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The Right Not To Work

Booklet concerning individual protest against the United Kingdom Company... a system which would rather send soldiers and weapons 8,000 miles across the Atlantic than send food to people in the world who are daily starving to death



WORKING FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM COMPANY: THE WAR MACHINE, THE BOMB FACTORY

Anti-war protest can only be effective in today's mess if it objects to the means for war as much as it objects to the results of war.

For somebody to press the button...

Somebody else must make the design for a bomb.

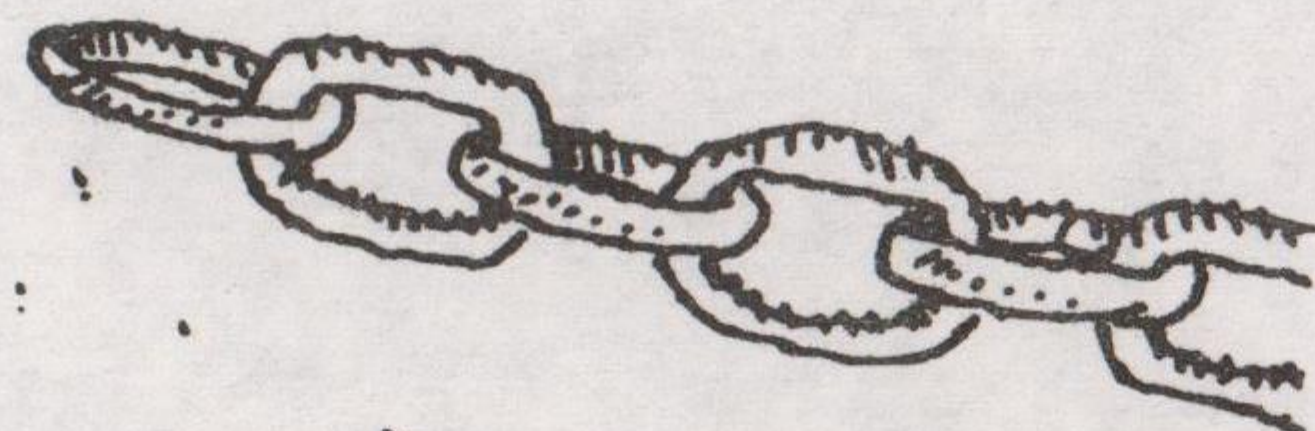
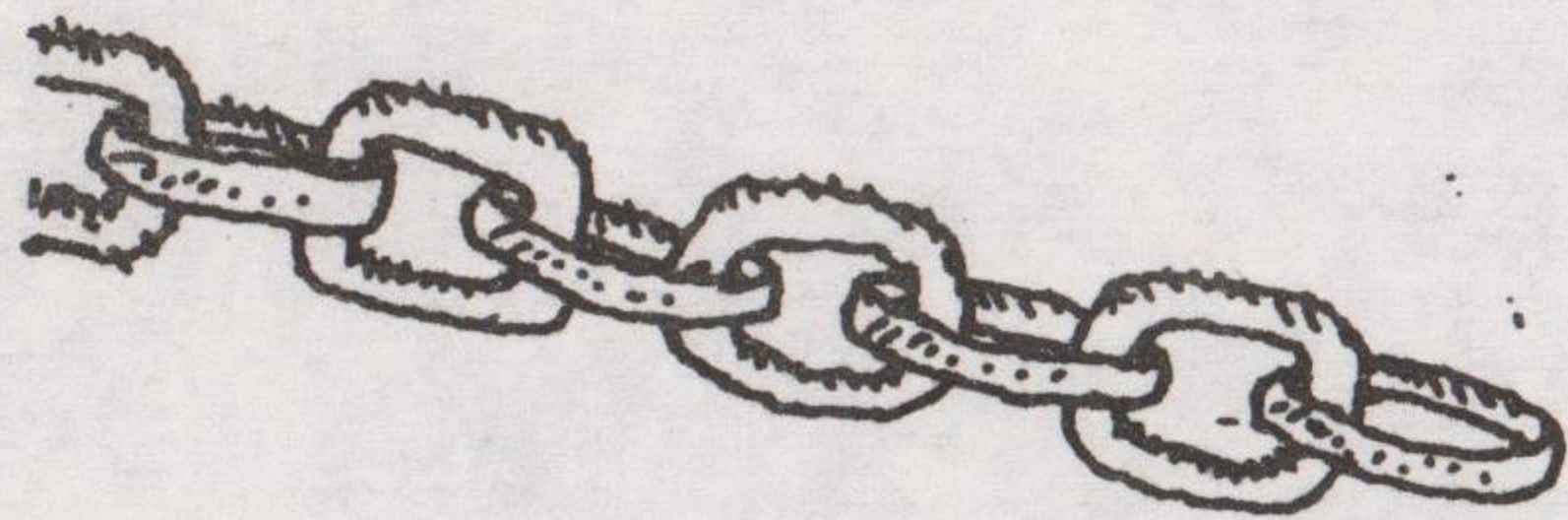
Somebody else must invest in the manufacture of that bomb.

