

# The SYNDICALIST

NUMBER 4

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## TAKE NO TIMES!

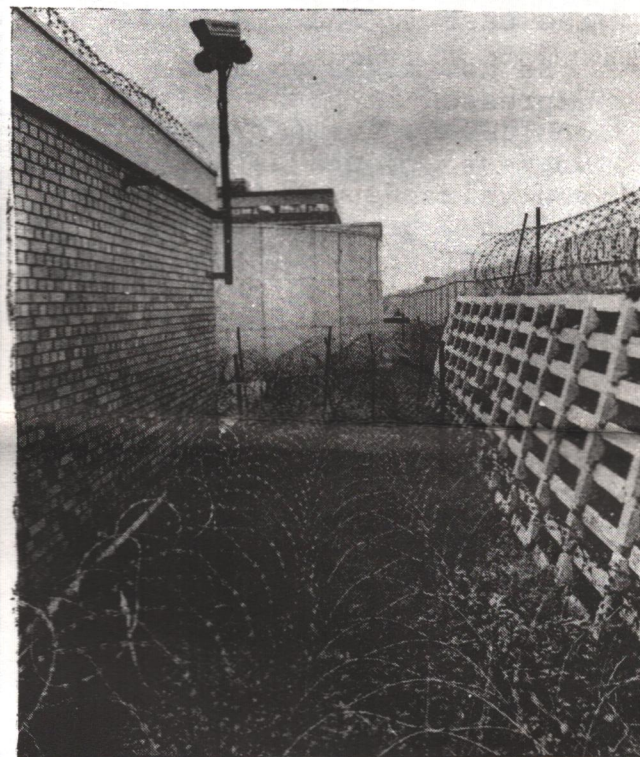
Since Murdoch sacked 6000 workers attention has been focussed around the press baron's castle at Wapping. Locally people have been fighting on behalf of the 6000 sacked.

The NGA and SOGAT have formed the Joint Print Unions North-East Dispute Committee. This has been organising the picketing and boycotting of scab papers. Since the 16th March there have been 3 major pickets at the TNT depot in Houghton-le-Spring. Attendance has varied between 50-100 (NGA, SOGAT, NUM, students, unemployed). On the first occasion police were caught relatively unawares as the picket was advertised as elsewhere. About 100 people gathered and an attempt was made to block the road. The next time the police were well prepared and attempts to block the road were futile. On the latest picket at the TNT depot fewer people turned out, and the lorry from Glasgow sped in easily. Two people have so far been arrested at Houghton-le-Spring on public order charges. On occasion pickets slipped away to various W.H.S. distributing depots where action has been most positive. The largest depot at Newcastle has 20 SOGAT members working within. They have been instructed by their union not to handle scab papers but refused to the point of abuse.

At the much smaller W.H. Smith's warehouse in Gateshead only 9 SOGAT members work. Reaction there to pickets has been good. They originally voted (4 times?!) not to handle the scab papers but were outvoted by Newcastle SOGAT members at W.H. Smiths.

The scab vans have been stoned on two occasions. On the smaller picket at Gateshead the scab delivery van was prevented from entering the warehouse by pickets' cars and pickets themselves. Two were arrested for public order offences.

These arrests caused an immediate response. Pickets near and around were said to be furious. Workers from Webb Offset opposite came over to



Murdoch's "picket-proof" plant.

express their disgust at the police action. Most importantly the workers within the depot decided not to have anything to do with the papers. Meanwhile the manager arrived, put on an overall and began to help the scab lorry driver unload his delivery. The manager asked the workers if they were going to help him. One of the SOGAT officials interrupted, pleading with them not to handle the papers. The instructions are still the same. But the workers, slowly and reluctantly, began to help.

At present SOGAT are trying to get a meeting together with members from W.H. Smith depots at Gateshead, North Shields Sunderland, Durham and Ashington, with the aim of getting papers blacked. The general feeling of the workers within these depots is that they don't want to come out by themselves and be out on a limb.

