

Militant



The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth

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Congress reports:
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TUC backs miners. Power stations the key

Solidarity for victory



Photo: John Harris JFL

Famous picture of police in action at Orgreave. Such scenes were repeated last Friday again in Yorkshire.

Kiveton attack — worst since Orgreave

LAST FRIDAY, 31 August, in the early hours of the morning, about 1,500 pickets assembled at the entrance to Kiveton Park colliery in Yorkshire were viciously charged by mounted police and police in riot gear.

After dispersing them around nearby housing estates the police proceeded to beat up a number of pickets with truncheons. Contrary to police reports, no stones were thrown by pickets.

A Rover car with four pickets had been stopped. Police threatened to smash the windscreen and drag the pickets out if they didn't move the car and give themselves up. The pickets came out peacefully and were arrested.

A local resident, Mrs Eames, told us that one picket ran up a drive to hide from the police but they found and arrested him. The picket did not resist but he was nonetheless forced onto his stomach and hit with a truncheon.

Residents shouted to the police to leave the man alone, then more police surrounded him. A police van pulled up and the picket was

By Daryl Rowe
and Paul Cummins

thrown in head first. More terrified pickets who could run no further hid in gardens. Police in riot gear dragged them away and beat them up.

Still the pickets made no attempt to fight back despite the police provocation. Mrs Eames and a number of other residents were told to go to their homes or be arrested—they were on their own streets! A young resident was arrested for no reason and other residents were pushed to the bottom of the road. Pensioners living in bungalows were horrified as police horses were ridden through their gardens past their windows.

Police and pickets — see centre pages



Thousands of miners and other trade unionists gathered for the lobby of the TUC initiated by the Broad Left Organising Committee (BLOC). The Congress reflected rank and file pressure. Now is the time for action. Photo: Dave Sinclair

THE MAGNIFICENT display of solidarity with the miners at the TUC lifted the spirits of every striking miner and millions of workers around the country.

That unity stands in stark contrast to the split ranks of the Tories and NCB, whose boss MacGregor has been a pathetic figure, stumbling from a position of 'talks' to 'no talks', depending on who he spoke to last.

Total victory is now within the grasp of the miners. And that, rather than more talks, is the sure way to save the industry. The Tories and the Coal Board have shown they will use any method—from outright violence to outright lies in their desperate attempt to smash the NUM. They will

By Pete Dickinson

only make real concessions if they are forced to by the miners and their allies.

Words into action

The task now is to translate the mood and words of the TUC into action. The TUC vote to respect picket lines and black scab coal provides a vital tool for the miners in the next stage of their struggle. The next step must be to the power stations, the heart of the economy.

Militant has consistently argued that the Tories' public confidence about coal stocks is bluff. All the signs are that they are deeply worried. They have been noticeably quiet about the whole issue since July. The prestigious National Institute (NIERS) has now confirmed our estimate that coal stocks could reach a critical level by October, with power cuts quickly following.

At the end of June, 16.7m tonnes were left at the power stations. This will fall to 7m tonnes by the end of this month. The Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) admit that is around the critical level. Even the Tories' own statistics undermine their propaganda. Either the level of stockpiling is being overestimated or the figures are being manipulated to exclude em-

barrassing facts. (See article p.7)

The solidarity of the rail workers (see Militant 713) has cut coal movements by rail from nearly 2m tonnes a week on average to under 40,000 tonnes. The NUM estimate that 1 million tonnes is being moved by road. Even that could be on the high side.

Power threat

If the power stations were moving into trouble, a massive strike-breaking road transport operation would have to be launched, to move strike-bound coal. At Ravenscraig, British Steel waited until they had only one day's coal before using scab labour to berth the Ostia. Such brinkmanship may well be employed in the

power industry.

The Tories know that if power cuts do occur they will have an even greater effect than in the 1974 miners' strike. Computers are now widespread. A break in power supply even for a few seconds can wipe out invaluable information.

A massive campaign must be waged to explain to all workers why the TUC's decisions and solidarity action with the miners are in the interests of the whole working class. If the NUM is defeated every other trade unionist will suffer. If pits are shut thousands of other jobs follow, communities will be destroyed.

Many trade unionists in the power stations have already shown their support for the NUM. Their main union leader, David Basnett, spoke powerfully in the

miners support at the TUC. Arthur Scargill said in a speech in Brighton that six power stations are already blacking coal movements. NUM members and LPYS members have shown in Fife that power station workers will respond favourably to a friendly approach (see p4).

If decisive, united and determined action is taken now, the miners will win.

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Militant

Now for action

AS MARXISTS predicted, this TUC Congress has seen the end of the "New Realism" launched at the Congress of 1983. The effect of the Tories' policies on the democratic rights and on the conditions of workers has had the inevitable result of pushing the TUC Congress to the left. However, it is now necessary to make sure that the TUC decision to back the miners is translated into positive action.

Many miners expected very little from the TUC Congress. That is not surprising, considering the TUC policy over GCHQ and the NGA dispute. The miners lobbying the conference, were absolutely adamant that under no circumstances would the TUC be allowed to take control of their dispute in order to engineer a defeat as they did in those other two disputes.

The right-wing at the Congress sought to involve the NUM in order precisely to scale down the action. The speech of Len Murray and other right-wing leaders referred less to a victory of the miners, than to the necessity of "a settlement", as if the TUC somehow stood above the conflict, in a neutral position, rather than standing behind the mineworkers. In addition, Murray made a direct reference to "mass picketing being unnecessary" on the basis of TUC sponsored support.

The TUC right-wing may also have supported the General Council statement—passed overwhelmingly by that body—in the hope that they could avoid a row by seeming to give a commitment to black coal, coke and oil, but without necessarily intending to put anything into effect. As an additional safeguard for the right, the General Council statement also had written into it a safety device in the form of a clause urging that the mineworkers reach agreements with those unions who normally transport and handle coal, coke and oil.

It would hardly have been surprising, therefore, if miners were not expecting a great deal from the TUC. They will be disappointed that there were no specific commitments to a 10p levy or to a 24-hour general strike, but at least, they would argue, their leaders did a reasonable job in "damage limitation" in drawing up the General Council statement.

In the event, however, the Congress gave what will be seen by miners as a strong commitment of support. In an atmosphere clearly influenced by the miners lobbying outside, and in the public gallery, the character of the debate itself and especially the speeches by David Basnett and Gavin Laird will spur on miners to approach power station workers for support. For these trade union leaders to have given even strong verbal support is an indication of the growing pressure on them now from the rank and file of their own trade unions.

As the railway workers' and dockers' support has shown, there is a deep understanding among workers of the political character of the dispute, something unfortunately only occasionally admitted as such by trade union leaders. *Militant* has always argued that a proper campaign and a lead by the trade union leaders would produce a ground-swell of support for miners. The movement of the AUEW and the GMBATU, is an indication of the pressure of that reservoir of support.

The task must now be for miners to make urgent and fraternal approaches to power station workers, to win the backing of all coke, coal and oil. The TUC and especially the trade union leaders with members in the electricity supply industries must be taken at their word, and the commitment must be turned into concrete action. Shop stewards and union activists in those industries that use coal must take the necessary initiatives to convene special trade union branch and mass meetings to plan support for the miners.

This has been in many respects the most important Trades Union Congress for decades. The miners' strike as many delegates, and even trade union leaders admitted, had a significance extending well beyond the coalfields themselves. If the government were allowed to break the back of the National Union of Mineworkers, it would have a debilitating effect upon the whole of the trade union movement; the realisation of that was expressed in the support given to the miners. It is within the capability of the labour movement to engineer a marvellous victory for the miners, within even days, if the necessary support is given to the miners' picket lines and if the necessary industrial support is given.

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Bird's eye view of part of Monday's TUC lobby.

Photo: Militant

Show of strength

DESPITE PRESS predictions of a blood-bath, the unprecedentedly large 10,000-strong lobby at TUC Conference was completely disciplined and good humoured.

This reflected both the serious attitude of the workers' delegations, mostly miners, and also their growing confidence in victory.

They had come to Brighton from all parts of the country by special coaches, trains or cars to lobby what Ken Cameron the chairman described as "the parliament of the working class". The confident mood of the workers was summed up by the very first speaker, Dennis Skinner, who declared "We know what victory tastes like. We had it in '72 and '74. We're going for the hat trick."

Money stolen

Joe Marino, the General Secretary of the Bakers Union, laid the responsibility for bolstering the NUM picket lines on the whole labour movement, adding that "if we ever again have money stolen as was stolen from the South Wales National Union of Mineworkers, we must answer immediately with a massive mobilisation of the whole labour movement."

Rod Bickerstaffe, General Secretary of NUPE, referring to Thatcher, said "She can sink the Belgrano, but she can't sink the mine workers."

Kevin Roddy, member of the National Executive Com-



Kevin Roddy.



George Williamson.

Tony Mulhearn.



mittee of the CPSA explained that his union had been victimised after the miners defeat in 1926; their members were forbidden certain forms of industrial action, and political affiliation. "This must not be allowed to happen again", he said, adding that "The resolutions do not go far enough; the slogan for a 24 hour general strike must be raised by the trade union leadership, in order that the whole weight of the labour movement can be brought to bear in defence of the mine workers and against the Tory government."

Cheers for miners

George Williamson, speaking as the organising secretary of BLOC also described the miners strike as an inspirational battle. He compared the TUC to the congress of 1983 when 'New Realism' was launched. The TUC at that time was characterised, by appeals to the Tory government, and attempts to seek concessions. After the experiences of the last 12 months, it is now clear that the time for talking was over. "It is time for the TUC to get off its back-

side and begin organising for the NUM."

All the calls from the platform for a 24 hour general strike were greeted with applause from the thousands of miners and workers gathered around the platform. Some of the biggest cheers naturally, were for the leaders of the NUM, Mick MaGahey, Peter Heathfield, and Jack Taylor from Yorkshire, who spoke during the rally, explaining the position and the justification of the miners dispute.

But near the end of the rally one of the biggest cheers was given to Tony Mulhearn speaking on behalf of the Liverpool District Labour Party and explaining the role of the City Council. Even when Tony

BLOC—marvellous demonstration

"NO-ONE at the TUC could have failed to be impressed by this demonstration of support for the miners. Organised by BLOC, jointly with the TUC, SERTUC and the LCDTU, this event was a marvellous demonstration, united and disciplined. The miners from Cortonwood led the march to the rally and received continuous applause in the streets of Brighton".—George Williamson, Broad Left Organising Committee Secretary.

was announced a big cheer went up around the rally. He gave the fraternal greetings of the Liverpool Labour movement to the rally, explaining that the experience of Liverpool showed it was possible to defeat the Tories by a campaign.

No eviction

"We have said that scab lorries will be taken off the list of lorries and firms to be used by Liverpool City Council." Amid cheers, Tony explained that there would be no evictions and no cut-offs of gas or electricity in the Liverpool area. He also explained that resolutions were not enough. Food and money collections are extremely worth while, but what was needed was an all out and disciplined show of strength by the labour movement."

Total support for miners

All reports from Brighton
by John Pickard

THE TUC decisions this week will be seen by the majority of miners as a green light to begin picketing power stations to seek support among power supply workers and to push on to the victory that they so richly deserve.

The mood in the conference hall, reflecting that outside, was euphoric. No matter what may have been the original intentions of the right wing leaders of the General Council, the majority of miners will take the TUC decisions as strong messages of support.

Huge ovation

Negotiations between the NUM and the TUC last week had produced a statement endorsed by the General Council affirming "total support for a concerted campaign to raise money to alleviate hardship in the coal fields". It pledged to make the dispute more effective by not moving coal or coke or oil substitute for coal or coke across NUM official picket lines. The statement also added however, that "the practical implementation of these points would need detailed discus-



Arthur Scargill speaks to Congress.

sions with the General Council and the agreement with the unions directly concerned".

On Monday Arthur Scargill was greeted by a huge ovation. "We have been ten months in dispute and six months on strike. This has been the longest dispute in the history of our union, and one of the longest union disputes of a national character in the whole of the labour movement. As many miners are on strike today as were on strike at the beginning of the dispute".

Five dead

Referring to the accusation made in the press by right wing trade union leaders about picket line violence, Arthur Scargill pointed out that there had been 6,000 arrests of his

members. "These men are not criminals", he said. "3,000 of our members have been injured. Two are now in intensive care units. Five members have died during the dispute, two on picket lines, two on their way to picket lines, and one whilst taking part in voluntary safety work in the pit. It is a basic tenet of trade unionism," he commented, "That when workers are on strike, you don't cross picket lines".

After his speech, he was greeted with an enormous ovation, 9/10 of the Congress standing up; and very quickly the cry was taken up, "Here we go, here we go, here we go," first of all by the visitors in the balcony, then by the majority of the conference delegates for at least a full sixty seconds.

Seconding the resolution Jimmy Knapp of the NUR

pointed out that many of his own members had been "threatened, victimised, intimidated, but they are nevertheless standing firm. If a cow was passing in a field with an 'NUM picket line' painted on it, we wouldn't pass it".

Jim Slater of the NUS held up a gold plated figurine to the Congress: "This was given to us by the ISTC four years ago", he said, "But I would point out to the ISTC that what we are doing to help the NUM now, is exactly the same as the help we gave to you at that particular time. A victory for the miners would be a victory for the whole labour movement".

The succession of speakers in support of the miners was now broken by Eric Hammond of the EETPU, who was howled at by visitors and delegates alike as he reached the rostrum, and he was constantly booed as he tried to speak. His main disagreements with the resolution centred around its apparent "ineffectiveness", and the fact that it failed to deal "with picket line violence".

Loudly booed

Throughout his whole disgraceful contribution, he was heckled continuously. At one point when greeted with a slow hand clap, he provocatively shouted back to some delegates, "Hitler

would have been proud of you lot".

He was loudly booed as he stepped off the rostrum. From the gallery it appeared as if only the EETPU delegation applauded him—and not all of those.

FROM THE NUM resolution passed at the Congress:

"Congress... reaffirms its commitment to an integrated energy policy, with an annual coal output target of 200 million tonnes... condemns the police state tactics deployed against striking miners and their families and demands that the government introduce legislation to render the police democratically accountable to the communities they are employed to serve. The police must never again be used, as at the present time, against unarmed working people exercising traditional trade union rights".

In a very significant speech David Basnett expressed the support of his union for the General Council statement and for motion 25 from the NUM. He explained in a pointed reference to Hammond, "We are all against violence no matter where it comes from, but we won't see the NUM destroyed. We will not see miners starved back to work. If Thatcher destroys the NUM, she

destroys all of us".

In another significant speech, Gavin Laird, General Secretary of the AUEW declared, "We are all at one with the NUM. We will resolve this dispute on the basis of a victory for the miners".

Motion number 25 from the NUM and the General Council statement were both passed overwhelmingly on a show of hands, with only a handful of delegates against.

The right wing of the TUC may have intended at the beginning of the Congress to present their General Council statement in order to give the minimum concrete commitment to the miners. It is certainly true that sections of the statement are formulated in such a way as to be "all things to all men" especially the reference to detailed negotiations and agreements with other unions over picket lines.

There must now be a concerted and a consistent campaign among all of the trade unionists beginning at branch, district and area level to push the trade unions and the TUC now to make its verbal commitment concrete. Some of the union leaders will be happy to leave the commitment on paper. It is up to the rank and file of the labour movement, the pressure of the miners' strike now, to turn this commitment into a reality.

EETPU dissenters

THE EETPU delegation included a number of delegates who stood to applaud Arthur Scargill after his speech. Despite union instructions to oppose the NUM resolution and the statement of the General Council supporting the miners, at least five of the EETPU delegation were seen to refuse to put their hands up against these resolutions.

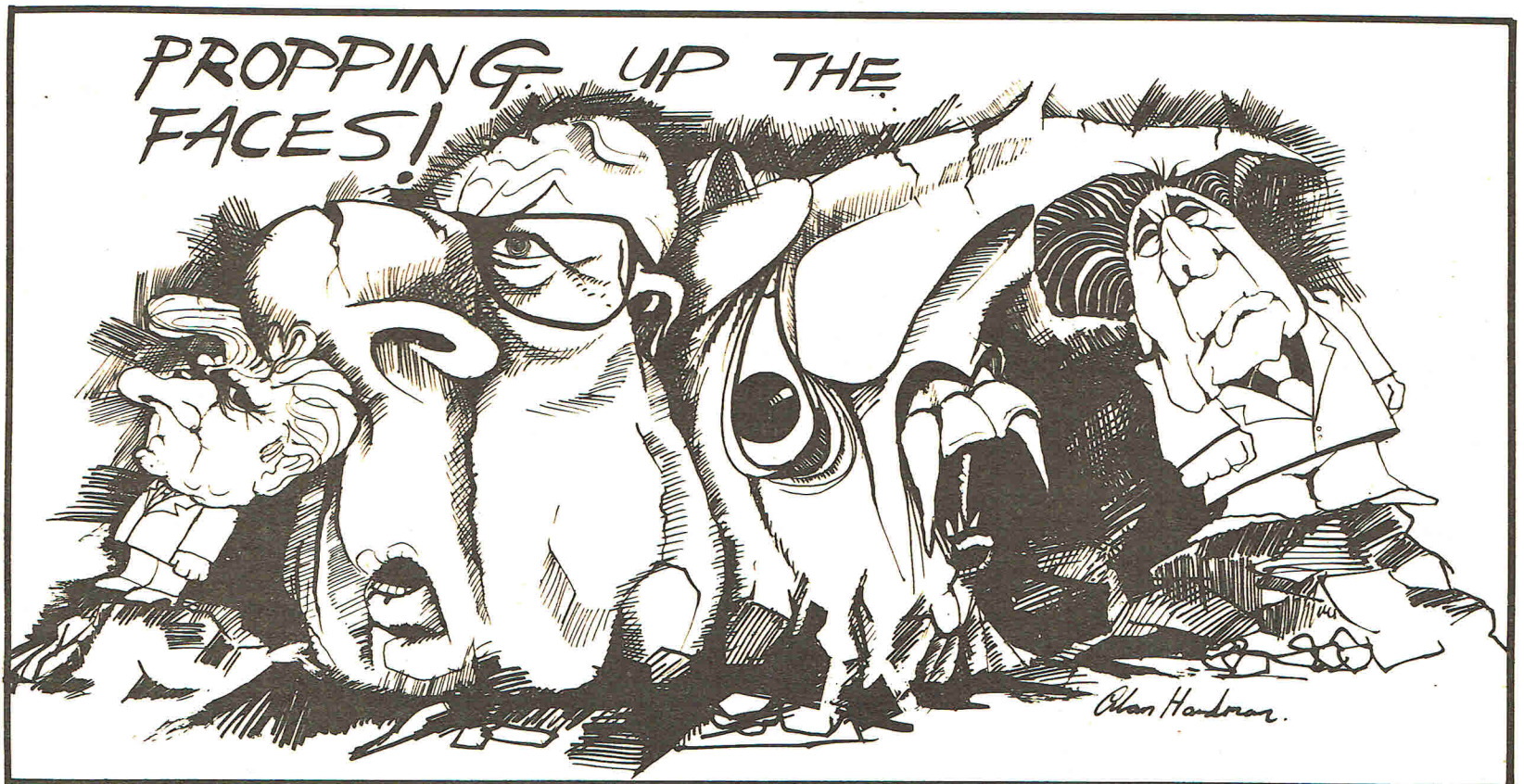
GCHQ

RETIRING GENERAL Secretary Len Murray assured delegates that if one person at GCHQ were sacked for insisting on the right to belong to a trade union, there would be an industrial response by the movement as a whole.

