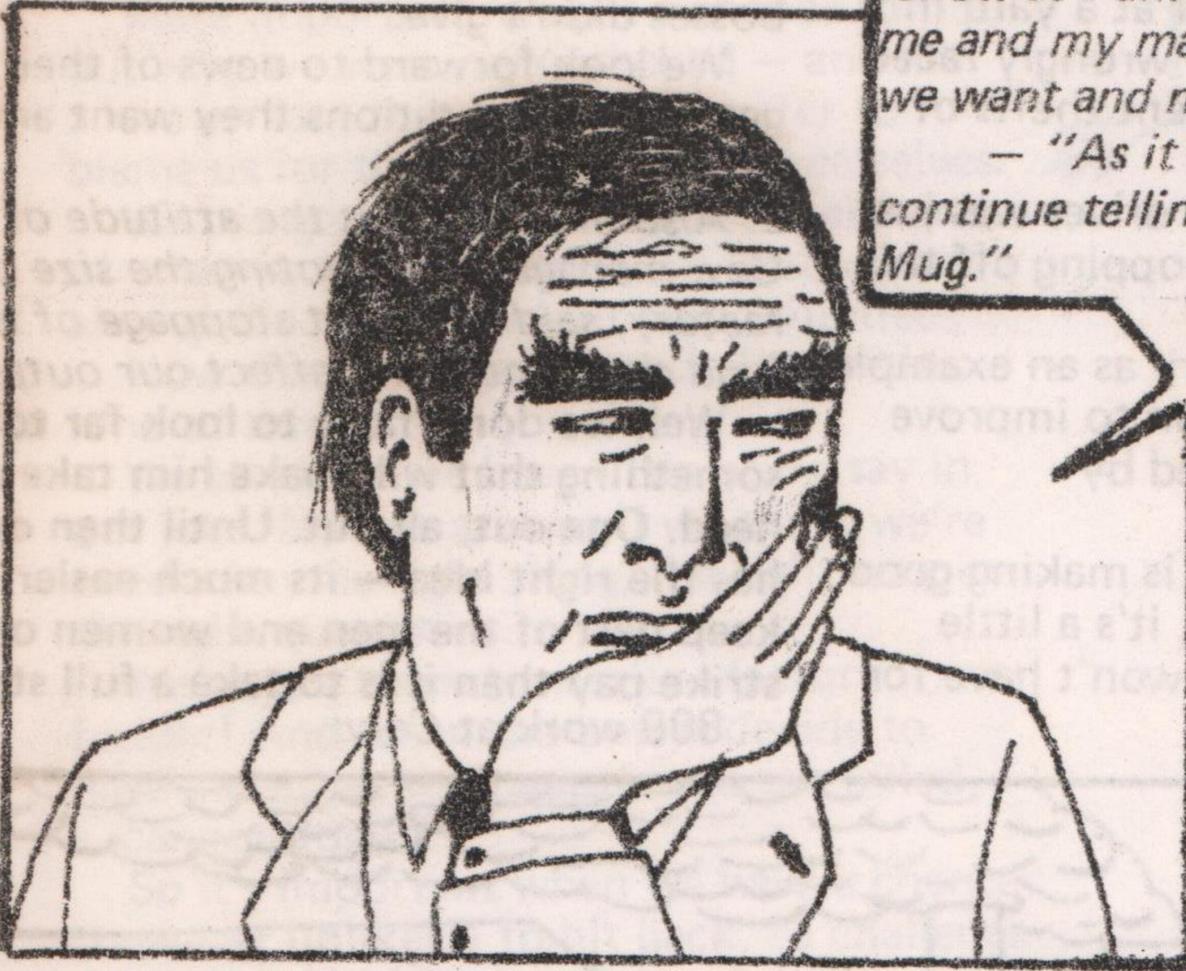


STRIP

ONLY 2P



"If everyone was such a nice considerate fellow as I am there would be no need for me and my mates to force you to do what we want and not what you want to do."
 — "As it is, we'll just have to continue telling you what you really want. Mug."

STRIP – South Thames Radical Industrial Paper is produced by a group of workers, who have something to say about improving our control of our lives in and out of work.

