

# BLACK PANTHER

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## EXPOSED: ANTI STRIKE BACKERS

An anarchist investigation into the far-right Freedom Association has revealed the extent to which that organisation and similar set-ups have been secretly working behind the scenes during the Miners strike to help fund and organise strikebreaking and influence government strategy.

While the 1984 Miners strike has seen the government take the central role in organising strike-breaking, the FA has clearly not been prepared to play the part of 'supporting cast'. Notwithstanding their influence over the years on the importance of legal injunctions in weakening the power of trade unions, the FA, through their various media, political and business contacts, are prominent in helping to coor-

Of course the FA is no newcomer to the field of strikebreaking and union bashing. In 1977 they were instrumental in breaking the Grunwick's dispute and they also obtained an injunction to prevent selective strike action by postal workers of mail and telecommunication traffic to South Africa. Over the past few years the FA has been backing a number of individuals involved in legal cases against closed shop agreements.

continued on back page



## STOP THE CITY... STOPPING THE CITY (extracts from log of events)

1.00pm Saatchi and Saatchi occupied.. smoke flares let off ..windows smashed and we piss off quick. Reports of earlier Halifax Bank action, 70-100 people, windows smashed, police radio

2.30More free food arrives at Finsbury Sq..2 women graffiti Barclays, Nat. West and a church...100 or more run down Wood St past police station, get totally surrounded and marched alto-

ordinate support activities for the several working miners groups. The FA's main office at Avon House in London's Oxford Street, functions as an information point for enquiries about increasing strikebreaking activities. Front-man Gerald Hartup is quite happy to give out information leaflets on the various campaigns set up to assist scab miners. He is also very free with advice: 'Don't do street collections. You'll just get beaten up. Instead try and antagonise local councils - especially lefty ones - by asking where one can leave food collections to help the families of working miners who suffer from intimidation'.

When challenged whether the FA had been actively assisting scabs from the outset, Hartup replied, 'Oh, but we have.' and went on to explain that the FA had been secretly helping out with a number of strikebreaking campaigns but didn't want this to be public knowledge as tactically it could go against the work of the scabs.

Hartup also boasted about FA involvement with the media. He mentioned that the FA had several contacts in Fleet Street who have been making sure that the 'correct line' was put out. Robert Moss is one such FA stalwart. Moss works for the Daily Telegraph. He also happens to be a founder of the FA and a co-director of the Institute for the Study of Conflict (CIA funded counter-insurgency think-tank based in Golden Square in London's Soho district).

jammers worked... phone box, they were hopping mad!... Police radio reports 'disturbances at Barclays'.... Legal office records only 79 arrests so far.....etc  
1.30 Group of 10 cyclists leave Finsbury Square ...Police horses charge people gathered behind St Pauls for planned party... 30 occupy admin. buildings at London Zoo.....etc  
1.45 30 more nicked by bank Tube.. One injured when pushed down steps by police...

## Letter

Dear Black Flag,  
Most people who took part in the last Stop the City saw it as a complete disaster. Very few of the host of good actions done in the March STC could be repeated and the most successful ones were done outside the City area anyway. Nevertheless with about 2000 of us this was one of the biggest anarchist demos ever seen in this country and though an incredible 470 of us got nicked only 35 of us were actually charged and we've already raised most of the cash to pay their fines. We cost the City a huge sum to mount a massive police operation and in effect to intern 450 people for the day.

What STC needs now is new tactics, eg, assembly points which can't be sealed off, a different target area, places to get off the streets when necessary, etc. The idea of Stop the

charge in Gresham St, 50 chased and nicked and beaten up by plainclothes police, press were obstructed from filming by horses... In West End Trafalgar Sq fountains are turned the colour of blood...50 strong group, dustbin thrown through Sth Africa Airlines window, smoke flares let off in Littlewoods-Skin Deep(leather boutique) and Debenhams lose windows, as well as other shops..this group head through Soho and trash a few sex shops before being attacked by plainclothes police.....etc.....

City remains sound, that of every group doing their own actions without leaders, and it takes ten times the number of cops to stop such actions than with a normal demo. There is talk now of a Stop the Country! or even a Stop Europe demo with everyone doing actions in their own area.

The September 27 demo failed because of a total police occupation of the chosen area and assembly points, because we were marginalised into mainly punks and anarchist activists, and because (it must be said) that most who came had not planned feasible actions (much could have been done in back streets, for example). With these lessons in mind we should refrain from moaning and attacking each other and plan urgently to improve our tactics before the STC's in Birmingham on October 11 and in Glasgow on November 5 (Guy Fawkes Day).

More on STOP THE CITY next issue...

