

**THE WORKERS
UNITED WILL
NEVER BE
DEFEATED!**

AUGUST '85

solidarity

Fight for Tent City



The new Board and Lodging regulations must not be taken with a pinch of salt. For readers who don't know about the regulations they mean basically, that a person under 26 living in Board and Lodgings or Bed and Breakfast type accommodation has to move on after a set period of time as all state benefits are cut, in some areas this can be as short as 2 weeks.

The only way to reclaim is to move to a totally different area and start again there until moving on again is the only answer. This means a young person loses their place on any electoral roll, they lose all access to Health Service facilities, but worst of all they lose the basic right of choice – they are being told where they can or can't live.

In Manchester a campaign group has been set up to oppose the regulations. Called simply "The No Fixed Abode Campaign" the group is trying to make the public more aware of the present situation as well as taking positive action.

A camp site was set up in the city centre and is to stay for a month. In this time petitioning is being carried out and members of the public are being asked to send letters to their M.P.s. The

City Council cleared the site and donated £900 as well as 20 dinners a day at the Town Hall for people on the camp.

Newcastle also set up a 'Tent City' some weeks ago which is running very successfully and attracting a lot of publicity. Other areas such as Liverpool and London are both expected to form camps soon too. With all the areas collecting petitions the joint national figures of signatures will be great.

This is a deliberate attack by our fascist government on the youth. They struck out at the miners, they assaulted the nurses and now they're going into battle with the teachers and the young. This time we have the knowledge and the numbers to defeat the Tories. We must unite and fight for our rights as citizens and workers together. Support the NO FIXED ABODE CAMPAIGN and support your RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Robert Pacitti.

For further details about the "No Fixed Abode Campaign" contact Shades, 48 Copperas Street, Manchester 4. Telephone 834 7360.

DHSS CUTS

The Government has published its Green Paper for the future of social security. Millions of people in and out of work are going to be worse off if its plans are put into action in April 1987. Think it doesn't affect you? Read on because you may be surprised!

The Government say they want to simplify the system and give more help to those who really need it. So what is wrong with that? Absolutely nothing if it was true, but the truth is that the Government want to make cuts, replace legal rights with poor law charity and introduce more means testing.

What will the changes mean? Over 60,000 people who receive supplementary benefit (the Government's own poverty line) will have to pay at least a fifth of their rates. 105,000 out of 112,000 who get housing benefit will be worse off. That is over 9 out of every 10 getting housing benefit. Over 12,000 children could lose their free school meals. The £25 maternity grant will be abolished. Fewer women will get maternity benefit. Family Income Supplement (FIS) is to be abolished too and all the above will be replaced by "Family Credit" paid to the earner, ie usually the man.

Pensioners on supplementary benefit will lose weekly payments for such items as heating, special diet, laundry and also lump sum grants. Owner occupiers receiving housing benefit will have to pay at least a fifth of their rates. If they get supplementary benefit they may not get any help with their mortgage interest, water rates, repairs and insurance.

People in work will have to pay higher national insurance contributions, etc, etc. What can we do about it?

The Government have asked people for comments before 16th September 1985. So for a start why not write to Norman Fowler Secretary of State for Social Services, House of Commons, London SW1 0AA or your local M.P. and tell them what you think.



EDITORIAL

To date SOLIDARITY has received support from Manchester Polytechnic Students' Union, Hulme & Moss Side Miners' Support Group, Wigan Metro Campaign Group, Manchester Socialist Federation, U.S.D.A.W. Crumpsall C.W.S. Branch, Salford North DHSS C.P.S.A. Branch, Fight Racism Fight Imperialism, Direct Action Movement Manchester, Manchester Area National Union of Students, Chorlton Miners' Support Group, Bold N.U.M. and numerous individuals. To ensure SOLIDARITY continues, however, will require regular support not only from these organisations but considerably more. Solidarity needs a regular flow of income – so why not get your Union Branch, Ward Labour Party, LPYS or whatever campaign your involved in to send us a donation. Every little helps.

SOLIDARITY's pages are open to contributions from organisations and individuals too – so why not also help by writing an article, informing us of any events or meetings you have planned so that we can help advertise them. If you would like to, come to SOLIDARITY's next Editorial Meeting at Manchester Polytechnic Students' Union, Mandela Building, Oxford Road, at 7.30pm Tuesday 13th August.

Finally, you can also help by taking a regular bundle of SOLIDARITY (Free) and distributing it either at your workplace or in your neighbourhood. All cheques and enquiries should be addressed to 524 Robert Adam Crescent, Hulme, Manchester.

