

WOMEN SPEAK OUT !



Throughout the long months of this strike, we have stayed firm and grown in strength. Through our work we have become aware of a whole range of political issues, and given the confidence to voice our opinions, and join organizations such as the labour party and peace movement to join others in working for change.

We are keen to go to other parts of the country, both independently and with other N.U.M. fund raisers.

We want to speak about our experiences of the strike here in Notts. We also want the chance to meet those who have been supporting us throughout the long months.

If it can be arranged for us to speak at one of your meetings please let your local strike support centre - or N.W.S.G.G at the address given, know.

As we go forward into 1985, the pressure to get miners back to work mount daily. The hardship after 10 months of strike is tremendous, particularly with families not being able to afford fuel and heating appliances etc. We are doing our best to get deliveries of logs to families, though this is a slow process because we can't provide enough chain-saws or axes for all groups in the area, nor easy transport to get the wood distributed. We are therefore appealing again to individuals and organisations to help in alleviating the hardship of our families. There is a particular urgency for donations toward the cost of tools and transport for fuel and, as ever, food is greatly appreciated.

We are fully aware of the support which is already being given. It is only out of desperation that we urge you again to do anything in your power to get funds through to the Notts Women's Support Groups.

The level of organisation and solidarity in the Groups is huge. Through the central fund of the Women's Support Groups each group gets an equal share of the funds each week. Those who are suffering hardship particularly get extra.

We are determined to stand firm and with your help the Support Groups will have enough strength to carry on.

THE BUTCHER'S KNIFE....

(STAN R.)

The once mighty steelworks stand still
No more red hot metal flows down to the mill
But why are these steelplants so empty and bare
The answer is simple, "Macgregor was there."

Now he's moved on, as slaughter men will
When nothing is left there for them to kill
Now he's found new ground, and is planning his hits
So watch out you miners he's got his eyes on your pits.

He will joyfully cut with his slaughter mans knife
With no second thought for you or your wife
Or for the hardship - the anguish - the pain
He brings as his knife cuts again and again.

This pit today, another one tomorrow
Forgetting the men, their families, their sorrow
To him you are something from out of a hole
So you had better get used to life on the dole.

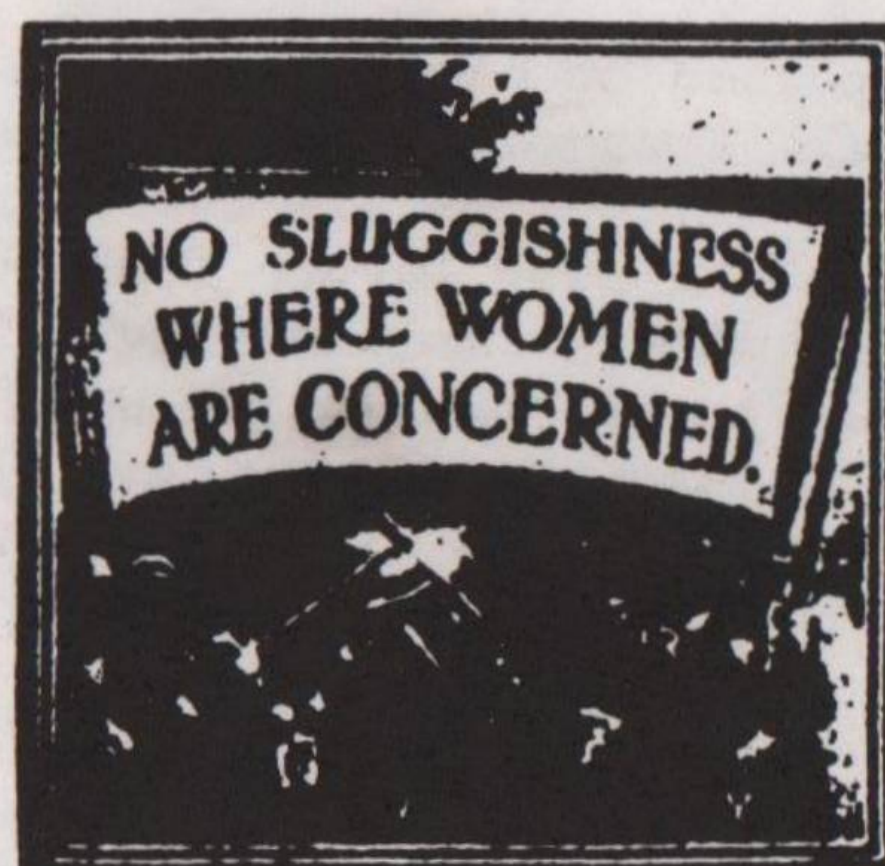
But you have stood up and started to fight
To him this is strange, to him it's no right
You shouldn't appose his cuts and his chops
So he strifes your movements with hundreds of cops.

