Solidarity Bulletin

special supplement

JOBS' SLAUGHTER-PEOPLE OR PROFITS?

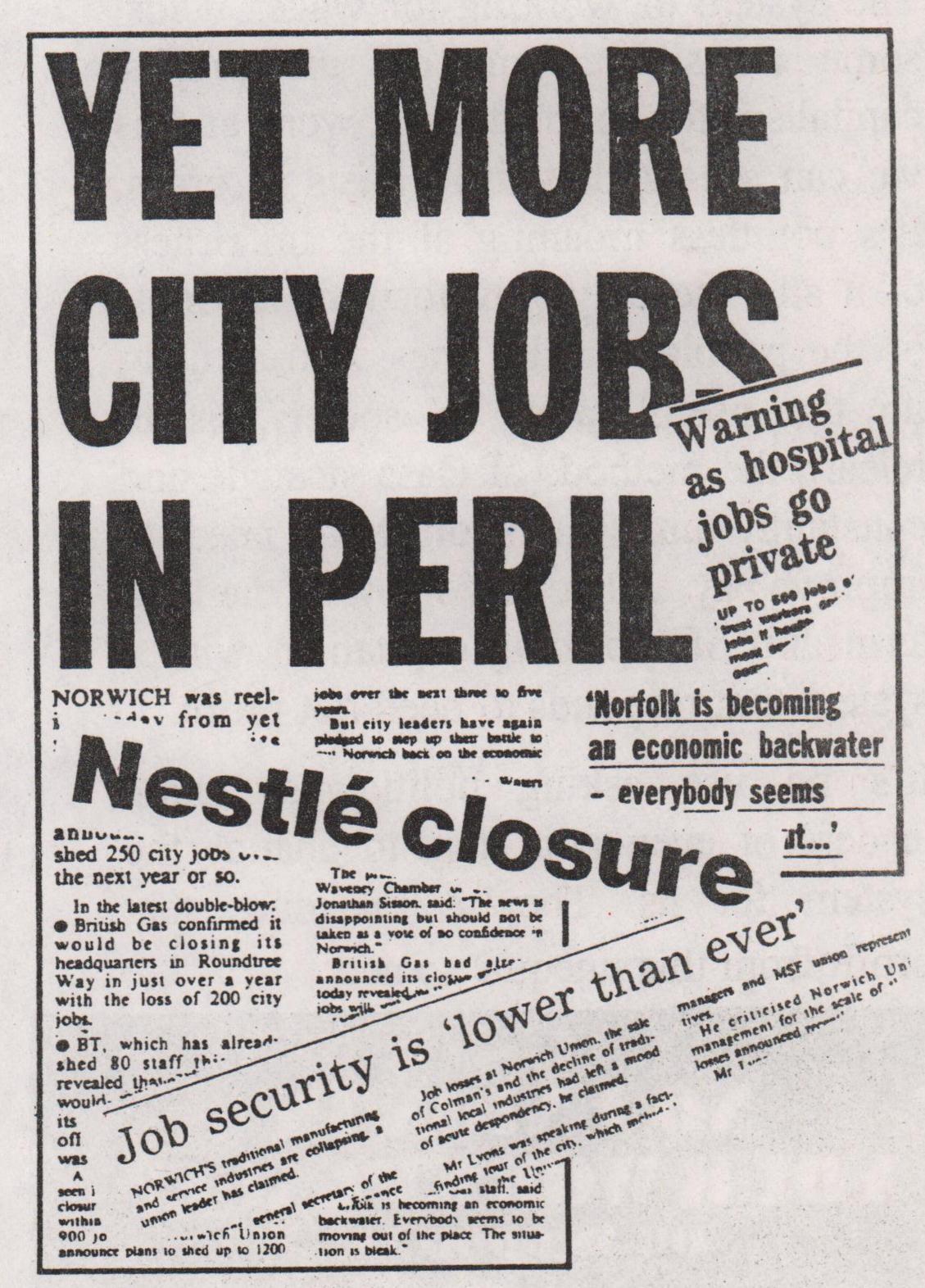
The current slaughter of jobs in Norwich; whether at Nestlé, Norwich Union, N&N Hospital, British Gas and BT, to name but a few, has nothing to do with the old justifications of recession or unprofitability.

