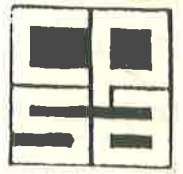


# RED★CLERK★

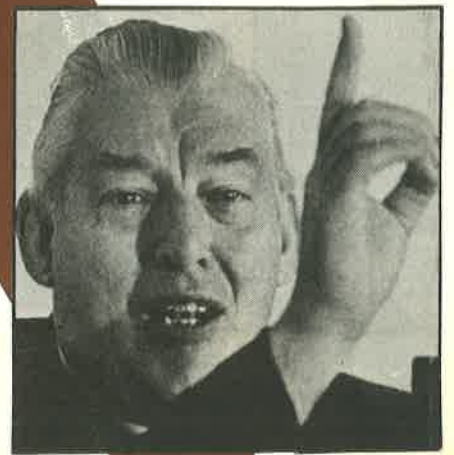


RED CLERK IS THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF CPSA DHSS SOUTH EAST LONDON BRANCH.

no.4.

1986

REVIEWED



Produced by:

CPSA DHSS S.E.  
London Branch.

Editor:

Micki Loebner.

Nov/Dec. 1986 No.4.

Address for  
correspondence:  
The Editor  
Red Clerk, CPSA.  
Oval DHSS,  
6 Camberwell New Rd.  
London SE5.

Contributions:

Micki Loebner.  
Tim O'Dell.  
Liz Coomber.  
Kevin Eden.  
Alex Hutton.  
Jeff O'Carroll.

Additional Artwork:

Hil Loebner.  
Micki Loebner.  
Tim O'Dell.

Back page by Bill.

As xmas approaches and another year fades, 'Red Clerk' reviews the last 12 months: The position of the Branch, the national Union and the wider political events and happenings which have gone to make 1986 the hectic year that it's been.

The year was heralded in with our action in January which won extra staffing throughout our Branch, although nothing in terms of what we asked for, none-the-less a clear sign of what is possible. While we fought to gain extra staff from our employers, printworkers in Fleet St. were waking up to dismissal notices being handed out arbitrarily to 5,000 'Sun' and 'Times' workers when Murdoch moved the printing presses to Wapping.

Mass pickets on Wapping became a regular saturday evening's activity amongst many members within our Branch and credit must go to Oval office who at the beginning turned out regularly up to 10 members each weekend. In the police attacks on the pickets the Branch banner suffered severe harrassment and one of our members was arrested, badly beaten up by the police and finally charged and fined for threatening behaviour!

Not only did we intervene on the picket lines, but also through motions of support and motions calling for the expulsion of the scab BEPTU from the TUC.

Murdoch certainly set the style for the bosses onslaught during the year and his methods have since been employed by management at Hangers and Lewisham Labour Council.

While Kinnock lowered the red flag over the Labour Party with expulsions of 'Militant' members and the drawing up of another 'social con-trick' to attack workers' living standards; members in CPSA elected 'Militant' member John Macreadie as General Secretary only to be jumped upon by right wing howls of dismay and cries of 'foul'. The slap in the face for the right wing aswell as Kinnock's witch-hunters was soon

stamped on by the CPSA 'moderate' NEC who, without any evidence of rigging, decided to re-run the election and try again.

Again, at the beginning of 1986, we saw the emergence within the Branch of the Black Members Advisory Committee and black members from this Branch played a leading role in getting the discussion of BMAC's onto the national agenda. Some of the other issues taken up by BMAC have included ethnic monitoring, racism at work and promotion and recruitment of black members.

If we take an overview of our own organisation, both at Branch level and nationally, and of workers' organisation in general, this year has again shown that despite major attacks we are still intact and in some areas have actually increased and bettered our potential.

In 1986 following the miners' strike, the attacks on workers have continued yet each attack has met with resistance. It isn't the case that the bosses can always get their way as Camberwell AO showed during their victorious strike. Above all the inspiration of black workers in South Africa fighting against the brutal exploitation of apartheid, has shown that when workers have the confidence and go on the offensive ...

"...governments crack, systems fall, walls come tumbling down!..."

In 1987 we again face the choice of fighting for a decent standard of living or of bowing our heads. Let's make 1987 a year Thatcher won't forget!



