

The SYNDICALIST

NUMBER 3

20p

SOLD OUT

As Contracts Strikers were entering their sixth month on strike for union recognition their union, N.U.T.G.W., were taking steps to sabotage the dispute on the grounds that a deal had been agreed at A.C.A.S. (bosses organisation). The Formula for a return gave the company the right to lay off all workers on strike and implement a staggered return over a three month period. Job security over the period could not be guaranteed and Union Recognition, at the centre of the dispute, would not be given. It was obvious to strikers that militants would never be allowed to set foot in the Contracts Building under this deal. In this atmosphere all strikers held a union organised secret ballot on Friday 28th February on the question of returning over the A.C.A.S. deal. Strikers re-affirmed their intention to fight for full recognition. The decision was too much for the Garment workers union. Ron Bales, area officer, contacted Alec Smith, General Secretary, immediately on hearing the result and was given the go ahead to withdraw strike pay from the strikers, something that had been threatened for a long while. Bales was booted out of the building with calls of Scab and strikers that had voted for a return to work decided that due to the union attitude they would not be going back.

Geoff Bowen, Divisional Officer, and Alec Smith are both shouting their mouths off about the Contracts strike and they who have never been near a Contracts picket line, they who have held meetings with A.C.A.S. and the Contracts Financial Director Michael Shen behind the backs of the strikers and they who have attempted to subvert the principled stand of workers for the right to have their trade union recognised by an employer. Who do these people think they are! Strikers are adamant that they won't be returning to work without full recognition of Shop Stewards and the union. Some strikers feel it would be best to join another union while other feel it would be better if the N.U.T.G.W. seen sense and rejoined the strikers. Whatever way it goes



a guard must be kept up against actions detrimental to the strike by union bureaucrats and their supporters whether in the Garment workers or any other unions. Support gained for the strikers through the garment workers union must be defended, this support must not be allowed to be whittled away because of the withdrawal of the union bureaucrats. More rank and file support must be given, both actively and financially to those on strike. Supporters must be as determined as the strikers to win this dispute, we must come up with the support needed for victory with or without the union in question. Union bureaucrats must not be allowed to sabotage this hard fought battle over basic rights. Your financial support is needed now more so than before now that strike pay has been stopped. Support on the picket lines can be given from 7am onwards each morning at the Contracts factory Commercial Road South Shields. Lets show the Garment workers officials that the Rank and file of workers with their sheer determination can beat the Contracts Ltd/French Connection and gain the rights of workers.

Letters of support and donations should be sent to; Contracts Strike Committee, c/o N.U.S. Building, Coronation Street, South Shields, Tyne & Wear.

Tel: 4561428.

CONTENTS

1. CONTRACTS STRIKE.
2. WAPPING DISPUTE.
3. TEACHERS INTERVIEW.
4. SUPPORT NEEDED.
5. MINERS.
6. HEALTH CUTS.
7. TYNE WEAR TRANSPORT.
8. WHERE WE STAND.

EDITORIAL

One of the building blocks of syndicalist theory is that there should be one union for each industry. The need for this has never been more apparent than with the current dispute at News International. This is a prime example of workers seeing their industrial muscle undermined by the chaos of multi union plants. Workers involved in this dispute are beginning to learn this lesson.....Bill Booroff, London Region Secretary N.G.A. states, "We must get closer together and press on urgently with the aim of one union for the industry".

This also holds true for workers in education with unions including National Union of Teachers, National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, Association of Head Teachers, Association University Teachers, National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education etc etc. which makes affective opposition to the attack on the education system almost impossible.

The are numerous other examples that could be cited such as Transport, Health, Engineering and so on.

As Syndicalists we would argue that the first step towards this objective would be inter union Rank & File cooperation with the ultimate aim of industry wide unity.

Although this would be a first step, we would also argue that the whole structure of unions should be changed. Full time trade union officials both at local and national level would have no place in such a re-organisation of the Labour Movement. Full timers have shown themselves to be totally divorced from the daily lives of the normal workers on the shop floor.

