

Port labour relations shake-up

Union chiefs in secret docks talks

The men who met at the Adelphi



On October 1 last year Jones (above left) and O'Leary (left) of the T&GWU met, among others, Sir Andrew James Malland-Makgill-Crichton at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool. Little information, if any, has come out of this and similar proceedings, nor have their meetings been reported to union committees.



Four-power police force for Egypt border patrol?

EGYPTIAN President Anwar El-Sadat has said he will accept 'big four' peace patrols along Egypt's border with Israel.

Sadat, whose government has just re-entered negotiations with Israel on a Middle-East settlement was speaking in a US TV interview on Thursday.

The proposal originally came from the Nixon Administration shortly after the so-called Rogers proposals were accepted by Nasser.

After initial rejection, the Kremlin later gave the US plan guarded approval.

Oil strike over

OIL TANKER drivers yesterday ended their strike which had threatened supplies to SE garages, schools, homes and airports.

But Shell-Mex and BP agreed that their drivers will not make deliveries to authorized distributors where there is a dispute.

Tanker drivers feared their work could be transferred to distributors paying less than the £28 basic rate.

ROYALIST forces shelled guerrilla positions for six hours outside Amman yesterday in the Jerash area.

such guerrilla fighters in the name of upholding the November 1967 United Nations Security Council resolution—the basis of the proposed agreement between the Zionists and the governments of Jordan and Egypt.

So, despite Sadat's almost daily warnings to Israel that his armed forces are once again prepared for war, the real political line is quite different.

Hopes

Sadat is pinning his hopes on a turn in Nixon's Middle-

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General strike call by Derry Trades Council

LONDONDERRY Trades Council is urging the N Ireland committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to make next Tuesday the start of a General Strike to force the Tories

SECRET TALKS about a major shake-up of Britain's ports have been taking place for at least four months between union chiefs, leading port employers and the Tory government.

Key figure in the well-advanced talks has been transport union secretary Jack Jones—advocate of industrial democracy and 'workers' control'.

Despite the employers' understandable desire to keep this quiet, their plans include abolition of the statutory job guarantees inherent in the 1947 dock labour scheme.

Both employers and union leaders must be well aware that any move to tamper with what National Ports Council chairman Sir Arthur Kirby described in July as the 'sheet anchor' of dockers' rights will provoke a storm of national wharf and quayside opposition.

No hint

As it is, no hint of this question appears on the agenda for the mid-January docks and waterways committee meeting and the four main results of our investigation—summarized below—suggest that similar breakdowns of 'industrial democracy' have occurred in the past.

1 ESTABLISHMENT of a new national ports planning body was under discussion between leading port employers and the Ministry of Transport by mid-July of last year, within a month of the Tory election victory.

2 BY SEPTEMBER, T&GWU leaders were meeting the employers to discuss their plans—on the understanding that nothing would be said about them until Phase Two of Lord Devlin's docks 'modernization' scheme was well established.

3 PORT EMPLOYERS came away from a Liver-

Workers Press investigation

pool dinner date with Jones and T&GWU national docks secretary Tim O'Leary at the beginning of October with the firm impression that they would be prepared to negotiate a move away from the 1947 dock labour scheme.

No report of this discussion was made to a meeting of the union's docks and waterways committee later in October.

4 SHIPPING circles were told early in November that the Ministry was sympathetic to their ideas, and that Jones was by no means hostile.

The break-up of the national dock labour scheme has long been a cherished aim of the port employers.

Giving evidence to the Devlin inquiry as far back as 1955, they proposed that 'the principle of joint control of the scheme by employers and unions should be replaced by control of an organization of representatives of the employers alone'.

A London employers' spokesman we contacted earlier this week was quick to point out that 'dockers are the only workers in the country who are completely secure in their jobs'—as the Tories have noted in their Industrial Relations Bill for what will no doubt be future action.

The spokesman was equally quick with a claim to have no knowledge of any discussions with the government about abolishing the scheme.

Yet a very obvious kite for ending the scheme was flown less than three weeks after last year's Tory election victory by Sir Arthur Kirby, chairman of the government-sponsored, but as yet toothless, NPC.

If the government is going to strengthen the NPC as they've said they would, they've got to give us some powers over labour,' he said.

On Friday, November 6, 1970, Transport Minister John Peyton is known to have discussed just such a scheme with Labour with Liverpool shipping magnate Sir John Nicholson.

Port employers later heard that Peyton expressed full sympathy with Nicholson's ideas.

For his part, Nicholson explained that Jones—despite his preference for nationalization—would be prepared to discuss substituting the NPC for the National Dock Labour Board at the appropriate time.

Nicholson made clear to Peyton that both Jones, and the port employers who had been involved in discussions with him, felt it would be

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Devey: 'An unprincipled sell-out'—Yorks CP secretary

BY CLIFF SLAUGHTER

'TO ACCEPT such an offer was an unprincipled sell-out which threatens the position of every militant shop steward in Britain.'

This was the public condemnation made on Thursday by Yorkshire Communist Party secretary Howard Hill of the £3,000 pay-off to Batchelor's conveyor Terry Devey on December 16.

Hill's correct statement presents the Communist Party's Executive this weekend with its greatest crisis since the ETU ballot-rigging scandal.

