

# The SYNDICALIST

NUMBER 2

20p

## FIVE MONTHS AND STILL SOLID:

The Contracts Ltd strikers are now into their fifth month of strike action over the company's refusal to recognise their union, the National Union of Tailor and Garment Workers.

Since the last issue of the 'Synicalist' the strikers have taken a gigantic step forward in the form of rank and file organisation and action. The latest development of the strike has been the Managements rialence on a back to work deal negotiated through what they call a 'works Committee'. This committee would be made up of ten workers representatives, two shop stewards and the management, the management would always hold a veto on the decisions of the committee. The management plan was to hold a ballot of strikers, scabs and management staff to elect the ten representatives. Workers would have been given a blank sheet of paper and a one person one vote ballot taken. This would have the effect of taking any type of control of who was to sit on the workers side of the committee out of the hands of the strikers.

Jane Kingsland, striking Shop Steward, said, "Why should we give a vote to the scabs they haven't got any grievances with the company".

The Contracts Strike Committee called a mass meeting of all strikers on January 1 th to discuss and take a vote on whether to enter a ballot on the Works Committee.

Jane stated, "we had a secret ballot on whether to go for the ballot or to carry on with strike action. We voted with a three to one majority to stay on strike and step up the action". Since the vote on the 1 th the action of the strikers has indeed been stepped up and in the words of Jane has turned to that of 'Guerrilla Warfare'. Shops that sell French Connection goods such as Fenwicks and Lewis have been picketed on a regular basis and many people turned away. One striker said, "people shouldn't buy any French Connection goods so we obviously had to start picketting the shops".



WORKERS ASSEMBLE FOR DAILY PICKET OUTSIDE CONTRACTS LTD WHILE POLICE LOOK ON.

One of the major developments in the dispute was action taken by the strikers on January 16th when 50 strikers OCCUPIED the Commercial Road factory. Though the factory was only kept by the workers for just over an hour, they were ejected after Management and police smashed their way in, the action had two main effects. Firstly the French Connection company had all thoughts that the strike was beginning to crack smashed and secondly the strikers had their hopes of victory greatly enhanced. Jane stated of the occupation, "we are sick and tired of going through the same old motions". While the factory was occupied the strength of support for the strikers was shown as word got out and the picket outside started to grow larger

### CONTENTS

1. CONTRACTS DISPUTE.
2. MINERS.
3. MORRIS LOCK OUT.
4. FIBRMAT STRIKE.
5. HEALTH SERVICE.
6. HOUSING.
7. SILENTNIGHT UPDATE.
8. DUNNES DISPUTE.
9. EDUCATION ACTION.
10. LAW CENTRES.
11. WHERE WE STAND.

ANARCHO-SYNDICALIST PAPER

## EDITORIAL

**1986** and what it will bring, must surely be a major concern for all workers both employed and unemployed. Over the next eleven months the working people of this country face even more cut backs in Health, Education and Social Security. The selling off of British Gas and Water Authorities will mean yet a further concentration of the wealth of this country into the hands of a minority. Plans for even more anti Trade Union Legislation and the new and oppressive Police Bill will be used to ensure that any real opposition to this governments policies are made a criminal act. The hierarchy of the Trade Union and labour movement has shown itself to be completely ineffective in countering attacks such as these on the working class. While the Labour Party has joined in the bickering about which group of rich shareholders should control Westland Helicopters the unemployment figures have risen yet again and the C.B.I. have this month issued a report predicting even more job losses in the manufacturing industries. We now see hard won union rights, working conditions and wage levels being whittled away before our very eyes while bosses unions such as the E.E.P.T.U., A.U.E.W. and the U.D.M. are allowed to make sweetheart agreements and no strike deals while the trade union movement looks on in despair. It is quite clear that many of these unions have the ultimate aim of breaking away from the T.U.C. and forming their own right wing trade union body. Only by organising at both rank and file and inter union grass root levels can we mount an effective opposition. The Teachers, Building workers and miners are now in the process of building such organisations. This must be extended throughout every industry and community.

THE TIME TO ORGANISE IS NOW!

