

# BLACK FLAG

ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY

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## VICTIMISATION, DISMISSALS

800 KENT PIT JOBS TO GO    NACODS DEMANDS REVIEW PROCEDURE    LEVY BALLOT SABOTAGED

Up and down the country the NCB is doing its utmost to smash the overtime ban. The introduction of new working practices is already being attempted by management in some pits. Management insist that where pits need weekend maintenance or recovery work, then this has to be undertaken during overtime otherwise normal shifts will be jeopardised. In effect this means that unless the ban is broken a lockout will be imposed as a form of punishment until the new practices are taken on board.

### NEW REGIME

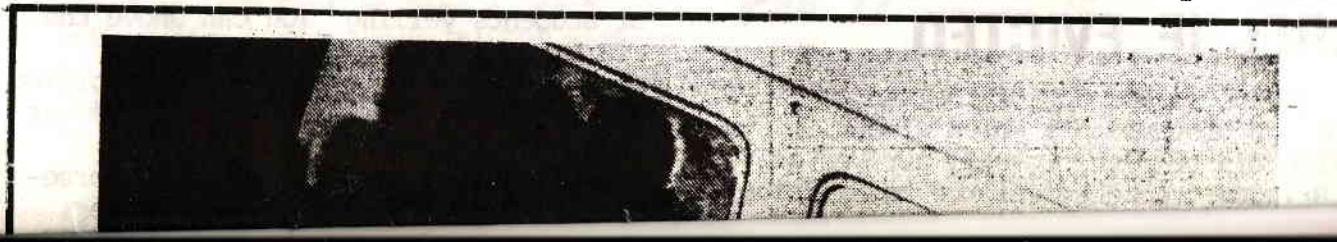
Orders from NCB management (if not the Government) are clearly to instill a regime of discipline into the pits as soon as possible in preparation for the planned closures. Miners have been sent home without pay for trivial reasons and others have been sacked for merely registering their protest at management refusal to go along with traditional

According to one report there have already been cases of miners being fined £50 for breaches of the peace, getting dismissed, and losing redundancy rights. Effectually this means the picket has been punished three times: fined in court, sacked from work (and losing the tied house in some cases too) and finally losing £30,000 redundancy money in the process.

### LOCKOUTS

At Betws (S Wales) management enforced a lockout on 250 miners because they refused to break the overtime ban. As a result more than 700 miners at the

pit came out on strike in protest. Similarly at Markham Main (S Yorkshire) one of the most militant of pits and one of the last to go back. Here management lost no time in trying to introduce new working practices. This led to 1700 walking out. In Lancashire 1,800 miners were sent home from several pits - again because 'essential weekend maintenance work' had not been done. Each time a lockout takes place the management succeed in punishing the workforce by lowering the weeks wage. This means that the NCB is saying, if you want to earn normal wages and work a normal week, you've got to get the pit back to scratch by doing compulsory overtime



Yorkshire - 16 miners have been sacked since the return back simply because of an argument in a locker room involving the verbal abuse of scabs. This sort of action mirrors the sentiments expressed by South Yorkshire Area NCB director, George Hayes, when he issued a statement saying that any form of verbal abuse against strikebreakers would end in automatic dismissal.

## NO DOLE

Sacked miners are being prevented in some parts of the country from claiming dole or any form of social security. The DHSS has made it clear that it regards any sacked miner who is still fighting dismissal as still being in dispute with the NCB. Also those miners who have been sacked pending a court hearing (which could take months to come about) are also cut off from getting Benefit in that the DHSS argues that the miner still has a chance of reinstatement.

By their own rules the DHSS has to pay out money in all these cases. Instead the excuses they have come up with are lame and can be challenged. We all know, however, how long it takes to challenge a DHSS decision. Basically the DHSS is just messing the sacked miners about in an attempt to persuade some of them not to continue fighting for reinstatement. It's also yet another form of punishment and state retribution.

## BIG LOSSES

Any miner dismissed - even if they have been acquitted in court - loses all chance of claiming redundancy money, normally theirs by right. In some cases this can mean losing up to £30,000 merely for standing on a picket line!



# SIEGE MAN 'NOT SUICIDE'

We have heard from an eye witness that James Braigie, the man at the centre of the W London siege drama and who was reported to have committed suicide when armed police stormed the van he was holed up in, was in fact murdered and an elaborate cover-up has taken place.

Braigie, a 34 year old Scot who had escaped from prison and who had previously worked as building labourer for 18 years, had been kept under siege for 36 hours surrounded by up to 120 police, many from the specialist firearms group, D11. They were led by Superintendent

David Vones (of Iranian and Libyan Embassies fame).

Within hours of Braigie's death an anonymous caller phoned Black Flag claiming that the police had in fact used a heat-seeking device to pin-point where Braigie was in the van, and then shot two Ferret CS gas cannisters into the vehicle through the rear windscreen, one of which (according to our witness) hit him in the head, killing him outright as it exploded in his face. This then left the press to portray the wound as a shotgun wound, fired from Braigie's own sawn-off gun.



## GLASGOW RIOT

On Thursday 21st March, 6000 High School students held a half-day strike and rallied in the centre of Glasgow. The protest 'organisers' (Young Socialists) were nowhere to be seen, except for one sighting of a tired steward running behind a group of students.

There were too many of the protesters to fit into the City Hall, where they were supposed to meet, so it wasn't long before the main square was full of students yelling 'You can shove the YTS up your arse', 'Burn Maggie Thatcher', 'Here we go', etc and holding placards with the words 'Dole is better than slavery'.

Police soon moved in. Some on horseback, as school exercise books were ripped into pieces by the students and thrown into the air. One student commented, 'We're probably going to get expelled tomorrow anyway, so who cares?'.

As the crowds tried to leave the square the police drove vans at them to try and force everyone on to the pavement. One group then took a detour through the railway station, while hundreds more charged down Glasgow's main shopping street. Afternoon shoppers watched in amazement as laughing, yelling kids ran along the streets, easily avoiding angry cops on horseback, who tried to control the crowds by backing their horses into them. Large groups then began to spread throughout the centre of the city. But one group had a specific target in mind: they headed for a school in a nearby estate and proceeded to smash its windows, much to the shock of the headmaster and staff, who simply stared from within.

18 students were detained.

## BUNKER RANSACKED

On Wednesday March 13 a group of anarchist/anti-militarists broke into and ransacked the Royal Observer Corp nuclear war monitoring bunker near Darton (grid reference E319 122) in response to the then planned UK Early Warning Monitoring Organisation exercise.

In side they found a single room all kitted out with rations, etc. They then expropriated documents, diaries and maps and ransacked the place before leaving.

*(The above is a precis of a Press Statement sent to us; a photo accompanying the statement is reproduced above).*

### POLICE THEFT

Reported in the last issue was the case of two anti-school propagandists who, after seen giving out leaflets outside a school at Shipley, Yorkshire, were arrested and had their home ransacked and emptied by police. This time it was not the usual address lists, but nearly everything they owned.

Items taken included typing and printing equipment, clothes and even a sleeping bag. A hearing is meanwhile due for March 25; latest news is that the police are considering going for 'conspiracy to corrupt'.

## Q & A ON ANARCHISM

*Q. If an anarchist society were to be established in one part of the world, how would it defend itself against foreign aggression?*

A. Everyone has a natural right to use arms in self-defence, whether it be in an anarchist society or any other, though a smaller and less militaristic community doesn't have an equal chance against a major aggressive State. The anarchist society in these circumstances would be like, say, Denmark during World War 2, perhaps forced to give in against the threat of major State intervention, with the people forced into individual

