

GLASGOW'S REVOLUTIONARY NEWSPAPER

Practical Anarchy

ORGANISE NOW TO WIN

SOLIDARITY!

IT HAS FINALLY BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE MASS MEDIA. The Tories want to crush any means that the miners have of opposing pit closures, and in the future, wage cuts.

Ian McGregor, Thatcher's puppet has confirmed this in a statement he made of 'returning to meaningful management without hindrance from anyone'.

They don't even hide what they are after. With the weak-kneed, arse-licking union leaders they don't have to.

But ordinary union members and the working class in the mining areas have rediscovered something which the Union bureaucrats and Thatcher's puppets thought had died.

CLASS SOLIDARITY AND MUTUAL AID.

This is what governments and union careerists are really afraid of and have always been, because they see people organising without leaders — organising food and money collections, soup kitchens and in some areas, picketing and sabotage.

Of course there are divisions, the groundwork for which was prepared in 1974 by the Labour government with a Working Group along with the NCB and NUM which looked at 'the factors which limited output and productivity'.

Longlife

This became the basis of the incentive schemes which divided pits into financial and geographical, long life and short life, productive and unproductive.

The railway workers have their wage claim given to them in an attempt to buy them off from giving support to the miners, an attempt which looks like failing with the Notts. railway workers refusing to move coal.

If I was a railway worker I would be looking to next year and the year after: remember the rationalisation plans produced for the railways last year can always be brought out of the files

Then we have Ravenscraig, accepting deliveries of coal from scab drivers and

Thatcher saying that the picketing could close down the plant, and that she supports the steelworkers' 'right to work'.

The latest news for Ravenscraig is they have two years before the drop, and it won't be the Tories support that will be needed but that of the rest of the working class — THEIR class — when the time comes.

Recently teachers, journalists, and workers in the Post Office, British Leyland, Yarrows, the DHSS and Sealink, and several others have been involved in strike action.

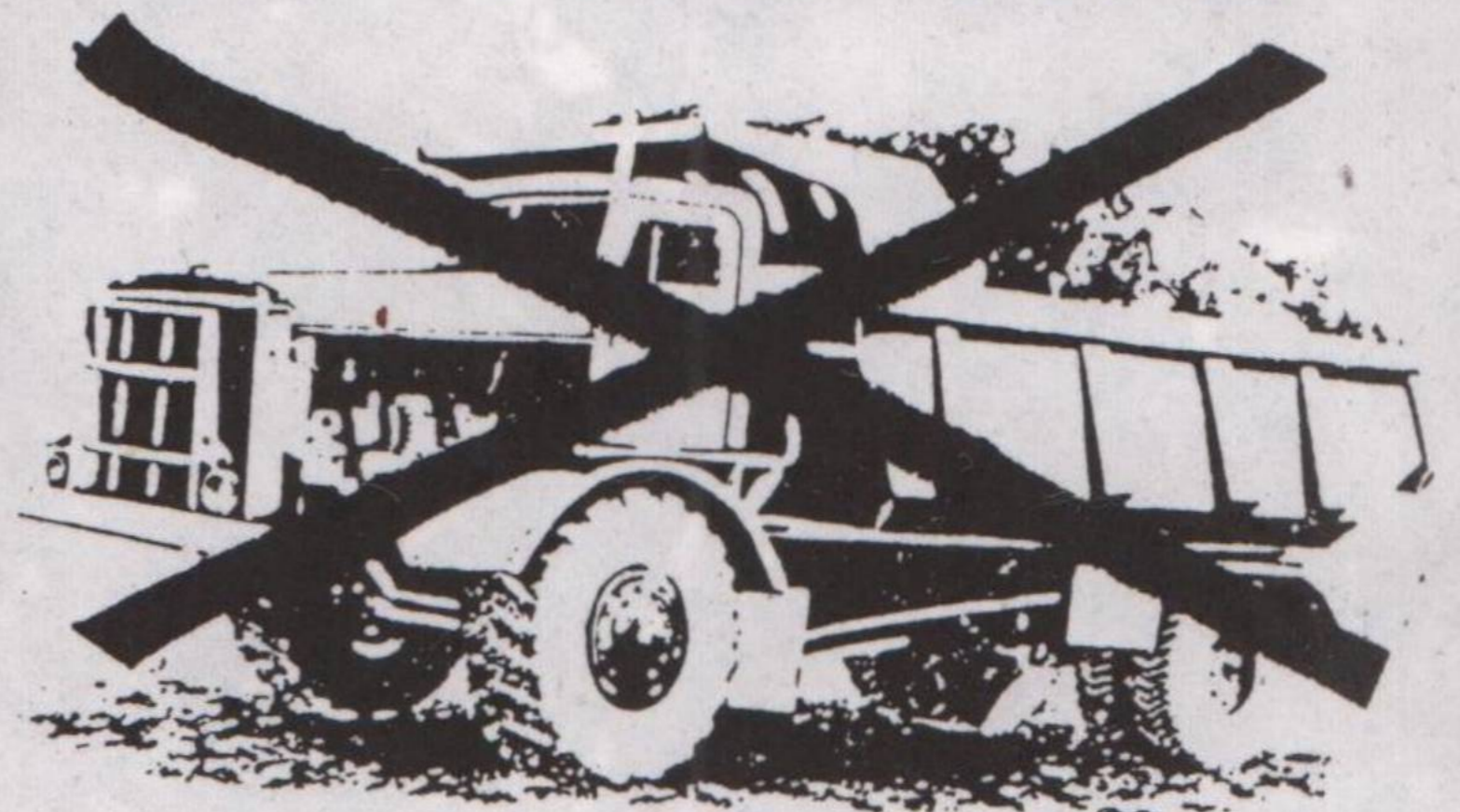
The crucial question is who will help YOU when your workplace is closed or when your dole money is cut and rent increased and bus service depleted. The list goes on and includes everything that is controlled by the state, local and national.

