

COUNTER INFORMATION

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MAKE THE JSA UNWORKABLE!

THE Job Seekers Allowance cuts benefits and increases the harassment of the unemployed. By forcing people into low paid jobs and cheap labour schemes the JSA undermines everyone's wages and conditions. It's part of an all out Tory government attack on welfare, public services and workers' rights.

Claimants' groups in the Britain-wide Groundswell network took action on 31 July against their regional Job Seekers Allowance Implementation Managers (JIMs). Claimants occupied benefit office staff entrances in Edinburgh and in Salford, Manchester.

London claimants - cunningly disguised in suits - penetrated their JIMs' sixth floor inner sanctum. Nottingham JIM Dennis Taylor was shocked to see his photo flyposted round the city.

The introduction of the JSA on 7 October saw "Groundswell" claimants groups organising opposition. 300 demonstrators shut down all 3 Brighton Job Centres. When protestors occupied the first office most staff walked out. Then the other 2 offices were bolted shut.

Demos besieged benefit offices in Edinburgh, Newcastle on Tyne, and Manchester area. More actions blazed defiance in London and elsewhere.

3 STRIKES

To beat the JSA we need continuing resistance. "Groundswell" claimants groups in Edinburgh, Leeds, Nottingham, and Manchester area are pursuing a policy of 3 STRIKES against bullying benefit staff. This is how it works in Edinburgh:

Staff found guilty of harassing claimants or cutting their benefits receive a warning letter - as does their manager.

STRIKE 1!

A repeat offence brings final written warnings from Edinburgh Claimants. **STRIKE 2!**

A 3rd anti claimant crime by the same individual means photos of them and their manager will be flyposted. And a claimants demo will confront the culprits in their offices. **STRIKE 3 - AND OUT!**

COUNTER POWER

3 STRIKES can be part of the process of building claimants counter-power.

As Edinburgh Claimants write: "If anyone gets their benefit cut, all their mates should demand to see the manager and refuse to leave until the person gets their benefit back. If any official issues Job Seekers Directions to force unemployed people onto Job Club, Training for Work or whatever, then occupy the office and insist the official withdraws the Direction."

If this happens then the balance of forces will start to change. The benefit officials will be more scared of us than we are of them.

"Together we can make the Job Seekers Allowance unworkable."

This is a step on the path to bigger changes. "We see claimants' resistance as part of a wider struggle for fundamental change, to create a fair society where the planet's resources would belong to all and be used for peoples needs." (Edinburgh Claimants)



In the Belly of the Beast

(The strike) "...brought us close together. We're all one now, which is good. We have to stick together....I would never cross (the picket line)." Ken Strong, 48.

27 pickets were arrested on 23rd September in Port Huron, near Detroit, as they slowed the distribution of **USA Today**.

The paper, owned by the Gannett Corp., is linked by ownership to the 15 month strike at **Detroit News**. Gannett is also linked by a Joint Operating agreement to the Knight-Ridder owned **Detroit Free Press**, also worked by scab labour in a Wapping style dispute involving printworkers and journalists.

Chanting "**Solidarity forever**", the pickets were forcibly removed by riot police using 'pressure point' detention behind ears, and under the jawbone. A striker, Kevin Forrest, had his head smashed into a kerb by unprovoked police.

2,000 workers & their families have resisted a long-planned action by Gannett and Knight-Ridder to destroy union negotiated conditions. A sustained boycott campaign has led to a 60% drop in revenue for the scab papers. In South Florida, there is a solidarity boycott of the **Miami Herald**, owned by Knight-Ridder.

US Corporations are now using the RICO law, devised to take on organised crime, to destroy workers organisation.



Homeless squatters partially bury themselves as they oppose their eviction in Quito, Ecuador in July. Photo AFP

WHAT DOES THE JOB SEEKERS ALLOWANCE MEAN?