Somebody else must follow the instructions to construct that bomb.

Somebody else must transport that bomb from the factory to a place of sale.

Somebody else must engender the attitudes which make the buying and selling of that bomb acceptable.

Somebody else must do a job of work, which might be totally unrelated, but which pays income tax to the government which buys that bomb



I shall not participate in, and thus proliferate, this insanity. I assert my right not to work as an individual protest against the U.K.C. system, which would rather send soldiers and weapons of death 8000 miles across the Atlantic, than send food (which it deliberately keeps off the market, to boost profits, even to the point of it rotting away) to people in the world who are daily starving to death.

"The Right Not To Work" was written by Dan in April 1983. A SKY & TREES book. Contact: SKY & Trees Box 4 59 Cookridge St, Leeds 2.

WHY WORK ?

THE JOB SYSTEM - PUBLIC DUTY FOR PRIVATE PROFIT

FALSE NEEDS You need money to buy processed packed FOOD and nice wallpapered SHELTER You need a job to get that money.
FALSE HOPES "More money" will buy you a better world
FALSE REALITY Safe, self-satisfied, blind, Great British apathy

JOBISM

"Why do people go to work?" asked the child

"People go to work... people go to work because

they've always gone to work," replied the father.



THE OLDEST RATIONALE OF ALL - "COS THAT'S HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN".
THE BLIND ACCEPTANCE THAT THINGS CANNOT CHANGE.

We live in a jobist society = Buckle down and keep smiling, whistle while you work. A Mars a day helps you work, rest & play; but did you know & do you care that a stage in its manufacture involves the employment of scientists to drill holes in monkeys' teeth & force-feed them with the stuff?

At school they teach: Energy cannot be created or destroyed, but it can be channelled - but not by you. Submission to the sacred job... Toil is accepted as totally rational behaviour; Toil acts as a narcosis - numbness overcomes us. It KEEPS YOU IN YOUR PLACE. Parents, teachers, Careers Advice, employers, friends you once respected, give the psychological commands - YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD. IT'S IN YOUR INTERESTS. Public opinion always knows what's best for your own good. It's Common Sense. A predestiNATION, where what you want to be is what you are expected to become. The internal compulsion to work, to obey, to buy, is not natural but the result of forced-feeding. "I've got to revise for my exams/I've got to stack these biscuits" BUT WHY? "I've just got to"

A woman in a train station waiting room once said to me: "Are you out of work?"

"No, I go to college," I said

"College?" followed by a nasal hybrid of "ooh" and "mmm" as she momentarily dwelled on it, "What you need though is money". She went on "My daughter's gone to London. She's got a wild streak in her 'as my daughter. She likes to enjoy herself. But you need money, don't you?"

In a pub, a lad who I knew at school once said to me: "If I'd have stayed on at school, I wouldn't have got my "A" levels, & I wouldn't have got a job. I'm glad I fucking left."

