

# A STRIKING DIFFERENCE

I AM getting a lot of letters from miners who wonder why so much publicity goes to the 20 per cent who are working, and so little to the 80 per cent on strike.

So here, by way of balance, is a letter I got last week from a miner at Marham colliery, Derbyshire:

My wife and I have a nine-month-old baby, and she is expecting another in October. In 1978 I was injured in a fall down the pit. Now I take home pay of £82 a week. My rent is £16.71 a week.

I have worked in the pits since I left school, and I've always paid taxes to help the social security of others.

Like many other miners you don't read about me, but I am a staunch Labour supporter, though not a militant.

I agree with the views of our President, Arthur Scargill. We must keep our pits open. In my opinion the Coal Board chairman is a multi-millionaire who couldn't care less about miners.

In the third week of the strike, I went to the DHSS office in Chesterfield. I asked if I could



THE GREGORYS: Broke... but not broken.

claim for my wife and child. An official told me I was wasting my time. She refused to give me a form. I left the place feeling dirty and embarrassed.

On May 1, I was given a small food parcel and a DHSS form. Two weeks ago I was sent a Giro for £1.47 and two milk tokens, which was meant to be social security for my family for the first seven weeks of the strike.

Last week I got another Giro for £10.52. If you add that to the £6.50 family allowance, our weekly income is 7p more than the rent.

If anyone thinks this will break us, they are making a big mistake. At the moment, I'm ashamed of bringing children into this world under this Government.

*Alfred Gregory, Bolton, Derby.*

# STRIKING IT RICH

The one miner in Britain without a single care

By SYDNEY BRENNAN  
STRIKING miner Martin Smith yesterday had £200,000 in his pocket for hanging up his pit helmet for good.

He scooped a one-third share of £300,000 pools win, and a cuddle from actress Susan George. He said goodbye to his wife, Arthur Scargill and the Coal Board.

It was Susan who presented the £200,000 Littlewoods cheque to Martin's brother-in-law, London's Borougher Hotel.

Martin, a 55-year-old Arthur Colliery worker at home in Doncaster, was asked what he would do if a miner

came to him for help now he is wealthy.

He said: "I would tell him to fill in the football coupons like I did."

He said he would not be putting money in the Miners' benevolent fund.

"During the eleven weeks of the strike I've put in a hell of a lot of money," he said.

In the last week of the summer pools on the coupon, he sends £200,000 to his father, an

embalmer, and his brother, a civil engineer.

The Smiths, who live in Littlewoods pay-off houses in Nottingham, are a well-to-do family.

Three birds up £207,000. Mrs Smith from a £20,000. Mrs Smith from a £20,000. Mrs Smith from a £20,000.

## Document casts light on DHSS rules for families of strikers

### Guidance switch brings benefits blow to miners

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

Payments of supplementary benefits to families of striking miners are being cut as a result of new principles in the DHSS guidance issued by the Government.

The changes are contained in a document from the Chief Adjudication Officer entitled 'Additional guidance for Miners' strike 1978-79'.

The document says that loans from a social work department to a miner on strike are to be treated as income with no disregard allowed.

Weekly payments (including payments to husbands) are to be reduced by the amount of any supplementary benefits which would be payable if the miner were not on strike.

by members of the Chief Adjudication Officers' staff in response to queries from local adjudication offices, on questions not already covered in the existing 'S manual,' she wrote.

Mr Meacher has also accused the Government of altering the rules for Family Income Supplement by assessing family income before the start of the strike.

Mr Meacher says that such assessments made on the basis of a family's income in the five weeks prior to a claimant's strike would be a "sting in the tail" which would "bring down" the family's income.

Mrs Thatcher has repeatedly said that she would not "bring down" the family's income.

Family with two children paid just 5p in benefit  
DHSS 'are trying to starve strikers'

# STRIKERS' HANDBOOK

Striking family adds pet rabbit to the menu

Michael Parkin finds pits determine as how

A cheque for Martin from actress Susan George  
STRIKING miner Martin Smith struck gold yesterday with a £200,000 win on the pools.

Pit striker Martin's £200,000 goldmine

# A CLAIMANTS' UNION BENEFITS GUIDE



# Strikers Benefit Rates 1984

A. REQUIREMENTS			
<b>1. ADULT RATES</b>			
a. Striker	£ 0.00	.....	
b. Striker's partner (not on strike)	£21.45	.....	
c. Striker's partner (on strike)	£ 0.00	.....	
<b>2. CHILDREN</b>			
a. Aged 0 to 10 years	£ 9.15	.....	
b. Aged 11 to 15 years	£13.70	.....	
c. Aged 16 to 18 years	£16.50	.....	
<b>3. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS/UNP'S</b>			
a. Diet	£ 9.60+	.....	
b. Heating	£ 5.05	.....	
c. Blindness	£ 1.25+	.....	
d. Hire Purchase		.....	
<b>4. ACCOMODATION</b>			
a. Mortgage interest		.....	
b.		.....	
c.		.....	
Add these amounts up here .....			

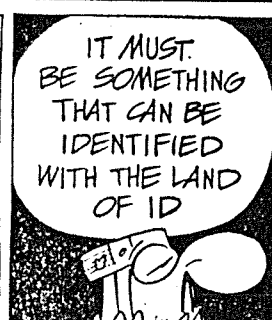
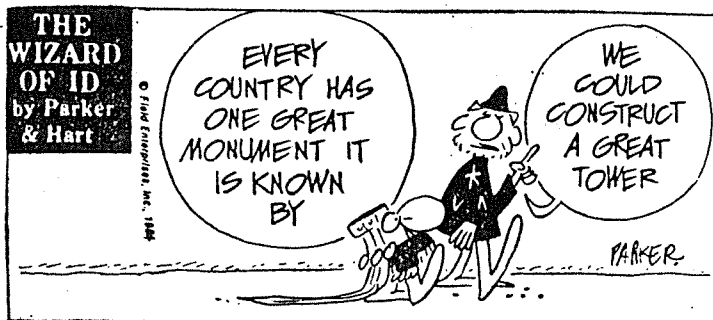
B. RESOURCES			
<b>5. UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT</b>			
a. Unemployed person	£27.05	.....	
b. Spouse	£16.70	.....	
c. Each child	£ 0.15	.....	
<b>6. CHILD BENEFIT</b>			
for each child	£ 6.50	.....	
<b>7. ONE PARENT ADDITION</b>			
	£ 4.05	.....	
<b>8. STRIKE PAY</b>			
for each striker	£15.00	.....	
<b>9. PART-TIME EARNINGS</b>			
deduct all income above £4.00		.....	
<b>10. LOANS</b>			
same as above		.....	
<b>11. HOUSING DEDUCTIONS</b>			
a. Claimant over 18 years	£ 3.10	.....	
b. Non-claimant 18-21 years		.....	
c. Non-claimant over 21 yrs		.....	
<b>12. OTHER INCOME</b>			
a. Maternity Benefit	£25.95	.....	
b. Sickness Benefit	£25.95	.....	
c. Maintenance payments		.....	
d. other income		.....	
Add these amounts up here .....			

A. TOTAL REQUIREMENTS .....

B. TOTAL RESOURCES .....

Subtract B. from A. ....

This difference is what a striker.  
will get each week .....



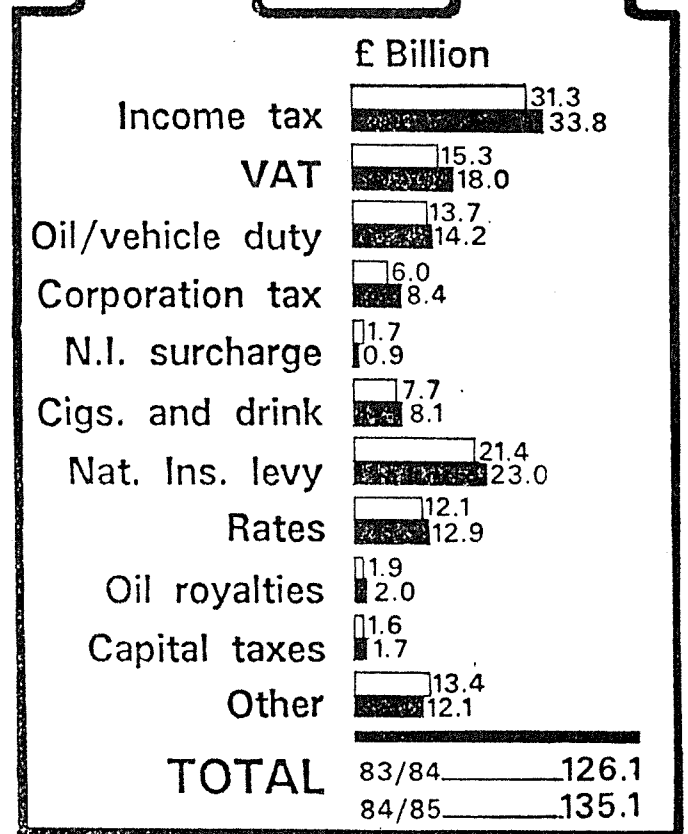
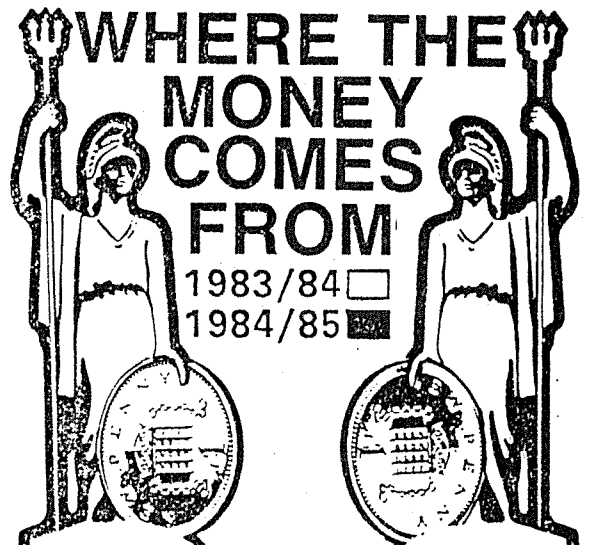
# Foreword

This **Claimants' Union Strikers' Handbook** is being produced in the middle of one of the bitterest industrial disputes of modern times. Regardless of the introduction of the Welfare State, this country is witnessing scenes of hardship unprecedented since the 1930s, scenes which should rightly belong in the Chamber of Horrors of the Labour History Museum, not on the streets of Britain's mining communities.

The **Claimants' Union** humbly offers this handbook to budding **Strikers' Claims committees** in the hope that it will enable their members to get the maximum for strikers' dependants, regardless of the callous indifference, and not infrequent maliciousness which confronts claimants at all levels of the Social Security system.

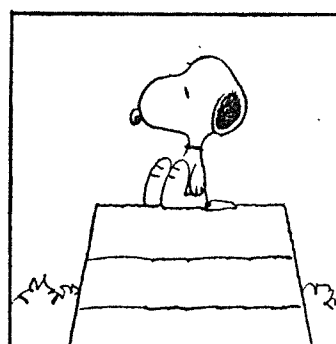
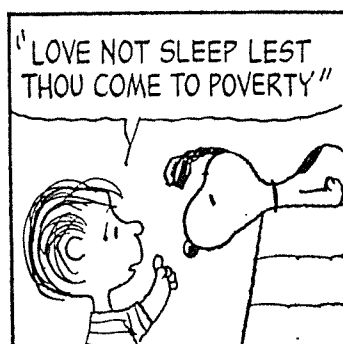
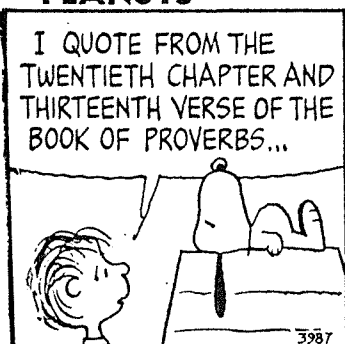
We apologise for some of the 'grey' areas in the text, mainly concerning the award of Housing benefit. This lack of clarity has been caused by our total inability to obtain up-to-date information about how the relevant Departments (Health and Social Security and Employment) and local authorities have been interpreting the constant stream of amendments to existing legislation governing the payment of benefit to strikers and their dependants.

