

# BLACK FLAG

ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY VOL. VII 7E  
10/12/84 NO.123

30p

**Coal Convoys Preparing to Outflank Pickets  
Government Intends to Bankrupt NUM**

## **CIVIL WAR IN THE COALFIELDS**

In preparation for the early movement of strike-bound coal, police in the mining communities are stepping up the siege conditions in a desperate attempt to divert attention from the NCB/Government contingency plans. Government intransigence has provoked another death and all the signs are that nothing short of complete bankruptcy of the NUM and total destruction of union militancy will be settled for.

The NCB/Government/Police strategy is to push through a pincer attack: keep the pressure up at the pits where

the government has sensed that the time is approaching when the striking miners will need to call upon all their support for the final battle against Scab Coal.



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: Santa Claus was arrested outside Hamley's toy shop in Regent Street, London, yesterday, while he was launching a Christmas toy appeal for miners.



same time getting ready for the massive convoys that will soon be sent to the strike-bound pits to move supplies to the power stations.

Their aim is to outflank the pickets. Already some parts of the country are under a state of virtual seige. South Wales and South Yorkshire especially.

With encouragement from the media a few decided to scab. But the response of the police was to treble their forces and to intensify their intimidation.

The result is near Civil War in many mining areas. It is little wonder with the sheer level of police intimidation that many communities have responded by organising for their defence. The media have portrayed the violence as madness; the reality is there is a war going on - a war against imposed poverty and forced resettlement. What we are all witnessing is the actions of a blood thirsty government out of control seeking total retribution.

Thatcher, Kinnock and TUC chief Willis are all anxiously trying to cool things down. A victorious NUM, using direct action, and with the direct support of the labour movement and rank and file trade unionists above the heads of the sell-out leadership: that is what unites this 'triple alliance' against those miners who refuse to give in.

If the other unions can show physical support, fair enough. But in the absence of such support, the NUM will inevitably turn to the Support Network, whose roots are as much in the communities as they are in the workplaces, to act as a reserve.

But why now have the state forces gone on to the offensive? - because

Afraid that mass picketing will rise on a scale never before seen. Already the bourgeois press are talking about the threat of mass action that might pale Orgreave into insignificance.

Many of the Support Groups are self-organised; others are directly linked to the NUM. However they are organised, they can and should prepare for the massive physical support the miners will need in the days to come.

If, and when, the word goes out the Support Groups will need to be ready for what ever is necessary: whether this means trebling the mass pickets or providing rearguard support in terms of creating diversions, sabotaging state reinforcements, etc.

The government has proven its resolve and determination not to give in and its foresight in preparing well in advance of the provoked strike. After nine months we have to prove that our resolve and our preparations are greater. This will undoubtedly mean arming ourselves with the expertise to deal effectively with riot-trained, truncheon-wielding cops, with massive numbers of amoral scab truckers, and with a professional army that would relish the idea of taking on an anti-state resistance.

We have already reported on the NUM's appeal for further massive support on picket lines. Many have already responded. But in the days to come the coal convoys will be mobilised, backed up by the nationwide mobile riot cops. How these coming battles will be concluded will depend very much so on the wider support the Miners have been given from day one. Be prepared.

## MINERS UPDATE

A Notts Probation Officer reports receiving cases of miners whose charge sheets read or include "possession of subversive material in the back of car". This is not a 'crime'...Lord Hailsham's ideal of Law made by Judges is bad enough now it's 'make it up as you go along' community policing?

All in all it is reported that a total of 41 police stations in South Yorkshire alone have been damaged since the commencement of the Miners Strike. Over 7,000 miners have been arrested and 4,000 subjected to restrictive bail conditions.

A striking miner from Fryston pit near Castleford, phoned up the so-called Silver Birch (a scab leader) to find out information on him. The Fryston miner asked him if any other miners from the Castleford area had phoned him; he said not. Silver Birch then invited the Fryston miner to a secret meeting of scabs in Notts. When the miner from Fryston asked Silver Birch how he could get into Notts with all the police road-blocks, he answered 'No problem, just tell me your car registration number and you'll get through'.