"And do you like the Building society?"

"No. I like fuck all about it. But it's a job." **BUT IT'S MONEY...**

WORKING FOR SUPPLY & DEMAND MAKING SHORTAGE DEMAND MORE PROFIT
MAKE HIGHER PRICES

When they talk about a free market on the news.
They are bullshitting as usual.

The market exists because things are not free
The market exists because things are bought and sold
The market exists because people are bought and sold.

The United States of Amereicha, as major controller of world food supply, has always opposed the idea of a world food reserve, preferring instead the "free market" for the setting of food prices; That is, they who control supplies fix the prices.

PROFIT NOT NEED IS THE LAW OF THE MARKET

EEC food mountains are allowed to perish because a plentiful supply means lower prices on the market, means less profit.

MAN MAKES SCARCITY TO CREATE DEMAND, TO PUSH UP PRICES,

TO INCREASE PROFITS

Man's greed means that food suppliers withhold food from people who are starving to death. The need to deal with money has become more important than the need to deal with people.

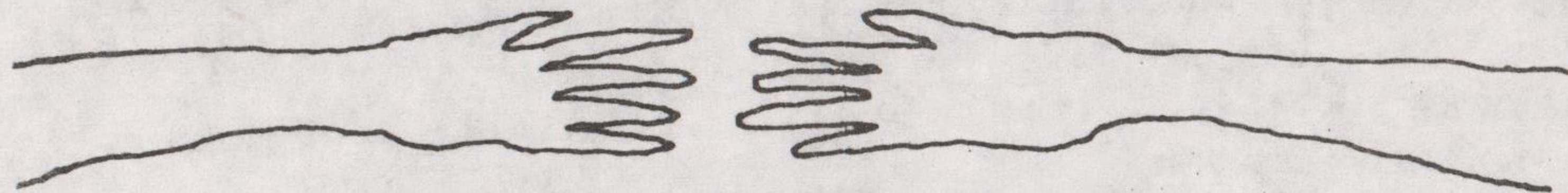
WORKING FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DESIGNING DEATH MACHINES & DEFENCE SYSTEMS

Communications are used to extend the economachine to every last corner of the earth, rather than to break down the barriers between people. Science and technology are also used to develop buying and selling rather than to cater for the real needs of people.

World domination exists now.

The economachine can transport what it wants, to where it wants, when it wants. e.g. - Coca-Cola is drunk 250 million times a day in 145 different countries...

YET 18 MILLION CHILDREN DIED OF STARVATION LAST YEAR.



Money is not the means for life.

It means many deaths.

Life is: love and understanding, trust and tolerance.

Money is not the means of free exchange.

Reaching other people as equals, is.

PEOPLE NEED EACH OTHER, NOT MONEY

In answer to:

"WHAT CAN I POSSIBLY DO AGAINST THE COMBINED MIGHT OF GOVERNMENTS AND MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES?"

Political parties are still using the "we'll reduce unemployment" tack, as if that will solve everyone's problems, and basically it's shit. Working for "more money" is a killer disease that has brought the earth to the brink of destruction.

JOB FOR ALL is a myth. "Full employment" has never existed. Women were at the height of their imprisonment in the home when it supposedly did exist, and even taking the governmental interpretation of "full employment", it will never exist again, considering the potential for work done by machines.

and what of popular opposition?

Rebel music? Wakeling, Weller and Strummer Socialism costing £4.00 a ticket, with the occasional Right To Work benefit, in support of the job system and jobist attitudes.

Rebel politics? Arthur Scargill is denounced as a lunatic extremist for even daring to suggest something as "radical" as a 35-hour week.

TRADITIONAL PROTEST IS NOT ENOUGH...

The answer to the question at the top is to stop working for them.

The idea that the individual has the right to work, in a "free" society, automatically implies that she or he has an equal right not to work - and yet unless a person can afford otherwise, the U.K.C. demands that you have a job or be seen to be looking for a job.

"You were unemployed and did no work."

