

On 27 April all roads lead to Liverpool!

ALL OUT FOR DOCKERS' CONFERENCE

EVERY trade unionist, Labour Party member, every unemployed worker and community activist who supports the 30-week strike of the Liverpool dockers must rally to the labour movement conference they have called for next Saturday, 27 April.

The struggle of the 500 Merseyside dockers for their reinstatement is the focal point for the struggle of the whole of the working class against the employers and the Tory government.

Why is this so?

From the start this unofficial strike was one against the port employers but also against the government and the anti-union laws.

Solidarity with workers engaged in such a struggle is a basic principle which must now be re-established in the course of rebuilding the working-class movement.

The sort of support that grew up in the miners' strike and has become a feature of all major struggles since 1984-85 must be continued. But this time these support groups must not be allowed to subside when the specific struggle is decided.

The Liverpool meeting can become a powerful starting point for the creation of a network that must grow stronger at every stage of the struggle.

This is why no effort must be spared to build up support for the sacked dockers, and then for others when they find themselves taking the brunt of the fight.

The dockers are not fighting just for themselves. All employers are determined to break up union organisation, to wipe out permanent jobs and to introduce casual labour.

Attack

Not only the working class, but many professional people who thought they had jobs for life are facing this attack.

If the employers and the

BY GEOFF PILLING

government succeed, it will be impossible to earn a living wage without working inhuman hours and without being at the beck and call of the employer 24 hours a day.

Unbearable

It will be impossible for workers to have those elementary things, such as rest, some leisure, some family life, without which life becomes unbearable.

The dockers have decided to stand up and fight. That is why they have great respect and support, internationally and in Britain.

Some of the lowest paid and most exploited workers — the Hillingdon hospital strikers and the JJ Fast Food workers in London — have rallied to the dockers' support.

But we cannot rest on our laurels. The government and the employers remain determined to destroy the organisation on Mersey docks and force dockers into completely casual labour.

The working class as a whole must answer this challenge. Don't let the dockers fight alone!

They must win their fight! This will be a great victory for the whole working class.

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'The Tory government are the real criminals. It is Mawhinney and the cabinet who are on trial today for racism and encouraging racist attacks. These arrests have strengthened our resistance to the asylum bill and we will continue to fight to ensure it becomes unworkable.'

These defiant words were echoed by each of the Mawhinney Five — Nick de Marco (who was cleared of all charges), Amanda Egbe, Karen Doyle, Naveed Malick and Tony Gard (right to left in picture) — in speeches to supporters at Bow Street Magistrates' Court before four were found 'guilty' of assault and threatening behaviour. They could face jail sentences.

All the charges in connection with the throwing of orange paint and flour at Tory party chairman Brian Mawhinney were denied by the defendants.

Their barrister said it was, 'reasonable behaviour to throw paint and flour at Mawhinney in the hope that he would desist from further remarks about floods of asylum-seekers entering this country. Mawhinney's comment's could have formed the basis of an allegation of incitement to racial hatred.'

The magistrate refused to allow a prospective victim of the Asylum and Immigration Bill to give evidence. Mawhinney plans to raffle the jacket used in evidence (for Tory party funds?). He claims he and his wife suffered damage of £1,000. Nice to be able to afford it!



'The great only appear great because we are on our knees. Let us arise!' — James Connolly

The following is the 27 April conference appeal from Merseyside Port Shop Stewards' chair JIMMY NOLAN

FOR six months we have been in struggle for the demands of our charter: against casualisation and for the reinstatement of the 500 sacked dockers with trade union recognition and elected shop stewards.

We have received a magnificent and heartening response — from active trade unionists in Britain and throughout the world.

That is because unemployment, casualisation, privatisation, slave contracts, part-time working and attacks on unions have descended on workers everywhere as a result of capital-

ist greed. In Britain, Thatcherism has been in the forefront in spreading this plague that has hit the world, taking away from the working people the rights to organise and thus extend some control over their own lives.

Our dignity and basic rights have only been won through struggle, and we must face the fact that there is a crisis in the labour movement — so-called 'Victorian values' mean slavery for those fortunate enough to have a job and the workhouse for the unemployed.

We are calling this conference of those who have shown support for us because we want to discuss how to win this fight, but above all we want to discuss how to rebuild our labour

organisations in Britain, how to build and develop unity in struggle and assist further the advance internationally.

The growing number of banners on our trade union and community marches and rallies, the establishment of support groups in major towns, your financial solidarity and the response to our recent international conference clearly show that we can and must organise together against the abuse of our rights, and the rights of our children and grandchildren, meted out by the rich owners of multinational companies and governments.

We hope you can come to our conference or make sure your organisation is represented.

A national conference for all trade union, labour movement and community supporters of the dockers

Transport House, Islington, Liverpool (nr. Lime Street station).

Saturday 27 April, 11am

For further details ring 0151-207 3388

For London coach 0956 138496