- Increased harassment into cheap labour schemes and crap jobs through "Active Signing"
- Benefit staff can issue Job Seekers Directives to force the unemployed onto courses, "training", and cheap labour schemes
- 100% benefit cuts for not complying with regulations
- Contributory JSA only lasts 6 months, and is reduced for under 25's
- Massive redundancies for benefit office workers

AT THE DOLE FACE

Benefit office workers in several areas have struck against JSA pilot schemes and compulsory transfers to JSA work. However these positive actions were not built on.

Instead the CPSA Union leadership have launched a series of national 1 and 2 day strikes to demand security screens in Unemployment Benefit Offices. This is a reactionary demand which worsens conditions for claimants and does nothing to oppose the threatened mass redundancies. The aim must be to stop the JSA itself.

LEFT BEHIND

'New Labour' refuse to pledge to axe the JSA, and themselves plan to force under 25's to work for benefits. 'Militant Labour' reveal themselves to be more Labour than militant by opposing 3 Strikes (Militant 27.9.96).

SOLIDARITY

Postal workers joined the 18 June and 7 October anti JSA demos in Edinburgh. A joint posties/claimants **Don't scab on the posties** leaflet was published by Edinburgh and Lothians Workers Liaison Committee.

*The government have announced the extension of Project Work - the pilot compulsory workfare scheme - to 5 more cities.

Contacts - Groundswell, c/o Claimants Action, EOCA, Princes St., Oxford OX4 1HU. Tel 01865 723750 for your local contact. North West Anti JSA co-ordinating group c/o Anti JSA Group, Dept.99, 1 Newton St., Manchester M1 1HW. Edinburgh Claimants, c/o Peace & Justice, St Johns, Princes St., Edinburgh EH2. Subversion 19 with article on 3 Strikes - Subversion, Dept 10, 1 Newton St., Manchester M1 1HW.

DISCONNECT, dissident benefit office workers paper, from London vs JSA, PO Box 3140, London E17 5LJ.

SPECIAL APPEAL Counter Information has been published free for 12 years. Now we need your support again. It costs over £600 per issue to print 12,500 CIs and mail them around the globe. We are very short of cash. Please rush donations (address page 4).



Moroccan lock out

300 workers at a Casablanca yeast plant striking for better conditions have been locked out since March. The company, owned by the Prime Minister, has used the police to attack a workers demonstration in Rabat on April 17th., hospitalising 18 workers. Solidarity actions have included a strike of 200 yeast workers at El Jadida.

Seoul brothers

Carworkers, in a 420,000 militant union, joined subway workers resisting layoffs in late June, against intimidation by the South Korean State.

Not shopping at Macey's!

Police protecting 12 Ku Klux Klan members from 600 anti-fascists in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA in June, used pepper gas (mace) against shoppers & demonstrators alike.

Crossroads at Kentish

The Kings Cross Women's Centre, evicted last spring, is reopening as Crossroads Women's Centre at 230a Kentish Town Road, London NW5. Tel 0171 482 2496, fax 0171 209 4761.

Rainbow in Rostov

ON 10 August the Rainbow Keepers - an anarchist ecological movement - started a camp to oppose the construction of the Rostov nuclear plant near Volgogradsk, Southern Russia. On 22 August people in military clothing attacked the camp, beat people up and issued death threats.

Striking against Cuts

"Days of Action" in Ontario have mobilised workers to protest against job cuts and the slashing of work benefit allowances by the Conservative Ontario Provincial Government. 30,000 marched in London on 11th. December 1995, followed by 120,000 on 24th. February in Hamilton, 40,000 in Kitchener-Waterloo in April, & 12,000 in Peterborough in June.

A G'Day in Oz

August 20 saw unprecedented scenes in Australia when the Parliament House in Canberra was attacked by 100s of furious demonstrators protesting against the federal government's plans to introduce labour reforms and slash public spending on education and Aboriginal projects. Over 60 police were injured and 50 arrested as protestors smashed their way in to the lobby. 25,000 people from trade unions and community groups had earlier marched through the capital.

Arabest to the class struggle 'The poor cannot buy anything. Only the rich can afford to live', said a resident of Karak after several days of fierce rioting in the Jordanian town, 50 miles south of the capital, Amman. 350 were arrested during the riots which started on 16 Aug and saw the destruction of several shops, 7 banks and the local ministry of education.

