

The SYNDICALIST

NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 1986

25P

REFUSE WHEELIE BINS

Since our last issue the dispute over refuse collection in Derwentside has blown up. As expected refuse collectors in the area have refused to work the new trial system which was due to begin on September 8th. Six workers were immediately suspended by the council without pay and the 77-strong refuse collection section of Derwentside walked out in support, leaving over 30,000 homes in the area without bin collection.

THE COUNCIL

Even though both workers and residents are obviously not happy with the system the council will not negotiate with the union on the question. Neville Dinning of the Wheelie Bin Action Group said,

"surely public opinion must count for something", but the council are not interested in the residents' feelings.

"the opposition to this new system shown by both residents of the trial area and the refuse workers has been enormous, yet councillors will not budge from their resolve to force this system upon us."



THE RESIDENTS

The main thing about the dispute is that it is solid, both community and workers are standing their ground together. Residents of Burnhope have dumped their bins in the community car park while residents in other areas of the trial have discarded bins on village greens. Even though the refuse workers are not handling the bins the amount of opposition to the system in the area is obvious. Neville Dinning states, "It is a fact that there are some 1,600 dwellings in Lanchester and 816 were due to have their refuse collected on Monday September 8th. I physically counted 118 bins put out for collection that morning, which represents 14% for the system and 86% against."

THE RESIDENTS' CASE

Residents believe that the bins are an obstruction and are dangerous and unhygienic, but that these factors have not been taken into account by the council. Eric Burns from the Residents Action Group said,

"Some houses have forty-odd steps, very steep drives and some houses are without access to the rear so the bins have to stand out front."

The bins are said to be a very dangerous hazard to both pedestrians and motorists because when they are empty winds lift them and they can be blown down the street. It could be just a matter of time before a bin goes hurtling through someone's windscreen, or sweeping a child onto a busy road.

Even though the bins are extremely heavy when full, and given the steepness of the area, pensioners are still expected to take part in the scheme. One said, "I can't push it, I'm not going to push it, I've no intention of pushing it."

AN END TO THE DISPUTE

Given the strong feelings of the people of Derwentside and the very real danger to health it is difficult to see what the council can do next without making itself seem completely uncaring about public health and safety. When Eric Burns was asked how he thought the dispute could be ended he replied,

"The only thing I think can resolve the situation is to get the blooming Wheelie bins out of Lanchester."

ALL EYES ON DERWENTSIDE

It is becoming clear that this dispute is the testing ground for what is to come in other areas. Other local authorities are said to be very interested in the system. Gateshead council have already received 1,100 of the bins from the manufacturers free of charge for use in a trial scheme. Gateshead Council say that the bins will only be supplied to businesses in the area, and they have no intention of supplying them to residents. We will have to wait and see the outcome. As yet workers have made no comment on the Gateshead situation.

STRIKE SUPPORT

The joint worker-community action is an inspiration to us all, not only are both sides solidly behind each other but residents in Burnhope have already set up a strike support group to relieve the hardship of workers taking action. Union support from other branches is starting to come with a levy being struck up from members in the area.

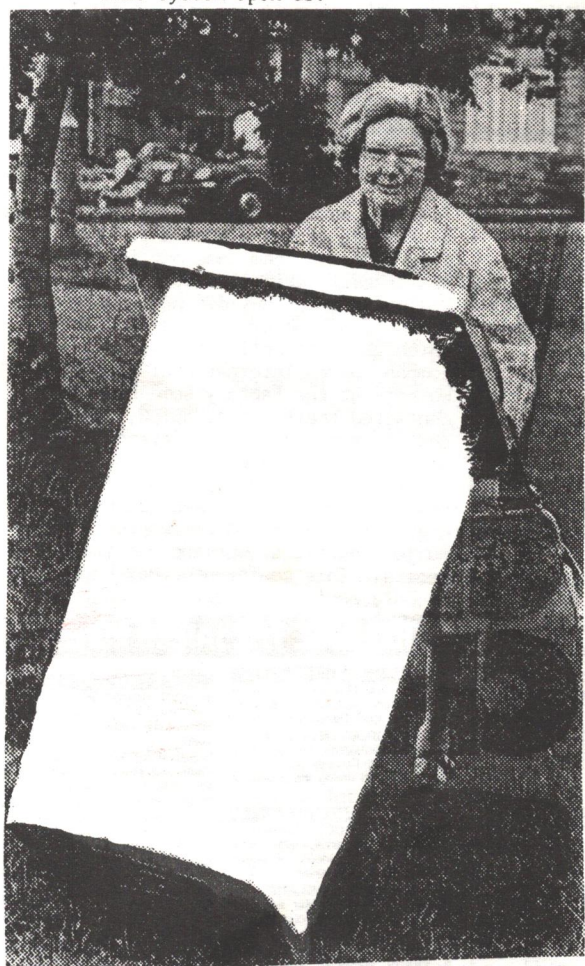
Just to refresh readers' memories, this dispute began with the council introducing the scheme to cut costs and not jobs, but they now admit that job losses would have occurred in any case. We say that local services should be organised by the community and workers together, not by remote bureaucrats and officials. Let's hope that the workers and community succeed in banishing the bins from Derwentside and that others see the potential strength they have through such action.

SWANHUNTERS

Only weeks after the 'pay and conditions' dispute was resolved at the Tyne yards, workers look set for further industrial action.

Management Industrial Relations at the Shipyard since takeover from British Shipbuilders in January of this year leave a lot to be desired. We have seen the underhanded tactics complete with total lies of bosses hell bent on higher profits in its only very short existence as a private company. During the buy out the Management Team stated that "there would be no redundancies" at the Swan Hunter yards and yet only a few months after the statement the Team are talking of over 800 job losses.

The workforce at the yards had been decimated for the run up to privatisation and many thousands of jobs were shed. Now management are faced with a battle over their plans to enforce redundancies on the workforce who are not willing to take the so called 'lucrative' redundancy payments. So far just over 350 workers have come forward to receive redundancy and workers have voted in favour of an immediate overtime ban if notices are issued. Plans are also afoot to hold further mass meetings if such a move takes place to discuss all out strike action. It is a pity that strike action was taken in the past over redundancy as the erosion of the numbers in workforce has severely weakened the workers. Since the management Team takeover of the yards we have seen ships such as the Coventry launched in the dead of night to overcome workers pickets. Private detectives have been hired by the company to attend union meetings and report back the feelings of the men and a few months ago it was discovered that union meetings had been bugged. The unscrupulous tactics of the bosses will have to be opposed in a militant way if workers demands are to be met. As in the past, occupations have taken place surely now with the track record of such a young management that suspends strikers without pay, this action is the only tactic left for shipyard workers. Lessons of the previous occupation in 1985 need to be learned well (see Syndicalist No. 1) so that the bosses and reformist shop stewards realise that they cannot ride roughshod over workers at the Tyne yards.



ANARCHO - SYNDICALIST MONTHLY

inside: TRANSPORT DEREGULATION MINERS ACTION CONTRACTS HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION SOUTH AFRICA SPANISH PEASANTS' NOVE LEATHER HOWARD DORIS GATESHEAD WORKERS INFORMATION SERVICE PRESS OFFSHORE HORMEL ROUND UP.

T.R.S. EDITORIAL

Since the late nineteenth century the control of capitalism has tended to become more and more international, where companies rove the world exploiting opportunities for low wages and raw materials. Following the early example of Unilever, multinationals begin with a concentration on high turnover and low profit margins for their products. When this strategy has reduced competition, the profits generated are soon raised dramatically. Their need for cheaper materials means that they ruthlessly use the resources found in poorer countries without consideration of any wider effects. The result is the growth of general monopolies on an international scale.

Multinationals operate on global policies. These can mean that entire communities, regions, industries or even whole countries economies can be tied up with servicing the hunger for profit of one or a few firms. Over time less well-developed countries can come to produce mainly two or three commodities needed by multinationals alone. Their economies thus depend completely on decisions taken in a boardroom on the other side of the world. Once completely dependent on multinationals the choice facing a country is to diligently keep down wages and other costs so as to protect what little the economy gets from the deal, or to consider complete changes in the political environment in order to escape from the vicious circle. Even if the first option is taken (which it frequently is because of the interests of politicians and middle classes) the multinational companies can play off the labour forces of several countries against each other, driving down labour costs even further, even below the point where workers can survive.

As competition among multinationals becomes more severe growth is an absolute necessity for them, irrespective of who is harmed. If they do not grow they get taken over by someone who has. During this insane process companies need to rely on internal stability and security in the countries where they operate. Then, if labour costs become cheaper somewhere else operations can be shifted at short notice. Later the previous country may be prepared to cut its wages even further to attract the companies back.

