ISSUE NO. 18 JUNE

O SPITEFUL

The Tories are very fond of telling people that they are a caring Government. They are a Government that believes in freedom, in setting people free from the unwanted interference of the state into their affairs. In cutting back on wasteful and unecessary Government spending, thus reducing the amount that they have to raise in taxes and freeing people from the burden of high taxation. However, over the last six years, a growing number of people have been finding out for themselves exactly how caring this Government is. They have been finding out exactly how much freedom, Government

Those years have been a succession of penny pinching and spiteful measures by the Government which while raising very little in terms of overall Government income, will have placed heavy burdens in those sections of society, which are the least well placed to cope with them

Measures such as the abolition of earnings related benefit for the unemployed which by its very nature hits out at the lowest income bracket. Then they decided to tax the dole and so hit the very same people again. These are just a couple of many measures that have been specifically aimed at the most vulnerable members of society.

Now however, they have come up with one which for its callous lack of any sympathy or regard for the plight of one of the worst placed groups in our society, must rank as one of the most cruel vindictive measures applied by any Government this century.

MOVE

It is the recent change to the supplementary benefit system, whereby, a person under theage of twenty six who lives in bed and breakfast accommodation, can only receive benefit for a certain period of time in one area, after which they have to move to another area before they can claim benefit again. The period of time for which they can receive benefit varies in different areas, from eight weeks in a city area, right down to as little as a fortnight incoastal areas

The implications of this for young people without a permanent address are quite staggering. Because single persons council accommodation, is so difficult to obtain—between five and twenty five years according to which part of the country you are inmany people, bed and breakfast accommodation is the only alternative to the streets.

Now, if you are one of these people and you are unemployed, and if you happen to be under twenty six you are now forced every few weeks to uproot yourself and move to another area, just so that you can get your dole. Apart from the massive inconvenience of having to move, you have now of made yourself homeless again. But because supplementary benefit is not paid to people without an address you cannot make a new claim until you have found somewhere to live. But how can you find somewhere to live

COST

For anyone that has ever claimed supplementary benefit and has experienced the time and aggravation that it can take, just try and imagine trying to do it in a new area which may be totally strange to you, whilst trying to find somewhere to live, and all on last weeks dole check

It is in a word, IMPOSSIBLE. The reason that the Government have given for implementing this measure, is that there are too many young people leaving home to live in bed and breakfast accommodation, who could still be living at home with their parents. This

spending cuts is giving them. costs more because people who live in rented accommodation receive their rent on top of their flat rate benefit. Those that live with their parents receive just the flat rate of subsistence level (the Government assuming that there parents will be willing to support them).

NOWHERE

Now of course there are some kids that leave home for no real other reason, than they want a bit of adventure, and who's parents would be happy to see them home, and no doubt now they very soon will be. But what about the thousands of kids that don't have any home to return to. Orphan kids, kids from broken homes, kids who's parents won't take them back. All of the many young people who just quite simply, for whatever reason DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO GO.

They are being turned into modern urban nomads, being forced to drift from area to area, just to try and get enough to put some food in their mouth, and a roof over their head. This is not an exageration. We are not in the habit of using exageration or hysteria in this paper. It is nothing less that a step back to the days of the poor laws in the last century When the poor and destitute would receive only so much assistance in one area before they had to tramp off to another parish.

Many of the kids who are in a position to be hit by this law, are in that position because they have already had a rough time in life in one way or another. A lot of them will be loners with no family and few friends, now what little bit of security they have is being taken



Thousands of Young PeoPle now face the streets

away from them. It's being taken away by well dressed, well educated nicely spoken, and very, very wealthy people, so that they can dish out even more wealth to themselves in greater tax cuts-in the high income bracket of course

SPITEFUL

That is the reality of the caring Tory Government, the Govern-ment of freedom. Behind their plush veneer there is no more that there is in gangsters and racketeers. Like them, they prey on the weak and disadvantaged for their own benefit.

They are callous and savage people. They deserve anything that they get.



No Problems for this family

printed on. Even if the did manage

a lot less likely than it was six

able as their action is, what is the

point of standing back for a whole

year while one of the most industrially strong unions fights a

and then as soon as they have been

defeated, stepping in and trying to

support them right now.

The recent announcement by British Rail that they intend take that Government on, on your to axe five thousand jobs will come as no surprise to those own. that followed informed comment during the miners strike. Time after time, miners, other trade unionists, and left publications warned that if the miners' were defeated, it being used to bolster the miner's would be a green light for every employer to step up their strike who knows. But it was campaign to implement redundancies and bring in new working practices. be worth the paper that they were

Now already in the few weeks since the ending of the strike what have we seen. Attempts by management to bring new working practices into the Post Office. The announcement that the whole of British Gas is to be sold off to private investors. The Coal Board announcing pit closures almost weekly, already having forgotten the closure procedure that they agreed with the pit deputies union NACODS just a few months

STRIKE

The most galling part of it all is to see the NACODS leaders now talking about a ballot for strike action. They had an 80 PER CENT vote for strike action during the miners' strike, and everyone was screaming at them to come out and make the strike total. If they had, it could have made all the difference, but they backed off in the face of Coal Board assurances that they would submit all and any proposed pit closures to joint procedures.

