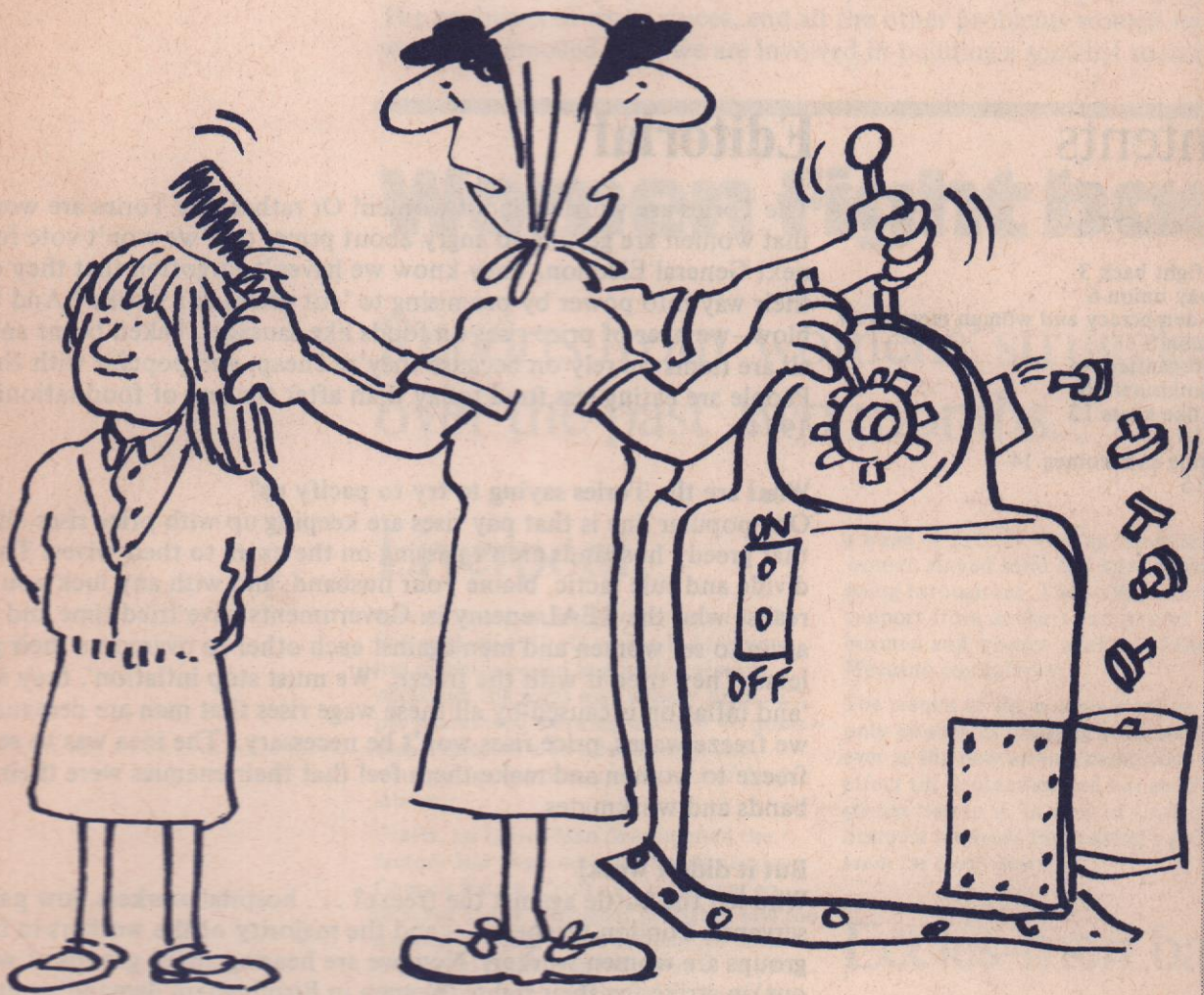


Womens Voice



A PERFECT MOTHER



number 7 5p

Womens Voice 7

Produced by International Socialist Women

Contents

July/August 1973

Women fight back 3
Breakaway union 6
AUEW—democracy and women members 7
The big con 8
Getting organised 9
Sylvia Pankhurst 10
Treated like goats 12
Review 13
Advertising and women 14
Letters 15

Editorial

The Tories are worried about women! Or rather, the Tories are worried that women are getting so angry about prices that we won't vote for them next General Election. They know we haven't forgotten that they conned their way into power by promising to 'cut prices at a stroke'! And the latest blow—we hear of price rises on foods like sausages, baked beans and jams—all are items we rely on because they're cheap, and popular with the kids. People are eating less food today than after the end of food rationing in 1954!

What are the Tories saying to try to pacify us?

One popular line is that pay rises are keeping up with price rises—it's just that greedy husbands aren't passing on the extra to their wives! The old divide and rule tactic, blame your husband, and with any luck you won't realise who the REAL enemy is. Governments have tried time and time again to set women and men against each other to overcome their problems. They tried it with the freeze, 'We must stop inflation', they screamed, 'and inflation is caused by all these wage rises that men are demanding! If we freeze wages, price rises won't be necessary.' The idea was to sell the freeze to women and make them feel that their enemies were their husbands and workmates.

But it didn't work!

Who led the battle against the freeze? . . . hospital workers, low paid civil servants, London teachers . . . and the majority of the workers in these groups are women workers. Now we are hearing about groups of women out on strike for their rights. Women in Birmingham demanding union recognition, women at Eccles, Rugby and Stirling demanding increases towards equal pay, women in Huddersfield fighting against low pay. There are many more examples—and in most of these cases the women are being backed up fully by their male work mates. The picture is increasingly one of a united working class fighting the Tory set-up.

Tory Women push for Action!

Tory women MPs are especially worried, as they are even more aware of the anger of women up and down the country than are their male colleagues. They are pressing for some action to be taken—again concerned about their success in the next General Election. Suggestions have been to increase Family Allowances, or Family Incomes Supplement, or subsidise food. They are desperate to be seen to be 'helping women'. We can expect one of these ideas, or something similar to be introduced, not only to try and pacify women but also to be used as a carrot to the TUC for the next round of talks, to get them to co-operate with further wage restraints.

Printed by SW (Litho) Printers Ltd (TU),
Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London
E2 9DS

EDITOR:
Barbara Kerr
Production:
Jacquy Hayman
Distribution:
Cheryl Nichol

What Kind of Carrot?

Sir Keith Joseph, Minister for Social Services, has already spoken out against raising Family Allowances, and although they'll talk a lot it seems unlikely that they'll fork out that amount of cash. Raising the Family Incomes Supplement would be more acceptable to the Tories because it'll cost far less—there are only 84,000 families that claim it. Hundreds of families don't claim their FIS whereas practically all families claim their Family Allowance. The idea of a general extension of food subsidies has already been largely ruled out by Joseph Godber, the Agricultural Minister.

But whatever they do they won't remove the real problem—that of a society that is based on making profits. The economy is facing grave problems, and its only way to survive is by attacking the majority of people—the working class—by keeping wage rises smaller than price rises. They must be stopped, and the only way is to link our trade union struggles with a political struggle against the Government and the system it represents. The problems of rising prices, and all the other problems women face, won't be removed until we are involved in building a socialist society.

Women fight back

Reports from womens' struggles over the past two months...

Liverpool

A seven week strike by 62 women shell-fish packers at Croft seafoods Liverpool has recently ended in a partial victory. Although the gains may appear small—£7 per guaranteed working week of 40 hours—they represent a step forward in the struggle against the exploitation of female labour.

