



Yorkshire Miner

JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkERS YORKSHIRE AREA

STRIKE ISSUE 2

JUNE 1984



President's defiant message from strike-year gala

WE'LL BURN THOSE



Never mind the ballot box — here's a box for MacGregor! The grim reaper and his friends from Cortonwood make their feelings clear on the gala demonstration.

BALLOT PAPERS!

IF coal-board chairman Ian MacGregor tries to ballot the miners over the heads of the union, we'll burn the ballot papers.

That was just one of the defiant and confident messages that rang out from the political rally at this year's miners' gala.

Despite the poverty brought on by the strike, 50,000 miners, their families

and supporters turned out to make the Yorkshire Miners' Demonstration and Gala 1984 a truly historic occasion.

The gala in Thornes Park, Wakefield, had all the colour and spirit of previous years, plus a new sense of comradeship and purpose in the year of the strike to save pits and jobs.

That sense of purpose was reflected in every speech from the platform of the rally. Speakers and audience alike made it clear that, whatever else the board and the government had up their sleeves, the miners would not submit.

Yorkshire miners' presi-

dent Jack Taylor emphasised the union's contempt for MacGregor's threats of a return-to-work ballot and talk of renewed court action against the union.

Extra

"If you get a ballot paper, you burn it," he declared to prolonged applause. "Nobody ballots over this union's head."

"There will be no ballots. The men have voted in this industry already. They've voted with their feet."

Guest speaker Dennis Skinner went a stage further. The Derbyshire miners' MP for Bolsover warned that the board

might have extra ballot papers printed.

"I'm saying we don't just burn them in the privacy of our homes," he said. "We get them all together in the strike centres and burn them all together."

"And if you've got an effigy of MacGregor and Thatcher, it will make it last a little bit longer."

Warning

Jack Taylor had a warning too for those thinking of taking renewed court action against the Yorkshire Area.

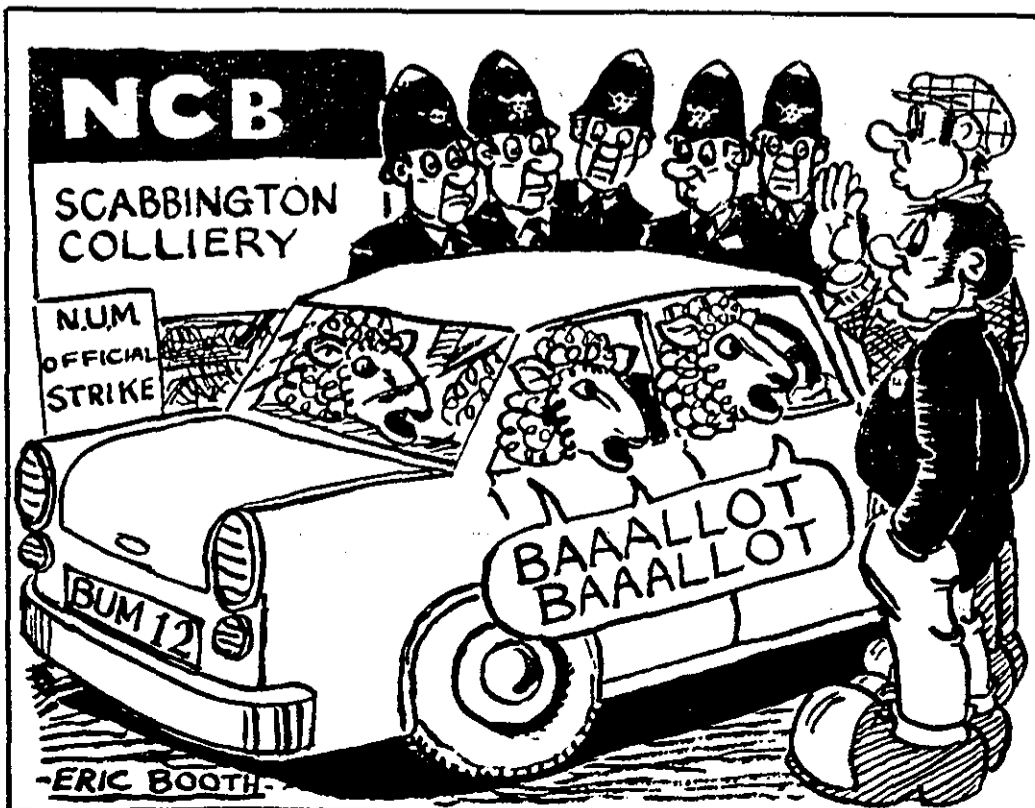
"Whether MacGregor's withdrawn the injunction for good or he's going to bring it back on won't make any difference at all.

"Whether he takes the money, or whether he takes the offices, the next morning Yorkshire Area will be operating as normal".

● Full gala report — pages 5 to 8.



Why just burn the ballot papers? Stillingfleet's Mark Davies has bigger ideas, as his tee-shirt made clear at the gala.



Get out and picket!

DON'T just sit there — join the picket lines and help win an early victory for the miners.

That was the call at the gala from Yorkshire president Jack Taylor to striking miners who are not involved in the day-to-day struggle to make the strike bite.

"The fight has been long and bitter and hard," he said. "And it will probably get harder."

Duty

"The pickets have been brave and loyal — but there's still too many sat at home. "Picketing has never been held down

by Yorkshire Area. And anybody who goes to his branch will be out on Monday morning and every morning.

"If you want to get back to work and you want an early end to the dispute, get out of your house and go and see your branch secretary."

"It is a duty for members of this union to be standing side by side and picketing places in a controlled manner."

Members who are not involved in picketing should contact their branch officials or local strike centre. Those who for any reason cannot go picketing can be found other ways to contribute to winning the strike.

Letters to the Editor

Spy alert! Who is this mysterious man?

AT about 5.30pm on Monday 21 May, a man called at my home.

He told me he was working for charity, but mentioned no name and said he was doing a survey to see if they could help striking miners and their families.

He had a clipboard, with typed questions on a form, with my husband's name and our address on the top.

He then asked me how many children we had and how much supplementary benefit we were receiving, to which I replied: "Not enough."

He asked if the children were getting free school meals and if me and my husband were using the soup kitchens.

At this point, I became very dubious and asked to see his charity card. He felt in his pockets and said he'd forgotten it.

Then he glanced round and conversationally said: "I see you've got a car, but I bet you can't run it because you'll be short of money."

