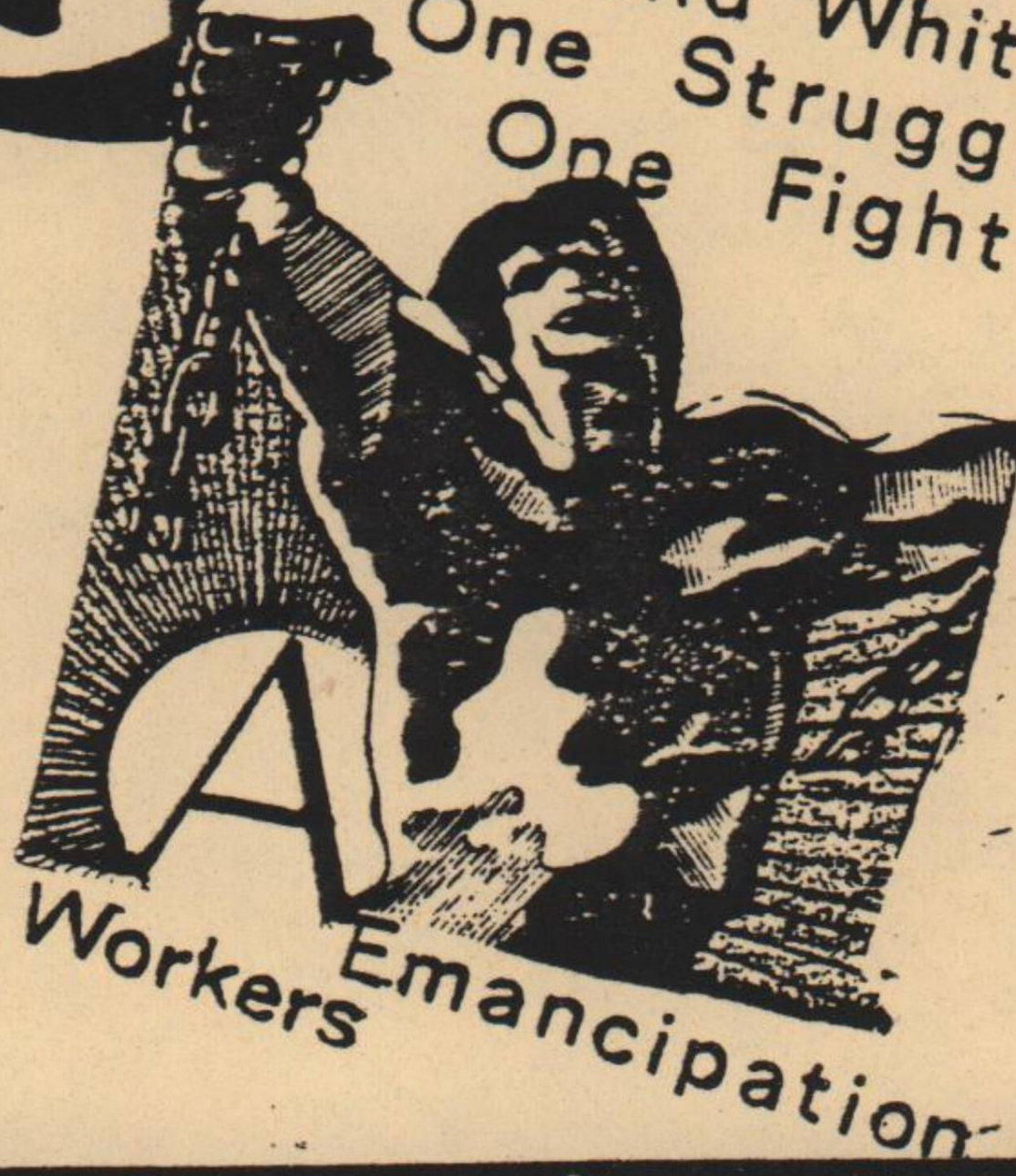


RISING FREE

We've earned these mines

150 52
D CCC

Man and Woman
Black and White
One Struggle
One Fight



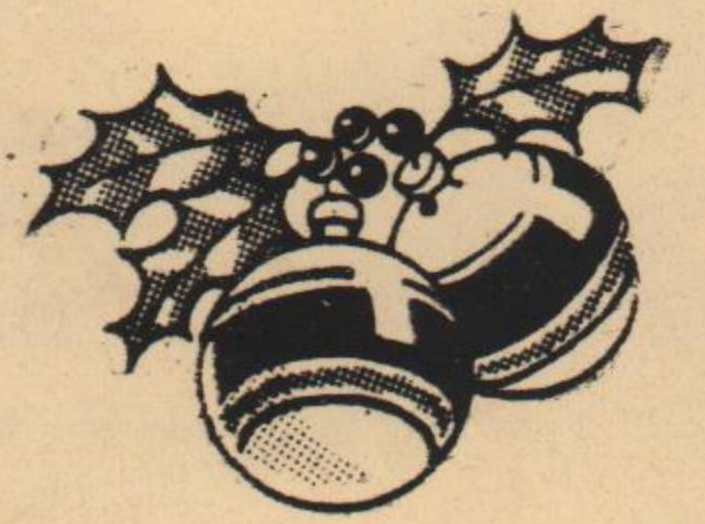
a thousand times over.

10p

xmas 84.
issue no.8.

THATCHER'S BRITAIN

SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME!!



(Photography)

OCCUPY

The stalemate between the miners & the state continues with the Miners & their families suffering continued hardship, the N.U.M. leadership have shown a certain degree of militantancy in coming this far but their mixture of militant unionism & reformism is now running out of steam, waiting for one big mass picket now seems to be the game, when the state attempts to move pit head coal stocks, the ones in the N.U.M. leadership who are prepared to go that far hope it will force the state to compromise, the Leftist groups notably the swp are pushing the mass picket tactic as well, The N.U.M. leadership headed by Scargill on the one advocate militancy on the other they play ball with shitheads like Pilloock of the Labore party and Willis(hang him high) T.U.Circus, the N.U.M's limitations can now clearly be seen. Mass picketing with the pushing and shoving may well seem exciting especially to the Trot vanguards who could organise away day return picketing, paperselling & sightseeing, mass picketing today faced with a national riot Force, calvary, dogs, C.S.Gas, plastic bullets, armoured riot control vechiels it would be a fucking massacre, anyway masses of pickets might turn up at a certain place

CONT:overleaf.....

Build the resistance

OCCUPY CONT:.....

only to find out coal is being moved 200 miles away and that they've been conned also pickets might turn up at a certain time only to be kept waiting & waiting & waiting untill their numbers dwindled and then the coal would be moved.

Anyway for fucks sake lets get away from the capitalist mentality of workers on strike walking out of the workplace, we fucking work their, other workers made the places, we create all the wealth, Take Over The Workplaces, kick the fucking Bosses & scabs OUT! after all "WE'VE EARNED THESE MINES A THOUSANDS TIMES OVER"

occupy the mines! build the barricades! defend the pit communities! prepare for inner city rioting! sabotage industry!

LONG LIVE WORKERS AUTONOMY!

if all this sounds crazy, ain't standing on a symbolic mass picket getting your head cracked open and having the shit kicked out of you even crazier - think about it! silly ain't it! if we're going to have the shit kicked out of us for fucks sake lets do it properly and make it worthwhile!!!

VICTORY TO THE MINERS COMMUNE*****

MINERS NEWS.....

CLASS WAR PRISONERS

Davie Hamilton, Chairman of the Dalkieth central strike committee, has been held in custody since October. Originally bailed on a breach of the peace charge, he was detained after an alleged incident involving a scab was deemed to be a breach of bail.

Lothian miners have protested that Davie has been victimised because of his activity in the strike. He's now to appear in Edinburgh on 19th December. Messages of support to Mr David Hamilton, H M Saughton Prison, Edinburgh.