Crofts, an Isle-of-Man firm opened the factory last September on the Netherley Council Estate. Croft and his young co-director Jenny Farragher probably saw the isolated housing estate as ideal for their expansion plans. They received a 50 per cent government development grant for opening the factory and the potential for exploiting the local women workforce who had little other employment opportunities was immense. 300 women were taken on and were paid 8p a pound for shelling and packing crabs. Crofts sold these same crabs at between 90p and £1.20 on the market. But at least in these early days work was regular and the women got some money. This period turned out to be 'training weeks' and soon work dropped to a couple of days a week with no lay off pay. By November the 80 workers who were left decided to hit back and started by organising themselves into the GMWU. The problems continued and at the beginning of May this year the women struck against the casual labour system they were on and demanded a guaranteed working week of 30 hours and

a wage of £10.50. During the strike the women stayed solid and kept a picket line going throughout. The strike received support from dockers and airport workers, busmen and women workers at the Meccano toy factory.

The results of the women's action can only be seen as partially successful however as the new arrangement does not take effect till September and has productivity strings tied to it. In view of Croft's previous business methods the women's problems seem far from over.

Eccles-men back women in equal pay strike

90 women office workers have been on strike now for over two months at GEC's Salford Electrical Instruments. The workers are in APEX, and are being supported by their union. They are demanding that the difference between the men's and women's rate be reduced by one third, as a step towards Equal Pay. Although the Phase 2 legislation allows firms to pay this 'one third of the difference', the SEI management claim that they don't need to give it because the men and women don't do the same jobs. But one striker said:

Cont. over

Send contributions for Women's Voice to
Barbara Kerr
61 Tylney Croft,
Harlow, Essex

from previous page

'That's nonsense. I sit facing a woman who does exactly the same job as me.' The strike is solid, and the workers are determined to succeed—yet only six months ago most of the women clerical workers weren't in a union, and there hasn't ever been a strike at the factory involving clerical workers before.

'It's been a real education standing outside on this picket line,' one woman said.

The firm has always treated the workers very paternalistically, playing on the old family firm bit, but since the managers have taken to driving full speed through the picket line, and employing a full-time salaried guard dog which bit one of the supporters of the strike, the image has become rather tarnished! Mrs Olive Pope, a chargehand now on strike said:

'The wages we are working for are nothing once you get home, with prices going up all the time. A married woman does not go out to work for a novelty—she needs the money. Anyway, I feel a great deal of satisfaction in being able to stand here and cock my nose at them. For 13 years I've worked hard, and they don't give no medals here!'

(Most of the women only take home between £10-£10.50 a week.)

The result of the struggle will be important for women workers all over the country. More women must join the fight, and a good, united struggle of women and men for Equal Pay should encourage others. As another striker, Pam Kirkwood, said:

'There should be watertight legislation to ensure Equal Pay, but we'll never get anything until women stand up for themselves instead of being a load of baby dolls!'

... In the next issue of Women's Voice there will be a feature on this struggle with more details, pictures etc ...

Leicester—'Payment by minutes' —a threat to Hosiery workers

Leicester Rank and File Housing Group

Traditionally a very high proportion of Leicester women have found work in the textile and hosiery industries. So much so that Leicester is known locally as the 'women's town'. But needless to say, women workers here don't really have it all their own way.

One local company, without warning or consultation has introduced a new method of timing and paying for work, known as the 'payment-by-minutes' system. This is a complex system which involves using work-study methods to arrive at the average time required for each job, and then fixing a rate per minute. It all sounds very objective and scientific. But the end result is almost always a reduction in wages—in Leicester of between 10 and 25 per cent.

The National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers

The union (the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers) must be perfectly well aware of this, and also of the fact that all Leicester hosiery factories are threatened by the same system. Courtaulds in particular, have been systematically introducing it into one factory after another. Yet the union has made no attempt whatsoever either to inform the women that the scheme was likely to be introduced, or to prepare them with arguments against it.

When the women at one particular factory drew their wage packets and discovered what was happening they called in the union officials and asked for advice. The union, showing no

surprise at what had happened, complained that it was **too late** to call them in now, and that the women 'shouldn't have let it happen in the first place'. When pressed, their union official said privately that of course the women **could** go on strike, but not say he'd said so!

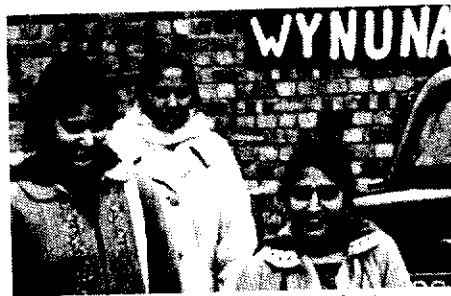
Disgusted with this total lack of support from 'their' union, the women decided to go off 'sick' one afternoon in a body, in order to bring pressure to bear on the management. The next day the union official rushed round in a dither. He told them off because they had contravened the Industrial Relations Act—and they must promise not to do it again. (It is supposed to be union policy not to cooperate with the Industrial Relations Act!)

Entirely through their own action the women did get some jobs retimed. But they are still getting no help at all from the union in preventing the management using this complex system of payment to diddle their workers. Only a week or so ago, the women discovered a particularly effective way of both increasing the pace of work and reducing the rate for the job. And on the other hand against a union whose only advice is: 'Go back to work and we'll sort it all out for you'.

In militancy and solidarity the women are way ahead of their union. When they decide to come out—as they have done at a number of factories recently against the 'payment-by-minutes' system—the strike is solid. But at the moment these militant sections are isolated and—because of lack of information and co-ordination—fighting in the dark. So we have started a hosiery bulletin with a group of hosiery workers

Southall, London—Asian women fight in sweatshops

Wynuna's factory is one of the many small sweatshops of the textile industry, where the workers, mainly Indian and Pakistani women, suffer appalling conditions and incredibly low wages. In 1970 Wynuna earned £20,141 profits before tax, and in fact the company has a turnover of nearly £250,000, selling goods to large chain stores who in turn make large profits. On average Wynuna employs 120 people and all but two or three of these are Asian women. Some of the women earn between £6 and £12 for a forty hour week. There are no first-aid facilities available at the factory: anyone injured has to go to hospital. Much of the factory plant is obsolete and this means that women are often kept idle waiting for work; and as the women are paid on a strict piece-rate system, this is one contributory factor towards low wages. Women are expected to man up to three machines and instances have occurred when women who refuse to do this have been dismissed. One woman we spoke to told us that she had to work



through her tea and lunch breaks to scrape together £11 or £12!

Previous attempts to unionise factories like Wynuna have not been very successful as most of the women are scared stiff of the management and are not aware of their rights. But the mood of many of the workers is changing, and they are determined not to put up with their conditions any longer. During the past six months, members of the Ealing branch of the International Socialists have helped Asian women organise into unions, and the West London organiser of the Tailors and

Garment Workers Union has met the management of Wynuna to demand recognition of the union and to negotiate improved wages and conditions for the women. Most of the women are now members of the union and have already obtained a £1 a week rise; they are meeting this week to elect their shop stewards and there is a tremendous feeling of solidarity amongst them. This is a very important step forward in the struggle against low wages and nineteenth century conditions in the factories in Southall. There are still thousands and thousands of Asian women working under similar conditions, many of them employed at Heathrow airport. Support for these women's struggles is vital; and it must come from the trade union movement as a whole. Verbally opposing racialism and sex discrimination is not enough! Every conceivable pressure must be brought to bear to help better the conditions of women workers in these industries. The struggle must not fail!

working with the International Socialists, in order to draw women together to exchange experiences and find ways of fighting back. We are as yet a very small rank and file group in the industry—but the possibilities are there for us to grow and become a strong group that can organise within the union both against management plots and complacent union officials.

Wednesbury, Staffs-women strike at Supreme Overall Services

Wednesbury, Staffs: 350 laundry workers mostly women, have won a tremendous victory at Supreme Overall Services. After five days of strike action affecting all three depots, they won a 5p-an-hour increase on their 32p wage.

Conditions in the factory are appalling. It is a converted foundry, and most of the machines are 30 or more years old. Ventilation is poor. In one workshop 80 yards long, there is a single fan, in another only

a few small windows.

