

Wildcat Nº6

★★★

Sept 85

BLACK YOUTH



10 July - Young Duduza boys dance round the burning car of a suspected informer

CLASS ANGER ROCKS S.AFRICA



NOTT ANOTHER BLOODY UNION!

Strike over
27.7.85
dismissal
halts
colliery

Since the end of the miners strike the Coal Board has been pressing ahead with its plans to further "rationalise" the industry and increase the exploitation of the miners. Despite the defeat of the strike these plans have not gone unchallenged. There have been a rash of short strikes right across the country's coalfields.

But the union's main concern as openly stated in the Yorkshire Miner is for "reconciliation" and a "return to normal working". Part of that return to "normality" involves re-building the damaged apparatus of the Union and re-establishing a firm power base for the union "leaders" to pursue their claim to a share in the management of the industry. Different leaders have different views as to how that can be best achieved. The Notts leaders, their convictions strengthened by the national strikes defeat, reckon that a moderate openly collaborationist policy is best. With this in mind, and aware that their own position within the left dominated national union would be severely weakened after the strike, they have promoted a breakaway under their own control. The left union leaders, like Scargill, realise that their attempts to force the Coal Board to continue and increase sharing its management of the industry have failed, fear they may be outflanked by a breakaway. Thus the stage is set for a sordid power battle between the union bosses over who should control the workers and represent them to the management.

Clearly there is an attack on the working class in all this. But it is not, as represented by the left press, an attack on trade union unity amongst workers, since the trade unions have always acted as a divisive force amongst the working class. Neither is it a matter of good versus bad trade unionism (re- the N.U.M. v the Notts breakaway). The national union has after all participated, over the last twenty-five years in a massive rundown of the coal industry, involving the closure of two-hundred pits and the loss of 500,000 jobs. Also, it was under Scargill's cherished "plan for coal", originally agreed between the N.U.M. and the Labour government in 1974, that the infamous bonus schemes were introduced that divided the coalfields into "profitable" and "less profitable" and sowed the seeds for the Notts breakaway. The N.U.M. did its best throughout the national strike to keep it a purely "coal industry" affair and prevent it spreading to other sections of the working class and thus out of their control. The N.U.M. itself is devious.

The split is an attack on the working class because it is a means diverting militant miners and their supporters throughout the coalfields, away from the real fight back into a mock battle on behalf of their union bosses.

Miners walk out over taxi murder sentences

By Paul Hoyland, Welsh Correspondent
Hundreds of miners walked out at two collieries in South Wales yesterday in protest at the life sentences imposed on Thursday on two colleagues for the murder of the taxi driver, Mr David Wilkie, during the strike last year. Almost 700 miners walked home from Taff Merthyr colliery in mid Glamorgan, where Russell Shankland had worked, and the protest spread to Oakdale colliery in Gwent, where 92 face workers walked out in support of Dean Hancock.

TWO thousand Yorkshire miners yesterday ended their week-long strike over four men sacked for alleged verbal intimidation of miners who worked during the national pit strike. But another 1,000 from three pits near Pontefract rejected NUM instructions and continued their strike.

Warning letters dispute paralyses second pit

By Peter Hetherington Northern Labour

Production at Kellingley colliery, Yorkshire, the country's largest pit, was halted yesterday when around 1,000 men walked out in a dispute over new shift arrangements. The board said last night that the men objected to the introduction of four-shift working, although a union committee had agreed. The board said it would revert to three-shift working procedures.

Still some fight
TUESDAY WAS the best day of my life. At our pit Littleton in Scotland the NUM militant is making a fight of it.

Markham the entire day shift, including men who had scabbed during the strike, walked out in protest at the sending home of two men. They were sent home for refusing to work the new twilight shift the board are trying to introduce into several key pits in the area. The strike ended the next day when the branch officials persuaded the men to go back, arguing this was the only way to get management to negotiate.

Production at Bilston Glen colliery, near Edinburgh was halted yesterday when miners, protesting over the dismissal of a colleague, went on strike. The strike started on the night-shift early yesterday and was backed up by men on the day and back-shifts. The National Coal Board said the miner had been dismissed under the Mines and Quarries Act over a disciplinary matter. A spokesman added: "We have told the union

MINERS AT Dawdon Colliery in Durham walked out in protest at management's attempts to set higher production figures last week. Over 1,000 struck after management threatened to suspend them unless they resumed normal work. The miners had been implementing a go-slow in response to the new production targets which affected bonus payments. However, at a union meeting last Sunday they decided to return to work without any agreement on production levels after the officials promised to 'pursue negotiations'. It is unfortunate that the miners' militancy was not built on by lodge officials and the NUM leadership in the area.

