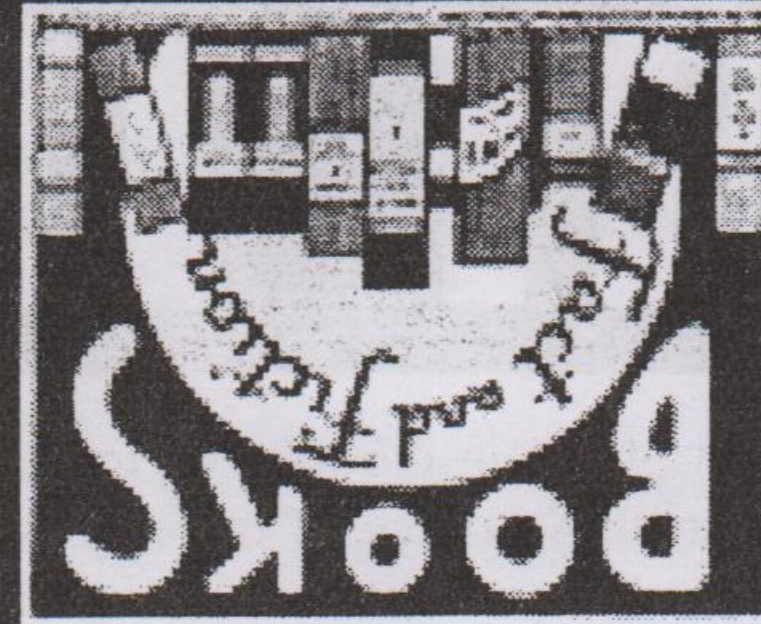


Who's in bed with Tony
Wondered who runs
the New (non)
Labour Party. Well
those who finance
it, of course.
See who runs and
finances New Labour
@ www.red-star-
research.org.uk



Stop the War, PO Box 154,
48 Derby Road, Nottingham NG1
5FQ. Tel: 07766 161 595
For Further details contact
nottingham@nottingham.org

More
Overleaf
National Demo
Sat 15.02.03



Little Thorn Books Co-op
For all your reading needs
Not just for Local People
Can deliver to Nottingham

Nottingham Trades Council Welcomes
articles, diary dates etc for the
next issue of the Leveller.
Please forward to: Notting &
Trades Union Council
C/O Nottingham City UNISON,
4/6 Perth St,
Notting NG1 3LU or
E-mail maydayuk@yahoo.co.uk By 15.01.03



BROADWAY CINEMA
SUNDAY 8th DEC
1pm

Nottingham Trades Council has half price
tickets for Trades Council Delegates to
book tickets ring 0115 9112726
Sunday is a dramatised reconstruction of events
between 1968 and 1973. Although there have
been minor changes to chronology and certain
events have been dramatised to aid clarity, this
drama is based entirely on facts using British
Government documents, interviews, eyewitness
reports and court transcription.

Present a showing of
SUNDAY
Written By
Jimmy McGovern
Nottingham Trades Union Council
& Nottingham Robert Hamill Campaign

Pay The Firefighters

Resist Blair and Prescott's bully boy tactics

The Government and media have launched a
tirade of lies and abuse against the
firefighters who have begun their fight to be
paid a living wage for doing a highly
professional job in the most dangerous
circumstances.

The Sun launched its usual anti-trade union
venom with words like "thugs", "criminals" and
"bullies". Blair and Prescott, the true villains of
the piece, have used not dissimilar expletives to
denounce the strike.

TV coverage, especially from the BBC (Blair
Bullshit Communication systems), has followed
much the same pattern. It with a little more
subtlety. As trade unionists supporting the FBU
it's our job to correct the lies and distortion
being spread at the expense of the licence fee
payers as well as the firefighters.

Lie. The BBC is now saying the firefighters
have rejected a 16% pay offer. The truth is they
have again been offered the same recycled 4% -
nothing else until next year and that only with
reduced. Continued overleaf.

Distortion. The BBC is full of stories about
people dying on strike days. Headline - "Mother
and 3 children perish in fire". Much later we
discover the deaths were unrelated to the
firefighters strike. Over the past 10 years the
fire service has been cut to the bone - fire
stations have been closed, firefighter numbers
reduced.

