

# ECHANGES

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## ECHANGES

### Subscriptions

Subscribers silent for more than one year will receive (or have received) a circular letter to check if they have not moved or if they are still interested in Echanges. It is only for us to escape useless work and expenses.

Subscribing cost now £3 (or counter value) to send by cheque or postal giro (order to H. Simon without mentioning Echanges) to the above address. If it is more convenient this payment can also be made to a postal giro in France: ccp 31.708 40 F. - La Source (order to Echanges et Mouvement).

### Echanges Leaflet

To answer people asking information about Echanges, we have prepared the rough project of a leaflet. It deals with thesis summing up the ideas of some of us (not at all a programme to agree with but a matter of discussion) and with all the available publications. It will have to be completed with a short abstract of each pamphlet or book.

## PUBLICATIONS

### AUSTRALIA

Learning to survive without the rent, in English. An Australian journalist drew a comparison between Australia and Argentina and their economic development and relative decline in the world market. (copy at Ech.)

### CANADA

La Sociale < CP 209 - Succ N. Montreal - Canada H2 X 3 N2 > (in French). Miners' strike in Great Britain - the same article was published in I.R.L nr. 58

Letter from a Yorkshire miner's wife - La Sociale is a "collective" for the distribution of books, magazines and materials dealing with the coming up of a radical criticism of the class society. This project is to be anti-political and La Sociale aims at having the widest choice of all kind of publications which are worth of interest in their respective matter.

RESISTANCE

Friends of Durutti < P.O. Box 790. Station A - Vancouver B.C. Canada V6 C2 N6.>

(in English) "dealing with autonomists, anti-imperialistic, national liberation, feminist, anti-nuclear militant struggles in industrialised capitalist countries". All that you could want to know (or guess) on terrorist groups like the CCC (Belgium), Action Directe (France), Red Guerilla Resistance (South Africa), RAF (Germany, FRG), Revolutionary Cells and Rote Zora (etc.....).

CHINA

The development of the economical reform in China. In French in Problemes Economiques -6/3/85 - Nr. 1194; in English in Far Eastern Economic Review nr. 11 - 1/11/84. This article should be entitled: the capitalistic development in China.

FRANCE

AGORA - Libertarian Review < BP 1214 - 31037 Toulouse Cedex - France > (French)

Letter from inside the CFDT: Pancho Villa accuses. Article on a new club of managers: the Saint Simon Foundation - a kind of modernist laboratory where all kind of leaders (bosses, unions, political and journalists) try to build a new ideology for modern capitalism - Poland: looking for Solidarnosc.

L.R.L. - Liberation paper < c/o ACLR, 13 rue Pierre Blanc, 69001 LYON > (in French).

No. 58 - 1/2/85 - The miners strike in Great Britain. - On foreign workers in France. - The "Libero-liberalism": the third left. - Bull: computers, a sector bringing jobs. - A strike in a secondary school - Note on the Situationist International.

Classes Dangereuses < CEDOS, 91 rue Championnet, 75018 Paris > (in French) - Publication dealing with criticism of history and politics - Fall 1984 - West Germany, the extra-parliamentary movement: is it a peculiar case or a model? Motropolis: the city and social struggles - Biotechnology and capital restructuring - Review of a book: the dynamic of capitalism in the XXth century (Pierre Souryi) (interesting review because it gives a lot on the ideas of the reviewer: Toni Negri).

The growing tendency towards individualisation of wages.

(in French) - Problemes Economiques - W. 1901 - 5/12/84 - published at first in l'Usine Nouvelle - Jean Meilhaud with the title "the individualisation of wages is invading the workshop". Industrial restructuring and automatised productive process impose to transform wages' structures. Basically wages have still to be the way to get the most from labour, which is translated in other words: "to pay more for personal merits". With piece-work, there was the individual bonus; on the line, the "best" worker would get the best job and as in the offices, the best consideration and personal benefits awarded the most docile workers; but these individual benefits were nevertheless a limited and somewhat subjective way to get a better working in offices and factories. In the new structuring of work, the "personal wage system aims at producing not more but better". It tries to get a total flexibility of wages for the same work. 10 % of the factories in France would have already such individualisation of wages. In some quoted examples, this system allows getting rid of middle management (like foremen). Copy available at Echanges.