The Miners Struggle Goes On

Silentnight: Class Struggle Won't Lie Down

The current strike at Silentnight beds, at Sutton and Barnoldswick in Yorkshire, has been going on for 13 weeks. The strike started because the boss announced 52 redundancies after workers had agreed to a no redundancies/no wage rise package. Since then, the boss has been bussing in scabs, trying to recruit young people from the YTS, and has sacked all the strikers.

The main problem facing the militant minority on the picket lines is the passivity of the majority of strikers, who seem to think you can win by staying at home. This is reinforced by the leaders of the furniture union, FTAT, who say the workers will win if they just 'hold firm'. All the militants know that's rubbish. The only thing FTAT's good for is strike pay (£14-£20 per week). One of the first things we heard on the picket line was a shop steward saying "Fuck union. We've got to spread strike". Workers have visited other factories in the same group, handing out leaflets (not picketing, because that's illegal). FTAT officials in adjacent areas have accused them of trying to recruit their members into the Sutton branch. The shop stewards face the contradiction between their union role and their existence as workers. They often meet with union bureaucrats away from the picket line, and absorb their reactionary attitudes. When someone proposed an occupation, one of the stewards opposed it because he couldn't go against his union. The top union officials have threatened union discipline against workers carrying

out activities outside the picket line. The general secretary of FTAT turned up one morning. One of the strikers asked him what the strategy was for winning the strike, and he said he wouldn't answer provocative questions because there were outsiders on the picket line. The workers welcome outsiders. The Sutton factory is on the 668 bus route from Bradford - feel free to go along.

THE BOYS IN RED

One Friday afternoon, after a few beers, the strikers were exercising their democratic right to express disagreements with workers coming out of the plant. A policeman tried to arrest one of the strikers, but the strikers outnumbered them about three to one, so he didn't manage it. There would have been a very ugly situation, but suddenly Dave Marshall, the FTAT local area rep, appeared with a red Labour Party tie on. He had a few words with the pigs, and seemed to be saying something like "It's all right lads, I can control this". He literally shepherded the strikers and their families to the other side of the road, away from the police, and away from the piles of stones on the factory side. He had much more authority over the workers than the police did. In this part of the world, the boys in red are more effective at controlling the workers than the boys in blue.

NEWS Round-up

Year's haul for shoplifters reaches £1,000m

Women on an 18-coach robbery trip

THE SUN

AMAZING £80,000 BIN Today's check list - Page 1

Today's TV: PAGE 12

Ethiopia Brits to splash out on a pool

SHOPLIFT ON SEA!

Whilst just a figment of a journalist's imagination such sensationalist reporting is a reflection of the growth of real working class shopping. This mass shoplifting may not have taken place but in reality others have. In the seventies in Italy, in order to combat rising inflation, gangs of shoplifters got together to get what they needed. More recently in Brazil, mass shoplifts and looting have taken place as the working class is forced to battle against starvation. In Britain over the last few years we have seen the emergence of a 'new and worrying development of groups of shoplifters blatantly stealing from stores by force and intimidation' (Home Office Report).

Remember, if you do go shoplifting, you run the risk of arrest. However if you take your friends the risks are much less!

Women on an 18-coach robbery trip

EIGHTEEN coachloads of women took a day trip to the seaside for a mass shoplifting spree, a court heard yesterday.

The black women arrived in a resort on Monday afternoon... and had stripped local stores by evening.

They split up into small "raiding parties" as soon as they left the coaches, it was said.

Then they went on a "professional, experienced and organised shoplifting spree" in Torquay, Devon - netting goods worth thousands of pounds.

HAUL

Shop staff were overwhelmed by the numbers of women involved, Insp. Henry Martin told the resort's magistrates.

He added: "Some of the women held carrier bags open while others put clothes in. They seemed to have come here with the ex-

By PHIL DAMPIER

press intention of shoplifting."

After the shops closed they returned to their homes in Birmingham with their haul - which included dresses worth almost £2,000 from one boutique alone.