To beat him, I beg of you miners Unite
Because if your divided you will lose this fight
Then, as with the steelworks, he will say with pride
The operation was brilliant, but the poor patient died.

Unite you miners - Think - your futures not bad
Or your son may ask "where did you work dad?
Then, show him the old pit with it's derelict gear
And just simply tell him "Macgregor was here.

MINERS UNITED WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED.

APPEAL



In our 50th anniversary year Collets International Booksellers, Library Suppliers and Subscription Agents) book people of the Labour and socialist movement, pledge fullhearted support to the miners and their families in their struggle to preserve their jobs and communities.

For all your book orders write to.....
Collets London Bookshop
64/66 Charing Cross Road
London, WC2H 0BD
TEL: 01-836-6306.

HERE WE GO!

BULLETIN OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUPS. JANUARY, 1985

THANKS!

1985.....THE STRIKE STILL ALIVE.....
and more exciting yet. another edition of our newsletter

MANY, MANY THANKS.....

For 10 long months friends all over the country have been sustaining striking families in Notts. As we go forward into 1985 our spirits are high & we are all the more determined to stand resolute until victory. Our strength is due to the invaluable support & constant backing of the public including black groups, Pakistani & Indian groups, lesbian & gay groups, LP branches, trade unions, womens groups, CP members, peace groups, christians, the unemployed, pensioners, kids, small businesses.....the list is endless!

THE BRIGHTEST CHRISTMAS EVER:
In particular, we thank all of you who worked so hard to give us a far happier Xmas than we ever hoped possible - we took into our homes the goodwill, solidarity & friendship of so many people.
THANK YOU ALL.
.....

Donations of food & money meant that most support groups were able to put on childrens parties & socials for striking families. These were enjoyed by all.

At Blidworth a fantastic loaves & fishes miracle was carried out by the womens support group when nearly twice as many as expected turned up on Xmas day to enjoy their dinners together. Sutton WSG served out over 200 meals on Xmas eve to members of the local group & visitors from other areas.

Who we are..

'HERE WE GO' IS THE BULLETIN OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP.

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP IS A COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPRESENTING ALL THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUPS IN THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COALFIELD AREA.

