

ANARCHO-BORES
No. 3.

Cont. Roon 'n About

Rumour has it that the reason Blair Peach's murderer has not been found is because a large number of off-duty policemen turned up in uniform to assist the National Front, or the police barrier around them, at the Southall demonstration. Police say, amongst themselves, that the man who struck S.W.P. protester Blair Peach was one of the 'Rhodesia clique'. The murderer and someone who may have been implicated but did not actually strike the blow was asked to resign and advised to go abroad until 'it blows over'.

Was it the 'Rhodesia clique' also that provided the accomplices after the fact of murder who advised the killer and his friend to go? We do not know. The police officer from whom we obtained the information dried up at this moment. But not before, saying, in disclaiming any responsibility of the regular police, that 'it's the same mob that did for Jeremy Thorpe and your lot' - presumably the 'Persons Unknown'.

On a matter of ethics: should we give the two names we have in our possession?

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News comes from Australia about Bill O'Meally. Bill, who was recently released from jail after serving 28 yrs is writing his memoirs about his horrific times in prison. More information will be contained in our next issue.

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January 1980

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THE FAILURE OF THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION, George Frankl, £1.95

Cienfeugos Press, Over the Water, Sanday, Orkney, KW17 2BL, UK.

Another terrorist group had struck a uniquely violent blow for women's liberation a few days earlier. Calling themselves the Comrades Organized for Feminist Counterpower, a group of women firebombed cinemas and the offices of a lawyer who, they said, had defended alleged rapists. The militants claimed they were protesting rape and sexual exploitation. Two hard-core pornography theaters in Rome were attacked, and one was almost totally destroyed. The hitherto unknown organization distributed a communiqué denouncing the oppression of Italian women, declaring, "We have always used violence as an instrument for defense. Now we transform it into an instrument of attack."

TIME, DECEMBER 24, 1979

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Have you seen the writing on the wall



"There is one thing more wicked in the world than the desire to command, and that is the will to obey."



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Black Flag Page 2

STATE OF PLAY AT END OF YEAR 1979

Printing Bills paid to date	£125.00	
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Loss on Last Issue	148.37	
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And to be accused of banditry! There are outstanding bills as well, and this for Black Flag only, and says nothing of Cienfuegos with its own problems. Yet all we need is for all copies sold to be paid for, in order to break even.

Any Guilty consciences regarding unpaid subs will be gratefully appeased.

ANARCHO QUIZ

1. During the Music Hall Artist's strike comedienne Marie Lloyd, picketing one of the London halls, told her colleagues to let one artist through, on the grounds that she would empty the theatre quicker than anyone. She replied that one day she would be better known than Marie Lloyd herself. Did it come true - and who was she?

2. How did Marie Lloyd respond to the slight on her by being excluded from the first Royal Command Performance, on the grounds that her private life would be "offensive" to the King and Queen?

3. In what theatre campaign did Winston Churchill first enter public life, while still an undergraduate?

4. The Treaty of Versailles handed Galicia over to Poland against the wishes of the majority who would have preferred to have stayed in Austria - largely on the firm insistence of Premier David Lloyd George, "the Welsh Wizard". What "British interest" was involved?

5. The "Tichborne Claimant" case is often cited by lawyers as a triumph for the "Laws of evidence" - but in fact it was a shocking display of class prejudice and Establishment humbug. Which salient facts prove this?

6. When did the Vatican finally lift the Condemnation of 1632 on Galileo for saying the planets orbit round the sun, not the earth?

Answers on page 23

Cont. from front page

with explosives by the same squad). This time Cremer was assisted by West German GSG-9 agents operating in London. When Bennett and Mills were arrested again in London, the charge was more specific than the earlier PTA one - 'conspiracy to cause explosions'. After all, what else would 'self-confessed' anarchists be doing with flour, sugar, weedkiller and electric wiring among their many household possessions?

As in every conspiracy show trial since time immemorial one arrest leads to another, and another, and another, until the state believes it has a sufficient number of people in the dock to allow the jury - if there is one - to save its conscience by acquitting those against whom the prosecution has presented minimal evidence other than that of association. The jury can then convict those portrayed as the main 'conspirators'. After all the police would never have brought the case in the first place if they hadn't been up to something - would they?

The Black Farce: Act II

As the committal proceedings dragged on, and it became increasingly clear there was no evidence at all to back up the charge of 'causing' or 'conspiring to cause' explosions, the police quietly stopped feeding 'shock horror' announcements to a voracious press. The original much publicised charge which led many to believe that the defendants were found in flagrante having intercourse with the devil and plotting to overthrow society, was suddenly dropped and charges of robbery substituted. Money replaced 'idealism' as a motive.

In Act II of the black farce, a Austrian turned up out of the blue at Vince Stevenson's flat where Trevor Dawton, another of the accused, happened to be staying, and left a suitcase filled with guns and sufficient evidence to implicate everyone involved, including Dafydd Ladd, now on the run, who was under constant surveillance by West German agents in this country because of his involvement with the Red Army Fraction and 2nd June defence groups in Germany, and Black Aid, the German political prisoners relief organisation based at Rising Free, the left London bookshop. The prosecution case was that Rising Free provided the main link between all the defendants. A chilling thought for the many people and groups who use it as a meeting place and mailing address.