Only two women were caught - but there were a lot more involved," said Insp. Martin.

He added: "We had numerous other reports of theft by coloured women but identifying the culprits has proved impossible."

Mrs Sarah Lewis, 37, of Kingshurst, Birmingham, Continued on Page Two

BASIC PRINCIPLES

1. Opposition to capitalist society which exists in every country in the world; both in the form of 'private capitalism' as in the American bloc, and in the form of 'state capitalism' as in the Russian bloc, China, and much of the 'third world'.
2. Commitment to the communist objective - abolition of nation states and the money/market/wages system and its replacement by a classless society, common ownership and democratic control of the world's resources.
3. Rejection of nationalisation and other state capitalist economic measures as any solution to working class problems, or to the world crisis caused by capitalism.
4. Rejection of all expressions of nationalism, including 'national liberation' organisations such as the IRA, PLO etc. For the internationalisation of class struggle.
5. Opposition to all capitalist and nationalist parties, including the Labour Party and other organisations of the capitalist left. Opposition to all joint work with these organisations, including participation in front organisations such as CND.
6. Support and encouragement for independent working class struggle, outside the control of the trade unions (including the shop stewards and 'rank and file' movements) and all political parties.
7. Rejection of the use of parliament. For the active participation of the whole working class in its own emancipation through social revolution which overthrows all governments, bosses and leaders.
8. Active opposition to all forms of sexism, racism, and cultural and institutionalised barriers to working class solidarity.
9. Opposition to religion, pacifism and all other ideological mystifications.
10. Support for principled co-operation among revolutionaries, and opposition to sectarianism.

SLEEPING CHILD ATTACKS ARMED COP SHOCK

Following the fatal shooting of a 5-year-old boy by police in Birmingham, youths attacked and stoned police vehicles in a fierce expression of class anger. The media black out reports of people fighting police violence, and the street-fighting in Birmingham would normally have gone unreported. In this case, the TV and press gave full coverage to the fact that a policewoman was beaten and kicked. This is meant to horrify "decent" people and pave the way for more police harassment and violence. But increasingly this isn't working as more and more workers give the filth a taste of their own medicine.

Return Of The Scab

Crisis is biting both East and West. Russian leaders have just resurrected the heroic figure of Alexei Stakhanov, supreme scab of the "Soviet" Union, who was encouraged in the 30's to set up a new coal-cutting record as a model for other miners to emulate. Now it's his 50th anniversary and the Russian capitalist bosses are letting the miners of his home region in Don-

etsk celebrate his record feat by doing an EXTRA 50 HOURS WORK in his honour!

We hope our fellow-workers in Russia will have a good laugh over this. There, as here, the class struggle isn't dead. Things are hotting up all over. Russian workers, like British workers and people all over the world, aren't all conned by their ruling class!



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S. AFRICA

The violence in South Africa continues. According to official figures more than 650 have died. The true figure is certainly much higher. Most of the deaths are the result of ferocious police violence against black rioters. But police have shown no hesitation in opening fire against peaceful protests by school children and others.

In addition, thousands have been jailed under the emergency laws. The South African bosses, like the ruling class the world over, imagine that working class revolt can be put down by picking off the 'leaders'.

But the struggle continues. A mass movement involving millions of people cannot be stopped by jailing a few thousand of them. State violence can succeed in putting down a struggle by a militant minority - as British miners found to their cost. But the South African security forces, well-armed as they are, are being swept aside by the tidal wave of mass struggle.

WHITE BOSSSES TREMBLE

The S African ruling class is becoming an endangered species. S African businessmen fear for their profits and their lives. It is this fear, rather than a sudden concern for the welfare of black Africans, which explains their frantic calls for black involvement in running S Africa. The same fear makes capitalist leaders abroad put pressure on the S African government to make 'reforms'. So long as the S African government terrorised and murdered blacks, they were quite happy. Now that the boot is on the other foot they have suddenly become 'humanitarians'.

The hypocritical concern of world leaders to avoid a 'bloodbath' in S Africa is really fear of a bloodbath that the ruling class might lose. But S African blacks are out for the blood of the ruling class, of their oppressors, and of black collaborators, and rightly so.

In the same way, liberals used to hypocritically oppose sanctions because "blacks would suffer most if the S African economy collapsed." But S African blacks want to destroy the S African economy. Hence the widespread consumer boycotts and industrial sabotage.