Fortress Wapping has been the centre of massive demonstrations

concerning the dispute, with workers, unemployed etc. coming to the support of the sacked workers. Pickets have managed to hold up the papers. In one

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## EDITORIAL

The nature of trade union organisation and activity in South Africa these days is instructive as well as inspiring. Not only are workers organising as one body in their places of work but those in the communities are uniting alongside to fight. Given their present situation under apartheid the unions realise the absolute necessity of using mutual aid principles. This means that there is a two-way flow of support and involvement between workers in their industrial action and the workers' communities in their wide-ranging social struggles.

We have much to learn from this. Some aspects of the miners' strike showed parallels with joint worker-community action. This was due mainly to the increasing hardship felt by strikers and their families. It was not a basic organising principle, as seems to be the case in South Africa.

So how might this be expressed in practice? We could view unemployed workers' groups as a direct and valuable way of setting up links between those who are employed and those who aren't. They can provide solidarity in industrial disputes and encourage support from workers for unemployed rights. Unemployed groups have already shown their capacity to support workers in struggle. The miners' and Contracts strikes are only two of many examples where unemployed people have played a valuable part.

Networks of unemployed groups, strike support groups and others can be flexible, and can become involved in industrial disputes when necessary. They can collect money, leaflet, picket and generally help to prevent strikers from becoming isolated. When applied in other ways these practices could begin to unite whole communities as solid forces.

The ultimate weapon of the working class is industrial direct action. It will also be the primary mechanism of the social revolution. But equally none of this will mean very much if it is not accompanied at all stages by solidarity, support and wholehearted cooperation between workers and working class communities, and a fundamental change in trade union structure. Furthermore, the framework for achieving this must be initiated by the rank and file of workers themselves.

instance on the 16th March the lorries were held up by 7000 pickets for 5 hrs. Support has been coming in from elsewhere on a local level. For example Easington NUM held a large benefit do.

On a national level dockers in Scotland refused to handle a cargo of newsprint when they found out that it was destined for Murdoch's other plant at Kinning Park, Glasgow. The newsprint involved could not be used at Wapping because it was the wrong size. Dundee dockers secretary Joe Savage said:

"There was no way we could handle such a cargo... and we made sure the rest of the lads on the east coast knew what the cargo was."

On February 10th the Post Office failed on a technicality to get an injunction against the Union of Communication Workers (who banned the distribution of Sun bingo cards) upheld.

There have also been reports of more local councils taking scab newspapers out of libraries.



The courts have again been used against those taking industrial action. The accountancy firm of Ernst & Whinney have been instructed to seize the funds of SOGAT. This action not only attempts to stop work in SOGAT offices but also puts a well-aimed spanner in the day-to-day running of SOGAT's many convalescent homes and sick and benevolent funds.

On Thursday 20th February a small group of people entered and occupied Ernst & Whinney's branch office in King St. Leeds. The aim of this action was to draw attention to Ernst & Whinney's enthusiastic involvement in the sequestration of SOGAT funds. Ernst & Whinney, naturally enough wishing to keep a low profile, took no action to remove the protestors, and allowed them to remain in their offices for 4 hours. During this time demonstrators ran up a healthy phone bill by ringing up various news agencies to publicise their occupation. Supporters outside handed out leaflets explaining the reasons behind the action.

There is a branch of Ernst & Whinney in Newcastle, on the 3rd floor, Central Exchange Buildings, 93A Grey Street.

Murdoch, so it seems, planned the sacking of 6000 workers who've made millions for him. He is an enemy of the working class and his bootboy tactics must be defeated on every level, from boycotting to picketing to sabotage. N.B. Picketing of the TNT depot at Houghton-le-Spring and of W.H. Smith depots are held each week, but never on the same day each week. If you want transport (free) from Newcastle, phone Tyneside 281 7971/2, or Newcastle 327 745.

## Same Tyred Old Story

COLWAY TYRES (Langley Moor Industrial Estate, near Durham) was set up in 1967. It is one of Europe's biggest remould tyre manufacturers, employing over 170 people. The manager, Ray Coleman, treats the workers like dirt. He would like to be able to stop them speaking to each other at work. They are fined £2 if they forget to clock on even if he knows they were in on time. They are fined 50p if a defective tyre passes inspection. Workers have to provide and maintain their own protective clothing, overalls, etc. The company has a list of 23 "offences" that can lead to the sack, but they say that this list is not complete.

