Red Action

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NEVER MIND WESTLAND

WHAT ABOUT THE

WASTELAND

If you were someone who sat and watched the recent uproar that was caused by "Westland affair" and yourself wondering what the hell all the fuss was about, then don't worry. There are a lot more like you than you think, In the only thing that can be said for certain about the whole affair is that never has there been so much fuss, over something that meant so little to so many.

CONSEQUENCES

Whether or not a helcopter firm in Yeovil should be taken over by one lot of business men from Europe, or another lot from America is of little consequence to most working class people, and why should it be. It was never going to have much effect on their lives was it?

Yet day after day, there it was, overshadowing all other news for what seemed like weeks.

"Ah yes on we were told, the significance of the Westland affair lay in the fact that politicians were

But where is the great significance in that. Politicians are always lying and everybody knows it. Try and find one person who honestly believes that politicians don't lie. You would have

a hard job.
Wether it was just Leon
Brittan who was lying, whether it was Margaret Thatcher, or whether as is more likely they were all up to their necks in it is irrele-

They have all lied to us about things far more important than Westland Helicopters,

RIDICULOUS

It's all completely ridiculous. Unemployment can rise to four million, the National Health Service can be slashed to the bone hospitals closing nearly every week, Police forces arming themselves with plastic bullets, and there's hardly

But a government minister leaks a letter, the contents of which mean the square root of fuck-all to ninety nine percent of the population and suddenly it's nothing but crisis and the possible fall of the govern-



THE SQUABBLING INSIDE PARLIAMENT WILL HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON THE LIVES OF THESE PEOPLE

The only conclusions that you can draw from the over-reaction of the establishment to the whole affair, is that they don't mind the politicians lying to us, but it is a different matter when they start doing it to their own crowd.

We should also remember that the whole affair only came to light because of the incompetence of those involved, and not because the Parliamentary system is designed to expose these abuses of authority.

PURPOSE

If the Westland Affair had any useful purpose at all, it was to underline once again the massive gap that exists between the working class people of this country, and those that run it.

It served to show once again what little relevance what happens in Parliament has to the lives of most of us.

Wether or not individual or whole governments fall over such issues, the unemployed and lowly paid will still have to eke out a living. Sick people will still die whilst hospitals are closed down, and old people will still freeze in winter because they can't afford to keep themselves warm.

The only way that those things will ever be changed is when the working class finally gets it's act together and kicks the whole lot of them out.

Sick Joke

One of the great myths that Tories and other supporters of the capitalist system are always trying to impress on people, is that privatisation equals efficiency. Privately run firms always operate more efficiently and cheaply than nationalised ones they say, because they have an owner who has a vested interest in seeing that they do so.

PROFIT

This reasoning has been used to justify the selling off of several of the largest publically owned companies in It may well sound logical enough, but like most Tory ideas, you find that when you look a bit more closely, you find that the main effect of it is not so much greater efficiency, as greater profit.

A very good example of this is shown in the case of Hopefield Hospital, in Portrush Northern Ireland. Three years ago the hospital closed down after a campaign by local residents to keep it open failed. Then last year, a private nursing home opened on the same site. The opening of this was assisted by an EIGHTY THOUSAND POUND government grant.

COST

The cost for paitents in this nursing home is some two hundred pounds a week. Several of those in the home, are on supplementary benefit. The D.H.S.S. pays all but twenty five pounds of the cost. In other words the cost for running the hospital is coming out of public money, just as it would have if the hospital had been running under the National Health Service.

The difference of course where as under the N.H.S, the cost to the public would have been just the economic cost it now has to pay for that plus whatever the owners of the home add on for their own profit. This profit is of course on top of the eighty thousand grant that they got in the first place.

The reason that they got this grant - from the department of trade and industry, was because by opening the home they created thirty jobs in Portrush. This is the same number of jobs that were lost when the place closed

In other words we can say that because of the greater efficiency of the privatisation of Hopefield Hospital, eighty thousand pounds of taxpayers money has been spent buying back thirty jobs that already existed, to run the same hospitital at extra cost.

Lockout

The last twelve months have seen events in South Africa as one of the biggest news stories the world over. The brave fight of black S. African people against the might of the brutal regime of apartheid has moved observers the world over. From all quarters people have rushed to proclaim their solidarity.

And yet in the middle of all of this, one of the finest and most significant acts of solidarity with black S. African people has been going on almost unnoticed.