Congress then passed unanimously a motion which called for a 24-hour day of action should this situation arise.

500,000 members lost

THE TOTAL number of trade unionists has fallen from 10,510,157 last year to 10,082,157 now. To avoid a fall below the symbolically important 10 million mark, there is an urgent need for a recruitment drive, especially amongst the young. The campaign to support the miners provides the ideal opportunity to demonstrate the necessity of a strong trade union movement for all workers.



Second vote weakens fight against Tory laws

IN THE session on anti-trade union legislation, the composite motion was moved by the NGA, explicitly supporting unions forced to break anti-union laws. It rejected the TUC decision of December 1983 to refuse to issue a statement of support for the NGA in calling a 24 hour strike of its members.

Explaining that the labour movement was founded on breaking anti-working class

laws, the composite went on to instruct the General Council "To uphold the freedom and principles of the trade union movement irrespective of Tory legislation and assist any affiliated unions in conflict with such laws".

This would have meant that the General Council would have faced the immediate responsibility of supporting, for example the

South Wales NUM over its fine and sequestration.

When it came to the vote an amendment by APEX, effectively supporting the TUC action over the NGA last December was lost on a show of hands. A second amendment moved by the AUEW (Engineering) was voted upon. This amendment would have the effect, while leaving the substance of the resolution on paper,

of providing a convenient "get out" for the right-wing, by making it clear that the Wembley 1982 TUC Congress decision "Does not mean automatic TUC support for the actions of an affiliate". In other words it effectively destroys the whole spirit of the composite.

On a card vote the amendment was lost by 5.5 million to 4.3 million. Some delegates claimed they were

not sure what they voted for. Amazingly the Chairman Ray Buckton and the Committee running the Congress agreed a new vote.

As expected the new ballot, held after the lunch, passed the amendment by 5.5 million to 4.4 million, leaving many delegates with the impression that the switched votes, about 600,000, were well stitched up over a lunch-time.

Miners' dispute

Miners on the lobby

Many miners lobbied TUC conference on 3 September. Militant reporters spoke to some of them about this conference and the strike.

Morgan Loughrie, a Scottish miner.

"What we want is the blacking of all coal; money in the form of a ten pence levy and a 24-hour general strike—anything that will help us win this strike.

"At Bilston Glen I have been arrested four times—twice for 'breach of the peace', once for breaking bail and once for misconduct. I have been sacked and sent my P45 but this is a scare tactic. They will probably say if you go back to work next week, we will drop it".

Keith Littlewood, Keith Carter and John Gibson from Rossington Colliery.

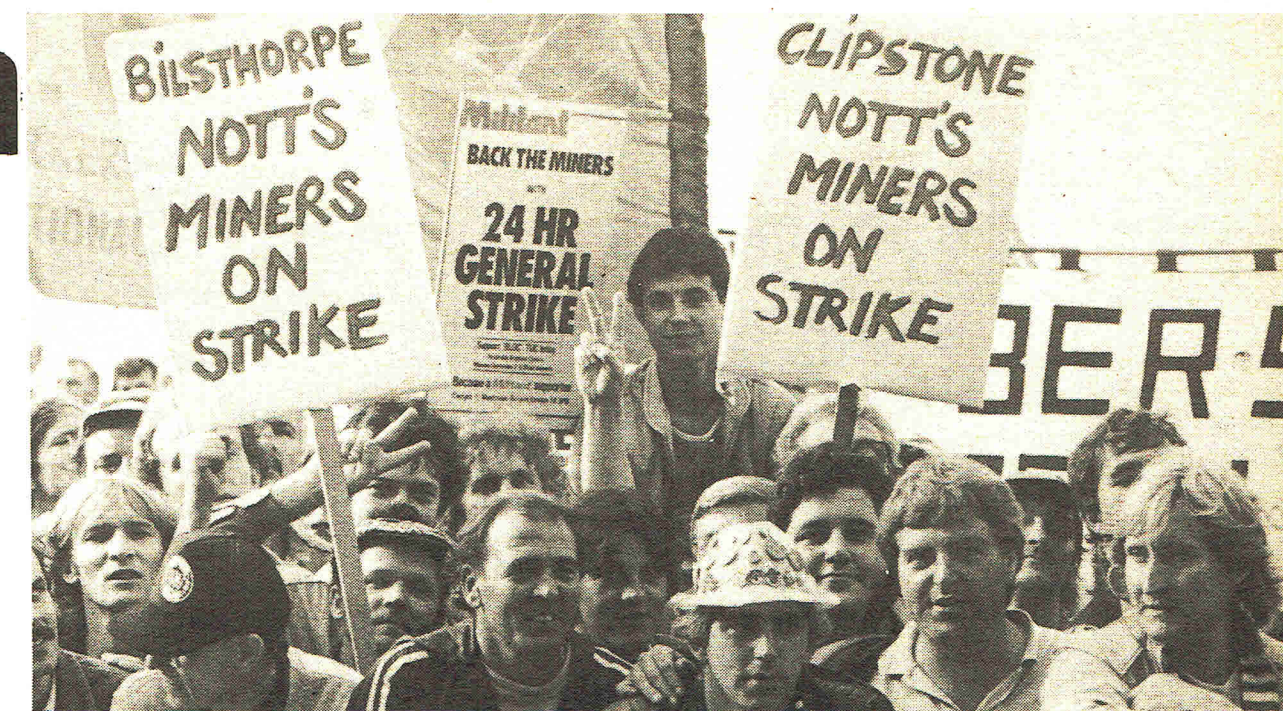
"There are a few scabs at pits around us but none at our pit. We were told there would be an organised attempt to get back to work so most of our miners have stayed behind. Only 14 have come down to the lobby.

"Since the strike started the NCB have picketed us out of the NCB premises, so we cannot deal with many cases that the union usually does. After 26 weeks the miners are determined not to go back until we win. We hope for something from the TUC—we want as much as we can get. We've been very grateful for the assistance of Labour councillors in our area, for food parcels, shop vouchers and now we expect to get vouchers for clothes.

"No one has been or is likely to be evicted in this area. Our best ally is the winter, if necessary we will go on 'til February.

Steve Sullivan, from Sutton Manner, Lancs.

"Merseyside police seem to have intensified their action in the last few weeks, coming in really heavy, with punches, elbows, hitting men with the spikes on the front



Striking Notts miners joined the lobby in Brighton.

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

of their hats and things like that".

"Sutton Manor NUM sent five down to the lobby the rest stayed behind for the pickets. A 24-hour general strike would be a tremendous morale booster for the miners' union and the whole movement".

Mick Bishop, Paul Beasley, Gordon Trustwell and Adrian Bird from Bentinck, Notts.

"Those on strike are still very strong and there is no danger of us drifting back. There are 1,800 out on strike in Notts. The violence against striking miners has not been reported in the press.

"For example recently one miner had all the wheel nuts on his car loosened. Miners or their wives quite often receive threatening phone calls. One striker received through his front door a wage slip in which there was a spent 12-bore cartridge case.

Police state Nottingham

"Notts is a police state, and rights we once thought we had we now know we haven't. One striker for example had vegetables and fruit stolen from his garden. The first question the police asked was 'Are you a working miner?' When they discovered he was on strike,

they weren't very interested.

"Two weeks ago, two scab lorries were burnt and a number of lads were arrested, one was locked up for six hours, three others for 18 hours. Another was raided by the police at night and his floorboards were ripped up, as the police were 'looking for petrol bombs'. Of course when they left they didn't repair the floorboards. None of these miners have yet been charged.

"At the police station, incidentally, there is a picture of Arthur Scargill with the letters, c***, written underneath obviously an attempt to intimidate miners who are taken in there.

"One of the biggest problems in Notts is isolation.

It's easy to become demoralised and you always have to be lifting yourself up. Nevertheless with correct leadership the Notts area would have been out.

No victimisation

"The strike will not last forever, and not all Notts miners are right wing reactionaries. One lodge official in my pit, even though he is working has said that there will be no victimisation of striking miners when the strike is over. 'We are still union men' he said. What will win the strike for us will be for the TUC to stop the movement of all coal and stop the use of oil".

BACK-TO-WORK CAMPAIGN

Voice of a small minority

"SEPTEMBER 3 was chosen some weeks ago by the Voice of the Majority Group—based in Yorkshire—as the day when they would try to turn the trickle back into a flood". (*Financial Times*, 3 September).

In the event the trickle remained a trickle and the "majority" remained a minority; apart from Kent no significant increase in those crossing the picket lines was reported. In

Yorkshire itself the number was the same as last week, and all the VOM had done was stick up posters.

Coal Board flop

Durham saw an increase of just two mechanics, and in Northumberland not one miner went into work. At Brenkley, half the workforce of 400 turned out to picket, even though this was a pit which voted 9 to 1 not to go on strike!

"In fact" said that same article in the *Financial Times*, "some Coal Board officials—already hedging in case today is a flop—now believe the real back-to-work thrust will not come until later in the month or even early next month, when, they hope, the strike in Yorkshire will have been ruled unofficial in the High Court".

Needless to say, TV news bulletins in Monday ignored this total flop, concentrating instead on the size of the

pickets which had been mounted to respond to any back-to-work movement. Given that thousands of miners were demonstrating at the TUC in Brighton and that the pickets were spread over a large number of pits, the NUM can be proud that they staged a far more effective mobilisation of their forces than VOM even with all its support in the Coal Board and the media.

By Pat Craven

ONLY IN the Kent coalfield was there any response to the much-heralded back-to-work movement on Monday, when picket lines were crossed for the very first time. Scabs went in again on Tuesday, but, as this eye-witness report from Tilmanstone colliery shows, only with the help of a massive police presence:

Tilmanstone

"THE POLICE started the aggro; they really put the boot in from about half past six when nothing at all was happening. They took away a couple of young fellows and hamstrung them with cord around their backs. Tilmanstone is very wide open; it's very easy to get in to and there were not enough miners to man each entrance.

"We've had 1,000 Metropolitan Police down here, ringed right round the whole place. 22 miners finally got

through; they put them into a coach, curtains closed, down on the floor. They kept them over at the other pit until about ten to nine when they sailed through.

"The pickets say their men are out and about around the country and they want to appeal to other communities to come and help.

"The *Militant* called a meeting, to have a good discussion on both politics and the organisation of the picketing. It has hit Kent suddenly and they need help. They have tried to fight back, but the Metropolitan Police are just all over the place. It's



absolutely disgraceful for the amount of miners who are here. But it's going to go on, every day and every night.

By Anne Urseil

POSTSCRIPT:
5 SEPTEMBER

A thousand police faced 400

pickets on 5 September at Tilmanstone. The police refused to allow Kent miners' leader Jack Collins speak to working miners on the coach. So the miners organised a peaceful picket and moved to Elvington.

The previous night (4 September) a scab fired a shotgun when 30 women and

Fife: Building the links

AFTER SPEAKING at a miners' strike committee in Kincardine, Fife, on the ideas of the LPYS and getting an excellent response, I proposed a joint public meeting between the YS and the NUM.

This took place on 16 August in Kincardine, a village of about 2,000 people. 130 attended the meeting, there are only about 60 miners in Kincardine.

Power workers

Out of this, gains were made for both the LPYS and the NUM. There are two power stations in the area, Kincardine and Longannet, and the miners had been attempting to gain links with their shop stewards' committees. In the course of the public work for the meeting, the miners and the YS knocked on the doors of every power station worker in the area and a large

number attended the meeting.

The miners now have real links with the power workers and shop stewards in this area and the LPYS have gained a new branch in Kincardine. The miners put on a special picket line on both the power stations to distribute YS leaflets to power workers in support of this public meeting which was such a success that similar public meetings in that area will now be a regular feature. The miners have asked us to assist with this work and provide them with national speakers such as Andy Bevan.

By Paul Cunningham

children went to his house. The police are now all in riot gear. Jack Collins has called for a defence committee in Elvington and the miners are organising a mass demonstration.

Kiveton

ONLY SEVEN out of 800 miners are working at Kiveton, in Yorkshire. Only one of the seven is qualified to work underground and all seven are only cleaning the toilets and showers at the pit. Needless to say—no coal is being produced.

Every picket who has been arrested on the picket line

has immediately gone back onto the picket line. There is now a 24-hour picket on duty and the picket is also being joined by the wives and girlfriends etc of the Kiveton Women's Support Group who have done a magnificent job.

Support has been given by NACODS, although they were allowed to cross picket lines when necessary with the NUM's say so. Management however insisted they cross picket lines and work normally, so NACODS members refused and management immediately stopped their wages.

By James Russell

Miners' dispute

Baptism of fire for Durham women

FOR THE first time since the start of the miners' strike in Durham we women had been asked to picket—at a depot where 20 scabs were working.

40 policemen were there to greet us but they were taken aback to say the least. Of course they expected a picket but their "intelligence" had let them down. They were not expecting women. None of us, we discovered, had ever picketed before, but we were absolutely determined. We were going to do what the men had so far failed to do. We were going to stop the 20 scabs getting in.

A few frantic messages later and about 12

policewomen arrived—mainly cadets. They looked petrified. We were all thoroughly enjoying ourselves! 36 of us and 12 of them? No problem! We loudly discussed who they would "partner". The policewomen were withdrawn.

Our numbers had remained the same but police numbers had grown to about 100.

First we were pushed, but then the kid gloves were off—women were kicked, dragged and punched. We were attacked from the front and the back. A pile of women lay in the middle of the road and two were arrested for their pains. I was punched in the head, flung over the bonnet of a car and then thrown on the roadside.



Women on the mass lobby of the TUC, Monday 3 August.

This week we returned. We were met by about the same number of policemen and 24 extra policewomen—none of them cadets. From the moment we arrived we were pushed and shoved. There was no way they would allow us onto the road. We just complied.

We picked two women to go to speak to the scabs—to appeal to them not to cross the line, to tell them how we were being treated, how they

were being used and that our interests and theirs were the same. We approached a sergeant and told him what we intended. He said no way would he let our two women walk down the lane and "intimidate" the 20 people working and the 40 surrounding policemen! We argued and the two women set off completely alone down the lane. We couldn't hear what was said but we all saw, within seconds, one of the

women knocked backwards and sent flying by a policeman.

That was the final straw. After nearly two hours of harassment, the scabs and police marched up the lane and spontaneously the women just leapt in. There were helmets flying all over the place. The sergeant leading the procession was on his back in the middle of the road with about eight women on top of him. The

scabs were completely exposed, terrified and dashing in all directions.

In the end they got through, our first woman was arrested and more of us were hurt. A week is a long time in picketing! There are many lessons to be learnt, but we'll learn them.

By a Gateshead support group member

Chapple's dismal record

THE EETPU right wing leaders are the darlings of the Tory press because of their "no strike agreements", and their hostility towards the NUM strike. They pose as "realists" who reject old fashioned 'dogmatism' to achieve a better deal for their members.

Frank Chapple, who epitomises the EETPU right wing has argued that the miners should accept pit closures on 'economic grounds' and the consequent 20,000 job losses—an identical argument to that of the NCB and the Tories.

The right wing in the past have shown how 'successful' they are in defending the jobs of EETPU workers. In the '70s approximately 50,000 members were made redundant in the electricity supply industry without a struggle.

In the late '70s thousands of members in the telecommunications industry lost their jobs. The only serious action by the right wing was to call a one-day demonstration to hand in a petition protesting the redundancies.

In the last year (1983) nearly 20,000 EETPU members were lost due to the recession (annual report,

By an EETPU member

December 1983). This however masks the true situation; the real figure is substantially higher when those unemployed members who do not pay contributions are taken into account.

Nothing can be more insulting to the miners and more hypocritical of our right wing than their call for a ballot. They continued to sign private medical deals when the clearly stated policy of the EETPU was to oppose them and support the NHS.

Further, they ignore the democratically decided EETPU policy of not selling our right to strike when they sign "no strike agreements". It is somewhat ironic that the right wing came to power in the '60s with promises of democracy.

