

RISING FREE

A PAPER OF LIBERTARIAN STRUGGLE

No. 4 JUNE, 1976.

PAINTERS & DOCKERS DISPUTE

(or why the workers are lucky that Staples is in the Arbitration Court)

Since February, painters and dockers at the Garden Island Naval Dockyard have been almost continuously on strike. They returned to work this week after the Navy had agreed to withdraw their plans to stop the painters and dockers union hire and 'non-transfer' system of work, at least until talks are held in ten days time. Painters and dockers described this as a graceful backdown.

There have been two disputes involving the three hundred painters and dockers. The first strike lasted for eleven weeks, ending on the 30th April. It was the longest strike ever of painters and dockers at Garden Island.

The strike was over the principle of 'flow ons' from parent awards i.e. workers claimed that any improvements in their Federal award should flow to the Naval Dockyard award.

The dispute was eventually heard by the full bench of the Arbitration Commission and after several adjournments a decision was handed down on April 29th.

The decision said that future 'flow on' arguments should be argued on their merits and not be automatically disqualified as the Navy had submitted. On the two particular conditions actually in dispute (an increase in two special rates) one was granted and the other partially.

When it was decided to return to work after this decision, the Navy first off said they would not be allowed back i.e. they would be locked out. When the Painters and Dockers informed the Navy that they intended to resume work anyway and work-in if necessary, the Navy capitulated and accepted all Painters and Dockers back.

A mass meeting of all dockyard workers (including Metal Workers, Shipwrights F.E.D.F.A.) on the morning of Friday 30th voted to ensure the return to work of all other workers stood down as a result of the dispute. Everyone simply returned to work and the Navy accepted them back.

In addition to his part in the judgement Justice Staples chose to make an additional statement*. In his statement he attacked the Painters and Dockers, in particular the work practices of Painters and Dockers at Garden Island. Since he had already said that the only experience he had of Garden Island was that gained by driving past the place, it was obvious that Staples had accepted the statement of the Navy during the case - evidence which the Painters and Dockers Union had claimed were lies and distortions.

As a consequence of this attack strikers unanimously declared, on a motion, Staples to be an 'abject hypocrite who had become a willing tool of the establishment.'

NEW ATTACK

The significance of Staples statement is that it gave the Navy a court back-up to launch a new attack on the Painters and Dockers.

Hardly had they been back in the gate on Friday 30th (two hours in fact) than the Navy fired a new salvo. They told the Painters and Dockers that they intended to 'rationalize' the work force, by altering a practice of no transfer between work classifications which has been in existence since 1940. If this practice was changed, it would not only mean that there would be less jobs available at Garden Island, but that the Navy could 'pick heads'. That was for openers. Next they told the union they would no longer accept union hire which the Painters and Dockers have had since 1946. Union Hire means that the union operates a roster system (longest out of a job on top of the roster) rather than the boss being able to pick and choose from the available labour.

So the Painters and Dockers went out on strike again. It is likely that the Navy did not expect them to get widespread support, because, unfortunately, many workers do not have union hire. They, no doubt, hoped that strikers, only just returned from eleven week off work, would quickly weaken.



Instead, unions with members on the island immediately declared their support and had a one day strike on May 11th, and another 48-hr strike the following week, after two hundred workers were laid off. There was also support action at Williamstown dockyard in Melbourne.

As in the earlier strike the Painters & Dockers extended their activities beyond waterfront workers. In Queensland, Victoria and N.S.W., many workers raised levies and collections and sent telegrams of support, e.g. building workers and meat workers.

Rising Free interviewed two Painters and Dockers while they were on strike. One of them, as is clear in the interview, is one of four (not forty, as the Sydney Morning Herald claimed) ex N.S.W. Builders Labourers working at Garden Island.

* Staples, an ex-civil liberties lawyer, was appointed last year to the Arbitration Commission by a Labor Government.

Rising Free: We have heard that the eleven week strike was very successful in terms of money raised by other workers for the strike fund. Can you tell me how the strike was organized?

Painters & Dockers: Well, we had a very good strike committee. It was decided that rather than putting the strike into the hands of paid officials which would be taking them away from normal activities, it was decided to form a strike committee and broaden it out as much as possible so that anyone who was involved in the strike was actually working for the strike. Rather than having people at home moping, just coming to meetings and accepting decisions made by the leadership, we wanted the strike to be in the hands of the rank and file. We had the co-operation of the leadership in this.

I think you have to look at this strike committee in the context of job organization at Garden Island which is pretty democratic. There is a main delegate of all Painters and Dockers and a delegate & co-delegate in every section. Before we have general meetings at Garden Island, all delegates are called together to get their opinions. Usually there is a

consensus decision rather than a vote - and then it is taken to a general meeting of all hands. That is how the eleven week strike began. The strike committee was able to grow out of this job organization. There was no barrier on anybody - anybody who would give his services was included. If three hundred had wanted to be on the committee it would have been better. In the last big strike in 1968, it was left to a handful of individuals to do the job and get leaflets out. This time we made a real attempt to get more people involved. The work was divided - a couple people to write leaflets, some to answer phones, some to address jobs. I think the proof of the pudding is in the eating - we raised about \$80,000 in less than ten weeks.

One thing we did do on the strike committee was to engage in self-criticism - what we did not do and should have done and so on.

Rising Free: What other industries did you contact for support?

Painters & Dockers: We didn't leave out too many. Railway yards, building sites, mines (we had a very good response from them), factory workers. When we did go to the factories, a lot of them didn't even realize what Painters and Dockers were, except that we had something to do with the water front. When it was explained what the issue was about, they did everything they could.

In some cases we contacted the unions, Federal and State. Sometimes, especially with factories, we could just go direct to the delegate and explain our case to them. It was very rarely that they didn't agree for us to address the workers. We also had personal contacts for instance, someone would know someone at Colgate Palmolive, someone at Marrs.....

Rising Free: Very few unions have union hire. Could you explain what you see as the significance of union hire and why the bosses at Garden Island are attacking it now?

Painters & Dockers: Our roster system is very important because it is the only way that we have security of getting a job. I was in the B.L.F. before....and what the bosses were always doing there was scrutineering and character assassinating anyone with a militant history on jobs. That is what the Navy wants to be able to do and that is why they don't want to hire through the union. What they are saying is that they will put you through a test at the gate. They won't even tell you on the spot.....they will send you away, and send you a telegram saying if you are acceptable or not. If a person happens to have a criminal conviction or a political connection, or if he is just willing to get up and say to the boss, we are here and we have a right to speak and we don't think conditions are justified - they will be onto him. They want us to be lapdogs....you sit down, you take chances and we'll give you the answers later. Many years ago there was the bull system - the boss would come onto the job....flex your muscles, feel your muscles, pick heads. We were able to smash that in 1946 after a thirteen week strike at Poole and Steele's and another in Newcastle. We were granted the roster system in the Arbitration Commission. Fairly obviously, the boss wants to get back to a situation where he can select... The Painters & Dockers have a pretty bad name for criminality in the community, but surely the position is that once someone has done a lagging, he should go back on an equal footing. Most employers won't accept that. If someone says his last job is Long Bay Gaol, it's just not on. The bosses want to pick out anyone they don't like....We won't accept it. We didn't accept it in 1946 and we won't accept it now.