Almost 18 months ago, a young woman working at "Dunnes" stores in Dublin, refused to handle a piece of S. African fruit. For this she was threatened with the sack. Immediately six of her colleagues walked out in sympathy with her, and they put a picket on the stores demanding the right of all workers to refuse to handle S. African produce.

The Irish Trades Union Congress has made loud notses in their support, but predictably, has done little in the way of organising concrete support for them.

Recently however, it seemed that something might be giving.

INVESTIGATE

The Irish government announced that it was to investigate the use of "prison labour" in the production of goods on sale in Irish

Although this falls short

of the strikers total demands, they have decided to suspend the pickets until the end of February, and see what the results of this enquiry are.

They stress that the strike is not over, and that if positive action is not forthcoming they will resume picketing.

EXAMPLE

Whatever results this enquiry may bring, there can be little doubt that it would never have even occured were it not for the magnificent action of these women.

It is a shining example to workers the world over who claim to be against apartheid that there is something that you can do.

Or rather it would be if people knew about it, in a year when S. Africa has been year when S. Africa has been such big news, it is strange that this story should have received such little coverage.

Why we wonder does the British media ignore them. Because they are Irish or because they are women? Or is it both?



ARTHUR SCARGILL EXPRESSING THE SOLIDARITY OF THE NUM WITH THE DUNNES STRIKERS

Victory

In the last issue of Red Action, we carried an article about a strike by seven building workers who were fighting the blacklist that operates against known militants working in the building industry, It is with the greatest of pleasure that we report in this issue that that strike has been won and all of the men re-instated. This is remarkable achievement for such a small number of men up against John Laings, one of the largest building employers in the country. It was achieved by the determination of the men to stick it out, picketing several Laing's sites in the London area and eventually bringing several of them to an almost complete standstill. At a time when it has become all to familiar to hear and read about working class people being hammered by the bosses, it is heartening to be reminded of what can be achieved with determination. Our congratulations to them.

HYPOCRISY

FROM THE RIGHT

The British legal system is the best and fairest in the world. How often have we all heard that one ? How often are we told how lucky we are in this country compared to those in countries like South Africa or Chile for instance, where the police seem to have the power to just lock up anyone that they want to for as long as they want. But that sort of thing couldn't over here could it ?

A few weeks ago in Belfast, 28 men were convicted of various alleged "terrorist" offences, and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment ten of them for life. The only evidence against all of these men, were allegations made against them by one man who claimed to have been an accomplice during these offences.

There are now nearly 100 people serving long terms of imprisonment as a result of these "supergrass" trials. In all of them the only evidence against the accused has been the word of the "supergrass". There has been no other evidence produced to verify or support the allegations that they have made,



All of these "supergrasses" have been people who were either facing or already serving long terms of imprisonment themselves - Kirk patrick was already serving five life sentences. All of them have been promised either early release or immunity from prosecution and cash rewards, large return for their evidence against others.

Numerous people including many from the legal profession, have pointed out the highly unsatisfactory nature of evidence obtained in this way, especially when it is not backed up by evidence from any other source.

As they point out, the supergrass" is a person himself in a dire predicament, who is now offered an avenue of escape. To be able to use it, he has to prove himself as useful to the author-

FRAMED

ities as possible. As one of them admitted whilst giving evidence,"my value will be judged by the amount of people that I put away".

How could anyone be sure that someone in this position especially someone who by the laws own standards is someone of already proven bad character - with so much to lose or gain, would not be willing to make false accusations against people to improve the value of his evidence.

How can anyone be sure that the police are not supplying the names of anyone that they happen to want put away to the supergrass to put in the frame, Prison records show that Kirkpatrick receive over ONE HUN-DRED visits from the police

If he had been merely telling them his true story, would it have took that

It is impossible to be sure about any of these things unless the claims of the supergrass are backed up by other evidence from other sources, and yet as we have seen supergrass evidence is accepted without this backup

MURDER

This has led in some cases to the defendant being in a position where it is almost impossible to defend yourself

For example in one of the trials the "supergrass" named several men with whom he alleged he had planned the shooting of a policeman. They were charged with conspiracy to murder. The murder attempt itself he said, never actually took place. So there no evidence there. When further questioned as to when this planning had actually taken place, he replied that he couldn't remember exactly. It was some time early on in the year four years ago.

How can anyone possibly defend themselves from such an allegation. Who, guilty or innocent could supply an alibi to prove what they had been doing during the early part of the year four years

It sounds like something out of a script for a Marx Brother's film. Until you remember that there are people serving life imprisonment on the basis of that sort of evidence.

ACQUIT

Defenders of the system. point to the fact that some of the trials have collapsed with the defendants being acquitted, as evidence that there is an element of justice about them.

