

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE JOBS NOT JSA

ISSUE 2

MARCH 1996

COUNTDOWN TO THE JOBSEEKERS' ALLOWANCE

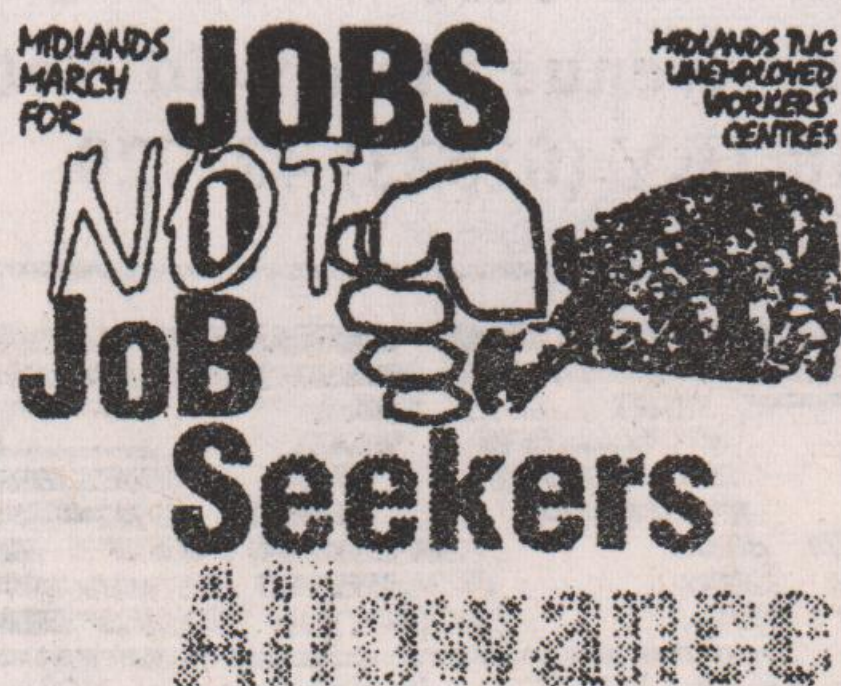
EDITORIAL

This is the second of a series of such newsletters, to inform readers of changes, their implications and the issues leading up to the first phase of the introduction of JSA in April 1996 and its full implementation in October 1996. We hope to highlight issues of relevance to particular sections of the community and you are welcome to publicise JSA campaigning activities for the Notts area.

Any contributions for future editions would be most welcome, as would any donations towards the cost of distributing Notts Jobs not JSA.

JSA!

NO WAY!



DECLARE AGAINST JSA

On 12th February TUC launched a national declaration against the Job Seekers Allowance. They are asking people to sign a declaration, committing themselves to the campaign for 'Jobs not JSA'. The first person to sign the declaration against JSA was John Monks, TUC General Secretary. There will be further events across the country over the next few months as we build up the campaign against JSA.

The declaration offers local campaigners against JSA the opportunity of creating local events with a national focus, by asking trade unionists, unemployed people and others to make a personal commitment to campaigning against JSA. Campaigners are welcome to create their own events based around the declaration as a part of publicising our opposition to this act.

The declaration itself is simple, a brief statement about why JSA is affecting

workers and unemployed people, and the commitment. People who sign the declaration commit themselves to telling their friends and family about JSA.

The Injustice of the JSA.

In October the dole will be scrapped. The current benefits will be replaced by a new benefit, Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). JSA will take money from unemployed people to pay for the tax cuts that government hopes will save it at the next election.

Job Seekers Allowance is being introduced at a time when people who are in work are more worried than ever before that they might soon have to rely on Social Security. Millions of people are worrying about redundancy, and the government's response is to take away half of the unemployment benefit which they have paid for through their National Insurance contributions.

We pay National Insurance contributions

THE Declaration AGAINST JOBSEEKER'S ALLOWANCE

I believe

that Jobseeker's Allowance is an unfair attack on unemployed people.

I believe

that Jobseeker's Allowance cheats workers out of benefits they have paid for.

I declare

that I will tell my friends and family why I am opposed to Jobseeker's Allowance.