One girl described conditions as like a Turkish bath in summer and the North Pole in winter.

It is not unusual for the girls to faint two or three at a time. This happens when the machine for degreasing overalls breaks down. Trichlorethylene cascades over the floor and the fumes spread to other shops.

The men who work the degreasing machines get only £18-a-week wages and no bonus. Trichlorethylene is banned in America unless oxygen masks are supplied, yet few safety precautions are taken in the factory.

Many of the women suffer from burns and skin rashes. Two 15-year-old girls who have worked in the factory for only two months have already had to receive medical treatment. A 16-year-old girl has just recovered from three weeks of dermatitis.

When the strike began, the women put pickets outside the factory. Two were injured and had to receive hospital treatment after a scab driver went through the picket line at speed. The managing director told stewards: 'This is a private road and the driver can go up it at 100 miles an hour if he wants to.'

But the solidarity of the women showed no signs of breaking. One striker said: 'The company sacked the "trouble makers" but they don't dare come that again. They have come out here waving the Industrial Relations Act and phase two. But we have not read them and they know where they can stick them.'

The strikers were aided by workers at Rubery Owen, F H Lloyd and Willenhall Radiators, who promised blacking and picketing support.

South East London- GLC tenants road of death barricade

Tenants on a GLC Housing Estate in South London are blocking off John Ruskin Street, a busy road running through the centre of Brandon Estate, during the rush-hour period several times a week until they get their demands for safety met by Southwark Council. They are demanding railings along both sides of the road, a subway or footbridge, or at least a pedestrian crossing and the opening up of two unused derelict plots of land on the estate.

Although the Council Safety Officer has given verbal promises to meet these demands, nothing has yet been received in writing from the Council and until this is done the tenants will continue to barricade the road. They are determined that the tragedy of a month ago, when a seven-year-old girl was knocked down and killed, will not be repeated and that the frequent injuries sustained by their children as a result of having to cross the road and play by it must be stopped.

Mrs Flynn and Mrs Lock, who have large families, organised a petition to Southwark Council and they, along with other militant tenants, are forcing motorists to crawl along the small side roads around the estate and holding up traffic near the busy junction of the Elephant and Castle, to bring home to the public the importance of the safety provisions they are demanding.



Women's Industrial Union

NAME

The Trade Union shall be called "The Women's Industrial Union"

OBJECTS

2. The objects of the Union are to unite such women employees as are members of the Union, and by doing so promote the social, moral and intellectual interests of the members of the Union, and to obtain and maintain for them fair rates of pay and reasonable hours and conditions of labour, and to provide benefits in accordance with the provisions contained in these rules.

CONGRESS OF THE UNION

3. The authority of the Union shall be vested in the Congress which shall be composed of delegates from the Union.
4. Congress shall be held every year on such dates as shall be determined by the Committee.
5. Delegates for the Congress shall have a proposer and seconder, and nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary General at least seven days before the date of the meeting of Congress, but the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be members of the Congress ex-officio.

Pat Sturdy-Burnley

Two years ago Pat Sturdy was a shop steward in the General Municipal Workers Union at a Lucas factory in Burnley. She and other workers at the factory decided to leave the GMWU and formed the Women's Industrial Union to fight for women's rights. Last month the WIU was taken into the engineers union, the AUEW. The story of the WIU raises many questions. Below Pat Sturdy tells Womens Voice some of her ideas about trade unions and how women can fight for equality:

The Women's Industrial Union

The Women's Industrial Union was started because we felt that the GMWU was doing nothing for its women members. I was a shop steward then, and I was always raising issues with the union representatives. These might sound unimportant now, but they were all issues directly involved with wages. They were important to the women workers—things like not getting paid for waiting time on the line. The women in the factory were always grumbling about the poor representation. That is common in the GMWU—many of the officials don't represent the men either. But women always get the worst deal because they are treated as second class citizens.

My differences with the union all came to a head over the one day strike called in protest at the Industrial Relations Bill. My view was that if the proposed legislation was really a threat to working class rights, then far more should have been done to get massive action against it. We should have had a mass shut-down with everything including shops closed down. To me the union was not doing enough to fight the Bill. I made my views well known. This led to differences with local union officials. It was at this time that a few friends and myself started thinking seriously about a Womens Industrial Union.

As soon as it was formed quite a few women joined. The local GMWU official and the TUC both got worried and tried unsuccessfully to get us to rejoin the GMWU.

Break-away not the answer

At about that time I started touring the country, speaking at meetings and getting interested in politics and women's liberation. Many people talked to me about the Women's Union. All of them thought that our ideas for women were good, but all said we were wrong to break away from the official trade union movement. However inadequate the trade unions are, you must fight inside them; they all said that. That got us thinking about the problems of a breakaway union; especially if we should ever get involved in industrial dispute, difficulties would be quite considerable.

We started to think about getting back into an official union. We could not go back into the GMWU and we wanted to join a union with a democratic structure. The GMWU has no democracy at all. Their officers are all appointed. The AUEW has votes and elections for its officers. That seemed much better and we decided to try for an amalgamation with the engineers. Eventually our entry into the AUEW was achieved by a transfer of engagements. It has taken over twelve months. Now we are in the union with our own union branch in Burnley. Now the women have to keep up the feeling and the activity.

It is important to keep fighting about the little things as well as the big ones—it's often the little things, like disrespect from foremen, which really get women workers down.

We also have to show that trade unions can offer women something. There are thousands and thousands of women workers not in trade unions. Many of them think that unions are more for men than women. A lot of it is due to lack of information. It is also to do with being responsible for housework as well as being a worker. That's where the ruling class really have it over you. They get you both ways and it is difficult to fight both battles at once. But if unions show that they are interested in women's issues, then that will arouse their interest.

Problems of a breakaway union

Women's Issues

Trade unions must take up women's issues—nurseries for instance. We don't want employers to provide them because they hold it over you if there is ever a dispute. There have been campaigns for local councils to provide them and they have failed. I think trade unions should get down to the job of organising them.

The unions must also take up issues like Equal Pay and discrimination against women. But women too must act and force the unions to take these issues seriously. We must put pressure on local officials to raise them at national level, and if the officials won't do it, then we'll have to act ourselves. A demonstration of women members outside union headquarters in London would soon get them moving. The important thing is to get the union to act in our interests.

We need more women officials, although I'm against separate women's sections. I think women can really get across on the women's issues. But we don't want the sort of officials we have now. Officials must be elected by the people they represent, in this case women. And they should be subject to recall if they are not doing their job properly.

The main thing is to get women aware and active in the unions. Women do a lot of grumbling and talking but they don't get together enough. It's organisation, getting together, that is important.

I think that Women's Voice is excellent and we are starting a Women's Voice Group in Burnley with some members of the International Socialists and others. Women's Voice can get women interested so they will come to meetings and organise to fight for their rights and the things they feel strongly about.

AUEW—does the democracy stretch to women members?

Trade unions discriminate against women members in a variety of ways—most commonly by relegating women members to a special inferior section of the union with fewer benefits and less influence than other sections of the union enjoy. It is revealing


AMALGAMATED UNION OF ENGINEERING WORKERS (ENGINEERING SECTION)

The Recalled 1970 Rules Revision Meeting approved the following new weekly contribution rates, to be effective as from January, 1972:

	P
Section 1	25
" 2	22½
" 4	8
" 5	19
" 5a	15
Women	8
Out of Trade	21

Contributions and benefits will be payable on a 5-day week basis.

J. Conway,
General Secretary.



Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (ENGINEERING SECTION)

Divisional Organiser No 11
J W Tocher
to whom all communications should be addressed
AUEW House
43 Crescent
Salford M5 4PE
Telephone 061-738 5206/7
Please confine each letter to one subject

26th January, 1973.

TO: Branch Secretaries and Shop Stewards.

Dear Sir and Brother,

WEEKEND SCHOOLS, 1973,
to be held at
New Continental Hotel, Queens Promenade,
Blackpool.