I replied: "No, it stays in the garage."

Then he said: "But if your husband goes picketing, like most of the miners do, he will get petrol money because they use the cars to take men picketing. Does he go picketing down Nottingham?"

At this, I replied: "Wait a minute, I think you had better let my husband answer these questions. He's in bed — I'll get him up."

He then started walking away and said he had got everything he needed to know. I waited while he had got out of the drive, then I followed.

He got into a red car, parked at the top of the street, with another man in. The man was about 6ft 1in, well-built and in his forties. He was wearing a dark suit.

Mrs Sally Hooley,
2 South Drive,
Bolton-on-Dearne,
Rotherham.

● We would be glad to hear from any of our members or their families who have had similar experiences. Ed.



'Pickets' fly back to help miners

CHART-topping group "The Flying Pickets", pictured here on a solidarity visit to the Drax power station picket lines, are coming back into action for the miners.

With another top band — "UB40" — they will stage a miners' strike benefit concert at the De Montfort Hall, Leicester, on July 7 at 7pm.

Both groups approached the union themselves to offer their services. Proceeds for the strike fund are expected to be considerable, as they are certain crowd-pullers.

A number of seats have been reserved free of charge for the sons and daughters of striking miners. Yorkshire has been allocated seats for 22 such youngsters, who must be aged 11 to 18.

Details will be circulated later.

Yorkshire Miner cartoonist Dave Brennan — creator of "The Last Colliery in Great Britain" — is to hold an exhibition of his recent drawings in Maltby Miners' Welfare, from 11am to 4pm on Saturday 30 June. The drawings, done between picketing shifts, aim to express "the character of the miner", he explained.

spawned. A goose-stepping brainwashed elite of the Tory Reich.

A corps of hard-headed, jack-booted, foot-stomping, heel-clicking, shin-skining storm troopers, the likes of whom were seen "siege heiling" in the Fatherland and arrayed in the hated Black and Tans in the Emerald Isle in bygone days.

Animals who, at the drop of a coin or the promise of

another rung up the ladder of promotion and the thought of everlasting glory, aim to crush the working classes on whose backs they were reared.

Squads of the hated Met, eager for scalps and blood to render our lads impotent in the fight for survival.

The chameleons in the filling stations in our own communities, the jackals on the motorways in their innocent-looking Judas vans, monitoring the flow of honest lads working on behalf of the cause.

The heavies in their Doc Marten's and gloves, truncheons at the ready, smashing property, personal possessions — necessary things like spectacles, needed by some of our less fortunate brothers for their day-to-day life.

The tight-lipped, flat-headed generals, snarling commands to their underlings on the lines, changing the laws as their sadistic minds realise that their actions are not deterring the gallant boys from their heroic actions.

Then enter the parrots, the phone-tappers, the germ-infested governing coven of our beloved land (fought for and enriched by the working classes since time began), who will recognise Solidarity in far away places but would love to shove it under the carpet in our sceptered isle.

I sincerely hope that in years to come the requiem for these mercenaries will be penned and every honest Briton will understand and realise what the vanguard of the working classes were trying to do for this country, its people, its future, despite hardships and oppressions by the establishment.

A disillusioned
Barnsley miner.
(Name and
address supplied)

Thanks to our friends

ON Easter Tuesday morning, April 24, myself and 199 lads off the picket line from the Doncaster area set off to go down to Coventry Colliery Social Club, Keresley, Warwickshire.

We were to stay down there until the following Friday.

The local lads at Keresley had arranged to meet us there to tell us the arrangements they had made for us and where we were to stay.

The purpose of our visit was to assist them in picketing Coventry Colliery from Wednesday to Friday morning.

Most of the lads were put up in a place called Earlsdon and I would like to take the opportunity, through the Yorkshire Miner, to say thank-you to all those who made the Yorkshire lads welcome and looked after them.

On behalf of the Yorkshire lads, and the other lads that went down, people of Keresley, thank-you. And special thanks to the people in Earlsdon from Dicky, Johnny, Tony, Malc, Craig, Tony and myself.

With people like them and many more, we cannot lose this fight.

Mr A. Wakefield,
(Frickley miner),
26 Park Estate,
South Kirkby.

Instant justice!

WEEK 15. Tuesday 12 June 1984. About 6.40 am, outside Bickershawe Colliery, Lancashire. 500 pickets versus up to 2,000 police.

Three coaches arrived, carrying only 70 men between them but under mobile police escort.

The police, after being warned by radio of the coaches' approach, started to push the miners' picket back from the kerb. The miners matched their pressure and mastered it.

Consequently some miners burst through the police line and were instantly set-upon by a small standby contingent of police, wearing extra protective clothing — shin pads, groin protection and big boots.

I was one of 16 arrested by this contingency force. I was frog-marched behind the police lines and out of sight of the miners' picket by one officer trying to break my arm and another trying to separate my scalp from my skull.

So far so good, I thought? Perhaps all coppers aren't b... s after all. But my thoughts and previous prejudice were instantly reinforced when I was asked to smile at a Polaroid

Instamatic camera.

I refused. The officer on my arm, no. 7337, of the Greater Manchester force, punched me in the face twice, blacking my right eye as I tried to turn my head and cutting my top lip with his second blow.

I still refused. So no. 7337 pulled my head backwards, using my eye sockets for finger holes.

Meanwhile, the friendly photographer with his Instamatic tried to kick me in the crutch three times and took the skin off my left knee.

I never got his number as, by this time, my sight was somewhat obscured by no. 7337's fingers.

One later observation was that he had polished his boots that morning, because there were black polish marks on my light blue jeans.

Eventually with no. 7337 and two of his colleagues to hold me, I had my photograph taken.

Is this legal? I was later, much later (3.45 pm), charged with police obstruction. One can only presume they mean because I wouldn't have my photo taken.

I pleaded guilty and was fined £35, plus £5 costs, and bound over for 12 months in the sum of £50.

INSTANT CAMERAS — INSTANT JUSTICE!

Alan Wassell,
Wheldale Colliery,
Yorkshire Area NUM.

Familiar statements

I HAVE just received my copy of Coal News, delivered to my home, price 8p.

I wonder how they will recover their money — little to lose if their propaganda exercise works.

I have read with interest the question-and-answer report "Cortonwood: the facts" and, as I worked at Elsecar Colliery, the most recent South Yorkshire mine to close, I could not help but notice certain familiar statements in the Coal News report — e.g. "futile exercise to mine coal if it cannot be sold."