"Bureaucrates, Manipulateurs, du balai..." - James Schenkel. < 50 Faubourg d'Alsace - 90200 Giromagnay - France > (in French) - The story of a militant in the Peugeot factory at Sochaux (east of France); his sacking and long judicial battle against his boss.

Syndicat de Lutte des Travailleurs (S.L.T. see previous Echanges issues) < Centre Social, Place de l'Europe, 58670 Grande Scynthe. >

\* If it is not too late, you can send your support for two members of the "Relief Committee F.Flatischler" sentenced to heavy fines in October 84 (more than £1000) to Usinor (steelworks) and Dunkirk council for pretended writings and bill posting on walls.

\*\* You can get at this address a lot of leaflets from the S.L.T. giving a right view on working conditions in a "modern" steelworks. You can see that a huge factory like Usinor Dunkirk (6-7000 workers) between 40% to 50 % of the workers are not interested at all by unions and what they are doing presently in the factory (even the existence of a "revolutionary" union has not changed this situation). It is not a peculiar example. In another steelwork in Lorraine, a new union built to fight against redundancies has not got support from almost half of the

workers not wanting to be involved in union matters. Most of the S.L.T. leaflets deal with the day to day events in this huge steelworks: they give a right idea of what restructuring means at this level and how dangerous (because of productivity imperatives) the work is.

\*\*\* Resistance - Lutter a Usinor Dunkerque (same address) . Paper of the S.L.T. (in French) Nr. 1 - march/april 1985 - presents itself as follows: "This paper has three objectives: 1) to be a tool to fight against the management campaign to delude and associate workers to the restructuring. 2) to be a tool of information between the different parts of the factory. 3) to be a tool allowing workers to tell what they want. This first issue contains mainly a discussion on the restructuring so called "projet directeur".

Materiaux < Librairie l'En Dehors - 46 rue du Mail - 33000 Bordeaux > (in French). Nr. 1 (see Echanges nr. 43) - Review of publications (Classes Dangereuses) - Bulletin nr.1 of the COJRA Cercle Garna Lorca, Paris 75005 and Todos a Una, Boletin de Colectivos - october 1984 - published in spanish in Barcelona by a collective of autonomous groups of different industrial sectors. <Rec Comtal, 18 - 1r - 1a, 08003 Barcelona >.

Manifeste du Communisme Libertaire (Libertarian Communism Manifesto) - in French - G. Fontenis - new edition with commentaries - < Editions L - Andre Senez - Cangey - 37530 Amboise.

Os Canaceiros < Fourchaume - 16 rue du Banque 75013 Paris > (in French) . Nr. 1, january 1985, Editorial note - Minguettes Blues - The Livry-Gargan affair - La Courneuve Scandal - Rent strike at La Commanderie foyer - Report on Marseilles (economics, bourgeoisie, proletarians, their revolt and the repression) - On the OS Strike at Talbot factory - Poissy (leaflet of "les fosseyeurs du Vieux Monde - see Echanges).

Accratic < BP 23 - 64130 Mauleon - France. Write to this address to get information on these books in French.

Vanina - Corsica - Freedom or death .

N. Chomsky : Political texts - Intellectuels & the State - Middle East Wars.

G. Markov : Passport Odyssey (translated from Bulgarian).

Infos & Analyses Libertaires (CES) < BP 233, 66002 Perpignan Cedec. >

Essais < BP 1013, 49015 Angers Cedec. >

Emancipations < BP 181, 64105 Bayonne Cedec >

(all these libertarian publications are in French).

La Tête en Bas

< BP 32 , 76001 , Rouen Cedec (in French)

Nr. 2 - january/march 1985 - Alizol, an ordinary factory ( interview that gives the day to day of a factory) - On the English miners' strike - Renault, the explosion? (on the strikes in autumn 84 at the Cleou factory) - October 1955: mutinies at Rouen (on some facts not very well known at the beginning of the Algerian war when draft soldiers were sent to Algeria - mutinies broke out in some towns in France but were not only isolated but ignored by the political oppositional forces); it was a good idea to try to gather information from witnesses on this period considered often as a shameful past.

Jalons

< c/o Librairie l'Herbe Rouge - 1 bis rue d'Alesia 75014 Paris. > (in French) Nr. 6 , february 1985.

St. Petersburg: to the memory of the victims of the bloody Sunday ( january 1905).

