

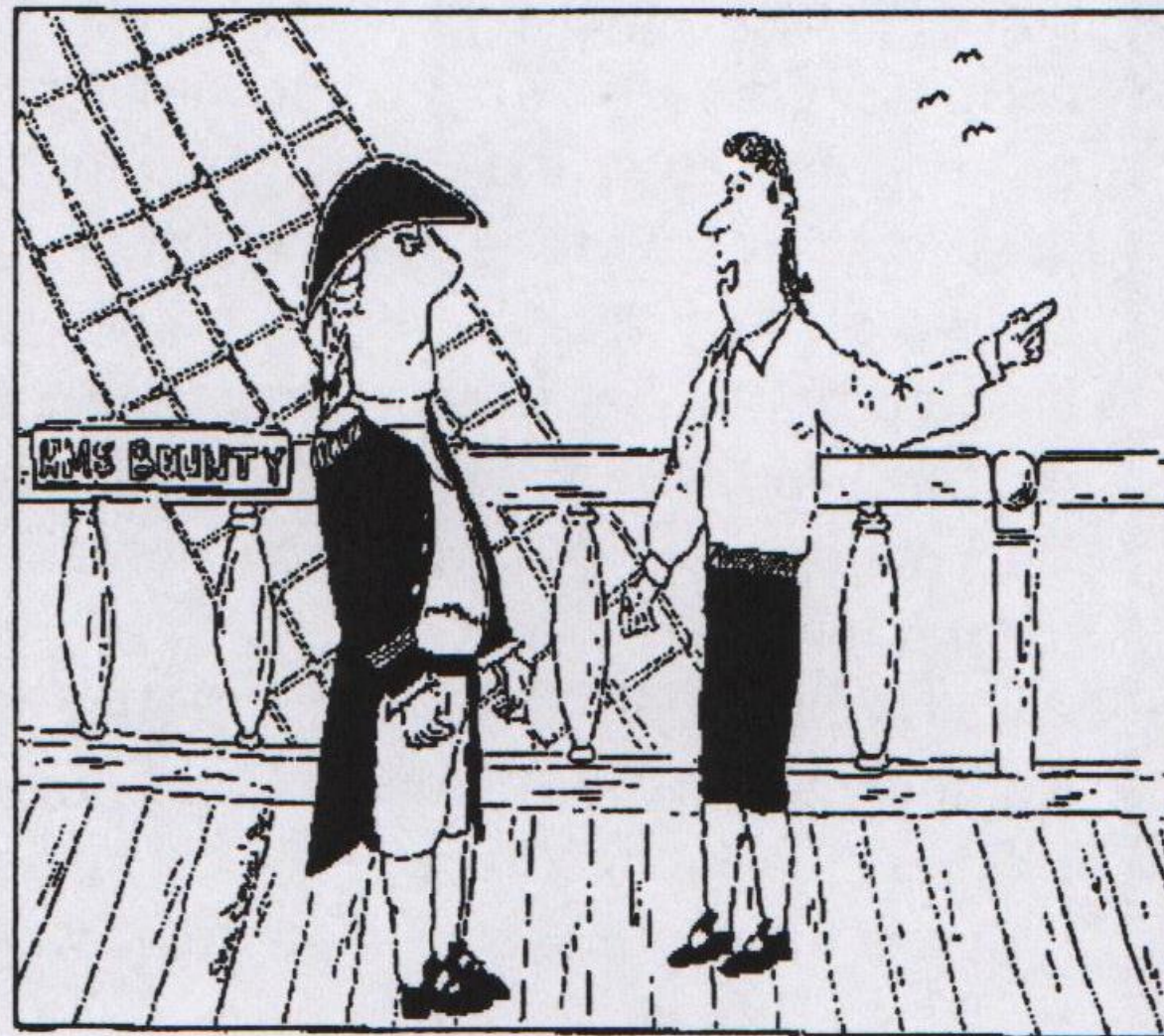
LEVELLER

NEWSLETTER OF NOTTM & DISTRICT TRADES UNION COUNCIL

TRADES UNION RECOGNITION RIGHTS

■ Whilst we are all familiar with some "difficult" employers, I am sure none of us would want to come across the response which the double glazing firm "Synseal Extrusions Limited" has given to the ISTC (Iron & Steel Trades Confederation) trade union who are seeking recognition for their members who represent more than 50% of the Synseal workforce, in accordance with the law. Synseal is based at Common Road in Huthwaite, Notts.

The Chairman of Synseal, Gary Dutton, has threatened to shut down the business after 20 years and put 250 jobs on the line rather than recognise a trade union in his company. He is quoted in the Chad newspaper (18/5/00) as saying that management would not tolerate a "rabble-rousing, trouble causing" union among the workforce. With more than half the workforce having joined ISTC, he is bound by law to recognise the union which would mean meeting union representatives to discuss and reach agreements on matters of importance to the workforce such as pay, overtime and other contractual issues on a regular basis. Mr Dutton is also quoted as saying that workers were well aware of the zero-tolerance attitude management are taking and the consequences that their support for the ISTC could have. "They have three options. Firstly they can accept the facilities that are existing within the company at the present time. Secondly, we will listen to any of our workforce because they are important to us. If they are unhappy they can speak to any manager as an individual or request a meeting with any of the executives or senior management. And the third option is that they can seek alternative employment. If everyone thinks



