

Red Action

WHY BE

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ASHAMED TO SHOUT IT OUT LOUD?

WE ARE THE REDS

The recent general election with the triumphant return of the Tories yet again, will have left many socialists deeply despondent. How is it that a government so blatantly anti-class can become so seemingly impregnable? Why on earth do so many people who in the long run have little to gain and everything to lose from Toryism, still go out and vote for it?

EFFECTS

An obvious answer to this of course, is that they don't realise that they are going to be worse off. So far, the Tories have been very successful in limiting the worst effects of their policies to only certain sections of society. The unemployed, those on very low wages or dependant on benefit, these people are well enough aware of how much worse off they are because of Tory policies, but there are many others who have not yet felt the full effect of them, and may well consider themselves to be better off because of them.

For instance those people who are looking to buy their council house. They may well be celebrating Thatcher's return. They might not be quite so happy if her government manages to force down wage levels to a point where they can't afford their mortgage though. Then take things like cuts in the Health Service. People here and read about these, but they don't really take a lot of notice, because most people are not ill very often. It's only when they do get ill, as most of us do at some time, and then find that they're going to die because the treatment they need is not available because of the cuts, as will certainly happen to some, that the real significance of it comes home.

And so one factor in the triumph of Toryism, is people's lack of awareness as to



Kinnock, Hattersley and other leading Labour figures, seem to spend more time attacking other socialists than they do attacking the Tories.

the true nature of it. But why are they so unaware?

A good deal of it is to do with the ceaseless Tory bias in the vast majority of the press and media, but just as significant as this, and perhaps even more so, has been the abject failure of the Labour Party to totally oppose Tory ideology, expose it for what it is, and present a clear and definite alternative to it.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Time and time again in recent years, we have seen the Labour Party leadership totally miss their opportunity to launch what could have turned out to be a very damaging attack on the Tories. During the miner's and printers disputes for instance. In both of these there was a good deal of public sympathy with the strikers, due to the fact that they were striking not for personal financial gain, but to fight against redundancies and unemployment, a cause which most working class people are strongly sympathetic too. However in-

stead of trying to capitalise on this sympathy and turn it into anger with the Tory government, instead of throwing the whole weight of their support behind the disputes and using them to launch an attack on the Tories for their acceptance of unemployment, their use of the police force as a virtual private army of strike-breakers etc, the majority of leading figures in the Labour Party seemed to be more concerned with joining in with the Tories in criticising the strikers for their supposed violence, or their failure to hold a ballot, or just about any other reason they managed to dig up.

When you look at examples such as this, and take them alongside the ceaseless attacks upon the Militant Tendency which leading Labour figures have been engaged in recently, you might be forgiven for concluding that they seem more concerned with attacking the left wing than they are the right.

EXTREMISM

The reason for this they tell us, is that they have to be seen to oppose "extreme" left wing ideas if they want to have any chance of being elected, as the British public will never support such ideas. But is this really the case? Several figures often attacked for being "extreme" or "loony left" - for example Bernie Grant and Ken Livingstone had little trouble getting themselves elected, and up and down the country, several Militant Tendency candidates were returned with vastly increased majorities.

Results such as these would suggest that it is in fact

quite possible to win large scale support for the sort of ideas usually referred to as extremist, and that the real reason for the opposition of so many leading Labour figures to these ideas, is not so much the public's rejection of them as their own.

NO ALTERNATIVE

This is the real crux of the matter, and the real reason for the Labour Party's failure to build an effective opposition to the Tories. Ultimately, the only real alternative to Tory ideas, are clear uncompromising militant socialist ones. However the vast majority of leading Labour figures will never support these ideas, because quite simply, they are not militant socialists but reformists. Their aim is not to try and abolish the capitalist system, but to tinker about with it and try and make it a little bit more humane (some hope)

And so, unwilling to align themselves with the only real alternative to Tory ideology, they end up becoming little more than a dissident voice within it. Instead of presenting clear alternatives to Tory policies, they end up offering little more than watered down or re-packaged versions of the same themselves. It can be no great surprise, that faced with a choice between on one hand, a party which has a clear unambiguous political ideology, to which it is totally and unashamedly committed - as the Tories are - and another which claims to oppose them, but seems incapable of presenting any clear and positive alternative, so many people choose the former. This is perhaps the

TRIP TO BELFAST

On the weekend of the 8/9th of August, as in previous Augusts, Red Action members and supporters will be travelling to Belfast to participate in the annual anti-internment demonstration. This is held to commemorate the night 16 years ago, when the British Army arrested and imprisoned without charge or trial, nearly 400 people, on the grounds that they were SUSPECTED of being involved in Republican activities. During the months that these people were held in custody, many of them were subjected to brutal tortures, including being subjected to savage beatings, as well as more sophisticated forms, such as being subjected to electronic "white noise".

For all of us in Red Action, the trip to Belfast is one of the most politically worthwhile events of the year. The experience of actually seeing the level of oppression which the British state is capable of implementing when it feels it necessary, tells someone more about the real nature of that state, than reading a hundred books or attending a hundred meetings ever could. It is also a truly moving and inspiring experience, to witness the fantastic courage and resistance of the nationalist people in the face of this oppression.

