The health authorities have decided that AIDS is passed on by sexual contact, principally by anal penetration, and the State has therefore relaxed the hypocritical silence on condoms. It now advocates the use of condoms. World War I made them relax the ban on talking of VD at all. Now the hypocritical ban on talking of buggery has been relaxed. But hypocrisy is far from defeated.

The Conservative Party sees antihomosexuality as a rallying cry notwithstanding the fact that in the upper class's own schools buggery is not explained, as they shrilly cry it is in Brent and Haringey

councils, but initiated, of which almost every male member of the Conservative Party in the House of Commons has direct knowledge. Because of this humbug we are to see a revival of the old laws banning homosexuality leading to secrecy around AIDS even while the attempts at health control require major publicity.

Anal penetration is most frequent is in the prison service; as in any male-only preserve such as the Armed Forces or the 'public' schools. Otherwise heterosexual males, who will impregnate women when they are out of prison or on shore leave, regularly practise unprotected anal penetration on other males (willingly or not); condoms are illegal. While the sailor or soldier may purchase them when on leave (though illegal) the prisoner cannot. They cannot be issued; prison, like the

THE SAD CASE OF DR BENNETT

The sad case of the suicide of Dr Gareth Bennett reflects on the hypocrisy and double standards of the Establishment. Of course Dr Bennett had the inalienable right to take his own life if he didn't want to carry on; only the most bigoted and backward clergyman outside the Roman persuasion would disagree. Yet Dr Bennett himself, an Anglo-Catholic, was such a clergyman, and his corpse was followed by a bevy of the very type of po-faced solemn High Church bishop who for years defended the laws criminalising attempted suicide and degraded the remains of those who succeeded in taking their life.

The ostensible scandal as given out by the Press seemed hardly reason for embarrassed

cough, let alone taking one's life. He had mildly criticised the Archbishop of Canterbury in an anonymous preface to Crockford's directory, and denied being the author! Surely that was not what he was 'in agony' over, as his clerical colleagues put it?

Services, is a 'public place', where sex does

not officially exist.

Of course it wasn't. Dr Bennett, and a small clique, were in vigorous opposition to the socalled liberalism of the Established Church, which derived from their theological position - and this bunch of high-minded High Churchmen thus fuelled a vicious Conservative media and Tory Party campaign which rebounded on their own life-style, which they found agonisingly contradictory. Once Dr Bennett came to the attention of the media, after his Preface became 'news', he chose to sacrifice his life rather than expose inner contradictions.

BOOKLIST

THE ART OF ANARCHY Flavio Constantini The heroic period of anarchism, in pictures. £3.00 FLOODGATES OF ANARCHY Christie & Meltzer £4.50 ANARCHISM & FEMINISM: Women workers and trade unions. 35p METHODS OF ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM Rudolf Rocker 50p ANARCHISM IN ACTION: THE SPANISH REVOLUTION £1.00 ANARCHISM: Arguments for and against. Albert Meltzer 80p SYNDICALISTS IN THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION G. Maximoff 45p MARXISM AND A FREE SOCIETY

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David Douglass Police in the miners strike.

THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION TODAY C. Longmore 50p THE GUILLOTINE AT WORK. A record of Bolshevism. G. P. Maximoff. H/b 56, p/b

LAND AND LIBERTY—the writings of Ricardo Flores Magon on the Mexican Revolution. £3.00 ZAPATA Peter Newell £3.00 THE STRUGGLE TO BE HUMAN-anarchism and criminology. Tifft & Sullivan. £5.00 THE FREE. M. Gilliland. Anarchic novel

HOW TO BE A RADIO PIRATE £1.80 WITHOUT A TRACE: How police forensics work. £1.80 ANARCHIST ENCYLOPAEDIA Folder £2.50; Files 1 each (except Civil War and

Civil Peace in Aragon £2.00) Various odd back issues of Black Flag Quarterly and Cienfuegos Press Review 50p

LIARS AND LIBERALS Black Flag answer to Prof Woodcock's 'Anarchism' and Freedom Centennial issue. 20p

From Black Flag, ASP, Hooligan, Refract, DAM, Simian, ASP, Cienfuegos All obtainable from BM/Hurricane, London WCIN 3XX.

Poll Tax Continued

ly. Whether on a neighbourhood basis, or on a district basis. Any beyond there must be regional and countrywide coor dination, not by any bureacracy or through any political intervention but via elected grassroots groups. There will have to be some attempt, too, to link up community resistance with industrial resistance, especially with those workforces that will become directly involved: those who will face loss of jobs and those in jobs who will be expected to implement the Poll Tax.

Beginning as a campaign, public meetings will have to be organised in every working class neighbourhood and district and town in the country. An intensive selfeducation campaign to highlight all the different aspects of the Poll Tax will have to be conducted. At these meetings workers from workplaces that will be directly involved should be invited to address the meeting to demonstrate the industrial side of the Poll Tax. Well ahead of implementation a signal should be sent to the Government that a massive boycott is on the cards. If the Government decides to proceed regardless then the boycott will then go ahead. Poll Tax canvassers will have to be confronted by the community direct. Individuals refusing to fill in forms will need physical backing. Unless the ref-

usal is widespread then it will not be effective. It must be made clear to the Government that they can hardly arrest hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of people for taking part in the boycott.

The second priority must be to take the opportunity to make full use of the goodwill and mutual co-operation that will arise from a collectivised boycott to set up some kind of permanent network of community councils, organised by and for the communities themselves. It will be the responsibility of these community councils to take over the running of municipal services, turning Thatcher's local revolution on its head. Sooner or later state welfarism has to be replaced by socialist mutual aid. And seizure of the communities by the communities themselves will be but one step closer to

seizure of the workplaces by workers. Therefore the Poll Tax campaign has the potential to develop not just a challenge to government against the new tax, but also a means by which that challenge could be transformed into a countrywide revolt. This will not happen spontaneously, but as a result of widespread co-operation and mutual aid to make certain our response is a collective one. And if the Government will not take the revolt lying down then they will have to face the inevitable escalation. Time will show whether there

is the will to fight back or whether, indeed, the Government has bitten off far more than it can chew.

Dear friends, On Monday 7th December last, without prior warning, West Sussex Police, accompanied by armed troops, deployed armed officers - in uniform and in plain clothes - in and around Gatwick

Police, backed up by troops lurking menacingly everywhere, stopped and searched 'suspects' at will, patrolling the terminal itself and the airport

Anybody who asked questions was countered with questions: 'Who are you? What's your name? What's your business here?...'

So far as I am aware, only one radio station - Radio Mercury - and two local rags - Gatwick News and Crawley Observer - bothered to report the invasion at all. Radio Mercury had it on one of their hourly news spots in the late afternoon, but following bulletins failed to give it a mention.

Radio Mercury were informed of the operation direct by the MOD which refused to give them any further information than the fact that it had taken place - I suppose, to forestall any reports to them by indignant locals that an apparent coup d'etat was in progress!

But hardly anyone batted an eyelid anyway. What was once an event so extraordinary that it would have been picked up by every news network in the land is now almost an everyday occurence, barely worthy of mention an annual exercise to test combined services readiness to respond to a 'terrorist' emergency.

We are to be cast in the role of sheep and the State in the role of 'good

shepherd' - and the measure has become the rule. Fraternally,

Dear Comrade,

As my family is of Italian origin I found the article on The Italian Connection interesting and illuminating. I could never understand why overseas working-class Italians like my grandparents came to support Mussolini, when he was so clearly anti-working-class. It is good to note the Anarchists stood out in opposition.

You mentioned 'Joe the Tailor' but gave no further information about him, not even his name (as distinct from everyone else). When I first came to Anarchism my grandfather jokingly called me 'a Joe the Tailor': is it an obscure Italian expression or was he someone as famous as (say) Malatesta? Sincerely,

Reply: Not as 'famous' as Erricco Malatesta in a previous generation, but 'Joe the Tailor' spoke at the same London stomping grounds—Finsbury Park speakers corner, Clerkenwell Green, and so on-regularly from the outbreak of the Italo-Abyssinian War, denouncing fascism. He always began, 'I'm an Italian, an anti-fascist, just Joe the Tailor'. I don't think he actually was a tailor—at a guess his name, which he concealed, was Giuseppe plus a pun on 'Taylor'. He was notorious to the fascisti after speaking on a joint platform with Ethiopians, at a meeting organised by Sylvia Pankhurst. Interesting to note his name lived on in some memories as a swearword for 'anarchist': he would have liked that, am

Answers to quiz

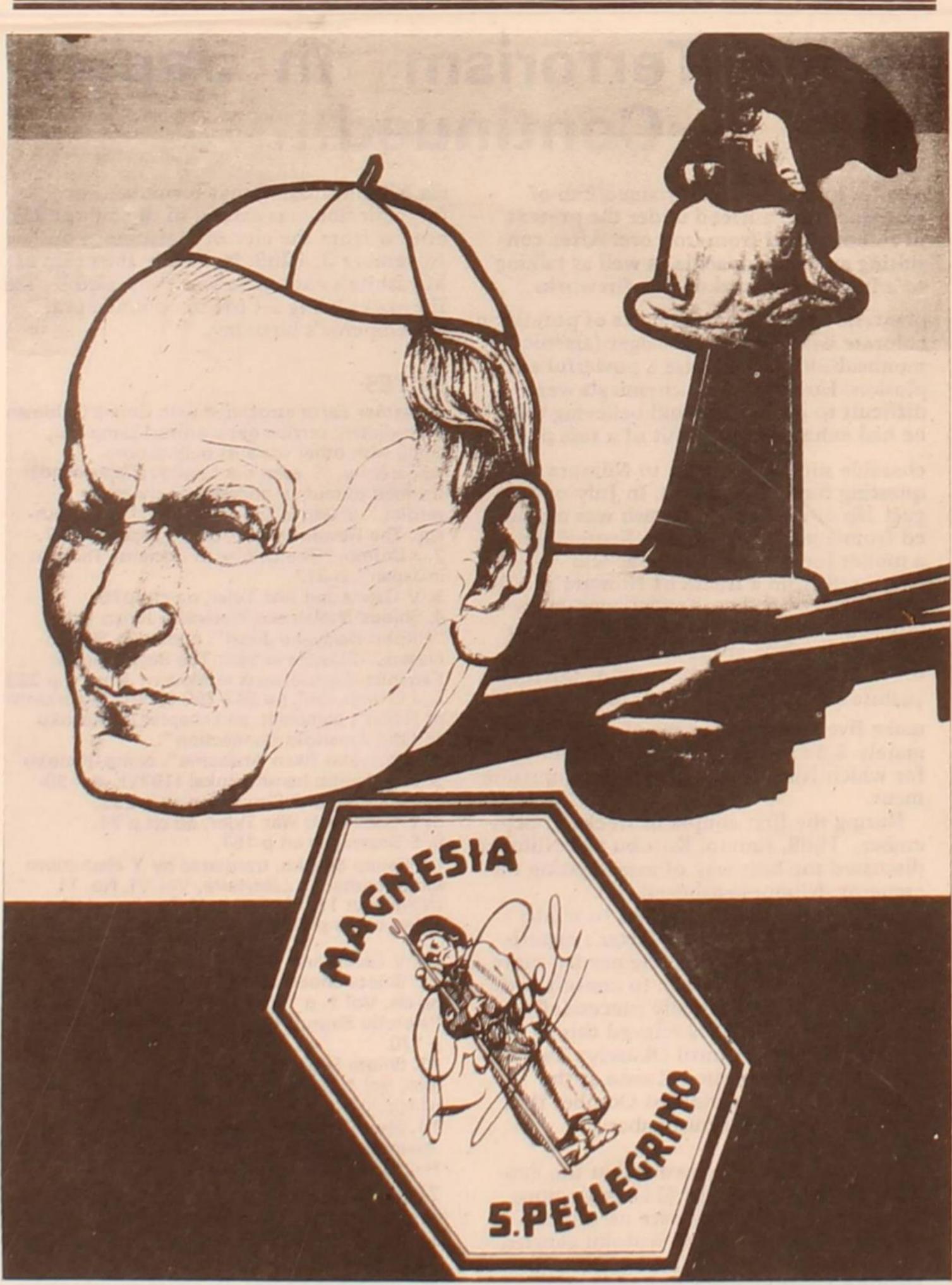
. Both were martyrs to royalism-Frederick died of cancer of the throat because his doctors wouldn't lay hands on his sacred person, and they finally, too late, sent for a Scottish surgeon; Philip burned to death in his chair because nobody around would commit the sacrilege of dragging him away.