The right wing leadership

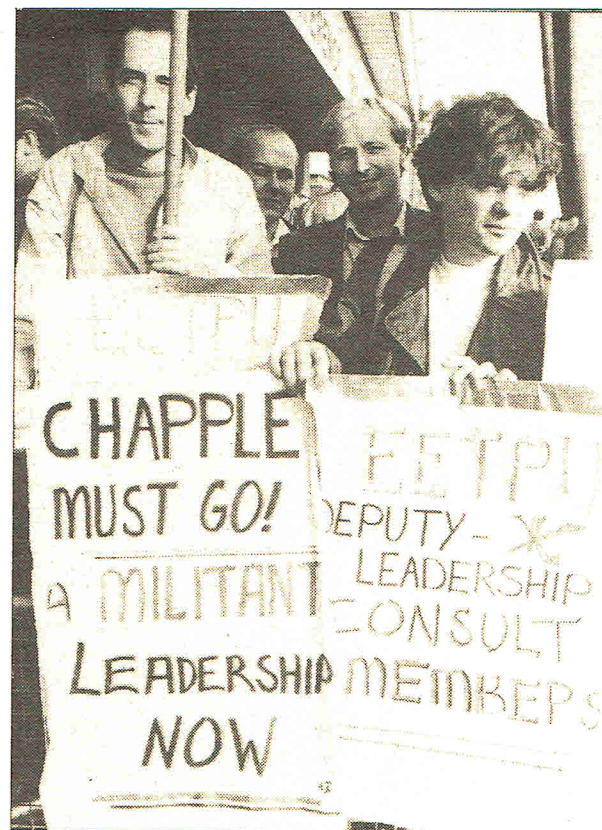


Frank Chapple.

claim to speak for the EETPU. However, the overwhelming majority of EETPU members support the miners' strike. Many are involved in miners' support committees, organising collections in their workplaces and so on.

Accountability

There is no accountability within our union except for the election of an executive councillor every five years. The first step to change this was taken by EETPU workers at the recent BLOC conference attended by over 2,000 delegates from the trade union movement.



Chapple is more popular with the media than his members. Above: protest in 1981.

EETPU workers from throughout Britain agreed to unite the opposition to the right wing, in a Broad Left to work for a fighting leadership for the union.

A fighting leadership, ac-

countable to the members, would have shown solidarity with the miners. Such is the power of our union that the miners' strike would have ended in victory months ago.

Fascist infiltration attempt exposed

THERE IS some "support" the miners can do without. In August the NUM rejected offers of help from the Nazi National Front.

The Daily Express recently carried an article on recent attempts by the NF to gain a foothold in the Trade Unions.

This new policy has been tested recently in Walthamstow. An unknown individual attended a

meeting of the Miners Support Group on August 22. At the end of the meeting he gave out leaflets from the "Solidarity with the Miners Campaign, advertising a meeting entitled "Police State v the Miners". Speakers had been organised from the NUM and the National Council for Civil Liberties.

One member of Walthamstow YS smelt a rat. At the bottom of the leaflet was a flag-waving arm

which had been used before on NF material. Enquiries were made to "Searchlight" the anti-fascist magazine, about the address given on the imprint. This was discovered to be a family address of the NF candidate for Brentford in the last General Election.

This information was passed on to the speakers, who immediately pulled out of the meeting. Waltham Forest Council were contacted and reminded of their

policy not to let halls to the fascists. However the NF had postponed the meeting as soon as the speakers withdrew; they had probably also heard of plans for a mass picket.

The next day the NF Press Officer, Joe Pearce, once jailed for incitement to racial hatred, issued a statement explaining that unnamed members of the "Campaign" had asked him to refute the charge that this was an NF organisation. Yet

the hall had been booked by an NF member under a false name and address, the NF member at the Miners Support Group gave a false address and the meeting was to be chaired by a member of the NF National Directorate!

As one miner said to us, our task is to push the NF back into the sewers.

By Kevin Parslow (Walthamstow CLP)

Striker's benefit appeal success

A STRIKING miner has won the right to Family Income Supplement and opened the door for thousands of other miners to claim the extra cash.

An independent appeal tribunal ruled that in the case of Mr Lowe, a Staffs miner, his wife's weekly earnings of £51 is now the family's income, so they are entitled to FIS.

DHSS 'norm'

The DHSS has argued that earnings before the strike should be considered the norm because income during the strike is not 'normal'.

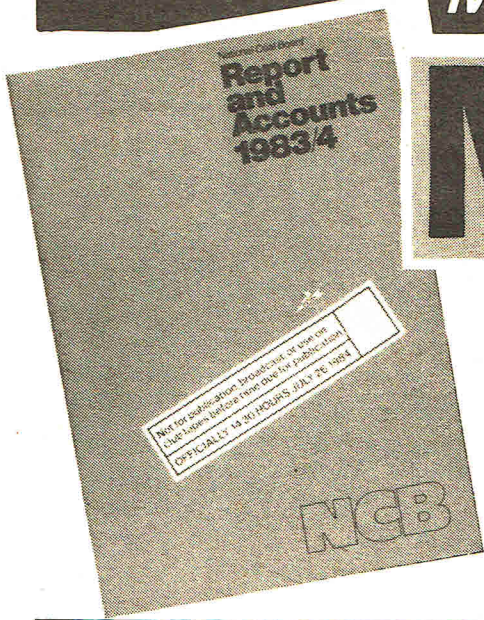
The decision is a victory for those who have argued that the government, via the DHSS, is guilty of twisting the rules of the social security system to turn the screw on striking miners' families.

Michael Meacher MP, Labour's health spokesman, has demanded that all back payments should now be made, and that the government should instruct the central FIS office to process miners' claims on the basis of on Mr Lowe's appeal decision.

By a Militant reporter

Miners' dispute

NCB fraud exposed



ANDREW GLYN exposes Tory lies about the cost of producing coal on the basis of the NCB's own accounts (below left). Below he indicates some of the costs of the strike which the government conceals.



Photo: Jon Ingham

Photo: Jacob Sutton (Gamma)

Accounting for subsidies

AS PART of its propaganda campaign against the NUM, the government has quoted huge figures for the amount of 'subsidy' it pays to the coal industry. Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary, said that the taxpayer contributed £1.3 billion last year, or nearly £130 per week for each miner.

If the NCB really is "insolvent", as he alleged" it is not surprising to hear Chancellor Lawson claiming that the cost of the industry not working during the strike is

"only" £300 - £400 million. In fact both these figures are entirely misleading. The NCB is not bankrupt and the cost of the strike is many times greater than the government admits.

The government "subsidy" for 1983 covered the NCB's operating losses (£358 million), its interest payments (£467 million) and around £500 million of "social costs". The accounts for 1983 - 84 allow each of these items to be considered in turn.

'Operating losses'

"Operating losses" sounds as though it means the excess of the costs of producing coal over the NCB's revenue from sales. Yet included here are a number of items which are not costs of production at all.

The biggest of these is £245 million of provision for payments for "surface damage", the costs of meeting claims for subsidence in mining areas. The near doubling of this item in 1983/84 reflects a rush of claims in the Mansfield area. But it does not reflect the estimated costs arising from this year's mining; rather it is the historical legacy of past coal mining operations.

Another major item is £130 million of pensions and other payments to retired miners. In no sense can a pension paid to a retired miner, or compensation to people whose houses suffer subsidence damage, be regarded as costs of getting out coal now. Certainly they

have to be paid but there is no reason why they should be met (via high prices or worse wages) by those who now use coal or produce it. It is perfectly fair for the taxpayer (via government grants) to cover these payments; in no sense does this make them a subsidy to the production of coal.

These two items more than account for the NCB's operating loss. If they are left out then the NCB made an operating profit in 1983/84. And, but for the £200 million or so effect of the strike and the overtime ban, the NCB would even have financed practically all of its £698 million investment programme out of its own revenue.

"Social costs"

"Social costs is the next chunk of "subsidy". These are "costs in respect of the closure of uneconomic capacity or redundancy of employees which are wholly or partly met by government grants".

Again, they are not a cost of producing this year's coal; indeed, they are a cost of not producing coal! The costs of maintaining workers who are put out of work by pit closures make up part of the economic argument for not closing pits in the first place.

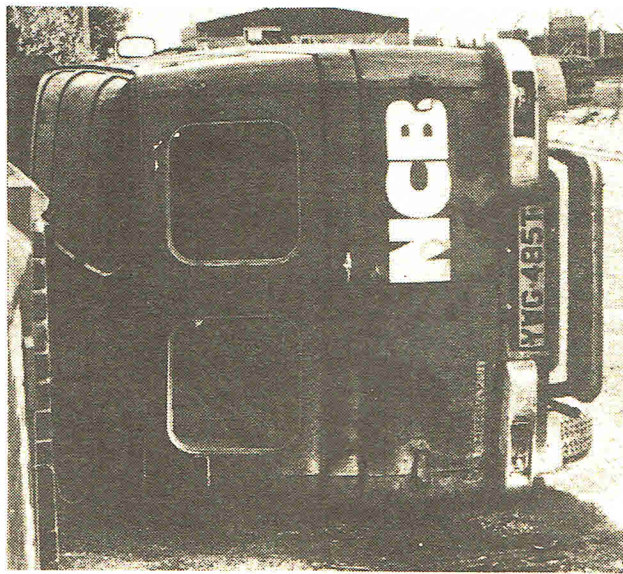
(see my article in *Militant* no. 705) They do not, as the NCB's accounting suggests, represent an additional charge making the existing pits less economic, thus seeming to justify more closures.

Interest payments

Interest payments is the final item which has to be "subsidised" by the government. This represents £467 million (£400 million of which goes straight back to the government).

This huge figure directly reflects both the high interest rate policy of the government and the fact that so much of the NCB's investment has been financed by fixed interest loans. It actually represents a return of £6.3% on the NCB's capital employed. This is nearly

double the corresponding rate of profit in private manufacturing industry in recent years. So this part of the "subsidy" is mainly paid by the government itself. It gives itself an inflated rate of profit and the NCB an inflated loss.



Two other costs of the strike which the Tories should take responsibility for.

Extra costs of Tory attack

This analysis (left) shows that production of coal last year did not require any government subsidy at all. The value of coal produced, some £4,150 million, more than paid the miners and for the cost of the inputs actually used in coal production.

It is the loss of coal production, put by the NCB at some 1.7 million tonnes per week, worth some £73 million, which is the biggest cost of the strike. This is not the end of the story, for the reduction in the take-home pay of miners, and those in

industries supplying inputs into mining must amount to some £20 million per week.

Their reduced spending must lead to reduced production in industries making the consumer goods they would otherwise be buying. In addition the NCB is forced

to postpone part of its investment programme (which was running at £14 million per week) which again means a fall in the output of the construction industry and others involved. So leaving aside any effects on the production of steel, from fuel and ore shortages, it is likely that the total cost of the strike in terms of lost production is running at around £100 million per week.

Finally the CEBG is using more expensive oil in its power stations, reckoned by

stockbrokers Simon and Coates to be costing an additional £18 million per week as compared with using coal. This cost too will eventually have to be borne, probably by electricity users in higher prices, and this must be added to the loss in production to reach the total cost. This total must be well over £100 million per week, and probably as much as £120 million.

Chancellor cooks the books

Considering all this how can Lawson possibly come up with a figure of £20 million per week as the cost of the strike?

First of all he is concerned only with the cost to the government (NCB and other nationalised industry losses, lost tax revenue from miners, social security and costs of policing).

It is not surprising that he does not bother to count the cost of the strike to miners and other workers, preferring not to see the miners as part of society at all. But still

his figure is only one-third of that suggested by Simon and Coates.

His explanation is that he has not counted the cost of running down coal stocks as a cost at all. His 'cash flow' estimate of the government's costs is no real guide to the true cost to the government, let alone to the real cost to the country which is at least five times his

figure.

The government has been cooking the books on the balance of payments as well. Whilst Tebbit told the House of Commons that the effect of the strike was "minimal", Simon and Coates reckon the extra coal and oil imports as "at least £237 million per month, without making any allowance for higher imports in other industries such as steel. There appears no way that these estimates can be squared with the government's own indications of

the strike's losses".

The government likes to pretend that the costs of the strike are a modest investment required to reorganise an insolvent industry. In fact it is imposing massive costs in lost production and higher priced oil. These average out at around £2 per week for each person in the country. Even looked at in narrow financial terms workers are paying an enormous cost for the government's attempt to smash the NUM.

Sirs' 'solidarity'—truth about steel output

"ON THE one hand we want the miners to win... on the other hand..."

"For the first eleven weeks of the miners' strike there was no dispute between miners and steelmen. Local miners, steelworkers and railmen agreed on the amount of coal and coke that the steel plants needed... Then suddenly the national leadership of the NUM changed tack... we were faced with an ultimatum: Stop all steel production..."

That's how steel union leader Bill Sirs went into print in that friend of the labour movement the *Daily Express* early in July, under the headline "My men won't die for Scargill."

So what is the real situation for steel? The article was based on two false claims. Firstly, that the NUM was demanding a total halt to steel production, secondly, that it is not possible to cut production or bank down without destroying plant. Sirs claims that five plants were lost as a result of such measures during the 1980 steel strike. It's no accident that those five blast furnaces were on the BSC's list of planned closures before the strike started—as Bill Sirs undoubtedly knows. (See Pete Dickinson's article on these questions in *Militant* 708).

The most damning indictment of the steel union's leaders comes in the July output figures. They show that UK usable steel output this July is 14.6% higher than in July 1983! Though output is down on June this is a result of seasonal factors.

The only area that shows a significant drop is Ravenscraig—down to 24,400 tonnes per week from 36,400 tpw, a fact that may have some bearing on the desperation shown by BSC over unloading the Ostia, sparking the dock strike.

Above all, these figures show that the steel unions have failed to cut production in solidarity with the miners—if anything production has actually increased in some plants.

With the TUC vote to respect miners' picket lines now is the crucial time for the miners and activists in the steel unions to launch a massive campaign to explain the facts about this crisis to break the grip of rotten leadership. Otherwise the Tories will continue to play on tragic divisions created by bankrupt bureaucrats like Sirs.

By Ian Ilett

Coal stocks crisis close?

THE PREDICTION by Militant that power station coal stocks could be at a critical level by mid-October has been confirmed by the analysis of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (NIESR). Even the Economist has abandoned the government's propaganda line.

In the Institute's latest report, they say "...difficulties in power production could conceivably be encountered by the Autumn when demand for electricity seasonally rises." They also predict that the cement industry, where nearly 90% of energy requirements are met by coal could be severely affected by the strike.

Energy trends

The latest edition of 'Energy Trends' published by the Department of Energy also confirms Militant's analysis. The amount of coal burned in the power

By Pete Dickinson

stations in June rose to 3.82 million tonnes compared to the May figure of 3.19 million tonnes.

This shows that the CEBG's ability to switch any further alternative sources of energy, such as oil or nuclear, has been exhausted.

Stocks at the power stations fell by over 1.7 million tonnes to 16.7 million tonnes in June. According to the figures over 2 million tonnes was moved into the power stations in the month, mainly coal from the Notts area.

This high figure is unlikely to be repeated in July and

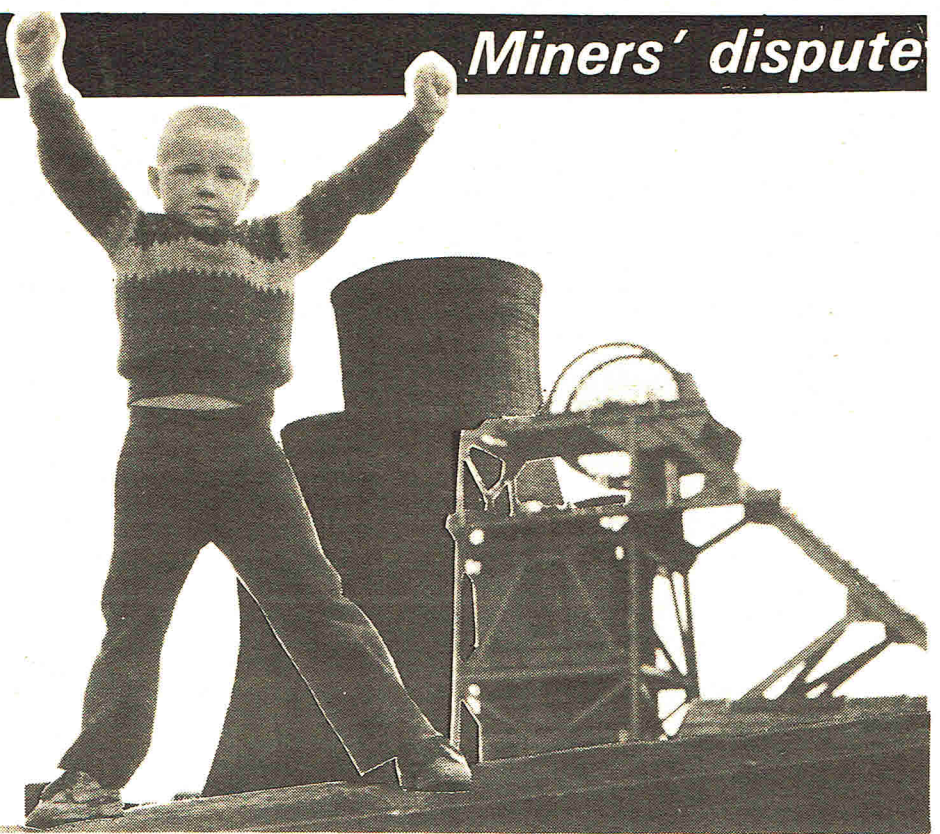
August since movement by rail has been virtually eliminated, as disclosed in Militant (issue 713). The NUM estimate that about 1 million tonnes is being moved per month at the moment, the vast majority by lorry.

Critical levels

Coal burnt in July and August is approximately the same as in June, so if the NUM estimate is accurate, stocks fell by about 5.5 million tonnes in these two months. This means that stocks were just over 11 million tonnes at the end of August, and will be around 7 million tonnes at the end of this month.

