HOUSE OF COMMONS SESSION 1990–91

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Second Report

RECRUITMENT PRACTICES

Volume 1: Report

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The Employment Committee is appointed under Standing Order No 130 to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the Department of Employment and associated public bodies.

The Committee consists of 11 Members. It has a quorum of three. Unless the House otherwise orders, all members nominated to the Committee continue to be members of it for the remainder of the Parliament.

The Committee has power:

(a) to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, and to report from time to time;

(b) to appoint specialist advisers either to supply information which is not readily available or to elucidate matters of complexity within the Committee's order of reference;

(c) to communicate to any other committee appointed under the same Standing Order its evidence and any other documents relating to matters of common interest;

(d) to meet concurrently with any other such committee for the purposes of deliberating, taking evidence, or considering draft reports.

The membership of the Committee since its nomination on 2 December 1987 has been as follows:

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Mr Chris Butler (appointed 15.2.90)
Mr William Cash (appointed 15.5.89, discharged 21.3.90)
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Mr Ken Eastham
Sir Philip Goodhart (discharged 7.12.90)
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Mr Andrew Rowe (discharged 15.5.89)
Mr Lewis Stevens (discharged 10.2.89)
Mr David Young

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SECOND REPORT

The Employment Committee has agreed to the following Report:

RECRUITMENT PRACTICES

Introduction

1. Employers recruit over 7 million people each year, about one-third of the total workforce.[1] We decided to investigate the way they set about this task, and whether improvements were possible in the quality of the process, both in general and in the effect on various groups of people who might be at a disadvantage when applying for jobs.

2. We took oral evidence from the Trades Union Congress (TUC), the Apex Trust, the Home Office, the Economic League, the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), the Institute of Personnel Management (IPM), the Department of Employment, and the Ford Motor Company Ltd. We have also drawn on oral and written evidence taken from the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)[2] in one of our regular evidence sessions. We have also received written evidence from many people and organisations, and this is listed on pages xvi-xviii. We are grateful for all the help we have received.

Recruitment practice in general

3. Employers use many different methods to attract staff; the survey *Vacancy and Recruitment Study* by IFF Research Ltd., commissioned by the Department of Employment[3] showed about 54 per cent of vacancies being notified to a Jobcentre, about 46 per cent being advertised, and 42 per cent being publicised using informal methods (the numbers add to more than 100 per cent as most employers used more than one method for a vacancy). A widespread informal method is "word of mouth recruiting", and it was pointed out that relying on this method tended to make any sexual or racial imbalance of a workforce continue.[4]

4. The TUC, the IPM and the CRE all referred to the need to place advertisements in publications where members of ethnic minorities would see them and the CRE offered guidance to employers on this;[5] it was also important for advertisements not to imply discrimination by the words and pictures they used.[6] Many employers used a phrase suggesting that they were "equal opportunity employers" or that applications from under-represented groups would be particularly welecome; but the CRE told us of a study of retailing outlets in Sheffield which showed that more than half of the employers who declared themselves as equal opportunity employers had nothing by way of a written policy on the subject to substantiate this.[7]

5. The next stage in the recruitment process is usually the completion of an application form. Both the EOC and CRE were concerned that such forms should not ask for information which could be used to discriminate unlawfully during the recruitment process, but said that such information might need to be collected separately and used for monitoring of equal opportunities policies.[8] The IPM pointed to the need for an application form to be well designed to avoid bias and provide the information in a manner easy to use, and said "by no means all forms meet this end."[9] The Department of Employment pointed out that a complex application form might be a barrier to those with poor literacy who might otherwise be suitable for a job.[10]

6. Following the completion of an application form (or some equivalent step, such as the submission of a curriculum vitae), employers need to choose from the applicants. The IPM said that some employers proceed to do this without working out in sufficient detail the requirements of the job. They point out that the introduction of arbitrary barriers (varying, perhaps, with the situation in the labour market) was "not logical" and "almost certainly a cause of unfair discrimination". They also referred to a survey by the Institute of Manpower Studies in 1988

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[1]Ev pp. 117, 124-9.
[2]HC 364-i (1989-90), 18 April 1990.
[3]Ev p. 129.
[4]Q 694; Ev pp. 74, 111.
[5]Q 1,688; Ev pp. 74, 99.
[6]Ev pp. 75, 99; HC 364-i p. 2.
[7]Qs 697-8.
[8]HC 364-i Qs 110-11; Qs 706-7. However, a CRE witness told us of an occasion where such information had been carefully kept separate but then not used at all (Q 698).
[9]Ev p. 101.
[10]Ev p. 119.

which produced the apparently conflicting statistics that only 13.5 per cent of employers thought that their initial filtering process was either objective or unbiased but 79 per cent thought that application forms and CVs were a reliable means of predicting future job performance.[1]

7. It was in respect of the interview stage of the recruitment procedure that the IPM produced their most disturbing evidence, based on research into the effectiveness of interviews. This research included the following statements:

> Interviews are neither reliable nor valid as predictors of subsequent job performance.
> Interviewer performance is not improved by training.
> Male candidates are consistently rated higher than female candidates irrespective of the sex of the interviewer; tall candidates are rated higher than short candidates.

The IPM pointed out that one-to-one interviews were particularly unreliable as a method of selection.[2]

8. The IPM also told us that references were very little better than interviews as predictors of performance, and recommended that they should not form part of the recruitment process.[3] They did, however, explain that they should still be taken up to verify the factual information and qualifications on the application form or CV.[4] The TUC said that seeking or supplying "irrelevant personal details" in references could result in unfair discrimination.[5]

9. The IPM said that a more effective method of selection was some sort of objective test, either a cognitive test or a personality test. These still worked properly only if the employer had previously identified the skills required for the job, and their limitations had to be properly understood. Some tests had been found to be biased.[6] The IPM had issued a Code of Practice on occupational tests drawing attention to these points. We also received written evidence from the British Psychological Society drawing attention to the risks of the use of tests by untrained people.[7]

10. **It is clear that there is a wide divergence between theory and practice in recruitment techniques, and that unintentional discrimination and unsatisfactory results are not unusual. We believe that there is room for a greater degree of professionalism in recruitment and this should include a greater level of awareness of the Codes of Practice drawn up by the IPM.**

Discrimination

General

11. In Great Britain, legislation exists against discrimination on two grounds, namely sex (Sex Discrimination Acts 1975 and 1986 and Equal Pay Act 1970) and race[8] (Race Relations Act 1976). In Nothern Ireland it is also illegal to discriminate on grounds of religious belief or political opinion (Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Acts 1976 and 1989). In both the GB Acts, *direct discrimination* means treating someone of a particular sex or race less favourably than one would another of the opposite sex or a different race; *indirect discrimination* means the use of a selection criterion which is fulfilled by a smaller proportion of people of a particular sex or race, unless the criterion is a justifiable one.

12. During the course of our inquiry the Employment Bill was before Parliament: this received Royal Assent on 1 November 1990 and outlaws discrimination on the grounds of membership or non-membership of a trade union.[9] We return to this issue below (paragraph 37).

Affirmative action

13. Where a particular sex or race is under-represented in a particular job or industry, "affirmative action" or "positive action" is often advocated to remedy this. Mr Day of the CRE pointed out that this was not the same as "positive discrimination"—discriminating in favour of the under-represented category, which would be illegal. Affirmative action includes making

[1]Ev pp. 98, 101.
[2]Q 747; Ev pp. 101-2.
[3]Ev p. 102.
[4]Qs 738-40.
[5]Ev p. 2.
[6]Q 725; Ev pp. 102-3.
[7]Appendix 5, Ev pp. 177-9.
[8]For a discussion of the scope and meaning of the term "race" see Qs 710-13 and Ev p. 94.
[9]The relevant provision came into force on 1 January 1991.

training available which would allow applicants to compete on equal terms.[1] Ford agreed that positive discrimination would be illegal and "detrimental to the very people we are trying to encourage to join us" but said that they "will go as far as the law enables us to go in encouraging minorities . . . to avail themselves of the opportunities open to them".[2]

Sex discrimination

14. Under the Sex Discrimination Acts 1975 and 1986 it is illegal (subject to various exceptions) to discriminate between the sexes in various fields, including employment. It is also unlawful to discriminate against a person on the grounds of being married, but not on the grounds of being unmarried. The Equal Pay Act 1970 says that men and women must be paid the same for "like work" or for work rated as equivalent under a job evaluation scheme; and under the "Equal Value Amendment" introduced by the Equal Pay (Amendment) Regulations 1983, men and women must also be paid the same for work of "equal value".

15. The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) was set up under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 to work towards the elimination of discrimination, to promote equality of opportunity between men and women generally, and to keep the legislation under review and make proposals for amendments.

16. As regards recruitment, the Commission has dealt with various complaints of indirect discrimination, for example by the use of age barriers, and has investigated the actions of particular employers, such as the South Derbyshire Health Authority on their refusal to allow women with pre-school-age children for their direct entry midwifery training course. It also monitors advertisements and cases where employers using job centres and recruitment agencies asked for employees of a particular sex.[3]

17. The "Equal Value Amendment" has given rise to various test cases, including one from 1989 where female typists and secretaries from a bank are claiming that their work is of equal value to the bank's male messengers: this case has gone before the Employment Appeal Tribunal and the EOC told us (in April 1990) that it was likely to take more than another year to decide. They explained that the timescale is related to the complexity of the equal value legislation and said that the President of the Employment Appeal Tribunal had described the procedures as "scandalous".[4] The Commission said that it would be "a major step forward" if employment tribunals were given the power to apply rulings made in one case to other groups of workers in similar circumstances.[5]

18. Employers wanting to determine the relative value of different types of work may wish to conduct some type of formal job evaluation, and the EOC was working with the major management consultancies on guidelines for the use of job evaluation. The EOC pointed out that relative values of jobs may change over time and therefore such studies need regular updating.[6]

19. The EOC told us that devolution of central control in education and training, with the establishment of local management of schools and Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) was making it more difficult to keep equal opportunity issues "on the agenda", as there would be more bodies to deal with.[7] Letters had gone to all TECs drawing attention to "the sound economic reasons as well as the moral responsibility reasons" for treating equal opportunities as a serious strategic issue.[8] Discussions were also in hand with the Local Enterprise Companies (LECs) in Scotland.[9]

Age discrimination

20. There is no legislation on discrimination on grounds of age, but artificial age limits may be a ground for complaint of indirect discrimination on grounds of sex, as women are more likely to want to embark on a career at a later stage of their life because of family responsibilities. The EOC has also been campaigning for an equal age for pensions.[10]

[1]Q 673.
[2]Qs 965-6.
[3]HC 364-i pp. 1-2, Qs 116-18, 123-9.
[4]HC 364-i p. 3 Qs 68-74.
[5]HC 364-i Q 106.
[6]HC 364-i p. 2, Qs 64-66, 96.
[7]HC 364-i Q 27.
[8]HC 364-i Q 28.
[9]HC 364-i pp. 4-5, Q 86.
[10]HC 364-i p. 2, Qs 93-4.

21. The IPM said "We believe that there are only a very few circumstances where age can be shown to be a material factor in determining an individual's suitability to do a job. In all other cases it is possible to substitute more objective job-related criteria." They said that they would support legislation if persuasion and a voluntary approach failed to remove age discrimination in employment, and that age limits should not be used in advertisements as a means to deter applicants of a particular age.[1] The Department of Employment were in favour of a voluntary approach.[2] Ford's equal opportunities policy includes a ban on age discrimination.[3] We reiterate the view we expressed in our earlier report *The Employment Patterns of the Over-50s*[4] that if voluntary measures fail to work, pressure for legislation against age discrimination will continue to grow.

Race discrimination

22. The CRE told us that race discrimination in employment was still widespread and that only a minority of employers had taken remedial action. The Labour Force Surveys showed a rate of unemployment in 1986 for ethnic minorities (20 per cent) double that for the white population, and concluded that only a small part of the difference could be explained by differences in age, qualifications and experience. They also pointed out that by 1988 unemployment for ethnic minorities had decreased to only 1.6 times that for the white population.[5] The Department of Employment said that although the difference in unemployment levels had been lessening, one reason for its continued existence was that "many employers continue to discriminate against people from ethnic minorities in recruitment and promotion". They quoted recent research to substantiate this.[6]

23. The CRE told us that about a thousand people a year took cases of alleged racial discrimination to industrial tribunals but said that this did not reflect the full extent of the problem;[7] tribunals were becoming more experienced at dealing with cases of racial discrimination, but the CRE thought that the system was "loaded very much in favour of the employer" and had recommended the establishment of a separate tribunal for sex and race discrimination cases.[8]

24. Under the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act 1989 employers with 25 or more staff have to monitor the religious affiliation of employees and applicants. The CRE recommended that similar monitoring of the ethnic origin of workers should be made compulsory so that measures to deal with racial disadvantage could be based on accurate information.[9]

25. As mentioned above (paragraph 6) one source of potential discrimination is the use of criteria which are not related to suitability for the job: the Department of Employment drew attention to research[10] which showed that some employers were concerned about "acceptability" (whether a recruit would fit in) instead of, or in addition to, suitability, and that this could militate against the recruitment of members of ethnic minorities. The CRE told us that another method of discriminating against ethnic minorities was to recruit only from a certain area.[11]

Codes of Practice

26. Both the EOC and the CRE have codes of practice which, under the Race Relations Act and the Sex Discrimination Acts, provide guidance and are to be taken into account in any proceedings under the Acts before an industrial tribunal; the TUC told us they "strongly supported" these, but said that they were "widely disregarded" by employers, mainly through ignorance.[12] In addition, the IPM have produced three Codes of Practice bearing on the general area: on recruitment, equal opportunities and occupational testing.[13] They believed that the codes were effective in spreading good practice "where the management and economic environment are

[1]Q 736 (and note); Ev p. 104. In January 1991 the IPM launched a statement on *Age and Employment* which said "The IPM recognises the enforcement value of legislation as a possible way forward, but currently favours self-regulation."
[2]Ev p. 124.
[3]Q 912.
[4]Second Report of Session 1988-89, HC 41-I; Government reply: Fourth Special Report, Session 1988-89, HC 581.
[5]Ev p. 73; *Employment Gazette*, March 1990, p. 133.
[6]Ev p. 118.
[7]Qs 668-70.
[8]Q 695; Ev p. 95.
[9]Q 693; Ev pp. 94-5.
[10]Ev p. 130.
[11]Q 689.
[12]Q 1,44-5; Ev p. 1.
[13]For summaries, see Ev pp. 104-6.

right" but thought that forcing employers to follow them might be counter-productive as bad employers would follow their letter but not their spirit.[1] The Department of Employment also warned about putting too much in statutory provisions rather than in advisory codes such as those produced by the IPM.[2] The CBI also issues guides on recruitment and on equal opportunities policy.[3]

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

27. Under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act 1944, any employer with 20 or more workers is under a duty to employ a quota of three per cent of registered disabled people; it is not an offence to be under the quota but an employer who is below it must not engage anyone other than a registered disabled person without first obtaining a permit to do so from the local Jobcentre.[4]

28. Because many people who are disabled do not wish to register, the proportion of registered disabled people in the workforce is estimated to be between one and two per cent, with the result that it is impossible for all employers to employ their quota of registered disabled people; indeed, only about 30 per cent of employers do so.[5] The TUC drew attention to research by the Spastics Society showing a disabled person was less likely to be called for interview than an otherwise similar non-disabled person.[6] They and the IPM argued that as the quota system was not working another legislative method of reducing unjustified discrimination against disabled people should be tried.[7]

29. In July 1990 the Department of Employment issued a consultative paper *Employment and Training for People with Disabilities*. In the part dealing with employers' responsibilities, this paper draws attention to the shortcomings of the quota scheme and examines possible alternatives. We considered this paper in a separate inquiry and our conclusions are contained in our First Report of Session 1990-91, *Disability and Employment*.[8]

PEOPLE WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD

30. Five million people in the United Kingdom have a criminal record. The Apex Trust told us that people who have recently left custody are amongst those most likely to be unemployed (up to ten times more likely than the population as a whole, in some areas), and said that there was a link between unemployment and re-offending.[9]

31. In an attempt to reduce the disadvantage that ex-offenders face, Parliament passed in 1974 the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. The general effect of this Act is that any conviction resulting in a sentence of 2½ years' imprisonment, or any lesser penalty, eventually becomes "spent", and for most legal purposes is thereafter deemed never to have happened.[10] This means that a job applicant does not have to mention such a conviction if asked about his past, and the Act also provides that such a conviction is not a proper ground for dismissing a person from most offices or employment. Furthermore, a person who discloses a spent conviction maliciously is not protected from an action for defamation by the defence that what he said was true, and a person with official access to criminal records commits an offence if he discloses a spent conviction except in accordance with his official duties (this is the only criminal offence created by the Act[11]).

32. Records of spent convictions are kept so as to assist in the prevention and detection of crime and they can be taken into account when sentencing for any further offence. There are also various categories of employment from which the Act is excluded by various Exceptions Orders and subsequent legislation, and the Home Office were, as their witness told us, "fairly regularly fighting off requests for further exceptions to be made"[12]

[1]Qs 751, 733.
[2]Qs 799-805.
[3]Appendix 4, Ev pp. 174, 175 paras 7, 15.
[4]Ev p. 118.
[5]Q 4.
[6]Q 20.
[7]Qs 3, 760.
[8]HC 35 of Session 1990-91.
[9]Ev pp. 19, 21.
[10]Section 4(1) of the Act, quoted in Q 108.
[11]Q 222.
[12]Q 253. For the exceptions already made see Ev pp. 34-6.

33. Criticisms made about the working of the Act include:

(a) The ex-offenders whom it is intended to benefit do not necessarily know about its provisions; the Home Office told us that prisoners are given a "discharge pack" when released,[1] and **we recommend that these should include information about the Act, in more detail than the present leaflet "Wiping the slate clean".**

(b) Many employers do not know about the Act,[2] with the result that application forms and interviewers do not make clear to applicants whether spent convictions need to be disclosed (under one of the exceptions) or not; **we believe that any application form which asks for details of convictions should always say whether spent convictions need to be disclosed;**

(c) If an employer did find out about a spent conviction, applicants had no effective remedy against being refused employment,[3] and existing employees would be deterred from taking the case to an industrial tribunal because this would draw even more attention to their past;

(d) Some application forms ask for such detail about what an applicant was doing over previous years that a period of imprisonment is likely to show up as an unexplained gap in the record.[4]

(e) The periods before which convictions become spent range up to 10 years, and those imprisoned for more than 2½ years are totally excluded from the Act's provisions.

34. The Apex Trust told us that 84 per cent of private sector employers, and 93 per cent of public sector employers, regularly asked job applicants for information about criminal records, and that these proportions had greatly increased since the mid-1960s, when the Apex Trust was established. Although the employer might be worried about risks involved about employing an ex-offender, the Apex Trust suggested that as the vast majority of crime was neither violent nor based in the workplace these worries were misplaced.[5] **We recognise the legitimate concerns of both employers and potential employees in this area.**

35. Apex told us that the use by employers of a fidelity bond, a method of insurance against losses caused by employees, had increased from simply covering those handling large amounts of money to many other sorts of employee, and was now covering about 17 per cent of private sector jobs. The insurers would not cover anybody with a criminal record, so Apex had been negotiating with the Government and with insurers a subsidised fidelity bond especially for ex-offenders, and hoped this would improve their chances of employment.[6] On 11 January 1991 the Department of Employment announced the launch of a pilot scheme run by Apex in co-operation with the Employment Service, Business in the Community and the Sedgewick Insurance Group.[7] **We welcome this development.**

Political and trade union activity

36. Complaints are sometimes made that people have been refused employment on the grounds of their political beliefs or trade union activities; furthermore it is alleged that decisions have been made on the basis of unreliable false information obtained from a third party, and that this can happen without the applicant being aware of the information held or being given a chance to correct any inaccuracies in it.

37. The Employment Act 1990 makes it an offence to refuse a person employment on the grounds of membership or non-membership of a trade union, and during the passage of the Bill for this Act it has been represented by some, including the Trades Union Congress,[8] that this new right will be unenforceable if an employer can discriminate on grounds of an applicant's previous trade union activities rather than membership as such.

38. On the other hand, employers point to the need to protect themselves against people whose main aim as employees would be to foment unrest or engage in sabotage, and that the possibility of dismissal for misconduct is not a sufficient remedy for the damage that might ensue.[9]

[1]Q 238.
[2]Appendix 4, Ev p. 176 para 24.
[3]The Home Office raise the possibility of an action for damages, but say there is no specific machinery for enforcing the right not to be refused employment on account of spent convictions (Ev p. 44).
[4]Ford's (who did not ask on application forms about criminal records) said that these sometimes came to light as a result of questions about a period of unemployment (Ev p. 145). These would not necessarily be spent convictions.
[5]Q 97.
[6]Q 143.
[7]Department of Employment Press Notice No. 7 of 1991.
[8]Ev p. 2.
[9]For example Ford's pointed out that a single disruptive worker could cause losses of many thousands of pounds. (Ev p. 166).

39. One of the best-known organisations providing information about potential employees is the Economic League, and we therefore took evidence from them. We also received evidence about the League's activities from others.

40. The League said that their service to employers of providing information about applicants existed to provide details of those who belong to revolutionary organisations dedicated to undercover subversion of industry. They say that their information of this kind, as distinct from their records of general political information, relates to about ten thousand people.[1] Although this information is on manual records, and therefore falls outside the provisions of the Data Protection Act, the League say that they will provide any applicant with the information held on them, if any. To do this they request from the applicant full details of their past employment, National Insurance Number, etc., and this has given rise to the suspicion that this information will be added to the League's records: the League, however, deny this.[2] They also claim never to have had to retract anything they have said, or to have had to apologise, or to have been sued.[3] They supplied us with documents which they said were from revolutionary organisations advocating, and supplying advice on, industrial sabotage.[4]

41. The League also told us that an employer should pass on to an applicant any information obtained on them from the League, and suggests that the provision of such information should be subject to legislation and a code of practice.[5]

42. Critics of the League tell of a completely different state of affairs, with inaccurate information being handed out in secret, with employers rejecting applicants simply on the basis that the League had information about them, rather than weighing carefully what this information was, and with information being kept on many more than the ten thousand individuals quoted by the League. Many of these allegations were made in a Granada TV *World in Action* programme, "The Boys on the Blacklist", which gave rise to a complaint by the League to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission. The Commission upheld the League's complaints about some aspects of the way in which the investigation was conducted, but could not adjudicate on the allegations made in the programme. We asked the League why, if the allegations were untrue, they did not sue the makers of the programme; they pointed out that, having made a complaint to the Commission, they were precluded from doing so.[6]

43. The League pointed out that they were not the only organisation providing information about potential employees (although they later told us that information about others appeared to be rather more difficult to come by).[7] In making any recommendations, we therefore had to bear in mind the need to cover all such information providers, not just the League.

44. In response to a request from us,[8] the League undertook to re-examine the possibility of transferring their records to computer, thus bringing them within the scope of the Data Protection Act, and thereby not only making mandatory the provision of information to those on whom it was held, but also providing for the inspection of the records themselves by the Data Protection Registrar.

45. The IPM told us that, "all things considered", they opposed the use of outside vetting agencies; they did not support discrimination on the ground of political belief or motivation and said that the information held ought to be "public or available to the individual" and that the information held would be of no use if it was inaccurate.[9] Ford's (who had discontinued using the Economic League in July 1990) "could not see a situation where they would rejoin".[10]

46. Under the Consumer Credit Act 1974, any consumer denied credit can obtain the name of any credit reference agency consulted, and can thereafter obtain details of the information held about them.[11] **We believe the same should be true of information about potential employees supplied**

[1]Q 323.
[2]Q 460.
[3]Qs 274, 454.
[4]See, e.g., Qs 273, 389, 404.
[5]Qs 266, 258. Ford's disputed the League's assertion that they encouraged employers to pass details on to applicants; Ford's had not done so. (Qs 833-4).
[6]Qs 425-32; Appendix 3, Ev p. 170, Parts (b) and (e).
[7]Qs 493-4, 502, 506-8, 543-8; Appendix 3, Part (f).
[8]Qs 485-8; Appendix 3, Part (d).
[9]Qs 727-8; Ev pp. 97, 104.
[10]Q 901.
[11]Sections 157-8.

to employers by organisations keeping such information; if the potential employee is refused employment the information should be passed on to the employee; indeed, it should be put to the employee so as to provide a chance for the employee to refute it.

47. **We also recommend that legislation should provide that, with the exception of previous employers providing references, all organisations supplying information about potential employees should be subject to licensing and to a code of practice, perhaps similar to the licensing system for employment agencies under the Employment Agencies Act 1973.**

48. We believe that the recommendations we have made would go some way to lessening the disadvantages faced by those who apply for jobs at companies using the services of organisations who provide information about them.

Discrimination in recruitment practices: Is legislation needed?

49. It is sometimes said that employers' discriminatory practices will change because of the shortages of labour caused by the decreasing number of school leavers and competition from Europe after the single market comes into place in 1993.

50. The CRE said that it would be "far too complacent" to assume that demographic changes would "take care of discrimination" but said that it did provide a climate where they could "work purposefully towards removing discriminatory practices in employment".[1] They asked for legislation "in order to give greater incentive to firms to behave in a way which is in their interests", as they did not appear to realise that to recruit the best staff they could not ignore the minority communities.[2] However, they also drew attention to firms' social responsibilities in this area.[3] They wanted more legislation partly because "things were moving too slowly".[4]

51. The EOC said that, although there had been much publicity about employers adopting recruitment and employment packages described as "women- and family-friendly", with provisions for child care, and so on, "it is still a handful of leading employers who are actually trying to practise equal opportunities rather than talking about it". These were mainly in the financial services sector, the retail sector, local authorities, the Civil Service, and a few large oil companies.[5]

52. The IPM said that "market forces on their own are unlikely to improve the employment prospects of under-used groups such as women returners, ethnic minorities, the disabled or older people. Overt and covert discrimination must be removed if these groups are to play their full part in the labour market in future. . . . Unfair discrimination is wasteful, bad for business, and directly opposed to the welfare of the British economy."[6] The research evidence that "employers are far from rational when it comes to making recruitment and selection decisions" implies that "eradicating unfair discrimination simply cannot be left to market forces".[7]

53. The Department of Employment said that "although the employment position of disadvantaged groups has improved in recent years" the Government remained concerned about their position. They advocated a range of measures to tackle the problem. These included "endorsing and enforcing the anti-racial and sex discrimination legislation"; ensuring that employers realised the need to recruit from all available sources in the face of a decrease in the number of young people entering the labour market; and promoting policies to increase job opportunities.[8] After the completion of oral evidence on this inquiry, we took evidence from the Secretary of State for Employment on a range of subjects on 5 December, and he said that he believed "a convincing case has not been made out" for legislation outlawing discrimination on grounds of age or disability.[9]

54. The CRE and EOC are both given the responsibility for proposing to Government any amendments to legislation which they consider desirable, and we asked what they had proposed.

[1]Q 626.
[2]Qs 675-6.
[3]Q 677.
[4]Q 682.
[5]HC 364-i Qs 2, 45.
[6]Ev p. 98.
[7]Ev p. 106.
[8]Ev pp. 119-20.
[9] HC 98 Q 122.

The EOC made proposals to the Government for amendments to the Sex Discrimination Act two years ago and were "disappointed" that no action had yet resulted;[1] some of the CRE's recommendations dating from as far back as 1985 were still under discussion at the Home Office.[2]

55. **In view of the signs of a decrease in the effect of discrimination on employment levels of disadvantaged groups, we recognise that there is a case for reliance on persuading employers that equal opportunity policies are in their own interests and on spreading good practice. It follows that the Government are not obliged to implement every proposal for legislation put to them by the EOC or CRE, and they have enacted some of the changes proposed. We are however disappointed that the Government appear to take so long to consider proposals from the two bodies which have, by law, the specific task of reviewing anti-discrimination legislation.**

Summary of conclusions and recommendations

56.(a) It is clear that there is a wide divergence between theory and practice in recruitment techniques, and that unintentional discrimination and unsatisfactory results are not unusual. We believe that there is room for a greater degree of professionalism in recruitment and this should include a greater level of awareness of the Codes of Practice drawn up by the IPM (paragraph 10).

(b) The "discharge pack" given to prisoners on release should include information about the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, in rather more detail than the present leaflet "Wiping the slate clean" (paragraph 33).

(c) Any application form which asks for details of convictions should always say whether spent convictions need to be disclosed (paragraph 33).

(d) We recognise the legitimate concerns of both employers and potential employees in the area of asking about criminal records (paragraph 34).

(e) We welcome the launch of a scheme for a subsidised fidelity bond for ex-offenders (paragraph 35).

(f) We believe that provisions analogous to those in the Consumer Credit Act 1974 should be applied to information about potential employees supplied to employers by organisations keeping such information; if the potential employee is refused employment the information should be passed on to the employee; indeed, it should be put to the employee so as to provide a chance for the employee to refute it (paragraph 46).

(g) We recommend that legislation should provide that, with the exception of previous employers providing references, all organisations supplying information about potential employees should be subject to licensing and to a code of practice, perhaps similar to the licensing system for employment agencies under the Employment Agencies Act 1973 (paragraph 47).

(h) In view of the signs of a decrease in the effect of discrimination on employment levels of disadvantaged groups we recognise that there is a case for reliance on persuading employers that equal opportunity policies are in their own interests and on spreading good practice. It follows that the Government are not obliged to implement every proposal for legislation put to them by the EOC or CRE, and they have enacted some of the changes proposed. We are however disappointed that the Government appear to take so long to consider proposals from the two bodies which have, by law, the specific task of reviewing anti-discrimination legislation (paragraph 55).

[1]HC 364-i Qs 136-8.
[2]Qs 654-63, 809-10; Ev pp. 141-2.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE RELATING TO THE REPORT

WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 1991

Members present:

Mr Ron Leighton, in the Chair

Mr Ian Bruce
Mr Chris Butler
Mr Simon Coombs
Mr Ken Eastham
Mr Tim Janman
Mr Greville Janner
Mr David Young

The Committee deliberated.

Draft Report (Recruitment Practices), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 56 read and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the Second Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That the provisions of Standing Order No. 116 (Select Committees (Reports)) be applied to the Report.

Several papers were ordered to be appended to the Minutes of Evidence.

Ordered, That the Appendices to the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Committee be reported to the House.—(*The Chairman.*)

Several Memoranda were ordered to be reported to the House.

* * * *

[Adjourned till Wednesday next at Four o'clock.

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LIST OF MEMORANDA NOT PRINTED

The following submitted memoranda which have been reported to the House, but to save printing costs they have not been printed and copies have been placed in the House of Commons Library, where they may be inspected by Members. Other copies are in the Record Office, House of Lords, and are available to the public for inspection. Requests for inspection should be addressed to the Record Office, House of Lords, London SW1 (Tel. 071-219 3074). Hours of inspection are from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm on Mondays to Fridays.

Disability Matters Ltd.

Campaign for Work: *Employers' Recruitment Practices and Disadvantages in the Labour Market.*

Mark Hollingsworth.

Charles Tremayne.

Charles Tremayne: Responses to Economic League Evidence.

Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

TSB Group Ltd.

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Maria Fyfe, MP.

UK Offshore Operators' Association Ltd.

Joseph Hughes.

National Union of Seamen.

National Council for Civil Liberties.

League Watch.

Mr J Winstanley.

MSF (trade union).

GMB (Scotland).

GMB (Scotland) (supplementary).

AEU Parliamentary Group.

Letters from large companies and city councils: *Recruitment practices: educational attainments*

Dr Timothy Clarke, Open Business School.

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APPENDIX 3

Supplementary information from the Economic League

(a) *Revolutionary Organisations*

Anarchist Communist Federation
Animal Liberation Front
Black Flag
British National Party
British Movement
Class War Federation
Communist Party of Britain
Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)
Communist Party of Great Britain (status under review by party executive)
Direct Action Movement
International Communist Current
International Communist Party
International Leninist Workers' Party
Labour Briefing
Labour Research Department
Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trades Unions
Liberation
Militant Tendency
National Front
New Communist Party
Red Action
Revolutionary Communist Group
Revolutionary Communist League of Britain
Revolutionary Communist Party
Revolutionary Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist)
Revolutionary Vanguard
Revolutionary Workers' Party
Socialist Organiser Alliance
Socialist Workers Party
Socialist League
Workers International League
Workers Power
Workers Revolutionary Party (Newsline)
Workers Revolutionary Party (Workers Press)
Young Socialist (WRP, Newsline)

NB: This list does not include subsidiary bodies, special campaigns or "front" organisations, run by the above.

(b) *Why the League did not sue Granada Television*

At the time of the Granada programmes my predecessor was advised by the League's solicitors that in the first instance proper recourse was through the IBA. When that process was halted (some 18 months after the initial complaint by us) by the IBA's admission that they were actively involved in the making of the programme, the matter was referred to the Broadcasting Complaints Authority. Apparently, when the adjudication was made by the BCA, we were advised that no further action could be taken against Granada TV.

(c) *Percentage Breakdown of Clients by Industry, 1989*

Manufacturing	49
Textile	3
Construction	23
Transport	2
Brewing	3
Food	3
Services	17

No. of Companies: approximately 700 (851 on Jan 1st 1986)

10 *July* 1990

(d) *Computerisation of Records*

We have had brought to our attention a library/data retrieval system which, subject to price agreement, will be ideal for our needs. Providing that installation and parallel running can be achieved with minimum problems, we envisage our records being fully computerised by January 1991. Our registration under the Data Protection Act will then be modified accordingly.

(e) *The Broadcasting Complaints Commission*

In my efforts to be brief in my last note, I think I may not have given as clear an explanation as possible as to why we did not sue Granada TV. Under the provisions of the Broadcasting Act 1981, the Commission "cannot entertain or proceed with the consideration of a complaint if it appears to them that the treatment complained of is the subject of proceedings in a UK court of law or that the person affected has a remedy by way of such proceedings". In other words, by accepting the Commission's right to adjudicate, the League forswore any rights to further action.

During the hearing on 13 June, Mr Leighton specifically made the point that the Commission had adjudicated that the Granada TV programme was unjust and unfair, not that it was untrue. I would be grateful if you could draw the Committee's attention to Section 54 of the Broadcasting Act 1981 which specifies that the Commission can only consider complaints of unfair or unjust treatment. They are not empowered to decide whether or not the content of the programme is untrue.

I would repeat that the Commission gave full consideration to the League's complaint and handed down an adjudication that Granada TV's treatment of the League was considered unjust and unfair.

(f) "*Blacklists*"

The term "blacklist" implies the listing of people in order to discriminate against them. To be effective, such a list should be maintained by an organisation or person having the power to act to the disadvantage of an individual concerned.

A wide range of "blacklists" falls within this definition. Most Personnel Managers keep a list of former employees they would not re-employ for a variety of reasons. Local shopkeepers keep records of poor payers—some have even been known to display a list in their shop window. Football authorities "blacklist" hooligans in order to ban them from attendance at matches.

The Labour Party stands accused by the Militant Tendency of operating a "political blacklist" which prevents people who describe themselves as socialists from being members of the principal socialist party in this country. Individuals have suffered this discrimination. They include not only leading "supporters" of Militant, but Tariq Ali, a former leading member of the International Marxist Group (IMG), who was denied entry by Labour's National Executive, despite the fact that other former IMG members are now safely ensconsed in the Labour Party. Their Ken Williamson, an Oxford GP said by World in Action to have been "blacklisted" by the Economic League, had in fact been expelled from Oxford Labour Party for his involvement with a Trotskyist group, the Workers Socialist League. (So much, incidentally, for World in Action's "research" —it was either inefficient or dishonest.)

Now the Labour Party has moved to outlaw another Trotskyist group, Socialist Organiser. This suggests that the old proscribed list is being revised. That list, which banned the so-called Labour Research Department (LRD) from 1942 to 1972 and was finally abolished in 1973, contained a variety of organisations with which Labour party members were not to associate (the LRD is particularly interesting, first because it is often confused with the Labour Party's Research Department—a confusion LRD does nothing to clarify; secondly because LRD has been under the control of Communists and their supporters since 1921, and still is.) Trades Unions too indulge in "blacklisting". For years after the ballot-rigging scandal of the early 1960s, Communists were banned from holding office in the electricians' union. Only last year the Branch Chairman of NALGO threatened members who were refusing to go on strike that he would see to it that they never worked again in any establishment in which public service unions were involved. He was later obliged to withdraw the threat, but does a list still exist and how many other unreported cases are there of a similar type?

Political views are often considered by political parties and trades unions when evaluating job applications. Civil Service Unions have used industrial action as a means of forcing government departments to dismiss individuals whose political views are not acceptable to the union.

Private detectives run lists of people in whom they are interested. Although it is usually unwise to quote such an unreliable source as World in Action, one of their programmes attacking the Economic League contained an interview with a private detective based in Hull, who boasted about the number of people he had listed and the range of activities they covered.

He operated a card index. How many others have personal information on computer and how many are correctly registered under the Data Protection Act?

The Economic League has no power to compare with the organisations and people mentioned above. Our information is given on demand to employers who may at any time ask for the evidence we hold to back up the statements we make. Many do. Furthermore, the League merely supplies the facts; the company makes the decision—and it does so knowing that the League is always quotable as the source of any information it has supplied.

Examples of organisations which operate pre-employment checking services:

Richard Jacques-Turner—Hull and London. (quoted by World in Action)
CIUK—National coverage based in London.

17 *July* 1990

FIRST SPECIAL REPORT

The Employment Committee has agreed to the following Special Report:

We have received the following memorandum from the Department of Employment:

Government reply to the Second Report of the Employment Committee, Session 1990-91: Recruitment Practices[1]

INTRODUCTION

1. The Employment Committee's report on recruitment practices has eight conclusions and recommendations dealing with both recruitment practices and discrimination against particular groups of people; paragraphs 14 to 28 of this memorandum deal with each of them in turn.

2. The Government welcomes the Committee's emphasis on the importance of improving recruitment practices as a means of improving the quality of the workforce.

Government's Role

3. The Government is fully aware of the important part it has to play in influencing employers' recruitment practices, especially through the Jobcentre network of the Employment Service (ES) and particularly where there is a possibility of discrimination. Employers using ES provision are required to comply with current legislation on race and sex discrimination. ES staff will challenge any employer who attempts to discriminate unlawfully, whether directly or indirectly, and if the employer persists, then services to them will be suspended. Cases are referred to ES Head Office who in turn refer them to the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) and/or the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) if they cannot resolve them at ES Head Office level.

4. Jobcentres can also promote equal opportunities and good practice in recruitment with employers where appropriate.

5. Additionally, although age discrimination is not unlawful, instructions to Jobcentres have been strengthened to require all upper age limits on notified vacancies to be challenged. (This complies with the Select Committee's recommendation in its report on older workers—May 1989).[2]

DISCRIMINATION

General

6. The description of "indirect discrimination" (para 11) implies that it applies only to the use of selection criteria. In fact it applies to any condition or requirement with which someone must comply in order to qualify for or obtain a benefit. This is not restricted to recruitment and selection.

Age discrimination

7. The Committee takes the view that if voluntary measures on age discrimination fail to work, pressure for legislation would continue to grow. As they noted, the Government favours a voluntary approach and believes that it is in employers' own interests to abandon arbitrary age limits in recruitment and to treat all applicants on their merits. Older workers can bring valuable qualities of skill, experience and reliability to a job. There is evidence that employers are recognising this and changing their personnel policies. The Government will continue to take every opportunity of persuading more to do so.

8. In August 1990 the Government abolished the last centrally-imposed age limits on recruitment to service-wide grades in the Civil Service.

Race discrimination

9. The Government and, in particular, the Employment Department's Race Relations Employment Advisory Service (RREAS), take every opportunity to urge employers to make use of the positive action provisions of the Race Relations Act 1976 whenever appropriate. The RREAS has published a leaflet for employers promoting positive action.

---

[1]Second Report, Session 1990-91, HC 176-I (Report) and 176-II (Evidence). The Report was published on 20 February 1991.
[2]Second Report of Session 1988-89, *The Employment Patterns of the Over-50s*, HC 41-I, -II and -III, para 21.

10. The Government considers that ethnic monitoring is good employment practice. Without it employers do not know the basic facts about the composition of their workforces. However the Government sees the voluntary approach as the right way forward in the area of race relations in employment. The measures in the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act 1989 were introduced against the background of the unique situation in Northern Ireland concerning discrimination on grounds of religion and political belief. The measures would not necessarily be appropriate for dealing with other forms of discrimination.

11. The Government recognises that methods used to eliminate unfair discrimination will vary according to the different types of discrimination and the circumstances in which they occur. Requiring employers to carry out ethnic monitoring would impose on them arbitrary requirements not necessarily related to the ethnic characteristics of the local population. Formal regulation imposes burdens on employers that can adversely affect jobs. Enforcement of any new legislation requiring compulsory ethnic monitoring would be likely to have significant public expenditure implications.

12. The Government fully supports the EOC and CRE employment Codes of Practice which have been approved by Parliament.

People with disabilities

13. The Government notes the Committee's comments on recruitment of people with disabilities. As the Committee acknowledges, this matter is discussed in the Government's consultative document "Employment and Training for People with Disabilities".[1] The Employment Department is currently considering responses to the consultative document, including the Committee's recommendations in its report, "Disability and Employment".[2] The Secretary of State for Employment has undertaken to keep the Committee informed of the progress on the issues which it raised.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) *It is clear that there is a wide divergence between theory and practice in recruitment techniques and that unintentional discrimination and unsatisfactory results are not unusual. We believe that there is room for a greater degree of professionalism in recruitment and this should include a greater level of awareness of the Codes of Practice drawn up by the IPM.*

14. The Government agrees with the Committee that there is room for a greater degree of professionalism in recruitment. This should include a greater degree of awareness of the Codes of Practice drawn up by the Commission for Racial Equality and the Equal Opportunities Commission, which have been approved by Parliament, as well as the Employment Service's Code of Good Practice on the Employment of Disabled People and the Codes drawn up by organisations such as the Institute of Personnel Management. The IPM "Codes of Practice" on recruitment, equal opportunities and occupational testing contain much advice on good practice.

(b) *The "discharge pack" given to prisoners on release should include information about the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, in rather more detail than the present leaflet "Wiping the Slate Clean".*

(c) *Any application form which asks for details of convictions should always say whether spent convictions need to be disclosed.*

(d) *We recognise the legitimate concerns of both employers and potential employees in the area of asking about criminal records.*

15. The Government accepts that offenders need to know about the protection given by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and have recently undertaken a wide distribution of the leaflet "Wiping the Slate Clean" through the Employment Service, the Probation Service and the Citizen Advice Bureaux. Copies of the leaflet are held in all prison libraries. In addition prison authorities have been asked recently to acquire for each library a copy of the revised "Guide to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974" which contains more detailed information about the effects of the Act. The provisions of the Act have also been brought to the attention of ES staff through a guidance booklet, "Offenders into Jobs", which has been sent to all ES offices and Jobclubs.

[1]Department of Employment, July 1990.
[2]First Report, Session 1990-91, HC 35.

16. This distribution should ensure that those serving custodial sentences as well as those who are subject to non-custodial sentences have access to information about the Act, and that the leaflet is made available in circumstances where it is likely to be of immediate use, for example for those searching for work.

17. The Government shares the Committee's concern that applicants for jobs should be made aware of their right to take advantage of the provisions of the 1974 Act, and that employers should not ask for details to which they are not entitled. We are considering how this can best be achieved.

18. The Employment Department is piloting a Jobclub (opened on 25 February) based in the Employment Activity Centre of Pentonville Prison and incorporating formal sessions in jobsearch skills with the resources necessary for jobsearch.

19. The Jobclub leader and support worker will help members assess and develop their potential for employment and can give one-to-one advice especially on jobsearch and disclosure of conviction.

20. The Government values the contribution that the Apex Trust is making to encourage employers to adopt fair and responsible policy and practice for employing ex-offenders. The Guide, "Releasing the Potential", which was commissioned by the Apex Trust and launched by the Secretary of State for Employment in June 1990, is an important step forward in this campaign.

(e) *We welcome the launch of a scheme for a subsidised fidelity bond for ex-offenders.*

21. The Government is also pleased to be supporting Apex Trust in the piloting of a fidelity bonding scheme for ex-offenders. The fidelity bond pilot was launched by Robert Jackson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Employment, on 14 January 1991. Up to £185,000 will be provided over a 2-year period towards the cost of operating the pilot.

(f) *We believe that provisions analogous to those in the Consumer Credit Act 1974 should be applied to information about potential employees supplied to employers by organisations keeping such information; if the potential employee is refused employment the information should be passed on to the employee; indeed, it should be put to the employee so as to provide a chance for the employee to refute it.*

22. The Government believes that employers must be free to obtain information in confidence about potential employees. However, we would also stress that both suppliers and users of such information should satisfy themselves about its quality. There are already extensive provisions available under the Data Protection Act 1984 (DPA) for individuals who believe that the information held on them is incorrect.

23. The Committee's proposals would put significant burdens on all employers without adding greatly to the protection provided by the DPA. They might also add to the burdens of many other bodies who routinely supply information and references in confidence on potential employees (e.g., banks, schools, colleges).

(g) *With the exception of previous employers providing references, all organisations supplying information about potential employees should be subject to licensing and to a code of practice, perhaps similar to the licensing system for employment agencies under the Employment Agencies Act 1973.*

24. We hope that all those supplying references accept the obligation to ensure that the information they provide is accurate and fair. We will take every opportunity to encourage good practice. However, we do not believe a statutory code of practice or licensing is the answer. As in the case of the proposal for legislation based on the Consumer Credit Act (recommendation (f)), the Committee's proposals would add to burdens on businesses and to public expenditure.

(h) *In view of the signs of a decrease in the effect of discrimination on employment levels of disadvantaged groups we recognise that there is a case for reliance on persuading employers that equal opportunity policies are in their own interests and on spreading good practice. It follows that the Government are not obliged to implement every proposal for legislation put to them by the EOC or CRE, and they have enacted some of the changes proposed. We are however disappointed that the Government appear to take so long to consider proposals from the two bodies which have, by law, the specific task of reviewing anti-discrimination legislation.*

25. The Committee's recognition that there is a case for reliance on persuading employers that equal opportunity policies are in their own interests and on spreading good practice, is fully in line with the Government's own position on this matter. In setting out the Government's position to the first EOC/CRE Conference for Employers on 18 March, the Secretary of State for Employment encouraged employers to take the lead in the promotion of equal opportunities since they hold the keys to jobs. Moreover, he pointed out that it was in their own interests, the interests of their employees and in the interests of the nation for them to take that lead and make equal opportunity in employment a reality.

26. The Government welcomes the Committee's acknowledgment that it is not obliged to implement proposals for legislation put forward by the EOC or CRE. The proposals put forward by the EOC and CRE are complex and go wider than employment, affecting the responsibilities of a number of Government departments as well as having implications for both domestic and EC legislation. Careful consideration of all the issues is essential in formulating any response to the proposals.

27. On 2 May 1990 the Minister of State at the Home Office, in reply to a question from the Member for Newham North-East *(Official Report,* vol. 171, written answers col. 566), announced that the Government were considering proposals for amendments to the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 submitted by the EOC in March 1988 but would not be in a position to reply until consideration had been given to the results of the Commission's review of the Equal Pay Act 1970. The review was published in November 1990 and is currently being considered. So far as the CRE's proposals are concerned, individual proposals have been considered on their merits, and where a strong case has been made the Government has introduced changes to the law. The Committee recognised this in acknowledging that some of the changes proposed have been enacted. The CRE has now embarked on a further review which will take account of developments since the earlier review.

19 *April* 1991

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EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 17 October 1990

Witness List

Ford Motor Co Ltd

Mr J W Hougham, Executive Director, Personnel

Mr K J Baker, Manager - Education, Training and Equal Opportunities

Mr B P H Cogger, Manager - Employee Affairs, Planning

Ms Diane Meany, Manager - Salaried Personnel and Recruitment

REPORT ON HOUSE OF COMMONS SELECT CTTEE HEARING 13/6/90

SUBJECT: Selection Proceedures

WITNESSES: Economic League

DURATION: 2½ hours

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: IAIN MILLS (Con. Meriden)
CHRIS BUTLER (Con. Warrington S.)
GREVILLE JANNER (Lab. Leicester W.)
SIR PHILIP GOODHART (Con. Beckenham)
RON LEIGHTON (Lab. Newham N.E.) Chairman
KEN EASTHAM (Lab. Manchester Blackley)
EMMA NICHOLSON (Con. Devon West)
ERNIE ROSS (Lab. Dundee W.)
DAVID YOUNG (Lab. Bolton S.E.)
SIMON COOMBS (Con. Swindon)

ECONOMIC LEAGUE: STANFORD HARDY Director General (former personnel manager)
JACK WINDER Director of Information (former Army Information officer).

The League witnesses were given a hostile hearing by the all-party select cttee. During the hearing RON LEIGHTON compared the League to the former Romanian Securitate, and GREVILLE JANNER described the League as "widely regarded as an odious organisation". The M.P.'s were critical of much of the League's evidence and often challenged the integrity of some of the information offered by the League.

What follows is a summary of the evidence given by the League.

OPENING SUBMISSION

The League opened with a prepared statement which was read to the cttee.

The League stated "The League has never operated a blacklist" but conceeded they kept information on individuals "thus the League is able to consistantly and reliably inform the public of the activities of extremist organisations and their members and supporters. The public is then better able to effect measures to protect democratic institutions, companies and jobs."

"The league supports membership of democratic trade unions and is a defender of the right of trade unions." The League then balanced this with their contention that "Employers have an inalienable right" to vet employees and the "right to avail themselves of any and all valid information on an applicant and obtain it from any source open to them."

The League stated that they would "welcome an extension of the data protection Act to cover manual files" and said that all vetting agencies should be subject to a statutory licencing scheme. The League suggested that their own "code of practice" could be adopted as a starting point.

ORGANISATION

The League's evidence on it's own organisation produced the following;
Turnover: £750,000 - down 20% from previous year.
Staff: 33 full time "and several part-time". Senior managers were paid in the region of £16,000 to £17,000 and a co-ordinator £14,000 to £15,000. The League acknowledged they "were not well paid" and the job required "dedication" but offered "satisfaction".

The League was answerable to it's "customers" and it could be closed down if "companies ceased to subscribe" or by Parliamentary legislation.

The League said it's worsening position was due to a "sustained attack and a campaign of vilification by extremists". They offered various "documentary" sources including one document headed "Pigs on the run".

WORK DONE

The League said only 16% of it's work covered "vetting". The other 84% consisted of "training, security, recruitment, analysis, information etc." They said they spent a lot of time responding to inquiries from "academics, teachers and students, authors, researchers, employers, employers associations, journalists, members of Parliament, trade associations and trade unions."

VETTING

The League said they did not operate a "blacklist" but admitted they stores 10,000 names on a rotadex card index. These were "self proclaimed revolutionaries". 50 to 100 names were of "fascists", the rest "left wing militants". They listed as revolutionary target organisations "The Militant, W.R.P., S.W.P. and the Communist party". They also had a seperate card index in cabinets covering "almost all the M.P.'s" which they said contained "published biographical details".

They expected to check 100,000 names in 1990, but had checked 200,000 names a year in the past.

The League claimed no charities were targetted. They admitted reference to charities like War on Want in their publication "Companies Under Attack" but insisted they were not regarded as "subversive". They also rejected claims by former League employee RICHARD BRETT that they intended to expand vetting of Gays and Football holligans.

The League claimed they encouraged employers to divulge infromation supplied by them to job applicants, as outlined in their "code of practice".

SUBSCRIBERS

The League claimed most companies that subscribed did not use their vetting service. They said there was no fixed charge, this was negotiable. They admitted they used to have a "Ford file" but no longer. They could not reveal how much Ford paid as the information was "priviledged commercial information".
They said no newspapers subscribed.
They admitted having assisted in a) The "Cowley Moles" sage in 1982, and b) Screening of transport officials after Lockerbie, but only in a minor role.

PUBLIC ACCESS

The League said they would welcome an extension of the data protection Act to cover manual files. They had not computerised their records because of the cost, although they did not know what the cost would be. They were "as concerned as you are" about other organisations "who do operate a blacklist" and said that if the League computerised it's own records to bring itself under the data protection Act, this would not affect other blacklisters

They claimed anyone could write in and they would provide details of any information held on them . They said "only 2 or 3 a year" ever wrote in. They claimed these letters were always subsequently destroyed.
They said their records were not open for public inspection and they could not publish their "lists" as a) they were quickly out of date, and b) it would give away the "seedcorn" of their business. They said their records would be "useless" id opened up.
The League said it had no "legal immunity" and could be sued for Libel if it's information was wrong. It had never been threatened with such action.

TRADE UNIONS

The League claimed it encouraged trade union democracy and was not interested in trade unions "per se", only in those who were "wreckers" inside the movement. They claimed their services were regularly used by trade unions, but "in almost every case it is individual officers." They mentioned the A.E.U. but added "I cannot name names because it is a sad fact that they would be vilified". They claimed one official approach from a trade union "a national officer came to see me", but would not say which.

MEDIA ALLEGATIONS

The League rejected the allegations against them by the media over the previous 3 years. They claimed journalists had used "deception and fabrication" and there "was not a shred of evidence" to back their allegations. No journalist involved was on the Leagues lists "as far as I know".

The League promised to provide the Select Ctte with
1) A list of subscribing companies and the fees paid.
2) Details of what was held about the Cttee M.P.'s.
3) A list of other organisations operating "blacklists"
4)Invited ctte members to visit the Leagues "archives".

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

A Meeting of the City Council will be held in the Council Chamber at the Civic Hall on Wednesday 24th January 1990 at 2.00 p.m.

1. THE minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 1989 will be presented for confirmation

2. THE Chief Executive will report communications (if any)

3. TO receive deputations, if agreed, under Standing Order Number 12

4. QUESTIONS of which notice has been given in accordance with Standing Order Number 14 of the Council

5. THAT the Council approve the proceedings of the Policy and Resources Committee of 16th January 1990

J H TRICKETT

6. THAT the Council approve the proceedings of the Finance Committee of 16th January 1990

A MILLER

7. THAT the Council approve the proceedings of the Education Committee of 15th January 1990

K G BURNLEY

8. THAT the Council approve the proceedings of the Employment and Economic Development Committee of 9th January 1990

J K PARKER

9. THAT the Council approve the proceedings of the Environment Committee of 11th December 1989 and 9th January 1990

L COHEN

10. THAT the Council approve the proceedings of the Housing Committee of 19th December 1990

11. THAT under and in pursuance of the provisions of Housing Act 1985 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 the drafts now submitted of the undermentioned Orders be approved, that the Council do hereby make such Orders that the Common Seal be affixed thereto and to the maps for deposit referred to therein and that the Director of Administration make application to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation of the Orders:-

(i) City of Leeds (Richmond Hill East Park Road Number 1 (Glensdale Street)) Clearance Area Compulsory Purchase Order 1990

(ii) City of Leeds (39 Victoria Road) Compulsory Purchase Order 1990

(iii) City of Leeds (32 Consort Terrace) Compulsory Purchase Order 1990

(vi) City of Leeds (12 The Boyle) Compulsory Purchase order 1990

A HUDSON

12. **THAT** the Council approve the proceedings of the Information Technology Services Committee of 17th November 1989 and 8th January 1990

G DRIVER

13. **THAT** the Council approve the proceedings of the Leisure Services Committee of 14th December 1989

B P ATHA

14. **THAT** the Council approve the proceedings of the Municipal Services Committee of 20th December 1989 and 4th January 1990

C MYERS

15. **THAT** the Council approve the proceedings of the Nursery Committee of 12th December 1989

L R MIDDLETON

16. **THAT** the Council approve the proceedings of the Passenger Transport Committee of 6th and 18th December 1989 and 9th January 1990

M J BEDFORD

17. **THAT** the Council approve the proceedings of the Personnel Services Committee of 12th December 1989 and 3rd January 1990

N SLOANE

18. **THAT** the Council approve the proceedings of the Planning and Development Committee of 10th January 1990

B WALKER

19. **THAT** the Council approve the proceedings of the Social Services Committee of 11th January 1990 (2 meetings)

W KILGALLON

20. **THAT** the Council approve the proceedings of the Technical Services Committee of 3rd January 1990

P M JONES

21. **THAT** the Council approve the proceedings of the Urban Programme Committee of 4th January 1990

22. "**THAT** this Council calls upon Her Majestys Government to take positive steps to help the homeless of Leeds"

C A CAMPBELL

23. "**THAT** this Council fully supports the people of Leeds in their desire to see a fair and just settlement of the ambulance workers' pay claim".

P A TRUSWELL

24. "**THAT** this Council expresses concern that the LEA's Capital Building allocation from the DES has been reduced from £3.46M (1989/90) to £2.562M for the 1990/91 Financial Year

Given that this Authority needs to spend over £20m per annum on capital building works, and the poor state of many of our education buildings. This Council resolves to make ALL Party representation to the DES, to substantially enhance the allocation, and seeks an urgent meeting with the Secretary of State for Education and Science

K BURNLEY

25. "**THAT** Council views with alarm the activities of the Economic League in Leeds particularly their compilation of a secret list containing information on up to 3,000 citizens of the City with the aim of denying them employment on the basis of allegations about their political beliefs or trade union activity. Council believes the use of this "List" to be totally incompatible with good personnel practice

Council resolves:

(1) To write to commercial suppliers of the Council to ask them whether they use the services of the Economic League

(2) To re-affirm its commitment to good personnel practice in its own recruitment and selection proceedures and to ensure that unauthorised or informal references are not used when shortlisting or appointing

(3) To encourage good personnel practice throughout the City

(4) Whilst not in any way condoning the League's political discrimination to urge the Economic League immediately to establish a system for individuals to confirm whether they are listed and whether the information held and passed on by the League is correct or in any way acceptable"

N SLOANE

NOTES 1. Attached are reports which require the approval of the Council, resolutions in respect of which are included in the proceedings of the Education Committee

NOTES 2. The draft Compulsory Purchase Orders referred to in Motion 11
will be on deposit in the Members' Library and the ante-room to the Council Chamber

19th January 1990

D. A. Andrews
Chief Executive

PCPAEY

12·30 Coffee bar
Tues 5th

PERSONNEL Today

THE INDEPENDENT PAPER FOR
PERSONNEL, TRAINING & RECRUITMENT

22 JANUARY–4 FEBRU

Vetting service comes clean for data act

The Economic League will open its controversial vetting service to legal scrutiny to win employers' respect.

It plans to put its paper records on a computer, opening itself up to the *Data Protection Act* under which people are guaranteed access to information on themselves.

The League believes the change may make the service more attractive to employers who have been put off by bad publicity.

"We felt on balance it was a good thing to do and may remove one stick which people use to beat us," said director of information and research Jack Winder.

However, he said the League has always replied to enquiries from individuals, even if it held no information on them.

"This will make very little difference in practice to us," Winder said.

As many as 1,000 employers have used the League's subscription service to vet up to 100,000 staff.

The Economic League holds records on up to 10,000 individuals who have affiliations with political parties.

Task Force to knoc Tecs into shape

1991

by Lucie Carrington

The Government is planning to toughen up monitoring of Britain's Training and Enterprise Councils.

Last week the National Training Task Force met to begin drawing up a two-year evaluation plan which will work alongside a self-assessment scheme.

"We are the keeper of the seal for Tec standards. We will take a hands-on role in their monitoring and evaluation," Task Force chairman Sir Brian Wolfson told *Personnel Today*.

The push for tighter monitoring has come from Employment Secretary Michael Howard, under pressure from the Treasury to prove Tec funds are being well spent.

Under consideration are spot checks on Tecs and annual, in-depth analyses of one council per region.

