for Socialism ocialism

PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST ORGANISATION, BIG FLAME

Bold Sanctions

ens) - where 700 jobs are threatened - are joining Merthreatened - are joining Me seyside Anti-Apartheid in a campaign against planned South African coal imports through Liverpool docks. Recent action by Swansea dockers against S.African coal is raising hopes of an effective blockade. From Sweden to Southampton to San Francisco, transport workers are starting to apply the real sanctions. divisions within Liverpool docks threaten to undermine the possibilities of soli-

BANBURY FUEL SERVICES
In the wake of the 1984 strike against pit closures, the Central Electricity Generating Board decided to increase coal imports. Banbury Fuel Services Ltd., owned by the US mining company Drummond Coal, hatched a plan to build a terminal at the North 2 Gladstone Dock to handle up to 250,000 tons/year of coal from America, Australia, and S. Africa. Opposed by the NUM and questioned by docks clerical staff, the plan gained qualified support from dockers who ve seen their industry demolished by containerisation and the transfer of trade to south coast ports.

Despite a proud record of solidar-

ity with miners, health workers, and on international issues - trade with Chile was sabotaged after the Coup-many dockers felt they couldn't refuse Banbury's. The Times quotes a shop steward saying "We want the snop steward saying "we want the work. If we don't do it someone else will. It's now dog eat dog." But dockers were concerned that Banbury's planned to use their own

men rather than registered dockers. The staffing dispute prevented the first ship in the scheme from unloading last May. Now the company are trying again - with the "Rayna" due to be offloaded on Nov 4. This time the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company plan to use dockers for clerical jobs, provoking a strike threat by clerical staff.

These battles over staffing levels obscure the real issues: will Liverpool port workers join the growing international campaign against collaboration with apartheid, and help save Bold Colliery in the process?

THE SANCTIONS DEBATE Thatcher never stops telling us how sanctions would hurt black South Africans (not that she cares about black unemployment, racist immigration laws or police brutality here). means they'd damage Britain's £11

"Big Flame? I thought it had died." So did lots of people. We survived two splits and now we're back fight two splits and now we're back fighting for our vision of a socialist feminist revolution. This paper, our first since July '83, is the re—launch. We are as aware as you will be that many key issues are hardly touched in this 4 page edition. Some of the articles will be expanded in our next Discussion Bulletin. We welcome Letters aritical and other than the second of the articles will be expanded in our next Discussion Bulletin. We welcome letters, criticism, deba donations. You can even join Big

Contact us at Big Flame, c/o LCI, PO Box 70, Liverpool L69 8BE.

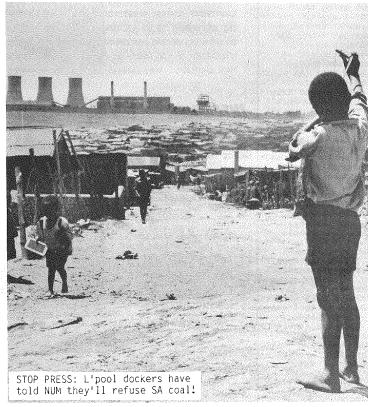


Photo: Peter Magubane.

billion stake in the apartheid eco

But what do black S. Africans think about a trade blockade or disinvestment by multinational companies? The State of Emergency has so far prevented the British NUM from asking the S. African NUM their view of Banbury. But this summer, when Botha threaten-ed to deport all foreign migrant workers in retaliation for possible sanctions, the S. African NUM promisa strike in response. That is, the NUM were and are in favour of sanct-

When the regime prevented the Dunne's strikers (Dublin shopworkers sacked for refusing to handle S. African produce) from entering S. Africa, it was to prevent the women receiving a heroine's welcome.

During the bitter union recognition strike at Sarmcol, owned by UK multi-national BTR, black workers have put forward the slogan "NEGOTIATE OR GET

CAPITAL DIVISIONS

Western capital is now deeply divided over sanctions. BTR backs its S. African chairman, Peter Southerly, who said "The State of Emergency was necessary to bring the situation und-er control" and that "outside pressure" would cause "change to happen too quickly". Thatcher speaks for union-bashers BTR, uranium importers RTZ, oil exporters BP and Shell, arms traders Marconi and Plessey, money lenders Barclays and Hill Samuel,

But the collapse of the Rand, the enormous cost of wars in Namibia and (continued on back page)

Liverpools Many-Headed Monster

The Labour Party is already resounding with accusations about who has betrayed the people of Liverpool. In our people of Liverpool. In our view events reveal the fundamental failing of all wings of the Labour Party, who have used Liverpool to push their own factional interests.
A left council took office on a

manifesto of no cuts in services, redundancies, or massive rate rises to compensate for Tory cuts (the socalled Bottom Line). There was also a committment to council house building and job creation.

