

# SITeworker

**SPECIAL**

## IF WE LET THEM DESKILL US - THEY WILL DESTROY US

In the current issue of **Site Worker** we say: things could get worse, with the total lack of democracy and accountability in the unions. Things like the sacking of 430 rank and file trade unionists on the BP site in Hull could become commonplace. Building employers are now coming for contracting electricians.

**JIB & HOURLY RATES NOW UNDER SERIOUS THREAT.** 8 firms have pulled out of the JIB Agreement including T.Clarke, SES, Crown House, Balfour Kilpatrick, NG Bailey so far with others planning to do the same. Who's to say they won't all follow? It has also been mentioned there could be 3 new hourly rates, £10.50 for tray, conduit and trunking - £12 for wiring and £14 for terminating. This is the SMA grade we have been fighting to avoid in recent years and have kept at bay. but this time it's different. W.Smith Ltd, BK and NG Bailey have written to their employees and told them new rates will start in March next year.

### **THIS IS A DECLARATION OF CLASS WAR.**

These firms will decide who gets allocated certain work on site. So an approved spark who currently gets £16.25ph will now get £10.50 if he or she is installing conduit. The other sparks on the same site will get £12 and £14 respectively. Will they share the work around from week to week so everyone gets a share of the pie or will it be decided on who is the biggest arse licker or the foreman's mate? Perhaps you could bribe the foreman or bring him an apple every week or get him a bottle of plonk at Xmas. It is outrageous and doesn't bear thinking about. What it does is scream out **DIVIDE & RULE!**

### **PROFIT BEFORE ALL ELSE & TO HELL WITH THE WORKERS? NO WAY WE SAY!**

It is clearly all about profit for these big firms like BK and NG Bailey. This is blatant exploitation and naked unbridled profiteering by the obscenely greedy and rich bosses and directors who own these firms. It is Capitalism gone mad and we must not allow this.

### **UNITE TALKING TO EMPLOYERS. WE KNOW WHERE THAT CAN LEAD!**

We believe unite are talking to our employers about these proposals. Why, what is there to talk about? Unite Officials should just say **NO** and tell employers there will be industrial action if they do not honour existing JIB Agreements. But of course we all know we cannot always just trust Unite Officials in construction. They have sold out and let us down very badly in the past. We should let Unite and employers know we reject these scandalous proposals out of hand and will not tolerate them under any circumstances.

### **TIME TO GET OFF OUR KNEES AND FIGHT.**

The time has come for the rank and file to get off our knees and take the bosses on. We must not stand by and let JIB rates be sabotaged in such a scandalous and outrageous manner. We deserve to be treated with respect and be paid accordingly. We need a pay rise not pay cuts! We should call on the union to ballot for industrial action now. If they don't act quickly we should down tools anyway and this will force them round the table. And we have got to ensure some rank and file sparks are round that table and there's no sell outs! Some sparks might decide to act now and if they do we must support them and build on this.

Solidarity action must follow any moves by our fellow/sister sparks and we should target and try to shut down all major sites. Pickets should be put on site gates and occupations can take place where necessary. R&F action committees must be set up in all localities where possible and a National R&F action committee should be set up to coordinate strike action and flying pickets. All action committees must regularly report back to mass meetings of sparks. There should be no return to work unless **ALL** the proposed changes to come into force in March next year are withdrawn. Mass meetings must vote on all offers. Please raise these things at your branch and on site. Arrange meetings in your areas to discuss and plan things.

Finally we say to site workers in other occupations: Employers are targetting the best organised sections and ones with most militant records first - if they get away with cutting our wages so savagely, indeed at all, they will come for you next. We ask you to support our fight and if you decide to we will support you in your struggle. If it takes a national strike in the building industry to protect all of our wages and conditions and improve them where possible, which is what unions are supposed to be about, then so be it.

**500 workers attended a rank and file meeting in London in August to agree a call for action on all sites and for the union to mobilize now. Join us in this struggle!**

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