The case itself was a showpiece of the power of judges. This was demonstrated as much in the way the proceedings were handled as in the extraordinary and unprecedented decision to bring the jury back to court the day after they had delivered their verdict. Without actually telling them so, King-Hamilton could not have indicated more clearly that he at least thought the jury had reached the wrong verdict. It was strange indeed to see people who have given their lives to support such a humanitarian idea as anarchism, being subjected to interrogation by a tedious, pompous and ill-briefed lawyer who, having spent his adult life advancing his career in our capitalist society, argues that their motives are dubious,

their principles unworthy, and their defence a pack of lies. Incidentally, every time the prosecution said someone was lying the defence was able to produce evidence to back up its case. The police claimed, for instance, that when arrested Bennett tried to escape. The defence produced a passing cab driver who witnessed the arrest, but for his civic pains he too was called a liar. Fortunately, the fare, a barrister, was able to corroborate his evidence.

Trial by water

This brought the prosecution case to its most farcical. Bring on the Holy Book and see if they flinch. Regarding the Almighty as a junior court functionary responsible for enforcing the Perjury Act, the Prosecution closely questioned many of the defence witnesses as to their belief in God. The judge had decided all anarchists must be atheists, and all atheists. . . The prosecution, one step on from seeing whether they float when immersed in water, also made the point that a woman who lived with a man without the benefit of holy matrimony was his 'mistress' and that all wives must take the opinion of their husbands who were thus responsible for their wives' views.

Of all the anarchist books ever published, the only one the prosecution turned to was the 'Anarchist Cookbook', a publication which has nothing to do with anarchism and is a silly and highly dangerous 'guide' to the home manufacture of explosives. The prosecution seemed to be implying with this exhibit that its mere possession was irrefutable evidence of guilt. Presumably, one automatically agrees and acts on every book in one's possession. I wonder what his reaction would have been had he known that as a bookseller I have been pestered for some considerable time by numerous police authorities, including Scotland Yard library, Bramshill Police College and various obscure sections of the Ministry of Defence to supply them with copies of this particular title. In fact, had it not been for this trial and the related publicity, and the earlier demand from government agencies, there would be little or no demand for the book and no copies available in the country. As it is we now have orders for over 200! Not even an anarchist witness likening the book to the 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion' managed to convince Mr. Justice King-Hamilton otherwise. But, other than adding to the paranoid fantasies of the state, what had all this to do with the charges before the court of armed robberies?

Ultimately, the state had to rely on its carefully-selected jury. Were they influenced by the bigotry of the gutter press? Were they swayed by the knowledge that they too had come under the scrutiny of the state's police before being called for jury service, been closely examined by a Kafkaesque committee, and could just as easily be the next victims? Did the judge's anti-anarchist bias and obvious hostility towards the prisoners combine with the heavy-handed, ill-mannered and laborious prosecution case to swing them in favour of the defence? Were they sufficiently impressed by the defend-

ants, and in particular Ronan Bennett's obvious sincerity and eloquent conduct of his own case?

Class justice

Whatever the answers, one way or another the jury finally decided the innocence of the accused. As an anarchist and comrade of the defendants their guilt or innocence was never of importance to me. My sentiments on the question of robbing supermarkets is best summed up in a quote from Elisee Reclus, the anarchist geographer: 'Personally, however I may feel about this or that action or individual, I shall never add my voice to the hateful clamour of men who mobilise armies, police-forces, magistrates, clergy and laws to preserve their privileges.' It's a quote we should bear in mind every time the media exhorts us to hate the Blunts of this world, the IRA, Claimants Unions, British Leyland workers, the Iranians etc.

What was always of crucial importance in this case was that the two principal defendants, Iris Mills and Ronan Bennett, had obviously been selected as victims long before any of the robberies with which they were eventually charged had taken place. The other defendants were woven into the 'conspiracy' merely as make-weight through their politics and association

with Bennett and Mills. Faced with the machinations of the state police, the ignorance and bigotry of an old man long due for retirement, and an unsupported statement made by a fifth defendant leaned on by the police to plead guilty, it was wrongly thought the defendants stood little chance.

Class justice of such an obvious nature is not easily ignored. With this decision by the jury to acquit all the defendants in the face of what was almost a direct order to convict by the judge, the jury have asserted their right to oppose the political use of the courts and police against dissidents and those who oppose the power of the state to control their lives.

When the jury vetting scandal broke Sam Silkin, self-styled socialist supporter of jury vetting in politically sensitive cases, said in its defence that it was either that or the abolition of juries altogether, to be replaced no doubt by something similar to the Diplock courts in Northern Ireland.

The decision to acquit by a vetted jury in this case has proved that vetting does not work. Doubtless, as you read these lines, the political and legal establishment are discussing how best to sugar the pill of non-jury trials in future 'sensitive' cases.

The writing is on the wall. □



Black Flag Page 3

This article was written for both Time Out and Black Flag by Stuart Christie.

CNT AIT

8 dicembre 79

V CONGRESO CONFEDERAL

CONSERVA TU LIBERTAD

Why did you attend the CNT Congress?