SUBJECT (All Schools):
"AMALGAMATION AND MOVING TOWARDS ONE UNION FOR THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY"
and
"IMPACT OF THE COMMON MARKET AND MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES"

Arrangements have been made to hold four Weekend Schools on the above subject, at the Hotel indicated in the heading, as follows:-

Saturday and Sunday, <u>10th/11th March, 1973.</u>	ALL MEMBERS	(Women members can attend this School).
Saturday and Sunday, <u>24th/25th March, 1973.</u>	JUNIOR WORKERS	
Saturday and Sunday, <u>7th/8th April, 1973.</u>	SHOP STEWARDS	
Saturday and Sunday, <u>28th/29th April, 1973.</u>	ALL MEMBERS	

In view of Executive Council's instructions that Schools must be limited to 40 students, nominations will be accepted strictly in the same order as they are received, and the members must belong to Branches within No. 11 Division.

I am enclosing herewith a supply of nomination forms, which I trust will be completed by any member desiring to attend. The Union will, of course, undertake the cost of accommodation and meals at the Hotel, together with 2nd class return fares, but no claim for lost time can be considered. Further nomination forms can be obtained on application to the undersigned.

however to get the occasional glimpse of how deeply ingrained the acceptance of women's inferior position is. A recent circular from the AUEW (supposedly one of our more democratic trade unions) provides a classic example. It is addressed to Shop Stewards and Branch Secretaries of the engineering union in the North West (division 11). Significantly it opens Dear Sir and Brother (wot no sisters?) and proceeds to announce details of weekend schools to be held in Blackpool in the spring. Readers will note that there are two schools for all members. But that category evidently does not include women members, for there is a note that magnificently points out that women may attend one of these. A point to note is that the author of the circular, John Tocher (Divisional organiser) is not an entrenched right-winger—but a noted left winger in the union and a prominent member of the Communist Party. There is obviously a great deal of education to be applied to the so-called lefties as well as the less enlightened male trade unionists!

The big con

Carol Smith- EEPTU Shop Steward Harlow, on Job Evaluation

Girls, the Big Con is on! It is called Job Evaluation. My employers have found that their previous tactics in the fight not to give us Equal Pay have failed. First, we were told that since women only came out to work for pin money, we did not need equal pay (I even heard one employer describe it as a social evil!)—this we rejected and disproved. Then the bosses thought of moving women about so that they were all doing the same job as each other, but not the same as the men, but we squashed that one too, and now they have fallen back on job evaluation, which is provided for, and even encouraged in the Equal Pay Act. It is essential to the employers that they get out of paying women the money they earn, so that they can maintain the huge increases in profits they have been enjoying since the Tory government came to power.

Job 'Description'

We can see how much the bosses are determined not to give us equal pay when we think about how much time and effort they have spent in thinking up ways of getting round the Act. My employers know we distrust job evaluation, so they're calling it 'Job Description'. The jobs aren't going to be graded, they say, just 'described'. What they don't say is what they're going to do with these descriptions, but according to them we've got to accept it before they'll consider equal pay! The Act itself is as full of loopholes as was possible for a government calling itself Socialist, and gave employers a full five years to work out how to avoid implementing it. The Tories completely rejected the part of it that was to give women 90 per cent of the male rates by the end of 1973. Instead we were offered up to one third of the difference between the male and female rate, if the employer was feeling generous, and some employers have even insisted on job evaluation being done before this miserable amount is paid.

Scientific? Ask the Girls at Fords!

Let's look more closely at some of these schemes. Any management who tells you that job evaluation is scientific is trying to pull the wool over your eyes. Even the 'Manager's Guide to Work Study', says that basically job evaluation is not scientific because it depends on what one man thinks of as 'valuable'. One man may think that physical strength should get more points than dexterity, another may think the opposite. There are no laid-down laws for job evaluation. The strike of the girl machinists at Fords, Dagenham was a case in point. In Kath Ennis's pamphlet 'Women Fight Back', she says, 'In a typical grading scheme Fords had managed to place all but two of the 850 women production workers in the bottom two

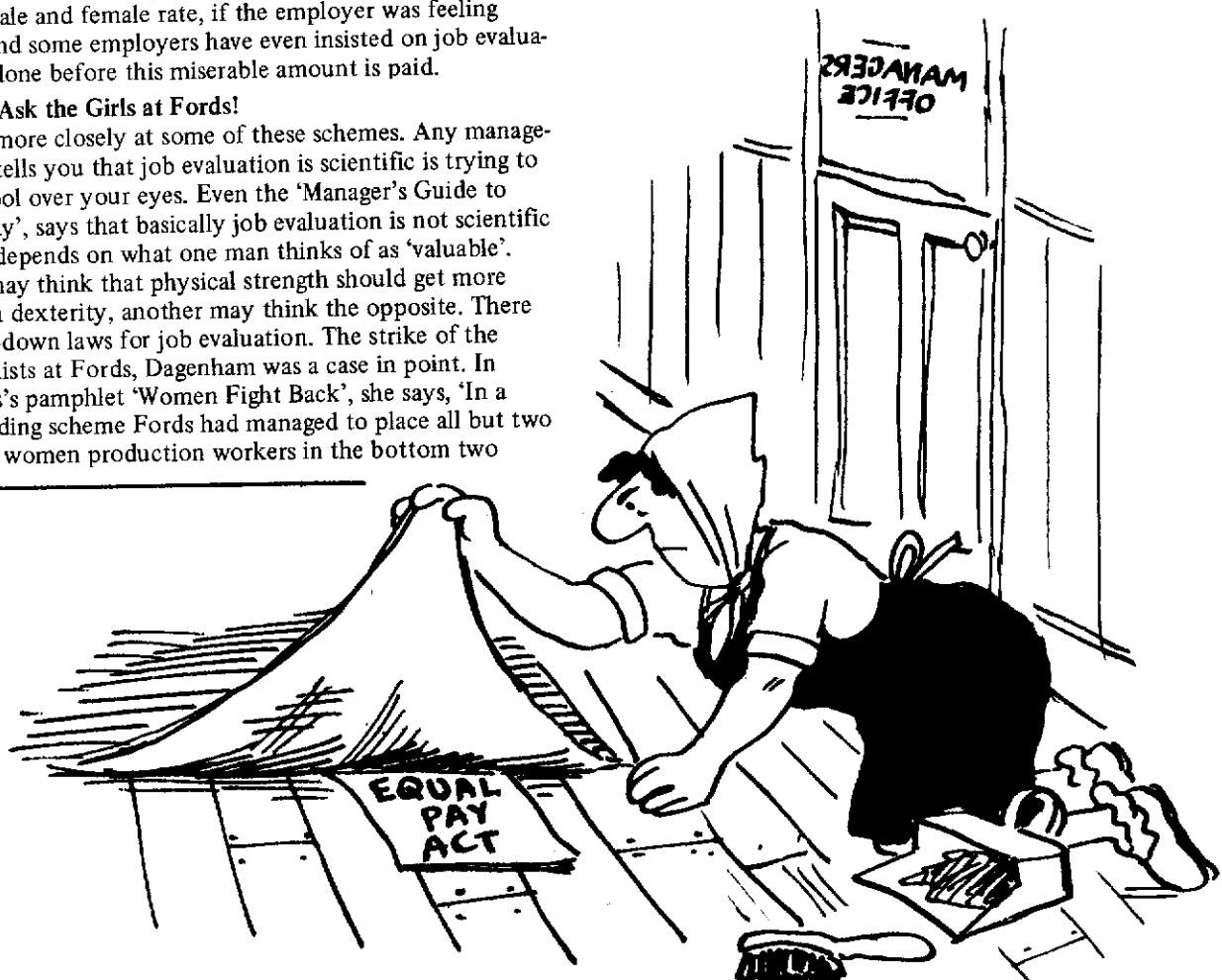
grades, despite the highly skilled nature of the machining work.'