Ron Bales local N.U.T.G.W. official, has shown strikers at Contracts Ltd that himself and his union bureaucracy have more in common with employers than with the rank and file of workers.

The way forward is to ensure that all union organisation is entirely controlled by the ordinary workforce on the shop floor.

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.

HARD TIMES

Mass solidarity is rapidly coming in for the sacked printers on Rupert Murdochs News International titles. Up and down the country workers are blacking Murdochs papers while others picket distribution points. Pickets at Wapping and Kinning Park in Glasgow are supported by workers from all industries aswell as unemployed and families of those sacked. The boycott of the Sun, Times, News of the World and Sunday Times must be stepped up. Even though union leaders in Transport, communications and power industries are



On Friday 21st February, Durham Area Mechanics held a social at Easington Miners Welfare Hall to raise money for the SOGAT printers.

The social was attended by many trade unionists. Different Unions and Support Groups, including the Contracts strikers, Newcastle Poly' Miners Support and N.U.P.E. R.V.I. Workers were invited.

At the end of the evening, Mick Hunt, Secretary of Durham Mechanics, handed over a cheque for £415 to Dave Biddel, Middlesbrough Area SOGAT official. Mick Hunt said:

"The printworkers gave us solidarity throughout our year-long strike. We should show that we can return that support. This is a fight in defence of the whole Trade Union movement."

The Durham Area Miners support Groups went to London for the weekend 1st and 2nd of where they took part in the picket at Wapping and attended the march to release the jailed miners and reinstate sacked men, on the Sunday.

On the local scene, pickets of the TNT warehouse at Hetton-le-Hole and of W.H. Smith wholesalers are beginning to take place.

News International Newspapers are suffering extreme difficulties both in getting the papers printed and their distribution. They also face the problems of the severity of the dispute when some papers managed to get distributed to the local Newsagents.

Bundles of papers in Ealing, W. London have on occasions been destroyed when oil was poured over the delivery of the scab papers.

On February 17th thousands of copies of the Sun and the Times mysteriously disappeared from seven newsagents in Swindon, Wiltshire, they later were found to have been burned.

frightened to death of coming up against Murdochs use of the anti trade laws and the courts rank and file workers are taking action. This action needs to be increased to a point where Wapping and Kinning Park no longer have available water, electricity, telephones and a postal service.

The dispute with Murdoch is also a dispute over the courts and every reactionary section of society. The working class cannot afford to be defeated this time round.

BUILD RANK AND FILE ACTION TO BEAT MURDOCH AND THE COURTS!

E.E.T.P.U. RANK AND FILE SUPPORT.

Rank and Filers in the electricians are showing growing opposition to their leadship over the Wapping dispute. Over thirty local E.E.T.P.U. branches have passed resolutions condemning the action of the union leadership. The largest branch in Scotland with over 4,000 members, Glasgow, have elledged a conspiracy between Hammonds leadership and the News International. They have stated, "The National Executive should not take our loyalty for granted"

E.E.T.P.U. rank and filers picketed their local union offices earlier in February to show their support for the printers and the contempt for Hammonds leadership.

NEWS INTERNATIONAL

January 29, 1986

Mr E A Hammond,
General Secretary,
EETPU

Dear Sir and Brother,

At the Branch Meeting held on January 28, 1986, the following resolution was unanimously agreed with more than two hundred members in attendance and following a lengthy discussion.

MOTION:

This Branch calls for the immediate resignation of the General Secretary Eric Hammond, and the full Executive

Council of the Union. For action detrimental to the members of London Press Branch, and for undermining the conditions of Brother and Sister Trade Unionists in our Industry. Further for not heeding the advise given by the T.U.C. and for aiding and abetting Mr Rupert Murdoch and his News International in the possible loss of 5,000 jobs to the NGA, SOGAT, AUEW, EETPU. These actions are against the principles fought for by the founder members of the Trade Union Movement and the founders of our Union.