Materiaux

Nr. 2 - Group of discussions on the subject "Crisis and restructuring" and "Are there proletarian struggles presently? What are we doing?" which has disappeared, wrecked by sectarianism and stubborn rows.

Book Review

Blindness ( C. Jeleu) - The socialists and the rising of the Soviet Myth (Flammarrion) - The black files of a peculiar resistance: trajectory of the red fascism <CES BP 223 - 66002 Perpignan Cedec > .

Report of the World Development 1984 (World Bank Economica)

Working class in distress. Nr. 114 december 1984 - Le Monde - Dossiers et Documents.

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Perspectives sur les Conseils, la gestion ouvrière et la gauche allemande. Pierre Nashua - Spartacus.

< 5 rue St. Croix de la Bretonnerie - 75001 Paris - (in French) - Discussion on this subject between Chilean, Mexican & Columbian and a French comrade.

Anarchisme et Organisation. Rudolf Rocker - Spartacus. (in French) Presentation of this book: "The questions concerning the revolutionary organisation were in the center of the events between the spartakiste revolutionary, insurrection and the nazi take-over. In the 20's, Germany was in a potentially revolutionary situation and such questions were not theoretical ones; they involved political and strategical discussions which directly influenced the events".

Conditions of work: Time & flexibility. J.L. Barkowski (in French) article from the INSEE Bulletin Economie et Statistiques concerning France.

Attention, une vague peut en cacher une autre. Marc Saligne and Pavic Zygas (in French).

Cahiers en vers et contre Marx. Marc Saligne < BP 431 - 75830 Paris Cedex 17 > (in French). Essay: analysis of the socio-political history since the second world war: 1945: the historical compromise - May 1968: the first wave - the crisis of social capitalism - No to the peaceful co-existence.

Critique Communiste. Monthly review of the L.C.R. (Trotskyist) Nr. 13 - november 1982 - gives a study of Jacques Kergoat (in French) on the "Workers strikes since the 10th of May 1981 (Mitterand election). There was a strong push in the period July 81 - June 82 during which the 39 hours law was implemented. An article of Le Monde (23/10/84) of the same author on the evolution of workers conflicts (6.317.000 days of strike in 1974-75 against 1.720.000 in 1983-84). But this evolution does not give a real view of the situation: the general conflicts organised by the unions (like days of action) have practically disappeared (17 times less) and the local conflicts have strongly risen, most of them begun spontaneously without union intervention. The author wanted to get a proof that a worker "radicalisation would follow a "socialist" victory: nothing like that happened but a completely different situation".

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Les difficultés de la théorie économique devant l'émergence d'une économie mondiale. (Problèmes économiques - nr. 1906 - 9/1/85) - C.A. Michalet - (in French). This article criticises the different thesis on the world economy and tries a dialectical approach of the conflict between the multinationals and the States. Even if we disagree, we can find some elements of discussion on the "tendencies of the multinational structures and the existence of national disparities". (copy at Echanges).

GREAT BRITAIN

L'Assommoir Nr. 6 < 3 rue Dancourt (Les Jardins de Provence - 75018 - Paris. (in French) Collection of rubbish on George Orwell and 1984 picked up everywhere.

Here and Now. A magazine of radical ideas. < Box 2 c/o Change - 340 West Princess Street Glasgow G49HF. "although initiated by a collective in the West of Scotland, it's not a provincial magazine...our principal motive is...the creation of a medium for dialogue, controversy and subjectivity doctrines to scrutiny, with a view to advancing theory beyond generalised statements...." Nr.1 - Which class are you in? - The arena of discontent (on the leftism in France in 1968) - The communism of the Kampuchean Angkar - The political personality - Modern society: rotten to the core. - The revolution begins at closing time.

Solidarity. Journal of the London Solidarity Group. < c/o 123 Lathom Road - London E6 (in English) Nrs. 6 and 7 Spring 1985 - about ourselves - In the Pouting affair - notes on the miners' strike - Latin America: The Sandinistas and the working class: a suitable case for demystification? - Fundamentalism. The last days of this wicked system of things - Book review: on "The Wrath of Allah: Islamic Revolution and Reaction in Iran - Ranuy Nima - Pluto Press - British Workers and the Independent Labour Party 1888-1906 - Vision on fire: Emma Goldman in the Spanish revolution - List of available Solidarity pamphlets.