When multinationals get their hooks right into a country the government comes to express their interests - so that political decisions are thinly-veiled responses to their demands. Even worse, the political situation can be changed actively, to suit the future requirements of specific firms. In Chile (and many other latin american and asian countries) secret and long-term collaboration between the American government, multinationals and native fascists led to a situation where political repression ensures stability and a very low wage environment where resistance is next to impossible. When seen in the light of these kinds of developments the emergence of revolutionary movements in many third world countries takes on a different significance.

In South Africa and Bolivia, for example, the vast majority of the populations live in what are basically third-world conditions. But industrial organisation among the workers makes the resistance possible much more meaningful. The development of industrial organisations by such groupings as COSATU in South Africa or the COB in Bolivia has meant a militant stand being taken against the usual practices of the multinational corporations. South African workers have already developed many structures in order to survive in a country dominated industrially by international businesses. They realise that if the internationally-co-ordinated breed of capitalism is to be undermined workers from both inside and outside of countries being used for the pursuit of profit need to unite in solidarity to resist. Likewise workers fighting for better conditions and wages elsewhere need to take concerted action in all countries where a particular multinational exists.

Throughout South Africa workers' organisations also try to root themselves in their communities. Examples of this are the formation of food co-operatives and health projects as a result of the fight against the multinational BTR Sarmcol, and the extensive involvement of the unions in community committees in the black townships and districts. South African black workers have achieved an admirable balance in directing their attention inward, to their own organisation and activity, and outwards, in their attempts to build solidarity on an international scale. These developments can be seen as a more constructive set of tactics to combat capitalism and the state than many tried elsewhere, especially those that do not combine the fight against all oppressors into a coherent programme, and hence remain isolated struggles.

Throughout South Africa workers' organisations also try to root themselves in their communities. Examples of this are the formation of food co-operatives and health projects as a result of the fight against the multinational BTR Sarmcol, and the extensive involvement of the unions in community committees in the black townships and districts. South African black workers have achieved an admirable balance in directing their attention inward, to their own organisation and activity, and outwards, in their attempts to build solidarity on an international scale. These developments can be seen as a more constructive set of tactics to combat capitalism and the state than many tried elsewhere, especially those that do not combine the fight against all oppressors into a coherent programme, and hence remain isolated struggles.

October sees the long-awaited implementation of the dreaded new transport regulations which will surely reap havoc both on our roads and on our pockets. The issue of "deregulation" has been dealt with before in this paper, we will deal here only with the effects in the near future that the shake-up will have. October 26th is the date set for the changes which will mean a destruction of the integrated bus and rail network we have had in Tyne & Wear in recent years.

TAKEN FOR A RIDE

ies, leaving the private operators able to put up and bring down fares like yo-yos. No agreement over cheap fare systems has been reached between private companies and the PTE, meaning that existing concessions will either be dropped altogether or decreased greatly. Fares in Tyne & Wear were raised by around 20% on single journeys, 25% on travel tickets and 50% on children's fares in April this year. This marks the beginning of massive increases in the

keep them going - this is a drop in the ocean compared to what would keep an accessible service in operation. PTE say that they will meet needs for the time being. However after January routes taken by private companies can be dropped if profits aren't high enough. Bad services will then become even worse. Members of the PTE have said that in certain areas, eg from Newcastle to Gateshead, routes will be so full of buses that it will be



Abovea fleet of new buses for PTE which will become the "Busways Travel Service Ltd."

THE WORKERS

Already thousands of redundancies are being incurred in an attempt to keep some kind of transport system available in the area. Large sections of workforces from all 3 big employers (PTE, Northern and United) are being shed. In addition to redundancies workers are faced with the sharp erosion of working conditions and wage levels. Some workers remaining with the companies face longer hours and pay cuts, eg bus crews at Northern are being told that they must work a 45-hour week for £40 less pay. Their company may be taken over by a management team.

EFFECTS ON THE PUBLIC

Huge fare rises are imminent on PTE, while no level can be set with the private compa-

future. Plans to severely cut back have already drawn up. These include: The axing of the 5-Rider ticket scheme from most routes and likewise with Transfare tickets. Price rises will be brought in for Off-Peak, concessionary Off-Peak travel tickets.

THE SERVICE

Services to the public will be much worse than they are now. Some services will even be scrapped completely. The private companies have no wish to take on "unprofitable" routes, apparently this includes hospitals, schools, late night and early morning, workers and Sunday services. These will in the long run have to be paid through the PTE which has around £8 million to

quicker for passengers to simply walk. Other areas will have rare visits by buses or none at all.

CONCLUSION

Our roads have the potential to become death traps as the pursuit of greater profits among private companies gets underway. Hordes of buses racing each other to pick people up is not too difficult to imagine. Any out of work racing drivers will presumably be prime targets for jobs with the new companies. So far over 150 operators are waiting to begin their free-for-all. All in all we can look forward to a generally worse, more expensive and more dangerous transport system in the area.

MINERS ACTION

September saw Durham miners and mechanics threatening and taking industrial action over 4 issues: a long-running dispute about pay, the future of those sacked during the strike, the run-down of Seaham colliery and British Coal's consultation procedures. A 24-hour lightning strike followed a ballot at Murton colliery near Seaham in which almost 70% voted in favour of action.



This was the first of a series of stoppages and only a handful of workers crossed the picket line. As well as the

usual newspaper headlines of "picket assault" and UDM members claiming that NUM picketlines were "mob rule", Dave Archibald, NE Area Director said that, "a strike would be devastating to pits like Murton." Dave Hopper, secretary of Durham NUM, said, "I'm not surprised at this type of blackmail from the board, the remedy is in their own hands. The men have responded in the way that they have because they are fed up with the way they are being treated. Archibald has had his answer and he should get back round the table and talk about the problem." Jim Perry, Durham mechanics president, said that his men plan to stage a stoppage at one of the coalfields six pits and one British Coal workshop each week until the board gives way on the four issues. Dave Hopper: "We are not lemmings, we are not on a path of self-destruction, but there comes a time when you have to ask your members to take action."

WESTOE UNOFFICIAL STRIKE

On Monday 15th September 1,400 miners went on 24-hour strike in protest at the dismissal of 2 men, Ronnie Wilson and Harry Sinclair. They were sacked for allegedly assaulting a scab. According to the sacked men the strike included UDM members. NUM Lodge secretary Tom Betts said, "although the strike was unofficial it has represented a gut reaction."

September 18th: 3,000 mechanics in the Durham coalfield voted for a strike in a secret ballot.

September 19th: The mechanics area executive committee met and drew up plans to strike at random pits giving only 2 hours notice.

LONE PICKET

Mike Silcock of Markham Main colliery near Doncaster, South Yorks. was sacked by the Coal Board for breaking safety regulations. He replied to this by mounting a one-man picket, saying, "I think there has been an injustice in the way I have been dismissed and I wanted support from the lads. I thought they would not cross a picketline and not one went past. They were 100% solid." All 1,200 of Mike's workmates refused to cross his picket, and in just 5 days Mike cost British Coal £800,000 in lost coal.

MINERS' DEBTS: NO LEGAL ACTION YET

In issue No.5 of The Syndicalist we reported that Northumberland County Council were demanding repayment of loans given to miners during the year-long strike. Social Services Committee members are now replying on the "good faith" of miners in repaying the money rather than take legal action. But Councillor John Nicholson added, "If

PROBLEMS AT CONTRACTS

The workers at Contracts Ltd, South Shields are still continuing their overtime ban and work to rule.

The management at Contracts is being attacked from all sides over its inadequacy in running a clothing factory. Hardly any of the finished work is getting out of the factory, and orders have been returned to the factory. Workers say that management "haven't a clue" and the parent company French Connection have told the management that they do not want another strike. Union members have written a letter to the company demanding to have a say in discussions over the present situation. The workers want a say in what they are actually doing on the shop floor and new methods which will make their lives a lot easier.

On the first anniversary of the strike, 17th September, the workers held a spontaneous picket to celebrate before going into work, complete with wine at 7am. The workers reported that management looked out of the window and "nearly died". One of them came out immediately and asked waveringly what was happening. Its seems that they did not enjoy being reminded of the six month long strike which prompted solidarity plugging the company on an international scale. Workers at the factory some time ago contacted their union, NUTGW, requesting that they organise a conference on low pay. The union have finally replied and stated that they would not. Workers are now looking at the possibilities of organising their own conference on the subject as well as working conditions in general. This conference they hope would be on a regional level.