Now virtually the entire international ruling class supports sanctions. This is part of a desperate, last-ditch campaign for 'peaceful change', being waged by Western governments and their mouthpieces in the media. Morons like Bishop Tutu are wheeled on as representatives of the black population. But every day, in their actions, S African blacks show that they understand that a system born of violence, and maintained by violence, can only be overthrown by violence. Their chosen leader is the man they see as the symbol of armed struggle - Nelson Mandela.

Rocks Against Racism ...

Mass violence works.

This was made clear in a Guardian lead article on July 22. It is very rare that such a clear statement of the nature of class power leaks out of the bosses' sewers of liberalism -

By murdering African councillors and police officers, or hounding them out of the townships and butchering suspected informers, the youthful gangs in the forefront of the troubles have changed the balance of power in their areas by making alleged collaborators more afraid of them than of the State.

The youths of the townships have severed not only the official democratic channels of cooperation, but also the network of spies and collaborators, and to some extent, the ability of black police to operate in black areas without the army to protect them.

The reason Botha's much-heralded reforms were not forthcoming was because if he had granted anything at all on Aug 15, he would have confirmed that violence works. Whereas Western liberal capitalists rightly argue that holding firm will result in the death of apartheid and many of the white racists, both capitalists and wage labourers, who support it, Botha knows that yielding to riots will have the same effect, only sooner.

BLACK BOSSSES PREPARE FOR POWER

There is no way out of this dilemma for the white ruling class. In this desperate situation, some of them are now prepared to consider what even a few months ago would have been unthinkable - negotiations with the African National Congress (ANC).

The ANC remains fully committed to armed struggle. But uncreasingly ANC leaders see violence as a means of forcing the white ruling class into negotiations which will bring them the power they want, or at least a share in it. On 30th August ANC leaders in Lusaka announced that they planned to meet a group of S African businessmen "for talks on dismantling apartheid."

The ANC, like other national liberation movements, does not advocate socialist revolution. At most some factions stand for 'socialism' some time in the future, but not today. All sections of the ANC agree that their immediate aim is a movement uniting all classes to create a black capitalist S Africa. As ANC leader Joe Slovo put it,

We're not in favour of abolishing the middle class. Black traders will be better off with us than under the

present regime with its apartheid restrictions.

Under an ANC regime, black capitalists will be free to grow fat on the exploitation of the working class.



LINK UP THE STRUGGLES IN THE MINES AND IN THE STREETS!

Undoubtedly most militant blacks in South Africa look to nationalist organisations such as the ANC and the United Democratic Front (UDF) for moral leadership. However the UDF and the ANC have not organised the recent strikes and riots. They have occurred 'spontaneously' - in other words they have been organised by grass roots leaders in the townships. The Guardian commented,

The new anger seems to have taken the ANC and the UDF by surprise so that they, like the authorities, are finding it harder to gain control.

The ANC wants to control the struggle and direct it to its own ends. One of its advantages is its possession of a military apparatus. But it is quite likely that some of the recent acts of terrorism are part of the class struggle, not controlled by the ANC. The workers are demanding arms from the ANC. They will need to organise to use these arms independently of the nationalists if they are to make a successful revolution, and defend themselves

ERUPTS

against those who attempt to use working class insurrection to promote capitalist aims.

Conditions in the 'liberated' front line states bordering S Africa are no better than those suffered by S African blacks. One of Mugabe's first acts when he came to power in Zimbabwe was to suppress a wave of wildcat strikes. Unemployed urban workers in Mozambique are being forcibly deported from the cities. Black workers in S Africa can expect the same sort of treatment if the ANC comes to power there.

When not long ago the regime in S Africa still seemed fairly stable, governments in the front line states signed trade and co-operation deals with S Africa. Now they bravely say they will "make the sacrifices" necessary to bring about change in South Africa. What they mean is that the struggle there will be used as the excuse to impose yet more 'sacrifices' on their own working class. Worsening conditions throughout Southern Africa mean that there is a real chance that the struggle in S Africa could spark off a generalised struggle against white and black capitalism in the region.

TRADE UNIONS - THE SAME THE WORLD OVER

In S Africa itself the most crucial issue now is: can the struggle in the townships link up with the struggle in the workplaces - and above all in the mines. This is what

the ruling class fears most.

