

# UNION CITY NEWS

BULLETIN OF NOTTINGHAM TRADES COUNCIL

ISSUE 1

## ARTHUR SCARGILL VINDICATED!

A special Delegate Conference of the NUM in Sheffield called to consider the critical report by Gavin Lightman QC passed a vote of confidence in the NUM leaders Arthur Scargill and Peter Heathfield, by an overwhelming majority of 4-1.

The NUM delegates by a similar majority threw out a call from South Wales for the national officials to resign and seek re-election. They showed a great degree of confidence in the NUM leaders for their handling of the union's finances during and after the miners' strike of 1984-5. Howard Wodsworth, a member of the Yorkshire Area Executive said Mr. Scargill had been vindicated and that the union now regarded the controversy as closed. Support for Arthur Scargill and Peter Heathfield from the largest areas - Yorkshire, the Midlands and the North East - ensured that criticism from the South Wales and Scottish areas was rejected.

The conference then resumed to debate the NUM's affiliation to the International Miners Organisation (IMO) in Paris, which had been at the heart of the dispute which played a key part in allowing the NUM to evade sequestration and receivership during and after the Great Strike. The £742,000 deal with the IMO to settle the issue of a disputed 1985 Soviet donation of money was accepted by a large majority.

Arthur Scargill was taken to hospital 2 weeks ago in Blackpool with pneumonia, but despite this he addressed the Conference against doctors advice.

COPIES OF ARTHUR SCARGILL'S REPLY TO THE LIGHTMAN REPORT ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM TRADES COUNCIL.



### THE OFFSHORE DISPUTE



Winning the current dispute on the N. Sea is an absolute necessity. Failure would mean the continuation of an industry in which over 300 have died and thousands been injured. In response to 24hr strikes organised by OILC employers sacked over a thousand men. They know trade union protection would cost them dearly. Organised workers would not allow safety to remain in the hands of those responsible for Piper Alpha, Ocean Odyssey & Brent Spar Sikorsky. More importantly it would be a major reversal in the anti-trade union trend of the last few years.

We urge all branches to support OILC. Donations & further information from: OILC, c/o OFFSHORE INFO CENTRE, 1A CLUMBER ST., OFF PRINCESS AVE., HULL. TEL & FAX 449822

### BAMBATHA'S CHILDREN

In May 1985 almost 1,000 workers employed by the British multi-national British Tyre & Rubber (BTR) in Natal, S. Africa were sacked for staging a one day strike for union recognition. They have been trying to pressurise BTR to reinstate them ever since. The strikers are members of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA). One of the ways they have raised support and awareness of their struggle is to produce plays which have toured South Africa and Britain. In 1987 'The Long March' toured Britain and now in the autumn of 1990 comes 'Bambathia's Children' (see diary overleaf for dates & venues).

The tour is desperately short of funds - please rush donations to 'Nottingham Sarmcol Strikers Support Group' and send to 14 Nottingham Road, Lowdham, Notts. NG14 7AP  
BTR products include Dunlop, Pretty Polly, Puma - remember when purchasing products that strikers say BTR stands for Blood Tears & Repression.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

**Thur 18th Oct**

Bambatha's Children  
7pm ICC

Lobby of Nottm Courts-  
opp. Evening Post from  
9am-5pm

**Fri 19th Oct**

'Mother Ireland' video  
7.30pm ICC

**Sat 20th Oct**

National Poll Tax demo  
coaches from Notts-  
phone Jaz 700230

**Tues 23rd Oct**

Bambatha's Children  
7.30pm ACNA Centre

**Fri 9th Nov**

Poll Tax benefit at  
Marcus Garvey 9pm-  
2am

**Weds 21st Nov**

Lunchtime official  
treeplanting to mark  
Centenary at  
Arboretum  
7.30pm Trades Council  
ICC

**Thurs 22nd Nov**

Trades Council Cabaret-  
comedian Mark Steele  
& music & late bar at  
Indian Community  
Centre Rawlson St./Noel  
St. 8.30pm £4/£3/£2

**Sat 24th Nov**

Gulf Anti-war demo  
local transport -tel  
623686

**Fri 30th Nov**

Joint Birmingham 6/BTR  
benefit at Marcus  
Garvey 9pm-2am

**Mon 3rd Dec**

County Council  
Reception to mark  
Trade Council  
Centenary-phone Leo  
703135 for details

**Weds 19th Dec**

Trades Council 7.30 ICC

## TUCOSH

We live & work in an increasingly dangerous environment. Workers & community groups need an independent source of info to wage the campaign for a safe & healthy environment at work, home & in the community.

The Nottingham Trade Union Campaign on Safety & Health(TUCOSH) has now been launched. Set up jointly by the Trades Council and 118 Workshop TUCOSH will provide info on hazards and help in building campaigns against them. It will aim to carry forward the national Hazards campaign locally, & help mobilize national TUC initiatives like 'Inspect & Protect' weeks. TUCOSH has extensive resources available for use by trade unions. These include the 'Barbour Health & Safety Microfile' - an information system of over 95,000 pages covering legislation, government circulars, British standards, guidance notes etc.

For more details contact Ian on 582369 or call in at 118 Workshop, 118 Mansfield Road.

## NO POLL TAX - NO CUTS

*As reminders and summonses are issued the message to non-payers must be 'Don't Panic-Don't Pay'. The non-payment campaign is holding up - over 10 million people are defying the Government.*

*However local noises are now being made about cuts in jobs and services to keep next years poll tax down. Local politicians will no doubt try and blame the non-payment campaign. We must say clearly - it's the Government who are to blame. Local councils shouldn't pass on Tory cuts onto its workforce and the community - we need a joint campaign to force more money out of central government.*

## NO POLL TAX! NO JOB CUTS! NO CUTS IN SERVICES!

## TRADES COUNCIL- 100 YEARS

This has been our Centenary year highlighted by our biggest Mayday march & rally for years addressed by Arthur Scargill and anti-poll tax campaigners.

We have produced a centenary handbook covering our past, a badge and a mug. No Nottingham trade unionist can surely sleep at night if they haven't got all 3 - order from Leo Keely, 204 Noel St., Forest Fields, Nottingham. £2 each or all three for £5. Cheques to Nottm Trades Council

### WHAT IS UNION CITY NEWS?

This is the bi-monthly newsletter of Notts Trade council. It's YOUR newsletter so help us by writing for it. Deadline for next issue is Monday 3rd December-send articles to Steve Battlemuch, 191 Burford Rd., Forest Fields.

### IS YOUR BRANCH AFFILIATED?

If you're reading this and your brach isn't affiliated shame on you! Contact Leo Keely(703135) or Steve Battlemuch(705788) for details

This issue has been written and produced by Steve Battlemuch, Jos Munkelt & Eric McNaughton