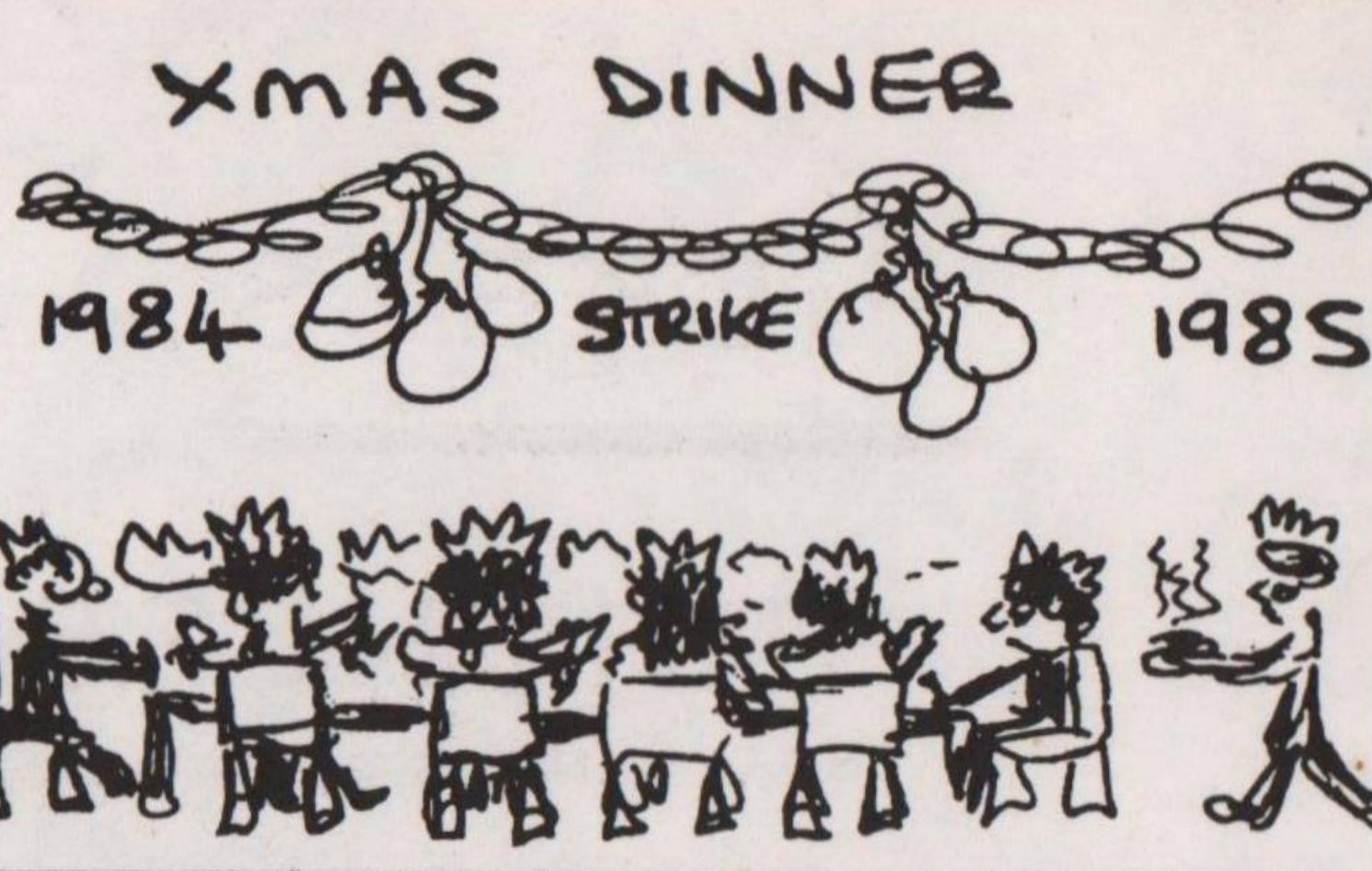
THE TWENTY-FIVE GROUPS SEND DELEGATES TO REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS WHICH EXCHANGE INFORMATION, DISCUSS POLICY AND ACTIVITIES, AND DECIDE ON HOW FOOD AND MONEY RAISED SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED. ALL GROUPS HAVE AN EQUAL SAY AND AN EQUAL VOTE IN ALL DECISIONS.

THROUGH THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE THE GROUPS COOPERATE TOGETHER IN RAISING FUNDS, ORGANISING SPEAKING TOURS AND HOLIDAYS, PRINTING T-SHIRTS AND BADGES, LEAFLETS AND BULLETINS.

ALL AID SENT TO THE NOTTS. WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP IS CHANNLED STRAIGHT TO THE LOCAL SUPPORT GROUPS FOR THEM TO USE IN RUNNING SOUP KITCHENS OR PROVIDING FOOD PARCELS.

