

STOP READING THIS FANNISH RUBBISH FOR A BIT AND THINK....

No-one can stop you reading Ansible. And if you don't like the way Dave Langford presents the news, no power on earth can stop you putting out your own newzine. It's easy. If you don't own a typewriter, a duplicator, a stapler, you know someone who does. And you live in a society which at least pays lipservice to the idea of a free press- and you're part of a subculture (fandom) which puts the idea into practice.

Just a goddam hobby. But in Poland, the free trade union movement (Solidarity) is being stifled by lack of the hardware of communication. Which means: typewriters, duplicators, staplers. Not to mention stencils, ink, paper and staples. The Soviets see to it that you can't just go into Rymanski's and buy these dangerous things over there. Denying access to printing materials is as effective a way of shutting someone up as kicking them in the mouth.

Solidarity has appealed to its friends abroad to send printing machines and stationery. Fans, as major beneficiaries of the free press, ought to contribute. Quickly. Any minute the tanks could roll in....

So, how can you help? Send money, and donations for the Dupers for Poland auction at Yorcon. And come along to the great auction and crud reading on the Friday afternoon. Publish a fundraising fanzine. You know what to do.

Now the bad news. Unless someone offers to drive it out, there's no way we can send an actual duplicator with our name on. Time is short - and things get held up in customs (if the customs officer wants to keep his job). So we'll send money to the TUC's Solidarity Assistance Fund - which will be earmarked for printing equipment.

You may be a Tory, an anarchist or the latest recruit to the SDP. But you can't deny that the TUC are the right people for this particular job. A so-called socialist government can't risk the sheer embarrassment of holding up a gift from one trade union movement to another. And as part of a larger fund, fans' money will be put to use immediately, rather than waiting until we've raised the last fiver or found someone who knows a shipping agent....

OK? Send your money (no foreign cheques or currency please) to one of:

Abigail Frost (no money through the post, please - moving soon)

Roz Kaveney 29 Ironside House, Homerton Road, London E9

Jeff Ryman, 18a Ridgmount Gardens, London WC1.

(Cheques to an administrator - to be endorsed when the TUC's arrangement are known)

Auction donations to: Graham James, 12 Fearnville Terrace, Oakwood, Leeds 8.

DUPERS FOR POLAND!.....