

CAMPAIGN FOR COAL!

"Only a vigorous campaign involving every section of the community in Fife can safeguard the future of Comrie and Seafield, and lead to Frances re-opening" So Alex Falconer MEP told a recent Federation meeting.

He was speaking on the report recently produced by Richard Saville which called for major changes in the EEC policies towards the mining industry. Alex spoke of the spark that led to the report being commissioned.

"I attended a meeting with Mr Reinhart of the EEC Energy Commission. We challenged him over EEC plans for coal. He shrugged his shoulders and said 'so we lose maybe 45,000 or 50,000 jobs the important thing is to get a profitable coal industry.'

As Alex said, apparently it is perfectly OK in the thinking of the EEC to give subsidies to private farmers, but wrong to give them to a public industry, the NCB.

Alex also renewed the call for a public enquiry into the running of the NCB in Scotland. He told the meeting that they managed to lose export orders to Ireland and Denmark on the grounds of high sulphur content. Scottish coal has the lowest sulphur content in Europe.

Alex concluded that if the NCB continue their present policies thousands more jobs in Fife are threatened. "We must campaign as we have never campaigned before if we are to reverse them."



Alex Falconer "A vigorous campaign is needed".

BOOM FOR WHOM ?

1985 saw a further massive rise in company profits. In the first 6 months of the year they rose by an average of 35.2%. This came on top of a rise of 69.2% between 1981 and 1984.

Several companies that operate in Fife shared in this boom. BTR, who run Dunlops and Welco, saw their profit go up by an amazing 215% in the 12 months to December 1984. GEC were 24% ahead, Marks & Spencer 36.6% better off. Others showing an increase were Courtaulds, owners of Lyle & Scott (144% up), STC 178% up, and Associated Dairies (owners of ASDA) up by 95.7%.

It goes without saying that this 'boom' didn't lead to massive wage rises, or any extra jobs. In fact, many of these firms paid off workers during the same period.

HEY, PRESTO

Cowdenbeath Trades Council are launching a major campaign to persuade local stores to boycott South African goods. Their first target will be the Presto chain. Delegates will be handing out leaflets outside their shops. The message to customers will be simple - "Go elsewhere, until Presto agree to boycott Apartheid."

If you can help contact David Stodart at 25 Church Street Inverkeithing. Tel 419330.

ADVERTISE IN TRADES COUNCIL NEWS !

Small ads. 10p a word
¼ page £30; ½ page £50
full page £80; double page £130

Contact the Federation for details, or with your ad !

STOP THE PRESS

The Sun and the Times are being printed by people who have stolen other people's jobs. That's why no trade unionist should buy them.

SO, DON'T BUY THE SUN!

SO MUCH FOR THE RULE OF LAW

We've just heard that the NCB is refusing to give several miners their jobs back, despite being ordered by Industrial Tribunals to do so.

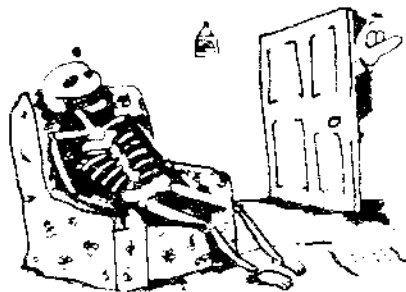
Show your continued support for these men and their families by sending a donation to the Relief Fund, NUM, 5 Hillside Crescent, Edinburgh.

ACTION FOR JOBS

What can local authorities do to create jobs? If you want to find out, send for 'Action for Jobs'. Produced by the GLC its got lots of examples collected from all over the country of what can be done.

It's available, free, from Action for Jobs, Information Unit, Industry & Employment Branch, GLC, County Hall, London SE1 7PB. You can borrow a 16 minute video from the same address.

CANCER DANGER



They say there's no danger from the radioactive waste

Rosyth East Labour Party have produced a petition demanding a public enquiry into reports of unusually high incidence of cancer in the West Fife area.

The petition was launched at a public meeting, addressed by the producer of the 'First Tuesday' programme that linked cancer to radioactive waste at Rosyth Dockyard. It is available from Joe Marshall, 37 Mitchell Walk, Rosyth.

FOR SALE

Ornamental Miners Lamps

Full Size £30; ½ Size £12; 1/3 Size £6

Sold in Aid of the

Scottish Miners Relief Fund

Contact Jim McGuire 183 Skeene Court Glenrothes.

Red Review Songbooks for sale at £1 each, or 5 for £4, plus p&p. Available from Scottish Labour Students, 53 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, tel. 031-225-8034.

FOOD for THOUGHT!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE EATING ?

Over 3,500 additives are used in our foods, of which a mere 350 are covered by detailed legal controls.

