

## HULL ACTION ON SAFETY AND HEALTH

H.A.S.H. is a sub-committee of the Trades Council, it has helped Hull Trade Unionists since 1979, giving valuable advice on health and safety matters. Its resource centre is based at 3 Ferens Avenue, Cottingham Road, Hull. The centre is open every Wednesday between 7.30 and 9 p.m.

H.A.S.H. is now asking for donations to buy new books for the resource centre, so that it can keep abreast of the new health and safety requirements that the European Single Market will bring in in 1992. Please report this important initiative, remember H.A.S.H. really does save lives!

Please make cheques payable to 'Hull Action on Safety and Health'.

H.A.S.H. will be sending a delegate to the Construction Safety Campaign A.G.M. which takes place in London this June. The Construction Industry has perhaps the biggest mortality rate through industrial accidents of any. It is a priority that the building industry trade unionists take action to reduce the death toll.

The H.A.S.H. convenor, Vince Constable is himself a building worker, we can be certain that this will give the campaign in the Hull District a boost.



## CONSTRUCTION

## SAFETY

## CAMPAIGN

Help

us to put an end

to death and serious

injuries to Building Workers

# THE VOICE OF REASON

This column gives you the chance to put in your two-pennyworth, whether in response to what you read here, or something else of interest to trade unionists you may have to get off your chest.

Contributions to the address below, please, by Thursday June 20th.

## TEXAS CHAINSTORE MASSACRE!

Thank God for British Justice; it is the envy of the whole world! The law applies equally to both King and Commoner -- all are subject to the fairest legal system in the world.

Considering the high pedestal upon which the law is placed, it seems rather strange to say the least that when several councils acted to stop illegal Sunday trading, taking the letter of the law as their guide, the courts not only questioned their right to enforce the law, but actually threatened that the councils would pay compensation to Texas, B & Q, etc if the courts found in their favour following an appeal.

The continued slow death of our wonderful legal system's reputation, following on from the Birmingham 6 etc etc may be of little interest. But how long will it be before working Sunday will be the norm for everyone? Take a good look at your family and friends now. If you work, you may never see them again.

USDAW MEMBER

# TRADE UNION NEWS 1991



June 1991 No 1

Second series

## Hull & District Trades Union Council

## PARSONS ENGINEERS STRIKE!

Sixteen workers are on strike at the Sutton Park factory of Parsons Brothers which is part of the Van Leer group. The dispute is part of the national campaign for a shorter working week in the engineering industry. The majority of the strikers are members of the AEU and all the strikers are receiving financial support from the levy collected by the Confed nationally.

Following months of negotiation and two ballots, the workers involved came out on indefinite strike on Thursday 2nd May. The factory is being picketted and there have been important successes in turning back deliveries. Management have resorted to the usual dirty tricks by claiming, to the Hull Daily Mail, that the dispute is unofficial and that negotiations are continuing. Both of these statements are lies. AEU steward Dave Gemmell has stated that "The present management has been in charge at Parsons for two years and labour relations have reached an all-time low. Members are adamant that they will not lose this dispute".

Official AEU backing has meant that the dispute is being carried out in accordance with Tory anti-union legislation. This will inevitably cause problems in arguing for solidarity action from drivers and for other Van Leer factories to bring forward their claims for the shorter working week. Links have been built between the strikers and other Van Leer factories in the city. Initial collections are a good start and will help all Van Leer workers realise that

they have a common interest in winning the dispute at the Sutton Park factory.

Three of the strikers attended the last meeting of the Trades Council Disputes Committee and it has been agreed to give full support to the dispute. A donation of £50 has already been passed on and copies of the strikers' financial appeal have been sent to all affiliated branches. Disputes Committee is also planning to raise the dispute with our various contacts outside of Hull. The engineers on strike have an excellent record of supporting the various appeals that Trades Council has launched over the years and that is a further reason to support their dispute by sending donations to: Parsons Strike Committee, 45 Strathmore Avenue, Beverley High Road, Hull.

Speakers and further information are also available from that address.