However this only happens when the "supergrass" is so lying that the obviously. judge is forced to acquit to

maintain some semblance of

Even when this happens in many cases the defendants are just re-arrested and charged with exactly the same offences, on the word of a different "supergrass".

STRUGGLE

So the police still eventually get the ones that they want, whilst the acquittals lend an air of respectability to the whole process.

Of course some of those that have been convicted in the trials have been people involved in the armed struggle. But it is equally as certain that others have been innocent.

IS AGAINST THIS UNDENIABLE FACT THAT ANY SORT OF JUSTIFICA-WHATSOEVER FOR THIS SYSTEM FALLS.

The reality of the superass system is quite simple. There are people who are either pyschologically broken or who are corrupt enough do anything to get out of the situation that they are in.

JUST

The police tell them exactly what to say, and use this method to imprison anyone that they happen to want, but against whom they have no evidence that would stand up in any court that had any semblance of operating in a just manner.

Included in this catagory are not only those suspected of being actively involved in the armed struggle, but also those involved in any form of political or social activity which the establishment doesn't approve of.

By encouraging and endoring this system, the British legal system shows that in reality, it has no more sense of morality or justice than any of the many other sys tems which it looks down upon so disdainfully.

IT ALSO EXPLAINS VERY EASILY, WHY SO MANY IRISH PEOPLE HAVE MUCH MORE FAITH IN THE GUNS OF THE LR.A. THAN THEY DO IN THE JUSTICE OF BRITAIN.

NUCLEAR **ZONES**

Nuclear weapons factories at Aldermaster and Burghfield near Reading are causing great concern to local people. A recent T.V. documentary highlighted problems of safety in such establishments. Studies also show a very high incidence of childhood cancer and Leukaemia in parts of this area.

Local people want a public enquiry to investigate these worrying discoveries. Their local Conservative M.P. was asked to support the call for such an enquiry but refused on the grounds that an official enquiry is already underway. However the study in question is funded by the National Radiological Protection Board and covers the whole country. It leaves much to be desired in its coverage of problems in small localities.

Meanwhile those people looking forward to greater protection from the dangers of the Nuclear Industries under a future Labour Government might be well advised to take note of what the Labour Shadow Environment Minister Jack Cunningham M.P. had to say about his party's new anti-nuclear pol-

MANIFESTO

In an interview with 'British Nuclear Fuels News' he said he did not expect the conference decision taken last October to be included in the next manifesto. The conference voted by a majority of one and a half million to hait the nuclear programme and close all existing plants. The motion was opposed by the Labour Party National Executive Committee and failed to get the two thirds majority required for automatic inclusion in Labour's programme. numbers of Labour Party activists expect the decision to be ignored. Cunningham described the conference decision as irrelevant and pointed out, quite correctly, that the Labour Party Had supported nuclear power for decades.

Coincidently the Shadow Ministers constituency contains BNFL's notorious Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant which employs 10,000 people. His majority over the Conservative candidate at the last election was only 1,800. Isn't it reassuring to discover such principled politicians in the Labour Party

SALARY

Of course the history of the Labour Party is a long of radical conference decisions which are conveniently and quietly pushed aside when they are elected. Every new occurence of this is just confirmation of the Party's inability to ever serve the working class. In any case no doubt a few kids dying of cancer means little to Mr Cunningham when set against a nice fat Cabinet salary.

By the way, anyone still doubting the dangers of nuclear power might be interested to hear that B.N.F.L's has agreed to pay compensation to workers at its plants who develop cancer which might have been caused by radiation. Until now they had to die before compensation was paid. So far they've paid out \$200,000 in compensation workers families, I don't know about you but I'd sooner try to earn a crust selling ice-cream in Greenland.

The immediacy of Ireland also brings home with vivid bluntness, many of the less romantic aspects of revolu-

tion. The bloodshed, suffer-

ing, imprisonment and death.

These are the realities that all true revolutionaries who through the ages have struggled against the old order to change the world for the better have had to face.

There are many who's revbeen forged in the comfort probably extends to no more

instinctively pull back from the brutal reality who daily risk their lives in of revolution when it is happening right in front of ries to try and turn their starts

fear into virtue. To try and prove that it is they who are the "true revolutionaries" and not the Irish freedom fighters.