Rising Free: In the Sydney Morning Herald last week, there was an article saying that the union is being taken over by ex-Builders Labourers who are members of the Communist Party of Australia. Could you comment on that?

Painters & Dockers: It's the same sort of distortion

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they did with the B.L.F. itself. The Sydney Morning Herald says there are forty, actually there are 41 One of these is a Painter & Docker of sixteen years standing! I was also a member of the Painters & Dockers. There is also a migrant rank and file builder's labourer and one other. Of the four, only one is a member of the Communist Party of Australia. We don't regard the Painters and Dockers as a reactionary union...and, anyway, we have absolutely no intention of taking control of any union.

The most important thing to say is that it is a red herring. Of course, there are ex-builders labourers - but there are far more ex-seamen, wharf labourers, and ironworkers. The central question to ask is, so what? It just goes back to the point that the Navy regards some people as militant, irrespective of their politics, they are militants. The fact of the matter at Garden Island is that there is an ASIO set up down there. A full time ASIO person who screens people. That is where the union hire comes in. We say they must accept whoever we send down, whether they are militant, ex-builder's labourers, whatever.

Rising Free: Why do you think the attack has come now?

Painters & Dockers: Well, you can look at Hansard as far back 1968 and find statements suggesting that Painters & Dockers should be eliminated from Naval establishments where they hold key positions. The union is of a militant character and now we have a reactionary government which is wanting to soften up the unions. It looks like we are first off the rank.

Rising Free: Is that all?

Painters & Dockers: Yes, that's Chapter 1.

Rising Free: Were you surprised by Staples judgement?

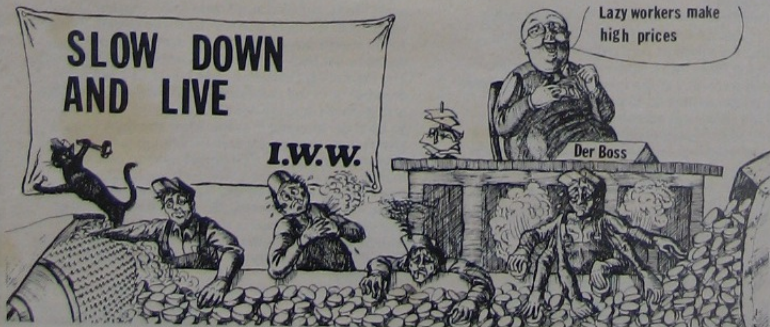
Painters & Dockers: The answer has got to be yes. We had no faith in the arbitration system as such, but we really thought (we even said it in our meetings), that we couldn't have had a better full bench if we had selected it ourselves. Because of the actions Jim has taken in the past, we expected something better. (When I say Jim, I should say Staples - I always called him that because I thought he was a fair dinkum bloke), but once the judgement came out, I just thought it was deplorable and it certainly has given the Navy a basis for what they are doing against us now. He has just taken the lies of the Navy for granted and prejudged our whole work structure - after all he said the only thing he knows of Garden Island is from driving past it...his ignorance shows in what he said about working with asbestos...Workers with asbestos are strictly tested for health and it is a serious health hazard. What he is saying is that if ten are going to get dusted - let everyone get dusted. He could have just stuck to the principle of elimination of the health hazard instead of going on with this fairytale about 'mateship'. Besides he is, clearly, totally ignorant of the fact that the materials they are replacing asbestos with are also health hazards - like fibreglass and calcium silicate. It's not just a matter of ignorance though, it's a matter of sitting up there in a privileged position and making judgements about our work practices. He sits up there in a suit, every day, passing judgement on the basis of what somebody else said. What would he know about working in the bowels of a ship?

It is obvious to us that Staples had made some sort of deal with Justice Moore, President of the Arbitration Commission. Staples was taken off the bench after he made critical statements about BHP in the seamen's dispute - now he is back taking more cases and attacking workers in line with Fraser's union bashing policy.

It is just as well for the workers that Staples is in the Arbitration Court. If he was in the Criminal Court, the jails would be overflowing.

SLOW DOWN AND LIVE!

Most of us work too hard, too much, and too fast. Then the company tells us we have to work harder and faster. Any of us could be a couple of sick days away from losing a job - or a couple of years away from a heart attack.



union clean-up needed?

For the first time in history, women are receiving higher wages than men in the same industry. The women workers involved are cleaners and their union, the Miscellaneous Workers Union, seems ready to sell them out - either by increasing their hours or decreasing their wages. The apparent moves to sellout were first reported in the last issue of Mabel (a feminist newspaper).

Female cleaners have usually only worked a 35 or 36 hour week (that is the time the employers required). While other workers were going for a shorter working week, the cleaners were classified as part time and only paid for hours worked. Up until recently, women did not get equal pay with men when calculated on an hourly rate. Now they are being paid the same as men but for less hours - or if they are employed part-time they get more per hour than men. How did this come about?

In a new agreement of the Watchmen and Caretakers award, the parent award, the equal pay principle was established. One award was established and the fact that the women were on a shorter working week was overlooked. This meant that, for example, for a 36-hour week, women are earning as much as men for a 40 hour week. This Award also flowed on to the Contract Cleaner's Award. Many contract cleaners only work part-time e.g. 20 hours a week. The new agreement meant that female cleaners are getting paid more per hour than men - the award being divided by 36 for women to get an hourly rate and 40 for men). also followed on to the Contract Cleaners Award. Many contract cleaners only work part-time, eg. 20 hours per week. The new award meant that female cleaners are getting paid more per hour than men - the award being divided by 36 to get the hourly rate for women and by 40 to get the hourly rate for men.

As Mabel pointed out, there is nothing unusual about 'front run unions' - where workers in one industry or union get more wages or better conditions. One might have thought that the next step would be for the cleaners to conduct a campaign for a shorter working week for men and for no reduction in wages for either men or women - instead, a strange thing happened.

Last June, the MWU went into negotiations on the Contract Cleaners Award (not as usual the Watchmen and Caretakers Award) and the Union laid claim for a weekly hourly rate - what this means is that women, working shorter hours, would receive less of an increase than men, in some cases losing the equivalent of seven hours per week in salary. Part-timers would also receive, relatively, less per hour. This would mean a big saving for the bosses, especially the contract cleaners, who employ most of the labour in the industry.

There are several hundred contractors in Sydney. The biggest ones are part of multinational companies, e.g. Keirs and Nationwide are owned by IT and T. The contractors are notorious for their speed up methods - work which previously took four hours will suddenly be reduced to three hours. There is a high turnover of labour and a high incidence of physical and mental breakdown. Since the

Wherever we work, speedup has become a way of life. The economy is bad. A lot of us are laid off. We workers who still have jobs have to fight to keep them. At the same time company management continues to demand greater productivity from us, despite the hazards caused by speed-up. Not only has speedup become a way of life for those of us who work in the factories, construction sites, and offices, it has become the cause of serious injury and death to all working people. According to the conservative Federal Government statistics, for example, some 1,000 of us are killed on the job, and another 130,000 of us are badly hurt each year.

By increasing awareness of the problems affecting working people, we hope to arrive at lasting solutions.



higher rates for women were brought in, the number of women in the industry has been reduced considerably and the union has done little to protect the women during this period.