**MAKE THE STRIKE  
SUPPORT GROUPS PERMANENT**

# INDUSTRIAL

## THE MINERS & SOCIAL CHANGE

Strikers now find themselves in major confrontation with the police. It is an eye-opener for all those trade unionists who have been elected to public office, to councils and to Parliament, who sit as magistrates or school governors or on tribunals and fancy themselves as part of the Establishment, to find that a determined government can at one blow wipe it all away. Miners - even the lower echelon of the union machine - are having to battle in the streets, to bleed under truncheons, to face political grilling in police stations, to be stopped at roadblocks, to have their homes searched, to be fined and imprisoned. All this has happened before, but to 'extremists'...suddenly the 'extreme' becomes nearer than they thought.

Only a matter of months ago one odd member of the anti-strike brigade was deprecating the printers of Fleet Street and their high wages (which were fought for over the years) saying how much more he would think of them (not that he would do anything) if they were to stop printing lies - regarding this as totally unthinkable. Now they have done just this. They have forced the Daily

fear of the consequences or concern for their families - want at the same time to remain as unionists because it is the only way they know to guarantee having jobs at all. If expelled they appeal to the courts. What have judges to do with a workers union? A union is to fight economic battles; not to be determined by every law. The fight would have been long won since if those who felt threatened by the closures had been able to part company with those who did not feel the threat affected them yet, and who think they can afford to wait until it does and work meantime, paying their mortgages and hire purchases and keeping their holidays and cars.

If those who had no stomach to fight had been allowed to leave the union, they would have seen there was no alternative but to fight. The notion that 'they should have balloted' (echoed by all the reactionaries who never hold ballots on anything affecting themselves) is a false cry. The only purpose of balloting would be to preserve the unity of the closed shop union. No miners would vote yes on whether they wanted pits to close. A number would have disagreed with striking - but obviously they would

## DOCKS SELLOUT

The Dockers union, the TGWU, and the steelworkers union, the ISTC, together with the assistance of the Labour Party came up with a classic sell-out deal to bring the docks strike to a quick conclusion. John Prescott, Shadow Transport spokesperson, played a leading part in scuppering the strike. There had been an earlier agreement with the Miners union, the NUM, to restrict supplies to the Ravenscraig steel works to 18,000 tonnes of coal a week, but the steel employers, the BSC, wanted a minimum of 22,500. In the end, thanks to Prescott, The BSC got its way and the TGWU agreed to end the strike in the docks. Later the NUM condemned the agreement and asserted that only a sufficient quota of coal to keep the steel plants operating, but without production, should have been agreed.

Although Ravenscraig had sparked off the strike in the first place, the action was taken, despite the public protestations, in support of the miners. Therefore to back off at the first chance of intervention was but an admission of defeat. In reality what Prescott had done was to get dockers leader, Connelly, off the hook - given that his union had split and support for the strike was diminishing - by coming up with an apparent face-saver. Connelly

print the other side, they have stopped the Sun altogether because it wouldn't. 'An infringement of free speech!'orry those who think only a few proprietors have the right to freedom of expression).

Amongst the lies being hurled at the strikers is the one that says that this is all a bid for power by or for Arthur Scargill. Mr Scargill is being built up as the Lenin of the strike by the anti-strike brigade: those who fight for it are tarred as wishing to build up a Scargill Government, as puppets of Scargill, as bootlickers of Scargill, as minions of a Scargill dictatorship.

The miners are organised in an authoritarian body, the National Union of Mineworkers, and Scargill at its head has the spotlight on him. But to imagine the fight is for 'Scargill' is to fall for the most obvious brainwashing we have had since we were told the war was 'won' by Churchill. Few men will undergo six months of voluntary semi (or actual) starvation out of hero-worship or blind following - against the brainwashing of the media - however eloquent or handsome Scargill is - and if they did they would not have the backing of the women who have emerged as the greatest of fighters.

Scargill happens to boss the NUM, but then the struggle is not for the NUM. It is the whole structure of the NUM - tied to the closed shop system beloved of British trade unionism because it saves them so much bother and normally excludes having to fight that has caused the division between workers. If an independent miners union wanted to fight and some people didn't want to, they could go and be damned.

In a closed shop union miners who want to scab - because of greed or

not be people being closed down, they would be ones in hopefully secure pits (or so they think).

The struggle has transformed the mining communities politically. Most older miners always hoped that the task of mining as it is known would eventually cease. But nothing is offered in its place. The NCB is taking the means by which whole valleys and communities live and ordering them to be extinct. This is being done by the nationalised coal industry, which was a 75 year ambition of socialism and trade unionism - something which the NUM forgets when it mightily attacks coal chief MacGregor.

The younger miners are battling against police and pickets. But this is not a battle for the streets and it will not be won there. If the police are defeated they bring in the army and all the reserve forces being built up by the new dictatorship. That front must not be neglected and it is one on which major support is needed, but like war the strike will be won or lost on provisions. In this the women of the coalfields have shown superb communal organising ability and received enormous support which has won the admiration of organised workers everywhere. They must not be allowed to perish for want of 'lease-lend'.

