

DIRECT ACTION



SYNDICALIST WORKERS FEDERATION

5p no. 12

British Section of the International Workers Association



AN INJURY

to one is an injury to all

The turnover of each of the world's top ten multinational companies is greater than the Gross National Product of over 153 countries. These companies have an average growth rate which roaring ahead at more than two or three times the rate of the world's wealthy nations. Their power is unparalleled in world history. They say what kind of clothes we shall wear. What kind of house we live in, if we have one. They decide the type of environment we have around us.

Multinational companies are not limited to one country. They move about the world seeking out places where raw materials are cheap and where production costs are low. They are a law unto themselves.

When Imperial Typewriters decided to move their two British factories abroad 1,500 jobs were lost at very short notice. Every day we are told in the papers and the media that we must put the 'national interest' first.

The multinationals don't give a damn for the 'national interest', don't care which countries they operate in, as long as they are making a handsome profit. We are told repeatedly to buy British, Who really knows what is British produce and what is not? Goods are imported into this country which have been produced by British firms abroad where they own factories. One can buy commodities which are made here in American, German or Japanese owned firms.

Not one of these companies cares a jot for such mythical abstractions like the 'national interest'. They are only interested in hard solid profits!

We didn't elect these corporations to their powerful position. Yet, they have more power than the Governments. When it suits their purpose they will conspire against the regime of the country in which they are operating.

I.T.T. the American electronics giant was involved up to its neck in the plot to overthrow Allende in Chile. Now, more than ever we cannot organise on national basis to conduct a winning fight against capitalism. The system is world wide. The interests of the working class and the boss class are diametrically opposed, but the bosses have a clear idea of their interests whilst the workers are split and divided, their heads full of racist and nationalist junk.

When the tide of unemployment rises, when wages are forced down in real terms, some are only too ready to swallow the racist claptrap of the NF, NP, or even of the Labour Party variety. Blame immigrants and imports for the current economic crisis. Blame the workers for being greedy and lazy. Blame anything other than the real cause of it all, the capitalist system!

For make no mistake, the only way to cure the present slump is to destroy both capitalism and its protector, the state. There is no way in which the victimisation of the immigrant population can achieve an end to the slump. The whole race issue is nothing more than a red herring which is being used by the Boss Class to divide the Working Class.

Don't forget that there were very few coloured workers in this country during the 1930's. But then of course they tried to make scapegoats out of the Jews.

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL.

JAPAN spring offensive

SPRING OFFENSIVE

For better or for worse, the astonishing post-war recovery of the Japanese economy has become a celebrated phenomenon. But few people save the Japanese consumers themselves, are aware of the accompanying, and equally astonishing, rise in consumer prices—some 10% to 20% annually. As a result, the labour movement in Japan has established as its major premise that wage rates should rise by at least an equivalent amount every year.

The strategy devised to carry through this premise has been the uniquely Japanese "Spring Offensive" (Shunto). Generally speaking, the strategy runs as follows: at the beginning of each spring, representatives of the labour unions meet to formulate a proposed wage demand for that year, based on the current rate of price hikes. After arriving at a agreed figure, unions all over the country then begin negotiations with the management. As a rule, the lead is taken by the big powerful unions, while the smaller, weaker ones follow behind them. The figure which the former manages to wrest from the employers (the "wage-hike index") more or less decides the fate of the latter and all workers in Japan.

Needless to say, however, negotiations between the two sides run less than smoothly. So, when the talks break down, unions all over the the country, led by SOHYO (General Council of Trade Unions, the main labour grouping), begin a strike campaign. "Strike", though, with the result that the union leaders are usually cajoled into accepting a figure which the Government mediators think tolerable—high enough to satisfy the unionists, and low enough to appease the company directors. Of course, once this "bosses only" stage is reached, the rank and file workers have no clue at all of what is happening to their wage demands. They are like puppets, dancing to the tune of the instructions which reach them from on high.

Anyway, like it or not, the "Spring Offensive" strategy for seeking wage hikes has persisted for the past twenty years, thanks to the prodigious growth rate of the Japanese economy. In the past couple of years, however, sudden changes have been set in motion. The "oil

is hardly the word for what takes place. Stepping the trains for two hours, knocking off work for half a day, holding a meeting instead—this is the usual pattern. In other words a form of struggle feasible only for workers in large corporations. On the other hand, as has become usual, the national railway workers announce a one day strike, all of the mass media—television, radio newspapers—let out a unanimous shriek of protest about the inconvenience caused to innocent people" and so on. A radical labour movement in Japan thus faces the same problems as do those elsewhere.

When the wage negotiations finally break down, the Government's arbitration council is empowered to intervene. From this point on, all decisions are made by repeated meetings of the bosses on both sides,

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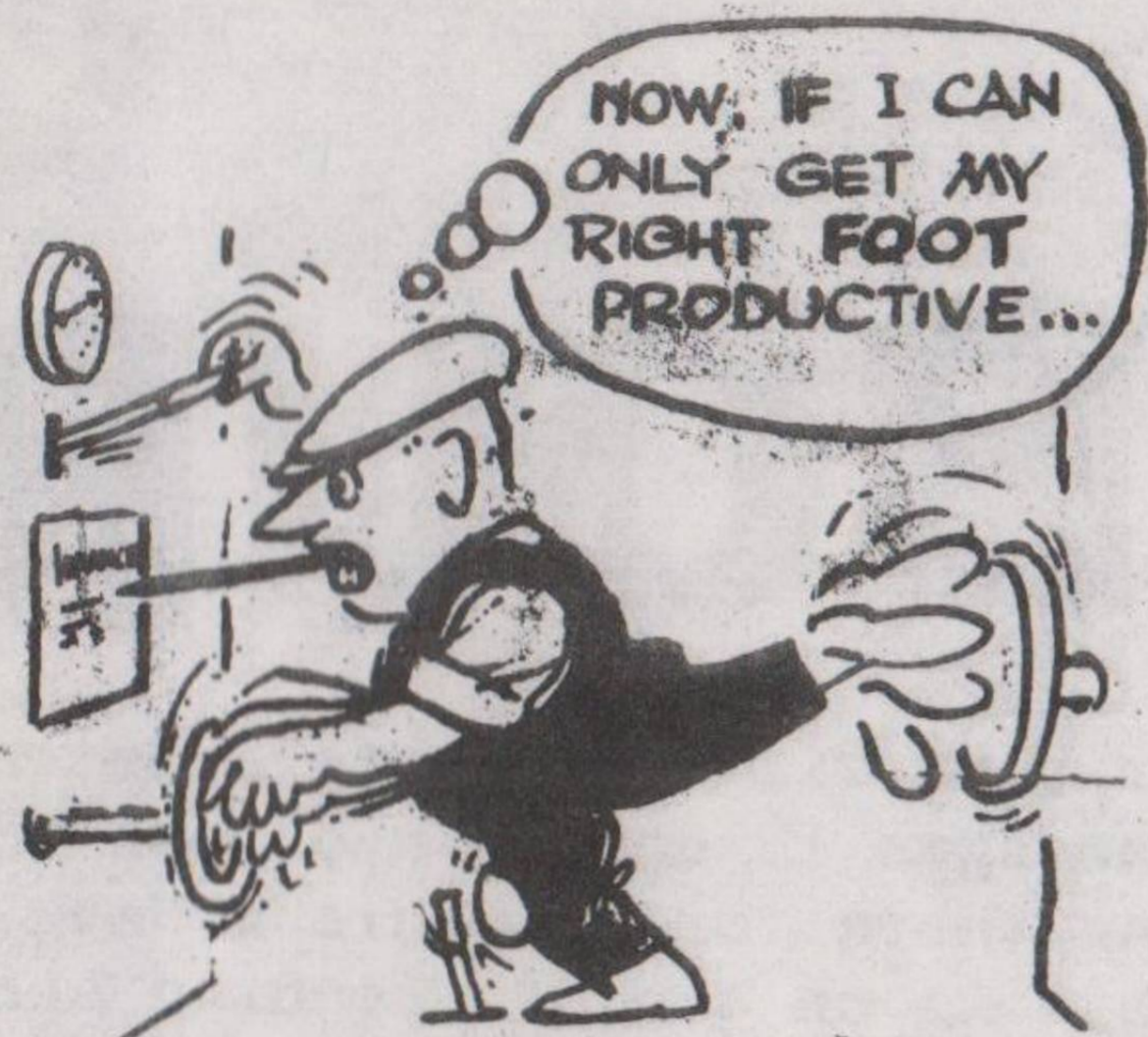


