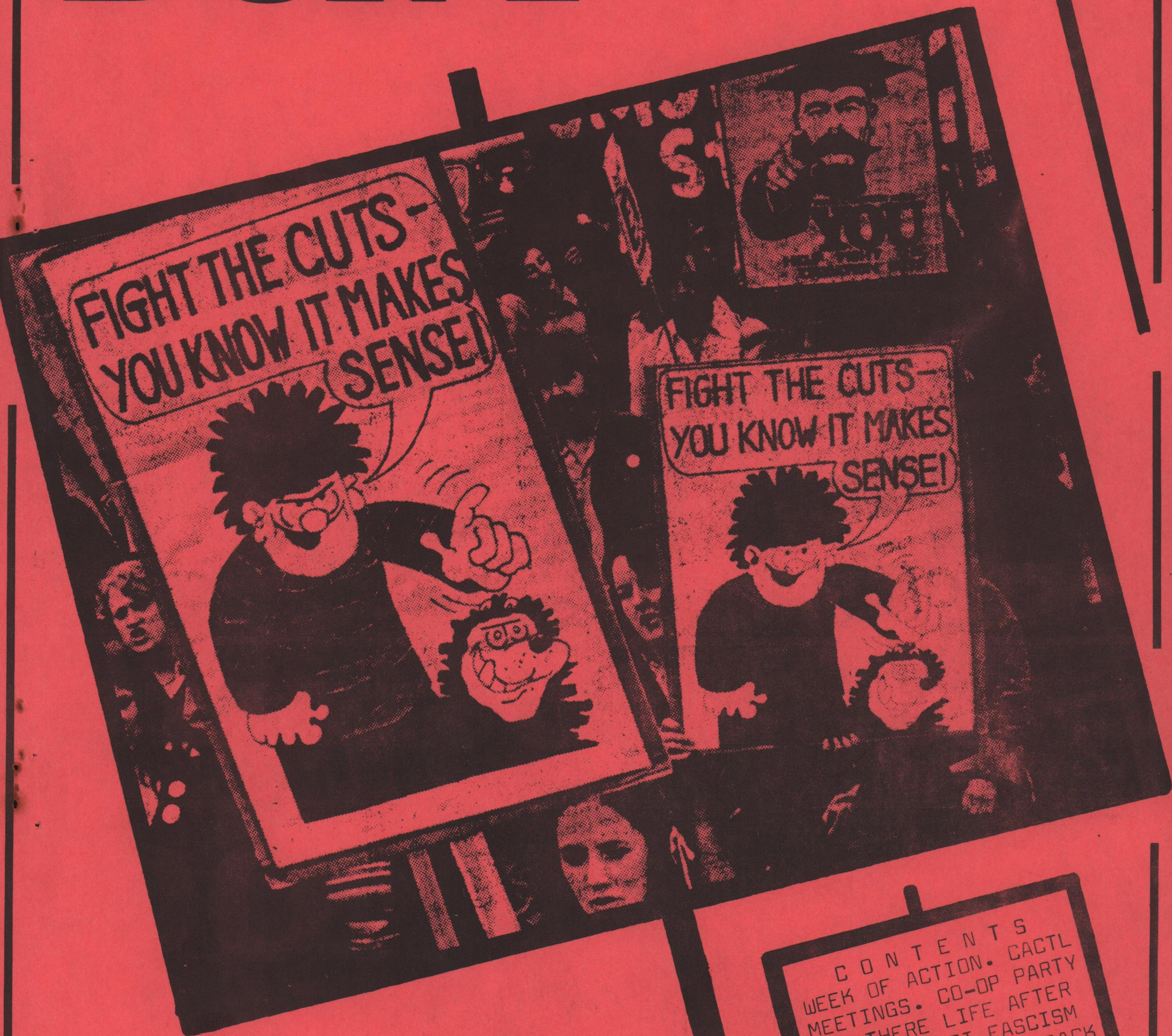


# IF YOU DON'T

FREE No15  
No15 FREE  
FREE No15  
No15 FREE  
FREE No15



# MARCH

...



**EQUAL PAY ?!**



**WOMEN WORK A 7-DAY WEEK**



INTRODUCTION

This is issue no 15 of IF YOU DON'T. As previous issues it hopes to provide a non-sectarian forum for news, information, analysis, debate of any subjects relevant to revolutionary change. It is produced in Nottingham and that's mostly where the 3 - 400 copies produced are distributed.

Meetings to decide content and policy are open; it's there that all major decisions are made.

This issue contains a lot of information about recent local struggles. With calls to 'Smash the Social Contract' becoming more frequent it again seems possible that the last three years Depression & Gloom, Confusion & Apathy will be disturbed; hopefully a more exciting and positive period lies ahead.

But, of course, it takes more than hope or wishful thinking. There is a definite interest in fighting for what's needed but one problem is that many of the important actions don't get heard about and the lessons are not shared.

By gathering stories of struggles and distributing them it may be possible to help build links and mutual support. So, if there is information you would like to get around then contact IF YOU DON'T. We'd prefer written (or drawn) material in your own words - explaining the situation and the details which such as the Evening Post isn't prepared to print.

