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# COUNTER INFORMATION

- SUPPLEMENT TO NO. 18: PART 2 -

## MANCHESTER COUNCIL CUTS

A Manchester Council worker writes:

Having used up nearly all its clever accounting methods, and being rate-capped by the government, Manchester's left Labour Council gave up its policy of "defending jobs - improving services", which was already looking a bit tatty, and decided to cut services and get rid of nearly 4,000 jobs.

These cuts were supported by all the Unions who managed to persuade most of the workers that fighting the Council and the government was futile. The Council was promising "no compulsory redundancies", so, they argued, we shouldn't oppose the cuts they were proposing. What started off as a negative policy of "no opposition" and maintenance of no cover policy soon became co-operation and cover for frozen vacant posts.

Now the Council is closing childrens and old peoples homes outside the city where redeployment of staff is virtually impossible, so compulsory redundancy looks very close. The Unions have been discouraging protests from workers in these homes so we can see what the next sell-out will be.

Fortunately a minority of Council workers are beginning to see what all this is leading to and have started to take some independent actions against the council. So far these have been limited to demonstrations and occupations of a symbolic nature but the potential is there for a

## Early birds shut mine

NURSES mounted a "flying picket" at a Yorkshire pit today - and 800 miners went on immediate strike in their support.

The stoppage hit Frickley Colliery at South Elmsall, near Pontefract, after four nurses from hospitals in Leeds and Wakefield went there to hand out leaflets early today.

They also halted the afternoon shift later in the day.

Confirming the Frickley stoppage, British Coal said: "Apparently when the day shift arrived this morning there were four nurses handing out leaflets. We think they were from a Leeds hospital. The NUM branch called a swift meeting and decided to have a 24-hour stoppage in support."

One of a group of Frickley miners who struck in support stood on the picket line at Warde Aldham Hospital and said: "There is a lot of strong feeling about this at our pit. It's

well worth losing a day's pay for."

COHSE shop steward at Warde Aldham, which is next to the pit, Sister Dorothy Clark said: "The support of the miners is quite a boost to us. We didn't have to press them to come out at all. We were just putting up our posters and handed out a few leaflets and they came out to join us."

YORKSHIRE EVENING POST FEB. 3RD 1988

THE FOCUS of the present spate of labour unrest switched again to nurses' pay yesterday as health service unions announced a fresh series of protests and strikes.

In one of the first examples of sympathy action for nurses by industrial workers, Vauxhall car production will be disrupted over the next two days. The strikes, at the Ellesmere Port plant, Cheshire, almost certainly constitute unlawful secondary action.

Vauxhall workers at Ellesmere Port yesterday voted at mass meetings to hold two half-shift stoppages in support of hospital workers, one today and one on Friday morning.

INDEPENDENT FEB. 10TH 1988

## DONATIONS

The Counter Information collective would like to thank everyone who has sent us donations towards our printing, postage and other costs. Since paying for the last issue we have received approximately £211 from all round the country and from overseas. Our total expenses per issue are about £250.

real fightback. With more privatisation of services due in the next two years it is important that militant workers start preparing the ground now for the battles to come. That means independently linking up across trade union boundaries, not just in Manchester, but right across the country.

Picketing at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary ancillary workers' strike on 4th February began about 6a.m. By 7a.m. many others had arrived to support the ancillary workers - off-duty nurses, people putting in an hour or so before work, unemployed workers etc. Those on strike didn't ask us for our credentials before letting us join the picket - on the contrary, they welcomed the support, and no wonder as there were nine gates to cover.

Some time after 8a.m. officialdom arrived in the form of Mr John Lambie, NUPE official and secretary of the Lothian Health Service Joint Trade Union Committee. He was most alarmed to discover that some people were actually handing out other material as well as the official document written by him. Chief offending article was the 'Fight Altons Bill' campaign leaflet. Mr Lambie insisted most forcefully - you might even say aggressively - that the abortion issue had nothing to do with privatisation and cuts in the N.H.S., and that health care rights and abortion rights were not in the slightest way connected. It was only then that he spotted - surprise surprise - a group of SWP paper

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