

# Red Action

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Behind all the nonsense

## IT'S JUST PLAIN ROBBERY

The world of high finance, is something which we hear about all the time. Every day, on the telly or in the newspapers, we are told how the Dow Jones or Financial Time's Indexes have risen or fallen, or about the state of the pound against the dollar. Recently, breakfast T.V. has even taken to reporting on the state of the Japanese stock exchange. Then of course the British stock exchange was also in the news more than usual recently, due to the so called "Big Bang" when it introduced new dealing procedures, and new technology to run them.

In actual fact, the amount of media time and space devoted to high financial affairs, is totally out of proportion to the amount of interest that most people show in them. Beyond an interest in currency exchange rates when going on holiday abroad, the vast majority of people understand little about high finance and care even less. Who do you know who would get up early in the morning, to check out how the Japanese Stock Exchange is doing

That is the image which we are given. But in fact it is a load of balls. The Stock Exchange is in reality, nothing more than a jumped up betting shop, and as in all betting shops, the punters go there for one reason only. To try and make themselves a fast buck. If they succeed in this, it is they and they alone who benefit. Not you not me nor the rest of society. And the idea that the Stock Exchange is the source of wealth, is a complete illusion. It produces nothing more than large bank accounts for Stock Brokers. There is only one source of wealth, and that is the labour of working people. And the reason why Stock Brokers speculate on the Stock Exchange, is simply in order to gain for themselves the large personal fortunes, that enable them to gain possession of most of that wealth. It has absolutely nothing to do with any concern for the "national interests".

Without the labour of working people, it wouldn't matter how many figures a Stock Broker had in a bank account or how high the F.T. index was. He wouldn't even be able to get a loaf of bread. Without the labour of working people, institutions like the Stock Exchange, couldn't even exist.

The respectable image which is given to the world of high finance, and the idea that somehow we all have an interest in it's dealings, is just another one of those bits of scenery which are created, to hide what is in reality, the naked plunder of the wealth produced by the working class, by small groups of parasites. When you strip away all this scenery the wheelings and dealings can be seen quite clearly, as a squabble between various groups of robbers, over the share out of the loot.



THE STOCK EXCHANGE. THE PLACE WHERE SUPPOSEDLY, THE COUNTRIES ECONOMIC WELL BEING IS MAINTAINED. IN REALITY IT IS NO MORE THAN THE MAD SCRAMBLE OF A FEW PEOPLE FOR PERSONAL FORTUNE.

### ATTENTION

So why such constant attention? Partly no doubt, because the people who produce news programmes and publish newspapers, do take a greater interest in financial affairs than most of the rest of us. But almost certainly, another reason is because by giving the dealings of institutions like the stock exchange such regular attention, they are able to create and re-inforce a certain image of the role in which they play in our society today.

The Stock Exchange, and the International Money Market, is presented as being the crucial factor in governing the success of the economy, and the state of our society. It is the place where the captains of our industries go, to do financial battle with foreign competitors, and upon their success or failure rests the prospects of prosperity or austerity for all of us. How often do we hear politicians and business people telling us that we must be competitive if we are to prosper. A booming Stock Exchange, is held up as a sign of success in that competition. It is, so we are led to believe the source of wealth for all of us.

## DEMOCRACY OR HYPOCRISY?

A recent trip to England by a group of Sinn Fein councillors, represented an important step forward, for both the Republican movement in Ireland, and the Labour movement in this country. The ten strong delegation, addressed several meetings in London and the east and west of the country, enabling many people to hear for the first time, about the situation in Ireland from the Nationalist point of view.

The councillors spoke about how the British presence in Ireland, prevents the emergence of working class politics, both in the north and the south, and also described how a united socialist Ireland would benefit the working class movement in this country.

They also talked about the role of the People's Advice Centres, which have been set up by Sinn Fein in many cities and towns in the north and south of Ireland, to help deal with people's social problems, and described how

in some areas, up to 30% of those using them come from the Protestant Community. They also reminded people, about the sizeable Protestant communities which live in parts of the Republic of Ireland, and which suffer no discrimination.

### ENLIGHTENING

However, perhaps even more enlightening than the trip itself, was the reaction to it, of certain people in this country. In the House of Commons, Margaret Thatcher "Totally deplored invita-

tions to any organisation which proposes or perpetrates violence" Neil Kinnock immediately rose to his feet to say to her "I firmly associate myself with the views you express". Earlier a group of Tory Councillors, had invaded a private meeting with Labour Councillors in Haringey, banging on tables so that no-one could speak, while at a public meeting in Hackney, a Liberal Councillor pulled out a starting pistol, and started firing it at the ceiling

These are the people remember, who we usually hear lecturing us about the sanctity of democracy and free speech, and are always so quick to accuse other political regimes for their suppression of it.

So where was their respect for democracy, when they tried to stop these people, who had all been democratically elected through the British electoral system, even coming to the Country. Where was the respect for free speech, when they disrupted the meeting in Haringey.

### DEMOCRACY

It's quite obvious that they respect democracy alright. When it goes the way that they want it to. But when it doesn't, they have no more respect for democracy, than any one of the many other regimes which they are so quick to criticise.

As for their oft repeated claims that they refuse to recognise or talk to, those who advocate violence for political ends, this is another principle which they apply selectively. It didn't stop them meeting representatives

of the I.R.A., including the Chief of Staff, in 1972 when they wanted to negotiate a truce. It didn't stop them recognising Monachim Begin when he was the Premier of Israel. Yet only a few years before that, Begin had been the leader of a terrorist organisation involved in a guerilla campaign against the British forces. A wanted man, who if he had been captured, would almost certainly have been hanged.

