

# Red Action

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## THREE MILLION REASONS WHY!

THE THREE MILLION on Britain's dole queues say more than any political speeches about this country, and what its really about in 1982.

Britain's 'green and pleasant land' turns out to be a place where you can be thrown on the scrapheap after years of work, and 16 year olds go straight from school to dole queue.

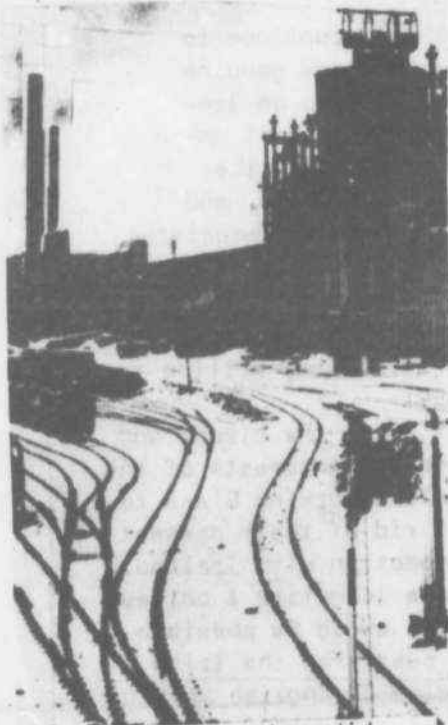
Yet Britain is said to be a democracy. But did you vote for three million jobless? Did you vote for hospital closures while billions are wasted on arms.

It is true that we can elect our politicians, but they can't decide anything that goes radically against the interests of big business.

The people who really run this country are the people who own it. Just 7% of the people own 84% of all wealth.

They tell the politicians what to do, and they own the press and TV too.

But today, the system needs unemployment. The bosses want to make the workers so scared of the dole that they won't demand higher wages - So the bosses can make even more profit.



And because they did not invest in industry, many factories are out of date and old fashioned.

Yet workers are attacked in the Tory press when they try and defend their living standards.

But most workers are worried by the sack, and of course, people straight from school are not even in unions.

In this situation, you can only rely on yourselves. The leaders of Britain's unions have

sold out strike after strike.

The system actually needs unemployment, so it is only going to provide jobs if it is forced to.

Thatcher isn't the real enemy - she only does what she's told by big business - and if Labour came to power, they wouldn't be much better.

If people want jobs, they are going to have to fight for them! If the boss wants to close the factory, then it must be occupied to stop them moving goods and parts out.

For people already on the dole, things are even worse. That's why there were riots in so many places last year.

And there will be more riots this year, as the dole queues lengthen, and more people get fed up with being picked on by the police.

So come July or August, and you watch the flames of Liverpool or Brixton light up the night sky, you will be able to tell anyone who asks you - THERE'S THREE MILLION REASONS WHY!

### Why Red Action?

WHO are or what is Red Action? With the seemingly endless number of different left-wing groups, who seem to many people to have very little difference between them, what possible reason can there be for yet another?

Firstly, when Red Action was formed late in 1981, we had no choice but to organise ourselves as some of us had been kicked out of the SWP.

The reasons given for our expulsions were many and varied, and often ridiculous, but the enactment was always the same; the intellectual mostly middle-class, ex-student leadership showed their distaste for the raucous manners of their working-class membership.

We are proud of the image of being able to back up our words with actions, but we have been accused of being no better than the fascists, a squad of "macho boot-boys". This is particularly insulting to

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### ISLINGTON-The tip of the iceberg!

FOR years Chapel Market in Islington has been a thriving market that attracts people from all over the borough. Unfortunately, it has also been getting the attention of Nazis.

They see the mainly white population as a good breeding ground for their politics.

They attack, bad housing, unemployment and other problems, and blame them on multinationals, bankers and bosses. But what they really mean is the Jews.

They use the same methods as Hitler's Nazis.

Yet some suggest that we ignore them and hope they'll go away, but history shows that this isn't so.

Both Red Action and the Anti Nazi League in Islington say "do not ignore them - fight them whenever and wherever they raise their heads!"

Some say we are waging a campaign that is narrow and self defeating, that by concentrating on fighting the front, we are not involving the workers movement.

This is not so. Nazis need to control the streets. If they can do this they can not only influence people faced

with mass unemployment, but they can attack ethnic minorities and create a nest of racial tension that can tear a community to pieces.

In Islington, we won't let the Nazis control our streets. No public opposition would mean that people would be afraid to challenge the fascists in the schools, the estates or the workplaces.

The ANL successes of 1978 well and truly routed the NF. But they came back as soon as they thought the time was right, and you couldn't find a better time than now.

The result was many violent attacks, and the

NF stopped trying to be a respectable political party, and instead resorted to violence and terrorism.

But the ANL didn't give in. Many local workers have started to support us, and the Nazis get less and less people each week. Once they used to get 50 Nazis - now they are lucky to get a dozen.

More important the people of Islington have turned against them. Their paper sales are one or two a week, a NF candidate got only 50 votes in an election, and their violence has horrified people.