To start with we will be putting a lot of our ideas about how you can be grabbing more power at work from your bosses.

But as you see fit, we invite you to tell us or write to us about your experiences in fighting bosses and the brakes put on to improving your homes and estates.

South Thames because we're working this side of the river; *Radical* because it's got to be to do anything; and *Industrial* because that's where real power lies in 1977.

We support no political party. We wouldn't trust ourselves, let alone James Callaghan to be democratic.

STRIP is an opportunity for you to contact other local workers, who want to be involved in the running of their workplaces.

We are not anti-union. We see unions as most useful when controlled by workers at each factory, not chess pawns of political parties of left or right, nor come to that pressure groups of non-workers.

Get in contact for our next issue.

LIGHTNING STRIKES

FIFTY COUNCIL drivers at Lambeth Borough's Carew Rd., depot struck when one of them was suspended on March 9.

A half-day's strike was all that was needed to lift the suspension. It showed the power we have if we use snap decisions and unofficial actions.

One of Lambeth's councillors saw this driver dropping off timber at a yard in RAilton Rd., Brixton. He wrongly raced to connect it with the recent thefts of council supplies.

Mr Ray, the suspended driver was just doing a friend a favour dropping off this timber (not stolen!)

STRIP reports this story as an example of us using our imagination to improve life in a hostile world ruled by bureaucrats.

We also hope someone is making good use of the stolen supplies, it's a little more the grasping bosses won't have for their Easter booze-up.

FOURTEEN workers in the hose department of Cow Industrial Polymers, Streatham had a 2½-day strike from March 28.

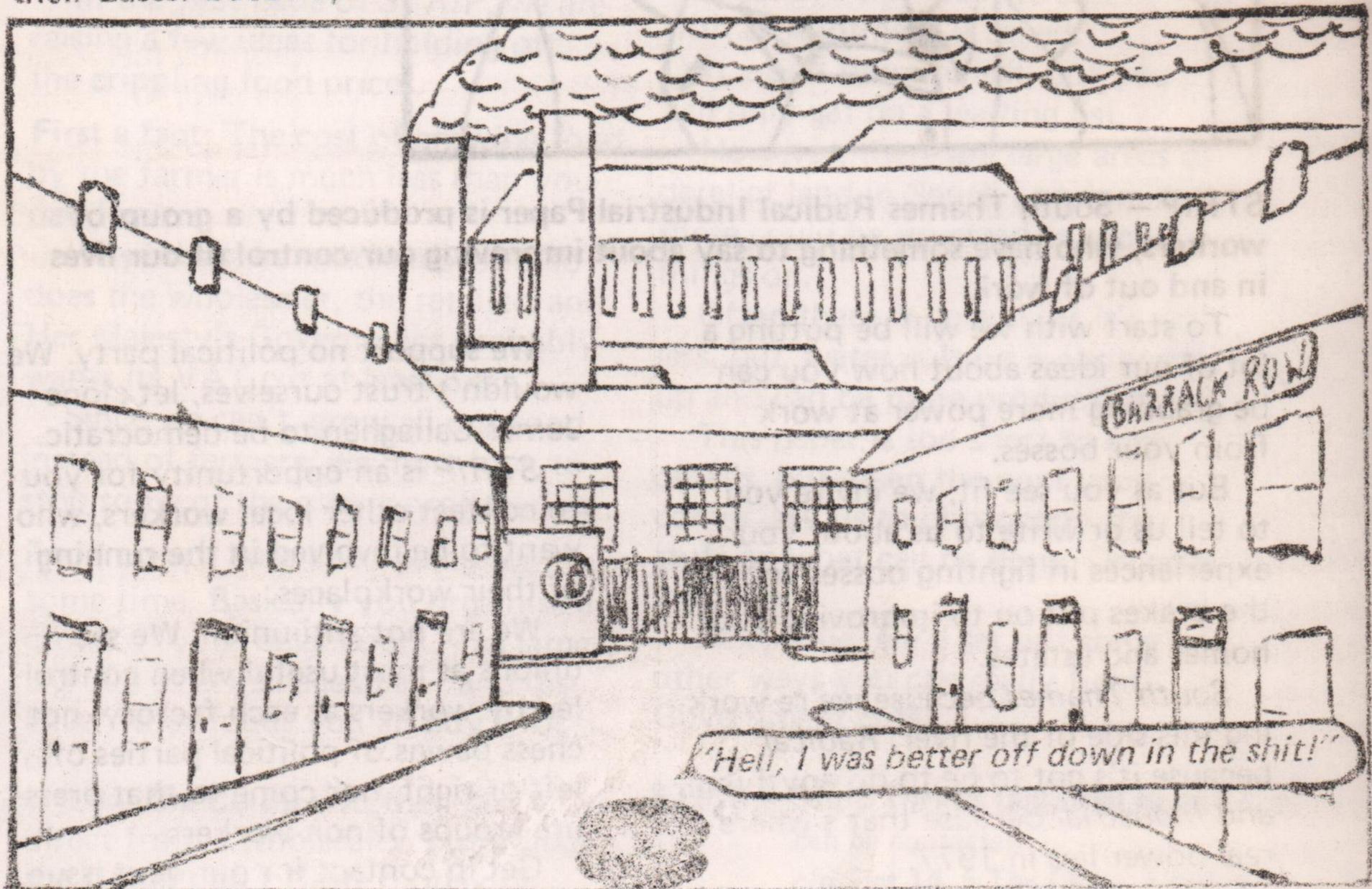
They were getting anything but satisfaction from the management over the bonus system.