### GRATEFUL

Who knows, if Sinn Fein are successful in their aims in the foreseeable future, we may yet live to see the likes of Gerry Adams or Martin McGuinness, being invited to NO. 10 Downing St., for diplomatic discussions and tea and biscuits.

We should be grateful to Sinn Fein that they are willing to send their people over here. In doing so they teach us a hell of a lot. Not only about Irish politics, but also about British politicians.



A PICTURE OF ONE OF THE PUBLIC MEETINGS, WITH BELFAST COUNCILLOR ALEX MASKEY INSET.



LIBERAL COUNCILLOR PIERRE ROYAN, WITH THE STARTING PISTOL HE STARTED FIRING AT A PUBLIC MEETING IN HACKNEY

Featured in this issue

### PEELING

### THE ORANGE MYTH

A look at Ulster Loyalism, past and present



# PEELING THE ORANGE MYTH

# TELL'EM THE TRUTH

The outrage that followed the decision by education authorities in Haringey, to include the subject of homosexuality in their sex education classes for schoolchildren showed once again, the base hypocrisy that exists in our society where matters of sexuality - especially homosexuality are concerned.

engage in, and others don't. If you don't want to engage in it yourself, then that is fair enough, but that doesn't give you the right to start persecuting those who do.

Yet up until very recently practicing homosexuals, were not only subjected to social prejudice, they were also persecuted by the law as well. This now is no longer the case, but homosexuals still suffer from much social prejudice.

This can only be overcome by educating people away from the myths which surround homosexuality, and it is in this light that the Haringey decision has to be applauded. Homosexuality is just one of the facts of life, and the more that kids learn the truth about all of the facts of life, then the less chance there is of them growing up, with their heads as fucked up as all of those people who were doing all the shouting.

## MORALISTS

The self styled moralists were all up in arms, with their wild claims about children being corrupted. They treat homosexuality as if it is some kind of contagious disease, which if you are exposed to in any shape or form, you will immediately contract.

What absolute nonsense. There is absolutely nothing diseased or "queer" about homosexuality. It is nothing more than a sexual practice that some people prefer to

supplementary benefit - was refused to most applicants whatever their religion. This led to a prolonged campaign, during which Catholics and Protestants fought and marched together. Attacks by the police on the Catholic Falls Road, would lead to supportive riots in the Protestant Shankill Road.

But on all of these occasions, before very long, sectarian bitterness was used to destroy what could have been the beginning of the end to religious division.

## CIVIL RIGHTS

In the 1960s, a Civil Rights Movement emerged, which aimed at ending discrimination in the Northern Ireland state. It was a direct threat to Protestant domination, and provoked a violent backlash from loyalists. Whole Catholic areas were burnt out, several people killed, and thousands forced to leave their homes. Through all of this, the overwhelmingly Protestant police force did little to defend the Catholics, and some of them even joined in the attacks. It was in response to this situation, that the I.R.A. - who had been in decline for some years re-emerged as the defenders of the Catholic Community, and began the present phase of their struggle to end British rule in Ireland, once and for all.

What the history of the development of the situation in Ireland shows us quite clearly, is that the picture that many try to paint of it, that it is merely a case of a violent struggle between two sets of religious bigots, each of whom are a bad as the other, is a totally false one. The state of Northern Ireland, is and always has been since its inception, a corrupt and reactionary institution, who's whole existence is based on the most blatant discrimination against a section of the community. In that respect it differs very little from a state such as

South Africa.

Any movement which seeks to defend and maintain such a state, can only be seen as a reactionary movement. It is no co-incidence, that traditionally, loyalists have always aligned themselves with the Tories (the full name of the Tory Party is the Conservative and Unionist Party) Today they are in the process of building strong links with the fascist right in this country. Their methods of struggle also show up quite clearly their reactionary nature. Loyalist violence and assassination is directed far less against their known Republican activists - who at least have chosen to accept the risks,

than it is against innocent people, who have done nothing other than to have been born a Catholic.

Against this stands the Republican Movement, who wage their struggle to end British presence in Ireland, as the first step in the overthrow of the Northern Ireland state, and the building of a 32 county democratic socialist Republic, with full and equal rights for all. They fight not against the Protestant people, but solely against those who choose to defend the British presence. It is a just and progressive struggle, which deserves the full support of all those who describe themselves as socialist.



IAN PAISLEY, PETER ROBINSON AND CO. THE SUPPOSEDLY "RESPECTABLE" FACE OF LOYALISM.

large profits to be made, and also it was strategically important for Britain to retain its military bases there.

After a long, hard fought and bloody guerilla war, waged by the Republican movement, the British were forced to come to terms with them. However, the treaty of 1921, between the British government and the I.R.A. was strongly opposed by many within the Republican movement, and was to eventually cause a bitter civil war within it. The treaty gave a measure of independence to 26 counties, but left the 6 North Eastern ones in British hands. The old 9 county province of Ulster was divided, with 3 of them, Cavan Monaghan and Donegal, becoming part of the 26 county "Free State" and the other 6 Derry Down, Antrim, Amargh Fermanagh and Tyrone, forming the new state of Northern Ireland. This was done because a 9 county state would have had an equal proportion of Protestant and Catholics, whereas the 6 county state, had a Protestant majority of 2 to 1 and would be easier for the pro British administration to control.