• John Perotti Defence, now - c/o 29 Sterlochty Street, Findochty, Buckie, Banffshire, AB56 4PQ
• Haven Distribution are now a Free Books for Prisoner Service, send donations/publications to BM Haven, WC1N 3XX, London

NO TO DEPORTATIONS

After centuries of plundering its ex-colonial properties and exploiting its citizens and its land, Britain's bare-faced cheek and racism knows no bounds, even within its own borders.

Like all nation states, scapegoats for the country's ills must be placed at somebody's door. And as usual it's the illegal immigrants to blame. No matter how long they've stayed here, or who or what they are running away from, they must be sent back to face jail, torture, murder or poverty.

Demonstrations against state-sponsored deportations have been happening all around the

While the state machinery gives a free reign to big business across the globe, the clampdown on resistance intensifies. In Italy, following dawn raids in Nov 95, many anarchists are facing absurd charges of 'subversive association', robbery, possession of explosives and even 'participation in homicide', but the movement is fighting back and defying attempts by the state and media to divide them into 'good' and 'bad' anarchists. Info: Germinal, Via Mazzini 11, 34121, Trieste, Italy.

The Autonome Anti-facist movement in Germany was also facing severe state repression. The trial of 17 Gottingen antifas, charged with membership of a criminal organisation, was dropped despite the efforts of the State to pressurise wit-

nesses. Meanwhile a radio station in Netherlands was facing EC pressure for a Radio station giving the *Radikal* paper airtime to express-

18th May: 2,500 march through London in support of a Kurdish activist facing deportation to Germany.

17th May: D Wing, Rochester Prison, England; 69 asylum seekers protest at being locked up in jail. Riot police brutally break up protest.

15th June: 200 people demonstrate outside Winslow Green Prison, Birmingham on International Refugee Day. The prison is used as a detention and deportation centre.

13th Aug: French police evict 300 occupiers from St. Bernard's Church in North Paris, 10 of



Autonome views. Info: *Autonome Antifa (M)*, c/o Buchladen, Rote Strass 10, 37073 Gottingen, Germany; <http://www.nadir.org/Gruppen/aam>.

After police raids on June 24 in Quebec City, Canada, members of the 'Demanarchie' magazine collective and Food Not Bombs were arrested. The raids followed riots in the city in which the National Assembly was attacked. The pros-

whom are on hunger strike. Later the same evening, 20,000 march through the city demanding their release. The 14th Aug saw more demos in Paris, Lyon, Bordeaux and Dijon and the eventual release of all prisoners. The church was later reoccupied.

• July: 100s of children in Forest Gate Community school in Newham, London, took to the streets with banners reading 'We want her to stay' and 'No deportations' in support of school mate Natasha Matambele facing deportation to Angola.

• Anti-deportation demo on 16th Nov 1996 at 12 noon in Moss Side, Manchester.

ecutor admitted they weren't in the city on the night of the riots but had distributed 'subversive propaganda' then had 'others do the actual work'. Letters / faxes in support of the FNB 3; Stephane Gugu, Chany Pilote and Stephane Roy to Quebec Justice Minister: Paul Be-gin, 1200 route de l'Eglise, 9ieme etage, Ste-Foy, PQ, Canada, G1V 4M1; tel: 418-643-4210; fax: 418-646-0027.

In Britain, alleged editors of Green Anarchist magazine have been charged by the police Animal Rights National Index of inciting the 1994 Isle of Wight arson wave, even though they only wrote about it after the event. According to the law, writing material generally sympathetic to animal liberation is a crime.

Donations (not cheques) to BCM 1715, London, WC1N 3XX.

INSIDE



VALE OF TEARS

5 YOUNG women, 3 of them teenagers, have committed suicide in Scotland's only all-woman prison in the last 16 months. Another 5 have attempted suicide. All the "incidents" took place in the prison's obscenely-named Romeo remand block, most recently in early September when 26 year old Denise Devine hanged herself there. Victims' families are demanding an urgent public inquiry.