I attended the Congress at the invitation of a number of comrades, chiefly to meet old friends and renew acquaintances — but I suppose, to be formal, I was representing the Anarchist Black Cross and the Black Flag tendency, which is an anarchist international in itself.

What was significant about this congress?

This was the Fifth Congress of the CNT (National Confederation of Labour) and the first since the Saragossa conference of 1936. That was historic because it led directly to the workers collectivisation during the revolution. This came after years of genocidal repression against the libertarian movement. It had the aim of reconstructing the CNT. I don't think any Congress can do that sort of thing, congresses are reflections of the daily activity that is going on.

How many delegates attended, what is the current membership, active locals?

There were some 600 delegates, excluding visitors and observers; it was held in the Casa del Campo (the woodlands just outside Madrid) in the Amphitheatre. It was a tremendously impressive gathering from the point of view of numbers, arrangements and security — the crowds of delegates rubbing shoulders with equal numbers turning up for the International Dog Show being held opposite in the Crystal Palace. Each delegate represented a syndicate and had to abide by the decisions already made by the syndicate. There was proportional

representation of the syndicates, with a limit on the larger syndicates so that they should not dominate. Nobody knows the number of locals (trade halls or groups). Only two syndicates have actually been granted legality as has the National Committee, therefore the number of syndicates is secret.

What age groups, geographical areas are most heavily active?

The 50-upwards are strongly represented, especially in the building trades, miners, printers, catering and others (where the CNT had its strongest syndicates before Franco) The under 30s are strongly represented, especially in places where the old CNT never dreamed to have members — e.g. the civil servants, teachers, bank clerks. This is especially accounted for by women members, who were quite unrepresented in the bricklaying, mining etc. syndicates. That accounts for the growth of the CNT in Madrid. Catalonia is still the stronghold of anarchist ideas, but Andalusia is only slowly coming back to its traditional libertarianism. Where the CNT seems to me to be weakest is in the middle age groups, represented in the new industries.

There have been articles appearing in the so-called libertarian press talking of numerous splits, tendencias historical and over issues such as whether to be an umbrella organisation for the ecology, sexual liberation/feminist prisoners anti-militarist and other struggles and from this a subsequent decline in membership of the syndicate.

There are people especially from the student milieu who would like to see the CNT transformed into the type of libertarian movement that we see in the English-speaking countries, a blanket movement for all sorts of plastic causes and without any industrial context at all. This works out badly enough here; there, with the numbers and potential that form an attractive prize to be conquered by various parties, it would be totally disastrous. The congress reaffirmed anarcho-syndicalism and the principles of Saragossa (though I'm not too sure how clear it was as to what they were). Basically the CNT is an anarcho-syndicalist movement, or nothing. The anarchist movement, as such, is much more than the CNT and embraces very many

causes. The CNT has always been a working class organisation responsive to its membership's demands, not specifically anarchist by rule but it so happens the people in it have mostly had anarchist ideas. The attempts by trots and others to permeate it have been frustrated by virtue of the fact that there is no paid bureaucracy to get hold of (in the old days there was one paid official, the general secretary, now nobody).

Following from the previous question what is the relationship of the CNT to the FAI, re-emergent FIJL and Mujeres Libres?

The FAI has not been re-created but in its absence several groups have from time to time called themselves "FAI" but never succeeding in being so. There is however a huge anarchist movement, outside any federation, often using "CNT" as a slogan, but more particularly the familiar CNT-A incorporating "neighbourhood movements", community centres, alternative projects etc. The FIJL (youth movement) existed for a long time in the exile movement until those in it were in their fifties. Its purpose was to unite those committed to activism against Franco. Maybe there is now a re-emergent FIJL — it is sure to come — but I didn't encounter it. I did meet the street-fighting element, who defend the right to meet and demonstrate, defend the halls and meeting places against rightist attack and so on. They all seem young and tough and the basis of a new FIJL, but nobody I spoke to seemed to know of it. Mujeres Libres, was the women's organisation of the old CNT — incidentally run for years from England by Suceso Portales, whom I met again at the Congress; old friends of hers in London will be pleased to know she is happily settled again in Spain. The new women's movement is much wider, however, and there is a tremendous upsurge in the women's movement (not unfortunately reflected at the Congress), and a campaign for women's rights not only limited to libertarians, including such elementary demands as divorce, abortion, contraception, and the ending of sexual taboos and apartheid.

Cont. next page...

What is the Moncloa Pact, can you tell us how the CNT came to be the rallying point against this labour peace?

The Moncloa Pact (after the Palace of Moncloa where it was signed) is Wilson's "social contract" in Spanish terms. The Government agreed to recognise the unions if they registered, and voluntarily agreed to what had been imposed on them arbitrarily under Franco! In practice, they don't have to agree to the pact to be legalised, but the new "main unions" have done so. Spanish labour today is organised by so-called "workers council" (they aren't that really) based on the old fascist model but modified to suit democratic electoralism. Each union acts like a party in the workplace and submits delegates whom the workers are asked to vote on the council. The UGT and the CC.OO. accept this, but the CNT, urges a boycott. (This boycott is, whether as a result of the CNT appeal or not, largely successful). The CNT is thus a rallying point in the new industries when the delegates fail to represent the workers. That is where I think its future lies. The current industrial actions are too numerous to record. The CNT came into its old position in the strike of the petrol workers in Catalonia last year but numerous others since then.