This was said of the Elsecar product but I well remember 20,000 tonnes of "unsaleable" Elsecar coal suddenly finding a market.

This was after the workforce at Elsecar agreed with the NCB closure programme — e.g. jobs will be found within travelling distance, ten miles, 20 miles, more perhaps.

The NCB take a cavalier attitude to the enormous problem of travelling distances to work.

Some ex-Elsecar electricians are travelling over 200 miles every five-day working week.

Every man at Cortonwood Colliery who wants a job will have the opportunity of transferring to another pit and a job will be found.

Some of the lads at Elsecar who had been top-paid coal-face craftsmen are now washing on coal-prep plants, in area workshops or surface fitting shops, for less money and longer hours.

Disgusting, I agree, but that was their opportunity. Unemployment was the only alternative.

Of course, NACODS and BACM have agreed to further talks. They have nothing to lose. Not a penny off their pay or an hour on their day.

But that is just what has happened to NUM members — and will go on happening as long as pit closures are allowed to continue.

Ivan Hunter,
(Ex-NUM Branch Secretary, Elsecar Main),
7 Hooper View,
Wombwell,
Barnsley.

Something to say?
Address your letters:

The Editor,
Yorkshire Miner,
2 Huddersfield Road,
Barnsley.

No letter can be considered for publication without the correspondent's full name, address and where applicable, name of pit.

Farewell to the Bobby

IN 1974 — fond memories of our peelers who plodded the beat, patrolled in nobby cars and biked on sit-up-and-bed rusty cycles.

Remember the Dixons of Dock Green, the hallo-hallos, the clips round the earhole from a red-faced, red-nosed, laughing policeman.

The rustle of a "goodie-bag" when in tears after a crack off a rubber cape and the threat of a tale to a night-shift father.

Remember the squeak of a rusty bicycle, the boy-scout approach to old ladies and distressed animals?

This is the British Bobby of our memories.

In 1984 — the Year of the Rat — a new master-race is

Rallying round the miners

Mansfield, Monday 14 May.

THE biggest rally yet (right), when 45,000 miners and supporters massed into the heart of the Nottinghamshire coalfield to demonstrate support for the strike.

The immense crowd is addressed here by Yorkshire president Jack Taylor, appealing for working Notts miners to join their comrades.

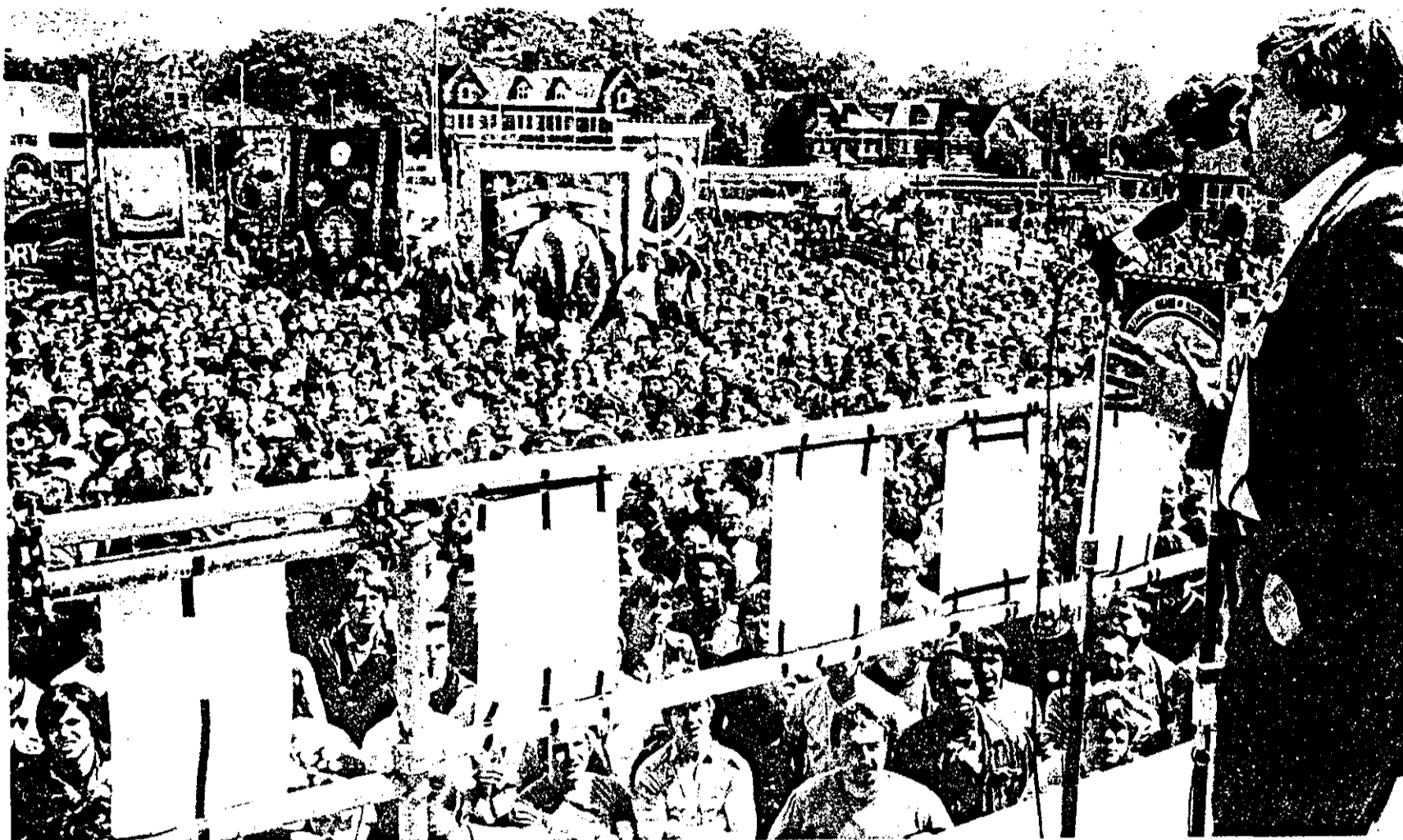
Others on the platform included national president Arthur Scargill and representatives of the 10,000 Nottinghamshire miners who had joined the strike.

Frickley, Saturday 5 May.