Tec leaders are afraid the move will encourage short-term successes that are easy to measure and sound good in Parliament but ignore local differences.

Wolfson: keeper of the seal for training standards in the UK

"We cannot have a national evaluation strategy that treats 82 Tecs in the same way. We must resist this," commented Hertfordshire Tec chief executive Chris Wright.

Devon and Cornwall Tec fears the Government is interested in short-term targets at the expense of long-term aims.

"We have been given the task to increase and improve the level of training. But we are measured by seats," said chief ex Devon and Cornwal Mannell.

National monit tems could force Te centrate their resources on natio tives rather than m most of the local o ties, Mannell said.

"Tecs are being between the need Government aims local community," I

"We need the NT a steady hand on the a body removed fro day government an direction for the r country."

Wolfson said the would not use ne toring systems to Tecs.

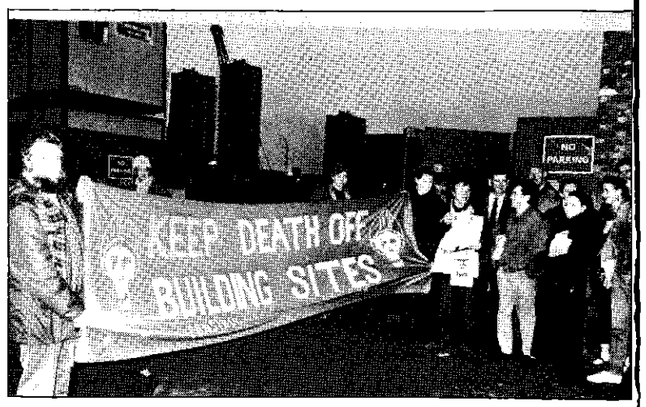
"We are not seek policemen nor to with Tecs. But to o help and support," h

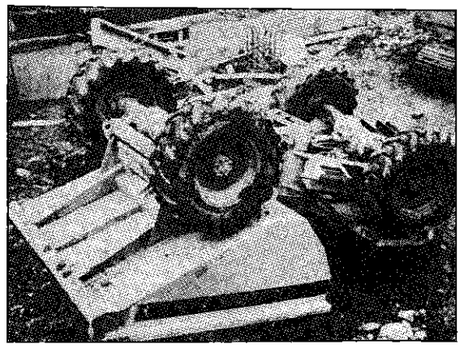
BP firms up alcohol control

INSI

BUILDING ORGANISATION

'You only get what you fight for and if your life and limbs are not worth fighting for, what is?' Black-listed construction worker, Nov 1988.





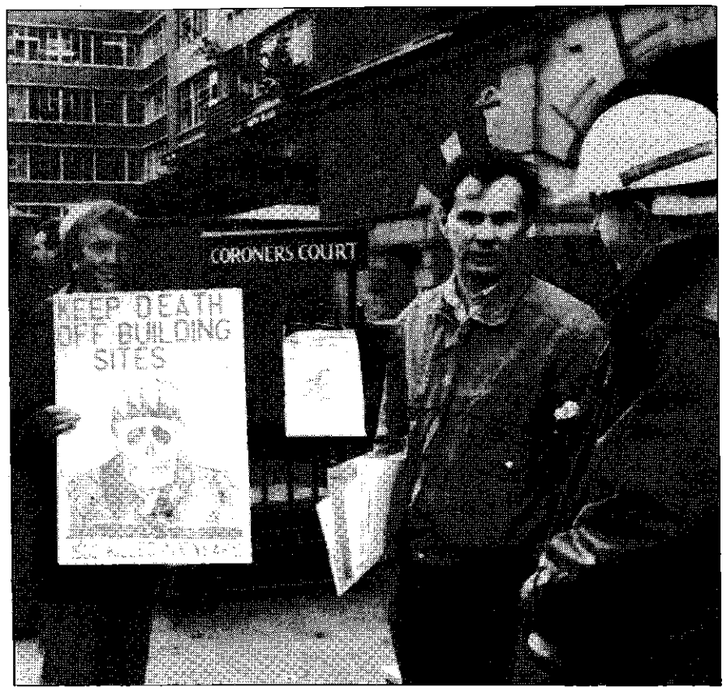
Roy Colling

Thirty Construction Safety Campaign members leaflet a Skanska site in London's docklands. Twenty two year old Ian Nesbitt was killed on the site when a dumper overturned, slicing the top off his head.

Construction Safety Campaign, c/o Tony O'Brien, 72 Copeland Road, London SE15.

'I started on the sites when I was seventeen. I saw a union leaflet and it said, "If you lose a leg we'll get you £2,000." Who'd join a union on the promise of losing a leg?'

Building worker, London Docklands, November 1988.



Laurence Hoey died on an unsafe McAlpine's site in Central London.Construction Safety Campaign members remind the coroner that most construction fatalities are not 'accidental deaths', but unlawful killing.

'The attitude of the trade unions to safety over many years has been disappointing . . . they were and are, in the main, apathetic when it comes to safety at site level. The industry is aware that a tremendous amount of lip service is paid by the unions to safety.'

Len Dodds, Chief Safety Adviser, Balfour Beatty Ltd.

Britain's 1,500,000 construction workers face a simple, but brutal, choice every working day: risk your life or risk your livelihood. In an industry rife with victimisation and the increasing use of lump and agency labour, the HSE's gentle persuasion of negligent employers offers little in the way of protection or reassurance.

Accidents have killed over 1500 building workers in the last ten years. Bronchitis, cancer and other diseases of dust and lousy working conditions have killed in the region of 40,000 more. Injuries run into millions. The perennially cautious HSE admit that at least 500,000 were sufficiently badly injured to be off work for three days or more. The situation on site is getting worse.

The deaths and injuries increase every year. Who are the culprits? The HSE lay the blame with employers - 90% of deaths could have been prevented, and at least 70% were directly due to the negligence of management (*Blackspot Construction, HSE, June 1988*).

Ill-health. In the event of a building worker evading the 'accidents' that cause a site injury once every couple of minutes and that kill 150 every year, other hazards lie in store. The incidence of many cancers, back injuries, respiratory diseases such as bronchitis, emphysema and asthma and of many others ailments are much higher in building workers than in the general population (*Hazards 4*, June 1985). As many as 4,000 building workers may die every year from industrial disease.

Not everyone on site is at risk. The chances of a site manager or agent dying of lung cancer before reaching retirement age is half that of the general population. A plasterer, by contrast, runs three times the risk of an early death from the disease as the boss (*OPCS Occupational Mortality Decennial Supplement 1979-80, 1982-83*). The story is repeated for other building trades and other diseases. For those at the dirty end, building work is a death sentence.

The HSE's response. The HSE occasionally attempts to cajole employers to a more benevolent, caring attitude. Site Safe '83 was an early example of this softly-softly approach. The number of deaths and injuries rose. Site 'blitzes' followed and met with a similar response. In one blitz, over a thousand sites were visited. Almost a quarter presented such a risk to life and limb that prohibition notices were issued, stopping work immediately. Yet only a handful of prosecutions were taken. Irresponsibility pays for construction employers.

Safe - from prosecution. The HSE and the courts will, at worst, stop work or slap on a small fine. In the majority of cases, no action is taken. We shouldn't expect too much from construction inspectors. There are only 85 for the entire country. In London, 12 inspectors cover 200,000 building sites.

London Construction accidents April 1987 - March 1988

Deaths:	**36**
Major injuries:	**413**
Prosecutions:	**18**
Average fine:	**£1050**

No action was taken on over half the sites where a death or major injury occurred.

The Blacklist. The construction industry's generous support provides the infamous Economic League with its bread and butter. The 'Services Group' is construction's own self-sufficient organisation within the League, holding regular regional and national meetings to update the blacklist of undesirable workers.

'Service Group companies send in the most ropey information - they just call people 'troublemakers' . . . blacklisting on grounds of health and safety activity is the most common thing.' (Against Democracy: The True Story of the Economic League, 1988.)

'Many building workers know about the Economic League . . . many are blacklisted. I found out that Eric Heffer was listed - not surprisingly - but they had him down as a joiner. He's been an MP for 20 years!' (Maria Fyfe, Labour MP.)

Building workers find they won't be given a start until the foreman 'checks their tax'. Employers quickly find out about 'tax irregularities' like an interest in health, safety or conditions of service after a worker has been listed.

The employers. Safety can be a double threat to employers. Corner cutting may be good for the balance sheet, but the accident book will make sorry reading. And workers interested in safety might also show an interest in trade unions, organisations to which construction employers are notoriously hostile.

'It does appear that to obtain a satisfactory safety performance on major construction projects a minimum figure of between six and seven per cent of the total labour costs should be allowed . . . responsible contracting companies have been seriously disadvantaged by the cowboy element in our industry undercutting prices, which inevitably means ignoring safety provisions.' (Len Dodds, Chief Safety Adviser, Balfour Beatty Ltd.)

Balfour Beatty's pre-tax profits for 1987 were £129.5 million from a turnover of £1186.9 million. The company can easily afford its donations to the Economic League. Fines totalling £2,700 after being found criminally guilty of health and safety offences on three occasions during 1986 - 88 won't be too burdensome either.

Changing industry. The increase in fatal and major accidents is more marked in construction than in any other sector. 'For the construction industry, a fuller study of possible reasons for this points to the changing structure of the industry, increasing fragmentation and the growth in sub-contracting, leading to a move away from a situation where the contractor on a site employed the majority of workers to the much wider use of sub-contractors.' (*Health and Safety Statistics 1985 - 86*, HSE, October 1988).

'Most of the sites are fee management sites which means the contractor does fuck all but provide a piss can and a canteen.' (Building worker, Hackney, November 1988.)

The 1984 Labour Force Survey shows that at least 30% of known construction workers are self-employed, the majority on 'the lump'. Labour-only agencies thrive. With almost 500,000 construction workers unemployed there is a ready supply of labour, so why employ direct when you can lay off lump labour with every change of the weather or murmur of dissent?

Young workers and trainees. A 1987 Manpower Services Commission report admitted that one in five youngsters injuried on YTS was involved in construction activities. In the first three months of 1988 41 YTS trainees suffered major injuries in construction work, and over 200 minor injuries. 12% of YTS trainees are placed in the construction sector. The HSE's construction National Interest Group doesn't keep statistics on the age of people killed or injured on site.

'We have no information on young people. They're just lumped together and listed as casualties.' (Anonymous HSE Construction Inspector, London, December 1988.)

The Public. You don't have to be a building work to die at the hands of negligent employers. In the five years from 1981 to 1985 the construction industry seriously injured nearly 300 members of the public, including children. Another 58 died, 21 of them children.

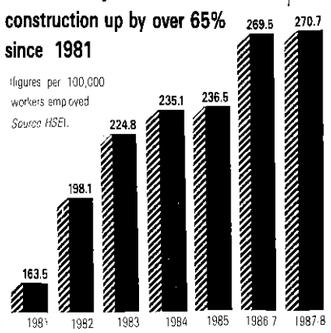
UCATT Safe Site Campaign Information Pack, an excellent guide, available to union reps free from their regional offices. £2.50 to non-members from UCATT 177 Abbeyville Rd, SW4 9RL. Phone 01-622 2442.

Where are the unions? Some of the blame for the toll of death and disease lies with the unions themselves. Companies have learnt to expect an easy ride from union officers, keen to collect the subs and do nothing much else. They are there to help with a compensation claim, but doing next to nothing at site level to stop the accident happening in the first place.

Campaign. The Construction Safety Campaign - a group of private and public sector trade union activists - has been most vocal in challenging the carnage in the industry. Their demands, supported by Hazards, include:

- a mandatory prison sentence where employer negligence results in a death, serious injury or imminent risk to health or safety on sites.
- no sacking of safety reps who raise health and safety issues on site. No sacking or loss of pay for any worker refusing to work in unsafe conditions. Blacklisting to be made illegal and employers found guilty of victimisation to be prosecuted.
- right of safety reps to stop the job where substances, plant or processes at work present an immediate hazard. This right already exists in many countries including Australia, Canada and Sweden.

Fatal and major accidents in construction up by over 65% since 1981



Hazards 22 (1989), Published by Hazards Publications Ltd., PO Box 199, Sheffield S1 1FQ.

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BRITISH STEAL

Newly privatised British Steel is the worst employer in the country for flouting health and safety law. Official information analysed in the latest issue of Labour Research shows that the British Steel Corporation has been convicted nine times in two years for breaching safety legislation - more than any other employer.

A national picture of prosecutions for health and safety offences is available for the first time ever because of information supplied to *Labour Research* by the government's Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Previously the HSE provided only local information in the form of a public "register of convictions of local undertakings under health and safety legislation." However, at the request of *Labour Research* , HSE director John Rimington provided collated information on over 3,000 convictions across the country from between 1 April 1986 and 31 March 1988.

Analysis of this information shows that some employers were convicted several times within the period covered. But the worst culprit was British Steel Corporation. It has been prosecuted six times for work with dangerous machinery, once for work at dangerous heights, once for providing unsafe systems of work and once for the basic crime of failing to report an accident. Total fines for the crimes were £9,150, while HSE figures show that an average fine is only £427.

The prospectus for the British Steel privatisation issue boasted that the company's policy is "to manage its activities so as to avoid causing unnecessary or unacceptable risk to employees, contractors, customers, members of the public or the environment."

It adds that "British Steel aims to comply with relevant health safety and environmental regulations."

Other major employers prosecuted several times over the period include GEC, ICI, the North West Water Authority, Worcester City Council, Balfour Beatty, John Laing Construction and Sir Alfred McAlpine.

Some major organisations criminally guilty of health and safety offences during 1986 - 88

Company	Offence	Fine
Austin Rover, Cowley	unsafe paint spray booth	£2,000
Austin Rover, Llanelli	dangerous machinery	£1,000
BOC, Glasgow	dangers from heights	£200
BOC, Motherwell	dangerous machinery	£1,000
BP Refinery, Grangemouth	failure to ensure safety of contractors	£750,000
British Bakeries, W. Sussex	dangerous machinery	£1,500
British Bakeries (Northern)	unsafe electricity	£1,200
British Bakeries (Southern), Erith	failure to provide information to employees	£800
British Gas	failure to ensure safety of contractors	£1,000
British Gas	failure to provide adequate instruction and training	£1,750
British Steel Corporation:		
Newport	**dangerous machinery**	**£1,350**
Middlesborough	**dangerous machinery**	**£150**
Middlesborough	**dangerous machinery**	**£200**
Motherwell	**dangerous heights**	**£750**
Motherwell	**dangerous machinery**	**£1,000**
Port Talbot	**unsafe systems of work**	**£2,000**
Queensferry	**dangerous machinery**	**£2,000**
Scunthorpe	**failure to report accident**	**£200**
Workington	**dangerous machinery**	**£1,500**
GEC Energy Systems	dangers in confined spaces	£1,000
GEC Industrial Controls	dangerous machinery	£1,000
GEC Machinery, R. Regis	dangerous machinery	£1,000
ICI, Billingham	failure to ensure safety of employees	£200
ICI, Billingham	dangerous plant	£2,000
ICI (Organics), Grangemouth	dangerous machinery	£500
Nabisco Brands, Liverpool	failure to provide a safe system of work	£750
Nabisco Group	unsafe system of work	£750
North West Water Authority	unsafe tower scaffold	£500
North West Water Authority	danger to employee	£1,000
North West Water Authority	dangerous machinery	£1,000
Construction companies:		
Balfour Beatty		
Derby	dangerous crane	£1,000
Scotland	dangerous machinery	£200
Thornton Heath	unsafe plant	£1,500
John Laing Construction		
London	dangerous demolition	£500
Luton	failure in safety organisation	£2,000
Sir Alfred McAlpine		
Wirral	dangerous excavation	£500
Wirral	unsafe work	£1,000
Wirrall	dangerous substances	£1,250
Tarmac Regional Construction		
Wolverhampton	danger of falls from heights	£500
Wolverhampton	failure to implement safety policy	£1,000
Wimpey Construction (UK)		
London	danger from buried cables	£1,500
London	danger to sub-contractor	£750

(Labour Research December 1988)

1. Labour Research is published by the Labour Research Department, an independent trade union and labour movement organisation founded 76 years ago to which more than 2,500 trade union organisations, including 95% of TUC-affiliated national unions, are affiliated.

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EMPLOYERS' KILLING

'They tried to mop it up.'

HEALTH and Safety inspectors have launched a three-pronged investigation into the inferno at Hull's Humbrol paint factory.

On the 2nd November an explosion followed by a major fire that required the attendance of 30 fire engines destroyed the warehouse of Humbrol paint manufacturers of Hull; only a firewall built to withstand a 4 hour fire saved the production departments from being destroyed. A 15 mile black cloud of smoke was blown over the district.

Only one month before after a rigorous inspection programme they had received a double quality insurance certificate.

The aerosol production line boasts a computer system that can detect gas, sparks or fire, other parts of the factory have infra-red spark monitoring systems.

Despite all these precautions Jennifer Powley, 17, an employee for 3 months under the YTS scheme was killed adding her name to the ever increasing list of YTS fatalities.

Another 19 year old girl was seriously burned and is now in a special burns unit. 5 other workers needed hospital treatment for burns to the hands, feet or for smoke inhalation.

How and why this disaster happened will be disclosed after the official investigation by the Factory Inspectorate who are examining the chemical storage provisions and the warehouse electrical system. One unusual fact has already emerged, the cause of the explosion was known when it occurred.

A fork lift truck was moving a 45 gallon drum of acetone through the warehouse when the drum fell off and split causing a spillage. Acetone is very volatile at room temperature and extremely flammable having a zero degree flash point. Management should have been aware of the dangers of the materials they use, their action should have been to evacuate the premises. This they failed to do.

Instead employees set about mopping up the spillage. The warehouse has a different standard of electrics than the aerosol department which is a "hazardous" area.

This could be the cause of the disaster. A spark from an electrical junction box caused the explosion. If that box had been of the type used in hazardous areas it would have been spark-proof and there would have been no explosion or fire. If the insurance inspection programme had been as rigorous as they claimed why did they not realise that there are no safe areas in hazardous industries and a store full of dangerous materials is just as dangerous as a production line.

Jennifer Powley: Blaze victim.

Victim of blaze 'identified by finger-prints'

JENNIFER Powley, the teenager killed in last week's Humbrol paint factory fire, died of asphyxia following severe burns, an inquest heard today.

Bosses face death charge

The following has been extracted from the Lancashire Evening Telegraph of October 25 1988.

Two directors of an East Lancashire plastics company were charged with manslaughter following the death of a young employee in a horrific works accident. George Kenyon, 25, died after being dragged into a shredding machine at David Holt Plastics, Haslingden. Detectives served summonses alleging manslaughter on factory owner David Holt, a former Burnley footballer, and his brother Norman at the factory on Carrs Industrial Estate.

The Health and Safety Executive, which conducted its own inquiry into the accident, is also planning to take action in connection with the death.

It is believed to be the first time company directors have faced such charges in this country relating to the death of a worker on company premises. If found guilty both directors could face jail sentences.

Mr Kenyon was dragged into the shredder when he became entangled in sheets of heavy duty plastic he was feeding into the machine. Workmates stopped the machine but were too late to save him.

The accident was due to feature in a BBC2 Open Space programme entitled *Dying for a Job*. The programme was the result of 15 years research into industrial accidents by presenter David Gee.

The BBC have withdrawn the programme because of the manslaughter charge.

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PESTICIDE POISONS

In the post war years the chemical companies have been frighteningly successful in pushing poisonous chemicals into every aspect of our lives. Hundreds of pesticides are in regular use by workers in a wide range of jobs and by individuals in the home and garden; they are used in our parks, on our pavements, in timber and textiles and other products we buy or use. We are all potential victims of the pesticides that contaminate the food we eat and the water we drink.

The process of producing pesticides puts production workers and residents near the plants at deadly risk. Union Carbide showed this all too clearly at Bhopal in 1984.

Both workers and the public lack adequate information about the risks to their health from pesticides and what they can do about it.

WHAT ARE PESTICIDES?

Herbicides: used to kill plants like weeds, grass and shrubs. The category also covers growth retarders which limit the growth of plants without killing them.
Insecticides: kill insects such as woodworm, aphids, flies, ants and cockroaches, or stop them reaching maturity and breeding (e.g. juvenile hormones for pharoah's ants).
Fungicides: kill fungi such as wet and dry rot, mould etc.
Rodenticides: kill rodents such as rats and mice.
Biocides: kill bacteria; e.g. in engineering cutting oils or in air conditioning humidifier systems.
Algicides: kill green algae in pools.
Acaricides: kill mites, ticks and spiders.
Nematicides: kill worms in animals and soil.

These categories are not separate and exclusive. Some chemicals act both as fungicides and herbicides while many other formulations, for example wood preservatives, often contain both a fungicide and an insecticide.

HOW SAFE ARE THEY?

All pesticides are poisonous. They can poison people as well as killing pests. Pesticides cause short term (acute) health effects - sore throats, sore eyes, headaches, nausea, convulsions, dermatitis or effects on the nervous system and some cause long-term illnesses (chronic effects).

PESTICIDES AND THE LIMITS OF THE LAW

Recently introduced laws deal with pesticide safety. The Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 and the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 lay down legal controls that replace the voluntary and discredited Pesticides Safety Precautions Scheme for dealing with these poisons.
Under the new laws it is illegal to sell or supply a new pesticide unless the government has approved its use. Manufacturers are obliged to test their pesticides for ill-health effects to workers, consumers and the environment. When seeking legal approval of a product they have to submit hazards data to a legally specified standard.
All well and good on the surface.

However the legislation is inadequate in a number of vital areas:

- Pesticides approved under the old scheme are automatically approved under the new regs, despite more stringent vetting being introduced.
- No account is taken of any effects likely to develop long after exposure, e.g. cancer or other chronic effects.
- No account is taken of long-term, low level exposures.
- The 'impartial' Advisory Committee on Pesticides represents nothing but the interests of the industry.
- Responsibility for policing the new laws has been transferred from the Ministry of Agriculture to the HSE. The HSE, already under-funded and under-staffed, has been given no extra resources or staff to deal with these new responsibilities.

T.U. SURVEYS

Trade union surveys show the problem is largely ignored. In 1984 a survey by the GMB, NUPE and TGWU Agricultural Trade Group, found over half of exposed workers complained of long-term health effects. And a 1988 survey of construction workers using wood preservatives by UCATT showed 40% suffering from ill-health caused by the chemicals.
The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) take effect from October 1989. In theory they should help. In practice, they will go unenforced and ignored.
The new laws will continue to allow the manufacturers of pesticides and other chemicals to unleash poisons on unsuspecting workers, consumers and members of the public. The most effective way to make manufacturers and employers adopt safe standards is by trade unionists organising to make them do so.

CHEMICAL GROUP and examples of active ingredients	Acute Poisoning Effects	Possible Chronic Effects
Bypridils paraquat, diquat	skin irritation, conjunctivitis, nose bleeds, pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, muscle aching, jaundice, coughs, lung scarring, breathing difficulties	links with r
Carbamates aldicarb, benomyl, carbarylcarbofuran, methomyl, oxamyl, propoxur	flu-like symptoms (as o-p's) headache, tiredness, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, coughing, muscular twitching, shaky movements, breathing difficulties, sweating, dizziness	links with c, m, r, d
Chlorophenoxy acids 2, 4-D; 2, 4, 5-T; 2, 4-DB; MCPA; Mecoprop	skin, eye, nose, throat, bronchial irritation, coughs, dizziness, chest pain, tenderness, diarrhoea, muscle twitching, unsteady gait, mental confusion, coma	links with c,m,r kidney liver damage
Chlorates Potassium chlorate, Sodium chlorate	if swallowed, vomiting, abdominal pain, convulsions, kidney failure and damage	m
Coumarins warfarin	large doses have caused nose bleeds, bruises, blood in urine and kidney damage, vomiting, stomach and back pains	linked with r
Dithiocarbamates mancozeb, maneb, thiram, ziram	lung, throat irritant, sensitization, nausea, vomiting, congested nose, hoarseness, cough, shaky gait, hypothermia	links with c, m, r
Hydroxybenzonitriles bromoxynil, ioxynil	similar to nitrophenols but without skin staining, irritates mucous membranes	thyroid, r
Natural organics		
derris	convulsions, vomiting	d, ?c
nicotine	salivation, vomiting, muscular weakness, convulsions	c
pyrethrum	at very high levels asthmatic-type reactions and convulsions	skin
Nitrophenolics/Nitrocresols Binapacryl, DNOC, Dinotrophenol, dinoseb	yellow skin, hair and possibly urine staining, cataracts, profuse sweating, headache, thirst, malaise, lassitude, warm flushed skin and fever, apprehension, restlessness	links with c,m,r
Organo-chlorines (o-c's) chlordane, lindane (Gamma-HCH)	apprehension, excitability, dizziness, headache, weakness, muscle twitching, tremor, nausea, breathing difficulties, coma, pallor and bluish skin discolouration, convulsions	links with c, r, m, d
Organo-phosphorous (o-p's) azinphos-methyl, demeton, dichlorvos, dimethoate, malathion	headache, dizziness, extreme weakness, unsteady gait, blurred or dark vision, tremor, muscle twitching, nausea and vomiting, excessive cold sweating, cough, mental confusion	several linked with c, m, r and d
Organofin Fentin hydroxide, TBTO	depression, lethargy, unsteadiness, weakness, diarrhoea, anorexia	r
Pentachlorophenol	irritates nose, throat, eyes and skin, heavy sweating, headache, weakness, nausea, chloracne	links with c, m, d, r
Phthalimides captan, captafol	irritation, lung congestion, breathing problems, individual sensitization	links with c, m, r, d
Synthetic Pyrethroids deltamethrin, permethrin, resmethrin, cypermetrin	excitation, muscular spasms, twitching, tingling, numbness in exposed areas, respiratory and circulatory effects	a few have been linked with c
Triazines atrazine, cyanazine, simazine	weakness, apathy, weight loss, diarrhoea, occasionally laboured breathing, convulsions	linked with c, m, r liver & stomach effects

(Key: c = carcinogen m = mutagen r = reproductive effects d = dermatitis)

Notes. The official source for approved pesticides which includes trade names and active ingredients in UK is *Pesticides 1988* (MAFF/HMSO) but this contains very little health and safety information. Two simpler guides to use, with pesticides listed in alphabetical order and some health and safety precautions included, are in the Royal Society of Chemistry's *UK Pesticides for Farmers and Growers* (1987) and CAB/BCPC *The UK Pesticide Guide* (1988) A non-industry source of information about pesticides hazards, with 200 data sheets, can be found in A. Watterson - *Pesticide Users Health and Safety Handbook* (Gower Technical Press 1988)

NEGOTIATING A CHEMICALS POLICY

A Chemicals Policy is a document in which the employer commits the firm or local authority to comply with laid down safe methods work and agreed standards. Below are the main points of the agreement negotiated between Islington council and trade unions:

The council accepts its responsibility for protecting workers, the public and the environment from chemical risks and will:

Carry out a full **audit** of all chemicals used/stored on council property, draw up an **inventory** of chemicals and prepare a standard **hazards data sheet** on each material listed.

Together with the trade unions draw up a list of **permitted substances** and what they may be used for. The council and the unions will review work methods and will authorise the use of chemicals only where they provide the only safe and effective way to do the work.

Safe working practices will be drawn up for each substance and will include requirements for adequate levels of **training** and **supervision**. Where concern is expressed about the hazards presented by the ingredients of any formulation, the **substance will not be used until after consultation with the trade unions.** The agreement also contains specific clauses banning the purchase, use or storage of chemicals known to be **cancer-causing** or **reproductive hazards** and banning the purchase of and phasing out the use of chemicals which are suspected of being so.

Management duties: Paper policies protect no-one. The employer must make organisational changes and commit the necessary staff and resources to make the policy work at all levels of the organisation. The policy must be endorsed, in writing, at the highest level and named managers should be made responsible for different aspects of the policy at all management levels.

Union involvement: union reps should be numerous enough and provided with sufficient time, facilities and resources to ensure full participation in the successful implementation of the policy.

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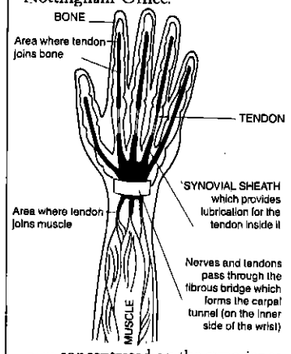
Hazards 88 CAMPAIGN

NOTTINGHAM - R.S.I. SEMINAR

The newly formed Nottingham Trades Union Campaign on Safety & Health (TUCOSH), launched the first of a series of training seminars - kicking off with Repetitive Strain Injuries. Two speakers were invited, Ron Mulelly from the RSI Association in Hillingdon, and Phil King from Robin Thompsons, Solicitors, Nottingham Office.



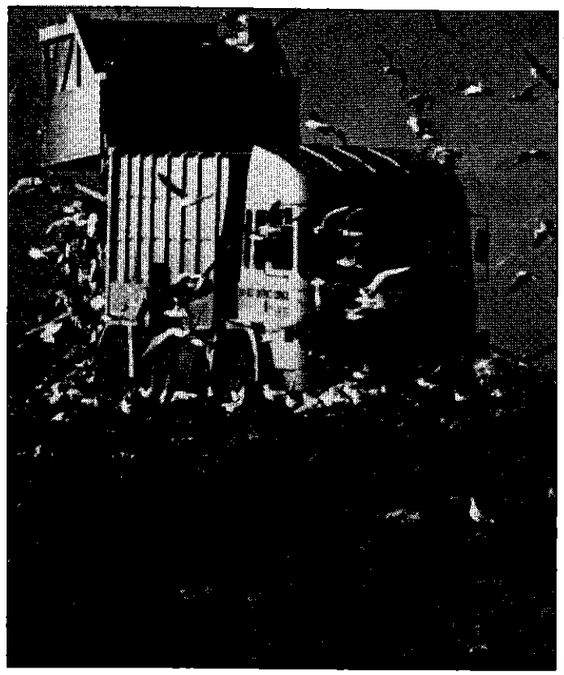
Ron concentrated on the experience of the RSI Association which has been set up to fill in the gap in the provision of support to victims and information on prevention. That support was vital to combat the accusations of 'malingering' and 'neurotic imaginings' with which victims have to cope, in addition to the pain and suffering.

Many sufferers who contact the Association are not in a Trade Union. Ron hoped that local support groups would spring up in other locations. The RSI Association was willing to help in this task (telephone 0895 599808). Ron finished with a plea for a Code of Practice to be established to force employers to take preventative action.

Phil King explained how many holes the legal net had in it when it came to gaining protection against, and compensation for, Repetitive Strain Injury. From the ludicrously restrictive DHSS Prescribed Industrial Injuries Scheme to the woefully inadequate judgements and levels of compensation, the message was clear: don't rely on the legal system to deliver justice. Stewards in well organised workplaces affect the quality and the quantity of compensation by ensuring all complaints and injuries get reported and recorded.

Most 'good' cases with a chance of establishing decent precedents in judgements are 'bought off' by out of court settlements. So only 'poor' cases are being adjudged and poor precedents set. The legal system is not yet sufficient incentive to employers to take preventative action.

The only effective lever is the pressure of Trade Unions.



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POTASH

POTASH remains in the business of helping unions and members in the fight to improve working conditions. We are just one of a growing number of Health and Safety Advice Centres which cover major areas of industry. The mining industry remains a problem area, with management playing one union off against the others.

Our local group in the Potteries is also still having problems where 'cowboy' operators are being used: one instance involved asbestos removal at an educational establishment. We are also getting more and more RSI cases in the area. Bill Edmondson attended the West Mercia District AGM of the WEA and regularly keeps in touch with WASH.

WASH

Recently we were able to influence the Walsall Trades Council to form a sub-committee on health and safety in conjunction with the Trades Council NHS sub-committee.

Waste disposal issues continue to be highlighted in our local press. We hope to publish a 'Hazards' warning sheet relating to substances hazardous to health (environmental and occupational). Some research in connection with waste disposal in Aldridge has been carried out by Roland Dye at Birmingham TURC. The protests continue to operate at the site entrance. *(See Hazards 21 p. 2)*

BRUSH

BRUSH have been involved over the last two or three months with the waste disposal issues in Walsall and the protest group.

Jointly with Friends of the Earth, BRUSH have produced the first bulletin for Midlands Pesticides Action Group. The bulletin is to be issued as an information sheet quarterly, with stories and articles from trade unionists and environmentalists from around the Midlands.

Coverage of our Noise Campaign has been obtained in the TGWU 'Record'. Work is going on with HASAC on publicity and posters. The HASAC display to promote our work was on view in Wolverhampton in October and has been requested by an MSF branch.

A campaign is being mounted to oppose 'nuclear' materials transportation through the area by the South Birmingham Nuclear Train Action Group.

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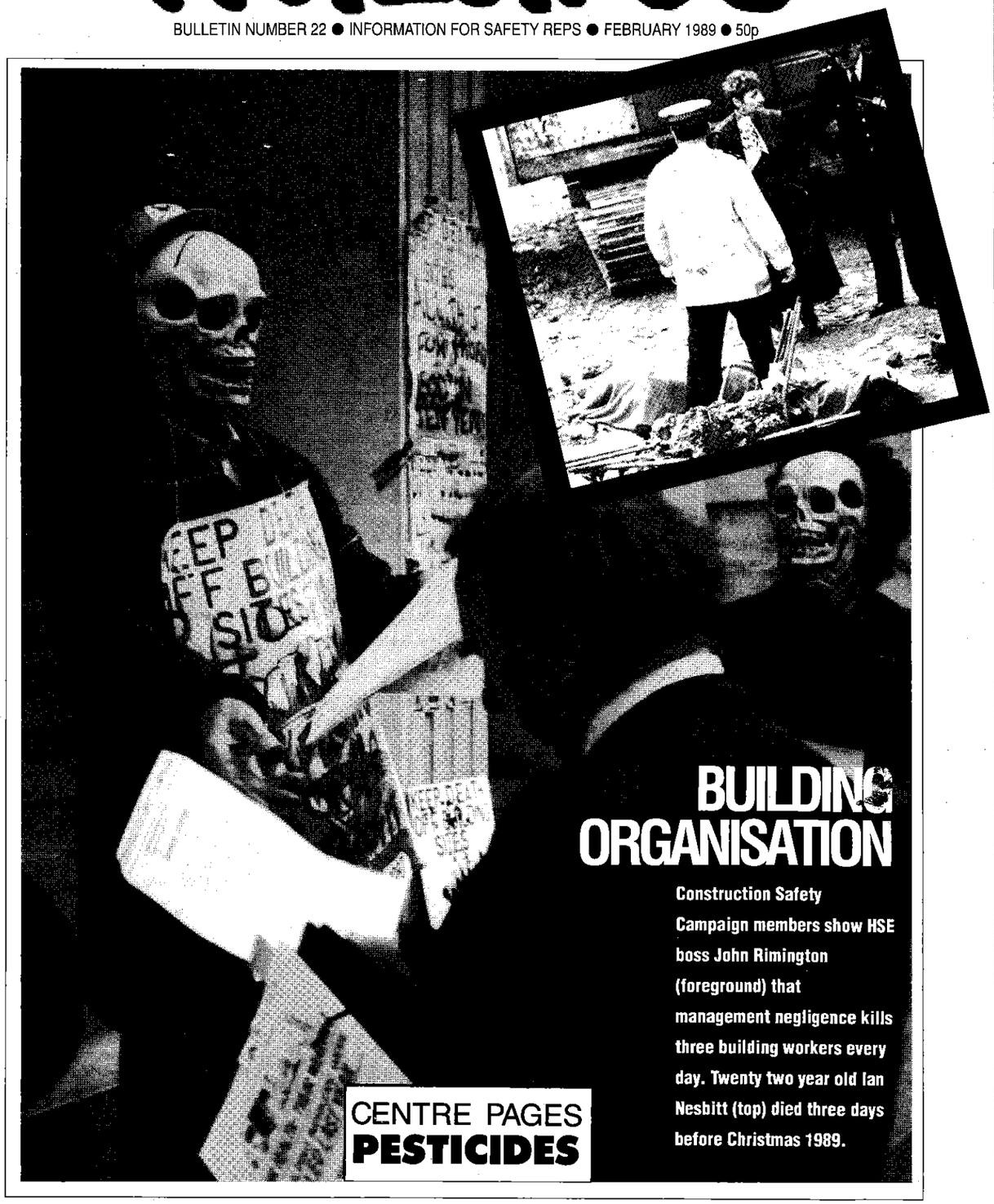
Hazards

BULLETIN NUMBER 22 ● INFORMATION FOR SAFETY REPS ● FEBRUARY 1989 ● 50p



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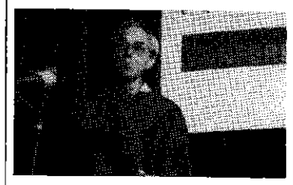
NO ACCOUNTING FOR SAFETY

DEAR HAZARDS



In July we published an article attacking what we regard as the poor performance of the Parliamentary Employment Committee which interviewed the heads of HSE and HSC in January and we reproduced part of an excellent GMB Briefing Document.

We accept now that we were unduly rude about the Chairperson of the Committee and have written him an apology. Nevertheless we still feel that the Committee is less than effective.

Before giving the views of Hazards, here is the reaction of the author of the GMB Briefing to the Minutes of the Committee which were published in June.*

As author of the GMB Briefing on Health and Safety for Labour members of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Employment, I object strongly to the way you reported its use by the Committee in Hazards 19 (pages 6/7, July 1988).

It's worth summarising what the January '88 scrutiny of the HSC/E achieved: of the 21 main questions, covering 8 policy areas, in the GMB Briefing, the Committee used 12 questions over 7 areas. However the MPs who used the questions allowed Mr Rimington (HSE) to wriggle out of 3 questions: on the Zeebrugge verdict of unlawful killing; on HSE's workload (although a written reply was given later); and on jailing as an appropriate sentence. There were three mistakes by MPs: using the word "manslaughter" when "unlawful killing" was meant; on appeals against light sentences which should have been directed specifically at HSE's role and not the Courts' and on the new duties under the revised Section 6 of the HSW Act, which, in fact, didn't come into force until two months after the question on its effectiveness to date was asked!

On the positive side, not only did the Committee put questions in most areas in the GMB Briefing plus additions from the IPCS's (Institute of Professional Civil Servants) brief, they also extracted some useful statements and information. For instance, Dr Cullen's (Chair of HSC) view that jail sentences would sometimes be appropriate was widely reported in the safety press.

His lack of objection to Chris Smith MP's "freedom of information" Bill on Improvement Notices turned out to be a signficant event in the government's acquiescence to the Bill becoming law, for which the Freedom of Information Campaign was grateful. The Committee's questions also provided the HSC/E with the chance to ask for help in several areas including: The low level of fines; the need to have resources committed over 5 or 10 years to enable proper planning; and over action to secure jail sentences.

And Mr Rimington, when pressed by MP Ron Leighton, admitted that the Government curbs had "given rise to a great many serious difficulties" for HSE, something he has never publicly admitted before.

The Minutes contain a lot of other useful information, for instance:

The proportion of reported to unreported accidents on farms is 1 to 10; additional resources needed for enforcing the COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) Regulations = 15 inspector years - a woefully low figure, which is possibly why nine months later, on the 27th October, the Minister replied to a question from Gavin Strang that the resources needed for COSHH were "unquantifiable".

Since January 1988 the Committee has published an excellent report on the Legionnaires Disease outbreak at the BBC which says that inspections every 4 years are inadequate and that BBC management was "appallingly incompetent".

I am convinced that, given sufficient time and resources, the Committee can do a really effective job in January 1989.

Dave Gee
Formerly GMB Health and Safety Officer

* Employment Committee. *Work of the Health and Safety Commission and the Health and Safety Executive.* Minutes of Evidence, 20th January 1988. HMSO.

HAZARDS' VIEW

Fact: 8,000 people have been killed in accidents at work in the last 12 years - not one of the employers responsible has been jailed.

Fact: The HSE is responsible to Parliament for inspecting workplaces and enforcing the health and safety law.

Fact: The Employment Committee spends the princely sum of 2 hours every year "quizzing" the heads of HSE and HSC, Mr Rimington and Dr Cullen, about the performance of their organisations.

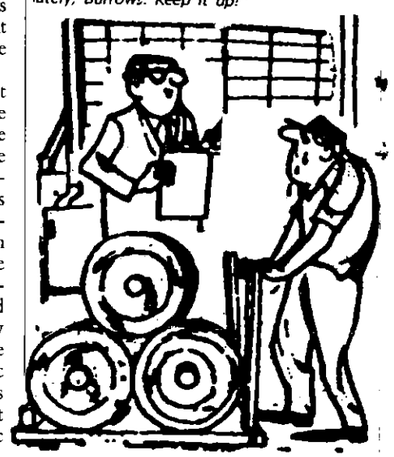
Reading the Minutes is like stumbling across a comfortable London club. Questions are asked and answers are given. Follow-up on the ever-so-careful answers was rare and anyway there wasn't time. Every chap had to have his go, 12 minutes on average, and it was important to finish before 6 pm.

In the USA there is the idea that industries can "capture" the government agencies that are supposed to monitor and regulate them. The Employment Committee isn't so much "captured" as the hostage of an impotent Parliamentary process arranged in such a way that the Committee cannot work effectively. The Minutes show that it let Cullen and Rimington set the agenda. They started by dazzling the Committee with nuclear safety and genetic engineering followed by robots and VDUs, ignoring the fact that most accidents/disasters and toxic hazards are due to good old-fashioned neglect of basic precautions and penny-pinching. There was nothing "high-tech" about the Piper-Alpha or Kings Cross disasters. They were caused by culpable design and management neglect: they were waiting to happen. We don't want "safety supremos" who wait - we want ones who act and we want a Committee that takes charge. At present, although individual Committee members may be good, they are hamstrung. Radical change is required and we list some possibilities the Committee might consider.

The Committee needs:

1 To set the agenda of the meeting - sticking to three or four major areas.
2 To prepare the ground with written questions and written answers before the meeting.
3 Resources to research HSE/HSC's performance.
4 Much more time, say 12 hours spread over three days three times a year.
5 A different process; rather than let HSC/HSC ramble on with lists of "things-we-have-done" the Committee needs "performance measures" by which it can assess and judge the Director's and Chairman's abilities.
6 To be ungentlemanly, unparliamentary and **effective**.

"You've been overworking yourself lately, Burrows. Keep it up!"



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HAZ NEWS

GLYCOL ETHERS: BLOOD AND SPERM RISK

Following painters' complaints of rashes, dizziness, fainting and nausea in a US shipyard, hygiene measurements identified high levels of 2-ethoxyethanol (EE) and 2-methoxyethanol (ME). These chemicals are also known as ethylene glycol monoethyl ether and ethylene glycol monomethyl ether and are widely used solvents in paints, printing inks and dyes, and are also used in photographic chemicals and the electronics industry. Average levels of exposure were 9.9mg/m^3 for EE and 2.6 for ME, compared to TLVs in the US of 19 and 16 respectively (similar to the UK control limits of 24 and 16 respectively).

The sperm survey compared sperm quality of the shipyard painters to a non-exposed control group and found 13% of the 73 painters with low sperm counts, against 5% in the 40 reference group. Four of the painters in fact had a zero sperm count with none amongst the controls. Although the numbers are quite small, these results are significant and confirm animal experiments showing that these chemicals cause damage to the testes.

A parallel study of blood found that 10% of the painters were anaemic and none of the controls, also confirming the results of animal tests.

Exposures were in the main below the TLV yet produced these dramatic results. **Precautions**: Firstly, exposures must be kept **way below** the TLV; secondly, safer substitutes should be used instead; and thirdly, because glycol ethers are so easily absorbed through the skin, **avoid all skin contact**.

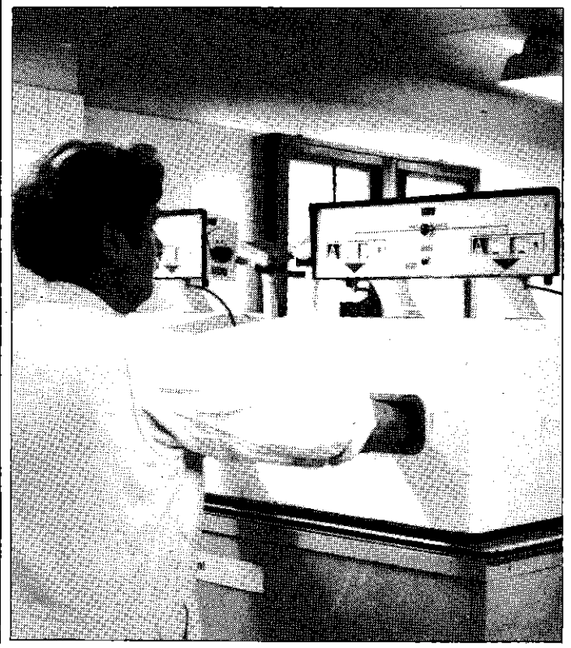
Laura Welch and others, *Effects of Exposure to Ethylene Glycol Ethers on Shipyard Painters*: 1 Exposure, 2 Male Reproduction, 3 Hematology Effects. American Journal of Industrial Medicine Vol 14, pages 497-508, 509-526 and 527-536.

A-BOMB WORKERS' CANCER

New research has revealed a cancer risk among workers engaged in bomb research at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment (AWRE, Aldermaston plus 4 other sites). The study of over 20,000 workers employed since 1950 found clear radiation-related excess risks of prostate cancer and lung cancer and some evidence of an increased risk of kidney cancer. A high risk of prostate cancer has already been shown in UK nuclear power station workers.

Badge readings of radiation exposure (average 7.8 mSv) were less than one tenth of the average exposure for Sellafield workers, but the excess cancers found at Sellafield - myeloma and lymphatic leukaemia cancers - were not in excess in the AWRE study. The most dangerous exposures in the plant seem to be from the radioactive dusts which lodge in the lungs - hence the high risk for lung cancers. The lung cancer risk is concentrated in those monitored for plutonium - but the report does not go into **how much** plutonium was found in this monitoring. Enough at any rate to give a 6-fold excess of lung cancer among those with over 100 mSv of external radiation (1 rem of exposure). They estimate that overall there is a 7.6% increase in the risk of getting cancer for those exposed to at least 10 mSv.

Valerie Beral and others, *Mortality of Employees of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, 1951 - 1982* British Medical Journal, 24 Sept 1988 pp 757 - 770



LOCAL TU SAFETY AND HEALTH GROUPS

Birmingham Region Union Safety and Health Campaign Tommy Harte 68 St. Joseph's Avenue, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2XO. Phone 021-475 4739
North Lancs Action on Safety and Health 6 Lyden Avenue, Blackburn, Lancs.
Hull Action on Safety and Health Ian Reid, 231 Boulevard, Hull HU3 3EQ. Phone 0482 213496
Hull Asbestos Action Group Dick Jackson, 123 Cambridge Street, Anlaby Road, Hull HU3 2EE
Isle of Wight Trade Union Safety Group Bob Davies, 12 Winston Road, Newport IOW PO30 1RF
Merseyside Trades Union Resources Centre 24 Hardman Street, Liverpool L1 9AX. Phone 051-709 3995
Merseyside Trades Council Health and Safety Committee Phone 051-709 4398
Portsmouth Area Health and Safety Group Norman Harvey, 73 Rowner Close, Gosport, Hants PO13 0LY. Phone 0329 281 898
Sheffield Area Trades Union Safety Committee Seb Schmoller, 312 Albert Road, Heeley, Sheffield S8 9RD. Phone 0742 584559 or 0742 753834
"Potters Action" etc. Bill Edmundson, 16 Fieldway, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent ST13 2AN. Phone 0782-327144
Tyneside Hazards Jimmy Harrison, 48 Woermouth Drive, Sunderland. Phone 091-5160618
Walsall Action on Safety and Health 7 Edinburgh Drive, Rushall, Walsall, West Midlands WS4 1HW. Phone 0922 25860
Wiltshire Hazards Action Group 33 Milton Road, Swindon SN1 5JA Phone 0793 486926
West Yorkshire Hazards Group c/o Bradford Resource Centre, 31 Manor Row, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 4PS. Phone 0274 725046
Wolverhampton. The Law Centre 2/3 Bell Street, Wolverhampton Phone 0902 772250

WORK HAZARDS GROUPS RESOURCE CENTRES

Health and Safety Advice Centre Unit 304, The Argent Centre, 60 Frederick Street, Birmingham B1 3HS. Phone 021-236 0801
London Hazards Centre 3rd Floor, Headland House, 308 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8DS. Phone 01-837 5605
Lothian Trade Union and Resource Centre 12a Picardy Place, Edinburgh EH1 3JT. Phone 031-556 7318
Manchester Hazards Centre c/o MERG, Room 36, Cavendish Bldg, Manchester Poly, All Saints, Manchester M15. Phone 061-228 7979
Scotland South East Hazards Group Alan Beard, 10 Fountainhall Road, Edinburgh
Sheffield Occupational Health Project Birley Moor Health Centre, East Glade Crescent, Sheffield S12 4QN. Phone 0742 645691
TUSIU Trade Union Studies Information Unit, Southend, Fernwood Road, Jesmond, Newcastle NE2 1TJ. Phone 091-281 6087
London Asbestos Action Campaign c/o London Hazards Centre

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EMPLOYERS BREATH EASY

says the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council

For many years the Foundry Workers section of the AEU, the NUM and the GMB have been campaigning to add chronic bronchitis suffered by foundry workers, miners, quarry-workers and welders to the list of prescribed industrial diseases. More recently the ISTC has asked its members if they could collect information from their members who work in high dust levels in the steel industry and who suffer from chronic bronchitis.

Employers breathe easy, but lung damaged workers need oxygen to survive.

Many workers retire from these industries crippled by breathlessness, but because they do not have pneumoconiosis, they cannot claim Disablement Benefit.

The Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (IIAC) has reported on whether chronic bronchitis and emphysema should be prescribed diseases (for DHSS compensation) or not. Predictably they've come out against prescription.

Most of their report is an explanation of how obstructive lung damage (in which airflow from the lungs is obstructed) is measured, and how different individuals of a given age, sex and height compare with average.

Correctly, they say that a single measurement of lung function even if well below average, may still be normal for that person's lungs. A series of measurements over a period of years might show increasing damage, but even this, the IIAC argue, might be 'normal' for the individual concerned, or be due to smoking rather than workplace damage.

There are now plenty of research studies which support what workers know; exposure to dust and fumes in coal-mining, welding, steelmaking and other jobs does affect lung function. Some individuals are much more seriously affected than others (see Hazards 4), and the effects of smoking and dust can often be distinguished. The level of disability suffered is frequently serious and individuals with bronchitis and air flow limitation are more likely to die of respiratory disease than those without. The IIAC chooses to emphasise the statistical possibility that an individual claiming DHSS compensation might have obstructive lung damage from a non work-related cause, while ignoring this evidence.

The report ends up by contradicting all its previous arguments, and recommends that emphsema, an obstructive lung disease, shall be recognised for workers exposed to cadmium. Why, if smoking and individual variation make assessment of obstructive lung damage so hard, is this exception made?

The answer is simple. The IIAC expects few claims from cadmium-exposed workers so prescription will be cheap.

This negative report is important for several reasons. DHSS compensation is still worth more to those who receive it than compensation from insurance companies. But more important, the prescribed disease is often used, quite wrongly, as a guide to occupational disease. It forms the basis not only of the RIDDOR disease-reporting regulations, but also of the list on the back of each death certificate to guide doctors certifying cause of death.

If the IIAC is seriously concerned to restrict compensation to those with severe work-related lung damage why doesn't it accept the results of annual lung function tests and apply the standard criterion of serious damage used by lung function specialists.

* HMSO-DHSS *Bronchitis and Emphysema* - report by the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council. (May 1988)

Write to Hazards:

The IIAC have reported in 1975, and again in 1988.
Now the Unions must insist that the IIAC report again on Bronchitis and Emphysema. Meanwhile unions need to work hard to collect more evidence that their members and their retired members have been damaged by dust and fumes at work.
There has been very little research done on the damage caused by workplace dust and fumes compared to what we know about the damage caused by smoking. Anybody who is suffering from bronchitis, has worked in dust and fumes, and has never smoked, should contact their Trade Union with this evidence. This will help your Union put pressure on the IIAC to consider the evidence and report again.
Or write to Hazards if you think your work conditions have damaged your lungs.

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WHAT THE UNIONS SAY

NCU SAFETY COMMUNICATION

National Communications Union (NCU) safety reps are being urged to investigate the disturbing trends in the accident frequency rate in British Telecom and the Post Office. The latest issue of the union's health and safety bulletin points out that the BT accident rate is at an historically high level whilst accidents in the Post Office rose by more than 11% last year. Hazards readers will be aware of some of the reasons for the rise and the views of some local activists (see bulletin 17).

The union have recently launched a union safety representative campaign (USR88) to review and discuss the operation and organisation of the union's 2000 safety reps (USRs).

USR88 are:

- reviewing the numbers of safety reps
- co-ordinating workplace inspections
- improving communication

A new safety reps handbook has been produced. The union is also considering setting up a National Safety Conference and is asking the members for their views. Early reports suggest that feed-back is generally enthusiastic with comments such as "a great benefit" and "another good idea", though some members think "it would be an enormous drain on union resources." It's up to all NCU members to let their union know what they think about these proposals.

BAKERS UNION SERVES IT UP

One union which does have an annual safety conference is the Bakers union (BFAWU). This year's, held on a Saturday morning, was attended by over 90 delegates. The conference looked at the union's achievements in health and safety, made suggestions for future work and decided on targets for the year. Reports of the Conference will be printed in the union's bulletin and discussed by the National Safety Committee.
Nigel Bryson, the union's health and safety officer, knows that Saturdays in the baking trade are very precious days off indeed. Despite this he reports that "delegates were very enthusiastic and the day was one of the most constructive I've had in a long time. There must be a lesson here somewhere!

MORE FROM THE GMB

It sometimes seems that the GMB put out more information on health and safety than the HSE. There is surely no doubt that their publications are more useful to safety reps than those of the HSE. Recent additions to the "library" include sector reports on Boilermaking, the Food industry and Engineering together with a number of reports on specific hazards.

Prescribed Industrial Diseases, a new edition of an earlier booklet, updates the changes in the benefits system and includes the present list of prescribed diseases. It details the types of work which cause them and gives advice on how to make a claim.

But this is more than a guide to claiming your rights. As the booklet points out, many common occupationally related diseases do not appear on the Prescribed List. Claiming compensation is therefore made much more difficult. The GMB's general advice to members is to make a claim wherever there is any doubt about the nature of the condition. However it particularly encourages members to claim for the common conditions not yet on the Prescribed List. This will put pressure on the DHSS to add them to the list.

The union have also updated their publication on AIDS and produced a very useful and well finished document. It is split into three main parts. The first gives information about the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV) and the conditions it can cause. The second looks at general procedures for control of the HIV and similar viruses and outlines specific procedures for different types of work. The final parts contain useful checklists, addresses/organisations and guidelines for negotiating an AIDS policy.

NALGO ON STRESS

The Local Government Union NALGO have produced a new health and safety briefing on Occupational Stress. It's 18 pages long, has a helpful contents list, lots of cartoons, an action checklist and two useful questionnaires. Much of the information can be found elsewhere, but there is a very good section on taking up the issue in the branch. This part will be of particular use to NALGO reps, of course, but some of the ideas outlined will apply to most workplaces and unions. The union has also produced a video on Stress together with accompanying literature, posters and teaching notes.

GMB publications are available from: Thorne House, Ruxley Ridge, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 0TL. Copies of a publications list are available. Usually free to members, a charge for non-members.

* *Prescribed Industrial Diseases* and *AIDS* are £1.50 to non-members.

NALGO *Occupational Stress* is free from 1 Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9AJ. Video is £6.

Hazards 22 (1989), Published by Hazards Publications Ltd., PO Box 199, Sheffield S1 1FQ.

DAILY Mirror

Wednesday September 25 1991 NEWSPAPER FOR THE NINETIES

Last month's daily sale: 3,655,016 (INCORPORATING THE DAILY RECORD) 25p

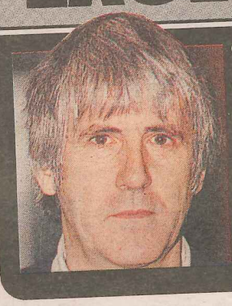
INSIDE TODAY'S 12-PAGE MIRROR Woman

PLAY TODAY £500,000 BINGO EYES DOWN ON PAGE 19

BIG BROTHER'S BLACKLIST

22,000 names on top secret 'Don't employ' file

EXCLUSIVE BY PAUL FOOT



A SINISTER Big Brother blacklist which has wrecked thousands of lives is exposed by the Daily Mirror today.

We have obtained the nationwide list which gives the names of 22,000 people branded as troublemakers by the shadowy right-wing Economic League.

They range from top politicians to ordinary working folk who have been condemned to a life on the dole.

Three thousand bosses fork out a total of £750,000 a year to find out if workers or job applicants are on the league's secret list.

But a Mirror investigation has disclosed a shameful catalogue of errors – including outdated information, wrong addresses, cases of mistaken identity and the naming of the dead.

The Economic League insists that its records contain – and always have contained – only the names of "subversives".

The Mirror can prove them wrong.

Our three-month probe reveals the truth behind the Big Brother A to Z. It shows how innocent people have

Turn to Page 5

VICTIMS OF A NIGHTMARE Pages 4 and 5

A free Mann after 865 days

By MARK DOWDNEY

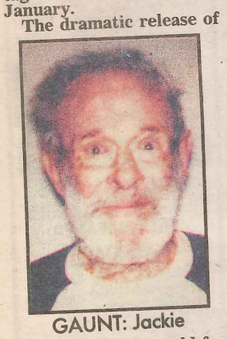
FRAIL Jackie Mann came out of a Beirut hell-hole last night to end 865 days of captivity.

The oldest Western hostage was finally released by his Moslem kidnappers after weeks of soaring hopes and crushing disappointments.

Now there is only one British hostage left – Terry Waite. And there were strong hints last night that his anguish, too, will soon be over.

The Hezbollah kidnap group suggested that an American hostage would be freed quickly – and that all nine remaining hostages would be out by January.

The dramatic release of



GAUNT: Jackie

Mann, the 77-year-old former Battle of Britain pilot, was greeted with tears of joy by his family.

His wife Sunnie, 73, said: "I'm very, very happy" before flying from Cyprus to an emotional reunion in Damascus, the Syrian capital.

Mann, who was feared to be in poor health, was driven to Damascus last night after being freed at 6.40pm at a Beirut hotel and handed to Syrian security men.

If he is well enough, Mann is expected to be flown to RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire today like John McCarthy, who was released last month.

McCarthy said last night: "I am absolutely

Turn to Page 2

TOP SECRET

From Robin Cook and Kinnock's branded for playing truant.

BIG BROTHER

Ordinary folk join famous on sinister 'subversives' list

THE "subversives" on the Economic League's Big Brother blacklist range from top politicians to troubled teenagers and pensioners who want to save the whale.

They include Shadow Health Secretary Robin Cook, Neil Kinnock's private secretary Adam Ingram . . . and a 15-year-old lad who played truant from school.

There are **WELL-KNOWN** names of an Oxford University professor, the boss of a big electrical company, 20 Labour MPs, trade union leaders, liberal journalists and campaigners for civil liberties. And among the **UNKNOWN** are countless building workers, a blind war hero, an 82-year-old animal-lover and a retired missionary.

Some have been branded Communist sympathisers, others damned for life as trouble-makers and employment risks.

Many are described as Lefties. More obscurely, one is said to be a "young socialist football referee in Kirkby".

ROBIN COOK is incensed at his inclusion.