Anyone could have told them that the Coal Board would have promised them anything to stop them coming out at that time, and that equally should they defeat the miners those promises would not

Perhaps many teachers would not have been willing to support action if they thought they were certainly worth a try.

What this does show is that trade union leaders with a very few exceptions, have no idea whatso-ever of how to form a strategy for to get their members now and it is struggle. They will lead a struggle if they are pushed into it, but have months ago, what chance have they got of getting the miners' to no idea of how to plan ahead and choose the best time, and the best ground on which to fight a It's a similar case with the teachers. Justifiable and applaudstruggle.

It's a small wonder that some activists are starting to become disillusioned. Perhaps if some of those people begin to look for new bitter struggle with the government answers and look towards the revolutionary left then in the long run it may not be a bad thing.

In the last issue of Red Action we talked about intention of continuing to raise money for miners' that had been sacked and those that were in prison. Subsequent to this we have now been informed that a National Organisation of Miners Prisoners and supporters has been formed. This has been formed to work around three issues (1) to provide finance for sacked and jailed miners'. (2) To campaign for the reinstatement of those sacked and to support the hundreds that are still awaiting trial. (3) To carry on the struggle against pit closures. Further information about the campaign can be obtained from room 506 in Camden Town Hall, London N1, phone 278 4444 ext 2827. Donations should be sent to 74 The Crescent, Duescroft, Doncaster, South Yorks. We urge all of our readers to support this campaign.

Inside this issue: TERRORISM OR SOCIALIST ACTION A Red Action Feature

Recently, Red Action received a letter from someone who had been among the hundred or so people that had been arrested on the last miner's march in London. In it, the writer describes how he was finding the experience of being in custody somewhat unnerving until: "I was joined by two of your members who really changed the whole situation, by defiantly singing the Red Flag, and informing me and others of our rights and where we were going etc.

He went on: "However, I am a member of the SWP and support their line on individual terrorism although a certain amount of kicking back at the system does wonders for

terrorism!

revolutionary socialism.

ATTACKS

Five years ago or so, before Red Action was formed, a situation

arose in London where several

facist gangs were operating a systematic campaign of attacking

socialist and progressive, events and socials. Many people were

injured in these attacks, and the

level that this campaign reached, can be gauged by recalling an anti

racist festival in Brixton which had

attracted some 8,000 people and still had to be abandoned because

Eventually, a group of socialists including future Red Action memebers organised together, and

on three separate occasions, dished

out to the facists exactly what they

had been dishing out to others. The effects of this were two-fold. I

The facist campaign ceased almost completely, 2 The actions that had

achieved this were scathingly

derided by certain sections of the

engaged in what they described as "squadist" behaviour, and this

while obviously a step or two down from Baeder Meinhoff type terrorism was still in the same

political tradition, i.e. romantic

secretive actions that had no

popular support and achieved nothing but an eventual prison cell

ORGANISED

What absolute nonsense. These

actions were a particular and

highly successful tactic to deal with

one particular situation and as

soon as they were no longer

necessary, they were dropped. As

for the level of popular support,

the vast majority of those that

were regular attenders of the sort

of events that had been under

attack, completely supported and

in several cases joined in with these

There are several other examples

of activities that for us are legitimate socialist action, being derided as "squadist" of

derided as "squadist" of "individualist" by other socialists.

The most recent was during the

miners' strike, where those miners

that were involved in industrial

sabotage-attacks on scab lorry

for those involved in it.

The accusation was that we had

of the activity of invading facists

morale."

From the tone of the letter, it would be fair to say that the writer does seem to have some respect for Red Action, but is also definitely under the impression that we would not agree with his or the SWP's "line on individual terrorism". It is quiet interesting really trying to work out exactly how he has come to this conclusion. There is nothing in our WE ARE RED ACTION column that says anything about it, and we have never had an article in the paper stating our position on "individual terrorism'

In fact, what is significant about it, and the reason for this article is that this is far from being the first time that we have come across someone who has assumed that Red Action is an organistaion that supports all terrorist activities. Now why is this the case. In fact we are looking at three separate questions here: I what is meant by individual terrorism: 2 Do we support it: 3 Why do some people assume that we do. when we have never said that we do?

The "line of individual terrorism" referred to is that of the SWP Having never seen a policy document as to what that line is, or indeed what their definition of individual terrorism (as opposed to collective terrorism perhaps?) We can make no precise comment on it. However, we can say what we understand by that phrase and give our opinion on it.

TERRORISM?

As we understand it, individual terrorism is a phrase used to describe terrorist activities that are undertaken by small conspiratorial groups with no base of popular support for their activities. The most commonly used example of this is that of the Baeder Meinhoff group. This was a group that emerged in Germany in the seventies. It was composed for the most part, of sons and daughters of wealthy middle and upper class parents, who had taken to radical politics.