Should the Stewards Be Involved?

You may be thinking that if an employer offers the shop stewards the facility of overseeing the execution of a job evaluation exercise, that they will be safeguarded against any injustices. Do not forget, though, that it is very difficult to see the flaws in a system with which we are not familiar, until it is too late. The employer is hardly likely to point out the biases in the scheme to you, and, as we have seen, they are very easily slipped into the ratings. Audrey Wise says, 'it is common for physical strength to be weighted more heavily than dexterity. It will be easy for employers to bring in "experts" who will prove "scientifically" to women that their labour is worth less than men's.'

We Must Act Now

What, then, is the answer for the steward who is given an ultimatum by her employer—no job evaluation, no equal pay? The answer is ACTION. We are not going to be fooled by offers of other kinds of trendy work study methods—job description and so on—job evaluation by any other name smells just as foul, but we are going to organise the women, and the men, until they are united in their determination. The only language the employers speak is PROFIT, and if they see this great God threatened, by one third of its work force downing tools, they will act quickly, but only then. Talking is becoming a more and more pointless activity as far as equal pay is concerned. If the employers were going to be reasonable (as they have been promising in my factory, for at least as long as I have been there), they would have given us the right by now to receive the money we earn. Don't be conned, the management can afford it, and they are going to have to as soon as the women in this country release the vast resentment that has been building up for so long.



Getting organised

Hester Blewitt
-AUEW Shop
Steward
Birmingham

It is a sad fact that most women workers are not in Trade Unions, especially women who don't work in factories. It is an even sadder fact that a lot of women who are in unions don't even know what union they are in or who their shop steward is. Sadder of all is that some don't care enough to find out. OK, so we all recognise that most of us have many worries about our homes and families. It's also true that many unions don't take the trouble to let members know what's going on, and let us down at the first opportunity. But it's no good grumbling and groaning at rising prices and hopeless wages, or arguing about the safety hazards or 80-year-old toilets at work if you don't bother to get involved in the union. The only differences between the standard of living and the working conditions that we have and what our grandparents had is what trade unionists have fought for and won in the past. If we want to keep it that way, let alone improve things, we have to get up off our backsides and do something. It is not easy, not least because we have the extra problem of men not taking us seriously or being patronising—but it is absolutely essential, wherever you work, to get organised.

Joining a Union

First let's take the worst problem—if the place where you work has no union organisation at all; and let's face it, this applies to large numbers of the smaller factories, the shops and offices where many of us work. Remember that many companies have either banned unions (some contracts say this) or are desperately keen to keep us out, for obvious reasons. If your company does this I'd say you needed one because that firm is obviously getting away with things that no decent union would stand for. But be very careful not to go it alone—one person is easy to fire. Chat up the people at work that you think might be interested and won't immediately go and tell the boss! This part is often the most difficult hurdle to overcome, and it's handy to find out about unionised firms in the area from mates who work there, so that you can point out the concrete benefits of joining. The local offices of the union—if none of your mates are members and can tell you—are in the phone book or local Trades Council handbook. If you ring up, go to the offices or write they should send you recruitment material. Some union officials don't want to know, so be prepared to have a knock.

Which Union Should I Join?

In some cases this is not a very difficult problem. There may be just one union for the industry you work in—NALGO for example covers all local government employees. But in most cases, if you are just starting to organise, there is a choice. The best advice here is to ask around friends who are in unions because it depends so much on what area you are in and the individual circumstances in your firm. For example a union may have a good record in one area and be chocking in another; or if you work for a company with branches all over the country, it may be best to join the union which has already obtained negotiating rights in one or more of these branches. (If you want to know anything about a particular union we could try to help you find out.)

What Next?

After you and your mates—even if just a few at first—have filled in application forms, find out how you pay your dues (maybe elect a steward or collector), and where the local branch meets. Some unions have branches based on a workplace eg the TGWU, in which case you'll have to wait until you have sufficient members to form a branch; others have geographical branches, eg the AUEW, and you can find out from their local office which is the most convenient to where you live or work. Go along there and get some useful advice from branch members.

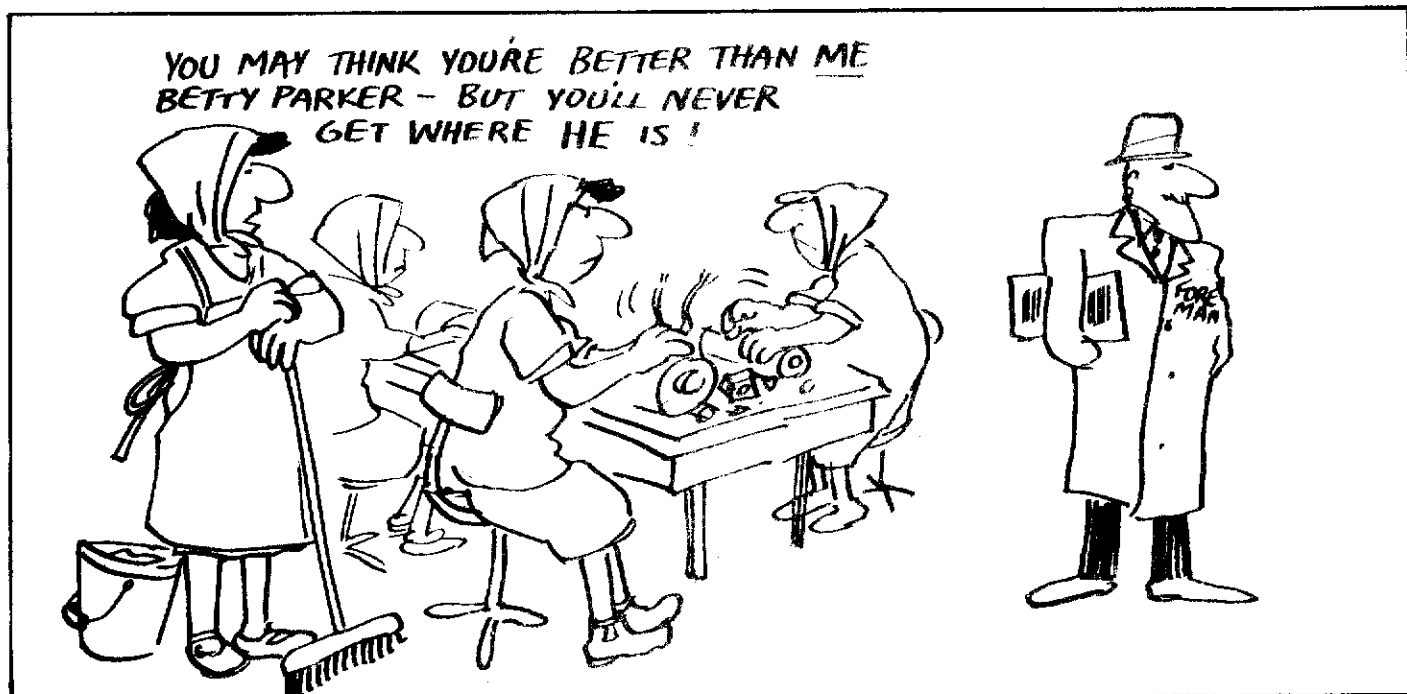
The most important thing now is to try and recruit the lot. A few members can easily become isolated, if the management gets to know what you are up to too early. To have a good chance of getting official recognition from the management you need at least half the workforce in the union.

Also you need to make sure that you have the union rule book and copies of any national or local agreements relevant to your industry (from district offices).

Don't jump into anything too early before you or your mates have found out what your rights are under national agreements or government acts (copies from HMSO bookshops), covering factories, shops and offices. More important than knowing the legal bit though is having the backing! If everyone sticks together you can really make gains. But two words of warning for those starting out—be determined, and be discreet—it's no use being kicked out before you get the chance to get anything firmly established.

In the next issue my article will be about how you set about getting things done in a newly organised place or a partly unionised place like mine.