The Labour Party made a strong case for extra government money based on disproportionate rate grant reductions (the money stolen by the Tories).

This formed the basis of the campaign. The Council resolved not to implement Tory cuts and so to intro-duce an illegal budget, forcing the Government to cough up all or most of the financial shortfall.

Central to the campaign was the willingness of councillors to follow in the traditions of Poplar and Clay Cross and face personal bankruptcy, disqualification and possible imprisonment (Break the Law, not the Poor).

MILITANT MANOEUVRES

If the Council had kept to its policies it would have deserved the support of all socialists but the reality, despite the rhetoric, has (continued on back page)

Fowler's Workhouse Without Walls

Since the '70s the numbers of unemployed, pensioners, single parents and the low paid have risen until a majority of the working class are now claimants. As such they are increasingly treated as criminals. A pensioner dies of a heart attack when she is threatened with imprisonment for non-payment of rates; a man is jailed for 3 months for not declaring £400 earnings to the DHSS; snoopers, withdrawal of benefit, disconnections and the bailiff are all part of life on low incomes. Yet over the last six years, with barely a murmur of protest, the Tories have slashed £3,000 millions from the Social Security budget. budget.

Now the Fowler reviews propose a fresh onslaught on the rights of claimants to basic necessities. Four ideas underpin the plans:

- Taking from the poor in benefit cuts and giving to the rich in tax cuts.
- Opening up fresh areas of the Welfare State to capitalist investment - e.g. the proposed replacement of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme by private
 - Deepening existing divisions within the working class, not only between waged and wageless, but also between women and men, and young people and their fami-lies. Married women's child benefit would disappear into male wage packets, while single mothers would be hit by the plan to
- replace DHSS grants for clothes. heating, laundry etc. with loans repayable from basic benefits plus advice on how to budget properly! Meanwhile, young peohave long lost the £3.10 household addition when living a at home, are hit by the vicious new board and lodgings regulation if they leave.
- Cutting their living standards to drive the unwaged into any available low-paid, dangerous, non-unionised work: "a workhouse without walls". Attacks on claim-ants are part of the wider strategy of privatisation and the crippling of Trade Unions, designed to produce a working class as weak and profitable as that of South East Asia.

(continued on back page)

SINCE NOVEMBER 1982, women prisoners in Armagh jail have been systematically physically and psychologically tortured by strip searching.

This degrading and humiliating practice, and the constant threat of it, is now being used against two Irish womer held on remand in Brixton prison.

Ella O'Dwyer and Martina Anderson are locked in solitary con-finement for between 18 and 22 hours each day. They are subjected to harassment not only through strip searches but also through body and cell searches. They have been denied proper association time refused access to the toilet and Martina was left for days without medical treatment when suffering from a severe migraine

Martina and Ella are charged with "conspiracy to cause explosions". This is the classic holding charge used by the Home Office when they have no evidence against the people they wish to detain. The two women have been in jail since June this year.

Groups and individuals campaigning on their behalf have been told that their treatment is routine for high security prisoners. This is a lie. Other high security prisoners are not strip searched ten times in 3 days as Martina has been, is addition to 34 body searches in the same period.

The campaign has been successful in publicis-ing what is happening in Brixton. Ella and Martina have slightly more time out of their cells now. (They were previously often locked up for 23 hours a day). But recently the strip searching has

been stepped up.
This particular tactic is being used increasingly against groups of women who are well organised and politically strong. Republican women in the north of Ireland were the first to face regular strip-searching, but since 1982 Greenham women and women supporting the miners strike have also been strip searched. The practice is also being used to ns also being used to humiliate young men at Glenochill prison for young offenders. Prison officers from Holloway have been to Brixton for 'training' in this debumanising torture so dehumanising torture, so we can expect that yet another repressive technique pioneered in Ireland (like plastic bullets, tear gas and riot control) will be increasingly used in England Scotland and Wales.

