

Bread & Roses

No 5

PAPER OF THE ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION.

15p

NUCLEAR ENERGY: It'll cost the Earth!



AS ANARCHISTS we do not like national or international authorities. Obviously our main objection is to the idea that either government directly or via huge puppet capitalist companies says how our power is generated, delivered and what it costs.

Just because we want our local community to control its own affairs is enough reason for us to say we want electricity generated locally.

BUT THAT'S INEFFICIENT!

Is it? Well, we recognise that big boilers and big turbine generators can deliver excellent figures on efficiency, but what happens then?

The heat from power stations isn't used for community purposes but is lost from cooling towers. Or warms up the seawater near nuclear plants!

The high tension cables that form the national grid exert a magnetic field along their length—so much that it can make sick people who live beneath it. The pylons hum, transformers hum—all signs that the energy is being

**Accidents
will
happen!**

OH, NO they won't chorus the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB), General Electric Company (GEC) and Babcock & Wilcox (a major builder of atomic plants). "We have safety precautions."

All right then explain the following:

- * Huntersen 'B' (SW Scotland)—an advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) closed since October 1977 when the Firth of the Clyde was sucked back into its pressure vessel.
- * Brunsluttel (nr Hamburg, W Germany)—closed down last year after over 100 tons of radioactive vapour shot out. Believe it or not, it could have blown-up.
- * Harrisburg—faulty temperature gauges caused the back-up cooling system to be turned off too soon. This in turn caused a serious leakage of radiation with the threat of a meltdown and/or explosion. The total pub...

A very big bit of this efficiency is therefore lost on its way to your electric light bulb or work-bench. So local generators have their efficiency too.

We're not talking of a diesel engine phut-phutting by your dustbin, but small community plants using wind, hydro-power or even solar energy if it gets more feasible. Even fossil fuel like coal can reach you cheaper than along pylons and high-tension cable.

But we never want to see all our lives controlled by an elite of Government technicians in Torness and Dungeness.

**Can nuclear power
give you whiter teeth?**



**You
bet your life!**



SOME FACTS ABOUT THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

FACT: Nuclear power had never been a cheap source of electricity.

FACT: It is not safe, power stations do leak, there is more and more waste to dispose (?) of. Leukaemia in plutonium workers.

FACT: Mining of uranium is controlled by huge companies—guilty of price fixing.

FACT: Power stations are built at high profits—at our expense.

FACT: All the world is contaminated by radio-isotopes already.

FACT: Employing few operators, once built, the nuclear reactors are controlled quite closely by the government—we should be moving towards small community controlled energy, whether steam boilers, solar collectors or windmills.

FACT: A primary reason for nuclear reactors is to make the raw materials for bombs and missiles.

gency has not yet been announced but the figure will undoubtedly be high. These workers face a future of cancer, leukaemia, miscarriages, sterility and birth defects.

* The Urals (USSR)—the ultimate accident. Admittedly this was a filthy communist state, that didn't know about capitalist safety (just described), and we don't know exactly when. But sometime in the late 1950s they had a catastrophe in the Ural mountains. The town of Kyshtym had an explosion, plants were un-leaved and died. People had skin dropping off, hundreds died. The area is restricted and contaminated these 20 years later. (This information comes indirectly from the CIA, our Official Secrets Act keeps our government from disclosing it!!!)

Well, the list could be much longer. The Russians hit the jackpot years ago and someone will do it again. By Sod's Law you can depend on that.

continued page 2

**Inside: women
printworkers
dare to fight**

*confessions
of a
male housewife*

PLUS

special free supplement
HARD TIMES
paper of the GLASGOW
ANARCHIST GROUP

NUCLEAR

STOP THIS ATOMIC MADNESS

Anyone with hopes for a better life in the future must be sickened by the current weakness of the anti-nuclear movement in Britain. Time is running out. Already there is enough radioactive material around to poison the planet for the next half million years. Already people are being exposed daily to low levels of radiation which will give them cancer within 20 years. Already the state is gathering its forces ready to pounce on those who want control over their own environment and who refuse to be dictated to by the technocrats and the transnational corporations.