SCENE

It is difficult to try and imagine a scene more nauseating than that of a comfortable British lefty, who's olutionary commitment has own revolutionary activity safety and relative tranquili- than attending a meeting of ty of post war Britain who or selling some newspapers cannot face up to this reali- once a week, spouting on about his or her own revolutionary supieriority to those

All they are really proving them, but afraid to admit is that for them, committhis, even to themselves, ment to the revolution ends come up with all their theo- where the real revolution

AND THE LEFT

The war in Ireland is one of the most significant events occuring in the world today, although you would hardly think so they way so much of what goes on there is largely ignored in this country. This should not suprise us too much as the British establishment has every reason to try and conceal what is happening there. What is perhaps a bit suprising is the fact that many people who consider themselves to be on the far left of politics in this country also seem to pay little attention to what is happening there.

Traditionally, the British your own reactionary goverfar left has always been very quick to loudly champion the cause of armed revolutionary movements around the world, such as the Viet Cong back in the sixties, or Palestine Liberation Organisation or Black South African guerrillas today. And quite right as well.

SUPPORT

Yet many of these people so quick to proclaim their total support for revolutionary movements the world over, are much more reticent about showing the same sort of support for the revolutionary movement just a few hundred miles away in

revolutionaries Obviously from one country should support all others everywhere, but when one is so near to your own country and as in this case, fighting against nment, then you would surely expect the enthusiasm of support to be if anything,

THEORIES

And yet this is quite obviously not the case. Why should this be so ?

It is they tell us, because the armed Republican Movement is not a truly revolutionary socialist movement, and they have several different theories which supposedly prove this so.

There is the one which says that the Republican Movement is a class alliance led by the middle class. The there is the one about them being an elitist terrorist movement which has rejected mass action. You may even if you are very lucky, get to hear the one which tells you that the IRA are "Green Fascists",

All of these theories, as expounded by British lefties have one thing in common. They all seek to show that to be a "true revolutionary you cannot give your full support to the IRA/INLA.

It is not necessary for us to try and disprove these the real motives behind those that use them to justify their lack of support for the Republican Movement,

It is enough to point out that the criticisms that they make could just as easily apply to those other revolutionary movements that they so loudly and lovingly champion, for it to be obvious that they are used in the case of Ireland to conceal other motives.

The real difference in the case of Ireland is it's imme diacy. It is the easiest thing in the world to give your unconditional support to a revolutionary movement which is fighting on the othe side of the world. You will never be called upon prove your commitment in any way. It doesn't have any effect on your life.

This is not so in the case of Ireland. Even to do no more than just proclaim your support for the IRA/INLA in this country will earn you the hostility of neighbours and workmates etc. It may well lead to more drastic consequences such as police harassment and possible



SANDANISTA AND IRA SOLDIERS BOTH REVOLUTION-ARY FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN THE SAME TRADITION

THROUGH THE POST

Within the 'radical' left today, it is a popular thing to be interested in the cultures of people in confrontation with the British State. The most obvious examples are the Black Youth and the Irish, but to a lesser degree, Welsh and Scottish republican socialists are getting their voices heard, and quite rightly too.

row of Westminster and the

However, it seems all too upper classes will come. easy to forget or to dismiss the white, English, working class Youth. The trendy, mainly middle-class lefties, tend to regard us as either fascists or drunken football hooligans, irrelevant and totally uninterested in leftwing politics,

While black youth get a, to my view, very patronising, pat on the head from the trendies they forget the involvement of young white workers in riots and confrontations with the Police.

Thankfully, the black kids don't, and I know from my own experiences that the police aren't just racist. They hate everybody.

LUDDITES

I can though look to my own country's class struggle. From Watt Tylers Peasant rebellion, the Luddites and Tolpuddle Martyrs to more recent times with the Cable Street battles with the fascists. In fact there were loads of English workers in the Republicans International Brigade . fighting fascists in, Spain. The Miners strike too showed the insensitivity of the police and government to their country's workers.

Sure there are lots of bad things to be said against all this, and they're worth remembering. But also remember all the positive things too. Every blow struck against the British ruling class, by Irish, Scottish or Welsh republicans is to the advantage of the English working class, black or white. And it's this same Englist working class from which the final overth-

As a young, British and white lad I express total support for any socialist fighting our own British Ruling Class because I can look to my own history of struggle against our compatriots in the ruling class, It's true to say the British state has probably the worst record of imperialist and capitalist oppression, its still there in Northern Ireland.