We strongly urge all of our supporters to do their best to try and attend this trip, as it will quite simply be the most politically educative thing they have ever done, and if the reaction of those who have come in previous years is anything to go by, one of the most enjoyable as well.

Whilst in Belfast, we will be staying with Republican activists. The fare is not cheap, ranging from about £40 return by coach, up to about £80 by plane. The advantage with the plane is that it is much quicker and if you are working you miss less time off work. Whichever way you go, it is money well spent. If you think that you might be interested, then write to the Red Action box number as soon as possible.



Going to the North of Ireland is the most politically worthwhile thing that anyone in this country could do.

greatest irony of all, the fact that the constant selling out and compromising by so many Labour figures, doesn't even achieve it's intended aim anyway. It just makes them appear unprincipled and uncommitted to their politics, which is exactly what they are.

For revolutionary socialists the only heartening thing about the election, was the victories of the likes of Ken Livingstone, Bernie Grant and several leading militant figures. Even though we would not perhaps see these people

as revolutionary socialists, they would certainly be seen by most people as being on the very far left. The fact that they were still elected in spite of this, and in spite of the campaign of smears that they have all had to endure, totally dispels the myth that it is impossible to win large scale support for radical socialist ideas. It shows quite clearly that they way to begin to fight back against Tory ideas, is not to be ashamed of socialist politics and run away from them, but to shout them out loud and clear.



A Fair enough message, but will it get through.

INSIDE THE UNNECESSARY EVIL
the myths about immigration laws

THE UNECESSARY EVIL

HYPOCRISY

By Graham Jackson

Over the past few weeks, the Half Moon young people's theatre in London, have been touring schools in the East End of the city, performing a play which tells the story of a family of four - parents and two young children who lived in a state which persecuted certain racial minority groups. It tells the story of how these unfortunate people, who had committed no crime other than being in this certain country, spent months in hiding from the police, their eventual capture, and their expulsion to the country of the parents origin, even though the two young children, a boy of eight and a girl of six had both been born in the country in which these events occurred, and had never even seen the country they were being sent to.



ORGANISING TO FIGHT INJUSTICE.

TRUE PICTURE

Not a particularly unique story you may think. Plenty of similar ones have emerged for example, from the Nazi period, the best known probably being the story told in the diary of Anna Frank. However what might surprise some people a bit about this story is that the events described in it did not occur during the Nazi period or any other comparable dark period in human history. They happened just three years ago in this country to the Hasbuck family, and are no doubt still occurring every day to other families of African and Asian origin. It is only when Immigration Controls as they are practiced in this country today are put into this sort of context, that you begin to get a true picture of the nature of them and the effect which they have on people's lives.

NECESSITY ?

For most people in this country - including a great many who would not for one minute describe themselves as racist - Immigration Controls are necessary. They have to exist in order to curb the massive numbers of people from Third World countries, who are desperate to get into this country in order to avail themselves of the marvelously superior standards of living and services here.

The more liberal minded will tell you that whilst of course they have nothing personal against these people, what with the unemployment and housing situation being what it is, there is just simply no room for them here. If they were to be allowed in, taking jobs and houses which are already in desperately short supply, it would just cause resentment. The committed racist, with characteristic intelligence, will probably try and somehow explain how as well as taking all of the jobs and houses, immigrants are also all on the dole and living twenty to a room as well.

IMAGE

But the image of hordes of foreigners wanting to get into the country is one that most people accept, and this is not really surprising since there are many influential forces in our society which do all that they can to maintain and foster this image. Witness for example the remarks made by Margaret Thatcher a couple of years ago, when she spoke of being "rather afraid of being swam-

ped by an alien culture" - the carefully chosen and reasonable language might be far removed from the hysterical rantings of National Front News, but the message is basically the same. Then there were the front page outbursts in the press, which greeted the news that a few hundred stricken and helpless "boat people" were to be given refuge in this country. More recently, we had the example of the hysterical reaction of the media to the fact that a few hundred people from African and Asian countries, tried to enter this country the day before new restrictions on travel between their countries and this one came into operation, as if this was somehow further proof of the existence of these would be invading hordes.

There are countless other examples to show the way in which this image is created and re-inforced, and yet any objective study of the facts would show that it is in fact a total myth. It would show for example that in every year since 1964 - and that includes several years in which the present Immigration Controls were not in force, - more people left this country than entered it to live, and that includes the tiny insignificant number who entered it "illegally". Why is it then that certain parties go to such pains in order to try and maintain this myth ?