# Oval Strike Against Outstationing

On Wednesday 12th of November CPSA and SCPS members at the Oval voted to go out on indefinite strike action over the issue of outstationing; an issue that most members believed to be a fight against one Group Manager's solution for dealing with the 2,400 plus GLC 'take up' claims at the Oval office.

Every day of our strike something was unearthed that made it clear that our fight wasn't just with Macdonald (the Group Manager); blatantly undermining our demands for more staff in London, by sending work generated in London to scab offices. Proposals were uncovered that made the issues wider and the implications more devastating for London DHSS staff and claimants alike.

Plans to outstation other supp. ben. work are in the pipeline and another proposal revealed was management's intention to set up 'super offices' for London; computerised offices employing a handful of staff (no doubt Macdonald's non unionised 'better quality' green belt variety) leaving the AOs as inquiry only offices.

A strike committee was set up with both CPSA and SCPS reps and a great number of non sub-branch committee members and during the one and a half weeks action Oval office workers went all over London making other offices aware of what was going on in their region. Many rank and file members who had never spoken in public before, spoke at meetings of 80 people and more, so strong were their feelings on these issues.

The response to our request for support was overwhelming; 26 offices came out for one day of action, and many thanks are due to all who came down to the picket line from other offices; their presence provided a real boost. All the offices that we visited recognised the 'frightening ramifications' (as one AO manager was heard to say) of management's plans and if left unopposed, what they'll mean in terms of job losses and a worsened service to the public.

Another feeling in offices as far afield as Cricklewood and Hackney was that our action and that of Battersea was the start of something bigger and that there is a real need for an organised consolidated London-wide fight against the outstationing and 'super office' proposals, not just one days supportive action as offices get picked off one by one like Battersea and the Oval.

Management have to be made to take our campaign for more staff seriously and see that the only solution to our problems is more staff, with a decent work environment and decent pay, to do the job of serving London's claimants properly.

Since our action at Oval AO, the SEC called for a London-wide day of action. Thousands of CPSA and SCPS members took strike action and in all 70 offices were effected. Further action will take place in the new year.

Article by Liz Coomber Oval striker.

**CPSA / SCPS OVAL AO.**  
**OFFICES TAKING SUPPORTIVE ACTION TODAY**  
 Kensington PLEO Battersea RO  
 Canswell AO Peckham EO  
 Greenwich PLEO

**TOGETHER WE CAN WIN II**

**society** OVAL AO  
**OVAL DHSS WORKERS ON STRIKE I**

**SUPPORT US AND DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS TO A DECENT SERVICE**

**CPSA / SCPS OVAL AO**  
**THESE OFFICES ARE TAKING STRIKE ACTION TO SAVE OUR JOBS!**

ACTON ILO  
 CHELSEA  
 CRICKLEWOOD  
 EUSTON  
 HARLESDEN  
 KENSINGTON ILO  
 NEASDEN  
 NOTTING HILL  
 PADDINGTON  
 SOUTHWARK ILO  
 WEST END NIO  
 WESTMINSTER ILO

**DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD FIGHT TO SAVE YOUR JOBS TOO?**

**CPSA / SCPS OVAL AO.**  
**WHO'S FOOLING WHO??**

**TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG**



**CPSA / SCPS OVAL AO**  
**YOUR JOB IS AT RISK II**

**CPSA / SCPS OVAL DHSS**

**SUPPORT US AND DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS TO A DECENT SERVICE**



**CPSA / SCPS OVAL AO.**  
**Not CAN YOU AFFORD TO GO ON STRIKE I**

**TOGETHER WE CAN WIN II**

**society** OVAL AO  
**DO YOU TAKE ACTION ON OUTSTATIONING?**

**CPSA / SCPS OVAL AO**  
**OUTSTATIONING YOUR JOBS AT RISK**

**DO YOU TAKE ACTION ON OUTSTATIONING?**

**Support the picket line! Take action now!**



The majority of November's Branch Executive Committee meeting was taken up with the Battersea ILO and Oval AO disputes over outstationing of work to Chatham and Broadstairs. In respect of Oval AO, Tim O'Dell gave a full report on the developments of their dispute. The B.E.C. agreed to co-ordinate Branch wide action for a one-day strike in support of Oval on 17.11.86. Offices including Camberwell, Peckham, Kennington Pk, and Greenwich Park took supportive action and members joined the picket line at Oval AO in solidarity.