(SOURCE: Hull DAM)

**INSIDE - More on the Miners Strike, Question and answer on anarchism, International news, Letter from Spain, Students stop city, Murrays & more....**



# INTERNATIONAL

## ITALY

Twenty-eight defendants have been sentenced to a total of five hundred years imprisonment - they were found guilty of being the chief organisers of a prison revolt in Trani in December 1980. The protest was against the use of 'Special Units'.

One of those sentenced is Giuliano Naria, who has been waiting now for eight years to be tried against the original charge that brought him into Trani in the first place. Giuliano is currently in a very bad state of health: he's lost 50kg in weight as a result.

To support him and the others, please write to: Libreria Calusca, Corso Porta Ticinese 48, Milano 20123, Italy.

## CHILE

Things are worsening since the State of Siege was declared. Internment is now a daily affair and police raids on the barrios have been stepped up.

The latest protests brought out troops in full battle gear in the centre of Santiago. There has also been a general call-up for all Army Reservists. The same day over 3 million leaflets were distributed calling for support for the General Strike.

The curfew is still in force and troops and armoured vehicles are everywhere, with road-blocks at all main intersections. Habeus Corpus has been suspended and there have been hundreds arrested and placed under interrogation.

On the guerrilla front, bombings - mostly claimed by the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (Marxist) - continue; six bombs exploded on the Monday before the planned two-day strike.

Latest news is that another five bombs have gone off, one damaging a telephone exchange. Support for the strike

# MINERS

A curfew has been imposed on miners children in the Lothian pit village of Loanhead. Police have invented a 'law' disallowing the children - so far, predictably, they have only cautioned those whose fathers are miners - to be outside on the streets after 8pm.

(SOURCE: Counter Information)

At Elsecar, near Barnsley, pickets set up barricades, oil was spread across the main road to cause scab traffic to skid, a tipper was set alight and a railway crossing was immobilised. Fences were also torn down and the main gate to the entrance to the NCB work-shops was fastened together with wire. Mass police reinforcements were fought off with stones. Meanwhile at nearby Hatfield Colliery another road block was erected. Similar actions took place at Gawber, near Barnsley, Treeton, near Rotherham, and Kiveton Park.

(SOURCE: Rising Free)

In South Wales a taxi-driver taking a scab miner to work was killed when a concrete post was hurled at the car from an overhead bridge. The scab was unhurt. The NUM has disassociated itself from such actions. The Government/NCB - who are morally to blame for creating the climate of repression that led to the man's death - has backed away from doing the same. The two men currently charged with murder may end up with life. The scab, however, who incited the taxi-driver to strikebreak in the first place, will no doubt also abdicate all responsibility for his actions. The two jailed miners will need all the support they can get, especially if the NUM officially disowns them.

The reason Arthur Scargill got hit over the head at Orgreave was that all the PCs were trying to get his baseball cap as a trophy. There was a "bounty" of £100 for anyone who got it.

At Shirebrook, a police rest room was visited by a journalist who found the cops watching porn movies. Complaining to an Inspector they were told to not bother them with such 'trivial complaints'.

More charming stories appear in a 'Letter from a picket line policeman' in the latest Leveller 'Monochrome' Supplement, December, 10p from better bookshops and street-sellers or from: 52 Acre Lane SW2 Tel: (01) 274 2288 LONDON

Besides boredom and aggro from strikers, scabs returning to work have found their wages "downgraded". An electrician who had to sweep floors was paid for cleaner rates: a big drop in pay, and no bonus. One scab got £19 for a week after allowances had been taken off. They have now rejoined the strike!

The NCB 'economics' of using a cheap taxi instead of a re-inforced van is no different from the cost-cutting which leads to industrial accidents and deaths, in the pits. The two strikers arrested for allegedly murdering the taxi driver did not attempt to run and hide and did not intend to kill the taxi-driver, as with many of the alleged assaults they are spur of the moment acts not pre-planned (alibis etc) "terrorist" style actions as the bourgeois press portray. The taxi driver's wife said he kept the job secret from her as she would have dissuaded him from doing such a 'job'.

