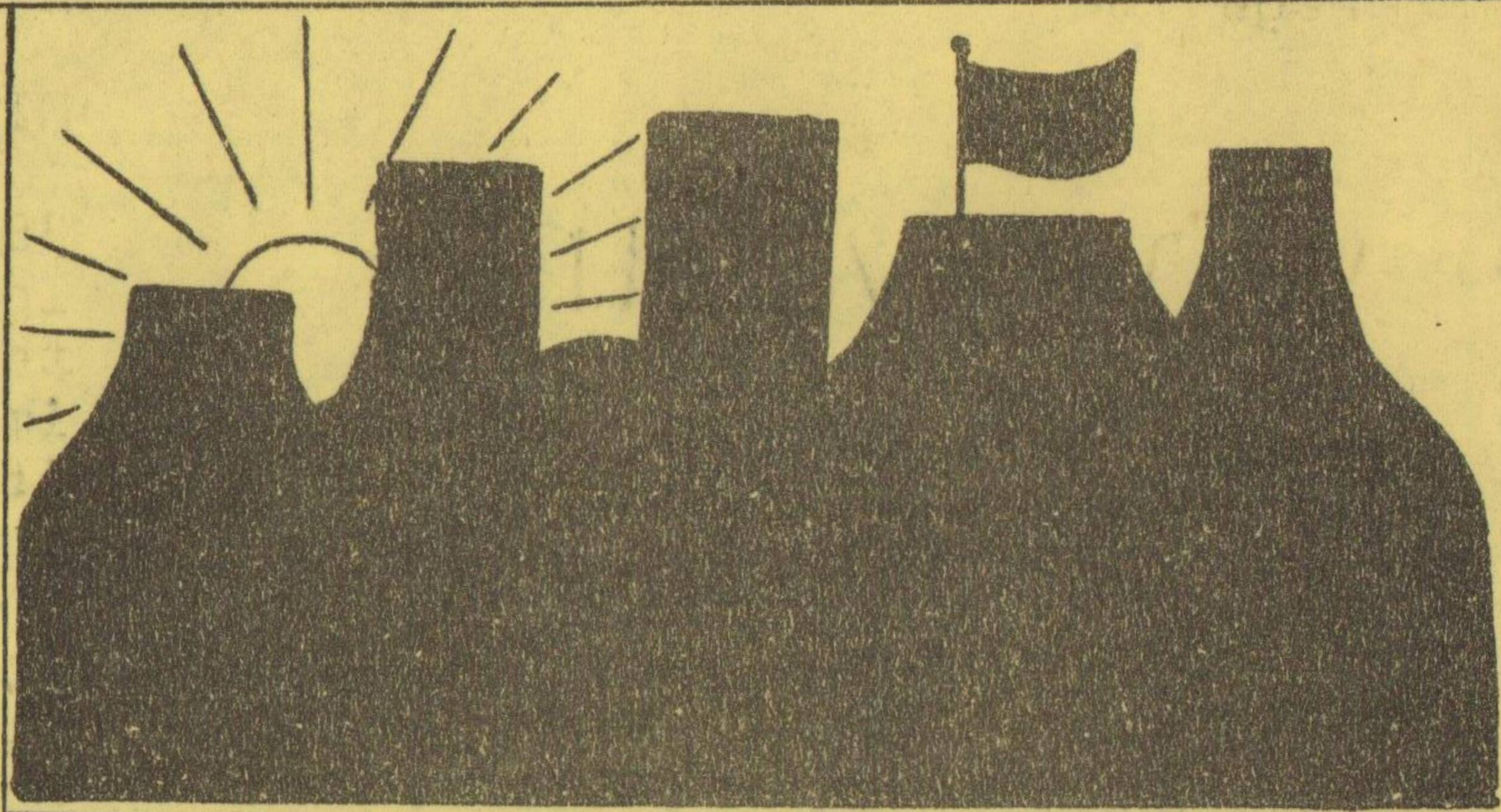


CARELESS TALK ~



NORTH STAFFS FREE NEWSHEET

APRIL '83

MILITANT ~ DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH

THE MILITANT TENDENCY HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS A LOT RECENTLY. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS THEY THREATEN FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, AND ALL THAT IS GOOD AND HOLY IN THE BRITISH WAY OF LIFE. WHEN PETER TAFFE, ONE OF THE MILITANTS RECENTLY EXPELLED FROM THE LABOUR PARTY, CAME TO SPEAK IN NEWCASTLE ON MARCH 3rd WE THOUGHT WE WOULD FIND OUT THE TRUTH FOR OURSELVES. BELOW WE PUBLISH TWO ARTICLES ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THAT MEETING. THEY SUGGEST THAT THERE IS MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE BEHIND MILITANT'S PUBLIC UTTERINGS.