WHAT'S THAT RUMBLING NOISE?

panic" of October 1973 brought Japan nose to eyeball with its greatest business slump since the war. First textiles circles, then the motor car manufacturers, the steel industry, and the makers of small electrical appliances, one by one felt the pinch. Throughout Japanese industry, production fell. The consequence for wage negotiations, naturally the size of the "pie" to be shared out between company and employees.

Japan has now entered a phase of "minus" or, at best, slow economic growth. Logically, it is now being said, that the "Spring Offensive" should also be abandoned. In fact, though this strategy has always done more harm than good to those who should reap the benefits. Why? The reasons are:

1. It has become an annual event—a kind of ceremonial festival in which not only has the sense of a workers' struggle all but disappeared, but which also allows unions to be totally inactive outside the "Spring Offensive" period.
 2. It has accelerated trends towards centralisation within the labour movement. Since all effective negotiations are carried among the "bosses," the effect on the labour movement as a whole has been debilitating.
 3. It has been taken over by the government and by the opposition Communist, Socialist and Democratic Socialist parties as a political strategem. In other words, the wage settlement achieved by the campaign is tied up with all sorts of political issues (i.e., parliamentary power struggles), and is used as a pawn in the political underworld.
 4. It benefits only workers employed in large concerns: the vast majority, those employed by small and medium sized firms, are quite neglected. The present depression has encouraged this tendency, since the latter, unable to strike, are seen to be completely at the mercy of the former, who by their power to dictate the year's wage rise, constitute in effect no more than sub-contractors.
 5. It widens the class differences within the working class itself. The big capitalists, by their conciliatory approach towards the major unions, have been able to cut them off from the lower-paid workers. In other words, a clever system of divide and rule has come about. We Japanese workers must fight to destroy this process!
 6. The time calls for a return to a real labour movement, one which embodies the image of the worker her/himself. Now that the absolute value of the economic pie has shrunk, the "Spring Offensive" style of movement which shortsightedly relies on simply taking a larger share for itself has become redundant. From now on, a new kind of movement, one which combines voluntary efforts to increase the size of the pie with the assurance of its fair distribution, one with its sights firmly set on a society based on workers' self-management of production, may well be on the move!
- This article has been taken from 'Libero International'



SECTARIAN

In the April issue of "Libertarian Struggle" in an article entitled 'The Impending Con of Spanish Democracy'. There is a statement, which says that many members of the CNT have a 'new analysis' and they speak of 'working class autonomy' and libertarian communism. How this can be described as a new analysis we don't know, the statutes of the AIT, mentions libertarian communism throughout the document. Workers' autonomy is of course common to all the Anarchist who take a working class line. Talk about making up differences where none really exist!

UP BEFORE THE UNION

The nature of the building industry makes it one of the most difficult to organise. A trade union member can literally go for donkeys years without being asked to show his union card. Being nicknamed dry land sailors, it is not hard to understand why, with so many small firms subcontracting, self-employment tax fiddles and all the rest of the artful dodges that operate in the industry, why there is such a small percentage holding union cards. On the other side of the coin, the unions themselves, aren't all sweetness and light, and leave a lot to be desired.

Even where you have a fairly stable work force, like on a local authority, unionisation is at a minimum on the building side of the council. Many are just satisfied with a job on the council because of the security it can bring, and the extra benefits, like full basic pay when sick.

But Local Authorities, unlike private firms are not directly concerned with profits. They also have this old buddies relationship with the trade unions, like well, we are such good employers that really our employees don't need the union, or rather any union organisation on the sites. Of course this far from the truth. However the unions are not so much interested in good site organisation, but operative who belong to a union. The check-off system is a 'god send' to them because it is an easy way out for apathetic workers, and for the unions who want numbers and the cash.

SITES

In my own section of the industry we have had some measure of success organising sites. This led to the formation of a shop stewards committee with a regular constituted meeting with the officers of the local authority. All this has been done without the unions, except that the frame work for such a meetings etc had been agreed between them and the local authorities.

As readers will no doubt from their own experience, the union leadership dislike their members taking independent action, it only calling a meeting amongst themselves to discuss problems of common interests. So when our union finally takes an interest in our section some active members are called before the area committee of the



BY ORGANISING INDUSTRIALLY WE ARE FORMING THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY WITHIN THE SHELL OF THE OLD.

union. Firstly, it seems that the major crime was calling our own meetings without one of the area committee present. However, since these meetings are attended by other unions, it would hardly be right for an elected, all be it a lay member attending from only one of the unions.

The area committee wants to know how it can help us. It wants to recruit members;

that is after all these years of neglect when full time organisers could have visited sites and recruited members, and had shop stewards elected. Also, many of these same lay members sitting around the table in the union's offices have in the past called the same sort of meetings I had done, and yet not one said a thing after the secretary had made his attack. It must also be said that they were members of a party professing to hold revolutionary ideals for the emancipation of the working class.

