

STRIKE NEWS

SUPPORT 21 ASIAN TEXTILE WORKERS

LIAQUAT FACES THE TRIBUNAL

Liaquat Ali appeared before the Industrial Tribunal on May 17th, 1983. His case centres around the fact he was dismissed for organising a trade union. The employers, Rawson and Bedford argue that Liaquat was not dismissed for organising a trade union, but because they needed to make redundancies.

The Tribunal is composed of a manager, a trade union representative, and a layman (ordinary person) who chairs the panel. The composition of the panel is not always favourable to workers. They do not always give an outright verdict. Their decisions are not binding or enforceable by law. The tribunal has power to recommend a course of action. In this case they can come to the following decisions:

1. Recommend Liaquat Ali's Reinstatement.
2. Agree that Liaquat Ali's dismissal was due to redundancy
3. Recommend compensation to Liaquat Ali.

So far workers have given evidence in Liaquat's defence. They have outlined the conditions, under which they work, the introduction of a new shift system which extends the working week to 72 hours. They also pointed out that discussions and attempts to organise a trade union were made before Liaquat's arrival at the firm.

AIRE VALLEY YARNS IS RUN BY PEOPLE WHO ACT LIKE RACIST THUGS

Rawson, Bedford and Thomas the owners of Aire Valley Yarns are Mrs Thatcher's ideal good businessmen. Starting in 1978 with capital of £4,500, they had a turnover of ¾ million in 1982. At a time when the textile industry is in severe recession. This impressive expansion has been achieved only by a systematic and relentless exploitation of the Asian workforce — the low wages, long hours and the unhealthy conditions, in fact, everything that led to the strike was also responsible for this rapid expansion. The attitude of the management to the workers was summed up by Liaquat Ali the shop steward — they treat us like dogs'. The management's relationship to the workforce is feudal — they run the mill by playing on the worker's insecurities at time of mass unemployment, and by granting certain 'favours' to some workers, thereby diverting the workforce. Any worker who questioned either the conditions or the wages were told that they could always leave as

there were thousands waiting to take their jobs. One of the directors, Michael Rawson, publicly parades his racism. In a recent interview in a local paper he said of the workers 'they are basically illiterate, its not the dirty fibres that effect their eyesight, but masturbating too much'. Of the Asian community in Manningham he had this to say 'they are a law unto themselves — even the police say they don't know what is happening.'

Since the strike began this 'lawlessness' amongst the Asian community has not prevented Rawson and Co. from recruiting their scabs from it. A systematic process of harassment and intimidation has been carried out against the strikers. Derek Bedford drove his Scab-wagon into one of the strikers Vilaquat Khan as he stood on the picket line. Other strikers have received "anonymous" death threats on the telephone warning them to discontinue the strike or else. The shop stewards car tyres too were anonymously slashed. Bribes have been offered to individual strikers in attempt to break the solidarity of the strikers.

Even though the case is currently before an industrial tribunal, Bedford's attitude to it is clearly indicated in a letter he sent to the workers just before the tribunal.

He states: "Whatever the results of the tribunal you will not be employed by this company.

In the same letter

"Should you decide that you would like to return to work, or need reference from the company. Your future actions, conduct and comment will determine our response to you".

SUPPORT THE STRIKERS!!!

ATTEND THE MASS RALLY!!!

On June 18, 1983 there will be a mass rally and demonstration in support of the strikers.

Assemble: 3.00pm

Coal Hill Lane, Farsley, Pudsey, W. Yorkshire

This demonstration and rally is to give community and trade union support to the strikers.

Issued by: Aire Valley Yarns Workers' Support Committee,
c/o 34 Dirkhill Street, Bradford 7.

SUPPORT THE STRIKERS SUPPORT THE STRIKERS

SUPPORT THE STRIKERS SUPPORT THE STRIKERS SUPPORT THE STRIKERS SUPPORT THE STRIKERS SUPPORT