Articles or contributions on union organisation from readers would be very welcome.



Sylvia

Pankhurst

and the

East End

Suffragettes

Quaint old crack-pots—that's how many of us today think of the suffragettes. Most of us think that all they won for us was the legal right to choose between Heath and Wilson every five years, which hasn't greatly improved our lot! Yet from one group of suffragettes developed a socialist working class movement in the East End of London which continually fought for a better life during the first world war.

Robyn Dasey Portsmouth

Votes For Women

The militant campaign for Votes for Women, led by the Pankhursts, began in 1905. From then until 1914 the suffragettes plagued the Government with demonstrations, continuous heckling at political meetings, window smashing, and finally setting fire to private property. They endured police bashings and innumerable prison sentences, so that by 1912 when they held a massive demonstration of over 250,000 people in London, they were led by 670 women who had been to prison for 'the Cause', often many times over.

Who were these 'hooligans of the sex-war'? Many of them, like Mrs Pankhurst and her daughters were well brought up ladies of the middle and upper classes. These women already owned property, had a good income, and led a comfortable, often very luxurious, life. Mrs Pankhurst's Women's Social and Political Union, did not basically want to change society, but only wanted women to have some parliamentary voice in how it was run. At that time large numbers of working class men, who owned no property, were also not allowed to vote. The women in Mrs Pankhurst's Union demanded **only** the vote, and that only for women with property like themselves, **not for working class women**. Because they only wanted to vote, they concentrated all their efforts to changing the opinions of MPs and of the Government. They expelled women who agitated for wider social reforms like better wages, housing and votes for **all** men and women.

Sylvia Moves to East London

But there were women who refused to limit their aims in this way. One of these was Mrs Pankhurst's daughter, Sylvia, who helped form the main working class group of suffragettes, the East London Federation of Suffragettes.

Life for working class women was very different from that of the rich. Often they worked 12 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week, for a pittance that often had to support a family. Their houses were overcrowded and unsanitary, with whole families often eating, cooking, and sleeping in one or two dingy rooms. Their work places were generally foul and disease ridden, and the little control given by the Factories Acts was rarely enforced. They needed a good deal more than the parliamentary vote in order to live a decent life.

In 1912 Sylvia Pankhurst set herself up in an old baker's shop in Bow, and boldly announced her purpose over the door: Votes for Women. The women who formed her East London Suffragettes were the mass of workers in the sweated trades of London slums—rope makers, waste-rubber cleaners, biscuit packers, chicken pluckers and many more. Soon after this she split for ever with the rest of her family because she refused to renounce her socialist convictions and activities.

Sylvia's ceaseless campaign for the vote led to her being imprisoned in June 1913 for 'incitement'. In the following year she relentlessly went on hunger strikes 10 times to free herself from prison so she could continue her work. Again and again she was arrested. Out for the eighth time, she took a deputation of East End women to see Asquith, the Prime Minister. With Sylvia laid out pale and weak on a stretcher in front of the House of Commons, surrounded by weeping, indignant women, Asquith dared not refuse to see them.

The Ugly Facts About Poverty

The six women who saw Asquith told him the ugly facts about the lives of poor women. Mrs Savoy, brushmaker, produced a brown paper parcel which terrified Asquith who thought it was a bomb. But it was just a brush! She showed him the number of bristles she put in each hole, and told him how much she got per brush.

Mrs Ford had been sacked because she would not sleep with the foreman. She started work at 11 years of age and struggled for years to provide for a sick husband and two children, as a needlewoman and trouser-makers presser.

Mrs Parsons packed 3,500 cigarettes each day for a wage of 10½d a day. Jessie Payne, shoemaker, spoke of the time her mentally defective daughter had been put in a cell at Poplar Workhouse. When she tried to take her daughter back she was told she had no say in the matter. Only her husband could apply. 'We come from the East End and we have the voice of the people that they want the vote for women over 21,' she said.

When World War I broke out Mrs Pankhurst abandoned her campaign and joined a massive government financed drive to force reluctant men to go to fight, and working class women to work long hours in munitions factories. Meanwhile the working women of the East End Federation increased their work. Week after week Sylvia blazed away at the government and employers over cases of poverty and injustice through her weekly paper *The Women's Dreadnought*. She paraded the full details of sweated labour including the employers' names. Exposure of the insanitary conditions in factories caused the factory inspectors to beg her not to publicise cases in the future.



She refused. When a local parson threatened an old woman with loss of her free meal tickets if she didn't stop drinking, Sylvia threatened him with publicity in the 'Dreadnought'. He backed down.

Melvina Walker, a docker's wife, went on one of Sylvia's many deputations to the government. This time it was to the president of the Board of Trade. Melvina said later: 'We went there to look upon him as our paid servant to give him our orders and to see that he carried them out.' Charlotte Drake, former barmaid, read out the budget of a widow with 11 children who received 11 shillings a week, and a four shilling grocery ticket. She demanded strict food rationing for all classes and nationalisation of the land.

As tempers rose, the President was accused of 'starving the men into enlisting.'

The Mothers Arms

Besides continually harassing the government, Sylvia set up local welfare services in Bow district. On setting up the first free milk centre, she found that babies were so ill they couldn't digest milk. So the Federation opened four mother and baby clinics run by two women doctors. Before long they also operated a cost-price restaurant feeding 150 people at a sitting, with free meal tickets for the very poor. In 1915 alone, 70,000 meals were served.

In a stable, friends set up another clinic-soup kitchen-milk centre. Then came an employment office, and a toy factory which paid local women £1 a week, equal to the men's minimum wage in the district. A pub was converted into an infant clinic and day nursery—re-christened 'The Mothers Arms'.

The *Dreadnought* kept on at the government and the employers. It demanded separation allowances for girls seduced by soldiers and that fathers as well as mothers should be legally responsible for their kids, whether the parents were married or not.

Votes for Women Can't Wait

At the same time the campaign for the vote continued. In 1916 there was a string of public demonstrations in many cities for the vote for all adults. The old suffragette movement, now led by Sylvia's sister Christabel, opposed this and said that men, the voteless soldiers, should come first. They took no notice of the increasingly loud demands of both working class men and women for the vote. Their suffrage movement had abandoned its one original purpose, the vote for women.

By contrast the many socialists, including Sylvia, insisted that everyone, men and women, must have the right to vote. **No waiting for anyone.** The majority of the women in the East End Federation realised that the vote, by itself, would not solve their problems. They wanted to change society, not just the right to vote in its parliament every five years or so. The 1917 Russian Revolution was greeted by many as the way forward to a society of peace, where working people could control their lives using the wealth of the country for **everyone's needs.** They had had enough of seeing the country's wealth going into the hands of the profiteers who had made money on the war food shortage, or from military equipment made by workers to kill other workers just like themselves. In 1918, together with fellow men workers, they formed the Workers' Socialist Federation, which continued the fight long after the vote for all women over 21 was won, in 1928. From a struggle that seemed at first to be simply for the vote, grew a confidence and determination to overthrow the old society and its parliament in order to create a new one where both women and men could lead a full and decent life. The fight has not yet been won, it is now up to us.

'WE ARE TREATED LIKE GOATS'



said one prisoner from Holloway, about the treatment of women prisoners.

There are in fact far less women than men in prisoners. They are convicted mostly for petty crimes, committed mainly because of the pressures and problems women face in their day to day lives. Shoplifting, on a large or small scale, is the most common crime. A recent example was 40-year-old Mrs Rose O'Loughlin, mother of 16 children, who went shoplifting because she was desperate for food. She was released from Holloway, and was met by her husband, who then left her for another woman. She had nowhere to live, had to sleep in parks and toilets, and because she had no fixed address she was refused social security money. On 8 June she was back in court, where she admitted two shoplifting offences. She was immediately remanded in custody for two weeks. She may well end up back in prison.

Are You the Perfect Housewife?

