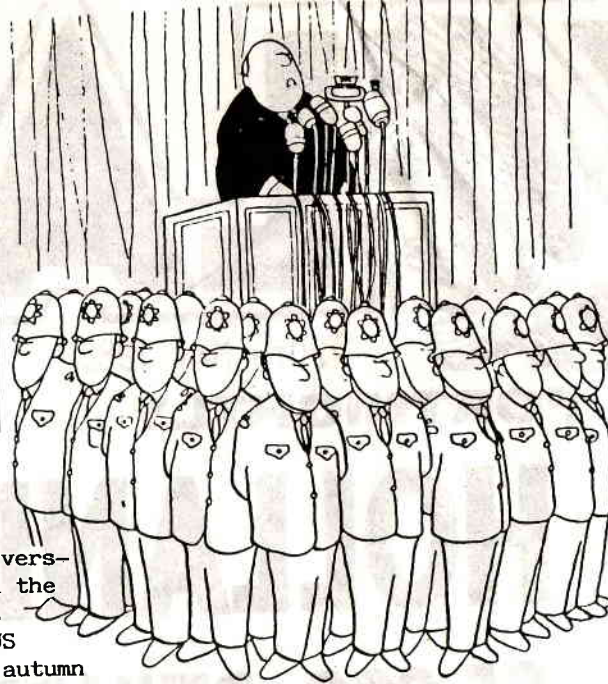




SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Combined Subscription:
Quarterly Magazine & Fortnightly
News Bulletin:

12 months: £12 Inland & Surface,
£19 Air.
6 months: £6.50 Inland & Surface,
£10 Air.



Brave Defender

An exercise aimed to crush 'subversion', sabotage and insurrection in the UK, involving around 65,000 troops (including a large contingent of US troops) is due to take place this autumn from September 6-13.

It will be a Joint Forces exercise and will also include members of the newly created Home Defence Force, the Territorials and the US National Guard. Around 8000 UK troops will be playing out the roles of the 'subversives'.

Besides being a practice session for the real thing, the exercise is also a convenient means of getting the public used to the idea of seeing 1000's of troops rushing around the country, taking over buildings, blockading roads and making arrests for no apparent reason at all.

EDITORIAL

Black Flag FORTNIGHTLY has been set back a week because at last (!) we have started work on the Black Flag MAGAZINE.

It is a pleasure to publish it again and many readers are already impatient. Included will be articles on:

MENSA; AIDS; Miners Strike; Prison conditions in Spain; CNT-AIT and the CNT-C; Interviews; reviews and the Anarcho-Quiz! Plus lots more.

We plan to hold a readers meeting in the Summer, any group interested in hosting the event please contact us soon.

Black Flag is folded and mailed out fortnightly from 121 Bookshop on Saturday. Interested readers are welcome to help

"Friends ..."

PROFIT CENTRES

The National Coal Board HQ is to be sold off and its staff devolved to area HQs by the end of the year. These area HQs will become 'profit centres'. According to a source within a postal union the NCB has already offered the HQ building — Hobart House — to the Post Office which is at present Hqed in the old British Steel corp. building next door.

Information about setting up 'profit centres' was first leaked by *The Miner* several months ago and was quoted as proof that the NCB was intending to use a strategy of making each mining area compete against the other, with the ending of subsidies, and with the most profitable being sold off either on a share basis or to the highest bidder.