Review. This review will increase workload for
firefighters whilst putting public lives at risk by
reducing the current levels of fire cover at
night, the very time that most lives are lost in
fires.

Lie. The BBC says the FBU reject
"modernisation". Firefighters reject the
"modernisation" of New Labour's Bain
Review. This review will increase workload for
firefighters whilst putting public lives at risk by
reducing the current levels of fire cover at
night, the very time that most lives are lost in
fires.

one of the country's most dangerous industries.
£8.50 an hour after 4 years training to work in
win their full claim they will be earning only
£8.50 an hour after 4 years training to work in

Issue No.13 Dec 2002

Nottm & District Trades Council



Nov 02
Dear Sister / Brother

2002 Membership Renewal

I'm writing to inform you that your branch affiliation fee to Nottingham & District
Trades Council is now due. Your branch's continuing support of our work is of great
importance to us. As such we would appreciate if you could pass this form to your
Branch Secretary or Branch Treasurer for approval.

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.

Yours In Solidarity
Bill Walton
Treasurer

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 Annually ☐ 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

Nottm & District TUC is supported by branches from the following Trade Unions.



Issue No.13 Dec 2002

Leveller

Newsletter of Nottingham Trades Union Council

Fair pay for the Fire Service

FBU & TUC

March and Rally

SAT 7th December
Assemble 12 noon Central London
Coaches will leave from different places
around the County, see inside for details

Transport Details
For further details and to
book tickets phone:-
→ Liam 0115 9112864
→ Bill 0115 9112726

www.tuc.org.uk/fp4f

SUPPORT THE FIREFIGHTERS

Pay The Firefighters Continued from overleaf
Where were the stories from the BBC? Headline - "Two die as cuts close fire station." Sorry did we miss something? The FBU are not to blame for any deaths caused by this strike. The Government had every opportunity to offer the firefighters fair pay. 4% without strings was rejected 6 months ago - why should firefighters accept 4% with dangerous strings today?

Lie. The BBC report stories of strike breaking even amongst striking firefighters. The reality is that firefighters believe in human solidarity. The Manchester Firework Factory fire was close to a fire station picket line. FBU members realised people were in the burning building - they worked tirelessly without pay - lives were saved. They were not breaking the strike - they returned to picket duty immediately after the rescue. **The strike is 100% solid**

The firefighters literally risk their lives to ensure that we can all live and work safely. Robert Miller was a firefighter in Leicester. Just two weeks ago he entered a burning building to ensure that no person was trapped within it. Robert was killed when he fell as a result of this search. Highly trained people like Robert deserve a living wage. £30,000 is surely not too much to ask when you are risking your life. Remember, overtime is

not available in the fire service so the basic wage is their only source of income. Share options and dividends figure little in the life of a firefighter. In many towns firefighters cannot afford to live in the communities they serve. At one station in Brighton, only 3 out of the 30 firefighters can afford to live in the city they protect: the rest commute from places that are more than an hour away. Unlike some MP's, who are paid £55,000 minimum, they are unable to enjoy cheap holidays in Tuscany courtesy of rich chums.

Some other truths worth remembering when apportioning blame. The Government has been requested by the Fire Service to provide £280m of additional funding to deal with terrorist incidents but has not responded. The FBU have been reasonable and responsible in agreeing to lift 12 days of strike action in order to seek a negotiated settlement.

The blame for the breakdown of talks and for the second national strike in the history of the UK Fire Service rests fairly and squarely with the Government, the employers and Sir George Bain. As with other workers, New Labour is trying to bully the firefighters into submission. But if they think the firefighters do not have the stomach for a determined fight, they have badly miscalculated.

JOIN The Demo

Coaches to the National Demonstration on 7.12.02 will be leaving from the following places:-

Retford & Worksop Stations,
Mansfield Leisure Centre,
Ashfield Fire Station &
Stockhill & Arnold Fire
Stations via City Centre
@ 7.30am

Salutation Inn, Maid
Marion Way, Nottingham
8am. To book tickets ring:
Liam 0115 9112864
Bill 0115 9112726



JOIN The Pickets at a Station near you

Adopt a local fire station and join the picket line. The next strike starts at 9 am on the 4/12/02 to 9am on the 12/12/02 (8 days) This is followed by another 8 day strike on 16/12/02 9am to 24/12/02 9am.