## DISCRIMINATION

Right from the very beginning, the new state was one which was based on the most blatant discrimination against Catholics, with them constantly being denied equal rights in things such as housing, education, and employment. Even in areas where Catholics were in a majority, discrimination was maintained by a process of the rigging of election boundaries which was known as "Gerrymandering". Thus in Derry City, where Catholics outnumbered Protestants by 2 to 1, the large Catholic wards, elected 8 members to the City Council, while the much smaller Protestant ones returned 12, thus ensuring them a permanent majority on the 20 seat council.

## UNITY

Before and after partition, capitalism in crisis had on occasions, forced Protestant and Catholic workers to unite regardless of religion. In 1907 James Larkin, a Catholic, led a strike of mainly Protestant workers. When the bosses tried to use religion to divide the strikers, Larkin offered to resign in favour of a Protestant. But one of his comrades Alexander Boyd, a Belfast trade union activist, socialist and Protestant, replied that "men of all creeds are determined to stand together, in fighting the common enemy the employer, who denies the rights of workers to a fair wage." The Independent Orange Order supported the strike, and the Royal Irish Constabulary in Belfast, mutinied over poor wages and conditions. In 1919, there was an engineering strike, in which Belfast workers again showed great militancy and solidarity.

Perhaps the best example of co-operation was seen during the depressed 1930s, when Outdoor relief - a sort of

their descendents are today. Presbyterians were treated in a similar way to Catholics. Discrimination forced over 250,000 Ulster Protestants, to emigrate to America to seek freedom of worship, between the years 1717 to 1776 alone.

Back in Ulster, leading dissenters both Protestant and Catholic, formed in 1791, a movement called the "United Irishmen". It was a radical movement committed to ridding Ireland of British rule. Led by a Protestant lawyer named Wolf Tone, and inspired by revolutions in France and America, it led the first major national Irish rebellion against British rule.

## SHOCK

This was a severe shock to the British establishment. As the Archbishop of Armagh said to the British Prime Minister at the time, William Pitt.

"It stands to unite Protestant and Papist, and wherever that happens, goodbye to the English interest in Ireland forever."

Something had to be done to create a division between the two communities. Presbyterian ministers were offered a bribe of £75 to declare loyalty to the crown, and subsequently all restrictions on Presbyterians were lifted, although it was still some 30 years before they were allowed to join the Anglican Orange Order.

Gradually measures such as this, as well as the emergence of a greater economic dependence on Britain as industrialisation began to develop in Ulster, brought more and more Presbyterians round to a strongly pro-British position. They now took over the Orange Order, and gave it the only tradition which has ever distinguished it - that of religious bigotry and sectarianism. Yet originally, the Orange Order had had nothing to do with religion. Protestantism was dragged into it, hi-jacked by religious/political leaders, in order to further the defence of British imperialism. Before Irish nationalists had threatened British rule, loyalists had regarded themselves as Irish but loyal to the crown. They now rejected their Irish identity, in favour of one as a loyal British subject. Yet it should not be forgotten, that there have still always been Protestants involved in Irish nationalism and insurrection, right up to the present day.

## HOME RULE

During the 19th century, the North of Ireland developed major industries which had markets throughout the British Empire. This contrasted with the South, which had a much smaller industrial development which mostly supplied only home markets, and it was in the South that the demand for home rule became strongest. In Ulster, the industrialists, businessmen and landlords, who owned and ran the massive engineering, textile and shipbuilding industries, which were totally tied up in the British economy, identified completely with the British state, and were hostile to any talk of home rule. As for the British interest, domination of Ireland offered

A trip to Derry City by three Red Action supporters last August, was interrupted when the coach which they were travelling in, passed through the annual loyalist Apprentice Boy's march. Thousands of loyalists, dressed up in red white and blue, beating the orange drum and playing flutes (the only tunes they seemed to be able to play, were the loyalist anthem the sash, and God save the Queen, which they played out of tune) The sight of all this, brought home quite vividly, the bigotry and hatred which Catholics in the North of Ireland have to live with every day.

Recent months have seen an upsurge in loyalist activity in opposition to the Anglo Irish Agreement, with escapades such as those of Loyalist leader Peter Robinson in Clontibret and Dundalk this summer, making headline news. However, what was not quite so well publicised was the fact that intimidation of Catholic families, and petrol bombing of their houses, is at its worst level since the early 1970s, with over 300 families forced to leave their homes. This increase in loyalist activity, is based on their fears that they are losing a grip on their main line of support and defence - the British. This inevitably raises the spectre of a united Ireland, and the loss of loyalist ascendancy. Loyalism is an ideological and political force that must not be underestimated. Therefore it is important to analyse its historical origins, and the reasons for its present day manifestations, as a political force that is insecure and unsure of its identity.

The Protestant population in the North of Ireland, has its origins in the plantations of the late 17th century. Ulster was the most Gaelic province in Ireland, and the one most rebellious against British rule. Therefore in order to try and subdue it, the British forcibly removed the native Irish Catholics from the land, and gave it to Scottish and English planters.

Ulster became different from the rest of Ireland, in that the Anglo-Irish Protestants there, were not a handful of landlords and squires, but a tenant farming class.

## STRUGGLE

The power struggle over the English throne, led to James 2nd attempting to secure Catholic support in Ireland against the Dutch Prince William of Orange - all part of a larger European affair involving Louis 14th of France supporting James, and Pope Innocent 11th supporting King Billy. The victory of King Billy at the battle of the Boyne in 1690, is a date Ulster Unionists hold as bringing in a new era of religious freedom in Ireland. It is central to the Unionist faith.

Yet nothing could be further from the truth. After 1690, the only religion recognised by law was Anglicanism. In Ulster, this was a minority religion. Most of the colonists were Presbyterians, as



A VERY APT PICTURE. IN N. IRELAND, LOYALISM AND THE FORCES OF THE STATE HAVE ALWAYS MARCHED TOGETHER.