Guess what? ... Management won't allow workers to be represented by a union. In recent weeks over 120 of the 130 workers have joined the T&GWU. But in a letter to the union on March 11th Coleman says that union recognition would not be in the best interests of the company or the workforce. After all they get a special payment of £1000 on retirement and a free turkey every Christmas! On 12th he wrote to workers telling them how his style of labour relations is so much in their interests and so on, and that he would not allow unions in his business.

Since then he has refused to speak to the union and won't negotiate through ACAS. Doubtless he has lots of advice from lawyers, consultants and the like telling him he can win this dispute, even against a union like the T&G with virtually 100% of the workers supporting union recognition.

The workers went out on a 24hour strike from 7pm 18th March. 120 of them held a demonstration and picket, turning away suppliers etc.. Before taking further action they gave the bosses 2 or 3 days to reconsider their position.

On 24th March Coleman met workers and agreed to all of their "small" demands but refused to budge over union recognition. He has renewed the contracts of several workers which were in jeopardy, has agreed not to try to impose some of the more ridiculous "offences", and has pledged to give trainees the flexible bonuses that they hadn't been getting.

By the first week of April the Colway workers and the union branch will both have met to decide what further action to take on the questions of union recognition and this year's pay claim. Union recognition is the workers' basic demand and there is no sign that their militancy will fade (the reverse, if anything). So far Coleman has seemed steadfast in his refusal. So..... WATCH THIS SPACE.

The 'Syndicalist' is produced on a shoestring. If you would like to see the continuation of this paper please send donations to;

Tyneside Revolutionary Syndicalists,

c/o D.O.H.,  
62, Thornton Street,  
Newcastle upon Tyne.

All cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to:  
THE NED SCOTT SOCIETY

# SOUTH AFRICA — MAWU

On March 19th Newcastle University became the venue for a public meeting on the question of Trade Union activity under the racist South African Apartheid Regime.

A gathering of local trade unionists, unemployed and students heard a leading South African Trades Unionist speak of the need for a industrially rank and file controlled union movement if a victory was to be gained over not only the Apartheid system but the whole capitalist system with it.

His union the Metal and Allied Workers Union was formed in 1973 when it was illegal for any black worker to be involved in a union.

Victimisation was high on management tactics to stop workers being involved in a trade union through the use of immediate sacking if involvement was found out. This brought the South African workers to a decision that if the union could not be built in the workplace it must be built in the streets and communities outside of their work environment. By 1976, after many actions both in the community and in the workplace, the South African Government decided to slightly relax the anti-union law, this opened the way for another step forward to be taken by the South African workers as they could now organise on a more open level than the completely clandestine one they had worked under before.

By 1979 the unions had decided that if they were to survive and fight both the employers and the racist Apartheid regime they had to begin to organise as one!

The result was the formation of union federation that had to be built on certain principles. All unions wishing to affiliate to the federation had to accept three main demands. Firstly that all unions had to be under control of the workers, secondly that they should be build on industrial lines rather than trade and finally that the unions must be open to both black and white worker alike. The speaker explained that "we don't want to create another apartheid in the end".

The Metal workers union is at present an affiliate of the Confederation of South African Trade Unions (COSATU).

## INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM

"Small weak unions can easily be smashed unless all workers in each factory and industry are organised together".

The South African workers have jumped a major step forward in union organisation ahead of even their western counterparts. The industrial unions are organised in such a way that, "cleaners, assemblers and cooks etc are all organised together in each workplace"

The very organisation along industrial rather than trade lines has proved to be totally necessary if the unions are to be effective for the South African worker is subject to the most extreme levels of intimidation and victimisation from the employers and the South African Authorities. The ability to bring out the entire workforce when needed must be relied upon when in the face of such repression, no wedge must be allowed to be driven between workers.

## WORKER CONTROLLED

"All unions must be worker controlled". Shop Stewards are elected by the workforce due to their militancy. They are subject to immediate recall and in fact are subject to instant removal if a steward misses two or three consecutive union meetings. Meetings entail all delegates meeting in houses as halls cannot be booked, walking (sometimes over 10 miles) to the venue as cars would be spotted, arriving late at night or small hours in the morning and being able to get up for work again the next morning, if sleep is gained at all.