"You were willing and able to work but couldn't get any."

Needless to say, we don't live in a free society, only one that calls itself free. The loophole is that I only have to pretend to be looking for a job to get my wholewheat bread and non-animal margarine.

THE "STAY IN YOUR PLACE" RACE

The U.K.C. needs a label for me. To be "unemployed" is the lowest of the low. U.K.C. theory works thus:

"When I was at work I used to wish that I was on the dole, because then I would have the time to do the things that I'd always wanted to do."

When I was on the dole I used to wish that I was at work, because then I would have the money to do all the things that I'd always wanted to do."

By redirecting peoples' attention from the present with false needs and false hopes, the U.K.C. seeks to keep people in their place. By controlling peoples' minds they can control peoples' actions - NOT MINE.

The Great British state of apathy relies on the belief that money is more important than people; a belief that "more money" can buy a better world.

* Place, identity, purpose All provided, free.

THE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE

THE BUYERS "Well, you've got to have something to spend your money on," says the male half of a young couple in a pub, "She's taking me to see Barry Manilow in Birmingham."
"The tickets were £12.50 each. Well I mean, it's a once in a lifetime experience," she says. SO IS LIVING.

BUT IT SEEMS TO PASS MOST PEOPLE BY... BY BUY, BY BUY.

An advert on T.V. sells the Martini-high-life "better" world, based on the marketing ploy that if you can't afford the more permanent traits of the "better" world, such as a speed boat, a hot air balloon and holidays in Tunisia, then a bottle of Martini at Christmas and Benson & Hedges cigarettes allow you the illusion of being part of that "better" world. More important, from the company's point of view, it shifts the product, which when multiplied by large chunks of the "not allowed any real idea ninety per-cent", who own between them less than ten percent of the country's wealth, amounts to big profits for the "less than ten percent" who already own ninety percent of the world's worth.

... OF COURSE, THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT MARKETING CONCEPTS:

If this were not enough, the government - who never miss a trick - get half of their revenue from indirect purchase tax, notably on alcohol & cigarettes. So not only are you paying to destroy your own body, you're also paying for the government/multinational company alliance to destroy the world. Of course, purchase tax (which is paid by everyone) is felt most by the poor... who are thus kept poor and their places. There probably wouldn't have been any riots in 1981 if the rioters had had enough money to sit in the pub and smoke fags. A slight miscalculation on the part of the U.K.C. but a good excuse for them to exercise their stormtroopers.

Governments and big companies exploit the poor wherever they are. They sell the false reality of the "better world" to the developed countries, which they produce on the broken backs and stolen land of the third world.

WORKING FOR THE MULTINATIONALS, FOR THE NON DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNDER-DEVELOPED

A multinational company controls all aspects of production
From the extraction of the raw material to the processing plants
From the advertising campaign to the finished packaged product
on its own chain of supermarket shelves.

Forests cut down, to provide the land
to grow the wheat, to feed the cows
to produce the meat, for the beefburgers you eat,
for the leather on your feet.

ONE MAN'S MEAT IS ANOTHER MAN'S DYING CHILDREN

One man's over-consumption is another man's malnutrition

One man's wife slaving over a hot stove

Another man's wife slaving under a hot sun...



HOW DO THEY GET AWAY WITH IT ?

because people buy it.

people work for it.

"I'M ONLY DOING MY JOB" KILLS MORE PEOPLE (AND OTHER ANIMALS) THAN ALL OF THE OTHER CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE WORLD TODAY.