New governor Kate Donegon (who calls the prisoners 'customers') thinks that the problem is 'external', meaning that the women are suicidal before they get to the prison, HMP Corton Vale.

Counter Info spoke to 2 of the Vale's ex-'customers'. One said "I was remanded for a weekend for shoplifting. It was sheer hell." The other, who served a year for fraud, says "The screws were caked in make-up and I refused to call them "Madam" so they kept me naked in a filthy punishment cell for weeks until I gave in. I was suicidal."

Governor Donegon says "There are no easy answers." We disagree. **Shut the hell-hole down!**

KENNY CARTER

IN JANUARY 1990 Kenny Carter was nearing the end of a short sentence for robbery, and was anxious to gain freedom as soon as possible as his girlfriend was ill with cancer.

However, in the same month one of Kenny's cell mates committed suicide by hanging himself. Kenny was set up and framed for the murder, being sentenced to life imprisonment.

He has been moved from prison to prison, denied his possessions and basic rights, beaten and caged in solitary for excessive periods, to the extent that he resorted to hunger strikes to bring attention to his appalling treatment.

The beatings have left Kenny with a dislocated knee cap, with continuous beatings he fears losing his knee cap. Money has been raised for an operation but prison authorities are blocking it. Kenny has always refused to submit to the bullying tactics of the prison regime, and in his struggle he needs one

INFO

thing more than any other, and that is support from people on the outside.

WRITE to - Newcastle ABC, PO Box 1TA, Newcastle on Tyne, NE99 1TA - Kenny Carter (AD3434), HMP Belmarsh HB4, Western Way, Thamesmead, London SE28 OEB.

WRITING ON THE WALL

Simon Sunderland was sentenced to 5 years at Sheffield Crown Court. His crime? Spraying graffiti. Outrage at this sentence sparked off an active solidarity campaign and Simon won his freedom in October, following an appeal.

FREE SATPAL RAM

SATPAL RAM is serving a life sentence for defending himself against a racist attack (see C146). March to support Satpal - assemble 12 noon Holyhead School, Holyhead Rd., Handsworth, Birmingham Sat 16 Nov.. Free Satpal Campaign 0121 507 1618.

Rare In

Send a SAE to get a Summer festival resistance report - also on Internet.



After over a year on strike, Liverpool dockers have defied Merseyside Docks & Harbour Company and 'their' T&GWU leadership attempts to defuse a struggle that has promoted international solidarity.

As reported in CI 46, the policy of the dockers and **Women of the Waterfront** to reach out and encourage genuine solidarity has transformed a struggle against scab labour and casualisation. Regular pickets of port users such as 'Argos' catalogues are spreading, while Montreal dockers in Canada climbed cranes protesting against Merseyside dock users CanMar & CAST. On the 30th Sept, Swedish and Danish dockers mounted a 24 hour blockade of main ports in solidarity with Liverpool.

From 28-30 Sept, this solidarity was displayed with 10,000 marching from Liverpool city centre to the pier head, going past police protected McDonalds en route. Amongst the marchers & speakers were Dockers support groups, Detroit printworker, anarchist groups including Tyneside and Leeds, militant union activists including Hillingdon hospital strikers, Turkish and Kurdish workers

RECLAIM THE FUTURE!

West London, 13th July
We walk through your boundaries of time and space and destroy them. And on the other side...police turn to see thousands of people running up the M41 towards them, the sound system kicks in as well as their boots and a living room, a huge sandpit, free food, glitter, graffiti art, and poetry are created. Under the cover of the skirts of a thirty foot figure the road is drilled up in time to techno and trees rescued from the path of the M11 link road planted in the earth.

CRITICAL ACTIONS

*17 August Bath: The city's third Reclaim the Streets closes major traffic routes and exotic partying lasts five hours.

*30 August Oxford: Critical Mass cycle action was followed by a street party of 200.

*17 August Birmingham: 500 people held a car free festival.