THE NOTTS. WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP HAS ITS OWN OFFICE WHICH IS STAFFED BY VOLUNTEERS. THE ADDRESS IS: Notts Women's Support Group, c/o NUPE, Sherwood Rise Nottingham. THE PHONE NUMBER IS: Nottingham 603522 extension 29 (Mon-Fri 9-5).

Delegate meetings take place every Monday night



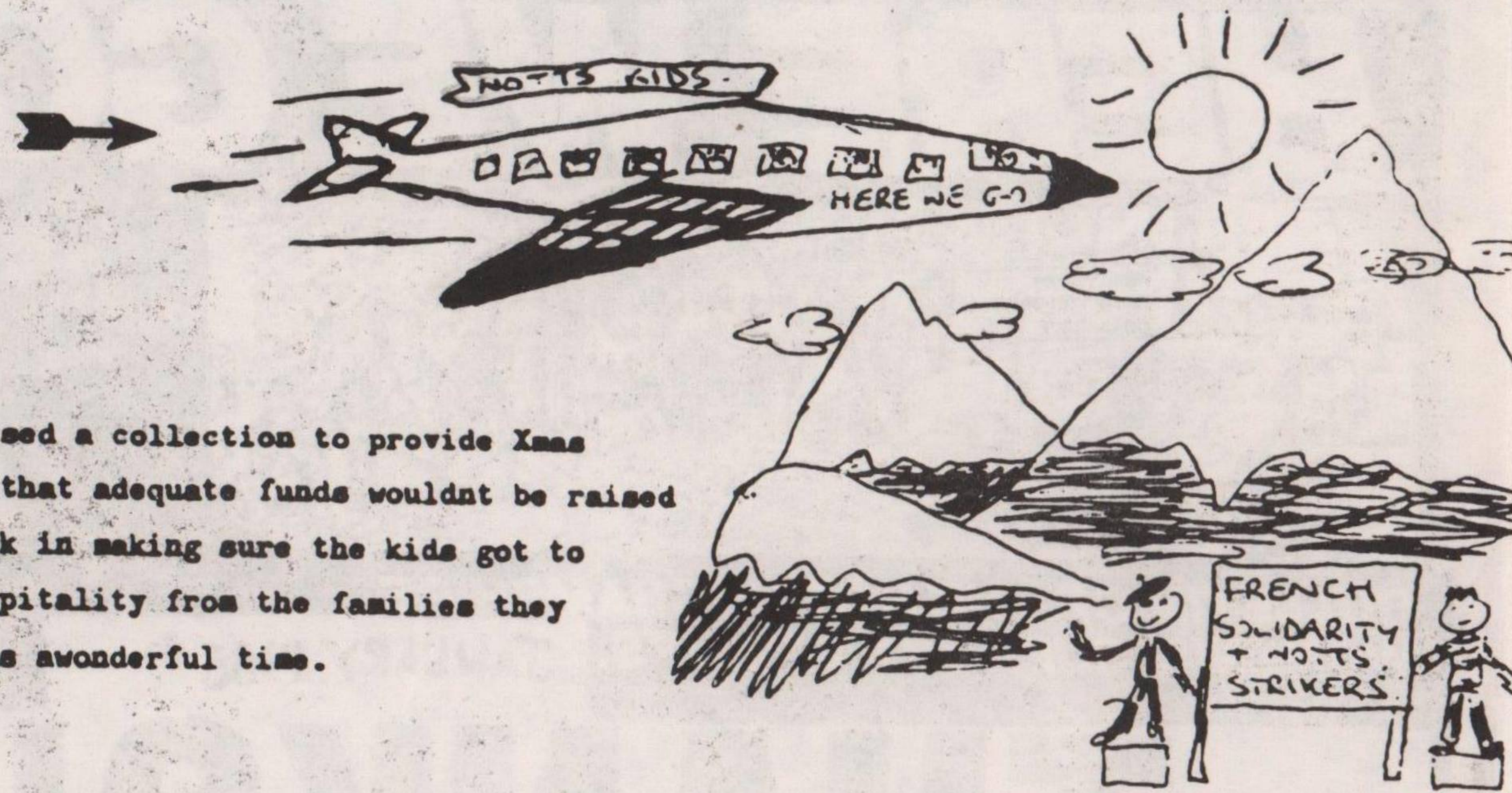
Over the Xmas break offers of holidays abroad for strikers kids came from Holland, France & Belgium.