MILITANT AGAINST THE WORKERS!!

Peter Taffe spoke for about 40 minutes to an audience of about 100 people. However, if they had come to find out anything about the politics of Militant then they would have been sadly disappointed. Rather than dwell at any length on what Militant had to offer in a positive sense, he spent most of his address launching into a tirade against the right-wing of the Labour party which so recently threw himself and four other leaders of Militant out of the Labour party.

What he seemed to be saying was that within the Labour party at the moment there is a campaign being directed by the right to scrap the 'gains' of the Left at party conferences. Michael Foot is being held 'prisoner' by these people in the Parliamentary Labour Party - given the chance he would really be quite a decent chap. The right-wing, which he stated is thoroughly discredited, are traitors to the working class and are on course to lose the next General Election for labour.

What the party should do is adopt the policies of Militant, i.e a
Continued on page 2

who we are

This paper has been produced by the CARELESS TALK COLLECTIVE. We meet every Monday night, to discuss politics, to produce this paper and other leaflets that we produce from time to time.

If you would like to meet us, or to come to our meetings, drop us a line at our contact address.

Our aims are:

1) To support, seek solidarity for and be involved in struggles for the needs of the vast majority of people against the ruling class of businessmen, politicians and bureaucrats.

2) To urge that struggles be controlled by those involved in them, not by leaders such as trade union officials or political parties.

3) To aim for the overthrow of all governments, bosses and leaders by conscious action of the majority of people. We want a world without relationships of domination and submission, where all people have an equal say in how things are run, and where production is for human need not profit.

We welcome information and articles for the news-sheet and help with distribution. Anyone who think they share our ideas and would like to join the Collective, please get in touch.

If you would like to receive future issues as they come out, send an SAE to our address.

Printed and published by the CARELESS TALK COLLECTIVE.
M. Stone, 195 Dimsdale Parade
West, Wolstanton, Newcastle,
Staffordshire.

MILITANT (Continued from Page 1)

35 hour week for all, with no loss of pay; an enormous boost to public spending; a £100 minimum wage for all; the nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies; a planned economy; and no more than the average industrial wage for MPs. Such apparently is the stuff of revolutions! Whilst having no illusions in the Labour party, Militant wants to 're-arm' it with a marxist programme - when this is done, capitalism will be 'on the way out'.

The rest of his presentation was an apparent outrage that such 'loyal' party members as himself and his associates should have been expelled from the Labour Party.

WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN?

There are two points that should be made about this. Firstly, it is pointless to try to rebut the individual proposals of Militant - because, fine sounding though they are, the leaders of Militant do not basically believe in them.

Militant is a Trotskyist organisation. Fundamental to Trotskyism is the idea of the Transitional Programme. This takes as its starting point the proposal that ordinary working people are too stupid to understand what is meant by 'socialism', all they are capable is what Lenin called 'trade union consciousness' - the ability to fight against capitalism, but not to change it for something else.

The Trotskyists answer to this is the set of 'transitional demands' they put forward. They hope that these demands will appear attractive to workers. Struggling to achieve these demands they come to realise that capitalism cannot grant them, and so they turn to the revolutionary party and follow it to the 'socialist' promised land.

Continued on page 3

MILITANT (Continued from Page 2)

Against this elitist contempt for the intelligence of working people, we believe that if a 'socialist' society is one where people have real control over their own lives, where there is no coercion or domination, then it must be created by a majority of people understanding and wanting it. We need no party to lead us to socialism.

WHAT IS THE LABOUR PARTY?

Indeed the self-proclaimed 'parties of socialism' are more likely to act as a hindrance to the achievement of a new kind of society. And this is where our second criticism of Militant arises. The Labour party may have many working people in it, but so does the National Front and the Conservatives, yet nobody would call them parties of the workers. They are rightly recognised as our enemies. We judge such people by their actions, not their fine words. So too should we judge the Labour party.

The Labour party has acted against workers since 1914 when it supported the slaughter of the First World War; in government in the 20s it broke strikes; in the 30s it CUT THE DOLE; the 'great' Attlee government of the 1940s sent troops into the docks to break strikes and started the British Atom Bomb programme; the 60s and 70s saw wage freezes, racist immigration policies and the updating of the nuclear 'deterrent'. Quite clearly, Labour is not a party for the working class, it is the party of state bureaucracy and state capitalism.

Increasingly workers are realising this fact about Labour and are deserting it in droves. But Militant says, 'Don't desert Labour, vote for it, trust us, we can put things

right.' What they are doing is spreading illusions and lies. Far from being a group in favour of a revolutionary change in society, their actions will prevent change, by wedding working people to outdated reactionary ideas. They are part of the problem, not part of the solution.