Dave Richards and Yvonne Rhoden from Battersea ILO spoke at the B.E.C. about a similar dispute over outstationing. It was agreed by the B.E.C. that a donation of £50 from Branch funds be given to help the Battersea strikers.

Points to note:

SS/GEN/12/86 - an all members circular on Child Care Facilities was discussed and it was suggested that to ensure a maximum return that reps should collect them from members and return them en-masse to CPSA HQ.

Diaries - The order for diaries has been placed with HQ and Pete Rush reported that an extra 30 had been ordered on top to allow the large number of new recruits the opportunity to buy one.

Speakers:

Resettlement Unit matters - Malcome Persaud of the London R.U.s group spoke about the R.U. DHSS HQ being decentralised to local Regional Units, each Region having its own Whitley structure, with effect from January. Both he and Ros Ashwarth of Lancelot Andrews House R.U. would be the London units reps at the Whitley.

Finance:

The Treasurer, Tim O'Dell, gave an update of the Branche's accounts up to the end of October 86.

- Current Account £137.07
- Deposit account £525.22
- Hardship Account £636.63

Affiliations:

The Branch renewed its affiliations to: NHS Unlimited, Committee for the Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey, and the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign.

Three hundred workers at Hangers Artificial Limbs factory, Roehampton, London, have been sacked. The FTAT and TASS members came out on strike after four committee members were sacked following a shopfloor vote to stop doing overtime. The decision was in protest at job time changes being introduced without proper discussion or consultation.

After the workers took the decision to defend their union committee, all 300 were instantly dismissed.

The campaign for the reinstatement of the 300 is now in its third month. It continues to gain support from all sections of the Labour and Trade Union movement. At our Union Branch General meeting of 24th November a speaker from the strikers explained how, even after three months, they were in good spirits and despite the obvious hardship being experienced, they were determined to win. The meeting agreed in solidarity with the strikers, to donate £20 from Branch funds and a collection was taken amounting to £37.

*Things began to get really bad when Hangers was taken over by the British Tyre and Rubber Company!*



**YOUR BRANCH.**

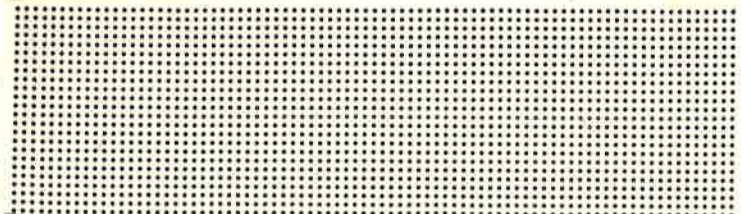
**BRANCH OFFICERS:**

- SECRETARY: ROB WILLIAMS.(GREENWICH)
- CHAIR: GUY BROADBENT.(SOUTHWARK)
- ASST. SEC: KEVIN EDEN.(KENNINGTON PARK)
- VICE CHAIR: YUSUF YUSUF.(CAMBERWELL)
- ORGANISER: PETE RUSH.(CAMBERWELL)
- TREASURER: TIM O'DELL.(OVAL)
- EDITOR: MICKI LOEBNER(OVAL)

**BLACK MEMBERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

- CHAIR: BRUCE FENTON.(KENNINGTON PARK)

If you have any problems at work, no matter how small, remember - let your Union rep know!



## DID YOU KNOW...

► While we're again being asked to tighten our belts for Britain and take yet another pay cut in real terms 'Red Clerk' has taken a little look at the bosses for which we're keeping the economy afloat: Apparently the country can't afford the average 6-7% pay increases being won by workers. 1985/86 figures show Company profits UP 69%, Company Directors' pay UP 30% and to cap it all Margaret Thatcher didn't have too bad a time - her entertainment bill at No. 10 last year was a mere £ $\frac{1}{2}$  million!

When Edwina Curry takes another peek at the diets of the population maybe she'll do a report on why Harley Street Doctors are working overtime curing a severe epidemic of flatulence amongst the richer elements.

By the way whilst the rich get richer a C.A.'s wage has reached an all time low - £84 below the Average wage!

► Meanwhile.... with the Govt's projected reduction of 25,000 jobs in the Civil Service it doesn't need a genius to see the cost of redundancy for such numbers would be astronomical, however, they have other plans. Did you know 60% of all CPSA grades are on probation, new inefficiency procedures have meant that a warning is now given after 14 days sick and the dept. is desperately introducing 'target' and 'standard' setting on workloads - a C.O at Chelsea was sacked for failing to clear 250 cases per week while being monitored!

