

BLACK FLAG

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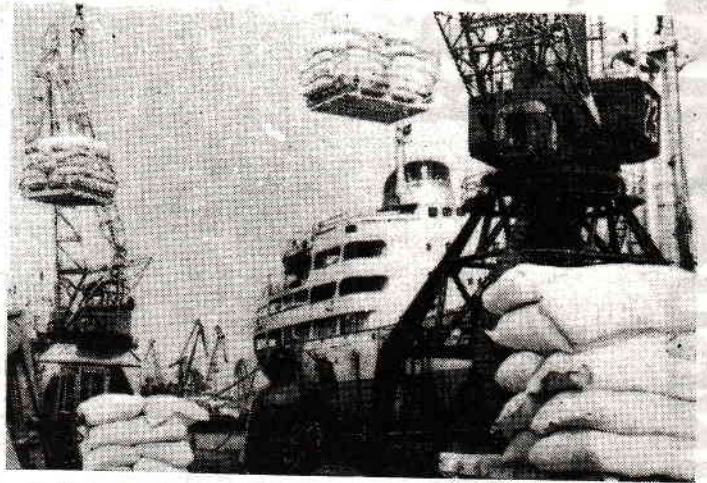
Dock Strike

EMERGENCY POWERS THREAT

The use of non-union dock labour to unload iron-ore at Immingham to be transported to Scunthorpe Steel Works (across miners pickets) provided an excuse for the transport union, the TGWU, to call out the dock workers. The 13,000 registered dock workers have, of course, a legitimate grievance of their own: the misuse of the Docks Labour Scheme, set up originally in 1947 as a compromise deal by the then Labour government to quickly end industrial action (something that bringing in the troops had clearly failed to do). The Docks Labour Scheme allows for union solidarity and ensures that certain main ports are only worked by union labour. However, since its inception, the scheme has been misused by management and contraventions have been rife. The strike, to all intents and purposes, should have taken place long ago. Still, for the miners sake (and for the trade union movement as a whole) the timing could not have been better.

As we go to press, the strike is solid in all the main scheme ports. The TGWU, however, want to bring more pressure to bear by bringing out oil terminal staff and TGWU tanker drivers. The NUS (National Union of Seafarers) has already implemented a ban on the movement of coal imports on British registered ships and they too will extend their secondary action by placing a ban on lorry freight on the Sealink ferries, as part of their own dispute on privatisation.

If the National Association of Port Employers want a quick end to the dockers action, without putting an end to scabbing in the non-scheme ports, then they can try to come to a quick agreement with the TGWU over those 76 ports that are covered. Such an agreement will not help the miners. Altogether there are an additional 21,000 TGWU members employed in ports not cover-



ed by the scheme. It is in the interest, therefore, for the TGWU to widen the dispute by demanding that the scheme be extended to include these workers. In the meantime it is up to everyone who wants to see a victory for the miners to concentrate support actions on to the non-unionised ports to prevent not only the scab imports of coal and iron ore, but also oil.

URGENT

Comrades lives at risk

Two comrades, Guiseppe Ruzza and Delfina Stefanuto, who have both been imprisoned for the past nine months or so, are very ill - Guiseppe is aged 60 and suffers from blackouts, Delfina is aged 53 and has problems with her kidneys. Both have been sent for trial on various charges connected with alleged involvement with Primea Linea. Guiseppe and Delfina deny the charges. They accuse the state of trying to get rid of them permanently. Guiseppe and Delfina are anarchists who have been active in prisoner support work for years; they are both editors of the counter-information bulletin, L' Agitatore.

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EDITORIAL

The facade of the liberal-democratic state is partly based upon the erroneous belief that troops, like the police, are never 'political' but are more of an 'essential service' in protection of 'democratic rights'. So far, in Britain, the gamble of troop deployment for strikebreaking has nearly always paid off in the state's favour.

The government's decision to use troops - the last bastion of a state under seige - to break the current dockers strike, should the dispute not end soon, can be seen as a definite sign of weakness. If emergency powers are resorted to the government will try, at first, to use the 'errands of mercy' ploy, so as to try and gear up public support on their side.

But the government will be walking a tightrope and will wish to avoid at all costs the sight of troops and strikers actually clashing on picket lines preferring, instead, the riot police to function as the main repressive arm. If the cops are, however, unable to successfully cocoon the troops from direct confrontation with pickets and if troops end up having to fight back and defend themselves, then the government's strikebreaking strategy will be seen to have failed and this in turn would act as an encouragement for wider union solidarity, culminating, we hope, in a general strike.

PRINTWORKERS GIVE SUPPORT

The day of protest in London on June 29th in support of the miners drew such a big crowd to Tower Hill to march through the Fleet Street area, that any count would be wrong. So far as the eye could see and stretch the City was jammed pack tight with marchers. (The City was stopped this time; this is when the "Stop The City" tactics would have been effective - preventing the philistine sneer of "Day of Inaction" for how they would have screamed at a day of positive action!)

Railway workers, NALGO, miners, printers packed the march. Needless to say every variety of "vanguard party" was there putting in their five cents worth of support for a bucket full of notes to "aid the miners" (it never

INDUSTRIAL

London HOSPITAL OCCUPIED

South London Womens Hospital, run by and for women, is due to close on the 27th July. It was occupied on the 29th June by the SLWH Action Group, with support from the hospital staff, who want to make a final attempt to persuade the government to keep the hospital open.

For the last 18 months, staff and the SLWHAG have been campaigning against the closure, part of the Tory government's 'cost-cutting' campaign. It is said that £5 million will be saved by closing SLWH and sending patients to St Georges and St Leonards hospitals.