Meanwhile, 3 miners from the Alloa area are being held in Barlinnie following an incident which involved the overturning of a police car. Show your solidarity by writing to:
Jim Tierney, Prisoner on remand,
H M Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow

source(counter info.)

strikers sentenced



Two South Yorkshire striking miners were both jailed for a year at Derby Crown Court last week for beating the shits out of a working scab miner, (six months of their sentences was suspended) a third miner accused with them was discharged. Surprisingly both men pleaded guilty to the charge, probably meevingly believing that the boss's court would be less lenient with them if they did so.

The scab suffered a broken rib and cuts and bruises plus the loss of a tooth. It seems the two miners were traced by the pigs after another striking miner, who went to the aid of the scab!!! took down the registration number of the car that the striking miners drove off in after saying their goodnights to the scab, Curiously he was rewarded 20 quid by the courts for grassing on his striking comrades. How do you till who is a scab and who is'nt these days?

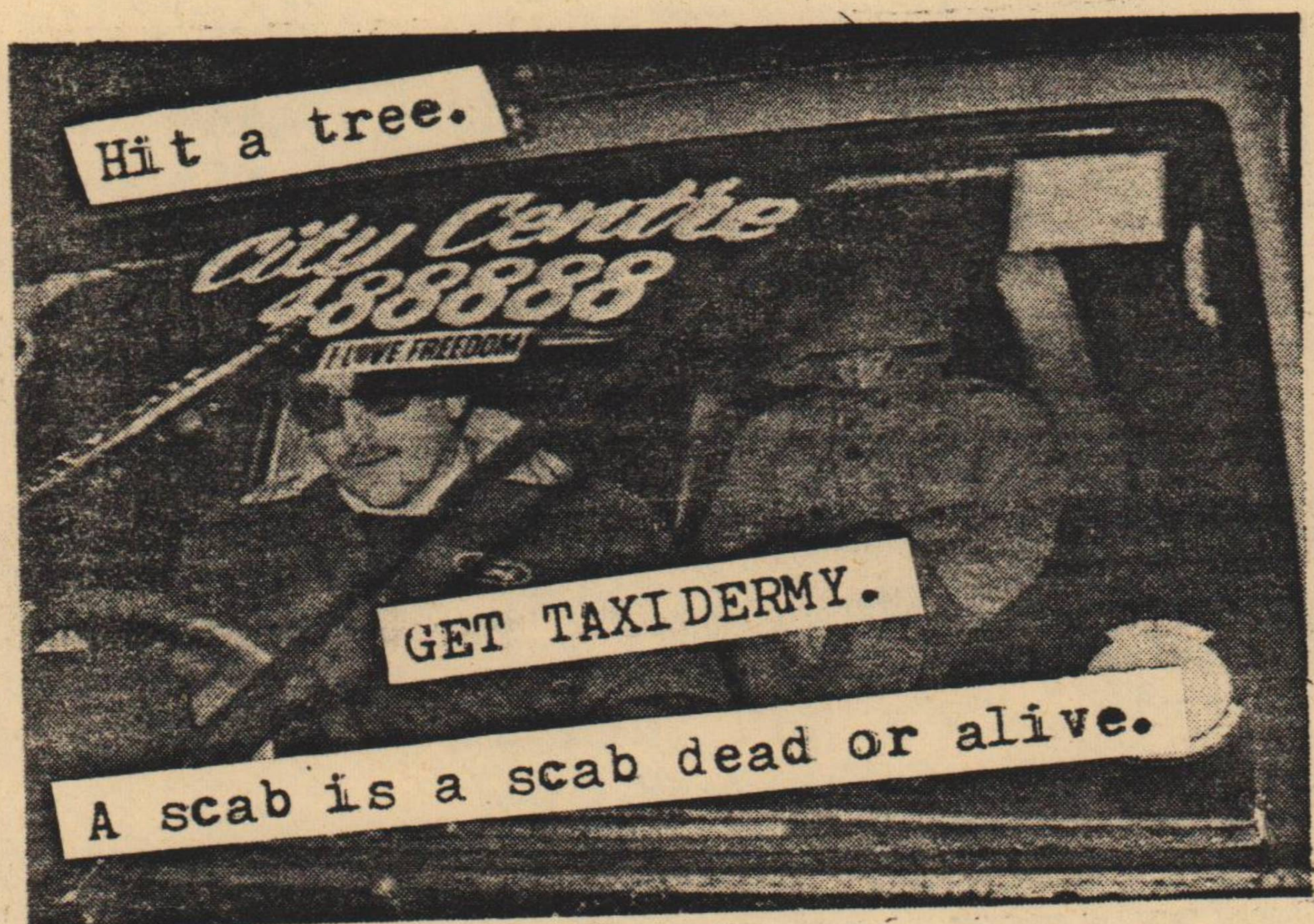
Messages of solidarity for the miners jailed write to...

Peter Copper.	Ronold Staniland.
33 Jasmine Av,	156 Rosemary Rd,
Beighton,	Beighton,
South Yorkshire.	South Yorkshire.

'RADIO FREE ARTHUR'

Two over-caring amateur radio jocks who volunteer their service to Radio Link, Derby's hospital radio recently recorded an illegal broadcast by 'Radio Free Arthur' a pirate station who have been inecepting news bulletins on Radio Trent through-out the dispute. Our amateur buffs (who wish to remain anonymous) thought it was their civic duty to pass the recording on to the Department of Trade.

It's estimated that Radio Trent has a listening audience of 1,200,000, after fading out the presenter the pirate broadcaster opens with, 'Attention, attention, attention, this is a message to Nottinghamshire miners presently at work this frequency has been commandeered by striking Nottinghamshire miners! The broadcast then continues to slag off MacGreger and the Nottinghamshire Chief Constable. Recent broadcasts to date have been scarce.



... TWO LEGS GOOD.

NUM General Secretary Peter Heathfield has been rightly criticised by striking Chesterfield miners over extensions now being carried out on his semi-detached home in Newbold Road, Chesterfield- it's rumoured to be costing £10,000. Miners have observed the work going on for two months one was reported as saying that now was not the time for carrying out that sort of work not when so many mining families were finding it hard to make ends meet. Heathfield was quoted as saying how he spent his money is of no public interest. Maybe he ought to remember who pays his wages.

Twelve voices were shouting in anger, and they were all alike. No question, now, what had happened to the faces of the pigs. The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which. (Animal Farm)

riot charges dropped

21 striking North Derbyshire miners had charges of rioting dropped against them at Chesterfield Magistrates yesterday (Dec 18th) on the grounds of insufficient evidence. (Surprise, surprise when have the pigs ever needed evidence) Instead 20 of them were further remanded on renewed bail untill Jan 14th, 14 of them on charges of threats and 'besetting'! a working scab miner.

SCROOGE

At a meeting of the Derby Trades union council a motion to increase the councils cash aid to the miners from £25 to £200 was shamefully defeated.



The packed scene at the Market Place.

Over 1500 people turned up on the miners solidarity march & rally in Derby on Nov. 24th. Arthur Scargill was the main speaker, over £1,000 pounds was collected for the miners and their families.