- Working for the bank which is pumping money into some fascist dictatorship
- Working for the N.M.E., whose bosses said "no anti-war articles whilst Britain's at war"
- Working for the merchant navy, shipping arms instead of food to the third world
- Working in the office being silent, being satisfied with current conditions
- Working for the farmer, making hay for cattle, for your meat, whilst others have nothing to eat
- Working in the school teaching children to expect they've got to get a job, as society demands

THERE'S A JOB TO BE DONE ^A COUNTRY TO RUN

EQUALITY AND FREEDOM ANOTHER BIG CON

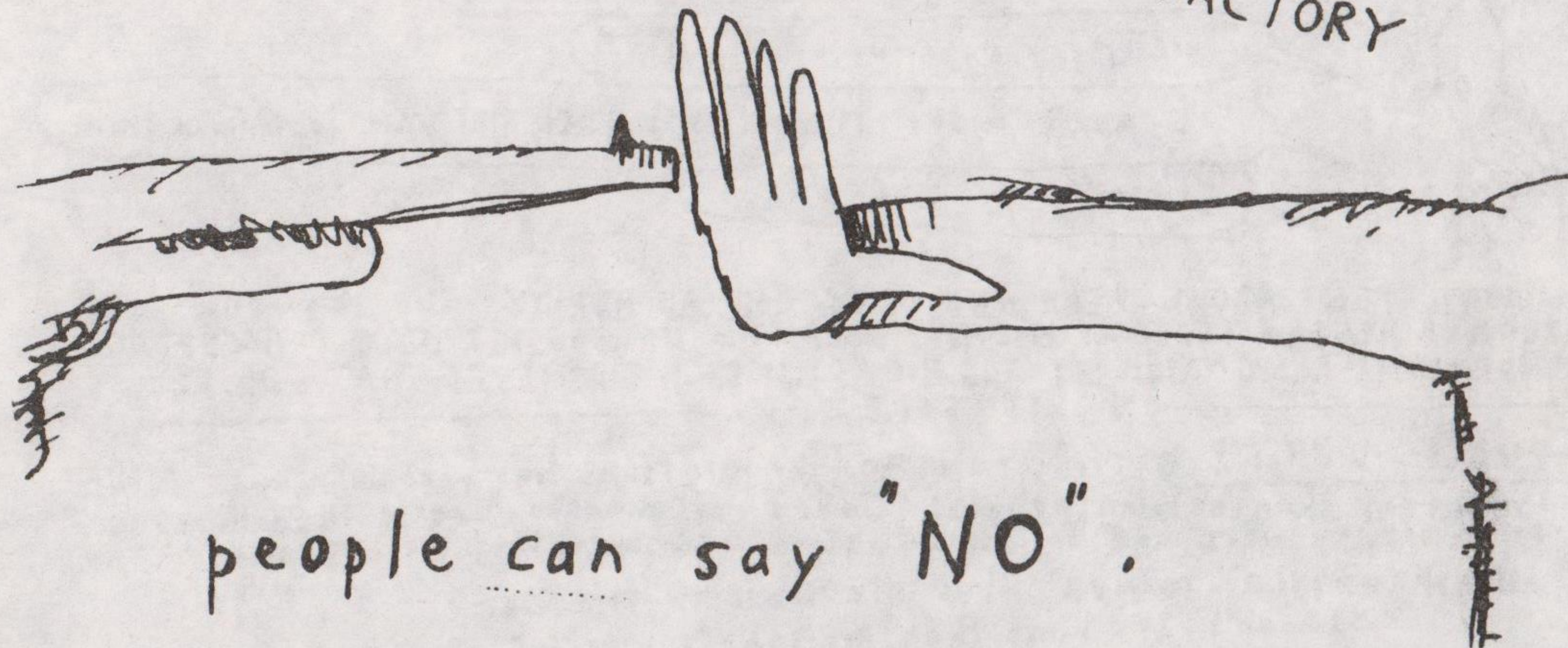
- Working in the University in the lab, researching in new killer physics
- Working as an aerospace engineer, making parts for planes, for fighters, for bombers
- Working for her majesty's government, collecting money which is used to make guns
- Working for the I.B.A., B.B.C., daily papers, telling death-lies, advertising war
- Working in showbiz doing your bit benefit concerts expressing your support for war
- Working for the record company E.M.I., who also make money by exporting arms

THERE'S A JOB TO BE DONE - A WAR TO BE WON
YOUR UNIFORM, YOUR GUN,
ANOTHER DEAD SON

- Working in your spare time, a territorial soldier, or in the special constabulary
- Working as a sportsman playing in South Africa to respectabilize that regime
- Working for supply and demand, making shortages, more demand, higher prices, more profit
- Working for the chemical company, selling cancer contraceptives to third world countries
- Working for the multinationals, for the non-development of the under-developed
- Working for the mining company, for the mismanagement and misuse of the earth's resources

"I'M ONLY DOING MY JOB"
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM COMPANY :-

THE WAR MACHINE, THE BOMB FACTORY



people can say "NO".

