



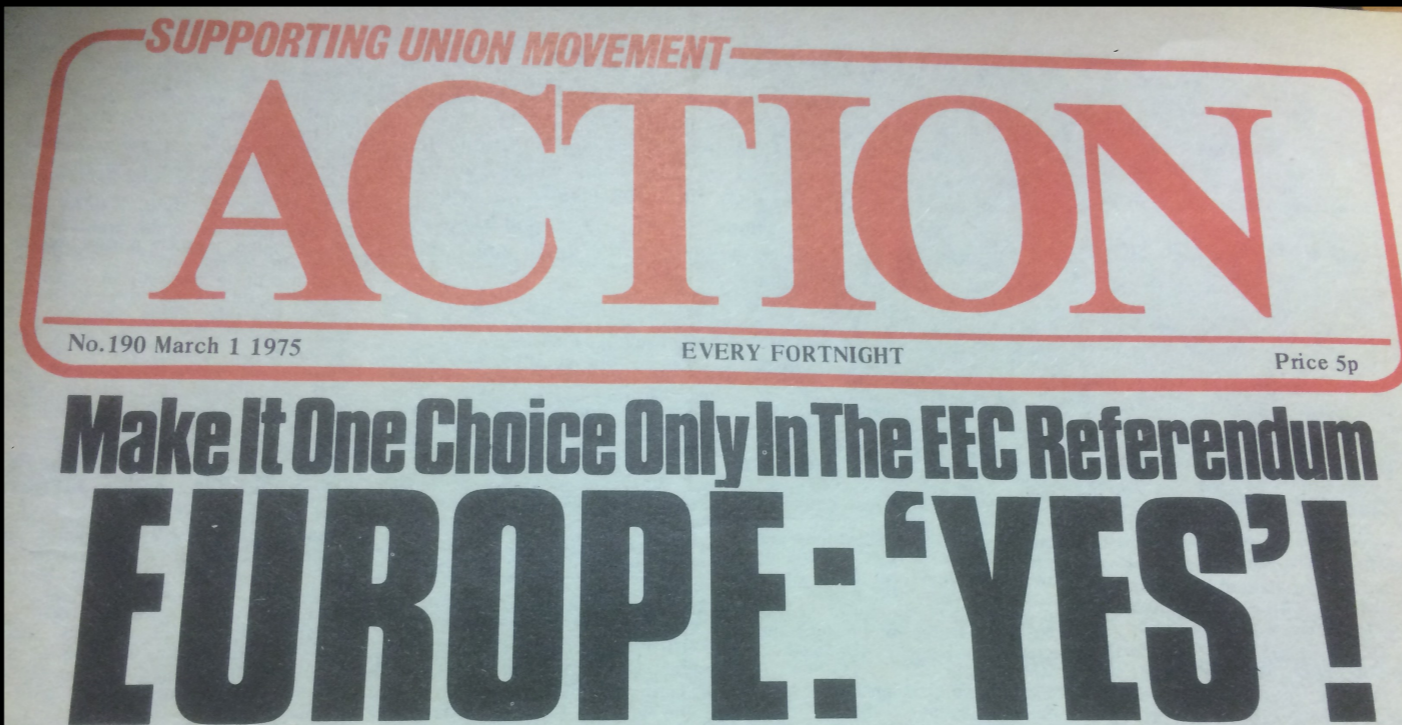
Having come into power in 1974, the Labour government of Harold Wilson had promised the British people a referendum on the recent joining of the Common Market and a chance to leave if they so desired. This referendum was called for 1975. The Government and the opposition were divided, with parliamentarians from the parties campaigning on both sides of the aisle. Also campaigning against the Common Market were the forces of the National Front, a British extreme right street movement and political party, and its assorted publications, including the paper of its former neo-Nazi leading light, John Tyndall.

Using copies of *Spearhead* from the University of Northampton's Searchlight Archive, this poster tells the story of this Brexit that never was from the perspective of the *Spearhead* campaign, and examines how they engaged with the campaign. Though history never repeats itself exactly, there are trends, messages and themes which repeat themselves from 1975 through to the present, and challenge our perceptions on just how far we might have moved on.



The cover of *Spearhead*, February/March 1968. The campaign for the long awaited referendum on membership of the Common Market in 1975 had been running for years by the time of the vote, and *Spearhead* and its associated movements were constant commentators and campaigners.