2. The majority of terrorists in Russia were women, either Social-Revolutionaries or

3. Charlie Chaplin.

4. Field Marshal President Eisenhower. 5. He thought it was an Anglo-French plot to keep Russia in the war (the Tsar was pro-

6. He sold out to Prime Minister Lloyd George, who, afraid of revolution, used him to address meetings explaining that the brave new world was just around the corner and it would take a few months to build the promised 'homes for heroes'.



The latest illustration by Flavio Constantini, which appears in the first number of a new satirical paper, L'anamorfico, shows the anarchist artist hasn't lost his touch

or changed his style. His 'The Art Of Anarchy', which shows the graphic anarchist past, is still available from us at £3 plus postage (profits to the Anarchist Black

No.179 30p FOR ANARCHIST 1-2-88

Everyone is aware by now exactly how the Poll Tax will make working class people pay more and the wealthy pay less. The potential is there for a massive boycott of the tax in all working class neighbourhoods and in the working class regions. As the details of the Poll Tax system become clearer it is shown too that many peoples' livelihoods will be affected, with jobs going, services being wound down, etc. The Poll Tax is therefore a point where community resistance and industrial resistance can combine, establishing the basis for a community-industrial base from which a wider rank and file and

grassroots structure can be built. Already the Government has estimated that around 5 million summonses are likely to be issued each year for nonpayment of the tax. In preparation for the Poll Tax canvassers will start to pay every household a visit. Failure to complete a Community Charge form can lead to a £50 fine and in certain cases imprisonment. If someone successfully evades entry on the register but is caught at a later point in time their Poll Tax bill can be backdated, with interest, and added to a fine of 30% of the tax. A second offence will mean the transgressor will have to pay a £200 fine. In all respects non-payment of tax and fines can also lead to seizure of goods by bailiffs. There will also be provision in some cases for the tax to be deducted from source (ie from wages or bank account, etc).

If you move to another area you are supposed to re-register locally. This will in itself become a means of tracking peoples' movements. School leavers will automatically be placed on to the Community Register with the help of school records. We have already mentioned the extent of surveillance and informationgathering that will go on to trace people in previous issues. Virtually all records and registries will be used to do this job.

Some people, many on low wages, will-find they are expected to pay around £20 a week - a 100% increase or more on rates and equivalent to a 10% decrease or more, on average, of take-home pay. There will be an undoubted pressure, therefore, on local councils to cut the Poll Tax by cutting back on local services. For some people these services have become essential. There could be, for example, less public libraries, with shorter opening hours, less money for communal leisure centres, poorer street lighting (essential to reduce crime in high risk areas), less money for the upkeep of roads. Local councils assist in the funding of local schooling - this too will therefore be affected. Some schools will get less resources and classes will become larger; other schools will aim for a middle class catchment area and will survive through parental subsidies. In this way there will emerge a two-tier class system within the state education sector - this is already the case, but the differences will become more pronounced. And as the services organised through local councils grow less then there will be arguments, already raised, for the abolition of these councils. Instead the plan will be to make all local services funded and controlled either through the private sector or direct by Whitehall. To rid us of one tier of government is fine, except that local government has always been marginally more accountable than central government and arguably provides services

that serve a purpose; also without an alternative infrastructure whereby these services can be run and controlled directly by the community, their abolition will undoubtedly bring about genuine suffering for many people.

While municipal bureacracies can be rightly criticised for all sorts of things bungling, wastage of public funds, corruption, parochialism, nepotism, politicking, etc -- many genuinely useful jobs will go in the avalanche, so adding to local unemployment and poverty. In the end the poor will only get what they can organise themselves, while the wealthy will get a higher standard of local amenities, which they will pay for direct through the private sector. In effect Thatcher will be achieving what she threatened to do - dump socialism into the 'dustbin of history'. In ordinary language it is simply a case of the poor being made poorer and the rich assisted to get richer. So the Poll Tax has wide implications

for the future. It heralds a revolution in the distribution of wealth, except it is done in reverse. The Government will hope that many, even those who will suffer directly from its consequences, will accept the new legislation wholeheartedly on the argument that local councils will be forced to reduce costs. Its an argument that appeals to the selfish.

However, as anarchists we are, of course, opposed to local government as much as central government, and its abolition is something we desire. But the choice we are now being handed is to retain it or see the loss of services so many need. This dilemma is a product of years of welfarism, so promoted by the Labour Party, whereby the state has become the

sole supplier of aid to those who need it - aid that has never been sufficient, but more as a safety net. Now that safety net is to go with nothing to replace it. And the dependence on Labour welfarism over the years has ensured that there is no effective community or inter-community structure to take over the mutual needs of the working class once the free market right begin to put their revolution into

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practice. So what can be done? The first priority must be to make the Poll Tax unworkable by organising a masive boycott of the tax in those areas where a boycott is feasible. This will obviously be all those areas where the Poll Tax will mean an increase in payments - areas which virtually coincide with all the poorer, working class, areas of the country. The boycott must be fought not merely on the obvious unfairness of the tax and on the increase in payments compared to the present rating system, but also on its wider implications as mentioned above. The general pauperisation of local services, the loss of jobs, the move towards handing over more power to central government, etc. And also the implications regarding surveillance and a national identity sys-

tem as outlined in previous issues. Few people will be able to avoid the tax given the extent to which the Government is prepared to go to track people down. Everyone, unless they are comfortably well off and live in low-spending areas, will be affected. Any individuals refusing to pay or co-operate with the registration process will be dealt with severely. Therefore the only effective way of fighting back has to be done collective-

Continued on Page 8.

Form Patients Strike Support Groups

Healthworkers unofficial strike action is escalating. The strikes are against the declining state of the health service as much as against low pay. The action looks like turning into a countrywide dispute, with the rank and file taking the lead.

16,000 nurses in Scotland are to take further action and healthworkers in the North West are poised to follow. And 4000 ambulance drivers are considering coming out too. Also, in London, nurses at several hospitals - including Charing Cross, UCH, the Middleses, Guys, the Royal Free - are to take 24 hour action on February 3.

Already the Government and the Royal College of Nurses have been quick to use the usual moral argument (strike action harms patients) and threats to increase more cuts on the Health Service if the strike action escalates. But their hypocrisy is seen for what it is - it is the Government itself through its politics that is killing off the old, the poor, and the many who have for years financed a service that is no longer operable.

And it is for this reason that patients and potential patients have as much right as anyone to demand a Health Service for the needs of all.

So we should be prepared to do what we can. To go on picket lines and to show the Government and the media that the healthworkers are not fighting alone. The healthworkers will be under incredible pressure to back down. By forming patient's strike support groups we can demonstrate our solidarity and defeat the morsl blackmail argument once and for all.

OMORI LOSES APPEAL SUPPORTERS IN TERROR RAIDS



Katsuhisa Omori - one step closer to death.

Katsuhisa Omori, the Japanese aparchisa sympathiser on death row, has lost his final appeal. It is now up to the Supreme Court to decide if there is to be a stay of execution. At the same time supporters of Omori have been rounded up in police terror raids as part of a conspiracy to link them to the marxist Japan

On December 25 police officers raided and searched the homes of eleven members of the Omori Support Group. The police stated that the raids were to try and prove a connection between the support group members and a Japan Red Army activist, Osasmu Maruoka. Other homes were searched - up to 60 in total.

The raids coincided with press stories suggesting that the Japan Red Army was planning to hi-jack airlines and to take hostages to have Maruoka released (he was arrested in November 1987).

Much information and documentation was seized by the police during the raids. The aim of the raids is to try and criminalise anarchists, particularly members of the Omori Support Group, at a point in time when Omori's final appeal was coming up and when international support for Omori was gaining. By inference, rather than evidence, the Japanese authorities hope to tie in the anarchists with a known marxist guerrilla organisation. It is a typical pattern.

In the meantime we have received a telegram from Omori saying that, despite everything, he will continue to fight for an anarchist society 'to the bitter

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For some time now we have been extending

subscriptions—to make up for our missing them. Now we are going to regularise them and hope to get a response from those whose subs have run over their allotted time which will enable us to carry on.

The Anarchist Black Cross is doing better than ever before but all money received for the ABC goes to those victims of the class struggle we can help: don't let up on that, please, but remember Black Flag also which keeps the ABC going!

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ANARCHO-QUIZ

1. What had Frederick II of Prussia and Philip III of Spain in common?

2. The terrorists of the 19th century, who had little in common with the word as used today, are often described as 'bearded Russians'—but was this true?

3. H. B. Warner played a very conventional Jesus Christ in the silent film 'The King of Kings'—but who wanted to play it and would have been so original he scared the studio?

4. What American, brought up as a Christian pacifist, admonished Anthony Eden, at the time of Suez War, for 'accepting force as a necessary method of dealing with international relations'?