This has been compounded by the present government's anxiety to close every 'loop-hole' which might create 'favourable' treatment benefiting a group of men and women who are constantly depicted as 'enemies of the State'. **The Claimants' Union**, as the representative of that group of citizens which is permanently seen as somehow among the 'outsiders' of society has most in common with strikers and their families. We alone can understand what it is like to try and maintain our dignity within communities which place



large store by the purchasing power of our fellows. It is to the maintenance of this dignity that the following claiming tactics are dedicated. **If unsure - claim. In unity - strength. Always appeal.**

## PEANUTS



by Schulz

# Introduction

## INTRODUCTION

Most strikes that fail do so because those in dispute are worn down by the financial hardship of trying to make ends meet on little or no income. For this reason, it is a vital part of strike-claiming tactics to make sure that everyone gets their maximum legal entitlement to benefit.

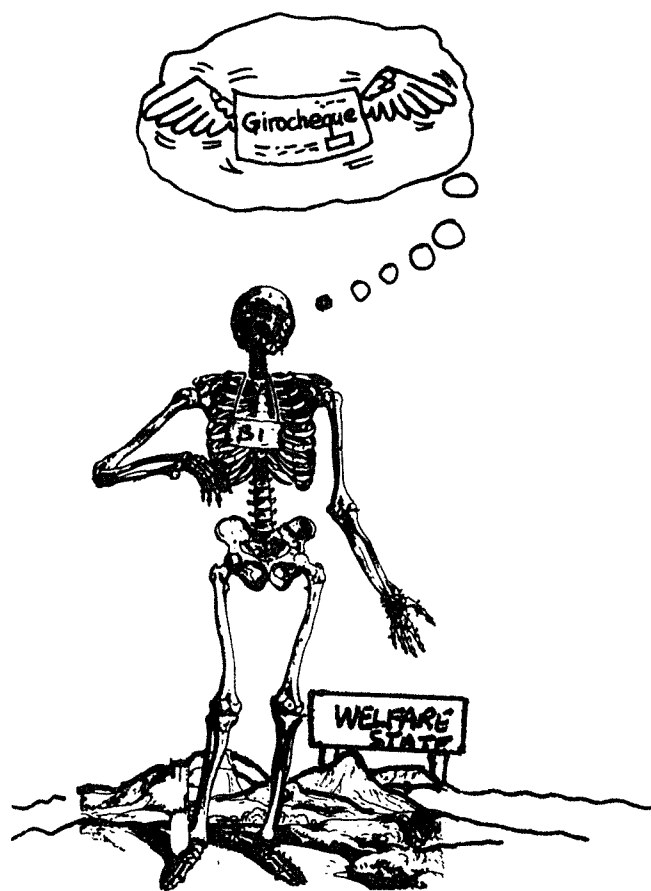
The present punitive social security legislation, brought in by the Government, has not only slashed the rights of the unemployed and other claimants, but is also intended as a strike-breaking weapon in the hand of the Government. It may surprise some people to learn, for example that it is possible for a single striker to be starving, and yet not to be entitled to any money - yes, 1984 is here!

It is important that those who read this publication understand that claimant benefits is not just a matter of going to the local social security office and filling in a form. As with trade union rights, you have to fight to get claimants' rights - benefits are not given to the claimant on a plate. To succeed, therefore, you must apply firm trade union principles in organising strike-claiming of benefits.

This booklet has been produced to assist our brothers and sisters in the trade union movement in negotiating their way through the maze of rules and regulations, and to pass on the Claimants' Union's experience on the best ways to organise to get your rights.



PRODUCED BY THE FEDERATION OF CLAIMANTS' UNIONS, 296 BETHNAL GREEN ROAD, LONDON E2 01-739:4173



## Contents

inside cover	Strikers Calculator
page 1	Foreword
page 2	Introduction
page 3	A Striking Difference
page 4	Who's on Strike?
page 5/6	Strike Claims Committees
page 7/8	Check It!
page 9/10	Urgent Needs
page 11	Additional Requirements
page 12	Equal Treatment
page 13/14	Housing Benefit
page 15	How to Appeal
page 16	The Appeals Tribunal
page 17	'Back to Work'
page 18	Supp Ben Calculator - 'non-striker'
page 19	Additional Requirement " "
page 20	Single Payments " "
page 21	Claimants Unions
page 22	Federation of Claimants Unions
page 23	Strikers Supp Ben Claim form
page 24	" " " " "
page	" " " " "
inside back	Strikers claim form

ISBN 0 906364 07 8

# A Striking Difference

## Morning Star

### Pregnant wives denied help

**Morning Star Reporter**  
A DERBYSHIRE miners' wife who had a baby recently could not afford nappies, basic sterilising equipment or even sanitary towels after being refused help by the Department of Health and Social Security.

This is just one of the cases described by ex-firefighter Harry Goacher, who has been helping miners' families with their claim.

"Pregnant women and new mothers are especially affected by these stonewalling tactics," Mr. Goacher explained.

Women were being told that there was no provision for them until their husbands had been out for 11 weeks.

"When women do claim their

£25 maternity grant, they have to prove they've spent it on the baby. Even then there is worry that it will be deducted from the benefit for strikers families," said Mr. Goacher.

He cited a case where a woman, expecting twins, was told: "there would be no help for the family until 11 weeks was up."

Throughout the dispute, there have been large-scale delays with milk tokens. Up to week eight of the strike, many families had received no supplementary benefits at all, Mr. Goacher said, but thanks to protests from the union and from miners' wives, payments have now speeded up.

Families whose children need clothes and shoes face special hardship.

### WHAT STRIKERS DON'T GET !!!!!!!

- p 4 Any supplementary benefit themselves!!!
  - p 13 housing benefit supplement money!!
  - p 17 free medicines by signing the back
  - p 17 " medical treatment at once!!!
  - p 12 extra heating cash if sick!!!!!!!
  - p 9 unchallenged extra diet cash!
  - p 10 extra laundry cash in need
  - p 17 prompt tax refunds!!!!!!!
  - p 7 holidays honoured !!!!!!!
  - p 11 newborn cash help!!!
  - p 11 cash help in digs!
  - p 11 eating out cash
- A SQUARE DEAL!**

## THE Sun Strike food parcels hit

FOOD hampers, money and other gifts to the families of striking miners are to be deducted from social security benefits.

The Government was accused of trying to starve the miners to defeat after Social Security Minister Dr Rhodes Boyson announced the changes in benefit rules from July.



Boyson . . . fiery meeting with MPs

Labour's deputy leader Roy Mattersley said: "This is further evidence that the Government has declared war on the poorest in society."

But a DHSS spokesman said: "This was decided long before the miners' strike started."

He denied the changes had been brought forward because of the strike.

The plans were revealed after an angry meeting between Dr Boyson and Labour MPs protesting about social security cuts to miners given interest-free loans by Left-wing councils.

Dr Boyson told them payments could also be cut to people who had been given food parcels or other gifts worth more than £4.

### WHAT THEIR FAMILIES DON'T RECEIVE!!!

- p 7 The Householder rate of Supp Benefit!!!!
  - p 8 Early cash help for newborn (11 weeks)
  - p 3 Unchallenged free schools dinners!!!!
  - p 3 " " " " uniforms!!
  - p 11 Extra help with laundry costs!!!!
  - p 11 Central heating additions!!!!!!!
  - p 11 Extra heating for new baby!
  - p 11 Diet for convalescents!!!!!!
  - p 11 Housing Benefit supp!!!!!!
- A SQUARE DEAL EITHER!**

## DAILY Mirror

# Quality of mercy

IF A striker, a widowed mother or a pensioner receives a food parcel, clothes, firewood or any gift worth more than £4, the DHSS may reduce their social security benefits.

That is the law and, in case there is any doubt about it, Dr Rhodes Boyson, the Social Security Minister, is issuing new regulations to make it absolutely clear.

His department protests that there is nothing new in these rules. But age doesn't make them the less petty.

To send out "clarification" in the middle of the miners' strike looks vindictive as well as mean.

### STRIKERS & THEIR FAMILIES DO GET

- TREATED to a regular TV & press DIET of lies about the causes of the dispute!!!
- TREATED to a twice-weekly HEATED PMs questions on the right to work!!!
- TREATED just like DIRTY WASHING not to be aired too much in public

# Who's on Strike?

**STRIKING** is not always as clear-cut as we try and make out. A **STRIKER**, regardless of whether s(he) considers her himself in dispute with an employer, is a worker who the **Adjudication officer** of the Department of Employment says is: (a) participating in a strike/dispute or (b) interested in its final outcome

If your **union** has not decided to join the strike and you are either locked-out or sacked as a result, this section is for you.

If, however, your **union** voted to strike and continues to support it to the bitter end, go to the next section: **CLAIMING BENEFIT**.

## NON-INVOLVEMENT CERTIFICATION

Your first move when any of the above circumstances apply is to go to the Department of Employment and try to sign on.

Once the local office gets wind of a dispute, the Adjudication officer will decide whether or not you are on strike. S(he) will bend credibility to infer that you are really part of the strike and have **no entitlement** to Unemployment benefit. On the strength of this decision, the DHSS will also disqualify you from benefit for yourself, but consider a claim for your dependants. If your partner is also considered to be part of a strike, they too would be disqualified from claiming either **Unemployment or Supplementary benefit**.

It is important to **appeal** against this decision immediately. The burden of guilt rests on you until the Adjudication officer changes the original decision. The most important piece of paper you can lay your hands on at this stage is a non-involvement certificate. This will reinstate your entitlement to both the above-mentioned benefits. It will also enable you to get an **income tax rebate**. **STRIKERS** don't get these until they go back to work. Unless, or until that non-involvement certificate has been issued, either because the Adjudication officer changes his/her mind, or their decision is reversed by an Appeals tribunal later on, you will continue to be treated as a striker regardless of your lack of support. **Now turn to PAGES 18 and 19** and see how little you get and, even more importantly, how even this is higher than your striking brothers and sisters live on.



## WHERE TO FIND THE LAW

Nowhere in this handbook will you find specific references to Commissioners' Decisions or Adjudication Officers' rulings on who is **entitled** to benefit. Below is a list of "required" reading for Strike Claims Committee members who want to use 'their' weapons to challenge departmental decisions:

The **Law Relating to Supplementary Benefits and Family Income Supplement** (commonly known as the Yellow Book), published by HMSO. This is supposed to be available to the public at DHSS offices.

**Supplementary Benefit Legislation Annotated** published for CPAG by Sweet and Maxwell. Costs about £15. A good buy.

The **S-manual** published by HMSO. This is the 'published' DHSS officers' bible.

**Welfare Rights Bulletin** published by CPAG bi-monthly. This is a handy update of changes in the law available from 1 Macklin St, London WC2.

**National Welfare Benefits Handbook** published by CPAG at £3.00 is also useful.

# Strike Claims Committee

This section explains why the Claimants' Union is so insistent upon an SCC, and will outline the essential tasks and role of this committee.

## Why form a Strike Claims committee?

- 1) Shop stewards are often so tied up with other aspects of the strike - negotiating, fund raising, picketing etc., that they can't devote their attention to this.
- 2) Strike claiming is a full-time job, often carrying on even after the dispute ends.

## The role of a Strike Claims committee

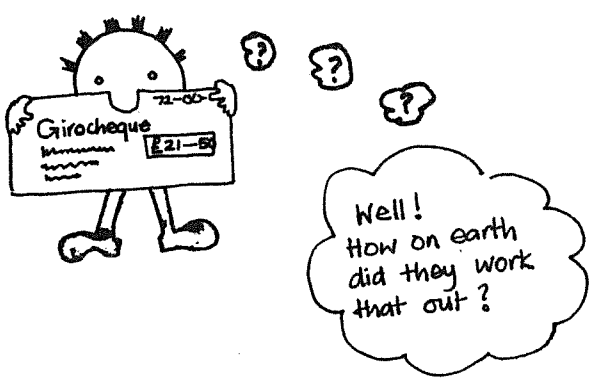
- 1) To get hold of full and up-to-date information on the rights of strikers and make sure that **members** know them all.
- 2) To provide full support and represent every striker in dealing with the DHSS, the Department of Employment and the local authorities.
- 3) To check that each striker has the maximum legal entitlement to benefit.
- 4) To assist strikers fill in forms and ensure that each claim is dealt with quickly and efficiently by the public body concerned.
- 5) To represent them at appeals tribunals.
- 6) To liaise with similar organisations in the area, and with welfare rights groups.



## The Tasks of the Strike Claims Committee

The first step is to elect a committee of strikers who are willing to learn about social security rights and to back up each and every striker in his or her claim. It may be that the committee will work together as a unit, or it may have to operate on an area basis, this will depend on the number of local DHSS offices that have to be covered. If the Strike Claims Committee is split up, then it is important that it meets on a regular basis to compare notes and for members to learn from each other's successes and failures.

Local and national welfare rights organisations, also Trade Union research departments will have to be contacted to make sure that the committee has full and up-to-date information on strikers' rights. This is vital because legislation and rates of benefit change so frequently.





