management is now saying this will have to be paid for by a

a@inst the inhuman working conditions which are being forced on them. The unions having negotiated a 70 m.p.h. reduction in the time for breaks of 11 minutes a day. So the workforce

This is a true story. And its no joke.

The strike at Longbridge over the reduction of time for breaks isn't a side issue. It's part of a deadly serious struggle by workers there against the inhuman working conditions which are being forced on them. The unions having negotiated a reduction in the working week from 40 to 39 hours, management is now saying this will have to be paid for by a reduction in the time for breaks of 11 minutes a day. So the workforce

When he had previously attempted to open the factory some 500 pickets, including many recruited from local engineering plants, turned up to prevent him. Snipe had only agreed to open up with a maximum of 150 workers, which he intended to hand-pick from the original workforce of 650. After a 7 month hard fought battle, the factory was still involved in the dispute naturally. They had been the most militant and most determined in the fight against closure and so those whom Snipe least wanted to re-employ. Snipe was approached by one of the shop stewards and took this to mean that the strike committee was willing to compromise on its demands. "That was a mistake" admitted one of the strike committee "we should have waited for Snipe to approach us." But the workers had no intention of backing down when they at last seemed to be getting somewhere. The police explained their case to the handful of ex-employees who turned up to try and get their jobs back; in each case they 'saw the light' and left. Only one member of the management had gained access to the plant then and was trapped for a couple of hours until the Barton's special Tactical Aid Group managed to get him out. He complained of being kicked in the groin on entering the plant. "Don't know how that happened" one of the pickets said. "he was surrounded by a corridor of police", suggesting that perhaps one of the police was the culprit.

Continued over
The police action during the helicopter raid has demonstrated yet again that the 'Law and Order' the police claim to maintain is that which maintains the ruling class and the status quo. When one picket refused to move from in front of the gates he was arrested and charged with obstruction. If on that occasion the pickets hadn't outnumbered the police, more would have been arrested. As one campaigner put it on arrest, "No one noticed" a shop steward said, but pickets were sent to the police station when it was feared the men would be ill treated and managed to obtain his release.

In the strike committee office down the street from the factory, a shop steward said he thought Snipes' behaviour was 'understandable' but he'd been given 'bad advice from the world manager'. The workers talked with confidence then of getting their jobs back, though they didn't see this as solving their problem. Firstly they would still have to deal with an anti-union management and secondly with their union the AUEW, which is plainly and increasingly anti-working class.

Early in August, before the occupation was ended by 40 bailiffs armed with clubs etc. and backed by police, Snipe had made a pathetic offer to re-open the plant on short-time working for 3 months, on the workers paying back their redundancy money. This derisory offer was accepted by Duffy and Boyd, president and secretary of the AUEW, and put to the workers at a mass meeting on the weekend of the 31st of August. The TUC and Labour Party parade of the unemployed up and down the street was so successful that it led a man walking under the ironic slogan 'united we stood divided we fall'. Whilst most workers have their attention diverted by a support of any strike, the workers at the factory must unite across trade union boundaries and break from these moribund structures.

STOP PRESS

Although picketing of the Manchester factory has stopped, regular pickets are now being placed on the parent companies works in Doncaster. Transport workers have been respectably sent over 3000 letters to AUEW branches asking them to censure the Labour Party and the TUC for their failure to support the wildcat strike. Perhaps even more important than their backing the workers in this case is to ensure that trade unionism is not confused with the TUC, which is hopelessly out of touch with the needs of the modern working class.

The group that produces WILDCAT includes people who have been involved in political organisations such as Stop the War and 'anti-authoritarian solidarity' as well as other individuals. We decided that our political differences weren't important enough to prevent us working together. The ideas that unite us are more important. Some of our basic principles are outlined in the Objectives which are printed in every issue of Wildcat; others appear in the articles we write.

Most important of all we think that workers have to TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR OWN STRUGGLES. We know that there are many cases where workers try to do this which don't get reported. We hope that by reporting these we can make a small contribution towards breaking the feeling of isolation which discourages workers from fighting back against the attacks which are now being made on us all.

What we can do on our own is very limited. We would like to make Wildcat bigger and publish it more often. To do this we need people to write to us and tell us about struggles in their workplace or neighbourhood. We need people to help distribute Wildcat and we also need financial contributions.

We would like to hear from anyone who agrees with the ideas expressed in Wildcat and who would like to help us or join our group. If you don't agree with us we'd like to hear from you too! We'll try to answer letters, either personally, or in Wildcat. We would also like to hear from people in other areas who are interested in what we are doing.

If you would like us to mail you copies of Wildcat as they appear, please write enclosing £1 to cover postage.

Wildcat, Box 25, 164/166 Corn Exchange, Hanging Hitch, Manchester M4 3BN.

THE RIOTS

STATEמתרז_ant REVIEW FOLLOWING RIOTS

One young man from Moss Side, for allegedly throwing a petrol bomb at police as they drove vans at speed into groups of people, got six years in prison. Another, for pernicious has been the sentenced of a 16 year old Simon Ios in Nottingham for 'incitement to riot' - because he gave out leaflets supporting the rioters. Although he had no previous convictions he received a vicious 3 year sentence. This kind of repression bears striking resemblance to that handed out to 'anti-state activists' in Russia, which our rulers and their papers are so keen to condemn!

And the riots aren't over yet. In early November police cars were overturned and petrol thrown in Wembley as people expressed their feelings with action.

The one young man from Moss Side, for allegedly throwing a petrol bomb at police as they drove vans at speed into groups of people, got six years in prison. Another, for pernicious has been the sentenced of a 16 year old Simon Ios in Nottingham for 'incitement to riot' - because he gave out leaflets supporting the rioters. Although he had no previous convictions he received a vicious 3 year sentence. This kind of repression bears striking resemblance to that handed out to 'anti-state activists' in Russia, which our rulers and their papers are so keen to condemn!

And the riots aren't over yet. In early November police cars were overturned and petrol thrown in Wembley as people expressed their feelings with action.