Slavery was abolished in 1807; that is, the word "slavery" was abolished, but the same practice continues today - only now it is called a job of work. People are enslaved to authority and are enslaved to money. Work is prostitution. The working classes are just that - "working" classes - and are even proud of it.

"TO HAVE A JOB IS TO BE SOMEONE" SAYS AN OLD LIE

...THEY TELL THEIR LIES TO GET THEIR DIRTY WORK DONE.

"I'm only doing my job" lavatory attendants clean the toilets in the bomb factory
In the pub across the road, the barmaid SERVES bomb executives with dead animals, goodness-removed bread, and a drink.

BUT PEOPLE WILL WORK FOR, RESPECT, & BE LOYAL TO AUTHORITY.

TO HAVE A JOB IS TO HAVE YOUR OWN SLICE OF COMPANY CAKE, YOUR OWN MINUTE OF GLORY IN FORTY YEARS OF HARD LABOUR.

"I scrubbed the floor which the Queen Mother walked on when she visited our factory." YOUR OWN FEELING OF POWER, EXERTION OF AUTHORITY INVESTED IN YOU BY THE COMPANY.

"Take your hands out of your pockets," was the first thing that the clerk said to the defendant in the magistrate's court

AND HOW DO PEOPLE JUSTIFY THEIR EXISTENCE?

... YOU ASK THEM ...

What are you? I'm a warehouse assistant in a supermarket

No, what are you? I'm English

No, what are you? Oh, I see... I'm a man - a boy.

No, what are you? er... I'm a human being?

JUSTIFICATION BY STATION, BY NATION, BY SEX, BY SPECIES, IN THAT ORDER.
THE JOB HAS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE PERSON.

Working for the United Kingdom Company. The contract reads: "I hereby surrender individual responsibility." I come into contact with the employed nearly everyday of my life. Sometimes I ask them for help. Sometimes they oblige, and I think there is hope - there are people buried beneath those jobs. But sometimes they give me the "I'm only doing my job" shit

"well, our regulations state that..."

"well, my supervisor says..."

"I don't make the rules, I just get paid to enforce them"

"I'm sorry, I can't..."

ALWAYS FROM ABOVE: FEAR AND OBEY THE AUTHORITY. AND HOW DOES RONALD REAGAN SLEEP AT NIGHT? BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE TO ACCEPT INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS ACTIONS - HE BELIEVES THAT GOD IS ON HIS SIDE...

PUBLIC DUTY? obeying rules and regulations has become more important than helping people. "Jobs First" means: "create ill feelings, mistrust, barriers, and divisions - before communicating with people."

AN APPRENTICE JOINER HITS THE NAIL ON THE HEAD -

"I can't. It's more than my job is worth."

IF SOMETHING IS WORTH MORE THAN YOUR JOB

THEN DON'T DO THE JOB!

"But it's a free country; people protest" says a policeman

AND HOW DO PEOPLE FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS? BY STRIKING FOR "MORE MONEY" AND BY MARCHING FOR JOBS. "MORE MONEY" CANNOT BUY A BETTER WORLD. There is only one world and it is daily being destroyed. Whose truth is it that denies the right of any creature to live? When I say mankind, I use it as a derogatory term, whereas scientists and governments use it as a saving grace...

MANKIND cuts down forests, making the creatures that lived there extinct. BECAUSE IT IS PROFITABLE

MANKIND kills animals to fill his fat belly. BECAUSE IT IS PROFITABLE

MANKIND is making a wasteland of the earth. BECAUSE IT IS PROFITABLE

MANKIND kills flies for his whim... BECAUSE FLIES MAKE USE OF HIS WASTE...

