

THE HOOK



No. 1

MAY 14th. YES, WE WANT TO KICK THE TORIES OUT.

"Our aim is to bring this government down. It vexes me when Len Murray is asked about this and he does a soft shoe shuffle that Fred Astaire would be proud of." That's what a shop steward from Rolls Royce said at a meeting to discuss strike action on May 14th.

Nationally a number of unions have already agreed to support the day of action with strike calls: the NUR, GMWU, SOGAT, UR, IUP, NUT, NUJ, FTATU, FBU, CoHSE, Tobacco Workers Union, TGWU's bus, motors and construction groups and a number of NUM areas.

In every major city trades councils will be organising marches and meetings. In Manchester both the Confed and Salford Trades Council have organised marches and Salford Trades Council a meeting.

Murray, of course, has spent more time trying to reassure the Tories that the TUC does not believe in using industrial action to kick out the government than in trying to organise a massive turn-out for May 14th.

But the message on May 14th must be 'Industrial action can be used for political ends'. Industrial action, if linked with political organisation, can bring down this government - and provide the basis for a struggle to replace it with a real workers' government which takes

action against capitalist power, rather than meekly executing capitalists' instructions as all previous Labour Governments, not under the control of the labour movement, have done.

Rather than see May 14th. as just a day off we should see it as the start of a real fight to get rid of this government. Dockers should get together with other trade unionists to make sure that the marches are the biggest seen for some time in Manchester.

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MARCH AGAINST THE TORIES ON MAY 14th.
DEMONSTRATION CALLED BY SALFORD TRADES COUNCIL. ASSEMBLE 10am. OUTSIDE THE RED COW, ALBION ST. SALFORD. THIS MARCH WILL JOIN UP WITH THE MAIN MANCHESTER MARCH. MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON IT TO TELL THE TORIES WHAT YOU THINK OF THEM AND BRING YOUR MATES ALONG.
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DEFEND OUR JOBS

Open letters from the bosses to the workforce are all the rage at the moment. Since the business with 'Robbo' at British Leyland this seems to be the way of carrying on negotiations. The management make the proposals and we're invited to put them into practice.

The latest effort is the parting shot from Redford as Chairman and Managing

Director. The company's in a mess again and sacrifices have to be made. In the words of our leader, "we all know that complete co-operation is essential." Simple isn't it. We let a few more jobs go and all will be well. But isn't that what they told us last time..... and the time before.

The Hook says it's time we stopped making sacrifices. It's our jobs that are at stake. Our unions should refuse to get into discussions on sackings. If there's not enough work to go round we say reduce the hours worked without loss of pay. And if the bosses say they can't afford that then nationalise them without compensation and under the control of the workforce.

It's long been our policy to nationalise the docks. Let's get off our knees and start fighting for it.

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WAGES

12 votes to 10. Yes, a split vote. That's the way the stewards decided to recommend an acceptance of 'looks miserable' offer, and a miserable offer it is with inflation running at 20% and likely to reach 25% by the end of the year.

"Pay freezes, dock's closing down, no money in the kitty," all of this and much more bollocks besides, was the reason given for the total collapse after just nine days of action.

UNBELIEVABLE when you think that on three occasions they had 100% backing from the men! The Hook fears that in the coming months this is going to be one decision we will regret ever having made.

CONTAINER FOATS

The dockers' branch has had a resolution on the table for some two years on a proposed rota system at 1/9. After the pay claim is settled we'll attend to it, said the branch Chairman. Well, now's the time for getting off our arses and GETTING SOMETHING MOVING!

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VERE ST.

The management are seeking talks with the shops on the question of manning at Vere St. - a reduction in manning that is. They must like rubbing salt in the wounds. The only answer they should get is GET STUFFED!

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KLEIN BROS. STRIKE

The strikers at Klein Bros. on Liverpool St. are now in their 8th. week of the fight for union recognition. We've already had one whip round for them but they could do with more support, both in terms of cash and on the picket line. Let's keep Victorian bosses out of Salford.

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THE HOOK

The Hook is produced by supporters of the paper WORKERS' ACTION in the docks to put the socialist alternative to the Tories and the do-nothing trade union leaders. If you'd like to get in touch or tell us what's going on in your patch then contact us at

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All donations towards costs gratefully received.