Faced with this urgency a dramatic increase in the level of opposition to nuclear power is a must. Powerful opposition must be generated at every stage in the fuel cycle from Uranium mining to waste dumping. This can only be done effectively through organisation with a big 'O'. We need a campaign something along the lines of the Anti-Nazi League only far more dynamic and involving greater numbers of people.

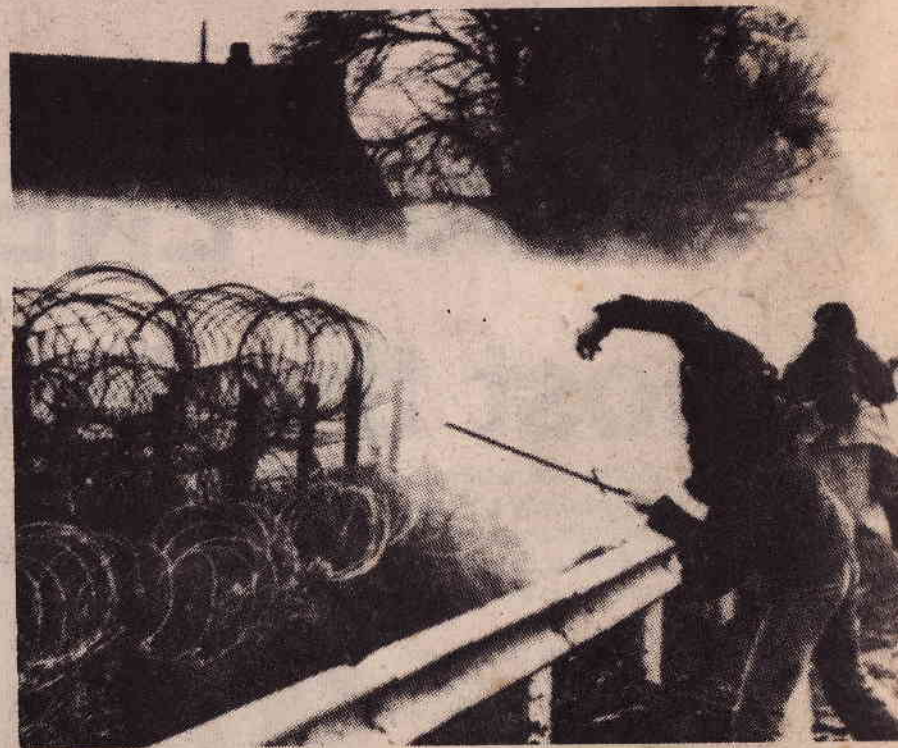
What I'm proposing is a national Federation of Anti-Nuclear Groups. The groups would be fully autonomous and based in the community and in the workplace. Their task would be to produce and distribute anti-nuclear information in their particular area, to send speakers to schools, union meetings, tenants associations, etc. They could also organise local events such as "Rock against Nukes", street theatre, and acts of disruption and civil disobedience.

National activities could be co-ordinated through conferences and through a weekly or fortnightly internal newsletter which would also serve as a forum for debate and exchange of information.

Membership of the federation would be restricted to people committed to oppose nuclear power BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY, including violent. It must be recognised once and for all that violence and non-violence are tactics to be used selectively according to the activity being planned. And actions must be well-planned beforehand so that precious time isn't wasted discussing fundamental issues when we should be busy doing what we set out to do. If you're occupying the site of a nuclear power station, for example, you need to know why you're there and that the others are there for the same reason. This way the sorry spectacle of opponents of nuclear power falling out with each other is avoided.

The trouble with most anti-nuke people is that we're too nice and niceness often slides into complacency. The supporters of nuclear power are ruthless and aggressive. They have millions to spend on brain-washing us into accepting their madness and failing that they will soon have the legislative and military muscle to impose it on us anyway.

We mustn't be afraid to be as ruthless and aggressive as they are. Unless we stop them soon they will ruin not only our lives but also the lives of generations to come. And to our dreams of a better and more human world we can kiss good bye for ever.