RELEASE THE JAILED MINERS

DURHAM	YORKSHIRE
JOHN MATTERSON: Murton — Two years and three months youth custody from December 1985.	MARTIN HODGSON: Wakefield — Three year sentence from November 1985. Armitay Jail, Leeds.
GARY BLACKMORE: 19 — Alfray, attempted not guilty, 2 years Youth Custody (not a miner, but arrested during the course of the strike)	NGEL HODGSON: Wakefield — Three year sentence from November 1985. Armitay Jail, Leeds.
SOUTH WALES	PAUL WRIGHT: Saville — 18 month sentence. G76424, Kirkham Jail, Freckleton road, Preston Lancs.
DEAN HANCOCK: Oakdale — Eight year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicesters.	CLIVE THOMPSON: Frickley — Three year sentence from April 1985. G79348, Ackington Jail, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 1XF.
RUSSELL SHANKLAND: Tall Merthyr — Eight year sentence Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicesters.	N. DERBYSHIRE
KENT	DAVID GAUNT: Shirebrook — 2½-year sentence from December 1984. E71037. A Wing, Millers Park Youth Custody Centre, Doddington Road, Wallingborough.
TERRY FRENCH: Betschanger — Four year sentence from January 1985. B73383, Weald Wing, Maidstone jail, Kent.	

there are any really hard strikers who are not going to pay out of principle then I think we should take action.

REVOLUTION IN HUNGARY

INTRODUCTION

The Hungarian revolution of 1956, supported by virtually the entire population, was the most complete and untarnished peoples' revolutions since 1917 in Russia. The working class and peasantry of Hungary rose to assert their true interests against those of the Communist Party bureaucrats, their Russian masters, and were simultaneously totally opposed to the return of capitalism or any reactionary politics. But the conventional media of East and West both found it convenient to obscure the fact that the revolutionaries, ie the Hungarian people, wanted (and were able) to articulate and put into practice true free communism. Ideas of workers' and peasants' councils and community committees developed almost instantly with the armed uprising, without a tradition to draw upon. The intellectuals were far more moderate and unambitious and were constantly left behind by the radical and militant workers and youth.

FALSE HISTORY

Russian propaganda interpreted this as fascist counter-revolution since it could not countenance the success of valid working class revolutions when its dogma said that these were impossible without a vanguard of professional revolutionaries. Western pronouncements said that the workers' demands were for capitalism and social democracy as well as an end to Soviet domination. Hungarian CP leaders (when they were not echoing Russian hysteria) repeated the arrogance shown by leninists many times before and since, along the lines of: "...the regime is aware that the people do not always know what is good for them. It is therefore the duty of the leadership to act, not according to the will of the people, but according to what the leadership knows to be in the best interests of the people" (Janos Kadar, Hungarian Premier after the Russian invasion of November 1956).

According to this nonsense the killing of over 40,000 Hungarian workers and the wounding, forced deportation and imprisonment of hundreds of thousands of others was in the "interests of the people".

It is still necessary to counter all of the lies and distortions. 30 years on we salute the revolutionary people of Hungary with the following brief account

BACKGROUND

Since the second world war the sheer extent of oppression in eastern european countries dominated by Russia had led to widespread discontent and disillusionment with the authoritarian Communist models. In for example Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria the Communist Parties played leading roles in entrenching former nazis in prominent government positions - people who could be "trusted" where workers could not! In these countries and in East Germany and Poland a disastrous economic and social mismanagement had further undermined faith in conventional Russian-style communism. The Party dictatorships progressively distanced themselves from the workers and uprisings were gradually increasing in size and scope throughout the Warsaw Pact countries (including Russia).

SOLIDARITY

Events in Hungary from October 1956 developed concretely from a demonstration in Budapest in solidarity with the workers of Poznan, Poland who earlier that year had shown their disgust with the state of affairs in their country with a brave and determined general strike, only to be faced with Russian troops, as would be their Hungarian comrades. Intellectuals and students organised the demonstration on October 23rd, but when workers joined and extended the action the whole event became an expression of the real feelings of the people. A statue of Stalin was pulled down and 100,000 marched to the state-run radio station in order to broadcast their demands. The security police machine-gunned the crowds and within half-an-hour workers started to return to occupy their factories. Groups of workers and youth spread through Budapest forming roadblocks and occupying buildings and streets. The revolution, completely unplanned, had begun.



AFTERMATH

A CHANGE OF COMPLEXION

By November 11th virtually all of the country was under Russian military control. But factories were under the complete control of the workers' councils. These now swiftly re-organised themselves with an even stronger awareness of their political role given the unmistakable status of the Kadar regime as puppet. The wholly democratic nature of the councils is clearest from this period. Instant recall of delegates to the district councils or to the Central Workers Council of Budapest (CWC) was frequently acted upon, and the principles of autonomy, delegation and recall were unquestioned. The councils remained part of the working class, and in the end abolished themselves rather than collaborate with the authorities.

THE PARTY WINS

After suspicion at first (having been misled by Russian propaganda) Russian commanders soon negotiated with the CWC direct, recognising where power lay. But eventually the Kadar regime whittled away the strength of the councils, using the newly-re-emerged AVH and of course the military occupiers. Members of councils were continually being arrested, many were shot or deported, and although they were replaced this could not continue indefinitely.

The first sign that the councils would not stay united came when a return to work proposal was made by the Csepel district council in mid-November, supposedly to show that the strike was conscious and organised. Against the wishes of very many workers the proposal was accepted by the CWC and acted upon on the 19th as a signal of support for the CWC. Provincial workers, especially the miners, were incensed and were adamant that they would strike on. But almost immediately a new general strike followed spontaneously on a rumour that the CWC had been arrested. The Csepel council was recalled and replaced by one opposed to any return to work - casting doubt on the original proposal. Partial and complete general strikes continued for weeks, but the intensifying repression of the councils turned active, united resistance into the passive kind. By the end of the year workers' councils still in existence began to dissolve themselves, Kadar had full rein and the revolution finally and completely ended with workers at gunpoint in their factories.

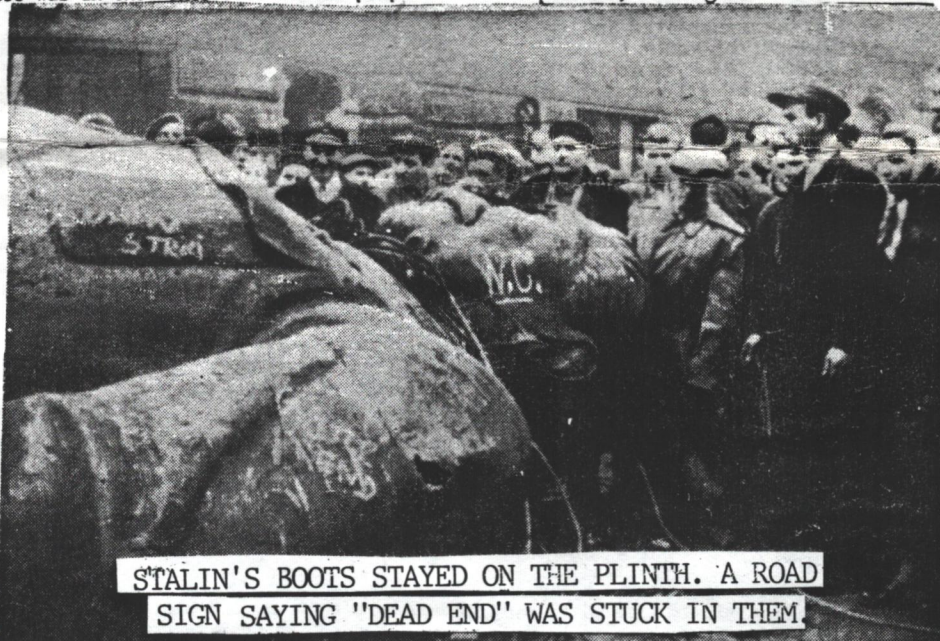
Hungarian revolutionaries were imprisoned and executed in their thousands for their "incorrect ideas". In May 1957 the curfew was lifted, but summary justice remained until November. Executions for offences connected with the revolution continued until 1961, on almost a daily basis until 1959. Mass internment ended in 1960, and hundreds of rebels only left prison late in the 1970's.

After their tantalisingly brief glimpse of freedom and workers' control the Hungarian people were forcibly re-acquainted with the reality of authoritarian Communism imposed by a new Party bureaucracy backed up by the spectre of Russian domination.