Yours fraternally

Sean Geraghty
Secretary

PAPER BOYS IN SUPPORT OF PRINTERS.

Youth all over the country are refusing to deliver Murdochs papers on their paper rounds. One youth in South Wales has been sacked for his solidarity action. He stated, "I saw enough strike breakers during the miners strike..... I don't want to be a scab".



STRIKE a teachers perspective

The present teachers dispute is the longest in the history of education. It has been portrayed by the media and the government as an attack upon childrens education. In fact the teachers are acting in order to defend childrens education from governmental control and cuts. The dispute has been crippled by division between the bureaucracies of the teaching unions, and between teachers and other workers in schools.

We spoke to a teacher at a North Tyneside comprehensive school who has been involved in the dispute.

part in activities out of school hours, (which is unpaid anyway) The N.U.T. has left it up to individual schools as to how they run the dispute. Some schools have shut down for half days, while other teachers have used "guerilla tactics" whereby they walk out of lessons for half an hour which causes chaos in schools with hundreds of children being sent home.

The N.A.S./U.W.T's action has been similar although they have more central control so their action has not been as varied. Members of both unions have refused to supervise at dinnertimes, which has meant some schools closing down. However many headmasters and sen-

It is widely rumoured that Sir Keith Joseph has stated that a comprehensive system is no longer necessary as we no longer need a mass literate workforce for industry. In the Conservatives future society new technology will require a small number of highly qualified, professional people who can be recruited from the middle classes.

WHAT SORT OF ACTION DO YOU THINK MUST BE TAKEN BY THOSE INVOLVED IN EDUCATION?

Firstly teachers must refuse to abandon Liberal Humanist Studies, which allows pupils to think for themselves, as opposed to the vocational studies which produce programmed robots. This is a class issue and the government knows it. They want to take any education that does not serve the interests of industry away from the working class. Parents and pupils must become involved in the fight to stop this from happening, and must be made aware of all the issues involved.

Most importantly we need mass action by all workers involved in the state education system, not just teachers. At the moment the government uses the differances and disputes between not only the teachers unions, but between other unions in education, N.U.P.E., the G.M.B. etc. This destroying the chance for victory. For instance, the action of the dinner ladies has been short sighted - taking advantage of the teachers refusal to supervise at dinnertimes. If the strike is lost, teachers supervision will become compulsory under the terms of the contract, and many dinner ladies jobs will be lost.



TEACHERS DEMONSTRATION ON JANUARY 29TH IN NEWCASTLE.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE DISPUTE HAS CENTRED SOLELY ON THE DEMAND FOR HIGHER WAGES. IS THIS A TRUE PICTURE OF THE TEACHERS OBJECTIVES?

Pay is only part of the teachers grievances, but it is an important part - many teachers earn less than half the official industrial wage. We are also concerned with conditions of service and the cuts in education.

For the last decade, even before the present Conservative government, teachers have seen a continuing succession of severe financial cuts. Less and less money has been available for textbooks and modern technological aids. In many north east classrooms there is now a shortage of even basic equipment like paper and exercise books. The school buildings themselves have been allowed to deteriorate to such an extent that holes in corridors and classroom walls are commonplace. In many schools there are leaks and problems with damp. In almost every school the heating system is outdated and inefficient.

Teachers are also fighting against central government control of education Under the new conditions of service that Sir Keith Joseph proposes, curriculum material would largely be set and monitored by the D.E.S. (Department of Education and Science). Teachers would be contracted to cover for absent teachers, attend parents meetings and out of school meetings, and, as Keith Joseph said "do anything that the head master instructs". This is not only an attack on the freedom of a teacher to cater for the needs of individual pupils, but it would also allow the authorities to weed out teachers with left wing politics, and could even result in some headmasters instructing their staff not to join a union.

HOW HAS THE STRIKE BEEN ORGANISED IN THE NORTH EAST?

There are four main teaching organisations, and each has its own approach to the dispute. The N.U.T. the biggest union has refused to cover for absent colleagues, and take

ior teachers have scabbed, and kept schools open at dinnertimes. Some authorities have employed more dinner-ladies.