4 members of the Yorkshire Working Miners Committee have resigned because "although moderates we found the Secretary too right wing".

Besides raising funds & morale, distribut-



six bombs exploded on the Monday before the planned two-day strike.

Latest news is that another five bombs have gone off, one damaging a telephone exchange. Support for the strike has been muted due to the fear of armed action by the Army.

## SOUTH AFRICA

Things must be critical when the bosses' federations, the Federated Chambers of Industries and the Chambers of Commerce, come out publicly in condemnation of the arrest of trade union leaders. Of course their real concern is that the arrest will only polarise the situation further and provoke rather than prevent - the intention of the arrests in the first place - a second general strike by Black workers throughout many parts of the country.

Meanwhile Botha did the usual law and order statement: anything the riot police did is justified so long as the legitimacy of the state is upheld, etc, etc. What leader of any parliamentary democracy could disagree with him? After all in statist terms all state terror can be supported if the threat to power is sufficient enough. South Africa, like Chile, Poland, etc presents a picture of what any state would resort to - and what any liberal democracy by implication absolves - if the resistance is that intense.

But as with any industrial state - state capitalist or otherwise - the business interests step in to calm things down if they think the government forces are overreacting and creating the conditions for a popular revolution. Hence the support for the Black trade unionists from the bosses unions.

Latest news is that the General Strike has been disowned by all the major Black trade unions and political groups - they felt that the rioting was getting out of their control.

the taxi-driver to strikebreak in the first place, will no doubt also abdicate all responsibility for his actions. The two jailed miners will need all the support they can get, especially if the NUM officially disowns them.



In South Wales burning barricades were erected outside Marine Colliery, near Abertillery; oil was also poured on to the road and police fought off. A taxi-cab, taking two scabs into Cwm Colliery (Pontypridd), was attacked and smashed up. Many bus workers have refused to transport scabs and in one case - where a coach driver bussing pickets was told by police that he'd be arrested if the coach continued with its journey - all the drivers in one area came out on strike in sympathy.

CAN Womens Relief Group wrote to Brett Yarn Merchants 32-34 Clyde St off Park Rd Bingley W. Yorks Tel (0274)565-959 asking for reject balls of wool to make children toys. They received a reply from the Manager James C. Brett who said: "We are unable to support 'self-inflicted hardship' IF however you decide to collect for the children of miners returning to work we will reconsider." The CAN group are asking for protest letters to be sent to the Manager of Brett Yarn.

4 members of the Yorkshire Working Miners Committee have resigned because "although moderates we found the Secretary too right wing".

Besides raising funds & morale, distributing food parcels the support groups in many areas have organised to fight any attempted evictions and electricity cut-offs with Alarm-lists and 'alerts'.

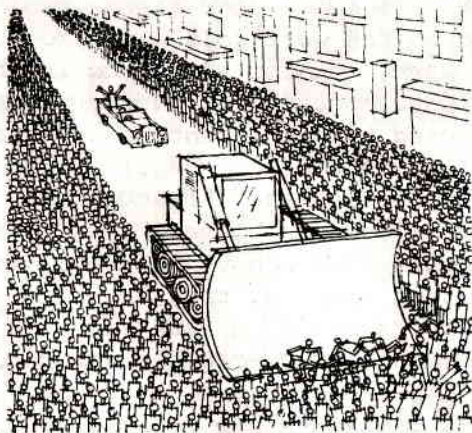
Michael Eaton, the North Yorks. NCB Director had his Great North Road, Darrington, near Pontefract home looted while he was holding private talks with West Yorks Police Committee members. £10,000 in jewellery and property went.

Bentley NUM annually holds a memorial service for locals killed in the Bentley Explosion and Paddy Train mining disasters. In the past NCB pit and area management sent representatives and/or wreaths, this year: none. More than 150 people attended the memorial at Arksey cemetery including representatives from many unions. What post-humous awards will the 'working-miners' get from their bosses should there be accidents?

Armthorpe Miners Wives Action Group have been helping out the Holmes family of Goldthorpe whose two teenage sons died in a coal-digging tragedy on Sunday Nov 18th. Food has been donated by many Armthorpe shops and street collections generous.