JUSTIFICATION

Firstly it's because the existence of the myth justifies in advance the measures taken to thwart it. In a supposedly "civilised" country like Britain, if people weren't convinced of the need for some sort of force to stem potential invasion, it would be a lot more difficult for the state to justify the cruel and inhuman measures it carries out supposedly in pursuance of this aim. In much the same way, people accept the existence of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which allows the British state to carry out the sort of measures normally more associated with states such as South Africa, as necessary in order to defeat terrorism, even though in the vast majority of cases, it is used not against those involved in the armed Republican struggle, but simply to harass and persecute ordinary Irish civilians. And so then, if Immigration Controls don't in fact exist to thwart a potential invasion - because it doesn't exist - what are their real purpose.

There are a number of reasons. Firstly, Immigration Controls are very useful to the capitalist system. They can act as a regulator on the workforce, allowing for example large numbers of people from under-developed countries to be allowed and encouraged to come here when they are needed as source of cheap labour - as happened in this country during the fifties and early sixties - whilst retaining the power to stop and if necessary reverse this flow should economic requirements change.

RACISM

Another reason why the capitalist class try to encourage and strengthen the myths about immigration, is because such images strengthen and bolster racism, and racism is something that is very useful to them. It keeps the working class divided, blaming each other for the social and economic problems they face, instead of directing their anger to where the blame really lays, with the capitalist system.

If people can be convinced that the presence of immigrants is the reason that many people are homeless or live in sub-standard housing, then it stops them asking questions about the tens of thousands of empty properties left permanently unused and idle, the second, third, fourth and even tenth homes of the wealthy. It stops them asking why it is that building plant and materials lay about unused, and hundreds of thousands of building workers sign on the dole, when they could be creating decent housing for everyone. Similarly if they are busy blaming immigrants for unemployment, then they don't stop to think that it isn't the immigrant community who make people redundant and leave thousands of factories and workplaces standing idle. No it is the capitalist class who are responsible for these things, the same capitalist class who try so hard to use their influence to further the myths that exist about immigration. It is not hard to see why.

ALL A MYTH

There are no masses and masses of would be immigrants wanting to overrun our country. Of course there will always be some people who want to leave the particular country they happen to be living in and go to another. And as they leave one country, so others will be leaving the one they will be going

to. Of course there will be spells when more people are entering some countries than there are leaving - exactly as there will also be times when more are leaving than entering. But why should this be detrimental to the social system of that country ? More people doesn't only mean more people to consume a country's wealth and services, it also means more people capable of helping to create it, and given that with modern technology an individual is capable of producing far more than he/she can consume, that should be a bonus to society.

Unemployment, lack of decent housing and services, these things are not linked to the level of population in our society. They are caused by the capitalist economic system. They were even worse during the 30s, when there was hardly any immigration into this country and the population was just over half what it is now, and as long as we live under a capitalist system they will still exist, whether there are 50 million people in this country or 150 million, irrespective of what colour their skin is or what language they speak. To try and blame one section of the community for these things just because they happen to have entered the country recently, is no more logical than it is to blame for instance, those with large families.

NO JUSTIFICATION

There is no moral or economic justification for Immigration Controls at all. But of course, a force of repression, once established has to then justify its existence. And that is why we witness the disgusting spectacle of Her Majesty's Immigration Officers, in the absence of anything better to do, persecuting the likes of the Hasbuck family. It is a sight which has no place whatsoever, in any society which has any pretensions to describing itself as civilised.

THROUGH THE POST

Red Action

I have read your paper several times, and can identify with a lot of things you say. But unfortunately, in today's present climate, the excellent ideas that you have will only reach a small audience. The system will always stay intact as long as people go for change in the Parliamentary way through putting pressure on M.P.s etc. Concessions are for slaves.

A real change will only come about when the working class is able to organise independently, and this means making people have no connection with the police or any other representatives of the state. In the six counties of Northern Ireland, if anyone has a quarrel with anyone else, matters are settled amongst the people. You cannot go to the police as they are seen for what they are, the representatives of the system.

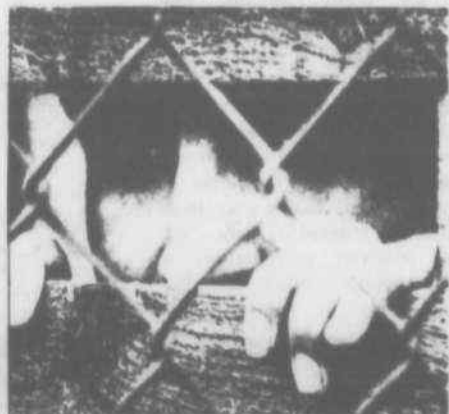
We have already seen how afraid the state is when large numbers of people withdraw their support for the police. If the same thing was to happen in Britain, we would be able to turn this country over. But to do this we need an alliance of all the revolutionary left in Britain if we are to have any impact, for there is already a Labour, Liberal Tory alliance on immigration controls and Ireland. This is why I agree with the Revolutionary Communist Party's idea of a Red Front. I don't think that they launched it in the election just to promote their own politics, because they would have just stood as the RCP if this was the case.

I must admit I do not fully understand the Red Front's ideas, and it will not be easy to unite all of the left wing organisations. But I think that this is something which must be done in this period of reaction.