NATIONAL president Arthur Scargill (below) holds aloft a photograph of young Yorkshire miner David Jones, who died on the picket lines at Ollerton pit.

With him are the bereaved parents, Mr and Mrs Mark Jones, who presented it, and Yorkshire vice-president Sammy Thompson.

The president told the rally, on Frickley Park football ground, that the photo would be hung in the entrance to the new national miners' offices.



Sheffield, Monday 21 May.

ONE of several demonstrations (right) organised by trades councils throughout Yorkshire and Humberside on the day the Regional TUC called a one-day stoppage in support of the miners.

Miners' banners were in strength on the streets of Sheffield, mingling with those of the many other unions showing their support.

Despite attempts to sabotage the action by TUC general secretary Len Murray, a wide range of trade unionists stopped work for the day and 6,000 took part in rallies to support the miners.

Yorkshire miners' general secretary and Regional TUC chairman Owen Briscoe was one of many speakers who urged Len Murray to "retire gracefully and get his set of ermine robes now."

Barnsley, Saturday 5 May.

THE town saw its biggest May Day march for years (left).

The same pattern was followed in towns and cities throughout the coalfield and the rest of the country — thanks to the miners.

Sheffield, Thursday 19 April.

ONE young demonstrator (right), in town to lobby the one-day recall conference which dismissed calls for a national ballot and called for all-out support for the strike.

The picture says it all. (Picture Jacob Sutton).



Snap-time changed

Grimethorpe Branch's pensioners' tea has been moved from its usual October date to July — Cudworth Village Club, 5pm, July 5; Grimethorpe WMC, 5pm, July 12.

I AM A BIG PART
IN THIS STRIKE
ITS MY FUTURE

Women's army on the march



... and what a difference it makes

THE miners' strike of 1984 is different from all the earlier struggles because of one factor above all — the women.

In every village, across the whole coalfield, the women of the mining communities have made the struggle their own, with their own organisations, their own marches, pickets and rallies.

The power of the women behind the strike burst into the public arena on Saturday 12 May, when 10,000 women from all parts of every British coalfield rocked Barnsley with a march (above) and rally (right).

The confidence and determination which rang out from that event, put many a traditional rally to shame.

And it provoked new forms of solidarity action, like that of the two women bus drivers (below left), who volunteered to take the marchers into Barnsley in buses sponsored by their union, the TGWU.

Similar support has come from other women workers, like the nurses and hospital auxiliaries from NUPE, who have helped provide meals for hungry strikers, as here (below right) at Silverwood Miners' Welfare.

Organisations like the Rotherham Women's Support Group (bottom left) have been indispensable in running the mammoth operation of distributing food.

And, while the strike has brought women on to the picket-lines, the marches and the welfare organisations, it's also brought the men into the kitchens, like these two Silverwood miners (bottom right), spud-bashing at their local welfare.



YORKSHIRE MINERS' GALA '84 YORKSHIRE MINERS' GALA '84



Marching order changed to honour picket who died

KELLINGLEY Branch banner (left), hung with black drapes, led the others in this year's gala demonstration, behind the officials and special guests (above). The marching order was changed, to show respect for Kellingley member Joe Green, who died after being hit by a lorry while picketing at Ferrybridge power station.

Branch members wore black armbands for the march.

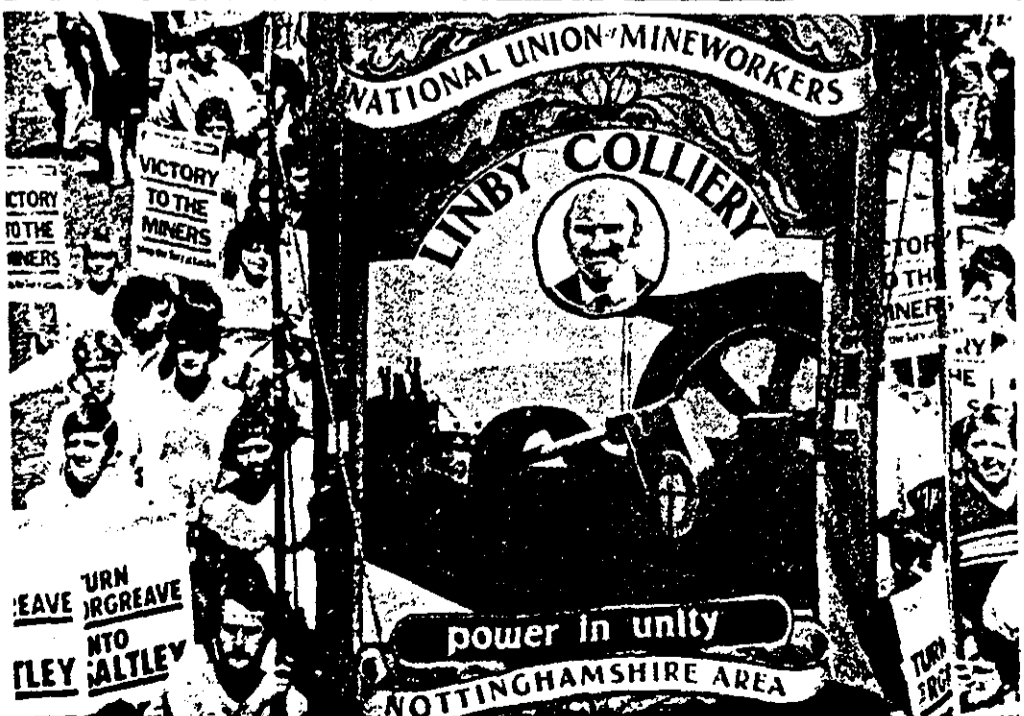
The whole Yorkshire mining community later paid tribute, when the huge crowd around the speakers' platform stood for a minute in silence.

Before the march came the annual parade of children's jazz bands. Our picture (top right) shows the Squadronaires.

Barnburgh Branch (below right) took their new banner out for its first miners' gala demonstration.

The banner was completed only recently, following a competition among local young people for the best design.

Linby NUM's banner (below left) was just one of those from the Nottinghamshire coalfield to be present on the march, provoking warm applause from the crowds in recognition of the particularly hard struggle of the striking miners in that area.



YORKSHIRE MINERS' GALA '84 YORKSHIRE MINERS' GALA '84

YORKSHIRE MINERS' GALA '84

Proud that our lads proved them wrong

THE coal board and the government are losing the fight — because they failed to understand the determination of the Yorkshire miners to defend their industry.