But what it shows for Anarcho-syndicalists is how militants can be incorporated into the a reformist organisation. We had not requested the meeting but the impression they gave was that we had, and they asked what they could do for us.

This is really an indictment of the trade unions, both of their inability to organise an industry and the feeling that the Union offers very little anyway. Trade unionism isn't seen as a principle, but something one has to join, a little against one's will. In that sort of situation it is hard to put over a case for joining except the unity it brings to a site.

This area committee could do very little for us, we knew it, but really they did not want admit it.

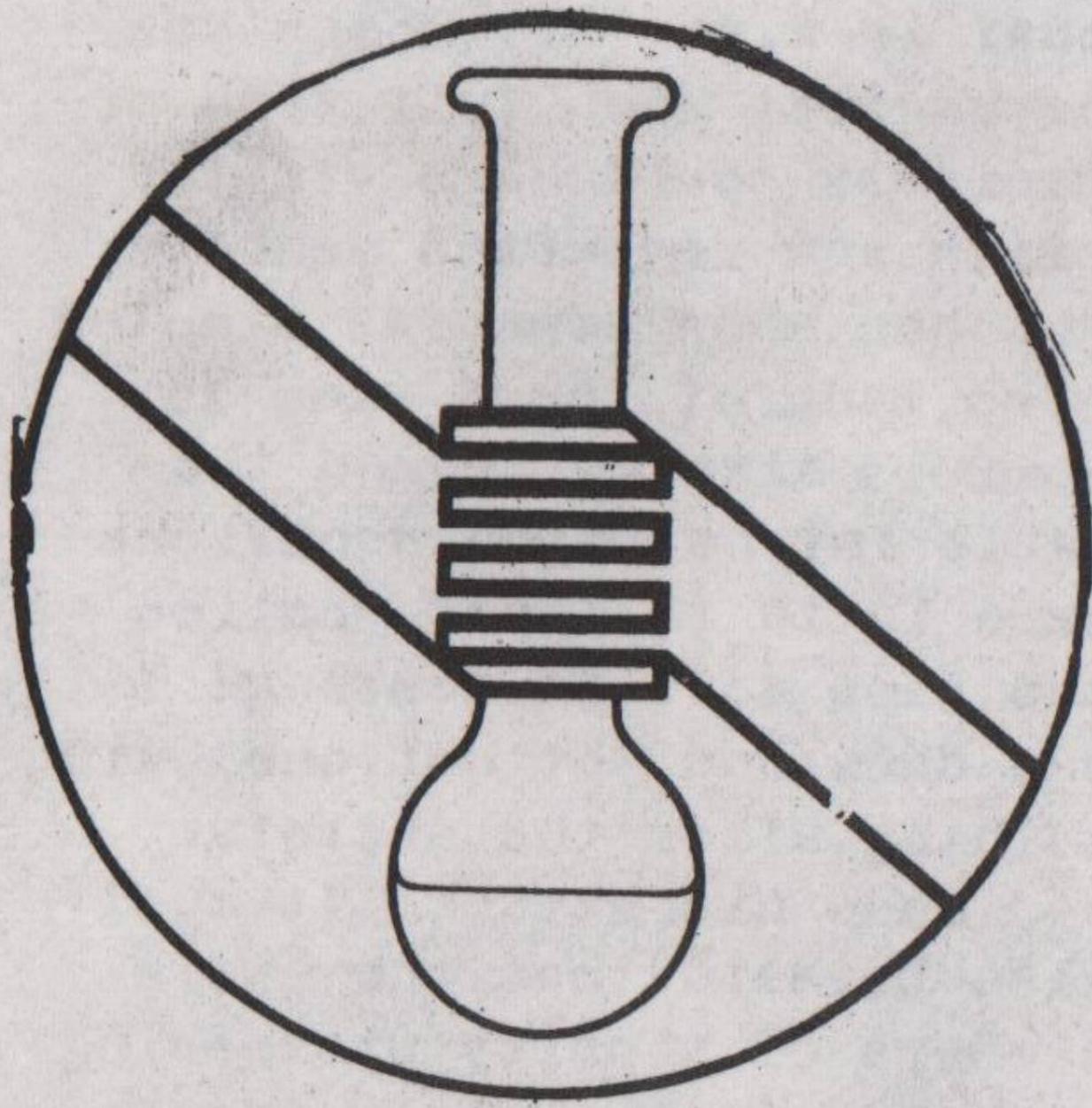
CHECK OFF SYSTEM

All the time in the background was the check-off system. Once every operative has been joined up this way, we have the union fodder enabling the leadership to enjoy their position of power. The regular contributions received will assure the financial position of the union.

Trade unions in Britain are only concerned with securing what they can from the employers with the minimum of direct action. The building unions are no exception. As Anarcho-syndicalists, we are not interested in gaining positions within the union like Labour Party members, trotskyists, and communists. We are concerned with organising and not being "organised".

Organising for the overthrow of the system that pits man/woman against each other. We are not satisfied with reforms, we want each and everyone to run their own lives, and not be exploited by a minority who at present control the social, political and economic system.

Building Worker.



Workers' Health Centre

The Sheffield Science for the People group, an autonomous regional grouping within the Society for Social Responsibility in Science, is establishing a full time centre in Sheffield, which will provide information on occupational health and safety for local workers. Also, it will be arranging educational meetings on the subject. The Centre will carry out research into health hazards at work.

They will provide technical equipment for the monitoring of these hazards.

The Centre will have the support of the Joint Trades Union Committee on Industrial Safety. During the course of the year; the group will be trying to raise funds to support the centre. To this end local union assistance, stewards committees etc, will be essential.

Last year, the group worked out a practical hazards at work course, which is being run in conjunction with the W.E.A. The course has attracted a lot of interest both in Sheffield and in Rotherham.