But even in England the working class lads have been shat on all the way. English working class lads have been swept up on a tide of patriotism and jingoism and slaughtered in their thousands in the interests of the ruling classes imperialist wars. It's a fair point to say they shouldn't have fought in the first place and I for one wouldn't. But it's easy to see the way the Media manipulate peoples ideas The 1st World War recruitment and the Falklands 'Gotcha' are some of the best examples. Our lads were dying in large numbers in pits, factories and epidemics as little ago as the 40's and 50's, and though in not so large numbers today still are. It's not uncommon for O.A.P.'s to freeze to death in the 80's.

The pages of Red Action are open for any of our readers to air their views on any subject that they wish. Just write to us at the box number if there is anything you want to say.

THEFT

Since 1979 the sale of public assets has largely met the cost of record unemployment. Now, the flogging off of nationalised industries is set to finance tax-cuts which mainly benefit those sections of society which have already lined their pockets, thanks to this government.

British Gas and British Airports Authority will come up for sale in the next year or so. The Government has so far netted \$5.2 billion from asset sales since 1979. In every case the asset was undervalued, which means that wealthy investors got valuable assets at knock-down prices - at our

lt's not only the parasites buying up shares who have be-nefited. The City institutions have charged fat fees for actualy carrying out the privatisation programme. City firms picked up a cool £128m from the sale of British Telecom,

TUC monitoring shows that the fees quoted in Parliament for these services provided by the City are always smaller than other authorative estimates. On 15 sell-offs studied by the TUC there is a gap of \$21.3m between the Governments figures for City expenses and other authorative esti-

The TUC also looked at 18 companies which have acted as financial advisers or lead underwriters to the Government in these sales. No less than half of them donate money to the Conservative Party. All the way down the line people are lining their pockets from the sale of public assets. That is, all the way down until your reach the likes of you and me, because of course, we're the unfortunate souls who are paying the price for all of this. And at the end of it all we're left with a service which costs more and isn't as good.

Another TUC study of all privatised companies showed, on average, that their top directors received an increase in salary of 34.2% (about £19,000) within one year of privatisation, and an increase of 85.1% (about £45,000) within two years. No wonder top executives of public corporations are so eager to co-operate with privatisation.

At the same time as these leeches swallow our money, the workers suffer the consequences of so called 'efficiency drives'. The National Communications Union shows that between 1965 and 1980 the safety record at British Telecommunications improved steadily. It has worsened since privatisation, and 1985 there were three deaths - the first since 1980. This falling safety record is a result of pressure to be more competitive. As well as these dangers to the health and safety of the workers, there are increased threats to their job security.

So much for giving these industries back to the people,



THE BOGEYMEN

The creation of "hate figures" is one of the crudest ways in which the mass circulation newpapers in Britain try and stop people from thinking. The most recent victim of this practice has been Derek Hatton, deputy leader of Liverpool City Council. We've been treated to a whole series of gory details about Councillor Hatton's lifestyle together with a whole lot of insults and abuse. He is just the latest target in a list which has included figures like Tony Benn and Ken Livingstone, and more recently Bernie Grant and Arthur

campaigners, anti racists etc much to the press as well.

They will tell you all sorts any of the actual arguments, of things about socialists, This absence of logical trade union militants, peace argument applies just as



By smears, insults and in many cases complete lies, our supposedly "free press" seeks to teach people to hate anything or anyone considered to be left.

It's easy to test how successful they are in this contrick.Next time you meet someone who says that they "hate Arthur Scargill" (or whoever happens to be the popular bogeyman) ask them if they can give a single example of anything that Arthur Scargill (or whoever) has actually said, and with which they can logically dis-

IN NEARLY EVERY CASE THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO GIVE YOU A SINGLE EXA-MPLE, NEVER MIND A LO-COUNTER ARGU-GICAL MENT.

There are two reasons why the press uses this tactic. Firstly the millionaires who control ALL of the daily newspapers know that there are many people who will read something in the press, and as well as believing it to be true, will also adopt whatever is written as their own viewpoint. Secondly, turning left wing figures into bogeymen also serves to divert people's minds from the real political issues involved.

JUDGED

Now of course people such as Derek Hatton and Arthur Scargill are not right all of the time. But the important thing is that they should be judged on their political me-

rits, and not on the basis of a hate campaign stirred

up by the press. But then Fleet Street newspapers gave up dealing with real news a long time Whilst claiming to be the "voice of the people" the stories they contain are in fact highly selective and reflect the choice of a few milionaires as to what constitutes "news".

Their interests lay not in informing people but in making them support the establishment. The serious probthe world caused by the capitalist system the system which the newspaper bosses support - are put aside in favour of stories about the Royal family, pop stars or fictional soap

BRAINWASH

lt's all part of a process to brainwash people into thinking that there is actually nothing wrong with the world and that those who are trying to change things must be some sort of monsters.