@@

THE MILITANT MEETING - ANOTHER VIEWPOINT.

HAVING spent 40 minutes exhorting the audience to support Militant using the sort of English used on soap boxes at Hyde Park Corner (not quite suitable for a small overcrowded room in the basement of Newcastle library), the chairperson of the meeting started to make a collection for the Militant newspaper. This was carried out with all the showbiz style of an American presidential election.

We were asked, "Who among you will give £20, lets see all the £20 notes!!!" At this point an unemployed woman at the front interrupted to say that she felt insulted to be asked for £20, when she could just about afford 20p. Peter Taffe patronisingly explained that if she read the paper she would see that inside they explained that 20p from an unemployed person meant just as much to them as £20 from someone in work. Then the chairperson again asked for £20!!

This provoked protest from more than one member of the audience. At this point there was a general, critical and somewhat heated discussion of the Militant fundraising tactics. Finally, when another woman stood to make the point that people wanted to talk politics and not raise funds, she was forced to sit down by a Militant steward. Clearly, they needed to do this to re-establish control over the meeting.

MILITANT (continued from Page 3)

SUPPRESSION AND MILITANT

This episode clearly shows how Militant would treat those who might choose to follow them once it had got into power. Suppression of expression always goes on when the group in power exists without the support of the people. It is not safe for Militant to allow expression of criticism against it, just as it is not safe for any other minority power holder to allow criticism against it.

WHAT DEMOCRACY?

True democracy does not exist in either Militant or in any political party in Westminster. The system as it stands allows only those who do not seek to threaten the status quo to hold power. Parliamentary democracy tells us we are lucky, because we are represented in Parliament. Yet how many of us can really feel that all

that all our views are really represented honestly in Parliament? Those of us who do not want nuclear war or weapons for instance are not represented, nor are the unemployed (who really cares what level the benefits are set, so long as the majority of voters will re-elect the standing MP). Women's views are hardly represented - there are no more than a couple of dozen women MPs. And out of them, how many know what it is like to struggle to survive, and how many honestly care?