This "no nonsense" approach is the one most likely to get results, and the works convenor for the GMWU there said there would be more like it if the bosses didn't give.

We look forward to news of their getting the conditions they want and soon.

Also interesting is the attitude of the Cow manager who, noting the size of his factory, said "A short stoppage of this kind does not really affect our output."

Well we don't have to look far to find something that will make him take more heed. One out, all out. Until then our side has the right idea — its much easier to keep part of the men and women on strike pay than it is to take a full strike. 800 work at Cow.



Industrial Tribunals

WINNING compensation and references from an employer who has chosen to play the little Hitler is a chance offered by these tribunals.

More important, we get a chance to find out why we were *really* sacked — and it's a known fact that the bosses prefer to blame us for things rather than themselves.

We can get put out of work for all sorts of reasons, and the reason we're told isn't always the reason for our being shunted!

Now there's a chance to challenge this kind of thing.

We all know we have little or no say in our jobs. No-one asks us if we think we're producing the right thing, the right way in the right quantities.

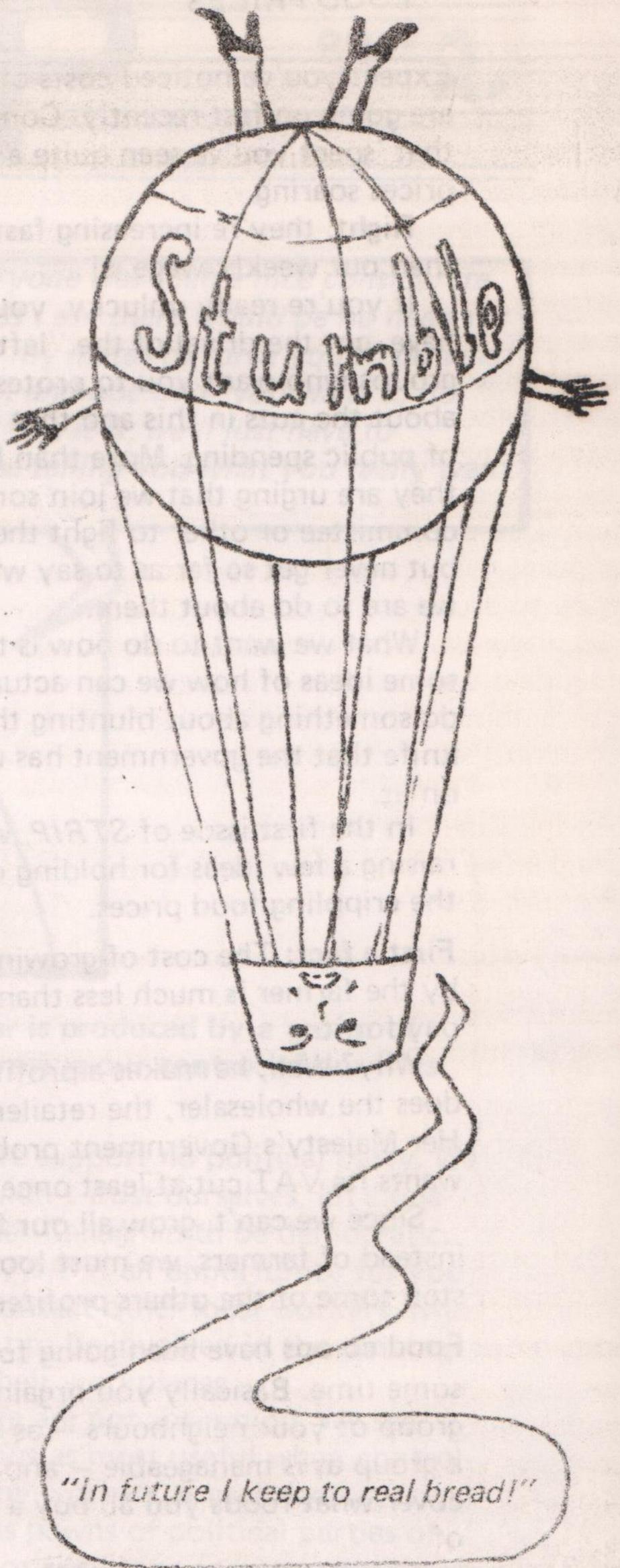
We're just there to work — factory fodder! And when the bosses decide to have a war, we're dragged in to get killed — cannon fodder!