The contractors are in a good position to put pressure on the Union because Union dues are deducted by the Bosses and paid over to the Union. Many workers never see an organiser in years. These dues add up to about \$10,000 per month towards Union finances and for many their union dues are just money down the drain.

A few meetings about the possible changes in the award have been held in Wollongong and Newcastle, but not in Sydnev where the bulk of the membership is. Most cleaners still know nothing of the possibility of a reduction of womens' wages.

The Union Officials have now put the dispute in court. Of course, they must know that it is unlikely that women will be allowed to continue getting the same wages as men for less hours (despite the fact that the courts maintained the opposite situation for years). In the present industrial climate, it is more likely the court will reduce mens hours to 38 and INCREASE WOMENS HOURS to 38. This will still mean a relative decrease in wages for women and big savings to the contractors.

If we as a committee or union of workers can start to settle the problems in one plant, then a larger organisation of all the workers can exert enough pressure to end speedup and job hazards totally. Workers, through long experience, can't make the companies give in to making the productive process safe and decent for human beings, and the time has come when we must take the means of production into our own hands. SABOTAGE NOW!!

SPEEDUPS CAUSE BREAKDOWNS



SUPPORT THE BREAKDOWN OF YOUR CHOICE



Sydney Anarchists are organising a STREET PARTY to take place all night on June 30, the night of the Federal Government's Census. The census is compiled by listing all the people that spent the night of June 30 in each individual dwelling in Australia. We are exhorting people living in Australia to take to the streets that night; join us at our street party, with non-stop rock, for as long as it is necessary to circumvent the census. We have already lined up one rock band, and hope to line up many more, for the street party to end all street parties. (We want any rock/blues/folk/jazz, etc groups, sympathising with us, and willing to play for the people that night, to contact us.) We are currently negotiating with residents, (not Councils or Police), for the use of a street somewhere in the inner city, for the event of the year; the Anti-Census Street Party.

Governments justify censuses by claiming that they are necessary for PLANNING. They admit that they are intrusions into people's private lives, but claim that this is justified with the benefits of planning for the future. What in fact censuses do, is take from individuals and



neighbourhood groups, the ability and responsibility to plan for themselves; they vest these powers in an impersonal centralised bureaucracy, which plans in such a way that its sole concern is the efficient functioning of an economy which keeps the wealthy, wealthy, and the people that produce the wealth in a relatively disadvantaged position, (NOT ONLY ECONOMICALLY, but also socially). Examples are impersonal modern working class suburbs, miles away from the factories; smashing up of older communities for freeways, factories, and fashionable flats; the herding of the very poor into 'highrise prisons' from which the only escape is to

jump - which some do; etc., - all for the sake of PLANNING.

People should plan for themselves; deny the 'right' of the bureaucracy to subjugate them and wreck their

lives; refuse to have Governments prying into private matters. People could set up block, street and neighbourhood councils, and control the development of their own communities, and thus their own lives; with EVERY INDIVIDUAL having their own say, (and not a useless three yearly vote).

It will be interesting to see if Mr. Vran, who now controls the police, and has pledged to abolish 'victimless crimes', will use the police to try and smash us, by charging us with the 'victimless crime' of obstruction. Social Democrats want to control people's lives, and preserve the present economic system, as much as the Conservatives.

JOIN US - BRING YOUR OWN PARTY LINE.

Our mis-fortunes at the hands of the Commonwealth Governments bureaucracy began long before this brief episode with the Glebe Project Office: we were cut of the dole by a computer foul up in Brisbane, and had to fight and go to the press to get some of the money to which we were entitled. As a consequence, we were fed up with bureaucratic bungling and headed for Sydney to find a job. Because of a Government-caused lack of finance and no place to stay, we had to sleep in our car, also we spent several nights in the lounge room of our friends' house. One of these friends found for us an empty house, Government-owned, into which we promptly moved. Our reasons were that we wanted our independence, we had no other place to stay (except the car again) and we believed we would be able to negotiate with the owners about rent—which we were prepared to pay as soon as we had finances (2 weeks), and repairs—of which, there were several immediately necessary that we were prepared to do ourselves. We were informed that the house had been empty for almost a year.

Two hours later we had a visit from the Glebe Project Office—ostensibly to ascertain if or not anyone was in their house. The following evening, a security guard employed by the above office came and informed us that if we did not remove ourselves in the next 2 hours, he would call the police. We declined to move on his authority, saying we preferred to negotiate with the Glebe Project Office and that we had nowhere else to go. Very soon afterwards 3 Commonwealth and 2 State police arrived, by which time we had the support of several other people. The police at first threatened us and tried to force their way into the house, and after some discussion we let them in. They then contacted their superiors and told us that they would not interfere any further and that the matter was between ourselves and the Glebe Project Office.

The following morning brought another visit from the Project Office—a PR-type discussion from them, "we are sympathetic but must do our job" type talk; agreement

the saga
of
number 62



that we would see Project Manager later in the day. When we did arrive at the Project Office we were told by 1. a secretary, 2. the Project's architect, & 3. the Project manager that if we did not leave immediately, they had instructed the Commonwealth Police to charge us under a section of the Crimes Act. In the ensuing discussion they gave their reasons for the house being empty for so long (despite a waiting list of 300 and over 200 more people turned away), as being that they were waiting for Government finance to renovate the houses—now apparently not forthcoming. Despite this we could not stay in, or rent number 62 in its present form, because it would be setting a precedent of putting people's needs above their policy or the law—the machinery of bureaucracy must not be violated. However the conscience of the architect compelled him to invite us to stay with him in his home until we have adequate finance. So we had the choice of accepting his offer, finding other accommodation, or taking on the whole Police Force if we did not move from the

house. After our last experience with the police and because we have a child who we would not see put in a home or under institutional "care" if we happened to be arrested (as was most likely), we accepted the architect's offer and presume that some consciences are somewhat appeased. But what about the other 300 people on the waiting list, and the other 200 not on it? It will be interesting to see if the house will be occupied by someone from this group soon. Certainly while we were in these discussions a sign was posted on the door—Government property, trespassers prosecuted. Also it seems very mysterious that a certain member of the Residents Committee, who lives in the same road, seems to have popped up all the time knowing all that was going on—using his political power over the Project Office to protect his own personal interests, perhaps? At any rate the saga will go on until empty houses are filled, and all the people waiting for low income housing obtain it.

Stella.

EULOGY TO VICTORIA STREET

I have often heard Mick Fowler say;
Ashes to ashes
Dust to dust
If the grog doesn't get you
The developers must,

We have come here today to witness the end of the life of Victoria Street. For it is not just the end of Mick Fowler's stay in this street; it is, as Mick himself has always been the first to point out, the end of the street as we know it. Since the 1890's until today, this beautiful street has been the home of people without wealth or privilege - of

seamen and waterfront workers, of labourers, of cleaners, of single parents and their children, of artists, of old people living on their own - of people like these who stand here today. Tomorrow it is to become the home of the rich; of those who live for profits and plunder, and through the exploitation and weakness of others.