They could see that the working class were in no way looking towards revolutionary ideas. This led them to formulate a strategy of all out attack

on the state-assassination of government officials, etc-This they believed would have two results. Firstly, a right wing backlash from the state-clampdown on civil liberties etc. and secondly that this in its turn, would provoke the workers to rise up to defend those liberties and in doing so, go on to revolution.

Not surprisingly, this turned out to be a rather naive hope. Before very long, most of the group had either been shot by the police, or

The experience of the Baeder Meinhoff group is used as a very convincing argument by those that oppose this sort of activity to show its futility. It will perhaps come as something of a surprise to some people to know that we would not disagree with this analysis.

So why then, if on this point we are in agreement with the critics of "individual terrorism" do we so often find instances where some of

TERRORISM OR SOCIALIST ACTION **A Red Action Feature**



Organised racism must be fought

firms etc-were cautiously but very definitely condemned.

This was on the basis that actions such as these were not the way to win the strike. Things like picketing and raising money were much more important. The obvious totally unsubstantiated inferrence here, is that those that involve themselves in, or support activities such as industrial sabotage, are by definition not involved in any of the many other activities as well.

DEDICATED

What supreme and impertinent arrogance. To assume that just you limit yourselves one level of activity others do the same, and then to attack them for it. It is quite obvious that those miners that were dedicated and brave enough to risk their freedom in acts of industrial sabotage, were also amongst the most dedicated pickets. It is also a fact that supporting them in those activities in no way stopped us, and people of a similar mind from involving themselves in fund raising, and all of the many aspects of local support group activity.

Again as with the anti facist example, it is nothing more than a cheap attempt by those that are not willing to involve themselves in certain aspects of the class struggle, to slander those that are. So why do they do this?

Perhaps we should first ask who is it that does it. It is quite obvious that the people on the left who are the best placed to investigate and orchestrate a campaign attacking another organisation or set of ideas, are those that occupy the leading positions in an organisation. They are the ones that write and produce the publications that influence members. So we can say with a fair amount of confidence that the ideas of attacking certain types of socialist activity by trying to present them as being not that but 'squadist" or "terrorist type" activities, originated among the influential figures of those groups that adhere to this view.

What made us decide to do this? As we have already said to

justify their own and their organisations lack of involvement in these activities. But if these activities are as we say they are, legitimate socialist activities, why then are they so unwilling to involve themselves in them?

There are at least two reasons Firstly plain physical fear. All of the sorts of activity that we have been describing, carry some risk of either injury, arrest or both. For someone unwilling to take this risk, deriding a certain form of activity as squadist, is a very convenient excuse for not doing

There is also the question of political control. A great percentage of those influential figures that we are talking about, are people of a middle to upper class academic or professional type background. As such, they would not have the experience or street awareness if you like, necessary to be able to give leadership to the sort of activity we are talking about. As anyone that has any experience of the left will know, the various leaderships seem to have a mania about being in control of every aspect of their members activities. As they would not be able to control this particular aspect, then quite simply they have to stop their members becoming involved in it. To do this they have to totally discredit this form of activity and this is where we came in.

That is why we in Red Action find people making assumptions about us that are not in fact true. It is because those assumptions are based on a misrepresented view not so much of our organisation, but of the political traditions that we

That is why we formed Red Action. To break through that web of myth and illusion that has led many people away from activities that they maybe otherwise would be and certainly should be involved in. To build an organisation that is clearly distant from those in which perform theoreticians can wonderful mental gymnastics to explain away what we would describe at best as lack of political principle, and at worst as plain cowardice.

There are many places in the world today where to describe yourself as a revolutionary socialist can have a far different meaning and far different consequences than it does in this country. Places where the state uses tactics such as imprisonment, torture and murder as everyday weapons against its political opponents. As we know, this is not the case at this time in this country. Because the revolutionary movement is so small and insignificant the state here does not feel threatened by it, and so allows a level of political freedom and freedom of organisation that would be unthinkable in some other parts.

What it means is that in this country it is very easy to describe yourself as a revolutionary. You do not risk being arrested without excuse and you do not have to show the great commitment that others in far more difficult situations do.

In this situation, it would be foolish to try and believe that among those that do describe themselves as revolutionaries there are quite a large number that do not in fact really understand what the reality of being one means. Quite a large number, that were we to reach a potentially revolutionary situation in this country, would be found to be lacking the

necessary commitment or conviction, and would desert or betray the revolutionary movement as has happened many times in the past.

For us, nothing is a greater litmus test for uncovering attitudes of the kind than a persons attitude towards Ireland, or more specifically to the

armed struggle of the IRA/INLA. Most people in this country have a hostile view of these organisations. That is not rally surprising when one considers the constant and ceaseless propaganda war that is waged against them by the state and the media. What is a bit more surprising and certainly more significant when it comes to trying to assess an individuals, or a groups political character is the way in which many who consider themselves to be revolutionaries refuse to give clear and unambiguous support to their revolutionary colleagues just across the Irish sea.

