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QMC

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NUPE NEWS

WALK OUT!

200 Members of NUPE and COHSE joined a mass walkout at the Q.M.C. on Monday, 29th October. Reports of the half-hour protest strike were shown on "News at Ten" and on TV-A.M the next day.

The walkout was in response to private contract bosses visiting the hospital to "case the joint" before putting their bids in for our jobs. Management and the D.H.A were left bewildered at the anger shown by union members and at the determination to defend jobs and wages. The bureaucrats had expected members simply to accept worse conditions of service or the sack quietly!

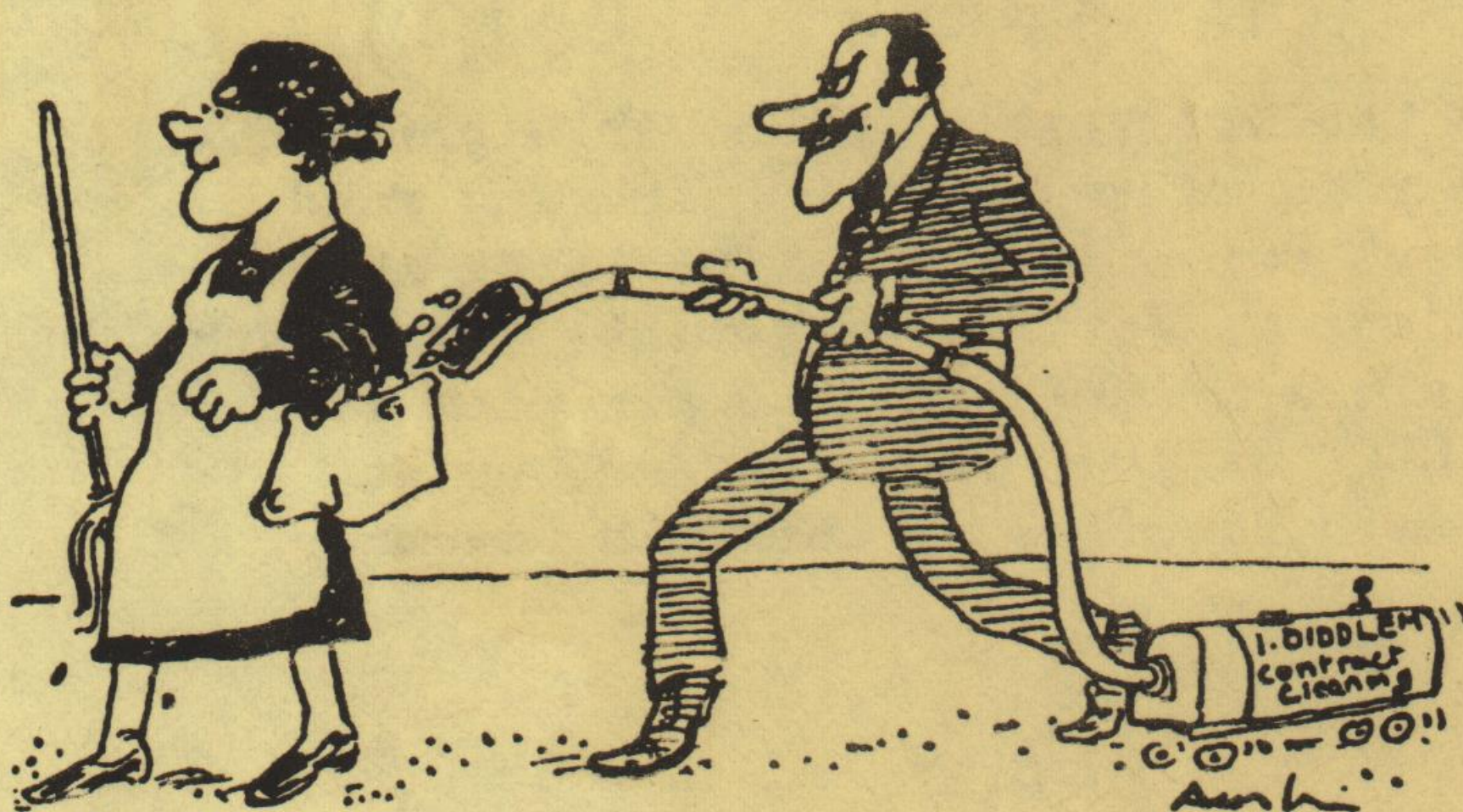
A demonstration was held outside the front of the hospital. Strikers were addressed by NUPE Branch Secretary, Shirley Tacey and by Alan Simpson, a member of the union's parliamentary panel. Alan told the meeting that the DHA had betrayed ancillary workers at its October meeting. The DHA members had voted to tear up all their guarantees to manual staff over "fair wages".