70,000 redundancies with fewer pits and higher pay (for those still in work) is what this dispute is all about. The government has shown its hand. 70,000 families living on DHSS, whole areas desolated, providing a pool of cheap labour demoralised and willing to work under any conditions.

It is kids in working class areas who are on the frontline, whether they have any kind of decent life in the future may depend on the opposition that is mounted now.

All over the country food collections are being gathered and distributed to mining areas, collections are being taken

NO SCAB COAL



IN CLYDESIDE!

25th JUNE 1984.

Price in Shops: 10p. On the streets: Donation.



at most workplaces. Don't let it be said in the future that the miners were starved into submission, don't give 50p give a pound, and not just when there is a collection; organise one yourself and give it to the mining community nearest to you, not to the NUM where it can be lost in the bureaucratic web.

Organise

Support the pickets by being there yourself, not just a resolution at your TU branch. Of course the unemployed cannot give as much financially but it involves them as much — the longer the labour pool the less chance of them getting a job, the more likelihood of employers cutting wages; you know the thing "if you don't like it I can always get someone else."

This is what is happening now. It is exactly what happened at the Carousel Wafer dispute in Glasgow, when some of the workforce tried to join the TGWU.

In that dispute the strikers relied on union officials and, not surprisingly, lost. We have to start looking at ways of creating the community spirit that the mining areas have rediscovered. Individuals can have an effect by running free newsheets in their workplace and community and joining with others in creating support groups for the mining communities and others involved in the class struggle.



HOLD YOUR HORSES !

• 'COSSACK' CHARGE AT THE BATTLE OF ORGREAVE

WOAH BOY! BACK TO THE STABLES! Haven't you heard the latest Labour Party Resolution ?

Strathclyde Regional Labour Party passed a motion recently calling for Patrick Hammill, Glasgow's Chief Constable 'to control his Force'.

It reminds me of that rotten joke about the cross-eyed teacher who couldn't control his pupils...

