

# AS THE UNION CAVES IN THE FIGHT BEGINS

## FORD PUTS THE BOOT IN

Last Wednesday the Granada line PTA 'A' shift walked off the job protesting against the Co. decision to shut down their line. On Thursday B shift welders in the Body walked out after being asked to use different rods without being given the extra time needed to do the job. The night shift followed suit. Both shifts were fighting an attempted speed-up. The welders decided not to meet again til Monday.

As usual at this stage Ford tried to split the shifts and laid off the PTA 'B' shift for Friday night with no lay-off pay while keeping the 'A' shift 'working' on Friday even though only 11 Cortinas were pulled all day.

When 'B' shift came in on Monday enough Granadas were in the bank and the paint shop for them to pull 83 on the new schedule. Obviously there must have been enough cars there on Friday night to avoid the lay-off. Ford could have laid off both shifts or had them both working but they always prefer to split the shifts to prevent a united fight.

## WELDERS' DISPUTE

On Monday Body plant assembly welders walked off demanding lay-off pay for last Thursday night. The PTA had got paid that night even though they did no work after the dinner break. This was because the dispute was outside the PTA and they had already clocked on. Now the demand coming from the body is that lay-off pay should be given when the dispute is not in your section.

But the welding dispute should not be seen as just another walk-out. In fact it came as part of a general attempt, inspired by personnel over from Detroit, to force home on the shop-floor the victory Fords is having over the claim.

The union might not think that mobility, lay-offs and speed-ups are important but the company certainly does. So it's trying to use this situation to break up any organisation and resistance that exists.

So the past week has seen fights against mobility and speed-ups and for lay-off pay - all the key things we need, to avoid being pushed around.

## THE UNION COLLABORATION

During the past few days we witnessed the complete collaboration of the union officials and most of the convenors against the men. It's as if they have no idea what it's like living these days on a take-home pay of £26 or £27. And they agree to 30 bob after tax! Apart from the disgusting behaviour of the NJNC over the claim, the convenors at Halewood and in the PTA at Dagenham have played their part.

P.T.O.



If you live round Leyton, Stratford or Forest Gate, you can meet us and discuss your ideas on the situation, at 6pm on Saturdays at the Thatched House (public bar) on Leytonstone High Rd.

## **HALEWOOD REJECT OFFER**

On Sunday a mass meeting in Liverpool of 1,500 men from the Body and PTA voted 2 to 1 to reject the offer. The convenors had recommended acceptance. The meeting was lively and several people spoke from the floor, arguing for action to be taken - a work-to-rule and overtime ban.

But the convenors refused to allow any motions to be put. If a motion had been allowed there would have been a united response from the whole of Halewood since Transmission had also rejected the offer on Friday. Now they're back to square one.

However, over the past week there have been section meetings inside the Halewood Body plant discussing whether to take strike action or to work to rule. This is what should be done everywhere - organisation at section level to get round the convenors' smothering tactics. All the signs are that if the union does go ahead and sign the contract over the next week there could well be trouble at Halewood.

Much the same feeling exists down here. Although many people have voted to accept the offer, everyone knows that it's worthless. And the walk-outs show that at the present time many sections are ready to fight.

## **PTA - ELLIOTT UP TO HIS TRICKS**

The PTA meetings last Thursday show again how willing the union is to sell us down the river.

First Elliott set the meetings for  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour before the end of the shift. Meetings have always previously been held in lunch times so that no one's in a hurry to go back to work. On the day shift lots of people just went off home at 4 o'clock. On night shift, even though most people were there, Elliott made no mention of the lay-off the PTA was having at that time.

Last year, when everyone was fighting for the guaranteed week's pay, the union said: "Leave it up to us - it's in procedure - it will be sorted out at the next claim." And look what they've done. Not only have they failed to win anything, they never even tried. And the guaranteed week demand had been described by Moss Evans as the "cornerstone of the claim". At least the company are honest - they make no excuses about screwing us.

## **OVERTIME = LAY-OFFS**

To cap all this Elliott has agreed to the company bringing in new recruits to the PTA next week. He even had the nerve to present the reintroduction of overtime next week as a 'victory' in exchange for his agreement to let in recruits. Precisely the opposite is true.

If we work overtime we'll be working ourselves into more lay-offs. To prevent lay-offs we need to ban overtime and recruitment and to keep the speeds down through non-cooperation. The ban on recruitment is one of the best weapons we've got, yet Elliott just tosses the PTA ban away as if it wasn't important.

But it's not overtime we want. We want decent pay so we don't have to work so bloody long to survive, and so our wives aren't forced to go out to work. Why should we work overtime to get laid off straightaway.

We lose if we accept overtime, and we lose if we accept recruits. More labour means that Ford can come down heavy on us - they don't mind a high turnover of individuals. It's collective protest they can't take. We have to organise to prevent the mobility which destroys our ability to take collective action.

The union will, in all probability, sign the contract this week and we'll be getting our extra 30 bob. But we shouldn't regard the agreement any more as sacred, we should be prepared, when the opportunity comes, to try to break it.

- NO MOBILITY ● NO OVERTIME
- NO RECRUITMENT ● NO LAY-OFFS

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- LONDON BIG FLAME FORD GROUP- 659 3895