Going further than this, IF YOU DON'T has arranged a joint meeting with BIG FLAME (a revolutionary socialist organisation) as a 'meeting place' where experiences of struggles can be exchanged, ideas can be shared and a strategy developed. This will begin with a film: Unemployment - The Gaffers' Strike..... then be followed by a discussion.

meeting on Unemployment, Work and Housework  
starting with the film

STOP PRESS  
EASTER  
PLAYSCHEME  
AT THE  
BUILDING

UNEMPLOYMENT : the GAFFERS' STRIKE

7.30 Monday 7th March

at The Building, Forest Green Community  
Centre, Gregory Blvd., Hyson Green,  
Nottingham (near the Library)

FUTURE ISSUES

There is going to be a series of Special Subject issues, including  
FASCISM  
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO WOMEN NOW  
THE MONARCH/JUBILEE

If you have any ideas, send them up.

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|                                       | Advertising for Gaffers' Strike film |

Next IF YOU DON'T MEETING

Wednesday 23rd March 7.30

255 Wicklow Court, Old Basford, Nottm.

IF YOU DON'T

c/o 10 Milner Rd., Sherwood  
600337 or

c/o 15 Scotholme Ave, Hyson Green.  
708302



## REGULAR WOMEN'S MEETINGS

MONDAYS (Weekly or so)-Women's Aid. At the women's Refuge. tel 624574/624217

TUESDAYS Lesbian social group. Contact Char at 76410

Sex Discrimination campaign. About every 2 weeks. Rachel, 43081

WEDNESDAYS National Abortion Campaign Weekly, at the Women's Centre, 8.00pm

The Women's Centre is at 26 Newcastle Chambers (a alley nr the Bell)  
 (This meeting is for women only)

THURSDAYS Women's Group, weekly at the Women's Centre, 8.00pm (Women only)

## OTHER FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, ETC, IN MARCH

5th Bus Passenger Action Group (BPAG) Collecting petitions in Slab Square, 12-2

Sat. For more info, fone Keith at 79826 (not work hours)

Women's Stall During the afternoon in the Victoria Centre. Help Needed!

For more info, contact Rachel at 43081

Jumble Sale-A benefit for Liquorice Magazine. At the Building-Forest Green

Community Centre, on Gregory Boulevard, near the Library-FROM 12 -2

Any willing helpers please contact Malcolm or Irena at 8 Mount Hooton

The Jumble will be followed by the usual BAZAAR at the Building.

NAC Disco At the Yorker, Mansfield Rd. 8.30. 40p in advance, 50p at the door

Sunday 6th Anti Apartheid Demo in London. Coach leaves the Salutation.

Fone 601037 for details

Monday 7th BPAG Handing in the Petition.

The Gaffer's Strike Film and meeting- See back two pages.

Tuesday 8th Anti-Fascist Campaign street theatre meets at 18 Premier Rd. 7.30

Wednesday 9th BPAG meets at the people's Centre, 8pm

Thursday 10th Evelyn Read (authoress of "Women's Evolution") will be at a  
 meeting on the History of Women's Oppression, organised by  
 some members of the WLG and Nottingham IMG. At 8.00pm, at the  
 Adult Education Centre, Peachey Street. (Bottom of Mansfield Rd)

Weekend 19/20th Midlands Regional Women's Liberation Conference in Leicester.

With Women's Band 'JAM TODAY' on the Saturday evening.

Some accomodation available.

HELPERS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED FOR THE CRECHE- Please contact Jeam at  
 66 Maud Street or Char at 76410 for more details.

Sadly, I find the advertisement\* 'We urgently need MEN to help with the creche....' offensive: Sadly because I think that in many ways the women's movement is making the most important single contribution to the universal liberation struggle. However, it is offensive (and possibly counter productive) to advertise for MEN specifically when the primary requirement as far as is indicated in the advertisement would be equally well met by WOMEN or MEN.

I know that it has to be made clear that that men are acceptable for this job at a Women's conference. I know that there are good reasons for it being more likely that people who can be present but who are not taking part in the conference will be men. I know that specific involvement in communal child minding by men is important to men and women together and seperately and I very much hope that men will take part in helping with the creche. But I still think that it is a great pity that a movement that has raised so much consciousness about sex labelling should reveal itself to be so insensitive when addressing itself to would be supporters.

My criticism is, I hope, constructive and may well be naive. It arises from a spontaneous reaction and I publish it in the hope that I may learn (and possibly others may learn) from constructive reaction to it.

\* If you, No14

Tom Wilson

LATE NEWS OF EVENTS. CHILE WEEKX, 7-11 MARCH. AT THE ICC:  
 Mon. Film & speaker on Argentina. Tues. Film 'Message from Chile'  
 Wed. Chilean Evening- Folk Group & Chilean food. Thurs. Latin America-  
 Film 'Tupamaros' & speaker. Fri. 'Hasta La Victoria Siempre' Film



# CAMPAIGN AGAINST A CRIMINAL TRESPASS LAW

As part of the Criminal Law Bill, now before Parliament, trespass will be converted from a civil offence to a criminal one. The aim of this is to put an end to industrial occupations, student sit-ins, squatting and all other forms of direct action which involve being on someone else's property. Since most of us don't own property we spend all of our lives on that belonging to others (including the State). The Campaign Against a Criminal Trespass Law (CACTL) exists to help ensure that this measure does not become law and, if it does, to make its implementation impossible.