Funny how Management instructions no longer are to encourage new staff to join Unions.

► Finally.... did you know  $\frac{1}{2}$  of all donations to the Tory Party come from firms with assets in South Africa - makes you wonder why they oppose sanctions doesn't it. Thatchers 'caring capitalism' was summed up by Pete Clarke an East Lothian Tory when commenting on the 'great democracy' of Chile:

" General Pinochet must be our inspiration " ... he emphatically posed... but isn't he a murderous bastard enquired 'Red Clerk'.

"... he is always caricatured by the Left as merely an expert in electrifying peoples testicles." Pete retorted.

.... we rest our case!

## Know Your Codes...

- SC1709 - Any problems at home, don't take annual leave, get special leave.
- SC2630 - If you disagree with any instruction quote this it will have to be passed up the line.
- SC3751 - Prohibits discrimination on any grounds: Race, sex, sexuality.....

# XMAS

## COMPETITION



1. Name the man pictured below.
2. Where would you be most likely to find him?
3. Who threw him out of their meeting for excessive use of the telephone?
4. Is there a Caracus connection?
5. Who let him go out into the big wide world in such an outrageous nylon parker?



### prizes

1st Prize - A night on the town in his company at your own expense.

2nd Prize - An evening out drinking with him at your own expense.

3rd Prize - An eight course cordon bleu dinner at your local Wimpy, naturally, at your own expense.

## 200 CLUB

### November Winners

- 1st Prize - D. Hicks - Southwark
- 2nd Prize - M. Jenkins - Greenwich
- 3rd Prize - A. Henson - Camberwell
- 4th Prize - T. O'Dell - Oval
- 5th Prize - J. Sage - Greenwich
- 6th Prize - B. Smart - Southwark

# CAN WE AFFORD NOT TO FIGHT LOW PAY?

BRANCH OBSERVER **Alex Hutton** REPORTS BACK FROM THIS YEAR'S PAY CONFERENCE

This year's pay conference was concentrated around two motions, the first dealing with the substance of our '87 pay claim and the second how to achieve it. Other important issues such as regional pay and London weighting were also debated but conference centred around these two.

Following the usual formalities the fun started. The NEC accused the agenda setters of being controlled by factions and appealed to 'reasonable' elements to change the order of business. This pathetic attempt to manipulate the conference failed and the debate started.

Motion 1 - This briefly argues for:

1. A minimum wage of £115
2. An increase of £20 per week
3. Abolition of incremental scales
4. 6 weeks annual leave
5. A 35 hour week

and that all Civil Service Unions should unite to secure their claims through a 'conference of executives'.

This section of the agenda was introduced by John Ellis (the man 'who should have been leader but we all made a mistake'..). He talked of a 'sensible', 'credible' claim, in other words, a claim that would do nothing to alleviate the poverty experienced by many of our members. It is surely the union's duty to campaign for wages and conditions that may only be 'reasonable' by today's standards.

Debate lasted for about 1½ hours and whilst there was little argument over the substance of the claim, it was attacked for not mentioning long-term pay and for considering a conference of executives which would be costly and pointless. It would seem 'credible' to talk about a long-term pay deal once we have at least secured a decent living wage but not before. This 'conference' idea does need refining but it seems a good idea to get away from the old system whereby General Secretaries huddle around tables with the Treasury to patch up a deal (sell out).

The total number of members in each Branch was counted 'for' and 'against' (through a card vote) and the motion was carried: 75,359 to 55,137.

## London Weighting

Motion 1 being passed, many others fell automatically. Regional Pay was discussed next with all round condemnation culminating in an unanimous vote against it, and giving instruction to the NEC not to even discuss the issue with the Treasury. The next debate on London Weighting promised much.

I was interested to see how the NEC could defend its acceptance of a miserable £2 per week without consultation. It could not defend itself and stood censured with a demand that they campaign for a proper rise, properly backdated with the removal of the junior rate.

## Strategy

Having decided on our claim the next debate centred on strategy - how to achieve the claim. Motion 188 sought:

1. An 'umbrella' claim of Civil Service Unions.
2. A ballot for selective strike action.
3. Preparation for selective strike action as a prelude to all out strike.
4. A ballot for strike action.
5. Minor sanctions in areas not already engaged in them.
6. A public awareness campaign.