How does the CNT deal with the Basque autonomy movements?

Under Franco, the CNT worked well with ETA — the non-Marxist-Leninist section. There is a difference which is now come to a head in that the CNT is federalist, not separatist. Whereas most sections of ETA want a separate State, the CNT obviously wants no State. There are CNT and anarchist Basque movements. In Catalonia, the nationalist movement is historically a sworn enemy of the libertarian movement and represented the capitalists against the workers (despite journalists who think, because the workers speak Catalan, they are therefore Catalan nationalists!) However, there are now many young nationalists, especially students, who are Catalanists but consider that the working-class — not the capitalists — represents the real Catalonia. (There are also other Catalanists who think of the CNT as a prize to be won by which they could dominate Catalan politics).

What is the situation of the unemployed, pensioners, agricultural workers/peasants and unorganised workers in Spain today?

Terrible, Spain has no conception of social security as it is known. Whole villages and towns have become ghost towns as the agricultural workers and peasants pack up and go to work in the Common Market countries, Germany, Belgium, Holland etc (not so much France these days). This is partly why the CNT has not recovered its strength in Andalusia. Pensioners have lost their pensions solely because they were on the losing side in the civil war. Unemployment is high and beggary still persistent. The worst hit are the disabled and the widows of the civil war who get nothing from the State at all — those who fought for Franco only are recognised as being disabled or having widows. This battle is being fought, not only by the CNT, and the general problem of unemployment is tackled by the neighbourhood movement (communes in a sense, but not "alternative" ones)!

What of the exile movement that was based in Toulouse, the 1937 Republican Government enterists who did not support the CNT underground and the resistance groups later?

The old exile movement has now no influence within the CNT. It attended the Congress only as observers. But the new "economic exile" movement is growing. Its relation with the CNT are not clearly defined. The former Government ministers have no influence except that Federica Montseny, is still in great demand as a speaker (but recall she is the most brilliant — and the only woman — orator in the Spanish libertarian movement). There is no way any such orator could have undue influence within the syndicates (as opposed to a blanket movement). She was not at the Congress.

Is the IWA active? How can anarchists in other countries support the work of the CNT activities such as publicising the Gillette strike in the manner of boycott, "secondary picketing" graffiti and in the media?

The IWA (AIT) does not exist. This is a fantasy sustained by the CNT (since in Spain the AIT recalls the First International of Bakunin and a glorious episode in working class history) and some groupuscules outside Spain that play at being an international. It does nothing, it is nothing, it is high time it was reconstructed and this I told everyone. The work done by anarchists in other countries has no connection with the IWA (AIT) and never has.

What problems as a libertarian visitor did you encounter? Was all serious or were there any amusing situations?

The Congress took three days to make up its mind about agenda, how decisions should be taken etc. — the formula eventually arrived at was quite good and hopefully it will be borne in mind at the next Congress so as to cut out the argy-bargy. Problems I encountered? The noise! The microphones so drowned my hearing I preferred to sit upstairs and watch it on closed-circuit TV. Most amusing thing I

encountered was being asked to explain to an English lady with a huge dog, who was determined to get through the security, that she really wanted the place opposite. When she finally understood that these were the dreaded anarchists her husband pulled her away in alarm and they scuttled into the Crystal Palace quick. Some Belfast comrades made a video-tape of the proceedings, with commentaries more or less in English, some with subtitles, in which everyone wanted to get into the act — it will be interesting to see how it comes out.

ends



INTERNATIONAL NOTES



The Telegraph man in Peking reported (Daily Telegraph 23 Nov) on ANARCHY 'Threat to China'. "Anarchists who stand for absolute personal freedom were attacked yesterday in the Worker's Daily, which said 'extreme individualism' was threatening China's modernisation. The paper attacked people who upset stability and unity for selfish reasons. Some were asking the Government 'to meet their insatiable quest for personal gain' and were ignoring work discipline if their demands were not met. Some were 'demanding a freedom that would cut into the democratic rights of the majority'".

Sounds like the home life of Mrs Thatcher's Britain. And no mistaking that the Workers Daily was using the word 'anarchist' correctly enough, equating the factory militants with anarchism but quite clear that they were individualistic. Meanwhile, according to the same correspondent, a poster on the Democracy Wall of Peking, 'listed dangerous factors which could catch fire at any time.'

It included 'the anger of the hundreds of thousands of young unemployed in the cities, of young married people waiting for accommodation, of students whose colleges are occupied by others, and the frustration of middle-aged educated women who have to work at lowly paid menial jobs.'

In the Guardian (9th Dec) the Peking Daily is reported as carrying a letter complaining that 'people peddle anarchism under the cover of democracy', and infringe the rule that says posters 'should not oppose the leadership of the Communist Party or the 'dictatorship of the proletariat.'

The most radical of the wall magazines has suffered its editor, Wei Jing-sheng going to jail for fifteen years.

WEST GERMANY

IMPLEMENTATION OF 1933 NAZI LAW, SECURITY DETENTION ON PRISONERS

Siegfried Haag, Red Army Fraction (RAF) militant and former lawyer, is imprisoned in Stuttgart-Stammheim prison. He was found guilty and sentenced to 14 years, July 11/79, after being charged along with two other RAF militants, Roland Mayer and Sabine Schmitz with terrorist association, theft, car theft and possession of illegal arms.