# MANCHESTER MARTYRS MARCH

The Manchester Martyr's March is a yearly event, held to commemorate three men, Philip Allen, Michael Larkin and Michael O'Brien, who were executed in Manchester Prison in 1867. The three were members of the Fenian Movement, an Irish Republican group who believed in armed struggle to free Ireland from British occupation. They had been involved in the successful rescue of two other Fenians from a prison van during which a policeman had been shot, and it was for this that they were executed. We urge all our supporters to make every effort to attend this march, which is often subject to harassment from fascists and loyalists. The march assembles at 12 noon at Longsight Market in Manchester, on Sunday the 23rd of November. It will march to Manchester University where there will be an indoor rally with speakers from various Republican groups including Sinn Fein, Irish Republican Socialist Party, and a representative of Republican prisoners. Support the right of the Irish people, to fight to free their country.



AND THE NOT SO RESPECTABLE, DESPITE THE FACT THAT MEMBERS OF THE ULSTER DEFENCE ASSOCIATION, HAVE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS BEEN DIRECTLY IMPLICATED IN THE KILLINGS OF INNOCENT CATHOLICS, IT STILL REMAINS A PERFECTLY LEGAL ORGANISATION.



# SOCIALISM TODAY

In the last issue of Red Action, we discussed how the revolutionary socialist movement in this country today, has little influence amongst the working class, and saw how one of the reasons for this, was the success of the capitalist system since the end of the Second World War. Constantly rising living standards meant that most people were satisfied with the system, and had little interest in talk of revolution. Consequently the revolutionary movement dwindled into the fringe movement that it is today.

However economics cannot be the only reason. Even in a working class generally content, there will still be a small percentage - but still many thousands in actual numbers - who are anti establishment enough in outlook to be attracted to the ideas of revolutionary socialism. And yet by and large, the left has not been able to relate even to these people. The view often put forward, that the left is totally composed of middle class students and academics, is in fact a gross exaggeration. But it is non the less, true that there is not one left group today of any size, which does

not have many more student ex-student and academic members, than it has industrial and manual workers.

One of the reasons for this is because so many of those working class people who do get involved with the left, soon leave it disillusioned by their experience. Why is this? Why do the left find it so difficult to relate to most working class people? To find the answer to this, we have to look back at the origins and traditions of the left in this country. To see where it gets its ideas from.

Just about every revolutionary socialist organisation in this country today, aspires

to follow the traditions and teachings of the Bolshevik Party which led the Russian revolution in 1917. Many of them follow more specifically the Trotskyist tradition which was part of the Bolshevik tradition.

The Russian revolution was the first revolution in history to overthrow a capitalist regime with the aim of establishing a workers socialist state. Leon Trotsky, was one of the leading figures in it. As in subsequent years, the regime set up by the revolution and led by J. Stalin, moved further and further away from the original aims of the revolution, Trotsky led an opposition movement, which tried to steer it back onto a more socialist course. For this he was killed by an agent of Stalin in 1940.

## CRISIS

A constant and re-occurring theme of all of Trotsky's teachings in his last years, was his view that the capitalist system was in a social and economic crisis of such massive proportions, that it couldn't possibly re-stabilise itself and operate peacefully again. For Trotsky, there was no middle road. Either the capitalist system would in the very near future, be overthrown and an international socialist system established, or else it would destroy itself and society with it.

This may sound very heady stuff today, but at the time it was quite feasible. Just a few years earlier, the whole of the industrialised world had suffered the massive depression which had followed the Wall Street Crash. Revolutions and attempted revolutions had recently occurred in many European countries. Now fascism had triumphed in half of Europe and was dragging the human race into the holocaust of the Second World War. It was not at all unreasonable to come to the conclusion that a system which had allowed such a situation to develop had nothing more to offer, that the choice really was between "Socialism or barbarism".

As we now know, it didn't work out this way. Capitalism

did in fact re-stabilise itself, and in doing so defused the desire for revolution amongst the working class, and taking the possibility of revolution off of the agenda for the immediate future.

## REALITY

Unfortunately, this reality has never impressed itself on the Trotskyist movement. Right up to this day, they follow his scriptures on the imminence of the revolution to the very word, and base all of their activities and methods of operation, on a belief that this view is correct, that the revolution is indeed just around the corner.

Thus we see them operating in a manner, which may well be necessary for an organisation to operate if it were truly in a revolutionary situation, but which today just makes them look foolish. Making totally unrealistic political demands like calling for a general strike on every issue. Obsessive secrecy and paranoia. Demanding unquestioning obedience and total 24 hour a day commitment from its members. Such are the hall marks of the orthodox Trotskyist movement, as they stand prepared for the imminent rising of the working masses year after year. When it doesn't materialise, an excuse is found and the date just put back a bit. A bit like the Jehovah's Witnesses with their predictions of the end of the world. Most working class people who become involved in such organisations, either very soon come out muttering about a madhouse, or stay in and actually go mad.

Admittedly not all left groups are as bad as this. But even those that don't try impose Trotsky's experience of the 1930s onto conditions today, still don't have any great success in relating to the working class in any great numbers. So why do they fall down?

## ANSWER

The answer may well lay in the internal structure of their organisation. Just about every left group today, models itself on the Bolshevik Party of revolutionary Russia. It is a form of organisation, where you have a small group



STUDENTS ON THE MARCH. THE IDEA THAT ALL LEFT GROUPS ARE ENTIRELY MADE UP OF STUDENTS IS A FALSE ONE, BUT THERE IS A LOT LESS WORKING CLASS PARTICIPATION THAN THERE SHOULD BE

of intellectual leaders wielding great authority and control over the rest of the organisation.