Sean Mc Kernan
Edinburgh



The pages of Red Action are open to all of our readers to write about anything they wish. So if you want to make a point about any political matter, or perhaps just comment on something which you have read in Red Action, write to the box number. Please keep all letters as short as possible.



Peering through the wire at Heathrow Airport's Detention Centre (Concentration Camp ?) for suspected illegal immigrants.

HOW CAN ANY SOCIETY WHICH ALLOWS SCENES SUCH AS THESE TO OCCUR, ATTEMPT TO DESCRIBE ITSELF AS CIVILISED ?

DEALING WITH COLLABORATORS

By Andy Richards

The criticism of the IRA by the media, which followed the announcement of their intention to execute civilians who refused to cease building for and supplying the crown forces in Northern Ireland came as no surprise. What was perhaps a bit more surprising, was the reaction of some on the left to this announcement. Many claimed that the IRA had no right to threaten the lives of "fellow workers trying to earn a living". Let's try and put the record straight.

For the last few years, the IRA has undertaken a deliberate campaign of destroying British Army/RUC bases throughout Northern Ireland. This campaign has so far been very successful, and many garrisons have been either destroyed or seriously damaged by accurate rocket, bomb or mortar attacks.

But the Provos were encountering a problem. Soon after the barracks had been hit, civilians hungry for work, and sub-contractors greedy for large amounts of money, rebuilt and repaired them. What was the point of the IRA using its resources, ingenuity and most importantly, risking the lives of its volunteers to launch these attacks, if the damage was straight away repaired? Hence the threat to execute building sub-contractors or anybody else who supplied the British with a service, for the IRA were quite aware that the more roofs which were needed to do building work and carry out other tasks involved in the day to day running of their barracks, the less there would be available to conduct the war against them.

PAST EXAMPLE

What some people, particularly politicians in the South of Ireland, have tended to forget, is that this tactic is far from being a new one. By using it, the IRA are doing nothing more than delving back into their own historical ancestry, as an example from the much celebrated "Tan war" of the 1920s shows.

One of the IRA leaders at that time was Tom Barry, renowned as being among the greatest guerilla leaders of all time. In his autobiography "Guerilla Days in Ireland" he refers to his Brigades efforts to destroy British Army and Irish Police garrisons, in order to allow them to control only smaller and smaller areas of the country, and finally isolate them. But more importantly for the sake of this article, he recalls his response to a report which he received, telling of the British Army's efforts to organise groups of local men to work for them, filling in ditches which the IRA had dug in the road to hamper the movement of military vehicles.

This news was taken by Barry as a very serious threat to the IRA's existence, and he set off with another volunteer to where the men were working. They fired some warning shots close to the men, who immediately threw away their shovels and ran off, never to appear again for this sort of work. Barry was pleased about this outcome, and that there had been no bloodshed, but he conceded that had the men continued with the work, he would have had to shoot them dead.

SAME PRINCIPLE

This principle applies just as much today. Anybody who works for the security forces in any capacity is immediately giving their stamp of approval to their activities of torture, murder and all the other forms of oppression which they engage in. There are people on the left in this country, who say that the IRA have no right to carry out threats and executions of workers, when they do not have the support of a majority of people in the North of Ireland. But how many on the left defended the actions of pickets during the miner's strike, when they engaged in violence with the police and scabs (including that in which a taxi driver was killed) Nearly all of them, yet you could hardly say that the miners had the support of the majority of people in Britain.

The IRA do not alienate anybody by carrying out their campaign, because only loyalists work for the British. The sectarian employment policy in the North of Ireland, directly rules out any change in the country's structure by peaceful means. There is no such thing as radical trade unions, because Catholic/Nationalists find work impossible to come by. This means that the right wing traditional loyalist leadership of the unions stays intact, and they remain repressive and lodged in a time warp of bigotry. This in turn means that many young nationalists have to leave the North of Ireland to find work, keeping the loyalist majorities on election day safe.

SOCIALISM

The Nationalist people realise that the only way in which things will change and their living standards improve, is by removing the British presence in Ireland, and establishing in its place a socialist government. That can only be achieved by the IRA becoming increasingly successful in every aspect of their war campaign, including the prevention of work by collaborators.



An RUC barracks devastated by an IRA attack.

THE PRIVATE THREAT

By Tracey Carter

You may have heard that there's a new government. It might still be the same one as we've had since 1979, getting in again without any over-all majority vote, but let's face it the Tories are back and promising the country radical new policies for a brighter future for all - well give or take 5 million unemployed, 20 million or so low paid workers etc - I could go on but I think that you get the picture.

"CLEAN UP"

One of their promises on being re-elected was that they would "clean up" Inner London Boroughs. Target No. One Camden Council. So what do they propose to do? Lift the rate capping that they imposed on it in 1983, (which would basically mean giving back £80 million which they froze previously) If they did this, it would mean that building programmes previously shelved could go ahead, providing new homes for some of the 10,000 or so homeless families in the borough, creches and playgroups shut down for lack of funds could be re-opened, pavements and roads could be overhauled and made fit for the people to walk on, all manner of services for dis-advantaged groups and people in need, could be set up to offer help and practical advice. Lifting the restrictions imposed on Camden would solve many of these problems, but no, for the Tories the answer is something rarely heard of until 1982. Privatisation.