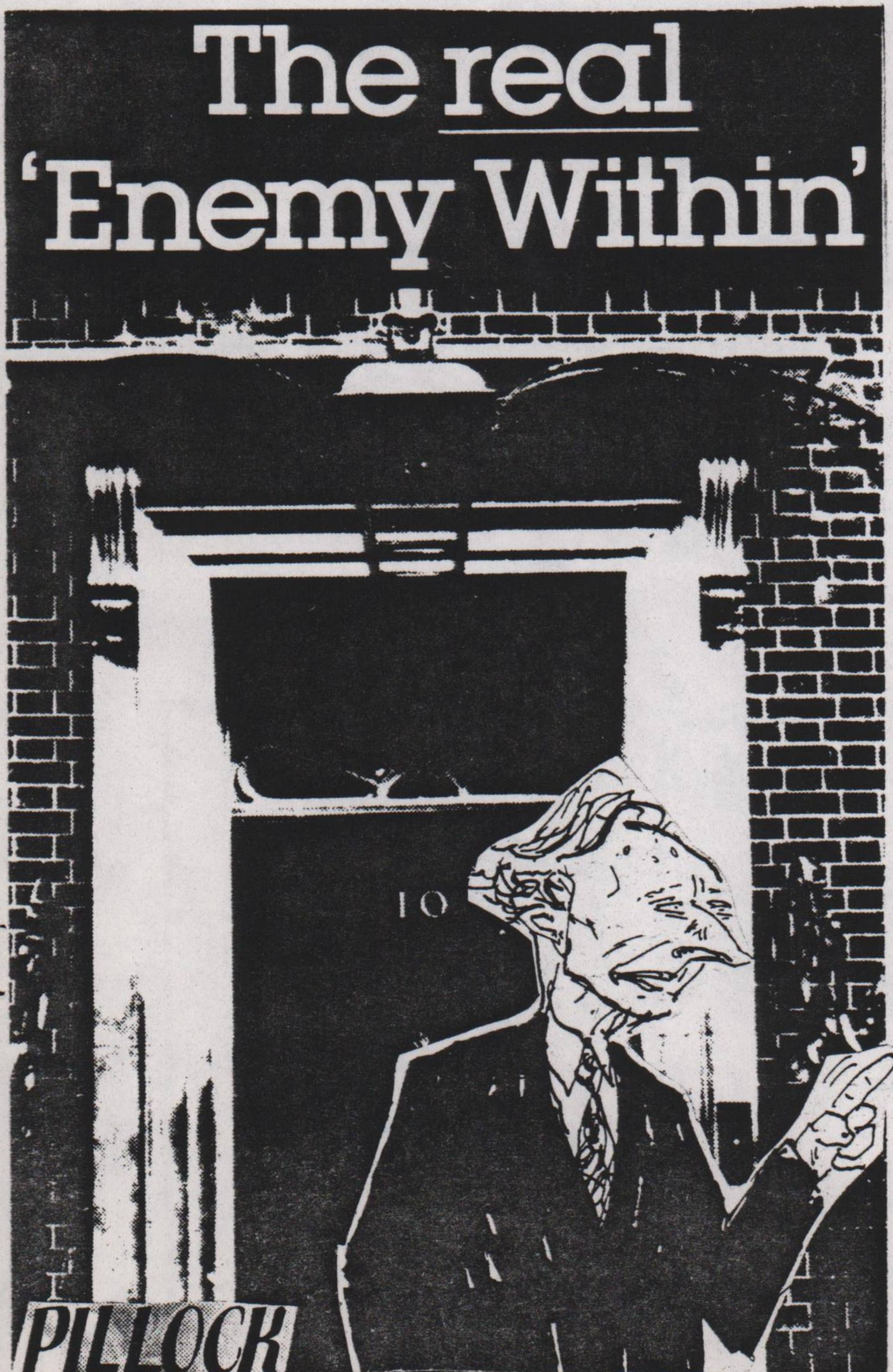
MORE than 200 ASELF men at British Rail in Derby have donated £5,500 in clothing and food to their adopted striking miners' families.

Solidarity.....

Solidarity greeting cards are still available, set of 10 with envelopes £1.80, send to 39 Denbigh st; Chaddesden, Derby. So far over 250 cards have been flogged and £24 has been sent to shirebrook miners food kitchen.

STOP PRESS: A food kitchen is being set up in Shirebrook, one of the areas where the Tories and the Coal Board are trying to get the 'back to work'

movement going. Rush donations to Barbara Foster, 12 Boundary Close, Langwith Junction, Mansfield.



State terror up to October	
Arrests	7149
Charges	6020
On Court bail	3839
Cases dealt with	1953
Convictions	1571
Acquittals	382

Sentence after conviction	
Custodial sentence	39
Detention Centre	5
Day in police custody	14
Suspended sentence	20
Remanded in custody	14
Youth custody	2
Fines - under £100	
over £100	327
Conditional or absolute discharge	179
Bound over to keep the peace	556

community
policing
& the miners
strike.....





The articles below have been reprinted from the pamphlet *Anarchism—arguments for and against*, written by Albert Meltzer.

ORGANISATION AND ANARCHISM

Those belonging to or coming from authoritarian parties find it hard to believe that it is possible to organise without "some form" of government. Therefore they conclude, and it is a popular argument against anarchism, that "anarchists do not believe in organisation". For instance:

They break up other people's organisations but are unable to do anything because they do not believe in building their own"

They may well break up organisations because they are dangerous, hierarchical or useless, but it is true to say they do not believe in building their own. It can well be admitted that particular people in particular places may have failed in such a task. It is true that in Great Britain, for instance, the anarchists have not yet succeeded in building up an effective organisation. This is a valid, internal criticism. But it is untrue to say that there *cannot be such a thing as an anarchist organisation*. An organisation may be democratic or dictatorial; it may be authoritarian or libertarian; and there are many libertarian organisations, not necessarily anarchistic, which prove that all organisation need not be run from the top downwards.

It is significant that many trade unions, in order to keep their movement disciplined, and their members in an integral part of capitalist society, become (if they do not start as) authoritarian; but how many employers' organisations impose similar discipline? They cannot; because their members would walk out. They must come to free agreement, because the members have their independence ("property is liberty"!).

Only the most revolutionary unions of the world (I.W.W. of America, C.N.T. of Spain, etc.) learned how to keep the form of organisation of mass labour movements on an informal basis, with a minimum of central administration, and with every decision referred back to the workers on the job.

Leadership

This is often a vexed question: do anarchists believe in leadership or not? Obviously not, because the leadership principle leads to the elite party, and the elite party to government. Yet for all that there *is* such a thing as leadership. Some people in some circumstances, do naturally "give a lead". But this should not mean they are a class apart. Any revolution in a factory where the majority have no revolutionary experience, will at times "give a lead". But no anarchist would form an INSTITUTIONALISED LEADERSHIP. Neither too should s/he wait for a lead, but give one.

Peace women arrested

Five protesters from 'Derbyshire Women for Peace' were arrested yesterday (Dec 18th) charged with obstructing the highway after they had erected a temporary peace camp on grass verge outside the Rolls Royce Raynesway plant. (The plant deals in constructing nuclear cooling reactors) The women had intended to stay outside the plant until after Christmas to further their campaign but the local pigs were called in after complaints from motorists. (So much for the session of goodwill) The women were bailed to appear before Derby Magistrates on Fed 12th.



Women anti-nuclear protesters setting up peace camp at Raynesway, Derby.

Peace camp set up again

WOMEN anti-nuclear protesters set up their peace camp outside Rolls Royce and Associates in Raynesway, Derby, again today — three days after it was broken up by police.

The Derbyshire Women for Peace group is protesting at R-R's involvement in the nuclear industry and is angry that while billions are spent on the arms race, famine is rife in the Third World.

On Monday five members of the group were arrested for alleged obstruction of the highway.

A spokesman for the group said response from the public had been good with peering motorists on busy Raynesway waving, giving thumbs-up and sounding their horns.