Union organisers hold no power, they are mainly sacked or redundant ex-Shop Stewards. It is felt that it is a waste if a militant worker is taken out of the factory when others are available for the job.

Arrests of union activists and organisers is a futile attempt by the authorities to smash the unions for a few individuals do not make up the union, "if ten organisers are detained one day their will be twenty to take their place the next. If fifty are arrested the next day there will be one hundred to take their place. My union has 40,000 members, there are 40,000 union organisers". "If you are called the President of the union it doesn't mean a thing, it is the work that is done for the organisation that matters".

It is quite clear that the unions must be controlled by the workers themselves,



as it was stated, "once you put someone in a position of authority they feel they must protect that position. They end up doing as others have done in authority before them, whether it be government or a union".

## SOLIDARITY

As has been mentioned the solidarity of the South African worker must be relied upon not only when strike action is called but also in support of those sacked, the families of the murdered and so on. Each day in the South African workplace collections are held to supply families of those sacked etc food parcels.

The very determination that those who have fought will never be forgotten has resulted in numerous new ways of organisation being built.

In May of last year 1,000 workers took strike action against B.T.R. Sarmcol who refused to give union recognition. Their refusal to return to work resulted in the whole workforce being sacked. As pickets were mounted the police and army were called and 6 pickets murdered and another 100 detained.

The B.T.R. Sarmcol plant is at present being manned by scabs but the strikers are determined that either B.T.R. settle the dispute or get out of South Africa.

This mass sacking has seen the formation of an organisation named, 'S.A.W.C.O.' (Sarmcol Workers Co-operative). The organisation have secured 50 hectares of agricultural land where it is planned to organise an agricultural co-op to begin to plant vegetables which will be used primarily for supporting the strikers and their families. Other projects such as Tee Shirt making have also got off the ground to raise money.

To be a member of a union in South Africa is to put your life on the line. Workers must be able to completely rely on their fellow comrades, "we must stand together and if need be die together, there is no easy way to freedom!".

Strikers march through the town of Howick



cont'd overleaf-

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The bringing together of both the community and the unions has already been shown above though there are a few more points concerning SAWCO that warrant a mention.

The Metal Workers strike bulletin explains,

"A constitution has already been adopted which links the project SAWCO to MAWU (Metal and Allied Workers Union) - this will ensure that the strikers and other SAWCO members therefore have direct representation in working class structures".

One other major area in which SAWCO functions apart from the raising of money and food parcels for the strikers is in the area of health. The strike bulletin explains;

"Children of the strikers are suffering extremely high malnutrition levels occasioned in the first instance by the starvation wages paid by Sarmcol and exacerbated by the mass dismissal of strikers in May '85. SAWCO has therefore taken steps to set up a health screening project to establish serious malnutrition cases and to take immediate preventive action. This service will be supplemented by providing free medical service for the strikers and their families".

The organisation joining together both strikers and the community must be hailed as a major step forward for the South African workers.

### THE FUTURE

"Capitalism anywhere in the world is worse than apartheid. We must restrict people that can tell you what to do. A future society must be built in the best interests of the working class where the workers should be in control".

Lessons must be learned from the South African workers. Major steps forward in our trades unions must be made if we are to fight for our rights and smash the likes of Murdoch. Industrial Unionism, community involvement, rank and file control and total solidarity are all aims that we must set our targets on for the time being.

"When workers take action in a multinational corporation, the action must be taken throughout the world".

The next issue of the 'Syndicalist' shall contain an indepth article on the present situation in South Africa as well as more information on the B.T.R. Sarmcol dispute.

## MINERS: REPAYMENT THREAT

Northumberland county council plan to demand the re-payment of loans made to miner's families during the Strike. It was recommended this month by the social services commission that it was time to call in the £118,000 paid out to help 1,500 families. This has outraged miner's wives, one of whom said they had to "grovel" in the first place. Getting the Money meant signing forms saying that they would repay it when the Strike was ended.

The miners' wives are planning to march on County Hall, Morpeth on May 11th to try to persuade councillors to vote against the decision at the full council meeting. Miner's wife Deirdre Campbell of Blyth said "Organisations all over Europe helped the strike, but Northumberland Council did nothing."

