

LINKING TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS AND URBAN ACTION MOVEMENTS:

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To date urban action movements have mainly attracted white collar workers and the trade unions have had their main strength in the organisation of blue collar workers. This over-simplified chart may help to show how to forge links between these two movements.

BLUE COLLAR, INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

Work at the point of production
Treated as things ("hands")
Suffer alienation

To feel human unite with others
on the job . . . solidarity
antidote to alienation

To get immediate results action
deteriorates to reformist de-
mands

Reformism results in charismatic
leaders and destroys unity with
other organisations

Antidote to reformism is the
campaign around wider issues.
(Living standards)

Campaign around socially useful
goods . . for example Environment-
alists for Full Employment (E.F.F.E.)

WHITE COLLAR, PROFESSIONAL AND TECH-
NICAL WORKERS:

Do not work at the point of production.
Treated as career staff . . .
suffer anomie (never satisfied)

To feel human unite with others off the
job . . . to take part in the process of
creating community is the antidote to
anomie

To get immediate results action deter-
iorates to parochial demands

Parochialism results in piece-meal
planning and destroys coalitions.

Antidote to parochialism is the
campaign around wider issues.
(Alternative Plans)

Campaign around socially useful service,
community control and alternative plans .
for example, Conservation of Urban
Energy (C.U.E.)

E.F.F.E. . . . C.U.E.

Linking the urban action and the trade unions on the main issues of our period . . .
energy/equity/employment/environment/enjoyment.

"The materialist doctrine that men are products of circumstances and upbringing, and that therefore changed men are products of other circumstances and changed upbringing, forgets that circumstances are changed precisely by men and that the educator must himself be educated." Karl Marx "Thesis on Feuerbach".

(Please excuse the Victorian era use of the word "men")

URBAN ACTION MOVEMENTS . . . ONE PERSON'S PERSPECTIVE

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PERIODS 1940 . . . Mid 1950's Late 1950 . . . Mid 1960's 1970 . . . 1980 . . .

Locality of Experience	1940 . . . Mid 1950's	Late 1950 . . . Mid 1960's	1970 . . . 1980 . . .
Brunswick	Wartime, United Front Agst. Fascism. Increase of working women	Defeat of worst of "Cold War" Community movements on education. Beginning of Peace Action. More women with tertiary education.	Movements on equity/environment. Urban renewal: Increase of home ownership in inner suburbs. Women's liberation; Community Control
Coburg		Rapid suburbanisation and car ownership	
Immediate Gains	New types of centres for children. New ways of involving women in local organisations.	Recognition of deprived north and west. Increase Council support for services Trade Unions and Living Standards.	Different quality in services. Alternative Plans by local people Conserving energy as a local issue.
Reaction	"Cold War", social services first target. Deterioration in local politics ("red baiting") Day nurseries closed.	Parochial interests encouraged. (e.g. preschool education for my own child)	Sacking of M.C.C., Action to divert to parochial planning.
Permanent Gains	Widening experience of people. Fight back on services through Combined Pensioners (started in Brunswick)	Widening experience of people . . . beginning of union involvement. (Action for Adequate Child Care, etc.)	Widening experience of people. New ways of forming coalitions. (environment urban action, unions, etc.

"Philosophers have only talked about the world in various ways ; the point however is to change it." Karl Marx.