The 'Syndicalist' is produced on a shoestring. If you would like to see the continuation of this paper please send donations to;

Tyneside Revolutionary Syndicalists,

c/o D.O.H.,  
62, Thornton Street,  
Newcastle Upon Tyne.

with the presence of miners, unemployed, shipyard workers, trades council delegates and many other workers. In conjunction with the stepping up of action by the strikers the fight has been taken to the home ground of Stephen Marks where at his offices in London the strikers from South Shields have begun to picket. Jane said, "if we got union recognition and those sacked reinstated we would be back tomorrow, but that isn't even on the managements agenda at the moment".



JANE KINGSLAND: STRIKING SHOP STEWARD

This fight is all about the basic principle to belong to a trade union. Solidarity action is desperately required of those that have any involvement with the French Connection Company or shops that sell French Connection goods. The National Union of Seamen blacked a shipment of clothes on January 14th which were being imported from Taiwan but more widespread support is still needed. Throughout the week, including on a Saturday, the strikers need support on their pickets of shops that sell French Connection goods, your help would be gratefully accepted! Two future plans of the strikers are to firstly hold mass pickets of two North East clothing companies who have been taking on French Connection goods and secondly to hold a mass

demonstration and rally in South Shields. For more information on these two events the strikers should be contacted as no date has of yet been fixed. Pickets of the Contracts Ltd factory, Commercial Road, South Shields, are mounted every morning from 7am onwards, support on these pickets is needed from all supporters. Financial support to overcome the hardship and letters of support to show the strikers they have not been forgotten should be sent to:-

Contracts Strike Committee,  
c/o N.U.S. Building,  
4, Coronation Street,  
South Shields.

Tel: 2561428.

### CONTRACTS DISPUTE BLACKLIST

#### NEWCASTLE (Eldon Square)

Mothercare.  
Bainbridges.  
Top Man.  
Detroit.  
Wallis.

Lewis. Northumberland St.  
Fenwicks.  
Catalogue 1. Clayton St.

#### House of Frazer (Binns)

Middlesbrough.  
Hartlepool.  
Darlington.  
Sunderland.  
South Shields.  
Newcastle.

If you know of any other outlets regionally and nationally please let us know.

The strikers have produced a recognition cassette with 8 songs and is available for £1.50 from the address above.



# MINERS

## UNDER DIRECT MANAGEMENT

The U.K. could be reduced to a mere 22 pits if the N.C.B. has its way.

Only 22 pits are acceptable at present to the coal boards demand for product at £38 per tonne. The rest, including the entire coalfields of Scotland, Durham, Kent and South Wales, are regarded by the board as a "cancer in our midst".

Some pits, like Bates in the Blyth valley, are being used as "man-power resevoirs" to supply the scab stronghold of Nott's, as part of a process of natural wastage.

Other unacceptable pits will be brought into line with N.C.B. targets through wage cuts and reducing manpower. This is why the N.C.B. are attempting to destroy the N.U.M. and establish their own union, the U.D.M.

Leicester N.U.M. leader, Jack Jones was approached by three N.C.B. chiefs who told him to urge Leicester-area to join the breakaway scabs. When he told them that Leicestershire would not be joining the U.D.M. he was told: "You must. You are holding up the entire operation". He was told that if he did what they said he would be taken care of financially, and that a phone call was all that was needed to arrange ameting with Ian McGregor.

The Head of Industrial Relations for the N.C.B. said that the U.D.M. had to get 60,000 members in order to be financially and to make an impact on the Trade Union movement.

This is all in violation of the National Conciliation Scheme set up when the mines were nationalised.

Despite this conniving by the N.C.B. and the scabs to take control of the mines, the T.U.C. finance and general purposes committee has said that the T.U.C. must not support the N.U.M. in any campaign against the scab union.

They believe that the U.D.M. will attract men in "highly productive collieries" because of its commitment to high bonus earnings, and that the N.U.M. must do the same. The committee recommends that the N.U.M. support the change to an industry based on "new pits and new capacity". It advises the N.U.M. to cooperate with the board over closures and new work practises.

The reason for this advice is easy to see. The T.U.C. has its eyes on membership figures and dues, and is clearly taken in by the N.C.B.s propoganda; for instance the loyalty bonus of £100 to 30,000 scabs; the £80,000 of stolen assets given to the U.D.M.; the N.C.B.s



claim that a third of the Yorkshire miners want to leave the N.U.M.