Meanwhile 23 men and women have been arrested for digging out 'waste coal' compressed into the non-NCB ground by lorries in a former stock yard behind a car park near Rossington pit. The NCB have been turning away 'special cases' entitled to coal. In one case a family with a bronchitic 8 y.o. were refused fuel. Coal 'picking' - an obvious symptom of hardship - has returned on a scale not seen since the general strike and mass unemployment of the 1930s.





## BIRMINGHAM STOP THE CITY

Reclaim The City Birmingham has changed its name because of police pressure, comprises Animal Rights-Anarchists who share thoughts and go to demos etc together. No more STC's for Birmingham but maybe some actions on something for xmas. Also a festival, a place where people can sleep, eat, meet people, exchange thoughts and to watch a couple of bands...publicity being organised:

*D,B Central Lib, Box 4, c/o Peace Centre,  
Moor St, Queensway Birmingham, West Midlands*

Last October STC actions went off with a lot of harassment. Someone giving out leaflets about the action weeks before was soon arrested for refusing to let cops look at the leaflet. There were plans to hold a gig at a squat but due to bad weather and the roof not being fixed in time it was flooded we tried various other places. We knew warnings had been sent to all banks, shops etc warning them to beware after London STC.

The night before a very heavy cop presence - people getting searched, 3-4 cops on every other corner, with vans in back streets. People were met who needed a place to stay and they were put up in a squat.

Despite the cops many banks were superglued & doors stuck by other means, also spray-painted and some had paint spilled over their entrances.

## STUDENTS STOP CITY

A student protest, culminating on the South Bank, ended up in a near riot when 1000's poured over Westminster Bridge in an attempt to 'lobby' Parliament. Next day the papers described the scene outside the House of Commons as a 'siege'.

According to one report nearly 30,000 students from all over the country took part in the demonstration. The organisers - and the police - expected only 3,000 - and the heavy turn-out threatened the usually efficient security arrangements.

Police panicked as many demonstrators began to head for Parliament. At one point three bridges - Westminster, Waterloo and Lambeth were blocked by the students and traffic trying to enter or leave the City of Westminster was impeded. In the end police blockaded the approach roads to Parliament and Mounted Police were brought in, with a contingent of riot cops on standby.

Stones and empty beer cans were thrown at the police. MP's inside the House of Commons raged about being 'trapped'. Within a matter of minutes, several District Support Units and hundreds of special reserves were brought in to the area in case the students could not be contained.

There were many arrests - around 200 - but few were charged. Instead the arrests took the form of temporary detention as a means of defusing the situation.

The protest was over proposed cuts in student grants, affecting particularly the daughters and sons of mainly middle class parents who will lose the grant and who will be expected to contribute to tuition fees. Many students fear that their parents will refuse to pay out. Support for the parents has

## INFILTRATION?

Ten years ago the Ulster Freedom Fighters - a pseudo organisation set up by the SAS to instigate and provoke sectarian killings in order to create the right 'mopping up' conditions for the British Army - claimed the deaths of many an innocent life and were responsible for many more. Today the UFF are reportedly back in force out to provoke more sectarian violence so as to take the heat off the British presence in advance, perhaps, of an intensification of yet another dirty tricks campaign.

Two weeks back the UFF claimed responsibility for the murder of Patrick Brady, allegedly an Intelligence Officer for the IRA. Brady was a member of Sinn Fein but his family deny he had any paramilitary connections. The UFF are also believed to be responsible for the murder of a Catholic taxidriver - who had no known political involvements - in the same area.

It became common knowledge that the UFF had SAS agents working within it and was itself set up with SAS assistance. In the early '70's a UVF campaign presaged the invasion of British troops into the North - ostensibly to 'protect' the Catholics against Protestant violence. A few years later and the UFF were in force. What many forgot is that the UFF were also used against Protestant paramilitaries (although by no means to the same degree) partly by intelligence gathering and partly by selective assassinations of those loyalists who wanted to go it alone (eg, Tommy Herron, head of the Ulster Citizens Army).