Yorkshire miners' president Jack Taylor told the enthusiastic rally audience that the board gambled on the closure at Cortonwood and Bullcliffe Wood pits because they did not believe the miners would fight back.

"We told them: 'If you attack one pit in Yorkshire on economic grounds, we stand and fight,'" he said.

"Where they went wrong was they didn't believe us. One coal-board official had the audacity and cheek to say: 'Don't worry, the lads won't follow the leadership'."

"We can stand here today with great pride and say our lads proved them wrong — and proved them wrong instantly."

"It took one shift to get all the men stood — no picketing, no wrangles. Every pit supported us. That was the day they started to lose."

Past

He warned that Ian MacGregor's recent statement in the press that "the coal board will recover its responsibility for managing the coal industry" could mean only one thing.

"It means stepping back into the past," he said. "Go to your local retired miners' tea and ask them what it was like."

"Two days on, two days off. Touch your cap to the



Jack Taylor.

gaffer and you'll get a decent job.

"If you want to go back to those days, you'll have to change your leadership — because you're not going back there with us."

He attacked the coal board for their consistent dishonesty.

"The negotiations were a game," he said. "They wanted to build our members up and drop them back down again."

Tears

"It's the same old story — you can be part of discussions if you agree to do as you're told."

"The coal board have never been any different to what they are today. They've always been dishonest."

"Ned Smith comes on

telly with tears in his eyes, saying how worried he is about our men suffering. At the same time he takes their holiday pay away from them."

He launched a scathing attack on Ian MacGregor, a "man of violence, who really believes he's John Wayne."

"The big act of violence was the one that started it, when he said Cortonwood was going to shut in four weeks' time."

"You can't be more violent than to take away 800 jobs."

Women

And he pointed, as well, to the growing violence of the police and the state against the miners.

Two Yorkshire miners had died, men had been beaten, attacked with horses and dogs, handcuffed, tied to trees, jailed before trial, had their phones tapped and their homes watched by police.

"We're not on about South Africa or South America," he said. "We're on about Britain. That's why it's a fight for us all."

"We're not going to have our country run like that."

While thanking all who had supported the strike, he singled out for particular praise those strikers from other areas who were in a minority in their own coalfields, the women, the young men and the members of those South Yorkshire branches who had been on strike for three weeks longer than the rest of the country.

It would have been easy for the men at Manvers, Kilnhurst and Wath Main to have given in to the board's attempts to weaken the overtime ban by moving snap-time, he said.

"But the men, to their credit, stood firm. There was a bigger principle than

moving snap-time.

"There was a principle that we agreed to stand and fight — and an agreement meant keeping it."

The president welcomed miners and their families from Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, South-Devonshire and Lancashire, a welcome emphasised by long applause.

"It's harder to stand and fight when there's only a few. But we're better having men of quality and commitment who've chosen to be on our side rather than being forced to be on it."

Women's involvement in the strike had brought "a new dimension to our union," he said.

"Now it's not just about men. It's about women being part of the dispute — and they've every right to be part of it. They've every right to say what's going to happen in our communities."

Myth

"And I congratulate every one — whether they've been on the picket lines, whether they've been organising food, whether they've been doing clerical work, whether they've been spreading the word."

"They've understood — and understanding is what will win this dispute."

The dispute had killed forever the myth that the young miners were a different breed from their predecessors, he said.

"Everybody used to say: 'The young men are not like us. We had '72 and '74 and we knew what it was about'."

"But the future of this union is in good hands. The young men have come of age in this dispute."

"We're proud of the way they've conducted themselves in demonstrations, pickets and meetings."

Luxury

The attack on the miners was an attack on all, he said.

"The government has decided to take us on and you haven't got the luxury of standing aside. If you're not on our side, you're on MacGregor's side."

But he warned that the NUM was running the dispute and would not tolerate divisive behaviour from inside or outside the union.

"This dispute is being run in Yorkshire from Yorkshire Area and national office — and it will continue to be."

"If you let anybody else have control, we shall lose. We need unity — we don't need divisions."

"I don't care what political view you've got. You can come in our side — you can be part of the dispute. But it's under the control of the NUM."



A wildly enthusiastic audience — the biggest for years standing ovation.

Miners in t panic in th

THE miners have taken over the driving seat in this dispute — and panic has set into the government.

Confident of victory, Derbyshire miners' MP Dennis Skinner said it would mean more than a change of mind over collieries due for the axe but a chance to win demands which have been outstanding for years.

And he urged Labour councils to speed the miners' victory by following Derbyshire's lead in refusing to pay the costs of the police operation and Liverpool's lead in blacking all firms involved in strike breaking.

The union's strategy for bringing down coal stocks was succeeding, he explained, with the help of the coal board's own figures.

"The overtime ban lost between eight and ten million tons of coal production," he said.

"Every week this strike

has been on, between 1.75 million and two million tonnes of coal has been withdrawn from annual production.

Victory

"We've more than 36 million tonnes now taken out of the annual production."

This would not just mean a victory in 1984, he said. With an end to overtime, it would give the union the upper hand in 1985, 1986 and beyond.

"It was essential the union got those stocks down," he said.

"You would have been crippled for the rest of your working lives if the 50-odd million tonnes that existed last autumn had remained behind the power station fences and outside the pit yards."

"Now we're on the point of being able to say, and the coal board and the Tories and the government know it, we're in the driving seat and it feels a lot better."

"I'm confident, providing you continue with the de-

MAGGILYA VENTRILOQUIST



ERIC BOOTH

"The negotiations were a game," said Jack Taylor. An Eric's-eye view of the same.



Dennis Skinner.



sets Yorkshire president Jack Taylor's address with a

With support, you'd have won in two weeks

IF every trade union had given the same cash support as the train drivers' union, the NUM would have received £30 million for the strike.

And if every trade-unionist had obeyed the golden rule — never cross a picket line the strike would have been won after two weeks.

Those estimates came from Ray Buckton, who introduced himself to the miners' gala rally as president of the TUC, but "a damned sight more proud to be general secretary of ASLEF" — the train driver's union.

His union, with just 23,000 members, had given £60,000 for the miners' strike from national head-

quarters alone, he said.

If every other trade union had given the same amount per member the NUM would have received £30 million "just to be going on with."

He added: "I was told, when I joined the trade union, the greatest principle you must always obey is you never cross a picket line."

