

# Speke group defend jobs

TWO MEN were doing a job at a drugs firm in Speke. One man was moved. And that left one man doing two men's work.

And that was how the management of Evans Medical wanted it to remain. They'd cut the cost by half and production was the same.

And that was how it might have stayed, but for a new committee - the Speke Trade Union Defence Committee.

After the company refused to employ another person, steward Chris Smith said he would have to contact the defence committee.

Almost immediately, two men were back at the job.

Now committees aren't usually much use in industrial disputes. But this committee isn't a bureaucratic set-up.

Its aim is - To prepare workers at factories in the Speke/Garston area to fight redundancies, closures, lay-offs, and short-time working.

To do this, says Chris Smith, they need to unify the whole estate, both in the factories and in the community.

"This committee is able to provide financial, moral, and physical support to workers at any factory in the area who want help... within two hours."

The idea for the committee came out of the action of a number of women. Women strikers from Wingrove and Rogers, in Old Swan, trooped round the Speke factories asking for financial and moral help. The response was good.

But it occurred to a number of workers at factories such as Evans Medical that it was ridiculous that there was no way of uniting Speke

factories to support the women.

Not even a line of communication open between the different shop stewards committees.

After this came the threatened closure of Bear Brand. The committee - then just a group of stewards - intervened at the very last moment.

They went over to see the women workers, encouraged them to fight, and eventually the government kept the firm open.

Of course, there are doubts and even drawbacks.

Workers at massive factories like Ford, Standard and Dunlop aren't going to go on strike every time there's trouble at a small factory on the estate.

If they did, they'd never earn any money.

This is understood by the committee. There are other forms of help available, such as financial support, extra pickets, or merely the supply of leaflets.

Just so long as workers at a factory do not feel alone.

Companies will do anything to cut the work-force as the economic crisis deepens.

Tommy Healey, committee secretary, points to the lessons they learned when Vauxhall's were put on a 3-day week... then told massive redundancies were needed before full wages were paid.

About 2,500 workers took redundancy payments and left. Then, within days, short-time working was re-introduced.

As a result the Speke committee have started a campaign to stop people who sell their jobs being employed on

the Garston/Speke Industrial Estate.

Workers at factories such as Dunlop, Evans Medical, and the MPTE Speke and Garston bus depots have supported this move.

The committee is not against people getting cash out of their employers. They are not against people giving up boring jobs.

They merely say the first option of a job should go to someone who is desperate, and who hasn't had a lump sum.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect is the attempt to link up factory and community life. Members of the Speke Community Council are invited to take part in the meetings.

At first, this met opposition. People said the committee ought to "walk before it could run". But others said that often strikes are broken because there is no support in the home, or in the community.

For instance, if bus drivers strike for a decent wage for their families, they may be met with abuse from their neighbours who can't get to the shops.

The committee is only just starting. But already it has grown roots.

Workers in Kirkby, where there is already 20% unemployment, have started their own committee.

The idea could be catching. After all, employers on industrial estates have already got wise and formed their own little groups.

Both committees would welcome shop stewards, or branch or factory delegates from the appropriate areas to their meetings.

For dates, see page 9.



Out of capitalism came forth bad teeth.

## COOKING WITH MAMA

**IMPORTANT:** Albadoro Canneloni do not ought to boil in water. They should be cooked with the right amount of sauce and a little oil. Use a good quality cheese (parmesan or cheddar) as you like it. An unadorned juicy

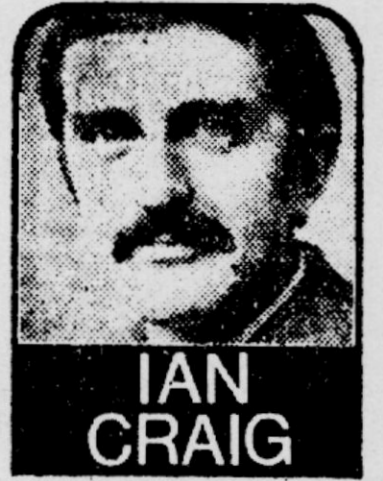
2. Besmear a baking pan, previously buttered, with a good tomato sauce and after, disperse the Canneloni, lightly distanced between them.

At last, for a safe success in cooking, spread the remnant sauce, copiously diluted with cream as far as to cover the surface of Canneloni.

3. Add balls of butter and grated cheese, cover the baking pan and put her into the oven, previously warmed at 180/200 Centigrade degrees above zero.

about an hour at the same temperature, without to uncover the baking pan and after, to help at table.

PRODUCT OF ITALY



IAN CRAIG

WHATEVER your politics, you've got to hand it to the Post and Echo's Local Government Editor, Ian Craig. That lad's keen.

Take the morning of May 1, the day of the council elections. Craig left his home well before 5 am and drove all the way to Walton.

All, it seems, for a few lines in his weekly column in the Daily Post:

There was also a lot of hard work. Liberals in Walton, for instance, claim to have distributed thousands of "good morning" leaflets at five o'clock on the morning of the election. And they won Warbreck.