By PAUL FOOT, BRYAN ROSTRON, FRANK THORNE, TED OLIVER, GEOFF SUTTON and MARGARET RENN

Scandal

He said: "It is flatly against natural justice that people should be blacked on the basis of a secret list which they can't challenge.

"It is a double scandal when the list contains a lot of unchecked garbage."

He is listed by the League under "LCC" – Labour Co-ordinating Committee.

But he said: "This is a recognised part of the Labour Party, a focus for what is called the soft Left and very much part of the mainstream of British democratic politics."

MP **ADAM INGRAM**, Neil Kinnock's parliamentary private secretary, has orchestrated the Labour Party's campaign against Militant. Yet he features on the blacklist as . . . "Militant".

A prominent Labour spokesman for the disabled, MP and magistrate **TOM CLARKE**, is listed as "CP supporter".

He said: "I thought I was known as a moderate. It's a disgrace."

Neath MP **PETER HAIN** was probably put on the list for his anti-apartheid campaigning when he was a Young Liberal.

He said: "It is ironic that the KGB should be almost disappearing in Russia but that these kind of practices are mushrooming here."

Predictably, **TONY BENN** and **KEN LIVINGSTONE** are also included.

Scores of Establishment figures now find themselves labelled "supporters of revolutionary groups".

One of Scotland's most respected academics Professor **SIR KEN ALEXANDER**, chancellor of Aberdeen University, features under "Socialist Workers' Party".

He said: "I have never had any connection with it. It's outrageous that a bunch of amateurs should concoct such a list."

SUE SLIPMAN, a founder member of the SDP and chair of the National Council for One-Parent Families, is listed as "Women's Lib".

QC **STEPHEN SEDLEY** – listed with his wife at a London address – roared with laughter and said: "I've never lived there."

DR JOHN FLEMING, 80 – a missionary in China for 30 years – is down as "a member of the Scots-China Association."

Theology

Dr Fleming, who returned to teach theology at St Andrew's University, Fife, said: "The association is simply a friendship group between the two countries."

Named playwright **MICHAEL HASTINGS**, an award-winner who is currently working with the Royal Shakespeare Company, said: "This is dangerous and frightening."

He added: "The only reason I can think I am on is that I gave £10 to a socialist youth club in Brixton 10 years ago."

Actress Charlotte Rampling's cousin **MELISSA**, 36 – who runs a secretarial agency in Cheltenham, Gloucs – is down as an animal rights activist.

She said: "I was acting out of compassion. To

FILE ON RAY DANIELS

A MARKED MAN FOR SUING BOSS

SHIPYARD welder Ray Daniels won a paltry £60 compensation when he was injured in a factory accident . . . and ended up losing everything.

For the father of three was blacklisted as a troublemaker by the league and became a marked man to bosses.

For 15 years he has been fighting a losing battle to get work. It has cost him his marriage, his family and his self-respect.

"If I had murdered someone I would be a free man by now," Ray said bitterly at his home in Walton, Liverpool. "But because my name is on this list I've got a life sentence on the scrapheap."

Ray's misery began in 1976 when an unguarded grinding wheel ran across his hand. His union, the boilermakers, suggested he claim compensation.

To his eternal regret, he won the case – and lost his livelihood. After a couple of short-term contracts with other firms in Liverpool docks, Ray suddenly found his services were no longer required.

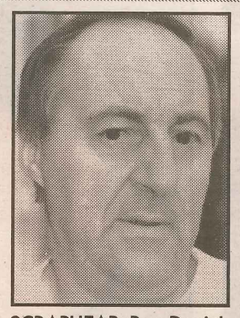
The strain of life on the dole wrecked his first marriage. In the past year he has had just three weeks work.

One job lasted just 2½ hours. "I started work at 7.30am and at 10 they told me to pick up my cards," Ray says, close to tears. "I was humiliated.

"I always knew deep down there was some reason my life turned out this way. Nobody gets the sort of luck I've had.

"I can't tell you the contempt I feel for these people. They have taken away my work, my family and worst of all my pride.

"Nobody should be allowed to take away a man's pride. The list must be stopped."



SCRAPHEAP: Ray Daniels

FILE ON ROBERT GREGORY

CONDEMNED.. AS TEENAGER

AS A school-leaver, Robert Gregory often wondered why he was always turned down by employers. Now he thinks he knows – he was blacklisted by the Economic League at the age of 15.

Ten years on, he has never been close to getting a job. Yet Robert had to think long and hard to come up with the "crime" that condemned him to life on the dole . . . playing truant.

Robert's is one of the most sinister entries in the whole list. It reads: "Gregory, Robert, Gabba *(His nickname)* – aged 15 and is still at school. Nottingham."

Now he is amazed to discover he was branded a troublemaker for the rest of his life while he was still a child. "I wondered why employers never liked me," Robert said yesterday. "Big Brother has been watching me. It's sickening. How can they penalise a kid like that?"

He freely admits he was a bit of a rebel while a pupil at St Bernadette's School in Nottingham.

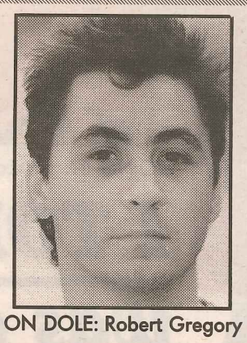
A would-be punk who wore a ring in his nose, Robert played truant so often his mother was taken to court.

But he has never been a member of any political party, group or trade union. "The only political thing I have ever done was going on an Animal Liberation Front march when I was 17," he says.

On leaving school, Robert went after a number of jobs. But the only thing he came close to being offered was a place on a YOPs scheme to learn screen printing.

"The careers office put me up to a firm who said they'd have me," he remembers. "But they never got back in touch.

"I tried to get a few other jobs but no one would have me so I signed on the dole." He has been on it ever since.



ON DOLE: Robert Gregory

FILE ON SYD SCROGGIE

BLIND WAR HERO

PENSIONER Syd Scroggie is bewildered to discover his name on a blacklist of supposedly dangerous subversives. For he is a World War II hero, 72 next month, blind, and has only one leg.

Syd, of Dundee, was never involved in politics. The only reason he was included is that he wrote to the a newspaper about his council's decision to buy a painting of Nelson Mandela.

Syd explained: "I pointed out that the artist painted it for artistic, not political, reasons. But if I was put in the list by error how many others have been put in for no real reason at all?"

Dr Gwen Mellor, for one. The 82-year-old from Ingatestone, Essex, is included because of her support for animal rights and green causes. "I've written letters to people and papers," she says. "But does that mean I should be on a blacklist?"

FILE ON RAY TUCKER

I'M NO SCROUNGER

WHEN Ray Tucker was a jobless 17-year-old he joined a 300-mile march to the Tory Party conference to demand the right to work.

He told the Daily Mirror that he took part in the 1981 protest to show the world he was not a "lazy scrounger". So the Economic League blacklisted Ray, of Telford, Shropshire . . . making his job prospects even worse.

Also on their list is Dr HS Kohli, a respected expert working in preventive medicine in Glasgow. He is branded a "Sikh extremist".

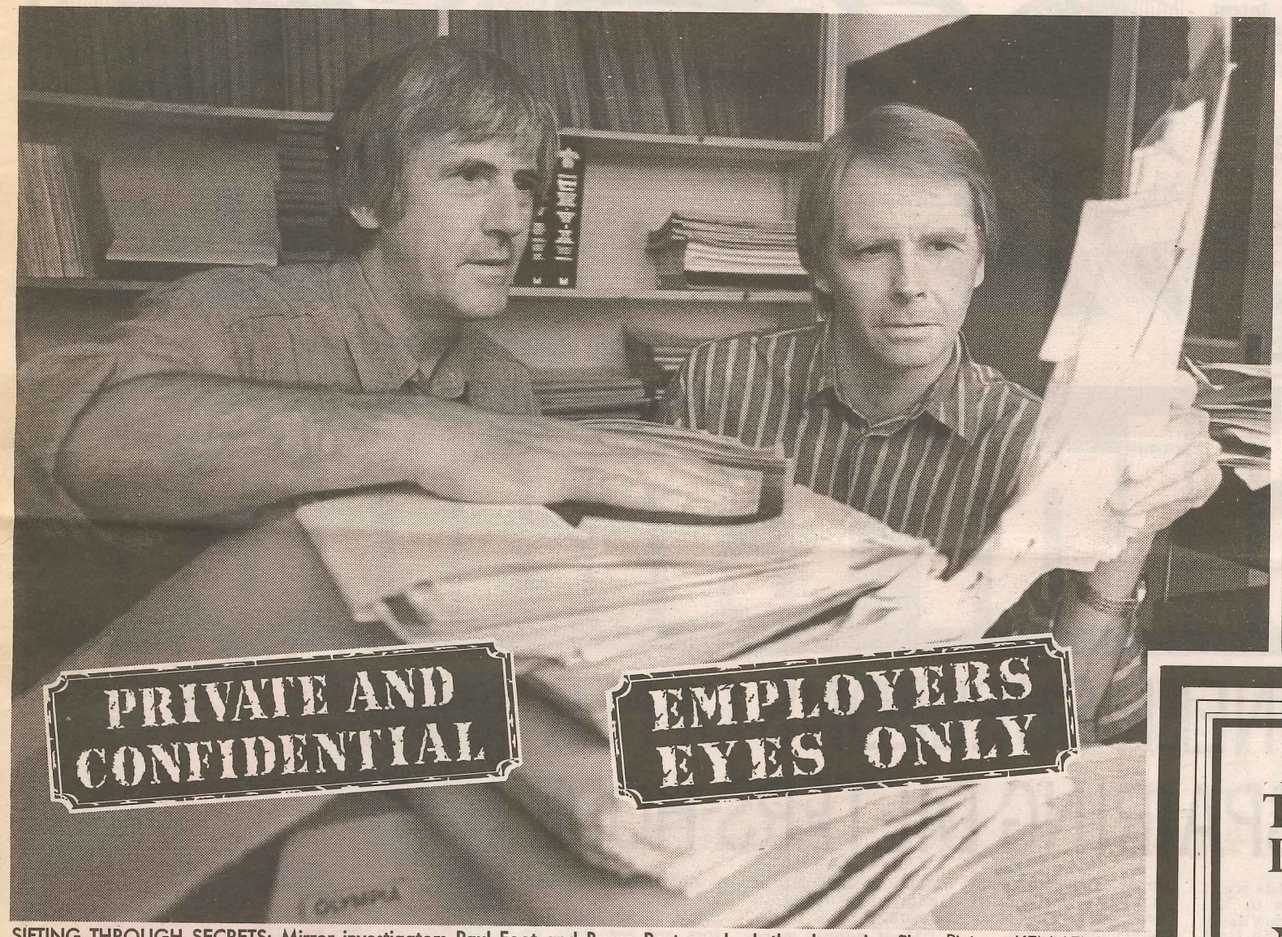
He says: "I think this dates back to October 84 when there was a letter in the Glasgow Herald from a chap with the same name as me.

"He seemed to be trying to justify the assassination of Indira Ghandi. I wrote to the paper pointing out that this has never been my attitude.

"This sort of activity is totally contrary to democratic freedom. It's more akin to Nazi Germany."

MP assistant to a 15-year-old schoolboy THIS IS THE FINAL NIGHTMARE WHEN..

IS WATCHING YOU



SIFTING THROUGH SECRETS: Mirror investigators Paul Foot and Bryan Rostron check the damaging files Picture: KEN LENNOX

find I'm labelled subversive makes me realise our society is sicker than I ever realised."

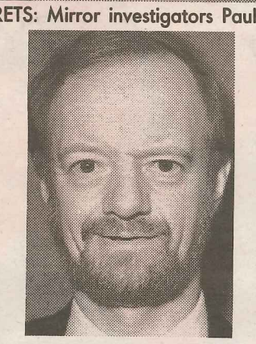
Union leaders singled out include firemen's chief KEN CAMERON, who said: "This is horrendous."

Others include railmen's leader **JIMMY KNAPP**.

There are files on officials of women's groups and gay rights organisations, along with campaigners against dictatorships like Chile.

Among the journalists named is **GORDON AIRS**, chief reporter of the Mirror's sister paper, the Daily Record.

Mirror Comment – Page 2



Incensed

Robin Cook is furious his name is on the secret list

Labelled

Anti-Militant Adam Ingram is branded as a militant

Account for this!

● **THE Editor of the Daily Mirror wrote to the Economic League last Thursday asking them to comment on the blunders and injustices contained in their lists.**

● **The letter, sent to Director of Information Jack Winder, asked: "How do you account for the names on the index of at least 20 Labour MPs?"**

● **And it added that our investigation had shown "the index is based on apparently trivial information and quite unrecognisable from the respectable operation you described to the House of Commons."**

● **For several days, the Mirror heard nothing. But after faxing our letter again, director general Stan Hardy invited us to inspect their "research department".**

Men who run the League

● **THE Economic League was formed in 1919, in the wake of the Russian revolution, to protect employers from "extremist organisations and their supporters".**

● **Today it is run by two men, its Director General Stan Hardy and Director of Information Jack Winder.**

● **Hardy is an ex-Army officer and business consultant. But Winder is the real power behind the league. He anonymously attends the TUC and the Tory conference every year.**

● **Winder, of Alcester, Warwicks, is especially proud of his contacts in Special Branch.**

The league is financed to the tune of £750,000 a year by subscriptions from employers who use its services.

BLACKLIST SCANDAL EXPOSED

● From Page One

been subjected to a shocking toll of hardship and heartbreak.

The Mirror confronted the Economic League with our list last Thursday. First, there was silence.

Then the league's director-general Stan Hardy started a bizarre cat-and-mouse game with Mirror reporter Bryan Rostron.

Yesterday, he summoned Rostron to the concourse of Birmingham's New Street railway station, where the reporter was called by Tannoy to the station-master's office.

Finally, at the league's headquarters in Birmingham, Rostron was able to ask Mr Hardy about the list.

Mr Hardy said: "We do not retain or use this information."

He insisted his current card index has only 2,000 names on it.

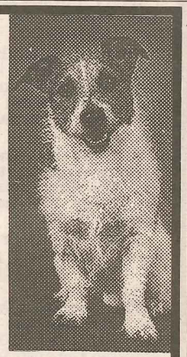
But he could not deny the fact that the 22,000-name list was kept in the Economic League's office until as recently as 1989 – and was used to provide employers with Big Brother information throughout the Thatcher years.

The damage caused by this list has been investigated by a team of Mirror reporters.

The pain and heartache of ordinary people who only want to work is revealed on these pages.

TOMORROW: Boys From The Blacklist

A PET THAT'S LOVED STILL NEEDS YOUR HELP



A sick or injured pet can bring heartbreak to its loving owner. Especially one whose income is insufficient to meet an unexpected vet's bill.

Help restore the health of such a pet and the companionship with its owner by a donation to the one charity devoted to looking after the loved ones. Or send for our gift catalogue, where every purchase helps a pet in need.

Send for your PDSA Christmas catalogue today.

PDSA
People's Dispensary for Sick Animals
Looking after loved ones.

I enclose a donation / please debit my credit card for £50 ☐ £30 ☐ £20 ☐ £10 ☐ other ☐ Please send a catalogue ☐

Name: _____ *Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss*

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Card No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Tick here if you are under 18 yrs ☐

Expiry date ☐☐☐☐ *Signature:* _____

All donations will be acknowledged.

Post to: PDSA Freepost Telford TF2 9BR ☐ ☐

DM/23.279

For a better tomorrow

MIRROR COMMENT

LABOUR'S task at Brighton this week is to convince the unconvinced that it is fit to govern Britain. If it fails, it may be a long time before it gets a chance again.

But, given clear minds and cool heads, there's no reason at all why it should fail.

The bad old days of the party, the nightmare years when the lunatics were in charge, have long gone. Ending them was Neil Kinnock's outstanding achievement.

Militant has been crushed, just as a snake might be crushed by a steamroller. Its followers are noisy and a nuisance, but of no account.

Europe

The idiotic policies of one-sided disarmament, hostility towards Europe, sky-high taxation and wholesale renationalisation are no more.

The demand by a few union ostriches for total repeal of the Thatcher union laws is irrelevant in a modern society. If strikes are at a record low, it is not just because workers fear for their jobs or for their mortgages, but simply because they are out of date.

Employees no longer see stopping work as a way of preserving their standard of living. They know that in today's competitive world, Britain's factories won't advance by standing still for weeks on end.

But abandoning the obsolete isn't enough. Labour won't be elected on what it **ISN'T** going to do. Nor is it enough to hope to become the Government on the coat-tails of Tory incompetence.

What it needs to do this week is to unfold its vision of the future.

That is a job for policy makers, not film makers. For passion, not just PR.

Labour's Britain must be one of equal opportunities for all and an equal right to prosperity. One which reduces disparities in wealth by making the poor better-off, not making the better-off poorer.

We are still, despite everything, one of the world's richer nations. We could afford to offer real homes to our homeless, not cardboard boxes in shop doorways, and it is criminal that we do not.

We could provide medical treatment for those who need it, rather than those who can pay for it, and it is shameful that we do not.

We could create real jobs, not only training, for the unemployed, and it is disgraceful that we do not.

Fear

If the test of a civilised nation is how it educates its young and cares for its old, then we fail the test. Children should not be taught in schools which fall apart, nor should the elderly live in fear of the bills the next post will bring.

But, given the will, there is nothing which Labour cannot do for a Britain in which today so little is being done. It must prove that it intends to do it.

There will always be those for whom a Labour conference is a chance to fight past battles on behalf of dead causes or to relive the class wars of long ago. They will parade their raucous nonsense this week, but they count for nothing.

The only item on the agenda is the future and the only role for Labour is to be part of it.

Twelve years of Tory failure is the Labour opportunity for success. To seize it would open the door to a fairer Britain. To forsake it would be unforgivable.

LEADER: Neil Kinnock

'Labour must make the poor better-off, not the better-off poorer'

LET'S GET OUR MESSAGE ACROSS URGES KINNOCK

NEIL Kinnock called on his colleagues yesterday to sing out Labour's message and convince the country they are fit for power.

As the party kicked off its last conference before the election, he said they had the perfect platform to win over doubtful voters.

The Labour leader will use his own speech tomorrow to spell out his vision of a Britain run by his government – and he urged his supporters to hit hard at the Tories and to leave no doubt that a radically different alternative is on offer.

"We have the message, we have the policies, we have the people to get them across," he said.

Ahead

"We are neck and neck with the Tories.

"This week we move ahead again."

Deputy leader Roy Hattersley stressed that the party must explain its philosophy with "greater vehemence and passion than in the past".

The Brighton conference would mark a shift in the style of message, he added.

As well as telling the voters "this is what we are going to do", Labour chiefs would increasingly press home the message "why it is right and why it is necessary".

Socialism was concerned with more than managing the economy better than the Tories did. It was about **RAISING** the finances to fund health and education properly, **PROTECTING** the nation's environment and **ENSURING** that young people weren't forced to sleep in cardboard boxes.

Mr Kinnock was confident that the conference would pass off without damaging divisions.

A sign of this optimism was seen in the decision to tackle the Militant issue head-on last night.

And although a vote on defence may be lost, the scale of defeat will narrow substantially from next year.

Shadow Chancellor John Smith defended changes in Labour policies, but said principles stayed the same.

On nationalisation, he said ownership of industry was not the central question. "The key issues of the economy are education and training."

The day of the union block vote was coming to an end, he said.

But he backed the party's links with the unions, saying their financial support was open – in contrast to the secret millions which businessmen supply to the Tories.

● **FRIDAY** will now be given over entirely to discussions of election tactics, it was revealed. And Mr Kinnock is believed to be planning a second speech.

By ALASTAIR CAMPBELL
Political Editor

'We've got what it takes to win'

LABOUR in Brighton

TAX RISES 'WILL ONLY HIT RICH'

By DAVID BRADSHAW

ONLY the rich will pay more in tax under Labour, the party's campaign chief Jack Cunningham pledged yesterday.

He promised "the overwhelming majority" would not pay a penny extra.

And Dr Cunningham compared Labour's plans to the record of the Tories who have increased taxes on all **EXCEPT** the rich. He said Government figures confirmed it was taking 37.5 per cent from people's wages compared with 34.5 per cent 12 years ago.

Voters want the Cabinet kicked out and replaced with a Labour team, according to a new poll.

Labour's Robin Cook and John Smith would do a better job than Health Secretary William Waldegrave and Chancellor Norman Lamont, says the ICM survey in Today newspaper.

THE Mirror exposure

Ta, Big Brother

THE Daily Mirror turned the tables on the right-wing Economic League yesterday – by using its Big Brother blacklist to boost Labour funds.

We took the 22,000-name list along to Brighton and set up a display stand in the conference centre.

For just £1 – all going to the party – delegates were able to find out whether they were on the list.

It was exposed by the Mirror last week. And we showed that much of the information on alleged "subversives" is wrong and out of date.

Islington MP Jeremy Corbyn discovered that for himself yesterday when he found his brother Piers, a former Labour councillor, listed as a "Communist Party candidate."

His address was inaccurate and Jeremy said: "Piers has never been a member of the Communist Party."

Massive snub to Militant row MPs

SUPPORTERS of two MPs facing expulsion for alleged links with Militant were trounced in a vote.

A Left-wing motion backing suspended Terry Fields and Dave Nellist was thrown out by 4,630,000 votes to 523,000.

The decision is a big boost for Neil Kinnock's campaign

BAN: Nellist

to rid Labour of far-Left infiltrators.

The two MPs are banned from the conference and face being booted out of the party.

Nellist has also been removed as a candidate for the national executive.

About 200 chanting supporters of the two MPs marched on the conference hall, carrying banners supporting Militant and the far-Left Socialist Workers' Party.

But they were stopped at the doors.

DAILY Mirror

Thursday, September 26, 1991 NEWSPAPER FOR THE NINETIES

Last month's daily sale: 3,655,016 (INCORPORATING THE DAILY RECORD) 25p

THEN THERE WAS ONE

GRIPPING SCENE: Ex-pilot Jackie, free at last with wife Sunnie, proudly clenches his fists as he gets a Spitfire salute. Picture: NIGEL WRIGHT

Kinnock hits out at Big Brother list of shame

By GEOFF SUTTON and ALASTAIR CAMPBELL

LABOUR leader Neil Kinnock yesterday demanded action from Premier John Major over the Big Brother blacklist exposed by the Daily Mirror.

Mr Kinnock said the snooping right-wing organisation which compiled the list, the Economic League, was "suspect and sinister."

He added: "The Mirror has done the public a service in bringing this out in the open.

"And the Tories could do a similar service by condemning such organisations outright."

Yesterday we told how we have a copy of a League list branding 22,000 people "subversives."

Companies have used the blacklist, which was peppered with errors, to check up on workers or job applicants.

And the lives of thousands of branded people have been wrecked.

Worried

Mr Kinnock's private secretary Adam Ingram was one of those named.

But the Labour leader said: "I'm more concerned about ordinary working people whose lives may have been blighted."

Hundreds of worried Mirror readers phoned us yesterday to ask if they were on the blacklist.

Even Tory MP Graham Riddick, who has backed the League in the Commons, called for an end to its shadowy secrecy.

He said: "I still think information about extremists should be made known to employers.

"But anyone rejected because of that should be told.

Labour MP Peter Hain, another on the list, called the League a "major threat to freedom." He demanded a police probe and said data protection laws should be extended to cover written material as well as computer files.

The legal affairs committee of the European parliament demanded an emergency debate on the Mirror revelations.

● Boys from the blacklist – See Page 9

ROMANTIC SCENE: John embraces Jill – and the happy couple face the future together. Picture: KEN LENNOX

Now let's have Terry

FREED hostages Jackie Mann and John McCarthy yesterday savoured the joy they had yearned for – back home in Britain with the women they love.

Jackie, 77, flew in after 865 days' cruel captivity in Beirut.

At Jackie's side his wife Sunnie, 73, smiled. A Spitfire fighter saluted him with a victory roll. And the ex-air ace clenched his fists with pride.

Meanwhile journalist John, 35, released last month, hugged his devoted friend Jill Morrell, 33, and talked of their future.

And hopes rose that Britain's last hostage Terry Waite, 52, will soon find freedom, too.

ONE OF THE FEW
Pages 2 and 3
WE'RE NOW A COUPLE
Pages 20 and 21

have. The courts had the powers and clear guidance from the Court of Appeal on sentencing.

In 1989 there were about 37,000 convictions for assaults causing actual bodily harm. Ten per cent of cases ended in prison sentences.

and how many resulted in a prison sentence. "If we find the situation is not as we would want, we will have to take action", he said. He would report back to the House and publish the figures.

Michael Shersby, the Tory MP for Uxbridge and parliamentary adviser to the Police Federation, had moved a new clause during the report stage of the Criminal Justice bill calling for the mandatory sentence in cases where actual bodily harm was caused.

He said that Parliament must show it would not tolerate those "who punch and kick, stab and slash police officers" or a situation "where women officers have their hair torn from their scalps and their breasts beaten by any person who thinks they can do so with impunity".

The police officer patrolling the down town areas of British towns and cities were at great risk, he said. So were those in country areas where, as almost single handed they dealt with drunken rowdies after closing time, they were frequently assaulted.

Robert Maclennan, for the Liberal Democrats, opposed the new clause on the ground that people would resist arrest more fiercely if they knew a prison sentence was waiting.

"Persons stopped [by the police] would go to greater lengths to avoid being taken into custody and the risk of assault would be greater than it is at present." The clause would be counter-productive.

John Greenway, Tory MP for Ryedale, cast doubt on the appropriateness of the clause. A former policeman, he described how he had been

Patten: promised to gather information

kicked extremely violently "in a very uncomfortable place" when attending an incident in the foyer of a West End hotel. The perpetrator was a distinguished Scottish teacher. "Are we saying that man should automatically go to prison for three months?"

● A clause extending supervision for sex offenders was accepted without a division.

Mr Patten said that the clause would allow sex offenders released early from prison to be supervised until the end of their original sentence was reached.

Sex offenders who are not sent to prison could have their attendance at probation centres extended beyond the present 60-day maximum.

Rifkind: Hoaxers are facing severe penalties

He appealed to the travelling public for continuing vigilance. Responding to questions, he said that the government would look sympathetically at requests for extra funds for security.

John Prescott, Labour transport spokesman, blamed

entirely been due to the IRA or the hoaxes. Some of the transport incidents could be attributed to inadequate equipment and its failure and to inadequacy of staff which had been reduced by thousands, impairing their ability to maintain security and deal with emergencies.

Those staff cuts were, at the government's request, to continue. He demanded a review of the financial framework of British Rail and the Underground. He told Mr Rifkind to end his obsession with privatisation.

Mr Rifkind: "It was predictable that he should seek to use the events of the last couple of days caused by terrorist incidents, bomb hoaxes and other security matters, to make his ritual attacks on British Rail investment".

In the past Mr Prescott had suggested that British Transport police had been reduced in number, but there were more police officers on British Rail and London Underground now than in 1982.

Steven Norris (Epping Forest, C) said that Tuesday's events were by no means unique. Hardly a day went by without disruption. He suggested that Mr Rifkind should talk to London Underground management about their procedures for dealing with incidents, including hoaxes so that disruption was kept to a minimum.

Philip Goodhart (Beck-

Mr Rifkind said Rail would be st need to improve level of informatio

Mildred Gord and Bow, Lab) sai modern commun should not have b to inform passer what had happene London incident were not left in th heat for many hou

Mr Rifkind sai was right to ex concern. But once had been switche sengers had to be than a mile to station. That caused considerab as well as fatigue, for elderly passeng

Gordon: import *passengers*

Six more NHS trust hopefuls

A further six hospitals and national health service units have been given permission to become NHS trusts, William Waldegrave, the health sercretary, announced in a Commons written reply. That means that 129 units have been invited formally to apply to become self-governing trusts under the government's health service reform programme.

The six are: West Berkshire Health Services, Ealing Acute Hospital, York Health Services, Lancaster Acute Hospital *Services, Lancaster Priority* Services, and Bath and Wiltshire Community Services.

Fire rules

The government promised yesterday to fight proposals by the European Commission which, it claims, will lower the fire safety regulations covering furniture. Edward Leigh, the junior minister, told MPs that British regulations were good and said that the number of fire deaths had fallen since their introduction.

Debt to UK

Developing countries owe the United Kingdom government about £7.3 billion, John Maples, Treasury economic secretary, said in a Commons written reply. In 1989-90, Britain received about £150 million in interest charges from developing countries.

New peer

Professor Brian Griffiths was introduced in the Lords as Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach. He is chairman of the Centre for Policy Studies and was economic adviser to Margaret Thatcher.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Agriculture, fisheries and food; prime minister. Debate on the Gulf war on an SNP motion. Lords (3): Planning and Compensation bill, report, second day.

£130m is saved on defence

THE government has saved an estimated £130 million on 40 defence projects worth a total of £13 billion under the new competitive culture for awarding large contracts, Sir Peter Levene, the outgoing chief of defence procurement, told MPs yesterday (Sheila Gunn writes).

The savings from the increase in competitive tendering and price-fixed contracts amounted to a cut of about 1 per cent in the original estimates of the projects over the past five years.

Appearing before the Commons public accounts committee, Sir Peter said that delivery times had also improved, with 28 of 37 of the largest defence contracts expected to be completed on time and only three likely to be delayed for more than a year. Nor would the delays add to the ministry's costs because they were on fixed-price contracts.

The report to the committee from the National Audit Office, the public spending watchdog, supports his evidence that the more commercial approach has led to better value for money in the £40 billion defence procurement budget over the past five years.

Random breath test undermined

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

DRINK-DRIVING

FIGURES produced yesterday in a parliamentary answer to Peter Bottomley, the former junior transport minister who led the campaign against drink-driving for three years, appeared to counter the case for random breath tests being pressed by an increasing number of MPs.

The Labour party is backing the introduction of random breath tests and the all-party parliamentary advisory council for transport safety has proposed amendments to the Road Traffic bill for random tests.

However, Mr Bottomley, who is not supporting the campaign, was told yesterday by Christopher Chope, minister for roads and traffic, that after the introduction of random breath tests in New South Wales, Australia, in 1982 the fall in the proportion of deaths among drivers who were over the limit was only 3 per cent. In Britain over the same period (1983-6) without random breath tests such deaths showed a fall of 9 per cent. Mr Bottomley said last night that the figures showed that campaigners were trying to bring about something that would not be as effective as the measures already in place and that would involve a huge increase in the number of tests.

He was told in further parliamentary replies that there was a weekly average of about 10,540 tests in Britain, with about 1,820 proving positive. In 37,000 of the positive tests, drivers were measured at more than twice the legal limit. The transport department says that the number of random breath tests required each week to detect 1,000 drivers above the legal limit but below twice the limit would be 116,000. To detect 1,000 drivers above twice the legal limit would require 625,000 tests a week, according to surveys conducted by the Road Research Laboratory last year.

NHS will grow by 4% next year

HEALTH SERVICE

REAL growth in the national health service will amount to 4 to 5 per cent in the coming financial year, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, told MPs yesterday (Nicholas Wood writes).

Mr Waldegrave rejected suggestions from members of the cross-party Commons select committee on health that inflation and the impact of pay deals averaging 9 per cent would eat deeply into the £24.8 billion the government has allocated to the service for 1991-2.

MPs on the committee reminded Mr Waldegrave that the National Association of Health Authorities had estimated that health service prices would rise by 8.6 per cent in the next 12 months. But the health secretary said that that was an overestimate. Resources would be increased by 12.7 per cent and he was expecting real growth of 4 to 5 per cent rather than the 3 per cent suggested by the MPs.

However, the health secretary did concede that the slump in land sales was causing "sharp problems" for health authorities. Work would continue on hospitals already under construction, but there would not be many new projects started.

The property slump, which has reduced the money available to health authorities from selling surplus sites, produced some of the sharpest exchanges between committee members and the health secretary, who was making his first appearance before them. Nicholas Winterton, the Tory chairman, said that services to patients would be put at risk if authorities switched funds from revenue to capital accounts to keep building projects in being.

Mr Waldegrave replied that sometimes such transfers led to quicker treatment for patients by enabling managers to speed the opening of units.

Job seekers should be shown files

By Sheila Gunn
Political Correspondent

EMPLOYMENT

JOB candidates should have the right to see confidential files supplied by a vetting agency such as the Economic League if they are rejected as potential subversives, the Commons employment committee said yesterday.

Agencies holding blacklists of political and trade union activists should also be controlled by a new licensing law and a code of practice.

The committee questioned the Economic League, which has been accused of holding inaccurate information, about its manual files on alleged subversives. But the Conservative MPs, who hold a majority, objected to the league's being singled out for criticism in the report, *Recruitment Practices.* Although the league told the committee that other agencies provided a similar service to employers, it failed to produce details.

The report states: "We believe that the recommendations we have made would go some way to lessening the disadvantages faced by those who apply for jobs at companies using the services of organisations who provide information about them".

The committee also asked for application forms requiring candidates to give details of criminal convictions to find out if the convictions were for short sentences or minor penalties that are "spent" under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. Five million people in the United Kingdom have a criminal record and the committee was worried that not enough job candidates or employers know about the Act. The MPs want information about its operation to be included in the *Wiping the Slate Clean* document handed to former offenders on release from prison.

The committee also found that employers who recruit more than seven million workers a year used varied methods that sometimes led to unintentional discrimination. Although the MPs did not support tougher anti-discrimination laws, as proposed by Labour, they have asked the government to act more quickly on recommendations from the Equal Opportunities Commission and Commission for Racial Equality.

"In view of the signs of a decrease in the effect of discrimination on employment levels of disadvantaged groups, we recognise that there is a case for reliance on persuading employers that equal opportunity policies are in their own interests and on spreading good practice."

The report added: "We are however disappointed that the government appears to take so long to consider proposals from the two bodies which have, by law, the specific task of reviewing anti-discrimination legislation."

House of Commons employment committee second report: *Recruitment Practices* (Stationery Office: £5.15).

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A BREATH OF FRESH AIR FOR THE BUSI

Gazza is fined for speeding

SOCCER star Paul Gascoigne was yesterday fined £85 for speeding – as he lay in hospital nursing his injured knee.

Magistrates heard that police caught Gazza driving his Mercedes at up to 69mph on a 40mph stretch of the North Circular road in London.

Gascoigne, 24 – recovering after his knee was hurt in an incident at a Newcastle club – pleaded guilty by letter. He thought he was being followed by journalists.

His licence – already endorsed for an earlier speeding offence – was given three penalty points by Brent magistrates.

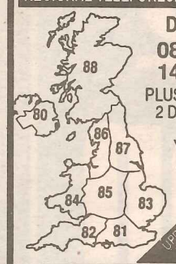
Bank SOS fails

HOPES of a rescue for the collapsed Bank of Commerce and Credit were dashed last night when its biggest shareholder withdrew support.

WEATHER

TODAY: Bright start, unsettled later. Max temp 16C (61F). TOMORROW: Overcast, some rain.

REGIONAL TELEFORECASTS



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HOLIDAY FORECASTS

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ABROAD

42 Mainland Spain
43 Majorca/Minorca
44 Greek Islands
46 Portugal
47 Italy

CALLS COST 36p PER MINUTE CHEAP RATE, 48p PER MINUTE AT ALL OTHER TIMES

SAVE LIVES

We'll scrap cuts crippling hospitals

PLEDGE: NHS safe in my hands says Cook

AN ALL-OUT battle to save lives – not cash – will begin the minute Labour are elected into power.

Tory policies which have reduced health care and left the NHS begging for money will be **SCRAPPED**, Shadow health spokesman Robin Cook pledged yesterday.

"We reject a health service where every patient has a price," he told the Labour conference in Brighton.

Opt-out hospitals will be brought **BACK** into the NHS and Tory "Yesmen" bosses of health authorities will be **SACKED**.

Labour will insist hospital and authority chiefs **USE** the NHS as a condition of their job.

Private contractors who have left patients worse-fed and hospitals dirtier will be CLEARED out.

Free eye tests will be restored to make sure no one puts their sight at risk to save cash.

Mr Cook said the NHS didn't just save lives but gave people back mobility and sight, freedom from pain and restored their ability to work.

"But this magnificent service is now increasingly reduced to begging for funds to keep going," he said.

As delegates cheered the election crusade to rescue the NHS, Mr Cook revealed a series of scandals.

By JILL PALMER

Raffling

The lives of sick children at Guy's in London – the Government's flagship opt-out hospital – are being put at risk by cash cuts, he said.

Doctors are raffling a free month's use of a Rolls Royce to fund babies' intensive care cots.

Staff at a psychiatric hospital held a car boot sale every Sunday to raise vital funds.

Mr Cook revealed the crisis at Kings College Hospital in South London where patients spend hours on trolleys in casualty corridors because of bed shortages.

"One woman admitted on a Saturday spent all day on a trolley, all Sunday on a trolley, and was discharged on Monday without ever making it to a bed."

He spoke of the appalling privatisation hitting the elderly, "selling" them to private, profit-making nursing homes.

And he told of the heartbreak of 230 pensioners in Devon who are being "sold" to the private sector as the Tory council closes homes.

"I joined a demonstra-

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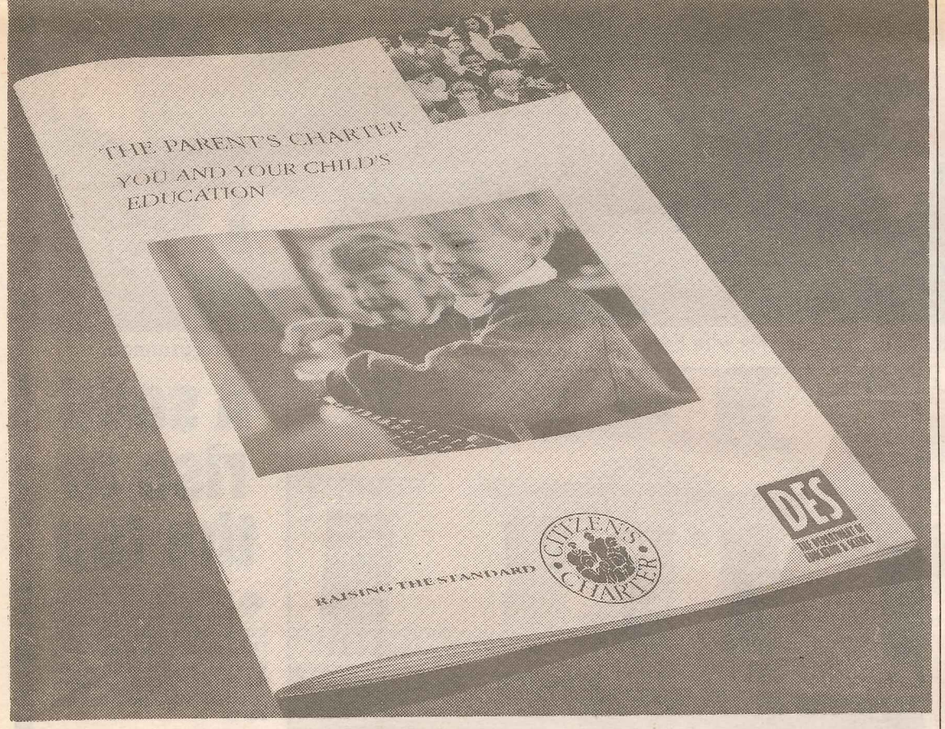

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Labour woo Jill

From Page One

Bride's in Fleet Street, where candlelight vigils had been held throughout his imprisonment.

And John paid a moving tribute to the way Jill fought for his freedom when he recited a poem by Konstantin Simonov called Wait For Me.

Part of it went:

"Wait for me, and I will return. Only wait very hard . . .
Let those who do not wait say that I was lucky,

Jokes

They never will understand that in the midst of death,
You, with your waiting, saved me."

Later the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Runcie, led prayers for his envoy Terry Waite and other hostages still held in the Middle East.

And he revealed that John McCarthy had told him Terry kept up fellow hostages' spirits by cracking jokes.

He regaled them with "hilarious stories of propping up the Archbishop on his travels and muttering that his Bible was not the authorised version."

Added Lord Runcie: "Well . . . same old Terry. I knew they had not destroyed him."

TOGETHER: Jill and John yesterday

Scandal list earns £1,000

THE right wing Economic League's blacklist of "subversives and troublemakers" yesterday earned £1,000 . . . for the Labour Party.

And it was MP Marjorie Mowlam who contributed the coin which saw the thousand pound barrier broken.

All week the Daily Mirror has been charging a pound for conference visitors to view the blacklist, which was leaked to our writer Paul Foot.

MP Marjorie was furious to find her name among the 22,000 on the list – used by bosses to snoop on prospective workers. She said: "This list is crass, stupid and vindictive."

Labour have vowed to outlaw such blacklists.

● Paul Foot – Page 9

ANGRY: MP Mowlam

THE

AS the applause for Robin Cook's speech died down, Health Secretary William Waldegrave was poised over his fax machine.

Within minutes a press release and a six-page ramble headlined 'The Speech that Robin Cook should have made' was doing the Brighton rounds.

The notion that Cook, Labour's concise, razor-sharp health spokesman needs help with his speeches from the incoherent, rambling Wally lacks a little credibility.

Waldegrave's twisted, distorted "speech" on Labour policy was in any

Home Office paper backs extension of criminal vetting

By John Pienaar
Political Correspondent

A DRASTIC overhaul of the criminal records system – with a massive expansion of "vetting" to cover groups from financial regulators to taxi drivers – has been recommended by an internal Whitehall inquiry.

Plans by senior civil servants envisage extending vetting beyond sensitive government posts, public contract workers and people working with children.

Other proposed areas of vetting include people working with "vulnerable groups" such as the elderly or handicapped and applicants for charitable status.

That would mean a substantial rise in vetting beyond the 1 million checks already carried out each year – a recently disclosed figure which astonished MPs on both sides of the Commons.

The declassified, but unpublished, report to Kenneth Baker, the Home Secretary, warns of serious inaccuracies in criminal records and the "dangerous" uncontrolled disclosure of confidential police records to employers.

The Home Office report was inserted into the Commons library files on Thursday night. It will be seized upon by MPs and civil liberties groups who have long expressed alarm at the state of police files used by courts, for vetting and in police investigations.

Pressure for reform has been reinforced by a report by the Tory-dominated Commons Home Affairs Select Committee. Their inquiry prompted the internal study, which cost nearly £50,000 and was completed in April.

The document urges action to reconstruct the "fragile and fragmented" system into a single, computerised system under legislative control and accountable to the Home Secretary.

Its central recommendation is the creation of a self-financing, independent National Criminal Records Agency. The body would replace the National Identification Bureau (NIB), operated by the Metropolitan Police, and the separate criminal records offices run by 29 of the 43 police forces in England and Wales.

Oversight of vetting by high-ranking officers was confused, and varied widely between areas. "We came across instances where it was a well established unofficial practice – and all the more dangerous for that – for more junior officers to read over extracts of intelligence files to trusted contacts in the relevant local authority departments," the report says.

New rights were urged for job applicants to see and verify their police records. That proposal, the report says, had the support of the Cabinet Office which was now working on the scheme.

The independent National Criminal Records Agency was held out as the means of controlling the content and use of police files. The scope of vetting, under the Home Office plan, would be decided by Parliament.

Alternative ideas, for a private sector agency and a departmental body, were rejected by the Home Office officials.

Full disclosure of criminal records would often be limited to relevent information. But for the most sensitive cases, all the facts including "spent" convictions would be given to avoid exposing appointees to attempts to blackmail them about their past.

"That which is concealed is a far more potent weapon of corrupt pressure than that which has been revealed to the employer," the report says. "Once revealed, it may not be a bar to employment at all."

The NIB holds 5¼ million files on microfiche. Nearly three million are duplicated by local forces, and others are held by the Customs and Excise department and the Inland Revenue.

Royal Commission to look at Scottish justice system

By Patricia Wynn Davies
Legal Correspondent

THE ROYAL Commission on Criminal Justice will study the Scottish and French legal systems, members announced after their first meeting yesterday. Setting a 15 November deadline for the submission of written evidence, the commission, which is to conduct the widest ever review of the criminal process, added that it was confident it would complete its work within two years.

Its chairman, Lord Runciman, said the commission would visit Scotland initially, and possibly one or more other jurisdictions, including France, later. "We want to inform ourselves about the system in Scotland, which is operating as far as one can see very well and look at the lessons which can be learned," he said.

Up to 60 questions are contemplated in a questionnaire to be sent to more than 100 organisations and individuals but the commission also wants views from any interested party or member of the public. "The commission is not able to intervene in individual cases, but will welcome any evidence based on such cases which may indicate a need for change," it said. A research programme will also be launched.

The commission, set up in the wake of the Birmingham Six affair, will review police investigation, the role of the prosecutor, forensic and other expert evidence, the place of the right to silence, a possible role for investigating magistrates, the duties and powers of the courts, the role of the Court of Appeal and the investigation of suspected miscarriages of justice once appeal procedures have been exhausted.

The Scottish judicial examination procedure will be of particular interest. The process allows the accused, within a day of arrest, to challenge allegedly unfair confessions and limits opportunities for police to fabricate statements. It is intertwined with the controversial issue of the suspect's right to silence; failure to answer questions at trial is not held against an accused unless he could have made his answers during the earlier examination.

Sir John May, a commission member, said public hearings in his inquiry in the Maguire and Guildford Four cases would reconvene in September. With the announcement of the commission in March, Sir John's remit was confined to the factual issues in the cases, but his findings on the wider matters of principle will be fed into the commission.

"I have obviously got to look at the handling by the Home Office of allegations of miscarriage of justice in one or other or both of these cases," he said. "I shall come to specific conclusions about how they were handled."

American Dream captures bikers

By Roger Tredre

CHELTENHAM racecourse became the focal point for Harley-Davidson enthusiasts from all over Europe yesterday. They rode into the Gloucestershire town from mid-morning on their gleaming Sportsters, Softails, Fat Boys and Electra Glides. The bikes were painted in classic Harley colours: black, candy ruby, wineberry pearl, and sapphire sun-glo.

But no two Harleys ever look quite the same, for Harley owners are the individualists of the motorcycle world, spending thousands of pounds on customising their bikes.

The first HOG (Harley Owners Group) European festival, which runs until Sunday, is expected to draw up to 10,000 visitors, including most of the 3,500 people who own a Harley in the UK. Harley sales have rocketed in recent years, showing 20 per cent growth in 1990.

'Willie G' Davidson, president of Harley-Davidson Inc, and his son, Bill, had flown in from Milwaukee, where the company began in 1903. They brought with them a 1992 prototype, a Dyna-Glide Daytona, 1340 cc and £10,000 of motorcycle magic.

Bill, who was dressed in regulation Harley wear – beard, moustache, long hair and leather jacket – has been riding Harleys since he was seven. He found it difficult to explain their appeal. "They feel good to ride" was his most imaginative offering.

To the outsider, the continuing popularity of Harley-Davidson motorcycles makes little sense. They are big, unwieldy, and technologically no match for their Japanese competitors.

Kevin Futter, 30, an agricultural engineer from Bedford, admitted: "You can only cruise at about 70 mph. Any more, and it gets blustery, because you have to sit up straight on the bike."

But he explained that speed and efficiency were not the key requirements for the Harley owner. "It's not just a bike, it's a way of life.".

The Harley-Davidson is the American Dream brought to life, 87 years of history and heritage writ large. The best-selling Harley T-shirt reads: "If I have to explain to you why I ride a Harley, you wouldn't understand."

The early arrivals at Cheltenham yesterday had travelled from France, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium.

Jean-Louis Lendormy, 48, president of a Harley-Davidon chapter in Argenteuil, near Paris, had brought eight friends with him. "I used to love Rolls-Royces and Porsches, but then I tried my first Harley," he said. "I haven't driven a car since: it's like being in an office, all closed up and claustrophobic."

They looked tough and mean in their leather jackets and badge-studded denim, but they queued without complaint for vegetarian chillis, and drank more milk than beer. These days, Harley owners buy stick-on tattoos that come off in the shower, and their definition of a good HOG festival is one with decent portaloos.

Tony Smith, 39, a postman from Watford, was riding a Sportster 883 Deluxe, with new 5-speed transmission. "Japanese bikes all look the same. The Harley is brough daugh had p racecou all wee

Jess Ladies women a Har before

A Harley-Davidson motorcycle enthusiast on his machine at the HOG festival

Children's group grant cut

VIRGINIA Bottomley, the health minister, was accused yesterday of "gross hypocrisy" over the plight of children in care when she awarded their lobby group only two-thirds of its 1989 grant.

The National Association of Young People in Care, which has helped to expose a string of recent scandals, was given a £40,000 grant yesterday, compared with £68,000 in 1989. The small grant means the association will have to scrap plans for five regional offices.

Mines ban doubt

BR fined £1/4m over Clapham train disaster

BRITISH RAIL was fined £250,000 at the Old Bailey yesterday, after admitting failures in safety measures at the time of the Clapham rail disaster in which 35 people died.

Mr Justice Wright said the British Railways Board allowed safety standards to fall below an acceptable level and that resulted in a situation of "quite horrifying danger" at Clapham Junction, where two trains collided after a loose wire in a control box led to a signal failure.

The court was told that a signal south of Clapham station which should have displayed a red "danger" signal was showing yellow. As a result, the 6.14am Poole to Waterloo train ran into the back of the stationary 7.18am Basingstoke to Waterloo train.

The judge said that the safe operation of the network required the highest possible standards of installation, repair and maintenance in the signalling system.

"The accident on December 12 1988 occurred because these de-

TUC booklet on women withdrawn

THE TUC has withdrawn a booklet on working women from trade union courses after the Department of Employment threatened to withdraw its £1.8m support for training. The department found it "tendentious", writes **Donald MacLeod.**

Stan Greaves, TUC assistant secretary for education, has asked for the return of copies of *Working Women*, which was developed at a cost of £200,000. It is an updated version of a booklet which has been in use for five years.

He wrote to regional training and education officers: "The Department of Employment has advised the TUC they are not pre-

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Legal Correspondent

THE ROYAL Commission on Criminal Justice will study the Scottish and French legal systems, members announced after their first meeting yesterday. Setting a 15 November deadline for the submission of written evidence, the commission, which is to conduct the widest ever review of the criminal process, added that it was confident it would complete its work within two years.

Its chairman, Lord Runciman, said the commission would visit Scotland initially, and possibly one or more other jurisdictions, including France, later. "We want to inform ourselves about the system in Scotland, which is operating as far as one can see very well and look at the lessons which can be learned," he said.

Up to 60 questions are contemplated in a questionnaire to be sent to more than 100 organisations and individuals but the commission also wants views from any interested party or member of the public. "The commission is not able to intervene in individual cases, but will welcome any evidence based on such cases which may indicate a need for change," it said. A research programme will also be launched.

The commission, set up in the wake of the Birmingham Six affair, will review police investigation, the role of the prosecutor, forensic and other expert evidence, the place of the right to silence, a possible role for investigating magistrates, the duties and powers of the courts, the role of the Court of Appeal and the investigation of suspected miscarriages of justice once appeal procedures have been exhausted.

The Scottish judicial examination procedure will be of particular interest. The process allows the accused, within a day of arrest, to challenge allegedly unfair confessions and limits opportunities for police to fabricate statements. It is intertwined with the controversial issue of the suspect's right to silence; failure to answer questions at trial is not held against an accused unless he could have made his answers during the earlier examination.

Sir John May, a commission member, said public hearings in his inquiry in the Maguire and Guildford Four cases would reconvene in September. With the announcement of the commission in March, Sir John's remit was confined to the factual issues in the cases, but his findings on the wider matters of principle will be fed into the commission.

"I have obviously got to look at the handling by the Home Office of allegations of miscarriage of justice in one or other or both of these cases," he said. "I shall come to specific conclusions about how they were handled."

A Harley-Davidson motorcycle enthusiast on his machine at the HOG festival in

ing most of the 3,500 people who own a Harley in the UK. Harley sales have rocketed in recent years, showing 20 per cent growth in 1990.

'Willie G' Davidson, president of Harley-Davidson Inc, and his son, Bill, had flown in from Milwaukee, where the company began in 1903. They brought with them a 1992 prototype, a Dyna-Glide Daytona, 1340 cc and £10,000 of motorcycle magic.

Bill, who was dressed in regulation Harley wear – beard, moustache, long hair and leather jacket – has been riding Harleys since he was seven. He found it difficult to explain their appeal. "They feel good to ride" was his most imaginative offering.

To the outsider, the continuing popularity of Harley-Davidson motorcycles makes little sense. They are big, unwieldy, and technologically no match for their Japanese competitors.

Kevin Futter, 30, an agricultural engineer from Bedford, admitted: "You can only cruise at about 70 mph. Any more, and it gets blustery, because you have to sit up straight on the bike."

But he explained that speed and efficiency were not the key requirements for the Harley owner. "It's not just a bike, it's a way of life.".

The Harley-Davidson is the American Dream brought to life, 87 years of history and heritage writ large. The best-selling Harley T-shirt reads: "If I have to explain to you why I ride a Harley, you wouldn't understand."

The early arrivals at Cheltenham yesterday had travelled from France, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium.

Jean-Louis Lendormy, 48, president of a Harley-Davidon chapter in Argenteuil, near Paris, had brought eight friends with him. "I used to love Rolls-Royces and Porsches, but then I tried my first Harley," he said. "I haven't driven a car since: it's like being in an office, all closed up and claustrophobic."

They looked tough and mean in their leather jackets and badge-studded denim, but they queued without complaint for vegetarian chillis, and drank more milk than beer. These days, Harley owners buy stick-on tattoos that come off in the shower, and their definition of a good HOG festival is one with decent portaloos.

Tony Smith, 39, a postman from Watford, was riding a Sportster 883 Deluxe, with new 5-speed transmission. "Japanese bikes all look the same. The Harley is a re brought h daughter, had pitch racecourse all weeken

Jessie, w Ladies of women rid a Harley b before you

Children's group grant cut

VIRGINIA Bottomley, the health minister, was accused yesterday of "gross hypocrisy" over the plight of children in care when she awarded their lobby group only two-thirds of its 1989 grant.

The National Association of Young People in Care, which has helped to expose a string of recent scandals, was given a £40,000 grant yesterday, compared with £68,000 in 1989. The small grant means the association will have to scrap plans for five regional offices.

Mines ban doubt

The future of an international agreement which would guarantee a ban on mining in Antarctica for 50 years has been thrown into doubt after the US circulated a new policy position through diplomatic channels, environmentalists said.

At a drafting session held in Madrid last week US diplomats said they wanted an amendment which would allow their government to withdraw from a mining ban after 50-years.

Powell bank job

Sir Charles Powell, former private secretary to the former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, has been appointed executive director of merchant bankers Matheson and Co. He has been on leave since his departure from Downing Street at Easter.

BR fined £1/4m over Clapham train disaster

BRITISH RAIL was fined £250,000 at the Old Bailey yesterday, after admitting failures in safety measures at the time of the Clapham rail disaster in which 35 people died.

Mr Justice Wright said the British Railways Board allowed safety standards to fall below an acceptable level and that resulted in a situation of "quite horrifying danger" at Clapham Junction, where two trains collided after a loose wire in a control box led to a signal failure.

But the judge said the charges did not involve any allegation of recklessness and BR's response to the disaster on 12 December 1988 was "entirely commendable".

BR will also have to pay prosecution costs of £55,000. A BR spokesman said later that the fine would be met either from fares or from government grants – its only sources of income.

Through counsel, Roger Henderson QC, the board admitted two charges under the 1975 Health and Safety at Work Act: failing to ensure the safety of employees – including the train driver, John Rolls, who died – by not providing an effective signalling system; and failing to ensure that passengers were not exposed to risk.

Hugh Carlisle QC, for the prosecution, criticised BR's "dangerous" safety structures at the time of the crash, and said that if measures introduced afterwards had been put into effect earlier the disaster would have been prevented.

The court was told that a signal south of Clapham station which should have displayed a red "danger" signal was showing yellow. As a result, the 6.14am Poole to Waterloo train ran into the back of the stationary 7.18am Basingstoke to Waterloo train.

The judge said that the safe operation of the network required the highest possible standards of installation, repair and maintenance in the signalling system.

"The accident on December 12 1988 occurred because these defendants allowed those standards to fall below any acceptable level." The result was a state of affairs in the railway cuttings between Earlsfield and Clapham Junction stations on that morning of "quite horrifying danger".

The judge added: "It so happened that only two passenger-carrying trains collided. But it was, in my judgment, no more than good fortune that the third train also involved happened to be empty."

A fourth train also crowded with commuters was only able to come to a halt just 60 yards behind the trains which crashed. He called the crash "one of the most grievous train disasters of recent years, certainly in this country".

The judge praised the BR board for accepting responsibility at the earliest possible opportunity. He said he had been impressed by its efforts to ensure that the same kind of failure did not happen again.

TUC booklet on women withdrawn

THE TUC has withdrawn a booklet on working women from trade union courses after the Department of Employment threatened to withdraw its £1.8m support for training. The department found it "tendentious", **writes Donald MacLeod.**

Stan Greaves, TUC assistant secretary for education, has asked for the return of copies of *Working Women*, which was developed at a cost of £200,000. It is an updated version of a booklet which has been in use for five years.

He wrote to regional training and education officers: "The Department of Employment has advised the TUC they are not prepared to provide grants to courses if a TUC publication, *Working Women*, is used with educational materials. It follows that we will not sanction the use of *Working Women* on grant-aided courses."

The TUC said yesterday that the department had not specified the passages in the booklet, launched at the Women's TUC in March, which they regarded as tendentious. The department was entitled to impose conditions on the material used on those courses, but the booklet would continue to be used in other ways.

Frances Migniuolo, the National Union of Teachers' officer for gender, said: "It is very hard to see what it is they find tendentious. What it does is summarise the ways in which women workers are disadvantaged."

The Department of Education said certain passages in the booklet, funded by public money, were not objective. The TUC had co-operated fully, it added.

Ticket agencies 'double theatre prices'

By David Lister, Arts Correspondent

HIGH STREET ticket agencies are charging £100 for a seat behind a pillar in the upper circle at a West End musical, the Society of West End Theatre complained yesterday. The price goes up even more if the buyer has an American accent.

But the society was rather more coy about its own members' practice of charging booking fees to people who book tickets by telephone directly with the theatre. This is now the case with a quarter of West End theatres.

Rupert Rhymes, chief executive of the society, said yesterday: "There are some incredible prices being charged, with sometimes more than a 100 per cent mark up price by high street ticket agencies. It's also the case that the agencies determine whether the buyer has an accent and is going to return home the next day and if so they will increase the price on the spot. These are not touts standing on the pavement but seemingly respectable agencies operating in theatreland."

He said that he had taken the matter up with the Government. He is asking that all ticket agencies be licensed and that agents be obliged to state what the face value of the ticket is.

The society was announcing the results of a survey of audiences undertaken by City University's department of arts policy. When asked how many West End theatres charged a booking fee to telephone callers, George Biggs, the society's chairman, said none.

But Mr Rhymes said the Stoll Moss group, which runs 12 theatres, charged booking fees of up to 12 per cent of the face value to telephone bookers. Mr Rhymes said this was because they ran a 24-hour service and there was now much greater efficiency in box offices.

The City University survey of more than 12,000 theatregoers found that their average age was 28, and that a word-of-mouth recommendation from a friend was the biggest single influence when deciding on a theatre visit.

The report said that *The Independent* had become the most important daily paper for theatregoers, overtaking *The Times*, which topped the list in the last survey in 1986.

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ECCENTRIC LEAGUE

It is estimated that the Economic League has around 250,000 names on its blacklists and over 2,000 companies subscribing to its vetting services. The League is an organisation 70 years old yet survives intact and unchallenged. Over recent months there have been a number of investigations into this organisation, one of these being *Against Democracy*, published by the 1 in 12 Collective in Bradford.

Against Democracy is no doubt possibly the best investigation into the EL yet, producing a wealth of leaked information. Its extensive appendices include exhaustive names and addresses of League officials and offices as well as a comprehensive list of League subscribers and donations.