CRITICISE

Although none criticise the ideal of a united Ireland, there is still in many cases, a definite reluctance to state full support for the methods that the Republican movement uses to pursue that aim

It seems that for some people, it is the greatest thing in the world if freedom fighters somewhere on the other side of the world take up arms against, say the American state, but a different matter if it is happening just a couple of hundred miles away.

Then we begin to see all sorts of qualifications to support which they are willing to offer. Quite a common one is to say that they give unconditional but critical support to the armed. This phrase is so vague and indefinite that in practice it is meaningless. The "unconditional" and the "critical" aspects of this support compete with each other for dominance according to changes in circumstances

In practice this means that when the IRA/INLA actually do something positive, self-styled revolutionaries join in with the British establishment

in condemming them for it.

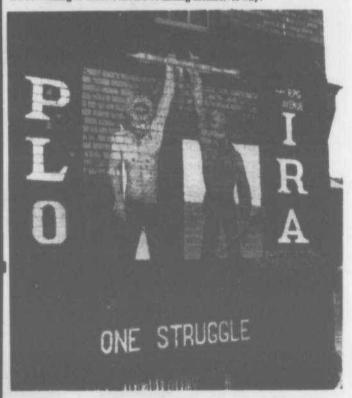
In doing this they show that in the final analysis, they neither fully understand, nor really desire a truly revolutionary situation. For these people, political activity has become little more than a hobby. A nice little social circle around which to meet their friends. The revolution is a distant abstract thing that happens in far off lands, and will one day

somehow occur here.

In reality the revolution is happening today, a few hours journey away.

Hundreds and probably thousands of brave freedom fighters are involved in a life and death struggle against our own greatest enemy The British State. In this situation any political differences that you may or may not have with any section of the Republican movement should not be allowed to obscure the duty of a revolutionary socialist. Clear and total support for Revolutionary freedon fighters everywhere.

Those that are not willing to offer this, or that are in organisations that are not willing to offer it should be asking themselves why.



Revolutionary solidarity

Red Action pamphlet

When you are a socialist who supports the principle of direct physical action you quite often find yourself in arguments with other socialists of a different shade that do not support this sort of activity, who will argue with you that it is no substitute for "mass workers action". It is a very grand sounding phrase indeed. What does it actually mean in reality, and it is superior to direct physical action. Let's look at a possible example.

Right now in certain parts of the the community which are very country, most notably the East End of London, the local Asian community is being subjected to systematic attacks. These take the form of physical assaults, attacks on property, and in some cases fire bombings. In some cases the identitys of those responsible for these activities is known. The authorities are little or no help.

This is exactly the situation in which we would argue the need for organised groups for defence and if necessary, reprisal action.

Happily something along these lines does appear to be emerging from within the Asian communities themselves, with incidents such as those that led up to the cases of the Bradford 12 and the Newham 8. But there are still smaller and more isolated parts of vulnerable.

The several local "Workers against Racism" groups which emerged a couple of years ago seemed to attempt something along the lines of what we are talking about. They were talking about. They were hampered somewhat though by the fact that they were not that large and did not have very many people that actually lived in the communities under attack.

It is these same weaknesses that stop us, as a very new and embyonic organisation, from being able to put our ideas into practice on our own, certainly in the areas in question at least. However there is now doubt that if all left groups as a whole, were to form a UNITED FRONT for this purpose, we would be capable of

defending those parts of the which are under community threat, and if necessary make an example of those responsible to discourage future would-be

However, when calling for this sort of united activity you keep coming back to this argument about "mass workers action" being the only long term answer to

Well we are certainly not going to argue with that analysis, we would like nothing better than to see thousands of workers downing tools in a march against racists but if someone is going to use a call for mass workers action in order to oppose calls for other suggested forms of action then we do feel entitled to ask for some sign of that action.

It seems that very often those that talk about it, end up doing little more than join a couple of hundred or so people on a march around the estate. Commendable though this sort of activity may be, it will do very little to stop the attacks and it is certainly not 'mass workers action'

Those that are not willing to join in the sort of activity that we call for should say so and state their reason why. To say that it is because they believe in "mass workers action" instead, is nothing more than empty phrase mongering for they are no more capable of initiating that action than we are.

Their call for "mass workers action or nothing" means exactly that. They do nothing.



We are

A SHORT HISTORY OF RED ACTION. WHERE DID IT COME FROM AND WHY?

First published two years ago, this pamphlet, although slightly out of date now, still gives a good insight into the discussions and events that lead to the formation of Red Action. Available from the box number, price 50p inclusive of postage and packing.

Also available: Red Action badges and T-shirts. Badges, 20p each. T-shirts, £3.50. When ordering please state, whether, small, medium or large.

30 p

Next time that you walk into a "MacDonalds" or a similar establishment, take a good look around. The brave new sterile world really is plastic-both the food and the environment. They invite you in, its all bright lights and shiny floors and furniture. As soon as you order you're ticked off. The soft music anaethetises your brain. Faster food means faster The whole psychology is geared up to

drive their parents mad forcing them into the fast food joints to

buy the foods that are manu-factured by taking food out of the mouths of kids in the povety-

striken countries. Meanwhile,

MacDonalds make profits of a

million dollars a minute or is it a

Meanwhile back in the shops,

the employers recruit young dis-

advantaged kids—often from ethnic minority groups—who have little chance of getting a job elsewhere, stick them in a stupid

uniform, and make them work

long and anti-social hours for

rubbish wages, the whole thing

based on a merit system whereby

the more profit you make the

employee

company, the more stars you get.

anywhere in the world is allowed to

belong to a union with one exception in Dublin. The right

there, was only won after a long

period of industrial action.