Members of A.M.M.A., usually senior teachers, have not struck, but have not covered for striking teachers, and have refused to do any voluntary activities.

The P.A.T. (Professional Association of Teachers), which mysteriously appeared with massive funds and low membership about four years ago, have not taken part in any sanctions or action. Though they are small their refusal to take part in the dispute has seriously undermined our effectiveness.

HOW IS THE ACTION AFFECTING LOCAL SCHOOLS?

Pupils have been affected in that they are finding that there are no clubs or activities for them after school. Owners of theatre and leisure complexes have lost a lot of money as a result of this.

Childrens education, at every age, has been affected, with many secondary school children losing up to a day a week. Local authorities have been forced to pay out large sums of money to pay for extra dinner time supervision and supply teachers. This has led to many of them being forced to overspend beyond government limits. The government has lost a lot of support from teachers and many parents are angry at their failure to end the dispute.

WHAT WILL THE EFFECT BE IF THE TEACHERS LOSE THE DISPUTE?

The cuts will continue to devastate the education system. Teachers morale is very low, and it is becoming very difficult to attract graduates into education, particularly those with specialised skills in physics' and computer technology.

The education of working class children will fall even further behind that of the middle classes, who can afford to send their children to private schools.



Sir Keith: going mad over Education.

Rank and file education workers including teachers, must organise within the schools, beyond union boundaries. For instance, industrial action by secretarial staff would affect the pupils less but would directly affect administration and the D.E.S.

The only way we can be effective is for all education workers to unite against the government cuts. To this end we must form inter-union rank and file groups and organise with families in the community.

Since this interview took place, the N.A.S./U.W.T. have voted to end their action. The Burnham Committee, the teachers negotiating body, has accepted the 8.5% pay offer. This is binding for all teachers, even the NUT. Many N.U.T. members feel that it is useless for them to take any action by themselves.

Nevertheless the message is clear. The attack on education and the teachers affects us all. We must organise now to defend our education.

SOLIDARITY NOW

The affectiveness of most industrial disputes lies with the amount of industrial aswell as financial support given to those in dispute by other workers. Below are a number of such disputes that need YOUR SUPPORT if they are to gain a victory over their employers.

The 'Syndicalist' aims at reporting the disputes of workers and informing others of their existance. If you or any of your workmates and friends are presently in dispute why not let us know the details and we shall report your action.

SILENTNIGHT: Over the last few weeks the strikers from both factories of Barnoldswick and Sutton have began to work much closer together and picketting has been stepped up.

They have supported the printers at Wapping, attending their picket lines, and plan to step up mass pickets at their own factories. The union, F.T.A.T., are against such action and are trying to stop the strikers from producing leaflets asking for a blacking of silentnight goods.

A mass picket has been called for at both workplaces for March 13th.

Barnoldswick: 1pm.
Sutton: 3.30pm.

For more information the strikers can be contacted c/o:-

F.T.A.T., Cravendale Branch No92,
Ann King,
10, Rainhall Cresent,
Barnoldswick,
Colne,
Lancs.

Al FEEDS: Workers are on strike as a result of employers attempts to slash workforce. Workers were told that job losses would not be incurred if workers bought their own trucks. The company also insisted that the side of all vans had to have the companies name on the side. The strikers desperately need your support and can be contacted at:-

Al Feeds Sho Steward,
c/o Transport House,
Islington,
Liverpool.

FIBRMAT: The company refuses to allow the workforce to organise into a trade union and have reneged on their recent pay rise.

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

DUNNES: Workers at the Dublin supermarket ahve been involved in industrial action for over 1½ years. The strikers refused to handle South African goods and have since been sacked.

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

MORRIS OF GLASGOW: Dispute over hours worked per week.

26 workers have been sacked and other apprentices have had their course terminated.

R. McCallum,
46, Carlton Place,
Glasgow,
G15 9TQ.

RELEASE JAILED MINERS RALLY APRIL 19th ARMSTRONG HALL, S. SHEILDS.