Most women are in prison for the very reason that they can't match up to the 'ideals' of family life forced on them by the telly, the papers, and women's magazines. These keep on about what the perfect wife and mother should be—keeping a comfortable, clean home . . . always being available for the husband and kids . . . always putting their needs before ours . . . having enough money to meet the kids' demands for toys, sweets, new clothes etc . . . always having a good, nourishing meal ready at the right time. This is carried through to the treatment of women prisoners. The Home Office say that they are treated better than men. They say: 'Every aspect of work in a woman's prison should be made to serve one idea—that of instilling into women ideals of a good home and how they are best achieved.' Apart from the fact that women are in there precisely because they can't match up to these ideals, how does prison work try

to go about developing them? They are, in fact, the chores we hate multiplied 100 times:

'We have to do the "slopping out" of the whole wing—we have to pick up the shit-bags from the cells every morning,' said one girl of 17. 'That's our job. We have to go round at various times during the day collecting and cleaning up the shit. Sometimes we have to pick it up with our hands. For that we get 33 pence a week.'

Soul Destroying Work

This 33 pence has to go on letters to be sent out of prison, tobacco, cigarette papers, matches etc. If a woman has a job as a sewing machinist in the prison, her work starts at eight o'clock and finishes at four o'clock. She is then locked in her cell until the next morning. A bit like work outside prison! A 45-year-old mother of eight, who'd worked all her life except when she was having children, and had resorted to very minor shop-lifting in order to provide her family with enough food, a woman who'd had trouble with her eyes and various operations to stop her going blind says:

'I had another operation, on my throat this time, in the prison last month. I hardly had time to recover from the anaesthetic before they took me out of the hospital wing to start work again on the machines. I had headaches all the time, but they refused to let me stop working and they wouldn't give me aspirins.'

There's no such thing as being genuinely ill in the eyes of prison officials. It's seen as a way of getting out of work or of things you don't want to do. If you refuse orders you're likely to lose time, and be punished.

Kids Suffer Too

The 'ideals of home' are one of the last things considered in the Maternity Wing at Holloway.

'The kids are more prisoners than we are,' said one woman whose child was born in the prison. There are 12 women in the Maternity Wing, either pregnant or with new babies. Miscarriages are often brought on by brutal treatment from officers. The rules of work are not quite so sternly applied as in other parts of the prison, but it is compulsory to stay with your child outside in the courtyard, in winter and summer, from eight in the morning until four in the afternoon—broken up by three regular feeds.

For both men and women prison life consists of the general misery of outside life, multiplied many times. The myth that women are treated better is just not true. Beating up, sheer brutal intimidation by prison warders goes on all the time.

Padded Cells

Official punishment in Holloway is traditional. If a woman refuses to work, swears at an officer, is thought not to be looking after her child properly, or makes a 'nuisance of herself' in any minor way, she can be punished with:

Strip-cells.

'We're put in a padded cell on our own. There's no bed. Just one blanket. We're straitjacketed. We get two or three slices of bread a day and we're left there for anything up to three weeks.'

Lock-up

'We're locked up on our own in our cells for long periods of time.'

Deduction of Pay.

'From 33 pence a week we may only get five pence.'

Solitary

'28 days confinement with only bread to eat, and no exercise.'

CI's

'We're put in with the women who are waiting to be certified insane. One girl was sent there for six months, and came back to the wing unable to say anything but, "Can you provide witnesses, prove it, prove it".'

Dangerous Criminals?

None of these punishments can help women face the problems that led to their so-called crime—problems that will still be there when they come out. These problems, bad housing, low wages, lack of family planning advice etc. create continual worries which prevent many women from being able to live up to the 'perfect wife and mother' ideal. Our society creates these problems because of its insane drive for profits, and its lack of concern for human need—and it PUNISHES those who suffer as a result. This goes for men as well as women in prison. We are led to think by the newspapers and TV that all prisoners are vicious greedy characters who are a danger to us all. The majority of prisoners, men and women, are forced into crime because of frustration and poverty, or possibly to get a little extra money in order to make their normal hum-drum existence a little more enjoyable.

It is certainly true that a spell in prison can only increase people's problems, making them more desperate and less able to cope with life outside. We should support all action taken by people both inside and outside prison to improve prison conditions, and we should continue to try and change the society that punishes people who cannot, or will not live the kind of life that benefits business men, and oppresses working people.

Review



'For thousands of years the land that is now the United States belonged to the people we call Indians.'

Thus begins a fascinating, direct and honest account of how the white man tricked, bribed and eventually massacred a whole nation. **Homesteaders & Indians** by Dorothy Levenson is, I believe, a very important children's book for it completely smashes the image of the Indian as a ferocious savage charing across the t.v. screen scalping every white settler in sight. 'For thousands of years Indians wandered through the forests, over the grassy plains and great deserts. The earth was their mother, supplying all their wants. Then men arrived from Europe, men who wanted to take this land and have it for their own. These men believed that land could be cut up and bought and sold.' The author is not afraid to tell her young readers the truth and does so in a language they can understand. The illustrations and photographs are fascinating too.

An excellent follow-up would be **North American Indian** by Christopher Davis. This book is more complex, but equally enthralling. It too is well illustrated with drawings and photographs. The first half of the book is called 'The Trail of the Indian (1492-1890)' and traces the gradual decline of the Indian nation from the arrival of Columbus who claimed he had 'discovered' America to the final slaughter of Indians at the massacre of Wounded Knee. The second half, 'The Indian Today' is perhaps the most shocking of all. Here we bear witness, through the camera's eye to how a brutal system can bring a noble, peace-loving people to its knees. All the squalor and pity of a degraded race can be seen in these photographs of Indians on reservations, herded away from the white man's gaze, brought out only to provide amusement for white tourists, and this forced upon them because they cannot find jobs. What is left of the Indian nation is at last beginning to make its voice heard, but it is hard for such a small voice to break through the years of consistent racist propaganda. However, with the publicity given to recent events at Wounded Knee many children must be amazed to discover that Indians still exist today, and many will be asking why they are still fighting. If we can answer some of their questions we will go a long way to combatting the racism we have to face here at home. These books are an excellent weapon.

'The only good Indians I ever saw were dead.'

('civilised' Civil War General)

'If the white man wants to live in peace with the Indians he can live in peace . . . Treat all men alike. Give them all the same law. Give them all an even chance to live and grow. All men were made by the same Great Spirit Chief. They are all brothers. The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it . . .'

('uncivilised savage'—Chief Joseph of the Nez Percés Indians)

The books are:

Homesteaders & Indians by Dorothy Levenson. (Franklin Watts Inc.) £1.25

North American Indian by Christopher Davis (Hamlyn) £1.50

These books are unfortunately a bit expensive, but anyone can get them through their local libraries.

The advertiser's 'best friend'

Advertising always has been a dirty business. Women are particularly used in advertising as dumb sex objects selling everything from toothpaste to chocolate, as homely mums selling cornflakes or washing powder, and as 'honest' experts selling newspapers and high quality furniture. But there are other ways that advertisements use women . . . take a look through the jobs page of your local paper and you are bound to find examples of the kind of thing I mean.

Take the ad below from the Wigan Observer. It's a star example of the levels to which the advertising can sink. A happy, healthy man, and his happy healthy wife and daughter beam out from an advertisement for coal miners. Coal mining as you well know is a dirty, filthy business. Hundreds of miners die every year from silicosis—the lung disease caused by coal dust accumulating in the lungs. Many more miners have black scars where accidents in the pit planted coal deep into their flesh. Miners work in dirty, dark, unhealthy conditions for £35 a week. The advertiser who drew up the advert probably gets £50 or more, and sits in a well-lit, comfy office. The only industrial disease he's ever likely to get is a sore backside! But nevertheless he is prepared to dangle the bait of a smiling family in front of a man and his wife in order to persuade him to give up his health in the dirt underground. All advertising is nasty, but this sort of stuff is really cheap and inhuman.