The problem, of course, is that Hammill and his cronies are controlling their forces **ALL TOO WELL.**



LEN MURRAY

WOT! NO KNIGHTHOOD?

THERE AIN'T NO JUSTICE!
The Queen's Birthday Honours List has been published and Len Murray isn't on it!

If ever anybody deserved a Knighthood it's Len. He's slaved for the past ten years, keeping the workers under control, while unemployment rose to 4½ million.

And he's done his best to block any support for the miners.

In fact, when Malcolm Pitt, of the Kent NUM was jailed, Murray was wining and dining as a guest of the Police Federation's Annual Conference.

Yes, the time's well overdue to declare: **ARISE, SIR MURRAY OF SELLOUT!**

They get their orders from Britain's national political police HQ, on the 13th floor of Scotland Yard (like all good things this command post — the National Reporting Centre — was established by a **LABOUR** government, during '79's 'winter of discontent').

This centre is a vital part of Thatcher's plan to smash the miners:— This Year's Argies — and she's hoping this will be her Industrial Falklands.

It will take more than a show of hands to thwart her designs. It will take determined solidarity from the entire working class.

Neigh Mare !

But in the meantime here's a couple of words to the miners that are worth a thousand resolutions.

LION MANURE.

Horses have an instinctive fear of lions and bolt in the opposite direction when they as much as smell their presence.

A liberal spreading of this stuff on a picket line would prevent the brutal 'cossack charges' that we've seen at Hunterston and Orgeave.

A visit to Calderpark Zoo could well result in a modest victory over the police Goon Squads !

WRITE !

LETTERS AND STORIES WELCOME
Box 3, 488 Great Western Road. G12

The Foulest Breed

WE'VE HEARD A LOT in the media and from other biased, backward or hostile groups that the Police are 'only doing their job' and upholding law and order.

The point is that the police **ARE** only doing their job: their **REAL** job — the very reason for their creation — the protection of private property.

Not your little houses or possessions (see below) but the protecting the interests of the upper class and boss class, their property, position, power and privilege, against the working classes.

Masters

In short the police (or strike breaking soldiers and their conned or ratbag ilk) are carrying out the same role as the lowest elements from time immemorial have done: that of defending their masters or 'betters' for money, or whatever, against the struggles and desires of their own class or people.

As foul a breed today as they have always been, and the ultimate traitors in the class war.

• A recent investigation showed that while police pay had **DOUBLED** in real terms over the past 30 years, and the number of police doubled over the same period, the number of 'crimes' solved had **HALVED**. Some productivity deal!

HERE IS THE NEWS...

WE SUPPORT the miners in their fight against redundancies. We support the British Rail workers at Cowllairs in **THEIR** fight against redundancies. But those bastard purveyors of ruling class ideology and Home Counties complacency – the staff of BBC'S 'Sixty Minutes' – can take a running jump...

They're just part of the motley crew of journalists, TV reporters and commentators who have put the boot into the miners over the past 15 weeks. If this is their idea of 'balance', I wouldn't like to see them on a bicycle.

One tactic is to distort or play down stories. For instance at the Orgreave picket on Monday 19th June the number of pickets was nearer 10,000 than the media reported 4-6,000.