A Communist Effort. < Box A.C.E., 355 Holloway Road, Islington, London N7 > Special Issue - Nr. 3 - The struggle of the miners against British capital - Background - History - Perspectives (we will review this text later).

Worker's Playtime. Popular Yaras of

Class War. < c/o 846 Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (in English). About playtime and the collapse of the London Workers Group - Dock Strike 1984 - Amy Storm in a Ford (origins of the Dock Labour Scheme and recent dock struggles) - Nationalism today - Doubt every word - Discussion on the miners' strike: What is workers playtime standing in? On our heads or on our ear?

ITALY.

Collegamenti - Wobbly New Address:

< c/o Roberto Brioschi, Via-Auzani 1, 20215 Milano > or < G. Garozza CP 1362, 50100 Firenze >.

Abstracts of the articles of nr> 14 (in Italian):

A) Social conflict and institutional organisation forms during '80 years: the Milan case. (page 3) Editorial article. There are described some new struggle experiences which are different from those of '70 years, in the metropolitan area. Main characteristics of the new class aggregations are: (a) temporariness, (b) strict linkage with the struggle and the target, (c) that they are formed by specific and partial figures of workers, (d) substantial absence of information exchange between different struggles, which anyway may be very radical. The effective struggle experiences considered are those of: 1) "Cassaintegrati Alfa Romeo" (motor works). "Cassaintegrati" refers to those workers which, expelled from the factory, are paid by a public body for about three years. 2) Supply teachers of the statal school. 3) Hospital attendants. 4) Drivers of city transport (ATM).

B) Strikes in the statal telephone body (SIP), (page 9). During the contract renewal, the workers with the highest contractual power (those employed in the computer-net) have done a larger amount of strike hours, supported by a solidarity fund paid by all the other SIP employees.

C) Article on the "quality circles", especially in Japan (page 23). Please let us know your opinion on this new industrial relationship in your country, see for example note 9 on page 25 containing some data for the U.S.A.

D) School and society transformation (page 26). The targets of this article are to analyse the state of the school and to study its correlation with the society and the production world.

E) Some opinions on the "professionalism" (page 32). An Alfa Romeo worker (see point A above) speaks about the introduction of the new industrial technologies in his factory. The central thesis is that the most workers' knowledge and skillfulness have been decreased by the automation>

F) The leaflet is a letter of a political prisoner (in Voghera) relating to the not-effective abrogation of a "special" prison law (articolo 90).

U.S.A.

Silicon Valley,

The Computer Saboteurs.

At the end of her working day for a large company here, in the thriving heart of computer technology, a young well dressed woman in high heels emptied her last cup of coffee directly onto the screen of her terminal.

"I only wanted revenge", she explained, "for three whole weeks of untiring work at the terminal I was treated as a dispensable part. Every day I worked until my eyes looked like relief road maps of Los Angeles County, but no one cared at all. When they had finished with me they simply threw me away".

Beneath the surface of the calm, automated computer operations a current of discontentment is running through the offices. Just like this short-term employee, workers at the terminals, employees and even programmers state that the promised advantages of the Computer Age do not arrive at the lower level of office workers. So they fight "the system" from inside.

A poster describing "ten ways to destroy a video terminal" and another "sabotage does and undoes" have recently been circulated.

The suggestion for the "technical peasants" go from damaging discs to cutting the leads for the detail of programmes which cancel the computer's memory. The poster was copied from a San Francisco publication called "PW" ("Processed World"). PW is a quarterly collection in colour of insolent drawings, letters and "tales from work". Readers and collaborators ("a difference we would like to discourage") says Lucius Cabins (who, like many in the group uses a pseudonym) includes workers on fixed term contracts, white collar workers, messengers, computer analysts, a porter and an ex-prostitute who wrote an article comparing their work as employees with their previous occupations.

Cabins believes that the Computer Age is miserable for everyone in the long run. The majority of the work undertaken is "meaningless and useless for humanity". Readers of PW write letters suggesting how to "steal time" and acts of sabotage which start with simple things "it is so easy simply to put out of action the 'out of order' light on a photocopier to more sophisticated acts.

A programmer who was furious about being sacked explained that he thought up a programme which would cancel all the documents of the firm two years after his dismissal. Other supporters use the new technology with greater subtlety. Kelly Girl, a temporary secretary, tells

of having sent a note to all the secretaries terminals in a large oil company. Entitled "Being Nice", the note said, "Women do not prefer to be nice only because they have to. Bosses do not have to be nice, so it is easy for them to be so. When women are nice, they allow their bosses to swing deals for millions of dollars for nuclear arms without feeling bad about it. So women must stop being nice".