Total Support

NUPE General Secretary, Rodney Bickerstaffe, visited Nottingham on the day after the QMC walkout to spell out the union's total support for industrial action against the contractors in the N.H.S. Rodney Bickerstaffe made it quite clear to Nottingham's Press and public that NUPE members will take immediate strike action as soon as the first contract goes "private". The decision for immediate strike action received 100% support from the evening domestics at the QMC. Their jobs will be the first to be sold off in January next year.

Levy

A levy of health workers and other trade unionists is being planned in order to fund any strike by N.H.S. Ancillary Staff in Nottingham. "We want the Health Authority to be absolutely clear about this", says Shirley Tacey. "They have got to realise that if they vote for private contractors then they will be faced with the sort of solid strike action which has left Barking Hospital with picket lines outside and filthy wards inside for the past seven months", she said.

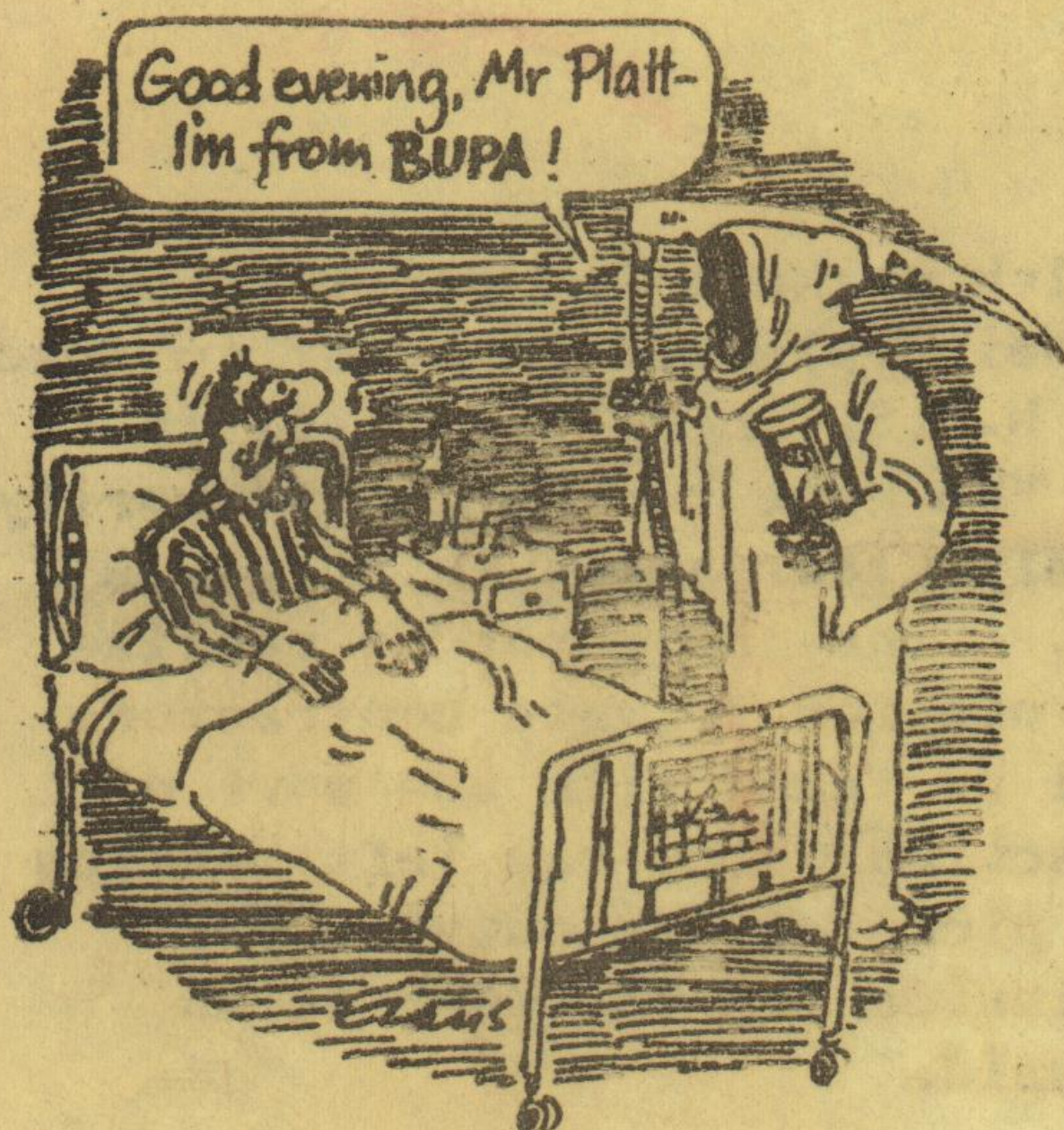


Sound Foundations?

Life on the QMC Switchboard promises to become even more interesting. It seems that the sheer weight of equipment is greater than the floor can take, and the switchboard is slowly sinking. Nice news, perhaps for build-your-own-bunker enthusiasts, but not if you happen to work there. This development is likely to be of even greater interest to the Day Case Theatre underneath which obviously threatens to become a drop in centre. Clearly the "collapse" of the N.H.S. is taking place in more ways than one.

The typing on the wall...

NUPE members may have recently noticed Branch Secretary Shirley Tacey, stomping round with steam coming out of her ears. The cause of the "earthquake" was a re-opening of the question of regrading procedures for medical secretaries. After years of arbitrary decisions about this, secretaries are so cross that they are submitting a petition to Management calling for automatic regrading after 5 years service. Members will be able to tell from Shirley's columns of steam what Management's response has been.



CHRISTMAS
YET TO COME

CHRISTMAS CARDS (!!!!!)

NUPE has had special XMAS Cards printed this year to support the fighting fund against privatisation. The cards show cartoons by Nottingham Artist, John Clark and are available at 50 p per pack from the NUPE Office, from Stewards or at the sale of gifts on the 28th November.

GIFTS SALE

There will be an opportunity to buy Christmas presents at bargain prices in the Phase 2 coffee bar on 28th November from 12 noon until 6 p.m. NUPE has arranged for Melrose Marketing Ltd to man the staff with plenty of good ideas for Christmas.