The CEBG admit the critical level is 6 million tonnes, but some experts have put the figure higher, at 8/9 million tonnes. In addition,

Photos: Jacob Sutton (Gamma). Montage: Steve Edwards



Power stations are the path to victory for the miners.

as pointed out in Militant, some of the existing stocks will be useless. If these factors are considered the crisis point could be reached later this month.

It should also be borne in mind that the above analysis is based on official figures. Careful study of them shows some interesting discrepancies. Overall, coal produced in June plus imports was 4.17 million tonnes. Stockpiles though increased

by nearly 400,000 tonnes, excluding coal at power stations. The net amount of coal 'available' to be burned was therefore 3.77 million tons.

No comment

The amount of coal actually used was 6.3 million tonnes, assuming steel output, and therefore coal used, was the same as June 83. The difference is about 2.6

million tonnes, which can only be accounted for by a fall in the power station stocks. The official figure for this fall is 1.7 million tonnes, leaving 900,000 tonnes unaccounted for.

There is a possibility, then, that the official figures considerably overestimate the level of coal stocks; the Tories have been noticeably quiet lately in claiming that the stocks situation is 'no problem'.

How strike hits economy

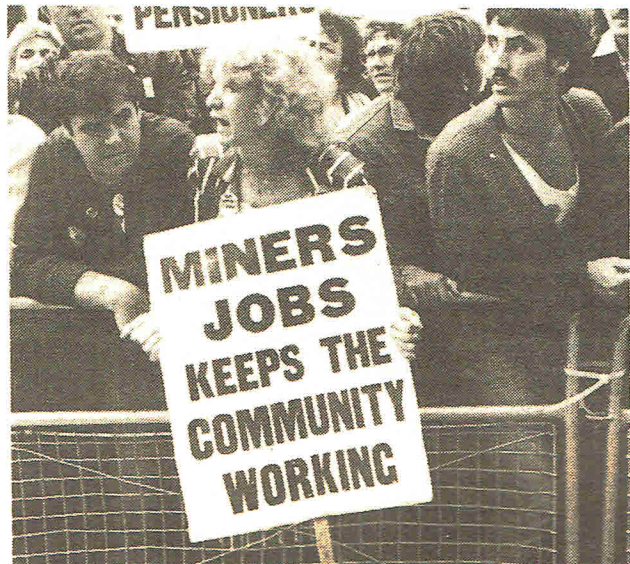
FOR THE last six months the Tory press and Tory ministers have been blaring out that the miners' strike is 'only' costing £20 million a week—money well spent if they lop off the 'over-subsidised', 'inefficient' rump of the coal industry.

Though this is a fine propaganda line the ruling class does need accurate inside information to make its own, less public evaluations. The current report from the National Institute for Economic and Social Research on the British economy gives a better estimate of the real cost of the miners' strike.

Wages and oil

On output, the NIESR claims: "The loss of coal production was equal to about 1/2% of Gross Domestic Product in the first quarter and 1-1 1/2% of GDP in the second.

As a result of the miners' strike national output has fallen for the first time in three years. 140,000 miners on strike means 140,000 workers with no wages to spend on the TVs and videos which have become the symbols of working class prosperity in the eyes of the media. The effect of this 'knocks-on' to the producers of cars, TVs and all the other things miners and their families are doing without. The NIESR reports that: "In the first six months of the year wages in the whole economy were probably about 1% lower than they would otherwise have been." The miners lose and we all



Working class economist at TUC lobby.

Photo: Militant

lose because there's less work producing the things they would have bought.

The CEBG has been running its oil-fired power stations overtime to save coal. Normally only one tenth as much oil as coal is used to generate electricity because it's so much more expensive. Oil and coal are now being used in equal amounts. The Tory war on the miners is costing £18m extra a week—which we will have to pay for in higher electricity bills.

Nor is that the end of the matter. Last year Britain had a balance of payments deficit of £716m. But North Sea oil provided a surplus of exports over imports of £6,875m—so the non-oil deficit was £7,591m. As Militant has so often pointed out, the headlong collapse of British manufacturing, measured by the loss of the home market to imports and the crisis in the balance of payments has been screened by the bonus of North Sea oil.

As a result of the dispute however: "Between the first and second quarters the volume of crude oil exports

fell by 10%, the volume of crude oil imports rose by 50% and the surplus on oil trade declined from £2.3 billion to £1.5 billion." So oil destined for export to mask the chronic problems of manufacturing has been diverted to Britain to browbeat the NUM. Over a full year the balance of payments would lose more than £3,000m (£3bn), which means a collapse of the pound.

Inflation or interest rise

The government has tried to avoid such a fall in the price of sterling in relation to other currencies. If the pound falls on world markets it buys less imports by making them relatively more expensive. A higher cost of imports feeds through the economy as a higher rate of inflation.

The Tories are in a dilemma. The only way they can stop a £3bn a year Exocet blasting through their 'counter-inflation policy' is by making the pound more attractive for foreign

capitalists to hang on to despite the fact that there are less British exports to buy.

The way to do this is to raise interest rates in the City of London. But high interest rates are already threatening to choke off the feeble industrial recovery—firms find it more expensive to borrow and those with money find it more lucrative to leave it in the bank given the low level of profits. Higher interest rates means dearer mortgages and HP so less people buy houses and consumer goods.

Government borrowing

The government in any case is going to have to keep interest rates up. They will need to borrow more, and have to offer a high interest rate, to attract the money they increasingly need as a result of the strike.

The miners' strike means that the NCB is losing money and will have to borrow from the government. The CEBG is paying out to burn more oil and will have to borrow from the government. The NIESR estimate that the extra costs to the NCB alone will swell the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement by £1/2 billion in the first half of the financial year. There is a list of other such increases in public expenditure. Again that either increases inflation or raises interest rates.

The result of the Tory attack on the miners may well be to put in jeopardy the feeble economic upturn which is the government's only boast of "light at the end of the tunnel." This is without power cuts on the horizon—which will throw the whole economy into chaos.

By Mick Brooks

No plan for energy

THE contradictions of capitalist production are inescapable, even for the NCB accounts. Page four of the 1983/84 accounts reveals the NCB's big problem.

Some 16 million tonnes capacity of new mines is on the way, at Selby and Ashfordby etc. in the face of stagnant demand. This leads to the attempt to close capacity elsewhere. But as Andrew Glyn shows opposite that incurs massive expense and writing off the accumulated investment. Then there are expert predictions of increased demand for coal into the next century.

Energy needs planning. It can take ten years and hundreds of millions of pounds to build a new power station. Once built it can run for fifty years. But how much energy will be needed in sixty year's time, and where?

Oil, coal and nuclear power are the main ways of generating electricity. Apart from the safety aspect, the true cost of nuclear power has been systematically concealed by governments eager to get their hands on enriched uranium for nuclear weapons. The price of oil has surged and sunk twice in the last ten years.

Unplanned recession

The Plan for Coal recognised that a modern industrial country needs a secure supply of safe fuel at a price which is competitive and certain. It broke its back against the anarchy of the capitalist system. Primary energy demand in Britain is no higher today

than it was in 1968, as is industrial production, as a result of recession. Although coal's share of this demand has been stable the new low-cost capacity being opened is at the moment surplus to requirements.

Such facts show that energy demand cannot be planned in an unplanned economy. The practical consequences for the British energy industry can be seen in chairman Norman Siddall's statement in last year's accounts: "Disposals to power stations increased but this was to meet additional stocking requirements as actual coal consumption at power stations was less than in the previous year."

Coal mountain

Coal stocks at CEBG power stations increased from 15.1m tonnes at March 1982 to 24.1m tonnes at March 1983, then fell back to 20.6m tonnes at March 1984, although lost sales to the CEBG as a result of the overtime ban was about 5m tonnes. But for the dispute CEBG stocks would have been about 25 1/2m tonnes when the strike began—nearly a third of annual consumption of 76.8m tonnes.

The Tories' lack of any rational energy strategy combines with their delusion that defeat of the miners will solve all their problems to produce economic and political chaos which merely mirrors the inherent chaos of their system.

By Sean Macartney

Tory law-police war

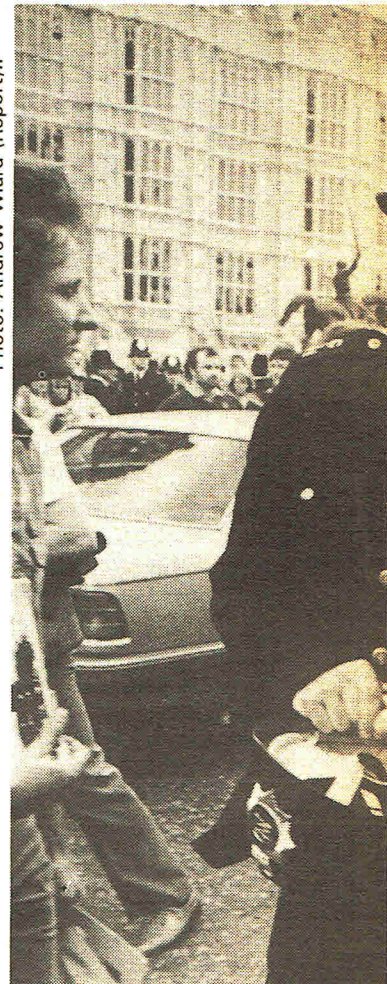


Photo: Andrew Wlard (Report)ll

THE POLICE are waging a dirty war in Britain's mining communities. Their acts of brutality have been covered up by the popular press and TV. No doubt there are many policemen and women who want no part of this orchestrated campaign of threats and violence. There are some though, who revel in it, as the selection of eye-witness accounts on these pages show. This licensed hooliganism has failed. Miners and their communities have emerged stronger than ever. Miners' solidarity has proved to be a more effective weapon than all the boots, riot sticks and thuggery the Tories throw at them.

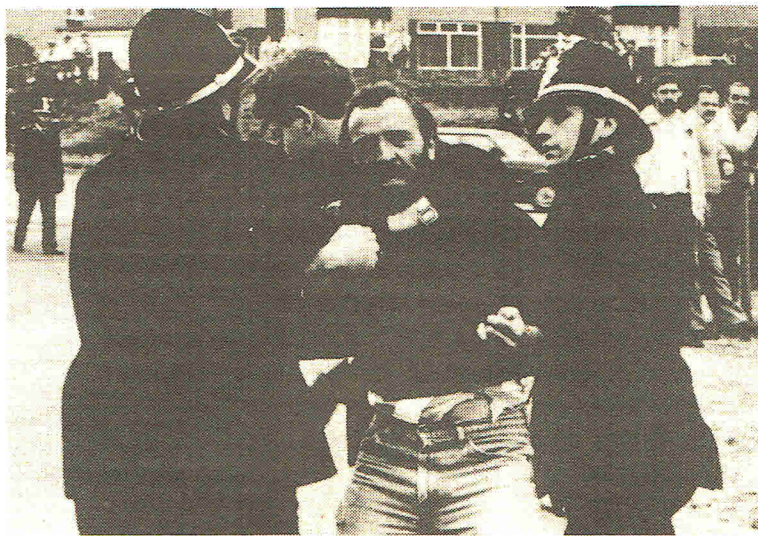


Photo: Paul Davies

Inside a Maxim

GARY BLACKBURN from Fitzwilliam, arrested for breaking bail conditions, explains what it was like inside Leicester maximum security jail:

"For the first three days, you hear nothing, no newspapers or anything. Nobody even had a radio, you were just completely isolated. For a while it seemed as if nobody was doing anything on the outside.

But deep down I knew that the union wouldn't abandon me. We were locked up on Friday night but Monday morning was the first time any visitors were allowed in. I worried about the family, if they knew to start with—and how they would take it.

On Monday I found out my wife had taken it alright. From then on we looked to keeping our morale high. At night we sang "Arthur Scargill walks on water" and the whole cell block joined in.

After that during the daytime inmates started calling each other 'brother'. On the last Monday at 3.45pm I was in the association room with other prisoners, by that time I had given up any hope of

Police riot in

AS WE reported last week the pit village of Armthorpe, Yorkshire, has been virtually under martial law with 1,000 police occupying the village.

Peter, a part-time park keeper explained what happened to him: "The police accused me of throwing a bottle—I pointed to my arms, both arthritic, 'how could I throw 'owt wi these? I had to pack up work eight years ago'. They shoved my arms up my back—I shouted 'go steady, I've just had a heart operation, you're hurting'. They ignored me. They were abusing and swearing at me all the time. Then in the van they threatened to beat me up saying 'work him over, make it look if he's had a heart attack'. I was really frightened by now—they were from the Greater Manchester Police. I was taken to Doncaster and charged with criminal damage. I was kept in from 4pm on Tuesday till 11.40 am on Wednesday."

A police wagon reversed into the yard of Mrs Kennedy, 59 years old, of Charles Crescent. Her son and

Special 'finger' squad

ON THE picket lines at Bilston Glen and Monktonhall a special police squad has been coming in front of the main police line. They look for anyone who they recognise as having been arrested previously and are thus breaking bail conditions. They then pull them out of the crowd.

Gordon Scott was arrested even though he was reporting to do safety work at the pit. He was charged additionally with breach of the peace and remanded in custody. Tommy Bennet was arrested in his house, and charged with intimidation. On the same charge Joe Campbell was lifted in a pub. Sandy Courtts was arrested after driving miners to the picket lines and charged with breaking bail conditions. His lawyer advised him to plead 'guilty' to avoid a remand

custody. He did so, but was remanded anyway.

Jackie Aitcheson, central strike committee, was warned by the police that if there were any acts of intimidation in Dalkeith he would be arrested. So much for being innocent until proven guilty!

Perhaps worst of all, Davey Hamilton NUM delegate at Monktonhall, who, when being granted bail was specifically given a dispensation by the Sherrif to allow him to go to Monktonhall and the Newbattle Workshops to represent his members, was informed by the police that he would be arrested if he went there, even if it was to negotiate with the pit manager.

(By Chris Herriot, Monktonhall NUM)

Thrown over a Mini

'WACK', AN Armthorpe miner, was on his way back from picket duty in Leicester on 26 July:

"A policeman walked up to me and punched me on the jaw sent me flying across the bonnet of a car. One policeman shouted: "Nick him". Four policemen then jumped on me, I grabbed a gatepost, my fingers were smashed, I was then punched and an inspector came up and said: "Kick his legs, he'll soon let go."

They then dragged me into the road and punched me again and again. Other pickets shouted, then my arm was forced up my back touching the back of my neck almost breaking it—really painful. Then the police banged me over the top of a Mini, grinning laughing. At the station a new

Metropolitan police officer with a black eye who I had never seen before was brought into the room and I was accused of hitting him. I was then charged with assault and breach of the peace.

Despite never having been in trouble before I was remanded in custody for ten days in Leicester.

I was only released when the NUM went to the High Court in London.

Also arrested at the same time by the Met was a taxi driver who they said was a miner. They arrested him, dragged him out of his car, left his four year-old son crying on the passenger seat with £100 worth of takings in the car.

They finally released him to carry on his work at 4 pm the same day."

Locked in a stinking cell

FRED TOMLINSON, an NUM member from Allerton Workshops was on the lunchtime picket at Allerton Bywater Colliery on Tuesday 21 August. Described by other miners as a mild mannered man who 'wouldn't say boo to a goose', he had no previous convictions. Fred was walking away from the picket when the police arrested him:

The policeman pulled Mr Tomlinson's T-shirt over his head and was then made to sit on his knees by three policemen. He saw another picket being kicked in the groin by policemen.

Mr Tomlinson was continuously knocked about and kicked by the police. The handcuffs they put on him dug deep-

ly into his wrists. The other picket who was being beaten up was accused by one officer of putting the boot into the policeman who had arrested Mr Tomlinson. He couldn't have possibly done this as the officer was busy arresting Mr Tomlinson.

The cell that they were put into had just been occupied by two tramps. It was in a disgusting state with a sickening stench of urine and excreta on the walls. They were expected to sleep on a filthy mattress, which smelled of sick. They had no blankets and in the end they laid down on a wooden bench in the bitter cold.

(By Barry Ewart and John Appleyard)

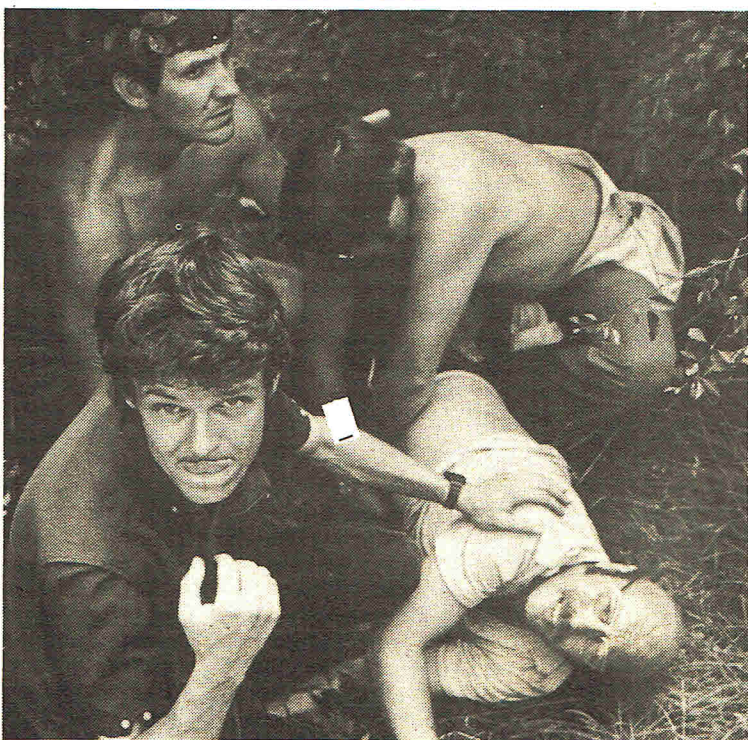


Photo: John Harris (IFL)ll

An injured picket receives help at Orgreave (18 June).



m Security jail

getting out. Then a prison officer called out the miners' names and the five of us who were jailed together were all released together.