The Coal Board have all along maintained that they and only they have the right to decide the future of the Northumberland pit.

The future of Bates was held in the balance, or so miners leaders thought, of a decision that would come from the Independant Colliery Review Procedure which the Coal Board didn't seem to be too concerned about because of their own stance.

The Procedure result stated that the pit should be kept open for at least two years but the decision was railroad by the Coal Board who stated it would be closed anyway.

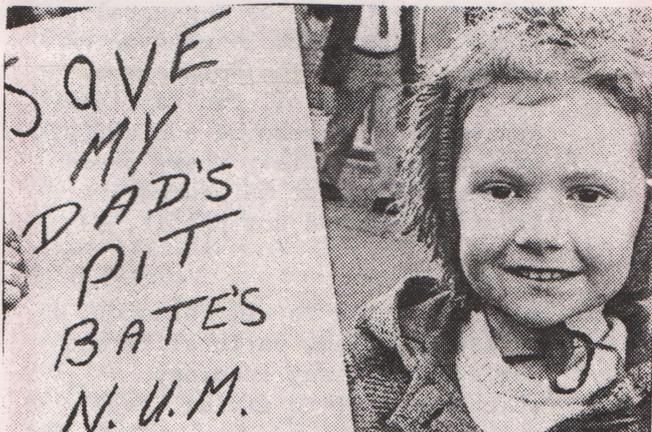
The National Coal Boards Draconion attitude shows that the future of the mines does not lie in the Colliery Review Procedure, which has shown itself to be a complete farce, but in the co-ordinated Industrial muscle of the Working Class.

There are still over twenty miners in jail with sentences ranging from a few months to eight years. These people were jailed for fighting for their jobs and future of themselves and their families, they must not be forgotten. The miners union, the national womens support group and miners supporters are at present joining forces to campaign for the realese and re-instatement of all those jailed and sacked during the 12 month dispute.

South Sheilds is the venue for one of the first in a line of rallies in the North. Speakers attending will include Ann Lilburn Chair of National Womens Support Group (and from Whittle Miners Wives Support Group) and Arthur Scargill, President of the N.U.M..

RELEASE ALL CLASS WAR PRISONERS!

BATES Review Board Con



On February 22nd the workforce at Bates Colliery were informed by their union officials of the National Coal Boards intention to close the pit.

The Coal Boards flagrant disregard for anyone else but themselves is shown in the most blatant light possible in the Bates case.



RELEASE THE JAILED MINERS

NORTHUMBERLAND

WILLIAM SMITH: Whittle — 2½-year sentence from February 1985. E44975, Durhan 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. 18 months jail.

ANTHONY RUTHERFORD, 24, miner, affray attempted not guilty. 18 months jail.

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, Ackington 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, Ayiesbury, Bucks.

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

SOUTH WALES

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

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

HEALTH AUTHORITY AXE £3m

Workers in Newcastle staged a week long occupation of the St. Nicholas Cookfreeze unit which supplies hospital meals. The workers, members of C.O.H.S.E. and N.U.P.E. took the action over Newcastle health authorities plans to save £250,000 by closing the unit.

While in its second day of workers control the factory had its food supplies cut off by the management. The workers had been producing the meals while locking the bosses out, who had found private contractors to do the work. This was done partly to end the occupation, and also, as Mr. Bernard Canning, Newcastle health authority spokesman, said "to demonstrate that we can manage without Cookfreeze".



The occupation has not had the effect of changing the health bosses plans. The unit is to close, with a promise that most of the workers will be re-employed.

The closure of Cookfreeze is just one part of Newcastle health authorities plans to cut the local health service by £3 million.

This will mean the closure of Flemings Childrens Hospital, skin disease services at the R.V.I., an orthopedic ward at the Freeman, and the convalescent hospital at Wylam. Plans are also afoot to stop investigation into heart disease at the R.V.I., cut shift overlaps for nurses, and reduce out of hours laboratory testing.