It is also useful to open up lines of communication with specialists in social security so that advice can be sought on unusual or difficult claims.

Members of the SCC will have to become familiar with the way Supplementary Benefit and Housing Benefit are worked out, and with the basic rules of entitlement that affect strikers. They must know where to look up the law if they are not sure about someone's rights.

Produce fact sheets to give to strikers before they make claims for benefit telling them some of the following items:

- 1) Where to make claims for Unemployment, if applicable, supplementary and/or housing benefit, free school meals etc.
- 2) How their benefits are worked out.
- 3) What documents will be needed when they do try and claim these benefits.
- 4) Advice to insist on a full assessment form (A124) from the DHSS not an A14N.
- 5) An explanation of the benefits of making claims to the DHSS etc with the knowledge and guidance of the SCC.

Draw up lists of where these various agencies are situated, and arrange for fast interviews for your striking members. Consider contacting the staff associations in these agencies to ensure that there are no obstacles to claims being processed with a minimum of delay. Don't forget to remind the more unsympathetic ones that they too are trade unionists. The DHSS will occasionally set up special offices to process strike claims. If they do, it is important that these aren't just being used as a means of slowing down the process of assessing benefit. They should have senior staff prepared to reach decisions, rather than just be shadow offices with no phones etc. Experience has taught us that these offices are only used to segregate strikers from a local DHSS office's 'regular' claimants. If you feel that claims are being slowed down because of this - **complain to the DHSS regional office.** Alternatively, use the threat of adverse press publicity and try and recruit the shop stewards of the staff associations inside the DHSS offices to help.

Which DHSS office strikers go to depends on where they live, not, as in the case of the Unemployment Benefit Office, which one takes their fancy. Map out which DHSS office strikers should go to and check their A124 forms for errors. Encourage strikers to go along and represent new claimants at the DHSS if your organisation is stretched fighting complicated claims/appeals. Remember, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing for the DHSS.

Often it is a good tactic to arrange for strikers to go to a local office together. This mass presence will often act as a gentle hint to the DHSS to be reasonable.

## THE GUARDIAN

# MP will challenge free dinners

A **TORY MP** and a group leader yesterday criticised two Labour-controlled councils for giving free school meals during the Easter holidays to the children of miners on strike.

Mr Matthew Parris, MP for Derbyshire West, described the Derbyshire County Council decision as a bit of political posturing behind the usual mask of social concern.

Mr Parris is waiting until the strike is over — "things are rather emotional at the moment" — before referring the decision to the district auditor. He said the children should be taken case by case rather than generally.

Mr Barrie Gregory, leader of the minority Conservative group on Doncaster borough council, accused "the NUM-dominated council" of giving "the meals, at an estimated cost of £16,000 a week, irrespective of need, when the council was claiming that other services had to be cut.

"It appears that the council is helping in a political dispute," he said. "Arthur Scargill has said that this is a political dispute, that it is a fight against the Tory Government. I will be making inquiries to see whether the council is acting legally."

Derbyshire council seems to have forestalled Mr Parris. The schools sub-committee made it clear that the sole purpose was to respond speedily to a special need.

Mr Pat Mullany, chairman of the education services committee at Doncaster, said that children were entitled to free school meals under the 1980 Education Act if their parents were drawing supplementary benefit.

Normally, about 12,000 of the 54,000 children in the borough were entitled to the service and the figure had risen to about 17,000 since the strike.

Barnsley council has opened 17 of its 50 schools for free meals for children over the holiday, and is also applying the supplementary benefit test. The Labour leader, Mr Fred Lunn, said: "Miners' families are in dire straits. The council likes to help whenever it is possible to help."

The three councils have yet to decide whether the cost should be met from the education budget or contingency funds.

By Michael Parkin



# Check It

## HOW YOUR BENEFIT IS WORKED OUT

Supplementary benefit is worked out according to very complicated rules. The amount a striker will get depends on their requirements and their resources.

### **Requirements :**

Striker's requirements are divided into three parts:

**a. normal requirements** - this is the amount the law says a striker needs for basic living expenses.

**b. additional requirements** - this is the amount given for any extra weekly needs a striker or his or her dependants may have.

**c. housing requirements** - this is the amount given towards a striker's housing costs. A striker may have to apply to the local council for rent and rates rebate (standard housing benefit cases).

### **Resources :**

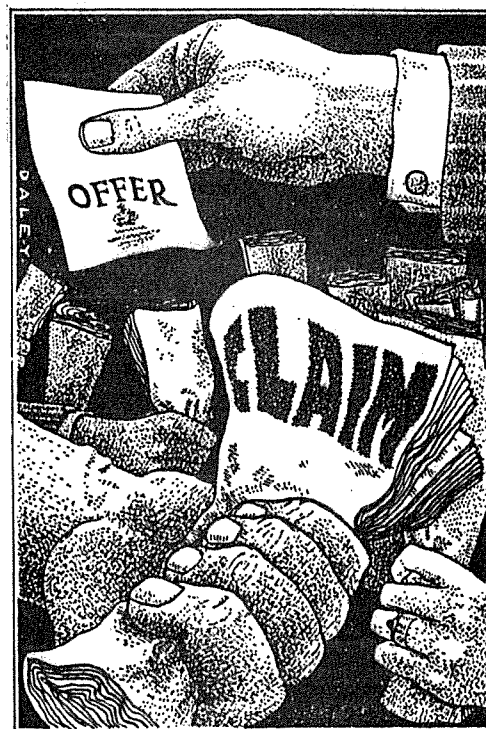
Striker's resources are divided into two kinds, income and capital.

**a. income** - this is regarded as money a striker has coming in each week from earnings, benefits, maintenance, child benefit etc. Strike pay is counted as income and, even if a striker does not get any strike pay, the DHSS deems strikers to be receiving a fixed amount.

In addition to this the DHSS will also try to count as income other things such as Local Authority food vouchers, payment vouchers from Social Services (including loans), donations received etc. It is very important for strikers to argue with the DHSS on this point. As long as the payment is a non-recurring one it does not count as income, but as capital, and should be disregarded for the purposes of supplementary benefit calculation.

If a striker is getting a small amount each week then every penny received will come off their benefit. But if the dependant of the striker gets the money then the £4.00 a week is disregarded.

**b. capital** - this includes striker's savings, any property apart from the place they live in. Any capital up to a total of £3000 is disregarded for supplementary benefit purposes. The DHSS will treat one-off payments from local authorities etc. as capital.



Strikers' last week's earnings will, if more than 2½ times their supplementary benefit requirements, will be treated as income, ie., they are supposed to last the striker and his or her dependants for a period into the strike.

However, any holiday pay that strikers accept while on strike will disqualify them from receiving supplementary benefit. The DHSS will deem them to be 'at work'

If there is any disagreement with the DHSS decision - appeal.

The amount of weekly benefit is calculated by deducting resources from requirements:

### **Example**

Denis and Joan are married. They have three children, aged 6, 11 and 14 years. Joan does no paid work. Denis is on strike and claims benefit. The family has no capital resources.

### **Requirements :-**

£00.00	.... Denis (no supplementary benefit because on strike)
£21.45	.... Joan (receives the non-householder rate)
£ 9.15	.... Child aged 6
£13.70	.... Child aged 11
£13.70	.... Child aged 14
-----	
£58.00	.... this is the total requirements of the family

## Resources:-

£19.50	....	child Benefit for the three children per week
£15.00	....	Deemed strike pay
-----		
£34.50	....	Total income per week

Thus the amount of supplementary benefit the family will receive each week will be £58.00 less £34.50 = £23.50

**Help with Housing Costs**

Strikers who do not qualify for supplementary benefit will be able to claim standard housing benefit from their local council.

Striker's dependants who do qualify for some supplementary benefit will be able to claim help with their rent and rates rebates. This regulation will only affect strikers who have dependants. Whether strikers or their dependants get standard or certificated housing benefit, the amount awarded will depend on a means test.

**Interim Payments**

Private tenants on strike can get help with housing costs from their local council or the DHSS (ie. interim payment) to pay their landlord if there is a threat of eviction.

**Family with two children paid just 5p in benefit**

# DHSS 'are trying to starve strikers back'

**Morning Star Reporter**

THERE is now mounting evidence of a government-inspired effort to force striking miners back to work by starving their families.

In some cases, a miner with a wife and two children to support has received just 5 pence supplementary benefit from the Department of Health and Social Security.

Ray Jones, who has been assisting miners with supplementary benefit claims in Chesterfield, said yesterday: "The situation is already grim. There is a steady stream of families, who have had no payments at all."

Under supplementary benefit rules, male strikers are allowed to claim for their dependants. However, £15 a week strike pay is being taken off, even though the National Union of Mine-workers has never given strike pay.

"This is what is making life much harder than in the 1972 and 1974 strikes," Mr. Jones said.

**TYPICAL**

He cited a number of typical cases, where he thought the DHSS attitude was lacking in compassion.

**Case 1:** A miner whose wife is dying of cancer applied for benefit at the start of the strike. Since then, he has had no payment, and now he has no food or fuel either.

Despite his inquiries, he was never informed that his wife might be eligible for other benefits, like invalidity benefit.

**Case 2:** A miners' wife, the mother of twins, went to the DHSS for a new child benefit book. Her old book was handed

in to be processed. A week later she was still waiting for her book.

**Case 3:** A miner's wife recently had a third child. Her husband entered on his supplementary benefit form that the family was receiving £13 child benefit.

The child benefit book was sent for renewal. It has not been returned by the DHSS, though they are still subtracting £13 a week from the man's supplementary benefit.

**RARE DISEASE**

**Case 4:** A miner, whose son suffers from the rare disease Phenylketonuria, has been refused an allowance for his son's special diet. Without a special gluten-free diet, the youngster may suffer permanent brain damage.

The DHSS refusal to provide a dietary allowance has upset the family. The local social services have also refused help —ironically the day after its director promised "We will help needy cases."

These cases are only the tip of the iceberg, according to Mr. Jones. There is evidence of delaying tactics by the DHSS.

"This takes various forms," he explained. "Pay slips are lost and everything is done by post."

Frequently miners are refused help because they are due tax rebates, but they cannot get the rebates because they are frozen until they return to work. As a result, no benefit is paid.

The most vicious tactic, though, is the refusal to give mothers baby food tokens. Mr. Jones says: "Tokens just don't arrive, when they are said to be in the envelope. This is a deliberate delay designed to harass women and children."

	£	p
	21.45	
	9.15	
	13.70	
Add on		
Add on		
Add on		
TOTAL SO FAR	44.30	
Take away	29.25	
THIS LEAVES	15.05	
Take away		
Add on	15.00	
TOTAL	05	
Take away		
Add on		
3-2-84	05	

Just 5p from the DHSS (above) for a miner with a wife and two children.

# Urgent Needs Payments

## URGENT NEEDS PAYMENTS

There are two basic types of urgent needs payment - both lump sum and weekly - the latter are reviewed regularly.

To qualify, strikers and their dependants must prove (by producing such evidence as letters or bank statements) that the need cannot be met by:

- 1) Anyone else in the household
- 2) A public authority
- 3) A trade union or other emergency relief fund
- 4) Credit companies or bank overdraft etc.

Strikers also have to prove that an urgent needs payment is the only means by which the need can be met.

### Urgent Needs Payments for Single Striker

This is, without doubt the most difficult payment to claim. The law prohibits single strikers claiming supplementary benefit for themselves, so they have no income apart from any strike pay they may get. However, there are two possible methods of getting a weekly urgent needs payment.

A striker can claim under Regulation 4 of the Trades Disputes Regulations. The Regulation applies to emergency relief as defined by Part II of the Supplementary Benefit (urgent cases) Regulations, 1980.

This regulation is intended to be used in the case of a disaster overtaking a striker or his or her family, eg. fire and flood. This regulation applies for 14 days immediately following the disaster, and after that payment can only be made at the discretion of the Secretary of State.

According to a Commissioner's decision (RSB 1/83) the definition of a disaster is 'anything that befalls of a ruinous or distressing nature; or misadventure; a calamity'. Remember that any payments strike is over. This is to be done by the employer in the same way as an advance of supplementary benefit to tide the striker over the first weeks before receipt of wages.

A striker can also claim a discretionary urgent needs payment under Regulation 24 of the Urgent Cases Regulations. This is perhaps the best bet, although still extremely difficult to get.