Fear

"If everyone had applied that principle, this strike would have been over after the first two weeks."

ASLEF were calling for support for the miners because "this fight is not just a fight about pits it's all a part of this government's attitude of government by fear."

"Fear of being old. Fear of being sick. Fear of bringing children into the world. Fear of our industries being smashed to pieces."

He drew the parallels of today's fight with both the rise of fascism in Europe this century and the fate of the Tolpuddle Martyrs,

transported 150 years ago this July.

"Remember how they must have suffered and the fact that they were brought back from Australia because of the tremendous support they received from millions of people in this country, led by the trade-union movement of that time."

"If it was good 150 years ago to fight for their rights to belong to a trade union, to work for a living wage, isn't it right today that every trade unionist in this country and millions of people should be standing behind the miners?"

Betrayals

Recalling that his union joined the Triple Alliance, so that the different unions would support one another, he reflected on their fate when they needed that support.

"We found ourselves on our own, with every member of our union sacked. We were not told by the police to go back to work but instructed by the TUC to



Ray Buckton.

accept the management's and government's proposals."

Similar betrayals had faced the workers at GCHQ and the NGA printworkers at Warrington.

"How can anybody now stand by and see industrial relations fought out in the streets and in our homes?" he asked.

One of his own members, in Nottinghamshire, had his door burst open at 1am by police, to drag out Yorkshire miners' pickets who were staying with him.

"You are the front-line troops," he said. "But remember there are a lot of us right close behind you."

We can't survive alone

NO one sector of the labour movement can stand alone and hope to survive, Owen Briscoe told the gala rally.

The Yorkshire miners' general secretary was moving the vote of thanks to guest speakers Ray Buckton and Dennis Skinner.

He reminded the audience of the terrible defeat suffered by the miners in 1926, when they were left to fight on their own.

"The bitter taste of 1926 still lingers," he said. "We have sworn and will swear that never again will miners' families face such a defeat."

Destructive

He pointed to the consequence of defeat in today's struggle. "Talk of relocation really means either the attempt to absorb new skills and uproot family ties of every kind or their equally destructive forced move to areas where the future may be no more secure and where each imported worker robs a school leaver of a vacancy."

But he added: "Our members will stay on strike for as long as it takes to reverse the pit closure programme."

"They will not be beaten or starved into submission and back to work."

"Thereby they will ensure that David Jones and Joe Green did not lose their lives in vain."

the driving seat, the government

mination and resolve I've shown till now, we're going to win."

The government's decision to introduce new DHSS guidelines "to take the bad out of miners' kids' mouths" exposed their thinking, he said.

"Just imagine panicking that towards the end of strike. Would a confident government do a thing like that?"

"That's what's called panic — and panic has set to this government."

Equipment

The panic has spread into the ranks of those who applied or lent mining equipment to the coal board.

They had been meeting MacGregor and his colleagues because they and their insurers were "worried stiff about the deterioration of their equipment."

He urged the miners to raise their sights above limited horizons when considering the terms of any settlement.

"While we're getting to-

wards the end, let's formulate a policy together," he said.

Bonus

"It's not any longer about Cortonwood, Bullcliffe Wood or Polmaise. The settlement has to include getting all those pits off that hit-list."

"It means we're going to demand a coal-dominated energy policy. It means we're going to get rid of that detested bonus scheme."

"And we're going to get every single penny of it and incorporate it into the basic wage."

"I'm not appealing to you now, when you get back to work, not to work overtime. I'm telling you — you don't do it any more."

"A victory means a four-day week, so we can get young miners back into work."

"The wage increase has to take into account all the sacrifices, all the money lost in this strike."

Grit

"And we shan't go back to work till every single victimised and sacked miner is reinstated."

"I'm proud to be here today among the Yorkshire people who knew what it was about when the gun went off."

"I think MacGregor and the media want to remember there's a lot of Yorkshire grit — and the miners have got their fair share of it."

"We've got the determination up here, right throughout the coalfield. This is a fight to the finish."

"And it's not going to be white flag — it's going to be a victory for the white rose."



Before the speeches, a ukelele-banjo player keeps the audience amused with an impromptu performance.

Gala resolution 1984

THE Yorkshire miners are resolved to pursue this long and bitter dispute until we win victory — not only for the miners, but for the British people.

Our members' determination to build a future for our industry has set an example to the whole movement.

The government, the coal board, the mass media and the police have failed to intimidate us, bribe us, mislead us or beat us into submission.

The magnificent support from the trade-union and labour movement, from

our communities, from the women's support groups and the public throughout the country has been essential in maintaining our struggle.

In the weeks ahead, as the attacks on our union intensify, that support will become all the more vital.

We call on all our allies and friends to build on that unity until we reach the only acceptable solution to this dispute — a return to the Plan for Coal, investment in an expanding coal industry and a secure future for our members, their children and Britain's energy needs.



GALA '84 YORKSHIRE MINERS' GALA '84 YORKSHIRE MINERS' GALA '84

YORKSHIRE MINERS' GALA '84 YORKSHIRE MINERS' GALA '84



Hard times —but still fun in the gala sun

JUST a few of the flurry of activities in Thornes Park, Wakefield, on gala day.

The topical "Bin for Scabs" entry, by Iris Hill, of Mexborough, won the adults' fancy dress (top left).

Others placed were 2 — Brian Roberts, Frankenstein; 3 — Peter Cowley, Summer Fairy; 3 — Janet Corker, Witch from Number Ten.

In the children's fancy dress (eight to 14 class) the winners (pictured left) were: 1 — Rebecca and Sarah Nightingale, of Cadeby, Rock Around the Clock; 2 — Gemma Dean, of Manvers, Jack-in-the-Box; 3 — Sarah Dean, of Manvers, Ann Boleyn; 4 — Claire Hudspeth, Kilnhurst, Skeleton.

Under-eight class, winners: 1 — Laura McKewan, of Edlington, Caveman; 2 — Fay Sagar, of Barnsley, Hilda Ogden; 3 — Jayne Pickering, of Thurcroft, Miss Striker 1984; 4 — Martin Hughes, of Brodsworth, Robot.

For those children not interested in the competitions, there was the bouncing

castle (below left), never out of action for the whole day.

The Miss Miners' Lamp contest brought the usual spate of entries. The winners (below) are: 1 — Natalie Young, of Edlington; 2 — Zoe Whittaker, of Houghton Main; 3 — Heidi Barracloch, of South Kirkby.