SYSTEMATIC

It is difficult to realise how awful systematic strip systematic strip searching is, and the constant threat of it held over prisoners is as powerful a torture as the event. One woman

held in Armagh describes her first strip search and her fight against

it:
"I WAS stripped naked to confront me with their control, tenforce on me my own enforce on me my own vulnerability, to degrade me. But they were not going to succeed. I saw my nakedness as an indict ment against them. They thought my womanhood would serve to defeat me. They didn't me. They didn't understand that the strength of ideals cannot be stripped from one's mind. As I felt a hand slowly moving down the calves of my legs, my flesh crawled. They weren't content to jibe at my naked state they had to 'search' me. A skin-search, aye it sounds ridiculous but

it's true.
I was ordered to turn I was ordered to turn round, and I managed to totally ignore that command and the following ones. They could strip me but no way was I going to assist them... I steeled myself again as they searched my hair. It took eight of these screws to be present... I felt present... I felt drained and noticed a tremble in my hands.
I felt violated, invaded, victimised. And

very very angry.
Within the next 48
hours I was strip
searched five times" (Women behind the Wire

Few white British women confront the British state in a direct way, as Repub-lican women do. But when we do, we get the same tactics used against us. As women and as feminists we cannot stand by and do nothing while our government uses blatant sexual harassment against sisters

What you can

* Please protest to the Home Office and Brixton prison governors a) to stop the strip searches for more associa tion time (ie time not locked in the cells) c) against medical neglect of Martina's migraine Home Office (Prison Dept), 89 Eccleston Sq, London SW1 The Board of Governors Brixton Prison, Jebb Ave, London SW2 5XF.

Send cards or letters to Martina Anderson, D25134 Category A, and to Ella O'Dwyer, D25135 Category A. Both at Brixton Prison, Jebb Ave PO Box 369, London SW2 PO E

Strip Searches 44 A NATION THE A STATE CRIME A STATE CRIME A STATE CRIME A STATE CRIME ANOTHER G

WHEN THE TRIAL OF MAIRE O'SHEA AND OTHERS OPENS IN MANCHESTER NEXT JANURAY IT WILL MARK THE PASSING OF A WHOLE YEAR OF STATE HARASSMENT AGAINST A SECTION OF THE IRISH COMMUNITY IN BRITAIN. THE HARASSMENT IS NO ACCIDENT- IT FOLLOWS FROM THE USE OF FORCE TO SUPPRESS SOCIAL DISCONTENT. VICTIMS OF IMPERIALISM IN SOWETO HANDSWORTH OR THE NORTH OF IRELAND WILL BE LOOKING FOR SOLIDARITY FROM THE LEFT. YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE MAURE O'SHEA DEFENCE COMMITTEE IS URGENTLY NEEDED: Contact 448 Stratford Rd, B'ham, Bll 4AE.

INTERUIEW

BIG FLAME ASKED MAIRE HER VIEWS IN THE INTERVIEW WHICH FOLLWS

WHAT EFFECT HAS YOUR ARREST HAD ON THE IRISH COMMUNITY ?

The reaction is low key- in Sparkhill in shops or at the launderette people would ask "What's happening?"- and they are angry that I lost my job and that no one will be doing the psychotherapy work I was doing. But often they won't sign petitions in case their names and addresses are put down on the Police Computer, and they would get arrested. They give money but they won't give their names.

IS THIS TRUE EVERYWHERE ?

Yes-especially in the Trish Community because they are aware of thingsand are more vulnerable. On the other hand people in more mixed areas are more exposed. Birmingham is still a special case be-cause the Press still whips up anger at the Pub Bombings.

The Irish in Britain Representation Group (IBRG) has the aim of organising the Irish Community to use its strength to combat racism against the Irish and to fight repressionof the Irish in occupied Ireland- and in Britain. It was set up affer the Hunger Strikes out of shame that no Irish organisation had protested at the Hunger Strikers deaths. It is for a withdrawal from Ireland

HOW DO YOU .SEE THINGS AT PRESENT FOR THE I.B.R.G. ?

It's a testing time for the IERG- since Christmas 1984 some IERG members have been arrested and if it retreats and condemns violence (which to people here means the IRA) and if it doesn't strongly defend the people who are charged then people won't stand up and express their political views. If it is going to get anywhere it must make a bid for people's



support by its campaigning. It would collapse if it does not take action on what's happening now.

HOW STRONG IS THE IDENTITY OF THE IRISH IN BRITAIN ?