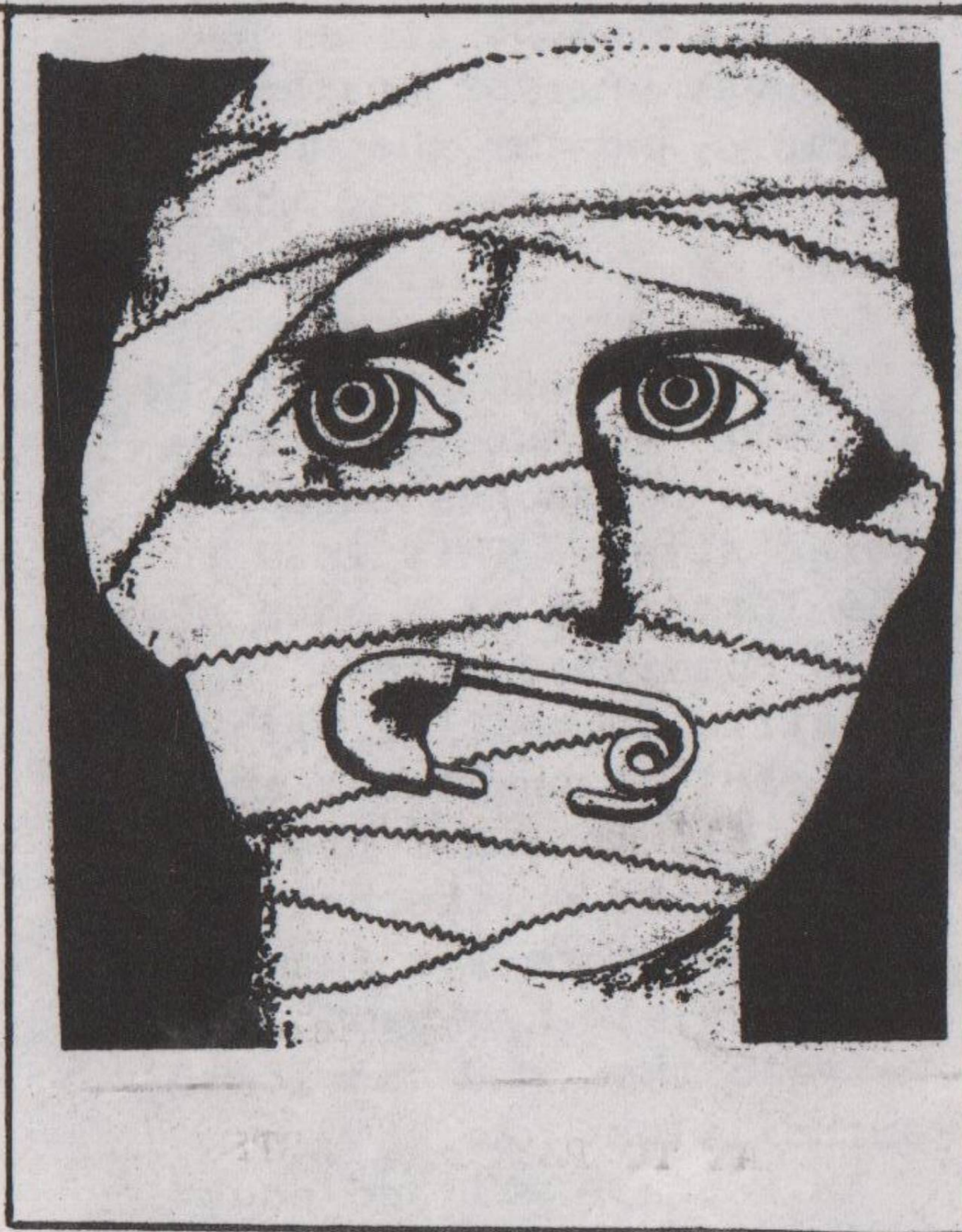
The group have already provided technical assistance to workers in the form of noise monitoring and dust sampling. One steward wrote to the SFP to say that, "SFP has been of great help to welders... regarding the noise problem in our factory. With loan of a noise meter we were able to force management to bring in experts and offer some kind of protection for welders and turners.

The group would like to hear from people who access to technical equipment in chemistry for the analysis of dust and solvent samples, and also in acoustics.

Contact: Science for the People, 14 Goodwin Rd, Sheffield S8

CHILD LABOUR

On 31 st March, a picket was held outside J&D Plastics in Dukinfield, Cheshire, by about 30 Trade Unionists from the Tameside area. It had been organised by the Tameside Trades Council in protest against the use of child labour



OIL KILLER

HM Factory Inspectorate has spoken of one machine shop "with at least 16 cases of cancer of the scrotum as well as skin lesions out of a work force of 85- an incidence of 1 in 5 ! More than half the men treated for scrotal cancer die- the majority within three years of treatment.

The Factory Inspectorate also accept that oils which cause skin cancer are liable to cause cancer of the lungs and stomach; and this great repercussions for the general population, the air levels in cities contain such cancer producing compounds from motor exhausts; and urban levels of lung cancer are known to be higher than rural ones.

But how many working with oils are aware of the long term health effects?

OIL -A Workers' Guide to the Health Hazards and How to Fight Them. Available from BSSRS, 9, Poland St London W1V 3DG.

75p+ 20p p&p or from Grassroots, 109 Oxford Rd, Manchester 1.

by this firm. Youngsters between the ages 13 and 16 had been working there for 22 hours a week. This is on top of spending about 30 hours at school each week.

There is also evidence to suggest that some youngsters were working there during school time. While schools, are run the way they are at present, they aren't necessarily the best place for children to be- but being at school is certainly a lot less dangerous than working in a factory operating a plastic welding machine, or a guillotine. After all, it's not very pleasant to lose a hand at 25 or 30, let alone at the age of 13 before you've even had time to grow up.

What was the firm's motive for employing youngsters and risking their lives. Firstly, they didn't pay National Insurance on them, secondly they paid them a very low wage -approximately 30p per hour as opposed to the £1, an adult may have expected for doing the same job.

The manager, Mr D, Grant told the "Ashton and District Reporter" that "There have been no kids employed here for a considerable time". It is true that he no longer employs children now- but this is because the Tameside Education Department, prodded on by the Trades Council, started to sniff around. The Education Department, of course, has done nothing -in fact they even told the "Ashton and District Reporter" that there was no evidence to prove that children had been employed there.

This yet again shows the obvious class nature of law- if one of those kids had vandalised the factory they would have been brought before the Juvenile Court, but this firm which exploited these children's labour power- and paid them a very low wage for it, as well as risking their lives, gets away scot free.

"The worst thief is he who steals the playtime of children"
Big Bill Haywood -IWW Militant
DT, DP.

DOLE

TOWARDS A SYNDICALISM
OF THE UNEMPLOYED?.

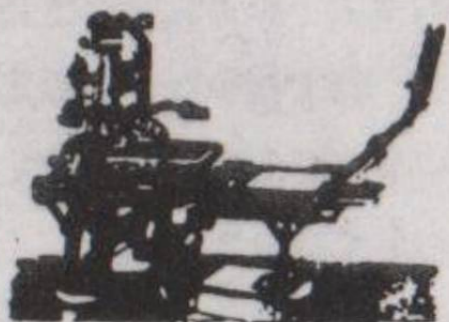
If you are on the dole, may be you'll ask yourself how can Syndicalism relate to your situation? Isn't all about the workers taking control of the factories? Yes, but the two of the main principles of Anarchosyndicalism are those which stress the federal form of organisation and the importance of people being in control of their living environment. This is capable of being applied to other places besides the work situation, but where the class struggles rage just the same!