MacDonalds are by no means

exceptional of all the other multi-

national combines. They all

operate in much the same way.

Mac Donalds

KIDS

second.

EXPLOITATION

Another not so well known aspect of these multi national food chains, is their exploitation of the people of the third world, which is where their profit story begins. They buy up millions of acres of land and remove the small farmers that live there, so depriving them of their only means of subsistence. The people are then replaced by cattle, and the process of manufacturing hamburgers begins.

It is the epitomy of capitalism. Kids in the "developed" countries



THE GREAT **MONEY TRICK**

It is sometimes possible to read a passage from a book or an article, where someone has brilliantly managed to explain a quite technical and complex point, in an easily understandable and enjoyable way. Such is the way in which Robert Noonan in his classic book "The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists" explains how capitalism uses the monetary system, to exploit and impoverish the working class. The book was written at the turn of the century, and tells the story of a year in the life of Noonan-in the book a character named Owen-and a group of builder decorators that he worked with. More generally it is also an account of the social conditions that existed in Britain at that time.

There's always been rich and poor and there always will be." If it wasn't for the guv'nors no one vould have any work at all." ideas sound alright but they'd never Such are their retorts (sounds horribly familiar doesn't it).

DISCUSSION

Owen is a committed socialist, sonstantly involved in arguments with his workmates and trying to convince them that socialism could put an end to the poverty and squalor that is there lot. His workmates however are great defenders of the system and the right of the rich to employ and exploit

One day, during a teabreak discussion about poverty and it's

causes, Owen ventures the opinion that the principle cause of poverty is money. This causes immediate hoots of derision and the company, firmly convinced that Owen has at last shown that he is as mad as they always suspected he was, invite him to prove his words.

"Very well" says Owen, and taking up the few slices of dry bread that they have to eat for their break continues "These bits of bread we will use to represent the raw materials that lay in the ourth, minerals, foodstuffs, chemicals etc. not created by anyone but there for the benefit of all". Then taking up three old knives that they use to cut their food he continues. "These will represent the machinery of production: tools, etc. without which the raw

The recent spate of football violence, mugging and violent crime in general, has led to an upsurge in the calls for law and order from the Tories. Yet some people may perhaps think that the biggest mugger, thief and vandal is still on the loose. A person who has stolen milk from out of childrens mouths through education cuts. A person who has vandalised hospitals up and down the country through cuts in the health service. A person who is as big a bully as to push unemployed people into low paid sweatshops, and who has mugged money off the lowest paid people through the abolition of wage limits.

This is no Millwall soccer thug or dope smoking rastarfarian. This is our own Margaret Thatcher, and should birching be brought back then I can think of no finer candidate to to top of the list, long with the rest of

SEARCHLIGHT

There will be quite a few people that read this paper, that will have never heard of the magazine Searchlight. It is a great pity, for they are missing out on what can quite truthfully be described as one of the most remarkable publications in existence today, and one that must have at times, made certain figures on the far right, wonder whether someone must have had some sort of direct link up to their innermost

time that he had entered Belsen as a young British army private. Searchlight is an anti facist It was under his inspired leader magazine. Its stated aim is to turn the seurchlight on secret activities ship that Searchlight grew from being the small obscure factsheet that it was then, into a well produced

magazine, that is internationally

renowned by anti-facist activists, for the quality of information that it un-

SCOOPS

A full list of Searchlight scoops would certainly fill this whole page. Among more notable were the many

photographs of Tyndall and other

Front leaders in full nazi uniform published when they were trying to

deny their more extreme views to

attract votes. Then there was their

discovery of the existence of Column 88 (the 88 stands for the eighth letter of the alphabet HH, Heil Hitler).

They were the first to discover that

Italian facists wanted for acts such as

the Balogna station bombing were

discovered that a major in the British

Army-Souter Clarence-was

running a training camp for facists

on his estate. They have uncovered

direct links between facists in this

country, and loyalist para militarys in Ireland. They also uncovered a

very real and serious plan, to bomb

the Notting Hill Carnival in 1981. Quite possibly it was, only Searchlights publicising this plan that

GUNS

Of all of the many and various

scoops it is difficult to try and pick

one that stands out, but surely, they

will never be able to come up with

another one like the Ray Hill story.

Hill, one of the best known members of the hard line facist

fraternity, second in command of the British Movement and confidant

of just about every leading facist in the country, was for five years working for Searchlight. It was he

caused it to be aborted.

being sheltered in this country.

and plottings of those that inhabit the shadowy world of the extreme right, in this and other countries. It was first published in the early sixties, at the time of the emergence of the National Socialist movement. This was the first openly facist organisation to appear in this ountry since the end of the second world war, Among its leading members were John Tyndall and Martin Webster, who were later to

Searchlight at this time was a small newspaper style journal that had been founded by a group of anti-acist activists in the London area. Among its early editors were Reg Freeson and Joan Lestor, later to become Labour MPs.

help found the National Front.