The first generation came in the mass emigrations of the 50's at a time of dis-illusionment when the Irish Government had failed to provide them with a livelihood and had reneged on the nationalist people in the six counties. Many could see a future only in assimilating. The majority of the commun-ity now are second generatity now are second generat-ion. Many of the firstgener-ation have died or gone back to Ireland. In the 60's emigration reduced to a tr trickle. going on observa-tion family circumstances largely determine how far the second generation have maintained their Irish Identity. Some Irish parents married to english partners have kept a low profile and have refrained from passing on their Irish cultural and political heritage. Others have had a lot to offer to their kids if they go on holiday. Some are ashamed to see their relations if they haven't "made it". Some feel alienated by the present generation in Irel-and -who think they have rejected Treland by leaving and forget there was no

other choice.

Many have found no excitement in the life of the
Irish Community which has centered on Irish Pubs, Clubs and the Catholic Church

Irish Teachers in Catholic schools don't teach Irish language or Irish History, all history is from an english viewpoint. If you attack the church then you can end up feeding the prejudices of english people who see the Irish as beingdominated by the catholic Church. It must be pointed out that british colonialism is responsible for the persistant attachment of the Irish People to the Church., and the association of religion with Irish national Identity.



DROP **Against** Máire 0'Shea

they couldn't be marked out by black skins.

During the dark centuries of penal laws against the the Irish and the catholic Church, the people sheltered the priests and were comforted by them with the assurance that they'd be alright in the next world.

The british bought the alliegance of the church by setting up and giving subsidies to the Theological College at Maynooth in ret-urn for clerical condemnation of militant political movements. The pope condemned the Land League. Several bishops excommunicated the IRA in the Tan War. Rigid sexual morality goes back to Maynooth to French Jansenist Professorswho said sex was The british persecuted the allowable only for procrea-native Irish as catholics as tion and instilled massive

ENSLAVES



sexual quilt. A lot of priests used to go out hunting courting couples and banned dancing in country houses. WHEN DID THIS CHANGE?

After Internment and Bloody Suhday there was a resurgence of Irish national feeling and cultural iden tity. Some who had lost their identity then saw their Trishness as some thing to cling to. The Trish government should take responsibility for the emigrants here. The IBRG has asked for subsidies for Irish cultural activities. The Irish Government should make demands that anti-Trish racism

should be banned. First and foremost British repression in the 6 Counties and its spin offs in Britain should end. The irish embassy should end its "special relationship" with the UK Government. It should demand the abolition of the PTA and of conspiracy laws . It should demand that it is informed of arrests. It should arrange for legal representation her for its citizens as it does for example in West Germany.

WHAT FORM DOES RACISM TAKE AGAINST IRISH PEOPLE ?

In the 50's there were still some signs saying: "No Irish need apply". That overt racism disappeared but it was still latent...it was replaced by racism against black and asian people. When the war in the Six Counties restarted it came back- both in the media and in goods in shops (anti-Irish mugs).It has been fought with some sucess by the IBRG, with the help of the GIC, which withdrew its advertising from the Evening Standard in protest against an anti-T Irish cartoon. I think its recurrencecoinciding with the war in the Six Counties underlines the colonial b basis of racism. The colon-ising power has to show that the natives are stupid, lazy and ignorant in order to justify the "need" to "civilise"them . That's some thing black people don't seem to accept- they see racism as colour prejudice. rather than as colonialism.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE WAY FORWARD NOW

The Irish Community in britain- being the largest ethnic minority- has the por ential to use its strength to force britain to with-draw from Ireland. The IBRG is the first organisation that has the aim of organising that strength both to and british repression in the six counties and to fight for meeting itsspecial social needs and for its civil rights.

Charging some of its members withterrorist offences is an attempt to discredit i legitimate Irish Organisation.

Trade Unionists still a allow loyalist dominated trade unions in the Six Counties to operate a veto on the discussion of the Irish case within the Trade Union Movement in Britain. Trade Unionists committed to Irish Independence must org-anise like those in ASIMS to expose the lovalist veto and to open up discussion. Now that the law, the pol-ice and Military forces are being used openlyagainst british trade unionists, it is possible to get brit-ish trade unionists to understand the motivation of british forces in Ireland, its motivation to maintain british occupation of a part of Ireland as a bargaining counter to bring the whole of Ireland into NATO.

There's been very limited success in the labour party, and I have no illusions. The Labour Party must make a definate committmentto withdraw at an early date. The struggle in Ireland will win it in the long run, but a decision by the british to withdraw would spare the people of the Six Counties many years of bloody oppr-

On paper the Labour Party s "against" the PTA- but only 30 MPs voted against there was no three line whip, and the other MPs didn't bother to turn up.