Good objective reporting that. Objective and careful. Note the use of the word "claim".

Anybody would think that early morning trip was a secret. After all, Craig knew perfectly well the "claim" was accurate.

But he had a good reason for keeping quiet about it.

Shortly after 5 am Ian Craig was spotted objectively pushing those Liberal good morning leaflets through doors in the Walton area.

Of course, he was perfectly entitled to. 'Objective' journalism is a myth, anyway.

Unfortunately, Craig does not go along with that idea. He would say his campaigning for the Liberals, and the fact that he is writing a book about Liberal city councillor Trevor Jones, in no way affects his reporting.

Labour and Conservative councillors have occasionally disagreed.

Anyway, Ian Craig will not be driving to Walton, or anywhere else, for some time. His liberal interpretation of the drink and driving laws has earned him a £50 fine and a year's driving ban.

## COMMUNITY ACTION

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**The trade gap narrows—but exports fade**  
Guardian March 15, 1975.

**Trade gap wider, but City cheerful**  
Daily Post March 15, 1975.

# Your complaints will be taken down and used against you

A SENIOR police officer making an 'impartial' investigation into complaints of police brutality, blatantly aided the prosecution during the trial of the men who complained.

During the trial of Mr Chris Power, a haulage contractor, and his cousin Mr Terry Hale, the police inspector twice handed 'confidential' statements to the prosecuting counsel.

Inspector Forshaw obtained them during his inquiry into complaints that the police had badly assaulted the two accused on New Year's Day.

Both Power and Mrs Rose Hale (wife of Mr Hale), whose statements were used, say Forshaw promised nothing would be handed to the prosecution for use in court.

But during the three-and-a-half day trial in Liverpool Crown Court, the Inspector frequently whispered messages to Mr Robert Montgomery, the prosecuting counsel.

Inspector Forshaw's action was at least improper.

A member of the Deputy Chief Constable's staff later told us that if a trial is related to a complaint the investigating officer should go along merely as an observer.

But in this case the police were desperate for a Guilty verdict. So desperate that they were prepared to do a deal late in the case.

They dropped three serious charges including 'wounding with intent to avoid arrest'. And replaced them with just 'unlawful wounding'.

The reason was the bad publicity the case had attracted.

Before the trial began, the Sunday Times included the case in an article about possible malpractices and violent methods among the Liverpool police.

It suggested a private prosecution for assault would be taken against the police.

Within days, Merseyside's Chief Constable drew up a report, dismissed

the allegations, and made up his mind about the Power and Hale case.

He wrote: "In one instance a broken glass was thrust into an officer's face necessitating numerous stitches."

On one count this was completely wrong. Not once was it suggested during the trial that the glass was broken.

And whether the glass was "thrust" into a policeman's face was strongly disputed.

What chance was there of an impartial inquiry?

The case itself was unusual. Even Judge Joseph Davies said so. And this was after Power was found Guilty of unlawful wounding, and Hale of assault on the police.

### JUDGE BAFFLED

"I can't understand this case," Judge Davies said. He asked why two men of good character should suddenly get into a fight with the police.

The prosecution and the defence hardly agreed on anything, except that the action took place at Power's home in Sandforth Close, West Derby, shortly after 9 pm on New Year's Day.

The police version was: Pc Bailey paced a Vauxhall car speeding at 55 mph to Power's home. Power rushed inside and refused to take a breath test.

Bailey came back with Pc McGarvey (3879) and Pc Alan Fenner Dinning (3694) and tried to arrest Power. But Power hit Bailey in the eye, dragged him into the hall, then punched McGarvey in the face with a glass.

The defence version was utterly different.

Defence counsel blamed the violent struggle on the action of Pc Dinning who, he said, acted like "the leader of the Stormtroopers".

Dinning was, he suggested, known by other policemen to be "staff happy" (truncheon happy).

Counsel brought up the case of Keith Kirkpatrick - the son of a policeman - who Dinning had recently arrested. Dinning admitted hitting Kirkpatrick on the back of the head with his truncheon, but said this was during a violent struggle. In court, the police offered no evidence.

Power was charged on five counts. Driving while unfit through drink; refusing to give a urine sample; assault causing actual bodily harm on Bailey and Dinning; and wounding with intent to avoid arrest.

The judge threw out the first two... the supposed offences which led to Power's arrest. It was proved Bailey could not have paced the car.

Then on the third day an interesting, and all too common event occurred.

There was an adjournment. And a bargain was struck.

The prosecution dropped the two assault charges and the serious 'wounding with intent' charge. And Power pleaded Guilty to the lesser offence of 'unlawful wounding'.

He agreed reluctantly, knowing he faced a prison sentence if the verdict went against him.

He was fined only £25, with £150 compensation to McGarvey. Afterwards, Hale was found Guilty of assault and fined £50.

That was that. The prosecution got their conviction, however minor.

If they hadn't, the Chief Constable might have had to change his report.

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