"The Hungarian revolution of October 1956 wrote its message in the blood of thousands of ordinary working people, particularly the youth. The message is that today, the class struggle is not one between East and West, Labour and Tory, or between employers and trade union leaders. It is the struggle of the working class against all the bureaucratic regimes, institutions and ideologies which, in both East and West, obstruct its road to freedom." (Anderson, Hungary '56). We cannot doubt the ability of the workers' councils to run Hungarian society. They were organised through the practice of complete, direct democracy in a manner so similar to the principles of syndicalism. No special caste of officials or bureaucrats was needed to self-manage economic and social affairs without exploitation and with social justice - indeed such a class would have made this impossible.

Before being crushed the Hungarian experience provided us with one of the clearest examples in history of the working class taking power on its own account - not through elites, parties or vanguards. If the international working class had shown the necessary solidarity during those weeks in 1956 we might not still be awaiting the first truly libertarian communist society on earth.

Fuller accounts of the events described above can be found in the following:
 HUNGARY '56, A. Anderson, Solidarity
 THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION 1956, CCP 1,
 Scorch Publications.
 HUNGARY 1956, B. Lomax, Allison & Busby
 EYEWITNESS IN HUNGARY, B. Lomax (ed.),
 Spokesman Press.
 HUNGARIAN WORKERS' REVOLUTION, SWF,
 Kulak Press.



'STALIN'S BOOTS STAYED ON THE PLINTH. A ROAD SIGN SAYING "DEAD END" WAS STUCK IN THEM

THE FIRST RUSSIAN INTERVENTION

THE WORKING CLASS ORGANISE

Soviet troops and tanks stationed in Hungary began to mobilise later that night, even before a desperate Hungarian government requested their assistance. They entered Budapest early on the 24th and were attacked immediately. Many tanks were destroyed and others abandoned by demoralised Russians who could not understand why they were being asked to fight Hungarian workers. The AVH (Hungarian State Security Police) and those Russians who would fight became progressively weaker in resolve in the following days. They were faced with implacable resistance all over the country, particularly from the youth and young factory workers.

THE RISE OF THE COUNCILS

Revolutionary workers' councils began to take over factories throughout Hungary, asserting power in political and social spheres as well as insisting on self-management of workplaces. The fighting was more severe in Budapest and the councils emerged as rebels won in each district. For the time being a general strike was called in support of the uprising. On the 26th the government grudgingly conceded the councils a minor role in the running of factories, but by then councils were rapidly federating together to consider co-ordinated action. Essential services and food supplies were kept going by the councils but the economic life of Hungary apart from this was at a standstill.

FEDERAL ACTION

On the 31st October district workers' councils set up a parliament of workers'

councils for Budapest, which was in close contact with other cities where councils controlled the radio stations (eg in Gyor, Miskolc, Pecs, Skolnok). As well as their stress on self-management of industry by workers, one of the main preliminary demands of the councils was for Hungary to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact and declare its neutrality. After the stopgap Nagy government conceded this move on November 1st a proposal from Ujpest and Csepel district councils called for a return to work on the 5th. The idea was to strengthen the negotiating position of the government with the Russians. But the government was by now completely impotent and a full Russian invasion commenced on the 4th.

THE SECOND RUSSIAN INTERVENTION

THE COUNCILS STRUGGLE

This time overwhelming numbers of fresh Russian tanks and troops (many of whom were told that they were in Berlin fighting nazis) encircled every working class district and industrial area. Bombers and heavy artillery were used to stamp out armed resistance in Budapest, although the end only really came when the rebels ran out of ammunition. Before this happened the factories were working fulltilt providing ingeniously designed weapons.

The workers' councils of other towns led the resistance (lasting for example 5 days in Dunapentele and 12 days in Salgotarjan). Miners, peasants and Hungarian soldiers fought the Russians for some time in the Pecs and Borsod areas, and many rural districts were no-go areas for the Russians for weeks. Everywhere, a general strike followed immediately resistance failed.

SOUTH AFRICA

REPRESSION AND RESISTANCE

September sets the scene for the beginning of the annual conferences for both parties and the TUC. As we expected the TUC came up with nothing to further the demands of the working class. There was a lot of talk of support for workers taking industrial action and demanding better pay and conditions but as usual it remained as just a talk with no real commitment to any form of action. One of the major issues of the conference, apart from the question of Wapping, silentnight and the new anti-riot weapons, was of the fight of black South African trade unions demanding the end to the racist and oppressive South African regime.

All talk centered around an individual boycott of goods imported from South Africa. Jimmy Knapp, NUR leader stated, "Don't buy South African goods, and if anyone is victimised for that then this congress would unite to defend them." We have heard this pledge on numerous occasions in the past and is something that can no longer be believed. What type of united support are the TUC talking of if workers are victimised by implementing their own personal boycotts? The only action in support that we can visualise is the type of act that we have seen over the last few years in such disputes as Warrington, the year long miners strike and its aftermath with victimised miners and presently in the News International dispute.

Talk of action in support of the South African workers or even individual actions is not going to greatly benefit the South African worker. We need a co-ordinated campaign of trades unionists themselves implementing all out sanctions in South Africa in engineering and docks and so on. No government or pressure from the TUC bureaucracy will ever or can ever be able to impose meaningful sanctions on the apartheid regime.

Many trade unionists in South Africa are being held in custody after mass arrests during the 'State of Emergency'. The plight of the South African unionist is a very disturbing one; a few examples follow of the harsh treatment that those detained face in South African jails. Andrew Molopyane, who is a member of the Metal and Allied Workers Union:

One morning he was riding home from work on his bicycle when without warning he was thrown to the ground by two policemen. He was asked why he was wearing a union T-shirt and when he replied that it had

nothing to do with them he was told that 'MAWU' was the cause of the troubles in the schools. Molopyane was taken to GaR-unkuwa police station where he was beaten, together with about thirty young people. After his beating he was thrown into a police cell for 24 hours. Upon release he was taken to a hospital in Johannesburg where he remained in intensive care for three days as his kidneys had stopped functioning as a result of the assault. Other MAWU members were detained for wearing a union T-shirt or having a MAWU badge or sticker on their hats. Children of workers were also taken to the station where they were assaulted by policemen wielding plastic sjamboks (whips), wire sjamboks, canes and batons. After they had been assaulted in the parking area of the police station they would be taken into the mortuary of the police station and instructed to strip naked. When they were stripped naked they would be instructed to lie on the floor after which as many as thirty policemen would thrash them for differing periods of time. Many of the statements made by victims agree that during the worst period of the assaults the walls of the mortuary were caked in blood.

The Helicopter is a form of torture developed by the South African police in Port Elizabeth. The following is how one Ford car worker, Leslie Mangotcywa, described how he was tortured by the security police in Port Elizabeth.

"After a while Lieutenant Coetzee told Ndiyani to get handcuffs. He said I was to be put into the 'Helicopter' because I refused to talk the truth. I was handcuffed with my arms passing underneath the stick and my hands in front of my shins. I was then lifted and suspended between two tables. This position is a very awkward one. Firstly, one is suspended with ones head hanging down causing blood to rush to the head. Secondly, one is constantly trying to keep ones head up causing a great deal of pain to the neck.

Thirdly, one whose weight is suspended on ones wrists held by the handcuffs and the back of the legs. The handcuffs were tight making the hands numb. The back of the knees ache. Fourthly, one would pull with ones arms on occasion to relieve the pressure on the knees with resulting strain on that part of the body.

Fifthly, one would sweat which would run into ones eyes and one was unable to clear them.

Sixthly, in lifting the head a pain developed in the spine.

Lieutenant Coetzee sat next to me at one of the tables. He had a file which he asked questions and wrote down my answers. Coetzee and Ndiyani took turns to hit me. My buttocks were exposed and so became the main target of the quirt (a riding whip favoured by the South African police for interrogations and

ased Leslie from the 'Helicopter' he was continually beaten.

Until this disgusting state of repression is destroyed by the South African worker aided by International solidarity appalling events such as we have listed above will continue. We should do all we can to demand the release of those trades unionists being detained at present and we must also do all we can to support



Pictured is Moses Mayekiso, Transvaal Branch Secretary the Metal and Allied Workers Union.

crowd control). If they did not like my answers I would be hit. I pleaded with them to release me. They said I must answer all the questions. I screamed when I was hit and as the pain became quite excruciating I began to cry. It was a terrible indignity for me to break down like this. My screams were becoming too loud so they tied a cloth over my mouth which would then only be removed for my answers. If the answer was not satisfactory they would replace it again and assault me. Finally they released me".