16 children from Clipstone, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Gedling & Mansfield had a brilliant time staying with families in Rotterdam. Whilst they were there they appeared on TV & radio to make their views known to the Dutch people. They had articles written about them in local papers & they produced their own news bulletins which were printed up & duplicated for them.

Some parents didnt recognise their offspring when they returned home since a special treat of the holiday was a haircutting & dying session!



Fun In France!



A local support group in the Pyrenees organised a collection to provide Xmas holidays for Notts. strikers kids. Despite fears that adequate funds wouldnt be raised Hilary & John Perre from Pau put lots of hard work in making sure the kids got to France. 28 kids & 2 strikers enjoyed fantastic hospitality from the families they stayed with. The French people gave their visitors a wonderful time.

JUSTICE?!

On a hot summers night at Gedling . a peaceful womens picket was quickly transformed into a show of police strength. You can guess why. As a result 3 women were arrested & whipped off to the nick escorted, of course, by a few "friendly" bobbies. They were then moved to Mansfield & later charged with offences such as "obstructing a policeman in the course of his duty " & "besetting" (yet again).

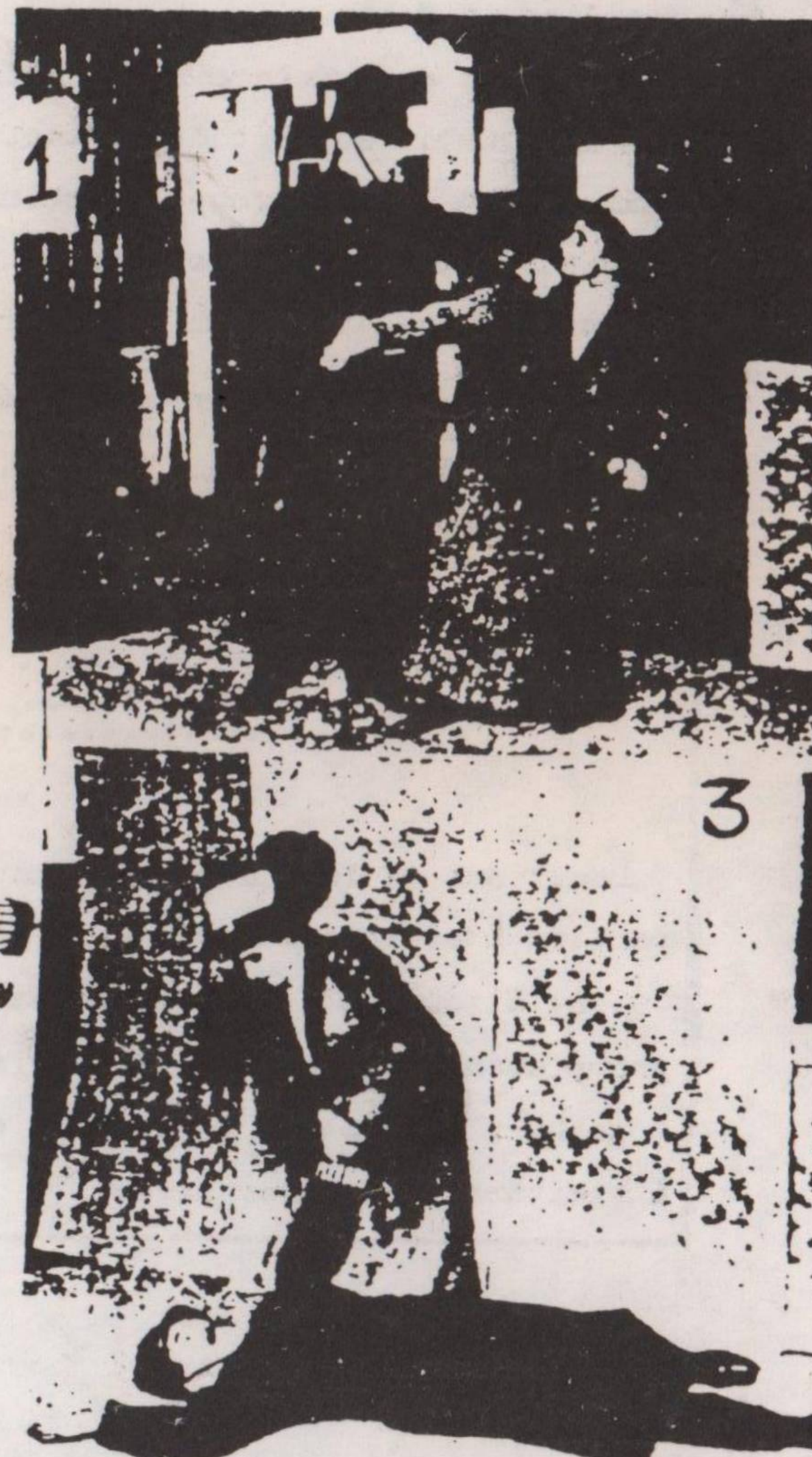
The women were then tried in december. Maureen Featherstone was found guilty & bound over to keep the peace & fined; Linda Ward didnt turn up & Jackie Naylor was found guilty of "behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace" (the besetting charge was dropped). Jackie was fined £100 + £70 costs. She stated in court that she wasn't going to pay, & was given till january 31 to pay. Shes now waiting for an appeal..... should be interesting. And lets hope Linda manages to keep out of their sight. We will keep you posted.



