

# CWU Call Off Postal Strike

Most postal workers first heard that their industrial action against Royal Mail had been called off on Thursday 5th of November on the news. While the CWU needed a mandate from its members to take industrial action no such mandate was sought when calling it off.

Following threats that the action would be escalated the 'leadership' of the CWU caved in on the eve of the third round of strikes after reaching an "'interim' peace deal".

Now there are to be two months of 'talks'. That gets Royal Mail through the Christmas period without any commitment to do anything to address the concerns of posties on walks and in depots all over the UK.

What it does do though is give the bureaucrats of the CWU a seat at the 'negotiating' table. They seem quite satisfied with that. They want Royal Mail management to 'consult' them about how it will modernise, how many more posties it will sack and how everyone (except the bosses) will have to tighten their belts in the current economic climate.

It says it all that the 'agreement' was not even agreed until more than 7 hours after the strikes were called off. As the Financial Times



Picket line at Tomb Street sorting office, Belfast, Friday 23rd October.

put it, "In the interim deal, the two sides agreed to suspend strikes and further changes to working practices until a final agreement on modernisation and job security is reached by the end of December." On "local issues" there is a promise of local negotiations to reach local agreement." This, in other words, is an agreement to seek agreement at some point in the future, with the help of an as yet unspecified "agreed independent person".

Most postal workers we spoke to have been appalled that the leadership of the CWU have

withdrawn the threat of industrial action without any consultation with posties. The lack of rank and file control of this dispute is striking. This betrayal demonstrates once again that workers must take control of their own struggles rather than rely on Trade Union bureaucrats. It is time to build real solidarity across this, and all, industries to ensure Trade Union bosses cannot impose their agenda of compromise and accommodation. This, as many workers have already learnt, will mean taking wildcat action in future as and when necessary.

# Remember, Remember 5th of November CWU Treason and Plot?

## Inside:

On the Picketline  
Pg 2

CWU Ups and Downs  
Pg 2

Derry Dockers Struggle  
Pg 2

NIC ICTU Rally for a Better  
and Fairer Northern  
Ireland  
Pg 3

Scargill Addresses Belfast  
Meeting  
Pg 4

A Year of Our Lives - a  
retrospective on the 84-85  
Miners Strike from a  
participant  
Pg 4

Education Workers News  
Pg 7

Don't Mourn - Organise!  
Chomsky in Belfast  
Pg 11

3rd Belfast Anarchist  
Bookfair - An Outsiders  
View  
Pg 12

London Anarchist Bookfair  
Pg 12

BNP on the BBC  
Pg 13

BNP and Anti-fascists on  
the streets  
Pg 13

Bangladesh - 3 dead in  
garment workers clash  
Pg 14

Free the Belgrade 6  
Pg 16

Amadeu Casellas Libertad  
Pg 16