In recent years there has been a great upsurge in the number of industrial occupations. Workers at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders saved the livelihood of thousands by a work-in. An occupation at the motorcycle factory of Triumph-Meriden enabled a workers' co-operative to be set up when the firm was threatened with closure. But these well-documented examples are but the tip of the iceberg. Locally, workers at the Hallam group in Eastwood have occupied their factory to save jobs and in Kirkby there has been similar action at Fisher Bendix/IPD. Workers in traditionally non-militant sectors have used the tactic - at present there is an occupation/work-in at the Elisabeth Garrett Anderson hospital in London. This is a hospital for women run by women and it was scheduled for closure under the government spending cuts. Staff, patients and supporters are determined that it should not close.

Faced with this growing militancy the Tory government in 1972 asked the Law Commission to propose new laws to deal with the situation. The result was the series of measures now going through Parliament sponsored by the Labour government.

In order to minimize the opposition to the Criminal Trespass proposals the government and press have claimed that they are aimed solely at squatters. There has been a campaign of lies portraying squatters as "dirty, drug-crazed hippies" and "anti-social layabouts". If only it were true! If only millions of stoned freaks were waiting to swoop down and squat in the palatial homes of the rich and famous the moment they popped down the road to an opera, thereby destroying the very fabric of our civilization. Unfortunately we have to live with reality (not that we shouldn't try to change it). The reality is that of the 40,000 squatters in Britain today the vast majority are made up of families who are being used as pawns in the political power game. The Home Secretary admitted in a parliamentary answer (21st June 1976) that the squatting of occupied homes happened "very rarely". A year previously Sir Robert Mark (former Metropolitan Police Commissioner) said that the police had sufficient powers to intervene in these situations and, in fact, did so. A report on squatting commissioned by the Department of the Environment was finished in August last year but has not been released. Why not? Because this document OPPOSES THE USE OF THE CRIMINAL LAW AGAINST SQUATTERS!

Why then has so much attention been focussed on the anti-squatting potential of this Bill? At a time when there are 850,000 empty houses in the country why has the government concentrated so much energy on removing the symptoms without treating the cause? The whole anti-squatting facade is just that - a smokescreen to obscure the real purpose the the Criminal Trespass proposals. THE CRIMINAL TRESPASS PROPOSALS ARE AIMED AT ALL FORMS OF DIRECT ACTION! They are aimed at industrial occupations and student sit-ins. They are aimed at protests at council offices about battered women's refuges, at occupations of Social Security offices by disaffected claimants. They are aimed at any situation where we begin to fight back!

THEY MUST BE STOPPED!!

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



WE  
STILL  
IS!



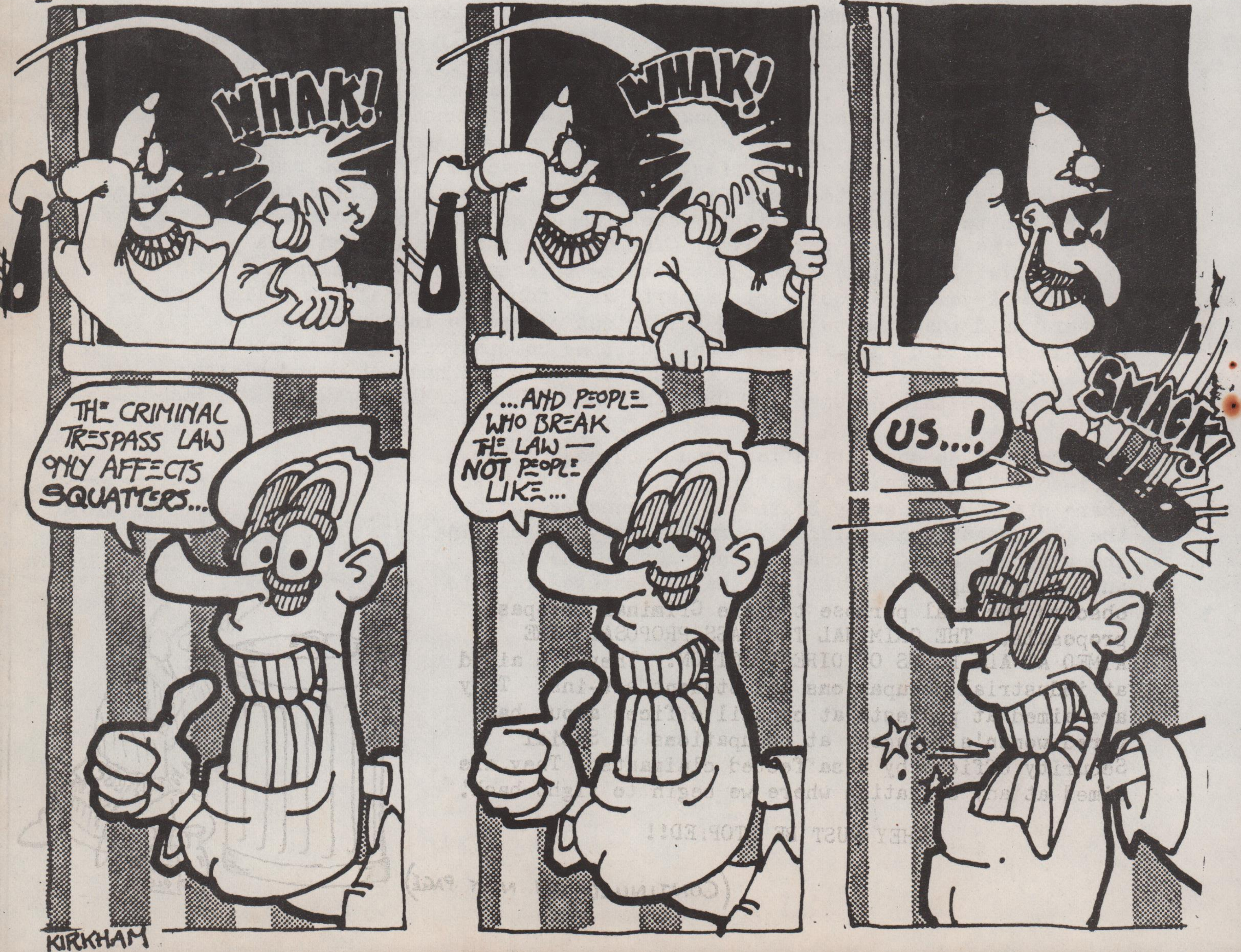
CACTL CONTINUED.

