

COUNTER INFORMATION

NOV/DEC/JAN 1989 - 90

WE ARE WINNING



ANTI POLL TAX DEMONSTRATORS BLOCKADE A ROYAL MAIL VAN LOADED WITH COUNCIL POLL TAX DEMANDS

Six months into the poll tax and 650,000 people in Scotland have made no payments whatsoever. In addition to this an estimated half a million others are two or more months in arrears - giving a combined non-payers/in arrears total of over 25%.

Lothian Regional Council state that by the end of September 96,000 final notices had been sent to Lothian's non-payers. With an estimated additional 20,000-30,000 non-payers on rebates yet to be sent final notices, that means around 20% of those registered haven't paid a penny! Plus thousands of people who aren't even registered. An extra 79,000 people are 3 or more months in arrears giving a staggering non-payers /in arrears total of 35%

In Strathclyde 236,000 final notices to non-payers were sent out in late October. Another 300,000 people were in arrears, but were still to be sent reminders as their bills needed adjusting. So over half a million people in Scotland's biggest Region, around a third of those registered, either haven't paid or are in significant arrears.

Actions against Councils are keeping the councillors in the public light - most Councils in Scotland are controlled by the "socialist" Labour Party, who are threatening non-payers with the slogan "pay up and shut up".

HUMPTY DUMPTY FALLS

The unthinkable is happening. 'Humpty Dumpty' has fallen and the wall itself is cracking under the strain of East German 'People Power'. The unfreezing of travel restrictions on 10th November, a desperate act by a decomposing 'Communist' Party, poses fundamental problems for Western governments who may have to impose restrictions on immigration and risk losing their superficial appeal as bastions of 'freedom'.

For a world without boundaries is the radical response of people unwilling to have their freedom curtailed by outmoded 'Cold War' power designs. The symbolic end to the 'Wall' and armed frontier offers the possibility of a movement that refuses to be manipulated by nationalist, parliamentary and consumerist icons.

The following are participants accounts of what a good day out can be like!

Strathclyde Stramash

"On 15th September over 200 protesters stopped a poiding from taking place in Barrhead, Renfrewshire. As expected the sheriff officers didn't show up, and determined to make their point a busload of the people made their way to the offices of the Strathclyde Regional Council in Glasgow. They occupied the building and demanded assurances that no further attempts would be made to poind or sell people's goods. Too cowardly to address the crowd, council officials requestd that a delegation be sent to their offices, but were met with cries of "Speak to all or none! We are a delegation - a delegation of the one million non-payers!" Needless to say, the Council refused.

A fortnight later, 1,000 people marched through Glasgow to lobby their councillors yet again, at their India St. HQ. Jeannete McGinn speaking after the demo said "My patience has ended with the Council.....we have now entered the class war."

On 12th October a very successful occupation of Sherrif Officers Gray Scott & Co., Glasgow was carried out by the Strathclyde Anti Poll Tax Federation in solidarity with Mrs Jean Paton, a Paisley resident who had been poinded for her husband's non-registration fine, even though he no longer stayed with her. Protestors came prepared for a long stay, determined to get results, and after 3 hours the Sheriff Officers agreed to return Mrs Paton's 'case' to the Council for reconsideration. The case has since been dropped."

Capital Commotion

"On 20th September around 70 of us crammed into the Lothian Regional Council chamber in Edinburgh. We heckled as the ruling Labour group said they would collect the tax, and could not rule out warrant sales. Only 2 Labour councillors supported non-collection.

Just before the vote, the Chair adjourned the meeting, falsely claiming that the speakers could not be heard. We occupied the Council chambers.

With the Council meeting abandoned, we discussed our next move. We decided to invade the nearby poll tax payment office. We talked to the staff there, getting some positive responses. The office entrance was blockaded and a sign erected "CLOSED DUE TO MASS NON-PAYMENT".

On 3rd October the Council resumed their abandoned meeting. When they voted in favour of collecting the poll tax demonstrators took over the Cambers, drowning out the councillors with chants and songs.