But while the T.U.C. is taken in it is the N.C.B. and the U.D.M. who are really getting worried. Instead of the 60,000 members they need they have only got half of that, with Leicestershire voting to remain in the N.U.M., and many north eastern miners returning to the N.U.M., Nottinghamshire remains the only stronghold of the U.D.M.

But we cannot take much hope from this; the T.U.C. have been frightened into doing the N.C.B.s work for them in trying to turn the N.U.M. into a useless bosses union like the U.D.M.

The T.U.C. want to keep members in the N.U.M. at any cost. In the end, it looks as if the real loser in the battle between the N.U.M. and the U.D.M. will be militancy.

### Release Class War Prisoners

In the New Year the National Womens' Support Groups and the NUM launched a campaign for the release of the jailed miners and the reinstatement of men sacked during the strike.

There are still over 20 miners in jail serving various length of sentence ranging from a few months to 8 years. Eight of these men were sent down to Durham jail shortly before Christmas. On christmas eve a vigil was held outside Durham Jail in solidarity with the jailed miners.



TERRY FRENCH . . . jailed for five years

It was called by the Durham Mechanics and miners support groups and was widely supported by trade unionists and unemployed from around the north east.

Anne Sudwick (Durham Miners Support Group) said:

"We will never rest until these men are released and the sacked men reinstated"

As part of the campaign there will be a rally in London on March 2nd.

Note; On Sunday 19th of January Miners at Westoe Colliery in South Shields voted that if there were any more sackings or victimisation at the pit they would strike.

## RELEASE THE JAILED MINERS

### NORTHUMBERLAND

**WILLIAM SMITH:** Whittle — 2½-year sentence from February 1985. E44975, Durham Jail, Old Elvet, Durham DH13HU.

### DURHAM

**JOHN MATTERSON:** Murton — Two years and three months youth custody from December 1985.

**JOHN HEMINGWAY:** Murton — One year and three months from December 1985.

**JOHN ROBSON:** Murton — One year and three months from December 1985.

**ROBERT HOWE,** 22, miner, affray attempted not guilty (judge refused to allow change of plea), 21 months

**ANTHONY RUTHERFORD,** 24, miner, affray attempted not guilty, 18 months

**JOHN ROBINSON,** 21, affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months jail

**GARY BLACKMORE,** 19, charge affray, attempted not guilty, 2 years youth custody

**ANTHONY HOWE,** 19, affray, attempted not guilty, two years youth custody

**WILLIAM BELL,** 20, affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months youth custody

### YORKSHIRE

**MARTIN HODGSON:** Wakefield — Three-year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.

**NIGEL HODGSON:** Wakefield — Three-year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.

**PAUL WRIGHT:** Saville — 18-month sentence. G76424 Kirkham Jail, Freckleton road, Preston Lancs.

**CLIVE THOMPSON:** Frickley — Three-year sentence from April 1985. G79348, Acklington Jail, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9XF.

Not miners but sentenced in connection with the miners strike:  
**DAVID TEASDALE:** Student — Nine-month sentence from April 1985. HMYCC, York Road, Wetherby, West Yorks LS22 5ED.

### N. DERBYSHIRE

**PAUL BROTHWELL:** 12-month sentence.

**DAVID GAUNT:** Shirebrook — 2½-year sentence from December 1984. E71037, A Wing, Millers Park Youth Custody Centre, Doddington Road, Wellingborough.

### KENT

**MARK BEST:** Two-year sentence from April 1985. B74749,

Spring Hill jail, Alysebury, Bucks.

**TERRY FRENCH:** Betteshanger — Four-year sentence from January 1985. B73383, Weald Wing, Maidstone jail, Kent

**GARRY NEWELL:** Two-year sentence from April 1985. B574745, Eastchurch jail, Stamford Hill, Sheerness

**CHRIS TAZEY:** Betteshanger — Three-year sentence from January 1985. A29398 Youth Detention Centre, Springfield Road, Chelmsford