"... but Captain Bligh, all the crew are asking for is union recognition"

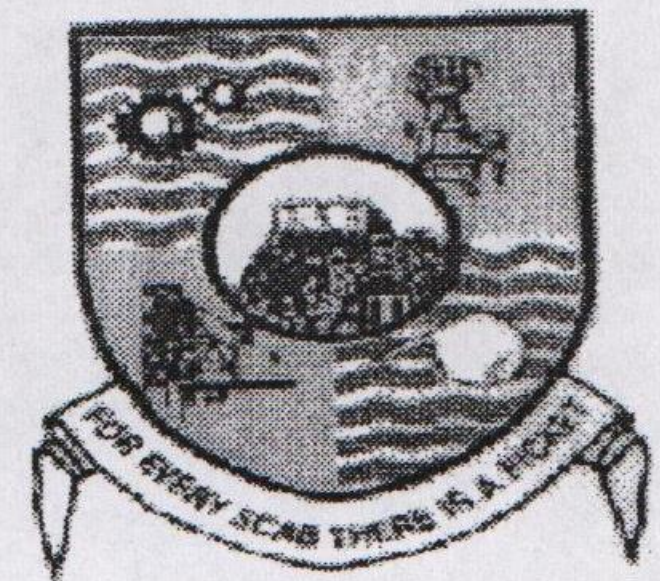
this company is so bad they can all leave."

He went on to try and blame the union for his threat to close the business by saying that if staff "do join an outside union, and as a result that union becomes recognised by legislation, they will run the risk of the owners becoming dismayed and protecting their interests by withdrawing their fiscal support. And the responsibility will rest squarely on the shoulders of the people who have promoted the union at Synseal"

Speaking on behalf of the ISTC Nigel Venes was quoted in the Chad as saying that "we are not an outside body, we are an inside body, people at Synseal joined the union. We are not seeking confrontation but if he wishes to be confrontational we will react. We are seeking to improve things such as health and safety in the workplace that workers have said they want us to improve. Mr Dutton's attitude belongs firmly in the past. He is an example of why there is a need for unions".

Continued Page 2

Nottingham & District
Trades Union Council



"Up for it since 1890"

The Nottingham Trades Union Council is where branches of all the different local trade unions come together to exchange information & ideas.

- ★ To provide support to workers in dispute
- ★ To encourage all workers to join their appropriate trade union.
- ★ To campaign on issues of concern to trade unionists at local, national & international levels.