The councillors fled. But this "left-wing" administration quickly brought in the police to clear the people out of a "public" building.

Next, we spotted a nearby Royal Mail van being loaded with Council poll tax demands! We rushed over, tried (unsuccessfully) to persuade the posties not to load the letters, then blockaded the van. The police eventually cleared us.

But we weren't finished yet. We piled into the poll tax payment office. This time we defied police threats of arrest and held our ground. After half an hour we left under our own steam - but we'll be back!"

GUATEMALA

The Mexican daily *La Jornada* reports that in the first 6 months of 1989 1,500 people in Guatemala have been murdered, 800 kidnapped and 2,500 wounded by state death squads.

Against this background women are fighting back. An organisation called *Conavigna*, consisting of women widowed as a result of state repression, was formed in September 1988.

In Guatemala the majority of women work at home, look after children, have no basic rights, no education and work outside the home only in exchange for food to survive.

Conavigna aims to fight for women's rights and for the \$10 million international aid which has been received for women and children who have suffered from the repression.

Conavigna report that the state has distributed some corn and beans to a few women in exchange for promises not to go on demos, not to organise themselves and not to agitate for the return of their missing relatives. The state media also spread the lies that all women had received the necessary aid

and the *Conavigna* was disbanding.

The state sees the women as a powerful threat and the army has threatened to kill women if they join the organisation. But the women will not be terrorised, they seek recognition to put international pressure on the state to stop its regime of terror and to grant them basic human rights.

(Info: TAS, TAS, Spain)

GAY SELF DEFENCE

In response to a growing number of attacks directed against San Francisco Gays, local activists have banded together to form the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Self Defence Institute, which offers training in all kinds of self defence.

Fears are growing that these attacks are part of an organised wave of terror co-ordinated by fascists. In July 200 gays and lesbians and supporters chased nazi skinheads off the streets.

GLB Defense Inst., 1525 Franklin St. San Francisco CA 94106

OIL STRIKE

Quito, Ecuador - In September a national state of emergency was declared and troops ordered to take control of oil installations during a strike by Texaco workers who operate the country's main pipeline.

The troops were ordered to 'dislodge' Texaco workers who occupied installations after launching an indefinite strike that has halted oil pumping and shipments.

The Lesbian and Gay Freedom movement has been set up in London to bring the issue to the forefront and take anarchist ideas to Lesbians and Gays.

LGFM, BM Box 207 London WC1N 3XX

DEWSBURY

The 82 people arrested in June for their resistance to fascist and police intimidation now have a support group. For donations, solidarity and info contact: Dewsbury 82 Defence Campaign, c/o Kirklees Black Workers Group, 24 Westgate, Huddersfield.

NO ARMY

Recently struggle against national service has escalated in Spain. Hundreds of young

BLOWOUT

2 issues of an independent paper for offshore oil workers have been produced since July. The stimulus is the anger widespread after the Piper Alpha disaster and the inability of Unions to prevent further abuses of work practices by Multinational Firms.

An Offshore Information Centre above the Criterion Bar at 52 Guild St. Aberdeen supports the initiative of the workers who produced BLOWOUT. An indication of the discontent rife in the industry was the stoppages on 31st October and 1st November by Catering Workers challenging the divide-&-Rule imbalance of wages & conditions. 35 North Sea installations were shut down as part of fortnightly co-ordinated actions.

people are becoming total refusers i.e. not joining the army and also refusing the new alternative military service brought in to solve the 'problem'. Objectors have organised demos and presented themselves in large groups for arrest. But the state - even if they arrest two or three at first - have always backed down after more demos etc.

A WORLD TO WIN

DAM STOP

Harsud, India - at least 40,000 people demonstrated on the 28th Sept against a planned river dam project that would wipe out farmland and forests and leave about one million people homeless.

The participants live along the Narmada River. They joined hands to form a four mile human chain to symbolise their determination to save Harsud and 572 other villages that will go under water if the four major dams and 3,000 smaller dams are built on the 800 mile river.