Therefore, we must try to adapt the ideas to other areas, like the tenants, the unemployed, and housewives.

Already there have been attempts in this direction by groups who have had little or no contact with syndicalists, or syndicalist ideas. However they have organised themselves on lines that syndicalists fully approve.

Of special interest to us syndicalists is the structure of the Claimants' Unions. Each union is autonomous, the National Federation of Claimants' Unions has a federal structure, and not the unitary form of organisation of the usual Trade Union with branches in different localities. The N.F.C.U. is a network of all the Claimants Unions affiliated together. This quote from the Handbook speaks for itself. "We are in daily conflict with an enormous, centralised state bureaucracy i.e. the Social Security Section of the Department of Health and Social Security. We want a Movement which does not reflect this. An Hierarchical structure with a national headquarters would mean discipline and regulation from above with a strong possibility of state co-option. Local unions would soon lose their spontaneity and militancy, and power would be removed from the grassroots."

DON'T FORGET THE PRESS
FUND.



NHS CUTS

In a recent circular to all health authorities in Britain. Barbara Castle - then the Minister of Health - ordered them to do two things 1) To keep the wage bill for administrative staff during the next year, to the same level as it was at the end of March 1976. 2) To make a review of staff and their organisation for implementation during 1977/8 and 1978/9 (or before if needs be).

Coupled with this the health authorities have also been ordered to make a study of the likely effects on the efficiency

of the NHS, if a 5% or a 10% cut were to be made.

What does all this mean to NHS office workers? Obviously, we can only speculate but from the above things look very grim. Firstly, because NHS office workers in April received their £6 increase under the Social Contrick. The only way in which the wage bill will remain the same is by cutting down on the workforce. Coupled with this is the proposed staffing review which NHS workers will be subjected to in the near future. It is obvious that the Government intends cutting down on the NHS workforce - why else would they be asking for a report on the feasibility of a 5% and 10% reduction in office workers if they don't intend using the results.

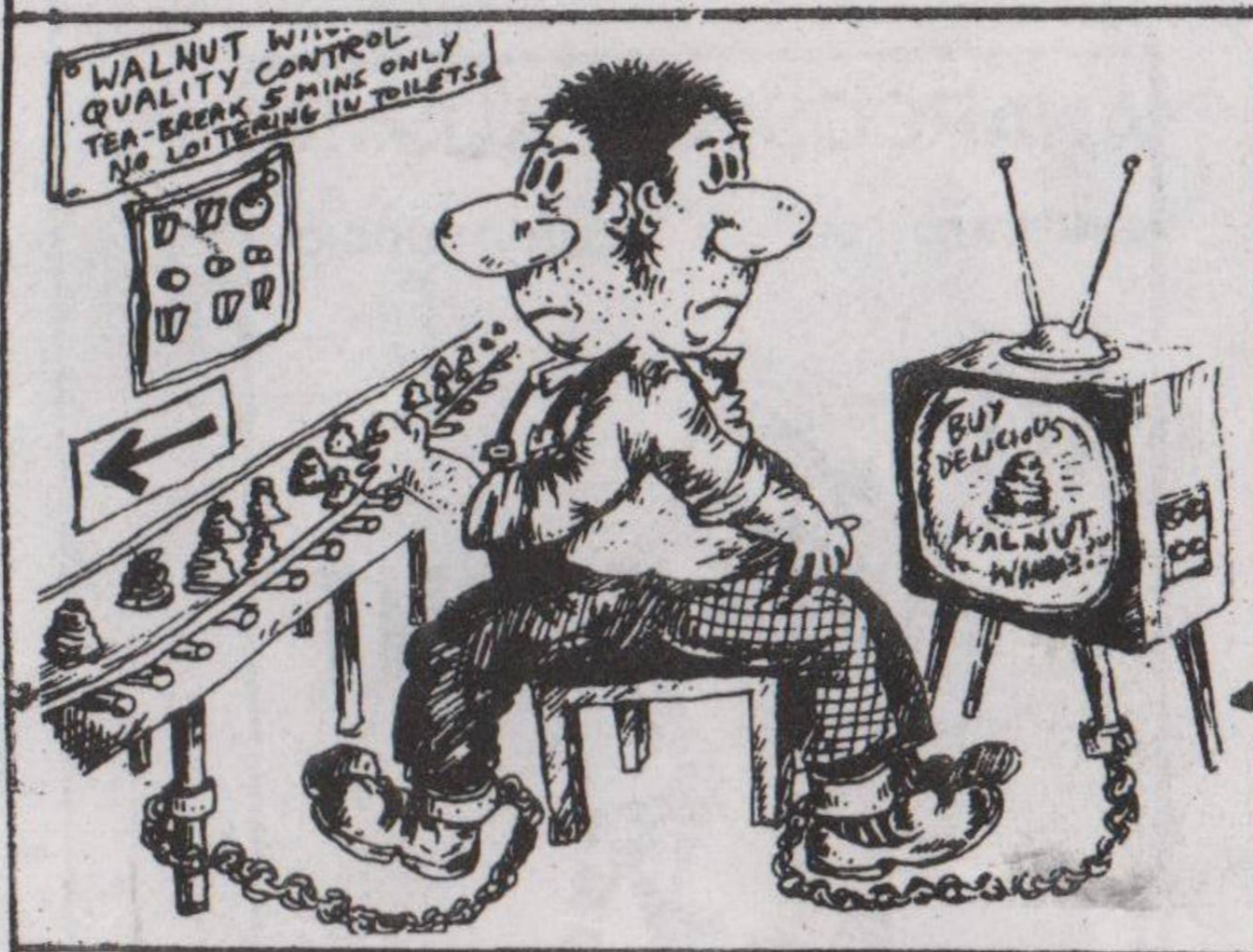
This is another attempt by the bosses to make us the workers, pay for the current economic crisis. We're always being told how it is our fault that the economy is in a mess. Yet, there have always been economic ups and downs under capitalism. You've only to look back to the 30's and the mid 60's and the last years of the Heath Government to see that. Each time the working class has had to pay for the crisis.

All attempts to make us pay for the crisis must be fought - which includes fighting redundancies and unemployment. We must not however fall into the trap of demanding the 'right to work' which is in fact the 'right to be exploited'.

ARBEIT MACHT FREI !

Don't forget that the slogan above the gates of Auschwitz was the German for "Work makes you free". Apart from this rights are concessions given to us by the state, which can be taken away from us again. An example of this is the NHS (welfare state) which is undergoing cuts along with the other social services.