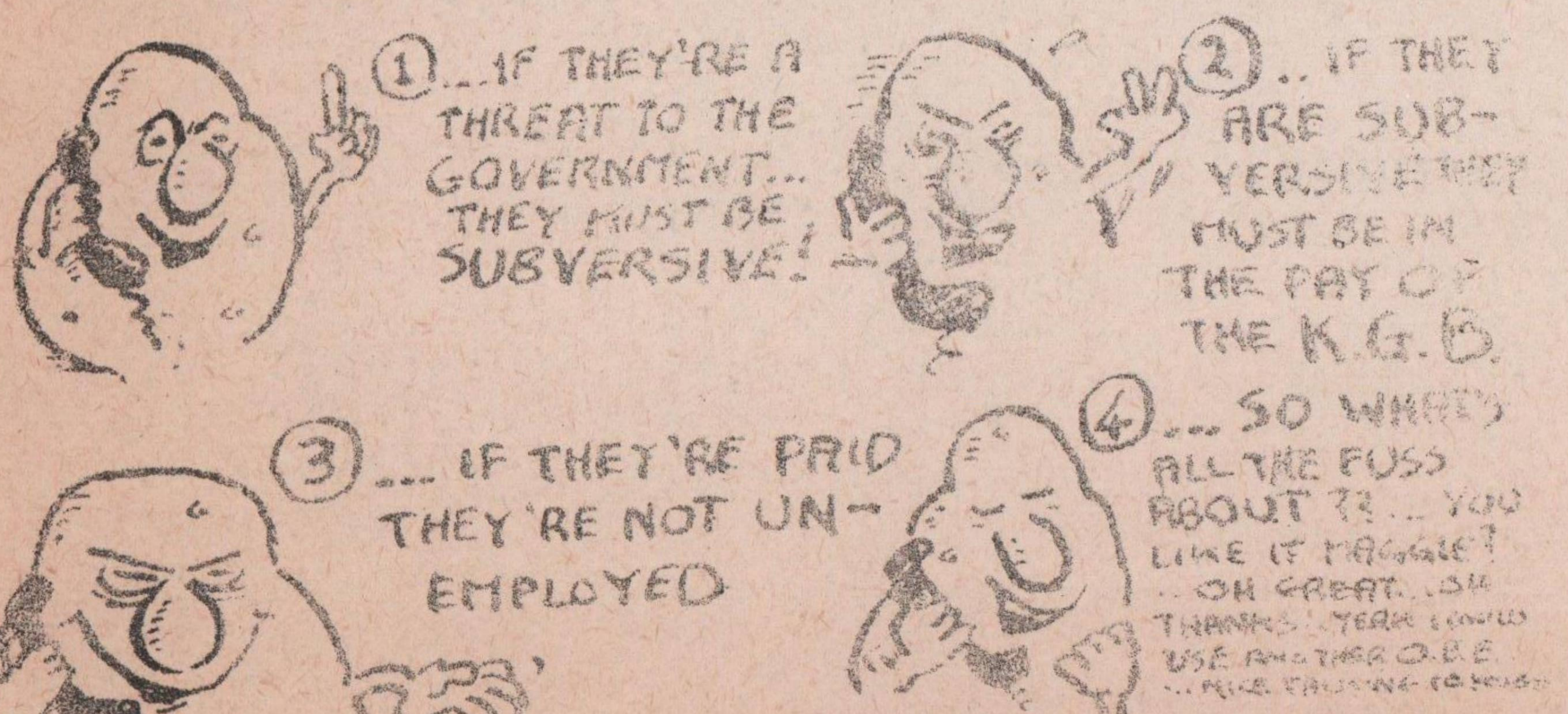
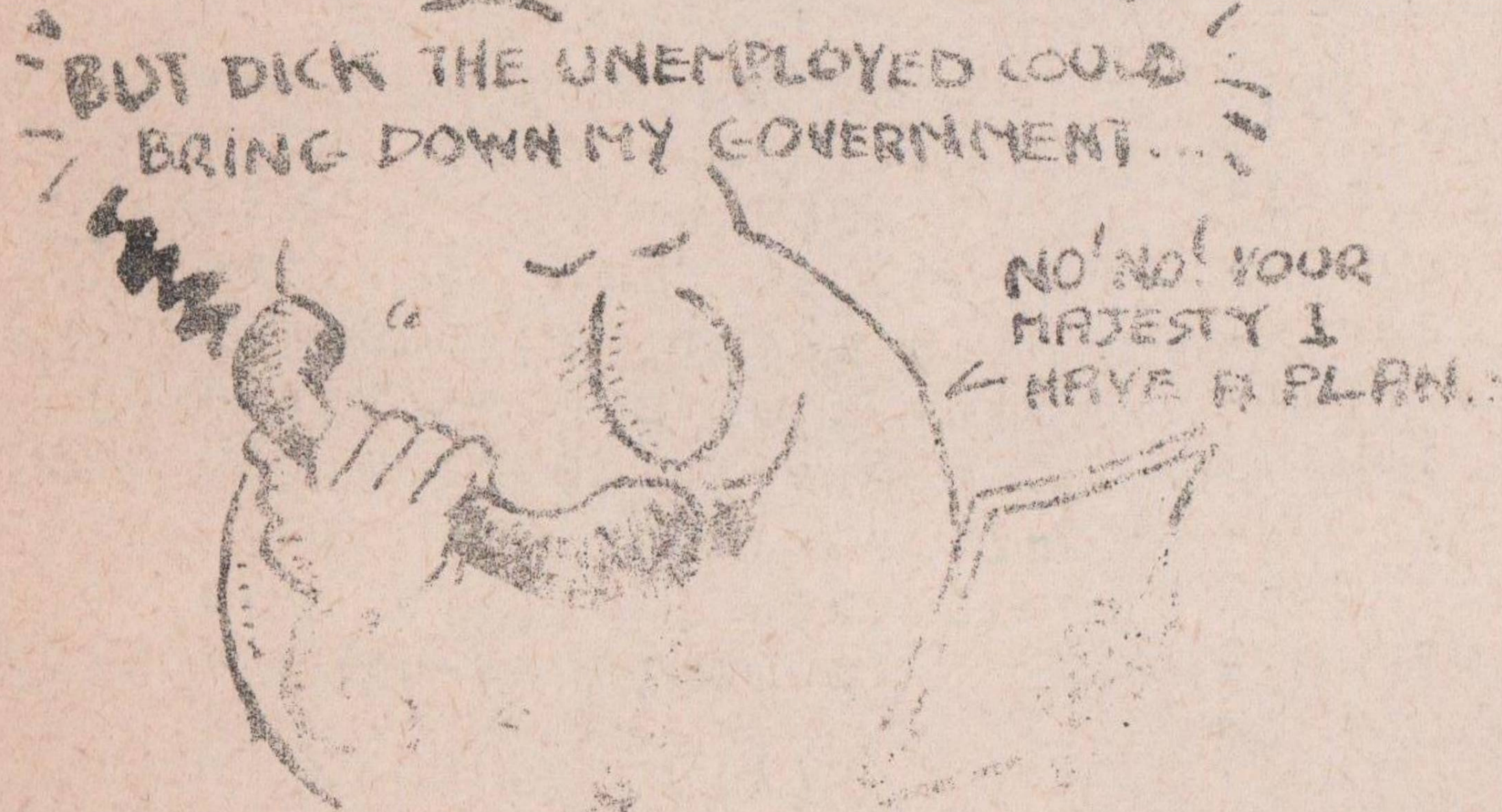
Surely, this shows that the present system which so many of us suffer under does not represent us. Neither will the likes of Peter Taffe truly represent us. It is crucial that instead of simply putting an X on a ballot paper once every five years, that we begin to take control of our own lives.