On the 19th of Sept, the second part of his trial began, in which he was charged with participating in the attack on the German embassy in Stockholm, April 5/75. As Haag's trial unfolded so did the realisation that the German State planned to use Haag's trial as a 'test' for the implementation of an old nazi law dating from 1933, called security detention.

Security detention would allow the State to detain political prisoners in prison or psychiatric institutions for life without a trial. The only prerequisite necessary would be that the prisoner be deemed 'dangerous' through a psychiatric examination.

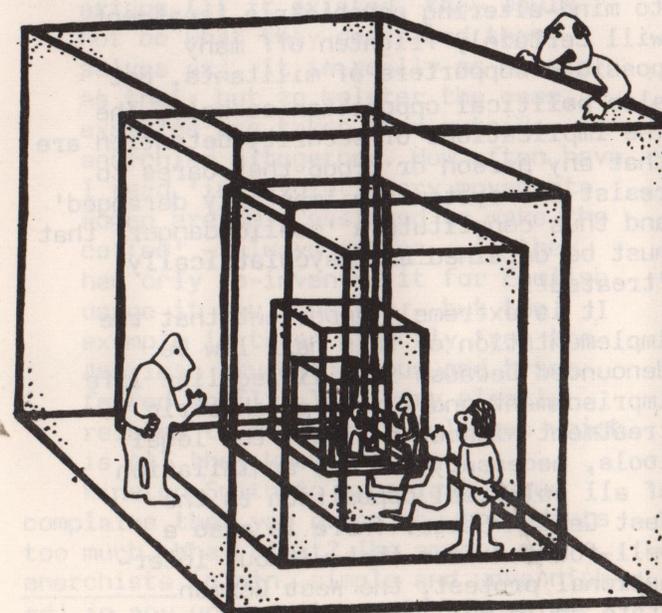
At present the German State is desperate to destroy the political struggle and identity of the political prisoners before their message becomes popular. It does not at present have the legal means to hold prisoners for terms longer than the maximum sentence for a given 'crime', or the legal means to psychiatrically attack the minds of the prisoners. Security detention which has not been applied since 1945, would be an ideal addition to the German Judiciary's legal arsenal.

For eight years now the State has attempted to destroy the political identity of the political prisoners and intimidated their supporters without success. It has employed isolation, sensory deprivation, mail restrictions, constant surveillance, daily body and cell searches, all of which are manifested in the escalation of the construction of High Security Quarters throughout W. Germany. Wolf Grundmann was imprisoned in isolation for 48 months during which time he lost 22 kilos and 13 teeth. 'The worst is the feeling of resignation that isolation

produces. After awhile I could hardly arrange colours or sounds. You live in a state of intense emotion of which you don't know the origin. I would wake up in the night struck by fear, trembling and perspiring. I was under such strain at night that my teeth would grate against each other. And in the morning I would find that I had one tooth less!

The State has attempted to destroy the political context of the militants' trials by intimidating and outlawing defence lawyers who support the hunger strikes of the prisoners, give 'unfavourable' interviews to the press or who attempt to politicise the defense. On Dec 18/74, the German Parliament passed the 'Baader/Meinhof Law' which allows a trial to continue in the case where the accused are incapable of appearing and allows the defense lawyers to be prohibited if they are suspected of 'supporting a criminal association' or of 'endangering State Security'.

The State has attempted to squash ideological support of the guerrillas through laws such as par. 129 88a which criminalises the distribution, importing, exporting, printing or publishing of LITERATURE which can be said to advocate any one of the following acts: the violation of public order, murder, homicide, corporal injury, an offense against individual liberty, theft, extortion, or an offence constituting a public danger.



The State has utilised mass press campaigns to personalise and depict the urban guerrillas as cultish, authoritarian groups i.e. the 'Baader-Meinhof gang' and the 'Haag-Mayer gang'.

However the State has failed. The political prisoners have continued their fight inside the jails using the only weapon they have left, their bodies, engaging in hunger and thirst strikes to protest their torturous prison conditions. While outside the prisons militant activity continues.

The idea of applying security detention is not new. In 1977, after the kidnapping of Schleyer, the Supreme Court made a 'fundamental judgement' or addition to the 1933 law. Before applying security detention, the prisoner must undergo a psychiatric examination. Although this law had not been used since 1945, preparations for its use were under way.

On Jan 23/79, a Judge told 5 members of the June 2nd Movement, in the course of their trial, that in the case that they were not condemned for life, but only prison terms of 3 years, security detention would be applied. A request to apply security detention was already under way during the first state of Haag's trial.

Both the June 2nd Movement and Haag's trial are considered by the Courts as 'test' trials. The West German State is very sensitive about the possible international outcry that could arise from the application of an old nazi law. Therefore it wants to 'test' security detention before systematically applying it to all political prisoners. As much as is possible the W. German press has been preparing the public mind at home for the implementation of security detention through media reports that paint the guerrillas as criminals and crazies.