Obviously, neither Newcastle health authority, nor central government, care much about the health of working class people on Tyneside. Nor do they care much about the health workers. - Newcastle, Gateshead, Durham Sunderland and Northumberland district health authorities are all planning to sell off much of their staff accommodation. Nurses and other health staff will be forced into private accommodation, often squalid, expensive at greater distances from hospitals.

This is only part of a national attack upon our hospitals. The government has consistently lied about its attitude to the Health service. In the governments pamphlet entitled "The Health Service in England" they tried to con the public about the real facts. They stated that 35 new hospitals had been built by the government. They did not say that over the same period 220 hospitals were closed. Again, they boasted the opening of 11,000 new beds, but at the same time 33,900 beds had been lost. Nor had there been enough money to meet the requirements of improvements in medical technology. This last means that new techniques and technology do not affect anyone who cannot afford private treatment.

The government have also used the "Care in the Community" idea as a way of saving money. The idea behind "Care in the Community" is that many patients

would be best served if they were able to go back into the community, especially elderly people, who after hospital treatment can easily slip into geriatric care. Many of them can cope perfectly well among friends and neighbours. But only if adequate back up services are provided. The government has put people on to the streets, but is not willing to provide the funds for community services. The DHSS guidelines lay down a minimum ratio of 12 home helps per 1000 people over 65 years. This has not been attained in some cases is nowhere near. Some councils have even imposed a flat rate for home help. Because some old age pensioners can not afford this they took the fall in demand as an indication that the unworthy had previously been claiming.

The practical result of health cuts is that in 1984, 1,500 people died because there was not enough kidney machines to go round, and in the same year 2,000 women died because the government is unwilling to pay for a comprehensive screening programme. As the cuts continue to bite deeper things get worse.

The recent Cookfreeze Occupation was an isolated attempt to resist the cuts. And it failed largely as a result of this isolation. But it is this sort of Direct Industrial Action that is needed to halt the attacks upon our health service.

We cannot rely on the Labour Party, these cuts in Newcastle illustrate that. Even if they get into office Kinnock has said that it is not in a Labour governments first priority to renationalise anything.

The labour councils do not have the guts, the will, nor the power to stand up to central government, in fact they do their dirty work for them.

What is needed is concerted action by ALL workers, in ALL industries, AND in the community. Workers in the health service are in a weak industrial position because of the caring nature of their work. Here if anywhere Solidarity is needed.

Surely everyone can see that to fight for the jobs of those who work in the N.H.S. is in the interest of the whole of the working class.

WHERE WE STAND

1. We believe in independent, non-hierarchical 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.

On the Buses

As has been reported in the 'Syndicalist' on several occasions our public services are under attack. This is not more true of our integrated bus and rail network in Tyne & Wear.

Under threat are not only jobs and an adequate and reliable transport service but also the concessionary fare schemes for everyone including the old, young and unemployed.

With the abolition of Tyne & Wear County Council and the implementation of the Governments new Transport Bill the whole bus and rail network in this area will be completely run down.

Already over 300 Transport workers from Mechanics to drivers have been told that they will lose their jobs in October coupled with a further reduction in the workforces of the three transport companies in Tyne & Wear, Northern, United and P.T.E. who are faced with job losses of over 600 within the next six months.

For months passengers on the transport system have been asked a number of questions in surveys with questions

ranging from where their destination is to, where they have come from and whether the journey is on a regular basis.

This information will not be used to create a more accessible and regular service but to cut back on so called 'uneconomical bus routes'.

With the Transport Bill complete services will be taken off the road while others will have their regularity cut to ribbons.

The new Bill will in effect open up bus services in Tyne & Wear to private operators to create 'healthy competition'. The so called 'Healthy Competition' could very easily turn into a very unhealthy thing for the general public as Private Companies attempt to corner the transport market.

Our roads could be turned into desolate areas one minute and race tracks the next in an attempt to pick up passengers at stops before their competitors. It is up to the users of the transport system to fight these plans.