It seemed obvious that the NEC were scared of this motion, the debate was badly chaired and biased. The above motion committed the union and NEC to a fight with specifics and this, although not perfect, was a means by which we could have an effective campaign. Time and again speakers stood up and ranted against this motion but none had any alternative. This motion committed us to a fight for a pay claim, previous strategies had failed and judging by the attitude of the NEC at this conference it's easy to understand why.

## Action

Countless speakers showed that they had support in their branches for action while others seemed reconciled to a 'no strategy' option and the future for our claim looks bleak.

It will, however, be up to those prepared to fight to show that this is the only way we can expect to achieve a decent standard of living for our members.



# THE HISTORY OF IRELAND

## -THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

The historic decision taken by Sinn Fein at its Ard Fheis (conference) to allow its candidates to take up their seats in Leinster Hse (the Southern Irish Parliament) if elected, heralds a new phase in the struggle for Irish National liberation. Since the imposed partition of 1921, the Northern 6 Counties of Ireland have remained under direct British military

occupation, sustaining a Loyalist elite, whilst the Southern 26 counties, while possessing the trappings of 'independence', remains under the neo-colonial economic control of Britain and US multinationals.

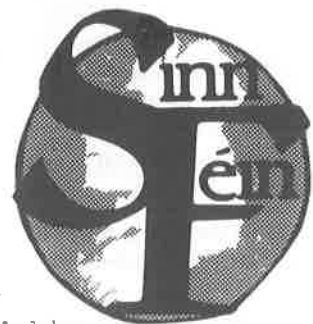
The recent 'Anglo-Irish Agreement' (over which Loyalists have reacted with a new wave of sectarian terror against innocent Catholics) is an attempt by British imperialism, supported by America in cooperation with its capitalist allies in the South of Ireland, to undercut the growing support for Sinn Fein amongst Nationalists in the North. The idea was that with a few empty reform gestures, nationalists would be brought back into the middle class collaborationist fold of the CIA-funded SDLP. But the reality of continued British army, RUC and UDR torture and repression; loyalist terror; discrimination in employment; Diplock courts; paid perjurer 'justice'; strip searches, plastic bullet murder and social and economic exploitation- i.e. the daily reality for Catholics in the North, all this has given the lie to the myth of the 'Hillsborough Accord'. All it has achieved is to rattle the cage of the Loyalist beast and to make the Nationalist people more determined to resist.

The IRA today developed a long way from being the small defensive organisation that re-emerged to defend the Nationalist community from the sectarian pogroms of 1969. Today it is not a narrow 'Catholic terror group' (indeed it never was) it is a guerrilla army engaged in a war of National Liberation against the thousands of heavily armed British troops, RUC and UDR forces that occupy the North of Ireland. Whilst Loyalist terror groups engage in the murder of civilians on the basis of religion, the IRA refuses to be drawn into a round of sectarian tit-for-tat killings. It refuses to be a party to the age old British game of divide and rule. The IRA is involved in military action against the British occupation forces, their military bases and the local native collaborators who supply these bases. It is a classic Liberation war like the struggle of the Viet Cong against American imperialism in Vietnam, or the struggle of the ANC in S.Africa today.

Sinn Fein, the 'political wing of the IRA' is an open revolutionary party dedicated to the fight for a 32 county Irish Socialist Republic. Sinn Fein fights for a Socialist Republic where no-one will be discriminated against on the grounds of religion and where power will be in the hands of the working class, not a capitalist elite.

While Sinn Fein is involved at all levels of community welfare and social action in the occupied Northern 6 counties of Ireland, the 1986 Ard Fheis decision reflects its determination to reach the workers in the Southern 26 counties. Sinn Fein is under no illusions, it is well aware of the neo-colonial nature of the 'parliamentary democracy' in the South. Its task is to agitate inside and outside Leinster House, to expose the hypocrisy of politics in the South and to provide a true alternative for the Irish working class when the State's mask of democracy is finally dropped in the inevitable attempt to crush Sinn Fein.

Sinn Fein will not be beaten. Britain's rulers fear that an inevitable Socialist Republic of Ireland (a 'Cuba off the coast of Western Europe') could serve as an inspiration to the workers of Scotland, Wales and even England itself. That is why Britain will not withdraw from the North Of Ireland. But Britain no longer holds the initiative, it is with the Irish working class and its party, Sinn Fein.