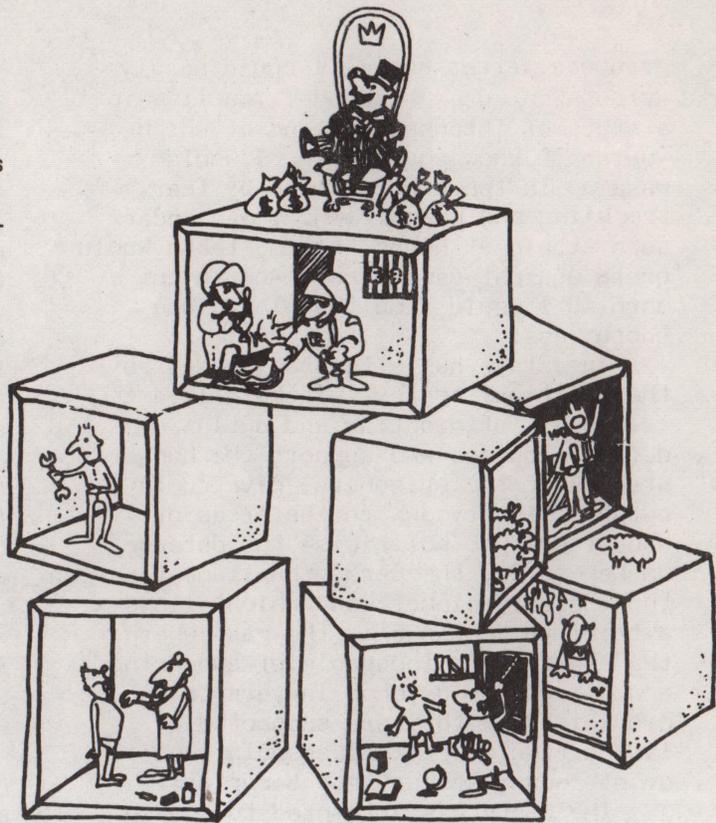
There are 2 major pre-conditions that must be met before security detention can be applied: 1) The prisoner must have been found guilty of at least 3 major crimes, or sentenced to at least 3 years in prison for 3 pre-meditated lesser crimes, 2) the prisoner must have a character/personality that presents a 'public danger'. The necessary pre-condition for qualifying a prisoner as 'dangerous to the public' is a psychiatric examination.

Haag's trial is a clear example of the procedures and pre-conditions that are necessary for the application of security detention. These pre-conditions and their implications were clearly outlined by the 'Federal General Procurer', Rebman, in an article published Sept. 26/79, during 'The Day of the German Judge', an organisation of Judges and Procurers. In this article Rebman pointed out that trials against RAF militants must be split up in order to deny any collective-character to their struggle, while at the same time, personalising the accusation. Also, in order to fulfil the pre-conditions for security detention, it is necessary that as many accusations as possible be obtained. Political declarations in the course of a trial should be avoided as well as lengthy trials, to prevent any external mobilisation against prison conditions.

Siegfried Haag's trial is clearly a preparation for the implementation of security detention. His trial is divided into 2 parts so that the Court can find him guilty of as many charges as possible. In the first part of his trial, Haag was found guilty of stealing a car, possessing illegal arms, and terrorist association. Haag denied all these charges, not only because there is no material evidence but also because the Court would not permit him to defend his actions in their political context. Haag has also been notified in a letter dated 3rd Aug, '79, by the presiding Judge, Fischer, that he must undergo a psychiatric examination and in the circumstance where Haag refuses, it will be administered by force.

Clearly the preparations for security detention are underway.

The implications for all political prisoners are grave if security detention is applied. Firstly, security detention will allow the German State to detain a prisoner for life without a trial. The Court will not have to convict political prisoners of a major crime. Life sentences have been difficult to obtain in the past due to insufficient material evidence. However with security detention, once a prisoner has been convicted of some lesser crime, i.e. false identity papers, auto theft and possession of illegal arms, he will be subjected to a psychiatric examination, labelled 'a public danger' and detained behind bars for life.



Secondly, security detention can be used as a justification for compulsory psychiatric treatment. Once the prisoner has been deemed 'mentally deranged' then he can be legally institutionalised in a psychiatric ward and be subjected to 'treatment'.

And thirdly, security detention will act as a deterrent to any sort of political opposition to the 'democratic constitutional order'. The reality that political prisoners will be subjected to mind-altering psychiatric treatment will certainly frighten off many possible supporters of militants, but also political opposition as well. The implications of security detention are that any person or group that dares to resist the system are 'mentally deranged' and thus constitute a 'public danger' that must be detained and psychiatrically 'treated'.

It is extremely important that the implementation of this nazi law be denounced because it will legalise life imprisonment and forced psychiatric treatment without a trial; the legal tools, necessary for the annihilation of all political opposition to the West German State. There is also a well-founded fear that without international protest, the West German State could pull out the whole arsenal of nazi laws from the closet.

STATE EDUCATION AND ANARCHIST ALTERNATIVES

The current education system is absolutely obscene - the whole concept of lessons, assemblies, dinner-times, etc. is ludicrous. In this article I intend to explain the inherent faults of the authoritarian education machine and suggest feasible alternatives for a libertarian society.

