



N.H.S. DISPUTE — ESCALATE THE ACTION

The widespread strikes and demonstrations on September 22nd show there's massive support for the health workers' fight against poverty pay.

If the NHS workers lose, all working class people lose. The government will be encouraged to force wage cuts on other groups - and to make even more cuts in the health service.

UNITED RESISTANCE NEEDED

This autumn many workers are submitting pay claims. The different groups will be much stronger if they unite and take joint action, striking at the same time, demonstrating together, jointly taking action to spread their struggles to other sectors. The health workers, water workers, miners, etc. could all say - settle all our claims to our satisfaction - we'll all stay on strike till you do.

The Grampian health workers' shop stewards have taken a positive step in this direction. They are contacting other groups, such as the water workers, with a view to discussing the possibility of joint action.

ESCALATE THE ACTION !

Along with generalising the dispute through joint action, health workers need to step-up their own action. The TUC-imposed strategy of occasional 'Days of Action' is pathetically inadequate.

Although there are obvious difficulties in having an all-out strike (with emergency cover), many health workers believe this is needed. Nurses at Cornhill

are calling for the re-convening of a COHSE special delegate conference to discuss all-out action and to generally review the dispute.

Another positive move would be more occupations of health service administration buildings and work areas. Aberdare General Hospital and Llwynypia Hospital, both in Glamorgan, are among the hospitals where workers have staged occupations. Senior administrators tried to break into the Llwynypia occupation - but fled when the nurses soaked them with fire extinguishers!

MORE INVOLVEMENT

Vital to a successful escalation of action is the active involvement of all health workers in the running of the dispute.

At every hospital and site there needs to be regular work-place meetings, where all workers can discuss and decide on the forms of future action.

PEOPLE NOT PROFITS

It's no accident that NHS workers are low paid and that health care receives very inadequate resources. In this system caring for people isn't important. There's only one criterion for "a successful economy" - profits. To end this injustice we need to both resist the current attacks on our living standards, and to build up our understanding and organisation in such immediate struggles, to aim towards taking over all society's resources and using them to meet human needs.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS RUBBISH?

This news-sheet is published by Subversive Graffiti Collective. Our aims are : 1) To support, seek solidarity for, and be involved in struggles for the needs of the vast majority of people against the ruling class of businessmen, politicians and bureaucrats. This includes activities at the work-place, by the unemployed, by tenants, against oppression on the grounds of sex or sexual orientation. 2) To urge that all involved control these actions, not leaders such as Trade Union officials or political parties. 3) To aim at the overthrow of all governments, bosses and leaders by the conscious action of the majority of people. We want a world without any relationships of domination and submission, where all have an equal say in how things are run, and where production is for human need not profit.

We welcome information and articles for the news-sheet and help with distribution. Anyone who shares our ideas and would like to join the collective please get in touch.

Aberdeen Gay Switchboard

WHY THE NEED? In Aberdeen there are around 10,000 homosexual women and men. Only a few of these have come to terms with their gayness and are able to meet other gay people socially. The vast majority are lonely and isolated, usually forced to lead a double life, denying their natural feelings. Initially Switchboard provides a sympathetic listener who knows and understands the difficulties which gay people often experience. In addition Switchboard can provide details and information about gay groups bars, discos etc. in Aberdeen.

WHO IS SWITCHBOARD? Switchboard is run by a group of volunteers who are all lesbians or gay men. It is politically neutral, and is independent of any other gay group in Aberdeen. New volunteers are accepted on the basis that they are gay and that they will not impose their personal opinions and beliefs on callers. In order to ensure that this is the case, an informal interview is conducted, following which the new volunteer will attend a few sessions of Switchboard to see how it works, before being left to answer the phone themselves.

WHEN DOES IT OPERATE? Aberdeen Gay Switchboard operates every Wednesday from 7-10 pm. We always try to have one gay man and one lesbian on duty. This is to ensure that callers may speak to someone of either sex.

WHAT SWITCHBOARD CANNOT DO The volunteers on Switchboard must be aware of their own limitations. We are volunteers, and have not been professionally trained. As

with any other group, we cannot make decisions for other people - we can only listen to a problem, point out the options open to a caller, and maybe sometimes explain what we have done in similar circumstances. Switchboard is not a dating agency.

WHAT CAN SWITCHBOARD DO? We can listen; we are happy to chat to people; we meet people if they want to talk to someone face to face, and introduce them to other gay people; finally one of our most important functions is simply to give information.

HOMOSEXUAL WOMEN AND MEN FOR HELP AND INFORMATION - PHONE ABERDEEN GAY SWITCHBOARD 572726 WEDNESDAYS 7 pm to 10 pm

 In December the DHSS Specialist Claims Controllers will be attempting to harass people claiming through Ebury House, Dee St.. For info on your rights and on plans to oppose these snoopers contact Unemployment Union, 21 Adelphi - office open 2-5pm weekdays.

 On Mayday a Navy Recruitment Office in London was paintbombed in opposition to the Falklands War. Now a person has been fined a total of £736 for this. Donations desperately needed. Write AFWSN Box F, London Greenpeace, 6 Endsleigh St., London WC1 - cheques payable to Greenpeace. Meanwhile, the trial of the 9 arrested for picketing a Navy Recruitment Centre in Edinburgh has been adjourned till January 13th.

SUBVERSIVE GRAFFITI READERS MEETING
 11am Sat.30th Oct., in the WEA Rooms, 163 King St.. All welcome.

Health Board?

At the time of writing (7th Oct.) Grampian Health Board have suspended Jim Kiddie, chairman of the Grampian Association of Health Service Unions.

Workers at several Aberdeen hospitals and sites re-acted to the suspension with immediate walk-outs. Its vital that workers take the strongest possible action to force the Health Board to fully re-instate Jim Kiddie.

If the Health Board gets away with this clamp-down, they'll be encouraged to take disciplinary action against other workers. The Board have just drawn up a report setting out ways of restricting workers involved in organising and union activities.

The Health Board might try and use delaying tactics to defuse the situation, eg holding a lengthy investigation or entering into prolonged negotiations with Union officials.

Reportedly, Union reps urged workers to delay walk-outs on Oct. 7th till after management-union talks, till after a shop stewards meeting. To win this battle workers will need to disregard such Union compromisers and take action independently.

An effective way to react to these management provocations would be to take over their offices, lock out the bosses, and announce that from now on the health workers would be running the health service.

And, as on Sept.22nd, the health workers position would be much stronger if other workers in Aberdeen were ready to take solidarity action to force the Health Board to re-instate Jim Kiddie.