5. What was Lenin's reaction when informed in Switzerland of the Russian Revolution?

6. What did the revolutionary socialist Victor Grayson, hope of the left when MP for Colne Valley before the First World War, do after it?

ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 8

HOME NEWS

GUARDIANS OF THE BLACKLIST

Certain far-right agencies, up until now concerned mainly with monitoring the left and compiling blacklists of individuals for prospective employers, have entered into the business of supplying information to businesses about what they deem to be terrorism and armed struggle. Coordinating this is a new organisation that has chosen to launch its publicity drive by issuing a press release targetting anarchists and in particular the publishing efforts associated with Black Flag.

Ironically, acting as the mouthpiece for this organisation is *The Guardian*, which recently put out a story attacking the Hurricane group (sic). The organisation in question is known as the Research Foundation for the Study of Terrorism. It was set up by Norris McWhirter of the Freedom Association and Michael Ivens of Aims of Industry - both organisations specialising in far-right economic activity. Another luminary employed by the RFST is Professor Paul Wilkinson, their front-man and a self-confessed expert on terrorism.

The RFST admits that its main concern is to service businesses with information and it is logical to assume that the RFST - a registered charity - is being funded dir-

The article that appeared in The Guardian, and which quoted the RFST as its source, was in fact a straight re-write of an earlier article that appeared in the Sunday Telegraph and which was compiled by Jamied Dettmer, an Economic League mokand son of John Dettmer a director of the Economic League. There was nothing new or original in the plagiarised article that

appeared in The Guardian and so we can safely assume that the RFST is short on original information or are themselves getting their information from the EL. As with the earlier article the re-write was full of errors, bearing no semblance to reality. Once again we are told that Hurricane is a group (untrue - it is a mailing address), that the group is made up of 'punk anarchists (a media term), that the publication 'Without A Trace' is about how to evade police surveillance at 'Bash The Rich' demos (the 'Bash the Rich' demos took place over two years ago while the publication is about forensics), and finally there is the old rubbish that Hurricane (which doesn't exist) is linked to groups like the ALF, Class War, etc.

Either the Economic League is totally out of touch or it is deliberately putting out disinformation. In any case its current obsession with the anarchists and with ourselves in particular stems, we believe, from our giving them a taste of their own medicine in that both Black Flag and Hooligan Press have published blacklists of Economic League directors and top business persons. They obviously resent that others are playing the same game as themselves. In their case though their efforts result in people up and down the country losing their livelihoods and being forced into poverty. Their action in doing this is nothing short of criminal - yet they get away with it with impunity but get all stirred up if they them-selves become a focus for political

Going back to the RFST, we wait to see if they will continue to emulate the dismal

Professor Wilkinson. In 1977, for example, Wilkinson stated that The anarchist and nihilist strands in terrorist ideology are still strong today as can be seen in the propaganda of groups such as Baader-Meinhof and Black Cross in Germany and the Weathermen and the SLA in America. Profesessor Wilkinson should realise that the Baader-Meinhof (sic) group is Marxist, that the SLA and the Weathermen were anti-imperialist liberationist groups and that he is mixing up the Black Cross in Germany with Black Aid, a maoist group.

Unbelievably The Guardian stated that the RFST is a non-political organisation. Either the people at The Guardian are very naieve or they are trying to con their readers. Unsuspectingly - or perhaps not so they have ended up becoming an outlet for disinformation supplied by the Economic League. They are not keen, understandably, to have this made public: the London magazine Time Out interviewed us about the allegations made in the article and we gave them the background to it as stated above. They insisted, however, on getting a reaction from The Guardian first before going to press. In the end they omitted their expose, perhaps to ensure their good relationship with The Guardian continues.

For our part we will continue to monitor the activities of the Economic League and their sister organisations. So look out for more disinformation in the capitalist press about the 'Hurricane Gang'. The Economic League may well con and defraud their business sponsors, but they don't fool us.

Direct Action Against Killing Fields



Healthworkers in different parts of the country have taken taken industrial action against Health Service cut-backs and the threat of cuts in pay. The Government responded by changing tack on pay although this threat is thought by many to have simply been postponed.

The 24 hour strike action by nurses members of NUPE - in Manchester forced a re-think by the Government. But there was also industrial action taken in Scotland where hundreds of ancilliary workers in the Lothian area continued with their strike action despite the Government climbdown. Other industrial action is apparently being planned in response to the decimation of the Health Service. All the Health Service unions in Scotland are planning to discuss a possible joint campaign - the main exception to this will of course be the nostrike union, the Royai College of Nursing. It is being said that a industrial action could

The destruction of the country's health service affects everyone of course - not just

healthworkers but patients and prospective patients. Therefore any industrial action that is supported should be done so not merely out of industrial solidarity - which is a good enough reason in itself - but because of the wider collective interest too, to save lives and to improve health. We can help by forming Patients' Strike Support Groups, to provide moral support as well as fund-raising, but also to provide links between health workers and patients for the eventual take-over of the industry.

Patients Strike Support Groups were set up by anarcho-syndicalists in the Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation branch in Melbourne during the 1986 nurses strike in Victoria, Australia. They joined picket lines and rallies and broadcast propaganda on local radio. It all helped at a point in time when the nurses were under a barrage of criticism from the media.

Ultimately we must aim for the creation of community health councils run by healthworkers and the community to organise the health service according to need not government whim.

New Triple Alliance

Hints of a new 'Triple Alliance' have been made with the announcement that the miners' union, the NUM, the seafarers' union, the NUS, and the railworkers' union, the NUR, are to seek a 'closer working relationship'. Also involved in this alliance are ASLEF, the other main railworkers' union, and NACODS, the pit deputies' union.

To a certain extent this is an inevitable move in reaction to the manouvres by certain right-wing unions (eg EETPU, the AEU, etc) to form company union blocs. While the tendency towards 'super unions' will help polarise, to some extent, the ideological nature of the different unions, the real reason, to be cynical, is to consolidate the hierarchical nature of unionism at a time where rank and file dissent is apparent. At the same time any move towards establishing closer working solidarity between workers in different industries must of itself be good.

In these times no union or trade can fight alone. Even a pact between the NUM and NACODS can sabotage any scab action of the UDM (the scab miners' union). But even that would not be sufficient given the trend to de-link the economic reliance on coal mined in this country. Imports of coal can be slowed by NUS action. Also railworkers who decide to fight back will need wider support in any major showdown. If wider solidarity action once more became the norm then all the anti-union laws in existence would mean nothing.

Weighted against all this is the consistent track record of certain trade union leaderships on the so-called left to capitulate, making any threat of a Triple Alliance seem but a gesture. History has shown that this trend can only be beaten when workers take matter into their own hands. Some will argue that the only way to avoid treachery is for the rank and file to organise their own bilateral, trilateral and wider inter-industrial alliances. But this is not an easy task otherwise it would have been done sooner. That it has to be done inevitably is not in question. The dissent is there, as is the will. And in the meantime the priority must be to build these links, with a definite direction for the future, in preparation for the coming confrontation.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM SPAIN

RUEDA - 10 YEARS ON

Agustin Rueda, imprisoned militant of the CNT anarchist labour union—died on 13th March 1978 in Carabanchel Prison, as a result of 'general, prolonged, intense and professional beating-up' in the words of the doctor who performed the autopsy. After a ten year delay a trial has finally begun, in Madrid, of the people responsible: the director of the prison at the time, Eduardo Jose Cantos, the assistant director Antonio Rubio, nine prison warders, and the two doctors who told Rueda that he had 'only a little scratch' when they examined him after his beating the night before he died.

The trial which started on the 9th

DOPED OR DUPED

Drug smuggling is now one of the leading growth industries, its power being so great that liberalisation of the drug laws are in many countries blocked because of the vested interests that would suffer. It is not just the Mafia. Governments are inextricably involved in an underworld capitalism they have created to service a market they collectively deplore and individually patronise. On the way they drag down many who enter underworld capitalism because the open road is blocked to them.

The Old Bailey trial of smuggling involving drugs and arms is typical of the sort of shady deal involving both underworld and States, and dragging down those who get involved. It is identical with that of the British officer arrested in Sweden, but the sympathy with which he was regarded by the British media vanished in this case.

Three Israelis, described as Army reservists (but who isn't in that country?) had during their Army service contacted the cannabis growers in the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon, largely under the control of the Christian militia—at that time allies—with a view to selling their produce. How did they get it into Israel? This was not explained: they got it out by concealing it in Italian pine furniture and exporting it to Britain.

Their alleged contact man here was Jim Greenfield: how the Philistines in the press rejoiced at the trial! No 'captain with a distinguished service record' he, but one of the four convicted of the Angry Brigade bombings of capitalist targets! Jim came from an ordinary working-class Widnes background: he pushed his way up to Trinity College, Oxford, but with the student revolt turned to activism. While others who claimed to have led the student revolt profited to go upwards and out, Jim worked with Anarchists and paid for his beliefs with prison. His counsel is reported to have said, perhaps in deference to impressin the court, that he had 'abandoned his anarchist beliefs' presumably for cynicism. Not that he ever said he was an anarchist, but the effect of long years of prison, followed by a blocking of every job, was to cause him to think he had to do something 'for himself'. This is what the judge meant when he said he was a 'talented man motivated by greed' (which seemed to be as bad as being talented but motivated by idealism in the words of the previous judge).

The three Israelis (who got ten years) had a shopping list for arms. What need had they to trade drugs for arms? If there is one thing there is a superfluity of in Israel and the Lebanon, for the criminal underworld, it's got to be arms. The market there for arms is from government agencies, which never have enough, or for anti-Israeli guerrillas.

It lends weight to the suspicion that the Israeli government was involved in this, as the British government was in Sweden; it proceeds to deny its agents. (Another man, claimed to be an Israeli intelligence officer, was arrested by the FBI in Philadelphia after trying to hire two American helicopter pilots to free the Israelis from a British prison)

One can see the dilemma of Jim Greenfield who finding what an intrigue he'd got himself into tried to co-operate with the police and denied his past. The system had set out to destroy him many years ago, in Stoke Newington. Don't let it succeed in destroying his past record by refusing to recognise his dilemma.