Today is the end of a 3 years struggle to save the street - it has been a struggle of considerable initiative and imagination. I am thinking of the builders laborers who had the imagination to know that workers could have a

say in what is built; of the squatters who finally retreated to the chimneys; of the women, who, even in the last few days engaged in a graffiti and poster war with the thugs. I am thinking of the songs and the music. It is a fight which has involved hundreds of people - some of whom are here today, others are now in jail, dead.. There has always been a mixture of sadness and happiness in this fight; there were the street parties, the garden we built, the plans we made for the houses.. then there were times of fear - the grim days when Arthur

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THE SPANISH

roots of spanish anarchism

With the advent of the Russian Revolution in 1917 and the apparent success of the Bolsheviks seizure of power, Anarchism and Anarcho-syndicalism was overshadowed by authoritarian Communism (Marxist-Leninism) organised in Party form and controlled by a Central Executive. Prior to this, however, in many countries, including Australia, Anarchism and Anarcho-Syndicalism was the main revolutionary working class force. In Australia the anarcho-syndicalist Industrial Workers of the World (the I.W.W.) was the only revolutionary grouping prior to 1917 and was a considerable force. (See Sydney's Burning' - Anarchist Bookshop 60c.)

The rift between the Anarchists and the Marxists had its roots in 1844 with Proudhon rejecting an approach by Marx to form an alliance to propagate socialism on the grounds that Marx was an authoritarian person who would want to control and direct a movement that formed a round such an alliance. Proudhon was right, as when the International Workingmen's Association (the first International) was formed by French Blanquists and British Trade Unionists (not Marx as Marxists would have us believe) Marx endeavoured to control it from above. He wanted the Trade Unions subscribing to the International to be organised hierarchically and obedient to the orders of the General Council. He was thwarted in his endeavours by the anarchist Bakunin who argued that the Unions should be loosely federated and autonomous and the General Council should be nothing more than a statistical bureau. He believed the impetus for action should COME FROM BELOW. It is said that Marx wanted to capture political power for the proletariat whereas Bakunin wanted the proletariat to destroy political power.

Bakunin brought the Geneva, Italian and Spanish sections into the International and they adhered to his ideas of non-authoritarian collectivism as Anarchism was then known. It was announced at the foundation meeting of the Spanish section 'We wish the rule of Capital, State and Church to cease and to construct upon their ruins Anarchy: the free federation of free associations of free workers'.

In 1872 Marx endeavoured to destroy the International rather than have it become Anarchist. At the Hague Congress when many anarchist delegates could not attend he had the Anarchists expelled and transferred the General Council to New York. Two weeks later the expelled members met at St. Imier in Switzerland and reconstituted the International as a pure Anarchist organisation. The Switzerland, Italian and Spanish sections and half the Belgium section stood behind Bakunin. In France following the crushing of the Paris Commune of 1871 the International had been suppressed. It, too, would probably have split.

In the following years adherents to the International and Anarchism in Spain grew until they were suppressed in 1873 following a General Strike and then successful (for a short period) revolution in the town of Alcoy. It was Spain's first General Strike and Spain's first successful worker's revolution. The Anarchists in Spain were the last revolutionary movement to be crushed in the reaction that swept Europe following the defeat of the Paris Commune and they numbered about 60,000 at the time.

Between 1873 and 1907 Anarchism went through periods of expansion and repression and in 1890's a short period of terrorism and bomb throwing from a small minority of its adherents. The real foundations of modern Anarchism came with the establishment of Anarcho-Syndicalism in 1907 and its weapon - the General Strike.

The Rising Free Collective welcomes any contributions - articles, cartoons, graphics, etc. or any assistance in either production or distribution of the paper.



Anarchist peasants in rural Spain.

anarcho-syndicalism

Revolutionary Syndicalism (Syndicate is the French word for Union) originated in France during the 1890's as a reaction against the sell-out of parliamentary socialism. The idea was the uniting of all workers whatever their political or religious opinions, into one fighting body whose arena of action would be the industrial sphere, rejecting parliamentary political action and refusing the assistance of bourgeois journalists and intellectuals. They would struggle daily for improved pay and conditions until one day, by means of the general strike, total emancipation would be obtained.

In 1907, an Anarchist Congress in Amsterdam adopted Syndicalism as being the best way to achieve cohesion of European Anarchists and most likely means of bringing about the Social (Anarchist) Revolution. In Barcelona (the stronghold of Spanish Anarchism) some years before, a federation known as Solidaridad Obrera (Worker's Solidarity) was established with the expressed aims of forming a syndicalist organisation. In 1907 this federation included the whole of Catalonia (the region around Barcelona) and in October 1910 the National Confederation of Workers (Confederacion Nacional del Trabajo-CNT) was formed. The unions making up the C.N.T. were organised on a local basis of all industries plus on an industrial basis countrywide. Subscriptions were very low (or non-existent) and leaders and secretaries were not paid. In 1936 the C.N.T. had one and a half million members and only ONE paid official secretary. Delegates and committee members were subject to immediate recall and their responsibilities were carried out after working hours i.e. they all worked on the job. The local unions were autonomous; were not bound by decisions of general conferences (e.g. to go on strike) and were free to take them out of the Federation at any time. Action came from the rank and file workers (sic) cannot feel free so long as they feel the need of emancipators or leaders who as soon as they have overthrown the old regime will inevitably set up another in which they will be privileged'. At the first Congress of the C.N.T. in Madrid in 1911 30,000 members in 350 unions were represented. Almost immediately strikes and violent uprisings broke out and the C.N.T. was suppressed. In 1914 it began reorganising but it was not until 1917 did it feel strong enough to take

serious action again.

From 1918 until 1923 the C.N.T. had a continual battle with Catalonian Capitalists. In 1919 a strike in a Barcelona electrical company ended in a compromise which was a moral victory for the C.N.T. but was not accepted by the military and there occurred a highly self-disciplined general strike of 100,000. This example led to the rapid expansion of the C.N.T. In 1919, 450 delegates claiming to represent 700,000 members of the C.N.T. met in Madrid in which a national rent strike was organised; the limited use of industrial sabotage was endorsed; and they provisionally adhered to the Third (Communist) International though maintaining the principles of the First.

In the countryside, a peasant's union of similar structure to the C.N.T. was formed and had remarkable success in Andalusia and the Levant where whole villages were organised and run by village assemblies with everyone taking part. Strikes and battles against the landowners were frequent but they were eventually crushed in 1919.

In 1922, following the crushing of the Kronstadt Soviets by Trotsky and the Bolsheviks and as the horror of Lenin's dictatorship began to become known, the C.N.T. severed all connection with the Moscow International and sent delegates to a rival Syndicalist International (the A.I.T.) in Berlin which was being founded by Unions who had never made pacts with politicians and had remained anti-Marxist throughout the war.

The C.N.T. went underground in 1923 when Primo de Rivera's fascist Coup d'Etat occurred but reappeared stronger than even in 1930 with the fall of de Rivera and began to prepare, deliberately and systematically, for the Social Revolution.

Even though Barcelona was the main centre of the C.N.T., in Madrid it was strongly represented by several workers groups including the Building Workers who in July last year again declared themselves the C.N.T. in reconstruction. In Asturias the steel workers were anarchist in an area where the Marxist and somewhat reformist socialist U.G.T. was in the ascendancy. In Galicia rural anarchism was popular and most of the Spanish fishermen and women were anarchist. It is from Galicia that revolutionary anarchism spread to South America.