Look around - and see what a mess we are in.. Labour will not solve our problems - remember their record. We must work to get rid of them all: Conservative, Liberal, SDP, Labour (including Militant), and learn that we can and must take control for ourselves.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

IDLE CHATTER...IDLE CHATTER
Dissident intellectuals have published a report claiming that people have little chance of surviving a nuclear attack. Even if they do, they have no hope of finding medical help for minor cuts and bruises. The report contrasts this with the official government line on the subject, The authors go under the sinister sounding title of the British Medical Association.

DICK TATER



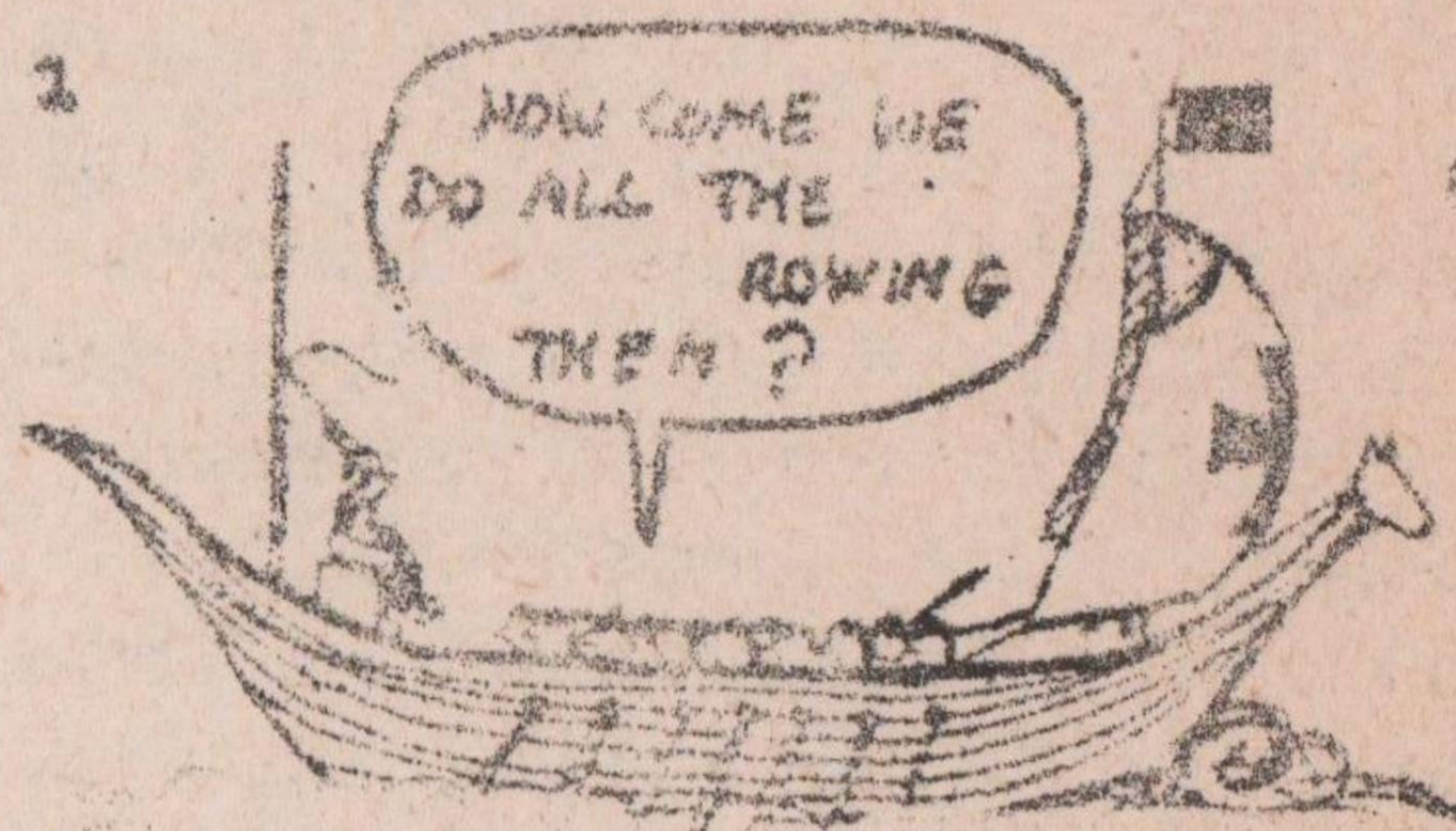
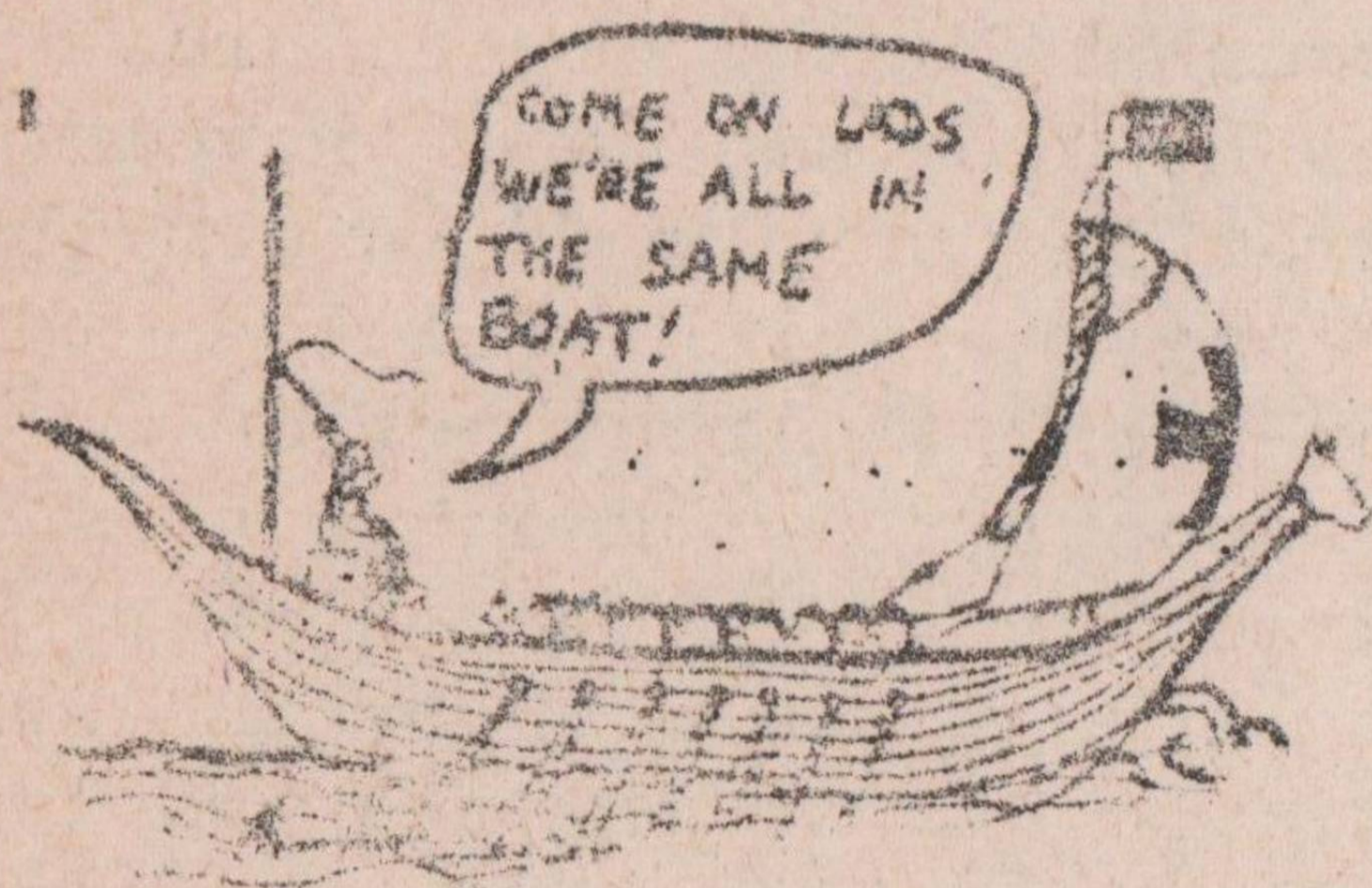
DICK TATER is reprinted from SUBVERSIVE GRAFFITI.

PARTY GAMES

There are many political ideologies ranging from the far right to the far left, from authoritarian to libertarian and including such unusual and un-nerving beasts as the SH. We have on the far right, the fascists, including the National Front, the

provides a sort of scaled down model of a fascist society where the people are obedient, fearful and without individuality.