In addition to Frances Colliery in Scotland and Bedwas and St. Johns collieries in South Wales, the NCB has also now indicated that it intends to close Bates and Horden collieries in the North-East. The NCB has also claimed that up to 6,000 miners (around 25% of the area workforce) in the North East and 1,800 (around 60%) in Kent and up to 20,000

INDUSTRIAL

MINERS

The NCB claim to have achieved 20,000 redundancies by miners volunteering (620 miners still remain sacked though, some await industrial tribunal results others have lost there and only industrial action will get them their jobs back). The Road Hauliers Association (whose members drove scab trucks making coal deliveries during the strike) was told by a NCB area manager. Russell Broomhead, a Yorkshire miner who was shown on TV being repeatedly beaten by police truncheons at Orgreave last year has *himself* been charged with riot (thus facing the loss of his job as a result of the charge). The walloper (cop) responsible for the assault which was seen by millions has not even faced disciplinary action of course! Privatisation of transportation of men who work in the West Fife area has been put out to tender by the NCB. Privatising pits awaits recovery and repairs it seems.

Sacked miners are denied unemployment benefit and supplementary payments as the Dept. of Employment has ruled them not unemployed but involved in an industrial dispute. Despite the end of the overtime ban and the return of coal production these men are assumed to receive £16 a week strike pay from the NUM (it is not!) and they rely like the imprisoned miners and their families on support groups as the NUM membership rejected a 50p per week levy for those in hardship!

A TV poll for the programme UNION WORLD asked miners nationwide if they would take action again to save pits and jobs. The result: 68% said yes! Meanwhile a Law and Order policy of religiously observing the 121 rules of the mines and quarries Act is another way of saying we 'work to rule'.

8 miners accused of 'unlawful assembly' after being involved in taking over Newport transport bridge during the pit strike were acquitted on April 25th. After a day and a half the jury were instructed by Judge Michael Gibbon to bring in informal NOT GUILTY verdicts.

9 miners and a farm worker given jail and youth custody sentences for setting fire to Coal Board buses during the pit strike have had their sentences reduced on appeal from 3 and 2½ years to 6 months!

MIRAS (Mortgage Interest Relief at Source) took over from the old Building Society Interest Relief in the tax coding. Generally speaking, if the loan isn't over £50,000 you'll be paying back within the MIRAS scheme.

Under the new rules, if no payments, have been made for a twelve month period, the MIRAS rules no longer apply. Many miners with a mortgage millstone around their necks must find themselves in this position. Strange that the new year rule was issued as the year long strike was coming to a close...

MIRAS allows 30% relief on the mortgage interest repayments and for the loan to be capitalised. And for the first few years the majority of the repayment is interest not capital. Now, miners can still claim relief in their coding, but as they won't be eligible for tax anyway, their income being more than covered by their allowances, there is NO benefit.

Of course, the government aren't doing this to in any way penalise the miners. Are they?!

Many scabs have (after the lights went out) had accidents and along with other problems decided to move out of strikers pit villages to 'moderate' Nottinghamshire (at the invite of the Sheriff?). With the strike phase of the industrial action to defend jobs over the scabs 'rewards' and media patronage reduce daily and their isolation grows.

Miners in Yorkshire who shout the word 'scab' at strike-breakers face the sack for intimidation, already 8 workers have been dismissed by the NCB. Some wise souls have taken to wind-ups with other words: door-knobs etc.

In South Kirby Yorkshire miners walked out in protest at the dismissal of a fellow worker who is alleged to have 'intimidated' a working miner during the pit strike. 600 miners at Ferrymore Riddings, South Kirby's twin pit joined their 1400 colleagues in solidarity protest at the sacking of 2 miners for alleged intimidation of scabs. A mass meeting of the area was told that the strike was unofficial and that managers had threatened to flood the pits and thus close down the mine with the resulting loss of jobs. The strikers returned to work.

fortnightly from 121 Bookshop on Saturday at Midday, readers are welcome to help out and meet collective members.

Bulk distribution to bookshops and groups could be complimented by street-selling and offers at local newsagents by you. We ask back 2/3rds of sale price. *Black Flag* is sent free to prisoners on request.

Available through us:

Back issues of the fortnightly: 13p stamp.

Back issues of the magazine: 28p stamp.

Anarcho-Quizbook: 75p + 13p stamp.

Miguel Garcia Story: £1 + 13p stamp.

Syndicalists in the Russian Revolution:

45p + 13p stamp.