The only way of solving the economic crisis permanently is the complete abolition of Capitalism, along with the state, and its replacement by a system of production for need controlled directly by the workers.



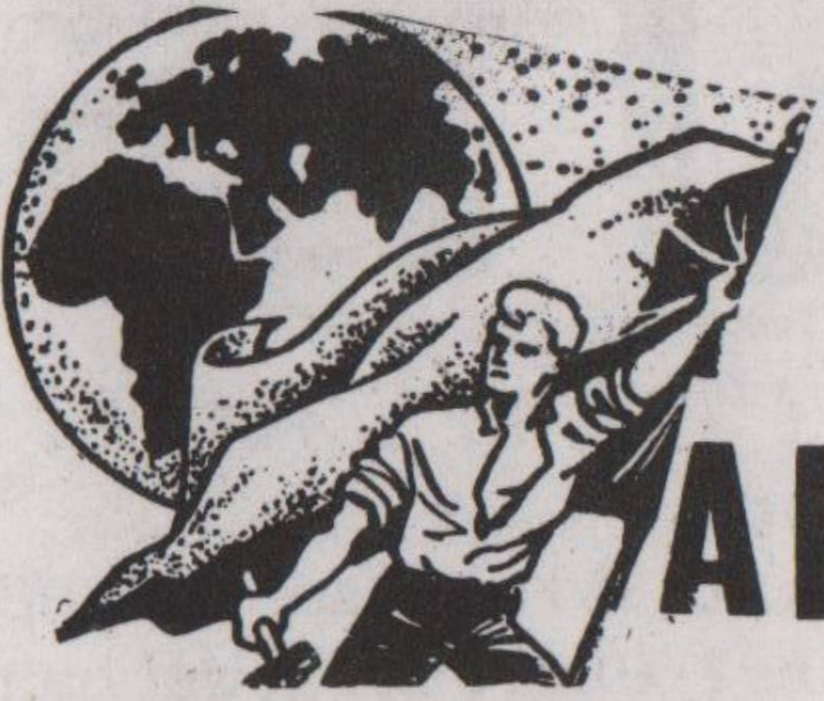
A NEW WAY TO PAY OLD DEBTS?

The BBC has asked the Government to allow them to increase the colour TV licence to £27 by next spring. This is on top of the recent Gas and Electricity price rises.

In Italy prices have risen there also. However, the Italian working class is fighting back, through a campaign of "Autoreduzione" which means Self-reduction. The way it works is that when prices are increased, then people refuse to pay the new rate. For example, when the bus fares were raised in a number of Italian cities passengers just refused to pay the extra. Because so many people were involved in this form of action the authorities were powerless to do anything about it.

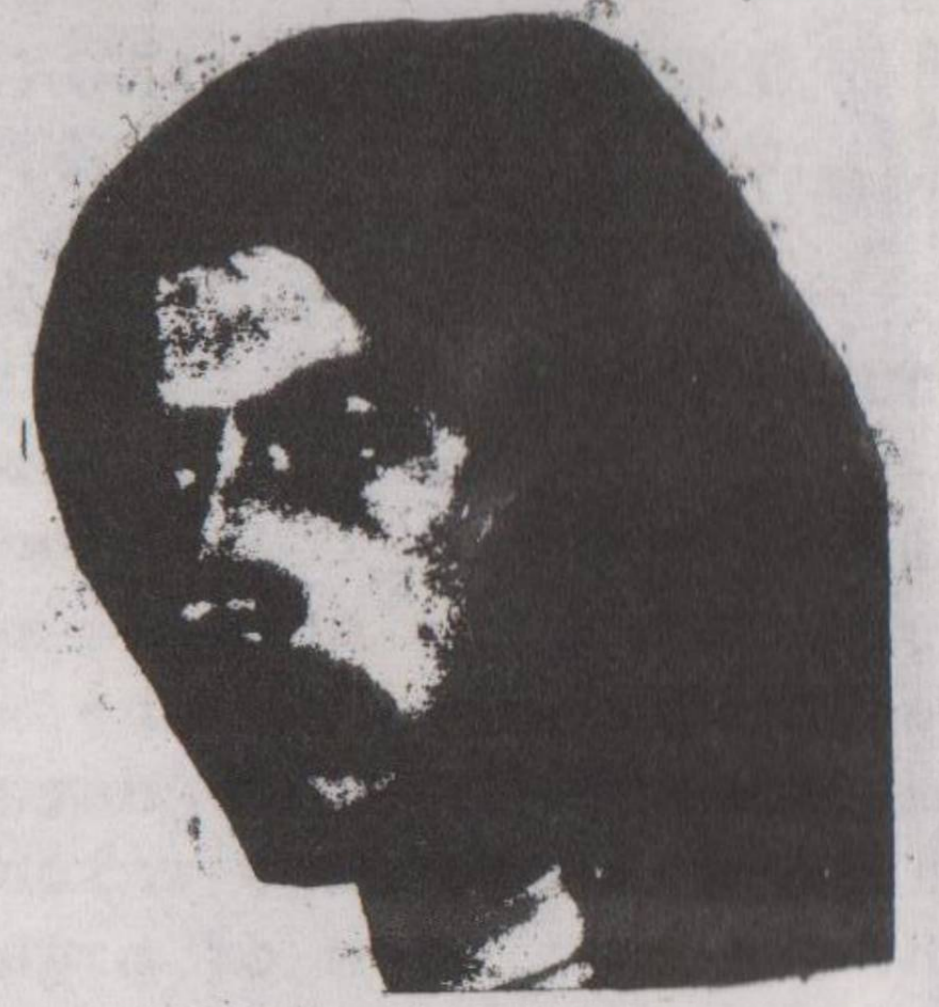
Here in Britain people have relied on the lying politicians to keep prices down, when by mass action they could cut prices 'at a stroke' by the simple method of not paying the extra amount.

At least then the bosses couldn't accuse us of being the cause of inflation when it would be obvious to everyone that the opposite was true!



AIT-IWA

RALF STEIN



RALF STEIN

IWA-AIT Congress.

The 15th Congress of the International Workers' Association took place in Paris over the Easter week-end. Sections represented were the Spanish CNT in exile, French CNT, the Bulgarian CNT in exile. The Venezuelan FORVE and the SWF.

There were however comrades attending from Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Portugal.

The Secretariat reported on the relations of the various sections. Those present gave reports of their activities and the difficulties encountered respective countries. Naturally these varied with type of regime in power. In particular, it was interesting to hear about Portugal, and that the newly affiliated section had been making headway with their propaganda among factory workers and those on the land. The Anarcho-syndicalists' idea of workers' control was being put forward, and they were making progress. At the same time, they had to combat the false ideals of the various marxist groups and parties.