December, still continues: he charges are murder, conspiracy to murder and gross medical negligence, all of which, obviously, carry lengthy sentences. No surprise, therefore, that the accused have presented a macabre spectacle. mutually accusing each other of having given this or that order, this or that blow. One of the former warders has called the former director an 'outright liar' and has said that the same director tried to get Rueda to 'confess' to having dug an escape tunnel and that Rueda had refused. The director naturally insisted Rueda had tried to dig a tunnel and that disciplinary measures had to be taken—he rigorously denies, however that he had given orders for Rueda, and seven other anarchists, to be beaten up. Evidence from another ex-warder suggests Rueda and the others, who were severely injured and hospitalised afterwards, were beaten and tortured on direct orders from Eduardo Jose Cantos, orders which were confirmed by the assistant director. Jose Cantos's most recent declarations contradict his earlier statements (a 'slip of the memory', he says) and he now claims that all the people suspected of having dug the tunnel were interviewed 'without any blows or pressure of any



There is also proof that the two doctors falsified their medical report on Rueda, which didn't match the photographic evidence, by describing as minor lesions wounds which were far more serious. They insist this must have been due to 'repeated typographical errors'

On 13th December 87 the CNT-AIT held a packed meeting in which the prisoners gave their side of the story, naming names and pointing to the political motives behind the beating and torturing that took place ten years

An interesting feature of the Rueda case is the way it has been talked about all over Spain, even the conventional press giving it full coverage, with daily reports on the murder trial, and with consistent, and for once, non-pejorative, references to Rueda as an Anarchist. To some extent this is for a series of reasons: Rueda was murdered in the 'first flowering of Spanish democracy' (ha!) but his murderers were allowed to continue working in prisons for ten years afterwards. To put it mildly, that looks bad. And there might be some pressure to 'make up' for this delay by publicising their trial, to show Spain is now really a democracy etc. But there is too a genuine popular interest in the case which has put anarchism back into the mainstream in Spain, more obvious signs of a renewal of interest which has been brewing in relative obscurity for some time. Too late, sadly, for Augustin Rueda.

UPRISING IN GALICIA

In North-West Spain a chemical disaster meant the evacuation of a whole coastline. Government disorder provoked an uprising and eventually a regional general strike.

On the 5th of December a ship travelling from Rotterdam to Shanghai caught fire off the coast of Gallicia. It was carrying a large quantity of toxic and chemical explosives. The captain and 23 crew members were killed. The burning ship drifted to the coastline.

Within days, as it was clear nothing was being done to ease the situation, local people began to demonstrate, worried for their lives. The ship meanwhile started to explode, giving off clouds of highly toxic gas that wafted across the coastal area over the villages. A mass evacuation was decided upon, but the evacuation programme proved disasterous.

The next day villagers began fighting with the police and the army, and the police opened fire on the rioters. On Sunday 13th a seperatist group blew up an electricity pylon near Vigo. Meanwhile the authorities had managed to take away some barrels of chemicals from the ship but transported them to a nearby Aluminum factory for storage. Immediately the entire workforce at the factory decided to go on strike in protest. The management responded by sacking 300 workers

When news of this got around the whole of Galicia came out on strike (all except those at the Aluminium factory, who had by then returned to work).

GIBRALTAR
Gibraltar is not exactly the home of Spanish
Anarchism—but the vast majority of Spanish
dock workers who go over the border into
Gibraltar to work every day are affiliated to
the CNT-AIT, the anarchist labour union. 900

in all, they alarm both the Spanish and Gibraltarian authorities by being uninterested in the supposedly burning issue of whether or not Gibraltar is British or Spanish, or whether the airport should have a Spanish terminal, etc but have shown a keen interest on their working conditions and wages, while at the same time organising a campaign against the nuclear arsenal tucked away in the Rock (an arsenal whose existence is denied by British and Spanish authorities but on which the CNT is gathering information).

Seven farm labourers, five of whom are members of the anarcho-syndicalist union, the CNT-AIT, are due to be sentenced to over 2 years imprisonment for blocking a road. It all happened 3 years ago when a demonstration took place in Seville in southern Spain. The farm labourers were demanding wprk and the collectivisation of the land instead of the still prevalent feudal system. Pe

Demands for the prisoners -- Antonio Pastor, Juan Jose Navarro, Francisco Espinar, Manuel Perez Carrilo, Antonio Pevea, Jesus Carillo and Jose Antonio Gallego -- release can be sent to La Audiencia Provincial, Sevilla, Spain.

SOURCE: Solidaridad Obrera

European Blood Tax

The male blood tax which continues throughout Europe despite its total military uselessness (as accepted by the British Armed Forces which put pressure on the post-war Labour Government to end conscription, hardly for libertarian reasons) is still being resisted by some.

One such is Orazio Valastro, anarchist, who deserted from the Italian army and was sentenced in 1982 to five months prison, and eight months in 1987, has been released before completing his sentence. Under pressure of the demonstrations held in his support in many parts of Italy, as well as the struggles carried out by Orazio himself while in prison, the Italian army has been obliged to release the comrade—who risked being held in prison until he reached 45.

Those ressponsible for so-called military justice had recourse to reject Orazio as socially ill-adapted' to military service (one old British custom they have learned). If being 'socially ill-adapted' means to be against the Army and society of capital with their logic of exploitation and death, let deserters and 'socially ill-adapted' persons

multiply, declared the Catania Anarchist Group in its posters.

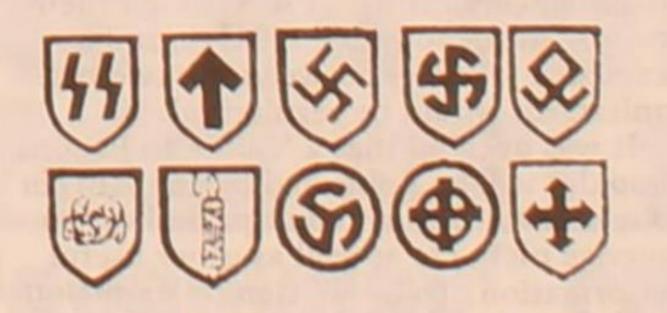
Meanwhile, Giuseppe Coniglio, another anarchist resister to military servitude, was sentenced on September 30th to fourteen months. The mildness of the sentence should not deceive: this is the cat-and-mouse treatment, he also risks imprisonment until his 45th year. He had been in Palermo military prison in complete isolation because he refused to wear Army uniform, until they had to agree to let him wear his own clothes (the only one in the military prison to do so).

In a statement he declared that as an anarchist he refused to do military service or accept a civilian alternative; 'against the logic of compromise and sacrifice, resignation and submission, I put my choice for freedom and against all armies'. He stigmatised life in barracks as 'senseless and absurd as can be imagined, and dictated by the sadistic desire to inflict frustration upon frustration.' He declined to benefit from the law allowing conscientious objection which was ineffective in the struggle against militarism.

News In Brief

NAZI PARTY OVER

It was advertised as the Ball of the Century. 'Social reformer' Lykke Rosenberg called for a Grand Ball for the Yuppies with dinner, after-dinner speakers and fashion show etc. As a special spice a verbal duel between the 'Reichfuhrer' of the Danish Nazi Movement, Poul Heinrich Riis-Knudsen (a leading member of the World Union of National Socialists) and Rosenberg (a woman of Jewish origins and a bourgois lunatic and liberal who seems blissfully unaware that if Knudsen had his way she'd be on her way to the gas chambers).



But Lykke Rosenberg didn't reckon on the consequences. An anti-nazi demo was called and as the storm gathered people began sending their 'apologies' as to why they couldn't attend the function. The show was thus cancelled, with the Waiters' Union refusing to be at the service anyway.

Instead of a Grand Ball it was a Grand Flop, leaving a deficit of £10,000 for Rosenberg to pick up after her brief flirt with the Nazi fuhrer.

SABOTEURS LINKED TO RAF

Two motorcyclists were stopped by police and four molotov cocktails were found on them together with notes on Shell installations. The two were arrested in connection with previous raids on Shell installations over Shell's link to the Botha regime. Raids followed and one of the men was found to have material about the Red Army Fraction. They were also arrested on the 10th anniversary of the deaths of RAF prisoners Andreas Baader, Jan-Carl Raspe and Gudrin Ennslin in West Germany's Stammheim prison.

The Police and the media are now trying

to link the sabotage campaign with the

RAF, or at least impugn that the saboteurs were acting in the memory of the RAF.

SOURCE: Anarchist Federation in Denmark

COCAINIA

Not content with having cornered eighty per cent of the American cocaine market, Carlos Lehder, reputed kingpin of the Colombian Medellin Cartel, also intended to set up his own State to ensure the smooth functioning of the operation, according to John Robinson, an American coke smuggler who worked for him. 'He said he wanted his own country, his own forces, his own police,' Robinson said, explaining that Lehder wanted to take over a country by force or bribery to use as a base for his smuggling empire.

Lehder is currently on trial in Jacksonville,

Lehder is currently on trial in Jacksonville, Florida, for allegedly having masterminded a 3.3 ton cocaine shipment from Colombia to the States via the Bahamas.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

ABC CONFERENCE REPORT

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

The first ever truly national Anarchist Black Cross conference took place in Leeds on the weekend of the 5th and 6th of December. Attendance was largely by invitation only and included representatives of several Black Cross groups including Oxford, Plymouth, Liverpool, Bolton, Leeds, Sheffield, London, etc as well as many individual Black Cross contacts from across the country.

The two day event included discussion workshops as well as a business meeting. We have included a summary of what took place.

The Conference began with greetings read out from Toronto ABC, Denmark ABC and well-wishes from the CRIFA (the Anarchist International). The Conference then went into Workshop session, which included workshops on the History of the ABC, an update on the Martin Foran case, the Privatisation of Prisons, Prisoners Unions, and Women in Prisons.

HISTORY OF ABC

The Black Cross began as the Anarchist Red Cross in Tsarist Russia and set up defence and escape committees. In 1914, outside Russia, changed to Black Cross; later based in Berlin. Also strong in the USA on the prison authorities. and there were branches too in parts of Western Europe. Was linked to Mutual Aid Group in China, which after 1945

set up aid group for Asian prisoners.

During 1960's the First of May Group was set up to provide solidarity - there were various campaigns that extended across Europe and beyond, with particular emphasis on the anti-Franco resistance. When Stuart Christie was released from prison in Spain he and Albert Meltzer decided to revive the ABC. Later, with the release of Miguel Garcia, the ABC organised a propaganda tour around Europe to draw attention

to the plight of comrades in Spain. Around this time too the ABC helped set up the International Libertarian Centre in London. The ABC also gained support once more in several European centres. Two Black Cross secretaries were murdered by security forces. In Britain the ABC became a propaganda support group for the Angry Brigade (an extension of the First of May Group/ International Solidarity Movement).

On prisoner support work there have been some successes, notably in Italy, France and Spain, with some prisoners being liberated as a result of Black Cross intervention. The Black Cross also initiated a long-term campaign to provide assistance to Spanish anarchist veterans of the Civil War /Revolution this was/is essential as they are not entitled to any pension or social security (unlike Socialist veterans, who now get such aid from the State under the new

Socialist regime). More recently the Black Cross has had to contend with the setting up of imitation groups by maoists (eg Red Help) and others who see the ABC as a sort of militant charity - however these come and go. More importantly there are now a growing number of ABC groups/sections in different parts of the world and there is a growing Black Cross network within Britain itself.

