

# BLACK FLAG

ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY

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## HELP NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER

On March 6 we see the anniversary of the Miners Strike. Twelve months of hardship for the mining communities: sometimes having to fight alone, sometimes getting support none would have imagined possible.

As in 1926 the TUC has failed to provide the sort of physical support that was needed to ensure a victory. Many trade unionists have done what they can. The rail workers and the dockers and seamen in particular. And the Support Groups have organised on a scale unprecedented, with the women at the forefront of the struggle from the very beginning.

There has been much said about the significance of the strike and how the government is not only determined to smash the NUM but trade unionism also. But the calls for mass solidarity action have gone unheeded. There has been no mass strike action, apart from selective and token action in a couple of





industries, or the odd, partially heeded, 'day of action' in certain regions.

The tendency to scab is a cancer that appears to be spreading in the wake of the many who refused to give solidarity. This now leaves the way for two classes of working people: those who are for justice and those who are pleased to appease the State at all costs. As for those who sit on the fence, those who talk but don't do: they have sold out and are to be as despised as much as those blacklegs who took management money, accepted government advice and helped create the laws for the entrapment of their sisters and brothers.

But, as it becomes more and more obvious how much the government is prepared to go to achieve total defeat on the miners, it is equally obvious that there is no such thing as too late. One week of all-out strike action or a longer period of selective action in key plants from the power workers could bring this strike to an honourable end. Indefinite action by workers in other key industries (eg, rail, the docks, etc), would have the same affect. IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO CHANGE TACK AND TO SECURE A VICTORY. Nor is it too late for those who have fallen to scabbing to act with honour and join their erstwhile comrades on the picket lines.

The consequences of this strike will be faced for years: not content with a victory at the Falklands, not content with changing the face of trade unionism, not content with securing nuclear fortresses in the wake of a planned Military State, not content in creating a vast sub-class of wageless and lower waged, this government seeks the breakup of communities and to impose the strict obedience to central authority.

This need not be so. We have the power to stop it. We have the power

to send all these megalomaniacs packing. We've the power to curb the trend to greater poverty and injustice. We have the power through our collective action. And when we use that power, those who only know how to exploit and how to create suffering - these mandarins of Business and State - will tremble and capitulate, providing our will and our determination is sufficient.

It is never too late to act in the interest of justice. The miners need our physical support now - they need not words but industrial action. Not one day strikes, but indefinite strikes. Not just money and food, but action that could have ended this strike 11 months ago.

But if such industrial support is still not forthcoming then it will be up to those of us at rank and file level, those of us who are part of the wageless 'sub-class', and those of us who have stood by the miners from the moment the strike began, to join together on March 6 to make certain this government knows the extent and depth of anger our class feels. Whatever else happens we should make March 6 a day that will truly commemorate the strike. March 6 should be a Day of Direct Action, throughout the country. And in London, where a mass march is planned to head for Whitehall - where the strike began in its embryo - nothing less than major disruption and a blockade of parliament



ILP DRAWING FROM 1926.

itself - reminiscent of the near-storming of the House of Commons that took place last summer - will be good enough. N.B. February 24 is also a day when many miners and support groups from around the country are planning to converge on the capital. Whether this day or the anniversary itself proves to be a day for massive retaliation remains to be seen.

## Angry Words

"We decided to plant the explosives on the electricity pylon north of Maltby in order to damage the pylon, disrupt the Supergrid link from the Midlands to the North East, and to show that the system is vulnerable.

We see the state employing here the techniques of repression developed and practised against the people of Ireland. But we too have learnt lessons from the Irish struggle.

As we move towards open CLASS WAR, you will not find us unprepared!

VICTORY TO THE HIT SQUADS. Teeside, Humberside, join the ANGRY SIDE.

ANGRY BRIGADES  
RESISTANCE MOVEMENT  
IRSM."

*(The above communique may be genuine or a hoax. For obvious reasons we destroyed the original letter and envelope.)*



## Power Plants Short

Drastic measures were clearly necessary when the decision was made to commence the coal convoys to move massive supplies out of the largely strike-bound Silverwood and Thurcroft pits in South Yorkshire to supplant the dwindling coal stocks at the Trent Valley power stations in Nottinghamshire. The cold weather and the strike must at last be having an effect, biting into the government's contingency arrangements.