MONITOR

Searchlight mark one, ceased regular publication in 1967, but a roup of some of those that had been responsible for its publication remained as an active group monitoring the activities of the various far right splinter groups, who were now uniting under the ounner of the National Front.

By the mid seventies, the front had anaged to convince large numbers of people that they were just another political organisation and were steadily growing. It was lear to those that fully understood he threat they posed, that a regular blication was needed to (1) expose ne facist traditions of the front eadership (2) investigate and expose he more secret activities many of their members were involved in.

Searchlight was relaunched in February 1985 and soon afterwards he late Maurice Ludmer became its ditor. Ludmer had behind him a ong tradition of anti-racist anti-facist activity that stemmed back to the

the Notting Hill bomb plot. Another well remembered operation set up by Searchlight on the basis of information from Hill, was the World in Action programme that uncovered the facist gun making factory in London.

After this programme was shown on TV one of those involved in the gun making ring, Leicester solicitor Anthony Reed Herbert, fled to a secret hideaway cottage in the south of Ireland. Searchlight promptly published a photograph of this on he front page of the next issue. Whilst on this humourous note, who could ever remember without smiling, the issue that printed a supposedly confidential Martin Webster with the immortal words "How is it that every time I write a confidential letter, it seems to end up being printed in Searchlight"

Yes Searchlight has given us it's fair share of laughs, but in the final analysis it has to be seen as a very serious magazine indeed. Serious because without it and the information it uncovers, it would be difficult to believe the level of openly nazi activity that is going on beneath the surface of our society.

Fortunately for all of us there is something that holds that activity in check. Something that keeps the facists of this country looking over their shoulders at their associates, and stops them from indulging in so



many of the activities that they would like to. That something is

Searchlight is not a revolutionary socialist magazine. It does not claim to be. This can sometimes lead some on the left to be dismissive of its value. If it did not exist, those people would learn all to soon to their cost how valuable a Searchlight is.

Whether they are aware of it or not, every socialist, progressive, liberal, ethnic minority, etc. In fact one of us, will all sleep easier in our bed tonight because of the existence

APPEAL

This year, the new style Searchlight is celebrating its tenth anniversary. In that time its workload and the demands upon its resources has grown and grown. It has now reached the point where to keep pace with these greater demands, they need to employ another member of staff, and install a computer to store their vast archives. To make this possible, they have launched a £25,000 anniversary appeal and we along with them, would urge all anti racists and anti facists to contribute to this appeal.

There are several other ways in which you can also help: 1 Get your union, trade council, anti racist group etc to take

out a subscription to Searchlight and/or make a donation.... 2 Write for details of how you can help them to increase their circulation, by selling Searchlight to your friends or colleagues.....

3 Help them to monitor facist and racist activities in your

4 Become a regular subscriber to Searchlight

For further details about any of these points, write to Searchlight, 37B New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8JR.

BRITISH NAZIS PLAN



materials cannot be turned into the

necessities of life."
"Now" says Owen, turning to three of his workmates, "I represent the capitalist class, and you three represent the working class. I own the factories and machines that these knives represent, and because I am a kind and goodly capitalist, I am going to give you plenty of work. Let's say that a weeks work is to cut three squares from these slices of

The three men set to work with the and cut the squares from the bread. Owen then gives them each a ha'penny to represent a pound, one weeks wages. "Right" says Owen, these nine squares of bread now represent the finished necessities of life, which we all need. They are of course all in my possession, but because I am such a kind capitalist, I an quite willing to sell them back to you. My price is one pound per

The three men then give Owen back their ha'penny's for one square of bread which they then eat. Owen eats two of the squares, and of course still has four squares plus his three ha'penny's back.

This process is repeated again and again, all the time the workers receiving and spending their weeks wages, and all the time the capitalist consuming twice as much as any one of them, and at the same time his pile

of wealth continually increasing. Finally the capitalist having just sold his workmen a square of bread each, takes their knives-the machinery of production-away from them, and informs them that owing to overproduction, all of his store houses are glutted with the necessities of life, and he has decided to close the works

"Well, what the hell do we do now" demands one. "That's not my business" replies the kind hearted capitalist, "I've paid you your wages and provided you with plenty of work for a long time. I've nothing for you at the moment. Come back in a few months and I'll see what I

"But what about the necessities of life" demands another, "we must have something to eat."

"Of course you must" replies the capitalist affably, "and 1 shall be very pleased to sell you some".

But we haven't got any money." "Well you can't expect me to give you my goods for nothing. You didn't work for me for nothing did you. I paid you for your work and you should have saved something. You should have been thrifty like me. Look how I got on being thrifty.

INTELLECTUAL?