REVOLUTION

collectivization

DURING THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

When on July 18th, 1936 the Spanish Army rose in rebellion against the Republican Government it was the mainly Anarchist workers in Barcelona that thwarted General Franco's attempted Coup by raiding the arsenals and sport stores for weapons, throwing up the barricades, fighting in the streets and answering the rebellion with a social revolution. Upon hearing the news of what was happening in Barcelona, the mainly socialist workers in Madrid followed suit, and so, when the initial dust had settled, Spain was virtually divided in half between the Fascists and the Anti-fascists or what are generally termed the "Republicans". What is generally not publicized, however, is that a large proportion of the workers in Spain viewed the Republic with the same anathema as they viewed the fascists.

In the first few days and weeks the workers established their own militias, formed street patrols and expropriated a number of strategic factories, placing them under the control of workers' committees. Socialist workers in Madrid, in many instances, acted as radically as anarchist workers in Barcelona. Socialist peasants in Castille and Estramadura formed collectives, many which were as libertarian as those created by the Anarchist peasants of Aragon and The Levant. The "masses" exhibited remarkable ability in controlling their own society and creating their own libertarian forms of social administration. Consequently, the Spanish Revolution was more profound than the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. However, the revolution itself split the Republic as the Socialist leaders, the bourgeois liberals, the Separatists, AND THE COMMUNISTS, all opposed the revolution and thus a civil war was created within the civil war as these other groups endeavoured to crush the anarchists and other workers and peasants who said the best way to defeat the Fascists was to institute the Social Revolution at the same time.

During the three years of civil war in Spain, Anarchist-Communism was put into effect. Very quickly, more than 60% of the land was collectively cultivated by the

peasants themselves; without landlords, without bosses, and without instituting capitalist competition to spur production. In almost all the industries; factories, mills, workshops, transportation services and public services and utilities, the rank and file workers, their revolutionary committees and their unions reorganised and administered production, distribution and public services without capitalists, high salaried managers or the authority of the state.

The various rural and industrial collectives immediately instituted economic equality in accordance with the communist principle 'from each according to her/his ability to each according to her/his needs', unlike what occurs in any 'Socialist' country in the world today. They co-ordinated their efforts through free association in whole regions, created new wealth, increased production (especially in agriculture but also in industry), built more schools and bettered public services, including building roads and creating parks. They instituted not bourgeois parliamentary (representative) democracy, but libertarian democracy where each individual participated in the reorganisation of social life. They replaced competition with mutual aid and co-operation. In many rural collectives money was abolished and replaced with a distribution system and vouchers. Where money wasn't abolished a family wage was instituted or wages were paid to men, women and children; in some cases women got equal wages and in other cases about 80% of the male rate (whether they worked at home or for the community).

As 75% of industry in Spain, at the time, was concentrated in Catalonia this refutes the argument that anarchist organisational principles are not applicable to industrial areas. Another feature of the Spanish Revolution was the close co-operation between the urban and rural workers which is the opposite to what happened in Russia and North Vietnam where peasant resistance and uprisings AGAINST enforced "Collectivization" carried out by "communist" Parties occurred. Those 'Collectives', unlike the Spanish ones, were not carried out and managed by the workers

In Spain many petty peasant proprietors were induced to join the collectives, not by force, but by witnessing the advantages of co-operation. The realistic and humanitarian spirit of the libertarian collectives also earned the co-operation of technical, professional and scientific workers in reorganising economic life. The CNT health workers union in 1936 included 1,020 doctors, 3,206 nurses, 133 dentists, 330 midwives, 203 practitioners (student doctors), 180 pharmacists, 153 herbalists, 353 sterilizers and 200 veterinarians. In many cases the doctors were the most revolutionary. The health services were largely collectivized and new hospitals and sanitariums were opened. All the hospital doctors received the same wage of 500 pesetas/month for a three hour day compared to about 400 pesetas a month for a seven hour day for the average worker.

Examples of collectivization of industries in Catalonia during the civil war include the municipal transport system in Barcelona where wages were increased by up to 60% for what had been the lowest paid workers and the hours reduced from 40 hours to 36 per week. The posts of General Director and Assistants(3) to the General Director were abolished. Fares were reduced by 30% with school children, pensioners and others receiving free travel.

With the telephone system 50% of the lines were out after the first three days but within the next three days, without awaiting orders, the workers restored the telephone system to normal and they then called a meeting and collectivized it. Low wages were again significantly increased.

The private railways were expropriated and collectivized with workers guarding the key junctions. Although the CNT workers were in the vast majority they accorded the social democratic unions equal representation on the management committees. The railway repair yards manufactured armored vehicles and ambulances which were highly praised by the medical workers.

The workers designated their technicians and administrators from their own ranks. The wharves and ports, and the gas, water and electricity were collectivized with similar results as with the railways. Water rates were reduced by 50%. Many small artisans and workshops collectivized themselves. One striking example of this was the hairdressers in Barcelona. The number of shops were reduced from 1,100 to 235 - saving 135,000 pesetas/month, and the remaining ones modernly outfitted. Wages were increased 40% with everyone being guaranteed work.

The textile, steel, munitions and optical industries were all collectivized in Catalonia. Collectivized factories built advanced industrial items like buses and aircraft engines. In the north, where the anti-fascists were surrounded and isolated by the fascists, the social democratic UGT and CNT collectivized industry, including the fishing industry which fed the area despite the fascist blockade.

In the first stages of the civil war, people's militias (including women's militias - which, however, in many instances were ridiculed by the men) were formed by the various groups (UGT, CNT, Communists, POUM [sort of trotskysts]) and in Catalonia these welded into a people's revolutionary army where everyone received the same wage, saluting was abolished, officers were elected by the rank and file and orders did not have to automatically be obeyed - i.e. they either had to be logical or the order giver had to justify them. This army worked well considering the lack of training and arms and was responsible for holding the fascists at bay. This army was not destroyed by the fascists but by International Stalinism, Moscow, and the Spanish Communist Party.

THE COMMUNISTS: THE SPEARHEAD OF THE COUNTER-REVOLUTION

Prior to the outbreak of the civil war in Spain the membership of the Communist Party is generally accepted as having been about three thousand. So in fifteen years of existence they had not built a solid working-class base except in Seville and Asturias.

Prior to 1934 they followed the Comintern line of left extremism and no compromise with the capitalist state but a switch in Moscow's line in that year, then favoured participation of C.P.'s in Popular Fronts. With this, the Spanish Communist Party even accepted the dropping of nationalisation of land from the programme of the Spanish Popular Front. In fact, the Spanish Communist Party's position was far to the right of the Socialists, let alone the Anarchists who, of course, did not support the Popular Front. In the elections of 1936 there was a victory for the Popular Front and the Communists were allocated sixteen seats, far out of proportion to their support. (Cont. Page 6)



July of 1936. The people of Barcelona take up arms against the fascist uprising.

(Continued from page 5.)

The Communists began infiltrating the Socialist organisations in areas where the Anarchists were the strongest, because in these situations the Socialists were reactionary; compared to areas with small groups of Anarchist militants who drove the Socialists to the left.