The convoy operation took place at dawn and in total secrecy. It is unclear - given the obvious requirement for secrecy - whether those driving the trucks were plain old scabs or police/army personnel.

Nevertheless word got around quick enough and over 200 gathered to picket. The police, of course, were out in large numbers to ensure that the trucks got their safe passage. The destination of the trucks was Cottam Power Station. Neither Silverwood or Thurcroft have enough scabs to produce coal - but stocks are being moved across picket lines, and the CEBG have indicated that further regular movements from these pits and other pits in South Yorkshire are likely over the next few weeks.

The next power stations in line to receive scab coal are: Drax A, Eggborough and Ferrybridge C, all in the Aire Valley near to the Selby Coalfield. All three stations are currently down to their minimum.

In the meantime it has been reported that the Grid is under strain and that the switch-over to oil/nuclear power in compensation for the low coal stocks, is at its maximum.

The NUM may well be outlawed from organising mass picketing at certain pits, but the law is there to be broken or, at least, circumscribed: mass picket-

## Lorries Stopped

There was a mass picket of Tilbury Power Station, with about 1,500 people, while later in the day, the NCB, Price Waterhouse and DHSS buildings were picketed and heckled.

The evening before, after leafletting Fleet St. workers, with little response, 30 people, including East London DAM members, picketed Kings Cross Station. A good number of lorries pulled up, as well as taxi drivers. 2 people were arrested for obstruction, when police realised the action was effective. Then a SOGAT official turned up, and told the drivers the picket wasn't official, after which some of them started going in.

## Occupation

A group of people occupied the FNV (Dutch TUC) headquarters and took over the office of the FNV President. The occupation was carried out in support of the British miners. Those who took part made it clear that they wouldn't leave until a boycott on coal exports to Britain was installed. Some miners from Silverdale and Royston were there and supported the co-occupation.

The FNV President, by the name of Kok, then called the police and a total of 61 arrests were made, although as a matter of tactics the miners were allowed to escape. All those who were arrested refused to give names, although they were all forcibly fingerprinted and photographed.

## Minors Join Miners

On the same day a mass protest is planned in London to commemorate the anniversary of the Miners Strike, a nationwide protest is being organised by the young in protest at schooling.

The day has been designated national

## Carrington

'Arrived at Bold Miners' Welfare with five other anarchist comrades to be told our destination. The convenor adds that 2 Bold pickets have just been jailed at Bolton Court the previous Friday and urges that we keep it peaceful.

A red dawn over the refineries as we finally reach the power station. A small access road, 50 of them and 500 of us mean our prospects look good. Three coal wagons go through the restless jeers. Some of us move across the road nearer the gate.

The next scab wagon appears. Suddenly we move into the road. Many on the 'official' side stand staring at us. The cops move in, the lorry halts quickly, surrounded by the police. No chance to unload from the tailgate. Half an hour of pushing follows, the police up against the wagon's front crushed by our force. One or two smashed faces on our side, one cop down and out on the floor. The North West TUC hack, megaphone in hand, pleads angrily with us to get off the road. "Fuck the officials!" comes the reply.

Someone climbs on to the wagon's step announcing victory. Cheers greet its departure as we take the gates, now closed. Three-quarter of an hour and eight wagons later we leave the sullen cops to themselves just as the dog vans arrive.'