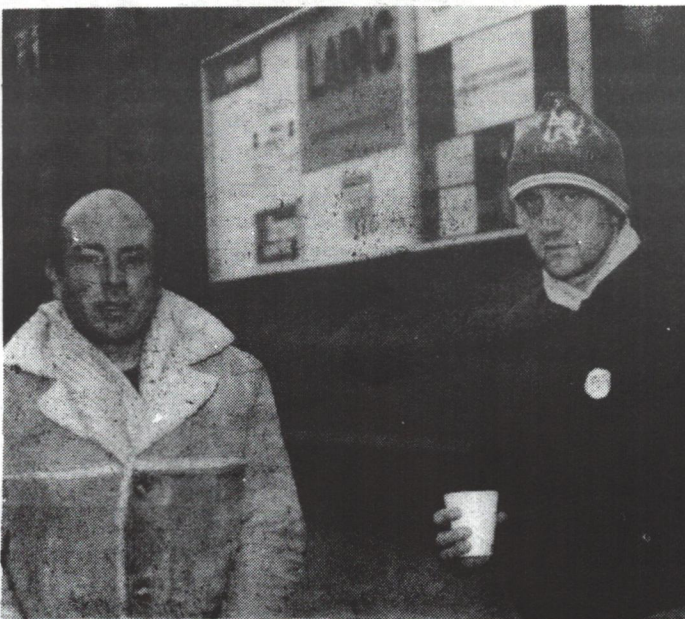
## JOHN LAING LOCK OUT DISPUTE

On October 18th 1985 a seven-man brick-laying team was locked out of their employ on instructions given to Jonoroy, who are a sub-contractor for the multinational building corporation Laings, at their site in Glenbuck Rd., Surbiton, Surrey.

The reason Jonoroy gave for the sackings was that the 5+2 team was not efficient, and so one of the bricklayers was sacked in order to ensure that the labourers could keep up with the brickies. This resulted in the rest of the team walking out in solidarity. Laings had investigated the workers and found out that they had been involved in previous disputes and had been black-listed. The team formed a lockout committee and went on to picket other Laings sites in London. This resulted in the virtual shut-down of 4 sites, including the Surbiton one.

During this time the workers were being intimidated, physically attacked, arrested by police and had been sent death threats. Jonoroy has a history of intimidating employees who demand better wages and conditions.

The lockout committee met Hayes Wharf shop stewards on 27th November who unanimously agreed to call for strike action on their site if Laings would not agree to the committee's demands. Within an hour a written agreement from Laings was presented and signed. It guaranteed work for the team at a site in Banstead, Surrey with Jonoroy, and a re-start at the Laings Surbiton site early in 1986. But when the men arrived at the Banstead site on December 2nd they found themselves locked out along with 20 others. The excuse given was that Jonoroy had been thrown off the site. After picketting the site



Picketting at the Laings British Library site

negotiations resulted in reinstatement for all. In the following weeks workers organised and improved conditions in the toilets and canteen and one of the lockout committee was elected brick-layer shop steward and convenor of the shop stewards' committee. Then Jonoroy tried to separate the team, transferring some of the men to Surbiton as promised, while attempting to sack others for "bad time-keeping". Work stopped at Surbiton and picketting began at the British Library site, where they had some success in stopping supplies, particularly Marcon's Concrete lorries.

Despite the workers not giving up their struggle John Laings resorted to the use of a High Court injunction.



Laings strikers at Kings Cross

The lockout committee picketting the British Library site were taken to court. It was the first time that industrial workers had been attacked under the 1980 anti-trade union laws. It is up to the company whether or not they prosecute the pickets. Laings were granted an injunction on 19th February. On 21st February the lockout committee were served it as they stood on the picket line. It forbids them to picket seven named Laings sites including those at Surbiton and the British Library. The injunction means that the 5 named pickets are:

1. Not allowed to go to meetings,
2. Not allowed to ask people to support the picket,
3. Only 2 of the 5 are allowed to picket

These mean that the freedom of association, freedom of speech and right to picket are completely abolished.