In Catalonia the Socialists were the most reactionary and four days after the outbreak of the civil war, they merged with the Communists (who only had two hundred members in the region) to form the United Catalan Socialist Party (PSUC). They then set out to win support from other opponents of Anarchism such as shopkeepers, the conservative intelligentsia, white collar workers, the middle class republicans. Membership of the PSUC thus increased dramatically but it was entirely without revolutionary content. Next they caused the Socialist Youth Movement of two hundred thousand to merge with the smaller Communist Youth to form the Unified Socialist Youth (J.S.U.).

As Russia was the only country giving substantial aid to the anti-fascists (France and Mexico gave some) the Communists were in a position to force their reactionary policies on the people of Spain, in an endeavour to smash the revolution. Their policies opposed the expropriation and collectivisation of land and factories by the workers; opposed the formation of worker's militias; favoured the creation of a hierarchical army with officers selected from above; favoured saluting of officers and graduations in pay; and favoured the restoration of the 'authority' of the state and the creation of a regular police force and gendarmerie. They used the Russian supply of arms to gain control of ninety per cent of all important posts in the Spanish War Department and most of the political commissars with the Republican Army were stalwart members of the Spanish Communist Party.

When they had obtained this degree of influence, they then organised a reign of terror against all revolutionaries. They set up their own prisons and torture chambers, to which, even the Minister of Justice could not obtain access. One example: on March 15th, 1937, sixteen members of the CNT had been murdered by Communists in Villanueva de Alcardete. A subsequent judicial investigation established that an all-Communist group, including the mayors of Villanueva and Villamajor had been operating as a 'Defense Committee' murdering political enemies, looting, levying tributes and raping a number of women. Five communists were sentenced to death. The purging by the Communists included Communists, critical of the Party Line, ex-communists, trotskysts, POUMistas, and Anarchists. This fact is well documented in books by independent authors including: 'Homage to Catalonia' (George Orwell); 'The Spanish Cockpit' (Franz Borkenau); 'Terror in Spain' (John McGovern) and 'Assassins at Large' (Hugo Dewar).

The first goal of the Communists was to wipe out the POUMistas (a small group of semi-trotskysts) and then concentrate an attack on the Anarchists. The Anarchists helped defend the POUM, realising that they were next. This drive culminated in the so-called 'May Days' in Barcelona, which started with an attack on the Anarchist-controlled telephone



The first bus built in the workshops of the collectivized General Autobus Company.

exchange. The Anarchists fought this attempt to crush them the same way they had fought Franco's fascists - with barricades and street fighting. After this the Communists realised that they couldn't crush the Anarchists militarily, and then concentrated on gradually eroding anarchist influence by gaining control of key posts and endeavouring to destroy the militias.

They never managed to completely destroy the militias, but incorporated them into the army, appointing the officers themselves, and made sure most of the Anarchist and POUM militias were at the front to keep them busy and out of Barcelona. The brutality of the Communists towards foreign volunteers in the International Brigades is also well documented. People who had originally thought they were only agreeing to serve for limited periods found themselves at the front for nine months on end, without respite, and when some of them tried to leave they were summarily executed by the Communists.

The Anarchists who were Franco's stumbling block in 1936, thus gradually had their energy sapped from them by having to fight the Communists and Socialists as well as Franco and this led to Franco finally achieving victory in 1939.

SPAIN NOW

The situation in Spain today is very hazy but evidence and reports suggest that again Anarchism is going to be the major revolutionary force. The Spanish Communist Party has dropped all pretense of being revolutionary, and is a rose pink Social Democratic Party seeking legalization. In Madrid there are now eight unions belonging to the new CNT (including the construction workers and the bank clerks) whose membership is largely young people, not seventy year old survivors from the civil war.

There are many more groups in Barcelona where recently there was held a secret congress which was attended by 700 delegates (sic). However, in Barcelona they don't appear to be as well organised, as in Madrid. Reports also suggest that in Aragon, the Levant and Galicia, the Anarchists are also reorganising the CNT. There also appears to be strong support for anarchism from the universities and the intelligentsia.

When Juan Carlos announced, in an endeavour to quell industrial unrest, that parliamentary democracy would be restored in 1977, it was met with a strike of 100,000 spearheaded by the construction workers and the bank clerks. Recently a foreign reporter in Spain said he could not understand why the demonstrators he spoke to seemed to be as anti-communist as they were anti-government.

The Anarchists probably need three to four years of intense organisation before they can hope to challenge the State again in Spain and institute the social revolution. Lets hope this time they are well-armed and recognise that the Socialists and the Communists to be as great a threat as the Fascists.

ON THE BEAT

In a recent confrontation between the Commonwealth Police and people trying to protect a couple and their child from being thrown into the street (see story this issue) one Commonwealth Kop told Sacco Vanzetti that if he ever blocked the Kops path to a house again he would "get him, legally or otherwise". Sacco asked the Kop what he meant by that to which the Kop replied "You heard me, just leave it at that".



graffiti

A graffiti war is going on in Barcelona. Each day the military police paint over the nights slogans. Among these slogans are many anarchist symbols (A) and CNT and self management signs. In places the paint is many layers thick.

In Alicante, further south, a huge CNT/Self Management sign has been painted along the wall of Santa Barbara castle. Alicante was a 'republican' stronghold during the civil war and has now been developed with high-rise hotels by the West German tourist industry. The sign is not to be missed by the rich of Europe as the promenade along the beach.

At the 22nd Congress of the French Communist Party in February, George Marchais, Secretary of the French Party announced that his party supported the parliamentary road to socialism and consequently would abolish the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The following piece of graffiti was seen in the Metro during the Congress:

ABOLISH THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT
signed George Marchais

and underneath
ABOLISH THE DICTATORSHIP OF GEORGE MARCHAIS
signed The Proletariat

The meeting was almost totally managed from the top, the result of a clear division between fulltime Friends of the Earth, and the large mass of tired riders who had many differences about types and ways of protest, (people ranged from hard-line politicians who see large scale

Cont. last page



THE ECO-CRAZIES RIDE INTO CAPITOL CITY

300 odd anti-uranium push-bikers from Melbourne and Sydney meet in Yass for the last drive into the heartline of the bureaucrats, (canberra people met us on the way in). The idea was to group up and work out tactics for the ride through Canberra, and the setting up of a camp outside parliament.

Ulrike Meinhof

.... repercussions in w.germany



When Ulrike Meinhof was buried in West Berlin last week her coffin was draped with the black flag of Anarchy. In view of the fact that Ulrike Meinhof denied being an Anarchist; denounced anarchists; and claimed to be a Marxist-Leninist this is rather surprising.

The group to which she belonged, the Red Army Faction (R.A.F.), see themselves as a Vanguard Party to the revolution. While most Anarchists in West Germany and elsewhere do not support the R.A.F.'s terrorist activities and Leninist aspirations, they publicly opposed the inhuman and repressive treatment she and other fellow prisoners received while in the hands of the West German state. In fact, because many Anarchists in West Germany have operated openly, organising in factories, etc., it is they who have suffered the brunt of the following police repression. In Cologne Rolf Stein is a prime example; being held in isolation in prison on trumped up charges without being brought to trial. Munich and Berlin Anarchists have also been gaoled without trial. The authorities do this as they cannot catch the members of the R.A.F. and they want to discredit Anarchists who are trying to build an effective movement. This is not to say, however, there are not Anarchists who support terrorism or violent resistance. The rest of the authoritarian left has eagerly condemned those arrested and most have stayed silent about the treatment of the prisoners. Gangs of left wing opponents actually attacked mourners at Meinhof's funeral.