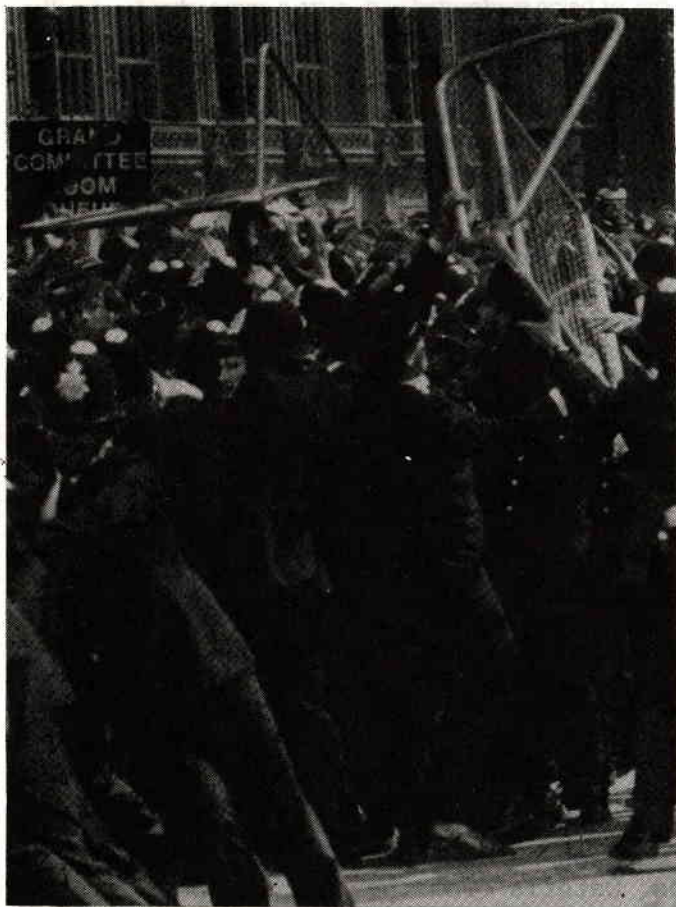
## Boycott

A correspondent has sent us news about a ban by the Public Service Union on government revenue collection as a result of a pay claim dismissal by the industrial courts. The claim was rejected using the joint government/employers/unions Prices and Income Accord.



organising mass picketing at certain pits, but the law is there to be broken or, at least, circumscribed: mass picketing can be (and is) organised through the rank and file membership and through the support network - a much more difficult set-up for the law to nail down. If the government is allowed to get away with criminalising mass picketing (and demonstrations) they will get away with anything.

N.B. Many miners are now ignoring the Court ruling limiting numbers of pickets. At three of the pits named in the ban - Maltby, Rossington and Dinnington - police reinforcements were called in to deal with excess numbers.



SIEGE OF HOUSE OF COMMONS, SUMMER '84  
- see front page story.

by the young in protest at schooling.

The day has been designated national 'Fuck School Day'. Apparently leaflets publicising the protest have been circulating schools around the country. Some participants have suggested that as a result of this initial publicity some schools have already faced retribution in the form of disruptions, arson attacks, etc and that teachers have been instructed to work out means of combatting the rise in tension.

A campaign leaflet refers to the Miners anniversary protest: 'If the strike is still on there will be mass pickets and it would be good if some of the filth normally on picket lines were diverted to urban areas to police the large scale disruptions and hopefully disturbances that we desire.'

The leaflet goes on to say, 'we want to encourage boycotts, occupations, and other mass actions. The ideas contained in the various 'Wreckers Guides' are a good base' and 'It may be possible for some pupils to boycott lessons in the mining communities as an outright show of support for the strikers...'

## Head Hunting

Unreported in the British press the head of Margaret Thatcher was stolen. Unfortunately it turned out to be the wax version, taken from Madame Tussauds. But the story didn't end there. The head then appeared in Amsterdam, outside the British Consulate.

On January 10 the Consulate received a phone call claiming there was a bomb outside the building. Sure enough a bomb-shaped object was placed outside, except on closer examination it turned out to be the said head, mutilated with bullet holes and tomato ketchup. Attached to it was a message, 'If Thatcher doesn't do a u-turn about the miners, this is going to happen to her'.

rejected using the joint government/employers/unions Prices and Income Accord.

The campaign to sabotage revenue is taking place mainly in public service sectors in Taxation, Customs, Posts and Telecom, involving employees in every main town and city. The tactic is not to collect payments, only to give them out. This means that adverse tax demands are withheld, customs collections are held in abeyance and Postal and Telecom accounts are retained. The estimated cost of the campaign to the government (the employers) is around \$1m a day.

## Hospital Eviction

South London Womens Hospital, in Clapham, which has been occupied since July 1984, is due to be evicted on or around 15th March. On that day the Outpatients Dept. which has been running throughout the dispute, will be closed, and the District Health Authority will try to use this as an opportunity to take action against the women in occupation. On 21st February, a meeting was held, supported by the striking Barking Hospital cleaners, Thornton View Hospital Occupation (Bradford) Elizabeth Anderson Hospital, Brunfield Womens Hospital (Edinburgh) Radical Midwives and NUPE. All groups and individuals are urged to visit the hospital, help picketing, put your name on the contact list. The Hospital is opposite Clapham South Tube, and has disabled access.