

# CWMBACH MINERS & WOMEN SPEAK OUT

Delegates to a special conference of the National Union of Mineworkers in London...  
 overturned a resolution by 11 votes to 6...  
 the NUM national executive that the union's cash should be brought back to Britain to bring the miners into compliance with and recent judges'...  
 At the end of a three-minute...  
 threw out their executive hard-line strategy...  
 by Mr Jack Collins...  
 leader of the Kent...  
 The key section...  
 decision said that the...  
 was not prepared to...  
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 The Kent...  
 put as an amendment...  
 executive's measures and it

**pit strike**  
**S. Wales strikers picket lines**  
**Latest move to outlaw strike**

...the High Court...  
 ...delegates that at all...  
 ...Mrs Joy Watson, husband of...  
 ...lead court campaigner to...  
 ...king he yesterday, if the...  
 ...Phurnacite Plant, strikers...  
 ...where he is the only man...  
 ...among the plant's 700...  
 ...broken workforce to have...  
 ...the strike...  
 ...High Court...  
 ...and assets of the...  
 ...The NUM has...  
 ...The TUC...  
 ...Eight pickets were...  
 ...South Wales...  
 ...arrested in seven at the...  
 ...today - seven at the...  
 ...Phurnacite plant at...  
 ...Abercwmboi where...  
 ...representative of a taxi...  
 ...window of a taxi...  
 ...one rebel Mr Paul...  
 ...was smashed...  
 ...The Cynon Valley plant...  
 ...was the scene of the day's...  
 ...biggest picket, estimated...  
 ...by police at 300...  
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 ...receiver...  
 ...over our...  
 ...The conference is not pre-

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# CWMBACH MINERS & WOMEN SPEAK OUT

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Fund to buy food for striking miners and their families.

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# CWMBACH MINERS & WOMEN SPEAK OUT

## INTRODUCTION

Cwmbach is a small village on the outskirts of Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan, South Wales. It has a population of 4,000. There are 400 men on strike in the village. Cwmbach houses the controversial Phurnacite Plant where the greatest number of the striking men are normally employed. The rest live in Cwmbach and work at ten different pits. The N.C.B. proposes to close a majority of these pits.

A Strike Relief Committee has been set up consisting of eight women and eight men. Their main aim is to collect enough money to supply weekly food parcels to those men who could not survive without them. Fortunately those men who have either wives or children in full time employment do not accept a parcel each week.

At the moment we also have a Christmas Fund from which we are providing a Christmas Party, and giving a present to each striking miner's child.

Our main source of money comes from our weekly collection outside Adco's supermarket. We also receive donations. We boost the Fund with Discos, Shows, jumble sales, sponsored runs, fetes, sales of work, and anything else that anyone suggests.

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The rest of this pamphlet is based on a discussion held in Cwmbach at the end of November 1984. Three men, Peter (a miner), Derek (an NCB driver) and Alan (a COSA member), all on strike for nine months, and three women, Viv, Phyllis and Trish, all strikers' wives, took part.

## Collecting

Phyllis: We went down to a meeting in the beginning, and we decided then we'd go round collecting, in the streets and houses. We had a marvellous response. We did it for a couple of weeks, and then the men went outside Adco's supermarket to collect. Since then we haven't collected round the houses: we were going round these houses asking people if they would give, but they were already giving to our boys outside Adco's, so we couldn't ask them twice.

Viv: This is how I became involved: Keith went down for a parcel on the first week of the strike, and there were only forty parcels,

which consisted of a couple of potatoes and two tins. Roy was doing it on his own. He was having some trouble, and said to Keith "Can you give us a hand?" He didn't realise what he was putting himself in for, but since then it's snowballed. In the beginning we were relying on Cwmbach, going round houses collecting, and people were giving. But obviously, everybody gets fed up: a lot of people in Cwmbach are on Supplementary Benefit and they just can't afford to give. The last time we went collecting there was a poor response unfortunately.

Trish: There's a very high percentage of unemployment in Cwmbach, and some of them think, our men have got jobs to go to, to earn fair money. The first collection we made, there was a great response, but the second time some said 'Get back to work'.

The old age pensioners gave the most. - We've stretched their benevolence to the limit. - They just haven't got any more to give. - Most people have got children who are striking themselves, and they look after their own before they'll help others. - But the people of Cwmbach have been great.