Apart from the delighfui thought of Owen the Socialist sitting there with nearly all of the pro capitalists' snap, the most significant thing about this whole passage to me is the Noonan living in dire poverty, working a twelve hour day, six days a week, racked with tubercolosis that killed him at forty, writing his books on old scraps of wall paper, how is it that he was able to explain the Marxist theory of surplus value leading to overproduction and falling demand, in a way that no socialist intellectual with all of the time and resources that they have available, has been able to.

Robert Noonan

SUPPORT **RED ACTION**



Red Action is an organisation founded by working class people to work for the furthering of the cause of Socialism. Membership is open to all who accept our political principles and pay a weekly subscription. Every member has an equal vote on all Red Action policy and

If you support our aims but do not wish to become a member, you can become a supporting member. This does not entitle you to vote, but you will receive:

- 1. A free subscription to the newspaper.
- 2. A regular internal newsletter that will keep you informed of what is going on in the organisation.
- 3. Notification of any Red Action activities in your area.

The cost for this is £10 for one year.

Subscriptions to the paper are still available separately. The cost is £3 pounds for ten issues. Please remember that producing a paper is a very uneconomic business and we are always very grateful for any donations, and especially grateful to anyone who can take extra copies to sell.

PO box 158 Hatfield

RED ACTION IN ACTION

Red Action members and associates attended the anti facist picket called to demonstrate against the National Fronts "Albert Mariner Memorial March". The demo although small in numbers was lively and enthusiastic and was still larger than the very small Front turnout. In the circumstances contact was very difficult indeed, but we do hear that some was made. A certain Mr Brady is apparently looking for a very good tailor. One thing positive that did come our of it was an agreement between various groups, on the need for, and a commitment to work towards, some sort of meeting or conference to relaunch a grass roots anti-facist movement. Watch this space.

Disturbing reports have reached the Red Action office of mysterious individuals in the Brighton area of the country, attacking and damaging police cars while shouting out the name of our own August organisation. We of course abhore and deplore actions of this kind and totally disown them. Could this be a plot by Conservative infiltrators to discredit us in the eyes of the electorate in the run up to the next election.

Red Action members attended both of the recent demonstrations in Newham, call in support of the Asian youths that have been arrested for defending themselves from racialist attacks. Both of the demonstrations ended in somewhat chaotic order, when ballroom dancing broke out between the marchers and our old friend, plod.

Starting date for the trial is the last week in May. Mass pickets of the court will be held every Monday.

Flying column

"She can lead the Tory Party, becaue she reminds the average public schoolboy of childhood fantasies, matron and enigmatic Miss Floggie. You know, long patent leather boots, a whip and a black corset."

Dennis Healey describing Margaret Thatcher in Penthouse.

"Jokes about the Jews, are told by Jews. They are an expression of international cultural solidarity and they are very often clever. The sheer stupidity of both the Irish joke and the character described, flatters the reader into a belief that there are others who are a lot like himself, who may be even more limited intellectually."

Edmund Leach, Anthropologist.

P.S. Between 1977 and 1979 Futura sold 485,000 copies of the official Irish Joke Book. It must mean something.

Thatcher's recent ricket in confusing Malaysia with Indonesia, sounds more like the senile waffling that is associated with her cowboy chum Bonzo Reagan. There have however, been other occasions when her mind, such as it is has wandered. After the 1978 Cup Final, which she attended, she was asked which player had most impressed her. Trevor Whymark she replied promptly, having anticipated the question. Unfortunately for both he and her, Whymark had missed the final through injury On a foreign trip she once told a reporter that you too have problems with unemployment in the US. At the time she was in Ottowa. More recently she referred to Dublin born Bob "Band Aid" Geldof as a Brit with true grit. In January of this year at a reception in Downing Street, she spent much of the evening discussing her plans for celebrating VD day. Does this perhaps mean that she intends to create a new public holiday in honour of the millions out of work. After all I'm sure that she would agree that unemployment is a social disease.

On the 15th of April, most of the papers reported that a planned visit by Princess Anne to a Yorkshire pit village had met with a less than enthusiastic reponse with almost 90 per cent of the tickets left unsold. Could this be the end of the monarchy? The Guardian quoted a Mr Ken Moulds, a local NUM rep. who stated that the miners were still deep in debt and after being on strike for a year and seeing something of the establishment most miners are not enamoured with it. The Mirror quoted the same source but merely said that the lack of response was because the miners were broke. Different strokes for different folks.

There are probably 20,000 teenagers for whom a place is available on a training scheme with good job prospects to follow, who chose to stay at home. It is one of the figures that I detest. They have become the victims of left wing propaganda and accusations that YTS is simply providing cheap labout. They don't go anywhere, they stay at home and play tapes or hang around discos.

Employment secretary, Tom King, commenting in the unwillingness of some young people to go to work for twenty five pounds a week, NB Tom King's wage, twenty five thousand a year before fringe benefits, directorships

President Bonzo Reagan recently appeared in front of an audience of 600 guests at a fund-raising dinner for the victims of the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua. He hugged and kissed a pretty dark haired eight year old refugee to symbolise US determination to protect the weak from aggression" in Central "communist Unfortunately for him, some "tratorous pinko commie faggots" in the media discovered the fact that the child had actually been born in the US, where her wealthy banker parents lived for the last 15 years. The picture of him cradling an imposter seems a much more appropriate symbol for the policies he pursues in the area anyway.