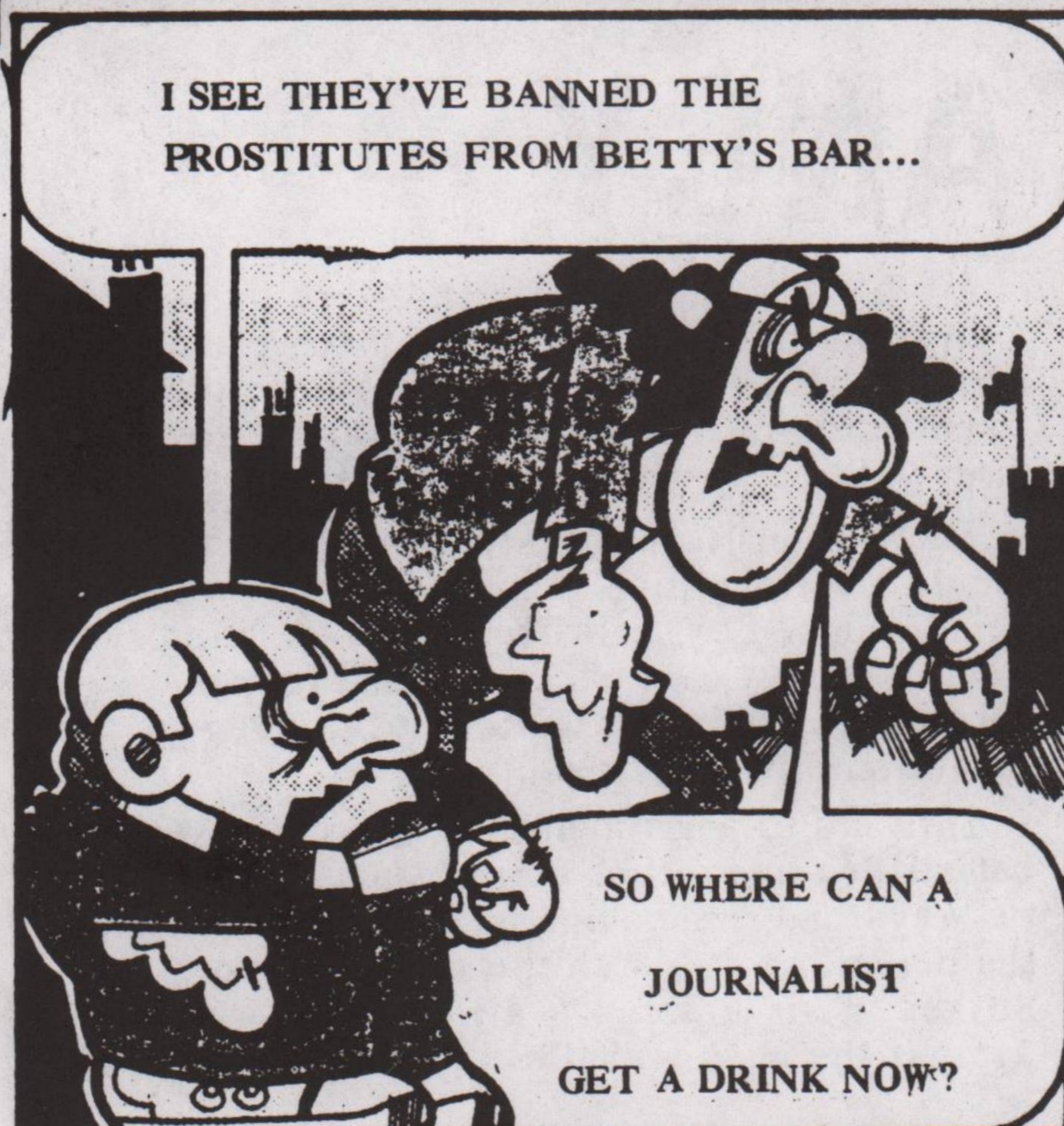
And the attack by 200 people on the police station in the village of Maltby, near Doncaster, was hushed up.

Another tactic is not to report the stories at all. Peter Walker, Minister for Energy, has personally phoned Fleet Street editors to 'spike' stories.

HERE IS A RUN-DOWN OF SOME OF THE STORIES YOU MAY HAVE 'MISSED' OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

■ **STERLING SUB-MACHINE-GUNS** are on trial with five British Police Forces. They are capable of firing 550 rounds a minute.

■ **THE BRITISH ARMY** has been training its counterparts in West Germany in an exercise designed for a 'Civil War scenario'. In a



mock village, scenes similar to recent events in Yorkshire and Scotland are enacted. Only this time they're using light artillery.