Such a form of organisation may well have been suitable even necessary, for the conditions which existed in revolutionary Russia - operating in a revolutionary situation in conditions of illegality, it may well be necessary to have an organisation, where the leadership can demand a high level of discipline, but we have to ask ourselves, does that also apply to the situation we are in today.

Also, experience has shown that in such an organisation there is the danger of curruption, whereby the leadership, totally entrenched in their position, start to wield their authority not in the interests of the organisation as a whole, but merely to maintain their own position (many people maintain that such a process was one of the chief factors on the degeneration of the Russian revolution).

If such a situation should arise, then it is almost impossible to correct, because the

leadership has the means and authority to suppress criticism in the name of discipline, and if necessary, cast the voices of it, out of the organisation. This is exactly the situation which those who were later to found Red Action, found themselves in five years ago.

## UNQUESTIONING

And so, what happens over a course of time is that all those with questioning and critical minds, find themselves either driven out of the organisation, or become disillusioned by what they see going on, and leave anyway.

Those that remain, are those that are willing to follow the directives of their leaders unquestioningly. In time the whole organisation is composed almost entirely of servile lackeys, unwilling or unable to think for themselves. It is not difficult to understand, why so many working class people find the atmosphere within such an organisation impossible to cope with.

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## GUNNING FOR YOU

The last year and a half, has seen a significant increase in the amount of time and space in the media, devoted to the subject of crime and law and order. Violence at football matches, child murders, sex and drug crimes have all made headline news together with inner city riots and picket line disturbances, such as at Wapping. Even racist attacks on ethnic minorities get a brief mention now, when previously they had been virtually ignored (The Home Office didn't even admit that they occurred until 1981) Such a campaign undoubtedly plays upon and magnifies people's fears about violence and lawlessness in society, and that is exactly what it is intended to do. To try and justify in advance, an increase in police and state power, which is really aimed at cracking down on not criminals, but trades unions and ordinary working class people.

It is no coincidence that the current media panic about crime began soon after the end of the miner's strike. The strike had given the ruling class a bit of a scare. Thatcher had provoked it (according to Ian McGregor's suppressed life story) but it lasted far longer than the government had planned. In the end, it cost more to defeat the miner's fight against pit closures, than it did to fight the Falklands war, and it left a worried Thatcher talking about the "Enemy within". The Tories were still gibbering about it, at their conference last year.

Another indication of how the law and order scare is really aimed at what the upper class fear most, the organised working class, can be seen in the activities of the "Law and Order Society" a right wing pressure group set up in February of 1985, and who campaign not only for tougher policing and stiffer sentencing, but also for restrictions on picketing. Indeed the society chose as its parliamentary advisor, Peter Bruinvels M.P. for Leicester East, not because of his calls for the return of the death penalty - for which he has offered to be the hangman - but because of his call in October 1984, that Arthur Scargill should be put on trial for treason.

Basically, what all this means is that the upper class have come to the conclusion

that they have to tool up. That they need to give greater powers of repression to the state, in order to deal with the growing social and political unrest. However, to say that you want more police powers and weapons, in order to put down the working class, won't make you very popular (except with the extreme right wing) So in order to soften everybody up for plastic bullets, C.S. gas and other strong arm state tactics, you have a great crime scare, in order to try and convince everyone that they are necessary to cope with an uncontrollable situation.

This is not a new tactic. There was a law and order scare before the 1979 General election, when the Tories were claiming that Britain's streets were becoming unsafe - in actual fact, the streets have never been free from crime - but this time, it's more than just a vote catcher, or a case of the old complaining about the young as they always do. It's an attempt to justify measures that are being taken, in order to enable the ruling class to repress the resistance of the working class, when they react against their living standards being forced down. It's not hooligans and criminals who will be the real target of the crackdown, but the working class, and anyone who gets in the way of ruling class politics. It could even be you.



NEW POLICE POWERS, WILL BE AIMED MORE AND MORE AT ORDINARY WORKING CLASS PEOPLE.

## SUITS THE BOSSES

Have you seen the T.V. advert about the marvelous new motor car factory in the North East of England? You know the one - the workforce there has never been on strike, and the management wear overalls, and even eat in the same canteen as the men on the shop floor.

However, what the T.V. advert doesn't explain, is that the reason that there has never been a strike, is because the owners - the Japanese company Nissan - insist that if there is to be any union presence in the plant at all, only one union, and one willing to sign a no strike agreement will be tolerated.

## AGREEMENT

The union which has agreed to this, is the engineering union the A.E.U., and they have gone hand in glove with Nissan in abolishing demarcation lines. Everyone must turn a hand to everything. Remember, it is these demarcation lines, which have traditionally been responsible for protecting both tradesmen/women's jobs, and the quality of their work.

The T.V. advert also doesn't tell us why the management wear overalls. It is nothing more than a con trick to try and fool the lads or lasses that the manager is one of them, and their interests are the same. The boss may wear overalls, but he is paid a damn sight more than the workforce, by bosses and shareholders - who no doubt do wear suits.

The meals in the canteen together is very much the same. What does it matter what managers eat, or indeed what they wear. Their purpose is the same as any other management in a private company. To keep production and profits up, and to keep the workers who produce the goods on which that profit is based, down and in their supposed place.

The bosses in pinstripe suits in Japan, pay the work-boss in Sunderland, what is necessary to keep him doing their dirty work for them.