Uranium price fix

EIGHT DOLLARS a pound was the price for uranium throughout the fifties and sixties. It was five dollars in 1971! It's now 40 dollars.

Even the most thick-skinned politician wouldn't wish to

RT-Z have, amongst their directors, such investors as Lord Shackleton (Labour), Carring (Tory), Byers (Liberal). So we can confidently expect no government to sort these cynical parasites out.

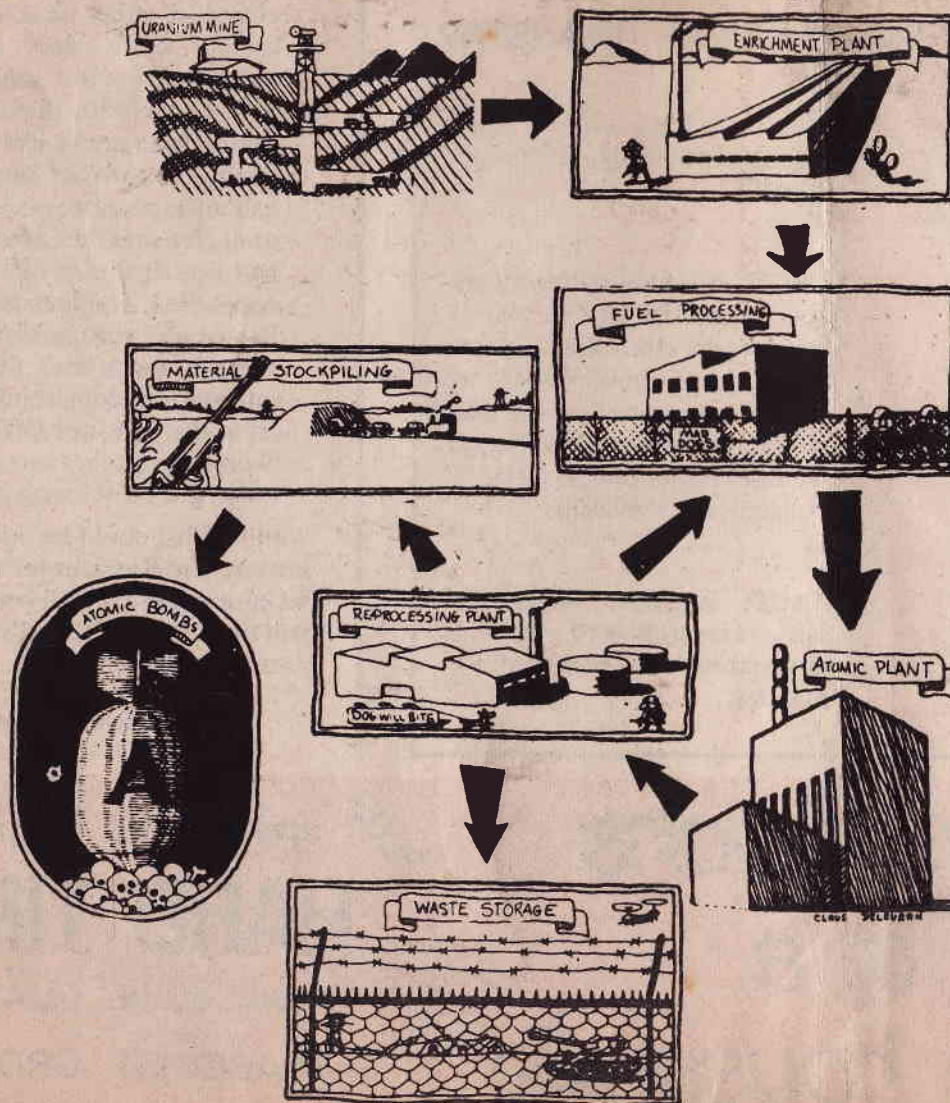
How does radiation

them soon they will ruin not only our lives but also the lives of generations to come. And to our dreams of a better and more human world we can kiss goodbye for ever.