So what is this magical privatisation? Well as you probably know, the Tories love selling things, especially things which don't actually belong to them, such as the national gas and telephone systems, and the Trustee Savings Bank etc (at the moment they're plugging British Airways) The reason for their doing this they tell us, is because they want to take all of these things out of the hands of the uncaring and inefficient state, and give them "to the people". It works like this.

BUYING AND SELLING

They send you an application form, and you fill it in telling them how much of the company in question you wish to buy in the form of shares. You then fork out your life savings, and you now own something like 0.000001 percent of "your" company, along with 2 or 3 million others. After a while, you will all get a letter telling you how much your shares have increased in value. Along with many others you may well



The real aim of privatisation is to turn public property into private wealth

now decide to sell your shares in order to make yourself a fast buck. Now here comes the catch. Nearly all of these shares will be bought up by a few very rich people. So far from having a large company owned by "the people" they eventually become the sole property of a rich few.

IRONY

The irony of all of this is that those people who "buy" these companies, are in reality really only paying for what they already own, as they are all nationalised which means that they are public property in the first place. It's like paying for a holiday before you go and again when you come back.

It is easy to see that the real aim of privatisation, far from giving the countries assets "to the people" is in fact to take those assets away from them, and put them into the hands of the rich minority.

This aim is now being extended to take in council facilities. The Tories have declared that in certain Inner London Boroughs (all Labour controlled strangely enough) the controlling bodies have been spending too much money - hence rate capping. Not satisfied with that however, they've decided that Camden are still spending too much, and have appointed a government controlled auditor to check the books and enforce further cuts. Now the dreaded word privatisation appears again.

Because Camden Councilors have continued to operate services, and spend money withheld from them by the Tories, they now have to find that money very quickly - 80 million pounds, or be surcharged and possibly prosecuted. It is quite likely that

they will be forced to take the same road as Tory controlled Wandsworth, and sell off all manual services such as dustmen, caretakers, building works etc to the highest bidder. And so all services within the borough eventually pass out of council control, and into the hands of multinational companies, who's only aim is to make as much profit as possible. Often these companies have no union organisation within their workforce, and consequently conditions and wages are extremely poor. Tory anti-union legislation makes the job of organising and negotiating for improvement all the more difficult, and there's plenty more of these measures to come.

SUGGESTED OPTION

Another suggested option open to Camden Council is to sell off its land or estates to private landlords. Camden is a desirable area in which to live, and developers would waste no time in tripling rents and evicting people who couldn't pay (which over a period of a couple of years would probably mean about 80 percent of present tenants) Along the same lines, new laws are being considered to allow for

tenants to choose their own landlord. It may well look rosy when you are being told that you as tenants are being given complete control of your own estate. But that is all that you are being given. You will not receive any money for repairs, maintenance and alterations. You will have no-one to clean your estate unless you pay for it yourself.

DANGEROUS DOCTRINE

Privatisation is a dangerous doctrine. All of the services and nationalised industries are gradually disappearing, leaving a country with no reserve industries, no council housing and basically no rights. People working in Inner London Boroughs should begin to organise now within their union to oppose any moves towards privatisation. The only way we will have any chance of stopping this stampede on our communities, is to organise together, with no division between us. It is glaringly obvious that the Tory government has no regard for the welfare state and services. If no stand is made against them, they will eventually make the almost forgotten days of the 30s seem like paradise. Privatisation is the tip of the iceberg.

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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Herts

THE LOONY RIGHT

There are fewer than one million unemployed in Britain today, according to a group of Mrs. Thatcher's key advisers.

The government should do less not more to help the jobless, and wages should be forced down to get rid of the problem altogether.

"The headline 'three million' is neither a true indication of social stress, nor a useful measure of idle resources" says right wing economist Lord Harris of High Cross, a member of the Aims of Industry.

He puts the figure for the "genuine unemployed" at less than one million, and says that real unemployment has not increased at all since the Conservatives came to power in 1979.

Harris argues that the other two million or so on the unemployment register,

are either "unemployable, taking a long holiday, working for cash in hand, or otherwise scrounging".

Aims of Industry was set up in 1942, with the expressed aim of promoting "responsible and efficient capitalism. Although claiming to be independent of all political parties, it is a key link in a chain of "independent" right wing think tanks, which lobby to keep the Tory Party running along American style "new right" lines.

One of its more memorable enterprises to date, was to take it upon itself to draw up a list of militant trade unionists in all major industries, in order to enable employers to operate a blacklist.

With ample funds provided by big business, groups such as Aims of Industry look set to play an increasingly large role in Thatcher's third term of office.