With the A.E.U. doing everything that they can to assist Nissan with these little tricks, it's little wonder that only a small percentage of the workforce have bothered to join the union. The general attitude has been, what's the point in joining a union, which can do next to nothing to fight the management, if a dispute should arise, and the workers come under attack. After all, all the bureaucrats of the A.E.U. are interested in, is co-existing alongside the management, in this and every workplace. Remember, they are also on large salaries, and are usually dressed in smart suits themselves.

## 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 decisions.

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.

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# NEWS FROM NOWHERE

Shortly after the recent Reyjavik summit, the Russian premier Mikhail Gorbachov said of Ronald Reagan "I saw what happened when he consulted with his officials. He is not free to make his own decisions."

It seems that even the Americans realize that a man in his seventies, who has taken to sleeping with a cabbage patch doll dressed as a nurse, to remind him to take things easy after his last operation, is no longer playing with a full deck.

"The goal was simply to get the English out. The method? Intimidation, terror and sudden death."

A quote from former Jewish "terrorist" and winner of the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize, Elie Wiesel. Isn't life full of surprises?

"Margaret's choice of words on her arrival in Downing Street, 'Where there is discord let us bring harmony' allegedly quoting Saint Francis of Assisi, could scarcely have been less apt, and from her lips was the most awful humbug. It was totally at odds with her belief in conviction politics."

The ex cabinet minister James Prior, telling us what every body knows now. Pity he didn't tell us then.

"It's a weird thing to want to be - to think that you want to police society. Telling people that they shouldn't have done that. It attracts a flawed personality, and the recruitment process seems to encourage them rather than weed them out. We have more and more police, with more and more power, and there is more and more crime. It's a total failure."

G.F. Newman, author of "Law and Order".

Three cheers for private enterprise and the Afghan "Contras". In between fighting the "Comms" they have not been idle, and have managed to build up a nice little cottage industry, which is in fact the largest single source of illicit opium in the world today. As one of their leaders Mohammed Rasul, explained to the New York Times recently "How else can we get the money? We must grow and sell opium, to fight our holy war against the Russian non believers."

I'm not suggesting that old Mohammed is a little bit dodgy, but I notice that he doesn't mention the 775 million dollars that his movement gets from the United States and Saudi Arabia every year.

"I want this to be a nail in the coffin of the supergrass system" commented Thomas Maguire after being cleared of conspiracy charges, brought on the word of a Special Branch informer. In the past 7 years, of the 27 "supergrasses" used by the Royal Ulster Constabulary, and on who's statements unconvicted people have been held on remand for periods of up to 4 years, 15 have later retracted those statements or refused to give evidence, and another four have had their evidence rejected by the courts. One of these, loyalist Joseph Bennett, was resettled with his family in Derby and given a substantial sum of money. Evidently it wasn't enough, as he has since been convicted of an armed bank robbery and given a ten year prison sentence.

In an effort to disguise the sordid nature of the supergrass system, with its lies, betrayals, manufactured evidence, and give it a cloak of respectability, the R.U.C. and British politicians like to refer to their paid perjurers as "converted terrorists." But converted to what? In Bennett's case, from terrorist to bank robber presumably.

You would have thought that a top wage of £248 a week for a police constable would be enough to feed the poor beggar. Evidently not true in the case of P.C. Richard Johnson, who bit off part of a fellow P.C.'s ear during a rugby match in Wales. The Judge, John Rutter, sentencing Johnson to six months imprisonment, and seemingly getting the shape of the ball a little bit confused said "The violence you used was a dreadful example of football hooliganism."

However he's probably right in the case of the 7 British Transport Police, including an inspector, who are to appear in court on charges varying from assault to malicious wounding, committed when attacking a group of Chelsea and Everton fans at Edgware Road tube station last season.

A letter in the Guardian recently, pointed out the likeness between the Labour Party's new Red Rose symbol, and the emblem of the same flower used on the cover of Mills and Boon novels. But or course dear chap. Surely beneath each of them it's just another case of romantic fairytales.

"I never got an O level, brain the size of a pea I've got" admitted Princess Di cheerfully, to a youngster she was chatting to at a childrens home in Hull, but was quick to add that it never held her back in life. Whilst on the subject of educational achievement, I must admit that I was quite shocked by a recent disclosure in the Tatler magazine, that Mr Kelvin McKenzie, the editor of the Sun, actually has an O level. An even more sobering thought, is the realization that that is probably more than most of the 4 million or so poor slobs who actually read the paper regularly, could achieve collectively.

"I happen to subscribe to the theory that it is an illness, a neurosis like other neuroses".

President Ronald Reagan, who you may have noticed is regularly responsible for rather a large number of the contributions to this column, giving us his enlightened views on the subject of homosexuality.

Government minister Dr. Rhodes Boyson, recently gave a talk in which he referred to what he described as "Probably the most evil product of our time."

Was he perhaps talking about apartheid? Nuclear weapons? drug abuse? famine? In fact the subject under discussion was single parent families. Not a group that would have immediately sprung to my mind I must admit.

Mr Alistair Graham, head of the Civil Service union the C.P.S.A. for five years, before he left the post 3 months ago, told an audience from the city recently "If it is possible to award life membership of a union to Norman Tebbit, then the movement should do so." He also explained to them that the reason he had left his union position to run the Independent Industrial Society, at a salary of £50,000 a year, was because he saw the need to reduce the divisions in British society. Militant John Macreadie, elected earlier this year to replace Graham as the C.P.S.A. General Secretary, has been unable to take up his post due to the intervention of right wingers.