The Trades Council is the Nottingham area's representative of the TUC and feeds back our views into the national movement.

Our next 2 meetings

Sep 20th Nov 15th

will be held at the (ICC)
International
Community Centre,
Mansfield Rd, Nottm.
7.30pm - 9.30pm

The Next Trades Council Meeting Is 20th Sept

@ The International Community Centre, Mansfield Rd, Nottm. 7.30pm-9.30pm

■ The views expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily be the views of Nottm & District Trades Council

DEFINITELY NOT "FOR SARAH"

NATIONAL FRONT MARCH IN NOTTINGHAM.



■ The latest bunch of sick opportunists jumping on the Sarah Payne bandwagon is - wait for it - the National Front. Having distributed a leaflet

in parts of Nottingham showing a picture of Sarah Payne, and with the pithy slogan "Hang all child abusers", the NF went on to explain how they intended to march on Bank Holiday Saturday (August 26) from the City Centre to Nottingham Prison, where special units house paedophile offenders.

The NF's "national" mobilisation on the day was pathetic. A bunch of obvious-looking Nazis (one of their chants was "The Reds, the Reds, we're going to get rid of the Reds" - a well-known anti-paedophile chant!), numbering 25-30, were all that turned up on the day, with no support from the areas through which they marched. Around 100 anti-fascists throughout the day mobilised both in the City Centre and outside the prison, resulting in a last-minute decision by the police to ban the NF march round the City Centre. However, the NF were then allowed to assemble on the Forest Recreation Ground (located in an area with the highest density of black population in Nottingham), under heavy police protection.

By this time, anti-fascists diverted from the Market Square and the prison had also assembled by the Mansfield Road entrance to the Forest. A Section 60 order gave police the power to search all of us present, plus they refused to allow anyone from the anti-fascist counter-demonstration to leave a defined area on the pavement of Mansfield Road. However, the National Front were allowed to march to the prison via Hucknall Road under police escort, although anti-fascist

demonstrators attempting to disrupt the march as it set off were eventually repelled by mounted police. Nevertheless, demonstrators did manage to occupy the area outside the prison prior to it being reached by the NF march, and despite further attempts by the police to push us back, the NF had to make do with a "rally" some way down the road from the prison. The police then publicly held us on Perry Road to allow the NF march back down the route they had come unhindered. Even local residents, some with young children, who had joined us were not allowed to move until the NF had been returned safely to the Forest.



A number of questions are raised by these events. For a start, the NF could not have marched without the co-operation and protection of the police. Given that police were drafted in from South Yorkshire, how do you feel about that money (which is, after all, yours) being spent to protect a bunch of nazis? Of course, the people who granted permission for the NF to march in the first place were Nottingham City Council, presumably acting in the best interests of its electorate. Press releases widely distributed by the Notts Anti-Fascist Alliance (NAFA) giving advance notice of the event were ignored by local and national press. Literally thousands of leaflets were distributed by NAFA and extensive fly-posting by the Anti-Nazi League pulled in a respectable number of people to oppose the NF march, but not enough to stop it; a few more people, and that would have been a real possibility.

STEP ON IT



If you want to affiliate/donate to the Nottinghamshire Anti-Fascist Alliance, they'll be pleased to hear from you. You can contact them at PO Box No192, Nottingham NG1 1FJ. Speakers are available to attend union meetings on request.

Despite the positive aspects to what happened on the day, the fact that the NF managed to have a march at all has given them a boost, with wildly exaggerated claims about the march appearing in their propaganda. The NF have had a presence on and off in Nottingham over the past few months, but the labour movement has largely failed to react. Maybe its time that we realised that the NF are vehemently anti-union and have conducted numerous attacks on trade unionists over the years. We must be prepared to mobilise against the fascists whenever needed - and however sad a bunch they are.

Our Woman on The Inside.