Are the same destabilisation tactics about to be employed once again? An increase in sectarian violence only benefits the British state, that can use such an escalation to its advantage.



every other corner with vans on the streets. People were met who needed a place to stay and they were put up in a squat.

Despite the cops many banks were super-glued & doors stuck by other means, also spray-painted and some had paint spilled over their entrances.

9 people from London were arrested for 'conspiracy to criminal damage' and 'criminal damage' which they did not do! They were followed and surrounded by cop vans. Held until Friday, some until Sunday and then bailed to stay in London the Court appearance will be on Dec 6th.

A letter was received from Cathedral which said we couldn't use their land as a meeting place because it isn't a public right of way and that anyone found there would be arrested. Surprising? Not really, office workers, businessmen use the grounds to sit around in, eat lunch etc. It has 200 benches and 5 paths cross it!

We decided to meet at Chamberlain Square on the way noticed many banks had excessive numbers of security guards, shops had their windows greased to prevent paint getting on. A few people marched into Barclays to leaflet but got escorted out quickly.

Leafletting was done on many matters. Several supermarkets had meat thrown about people filled trolleys and either dumped them or took them to the cash register & refused to pay, saying no South African goods! Stickers stuck all over town, in shops such as H.M.V.

By one all reformed and went down to Central TV to protest about media, one person got inside and painted @ on a window. We moved on just outside the City centre to *Five Ways* and ran through the shopping centre knocking things down and smashing them.

5-9 arrested for 'Breach of the Peace' held for around 4 hours. We regrouped and some moved off home, others leafletted, 2 or 3 attacked Sex Shop: throwing books and objects around. 3 people were arrested one from Walsall, 2 Coventry but they did not do it! Many bomb scares, many worked. Lots of small actions too.

the daughters and sons of mainly middle class parents who will lose the grant and who will be expected to contribute to tuition fees. Many students fear that their parents will refuse to pay out. Support for the parents has naturally come from many back-bench Tory MP's, who fear the cut may lose the Party votes. Ironically, Labour are opposed to the measures and are thus taking a stance that one would expect the Conservatives to take if they were in Opposition, namely to go against the subsidising of grants for working class students by the parents of those students who are clearly better off!

To be cynical, is the sudden student militancy a sign that students are once more becoming 'politicised' or is it more of a right-wing backlash, as with the French student riots in '82?

## ISLAMIC LIBERATION?

The Palestine National Council, holding a meeting in November in Amman, Jordan, were guests of King Hussein, who expressed his solidarity with the PLO - evidently forgetting the number of times he has accepted Israeli support in bolstering up his kingdom, allowing him to escape the consequences of revolt, or Israeli intelligence aid against the Arab opposition to Hashemite rule, or his own rule in crushing the Palestinians in 'Black September'.

Arafat is now backed by the Syrians - and has left his so-called Left Wing allies in the lurch. Described in the press as 'Communist, Leftist and Moslem militants', the anti-Arafat wing of the PLO - in reality plain Arab nationalists and his old supporters - rot in Syrian jails, having carried the brunt of the anti-Israeli military activity and being no longer needed by the Syrian military.

head of the Outer Citizens Army? Are the same destabilisation tactics about to be employed once again? An increase in sectarian violence only benefits the British state, that can use such an escalation to its advantage.



FLASHPOINT: Police take away students after clashes on Westminster Bridge

A large part of the dissension in the PLO ranks is caused by its persistent infiltration by the Shin Beit - Israeli's 'CIA' - with its agents posing as Marxist-Leninist groups to infiltrate Arab nationalism. While the Arabs can be forced to fight each other - as with the 'Trotskyist vanguard' persuading the PLO to turn and fight Jordan when it was hopelessly outclassed - the Israelis must conquer. The leftist rhetoric cannot disguise this.

Meanwhile the religious bigots posing as nationalists in Iran force their people into a continuing long drawn out fruitless war with Iraq, without purpose or sense, repeating Islamic prayers over the victims and dealing behind closed doors with one Great Power or the other (including Israel when it suits them), while other Arab fighters languish in Israel's jails wondering why the great liberation movement doesn't come to their aid, Islamic or 'Marxists'.