Anarchism, Arguments For & Against:

80p + 13p stamp.

Anarchist Black Cross poster: 20p + 13p.

workforce in the North East and 1,800 (around 60%) in Kent and up to 20,000 nationally have applied for redundancy terms. In each case the so-called review procedure has not been adopted. In Yorkshire another pit - Acton Moor - has been placed on the closure list.

The NUM Executive, meanwhile, has refused to sanction the strike action of South Yorkshire rank and file members who came out over the sacking of four miners for alleged intimidation of scabs. Over 1000 miners, however, at three pits near Pontefract have ignored the NUM Executive's orders and have stayed out on strike, retaining the flying pickets.

had their sentences reduced on appeal from 3 and 2½ years to 6 months!

This all comes at a time when the NUM Executive has revealed that it is £24m in debt because of the 12 month strike, which may explain its reluctance to continue with or support industrial action, even in the face of blatant provocation. Furthermore this Spring is not the greatest season to begin a campaign of strike action in the coal industry and for this very same reason the NCB is trying to muscle through a closure programme. Over the Summer period more closures are expected and more induced redundancies.

the resulting loss of jobs. The strikers returned to work.

900 people are still awaiting trial for street collecting in London for the miners without a permit from the Metropolitan Police Commissioner. In a recent case a police appeal against a Magistrate who dismissed the charge against James Wood a London Barrister arrested for collecting in Clerkenwell last June was won. Mr Wood was soon convicted!

2,500 workers at Scott Lithgow in Greenock Scotland voted to occupy Trafalgar House's ship yard if the bosses lay off 600 workers. An incompetent oil rig deal with Britoil by the bosses is blamed by the workers.

APOLOGY

In our last issue we reported that there had been riots at Bathurst, but neglected - due to last minute 'headline change' - to say where Bathurst is located. Our comrades 'down-under' won't of course, need telling it's in Australia, but comrades elsewhere may may well be in the dark.

BOLTON A DAY

On Saturday May 4th, a Day School on Anarchism was held at Bolton's Socialist Club in Wood Street, Bolton.

Over 150 people attended altogether and the event was organised by Bolton Direct Action Movement-International Workers Association.

Things started at 11 o'clock with a talk on the Chicago Martyrs (Anarchists murdered by the State in 1886) and, held simultaneously, a talk on Organisation and Anarchism. Other discussions included talks on Anarcho-Syndicalism today; Anarchism & Feminism and the Anarchist Black Cross.

Food was provided and several bands played in the evening. Anarchist videos were also shown continuously and there were displays, including anarchist posters from around the world.



Questions & Answers on Anarchism

Q: Doesn't it deflate the anarchist case that public opinion can prove to be as repressive as government itself?

A: Why? Government deliberately makes public opinion as a reflection of its own image (though in non-totalitarian countries other vested interests also help in the process). China today relies more on so-called public opinion than it does on secret police or tanks in the street utilised by other State Communist countries.

Some Anarchists may at one time have thought public opinion could be counterposed to crime or oppression. It can be in a really free society, but nowadays public opinion is a mass product. The Nazis saw the value of harnessing public opinion and seeking 'populist' approval of repression by mass indoctrination, something they copied from the Soviet Union. In the so-called democracies, in addition to public attitudes being manipulated by the Government, public opinion is bought and sold as a commercial product.

This is why it was necessary to invent the term 'the media' to describe this particular arm of the State and the ruling class, which has taken over from the Church. This is the reason why earlier Anarchists concentrated so much of their attack on the Church which decreasingly, but in some places still (sometimes under a different religious equivalent) acts as the 'Ministry of Propaganda' or 'media industry' of ruling interests.

NB A pamphlet *Tell Us Lies About The Miners*, which examines the media lies in the Miners' Strike is currently in the pipeline/in preparation.