- ☐ Central, Shakespeare St,
- ☐ Arnold, Jubilee Rd
- ☐ Beeston, Station Rd
- ☐ Carlton, Manor Rd
- ☐ Dunkirk, Abbey Rd
- ☐ Stockhill, Stockhill Lane
- ☐ Westbridgford, Loughborough Rd

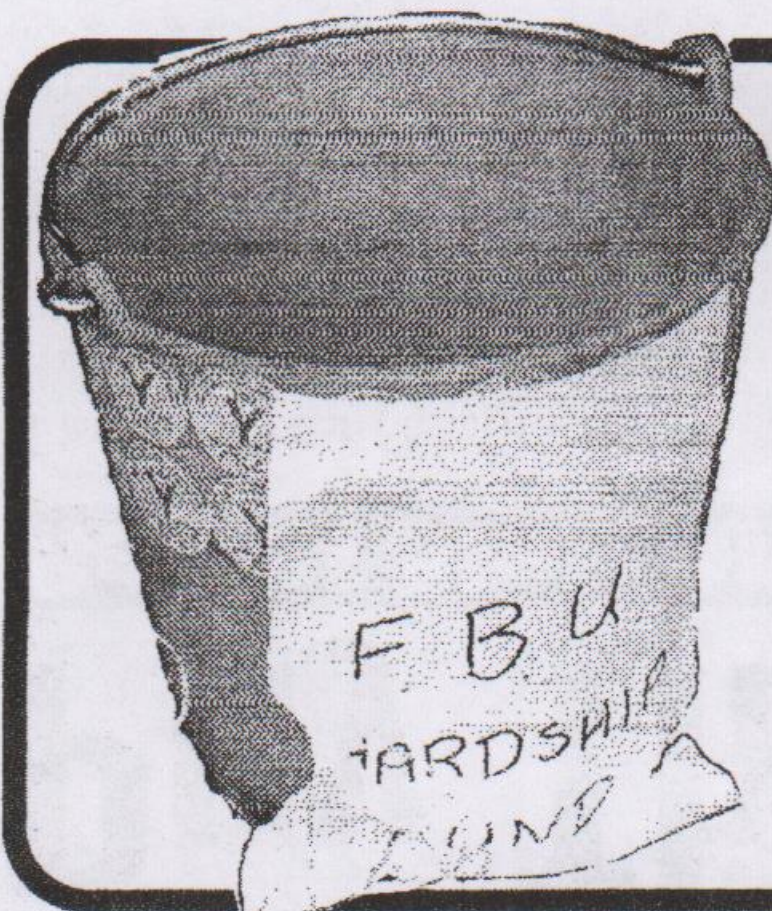
BROWN'S GOT BILLIONS FOR WAR

Gordon Brown has no money for essential public services like the Fire Service but plenty for warmongering. Yesterday in his pre-budget forecast before parliament, the Chancellor said he'd set aside £1 billion for a war on Iraq, or "international defence responsibilities", as he puts it. Brown clearly thinks it is "responsible" to build up a war chest for a foreign adventure that will bring the death of many innocent men, women and children, and quite possibly lead to a wider conflict in the Middle East.

But he feels less "responsibility" to ensure safety and security for Britain's citizens. Here the government is putting lives at risk for refusing to spend rather more modest sums on equipping firefighters to tackle terrorism at home and giving them fair pay for saving lives - not taking them. Let's hope that in today's talks the government and employers recognise this.

They can find the money for a war in Iraq. If war starts at 9am, they will have spent our pay award by 9.02 and 30 seconds."

FBU Southern Regional Secretary Dean Mills



FBU Hardship Banking Arrangements

Raise Money in your workplace for the FBU hardship fund. Donate yourself and get your Trade Union branch to make the biggest donation it can afford. Bank details below.