LEST WE FORGET

State terrorism continues in south Africa despite President De Klerk's efforts to allow ANC rallies and pass himself off as a 'Reformist'. 17 hangings of prisoners have taken place in the 5 weeks after the white election. 3,000 political prisoners remain imprisoned, and the police still possess extraordinary powers of arrest and detention without trial.

WILD.

Residents of Oviedo, Florida have begun sabotaging construction equipment to protest against the turning of a wilderness into a golf course on the Econlackhatchee River.

Twice a month bulldozers have broken down with sugar in their fuel tanks.

These actions are warned to be only the beginning. (Info: Ecomedia London)

ITALY

The authorities evicted, and then immediately demolished, the Leoncavallo Social Centre in Milan in mid-August.

Police clashed with autonomists as they defended the Centre, for 14 years a base for grass-roots struggles and alternative cultural activities. Police arrested 26 people. In Berlin a solidarity demo demanded their release.

Now the fight is on to rebuild Leoncavallo, part of a country-wide network of self-managed social centres.

NO PARDONS

Argentina: 40,000 people marched down Buenos Aires avenues on 8th September to protest against possible pardons for military men accused of human rights abuses. Similar marches were held in other cities.

SHELL

Sweden
A list 'obtained' from Swedish Shell's Security Department shows that between 31/7/86 and 12/4/89 there have been at least 174 attacks on their filling stations because of its involvement in South Africa and the Lubicon land.

WE ARE WINNING!

Aberdeen Action

"On 24th October 60 demonstrators occupied the offices of Grey Scott & Co., Aberdeen's Sheriff Officers. This was in response to a poinding for non-reg ration which had occurred in Macduff. The victim was a 67 year old widow. Such was the cavalier attitude of the Sheriff Officers, Davidson and Davy, that two of the three items were illegally poinded; a three piece suite and a kitchen unit.

The unleashing of Sheriff Officers is solely geared to instil fear among poll tax refuseniks. However in this case their strategy foundered. Those occupying Grey Scotts refused to leave until the poinding was lifted.

Of the three poindings Aberdeen Against the Poll Tax have been involved in none have gone ahead. We have dogged the steps of Sheriff Officers, who have been given carte blanche by a particularly callous Regional Council, intent on being first at Rifkind's door with poll tax booty. Our 14 day notices were sent out weeks ago, so we fully expect an aggressive move to break the back of the non-payment campaign.

One final point: it is important to read the Debtors Scotland Act. The Act has as many loopholes as a string vest, and resisters should know and be able to exploit these."

Aberdeen Against the Poll Tax : 0224 625562 10am - 5pm Mon.-Sat.

Terrific Tollcross

Equally, if not more important than the city-wide co-ordinated direct actions, is the creation of strong organisation in the community, right down to street level.

The following from Tollcross, Edinburgh shows such an example:

"The Glen St./Lauristons Anti Poll Tax Street Committee was set up to organise resistance to the tax and to provide information and advice to residents. By specifically targetting the few streets hereabouts and holding regular informal meetings we were able to draw in many new faces.

Early in the campaign we informed all local residents of the imminent arrival of the poll tax snoopers. On the day they arrived we activated our phone tree and had 10 people following the canvassers showing our disapproval. Intimidated by this resistance the snoopers posted the rest of the forms for our area.

Our most successful event was the street party. About 80 adults and children gathered to celebrate with musicians, a face painter and non-paying local councillors.

Now we are giving support to those threatened for non-payment of the tax. Firstly we canvassed the street and

identified the non-payers and the waverers. Then we initiated a notice board on the street to give up to date information on the campaign.

There are 24 non-payers in the street and we are committed to helping each other out if there is any action taken against any one of us." Contact: Elizabeth Burns, 28 Glen St., Tollcross, Edinburgh.

As we went to press occupations of sheriff officers offices throughout Scotland were planned for 13th November.

Snoopers Snookered

In England and Wales resistance to registration is continuing.