Basic Principles of Resistance (Bulletin #8 - Solidarity)

The following is some practical advice for workers in any job or country. It was published underground by the Warsaw chapter of Solidarity, dated December 30, 1981.

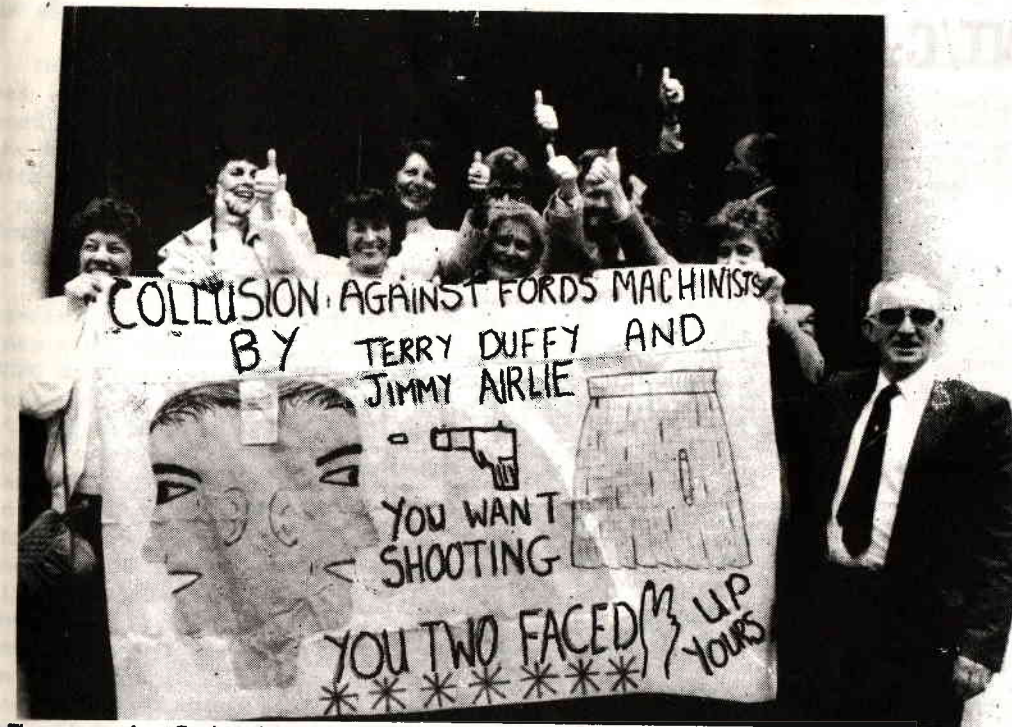
1. During a strike or other form of protest, stay with your colleagues.
2. Do not establish Strike Committees. Protect your leaders and organizers. Basic principle of action: the entire crew goes on strike - there are no leaders.
3. In contacts with the police or the military you are uninformed, you know nothing, you have heard nothing.
4. Do not denounce ordinary people. Your enemies are: the policeman, the eager conformist, the informer.
5. Work slowly; complain about the mess and incompetence of your supervisors. Shove all decisions, even the most minor, into the lap of commissars and informers. Flood them with questions and doubts. Don't do their thinking for them. Pretend you are a moron. Do not anticipate the decisions of commissars and informers with a servile attitude. They should do all the dirty work themselves. In this way you create a void around them,

and by flooding them with the most trivial matters you will cause the military-police apparatus to come apart at the seams.

6. Eagerly carry out even the most idiotic orders. Do not solve problems on your own. Throw that task onto the shoulders of commissars and informers. Ridiculous rules are your allies. Always remember to help your friends and neighbors regardless of the martial law rules.
7. If you are instructed to break mutually contradictory rules, demand written orders. Complain. Try to prolong such games as long as possible. Sooner or later the commissar will want to be left in peace. This will mark the beginning of the end of the dictatorship.
8. As often as possible take sick leave to care for an 'ill' child.
9. Shun the company of informers, conformists and their ilk.
10. Take active part in the campaign to counter official propaganda, spreading information about the situation in the country and examples of resistance.
11. Paint slogans, hang posters on walls and distribute leaflets. Pass on independent publications - but be cautious.

