

FREE THE TWO NOW!



Dennis Warren (left)
and Eric Tomlinson

Right—we're out! But they weren't for long. What went wrong?

As Des Warren and Eric 'Hobo Rick' Tomlinson returned to jail to serve the rest of the vicious sentences they received last year for picketing, more than 20 building sites on Merseyside quickly stopped work. Led by the Hospital and and Loopline sites, their example was followed by builders in Manchester and and other parts of the country.

This time, action to free the pickets was stiffer and more widely supported by building workers than last time, at the time of the pickets trial in Shrewsbury. This time could have provided the answer to other groups of workers -like the dockers- who said last year, 'why should we come out when the builders don't want to know'.

But, five days later, it was back to work for the 3,000 Merseyside builders, after two mass meetings and a lobby of their London union headquarters. A

big opportunity had been lost — deliberately by the UCATT officials and their supporters on the sites.

MASS PRESSURE

As we go to press, Merseyside shop stewards are meeting to discuss action to free the two. We hope that they will not think that this matter can be settled by the UCATT parliamentary lobby on 21 November. That lobby must be the start not the end result of our mobilisation to free Des and Rick.

The Labour Government, with its Social Contract being battered from all sides, will weaken before mass pressure quicker than the Tories. But the pressure they fear is not one day token protests, however well-organised, but the threat of prolonged industrial disruption from all sections of the working class until the two are released.