The secretariat had had some difficulty in contacting sections of the IWA. This was especially true of those in South America. Groups of Friends of the IWA have been formed in Denmark and Germany, and it was agreed later that such groups should have the same rights within the IWA as the Sections.

Various attempts have been made to gain a close relationship with both the IWW in the United States, and the SAC in Sweden. So far, the Secretariat has not been very successful.

The SWF's resolution to remove 'workingmen's', and its replacement by workers' in the name of the International was ratified by Congress. The Secretariat had already accepted this change and understood how misleading and prejudiced it sounded to women workers in this country.

My thanks to the Secretariat for arrangements they made for me, and for a well organised Congress. Also a word of thanks to all those who helped me with translations. P.T.

The SWF is opposed to all Governments no matter what their political colour. All hold political prisoners, not just Chile, Spain, West Germany, but Russia and China as well. And BRITAIN!!

In April Ralf Stein was finally brought to trial by the West German state. BEFREIUNG, the German anarcho-syndicalist paper has described Ralf's trial as a farce.

Altogether Ralf has been sentenced to 18 months imprisonment. However, because he has spent the previous year on remand in Prison his arrest warrant has been suspended. He is now free. In fact he recently visited the "Freedom" office in London.

Ralf still isn't free from the shadow of imprisonment. The West German state is considering a retrial (The state prosecutor demanded a sentence of 4 years imprisonment).

It seems that the West German state is out to Ralf for his activities in helping political prisoners. One of the charges against him was that he is member of an illegal organisation. In fact, not that it matters, to them, Ralf doesn't belong to an officially prescribed political group Befreiung, the group to which he belongs has condemned the tactics of the Red Army Fraction and the 2nd of June Group, but along with a number of respectable liberal elements, who have not been arrested, he was concerned with the defence of the R.A.F. prisoners.



SOVIET WEAKLY!

The 'Soviet Weekly' 19th April, writing about the situation in Argentina after the coup d'etat says that the coup "was a fait accompli and Argentine democratic forces (sic) agree that in present conditions, a military civilian government on a broad coalition basis is the only way forward

This military dictatorship has already outlawed strikes, frozen the funds of the unions, introduced the death penalty, it has suspended political parties. So, dear 'comrades' who are the democratic forces you speak about?

This regime has launched a vicious attack on the living standards of the Argentinian working class, and half a million workers have been sacked since the take over. If the type of situation ever arose in Britain, could we expect the CP to take a similar line????

Support the work of the Anarchist Black Cross in their campaign to help All Libertarian prisoners

Spain

According to information received the CNT in Catalonia held a regional assembly in the Sants area of Barcelona on the 29th February. This regional meeting was attended by over 600 delegates and militants. The meeting represented various groups who had the aim of setting up a regional organisation.

In addition to organisation, they discussed union tactics with regard to present situation. Also the crucial question of a unified labour movement or plurality of confederations. The meeting was attended a large number of young workers.

CONT'T ON PAGE 8

NO TO nukes

The German Government has given the go-ahead for the world's first nuclear power in a densely populated urban area

The German Government has just given the go-ahead for the world's first nuclear power station in an urban area. This is at Ludwigshafen on the Rhine in what is to be the largest chemical plant in the world. It's similar in design to a type of reactor that was rejected in Britain 2 years ago. Because of its location inside a plant that will employ more than 50,000 people the whole reactor will be encased in a shield 6ft thick, lined with 1/2in of steel plate.

Here in Britain, the Heysham, and the one Hartlepool are sited near to urban centres. According to McKean, Tyrell and Burrow who wrote in "Nuclear Engineering International" that "The Heysham nuclear power station has 150,000 people living within a 5 mile radius"... "Both stations are urban sited",...in the desirable aim to place large nuclear plants near to main load areas".

In the search for 'cheap' sources of energy the powers that be will put thousands of people at risk. Other forms of energy must be used if we, and future generations are to survive! This must go hand in hand with a new form of society, anarchist society.

Some of the information for this article comes from "Half Life", in future issues we hope to have more on the relationship between new sources of fuel, alternative technology and the free anarchist society.

Direct Action

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Our Aims and Principles

THE SYNDICALIST WORKERS' FEDERATION: seeks to establish a free society which will render impossible the growth of a privileged class and the exploitation of one person by another. The S.W.F. therefore advocates common ownership and workers' control of the land, industry and all means of production and distribution on the basis of voluntary co-operation. In such a society the wage system, finance and money shall be abolished and goods produced and distributed not for profit, but according to human needs.

THE STATE: The State in all its forms, embodying authority and privilege, is the enemy of the workers and can not exist in a free, classless society. The S.W.F. does not therefore hope to use the state to achieve a free society, it does not seek to obtain seats in the Cabinet or in Parliament. It aims at the abolition of the state. It actively opposes all war and militarism.

CLASS STRUGGLE: The interests of the working class and those of the ruling class are directly opposed. The S.W.F. is based on the inevitable day to day struggle of the workers against those who own and control the means of production and distribution, and will continue that struggle until common ownership and workers' control are achieved.

DIRECT ACTION: Victory in the fight against class domination can be achieved only by the direct action and solidarity of the workers themselves. The S.W.F. rejects all Parliamentary and similar activity as deflecting the workers from the

class struggle into paths of class collaboration.

ORGANISATION: To achieve a free classless society the workers must organise. They must replace the hundreds of craft and general trade unions by syndicalist industrial unions. As an immediate step to that end the S.W.F. aids the formation of workers' committees in all factories, mines, offices, ship yards, mills, and other places of work and their development into syndicates, federated nationally. Such syndicates will be under direct rank and file control, with all delegates subject to immediate recall.

INTERNATIONALISM: The S.W.F. as a section of the International Workers' Association, stands firm for international working class solidarity.

A BATALHA

Our comrades of the Portuguese Anarcho-Syndicalist movement and their fortnightly paper "A Batalha" need our support so that they are able to present a revolutionary alternative to the Portuguese workers. Please send money, books and support to:
A Batalha,
Rua Angelina, Vidal, 17-2 Esq
Lisbon Portugal

INDUSTRIAL NETWORK

The Libertarian Industrial Network, seeks to provide a point of contact for Libertarians who are in industry, and want to exchange information on their experiences, and the struggles that they are involved in.

At a recent meeting of the N.C. of the Syndicalist Workers' Federation it was recommended that members of the SWF should affiliate to the Network.

Also, we strongly urge all Syndicalists and Libertarians to support the Network.

Write to: M, Everett,
11, Gibson Gardens,
Saffron Walden,
ESSEX.