## Food & Money

Viv: We've got 172 people on our books, and 150 turn up every week, not always the same people, but we do 150 parcels. Every week we get a donation from a chap, I don't know if he'd want to be named, he gives £5 every week. There's one Cwmbach businessman who's given us £400, four cheques of £100. There's Carol who's collected at work in Cardiff, we've had numerous lots of £30 or so from her. We had a £30 donation from Paris, and then two French people came over and brought £150 with them for the Fund.

I've got to say we'd never manage without the parcels. - Different people have got different circumstances, a lot of people have had help off their families, but there's some single men who are living on food parcels really.

Viv: We've got one chap living in Rose Row and Keith had a phone call to tell him he hadn't eaten for three days. That was at the beginning of the strike, because he's got no relatives, nobody from Cwmbach at all. When they went down to see him, he had no light and heating, and no food. Since then, the NUM have sent him out picketing every week. There are cases that people just don't see. People see some men in the pubs, and they're too quick to throw those cases at you. They don't think about the people suffering hardship. We obviously don't go out crying every day.

## What It's About

Half the people don't know what the fight is about. In a place like this where you've got 27% unemployment, you can't afford to let anything go. - If you had full employment down here, there wouldn't be any problem. - Most of the men wouldn't want to work down the

pit, if they had another job.

Alan: As far as I'm concerned, this was brought about as an intentional thing, that they were definitely going to try and hammer the union; and not just the NUM, but unions, full stop. This is just a means of getting at the root of the matter, because they know if they beat the NUM the other unions are dead easy. They had MacGregor in simply to do this exercise. Nationalisation is a socialist idea, and you can't get a capitalist like MacGregor to run a nationalised industry, it's like getting an atheist to run a chapel, he just can't do it. So obviously they brought him over specifically for the purpose of trying to disrupt and beat the unions. But are the other unions helping us at the moment?

Trish: We have a leaflet in the house that was leaked out from Government sources, saying that they would pick their own time, their own place, their own ground.

Alan: There's no doubt about it, they manoeuvred us into it. The union wouldn't have picked March, it's now we'd have picked for a strike.

Viv: The thing I find now is that, although we're getting more desperate as time goes on, it's making us more determined not to give in.

## One Working Miner

Alan: By using the police to put one point of view, that's turned people against it, who wouldn't normally be against it. This is what they're doing in the instance of Aberdare: if somebody wants to go to work, the police are saying to that chap "We can guarantee you that you will get in to work without any trouble at all." Now to do that, they've really got to line the street from his house to the Phurnacite plant (in Abercwmboi). But they're not actually doing that, what they're doing is getting a gang of police in a van, a landrover and another van and taking the scab in themselves. Down at the Phurnacite you've got something like six or seven hundred police in the mornings. The Superintendent could easily say, to avoid any of this conflict "I'm sorry, I can't guarantee your safety". But no: they're being used to break the strike.

Viv: Last week it cost £70,000 for the police to get one man (Paul Watson) in. The council gave the relief fund of the NUM £10,000 and she (Joy Watson, his wife) complained about it. We stopped the complaint succeeding anyway. She complained about £10,000; well, after this we'll be adding up what she's costing us, and it's far in excess of what's been given to the miners.

Trish: The thing is, this is a democratic country, and we all believe that everyone should have the right of freedom of speech, and freedom of movement: but our men haven't got freedom of movement and they haven't got freedom of speech.

Alan: I went with the pickets one morning to South Celynen, and the police stopped us six miles from the colliery. So that's restricted freedom of movement, yet they go out of the way to get six or seven hundred police to ensure that one man gets to his destination.

## Democracy

Derek: The people they're encouraging to go back to work don't believe in democracy anyway. The Phurnacite plant had a ballot in favour of strike action over closures which was 95% in favour. This man (Paul Watson) has gone in against that decision, so he doesn't believe in democracy anyway, he can't do. - He only believes in democracy when it serves his purpose.

Alan: Then again, everyone should realise if you want to change something, you've got to do it internally. You can't do it from outside, which this bloke is trying to do. The government is funding him: he's got a private bank account in another valley which we know of; he's being funded to break the strike.

It's not the husband as much as the woman. - I don't think her husband has got much choice whether to go in or not. - Well, he's going in to work, one man out of seven hundred. Because he's having some trouble, she's got in touch with the Smokeless Fuel people and stopped the miners on strike having two bags of coal.