INDUSTRIAL

TEN MONTHS ON STRIKE



The message from Ford machinists to AUEW leaders Duffy and Airlie who had opposed their upgrading

Equality Now (At last).

Since 1968 (17 years!) women seamstresses at Fords battled for skilled status, equality with men. Labour and Tory governments aloof and in the face of union Leaders who bureaucratized their every move, the women continued to battle with strikes, tribunals etc. Finally, with some the daughters of the original strikers the 270 women got what they wanted, amounting to a £7 a week pay rise. Last years 5 week strike caused £20 million worth of production loss. The Ford Company has a 5 grade pay structure for its manual workers. The women were kept in the next to bottom B grade, they are now placed well up in the C grade and approaching the fully skilled B grade status. An

inquiry into the women's grading headed by Professor Angela Bowey of Strathclyde Uni decided they were discriminated against and should be changed. Ford complied. The discrimination extended to Terry Duffy AUEW President and Communist Party/AUEW executive member James Airlie who both attacked the destabilising impact on the Ford Ford wages structure and added that the union would make no further economic claims on the Ford management this year (what about the workers? did I hear someone ask). Doreen Cook a shop steward said: 'Our reaction to the statements made by Duffy and Airlie are clear on our banner. We made this within an hour of hearing about it and we think their remarks were nothing less than treachery to women trade unionists.'

HOURS DOWN ?

The UCW (postal workers' union) membership has accepted a management package that includes a 1 hour reduction in the working week and a reduction from 5%

The 165,000-strong National Communications Union (NCU) is recommending a campaign of selective industrial action from September 1st within British Telecom to force the bosses to cut the working week to 32 hours from 37%. The strategy is to be put to the unions annual conference

The anti-apartheid strikers have been picketing Dunnes Stores in Dublin's Henry Street since last July.

It started when check-out operator Mary Manning refused to handle South African fruit. This is the policy of her union, IDATU, though she was the first member to seriously implement it. Management suspended her, and a dozen of her fellow workers walked out in sympathy.

LIBERALS

Scabs were brought in to take their jobs. The strikers dug in for the long battle for their right to refuse to handle South African goods. Gradually the liberals discovered the dispute and began 'putting their support on the record'. Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and Labour TDs cautiously 'expressed support'.

Churchmen said masses and services, the anti-apartheid unit of the United Nations sent a telegram, Bishop Tutu invited the strikers to visit South Africa for the first anniversary of the strike next July.

REASONS

Everyone seems to be behind the strikers. But still it drags on without management showing any sign of giving in. There

* Ben Dunne is connected with the apartheid regime through his industrial relations negotiator, Noel Fox. Fox is the Irish representative of the huge South African investment firm Spicer and Oppenheim.

* Dunne will do anything he can to put the boot in on the unions. In the supermarket trade he is well known for his petty harassment of staff. He is not the sort of guy who will change his mind because of a few appeals from well-meaning liberals.

* The union leadership have not done enough. A strike in just one branch can not put enough pressure on Dunne. Sympathy strikes by workers in other branches is what is needed.

It will be argued that workers in the other branches will not give the support, that they are afraid for their own jobs. Yet over the past couple of years staff in Cavan, Dublin, Wexford and Waterford have taken action on local issues. These are willing to listen to the arguments for solidarity. They can be won to taking concrete action and this in turn will create a climate of confidence which will encourage many more Dunnes workers to join in.

RANK & FILE

Stopping supplies means going out to all the companies that have their products in the shops and convincing their workers to refuse to make up the deliveries. This will not be done by the full-time officials, many of them would be very opposed because it is a 'political' strike/does not involve their union directly/any other excuse they can think up.