They know, as everyone else knows, that this 'unprincipled sell-out' was the direct responsibility of leading CP members and especially of George Caborn, Sheffield full-time AUEW secretary, who negotiated for the union in the dispute.

He called in the Depart-

ment of Employment and, according to them, it was the union side which suggested the cash payment as a solution.

The Yorkshire and Sheffield committees and full-time secretaries of the CP were in touch with the strike throughout.

The AUEW district committee is dominated by the Party and accepted Caborn's recommendations the night before the decision to accept the payment (December 15).

Stalinism's responsibility is inescapable. This affair marks the biggest crisis in the CP's industrial work since the infamous ETU ballot-rigging investigations, which resulted in the installation of the right-

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Hull dockers arriving for work yesterday morning. Within hours, they had stopped work until Monday in support of victimized workers at St Helens—and they will be out again on Tuesday against the Tory Industrial Relations Bill.

Hull docks stop over glass 'black'

HULL dockers yesterday struck a powerful blow against victimization by refusing to load a test-case export consignment of Pilkington glass.

The port came to a complete standstill after lunch following repeated attempts by quayside management and local union officials to change the men's minds, and the six-ton lorryload was recalled to St Helens.

A mass meeting of all 4,000 Hull dockers this morning will consider a shop stewards' recommendation to continue their 'black' on Pilkington products and extend it to other ports.

News of the Hull action was warmly welcomed in St Helens by the leaders of the Pilkington glassworkers.

CHANCES of survival of Mersey docks would become very difficult without government assistance, Mr Harold Wilson told a docks canteen news conference yesterday. Even with finance Merseyside could not survive 'in the sense which a major port would expect'.

ton glassworkers sacked by the company 23 weeks ago for striking in defence of a fellow-worker.

The Hull 'black' was imposed in support of their fight for reinstatement, and the glassworkers' Rank-and-File Committee regards yesterday's events as an important step towards a national ban on Pilkington products by the national docks shop stewards' committee—believed to be meeting next Wednesday.

A meeting of 200 dockers on Hull's Albert dock yesterday morning were urged by local Transport and General

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January 12 injunction on ACTT

A HIGH COURT decision yesterday prevents the film and TV technicians' union from canvassing support for its recent January 12 strike resolution.

British Lion Films Ltd and 12 other film and studio companies were granted an injunction against the Association of Cinematographic and Television Technicians.

Firemen march in NW

ANGRY firemen marched through three NW cities yesterday in support of their national demand for a substantial pay increase.

Some 600 men took part in the Liverpool march, presenting a 25,000-signature petition collected in three days deploring the Tory government's intervention against their claim.

In Manchester, 400 firemen—including men from surrounding areas—marched to present a resolution to the city's fire authority.

The third march took place in Bolton.

£1,250 January Fund stands at £134 5s

THIS weekend is the time to go all out for the January Appeal Fund. All our resources must be turned towards the biggest political campaign since the start of Workers Press—the Alexandra Palace Rally.

Everywhere, postmen, dockers, miners, transport workers, in growing numbers, are supporting the demand of the Workers Press to make the Tory government resign.

Help us collect the extra £1,000 this month to produce

attractive advertising displays, thousands of leaflets and tickets and a programme for the rally which will include plays, music, exhibitions and other attractions.

Make February 14 a huge success. Raise money at work, where you live—from everyone who wants to fight the Tories. Post your donations to:

Workers Press Appeal Fund, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

Who's next cry by Monday Club

Dutschke precedent heartens extreme Tories

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

RUDI DUTSCHKE learned yesterday that he had lost his fight to stay and study in Britain. He is now virtually certain to be asked to leave on grounds of 'national security' by Tory Home Secretary Reginald Maudling.

After yesterday's immigrant appeals tribunal decision, which dismissed the ex-German student leader's request to stay in Britain, a Home Office spokesman said they would be writing to Dutschke's solicitor to ask how long arrangements for him to leave the country would take.

It is clear from the tribunal's adjudication that it upheld Maudling's decision to prevent Dutschke studying in Britain mainly on the basis of the evidence heard in secret.

In their findings they say that Dutschke broke his promise to refrain from political activity whilst in this country.

The meetings Dutschke had with people involved in political activity, says the tribunal, 'far exceeded normal social activities and, whatever his intentions may have been, he did not abide by the assurances given by him and on his behalf not to engage in political activities.'

'The evidence that was given before us in camera confirms this,' the report adds, referring to the one-day secret session when the tribunal heard former Labour Home Secretary James Callaghan on matters of national security and evidence from the security services who had been observing Dutschke throughout his stay.

POLITICAL DISCUSSION

The report goes on: '... the Appellant claimed in evidence that discussion about political questions and the discussion of action in political activity did not themselves constitute political activity.'

'This is not our view; we consider that planning and organization can be as important as physical participation in demonstrations and the like.'

The tribunal does say, however, that the evidence from the security services had not persuaded them to believe that during his stay Dutschke has been an 'appreciable danger' to national security.

But it continues—and this appears to be the main stated reason for dismissing the appeal—if he were to remain for a further period as a full-time post-graduate student he would be free from any conditions during that period and

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YOUNG SOCIALISTS

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