MARTIN FORAN

An update was given on the case of this particular prisoner. It is hoped that a proper documented booklet on the case will be produced soon. The latest details are noted in an update article in this issue of Black Flag.

PRISON PRIVATISATION

The situation in the USA was noted. Also that private prisons are well on the way in Britain as well as certain other countries (eg France). The Adam Smith Institute was cited as a main source for

encouraging private prisons. Anciliary prison services (eg Immigration detention, remand work) already tendered out to private security firms. Implications for prisoner unionisation - see below.

WOMEN IN PRISON

Two women released from prison recently started the discussion with a description of the indignities which each prisoner suffers on admission. This process is clearly part of a system designed to destroy an individual's sense of identity and sap their will to rebel. This leads to strip searches and the the lack of media attentuon when in 1986 women in prison rioted alongside uprisings in men's prisons, but no mention was made in the capitalist press. Women prisoners are treated as 'naughty' rather than rebellious.

PRISONER UNIONS

Contentious issue. Two examples were cited: the IWW branch at Ohio State Penitentiary, and the political association/mutual aid organised by anarchist prisoners in Spain.

The IWW branch is trying for official recognition through the courts and are demanding real wages, etc. The CNT in Spain provide financial assistance to affiliates in prison and to their families through a levy on all members. CNT prisoners also successfully organise for political association and make demands

There is no precedent for prisoners unions in Britain (apart from the recent attempt by prisoners in Long Lartin to set up a Prisoners Council - see article elsewhere in this issue). With prison privatisation there is the possibility that the relationship between prisoner and prison authority will be dramatically changed. Time will tell. If prisoners take the initiative in setting up some kind of union then assistance should be given if asked for.

ABC BUSINESS

News of specific prisoner campaigns was given, including details on Omori, the Murrays, etc, as well as the Vancouver 4.

Problems of supporting prisoners who we know little about was entered into. A full ABC prisoners list will be circulated to Black Cross contacts.

On the financial side it was pointed out that there is a certain amount of duplication of money being sent to prisoners/ campaign groups that could become disproportionate - some kind of informal coordination was essential, so that resources could be fairly spread.

It was decided that a Black Cross Internal Bulletin would be produced every month to include prisoner updates, news, comments, etc. Available to ABC contacts

The ABC (Britain) was invited by the IFA (Anarchist International) to become the British section and the ABC was invited to attend the next IFA Congress to sort it out. The ABC Conference, however, decided that it would not for the time being accept the offer as the ABC is not a proper anarchist federation but an informal network of anarchist militants. In the meantime friendly links would be maintained with the IFA, through their coordinating body the CRIFA, and an exchange of news between the two organisations would be regularised.

It was decided that a 'Guide to Prisons' booklet will be published by the ABC in due course. Will include tips on how to survive nick, etc as well as other useful information. To be written by ex-prisoners and those involved in support campaigns. Leeds Black Cross will coordinate prod-

An Anti-Prison Day was raised. Suggested for March. Prisons, etc to be picketed and a special leaflet to be produced. Possible to have an international dimen-

Finally it was decided that there would be a national ABC Conference every year - details of time and venue to be arranged later.

Anarchist Black Cross.

PRISONERS COUNCIL AGRED

Unbelievably prisoners in Long Lartin gaol, Worcestershire, demanded and were allowed to have an organised debate on whether or not to form a prisoners council in the gaol. The debate took place and the motion for the council was carried.

The catch was that the prison authorities insisted on taking part in an attempt to turn the whole thing into a PR exercise.

The motion was proposed by ABC supporter John Bowden and seconded by a black prisoner, Wadi Williams. It was not physically possible for all prisoners to attend the debate so a rough representation of 30 or so went to express views on behalf of all. The prison authorities in turn brought out the big guns to represent them. Present were the Director-General of Prisons, the Regional Director, the head of the Category 'A' Prisons from the Home Office, several Governor grades from Long Lartin, some non-prisoner academics and researchers, representatives from the Prison Reform Trust, members of the Prison Board of Visitors and even the Mayor of Evesham! Opposing the motion was Dr Roy King, a professor of Criminology. Obviously the authorities thought that with that line-up they could brow-beat the prisoners into defeat. But they were wrong.

The interesting thing is that no prison officers attended the debate. Many refused and in any case their union, the POA instructed their members not to attend, fearing that it was undermining their authority.

In a recent letter John Bowden admitted that the way it was organised enabled the prison authorities to treat it as a PR exercise, but that at least it was a start in the right direction. Now, although the

motion was passed, there is no clear idea as to what happens next. The prison authorities presumably would like to treat such a council more like a company union

to be used to keep the lid on things when trouble occurs. And with the dawning of prison privatisation, some kind of Japanese style company union could do the trick and prevent any friction on 'labour relations'

But the prisoners themselves obviously see things very different. For the council to have any meaning it would have to be independent; it would also need to be run on a revokable delegate basis to avoid co-option. Whether the authorities will withdraw their 'co-operation' should the prisoners take this direction remains to

One model the Long Lartin prisoners can refer to is that begun by prisoners in Ohio State Penitentiary, in the USA, where prisoners recently formed a branch of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) and are currently campaigning for the right to free collective bargaining. Coincidentally at the recent Black Cross conference prison unions (and the implications of prison privatisation) was discussed - see ABC Conference report in this

The Long Lartin prisoners cannot operate in a vacuum. Will, we wonder, prisoners in other gaols follow suit? And can their be a wider, industrial, link-up?

Write to John Bowden (B41173), HMP Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, England.



Santa cares for prisoners too! - DAM and Black Cross members leafleting for Martin Foran at Oxford Grcus, London.

Private Prisons Ready For Tender

The Home Office minister responsible for Prisons, Lord Caithness, has announced that the Government is intending to contract out the running of remand prisons to the private sector. Remand prisoners make up more than 25% of the total prison population. In preparation of this move a new Prisons Building Board has been created to supervise and plan the building of new prisons. On the board are representatives of the private sector.

Up to £360m worth of contracts are to be awarded to private companies as part of the prison expansion programme. In addition it has been announced that remand prisoners being transferred to court may well in the future be supervised by private security companies. Securicor has been named in this connection.

If the Government takes the privatisation of prisons to its logical conclusion then we will see the emergence of a system whereby prisoners will be expected to pay their way and meet costs. There will be a stronger link between the prisoner as slave labour and the prison authority as slave employer. The implications for this relationship will be far-reaching and will mean that questions over the status of prisoners, as a labour force, will be raised. (See also Report on Black Cross Conference regarding prisoner unions and prison privatisation.)

DONATIONS

Some excellent responses to the ABC include a £25 donation from Mac of Crawley, proceeds of an exhibition and £55 from a comrade ex-HMP to help other prisoners while Chumbawumba did some benefit gigs splitting the money between ABC (£200), antithe-Alton Bill campaign (£150), £150 to Counter Information, £100 Troops Out and £150 to London Greenpeace. Usual Black Cross balance sheet next issue, with the (more dismal) state of play of Black Flag.

AVI NAFTEL UPDATE

Like Martin Foran Avi Naftel was forced to undergo a colostomy - maybe this is statistically more common amongst prisoners generally because of the poor diet. Also like Martin his colostomy became a focus for attack when Avi was

beaten up by guards last August. In November Avi was taken to an infirmary where his colostomy bag was forcibly removed where prison officials found a handcuff key. They incredibly interpreted this as an escape attempt! and he now faces an average sentence of three years, concurrent, to be added to his existing 25 years (for taking a police woman 'hostage'. Meanwhile Avi is optimistic that he will eventually get his transfer to a prison in England given a recent prec-

MARTIN FORAN UPDATE

Martin recently saw a specialist at St Mark's Hospital, London, and he has been informed that his lower intenstine has to be removed because of his deteriorating medical condition (see previous Black Flag's). The tests also revealed that his nerves are all dead on one side of his spine. Martin believes this is a direct result of the beating he received from

screws after his colostomy. In the meantime Leeds Black Cross has been authorised by Martin to open and handle a campaign bank account The authorisation is as follows (quoted from a letter to the Secretary of Leeds Black Cross - dated 11-12-87):

... what I plan to do is set up two funds one with a solicitor to cover legal defence, one fund with you to cover leaflets, printing bills, postage... Thought you would best be able to sort money out, cover all costs, and if possible help my wife out... To start the defence fund will you split the cash you have raised, send half to the

solicitor, you keep half for the fund. At the time of writing Leeds Black Cross is opening a bank account in the name of Martin Foran Support Fund, the account number will appear in the next issue. Please make cheques, etc payable to that fund and send to Leeds Black Cross, Box JAG, 52 Call Lane, Leeds 1. All the money in this account will cover campaign costs - eg, leaflets and also for Valerie (Martin's wife) as and when she needs it. Obviously the more money that is raised the more campaigning that can be done, and more quickly

The defence fund is being managed by Martin's solicitor - Roger Merry, Wilkes Solicitors, 9 Garfield Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight. This will pay for his legal costs in suing the Police, etc. Cheques should be made payable to Martin Foran Defence Fund Trust:

At present although £250 has been raised by Oxford Black Cross, Plymouth and ELDAM, it has all been sent to Valerie for Xmas so there is NO money to start the accounts off. Leeds Black Cross suggests that if people raise money at benefits, etc they split it 50/50 and send half to each fund.

In the meantime Martin sends thanks and greetings to all comrades who have been supporting him in his struggle for justice and freedom.

There was a cover-up regarding the beating Anarchist prisoner Martin Foran received while in Liverpool prison, conclusively shown by documents received by the Anarchist Black Cross. There is also proof that he was denied treatment for his colostomy treatment before the beating. A letter from a Hospital Medical Officer states that he refused to admit Martin to the Hospital on the grounds that the wing contained another prisoner allegedly involved in the taking of the hostage - in fact, Martin Foran was the only person involved in taking a prison officer hostage, and this was in order to obtain medical treatment which had already been denied him.

At the time of the beating in Liverpool,

Martin had recently undergone the necessary surgery for his colostomy, and his surgical wounds were still fresh and tender. When he was dragged bodily to the cell he had his clothes torn off him, was beaten, and had his colostomy bag wrenched off, and the wound stood upon.

Three statements were made by prison officers that no unnecessary force was used to return Martin to the cell and no injuries were caused. Yet his injuries were so bad that he required corrective surgery. The medical reports made after he was examined, after the assault, state that he had 'minor and superficial' bruising on his left knee, left thigh, buttock, left shoulder and upper arm, and left eye. One report says the bruises were old ones and already healing. The main report claims there was no damage to the colostomy and Martin had smeared blood around which he had taken from his anus, still leaking after the

The prison officer who removed Martin's colostomy bag and stepped on the wound was described by Martin as small and blond in his official complaint, but a letter from the assistant governor states that neither he nor the senior medical officer could think of anyone fitting that description. The officer responsible seemed to have vanished!

