death a month - since de-registration the rate has been cut to that figure. In Sydney last year, because of this depression, there were 26 dead in the BLF all from different incidents. One of the most expensive things for a boss is what we call conditions and they call restrictive practices (such as safety agreements, etc.)

POLICE REPRESSION IN QUEENSLAND

Police repression in Queensland

SCABBING

D.A. - So what's the BLF trying to do at the moment?

D.K. - We say registration is not drastic Labour law. What is that the employers have found two unions - the BWU (Building Workers Industrial Union) and the FEDFA (Federated Engine Drivers and Firefighters Association) - prepared to stab and poison our membership with the use of the police. I've seen this on job after job. The contractors come on to the job, the FEDFA and BWU officials would come in with them; the BWU would be there and the Department of Labour. Our members would get dragged off and arrested, including members of the BWU if they wouldn't sign over to a new union on a charge of trespass or assault. The contractors tell the labourers to get out of there on that day from the BWU and join the BWU or FEDFA or get sacked.

D.A. - Is the scabbing because of the union leadership, or is there support in the rank and file too?

D.K. - One rank and file meeting in both these unions has opposed it. But under the BWU rules, for example, the Executive is the ruling body, not the members. There's an irony in this. The National Civic Council-Deco- moralisation Party - Catholic anti-communist cells in the trade union movement - have the gangrene splitting members of the ALP formed a scab union. The BWU, or that super-annuation workers must wait until they’re 55. Whereas in the scheme we introduced they are able to get their money out of the industry - only common sense in our job.

D.A. - Do you see any way in which the process of de-registration can be subverted and is there any sort of possibility of solidarity from rank and file groups in other industries?

D.K. - The only way de-registration can be subverted, to be made meaningless, is by the workers themselves joining the unions through the unions. Registration is a red herring. We've heard the slogan: "If you don't win it in the court you won't win it in union."

ARBITRATION

D.A. - On the subject of courts - have they been used as an example of so-called independent arbitrators, and dominating the union movement?

D.K. - Well, you've got to look at the economic background to all this. Under the British system of arbitra- tion, which were made into a bul- kard system by the post-war boom was phenomenal. Here normal industrial disputes which get at least one car, they've got this house. Arbitration seemed it was giving everyone a good deal. However, the cold war destroyed the left in Australia and in a number of European countries. The English left influenced the ranking and file remained, but here the section that survived was the communist minority left section of the A.L.P. Also everyone, even they've gone over to the corporat ist trade union movement. Hancox Report which is corporatism independent.

D.A. - Do you ever see a campaign in the union movement to get rid of the arbitration system altogether?

D.K. - To me the more likely thing is that the arbitration system is made unworkable. People will win nothing on the ground and then either get it ratified in the court or tell the court to fuck off. A case in point - when the Accord came in was there was this little furniture factory in Geelong won this increase of $12 - the bosses stuck it down the blugun to it. And the bloody BWU opposed it and sold it. The workers had an accord! And the Court took the $12 dollars off them after they'd won it.

COMMENT

A newcomer could be forgiven for thinking that the disputes within the A.L.P./ALC are merely the tip of the iceberg. The reality is that Australia's working class - and many of our European cousins - are facing a crisis of industrial and political organisation, and the working class is coming under attack on all fronts. The united front is more necessary than ever.

Police repression in Queensland

Under Labour Thatcherism in Great Britain, the A.L.P. has been appeased, using the bogus arguments about world recession and market economy to justify cuts in jobs and living standards as well as attacks on workers’ organisations. Already in some parts of Australia, the referendum on the A.L.P. has been criminalised. The United Front is attempting to introduce stringent National Identity controls. Class strategic relations with the US and the fact that Australia's wealth is being slowly taken over by the owners of "above-board" investment companies from Europe, the USA and Japan threaten the well-being of the Australian working class.

The labour movement managers, the ALP and the ACTU, are centre stages in holding back resistance. They know that the so-called "coalition" period helped to erode the traditions of class solidarity, the only way forward is with a revived in industrial and community solidarity, mutual aid, and the syndicalist traditions that are very much a part of Australia's industrial history. Unions like the BLF and our former comrades have the task of helping to revive these traditions.