The booklet examines the blacklisting business from a number of angles. The section on training and propaganda illustrates the importance the League placed on indoctrinating the workforce at shopfloor level as well as higher grades. A number of well known right-wing trade union leaders are shown to have gone through this indoctrination process. These days the League is looking for new markets and is going through a process of reorganisation. For that reason it has less resources to devote to its non-blacklisting services.

'FREE MARKET'

Interestingly, the League was originally set up to combat syndicalism and the 'communist threat'. It was linked to strike-breaking organisations. Unofficially the League was a section of Special Branch, a policing department that arose out of anarchist and Irish 'terrorism'. The League's early philosophy was closer to that of the Italian fascists but is free market these days.

But would the league stand any competition themselves? An anti-League conference held in Leeds recently, to which a region of the DAM sent a delegate, was asked to consider this very question. No one committed to a more progressive society can stand by and let these McCarthyites carry on with their insidious work. Yet the official trade union movement has done nothing to stop them. This is hardly surprising in that the official unions have themselves been involved in the blacklisting business for years — and there is much evidence to prove this.

The only reason the League survives is because we have allowed it to. There are ways to stop it. Ceasing to treat it as a sideline is the first step.

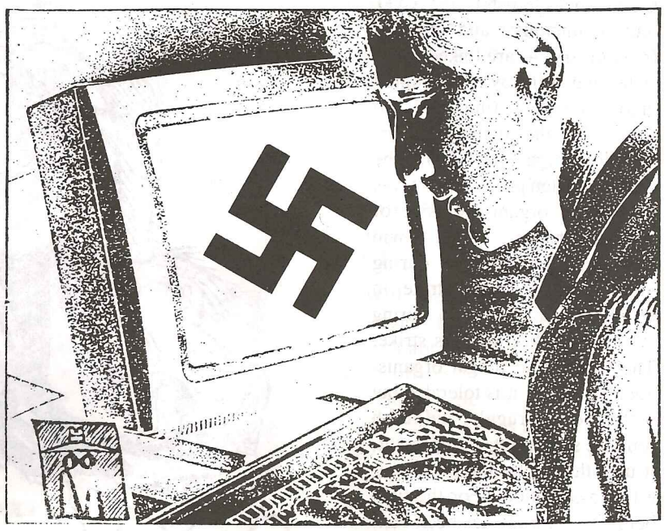
Investigating the people behind the League and the companies supporting it is an important element of the overall strategy to combat the League — and *Against Democracy* and similar investigations should be seen in this light. While our own intelligence on the League needs to improve, it is interesting that the League's understanding of the DAM is way out: we are confused with the ALF. The League is famous for its errors but not as defendant in libel cases. Get a copy of *Against Democracy* and then do something about it.

Against Democracy: £3.99 from 1 in 12 Publications, 21-23 Albion Street, Bradford BD1 2LY.

TH

FLOPPY FASCISTS

German fascists, in an attempt to recruit more young people into their ranks, have launched a series of approximately 70 fascist computer games. One such game is *Aryan Test* where the player has to input their place of birth, surname, etc., to determine whether they are 'an Aryan' or a 'wretched Jew'. Accordingly, an 'appropriate' message also appears, such as '...we need men like you to restore Germany's good reputation which has been spoilt by Jewish parasites.', or '...Caught! 100 per cent Jew once more — you will be gassed because every Jew is entitled to the death he deserves'. Other 'games' include *Clean Up Germany* which involves killing homosexuals, beggars and ecologists, and *Stalag 1* where the player runs a concentration camp.



The newly-launched *DA* software house *Operation Cleanup* is proud to announce its new range of computer games to put the nazis out of business. Titles include, amongst many others, *Remembrance Day, Fight The Fascist,* and *Swastika Slaughter.* For a hefty donation to the *DA* coffers, we'll gladly come round and show you how to play them...

Just recently a number of DAM groups (and possibly others) received a copy of *National Front News.* This was done without our knowledge or consent and is obviously something we can't stop, short of having no contact addresses.

Although it is extremely tiring and, as some would say, boring and unnecessary, let us make our position and attitudes towards these people clear one last time. If only for some of the morons involved with the professional (sic) elements of anti-racism/fascism who have over the past few years made many slanderous allegations against anarchists, DAM among them.

Our *only* interest in Fascism is in destroying it completely. We will not tow *any* party or personality line to prove our point. We don't particularly care if the NF and all other right-wing groups have split into more factions than the left has, or found more 'ways' than the Karma Sutra, we will *always* see them and treat them for what they really are — fascists.

As such, we have nothing in common with them and their absurd notions of race, and never will do. After all it has been the fascists/military who have been responsible for smashing mass *working class* anarchist movements. We hate them: always have done and always will do.

The war against fascism will continue as long as the class war does, for the ruling class will always fall back on it to save itself. Here and now, within our own limited means alongside other committed anti-fascists, we will continue to confront the bastards whenever they appear.

LETTERS

Dear DA,

Can I just point out that it is sexist to write 'Many of the dead are women and children', as you do in your article Rabbid *on page two of your November issue. Each time I read a sentence like that I feel I must be one of a sex which must be protected by the men as I am unable to take part in the fighting myself, being as helpless and innocent as a child. Of course this is often the case about women by force of society, but there is no need to perpetrate this image of women in an anti-sexist paper.*

Yours in solidarity,

JP

Dear DA,

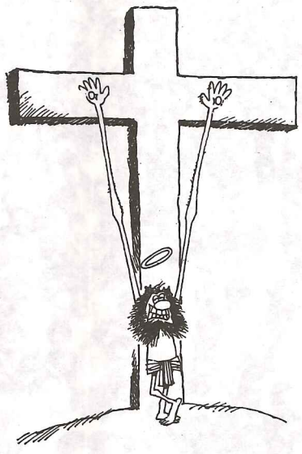
Please cancel my subscription and send no further copies.

The anti-Christian cartoon in your last issue, DA 53, *was in my opinion offensive, and contemptuous towards any of your readers who may have views about Christian faith and teachings that differ from yours, and also that Christ was good and your ridicule unjust.*

Yours,

PGC

If there are any readers out there who *don't* believe in 2,000 year old fairy tales about bearded old hippies who could turn water into wine, feed 5,000 people with a couple of granary loaves and a handful of sprats, walk on water (Frank Bruno does it better), and who could somehow



come back to life after being dead for three days, part two of *Thank God For Religion!* can be found on the back page.

INSANITY SAM

NUS leader Sam McCluskie has come up with yet another superb idea to help the striking seafarers turn the tide against the P&O management. After grovelling to travel agents all over the country asking them not to sell P&O holidays and cruises, good old Sam hit upon the brilliant idea of using religion in the battle against P&O. He approached Dr. Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, asking him to have a quiet word in Jeffrey Stirling's (P&O chairman) ear — presumably to threaten him with the wrath of god if he didn't accede to the strikers' demands. Needless to say, Stirling was not at all swayed by what Runcie said to him.

We wonder what McCluskie will try next? A national lottery to raise money for strike pay (the NUS aren't giving any on a regular basis at the moment)? It would appear that he'll try anything now to end the strike. If he hadn't pulled the plug on the ports that came out in support of the Dover strikers earlier this year after their initial strike action, the situation would probably have been different now,

SAM McCLUSKIE

with P&O giving in to the demands of the seafarers. As it is, the strike at Dover is still going strong, and only solidarity action can help them to win, not 'divine intervention' as Sam McCluskie seems to think.

Economic with facts?

The Economic League, the infamous 70-year-old right-wing, blacklisting organisation, was given a rough ride by the House of Commons Select Committee on Employment last week. NED WELCH was there.

The committee, which is investigating 'recruitment and selection' issues, was interested in the League's 'labour vetting' service. Even some Conservative members showed their impatience with the League's evasive replies to questions.

Giving evidence for the League, both Stan Hardy (Director General) and Jack Winder (Director of Information and Research) tried to convince the committee that they didn't run a blacklist, that the public had access to information held on them, and they could always sue the League if the information wasn't correct.

It took a considerable amount of careful questioning by Greville Janner, MP, before it was established that the League holds cards on 10,000 individuals in a 'rotadex', and separate information on a large number of MPs. This after Hardy and Winder had tried to convince the committee that the League did not hold 'files' on people.

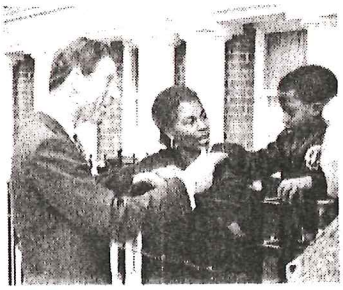
The League has agreed to release copies of its files on all the members of the committee, together with lists of subscribers, names of other blacklisting organisations, and the names of any people who have been informed that they were refused jobs because of a bad reference from the League. But if the League was telling the truth about the numbers of people on its lists, then it has very recently ditched 40,000 files – *CL* has been examining a five year-old list of 6,000 'subversives' from its north-west region alone. This examination suggests that the key feature of the League's submission to the committee – that there was no problem with the accuracy of its records – was rather wide of the mark.

The League also admitted that its income has fallen by 20 per cent over the last year to about £750,000. This perhaps explains why, last month, it moved its London HQ from the beautifully appointed Dean Wace House, at 7 Wine Office Court, to a suite of four unmarked rooms in Temple Chambers, Temple Avenue. Those of us on the League's rotadex are still awaiting their change of address card – along with details of what they are saying about us . . .

Body language

HRH Prince Charles can fend off the bailiffs this week – he's been awarded £50 by Anita Roddick's Body Shop, at this year's Social Inventions Competition Awards. HRH, it transpires, lucked out in the 'Best Architectural Social Invention Award' category, in recognition of the ten design principles he devised for his book 'Vision of Britain'. The Palace gave *CL* a hint about how he might spend it all. 'The Prince will not be accepting this personally; he's down at Windsor all week, and is going to Ascot most days,' said a spokesperson.

But Nicholas Saunders, one of the competition judges, was surprised by *CL*'s query as to why Prince Charles had been chosen. 'We're not so



bigoted – we're influenced by the ideas, not by who they are,' he huffed. 'We don't exclude someone because of their race, religion, or royalty. It wasn't him that was chosen; the idea he suggested fits in with the principles of the Institute, improving the environment and keeping things on a human scale.' So there.

QUENTIN McDERMOTT

Measly Nicaragua health crisis

A measles epidemic is sweeping across many parts of Nicaragua. More than 1,300 cases have so far been reported in region IV in the south of the country, with about 60 deaths, 42 of them children under the age of four.

The epidemic wasn't unexpected. Dr Marian Navarro, director of child and maternal health in region IV, said: 'Measles in Nicaragua works on a 4-5 year cycle and we were expecting a flare-up this year.

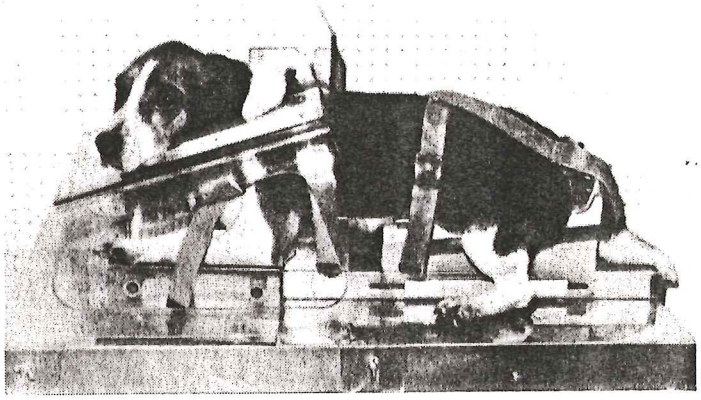
'We have had an emergency plan worked out since January, but the UNO-led government will not release the money to implement it. The hospitals cannot afford to buy the drugs they need, although there are plenty in stock at the Ministry of Health, and we've seen nothing of the drugs donated by the US.'

'Health services are now at a crisis point,' said Nicaragua Health Fund programmes director Sarah Jackson. 'Government ministries are functioning either without budgets, or are on budgets set before the recent devaluation of the currency. The result is that almost everywhere the health service is running out of cash.'

The Nicaragua Health Fund has made an emergency grant of £5,000 to enable health workers to carry out preventive work, but much more will be needed. Donations can be sent to the Nicaragua Health Fund, 83 Margaret Street, London W1N 7HB.

FRANK CHALMERS

NEWS INTERNATIONAL



NIGEL FOUNTAIN wonders what ALF is all about

Some journalists rely on taxi drivers to tune with the collective consciousness. I settled for a Radio 4 phone-in. There was an excuse of sorts, I was banging down the M1.

The subject was animal rights and vivisection. That it was being discussed at all was further evidence that terrorism works. It was the aftermath of the Animal Liberation Front's Bristol bomb which left a baby badly injured.

Animal campaigners have plenty of scope. Who wants to eat beef – irrespective of BSE – when the egregious Gummer is telling us we should? What kind of crazed world do we live in where herbivorous animals are being fed meat? Religious dietary laws didn't just stem from some celestial London Food Commission.

And there are all these damn rain forests, chopped down so some cow can have a brief bite on poky pastures before being hamburgerised. It is, as vegetarians explain, a singularly inefficient way of getting protein inside human beings.

The traumas go on. Pipe-smoking beagles, dissected mice, electroded cats.

Outrage at such activities were rife on the programme – prefaced, it should be said, by observations that blowing up babies is wrong. But there was another strong current too. One chap said that if human beings wanted to test new drugs, they should be tried on the patients, rather than animals. Someone else said that most cancer was environmental, so who needed experiments?

The anti-vivisectionist was convincing. The scientist, clearly worried he was on a hiding to nothing, tended to mumble.

I was nonetheless surprised. I did expect some people to ring in, celebrate the joys of carnivorous life-styles, and put forward arguments in favour of animal experimentation.

Still in transit later in the week, I heard a woman explain that it was scientists' fault anyway. Suffering is part of humanity's lot. By this stage I was perilously close to ramming a truck.

A fog of sentimentality conceals more disturbing opinions. A prime producer of the 'Oh, look at that poor baby seal' syndrome is the tabloid press. Passive, suffering animals trigger tears even more effectively than 'The Sound of Music'. A media industry dedicated to persuading people of their powerlessness can get its rocks off with the supposedly apolitical issue of our furry co-inhabitants on this planet.

But nothing is apolitical, as recent events demonstrate. For the Tory shires, a Green vote can combine disgruntlement with our Prime Minister, anger at the profusion of black plastic bags, fear that the ozone layer hole may be above their Surrey home and grief that animals are being sliced open in some laboratory.

The rest of us too can pick and choose. For the Mad Max clones roaming London, and created by this Government, I note that dogs are becoming *de rigeur*. Slightly downcast creatures, they assume their owners' stance as outsiders from a System That Doesn't Understand. For some socialists a few platitudes about greenery do wonders in landscaping a denuded political landscape.

For the probably tiny group of activists within the ALF meanwhile has come a time of success. ALF has already proved itself a more effective organisation than the Angry Brigade of the early 1970s, albeit with an even number ideology. The Angries at least hoped to trigger a workers' rising. An attack on the corporate state via animal researchers will stir neither the proletariat nor the animal kingdom.

But it does raise again all the old issues about such tactics. They are self-defined, secretive and anti-democratic. As such they fit into one strand of anarchism, but veer elsewhere too.

Yet, as the phone-in demonstrated, ALF strikes a chord, several in fact, some of which have nothing to do with the left. When people talk of human experimentation and the inevitability of suffering, of the iniquities of science *per se*, and substitute sentimentality for reason, we are back in the world of original sin, the home of chosen elects. It's an unpleasant place. From it emanates the discreet whiff of fascism.

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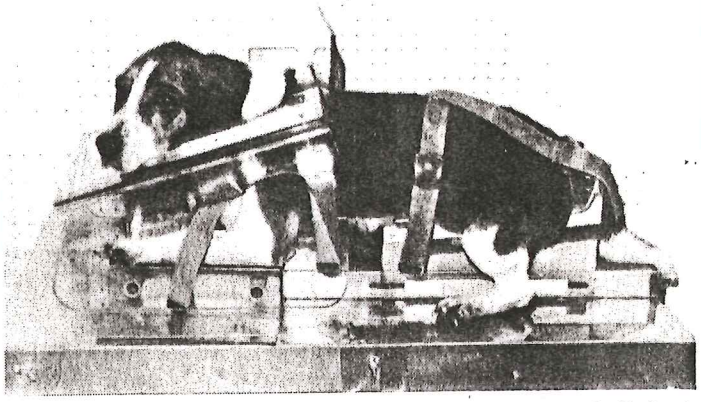
NEWS INTERNATIONAL



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Economic with facts?

The Economic League, the infamous 70-year-old right-wing, blacklisting organisation, was given a rough ride by the House of Commons Select Committee on Employment last week. NED WELCH was there.

The committee, which is investigating 'recruitment and selection' issues, was interested in the League's 'labour vetting' service. Even some Conservative members showed their impatience with the League's evasive replies to questions.

Giving evidence for the League, both Stan Hardy (Director General) and Jack Winder (Director of Information and Research) tried to convince the committee that they didn't run a blacklist, that the public had access to information held on them, and they could always sue the League if the information wasn't correct.

It took a considerable amount of careful questioning by Greville Janner, MP, before it was established that the League holds cards on 10,000 individuals in a 'rotadex', and separate information on a large number of MPs. This after Hardy and Winder had tried to convince the committee that the League did not hold 'files' on people.

The League has agreed to release copies of its files on all the members of the committee, together with lists of subscribers, names of other blacklisting organisations, and the names of any people who have been informed that they were refused jobs because of a bad reference from the League. But if the League was telling the truth about the numbers of people on its lists, then it has very recently ditched 40,000 files – *CL* has been examining a five year-old list of 6,000 'subversives' from its north-west region alone. This examination suggests that the key feature of the League's submission to the committee – that there was no problem with the accuracy of its records – was rather wide of the mark.

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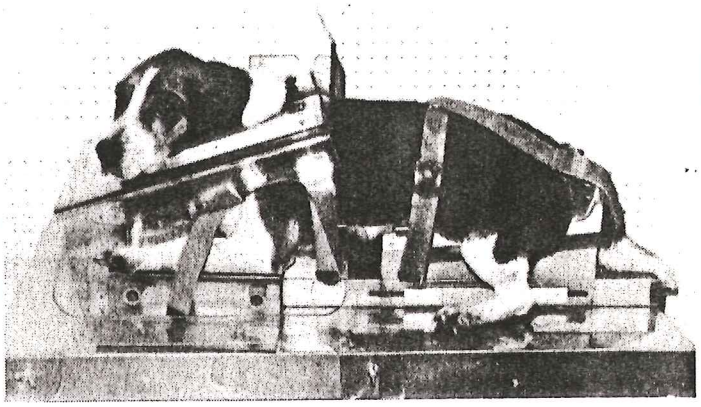

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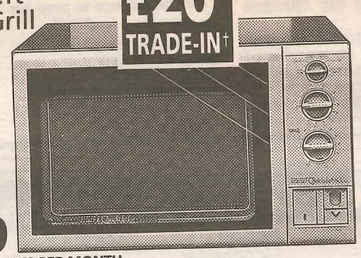

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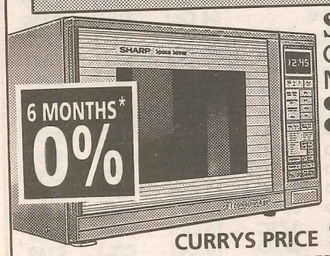

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- Touch controls for easy programming

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PAUL ON

DAILY Mirror readers everywhere have been outraged by our revelations on the Economic League's 22,000-name blacklist.

In the twelve years I've been writing this page, I've never known so many respond so angrily.

Callers – about one a minute – wanted to know if they or their friends are on the blacklist.

I am very happy to look you up, but I am not going to do the Economic League's dirty work for it, or assist some sneaky boss snooping into the politics of his workers.

So I need a letter or a postcard with a home address and, if possible, a home phone number.

Now for the good news. The Economic League is on the run.

On **MONDAY**, it [illegible] called our "totally unfounded allegations."

On **TUESDAY**, it was backtracking.

On **WEDNESDAY**, it effectively admitted that our list had been used in its offices.

All week, there has been the splashing sound of rats deserting the sinking ship.

Additional reporting by **BRYAN ROSTRON**

BASHFUL BACKERS

The League told the House of Commons last year it had 700 company subscribers.

Past subscribers included Allied Lyons, AMEC Construction, Associated Fisheries, Babcock Power Engineering, Balfour Beatty, Baring Brothers, Bass, BAT Industries, Beechams, BICC, Bovis, British Aluminium, Bowater, Burtons, Cazenoves, BUPA, Distillers, Dunlops, Fitch Lovell, Hawker Siddeley, Jones Lang Wootton, John Laing, MacAlpines, Metal Box, Nestle, Racal, Rover, Tarmac, Taylor Woodrow, Trafalgar House, and Whitbreads.

These firms are dropping out like flies. So have Barclays and NatWest banks, ICI, Costain, Wimpeys, British Telecom, and Fords, which cancelled its £25,000 a year subscription last year.

Today it is very difficult to find a single company which admits to paying the League.

[illegible] ers Confederation – once the central pillar of the League's financial support – says: "We have not had any contact with them for two to three years."

National Power whose predecessor the CEGB regularly gave money to the League, say: "We're please to report we don't have any connection at all."

In 1988, the League made a £160,202 loss – for the first time in its history.

The League is constantly boasting about its "wide range of services" including, conferences, seminars, training, and analyses.

In 1988, however, it spent £14,780 on these services, compared with £53,183 on "travel, petrol, hotels, entertainment."

VANISHING COUNCIL

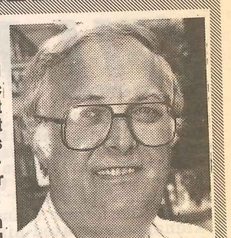
The Mirror has a secret list of the League's Central Council members for 1989. They are mainly building firm

WHAT YOU GET FOR £10

IN 1987, print union official JOHN GELEIT was surprised to read in an Economic League pamphlet that he was a prominent member of the TUC's "communist-infiltrated" Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

He left the CP seven years previously and then he joined Labour. He wrote to the Economic League asking if he was on its blacklist.

The League asked for £10 and further details of his career, which he duly sent off.



JOHN GELEIT
So surprised

The League then assured him he wasn't on the list. But he is.

FOOT reporting

THE RUN

Top firms rushing to quit League of shame

EXCLUSIVE BY PAUL FOOT

BIG BROTHER'S BLACKLIST

22,000 names are on top secret 'Don't employ' file

VICTIMS OF NIGHTMARE

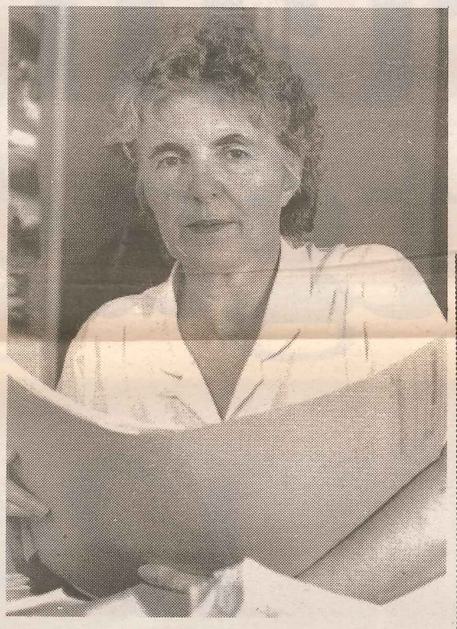
The boys from the BLACKLIST

BIG BROTHER'S BLACKLIST

Builders branded

A SON'S SHOCK

THE Glasgow Labour MP Maria Fyfe was not surprised to be blacklisted, but she was shocked to see her son Stephen (left) on the black list as a "militant." He often speaks out publicly against Militant.



directors and medium-sized employers.

Today, very few admit to being members of the League's council. Mr Ian Hughes, director of the engineering employers of Yorkshire and Humberside, and Mr Charles Topham Brinton, chairman of a Kidderminster carpet firm, say they still go to council meetings.

More typical was Mr Ron Rowles, a former personel director at British Leyland's Longbridge factory, who said: "I left the council two years ago because of the League's inefficiency."

SHRINKING FILE

On Monday the League's director general Stan Hardy promised we could pick six cards from his index and study all the information held by the League on the six names.

When Bryan Rostron visited the League's drab offices in Alcester Road, Birmingham the following day, Mr Hardy at once broke his promise, pleading legal advice that this would be a "breach of confidentiality."

The index of names, held on two Rotadex stands, is pitifully small. Whole panels are empty or nearly empty.

Almost all the names from regions outside London, and all the names marked K are no longer there.

The League says there are 2,000 names on the index. In his evidence to the House of Commons last year, Mr Hardy boasted he had "approximately 10,000" names.

A previous director general in 1989 publicly estimated 30,000. Our list, which we know was used in Economic League offices in South London, has 22,000.

What happened to all the missing names?

Bryan Rostron asked if the real blacklist had been taken away for safe keeping in "someone's mother-in-law's house."

Mr Hardy replied: "I resent the implication."

FIGHTING THE FARCE

Maria Fyfe, Labour MP for Maryhill, Glasgow, was not surprised to find herself on the blacklist.

She has campaigned against blacklisting for years.

But she was surprised to see the name of her son Stephen, who is listed as "militant." Stephen is a member of the Labour Party, who frequently and publicly speaks out against Militant.

Maria Fyfe says: "The whole list is a farce. It reads like my Christmas card list. I knew this organisation was rotten, but I had no idea it was as rotten as this.

"The Mirror has done everyone in the Labour movement a great service by exposing this list. It is high time such activities were outlawed.

"I have written this week to the Employment Secretary to demand new laws to ensure that no such secret blacklist can ever be compiled again."

THE OTHER KGB . .

EXPOSED: How the Mirror revealed the League's list

"YOU say they have a K-list. They should be known as K – Great Britain, or KGB."

TONY BENN, MP, who is on the list beneath his wife Caroline (who is probably there because she wrote a book with a member of the Communist Party 21 years ago).

TONY BENN: Listed

THE LISTER LISTED

ROGER ROSEWELL is an occasional leader-writer for the *Daily Mail* and a business consultant to prominent Right-wingers all over the country including Lady Porter, former leader of Westminster Council.

As part of his work for his clients, Mr Rosewell has often used the "services" of the Economic League blacklist.

He has denounced many revolutionary whose name is on the blacklist: himself.

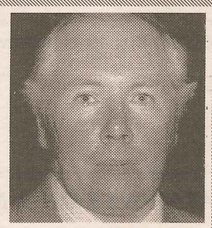
ROGER ROSEWELL
List puzzler

THE CHUNNEL CONNECTION

IN 1989, DAVID KNIGHT-DEWELL left the Economic League, where he was Head Collator of Information, to be senior industrial relations officer for TML, the Channel Tunnel Consortium.

There were protest meetings about the company's recruitment policy. Arthur McKevitt, for instance, was invited to travel from Ireland where he lived to take up a job with TML.

He got to the TML offices and was told he wasn't wanted. TML denied any link with the Economic League. Then admitted it. (Arthur McKevitt is on the blacklist.)


ARTHUR McKEVITT
In and out of work

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Please allow 28 days for delivery.

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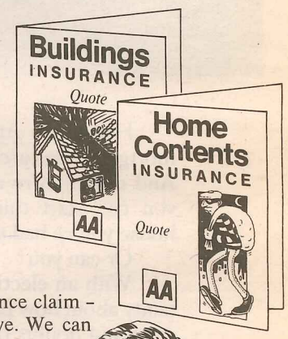

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My darling neighbour, Wurz

EDNESDAY night was Cris- and Georgina's first Motor- d concert. "I felt my hair n't quite the thing," said orgina, the morning after wit- ing the greasiest bad boys in punish the ear-drums of ral thousand denim-and- er-clad worshippers. "And rather relieved that we had equipped with ear-plugs." orgina and Crispin's taste evening out is more RSC AC/DC, they prefer an alian chardonnay to a pint Snakebite", and their din- arty conversation rarely es on the local availability ntrolled substances.

t here they were, witness- e performance of a band appear to be seriously . Take Wurzel, Motor- s guitarist. A man with a n of hair and an inability p his tongue in his mouth g a guitar solo, Wurzel old an interviewer Motor- were so revolting that if moved in next door to you, awn would die.

ced, the lawn next door to el's place in an elegant London terrace has long disappeared under crazy . We know this, because it gs to Crispin and Geor- They are Wurzel's neigh- That's why they were at otorhead concert.

ndful of the case of the rley family, who were bar- d in their home when the or chapter of the Hell's s held axe fights, partied ght and exposed them- in the garden of the semi loor, it might seem that el's warning to his neigh- is apposite.

orgina, however, calls el "a darling neighbour"; describes Georgina as ady Di of L . . . . Street". Crispin and Georgina were burgled, Wurz (she calls him Wurz) popped a card through the door. "So sorry to hear of the burglary," it read. "I really hope it doesn't mean you'll move away. Love Wurz. PS: If you find out who done it, we'll send the boys round and kneecap them."

"He puts food out for the birds in winter," says Georgina. "The only sound we ever hear is some light classical music drifting through an open window in the summer."

Wurzel's public relations campaign, the notion that his band are so unspeakable you wouldn't want to be their neighbours, may be a sham, but it works brilliantly because it touches on a truth of modern urban life: living on top of one another, we are all terrified by the thought of dodgy neighbours, of the uncontrollable disruption

JIM WHITE

they can bring to the most ordered lives.

Even the most dissolute can be exercised by the sound of neighbourly music, for instance. Howard Marks, the international drug-runner now imprisoned in America, claimed that when he lived in west London in the early Seventies, he once went next door to complain about the noise of an electric organ. He changed his tune significantly when the door was opened by Steve Winwood.

As Marks has discovered in his prison cell, the problem is that we have no control over selecting our neighbours. Anyone can move in next door at any time. And if we move away to avoid them, there is no guarantee that we are not buying into a nightmare.

When it comes to selling property, as in war, the first casualty is truth. While a surveyor's report can demolish most excesses of estate agent rubric, there is not much you can do if the vendor says the neighbours are fine.

Nobody desperate to sell will reveal that the flat below is occupied by a trust-fund junkie who holds pay-as-you-enter acid-house parties all night. Or that the basement flat has 29 half-starved alsatians locked in the kitchen. Or that the bloke next door beats his wife every Saturday night and then assuages his guilt by playing Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* at full volume.

It is no good thinking that simply going up-market will guarantee a better class of neighbour. As Wurzel proves, you should never judge the person next door by their haircut.

A friend of mine once moved into a large Victorian semi adjoining the palatial residence of a middle-aged woman, who had an expensive coiffure, an impeccable upper-crust accent, and a demeanour to match.

"You will find your new neighbour a bit odd," the vendors said when she bought the house. "It is best to ignore her."

Twelve years later, after a systematic campaign that can only be described as mental torture, my friend finally admitted defeat and moved.

"It was random," explained Anne (name changed to protect the innocent). "When she was irritated with me, she would rattle teacups in the room abutting my bedroom at 4am and say: 'It's a lovely morning dear, here's your tea.' She would then put the radio on very loud for at least an hour. This would go on every morning for months. It was terribly hard to do anything about it."

Jean (name changed to protect the guilty) would post 10-page letters, typed in capitals, through her neighbour's letterbox. If Anne's 15-year-old daughter kissed her boyfriend good night on the doorstep, a letter would come through the door next day beginning: "I see the girl is going the same sluttish way as her mother."

Jean tried to electrocute Anne's children's rabbits; when the children remonstrated, she tried to electrocute them. She used to ring up in false voices, send the police round (over the years they learnt not to bother turning out), and spy night and day through her net curtains. She once heaved a brick through the stained glass in Anne's front door, and took her to court over a bizarre neighbourhood dispute. Anne tried most things, from restraining orders to threats of physical violence, but the campaign did not stop.

"You try to get on with your own life," said Anne. "But however much you attempt to ignore it, it becomes intolerably disturbing to be the object of such intense malevolence."

When she sold up, Anne is rather ashamed to admit, she didn't warn the new owners — she was so keen to move away and find a house next door to a nice heavy metal guitarist.

Positiv thanks

W

DO

IN MONDAY'S *Daily graph*, Auberon Waugh c pared, general practioners favourably with vets, poi out that the latter not only ble as surgeons but can cur ery known illness on the s Referring to the grotesque pense of private medicine to the near breakdown o NHS, Mr Waugh suggeste sanest course for the ordi citizen must be to seek t ment from his local vet.

I've been doing this fo years — more accura would have been doing it had felt poorly. On Tues however, I did consult a ch Sloane Street who looks the Queen's corgis. Be that, the nearest I'd com seeing a vet was last sp when I and Mark Chapma the gifted director of my te sion series *Henry Root in rope* — were about to reco thing in France. Pitching his office one morning, I fo him with a map of Europe in one hand and the Michelin guide in the other, striking whole countries out of the series cause their cuisine wasn't u scratch.

Aware suddenly of all disgusting meals I'd be obl to eat over the next few w I suffered a dangerous buil of wind in the lower co causing me to inflate inst like a rubber dinghy. I d feel ill enough to consul pussy cats' vets, but I did up my nephew Tom, who once been a student at Royal Agricultural Colleg Cirencester.

"Do cows get wind?" I s

"They certainly do," Tom. "They blow up like rage balloons and fall on backs with their legs in the

That sounded pretty m what was happening to me thanks to some pills prescr by Tom, I was soon back o feet and able to participa the European recce. Since I've been as spry as a two-y old, but in May we're o shoot the thing at last George Cole as Henry R and last week I was tol Chapman's office that I show up in Harley stree Wednesday for a me examination. An insur company, it seemed, shortly to take the odds ag my kicking the bucket be late November at the soon

This was a shock. To b the safe side, I should first vet, I thought, persuading to give me some pills to my nerves. If I turned Harley Street as tranquil as a safari park hippo abo have its appendix out, the deal would be less unpleas

The problem was: which I couldn't go with my pussy to theirs since they disgr themselves years ago at time of their vaccinations.

LETTERS

vernment handling of Middle East detainees

Mr Ivan Lawrence, MP

day's article by Nick Cohen more detainees released eal") about the Iraqi de- is selective with the facts erefore misleading. Since n Hussein invaded Kuwait reatened the world with ter- 176 of around 10,000 Iraqis lestinians, mostly students, en considered to represent t and have been issued with s of Intention to Deport. than 80 have left without g to challenge the decision, ly in 14 cases have the no- en withdrawn.

Government has no desire in anyone, and if they are ccessful in their appeal to ee wise men, they are free e the country. Those who fore this independent tribu- detained rather than being ched to where they say they go: the war will probably be before anyone is actually to leave. It may be true that ountries do not have deten- r those who consider them- o be at risk – they just de- em!

re is the minimum of arbi- ss in processing even those re considered to be urgent threatening national secu- irst, they are served with a of Intention so that they chance to appeal to the Then, those who fail the test can appeal in adequate time to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal about their destination.

It would have been interesting had your reporter told us which of the government departments had criticised the Home Office for detaining without the right to legal representation or revealing their evidence, for it is difficult to think of any responsible civil servant who would consider it right to expose the provider of intelligence to identification and possibly death.

The Home Secretary's first responsibility is to protect all in this country from the slaughter and carnage of indiscriminate terrorism. He would be rightly criticised if he ignored security advice. Inevitably, he has to make hard decisions in accordance with the special powers given to him by Parliament. Whatever else the process shows, the release of 14 of those suspected is proof that the system is anything but capricious, and Kenneth Baker's handling of the problem has so far been beyond reproach.

Yours etc,
IVAN LAWRENCE
MP for Burton (Con)
House of Commons
London, SW1
21 February

The writer is Chairman of the Conservative Backbench Home Affairs and Legal Committees

From Mr Mohammed Basri

Sir: Thank you for publishing my letter (13 February) under the title "Detention without explanation". The rest of us who are still in detention thought that we have been forgotten because of the low-profile publicity we have had.

However, I am very glad to see and read your comments and leading article ("MI5 blamed for errors in round-up" and "Alien to British justice") of 13 February.

Ironically, this has restored my faith and made me believe, as I reassured everybody here, that there are still good people around with eagle eyes, who watch over and make it their concern to protect democracy, human rights and see justice is done.

My brother and I will have a hearing before the Home Office's national security panel next week. I hope we will be given fair chance to prove our innocence.

My faith in British justice is still holding up and, with the help of the free British media, I hope we will be set free soon.

Yours,
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HM Prison
Wormwood Scrubs
London, W12
14 February

The writer has asked us to use a pseudonym for fear of reprisals against his family in Iraq.

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I feel sad that beautiful places I want to see will all be destroyed.

When the news comes on I put my hands over my ears. It's not nice the way the men on TV talk about the war. They are sort of jolly and excited – why are they like that? Also I worry about the animals.

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The war is really great. I want to be a soldier when I am big.

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18 February

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From Professor P. M. W. Thody

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The real problem is why critics took so long to realise how dangerous and confused the moral system is in *l'Etranger*. In 1957, Camus was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in recognition of a body of work which demonstrated, among other qualities, "authentic moral commitment". Several books and innumerable articles were published about him, in English as well as French, but it was not until 1970, 27 years after *l'Etranger* was published, that Conor Cruise O'Brien's study of him analysed just how fully racialist a text it was.

Why did the academic and literary establishment fail to spot something which, as Doraine Potts so convincingly shows, was staring us all in the face?

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P. M. W. THODY
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22 February

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It would also be wrong to waste too much sympathy on Marie, "his rather sweet girlfriend", who implicitly acquiesces in society's verdict on Meursault. Witness her shame as she confesses to the court that they spent the day after the funeral on a romantic idyll. Meursault's judgement, made without a hint of self-pity, that tomorrow she will find herself another Meursault, is surely correct.

The questions posed by Camus in *l'Etranger* remain relevant, and today's sophisticated young would be well advised to get hold of a copy and not be put off by Ms Potts's irrelevant criticisms.

Yours faithfully,
DOMINIQUE BALDY
London, N7
22 February

ound solution

Mr Nicholas Long

llowing a recommendation Fennel Report into the Cross fire, London Under- has installed, no doubt at cost, loudspeaker systems are supposed to work hout tube stations. From perience of trying to glean ation from announcements these systems are useless,

Controls on vetting

From Mr Jack Winder

Sir: With reference to your article "MPs want curbs on activities of vetting agencies" (21 February), your readers should be aware that the Economic League's director general, in his statement to the House of Commons Employment Committee last June, said:

The league believes that all organisa-

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Sir: The replica silver wine cistern which you report Messrs William Comyns to have made may well be, at 82kg, "the largest piece of domestic silver made in Britain this century" ("Art recreated in silver challenge", 21 February).

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Privatised technology

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Sir: We would like to support the points made by Brian Oakley in Susan Watts's article "Scientists

Demands on Rushdie

From Mr Iqbal Sacranie

Sir: The main lesson for British Muslims in the festering affair over *The Satanic Verses* is that, no matter how hard they try, they still face an uphill struggle against incomprehension. They are charged and condemned ex-parte.

Frances D'Souza, chairperson of the International Committee for the Defence of Salman Rush-

ogy to the followers of Islam.

4. To pay damages to an agreed charity.

These demands are addressed to Penguin/Viking, publishers of the sacrilegious book, and there have been no changes or additions to them.

The author of *The Satanic Verses* now claims to have "embraced" Islam. Fine! But instead of joining the Islamic world community in rejecting this sacri-

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From Mr Jack Winder
Sir: With reference to your article "MPs want curbs on activities of vetting agencies" (21 February), your readers should be aware that the Economic League's director general, in his statement to the House of Commons Employment Committee last June, said:

The league believes that all organisations which supply information about job applicants other than normal employers' references and state security services should be subject to regulation and licensing in legislation. Furthermore, we believe that under the terms of the licence, companies should be required to conform to a statutory code of practice.

On the question of the right of individuals to review and refute information held about them, the league provides full answers to every such inquiry and is planning to computerise such records, register under the Data Protection Act, and, so, comply with the committee's recommendation.

Yours faithfully,
JACK WINDER
Director of Information
and Research
The Economic League
London, EC4
21 February

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Sir: The replica silver wine cistern which you report Messrs William Comyns to have made may well be, at 82kg, "the largest piece of domestic silver made in Britain this century" ("Art recreated in silver challenge", 21 February).

Nevertheless it pales into insignificance beside the largest piece of domestic silver *seen* in Britain this century. In 1902 the Maharajah of Jaipur visited London. He brought with him two silver jars weighing 345kg apiece, which he had had made especially for the visit. They were each to carry 9,000 litres of pure and holy Ganges water, since he could drink no other.

If you visit Jaipur today, you can see them standing in the courtyard of the City Palace.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH WILSON
London, E17
21 February

Grave affliction

From Lord Broadbridge
Sir: The resignation news from Westminster City Hall yesterday brought to mind the doggerel:

Lady Porter
And her daughter
Died through drinking soda water
Had they but stuck to Epsom salts
They wouldn't be in these 'ere vaults

Would not such an eventual interment be the subject of some impediment, since the council of which the dame was leader sold

Privatised technology

From Mr J. R. Brookes
Sir: We would like to support the points made by Brian Oakley in Susan Watts's article "Scientists attack scheme to sell technology group" (11 February), regarding the privatisation of British Technology Group (BTG).

BTG has made great strides in effectiveness since the early days of its predecessors when excessive bureaucracy and very restrictive rules severely inhibited performance. We feel the balance between entrepreneurial innovation and a secure operating environment is now about right at BTG.

To privatise BTG at this point would be counterproductive and would reduce the chance of long-term ideas coming to fruition. Not only would a privatised BTG come under short-term pressures from City investors, but there would also be a real reluctance of many academic and other R & D institutions to approach a private company.

What has changed since the Coopers & Lybrand report commissioned two years ago by the Government which recommended that BTG should be kept in the public sector?

Yours sincerely,
JIM BROOKES
Chief Executive
BCS: British Computer Society
London, W1
13 February

Demands on Rushdie

From Mr Iqbal Sacranie
Sir: The main lesson for British Muslims in the festering affair over *The Satanic Verses* is that, no matter how hard they try, they still face an uphill struggle against incomprehension. They are charged and condemned ex-parte.

Frances D'Souza, chairperson of the International Committee for the Defence of Salman Rushdie and director of Article 19, refers (letter, 14 February) to certain sustained demands by the Muslim community. She claims that these have been met and goes on to blame the community for making a new demand: "that *The Satanic Verses* itself be withdrawn completely from circulation".

The Muslim community's demands, as put forward by the UK Action Committee on Islamic Affairs, as early as October 1988, were as follows:

1. To withdraw and pulp the remaining copies of the book.
2. To undertake not to publish, in any form or manner, any further, edition or translation of the novel.
3. To tender an unqualified apology to the followers of Islam.
4. To pay damages to an agreed charity.

These demands are addressed to Penguin/Viking, publishers of the sacrilegious book, and there have been no changes or additions to them.

The author of *The Satanic Verses* now claims to have "embraced" Islam. Fine! But instead of joining the Islamic world community in rejecting this sacrilegious work, he insists on its continued publication. It is also not true to say that he has foregone the publication of a paperback edition. He has simply said that he will not publish the paperback edition as long as there is a "risk of further offence".

Ms D'Souza herself told *The Times* (27 December 1990) that the author she is so dedicated to defending "has not necessarily changed his position". Should, Muslims, then, change theirs?

Yours faithfully,
IQBAL SACRANIE
Joint Convener, UK Action
Committee on Islamic Affairs
London, NW8
15 February

of a date

ffrey Sampson
Rees-Mogg's col-
ave me wishing I felt
ut anything as he ap-
about everything.
unmistakably over-
d when he dismisses
as statistically naïve
raises the probability by a proportion that depends on the probability with the smaller population: if Woody Allen's chance of a date with a woman is 50 per cent, no doubt a modest estimate, then bisexuality does indeed increase it by 50 per cent (to 75 per cent). Lord Rees-Mogg's belief in a 100 per cent increase can be cor-

Talking in the rain

From Mr Steven A. Saltzman
Sir: Why does our Government insist on outdoor press conferences?

So far this month, I have seen the Prime Minister; Douglas Hurd; Dan Quayle; and James Baker, the US Secretary of State, talking to the Press from rainy British doorsteps. Perhaps it is time for a proper venue for these conferences, not unlike the White

Life in Belfast

From Mr R. Scrutton
Sir: Your report "Ruling on IRA man's asylum" (20 February) stated that Joseph Doherty was "sentenced to life in Belfast in 1981". I admit that my knowledge of the city, gleaned only from press reports, is far from complete. Conditions there do, indeed, appear to be difficult. But I had not realised that things had

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ADDRESS

W
DON

that, the nearest I'd come
seeing a vet was last sp
when I and Mark Chapman
the gifted director of my tel
sion series *Henry Root in
rope* — were about to recce
thing in France. Pitching u
his office one morning, I fo
him with a map of Eu-
rope in one hand and the Michelin guide in the other, striking whole
countries out of the series
cause their cuisine wasn't up
scratch.
Aware suddenly of all
disgusting meals I'd be oblig
to eat over the next few wee
I suffered a dangerous build-
of wind in the lower colo
causing me to inflate instan
like a rubber dinghy. I did
feel ill enough to consult
pussy cats' vets, but I did ri
up my nephew Tom, who h
once been a student at t
Royal Agricultural College
Cirencester.
"Do cows get wind?" I sai
"They certainly do," sa
Tom. "They blow up like ba
rage balloons and fall on the
backs with their legs in the air
That sounded pretty muc
what was happening to me, b
thanks to some pills prescribe
by Tom, I was soon back on m
feet and able to participate
the European recce. Since the
I've been as spry as a two-yea
old, but in May we're off t
shoot the thing at last (wit
George Cole as Henry Roo
and last week I was told b
Chapman's office that I mu
show up in Harley street o
Wednesday for a medica
examination. An insuranc
company, it seemed, wa
shortly to take the odds agains
my kicking the bucket befor
late November at the soonest.
This was a shock. To be o
the safe side, I should first see
vet, I thought, persuading hi
to give me some pills to caln
my nerves. If I turned up i
Harley Street as tranquillised
as a safari park hippo about t
have its appendix out, the or
deal would be less unpleasant.
The problem was: which vet'
I couldn't go with my pussy cats
to theirs since they disgraced
themselves years ago at the
time of their vaccinations. Suzy

he was an

n anyone tell
P stands for,"

ut hall was
with Cubs
their hands

pack leader picked him.
"You. What does MP stand for?"
Quick as a flash, the boy riposted: "Mr Patchett, sir!"
Well — the boy wasn't wrong, was he?

ying time

eader will recall that cracking story of the other a reporter's misinterpreting of Halifax MP Alice rds led to her husband Tony very nearly being is associate membership of the All-Party Rugby up — because he liked ballet.
tory hasn't stopped there. The man who wrote rning him that he risked being stripped of for putting the group into disrepute was group d Wakefield MP — not to mention long-sufferld Trinity supporter — Dave Hinchliffe.
eived a letter from a little known group him for his attack on Mr Mahon. The group is e Friends of the Arts and Rugby League Too, or u and I.
spondent warns that Dave's comments have g for FART's movement — ironic in that the been considering granting the MP honorary

went on: "This was a carefully considered offer uch deliberation. Your obvious enthusiasm for ue, shown by your unfailing efforts as secretary of y Rugby League Group really stood out on our

n put together with the fact that you attend all rinity home matches — where it is obvious for all close affinity between Rugby League and the vay Wakefield prance around the field — you naturally the No 1 choice."
espondent, whose name unfortunately I can't ed what he described as a copy of the 1991-2 rinity coaching manual for Dave...it was actually urself ballet book!
till pondering whether to join FART or not.

ew leak

r readers exclu-
neak preview of
e key elements
's manifesto —
ep in comments
nadow Chancel-
Smith, *pictured.*
, in fact, that
e else has

n Labour's post-
shopping-list is
be the provision
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ble level of
.

o I know this?
listen to John's
a BBC interview
weekend: "We
de it absolutely
re will not be
ersonal income
It is not possible
, so the national
will have to be
d to the public

em is what I
ll "a leak".

ord power

North-East Tory MP Tim Kirkhope has been an extraordinary first lately — he has been his first ever Commons Standing Committee.
has been trying to keep the Conservatives in that vital piece of legislation, the Natural Heritage Bill.
his glee when within minutes of the committee's gs two Opposition MPs were at daggers

s Brian Wilson had put forward an amendment, uld have added the Gaelic name of the body being the Bill, Scottish Natural Heritage, wherever it was o in the legislation: 'Dualchas Naduir Alba' to you

eral Democrat MP, Mrs Ray Michie, begged to he word Dualchas in amendment No 25 should be lachas. The word 'Nadara' in amendment No 32 spelt Nadurra."
l have to reveal, showed more than a little : "I should hate to think that the hon lady has d a caricature of the Gaels as having a talent for g division, rather than agreeing on broad and t principles."
! Who's a prickly boy then?

ell spoken

later the outra-
ry Sir Nicky Fair-
ipped: "Whether
aelic is a national
e — I adore it as a

romantic language — more people in Scotland speak Polish as their first language than Gaelic."

yout time
bookies

By JOHN MORGAN

H Britain's bookmakers are protesting that ot afford increased demands from racing's tors it is certain that they will have to eir financial contribution to the multi-million rt.
eenway, MP for Ryedale, North Yorkshire, as much when he spoke at Thirsk racecourse's ss luncheon.
enway, a member of the Home Affairs investigating racing's monetary problems, ne hand we have racing authorities urgently re money and maintaining that bookmakers ying enough. On the other hand we have rs saying they cannot afford to contribute . Who is telling the truth?"
: "I cannot disclose which way the committee because its findings are incomplete. But the

test case

A LEEDS man has claimed victory in a controversial poll tax test case.

Mr David Larder, manager of a student housing complex in Headingley, Leeds, refused to divulge information about his tenants to community charge collectors.

He would not disclose who lived where in the 200-room Mary Morris International Residence for Students, and after pursuing his case through the West Yorkshire Valuation and Community Charge Tribunal, he has now been told his appeal against Leeds City Council has been upheld.

"I have been completely vindicated," he said. "It is a victory for legal common sense."

Favour

Mr Larder claimed that divulging confidential information about students could lay him open to disciplinary action by his employer, the Mary Morris Housing Association, and even to prosecution under the Data Protection Act.

He has received the written decision of the tribunal, finding in his favour.

"Although they accepted that I was in possession of the required information, they said they were not convinced that it was in my control. They agreed that I could be disciplined or prosecuted."

He added: "I am delighted that I will no longer be a poll tax spy. The decision rules out another layer of snooping bureaucracy," he said.

Leeds City Council's Poll Tax Unit says it cannot yet confirm the decision.

But Mr Larder said the ruling showed that people should appeal against poll tax legislation as much as possible.

Mr Larder said he had refused to divulge the required information despite a visit from a bailiff.

He said he had faced ruin if the council sought from him £200 for each of the 200 students in his charge.

Housing plan under attack

PLANS to build a massive housing estate on green belt land near York are likely to be dismissed by Ryedale planners.

The development of 400 homes, earmarked for land near Stockton-on-the-Forest, prompted a wave of protests from villagers, who sent a petition of more than 500 signatures to Ryedale District Council.

The council received 77 letters of objection, and just one letter of support. Members of the council's central area planning committee, which meets today are being urged by council officers to turn down the proposal because it involves building on green belt land and clashes with local and county structure plans.

The report said housing developments in Stockton-on-the-Forest should be restricted to infilling, conversions and small-scale building.

Decades of destruction

FOR years angling and conservation interests have complained of the habitat destruction inflicted upon our rivers in the name of land drainage.

The predecessors of the National Rivers Authority have ripped out bankside vegetation, removed islands, cleared away bends, and canalised some of the high amenity rivers in North Yorkshire and other parts of Britain.

I, and others, have claimed that this is a contributing factor to the changes in river flow patterns — lower and higher flows occur more frequently, and the rivers rise and fall more quickly. Farmers have been given grants to drain their land, and this too is seen by many as a factor in the gradual decline in some of our finest rivers.

The recent floods in York and Boroughbridge prompt me to ask whether these decades of destruction are now resulting in higher and more frequent floods? Is land drainage in the higher reaches rushing the water downstream more quickly?

I am sure the NRA will say no. Perhaps the two district councils of York and Harrogate should seek an independent study to establish whether there is a pattern of more frequent flooding, and if so what is the reason? More to the point, can it be reversed if it does exist?

The people of these two areas are entitled to an examination of the causes of the problem, and action to put things right if this is possible.

D. RIMINGTON, District and County Councillor, Harrogate.

Code of practice

REFERRING to your article, "Curb secret files on job seekers, say MPs" (February 20), your readers would wish to be aware of the following:-
The League's Director General in his statement to the House of Commons Employement Committee last June, said: "The League believes that all organisations which supply information about job applicants other than normal employers' references and state security services should be subject to regulation and licensing in legislation. Furthermore, we believe that under the terms of the licence companies should be required to conform to a statutory code of practice."
On the question of the right of individuals to review and refute information held about them, the League already provides full answers to every such enquiry and is planning to computerise such records, register under the Data Protection Act, and, so, comply with the committee's recommendation.
JACK WINDER, Director of Information & Research, The Economic League, 79-83 Temple Chambers, Temple Avenue, London.

The Editor welc
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- Evening Post, W
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DERRICK BI

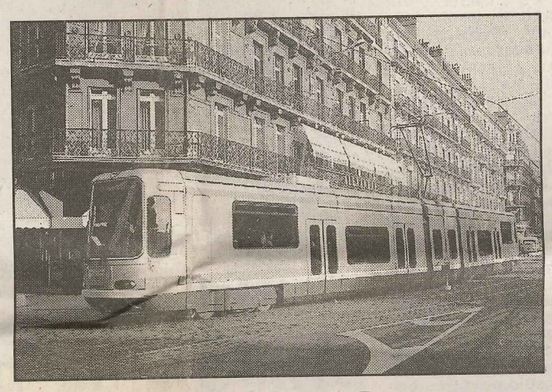
Leeds 'dragging its feet'

THE citizens of this city have given our transport planners a mandate to build a supertram system. Why then are the planners being so timid with this "do as little as possible" approach?

They readily admit that supertram is the best answer to our traffic problems, yet present an initial phase that stops its service short of the city centre. The booklet they have produced makes so much reference to "park and ride" that the average citizen could be forgiven for thinking that supertram is principally for outsiders and any benefit to people living along its route is purely coincidental. Outsiders (without their cars) are welcome in our city, but what about our own citizens?

Places in Leeds of high passenger demand are the railway station, the Infirmary, the Central Library, the University, St John's and the Merrion Centres, the Central Bus Station, the Playhouse and St James Hospital, all a fair walk from Lower Briggate.

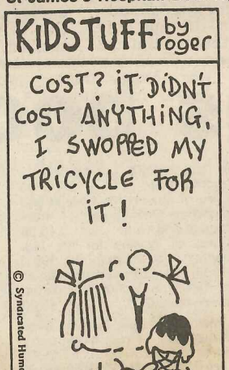
Many of these places are at present served by buses from the Middleton and Belle Isle area, and if our planners want Phase 1 to be a success they should continue supertram through the shopping centre and fork with one leg going to the University and the other to St James's Hospital. Both legs would be useful for Phase 2 and extensions at a later date.



A supertram in Grenoble, France.

Europe has been particularly successful in taking supertrams through shopping malls with Manchester and Sheffield copying the technique. I fail to understand why Leeds is "dragging its feet " on this issue. Particularly disadvantaged are the disabled and mothers with prams.
Both Manchester and Sheffield are going to a great deal of trouble to first provide level boarding to supertrams, and secondly to provide convenient stopping points in the heart of the shopping centre. These points were emphasised by local community groups at the time of public consultation, but it seems no one was listening.
F.A. ANDREWS, Kirkwood Way, Leeds.

KIDSTUFF by roger



Financial understanding

WITH reference to a recent letter in the *YEP* about the selling off of business assets, and the investment of the proceeds in a building society, I feel that the writer, Mr Ellis, has failed to understand what had been said.

I have to admit that I did not see the quotation to which Mr Ellis refers, and, whilst I am not a businessman, I can see the point which the speaker was trying to make.

The primary objective of any business is to make a profit for its owner(s), otherwise why bother at all?

The point is that if the profit margin is a

then the owner of that business would be financially better served by selling his assets and putting the cash in a high yield savings account.

This is, of course, the purely mercenary view, and takes no account of other, social, consequences should industry actually operate this way.

The analogy of selling his house and car to increase his savings is totally false, and further serves to highlight Mr Ellis's lack of understanding — he needs a roof over his head but he does not need to own a business as long as he can find a job with someone who has not "sold out."

The Sale Continues The Sale Continues The Sale Continues The Sale Continues

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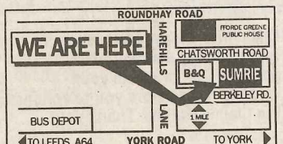

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JACK WINDER, Director of Information & Research, The Economic League, 79-83 Temple Chambers, Temple Avenue, London.

Letters

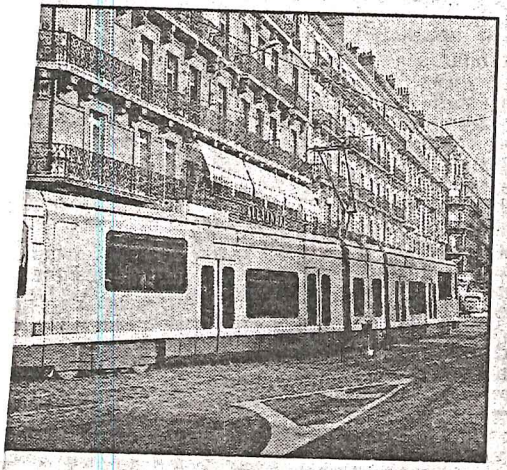
The Editor welcomes letters on any subject. Please keep them brief and send them to The Editor, Yorkshire Evening Post, Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 1RF.

Through the roof

I know of a house sale which began, on my valuation, at £5,000. A rundown council house; after spending £9,000 on refurbishment, the value, at mortgage level, is £23,000; interest, monthly, £200 approx, for 25 years. That, and the final figure I leave to your computers. In my humble way, I would say £73,000 has changed hands! Am I right? Or, am I wrong?

DERRICK BREARLEY, Yorkshire.

g its feet'



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F.A. ANDREWS, Kirkwood Way, Leeds.

The Sale Continues The Sale Continues

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Suits, Jackets, Skirts, Raincoats, Overcoats, Knitwear, Shirts, Ties, Casual Wear and Sportswear.

Good quality at prices you can afford.
All stocks are now permanently discounted !

We have also introduced a made to measure service for the man who cannot be suited elsewhere !

MARIA FYFE, MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

11 January 1991

Mike Hughes
5 Newton Park Drive
Leeds LS7 4HH

Dear Mike

Further to my letter of 10 December, I now enclose a copy of the reply received to my PQ on blacklisting in the NHS.

I have now written to the Minister enclosing a copy of the press report and will be in touch with you again as soon as I have any news.

Best wishes

Maria

DM/662P+

Tuesday 18 December 1990
Written Answer

PQ 512/1990
Han Ref: Vol
Col

HEALTH AUTHORITIES

W83 Mrs Maria Fyfe (La. Glasgow, Maryhill):
To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what representations
concerning blacklisting by health authorities in respect of app
jobs at other health authorities; and what guidance is issued
authority officials in respect of such practices.

MRS VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY

No such representations have been received. Health authorities
that no boycott of staff should take place.