Still, at least the chaps from the T.U.C. have got their act together, helping to organise the first ever "Dole Olympics" in Wales, for 6,000 unemployed. Now that's what I call real positive action.

Prince Charles, on a recent tour of the U.S.A., visited Harvard University - their equivalent of say Oxford or Cambridge - and was quick to sing its praises. Not quite so quick however was a Guardian reporter who also attended the event and who's report read

"The essence of this place" one lady professor said "is that it is white male and protestant..... and after we have been here for a while, we all become white male and protestant."

She was more or less right. Despite efforts from the faculty to paint Harvard as a colour blind place, which tolerates little prejudice, black faces among the Harvard men - there's no such thing as a Harvard woman - are rare.

In view of the fact that Red Action supporters have on occasion been known to refer to having given various right wingers a "good spanking" I should perhaps make it quite clear that this is in fact a reference to political debate of a somewhat physical nature, and has absolutely nothing what so ever to do with the activities of Tory M.P. Harvey Proctor.

The Member of Parliament for Hayes and Harlington Mr. Terry Dicks, has joined the long list of openly racist Tory M.P.s with an attack on the immigrant population. According to him, West Indians are "lazy good for nothings, who have come across here to sponge and bring their way of life in the Caribbean to this country."

Whether or not it was Viv Richards and co thrashing us at our own culture again which provoked this outburst I'm not sure, but Dicks claimed that it was in defence of Sir Woodrow Wyatt. Wyatt, a former Labour M.P., had been censured by the Press Council, for an article in which he had claimed that immigrants were "lawless" and "unemployable".

"To me that day was like a dream. To see people pouring out of the side streets, emerging from the trams, all converging on Gardiners corner, I was simply overwhelmed. It was a tremendous sense of jubilation. We had got the bastards. You felt that the working class united could become invincible."

Mike Mendel. One of those who fought the fascists in the Battle of Cable Street in 1936.

## SOCIALISM TODAY

Continued from page three.

These then, are just a few of the reasons for the lack of working class involvement in the revolutionary socialist movement today. It is why we in Red Action, as well as other small groups which have emerged from the mainstream left in recent years believe that new forms of organisation and new methods of applying socialist ideas have to be found, if we are ever to build a mass revolutionary working class movement in this country.

This task is today becoming more and more important. If we accept that it was the success of capitalism in the post war years, and the prosperity that brought which was responsible for the lowering of revolutionary consciousness in the working class, then we must also expect the growing mess that the capitalist system is in today, and the increasing poverty which that will bring, to raise working class consciousness.

### RELATE

But unless there is an organisation/s able to relate to those of the working class who do start looking for new answers. Then not only will they be lost to the revolutionary socialist movement they may even be won over by the far right. One of the reasons that the fascist movement has enjoyed considerable suc-

cess in recent years, in winning over many disaffected working class youths to it's ideas, is because it has found ways to relate those ideas to them, something which the left, except on a few rare occasions, has totally failed to do.

### TASK

And so we in Red Action address ourselves to the task of building a revolutionary socialist movement, which is from the working class and of the working class. We do not claim to have the answers to all of the questions we have raised, but we are working on them. We are a tiny movement with little experience, and even less resources. But we do have something which is far more precious than either of those and that is the belief and commitment of our members. If you agree with our aims and ideas, then we invite you, no we urge you, to join in with our activities and even consider joining our organisation. Not because we want to play the numbers game, and just recruit as many heads as possible to OUR organisation, but because that organisation needs the energy drive and enthusiasm which only YOU can bring to it, before it can be the sort of organisation we all want it to be.

"These people talking about human rights, must be expelled from the country or locked up."

Dictator of Chile, and darling of the Federation of Conservative Students, General Pinochet.

"The judges who make the law and lock you up one day, come round and fuck you the next."

A crisp explanation on how the system works, from a delegate at the World Congress of Prostitutes, which was held in Brussels in September.

## RED ACTION IN ACTION

A march to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street, through the traditionally strong fascist areas of the East End of London, passed off without incident. A persistent rumour or a planned fascist ambush to snatch the main march banner, led to the deployment of about 40 Red Action and Anti Fascist Action members as "Auxiliary Stewards". Unfortunately, no one informed the police officer in charge, who thought that the march had been successfully infiltrated by the fascists. In any event, the fascists kept a low profile, much to the disappointment of one of the older marchers, who on hearing talk of possible trouble, straightened his shoulders and muttered defiantly "We did 'em before and we'll do 'em again" Over 2,000 attended the march and rally.

Two Red Action supporters arrested for public order offences during a National Front march in Bury Saint Edmunds last July, were acquitted in the local magistrates court last month. Other counter demonstrators arrested recieved fines. A whinging plea by an N.F. organiser, for £50 compensation towards a banner destroyed by counter demonstrators was also dismissed.

Another law abiding Red Action supporter, who was arrested after an incident involving former chairman of the Front Ian Anderson, during a pro-Irish Republican march last August also had a result, when police witnesses failed to appear in court and the case was dismissed. Better still, all the accused were guilty. Three cheers for British justice.

## WE ARE RED ACTION

Red Action is an organisation founded to work towards the ending of the capitalist system of production, and the establishment of a socialist one.