The threat of a miners' strike is the main cause of the collapse of the Rand, the flight of foreign capital to Western banks, and the panic stricken calls of Johannesburg businessmen for Botha to negotiate with Mandela.

As in Britain, workplace struggle in South Africa is being held back by the trade unions. An inadequate pay offer was made to black unions at the beginning of July. The NUM threatened to call a strike - on August 25th. It hardly needs saying that giving the bosses 2 months warning of a proposed strike gives them time to prepare for it. Nor was it a surprise when on 23rd August the strike was postponed after last minute talks between the NUM and the mining companies. A compromise has been reached between the NUM and several of the companies involved, including the largest, Anglo-American. The strike is now underway against the remaining companies who refused to improve on their original offer. But the impact of this strike, involving less than half of NUM members, will be limited. It's the old story: Divide and Rule!

But the situation is still explosive. Many miners came out on wildcat strikes in advance of the official strike date. On the first day of the strike, 2nd September, police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at a large crowd of demonstrators outside a pit which has not been called out on strike.

Management and unions meet to discuss revised claims

Bishops try to forestall S. African mine strike

BOSSSES AND BISHOPS HAND IN HAND ... IN SOUTH AFRICA, AS EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD, RELIGION IS COMPLETELY REACTIONARY

HOW SOCIALIST IS THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY ?



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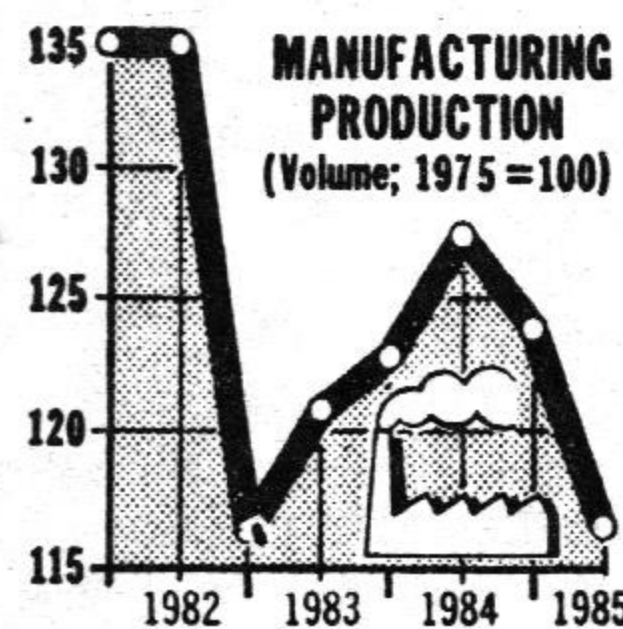
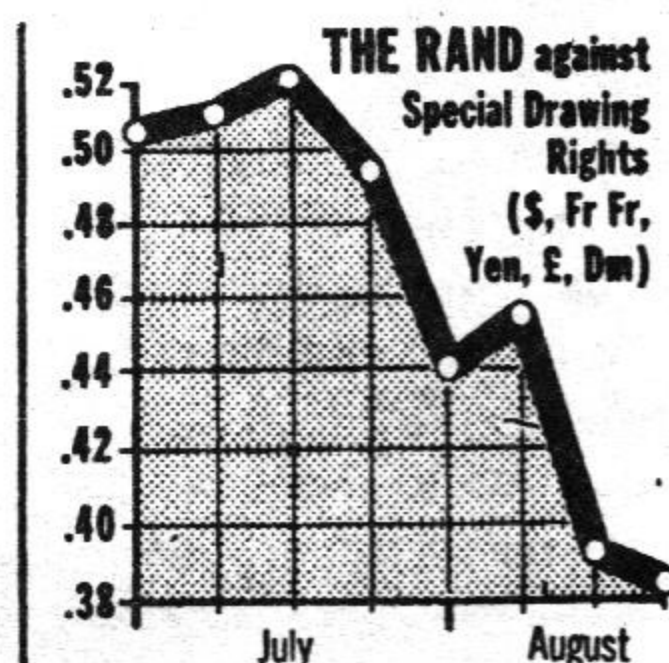
THE BRITISH CONNECTION

World capitalism is trying to ditch apartheid. But British finance capital is stepping into the gaps left by the Americans pulling out. In the last year, merchant bankers such as Hambros, Hill Samuel and Guinness Mahon have increased their lending. Out of \$4.44 million lent to South Africa between June 82 and Dec 84, \$1,958 million - 46 per cent - was from Britain.