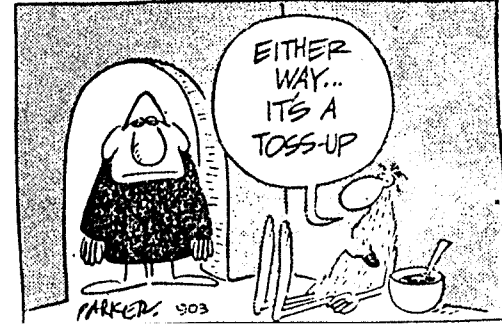
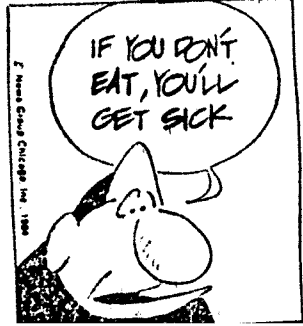
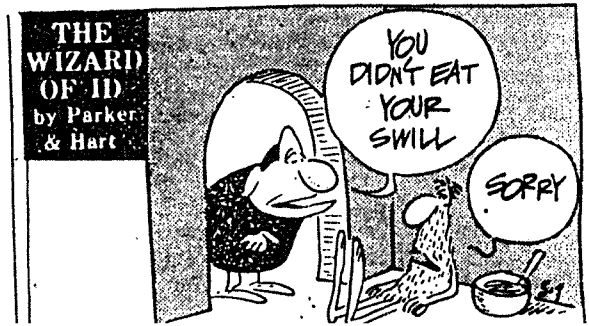
Regulation 3(1) of the Urgent Cases Regulations states:

'...urgent cases shall be, except in so far as Part II of the Supplementary Benefit (Trade Dispute and Recovery from Earnings) Regulations, 1980 provide otherwise, only those cases to which Parts I to IV apply.....'

Part IV includes Regulation 24, which is a provision for a discretionary urgent needs payments if the normal rules of entitlement do not apply - which is the case for a single striker.

There is nothing in Part II of the Trades Disputes Regulations which debar a single striker from claiming this payment. The best tactics, therefore, is to use both the above arguments and arrange mass claims of single strikers, with as much support as possible from their colleagues.

It is vital for strikers to stand firm when claiming urgent needs payments as the DHSS will not pay them out easily, even if all the evidence is provided. However, don't take 'no' for an answer.



## Other Urgent Needs Payments

Neither strikers nor their families get single payments for things like furniture and bedding like other claimants. But strikers can get some of these things (usually called additional requirements) under the Urgent Cases Regulations.

To qualify, strikers should have no capital resources available and must be unable to get help elsewhere, eg., loans, credit etc., and supplementary benefit payment is the only way the need can be met. The following are some of the payments:

- 1) Diet - strikers can claim a weekly urgent needs payment for themselves if they are on renal dialysis or are put on a medically prescribed diet the cost of which is more than £9.60. For this claim, a letter from a doctor is required.
- 2) School transport - strikers can get a weekly urgent needs payment if they have a handicapped or disabled child and it needs special transport to school and the local authority will not provide the facility.
- 3) Baby expenses - strikers can claim this only if the baby is born or adopted after the striker has been on strike for 11 weeks continuously. Any maternity grant the striker gets will be deducted from the amount paid out in supplementary benefit.
- 4) Fire-guard - the DHSS should provide this if you have a child under 5 or an infirm or aged relative living with you.
- 5) Cooker or Heater - The DHSS will ask the striker to repair an existing appliance before awarding the cost of a reconditioned one. However, if the repair cannot be done immediately, or it costs more than buying a reconditioned one, the DHSS should give money for a reconditioned one.

**Daily Telegraph** Saturday, June 2nd 1984

## Pit children in protest

**F**ORTY miners' children left at a social security office in Dover yesterday in a protest over allowance for strikers.

Their mothers, who had been refused an interview with a senior official, told staff: "You feed them, we can't."

After 20 minutes a senior officer agreed to meet a delegation and explained that he could not pay more because he was bound by legislation. A backlog in payments was due to staff shortages, he said.

The wives, all of Kent miners, then left peacefully.

"We were driven to desper-

ation with so little money to feed our children," said Mrs Sue Bence, a mother of four, from the pit village of Aylesham.

She said some of the children had begun crying. "Of course we did not wish harm to come to them. We left them there as a gesture until somebody in authority agreed to speak to us."

The delegation of wives, from areas including Thanet, Deal and Aylesham, were protesting at delays in payment of benefits and the assumption in law that all miners were receiving £15-a-week strike pay. The National Union of Mineworkers is not paying strike pay.



If no reconditioned appliance is available, the DHSS can pay for a deposit to get one on hire purchase. The DHSS can also give the striker an additional requirement to meet the weekly cost, though this will be lowest amount acceptable to the hire purchase company.

- 6) Occasional Visits to Hospital - the DHSS treats the striker differently from his or her dependants. The DHSS will pay for a dependant to visit a close relative, eg. brother, sister, step parent, step child etc. to hospital or elsewhere if their life is in danger. The relative must have been a member of the household before being admitted into hospital or becoming ill. However, if the dependant visiting a sick relative is unable to travel alone, the DHSS will pay for an escort (this can be the striker).

The striker can claim fares to visit someone in hospital or similar institution if either the person visited is their partner, or there is no-one else in the family to visit a close relative, or the close relative is in danger of dying.

The DHSS can pay 2nd class fares unless there is no public transport available in which case DHSS will pay for a taxi or the cost of petrol. The DHSS will also pay for the cost of an overnight stay if the trip cannot be made in one day or else it is reasonable for the visitor to stay longer, eg, to see a child through a crisis.

- 7) Disaster - the DHSS can pay if a striker or their dependants are affected by a disaster such as fire or flood. However, once the trade dispute is over, DHSS will force returning strikers to pay back money considered to be borrowed rather than granted to meet urgent need.

# Additional Requirements

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Strikers can get regular weekly additions to benefits to cover particular expenses. These payments are officially known as 'additional requirements'. The Supplementary Benefit (requirements) Regulations list all the circumstances when an additional payment should be given. Claimants who satisfy the conditions will be able to claim the extra benefit. However, for strikers and their dependants different regulations apply which are more punitive.

### Additional Requirements for Striker

Strikers cannot get additional requirements for themselves - except for very limited help with hire purchase repayments (ie. for replacement cooker or heater).

### Additional Requirements for Strikers' Dependants

Strikers' dependants can get additional requirements but even then they qualify for far fewer payments than other claimants. The following are circumstances in which dependants can get extra benefit:

1) Heating - Strikers' dependants can get payments if they have a physical illness and cannot be left on their own. If a dependant suffers from a serious illness ie arthritis of the spine or is receiving



attendance or mobility allowance, the payment for heating should be automatic. The easiest and most effective way of obtaining an additional requirement is to get a note from the doctor supporting the claim.

2) Diet - Dependants qualify if they are diabetic, have a peptic ulcer, stomach or duodenal ulcer, ulcerative colitis, a type of TB that needs drugs treatment or a condition causing serious difficulty in swallowing, eg cancer of the larynx. of the larynx.



If the dependants need to follow a medically prescribed diet that is 'substantially in excess' of the normal diet addition then the DHSS should award the actual cost of the diet. Similarly, there is also a higher diet addition for people who are on kidney machines.

3) Blindness - Dependants who are blind can only get this addition if they are aged 16 years or more. If they are over 18, in addition to this they get an amount equal to the difference between the householder and the non-householder rate.

4) Fares to Hospital - Strikers' dependants who need to make regular visits to a close relative in hospital or a similar institution can get the weekly cost of the fare.

**Morning Star** Saturday, May 19th 1984

## 'We've ways of axing your cash'

	Department of Employment Unemployment Benefit Office, Whitwick Road, Coalville, Leics. Telephone 36291
Mr R. Girvan, COALVILLE, Leicester.	Your reference Our reference RD/GSB Date 3rd May 1984
Dear Mr Girvan.	
In connection with your claim for unemployment benefit and supplementary allowance. I note that you did not attend this	
Who advised you not to cross the picket line on 9.4.84 ? Has the picket line been in force on each day since 9.4.84 ? If not, on what days was it there ? If the picket line was not continually in force did you resume work on the days when it was not in force? If you did not, please give your reasons. If Harworth pit was to close, would you be made redundant or would you be transferred to another pit ? A pre-paid envelope is enclosed for your reply. Yours sincerely,  Manager.	

# Equal Treatment

Historically women have been denied any right to social security benefit. Traditionally a man has been seen as the 'breadwinner' and social security claimant. The woman has simply been seen as a 'housewife' and financial dependant.

Women now account for about 40% of the labour force, and this has affected dramatically the roles of men and women. Striking is no longer a male preserve. Women are now involved in trade union activities, and take an active part in industrial disputes.

A person on strike may feel under pressure since they are unable to feed and clothe their children and other dependants. And it may be adding insult to injury to suggest that the striker gives up the role of claimant and allows a non-striking partner to deal with the DHSS.

Pride at this time could be costing a striker and his or her family a great deal. We suggest that partners seriously consider the question of **role swapping**.

There is nothing in law to prevent a striker's partner claiming supplementary benefit providing the partner fulfils certain conditions as outlined below. The greatest snag would seem to be that of delaying a claim to benefit.

## A STRIKER'S PARTNER CAN CLAIM SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT IF DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS THAT PARTNER HAS BEEN:-

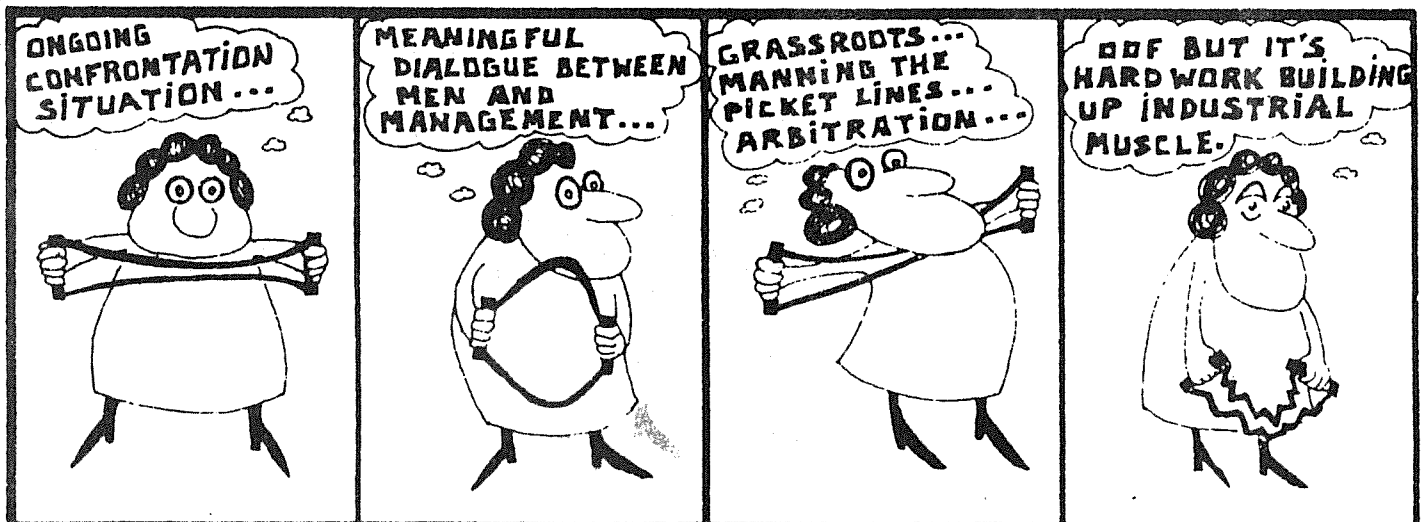
1. In a full-time or part-time job.
2. 'Signing On' as unemployed.



3. A single parent.
4. A full-time student.
5. Living abroad.
6. In prison.
7. On strike.
8. On an MSC Course eg TOPs or YTS.
9. Getting Invalid Care Allowance.
10. Caring for a severely disabled person.
11. Caring for a close relative who is sick.
12. Submitting sick certificates to the DHSS
13. In receipt of a retirement pension, or was in employment after the age of 55

The advantage of the non-striking partner claiming supplementary benefit is that any payments made by the DHSS during the first 15 days back at work will not be recovered.

Also, the non-striking partner can claim benefit if the family's requirements exceeds their resources, regardless of the striking partner's final wages, which the DHSS will not count as income for benefit purposes.



# Housing Benefit

## HELP WITH HOUSING COSTS

Striker's dependants who are receiving some supplementary benefit will be able to get help with water rates and mortgage repayments from the DHSS. Single strikers and striker's dependants will have to apply to their local council for standard housing benefit. Like the supplementary benefit system, housing benefit is worked out using a means test.