**Next meeting of Notts Anti-Fascist Alliance
Monday 25 Sept 7.30pm
upstairs in the Newcastle Arms, on the
corner of North Sherwood Street in
Nottingham.**



This September thousands of people from across Europe will be protesting on the streets of Prague, in the Czech Republic, against a meeting of the international Monetary Fund (IMF), which will be taking place in the city

The IMF is a major global capitalist institution. It exists in order to facilitate the mass exploitation of the world's resources and people by profit hungry multinational companies. It does this by imposing 'Structural Adjustment Programmes' on the countries of the ex-colonial world and Eastern Europe. In plain English, this means opening up these countries' economies to western banks and corporations. The brutal policies of privatisation and deregulation that the IMF prescribes for these economies are responsible for throwing millions of workers and poor into unemployment and poverty.

At its Prague conference, the IMF will be planning the implementation of more of the same policies for workers and poor throughout the world

However, the sort of policies pushed by the IMF are not going unchallenged. They have provoked mass resistance in many countries. For instance, in Bolivia an attempt by the government in April to privatise the water industry met with an uprising of the rural poor and mass protests of tens of thousands of workers that culminated in a general strike.

Come to Prague on 26th September and join the protests against the IMF and its policies as well as to the capitalist system they serve.

For details phone 020 8988 8777

Saying No To PFI

Profits From Illness

■ Dudley Health branch had won a ballot to take industrial action over plans to transfer over 500 UNISON members to a private company, Summit Healthcare. There was an 85% vote for strike action and 93% vote for a work to rule in a ballot that had a very big turnout.

Since last summer Dudley Health branch has repeatedly asked the employer to renegotiate the project to exclude staff from transfer. This option was made available in a change to government regulations. The trust is refusing to change its plans. Mark New Joint Branch Secretary said "There is no good reason to transfer the staff. Our members are very worried that their pay, terms and conditions will be undermined in the private sector. They already work hard for poor pay. Yet they are proud to work for the NHS and want to continue to do so."

The third round of strike action ran from Sunday 3 Sept to Saturday 9 Sept

Donations and messages of support (they received £1000 from the Finnish municipal sector union KTV) to

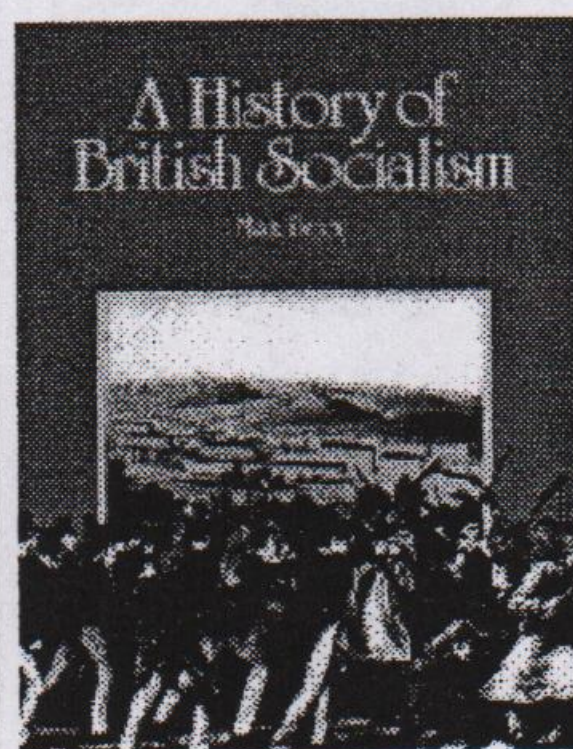
UNISON Dudley Group of Hospitals, Union Offices, Wordsley Hospital, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 5QX,

The Private Finance Initiative (PFI) is about the privatisation of public services. Under PFI the private sector will be involved in designing, building financing and owning buildings, especially hospitals. Hospital trusts will have to make payments to the private sector consortiums over a long period, of 30 years or more, at a high rate of interest. PFI is like the public sector paying a mortgage to private companies without even owning the hospitals at the end of the mortgage repayment process.