I felt like doing a backward summersault and then putting in as many miles as possible between myself and Leicester. Back home the reception shows they can't break us. The police, the Tories and MacGregor, the lot of them are trying to keep us thinking that we can't step outside our house.

The new bail conditions on us are even stricter, you can breathe out but you can't breathe in! One of the lads has been told he can't even help in his local soup kitchen as it's connected with the NUM dispute.

They will never win—the homecoming social of 400, organised by Fitzwilliam YS was a massive boost. If any lads in your area get locked up, organise a home coming for them. Let them know that they are not alone, we are not outlaws. We are workers fighting for jobs. With the backing of the movement and our communities, we will win."

Armthorpe

three other pickets were having a cup of tea. When they saw the police piling out, the son went to lock the front door while Mrs Kennedy went to lock the back door, but found the police already in the lobby. She told them to 'bugger off and get away'. Her son heard her scream and ran into the kitchen, where he saw the policemen had trapped his mother's head in the door and were slamming the door repeatedly on her head.

Mrs Kennedy was later treated by a doctor for shock and bruising.

Bob Worthy was approached by a sergeant, No 246, of the Greater Manchester force and asked: 'What do you think you're doing?' 'I live here', said Bob. The sergeant then shoved him backwards over the concrete wall. When he stood up he was surrounded by six constables with drawn truncheons.

As Bob said: "My kids saw me attacked on my own property today, they won't understand yet, but I'll make sure they do when they're older. I won't let them forget."

(By Keith Narey)

The Iron Fist—review

Arthur Copus reviews "The Iron Fist; a State of Siege, volume 2" by Martin Walker and Susan Miller (a report to the Yorkshire Area NUM).

IF NOTHING else, the miners' strike has exposed the myth of police impartiality to millions of people. In Nottinghamshire and elsewhere the police are behaving like an army of occupation. The pamphlet is a necessary record of many horrific incidents of violence, and in some cases even torture.

It gives a detailed account of the second six weeks of the strike, and in particular the situation in Nottinghamshire. It also shows that the Thatcher government and its representatives have partially learnt the lessons of "Saltley Gates". Far from "rolling back the frontier of the state", the Tories have set up the embryo of an elite "riot force".

In the first chapter there is a detailed analysis of the politics of the "ultra right" and how they have influenced this government's thinking. Advisers like Brian Crozier who is quoted: "What of human rights? The quick answer is that in a war human rights are unfortunately likely to suffer."

(Price £2 plus p+p from Paul Holmes, Greenwich Branch NALGO, Staffside Office, Basement, Borough Treasurer, Wellington Street, Woolwich SE18.)

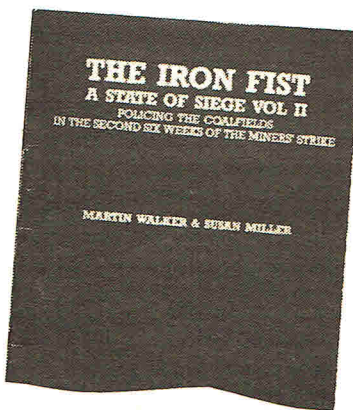
Rammed by a police van

MARK BONE of Arkwright NUM, North Derbyshire was on his way to Warsop to picket. He and his mates were stopped by the police: "Police in full riot gear came out with their truncheons drawn, tapping their shields and shouting:

'Come on you bastards come down here we'll have you'.

We walked away, 'cos we wanted no trouble, and drove off. At Shirebrook the police turned us round. There were five or six cars. About half way back we saw police running after lads, hitting out at anything.

I pulled up beside of Kev (another picket). A copper tapped on the window and said: 'Can you step outside, we're going to hammer you.' The window was down 3 inches and I could smell the drink on him.



It is not malevolence that is making the government act this way, but the logic of people who represent a decaying system, and are making every effort to defend it. This pamphlet is an invaluable document for Trades Union activists, explaining the issues in the strike, and providing an antidote to the poison of the media.

Whilst the concluding chapter deals with the short-comings of the complaints procedure, and the apparent strengths of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, it doesn't draw the clear conclusion that only a united trades union and labour movement can defeat the Tories and win this strike.

I wasn't getting out, so I wound the window up. The copper went round the front and smashed the windscreen, ran to Kev's car, banged the truncheon on the boot, hit the window but it wouldn't break, so he smashed the side window.

Kev set off fast but as he pulled onto the road he was rammed by a police transit van. As we pulled off, the same van was watching us. When we were three-quarters of the way round I heard wheels screaming. They knocked us into another car. I don't know how but we kept on going.

I pulled up behind Kev but I wasn't going to stop with these crazy bastards running. One smashed my headlamp with a boot or truncheon. I went about a mile and a half on a wheel rim, 'cos the tyre was shredded, before I could change it."

Mass protest meetings

In the mining village of Fitzwilliam, the scene of a police riot and victimisation of politically active young miners, the response of the YS has not been limited to one leaflet or a one-off meeting. A campaign has developed against police attacks, for a dropping of the curfew (which was won last week), for a dropping of the charges, and the central demand "victory to the miners".

So far the area has seen a meeting of 300 in the Fitzwilliam Hotel, the launching of an LPYS branch, a protest meeting of 350 following the police riot and 200 for a showing of the NUM videos and speakers.

The issue has been taken up by the general public with over 1000 signatures to a YS petition. Plans are now being discussed for a mass lobby of the court on the 15 October when the police are said to be bringing more charges against the

nine arrested in Fitzwilliam.

We must ensure through the pages of the *Militant* that all areas respond to the police attacks like Fitzwilliam and prevent any chance of isolation. This has already started. When South Kirby LPYS held a public meeting featuring Brendon Conway from Fitzwilliam LPYS as the main speaker over 90 turned up. (Both YS branches are in the same constituency).

Last Wednesday 29 August two nearby areas held protest meetings following renewed attacks by police. In Stainthorpe over 70 attended and at the same time over 90 attended a YS meeting in Armthorpe.

At the same time as Wednesday's protest meetings were taking place, nearly 200 packed into the Kinsley Hotel to hear Peter Taaffe speak at Fitzwilliam's first ever *Militant* miners' meeting.

Why the 'Fox' is free

ON MONDAY 20 August, a police operation took place at Gascoigne Wood pit, near Selby, North Yorkshire. A police spokesman stated that 1,500 police had been on duty—to escort only one scab into the pit. Yet it was announced the same day that only 500 police nationally were involved in trying to capture the rapist known as "The Fox" who had raped a woman in South Yorkshire only two days earlier.

Three times as many police were used at one pit than in the entire operation to capture a maniac wanted for 30 attacks including six rapes.

The Gascoigne operation alone

must have cost at least £105,000, just based on £70 for each policeman, to cover wages, overtime, travel, etc.

The police spokesman are very guarded about the precise cost of the police operation but in June, West Yorkshire police sent 130 men a day to aid police in five other counties at a cost of £45,000 a week = £9,000 a day = virtually £70 per copper per day.

On that kind of money it's not surprising that Thatcher's government has been able to command the loyalty of so many of the police force.

(By Jane Ingham)



Arrests at Margam, South Wales, 6 July.

Photo: Paul Davies

Vital tablets denied to prisoner

HERBERT EDWARDS is a 46 year old miner from Frickley Colliery who lives in Kinsley—a neighbouring village to Fitzwilliam in Yorkshire. He was arrested picketing at Babbington colliery on 20 June after an argument with a policeman who called him a 'drunken bastard'. Herbert had only £1 in his pocket—the first he'd had for three weeks—and was completely sober:

"I was set upon by two Inspectors and two constables. They punched me, elbowed me, then took me down an alley-way and pushed me against a wall. My head split open and I still have the scar. I was so mad I refused to tell them who I was.

I was brought up before Mansfield Magistrates. I still refused to give them my address, and was committed to Lincoln jail where I received really barbaric treatment.

The screws refused to give me a blanket and exercise. I was kept in solitary confinement and not allowed any visits. The Yorkshire NUM had actually sent solicitors but they were refused permission to see me—I knew nothing about it.

On the third day the screws said they were going to take my finger prints. I refused. They then said that if I didn't co-operate they would force me on the floor, hand-

cuff my hands behind my back and break all my fingers. They also said that four policemen would sit on my back and they would get my finger prints. I said to them: 'Please make sure that you don't get any ink on my clothes'.

This enraged the screws. They screamed that by the time they had finished with me you wouldn't be able to tell the bruises from the ink.

Throughout all this they refused me medical treatment, despite the fact that I told them I suffered from high blood pressure and needed tablets every day. They said they would rather me die than give me the tablets, unless I told them who I was.

I was so sickened by my treatment I still refused to give them my name and address. One of the medical orderlies finally persuaded me to give my name and my doctor's—he needed to contact the doctor to get the tablets for my heart complaint. He then informed the screws.

I was taken back to Mansfield Magistrates, refused representation from a solicitor but was given bail without conditions and released.

Since this experience I have been arrested once more on picket lines and beaten up by the police. I will never forget what happened in this strike."

Fiftieth anniversary Minneapolis Teamsters Strike USA



Harry de Boer today.

THE EVENTS in Minneapolis in 1934 are an indication of how workers will follow a leadership that has the right programme. In this coal yard in Minneapolis there were about 100 workers that worked off and on.

Back in 1933 this town was non-union. The Citizens' Alliance was a powerful boss organisation. They were so powerful that if some company, employing ten or twelve men, for instance, gave them a few more cents an hour, then the Citizens' Alliance prescribed them and the bank would close their account. Because of this and the depression workers were working for as low as \$1 a day, 10-12 hours a day in the coal yards.

So we called the first meeting to organise the coal drivers in October of '33. At that meeting there were 19 people but we began organising and by Feb '34 they were faced with either going out on strike or losing the membership. The coal industry was seasonal and in another month the coal season was practically ended and the workers would have had to find other jobs for the summer.

Well-prepared

We called the strike. Tied up the town. No company could move coal. That's one of the policies we established, when you call a strike you just see to it there's no work being done. We got an agreement in three days.

It was an increase and when the papers carried reports workers came to the union hall wanting to join. This was the first strike the Teamsters had won in at least 17 years because of the Citizens' Alliance power. We had 2 men day and night signing up members.

By May we represented the majority of workers in the trucking and warehouse industries. We presented a contract on wages and so forth. The employers just absolutely refused even to meet with us. End result, we were forced out on strike.

When you call a strike you want to be prepared to win and you have to look forward. So early in the strike we took in the unemployed. We pointed out that their fight was our fight. If we got the union conditions we'd shorten the hours and we'd see to it that they were the first hired.

We pointed out to the women, who formed a Womens' Auxilliary, that; after all, if their husbands got better wages and conditions it helped them run their home. So their fight was to fight with their husbands. This was done to get the whole movement and the public involved.

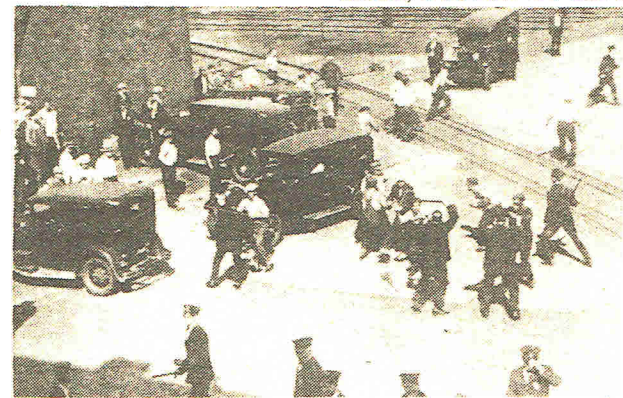
We held public meetings in the parks. We couldn't hold them in a building with

as many as 15,000 to 20,000 people attending.

The bosses couldn't get any workers to fight workers. We had them organised. The only people they could get was their own. They deputised 1,500. But we had the public on our side; the women that worked in the office, the stenographers and the women that cleaned, would go through the scrap to see what the bosses were proposing.

So we knew when they ordered bats and helmets for these special deputies that they were going to fight somewhere down the line. We also found where they were going to fight and where they were going to move trucks. We organised cruising pickets all over the city to see that if a truck was sneaked out somewhere it was sent back.

Just one illustration of how the workers prepared: I was a picket captain and on one drive I saw one worker hit another worker on the head with a bat. So I got hold of a couple of job stewards and ran over there because we thought the bosses were fitting some stool-pigeon in there or something to cause problems. But instead it was two



Two strikers were shot dead by the police during the strike.

workers putting pads of paper in their caps and hitting each other to see how hard a blow it would take to get hurt.

Of course, the bosses tried to move some trucks with their special deputies one morning. We were prepared for it. It took only a few minutes and we had a majority. We had over 5,000 pickets and they probably had 1,500 deputies and the police department.

Two of these deputies got killed and when they saw they didn't have a chance to move these trucks they threw their badges and their clubs and sneaked under cars just to get away from the strikers. That day was called "Battle of Deputy Run".

The result was we got the contract. But then Tobin (who'd been President of the Teamsters since 1907—

JUST OVER fifty years ago at the end of August 1934, members of the Teamsters' Union in the Mid-West US city of Minneapolis won a great victory in the battle to organise a strong union. At their victory meeting, it was announced over the loudspeakers: "This is Station 574 broadcasting, with 7,500 pickets, 450 cruiser cars, 16 motorcycles and 2 airplanes with the authority of the Strike Committee of 10."

Victory came after the declaration of martial law, and two pickets being killed by police. The organisers showed all the creative imagination of the working class to build support. Union carpenters and plumbers set up sinks, gas stoves at the union headquarters. The cooks and waiters' union sent experts on mass cooking and helped train volunteers. Working in two 12-hour shifts, 100 volunteers fed 4,000-5,000 people daily.

Mechanics came in to service the cars. A 'hospital' was set up with doctors, nurses and interns. A women's auxiliary was established and the unemployed organised in support of the union. The local union newspaper and a general meeting, held every evening, explained to all participants the latest developments.

The struggle of the Teamsters, fifty years ago, is an inspiration to all workers and has especial significance in Britain to-day during the miners' strike.

One of the most active participants in the strike was HARRY DE BOER who was then 21. He was shot in the leg by the police during the strike. Last month he spoke to NICK WRACK from *Militant* after a "picnic" to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the "Teamster Rebellion".

The strike that made a union town

Militant) was beginning to fight us because we weren't organising according to the Teamsters International. They had a craft set-up whereas we were organising all the workers the truckers had anything to do with.

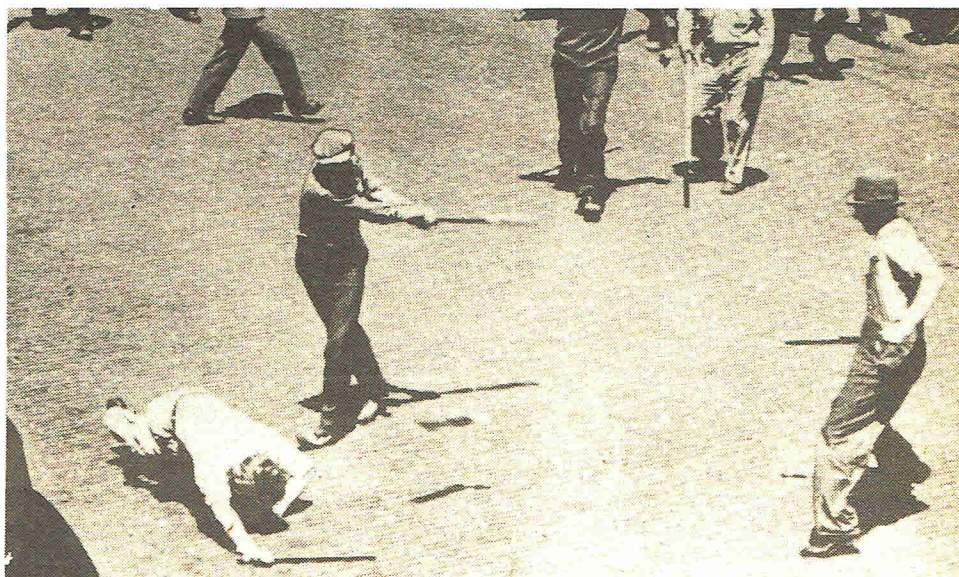
So the bosses took that up and figured 'Well, if the Teamsters International is going to fight them, it'd be a good time to fight them again. We'd have some support.'

The result was we were forced out on strike again in order to represent these inside workers. They were a large majority of our membership. This is what caused the third strike.

We organised from the experience of the second strike. We had a committee of 100 that decided any issue that came up. It would meet with the Executive Board and if this committee of 100 agreed then it would go through.

If there was a difference then we would call a special meeting and the membership would decide. The workers will support the Union if they've got something to say about it.

We had a hospital with nurses, a doctor. We had a



Gangs from Chicago were brought in but like the scab (above) they got a hammering.

over because he knew I was in charge and said, 'DeBoer, we don't want this mess on the streets here. The tourists are going through. What can we do to settle it?'

I said, 'It's very simple. You stop trying to support these trucks and that'll settle it'. He went off to talk his superiors and then came back and said 'That's a deal'.

We both left one squad and I reported back to the headquarters what took place. The pickets were all back in the headquarters. We was having coffee and sandwiches and talking when a report come over that the police were gathering again at this site. I was sent down again with a couple of thousand and when I got there I see they was carrying guns and there was a lot more police.

I reported back and they sent another couple of thousand. There we sat, they were on one side and we were on the other. We were unarmed. They had guns but we never thought for a moment that they would open fire.

We always had one truck to stop the first truck if they tried to move. Immediately our truck stopped theirs they started firing. There was bullets coming from the roofs of the buildings and from the windows on the first and second storeys and from the police on the ground.

Imagine bullets coming from all directions just like you would shoot a bunch of crows out in a field. There was nothing we could do but try to protect ourselves and run for cover. I got shot for picking up a picket that dropped right in front of me.