To a large extent the government's tactics have succeeded. The big battalions of the T.U.C. have been very slow to recognize any danger. The Liberal Party leadership refuses to accept that there is any threat. The Labour Party seems just not to be interested. The main opposition to the State has come from community groups, tenants associations, squatting groups and individuals who, both outside and inside CACTL, are trying to bridge the divisions between workers and squatters, employed and unemployed, to provide united opposition to the Criminal Trespass proposals. As well as working through the Trade Union channels CACTL provides information and speakers to many other groups. More and more occupations are putting forward "No to a Criminal Trespass Law" as part of their demands.

DEMONSTRATION

As part of the campaign against the Criminal Trespass proposals a national demonstration is being held in London on March 19th. This march will be a departure from the usual weekend stroll through the tourist areas of London and will be in the more populated area from Euston to Highbury Fields. The march will go via the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson occupation as a mark of solidarity. There will be a group from Nottingham CACTL going down to the demonstration. If you are interested in coming or just want to find out more details of CACTL or the actual proposals that are being debated in the House of Lords at the moment: ring Colin at Nottm. 708302.

PROPERTY IS THEFT!





**Phone: 582369**  
**or call at**  
**118, Mansfield**  
**Road.**

**118**





# What's 118?

It is a centre for community groups at 118 Mansfield Road. Our aim is to provide information, help, meeting rooms, printing equipment for any group tackling issues in their area, e.g. rent, community centres, bus services, housing, play facilities and so on.

## Who's it for?

Any person active in any Nottingham estate from St Anns to Balloon Wood, from Clifton to Top Valley. However, it is not just open to Tenants Associations but to other organisations or individuals campaigning on community issues, (it is not open to political groups to use for their own purposes.)

## Can it help me?

YES. Come in or phone up. There is certain to be some way your group will find 118 useful. We are also here to help anybody wanting to start a new group.

## What's it got?

Typewriters, duplicator, silkscreen equipment, photocopier, small offset litho machine available for leaflets, newsletters, minutes etc. There is no charge for use of any equipment, but materials are charged for at cost. There's also a taperecorder, electric stapler, polaroid and other items.

## MEETING ROOM

A comfortable room seating up to 30, situated in the centre of town. This can be booked free of charge for evening or weekend meetings, or for use as a base in the city centre.

## INFORMATION

A wide range of national and local information, e.g. Labour Research, Community Action, City and County Council Minutes, reports from active groups, selection of Tenants' newspapers, press cuttings, etc. Also a selection of Action files on fund raising, campaigning, tactics, organisation, Who's Who in the Local Authority.

## PEOPLE

The Centre is part of the Nottingham Areas Project which has 6 workers who have been working with community groups for at least 2 years. We are able to put you in contact with a number of people who have information and experience on a variety of issues. If we can't put you in contact with somebody, we will try and help you ourselves.

## WORKSHOPS

We will be running a number of print workshops starting in January, as well as workshops on issues which effect many groups.

## Who controls it?

The Centre will be managed by those who use it. If it's to be useful to you that's the only way it can be properly managed. If you agree with the aims of the centre we would like to see you take part in its management and work. The whole project is funded by the Government's Urban Aid programme for areas of "special social need."

## Open at...

118 will normally be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. when most people are at work, but you can use the Centre ANYTIME by arrangement.



## THE POST OFFICE IS CUTTING BACK ON JOBS.

This is a slightly ammended version of an article that appeared in Nottingham Voice number 58. The original article (which the Voice article was taken from) which gives the background to the situation at Plessey is not presently available but it was decided to print this as the whole issue is important. It is hoped that next time Brian will write a longer detailed and up to date article for IF YOU DON'T.