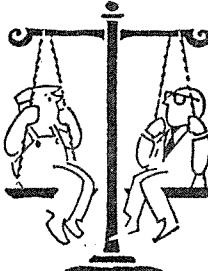
Single strikers living in privately rented accommodation will be able to claim an Urgent Needs payment from the DHSS if there is a threat of eviction.

To get standard housing benefit, fill in an application form as soon as possible as payments can only be made from the date of the claim. The local housing authority will require evidence of any earnings from the striker or his/her dependants and proof of rent payments.

The amount of rent and rates rebate given will depend on the difference between the 'needs allowance' and the total income of the striker and striker's partner, and also the number of non-dependants living in the house.

If the local council insists on counting the £15.00 strike pay as income then challenge their decision because it is illegal.

**THE POVERTY TRAP**



MAN EARNING £60 A WEEK		MAN EARNING £120 A WEEK	
HE GETS	BENEFITS	HE GETS	BENEFITS
£15.75	Family Income supplement	—	—
£ 5.00	Free school meals	—	—
£12.59	Rent rebate	£ 3.92	—
£ 4.15	Rate rebate	£ 1.21	—
£11.70	Child benefit	£11.70	—
<b>Total pay and benefits</b>		<b>Total pay and benefits</b>	
<b>£109.19</b>		<b>£136.83</b>	
LOSSES		LOSSES	
£ 3.89	Income Tax	£21.89	Income Tax
£ 5.25	National Insurance	£10.50	National Insurance
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<b>NET INCOME</b>	
<b>£100.05</b>		<b>£104.44</b>	

## Calculating Striker's Needs Allowance

a. The needs allowance will depend on the number of people in the household, and the following rates will apply as from 1st April 1984:

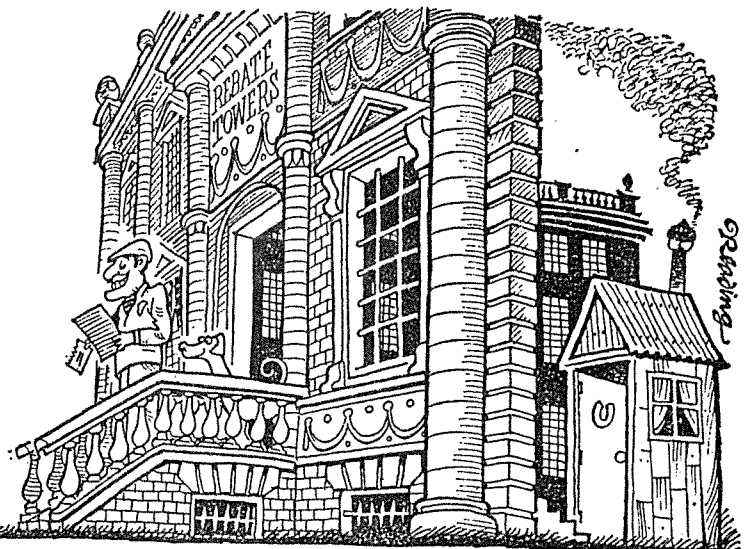
Single person	£43.05	.....
Couple (with one striker or both on strike)	£63.50	.....
Single parent	£63.50	.....
for each child	£11.90	.....
		.....

**Striker's total needs allowance is**

b. If the striker or striker's partner is registered disabled, then the following rates apply:

Single person	£48.00	.....
Couple (one of them is disabled)	£68.45	.....
Single parent	£68.45	.....

**The first rate way to a rebate**





### Calculating Rent and Rates Rebates

A striker will have to work out the total income per week of the family and then compare this amount with the needs allowance.

a. If the income is **less** than the needs allowance:

Rent rebate will be 60% x rent, and 25% of the difference between income and needs allowance.

Rent rebate will be 60% of rent, and 25% of the difference between income and needs allowance.

Rates rebate will be 60% of rates, and 8% of the difference between income and needs allowance.

b. If the income is **equal** to the needs allowance:

Rent rebate will be 60% of rent.

Rates rebates will be 60% of rates.

c. If the income is **more** than the needs allowance:

Rent rebate will be 60% of rent, less 26% of the difference between income and needs allowance.

Rates rebate will be 60% of rates, less 9% of the difference between income and needs allowance.

### Other Deductions

If there are non-dependants living in the house, then depending on whether they are working or not, the following deductions will be made from rent and rates rebates:

Dependants 18 to 20 years (on supp. benefit)	£ 0.00	.....
Non-dependants 18 to 20 years (on supp. benefit)	£ 0.00	.....
Non-dependants 21 years or over (on supp. benefit)	£ 3.10	.....
Non-dependants 18 years or over (doing paid work)	£ 8.20	.....

# Guidance switch brings benefits blow to miners

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

Payments of supplementary benefits to families of striking miners are being cut as a result of new principles in the payments guidance issued by the DISS. The changes are contained in a document from the Chief Adjudication Officer entitled "additional guidance: Miners' strike 1984."

The document says that loans from a social work department to a miner on strike are to be treated as income, with no disregard allowed.

### Paint stripper attack, page 4

Weekly payments (including loans) from social work departments to miners' wives for family needs are regarded as income, with a £4 disregard.

Cash payments to miners by the National Coal Board in lieu of concessionary coal are treated as earnings. Meal vouchers for strikers' children are regarded as income, with a £4 disregard, and a one-off payment made by local authority vouchers to miners' families is treated as capital.

Although some of these changes have emerged in an ad hoc fashion through the strike, this is the first time that the comprehensive document, "Guidance additional to that in the S Manual: Miners strike 1984" has come to light.

Mr Meacher, the Opposition's social services spokesman, wrote to the Prime Minister describing the changes as a "blatant manipulation of social security for political ends — namely to bend the rules to put maximum pressure on the miners to starve them back to work. For the first time loans are being deducted from benefits. For the first time payments in kind are being deducted from benefits. Your carefully rehearsed defence that the Government is not intervening in this dispute has been exposed for the deceit it always was."

Mrs Thatcher has replied to Mr Meacher by saying that any changes merely represent "interpretation" of the existing regulations. "Interpretation of the law is for independent adjudicating authorities and ministers have no power to intervene or influence their decisions . . . guidance is given

by members of the Chief Adjudication Officers' staff in response to queries from local adjudication officers on questions not already covered in the existing S manual," she wrote.

Mr Meacher has also accused the Government of altering the rules for Family Income Supplement by assessing family income before the start of the overtime ban which began last November. Mr Meacher claims that such assessments would normally be made on the basis of a family's income in the five weeks prior to a claim. Mrs Thatcher has replied by saying that any changes of this kind would be a matter for adjudicating authorities and not ministers.

The resumption of talks between the NCB and the NUM over the dispute is now expected tomorrow at a secret venue in South Yorkshire.

Mr Scargill yesterday had informal talks with Mr Jimmy Knapp and Mr Ray Buckton, leaders of the railwaymen and engine drivers. The rail leaders later spent three hours at the Shirebrook, Nottinghamshire, rail depot in an attempt to persuade members of the NUR to abide by the union's instruction to black the movement of coal. Afterwards, they described the meeting as "friendly and constructive" and said their members recognised the threat to their own jobs as well as those of the miners.

An NUR spokesman stressed last night that Mr Knapp was not planning any disciplinary action against the Shirebrook depot.

The NUS said yesterday it has held up 20 ships so far as a result of the existing ban.

No union has yet been asked formally to black oil movements despite the fact the CEEGB has switched from coal-fired to oil-fired stations. The difficulty for the miners is that most oil is piped direct from the refineries to the power stations. The transport unions could help by refusing to drive in essential gases and maintenance materials. The CEEGB said yesterday that about 30 of its power stations are being picketed.

Mr Scargill will also be pressing his case at a meeting of the executive of the Transport and General Workers' Union, which he will attend after a march through Fleet Street by 5,000 miners.

# How to Appeal

A striker can appeal against almost any decision of the DHSS or the Department of Employment concerning a claim for benefit or a demand for repayment of any money paid to a striker previously.

The written decision from the relevant department will usually give a striker 28 days to appeal within. Late appeals will only be considered by the chairperson of the tribunal if there is good reasons for the delay.

If a striker's appeal cannot be heard immediately, or there is an urgent need of money, the local benefit office can make an Urgent Needs payment up to the date of the hearing.

If there is a threat of fuel disconnection, this can often be postponed by notifying the Fuel Liaison officer of the relevant fuel authority.

## How to Appeal

Even though benefit offices have 'official' appeal forms, strikers are not obliged to use them. But make sure that the following points are included in the appeal letter:

a. the top of the letter is headed with the word 'APPEAL' and start the letter with the line 'I wish to appeal against your decision because ....'.

b. briefly mention in the letter the reasons why the decision of the DHSS is wrong, unless the striker nor the representative are going to attend the hearing, in which case all the relevant points should be mentioned in detail.

c. the appeal letter should be dated and signed by the striker.

Remember to keep a copy. This is often difficult if the DHSS's official appeal form is used.

## What Happens Next

If the local DHSS office receives the appeal letter, the striker will receive an acknowledgement either from the office or from the clerk to the appeal tribunal. This will just confirm receipt of the



appeal letter and a promise of an early hearing date. Contact the appeals officer from the local DHSS office if the appeal is taking long time to process.

Appeal papers will be sent to the striker, indicating the time and place of the hearing.

Appeal papers will be sent to the striker, indicating the time, date and place of the hearing. It will also tell the striker of their right to take two representatives to the hearing. It is a good idea to attend the hearing, preferably with representatives as this increases the chances of winning an appeal.

**Daily Telegraph**

Saturday, May 12th 1984

## 800 HANDLING MINERS' CLAIMS

Approximately 800 Social Services staff are handling mineworkers' claims for benefit said Dr Rhodes Boyson, Minister of State for Social Security in a Commons written reply yesterday.

About 160 of these were employed in four special centres in Chesterfield, Stoke-on-Trent, Castleford and Ashington. Additional accommodation required was costing £990 a week.



"Mind you, it helps keep us in full employment!"

# Appeals Tribunal

## Tribunal Members

Sitting opposite you will be the three members of the tribunal. In the middle is the chairperson, who has most power, on either side sit somebody representing the **workers'** interests, who is nominated by the local Trades Council, and a person who is chosen to represent **local** interests, either commerce or communal. This could be a social worker, bank manager, accountant, even the manager of the local supermarket or a minister of the cloth.

The chairperson has to be legally qualified and have some knowledge of Social security law. The tribunal hearings are **open to the public**, and it is a good idea to bring your friends along to give you moral support, even though they won't be allowed to speak, unless as a witness.

If one of the tribunal members doesn't show up, you have the right to ask for an adjournment. You should get an early date for a re-hearing of your appeal. In practice, you might not be able to hold on for this length of time, but the DHSS **could** make a payment to tide you over until that tribunal has actually considered your appeal. **Use your right to adjourn.**

## Adjudication officers

These are senior officials based at the DHSS regional office who act as 'prosecuting council' against you - the appellant. They frequently present the DHSS case before the same chairperson, and can often 'play' on the prejudices of tribunal regulars by bringing up irrelevant or hearsay 'facts'. Challenge these at once. The success of the Adjudication officer can influence their promotion prospects.