Even after the security police had rele-

the South African workers, through our industrial muscle, implementing our own sanctions. There is a need for the call for effective action to be discussed throughout all workplaces with any involvement with South Africa whatsoever. All union branches and all other trade union bodies must begin to put into operation actual measures to create a blacking of all South African goods. South African workers cannot be allowed to rot and be tortured in prison cells and oppressed in their towns and villages while trade union bureaucrats sit around talking about 'individual action'.

LAND & LIBERTY

SPANISH WORKERS OCCUPY THE LAND

Agricultural workers in Andalucia, southern Spain, are staging occupations to demand the expropriation of land belonging to large owners. This action is in response to the worsening standard of living, increasing unemployment and the precarious status of the landless farm labour-

THE RICH GET RICHER

During the 1960's and 70's the mechanisation of agriculture and the shift from traditional labour-intensive crops to crops like cereals means that over



Andalucian Journaleros in occupation

ers. Life for these day labourers (journaleros) has historically been extremely hard, but in recent years they have faced new threats to their survival. There are about 500,000 journaleros in Andalucia, most of whom are employed for fewer than 60 days per year.

2.5 million Andalucians were forced to emigrate. Now over 200,000 seasonal workers are forced to live a nomadic existence in their search for work. Spain's recent entry into the EEC will have the effect of worsening their plight. The higher prices landowners will receive is

set to encourage further mechanisation - landowners will get richer and journaleros poorer. The EEC will actually give grants to uproot vineyards (labour-intensive).

AND THE WORKERS RESIST

To resist this trend the journaleros have organised into the SOC (landworkers' union). Established clandestinely in 1974 when Franco was in power the SOC has no permanent officials, all decisions being made by assemblies of those affected. Delegates are rotated, and subject to instant recall.

Since 1978 the SOC has organised demonstrations, road blockades, hunger strikes and the mass occupation of large estates in their fight to achieve expropriation of land. They want the often under-used or abandoned land to be farmed by workers' co-ops on the basis that the land must be controlled by those who work on it. Under workers' control extensive irrigation would take place reversing the tendency to create dustbowls, and mountains would be reforested. In the meantime they are fighting to stay on the land by demanding more labour-intensive crops.

PARTY PROMISES

The ruling Socialist Party came to power promising to reform the Spanish agricultural system and to ease the plight of the Andalucian journaleros. Where the government's programme has been implemented the changes have been purely cosmetic. In many cases though, the government has not even been able to do that much. For instance land earmarked for expropriation was the poorest in the region, but anyway court action by the landowners brought the programme to a halt after only two expropriations.

The main aim of the Socialist government is to make Spanish agriculture more profitable and more competitive for the Common Market regardless of how this affects the journaleros. The government

has also brought in a rural employment plan (PER) a system of public works comparable to MSC schemes here. The aim is to supplement employment on the land - but as we know from our experience of this kind of scheme, it also means cheap labour for the government. PER workers have been used to build barracks for the Civil Guard, the irony of which will become apparent later in this article.

"SOCIALIST" REPRESSION

The SOC are not opposed to mechanisation in itself. But they want a share in the profits from mechanisation rather than being kicked off the land and/or reduced to further poverty by it.

Their campaign of land occupations has been met by severe repression by the Socialist state resulting in violent clashes between journaleros and the Civil Guard. In 1984 in El Coronil 200 people occupied land for 11 days. The police intervened by blowing up the door of a building occupied by 8 men even though another of the doors into the building was open. The men have been given prison sentences ranging from 6 months to 2 yrs.

600 journaleros have recently been sentenced for blockading roads, taking part in demonstrations and occupying land. Sentences ranged from heavy fines to 30 months inside.

The SOC is at present campaigning, again using direct action tactics, to get charges dropped and pardons for all six hundred. On August 26th 50 women occupied the municipal building in the village of El Coronil, and more occupations are taking place.

The situation in Andalucia proves once again that no government whether socialist or not willingly gives workers what is rightfully theirs. When the SOC claim "Land & Liberty" the Spanish government, despite all their talk of land reform, reply in the same language as Franco - the language of repression.

NOVE LEATHER: another Grunwick?

The victimisation of trade unionists in sweatshop factories has continued all over the country since the defeat of the Grunwick strikers nine years ago. When workers protest they are sacked and scab labour is brought in so that they horrendous conditions prevalent do not need improving at the expense of the bosses' profits.

At Nove Leather in Liverpool, average take home pay is £65 per week for slaving in an appalling and dangerous working environment. Health and safety measures are virtually non-existent, wiring is 'repaired' unqualified employees, and the fire escape is permanently locked. Workers are forbidden to talk and get laid off when stocks run low. Most of the labour force (14 out of 17) are now unionised but face the usual refusal of management to recognise the T&G. On the 4th July the newly-elected shop steward, Janet Bowman was sacked. The transparent excuse was "the economic crisis", but as well as having a full order book this has not stopped the Novelli family (who own the company) buying themselves brand new cars and giving large pay rises to other workers. The other T&G members at Nove struck in support of their shop steward on the 8th July and were all sacked the same day. The owners won't consider re-instatement or recognition of the union, which has left nothing to be negotiated through ACAS. Scabs are now turning out Nove goods for Littlewoods, the major outlet. Littlewoods workers have been asked to black the goods, but so far they are still being distributed to the stores from a warehouse in Bolton. Financial support and solidarity are desperately needed. Boycott all Nove goods and send donations, letters and requests for speakers to:

NOVE LEATHER STRIKE FUND,
c/o TONY HAYES,
T.G.W.U.,
TRANSPORT HOUSE,
LIVERPOOL 1.

GETTING THE WIND UP

Over the last two months Howard Doris Offshore yard has been the scene of major developments. The company has been hit by two separate disputes and workers

have now been told that they may not have jobs to go to in the future. August 27th brought the first dispute over a long-running battle concerning working conditions. Crane drivers had been told that they were to be given a 50% wage cut since they were unable to work in the high winds of Hurricane Charlie. 400 members of the C&MBATU, AUE, and plumbers trade union walked out immediately in support of the crane drivers. The next morning management effectively locked out the entire striking workforce. They were said to have sacked themselves by breaking agreement not to take unofficial strike action. Management stated that their jobs were to be advertised and a new workforce taken on to replace them.

Eventually, after 3 days of picketing completely paralysed the oil rig yard, management gave in and re-instated all those sacked and agreed to a "wet weather" pay agreement.

Only weeks later Howard Doris workers were out on strike again over working arrangements. The yard has been hit by many forms of industrial action about working conditions in its short history since being changed from the old Wallsend Slipway when taken over by Howard Doris last year. The parent company, John Howard Group, is said to have been put into receivership. The oil platform that is currently being built for Conoco may be moved elsewhere. All in all the move has had the effect of putting the fear of god into the workers who have pledged to continue work on the Conoco UK Gas Platform. It remains to be seen what happens about the receivership or who a new buyer for the firm might be.

LATEST: 400 Sacked

As we go to press the 400 workforce at Howard Doris have been sacked by the receiver, and the yard is to close immediately and kept ticking over on a 'care and maintenance' level. Some payments, still outstanding, will not be given to the workforce as the receiver claims that there is no money left to pay them with. Meanwhile the sacked workers are to keep a watchful eye on the Wallsend yard to ensure that any attempts to move any equipment from the yard are stopped.

Below we include a list of trades unionists known to be held in South African gaols.