"Unions in the telecommunications industry are protesting against cuts in orders from the Post Office on February 14th. Members of EEPTU will be striking, and other unions will be demonstrating. Unions at Plessey's in Nottingham are lobbying Parliament and asking for a boycott of phones.

In spite of the massive profits (£1m a day) the PO are making, they are reducing orders for telephone equipment by £220m over the next three years - equivalent to 20,000 jobs! The PO say this is because telephone traffic has not risen in recent years - hardly surprising considering the cost.

The PO accounts will not, of course, show the social costs of this - dole payments, lost taxes, and the cost of dismantling the industry against the day when growth is needed again. The present cutbacks are only the latest in a series starting in 1973 when Tony Barber announced a reduction of 20%. Further cuts of 30% were announced by the PO at the end of 1975.

Following strong representation from the unions the level of cuts were alleviated. They were told then that the new orders were 'definitive'. But, in spite of promises, less than 12 months later workers are faced with another and more serious reduction of work.

The Plessey Beeston joint unions were in the forefront of the campaign to combat the cuts. But the argument which produced the most leverage in 1975 - that losses of jobs in the NW and NE should be minimised - will probably not receive sympathetic consideration in the face of worsening unemployment and the success of the government in obtaining 'acceptance' of unemployment as a necessary hardship.

The major companies in the telecoms industry - GEC, Plessey, Standard Telephones (part of ITT), and Pye/TMC (part of Phillips) have for many years been satisfied by making profit from the featherbed market supplied till recently by the PO. No serious attempt have been made to develop products suitable for export (the equipment supplied to the PO is idiosyncratic to this country). Multinationals with subsidiaries overseas are in any case not interested in exporting to markets they already command.

Entry into overseas markets is now providing difficulty and there is little chance that sufficient work can be obtained to fill the gap left by the cuts.

The unions have submitted alternative proposals to the PO and the Dept of Industry including a joint PO/Industry 'marketing' exercise, including the reduction of installation charges, to stimulate demand for telephone services. A similar exercise in W. Germany two years ago was successful and the increase demand has been maintained since.

Brian Harrison.

THE DAY OF PROTEST took place on February 14th but while the phone boycott was a good idea it was perhaps decided on a bit late and was hard to organise. Meetings are taking place over the next stage - but such as the Post Office Advisory Board include people like local employers whose ideas are for the cut backs. The Long Eaton factory may get closed; hopefully this will not involve a loss of jobs.

One very popular myth is the idea that new investment will lead to new jobs. However, changes in technology will more than likely lead to fewer jobs in the long term. Are the big multinationals considering chucking the British Telecoms industry.



## STOPPING THE BUS CUTS...

The BUS PASSENGER ACTION GROUP met on Wednesday 16th February. This followed two hours of collecting signatures for the stop the bus cuts on the previous Saturday. It was attended by a handful of passengers and interested people as well as an official of the Transport and General Workers Union.

We made several decisions:

- to again collect signatures in the Market Square between 12.00 and 2.00 on Saturday March 5th.

- to present the signatures gathered so far at the next City Council meeting on Monday March 7th. We hope for the co-operation of the TGWU in this.

- to produce a bulletin to inform passengers of the amount and nature of the cuts.

- to hold another meeting on Wednesday 9th March at 8.00 at People's Centre.

Our discussion covered the following points.

The proposed cuts - up to a third - are likely to be kept 'on ice' until after the Local County Council Elections in May. Until there are firm proposals it would be a good idea to generally inform and warn people of the possibilities.

Between 1972 - 1976 there has been a build up to about 465 vehicles, along with an increase in passengers of around 7%. The 1974 fare increase reduced the number of passengers. With the 33% vehicle increase, Park-and-Ride and the free buses in town recruiting brought about an increase in drivers along with a drop in their average age. Now the slogan is 'Make it viable' and this hides a multitude of sins.

The TGWU, which is a 1,000 strong branch, has been fighting over several issues. For example, at the moment, drivers travel to and from work free but on their day off or when sick travel even to bring in a sick note or collect wages has to be paid for. The demand is to extend free travel. The Central Market depot is closed on Sundays; drivers have to report to Parliament St. The Depot should be open all week. Maintenance on some buses is lacking a bit. Buses can be left out all night which speeds deterioration. The front entrance buses have tended to have a bad heating system which only heats the windscreen and not the driver. (The newer ones are better). Passengers complain about jerkiness, but the automatic gear change often makes this impossible to prevent.

PE NYWISE AND TWOPENCE FOOLISH. Recent disputes have shown the pettiness and hastiness of management. A worker clocked off 4 mins early and was suspended. The whole depot walked out which straightened matters. A dispute at Sherwood Depot was necessary to have 'heavy steering' corrected.

The One Man Operated system was brought in partly through the general shortage of workers during the boom period. Despite what some people may think there are still 100 conductors in Nottingham. PAY was not too bad but with the last two 'government rises' and the fact that overtime is not based on these rises pay isn't so good now. There's a 25% differential between two person and one person operated buses. Some of the maintenance workers are in the AUEW, cleaners are in the TGWU. (Bus strike in 1967)

Those who talk about there being too many foreign coloured immigrants in this country should remember that when recruitment for such as the transport services was being carried out in the Caribbean the British Flag was still flying there!