Albert Meltzer.

### Guy Fawkes was right!

Day of Action against capitalism, etc in support of the miners. Nov 5. Countrywide. All day.

could easily have ordered a continuation of selective strike action in key ports servicing some, if not all, of the steel plants - even if only Hunterston terminal - instead of sabotaging the sympathy action completely. Selective action can still be on the cards in the form of unofficial action in order to stop steel production and maintain the plants at an operational level only.

## NF SPURNED

Recently members of the National Front, not content with failing to get street credibility by trying to 'woo' anarchists, attempted to do the same with the miners. Contrary to what the press said it was not Labour Party members who discovered their ruse but members of the Anarchy Magazine Collective. The NF members in question - Adrian Wiltshire and Phil Andrews - booked a hall under the bogus name, Solidarity With The Miners Campaign. Posters advertising the meeting were printed by Andrews, a YNF officer, giving his Isleworth home as the campaigns' address. It was arranged that speakers from the NCCL and the NUM would be on the platform and it was only because of good detective work (the poster portrayed an NF logo - as shown on Nationalism Today - of a fist holding a Union Jack flag - filled in to appear black - while the typesetting and headlines were of a sort consistently used on other NF material) that the NUM and NCCL were prevented from suffering the embarrassment of appearing alongside fascists.

# DIRTY TRICKS / MEDIA LIES / POLICE THUGGERY

From the occupied war zones of the mining communities, pickets and supporters are facing an intensification of the dirty war employed by police thugs as part of their long term campaign of psychological and physical intimidation. Attempts to defend the communities from attack are met with the usual barrage of media lies which provide the state with just the 'black' propaganda it needs to scupper any wider support at the critical period (eg when the pit deputies were poised to strike and when the NUM were negotiating with the power workers' leaders for solidarity). Many miners believe that police and army provocateurs are at large setting up 'juicy stories' for the media. But faced with brutal violence the mining communities have no choice but to use whatever measure they can to stop this encroachment. The cops are well protected and armed, with their dogs, night sticks, crash helmets, shields...The pickets have little but crude weaponry and their imagination. Inevitably the odds will need to be evened up.



John Kane of Carrickferus is responsible for the import of East German smokeless fuel. The fuel sells under the brand name of Brico and £1.53p cheaper than the usual stocks. Since Kane signed the deal with East Germany other coal merchants in the rest of the UK have followed suit.

Eldon Griffiths, the Tory MP for Bury St Edmunds and Police Federation representative for the last 15 years, has threatened that pickets may be dispersed in the future by the use of baton rounds (plastic bullets).

'Shifts' - a play about the miners strike - has been banned by the BBC but played by Radio Sheffield and other local radio stations. Now it may get air time on the Australian Broadcast Company's radio network after pressure from an Aussie Miners Support Group. Rebel Worker, the Australian IWA group, have recently sent money to the Northumberland Miners. Another IWA group, the Libertarian Workers Group, based in New York, held a social recently and is sending money over too.

According to The Miner collections have been pouring in from miners support groups organised around bars in all parts of the north of Ireland. Workers from both nationalist communities have helped out in the contributions. Their class commitment has overtaken all other considerations.

At Kiverton Park, South Yorkshire, a field was set on fire near to an electricity sub-station and petrol bombs were allegedly found by police.

At Rotherham the NCB wages office was virtually destroyed when someone drove a nearby bulldozer into it.

At Kellingly riot police charged pickets. During the resulting melee an ITN Television broadcast vehicle was overturned and set alight.

## DIRECT ACTION

At Maltby, South Yorkshire, riot police in boiler suits, accompanied by dogs,

The NCB has stepped up its inducement

Killingly riot police charged pickets. During the resulting melee an ITN Television broadcast vehicle was overturned and set alight.

Outside Kilmanstone Colliery, Kent, mass police reinforcements convoying scabs fought with pickets. Many of the cops sustained injuries. One scab was prevented from strikebreaking when his home was placed under siege. Posters with photos of scabs were flyposted around the village. Later the police enforced a curfew in the area; anyone who was seen on the streets after 8.30 was threatened with arrest.

At Easington Colliery police rioted and dragged a miner from the picket line, beating him up. Local people took to the streets and there was hand to hand fighting with the cops.

At Markham Main Colliery pickets attempted to deter mass policing by erected a barricade of concrete blocks in the road using an expropriated crane as a hoist.

At Bentley Colliery barricades were built out of NCB vehicles.

Tyres were set alight and one police vehicle was attacked near Manton Colliery after police sealed off a road leading to the pit.