## No Free Coal

Phyllis: My husband works down the Phurnacite normally, and he's been stopped his coal. - She's trying to drive them to the situation like those two children in Yorkshire who were buried recently: they died digging from tips. She's trying to drive the miners round here to that. - When they stop us from having coal, then they're stopping our children and our old people from keeping warm, and she's not concerned at all. She's only concerned about her own children. - She doesn't even care about them, look at all the abuse they get at school.

Derek: In previous strikes the Coal Board have always made a concession that men who are on strike still get a bit of coal to help you along. This time the Coal Board have come down and said "No you will not have it." - Everything the government and the Board have done has been to starve us.

Alan: But it's not just that. It's the whole labour movement they're after. The government is out to crush opposition of any type. They're doing away with the unions, and by doing that they're doing away with the Labour Party as well.

## Closures

Peter: The pits that they wanted to close could have been closed quietly and easily over the next few years without any cost

whatsoever. But instead of investing a fraction of the money they're spending on the strike into the coal industry to make it more efficient and an expanding industry, they're prepared to break the union, because they know once they've broken the miners' union, the rest will go down easy. They're prepared to spend any amount of money at all.

Derek: The Area director made a statement on the TV the other evening that, yes, there will be in the region of six collieries to close in South Wales in the next two years. What he doesn't say is where the alternative employment is going to come from. We will accept closures, provided we can have another job, but we know once we lose our jobs in the mining industry, there's nothing here but the dole for the rest of our lives.

Viv: What's making us more determined is the money we're living on now: we're on £27 a week for the four of us; I know I could never live on £55 a week dole. I could never do it, not indefinitely. So I'm more determined now, I'll stick it out to the end now.

## Social Security

Derek: I've been on strike for nine months now and I'm single. I haven't had a penny from anywhere. I haven't had any social security but if it takes me three years, I won't go back to work, and that's how hard my feelings have got.

Trish: You see, we're suffering now, but we know eventually there'll be an end to it. But if we give up because of this propaganda about Christmas and our children ... We've all been worried about the kids, will they go without, especially at Christmas. This propaganda thing has been brought down to the level where they're not actually fighting us any more, they're not fighting our men, they're fighting our children.

Alan: Cwmbach was formed from collieries. You can't build a community like Cwmbach on the dole. When they talk about something being 'economically viable', you tell me where the economics is in getting people on the dole in such numbers. There's a chap I knew who worked for the Forestry Commission. He was earning two pounds more than he'd be getting on the dole. They made him redundant to save two pound a week in effect.

Everyone working is paying into the social security system, but everyone that's not working is drawing out of that system. It's going to get to the point where it can't carry on. - The Social Security won't give us anything they don't absolutely have to.

## Nothing For Miners

Peter: When we stopped work at first, in the first six weeks, my youngest daughter broke her arm, and she had to go to the hospital in Merthyr. The casualty unit in Aberdare was closed. When I got over to Merthyr, I had to come back for some nighties, go back again

and each time it was costing about £3 odd. We had to go over there every day, so I was told by the nurse "You'll be able to claim because we're keeping her in Merthyr instead of Aberdare." She gave me a form to fill in. There was a girl from Rhymney in the waiting room. She said it was costing her a few quid and her husband was on strike, so I said "Get a form, and you'll be able to claim it back." She said "I've been down to try, but when they see the word 'miner', you've had it." But then again it's not consistent, because some people have received money for that sort of thing.

If it hadn't been for my wife's parents, we would have nothing at all. - Talking of Social Security, we're owed £15 from way back. Once they took away the union's money and they knew exactly where the union's money was, they knew we couldn't be getting that supposed £15 a week strike pay.

They haven't paid us the holiday money that's owing us. The union have taken a High Court writ out against them for that. If it had been the other way round, against the NUM, the writ would have been heard in two days, but they haven't yet given the union a date for the hearing.

## Police Violence

Alan: On Monday when I went down to the Phurnacite, they had the local police down at the gate. At first I was disappointed to see them there, but after you've seen the antics of the police from other areas, coming in, causing bloody havoc, I was grateful they were using local ones. They weren't cutting up rough half as much as the ones from Bridgend. There's a squad from Bridgend that came up here specifically to cause trouble.

Derek: People are not aware of what is happening in South Wales, you see Yorkshire on the television every night on the national news. There was violence meted out by the police at Merthyr Vale last week against pickets. I saw it myself because I was there. I had violence meted out to me. But you don't see that on the television; the press is biased in favour of the government.