NAME (in block caps):

SIGNED:

ADDRESS:

Please return to:

Jobs Not JSA!, TUC, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS

to fund benefits everyone can call on when they are unable to earn an income from employment for one reason or another. One of these is unemployment benefit which currently lasts for up to a year. The part of JSA which replaces unemployment benefit will only last for six months. After that, unemployed people will face a means test. In the 1930's, million of people learned to hate the means test, soldiers who fought the second world war came back determined to banish it for ever.

Not only will JSA mean that many more people will face the means test. JSA also means that a benefit workers have paid for years is being halved and your National Insurance contributions will not be cut to compensate. On the contrary, since 1979, contribution have been raised by more than a half!

JSA will be used to force unemployed people to accept low paid jobs, with a threat of severe sanctions on their benefits if they are unwilling to accept those positions. The only winners with JSA are the government, everybody else loses.

The government is trying to throw the blame for unemployment on to unemployed people. Mass unemployment is actually the result of the government's failed policies, unemployed people are not to blame. What we need are policies that attack the real problem which is unemployment, and not policies which attack the unemployed.

What You Can Do.

Please complete the declaration on the front page and return to the address at the bottom. We also have available further Jobs not JSA literature as well as model letters to send to your MP. Please contact us at Notts Jobs not JSA, c/o 2 Beech Avenue, Mansfield, Notts. NG18 1EY, or contact Jon O'Neill on 01623 424720.

THIS ISSUE OF NOTTS JOBS NOT JSA WAS ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE GMB MIDLANDS AND EAST COAST REGION

Campaign Initiatives

Declare against JSA.

Have you raised the declaration against Job Seekers Allowance with your union branch? Trade Union Council? Political Organisation? Church or other group? Contact Notts Jobs not JSA, 01623 424720 to invite speaker on the JSA campaign.

March and Demo April 9th.

London against the JSA have called a march and demonstration in Central London for Tuesday April 9th assembling at the Geraldine Mary Hamsworth Park, Lambeth Road, at 1.00 p.m. Further details available from London against JSA, P.O. Box 3140 London.

18th April Lobby of Parliament.

On 18th April TUC Centres for the Unemployed are organising a lobby of Parliament to protest at the cut in unemployment benefit from a year to six months. The centres are particularly keen to ensure that some of the lobbyists are the people first to be hit by this cut, people made redundant shortly after the 8th April. If you know of anyone who has been notified of redundancy to start between 8th April and 18th April, please contact John Adlen, at the Merseyside Trade Union Community and Unemployed Resource Centre, 0151 709 3995 ext 253.

For details of the lobby, contact Notts Jobs not JSA on 01623 424720.

JSA and Redundancy Payments

Estimates released by the TUC, based on information received from the Inland Revenue, using data from the family expenditure survey, clearly demonstrate the effects that JSA will have on those made redundant.

At present, anyone who has paid enough N.I. contributions and is judged to be generally employed receives 12 months non means tested unemployment benefit if they are made redundant. JSA will only last for a maximum of 6 months. Unemployment benefit is being halved, despite an 11% increase in N.I. contributions in the last budget.

TUC figures clearly demonstrate that nationally over 104,000 people who are made redundant within the first year of JSA will lose all their benefit. Another 83,000 will lose some benefit. In the East Midlands alone, 6,000 people will lose all benefit, with a further 5,300 losing some benefit. This will cost the East Midlands economy £5,739,000 in the first 12 months of JSA.

Individuals who lose 6 months contributory benefits as a result of their redundancy payments will each be at least £1,207.70p worse off, at 1995 rates.

People who are made redundant are very concerned that they should not waste their redundancy payments, but JSA will make that much more difficult. Because it will discourage saving, JSA is bad for the economy as well as bad for individuals.

JOBS NOT JSA

supporters include:-

MUWC CPSA NUCPS
Notts CATUC Trades
Councils in Notts MSF
Advice Group

If you wish to include any articles or campaigning activities around JSA in the region, please send them to :-

**JOBS NOT JSA % MUWC 2
Beech Avenue Mansfield Notts
NG18 1EY (01623) 424720**

CPSA
The Civil and Public Services Association