NURSING BLACKLIST REVE

Nurses are being secretly blacklisted for being a staff. The health union COHSE has described the unacceptable" but health chief's have defended the

Dame Audrey Emerton, Regional director of nursing in the S.E. Thames region told COHSE that the blacklist covered nurses under investigation for drugs offences, those needing treatment for mental health or addiction problems, and those making fraudulent claims about thier qualifications.

The blaclikist takes the form of hundreds of letters secretly circulated by senior health authority officials to other authorities. LEAGUEWATCH has obtained copies of a number of these letters. One from Mr. CHARLES.E. PRICE, district personnel officer for the Calderdale Health Authority and addressed "In Confidence" to "All district Personnel managers in the Yorkshire Region" gives the name and details of one nurse and says;

"The above named recently resigned from a post as a Student Nurse with our Health Authority. This ex member of staff is also a State Registered Chiropodist and should he apply for a post with your Authority you may wish to contact me before making any offer of employment."

Price later said unashamedly; "There's nothing wrong with that. We do that all the time and we get letters from other authorities or

The form of the le Authorities are identical widespread and co-ord services in the Midlands

"In June the letters parts of the country in arrived in my post alre extent sinister and I potentially unfair. I've straight into the shredd

Several blacklisting same day by PETER D Officer for the North W based in Manchester. (including maiden name Nursing "Pin number". refferred to a Mrs. Vendit

Mr. Davis-Rice in turn h information back, in one Chief Nurse advisor fo seems that in the h blacklisters stick togeth

LEAGUE STAFF EXPOSED

LEAGUEWATCH ha the new staff of the

National Headquarters:
79-83 Temple Chambers,
Temple Avenue, London EC4
Director General: Stan Hardy,
(home) 26 HEMPLAND LANE,
HEMWORTH, YORK.
Director of Research: Jack Winder,
(home) 31 THROCKMORTON RD.,

Southwest, Wales an
Cowbridge Rd., C
Director: Eric Dove
(home) 12 MARION
LLANDAFF, CARDI

Northern Regions:

T E ANDERSON
19 CAMERON ST
BARROW-IN-FURN
CUMBRIA
21/2/91

Dear Mr Hughes

Having spoken to Maria Fyfe, I was given your name by her secretary. I'm very interested in ANTI BLACKLISTING can you send details and is it possible to find if my name is on Economic league lists, I'm lead to believe it is

T A

Kirkby

Pipe Rolter.

Sincerely

[illegible]

[illegible]ONB

League Watch
31 Manor Row,
Bradford 1
Tel:- Bdf 597842

Dear Mr Andusan,

Thank you for your letter, I am asking the secretary of League Watch to send you details as soon as possible.

As regards finding out whether you are on the blacklist there are limitations to what we can find out from our resources; 1) the North West list of which I have a copy dates from the early 1980's and the League claims to have revised it, 2) It only consists of the card index headings and does not therefore include everything that

through your trade union.

3). I would be interested to know what or who led you to believe that your name was on the lists – and it might be that there ~~in particular~~ are things we can do around this.

4). As you will appreciate doing anything about the list is difficult, and doing anything to get names removed is nearly impossible at the moment. However I know the NCCL would like to bring a case against the League but have not been able to so far, but it might be that the circumstances surrounding your case might help them – and you.

T E ANDERSON
19 CAMERON ST
BARROW.
14/3/91

Dear Mr Hughes.

Thank you for the prompt reply to my letter, I've also recieved details of League Watch from the Secretary.

Re the Kirkby address. I know the area quite well, having serviced it for some 25 years. But never having lived there. I paid a visit yesterday there are only 2 Anderson's living there, Father and Son W Anderson (retired Quarry worker) marsh side. D Anderson (I think Electrician) Orchard Bank. 10 years ago there was G? Anderson Architict he moved away. ~~I could it~~ I will only have been on record about 15 months. Date of Birth 1/9/39. occupation Rep, last employer North West Water job title Enquiry Officer

Befor going into fuller detail I'm sorry to have to tell you. I can be given the appearance of discredit at any time. I believe it better I tell you this at outset rather than you hearing it from another source. what I can promise is that everything I tell you is the truth. Albeit a large part sounds unbelievable. I can produce written evidence to support my story. There being so much to tell I will only give brief details.

Within a couple of weeks after leaving work I was told by a regular Golf partner that he would write to all companies in County asking for Job for me. This being said out of any context to rest of conversation, I thought it strange. I'd previously told him I felt a few weeks to consider my future would be beneficial. At about the same time a smear campaign started against me. During this regular reference made to Masters, All doors closed, Skipton, Employers and Establishment paying, No smoke without fire and Ultimate. Plus much more. I called on ex colleague during coffee his wife said "I bet you're sorry you left now". Husband asked if I was working. Having just got 2 or 3 days casual work I said I was, he gave what I can only call an involuntary "Who's given you a job" then quickly changed subject. I had no doubt. One person telling me (Privately) he'd been well paid for what he'd done to me

another "What we've done to you is evil". The first of these 2 is a Foreman at large local factory his method so polished I'm of the opinion he'd done it before. The second is self employed.

In the only interview I've had it seemed obvious from questions asked or rather lack of them, I was only there to make up numbers.

I can name the companies involved and a few others which were more than likely.

Mr Hughes there's so much to tell, I'd be only to pleased to meet and give details of methods used, I've kept records, the results have ruined my life, damaged those of my Father and Daughters. The things done being so coldly calculated to cause maximum amount of damage that sadistic is perhaps lightly used. I've seen one Daughter loose her job and yet be given glowing reference plus approaching £500-00 more than she was entitled.

At the moment I'm financially sound but I'm in the following position

1) Living off capital
2) Go self employed in a area I've been so completely discredited. where 18 months ago I was well liked and respected.
3) I've just this morning put my house on the market. Trying to move perhaps abroad. So loose my family. I've had some indication such a move might be blocked. or I can still be tracked on continent.

My crime seems to have been. Having spent 2/3 years being abused by my manager and his assistant, during which time regularly asked have we broken your back yet. 2/3 months before I left they had, but I kept going to work, through duty. Then on resigning being critical of treatment I'd recieved, then mentioning union. Plus accusations I lied in the context this was presented It looks that way only if rest of story was told would it be seen not to be so clear cut.

Yours sincerely

T.G.H.

P.S. ON LAST DAY OF WORK I WAS TOLD STEP OUT OF LINE AND YOU WILL BE CRUSHED THE KIRKBY MAYBE THE LIVERPOOL NOT FURNESS ONE.

SOME OF THE IMPLICATIONS, IF THE RIGHT, ARE I DON'T LIKE THE TERM SINISTER BUT CAN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER SUITABLE. IF SEEN AS PERHAPS EXTENTION TO LEAGUE PRACTICES THEN I'D RATHER BE ABROAD.

T.G.H.

T E ANDERSON

19 CAMERON ST

BARROW

30/4/91

Dear Mr Hughes.

Thanks for your letter, you didn't mention the new baby.

I list some of the additional information you asked for :- G STOKES "THE DEMANDS FOR MONEY WILL BE MORE SUTTLE" ALSO you WERE SO POPULAR IT WAS DIFFICULT TO GET STARTED" "

E MCDONALD ARE you WORKING FOLLOWING MY AFFIRMATIVE "WHO'ES GIVEN you A JOB"

A MAN CALLED DAVID SURNAME NOT KNOW WORKS FOR LOCAL BUSINESS MAN. SAID WITH A SMILE "HAVE YOU GOT A JOB YET"

PETER BLEASDALE "I'LL WRITE TO ALL FIRMS IN THE AREA ASKING FOR A JOB FOR you" ALSO "USED TO BE SUCH A NICE LAD"

ERIC GARDINER, "GIVE US A JOB"

THE TERM WINE COURT CAME UP ONCE OR TWICE I DONT KNOW IF THAT IS OF ANY SIGNIFICANTS.

FROM JOB CENTRE ASKED TO PHONE FOR INTERVIEW WITH

A COMPANY CALLED TITHEBARN OF SOUTHPORT, YOU JUST MISSED BEING SHORT LISTED. I HOPE IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE YOU FIND A POSITION MATCHING YOUR QUALIFICATIONS.
I HAVE NONE OTHER THAN EXPERIENCE, AND A NONE RELATED APPRENTICESHIP
ON SITE DOING A CASUAL JOB FOR B.N.F.L. BEING TOLD YOU'VE HAD IT HARD AND YOU'VE HAD ALL THE GOOD TIMES.

JUST A FEW QUOTES G STONES "YOU BIT THE HAND THAT FED YOU" AND YOU'LL FIGHT LIKE A GENTLEMAN THEY WON'T ERIC GARDINER IT'S NOW A DAYS DIFFICULT TO GET RID OF PEOPLE BUT THEY CERTAINLY DID WITH YOU." AND "HAVE YOU DONE NATIONAL SERVICE.

There is much more, but I know for me there is little choice but self employ, even though I don't want it. with no reputation left it is doubly difficult.

I wasn't blameless I have spent 2 or 3 years being asked have we broken your back yet, when they had broken me I continued to go to work pride not letting me admit I was broken or asking. I resigned badly

Now being in the position outlined previous by what few small ambitions I had are all gone, and whilst I could have done more, So expertly were things carried out that it's made to look totally my fault. This disregards what in my opinion were very poor management tactics

Yours sincerely

FREEDOM NEEDS A FREE + FAIR PRESS —

TELL THE T&A!

T & A Funds Big Brother

The "Telegraph & Argus" is one of 2,000 companies which fund, by subscription, an ultra-rightwing group called The Economic League.

The League receives more than £1 million in subscriptions which it uses to run a notoriously inaccurate hitlist of individuals and organisations it claims are "subversives". This blacklist has recently been exposed on the television programmes "World in Action" and "Watchdog" and in the "Observer" and "Guardian" newspapers.

ACTION AGAINST THE ECONOMIC LEAGUE has a copy of the League's list for the north west which reveals that some of the people whom the League is trying to keep out of work are merely members of the Liberal or Labour Parties, the apolitical parents of young trade unionists or people who (like Margaret Thatcher's top advisor Alfred Sherman) Left the Communist Party more than thirty years ago.

CHARITIES ATTACKED

In the Economic League's current handbook ("Co-

IN APRIL 1936 MUSSOLINI WAS SHOT IN THE NOSE DURING AN UNSUCCESSFUL ASSASINATION ATTEMPT.

mpanies Under Attack") employers are discouraged from supporting the "subversive" work of OXFAM, CHRISTIAN AID, WAR ON WANT and CHILD POVERTY ACTION.

The Economic League was set up in 1919 by right wing extremists in British Intelligence, Industry, the Conservative Party and the Armed Forces. It aimed not only to crush the Labour Party and Trade Union movement but to "Campaign for Capitalism". It did this in much the same way that Mussolini was doing, at the same time, in Italy. Indeed at least one of the League's top officials, Patrick Hannon, was secretary of the Birmingham branch of the British Fascists.

VICTORIAN VISION

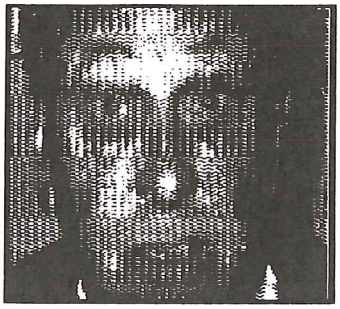
The present day composition of the Economic League has changed little. It still maintains links with Intelligence and the Special Branch, and its supporters include prominent Conservatives and Army officers. It still "Campaigns for Capitalism", and brands as "an enemy of the state" anyone who doesn't agree with their Victorian vision.

Westminster Press insists that all the newspapers it owns (including the T&A) subscribe to the Economic League. These papers not only help to pay for the campaign for a one-party state and the blacklist but offer a discrete outlet for the League's eccentric prop-aganda. Not long ago the Economic League's annual report boasted that:

"Several papers ran whole articles or series of articles based on information provided by the League.....".

RESIST TEMPTATION

Next time you are tempted to buy a copy of the Telegraph and Argus we would ask you to remeber the thousands of people kept out of work by The Economic League.



S.J. BROMLEY, YORKSHIRE REGIONAL SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMIC LEAGUE, SNAPPED IN THE NOSE ENTERING THE LEAGUE'S OFFICE IN SKIPTON.

We hope you will choose to spend your 18p on something less dangerous.

If you work for Westminster Press you are probably lucky enough to have passed (without your knowledge) the Economic League's test. We hope that, through your trade unions, you will put pressure on your employers to stop funding totalitarianism.

THE FACTS ABOUT THE ECONOMIC LEAGUE

Every year the Economic League gets £1million from a total of 2,000 Companies.

With this money it campaigns for a one-party state and runs a "blacklist".

Every year it vets the names of over 150,000 potential employees of subscribing companies.

In the last ten year between 50 and 100 THOUSAND people have been denied jobs on the unreliable, eccentric, and fanatical word of The Economic League.

The " Telegraph and Argus" is a subscriber to The Economic league.

An extensive "Economic League Briefing Pack" is available (price £4.50) from the secretary of Leeds trades Council, Leeds Trades Club, Savile Mount, Leeds 7.

Printed and published by Bradford Action against the Economic League, Box Bael, 52 Call Lane, Leeds 1

Don't tie down our bosses with training red tape

Michael Ivens, Director of Aims of Industry, argues that plans to standardise management training throughout Britain would strangle initiative

BRITISH industry, having been rescued by Thatcherite policies from a long, dark period of corporatism, is now in danger of smothering its management skills in a blanket of conformist training.

Consider our comparatively recent corporatist history. That brilliant American consultant and anthropologist, William Allen, termed us "Half-time Britain" because we had 50 to 100 per cent too many workers for our machines.

It was not just a case of strong trade unions calling wildcat strikes at the first sight of a new method for improving productivity. It was also a case of weak and unimaginative management which backed down or preferred not to innovate, and which handed over the running of industrial relations affairs to even weaker and less imaginative personnel management.

That time, in the 1960s and 1970s, was when British managers were a race of "belongers": the British Institute of Management, the Institute of Personnel Management, the Industrial Society — you name it, the managers belonged to it and attended all the courses and conferences.

On top of that we had the paraphernalia of industry training boards. It was a time for trainers to rejoice at being alive. In no time a number of trade union leaders enjoyed comfort and pickings from sitting on the boards.

There were, of course, some excellent management training courses. Companies did it by themselves or, if they were big enough, sent their fliers to Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Henley Staff College and, later, the London and Manchester Graduate Business Schools and some of the good polytechnics.

Whatever the faults of those corporatist days of Wilson, Heath and Callaghan, there was no attempt to set up the ultimate folly: a national Management Charter Initiative (a proposal to make management a chartered profession like accountancy) to cover all British managers from Sainsbury to Shell and Woolworths to Wimpey. That would have set in concrete all the weaknesses and lack of ambition of much management of that period.

That might have happened in Eastern Europe or some newly-formed African State with a passion for diplomas and medals.

I was, when young, training manager of a major oil company and, with Frank Broadway, wrote the first three books of British management case studies; I wrote the first British book on industrial communication and have conducted sessions in countless management courses.

But I cannot swallow the latest theories which seek to dictate that managers from every walk of life and every kind of business should undertake a national framework of qualifications which would aim to make management a chartered profession.

Three kinds of diplomas would be handed to grades of managers. There would be a national assessment system; a "network of consortia" consisting of management developers from business and education who would "implement the competency framework at local level"; managers gaining "credits" from on-the-job training or full-time study; and "assessment agencies" to determine management performance using criteria agreed by a central body from Government, business and education.

This Orwellian script arose from a report, *The Making of Managers*, by Professor Charles Handy and led to the formation of the Management Charter Initiative. He was asked to look at how managers were found in Britain, the United States, France and West Germany. His conclusion was that Britain probably needed to be doing 10 times as much to develop managers.

The argument about cost could be left until later, said Professor Handy, displaying an unorthodox approach to management! He added, in the way that academics do: "I suspect that industry would be ready to pay quite a lot."

Others agreed. Mr John Banham, Director General of the Confederation of British Industry, offered helpful words for small businesses to join the Initiative: "Everybody can win and it won't cost you anything but your time."

Bob Reid of Shell has also been an enthusiast for the scheme, not surprisingly, with his belief that the new generation of managers want something they can hang on the wall. All this has led to large sums of money passing from the Government's Training Agency — which committed £1·5 million — and the Department of Trade and Industry to the Council for Management Education and Development.

The inevitable plethora of initials followed and recently we had a report on the proposed national framework of assessment by the Council for Academic Awards (CNAA) — commissioned by (surprise!) CEMD and funded by the omni-generous Training Agency. CNAA is anxious for a bigger role in management education though its dull report with its enervating title, *Feasibility study on a national framework of assessment arrangements for management education*, makes one feel that they should steer clear of the communication, marketing and advertising sides of management.

Is all lost? Not quite. Presumably the Prime Minister has not grasped the implications of all this which runs so contrary to her thinking. Perhaps her policy group will alert her. The entrepreneurs she admires, such as Lord Taylor (of Taylor Woodrow) and Lord Forte, would not have got where they are with three management diplomas.

Some years ago Tavistock published an interesting study of the life history of a thousand Michigan entrepreneurs. You cannot judge the whole world by Michigan but the tendency for successful entrepreneurs to be early school leavers and to get to the top without formal training rings a bell in Britain too.

There is, of course, a need for better — and probably more — management training. There are certain subjects that most managers need to be aware of: organisation, employee relations, basic financial control, the inter-relationship of production, marketing, distribution, inventory, research and development and finance; the role of the shareholder; the outside forces that influence business.

But no management criteria meet all companies' needs. Companies need to buy from the market — which is what Thatcherism is supposed to be about — and also construct their own management training in line with the needs of the organisation.

The Army doesn't make the mistake of training its first-line infantry management in exactly the same way as it does its artillery, engineer and signal officers. Companies have different management styles and needs.

A corporatist approach to management training will be stifling and will certainly not be adopted by the United States, France and West Germany, about whom the exponents of the Charter Initiative seem to worry. Those countries will be pleased and amazed at seeing us, yet again, putting a ball and chain on our competitiveness.

"BLACKLISTING" BY OIL COMPANIES

Statements of Offshore Oil workers MIKE GIBBONS (GMB shop steward) and WILLIE STEVENSON (AEU, Health & Safety rep) given on September 27 1990 in Bradford. Both men are active in the OIL INDUSTRY LIASON COMMITTEE and both have been sacked as a result.

MIKE GIBBONS

"The Oil companies don't want to be tarred with this brush (The Economic League) so they operate their own system. Each oil company has their own particular system. They're interchangeable between the oil companies.

Shell - theirs is called OPRIS; "Offshore Personnel...something". It's basically a tracking system. This is the Shell card. It's just like an I.D. card, it's got a magnetic strip on the back. And what you do, if you phone for a job and you want to go on a Shell platform, they say 'have you got an OPRIS'. You give your number (they run it through a machine) 'Sorry, you're not going'.

I've known guys come up at airports, to the Shell check-in desk, hand their card over, they just put it in the computer, it comes up on the screen - they're not going anywhere, you know. That's the Shell system.

The B.P. system is very similar, just a different method of doing things. (Card is marked "Personnel Tracking System"). But they abuse the system, you see. Basically what this system's invented for is for offshore, especially at the Heliports. So when you arrive at the airport, you don't go through this procedure with boarding passes and all that. You just come up to the airport, give in your card, run it through one of these "readers" - screen comes up and it prints out a ticket for you and then you just board the aircraft. When you're offshore that card goes with you, 'cos you stay in accomodation vessels. There's accomodation vessels at every platform, bridge between them, and so they know what side you're on in the event of any explosion. So that card is used as a tracking system, so they know where you are.

But now they've gone one step further. B.P. are introducing, believe it or not, "tagging" - a tag which will tell them where you are, when you're in your bloody bed or if you're skivving. It will be abused simply because the oil companies cannot be trusted. Now they wouldn't introduce that for criminals. But B.P. are to introduce a trial scheme in the bloody North Sea on an oil platform. There's a right cry gone out when they were gonna do it for criminals.

I don't think my card was blacked, simply because I wasn't involved in the sit-in. I was actually onshore when the dispute started. Funnily enough RONNIE McDONALD, the chairman of O.I.L.C., he got his card checked and his card was clear. He could go offshore tomorrow on a Shell platform, if he was invited.

Sometimes we know guys who've been blacked who go to other companies - no problem and they get offshore. It depends how serious their "crime" is, obviously. Trade union activity is probably one of the most hideous crimes.

WILLIE STEVENSON

I know I'm blacklisted by Shell anyway, through the OPRIS system. I know for a fact I'm blacklisted.

My OPRIS card has been withdrawn and there's a few people who were involved in the sit-in have actually had friends put their OPRIS into the computer and it's been "Not required offshore - under no circumstances".

And there was 5 people up at Aberdeen airport a fortnight ago. We was up picketing and speaking to people and we were seen speaking specifically to 5 people over a 12 hour period and when those people went to put their OPRIS card in they were told to report to the company - there was a problem with their OPRIS and those 5 people were sent back home again. And one of them stated at a meeting in Glasgow, he was seen to speak to an O.I.L.C. member and all of a sudden they had no job.
5 people who had been with us for a few hours talking to us were all of a sudden not required anymore.

END.

FORD VICTIMISES ANOTHER UNION ACTIVIST

Ford Motor Company are taking their campaign of victimisation of union and political activists to a new stage. They have now openly admitted that they have been spying on their employees, something they have denied in the past.

On Thursday 25th May line worker Tony Hunt, an active member of the 1/1107 branch of the Transport and General Workers Union, was sacked. The day before, senior Ford management admitted to the unions for the first time that they use the witchhunt agency the Economic League. This is an organisation which keeps secret files on workers who are active in their unions or in politics -- both perfectly legal activities.

Already Tony's M.P. Bernie Grant has written to the company protesting their actions and will be alerting other MPs to what is going on. He will raise the question in the House of Commons and put down a motion condemning what Ford are up to.

Tony worked in the Paint, Trim and Assembly plant at Dagenham. He has been singled out for his union and political activity. A regular attender of his union branch meeting, he publicly supported the union campaign in the plant against the recent sacking of 1107 branch chair Mick Gosling, who had worked there for ten years. He also supported Clare Smith, sacked after speaking out against job cuts. Recently, he was a delegate from the 1107 branch to an emergency conference on Namibia (South West Africa) called by the Anti-Apartheid movement.

On Friday 19th May Tony Hunt had been called in to a meeting with the plant manager for his shift, Mr McQuillcam, the Superintendant of the Fiesta 'trim' lines, Ron Humphreys and a personel officer. The employee relations manager, Mr Phil Taylor, was also involved. The company representatives questioned Hunt about his educational background.

Tony Hunt had 2 interviews before getting the job. His application form had been screened by an agency and his hiring had been approved by senior management. He clearly indicated that he had been to university on his application form, by ticking the appropriate box. At every stage of the recruitment procedure, including for 5 hours at the plant itself, Ford Motor Company thought this was sufficient information about his educational background. Now, after 8 months, Ford see a problem. The company has made no complaint about his work, his timekeeping or his attendance.However, at the end of this meeting the company suspended Tony Hunt "pending *further* investigations". This was an intolerable intrusion into his private life. The

company has no right to investigate the lives of people who work for it, to employ agencies like the Economic League or state security bodies. Such 'Big Brother' behaviour should be resisted by everyone. It is Ford who should be investigated.

The company's stated reasons for now sacking Tony Hunt are "discrepencies" on his application form including missing details about his education. They say he refused to answer questions about his education. In fact he said he wouldn't answer such questions in a meeting where they were trying to "stitch him up". If all the company wanted was accurate information for their records they would not have pulled him off the line, without warning, last thing on a Friday to face top management. The 'discrepancies' are genuine mistakes over job dates -- this shows how weak the company's case is. They refused to admit that both of his previous employers supplied satisfactory references.

Over the last fifteen months Ford have victimised four workers for their union activity and after speaking out against the company. Frequently the pretext for such dismissals has been the alleged falsification of educational backgrounds. The real reason has been the company's desire to weaken the union as the management increases speed up and job cuts. Last year Ford's profits doubled to £673 million.

Tony Hunt's sacking is similar. It is not about his education. It is because he has been open about his commitment to the union and about his political views. Stuart Hamer, Personel Director for Production and Manufacturing Ford Europe told business students at the London School of Economics on February 21st that the company was out to sack what he called "hard left wreckers".

The union is appealing Tony Hunt's sacking, and nationally is demanding that Ford have nothing to do with agencies like the Economic League. At stake here is not only one person's job but the basic rights of all workers.

It is vital that this issue is taken up in any way possible. Please sent messages of support to the union, and messages of protest to Ford demanding Tony Hunt's reinstatement. (copies to the union branch)

STOP COMPANY SPYING!
REINSTATE TONY HUNT!

FINANCIAL TIMES 7·12·88

Job seekers face checks on credit and security

By Michael Smith,
Labour Staff

MORE than a third of companies use security and credit checks in selecting employees, according to a survey which also found that selection methods used by many employers were unreliable and open to bias.

The survey by the Institute of Manpower Studies, the pay research group, found that 36 per cent of the 300 UK employers contacted used credit brokers or the Economic League, collator of political information, in choosing staff.

Mr Stephen Bevan, co-author of Employee Selection in the UK, a report which is based on the findings of the survey, yesterday criticised companies' selection methods as being "unscientific, subject to bias and unreliable."

The drop in the number of school-leavers over the next five years, coupled with with the likely increase in the number of mature women being recruited, would expose selection inadequacies further.

The Economic League gathers information from a variety of sources, including newspaper court reports. IMS found that some employers use the league to vet individuals who they suspect may pose industrial relations problems.

Civil rights campaigners are concerned about the accuracy of the league's information and the difficulty of individuals gaining access to their files.

The report said the use of the league's information reflected a desire on the part of employers to filter out unsuitable candidates rather than "select in" those who are best suited to the job.

The institute found that credit checks tend to be most common in clerical and administrative jobs, particularly when the handling of cash is involved.

IMS said the three most commonly used techniques for selecting staff were interviews, references and application forms, but these were among the least valid and reliable measures of future job performance. The report found substantial evidence in favour of increased use of selection tests as a recruitment aid.

It said that 16 per cent of respondents used cognitive tests and, though none for all vacancies, while 22 per cent used personality tests.

Many more companies felt that tests could be of potential use but were put off by their complexity and by the paperwork they involved.

Employee Selection in the UK: IMS Report No 160, by Stephen Bevan and Julie Fryatt; Communications Office, Institute of Manpower Studies, Mantell Building, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, Sussex BN1 9RF; £15 (£10 to IMS subscribers) plus £1.25 p & p.

Jobs column, Page 21

GUARDIAN 25 MAY 1989

Ford in League

The Ford Motor Company admitted last night it was a member of the Economic League, the rightwing group which runs a blacklist of union activists and "subversives."

FINANCIAL TIMES 25 MAY 89

EMPLOYMENT

Ford urged to end link with staff vetting group

By Charles Leadbeater,
Labour Editor

UNIONS at Ford, the motor manufacturer, are to launch a campaign to force the company to cancel its subscription to the Economic League, which is alleged to provide employers with information on workers' political affiliations.

Ford disclosed its use of the league's services at a meeting yesterday between senior managers and union officials to discuss the company's performance over the year.

The Economic League provides about 2,000 subscribers with information on prospective staff whom the league regards as politically subversive.

A 1987 police inquiry into the league's activities, launched by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, found no evidence to support allegations made in a television programme that the league had illegally used police criminal records for its vetting procedures.

The organisation has become the focus of a concerted trade union campaign over the year. National Westminster Bank, the Royal Bank of Scotland and IBM computer company have recently cancelled their subscriptions to the league.

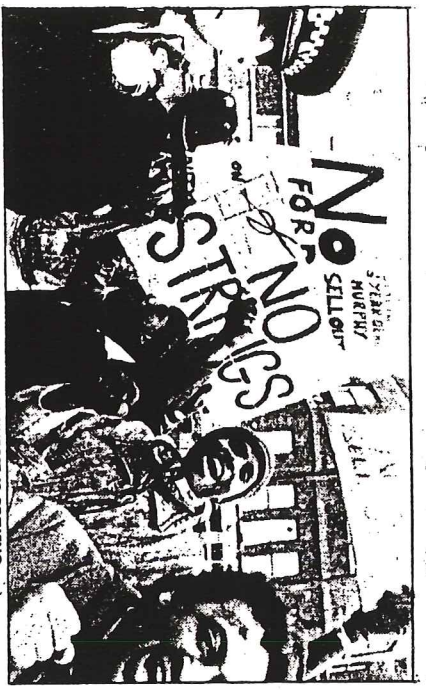
Ford denied that it operated a blacklist of employees, although senior managers were concerned at the growing influence of Trotskyites, especially at the Dagenham plant in Essex, during last year's two-week national strike.

The company said it had no reason to be ashamed of using the league's services. Mr John Hougham, the company's director of personnel, said it would not disclose how much it paid the league.

CITYLIMITS 12-19 JANUARY 1989

Ford sacking fuels factory trouble

CARLOS GUARITA/REFLEX



A YEAR AFTER THE FORD STRIKE, FRESH UNREST IS BREWING

Just weeks away from the anniversary of the 1988 Ford strike, the sacking of a prominent trade union activist at Dagenham looks set to spark off a new round of confrontation. JUDY HIRST investigates.

■ MICK GOSLING, CHAIR OF THE Transport & General Workers 1/1107 branch at Dagenham, was sacked shortly before Xmas (*CL* 376/7), and is currently waiting for his case to go to appeal. Officially 36 year old Gosling has been dismissed on disciplinary grounds, but his workmates in the assembly plant say that's just an excuse.

'He's been made a scapegoat to frigh off everyone else,' says shop steward Ned Leary, 'and it won't stop at him.' Ford workers are describing Gosling's sacking as 'the biggest attack on the union for years at Dagenham', comparing it to the case of British Leyland's 'Red Robbo'. They have pledged to back his campaign for reinstatement all the way.

Industrial action at the plant would present serious problems for Ford right now. With a new four-door Fiesta model about to come on-stream, the last thing management wants is assembly line disruption.

Operations Manager, Jan Ubaghs, has recently written to all Ford workers, announcing the birth of 'a new baby in our car family', and warning that 'roadblocks' and 'inhibitors from our past' will not be allowed to 'stand in our way'.

Shopfloor workers report an atmosphere of fear and intimidation in the assembly plant, at a time when there is heavy pressure to meet production targets. 'One worker was threatened with disciplinary action today for spending more than three minutes in the toilet – even though his job was covered,' Leary told *CL*. It was only when workers threatened to stop the production line in protest that management backed off.

This type of petty harassment is on the increase, say Ford employees: 'One bloke even wet his pants on the line recently, because he was too scared to go to the toilet.'

Management are reported to be constantly checking up and spying on staff, and using any excuse – like 'drink and drug searches' – to keep everyone on edge.

The Dagenham assembly plant is the biggest thorn in Ford management's side. It was the only plant, out of 21 nationally, where a majority of workers refused to accept the official '7 per cent plus strings' union settlement at the end of last year's dispute.

Most assembly plant workers viewed that deal as a sell-out, according to union activists at Dagenham: 'Unofficial stoppages over the past year have made the national agreement that was signed unworkable at a local level – this is what Mick's sacking is really about.'

Gosling is being blamed for everything from the latest fire alarm in the plant to the Armenia and Lockerbie disasters, say his workmates on the Sierra production line. He's been the target of a red-baiting smear campaign in *The Sun*, has been pilloried for chairing a meeting where Bernadette McAliskey spoke, and charged with covering up the fact that when he started work at Ford, over ten years ago, he had a university degree.

Management claim that the dismissal is simply a disciplinary matter: 'We have no objections to employees attending meetings on Ireland, the Battersea Dogs Home, or anything else,' a Ford spokesperson told *CL*.

Management tried to make him sign a declaration accepting special conditions of employment which would, according to his union branch, have placed him under constant threat of the sack. But Ford deny that Gosling is being victimised.

Support for his reinstatement campaign has been coming in from Ford plants all round the UK and Europe, and from as far away as Argentina and Brazil. 42 MPs – including T&G sponsored Newham MP, Tony Banks, have signed an Early Day Motion demanding he gets his job back.

But with the prospect of short-time working and further redundancies at Ford, if management fulfills its threat to make it a one-car plant, workers at Dagenham have got a bitter fight on their hands.

Hit list fears grow

The sacking of two women trade unionists on the same day – by different employers – has fuelled fears about industrial blacklisting. JUDY HIRST reports.

■ CLARE SMITH WAS SACKED from her production line job at Ford's Dagenham plant on March 3, for allegedly falsifying details on her application form about 'O' and 'A' levels, and supplying unsatisfactory references.

Denny Fitzpatrick was given her marching orders by British Rail on the same day (one day short of completing her six-month probation). Her job as a signals and telecoms technician at Paddington station was terminated – ostensibly for failing to disclose details of her employment with Ford Motor Company in '86.

Smith's dismissal has contributed to the widespread view amongst Ford workers that management are out to rid the company's Dagenham plant of union activists. Mick Gosling, the left-wing chair of one of the largest Ford T&G branches, was recently the target of what his union has called a 'grossly unfair dismissal' (*CL*380).

According to staff and students at the London School of Economics, a senior spokesperson told an industrial relations seminar there last month that the company was determined to root out 'troublers' on

DENNY FITZPATRICK

its Dagenham shopfloor.

Like Gosling, Smith is officially being dismissed for failing to disclose full details of her academic qualifications. But the real reason, she says, is more probably that she spoke out at a staff meeting against Ford's plans to cut jobs, speed up production and turn Dagenham into a one-car plant – 'something they didn't like much, particularly coming from a woman.'

The Transport & General Workers Union is currently appealing against Smith's sacking. Union sources at Dagenham say there is a lot of

employees – and the involvement of major employers like Ford with notoriously anti-union bodies like the Economic League.

It's a concern shared by Phil McGarry, Divisional Officer for the National Union of Railwaymen. On the face of it, says McGarry, Fitzpatrick's case is just about BR's tough new-style management being 'bloody unreasonable' in dismissing someone without prior warning on such flimsy grounds. Her appeal against dismissal has been summarily dismissed by BR.

'But there's also the issue of someone higher up decided people like this are not conducive to BR? And where did they get their information about her past history?'

Fitzpatrick was sacked from Ford's Dagenham plant in '86 on the grounds that her references from a previous employer, British Telecom, were unsatisfactory. 'But Ford was never able to show what was unsatisfactory about them,' she says adding: 'Along with another woman who was sacked at the time, I was dismissed because I'm a left-wing union activist, not because of my work record – which was good.'

Fitzpatrick and Smith have approach Glasgow Labour MP Maria Fyfe for support: her 'Anti-Blacklisting Campaign', backed by 69 MPs, aims to bring political vetting by employers under public scrutiny by amending the Data Protection Act. At present, says Fyfe, the Economic League sidesteps the legislation by insisting it keeps all its information on individuals on paper, not on computer.

British Rail's press office claims it has never heard of the Economic League, and Ford maintains it only uses the organisation's services for 'things like press cuttings'. The Economic League's Director of Information, Thom Robinson, would not comment on whether they offer a vetting service for employers, or on which firms make use of its services. But as one Dagenham worker told *CL*, 'We're all wondering who's next on the hit-list. Will they

LONDON TRANSPORT DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Attack on DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

MEETING – 20th June 1989

1830 hrs – UNITY HOUSE

An A.G.M. Delegate is dismissed for making a speech against privatisation at the Annual General Meeting which was reported in the press.

A Branch Secretary is threatened with dismissal if he or **his Branch** put out any literature attacking the management policies.

Workers on L.U.L. alarmed at safety standards on the underground following the Kings Cross Fire are interviewed on T.V. with their faces electronically concealed for fear of reprisal.

An S & T worker, Denny Fitzpatrick, is sacked on the last day of her probationary period. The reason given was that she had not revealed that she had been employed by Ford's of Dagenham for a few days three years ago. Ford's who have links with the Economic League, had dismissed her for no other reason than her politics.

The N.U.R. conducted a ballot of its L.U.L. members for a strike. The L.U.L. bosses were granted an injunction to stop the strike by a judge. **Not** because the ballot had breached any law but simply because the judge was unhappy with the wording on the ballot paper.

The London Transport District Council is greatly concerned at these clear attacks on hard won rights of workers. The District Council has arranged the above meeting to highlight these attacks.

The meeting has so far been sponsored by members of the N.E.C., District Council Officers, Branch Officers, Work Place Representatives and other activists that span the country and the industries organised by the N.U.R.

The meeting will be addressed by M.Ps and leading figures in the Fight for Democratic Rights.

If you wish to add your name to the growing list of sponsors please write or telephone:

LARRY COTTON
N.E.C. Member
N.U.R.
Unity House, London NW1 2BL

A further notice listing sponsors will be issued prior to the meeting.

C. RACKLEY,
Secretary, L.T.D.C.

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Who will watch the watchers?

asks ***Ken Eastham*** *MP, Secretary, AEU Parliamentary Group.*

Just lately, for the first time in any serious depth in our recent history, the British public is catching a slight glimpse of the underworld activities of spying in Britain; also the extent to which it has interfered with past Labour governments and the rights and freedoms of ordinary working folk. The Peter Wright/*Spycatcher* case apparently lifted the lid on the subject and for once the masses discovered how deeply and treacherously the tentacles of various arms of our secret service are extended.

In the Wright case, the whole world learned how shabby and insidious some of our own agents had been in attempting to bring down the lawfully elected Labour Government. Don't forget that the whole gang of them were actually on the public payroll, working above the law, illegally tapping phones, burgling homes and planting black propaganda to destroy people. We must all ask ourselves how many innocent citizens and their families have had their whole lives ruined as a result of such wicked intrigues.

Alas, it doesn't end there and I now turn my attention to another secret service organisation operating in Britain as it has done for 60 years. It calls itself the Economic League. It is not state funded, nor answerable to anyone other than its private paymasters. In fact it is a private secret service (and incidentally they will be monitoring this article and filing it just as they do with all material in which they are mentioned).

Blacklist

This is the organisation which keeps a "blacklist" of names and details of thousands of people who may be active, perfectly legally, in the trade union movement, CND, the Anti-Apartheid Movement, MPs such as myself, and lots of other lawful organisations up and down the country. Not only do they keep files on masses of people, they also plant spies within organisations, where they can, to collect data.

Already three television exposure programmes in recent times have been devoted to the Economic League and millions of viewers could witness the harm and destruction brought upon many innocent victims. I therefore pose the question ... who will watch the watchers? I would submit that there is an appropriate channel which could conduct an in-depth examination of such organisations and it is long overdue, and that is Parliament. The House of Commons employment select committee could, under its terms of reference, undertake a public inquiry and call for people and papers.

As a long serving member of that same committee I have been pursuing such a course of action but after numerous discussions, progress is being blocked. However, I have to reflect on the fact that of course our committee has a Conservative majority, which explains its reluctance. Its decisions make it increasingly obvious that influence is being brought to bear from outside against any such inquiry.

The machinations against healthy examination are far-reaching and any public exposure will be steadfastly resisted.

To give you a little illustration of certain activities that have taken place, I relate the following: one of the leading majority Members actually circulated a letter to the other Tory members headed "Confidential". In it he attempted to justify why such an inquiry should not proceed. He actually gave me an honourable mention, stating that I have appeared on the "blacklist". Up and down the country leading trade unionists are becoming more restless about such goings on and its interference in workers' affairs.

It was also interesting to note that the Guild of British Editors have commented on how they, as public watchdogs, are also being blocked by what they call institutionalised secrecy in our society. Surely it is about time all intelligent people in the land blew the whistle on such unhealthy activities. It pleases me greatly to note that our own AEU Executive have been taking a keen interest in this subject and by all accounts a groundswell of broad opinion is beginning to demand some positive action.

Big Brother

A clean-up in this murky world of sinister unaccountable espionage activities is now long overdue. Don't let's kid ourselves, it is a very important issue. It should give you all a reminder of George Orwell's 1984! Big Brother really is watching you and increasingly it is almost becoming a national sickness that requires treatment.

Our 1988 National Committee. How many of these hard-working trade unionists appear on the the Economic League black-list?

TRANSPORT & GENERAL WORKERS' UNION

REGION No. 1
LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES
REGIONAL SECRETARY: K. REID ~~B. STADEN~~

Regional Office:
"Woodberry", 218 Green Lanes,
Finsbury Park, London N4 2HB.
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YOUR REF :

OUR REF :

BRANCH COMMUNICATION

Change of address:
Mr. S. Riley,
27, Courtland Grove
Thamesmead,
London,
SE28.

1st June 1989

PRESS STATEMENT

FORD SACKS WORKER FOR UNION ACTIVITY AND POLITICS.

On 25th May Ford Motor Company at Dagenham sacked assembly line worker Tony Hunt. The day before they admitted for the first time using the political vetting agency - the Economic League. Hunt worked in the Paint Trim and Assembly plant.

Already Hunt's M.P. Bernie Grant, M.P. for Tottenham, is writing to the company protesting his sacking and will be raising it in Parliament.

Hunt had worked at Ford for 8 months. There was no complaint about his work. He told the company about his university education on his application form. He was then interviewed TWICE before he got the job. Ford claim the dismissal is for omitting qualifications on the application form. Like other sackings in the past the real reason is his union activity and political views. Union Branch chair Mick Gosling was sacked last year after 10 years at Ford.

Ford are now admitting they investigate workers-presumably using the Economic League or other agencies. This is serious attack on democratic rights and the right to privacy.

ENCLOSED: Press and other material about victimisations at Ford and elsewhere.

At every stage of the recruitment procedure, including for 5 hours at the plant itself, Ford Motor Company thought this was enough information about his education.

Now, 8 months, yes *8 months later*, Ford saw a problem.

The company had made no complaint about his work, his timekeeping or his attendance. However, at the end of the meeting on the 19th Tony was suspended "pending *further* investigations". *This was out of order*. The company has no right to investigate the lives of people who work for it, to employ agencies like the Economic League or state security bodies. We should all resist such 'Big Brother' behaviour.

How many other trade union members in this plant are being investigated?

Isn't it Ford who should be investigated?

The reasons Ford give for this sacking are nonsense

The company's stated reasons for now sacking Tony are "discrepancies" on his application form including missing details about his education. They say he refused to answer questions about his education. In fact he said he wouldn't answer such questions in a meeting where they were trying to stitch him up. When a woman was sacked in 1986 the employee relations manager then, Mr E A Sketch, told the workforce: "We will not exclude graduates from working on the production line." In Tony's case *they knew* he had been to university *before* he started work. What is the problem now? If all the company wanted was the right facts for their records, would they have pulled him off the line, without warning, last thing on a Friday to face top management? The 'discrepancies' they talk about are a couple of obvious mistakes over job dates. This shows how weak the company's case is. *And they refused to admit that both of his previous employers supplied satisfactory references.*

In any case, why do they need to know about someone's educational background?

The real reasons

Over the last fifteen months Ford have victimised at least four workers in the Dagenham estate for their union activity. Usually the company alleges falsification of educational background for these sackings. But, like these victimisations, Tony's sacking is not about his education. *The real reason* is that the company wants to weaken the union and put the frighteners on us as they speed the line up, cut jobs and prepare for the pay talks. Last year Ford's profits doubled to £673 million. They want more.

Tony's sacking is about his commitment to the union and his political views.

An attack on our freedom

The union is appealing Tony Hunt's sacking, and nationally is demanding that Ford have nothing to do with agencies like the Economic League. At stake here is not only one person's job but the basic rights and freedoms of us all.

IT IS ABOUT TIME THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY TOLD THE TRUTH:

1 Why did they deny their links with the Economic League for so long?
2 How much money do they pay to the Economic League?
3 Who else are they using to spy on us? Are there other private or state investigating agencies on their payroll?
We have all got the right to work at Ford regardless of race, sex, religion or political beliefs.

Come to -
the 1107 branch meeting
Wednesday 7th June 5.30pm
in the primary school opposite Dagenham Motors (entrance at the side)

TRANSPORT & GENERAL WORKERS' UNION

1/1107 BRANCH

REINSTATE TONY HUNT!

STOP COMPANY SPYING!

On Thursday 25th May the company sacked line worker Tony Hunt. The night before Ford admitted to the unions FOR THE FIRST TIME that they subscribe to the witchhunt agency - the Economic League. Whenever the unions have asked in the past, Ford has denied any links with this organisation.

The Economic League

This is an organisation which has been going for 70 years and is financed by big companies.

* It keeps files on workers who are active in their unions or in politics.
* It was exposed on television in 1987 by 'World In Action' which alleged that it had infiltrated a major union, the ASTMS.
* It has been condemned by many MPs and the TUC because its activites are an attack on basic freedoms.

Victimising a union activist

Already Tony's MP Bernie Grant is writing to the company protesting his sacking and will be alerting other MPs to what is going on. He will raise the question in the House of Commons and put down a motion condemning what Ford are up to. Tony has been singled out for his union and political activity: he regularly goes to 1107 branch meetings and he supported the union campaign in the plant against the sacking of 1107 branch chair Mick Gosling, who had worked here for ten years. He also supported the worker who was sacked after asking awkward questions at the company slide show on the changes at Dagenham. Recently, he was a delegate from the 1107 branch to an emergency conference on Namibia (South West Africa) called by the Anti-Apartheid movement.

Tony worked on Fiesta line 3 'A' shift. *But his sacking is an attack on all of us in the plant - both shifts, all lines.*

What happened

On Friday 19th May near the end of the shift Tony was suddenly called in to a meeting with the plant manager for 'A' shift, Mr McQuillcam, the Superintendent of Fiesta trim , Ron Humphreys and personnel officer, Carol Cavalier. The employee relations manager, Mr Phil Taylor, was also involved. These company representatives questioned Hunt about his education.

Like other new starts Tony had 2 interviews before getting the job. His application form had been screened by an agency and his hiring had been approved by senior management.

He told the company that he had been to university by ticking a box on his application form.

Blacklists are blamed by hundreds of operatives who have difficulty gaining employment. But is the practice continuing today, or is the workforce suffering from mass paranoia? Is the Economic League involved? *CJ* reports

THE SHADY WORLD OF BLACKLISTS REAL AND IMAGINED

On site it's known as 'getting the knock'. And for those on the receiving end the vexed issue of employee blacklisting provokes a frightening degree of bitterness, resentment, and anger.

When an individual's livelihood is at stake this is hardly surprising, given the reasons for which they believe their livelihood has come to an abrupt end. Many hold that they have been placed on a blacklist held by an employer or used by a number of employers, because of involvement in legitimate trade union activity. Others believe themselves blacklisted because they have complained about the safety provisions on site. Others believe they are the victims of mistaken identity.

These are serious accusations – but the strength with which they are levelled leaves one in no doubt they are genuinely held views. Is there any justification?

Do employers bar certain workers for reasons entirely separate from ability to do their job? Or should claims from 'victims' be dismissed as vindictive accusations from those whose incompetence has been rightly exposed, or whose politically motivated activity disrupts the industry?

Opinions vary, but the Construction Safety Campaign – an operatives' pressure group founded in 1988 – has no doubt that active and illegal blacklisting is rife throughout the country. A CSC spokeman explains: 'Getting the knock is a common enough experience. You read about the job in your local paper, say the London Evening Standard, and you go up to the City and have a brief interview with someone on the site. They say "fine, start tomorrow morning" – but when you get home you find your wife has had a phone call saying that you're no longer required.

'Worse still you turn up the next morning like they told you, and then find that there is no job for you. It's heartbreaking – especially when it just keeps happening. Then you know. You've been blacklisted and there may be nothing you can do about it.'

CSC asserts that this experience is most common on the bigger sites in cities – where larger contractors are involved. The spokesman quotes from his own experience: 'I was on a site being run by one of the major national contractors, and after a few days one of the foremen – I had worked with him on a previous job – recognised me as a trades union convener.

'The next day I was sacked, and the reason given was that I did not know how to do my job, which was rubbish. I was lucky because I had backing from lads on site who knew this wasn't true.

I HAD BEEN BLACKLISTED

'The management eventually agreed to take me back – and gave one of the most difficult jobs on the site as a foreman, to try and prove I was not capable of doing it. I proved them wrong. Shortly after, I found that I couldn't get a job anywhere. I too had been blacklisted.'

CSC insists that blacklisting is not a relic of the union extremism of the 1970s, but most definitely a problem of today. It claims that sympathetic general foremen and site managers are in regular contact with their organisation, and that they continually confirm the operation of blacklists by employers. Says the spokesman: 'We heard of a case only the other week of a ganger who had working on a large London site. He was being asked to work on a high platform which was supported by badly erected scaffolding, with little protection to prevent him from falling. After an argument, the site manager agreed to do something about it the next day, but the following day the ganger found he had been transferred outside London.'

The spokesman adds: 'This man is actually a TGWU branch secretary. He is still working on his new site, but he's too scared of being blacklisted to tell anyone there about his union position.'

These are powerful testimonies. Naturally the names of both the individuals and the companies involved must be withheld. This means only one side of the story is generally heard, and there is little doubt that genuine troublemakers, who set out to disrupt a site for independent political reasons, use such stories as an excuse when their activities have been exposed.

But such is the weight of opinion on site which holds that much recruitment is both sinister and unfair, that not all of it can be dismised as extremist propaganda.

Certainly, Ucatt and the TGWU both fear their efforts to maintain active involvement in site safety are being jeopardised by blacklisters, as George Brumwell, who sits on Ucatt's executive council, explains: 'It is not unknown for safety management to go on to a site and make some suggestions for safety improvements, only to be told: to clear off by the site management. Project managers don't like it – so you can imagine the problems our safety reps can come up against.

'Once people start asking questions about health and safety, they tend to get cleared out pretty quickly. It's very frustrating because there is now a marked reluctance to become a safety rep because people feel they will be labelled as troublemakers. We have a policy to support our reps who carry out their job in a responsible way, but admittedly the remedy to victimisation proves to be difficult.'

Brumwell continues: 'Many who believe they have been singled out cannot go to an industrial tribunal because they have not worked with that employer for two years as the law demands. In construction two years is a long time to have a job with one employer.'

Brumwell's views are broadly echoed by George Henderson, national secretary with the TWGU: 'We have gone out of our way to protect safety reps from victimisation. There is a clause in our rule book which guarantees them union support, but still we find a reluctance on the part of members to take up safety issues. Clearly they fear victimisation.'

Despite the assertions of the CSC and the unions, it is still difficult to determine the extent to which these fears are real or imagined. And the burden of conclusively proving that someone has been blacklisted is almost impossible.

Almost. The following account forms part of a letter to Labour MP Maria Fyfe, who heads ABC – the Anti-Blacklisting Campaign. The letter runs: 'I was employed as a stress engineer with a very well known electronics engineering company. After about two years I made a visit to the Soviet Union, having first warned the company security officer.'

The engineer explains that having left the company soon after his visit, he found it impossible to find employment within the construction industry.

'I found out I had been blacklisted by phoning the employment officer at my old workplace and imitating a recruitment officer. He told me I was a security risk, which he later denied when I phoned him (as myself) a few days later.'

Fyfe says that much of her correspondence concerns the construction industry: 'Blacklisting has always been rife in construction. Of course we accept that builders need responsible employees who will turn up to work on time and so on, but we strongly object to people having their job opportunities blighted because of legitimate trades union activities such as pursuing the goal of safer working conditions on site.

'The whole idea of blacklisting people for their political beliefs belongs to the cold war era, and companies which operate or use these lists are indeed living in the past. Unfortunately, judging from the number of construction workers who have contacted our campaign we have every reason to believe blacklisting is still a serious issue in the industry today.'

So who compiles blacklists? Here there is a general consensus among unions and interested pressure groups, that blacklists operate on roughly two levels.

The first, they believe, is at a local level, with site managers and recruitment officers from major sites in a certain area running 'unofficial' blacklists, so that if one site deems an employee troublesome he will be unable to find employment elsewhere in that town. At this level there may be no written lists as such, and evidence is entirely anecdotal.

VAST ARCHIVES OF MATERIAL

More sinister is the claim that a majority of major contractors vet all recruitment by using organisations which hold vast archives of material relating to the personal and political activities of individuals.

The organisation most commonly referred to in this respect by the CSC, major unions and the Anti-Blacklisting Campaign is the Economic League. Typical of the fears expressed are those of George Henderson, who in a letter last year to fellow TGWU officials said: 'We are united in our opposition to blacklisting and the activities of the Economic League and their anti-trade union supporters . . . When we visited the Channel Tunnel recently you will recall that I raised this question of personnel previously employed by the Economic League working on this project in a managerial capacity and the response was "that was all in the past and there is no connection with the Economic League whatsoever". We are all aware of the difficult in obtaining hard evidence and the fears being expressed in this regard are real enough.'

One former Economic League employee is David Knight-Dewell, currently employed as industrial relations manager by TML. Knight-Dewell has for more than a year keen the target of complaints from numerous individuals who felt they have been blacklisted by TML. But this connection between TML and the League has remained essentially circumstantial, despite intense media interest in Knight-Dewell.

The Economic League itself denies it operates any kind of blacklist. It claims that the League exists only to monitor the activities of organisations which are opposed to Parliamentary democracy, free enterprise, or free legitimate trade unions, with the aim of preserving those institutions.

INQUIRIES ARE THEN DESTROYED

A League spokesman says: 'Anyone is welcome to write to us for a complete copy of *all* the material which we hold that refers to them. Our replies to these requests have never once been challenged, and the actual inquiries are then destroyed so that these in themselves cannot be used as any form of blacklist. This has been our policy for years – but no-one listens. We are not a secret organisation, we are not sinister and we are not clandestine. We have nothing to hide.'

The League's problem is that many people do not believe it – fearing that whatever it may choose to reveal publicly may constitute only part of its operations.

These fears have been so vehemently and publicly expressed over the past three years that some contractors, including Costain, have cancelled their subscriptions to the League, and in 1988 the League's income fell by 20% on the 1987 figure.

Again it is difficult to establish which fears are founded in fact or born out of ignorance and paranoia. But the League's status as bogeyman is maintained by hearsay as much as by evidence. *CJ* knows of one director of a national contractor who tells of how he rang the League to make an inquiry about himself – to be told that he was a subversive and not suitable for employment.

Apparently a case of mistaken identity – but again there is no proof, and the experience of both the media and the pressure groups involved in trying to 'expose' the League would suggest that much effort has been wasted.

But those convinced they have been blacklisted might be encouraged by legislation now making its way through Parliament. Currently a job applicant may only challenge non-selection in an industrial tribunal on grounds of suspected racial or sexual prejudice. If the new Employment Bill becomes law this year, an applicant may also challenge if he suspects he has been discriminated against because of union membership.

attn Mike Hughes 0532. 344049.

7 APR '94 15:52 FROM EDUCATION PAGE.001

Economic League organisers return with revamped blacklisting outfit

by DAVE OSLER

TWO former managers of the now-defunct Economic League blacklisting outfit have set up a consultancy to keep tabs on "anti-business" pressure groups, trade union activists and socialists.

Going by the politically neutral name of Caprim Limited, it operates from a post office box number in Redditch in the West Midlands. Companies House records list the directors as Stan Hardy, a past director general of the Economic League, and Jack Winder, the organisation's director of information, who each hold 30 £1 shares.

Tribune has been sent photocopies of what appears to be a regular bulletin, *Caprim Monitor*, spelling out the wide range of McCarthyite services now on offer.

As well as traditional Economic League "labour-screening" activity, which enables bosses to vet the political and trade union background of prospective employees, Caprim also offers an "anti-business monitoring service" which targets "the many and varied organisations whose activities threaten a company's freedom of action". The Campaign Against the Arms Trade and the Ethical Investment Research and Information Service are given as examples.

The Economic League, established in 1919 to combat the Bolshevik menace on the shop floor, went into voluntary liquidation last year with creditors of £300,067.

As recently as 1987, it claimed to have 15 employees in its London offices, 60 others across the country, and an income of £1,000,000 a year. But with union militancy on the wane and a flurry of unwelcome media interest and parliamentary scrutiny, many companies simply stopped subscribing.

The organisation was heavily criticised for effectively keeping people out of work on the basis of inaccurate or flimsy information. People were blacklisted for campaigning against hospital closures, signing nomination papers for relatives standing in local elections for the Communist Party or simply for being mentioned in Left-wing newspapers.

The League used paid spies in a trade union, the Anti-Apartheid Movement, and even the Liberal Party, and monitored such "vehicles for subversion" as Christian Aid, Greenpeace, the Child Poverty Action Group and Oxfam.

The names of mainstream Labour figures such as Jack Ashley, the former Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, and Roger Lyons, now general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science, Finance union, cropped up alongside one man who was apparently listed merely because his wife had briefly been a member of the Young Communist League at 16.

At the time of its collapse, Mr Winder was owed £24,804 and Mr Hardy £9,591. Peter Shipley, who specialises in smearing Labour candidates for Conservative Central Office, was owed £1,679.

The league kept files on at least 50,000 individuals, and vetted up to 400,000 job applicants a year on behalf of over 2,000 leading companies, primarily in construction or manufacturing.

As the files were card-index based, the access provisions of the Data Protection Act did not apply. A question mark remains over what happened to them, and it is possible that they form the basis of Caprim's records.

The organisation's new emphasis is set out in one edition of *Caprim Monitor*: "Not all people who cause damage to companies are political extremists. Some have laudable motives. But their methods and conclusions may fail the test of objectivity.

"One of the growth areas of 'busybodyness' is ethics. Companies are categorised, pigeon-holed and effectively blacklisted on the basis of criteria decided by the 'ethical industry'.

"Caprim can supply the information a traduced company needs to set the record straight and/or to initiate legal proceedings."

Of the two groups named, CAAT is currently running its "Together we can Stop the Hawks" campaign against the sale of British Aerospace fighter-trainers to Indonesia, and is researching the company's involvement in the Al Yamamah Saudi arms deals.

Campaign worker Will McMahon commented: "I'm glad the Economic League is concerned about what we have on BAe. It bloody well should be."

EIRIS's executive secretary, Peter Webster, said that his company merely supplied information to clients in accordance with ethical standards drawn up by the customers themselves, and that companies are always told what is said about them.

He denied that EIRIS was in any way anti-business, arguing that it actually facilitated investment.

Meanwhile, Caprim has not forgotten the Economic League's old specialities: "Caprim helps its clients by checking the bona fides of anyone a company is concerned about, whether external or members of staff. A simple CV check is often sufficient, and economical."

One edition of *Caprim Monitor*, dated July 1993, turns its attentions on the far Left, said to be "on the move again" after years in decline. Militant Labour and the Socialist Workers' Party are singled out.

"Militancy among teachers, firemen, railway, bus and tube workers, far from attracting public odium, has drawn some outspoken support.

"The silence of the TUC, after its early outcry against the pit closure programme, can be portrayed as yet another betrayal of trade unionists by their leaders.

"The far Left has always got onto every picket line of any significance. The difference now is that the industrial relations climate is set to change.

"With union officials advocating playing it safe within the law, frustrated and impatient employees may be more likely to listen to those urging militant action."

TRIBUNE used subterfuge to ring Caprim from the offices of a major public relations outfit with South African clients on Monday this week. We claimed to be worried about what a certain journalist was writing about them, and asked if he could be "checked out". A receptionist responded cautiously, saying that someone would ring back.

The call was returned to the PR firm on Tuesday, and we rang back on the following day. The phone was answered by a man claiming to be Jack Winder, formerly director of information for the Economic League.

Mr Winder initially made small talk about South Africa, saying that it was no longer as much of a problem as it used to be, because Nelson Mandela was now likely to adopt a basically cautious approach.

He confirmed that Caprim offers CV checks, adding: "We can go into other things." A "nominal fee" of £50 would secure a look through the files and a few phone calls to "researchers", said to be based all over the country.

Was the journalist "a John Pilger figure", Mr Winder inquired. When told "I think he's got aspirations, but he's not in the John Pilger league", Mr Winder replied: "But he has scant regard for the truth?"