However perhaps there are some signs that more people are beginning to wake up to it. The Sun is increasingly refered to as a comic, (what an insult to comics).

THE SOONER WORKING CLASS PEOPLE BEGIN TO SEE ALL OF THE CAPITAL-IST PRESS FOR WHAT IT THE SOONER THEY CAN BEGIN TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES AND TAKE THE FIRST STEPS TOWARD CHANGING THINGS FOR ALL OF OUR BENEFIT.

AFA CONFERENCE

SATURDAY FEB 22ND 11 am — 5 pm **MANCHESTER**

POLY MANDELA BUILDINGS

Anti Fascist Action is an alliance of political groupings which see the need for active opposition to fascist groups in this country today. It is a new grouping, just a few months old, and as such there is still a lot of work to be done if it is to grow into the large and effective movement that we belive it can be. Anti Fascist Action is holding a conference on Saturday 22nd of February to discuss and plan it's future development. All groups and individuals are welcome, and can take part in the discussion and voting. We strongly urge all involved in anti fascist activity today, to make the strongest efforts to attend this confer-

Red Action pamphlet

We are Red Action

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

30 p

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

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

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.

PO box 158 Hatfield Herts

THE **FLYING** COLUMN

The South African mining company which sacked 20,000 striking miners in Bophuthatswan, are currently recruiting British miners in Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire. General Mining Union Corporation are using National Coal Board offices as recruitment centres."Action against Apartheid" are seeking the aid of the NUM in discouraging any of it s members from heading for S. Africa. The group don't anticipate, and will not be seeking any help from the scab

Spotted in South London recently, was a billboard advertisment for Danish bacon. A local joker had painted out part of the advert and made their own rather sick addition so that it read, "PC Blakelock makes the best bacon". A red faced copper was seen viewing this dubious work of art, and within hours the offending object had been removed.

My spies inform me that there is a very successful restuarant in London's Baker Street called "School Dinners" where for a mere 20 pounds a head, a waitress in black stockings will serve you with bangers and mash, and spank you if you don't eat it all up.lsn't it wonderfull what a public school education can do for you. Members of Red Action volunteering to go there with a camera to spot members of the establishment coming and going will NOT be issued with luncheon vouchers.

Homage To Catalonia

In July 1936 a group of Spanish army generals led an attem pted fascist coup against the mildly left wing Spanish government, In many cities throughout the country the working class rose up in support of the government. They seized arms, drove out the fascists and took control of the cities, Thus began the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939.

A couple of months later young English writer left England for Spain, intending to write newspaper articles on the war. He arrived in Barcelona, which had been one of the main centres of resistance to the fascists. It was a city where "every building of any size had been seized by the workers and was draped with red flags or the red and black flags of the anarchists, Every wall was scrawled with the hammer and sickle and with the initials of the revolutionary parties,"

Swept up by the passion and fervour, he immediately joined one of the workers militias because "at that time and in that atmosphere it seemed the only conceivable thing to do."

SOLDIER

The man was George Orwell, and it is his experience during the war that forms the subject of his book "HO-MAGE TO CATALONIA."

Orwell describes the war from the point of view of a front line soldier. It is a story not so much of roman-

tic heroics, but rather of cold, fear, hunger, boredom, and the feeling of senseless futility of a single man caught up in massive events beyond his control.

He goes on to describe how the political differences between the various factions which made up the anti fascists forces began not only to affect the success of that struggle, but even take precedence over it.

FASCISM

The main three groupings in this alliance were the communists, the revolutionary socialists and the anarchists, Within these groups there were strong differences of opinion as to what they were ultimately fighting for.

The anarchists and the revolutionary socialists saw the fight against fascism as being just a part of the strugto overthrow capitalism and found a new revolutionary regime. They were not fighting and dying so that when it was all over they would just hand back power to the capitalists, who they

WORKERS MILITIA ROUNDING UP FASCISTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CIVIL WAR

Our mole in the Workers Revolutionary Party, reports that the dust is far from settled following the recent expulsion of seventy year old "guru" Gerry Healy, for alleged sexual misbehaviour with young women members of the party. Alex Mitchell, former editor of the WRP's paper leapt to the guru's defence. "Gerry Healy built the Trotskyist movement single-handed" declared the loyal Mitchell. A politically impure comrade was not impressed. "It's what he was doing with the other hand that worries me" came the reply.