Fairly close to fascism in many respects is authoritarian-socialism such as that



League of Saint George and the British Movement. They think that our present problems could be miraculously cured if we 'eliminated' certain elements of society such as the blacks, ethnic minorities, the 'commies' and the non-producing owner class, which will be replaced by themselves. The patriotic British white worker has become a substitute for the Aryan race. The National Front claim to be 'socialist' (National Socialist) and yet they don't want to liberate the working class or anything so radical; instead they want to confine it within a stereo-type of how they think a working class person should be.

of the Russian government, the Trotskiests and most Marxists. They also believe in eliminating the non-producing owner class (parasites) and all those that disagree with them in the hope of achieving a classless society. The state-socialists have a more logical end to aim for than the national socialists, since theoretically, they want to end the exploitation of the working class, also they don't use racial scapegoats. To achieve their free and equal society they have a vanguard party (there are many vanguard parties) which has the main aim of achieving power at all costs, often even at the expense of the principles for which it was formed. If the party achieves power it establishes an 'iron rule' to impose their version of socialism (they often stretch the definition) and instead of ending workers exploitation they become the new tougher exploiters. Membership of the Party gives power and privilege so that, instead of ending capitalism and the class system they have merely changed the rules, so that Party members become the new parasites.

Fortunately not that many people find the N.F. particularly attractive (to say the least!) and ironically, most of those that do would be among the first to be eliminated as disruptive elements. Under fascism only half the thugs end up in the government, Police and Army - the rest get stomped on along with every one else. There is often a connection between militarism and fascism, this is because the main aspect of fascism is authority, which leads to hierarchy, force and violence. The army

Continued on page 6

This stage is supposed to be temporary, a stepping stone on the way to 'communism' where the state will have withered away leaving mankind free and equal; unfortunately states have a tendency to perpetuate themselves, and people with power, no matter how well intentioned they might have been to begin with, will go to any lengths to keep it.

Parliamentary politicians are on the whole pretty much the same as each other in terms of action, if not in words. The conservatives have an open policy of maintaining the privileges of the rich (a very small minority) at the expense of the rest of us. They get into power by convincing people of the need to make sacrifices. The labour party pretends to be socialist but just wants to govern the capitalist economy. Nationalisation isn't socialism since it just gives more power to the state which becomes your new boss. They even appoint a boss figure to drive the Rolls, take the salary and keep everyone in line. The SDP are probably (they are fairly secretive) a less obnoxious version of the conservative party, after power for its own sake without pretending to have any serious socialist intentions. Certain people within the Labour party, such as Ken Livingstone may appear to be heading in the right direction, but should be ignored, first, because they are a small minority within the Labour Party, virtually powerless, and second because if they did get real power, how long do you think their principles would last? (bear in mind that their principles would demand radical decentralisation which would result in the immediate loss of most of their newly gained power, and give your answer in hours) In terms of parliamentary politics the best policy is to abstain or to spoil your ballot paper. None of the candidates are worth their weight in shit.

After dismissing the fascists, the 'communists' and the present system of parliamentary 'democracy' you might wonder what is the possible alternative. The Careless Talk Collective is a group of Libertarian Communists who believe that socialism can only be achieved from below and cannot be imposed from above.

The most that can be done is to displace the ruling class and dispossess the owner class whilst ensuring they are not replaced. After this, progress towards a free and equal socialist society can only come from the people organising themselves into cooperatives and councils (along the lines of the Soviet workers councils which formed after the 1917 revolution and were later crushed by the Bolsheviki's) to supply the needs of the community and provide for the old and the sick.

Some Libertarian communists are pacifists and believe that a revolution could occur without violence since the important elements for a revolution are first the supply of information and propaganda which will lead to strikes, non-violent direct action and a refusal to cooperate with our oppressors and exploiters. The means of production shall be taken over by the workforce and used to supply the people without making profits, along the lines of, from each according to **their abilities**, to each according to **their needs**. Stores of food and such would have to re-appropriated as centres of distribution and use of money as the means of exchange would be ended. These steps would rob our oppressors of most of their wealth and power without use of violence on our part. However the owner class has another source of power: the Army and Police. History has shown that our oppressors will readily resort to violence to maintain their positions of power so it would seem wise on our part, to leave all options open, including violence, to defend the infant society.