DETAINÉES

METAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION

MOSES MAYEKISO, Alexandra DUZI, J THEBEDI, Transvaal.
World Centre, 48 Railway Street, Germiston 1401.
SIMON TSHABALALA, Brakpan DUMA AMOS NCALA, Duduza JERRY MAROPA, Pretoria PETER DANTJIE, PETER MABUSELA, SOLOMON MANOANE, JOCOB NKU, FANI DAVID SIHLANGO, Brits BARNEY MASHIGO, Witbank DS MADI J MOGAVUVE, JOSEPH MOHAKWE, MOMBOLA J MOVOFA, NABIZELA, Address unknown
Second Floor, Harrister House, 65 Harrison Street, Johannesburg, 2001
DANIEL TLADI, Vereeniging PETRUS TOM, Sharpeville
Morena Store, Black Reef Road, Kaitshong, 1832
JOSEPH MIYA, VINCENT MKHONZA, Empangeni
Waste Centre, 37 Morris Street, Empangeni Rail, 3910
MAKHATHINI, Howick FREDDY MTSALI, Newcastle
4, Central Court, 125 Gale Street, Durban, 4001

COMMERCIAL, CATERING AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

JUDITH MTHALI, LILLIAN RADEBE, Germiston MARGARET MLANGENI, Soweto ISAAC RAMALOTO, KENNETH XULU, Joburg ALBERT SELLO TLEAN, Tembisa JOSIAS MASANGO P K A, HOBINI UDANGO, OSCAR MARGAS, CYNTHIA MABO, MRAYISA MNCEDISA, JOSEPH MOKOENA DANIEL MOSLOSANE, VICTOR MOTHATA, TIMOTHY KHAWANA, STELLA NOHUTTULUA, JNKOENA ZOLILE VIKAZI, Transvaal
First Floor, Kholiso House, 42 De Vries Street, Joburg, 2001
VICTOR S MABASO, Benoni
CNA Buildings, 45 Princess Avenue, Benoni
MUKILE MGOUBA, Port Elizabeth P KLAAS, JOSEPH MOKOENA, E Cape
First Floor, Print House Building, 365, Kempston Road, Port Elizabeth, 6001
MURIEL R MASHELE, MARIA M MOLOITSI, SATHIEL NOSOBORI, ELIAS NSELE, SHADRACK SEALO, Natal
205, Oldwell House, Oldwell Court, Smith Street, Durban, 4001
O MAROELTSE, Bloemfontein
PO Box 9301, Bloemfontein, 9300
FLOYD MAZIBUKO, RICHARD MNCULWANE, Frankfort JOSEPH S WILLIAMS, Vereeniging
59, Beaconfield Avenue, Vereeniging

NATIONAL UNION OF MINERWORKERS

JOHANNES PIKI, Joburg
Fifth Floor, Lektion House, 5 Wanderers Street, Joburg, 2001.
VICTOR BAMBANE, MANNIE DIPEKO, PETER MAKEBULA, PETER MATHEBUIA, KEZIKIEL MNGOLO, JOHANNES MOROKO, ZIK NQINQOLO, PYPAS MATHEBULA, Kimberley JOHANNES SPHATE, Welkom D LEROUA, R MOLOKWANE, NON QUBOBI, Northern Cape
155, Powell Road, Industria, Welkom, 9460
MOSES GLADELE, Klerksdorp
121 Beaconfield Chambers, Beaconfield Avenue, Vereeniging, 1939

NATIONAL UNION OF TEXTILE WORKERS

CHRISTOPHER MINI, Duduza ZAKHELE GALELA, S MAVUSO, Tembisa PETROS MAPALALA A MOLOI, P MOLOI, M MOTSOUNYANE L MSIBI OWENNGWENYA L TSETSETSI, P TSHABALALA, Frankfort SHADRACK MARUMO, Parys HARRY MOILOA, Transvaal FREDDY MGUGU, E Cape
World Centre, 48 Railway Street, Georgetown, Germiston, 1401
MUSA KHEOWA, M KHEOWA, JAPHET MUSA, Durban MOSES J MKHIZE, Maritzburg KHESWA, Address unknown
5 Central Court, 125 Gale Street, Durban 4001
LYDIA TSOETE SI, Bethlehem JABULANI NTULI, Natal J GEOFFREY MOLOI, OFS
40 Alexander Street, Esour, Natal 3310

NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION

J LEBESE, Pretoria SELLO RAMAHUBYE
605, Willie Theron Building, Bosman Street, Pretoria, 2001
MNCUNA, Natal THOBILE CANNONCHUNJWA, JIMMY MANYISANE, MZUKISI BANA, ENOCH CHUNGA ERIC DALI, MATTHYS, AMOS MPEKANA, K NGWALI, F ZILE, ZWENI, E Cape
9 and 102 Lotus Building, Cottrell Street, Port Elizabeth, 6001

CHEMICAL WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION

VUSI MAVUSO, Joburg LAWRENCE NTLOKOA, Krugersdorp THAPI MASILLA, THESCORD MISIZA, I RANTZATSI, I SEDWABA, W SELEKU, BENJAMIN TSELE, MKALYHE, Transvaal
30 World Centre, 48 Railway Street, Germiston, 1401
JOSEPH MOLOENA, Port Elizabeth G DAVID, REUBEN KOMAN, ALEXANDER PETERSEN, E Cape
First Floor, A P Hing Building, 397 Kempston Road, Korsten, 6016

SOUTH AFRICAN ALLIED WORKERS UNION

KGORO DAU, JOACHIM K DAU, Pretoria, JAMES BOOI, THOZAMA TSOLO, Cape Town BRIAN NAKEDI, GEORGINA SOAHOTSI, JANNE MOHAPI, Bloemfontein THABO MASOLENG, THEMBA NGUNI, FREDDIE VANGA, Welkom POST MOLEPO, THEMBA NGUNI, SEFILE, Address unknown, ANDREW MAFATU, JACBOB MASIMOLA, Transvaal, P LEPHOO, M MZUZWANA, A SAILA, JOHN MOKOENA, BIGBOY SETSUMI, OFS MBUSAKHWE, G MHLANGELO, GLORIA MKHOSA, BONGANI MOZWI, THEMBA SITAS, E Cape
PO Box 10419, Marine Parade, 4056

GENERAL WORKERS UNION

L MTHANE, Port Elizabeth
5 Court Chambers, 623 Main Street, Port Elizabeth, 6001.
LOLA DITSHEGO, Pretoria, HOWARD MARAWU, Cape Town
First Floor, Benbow Building, 3 Beverley Street, Athlone, 7764

GENERAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION

JOHN DIRE, WILLIAM SKIPPE SEIMELO, Huhudi ABELS MAKONYOU, Krugersdorp PATRICK MOKUBONG, Kimberley MABEBO, Address unknown TABU SILO, Transvaal IMPI AOU, E Cape
PO Box 6914, Johannesburg 2000

COSATU

ALFRED O MONARENG, Alberton JULIUS MATROOS, SEBENZILE NCAPAYI, HAZEKIA SKHAKHANE, LANGELEHLE SKHAKHANE, THEMBA MAJOLA, Port Elizabeth THAMBANI MBAMBO, SIBISISI MPANZA, Empangeni ZWELABANTU MZUZWANA, Bloemfontein GREGORY MALEPO, Tembisa HLANATHI SIBANKULU, Newcastle BOTHA MODISAPOLI, Parys MUSA MKHWANAZI, ZULENI, Address unknown SKAKANE MPANZA (COSATU Youth), Empangeni GREGORY MALEPO, Transvaal VUYISILE MZENZI, E Cape WILSON ZWENI, W Cape
PO Box 18109, 4014, Dalbridge

CUSA

JAMES MNDAWENI, Boksburg THAMI MCERWA, MAHLOMOLA SKHOSANA, BASHEER VALLY, Joburg FEZILE DADBI, Parys SKOSANA MOHALA, MERCIUS MADI, MARY JANE NLANKA, DOCTOR NKOSI, D MADDOULA, THEMBILE MJESU, MIRIAM NOKELELO, VICTOR TWALA, D NKOSI, S CEBEKULU, JOHANNES NQODESE, DAVID RATHULU, SIMON MASIBI, ABRHAM MARUTING, M TWALA, THOMAS KEKAME, H SEKETE, T XULU, LUCY MAINE, IMCHUNU, M KKHUMALO, THOMAS MACHABA, THOMAS DUBAZA, E THABONG, JOSEPH MAPHANGA, ALBERT SEBANGA, BENMOTSHALE, TOLO NOTOLO, GORDON MGWEVU, J NCOLOLANE, S SHUPING, DAN LETHOLE, Z KGATLE, ANDREW MORIFI, ALEX MAHLAJI, E MATIBITIDI, A MALATGI, L MASHABANE, I SEGWATA, S MMATLI, J PHAHLA-MOHLAHA, J MOTLANA, M MAHONONO, PILANE, MZOLO, M JEMLA, D SHAI, R ASHEKA, Address unknown
Seventh Floor, Lektion House, 5 Wanderers Street, Joburg, 2001.

AZACTU

MOSES MPHEHELE, Pietersburg MZIBA, S MOKGALAGAI, T HALATWANI, SMNTEZA, M BOKAOAM, T RAMALAMULA, T MOHLEKA, Address unknown
51 Commissioner Street, Joburg, 2000

PAPER AND WOOD AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION

SIPHO KUBEKA, Alexandra, PETRUS KHUMALO, J MAGALULA, Transvaal
First Floor, Harrister House, 65 Harrison Street, Joburg, 2001
ARTHUR MOTA, ZAKELE ELPHAS MTHIMKULU, BUSI MNGUNI, Empangeni
1 Waste Centre, 37 Morris Street, Empangeni Rail, 3910
JAMES NTSHINGILA, Maritzburg
525 Berg Street, Pietermaritzburg
ANTHONY MARONG WILLEM, Port Elizabeth THEMBA KHUMALO, Address unknown RICHARD MPAKHO, Z JEBESE, MUMLAMI ZENGETWA, M BIYO, E Cape
Head Office, 2-5 Central Court, 125 Gale Street, Durban 4001

TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION

TEMBA MPONJANA, ESON NGUBANE, Empangeni, A NKOSI, Natal
1 Waste Centre, 37 Morris Street, Empangeni Rail, 3910
JAPHIE MASILELA, Transvaal M MARAWU, N Cape
Head Office, First Floor Harrister House, 65 Harrison Street Joburg 2001.