TRANSPORT POLICY. While the Tories were in power locally (69 - 72) Trent Bridge Depot was closed; has since been re-opened. The TGWU produced a leaflet supporting the Park and Ride system some time ago. When the bus lanes are cut (as is currently happening) this can easily lead to much slower journeys, higher fuel consumption and general petrol fume pollution. Chamber of Commerce opposed the 1967 strike because it meant workers couldn't get to work and so profit-making was hit. At the same time they oppose - vehemently and frequently - the Transport Policy which has the opposite effect. ATTENDANCE IS WELCOMED AT MEETINGS ETC.



The National Union of Public Employees is planning a Week of Action against the cuts in Public Expenditure and against Unemployment from April 25th to May 1st. It may involve a demonstration and a rally on Friday 29th April and this would involve withdrawal of labour. However, the details are not yet certain.

The East Midlands campaign has these aims:-

1. To try and ensure that all members are informed about public expenditure cuts.
2. To help them understand the effects of the cuts.
3. To seek the support of all members:
  - (a) In carrying the campaign to a local level.
  - (b) In enlisting the support of other Trade Unions
  - (c) In participating in important discussions on how the Union can best protect the interests and jobs of its members.
4. To demonstrate that there is an alternative economic strategy.
5. In addition to securing the involvement of members to protect their own jobs the campaign seeks to involve members in the work of altering the public about the adverse effect of cuts in public expenditure on the vital services in which our members work. Then to illustrate how cuts in these vital services effect the public.

Some of the recent cuts in these areas include:

- \* Closure of the City Hospital Day Nursery for the children of staff, said to be because of lack of patronage by hospital employees and high cost.
- \* While Nationally the DES is planning a "saving" of £9million on school meals and milk several points come to light of important local interest. The DES document says that  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the cost of a school meal (ie 49p) is in preperation, service and overheads. This is a sly attack on such as Teachers, Kitchen Staff and Supervisors whose rates of pay are often calculated on the inclusion of school meals free. Some school meals staff have been encouraged to blame teacher-supervisors free meals for the threatened cuts. To quote Bob Jones - an official of NUPE - "Such 'fights' between workers - whether they work by hand or brain - will not stop the cuts."
- \* While Ashfield District Council are planning to increase the direct labour force on highways the full use of the Sutton Centre has been held up because of cut backs in finance.
- \* Newark District Council have a problem of insufficient relief staff for Wardens of Grouped Dwellings because the authority won't supply the money.
- \* Nottingham City are tightening up on overtime.
- \* Gedling Borough Council are 'penny-pinching' in such as Community Centres.
- \* Nottinghamshire Architects Department are palnning a cutback of 70 jobs.

most of this has been taken from NUPE Union leaflets.

#### OVERTIME BAN FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

NALGO - National Association of Local Governemt Officers held a conference in January which instructed branches to operate an overtime ban from April 1st. ("except where life and limb are at risk"). Members shouldn't perform duties attached to vacant posts. Full support was pledged to all branches taking industrial action against cuts in jobs and services.

Source: Public Service (NALGO paper)

#### DAY STRIKE OF TECHNICIANS AT NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY

About three hundred members of the University ASTMS branch came out one a one day strike on Friday 25th Feb in support of ASTMS members at Birmingham University. BACKGROUND. Briefly, Birmingham University broke the 1974 Arbitration Conciliation Advisory Service settlement over holidays and have been trying to pull a fast one, giving less holidays. This has lead to a 22 week strike by technicians at B'ham. At least 40 Universities supported the Day Strike last Friday and at different times support has come from



## STEERING THE CO-OP THE RIGHT WAY

A broad left organisation of interested members of the Co-op have met once to discuss the direction the Co-op's going. That evening a Sub Committee was formed.

The idea is to provide an open forum for interested co-operators to get together. Under the present structure of the Co-op this isn't easily available.

The forum will meet regularly and look at the social, political and trading objectives of the Greater Nottingham Co-operative Society.

The next issue of 'IF YOU DON'T' might contain a much fuller article on this.

contact Jean Stansfield

140 Opingham Crescent

W Bridgford.

phone 812806

## INTERESTED IN PORTUGAL

Lois is looking for someone to travel to Portugal with. The idea would be to work on co-ops and generally have a holiday.

I already know a few people over there and I'm learning the language. I haven't decided how to travel yet. It might even be possible for several of us to go.

If interested, contact LOIS at 31 Alberta Terrace, Sherwood Rise or through the grapevine ..... as soon as possible.

## ANTI FASCIST COMMITTEE

Since the safe Labour seat of Sutton-in-Ashfield is soon to be contested during a time of general political crisis and tension (the Government were defeated over Devolution in Parliament recently) several political parties are likely to use this Parliamentary Bye Election as a way of getting heard about. Among these will be the National Front.

Nottingham Anti Fascist Committee is hoping to campaign in Sutton to show how the National Front is pseudo Fascist, 'solution is no real solution' and one way of doing this is through leaflets, an Exhibition and doing a Play. These are all being considered and any help would be welcome. Next antifascist committee meeting 4th March. Contact AFC c/o 126-128 Derby Rd., Nottingham.