THE VOICE OF REASON

ABC, the American television station provoked a lot of controversy a few months ago, when amid maximum publicity it launched its new series called "America" which portrayed the U.S. of A. ten years on under Soviet occupation. It featured scenes of babies being hoisted on communist bayonets, and children being crushed under the wheels of Russian tanks. Some people were puzzled by this return to classic cold war propaganda, especially when the super powers seemed to be making some progress in their negotiations over arms control. What was the point they asked? It was left to one small left wing journal to provide some clues. William Spencer is a director of United Technology which gained military contracts worth 3.9 BILLION dollars in 1985 alone, M. Cadell Woodward is a vice chairman of I.T.T., 1.5 billion in Pentagon contracts, Frank Carey is on the board of L.B.M. 1.8 billion from defence contracts, and Alan Greepan is with aluminium producers ALCOA (weapons use a lot of aluminium) All of the above named are also directors of ABC, not forgetting 7 million dollar share holder William Casey, recently deceased director of the C.I.A.

"The first day was proper damn war. Even if one side was using tear gas and rifles and the other stones and petrol bombs, it was proper damn war."

Brigadier Theuns Swanpoll recalling the Soweto massacre in South Africa in 1976, in which over a hundred black people died. No prizes for guessing who had the rifles and who had the stones.

In 1986 during an interview, Admiral Ronald J. Hays who presides over all the U.S. forces in the Pacific and Indian Oceans commented "I am concerned about the growth of the Fiji Labour Party. We will have to keep our eyes on Fiji" 12 months later an army coup was launched against the democratically elected Labour government, led by a Colonel Rabuka of whom a friend said "He is a level headed Officer, it is difficult to believe that he would have launched a coup on his own." Need I say more?

"I do not recall seeing many Conservative Ministers on the beach at Anzio."

Denis Healey replying to the Tories claims to have a monopoly on patriotism.

"It still makes me angry. Although 90 percent of people recognise that it was a fit up some of the mud still sticks. Even though I know I went through it I find it difficult to believe that it happened to me. I am not paranoid, but I know that when the forces of darkness want to move against you then you are fairly defenceless."

Peter Hain, one of the victims of a plot by MI5 in 1975, to smear and discredit Labour, Liberal and soft Tory figures as part of a plan to establish a right wing government.

"I speak as someone with no particular regard for the Tories, or a record of voting for them either" claimed Daily Mail columnist Andrew Alexander during the election campaign in an attempt to appear impartial. Mr Alexander who once boasted that he was "proud to be a racist" actually contested two elections during the sixties as a Conservative Party candidate. Tch tch.

"Of course we had to load the questions pretty much in her favour, and they cut out much of the umming and aahing before she answered, but she was a lot brighter than some of the dolts we get on the show."

Emelyn Hughes commenting about Princess Anne after her appearance on "A Question of Sport" Hopefully that little comment has buried the Tory loving Hughes' chance of ever appearing on the New Year's Honours list.

Hollywood actor Mickey Rourke who starred in "The Year of the Dragon" has disowned a major film in which he plays an IRA man who defects, because he claims that scenes he had hoped would make things clearer about what's going on in Northern Ireland have been edited out by the producers. The film, "Prayer for the Dying" opens here in the Autumn. Similarly the author of "Crossfire" a BBC serial about an informer in the IRA, fears that it will never be shown Mr James Hawthorn, controller of the BBC in Northern Ireland claimed that it glorified the IRA while making the RUC look like "Keystone Cops" The series, which was pulled from the schedules in February cost up to £2 million to make. Up to 1983, the BBC had cut or censored twenty five of their own programmes which "might have made things a bit clearer about what's going on in Northern Ireland" In the continuing propaganda war, truth is always the first casualty

"I have seen the future and it smirks."

Political commentator John Cole's thoughts on Kenneth Baker as a possible successor to Thatcher as leader of the Tories.

Despite persistent claims by President Kurt Waldhien of Austria that he was a reluctant Nazi, mounting evidence suggests that he was actively involved in atrocities against civilians in Greece and Yugoslavia during World War Two. Most Austrians, one in ten of whom claim to be anti-semitic, seem to show little concern about this, or about Waldhien's habit of carrying a gun. During the election campaign, his son Gerhardt said "When I asked him about the pistol he told me that it was from Greece. He said "My God those were the days" but he would never expand on it" Perfectly understandable given the circumstances.

"We drank his blood so that his ghost will not come back to haunt us. We killed him because he was a Communist and Communists kill innocent people."

A spokesman for one of the "vigilante" groups which have emerged in the Philippines, attempting to crush the Communist opposition to the Cory Aquino government, after it's failure to implement her election promises on land reform.

"Nicaragua was the sexiest revolution ever. There was a military presence but everybody was so relaxed. Yet the moment I crossed the border into Salvador, I sensed the real malevolence in the soldiers. In the city there is this sem-

blance of democracy, middle class girls carrying school books, but twenty miles into the country they maintain order by terror. We witnessed the mortaring of a village. I met the mothers of children who had disappeared, who's children had come back in card-board boxes. All done by death squads. There is no question in my mind of American involvement in backing the regime that is committing these atrocities"

Bono, singer with the band U2.