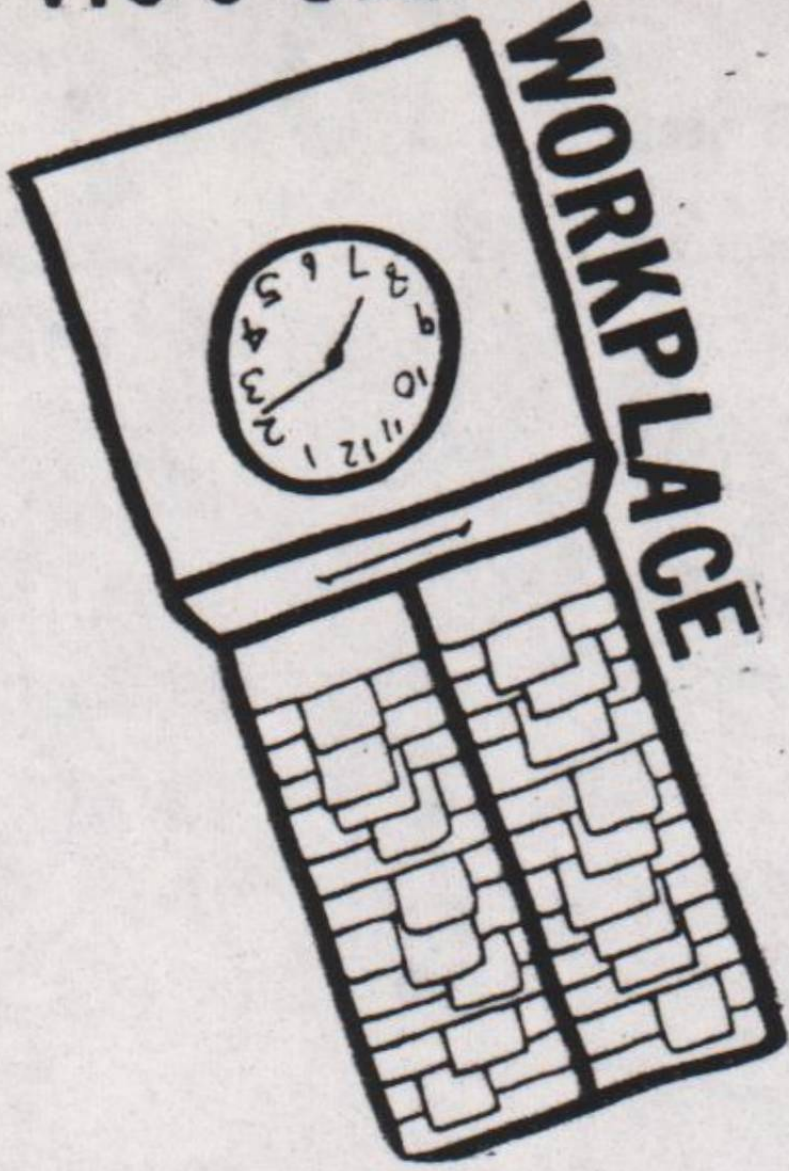
STUFF THE LAW - WE WANT JUSTICE!

On December 12th, 12 men pleaded 'not guilty' to 'Breach of the Peace' and 'Malicious Mischief' at Glasgow Sheriff Court — these charges followed the 8 hour occupation of Price Waterhouse's Glasgow offices in September. This action had been taken in solidarity with the miners strike and in protest against Price Waterhouse's seizing mining communities' funds.

Before the trial people picketed and leafleted outside the court. There was applause from the packed public benches as the defendants refused to sit in the prescribed order, explaining that this would make it easy for police witnesses to identify them. More cheers as one defendant had his 'not guilty' plea accepted. Then the defendants protested when the Procurator Fiscal asked for an adjournment of the trial — till APRIL 15th! The defendants argued that being on bail for 7½ months was an intolerable restriction on their liberty. The sheriff replied that such adjournments were 'normal' and ruled that the 11 should be on bail till the new trial date of 15th April.

source(counter info.)



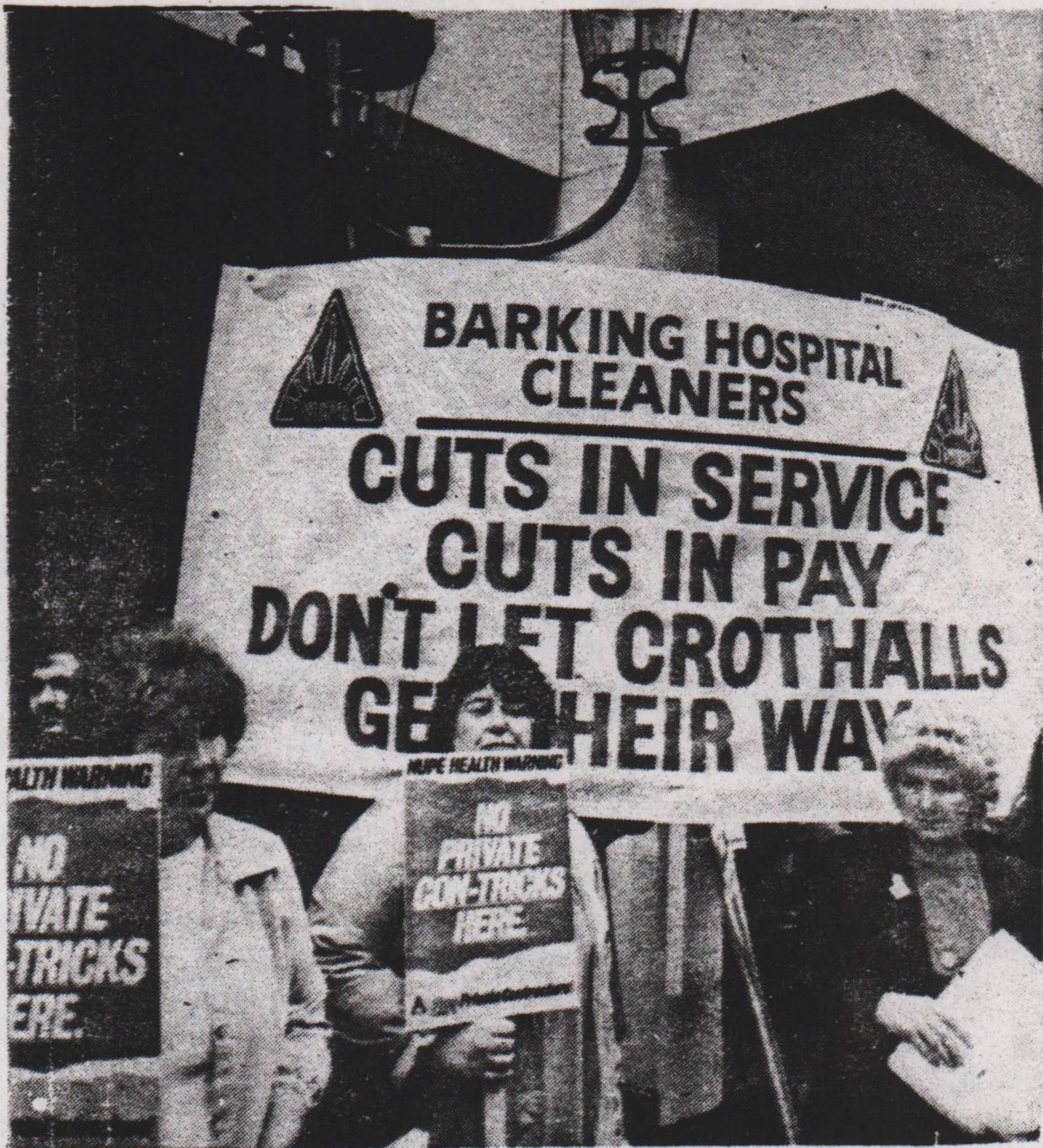


Barking

Domestic staff at Barking Hospital in East London have been on strike against Crothalls, the private firm which has the contract for cleaning, for nearly nine months.

They are fighting new hours and pay rates introduced by Crothalls which in some cases reduced the number of hours worked from 35 to 15, with no increase in the number of staff employed.

Two of the strikers spoke to Tim Anderson.



Picketing the AGM of Pritchards, parent company of Crothalls.

CAMMELL LAIRDS

CAMMELL Lairds strike committee met for the first time since being released from Walton Prison, and decided to step up the fight to win back the jobs of the 43 workers, sacked for fighting for the right to work.