ON STRIKE: The picket line outside Parsons Brothers Ltd.

*To all our  
readers...*

HELLO!  
Welcome to No 1 of TRADE UNION NEWS, the Hull Trades Council newssheet. This is to be printed monthly, reporting on the issues which affect YOU -- news, information and debate on the local labour movement. We aim to be relevant, topical and up-to-the-minute -- but that's only possible if our 15000 members participate by sending in their news and views, whether it's about workplace action, your opinions on the Trades Council or other issues you think deserve wider attention.

We're printing a lot so take a bundle for your workplace!

At the February 28th AGM a new executive was elected which has already begun to realise its aim of revitalising the Trades Council. As you can read later the Trades Council has already aided CPSA and AEU strikers, and is contacting every union branch to get it to affiliate or send delegates.

We have begun strengthening our links with other trades councils in the face of TUC threats against our continued existence. We've also begun the important task of forging links with unions abroad. Hull Trades Council will soon be in a position to realise its full potential as the dynamic co-ordinator for trades unionists in the Hull area.

If you want a speaker from the Trades Council at your branch meeting -- or if you would like to contribute to this bulletin -- write or phone the Secretary, Hull TUC,, 3 Reynoldson Street, Hull. Tel 46197.

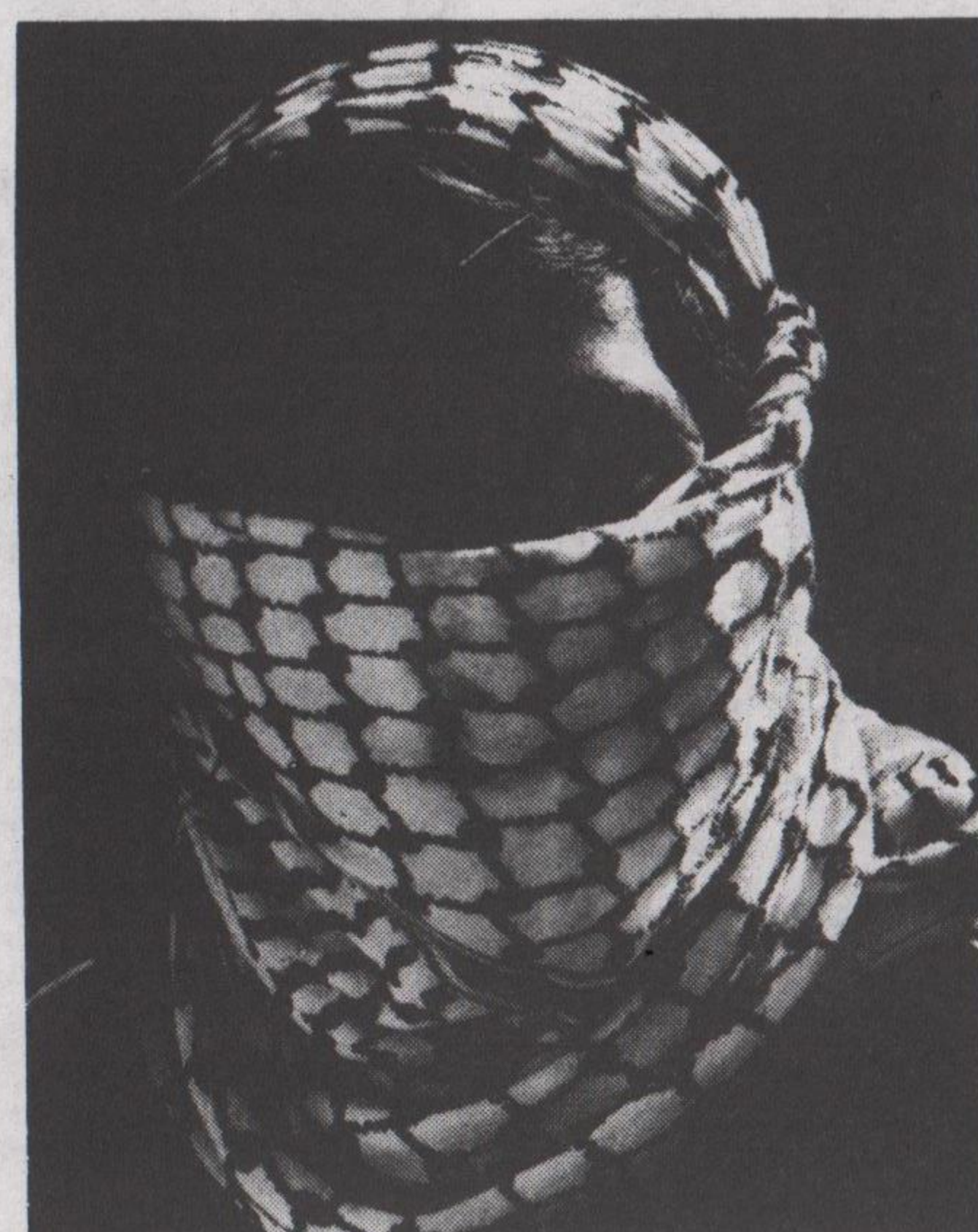
FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS:

LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
7.30 pm  
TRADES AND LABOUR CLUB  
BEVERLEY ROAD HULL

## *International solidarity:* **PALESTINE**

On May Day a meeting was held to form a Palestine Solidarity Campaign Group in Hull.

Sarah Cave was elected secretary, and it was agreed that the Trades Council would be asked to affiliate, and that union branches would be approached for permission for the PSC to speak on trade unionism in occupied Palestine at branch meetings.



Since the Gulf War scores of Palestinians have been tortured to death in "liberated" Kuwait, while the racist state of Israel steps up its policy of vicious repression. Our Arab fellow workers have never needed our help more.

Contact the PSC c/o PO BOX 102  
HULL.

## *International solidarity:* **SPAIN**

This April the Trades Council ratified a protocol agreed by the Andalusian region of the Spanish union confederation, the CGT, and ourselves.

Negotiated by their General Secretary, Antonio Marfil and Guy Cheverton, our secretary, in Malaga this Easter, it resolves:  
\*to give each other all possible support during strikes and other struggles;  
\*to exchange periodicals and other information, especially

in industries where we both have members (eg Brough Aerospace and Seville CASA),

This is only the first step in building a whole network of links with progressive, combative unions throughout the world. The bosses are multinational and so shall we be.



## *ON STRIKE:* **BRITANNIA HOUSE**

80 SOCIAL SECURITY WORKERS AT Britannia House DSS office have been on strike since the 3rd April, because they face staffing cuts -- 40 jobs to go out of a total of around 90 -- and in addition a 10% increase in workload. This will result in chronic overwork for the civil servants and a low standard of service for claimants.

The strike is solid, CPSA union members maintaining regular pickets and visiting other DSS offices throughout the country.

Unfortunately their fellow workers at the Oriel House benefit office have failed to support the strike by taking action themselves. Nevertheless at the recent CPSA conference a motion was won calling for a National Co-ordinated Campaign. Rotherham and Burnley are currently waiting to ballot for strike action and already some industrial action has been seen at Sheffield, Doncaster and Grimsby -- all four Sheffield offices stopping work for four days in April.

To counter the threat of a growing strike wave, management have sent in 20 regional reserves to strike-bound Britannia House, source of much resistance to the ever-worsening situation in the DSS. The reserves were met on May 20th by a picket of over 30 strikers; nine refused to cross a picket line.

The key to winning this battle lies in spreading the strike so that DSS workers throughout the country can win the concessions they so desperately need.

The strikers' financial position is now grave. Please send cheques and letters of support to;  
B NELSON  
50 TRINITY LANE  
BEVERLEY.

## *Gig for Victory!*

A successful Gig for Victory was organised by Hull Trades Council for the striking civil servants with a joyful performance from Blues Brass and a very funny appearance by comedian Kevin Seisay. £60 was raised for the striking Britannia House workers.

Again the Trades Council showed itself quick to support affiliates, and organise a very enjoyable evening into the bargain.