## The Appellant

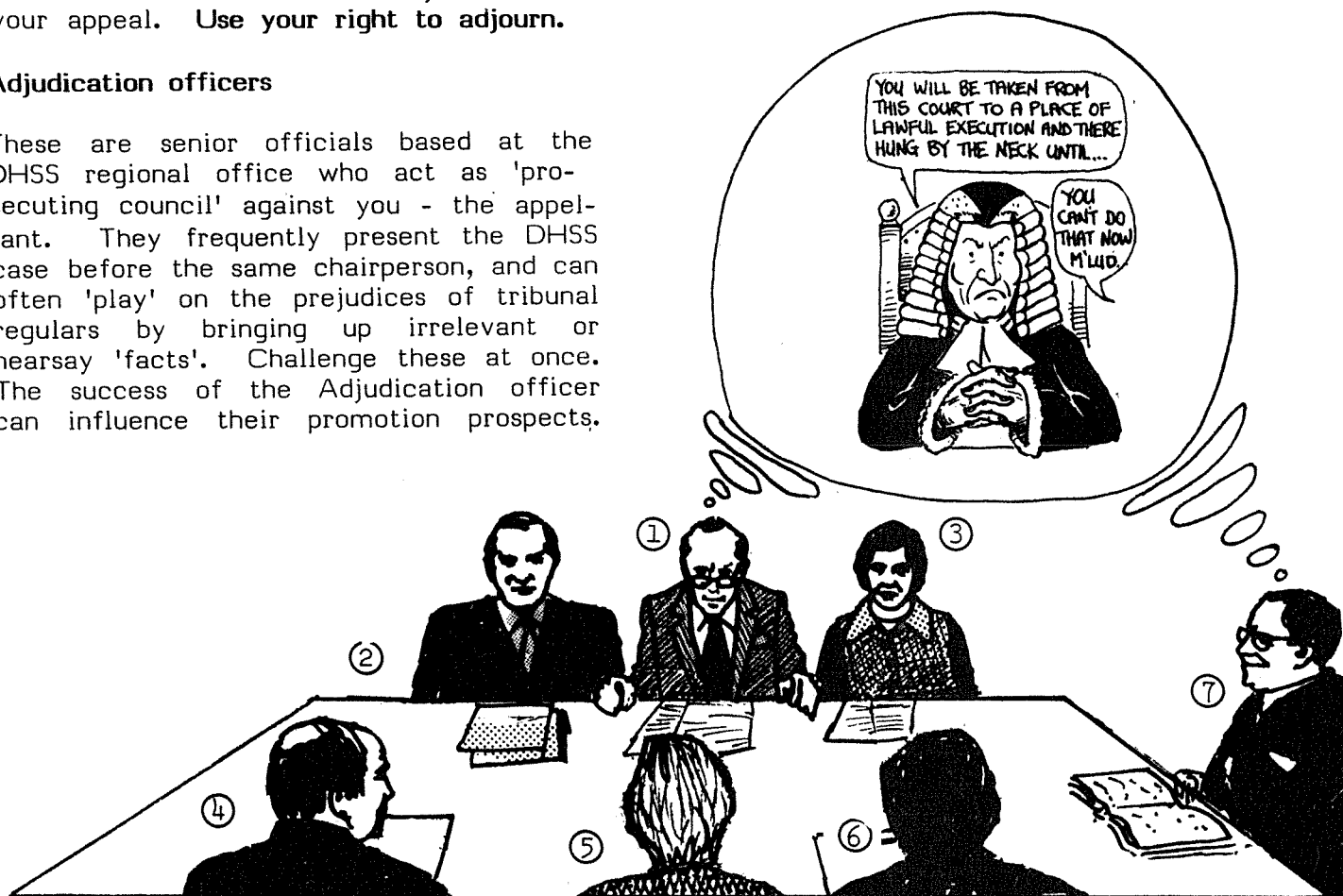
This is the striker. Make sure that all the relevant points are noted down on a piece of paper as this is easier to remember. It is sometimes a good idea to clear up any misunderstandings in the appeal papers with the adjudication officer shortly after he or she has finished reading them.

## Representatives

Representatives should make sure that it is a fair hearing and not to let the adjudication officer bring up facts that are irrelevant or prejudicial to a fair hearing. If this does happen then an adjournment should be demanded.

## The Clerk

The clerk to the social security appeal tribunal is a DHSS officer seconded for a period of time. He or she interprets the relevant Acts and Regulations, and sometimes draws the tribunal's attention to previous appeals of a similar nature. Usually clerks get promotion and become adjudication officers.



# Back to Work

## BACK TO WORK AFTER THE STRIKE

When the dispute ends, a striker is no longer disqualified from claiming benefit. The DHSS should award full supplementary benefit for 15 days or less, depending on when the first pay day falls. This money is for all the striker's family dependants.

Although this money isn't a **loan**, the DHSS will make your boss pay it back to them by deducting it from not only your **wages**, but any **tax refund**, **unused holiday pay**, etc. This repayment must be made within a **few weeks**, and cannot be **challenged** by the worker. You can **appeal** against the **amount** the boss stops from your pay. There is an instruction which says that in any one week, employers must not reduce a striker's wages below their 'protected earnings level'. The protected earnings level is equal to the normal requirements plus full rent (including elements ignored for housing benefit purposes) plus £8.00 but minus the amount for child benefit.

If the striker's wages are less than £1.00 above their protected earnings level, no deductions will be made. If the earnings are above £1.00 or more above the protected earnings level, the employer will deduct half of the excess.

The amount of supplementary benefit given to a striker will depend on any earnings received or advance of earnings made or offered in these 15 days. All these income will be deducted in full from the supplementary benefit entitlement. Also, any tax refunds received on the striker's return to work will be counted in full except for the £4.00 disregard.

## A7 Claim Form

Below is an example of an A7 claim form, for strikers to claim supplementary benefit.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS ACT 1976**

You may be entitled to a further payment of supplementary benefit following your return to work.

If you have to work a "week in hand" and wish to make a claim please complete Part I overleaf. Then ask your employer to complete the certificate in Part II or, if you prefer, ask the employer to give the information in a separate letter which you should send with this form.

**PART II. EMPLOYER'S CERTIFICATE**

1. The above-named employee started work on (date) ..... 19..

2. First wage of £ ..... will be paid on (date) ..... 19

3. a. An advance of wages of £ ..... was/will be paid on (date) ..... 19  
 b. No advance of wages will be paid (delete either a or b)

Date ..... 19

Signed  
 (Employer's stamp in authentication)

**PART I. (Please answer all questions in BLOCK CAPITALS)**

**WARNING To give false information may result in prosecution.**

1. My full name is .....

2. My address is .....

3. The name and address of my employer is .....

4. I began work on (date) ..... 19 .....

5. Staff/Check/Clock No. ....

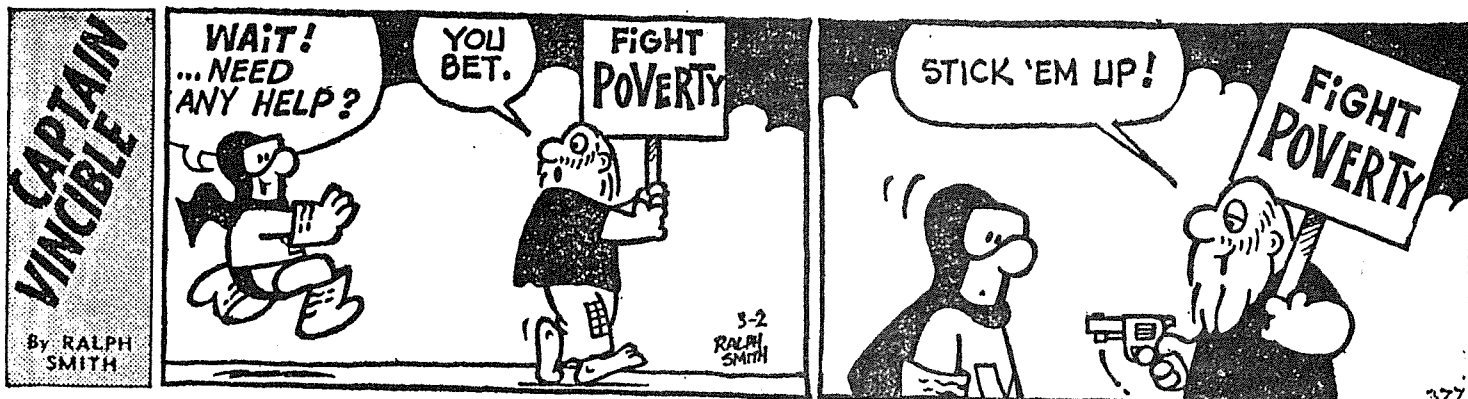
6. Site or Branch ..... a day. 8. My first wage will be paid on (date) ..... 19

7. My fares to work cost ..... 9. My final payment of Sickness/Injury/Unemployment Benefit of £ ..... 19  
 was received, is due on (date) .....

I declare that there has been no other change in my circumstances and to the best of my knowledge and belief the above statement is complete and true.

Signature: ..... Date: ..... 19

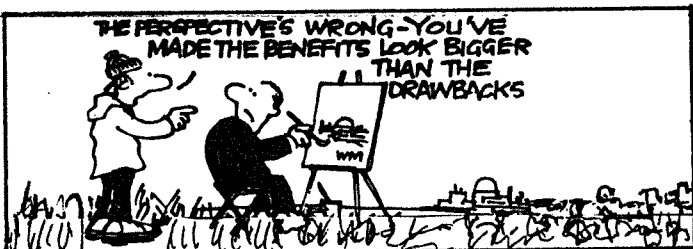
If you cannot sign your name, make your mark and get a witness to sign below your mark.



# Supplementary Benefit Rates

A. REQUIREMENTS	
	present/from Nov. '84
<b>1. ADULT RATES</b>	
a. Single Householder	£26.80/£28.05 .....
b. Partner	£16.70/£17.50 .....
c. Non Householder	£21.45/£22.45 .....
<b>2. CHILDREN</b>	
a. Aged 0 to 10 years	£ 9.15/£ 9.60 .....
b. Aged 11 to 15 years	£13.70/£14.35 .....
c. Aged 16 to 18 years	£16.50/£17.30 .....
<b>3. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS</b>	
a. Central Heating	
1 to 4 rooms	£ 2.05/£ 2.10 .....
5 or more rooms	£ 4.10/£ 4.20 .....
b. Extra Heating	
Lower Rate	£ 2.05/£ 2.10 .....
Higher Rate	£ 5.05/£ 5.20 .....
c. Diet	
Lower Rate	£ 1.45/£ 1.55 .....
Higher Rate	£ 3.35/£ 3.60 .....
d. Laundry	
Costs above 45 pence	£.....
<b>4. ACCOMODATION</b>	
a. Non Householder 21+	£ 3.10/£ 3.30 .....
b. Estate Heating	
1 to 4 rooms	£ 4.10/£ 4.20 .....
5 or more rooms	£ 8.20/£ 8.40 .....
c. Mortgage Interest	£.....
d. Water Rates	£.....
Add these amounts here .....	

B. RESOURCES	
	present/from Nov. '84
<b>5. UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT</b>	
a. Unemployed Person	£27.05/£28.45 .....
b. Partner	£16.70/£17.55 .....
c. Each Child	£ 0.15/£ 0.00 .....
<b>6. CHILD BENEFIT</b>	
a. Each Child	£ 6.50/£ 6.85 .....
<b>7. ONE PARENT ADDITION</b>	
a. Each Week	£ 4.05/£ 4.25 .....
<b>8. INDUSTRIAL MISCONDUCT</b>	
a. Single Householder	£10.70/£11.20 .....
b. Couple	£10.70/£11.20 .....
c. Non-Householder	£ 8.60/£ 8.90 .....
d. Person aged 16 or 17	£ 6.60/£ 6.90 .....
<b>9. PART-TIME EARNERS</b>	
a. Everything above £4 a week	.....
<b>10. OTHER INCOME</b>	
a. Maternity Benefit	£25.95/£27.25 .....
b. Sickness Benefit	£25.95/£27.25 .....
c. Family Income Supplement	.....
d. Maintenance Payments	.....
Add these amounts here .....	



A. TOTAL REQUIREMENTS .....
B. TOTAL RESOURCES .....
Subtract B from A .....
This difference is what you will get each week

# Additional Requirements

## Claim Form

The Manager  
Supplementary Benefit Office

Please tick

Dear Manager

I wish to claim (extra) Supplementary Benefit, including the following extras which apply to myself or someone in my family.