■ **A FATHER** came across his son at the Birch Coppice Colliery in the Midlands. The father was a South Wales miner on picket duty, and his son was a Welsh Guardsman... only he was in police uniform.

■ **POLICE VOLUNTEERS** for actions such as Orgreave are declining, in spite of the massive wages. Police are being increasing **ORDERED** on to picket lines.

■ **THE TERRITORIAL ARMY** is to recruit 16,000 extra troops – specifically to act as a strike breaking force.

■ **THE MINERS BLOCKADE** is beginning to bite. Didcot and Aberthaw power stations are currently out of action.

■ **AN 'ANARCHIST'** group, called the 'Right to Work Action Group' has claimed responsibility for a fire at a railway signal box in North Nottingham, and the cutting of a signal cable in North Derbyshire. The actions were aimed to delay the movement of coal on its way to depots.

STATE OF SIEGE

WHAT IS A POLICE STATE? One answer is a State where the police are paid more than teachers. Another answer is that in policing policies formal democratic checks and counterbalances are sketchy, ineffective or usurped. A third is that the police take or are giving powers outside the law. A fourth is that groups can be declared guilty until proved innocent. Fifthly that the police are actively involved in 'political' matters.

This book, **STATE OF SIEGE: THE FIRST SIX WEEKS OF THE MINERS STRIKE**, presents evidence that the last four elements have been used against Trade Unions. Faced with a political situation where the Employment Acts had to be civil and not criminal legislation yet the police have to be seen pushing 'law and order' the only answer chosen was to jettison legalities...

○ **'DEMOCRATIC CONTROLS'**: The Home Secretary has the power to review how well the police are performing their tasks. By using efficiency auditors the Home Secretary has overrode the Police Committee in Notts.

○ **POLICE WITH POWERS OUTSIDE THE LAW**: 'Magna Carta' gave rights which are 'inconvenient' to large scale assemblies. The police chose tactics of arresting individuals legally picketing, snatch squad arrests, denial of judge's rules to those arrested, and phone tapping on a large scale basis.

○ **GROUPS WITHOUT RIGHTS**: The Miners or any of us has a right to picket peacefully. If we do so it may under certain circumstances lead to *civil* actions. The police have created the impression that secondary picketing is illegal. Clearly a criminal conviction for picketing, whether primary

or secondary, would fall. So the prosecutions are for obstruction and failure to obey an order issued by a policeman.

Once (wrongly) arrested, an innocent person is subjected to a perverse legal situation where he will be found guilty until the trial can be heard because the magistrates accept *evidence of arrest* on trumped up charges as sufficient cause to bind over picketers not to picket certain areas. The effect is then to make picketing against the court order a criminal offence. The court order has no legal status however.

○ **POLITICAL POLICE**: The Home Secretary, the Attorney General and the Police Chiefs Organisation (ASCO) are implicated in a party-political alliance to make the Employment Acts stick.

What has emerged is that the Special Patrol Group National Force has emerged and that Special Branch have files on ordinary Trade Union members. A brief quote to give a flavour of an interview with an arrested picket:

POLICE: Which way did you vote in the last election?

PICKET: That's no business of yours...

POLICE: We both voted Conservative.

PICKET: I didn't vote Conservative, that's for sure...

POLICE: Are you a left winger or an extreme left winger?

I would urge you to obtain a copy of the book from your library, your union or from the STUC, as a source book of the political and police abuse of power not only is it authoritative but also easy to read. Remember its liberal tendency and reject its facile recommendations for 'Committees of Enquiries'. The answer lies in rejecting all the powers of the State.

COMMUNITY

ACTION ?

GLASGOW is the centre of an experiment in community consciousness. Unlike the mining areas engaged in strike action where mutual aid is being genuinely practised, however, the situation in Glasgow is geared to the health of the state.

Many well meaning community workers (along with the usual rag-bag of careerists whom the Labour Party is the **JOB CENTRE FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS**) are busily engaged in trying to recreate communities. These communities are nothing more than the decimated areas like Maryhill, Govan or Shettleston, or sprawling concrete jungles like Drumchapel or Castlemilk.