But the pickets say, "We will not be intimidated by this appalling attack on basic democratic freedoms. It is an attack on the democratic rights of all trade unionists in the UK, on the democratic rights of all working people"

Union official Len Eaton issued notices saying that the picket on 3rd March at Midland Rd., London was unofficial and should not be supported. Within hours of issue this notice was being waved at pickets by Laings formen and by lorry drivers crossing picket lines.

The men have now been locked out of their employ three times, the last time being January 27th. In spite of attempts on their lives, financial hardship and attempts by the official unions to sell them out they are still battling for the right to work, organise and negotiate.

They are prepared to go to jail if necessary to defend these rights. They need your support now! Please assist them financially by sending donations to:

Laings lock-out dispute,  
c/o PO Box 55,  
London SE5 8JJ.

## SOLIDARITY with the LAINGS 6

UCATT members from the Crook branch are organising a demonstration at the Laings site near Durham railway station on Saturday 19th April at 10 a.m.

# 'action' ON THE DOLE

Organised unemployed groups are a sheer necessity in the present climate of mass redundancies and shop and factory closures. As even the official unemployment figures rise to frightening proportions and the social security system is being slashed to the bone unemployed groups are beginning to spring up all over the country.

## GATESHEAD OUR POWER LIES IN ORGANIZATION UNEMPLOYED ACTION GROUP

However some of these organisations can prove to be as bureaucratic and ineffective as even the most reformist trade union structure due to the involvement of certain elements. It is quite clear that what we do not need is another body willing to take actual initiatives and control out of the hands of those that build and belong to an unemployed grouping which has happened on occasion in Tyneside.

June of last year saw the formation of an active unemployed rank and file group in the Gateshead area. The organisation is not the usual Trades Council, M.S.C. or Communist Party controlled failure but an autonomous grouping bringing together those willing to fight for the rights of those while unemployed and to join with employed workers in their fight without pushing any party political line.

Due to the experience of some members in the Tyneside Unemployed Workers Movement the Gateshead Unemployed Action Group are determined that they shall always remain a grass root unemployed controlled organisation. The aim of the G.U.A.G. is a very simple one, 'to organise together with employed workers and fight back against attacks'. One member of G.U.A.G. when asked the reason behind his departure from the T.U.W.M. in favour of the Gateshead group replied,

"Since the formation of the T.U.W.M. in November 1983 it had always remained an autonomous organisation, free from all restraint from the Trades Council or any other outside body. At this stage some very good work was done by the group such as campaigns in support of the printers at Warrington, campaigns against the snooper squads and so on, but after the miners strike of '84, '85 ended (and probably before this time but it was difficult to see at the time) in which the group were involved in collecting over

£17,000, things began to go down hill.

The Centre Co-ordinator

(of Newcastle Trades Council Centre Against Unemployment) began to make moves in an attempt to control the group even though he was himself not unemployed. At one stage he was heard discussing with Communist Party members how he could secure the monopolies of the T.U.W.M. for the Communist Party. He was also instrumental in attempting to control meetings that he attended resulting in major disputes. As rank and file members, including founder members, secretary, treasurer and most T.U.W.M. delegates to the Centre Management Committee, became extremely concerned at the deteriorating situation and refused to allow the Co-ordinator to take complete control we found ourselves being summoned to a Newcastle Trades Council Executive meeting, apparently to discuss internal problems of the T.U.W.M., which only existed if you wanted to control the organisation. As I have already stated at the beginning, the T.U.W.M. was an autonomous organisation and therefore not used to the intervention of outside bodies.

Finally, as the situation grew steadily worse, myself and those members I mentioned before left the T.U.W.M."

The Gateshead Unemployed Action Group feel that an unemployed organisation must be run by the unemployed members themselves.

Since the formation of the G.U.A.G. they have been involved in many campaigns for both the rights of the unemployed and workers in employment alike.

On an industrial level the Health Workers, Shipyard Workers, Miners and most recently the Contracts Strikers (where over £2,000 was collected along with other support given) have all been on the receiving end of G.U.A.G. support.