The British economy as a whole is too crisis-ridden and dependent on its South African connection to do a Pontius Pilate act on apartheid. Many of the products exported in bulk to South Africa have a high added value, and are thus essential to the UK economy. Most of this consists of machinery and chemicals. Invisible exports to South Africa amount to £1.3 billion. In addition, the UK reexports to S Africa processed raw materials which have had value added, such as South African diamonds and gold. Last year, this amounted to £350 million.

Direct investment by overseas nations in factories, plant and equipment in South Africa approaches £12 billion, and £5 billion of this, over 40 per cent of the total, is owned by British companies. US investment is only 20 per cent of the total, which means the US lends much less of its total lend-

BEHIND THE TURMOIL



ings to South Africa than Britain. The other Western powers have less interest in South Africa - which is why they can impose sanctions more easily. Of the 2,000 overseas owned companies in South Africa, over 50% are controlled from the UK. Two thirds of South African banking is controlled by UK banks Standard Chartered and Barclays. This has tremendous significance for the future of British capitalism. Britain is tied hand and foot to the South African state. What is happening there could push the British economy over the cliff. The effect of this on the class struggle would make the recent riot in

Toxteth, where youth attacked the police using railings as spears, look like a Sunday-school outing.

Other nations can afford to disinvest in apartheid, in the hope of coming to an arrangement with a future Mandela government. The US in particular stands to gain a black capitalist Azania if Britain loses white South Africa. The ANC is prepared to negotiate its way into the US bloc, as were the Sandinistas in Nicaragua before the Reagan government cocked it up. As one of the ANC's leaders put it:

The US is beginning to fear that everything it supports might be undermined. That is why it has begun to make overtures towards the ANC. On the right terms the ANC is willing to talk to anyone. Dialogue is part of the struggle, although it has its menacing side.

The US has learned from Cuba and Nicaragua. It wants South Africa to stay in its imperialist orbit, and it sees that the ANC is genuinely prepared to discuss terms. That is why the left wing of US capital, the Democratic party, and many Republicans, have been pressurising Reagan to break with apartheid now. In American political terms, being for apartheid is like being against motherhood. Even a judge has been arrested on an anti-apartheid demo.

RAIL STRIKE FIASCO

Since the end of the miners' strike, the ruling class has been preparing to take on other sections of the working class. British Rail responded to the resistance by guards in Scotland and S.Wales to the 'unilateral' imposition of driver-only trains, by sacking 300 and preparing another 1200 dismissal notices.

BR say that so long as the guards accept the driver-only working, then they won't be out of a job. This is obviously a load of rubbish. The introduction of driver-only trains is part of the plan to force through thousands of redundancies. Nowhere do the management come out and say where these jobs are supposed to be coming from. Guards will not be able to move to different areas since no more guards' jobs will be created. Nor for that matter will they be retrained to do any other job in BR. The driver-only trains are supposed to be saving BR £27m. Being nice to your employees does not save money. Nor does being honest or truthful.