In early October 37 shipyard workers were jailed for 28 days for refusing to end their sit-in at the Cammell Laird shipyard, Birkenhead, in defiance of a high court order. The Cammell Laird workers had been occupying an accommodation gas rig and the destroyer HMS Edinburgh for 14 weeks in protest at compulsory redundancies.

Messages of support and donations to: Lol Duffy, Cammell Laird Strike Committee, 3 St James Court, Victoria Road, Wallasey.

RAILWAYS on the line

Railmen from Coalville's Mantle Lane depot, Leicestershire, are calling for industrial action after one of their colleagues was declared mentally unfit for work by management.

Mr Graham Cross, secretary of the Coalville branch of the National Union of Railwaymen, explained that the vast majority of local NUR men had been complying with the ban on movement of coal by rail during the miners' dispute.

He said: "The signalmen have been the key to our resistance all along, but in the last two days management have succeeded in moving coal by

train from the Leicestershire coalfields for the first time in 38 weeks because they brought in outside people, not from our branch, to work in the signal boxes.

"They removed one of our men from his signal box saying he was mentally unfit for work, which was a load of rubbish. We are going to fight it all the way through the union."

A decision on whether or not to take strike action is likely to be made on January 2 at a meeting of the council of the Rail Unions' Federation.

I CONFESS TO SABOTAGE BY WORKING SO HARD THAT THE MACHINE WORE OUT...



ANARCHIST PUBLICATIONS

BLACK FLAG, national fortnightly anarchist newspaper, its on sale in forum bookshop.

*CLASS WAR, monthly anarchist paper, Dec. issue, 10p articles on Monetarism, women at work, fuck off racists, stop the city, the porn storm, Kinnochio-speaks and his nose starts to grow, available plus s.a.e. from BOX CW, 84b WHITECHAPEL HIGH ST; LONDON E1.

*POSITION PEN, publication from the Hastings anarchist group, NOV; free (but send small donation) articles on Miners strike-Industrial perspectives-Syndicalist stances, Impressions of Sweden, Vitamin deficiency and mental health, available plus s.a.e. from position pen, c/o Hastings Free press, 92 London Rd; St. Leonards on sea, East Sussex.

Rising Free

We apologise for this issue for being a week late, You will notice two pages headed COUNTER INFORMATION, this is a newsheet produced by anarchists in Edinburgh and Glasgow, with the aim of a wide circulation, hence it being inserted in Rising Free, we shall be inserting them also in future issues.

Derby Class Struggle Anarchists, for more info. contact 39 Denbigh st. Chaddesden Derby.

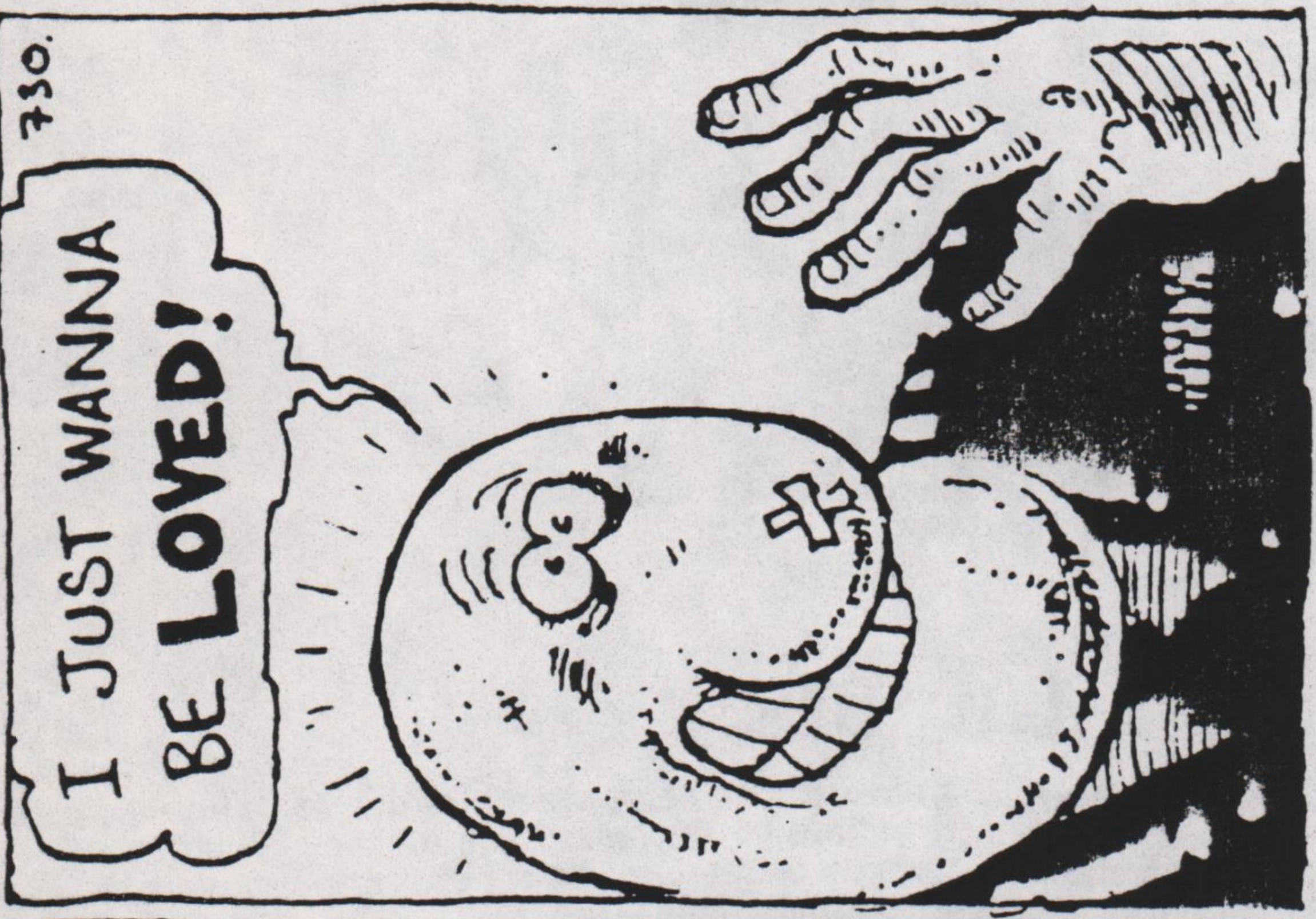
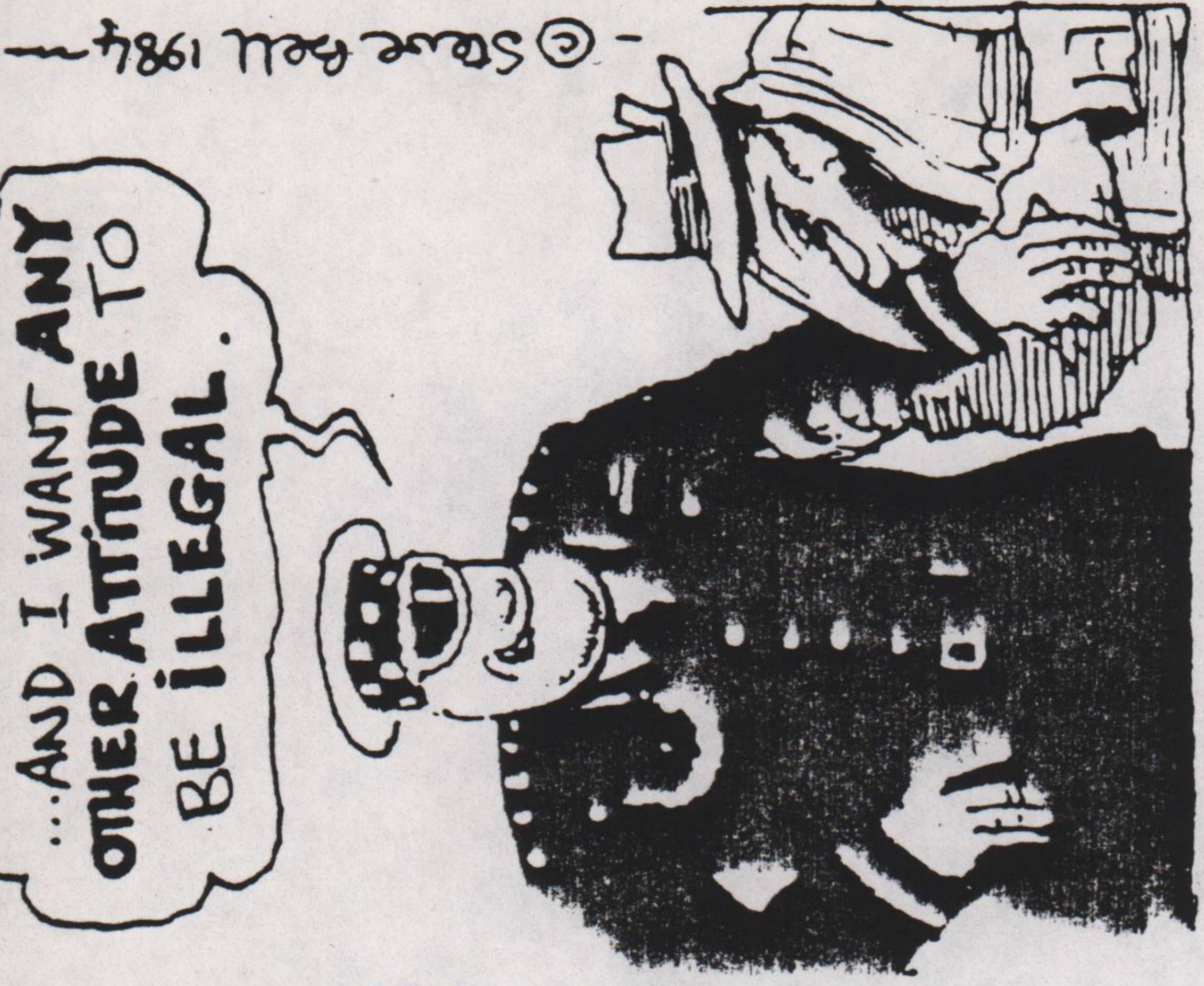
The next issue of Rising Free will be out on Fri. Jan. 18th. 1985. its on sale in Guts, saddler gate & forum bookshop.