On 24 August there was full police mobilisation and 80 arrests

DOCKERS WIN NEW FRIENDS

from London, and a 12 year old dockers son, Neil Fox, who said *"friendship is a precious gift that cannot be bought or sold. It is worth more than a mountain of gold"*.

Working alongside the Dispute Committee, **Reclaim the Street** activists mobilised, opened up a squat of a MDHC building, and organised a rave despite a police attempt to silence it. At 6.30am the day of the Monday mass picket, they eluded the cops and climbed and occupied 3 huge cranes. The main police repression took place during the mass picket, with coaches turned back on motorways & State sanctioned



violence carried out by the Operational Support Unit (O.S.D.-para-military police).

POLICE USE TORTURE

With 600 outside picketing,

banners on cranes, the OSD arrested 3 in clashes which followed a brutal police assault on a **Reclaim the Streets** activists using a pen knife to peel fruit! A Liverpool Union & Militant Labour member Kieran Dunne was badly beaten up in the police van where he was burnt and tortured by a lighter. Later clashes led to another 44 arrests, mostly of **Reclaim the Streets** activists, but including 4 dockers stewards who had tried to reason with the force of unreason (OSD).

Despite the arrests the weekend was viewed as a boost to morale, drawing attention to State and official Union

complicity with the MDHC, and demonstrating how links can develop between workers, and reaching out to environmental and 'Jobseeker' (**Groundswell**) activists. The MDHC want to develop Liverpool as the port for

As the McLibel case, in which 2 London Greenpeace activists, Helen Steel and Dave Morris, are being sued by McDonalds for exposing the truth about their food and business practices, enters its third year,

supporters have set up 'McSpotlight' - a worldwide web site on the internet.

The web site combines text, graphics, video and audio to give the most comprehensive source of information on a multi-national ever assembled. The issues that are central to the McLibel trial such as diet and ill-health, destruction of the environment, animal welfare, exploitation of children and workers are all covered.

The McLibel verdict is expected in December 1996. Whatever the

toxic waste, and past dockers action against this is behind their blacklist of the 500 strikers who refused to cross the Torside picket line on 28th Sept. '95.

Meanwhile, the T&GWU collects subs from the new scab workforce while making life difficult for the Dispute Committee and their attempts to link dockers internationally. Bill Morris the T&G General Secretary is suspected of trying to stitch up a deal with the MDHC to offer £30,000 redundancy & guarantee pension rights while blacklisting any future in the docks. He attacked "militant protest groups" links with the dockers and failed to criticise the OSD police thugs. As one anarchist present said *"there is more integrity in just one of the colourful pieces of string that the 'rts' people wear than in all the burnished brass, braid and button buffoonery adorning her majesty's repressives"*. And as **Schnews** reports: *"Single issue politics is well and truly dead now"* as docks and dreadlocks come together.

Liverpool Dock Shop Stewards Committee, c/o 19 Scorton St., L6 4AS. 0151 207 3388.

Evidence on the arrests, please contact Kevin Robinson, docker on 0151 207-3388. **Reclaim the Streets** are at 0171 281 4621. Send largeSAE to POB 37 Liverpool LS6 9FZ for **Dockers** 9,10 etc website printouts.

Direct Action conference, Brighton 23rd Nov, 01273 685913.

outcome, support the campaign by distributing 'What's Wrong with McDonalds?', the leaflet at the centre of the McLibel trial. Over one and a half million of these leaflets, which McDonalds hoped to suppress, have been handed out in the UK since writs were served on Dave and Helen.

Contacts: McLibel Support Campaign, Kids Against McDonalds, Support Network for McDonalds Workers, all at 5 Calendon Road, London N1. McSpotlight worldwide web site <http://www.mcspotlight.org/>

• activists in Singapore recently closed a McDonalds restaurant for almost a week by spraying the windows with paint and super-gluing the locks.

McDonalds in the Spotlight

Hawk Off!