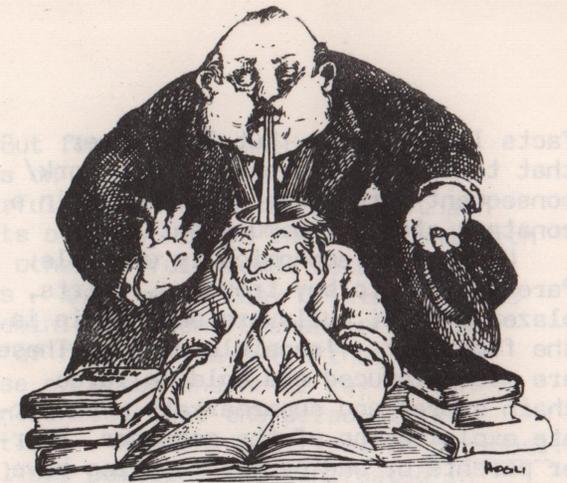
1: SCHOOL-TEACHERS

It is a fact that 40% of teachers are maladjusted. Unofficially that figure should be about 20% higher, and from my own experiences I would put it even higher. The vast majority of teachers couldn't care less what happened to the kids. Before you realise just who and what you are, you are shoved into the infants school. That is, you are forced to conform to the normalising and de-personalising effects of state categorisation. Even at this early stage our good tutors take the register; that is, every morning and every afternoon your name is given a / if you are there or an 0 if you are not. As you grow older this takes place every lesson. This is how they teach us trust and fidelity.

How anyone can sit silently for two hours and listen to some middle-aged cretin drone on about the boring antics of previous royal families is beyond me. They're not interested in you as an individual - you're in a group, you're all the same and you're here to work, full stop. You don't learn at school, remember - you work, just as you will for the next forty odd years of your miserable existence.

School-teaching is an easy vocation: long holidays, short hours, good money. But confront any teacher with this issue and they will predictably deny it. We have to mark books all night, they plead. We have to control dinner queues, they whine. One teacher I knew complained about the number of books he had to mark each night - he was too thick to realise that this was a natural consequence of giving us homework every lesson.

Teachers are condescending, discriminating and hypocritical. Any task they find too difficult for their overworked brain they grab the nearest 'pupil' - a kind of educational proletariat - and tell them to do it. Any variation in school uniform is frowned upon, and they are especially discriminating towards males who practice this horrifying act of heresy.



2. SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniform is not unlike the uniforms Chinese workers have to wear. It is one of the most degrading and de-personalising weapons of the state education system. No individuality is allowed. It is rather like being prisoners of war.

Their pathetic excuses are: a) so that everybody will be smart, tidy and equal b) so good citizens will know what school we come from when we do a good deed c) so that poorer children will not be shown up or embarrassed by their rags and the one which they will laugh off d) so that we cannot play truant as we would be recognised. As far as embarrassing poorer kids, well you can tell the difference anyway and what difference does it make? Teachers naturally discriminate against the poor children as well. School uniform has never made anybody work harder, but it sure does make you feel unimportant. I think kids would be pleased to wear their own clothes, to show signs of individuality, to let people know that there's a person in there. All too often a child's personality is dissolved by either parents or teachers. If anyone is going to be shown up it will be the middle-class morons in their sheepish corduroys - you know, the kind who like Dire Straits and Supertramp. Undoubtedly uniform does more harm than good, and it does not do anything beneficial to the child. A child wearing his own clothes is expressing himself because there is variety. There will never be expression in a thousand people wearing the same raiments. The fact that the authoritarian society now decides what we can and cannot wear, what is and what isn't morally acceptable, dictates what is and what isn't socially/sexually respectable/acceptable - these infringements of basic human rights are disgusting. How the population doesn't realise these

facts I don't know, but I'll wager that television/processed foods/work/consequent stress keep the public in a constant state of bemusement.

Uniform is economically unviable. Parents have to buy trousers, skirts, blazers, ties, pullovers and - this is the funny bit - 'sensible shoes'. These are mass-produced and sold in large chain stores and supermarkets. Deliberate exploitation of the consumer. Poorer parents or one parent families have to apply for grants, none of which would be necessary if they let children wear what they liked.

3: THE SCHOOL DINNER

Or more accurately, how school dinners are served. Most people couldn't tell the difference between chicken pie and rat pie, which is probably more wholesome than the majority of school dinners. You are sold meal-tickets or you can bring a packed lunch. You are not allowed - in my experience anyway - to leave school during dinner hour. The mechanical process of getting your school dinner is very boring and the meals border on insult. Teachers push in with a light-hearted smile. They get free dinners and of course preferential treatment. You take a tray from a stack of about fifty, choose dirty cutlery from the masses available and go along a bench on the other side of which stand unsightly middle-aged women dressed in white. How apt. Here they dish out spoonfuls of mass-produced 'foods' - frequently artificial and practically tasteless - with all the enthusiasm of Gary Gilmore going to the electric chair*. It is sick. The means are run-of-the-mill, incongruous and about as nourishing as a pile of shit - the money wasted on these meals could be spent much more constructively, i.e. to the Third World or a new typesetter for Cienfuegos Press.