The community 'projects' that are started up, from local playschemes to claimants unions attract many local people dedicated to helping others. They are drawn into a spiders web of Social Work grants and committee procedures and generally lose sight of the causes of the human misery the attempt to counteract.

Meanwhile State officials, at National and local level redraw the boundaries of 'multiple deprivation' by shifting resources from one area to another, using up tenants energies in endless struggles over their 'share' of an ever diminishing cake. One area gets modernised another gets progressively vandalised, and the spiral goes on. In their neighbourhoods in Bearsden, Newton Mearns, Eaglesham and West Pollokshields the officials escape to enjoy the fruits of their 'professional expertise'.

Instead of channelling anger and revulsion against the system into facilities so that the unemployed can play ping-pong, or that tenants can get a back-court scheme, **ANARCHISTS** reject the separation of the working class into parochial projects. Instead we appeal to those that wish to discard dogmas that wish to link up against the ruling class and all the cosmetic democracy of a system that is only prepared to concede the 'right' to co-manage our own misery.

Real communities are formed out of struggle to take direct action to wrest the initiative away from the State and its agents (and to drive them out of Glasgow) and encourage solidarity between all those actively opposing 'divide and rule' strategy inbuilt into the system.

Holidays in the Sun

HOLIDAYS are the compensation for 48 weeks of boredom and soul-destroying slaving for a boss. They are a safety valve, for a system preparing its own redundancy notice.

The holiday in Benidorm or Blackpool represents a massive con-trick perpetuated by companies exploiting a genuine desire for a break from drudgery and the need to experience 'something different'.

Instead what do the punters get? Packaged versions of their own alienated 'leisure' transplanted into a sunny setting. The 'mass' are conned into consumption as something to save towards. A place to let your hair down, shake off a few inhibitions before preparing yourself for another year of working to keep the bosses in business.

Before anybody accuses anarchists of being 'stay-at-home' spoilsports, we affirm that as internationalists we are for the free movement of people opposed to the restrictions of countries and border-posts. 'What we did on our holidays' is more likely to be fraternising with squatters in Amsterdam than being subjected to artificial holiday resorts that vandalise local areas and give a false impression of local culture.

EUROPE : A GROWING MILITANCY

BEFORE the European Elections, when all the political parties were crawling to us for votes we heard all the empty rhetoric of Europe working together and of building a European Community

What these assholes meant was strengthening the international links of capitalism so as to make it easier to exploit ordinary people worldwide and to keep us divided in our common fight against the ruling class.

There has this year been an upturn in militancy throughout Europe in the class struggle particularly in terms of industrial disputes. But again the divide and rule tactic has been put into effect, both nationally and internationally.

In Britain the miners have borne the brunt of this in a number of ways. Firstly the Government has bought off unions such as the Railwaymen and the Health Service to stop any solidarity developing across union boundaries. Also various union leaderships such as the steel workers and electricians unions have opposed taking action to support the defence of miners communities and livelihoods.

Attacks

The strike has also seen open attacks by the police and media to try and break it, and stop it getting support from outside.

However this has only been part of the problem. There have been very few acts of support across national boundaries where the same class warfare is going on.

For example in West Germany there has been widespread strike action in support of a 35-hour week with no cut in pay. At first the unions, particularly the largest, IG Metall wanted only token action but after wildcat strikes, particularly amongst print and engineering workers and large May Day demonstrations they were forced by the workforce to step up industrial action.

When this happened the employers threatened various lock-outs if supply of parts to the car industry were effected. This immediately caused an escalation in action with 20 out of 25 newspapers stopped and a demonstration in Bonn on 28th May with over 240,000 protesting in favour of the 35-hour week.

Although this dispute is being policed by the union leadership it has spread across a wide selection of working people including those at car plants, people in newspaper production and bank/insurance offices.

In Italy this year there have been much more militant forms of action, against plans to put into practice by the 'socialist' government with help from the union leadership.