"I think Guy Fawkes had the right idea about the Houses of Parliament."

Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams, on being asked if we would be taking up his seat at Westminster.

"My local brigade would arrange for soldiers to be waiting for example on our side of the border, and a team would go across, sometimes they would be UVF or UFF who were being used by the army or police, and they would try and kidnap the chap and bring him across to the North. On other occasions there would be murders carried out."

Former British Intelligence Officer Captain Fred Holroyd, describing some of the less publicised activities of the Security forces in Northern Ireland. From his disclosures, it would seem that the government tend to regard their security forces as the Provisional wing of the Conservative Party.

"I don't like mixing politics and sport, but I'm a Tory" England footballer Terry Butcher

If you've ever wondered what sort of person becomes a Tory M.P. then wonder no longer. Of the 379 Tories in Parliament at this present time, 122 are company directors, 40 are barristers, 26 Parliamentary advisers, 21 farmers or land-owners, 19 solicitors, 17 Lloyds underwriters (to become one you need to put £100,000 up front) 14 merchant bankers and 13 journalists. 253 of them, including 15 of the 21 members of the present cabinet went to public school.

Whilst in the subject of the upper classes, I was interested to note that in five days in the exclusive stewards enclosure at the Henley Boat Regatta, the Hooray Henry's managed to dispose of some 50,000 pints of Pimms, 14,000 pints of bitter, 9,000 pints of lager, 6,000 bottles of champagne, 3,000 lbs of strawberries, 1,000 gallons of ice cream, 2,500 lbs of beef, 2,000 turkeys and 500 lbs of smoked salmon, all washed down with 35,000 iced coffees.

In total contrast to this display of affluent gluttony, the staff, who worked 12 hour shifts dishing up this feast, were paid an average of £1.60 an hour for their pains. The only reason for repeating these statistics, is to help strengthen any prejudices that our readers may feel towards the upper classes. That's why it's called propaganda.

The North London branch of the National Front, recently sent this message to the commanding officer of the 22nd Special Air Service regiment.

"We would like to congratulate you and your men on the successful action taken against the enemy at Loughall, an operation in the highest traditions of Britain's special forces." Signed Paul Nash N.F. North London organiser.

High praise indeed, from a street fighter of the calibre of Nash, who has suffered a number of humiliations over the years, and to my knowledge has been hospitalised three times in action against the "enemy" over here.

In a recent article, Ken Livingstone suggested that the reason the Scottish and Northern M.P.s actually believe in the myth of universal Southern affluence, is because they never travel beyond the "bars and brothels of Westminster"

Being a new boy, Ken probably hasn't realised that as the bar in the House of Commons is open 24 hours a day, with drinks at subsidised prices, few if any ever leave the bar, never mind the brothels.

"The voice of Satan is an ally of the K.G.B."

An Afghan guerrilla leader speaking on the B.B.C.s World Service.

In February, the London Evening Standard, a staunch supporter of the government's strong line against "terrorism" claimed in an editorial that "few people are likely to be much concerned by the news that our intelligence services concocted plans to assassinate General Girvas and Colonel Nassar". In the same month, Afghan rebels killed 72 people in a car bomb attack in Jalabay, and also used anti-aircraft missiles to shoot down an airliner near Khost, killing 35 people. They repeated this in June, killing another 53 people including 16 children. Commenting on the fact that the rebels were using missiles made in a factory owned by the British government, Cabinet Minister Geoffrey Howe said "Most M.P.s will thank goodness that the modern weapons are getting through to them."

Obviously a case of different strokes for different folks, but the Tories if nothing else, are at least consistent in their hypocrisy.

It's funny how one small statement can sometimes say so much about the nature of our class divided society. Sentencing a man to seven months imprisonment for theft at Luton Crown Court, Judge Kevin Dillon told him "You have pleaded guilty to one of the most serious forms of theft, namely stealing from your employer. In the circumstances I have no alternative but to impose an immediate custodial sentence."

"Funny that. In the circles in which I move, the only serious form of theft is stealing from ordinary people. Nicking off the boss? It's not even stealing is it."

Demolition worker David Halliday died after falling 30ft from a roof while doing a job which was described as "totally unnecessary. His death led to his employer, sub-contractor William Wigglesworth appearing at St. Albans magistrates court on five charges of contravening health and safety regulations.

"There was no need for Mr. Halliday to be on this exceedingly dangerous roof, as the demolition should have been done by a machine. It was almost suicidal to go up there" said Tony Yoruth, principle inspector of factories for the prosecution. "Even after Mr. Halliday had fallen, two other worker also went up on to the roof to do a totally unnecessary job that should have been done from the ground" he added.

The magistrates told Mr. Wigglesworth that they took an "extremely serious view of your negligence" and to prove just what they meant they then fined him £40 on each of the five counts plus £50 costs.