At Bedwas, South Wales, police attempted to stop 200 pickets gathering at the British Benzol plant. Pickets retaliated by attempting to set a truck on fire inside the plant. The electricity supply was cut off and firefighters refused to cross the picket line to put out a blaze. Later a petrol bomb was allegedly discovered.

At Maltby, South Yorkshire, riot police in boiler suits, accompanied by dogs, attempted to clear the area of pickets but were surprised and outflanked by more pickets who came out of a nearby wood. During the fighting an MP and an ITN journalist were attacked by the riot cops. The pickets attempted to defend themselves using road signs and bits of wall as barricade material.

Over 1500 riot police gathered at Silverwood to protect a handful of scabs from crossing picket lines. The cops encountered barricades blocking their way and so dogs were set loose to attack pickets. Pickets fought back and dogs and dog handlers chased off. The story the cops put out was that they were 'ambushed'.

At Bilston Glen Colliery, near Edinburgh, firefighters refused to cross picket lines to put out a blaze caused by rubber tyres that had been set alight.

At Hartlepool hundreds of miners attacked the nuclear power station. Two tankers were damaged and burning roadblocks were set up. (One half hour of direct action is worth more than three years of symbolic indirect action - ancient anarchist proverb).

In Manchester four rail workers were arrested for collecting money for the striking miners and as a result a 12 hour strike was called for the following week. The strike closed down Manchester Piccadilly station and a busload of miners from Bold and Agecroft Collieries turned up to lend support. The end result was that BR management have conceded that collections can now go ahead at the station. Also the charges against the four were dropped by the police.

helped out in the same manner, their class commitment has overtaken all other considerations.

The NCB has stepped up its inducement offers to attract strikebreaking. Alternative employment in other areas after the dispute is over, free accommodation and transport, large cash bonuses and compensation payments are all on offer. Details from a former scab from Scunthorpe who had crossed picket lines at Brodsworth pit.

Doncaster contacts have the names and numbers of 26 Territorial Army soldiers who have been masquerading as police on anti-picket duty.

Howard Thompson, director of Cawoods Solid Fuels Ltd of Harrogate, has been using a disused airfield close to the Selby coalfield to stockpile Russian, South African and US imports.

The syndicalist OVB union in the Netherlands has been raising funds and have produced a pamphlet on the miners strike. Support Groups have been formed by squatters and anarchist groups in Amsterdam. Meetings, video shows, benefits with punk bands and levies on the beer drunk at squatters bars have all been organised. The Amsterdam Support Committee raised £2,500 which paid for holidays for 40 people (32 miners' children and 8 adults from the village of Church Warsop, Derbyshire). They stayed for a week, going sailing and spending time at an anarchist summer camp at Appelscha. Others stayed in squats and with Dutch families. Another holiday for another group is planned for soon.

Andrew Bradley, the Derbyshire miner sentenced to 9 months for criminal damage, has now been moved to Sudbury Open Prison.

# LETTERS

Dear Black Flag,

I was pleased to see the letter from RG (Exeter) in the *Flag No. 116*. I had been furious about the article "The Miners and the Left" and had intended to write to you myself.

I am stunned that any Anarchist can write that the structures that the miners, or any other strikers, work within are "irrelevant". When I read the article a picture immediately entered my head of a hypothetical union run on fascist lines and headed by a dictator. One sunny day the dictator called a strike and threatened to expel/beat up/ murder every worker who did not support it. As it happened a group of Anarchists supported the premises of the strike and joined the dictator and a small band of others in their actions. A few of the @s had some qualms about it and asked: "Is it really libertarian to work with a dictator?" But their newspaper hastily reassured them that the structure of the union was irrelevant.

You can't be serious.

I thought M (Doncaster)'s reply was useful. It clarified a lot of points which should have been said more clearly in the original article. There's a lot of difference between "running in during disputes, attacking the structures and generally being negative" — which I am sure no @ would advocate — and seeing the structures as "irrelevant".

I was amazed to learn that the article was written to stimulate debate about the nature of solidarity. You could have fooled me! I thought it was a thinly disguised attack on the SWP. Next time could you make it a bit clearer. An interview with the miners as to their idea of useful forms of solidarity would have been far more interesting.

Another point about Ms reply to RG. It was couched in terms of disagreement yet to me M seemed to be making very similar points to RG. eg. I was glad to hear that M does recognise as does RG, that criticism if it comes from people clearly giving solidarity can be constructive.

Last point— above all "The miners and the Left" was a waste of valuable space which could have been filled with info about workers' struggles — in particular about the miners strike, which to me, is the most important industrial action for years and deserves all of our informed support.

*Fighting with the miners,  
C.G. Hackney/London EB*

To CG, Hackney,

For your information, the article "The Miners and the Left" was written from a report 'Bores Under the Floor', which happened to be written by a miner for miners; also from conversations with miners on picket lines; as our neighbours; as our friends; and as our comrades. Of course it was about the nature of solidarity. As for the attack on the SWP, that comes directly from the miners.