It was even worse with the Emergency Powers Act. Labour's committment in the Ireland Act, 1949 to support the veto of the loyalist minority on Irish Unity, which it still maintains, has lost Labour the support of many in the Irish Community.

O'SHEA INNOCENT



ONSPIRA

Whose Conspiracy ?
WHEN THE TRIAL OF Patrick Brazil, William Grimes, Peter Jordan, Peter Lynch and Maire O'Shea begins on Jan 14th, the State will be using a tradition-

on Jan 14th, the State will be using a traditional legal weapon: conspiracy.

NUM members, the Newham 7, Bradford 12, and Welsh Republican Socialist Movement have all been recent targets, but the history ranges back through the Chartists and Tolpuddle Martyrs to Guy Fawkes and beyond. Conspiracy is nearly as old as the British intervention in Ireland.

The current trial involves a charge of

old as the British intervention in iterand.

The current trial involves a charge of
"conspiracy to cause an explosion". The fact that
there wasn't any explosion is irrelevant.

A 'conspiracy' is simply an agreement to break
a law. And the State is far more worried that

SKILL

people might agree to break laws than about law-breaking itself. Conspiracy charges carry poten-tial life sentences. But proving that a group of people have agreed to do something takes skill. Phone-tapping, opening mail, and surveillance come in handy. Some of the accused may confess,

come in handy. Some of the accused may confess, but their statements can not be used as evidence against co-defendants. There could be a police agent who claims to know about an agreement, but then perhaps the police can be accused of setting up the 'conspiracy' themselves.

These knotty problems have led the Judges - who make the rules in conspiracy trials - to simplify the game. The prosecution merely has to show that the 'conspirators' acted - went to pubs, made phone calls, spoke at meetings, saw other 'conspirators'... - and then claim that these acts only 'make sense' in terms of a plan of action. To set the scene, the State can point to the defendants' political views - including the books they read! (Be sure to burn this BF before your trial!).

before your trial!).

And so it is suddenly relevant that some of the defendants know each other or belong to the same organisations. But even if they don't know each other, they can still be part of a conspiracy. Anyone can go to gaol for life.

This farce is deadly serious.

In the current case, four of the five defend-

Fantasy

ants will have spent over a year in prison before the trial opens. They were arrested under a mod-ern political wapon - the Prevention of ern political weapon - the Prevention of Terrorism Act. As propaganda, Conspiracy and the PTA employ the same fantasy. The problems of society are caused by a tiny minority of politically motivated terrorists who conspire to overthrow our democratic society for their own ends. To save ourselves, we must allow the State to go beyond the normal democratic framework.

 $\cdot\cdot\cdot \text{This}$ story line is dusted down to explain anything from the war in Ireland to the resistance of black people in Brixton and Tottenham.

But while conspiracy laws aim at punishing activists, the PTA aims to intimidate the public - particularly the Irish community - into political apathy and silence, and to enable masses of low-level information to be collected from thousands of intercentions from thousands of interrogations.
Around 40,000 are detained and 'checked'

under the PTA every year, mainly while travelling between the British mainland and Ireland. Over 6000 have been arrested under the Act since 1974.

TERROR

But only 2% of these were charged under the PTA, while 5% faced other charges. Nearly 300 people have been 'excluded' from Britain under the terms of the PTA.

Being arrested under the PTA is terrifying.

"I heard footsteps and by the time I got out of my bedroom, my flat door was down, an SPG man was up the stairs and had a gun trained at my head. Another one trained a gun at my brother's head when he came out of his bedroom. We were then pushed back into our bedrooms and guite forcibly frisked." (Frank Murphy, quoted in TOM pamphlet)

PTA suspects can be held up to 48 hours but the Home Secretary can extend this to 7 days.

Last Xmas, a man spent five days in the Liverpool Bridewell before his wife was able to discover the fact - despite persistant enquiries. The police can refuse a private visit with a solicitor, in "exceptional" PTA cases, and can delay any legal visit for 48 hours.

It doesn't take much imagination to see how intense interrogation of people with no access

intense interrogation of people with no access to a solicitor can produce just the sort of 'information' to make a good conspiracy trial.

IF YOU KNOW of anyone being held under the PTA, contact the Troops Out Movement (01-250-1293), Release (01-603-8654), the NCCL (01-403-3888) or a sympathetic lawyer.

Liverpool

been very different.