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 need of capital and labour cannot ever be reconciled. In other words the quest by the employing classes for greater profit, is in eternal conflict with the demands of the working class for higher wages, shorter hours etc. It is in the obvious interest of the employer to keep wages down as low as possible while it is equally obvious that this does not serve the interests of the majority. The two systems capitalism and socialism cannot co-exist, as they are in constant struggle pulling in opposite directions, each in pursuit of its own goals. A victory for one is necessarily a defeat for the other. This is the major source of conflict in the world today. Capitalism is a system which is based on the private ownership of the means of production. This means that the factories, workplaces, natural resources etc, on which we all depend to produce the necessities of life are the private property of a few individuals, who use them to produce not what is most socially necessary, but whatever will make them the most profit. When it suits them, they are able to close down those productive resources, even though there may be great social need for what could be produced on them. Regardless of how rich a country may be in natural resources, capitalism can never provide equality of wealth due to its own inherent limitations. It is obviously impossible for everybody to become a capitalist (employer) and so to function, the system demands the creation and maintenance of an employing class and a working class, or if you like an upper class and lower class. Propping up this system, are the forces of social control—army, police force, civil service etc—all controlled by totally unelected and un-accountable representatives of the capitalist class.

SOCIALISM It is impossible for us today to say exactly what a socialist system will be like, as when it happens there will be millions of others involved in shaping it. However there are some features that would have to be present in any society, before we would be willing to consider it as socialist.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP Only when all of the major productive resources and industry are taken into public ownership, will it be possible for the democratic will of the majority to ensure that they are at all times employed in the most socially useful manner. This will result in a massive increase in production and wealth.

CONTROL OF SOCIETY All those who occupy positions of power and authority will be elected by those they represent and subject to recall.

FREEDOM AND EQUALITY All will be expected to contribute to production and all will receive equal reward and have equal rights, irrespective of sex, race or creed. The state will provide adequate facilities to cater for the needs of the elderly, sick, handicapped, nursing mothers etc, who will all receive a full wage. All questions or personal morality will be free from state interference. Abortion and contraception will be legal and provided by the state. There will be freedom of worship for all religion, but no church will be allowed to interfere in state matters.

INTERNATIONALISM The capitalist economic system is linked up internationally, therefore the struggle to overthrow it is a worldwide one. All workers everywhere have the same interests. It is impossible for socialism to exist in isolation in one country, as the power of international capitalism would crush it.

NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD TO SOCIALISM Socialism cannot be achieved through the parliamentary system, because the real power in society lays not with elected MPs but with rich industrialists and the leaders of the armed forces, police judiciary etc. The present structures cannot be reformed they must be overthrown. The Labour Party does not try to end capitalism, but merely give the workers a better deal within it.

UNION STRENGTH. WE SUPPORT ANY PICKET LINE IN DEFENCE OF WORKERS LIVING STANDARDS. We support a strong organised rank and file movement within the unions. Union officials should be supported as long as they represent their members correctly. But rank and file unionists must reserve the right to take action independent of the officials when necessary.

TOTAL OPPOSITION TO RACISM AND FASCISM We opposed any movement or ideology which attempts to divide the working class on grounds of race, sex, or creed. We recognise the need to oppose fascist organisations, both ideologically and physically on the streets.

THE IRISH NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE AGAINST OUR OWN RULING CLASS We support the right of oppressed people the world over to fight back. We unconditionally support the right of the 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 draw great inspiration from the principled and courageous manner in which they conduct their struggle, and from the way in which they have integrated cultural and class expression into their political movement.

THE "COMMUNIST" STATES The regimes in countries such as Russia, China, Cuba etc, are used as examples to try and prove socialism undesirable. In our view, although these countries have planned economies, they cannot be described as socialist. We contend that socialism cannot be implemented from above by an unaccountable ruling elite. Public ownership, freedom and democracy are all essential features of socialism and in their absence it cannot exist. We support the right of the people in these states to overthrow the leadership and implement socialist policies. At the same time however, we recognise the difficulties that states such as Nicaragua—and others past and present—face, from capitalist backed mercenary armies, military intervention, and economic sabotage, which make immediate transition to a socialist system impossible. While these states remain progressive, we will continue to support them.

THE ORGANISATION Traditionally, the structure of revolutionary socialist groups in this country, has been one where the leadership is made up of a small group of self selected academics and intellectual, who wield absolute authority over the membership. Such a structure fails, firstly because there can be no true democracy in such a set up, and corruption soon sets in, and secondly because those leading the organisation are so far removed from the realities of working class life, it cannot relate properly to that class. A revolutionary socialist organisation must be composed of and led by working class people. It must recognise that no leadership is immune from corruption and be truly democratic in its internal structures. It must be ready to work in a non sectarian manner with other socialist and progressive groups. It must present socialist politics in a manner in which working class people can identify with in their life and their work and their leisure. It must be consistent, principled and above all honest in its politics. Only then will it begin to be able to relate to the working class, most of whom today are cynical if not hostile towards the revolutionary left. We recognise that a revolutionary working class party is necessary if capitalism is to be overthrown. We are not that party, neither are those groups which claim to be it. We will work to keep alive a tradition of working class militancy, until such time as enough militants can be brought together to form that party.