

Why health staffs are fighting on



Photo: John Sturrock — Network

Health staffs know the justice of their case and the value of the work they do in caring for the sick.

That is why the blackmailing attempts of Social Services Secretary Norman Fowler to get us to call off our united campaign for a decent 1982 pay increase just haven't worked.

And they won't work.

Our cause has won the support of the public, the media and the entire trade union and labour movement — and Mr. Fowler knows it.

What he also knows is that the public have woken up to the desperate plight of hundreds of thousands of low paid NHS staffs.

That includes nurses, technicians, clerical, ancillary and ambulance staffs who all help to look after **you** when you are ill.

YOUR HELP IS VITAL! ➡

COHSE: Britain's Health Service Union

As good a case as the police

The Government says it can't afford to pay nurses and other health staffs more than the 7.5 and 6 per cent that's been offered.

But the police will almost certainly get another 10.3 per cent in September — on top of the 13.2 per cent they received last year.

Judges have been given 18.6 per cent, senior civil servants 14.3 per cent, firemen 10.1 per cent, water workers 9.1 per cent and miners 8.6 per cent.

Moreover, health staffs have been told that £67 million of the cost of their existing pay increase must come out of local health budgets — which means substantial cuts in vital health services in **your** area.

Are the police or the judges' increases to be funded in this way? Of course not: The Government can obviously find the money when it wants to.

On the poverty line

Compare the £63.09 a week a student nurse receives with the £107.88 a week for a new entrant into the police force. Over the last five years a policeman's pay has risen by more than double that of a staff nurse, even including the 7.5 per cent on offer.

Low pay is rife in the NHS: over 400,000 staff — including trained nurses, ancillaries and technicians — live on or below the Government's own poverty line figure of £82 per week.

A decent living wage

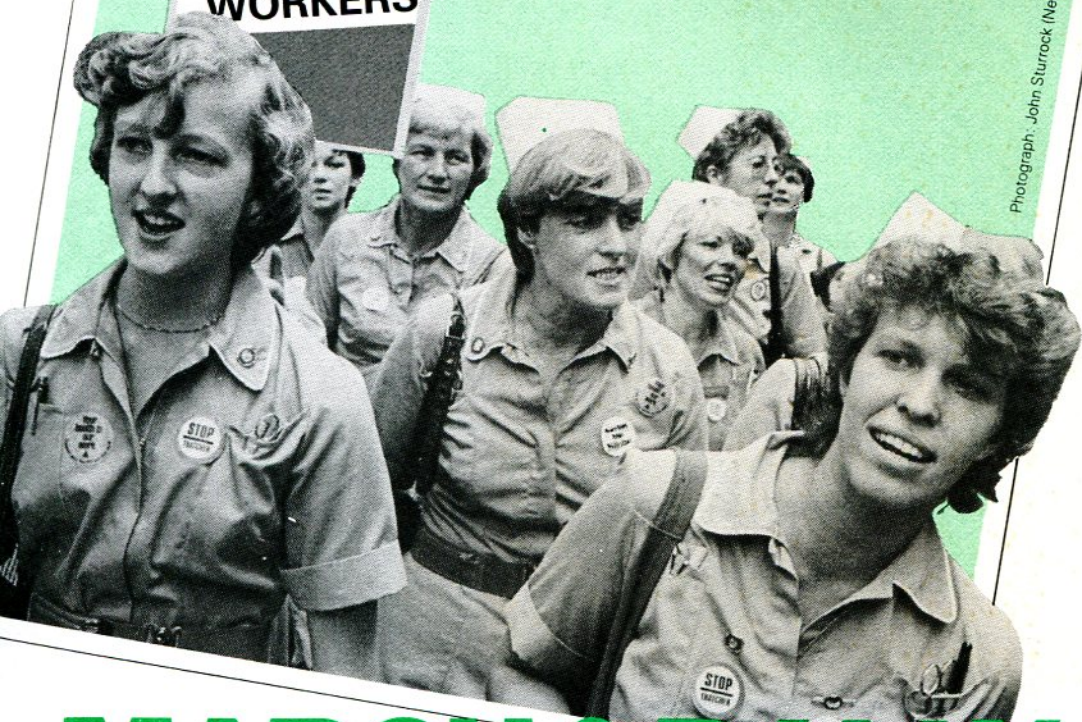
All health staff are asking the Government for is a decent living wage. Our 12 per cent claim is a standstill claim designed to protect our already low living standards.

YOU CAN HELP — by writing to your local MP or newspaper, and to the Prime Minister, supporting our case — better still, join us on the picket line or on our marches.

COHSE: Britain's Health Service Union

DEFEND THE NHS

SUPPORT
HEALTH
SERVICE
WORKERS



Photograph: John Sturrock (Network)

MARCH & RALLY

ASSEMBLE 11.30 am — JUBILEE GARDENS, LONDON SE1
RALLY AT HYDE PARK 2 pm SEPTEMBER 22nd, 1982

SUPPORT THE HEALTH SERVICE WORKERS PAY CAMPAIGN

SEPTEMBER 22, DAY OF ACTION ON NHS PAY

The health service workers campaign for a fair deal on pay has massive public support.

Despite Government propaganda, people are coming to realise the appalling truth about pay levels in the NHS, for instance:

- ★ half the nurses in the NHS earn less than £82 per week
- ★ four out of five ancillary workers earn less than £75 per week
- ★ NHS clerical assistants earn as little as £44.38 per week
- ★ skilled technicians and qualified scientists' pay starts at only £72.46 per week
- ★ ambulance staff earn, on average, a third less than other emergency service workers.

With wages this low, the increases now on offer of 7.5 per cent for most nurses and 6 per cent for other health workers are worth only coppers on take home pay.

NOW YOU CAN SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE NHS PAY CAMPAIGN

Health workers: join the 24 hour stoppage on September 22. (Services are to be maintained in line with the TUC Code of Conduct.)

All other workers: support sympathetic action being organised by your union on September 22.

Health workers and others: join the national march and rally in London (details overleaf).