

COUNTER INFORMATION

6798/C
SUPPLEMENT.

NO. 4.

NEWS FROM THE PICKET LINE

CLASS WAR PRISONERS

Davie Hamilton, Chairman of the Dalkieth central strike committee, has been held in custody since October. Originally bailed on a breach of the peace charge, he was detained after an alleged incident involving a scab was deemed to be a breach of bail.

Lothian miners have protested that Davie has been victimised because of his activity in the strike. He's now to appear in Edinburgh on 19th December. Messages of support to Mr David Hamilton, H M Saughton Prison, Edinburgh.

Meanwhile, 3 miners from the Alloa area are being held in Barlinnie following an incident which involved the overturning of a police car. Show your solidarity by writing to:
Jim Tierney, Prisoner on remand,
H M Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow

MINING WOMAN SPEAKS -

On 26th November, in Edinburgh a woman from the Loanhead Miners Support Group spoke at a rally held to oppose the Social Security Cuts. She condemned the Govt's vicious attack on the miners by increasing the amount deducted from strikers' families social security to £16. She also pointed out that the 2% tax cut would only benefit the rich not the pensioners, unemployed, students nor the working classes. "robbing the poor once again to give to the rich". She ended by saying "it is now time for the working class to unite to tell the govt. that they will not accept enforced poverty - that the benefits received by the few should be fairly distributed among the many".

STUFF THE LAW - WE WANT JUSTICE!

On December 12th, 12 men pleaded 'not guilty' to 'Breach of the Peace' and 'Malicious Mischief' at Glasgow Sheriff Court - these charges followed the 8 hour occupation of Price Waterhouse's Glasgow offices in September. This action had been taken in solidarity with the miners strike and in protest against Price Waterhouse's seizing mining communities' funds.

Before the trial people picketed and leafleted outside the court. There was applause from the packed public benches as the defendants refused to sit in the prescribed order, explaining that this would make it easy for police witnesses to identify them. More cheers as one defendant had his 'not guilty' plea accepted. Then the defendants protested when the Procurator Fiscal asked for an adjournment of the trial - till APRIL 15th! The defendants argued that being on bail for 7½ months was an intolerable restriction on their liberty. The sheriff replied that such adjournments were 'normal' and ruled that the 11 should be on bail till the new trial date of 15th April.

MORE DEATHS

There's been massive media coverage on the death of the taxi-driver who was driving a scab to work. Funny how we hear far less about the other people who've died as a result of this dispute. In November alone, we've heard of 5 other deaths - In Goldthorpe (near Doncaster) 2 brothers were killed digging for coal. A striking miner was similarly killed in Ayrshire, another in Northumberland and another in West Yorkshire. These are only the ones we know about - in all probability more people have died with little mention of it in the mass-media - Why does it appear that the lives of striking miners and other working class people killed digging for fuel are much less important? It would seem that the importance of your death (like your life) depends on which side you're on.

Info: Daily Telegraph 20/11/84
" 4/11/84
" 19/11/84

WILDCAT ON THE RAILS

Six days of unofficial stoppage by guard and station staff organised as the North Clyde Action Committee was called off on 22nd November. The workers had refused to bow to the Regional Council and British rail cuts in staffing. New ticket machines were to be introduced on Sunday trains. Yet despite the growing involvement of workers in the action and having withstood a determined campaign to 'rubbish' them in the Evening Times and other papers. The Action Committee caved in without consulting their fellow workers. All because of the con that the ticket machines are 'on trial'

NUCLEAR POWER A WEAPON THE BOSSES

Striking miners joined a blockade of the British Nuclear Fuels HQ at Risley, near Warrington on Nov 2nd. It was part of a day of protests against Namibian uranium imports.

Namibia is under the control of the vicious South African Govt. The uranium miners, employed by the British multinational, Rio Tinto Zinc, suffer from appalling working conditions one in six are likely to die from work related diseases. Strikes and protests are brutally suppressed.

The uranium is imported into Britain for use in the nuclear power stations. Successive British governments have been developing the highly security conscious and capital intensive nuclear power industry, despite its dangers to weaken the position of the miners and to obtain material for nuclear weapons.

Info: Leeds Other paper 9/11/84

FIGHT FOR THE 4DAY WEEK

The NUM leadership constantly state their support for the "Plan for Coal". But Yorkshire main miner Alan Cross, writing in the Yorkshire Miner, urges miners to fight for more. He points out: "The 1974 Plan for Coal does not include job security, a 4 day week, early retirement with the same benefits as redundancy, rate protection, tec".

He writes "Every time we get more efficient, the only reward is the dole for many "arguing that "New technology should benefit us, not threaten us as it does at present". he urges that ALL the workforce be kept at the present level and a 4 day week introduced.

In contrast to the Union leaders, who argue in capitalist terms, he rightly states "The arguments about profitability are not our concern" .

Letter in the Yorkshire Miner Sept.