Cabins himself is not in favour of stupidly destructive acts, but hopes that workers in ~~conspiring~~ "will organise around clear ideas and will exchange information to make widespread sabotage more effective".

Some exploits are described by "Melchiade, a frequent contributor to PW who is a technical programmer. He says that he is part of a network of professionals that is being driven mad by work, despite high pay and the satisfaction of the companies. They often meet in the evening and gain access to large computerised systems with hacking (i.e. pirate system).

"The companies which condemn the social irresponsibility of hacking but which produce guidance systems for nuclear missiles certainly deserve what the hacking programmers give them - throw away discs and nightmares". Melchiade states that he and his friends in programming write "back entry" on their programmes so as to be able to return to them secretly and create communication networks between employees in different companies. He is convinced that this is "An accessible form of rebellion around which a kind of counterculture may emerge". He adds "who is better qualified to dismantle safely a missile complex, a generator or a chemical waste deposit than those who think up, build and maintain such technology".

PW is run by a 15 person collective. It started three years ago in a flat in San Francisco with 400 dollars, a typesetter and a stock of paper unknowingly provided by local banks, Cabins tells us. Now it has nearly 1000 subscribers. Another 2000 copies approximately are sold through book shops in New York, Boston and London or sold individually in offices.

Employees often write in to say that they are relieved to learn that they are not the only people to think that the world has gone mad. The review has also attracted the attention of some companies too - including three who have paid special subscription rates of 150 dollars a year for state agencies and firms, while regular subscribers pay 5 - 10 dollars.

PW has evidently put its finger on a sore spot in the computer world. Collective members have received death threats, their office doors were once boarded up and another time broken down. The group was evicted for violating the building code when they were discovered by inspectors tipped off by an informer. Members of the collective who

chip in to pay the rent and to get the review out (17,000 dollars a new edition) say that they will try to keep the group going despite all the attacks.

(This text is translated from "Reporter" - a new Italian daily - ex Lotta Continua - 26/2/85 - The translator adds that Turino is the computer town in Italy: similar to Silicon Valley in the U.S.A. and Silicon Glen in Scotland, they want to call a rather squalid district in Turino suburbs the "Megatronic Plateau" because three computer factories are located there).

### HONG KONG

Left Communist Journal

< PO Box 44007 Skankeiwan Post Office  
Hong Kong > . (in English).

Dear comrades,

I earlier sent you International Correspondence (IC) no. 2 (English Supplement), pages 104-107 of which mention a text in Chinese entitled: "Russia: Revolution & Counter-Revolution (1919-7-1921)". Recently, a group of communists in the UK held a meeting on the Russian Revolution, among other things, and I was invited to contribute by correspondence. I decided to write a summary of the arguments of the above text, a copy of which is enclosed for your reference. Although the text demonstrates (at least, I think it does) the idealist nature of all previous analyses of the Russian Revolution that I'm aware of (the ICC's & the CWO's, for instance), I do not regard it as a final statement, but rather as a first step. I, therefore, look forward to criticisms & opinions. The text, unfortunately, has one central point remaining undealt with: why the labour time voucher system is the only way to eradicate the law of value in a non-natural economy (& relatedly whether implementing it as soon as possible after the seizure of power is an 'impossible dream', & for this reason, whether central planning alone (i.e., the abolition of the market as exists in the West) is a correct first step towards the eventual eradication of value). These questions are dealt with in the other Chinese text mentioned in IC no. 2 (Eng. Sup.) ("Eastern Capitalism: A Politico-Economic Analysis"). I intend to write an English summary of the arguments of this text in the near future, which will be sent to you when it is ready. For the moment, the answer to the above related questions are: a. if the labour time voucher system is an 'impossible dream' for the initial period after the revolution, then socialism itself is also an 'impossible dream'; b. central planning, though essential to the eradication of value, by itself, is entirely consistent with the law of value, thus, alone, it is not any step towards value's eradication. Communist Greetings! LLM

P.S. I'd appreciate contributions towards postage, if you can afford to. More importantly, please pass the enclosed summary & this letter on to as many people/groups as possible.

~~SECRET~~

AAN

From: J. C. Brendel  
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Hollan