To them a vegetarian is someone who lives on Venus. No matter what they are serving you get gravy with it. Gravy, with eggs, gravy with beans, gravy with fish, gravy with curry. It's not even gravy - it's just a watery lightish brown substance one would normally associate with cat's puke. Eventually I gave up and kept my money and starved every dinner-time - it's much tastier too. But the whole process is totally unpleasant. Of course when you're hungry you'll eat anything, but then, I'm not that hungry.

4: CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Invariably at every school it is not the headmaster who punishes children but the deputy head, who is usually in his late forties, has a beard/Dickensian sideboards, is incredibly hip and usually has an affair with the English teacher or school secretary of which anyone in the school can give you details.

Corporal punishment is of course a major issue which could quite easily take up a book, but I will try and say what I want to here. I am totally opposed to corporal punishment in schools. I am totally opposed to any teacher hitting another child. It abounds in England and Ireland and the rest of the U.K., but in most European countries corporal punishment is obsolete. Here teachers revel in sadistically harming other kids. This is what authoritarian discipline is. If a child is forced to do something and refuses then he is hit. Depending on the socio-economic group, the child will grow up and teach his children in the same manner. This is one of the primary causes of unawareness.

I have been given the strap for smiling. That is not a lie or an exaggeration. I have been slapped across the face and wrongfully accused of stealing. They didn't apologise when they found out it wasn't me. I have been humiliated, degraded and insulted because of what I am. This is the great Education system, comrades - a bunch of violent, sadistic goons wielding sticks. They don't see that their system is an utterly despicable one, and they don't understand why people rebel. They are truly sick.

A punished child could be mentally scarred for life - that is they can become psychotics or schizophrenics. They are then considered enemies of society: ironic considering this society unconsciously breeds them. Society does not realise that the 'evils' that oppose them are a direct result of what society inflicts on human beings.

If you whip a dog, then sooner or later it's going to bite you. We can apply the same principle to authoritarians (the conscious whip) and anarchists/libertarians (the conscious dog). One day, comrades we shall bite back.

Punishment does not solve anything, it merely adds a little more salt to the wound.

* Gary Gilmore was shot.

5: SUBJECT MATTER

The subjects studied at school are presented in such a boring way as to neutralise the enjoyment of learning. The boring Tutor teaches a boring subject to a boring and bored class.

Mathematics and English are predictably compulsory until sixth form, although most people do them as A levels anyway. Important subjects, yes, but do we really need to know about the quadratic equations or write about what we did in the Summer holidays? Of course not. We should be taught the essentials, the relevant information which would help us in our lives. We should be able to communicate with one another. Many other subjects are superfluous - Design, Horticultural Science, Environmental Studies - all these should be optional. There should be much more scope in Literature. How anyone can enjoy a given book, read it under classroom conditions and say they enjoy it I don't know. In subjects such as History children should be taught real history - not according to these piss-artists they call politicians but an anarchist/libertarian History, history of past revolutions, famous figures good or bad - Bakunin, Lenin, Goldman, Marx, Zapata, Castro, Trotsky, Makhno, Mao, Guevara and the roles these people played. I find this more interesting than irrelevant crap like Crompton's Mule. So Abraham Darby built an iron bridge did he? Big deal. There's a lot of possibilities, but they just don't investigate. They don't tell us about these major revolutionary figures - people might get ideas. We should be taught World History. England has little or no history of a major revolution because the majority of the population are a bunch of lethargic pricks. Like Guevara said, the people should have the spirit of revolution in them - here they accept everything. Then they wonder why nothing changes.



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6: EXAMINATIONS AND REPORTS

The present system of society is basically thus: school-qualifications-job-retirement. What kind of job you get is defined by the number of qualifications you pass. Whatever, the idea is that you should have enough for your career for the next forty or so years. How pathetic. Here is your life. Now work. If you don't accept the system you are considered an idiot or you are laughed at. Pathetic. Man was not made to inflict this kind of thing on himself, but there are those who insist. If I'm going to spend the rest of 'my' life travelling to some massive city and working nine till five then they can shove it. They set you free when you're too old to do anything with it. I'd much rather be dead than give up resistance to this hierarchy. One day, all this will be changed and I'm sure something is going to happen in the next twenty years or less, and God help me I'm going to be there to prove those bastards wrong.

Examinations are an insult, totally boring and totally useless. Administered by about four teachers spread up and down the room (it is rather surprising that they don't wear uniforms and carry guns), they parade up and down the aisles lest anybody breathes too heavily. Our exam papers are despatched to middle-aged lumpen bourgeoisies who give grades to such and such for such and such. The papers are given out in such a formal manner that it makes the Boston Strangler look positively friendly in comparison. The whole process of sitting on hard chairs and answering some irrelevant garbage (the entire system is divorced from love and understanding) for three hour stretches is so incredibly dehumanising and exhausting. You are subjected to ten years or so of school for one three hour exam. What a farce.

People really rely on O levels. O levels are more important than human life. They revere people with a lot of O levels. If you haven't got O levels you're thick full stop. You're not an academic guy, we realise that, yes, we understand you and your problems my boy. They talk a load of bullshit. I despise the majority of academics, intellectuals and students. Their egos badly need deflating. They're condescending, stagnant and boring, reactionary. They talk of everything so matter of factly, just like it was processed food. Utter scum.

They regard qualifications as much more important than love or freedom. This is the system. It is sick. Libertarians and freethinkers are stomped on by Authority.