On 30 July, at Liverpool Crown Court, a jury stuck a massive 2 fingers up to the judiciary, the British arms trade and the dictatorship of Indonesia when, with no legal basis, they acquitted 4 women charged with the criminal damage of a British Aerospace Hawk jet intended for Indonesia. The women argued that by disabling the plane, they were preventing the genocide of the East Timorese who've been subjected to a reign of terror for over 20 years with Hawk jets playing a major part in the deaths of over a third of the population. Britain has been supplying the jets since 1978.

"Too vital to lose"

Postal workers in the UK have been holding 1 and 2 day strikes to resist Royal Mail's oppressive "team-working" plans, designed to cut costs and impose faster and harder workrates. The posties want better pay, shorter hours, a 5 day week, and protection of the 2nd postal delivery.

An Edinburgh postal worker writes -

During September Royal Mail, the Tory government, and Labour leader Blair all chorused that the postal workers should hold a second ballot and end the strikes.

Then a Friday/Monday strike hit the post office like never before. Almost 2 weeks were required to properly recover from the disruption. More weekend strikes were eagerly awaited.

But in late September our Communication Workers Union (CWU) leaders ordered a suspension of the strikes. We were to be balloted once again just to confirm to the Doubting Thomases that our resolve remained firm. That was the story for public consumption.

CORRUPTION

The truth of the matter smacks more of intrigue, corruption and betrayal. Union boss Johnson insisted the strikes stop, stating that in the Union letter informing Royal Mail of the July ballot result the number of spoilt ballot papers had been tippexed out! This, claimed Johnson, laid the Union open to legal action and bankruptcy, and so a new ballot was essential.

Swearing the CWU National Executive to secrecy, Johnson threatened to bring in Executive members from British Telecom to over-rule the postal executive.

Significantly this all occurred when the strike was entering an increased offensive, and when "New" Labour desire calm in the class war to ensure election victory. (Johnson is a Labour executive member and Blairite.)

Motions of no confidence in General Secretary Johnson and calls for nation-wide escalation of the strikes have been passed unanimously at mass meetings of CWU Scotland No 2 branch (Edinburgh, Lothians and Fife).

FLYING HIGH

Throughout Fife and the Borders flying pickets have defied the anti picketing laws to bring home this dispute's importance to the smaller more isolated Delivery Offices. Royal Mail's private police videotaped flying pickets to identify them. Once again CWU Union HQ cooperated with Royal Mail and ordered that the secondary picketing stop. Pickets ignored this.

Pillar box locks have been superglued to frustrate scab managers

clearing the letters. Scab offices have had their entrance gates chained and padlocked, offering pickets the amusement of seeing scumbag managers scaling 12 feet gates to get to work.

Country-wide there have been numerous unofficial walk-outs against victimisation of local activists or because management broke agreed working practices. Milton Keynes struck for a week, and Oxford for 3 days in early

October, to oppose victimisations. Dunfermline and Edinburgh South East Delivery Office are fighting for the reinstatement of 2 sacked posties and others on suspended dismissal by conducting 2nd delivery strikes. This will be escalated when the time is apt..

Many branches are now demanding that the issue of dismissed or disciplined strikers feature in any future agreement with Royal Mail. Victimised postal workers will NOT be forgotten. There will be no sacrificial lambs just so an agreement can be concluded.

DANGER

The danger of a strategy of one day strikes is that it can create a



AS the campaign against water charges in Ireland enters its 3rd year, non-payment continues to be very high, over 70% in south Dublin. (Info Workers Solidarity, PO Box 1528, Dublin 8)

GET INVOLVED !