"And they quake, comrades, they quake in all their might ! For 'tis not sleeping graves these English Knaves have made, but unquenchable stars of freedom's light... We oppressed men and women of no property shall realise the Irish Socialist Republic."

Bobby Sands.



The sharp end of British imperialism's intervention in the North (DR)

ARTICLE BY **Jeff O'Carroll** OVAL AO.

# Letters:

Unfortunately the late publication of last month's Red Clerk due to being involved in the Oval strike has meant that I have had insufficient time to receive and publish any letters from members. Hopefully people will respond to articles/issues in the magazine.

If you have any issues or points you wish to raise within these pages please write to me at the address given on page 2. Articles, letters or contributions should reach me by no later than 1st of the month.

Look forward to hearing from you... Have a nice Xmas leave.

Ed.



# RANK AND FILE

If we thought Management had singled us out for punishment this month we only have to have a quick look around to see strike action is going on all over the Union against managements attacks.

Apart from the supportive action taken during the Oval AO strike the following offices are in dispute and taking action: Bellshill AO and Coatbridge AO over accomadation, North Shields ILO over Asbestos, Paddington ILO, Caernarfon ILO, Southend ILO and Basildon ILO over staffing.

Just recently there have been more strikes at Wood Green ILO, Bristol Central ILO and even in the least organised section of the Union the Ministry of Defence strike action amongst typists has been solid during the last few weeks.

The majority of offices within our Branch have been involved in strike action this last month, clearly we are not alone.

CD McDONALD PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS...

## THE OUTSTATIONERS



An Exciting story of RUSTLING...



PRODUCED BY  
BAD MANAGEMENT  
DIRECTED BY  
LSRO

GOING SOON FROM AN OFFICE NEAR YOU!

Cartoon based on an idea sent in by a member at Kennington Pk. ILO.



John Macreadie visiting Oval Strikers.

## OUT AND ABOUT

ONGOING DISPUTES OUTSIDE THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Lewisham NALGO have lauched upon a council-wide strike since its employer, the Lewisham Labour council, followed in Murdoch's footsteps by sacking workers who were fighting to make the reception areas safe to work in. Members living or working in Lewisham should add their weight to the striking Housing workers by petitioning the council and support any calls for the blacking of council work. 'Hygrade' meat packing workers in Peckham are fighting for USDAW Union recognition. Management have said they will sack any of their workers who tries to join the union! The National Print Support Groups Organisation has called a demonstration in support of the sacked printers at Wapping on 13th December. Meet at Aldgate East station at 8.30pm. Show solidarity with the printers.



# WHILE BOTHA DREAMS OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS...

This month the South African Government suffered one of its biggest economic blows yet. Barclays Bank PLC were forced to withdraw finances and pull out of institutions in S.Africa. While Thatcher and Reagan have done all they can to keep investment in S.Africa, the pressure on Barclays has become too much; the increased political activity amongst Black Workers in S.Africa and the stepping up of the boycott in Britain has all led the directors of the worlds biggest bank to run scared.

Meanwhile, inside the perimeter of S.Africa any tiny reform is being stamped on with vigor. White moderates have put forward plans to set up a community council( Indaba ) in Natal. The Indaba is the consultative assembly set up for Blacks and Coloureds by the Govmt. to attempt to persuade us that reforms were going on. The majority of Blacks have boycotted this institution as it has no decision making power. However, even this worse than useless sop was thrown out by Stoffel Botha the S.A. National Home Affairs Minister.

Only another example of how unreformable S.Africa is and of the need to overthrow the monster of Apartheid... and by the way does it strike you how the whole S.African Govmt.



belongs to the Botha family; PW, Pik, and now Stoffel!

Other news coming out of S.Africa is of the solution the Govmt. have come up with to dampen down action amongst Black Workers in the Soweto township. They are to build an eight foot wall around the Black township to stop the 'troubles' spilling into white Johannesburg.

No news has been received yet of ZUBEIDA JAFFER and VICTOR BAMBANE . We are still trying to make contact with them but not all post sent to S.Africa gets there. 'Red Clerk' will keep everybody up to date on developments and whats happening in S.Africa each month.

Collections have already started within the Branch although slowly due to considerable action in our own Union Branch over Out-stationing . With christmas on its way hopefully the Branch will organise a special collection to help families of detainees during the next period of time.