Alan: Some people think they're right away from the strike altogether. There was a woman I heard on the wireless one day, from a Welsh community: she said, "I'll be glad when they go back to work because our shop's takings are right down." But if we went back to work and they then closed these collieries, she could close her shop up completely. Not only that, but those few shops that are left open will be charging double. Rates will go up, and this will be a ghost town, an industrial desert.

## Redundancies

Peter: About twelve years ago, I was working for Cambrian Castings. I was a single man then, and all I wanted was five days pay. They were begging me and nagging me to work Saturdays and Sundays, as



they were full of orders, with men working twelve hours a day. They just couldn't cope with the orders, until the Conservative government got elected! It's closed now, you can't even work a normal five-day week: from working seven days non-stop, twenty-four hours a day, to nothing.

Alan: You won't see a bigger place than that aluminium works in Resolven that's closed down; it was a massive place, they'll never have a place like that again.

Viv: They say that everyone will get a job, but there's a lot they don't tell you. Keith, for instance, is an electrician. There were eleven electricians in his pit before they started shutting the pits, now there's thirty. They told him they'll give him another job, pressing a button maybe, and he's got to accept it.

Alan: Even if we go back and he (MacGregor) withdraws every single thing that he said he was going to do, we know now that we can go back tomorrow, and if in two years time we go for a pay increase and they say "You're not having it", where are you going to get a strike from? When it comes to terms of employment, things will be worse, when it comes to redundancies, they'll have compulsory redundancies. They know when we go back, it's going to be hard to say, we're not having compulsory redundancies, we're going out on strike: you're not going to get it. You're not going to have another strike for twenty years.

## Going Back ?

Phyllis: There's a lot of miners who don't realise the implications. They haven't thought about it. They think they're out on strike and the union will win and they'll go back and that's it. But it will never be the same, and if our men go back now for nothing, that's it.

Alan: And when we go back to work, and we have an argument with the management, nobody's going to say they'll have the whole pit out.

Peter: It'll be very difficult, because people's debts are so much now, that they'll take years to pay off. Most people are only earning enough to get by anyway, with very little spare.

Every time we've had a dispute with the Coal Board, they've always come out with some outrageous figures of what we're supposed to be earning, and we're not getting anything like it. - Keith earns £89 a week, and he's on top money. - Alan's on the staff, and he's only bringing home £86.

Peter: You know when they'll pay you good money, £200 odd a week, is when they want to close a pit. It's the easiest thing in the world to make a pit uneconomic. Because all the money, the bonuses, shows up on the accounts. Take Deep Duffryn for example: the money they were earning a year before that strike down there, they were earning fantastic money, they couldn't believe it. They put all this money on the wage bill, and the balance sheet showed a loss.

Trish: Or they buy new pit props and leave them on the surface. It shows up in the books then that the pit is losing.

## Rich & Poor

Derek: What I don't understand is why the union doesn't go on the television and dispute these figures.

Alan: They are disputing them, but they don't get the platform that these others get. We've had some terrible press. We can't go on television and radio and say what we want to say. This is why some of the printers stopped the papers, they were printing so much rubbish. We've got a tremendous struggle on our hands, and they're against the working classes.

Viv: She (Mrs Thatcher) wants to make the poor and the rich, nothing imbetween. The only people gaining from the strike are the bloody police force.

Alan: The thing they dislike most of all is education. Once you've got people who think, they're out of control then, because you can control people who haven't got freedom of thought. They say we're not going to have any general education now, they want plumbers or they want people to perform a specific function in industry. They're teaching metalwork in schools: they don't want thinkers. We're just units for industry.

Trish: You've got miners' wives, and miners themselves who go down the pit, who don't just say, thanks very much, we've got just enough to live on; we think now, and because most of us think, we know how important this is. It's not just a strike. It's not just going short for nine months, because we know it'll be all the working classes, if they finally have their way. Everyone will be going short.

## The Unions

If they beat the miners, they've beaten the lot. - The whole problem is the fact that the top union leaders are getting so well paid today, that they don't want to create mayhem, because they'll be out of a job. - They seem to be embarrassed by us. - Exactly. - Look at Bill Sirs of the Steel workers. He knows what's happened to his men.

Derek: We in the mining industry lost two days on one-day strikes in support of the steel workers. What has happened with them now, they've kicked us up the backside. Bill Sirs was in Cardiff at a demonstration, he had tears in his eyes, he'd never had such a wonderful reception off the Welsh miners: what's he done for us now?