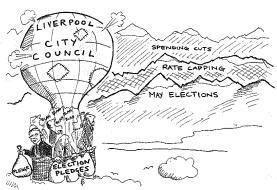
The question of what to do when the crunch came was glossed over. In particular, what to do if as seems likely

What to do ir as seems likely the money slowly runs out. We argued at the outset that this vagueness indicated that the Council planned to go to the brink but not over it. If not, there was an appalling bound to lack of preparation, bou lead to political chaos.

DAMP SQUIB LAST YEAR

DAMP SQUIB LAST YEAR
Last year's campaign ended in
a deal between the Council and
Jenkins. The Council gave a
little, the Government perhaps
more. But not for the only
time, Militant showed us their
grasp of theatre by immediately claiming a great victory.
In fact the Government had
probably gained most, clearing
the decks to take on the miners and avoiding a second
front at a low cost. The Council's glating is particularly
sickening in these circumstances. The crowing about digging
graves for Tory Ministers also
guaranteed that nothing short
of a massive campaign would
budge the Tories this year.

SETTING THIS YEAR'S RATE This year's campaign began with the national campaign



around the "no rate" policy. In Liverpool there was little hard campaigning and nowhere near the previous year's enth-siasm. Liverpool rightly expected the other councils to fold, leaving them with the laurels for militancy. However, events got out of control: Lambeth continued to hold out while the District Auditor threatened an unexpected surcharge for the delay in setting a rate. Liverpool responded by running for the cover of legality.

Hoping to set a 20% rate but needing somebody to take the blame they asked the unions to call an all out strike. The unions recognised there was no focus for such a strike, and stated that either the Council should stick to their policy or should come clean. Afraid of the political consequences, the Council went for 9% and appar-ent illegality. illegality

LABOUR CUTS 9% meant they would run out of money unless they borrowed or

made cuts, so the Council went for both. Over the past months we have witnessed substantial we have witnessed substantial cuts in all services. Millitant argues, misleadingly, that these are Tory cuts. They were introduced by a Labour Council to get them further through the to get them further year and stay legal.

THE REDUNDANCY NOTICES
Even so, by September the Council had trouble raising necessary loans. In order to reassure the lenders, redundancy notices were issued: not only outs to fight cuts but redundancies to fight redundancies.

The council claimed that this was just a tactic (promising the workers would get their jobs back in April) but again there was no forethought: if the commissioners came in to run the city, the redundancy notices would already have done their job.

When the workforce resisted the Council called for an all out strike. We supported this call but it is increasingly difficult to oppose the view that a strike is just another means of saving money. But the strike vote was lost and the redundancies made Council policy.

KINNOCK COUNTER ATTACKS This mess allowed the Labour and Trade Union leaderships

step in. At Labour's conference Kinnock matched Militant's rhetoric and theatre, disguising his desire for power as reason and commonsense. His condemnation of all forms of illegality was echoed by other local Council lefts like Blunkett and Livingstone, now given credibility having earlier wriggled out of the struggle. Meanwhile, trades union leaders have reasserted their control over the rank and file.

The responsibility is clear the Labour Party in all its guises, Left or Right, Revolutionary or Reformist, have all sacrificed their ideals at the altar of legality.

There will be more theatre, but in the end a compromise will be hatched and 'unity' preserved on the basis of the various initiatives, almost certainly involving cuts.

We have consistently argued

We have consistently argued that the correct policy was to move quickly into complete illegality and rask bankruptcy. Any delays or compromises have already weakened the campaign. It is essential that all local trades unions regroup on a rank and file basis to continue to fight the cuts and reduncles, wheever proposes them, relying on themselves and not on any section of the Labour Party.

BOB DANTON

Silentnightmare

Workers at Silentnight's Barnoldswick and Sutton bedd-ing factories in East Lanca-shire have been on strike since loth June. 8 weeks after accepting a delayed pay rise in return for no redundancies, 52 redundancies were posted. Then workers demanded their

accepting a delayed pay rise in return for no redundancies, 52 redundancies were posted. Then workers demanded their nationally agreed £5.25 pay rise but were offered around 30p pw. A go-slow resulted in the immediate suspension of 200 workers and the start of the 500 strong strike. On 22nd July, Silentnight Chairman Tom Clarke OBE - earlier dubbed Mr. Wonderful by Margaret Thatcher - sacked all the strikers, refusing once again to go to ACAS.