Two of our people got killed and about 75 or 80 was

injured. There was probably a lot more didn't even report it. Five crippled for life. Two dead. The following day you couldn't find a policeman in town, at least in uniform.

Governor Olson, now he was supposed to be a Labor governor, elected on a Labor ticket. He had the right to arrest the Chief of Police and the Mayor for murder as we was shot just like animals.

Martial law

But instead he declared martial law and arrested our leadership along with a bunch of pickets and puts them in the stockade. Then he starts giving out permits for the trucks to deliver merchandise.

During the strike we give permits only to the trucks that's going to the hospitals and in emergency deals. But they were giving permits to practically anybody that applied for them. We were forced to take on the militia, the soldiers, to stop these trucks, even if they had a permit unless it was bona fide.

Then Olsen wanted to meet with the union. The bosses were saying the leadership were Reds and wouldn't meet with them for that reason.

The union committee sent three members to meet the governor. He sits them down gets them comfortable and says, 'Well now, what are we going to do about settling this strike?' Ray Rainbolt, the spokesman, said, 'Release our leaders then we'll talk about settling the strike. But while they're in the stockade just forget about it'.

We forced them into signing an agreement compatible to the one they sign-

ed in May. Within a year of the strike being settled in August of '34 there wasn't a driver in this town that didn't wear a union button.

They used to wear the buttons on the left side of their cap so when they went by you could see if they belonged to the union or not. If a driver drove up and there wasn't a button then the inside workers wouldn't unload their load. With drivers from another town where there was no union, like Chicago or St Louis the warehousemen would refuse to handle their product and that helped us organise the drivers in 11 states.

By 1937 we had a contract for drivers and inside workers in Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Toledo, Kansas City, Omaha, Des Moines, Sioux City, and so on. Just an indication of what the workers will do and how they will support a union that they have something to say about. 9

FURTHER READING on subsequent battles of the Teamsters:

Farrell Dobbs' books on:

Teamster power £4.50

Teamster politics £4.50

Teamster bureaucracy

..... £4.50

Or all 3 for £12.00

(all prices include postage)

All available from World Socialist Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. (The best account of the 1934 strike is Dobbs' first book, *Teamster Rebellion*, unfortunately currently out of print).

Chile, S Africa,

Build solidarity with Chilean socialists

SEPTEMBER MARKS the eleventh anniversary of the coup, which brought Pinochet's bloody dictatorship to power. In the years since 1973, the Chilean working classes have had to undergo a nightmare of torture, depression and murder together with intolerable economic hardship caused by the regime's economic policies.

However, for the dictator who had to be "appointed by God" in a holy mission against Communism, it seems as though this unholy crusade has come to a grinding halt. In spite of the brutal attacks of the riot police upon the youth and working class activists in protest actions over the past 15 months, the 11 September (the day of the coup) promises to be 'celebrated' in the shanty towns and working class districts by widespread protest and demonstrations against the regime.

However, it would be true to say that there has been a

By Lesley Phillips

certain lull in the protest movement over the past few months. This hasn't been because of any fall in the determination of the Chilean working class to see Pinochet toppled, but because many workers have seen that protests in themselves haven't led to Pinochet's downfall.

Mass protests

There have been hundreds of deaths and injuries, particularly of the youth who have been in the front line of the battle in the protests. But

the workers' parties in Chile, principally the Communist Party and Socialist Party grouped in the MDP (Popular Democratic Movement), have failed to grasp the opportunities presented by the protests to overthrow Pinochet. The bravery and commitment of the workers deserves a leadership which is prepared to use their willingness to fight to once and for all sweep away the military regime.

An insurrectionary general strike which would involve the mass of workers would inevitably sweep behind it large sections of the middle class which are opposed to Pinochet, and the largely conscript ranks of the armed forces. The establishment of workers' cordones or belts such as was the case in 1972, would prepare the ground for a democratic socialist society.

It is clear therefore that the coming period in Chile

will be decisive for the workers. It is precisely at this critical stage that the workers need the utmost aid internationally to help them in their struggle. This aid involves solidarity with work in Britain, but also and more importantly, much needed material and financial help in Chile itself.

LPYS campaign

It is this reason that the LPYS has taken two initiatives in appealing to all sectors of the labour and trade union movement to support the Chile Socialist Defence Campaign (CSDC). As a result of direct appeals from the dockers' union in Chile, and other groups of workers, the CSDC has as its aim both to raise and send money directly to go to Chile, and to raise the political questions which arise out of the events in Chile.

SMASH PINOCHET!

Come to a rally for the London labour movement

Tuesday 11 September, Central Hall, Westminster, SW1

8 pm (doors open 7.30 pm) 50p admission

Speakers:

Tony Benn MP
Terry Fields MP
Ian Isaacs (S Wales NUM Exec)

As part of this campaign the London region of the LPYS has organised a rally on 11 September at Central Hall, Westminster in support of the Chilean workers, which will be addressed amongst others, by Tony Benn and Terry Fields MP (see above). Now the campaign does not end in rallies or demonstrations. Every area should be passing resolutions through their organisations in support of this campaign and sending a donation or collection. All comrades are also urged to subscribe to the bulletin which will be available on the 11th which will discuss the events in Chile and Latin America and follow the progress of the campaign.

★ Subscribe to the bulletin price 25p + postage.

★ Messages of support and donations to: CSDC, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

Near nuclear disaster in Channel

THE RECENT accident which resulted in the sinking of the French freighter Mont Louis with its lethal cargo of nuclear material has resurrected the fear of a major catastrophe. For it has been revealed that the cargo consisted of a deadly mixture of enriched uranium and some 450 tonnes uranium hexafluoride—Hex. Hex, a vital component of the nuclear power and weapon programme is extremely corrosive. Even more disturbing, it produces a violent explosion on contact with water with the release of harmful radiation.

Both substances can poison the sea and air for thousands of years with disastrous consequences. And the accident itself raises more serious and important questions. The French authorities refused at first to comment on the accident and then when forced to only released partial information. They subsequently admitted that the ship was also carrying enriched uranium which posed a hazard.

More importantly, however, is the web of secrecy and the absence of international safeguards surrounding the transportation of these substances. Their importance is such, it is claimed that absolute secrecy is necessary.

The ship owners thought it appropriate to list their cargo as "medical supplies". The crew were only aware they were carrying radio active substances because they were issued with geiger counters. The only international safeguards that exists lay in the specification of "safe containers".

Moreover, the accident has demonstrated that there are no designated routes for nuclear carrying vessels. Indeed much atomic wastes comes over from Holland on roll on/roll off container ships alongside such shipments as cheese and chocolates. The ships are not specially constructed to withstand collisions nor do they have sophisticated navigational equipment, nor do they have their crews hand picked for their skills as seamen.

The latest accident has once again cast a cloud over the nuclear industry. The recent revelations of leakages of radiation into the sea, the irrefutable evidence linking it with various forms of cancers and the persistent threat of a catastrophe, now make it imperative that the whole nature of the nuclear industry is questioned.

Where profit is the motive, accidents live. This is inevitable unless a coherent energy programme is developed, which includes nuclear fusion (not fission which produces radioactive waste) and alternative forms of energy which do not produce harmful substances that can endanger mankind.

By Ronnie Sookdheo

Boycott hits South African regime

DESPITE BULLETS, teargas and rhinowhips the resolution of the 'Coloured' and Asian communities not to participate in the regime's sham elections remained unbroken.

Over 40% of the Coloured and Asian people did not even register to vote, despite government threats that failure to do so would mean a £40 fine and possible eviction from their homes. Of those that registered, 72% did not turn up to vote.

The boycott was especially strong in the urban areas amongst the working class. Black trade unions were amongst those calling for boycott. In the Cape Town area, where the Coloureds form the majority of the working class in the country's second largest city, the numbers turning up to vote were as low as 6% of those eligible.

Military power

This was despite massive intimidation of people who called for a boycott. Before the elections were held 43 leaders of the boycott campaign were imprisoned. Meetings calling for a boycott were subject to police attack. And on the day of the election the police waded into demonstrators, pulling them out of cars and buses and beating them up.

The apartheid regime had tried to portray these elections internationally as an indication that they were reforming. In reality of course it is nothing of the kind, and the TV scenes of police violence against boycotters last week showed that.

But the new constitutional arrangement, of which these elections were part, is of significance. It marks a further development towards breaking all restraints upon the military-police regime.

Far from reforming apartheid, it is intensifying the power of repression. It is part of what apartheid leader, Botha, calls his "total

strategy" to meet the growing revolutionary challenge to his regime.

The key role in this will be played by the military. Already the crucial policy making body is not the Cabinet but the Security Planning Group which consists of Botha, the

HOW MUCH is the life of a black South African miner worth? The official answer has now been given—£5. On 12 September last year 68 coal miners were killed in a methane gas explosion at Hlobane colliery.

The courts have now ruled on who was to blame. They found that the mining company was guilty of flagrant disregard for safety regulations.

In parts of the mine where there was a risk of igniting gas the company had installed apparatus which was not flame-proof. They used conveyor belts which were unable to stop should they break, jam or slip. And they unlawfully installed dangerous equipment in an airway.

For thereby causing the deaths of 68 miners the Vryheid (Natal) Railway, Coal and Iron Company was fined just £340. The mine manager, DS Watson was found guilty, then cautioned and released.

Defence Minister, the security police chiefs, and the heads of the defence staff and military intelligence.

Under the new constitution this process will be further developed. Even the limited restraints arising from the (all white) Parliament will be removed. Power will rest with an Executive President (Botha) and the President's Council. The Cabinet will be responsible to the President not to Parliament. The new 'Coloured' and Asian chambers will have little power and any decision they make can be overturned by the President's Council.

Totally excluded from all parts of



Translated the above placard held outside a polling booth, read: "If we vote high rents, sales tax, apartheid education, Group Areas, unemployment, rotten housing will remain. Boycott elections! Forward to a Workers' Republic of South Africa/Azania".

the new constitution are of course the country's 22 million African population. And the challenge the regime faces from the black working class is growing.

Record strikes

This year is likely to see the greatest number of days lost through strikes in South Africa's history. Even according to government figures there has been a three-fold increase in the number of strikes (January-May) compared to the same period last year. And unofficial figures, from an industrial relations consultant show that 300,000 days were lost in strikes in the first six months of this year. In the previous worst year for strikes, 1982, the total number of days lost for the whole year was 365,000.

By Jim Chrystie

Letters

Write to *Militant*, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

The side of the EETPU

Dear Comrades,

Despite the EETPU's rotten reputation in the trade union movement in general and in the eyes of many miners and their wives in particular; mainly based on the ignorant and bankrupt comments coming from Frank Chapple, Eric Hammond and co, many examples show the rank and file electricians are behind the miners all the way. The press branch members apart from regular levies, regularly raise collections for the miners and wives speaking at the branch.

One example which will

never be heard in the Tory press; a branch member visiting up North came across a miners' wife from Durham whose child needs a special operation abroad but at a cost of fares etc of £250 This appeal was brought back to the branch and the money was collected on the night as well as a collection for two Armthorpe women who spoke. It was reported that the woman broke down when informed over the phone of the trip abroad for the operation had been fixed up for early September.

Again just an example among thousands showing the real support that is behind the miners.

Yours fraternally,
An EETPU member

Cutbacks and fightbacks in Kent

Dear Comrades,

Even in Maidstone, the county town of Kent, the cuts are being felt. My father-in-law is in Preston Hall Hospital near Maidstone. On a recent visit to see him, we saw three wards with empty beds, the doors closed with padlocks and chains through the door handles. This hospital is threatened with closure. If this happens my mother-in-law and family could face a round trip of nearly 150 miles, by public transport, to see my father-in-law in a hospital in London.

Schools are also faced with cuts and closure, with

parents already having to pay for books and materials that their children use at school.

The miners' dispute is a day to day talking point among the postmen/women where I work in Maidstone, with collections of nearly £250 already having been made and more to come. A miners' speaker and a miner's wife are to speak at Maidstone UCW Outdoor Section AGM. Regular donations each week have been set up and sent to the miners' strike fund and a trip, to show our support for the miners, has been arranged down to the Kent miners.

Yours fraternally
Andy Scott
Outdoor Section Secretary
UCW, Maidstone
Amalgamated branch
personal capacity

Fighting for a 79-hour week

Dear Comrades,

With the BLOC lobby of the TUC, and the campaign for a fighting TUC imminent, one item on the regional TU magazine programme should cause the labour movement concern.

The women workers at the Britannia Rolls factory in Hove have started a campaign for more overtime. Their grouse is that the 1961 Factories Act limits women to working 48 hours a week, and that they need the overtime for a decent wage.

One of the women interviewed said that one week

she worked an incredible 39 hours overtime, and that the cut in overtime can mean a wage reduction of as much as £40 per week.

Trade unionists obviously realise that many workers rely on overtime to bring home a living wage, but at the same time with four million unemployed it's a scandal that such huge amounts of overtime have to be worked.

The task of BLOC and the trade unions generally is to build a leadership capable of fighting for a living wage for a 35-hour week, not a 79-hour week.

Yours fraternally,
Clive Walder
Brighton LPYS

Lessons from Poland

Dear Comrades,

Whilst on holiday I met a Polish girl who told me about the mood of the people in Poland. She said that they were very depressed because of the imposition of martial law. But she also pointed out that the atmosphere in Poland is still highly charged. When Elton John went to play at a concert, Lech Walesa was in the audience. The crowd spontaneously started to demand that Walesa make a speech. Walesa declined saying: "It is not me who is the star at the performance it is Elton John".

She also pointed out that workers and students were asking themselves whether the Solidarity leaders had

been too moderate, and she felt this moderation was because of its close connections with the church. This indicates that valuable lessons can be drawn from the defeat of Solidarity and a new offensive prepared on the basis of a better understanding of the need for political revolution to overthrow the bureaucracy.

Yours fraternally,
John Walker

Lawson beware!

Dear Comrades,

The Tories should consider very carefully before they introduce VAT on tea, coffee, biscuits, etc. The last time HM Government taxed tea, Britain lost a continent.

Yours fraternally,
Laurence Church
Hastings and Rye LPYS



Fitzwilliam, Yorkshire, where the police have instigated curfews for striking miners. The women of the village have been united in their support for the NUM.

Photo: Jon Ingham

A travesty of justice

Dear Editor,

I would like to show our appreciation through the pages of *Militant* for the very warm-hearted and generous support we have received from the South Kirby branch of the NUM, Jack Taylor President of the Yorkshire NUM and the local communities of Hemsworth, Kingsley and Fitzwilliam who all united and helped when Gary was imprisoned. I would like to outline the events leading to this travesty of justice.

As reported in the *Hemsworth Express* on the 26 March, Gary and 11 col-

leagues were arrested and jailed for 18 hours, during this time they were systematically taken out and questioned on their political beliefs, fingerprinted and photographed, as well as being generally treated like outlaws. The charge was "obstruction".

Since then they have been on conditional bail, the condition being not to picket in Nottingham. Unfortunately for Gary on Thursday 26 he was one of the 409 arrested at Cresswell Colliery. Gary was pulled out of line and charged with breach of the peace.

They took him to Chesterfield police station for 26 hours detention and then it was off to Chesterfield magistrates court on the Friday where he was sentenced to five days in Leicester Maximum Security Prison and remanded alongside murderers, sex offenders and terrorists.

On the next Wednesday Gary was again in Chesterfield court where a further 14 days jail sentence was given. This time the NUM solicitor appealed to a judge in chambers at the Old Bailey, London, and was successful in getting Gary's release on

Monday 6 August.

On Saturday 11 August Fitzwilliam LPYS organised a social event to welcome Gary's release, over 400 people attended and showed a very touching and emotional welcome home. Gary would just like to say that in prison they could take away my dignity, my pride and liberty, but the support and unity of this tight-knit community can never be taken away.

Yours fraternally,
Mrs Gary Blackburn
Fitzwilliam
West Yorkshire
See also centre pages.

Miners and the media

Dear Comrades,

The way in which the BBC and ITV have covered the miners' strike makes any claims of unbiased coverage laughable. Both TV stations commonly use the term "braved" to describe miners crossing the picket lines. Yet, you never hear them say: "The miners have now braved 24 weeks of strike". According to them only scabs are brave.

They also approach the strike purely from the bosses' point of view, ie listing all the pits where

miners are going back to work. When have we heard them state the fact that 80% of miners are out on strike?

Their most blatant act of bias is the fact that they have refused to show film of police 'beating up' miners. This film has been shown abroad, but withheld from the British public.

The biased nature of BBC and ITV should not surprise workers. The directors and news readers of these TV stations are virtually all public school boys. They come from the bosses' class and represent the interests of that class.

Until the media is under the democratic control of the

working class it will continue to be the (lying) puppet of the bosses.

Yours fraternally,
Ged Grebby
Benton LPYS

Miners' message

My dear people,

In my community I am regarded as a moderate who would prefer to sit on the fence, but even moderates have to get off the fence. I have in my possession the names of 46 scab drivers who carry coke into Ravenscraig.

I do not want to see

anyone hurt (not even the scab lorry drivers from Yorkshire) but as a recommendation to other scab drivers I am prepared to send all 46 names to the T&G and the local NUM so they can appeal to the drivers in the strongest possible terms.

Two of the drivers come from Cumnock in Ayrshire in Scotland and I cannot understand how they can scab on fellow workers in the area. I wish the Scottish miners every success in stopping coal supplies to Ravenscraig.

Yours—off the fence,
P O'Neil
39 Milton Terrace
Fitzwilliam

Open University?

Dear Comrades,

Having seen the programme *Fit for a King* about the 'royal' school Gordonstoun, I was considering applying for a place for my son. Surprised? Well according to our bright (?) young princes, it isn't true that only the offspring of the upper classes go there.

The school's students' backgrounds are "er, well, various" according to Andrew. Edward thinks its unnecessary to have qualifications because Gordonstounians succeed in all walks of life without them—it's "character and determination" that counts. Presumably, this is built with the help of "beatings and thrashings" that are "extremely valuable in any institution".