Established by John Tyndall in 1964, *Spearhead* was closely associated to the Greater British Movement, National Front and British National Party, all of which Tyndall had a part in founding and leading at various points. It finally ceased publication after Tyndall's death in 2005, after 41 years of continuous publication.



an ALTERNATIVE to the Common Market

THE Common Market drive continues unabated. Despite the enormous dangers that this project holds for Britain—dangers of which even some of its most staunch protagonists are fully aware—the British Government, and the official voice of the Opposition, seem completely committed. Everywhere the Common-Marketers are winning the day.

How is it that a case against which there is such an overwhelming weight of argument, and which is based on vague speculations over which just about everyone has doubts, is coming to prevail? It seems almost as if the nation is saying: "we don't really know what we're jumping into, but we've just got to jump!"

I have spoken to many hundreds of people on this issue. Some have been woolly left-wing internationalists whom one might expect to support E. C. M. as a step towards their one-world dream. But others have been sincere patriots, with the soundest views over most other issues of the day. A distressing number of the latter have fallen for the Common Market line. Unwittingly and innocently, they are aiding Britain's enemies. Why?

Tyndall saw the White Commonwealth as a positive message, one that pre-existed the European debate in his thinking, that could be used to sell the idea. In turn he hoped the campaign would give a wider audience to his specific ideology, which saw a rebirth of Britain based around this new rebirth of Empire and a return to Africa to explicitly take wealth and resources to fuel the white commonwealth. A typical part of extreme right rhetoric, Tyndall did face some opposition—Oswald Mosley strongly campaigned for Europe, viewing it as a new bastion of white Christian culture that could be harnessed to provide a competing power bloc to the Soviets and to America.

Top: *Action*, No. 190, 1st March 1975 p. 1.

Bottom: *Spearhead*, June 1967, p. 4.



Workers Against Immigration

WORKING PEOPLE in this country have always had to put up with the worst social conditions and the threat of unemployment, but since the war they have had to bear the additional burden of black immigration.

Whereas on some other issues unions stand up for the working class, on the issue of immigration union leaders seem completely out of touch with the wishes of ordinary people. Consequently, union policies and resolutions on immigration and integration do not reflect their members' feelings and are dangerously against the interests of British trade unionists. The overwhelming majority of working people were opposed to immigration from the start, and there is increasing friction between British workers and immigrants at shop-floor level. Whether that white discontent is spreading and that black immigration is creating a growing race problem in British industry.

Workers Against Immigration

BLACKS HIRED—WHITES FIRED

"It is the working class of white workers who object to these coloured people not the bosses", a shop steward told *The Guardian* (Feb. 21st, 1970). The threat of immigration and cheap immigrant labour is paradoxically create a white backlash, because far from wanting more power for the immigrants, the vast majority of trade unionists must be thinking, "what about the white workers?"



NF TO FIGHT MARYLEBONE

MALCOLM Skeggs, NF candidate for South Iford in the recent General Election, is to stand for the NF in the forthcoming By-Election in Marylebone caused by the appointment of Quentin Hogg to Lord Chancellor.

Mr. Skeggs will devote his platform predominantly to the Common Market issue, and his purpose will be to demonstrate to the public the consistent record of the National Front in being the only party to make a united stand against British entry into Europe.

'Benefits' to Britain an Absolute Myth

Conservative and Labour leaders have been at pains to try and persuade the British people that the European Economic Community (the Common Market) represents a natural coming together of European peoples. They say the purpose of the Common Market is to weld the European nations into a single economic, military and political Third Force in the world, in order that European civilisation may effectively resist Russian military imperialism on the one hand and American economic imperialism on the other.

The Common Market is nothing but a gigantic swindle, an incredible ramp, promoted by International Finance, whereby the remaining tokens of European political independence may be neutralised and whereby Europe's industrial potential may be completely absorbed by the America based International Money Power.



Common Market a Gigantic Fraud

The ultimate fraud of the international company and the world economy depends on the degree to which we see the world as an international economy instead of a group of national economies.

Further evidence that the Common Market is simply a thing of the Money Power was contained in an article which appeared in the *London Evening Standard* of 6th January, 1971, in the form of an interview with George Ball, former Under-Secretary at the U.S. State Department in the Kennedy administration. Ball has been a front man for Wall Street finance houses for many years, and he made a special visit to Europe recently with the clear purpose of joggling up European statesmen over Britain's application for membership.

