

Railtrack Fails To Break Strike.

Despite their well oiled propaganda machine, their barefaced lies and their threats, Railtrack has failed to break the resolve of striking signalling staff. Their efforts to 'talk up' the 'return to work' have failed. The strike remains remarkably solid. The government and the management have failed to turn public opinion against the staff despite the impact of the action.

Now the latest leak from Railtrack has exposed one of many 'plans' aimed at smashing the union. These include what appears to be raving Bob Horton's 'preferred option' (should they go down this road) of giving strikers notice of new terms and conditions and then sacking those who take strike action.

Such leaks are, of course, a sign of dissent in Railtrack's camp, as was also shown by the comments of one of their Scottish managers.

For weeks now the management has been talking of individual contracts. The fact that they have not implemented these is a sign of their weakness and their dithering. They may well have followed such a path if

there were serious cracks in the ranks of the strikers. However, even according to their own figures 342 RMT members were working. These numbers are inflated for their own propaganda purposes as we know by the 20% figure for the western zone which, even taking into account the problems in the Reading area, is nonsense. Even Railtrack has had to admit that there were less people at work in the last strike than previously

It is absurd that the management and the government are prepared to waste so many millions when they could have settled for a fraction of the subsequent cost.

Railtrack will not break the RMT. This is not 1984. Behind them is a weak and dithering government which is in the financial mire. So long as the signalmen and women keep their resolve and are supported by the whole labour movement, then Railtrack will be forced to negotiate seriously on the interim payment and a restructuring package which offers a better deal instead of one which worsens conditions of service.

RMT 56 Railtrack 20 - Public Say Give Them the Money.

Shock-horror. After weeks of strike action a poll reported in the Mail on Sunday showed 56% expressing support for the signal workers and only 20% supporting Railtrack. Despite the massive propaganda campaign throughout the media this has shown that a majority of people see the justice of our case. Even the Tory media have nothing but contempt for Railtrack management.

Government Pay Hypocrisy.

The hypocrisy of the government has been exposed by the announcement of a wage rise way above the inflation level, for MPs. There appears to be one law for them and one law for the rest of us in the public sector. This has fueled the anger of signalling staff. The government has shot itself in the foot once again.

SCAB MANAGER - SPECIAL OFFER.

Special offer to scabbing managers - free tickets to France - one way tickets only. Plus free Judas T-Shirt.

Loyalty That Sets Railwaymen Apart From Railtrack.

Below is a letter which was printed in the Guardian. It needs no comment.

I am 62 years of age and have been a railway worker since leaving school, loving the job and never wanting to do anything else.

Within a few short months I have been brought to hate the word Railtrack and everything about it.

My new manager suggests that I am disloyal to the new regime because I continue to think like a railwayman when I should now realise that I am an employee. The kind of loyalty he puts to the question took me to work on a 2pm shift on the day when my father had died the same morning, because they could not otherwise cover my turn of duty; the same loyalty which took me to work for a 10pm shift after my mother had died only one hour before. As a fourth generation railwayman it was the kind of service that I felt was expected of me. The kind of loyalty which has kept me at work for over 48 hours in a snow storm when relief could not get through.

Railtrack now accuse me of holding passengers, or customers, as they prefer to call them, to ransom.

For seven patient years I have trusted my employer to negotiate in good faith with my trade union for an improvement to conditions which still require me to work an average 50 hour week. I have now received a personal letter from Railtrack setting out proposals which will actually reduce my earnings with no promise of improved hours. What else can I do except support my union?

In spite of what is said by David Armstrong's letter (April 3rd), we are not encouraged to express our views freely. Indeed in the past I have been punished for speaking out in violation of Rule A.14. This rule by the way was not in the original BRB Rule Book as Mr Armstrong says but was introduced at the start of the Thatcher era of interference in public industries and has since been used to silence railway workers on many occasions.

Finally, in reply to staff being encouraged to express opinions via collective representation, I have served as a staff representative and can assure you that the Railtrack idea is for the representatives to sit down, shut up and listen and to take back management ideas to the staff for implementation without question.

Please do not print my name or reveal my identity. I have no longer any love for the job but would at least like to draw some pension after 47 years service.

Name & Address Supplied.

Strike Fund Nears £1,400 in Swindon.

With the assistance of the Trades Union Council and local trades unionists, Swindon RMT has now raised more than £1,300 towards the national strike fund. The UCW has donated £200. £100 donations have been received from Print Union GPMU, from Thamesdown Council Union UNISON, from Thames Water UNISON, British Telecom union NCU (Clerical branch), and Swindon TUC. Money is being collected in a number of workplaces, with more donations expected as union meetings start again after the holidays.