The day after the assault, Martin was seen in the hospital wing at Liverpool by two members of the Board of Visitors. He told them of the assault, and, as documented in their report, asked to have the police called in to investigate. The Governor of Liverpool prison, six weeks later, claimed in a letter 'there is no record of (Foran) asking to see either the police or a solicitor'. The police were never called in and the matter was dealt with internally. Until Martin decided to sue the officers responsible in a private action. A full hearing has been postponed several time (the case continues).

The documents we received were supposed to have been used at the last scheduled, but postponed, hearing, on Dec 14. Martin has been prevented from making further copies of the documents, and the Home Officer is now trying to impose crown copyright on them.

dream. We have seen how, in Poland for

instance, a body arising purely as a trade

IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST -A STATEMENT BY PRISONERS

We, the undersigned prisoners, of mixed nationalities and views, wish to appeal to members of the public to bring pressure on the prison authorities, in the name of common humanity, to demand they cease their inhuman and degrading treatment of Irish prisoner Martin

Martin, a married man with children, underwent an unsuccessful colostomy operation. In view of the fact that he receives no medical treatment whatsoever - not even painkilling drugs -Martin's demeanour towards his fellow prisoners can only command the highest respect.

We have witnessed the huge supparating wound that disfigures Martin's frontal groin area, we have not been priveliged to witness those to the rear of his genitals. However, just seeing one is enough to make one want to spew... I can only describe it as 'Ugh!'

I, the actual author of this unsolicited document, would not treat my dog like Martin, the poor bastard, is being treated. If he does not receive medical attention soon, I would consider him a prime candidate for gangrene. It would be more merciful to take him from his cell and shoot him like a

dog than to leave him as he is. With respect, and in sympathy for Martin Foran's predicament, we are and

(The names at the foot of this letter have been left out for security reasons)

A 73 yr old friend writes that having seen our report on Martin Foran, she has written to the Governor of Parkhurst offering convalescence for two weeks in her smallholding in the country.

REDUNDANT POLICE

Back in March 1987 the Home Office issued a startling report on. law and order-IF YOU WANT PROTECTION, DON'T EXPECT IT FROM THE POLICE. It promised drastic action, admitting that the system of policing had broken down and the police could no longer 'solve everyday crimes'. No such action has been taken. The situation has got worse. The report, by top researcher Mike Hough, appearing in the British Journal of Criminology, confessed that the police had more or less giving up on street crime like mugging, or car thefts, and only concerned themselves with major burglaries. In major incidents they no longer kept up the unarmed image, but as they got tougher, so they got

less effective. The report did not say that this happened simultaneously with police swamping techniques whenever State policy is threatened—there were thousands of police ready at the drop of a hat for the Wapping or the miners' disputes; there are always hundreds of police to defend fascist marches (even of only one man, as in one notorious case) or to attack other demonstrations.

But there is a finite number of police (the over-policing of the miners' villages led to the under-policing of the Tory conference at Brighton when the IRA almost succeeded in a landslide vote of no confidence). That the police have problems is no more consolation to the victims of mugging, rape or burglary than it would have been to the Cabinet. If the police cannot solve or prevent crime as it affects the ordinary person, why have police at all? Just to enable big business to bash the workers? Just to preserve fascism as a possible last resort for capitalism?

If the busmen announced that they could no longer not only not keep to the timetables but could not reasonably expect to keep buses on the road in modern traffic, there would be no hesitation in making them redundant. The same must go for the police. The police force was introduced by Sir Robert Peel some 150 years ago precisely to reduce street crime and housebreaking; it was feared it would instead be a political force in the hands of central government. It now admits it cannot tackle what it was supposed to, and is only effective as a political force (though it still coyly denies this—it only has a 'special' branch not a political one!)

Watch commmittees cannot solve the problem. The police force must be abolished. But while capitalism continues so will the crimes of capitalism and the capitalism of

powerful—though these qualities are not to be

There is always the temptation to replace one failed institution by another, which usually becomes worse. The idea of vigilantes has been revived in New York, for instance, where self-appointed would-be goodie gangs patrol against street gangs. But in the same United States, South vigilante groups were worse than appointed police, only substituting lynch law for bench law. Crime has two faces: social and anti-social.

Social offences, called crime, are offences against the State which do not harm people. Usually they are are not real crimes but only stigmatised as such by law. It is important that people draw the distinction, if only to be able to fight crime. Small-time muggers and hooligans who commit anti-social crime, can and must be shown the error of their ways: they injure and inconvenience their own class and cannot hope to get much out of it. If what they want to do is get rich at the expense of someone else, plain common sense must tell them that they need to go and rob a yuppie, not a senior citizen; not only because the former probably has more and will miss it less, but has stolen it in the first place, is as vulnerable and when taking over a converted working class district is in the process of destroying the community.

A lot of anti-social crime is explained not by the wealth urge which forms the capitalism of crime, but by the power urge. An organised body, no matter how small and insignificant, can always terrorise an unorganised mass-which relies on an outside body such as the State, or the police, or an abstraction such as good will, to defend it against unprovoked attacks.

That which can represent organisation against attack from capitalist crime, such as exploitation and the mass eviction from jobs and housing, can also represent organisation against attacks from individual crime on a general scale, or organised crime, or any other form of oppression whether legal or illegal. Workers defence has to take various forms. The narrow conception of trade unionism sold by parliamentarism lacks democracy if it confines itself to the industrial angle only, leaving one's pay packet to be at the mercy of a landlord, moneylender or street thief, only concerning itself with the size. True unionism would not leave these matters to parliamentary decision which works no longer anyway.

What we need is a workers defence force: not an elite of the physically or industrially

despised—but a force based upon solidarity and mutual respect which no body of parasites, legal or illegal, can withstand. This is no

union body had to take on the police force but also had to concern itself with attacks on food racketeers, political and criminal gangsterism, and the like. It lost its way a bit owing to the confused situation, but the way was

As crime rate goes up and up, a Home Office expert warns...

EXCLUSIVE By ROGER TODD MUGGERS and burglars are beating law and order on the streets of Thatcher's Britain. And if you want protection, don't expect it

We asked the Home Secretary for 3 800 more

The report by the top Home Office researches

Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd, confirmed on January 12 that the Police could not tackle

crime by themselves: There are some foolish people who say all these things should be left to the Police and the courts...but the Police know they depend for their success not just on the Government or the ratepayers, but also on the good citizen for information and co-operation. Other foolish people see the Police and government as the only bulwark against crime. Consequently, the fail to unite for protection.

STATE TERRORISM

This article - part of an occasional series on the history of anarchism - is about the State and its use of terrorism to crush any form of dissent. Obviously not unique to Japan, but it has been used consistently by Japan's rulers.

On January 18, 1911, the cry of 'Museifu Shugi Banzai' (Long live Anarchy!) was heard in a Japanese courtroom. It was shouted by Kanno Suga, one of the 26 defendants, in response to a verdict of death by hanging for 24 of them, and jail sentences of eight and eleven years for the other two. The defendants were charged with conspiring to assassinate the emperor of Japan in what has become known as the High Treason case (Taiyaku Jiken).

The international outcry and demonstrations that took place in Europe and America (1) were such that on January 19 twelve on the condemned defendants had their sentences communted to life imprisonment by imperial decree. However, at 8am on January 24, 1911 eleven were hung; Kanno Suga shouting 'Banzai!' from the gallows was hanged the following day. A brutal discipline was meted out to those serving prison sentences: Takagi Tenmei died in Chiba prison in 1914 and Okabayashi Toramatsu in Nagasaki prison was driven insane; others tried to commit suicide. (2)

The names of those legally murdered are: Kotoku Shusi, Kanno Suga, Morichika Umpei (former editor of the Osaka Heimin Shimbun), Niimura Tadao (peasant turned journalist), Miyashita Takichi (factory worker), Furukawa Rikisaku (gardener), Okumiya Tateyuki (veteran Peoples Rights Movement activist), Oishi Seinosuke (Kotoku's doctor), Naruishi Heishiro (shopkeeper), Matsuo Uitta (journalist), Niimi Uichiro (journalist), and Uchiyama Gudo (Zen priest). Their ages ranged from 25 years old to 55 years old.

A series of preliminary hearinhgs for the trial began on December 10: the defendants were allowed one chance to present their views and all defence witnesses were rejected by the judge. When the trial began it was held in camera (secretly) which was to prevent the defendants using the dock as a platform for their ideas; to prevent them from becoming martyrs; and for Yamagata Aritomo, the master of the State's conspiracy idea, the very idea of a public trial was an insult to the throne. The procurator, Hiranuma Kiichiro (of whom we shall hear of later, along with Yamagata) got through reams of evidence and called for the death penalty by December 25, 1910. The defence lawyers had just three days to present a case for all the defendants. The decision of the judges was unanimous.

It has been claimed that: What the government had in fact done in order to concoct its conspiracy was to throw together three completely seperate cases, hoping to thus deal a blow to the movement that would not be forgotten. These three were the actual 'assassination group', composed of just four people; Uchiyama Gudo's secret printing activities; and the personal and medical relationship between Kotuku and the doctor Oishi Seinosuku, who had once met with Morichika Umpei to discuss 'the nature of the Japanese revolution'. None of the protagonists in these three affairs knew of the doings of the others, and there was no conspiracy ex-

cept in the minds of certain reactionary politicians. (3) So what were the events of the time?