Bank	National Westminster
Sort Code	55-61-17
Account Number	42085942
Account Name	J.P. Howard & S. Robinson Day (committee Fund)

Solidarity with the fire fighters

Supporters of the FBU in Nottingham, are collecting money for the striking fire fighters to show their solidarity. On Saturday 23.11.02, over £500 was collected from the public and handed over to the FBU strikers at Central Fire Station. As the government line on the strike hardens and the fire fighters engage in the second of a series of eight-day strikes, the need to turn passive support into financial support becomes increasingly important. Supporters will be organising weekly Saturday stalls in Nottingham Market Square (2.15pm) in order to collect more money to keep the fire fighters going in the run up to Christmas.

As well as general support from the public, the strikers are receiving solidarity from other unionised workplaces including Nottingham City UNISON, which made a £500 donation to the Strike fund last week.

The Notts FBU Support Group meets at 7.30pm every Thursday at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Rd, Nottm.

All Welcome

PRESCOTT ADMITS TRUTH ON JOBS

John Prescott has finally admitted what we have known all along - the government's modernization agenda is about job cuts! (Daily Mirror, Wednesday, November 27). Speaking in parliament yesterday, four-pad, two-jag Prescott said that "since 20% of their labour workforce will be retiring early... in the next two three years, it seems an ample opportunity to discuss how you might deal with the more efficient utilisation of labour". "Natural wastage" is how Prescott's spokespeople describe the government's plan to recklessly undermine the quality and coverage of Britain's fire service. A smaller fire service "might be the long term result" of the government's drive for a more "efficient service", they add. Who would cover for the holes left by the downsizing? The existing workforce with - you guessed it - overtime.

UNION OUTRAGE

Public sector trade unions are rightly outraged at the government's lies. As John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB, puts it: "The government's true agenda has finally been flushed out. As Andy Gilchrist has been arguing all along, when the government talks about modernisation, it really means cuts." The government "has come clean," says train drivers' union Aslef. "When it talks about modernization, it means fewer firefighters. A lot of people in the unions will look at this and think what it means for health, local government and so on." Dave Prentis, general secretary of Unison, is calling on the government to "get a grip" and warning that the government's so-called modernization agenda across the public services is in "jeopardy" unless it changes its tune. Unison will not

"sit back" while the fire service and firefighters are attacked in this way. "The Government should not have pulled the plug on the agreement that was reached last Thursday night. They deserve more from this Government," he says.

PUBLIC SERVICES ON SHOESTRING

"Our experience of job cuts is that they come at the expense of the service you can provide. You cannot provide a better service on a shoestring," adds Prentice. Prentice's remarks hold absolutely true for the fire service, as the Fire Cover Review document, leaked to the newspapers yesterday, confirms. It calls for 85% of brigades to double in size and says £1.5 billion in extra investment could save 70 lives and protect thousands of properties. It is time the government stop sitting on the report and act on its conclusions. That would be the basis for real modernisation.

Article copied from Firefighter the FBU Official Strike Bulletin No. 10

PLEASE DISPLAY THIS NEWSLETTER ON YOUR WORKPLACE NOTICEBOARD

Nottingham FBU Support Group
Launch Meeting
Tuesday 10th December

Venue, Time, and speakers to be announced, phone for details 07729311363

A FBU Support egroup has been set up to keep supporters in the Notts area up to date with campaigning information and discussion. To join email nottsfbusupport-subscribe@yahoo.com

DON'T BUY
THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
THE TIMES
SUNDAY TIMES

SHUN THE SUN / BYE TO SKY

The FBU would like to recommend a boycott of the rag that is called The Sun. The public can make their own mind up but only if they receive unbiased facts not the tosh being pumped out by this newspaper. I feel this policy should be endorsed by not only the Fire Brigades Union But the wider Trade Union Movement

"Bye to Sky" is what all firefighters ought to be saying because Sky News has matched the Sun for its disgraceful pro-government bias. Perhaps all FBU members who subscribe to Sky to immediately cancel their contracts. If 50% of our 50,000 membership were Sky subscribers and were to cancel that would cost Sky in the region of £5.1million. That's the only kind of response Murdoch would understand.