1. **Heating :**

- Someone in my family is not in good health
- Someone in my family is disabled
- Someone in my family is over 70 years old
- Someone in my family is under 5 years old
- My house is damp or draughty or difficult to heat
- My house is centrally heated

2. **Food Expenses :**

- Someone in my family has to be careful of what kind of food they eat and needs money for a special diet

3. **Washing Expenses :**

- My house does not have suitable washing or drying facilities
- My household has a lot of extra washing, for example, because of bed wetting
- No one in my house is fit to do the washing

4. **Extra Wear and Tear on Clothing and Footwear :**

- Someone in my family wears through clothes or shoes because of a disability or some other special reason, eg bed wetting
- Please specify reason : \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Baths :**

- Someone in my family must have more than one bath each week for health reasons
- Please specify reason : \_\_\_\_\_

6. **Over 80 :**

- Someone in my house is over 80 years old

7. **Blindness :**

- Someone in my house is registered as blind

8. If you have any other special expenses (for example, HP, fares to hospital, help with the housework, furniture storage, etc)

Please give details : \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me form A124 which explains my benefits.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

# Single Payments Claim Form

20

1984 Prices

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

- 3 Piece Suite
- Dining Table
- Curtains
- Floor Covering
- Heater
- Fire Guard
- Table
- Chairs
- Single bed
- Double bed
- Alarm Clock
- Wardrobe
- Chest of Drawers
- Cooker
- Crockery
- Cutlery
- Pots and Pans
- Kettle
- Iron
- Washing Machine
- Fridge
- Food Cupboard
- Dustbin
- Dustpan and Brush
- Mop and Bucket
- Tea Towels
- Hand Towels
- Bath Towels
- Bath Mat
- Toilet Brush
- Hot Water Bottle
- Hot Water Tank Jacket
- Gardening Tools
- Draught Proofing

BABY COSTS

- Nappy
- Stretch Suit
- Plastic Pants
- Pram Suit
- Vest
- Shawl
- Cot
- Pram
- Carrycot
- Baby Bath
- High Chair
- Fire Guard
- Sterilising Unit
- Cot Blanket

REMOVAL EXPENSES

FUNERAL EXPENSES

REDECORATION EXPENSES

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING small/large

- Dufflecoat £15.50/£21.00
- Anorak or Jacket £11.00/16.00
- Jumper £4.90/£7.50
- Wellingtons £4.15/£6.20
- Shoes £8.90/£12.50
- Socks 70p/£1.05
- Slippers £3.50/£5.00
- Pyjamas £4.90/£8.00

GIRL'S CLOTHING small/large

- Blouse £4.70/£8.30
- Bra £3.00
- Briefs £1.10
- Cardigan £5.00/£8.00
- Summer Dress £5.50/£10.00
- Winter Dress £7.50/£13.00
- Nightie £4.90/£7.30
- Overcoat £17.25/£25.00
- Petticoat £2.00/£3.05
- Raincoat £13.50/£19.75
- Skirt £5.90/£9.40
- Tights 75p
- Vest £1.35
- Dressing Gown £8.60/£13.00

BOY'S CLOTHING small/large

- Overcoat £18.25/£26.00
- Raincoat £13.50/£20.75
- Shirt £4.30/£6.50
- Trousers £6.80/£10.00
- Underpants £1.25
- Vest £1.45
- Dressing Gown £8.60/£12.00

BED CLOTHES

- Single Blanket £12.00 (3)
- Double Blanket £16.75 (3)
- Single Quilt £14.50
- Double Quilt £17.25
- Pillow £4.70
- Pillow Case £2.10
- Single Sheet Cotton £6.80 (2)
- Double Sheet Cotton £8.90 (2)
- Single Flannelette £6.50 (2)
- Double Flannelette £8.50 (2)

MATERNITY CLOTHES

OTHER ITEMS

MEN'S CLOTHING

- Anorak £21.00
- Cap £7.00
- Cardigan £11.00
- Dressing Gown £17.75
- Overcoat £49.50
- Pullover £10.00
- Pyjamas £9.20 (2)
- Raincoat £31.00
- Shirt £8.30 (2)
- Shoes £17.00 (2)
- Slippers £5.50
- Socks £1.50 (3)
- Jacket £37.00
- Suit £58.00
- Trousers £16.00 (2)
- Long Wool Pants £9.50
- Short Wool Pants £5.90
- Woollen Vest £1.65 (3)
- Cotton Vest £2.05 (3)
- Cotton Pants £1.65
- Boiler Suit £12.00
- Boots £16.75
- Donkey Jacket £19.75
- Dungarees £11.50
- Jeans £12.50
- Overalls £10.50
- Wellingtons £12.00

WOMEN'S CLOTHING

- Blouse £8.30
- Boots £18.00
- Bra £4.50 (2)
- Briefs £1.40 (3)
- Cardigan £10.00
- Corset £12.50 (2)
- Summer Dress £15.00
- Winter Dress £18.50
- Dressing Gown £15.00
- Jumper £9.00
- Nightie £7.00 (2)
- Long Nightie £8.60
- Overcoat £43.00
- Pantie Girdle £9.00
- Petticoat £5.20 (2)
- Pyjamas £10.00
- Raincoat £31.00
- Shoes £15.00 (2)
- Skirt £11.00
- Slippers £5.20
- Tights 75p (3)
- Trousers £12.00
- Cotton Vest £2.50
- Woollen Vest £4.70
- Knickers £2.60 (3)
- Hat £5.50

I wish to claim a Single Payment for the items I have marked above.

Name

Date

Address

DHSS Office



# Claimants Unions

Claimants Unions are groups of people who want to protect their rights and interests. Claimants Union members include unemployed, single parents, sick and disabled, and retired people.

There are four main areas of Claimants Union work...

## 1) FIGHTING CLAIMS TOGETHER

Claims are discussed together in a group at regular meetings. There are no individual interviews. Claiming isn't something to be ashamed of. Sharing knowledge and experience of the Benefits System gives each member support and self-confidence. As a result of this individual members get a broader view of life outside employment.

## 2) SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Claimants Union members get a lot of pleasure from the social side of Union activities. A local Claimants Union may, for example, hold jumble sales, discos, etc, where members can get to know each other better and not feel isolated at home because of lack of money.

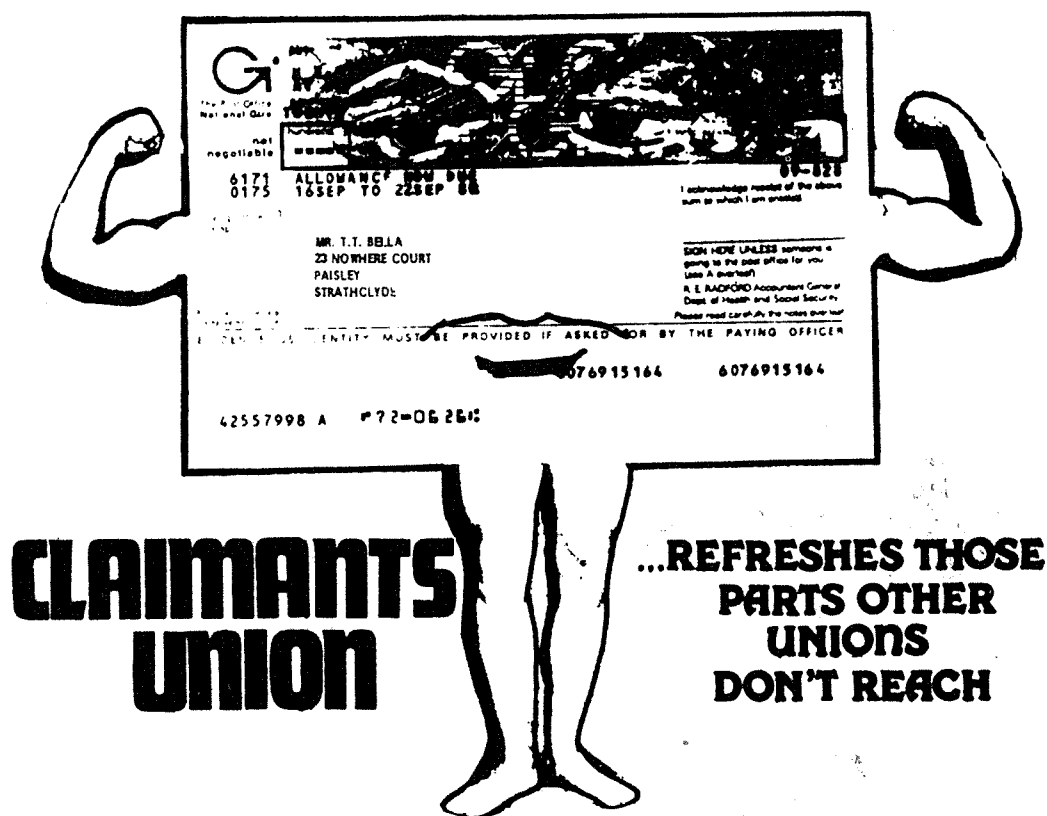
## 3) POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Collectively, members put pressure on the Government and other powerful groups in society to change the law and influence public opinion. Such activities may include demonstrations, contacting MPs, writing to the press, producing leaflets etc. In this way Claimants Unions can defend their members against attacks in the media from groups that are keen to label claimants as 'scroungers'.

## 4) TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES

Claimants Unions believe in the unity of people both in and out of employment. For this reason we are prepared to support fellow trade unionists who are on strike, facing redundancy, or nearing retirement. We also feel that it is important that claimants do not 'scab' on people in jobs by offering to work as cheap or non-unionised labour. We are not prepared to be a reserve army of labour for the ruling class. On the other hand, we expect trade union support for our activities.

Anyone claiming social security benefits can join a claimants union and receive the support and backing of fellow claimants.



# Federation of Claimants Unions

The Federation of Claimants Unions is a means of keeping affiliated unions in touch with one another.

The Charter of the Federation is:

- 1) To achieve an adequate income for all people.
- 2) No distinction between so called 'deserving' and 'undeserving' claimants.
- 3) A socialist society in which all necessities are provided free, and which is managed and controlled directly by the people.
4. No secrets and the right to full information.

A claimants union wanting to be part of the Federation should be made up of claimants. It must hold regular, open, advertised meetings, usually on a weekly basis. A few claimants unions have ex-claimants helping with their activities, but decision making has to remain in the hands of the claimants.

The Federation of Claimants Unions holds regular countrywide and regional meetings to communicate and co-ordinate activities between different claimants unions.

The Federation is not grant aided, its running costs come from donations and sales of literature. Subscriptions from sympathetic individuals, groups and trade unions are always welcomed.

The Federation also produces a wide variety of literature, and keeps an up to date address list of all claimants unions and allied groups in this country.

For further information about the work of the Federation of Claimants Unions please write to us at the following address...

## Federation of Claimants Unions

296 Bethnal Green Road  
LONDON E2  
01 739 4173

### REGIONAL CO-ORDINATING UNIONS

London and South East England  
Haringey & Islington CU,  
Crouch End Recreation Centre,  
Hillrise Rd, London N14.

Eastern England  
Cambridge CU,  
The Bath House,  
Gwydir Street, Cambridge.

West Midlands  
Oxford CU,  
Block B, 44 Princes Rd,  
Cowley, Oxford.

Cymru / Wales  
Swansea CU,  
St Phillips Centre,  
Bathurst St, Swansea.

Scotland  
Renfrewshire UWCU,  
28 Back Sneddon St,  
Paisley.  
Inverclyde CU,  
3 Shaw Place, Greenock.

East Midlands  
Aston CU,  
64 Witton Rd, Aston,  
Birmingham 6.

North of England  
South Tyneside CU,  
The People's Place,  
Derby Terrace, South Shields.

South and West  
Plymouth CU,  
Virginia House,  
Palace Street, Plymouth.



# Claim for Supplementary Benefit – Trade Disputes

B71

- Do not use this form if you are single and you live alone.
- This is because people in a trade dispute can normally only get supplementary benefit for their partner or dependent children. If you have any queries or you need money urgently you can ask at your local Social Security Office or see leaflet SB2.

## 1 About yourself

Please write clearly

Surname

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Other names

Marital status *Tick one box*  
 married  living together   
 married but temporarily living apart  single   
 widowed  divorced  separated

Address

Post Code

Telephone number

Date of birth

Which Post Office would you like to be paid at?

National Insurance (NI) number

Tax District and Reference number

## 2 Your claim

After each question, write your answer in full or tick Yes or No. If you are told to go to another part of the form, you can miss out all the questions in between.

- Have you ever claimed supplementary benefit?** (You might call it 'social security') *Tick one box*  
 No  go to part 3 'Your job'  
 Yes  go to the next • question
- When did you last claim supplementary benefit?**
- Which social security office did you claim at?**
- What was your own address then?**

## 3 Your job

- When did you stop working?** (Give the exact date)
- How often are you usually paid?** *Tick one box*  
 weekly  every four weeks  every calendar month   
 other  if you ticked other, how often are you paid?
- When is your normal pay day?** (Give the day of the week or the date in the month)

- Please do your best to fill in this form. If you have problems (for instance, English may not be your first language) you can ask at your Social Security office.
- Start with part 1 'About yourself'. Only miss out questions if the form tells you to. If you're not sure about an answer write 'Don't know'. When you have filled in the form send it to us quickly.

- How much was your last take-home pay?**
- When did you get your last pay?**
- What period was your last pay for?**  
 how many months?  how many weeks?  how many days?
- Have you had any extra pay for the last six weeks, apart from overtime?** (Such as week-in-hand, or holiday pay) *Tick one box*  
 No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  say what it was and give the amount  
 £  
 £
- Are you owed any pay apart from overtime?** (Such as bonuses, commission or holiday pay) *Tick one box*  
 No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  say what it is and give the amount  
 £  
 £

- What is your clock or payroll number?** (If you don't know it, say what your job or department is)
- Do you have your last two wage slips?** Your money could be delayed if you don't send them. *Tick one box*  
 No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  put them in the envelope now.
- What is the name and address and phone number of your employer?**  
  
  
 Tel. no.