According to Barnoldswick convenor, Charlie Gee, things were very hard at first. On £20 pw strike pay, people soon had debts of £1000. But with resolve actually strengthened by the dismissals, organisation improved. The turning point came with TUC conference backing, followed by the Labour Party in Bournmouth and a ½ hour slot on Channel 4. "Confidence comes from the heart," One striker told us, and money has been collected at factory meetings and on streets nationwide. Silentnight goods have been stopped at the docks in Hull, and picket lines have been joined by Miners Support Groups, local bus drivers and Labour Parties. Silentnight limps on with office workers and 200 locally recruited scabs supplied by a handful of scab drivers.

"NEVER AGAIN"

"NEVER AGAIN" "NEVER AGAIN"
Self-made millionaire Clarke's company used to be a reasonable place with a long serving 'moderate' workfoce. "When I left school it was the best paid employment round here," said one. But now, another complained, "It's a sweat-shop." In 1979 pay was just above the national average: now it's £30 below. By '83, workers had formed an FTAT branch. In Feb '84 with 95% membership they won a 2½ week

membership they won a 2½ week wage strike.
After 4½ months on strike, workers who voted Tory and supported their employment legislation say "never again". "They've got the working class stitched up," one said. "We're not only fighting the management, we're fighting the management, "So far the strike has obeyed the law but as another puts it, "You don't get any more respect for not breaking the law than for keeping it."

BIG TIME ROGUE BIG TIME ROGGE
So far the dispute has cost
Silentnight fil million. With
f5 million profits last year
and a divident of £640,000,
the company is no small time
'rogue' employer. Silentnight
dominates the Bedding Federa-

dominates the Bedding receration.

The strike was deliberately
provoked and as one striker
told us, "Lots of companies
across the country are looking out for the result of
this. Sacking strikers is a
precedent." The Strike Committee is asking for solidarity:

- Donations to the strike

- fund.

 Refuse to handle all
 Silentnight goods.
 Support on picket lines.
 Backing for the Barnoldswick Rally: 10:30 am, Nov
 30th, Victory Park.

FTAT Strike Committee, c/o Weavers Hall, 9 Frank St., Barnoldswick, Lancs. 0282 - 816709.

BILL GEMMELL MANCHESTER BF

Sanctions

Angola while police and troops operate in the black townships, the over-the-odds price of buying oil or making it from coal, and the collapse of business confidence in Bothal's strategy have led many US banks and multinationals to withdraw credit and begin disinvestment. The US Senate is now speaking for those who think that multiracial capitalism could be more profitable than crisis-ridden apartheid, and Reagan, despite his own obsession with Botha as a bulwark against communism, has had to bend. bend.

POLITICAL ARGUMENTS
There is also a growing political argument for sanctions tical argument for sanctions by Western governments. They want to send a "signal" to the regime: negotiate with black leaders, including Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo, before a revolution breaks out. They are afraid that the township youth, the growing independent trade union movement, and the next generation of ANC leadership may go beyond the 'acceptable' demand for ending apartheid. They may go for socialist revolution! Kinnock, Kennedy, and the Guardian are equally frightened by this possibility.

WORKERS' SANCTIONS WORKERS' SANCTIONS
We see sanctions - whether consumer boycotts, refusal to
handle S. African goods, sabotage of exports, or actions
against companies doing business with apartheid - as
solidarity with the South Afrlan resultion - whether con-

ness with apartheid - as solidarity with the South African revolution. And on a world scale, workers are starting to impose sanctions that count. In Nov. '84, after the two day politi-

and Trade Union leaderships to cal general strike in the Transvaal involving l million workers and school students, San Francisco dock clerks alerted the longshoremen (dockers) to an incoming shipment of S. African goods, including steel. On the night shift, a black winch driver spotted the steel and told his mates, who walked off and stayed out 11 days despite intense pressure from courts and union bureaucrats. They were fully backed by their local union, which now forms the core of the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement. No shipping company has come back with S. African goods since the strike.

In August, Southampton dockers, NUS, and customs officers

ers, NUS, and customs officers stopped the export of a mill-ing machine to ARMSCOR - the S. African Defense Force pro-

curement agency.
In Sweden, transport workers

are currently stopping all
S. African trade. The debate
is whether the ban should last
2 months, 4 months, or until
apartheid crumbles!
In late October, South Wales
NUM and Swansea dockers teamed
up to stop a shipment of S. African coal. The ship turned
back. Next day, the "Maritime
Unions Against Apartheid"
world conference on the oil
embargo - called by NUS, T&G,
Australian and Danish seafarers' unions - resolved that
any companies sending oil to
S. Africa should find their
ships liable to industrial
action.
We cope that Liverpool dock-

ction. We hope that Liverpool dock-cs will bear these examples n mind when considering bold sanctions against Banbury Fuel Services.

