

# Communication Workers' Network

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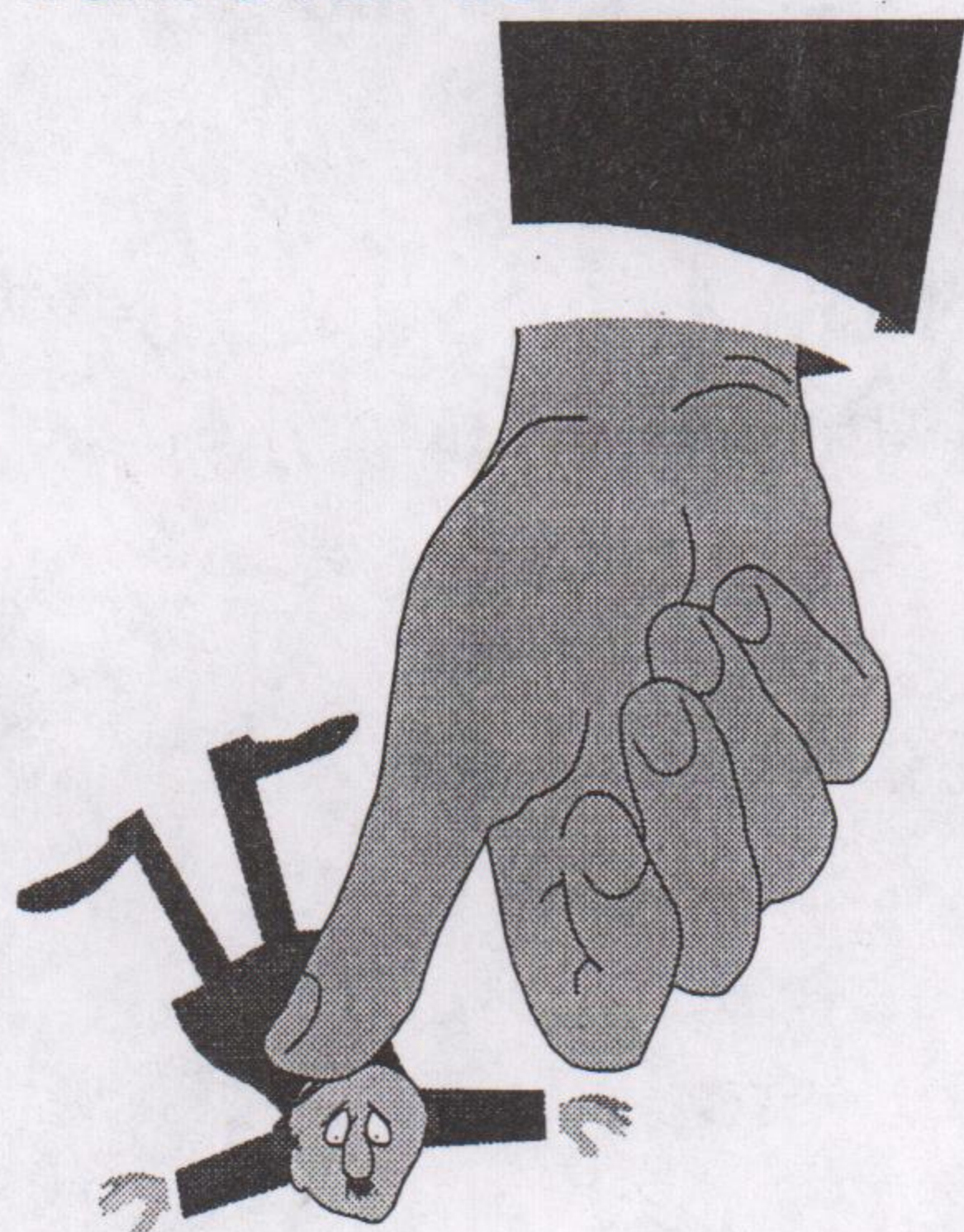
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Irregular but Exciting!

