

12294  
5

# SEA PICKET

NO.5

JUNE  
30th

## Which way forward ?

Apologies for the delay in producing the latest SEA PICKET. You can't get the staff you know!

Information has been very slow working its way back from the picket line. As we have stated before SEA PICKET is not only for you to read but also for you to contribute towards as well. You may not like some of the stuff that we publish but our support remains 100% unlike some who would like to see the back of this dispute as quickly as possible.

Even today's demonstration has been described as a "union bashing exercise" by some back in Dover. If only these people had the initiative to organise a demonstration instead of trying to undermine attempts to raise the focus of the dispute. When this dispute is over and many of the strikers are struggling to find work a lot of these people will find themselves cosy little jobs in the new amalgamated union with the T.G.W.U.

As we have stated before the only way to win this dispute is by industrial action. Yes this will be hard especially as people have already come out and been sent back twice this year. Until this action is discussed and agreed by the strikers then the continuing media silence and the interest in the dispute which is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain will guarantee a long slow end to the whole affair.

## Support Groups

### MEETINGS OF LONDON SUPPORT GROUPS

Meetings of the London support groups are held every second Monday at 7.30 p.m., at the Tolmers Square Community Centre, Tolmer Square, London NW1 (Near Warren Street Tube). Representatives of support groups and all interested in this work are welcome to attend. Meetings are booked for Monday June 13th, Monday June 27th and Monday July 11th.

## A fair cop ?

Members of Hackney Seafarers Support Group were treated last Friday with typical Police neutrality. Three people collecting outside Safeways in Stamford Hill were charged with 'collecting without proper permission.' Court summons may or may not be issued. In 1½ hours £46 had been collected. The Police even tried to accuse people of begging!

### WEEKLY MASS PICKETS

Mass pickets are held in Dover every Saturday at the gates of the Eastern Docks. Supporters are welcome to join the picket line from 7.00 a.m.

## Snippets

Rumour has it that flying pickets are being organised. Was it true that a boat was 'picketed out' last week in Liverpool? If any assistance is required then drop us a line. Please!

Good to see Dover and Folkestone coming together. Time to stop bashing each other and to bash P+O instead.

# AUF WIEDERSEHEN PET

## to GERMANY and BACK

As announced in issue number two of Seapicket; strikers were able to speak to groups of workers in West Germany last week. The invitation to do so came through contacts with anti-fascists in Dusseldorf. As expected the initiative to try and develop international support was wholeheartedly endorsed by the Union leadership! In fact they resorted, as expected, to downright lies. They accused all those who went of being non-NUS members, members of the Workers Revolutionary Party and of 'spongeing off the NUS.' The delegation was told that it was 'messing things up' as 'The Union has Germany stitched up.' All strikers and their families must have seen the thousands of deutschmarks and German Trade Unionists at Dover!

Apparently the NUS has employed a man who took voluntary redundancy (ie he sold his job) at the end of the Miners strike. This man appears to have spent most of the previous week telephoning German Trade Unionists telling them that he is an official NUS member. We got back to discover that the Union had decided to fly out two full-time officials. They must be really disappointed, Sam managed to get to Bermuda! Sorry lads but you missed us! Apparently though strikers from Deal are going to Germany shortly. They may well meet all of the Unions full-time officers at this rate.

The trip itself had both some successes and failures. Most attempts to get 'official' Trade Union support were blocked at an early stage. Nevertheless we were able to speak with workers from Rheinhausen steel works. They have been fighting to stop large scale redundancies. At one point they occupied the plant. Thus a common identity was established. A collection of £50 was taken. The shop-stewards committee has agreed to allow a speaker to address them this week.

On Wednesday we were interviewed by journalists from two 'left' groups, the Marxist-Lennist Party of Deutschland and the 'Internationalen Arbeiter-Association.' Articles appealing for donations and messages of support are appearing in their papers this week. Similarly the Communist Party's daily newspaper has published an article this week.

On Thursday one striker spoke to a meeting of workers in Kiel and collected £100. Friday the 17th saw one striker take part in a demo in Hamburg and appearing on the local radio station. At a meeting on the evening £40 was raised. In Dusseldorf strikers spoke to an assembly of 800 unemployed workers.

On Saturday the invitation to speak at the Regional congress of the Green Party in Bonn raised £110. In addition the Green Parties newspaper is to publish an article on the strike. A meeting in Gottingen meant a long trip. The people present agreed to try and persuade local tour operators not to book passengers on P&O.

On Saturday one of the Union Conferences was leafleted and as a result we were given a few minutes to tell those present about the dispute. A resolution was passed and information is to be sent to the different branches. (It would have been nice to say which Union this was..but we fear that the NUS will ring them up and try to stop their initiatives.)

One striker remained in Germany for another week to speak to a number of meetings. It is hoped that a future trip to Spain can be arranged. Details will appear later. Anyone planning international ventures, then please contact us to get some useful tips!

Published by supporters of the seafarers.