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# PICKET FINED

## Union men fear loss of rights

STORY: TONY NEAL

A FORD shop steward was convicted of obstruction while picketing in a marathon court hearing at Barking on Monday. And now angry union men fear their right to picket has been eroded.

Colville Rainey, 26, an engineering steward in the Dagenham Body Plant was arrested during a picket of the Chequers Lane gate on May 8. He denied obstruction.

The picket was in support of the strike called by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers in protest at the sequestration of union funds by the National Industrial Relations Court.

Mr. Geoffrey Nice, prosecuting said Rainey was part of a crowd of people who were obstructing the footway to passers by and reducing traffic to a walking pace.

"Even if he were a picket he has no right to break the law," he said. Inspector John Ivis of Dagenham police said he arrived at the gate early in the morning and saw a group of "about 100 men congregated on the footway."

He called for the help of Inspector Carpenter, also of Dagenham Police, with "the basic intention to open the footway."

"Inspector Carpenter walked up in front of me and told the crowd to move on," he said. "Mr. Rainey was just stood in the centre of the crowd. He was doing nothing."

"As I was forcing my way through the crowd I arrested him because he didn't move. He just happened to be the one I addressed my remarks to."

### CONGESTION

Witness Mr. Aldo Searlia of Enfield who was in the picket line said he saw Rainey's arrest. "One policeman came straight up to him and asked him to move along and if he was a picket then where was his badge."

"He moved a couple of feet and next thing a policeman went straight after him and arrested him. I was totally shocked when I saw him taken away."

"The congestion any day at that time would have been the same as it was there," he said.

Barking Councillor, Mr. Harry Tindall of Tilney Road, Dagenham said he was a transport union shop steward and was on official picket duty because he represented a multi-union department.

He said about 4,000 workers used the entrance and the congestion on the pavement was no more than usual.

Cross-examined by Mr. Richard Hayden, defending, Inspector Ivis said it was his decision to move the crowd and he "spoke to nobody" about it.

"I didn't speak to someone in the picket because the crowd was too big and it never entered my mind to use the megaphone."

### REFUSED

Inspector Carpenter said he estimated the crowd to number 80. "I walked into a group of men saying 'please move along you are causing an unnecessary obstruction' but my requests had no effect whatsoever," he said.

"When I asked Mr. Rainey to move he refused saying it was an official strike and he had every right to be there."

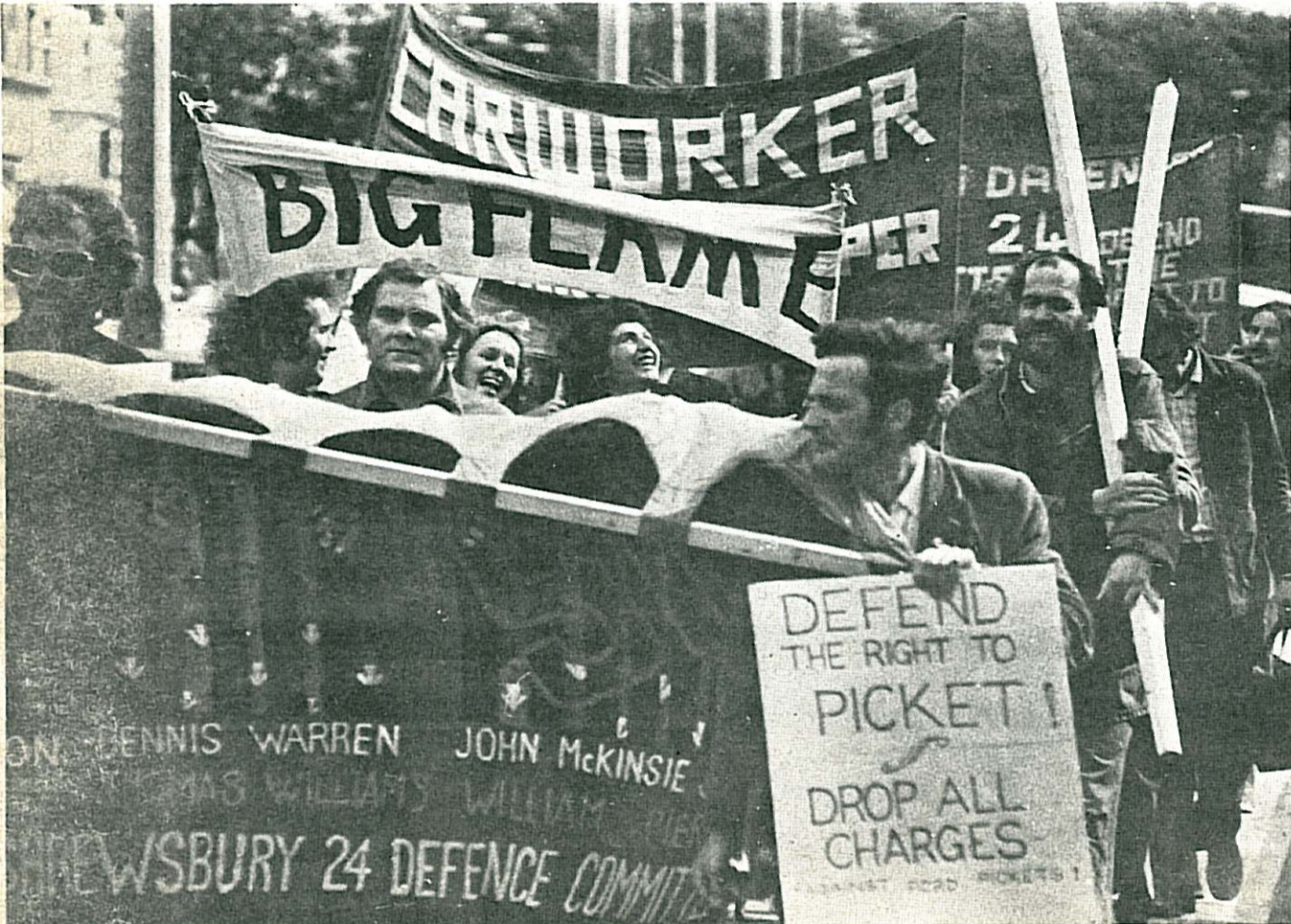
Pc Ken Spriggett of Dagenham said he saw a crowd of "about 60 men." "In the majority of cases people started to move" when requested he said.