Ulrike Meinhof, who was forty-one, was a qualified lawyer and left wing journalist. In 1972 she was arrested and charged on many counts including bank robbery, arson, attempted murder and murder. Some of the terrorist raids she is accused of having participated in, were directed against the West German and U.S. governments during the Vietnam War. She has already been convicted of attempted murder for her part in the prison raid which rescued Andeas Baader from jail in 1971. Since last year she has been on trial with Baader and two others on fifty-four counts of attempted murder and five of murder at Stuttgart.

She was held for three years without trial, six months of it in total silence and isolation in artificial light. The prison is called Stannheim, a maximum security jail similar to Katingle, the maximum security unit at Long Bar jail, only worse. It was in protest against these conditions that prisoners went on a hunger strike in 1974. This led to the death of Holger Meins six months before the trial had begun. A special courthouse, heavily protected by army and police has been built at the prison. As well as their own lawyers, the defendants have their own state appointed lawyers with whom they refuse to communicate. Special laws have been passed for the trial e.g. preventing lawyers from engaging in improper practices e.g. carrying messages from prisoners to family and supporters outside. Reports in the European Press this week predicted that the presiding judge would soon exclude under these laws the defendants own lawyers.

Meinhof was found, according to the authorities, hanging by a towel from a window bar. Her lawyers immediately on hearing of her death attacked the state for driving her to suicide. They now say they plan to charge the West German State with murder. They claim that her cell did not have any 'window bar' like the one she was meant to have hanged herself from. They are also protesting that a post mortem was done and the cells thoroughly examined without notifying her family, doctor or lawyers. This is legal in West German and the authorities are claiming it was necessary to act quickly so there could be no doubts about the cause of her death.

The murder of Ulrike Meinhof in West Germany needs to be seen in the context of the suppression of civil rights in that country during recent years.

Since the social democratic Liberal Government took power in 1969, (it is worth noting that on several occasions while in power, another social democrat, Whitlam remarked that he saw West Germany as a sort of system he would like to see here). There has been a whole series of new acts and amendments passed, which cut back constitutional rights. "Terrorist danger" is the excuse the Government has used.

The Emergency Act, (69) allows the Armed Forces and Federal Border Police to be used against uprisings, endangering the Federal Republic. In the same year, a law allowed the authorities to intercept letters and tap phones. Since 1972, it has been legal for the border police to restore 'public order' - even at times when 'public order wasn't as risk. This has led to quite a few anarchists and militant unionists being jailed. Hundreds of public servants have been sacked because they are members of an anti-constitutional organisation (like a union) or have been in a demonstration.

In 1975, the Bundestag passed new laws severely limiting the rights of defendants and their lawyers, particularly where lawyers are suspected of supporting their clients activities. Finally, in 1976 there has been the Prevention of Violence Act.

The effect of the last act is that subscribing to a radical newspaper, writing about workers taking over a factory, workers occupying a construction site, people squatting in a house can be seen as an act of disobedience* ! You don't need to take part yourself - you just need to 'disseminate, exhibit, make accessible, produce, subscribe to, store, offer, announce, anything which is likely to lead others to commit unlawful acts to find yourself in jail.

So far, there has not been any resistance to these laws. The left in West Germany is split into many sects, mostly dominated by intellectuals. Most protest action has come from unions and left bookshops who on January 19th covered over books with black blankets and gave out information about the repression instead of selling books. On January 9, many posters appeared in West Berlin calling on people to return certain books by famous authors like Bertold Brecht to the authorities, as they had been banned by the new law. The posters were made up like official police posters and carried the signatures of West Berlin senate officials.

The social democrats took power at a time of economic slump, when there was a wave of wild cat strikes. It would appear that since they have been able to handle the crisis economically, they are now attempting to manage it politically.

While the Social Democrats and the conservative union bureaucrats are trying to suppress everything that is more radical than they are, especially any movement that is interested in alternative socialist policies. The conservative opposition, the Christian Democrats are trying to stir up fears of unemployment. They are blaming the unions for the economic crisis and pressing for even more restrictions of constitution and union rights. If the Christian Democrats gain power, the social democrats and union leaders may find they have created the economic and social pre-conditions for a system that is more repressive than the present system, which could eventually be directed against the Social Democrats themselves.

* While constitutional rights often guarantee very little in practice, when they are being cut back, it usually means that much worse is happening in practice....



FRANKFURT DEMONSTRATION LAST WEEK

PROTESTS IN EUROPE SINCE HER DEATH WEST GERMANY

Stuttgart - Eighty maximum security prisoners refused to return to their cells. The authorities claim it has nothing to do with Meinhof's death.

Frankfurt - Thousands of demonstrators who also claimed Meinhof had been murdered fought with police. Water cannons were used against the demonstrators, many of whom were masked. Barricades were erected in two places from piles of building materials and chairs and tables taken from sidewalk cafes. A policeman was injured severely and a squad car wrecked by petrol bombs. The police claimed the demonstrators were carrying petrol bombs in their briefcases.

Wuppertal - Firebombs exploded in the state courthouse.

Munich - A West German soldier was critically injured when a firebomb exploded near the Munich studio of the American Forces network. Police are claiming that his sympathy lies with the terrorists - but this incident also leaves open the possibility of the bombings have been state provocations.

West Berlin - At least four thousand attended her funeral and were attacked at the grave by left wing opponents and then by police. They marched away chanting the fight continues.

Elsewhere in Europe -

In Rome, Toulouse, Zurich and Barcelona, there have been bombings of the West German companies and institutions.

In Paris, intellectuals, including Simone de Beauvoir and Jean Paul Sartre have signed a statement condemning the manner in which Meinhof died.

THE TRIAL RESUMES

The trial resumed in Stannheim prison before Meinhof had even been buried. The accused chosen lawyers applied for an adjournment because of the 'deep shock' felt by the prisoners at the sudden death. They accused the state of 'deliberate extinction' of the prisoners. Baader tried unsuccessfully to deliver a tribute to Meinhof but was silenced. As he walked out he referred to the court as a 'rat heap'.

Dr. Prinzing, the presiding judge, began the day by saying the case against Meinhof is over because she is dead. Supporters of the prisoners boomed when he refused to grant the adjournment and left to join hundreds of others outside.

P.S. The Facts stated here have been taken mainly from overseas established press. There may be more details in the radical newspapers when they arrive. We note the frequent use of the label 'anarchist' in these reports - 'anarchist leader' 'anarchist demonstrators'. Yet the same papers have failed in their frequent reports of widespread industrial unrest in Spain and also West Germany this year to mention the active participation of many anarcho-syndicalists and libertarian-communists. As always they promote the image of anarchists as bomb throwers rather than as revolutionaries committed to the overthrow of the ruling class and state power (capitalist and communist) through direct action. It must be added that the same image is also encourage by left-wing parties.

R.F.

power production as essential to the centralised control of society, and that the alternative society is a revolutionary alternative to the state and capitalism; to others who 'didn't want to be seen as radicals').