So it's important when we have a chance (however unlikely) to hit back, to challenge this insanity of the bosses' and their system that we do so!

Strip intends to keep a record of the applications that come from our area to the industrial tribunals — and the results.

In our next issue, we'll be describing what's involved in making an application, and what to expect once an application has been made. What's more, we hope that any problems you have, you'll pass on to us.

Maybe we can help, and if we can't, we can make sure that others don't get caught in the same way.



FOOD PRICES

Expect you've noticed costs of food are going up fast recently. Come to that 'spect you've seen quite a few prices soaring.

Right, they're increasing faster than our weekly wage is!

If you're really unlucky, you will have got the drivel of the "left wing" groups who want you to protest about the cuts in this and that field of public spending. More than likely they are urging that we join some committee or other to fight the cuts, but never get so far as to say what we are to do about them.

What we want to do now is to put some ideas of how we can actually do something about blunting the knife that the government has used on us.

In the first issue of *STRIP*, we are raising a few ideas for holding off the crippling food prices.

First a fact: The cost of growing food by the farmer is much less than you pay for it.

Why? Well, he makes a profit, so does the wholesaler, the retailer, and Her Majesty's Government probably wants its VAT cut at least once.

Since we can't grow all our food instead of farmers, we must look to stop some of the others profiteering.

Food co-ops have been going for some time. Basically you organise a group of your neighbours — as large a group as is manageable — and discover what foods you all buy a lot of.

Like the **Co-op** you then buy direct from a wholesaler, but unlike the **Co-op** don't waste money on

fancy shops and underpaid employees.

Instead, use a minimum of space and effort to distribute the food. You can expect 25% savings, hope for better. You spend time organising it, but that saves you being told by some berk on the telly what to buy — like *Rip-off & Co's* frozen peas.

Don't rush into it, but have a word with someone who's already had experience. Beware of burning your fingers on unwanted perishable food, vague accounts, etc.

Cooperation is strength

Land: To be more direct, to get food really fresh, you must grow it. **All councils** are **obliged** by a part-forgotten Act of Parliament to supply you with an allotment if asked.

It won't harm to ask, but you will only get on a waiting list.

However, there are large areas of derelict land in South London, and these could be **squatted** to grow things on.

Often there is no soil, or it's useless, but **water culture** is easily set up and can be **more** productive.

This paper is too short to give details, but when the next issue comes, ask us to photocopy the stuff on what can be done. Or write in to ask.

Next issue, we'll set out some other ways you can really fight Government cuts!

STING — South Thames Industrial News Group
can be contacted
c/o Flat 14, 5 The Chase, London
SW4.