PICKETS, PRICKLES & POLICE!



70 years on, perhaps we could use the same methods to control the "met merce"



PC struck down by surprise blow

A policeman who did picket line duty at Kent's Tilmanstone pit was in Canterbury Hospital yesterday after a vicious attack which damaged his jaw.

When the police line charged the pickets yesterday morning, a policeman took a swish at a miner, who ducked. The officer's blow struck a colleague who is now in hospital.

(Taken from "Morning Star", 28.11.84)

3 women from Ashfield & a supporter from Cambridge were arrested & charged with various offences, including the ancient charge of "besetting".

Sharon, Janet, Lou & Caroline all appeared at the Guildhall, Notts., where we heard Lou was guilty of using the obscene words: "I hope your next poo's a hedgehog"

SHAME!



The besetting charge was thrown out of court. The women were given a conditional discharge but had to pay £110 costs!!

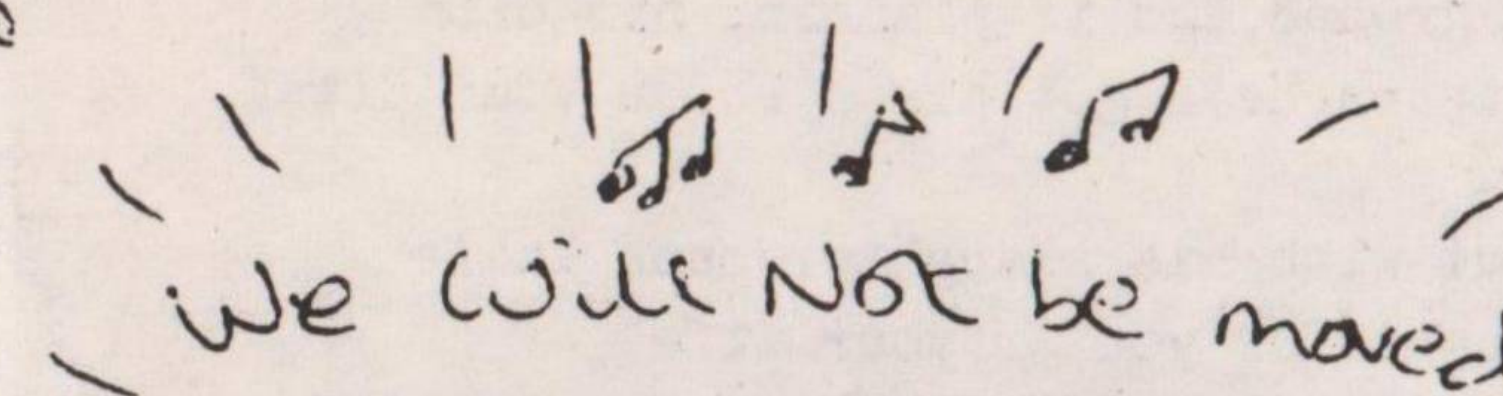
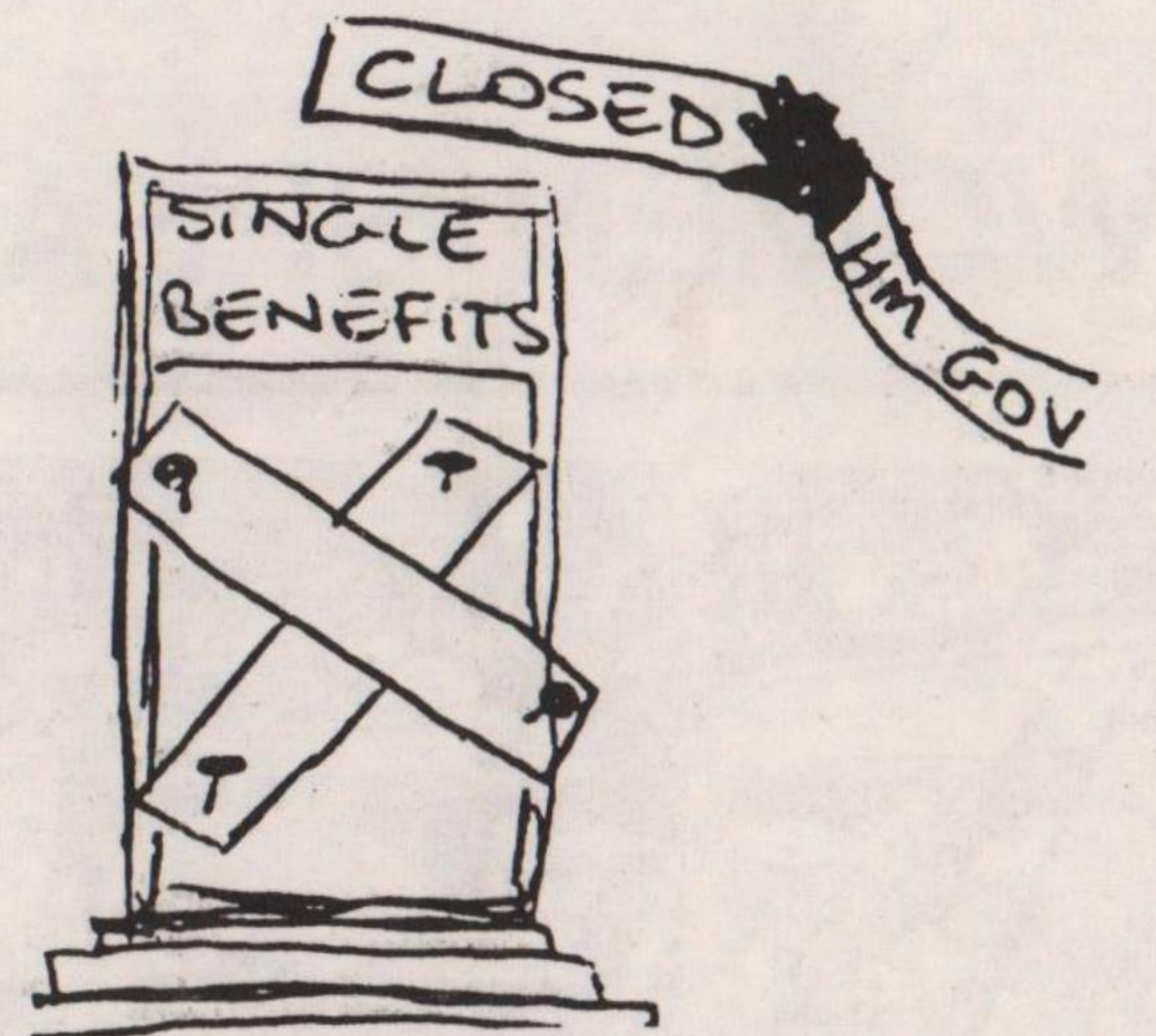
Women and Welfare