GH, SE London ACA

We would like to hear from anyone interested in following up the ideas expressed above. Send letters immediately to: FANG, c/o ACA, Box 2, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8.

The nuclear fuel cycle



five dollars in 1971! It's now 40 dollars.

Even the most thick-skinned of politicians wouldn't wish to kid us this was standard inflation. So demand must have soared?

Well, no, throughout demand has held steady around 26,000 tons per annum. And production has been 30,000 tons per annum. In 1971, 100,000 tons were stock-piled. (Figures from the US Congress.)

CROOKS

The atomic industry denies operating a price-fix. Except that the French mining company URANEX admitted there was a system for selling less uranium for the same overall price.

This is called a *cartel*. All the companies get together and cease to compete, they share out the market in a gentlemanly fashion.

The French blabbed because it was still partly competitive. Real winners were Rio Tinto-Zinc. Famous for polluting Wales with heavy metals, they have also done very nicely, thank you, out of the cartel.

Incidentally we pay in the long run.

'WOUND UP?

Supposedly wound up, the cartel has kept the higher prices. A ringleader, Louis Mazels of RT-Z, has fled to South America.

Wedgie Benn in the government expressed surprise at the cartel, but never took any measures to control RT-Z.

radiation kill?

EVERYDAY ultra-violet radiation from the sun kills your skin when you do too much sunbathing. A quick whiff of radio gases could similarly cook your lungs.

But normally we are subjected to less intense doses and it interferes with our bodies unseen.

Strontium 90 used to be the pet dread. A 1950s Windscale leak and bomb fall out allowed some to get into milk and it was realised that the body would treat it like calcium (a chemical sister) which helps to stiffen our bones.

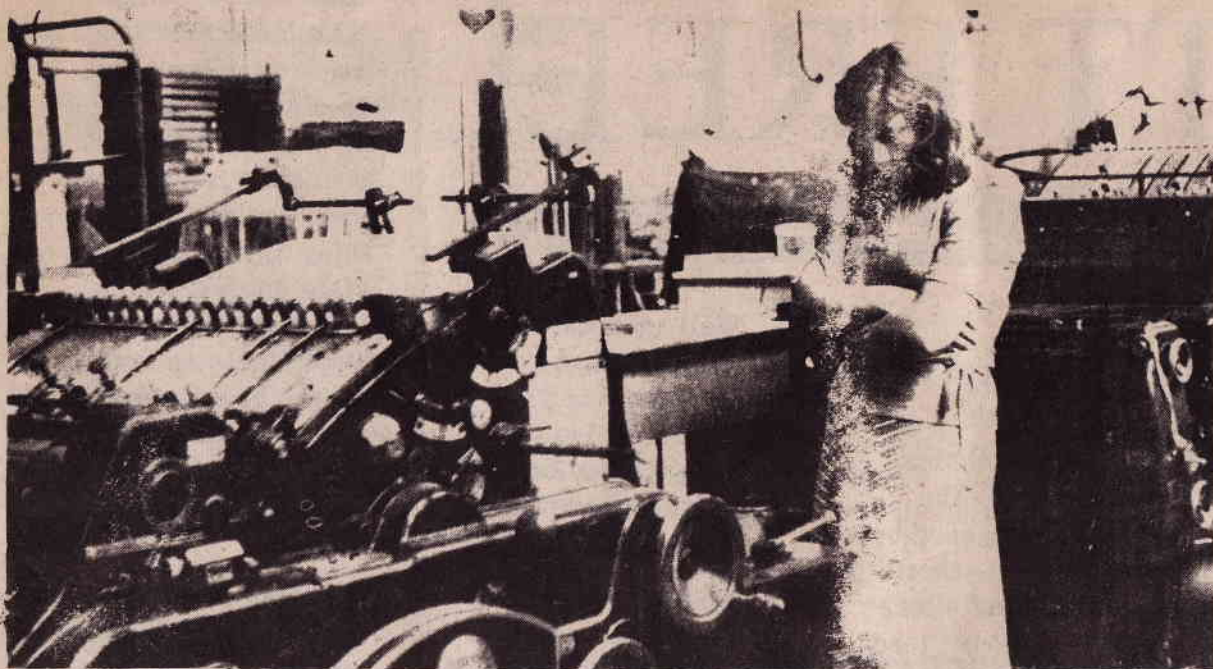
As the strontium 90 breaks down, it will change its chemistry and the bone is weaker. The radio-particle it tosses out is also believed to start bone cancer and leukaemia.