Everybody's frightened for their own jobs. - But that is not the way to look at it. Not if they've given any thought to it, because nobody's job will be safe.

Peter: Before this strike started, although we were pushed into it, I think the union could have gone round much more and had more .

contact with the grass roots, the men actually working in the pits, to ensure the support so that everyone knew what was going to happen. The deal we were offered, the redundancy money, seems fantastic compared to most other industries, but when that's gone, you get nothing else. - Once that's gone, you get survival money, that's all. And what do you survive for? When they've beaten the miners and got everyone on the dole, they'll lower the dole.

When they went to ACAS, the NUM on three occasions agreed to proposals put to them, but the NCB has not changed one iota. - You can't believe what the papers said about the negotiations. Even the Daily Mirror now, we used to get factual reports, but since Maxwell's taken over, it's said things were happening that we know damn well weren't happening. - They try to personalise the dispute, as if it's only Arthur Scargill on strike, not all the miners.

## Ballots

Derek: They're blaming Arthur Scargill for everything, but we've got representatives. He's only there to say what the representatives are telling him to say. The press don't put it over that way. - That's why we got rid of Gormley.

Derek: As far as I'm concerned, it's Gormley that got us into this mess. He encouraged the membership of this union to accept the bonus system in the first place. - That was balloted on twice and defeated, but those ballots don't count, so it seems. - We're sick to death of hearing about ballots. - They already had a mandate.

Peter: You can't have a ballot every time they want to close a pit. You had a mandate, certainly in some areas it was two years before the strike, but you can't keep doing it every other week.

Derek: The press wanted a national ballot, because they thought with a national ballot, the people in Nottinghamshire, where the pits are great and they're earning all this bonus money, they would have kept it below 55%. - I think we would have won a national ballot in the beginning.

Peter: A lot of people disagreed with the time of year for coming out, but there was a lot of support for a strike against pit closures.

## The 'Drift Back'

Peter: A lot depends on these men that are going back in the other areas. Are they faceworkers? You've got to have a proper cross-section of men to run the colliery, you can't just have all faceworkers, or all repairers. If they do open a number of pits and they are getting enough coal to keep things running, if the strike goes past the winter and comes to summer, then it's going to be another six months.

I was hoping that NACODS were going to come out again, when the

Board went back on the deal on redundancies. - It would make a hell of a difference, but they won't come out now. - They manipulated us to gain financial rewards for themselves. - They always have.

Peter: There shouldn't have been any need for them to come out, because they had a lot of power to force bigger concessions off the Coal Board. But they gave in for virtually nothing; what's been offered, this Pit Review, well, they've had these Pit Reviews before with every pit that's closed.

Viv: All they threatened to come out on strike for was because they wouldn't get paid if they didn't cross the picket lines. - They've been bribed. - But with MacGregor making his statement about compulsory redundancies, that affects NACODS as much as it does us. - The clerical workers should be supporting us as well; without us, they're out of a job.

## The Past

Alan: My grandfather had to work until he was 72 to get enough NI stamps. He was in the NUM. He started it in Aberaman, taking money outside the gate. He started the union off in the valley. He was jailed because of trying to start a union, blacklisted by the Coal Board because of it.

Trish: My uncle was paralysed for 12 years through a pit accident, then died. My family, my grandparents, they've all contributed in some way to this community, not just Cwmbach, but Cefnpennar too. They went down the pits, they went short, they had terrible conditions at work. It was those people who fought for better conditions for our men. So we're not just going to say, let's give up.

Viv: There's men from the '26 strike coming to us now, saying "Don't give in". It's the new influx that can't be bothered, that walk past us.

## On The March

Derek: One thing I think, the campaign should be conducted, not in the mining localities where the people are converted anyway, but outside. There should be a big demonstration in London, the capital. A couple of years ago, the nurses organised a big demonstration in London. I went up to it. Let's march on Central London.

Trish: But look at the women's rally we had up there. Twenty thousand women, and it was only on the news for seconds. I marched my feet off and sang my voice away.

Viv: The people that are with you are with you, whether they see it on the news or not.

Derek: If you staged a march on the House of Commons they'd have to give you coverage.

Peter: I was on that march to the House of Commons earlier in the year. There were no problems at first, the coppers walking alongside were all laughing. Then we got to Parliament Square and the riot police were there. We were just pushing and it was then that they started all the kicking. It was a different kind of police there.