**CAPITALISM:** The working class form the overwhelming majority of society. They produce everything, but not for themselves. It becomes the property of the minority upper class. A worker would have to pay many times his/her wages to buy back the goods that they produce in that time. It is legalised robbery. This system also allows the minority to decide what should be sold and on the basis of their personal profit rather than social need. It is this that allows food to rot in butter and beef mountains, while people go hungry, and buildings to stand empty while people are homeless. Capitalism also allows a small minority to own all of the resources and means of production on which we all depend - raw materials, factories, machinery, etc. This means that most people have no say in how these resources are used. Billions of pounds in labour and materials can be, and often are wasted on socially useless projects while people die for the want of medical equipment that could have been produced. Private ownership of these resources also allows the owners to deny to society the use of them as they wish. It is this, that causes people to be unemployed while the machines on which they could be producing the things that they need stand idle.

**SOCIALISM:** A socialist society will be one that millions of people will be involved in shaping. Therefore no one group of people can do it for us. However, there are certain features that would have to be present in society, before we would consider giving the struggle for socialism.

**PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION:** Only this will create a basis whereby the whole of society can collectively decide how to employ all of its resources, mechanical and human. In this way wastefulness, whether in the production of socially useless things, or by enforced idleness of machines or workforce would be eliminated. When all resources are used in useful production instead of just a part of them as at present, the amount of labour required from each individual would be much less than at present. Development of new technology would further reduce the labour requirement. Society will stand on the brink of an era of leisure and plenty that past generations could not even have dreamed of.

**CONTROL OF SOCIALIST SOCIETY:** In capitalist society all of the institutions of social control - army police force judiciary - are run and controlled by unaccountable representatives of the upper classes. The majority of people have no say in their appointment and no control over their actions. We believe that in a truly socialist society the need to police people will eventually die away. Whatever form of social control may be necessary until that stage is reached, all of its representatives will be elected by and subject to dismissal by, the community that they represent.

**FREEDOM AND EQUALITY:** All of those that contribute to a socialist society will receive equal reward and enjoy equal rights, irrespective of colour, race, sex or creed. All of society's facilities - leisure, education, medical, etc. - will be equally available to all. All questions of personal morality - homosexuality, abortion, divorce, etc. - will be left to individual choice and free from state interference. There will be freedom of worship for all religions, but no church will be allowed to interfere in state matters.

**CLASS STRUGGLE:** Real Socialism cannot be achieved through parliament. The Labour Party does not try to end capitalism, merely to give workers a better deal within it. If they did attempt to take real power from the ruling class and give it to the workers, they would suffer the same fate as other parliamentary movements that have tried to do this. The ruling class would use its control over the forces of the state to crush them. To achieve Socialism, a Socialist movement has to be ready to overthrow capitalism by force. The key is made and administered by the upper class and used by them as a weapon in the class struggle. Therefore, a socialist movement has to be prepared to defy the law when necessary. We support the right of national liberation movements around the world to engage in armed struggles to free their countries from oppression by foreign powers. We fully support the revolutionary armies, the Irish Republican Army, and the Irish National Liberation Army in their war against the British state machine which is also the enemy of the British working class. The war in Ireland is caused by the British prison fleet, which is only maintained by armed force. Only armed force can remove that presence and stop the war.

**THE EASTERN BLOC:** The Eastern Bloc countries and China, Cuba etc. are used as examples to try and prove socialism to be undesirable. In our view although capitalism has been overthrown in these countries, none of them have succeeded in building a truly socialist society. In some cases this has been because incorrect policies within the new regimes have led them to adopt the wrong policies. In others because the new regimes have inherited such under-developed economies, and because of internal pressures beyond their control - those of American invasion, economic support and subsidies etc. - there has been neither the political and economic stability nor the necessary resources, necessary to begin the construction of a socialist society. We do accept that some of these countries have made significant advances from very primitive beginnings, and may continue to advance as they develop more modern industrial economies.

**THE ORGANISATION:** The period of capitalist growth and expansion during the 19th and 20th centuries working class living standards considerably. Mainly because of this the working class that emerged from that period, showed little interest in revolutionary socialist politics. They became the domain of professional clubbers and socialists. A cultural gap had been created between the working class and the left. The organisations that were created by the left in this period, were in nearly every case modelled on the Bolshevik Party in revolutionary Russia. It is a form of organisation in which a small intellectual leadership, holds great authority over a highly disciplined membership. History gives us many examples of how easily in this form of organisation, a corrupt leadership can invade that discipline and authority, merely to maintain its own position of power. Any who question the leadership or the party line that they stand down, are dangerous heretics to be cast out as soon as possible. The organisation eventually becomes one made up entirely of sycophants and unquestioning members. The atmosphere in such an organisation is one that is totally alien to most working class people. They don't like it, seeing it as a threat even further into abstract politics. The arrangement between the organisation and the class is complete. Even in organisations where the leadership is not corrupt, the tendency to look back to revolutionary Russia for the solutions to all of today's problems leads to them coming up with answers that serve little or no relevance to the working class in Britain today. Seeking the need for a new form of organisation, Red Action was formed in 1981. Its primary aim is to be able to relate revolutionary socialist ideas to working class people, most of whom are cynical if not hostile towards the left. To achieve this the organisation must itself be of the class, in content and character. It must be able to recognise that the vast majority of workers are not revolutionary, and not expect immediate revolutionary commitment from them. It must show that it does not just talk in politics, but is willing to back them up with action when necessary. It must show that it is principled and consistent in its politics, and not just raffle and drop issues when it suits. It must recognise that its leadership is immune from possible corruption, and allow true internal democracy. It must be ready to work with other socialist and progressively minded groups in a non sectarian manner. We recognise that a revolutionary working class party is necessary if capitalism is to be overthrown. We are not that party, but neither are those groups that claim to be. We will work to keep alive a tradition of militant working class action until such time as enough working class militants can be brought together to form that party.