A testing ground for poll tax snoopers was laid at Armley, Leeds, to see how long it would take to canvass the area for registration. The snoopers knocked on 50 doors and got 3 replies. The result was that it would take 7 years! The idea was scrapped.

In late October hundreds of DSS workers in London walked out in protest: at being asked to snoop on claimants and help register them for the poll tax.

Workers at the Oval DSS office in south London struck for the whole week. DSS workers at Bloomsbury, Kensington, Crystal Palace, Greenwich Park and Hither Green offices walked out for a day.

The Challenge From Below

A resolution by Aberdeen against the Poll Tax highlights the widespread concern at the executive powers that the proposed British Anti Poll Tax Federation will have.

Like all prospective leaders and rulers, 'Militant' is obsessed with capturing executive positions, controlling the flow of information and organising us like an 'Army' subject to commands filtered through the 'Ranks'.

Events in Scotland prove this is not the way to fight the Poll Tax. When it comes to the crunch of sheriff officers threatening poindings without '4 day warnings' and simultaneously trying to terrorise refusers, it is vital that thousands are mobilised by local groups to resist sheriff officers, and not to rely on a hand-picked 'flying picket' of Federation Militants.

To undermine the capitalist system, a revolution must come 'from below' and the way we organise will help create a more challenging and self-determining resistance.

Would groups around the country let us know how the anti poll tax movement is going in their area. Groups from outside the central belt in Scotland and groups from England and Wales especially encouraged! A new paper for independent anti poll tax groups in Strathclyde can be contacted at: Refuse and Resist, 2/3 182 Ark Lane, Glasgow G31 2J5. Highly recommended.

Anti poll tax info packs from Community Resistance to the Poll Tax, pigeonhole CR, c/o 11 Forth St., Edinburgh EH1. Send a large SAE.

TAPPING RESISTANCE TROOPS OUT

In the Republic of Ireland a mass movement of residents is refusing to pay the water rates tax. For months residents have been defying government threats to cut off the water supplies of non-payers.

In Waterford local government workers refused to disconnect residents' water. When the local authority brought in private contractors, residents resisted, despite arrests and fines.

On 27th September 30 women and a man in a wheelchair blocked the path of a contractors van just after the contractors had cut off water on the Lismore Park Estate, Waterford.

Despite a large police presence the original protestors were joined

by workers leaving the Waterford Glass Factory.

As word spread the crowd swelled to 1,000 and the contractor's van was completely surrounded.

After negotiations with the Combined Residents Association, Corporation officials agreed to postpone further cut-offs for 3 weeks and to stop using the private contractors.

The mass blockade ended at 11pm, after 8½ hours successful direct action. The struggle looks set to continue! (Info: Republican News)

We appeal to Irish readers to send info on this struggle. And we wish to encourage direct contact between the residents involved and anti poll tax groups in Britain.

Cynical Government manipulation led to the deployment of troops in London on 8th November. The ambulance drivers' 'Work to Rule' had been maintained despite Management provocation. Despite this the Government had motives to misrepresent the Emergency cover given and activate Contingency Plan "Bittern" to use 51 Army & RAF Ambulances and crews and create a crisis of their own making.

The Government has designs to 'hive-off' non-emergency work to private services and restrict Ambulance crews to 'Emergency' work after scaling down the number of workers. In 1979 new contingency plans were set in place, including the code-named "Concord" plan to forcefully requisition Ambulances and put them to troop use. Successive Labour & Tory Governments have used troops in 1975 (Glasgow Dustmen); 1977 (Firemen); 1981 (Prisons); 1981 & 1982 (Ambulances); 1981 (Civil Servants in Cullport Naval Base) during STRIKES.

The Ambulance staff have widespread support and such draconian intervention in industrial disputes will only stimulate wider class solidarity against Thatcher's crumbling regime.

"WE WILL NOT GIVE IN"

On 26th September over 200 women took part in a demonstration in Falkirk in central Scotland in support of Womens Aid.

While Falkirk District councillors held their meeting, women gathered outside to protest at the ruling Labour group's decision to take control of Womens Aid refuges.