For youngsters after something more adventurous, there were thrills a-plenty on the motor cycles (above right).

Here Angela Power gets instructions from her father, Bentley faceworker Michael, before setting off.

Bouncing Baby results. Section A: 1 — Elizabeth Coultas; 2 — Andrea Jackson; 3 — Kimberley Travis. Section B: 1 — Matthew Paul Ainsworth; 2 — Clare Louise Needham; 3 — Danielle Shaun Bilton.

Section C: 1 — Jodie Freeman; 2 — Ashley Archer; 3 — Clare Louise Steem. Section D: 1 — Rebecca Lynne Sables; 2 — Scott Leman; 3 — Rebecca Kilner.



YORKSHIRE MINERS' GALA '84 YORKSHIRE MINERS' GALA '84

Orgreave 1984 — the state bares its teeth



Charge of the heavy brigade

CHARGE! This is the new face of Tory industrial relations, as the police cavalry sets off (above) on another raid into the miners' picket lines.

Panic breaks out (top right) as the riders drive their horses into the crowds. Truncheons are drawn (top left) and used indiscriminately.

Another new development (middle left), as riot shields are used for the first time in a British industrial dispute.

Again at Orgreave, police have made a common practice of removing their numbers from their shoulders (below left), so they cannot be identified while going about their dirty work.

They have denied that this goes on. Clause 10 of the Police Discipline Regulations 1977 makes it an offence to be "improperly dressed" while in uniform in public "without good and sufficient cause."

Trouble began at Orgreave when British Steel management shattered an agreement involving the Area NUM and steel unions to supply enough fuel to Scunthorpe steelworks to protect the furnaces, while cutting production.

BSC decided to move supplies stockpiled at their Orgreave cokeworks.

While the miners' pickets have failed so far to prevent the fleets of lorries moving the coke, they have succeeded in tying down thousands of police for a period of several days — and provoking some of the worst police violence during the dispute.

Excessive violence has been used during arrests, as this picket (middle right) discovered to his cost, and



in the indiscriminate mounted attacks on the pickets.

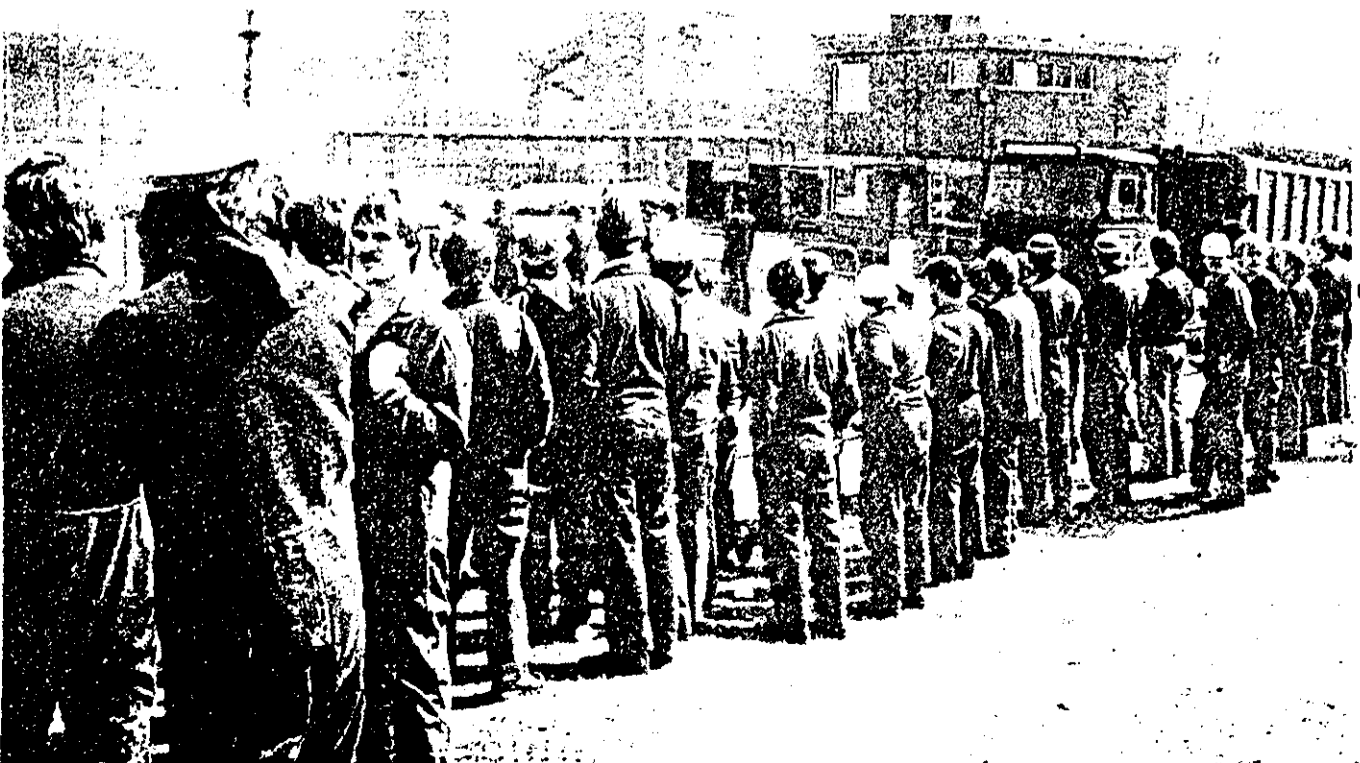
Injuries to pickets have soared and include a frac-

tured skull and suspected brain damage.

But, while Orgreave has brought out the worst in the police, it has stirred the

trade-union loyalty of the

TGWU members at the plant, who walk out in protest (below right) whenever the scab fuel is moved.





A few more steps into a police state

"AS the police drift away from established custom and practice towards states of emergency and martial law, a number of things usually follow.

"Arrests are made without an offence having taken place. Cautions are not given.

"Brutality and intimidation occur during the time in custody and, while no attempt is made to find proof of an offence, low-level intelligence is gathered and interrogation amounting to torture is used in order to extract confessions.

"Long periods in custody can be expected, with no communication with the outside world.

"Photographs and fingerprints are taken as a matter of course."

If that extract seems chillingly familiar to many of our members, a full reading of this booklet will go some way to completing the frightening picture.