SMASH APARTHEID

Anyone who thinks that apartheid in South Africa is a minor issue out of our hands here in Britain, is being deluded and is playing straight into the hands of the world's bosses

South Africa is a crucial source of super-profits for world capitalism, with a return on investment treble that of capital invested in Britain. When S.A. apartheid falls, it will greatly reduce the room for manoeuvre for big business the world over – we must hasten that day.

As the consciousness of the black masses in S.A. grows, so the govt. brutality increases. Militant demonstrations and attacks on stooges such as black policemen and councillors have brought the country to the brink of breakdown, and at the same time many hundreds have been shot and killed in their own streets.

In many countries, notably the USA, this has provoked mass movements campaigning for economic sanctions against the apartheid system, and they have met with considerable success. But here in Britain, no such mass campaign exists, yet Britain is the single most important economic supporter of apartheid. Shell, BP, GEC, Barclays and Rio Tinto Zinc all invest heavily in S.A., funding brutal racism in the townships/concentration camps, and funding military terrorism against progressive forces in Angola, Namibia and Mozambique.

The British Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) is dominated by careerists and opportunists (ie, Neil Pillock used to be on the National Exec) and it sees itself as a pressure group, writing letters to MP's, having an occasional march but never actually achieving anything.

The City of London AA Group has broken the mold, however, organising pickets of the S.A. Embassy in Trafalgar Square which for 200 days demanded and won the release of David Kitson (after 20 years in a S.A. prison).

The laughable response of AAM nationally has been to cease to recognise the City Group, claiming that it is not functioning as a 'proper' local group. Nevertheless, the City Group is thriving – still holding weekly pickets of the Embassy, and the seedlings of similar organisation are growing elsewhere. In Manchester a recent picket of S.A. Airways was attended by 50 people, and business was halted since the staff locked the doors throughout. There is much more to be done – watch this space...

Affiliate to the City Group: –
£3 unwaged; £6 low waged; £12 waged
Write to: Box BM City AA, London WC1N 3XX (01-837 6050)

Become a member and attend the AGM later this year to stop the right stitching up the movement – it is our international duty to transform the AAM into a mass campaign to end British collaboration with apartheid.



Caring, sharing... job cuts?

We are at present in a fight for survival for our biscuit factory in Crumpsall. It is the intention of the C.W.S. to close the unit between the end of 1985 and spring 1986. This is without prior consultation with any of the Trade Unions on site, of which U.S.D.A.W. represents the majority. The other Unions are the A.U.E.W., E.E.T.P.U. and U.C.A.T.T.

The threatened closure will put another 420 people on the dole and will be a disaster for North Manchester. It will be the opposite for Harlow in Essex which is where biscuit production is to

be transferred to. This decision from an organisation which has its roots in the North of England.

The C.W.S. have had over 100 years of profit from Crumpsall biscuits without ploughing anything back in the form of meaningful investment. Over the last four years the factory has suffered a progressive loss of profits with no attempt by management to turn the situation and despite pleas from the unions to sit down and discuss ideas to alleviate the problem.

From 19th July a leaflet and petition campaign is starting throughout the

North West with a view to getting public backing for a job saving plan at Crumpsall. U.S.D.A.W. along with Manchester City Council are conducting a feasibility study to show the C.W.S. that with an alternative strategy there is a future for Crumpsall.

Please help us in our fight for jobs by signing the petition, writing to your local M.P. and to the newspapers protesting at the threatened closure of C.W.S. Crumpsall.

U.S.D.A.W. Crumpsall C.W.S. Branch.

NUM CONFERENCE REPORT

The following extracts were taken from an interview with Colin Lenton, Branch Treasurer and Conference delegate for Bold NUM, at Bold Miners' Welfare on Sunday 7th July 1985:—

ARTHUR'S SPEECH

Colin agreed that it was a good positive address considering the coalfield climate of post-strike depression and disillusionment with the official Labour movement's response during the strike.

Colin agreed strongly with the need to sack not only 'Big Mac' but also his henchmen such as Albert Wheeler, Ken Moses and John Northard (Lancs) — they all had to go if any sanity was to return to the NCB. Colin was equally vehement in his disgust with the response of Neil Kinnock to the demands pinpointed in the address. But he was not surprised considering his renegade stance during the strike. Kinnock's alignment with the media's anti-Scargill fever in trying to blame him for Labour's defeat at Brecon, not only attempts to sidetrack blame from Labour's policies, but also to hide the fact of Kinnock being a bastard opportunist! But despite these strong reservations Colin said that there was more potential good in a Labour Govt. than the present Tory one.