PFI was introduced by the Tory government in 1992 and was taken over enthusiastically by Labour in 1997. It is clear that under any fair comparison of costs between the private sector and the public sector, it would be obvious that PFI would be more expensive and the extra cost of using private capital would mean that services would have to be drastically cut.

SPOKESMAN BOOKS

The publishing imprint of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation



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Max Beer

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brilliant pioneering study, but also because it is still urgently relevant to a new generation of socialists. Just as Beatrice Webb complained that her comrades has "borrowed" it, while Tawney celebrated it in a justly famous essay, so today there are many who will treasure its radical insights into the ideas of these British thinkers, many of

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WORKPLACE NEWS

• LOCAL • NATIONAL • INTERNATIONAL •



Defend Glenn Kelly

■ Bromley Council in South London have suspended Glenn Kelly, UNISON branch secretary, chair of the Campaign

for a Fighting Democratic UNISON. Bromley acted after Glenn, as secretary of the public sector union UNISON, played a leading role in campaigning to save the Night Care service for the elderly living in the council's sheltered accommodation. Letters / Faxes of protest to Jeremy Ambache, Director of Social Services and Housing, Bromley Council, Civic Centre, Bromley BR1 3UH. Fax 02083134620 or Chair of Social Services on 020 8290 0608. Solidarity messages to Bromley UNISON, Civic Centre, Bromley. Tel 020 8313 4405 or Fax 020 8313 4885

Recognition Campaign at Daybrook Laundry

■ Workers at Daybrook Laundry could be among the first to win recognition under the law, if their union's carefully organised campaign delivers its expected result.

Daybrook Laundry based in Nottingham employs around 300 workers. Terms and conditions are not considered to be good, worker dissatisfaction has been high and the attitude of the management is not seen as supportive.

Last year a group of workers approached the T&G, asking for help to win improvements. T&G had no problems in recruiting members: 170 workers have joined since October 1999.

The union has produced a newsletter for the workers called Bubbles, which

allows the union to keep the union in the forefront. It details successful individual cases where the union has supported members in the workplace and it regularly publishes details of the company's finances.

On 14 June, just a week after the law was introduced The T&G put in a claim for recognition, making it one of the first to be registered under the law. Article edited from Labour Research

Foframe Strikers Sacked

■ Striking staff at Foframe of Huntingdon have been sacked in the longest running strike in Britain. The 11 members of the GMB went on strike on 3 May over a claim for a 4% rise on their rate of £4.29 an hour. Messages of support and donations to Huntingdon Strike Fund, GMB, Ground Floor, 396/398 Dunstable Rd, Luton LU4 8JT

Sheffcare Victory

■ Bosses of privatised care homes in Sheffield have been forced to hold back on the pay cuts they have been trying to force on care workers. After a public campaign by the Sheffcare Workers' Action Group, the trade unions have presented a report rubbishing Sheffcare's justification for the pay cuts.

The breathing space will allow the unions to step up pressure on the company by continuing the public campaign and pushing ahead on the ballot for industrial action.

Unfair Tribunal

■ Barbie Linsey, the building union UCCAT rep sacked for trade union membership, won her case for unfair dismissal at an industrial tribunal in July. But she was only awarded £4,800, after a nine year unblemished record working for the same company. They could have awarded £50,000.