This would never have happened if we hadn't fought them, and provided a focus for others who wanted to fight, in a key part of the class struggle.



# IRELAND

THE RIGHT to self-determination for Ireland is a central issue for British workers. Trade-Unionism, wage militancy, anti-toryism are all essential ways of winning workers to socialism. But until British workers come to terms with their countries imperialist past, and today that means Ireland, their anger and militancy will be open to being channeled up the blind alley of reformism and nationalism. Right across the spectrum from the National Front 'British Jobs for British Workers' to Tony Benn's call for import controls to save British Industry. Ireland really shows which side of the political fence, people are really on. Those who support armed liberation struggles in El Salvador, Zimbabwe, Vietnam and Angola fall strangely silent when the war is on their own doorstep and the guerrilla movement is fighting their own master, the British ruling class. Labour MP's sing the red flag and talk of socialism, and attack Thatcher as a vicious reactionary, then salute and applaud her when she murders Republicans and Socialists in Ireland. The Communist Party never challenge or criticise England's bloody role in Ireland. To admit that the British Ruling Class will resort, in the final

analysis, to murder and repression, in order to defend its class interests, would call into question their whole strategy of Parliamentary reformism. Instead they call for a bill of rights, "The Better life for all Campaign", guaranteed by the Government. The equivalent of putting Ian Paisley in charge of a Convent!



British workers must come to terms with Britain's occupation of part of Ireland. Before that can happen, the groups which claim to be the vanguard of the Working Class, must decide which side of the fence they are on. Even the S.W.P. spend more time criticising the liberation struggle than supporting it. Their abandoning of the Troops Out Movement is an act of stupid sectarianism by the

Party leadership, yet not a whimper is raised by the Rank and File.

The expulsion of Working Class militants, has frightened any group in the Party opposed to the leadership, lest they receive a dose of the same medicine.

Red Action made its first political intervention on the Bloody Sunday demos in Hackney and Birmingham.

We will continue to support any genuine initiatives on Ireland. We support unconditionally the Irish struggle, and call for the immediate withdrawal of British Troops.

We'll leave the last word to Karl Marx, writing in 1869:

"It is in the direct and absolute interests of the English Working Class to get rid of their present connection with Ireland. For a long time I believed it would be possible to overthrow the Irish regime by English Working Class ascendancy. Deep study has now convinced me of the opposite. The English Working Class will never achieve anything until it has got rid of Ireland....English reaction in England has its roots ...in the subjugation of Ireland."

You hit the nail right on the head, Karl, mate!

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the courage and commitment of the women in the group.

We believe that we can justify our existence to the most critical and cynical audience of all - the working class. At the moment, the workers of this country have no real spiritual empathy with any far left organisation. The experience of Red Action members while in these organisations has proved to us that the leadership have no real intention of changing this situation.

We believe that socialism belongs to the working class and that any true socialist organisation, must be able to give a lead to the class, but it must also be able to reflect the spirit and consciousness of the class.

Red Action seeks to become an organisation in that image. To win the trust and respect of ordinary, working class people by proving its consistency and dedication in action.

We do not seek to imitate the traditional left, we seek to work in areas that they neglect. We will be attempting to present socialist politics in away that identifies with working class people in their life, their work and their leisure.

We will continue to physically defend socialist initiatives from fascist disruption and attack, and we will support, where we can, the struggle for Irish liberation.

We do not attempt to romanticise or underestimate the task we are undertaking, but we believe we can take the first steps towards creating a real workers organisation.

We have few members, no financial backing and no resources. We do have the total dedication and commitment of all our members. If you agree with, or have sympathy with us, please support us - by joining us, contributing financially or supporting our activities.

## What's Fare ?

Judges are rich, old men who make far-reaching decisions. Once they set a "precedent" as to how a crime should be dealt with, other judges and magistrates have to follow their example as to how that law is "interpreted". Judges "interpret" the law; and decide what THEY think it means.

What are judges like? They are men for a start. There are very few women in the legal profession as a whole, and even fewer women judges. Judges are old men - they have to have been barristers for a long time before they are promoted to judge. And they are rich - they receive the highest

salaries of all civil servants.

A judge has no idea what it is like to have to get home on public transport, on your own, late at night. A judge has no idea what it is like to live on Social Security. A judge has no idea what it is like to do a full days work and then go home to cook and clean and care for the kids.

When the GLC - an elected council - decided to lower fares on public transport in London, and subsidise the cost from the rates (so that working people in London pay for it anyway), a Judge, Lord Denning, ruled that it was illegal by HIS interpretation of the law.

Another decision by a judge has hit the headlines in the last few weeks. He decided

that a rapist should not be jailed, but should be fined £2,000, because the woman he raped was hitch-hiking, and this - according to the rich chauffeur driven judge - meant she was partly to blame for the rape!

First of all they refuse to allow cheap fares - and then they say that women who hitch-hike are asking for trouble! What they are saying is that poor people should not travel and that poor women deserve whatever violent abuse they get if they do.

Judges are powerful enough to make decisions about the way working class people - particularly working class women - should live. It is not just the judges who've got to go - it is the system which gives them their power.

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