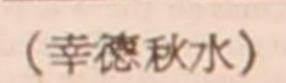
On May 25, 1910 Miyashita Takichi, Niimura Tadao, Nitta Toru and Furukawa Rikisaku were arrested after the police had found a stockpile of bomb making materials, which Miyashita had obtained. Kanno Suga had already entered prison on May 18 instead of paying a hefty censorship fine, so needn't be re-arrested. Kotoku was arrested on June 1 and sent to Ichigaya prison in Tokyo. This sparked off the arrests, interrogation and torture of literally hundreds of anarchists and socialists. From the pretrial interrogation and trial testimony it is clear that the government could have made arrests earlier than they did, but deliberately forestalled in order to 'incriminate' as many people as possible. (4)

It is generally agreed that Kanno, Miyashita, Niimura and possibly two or three others were involved in the assassination plot. In fact these three had drawn lots on May 17 to see who would throw the first bomb; Kanno had won and would make the attempt in August after her release from prison. Kotoku himself











(奥宮健之)







(内山愚蠢)





(新美卯一郎)





(森近運平)



(菅野すが)

The 12 hung in the High Treason Trial, January 1911.

became the 'connecting link' between all the defendants. It was part of the prosecution's case that Kotoku had provided information on how to make bombs to Miyashita, information he had received from Okumiya Kenshi and his friends, all of whom had been activists in the People's Rights Movement of the 1880's. (5) Kotoku had commented upon an article

(松尾卯一太).

by Oishi in the Shakai Shimbun (Social News) in July 1907 and had become friends. On his way to Tokyo from Nakamura, in July 1908, just after finishing his translation of Kropotkin's 'The Conquest of Bread' (which was secretly published in January 1909), he called on to see Oishi. Oishi was so alarmed by Kotoku's physical condition that as a doctor he recommended a month's complete rest. Kotoku refused and continued, visiting Uchiyama in Hakone. The latter ran one of the many underground presses and had published clandestinely, amongst other things, Arnold Roller's (a German anarchist) pamphlet 'The Social General Strike' in 1907. This pamphlet Kotoku had acquired when visiting San Francisco in 1906, where he was fully converted to anarchism by the personal influence of Albert Johnson and the writings of Kropotkin. (6) This pamphlet, along with Kotoku's notion of direct action, stemming from his anarchism, paved the way for anarcho-syndicalism in Japan. It was published as 'Shorai no Keizan Soshiki' (The

Economic System of the Future). The police themselves were well aware that not more than five individuals were involved in the plot: Kanno, Kotoku, Mi-

yashita, Niimura and Furakawa (7). Furukawa had pulled out a few months before May (8), and even according to Kanno's testimony at the trial Kotoku had not only rejected the plot preceeding January (1910), but later that Spring they didn't even mention it in front of him because he would have given a 'disapproving lecture'. (9) However the death penalty was mandatory even for intent for those wishing to cause harm to the emperor of

Technically, then, these five could easily have been found guilty as charged; but this does not apply to the other 21 defendants and certainly excludes all those others (hundreds) arrested, imprisoned, tortured. Part of Kanno's prison diary, which was discovered in the 1950's, written after the trial and before her (legal) murder absolves all the others: "...Oh! My poor friends and comrades! The most of them have been unhappily entangled into a scheme contrived by 5 or 6 persons. Merely with our acquaintanceship they have been forced to be a martry..." (10)

The records of the trial were not made publicly available until half a century later, until 1963, and even then they were incomplete. They proved quite conclusively that a State conspiracy had taken place. Thus: "The implications behind the trial were clear and were taken to heart by all those who still nursed radical sympathies. Kotoku and the others had been hung for 'intent' to harm the emperor. In other words, it was for their ideas that they had been put on trial, and radical intellectuals were simultaneously stunned and chastened. Only half a decade later would

the Japanese anarchist and socialist movements completely recover from this bitter blow. In the meantime, during a period known as the 'winter of socialism', the socialist movement disappeared completely."

To know why this handful of people should adopt this course of action we have to know what the social and political conditions were, and in doing that we can reveal the cowardly and barbaric methods the Japanese ruling class (and all rulers) use to suppress disconteht. For up to now we have shown how the Japanese state deliberately used the taigyaku jiken for certain purposes - arrest, torture murder and intimidation - based on evidence now provided by the Japanese state itself: it's own trial records. However this does not explain why a few individuals would adopt a policy of killing one person (an emperor); of why such a policy was considered necessary; and whether any other course of action was open to them.

Miyashita Takichi was a machine operator in a sawmill at Akeshina, Nagano prefecture, 3 hours train ride from Tokyo. After completing a primary school course he obtained a knowledge of machinery whilst working in various plants. In January 1907 he became acquainted with the

Heimin Shimbun (Common Peoples Newspaper) and visited Kotoku, who was editor In 1908 Uchiyama Gudo published 'Nyugoku Kinen, Museifu Kyosan (In Commemoration of Their Imprisonment: Anarcho-Communism) when the sentences

were being passed on the defendants in the Akahata Jiken (Red Flag incident) - which will be discussed later. In it Uchiyama expressed his contempt for the emperor, amongst others: "There are blood-sucking ticks - the emperor, the rich, the big landlords."Mivashita had become converted to anarchism after reading the clandestine publications of Uchiyama, Heimin Shimbun, Kemuriyama Sentaro's Kinsei Museifushugi (Modern Anarchism) published in 1902, and hearing Morichika Umpei talk about the bloody origins of the imper-

Miyashita had made several attempts at organising his workmates, but grew disillusioned when every strike was viciously suppressed by the police. Also, whilst he could obtain agreement from his workmates about government injustices there was an impenetrable superstitious brick wall concerning the emperor himself. This became obvious to him on November 10, 1908 when the emperor was about to pass by train through Taifu station station. He began by giving out Uchiyama's pamphlet and discussing it, only to realise that not only was criticism of the emperor rejected but that when the police instructed that there could be no work done in adjacent fields the peasant-workers willingly complied. From this moment on he resolved to kill the emperor to dispell the myth of imperial divinity.

On 13 November 1908 Miyashita wrote to Morichika expressing his conviction that the emperor had to be killed in order for socialism to progress in Japan. Morichika showed this letter to Kotoku. On 13 November 1909 Miyasita visited Kotoku, staying at the Heiminsha office and expressed again his belief that the emperor had to be killed, the best way being to: "...make bombs...[and] ...throw them at the Imperial carriage" (12). Kotoku agreed with Miyashita's reasoning concerning the emperor and said that: "...such measures will no doubt be necessary; hereafter there will arise individuals who will see that such measures are carried out." (13) Miyashita wrote to Kotoku on 25 May 1909 stating how far his bomb making activities had progressed, as well as confirming his willingness to 'die for the cause'. In early June he visited Heiminsha again and discussed his ideas on assassination with both Kotoku and Kanno Suga. Kotoku recommended

Niimura and Furukawa to Miyashita as persons who could be thoroughly trusted as well as having 'firm ideas'. The latter had first met Niimura in the preceding February, when visiting Heiminsha, and Miyashita voiced his assassination ideas to Niimura who readily agreed.

Niimura had decided to visit Kotoku in February, just after he was released from Maebashi prison for violation of the press laws related to the socialist journal Tohoku Hyoron. Out of work he stayed at the Heiminsha, until Katoku managed to secure him a job with Oishi's pharmacy in Shingu. Miyashita wrote to him there in June 1909 saying that he had begun experimenting with the construction of

INSTITUTIONALISED ANARCHISM

Never make the mistake of supposing that the anarchist movement is too small and ineffective to matter to the international plotters of State, capitalist and totalitarian security. Concern with terrorism is constantly directed against anarchism, even though no anarchist movement which can be labelled terrorist even by its opponents exists at the moment. Anarchism is always good for 'shock horror' with crooked journalists and judges: this would not be so if its enemies thought it insignificant. What is difficult to achieve is an Anarchist movement, not an Anarchist society: granted the genuine first, the second is immediately possible subject to struggle. So every impediment is laid in the path of a movement, including the building of phoney organisations.

Finally they can fall back on old-fashioned slander and repression. But the new approach

Further, the whole trend of modern politics has been to push the working class out of its heritage. This entails re-writing history, giving all credit to the nearest 'intellectual;' or person with a recognised historical status is to oulminate only in a petition to Parliament, isie then take over the movement. This has happened with socialism, pre-eminently with Marxism, and the students now appear to be the vanguard class of 'the proletariat', armed with texts from their professors. As a result there is a turning to anarchism by the workers in some countries—or a turn is suspected in others. Therefore, an institutionalised anarchism, accceptable to a section of the bourgeoisie, which will be taken to be its leaders, is hoped for. Whether it will succeed is entirely open to us. We can, of course, sit back and pretend it isn't going to happen, and sneer at those who warn of the danger as introspective or indulging in personalities.

Consider the following scenario: A group is formed calling itself the Reconstituted IRA. It bitterly opposes those now known as the IRA (we assume for this purpose there are no Officials or INLA). Its authenticity is agreed by the British Government which recognises that it is the 'genuine' IRA. The media are all in favour of it. The Secretary of State for

bombs. In fact he had obtained 2 lb of

to a friend who worked in a fireworks

chlorate with 5 parts of realgar (arsenic

plosion. However these chemicals were

monosulfide) could cause a powerful ex-

difficult to get hold of and believing that

he had exhausted the limit of a safe pur-

chasable supply he wrote to Niimura re-

questing further materials. In July or Au-

gust 1lb of chlorate of potash was procur-

borrowed from a friend of Niimura's (Nii-

mura's elder brother, Zenbei, who knew

nothing of this, but who had stood secur-

ity for Miyashita at the sawmill, received

8 years imprisonment because of this). Mi-

yashita's workmate, Niitta Yusura, helped

mately 2.38 in length by 1.19 in diameter

for which Niita received 10 years imprison-

During the first couple of weeks of Sept-

ember, 1909, Kanno, Kotoku and Niimura

discussed the best way of assassinating the

immediately visited Miyashita to relate

this, only to find that the latter's experi-

ments were unsuccessful. He needed more

chemicals and, if possible, to consult with

made a bomb. Niimura relayed this to Ko-

someone who had actually successfully

toku; but it wasn't until Okumiya Tate-

Heiminsha in the middle of October that

Okumiya had been involved in the Peo-

ple's Roghts Movement (14) as a young

several occasions, and so Kotoku guessed

He didn't, but he did know the person

who had made the bombs used in the

for its use was provided by Okumiya,

that he must know something about them.

Osaka Incident and would ask that person.

A new chemical formula along with details

which Kotoku duly passed on to Miyashita Tzu.

man, where explosives were used on

yuki, by chance, visited Kanno at the

Kotoku thought seriously about

Miyashita's request.

emperor. Niimura enthused and

make five zinc-coated cans of approxi-

ed from a pharmacy; and in September

a muller for crushing sanderac was

sandarac from a friend under the pretext

of refining steel from iron ore. After con-

sulting an encyclopaedia as well as talking

plant, he realised that 10 parts of potassium

State Terrorism

Continued...