Some un-regulated additives are known to be dangerous. For example, allyl alcohols, common flavourings, can cause serious liver damage. When eaten in tiny amounts they pose only a low risk. But some people eat large amounts of food containing these flavourings, such as crisps, soft drinks and sweets. Such people - often children - are at high risk.



One reason why there is so little publicity on this subject is that much of the discussion on it is covered by commercial confidentiality, and even the Official Secrets Act! The official body 'overseeing' the hazards of additives is the Food Advisory Committee. It is made up largely of representatives of food companies and conducts its business in secret.

If you want to find out more about what you are eating, send for "DANGER: Additives at Work" £5 from the London Food Commission, PO Box 291, London N5.

COMMERCIAL anti-UNION

Commercial Union like to pose as a concerned, progressive company. They even have special deals with some unions - offering cheap insurance to members.

It is therefore ironic that they are taking advantage of the military dictatorship in Pakistan to refuse to recognise the right of their workers in that country to be in a union.

If you have any dealings with Commercial Union, contact them to demand they recognise the Pakistan Insurance Employees' Federation.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP

Yet more jobs in electronics are going in Fife. Highland Electronics, Hillend, have announced 80 redundancies.

DEMOCRACY THREATENED

The Local Government Bill, which restricts the fights of local authorities to campaign on 'political' issues, could soon be law.

We've already pointed out that this would stop Fife Region and District Councils from running such campaigns as the ones against dockyard privatisation and the rundown in public transport.

But even more could be at stake. Speaking in a debate in parliament on the Bill, David Spencer, a Tory MP from Leicester, singled out Low Pay Units for attack. 'They are designed quite nakedly to attack the government's social security reforms' he said.

So it seems that work around women's rights, low pay and social security reforms could all be at risk. Dunfermline Trades Council are already campaigning against the Bill. If you want to find out more about just how democracy is threatened, again, contact: Local Information Unit, 2nd Floor, 1-5 Bath Street, London EC1V 9QQ.

THEY CALL IT SPORTING ?

It's nice to know they care.....

Much of Highland Scotland is given over to upper class 'sportsmen'. But don't judge these people too harshly, it's all done in the interests of the grouse, as a press release from the Standing Conference on Countryside Sports shows. It reads:

"The sympathetic influence of the sportsman in the wellbeing of the red grouse has slowed the march of the conifers across the upland moors."

You can just picture a red grouse, beaten out of the heather and rushing towards the butts and death, thinking "If it wasn't for the sympathetic influence of those sportsmen in my wellbeing, conifers would be marching across these moors!"

HUNGER STRIKE

Six hospital workers at the Whyteman's Brae complex at Kirkcaldy's Victoria Hospital have started a hunger strike: ironically in a bid to improve their diet. Over 200 others are boycotting what they call 'inadequate catering facilities'.

Nurses, Domestic and Porters are bitterly angry at facing a choice of sandwiches from the extension's cafeteria, or a 400 yard walk across a busy main road to the staff dining-room in the main hospital. One nurse has already been knocked over crossing this road.

Dominic Currie, NUPE steward, told us:

"All we are asking is a proper variety in our daily diet. Surely that is not a revolutionary request. Good food means good health. The Health Board, above all, should be concerned about the health of their workers."

Dominic urged members of the public to write to the Health Board at Glenrothes House, supporting the workers' campaign.

Pictures — tell a story

Throughout the 1984-5 Miners' Strike John Beall and his camera were a familiar sight. His collection of photographs is a vivid record of the picket lines, strike centres and mining communities through that year of hardship.

Already Edinburgh District Council have used some of his pictures in their 'Not Just Tea and Sandwiches' exhibition. This showed the role of Women's Committees in the strike.

To make sure this valuable material is available to be seen by as many people as possible we want to use it as the basis of a mobile exhibition. To do this money is needed. If you can help, send cheques or postal orders to 'Miners' Photographic Exhibition' c/o 105/3 Queensferry Road, Rosyth.

We'd also like to hear from people who can help in other ways, perhaps with more photos, or with experience in putting this sort of thing together.

SOME ARE MORE EQUAL.....

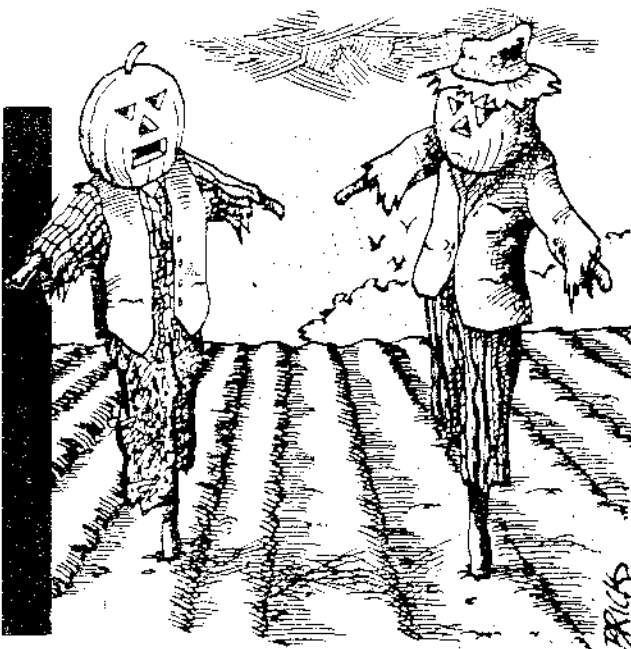
Teachers are fighting for an independent review of their pay. So far the government have refused to give them one.