**JAMES WADDELL:** Two-year sentence from April 1985. B574747, Eastchurch jail, Stamford Hill, Sheerness.

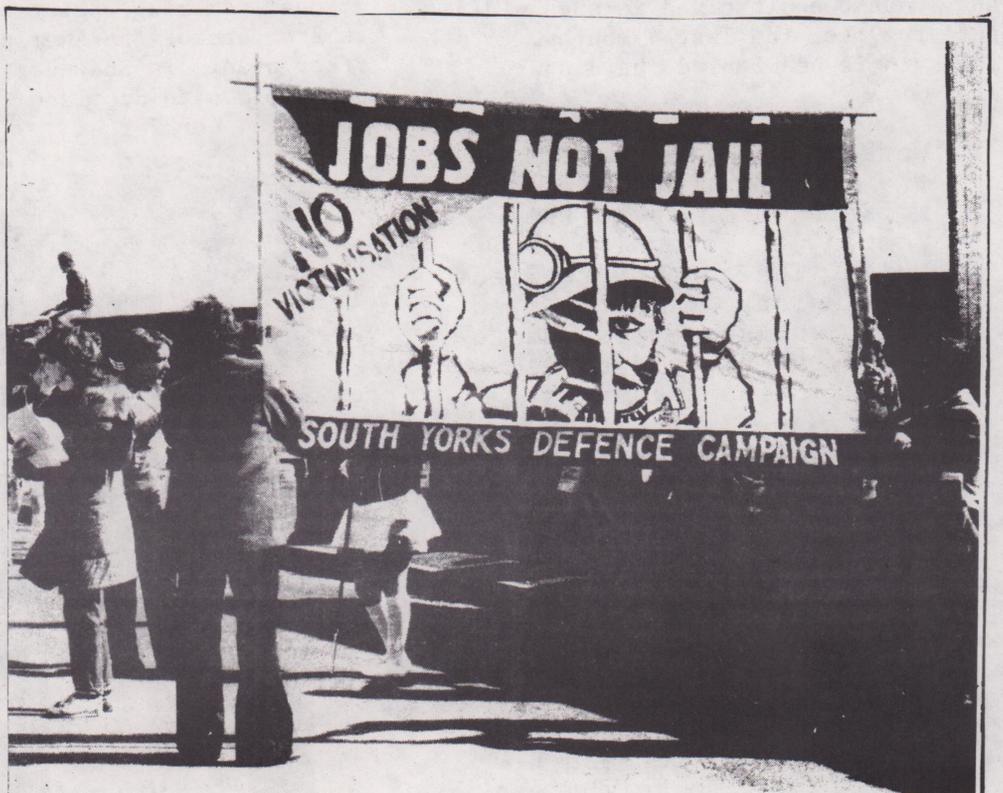
**EMLYN DAVIES:** A Two-year sentence from April 1985. B74746, Spring Hill jail, Alysebury, Bucks.

**BRIAN DAY:** Two-year sentence from April 1985. B74748, Spring Hill jail, Alysebury,

### SOUTH WALES

**DEAN HANCOCK:** Oakdale — Eight-year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicester.

**RUSSELL SHANKLAND:** Taff Merthyr — Eight-year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, Leicester.



# GLASGOW

# DISPUTE

For over 8 months furniture workers in Glasgow have been in dispute with their employer over the amount of hours they work each week. The dispute is not over the basic right of all workers to a 30 hour week but that of their employers view that they should work 41½ hours per week.

Three years ago the workers at Morris of Glasgow were asked to work the 41½ hour week as their employer said if they did not he would have to close the factory. They were given assurances that this work would only last for one year to get the company on a profit making basis and that after this period the 39 hour week layed down by the British Furniture Manufacturers Agreement would be implimented. After one year this agreement was

broken by the Company who began to use scare tactics and harrasment to keep the hours at the previous level. The harrasment of the employer included threats of closing the factory, washing up time was cut from 5 minutes to 2 minutes, two minute clocking on time was abolished, the factory was split up into sections to attempt to block any type of organisation in the factory and workers were interviewed seperately to see if they would work the extra one and a quater hour week which the employer demanded. Together with this the employer tried to bribe the workforce with a free weeks holiday for those that agreed to work the extra time.

In early May of last year the workforce voted on the question of the extra workload. The outcome was that 82% of union members voted to cut the hours each week to 39.

On May 24th 26 workers clocked out of the factory at 2.15pm after working their 39 hours, layed down by the Furniture Manufacturers Agreement. Nine apprentices were, shortly after this called out of the factory for their own safety as the employer had them working on machines unsupervised and one person had lost a finger in an accident.