## URBAN AID FIGHT BACK

12 groups seeking Urban Aid grant whose applications were turned down mustered 50 people to demonstrate to Nottingham City Council their displeasure. They have formed the Urban Aid Fight Back group which meets regularly to try and get hold of the money needed for the various projects. As well as demonstrating, letters have been sent to the Home Office and the Dept. of the Environment explaining in full the need for the applications to be granted.

When pressed, the Council admit that their refusal to grant money for Adventure Playgrounds is because they have no policy towards play facilities.

What happened to the £2-3million (capital receipts) which could have gone to finance 'small projects'? It seems it went to float the ailing and privately owned Theatre Royal.

Their next meeting is 23rd March at 118 Mansfield Rd., Nottingham.

## DAY STRIKE OF TECHNICIANS ..... continued from overleaf.

students, academics, while NALGO organised an open meeting to get the issues discussed. The University Authorities didn't bother to come.

An internal document has been discovered which shows University plans to victimise strikers. Picketing has sometimes been a situation of conflict. Despite the support of many people the University remain adamant.

ASTMS plan a Mass Picket of Birmingham University on Tuesday 8th March

Source for this article Fred Anderton



Ford, in 1912, set out to control the lives and desires of his workers. He later also introduced night shift working — the effects of which are described (below) by a wife of a Dagenham Ford worker.

"The first thing that hits you when you walk into the plant — after the racial composition of the workers — are the playboy — nudes in every available space. Its like being wrapped up in the sun. The naked woman becomes the symbol, however distorted and distorting, of "real " life outside the factory. And any woman who happens to pass is seen in this extremist way. What a life!" (1974 )

"If John is working on nights , he'll just want to get up on Saturday afternoon and turn on the box. Ford has mucked up our lives and our weekends. There is just about time to do our shopping. I get all irritable because I haven't seen him all week. Things get really tense when he's on nights. You've got to get used to living on your own. I sometimes get my sister over when he's on nights. In the olden days it wouldn't have been so bad, because there would have been other people around. Now we are all cooped up in a small flat, staring at the box.

"It gets really hard on the kids. You have to tell them to shut up all the time because Dad is trying to get some sleep. You get tense all the time, because you think they are going to wake him up. Some blokes find it really tough to sleep during the day. You can't blame them when they get all ratty but its tough on the kids.

"Sometimes you don't want to go to bed in the afternoon. Sex is hard if you've got kids to look after. You don't always feel like it. You just can't do it . It makes it all cold-blooded and mechanical. It makes me feel bad , and I just can't enjoy it. Im sure many women must feel the same as I do.

"You can't make love, just because you've got 5 minutes to spare. So you don't go near each other. You get used to doing without sex. You arn't bothered. This just shows you the state that people get in. Its no suprise that the blokes are frustrated most of the time. Things get worse if you're doing a job yourself, because you hadly see him. He comes back from work all tense and tired, and you have to go to work soonafter. What a life this is! Its hard to keep putting a good face on it all... Fords controls not only the money we get, but our whole life aswell. They don't think about what is happening to the blokes that are doing all the work and making all the cars. And when they get old or have an accident, they're just thrown onto the scrapheap.

"Tts alright for the blokes sitting on their arses in the offices giving the orders. They never have to spend the whole night working. Its as if the union officials don't also, !cos they never do anything about it. People should be paid double rates for working nights. And I don't think they should do it at all. It isn't human. If people mattered in this society, we wouldn't have things organised in this way.

"You can't afford to buy the bloody cars anyway — so who are we making them for? We do all the bloody work — the working class. Fords are killing people every day — they are just doing it slowly, so they can get away with it. Of cours, they are "ever so nice when things go wrong.

"But if a kid gets ill, you're left alone in the flat. Does Fords pay blokes to stay at home to look after the kids when they are ill? Why not? You can't manage on one wage these days. Women have been forced out to work. It used to be to get a little moxy for extras now it is for the bare essentials. Why should wives have to pay for a nursery when the profits that make Fords rich could pay for one. The nursery should't have to come out of our pockets, along with everything else. Ford has even knocked the Xmas party for the kids on the head. We do all the work, so we should have some say in how the money is spent."

1974 — A wife and mother's view of Ford

This is taken from a BIG FLAME Dagenham Bulletin July 1974.



## LIFE WITH UNEMPLOYMENT

You have most likely read the letter from the wife of a Ford worker. Here's a letter about life with someone out of work.

Every day is the same, no money, nowhere to go but sit at home watching T.V., nothing to do for men, well some men. If all men are like my husband, I'm glad to say they're not. He would sit around moaning that there's nothing to do and that he's fed up. But he wouldn't help me with the children or the home. If he had any money he would go to the pub, or the betting shop and lose what money we had. I say we had but really I never had any, he would only give me eight pounds a week to feed eight of us. I would go shopping with a list of things I could afford and nothing else, I used to hate going shopping, I didn't like the kids coming with me because they would want things I just couldn't get. My husband would be that fed up, he was always in a bad mood. The kids had to watch what they said or did, they weren't allowed to do much anyway, but sit down and keep quiet.