From highly competent documentation of incidents

A STATE OF SIEGE, Policing the Coalfields in the First Six Weeks of the Miners' Strike, by Susan Miller and Martin Walker — a report to the Yorkshire Area NUM (£2, inc p&p).

in the first six weeks of the strike, the authors draw lessons about how the policing, which many miners have witnessed first-hand, is just one more crucial stage in a much longer process towards a police state in Britain.

Histories

The policing of the strike is put in its context, with potted histories of the background to the strike, the government's employment legislation, and the use of criminal and civil law to contain organised opposition to the government.

A central theme which emerges in the opening section, and is constantly referred to, is the way the Association of Chief of Police Officers (ACPO) has been taking power away from the local democratic control of police authorities and moving towards a more autonomous national police force, run from the National Recording Centre.

The meat of the booklet comes in the first-hand reports of police behaviour, from our members.

They will be an eye-opener for those who have not been involved in the strike.

Though the events themselves will be all too familiar to those who have been in the front line, the booklet will be none the less invaluable to them, by drawing the political explanations and implications of these incidents.

Luxury

Some of the conclusions are shocking, if not surprising: the attempt to turn entire mining communities into criminals; the fact that there is no legal basis for the bulk of the police behaviour; the inexorable trend towards a more powerful, less accountable, political, para-military force.

Sadly, at £2, it will be something of a luxury for the striking miners who

would gain most from reading it.

Persuade a non-mining friend to buy the booklet — and borrow it!

Copies will be available soon from Martin Walker, PCSU, London Borough of Greenwich, Eighth Floor, Riverside House, Woolwich High Road, Woolwich, London SE 18, telephone 01 854 8888.

Do not send money with your order at this stage. A reprint is expected in the next few weeks and the authors want to estimate demand before printing — so let them know if you want copies.

A study of policing in the second six weeks of the strike — "The Iron Fist" — is planned.

If you have any written statement from that period which you feel might be of use, send it to the authors at the above address, or c/o Miners Offices, 2 Huddersfield Road, Barnsley.

The police are there to prevent intimidation, said Home Secretary Leon Brittan in Parliament on May 5. Judge for yourself who is doing the intimidating (above) at Orgrave. (picture: John Harris, IFL). Below — police in action at Cresswell Colliery, on May 9. The standing picket is shouting: "Can't you see he is choking; for God's sake put him down." The picket on the ground, John Horgan, from Armthorpe, needed first aid and oxygen from the Cresswell nursing sister, after being hit across the throat with a truncheon and kicked by police as he lay on the ground. (picture: Ronald Richardson).



POET'S CORNER

Hated Scab

Oh to be a scab,
The most hated in the land;
A fight for job security,
Fought by another man's hand.

Scabs in Notts and everywhere else,
I beg you please take note;
If this battle is lost
MacGregor can gloat.
To hell! Cut his throat!
Remember, boys, say: "No! No! No vote!"

Scabs of this now divided land,
Try hard to understand.
This is not just a Yorkshire miners' fight
But a fight to show the miners' might!

Think hard and remember
Maggie appointed Mac
As a butcher of our trade.
We appointed Arthur to step us up by one
grade.

So, scabs, off your knees
And rally round.
Give our sons the right
To go underground.

A. Trewick,
Markham Main Colliery,
Armthorpe,
Yorkshire.

Remember lads, we are winning and will
continue to do so.



The now familiar sight of the police road block. Police have no legal basis for turning pickets round at road blocks or threatening them with arrest if they refuse, says the booklet "A State of Siege".

Solidarity forever!

FOOD, money, action — they not only speak louder than words.

They are the practical forms of solidarity which are keeping the miners' strike on the road to victory.

While some trade-union organisations have been notable by their failure to support the miners, others have been overwhelming in their generosity.

In some cases, it's been straightforward support from bodies who know a victory for the miners will be a victory for the whole movement.

One example was this mountain of food (top right), brought to the miners' Council Chamber, in Barnsley, by London members of the print union SOGAT, on May 11.

On the right of our picture is SOGAT's assistant general secretary Owen O'Brien, next to Yorkshire miners' general secretary Owen Briscoe.

Earlier that week, they fought to win the union the right to reply to a scurrilous attack on the national president in the Daily Express.

Favour

Other printers to bring food were four members of the "Stockport Six", NGA members sacked by Eddie Shah, of the Stockport Messenger, during a closed-shop dispute.

They brought to the miners' offices their union van, on its first outing since it was smashed up by police on the Warrington mass picket lines, filled with food for miners' families, in gratitude for the Yorkshire miners' help on that picket.

They are pictured (far right) handing food to Yorkshire miners' president Jack Taylor and general secretary Owen Briscoe.

A favour was also returned by the Preston branch of the AUEW-TASS Craft Section (formerly the sheet-metalworkers), who brought £1,000-worth of food to Woolley NUM on June 6.

Their gift was in return for Woolley members' blacking of ventilation equipment from Millbrooke Engineering Ltd, Leyland, which won a recognition dispute for the sheet-metalworkers there.

Our picture (above right) shows AUEW-TASS district officer Ron Ralph (bearded), who sealed the gift by handing a bottle of champagne to Woolley NUM secretary Ralph Summerfield. A bit early for celebrations, but why not?

Sheffield Local Government Branch of NALGO gave their £1,000 in the form of a cheque (lower right) in the early weeks of the strike.

Bakers

While big cheques have flowed into national office from some of the other national unions, it has been money like this from local unions which has kept the Yorkshire pickets on the road.

The picture shows (left to right) Harry Crapper, NALGO NEC member; Yorkshire miners' president Jack Taylor; Robert Murray, NALGO branch secretary; and miners' financial secretary Ken Homer.

Not to be outdone, the bakers' union handed over £3,030 at their annual conference, after being addressed by Yorkshire

miners' vice-president Sam Thompson.

The vice-president was also the first to congratulate London AUEW members for their "overwhelming display of solidarity" in bringing Charing Cross tube station to a standstill in spontaneous protest at police brutality towards miners and their families lobbying Parliament on June 7.

They and other transport unions have been to the fore in such practical solidarity with the miners.

No less important has been the daily local work of Yorkshire trades councils, especially Sheffield.

Their daily presence on the streets, rallying support for the miners led to a walk-out by some Sheffield workers and this solidarity demonstration (bottom picture) for the Regional TUC's one-day stoppage on May 21.

