

ULSTER FACES GENERAL STRIKE

(1) The threat of a general strike loomed large last night with the Ulster Workers' Council tossing down the industrial gauntlet on the Sunningdale issue.

Newsletter, Tuesday, May 14th



(2) An almost deserted Bridge Street in downtown Belfast in which practically all the shops are closed. Scenes like this were repeated around the province.



(4) A bread queue outside a bakery in Belfast as people stacked up for a prolonged stoppage. In other areas of the province U.W.C. Welfare Centres distributed food, coal and other essential supplies. Farmers supporting the strike brought along lorry loads of meat, eggs, vegetables and other foodstuffs to U.W.C. Headquarters but refused to accept payment for them.



NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL

Day 11 of the Stoppage

There are thousands upon thousands from all walks in N. Ireland who are unhappy about the great protest strike but who are in complete understanding of and sympathetic with, the reasons behind it. This is something that few British politicians could be expected to appreciate.

It poses the question that so many people were asking for so long: Is there nothing we can do to make the Government realise that we cannot and will not be forced on to a road that is not of our choosing. The Ulster Workers' Council provided the answer to that question and who is to say that there is any better? What were they to do, what were we able to do when deaf



ears at Westminster were being turned consistently on democratic cries from the country.?

The Secretary of State and some of his colleagues claim to be baffled by the term "Loyalism." If there is no one left at Stormont Castle to do so we can explain it to them

It means being British and not wanting to be Irish- ever. It means, as it has meant during the past five years, refusal to be bombed into oblivion, or Eire, to satisfy the lust of Republican domination.

Ulster's tolerance, restraint and fortitude have been tested to breaking point.



(6) A Police/Army guard escorts Mr. A. Barr, the Shipbuilding Union Official and Mr. Len Murray, General Secretary of the T.U.C. as they lead less than 100 people into the Belfast Harbour Estate. Said the London Daily Telegraph: "A ludicrous and ham-handed attempt to meet the crisis by organizing demonstrations of workers willing to defy the strike, ended in a farce and discomfort for Len Murray." This was an obvious exercise by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to align the British Unions with the anti-Loyalist forces in Ulster. It failed.