LETTERS

News, Views & Comment, send to:
40 Leacroft Rd; Normanton, Derby.

meeting report...

We held our first public discussion on Nov 28th at The Dolphin Inn, (one of Derby's oldest pubs) DAM IWA National Secretary came down from Manchester to speak about Anarcho-Sydicalism versus Trade Unionism. Before the meeting we anticipated an embarrassing turn-out but as it was twelve people turned up, not bad we thought for a first meeting. Unfortunately six of them (mainly local punks) pissed off after an hour, was it something we said?. Anyway those who remained were able to generate a positive discussion mainly related to the miners dispute and Anarchist ideas generally. We agreed to meet again (minus the speaker of-course) on Dec 19th.



© Steve Bell 1984

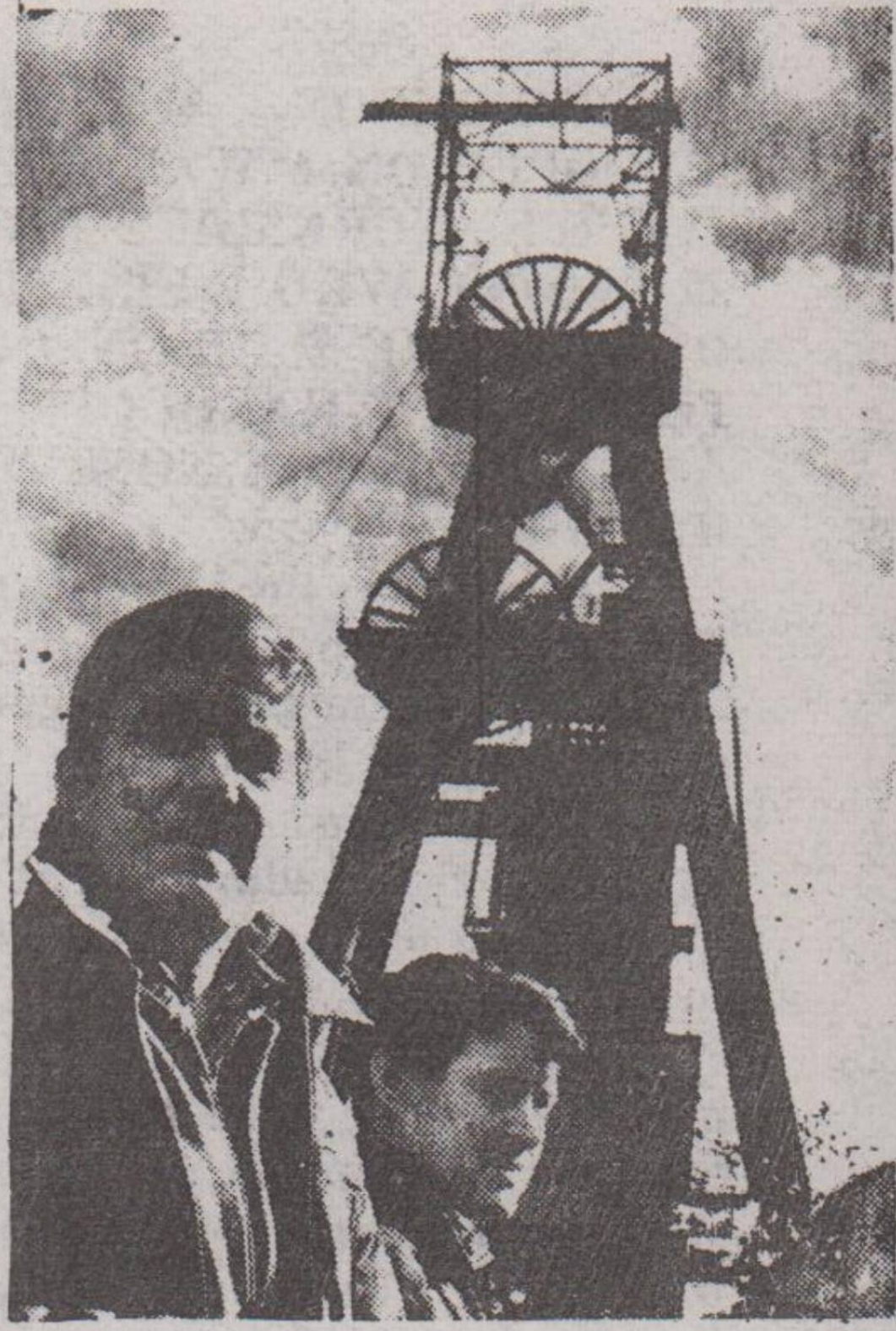
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COUNTER INFORMATION

NEWS FROM THE PICKET LINE

No. 3

DENBY GRANGE (Barnsley area)



PICKETS from Kellingley Colliery arrived at Denby Grange at 6 am on Thursday 25th October.

Numerous police and mounted policemen met the pickets. It was rumoured that four men were about to go into work. Before the scab van arrived the pickets began to push accompanied by the usual chorus of 'Here we go, Here we go!'

The police, clearly under strain, began to slip back. They then split ranks, drew batons, and charged the miners. The pickets were forced back except for one man who managed to pull a policeman off his horse. Police closed ranks, their vanguard being the cavalry. One miner then threw a firework into the air: the explosion causing the police horses to back into their own ranks. Horsemen then retreat into rear.