Write to our national address (we will put  
you in touch with your local area),  
PO Box 29, South West  
PDO, Manchester

## Communication

**Workers Network** is now up and running. The response to the first bulletin told us we in CWN are going in the right direction - we appreciate all the letters of support and we're pleased that people want to get involved. **Its your Network, your organisation and your life; the Network is what you make it.**

*This issue, we look at the way the dispute is developing, how the various would-be hijackers and villains are playing their cards, and what it is we want. The latter remains unchanged, as postal workers, we want a fair deal.*



## Exposed!

### CWN guide to the real facts

#### TEAM WORKING: the big issue

**W**hy is the management so insistent on it but at the same time being coy about what it means? Team working is a long term strategy through which, over time (several years) they want to bring in CCT (compulsory competitive tendering). CCT is already implemented in local government; but it will be different in the Post Office.

With CCT the Post Office will issue a contract to tender for various functions [delivery, processing, collection etc.]. This contract will be open to all competing companies [including the T.N.Ts and D.H.Ls]. Like any private company, the Post Office will give the contract to the lowest bidder; i.e. the one who screws the workforce the hardest. Basically, to keep your job you'd have to put in a lower bid than the companies competing for the contract (or hope your line manager would).

This may seem some way off but the first moves towards it have been made: Fixed duties, scheduled attendance and the introduction of T.P.M. (Time Productivity Management). These practices 'streamline' working areas into convenient units with the basics of the teamworking philosophy. In other words, ready packaged to be forced to bid for their jobs if or when the climate is right for the Post Office to go for this back door privatisation. The bosses may tell you you have more freedom in your work place, but you'll be working to their schedule. **This is what they will not talk about to us and it is a direct attack on our rights.**

*cont'd over..*

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This is the privatisation the government promised to the 10% richest people so they could become richer while we get poorer. The only difference is that this time it is through the back door - the subtle clever approach or the cowardly approach depending how you look at it.

**The important thing is that we recognise what they are doing with their long term agenda and stop them in their tracks now! And of course, nothing has changed since the last ballot.**

## **A Dose of Blaired Vision?**

**W**e have all witnessed the media machines [TV-radio-newspapers..] working flat-out for the Post Office bosses over the past few months. The government has talked about making it illegal for public sector workers to take any strike action without informing the management a month in advance. Wouldn't it be an idea to ask the people of this country before they bulldoze these fascistic ideals through the puppets of parliament? Its funny how strikes have to be so democratic, with ballots every five minutes, but government, who supposedly run the country, only need to seek our mandate every five years! Wonder how they work that out?

Talking of ballots, Tony Blair seems to think he knows what we want; another ballot on the latest useless proposals put forward by the bosses. And hey presto! the union executive cancelled the last two days of strike action in favour of another ballot.

Why? Nothing substantial has changed, and the proof of the pudding is that our 24 hour strikes have been 98% solid nationally. Isn't that people voting with their feet?

# **Communication Workers' Network**

### **PAY DEAL: The Side Issue**

The C.W.U executive have our mandate; including that no members must lose out of the pay deal. The bosses themselves have worked out that possibly 80% will not be worse off with the deal currently on the table. So what about the other 1 in 5 of us?

Idle threats from the even more incompetent Tories are laughable; suspending the monopoly would be cutting off their nose bearing in mind they get £1m a day revenue from Post Office profits; from our labour. New competition in letters, delivery and stamps markets means less money for them. And what about the talks and more talks? It seems to be taking a long time to make Royal Mail see that we are not just playing games and we are out to get rid of the employers agenda.

**We have an agenda of our own . We the members, the workers, full time part time and casuals are still here, still talking with each other, whether on picket lines or elsewhere. The decision that was balloted on before the last eight days of strike action is still solid. It must stay so. No-one is complacent.**

**Making contact and spreading information is essential if we are to succeed with this dispute. We are still a small, but growing organisation. We need more postal workers to join us in helping ourselves. Get involved and we'll win!**

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