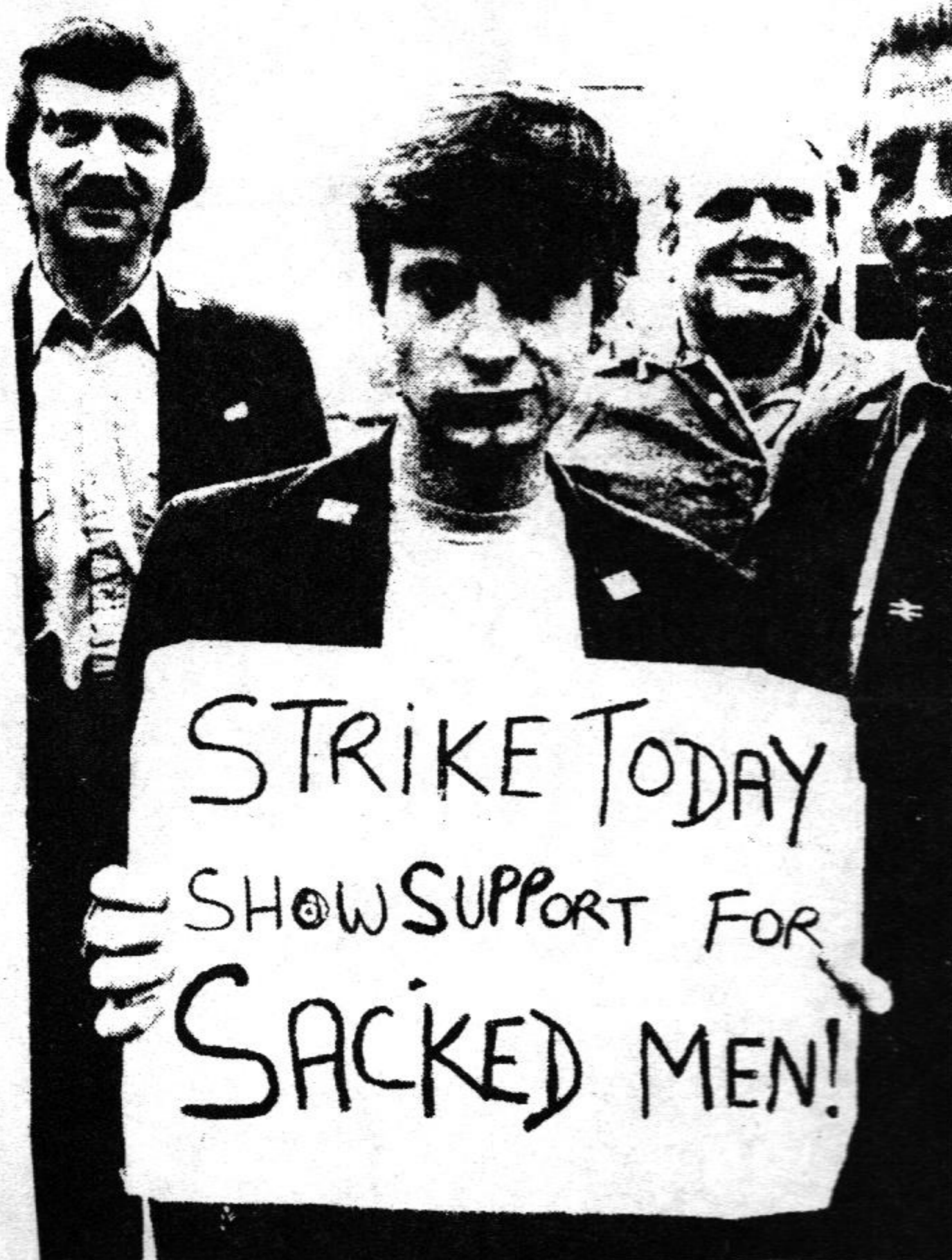
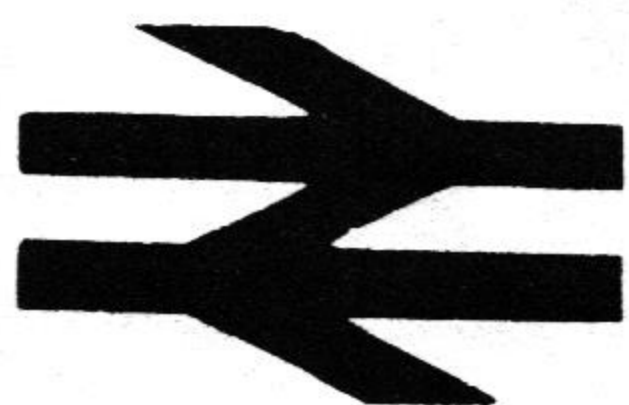
PROPAGANDA WAR

The media wasted no time in throwing its full weight behind BR's attempts to defeat its workers. Large notices placed in the papers by BR warned that the only result of strike action would be massive redundancies and closures. Editorials threatened guards with the misery of life on the dole, and the imminent collapse of the rail network in the face of road competition for both passengers and freight. Carefully selected testimonies by irate "commuters" showed the lack of support from the public that the strike could expect. The spectre of the miners' defeat was waved for all to see.