Perhaps I'm wrong, but your hypothetical case seems to be a thinly disguised, cheap and safe attack on A. Scargill! He did not call the strike — this happened as a direct result of miners coming out in support of the Cortonwood men whose pit was threatened with imminent closure. Scargill & Taylor had nothing to do with it — see previous issues of Black Flag which spells this out quite clearly. Expulsion of scabs is a call from the rank & file. Of course there are doubts about this, but it is up to the rank & file miners to decide. Plus, the deaths in the strike have been the deaths of pickets; people are lying in intensive care with broken skulls & suspected brain damage — they are pickets injured by thug pigs.

Old women, have had their homes broken into by pigs wielding truncheons. Children have had limbs broken by these same pigs.

Having been involved with this strike from day one, not only on picket lines daily but also giving economic support, moral support, our time and energy to the communities involved in this dispute — including our own — I find your cheap jibes insulting. If you believe that debating about the nature of solidarity is a waste of space then there's something wrong — because the nature of solidarity is about workers struggle and vice versa. Our reporting of the strike in this area for Black Flag has been informed — if you want interviews with miners go on the picket lines — you're not too far from Kent, & talk with the people involved there.

There seems to me to be too much attacking of the NUM in this strike\* and not enough attacking the NCB, the government, or the pigs. The structure of the NUM may not be perfect, but attacking that during the middle of the most important workers struggle in the country for years, is counter-productive. Miners themselves have started to question the structures but want unity now & we should respect this. This is not defending the bureaucrats, only the rank & file. Talk with members of the mining communities, don't patronizingly spout purist platitudes from the safe confines of Hackney. And if you want articles on workers' struggles, and can't get to Kent, why not try writing about those struggles in your area — or aren't there any?!

At the moment we in mining areas feel that we are in a country that is occupied by an enemy force — which we are. Pigs from London, Manchester, in fact from all over the country, are occupying our streets and attacking us. Living here doesn't allow itself to us wasting time on cheap jibes about a union. Our solidarity is with the men, women and children who make up the pit communities, & we shall continue to fight with them, and report about that fight.

*Fighting with the miners (literally)  
J & M (Doncaster)*

\* by people who know nothing of its history, structure and nature.

Hello friends,

Thanks a bunch for the letters. I was meaning to write and let ya'all know how things went. They went just great. Matter of fact I received so many responses to the advert in *Black Flag* that I couldn't find the time to answer/respond with them all so I gave some letters to my fellow inmates and I am happy to say that all concerned are quite pleased with the way things turned out. I received letters from all over the place, England, France, Scotland, Ireland, Greece, Canada, Denmark and even here in the US.

They keep us pretty busy here making us work and what not (for 10 cents an hour!) but if you want to drop a line my way I'd enjoy hearing from you. I'll be here till 88 or 89 at least. And if you have any questions about this place or my situation just ask. I like sending cassette tapes as correspondence better than writing as I don't spell so hot. But all correspondence tapes coming into the prison must be made of the clear, see-through type plastic, which are difficult to find I know. I imagine you're pretty busy too, so I'll understand if ya don't have the time.

*Keep breathing,  
Sparrow. (K. Aikman 43886, Box 3400, Goodyear,  
Arizona. 85338 USA*

# Anarchist Black Cross

In the near future we intend to organise a meeting, somewhere central but outside London, to which all Black Cross contacts are invited. Those contacts who wish to attend should write in soon and we will send the details on.

The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the organisation of the Black Cross network and how it can be expanded, the work of the Black Cross, tactics, propaganda, mutual assistance, improved intelligence gathering, as well as short and long term strategy.