Contracts picket line

The Gateshead group hope that in the near future workers all over the Tyne will take up their example of strike

support groups and begin to incorporate such bodies in their day to day working in the work place as a permanent thing. On another level the G.U.A.G. have launched many campaigns around the issues of unemployment such as fights against cuts in the social security system, the use of Specialist Claims Control 'Snooper Squads' etc. It is felt by the group that work must be done on the streets where benefit cuts that affect people can be explained to the public and the campaign can be built.

The last time the 'snooper squads' were in Gateshead the group held leafletting of the D.H.S.S. building, as well as frightening the snoopers to death when they occupied an office and proceeded to take photographs of members of the snooper teams.

The G.U.A.G. is a self funding organisation, money must be collected on the streets (they have no funding) and needs all the financial support that it can get as well as more active members willing to join them in their campaigns. The message of the G.U.A.G. is that of, 'UNEMPLOYED, EMPLOYED UNITE AND FIGHT', 'OUR POWER LIES IN ORGANISATION'.

For more information send all correspondence to:-  
Gateshead Unemployed Action Group,  
c/o Gateshead Law Centre,  
13, Walker Terrace,  
Gateshead.

Cheques and Postal Orders should be made out to G.U.A.G..

## CONTRACTS: STRIKE ENDS

The 24th March saw the return to work of strikers at Contracts Ltd, unfortunately without union recognition. The terms under which a return to work was agreed will inevitably open the way for management to totally dictate the pay and working conditions at the South Shields factory.

The disgraceful way in which these workers have been treated by the very union that they took industrial action to win recognition for has obvious implications for every worker in the garment manufacturing industry.

It was back on the 26th October that the strikers and their supporters organised a march through South Shields in order to bring their case to the public's attention. The march was followed by a rally at Armstrong Hall where speakers, including Ron Bales (local NUTGW official), explained that it was imperative the strikers should win the basic right to organise in a trade union. Bales stated, "even if this meant breaking the law", he went on to say, "union recognition is not a matter for negotiation".

Six months of industrial action has placed the workers in a worse position than before the dispute started. The deal negotiated between union and management (see last issue) serves to illustrate that in any dispute the strikers themselves must remain in complete control.

We note with interest that Alec McFadden (Secretary County Association of Trades Councils and Co-ordinator of Newcastle Trades Council Centre Against Unemployment) wrote a letter to the 'Morning

Star' supporting the union's decision to stop strike pay and return to work. McFadden is currently involved in negotiations with the NUTGW over the purchase of their old offices in Newcastle.

## **THEY NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

Six months and still fighting is the message of sacked workers at the American company of Fibrmat based in East Kilbride. The fight for union recognition is to be carried on an eventually to gain an overwhelming victory for the 42 sacked workers. Support both financial and active is needed by the workers and all messages should be sent to:-  
Fibrmat Strikers,  
c/o Jim Elsby,  
Wishaw TGWU Office,  
Main Street,  
Wishaw,  
Lanarkshire.

280 AUEW members striking at IMI Radiators in Bradford are to finally to receive strike pay as the union have now recognised the strike.

Workers went out almost two months ago over the sacking of Convenor Bill Clarkson. Active work around factories and pickets of their own workplace are being stepped up.

Letters of support to:-  
IMI Strike Committee,  
c/o Carters Club,  
Shipley,  
Bradford.

The dispute at two North East Silentnight bedding factories continues into its ninth month with the 500 workers who were put onto the dole queue by the employer, Tom Clarke, planning a mass demonstration in support of the workers sacked.

The demonstration will be held on **May 17th. Assemble at noon in Lund Park, Keighlev.**

The workers require immediate financial support both through hardship of those sacked and the cost of the demonstration. Send all donations and letters of support to:-

Mrs Ann King,  
10, Rainhill Crescent,  
Barnoldswick,  
Colne,  
Lancashire,  
BB8 6BS.

The dispute for the right to work a 39 hour week, as laid down by the Furniture Manufacturers Agreement at Morris of Glasgow enters its 11th Month.

Workers remain sacked as management continue to use scab labour. Send all donations and letters of support to:-

Morris Strikers,  
c/o R. McCallum,  
46, Carlton Place,  
Glasgow,  
G15 9TQ.