Lord Hanson was more fortunate. He got a "comparability review" by outside consultants. They gave him 70%, taking him to over £301,000 a year.

One thing to note, though: Lord Hanson owns the company !

'I HEAR THAT UNDER PRIVATISATION WE'LL BE REPLACED BY YTS TRAINEES..'

LAST WORD



DIARY

10 February	7 pm Bowhill Institute Public Meeting with Gordon Brown MP and Alex Falconer MEP (Organised by Jardenden and Kinglassie Labour Party.)
15-16 Feb	Fod House, Lauder Technical College Weekend course 'Social Security and the Fowler Review' Details, contact John Malone 0369 726201.
22 Feb	10.30 am Adam Smith Centre 'Save Our Health Service'. Public Meeting organised by Kirkcaldy Trades Council.
22-23 Feb	Fod House, Lauder Technical College weekend course 'Changing Nature of British Industry' Details from John Malone 0369 726201.
26 Feb	7 pm Kirkcaldy College of Technology. Open meeting with TUC representatives, organised by the Federation.
1-2 March	Fod House Lauder Technical College weekend course 'Trade Unions and Apartheid' Details: contact John Malone 0369 726201.
7 March	Lochgelly Centre 7 pm Public Meeting "Winning People for Socialism" with David Blunkett Gordon Brown MP and Alex Falconer MEP.
8 March	10.15 am Fod House Lauder Tech. Dayschool 'Which Way for Local Government' with David Blunkett. Delegation fee £3 waged, £2 unwaged (including meals) Creche available. For places, contact the Federation.
22 March	Abercrom & Dalgety Bay Labour Party Open Day in Dalgety Bay Community Centre, with Gordon Brown MP and Alex Falconer MEP.
22-23 March	Fod House Lauder Tech. Weekend school 'Trade Unions and the Environment' Speakers include Barry Lambert, St Bartholomew's Hospital and Frank Swalbarth, MEP German Green Party.
19-20 April	Fod House Lauder Technical College weekend course 'Communication Skills for Women Trade Unionists' for details contact John Malone 0369 726201.

PUBLIC SERVICE PAY

A series of meetings for all public service workers.

17 February	7 pm City Hotel Dunfermline. Speakers include Hugh Wyden TUC, Campbell Christie STUC and Anne Middleton NALGO.
18 February	7 pm Station Hotel Kirkcaldy. Speakers Ron Durran NUPE and Campbell Christie.
20 February	7 pm Methil Community Centre. Speakers include Sir Martin EIS.
24 February	7 pm Castlehill Community Centre Cupar. Speakers from ILPA and Irene Kinder EIS.
25 February	7 pm Lemond Centre, Glenrothes. Speakers Campbell Christie STUC and Kathy Finn EIS.

COUNCIL AGAINST APARTHEID

Congratulations to Dunfermline District Council! They are planning to get fully involved in the local authority 'Week of Action against Apartheid' planned for this summer. During this week there will be a special photo-exhibition on apartheid in Pittencrieff House Museum. Councillors will, out on the streets, collecting signatures on a petition which will be presented to the United Nations.

We'll let you know what other councils are doing, as soon as we find out.

DID YOU KNOW?

That a spokesperson for Rothmans, the tobacco firm, justified the tobacco trade in the Third World by pointing out that people in developing countries don't have a long enough life-expectancy to worry about smoking-related problems?



That the richest 50% of the adult population own 40% of the nation's wealth?

LATEST DONATIONS INCLUDE

- ★ Jim Clark
- ★ Levenmouth Trades Council
- ★ Dominic Currie
- ★ Alex Falconer MEP
- ★ Fife W.E.A.

HELP!

How you can help Trades Council News, (besides sending us money!)

★ We desperately need black and white photos, illustrating all aspects of life, work and the environment in Fife.

★ You can sell our raffle tickets. Send to Derrick Stubbs, 29 Morlich Court, Dalgety Bay for books.

★ Order extra copies to give out to your friends, neighbours and workmates.



Use this form to order more copies of TRADES COUNCIL NEWS from the Federation:

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I require copies please.
Return to us at at 105/3 Queensferry Road, Rosyth, Fife.