The law until recently allowed single strikers to claim benefit but NOW it has been modified under a govt. directive

Yet another attempt to pressure the miners to go back to work.

Fortunately, sympathetic welfare rights workers & the womens support groups got together to urge single miners to hurry & get their claims in before the law was changed.

THEY WONT BEAT US THAT EASILY !!!



AUTUMNAL ACTION

WELBECK ROUND 4

After the school holidays Welbeck were again left with no kitchens. They once again went to visit the trustees of the welfare who still refused to let them feed the men. So once again they decided to have a sit in. This lasted for five days, at last help seemed to be on the way the County Council stepped in, they allowed the group to have Metherfields infant school from 3.30pm to 7.30pm. This is working well and at last it seems Welbeck are able to feed their families without having to face hostility from trustees who tried to demoralise families from Welbeck.

CRESSWELL - A PLEA FOR HELP

The bath house in Cresswell is where the womens support have their soup kitchen. Before xmas it was burnt down. They lost everything, food, pots and pans, cutlery and most of all a place to feed the children.

Through the network of womens support groups phone calls could be made to other groups to give support. The Council is now undertaking to help, they have already begun to decorate.

Cresswell premises are now restored, and able to function as before.



REPORT ON GREENHAM COMMON

On Sunday the 23rd Sept the women of Blidworth action group answered the call from Greenham Common women to go to Greenham Common for the day. We arrived about lunch time at Blue Gate and met the women from Nottingham women for peace. We heard that there was a road block at Indigo so we walked about half a mile down the road to Indigo Gate. Two women had already been arrested when we got there, there was about 70 women on one side of the entrance blocked in by the police, on either side of the road there were women with banners who were singing peace songs. Police on horseback were pushing and shoving us all over the place, and if we crossed the road we were arrested. We stayed for about 1 1/2 hours then went back to Blue Gate. We met some women there and sat having a cup of tea and a chat with them they asked us if we would like to go and see the Silos, which was a good walk away. As we were walking women were singing. We were shocked to see 16 year old youths guarding the Nuclear Weapons, the youths dressed in army uniforms, we were also told by the women that the soldiers were on drugs because they know what they are doing is wrong. The Silos were disguised by turf which had been planted for that reason. Soldiers who are on duty live in there a week at a time with their families and dont see daylight for a week. The trip to Greenham got me, it made me realise if we dont win our fight, then the Greenham women have no chance of winning their's, and when we have won, it is important that we go to Greenham and give our support to these terrified but brave women who at the moment are fighting alone.

DOREEN HUMBER.

SPRECHEN SIE DEUTSCH

Sandra Taylor reported on her visit to Germany to lobby the European Parliament, all together there were four representatives one each from Notts, Derbyshire, Yorkshire and Wales. The solidarity and unity from all over Europe was marvellous.

It was agreed that all over Europe Trade Unions and Parliaments would work together and make sure striking miners families would have food and gifts for xmas. These ideas came to be real action with a massive food convoy arriving from the continent this autumn for all strikers in Britain. At xmas a lorry load of toys arrived from the COT in France, and these were distributed with other donated toys to all groups in Notts.