The mood was one of sorrow but also of great anger. As one Womens Aid worker told the protestors "This is not the end, only the beginning. We will not hand back the keys. We will not give in."

ACTIVELY RESISTING HARRASSMENT

Claimants country-wide are resisting the oppressive new Social Security Act. This Act means - claimants must prove they are "actively seeking work" - after a 'permitted period' of 1 - 13 weeks claimants should accept jobs outside their usual line of work and at less than usual pay - the authorities have more powers to suspend benefits. 200 new 'Claimants' Advisers' will conduct spot-check interviews when claimants sign on.

The South East Region Anti Workfare Movement write: "The increased harrassment of claimants is desinged to push us into the clutches of sweatshops and slavedrivers, forcing down pay and conditions everywhere."

The fightback against the Act began with a Week of Action from 9-14th October, including a demo at the Employment Services Central London H.Q.

To resist the new measures claimants groups advise:

- Always go to a Restart or similar interview accompanied by a friend or Claimants group member.

- Remember the Employment Training Scheme (ET) . Job Club, etc are still voluntary.
- You can show interviewers lists and copies of job 'applications' - if you 'apply' to large employers it will be very difficult for them to check up.
- If forced to go for a job you don't want, ask the boss lots of questions about the trade union, sick pay, holidays etc.
- Organise in Claimants Unions. If any Claimants Advisers or Restart interviewers harrass claimants, make an official complaint. Get their names and photos and harrass them. Organise regular leafletting, demos and occupations at Benefit Offices, Restart offices and ET Agents.

Leaflets from: SERAWM, c/o Tottenham Claimants Centre, 72 West Green Rd., London N15. Tel. 01 802 9804; Lothian Claimants Union, c/o EUWC, 103 Broughton St., Edinburgh Tel. 031 557 0718 ET Workers Group, PO Box 105, Plymouth

• 35 ET 'trainees' on a scheme near Bridgewater in Somerset recently struck against their working week being increased from 4 to 5 days. After 6 weeks they won when their bosses backed down completely. (Info: Plymouth Claimants Union)



POLISH DISCONTENT: ANARCHIST BANNERS AT WARSAW TOWN HALL, MAY DAY

COUNTER INFORMATION, PIGEONHOLE CI, C/O 11 FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH, EH1 UK.

For further information on local CI distribution and other local

activities write: For the north of England - Red and Black, c/o Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester. For the west of Scotland - Glasgow anarchists, PO Box 239, Glasgow G5 0LW. This issue went to press on 6th November 1989

FED UP OF BEING ORDERED ABOUT AND EXPLOITED? Sick of living in poverty while the profit system benefits a powerful few? Angry about men oppressing women? Disgusted at the many other injustices in today's society?

You're not alone. Lots of people round the globe are not only fed up, they're fighting back. In Counter Information we report this often-censored resistance, to encourage more such activity.

We stress the importance of people directly controlling their struggles, outside the control of political parties, trade unions or any leaders. Replacing one set of rulers with another - as has happened in the 'Communist' Party-ruled regimes, and as left-wing parties and national liberation movements want - is no solution. We encourage resistance to aim for the complete overthrow of all relationships whereby some people oppress others. The world's resources should be owned and controlled by all, and used to satisfy human needs.

The Counter Information collective invites people to - send us articles and information - take bundles of the news-sheet to distribute - make a much needed donation towards our printing and postage costs -write for info on our CI collective. We wish to co-operate with all who share our aims.

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE RIOT

This summer homeless people created a shanty town in the US plaza in front of San Francisco's city hall. By mid July hundreds of people were living there. Many erected plastic and cardboard shelters, watched each others gear and kept an eye on anti-social elements like the San Francisco Police Department. (S.F.P.D.)

Also involved was the peace group "Food Not Bombs", who distributed free hot food each day. The plaza was re-named Tennament Square by the people who had created their own community there.

Soon SFPD riot squads were harassing and even arresting people "for service without a city health permit". The permit

cost several hundred \$, and the alternative for people was to go back to eating out of garbage cans.