The 'cost' to the community will be reflected in the lower standards of health care. Pregnant women can't hold on. Waiting lists that already exist at these other hospitals will worsen, women with gynaecological problems (eg breast cancer, urine infections) will face major surgery rather than quick, less complicated operations.

Independant cost analysis shows that a lot less than £5million will be saved. Jobs will be lost. The local community is entitled to the service provided by the hospital.

The occupation took place when the first steps were being taken to wind down, and the staff decided to support the action by the community group. Standard squatters occupancy notices were put up, along with NUPE banners and placards. the occupiers have organised picket rosters and there are photos of people not allowed entrance (District Health Authority bureaucrats and others). Volunteers have come to help.

Other steps being taken are continuing discussion with the hospital Board/Health Dept. ; getting GPs to refer women to the hospital; legal advice regarding the position of doctors who might be interested in using SLWH as a cottage hospital (bypassing consultants). The main obstacle is that consultants are not admitting new patients. These same people are disregarding the best interests of their present patients during the dispute. Picketers faced with the removal of women cannot intercede effectively because

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MINERS UPDATE

BURNLEY

At Orgreave a local haulage firm was attacked by pickets. Apart from being involved in strikebreaking activities the firm also allowed a police film unit to use its premises as a base. Pickets dragged out vehicles from the premises and then used them for barricades.

In Doncaster around 1000 strikers and supporters lay siege to the NCB Area HQ and forced management staff to seek shelter in the police station.

At Rossington, near Doncaster, police were held at bay and outnumbered by around 300 pickets, while another 50 attacked the main NCB buildings, setting barricades on fire and forcing management to hide inside.

At Selby 10 cops and 3 pickets were hurt and 2 vans overturned in an attempt to stop scab construction workers, who are putting the final touches to the new complex, from crossing the picket line. Later pickets also succeeded in blocking off the main toll bridge into the town, stopping all traffic. A van carrying construction workers was attacked and overturned with the occupants still inside.

Harassment

In the village of Fitzwilliam riot police terrorized the local community in search of a striking miner who was wanted on 'suspicion' (a non-existent charge). Locals came out in support and around 200 surrounded the nearby Hemsworth police station demanding to know why the miner, Brendan Conway, was being harassed. They later dispersed when an Inspector assured them that Brendan would not be arrested if he agreed to vol-

Julie Pinder, a 19 year old pregnant woman and the wife of an Agecroft miner on strike, was told by a social worker in Burnley that a diet of potatoe peelings contained as much vitamins and proteins as fruit. She was told this by a member of staff at Burnley's Edith Watson Maternity Unit after asking if she could claim extra benefit for a special diet. She had read that pregnant women had to have a diet including fruit, meat, fresh vegetables etc. in a leaflet at the hospital. She and her husband receive a total of £8 a week from the DHSS, as the State claims that the husband gets £15 strike pay from the NUM. In fact, they receive nothing!

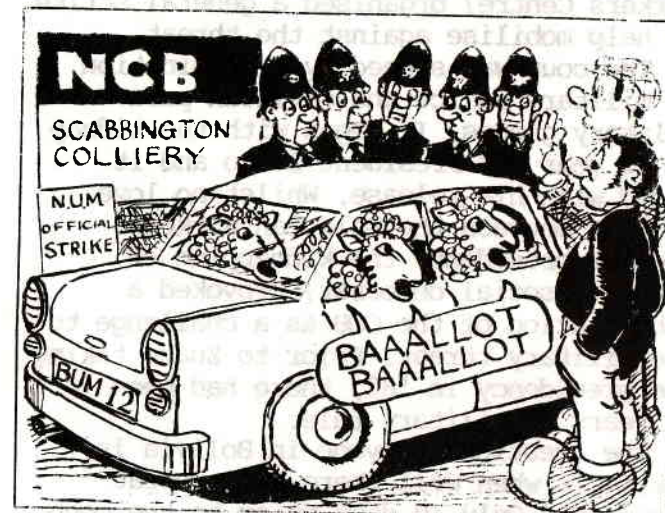
There can be little doubt that instructions have been given to DHSS offices throughout Britain telling members of staff to rigidly apply the regulations in the case of miners on strike and their families. All this in the hope that they will be forced to return to work.

Now the couple are facing a further cut in their benefit if they decide to

accept offers of gifts by people who read their story in the local newspaper.

As an answer to this type of cruel treatment, a Claimants Union has been formed in the area involving members of DAM-IWA. The Union is open to both the employed and unemployed people and recently held a picket outside the DHSS Offices in Burnley. Something that went down well with everybody except the DHSS!

SOURCE: Burnley DAM



FEEDBACK

SOUTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION

Bristol @s are co-ordinating plans to set up a SW Fed. to bring @ groups and individuals together for co-ordinated actions help share information, resources and ideas. Plymouth have already come out, will you? Write to: Bristol @s, Box 010, 110 Cheltenham Rd. Bristol.

LUIS PALAU DISRUPTION

On Tuesday 24 July twelve people arrested for the disruption of the Luis Palau evangelical festival at QPR

Dear Black Flag,

I've just received the Quarterly and on the same day I got the new Open Road from Canada. They have a good idea about subs. You send two hours wages per year. It sounds too cheap to me. Why don't you try something like it?

If most "wage workers" who read Black Flag sent one hours pay a month your deficit would shrink. All wage-workers get payed through banks and all they have to do is a standing order. I'll begin it starting on July 2nd. Anybody else?