I must admit, I was not entirely convinced that my son's character would get him a job any more than the

school leavers thrown out onto the scrap-heap this summer. It certainly wouldn't get him into Jesus College, Cambridge with "A" level failure Prince Edward.

I'm investing in a socialist future for my son with *Militant*, the only one that will offer a decent education and proper job with a fair wage for working class children.

Prince Andrew says, "The rich can learn a lot from the less fortunate and the less fortunate can learn a lot from the rich".

Well, we've learnt our lesson, Andy. The ruling class offers us nothing but the dole, decaying flats, empty factories, schools, hospitals and the threat of a nuclear holocaust.

Your lesson is about to begin, Prince Andrew.
Jean Webb
Hackney South and
Shoreditch LPYS



Thick as a brick?

Nice to see the Young Tories getting out on the streets to meet people. In London recently they hired a bus for a "scrap the GLC" tour—and nearly ended up scrapped themselves! People at a bus stop in Streatham shouted at them, Lambeth Council workers hurled abuse, and workers in Fleet Street hurled bricks. Said one of the Tories afterwards, "it was such fun we're planning to do it again".

Freedom to stay at home

As we all know, one of the democratic rights we enjoy is freedom of movement. With one or two exceptions. One woman from Peckham recently had her mobility allowance stopped. She'd been receiving it for two years to help with taxi fares because she found walking difficult. But recently, officials decided she didn't need it—she'd just had a leg amputated.

FIGHTING FUND

This week
£1,575

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
Eastern	807		2900
East Midlands	627		3550
Humberside	276		1850
London East	748		3200
London West	520		2150
London South East	287		1950
London South West	613		1650
Lancashire	304		1950
Manchester	487		2200
Merseyside	935		6100
Northern	554		4400
Scotland East	306		2950
Scotland West	799		3650
Southern	1005		5100
South West	227		2150
Wales East	142		2550
Wales West	437		2050
West Midlands	573		4300
Yorkshire	717		5350
Others	1572		5000
Total received	11936		65000

DONATE TO Militant now; there's never been more need for a workers' paper. Just look at the barrage of filth against the miners strike in the Tory dailies.

You should help to counter the lies. There's no time like the present and there's no present like a donation to *Militant*. And don't just give yourself but collect money from other people.

Militant now has specially designed red and yellow

plastic collecting "tins". What better way to encourage the many workers who want a paper which tells our side of the story to donate? Take one in to work, and take them out on your paper sales.

Boost for finance

Already many areas have reported successes using these tins. With every seller carrying a tin and shouting, sales have gone well and so have the donations. Portsmouth have raised £7.30, Benton £4.10, Baillieston £9,

North Manchester £1.70 and Hayes £1.08 (they went round a pub, in the course of duty obviously). The "tins" are available for 75p each plus postage from our offices.

We also have plastic carrier bags celebrating the 20th anniversary of *Militant*. Our fashion correspondent tells us they are very good for street credibility and a great advert for our paper, so get a large order in now. It all helps to make the best workers paper in the world, bigger, better and more frequent.

New record at South Wales Summer Camp

Los Angeles wasn't the only place where records were broken this year. Record attendances ensured that the 9th South Wales Camp was, once again, a resounding success.

A real measure of this was the £348 donated to the Fighting Fund collection and £47 raised by the 'Militant Target' at the fancy dress competition, plus an extra £1,000 sent in from the camp.

The high political standards that have become a feature of our camp were upheld by Ted Grant, John Pickard and 'local boy' Alec Thraves who, in the morning and evening political sessions brought us up to date on the rising tide of revolution in Latin America, gave a Marxist analysis of the situations in Ireland and the Middle East and outlined the vital role of Marxism in the trade unions and Labour Party.

Those who weren't lured away by the attractions of



Children and "mindes" at summer camp.

Porteynon beach, or who weren't still lying comatose in their tents after the previous night's 'merry making' took part in the afternoon quiz and football competitions. While 'Swansea West' became *Militant* Masterminds, Birmingham kicked their way to victory in the five-a-sides.

Of course the real stars of the camp were, as always, the kids. No one could fail to laugh at their hilarious antics in the children's Olympics or be amazed by their

talent for improvisation, inventing costumes for the fancy dress competition.

After three sun soaked days and 2,000 pints of beer it was time to head home. Now Summer Camps of the South Wales type are being planned all over the country, but we're not worried by a bit of healthy competition. I can guarantee that next year's 10th Anniversary camp will be something special.

By William Williams
(Swansea)

MILITANT RALLY SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER

Speakers include: Peter Taaffe, Ted Grant and Tony Benn

Please note the number of tickets is limited and will be issued on a first come, first served basis!

We would like . . . ticket/s and enclose £ (cheques to Militant Rally, tickets £2.00 each).

Name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

Please return to Militant Rally, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

ADS

CLASSIFIED: 10p per word, minimum 10 words.
SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres.
All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY.

FOR SALE LPYS T-shirts, 'LPYS say Fight the Tories'. Sizes—very large, slightly large, large £3.75 inc. p&p from L. Phillips, 5 Alverstone House, Kennington Park Road, London SE 11. (cheques to London LPYS Campaign Fund)

Militant Meetings

LONDON Militant Council workers' forum. "Fight rate capping, councils must follow Liverpool." Thursday 13 September 7.45pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq, London WC 1. Speakers Derek Hatton (Deputy leader Liverpool council) John Bryan (Southwark councillor) and London local authority workers.

LONDON Militant rally "Labour conference must back the miners and adopt socialist policies" Wednesday 26 September 7.30pm Friends House Euston Road London NW1. Speakers Peter Taaffe (editor *Militant*) Tony Mulhearn (President Liverpool District Labour Party) Ian Isaac (South Wales NUM executive personal capacity) GC Jagadish (leading Indian trade unionist) Admission 50p. All participants are asked to bring a donation of food for presentation to the miners.

NORTHERN AREA Regional Rally to celebrate *Militant's* 20th Anniversary. Venue: YMCA Hall, Ellison Place, Newcastle, 11 October, starts 7 pm. Speakers: Peter Taaffe (Editor: *Militant*), Terry Fields MP (Liverpool Broadgreen), Chris Herriot (NUM). All labour movement and trade union activists welcome.

NORTH SHIELDS: Marxist Discussion Group every Sunday 11.30 am (Mick Handley) 258 Waterville Road, North Shields. For further details contact, Norman Hogg, North Shields 584485.

AYLESHAM MILITANT Public Meeting: Welfare Club. Wednesday 12 September, 8 pm. Speakers: Ian Isaac (South Wales NUM Exec, personal capacity); Ray Apps; Nick Bradley (NUPE full-time organiser, North Kent, personal capacity).

HUMBERSIDE 20th Anniversary Rally with main speaker—Peter Taaffe (Editor: *Militant*), Friday 21 September, 7.30 pm. Trades and Labour Club, Beverley Road, Hull.

ADVANCE NOTICE, Militant Teacher Education Weekend School. Will be of interest to all involved in education. October 13-14th—venue in London. Accommodation and crèche facilities available. Sessions will include:—Rate-capping, the implications—and the fightback. (With a councillor from Liverpool) Education in South Africa. Education, curriculum and class. Which way forward for the NUT? Booking details will follow.

SUMMER SALE at reduced prices of the last of the MILITANT T-shirts. All at £3 each (includes postage and packing). Red motif 'turn left for workers' unity and socialism'. First come, first served return of post.

Small—2 yellow, (32-34") 1 black.
Medium—3 navy, (32-34"), 1 navy, 2 black.
Extra large—2 white, (38-40") 1 yellow.
Cheques and PO to R Harris, 2 Dukes Brow, Blackburn. State preferred size and colour. All proceeds to the Fighting Fund.

WANTED FLAT or bedsit for couple in Greater London. Phone Swansea 297618 after 6 pm or 01-640 2111 between 10 am-4 pm.

EDINBURGH LPYS Public Meeting: Wednesday, 19 September 1984, 7.30 pm, Osbourne Hotel, York Place, Edinburgh. Speakers include: Ian Isaac (S Wales NUM EC, personal capacity).

ROOM FOR a female comrade, £25 per week, including bills. Phone: Fiona Winders on 01-219 6332

WANTED—ROOM in shared flat/house in London. Contact Paul Ursell, 29 Waterloo Rd, Sittingbourne Kent, Phone Sittingbourne 72632.

Chile Solidarity Campaign

inti-illimani

IN CONCERT FOR CHILE & CENTRAL AMERICA

PHILHARMONIC HALL

Hope Street,
LIVERPOOL

Friday, 19th October
at 7.30pm. TICKETS £4, £3, £2
FROM Philharmonic Hall Box Office
U51 709 3789
For further details ring on 249 3334 or 051 523 5562

PAPER SELLERS: For clear, dry papers! Clear plastic sleeves 20p each + post. Contact Mike King 10 Rodney Court, Anson Drive, Sholing Soton, SO2 8RU.

THANET MINERS Support Group Public Meeting, 10 September 8.00pm, venue Ramsgate Labour Hall, speakers Andy Bevan + Leading NUM speaker.

MIKE KING's death-defying parachute jump on 25 October fighting fund sponsorship desperately needed. 10 Rodney Court, Anson Drive Sholing, Soton SO28RU. 423480.

SE LONDON LABOUR MOVEMENT Miners march & rally. 2pm, Sat 8th September, Abbey Wood Station. Rally, 3.30pm, General Gordon Sq., Woolwich. Speakers: Mick McGahey (NUM), Joan Maynard, MP, Frances Curran (LPYS), John Austin-Walker, and others.

BLACKLEY CLP and Manchester Labour Women's Council present: Miners' Benefit. Songs, music and words with: Frankie Armstrong, Roy Bailey, Leon Rosselson. Saturday 8 September, Crumpsall Labour Club, Wilton Road, Crumpsall, 8 pm. £2 waged; £1 unwaged.

BASILDON BARBEQUE Night, Saturday 8 September, 8 pm. Tickets £1. Proceeds to FF. Ring Anne or John 557258.

COUNCIL EXCHANGE wanted from Swansea to London. Phone as above.

"SOCIALIST YOUTH" badges 20p each or 15p each for 10 or more. Available from "Socialist Youth", c/o LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London, SE17 1JT. Cash with orders.

GENERAL STRIKE and THE STATE normal price £1.70 plus post until October: £1.20 (post inclusive) from World Socialist Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

MILITANT sales poster based on Alan Hardman's 'V' cartoon now available from *Militant* circulation department, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN 25p each or 10 for £2 (post included).

WOMEN'S MINING PAMPHLET *Militant Miner*—'Women Fight to Save the Pits'—printed and published by Aylesham Women. 70p (incl p+p) from Robbie Segal, 10 Westbourne Gardens, Folkestone.

"BROMSGROVE Militant supporters send congratulations to Kevin and Julie on the birth of their son, and applaud their practical efforts in building support for Marxism."

BLOC EAST Hants area meeting, "What Now After the TUC", Wednesday 12 September, 7.30pm. Labour rooms, Kingston Crescent, Portsmouth. More details: John McBride Fareham 287 986.

Greetings in Militant—Labour Party Conference and Militant October Rally

We are offering a discount to organisations that advertise in both issues. The rates are as follows: Please tick box.

	ONE ISSUE	TWO ISSUES
Semi-display 3 column centimetres	£6 <input type="checkbox"/>	£10 <input type="checkbox"/>
6 column centimetres	£10 <input type="checkbox"/>	£15 <input type="checkbox"/>
Display one-sixteenth page	£15 <input type="checkbox"/>	£25 <input type="checkbox"/>
One-eighth	£35 <input type="checkbox"/>	£50 <input type="checkbox"/>
One-quarter	£50 <input type="checkbox"/>	£100 <input type="checkbox"/>

Deadline for Labour Party Conference issue 17 September, 1984 and combined adverts. Deadline for 20th Anniversary adverts 8 October, 1984.

Cash with copy. Cheques payable to *Militant*. Return to Circulation Department, *Militant*, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

Don't forget the Building Fund

THE BUILDING Fund is still progressing. Don't allow it to be forgotten in your area. Our total is now £177,637.

It was inevitable that when we met the £175,000 target, the money coming in would fall off to some extent. However, despite this we are still receiving

some excellent donations. Our thanks to Mike Teale, Sunderland, for a massive £250. Mike King, Southampton, £50; Colin O'Callaghan, Central London, £50; Dundee University Militant Supporters, £40; Sean Sweeney, Boston, USA, £25; Ashington LPYS,

£5.
The special letters appealing to trade union and Labour Party branches are now available. Make sure your area has a supply and approach every workplace for a donation.

By Nick Wrack

INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

British Rail con-job: national action needed

AT THE meeting of the Rail Federation on 2 August, NUR and ASLEF agreed to a policy of no-co-operation and work to rule from Monday 10 September with a one-day strike in the London area on Wednesday 12 September.

This was in response to the plans outlined in the British Rail Corporate Plan for substantial cuts in BR jobs, lines and depot closures, and also the intention of the new London Regional Transport Authority (under direct control of the Secretary of State for Transport, Nicholas Ridley) to cut nearly 6,000 jobs by 1986/87 (4,200 on the buses, 850 rail jobs and 650 other staff).

BR under pressure

BR have had a recent meeting with NUR and ASLEF, bending over backwards to try and say that all job reductions will be covered by 'natural wastage', and there are no

substantial line closures. They have said nothing, however, about the closure of Marylebone station and the Settle-Carlisle line closure. They have agreed to substantial new orders for new diesel multiple unit trains to be built at British Rail Engineering (BRE), but this will have no effect on the run-down for example at Glasgow workshops—from 1,800 employees to 700 by 1987.

The reaction of British Rail management must be seen against the background of the miners' fight. In April 1984 BR turned a somersault over the pay negotiations by dropping the need for pay to be linked to

productivity. Clearly this was under pressure from the government.

Time to act

In the present dispute British Rail management have reacted in different ways. On the one hand they have tried to imitate British Leyland by going over the heads of the union, using consultants with leaflets and surveys. All area managers are supposed to consult their staff to explain the dire consequences of industrial action. A lot of time has been spent explaining that the miners' strike is costing British Rail £5 million a week in lost revenue.

On the other hand at the end of July, despite £5 million in lost revenue Ridley announced authorisation of the East Coast line electrification (costing £350 million over seven years), although none of this will involve additional government



British Rail Engineering Limited has suffered thousands of job losses—national action is the only way to save jobs.

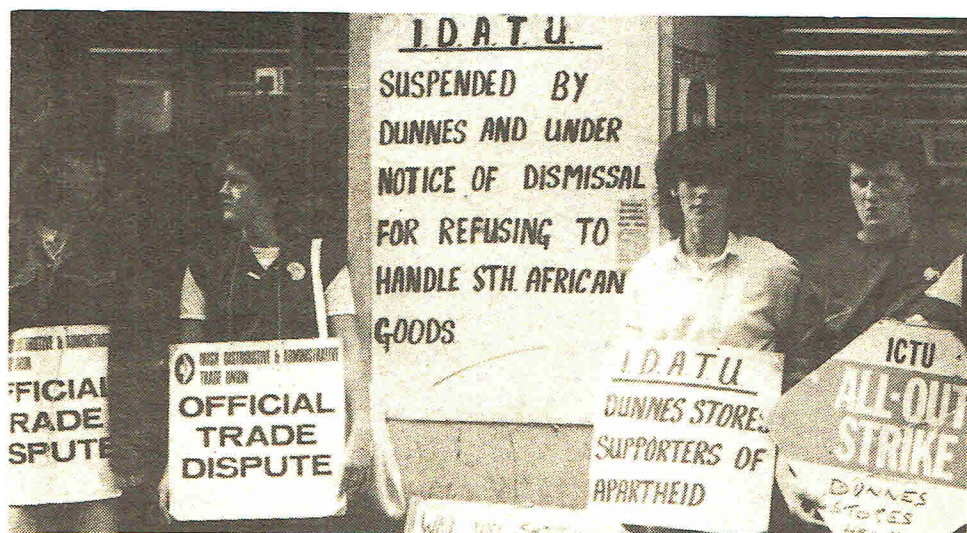
money. This is a scheme the rail unions have been pressing for nearly ten years. It seems strange for the government to agree it in the present climate. Clearly British Rail, under government pressure, are very concerned about the effect of more than one national dispute.

Rail workers must recognise that the fate of the

rail industry is directly linked to the present miners' strike. The honey-words of the British Railways Board will dry-up if the miners are defeated. Much more freight transport will be lost if the miners lose than through strike action by rail workers—who must also ask themselves whether the limited regional one-day

strikes will have any effect. Recent workshop closures show the limits of isolated action.

Now is the time to strike and fight back along with the miners. 12 September must see a national rail strike with a clear call for a 24-hour strike against the Thatcher government by all workers.



Young workers in Dublin strike in support of union South African boycott.

Irish workers show magnificent internationalism

SINCE 19 July thirteen young workers have been on official strike at Dunnes supermarket in Henry Street, Dublin. One of the workers was indefinitely suspended without pay for refusing to handle South African goods. This is the official policy of their union the Irish Distributive and Administrative Trade Union (IDATU).

The company is one of the biggest food retailers in Ireland with a total of sixty-

one shops. They are notorious for their anti-union attitudes and have said that if the workers won't handle South African goods "they can get on their bikes..."

Support needed

Support from the labour movement is good, with many trade unionists refusing to deliver to the store. Four of the workers attended the Labour Youth summer camp where a total of £256 was raised. This in-

cluded a magnificent donation of a medal from Oller-ton miners visiting the camp which raised £100 in a raffle

The workers, faced with harassment from scab drivers are determined to win and are looking for support from the entire labour movement. Their struggle is part and parcel of the international workers' struggle. Messages of support can be sent to: Karen Gearon, shop steward, c/o IDATU, 9 Cavendish Row, Dublin 1, Ireland.