A woman protester had a finger torn off when security guards wrenched her away from a fence around the site of a nuclear bunker at Carmarthen. The injured woman is treausurer of Wales CND, Carmarthen District Council is building the bunker on a car park next to it's offices. About forty protesters had tried to scale the twelve foot fence which is topped by rows of barbed wire and an anti climbing compound. A police spokeman said that the matter was under investigation. "The police were simply bystanders at the time" he said. The council's chief executive said that he was "externely sorry" at what had happened, but added "It must be remembered that these people were trespassers".

Glancing through the pages of an old Sunday newspaper colour supplement recently, I came across an article describing the life of a certain women. Apparently, this women had had the misfortune to suffer a life that was to be "dogged by tragedy". However she had "always refused to let life beat her, however unkind it may have been". The article went on to describe her life of hard work and toil telling how once when out socially, she had confided in a friend that it was her "first evening out for as long as I can remember". However all is well that ends well, and the article ends with the joyous news that "After a lifetime of tears it is now right that a little happiness should be around the corner." And just who is this poor woman you might ask? None other than long suffering poverty stricken Princess Margaret.

The travel company Yorkshire Tours,"The progressive tour company" according to their adverts, might be well advised to drop the progressive bit. A Ms Shahim Ralif, a resident of Britain, booked a holiday with them to Italy last December. At the last minute the tour was diverted through Belgium because of a ferry strike. Not having a visa for Belgium, Ms Ralif was turned back at the Belgium port. When she rang the tour operators to complain, she was told that it was normal practice to lock Asians in the toilet when passing through Belgium.

their enemies as the fascists.

The communists were opposed to this idea. For them, the fight was one to beat fascism yes, but also to defend and re-establish Spanish capitalism. That this was their aim may seem suprising The reason for it lay in the world situation at that time.

RUSSIA

The Spanish communist party, like all others then, took their orders directly from Russia, Russia at this time felt very threatened by the growing aggressiveness of Nazi Germany, Her foreign policy therefore had two aims; (1) to build up military alliances with any other European countries against Germany and (2) to try and stop any development that might spark off an international conflict that she may be dr-

A socialist revolution in Spain would have threatened both these aims,

Russia had to support and aid the anti fascists (as Germany and Italy were aiding the fascists) to retain its credibility as the champion of the international anti fascist movement.

AID

However, if this aid were to be used for a socialist revolution, it would antagonise those capitalist countries which stood to lose their investments in Spain. These were the very same countries with which Russia was at that time trying desperately to strike up alliances,

A revolution so close to Germany might also have caused them to become embroiled, and spark off the international conflict which Russia so feared.

For the 'good' communist there could be no talk of revolution. As relations between the factions became more and more strained, the communists bided their time, All Russian aid was distributed through their organisat ion, and they used this position to ensure that it only went to units which they considered reliable.

Orwell, himself in a revolutionary socialist unit, describes how soldiers at the front had to fight with ancients rusty weapons, and how the first time he saw a modern one it was on a communist policeman behind

Finally, when they felt strong enough, the communists struck. The anarchist and socialist buildings were seized by communist troops. The communist controlled press waged a screaming campaign accusing the other groups of being traitors sabotaging the fight against fascism.

JAIL

Hundreds of dedicated anti fascists, many who had come from all around the world, were arrested by the police - now totally under communist control - and thrown into jail.

Thousands more were forced to go into hiding or flee the country. Orwell himself fled with the police hot on his heels.

The anti fascist alliance lay in ruins, many of its best and most dedicated fighters imprisoned and eventually executed by their allies.

Within two years the fascists had defeated all the remaining republican forces and established a dictatorship that was to last for forty years.

In the same year, the world war for which so much had been sacrificed to try and avoid, broke out.

This year sees the fiftieth aniversary of the Spainish Civil War. In the next edition of Red Action we shall be carying an in depth feature on the war and its implications for the revolutionary socialist movement then, and

Following the recent "terrorist" attacks on Rome and Vienna airports, police at British airports have now been issued with sub-machine guns. However quick to reassure those of the stoic British public who may be horrified at the prospect of being caught up in a "Rambo" style shoot-out on their way to their holidays, they hasten to add that these machine guns have been specially modified so that they only fire single shots at a time. In other words the only difference now between the machine guns and the pistols formerly in use is that the machine guns have a much higher velocity. Whereas a pistol was capable of merely bringing down one person, the machine guns have the added advantage of being able to send a bullet staight through the target person and into anyone else who may just happen to be in the vicinity of some of the worlds busiest departure lounges. It's very reassuring to know that the authorities are doing all that they can to make Britain a safer place for all of us.