Most worryingly of all, Mr Winder asked if the journalist was a member of the National Union of Journalists: "We have very good connections in the unions, very good contacts in the NUJ in a senior position."

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BLACK FLAG
FOR ANARCHIST RESISTANCE

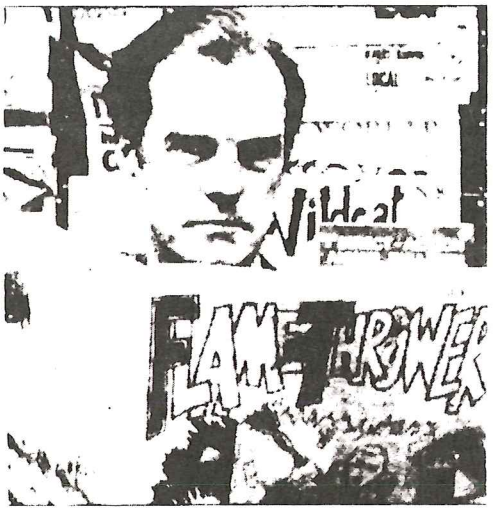
LEAGUE WORRIED OVER ANARCHIST THREAT

Poor Michael Noar, the incompetent director-general of the Economic League, is losing sleep over the number of leaks emanating from his organisation to the extent that he sent out a hurried missive to all League subscribers explaining that the EL is still alive and well and contrary to published reports is still impenetratable. Unfortunately for Noar a copy of his four page letter was sent to us. The letter includes a section about the 'anarchist threat' and goes on to detail some of the League's new 'services'.

Dated 19th December 1988 the letter commences with a moan about 'unfair' attacks on the League in the media. Next comes a summary of the League's philosophy, which is basically corporatist. Under the sub-heading 'Support Groups' the letter states that anarchists are often active here, but that the League is able to 'identify the true background of such groups'. There's no great mystery to this: an EL employee simply purchases all the relevant papers from a left-wing bookshop and gleans the details from the articles. For this 'service' the League charges its subscriber a princely sum.

Another concern of the League, according to Noar's letter, is the possibility of groups seeking to 'put their members into key positions in companies either to steal information from them, for a variety of reasons, or to create discord or physical damage within them.

The letter ends with a list of new services on offer. These include lobbying MP's and organisations, and advice on Industrial Relations. Clearly the League is now in the business of touting for new customers and extra revenue, especially given that its mainstream blacklisting work is having such a bad press.



Director General of the Economic league - Michael Noar

Mr Noar wants desperately to prove how 'fair' the League is - so much that he adds in the letter that the League is not anti-union Indeed the letter even goes so far to admit that 'senior trade union leaders have participated in League functions at both Regional and National level'. Here Noar is referring to people like Sid Weighell, who'll sell his soul to the Devil if he had one and if such a creature existed.

We look forward to reading Noar's next missive. We wonder if he will be reporting to his subscribers that the letters they receive are read also by the very anarchists the League feels threatened by?

EL Conference Report

It was billed as a national conference, but it turned out to be more regional. The conference was sponsored by a number of trade unions including the MSF, the ISTC, Nacods, SOGAT 82, Nupe and Aslef. Delegations were from trade unions and independent organisations (like ourselves) involved in anti-blacklisting work.

The morning session got underway with talks by an independent researcher from the 1 in 12 Club (Bradford) and Steve Dorrill from *Lobster* magazine, which has published historical research on the League. During the morning a wealth of updated information was produced on the League and other blacklisters. The League is currently undergoing a major internal reorganisation, cutting back on non-blacklisting work (eg propaganda) and staffing. Its funds have shrunk and so has a certain amount of its credibility. But it would be a mistake to take this to mean it is in decline—far from it. The League is looking for new 'market [illegible] and is confident that recent bad PR can be overcome. One thing that is certain is that the accuracy of its records is even more in doubt given its poor staff resources. The demand for information is still there, but the League is unable to meet it. In 1983 the League received over 140,000 enquiries alone, It is believed that figure is far less today but even in 1983 the League was unable to cope and employers were fobbed off with disinformation. The situation at present for the League has worsened. The League's credibility gap is a serious problem which is not helped by years of poor management and downright errors. Delegates had access to League internal documentation, thanks mainly to the efforts of independent researchers. The conference generally acknowledged the valuable work of these independent researchers (eg *Lobster*, 1in 12 and *Black Flag*) as well as the Labour Research Department, in not only providing much of the background material that made the conference possible in the first place, but in keeping up the pressure on the League through regular exposes. At the conference delegates were also able to access the League's entire files for the (now defunct) North West region.

Continued next page>

ECONOMIC LEAGUE DIRECTORS

The following is a partial list of names and addresses of current and recent directors and prominent members of the Economic League, the privately funded organisation that monitors trade union militants on behalf of employers and which has close links with MI5, the internal state security agency.

Duncan Macleod, 175 West George Street, Glasgow.

Lawrence Orchard, The Maltings, Maidenhead.

Richard Raworth, South Bay Cottage, Kingsley.

Henry Saxon Tate, 26 Clever Square, London SW3 (Tate & Lyle Ltd).

Sir Anthony Touche, Stane House, Ockley, Dorking (tel. Oakwood Hill 397). Director National Westminster bank.

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S.J. West, The Woodlands, Gatcombe Flax (English Employers' Federation).
G.A. Lean, Birkhill, Muckhart, Dollar, Scotland (Pauline Hyde & Assoc.).
Sir Gerald Thorley, Church House, Fakenham (MEPC Ltd.).
John Dettmer, Bracken Cottage, Tadworth. (See 'Hurricane Puts Wind Up')
Jimson Parsons, Gatesby Farm, Lapworth (Robin Marlow & Assocs.).
Sir Robert Maclean, Woodend, Houston, Renfrewshire (Stoddard Holdings).
Peter Ashworth, Church Farm, Backworth, Chester (Greenhall Whitley Ltd.).

Thomas Carlile, 8 Aldenham Rd, Radlett (Babcock & Wilcox Ltd.).
Lord Cayzer, The Grove, Walsham-le-Willows, Suffolk (tel. W-l-W 267);

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Sir Robert Mac

APPENDIX I

THE MEN WHO RUN THE ECONOMIC LEAGUE

President: Viscount **Rochdale**, Conservative peer, chairman of Kelsall and Kemp, director of Williams Deacons Bank.

Vice-Presidents: Earl of **Selborne**, 82 years old, Conservative peer and former Conservative MP. Member of the Right-wing Monday Club. Former sponsor of Martell's anti-trade union Freedom Group. Former director of National Provincial Bank.

Clive **Cookson**, 90 years old, former chairman of Consett Iron.

Viscount **Runciman** of Doxford, 'National Liberal' peer, shipowner, chairman of Walter Runciman & Co. and its shipping subsidiaries, deputy chairman of Lloyds Bank.

Chairman: Mr. Eric **Turner**, chairman of Birmingham Small Arms, director of Alfred Herbert and 19 other companies.

Council: Sir Harry **Brittain**, 96 years old, former Tory MP; Mr. Raymond P. **Brookes**, chairman of Guest, Keen and Nettlefold; Sir Nicholas **Cayzer**, chairman of British & Commonwealth Shipping Co. and director of 59 other companies; Lieut.-Gen. Sir John **Evetts**, former chairman of Rotol; Mr. James D. **Fraser**, director of A. R. Stenhouse and Partners, part of the big Scottish insurance group, Stenhouse Holdings, which in 1968 gave £26,000 to the Tories; Mr. Daniel **Gardner**, retired; Sir Kenneth **Hague**, former chairman of Babcock and Wilcox and on six other companies; Mr. Robert **Henderson-Tate**, "industrialist"; Col. Robert Rawdon **Hoare**; Col John P. **Hunt**, on the Midland Bank, Philblack, Newton Chambers and four other companies; W. George **Ibberson**, "industrialist"; Mr. Michael C. **Lloyd**, managing director of F. H. Lloyd and on seven subsidiaries; Mr. Alastair P. **Low**, on Lead Industries and three subsidiaries; Sir Michael **Malcolm**, former coalowner; Mr. Hay I. **Matthey**, managing director of Morgan Crucible and on Johnson Matthey; Mr. Anthony E. **Minns**, former shipowner, now retired; Mr. Anthony M. **Mould**, director of Liverpool Letterpress and two others; Sir R. Alistair **Murray**, chairman of London & Montrose Investment Trust and on 12 others; Mr. Morton D. **Oliphant**, director of Tate and Lyle, Cammell Laird, Martins Bank, Brown Brothers, etc.; Mr. John J. **Parkes**, chairman of Alvis and on four others; Mr. Charles U. **Peat**, former Tory MP, now chairman of Cleveland Trust and on North Eastern Improved Dwellings Co.; Lieut.-Col. H. H. **Pelle**, chairman of Washington Engineering and on three others; Mr. J. Murray **Prain**, on six companies including Royal Bank of Scotland, Alliance Trust, etc.; Mr. Cyril G. F. **Pritchett**, director of Chloride Electrical Storage Co. and four others; Sir Halford **Reddish**, President of Rugby Conservative Association, chairman of Rugby Portland Cement, and on 11 other companies including Hawker Siddeley, Alfred Herbert, Granada Group; Mr. James F. **Simpson**, on Scholfields Holdings and three others; Sir Eustice **Smith**, chairman of Smith's Dock and on nine others including Swan Hunter, Shipping Industrial Holdings, etc.; Mr. J. Alan **Thompson**, director of Woolcombers (Holdings) and on 13 others; Mr. Philip J. D. **Toosey**, on Cammell Laird, Martins Bank, Ocean Steam Ship Co. and five others; Mr. Murray **Vines**, director of Evershed and Vignoles; Mr. Raymond H. **Wilkins**, chairman of Francis B. Wilmott and on three others.

Chairman of South Wales Area: Sir Maynard **Jenour**, chairman of Aberthaw and Bristol Channel Portland Cement and on seven others.

President of West Yorkshire Area: Lord **Grimthorpe**, Conservative peer.

New director of the Economic League in 1969: Mr. David H. **Barran**, chairman of Shell Transport and Trading.

APPENDIX II

FIRMS WHICH GAVE MONEY TO THE ECONOMIC LEAGUE, 1968/9

Banks, Discount Houses, Investment Trusts: Barclays Bank (£4,750), Kleinwort Benson and Lonsdale (£500), Hambros Bank (£250), Guinness Mahon (£150), Arbuthnot Latham, Gerrard and Reid, Alexander's Discount Co., Lazard Bros., Union Commercial Investment Co. Industrial & General Trust, and United Dominions Trust gave £767 between them.

Brewers: Allied Breweries (£850), Courage Barclay & Simonds (£788), Greene King & Son (£50), Guinness (£200), Hardy's Kimberley Brewery (£60), John Joule (£105), Scottish Newcastle (£381), Tennant Bros. (£100), Tollemache & Cobbold (£10), Watney Mann (£100), Whitbread (£1,712).

Textiles and Carpets: William Baird (£120), Calico Printers Assoc. (£200), Courtaulds (£956), Kelsall & Kemp (£100), Lindustries (£500), John Crossley Carpet (£213), Homfray (£116), Readicut International (£125).

Food, Tobacco, Catering: Associated Biscuits (£208), British American Tobacco (£700), Bovril (£500), Brooke Bonds Liebig (£500), Gallaher (£618), Imperial Tobacco (£1,250), J. Lyons (£26), Ranks Hovis McDougall (£3,500), Tate & Lyle (£1,575), Trust Houses (£100).

Clothing and Footwear: N. Corah (£150), Norvic (£105), John White Footwear (£52).

Building, Civil Engineering, Building Materials and Components: Richard Costain (£400), Concrete (£210), Holst (£157), International Compressed Air (£255), Lead Industries (£300), Norris Warming (£100), A. Monk & Co. (£25), Norwest Construction (£75), Peglers (Holdings) (£250), Ready Mixed Concrete (£150), Taylor Woodrow (£1,000), Thomas Tilling (£805), Turner and Newall (£1,000).

Chemicals: Albright & Wilson (£50), Boots Pure Drug (£1,000), Imperial Chemical Industries (£1,500).

Paper and Print: De La Rue (£400), Peter Dixon (£80), Lamson Industries (£500), Wiggins Teape (£750).

Insurance Companies: C. T. Bowring (£100), Commercial Union (£1,000), Eagle Star (£500), General Accident Fire (£500), Guardian Royal Exchange (£656), Legal & General (£1,000), Norwich Union (£190), Phoenix Assurance (£200), Royal Insurance (£700), Sun Alliance & London (£1,218).

Property: Capital & Counties Property Co. (£525), Slough Estates (£250).

Shipowners: British & Commonwealth Shipping (£750), Cawoods Holdings (£280), Coast Lines (£160), Currie Line (£26), Dene Shipping Co. (£100), Furness Withy (£510), Lyle Shipping (£10), P & O (£340), Shipping Industrial Holdings (£250), Williams Hudson (£500).

Shipbuilders: John Brown & Co. (£60), Cammell Laird (£250), Doxford & Sunderland Shipbuilding (£100), Swan Hunter (£600), Vickers (£1,000).

Vehicles, Aircraft and Components: Automotive Products (£500), Ambrose Shardlow (£150), British Leyland (£2,050), Clayton Dewandre (£300), Dowty Group (£500), Dupie Motor Bodies (£120), Westland Aircraft (£400), Wilmot Breedon (£100).

Heavy Engineering: Edgar Allen (£50), Babcock & Wilcox (£500), Brightside Engineering (£100), Clarke Chapman (£300), Davy-Ashmore (£20), Guest, Keen & Nettlefold (£3,780), Ideal Standard (£150), Neepsend Steel & Tool (£200), Tube Investments (£850), Weir Group (£100).

Other Engineering: Anderson Mavor (£75), Baker Perkins (£220), BHD Engineers (£300), Birmid Qualcast (£450), British Insulated Calender's Cables (£392), British Ropes (£500), British United Shoe Machinery (£200), J. Brockhouse (£150), George Cohen 600 Group (£420), Edbro (£100), Ferranti (£300), Fluvent Electric (£30), Franco Signs (£105), Gaskell & Chambers (£100), C. & J. Hampton (£10), Holman Bros. (£100), International Harvester Co. (£200), Kearney & Tecker CVA (£150), McKechnie Bros. (£150), M.K. Electric Holdings (£99), Newman Hender (£80), Newton Chambers (£175), Pegler-Hattersley (£275), Powell Duffryn (£300), F. Pratt Engineering (£75), Reyrolle Parsons (£821), Thomas Robinson (£68), Sanderson Kayser (£75), Saunders Valve (£100), Sheffield Twist Drill & Steel (£200), Stone-Platt Industries (£715), Wadkin (£109), Walmsley (Bury) (£125), W. Williams (£68), Jonas Woodhead (£100).

Miscellaneous: Associated British Picture Corp. (£250), Amalgamated Anthracite (£107), British Match Corp. (£105), British Vita Co. (£250), Lines Bros. (£100), London Tin Corp. (£52), Maple (£52), Rockware Group (£200), Senior Economisers (£157), Transport Development Group (£205).

1/4

F.A.O. JUDY HIRST

0532 790121 ext 4582
0532 620540

Dear Judy,

This is a first draft of the oil rig story. There's some good new material in this, esp. response from Shell and we are going to put pressure on the League and Press Offshore for a response of some sort, and will get a good quote from Moran and perhaps some pick up in the Commons. As far as I can establish the Cullen Report is out next week, & WIA is doing its own show on Monday (it mentions blacklisting but doesn't go into details).

Interviews are on tape, the internal document is 100% authentic. Individuals prefered not to be named - and why make their life tougher and the blacklisters life easier? As for main London angle I think this is straightforward - many offshore workers live in London.

As an intro all you'd need is something like: "This week the Cullen Inquiry has published its report into the Piper Alpha disaster and once again issues about offshore safety are front page news. City Limits has been examining claims that offshore workers who have taken part in industrial action over safety have been "blacklisted" and has discovered that blacklisting in the North Sea is big business....."

I'll be at work from about 1.30, please ring and advise!

Mike Hughes

Bill Murray - personnel manager "country communications"

Press Offshore Services (Division)

Mike Staughton - general manager "do not subscribe + never have done"

All Mose sacked were on shell platforms.

Subsidiary

Amec

Hamish MacGregor
041 332 9108.

STALKING HORSES AND MAJOR SURGERY

Margaret Thatcher must now know what hundreds of Labour Party councillors have been going through for the last few months. However the current Tory reselection contest has more profound and historic implications. If Hesletine ousts Thatcher it will be the first time that a serving Prime Minister has been sacked by their Party. Looking back on the way in which she became leader of the Conservative Party, in what John Nott (the minister for the Falklands War) once called "A coup d'etat, a bloodless coup", it is hard not to believe that it would be an appropriate end to the "Thatcher Years".

Thatcher became leader of the Conservative Party on February 11th 1975, after a bloodier and more acrimonious laedership battle than the current one. Until then the Conservative's succession had been a gentlemanly affair. A discrete visit by party notaries explained to the unwanted leader that the game was up and it was time to do the honorable thing. There was no need a provision for anything as undignified as a "leadership challange".

Ted Heath, however, spoilt this nice little pantomime. Despite having led the Consevative Party to defeat in two elections in the same year (1974) he made it clear that he didn't want to go, and wasn't going to go unless someone made him.

The 1922 Committee, the Conservative's backbench second IX, notorious for being "influential" started putting ~~the~~ pressure on Heath. Although the Committee was then led by one of Heath's most trenchant opponents, Edward Du Cann, ~~but~~ the campaign against Heath was at first conducted with a discretion that the present street-fighting Tory

Party has since forgotten. The press knew that Du Cann and his band of conspirators were plotting Heath's downfall. But none would go on record, and they had taken to meeting in secret. Heath only conceded the need for a leadership election when the secret meeting place - the Milk Street offices of Keyser Ullman, Du Cann's merchant bank - was leaked to the press who turned out in force to greet the "Milk Street Mafia".

Heath, though unpopular, ~~was still~~ remained in a strong position. He asked the former leader, Prime Minister and Heath supporter, Sir Alec Douglas Home, to draw up the rules of the leadership contest. The bizare rigmarole that he conjoured up then is the one that will govern this week's contest - a 15% majority wins on the first ballot, new candidates allowed to stand in the second round. It was designed to give Heath a fighting chance, and if that failed to allow another social democratic Tory to make a stand against the party's far right.

The challenge from the far right was expected to by mounted by Keith Joseph, and possibly Du Cann himself. Joseph's aide de campe and co-conspirator, Margaret Thatcher, was expected to run as a "stalking horse" - a no-hoper to pick up ~~the~~ anti-Heath votes from those MPs who couldn't stomach voting for Joseph. Though they had both been members of Heath's last administration, Joseph and Thatcher had become increasingly, and publicly, critical of Heath's moderate politics. They began voicing their opposition while still in office, and after the first electoral defeat of 1974, they had set up their own think-tank-cum-megaphone called the Centre for Policy Studies.

When it finally came to the leadership campaign the right were in disarray. Backbench gitters about the state of his merchant bank and family pressure resulted in Du Cann deciding not to stand. Worse still, Joseph who had his own family problems, had more or less committed political suicide in Edgbaston. In a speech there he had called for a compulsory birth programme for "socio-economic classes four and five", a political storm ensued and even most of Joseph's supporters saw him as a major electoral liabilty. The radical right of the Party were left with one potential candidate, the stalking horse.

Thatcher's campaign was energetically organised by Airey Neave. She beat Heath by 130 votes to 119 on the first ballot. Hugh Fraser, the only other candidate, was moved to tears by the thought that his sixteen votes had robbed Heath of the leadership. He wasn't the only Conservtive to have a quiet weep, so did Lord Hailsham ~~is also said to have cried~~. Heath stood down, Willie Whitelaw took his place and three other candidates declared-someone called John Petryl, James Prior, and Geoffrey Howe. Whitelaw's campaign was a fiasco, he spent most of his time behaving like a participant on the "Generation Game" and Thatcher romped home with 146 votes to his 79. For the record, Howe and Prior got 19 votes each and Petryl (whoever he is, or was) got 11.

Heseltine would do well to remember that the "coup" that deposed Ted Heath in 1974/5 wasn't merely an ideological fist fight between friends. Immediately after the first election of 1974 MI5 had set up an operation called "Clockwork Orange 2". It was an extension of the secret state's covert operations against Harold Wilson and the Labour Party - to include Heath and his supporters. Colin Wallace, then an Army Information officer in Northern Ireland, was briefed on "Clockwork Orange 2". His notes fom the briefing included the following entry:

"The key issue is, therefore, whether there should be cosmetic surgery to help elect a weak government under Heath, or major surgery to bring about a change of leadership before the next election".

The number of freelance spooks and their fellow travellers on the Joseph/Thatcher bandwagon in 1974 suggests that the "major surgery" option had been chosen, although the speed with which the next election was called caught them on the hop. The Centre for Policy Studies was closely linked with the CIA backed "Institute for the Study of Conflict" and men long associated with the CIA and British Intelligence - Brian Crozier, Robert Moss, Lord Nicholas Cayzer, R. V. Jones, Airey Neave - were at the heart of the radical right's anti-Heath campaign. When he retired, in 1981, as head of MI5's "F Branch" (the "Domestic Subversion" branch responsible for briefing Wallace), Charles Elwell immediately put his knowledge and experience at the disposal of the Conservative's radical right wing.

All the senior posts in British Intelligence have now been appointed by Thatcher. If he doesn't have the spooks backing for his candidature, and he wins, then he had better watch out. The secret state's surgeons will be ready to make the first incision.

c 1300 words

BLACK GOLD - BLACKLIST

There is good money to be made on the North Sea oil and gas rigs. But it is far from easy, or safe, money for the thousands of skilled and experienced workers from all around Britain who earan their living offshore. The horrific Piper Alpha disaster, in 1988, again brought home the risks faced daily by offshore workers.

The Oil companies which own and run the rigs also make good money out of the North Sea. But it is not a long term investment, the oil and gas fields have a limited and rapidly diminishing lifespan and the operators' objective is to get the black gold out as cheaply as possible. Wages figure low in their cost equation. Its the plant that costs, to keep that plant running 24 hours a day, 52 weeks a year the oil companies have always willing to pay well and use contractors as part of their resistance to attempts to unionise offshore workers. Over the course of ~~last~~ this summer concerns over health and safety problems offshore, came to a head with a number of "sit-ins" and other industrial action. This action was co-ordinated by the Offshore Industry Liason Committee (OILC), formed in 1988, as a result of Piper Alpha disaster.

Earlier this month the Labour Party's "Oil and Gas Spokesman", Frank Doran-MP for Aberdeen South, accused Shell, the oil giant most involved in last summer's dispute, of operating a blacklist of union and OILC activists. Investigations by City Limits have confirmed that not only is Shell operating its own internal blacklist, but that the country's oldest, and these days beleaguered, blacklisting agency - The Economic League - is also involved in offshore blacklisting.

How Shell operates its blacklist:

Very few workers on Shell platforms are employed by Shell itself. However it operates its own computer personnel system known as "OPRIS", which stands for Offshore Personnel Records and Information System". Anyone who wants to work for a contractor on a Shell platform must have an OPRIS card, which carries a photograph, personal identifiction number and has a magnetic strip on the back. Other offshore operators, like BP, run their own similar and more or less interchangeable systems.

Every time an worker is due to fly out to an offshore installation they hand over their OPRIS card, instead of a ticket and bording pass and the number is checked. City Limits has spoken to a number of OILC members who took part in the recent industrial action over offshore safety. They told us that their OPRIS cards had been "blacked" and that when their number was entered into the computer it registered "Not required offshore under any circumstances".

Following Mr Doran's allegations Shell issued a statement which seemed to confirm their blacklist. "At this point in time Shell does not wish to have back onits platforms those individuals whohave repetedly disobeyed the lawful instructions of offshore installation managers".

Shell went on to claim that "it has done nothing to prevent any persons dismissed being re-engaged by their previous companies".

However it does not need to. A valid OPRIS card is often a prerequisite of work for a number of the largest contractors, which frequently check someone's OPRIS number before taking them on.

One man, sacked for his part in one of the safety sit-ins, told City Limits about his futile search for other employers offshore. Eventually, he told us, "Press Offshore offered me a job, even told me whichplatform I was due on. But as soon as I gave my OPRIS number over the telephone I heard nothing further."

PRESS OFFSHORE

Press Offshore is one of the largest North Sea contractors. With 168 sackings it comes top of a table of 16 companies responsible for 630 dismissals as a result of the recent industrial action. This table, compiled by AUE full timer Tommy Lafferty, excludes those sacked from drilling companies and "selected out of turn for reundancy" and some estimate the real figure for the number of victims of the employers' anti-union backlash is closer to 1,500. David Steward, Shell'sAberdeen spokesman refused to put an exact figure on the number of sackings, but confirmed that it was "several hundred" and "closer to six hundred than two hundred". When asked how Shell knew how many people the contractors had sacked he told us frankly "because we know who sat in on our platforms... We know who's on our platforms". That, not blacklisting, is afterall one of the purposes ~~for the use~~ of OPRIS.

THE ECONOMIC LEAGUE

The use of a computerised personnel system to organise large scale offshore blacklisting would seem to be a recent development. However enquiries by City Limits have revealed that blacklisting by the offshore industry is not new. In the late 1970's Shell's Chairman, Sir David Barran, was also President of the veteran blacklisting agency "The Economic League", ~~currently the subject of an inquiry by the House of Commons Select Committee on Employment~~. We asked Shell's Aberdeen spokesman if the company still used the League.After checking with Shell's London HO he told us that "We ceased being corporate subscriber in 1983,but there was a facility for local management at individual Shell locations to make use of the services of the League to meet particular circumstances. This facility, amongst others, was use by Shell at Stanlow Refinery until April 1987. As far as the Economic League is concerned, while in earlier years we found this service useful, in the new business climate we no longer need them".

Shell are by no means the only offshore company to have been using the blacklisting services of the League. A quick scan through the North East Scotland Development Authority's "Offshore Directory" of "Firms involved in the offshore industry as a principal activity" reveals that a number ~~have~~ are themselves, or are subidiaries of parent companies, which are known to have subscribed to the Economic League at some stage in the last five years. In addition to other oil companies such as Total Oil Marine these include electrical engineers such as Balfour Kirkpatrick, drilling contractors such as Smith International, engineering companies like Matthew Hall and Babcocks, construction and civil engineering companies such as Laing, Mowlem and Wimpey, and "security consultants" Group 4 Total Security.

The League services the offshore industry from its Scottish Office in Glasgow, its northern office in Skipton and its Central Records office at 99a High Street Thorton Heath, run by Jack Bramwell. President of the League's North East Region and its national Chairman is Peter Edwards who gives his business address as "Hunting Petroleum Services".

An internal League document dating from 1987, of which we have obtained a copy, gives a list of contact names and the secret codes used for gaining access to the blacklist by companies belonging to the League's North East Region. According to this list, Press Offshore used the code number NE191, and the two contacts were R Coltman and G James. Both men still work for Press Offshore - Coltman is now overall Director of Personnel and James, Head of Workforce Personnel.

Frank Doran has already called for his allegations to be investigated by the Commons Select Committee on Employment which recently finished hearing evidence about the Economic League, and was expected to publish the results before Christmas. Quote""

Our investigations and discussions with blacklisted workers underline the fact that they are being victimised solely on the basis of their protest against apalling safety on offshore installations. Many, if not most, of those now blacklisted will have at some stage passed through the Economic League's procedure for excluding so called "trouble-makers" and "subversives" from work. The League cannot, for once, be criticised for its slipshod methods. These men haven't slippedthrough the League's net-they simply aren't eiher "trouble-makers" or "subversive". The trouble has been caused by slack safety measures, and there is nothing subversive about wanting to work in conditions which are as safe as possible.

All the guy from Indon could come up with :-

"We ceased being a Corporate Subscriber in 1983 but there was a facility for local Management at individual shell locations to make use of the services of the League to meet particular circumstances. This facility amongst others was used by Shell at Stanlow Refinery until April 1987"

"As far as the Economic League is concerned while in earlier years we found their services useful, in the new business climate we no longer need them".

Shell David Steward, Aberdeen.

"I don't have an exact figure but it actually several hundred"

Confirmed that its "nearer 600 than 200"

~~Most are~~ Majority Contracts — They handed Shell Knowhow Contractors handsacked

"Because we know who sat in a our platforms - in fact we had to get a court order to get all of them to leave platform"

"We know who's on our platforms ..."

Tel.: (0795) 844189

Oak Lodge,
Chestnut Street,
Borden,
Kent
ME9 8DA.

25th August 1993

Dear Mike

Your letter was in the *Gazette* last week (copy enclosed). I'll let you know if there are any replies.

Regards

David Turner

26 Roundhay Rd
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS7 1AB
Daytime Tel:
(0532) 425996

June 28th

To the Editor, the "Kentish Gazette"

Sir,

I was recently sent a copy of "Fascism in the Medway Towns", by David Turner, and copies of your review of it and the letters in the following week's issue.

I have for a number of years been researching the history of The Economic League, which collapsed this years after just short of seventy three campaigning for radical rightwing causes. This has naturally led me to look closely at the career of the League's former Director, Mr John Baker White.

There has clearly been some controversy raised by Mr Turner's publication of John Baker White's involvement with the British Fascists in the 1920's and later his publication of an enthusiastic account of his trip to the 1937 Nuremberg Rally.

Mr Pinnock (25/6/93), who obviously knew him and his autobiographical writings, suggests the label "fascist" is applied to John Baker White "in the same way that Charlie Chaplin was labelled communist".

It is not. John Baker White was in fact a fascist in the 1920's. He ran The Economic League, an organisation which worked in partnership with the fascists during the general strike, and toured the country preaching the "corporate state" economic policy of Mussolini and later Hitler. Further more he ran his own secret intelligence set up, called "Section D", which included both Rotha Linton Orman (the organising genius behind the British Fascists) and Maxwell Knight, who later seems to have managed to combine being head of Moseley's intelligence operations and MI5's star "agent runner".

Mr Pinnock is however right to suggest that John Baker White's politics were not straightforward. Like many of those who supported the British Fascists (which operated almost exclusively within the Conservative Party) he seems not to have transferred his allegiance to Moseley's British Union in the 1930's. Also like many early fascists his continuing enthusiasm for many aspects of fascist ideology did not lead him to back Italian or German interests against those of Great Britain. His support for British re-armament and his passing of information to Churchill

from his contacts at the German armaments manufacturer Krupps would have been entirely consistent with his continued admiration for the practice of fascism in Italy and Nazi Germany - eloquently expressed in his book "Dover-Nuremberg Return".

Although John Baker White wrote a number of autobiographical books, all of which contain what can only be described as deliberately misleading titbits of information. It is however clear that during his period as Director of the Economic League (1926-1945) he played a very important and intriguing part in the development of the British secret state.

Unfortunately for his son and his friends, the only hope of preventing historians from reaching the inevitable conclusion that John Baker White was until the last months of peace a Fascist is to make all his papers fully and openly available to researchers.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Hughes

26 Roundhay Rd
Leeds
LS7 1AB
Telephone (day) (0532) 425996

Sir

I have been continuing to follow the corespondence on John Baker White with great interest.

Mr Corkran's contribution was particularly interesting in that it captured the historical context of Baker White's pre-war fascism so well. Both Mussolini and Hitler encouraged and milked the fear of communism in order to aquire power, indeed aggressive and hysterical anti-communism was and is a feature of fascism in all its manifestations. Fortunately for us all Churchill and his allies realised that, contrary to what Mr Corkran suggests, communism was more manageable than fascism.

I am more concerned however to refute a suggestion made twice now by Mr Pinnock that John Baker White was an "admirable" anti-fascist between 1937 and 1939. This was a myth generated later by Baker White himself. From the early thirties he was a regular and welcomed visitor to Krupps, the German arms manufacturer spearheading Hitler's rearmament programme. In 1937 he was the Nazi's guest at the Nuremberg Rally, and later that year wrote "Dover-Nuremberg Return", the book he later tried to obliterate from memory which called for a "greater understanding" of the Nazis. This was precisely the objective of Von Ribbentrop's Nazi mission to Britain, and one reason why anti fascists dubbed the pro-Nazi visitors to Nuremberg that year as "Von Ribbentrop's Kindergarten".

In fact there was no evidence of Baker White's anti-Nazi activities until a few months before the outbreak of the war. And only then was he struck off the German Embassy's guest list. But Baker White even lied about Economic League pamphlet which led to this, claiming later that it had "exposed" the nazi propaganda of the Anglo German Fellowship. When I eventually tracked down the pamhlet it didn't mention the Fellowship at all (not surprisingly since many Economic League patrons were members), but devotes most of the pamphlet to an attack on the pacifist "Peace Pledge Union" and German news agencies.

If Mr Pinnock want's to find people to admire in the years 1937-1939, he should look to Churchill, Michael Foot, Walter Citrine (President of the TUC), Sir Archibald Sinclair (leader of the Liberal Party), and (then) ordinary young people from across the political spectrum, including Dennis Healy and Ted Heath, who joined together to oppose Quintin Hogg in the Oxford "A Vote for Hogg is a Vote for Hitler" byelection.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Hughes

Darwin College
The University
Canterbury
Kent CT2 7NY

2nd August 1993

Dear Sir

I am reluctant to prolong the marathon correspondence about the Fascist connections of former Canterbury MP John Baker White, but I cannot allow to go unchallenged Mr Corkran's snide insinuation that I am some kind of Stalinist (*Gazette* 30/7/93). Nothing that I have written justifies such a conclusion. In fact, as a life-long advocate of socialism, I abhor the crimes committed by Stalin in the name of that doctrine, just as many socialists and anti-Fascists did in the 1930s.

Mr Corkran dislikes my reference to John Baker White's role in the "class war", whilst Mr Pinnock (my other critic) claims that dedication to his country, rather than his class, "was the keynote of his life". Nevertheless, the facts of the man's biography speak for themselves.

Baker White explicitly dedicated himself to the ruthless prosecution of the class war against socialists and trade unionists. It was above all Baker White's desire to see the working-class movement crushed which led him to join the British Fascists and later to heap praise on Hitler. By the same token, Baker White's hatred of the Soviet Union clearly owed more to a fear of the spread of working-class socialist movements (inspired by the abolition of capitalism in Russia) than to any distaste for dictatorship per se. Had they deemed it necessary for their class, the likes of John Baker White would have had as little compunction as the German capitalists about resorting to Fascism.

It is abundantly clear from the available evidence that Baker White only ever served his class, not any mythical classless "national interest".

Finally, I note that Mr Pinnock believes it was thanks to Baker White and the "immense service" of his (purported) "Boy's Own" spying activities that Britain avoided Nazi occupation. Mr Pinnock's gratitude might be better directed to the millions of Soviet soldiers and civilians who rendered the "immense service" of breaking the back of Hitler's army.

(320 words)

Tel.: (0795) 844189

Oak Lodge,
Chestnut Street,
Borden,
Kent
ME9 8DA.

2nd August 1993

Dear Mike

The John Baker White correspondence continues: here is the latest installment and a copy of my reply.

Cheers

David Turner

Darwin College
The University
Canterbury
Kent CT2 7NY

10th July 1993

Dear Sir

It appears that Kenneth Pinnock has got hold of the wrong end of the stick with regard to my comments about the Fascist connections of former Canterbury MP John Baker White (*Gazette* 9/7/1993). If Mr Pinnock reads my previous letter to the *Gazette* carefully he will see that I did **not** allege that John Baker White's "father and godmother" were Fascists. I stated that John Baker White himself and his mother (Katherine Atkinson) were in the 1920s both members of an organisation known as the "British Fascists" and served on its Grand Council. This is not an unsubstantiated allegation, it is supported by documentary evidence: John Hope of the University of London, who has carried out research into the British Fascists, has discovered John Baker White's signature on documents registering the BF as a limited company in May 1924.

John Baker White's membership of the BF and his subsequent admiration for Hitler were not, as Mr Pinnock believes, uncharacteristic youthful indiscretions. Baker White may not have remained a card-carrying Fascist, but his early political sympathies are not far removed from the right-wing extremism which he espoused throughout his life as a leading member of the sinister organisation known as the "Economic League".

Nor is it the case that Baker White's Fascist connections are negated by his drawing attention in the late 1930s to the military threat posed by Nazi Germany. It is clear that Baker White was motivated by fear that German imperialism would challenge British imperialism, not by any anti-Fascist principles.

Mr Pinnock would have us believe that John Baker White was "a true Briton who always put his country's interests first". A more accurate characterisation would be that of "a true reactionary who always put his class' interests first".

(292 words)

Yours faithfully

David Turner
(Kent Anti-Fascist Action Committee)

Tel.: (0795) 844189

Oak Lodge,
Chestnut Street,
Borden,
Kent
ME9 8DA.

10th July 1993

Dear Mike

The John Baker White correspondence in the *Kentish Gazette* rumbles on: enclosed is Kenneth Pinnock's reply to you, and a copy of the reply that I have sent.

Cheers

David Turner

Tel.: (0795) 844189

Oak Lodge,
Chestnut Street,
Borden,
Kent
ME9 8DA.

5th July 1993

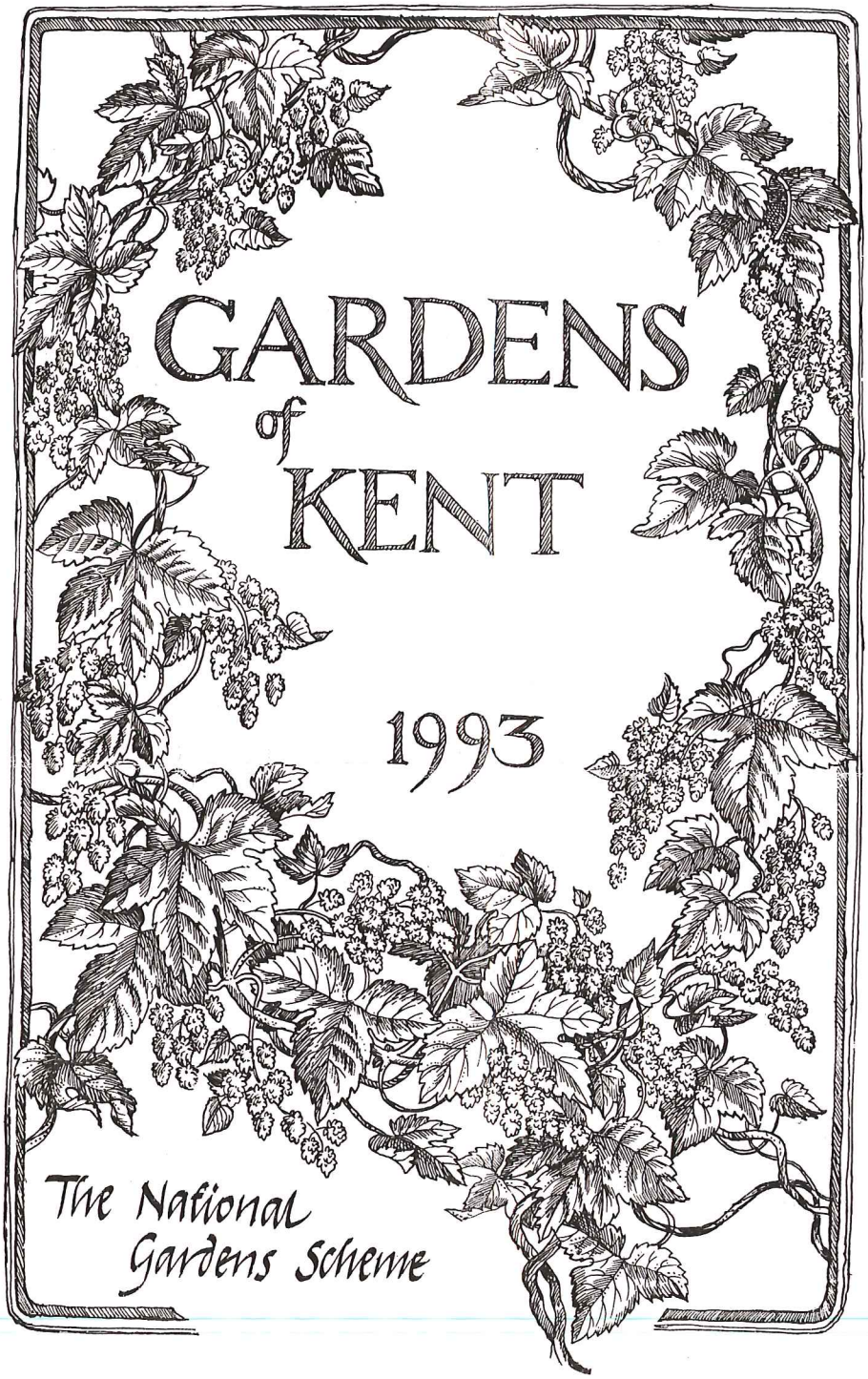
Dear Mike

Your letter was published in the *Kentish Gazette* on Friday (I'm enclosing a copy). In the unlikely event of Robin Baker White responding by offering you access to his father's papers I'll let you know ! (As you can see from the other item enclosed, his garden is open to public inspection, if nothing else.)

Yours sincerely

David Turner

30p



Tel.: (0795) 844189

Oak Lodge,
Chestnut Street,
Borden,
Kent
ME9 8DA.

25th June 1993

Dear Mr Hughes

I am enclosing a copy of a booklet I recently had published, which you might be interested in, given the references it contains to John Baker White and the Economic League. In addition I am enclosing copies of cuttings from the local press: as you can see, John Baker White's son is none too happy at his father's murky past being explored. If you want to intervene in the debate the *Gazette*'s address is as follows: 9 St George's Place, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1UU. Tel.: (0227) 768181 and 762415 (fax).

I am also enclosing a copy of the *Chatham News* article from which the reference to the Economic League on p. 39 is drawn. I'm pretty certain that "H R Welton" must have been Harry Whelton.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

David Turner

PS If you're wondering how I got hold of your address, John Hope at SOAS gave it to me.

26 Roundhay Rd
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS7 1AB
Daytime Tel:
(0532) 425996

June 28th

To the Editor, the "Kentish Gazette"

Sir,

I was recently sent a copy of "Fascism in the Medway Towns", by David Turner, and copies of your review of it and the letters in the following week's issue.

I have for a number of years been researching the history of The Economic League, which collapsed this year after just short of seventy three campaigning for radical rightwing causes. This ~~has~~ naturally led me to look closely at the career of the League's former Director, Mr John Baker White.

There has clearly been some controversy raised by Mr Turner's publication of John Baker White's involvement with the British Fascists in the 1920's and later his publication of an enthusiastic account of his trip to the 1937 Nuremberg Rally.

Mr Pinnock (25/6/93), who obviously knew him and his autobiographical writings, suggests the label "fascist" is applied to John Baker White "in the same way that Charlie Chaplin was labelled communist".

also

It is not. John Baker White was in fact a fascist in the 1920's. He ran The Economic League, an organisation which worked in partnership with the fascists during the general strike, and toured the country preaching the "corporate state" economic policy of Mussolini and later Hitler. Further more he ran his own secret intelligence set up, called "Section D", which included both Rotha Linton Orman (the organising genius behind the British Fascists) and Maxwell Knight, who later seems to have managed to combine being head of Moseley's intelligence operations and MI5's star "agent runner".

Mr Pinnock is however right to suggest that John Baker White's politics were not straightforward. Like many of those who supported the British Fascists (which operated almost exclusively within the Conservative Party) he seems not to have transferred his allegiance to Moseley's British Union in the 1930's. Also like many early fascists his continuing enthusiasm for many aspects of fascist ideology did not lead him to back Italian or German interests against those of Great Britain. His support for British re-armament and his passing of information to Churchill

from his contacts at the German armaments manufacturer Krupps would have been entirely consistent with his continued admiration for the practice of fascism in Italy and Nazi Germany - eloquently expressed in his book "Dover-Nuremberg Return".

Although John Baker White wrote a number of autobiographical books, all of which contain what can only be described as deliberately misleading titbits of information. It is however clear that during his period as Director of the Economic League (1926-1945) he played a very important and intriguing part in the development of the British secret state.

Unfortunately for his son and his friends these imperfect autobiographies point to the fact that John Baker White was, until the last months of peace, a fascist. Their only hope of preventing historians from reaching this inevitable conclusion is to uncover the evidence in his unpublished papers, and to make all his papers fully and openly available to researchers.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Hughes

Tel.: (0795) 844189

Oak Lodge,
Chestnut Street,
Borden,
Kent
ME9 8DA.

23rd July 1993

Dear Mike

Enclosed is the latest from the *Kentish Gazette* (I have no idea who Michael Steed is).

Cheers

David Turner

Tel.: (0795) 844189

Oak Lodge,
Chestnut Street,
Borden,
Kent
ME9 8DA.

1st September 1993

Dear Mike

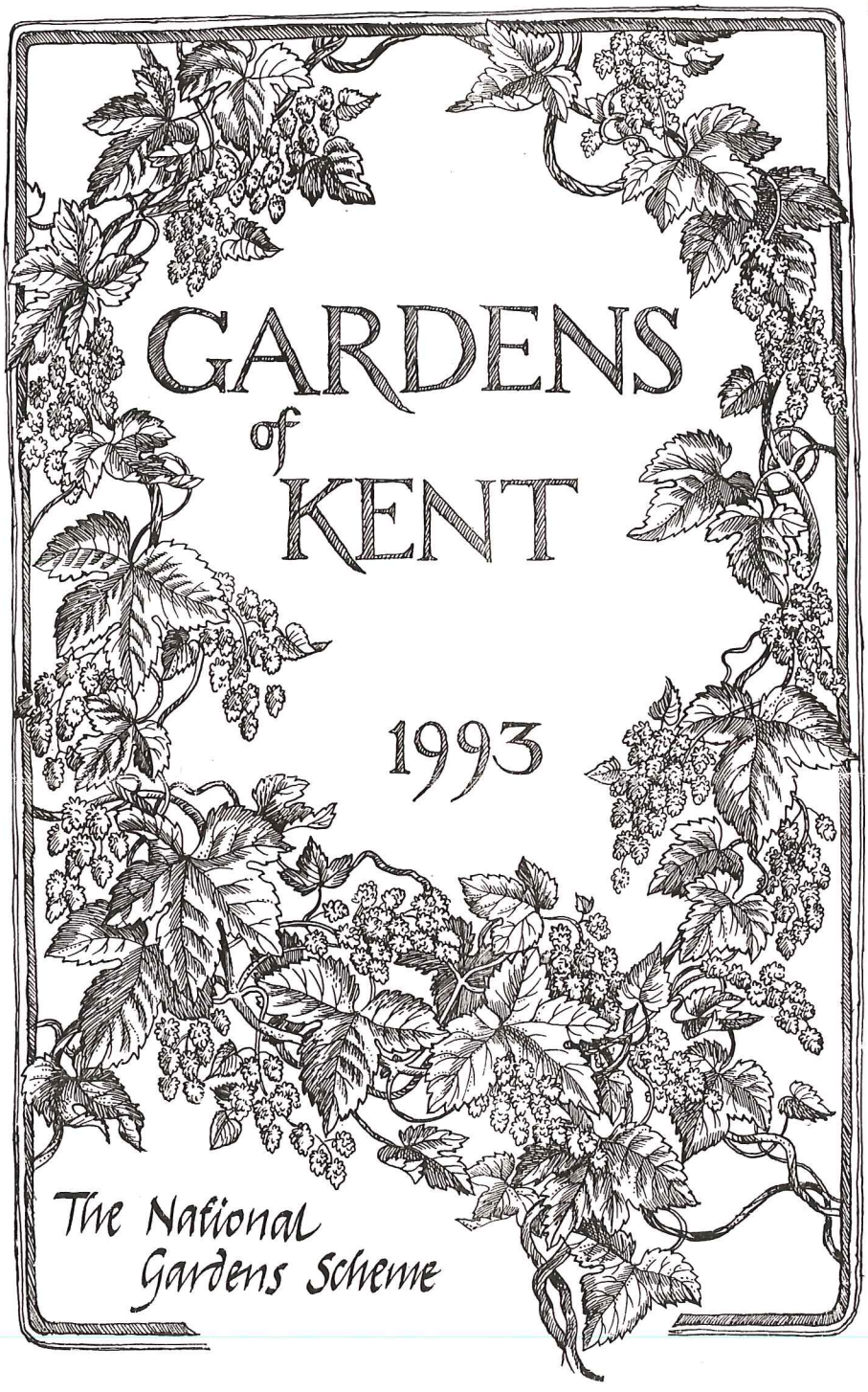
"This correspondence is now closed" ... at last!

Regards

Dave T.

David Turner

30p



full of interest. TEA. *Adm £1.50 Acc chd free. Sun May 9; Wed June 16 (2-5)*

Street End Place ♿ (Mr & Mrs R Baker White) Street End. 3m S of Canterbury-Hythe rd (Stone St). Drive gates at Granville Inn. Long established garden incl walled garden, in pleasant setting; large area of naturalised daffodils with lawns of flowering shrubs; fine trees. *Adm £1 Chd 50p. Fri April 9, Sun April 11 (2-4.30)*

Tanners 🦽 (Sir Michael & Lady Nolan) Brasted, 2m E of Westerham. A25 to Brasted; in Brasted turn off alongside the Green & up the hill to the top; 1st drive on R opp Coles Lane. Bus stop Brasted Green & White Hart 200yds. 5 acres; mature trees & shrubs; maples, magnolias, rhododendrons & foliage trees; water garden; interesting new planting. TEAS. *Adm £1.50 Chd 25p. Sun July 4 (2-6)*

2 Thorndale Close ♿🦽❀ (Mr & Mrs L O Miles) Chatham. From A229 Chatham-Maidstone rd turn E opp Crest Hotel into Watson Ave, next R to Thorndale Close. Minute front and rear gardens of 11 × 18ft and 20 × 22ft. Plantsman's garden with alpines, pool, bog garden, rockery, peat and herbaceous beds. *Adm £1 Acc chd free. Suns April 4, 18, May 9, 23, June 6, 20, July 11, 25 (2-6); also by appt* **Tel 0634 863329**

Thornham Friars ♿🦽 (Geoffrey Fletcher Esq) Pilgrims Way, Thurnham, 4m NE of Maidstone. From M20 or M2 take A249, at bottom of Detling Hill turn into Detling and 1m along Pilgrims Way to garden. 2-acre garden on chalk. Distant views across parkland. Many unusual shrubs; trees; lawns with special beds for ericaceous shrubs. Tudor house. *Adm £1 Chd 25p. Sun May 9 (2-5.30)*

Torry Hill ♿🦽❀ (Mr & Mrs Leigh-Pemberton) 5m S of Sittingbourne. Situated in triangle formed by Frinsted, Milstead and Doddington. Leave M 20 at junction 8 for A20, at Lenham turn N for Doddington; at Great Danes N for Hollingbourne and Frinsted (B2163). From M2 Intersection 5 via Bredgar and Milstead. From A2 and E turn S at Ospringe via Newnham and Doddington. 8 acres; large lawns, specimen trees, flowering cherries, rhododendrons, azaleas and naturalised daffodils; walled gardens with lawns, shrubs, roses, herbaceous borders, wild flower areas and vegetables. Extensive views to Medway and Thames estuaries. TEA. *Adm £1 Chd 50p (Share to St Dunstan's Church, Frinsted). Suns April 25, May 16, July 4 (2-5)*

Town Hill Cottage 🦽❀ (Mr & Mrs P Cosier) 58 Town Hill, West Malling. From A20 6m W of Maidstone, turn S onto A228. Top of Town Hill at N end of High St. Part walled small village garden of C16-C18 house, with many interesting plants. Hardy ferns for sale. TEAS. *Adm £1 Chd 50p. Suns May 30, June 13 (2-5)*

Ulcombe Place ❀ (Mr & Mrs H H Villiers) Ulcombe, 8m SE of Maidstone. Turn off A20 between Leeds Castle and Harrietsham, signed Ulcombe. 2m to Xrds with garage, straight over, Ulcombe Place on R just after village sign. Gardens on different levels with fine view over the Weald. Interesting trees and shrubs, some rarities, lilacs and magnolias. TEAS. *Adm £1.20 Chd 60p (Share to Ulcombe Church Restoration Fund). Sun May 16 (2-6)*

Updown Farm ♿🦽 (Mr & the Hon Mrs Willis-Fleming) Betteshanger, 3m S of Sandwich. From A256 Sandwich-Dover, turn L off Eastry by-pass SE of Eastry, signed Northbourne, Finglesham. Again 1st L; house 1st on R. 3-acre garden begun in 1975 and still in the making, round Tudor and C18 farmhouse. One of the most extensive figgeries in East Kent; cherry and plum orchards with old roses and climbers; terrace garden; herbaceous borders, unusual trees and shrubs. TEAS in aid of NSPCC. *Adm £1 OAPs 70p Chd 30p. Suns May 2, 30 (2-6)*

Upper Mill Cottage 🦽❀ (Mr & Mrs D Seeney) Salts Lane, Loose, 3½m S of Maidstone. Turn W off A229 to Loose. Parking in village; proceed 300yds on foot up Salts Lane. 1½-acre cottage garden created and maintained by owners since 1972, on site of old water mill with natural stream. Plantsman's garden with many unusual varieties incl water plants, herbaceous, alpines, roses, clematis, foliage and ground-cover plants. *Adm £1.50 Chd 50p. Suns June 27, July 4; Wed 30 June (2-5.30)*

¶Upper Pryors ♿🦽 (Mr & Mrs S G Smith) Cowden, 4½m SE of Edenbridge. From B2026 Edenbridge-Hartfield, turn R at Cowden Xrds and take 1st drive on R. 10-acres recently redesigned to incorporate parkland and a water garden. The terrace, with courtyard and wisteria walkway leads out onto large lawns, borders and open views. TEAS. *Adm £1.50 Chd 50p. Wed June 9 (2-6)*

Vine House 🦽❀ (Dr & Mrs Peter Huxley-Williams) 62 High St, Lydd. S of New Romney on B2075, past the church in High St on R-hand side. Informal gardens of about 1 acre surrounding C16 farmhouse; many unusual small trees & shrubs; ponds with waterfall; vineyard; new planting of old-fashioned roses. Teas usually available in the church. *Adm £1 Acc chd free (Share to Spastics on April 18, to All Saints Church, Lydd on July 18, 19). Suns April 18, July 18; Mon July 19 (2.30-5.30)*

Walnut Tree Gardens ♿🦽❀ (Mr & Mrs M Oldaker) Swan Lane, Little Chart. 6m NW of Ashford. Leave A20 at Charing signed to Little Chart. At Swan public house turn W for Pluckley, gardens 500yds on L. 5-acre gardens planted by owners since 1986. Extensive range of unusual young trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants; large collection of old fashioned roses; walled garden; bog and dry shade areas. Teas at Pluckley Church. *Adm £1.50 OAPs £1 (Share to Green Wicket Animal Sanctuary). Every Sun from May 30 to Aug 22 (2-5). For NGS Suns May 30, June 13, July 11, Aug 8, 22; Thurs June 17, 24, July 1, 15 (2-5) Coaches by appt* **Tel 0233 840214**

39 Warwick Crescent 🦽❀ (Mr & Mrs J G Sastre) Borstal, Rochester. From A229 Maidstone-Chatham at 2nd roundabout turn W into B2097 Borstal-Rochester rd; turn L at Priestfields, follow Borstal St to Wouldham Way, 3rd turning on R is Warwick Cres. Small front & rear plantsperson's gardens; most plants labelled; alpine terraces,

UNION OF CONSTRUCTION, ALLIED TRADES AND TECHNICIANS
(please use a separate sheet for each subject)

Branch NORTHAMPTON No. UF214

Date 13.6.90 Address 2 BITTEN COURT, LUMBERTUBS, NORTHAMPTON. 0604 784687.

TO: LEAGUE WATCH, NOTHERN OFFICE.

Dear Mike Hughes,

Thank you for the League Watch Bulletin and the Booklet "Against Democracy" on the Economic League. It is most opportune and appropriate that you should have sent this material now. I should also have added very relevant.

Enclosed are copies of Material from an organisation which calls itself the "UCATT DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY" and

UNION OF CONSTRUCTION, ALLIED TRADES AND TECHNICIANS
(please use a separate sheet for each subject)

Branch..... No. .....

Date..... Address.....

Sam T on T just before the Ballot Paper surely shows they have considerable knowledge of the workings of the union and the Ballot.

We have mounted a campaign to have the present ballot declared null and void due to the fact it cannot now possibly be a fair, equal and democratic election due to the gross interference with the process by the UCATT to coincide with the Ballot.

Many of us in UCATT are of the opinion this is the work of the Economic League in concert with persons as yet unknown. S

UNION OF CONSTRUCTION, ALLIED TRADES AND TECHNICIANS
(please use a separate sheet for each subject)

Branch..... **No.** .....

Date..... **Address**.....

enclosed are copies of the envelope in which the U.D.S. material, post marked Liverpool, was sent to me. A copy of an official union, UCATT communication to me and a copy of the letter, personally signed!, sent to me by Albert Williams the UCATT General Secretary in reply to a letter sent by me re the UCATT Democratic Society material, on behalf of the Northampton UCATT Branch.

The significance of the address on the U.D.S. envelope, post Liverpool is that it spells Lumbertas, Lumbertas G-S and

UNION OF CONSTRUCTION, ALLIED TRADES AND TECHNICIANS
(please use a separate sheet for each subject)

Branch..... No. .....

Date..... Address.....

you and Re League Watch Northern Office would take cognisance of these documents and facts and keep us in touch with any further developments from your end as I will from ours.

As some members of our union are saying Whose next? This organisation Re UCATT DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY must be stopped in Rest courtesy attempts to undermine Democracy in our union in particular and democracy at Large in our environment. As an injury to one is an injury to all.

Could you please acknowledge

UNION OF CONSTRUCTION, ALLIED TRADES AND TECHNICIANS

(please use a separate sheet for each subject)

Branch. NORTHAMPTON... No. UF214.....

Date. 10:6:90..... Address. 2 BITTEN COURT,.....

LUMBERTUBS, NORTHAMPTON. 0604. 784687.

To MIKE HUGHES, LEAGUE WATCH NORTHERN OFFICE,

Dear League Watch and Mike Hughes,

I sent a letter to you dated 13.6.90 in which I enclosed material from an organisation calling itself "UCATT DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY" and said this 'Society' has all the hallmarks of the Economic League. I specially asked you if you could check out these disturbing developments and suggested a link between the N.W. Regional Offices of the Economic League and the

UNION OF CONSTRUCTION, ALLIED TRADES AND TECHNICIANS

(please use a separate sheet for each subject)

Branch..... No.....

Date..... Address.....

Democratic Society and the fact it is almost certainly the work of the Economic League and as I said in my letter of 13.6.90. "in concert with persons as yet unknown." Who undoubtedly have considerable knowledge of the workings of the UCATT and the Ballot for an Executive Council member for NOZ (N.W.) division of UCATT.