---

If you would like to get involved in the collections for the detainees which should now be getting way in every office, see your local office or sub-branch rep. or contact any Branch Officer for details and collection sheets. Support the detainees.

**..BUILD WORKERS'  
SOLIDARITY.**



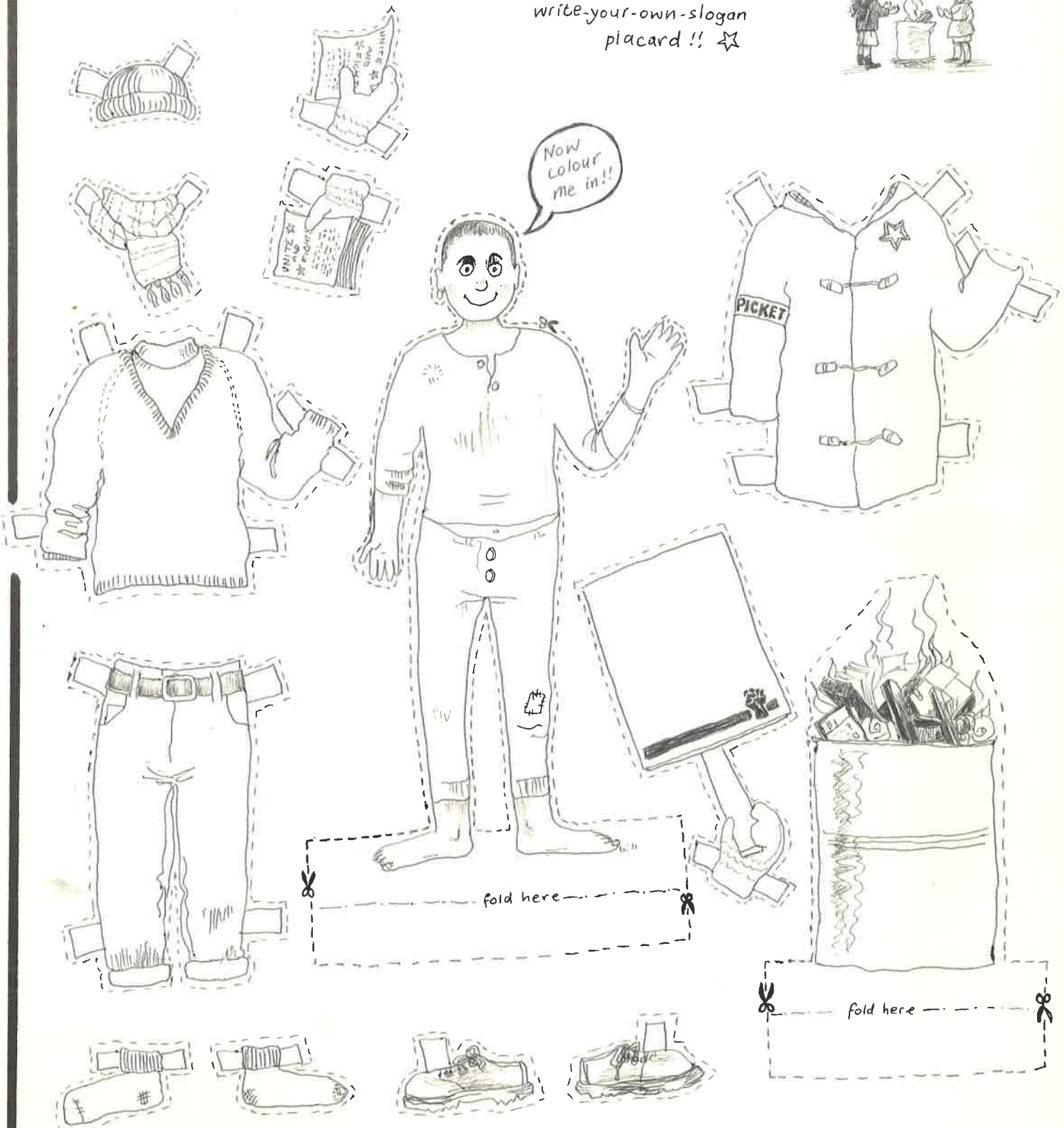
# DRESS YOUR OWN PICKET

In this Season's Winter Wear



☆ complete with stand-up brazier!! ☆

☆ plus ... write-your-own-slogan placard!! ☆



and don't forget to cut round tabs!!

bill