Calling all readers

a bookshop. We have recently contacted left wing shops in most of the major cities in this country who have agreed to stock our paper. However in the cities where we do not have any members or centees it is difficult for us to keep a trace of how the paper is selling, and to organise getting money back for them. So here is the chance for all of you Red Action sympathisers who we've never met, who've been just dying to give us a hand to do so. To anyone who would be willing to receive the papers from us, take them into their local bookshop and be responsible for collecting the returns we would be eternally gratefull. If you think that you might be willing to take on this task, please get in touch with us through the box number inside.

WEARE RED ACTION

Red Action is an organisation founded to work towards the ending of the capitalist systematics, 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 when on the basis of their personal profit rather than social need. It is this that allows food to rot in botter and beef mountains, while people go hangey, and buildings to stand empty white people are bauncless. Capitalism also allows a small minority to turn all of the resources and means of production on which we all depend—nor 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 society suches projects white people die for the mant of medical equipment that could have been produced. Private ox cerebing of these resources also allows the owners to deny to society the use of them as they wish. It is that, that causes people to be unemployed while the machines on which they could be producing the things that they need stand idde.

SOCIALISM: A socialist society will be one that millions of people will be involved in shaping Therefore an one group of people can say exactly what that society will be like. However, there are certain features that would have to be present in society, before we would consider giving up the

RELIC OWNERSHIP OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION: Only this will create a basi-

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION. Only this will create a basis whereby the whole of society can collectively decide how best to coupliny all of its resources, mechanical and human. In this way wastfulfness, whether by the production of socialls useless things, or by enforced dilleness of machines or workforce would be rhumaned. When all resources are used in useful production instead of just a part of them as at present. Development of new technology would further reduce the lubour requirement, society will stand on the brink of an era of leisure and pleaty that past generations could not even have even dreamed of.

CONTROL OF SOCIALIST SOCIETY: In capitalist societs all of the institutions of social control—army police force judiciner—are run and controlled by unelected 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 trush socialist society the need to police people will eventually die away. Whatever form of social control most be necessary until that stage is reached, all of its representatives will be elected by and subject to dismissal by, the community that they representatives will be elected by and subject to dismissal by, the community that they representatives will be received as a social control on that contribute to a socialist society will receive equal reward and enjoy equal rights, irrespective of colour, race, are or creed. All of society's facilities—between, education, medical, etc.—will be feed on the religions, but so church will be allowed to interfere in state matters.

CLASS STRUGGLE: Real Socialistic 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 ourhoor, they would suffer the same fore 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 overtheless capitalism by force. The law is made and affininistered by the upper class and used by thom as a weapon in the class struggle. Therefore, a socialist movement has to be propored to dely 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 Republicas 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 way in Ireland is caused by the British presence there, which is subymaintained by urment 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 exemples to try and prove socialism to be undesirable. In our view atthough 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 politics within the new enginess have led them to adopt the wrong policies. In others become the new regimes have inherited such under-developed economics, and become of external pressures beyond their custrol—thant of American invasion, economic hopport and anactions etc.—there has been neither the political and economic stability our the economic resources, necessary to begin the construction of a socialist society. We do accept that some of these countries have made significant obscaces 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 5th and 6th raised working class their grand working class their grand working class their grand working class their grand working class that emerged from that period, theweof little interest in revolutionary socialist polities. They became the domain of professional thinkers and intellectual app had been created between the working class and the left. The organizations that were created by the left in this period, were in centry every case medicale on the Boshevik. Party in revolutionary Russin. It is a form of organizations in which a small intellectual leadership, widds greet antiherity over a highly disciplined membership. History gives as many examples of how easily in this form of organization, a corrupt insdership on invoice that discipline and authority, neerly to maintain its own position of power. Any who question the leadership or the party line that they hand down, are dangerous hereits to be cast out an asoon as possible. The organization revealing becomes one made up enatively alient to insent working class people. They shan it, enasing it to retreat even further into abstract politics. The estrangement between the organization and the class is complete. Even in organizations where the leadership is not currupt, the tendershy to look back to revolutionary Bussin for the solutions to all of today's problems leads to them containing up with answers that have little or no relevance to the working class people. They shan it, enasing it to retreat even revolutionary socialist ideas to ourising class people, most of whom are equivaled in the hostile towards the left. To achieve this the organization must itself be of the class, in content and not expensively including the hostile towards the left. To achieve this the organization must itself be of the class, in content and one target immediate revolutionary commitment from them in must show that it dust hostile towards the left. To achieve this the organization may itself to orde