The leaders repeatedly refused to put proposals to a vote. They argued that decisions should be made on the spot - you can just imagine how 300 bike riders strung out over half a mile were going to make decisions. It was only after this had been pointed out time and time again, that a vote was taken for the ride to remain in one mass and ride thru red lights when necessary to remain together. A proposal to cut across Parliament lawns was massively rejected in favor of an ordered grouping - a interesting vote, as it split almost totally melbourne vs. sydney, (the respective leaders took opposing sides), on melbourne numbers (250 riders) deciding it.

Amazingly a large vote agreed to delegate 'marshals' who wore red arm or head bands, (as if we weren't going to have enough cops) - of course no-one was delegated, (that I found out), but rather the more 'trusted' seem to have been appointed.

So many drifted out of the meeting that it became ridiculous and ultimately broke up.

It was a pretty good example of how a group of supposedly 'alternative' people could only function in an almost completely bureaucratic way - quite worthy of the board room of Pan Continental - without a thought out and worked out means of getting together.

The strange thing is that the ride went completely differently. Marshalls were ridiculed, 'direct orders' laughed at, all 3 lanes of the bridge taken over and when the cops blocked off the whole road, riders fanned out across parliament lawns, and rode in with enough yelling and whoops to do geronimo justice.

Tents were set up as riders circled parliament house chanting. Cooking facilities were set up and in the evening a bonfire and a concert.

Various activities at canberra, street theatre, the odd chant at visiting piggies, visits to uranium addicts' embassies, a few real questions at question time; hippies diving into the parliamentary loo's, staring at all the dicks' pictures on the walls, a few fuckwits still wearing their red marshalls badges, others warming themselves on the parliamentary radiators, a couple thrown out of the house for having their arms around each other. A bit of an anti-climax really, but Friends of the Earth will have to get together socially much better if it is really advocating a change in society, for protest is not enough. The logic of opposing that necessity of modern industrial production - uranium, implies the development of a new society and new forms of social and industrial organisation.

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King disappeared, and we feared he would not return; the days when we

knew Juanita Neilsen would not return, and we were helpless to do anything about it. And there was the morning when we awoke to find that a young black woman had been burnt to death in a house she sheltered in because she had no other place to go.

It is a struggle which has greatly changed many of our lives... so let us think of what we have learnt.

Let us think first about our enemies.

We began by fighting Frank Theeman; but to fight Theeman we discovered was also to fight his thugs; to fight too the respectable financiers, like CAGA, the big capitalists, without which the speculators cannot operate. We were fighting too the architects and lawyers who are conditioned to behave like neutral servants of property; we were fighting Minister of Just-Arse Maddison, and his judges and police, who provided the legal muscles for Theeman, but stood by when people were threatened, beaten, and murdered. We were fighting the ignorance, and apathy created by capitalism; the conservatism and power of other trade union officials, who were threatened by the actions of the NSW BLF in placing green bans. We learned that to fight a developer is to fight a whole system of capital, property and the state - and that this is a system which will only be defeated when there are many Mick Fowlers, and many workers like the BL's. Victoria Street has changed some of us, who began as protestors, into revolutionaries. What else have we learnt? There are others of us, who perhaps already believed we were revolutionaries, who have experienced for the first time, the violence of capital - we have learnt that no-one, (not even those who are born of the wealthy class), are protected once they become the enemies of capital.

For us it is a defeat - but that does not mean it is a victory for Theeman. Capitalists need to hide their true colours. Theeman, apart from losing most of his money, has been exposed for what he is. Let us, not let the rich who will live in these houses, and the professionals who will rent these offices, forget the tactics that were used to make way for them.

Today is the end of this street, but it is not only that. A great Italian revolutionary, Malatesta, said;

'What we have lost is great

But not as great as we think it now.

The vital thing is to recognise that we have had a defeat

The concessions they gave us do not constitute a victory,

If we are to gain anything, it is from learning from that defeat.'

What we can do now, as we already are doing, is to carry the determination and imagination of Victoria Street, and the NSW BL's, into other streets; into the outer as well as inner suburbs; into other cities and into other industries. And let Frank Theeman, let the capitalists and the judges, the lawyers, thugs, architects and police, who are their willing servants, remember;

WE SHALL NEVER PLAY OUR LAST CARD.



This year the first of May (the real Mayday) coincided with the N.S.W. State election as well as the May 1st march-festival organised by the Anarchists. The bureaucratically run official Mayday march is now held on the first Sunday in May with police permission and has little to do with the original idea of Mayday being a day of general strike by the people. So this year we decided to take the streets on May 1st and have a march and then a festival.

We assembled at the haymarket and then moved off. The 40 of us took to the road and seized one lane of George Street and marched half a mile up to the Town Hall polling booth. There we urged people not to vote, sang songs, read poems and handed out Anarchist literature. At this stage the pigs noticed us and began to hassle us but there were no arrests.

The afternoon ended with our festival in Hyde Park with free food, wine, dancing and music. Everyone had fun and enjoyed themselves while other people in the city gave their lives away to the politicians for another three years.

Leaders of the Communist Contingent at the Mayday (Sunday) march demonstrated their fucked perspectives with a chant of 'Defeat Fraser Government'. At their heels marched a more enlightened group of CPA comrades, who attempted to drown out their 'leaders' with a chant of 'Workers Control - Defeat Election Bullshit'

The prize of the chant of the march however must go to the Healyites (S.L.L.) with their organised and orchestrated 'Stalinism - No, No, No; Socialism - Yes, Yes, Yes.' Marshalls from this Neo-Stalinist grouping physically tried to prevent any of their contingent from reading anyone else's literature. Because their Stalinist attitudes were so obvious, six of their detachment told the SLL marshalls to get fucked and marched with the Anarchists instead.

WANTED

"Scenes of the Street & Cold Meat", women's musical social commentary. Friday 4th June. Sydney University Fine Arts Workshop, City Road. 50c.

FREE ART & CRAFTS CLASSES available at the Arts Workshop, Sydney University each Saturday 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Subjects: PAINTING, POTTERY, PHOTOGRAPHY, ART TRAINING, VIDEO RECORDING, PRINTING - IMPRINTING, JEWELLERY, SILK SCREEN PRINTING. Interested? Then just roll up at: The Workshop, 162 City Rd., Darlington. 2 p.m. any Saturday.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE. RAPE is sexual intercourse without consent. Has this happened to you? For information, help and support ring 692 0292 - 24hours.

WHY NOT VISIT YOUR LOCAL ANARCHIST?

Sydney Anarchist Group
P.O. Box 92, Broadway NSW 2007.
Woodstock Anarchist Party
PO Box 250 Jamison Centre, CANberra ACT 2601
Self-Management Group,
P.O. Box 332, North Quay, Brisbane Qld 4000
Adelaide Anarchists,
c/o 25 Hart St., Semaphore S.A. 5019.
Melbourne Anarchists,
P.O. Box 1045, North Richmond Vict 3121
Woodstock Anarchist Party,
34 Kennedy Terrace, Launceston, Tasmania 7250

ANARCHIST CONFERENCE IN MELBOURNE
June 11th-14th. Any enquiries direct to P.O. Box 92, Broadway or ring Ken, Greame or Margaret at
Posters for conference also available.