- May we contact your employer if we need to?** *Tick one box*  
 No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  go to the next • question
- What is your Trade Union and Branch?**

## 4 You and your partner

- Are you married, or living with someone as if you are married to them?** *Tick one box* (If you are not sure whether your relationship counts as married, write don't know.)  
 No  go to part 5 'Savings'  
 Yes  go to the next • question
- Have you ever been out of work for more than 3 weeks during the last 6 months?** *Tick one box*  
 No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  say what you were doing and what you lived on whilst you were out of work

- Does your partner agree to you making this claim for both of you?** *Tick one box* (If you are not sure that your partner agrees, tick No)  
 No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  go to the next • question  
 See leaflet NI 248 for details.

- Has your partner claimed Supplementary Benefit before?** *Tick one box*  
 No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  say when he or she last claimed.

- What is his or her National Insurance number?**
- Does he or she have any kind of work now?** *Tick one box*  
 No  go to part 5 'Savings'  
 Yes  go to the next • question
- Does he or she have any work expenses?** *Tick one box*  
 No  go to the top of the next column  
 Yes  give details below  

number of meals at work each week	
fares to and from work each week	£
other expenses (give details below)	£

- What is your partner's take-home pay in a normal week?**
- Do you have his or her last four wage slips?** *Tick one box*  
 No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  put them in the envelope now. Your money could be delayed if you don't send them.
- What is the name and address and phone number of his or her employer?**  
 If he or she is self-employed, tick here   
  
  
 Tel. no.

- May we contact his or her employer if we need to?** *Tick one box*  
 No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  go to the next • question
- What is his or her clock or payroll number?** (If you don't know give his or her job or department)

## 5 Savings

Please answer all the questions in this part

- What savings do you (or your partner) have?** (savings are things like cash, building society accounts, premium bonds, current or deposit bank accounts, post office accounts, shares) *Tick one box*  
 no savings   
 savings under £100   
 savings between £100 and £500   
 savings over £500   
 If you have savings over £500, say how much they are  
 £  
 (You can still get benefit if you have savings. See leaflet SB18 for details).
- If you have children who live with you, do they have any savings?** *Tick one box*  
 No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  say what they are and give the amounts  
 £
- Do you own any property, apart from where you live?** (This means any property or land owned by you or your partner or children who live with you) *Tick one box*  
 No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  go to the next • question
- Do you (or your partner or children who live with you) have any life assurance or endowment policies?** *Tick one box*

No  go to part 6 'People who live with you'  
 Yes  give details below

year each policy was taken out	amount insured for	your monthly payment
£	£	£
£	£	£

Now go to part 6 'People who live with you'

## 7 More about money

Please answer all the questions in this part

• Are you (or your partner or children who live with you) **owed any money?** *Tick one box*

No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  say what it is and give the amount

£
£

• Do you do any kind of work now? (Include full-time, part-time or casual jobs whether they are paid or not. Even if you are paid you might still get benefit). *Tick one box*

No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  say how many hours a week you work

hours

• Do you (or your partner or children who live with you) **have any money coming in apart from benefits?** (such as strike pay, money from a court order, maintenance, pensions from work or a retainer from boarders). *Tick one box*

No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  give details below

what kind of income is it?	how much is it?	how often is it paid?
£	£	
£	£	
£	£	

• Do you (or your partner) **get child benefit or one parent benefit?** *Tick one box*

No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  say how much you get each week

£

• Do you (or your partner or children who live with you) **get any other social security benefits or allowances?** (such as family income supplement (FIS), unemployment benefit, disablement benefit, sickness benefit, maternity benefits, widows pension, retirement pension, mobility or attendance allowance or any other benefit). *Tick one box*

No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  give details below

which benefit is it?	how much is it each week?	who is it paid to?
£	£	
£	£	
£	£	

• Have you (or your partner) **applied for any social security benefits but not yet got any money?** Do not count this claim. *Tick one box*

No  go to part 8 'Where you live'  
 Yes  say which benefit it is.

Now go to part 8 'Where you live'.

## 8 Where you live

• Do you live with your parents, relatives or friends as part of their family? *Tick one box*

No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  give the name of the head of the household

Now go to part 11 'Extra benefit'

## 6 People who live with you

List below all the people who live with you (including boarders)

	first name and surname	date of birth	relationship to you or your partner	does he or she get supplementary benefit? no <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Your partner				
Children under 16 who live with you				
Children between 16-19 who are still at school and who live with you				
Anyone else who lives with you (including other children aged 16 or over and any boarders)			occupation	do they get supplementary benefit? no <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/>
				no <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/>
				no <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/>

• Do you pay rent or pay for lodging? *Tick one box*

No  go to part 9 'Owning your home'  
 Yes  go to the next • question

• How often is your rent or keep due? *Tick one box*

weekly  every two weeks   
 every four weeks  monthly  other   
 If you ticked other, give details

• How much rent or keep is due each time? (Give the total before any rebate or allowance)

£

• What is the name and address of your landlord?

• Is your landlord a relative? *Tick one box*

No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  go to the next • question

• Does your rent or keep include heating costs? *Tick one box*

No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  go to the next • question

• Do you have any joint tenants who share the rent and bills with you? *Tick one box*

No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  give their full names below

• Are you a paying boarder or a lodger? *Tick one box*

No  go to part 10 'More on your home'  
 Yes  say how much you pay each week

£

• Are any meals provided? *Tick one box*

No  go to part 10 'More on your home'  
 Yes  say how many meals you get each week

breakfasts	midday meals	evening meals

Now go to part 10 'More on your home'

## 9 Owning your home

• Do you own your home? (If it is paid for, or if it is on a mortgage or loan, tick yes) *Tick one box*

No  go to part 10 'More on your home'  
 Yes  go to the next • question

• Does anyone else own your home with you? *Tick one box*

No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  give their full names

Do these other owners live in your home? *Tick one box*

No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  go to the next • question

• Do you have a lease? *Tick one box*

No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  please answer the following

When the lease was first granted, was it for more than 21 years? *Tick one box*

No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  go to the next • question

• Do you pay ground rent (feu duty in Scotland)? *Tick one box*

No  go to the next • question  
 Yes  say how much you pay each year

£ yearly

• Do you have a mortgage or loan on your home? *Tick one box*

No  go to part 10 'More on your home'  
 Yes  say who you got your mortgage or loan from

Name
Address

• How much mortgage or loan was outstanding when you got your last statement? (Please check your statement and give the exact figure)

£

SOME CU HINTS ON FILLING IT IN!!!!!!!!!!!!

Form B 71D is the claim form which you must fill out to get supplementary benefit for your dependants (single strikers would be wasting their time filling this claim form out because they will not qualify for supplementary benefit).

Even though the questions are pretty comprehensive and complicated, you will normally not get any benefit for your dependants until such time as the B 71D has been filled out to the satisfaction of the DHSS, so try and get it filled in as quickly as you can.

We have not had a chance to go into the hidden traps within each of the parts in great detail, although below are some of our ideas on how to cope with the various sections. We have had little 'feed back' from individual Strike Claims Committees at the time of going to print, but hope to do an 'update' when further experience from the grass roots is ready.

• What rate of interest do you pay now?

%

• Do you have a second mortgage or improvement loan? *Tick one box*

No  go to part 10 'More on your home'  
Yes  go to part 10 'More on your home'

### 10 More on your home

• Do you get any housing benefit (such as rate rebate, rent rebate, or rent allowance)? *Tick one box*

No  go to the next question  
Yes  give details below

how much is it?	when does it run out?
£ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> 19
£ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> 19

• If you don't get housing benefit, have you applied for it? *Tick one box*

No  Yes

If you are a boarder, go to part 11 'Extra benefit', otherwise carry on.

• What is the rateable value of your home?

£

• Do you pay water charges? *Tick one box*

No  go to the next question  
Yes  please answer the following

How much do you pay for your water charges each year?

£  (Please check the bills and include any sewerage and environmental charges if you pay them)

Do you share this amount with anyone else? *Tick one box*

No  go to the next question  
Yes  go to the next question

• Do you have any tenants or subtenants? *Tick one box*

No  go to the next question  
Yes  say how many you have

### 11 Extra benefit

• Is any member of your family who lives with you, a blind person? *Tick one box*

No  go to the next question  
Yes  give the full name of the blind person

• Is any member of your family who lives with you, a disabled person? *Tick one box*

No  go to the top of the next column  
Yes  give the full name of the disabled person

• Does your partner or children who live with you have any special needs?

(Tick the box or boxes next to the things you need extra money for - we will try to help you if we can)

special diet  special health problems   
pregnancy

Tell us here who needs help and why.

### 12 Sign here

Declaration: As far as I know, the information on this form is true and complete.

I claim supplementary benefit.

Sign here

Date

Remember: if you deliberately give false information you may be prosecuted.

• Please check that you have filled in all the questions which apply to you.

If you haven't, we might have to send your form back to you and your money could be delayed. Make sure you send your partner's, and your own wage slips if you have them.

• What happens next?

If you can get supplementary benefit, we will pay you as soon as we can.  
If we can't pay you we will write and tell you why not.  
If you have any queries, you can ask your local Social Security office.

Part 1 Contains basic information for the DHSS computer, including tax codings.

Part 2 Seeks to go back to your past Supplementary benefit claims - if any.

Part 3 Details here will be used to try and get you to live as long as possible off your last pay packet and any holiday pay.

Part 4 Much of this information will be used to try and disqualify the family from claiming any benefit if the partner's wages take the family's 'resources' over the Supplementary benefit 'requirements'. Read the section "Equal Treatment" about changing the claimant to non-striker.

Part 5 Remember that any savings over £3,000 plus an additional £1,500 in life assurance policies or any property apart from the place you live will disqualify you automatically from Supp Ben.

Part 6 Anyone apart from your immediate family who lives with you could affect your housing benefit.

Part 7 Under questions a & b, any benefit could be affected by money you show.

Part 8 If yours is not the name on the rent book then you will not normally get Housing Benefit. If you are in digs the DHSS will pay eating out money for all meals not included in the board and lodging charge:- breakfast £1.00; lunch and supper £1.45 each for your dependants.

Part 9 The DHSS will pay for mortgage interest only and an amount for insurance and repairs.

Part 10 The DHSS will pay your water charges. Your benefit could be affected by any tenants or subtenants you declare.

Part 11 See Page 11 for details

# CLAIM

for additional requirements/urgent needs payments

The Manager,  
Supplementary Benefits,  
Department of Health and Social Security,  
.....

date .....

Dear Sir/Ms,

***I wish to put in a claim for the following items:***

HEATING ADDITION

- Someone in my family is not in good health
- Someone in my family is severely disabled

DIET ADDITION

- for Myself as I am on a kidney machine
- for someone in my family who is on a kidney machine
- for Myself as I have to eat a medically prescribed diet
- for someone in my family who has a medically prescribed diet

FARES TO HOSPITAL

- for Myself to see my partner or a close relative
- for a dependant to see their close relative
- for an escort
- for an overnight stay

BLIND ADDITION

- for someone in my family who is blind and aged 16 years
- for someone in my family who is blind and aged over 18 years

HIRE PURCHASE

- for hire purchase payments because a reconditioned ..... is not available

URGENT NEEDS CLAIM

- Fire Guard
- Cooker
- Heater
- Disaster/Emergency
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

BABY EXPENSES

- Sleeping Suits (3)
- Pram Suit
- Shawl/Wrap
- Plastic Pants (3)
- Vests (3)
- Nappies (18)
- Feeding Bottle (4)
- Cot
- Cot Mattress
- Cot Blanket (3)
- Cot Sheet (3)
- Pram/Carry cot
- Baby Bath
- other items .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

***Yours sincerely,***

name .....

sign .....

address .....

.....

# Federation of Claimants Unions

296 Bethnal Green Road, London E2. 01-739-4173

13 July

## Strikers' Handbook

PRICE 75P

A CLAIMANTS' UNION BENEFITS GUIDE ISBN 0 906364 07 8

This handbook is available from the Federation of Claimants' Union,  
296 Bethnal Green Road, LONDON E2 OAG.

We would be prepared to supply individual pages in electronic stencil form at a cost of £1-00 each, which would be the cheapest way of getting large numbers of copies.

We would be willing to negotiate a rate for bulk orders of the handbook for Strike Claims committees & union branches.

While we have tried to make the handbook as up-to-date and accurate as possible, we realise that there are developments taking place from one day to the next.

We would appreciate both your comments on the content and format of the handbook and, even more importantly, your ideas on sections which we have failed to include.

It is intended to try and get funding for a 2nd edition of the handbook within the very near future, and hope to have it available by the end of 1984.