When cross-examined by the defence he replied: "Oh yes, certainly people moved. Our requests were effective."

Rainey, from Homerton, told the court he was an official picket was standing in front of his union banner.

When asked why he did not move when requested he replied: "I couldn't move? If I had moved back I'd move into the banner. If forward I would have moved into the police officer in front of me couldn't move sideways."

Rainey was fined £10. He plans to appeal.



Demonstrators on the march to court.

## Stolen lorry crashes into garden

RESIDENTS in a narrow street are planning to petition for the road to be closed after a stolen van ran out of control, demolishing a front garden fence, two cars and a motorbike.

The steering gear on the van, stolen from Manor Park, failed as it was driven at speed along Eldred Road, Barking on Saturday night.

"I heard the crash and came running out to see what was happening," said Roy Parish,

whose home is next door to where the fence was knocked down.

"The first thing I saw was my bike lying under this van. The driver made a run for it, and I gave chase, but I'd only got my slippers on and couldn't catch him."

Shocked neighbours watched as the driver made his getaway through a narrow alleyway.

"Something like this was bound to happen sooner or later," said Mr. Parish, 29, who has lived in Eldred Road for two years.

"We get all sorts of heavy lorries down this road, taking a short cut to the level crossing in Ripple Road.

"The road isn't wide enough for two vehicles to pass, and if a car's parked up on the pavement you have to walk in the road to get by."

Mr. Parish hopes to get his neighbours' signatures on a petition to Barking Council asking them to close off the road at both ends.

"If they'd let us, I reckon it would be worth us all chipping in to put the barriers up ourselves," said Mr. Parish.

"There was a petition some time ago, but they didn't get anywhere. I think it's worth having another try."

## Strikers back to work

Strikers at Telephone Cables voted to accept a three-point management offer and return to work at an angry meeting yesterday (Tuesday).

The back-to-work motion was narrowly passed at the second attempt after Transport and General Workers Union branch chairman, Reg Weaver put the offer to 150 men who had been striking since Friday and a similar number of colleagues who were

## Demo as the court hearing goes on

ANGRY trade unionists demonstrated on Monday against the arrest of four of their colleagues during the picketing at Ford.

They met at Barking Park and marched along Longbridge Road to the court with banners protesting at attacks on picketing rights.

They picketed the court

before and during the hearing and handed out leaflets to passers by.

Inside the courtroom the public benches were packed solid with trade unionists and officials, including Jack Mitchell, AUEW district secretary, and Ford stewards Tony Doyle, Sid Haraway and Dave Moulson, who is also secretary of Dagenham Trades Council.

## Three remanded

The three other Ford workers arrested during the AUEW picket on May 8 were remanded on bail of £20 each at the hearing on Monday.

They are Stephen John Harper, 21, of Tunmarsh Lane, Plaistow,

charged with threatening behaviour, Mohammed Mumtaz Ullah Siddiqui, 43, of South London, charged with obstructing the highway, and Victor Lionel Emslie, 55, of Ruby Street, Walthamstow, also charged with obstruction.

# Worker sacked after row with foreman

TROUBLE flared in the Ford body plant last week when a West Indian worker allegedly struck a foreman.

Foremen called a meeting and threatened to strike unless the worker was sacked.

The worker was sacked, and though the foremen were appeased, many of the workers were not. Confusion over the way Ford dealt with the case has resulted in ill feeling among some body plant workers.

And body plant convenor Dan Connor has attacked Ford and the "Kangaroo court they held before they sacked the worker."

A statement issued by Ford said the case had been dealt with at a

right, and Ford later withdrew the statement.

A Ford spokesman said later that the joint works committee meeting was never intended to act as a fresh hearing of the matter, but was solely to inform the union of the result of the company investigation and the resulting action taken.

"The man in question was given full representation at the hearing of the case," said the spokesman, "and was accompanied by a shop steward and a senior shop steward."

"He was able to call witnesses on his behalf and he did so. There were six witnesses called, one be-

flatly denies that the joint works committee meeting was called for the reason Ford claim.

"The meeting was called by the union, and not the company," said Mr. Connor, "and the purpose was to condemn Ford for the grave injustice they have done to this man, and for the kangaroo court the company held."

"The procedures in such a case are clear and well established. On such a serious matter the two convenors and their deputies are consulted with the witnesses and the man present."

"In fact Ford did consult me at the beginning, but then they dealt

justice is done. In this case justice was not done, and it is plain that Ford have a totally different set of rules for the workers than they do for supervisors.

"There have been cases of foremen striking workers and these men were not dismissed."

"I say that Ford held a kangaroo court, under pressure from the supervisors, and a grave injustice has been done," said Mr. Connor.

The Barking & Dagenham Post (incorporating Becontree Guardian, Rainham Guardian and Chadwell Heath News) is Printed and Published by Essex & East London News