Miners raid a nearby timber yard for ammo, whereupon the Chief Pig orders pickets to disperse. Pickets front ranks split revealing their rearguard armed with sticks. The Police order miners to put down their 'weapons', whereupon a picket shouts out "I'm Spartacus" holding stick into air. The remainder then follow suit. (To appreciate this act of solidarity you must be familiar with the Kirk Douglas epic of the same name. The scene this parallels is the one where the victorious Romans (police) promise to spare the slaves (the pickets) if they betray their leader. The slaves refuse with the cry "I'm Spartacus")

The pickets begin to chant and then bombard the police with their sticks. The police, unprotected, sustain casualties. Cavalry charged pushing pickets back up to the timber yard; riot squad charge. Pickets beat a hasty retreat.

Pickets build barricades, using wooden stakes, halting police. This time the police retreat, pursued by pickets. Police charge once more only to be pelted by stones, bricks and sticks. This tug-of-war continued for three more times.

Eventually police triumphant and cavalry force pickets to retreat to nearby field. Chase continues until pickets driven back into their cars.

Kellingley pickets leave Denby Grange at approx. 8am.

A striking miner from Fryston pit near Castleford phoned up the so-called "Silver Birch" to find out info on the scab leader. The Fryston miner asked him if any other miners from the Castleford area had phoned him; he said not.

"Silver Birch" then invited the Fryston comrade to a secret meeting of scab miners in Notts. When the miner from Fryston asked "Silver Birch" how he could get into Notts, with all the police road blocks, "Silver Birch" replied, "NO PROBLEM, JUST TELL ME YOUR CAR REGISTRATION NUMBER AND YOU'LL GET THROUGH".

AND WE'RE TOLD THE POLICE ARE NEUTRAL!

(Source: Hull Direct Action Movement).



TRUNCHEON WEILDING POLICE SWOOPED ON A WASTE TIP IN GRIMETHORPE, YORKSHIRE AND ARRESTED 22 PEOPLE WHO WERE PICKING COAL. DURING THE RAID, ON OCTOBER 14th, THE POLICE HANDCUFFED CHILDREN AND BROKE THE NOSE OF AN 8 YEAR OLD GIRL.

The next day the local people struck back. Miners, women and young people were all involved. The pit management, responsible for calling in the police, were stoned as they drove into work. Action was taken against lorries loading coal at the tip. An ncb mechanical loader was set on fire and burnt to a cinder.

In the afternoon, a 1,000 strong crowd marched on the local police station. A police car was overturned, every window in the station was shattered, and the police inside were forced to flee. People took further action at the colliery, damaging Coal Board property.

At night crowds of women and children gathered outside the police station. Suddenly, at 10pm, the police charged their vans into the crowds. Later, it's reported that young people broke shop windows in the village High Street.

The Grimethorpe events are not unique. There was similar direct action to resist police oppression in the Yorkshire mining communities of Hemsworth, Fitzwilliam and Kinley in July. 39 police stations in South Yorkshire have been damaged since the strike started.

The actions against the police and capitalist property on the streets of Yorkshire pit villages point an important way forward for the class struggle today. If similar actions breakout in towns and cities throughout Britain on anything the scale of the '81 riots, the Government and the ruling class will be reeling.

Only a combination of police repression and an information clamp down by the mass media have so far prevented another wave of mass rebellions like 1981. As Kenneth Newman, the head of the Metropolitan Police said on October 16th - "During the summer this year (in London) there were many mini-riots which had the potential to escalate to Britain 1981 proportions. But they were quickly and effectively extinguished. So effectively, indeed, that they hardly rated a mention in the press."

(Guardian, 17-10-84).

But could the police so easily control simultaneous mass direct action at pitheads, in pit villages, in inner city areas, in housing schemes, in town centres?

POWER CUTS COULD BE THE SPARK.

A young miner from the Lothians coalfield told us recently that his mates in the area were saying that when the first power cuts come they're going down to the shops for some free shopping.

Action to disrupt power stations and thus hasten power cuts is vital. Power cuts could not only spark off riots but would also seriously hit industry and commerce.

As class struggle develops into class war and as mass strikes and riots break out world wide, fundamental questions need to be asked. The capitalist system, east and west produces countless atrocities such as pensioners dying of hypothermia while pits and coal fired power stations are closed, such as people starving while food "surpluses" rot. **HOW LONG ARE WE GOING TO LET PROFIT RULE OUR LIVES IN THIS WAY?**

When are we going to go beyond struggling to defend our few remaining crumbs, and start fighting to take over the whole bakery?

(Information on Grimethorpe events; Newsline 16/10, Socialist Worker, 20/10, Daily Telegraph 17/10, Times 17/10).

FREE ALL IMPRISONED IN MINERS STRUGGLE

The full weight of the police and the legal system is being used to try and crush the miners' struggle. More than 7,000 have been arrested. Over 4,000 have been subjected to restrictive bail conditions.

AND 44 MINERS ARE NOW LANGUISHING IN JAIL. One is Andrew Bradley, a Derbyshire miner sentenced to 9 months for "criminal damage to an 11,000 volt cable." He's in Sudbury Open Prison. 7 young workers from Armthorpe, Yorkshire - 5 miners and 2 unemployed - were sentenced to between 3 and 6 months for "criminal damage" and "using insulting words and behaviour."

Those prisoners must not be abandoned. While in prison they need our solidarity. And an important aim of the strike should be the dropping of all charges and the immediate release of all prisoners, with full re-instatement in their jobs.

(Information: Black Flag 3/9 and 15/10; Militant 14/9; Socialist Worker 13/10; Wildcat no. 1. More information on prisoners requested)

Women from striking pit villages in Yorkshire joined Picket lines at Cammell Laird in Birkenhead as an act of Solidarity.

(16/10/84 Morning Star)

A miners soup kitchen at Cresswell, Derbyshire was destroyed by fire on Monday 15th October. The whole of the ground floor was gutted. All stocks were destroyed. The fire seems almost certainly to have been an arson attack.

"A window had been smashed and there had been some sort of lighted paper pushed through."

The police had a total lack of interest in the attack and took almost an hour to arrive after they had been called.

The Womens Support group is now using a church hall to supply meals and are determined not to give up support for the strike.

(16/10/84 Morning Star)

At Hartlepool hundreds of miners attacked the nuclear power station. 2 tankers were damaged & burning roadblocks were set up. (Black Flag 15/10.)

Territorial Army soldiers have been masquerading as police on anti-picket duty - the names and numbers of 26 of these T.A. soldiers are in the possession of 'Black Flag' contacts in Doncaster. (Black Flag 15/10.)

At Bedwas, South Wales, police tried to stop 200 pickets gathering at the British Benzol plant. Pickets hit back by attempting to set a truck on fire inside the plant. The electricity supply was cut off and fire-fighters refused to cross the picket line to put out a blaze. (Black Flag 15/10.)

POLICE HARASS KIDS

Miners' children are the latest victims of police harassment in the Lothian pit village of Loanhead. Recently police stopped, questioned and took the names of some miners' kids.

The fearless crime fighters then informed the children's parents that they were breaking the law by allowing their children to be on the streets by themselves after 8 p.m. Strangely this "law" only seems to apply to miners children.

Meanwhile it's reported that police violence sparked off the incidents at nearby Bilston Glen on 10th October. 6 pickets were arrested after a police inspector had launched an unprovoked assault on a miner.