If they did make a noise, which most kids do when they play, they would get a bloody good belting. The days my husband went to the pub were awful, we daren't make a noise, the kids couldn't even be seen talking to me. We had to walk round the house very quietly. I think it was the kids who were worst off. They couldn't have the things other kids got, like holidays, new clothes, or good toys. I did what I could, I used to knit for them and try and give them a little spending money.

We weren't really living at all, just existing, eating enough food to keep us alive (for what I don't know). But I suppose it depends what you want out of life, money or time to do things you would like. It would be better if people had both money and time. I get confused thinking about what could or should be done to give people more freedom. I think the main problem is the bosses and those who are making all the money. Surely they could share the work out, so that everybody does work a few hours a day. Then people would have time to spend with their families, friends or just do what they liked best. Whether you work or not people aren't happy, it's money that's the problem. If that Ford worker got really good money and did less hours, his wife wouldn't have to go out to work. If unemployed people got decent money so they could afford a holiday it would help. But that's IF or is it LIFE?

Wendy

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AND NOW for some wombling sniperoos to fill up the stencil..

MUSHROOM have in stock the Rius cartoon book 'Cuba for beginners'. It's a big book to say its only 85p, but it's light reading ("As everyone knows, Cuba has always been in the same place..") and a welcome change from ~~some-of-the-things-Keith-writes-(Venables)~~

DOWN TO EARTH are also supporting Cuba with a tasty Cuban Honey at 56p/lb  
A WHOLE FOOD CAFE IS BEING SET UP, well, maybe, like everything else it would take a lot of work and enthusiasm. Personally I favour it being run along the lines of those who work there don't get paid but get free food, others see it more feasible as a sort of paid-worker business. If you would like to contribute in any way, please contact Dory at 6, Colville St. (Near the Mansfield Road end of Forest Road)

HAVE YOU SAID BAZONKA YET TODAY?

IS THIS PAGE OVER YET?



# LESS WORKLOAD — MORE JOBS

.....high unemployment is necessary for the time being. Once the nation is back on its feet we can invest and create new jobs for all.



Chancellor Healey and 'friends' insist that we all make sacrifices for a better tomorrow. How true is this appeal? Absolutely none! Tremendous price rises, high unemployment and wage controls are just one aspect of the present long-term crisis. The ideas behind new publications like SuperWife are another. The adverts for SuperWife admit the double burden of most women as unpaid housewife and poorly paid worker yet their 'solution' is for women to be oppressed in a cheaper, more efficient and, of course, prettier way.

At the same time ~~there~~ are many struggles going on against all this that we can all learn from - in workplaces, neighbourhoods, among employed and unemployed, other claimants, housewives and youth.

The problem is that many of these struggles are isolated and nobody else hears about them. Ideas and policies aren't shared enough. Joint activity isn't built as often as necessary. Jobs are being lost for good. Workload is increasing for the employed and for housewives - as part & parcel of the loss of jobs. The unemployed and all those without wages are facing a vicious, long-term attack on their right to live. And we're all losing.

A film: Unemployment - THE GAFFERS' STRIKE is being shown on Monday 7th March at 7.30. It's followed by a couple of speakers and an open discussion to help us pool our ideas and build a strategy.

The film, made by the Newsreel Collective, shows interviews with housewives, redundant workers, Chrysler workers, women on Equal Pay strike, black and white unemployed and so on.

The crisis developed because the working class had increased its strength to defend jobs, to resist harder work, and win more of the wealth produced, in wages and social services. This adds up to an attack on productivity and profits; which only increase with more work and less money for the working class. So the bosses are trying to turn the tide once and for all and stop working class people fighting for what they need. The SOCIAL CONTRACT, THE CUTS are an attempt to make people poorer but just as important, they are an attack on working class self-organisation.

Among the subjects important to consider at the meeting are these:

Will investment create new jobs for all? Or, like at Plessey, will it mean investment planned for labour-saving machinery?

SMASH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT. The Leyland tool room strikes threaten to unbalance the Govt-TUC-Employer trio. It's important to crack the contract but the demand for a return of differentials is not so healthy.

Struggles around HEALTH: E.G.A. hospital occupied recently. TRANSPORT.

Locally bus workers have been in open dispute. WHO ARE THE SCROUNGERS?

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THE RECENT RACIST OUTBURST? EDUCATION ; the debate?

There are many more issues (eg Trico and Bakery Workers Equal Pay strikes)

Meeting organised jointly by IF YOU DON'T (a local newsletter) and Big Flame (a revolutionary organisation)



# THE WALK STRIKE

A FILM

JOINTLY PRESENTED BY 'IF YOU DON'T' AND BIG FLAME (REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST ORGANISATION)

AT THE BUILDING

(FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON GREGORY BOULEVARD, NEAR THE LIBRARY)

MONDAY MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>, 7.30 PM

THE FILM WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION OF THE BACKGROUND TO PROBLEMS OF  
WORK, UNEMPLOYMENT AND HOUSEWORK  
WHICH WILL AIM TO CONSIDER A WORKING CLASS AND REVOLUTIONARY STRATEGY

REFRESHMENTS