What about our children and following generations? We believe the genetic information is passed on by a system not unlike a tape recording. What if carbon 14 breaks down and buggers the tape?

"Misread", "Out of control" wails our little computer in the body cell. Luckily most such damaged cells die off and healthy ones step in.

But some survive, changed, mutations. Most of these turn out to be extremely nasty and are called cancer.

INDUSTRIAL STRUGGLE



From office girls to print workers

The boss turned to the only male keypunch operator in our workplace (a computer-type-setting firm) and said "Jim, can you tell me what the following things are?" Then he rattled off a long list of printing terms, to each of which Jim, who has done a 5-year apprenticeship, said "Yes," with a mixture of

had their membership (more about this later) and all were at least probationers.

When hired, we were asked not to tell the others about the differential. Being in a poor employment position, I complied with this, but I did tell the union, who gave me some confusing stuff about the differential being "trainees" (I didn't real-

freeze. He implied that she and I had been hired by mistake and admitted to the union by mistake.

Among his remarks was "I wanted a total male staff from the trade. I'm not a good manager; I work better with men. It's just my personal weakness."

despite their different roles, obviously identify with each other more than any of them does with us.

THE REAL COST

Any, the boss went off to think it over, came back after a quarter hour and announced that yes, he would borrow money (sob, sob) to close the differential, but that he was withdrawing all sick pay and was also withdrawing from the working mothers their former "privilege" of varying—not shortening, but varying, and only by a half hour or so—their hours in order to collect children.

After all, he observed all too correctly, variations in hours are against union regulations. Previously the shop steward had winked an eye at it: but the fact that the regulation existed gave management a weapon against us.

This particular move was a purely retaliatory one. Withdrawing sick pay may increase his profits, but withdrawing variable hours makes no difference to him financially.

FLEXITIME SENSE

I don't know why the union opposes flexitime. It's an obviously happier arrangement for any worker, and it's the only way to get rid of discrimination against women. I wish for order and discipline—

cussing setting up machinery for a national sick pay agreement. That's nice. One of the temp. agencies advertise sick pay as among the "normal" employment benefits that it offers—but we, working in a closed shop of one of the most powerful unions, can have it taken away at will.

JARGON

Not that we are "real" union members. We are "allied process" workers—and when, after an unpredictable number of months (one woman has been waiting for a year, though it's supposed to be three months) during which we pay our £1 a week dues, we get our union cards, we will just be "apprentices" for five years thereafter.