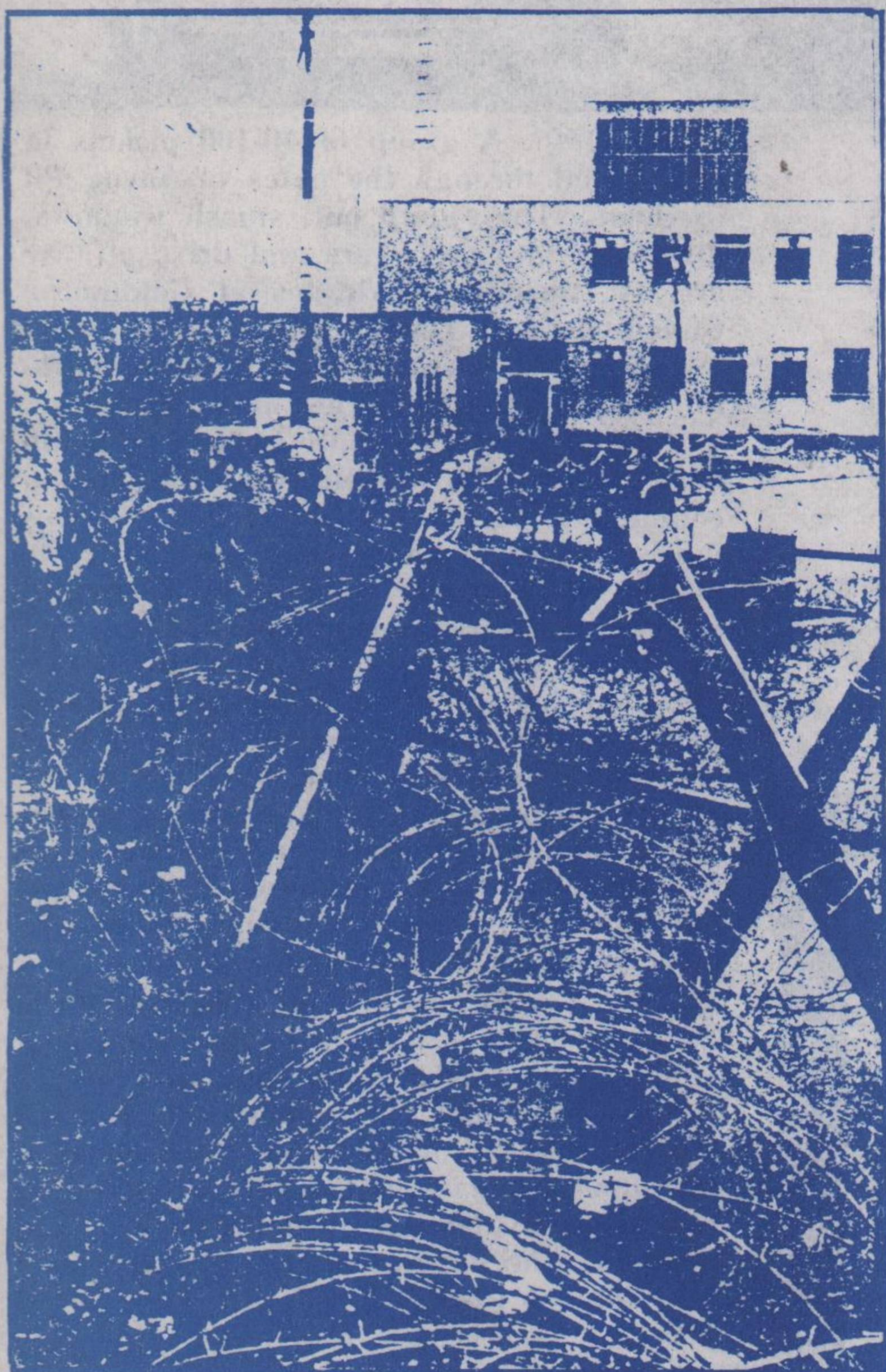
(Information: miners at Bilston Glen and Loanhead, October.)

This news bulletin was collated as a service by anarchists and revolutionaries from Edinburgh and Clydeside.

Write to COUNTER INFORMATION
Box 81, First of May Bookshop,
43 Candlemakers Row, Edinburgh.

Printed by the Clydeside Anarchists
at Autonomy Press, 64 Queen Street
Glasgow G1.

COUNTER INFORMATION



BARBED WIRE AT "BELSEN GLEN"

BILSTON GLEN

ACTION is needed to stop the transport of coal out of Bilston Glen colliery in the Lothians and to strengthen the strike there.

During November the number of strike-breakers jumped from around 100 to about 600, over a third of the workforce. By early December the return to work had slowed drastically, to a trickle - but the NCB have been stepping up the transport of coal out of the pit.

They started with deliveries to hospitals, using strikebreaking NCB lorry drivers. Now coal is being transported to schools, coal merchants depots, and other unknown destinations. Several private contractors are involved, including Bruce Lindsey Waldie of Haymarket, Edinburgh. From depots the coal could be taken to industry and power stations. If the NCB get away with taking coal out of Bilston Glen they will be more confident about doing the same at other strikebound pits.

The present small pickets have only been able to turn back a few lorries. Local strikers have wanted MASS pickets. Both the Scottish N.U.M. leadership - McGahey, Bolton & co. have been **OBSTRUCTING** their wishes. The mining communities themselves need to take over the running of the strike at a **GRASSROOTS** level, co-ordinating with other areas, and ignoring the leadership.

All is not lost at Bilston Glen. Some strike-breakers have **RE-JOINED** the strike, possib-

ly disgusted at the **MILITARISATION** of the pit - security men with dogs stand guard within the colliery buildings, doors everywhere are locked and bolted. But the local strikers do **NEED PHYSICAL SOLIDARITY** from other areas, eg Fife and Ayrshire, where the strike is still solid. And the strike needs to go back onto the **OFFENSIVE**, the struggle needs to be spread into other industries and areas of society.

This happened when from 20th November janitors at **LASSWADE** high School refused to accept **SCAB**-coal from Bilston Glen. The janitors were suspended and then came out on **STRIKE**: Teachers came out on an **UN-OFFICIAL** 24 hour strike in **SOLIDARITY**. The school was shut down for several days.

The action spread when the janitor at the local Further Education College also **REFUSED** to accept the coal. He was suspended and the college shut down. Unfortunately other school janitors in Midlothian didn't take up the struggle and the Lasswade janitors became **ISOLATED**.

However, at the time of writing [10-12], it's reported that 58 schools in **AYRSHIRE** have closed due to a lack of coal. Having an impact beyond the coal industry like this is **VITAL**. And while obviously hospitals should be supplied with coal, let no one say that the indoctrination centres known as schools are not worthy candidates for **CLOSURE!**

[info moners at Loanhead, The Scotsman 21-23-11, Socialist Worker, 1-12, Radio Scotland News 10-12).

A COMMUNITY OF STRUGGLE

One of the most positive aspects of the miners strike is the tremendous involvement of women in the struggle. Not only in the food kitchens, but on the picket lines, organising, speaking at meetings.

Talking about this development, Mrs Barbara Jeffrey of the Wives Support Group in Leicestershire has said, "At one time I never read political stories in a newspaper. We all take a keen interest now. In South Derbyshire, the wives of a small group of striking miners actually vote with the men" (Guardian 26-11)

This direct involvement by women in taking decisions is extremely important. The women are fully involved in the struggle, so **WHY** shouldn't they have an **EQUAL SAY** with the men?

In the miners strike there could be regular meetings in all areas, in which everyone - miners, women, unemployed, school students, other workers - could participate in decid-

ing how to take the struggle forward - this sort of thing **HAS** happened before. For example, during the 1980 **steelworkers** strike in Caldicott on the Welsh border, mass meetings were held every week in a local



club. The whole community discussed the **STRATEGY** for picketing and advancing the strike. Everyone took part in making **DECISIONS**, joining in the **ACTIONS** decided on. Similar forms of organisation were created in the **Plesseys and Fisher Bendix** factory occupations in 1972 and in the Barcelona Docks in 1979 in Spain.

To organise in this way will generally mean going against official trade union opposition. This might seem a big step, but it's a vital one if we're not to be led like sheep to yet more defeats.

DON'T LET THEM THROUGH!

The scab firm Yuill and Dodds, joined by a host of others from Musselburgh to Motherwell have been involved in increased transportation of coal from Hunterston to Ravenscraig. The community protests in Barrhead caused them to divert the convoy and they now stream through Pollok at 50mph, travelling four at a time through a huge Glasgow South-Western housing estate before joining the motorway at Bellahouston.