It will take a support group of ordinary trade unionists and unemployed, under the direction of the strike committee, to start turning the passive support into action that can break Ben Dunne. A victory will not only mean a blow is struck against apartheid, it will give supermarket workers the confidence they need to defeat the petty rules and low pay of the bosses.

HELP WELCOMED

Join the mass-picket every Saturday 2 - 4pm

Messages of support & donations to the Strike Committee c/o IDATU, Cavendish Row, Dublin 1.

Give in Solidarity.

days to 5 days. This is all dependent on the acceptance by the membership of a productivity scheme and a changeover to more part-timers, reduction in offices, etc. The UCW Leadership hopes to persuade delegates at the forthcoming Annual Conference to accept the package. There is no provision however for a substantial increase in pay – nor is the weekly hours reduction (43 hours to 42 hours) seen as being of great significance!

20 post offices in London are to close.

British Rail has resurrected plans to replace drivers on trains. In particular to use crewless trains to carry coal from mines to power-stations. Though economic reasons will be given it seems fairly obvious that it's a political move designed to smash any further miners actions. The solidarity shown by some rail workers will now be systematically removed.

A pilot scheme was announced in the last weeks of the strike. A possible candidate for the line is the 20km link between Bevercotes colliery and High Marnham power station in Nottingham. The diesel loco's controls would be modified so as to respond to data received by radio from a control centre. Here a computer would perform the function of inter-locking relays in normal signalling, that is, checking that no train entered a block section occupied by another train and that points were set correctly before trains were allowed to pass over them.

Passive transponders, placed between the rails at regular intervals, (say

1000 metres), would cause a message to be sent to the control computer telling it that the train was at that position, and requesting authority to continue to the next transponder. Safety checks would permanently stop the train if anything went wrong. This would all be easy to do on specially prepared freight only lines, but more difficult on normal freight and passenger lines.

The threat is not only to smash workers solidarity but also to jobs. Once the pilot scheme works and any problems are ironed out, economic arguments will be used to justify crewless trains elsewhere on the railways. The response then should be that the problems on the pilot scheme are never ironed out. Three powerful groups of workers are in a position to put a spanner in the works, rail workers, power workers and miners. The economic cost to working people to go on strike might be heavy in which case syndicalist principles of direct action could easily sabotage the whole project. The transponders and radio links are especially prone to damage.

Source: *SLDAM/New Scientist*

STOP BUSINESS\$ AS USUAL

STOP BUSINESS AS USUAL NOTTINGHAM

On April 30th leaflets advertising that Barclays bank would give away free Krugger-rands to any of their customers who deposited £10 between 2 & 3 pm were given out door-to-door, in the streets, and left in piles at building societies, insurance companys etc. This worked very well – some people asked for their Krugger-rands (which were being offered as a thankyou for supporting Barclays continuing investment in South Africa) and the filth guarded the main branch throughout the afternoon.

Similar leaflets appeared claiming that between 1 and 2 pm, Leslie Crowther would give away at Boots, certain items which would be marked with a black star. This resulted in lots of confusion at Boots – people were actually looking for Black Star goods – and the place was swarming with cops and security guards.

The leaflet was so well produced that the local anti-apartheid movement were taken in and were about to mount a picket, police are now searching for the culprits.

Telephone wires to a local Royal Ordnance factory were cut during the night and the arms manufacturers remained cut off for several hours.