FOOD AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION

S MLANGENI, Frankfort, ENOCH MFIKWA, OFS.
3 Central Court, 125 Gale Street, Durban, 4001.
Ray Alexander Union Centre, Klein Drakenstein Road, Huguenot, Paarl
JULIUS NARE, E Cape
88 Court Chambers, 623 Main Street, Port Elizabeth, 6001.
DONNIE KHUMALO, Pretoria MOLEFI THOMAS NHLAPO, Randfontein TSETSEDI NTHLAPHO, Vnorbijpark SAMUEL MKWAWANZI, MOLEFI NHLAPO, Transvaal
27 Prenor Building Corner West And Gerry Maritz Streets, Pretoria
WILSON ZWENI, Ashton, NKOSANA JAPHTA, N MATROOS, W Cape
255 Albert Road, Woodstock, Cape Town, 7925.

NATIONAL EDUCATION UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

ANGIE M RAMAROLA, Joburg ALVIN M MCEBISI, Port Elizabeth KAREN HIRT, JEREMY ROUTLEDGE, PATRICIA SEERY, Durban DENNIS DEICKSON, Maritzburg ZINGELE DINGAAN, SISA TABATA, Bloemfontein, B F NENE, COLLIN NGONGOZA, Z M PILIMA, AYANDO QONO, E Cape
c/o COSATU.

NATIONAL IRON, STEEL, METAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION

V NKHOMZA, Natal HAMILTON MKWANAZI, THAMBANI MLAMBO, HERBERT NDLANZE, Empangeni.
Box 2599, Newcastle 2940, Natal.

CLOTHING WORKERS UNION

ZUBEIDA JAFFER, Cape Town
Corporation Chambers, Corporation Street, Cape Town.

MOTOR ASSEMBLY AND COMPONENT WORKERS UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

DENNIS NEER, THEMBA DUZE, GEGE MBIKANYE, Port Elizabeth GERALD JOHANNES, Cape Town.
PO Box 2924, Port Elizabeth 6000.

TRANSPORT AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION

ALEX MAHLATJIE, Pretoria, ABRAM MALATJIE, LOUIS MASHABANE, SIMON MMATLI, JACK PHAHLAMOHLEKA, ISAAC SEGWAPA, Pietersburg, ELLIOT MATIBIDI, Burgersdorp.
PO Box 4469 Joburg 2000.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION

PHILLIP MOROKONG, Pretoria THEBISO MLATZWANE, HENDRICK MOHGOLOLAGODI, MON WABISI, W Cape.
PO Box 10928, Johannesburg 2000.

SOUTH AFRICAN CHEMICAL WORKERS UNION

GERALD MSIZI, Pretoria, SIPHO MZOLO, ANDREW MORIFI, Tembisa
PO Box 4990, Joburg 2000.

NATIONAL UNION OF PRINTING AND ALLIED WORKERS

THANDEKA MPAANDE, Soweto
Room 315, Lektion House, 5 Wanderers Street, Joburg, 2001.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE WORKERS UNION

SIMON MASIBI, Klerksdorp
PO Box 10928, Ferreirasdorp

BLACK ALLIED WORKERS UNION

X MATSAPA, Pietersburg
PO Box 2591, Durban 4000.

MUNICIPAL WORKERS UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

ONLIUS DIRGETSI, Kimberley, CITE HLABIZULU, Welkom PETRUS SEABELA, OFS, MICHAEL KONYANA, F KOMSANA, E Cape
c/o COSATU.

BLACK HEALTH AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

JABU VILAKAZI
Joburg PO Box 10411, Joburg, 2000.

AFRICAN ALLIED WORKERS UNION

B LUGELWANA, W Cape
c/o CUSA.

CAPE TOWN MUNICIPAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION

J ARONES, S ISAACS, H VAN WYK, Cape Town.
c/o COSATU.

A1 FEEDS: Strikers speak out

This dispute has been going on for 8 months now. It began on January 13th over the sacking of two men for union activities. The workforce withdrew their labour in support but were sacked as well. The management have brought in scab labour from all over the country and have told them to provoke the strikers and lie to the bone to get them moved off the gate. We have had one picket beaten up and two run over without any charges being brought.

We took over the offices for two and a half days before they got us out. The first day we were in there Alan Ford, the manager, ordered the scabs to smash a wall down, and get us out at all cost. They failed. We had a lot of trouble with the police - our mates outside were throwing parcels of food in to us, but the police were playing football with it, then they gave it to their dogs to eat. I have never seen so many police and vans for six pickets. It's about time someone else complained about the policing down here. Mr Simpson (A1 Feeds management) should foot the bill because it's his security guards the police are

being used for. The pickets are still fighting but sometimes there are only 6 of us so we could do with some help if we are going to win.

Our funds have run dry now, so we ask for some support to give us the strength to fight this hard, long battle.

We have lost one tribunal but we still have one to go. The scab drivers are still turning up in force but there is little we can do to stop them. Even the police are getting inside information about some of our plans so we have had to cancel a lot of planning, but we will not give up.

It has taken the police 8 months to realise that our caravan in a layby was obstructing the highway. They have now moved it and told us, no way is it coming back. They are making their own rules up as they go along.

CONTACT: A1 Feeds Strike Committee, Transport House, Liverpool 3.

A1 Feeds Strike Committee.

GATESHEAD WORKERS INFORMATION SERVICES

The Gateshead Workers Information Services are once again holding advice sessions for workers in the area this month. Advice from the GWIS is available on many subjects affecting workers' rights, including for example:

- *ARE YOU RECEIVING THE RIGHT WAGERATE FOR YOUR JOB?
- *WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF THREATENED WITH REDUNDANCY?
- *HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK
- *HOW YOU CAN JOIN A UNION
- *WHAT ARE YOUR UNION RIGHTS AT WORK?
- *WHAT WELFARE BENEFITS CAN YOU CLAIM EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE WORKING?

These questions and many more can be answered for you free of charge whether you work full- or part-time or are on any MSC or YTS-type scheme. The GWIS Community Bus will be parked at the north end of the Team Valley Industrial Estate on Thursdays 9th, 16th and 23rd October between 11am and 1.15pm. If you are unable to attend these sessions and need advice contact the Gateshead Law Centre, 13 Walker Terrace, tel. Gateshead 4771109 between 9am and 5pm.

PRESSGANGED

Workers at Press Production Systems in Wallsend have been conned into what amounts to a wage freeze for a period of two years. No wage increase will be awarded for one year and an increase tied to the cost of living index will be implemented during the second year. This 'con' is being pushed primarily by the union and notably by Bobby Glass, Chairman of the CSEU. His recent comment in the media makes one question whether in fact he should be on the board of the company rather than act as a union official. "The workers have shown a highly responsible attitude" and

"If we want to survive we have to be competitive" are examples of his utterances which are displayed daily by company directors throughout industry. The employees have received no guarantee on job security which is hardly surprising from a company which is one of the worst offenders in the area for hiring workers on short term contracts thus making their dismissal cheap and easy. In fact William Press is part of the AMEC group where the workforce has fallen from 1,100 to 400 over the recent years. The working class now expect employers to plead poverty in order to frighten workers into accepting any conditions they wish to impose but this rising

tide of 'New Realism' spouted by union bureaucrats seems to be much more effective in cutting workers wages and their conditions and job security. Both management and the CBI are lapping up these union inspired moves as shown by the quote from Managing Director of Press Offshore Tom Eckford, "we've witnessed an extremely important occasion". It is an important occasion because in effect it means that our trade union leaders have opted out of the working class struggle. They now see themselves as the modern businessmen of the union world where to live and act as company director is everything and their understanding of real fighting trade unionism is one big nothing.