Red Action was formed in 1981 when a number of working class socialists were expelled from the organisation that they had belonged to. Various reasons were given for this, but it all semed to boil down to the intellectual leadership showing their distaste for the raucous manners, and undisviplined behaviour or their working class members. We believe that we can organise ourselves as red workers on our own, without any interference from middle class intellectuals. We intend to avoid at all costs, becoming like so many other left groups, with their patronizing attitude towards the working class. We reject the idea that a socialist organisation, has the right to demand unquestioning obedience from its members at all times. Discipline when necessary must be based on respect for, and trust in, those making the decisions, and not blind servile obedience. We believe that socialism belongs to the working class, and that a socialist organisation, while it must be able to give a lead to the class, must also be able to reflect the spirit and consciousness of the class. We in Red Action will strive to this end. To justify our existence before the most cynical audience of all - the working class - and present socialist politics in a way that they can identify with, in their life, their work, and their leisure. We draw great inspiration from the Republican movement in Ireland, from the courageous and principled manner in which they conduct their struggle, and from the way that they have integrated class and cultural expression into their political movement. We unconditionally support the right of their revolutionary armies, the Irish Republican Army, and the Irish National Liberation Army, to engage in armed struggle to free their country from British Rule. We will work in co-operation with all and any groups that support the same aims as us. We do not reject any ideas tactics or strategies just because we did not think of them ourselves.

2. United action hetween socialist groups FOR THE CLASS NOI

- THE PARTY 3. The Irish National liberation struggle against our own British
- 4. Total opposition to fascist organisations
- 5. Union strength we support any picket line in defence of workers living standards.
- 6. Opposition to all prejudice which divides workers, white against black, men against women.
- 7. Killing the lie that the "Communist states" are socialist.
- 8. Young peoples fight to determine their own future.

RED ACTION IS AGAINST

Anything read in



AN OPEN LETTER TO THE FEDERATION OF CONSERVATIVE STUDENTS

The picture adjoining this article is from a pamphlet published by a couple of members of your federation, some of whom we are told sport "hang Nelson Mandela" badges, encourage links with UDA supporters, and were responsible for an attack on a CND float at Brighton this

Amid accusations of neo facism from the press you say that you only say in public what other members of the Tory party say in private. This we can well believe, we have no illusions about the wets in the Tory party. Your vocal support for various far right causes had attracted our attention and we can assure you that having learned the historical lessons of Germany in the thirties we do not waste our time in theoretical debate with facists. The methods that we employ are both practical and effective, as your fellow travellers in the National Front could testify.

We can assure you that if your future behaviour does not improve dramatically then sooner or later some of you will discover what a good spanking means in the rougher end in the political market if you get our drift.



Travelling people or gypsies, are a group who's situation in our society is all to often ignored. Widely discriminated against, and cast in the role as dirty thieving people wherever they go, they are often overlooked even by such bodies as race relations organisations, or ethnic minority monitoring groups. They live on the edges of our towns and cities, and often on the edge of our society, maintaining a way of life that goes back centuries. Victims in the past they remain an easily identifiable target on the lowest rung of the ladder of respectability.

It is often forgotten, especially in the recent euphoria of VE Day celebrations that together with the Jews, gypsies were one of the most persecuted minorities in Nazi Euope. Tens of thousands of them died in numerous concentration camps.

BIGOTRY

many of the travellers in this country are descended from Irish families, who were victims of evictions by British landlords and governments in the past.

Modern day bigotry and in-tolerance, are based on age old prejudices. Signs saying "No Travellers" still exist in pubs around the country, in our supposedly mo modern

In the late sixties government legislation was passed whichstated that sites should be provided for travelling families, but only in "designated areas". At the same time it became an offence to park a caravan or trailer in certain areas,

effect is that in large parts of the country people who are doing no more than trying to live the only style of life which they know, are committing an imprisonable offence.

All travellers want is the right to determine their own lives, a right which should be everybodies. They should be given official sites with decent facilities where they can organise themselves in whichever way they please. They recognise that there are some elements among them who may be troublesome to others, but as one of them said to a non traveller haven't you got them amongst vourselves?

CO-OPERATION

Some sites do exist where travellers and local people have worked together in co-operation. for example over two thirds of the Where teachers have welcomed London area. What this means in gypsy children instead of shunning

them. In the areas where these sites are, agrovation has been kept to a minimum. It shows what can be achieved, but unfortunately, they are the exception rather than the

SITE

In London there are at least six hundred families roaming from one temporary site to another, with many more in other parts of the country. In the borough of Hackney there is not one permanent site. Whilst some temporary sites are necessary to allow flexibility, there is a pressing need for many more permanent sites, in all parts of the country.

An adoption of a non harassment policy by councils and authorities would also go a long way towards helping these people enjoy a better life than they do today.