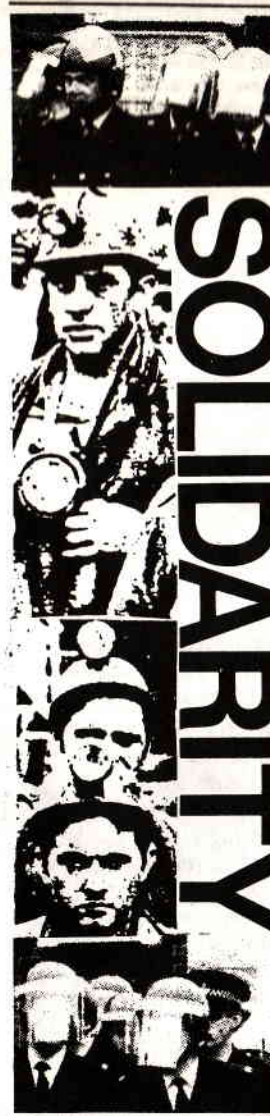
The fuses were pulled out in the Council house, leaving Councillors in the dark.

Many other actions including the use of glass etching fluid (squirted onto windows) superglue (in locks) and paint (graffitti) took place. Someone danced on the Lord Mayor's Rolls Royce too!

A press statement and a speaker gave an interview on local radio ensured that Stop Business as Usual was publicised.

6 people were arrested, 4 released without charges. The remaining two were not actually caught doing anything so will probably be bound-over to keep the peace.

are reasons for this.



SOLIDARITY

IN THE AFTERMATH

THE CONVICTION RATE is high and rising following the 121 arrests on the Whitehall clash with police during the big miners demo on Feb 24. The hearings are still going on, so the full pattern is not yet clear.

Marc Joffrey was charged with assaulting a police officer and breach of the peace. He was pleading not guilty to both charges. Just minutes before the case was heard the fifth offered a deal to Marc's solicitor, Paul Johnson. Marc accepted it gratefully. "I don't want to go to gaol", said Marc, "and it's not worth taking a £40 fine. The magistrate, a tough nut called Davies, only agreed "reluctantly" to drop the assault charge and expressed surprise at the police move. He gave Marc a right bollocking. Marc said afterwards that he was "bitter, but relieved".

This is a pattern the cops used a lot during the miners' strike, because they often know damn well their evidence won't stand up so they scare the victim into feeling relieved that he'll only be let off with a fine or lighter sentence. They then get convictions, which look good on their records.

But Paul Johnson says that this tactic is proving relatively uncommon with the Feb 24 trials. Usually the cops are determined not to do deals. Take the case of a New Zealand law student who just happened to wander out of Trafalgar Square tube and down Whitehall just as someone had thrown a bottle at a knot of cops that were surrounded by marchers. He was nabbed and charged with throwing the bottle. Ironically the student was not even particularly interested in the demo or the strike. He was disoriented by the whole affair. Paul offered to defend him for free. Being a law student seeking, no doubt, some practice, he declined. In court the prosecution walked all over him with a pack of lies ("I saw him throw the bottle, milud") – and he got a £100 fine.

The Public Order Research Group will be holding a much-needed public inquiry into the horrific police conduct on the demo. This will be in June. Contact Cathie Lloyd at PORG, 9 Poland St W1. (01 724 5831).

The Defence Campaign still needs funds and is hoping to have a benefit soon. Send money to Paul Johnson, Southall Community Law Centre, 14 Featherstone Rd, UB2 5AA. (01 574 2434).

SERTUC DEFEATED!

The Feb 24 demo was organised by the South East Region of the TUC. Following the arrests on the demo, when the Defence Campaign was set up they approached SERTUC for help. This was initially refused on the grounds that most of those arrested were not miners – but anarchists! So much for solidarity. In the end, thanks to successful persuasion by PORG and the risk of public embarrassment, Rob Edwards, SERTUC Secretary, was forced into supporting the Campaign. Is this an anarchist victory over Stalinism? (Who are you trying to kid – typesetter)

DIRECT ACTION IN INDUSTRY

A 16 day illegal strike by 1,000 miners in Sparwood BC, Canada ended on April 16 but the RCMP are investigating about 20 instances of vandalism to company property. The strike started after a worker was told to wash a company truck – a job not part of his duties.

In Michigan, USA American Motors are suing the United Auto Workers union as they contend that workers have sabotaged 700 jeeps by welding the doors shut.