Imagine one of the richest cities in the world using riot cops to arrest people for giving away food!

On July 20th up to 100 riot cops charged across the square in the early hours of the morning. After forcibly moving people out - they confiscated and destroyed anything left behind. Many people lost everything they possessed.

Still people came back despite increased 'policing'. When the cops moved in for arrests the people serving food would be protected and several arrests were foiled. A group of young people chased out a cop van with bottles and stones. The final act of public defiance (as far as we know) was on 26 July when several hundred people marched through downtown SF giving away food as usual. Some one was arrested for "inciting a riot" but was later released. Police intimidation resulted in less people living there through fear for their own safety.

Unfortunately SF is not the first city to use cops against free food projects. Santa Cruz, CA and New York city have also done the same recently.



INSIDE INFO

THE UGLY FACE OF BRITISH JUSTICE

The release of the innocent Guildford 4 (which closely followed the disbandment of the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad, and the suicide in gaol of a Kurdish political refugee) shook the bourgeois media into a frenzy of worry about 'injustice'. The latter two incidents were largely ignored, but some mention was given to the equally innocent Birmingham 6, mainly by Gerard Conlon, one of the freed 4

The aforementioned crime squad was responsible for the framing of the Birmingham 6, who were tortured into making false confessions and imprisoned, in 1974, on explosion charges. Had capital punishment still been extant they would all have been hanged. And it was this

NO SHIT

A massive long-term rubbish dump is to be sited outside Walton Prison in Massachusetts, USA. A prison activist writes: "Society dumps all its refuse in one pile. Poor people, deprived of everything, even of fresh air. Solidarity with prisoners inside Walton is being voiced in other U.S. prisons now like spreading fire."

For further info: Action Committee, PO Box 316, Norfolk, Massachusetts 02056 or PILL SCALICE 278901, PO Box 900, SHELTON, WASHINGTON 98584.

very same squad who fitted up another Irishman, Martin Foran, on an armed robbery charge.

Martin's condition in prison continues to deteriorate, still being denied treatment. Supporters of Marin recently demonstrated/leafleted in many British cities and in Antwerp and the campaign is growing.

This is a country where it is a 'crime' to be coloured or Irish, according to the racist Tories. Silence is agreement. We must put the pressure on. Martin Foran, CSI 746, HMP, Frankland, POB 40, Finchale Ave, Brasside, Durham DH1 5YD

DYING TO STAY

About 7,000 demonstrated against deportation in London in October, after an imprisoned Kurdish refugee, Siho Iyigven, burnt himself to death at the Hamondsworth immigration detention centre rather than be returned to Turkey. After the suicide the Home Office released all 25 Jurds held in Handsworth, but 30 fellow refugees in Haslar detention centre had to threaten suicide in order to be allowed to attend Siho Iyigven's funeral.

3,500 Kurdish refugees, fleeing torture and harassment, arrived in Britain in May and June before the Tories slapped on a racist visa requirement - an effective ban on entry. So far 150 of those who arrived before the ban have been refused a stay, 35 have already been deported. The Home Office has classed them as 'economic refugees'. Many tell of being tortured in Turkey, by electric shock, burning cigarettes, high-pressure hoses and beatings on the soles of the feet.

The demo saw the first joint action of diverse Turkish immigrant groups, including the Union of Turkish Workers, who also picketed the Home Office. Further actions are planned.

MINERS OCCUPY

UMW Coal Miners in Pittston, Virginia, USA have been on strike since April 5th. It is still going on. The Courts and Capitalists are trying very hard to smash the strike - over 1,000 billion dollars have been levied in fines etc. The Government's determination has been met with commitment to win this battle.

It's planned to officially recognise the 42,000 miners who 'unofficially' walked out in June in Solidarity.

Even the union bureaucrats now see the strike as a life or death issue, despite their original denunciation of the wildcat strikes.

The miners are not giving in and support is coming in from all over. There is a site (Camp Solidarity) set aside for visiting workers helping with pickets or civil disobedience.