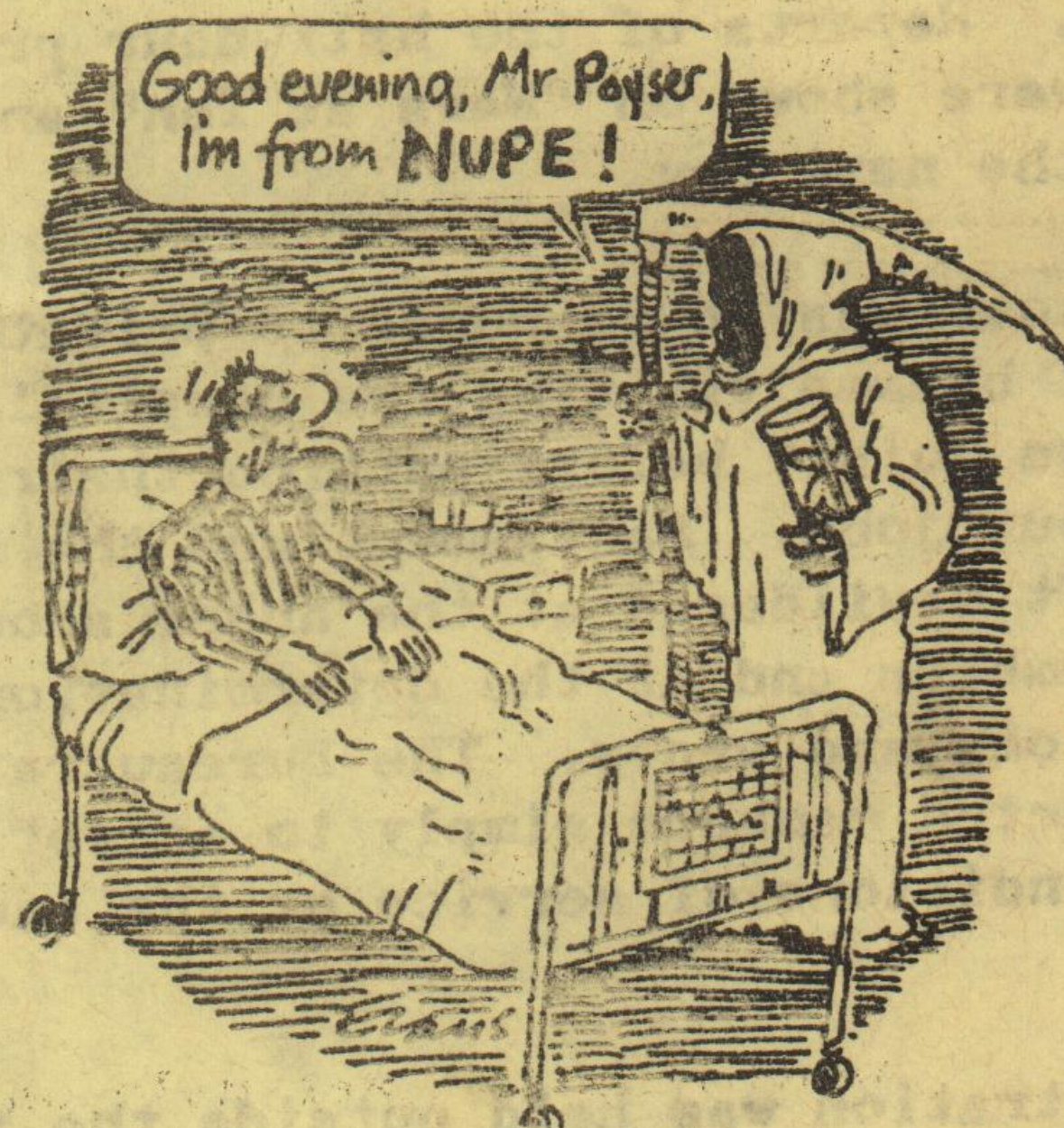
POYSERNOUS GAS

Just a quickie from DHA Chair Eric Poyser. Interviewed by Central T.V. about privatisation and the threat to peoples wages, 'Uncle' Eric commented "... we believe exactly the opposite, that for many workers it will mean higher pay... not lower."

Funny that:

1. we cant find examples of this anywhere.
2. he doesnt mention the disappearance of pension rights, sickness pay, maternity benefits, job security etc and
3. if he is so confident about higher pay, why did he oppose the fair wages clause in his own NHS tenders.

Perhaps he is saving this for his next burst into stardom.



DOMESTICS IN TRAINING FOR NEXT OLYMPICS ?

Private Contractors are so concerned about the health of their workers that they are introducing a crash(?) programme of staff training. To improve fitness they have worked out that domestics should be able to clean a bath in 15 seconds and clean floors at the rate of 1 sq. foot per second (setting up time etc. included) At this rate the surviving domestics are likely to make up a substantial part of Britains next Olympics squad, as the fastest movers in the country. Contractors are bound to take the credit (combining profiteering with patriotism) and we of course will still end up with them on our backs.

STOP PRESS

Union members at the General Hospital have come out and declared their own outright opposition to privatisation plans, and have said that they will support other N.H.S. workers who take industrial action on this issue UNITED WE STAND!

NUPE NEWS is the newsletter of the South Nottingham Health Branch of NUPE. For further information contact Shirley Tacey, NUPE Office, E.Floor, West Block, Q.M.C. Tel. ext. 4331 or bleep.