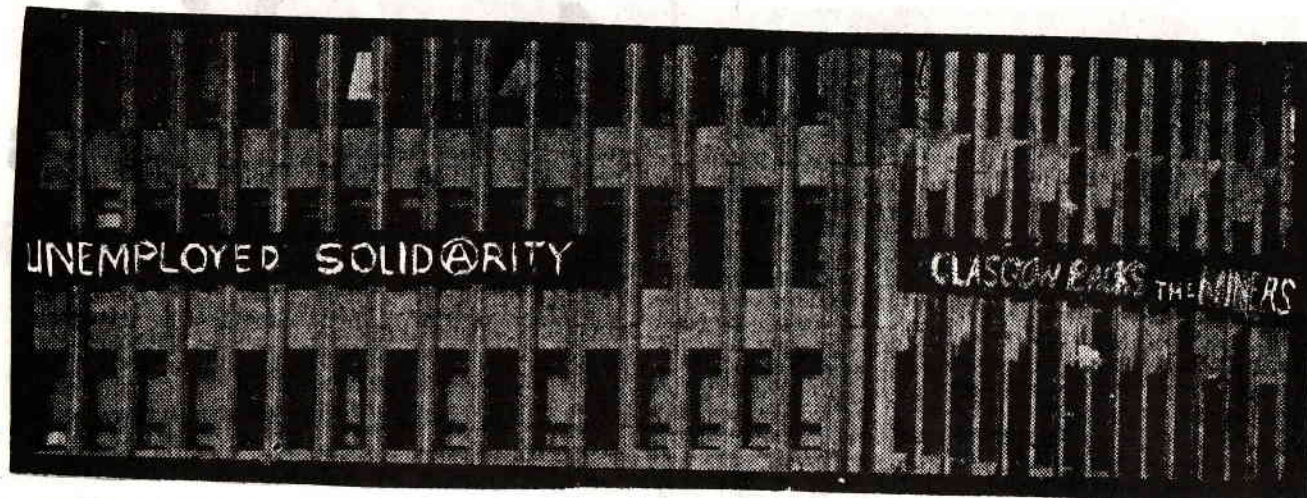
ABC - London Chapter.

## MURRAY'S APPEAL

Has a woman the right to have children? Is she condemned to barrenness because the State has convicted her? The question is even more important in countries which deny women the right to choose because of religious dogma, yet force women in prison to a lifetime of enforced celibacy.

The matter is being challenged in the European Court by Marie Murray and Noel Murray, both currently in Limerick Gaol.

Marie and Noel are both anarchists who were sentenced in Dublin some years back for the alleged murder of an off-duty policeman during the course of



## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ANARCHIST

The 12 Anarchists have been charged with "breach of the peace" and "malicious damage". They face considerable fines and will be on trial on the 10th of December. Since all 12 defendants are on the dole they will find any fine hard to meet. All contributions to their defence fund and solid@rity greetings: *Autonomy Press, 4th Floor, 64 Queen Street, GLASGOW*

# PRICE WATERHOUSE OCCUPIED

## THE DAY WE TOOK THE WHITE TOWER

At 7.30 am on Tuesday, 4th September, 12 Anarchists stormed a multi-storey office block in Glasgow city centre. They went in to occupy the headquarters of Accountants Price Waterhouse the millionaire outfit which sequestered the South Wales Miners Funds. As the newspapers in Scotland reported, the operation was executed with almost military precision. It took the team 10 minutes from entering the building to securing themselves behind metal-sheeted doors on the 13th floor.

About 600lbs of equipment, including hammers, drills, saws and timber, were carried past the startled staff. Lifts were occupied and protests ignored. All the keys were lifted from the security guard's desk. Everyone knew their task and skilfully completed it.

Not that everything was perfect. The security guard managed to regain entry to the foyer before all the equipment had been moved in. The elevators were too small to easily accommodate the 8' by 4' metal sheeting. An officer had to be ejected from Price Waterhouse as the occupation got under way. It proved impossible to commandeer all three lifts for the 13th floor and so that area came under police control sooner than planned. An early casualty was the driver who was arrested at the Hire Depot as they were returning the van which the team arrived in.

In spite of these reverses the operation was a complete success. Fire doors leading to the common stairway were nailed up. The twelve had captured the offices of Price Waterhouse and were securely barricaded in. The police arrived at 7.50am and could only rage, threaten and kick impotently at the steel doors out in the corridor as those inside calmly outlined the reasons for their peaceful occupation.

For this was no exercise in bravado but a serious social act. The anarchists were convinced of the need for direct action against Price Waterhouse. Contrary to popular report, this Company did not simply carry out a

An hour later (10am) Campbell slipped a typed letter over the steel door. In it he acknowledged the anarchist action but replied negatively on both points. However, the note went on to say that if the South Wales miners would identify those funds which had been ear-marked for clothing and food relief, PW would release them. Campbell was told to wait half-an-hour while a meeting was held to consider the letter. He was reminded by one of the group that there was a lot of valuable equipment in the offices and that any violent action could inadvertently result in an awful lot of damage. (The suite of offices contained about 18 rooms — the entire floor — and was ultra-modern. There were no manual typewriters, only a few IBM golf ball typewriters. But the place was stiff with terminals, VDUs, word processors, telex machines, photo-copiers, etc. — certainly £100,000 worth of equipment. The really valuable stuff, however, was the Diskettes; mini discs containing all the files plus work in progress. About 900 of these were lying around all capable of storing 10,000 words. However, the threat was an empty one as the group had decided not to cause malicious damage. Nevertheless, it seemed to give Campbell some cause to stay the hand of the gendarmes.)

By this time the building was surrounded by the guardians of law and order. Two 60-foot banners were stretched round the 13th floor reading: **GLASGOW BACKS THE MINERS and UNEMPLOYED SOLID@RITY**. Electricity had been cut-off, several phones were out and large numbers of police occupied the corridors.