• Scottish anarchist contacts: Justice/Cothrom fortnightly news-sheet, and also Glasgow Anarchists Glasgow Solidarity Centre, 3 Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow G1 3PA, Tel: 0141 226 5066; Dundee Anarchists 01382 814922; The Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh / Edinburgh Claimants, c/o Peace & Justice, St. Johns, Princes St., Edinburgh (mail only) • Active Distro, BM Active, London WCIN 3XX • AK Distribution, PO Box 12766, Edinburgh, EH8 9YE • Anarchist Black Cross, c/o 121 Railton Rd., London SE24 (prisoner solidarity) • Anarchist Communist Federation, 84b Whitechapel High St., London E1 7QX • Angry People, PO Box 108, St. Peters, NSW 2044 Australia • Bad Attitude, 121 Railton Road, London, SE24 Tel 0171-978 9057 • Class War: PO Box 1021, Edinburgh EH8 9PW • PO Box 772, Bristol BS99 1EL • Collective Action Notes, PO Box 22962, Balto., MD 21203, USA • Contraflow, 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St., London SE17; fax: 0171-326-0353; email: contraflow@omega.comlink.de (excellent news-sheet) • DS4A, Box 8, 82 Colston St., Bristol (distro) • Education Worker Network, Sol. Fed.-IWA, EWN, c/o PO Box 1681, London, N8 7LE (new paper out) • E. Anglia Anarchist Network, PO Box 87, Ipswich IP4 4JQ • Federation Anarchiste, 145 Rue Amelot, 75011 Paris, France • Frontline Collective and Organise both at: PO Box 505, Belfast BT11 9EE, Ireland • Haringey Solidarity Group, Box 2474, London N8. 0181 802 9804 • Industrial Workers of the World, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB • Kate Sharpley Library, BM Hurricane, London WC1 3XX • Kommunist Kranti, Majdoor Library, Autopin Jhuggi, Faridabad-121001, India • London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1 • Norwich Solidarity Centre/Solidarity Fed.: PO Box 73, Norwich NR3 1QD • SchNEWS, PO Box 2600, Brighton BN2 2DX; tel/fax: 01273-685913 (weekly news-sheet) • Sheffield Anarchist Group, PO Box 446, Sheffield S1 1NY • Solidarity Fed - IWA, PO Box 493, St. Albans, AL1 5TW • South Bristol Anarchists, PO Box 1076, Bristol, BS99 1WF • Torpedo, Milan Djuric, M. Velikog 12/10 11300 Smederevo, Serbia-Yugoslavia.

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passivity among members and allows the Union's officials to dominate the course of the strikes. Self-organisation and self-initiative can be stifled. Nevertheless, it is possible, as activists within Scotland No 2 branch have shown, to act independently and confront Royal Mail (and the Union right wing). If we can no longer trust our General Secretary and his cohorts, the rank and file must bring victory by co-ordinated grass-root action.

The postal strike has now become too vital to lose for all trade union members in all industries. A victory for Royal Mail will be a victory for the Tories, but, more importantly for the future, it will be a victory for Union bureaucracy and Tony Blair's New Labour. **Very soon the whole movement must mobilise.**

INITIATIVE

In Edinburgh, from an initiative of CWU activists, a "Workers Liason Committee" is sharing experiences and providing assistance by joint actions to all trade unionists or others in struggle. The WLC so far has helped water workers resisting local re-organisation, the unemployed fighting new job seeking rules, a Nigerian campaign against Shell Oil and a closure of a local mental health hostel.

Increasingly it's becoming more and more clear that we all face a common problem - capitalism and the drive for profits before peoples welfare. The longer we have been fighting Royal Mail in defence of our jobs and conditions, the more we've come to understand that the established trade union organisation not only handicaps us in our fight but actually acts against us. Now is the time for not just postal workers to endeavour to re-organise but for us all.

Edinburgh & Lothians Workers Liason Committee, c/o CWU, 15 Brunswick St., Edinburgh. SF-CWN, PO Box 29, SWPDO, Manchester M15 5HW - write for good leaflet on dispute.

DAM BUSTERS

THE ITOIZ dam project in Navarra, Spain, has been resisted by the local people for over 10 years. Activists held back the forces of environmental destruction by sawing through six steel cables essential to the construction of the dam. This has stopped all work for at least six months and caused damage estimated at between £4.5m and £8m.

All 8 activists were arrested and brutally beaten by site security and police. After months in prison, they have been released on bail awaiting trial. 25,000 marched in Iruna to show support and solidarity actions have taken place all over Spain. Info : Zizana, apdo.400, 26080 Logrono, Spain.