Walls Bacon pay fight

AT WALLS Bacon factory, Hyde, the engineering and maintenance staff are staging wild cat 24 hour stoppages plus a work to rule while on the site. The dispute involves EETPU, AUEW and UCATT. A local Militant supporter spoke to G Chandler, Convenor AUEW about the dispute:

"The dispute's origins go back to 1983, when a working party of union reps went

to discuss plans for new technology with management. Unions demanded more pay because of the new skills involved which the workforce had been on courses to learn. The management wanted engineers to work shifts, which would mean 2½ hours lost overtime.

Management then held up the new agreed technical payment, and the pay rise,

until the unions agreed to this shift working. After this they offered us a basic increase of £5, well below the rises workers in other unions at Walls had received. The unions refused to accept this and then we decided to take action.

The dispute has official union backing. Walls is part of Unilever which last year published profits of over £400 million.

New Jaguar jobs - is privatisation going to work?

NOWADAYS, IT'S headline news when a company announces it needs 530 more workers as Jaguar Cars has just done.

By 9 am on the day of the historic announcement, the company had received 100 phone calls. Queues formed outside the factory. Unemployed workers from Birmingham actually chartered a coach to go after the jobs!

Despite showing an enterprising spirit the Tories should surely admire, all these workers were told they had to apply through Job Centres.

By Tony Cross

With its profits going from £55 million in a year, Jaguar has been plugged to death as a lonely "success story" for British industry. Naturally, the Tories can't stomach seeing its profits going to nationalised BL and so Jaguar has been "privatised".

A small group of private shareholders in BL were clearly not convinced that the sale would benefit the rest of the Corporation, and were none too pleased at their interests being sacrificed to those of their speculating brothers. One of them described the sale as like "sawing off your arm to have a good lunch".

Survival

In their anti-nationalisation propaganda the Tories conveniently forget that Jaguar's survival is only possible because government money kept it going in the past. When it was losing money heavily, two years ago, it received £100m out of BL's budget and only just avoided being closed down. Jaguar workers may have

mixed feelings about splitting from BL. Management have offered a bribe of free shares in the company in an attempt to give the workers the illusion that they have a common interest with their bosses. BL's bureaucratic management has jaded many workers' view of nationalisation. And the lack of a united fight by BL trade unions has created the illusion that workers will get a share of the company's profits more easily "on their own".

Will privatisation provide the security Jaguar management promise the workforce? In reality, the 530 new workers and more could well find themselves back on the dole queue in a year or two. Jaguar's investment is dwarfed by its main competitors, BMW and Mercedes. As part of BL it could use its research and development and bulk order facilities, but now it will have to compete with BMW's £300m per year investment programme with only its own resources.

Jaguar's success is based on sales to the USA, where it is currently selling half its cars. This is partly based on a favourable exchange rate. How long will this last? More importantly, even capitalist economists expect the US economy to slide back into recession within the next eighteen months. When it does, the first sufferer will probably be the luxury car market Jaguar caters for.

Protectionism

Pressure will also grow for protectionist measures against car imports, ironically supported by car trade unions leaders there as they are by many British union leaders. Jaguar sales will slump again and we can be sure that it will be the workers who will pay by ending on the scrapheap.

The Confed unions must campaign now to warn their members to have no confidence in Jaguar's new owners and to prepare them to fight for jobs and conditions. They must back the call of Dave Nellist MP for re-nationalisation with no compensation—but this time under workers' control and management, not that of a Michael Edwardes or an Austin Bides. And they should draw up a plan for a publicly owned motor industry that will guarantee jobs for carworkers and the best use of their skills.

Defend Docks Labour Scheme

Agreement torn up at Hunterston

THE FIGHT against the use of scab labour at Hunterston is like a repeat of the 1979 struggle to have dockers' jobs at the port at all. Hunterston was built to provide a deep water port capable of taking larger tonnage ships up to 350,000 tonnes and broke new ground in terms of tonnage handling ability and stock yard space.

British Steel had promised redundant steel workers that they would have jobs at Hunterston. This was without any regard for the dockers in Glasgow whose job of unloading ore would have been terminated. The dockers offered stubborn resistance to BSC's proposals. When the Queen Mother came up to open the port, there was not an ounce of iron ore anywhere near Hunterston.

The £100 million terminal lay idle for nine months

By Ronnie Stevenson

while dockers tried to have Hunterston recognised as a Scheme port and negotiations over manning took place between the Clyde Port Authority, British Steel Corporation, T&GWU and the ISTC.

1979 victory

During the course of the negotiations BSC threatened to shut down and even permanently close Ravenscraig in order to put pressure on

the dockers. This was against a background of steel closures throughout Britain. Ultimately Len Murray intervened to force a settlement which gave around 20 jobs to dockers, working on board ship, with another 40 or so going to ISTC members who would man the cranes and work in the stock yards.

Following this agreement Tory minister James Prior agreed to Hunterston being included in the Dock Labour Scheme regulations, whilst expressing fears that other non-registered ports would similarly press their case for inclusion. Unfortunately that has not happened.

Since 1979 both steel workers and dockers have

seen jobs disappear. And now the use of scab labour at Hunterston to unload the *Ostia* underlines the need for a determined fight to preserve dockers' jobs and the scheme ports.

Extend scheme

In the current dock strike it is vital that the demand for all ports to be included in the scheme is vigorously campaigned for. The victory at Hunterston in 1979 shows it can be done. Now the time and opportunity to win the support of dockers not in the scheme by giving them something concrete to fight for in the current dispute.

Liverpool—no return to casual labour

LIVERPOOL DOCKS remain solid behind the national strike. Ducker Jim Scully (TGWU) told me: "There was some confusion about when we should start the strike. We worked through our shift on Friday but when news came through, the men on the evening 'twilight' shift walked out."

Liverpool dockers had already voted at the end of the last strike to take action if any non-union labour was used. Once again the strike is solid with all ancillary workers joining the dispute. ACTSS official Len McCluskey explained: "The white collar lads remember the support we had in the past."

Delegations have been despatched to other ports such as Felixstowe, Ipswich and Heysham. Liverpool dockers see it as a clear issue of scab non-union labour. Bitter memories exist of the "bad old days" on the Liverpool docks when the casual labour system existed and men lined up in "pens" for work each day.

Len McCluskey sees the current dispute of a Tory plan to change the whole dock industry: "After we lost the 1976 Dock Regulation Act to extend the Dock Labour Scheme, (due to the votes of Labour renegades John Mackintosh and Brian Walden) anarchy has reigned in the dock industry. We need a national plan, the union must campaign amongst dock workers on this issue."

National plan

Massive investment has been put into the non-scheme ports; however, even ports like Felixstowe have seen work moved to unorganised inland ports. As long as the dock industry is at the mercy of the shipping magnates they will shift trade to where they can make the most profit.

The TGWU nationally must launch a clear campaign for a fully nationalised dock industry under workers control and management. The alternative will be a return to the days of the "pen".

By Richard Knights



Over one-third of the country's trade is affected by the current strike.

Photo: J Sturrock

Round the ports

ing the strike, there was not always a picket line. Once the issues had been explained, even many of those who had been unsure about the reasons for the dispute were convinced.

All this has led to an escalation of rhetoric from Port Director Gordon Scott-Morris. He fumed that "the strike is led by red-hot anarchists, hell-bent on closing the port".

He has shown what he wants if this dispute is defeated. Three weeks ago he backed non-union men who were trying to break the closed union shop of the port's tugboatmen. If dockers lose this dispute, he will feel he has a green light to mount further attacks. (Report by Roger Thomas)

At SOUTHAMPTON only five people have gone through picket lines out of 1,100 dockers.

No freight is coming into the port, and already the dispute is having its effect upon grain shipments. Dockers in Southampton have sent pickets to Poole, Portsmouth and Felixstowe. (Report by Nick Brooks)

At POOLE, to try and avoid the picket line, some dockers have been using Harbour Commissioners boats, or cutting holes in a fence to crawl into work.

At FELIXSTOWE the picket of six Southampton dockers on 4 September had some effect. Although most dockers refused to talk to them, many lorry drivers refused to cross the picket line. At the depot of one firm, only two lorries went in, compared to a normal 32. Some haulage drivers immediately turned back on seeing the picket, as they said it was the policy of

drivers in their firm never to cross a picket line.

Unfortunately that kind of solidarity was not shown by everyone locally. The pickets were told to quit the motel they were staying at, because they had come to picket. But local LPYS and Militant supporters stepped in and offered accommodation. (By Felixstowe Militant supporter)

In WALES all the major ports were out. Cardiff, Newport, Swansea and Port Talbot. And in North Wales, Mostyn Dock became the first unregistered port to join the strike after it was picketed by Liverpool dockers.

In SCOTLAND too there has been no attempt to mount a back to work movement.

At LEITH you can see all the boats lying offshore unable to come in. Here the port employers in the port area are so scared of the power of the dockers they even talk about 'our dockers'. (Report by Gordon McKinley).

Grimsby

THE DECISION by Grimsby and Immingham dockers to return to work was a blow against the union and the Docks Labour Scheme. But not all Grimsby dockers have ignored the strike call. Below we print two articles on Grimsby.

First a striking docker explains the background to last week's decision. And below that an article shows the employers will utilise any cracks in solidarity to make further attacks on the scheme.

Strikers back union

"THE WORKFORCE on the docks has been split for a long time, between the terminal workers and general dock labourers. The terminal workers take home about £300-400 per week, whereas the rest can earn as little as £60. We've got two classes of dockers in Grimsby and Immingham.

Although they were directly concerned, the terminal workers didn't ever want to support last month's strike. They were ready to load British Steel's lorries but were outvoted by the general labourers. They feel they have too much to lose through striking.

This time, most dockers followed the terminal workers' back-to-work movement. They turned out in force at last Sunday's meeting and had built up too much support for the following meeting.

Positive leadership needed

But more positive leadership at shop steward level could have seen a different decision. They haven't been going amongst the men campaigning for action. Some even worked the weekend after the recall delegate conference, including delegates to the conference who voted for strike action!

The national leadership seem to be uncertain and nervous. They don't seem to know what to do now it's not a 'glory' strike. Really

we should have stayed out last time until everything was resolved, particularly a government reassurance on the Scheme. The mood amongst the dockers was determined then, especially when Thatcher threatened to bring in the troops.

Grimsby's future as a port is shaky. It will further split the dockers and play into the bosses hands. I think the Tories want to centralise the industry into five big ports and close all the others. But a more blatant attack on the Scheme may then unite the workforce.

Nothing to lose

We also need stronger leadership in this area to take a firmer line. We need younger dockers prepared to take leading positions in the union.

I'm out on strike until it is officially called off. Under no circumstances will I return to work, even if I was offered £1 million. During the last strike I had to give up my bungalow because I couldn't afford the mortgage so I've nothing left to lose.

The only way the miners can win is with full support from other unions. The NUM is the strong link in the chain, and if they lose, it will severely weaken us all. When the Tories come for us, all dockers will then understand what the miners have gone through."

Interview with striking Grimsby docker by Mike Forster

Employers break Scheme

GRIMSBY FISH dock porters were in an understandably angry mood when they decided to continue the strike despite Grimsby dockers' decision to return. They told Militant they fully supported the national strike and were united to defend the Dock Labour Scheme.

Scabs have been unloading fish every night since the strike began. Regardless of the situation at Hunterston, the Scheme is being broken every day in Grimsby by local employers.

The fish porters have not allowed themselves to be split by the lure of

higher wages for big landings—they have a fairer system of work allocation so they all come out with roughly the same money. Sixty porters have just been made redundant, but the men are more determined to stick to their guns.

Give support

They want trade unionists everywhere to know that some of the Grimsby dock workers at least are loyal to the union, and they are contacting dockers all round the country to explain their case.

By Mike Forster

Militant

More on dockers' strike
—page 15
Economics of the
coal strike—pages 6 & 7

Defend union —spread the dock strike

THE DOCK strike is at a crucial stage. It is beginning to bite hard as almost all the major registered ports are solidly in support of the union. Over two-thirds of the country's registered dockers are out on strike.

All the Dock Labour Scheme ports in Scotland are out. In England no dock work is being done at Hull, Tilbury, Southampton, Bristol and Liverpool. And it is the same at Newport, Cardiff and Swansea in Wales.

The power of the dockers is shown by the fall of the pound on 5 September to \$1.2835—its lowest ever level. Dealers in financial markets blamed the fall upon the dock strike and the strength of the dollar, even ahead of the current impact of the coal dispute. The most immediate impact of the dispute will be upon grain supplies, as all the deep water grain terminals are on strike.

Unfortunately however there is some confusion amongst some dockers about what this strike is about. This has enabled the media to intervene and try to break the strike. It is essential that our leadership clearly explains that this dispute is first and foremost a defence of the Docks Labour Scheme.

Scab labour

At Hunterston the employers totally ignored their agreements with dockers, who are part of the Docks Labour Scheme. Then they introduced scab labour.

If the employers succeed at Hunterston, then it will give the green light to others throughout the country. It took a nine-month battle to get Hunterston into the scheme (see page 15). Now that is at risk.

By Paul Spooner
(Hull Docks District Committee and Secretary TGWU 10/105 Branch in personal capacity)

The employers have never liked the Docks Labour Scheme. John Connolly, our national docks officer, has revealed that the government has plans to alter the scheme. So if we lose this strike, we've got a hell of a battle on our hands.

Step up picketing

This dispute was deliberately provoked by the employers to try and break the power of the dockers. If we explain the issues properly to dockers they will not fall for the media's attempt to break our union.

In Hull we have had a direct experience of this. About a hundred dockers (BBC TV, lunchtime, 3 September tried to claim 800) attended a back-to-work meeting. One lorry-driver, who came up to the picket line said he'd heard that Hull was back to work!

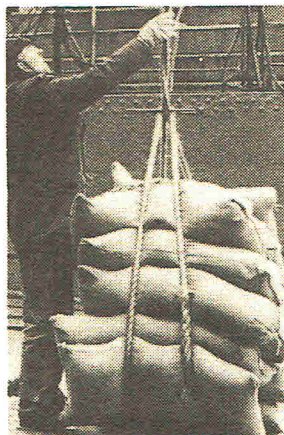
The development was serious, as it had never happened before. But immediately, some of us who knew about the meeting helped organise a response.

Even people who had not been active during the dispute, came out on the picket line. They knew they had to defend the union. It is a basic issue of solidarity. On the picket line we explained to those who wanted to return to work—would you allow scab labour?, would you allow ships to

work without dockers? On the Monday afternoon fewer than forty went through the picket lines. But the crucial time was Tuesday morning. Some people thought they could do what happened to the miners in Nottingham.

60 police turned up, expecting to help make a decisive break in the union. But fewer than twenty went through the lines.

And once inside they could do no work. Crane drivers refused to work with them. Seamen said that if any cargo was switched to the ferries they would bring their people out. Half way through the morning sheepishly they came out of the gate. On Wednesday morning only half a dozen went in, telling one picket that they were going to hold a meeting to consider the situation; as the picket replied: "first time I've heard of a mass meeting in a telephone box".



A total docks strike would have immediate effect.

The victory at Hull shows that the back to work propaganda can be beaten. It has also sharpened dockers' awareness of what the struggle is about. As a result of our battle at Hull this week, a dozen dockers at nearby



Mass picket at Tilbury docks after the strike vote 31 August. Photo: Martin Shakeshaft (IFL)

Goole joined the strike on Tuesday.

The best way to ensure the success of this strike, and cut across attempts at 'back to work' moves, is for other ports to join the strike in defence of the union. As a first step there must be properly organised picketing. Dockers from ports where the strike is solid should send pickets to other ports.

In the past when there has been a strike, this has not proved necessary. Now however it is essential that the issues are properly explained. Once registered dockers understand the threat to the union and the Docks Labour Scheme they will back the strike. Regular, mass meetings should be held. At present some dockers have fallen for the employers' lie that the strike is crumbling.

No alteration

But we must also win the support of dockers not currently in the Scheme. This dispute highlights the need to get other ports into the Docks Labour Scheme. So far dockers at the unregistered ports have not seen how the dispute affects them.

The union leadership seems to be concentrating its energies on fixing up a deal with British Steel. But the breaking of the July agreement shows how worthless such promises from the employers are.

Instead we should step up the strike. Organise proper picketing. Bring all ports and dock workers into the Scheme. And get written guarantees from the employers and government that there will be no alteration of the Scheme.

Extend scheme

"DOCKERS ARE being led astray if they do not realise that their livelihood is at stake. What the Ostia dispute means is that employers reserve the right to use unregistered labour when registered labour is in dispute.

"This cannot be allowed to happen. There should be a national docks strike to establish this principle.

"The non-scheme ports

could be won over if the demand for the extension of the scheme was raised. We should have gone for it in the last strike. We had the employers on the run.

We should go for the lot. Get all dockers the protection of the scheme."

By Bobby Collins
(TGWU, Glasgow Docks, personal capacity)

South Africa revolt grows

ON THE day South Africa's new constitution came into force, black townships near Johannesburg experienced their most serious outbreak of unrest since the 1976 Soweto revolt. In the last week over 30 people have been killed and hundreds more injured.

Over the weekend unrest spread to the township of Sharpeville, where 24 years ago 69 peaceful demonstrators were shot dead. This and the subsequent years of repression have made the struggle against apartheid rule more bitter and determined.

The mass protests have arisen over rent and public transport increases, discrimination in schools and the recent phony elections. The unrest has concentrated in the Vaal industrial

triangle in the Transvaal, but there have also been outbreaks in the Orange Free State. And like Soweto in 1976, it could spread.

New constitution

The new constitution was specifically devised to make the South African military-police machine more efficient and able to respond to the growing revolt from below. And as unrest spread Botha became the country's first Executive President with widespread powers to rule in conjunction with the military.

(For background to South Africa's new constitution and boycott of elections see page 11).

By Jim Chrystie



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