INDUSTRIAL NETWORK
CONTACTS

PRINT: A Meltzer 26a Eastbourne Rd., Tottenham, London, N15.
POST: P Ruff & Co 123 Upper Tollington Park, London N4.
REFUSE: D Barnsdale, 16 St Leonards Rd., Surbiton, Surrey.
COUNCIL WORKERS: I Sutherland 13 Deincourt Close, Spondon, Derby.
HEALTH: P McShane, 11 St Margarets Rd., Oxford.

AUTO MAT

Workers at Automat, in Swinton, near Manchester, have been on strike more than 16 weeks.

The strike which is officially back by the AUEW is about union recognition. For about 20 years there has no union at Automat. Automat products are being blacked in a number of places like Chloride's place at Clifton Junction.

The firm makes power charges. These are supplied to the Gas Board, GPO, British Rail, GEC and vickers. The strike is continuing.

Spain

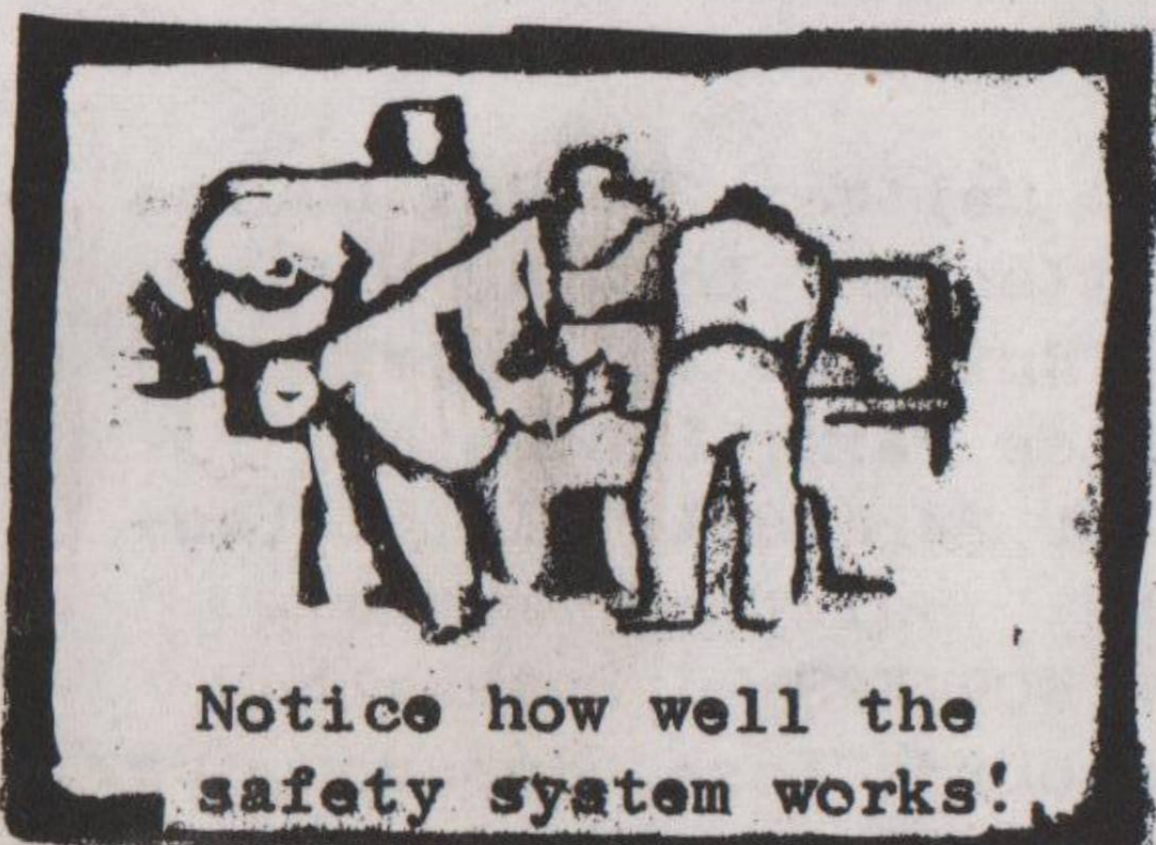
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On April 23rd, the CNT held another conference in Barcelona. This was attended by 800 delegates. We understand from the Iberian Libertarian committee's news bulletin in 20/5/76 that the structure of the CNT at the moment has not been finalised. This is because there is an on going debate on the form of organisation to be taken. Generally, the older comrades want the organisational shape of the 1930's, and the younger comrades want increased branch autonomy to a far greater level. This is to be resolved at the next conference.

We also understand from the same source that the CNT is to publish a clandestine monthly paper called 'Solidaridad Obrera' which was the same as the name of one of the CNT's daily papers, during and before the Civil War. This should have already appeared by the time you read this article. However, at present we cannot confirm this. It is thought that the openly published 'Sindicalismo' (30,000 circulation) when the first 'Solidaridad Obrera' reappears. 'Sindicalismo' has been in difficulties with the Minister of the Interior, and its very openness has proved to be a way in which the state tried to exert control.

MAY 1st.

In the week before May Day, the CNT distributed 150,000 leaflets calling for action on May Day. The week before May Day there were strikes in the Engineering Industry. There were confrontations with the police by the pickets, and the building of defensive barricades. Attempts were made to co-ordinate activities of Engineering and building workers. The Building workers were waiting for a wage settlement to be put into effect.



LOOK, IT'S NOT AS
DIFFICULT AS YOU
THOUGHT!

The dustbinmen went on strike a few days before May Day, blacklegs were driven away by local people. It took the riot police to clear the streets and the army finally had to move the rubbish.

On May Day itself 12,000 riot police occupied Catalonia Sq in the centre of Barcelona, to prevent the May Day march which was scheduled to begin there. The result was that there were continual clashes between demonstrators and riot police from 10am until 3pm. Small barricades were thrown up by the crowds, and the police were fought with variety of weapons. About 200 people were arrested.

The CNT had been invited to the meeting to plan this demonstration, they arrived to find that the plans had been finalised. Although the CNT disagreed with the plans they decided to turn up with their own banners and slogans. This position was distorted by the bourgeois press and the Communists.

According to our eyewitness, about 50,000 people were involved in the demonstrations. However, it appears that the Communist Party have been saying that the clashes will tend to prejudice the boss class against democracy, and are therefore a mistake.

PAMPHLETS

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THE MOVEMENT

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83 Thorncliffe Ave.
Dukinfield, Cheshire.

Manchester S.W.F.
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We have members in other
areas besides the addresses
given above.

Libertarian Communists in
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MacSimoin, 4 Ard Lui Park,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

Canadian Adolescent wishes to
correspond with British
syndicalist. Write to Martin
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