Please try to understand the reasons for the 'severe' tone of this letter. But when you have been unemployed as long as I have as a direct result of

Dear Brothers and Sisters,—As a full-time official, in the North West, my Bra
and 70 other Branches, members and full-time Officers—throughout Divis
2—have asked me to stand as Executive Council Member in the forthcom
election. I am greatly honoured by the support shown. I am standing a
candidate for change. The Industry must invest in the future, by employing
training more Apprentices. I support an hourly minimum base rate of £7.00
hour, a 35 hour week, a rigorous campaign for better Health and Safety wi
the Industry, Sick Pay equal to average earnings, Decent Pensions for th
retiring from the Industry, An end to Blacklisting—particularly rife within
Building Industry, The defence of members' rights—to ensure natural justic
all times. Union activities: Branch Chairman 14 years, U.C.A.T.T. Regic
Council Member 8 years, Trades Council Delegate 5 years, Executive Mem
North West T.U.C. 3 years, Biennial Delegate Conference Scarborough 19
Dunoon 1978, Bournemouth 1980, Yarmouth 1982, Southport 1984, Bien
Delegate Conference Standing Orders Committee Chairman Southport 19
Represented U.C.A.T.T. on the first Peoples' March for Jobs, 1981, C
Transport Marshall on the second Peoples' March for Jobs, 1983. Convenor
Steward Kinnear and Moody, Rowlinsons, R. M. Douglas, Allen Broth
Wimpey, Blacks Refractory, Shotton Steel, Liverpool D.L.O., Sheppards,
Labour Movement Activities. Founder Member of St. Helens Trades Cour
1971. Secretary and Chairman over 13 years. Founder Member of St. Hel
Unemployed Resource Centre. Secretary, Merseyside County Association
Trades Councils. Community. Campaigned against cuts in the Health Ser
and against unfair rent increases and for improved access for the disab
Finally. U.C.A.T.T. is the premier Union in Construction—and must remai
independent Trade Union.

J. ROGERS

Dear Colleagues,—I joined the union in 1946 as an apprentice and the Lab
Party in 1947. I was Shop Steward and Convener on many sites in the No
West, and served as Branch Secretary and Branch Chairman. In 1960 I
elected District Organiser of the AUBTW on Merseyside. On the formatio
UCATT I became Liverpool Operatives Secretary and dealt with pri
contractors and local and public authorities. I was Chairman of MSC job creat
on Merseyside. In 1983 I was elected as North West Regional Secretary
UCATT, and in 1985, again elected unopposed as Executive Council member
North West and Wales the position I hold today. Nationally, I represent UCA
on the NJCBI, and on all major national negotiating bodies. I have consiste
opposed wage settlements in construction because of the Employers refusa
consolidate the G.M.B. My staunch opposition to the Lump is well recor
when I led the legendary Battle at Fiddlers Ferry, and was one of the defenda
in the famous Emerald Construction High Court Case. In 1986 I was electe
serve on the NEC of the Labour Party, a seat I still hold. I have been prima
responsible for the Party adopting UCATT's policy on housing, training and
registration of construction workers, to decasualise our industry, a goal we h
long cherished. Because of my support for Neil Kinnock I have been subjecte
attacks from some communists in the union. In my opinion, Neil Kinnock
through his courageous leadership transformed the Labour Party from a Pa
of failure to a Party able and willing to govern. I have been priveleged to se
construction workers full time for the past 30 years. If you re-elect me, I
continue to dedicate my services to all our members.

IGAN OBSERVER, Tuesday, 19 May, 1961

ASHTON MAN SENT TO PRISON

BROKE PROBATION ORDER

An Ashton man, admitting two breaches of probation, was sent to prison for a total of 12 months at Wigan County Magistrates' Court on Friday last week.

Peter Timothy Lenahan, aged 27, of Fishing Cottage Road, Old Garswood Road, Ashton, pleaded guilty to breaking probation orders made on 21st February for two offences of larceny, by stealing £19 worth of brass and copper and being sentenced to six months' imprisonment at St. Helens on 28th March.

Mr. C Beesley, Probation Officer, said that Lenahan had been on probation only five weeks prior to the commission of the offence at St. Helens and he had had little chance of making an assessment of his character.

"First impressions were that he did not treat his court appearances with any real concern and he was the type who would take risks. I thought he would not treat probation very seriously. In addition, he had a warped attitude towards society as he felt that society owed him a debt because of his unhappy childhood.

"However, I would like an opportunity to see if something could be done for him on probation, despite his apparent contempt."

It was stated that Lenahan, a married man with three children, had several previous convictions.

The Chairman, Mr. A. S. Hindley, told him: "We cannot shut our eyes to these offences because you were warned what the consequences would be when you were placed on probation."

Lenahan was sentenced to six month's imprisonment for each breach of probation, the sentences to run consecutively.

We have proven that there are five convictions against Peter Lenahan. We are progressing several other convictions which we will inform you about in due course.

"SENSELESS AND BRUTAL ACT"

GAOL FOR MAN WHO ATTACKED CAMPERS

"A most senseless and brutal act" said Chief Superintendent W. H. Harrison at Wigan County Magistrates' Court, on Tuesday, when a 20-year-old labourer, Peter Timothy Lenahan, of Fishing Cottage, Carr Mill, and a 19-year old miner, Kevin Casey, of 2 Thirlmere-avenue, both of St. Helens, were summoned for assaulting Basil Dean, of 29 Martindale-road, St. Helens, at Billinge, on 16th June and causing him bodily harm. The accused pleaded not guilty.

Basil Dean, a slightly built young man, said he went with some friends fishing at Carr Mill, Billinge, on Saturday, 15th June. They put up two tents at about 10 p.m. They were talking in his tent at about 1.30 the following morning when on looking outside, he saw two men approaching. One of them walked to the back of the tent and said, "We want you and we have caught up with you at last." He was asked if his name was McGovern, and witness said, "No, I am Basil Dean." Witness, who was then sitting down on the grass outside his tent, was kicked in the mouth by lenahan. Witness covered his face with his hands and Lenahan picked him up several times and then threw him down.

There was a grass bank, which sloped down to the water, and witness rolled down this when he was struck by Lenahan with a metal wire belt. Casey followed him down the bank and kicked him in the eye and hit him again. When the police arrived witness was taken to Providence Hospital, St. Helens, for treatment to his nose, which was bleeding, and his injured eye. Both Lenahan and Casey said they were going to sleep in his tent that night. "I did not know them, and did not have an argument with them," he added.

Edward Davies, of 82 Frodsham-drive, St. Helens, who accompanied Dean on the fishing expedition, said the accused came up to them in a threatening manner. After kicking Dean, Lenahan then hit him with a stick. Witness had a gun in his tent and told the accused about it. He was "tupped" twice by Lenahan and two lumps were raised on his forehead. Casey also hit Dean with a stick. Witness did not see the belt being used. Witness went for the police.

In reply to Lenahan, witness said when Lenahan hit Dean his foot caught in the tent guide rope and the tent fell on top of witness.

Answering questions put by Casey, witness admitted he threatened them with the gun, after first warning them.

Thomas Canning, a 14-year-old boy, of 13 Blackstone-avenue, St. Helens, who was also a member of the fishing party, told the Bench that Lenahan kicked Dean in the face and butted Davies. He did not know the accused.

Police Sergeant D. E. Grange spoke to interviewing Lenahan who admitted hitting Dean. In a statement, Lenahan said he was making his way home at 1.30 on the morning of 16th June with his mate, Casey. Earlier, they had been to Billinge Labour Club. When walking along by Carr Mill Dam, they came across a tent. He recognised the lad outside the tent as someone he knew and asked him how long he was camping. Dean then came out of a tent, and Lenahan mentioned about what he and his two mates did to Moore outside Birtles Cafe at Carr Mill. "He said nothing to that," added the statement, "so I punched him. I hit him about five times with my fists and once with my hand. Whilst this was going on, another chap came out of a tent with a gun. He told me to make off, and I hit him once. When Dean rolled down the bank out of sight, Casey went after him, and when he returned he said the police had arrived and we split up."

Lenahan told the Magistrates that they had had a few drinks at Billinge Labour Club. Some words passed between him and Dean; he could not say exactly what happened but he thumped him. "I cannot see how I could have kicked him," added accused, "because he was half-way in the tent."

Casey said he met Lenahan in the club and when they were near the tents Davies jumped up and said "We have got you covered." Accused then said "You did Moore outside the cafe with some other lads, and Dean said "It was not me." Lenahan hit him and he rolled down the bank. "I followed him" added Casey.

Chief Superintendent Harrison said after the Magistrates had found the accused guilty, that Lenahan had been to an approved school, Borstal, and had been to prison in respect of various offences. Casey had not been previously before the Court.

After retiring, the Chairman (Mr. A. J. Brown) said that Court was not going to deal leniently in cases of that nature. Speaking to Lenahan, the Chairman said that he had a record from which he had learned very little. "You have been given several chances" went on the Chairman, "yet you have been to Borstal and prison. I hope you will yet learn to be a law abiding citizen. We are sending you to prison for six months."

Addressing Casey, the Chairman said he came in a different category; he had not been in trouble before and he (the Chairman) would recommend him to change his company. He would be fined £10, and, in addition, would have to pay £3 11s. 7d. costs.

Casey asked for time to pay, and the Chairman ordered him to pay at the rate of £2 per week, in default, two months imprisonment.

The Bench made an order for the metal wire belt to be confiscated.

STRAIGHT TALK

SUPPORT JACK ROGERS

The "Hard Left" extremists have made it clear what is at stake in the forthcoming June E.C. election for the North West E.C. seat of sitting member Jack Rogers. In their "Broad Left Forces" circular they boast "the well known Communist Peter Lenahan will deliver a body blow to Neil Kinnock and the Labour Party if elected as Jack Rogers has supported the Kinnock reforms of the Labour Party".

The Hard Left Policy of Lenahan is to:-

1. Remove your right to a secret postal ballot for your union's leadership positions and return to branch voting at poorly attended meetings.

2. Remove your right to a vote before taking part in industrial action and force members into taking part in industrial action called by extreme groups rather than you having a democratic choice and control over your own actions.

3. Lenahan opposes the commonsense policies of Neil Kinnock and the Labour leadership and supports policies rejected by the voters and which cost the Labour Party three General Election defeats.

4. Would use union funds to support the campaigns of extreme groups and the Communist Morning Star newspaper.

We have seen the people of Eastern Europe throw off the shackles of Communism. Do not place your union and your interest into the hands of people who have fully supported the discredited Communist regimes and their policies.

VOTE FOR **JACK ROGERS**

JACK ROGERS RECORD:-

1. Jack Rogers has consistently fought for a decasualised Construction Industry Industry and security of employment for all Construction Workers.

   Has obtained this commitment from the Labour Party in his N.E.C. work on the Policy Reviews.

2. Has always voted against poor wage settlements in both the public and private sectors and stands for campaigning for improved pay and conditions for all Construction Workers and called from the T.U.C. rostrum for better status for Building Craft Operatives.

3. Fought life long against exploitation of workers by certain unscrupulous employers and calls for more responsibility to be placed on the major employers. Also has extensively campaigned for a safer construction industry.

4. Supports D.L.O's being released from unfair constraints which also impact on our Local Authorities members terms and conditions of employment.

5. Supports the democratic control of the union by you, it's members, through secret postal ballot.

6. Supported Neil Kinnock in getting commonsense policies for the Labour Party on the mainstream issues which affect working people and also get the Labour Party in a position where it can win the next General Election.

VOTE FOR **JACK ROGERS**

ST. HELENS REPORTER. 17TH JULY 1970.

Scaffold cleaned by court on boy

of assault

A police sergeant was cleared of assaulting a nine-year-old boy by St. Helens magistrates on Wednesday.

The defendant was brought against Sergeant Herbert Hilton, 49, by Peter Lenehan, 33, of Carrwood Old Road, Carr Mill, who said his eldest son had been struck by the sergeant at Carr Mill Dam in an incident over a catapult.

Lenehan was fined £10 after being found guilty by the magistrates' court.

St. Helens Reporter

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD 1977.

No. 8,301—111th Year

Director shot in Carr Mill Dam showdown

UNION LEADER Peter Lenehan shot a company director in the stomach with a .22 air rifle after a seven year feud over the din from power boats at Carr Mill Dam.

St Helens Magistrates heard about the face-to-face showdown at the dam's edge after Lenehan, Communist boss of the local building workers' union UCATT had hurled bricks at passing boats.

Derek Astbury a director of Lancashire Powerboat Racing Club went to confront him over his actions. Lenehan was armed with the air rifle.

He pointed the weapon at the director's face and issued the ultimatum move or else. When Mr. Astbury refused he lowered the gun slightly and fired.

The pellet sank only a sixteenth of an inch into Mr. Astbury's stomach. But he needed treatment at Providence Hospital.

Lenehan was fined £40 and ordered to pay £13 costs. He had denied the offence.

His defending counsel, Mr. David Turner, claimed: "This is one of the tallest stories the court has ever heard. If anyone was shot they simply would not walk away.

"One does not expect a cry of 'You got me Lenehan' in O.K. Corral Style but there was no reaction at all."

Mr. Astbury of Stockport Road Ashton-under-Lyne told the court: "I was going to sort out this matter when I saw Lenehan standing about 15 yards from me armed with a rifle.

"I asked him what he was going to do with it. His curt reply was 'None of your b——'.

"He told me twice to get out of his way or he would pelgger against powerboat racing at the dam, was found guilty of assault occasioning bodily harm. Fined £40 and ordered to pay £13 costs. He had denied the offence.

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Mr. Astbury of Stockport Road Ashton-under-Lyne told the court: "I was going to sort out this matter when I saw Lenehan standing about 15 yards from me armed with a rifle.

"I asked him what he was going to do with it. His curt reply was 'None of your b——'.

"He told me twice to get out of his way or he would

"I refused. He raised the rifle to his shoulder and pointed it at my face and asked me again. I still refused. He then lowered it slightly and fired.

"While I was walking away he held up the rifle by the barrel and said he would clobber me. I said that was a stupid thing to do.

Police Constable Colin Boughey who was called to the clubhouse after the incident examined Mr. Astbury's stomach and saw a small wound probably caused by an air pellet which was bleeding slightly.

Detective Constable Thomas Abbott who interviewed Lenehan at the police station said: He told me he had been having considerable trouble with noise when the boats were racing on the dam.

"He had confrontations with these people on previous occasions over the noise.

When questioned about the wound Lenehan said he lifted his shirt up [illegible] seven years.

Lenehan told the court: Mr. Astbury and I had come on my land and he said he was going to shoot me. He was far from polite and I told him.

I felt threatened by the gun so I asked him to hand me his air rifle which was not loaded.

Astbury started shouting me and I put all my weight behind it. I pulled the trigger. But the gun was pointed at the ground.

He continued arguing. Then about five minutes later he rushed up to me jumped on me and said he could not see any marks on my stomach.

Mr. Turner stated that Lenehan was successfully to get the noise from the boats reduced to 85 decibels by petitions and that the two men have had many meetings [illegible]

Albert. Williams BEC
BROAD LOFT -

U.C.A.T.T. DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

The following information is a part of Peter Lenahan's record:

JULY 1957	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm 6 months imprisonment
MARCH 1964	Larceny of 2 cwt. copper turnings 6 months imprisonment
MAY 1964	1. Stealing chairs from Club 2. Stealing electric heaters from club i.e. original offence, February, 1964 1. 6 months imprisonment 2. 6 months imprisonment consecutively
JULY 1970	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm Fined £30.00 Pay £8.00 adv. fee
SEPTEMBER 1977	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm Fined £45.00 Pay £13.00 with expenses £9.80 from Central Funds No order made re gun

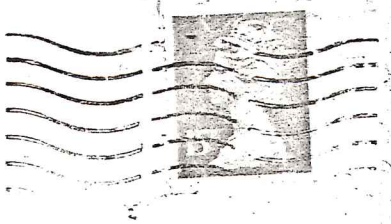
FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING

AS IT IS MADE AVAILABLE

03258995

UF214
MP 8 HIGGINS
2 DITTEN COURT
LUMBERTUGS
NORTHAMPTON

OFFICIAL UNION
COMMUNICATION
FROM UCATT
GENERAL OFFICE



Mr B Higgins
2 Bitten Court
Lumbertugs
Northampton

U.C.A.T.T. DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

A substantial number of U.C.A.T.T. members from all Regions, have formed the Democratic Society, in the belief that the so-called Broad Left Forces have abused the democracy of our Union; the recent letter telling you to support Peter Lenahan, the Communist candidate for the Executive, is, we believe, a disgrace.

Therefore, we are making you aware who the Broad Left Forces are: they consist of the Communist Party, Morning Star, Militant Tendency and a number of extreme groups, in and outside of U.C.A.T.T.

In their recent letter, they omitted the following facts:-

Peter Lenahan was convicted of assault, theft and expelled by the E.C. for punching and kicking a Regional Organiser. He appealed to the then communist dominated General Council and was suspended for one year, fined £5 and warned of his future conduct.

He was suspended from office in 1989 for two months by the E.C. for failing to carry out his duties for the Regional Council. This again, on appeal to the General Council, was reduced to one month. However, he is taking the Union to court on this issue.

Presently, he is under investigation by the E.C. for threatening a 79 year old Branch Secretary in Cumbria and for threatening a scrutineer at his home, because he would not do as he wished. He is also under investigation for threatening Jack Rogers, an E.C. member, at the Liverpool Branch Officers and Shop Stewards meeting in January 1990, although Jack Rogers had only just come out of hospital.

You will be told of the People's March. Did you know that Peter Lenahan was paid full wages by the North West Regional Council for the whole time he was on the March and was sent, by the Council, abroad for holidays?

We Democrats say to the membership, use your vote wisely and circulate these facts to the membership, for them to decide.

THE U.C.A.T.T. DEMOCRATS

WATCH OUT FOR FORTHCOMING INFORMATION

GENERAL RULE 21

UNION OF CONSTRUCTION, ALLIED TRADES AND TECHNICIANS

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER
FOR No. 2 DIVISION
(NORTH WESTERN AND WALES REGIONS)

BALLOT PAPER

Mark a **X** in the box on the right-hand side of the ballot paper opposite the name of the candidate of your choice.

Your ballot paper should be returned in the pre-paid envelope provided to The Scrutineer, Trade Union Balloting, 110 Peckham Road, London, SE15 2BR
The Independent Scrutineer for this ballot will be Mr. M. Peters A.C.A.
To be counted your ballot paper must arrive by not later than 29th June 1990.

P. LENAHAN ☐

J. ROGERS ☐

Your vote is completely secret. You cannot be identified by this security number.

212876

COPY OF BALLOT PAPER SO YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IT IS ABOUT!

LENAHAN, P. of St. Helens

Nominated by:
Aintree, Amlwch Port, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Atherton & Tyldesley, Bacup, Baguley, Birkenhead 2nd, Blackburn 1st, Blackpool 2nd, Burnley, Carlisle 1st, Carlisle, Caerphilly, Chester, Chorley, Cleveleys, Congleton, Eccles, Everton, Flint, Garstang, Haverfordwest, Hindley, Holywell, Huyton, Kendall, Kirkham, Lancaster, Leigh, Levenshulme, Leyland, Liverpool Central, Liverpool East, Liverpool No. 1, Liverpool 3, Liverpool No. 5, Liverpool Garston, Liverpool Windsor Trade, Lymm, Manchester 1st, Manchester 1, Manchester No. 3, Manchester No. 5, Manchester 5th, Merthyr Tydfil, Morecambe, Moreton, Openshaw, Padiham, Pemberton, Preston 3rd, Rawtenstall, Runcorn, St. Helens, St. Helens 1st, Sale, Salford, Shotton, Skelmersdale, Southport, Stockport 3rd, Swansea 3rd, Warrington UD283, Warrington 2nd, Warrington UD449, West Derby, Widnes 2nd, Wigan 2nd, Workington, Wrexham, Wythenshaw.

Election Address Printed Overleaf

ROGERS, J. of Prescot

Nominated by:
Aberavon, Aberdare, Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Barrow, Barrow 1st, Barrow-in-Furness, Birkenhead UD020, Birkenhead UD328, Birkenhead O.S.UD024, Blackwood, Bridgend, Cheadle, Crewe, Droylsden, Ellesmere Port, Heywood, Hollinwood, Liverpool 2nd, Macclesfield, Manchester No. 1, Manchester 3rd, Maryport, Millom, Neath, Old Swan, Old Trafford, Pontygwaith, Pontypool, Porth, Porth Caw!, Port Talbot, Prescot, Rochdale 1st, Rock Ferry, Royton & Shaw, South Seft n, Stockport, Stockport 2nd, Swansea 1st, Swansea 2nd, Swinton, Tredegar, Urmston, Wallasey, Waterloo & Seaforth, Whitehaven UD451, Whitehaven UD297, Windscale.

Election Address Printed Overleaf

Dear Robin,

Please convey my apologies to your board over my delay in writing correctly you in regard to the information you supplied me with.

As I suggested on telephone explained to you the information that you were circulated on behalf of the UCATT during the election campaign on behalf of the mysterious "UCATT DEMOCRATIC "SOCIETY" would could only have come from a seem to have come from a non small number of sources. These are

1) From UCATT - which implies that the union has been maintaining records of criminal offences for a considerable period.

2) The UCATT DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY ITSELF - in which case research the information itself for particularly difficult sources would have it would have had to have been collecting information since at least July 1957. ~~It would have to be~~ As I understand it there is no evidence of its existence until recently.

3) FROM the police records. In which case I think there can be no doubt that a very serious offence has been committed by the officers involved, and probably the UCATT DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. The formality of the language of Mr Lenahan's alleged record suggests this might be the case.

4) FROM the "Trade unionists" organisation Industrial Research Information Service (IRIS); A mysterious organisation which ~~both~~ keeps track of trade union officials and ~~has~~ involves a degree of support from right-wing trade union leaders, presumably acting in personal capacity.

5) From the Economic League, which is affiliated to IRIS and receives information and has which has been collecting information for nearly over 50 years.

14

I would not want to prejudge or prejudice the issue, or suggest ~~any of these~~ any conclusion ~~approach~~ to your branch. Leagueworld has little useful information about "Ivis", although I would suggest you contact Labour Research which have published some details and may have more.

As regards the possibility of League involvement I can confirm that the League does keep details of criminal offences – at least from newspaper reports and it has been alleged for contacts with the police force. Now does it respect the notion of "spent" convictions. Mr Lenahen was on the ~~League~~ north western blacklist in 1986 ~~and was though~~ and there are in fact three entries on the "Kardex" index, of which we have a copy, which seem to refer to him – as a Bricklayer in St Helens under his correct name, and as peter LENDEN ~~Lenden~~ and peter LENEHEN at the same address in CARR MILL, St Helens. There are also entries for a MARGARET LENEHEN and MARGARET LENDEN at the same address.

This is by no means conclusive evidence of the League's involvement in the production of the UCATT DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY'S leaflet, I am not certain what is to read into the League's confusion about ~~the~~ the spelling of Mr Lenahen's name. The League ~~had~~ has information on him and has repeatedly said that it makes it available

UNION OF CONSTRUCTION, ALLIED TRADES AND TECHNICIANS
U.C.A.T.T. HOUSE, 177 ABBEVILLE ROAD,
CLAPHAM, LONDON, SW4 9RL.
Telephone Number: 01-622-2442
622-2362
General Secretary: A. Williams
fax 7204081

Our Ref: AW/JK
Your Ref:

Please Quote Our Reference When Replying

8th June, 1990

Mr. B. Higgins,
Branch Secretary.

Northampton
Branch UF 214

Dear Colleague,

E.C. Election No. 2 Division

Thank you for your letter dated 6th June and copies of anonymous circulars you have received.

I agree wholeheartedly with your condemnation of such circulars.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary

BURY, RADCLIFFE & DISTRICT

TRADES COUNCIL

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 20TH. 1989
AFFILIATED TO GR/MANCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF TRADES COUNCILS
REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS

Hon.Secretary
Derek Nagle
12. Tithebarn St.
Bury
BL9 0JR
061-797-4326

DATE : 19-6-90

Dear Friends,

As affiliated members, we thank you for the recent package of information you have sent us. The Trades Council have asked that I write regarding the information in your bulletin on the North West blacklist. It was felt by the Council we could build a campaign around this in Bury, and wonder if it would be possible to get access to list, either a copy or an arranged visit to your Northern Office.

Keep up the good work, and best wishes in the campaign against the Economic League.

I can be contacted on the above number most days from 9am - 7pm, However it is in the Bury Centre for the Unemployed, so it most likely is still tapped.

Yours fraternally

Derek Nagle

Derek Nagle
Hon. Secretary

nd I felt sick. It brought back memories of what had happened there'

ndown s and mages

night at Hartshill Road. "I was alone and frightened in a small dark room. The panic just built up and built up. I slashed my wrist and screamed for help. A social worker arrived and said I was a stupid girl."

Nichola had been taken into care for persistent truancy and solvent abuse. Her education at Hartshill Road consisted of copying telephone numbers from the local directory. Put into solitary confinement and disciplined frequently, she twice absconded. Both times she was found by police, returned to Hartshill Road and punished. "We were all treated like animals. I will never forget what happened."

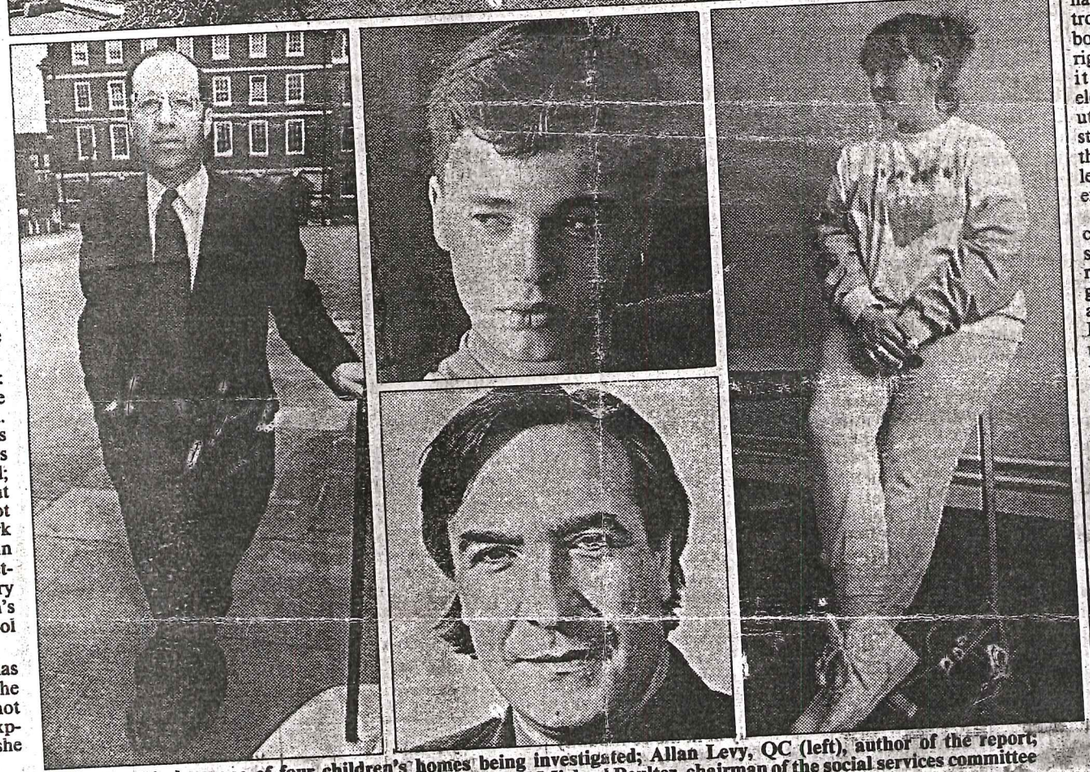
Michael, aged 17, was taken to Hartshill Road under a child care order imposed for persistent truancy. He was 13½ at the time. He claims he was subjected to long periods of solitary confinement under the pindown regime.

Michael's mother said yesterday that he would never forget his experiences. "I feel so angry at what has been done to him. It was so degrading." Michael is still unable to sleep if his bedroom door is closed, a legacy, he says, from pindown.

His mother said yesterday: "Michael can't stand silence after what he's been through. He still gets the panic attacks but they are not as bad. His education has been ruined; he's a bright, brainy boy but after pindown he could not concentrate on his schoolwork any more. He could not stay in a classroom because the quietness reminded him of solitary confinements at the children's home. Michael left school with no qualifications.

"I feel so angry at what has happened to him and all the others. The point is you cannot compensate children for experiences like pindown," she said.

Child humiliation, page 1



The Birches, one of four children's homes being investigated; Allan Levy, QC (left), author of the report; Michael and Nichola, who underwent pindown; and Michael Poulter, chairman of the social services committee

Lawyer to investigate union as chief is suspended

By Philip Bassett

THE building workers' union was in turmoil yesterday after its new, left-wing-led executive confirmed the suspension of the general secretary, appointed an acting leader in his place and called in a lawyer to investigate the running of the union.

The troubles in the 258,000-member Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians — which mark the biggest internal dispute in a trade union since the ballot-rigging scandals and the police fraud investigation last year of elections in the TGWU transport union — are likely to prompt further interest by ministers in new legislation to control trade unions' internal affairs. The subject could be on the agenda for the Tories' general election manifesto.

Left and right-wing factions have been struggling to control Ucatt for some years, with both sides alleging ballot-rigging and internal irregularities. Recently, re-run elections for the union's executive replaced three long-standing right-wingers with three left-wingers, giving the left control of the five-strong executive council.

The new executive has decided by three votes to two to suspend Albert Williams, a right-winger who has been general secretary since 1985 and is due to retire next year. Mr Williams was in the union's south London offices yesterday morning, but has now been sent home on full pay.

Peter Lenahan, the new left-wing chairman of the union, said yesterday that a leading QC was to be asked to investigate the running of the union.

There were suggestions within the union last night that a lawyer who had taken cases involving leading members of Militant in Liverpool would be asked to take the enquiry.

While Mr Williams is suspended and the investigation is taking place, the new union executive yesterday appointed a national officer, Len Heaton, as acting general secretary. Since Mr Heaton has not been elected to the job, he could face legal challenges under the government's employment legislation.

Mr Williams said yesterday that the union's action in suspending him was "completely against the rules". He has taken legal advice over the suspension, and is considering challenging it. He is also considering consulting the government's watchdog, the Commission for Trade Union Rights.

iscusses cuts

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workers London d mem- for the fter the meeting a Guy's organis-

ation like this has to talk over the issues with its members first and then go over the details with the management people before coming to particular issues with particular individuals. We don't talk in a wild way about job losses."

The trust's chief executive, Peter Griffiths, will announce the meeting's conclusions at noon today. It is expected the first round will include some 130 non-clinical staff redundancies and 220 vacant or temporary posts left unfilled.

Patchy support in post staff strike

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

POST office managers expect a further slide in support for strike action by counter staff today after the first day of a four-day national strike over pay drew a patchy response.

Because Thursday is a particularly heavy day for the payment of pensions, support for the strike could be crucial today. The Post Office said last night that as 95 per cent of its counters were in sub-post offices not affected by the national strike, and because it expected even more main offices targeted in the strike to remain open, most paople would be able to claim their pensions without undue difficulty.

The strike committee of the Union of Communication Workers will meet today to review the progress of the action, called among the union's 12,500 counter members over a 7 per cent pay offer.

On the basis of yesterday's patchy response to the strike call, and what they believe will be a dwindling response as the four-day stoppage progresses, post office managers will wait out the union's action in the belief that it is not sustainable.

The Post Office said yesterday that the strike call was being largely ignored by counter staff. It claimed that 70 per cent of the staff involved were working normally, and that 80 per cent of the main Crown post offices were open for business. The Post Office said that it was "encouraged by the good sense of many of our staff, who recognise that this strike is futile. Clearly the union should now call off the action and put our revised 7 per cent pay offer to a ballot." The union, however, claimed that "a good 80 per cent" of its counter members had supported the strike, and that most offices were running on a skeleton staff of senior managers and were giving a poor service to the public.

Alan Tuffin, the union's general secretary, said that there were now more members out on strike than had originally voted to take action when the initial pay offer of 6.8 per cent was put to ballot.

More than half of the counter staff are women. Basic weekly pay for a postal officer is £212.89, although the Post Office said average earnings were £240.77 a week.

Support for the strike around the country was mixed. In some areas, such as the Midlands, most offices were open, with only ten out of 339 staff in three counties joining the action. But in other areas, including Swansea and Liverpool, support for the strike was strong.

Nine offices in mid-Wales were kept open for part of the day by senior managers and were then closed in the afternoon. Only ten of 109 main offices in the South-West were closed, though in Northern Ireland almost all the main offices were shut. In Scotland, 1,300 staff were working and 414 were on strike. In Oxford, all main offices were open, while in London — parts of which were not involved in the strike — 104 offices were closed out of 182.

● Leaders of 750,000 local

Managers counter the pickets

By Alice Thomson

A NOTE on the door told customers that the Trafalgar Square post office was closed due to industrial action. Management, however, had other ideas. Rallying a few managers together by midday, they strode through the official picket line to open London's largest post office for business a little later than usual.

Most customers turned diered on were greeted by Phil Andrews, branch secretary for the West Central London Counter staff.

"We're here to make a stand over our shoddy treatment," he said. "We are not asking for a pay rise, all we want is to keep up with inflation. We just can't afford to earn any less than we are at present."

Paul Martin, who had come Bank of England." Sonya Galloway, who had just popped in to buy some stamps in her lunch hour, said: "I think they should get danger money for standing behind those counters and risking a gun in their face." She was instantly guided to the automatic stamp machine.

London Bridge post office remained closed. One pensioner said: "I'm too old to

Two die in crash

A mother and daughter were killed and seven people injured in a rush-hour pile-up on the M4 at Slough, Berkshire, last night. Four cars, a lorry and a van were involved in the accident, on the westbound carriageway, when a lorry apparently crossed the central reservation. Five ambulance crews treated the injured. The carriageway was closed for four hours and police reported a nine-mile tailback.

£25,000 prize for Claire Tomalin

errys
DON
er an exclusive
omplimentary night
luxury British hotels.

THE TIMES
OCTOBER 20, 1926
PAGE 21

OBITUARY.

SIR GEORGE MAKGILL.

Sir George Makgill, Bt., died in London on Sunday at the age of 57. He was born on December 24, 1868, the eldest son of Sir John Makgill, tenth baronet, who married Margaret Isabella, daughter of Mr. Robert Haldane, of Cloanden, Perthshire, and half-sister of Lord Haldane. Mr. Robert Haldane's first wife was Jane, daughter of John Makgill, of Kenback and Fingask, *de jure* eighth baronet, and great-aunt of Sir George Makgill. Sir John Makgill assumed the title of baronet as heir male and representative of James, first Viscount of Oxfuird, who was created a baronet in 1627 with remainder to his heirs male whatsoever. Sir George, on the death of his father in 1906, recorded his pedigree at the Lyon Court, Edinburgh, and at Heralds' College, London.

He was educated privately, and became known as a writer of novels, articles, and stories, chiefly of Colonial life. In what is, perhaps, the best of his novels, "Blacklaw," which appeared early in 1914, he gives a vivid picture of a Scottish peer converted to an almost fanatical Methodism, handing over his property to a missionary society, and carrying off his five young children to New Zealand, there to lead a simple, Christian, patriarchal life. The scenes in New Zealand are picturesque and written with vigour. Sir George will also be remembered for his association with the Anti-German Union during the war. In June, 1915, he raised the question whether Sir Ernest Cassel and Sir Edgar Speyer, having been born out of the British Dominions and not of English parents, were capable of being members of the Privy Council. In the following December the Court of King's Bench (the Lord Chief Justice and Justices Avory and Lush) delivered judgment directing the orders *nisi* obtained by Sir George Makgill to be discharged, on the ground that the respondents, having been naturalized under the Act of 1870, were capable of being Privy Councillors when they were respectively appointed. Sir George Makgill married, in 1891, Frances Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Alexander Innes Grant, of Merchiston, Otago, New Zealand, and had two sons and two daughters. His elder son, John Donald Alexander Arthur, late Coldstream Guards, was born in 1899.

CANON A. R. F. HYSLOP.

Canon Archibald Richard Frith Hyslop, vicar and rural dean of Kingston-on-Thames, died yesterday, after only four days' illness, at the age of 60. The son of Mr. Archibald Hyslop, J.P., of Lotus, Dumfries, he was born on July 20, 1866, and was sent to

Lincoln's Inn, practising
man and conveyancer
Esther, daughter of t
U.D. His son, Mr. Ste
lowed him as a Colleger
of King's, is Librarian a

MR. C. W.

A correspondent w
Barrow-in-Furness has
sonality in Mr. Coulton
died at the age of 70 la
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stood on old Barrow
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Messrs. Vickers. In h
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share in the public life
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he indulged a natural l
around him many exa
and artistic merit. He
leaves a widow and thr

M. H

A Reuter telegram
the death yesterday of
ber of the Japanese
distinguished diplomati

THE TIMES

DECEMBER 17, 1920

PAGE 9

Kites and kite balloons are to be flown at Pulham aerodrome (Norfolk), for making meteorological observations.

A 50-year-old man of no fixed abode was found unconscious owing to exposure on the roadside near Carmarthen last night and died shortly after.

Early yesterday morning Albert Prior Porter, of Bell Common, Epping, was knocked down and killed by a passing engine at Loughton Station.

The Corporation of London is to cal a conference of municipal and other authorities on the question of the introduction of store cattle from Canada.

One man was killed and two others were slightly injured by the breaking of the cable of a hoist which was raising timber at the works of Messrs. Bonallack and Sons, motor builders, Cable-street, E.

At a venereal disease inquiry to be held by the National Birth-rate Commission to-day, under the presidency of the Bishop of Birmingham, witnesses from the Ministry of Health will give evidence.

Samuel Butcher, aged 66, who for 40 years was a furniture and antique dealer in Market-street, Poplar, at the sign of the "Camel's Head Depository," died suddenly in the street on Wednesday.

Mr. P. T. Harrison, recently appointed engineer and surveyor to the Urban District of Finchley, was presented on giving up a similar position at Chelmsford, with gifts from the staff.

At an inquest yesterday the East Surrey Coroner certified that Timothy Gould, 43, a patient in Banstead Asylum, who escaped on December 6 and was found dead in a barn at Leigh, near Redhill, died from want of food and exposure.

Sir George Makgill, vice-chairman of the People's League, has accepted an invitation to stand as the People's League independent prospective Parliamentary candidate for East Leyton. He will address his first meeting in the constituency on January 4.

An award of £50 has been made to the master and one month's pay to the first and third officers and to two members of the crew of the Rio Claro for gallant conduct in saving life and endeavouring to save their ship when she was torpedoed on January 5, 1918.

Pulham (Airship) Aerodrome has been deleted from the list of stations temporarily retained for Service purposes and added to the list of civil stations. Civil aerodromes licensed as "suitable for Avro 504 K and similar types of aircraft only now include Northenden (near Stockport) and Knutsford, Tabley Lane.

Lord Salisbury unveiled and the Bishop of Exeter dedicated, yesterday, a regimental memorial which has been placed in Hatfield Church, to the memory of Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Collings Wells, V.C., D.S.O., and the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the 4th Bedfordshire Regiment (Herts Militia), killed in Belgium, France, Egypt, and Palestine, 1914-18.

MEMORIAL GRAMOPHONE RECORD.

FIRST EDITION SOLD OUT.

The first edition of the memorial gramophone records will be ready for dispatch by post to-morrow and it is hoped that all subscribers will receive their copies during the early part of next week. All orders are being dealt with in rotation.

The number of applications already received exceeds the amount of the first edition and a second issue is being arranged for to meet the demand. These should be available for dispatch very shortly after Christmas. It should be recalled that

THE TIMES

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1925

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…to the flat.
…, K.C., and Mr. Grundy …ppellants; Mr. Gilbert …ndents.

…OMENT.

…ES, in giving judgment, …raises the question what …uction to be placed on …ection (section 12, sub- …Rent Restrictions Act, …en possible to foresee …endless variety of cir- …tions which may and do …ents between landlords …have been better for the …ed the operation of this …hat are obvious limits, …attempted to find a …by ignoring the exact …islature, was thought …intention. The result …attempt to stop obvious …landlord might escape …the statute a chasm has …h even a house in Pall …lled, and opportunities …tenants to evade quite …

…vides as follows:— …of determining the standard …any dwelling-house to which …ssary to apportion the rent at …ich the standard rent is to be …of the property in which that …d. the County Court may, on …, make such apportionment as …n of the Court as to the amount …welling-house shall be final and …

…is defined in section 12, …follows:— …y otherwise requires:—(a) The …means the rent at which the …the 3rd day of August, 1914, …use was not let on that date, …t let before that date, or, in the …ich was first let after the said …at which it was first let. . . .' …defined in section 12, …:— …he third day of August, 1914, …g-house or a part of dwelling- …that date, the rateable value …ed.

…ite a number of reported …onstruction to be placed … The first in order of …v. Samuels, decided in …J., K.B., 689). This was …whole house was within …Statute and was therefore …which the Act applied, …the landlord had been …ms as separate dwelling- …structural alteration. …er of date was Sinclair …the Divisional Court …Times L.R., 743). In …was not within the pro- …e and the Court held …when it was let off in …any Rent Restrictions …entitled to deal with …that a tenant of one of …circumstances was not …apportionment of rent. …Times L.R., 239; [1922] …was divided in opinion …their decision. Lord …considered that the …ucturally altered that …e rent of the original …lled. Lord Justice …the same ground as …

…the shut rooms was opened. A number of things were found in the room, and were carefully put away. Some of the things were packed in a box by Mr. Hills, who was Colonel Prideaux-Brune's butler. On the same day Lady Makgill called on her agents, who told her of the opening of the room. Lady Makgill flew into a violent temper, and said that she must go and see Mrs. Prideaux-Brune at once. She was told that Mrs. Prideaux-Brune had a luncheon party, but nothing would persuade her to postpone her visit. She went to Eaton-place and demanded to see Mrs. Prideaux-Brune. She was told that Mrs. Prideaux-Brune had friends to luncheon, but she would not go away. The luncheon party was entertained by the loud talk of Lady Makgill in the hall. Miss Prideaux-Brune went out, and Lady Makgill then charged Mr. Hills with stealing some of her things from the house, especially some china and a ring. Mr. Hills did well in the South African War, and since leaving the Army he had been butler in various county families.

Evidence having been given, SIR HENRY MADDOCKS opened the case for the defence. He said that on January 2, 1924, there was an agreement between Colonel Prideaux-Brune and Sir George Makgill for the letting of the house with the two rooms locked up. Colonel Prideaux-Brune had no right to authorize his servants to enter those rooms, but he did so. Was it to be wondered at that Lady Makgill, when she heard of what had occurred, was justifiably furious and likely to express herself forcibly? She had recently recovered from illness, and she went to the house to see Colonel or Mrs. Prideaux-Brune. Anyone with a spark of decency would have seen her instead of telling the servants to "leave her on the mat," and say that any communication which she wished to make must be through solicitors. Lady Makgill, on arrival at the house, said that she had heard that the room had been broken open, and she asked what had become of her things. She was told that some had been put on the landing and that some were in the room. Then she said: "How do I know whether your servants are not thieves?" meaning, possibly, temporary servants. Hills said: "The servants are as honest as you are, and I am one of them." Lady Makgill said: "That is neither here nor there." Hills said: "Do you accuse me of being a thief?" and Lady Makgill replied: "I said nothing of the kind." Lady Makgill never conveyed any imputation of theft against Hills. Colonel Prideaux-Brune was financing the action, which was only a move in other proceedings between Colonel Prideaux-Brune and Sir George Makgill relating to the letting of the house.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, assessing the damages at £50. Judgment was entered accordingly, with costs.

Solicitors.—Messrs. Coode, Kingdon, Cotton, and Ward; Messrs. Bircham and Co.

THE HARPER BEAN LIBEL ACTION.

BEAN v. WARDMAN.

(*Before* MR. JUSTICE FINLAY *and a Special Jury.*)

The hearing was continued of this libel action, brought by Mr. John Harper Bean against Mr. Charles Benson Wardman. The words complained of were contained in a letter written by the defendant to the plaintiff's father, the late Sir George Bean, on

NAVAL HISTORY PR…

The following officers have b… prizes on the result of the Na… Essay Competition for 1924:— Lieutenant Geoffrey L. Bodeano, H… £25; Lieutenant Trevylyan M. Napier, … £25; Lieutenant John F. Stevens, H.M. … £15; Lieutenant Douglas O. Doble, … ELIZABETH, £5; and Lieutenant Thomas … H.M.S. EMPEROR OF INDIA, £5. Certif… have also been awarded in each case.

This examination is restricted … the military branch, and competit… of the rank or relative rank o… under five years' seniority.

AIRCRAFT-CARRIER CHA…

Orders have been issued that … carrier PROMETHEUS, Commander H. … D.S.O., which has just returned … from special service at Singapor… reduced to reserve at Devonport. … will be given foreign service le… watches while the ship is being … reserve, reduction to that status … as soon as possible after the lea… also been approved for the HERM… the Hon. Arthur Stopford, C.M.G., … to Portsmouth next month to p… recommission, instead of to Chat… first arranged. The new crew wi… rail from Chatham to Portsmouth … crew of the HERMES will be tra… Portsmouth Depôt before foreign s… is given.

NEW U.S. CRUISER.

The last of the ten American … the OMAHA type, the MEMPHIS, la… 1920, has been completed, and ap… been given for her to make a shake… to Trinidad, St. Thomas, and G… Bay, Cuba. On April 13 the Me… take part in the dedication cere… memorial gateway to Admiral Ol… U.S.N., at Port of Spain, Trini… this officer died on board the fr… ADAMS on August 23, 1819. He … on shore, but in 1826 the rem… brought back to the United States.

NAVY BOXING CHAMPION…

The R.N. and R.M. Boxing Cha… for 1925 are to be held at Portsm… Monday to Wednesday next inclusiv… 7, and 8. At Portsmouth also at … the month, the Imperial Services Bo… ciation Championships will be held … meeting last year the Navy and A… tied for possession of the trophy. T… I.S.B.A. Meeting will be for … championships, the team match ha… temporarily abandoned at the wi… Army and Royal Air Force. The … Boxing Association, which held its … ships yesterday, invited the three S… enter one division—*i.e.*, one entry … weight.

INDIA HEADQUARTER'S CHA…

Major-General H. O. Parr, C.B., C… was Lord Rawlinson's Military Se… India, is coming home on two months … is expected with the transport whic… the body of the late Commande… General Sir Claud Jacob is acting … the Army until Sir William Birdwo… to take over in May, and Lieutena… P. H. M. Taylor is officiating with … Military Secretary.

ARMY RESERVE SECTION…

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T OF JUSTICE.
CH DIVISION.

ON ACTS: APPOR-ATEABLE VALUE.

EVANS v. HARDY WICK), LIMITED.

CE BANKES and LORD sitting as additional 's Bench Division.)

by the tenants from a ge of the Westminster oning the rateable value the second floor of 61, eement dated August 17, ad agreed with the res- them the flat in question 1917, for the term of five nt of £185 during the first during the last two years. October 11, 1924, the the applicants the same ly tenancy commencing at the rent of £53 15s. ns was made party to this as a surety. The rent of 3, 1914, was £150. The t Judge held that he had rtion and made an order 1924, declaring that the said property on August 3, ortioned between the flat est of the said property to the flat.

n, K.C., and Mr. Grundy appellants; Mr. Gilbert ondents.

DGMENT.

NKEY, in giving judgment, raises the question what ruction to be placed on section (section 12, sub- Rent Restrictions Act, een possible to foresee endless variety of cir- litions which may and do ments between landlords t have been better for the ed the operation of this what are obvious limits, e attempted to find a by ignoring the exact egislature, was thought intention. The result attempt to stop obvious a landlord might escape the statute a chasm has h even a house in Pall lled, and opportunities tenants to evade quite .

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HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.
KING'S BENCH DIVISION.
A BUTLER'S ACTION AGAINST A BARONET.
HILLS v. MAKGILL AND WIFE.

(Before the LORD CHIEF JUSTICE and a Special Jury.)

Mr. Alfred John Hills, a butler employed at Prideaux Place, Padstow, Cornwall, claimed from Sir George Makgill and his wife, Lady Frances Elizabeth Makgill, of Uredale Hall, Needham Market, Suffolk, damages for alleged slander. The defendants denied that the words complained of had been spoken, and further said that they did not bear a defamatory meaning.

Mr. Hawke, K.C., and Mr. Harold Simmons appeared for the plaintiff; Sir Henry Maddocks, K.C., and Mr. Geoffrey Lawrence, K.C., for the defendants.

Mr. HAWKE said that Colonel Prideaux-Brune, of Prideaux Place, Padstow, Cornwall, took from Sir George Makgill a furnished house at 99, Eaton-place, S.W., from December 19, 1923, to March, 1924. When he arrived at the house on December 19 he found that two of the three servants' bedrooms were locked. As he could not require four maid-servants to sleep in three beds in one bed-room he wrote to Lady Makgill about the matter, but he received no reply. On January 2, 1924, he called in someone who knew how to pick locks—it was not the "cat" burglar (laughter)—and the door of one of the shut rooms was opened. A number of things were found in the room, and were carefully put away. Some of the things were packed in a box by Mr. Hills, who was Colonel Prideaux-Brune's butler. On the same day Lady Makgill called on her agents, who told her of the opening of the room. Lady Makgill flew into a violent temper, and said that she must go and see Mrs. Prideaux-Brune at once. She was told that Mrs. Prideaux-Brune had a luncheon party, but nothing would persuade her to postpone her visit. She went to Eaton-place and demanded to see Mrs. Prideaux-Brune. She was told that Mrs. Prideaux-Brune had friends to luncheon, but she would not go away. The luncheon party was entertained by the loud talk of Lady Makgill in the hall. Miss Prideaux-Brune went out, and Lady Makgill then charged Mr. Hills with stealing some of her things from the house, especially some china and a ring. Mr. Hills did well in the South African War, and since leaving the Army he had been butler in various county families.

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NAVAL AND MIL

ATLANTIC FLEET PROGRAMME

The normal leave period in Fleet, now back from its spring Mediterranean, will be from M noon, April 6, to Tuesday morni for first parties; and from Tuesd April 21, to Wednesday morning second parties. As the Fleet is to provide an emergency force notice, ships and vessels, other giving leave from Sheerness and refit, may arrange the proportio of men going on first and seco desired. Ships at Sheerness mu more than half the crew at a t leave.

The following ships will arrive named to-day and are to re REVENGE, CURACOA, WALLACE, and PRINCESS MARGARET (Port last-named ship not beginning May; ROYAL OAK, WARWICK, WALKER, DILIGENCE, and (Devonport); and the WHIRLW VERSATILE, and submarine K.2 There are also due for docking during the leave period the Nint Flotilla, the TELEMACHUS, and K.12, K.26, and K.22.

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The following officers have be prizes on the result of the Na Essay Competition for 1924:—

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PROFILE

Sir George Makgill

During the 1920's and 1930's the work of the British secret state was assisted by an unofficial, and extremely rightwing, network of organisations and private intelligence agencies. It was a confusing network and only now are some of the details being pieced together. Some of the central figures in this network - like Admiral Reginald Hall - are well known even if their contribution to state secrecy in the inter-war period is neglected or ignored. One man however has escaped attention, in spite of the fact that he may have hold the key to the creation and maintenance of this unofficial network.

Our knowledge of the network is still very sketchy. Most of these groups were attached to particular organisations like the British Empire Union, and ultimately co-ordinated by the Central Council of the Economic Leagues. There was, however, at least one private secret service group which maintained its independence while working close with the official secret state and the other private services. It was established and run by Sir George Makgill, a scottish baronet, right wing fringe politician and author of imperialist novels.

Makgill's story illustrates the difficulty in piece together any kind of picture of the operations of this network of unofficial groups, and its potential importance.

If one man ever held a key to the complex interconections between the Radical Right and the Secret State during this period it was John Baker White, the veteran anti-communist and anti-socialist activist.
From leaving school at Malvern College in 1920 (when he was eighteen) his career encompased important roles in the development of the secret state. Freelance courier for Special Branch, member of the British Fascists, friend to the anti-semitic campaigner Nesta Webster, adviser to MI5, MI10, the Political Intelligence Department of the Foreign Office, the Political Warfare Executive, Director of the Economic League for nineteen years and Publcity adviser for another twenty five, Conservative MP (Canterbury 1945-50/1?) and chair of the Freedom Association in Kent.

In addition to the occasional publication of propagandist tracts, White published four important autobiographical books. *[- "It's gone for good", "The Big Lie","Sabotage is suspected" and "True Blue"] They are frustratingly imprecise books, and at times straightforwardly misleading. Perhaps this is only to be expected from a professional propagandist, writing about about politically sensitive issues. However unless they completely fabricate, rather than merely distort the truth, then they reveal the existence of two important and related, secret and private intelligence organisations that have so far more or less slipped through the parapolitical historian's net.

"SIR GEORGE McGILL" AND THE GROUP WITH NO NAME

White claims in all the accounts of his early life to have begun his undercover investigations of "subversion" as an independent amateur. He began his surveillance in London and Cambridge, attending meetings of the recently formed Communist Party of Great Britain.

In Cambridge he was fairly quickly confronted by a local activist - whom he calls "H" - who having established that White's interest in the Communist Party was malevolent, revealed that he too was a committed anti-communist working undercover.

"H" immediately obtained for White an introduction to the man who ran the organisation for which he himself was working, whom he calls "Sir George McGill". After a gruelling interview White was taken on by McGill. He was told that "H" would be his contact with the organisation, and that he therefore to not establish too obvious a friendship with him.

In none of White's accounts is this organisation, or "H" named. Even worse for the researcher is that despite some tantallising descriptions of his activities and connections there was at the time nobody called "Sir George McGill", nevermind one answering the actual description given by White.

White provides little personal personal detail about Sir George McGill, but fortunately enough to identify him. According to White he died suddenly in 1926 - "just as he was bringing to fruition his plans to establish a voluntary organisation, O.M.S. - the Organisation for Maintaining Services" He was a member of the Caledonian Club, and "was a close personal friend of Sir Vernon Kell, the founder and first head of MI5".

McGill, says White

> "....created at his own expense, a private counter subversive intelligence service that had one unique feature. Every man and woman working in it could be trusted".

He contrasted it with official intelligence services which

> "....all over the world have to use men and women who are selling their own side for money, but he would have nothing to do with them. He put people into the revolutionary movement at the bottom and let them work their way up".

McGill's organisation concentrated on

> "....investigating not only all forms of subversion, including communism, but also the international traffic in drugs and the traffic in women and children".

But, he says, McGill

"....also devoted a considerable amount of time to unmasking the cult of evil of which Aleister Crowley, alias "The Beast", was the centre".

Drawing together White's autobiographical accounts it also possible to piece together a rough sketch of how McGill's group organisation worked.

Its members may well have been as trustworthy as White claimed, but "McGill" left nothing to chance and it operated a cell structure. Thus White himself claims only to have been aware of that part of the organisation of which he was a member and leader which used the name "Section D".

White says that he could not "pretend to know what [McGill's] contacts with official departments were". However in addition to McGill's friendship with Vernon Kell, White says "I discovered some years later that he could always see the Permanent Secretary to the Cabinet when ever he wished and at shortnotice".

Elsewhere he makes it clear that Churchill was also aware of and impressed by the McGill's work. If this was the case then McGill was in close contact with three of the most powerful figures in the Intelligence Community during the early twenties and in fact throughout the inter-war years: Vernon Kell, Churchill, and Sir Maurice Hankey.

PROBLEMS WITH WHITE'S ACCOUNT

There are two immediately disturbing problems with White's story.

1: The reference to the Organisation for Maintaining Services, would seem inescapably to point to the Organisation for the Maintenance of Supplies. Is this a slip? Are they Different Groups? If it is a slip, and White is telling us that the O.M.S. was in fact McGill's brainchild then there are still serious problems. There are several accounts of the formation of the OMS, none of which mention McGill.

2: Perhaps more difficult than this is the fact that it is possible to say with a considerable amount of confidence that there was no Sir George McGill in the early 1920's. None of the standard and comprehensive directories list one, Who's Who or Whittaker's for example. This is, understandably a potentially fatal flaw in White's account. Why, when he finally relinquishes code letters for the mastermind of this secret intelligence set up, does he use a none existent title?

Was Sir George a phantom, and the existence of his group a complete fabrication?

THE REAL SIR GEORGE McGILL - SIR GEORGE MAKGILL

There is however convincing evidence of someone who not only fits

White's description, but was also moving in the political circles you would expect of the McGill described by White. That man was however not Sir George "McGill" but Sir George Makgill. I stumbled across him while researching the early history of the Economic League and was already interested in "McGill", but unclear about his significance in relation to the League or even where to begin to track him down.
I was also interested in a number of other groups that played key roles in the formation and early days of the Economic League and had asked some one to check them out for me in a contemporary London directory.
When a "Sir George Makgill"'s name cropped up in relation to two of them it seemed too good to be true. Yet in fact further investigations showed that Makgill could hardly be anyone other than John Baker White's "McGill".

Born in 1868, Makgill died in October 1926 at the age of 57. He was the eldest son of Sir John Makgill, tenth baronet, and Margaret Isabella Haldane, half sister to Lord Haldane. On the death of his father Makgill registered his claim to the lapsed family Scottish title of Viscount Oxfuird. Though he never gained the title, his heirs have. He married a New Zealander, Frances Elizabeth Grant and they had two sons and two daughters. His eldests son's wife, Esther, went on to create the Women's Section of Moseley's British Union of Fascists.

According to Makgill's Times obituary (20/10/26):

> "He was educated privately, and became known as a writer of novels, articles, and stories, chiefly of colonial life. In what is, perhaps, the best of his novels "Blacklaw", which appeared early in 1914, he gives a vivid picture of a Scottish peer converted to an almost fanatical methodism, handing over his property to a missionary society, and carrying off his five young children to New Zealand, there to lead a simple, Christian, patriachal life."

But his obituary also makes reference to his "association" with the ANTI GERMAN UNION during the great war:

> "In June 1915, he raised the question whether Sir George Cassel and Sir Edgar Speyer, having been born out of the British Dominions and not of English parents were capable of being members of the Privy Council. In the following December the Court of King's Bench (the Lord Chief Justice and justices Avory and and Lush) delivered judgement, directing the orders nisi obtained by Sir George Makgill to be discharged, on the grounds that the respondents, having been naturalized under the Act of 1870, were capable of being Privy Councillors when they were respectively appointed."

The Anti German Union was in fact the Earlist Manifestation of the British Empire Union. That Sir George Makgill was active within this complex network of inter-related organisations is however

beyond doubt. In London telephone directory for 1917 he is given as the Honorary Secretary of the British Empire Union based at 346 Strand Walk (the office of the diehard's own newspaper "The Morning Post"). In 1918 the "business secretary" of the British Empire Union was listed as Reginald Wilson, later associated with National Propaganda (an early manifestation of the Economic League). Makgill's name was also, in the same years, given as General Secretary of the British Empire Producers' Organisation.

The British Empire Union was an active campaigning organmisation with, by the end of the Great War, 50 Branches and possibly 10,000 members. These branches organised attacks on pacifist meetings. After the armistice it continued to exist, making communism and socialism its primary target. As a part of its strategy it organised its own network of "special agencies" to gather intelligence on the Left. Undoubtedly it was this network which Baker White describes, and his "Section D" was one of those "agencies".

A further link with this diehard, anti-socialist network is suggested by an entry in the Times for December 17th 1920, in which it is announced the Makgill is standing as a People's League candidate in an Parliamentary election the East Leyton. Makgill is described as the League's vice chairman.

"SECTION D"

White implies that when "McGill" died in 1926 his organisation died with him. White himself claims not to have had any contact with any other sections of it, and that no one contacted him with a view to perpetuating it. The only evidence he offers to support the idea that there was more to the organisation than his particular section/cell is his discovery of two colleagues in Military Intelligence, presumably MI10, during the Second World War who had also worked for "McGill".

After McGill's death Section D, the cell run by White since "H"'s death chose to continue operating, as "an independent self-financing organisation of dedicated men and women". According to his account in this form it continued to use the name "Section D" and operated until the outbreak of the Second World War.

The British Empire Union's "Section D" which was associated with White really consisted of two groups: that which worked for Makgill, and the later independent organisation.