PRESIDENT FOR LIFE

It was no 'fantasy' that Conference in keeping with the tradition of the NUM, re-affirmed Scargill as President for life. Colin supported this not only because it thwarted media attempts to do otherwise, but because Scargill was different to his predecessors who had abused power, and was instead a President who despite the union perks — 'never forgot his roots'.

NON-MINING GROUPS

A Conference resolution had been

tabled to consider non-mining groups who had supported the strike for associate status in the NUM. Colin felt, as did many others, that the women's organisations should be given automatic right to such status, not in gratitude for services rendered — such a move would be a means of maintaining the fighting unity that was forged in the strike and developing the organisations further. At Area Conference for the Lancs. miners it was decided not to support such a change, this despite the efforts of Bold NUM.

At National Conference the Lancs delegation in alliance with the Notts SCABS were instrumental in defeating the rule change. Colin left the Conference floor in frustration and disgust.

Yet again male trade unionists have denied women a political voice in the union but still expect women to support them in times of strife. It's rather ironic that women's groups and the Miners Support Group network should be discarded whereas the Labour Party and the TUC are entertained by the NUM at Conference when they generally scabbed throughout the strike.

NOTTINGHAM

Colin saw the walkout of Notts delegates and the inevitable sacking of Super-Scabs Lynk and Prendergast as purely a publicity stunt! For a start they had broken their NUM contracts by persuading Notts miners to break the National overtime ban — they had to go! It was expected that Notts would not accept the rule change concerning area autonomy, and so Colin was not surprised when the Notts scabs announced their split from the NUM. He was in no doubt that they had prepared to breakaway during the strike — estab-

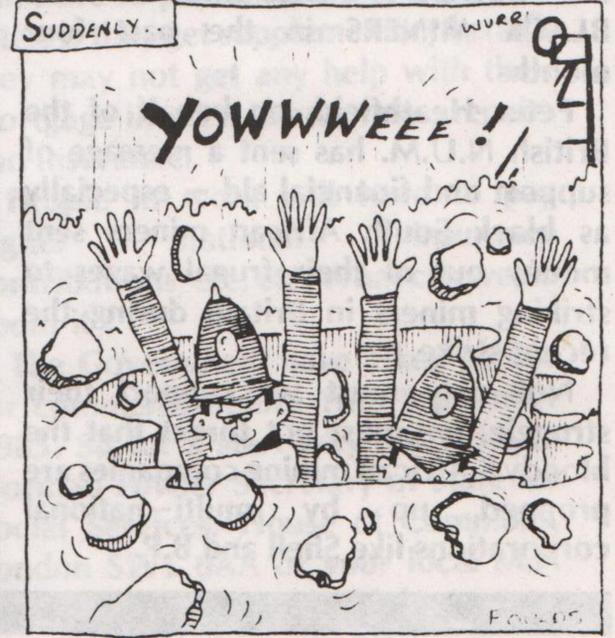
RELEASE JAILED MINERS



lishing links with parasites in other areas, and not forgetting their involvement in the Working Miners Committee. They were rewarded immediately with Tory media coverage and a meeting with MacGregor to discuss Judas payments. This gave Lynk powerful recruitment propaganda to pick up scabs from other areas (ie Agecroft in Lancs). Colin felt that power crazed Lynk and Prendergast would not carry the majority of Notts miners and also would be isolated in the fight against pit closures. Colin also believed that the scabs would be able to finance a breakaway union — however, Tory funds are unlimited when it comes to defending their interests (are we to see millions invested in a useless airport and sheep farming in Notts?)

WHICH WAY FORWARD..?

Colin informed us that the NUM have called a special delegate conference in October to discuss 'victimised miners' (only 6 months late!) linked to a big pay claim. Whatever the rule changes, the power of the union lies in the organisation at branch and community level, and this is still strong and ready for a struggle. Colin Lenton left us with his quote of the week from Jim Slater (NUS): "Better to die on your feet than live on your knees" **HULME M.S.G**



HEALTH CUTS

In the Manchester South District there are drastic cuts some in the pipeline, some already in effect. The results are as follows:

CHILDREN – The Children's Ward at Withington has already closed. This means all children are admitted have to be admitted to another Hospital, ie Duchess of York or Booth Hall. Those needing special surgery will then be moved to Withington and placed in an adult ward for the duration of the operation and then moved back to one of the other Hospitals. This is very distressing for parents and patients and is by no means satisfactory. In addition all children brought to casualty will be traeted but if they need admitting they will be farmed out.

THE AGED – One geriatric ward has already closed and it is proposed that another one should close later in the year. This leaves no spare beds for emergencies or for Hotel Services for families looking after elderly relatives so they can have a much deserved short break. The alternative is to put bunk beds on the remaining wards.