Mankind rapes the earth of its resources to make killing more efficient and to make apathy more appealing. With the waste from this, he poisons the atmosphere and pollutes the sea. Nuclear waste is dumped in the sea, by good old G.P., in barrels which are made to last about thirty years, whilst the new killer waste inside them will last for centuries. The U.N.C. thinks it has found a solution to the energy crisis - and charges you 11% of your electric bill for it.

THE ONLY INDISPOSABLES IN OUR BUY & CHUCK SOCIETY ARE RADIOACTIVE WASTES IN FIFTY-SEVEN VARIETIES.

It is the same truth which is used to fight wars, to sponsor starvation, and to create the means for worldwide suicide by dinner time of a working day.

MANKIND WON'T SAVE THE EARTH ...
BECAUSE THERE'S NO MONEY IN IT.

Some "socialists" sit in a pub.

Waiting for the revolution, working for the revolution. Come the day of the revolution everything will be okay.

The man in the sitting room watches "Tomorrow's World".

He's not worried. It's called progress. It's on the telly. Mankind will always save the day. Rock Hudson did.

Meanwhile... Carry on killing. Carry on working. Carry on buying. The earth bleeds more and more. The earth won't last long enough for you to spend 40 hours a week sucking on it's resources - so that you can afford to spend the rest of your time and money consuming that little bit more than the couple next door - when all you are putting back is a CND march once a year.

"I'm only doing my job" is no longer an excuse -

"I'm only doing my job" is killing the earth.

Easter 1983 CND Peace Chain: Socialist Worker paper, headline on front page reads: "Only Workers Power Can Stop The Bomb". ABSOLUTE SHIT. IT'S THE WORKERS WHO MAKE THE FUCKING BOMB. The same political parties, in their attempts to reduce unemployment as promised, will create more jobs. More jobs in the bomb factory. And people will say: "There's nothing that I can do which will change things. It's out of my hands." Well, I say: It is people who sit in governments, and it is people who control multinational companies; and it is only by you accepting that their judgement is better than your own that they can continue to do so. By working for them, by buying from them, and by letting your own situation out of your own hands, you are giving them a free hand.

I recognise no power except that in each individual to change themselves; by force of their own will (and no-one else's) to change their own situation; to take responsibility for their own actions.

THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU DO - AND WHO YOU DO IT FOR ...

"When you are born they make you feel small -
by giving you no time, instead of it all" (J Lennon)



GIVE AND TAKE

give up your life & take the cash, or give up your job and take time

YOUR CHOICE You don't have to fight for the right not to work. It's there if you want it. The U.K.C. will always steal your time if you let them. As a safeguard against people withholding taxes, they take income tax from you before you get your wage **PERMANENT STRIKE NOW!** Withhold your labour, for good (forever / and to do good).

STOP WORKING FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD

STOP PAYING FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD

STOP THE SUFFERING -

WORK FOR PEACE

Being unemployed is a good cover - U.K.C. thinks I am squashed into place. The D.H.S.S. only question me once every six months, and it's not difficult to act down-trodden and jobless, which is what they expect me to be.

It keeps them off my back

I CHOOSE.

