

SUPPORT THE SANYO WORKERS

WORKERS at Sanyo's colour TV factory in Wodonga (Vic) are currently occupying and 'working-in' to save their jobs.

The workers have been occupying the factory canteen since last Wednesday night, after they found out Sanyo planned to sack 19 workers (17 women and 2 men).

On Friday, the 140 workers marched to the administration building and resigned en masse in an act of solidarity with the sacked workers.

They refused to accept the sackings, and burned the dismissal notices.

On Friday night, the Sanyo bosses tried to force them out. They cut off electricity to the premises, locked up the work areas, and locked the gates.

But when the gates were opened to let the bosses' cars out, the workers kept them open, and placed a car strategically so they couldn't be shut again.

Now the workers are continuing to occupy, using gas lighting, candles and gas stoves.

SANYO BOSSES LIE

Earlier this year there were retrenchments at Sanyo. The workers accepted them after the bosses promised it would not happen again.

Bob Joy, the manager, vowed that if there were to be any more retrenchments, his name would be top of the list!

Sanyo has blatantly broken their promise twice since then and retrenched workers. (Bob Joy, of course, remains).

Sanyo can't even 'cry poor' like so many bosses do when they sack workers. Everyone knows they are a rich multinational – and they have just bought out Guthries, their British partner in Australia, for \$5 million.

POLICE ACTION?

So far Sanyo has not called the cops in to throw the workers out. Probably because they want to keep their image clean and avoid trade union bans.

But police action is becoming more and more

possible all the time.

The Sanyo workers have resolved to passively, non-violently resist if police intervene – to make it clear where any violence comes from. (In addition, liquor has been banned so that no possible basis for distortions about their behaviour can exist.)

RUNNING THE STRUGGLE

An organizing committee is running the occupation, with regular general meetings (eg 3 last Friday) making all major decisions.

The occupation is being run in relays of about 50 at a time, so that workers can go home to their families. This is one reason it has been vital to keep the gates open.

The other is food. Workers have been collecting food from local bakeries and food stores.

The occupation began as a work-in. The workers resolved to work no matter how many were sacked, and occupy the canteen overnight. This action forced the company to reduce the sackings from 30 to 19.

Now the company has locked up the work areas, and it is unclear whether it will even allow the workers to work out the last week of their notice.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. If you handle Sanyo products or supplies – ring the Sanyo workers immediately and offer to place black-bans. (Call STD on 060-243635, or if that's been cut off, get the operator to put you through to Peter Batchelor at public telephone 2463 L2, which is located inside Sanyo.)
2. If you work in the electronic or TV industry – offer to take solidarity action as soon as any move is made to evict the Sanyo workers.
3. Send money and messages of support to the Sanyo Workers Distress Fund, c/- Electrical Trades Union, 185 Hoddle St, Richmond, Victoria.