At 10.45am Campbell was informed that the meeting had considered his letter and would investigate the authenticity of his claim about their willingness to release identified funds.

The next several hours were spent in talks with the South Wales Miners' headquarters by phone and to PW's Man Outside The Door. This period afforded many opportunities to

Certainly some publicity was being gained: radio, TV and newspapers were carrying reports of the action and giving garbled accounts of the reasons for it. Leaflets were being distributed at job centres and SS offices but sympathisers were being warned off by the cops from giving out material near the occupation.

As the afternoon progressed several things became clear: 1) It was not possible to force PW into restoring the miners' funds; 2) the cops were becoming increasingly restive and seemed likely to indulge in heroics; 3) one of the doors was less secure than the others and seemed vulnerable to a determined assault. Considering these factors it was decided to dismantle the barricades. Campbell of PW conceded that if no malicious damage had been done then charges would not be brought against the occupying Anarchist force. There were serious doubts about this.

At 4.15pm, having removed most barricades, the police were allowed to enter by one door. The twelve militants were invited to collect their tools and belongings and proceed to the exit where large quantities of police awaited them. The steam coming from the Inspector's ears warned the Anarchists what was to come. "I'm In Charge Now" he cried, and went on to announce that the group would be handcuffed in pairs taken to the local sty and charged with breach of the peace and criminal damage.

Thereafter, the twelve were subjected to the usual indignities: photographed, finger-printed, given a body-search and locked in single cells for the night. No violence was used but it was particularly hard for those nine members of the group who were vegans and had virtually nothing but bread and water for 24 hours.

Next day they were packed six to a cell (5' by 10') and later



doors out in the corridor as those inside calmly outlined the reasons for their peaceful occupation.

For this was no exercise in bravado but a serious social act. The anarchists were convinced of the need for direct action against Price Waterhouse. Contrary to popular report, this company did not simply carry out a mundane legal job of sequestration against the miners; they entered into the fight with all the commitment of partisans. Price Slaughterhouse went much further than their Law demanded. Not content with seizing the £350,000 administrative funds belonging to the South Wales Miners, they proceeded to grab additional £400,000 in the Provident Fund and money collected for hardship cases, food and clothing for the families. To permit these gangsters to commit legalised robbery without protest seemed to all Clydeside Anarchists an invitation to more adventurous tactics by the boss class.

By 8.30am, a senior police officer was knocking at the door seeking to parley. He was told: 1) That his minions had threatened violence (true); 2) that all the Anarchists had been medically examined and photographed the previous day (not quite true); 3) that they had nothing more to say to him and that he should fetch a representative of Price Shithouse to consider some important questions.

At 9am, a Mr. Campbell arrived. He said he was a Partner and senior executive of the company in Scotland and that he and the staff (30) were seriously put out by the occupation and were anxious to come in and start work. He was informed that the Welsh miners and their families were being even more seriously inconvenienced by the actions of PW. Two conditions were put to Campbell for the evacuation of the building: 1) that PW undertake no further sequestrations; and 2) that the funds of the South Wales Miners be restored to them. Campbell said it would take a little time to get a response from the Head Office in Birmingham, The occupants promised to be patient.

considered his letter and would investigate the authenticity of his claim about their willingness to release identified funds.

The next several hours were spent in talks with the South Wales Miners' headquarters by phone and to PW's Man Outside The Door. This period afforded many opportunities to go through the extensive filing system. It was a real eye-opener. This multi-million pound outfit has accountancy as only a small part of its business. It concentrates on handling take-over bids, forecasting money market trends, overseas investments etc. It was clear that a big percentage of the big monopolies are clients of PW.

Dinner was served at around 12 but almost all resisted the temptation of PW's extensive cellar (Barsac '79, not a great year, but...) Leaflets were scattered at 5 minute intervals. Supporters were gathering in the streets below and news agencies contacted about the occupation and the reasons for it. The South Wales NUM said it was being reported locally and were delighted by the action. Meanwhile, the cops were bored and were boring! Stealthily, they were trying to gain access through the fire door; but it simply hadn't been nailed up — it was the subject of a superb piece of civil engineering by the Castlemilk Constructors (unemployed). The boys in blue were disappointed.

The discussions with the South Wales NUM revealed that they were not prepared to identify those seized funds which were for the relief of hardship. They claimed that to do so would be to recognise the Courts which was contrary to union policy and in conflict with the Wembley Conference decisions which had been reinforced by the Brighton TUC the previous day. One of the team, Enrico (Malatesta?) in speaking to Emlyn Jenkins (SWNUM) observed that they would prefer not to recognise any Court. However, the Anarchists did not see their task as that of making demands of the miners but of exposing the scab outfit of Price Waterhouse.

in single cells for the night. No violence was used but it was particularly hard for those nine members of the group who were vegans and had virtually nothing but bread and water for 24 hours.