There is in Italy a system known as the 'Scala Mobile' which is meant to stop wages being reduced by inflation. However in early February the Government decided to make cuts in this which ultimately meant wage reductions for many people.

This led to angry demonstrations and wildcat strikes and direct action such as blocking railways and ransacking union offices. At the beginning of March there were General Strikes in some areas — all of which went against the wishes of the Unions.

Strikes

These actions were being called for and initiated by the workers who organised themselves into factory councils, which to start with, the union leaders had no control over.

During the first half of March these councils were instrumental in organising an increasing number of regional general strikes against strikes in the Scala Mobile.

These strikes soon began to spread in their demands. For example in Genoa and Naples there were strikes against redundancies, in Sicily against appalling housing conditions and unemployment. There were also large demonstrations against Cruise missiles and action by over 43,000 people in prisons across the country.

Throughout all this the Unions (CISL, IUL, and CGIL) and left wing parties showed themselves to be anti-working class and tried and eventually took control of the factory councils (for the time being) and eventually took control of the situation.

There have also been this year widespread actions in Spain against the rationalisation of various industries especially shipbuilding, again by a 'socialist' government. There have been two general strikes in Belgium — September '83 and April '84 — against hardship for workers caused this time by a right-wing government.

And in France the 'socialist' government's austerity measures have brought the reality of 200,000 jobs to be lost this year. This has led to strikes and riots particularly among workers in the car industry, where again the unions have tried to cool things down.



• 'FREE SHOPPING' IN ITALY.

Resistance is again growing against the State.

With this brief report of what has been happening, events which the British press have been reluctant to report, a number of lessons can be learnt.

We must if we wish to spread the class struggle reject national boundaries in order to create solidarity and internationalism amongst our class, reject the utter lie that trade unions and socialist governments are there to help us — they are as much the enemies of the working class as the Bosses, the State or the media.

'Realism'

Instead we must organise ourselves in both workplaces and community to make our demands go beyond capitalist realism.

Not only must we spread the class struggle outwith the control of national boundaries and the unions but it must spread to all aspects of life where capitalism dominates us, such as through wage slavery and the consumption of commodities. We must recognise that through things like militarism, the family, and sexual and racial violence capitalism keeps us divided and therefore ruled over.

Without internationalism, class consciousness and genuine workers organisation we are at the mercy of such things as multinationals, political parties and the state.

It would appear that there is a militancy developing in Europe, and if we are prepared to learn from past mistakes and willing to go beyond securing reforms such as higher wages or reductions in hours then the world is our oyster!

Public Meeting

LIBERTY EQUALITY SOLIDARITY

McLELLAN GALLERIES
SAUCHIEHALL STREET
Thur day 12th July 7.30pm

ANARCHIST NEWS

THE GLASGOW BOOKSHOP COLLECTIVE in Great Western Road has closed. The Collective, which stocked the best range of anarchist, feminist, and alternative literature in the West of Scotland, finally succumbed to the massive rates bill and the pressure of work on the volunteer staff.

Word has it though, that a separate group, realising the loss of the Bookshop, are considering a new venture around the same area. We wish them the best of success.

Meanwhile the Clydeside

Anarchists are negotiating for a small shop near the town centre, for use as a printshop, meeting place, and distribution centre for counter-information.

LIVELY ANARCHIST STREET MEETINGS take place every saturday in Argyle Street 'proletarian precinct'. Around 2pm, opposite Argyle Street station. It takes the form of an open forum and the miners strike, police actions and other issues of the day are thrashed out. Come along and join in.

Excellent coverage of the

miners battle in BLACK FLAG fortnightly. Also recommended: WORKERS PLAYTIME. These and other anarchist papers like DIRECT ACTION and FREE DOM available at the street meetings.

Finally we encourage the publication of independent local newssheets and can arrange printing. If you're interested in a bulletin for your area or workplace, write to: BOX 3, 488 Great Western Road, GLASGOW (letters only)

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