Ireland is prepared to negotiate with it, and excludes the present IRA as having dubious claims. It is supported by a State-subsidised Larkin Institute which puts forward claims to a new approach to Irish problems and collects details of militancy, ostensibly 'for the historical record'. People who have always opposed Irish republicanism rally to the Reconstituted IRA. But Irish republicans suspect it. Why has it not come into conflict with the State? Suddenly, six ordinary supporters are arrested on patently phoney charges. The Derry Six becomes a rallying issue with the Reconstituted IRA and they are supported by lavish productions from the Larkin Club—all subsidised by the same State making the charges—demanding credibility for the 'new approach' Reconstituted IRA and What would you suppose is going on? Breathe

freedom for the six. relief in Belfast—this is not happening in Ireland (though is it planned?). It explains what is happening in Spain. For 'Reconstituted IRA' read 'CNT-V' or 'CNT-u' (it adopts either style), or Renovados or whatever else they may be called in lieu of their correct description, the Phoney CNT. For Derry read Vittoria, for the Larkin Club read the Salvador Segui Institute. Does it not at once become clear? The workers in Vittoria duped into joining

the schism—which at first had many genuine adherents—have been framed by the Catholic Actionist infiltrators who took over followinmg the split at the Fifth Congress, or (at best) by their providers. This leadership is now trying to drum up a phoney international and to discredit the IWA-AIT. In the process it has (directly or by association) framed its own members. It is flaunting the history of the genuine CNT, with the help of lavish funding - all it lacks is a genuine membership base, which may be understandable following the Vittoria frame-up. It is making up for that by a push to get adherents abroad including a funded Spanish Information Network (free trips to Spain thrown in, at least for the pushers). Sadly for them (though they will present it otherwise in Spain) what they have achieved in Britain, on which they placed high hopes and much finance, is not support

via Niimura. Using that formula a success-

ful explosion was caused in the mountains

November 3, 1909. Ironically the noise of

fireworks being set off to commemorate

the emperor's birthday.

Miyashita's explosion was concealed by the

1. Mother Earth associated with Emma Goldman

Apparently, "...even the London Times conde-

verdict." V Garcia and Wat Tyler, "Museifush-

ugi: The Revolutionary Idea In Japan", p 77.

4. Shioda Shobei and Watanebe Junzo (eds),

"Hiroku Daigyaku Jiken", quoted in Sharon

Sievers, "Flowers in Salt: The Beginnings of

Feminist Conscioisness in Modern Japan", p 223

5. J Crump, ibid, pp 242-250 for the importance

of Roller's pamphlet; and chapter 8 "Kotoku

7. "Daigyaku Jiken Arubumu", comp. Kotoku

Shusui Zenshu henshu jinkai (1972), pp 130-

10. Kanno Sugako, translated by Y Hashimoto

and published in Libertaire, Vol VI, No. 11

(November 1975) cited in V Garcia and Wat

12. Shiota Shobei and Watanabe Junzo (eds)

op cit, Vol 1, p 126, cited in F Notehelfer, "

13. Shiota Shobei and Watanabe Junzo (eds),

ibid, Vol 1, p126, cited in F Notehelfer, ibid,

14. See "Rebellion and Democracy in Meiji

Rights Movement" by Roger W Bowen.

Japan: A Study of Commoners in the Popular

This article employs the Japanese conven-

tion of putting family names first. Hence

Kotoku and Kanno are family names and

Shusui and Suga (shortened from Sugaka)

are personal names. It is also usual for pe

people to change their names, eg Kotoku's

name is Denjiiro but he changed it to Shu-

from chapter 14 of the "Analects" of Lao

sui, which means 'Autumn floods', taken

"Kotoku Shusui: Portrait of a Japanese Radical"

133. Quoted in S Sievers, op cit p 222.

8. V Garcia and Wat Tyler, op cit p 74.

11. V Garcia and Wat Tyler, ibid p 78.

2. J Crump, "The Origins of Socialist Thought

Immediately carried out a protest campaign,

along with other socialist publications.

scended to mumur apprehensively at the

3. V Garcia and Wat Tyler, op cit, p76.

and the American Connection"

9. S Sievers, op cit p 157.

Tyler, op cit p 76.

not far from the city of Matsumoto on

from renegades but from people hanging around sniping at anarcho-syndicalism in general and the CNT in particular for years, who now prove their anti-anarchism. Footnote: Freedom, which even in its best days post-war days never once allowed references to the Spanish Resistance (though finally Richards did grudgingly concede there may have been 'some sort of resistance'), now publishes a lengthy and inaccurate account of the Phoney's congress, advertises the SIN, and gibes at the IWA as 'CIA' inspired. (Was it so when Rocker wrote its principles, re-published recently by Freedom Press?) It does not fool us that in the same issue it relaxes its twenty year vendetta against the Anarchist Black Cross to lift extracts from Black Flag as if they were submitted to Freedom as reports: these are to give credence to an anti-anarchist paper as

RESEARCH, REVISIONISM OR PENETRATION?

The so-called Salvador Segui Institute (how disgraceful to take the name of a militant whom their funders murdered!) is affiliated to a piece of dead wood called the FICEDL (International Federation of centres of docum entation and research into anarchism). Why the Spanish State should be interested in 'documentation' of anarchist militants is clear; it has a proven record of efficiency in this respect! It is also associated with the Amsterdam Institute of Social History—which seeks the collaboration of anarchist militants into providing historical research into anarchism for their archives, thus enhancing the academic empires of those living upon it with State salaries, but who enforce a security pass control into the actual building, thereby excluding anarchists from

Are librarians necessarily libertarians? Are researchers necessarily revolutionaries? Certainly one needs to use libraries; to pass over information to a State-funded institution

On Nov 28/29 an international meeting was held in Milan to which the Kate Sharpley Library was invited (its delegates walked out after the first day, having traipsed there at their own expense). It was proposed that all research centres, whether voluntary and thus precarious, like the Kate Sharpley Library, or State-funded and thus permanent like Amsterdam, should be federated and, should any close, its documents pass to another. The implications for our security are very clear.

It should be mentioned that the CIRA in Geneva, thought of as an independent anarchist library, is also State aided, while some others are commercial.

Why this interest in grave-robbing? The example of the phoney CNT shows how the State can manipulate the history of a fighting organisation to defeat it by providing an alternative, tame version. The publishing world is also interested in new books and theses and it has (literally!) done Marxism to death. But what it wants are re-written histories by academics, who need the raw material from militants. A bizarre professor is at this moment re-writing the history of the British anarchist movement—while Woodcock has already done it. Sanitised and deodorised, it might make some fresh linen for Dr Owen. The State at the moment has given up only trying to criminalise anarchism; it also wants to go along with those who provide an acceptably bourgeois version.

If you think this is only 'internal squabbling', how would you like to be in the position, not just of the genuine CNT, but of the Vittoria Six of the 'other' CNT?

Vive la difference

Dr Johnson insisted there was no point in disputing the precedence of a flea and a louse and we do not dispute the precedence of trots and maoists but there is a difference, at least out of power. Both are believers in the 'ringer tactic' used by governments agents for espionage and diversion of revolution. Maoism barely exists in this country except for a few freeloaders on Chinese and Albanian trips, but in Europe it pretends to be part of a revolutionary movement and forms a shadow organisation that eventually dwarfs the real thing. Thus an imitation Red Army Faction (so named by the media) has taken over from the original Anarchist and Marxist Red Army Fraction; so the maoists took over the GARI in Spain and the Red Brigades in Italy; so they have taken over the originally Anarchist Action Directe in France. Having taken over the clandestine movement, consciously or otherwise, into service of international nationalism, in the name of antiimperialism but in the cause of rival States, they are permeated by police and agents, and so to defeat.

The trots are milder in their approach, which may be the reason they flourish in

England. Latest manifestation is typical: because of the upsurge in the campaign to fight the Alton Bill (against legalised abortion), the Revolutionary Communist Party, known as the arsy-pee, are using Fight the Alton Bill groups to set up their own little front groups, writes a South London correspondent. Streatham FAB group is a typical set up by RCP members to pick up recruits, and there are a few round Lomdom, which is to * culminate only in a petition to Parliament, ideal for trots to take part in as it changes nothing, but recruits a few members. When they've milked it they will drop it; or perhaps the genuine FAB-ers will drop out when the RCP have taken control.. this is what happened with so many Troops Out movements, anti-fascist organisations and other worthy bodies in the past, once the trots took

WORK CONSCRIPTION The job 'training' scheme

The job training scheme is not a way of helping the unemployed. It is a means of classifying them. The 'unemployed' is not a separate and distinct class with interests different from 'the employed': these are not the 'two nations'. The purpose of dividing is conquering. The working people are made compulsorily to insure against unemployment - when they lose paid work they do not receive a 'dole' but a just entitlement; they are not 'dolies', receiving charity, but insurance beneficiaries. Insurance companies which regarded claimants as suspect scroungers, at best as relying on the charity of insurers, would go out of business or be prosecuted for Moreover, the State organises the economy

so that production is restricted or expanded. If a capitalist State pursues a particular economic (sometimes political) theory, which requires expansion, it has usually imported workers from countries where expansion has been restricted; if the policy requires restriction it closes its doors and shuts down industries. The question of willingness to work or otherwise does not come into it. In total State Socialism unemployment is made illegal. When people are not required to work on one? thing they are put to work on another, whereas with 'private enterprise' this upsets competition; e.g. if a State controlled shipbuilders closed down in Russia. the State would set people to work on on whatever other industry needed hands; in Britain it would be a question of which, if any, firm had the necessary capital to employ them. But those who do not work are still used to contribute to the economic structure of their society because their abundance depresses wages, which in total State socialism is regulated. It is an illusion to suppose either system is either free or equalitarian.

Those deprived of work do not become parasitic since their reduced income is deemed necessary to the maintenance of the whole economic system. Just as those in prison are there to maintain the supposed invulnerability of the State, those in the Labour Exchange queue are not 'kept' by those working: they sacrifice what is rightfully theirs in the interests of the current economic policy being pursued.

All this ought to be obvious, but it isn't. People still think in terms of 'dole' and 'unemployment', which legitimises a false concept, like 'ethnic minority' in another

In April the Job Training Scheme will be compulsory for school leavers below the age of 18, unless they forfeit their 'dole'. In the autumn the community programme will be compulsory for rall other unemployed persons. Another important freedom will be lost—the right to choose one's occupation. The well-to-do will of course stick out for the fancy jobs, even if on leaving school they are not immediately available. Those without parental support will be conscripted for the jobs nobody wants. This will restore an important privilege to the middle-class, for some years subject to competition in areas once its preserve, such as the media.

The main answer to imposed unemployment has been the so-called Black Economy: equated with the black market and scorned, but one way to get away from unemployment and slave labour. It leads to blacklegging and The Lump system in the building trade; to back street sweatshops in the clothing trade—but it wouldn't lead to either if we had a unionised 'Black Economy'! Is this a pipe dream? The reason for exploitation has been the need for clandestinity—if one is not declaring earnings to the tax office, one doesn't want the health or wages officers nosing around either. But unions have to choose the path of clandestinity since the laws make it almost impossible to stage successful strikes otherwise. Those forced into the proposed community

programme have the first opportunity to organise. They do not have to fear the sack. They are already unemployed. They can pioneer a new illegal unionism, which cannot compromise with the bosses because the boss will be the State which does not recognise it.

PAGE 7 BLACK FLAG