CHEST MEDICINE – Four Chest Care wards are to be closed. This can only extend the waiting lists, not only on the Chest wards, but on Surgical, Medical and E.N.T. wards that will have to make beds available for chest patients. One

RACISM—home&away

At the moment 135,000 black South African miners, members of the black National Union of Mineworkers are in dispute with the apartheid regime.

The dispute is over a claim for higher wages (Black miners are paid a pittance) but also involves accusations of ballot rigging, the sacking of 20,560 black miners for going on strike, and the BLOODY MASSACRE of 400 BLACK MINERS in the past four months.

Peter Heathfield, on behalf of the British N.U.M. has sent a message of support and financial aid – especially as black South African miners sent money out of their frugal wages to striking miners in Britain during the recent strike.

Not only must we support their struggle, we must not forget that the bloody S.African mining companies are propped up by multi-national corporations like Shell and B.P.

consultant already says there are two people per day are dying for the lack of Heart Surgery.

MATERNITY – One ward is to close at weekends. This means patients in these wards would be shunted around at weekends. This brings a whole new meaning to family planning.

You might have already read an article in the Manchester Evening News about a patient who having given birth had to spend the night on a trolley in the corridor because there were no beds available.

All these plans are supposed to make the service more efficient. They estimate a £2.8 million overspend and these plans are designed to overcome this problem. We then found out that the minister of health now wants a further 2% efficiency saving.

What it all means

The total job loss in the South District could be as much as 500. It also means a deficiency of about £5 million in our budget and nobody knows how many wards will have to close.

We say no to the cuts. Remember Thatcher's famous words "The Health Service is safe in our hands". What absolute rubbish, she only wants to make a profit out of human misery. Glyn Humphreys, EETPU Steward, Withington Hospital.

On 7th July in Wilmslow people from Moss Side and Hulme were joined by locals as 350 protested against racist remarks made by the Chief Inspector of Cheshire John Clinton. He told a local meeting that the police had orders to pick up blacks in Wilmslow as "...it is obvious they are strangers" and "...there is nothing in Wilmslow to attract people from Moss Side except houses".

This has come right after the local Rugby club's tour of South Africa which was supported by the local M.P.s. On their return the club's President informed us that he had seen no evidence of apartheid and that blacks were "Free to go where they liked".

These attitudes only scratch the surface of prejudice in places like Wilmslow. Prejudice not only against blacks but against the poor and the unemployed.

People's civil rights mean nothing

EVENTS

Thurs 25th July, 7pm – Quantum Theatre Co. present 'Human Cannon' by Edward Bond. Miners Benefit Perf. Manchester Town Hall

7.30pm – N/W Miners Defence Campaign meeting, M/cr Town Hall

Sun 28th July – Bye bye bye—laws at USAF Molesworth. 'Come along and break a bye—law' Details from CND.

– Rally for victimised miners. Scargill launches national petition at Friends House, Euston Sq. London

Fri 2nd August, 11am – Youth CND march. Assemble St Peter's Squ., M/cr

12 – 9.30pm – International Youth Year Festival, Platt Fields Park Manchester (Bands incl. Simply Red, James, A Certain Ratio & many others)

Sun 4th Aug. 2pm – Open Training Session for Socialist footballers. Birley High School, Hulme. All welcome.

Thurs. 8th Aug. 7.30pm – NWMDC meeting (as above)

Sat. 10th Aug. – Troops Out of Ireland/ Prisoners Out of Jail march from Jubilee Gardens to Brixton for rally. Assemble 1pm. (Irish Freedom Movement)

Sun 11th Aug. 2pm – Socialist football training (see above)

Mon. 19th Aug. – Cortonwood March for Release of Jailed Miners. To arrive at TUC conference in Blackpool on Mon 2nd Sept.

Mon. 2nd Sept. – Mass Lobby of TUC Conference in Blackpool called by Kent NUM in support of Jailed Miners. – The Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign meets Sundays at 7.30, M/cr Town Hall –The Rosimina Defence Campaign meets every Tues. in Longsight Library at 6.30pm. Rosimina is campaigning to be allowed to stay in Britain with her husband, Mohammed, who is also threatened with deportation.

Socialist Celtic F.C. (in conjunction with Poly Rebels and Nomads) invite all Socialist/Progressive footballers (male or female) to open training sessions every Sunday at 2pm At Birley High School, Hulme. First session: Sunday August 4th

when it comes to protecting their property. The way a person looks or their address is enough proof to warrant being stopped, questioned and arrested.

This must be resisted and can only be stopped by the solidarity of the working class and the recognition of our common enemy – the state and its police force.