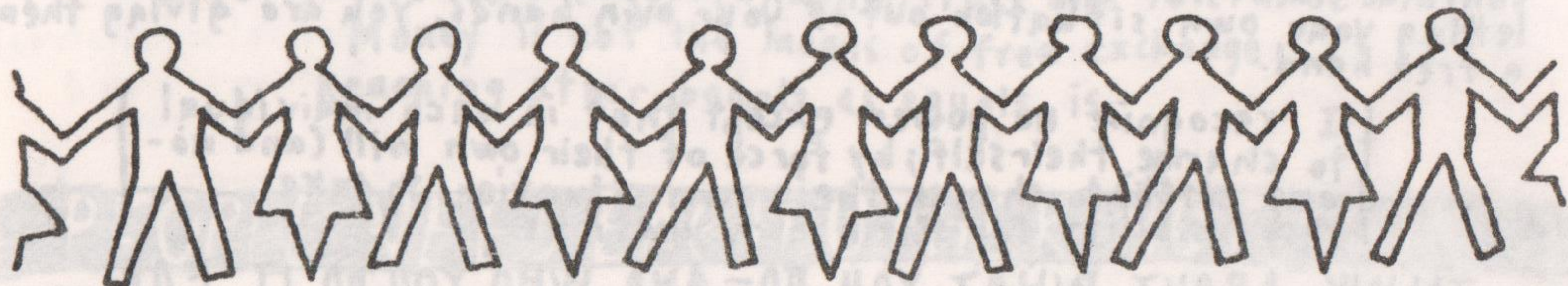
and people will say: "What do you do all day?"

I use my time to create my own reasons for being for peace, not profit. We're taught that work is a disagreeable necessity that you must go through in order to enjoy leisure. **Rubbish** The best kind of work is self-motivated, challenging, and above all **ENJOYABLE** Write, paint, photograph, expose **INJUSTICE** Speak, Sing, shout out against **INJUSTICE** Be non-violent, be disobedient, take action against **INJUSTICE**, don't co-operate with **INJUSTICE**. **IGNORANCE KILLS**. Educate yourself and each other. Ignorance is not "not having the capacity to learn," but not being allowed to see and not being bothered to find out why.

"Whatever awakens people to a sense of their wrongs and whatever gives them strength for disciplined action and peaceful resistance, and habituates them to corporate suffering, brings us nearer to **PEACE**" (Gandhi)

ISOLATION IS THE BIGGEST BARRIER AGAINST CHANGE

Isolation is the biggest obstacle in the way of "getting up off your arse" and doing something. Make the effort. Break the silence. Communicate. Help each other, respect each other, trust each other.



and people will say: "How do you manage on the dole?"

Because I don't need to spend ten quid in a night, to prove to myself or anyone else that I've enjoyed myself. Because I live with other people. People need each other not money - We share a house, we share a van, we share our money, we share our possessions. We can't live without money, but we can destroy the profit motive and the desire to possess, in ourselves. You shouldn't need big money incentives to make you work. That's something you've been taught. It's a concept that keeps governments rich and keeps you under control. Doing something **POSITIVE, NOW**, with other people, is far more effective than anything money can buy.

and people will say: "if everybody thought like you, nobody would do a day's work"

EXACTLY.

We can destroy the work ethic of a day's work for a day's pay. We can banish mindless labour forever. If something needs doing we will do it, not because we are payed to do it. Not because we are forced to do it, but because it is to our own good. We share the shopping, cooking, washing up, gardening, painting, writing, living. By "throwing off the shackles of modern civilisation with its false standards of wealth and success, and the opportunities industrial society has created for man to exploit man" (Gandhi), and women and children and animals and the earth, we can live our own lives - together, in peace, creating and living the alternative **NOW**, not waiting for the next general election, or some future bloody revolution to bring change. Peace will not suddenly be decreed upon us by Parliament. We must try to live it and work for it now. Gandhi (again - he gets around), speaking of the Indian people, said:-

"To the degree that they take care of their own interests and needs, they are not dependent on the British, to the degree that they govern themselves, they have no need of the British government."

The same can be said of anyone, living anywhere in relation to any government or any instrument of external control. People can say "No". No more war, no more nuclear power, no more meat, no more role-playing, no more six quid albums, no more mars bars...

and people will say: "still dossing are you?"
and here's me working to keep you

NO. You are working for the United Kingdom Company. I am not indebted to a society which spends over a billion pounds a month on arms. I will not work for it. I will not pay for it.

**ANTI-WAR PROTEST TAKES
ON A NEW MEANING -
OBJECTING NOT JUST TO
WAR, BUT TO ALL INJUSTICE.**