The following morning, Saturday 25th, all 26 craftsmen and the 9 apprentices were sent letters terminating their employment with the company.

The factory is now being staffed by a non union semi skilled workforce.

Solidarity action given to the sacked workforce from local trade unionists and the unemployed is beginning to grow steadily, they are receiving support on their picket lines from other workers and the company is being boycotted. Donations are being received on a regular basis by from supporters and the actual industrial solidarity round the country is being extended.

Liverpool, Hull and Dover dockers are blacking imports of tables made in Italy by Faelli Passoni which were being shipped to Britain and sold under the Morris name.

The pickets have taken the attitude that they would rather see the factory close than leave the picket line even though on some occasions they have been attacked by stick weilding scabs.

Robert Morris, the owner who received the factory from his father on his 25th Birthday, has went on record as saying, "the men are no longer working for me and as far as I am concerned the matter is closed".

Morris and his ilk, such as Stephen Marx of French Connection, must be shown that the working class will not lie down without a fight and it is not the employers but the workers who will end up with a complete victory.

Letters of support and donations should be sent to:-

Morris's Strike,  
R. McCallum,  
46, Carlton Place,  
Glasgow,  
G15 9TQ.



## More Out For Recognition

The fight for union recognition seems to be high on the agenda in many places of work up and down the country at the moment. As employers try to drive down and completely do away with basic rights that have been won by workers over the years workers have no other alternative but to take industrial action and place their jobs on the line against their unscrupulous employers.

Workers at the American Company of Fibrmat, based in East Kilbride, Scotland, have been involved in such a dispute for over the last 4 months. The main issues behind the dispute are:-

1. Workers who are members of the Transport and General Workers Union asked the Company to recognise their Union. The company replied that unions only protected lazy, workshy types and that no union would be recognised in the factory.
2. National Insurance payments which should have been paid out of wage packets were not met by the employer. Though the employer admits that it were he that was at fault he refused to discuss how the payments of between £300 and £140 would be paid back, other than saying the workers had to pay between £10 and £22 per fortnight back out of their wage packets.

3. The employer promised the workforce a wage rise for September, the rise was never given.

With these three main issues put together the workforce had no other alternative but to take industrial action.

Since the dispute began all 42 strikers have been sacked and an unskilled workforce recruited to do their work. The strikers have witnessed an international scabbing operation with workers from one of the American companies other plants in Shawnee, West Virginia being flown to Scotland to train the unskilled workforce.

At present the strikers are attempting to strike up contact with workers at a third Branch of the Company, Nickel Fibres of Ohio, for solidarity action. The strikers are determined that they will not be starved of the picket line and are sure that with international aswell as national support they will win their fight.

Send all donations, letters of support and offers of solidarity action to:-

Fibrmat Strikers,  
c/o Jim Elsby,  
Wishaw T.G.W.U. Office,  
Main Street,  
Wishaw,  
Lanarkshire.



## hospital cuts cost an arm and a leg

Once again the vicious attacks on our health service have surfaced. The government plans on privatisation are being forced through the local health authorities. Since the beginning of 1986 North Tyneside has been involved in a battle over privatisation and now the attacks have been mounted even further to include our health service on both sides of the river, to include the privatisation of the Gateshead ancillary staff.

Already massive cut backs are being felt in our hospital and health centres wards are being closed along with wholesale closure of hospitals. Since 1979 two hundred and twenty one hospitals have been closed and only eight opened. This comes at a time when another twenty four hospitals are on the list for closure.



One of the latest hospitals to be closed on a specifically 'money' basis has been the Moor Park geriatric hospital in North Shields. On January 7th the North Tyneside health authority made a decision to close the hospital on the grounds that £500,000 per year would be saved and a further £200,000 could be made from the sale of the building.



Staff shortages in the hospitals are growing along with shortage of ambulancemen. In some cases wards in our hospitals are being forced to fight one another for such essentials as bed pans, sheets and syringes.

On January 21st 800 ancillary staff in South Shields took strike action over privatisation of these services. There was a mass rally at Armstrong hall in South Shields. Norman Richardson (NUPE Branch Official) said that the workers in the NHS had

"No other direction to go, we to make a stand".