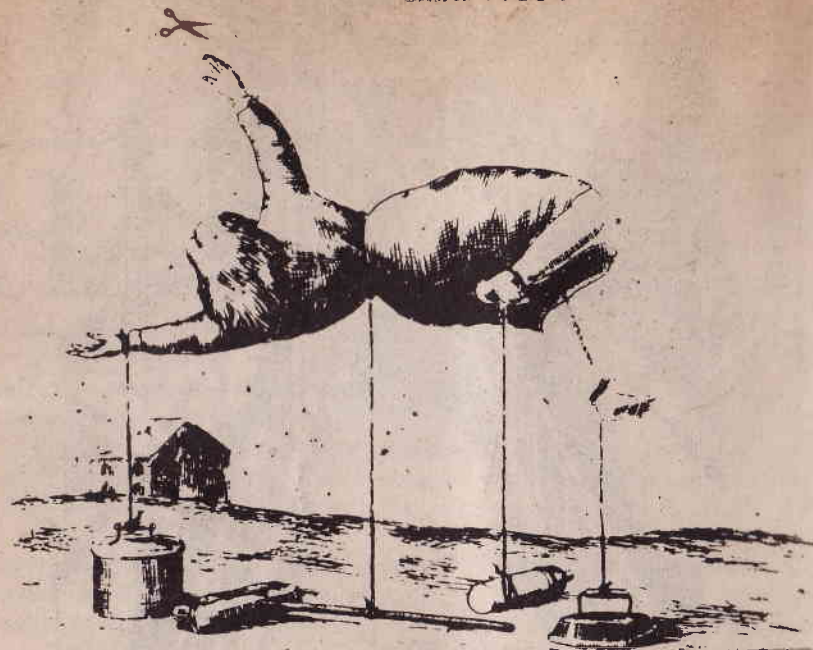


The shop steward explained this "apprenticeship" business to me—"You see, they only print three kinds of cards: full members, journeymen and apprentices." I was too concerned to laugh. All these super-print a fourth kind of card to

off a long list of printing terms, to each of which Jim, who has done a 5-year apprenticeship, said "Yes," with a mixture of pride and embarrassment.

The boss turned to the rest of us. "How many of you ladies know the answers to

with this, but I did tell the union, who gave me some confusing stuff about the others being "trainees" (I didn't realise till it blew up how insubstantial this distinction was) and the shop steward having "everything under control".



those questions?"

Shamefaced silence—but only momentary; the awkward moment passed, and we went on arguing firmly.

The issue was that two of us "ladies" (one of them me) were getting more money than the others for no good reason, and we knew it. We had just happened to "come in through the right door", i.e. by approaching the National Graphical Association; we had no more printing background than the others, were less experienced at our particular job, and were only probationary union members whereas some of the others

Anyway, the "trainees" found out anyway and raised hell, although they were very nice to me and the other worker about it. In effect they had an unofficial stoppage, though some of them would faint if you put it that way to them. Everyone was just too angry or upset to work.

The boss (usually absent, fortunately) came down and harangued us saying while he agreed the differential was unfair he couldn't afford to close it and it should be gradually narrowed in future pay rounds, in other words the other "lady" and I should accept a partial pay

manager; I work better with men. It's just my personal weakness. I apologise.



YES VOTE

Our shop steward (also a man from the trade) told us that the question of the differential was going through the union machinery. We demanded assurance that it would be closed—upwards—in the next paycheque, which was a month off. Pushed into a corner, he said "Yes," whereupon the boss started screaming about how he couldn't afford it.

After a long argument we took a vote on the proposition that the differential should be closed now, at management's expense. The vote was 10 yes, 5 abstentions and 1 no.

Among the 5 abstentions were all three men-from-the-trade connected with our workplace; Jim our co-worker; the office manager; and our NGA shop steward. (He's supposed to be called a Father of Chapel but I don't like using these medieval terms which are part of the craft mystique that keeps us down.) These three men,

for any worker, and it's the only way to get rid of discrimination against working against the union's fanatical wish for order and discipline—away with part-time work, casual work, self-employment, nationalise everything and have



bureaucrats instead of capitalists pushing you around.

After the dispute I said to the shop steward "He can't withdraw sick pay, can he? Isn't it illegal?" The shop steward just said indifferently, "No, he doesn't have to pay it."

In one of the bits of NGA bumb which are occasionally handed round the office, and for which, plus the tail end of the wages settlements, we pay £1 per week dues, I read that the union officials are now dis-

apprentices." I was too con- ned to laugh. All these sup-

print a fourth kind of card suit a new technology that happens to depend on the tional skills, and traditional working history, of women saving up all our dues for month, couldn't they afford take their problem to a loc stationer-and-printer and h him print a fourth kind of card since it's beyond their ingenuity?

After this confrontation its mixed results, we were pleted. Most of the women are very anxious to preserve friendly atmosphere and are personally averse to milita But the boss's petty harassments about timekeeping and productivity (one woman had a nervous breakdown precipitated by a nasty warning letter from him) have put one's back up. We also know our power. We closed that differential without even mentioning the word "strike". Give time.