MEMORIES OF '82

Memories of 1982 and the futility of following the unions were a powerful factor in defeating the strike. Then, railworkers were attacked together, and though they had the same need to defend themselves, they were divided by their ASLEF or NUR membership cards. When BR unilaterally imposed flexible rostering, ASLEF struck. The NUR, instead of showing solidarity, (though many of its members did), actually distributed propaganda in support of flexible rostering, having already accepted it. ASLEF caved in and went to arbitration, calling off the strike. In June, the NUR struck in support of a pay claim and against redundancies. Its then general secretary Sid Weighell had already been secretly negotiating the scrapping of all guard jobs on trains with BR. ASLEF instructed its members to cross the picket lines! The

The strike collapsed. Then, amazingly, the next day, ASLEF came out on strike, as BR turned its attention on the drivers regarding flexible rostering, with the ultimatum 'accept it or be sacked!'. This time it was the TUC who called the strike off. Divided and bewildered, the workers were easily defeated by their "own" unions!



... BUT DON'T RELY ON THE UNION

REPEAT PERFORMANCE

This time round, the guards knew that ASLEF had agreed to driver-only trains in principle. They also knew that the NUR had pushed this dispute as a "guards-only" dispute, rather than as a battle to be fought by and in the interests of all railway workers. Their isolation from other railway workers would be increased if BR carried out its threat to pay no rail workers during the strike - a cynical move aimed at turning drivers and other rail workers (who would be laid off as a result of the strike) against the guards. They could be sure that other unions would hang around and watch their isolated destruction. Memories need only go back as far as the miners' strike to see the reality of TUC solidarity as they sat there bleating about the need to observe 'legality', as if the law was there to help workers win strikes!

This strike started well. Guerilla actions from region to region, with railworkers taking action on their own initiative. A guard from London Bridge said: "When we heard guards in Glasgow and S.Wales were sacked we decided at London Bridge that if BR went ahead with the sacking on Friday we'd be out on Monday and the word would spread." This was how the guards should have continued, going out immediately to all railway workers.

The defeat of the strike came, not with the result of the ballot, but from the fact that workers accepted the idea of a ballot in the first place. Even if there had been a vote in favour of strike action, an NUR strike campaign along the lines proposed by Jimmy Knapp would have left the guards isolated, and, sooner or later, defeated.

Waiting for the ballot meant a defusing of the situation. It made it seem as if things were out of the hands of ordinary workers. It gave time for BR to wage its expensive propaganda campaign.

The collective strength of the working class will not be realised by secret ballots. In their own homes, individual workers, deciding whether or not to strike, can easily be overwhelmed by personal worries of their family commitments, the bills to be paid, and the fear of taking a step into the unknown. But mass meetings give workers confidence in their collective power. It is only this collective power that will beat the bosses, both in the struggles of today, and in the worldwide uprisings we envisage tomorrow.

DEAD LOSS LEADERS

Sid Weighell was removed by the "left" of his union and branded "traitor". But, despite his rhetoric, Knapp is no better. He does not fool us with his calls for reinstatement or declarations against driver-only trains! It was him and his executive cronies who, while opposing the introduction of this new operation at the NUR's '83 AGM, pushed through the McCarthy plan for restructuring the railways with the future loss of 34000 jobs - a plan which driver-only trains go partway to fulfill. The same NUR leadership defeated the 120 guards on the Bedford-St. Pancras line, forcing them after an 18-month struggle to accept the first driver-only operated service!

Only 65 guards now work on that line. During the miners' strike sabotaged any possibility of joint action between rail workers and miners. He accepted a measly 5% wage-rise when many rail workers were keen for strike action. He ignored and then condemned the courageous actions of his members at Coalville and Margam, for example. He instructed the guards in Scotland and S.Wales to comply with the BR ultimatum of August 16th by returning to work.

It is not just the political power or the privileges of the union leaders that makes the unions our class enemies. The unions are part of the capitalist system, selling our labour power to the bosses, and selling the bosses' "austerity programmes" back to us. They are capitalism's pimps, and we must have no hesitation in striking at them as much as at the government or the state.

STOP PRESS

Unbelievably, as we go to press, the history of the '82 rail strikes repeats itself. This time, clearly, as farce! Despite the fact that ASLEF had already accepted driver-only trains in principle, 500 of its members were simultaneously on strike against it, with the guards. In fact more of its members refused to work than NUR members! Need we say it again? UNIONS DIVIDE THE WORKING CLASS !! Workers must take responsibility not to let these bastards divide them successfully. If effective resistance on the railways is to continue, these drivers must make common cause with guards currently in dispute, outside of and against the unions.