He said that on a recent visit to a hospital where ancillaries were privatised, made by NUPE members, they had seen school children being picked up outside school to go and clean the hospital.

It is up to the whole community to unite with workers in a concerted defense of our health service. If the domestics are left to fight alone they will be victimised, criticised in the media for being 'uncaring' and picked off like so many workers are when they are fighting to maintain a service.



## Tenants under attack

One of the greatest problems facing working class people in recent years has been homelessness, brought about by the attack on public housing. The number of households accepted as homeless has gone from a tragic 57,000 in 1979 to a terrifying 83,000 in 1984 in England alone. Many of us know what it is like to be on the council waiting list, waiting forever for a decent place to live. But the national picture is startling to say the least: there are over 1,200,000 households on council waiting lists in England: 62,000 in Wales, and 150,000 in Scotland. The effect of this shortage of housing is that 800,000 people are living in overcrowded conditions: sharing basic amenities with other families: couples with children living with their parents for years.

The only people who benefit from this criminal situation is the private landlord. More people are forced to live in bad conditions and damp housing, while waiting for a council place. For instance; 1,250,000 dwellings in England and Wales alone are officially unfit to live in. The situation in Scotland is worse. 2½ million homes in the U.K. are seriously affected by dampness.

The large numbers of homeless people means that they let even worse housing than otherwise. The government have also helped the landlords directly, by making alterations in the law which mean that:

1. Where "Fair Rents" have been registered, the landlord can raise

the rent every two years, rather than three as before.

2. They can raise rents without phasing in periods previously required.
3. They have applied "Fair Rents" to 2,00,000 properties considered substandard, and let at very low controlled rent levels.
4. From 1980 a new type of tenure was introduced which virtually removes all rights a tenant would have under the Rent Acts.

All of this means that those families and individuals unable to be housed by the council are in a position to be utterly exploited.

Even when one is lucky enough to get council housing, the government have driven up rents, by issuing guidelines on rent increases for council tenants and through the manipulation of grants. It is harder to get repairs done, and takes longer. The high rise flats which even the government know should not be lived in are still there because haven't built any decent housing.

Meanwhile there are over 400,000 unemployed building workers.

What we, as tenants, must do, is organise in tenants associations to demand that repairs be done on time, by withholding the rent. In the longer term we must use this power to demand that the council must employ more workers to maintain the state of the housing, and to demand that the government begin a massive operation of building and

rebuilding. We must demand proper housing for those of us living in high rise flats, and in damp and overcrowded housing.

We must organise now to demand decent housing for all.

## THE NIGHTMARE CONTINUES

The struggle for workers rights at two north east furniture factories continues.

Workers at the Sutton and Barnoldswick Silentnight factories have now been involved in their dispute with the company for 7 months.

Since the last issue of the 'Syndicalist' there have been some interesting developments with management giving cash hand outs to scabs to continue to break the strikers picket line. The company has awarded scabs £6 extra per week in their pay packets, this comes at a time when the company is presently in a loss making year. Last year when work was normal the original workforce were offered a similar deal which the management reneged upon. The company are intent on keeping out any 'activists' in the factories and the strikers still need your financial and active support.

All correspondence should be sent to:- Sutton and Barnoldswick Silentnight Wommens Support Group, c/o Mrs Pat McCormack, Northstead, North Road, Sutton-in-Craven, Nr Keighley, BD20 7PQ.

## Workers against apartheid



Since the Summer of 1984 13 workers from Dunnes Supermarket in Dublin have been involved in Industrial action against the Racist and dictatorial South African Apartheid Regime.

The workers took action against the regime when their union, the Irish Distributive Trade Union (I.D.T.U.), took a decision at its National Conference to block all South African goods. Though most decisions at Trade Union conferences of this type are very rarely implemented the workers at Dunnes felt so strongly about the issue that they immediately implemented their union policy.

As the check out workers began to refuse to sell South African goods one

worker, Mary Manning, was suspended for her actions. On this twelve of her workmates immediately took action and left the store and began to picket. Since that time over 1½ years ago the strikers have all been sacked and replaced by scab labour. The sacked workers to this day continue to picket the shop and have on many occasions been physically assaulted by both Management and scabs. These strikers must be fully supported in their actions!