SECTION D UNDER MAKGILL

White's explanation of the origins of Section D is not as clear as it could be. In "The Big Lie" he says that he formed it together with a an un-named "tough middle aged man" with whom he fallen into

conversation after a CPGB meeting they had both attended at the "Grove" pub in West London 1923. White's companion had heckled at the meeting and over a drinks they hatched the idea of the group which became Section D, and they agreed to meet the following day to set the ball rolling.
"By 1926" he says "we had built up a group of men and women dedicated to fighting communism from the inside". In this account, White describes Section D as "a mixed lot. Engine Driver, retired policeman, skilled engineer, a university student ["H"] and a farmer, both of whom were killed in mysterious circumstances, shipping agent, society girl, economist, soldier and others".

However story of the origins of Section D he offers in the much later "True Blue" does not easily fit with the story he offers in the earlier book. According to this it was only after "H"'s death that he was given greater responsibilty in the organisation, "and was now running my own group, known as Section D". But whether John Baker White created or inherited Section D he clear claims to have been running it after "H"'s death, some time between 1923 and the late summer of 1926.

PERSONNEL and OPERATIONS

From White's fragmentary accounts of Section D it is possible to build up some sort of battle order and identify some of its operations and targets. These suggest, for the time, a sophisticated organisation with a significant role within the developing secret state.

Amongst those who were in Section D from the begining:

"H"

It was "H" who confronted JBW about his true purpose in attending CPGB meetings in Cambridge, after a CPGB meeting addressed by C.P.Dutt, on the "Struggle of the Indian Masses".

Makgill "also devoted a considerable amount of time to unmasking the cult of evil of which Aleister Crowley, alias "the Beast", was the centre". White only discovered after "H"'s death, when he was sorting through the dead man's papers at the request of Makgill, that he had been involved in this work.

> "What I did not know until later when, at his father's and Mc-Gill's request, I had been through his papers was that he had uncovered a blackmail plot, involving two well known polititians, connected with Crowley's activities in the island of Cefalu". JBW says that he is convinced that an international gang of blackmailers were responsible for "H"'s death.

From White's discriptions of "H" we can establish the following details:

* "In Name, Manner and dress he ["H"] was the complete younger son of a peer", which he was. He was a "glib-tongued young man with the pale, rather stupid face crowned with untidy fair hair.....".

* "H" did most of the talking at the meeting: "His oration was an amazing mixture of sedition, venom, hatred for his own class and unsound economics". Though he was not the secretary of the "local".

White and "H" became friends, until the latter's untimely death in, what White alleged, were suspicious circumstances. On the night of his death "H" had dined with White at the "Trocadero Grill" in London before returning by motorcycle to Cambridge. The following morning "workmen cycling to work in the half light" found his body lying by the roadside, on the Bishop Stortford to Newport Road with his motorbike "a twisted mass of metal lying in the ditch". White recalls that the inquest found that "he had taken the corner too fast in the dark, crashed and broken his neck".

White was not convinced by the inquest. He had "ridden hundreds of miles on the back of his motor cycle and knew him to be a magnificent and very careful driver, no the sort of man who takes corners too fast on a road he knew like the back of his hand".

Two months after the inquest, White's suspicions were increased when he discovered the full extent of "H"'s work for Makgill. At the "Trocadero" on the night of his death "H" had been "full of plans for a visit to Paris to meet some of the leading French Communists". However in addition to this undercover anti-communist activity White subsequently found out "how deep H. had been, not in communism but in the traffic in women and drugs".

It is possible to establish that "H" died some time between 1923 and July 1926, where and how he died. But who was he?

ASHBY PRITT

Worked in IRA during the troubles 1919-20, at one time acting as a courier for Michael Collins. Died, after "H", in a motor cycle accident on the York to Stockton Road in September 1929, three weeks after being shot at. As in the case of "H", White did not believe that the inquest was correct in deciding that it was an accident.

Pritt was according to White " a good-looking young Irishman who was also interested in Political intelligence", whom he had met around 1923. From his account it is possible to glean the following claims for him:

* "After the truce was signed in Ireland and the Free State government set up he worked for that Government's intelligence service inside the I.R.A., and the information he collected played an important part in

rounding up the rebels".

* One of his main contributions to this intelligence work was in taking photographs of "many of the important leaders". He was able to do this by providing them with snaps of them posing with revolvers or rifles to give to their girl friends and wives.

* "Ashby spent most of his time in the North, as he had a job in York".

* He continued collecting information on the IRA exiles in Britain but concentrated on gathering information on the "traffic in women and drugs, which at that time was quite considerable in Hull and Sunderland".

* He was "one man working on his own", though he met White periodically in London, "generally on his way to or from Paris, Dunkirk, Marseilles or Paris".

* Most of the information he collected "went to the League of Nations' Special Commision in Geneva" and contributed to the breaking up of several gangs".

* Eventually Ashby decided to settle down, he married "taking a farm outside York". Soon afterwards his wife wrote to White of Ashby's death, as a result of a motorcycle accident. Like "H" he had been found dead on the side of a road "on which he travelled nearly every day" with "the twisted remains of his motor cycle in the ditch".

ROSE

"....An elderly lady of independent means with an inside knowledge of the then flourishing Communist Sunday School Movement". Rose died naturally before WWII, but what is perhaps intersting about specialism in sunday schools is the degree to which the Economic League (or rather its fore-runner National Propaganda) was also interested in the activities of these sunday schools.

It is likely that "Rose" was Rotha Linton Orman, who died in 1935 and who was a founder of the British Fascisti and close friend of Baker White and his family.

TED

"....A retired mining engineer who had made enough money in Australia and Canada to live in modest comfort. He was in close touch with Percy Gladding and other top communists working inside the the Engineers' Union...". He died before before the Second World War.

BILL

"....A loco man who drove expresses out of Kings Cross", was alive (and of course retired) in 1970.

MAX

"The English Max", "a naturalist who later entered government service". According to White Max died, "much too young", in 1968. It is impossible not to draw the conclusion that this Max was none other than Maxwell Knight, who became an MI5 Officer in April 1925 while serving as the British Fascists Chief of Intelligence. He combined these two posts for two years.

VALERIE

Valerie "after months of patient plodding got a job in Arcos, the soviet trading organisation later raided by the police". Eventually "...worn out and suffering from consumption, died during the second World war".

The Arcos raid was one of the most significant political moves against links with USSR in the 1920's. Its ramifications for British intelligence and diplomacy were far reaching but the source of the original information used to justify the raid has never been clearly identified. Economic League founder Admiral Blinker Hall was definitely involved, and if so then this would be powerful circumstantial evidence to suggest that the Section D agent named Valerie could have played a critical role.

HOPS

Hops was a retired CSM in Royal Signals, "specialised in red propaganda in the forces" died after WWII.

SECTION D AFTER MAKGILL

According to White on "McGill"'s death his section had determined to continue to function, on a self-financing basis. This it did until the outbreak of the Second World War, during which a number of its members became involved in resistance movements.
In his accounts of the activities of the post-Makgill Section D, White concentrates on investigations into alleged sabotage on marine shipping and particularly two cases which in which he was involved - fires on board the Phillipar and the L'Atlantique.

PERSONNEL AFTER MAKGILL'S DEATH

YVES
A recent Sorbonne graduate working on Le Matin in Paris. Still working as a journalist in 1970.

Max
A "wagon-lit" conductor between Paris and Geneva", shot by the

gestapo.

Jim Finney
Active around Portsmouth and Bordeaux. Died in in 1955? He worked with JBW on investigation into suspicious fire on French Liner the Georges Phillipar and then on L'Atlantique in 1933.

Georges Picard
A Parisian member of the team which investigated the fires on the Phillipar and L'Atlantique team, later shot by the Gestapo

Mick
A member of the L'Atlantique team who was arrested and then operated from Brussels. White subsequently lost contact with him.

F. W. Memory
Daily Telegraph journalists involved in the L'Atlantique investigation.

George Martelli
Morning Post correspondent in Paris, and author who helped with L'Atlantique investigation.

Irmgard
A "good looking and highly attractive young woman" pen pal

Trudi
pen pal door-to-door saleswoman of sewing machines in garrison towns, Essen (p167)

Unknown - Costing clerk in Krupps

Unknown - "One of the men who worked for him (Makgill) died gallantly in Spain fighting in the International Brigade He went there to get vital information on the participation of Soviet Russia and the working of Ogpu in Republican territory".

D23 - "died under torture in Gestapo headquarters in Dusseldorf"

D17 - "killed in Essen by a British bomb"

["Both {D23 & D17} were German patriots who Loathed Nazism as an evil thing"]

D19 - British liason officer with French Resistance, "died in a running battle with Darnand's Millice.

Conclusion

White's frustratingly fragmentary and, perhaps deliberately inaccurate, accounts of his own activities and "McGill"'s organisation suggest much closer links between many of the organisation which have attracted the attention of historians of the radical

right and parapolitians during the 1920's. Even a cautious analysis of what White wrote about it and its members over the course of thirty years must suggest that Section D provided a functional link between MI5, the Economic League, British Empire Union, the Organisation for the Maintenance of Supplies and also (through Both White and Maxwell Knight) with the British Fascists and (through White) with the organised anti-semitism and anti socialism of Nesta Webster.

The outside possibility, of course, remains that "McGill" and "Section D" was a fiction created and maintained by White. That this is unlikely to be the case is however underlined by the fate of Makgill's personal papers. After discussing what I presumed to be the identity of the real "McGill" with fellow researcher John Hope he undertook what we expected would be the hopeless task of tracking down any of Makgill's surving papers. We were however surprised to discover from his family that his papers had been preserved. Unfortunately they had been deemed to be so sensitive and potentially dangerous that they had been entrusted to the care of the Vatican!

Further Reading

John Baker White

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"Sabotage is Suspected", Evans Bros, London, 1957
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John Hope "British Fascism and the State 1917-1927", in Labour History Review, Vol 57 No 3, Winter 1992.

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"Felons", Hodder & Stoughton, London, 1915
"Outside and Overseas", Methuen & Co, London 1903

He also published under the psuedonymn "Victor Waite"

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Дагестанский Государственный Университет им. В. И. Ленина.

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servant; son of Thomas Chandler Haliburton [q.v.]; born and educated at Windsor, Nova Scotia; called to bar there, 1855; joined commissariat department of British army, 1855; served in Crimea and in Canada; civilian assistant director of supplies and transports, 1869; director, 1879; supervised victualling of eight campaigns; KCB, 1885; permanent under-secretary for war, 1895–7; GCB, 1897; baron, 1898; vigorously defended short military service in *The Times*, 1897; in later years advocated universal military training.

HALIFAX, second VISCOUNT (1839–1934). [See WOOD, SIR CHARLES LINDLEY.]

HALIFAX, first EARL OF (1881–1959), statesman. [See WOOD, EDWARD FREDERICK LINDLEY.]

HALL, SIR (ALFRED) DANIEL (1864–1942), educationist, administrator, and scientific research worker; scholar of Manchester grammar school and Balliol College, Oxford; first class, natural science, 1884; first principal, South Eastern Agricultural College, Wye, Kent, 1894–1902; director, Rothamsted Experimental Station, 1902–12; member of Development Commission, 1910–17; secretary, Board of Agriculture, 1917–20; chief scientific adviser, Ministry of Agriculture, 1920–7; director, John Innes Horticultural Institution, 1927–39; publications include *The Soil* (1903), *The Book of the Rothamsted Experiments* (1905), *A Pilgrimage of British Farming* (1913), *The Apple* (1933, with M. B. Crane), *The Genus Tulipa* (1940), and *Reconstruction and the Land* (1941); FRS, 1909; KCB, 1918.

HALL, ARTHUR HENRY (1876–1949), engineer; educated at Clifton and Trinity Hall, Cambridge; first class, mechanical sciences, 1898; served engineering apprenticeship; assistant mechanical engineer, Woolwich Arsenal, 1905; assistant superintendent, 1914–17; director, torpedoes and mines production, Admiralty, 1917–19; superintendent, airship construction, Cardington, 1926–8; chief superintendent, Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, 1928–41; CB, 1937.

HALL, SIR ARTHUR JOHN (1866–1951), physician; educated at Rugby, Caius College, Cambridge, and St. Bartholomew's Hospital; qualified, 1889; FRCP, 1904; on staff of Sheffield Royal Hospital, 1890–1931; taught physiology and pathology in and built up Sheffield Medical School into faculty of medicine, Sheffield University (1905); dean, 1911–16; professor of medicine, 1915–21; authority on D.Sc. Sheffield, 1928; president, Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland, 1931.

HALL, CHRISTOPHER NEWMAN (1816–1902), Congregationalist divine; son of John Vine Hall [q.v.]; ordained, 1842; accomplished preacher of evangelical fervour; minister of Surrey chapel, 1854; LLB, London, 1856; chairman of Congregational Union, 1866; built Christ Church, Westminster Bridge Road, 1876; resigned pastorate, 1892; hon. DD, Edinburgh, 1902; wrote many devotional works and hymns; autobiography published, 1898.

HALL, SIR EDWARD MARSHALL (1858–1927), lawyer; called to bar (Inner Temple), 1883; first real opportunity, murder case (*Rex v. Hermann*), when he obtained verdict of manslaughter, 1894; QC, 1898; conservative MP, Southport division, Lancashire, 1900–6; East Toxteth division, Liverpool, 1910–16; practice temporarily affected by Court of Appeal's criticism of his conduct in libel case against *Daily Mail*, 1901; greatest triumph, Russell divorce case, 1923; recorder of Guildford, 1916; knighted, 1917; at his best, a powerful advocate.

HALL, FITZEDWARD (1825–1901), philologist; born at Troy, New York; went to India, 1846; tutor (1850) and professor of Sanskrit (1853) at Benares government college; served in Sepoy mutiny; settled in London, 1862; professor of Sanskrit at King's College, and librarian to India Office; while in India discovered many Sanskrit MSS, and edited many Sanskrit and Hindi literary works and treatises of Hindu philosophy; edited works for Early English Text Society, 1864–9, published many philological researches, and from 1878 helped in preparation of *New English Dictionary* and Joseph Wright's *Dialect Dictionary*; hon. DCL, Oxford, 1860; hon. LLD, Harvard, 1895.

HALL, HARRY REGINALD HOLLAND (1873–1930), archaeologist; BA, St. John's College, Oxford, 1895; assistant, department of Egyptian and Assyrian antiquities, British Museum, 1896; took part in Egypt Exploration Fund excavations in winters of 1903–4–5–6; deputy keeper, department of Egyptian and Assyrian antiquities, 1919; keeper, 1924; FBA, 1926; works include *The Oldest Civilisation of Greece* (1901) and *The Ancient History of the Near East* (1913).

HALL, HUBERT (1857–1944), archivist; educated at Shrewsbury; entered Public Record Office, 1879; senior clerk, 1892; assistant keeper, 1913–21; secretary, royal commission on public

economic history, London, 1896–1926; publications include *Studies in English Official Historical Documents* (1908).

HALL, SIR JOHN (1824–1907), premier of New Zealand; born at Hull; employed at London General Post Office, 1843–52; emigrated to Lyttelton, New Zealand, for sheep-farming, 1852; first mayor of Christchurch, 1862–3; elected for Christchurch to first house of representatives, 1855; colonial secretary, 1856; postmaster-general and electric telegraph commissioner, 1866–9; called to legislative council, 1872; colonial secretary, 1872–3; opposed (secular) Education Act of 1877; premier, 1879–82; KCMG, 1882; his ministry repealed Sir George Grey's land-tax, passed triennial parliaments bill and universal suffrage bill; Hall introduced woman's suffrage amendment into electoral bill, 1893.

HALL, WILLIAM GEORGE GLENVIL (1887–1962), politician; educated at Friends' School, Saffron Walden; clerk in Barclay's Bank, London; did social work in East End; joined independent labour party, 1905; although a Quaker, enlisted and served in army, 1914–18; financial officer, labour party, 1919–39; unsuccessful candidate in 1922–4 elections; labour MP, Portsmouth Central, 1929–31; MP, Colne Valley, Yorkshire, 1939–62; called to bar (Gray's Inn), 1933; financial secretary to Treasury, 1945–50; PC, 1947; British representative, United Nations Assembly, 1945, 6, and 8; chairman, Parliamentary labour party, 1950–2; attended Consultative Assembly, Strasbourg, 1950–2; member, BBC advisory council, 1952; president, United Kingdom Alliance, 1959.

HALL, SIR (WILLIAM) REGINALD (1870–1943), admiral; entered navy, 1884; commanded battle cruiser *Queen Mary*, 1913–14; introduced many reforms including three-watch system; director, intelligence division, Admiralty, 1914–18; recruited large staff whose deciphering of German naval signals became a principal factor in naval warfare; intercepted German messages to other countries including Zimmermann telegram proposing German-Mexican offensive alliance; its publication influential on American entry into war; instrumental in capturing Sir Roger Casement [q.v.]; employed counter-agents and devised many ruses to deceive Germans; rear-admiral, 1917; vice-admiral, 1922; admiral, 1926; conservative MP, West Derby division of Liverpool (1918–23), Eastbourne (1925–9); KCMG, 1918.

HALL, (WILLIAM) STEPHEN (1893–1966), writer, and broadcaster on politics and international affairs. [See KING-HALL.]

HALLÉ (formerly NORMAN-NERUDA), WILMA MARIA FRANCISCA, LADY (1839–1911), violinist; daughter of Josef Neruda; born in Moravia; appeared in London, 1849; married Ludwig Norman, 1864, and secondly Sir Charles Hallé [q.v.], 1888; teacher in Berlin, 1898; violinist to Queen Alexandra, 1901.

HALLIBURTON, WILLIAM DOBINSON (1860–1931), physiologist and biochemist; educated at University College School and University College, London; B.Sc., 1879; MD, 1884, professor of physiology, King's College, 1890–1923; FRS, 1891; pioneer in biochemistry; publications include *Chemical Physiology and Pathology* (1891), *Essentials of Chemical Physiology* (1893), 'Halliburton's' *Physiology* (1896; 19 editions); edited first seven volumes of *Physiological Abstracts*.

HALLIDAY, SIR FREDERICK JAMES (1806–1901), first lieutenant-governor of Bengal; joined Bengal civil service, 1825; judicial and revenue secretary in Bengal 1838; secretary in the home department, 1849–53; first lieutenant-governor of Bengal, 1854–9; reorganized police, improved roads, and advanced education; initiated Calcutta University, 1856; suppressed rising of Santal tribes, 1855; helped to check Sepoy mutiny in Bengal, 1858; KCB, 1860; involved in long controversy—from 1857 to 1888—with a subordinate, William Tayler [q.v.], commissioner of Patna, whom he removed from his office, 1857; member of council of India, 1868–86; an accomplished musician, he frequently performed in concerts in Bengal, London, and elsewhere.

HALSBURY, first EARL OF (1823–1921), lord chancellor. [See GIFFARD, HARDINGE STANLEY.]

HALSEY, SIR LIONEL (1872–1949), admiral; entered navy, 1885; commanded *New Zealand*, 1912–15; captain of fleet to (Lord) Jellicoe [q.v.], 1915–16; fourth sea lord, 1916; third sea lord, 1917–18; rear-admiral, 1917; commanded second battle cruiser squadron in *Australia*, 1918–19; commanded *Renown* as chief of staff to Prince of Wales visiting Canada and United States (1919), Australia, New Zealand, West Indies, etc. (1920); comptroller and treasurer to Prince of Wales, 1920–36; vice-admiral, 1921; admiral, 1926; KCMG, 1918.

HAMBLEDEN, second VISCOUNT (1868–1928), philanthropist. [See SMITH, WILLIAM

1917 (cont.)

2. British Empire Producers' Organisation (Sir George Makgill, bart. gen. sec.), 2 Hatton court EC – TA "Prolific, Stock"; TN 7707 London Wall

Hatton court EC

1, 2+3	Gordon (Panmure) + Co. stock + share brokers
1	Bird William, stock broker
2+3	Scrimgeour J. + A. stock bros.
2+3	Co-operative Banks Assocn
2+3	Kennedy + Robertson, stck. j brs
2	British Empire Producers' Organisation

1918 (cont.)

2. British Empire Producers' Organisation (Sir George Makgill, bart. gen. sec.), 101 to 107 Kingsway WC2 – TA "Prolific, Westcent"; TN 713 Gerrard

Kingsway WC2

101 to 107 KINGSWAY HOUSE:–

Avamore Engineering Co. Ltd

Barking Chemicals Co. Ltd

Birmingham Metal + Munitions Co. Ltd

British Empire Producers' Organisation
Sir Geo. Makgill, bt. gen. sec

British Typewriter Co

Brooks Appliance Co. Ltd

Canada Newspaper Co. Ltd

Dixon S. + Son Ltd. brassfndrs

Eugenics Education Society,
Mrs. Gotto, sec

Headley Bros. Publishers Ltd

2. (cont.) Holman Laurance, advertisement agent

Kingsway Press Ltd

Lips Limited, safe makers

Malcolm + Allan Ltd. electrical engineers

Montreal Gazette

Nobel's Explosives Co. Ltd

Perkins Engineers Ltd

Renold Hans Ltd. machine chain makers

Scott Geo. + Son (London) Ltd. engineers

Scott Ernest + Co. Ltd. chemical engineers

Thrale + Beaumont, typewriting machine dealers

Werner, PFleiderer + Perkins Ltd. bakery engineers

107 Dictaphone Co. Ltd. (The)

1917 (cont.)

3. British Empire Union (The) (Sir George Makgill, bart. hon. sec.), 346 Strand WC— TN 2388 City

346 Strand WC

Morning Post Newspaper Office

Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States

Horrocks W.D. + Sons, paper agents

British Empire Union (The), Sir George Makgill, bart. hon. sec.

National Medical Union, E. Arthur Dorrell, F.R.C.S. hon. sec

Newspaper Socy, H. Whorlow, sec

1918 (cont.)

3. British Empire Union (The) (Reginald Wilson, business sec) 346 Strand WC2 – TA "Oppogerma, Estrand"; TN 2388 City

346 Strand WC2

Morning Post Newspaper OFFice

Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States

Horrocks W.D. + Sons, paper agents

British Empire Union (The), Sir George Makgill, bart. hon. sec.

National Medical Union, E. Arthur Dorrell, F.R.C.S. hon. sec

Newspaper Socy Frank Bird, sec

1917

1. National Vigilance Association + International Bureau for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic (William Alexander Coote, sec.), 76 Victoria street, Westminster SW— TA "Chivalry, Sowest"; TN 7738 Victoria

76 Victoria street

Grosvenor Mansions Estate Office

HAYTIAN LEGATION,
Abel Théard, chargé d'affaires

Jenks W. + Co. builders

Dalzell John George, solicitor

Hamworthy Engineering Co. Ltd.

Michael Edward

National Vigilance Association + International Bureau For the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic, Wm. Alex. Coote, sec.

1918

1. National Vigilance Association + International Bureau For the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic (William Alexander Coote, sec.), 76 Victoria street, Westminster SW1 — TA "Chivalry, Sowest"; TN 7738 Victoria

76 Victoria street

Grosvenor Mansions Estate Office

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Abel Théard, chargé d'affaires

Jenks W. + Co. builders

Dalzell John George, solicitor

Hamworthy Engineering Co. Ltd.

Hall Sidney Z consulting engnr

Han-Yeh-Ping Iron + Coal Co. Ltd.

Girl Guides,
Miss Maryt. Macdonald, sec

County Drawing + Tracing Office

National Vigilance Association + International Bureau For the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic, Wm. Alex. Coote, sec

1919

1. National Vigilance Association + International Bureau for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic (William Alexander Coote, sec), 76 Victoria street, Westminster SW1 — TA "Chivalry, Sowest"; TN 7738 Victoria

76 Victoria street

Grosvenor Mansions Estate Office

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Abel Théard, chargé d'affaires

Jenks W. + Co. builders

Dalzell John George, solicitor

Hamworthy Engineering Co. Ltd.

O'Hara S. consulting engineer

Girl Guides,
Miss Margt. Macdonald, sec

Merchant Seamen's League,
J. Havelock Wilson, hon. sec

National Vigilance Association + International Bureau for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic, Wm. Alex. Coote, sec

1926

1. National Vigilance Association + International Bureau For the Suppression of Traffic in Women + Children (Miss Annie Baker, sec.), 76 Victoria street, Westminster SW1 — TA "Chivalry, Sowest"; TN Victoria 7738

CS

Owned Dean Wace House (7 Wine Office Court) since 1926.

1977 - Report + Accounts stated DW House to be sold.
1979 - Planning permission (offices).
1980 + subsequent R+A's referred to Dean Wace Memorial fund; also a property (freehold) held by DWM fund and 'Christians Overseas Trust Ltd' on behalf of C.S. Other properties in Oxford, Wokingham, Cheshunt.

Council today includes:
Crispin Jogmon-Hicks (president), J.A Mottyer, M J Barker, J.S. Bradley, G.S. Humphreys, O.R. Johnston, P. Lovegrove, Randle Mainwaring, F.W. Price. Hazel Bidewell, John Brown, John Coekin, Frederick Price, David Webster, M. Barker, B. Fidd, M.W. Walters, T.K. Parkin, Rev Canon D. H Wheaton (Chair)

New 'Dean Wace House' at 128 Croydon Rd, Caterham.

N. De Savary

1979 - planning application for refurbishment to 7 Wine Office Court in 1979.

Address at time: Seawillow Ltd.

Directors: Nicholas de Savary
Paul de Savary
Jane Welsh de Savary
Colin Fidd
Joseph Keebe.

Seawillow took out mortgage on 7 Wine Office Court on 24/4/81.

Church Society

Established in 1926 as the National Church League by
- Sir Thomas Cunliffe
- Sir William Joynson-Hicks (Sec. of State) - President
- Sir Thomas Erskine (Solicitor-General) - Treasurer

etc.

Formed from various bodies, including:
- The Protestant Association,
- Protestant Educational Institute
- Protestant Churchmen's Alliance
- Ladies League
- Church of England League
- Nat. Protestant Church Union.
- Union of Clerical + Lay Association.
- Church of England Clerical + Lay Association.

1966 - incorporated Young Churchmen's Fellowship as 'Junior members'

WORKERS NEED EXPERT HELP

The Labour Research Department has a long tradition of equipping the workers' negotiators—local and national—and speakers with the full battery of facts needed to conduct the struggle.

Apart from special enquiries it publishes

"LABOUR RESEARCH" (Price 3d.)

a monthly journal presenting the salient facts on Capital and Labour, and a number of books and pamphlets.

For details as to membership, affiliation, etc., write to the Secretary, Labour Research Department.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Watford Printers Limited, Fifty-eight Vicarage Road, Watford.

Revised Edition

What is The ECONOMIC LEAGUE?

FOREWORD
by
EBBY EDWARDS
Secretary, Mineworkers' Federation of Great Britain

MAY, 1937

ONE PENNY

LABOUR RESEARCH DEPARTMENT,
60 DOUGHTY STREET, LONDON, W.C.1.

NOTE

This is a completely revised edition of a pamphlet first issued in 1927.

FOREWORD

by

EBBY EDWARDS

Secretary, Mineworkers' Federation of Great Britain

What is the Economic League? Whom does it represent? What is its purpose? The Labour Research Department has rendered a service to the labour movement by answering effectively these questions in a pamphlet written with clarity and supported by facts.

That the paid hirelings of the Economic League operate in nearly every village of the country may be known. That they are an anti-labour and anti-socialist organisation may be suspect. This pamphlet unmasks their high-sounding title and proves to the listening public that the Economic League is acting on behalf of British capitalism.

This pamphlet fulfils a great need in showing the insidious ways and methods that are used to prevent the workers' onward march to a better existence. It reminds the labour movement that their case is not assisted by closing their ears and shutting their eyes to capitalist propaganda irrespective of the garb in which it mounts the platform. Our movement must convince the mass, if action is to be successful.

I hope this pamphlet will render assistance to many of our people who are faced with the spokesmen of the Economic League. It deserves a wide circulation.

WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC LEAGUE?

DURING the recent campaign of the miners for an increase in wages, workers, especially in the mining areas, have heard and seen a good deal of the Economic League. Workers in all industries where demands have been made for better conditions cannot but have wondered why innumerable speakers have been touring the country on behalf of this League, and many districts have been flooded with its literature.

The Economic League advertises itself as an impartial body, "non-party and non-sectarian," spreading education and enlightenment just out of kindness of heart.

What is this organisation which spends such vast sums in "economic" propaganda? For an answer we have to go back to the years immediately after the war. At that period a whole series of blackleg organisations and propaganda agencies were set up by the capitalist class. In *Strike-Breaking Organisations* (Labour White Paper No. 13) the Labour Research Department traced the development of the more important blackleg organisations since 1919; in addition, there were the capitalist propaganda agencies, among which was an organisation styling itself National Propaganda.

National Propaganda numbered among its patrons coal, railway, finance and other magnates; and its objects were "to diminish industrial unrest," to prove by economic propaganda "the vital necessity of increased production," and "to combat all activities directed against constitutional government." It produced the *National Propaganda Bulletin*,

and issued leaflets and other literature, but apparently did not meet with much success, as it was too easily recognised for what it was.

It therefore decided to set up Economic Study Clubs, and announced in 1920 that in future its leaflets would be "based on economic statements emanating from Oxford, but written in simple language, easily understood." In other words, it decided to drop the open form of capitalist propaganda, and to develop a more insidious form. Thus National Propaganda died, and the Council of Economic Leagues rose from its ashes. With such antecedents, the appearance of the Economic League in the campaign against the miners can be readily understood.

THE LEAGUE'S OBJECTS

The published objects originally were:

To disseminate economic knowledge, particularly:—

(*a*) to combat the fallacious economic doctrines of Collectivism, Socialism, and Communism;

(*b*) to uphold individual freedom, enterprise, and initiative.

Its real objects were brought out clearly in the following quotation from its Speakers' Notes, No. 56 (July 16, 1926):

> What is required is some years of propaganda for capitalism as the *finest system that human ingenuity can devise*, to counteract the forty years of propaganda for Socialism.

In the view of the organisers of the Economic League, a further change in the objects has since become necessary. To-day the publications of the Economic League announce that the objects are:

1. To further the best interests of British industry and trade by creating a nation-wide understanding of their problems and workings.

2. To arouse a general public interest in the study of economics, believing that such study is a national necessity.
3. To refute uneconomic doctrines based not upon facts but upon sentiment and false assertion.
4. To oppose all subversive elements which may attempt, by stirring up strikes and disaffection, to interrupt the smooth working of the industrial machine.
5. To counter all attempts to undermine our national security.

The League's service, we are told, is rendered by "maintaining a continuous stream of propaganda directed towards the promotion of maximum efficiency and genuine co-operation . . . to eliminate industrial strife." In its own frank language, its object is "to watch and report upon the activities of individuals and organisations whose operations are directed against the best interests of *subscribers*. . . ." These quotations are taken from a leaflet for private circulation, wherein was also included the information that the annual subscription is not less that five guineas, the basis being 6d. per cent on the annual pay roll.

The suggestion of industrial espionage contained in the last quotation shows how dangerous is the Economic League to the active trade unionist and labour man. The Economic League, for obvious reasons, is not very communicative on this aspect of its work, as will be seen from the following extract from the 1935 Annual Report of the London and District section of the League:

> A large number of confidential enquiries have been undertaken on behalf of subscribers. **The League claims that industry should not be used as an arena for worrying political factions, or as the prey of subversive agents.** Much useful work has been done in countering such tendencies, but it would be inadvisable to include particulars of these activities in a Report of this character. (*Heavy type in original*).

WHO IS THE ECONOMIC LEAGUE?

By this question we do not mean who are the bright speakers who come and reel off the "economic statements emanating from Oxford" with which they have been stuffed, but who are the men who send out the speakers and the literature? Who pay the salaries and the printing bills and the other expenses? The present list of members of its central council and of its district councils is a good enough indication of where the money comes from, and of whose interests are served by the League's propaganda. We have not space enough for the whole list, but give below some of the more interesting examples of the really "non-party and non-sectarian" character of the Economic League.

COALOWNERS WHO RUN THE LEAGUE

Here, for instance, are a few coalowners who help to run the League. Their links with other branches of capitalist activity are shown after their names:

Lord Gainford, P.C., J.P., D.L.; Member of Advisory Committees to the Board of Education; President of Board of Education, 1911-15; Chairman, British Broadcasting Corporation, 1922-26; Vice-Chairman, 1926-32. Also concerned in: Durham Coal Owners' Association (deputy chairman); Durham District Board (Mines Act, 1930) (vice-chairman); National Association of Coke and By-Products Owners (chairman); Broomhill Collieries Ltd. (director); Broomhill Steamships Ltd. (director); County of London Electric Supply Co. Ltd. (director); Folkestone Electric Supply Co. Ltd. (director); Kent Electric Power Co. (director); Pease & Partners Ltd. (director); Royal Insurance Co. Ltd. (Darlington Local Board); South-

East Kent Electric Power Co. Ltd. (director); South London Electric Supply Corporation Ltd. (chairman); Weald Electric Supply Co. Ltd. (chairman).

Sir W. Benton-Jones, LL.D.; vice-President of the Mining Association of Great Britain, and director of: Appleby-Frodingham Steel Co. Ltd. (chairman); Beckermet Mining Co. Ltd.; Holwell Iron Co. Ltd.; Moresby Coal Co. Ltd. (chairman); North Lincolnshire and Howdenshire Electricity Co. Ltd.; Robert Stephenson & Co. Ltd. (Chairman); Samuel Fox & Co. Ltd. (chairman); Stanton Iron Works Co. Ltd.; United Steel Companies Ltd. (chairman); Western Dominion Collieries Ltd.; Westminster Bank Ltd.; Westminster Bank Foreign Bank Ltd.; Yorkshire Electric Power Co.

Clive Cookson, Chairman, Cookson & Co. Ltd.; Vice-President, Federation of British Industries (Council); Chairman, Acomb Coal Co. Ltd.; Chairman, Associated Lead Manufacturers Ltd.; Chairman, British and Foreign Metal and Chemical Co. Ltd.; Chairman, Consett Iron Co. Ltd.; Director, Consett Spanish Ore Co. Ltd.; Chairman and Managing Director, Cookson Lead and Antimony Co. Ltd.; Chairman, Cookson Produce and Chemical Co. Ltd.; Chairman, Cowper Coal Co. Ltd.; Chairman, Goodlass Wall and Lead Industries Ltd.; Chairman, Hazlerigg and Burradon Coal Co. Ltd.; Chairman, Howdon Barge and Transport Co. Ltd.; Chairman, Mickley Coal Co. Ltd.; Chairman, Northern Developments and Finance Ltd.; Local Board, North British and Mercantile Insurance Co. Ltd.; Chairman, Redheugh Trust Ltd.; Chairman, Republican Mining and Metal Co. Ltd.; Chairman, Wm. Benson and Son Ltd.

Sir Adam Nimmo, K.B.E.; Vice-President, Mining Association of Great Britain; Chairman, James Nimmo and Co. Ltd.; Chairman, Fife Coal Co. Ltd.; Chairman, Shotts Iron Co. Ltd.; Chairman, Scottish Boiler and General Insurance Co. Ltd.; Director, Yorkshire Insurance Co. Ltd.; Director, Ailsa Investment Trust Ltd.

Despite the predominant part in the control of the League played by coal capitalists, many other representatives of Big Business are active. A few are listed below:

Steel

Sir R. A. Hadfield, J.P.; Vice-President, Federation of British Industries; Vice-President, British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association, Inc.; Chairman, Hadfields Ltd.; Director, Sheffield Gas Co.

Banking, Insurance and Finance

Rt. Hon. Lord Riverdale, K.B.E., J.P.; Member of: Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, 1935; Board of Trade Engineering Industries Committee, 1916; Advisory Committee on War Munitions; Coal Industry Commission, 1919; Chairman, Committee on Industry and Trade, 1924. Also on the Board of: National Provincial Bank Ltd. (head office and local board) (director); Allied Assurance Co. Ltd. (Yorks and Derby local board); Arthur Balfour and Co. Ltd. (chairman and managing director); C. Meadows and Co. Ltd. (director); High Speed Steel Alloys Ltd. (chairman); Halifax Building Society (director); Sheffield Gas Co. (director); Submarine Cables Ltd. (director); Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Co. Ltd. (director).

Lieut.-Col. Sir Alan J. Sykes, Bart., J.P., D.L., V.D.; M.P., Knutsford Division, Cheshire, 1910-22; Chairman, Bleachers Association Ltd.; Director, Williams Deacon's Bank Ltd.

Major C. M. Kindersley, O.B.E. (on London Executive Committee); brother of Sir Robert Kindersley of the Bank of England; Partner, Montague Stanley and Co. (stockbrokers); Director, Clerical Medical and General Life Assurance Society Ltd.; Director, General Reversionary and Investment Co.; Director, Trust Houses Ltd.; Director, Antwerp Oil Wharves Ltd.; Chairman, Electro Chemical Processes Ltd.; Late Civil Service.

A. Kentish Barnes, Late senior partner, Mellor and Fenton (cotton merchants); Chairman, British and Foreign Marine Insurance Co. Ltd.; Deputy-Chairman, Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co. Ltd.; Director, Thames and Mersey Marine Insurance Co. Ltd.; Deputy Chairman, Royal Insurance Co. Ltd.; Member of Cotton Control Board, Manchester.

Imperial Chemical Industries

Sir Harry McGowan, K.B.E., LL.D.; Chairman, I.C.I. (also Managing Director); Deputy-Chairman, African Explosives and Industries Ltd.; Director, Canadian Industries Ltd.; Director, Midland Bank Ltd.; Midland Bank Executor and Trustee Co. Ltd.; Director, British Overseas Bank Ltd.; Director, General Motors Corporation, New York; Chairman, Finance Company of Great Britain and America Ltd.; Director, I.C.I. (China, Egypt, Levant, Australia and New Zealand); Director, International Nickel Co. of Canada (and on advisory committee); Director, London and Lancashire Insurance Co. Ltd.; Chairman, Nobel Chemical Finishes Ltd.; Chairman, Portland Glass Co. Ltd.; Cape Explosives Ltd.

Dr. W. H. Coates, LL.B., B.Sc., Ph.D.; Director, Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.; Director, Thames House Estates Ltd.; Member, Senate University of London, 1929-33; Member, Board of Governors, London School of Economics and Birkbeck College; Member of Sugar Commission, 1936; Director, Finance Co. of Great Britain and America Ltd.; Director, Welsbach Light Co. Ltd.

Federation of British Industries

Nevile Gwyn Gwynne, C.B.E.; Managing Director, Gwynne's Pumps Ltd.; Vice-President, F.B.I.; Director, Wm. Foster and Co. Ltd.

Alderman Sir H. Speakman, J.P.; Member of Executive Committee of F.B.I.; Chairman, Astley Estate Co. Ltd.; Director, Bridgewater Estates Ltd.; Director, Manchester Collieries Ltd.; Director, Atherton Mills Ltd.; Director, Harrison, McGregor and Co. Ltd.; Member, Executive Council, Mining Association of Great Britain (1931-33).

Shipping:

Sir Richard Holt, Bart.; Partner, Alfred Holt and Co. (shipowners); Chairman, Elder Dempster Lines Ltd.; Chairman, Mersey Docks and Harbour Board; Director, China Mutual Steam Navigation Co. Ltd.; Chairman, Glen Line Ltd.; Chairman, India Buildings Ltd.; Deputy-Chairman,

Martin's Bank Ltd.; Director, Ocean Steamship Co. Ltd.; Director, Tientsin Lighter Co. Ltd.

W. L. Runciman: Director, Walter Runciman and Co. Ltd.; Managing Director, Anchor Line (1935) Ltd.; Director, Blyth Drydocks and Shipbuilding Co. Ltd.; Director, British Steamship Owners' Association; Director Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Co. Ltd.; Director, Cramlington Aircraft Ltd.; Director, Doxford Estates Co.; Director, Lloyds Bank Ltd.; Director, Moor Line Ltd.; Director, Palmers Hebburn Co. Ltd.; Director, Production-Engineering Ltd.; Director, North of England Protection and Indemnity Association; Director, Short Bros. (Rochester and Bedford) Ltd.

Distillers and Breweries

Thos. Wilkinson: Director, British Vinegars Ltd.; Director, Distillers Co. Ltd.; Director, Humphrey Taylor and Co. Ltd.; Director, J. and G. Stewart Ltd.; Director, James Buchanan and Co. Ltd ; Director, John Haig and Co. Ltd.; Director, John Hopkins and Co. Ltd.

The foregoing examples are enough to show that the Economic League is simply an employers' propaganda agency, the purpose of which is to create doubt and division among the workers, so that they will be more easily beaten down.

ACTIVITIES OF THE LEAGUE

The report for 1935 gives the following among the list of activities of the Economic League:

13,000 meetings;
11,000 organised group talks;
2,500,000 leaflets distributed;
20,000 inches of press publicity gained.

A leaflet issued in 1936 setting out a summary of recent activities contains the following table:

	Number of Meetings held	Leaflets distributed
1931	11,007	1,000,000
1932	11,664	1,250,000
1933	11,956	1,250,000
1934	11,904	1,230,000
1935	13,036	2,471,189

Why this intensification of activity? The workers are demanding better conditions and wage increases. The increased membership of the trade unions is a sign, too, that the workers are not prepared to allow the bad conditions imposed upon them in the heavy years of the depression to continue indefinitely. Hence, at the behest of the employers, the Economic League engaged in a frenzied burst of activity. The growth of socialist ideas among the workers causes deep concern to the pundits of the Economic League. " Even in small country towns," says the 1935 annual report, " it was noticeable how socialist propaganda had permeated these outlying areas."

APPEAL TO THE MASSES

A reference in the 1935 Annual Report, referred to above is very illuminating:

> Considerable care is given to the preparation of leaflets and pamphlets which *might make the desired appeal to the masses*. Subjects have been carefully selected and have been written up in as concise and telling a fashion as possible. (*Our italics*).

That one of the main objects of the Economic League is to create confusion in the ranks of the working-class movement is shown by the boast that one of its leaflets " proved of considerable embarrassment to the Socialists."

It will be seen, then, that this organisation, in common with many others of a similar character, is chiefly supported by members of the F.B.I., mine-owners and other capitalist groups, and that from the nature of the leaders of this League its work can only be in direct opposition to the working class.

THE NEED FOR RESEARCH

The Economic League realises the value of research work. If the results of research, however, are to be of value it must be objective and scientific; the research advanced by the Economic League in its leaflets is pure capitalist propaganda, in which " economic facts " are served up in the way most useful to the interests of the employers. One example will suffice to illustrate the methods of the Economic League. In a leaflet on " Who Controls British Industry? " (No. 2, 1936) it is argued that British industry is owned by a mass of small shareholders. It is mentioned that Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., with a capital of £77 million, has 180,000 shareholders and thus the average holding is only £430. Statistically accurate. But the Economic League omits to mention that there are many large shareholders.

For example, one shareholder alone, Solvay et Cie, a Belgian concern, holds shares to the value of £2,636,020.* To speak of an average shareholding in these circumstances is to deceive people as to the real facts.

Against this insidious propaganda the only effective defence is the use of economic facts *from the*

*11th May, 1936.

Research Department " to collect facts and figures, and to prepare reports, pamphlets, etc., on social and industrial problems." This evidently foreshadows a new torrent of capitalist propaganda, in which " economic facts " will be served up in the most useful way to serve the interests of the employers. Against this insidious propaganda the only effective defence is the use of economic facts *from the working-class standpoint.* This is the work of the Labour Research Department, and we ask readers to realise that in helping to spread the literature issued by the Labour Research Department they are taking the best possible means of counteracting the poison which is being spread by the Economic League and other employers' agencies.

Individual Membership of the L.R.D., 10/6 per annum. Affiliation fee for T.U. branches, Trades Councils, and other local organisations, £1 per annum. Apply to the Secretary, L.R.D., 162 Buckingham Palace Rd., London, S.W.1.

Send also for list of publications and particulars of special terms for quantities.

MILNE, TANNAHILL, & METHVEN, Printers, 12-14 Mill Street, Perth.
(T.U. Labour throughout.)

Labour White Papers, No. 23.

What is The Economic League?

LABOUR RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
162 Buckingham Palace Road,
London, S.W.1

Price 1d.

What is the Economic League?

DURING the course of the coal lock-out the workers, especially in mining areas, have heard and seen a good deal of the Economic League. Innumerable speakers have been touring the country on behalf of this League, and there are many districts which have been flooded with its literature. The Economic League advertises itself as an impartial body, "non-party and non-sectarian," spreading education and enlightenment just because it is so kind. And the bright young lads whom it employs to carry its message to the workers are carefully stuffed with so-called "economic facts" showing the necessity for an eight-hours' day and lower wages, purely, of course, "in the interests of the workers."

What is this organisation which spends such vast sums in "economic" propaganda? For an answer we have to go back to the years immediately after the war. At that period a whole series of blackleg organisations and propaganda agencies were set up by the capitalist class. In *Strike-Breaking Organisations* (Labour White Paper No. 13) we have traced the development of the more important blackleg organisations since 1919; in addition, there were the capitalist propaganda agencies, among which was an organisation styling itself "National Propaganda."

National Propaganda numbered among its patrons coal, railway, finance and other magnates;

and its objects were "to diminish industrial unrest," to prove by economic propaganda "the vital necessity of increased production," and "to combat all activities directed against constitutional government." It produced the "National Propaganda Bulletin," and issued leaflets and other literature, but apparently did not meet with much success, as it was too easily recognised for what it was.

Therefore it decided to set up Economic Study Clubs, and announced in 1920 that in future its leaflets would be "based on economic statements emanating from Oxford, but written in simple language, easily understood!" In other words, it decided to drop the open form of capitalist propaganda, and to develop a more insidious form. Thus National Propaganda died, and the Council of Economic Leagues rose from its ashes. With such antecedents, the appearance of the Economic League in the campaign against the miners can be readily understood.

The published objects of the Economic League are:—

To disseminate Economic Knowledge, particularly:—

(*a*) To combat the fallacious economic doctrines of Collectivism, Socialism, and Communism;

(*b*) To uphold individual freedom, enterprise, and initiative.

Its real objects come out clearly in the following quotation from Speakers' Notes, No. 56 (July 16, 1926) issued by them:—

What is required is some years of propaganda for Capitalism as *the finest system that human ingenuity can devise*, to counteract the forty years of propaganda for Socialism.

Who is the Economic League?

By this we do not mean who are the bright speakers who come and reel off the "economic statements emanating from Oxford" with which they have been stuffed, but who are the men who send out the speakers and the literature? Who pay the salaries and the printing bills and the other expenses? The present list of members of its Central Council and of its District Councils is a good enough indication of where the money comes from, and of whose interests are served by the League's propaganda. We have not space enough for the whole list, but give below some of the more interesting examples of how "non-party and non-sectarian" the Economic League really is.

Coalowners who run the League.

The following powerful coalowners are on the Central Council of the Economic League :—

LORD INVERNAIRN, of The Fenton Collieries Ltd.; Warwickshire Coal Co., Ltd.; United Collieries Co., Ltd.; Vickers' Ltd.; Coltness Iron Co.; British Empire Steel Products Ltd.; Beardmore Motors Ltd.; Brunton Bros., Ltd.; Atholl Steel Houses, Ltd.; Jamaica Sugar Estates, Ltd.; Dawson & Mason Gas Plant Ltd.; Duncan & Stewart, Ltd.; Eagle Star & British Dominions Insurance Ltd.; Glasgow Iron and Steel Co., Ltd.; Joseph Westwood Ltd.; Newton Mines Ltd.; West Midland Sugar Co., Ltd.

SIR ADAM NIMMO, of Fife Coal Co.; Portland Colliery Co.; Shotts Iron Co., Ltd.; Scottish Boiler and General Insurance Co., Ltd.; Yorkshire Insurance Co., Ltd.

SIR CLIFFORD CORY, M.P., of Cardiff Coaling Co.; Cory Bros., Ltd.; Eagle Coal Co.; Penrikyber Navigation Colliery Co., Ltd.; Aden Coal Co.; Brazilian Coal Co.;

Charing Cross Steamship Co.; Dillington Cottage Co., Ltd.; Miller's & Cory's Cape Verde Islands Ltd.

LORD GAINFORD, Chairman of the National Association of Coke and Bye-Product Plant Owners, and Director of North Bitchburn Coal Co.; Broomhill Colliery Co.; Pease & Partners Ltd.; South London Electric Supply Corporation; Henry Stobart & Co., Ltd.; Royal Insurance Co., Ltd.; and the B.B.C. (the "impartial" distributor of strike news).

JAMES MILES, Esq., J.P., of United National Collieries; Burnyeat Brown & Co., Ltd.; Cardiff Gas Light & Coke Co.

PHILLIP GEE, Mineowners' Propagandist; the following items appeared in the Mining Associations accounts of "Expenditure of the Propaganda Dept." for 1924 :— "Mr. Gee, in respect of Ordinary Propaganda, £7000; Special Allowance to Mr. Gee, £690."

W. A. LEE, Secretary of the Mining Association of Great Britain; Secretary of Coal Mines Department, 1918-1919;

Other Big Business Leaguers.

In addition to those with direct coal interests, the Central Council of the Economic League has among its members a large number of representatives of big business and finance, many of whom, of course, have indirect connections with the coal industry. Here are some of the more interesting individuals :—

SIR MAX MUSPRATT, President of the Federation of British Industries, and connected with Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co.; Liverpool 'Daily Post and Echo' Ltd.; United Alkali Co., Ltd., and many others.

LIEUT.-COL. SIR JAMES REYNOLDS, Bart., D.S.O., of Reynolds & Gibson (Cotton Brokers); Bank of Liverpool and Martins; Liverpool Nitrate Co.; Royal Insurance Co.; Thames & Mersey Marine Insurance Co., Ltd.

SIR HALLEWELL ROGERS, J.P., of Barclays Bank; B.S.A. Ltd.; Burton Griffiths & Co.; Daimler Co., Ltd.; Wm. Jessop & Sons; Lee & James Ltd.; J. B. Brooks & Co.

FRANK SHEARMAN, Mountstuart Dry Docks & Shearman's Ltd.; British Arc Welding Co., Ltd.; Goulds Foundries Ltd., etc.

COL. O. C. ARMSTRONG, D.S.O., Director of Greenwood & Batley Ltd.; Pekin Syndicate Ltd.; Anglo-Chinese Finance & Trade Corporation; Manganese Bronze and Brass Co.; Monomarks Ltd.; Member of the F.B.I.

SIR ROBERT HADFIELD is the Vice-Chairman of the F.B.I. and of Hadfields Ltd.; Mond Nickel Co., Ltd.; Sheffields Gas Co.

LAUNCELOT E. SMITH, C.B.E., is Director of Smith's Dock Co.; R. & W. Hawthorn, Leslie & Co.; Scottish Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society.

LIEUT.-COL. SIR ALAN J. SYKES, Bart., D.L., is a Director of the Bleachers' Association Ltd.; Williams Deacon's Bank, etc.

LIEUT.-COL. THE HON. F. V. WILLEY, C.B.E., President of the F.B.I. last year, is on Francis Willey & Co.; Lloyds Bank; Mid-European Corporation Ltd.

SIR HARRY MCGOWAN, K.B.E., Nobel Industries Ltd.; African Explosives and Industries Ltd.; British Overseas Bank; Canadian Explosives Ltd.; Charles Tennant Sons & Co. (New York); General Motors Corporation, owned by an American firm; Kynoch Ltd.; Portland Glass Co., Ltd.; Tyre Investment Trust, Ltd.

SIR EDWARD MANVILLE, Director of B.S.A. Co., Ltd.; British Dominions Land Settlement Corporation Ltd.; Car and General Insurance Ltd.; Chiciura Oilfields of Roumania; Comodoro Oil and Transport Co., Ltd.; Daimler Hire Ltd.; Diala Cotton Plantations Ltd.; Lake Copper Proprietary Co., Ltd.; Phoenix Oil and Transport Co., Ltd.; Porcupine Goldfield Ltd.; State Assurance Co., Ltd.; Wm. Jessop & Sons, Ltd.

SIR VINCENT CAILLARD, D.L., is on the Council of the F.B.I. and Director of the British Lighting and Ignition Co.; Canada Steamship Lines Ltd.; People's Refreshment House Association Ltd.; Southern Railway Ltd.; Trust and Loan Co. of Canada; Vickers Ltd.; National Employers' Mutual General Insurance Association, Ltd.; World Auxiliary Insurance Corporation, Ltd.

Leaguers in the Districts.

In addition to the Central Council there are a number of District Organisations. On these, too, we find the local capitalists well represented.

HULL AND EAST RIDING.

This District Council contains:

W. S. HYDE, who is Managing Director of Earle's Shipbuilding and Engineering Co., Ltd.

COLONEL OSWALD SANDERSON, who is, among other things, Managing Director of Ellerman's Wilson Line Ltd.; a Director of Lloyds Bank Ltd.; of the L.N.E.R.; United Shipping Co., Ltd., and a member of the National Maritime Board, and of the Shipping Federation.

LEEDS.

The Leeds Council again has:

HON. RUPERT BECKET, who is Director of seven companies including the L.N.E.R.; Westminster Bank Ltd. and the Yorkshire Conservative Newspaper Co., Ltd.

A. W. ARCHER, of the South Kirby Featherstone and Hemsworth Collieries Ltd.

F. T. CHADWICK, who graces the Council of the F.B.I.; the Leeds and District Manufacturers' Association, etc.

LIVERPOOL.

This District Council includes:

F. W. BAIN, a Director of the United Alkali Co., Ltd.

SIR JAMES P. REYNOLDS, of the Bank of Liverpool and Martins' Ltd.; the Howe Bridge Cotton Spinning Co. (1920) Ltd., etc.

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES.

This Council's Directors include:

STANLEY MACHIN, President of the British Chamber of Commerce, 1926, and of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders; Crosse & Blackwell, Ltd.; etc.

SIR E. FITZJOHN OLDHAM, who is Director of no less than 17 companies and a Vice-President of the F.B.I.

North East Coast Area.

This Area Council has a large number of Directors. including three high up in the F.B.I.; and several coal-owners:

Clive Cookson, director of the Consett Iron Co., Ltd.; Mickley Coal Co., Ltd.; Cowpen Coal Co.; as well as the Associated Lead Manufacturers Ltd., etc.

Arthur Dorman, is on Dorman Long & Co., Ltd.; Pearson & Dorman Long Ltd.; and British Magnesite Calcining Co., Ltd.

J. H. B. Forster, is on the Chislet Colliery Co.; Easington Coal Co., Ltd.; South Hetton Coal Co., Ltd.; Weardale Steel Coal and Coke Co., Ltd. He is also on the Bank of Liverpool and Martins Ltd., etc.

Francis Priestman, is of Priestman Collieries Ltd.; Ashington Colliery Co., Ltd.; in addition to the Bank of Liverpool and Martins Ltd.; Newcastle-on-Tyne and Gateshead Gas Co., Ltd.; the Tyneside Electrical Development Co., Ltd., etc.

Reginald Pease is on Bearpark Coal and Coke Ltd.; Darlington Forge Ltd.; Carnforth Hematite Iron (1915) Ltd.; Royal Insurance Co., Ltd., etc.

Clarence D. Smith, O.B.E., is on the Consett Iron Co., Ltd.; British Ropes Ltd.; and nine other companies.

Sir Arthur N. L. Wood is a Director of the New Ingleton Collieries Ltd.; Harton Coal Co., and three other companies.

Summers Hunter, C.B.E., is a Director of the North Eastern Marine Engineering Co., Ltd.

Lieut.-Col. W. H. Ritson, C.M.G., is on the Newcastle-on-Tyne and Gateshead Gas Co., Ltd.; Shotley Bridge and Consett District Gas Co., Ltd., and W. H. Ritson & Sons, Ltd.

Sir Thomas Putnam is on the Darlington Forge Ltd., and the Carnforth Hematite Iron (1915) Ltd.

Stanley Sadler, J.P., is on the National Benzol Co., Ltd., and four other companies.

Sheffield.

In this contingent march:

Sir Arthur Balfour, K.B.E., of Arthur Balfour & Co., Ltd. (the steel firm); the National Provincial Bank Ltd.

J. B. Bardsley, also of the F.B.I. Council and Sheffield Chamber of Commerce, and

A. Blenkinsop, of Dalton Main Collieries Ltd. This well-known coal concern has another director of the Council, namely,

Sir William Ellis, G.B.E., also of Davy Bros., Ltd., and four other companies.

W. Clark, J.P., is on High Speed Steel Alloys, Ltd.

W. Newton Drew, J.P., is on Hoyland Silkstone Coal and Coke Co., Ltd.; National Benzole Co., Ltd.; Thorncliffe Coal Distillation Ltd. and Newton Chambers & Co., Ltd., the well-known coal company. Newton Chambers has another director on the Council in the person of

A. J. Capron, O.B.E.

Ten other Directors on the Sheffield Council account for 26 directorates between them.

South Wales and Monmouthshire.

This Council rallies well to the "sterling" flag. Coal interests are to the fore:

Trevor S. Jones is on the Lewis Merthyr Consolidated Collieries Ltd.; Tirdonkin Merthyr Collieries Ltd., and eight other companies.

W. H. Newton is on Locket Merthyr Collieries (1894) Ltd.; and Glyncorrwg Collieries Co., Ltd.

E. L. Hann is a Director of Minerals Separation and Powell Duffryn Coal Treatment and Briquetting Co., Ltd.

Robert J. Webber, J.P. is a Director of that anti-miners' paper, *The Western Mail*; presumably he looks after publicity.

Finlay Gibson, well known to every worker in South Wales as the coalowners' secretary, is on the Council.

James Miles, of Burneat Brown & Co., Ltd., and United National Collieries is the South Wales representative on the Central Council.

Three other members of the South Wales Council muster ten directorates.

There are four South Wales' J.P.'s on the list, namely: Sir William Gunham, James Miles, D. Morgan Rees, R. J. Webber.

Another "councillor,"

LORD COLUM CRICHTON STUART, M.P., is the son of the Marquis of Bute, the royalty owner, who owns about 117,000 acres, and draws about £115.000 a year in royalties.

The foregoing examples are enough to show that the Economic League is simply an employers' propaganda agency, the sole purpose of which is to create doubt and division among the workers, so that they will be more easily beaten down.

Activities of the League.

The League has also connections with the Children's Faith Crusade "to combat the Communist Sunday School menace" in the Hull area, with the United Empire League in the Liverpool area, which also maintains "close co-operation with other local organisations having similar objects," and with the Birmingham Speakers' Club in the Midland area.

A Report of the League's activities is published and in their report they state that "we have to make clear to the workers who have been infected with 'Red' doctrines that their standard of living and of comfort can be raised only by constructive social reforms and not by mere destruction of existing institutions. By the co-operation of labour and capital, social reform," urges this bright economist, "will soon be possible."

They exist, they inform us, to combat international organisations, especially the Communist

International, which, in their own inimitable style, is a "menace to the political and industrial peace and security of every civilised country." To counteract the influence of this "International," an organisation was formed last year with headquarters at Geneva, known as "The International Entente against the Third International," with this Council as Great Britain's representative.

The Economic Council has "*tasks*" before them. Not only to combat Socialism and Communism, but to formulate and popularise proposals to improve the social and industrial conditions of the workers and to promote industrial efficiency.

Their faith in humanity is so far unshaken that they do not believe the rank and file of the unions have any interest in "class warfare" and that we (Great Britain) should follow America's lead, where "thousands of wage-earners are also capitalists," and they further suggest that the "Unions should give a lead in this direction by investing funds in British industries."

It will be seen then that this organisation, in common with many others of a similar character, is chiefly supported by members of the F.B.I., mineowners and their paid publicists, and individuals with the anti-Socialist and anti-nationalisation complex, and that from the nature of the leaders of this League its work can only be in direct opposition to the working class.

The Need for Research.

The Economic League realises the value of Research work. The report states that the League is giving serious consideration to the need for a