BARRY FURNESS LIVERPOOL BF



Peace women being helped with their enquiries into why Namibian uranium will be used at BNFL Capenhurst to make fuel for Trident. One year later, Thatcher's televised whistle-stop bour ignored the issue. If you want to know more, contact the Campaign Against the Namibian Uranium Contracts, PO Box 16, London NWS. Tel 01 267 1941.

Claimants

Many individual claimants resist these attacks by breaking the law: bypassing electricity meters, shop-lifting, 'working on the side', maintaining two tenancies to avoid the DHSS cohabitation rules,

others take collective act

others take collective action in claimants unions, unemployed workers groups, or campaigns such as the National Campaign Against Social Security Cuts. Pensioners, with their experience of similar struggles in the '30s, are often best organised, retaining their links with the Labour Movement.

As DHSS workers have come under attack themselves, rank and file members of CPS and SCPS have looked for alliances with claimants, for instance in fighting the Specialist Claims Control Units ("Supersnoopers"). In Manchester whole offices have struck and estates been leafletted doorto-door, warning about the Snoopers. Elsewhere their names and car numbers have been given to claimants groups. DHSS workers are in a position to do much more, such as refus-ing to cooperate with Social Security reorganisation plans, or ignoring suspicions of

Fight

claimants working illegally.

ADVICE WORKERS ADVICE WORKERS While claimants are able to organise successfully, as in the protests against the board and lodgings regulations, they remain relatively powerless. One consequence is the prominence in these campaigns of paid advice workers. While they can often postpone disconnections or get DHSS decisions altered, there are dangers in pursuing individual over collective responses. As fast as loopholes are found in regulations, the State moves to close them. And whether by scrapping additional payments and tribunals or by abolishing the Met Counties who fund advice work, the Tories are set to abolish the whole welfare rights industry. claimants are able to

NEW CLASS NEW CLASS
The key to the problem ought to be an alliance between waged and unwaged workers, recognising, for instance, that Family Income Supplement is used to subsidise and trap workers in low wages, that women with unemployed husbands on supplementary benefit are enticed into poorly paid, part time work, or that today's workers are tomorrow's pensioners. But from the Labour Party leadership, which initiated the cuts in office, there is merely talk of a campaign leading up to the next election. The Liberals make the same noises. What's needed are campaigns now to halt the Tory plans in their tracks. Meanwhile the Labour left seems locked into an old workplace definition of the class.

seems locked into an old workplace definition of the class.

A worker in the '80s and '90s is as likely to be unemployed, part-time, a home worker, or on a short term contract as a full-timer, spending as much time at home as in a factory or office. It is in the community as well as the workplace that workers struggles must be fought, demanding, for instance, £100 pw for everyone, in and out of work.

Only recently has the T&G woken up to the changed composition of the class and begun to actively recruit part-time workers. Recruitment of the unemployed is partial and resisted by most other unions who fail to see that an attack on the wageless is also an attack on the waged.

ROSER RESISTANCE (GLASGOW BF.

ROGER RESISTANCE (GLASGOW BÉ) ALAN HODGES (BRISTOL BE)



BIG FLAME is a socialist organisation that believes that the and of war, unemployment, poretty, sexual and readi oppression and the creation of a free, equal and the creation of a free, equal and the creation of a free, equal as the control of th

PREFIGURING STRUGGLES
Whilst revolution is a necessity,
we involve ourselves in struggles
for immediate reforms, both because they improve people's lives
now and because winning gains
through struggle can build peo-

ple's power, self confidence, and understanding. Further we must get some glimpse, right now, of the socialist alternative, the new forms of all social relations that we are struggling for.

forms of all social relations that we are struggling for.

AGAINST ALL OPPRESSIONS In particular we'd emphasise that women's and gay liberation are an essential part of the strug-riarchal organisation of society of the strug-riarchal organisation of society of the strug-riarchal organisation of society of the strugtent of the s

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

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ORGANISATION NEEDED
BIO FLAME believes that the
overthrow of capitalism requires
the existence of collectively organised revolutionary socialist
party(s) working alongide and
within mass organisations of the
class and of the autonomous
movements. Mo organisation in
organisation and
class to call itself such a party, if
has to be built out of activity in
struggle and thousands of indepinendent socialist and fermins intellated
intelligence of the condition of the recognition of its necessity.

Contact BIG FLAME c/o LCI, PO Box 70, Liverpool L69 8BE