WEBSITES

Campaign Against The Arms trade

www.caat.demon.co.uk/

CND

www.cnduk.org

Corporate Watch

www.corpwatch.org/trac/

Cuba Connect

www.cubaconnect.co.uk/

The Debt Clock

www.uwsa.com/uwsa-usdebt.html

Free Satpal Ram

www.appleonline.net/satpal/

Jubilee 2000

www.jubilee2000uk.org/

Justice for Ricky Reel

www.iansmith.co.uk/justice

Leicester Radicals

www.onward.to/socialism/

McSpotlight

www.mcspotlight.org/

Miscarriages of Justice UK

www.appleonline.net/justiceuk/jus.html

National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns

www.ncadc.demon.co.uk

Red Pepper

www.redpepper.org.uk/

Stonewall

www.stonewall.org.uk/

Show Racism The Red Card

www.srtrc.org/

Youth Against Racism In Europe

www.antifa.net/yre/

Forward YOUR workplace News To Nottingham & District Trades Union Council C/O Nottingham City UNISON, 4 - 6 Perth Street, Nottingham NG1 3LU or E-mail maydayuk@yahoo.co.uk

Mansfield Unemployed Workers' Centre

Appeal For Financial Donation



**Mansfield
Unemployed
Workers'
Centre**
1/3/5 Beech
Avenue
Mansfield,
Notts
NG18 1EY
Tel
(01623)
481882



■ Mansfield movement if they would be in a Unemployed position to provide a donation Workers towards MUWC. Any donation Centre would assist us immensely with (MUWC), as a running costs and be greatly community and appreciated.

trade union Donations (which will be acknowledged by reply) can be made payable to Nottinghamshire Unemployed Workers' Centre Association Ltd.

Should you require any details regarding the current work of MUWC or a copy of the Annual Report published May 2000, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With this in mind, we wish to ask Tony Ridgeway & Steve Carroll our colleagues in the Trade Union Joint Co-ordinators



Mansfield Unemployed Workers' Centre
<http://homepages.poptel.org.uk/muwc>
E-mail muwc@geo2.poptel.org.uk

NOTTM & DISTRICT TRADES COUNCIL

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Any branch of each Trade Union affiliated to the TUC and based in the Nottingham & District Area is entitled to become a member of the Trades Union Council. If your branch is not already a member then invite a speaker to come to your next branch meeting to talk about why you should join, or simply fill in the form below and send it direct to: Nottm & District Trades Council, C/O Nottingham City UNISON, 4-6 Perth ST, Nottingham NG1 3LU

Delegate Numbers for Monthly Meetings

★ Branches with less than 100 members are entitled to 1 Delegate.

★ Branches with more than:-

100 -250 members are entitled to 2 delegate.

250- 500 members are entitled to 3 delegate.

500-750 members are entitled to 4 Delegate.

750-1000 members are entitled to 5 Delegate.

1000-1500 members are entitled to 6 Delegate.

1500-2000 members are entitled to 7 Delegate.

2000-2500 members are entitled to 8 Delegate.

2500-3000 members are entitled to 9 Delegate.

★ Branches with more than 3000 members are entitled to 10 Delegates.

Name of trade union.....

Name and/or number of Branch.....

Branch Secretary.....

Branch Address.....

Number Of Members.....

Membership Fee Due.....

To Be paid Quarterly 6 Monthly
Annually Please Tick

MEMBERSHIP RATES

Membership rates are (£10 Minimum for any branch)

10p per member per year for the first 1000 branch members

Plus 5p per member per year for branches with 1000-5000 members

Plus 2p per member per year for branches with over 5000 members

Diary Dates

**Notts Socialist Alliance
Public Meeting**

**Should The Left Stand
In Next Year's
General Elections?**

Monday

25 Sept 7.30pm

**@ International
Community Centre
Mansfield Rd, Nottm**

**Demonstration Called By
The National Civil Rights
Movement**

**Stop Racist
Killings Civil**

**Sat 14 Oct 12pm
Embankment London**

**Nottm Robert Hamill
Campaign**

**Sponsored Walk
For Justice**

Sat 30th Sept

A Circular 13km walk via
Linby & Newstead Abbey.
Starts at 10.30am Market
Sq, Hucknall. Further
details ring Bob 9622990