## Keeping The Pits

Alan: One of those policemen made a typical comment on the picket line one morning, he said "What do you want to go down those pits for anyway?" We've got no option, we go down there to work, or we're out of a job. If they close that pit we've got no other work. People aren't aware of those facts. - That sums it all up, we don't have anything else.

Trish: Those five pits they named were the most provocative pits that the government could choose. That's how they got the men out on strike.

Viv: Mind you, I don't agree with people saying they want to keep the pits in this valley open for their children. I want them to be open now, for me to be able to bring the children up.

Trish: It's disgusting when you've got to move from where you've always lived, your parents have lived, your grandparents have lived, to get out of here to give your child a chance. There is nothing here now.

Derek: In the last ten years they've had a programme where they've reclaimed all this derelict land and landscaped it. If she closes the pits, her plans for South Wales are strip mining, open-cast mining, and we'll find we're back to the times when we have spoil tips again. Private contractors will come in, rip the coal up and dump the muck.

Peter: MacGregor worked in private mining, he'd be very sympathetic to that sort of thing.

## NCB 'Poll'

Derek: An 'Opinion Poll' woman came to my door about a fortnight ago. My mother answered the door. The woman said "I want to ask a few questions about the coal strike", and my mother said "No way!" Bang, and shut the door. I was outside, and this woman said "You're working for the NCB, you're a miner aren't you?" I'm not in fact, I drive a lorry for the Coal Board, but I think it was set up. She said "You're on strike?" and she knew my name. I said "You're right, I'm on strike, but no way am I answering questions for you." I'm sure she was sent to see if I was one of the waverers they could cajole back to work. I'm sure they're getting up to these tricks.

Peter: The problem is, there's plenty of work to be done, and plenty of people to do the work, it's bringing the two together. The new technology that's coming out now should make life easier for

every body, to the point where we don't need pits and all that. What's happening is they're keeping one part of the people down, and the technology is used to give fatter wallets to some.

Trish: This generation that are growing up at the moment, staying in this part of the valley, will never know a job. They'll never know what it's like to work. They get married and they have children, because that's the way they're guaranteed to get a council flat and that way they have money coming into the house. That's why the youngsters down here are getting married at seventeen years of age, with their parents consent.

## Working?

Peter: You take a lad that hasn't worked for five or six years, how are you going to get him to start working? When you left school the first thing you want is to get a job, get some money. Now you get in the habit of years and years without a job. They're cutting down on people working, cutting things down to the bone, but what about all the products they're making? Who are they going to sell them to? They're going to have to build robots to buy them in the end. Who's going to have the money to buy the stuff?

Alan: You can't keep communities like this on the dole, and that's what it boils down to in the end. We want jobs for our kids in the future.

Trish: Preferably not down the pits.

Viv: Mind you, talking of bringing in other industries: Keith's worked in the pits since he left school. He couldn't stand it any longer, so he finished in the pit and went to Cardiff to work in a factory. He stuck it two years and couldn't wait to get back to the pits.

Phyllis: I've got three sons and they don't work underground, and they wouldn't work underground. They always said they wouldn't follow Tommy, their dad. They've always been outside working, and they're used to it.

## To The Bitter End

Viv: You may be assured that we'll fight in Cwmbach to the end, to the bitter end, we'll be the last ones out in South Wales. - We're not giving in now. - It's getting harder, because we had savings in the beginning: we haven't got anything now, bills are getting higher and higher. But our determination is also getting higher.

Derek: The top and bottom of this strike is Mrs Thatcher doesn't want comradeship, because when there's comradeship, you're united, and the NUM is terrific for comradeship. It's the union that binds the mining industry together. If she can break that down the centre, she'll divide and rule. She's halfway to her goal. The other unions will just fall in line then.

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## THANKS

The Cwmbach Miners' Relief Fund Committee would like to thank all those who have in any way helped over the past nine months. Thanks also to all those who have donated food and money and to those who have bought this pamphlet to help the Fund. Your continued support will be welcomed most gratefully.

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ABOUT THIS PAMPHLET:

Cwmbach is a small community near Aberdare in the Cynon Valley, South Wales. The Miners' Relief Fund has been working since the start of the strike to provide food parcels to miners and their families. This pamphlet contains the views of some miners and women from Cwmbach. It is meant not only to publish these voices that are rarely if ever heard in our 'free' press and media, but also to raise as much money as possible for the Relief Fund. You can help by sending a donation, or taking further copies of this pamphlet (see inside for details).

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