WHERE WE STAND

1. We believe in independent, non-hierarchical working class organisation independent of all political parties and bureaucratic trade union structures, none of which represent the true interests of the majority of people, i.e. the people who create the wealth by manual or intellectual means.
2. We believe that under the present system of capitalism support should be given to the struggle for short-term gains, such as better pay and conditions, but these should always be seen for what they are—limited interim reforms which are no substitute for the total reorganisation of society necessary to ensure true freedom, equality and democracy.
3. We believe that the parliamentary system does not serve the interests of the working class. The solution to the problems that we the working class face do not lie in the election of a new leadership, but in the creation of new structures both in the workplace and the community which allows for us all to have total control over the decisions which affect our lives.
4. As revolutionary syndicalists we believe that only by a general strike accompanied by mass occupations and the implementation of workers control, can capitalism be finally removed and a free self-managed society where production and labour is geared towards need and not profit, be created.
5. We are opposed to all forms of racism, fascism, nationalism and sexism—indeed any ideology which sets out to divide the working class.

HORMEL UPDATE

The dispute at the Hormel meatpacking plant in Austin Minnesota continues. Below we have an update of this action by an American comrade.

The struggle at Hormel is continuing. The UFCW and the company have announced an agreement but, as of this writing, the vote tallies are not in. Workers who did not cross the picket lines are being

to spread the rumour that workers from the Ottumwa plant - who had just won their jobs back - would scab on anyone who struck. The negotiated contract gives a raise to \$10.70 in its third year (1988) which translates as a one penny raise since 1979. Other provisions cut back on insurance, the grievance procedure, working conditions and seniority. The Austin plants conditions are tied to terms negotiated in Fremont, Nebraska, for the Hormel plant there. These contracts would only run together at

The boycott is continuing. The position of the newly formed North American Meatpackers Union is not clear. NAMU certainly has the UFCW worried. The UFCW has sued the NAMU and the new union is now trying to drum up the necessary \$100,000 for court costs. Send support and donations to:

HORMEL RANK AND FILE,
P.O. BOX 903,
AUSTIN,
MN 55912,
U.S.A..

NAMU claims to have about 800 members,



Some of the striking Hormel workers who filled the Austin National Guard Armory on August 31, 1986, to protest a tentative contract that leaves strikebreakers in the plant and them without jobs.

told that there are no jobs for them now and that their rights of recall for work has been severed for at least two years. People who voted on the contract did not know in most cases what they were voting on; apparently the new contract is based on the 'implemented contract' which covered the scabs.

Seven Hormel contracts expired on September 1st. To head off united action by the rank and file, the UFCW negotiated agreements separately and individually for these plants. The union also began

1992, at the earliest, however; thus, joint action by the rank and file against the company is cut short. Other Hormel contracts will expire before the Austin plants contract. Concessions bargaining here has become a matter of finding a low wage, agreeing to it and then cutting the others' pay down to that. The days when unions negotiated high pay for a particular company to take it out of competition with other companies and, thereby, to set a pattern in industry are gone.

507 people are still locked out in Ottumwa and 77 people are out in Fremont.

The negotiated agreement does not address the situation of these workers.

As we stated in the last issue of the paper a Liverpool based company by the name of NEW FORGE FOODS, Liverpool, L25 2PF, are producing the product SPAM on behalf of the Austin company. We urge all trades unionists to black this product and all other Hormel products sold in this country.

Support the SILENTNIGHT Strikers, Picket the Co-op

West High St., Gateshead -
11am, Sat 11th & 25th Oct.

Newgate St., Newcastle -
11am, Sat 18th October.

ROUND UP

VICTIMISATION STOPPED

A two week strike at the Bellhouse Hartwell factory in Westthoughten has led to a welcome victory for the 120 workers (members of TAS, AEU & G&M). Two men, Dennis Green and Alan Bond, were sacked without notice on the 29th July. No reason was given and the two were allowed back pending a conference after a one day strike on the 30th. Management would not change their position and at a works meeting on 5th Aug. an all out strike was unanimously agreed. Management caved in on the 19th Aug. and reinstated Dennis Green (Alan Bond had already left the area), agreeing that strikers would not lose holiday pay. They further agreed to introduce a system of short term contracts to replace employment on a day to day basis. In this case the arbitrary dismissal of an active trade unionist was prevented, and as a bonus conditions have been improved slightly. This was achieved by solidarity and determination - an encouraging example for us all.

AUSTIN & PICKERSGILL

On September 2nd 900 hourly-paid shipyard workers walked out of Austin & Pickersgill after it was discovered that management had plans to bring in outside contractors to help speed up work already underway. The men were furious not only because the plan would affect their own jobs but also the fact that British Shipbuilders are demanding 925 redundancies. The yard was at a standstill for 3 days until management agreed to withdraw the plan. The also agreed that in future shop stewards would be consulted before plans to bring in contractors were acted on.

FULL TIME GERRY

Birtley ROF convenor Gerry Ferguson who has done such sterling work for management at the works by allowing massive redundancies to go through unopposed and readily agreeing to the removal of working practices must surely be rewarded. It is reported from personnel in the plant that Ferguson has applied for a full time position in the union in the past and has recently re-applied for a similar post. With his recent record it looks very likely that "management mouthpiece Gerry" will be successful. If he does go there will be a sting in the tail for workers forced to accept redundancies in the past. Ferguson has been instrumental in agreeing with management that no ex-employees who lost their jobs will be re-employed. Apparently taking back workers who received redundancy payments, even though all the redundancies were compulsory, could according to Ferguson cause friction on the shop floor, so we are led to believe.

DOMINICK HUNTER

An Industrial Filers plant in Birtley was brought to a standstill on September 11th in a dispute over pay. Over 100 workers at Dominick Hunter walked out after getting an 84% majority in favour of strike action. Management said that the workers (members of AUE) are paid enough already, that they had "cushy jobs" and were not "real hard workers like doctors and nurses." (!). As yet the dispute remains unresolved and looks set to last for a while. Managers have already begun to cry about the "danger to jobs", let's hope enough pressure can be put on management for the workers to win.

FREEMAN HOSPITAL

On Wednesday 27th August, following a meeting between the union and the Chairman of the Health Authority, the seventy porters and twenty TSSU staff agreed to return to work following their seven week strike. This was on the basis of a shady assurance from the chief Administrator, Mr Fenwick, that he would come up with a firm answer or "failure to agree" about the payment of bonuses, the issue triggering the strike. Predictably he came up with the latter, and the issue has now been taken to the District Health Authority. The workers must now wait for up to eight weeks for an answer,

apparently the 'normal' procedure in this type of dispute. The workers generally agree that, although no settlement has been made they have at least won a moral victory. Since the strike ended it has been made known that during the negotiations, ACAS recommended that the porters deserved a 25% pay increase and 3½ more workers. They had originally applied for only a 20% pay increase. Unfortunately however moral victories don't mean much. Management can now sit back and do nothing, which would not have been so easy if the workers were still on strike and getting proper support.

PAMPHLETS AVAILABLE

The following publications are available from the TRS.

The Spanish Revolution 1936 - 1939. History of workers organisation.....TRS...15p.
Libertarian Labor Review. New technology, working week, Bolivia.....IWW...80p.
Strike strategy. Early National Rank and File publication.....NRFM...10p.
I.W.A. Aims and Principles. Aims of International Workers Association.....IWA...40p.
Strike action. Tactics and way to organise during disputes.....DAM...20p.
Miguel Garcia story. Militant in Spanish civil war and after.....MGMC...£1.
Anarchism and feminism. Women workers and trade unions.....DAM...35p.
Tell us lies about the miners. Media coverage of '84 - '85 strike...D.Douglass...60p.
Come wet this truncheon. Police role and actions in '84 - '85 strike..Douglass...80p.
Bulgaria - A New Spain. Bulgarian revolution of 1944.....ABAF...60p.
Libertarian Communism. Ideas of libertarian structure and organisation.Puente...60p.
My Social Credo. The belief of Anarcho-Syndicalism.....Maximoff...50p.
Program of Anarcho Syndicalism.....Maximoff...£1.
Syndicalists in Russian revolution.....Maximoff...45p.
The Tragedy of Spain. A look at the revolution of 1936 - 1939.....R. Rocker.£1.20.
Syndicalism in practice No1. Spanish revolution.....Rebel Worker...20p.
Syndicalism in practice No2. Argentine organisation, FORA.....Rebel Worker...20p.
Syndicalism in practice No3. Syndicalist organisations of Chile..Rebel Worker...20p.
Syndicalism in practice No4. Syndicalist organisations of Poland.Rebel Worker...20p.

Please add 24p for orders under £2 and 10% for those over, to cover postage cost. We wish to point out that TRS do not necessarily hold all views contained in the literature above.