For more information on the Dunnes dispute contact:-

Dunnes Strikers,  
c/o I.D.T.U.,  
Cavendish Row,  
Dublin.

## one law for the rich. no law for the poor.

The government are to stop funding twenty two law centres by the end of March this year.

There are fifty seven of them throughout the country and amongst the twenty two to be hit is Benwell Community Law Centre. This is the only law centre for the whole of the Newcastle area & it is the smallest in the country with only five workers - three of which are part time. It is funded by the Inner City Partnership which is 75% funding from central government and 25% funding from the local council. The government have said that they are not willing to pay for the law centre beyond March 1986 and say that the local councils should fund them.

Workers and supporters of the centre mounted a campaign last September to save it from closure. Mass petitioning and lobbying of the council was started up amongst other campaigns to try and get the local people involved - the people that would be affected if it was to close. They also produced mass leaflets and posters and another way of getting publicity was to advertise it across the side of a bus. The law centre has had a lot of support from the Gateshead Law Centre (whose funding is secured till next year) and many others in the North East.

Tony Whittle who works there said, "It would be a severe blow to the working class of Newcastle if the law centre was to close down. Here we take up issues of people who can't afford to pay for legal aid. There are three main issues with which we deal with and those are Employment issues like unfair dismissal and discrimination, -Housing, where the cases we mainly get are to do with sorting out problems tenants have with their landlords or the council. Our third main issue is Immigration - this is where we work together with other local groups like the Womens Asian Centre and also the Racism Monitoring Group. We are now becoming more involved in tenants

Associations as we feel that there is much more chance of success by working together with other local groups. Our law centre is managed by an independent Management Committee which is made up of people from the local community who use the law centre. The present Management Committee feel that it is an important principle for that situation to continue no matter where the future funding comes from".

The government have brought in all these anti-trade union laws and have attacked the unemployed by the means of the Fowler Reviews and now they are taking away the basic rights the working class have of free legal aid and representation.

## Education cuts: solidarity needed

On Friday 24th of January there was a National Union of Students 'Day of Action'. The students were protesting against government plans to cut students income by £500 a year. This includes the suspension of housing benefit and most importantly threatens the right of students to sign on during the summer.

Working class students will not be able to survive unless they get a job during the summer! What chance do most stand in the job blighted North East!

The 'Day of Action' consisted of a march around the town and a five minute sit down at the Haymarket followed by a;

"Ceremonial handover of a 9 million pound housing benefit claim and the posting of 7000 letters to parents." (Newcastle Poly NUS leaflet)

Unfortunately the NUS Polytechnic Executive made no attempt to mobilise

## WHERE WE STAND

1. We believe in independent, horizontal working class organisation independent of all political parties and bureaucratic trade union structures, none of which represent the true interests of the majority of people, i.e. the people who create the wealth by manual or intellectual means.
2. We believe that under the present system of capitalism support should be given to the struggle for short term gains, such as better pay and conditions but these should always be seen for what they are, limited interim reforms which are no substitute for the total reorganisation of society necessary to ensure true freedom, equality and democracy.
3. We believe that the parliamentary system does not serve the interests of the working class. The solution to the problems that we the working class face, do not lie in the election of a new leadership, but in the creation of new structures both in the workplace and the community which allows for us all to have total control over the decisions which affect our lives.
4. As revolutionary syndicalists we believe that only by a general strike accompanied by mass occupations and the implementation of workers control, can capitalism be finally removed and a free self managed society where production and labour is geared towards need and not profit be created.
5. We are opposed to all forms of racism, fascism, nationalism and sexism, indeed any ideology which sets out to divide the working class.

support from sympathetic unions in the polytechnic. Generally speaking the canteen workers, porters, lecturers library staff, who have all suffered from education cuts and whose unions all have policies to fight such cuts were sympathetic to the 'Day of Action'. For instance last year there was a one day strike by both students and lecturers when the government proposed the abolition of the minimum grant.

The students can do little to fight the cuts by themselves. The cuts have affected all within the education service. In short, what is needed is mass direct industrial action by both students and workers at the polytechnic in Solidarity, organised by the rank and file. Only in this way can we avoid token action as above, and move towards as strong, collective fight back in defense of the Education service.

On the positive side the polytechnic Action Support Group collected nearly £50 during the march for the 'Contract Workers' dispute, at South Shields.