Good Neighbours!

Advertisers use the same sort of technique to sell women factory jobs. The News, Portsmouth, ran an amazing example in May.

'It's good neighbours week every week at Goodman's'—or didn't you know that if you get together with a neighbour (as desperate as you are) you can solve your money problems, and your babysitting problems at one fair swoop? She babysits while you go out to work, and you babysit when you come home (whacked and dirty) while she goes off to work. 20 hours at work, and 20 hours babysitting for a whole £10 a week! Now girls, why didn't you think of that? But WE DID! Women have been doing just that for years because firms are too mean, governments are too mean, and local councils are too mean to provide any alternative. To try and kid you that the happy lady and her two kids who wave at you from the ad have stumbled on something new is really too much.

And it's not enough just to sit and fume. We should really write to local papers telling them that we don't fall for their cheap lies.

Readers are invited to send in examples of the ads they hate most—especially those that try to exploit the weakness of women and the family. **Anna Pascuska-Wigan**

Ex-miners-come back. Young men-join now. Big pay, job security

For a better job in mining

Better pay
* Underground minimum
£27.29 per week at age 19
* Power Loading and
Development work
£36.79 per week

Better prospects
If you're fit and 19 or over there are opportunities to earn £1,800 or more with the NCB. Coalmining is one of Europe's biggest industries, using powerful machines to cut and load coal, trains to get the coal to pit bottom and huge skips to whisk it to the surface. To operate and service the machines the NCB need skilled men—you could be in the team.

Better benefits

- Five day week
- Fortnights holiday
- Six public holidays
- Up to 12 additional rest days (all these with pay)
- Fuel allowance for married householders
- Additional sick pay, pension and welfare facilities
- Assisted travel
- Transfer benefits include housing for those men with dependents moving out of the district.

For further details fill in the coupon and send to:
J. Whatmore, H.Q. Manpower Branch,
National Coal Board, Bridgewater Road,
Walkden, Worsley, Nr. Manchester.

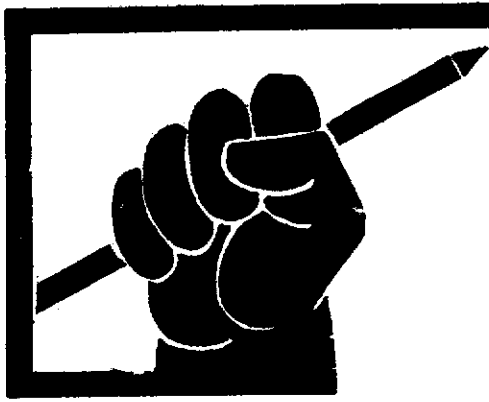
Name _____
Address _____

It's good neighbours week every week at Goodman's

With children at school all day long often the only hurdle to a part-time job is the hours you have to work. But get together with one of your neighbours and the hours at Goodman's suddenly begin to make sense. She looks after your children in the morning while you go to work. You look after hers in the afternoon while she's at work. It's as simple as that—and worth up to £10 a week for both of you. The jobs themselves consist of clean light assembly work—putting together a range of householders. You don't need any experience as we'll guarantee your earnings whilst you train. Part-time sessions are mornings 7.30 a.m. - 11 a.m. and afternoons 4.30 p.m. - just four hours a day over a five day week or if your children are grown up you could try a full time job as an assembler or fitter. Earn up to £20 a week. There's a very pleasant, low-cost restaurant, a sports and social club—and a really exceptional staff sales scheme providing commissions on cocktails, music, bridges, theatre, tv's, radios, stereo, and night-lights.

You don't even need to travel for an interview. Come and talk to Lily Stone, in our blue and white caravan. With kind permission we'll be at work commencing 4th June 1972.

MONDAY, 4th JUNE
Bowling Alley, Leigh Park.
TUESDAY, 5th JUNE
The Warren, Warren Park, Leigh Park.
WEDNESDAY, 6th JUNE
The Ice-berg, Drily, Heyning Island.
THURSDAY, 7th JUNE
Coshan Baptist Church, Coshan.
FRIDAY, 8th JUNE
The Heroes, Waterfoot.
If for some reason you can't get to the cars van, please call in at the Personnel Office, Downley Road, Havant, or telephone Havant 834.



LETTERS

Registration of child minders

I wonder how many women will agree with me about the hypocrisy which surrounds the registration of child minders. I applied to register in May 1972 and was visited by a social worker and given a list of do's and don'ts. That was the last I saw of her. I knew I was doing the job properly but how did she? I do think they should visit regularly if they are going to visit at all. They should also visit the mothers of the children minded and perhaps give them a list of do's and don'ts.

Minders should be given some idea of rates of pay. I had done child minding for a year when I saw an advert as a baby minder at 50p per hour. It was then I suddenly realised how much I was earning per hour—it worked out at 7p an hour.

I think the social services should pull their socks up and provide decent nursery facilities for all children at all times or they will never cut down illegal child minding.

**D Clare,
Leicester**

Family allowances

I read with interest the article on family allowances, in copy number 6 of Women's Voice, and I feel I must entirely agree with the person who wrote the report. One thing that I thought might have been mentioned, as food for thought, is the fact that family allowances should be greatly increased. Not only is it an insult that the family allowance should be put in the pay packet of the husband, but the amount that is paid, is like rubbing salt into the wound, especially to the lower paid.

I have no children myself, but the comments I get from people who have, clearly shows that 90p for two children and £1 extra for any additional children

definitely is not adequate. As I work in the Post Office I come across a lot of people who are not satisfied with this. Family allowances as I understand them, are basically provided for help with clothing, food and the general welfare of the children. What I can't imagine is where you can get these necessities for the archaic payments made.

One thing I have noticed, working as I said earlier, in the Post Office, is that people who appear to be in the higher paid bracket can afford to save their allowances, sometimes up to 10, 12 or even the maximum period of 26 weeks. Whereas those people in the lower paid bracket have to collect theirs weekly, and have in some cases asked for it in advance.

Would it not therefore be a more practical idea to base the amounts paid on the income of the household as they do with other benefits. Admittedly since Family Income Supplements were introduced it has helped a lot of families, but this can be rather degrading for some people to accept. In fact when I was serving a young mother a few weeks ago she actually said that she hated coming to collect her FIS as it made her feel as though she was accepting charity. I really don't think she should have taken that attitude because anything you can get out of our 'generous state' you should grab with both hands. Maybe it would help if when the payment books are printed, they are done in such a way that it would not be so obvious as to what they are.

Although there has not been an increase in family allowances for quite a while now, I think that with the right fighting spirit which is shown through your publications, something may be done for those in a less fortunate position.

**R Tomlinson (Mrs)
Coventry**

Unions in hospital

It was good to read about the hospital workers in the issue before last. I am a hospital worker and would like to say how difficult it is to join the union. Three months ago I asked the night supervisor for forms but she had to ask the superintendent. Three weeks later there were still no forms so I asked again. I worked nights and have a family but it seemed the only way was to make a special trip to the hospital during the day to see about the union.

In fact I left that job in May without ever getting my hands on a union form. I think union forms and information should be available in all hospital departments.

Anne Jones

Information

I would like to know more about

IS WOMEN
 IS

Name

Address

Send to: I.S. women

6 Cottons Gardens, London. E2 8DN

For the everyday news that we cannot
cover in Women's Voice read

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

the best weekly paper on the left.
Regular articles on Housing, Industry,
Prices, the Social Services, Labour History, Education . . .
Price 5p

Special Subscription Offer - Save £1

If you take out a yearly subscription to Socialist Worker now, you can save yourself £1, and receive a regular weekly copy through your letterbox. Simply send your name and address, together with your £3 to Socialist Worker (Subscription Offer), Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

Subscriptions

If you want your copy of Women's Voice without delay send in a subscription now . . .

Name

Address

I enclose 50p for the next six issues (inc. postage). Send to Women's Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.