



Shipyard workers fire grenade launcher at police in job cut protests in May in Gijon, Spain. (Send SAE for more info).

RESTART? NO START!

The 'Restart' scheme is the government's latest attack on the unemployed. Between July 1986 and March 1987 everybody who has been unemployed for more than a year will be called in for an interview.

The government claim 'Restart' is to help unemployed people. But the early evidence is that it means increased harassment of the unemployed by the State.

Those interviewed are quizzed about their efforts to find work. Often they are pressurised to go on a low paid Community Programme scheme, a 'Restart' course, or a 'Jobclub' against their will.

But claimants are fighting back. *Claimants Action Group Edinburgh* urge people to attend the interviews with a friend and not to be bullied. They suggest claimants quote the statement by Ian Lang M.P., Under Secretary for State for Employment: "Restart does not force people to accept jobs or any of the 8 opportunities on offer" (Guardian 4.7.86).

As the Action Group say "If you're angry about what they're doing to us all, why not do something to stop them?"

For a copy of their leaflet, contact C.A.G.E., c/o U.W.C., 12a Picardy Place, Edinburgh.

GETTING OUR OWN BACK

Unemployed people in 2 mining areas have found a way of getting a little bit of their own back from British Coal.

In Seaham Co. Durham, after dark residents of Malvern Crescent have started raiding coal trains. Wagons coming from Seaham Colliery bound for power stations are stopped at level crossings by home-made barriers, hauled onto the track.

Where possible the coal is released from the wagons and up to hundred people carry it away in whatever containers they can lay their hands on. It has been estimated, by a local councillor, that up to 500 tons have been liberated in some weeks.

British Coal have hired private security guards with dogs to stop this repossession by the working class. This has been totally ineffective due to the large number of possible attack points and active resistance by the people.

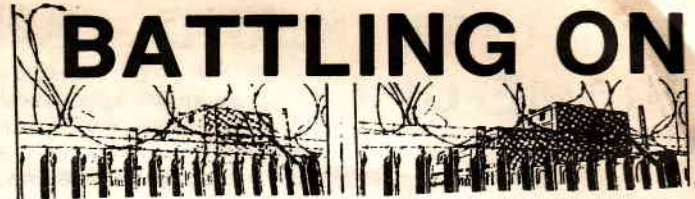
A similar tactic is being used in the Rhondda and Ryhmney valleys to keep the home fires burning. At Porth in the Rhondda masked raiders reclaimed 10 tons of coal one night last winter. In Ryhmney valley transport police started running decoy trains up from Cardiff. This was sussed out and a decoy detective bricked.

FITZWILLIAM, YORKS

Kinsley Drift mine seems set to close, but miners at nearby South Kirkby battle on. All 3 shifts struck on 16th July. This was to oppose management's dictatorial policy of shifting people from one job to another without consultation. By this tactic the bosses presumably mean to disorientate the workforce and stop militancy developing. The local NUM branch secretary was noted urging miners to scab.

Loads of people from the local mining community have wanted to join the printers at Wapping. And indeed both organised bus-loads and individuals have done so. However NUM leaders have obstructed this solidarity, stating that printers' leaders such as Dean don't want miners there, and threatening to refuse NUM legal representation to anyone arrested. Another striking example of the need for grass-roots cross-industry contact to by-pass the bureaucrats.

To finish on a positive note - some policemen received a good thumping recently when they tried to defend a scab in the Kinsley club. Angry locals pursuing a self-confessed strike breaker reacted to the police intervention by attacking the scabs in uniform. At least 2 policemen hit the deck. The police had to retreat unceremoniously with the scab. No arrests.



The 5,000 sacked News International printworkers fight on. Their aim is full reinstatement and entry into Murdoch's new Wapping plant with the same rights as before the mass sackings.

The Sun, Times, Sunday Times and News of the World are still being printed and distributed. But on a mid-July visit to the picket line we found the pickets to be in good heart. New tactics dreamt up and applied by the pickets themselves, and going beyond the usual ineffective trade unionism, were causing disruption to the bosses.

Flying pickets are attacking distribution depots, after causing considerable damage. Day time road blockades in the Wapping area are causing huge traffic jams, sometimes stretching into the City.

A major problem the printworkers face is isolation. Murdoch is receiving solidarity from his class. The police, the law and the courts are all being used against the strikers. Don't wait for the TUC or the trade union leaders to do anything, the printworkers need solidarity from other working class people now.

How can the strikers take the struggle forward? The news sheet *PICKET*, produced by some Wapping pickets, writes in its 18th July issue:

If there is any leadership in this strike it is certainly from the pickets, all others have shown

themselves unwilling or unable to force the strike ahead. Not only is it necessary to force the flying pickets ahead but also the campaign to black all of Murdoch's scabby products and those who work for him. The organisation of these activities has fallen to groups of people without leaders or constitutions and if these are strengthened then the strike is in so much more of a position to resist the next sell out. If the pickets do what they think is right then this dispute can be won but if the leaders are listened to it is clear what will happen.

Eastleigh, 5th July. Arrived at the TNT depot. As one man set about quickly and methodically, windscreen after windscreen, side windows, lights, depot windows, brake pipes. Not one vehicle is spared. Plenty blocking the entrance and the view of the police. Scab drivers sat in a little darkened corner as private cars and vans are done, not daring to show their faces. *PICKET*

Newfolk, July 1st. More than 200 people damaged vehicles and aimed flares at offices at the TNT depot at Theford. A dozen cars and 15 vans used to deliver News International papers were damaged in the night attack.

The Scotsman

Contact *PICKET*, c/o Housmans Books, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX.

Counter Information wants to spread knowledge of resistance to oppression in all aspects of life. We encourage this resistance to aim for the complete overthrow of all relations of domination and submission, including the class system, the oppression of women and the many other existing aspects of oppression and exploitation. The world's resources should be controlled by all its people and used to satisfy human needs.

We encourage correspondents to send us reports. Sometimes these articles may not be in complete harmony with our revolutionary ideas. For example, we stress the importance of people directly controlling their struggles. Thus in workplace struggles we emphasise how Trade Unions prevent this grass-roots control and how they inhibit the development of generalised class struggle against all forms of exploitation. We would also stress the importance of not merely replacing one set of rulers by another, as has happened in the 'Communist' Party-ruled regimes, and as national liberation movements aim for.

At present Counter Information is produced by people in Central Scotland. We would like to encourage the widest possible participation in the project, and we wish to co-operate with all who share our aims.

The more material we receive, the more able we will be to produce the broadsheet regularly and ensure its distribution as widely as possible. Donations towards costs are much needed and very welcome. We encourage all those who want information and/or bundles of the broadsheet to distribute to contact us.

COUNTER INFORMATION, BOX 81, c/o 43 CANDLEMAKER ROW, EDINBURGH.

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