Scottish Electricians hit by Industrial action over the sacking of Shop Steward Sid Campbell. The sacking followed a pay claim put forward by the workers, the first such claim in the companies 16 year history. The strikers, all AUEW members, have had solidarity action by their fellow workmates in the electricians union scuppered by the actions of the E.E.T.P.U. who say that if the electricians take action it will be illegal.

The strikers are adamant that they shall continue the fight through to victory. Supportive action such as blackings etc is beginning to grow. For more information, letters of support and donations address all mail to:-

John Kydd,  
AUEW Dundee Dist Sec,  
26, South Ward Road,  
Dundee,  
DD1 1TR.

Sacked workers at Dunnes supermarket in Dublin still need your support. Messages and donations should be sent via:-

IDATU, Cavendish Row,  
Dublin,  
Eire.

## **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 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.

## **A1 FEEDS - 12 SACKED**

Workers at Al Feeds in Bootle, Merseyside, have been in dispute since January 10th of this year. The dispute began with the sacking of two workers. The reason management gave for the sackings was that the men's work was not up to 'standards'. But on many occasions they had been praised for their good work, indeed, one of them had been offered a foreman's job by the plant manager two weeks before. The sacking came less than a week after the Company Director, Andrew Simpson, had rejected an approach by the T&GWU to discuss company recognition of the union.

The 12 workers decided to strike for the reinstatement of their colleagues. The strikers however were phoned up and told not to come in anyway as they were sacked. Since then a 24 hour vigil has been kept, 7 days a week by the pickets, activists and others from local unemployed Action Centres.

Other complaints - good reasons for the need for union recognition - are the atrocious conditions on the factory floor - no heating, no protective covers on machines, no lights on staircases, inadequate and stuffy canteen facilities - the list is long. There is one shower for the men, and no-one can use the shower before 10 to 7pm - although knocking off time is 7pm. There are no dust excluders and the roof leaks. The workers have badgered the Health and Safety Office but with no effect.

Workers' hours are another aspect of the fight - basic hours were stipulated at 8am to 4.30pm, with overtime if necessary, but workers were told that they would work 7am to 7pm and if they

didn't like it they could lump it. In fact hours are really even longer than this. One man after 12 hours driving was going to leave at 7pm and was told to stay and work in the factory until he was told to go - which turned out to be 11pm.

Al Feeds has an annual turnover of £10m, director Andrew Simpson takes home £1800 per week. Simpson took out an injunction to keep the T&G official Tony Hayes and 3 sacked workers away from the factory. He accused strikers of beating up scabs who were brought in from North Yorkshire. This is a gross misrepresentation of the facts. On the night of January 22 Mr. Eric Heaton was visiting the picket when a carful of scabs pulled up and beat Mr. Heaton up badly. He was taken to hospital later. Two nights later the same car came out of the factory gates and drove at the pickets, knocking down two men who were on opposite sides of the road. During the day, scabs stand shouting abuse, throwing bricks and waving money at the pickets, saying "What's it like to be on the dole then?" The scabs, as said previously, are from North Yorkshire as local labour refused to scab, even when offered £150 p.w. in hand. One lad from Yorkshire returned after realising what the situation was. He had been told he was needed as local labour was "unsuitable".

On February 20th talks were held between Al Feeds management and T&G representatives through ACAS, at the company's request. The main points emerging from management were:

1. No reinstatement of sacked workers.
2. No recognition of the T&GWU.

3. If Al Feeds couldn't guarantee an adequate supply of soya beans during the dispute then management would close the plant down. T&GWU members have supported the strike by not carrying soya beans into the plant, dockers on Merseyside have also taken solidarity action.

But the workers need more support, both industrial and financial, to make sure the dispute is an overall victory for the workers.

Donations to: Al Feeds Strike Committee, Transport House, Islington, Liverpool 3.

N.B. TGWU officials have stayed in control of the strike at Al Feeds, and have organised mass pickets taking place at least an hour after the scabs have gone in!

A financial note. Boss Andrew Simpson pleads poverty. The parent company of Al Feeds is Rangleigh. In 1983/4 sales were increased by 37%, profits by 600%, and its Directors' fees by 43%. All of the issued shares are owned by Mr. and Mrs. Simpson. The animal feeds subsidiary contributes to 95% of total sales.