

27 September 1983

STATEMENT FROM WORKERS AT BRITAINS TOY FACTORY

On Sunday 25 September strikers at Britains Ltd in Walthamstow, East London voted by a narrow majority to end their two month long dispute and return to work. Despite a bitter struggle, during which dozens of pickets were arrested, management have refused to concede the strikers' demand of one hour off their compulsory 50 hour working week.

The Britains workers are very bitter about their defeat. They feel they have been badly let down by their union, the TGWU, which did little more than pay some meagre strike pay - and took over a month to do that. Some of the most active strikers in the dispute have issued the following statement, heavily critical of their union representatives:

'WE THE UNDERSIGNED CONDEMN THE BRITAINS STRIKE COMMITTEE FOR REFUSING TO RECOMMEND THE CONTINUATION OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION. WE BELIEVE OUR STRIKE HAS BEEN SOLD OUT AND THAT TGWU OFFICIAL TOM KNOWLES BEARS THE CENTRAL RESPONSIBILITY'

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K BASHIR
W WILLOCK
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STOP PRESS: seven more strikers have been arrested since the dispute ended, after being attacked with iron bars by white scabs. Funds are still urgently needed to meet their fines.