@@

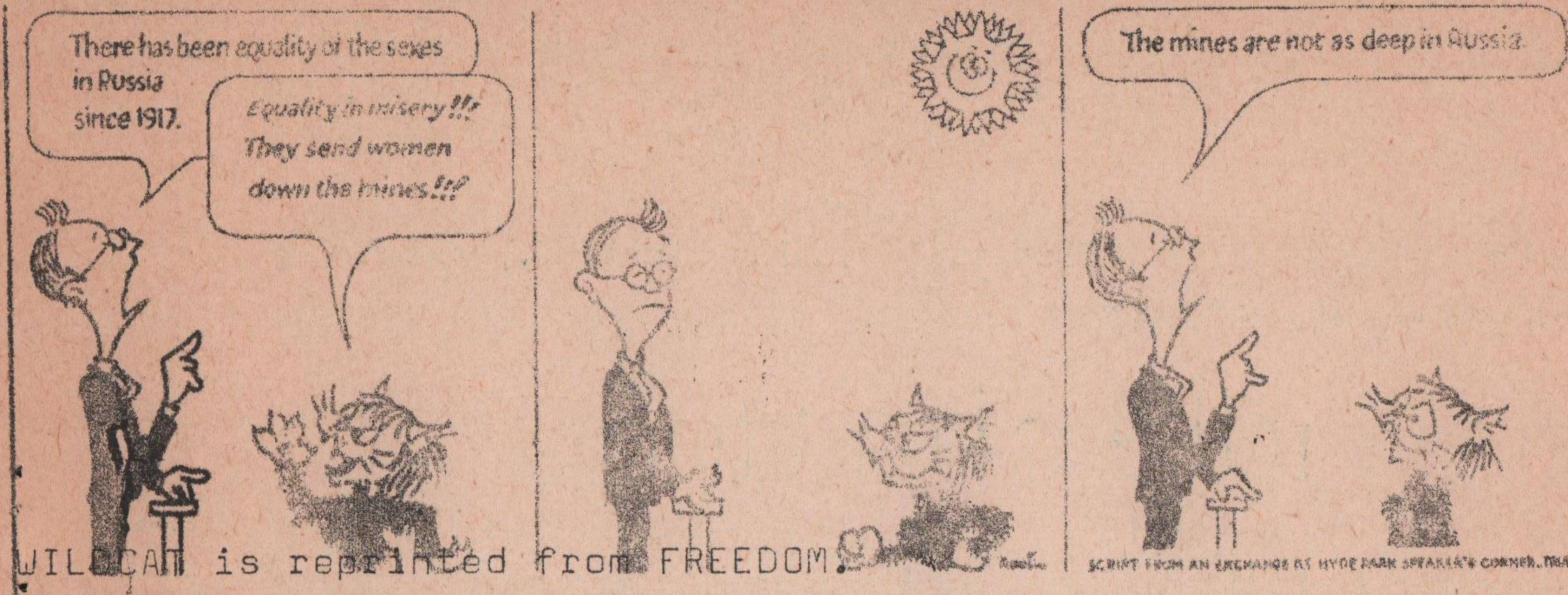
IDLE CHATTER PART TWO

Since Thatcher achieved power a businessman 'earning' £45000 a year is now £120 a week better off. A typical unemployed family is £15 a week worse off.

The recent Budget has made things even worse. The Businessman got an extra £11.64 a week whereas the jobless family received all of 58 pence a week.

7% of the population own 84% of the wealth in Britain.

WILDCAT



CARELESS CULTURE

vote for me!

by TURK

Vote for me, vote for me,
I know how to solve the crisis
Vote for me, vote for me
I know how to keep down prices

Anarchy, Anarchy
Capitalism is the crisis
Anarchy, anarchy
Everything should be free

Vote for me, vote for me
I know how to help the poor
Vote for me, vote for me
I know how to stop the war

Anarchy, anarchy
There'll be no rich,
There'll be no poor
Anarchy, anarchy
If there's no state,
there'll be no war

Vote for me, vote for me
And I'll tell you what to do
Vote for me, vote for me
I've got the help of the boys
in blue

Anarchy, anarchy
We can't tell you what to do
Anarchy, anarchy
The only one who can is you

Vote for me or anarchy
Which one are you going to choose?
The choice is freedom or slavery
If government wins then we all
lose.

Friends and
neighbours

CREWE

Crewe Anarchist Group,
Write to:
CAG, c/o Camm St Community Centre,
Old Co-Op Factory, Camm St., Crewe
Cheshire.

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool Anarchists,
Write to:
Box LAG, 31 Gothic Street, Rock
Ferry, Birkenhead, Merseyside.

MANCHESTER

Wildcat, Box 25, 164/166 Corn
Exchange, Hanging Ditch, Manchester,
M4 3BN

KEELE

Keele Anarchists,
c/o Students Union, The University,
Keele, Staffs.

ABERDEEN

Subversive Graffiti, c/o 163
King St., Aberdeen.

FREEDOM (Anarchist Fortnightly
Magazine), 84b Whitechapel High
Street, London E1.

SOLIDARITY (occasional Libertarian
publication)
c/o 123 Lathom Road, London E6.

NORTH EAST ANARCHIST FEDERATION
(publishes STATELESS): Box A,
c/o Project 35, 49a Market Place
Doncaster, S. Yorks.