Militancy is growing on the picket lines - company trucks are often stoned. In Boomer County miners crossed into a company compound and

ejected some hire heavies from the area.

On 17th September 98 miners surprised company thugs and occupied a Pittston coal preparation plant in Carbo, Virginia. Being outnumbered and outwitted the security guard fled. By nightfall there were 2,000 supporters blocking the gate to the plant.

The plant was held for 3 days - stopping all coal production. Immediately after a U.S. Federal Judge ordered an end to the occupation, 5,000 people rallied outside the plant.

The occupation was a complete success, the ability to mobilise large numbers of people at very short notice, a move away from the tactics of civil disobedience - this time there were NO arrests. This occupation looks like the first of many.

Support is needed in whatever form to: Justice for Pittston Miners, UMW District 28, POB 28, Castletown, VA 24224

REVOLUTION FROM BELOW

Miners in pits in Vorkuta, Siberia signalled their defiance of the new Labour decree on 25th October. They followed an earlier walkout by miners in the vast Mezhdurechensk area, where the June mass action originated, to force implementation of concessions made by the government in July. 41,000 miners and 16 mines in Vorkuta and Inta are involved and the threat of escalation to central Siberia and the Ukraine is imminent if the "exceedingly slow pace of improvement" does not change.

Simmering discontent has also surfaced in the Donbas basin in the Ukraine, and in both areas reports have come of independent miners unions being formed in early September. The miners are in the strongest position to defy the bans on the essential sectors of Coal, Gas, Power, Chemicals, Metallurgy and Public Transport ratified by the Supreme Soviet in early October. The 'revolution from below' is becoming a more potent force for change, challenging austerity, than Gorbachov's ailing Perestroika from above.

A CHIP OFF THE BLOC

1st November: 4,000 marched in Sofia, Bulgaria in the first opposition demo called by 'Ecoglasnost' after earlier round-ups of street pickets. In Prague, Czechoslovakia 10,000 marched on 28th October in defiance of brutal repression by the embattled Stalinist State.

MURDERED

In August E. Gerry Horgan a member of the "Communication Workers of America" was run down and killed by a scab driven car whilst on picket duty.

The 60,000 strong strike continues against NYNEX in New York and New Jersey. (Info: Anarchist Labor Bulletin)

RAILROADED

John Perotti of the Wobblers' Prison Organising Project, battling Ohio Penal Industries over prisoners' rights and working conditions, was tried in August on a phoney stabbing charge. After a month on hunger-strike, he was kept in hand-cuffs and leg-irons throughout the 3-day trial, as were defence witnesses. Each had 2 extra armed guards in addition to John's 5.

The right-wing judge denied all defence motions and requests from the jury, whose foreman was an ex-prison employee. Another prisoner openly admitted to having committed the stabbing.

Despite this John Perotti was found guilty and given the maximum of 12-15 years incarceration. Returned to prison, he was viciously attacked by the guards. Fellow prisoners, alarmed at being moved from the block and leaving John alone, rioted and diverted the situation.

He has only a short period in which to lodge an appeal and desperately needs funds. John writes, "They gaoled me when I was 19 for a \$7 robbery. I am now 34. They continuously give me more time because of my activism. I must fight this conviction." Please send donations to:

John Perotti Emergency Appeal
c/o Counter Information
Write: John Perotti (167-172) P.O.B. 45699 Lucasville, Ohio 45699-0001, USA

ENDEAVOR PROJECT

'Endeavor' is a paper produced by prisoners on Texas Death Row, a tribute to the human spirit and a searchlight on capital punishment. Available for donation from 'Endeavor' PO Box 23511, Houston, Texas 77228 - 3511, U.S.A.

More about those and other cases is published in the 'INSIDE INFORMATION' news-sheet - write to Counter Info for a copy, send a SAE. Prisoners need only send their address.

BOOKS FOR CHANGE

Over 1,000 available anarchist and related publications are reviewed in A.K.'s new catalogue. Large SAE to AK Distribution, 3 Balmoral Place, Stirling, Scotland FK8 2RD