Next day they were packed six to a cell (5' by 10') and later appeared at the Sherrif Court. There they pled not guilty to all charges and were released on bail. Trial was fixed for 10th December.

In retrospect, the group felt that the action was relatively successful — not from the narrow view of publicity for the Clydeside Anarchists — but because it was a positive action on behalf of the miners to the ruling class offensive. The negative aspect lies in the Anarchists having to do the job at all. The impotent and ossified Trade Unions seem incapable of anything but a negative reaction to the boss class.

Social democracy and the bureaucratized TU movement have disarmed the working class. Lullabies of class peace, parliamentary and legal paths to social harmony have virtually paralysed the proletariat's instinct for self-defence.

The group hopes that the action has helped forge closer links between Clydeside Anarchists and the miners for whom they have campaigned and collected more than £2,000. Perhaps it will galvanise more workers into direct action and show them that defence against the boss is not confined within the narrow limits of branch resolutions and letters to Mps and councillors. At the very least, Clydeside Anarchists have given the lie to those who charge that we couldn't organise a booze-up in a brewery. Price Waterhouse can testify to that.

Glasgow, 13th September, 1984. Brian Biggins



## SCAB BACKERS

continued from front page

One of the FA's main policy planks for 1984 is: 'To stiffen government resolve to develop realistic policies to tackle the growth of violent, intimidatory and anti-social behaviour'. With their contacts in the Tory Party (FA members/supporters include: Sir John Biggs-Davison MP, Jill Knight MP, Nicholas Ridley MP, etc) they are in an ideal position to push through their aims. Ridley in fact is a regular speaker at FA meetings. Back in April he addressed a meeting of the SE London FA at which he equated anti-free market economy politics with anarchy. Norman

Tebbit MP is another FA stalwart, as are Leon Brittan and Rhodes Boyson. All three were members of the National Association For Freedom, as the FA was then known.

The NAFF was helped set up thanks in part to the finances of Sir Frank Taylor of Taylor Woodrow. Taylor (Long Common, Wanborough, Guildford), according to The Miner, has huge investment interests in private open-cast mining and has been directly involved in supplying funds to the working miners' groups.

The FA office displayed copies of a poster for the Moderate Miners Wives Return To Work Campaign, which it was giving away. The campaign material is produced by a Gordon Fjaelberg, 287

Dover Road, Deal. The Secretary of the campaign is Mrs Irene McGibbon and the chairman (sic) is Mrs Jane Fjaelberg. The Fjaelberg's and McGibbon are responsible for the placing of advertisements in various local papers appealing for funds to support the working miners and for a return back to work. The campaign boasts that it is in the process of compiling a register of potential scabs.

# MONDAY NOVEMBER 5th

Why should we let profits rule our lives ?

DAY OF ACTION ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN SUPPORT OF THE MINING COMMUNITIES...NOVEMBER 5th.

Hundreds of thousands of people are involved in collecting and donating money to support miners and their families. All of us know that their struggle is ours also... whether we are active in our workplace, our neighbourhoods, as claimants or in the many groups and movements opposing injustice and oppression. And our struggles are theirs! We are all up against a System based on profits and power, not people.

What is now needed is increasing industrial and physical solidarity to spread the strike. We know that most people, like ourselves, active in miners support groups, wish to see solidarity strikes and protests spread.

We in towns have a particular responsibility to make effective protests so that the struggle in pit villages overflows into large urban areas as yet unaffected, (partly due to the massive policing of coalfields). Yet it is in these urban areas that so many people are giving financial support and are looking for a chance to do more.

Hence it has been decided, after a series of discussions especially involving people in miners support groups, in unemployed groups and the peace movement, to hold a DAY OF ACTION across the whole country on Monday November 5th - for 24hrs.

## WHAT WE CAN DO

The form of activities should be decided on a local level and could include educational and solidarity actions such as : - mass leafletting, picketing or occupying suitable locations and buildings, street gatherings and rallies, workplace meetings, go-slows and strikes (or sending a day's pay to local support groups), street theatre, demonstrations etc, as well as the traditional bonfires in the evenings.

Those involved with picketing pits can take the opportunity to strengthen their lines and activities. If they wish, they could send delegates to all nearby workplaces during the morning to ask for active support.

As is constantly said, we must back the miners and show solidarity. On Monday November 5th, everyone who agrees can, and must, do just that. Together we are powerful.

## DAY OF ACTION in support of the mining communities

prepare now in your area for a day of pickets, protests, rallies and demonstrations, workplace meetings, go-slows and strikes....  
- let's show our strength together across the country

## WHY SHOULD WE LET PROFITS RULE OUR LIVES ?