British Gas and Telecom announced record profits this year and British Gas has given all of its executives hefty pay rises, as much as 75%, and this just days before announcing job cuts in Norwich.

Nestle's profits were £3 billion... Norwich Union, though experiencing problems, is certainly not short of a quid or two.

To these companies, whether UK based or Multinational, workers and their families are nothing more than expendable assets. Simply being in profit is no longer enough. Profits must be doubled or tripled. Money is everything and peoples livelihoods and communities are nothing.

Across Britain, Europe and much of the world, the number of full-time jobs being destroyed is growing and seems to cause little or no concern amongst the talking heads of TV and Government. Part-time jobs are supposed to fill the gap, low paid with no security and subject to the bosses every whim. What a joke! What's the point of being in line with our 'competitors' if their industry and society is as devastated as ours.



So what are the Trade Unions going to do about it? They have long accepted "management's right to manage" and all that goes with it, arguing for pay rises that mean nothing in the face of inflation, accepting a "rationalisation" here and a "modernisation" there. To keep thier feet under the bosses and Governments table the unions sell us wage slavery and tell us that to expect anything better is unrealistic and idealistic. Their warped logic leads to accepting that those who produce the worlds' wealth have no control over it, accepting wage slavery, and therefore, having to accept the

current round of local job losses. They have no alternative, we do.

WHAT ALTERNATIVE?

The system of working for wages whilst some parasite creams off the profits, capitalism for short, doesn't work and as we can see lurches from crisis to crisis. It's pointless moaning at the unfairness of it all. The only way forward for most of the population, the ones who actually do the useful work in society, is to relearn the methods of class struggle and constantly link the short term need to improve pay and conditions with the long term aim of replacing capitalism with a system that responds to need not profit.

It's no use asking politicians, union leaders or even pop stars to change the system for us. They're the ones that profit from this unequal society.

NO UNION IN
YOUR WORKPLACE?

Norwich Solidarity Centre can help you organise your workplace.

OR AS GOOD AS?

With information on workplace law, health & safety, company profits, also meeting space, advice & support, leaflets...

Solidarity - Workplace control - Organisation - Action

NOT - credit cards, mortgages, insurance, "wait for a Labour Government", "ghost" union branches, shady deals & distant bureaucrats!

Call In
1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month, 12 - 4pm.

2nd Tuesday of the month, 7pm - 9pm.

NORWICH SOLIDARITY CENTRE:

Room 13, Muspole Workshops, Muspole Street (off Duke Street), Norwich.

SOLIDARITY FEDERATION (Transport Workers Network, Education Workers Network, Public Service Workers Network) - British section of the INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION

Only we, ourselves can stop the current job losses. Any and all action taken by the workers directly affected, deserves full support. Marches and petitions are all well and good, but when it comes down to it action, solidarity and determination can deliver results. Only occupying our workplaces, strikes and sympathetic action, can protect our jobs and help to build a better future, not waiting for the next Labour Government or obeying employment laws that are designed to keep us divided and powerless.

What happens today in Norwich can happen tomorrow in York or Halifax. If we don't stand together and act together we fail. Industry-wide action must be taken now. The bosses are organised, determined and ruthless, so must we be.

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alternative economics,
world-wide struggles,
working-class & labour
movement history, workplace
law, organisation and
resistance, radical feminism,
anti-militarism,
anarchism...magazines
...and more

OPENING TIMES:

First Four Tuesdays of Month 7pm - 9pm

First and Third Saturdays of Month 12noon - 4pm

Norwich Solidarity Centre

Rooms 12/13
Muspole Studios
Muspole Street
(off Duke Street)
Norwich