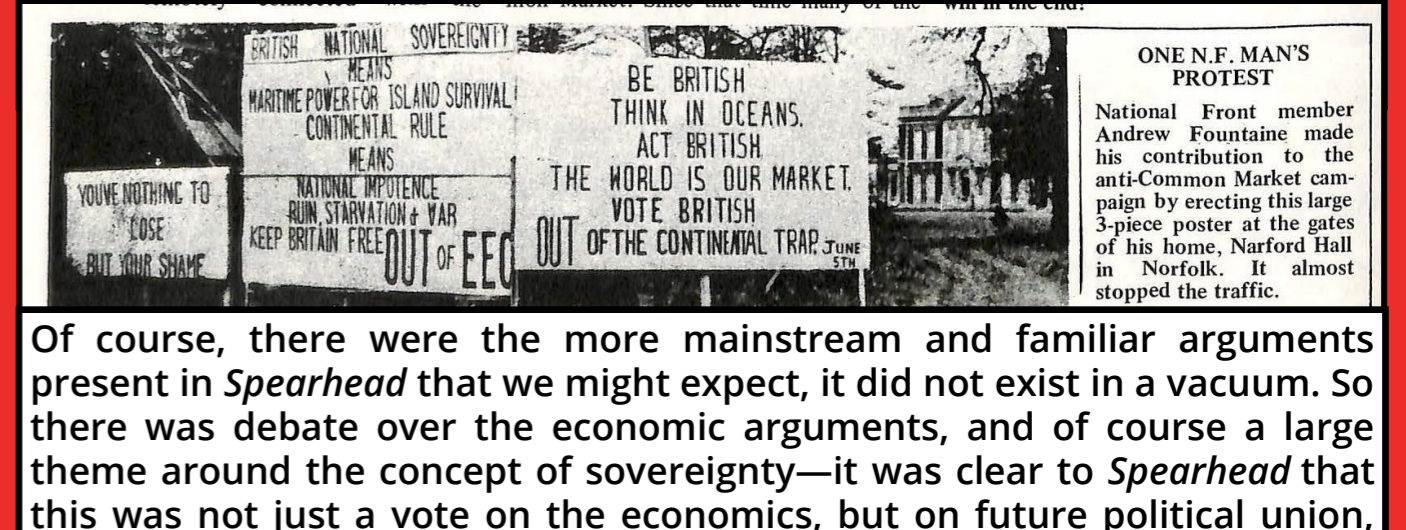


Europe: The Fight to Get Out Goes On

THE FIGHT TO GET BRITAIN OUT OF EUROPE GOES ON, NOTWITHSTANDING THE YES VOTE ON JUNE 5th.

That is the position of our journal. That we know, is the position of the National Front. The decision to take Britain into the Common Market was wrong and remains wrong. In 25 years Britain has fared disastrously as a result of the Market. These facts are not altered by the result of a referendum, whichever way it goes.

So far as the referendum is concerned, the odds were loaded in favour of the pro-Market side from the start. They had the entire national press and the greater part of the political establishment on their side.



Of course, there were the more mainstream and familiar arguments present in *Spearhead* that we might expect, it did not exist in a vacuum. So there was debate over the economic arguments, and of course a large theme around the concept of sovereignty—it was clear to *Spearhead* that this was not just a vote on the economics, but on future political union, interesting when people now suggest what the 1975 vote was understood to be about at the time.

In the end though, *Spearhead* was a voice in the wilderness. When it lost, it blamed its exclusion from the leave campaign, it blamed the dark shadowy hand of international finance, but also the fact the pro-Europe campaign was hysteria driven rather than fact driven, and played upon emotion. A claim familiar to us post-Brexit. They also clearly stated that it wasn't the end, and they would continue to fight to free Britain from Europe.

The National Front, championed by *Spearhead*, engaged in street active campaigning in the years running up to 1975. They even dedicated their by-election campaigns in the years running up to 1975 to the anti-Common Market cause, such as in Marylebone in 1970.

Tyndall accepted however that the vote was already likely lost by the early 1970s, claiming that their exclusion meant there was no positive message from the anti-Common Market campaign in the referendum, which was all a sham anyway.

These conspiracy theories ran rampant in the pieces from *Spearhead*. Similar to the need to create a 'stab in the back' myth for why Germany had failed in the interwar years, for British nationalists like Tyndall there must be a reason why Britain was suffering so much economically in the 60s, and that was international Money Power—a code for Jewish influence.

Spearhead, using a flawed Harris Poll, claimed to be representing the true will of the people against the political parties—striking a blow against the establishment. Meanwhile the Common Market was linked to Money Power and influence from states who already fell to its grasp, such as America.