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UNITED UNIONIST ACTION COUNCIL

NEWS BULLETIN

Day One.

Issue No. 1.
3rd May 1977.

The object of the constitutional stoppage is to persuade the Government to end IRA terror and to undertake to restore the Ulster Parliament preferably by implementing the constitutional settlement approved by the recent N. I. Constitutional Convention.

ADVICE CENTRES

Approximately one hundred and fifty advice centres began to operate this morning throughout Ulster and additional ones will be opened to-morrow. They will deal with local welfare, petrol and similar matters.

REGULATIONS FOR TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY, 4th May and subsequent days of the stoppage:-

SCHOOLS. The UUAC requested schools to close today because of the fears for the safety of children arising from Mr. Mason's threats of violent confrontation by the army. Now that the stoppage is under way and Mr. Mason has heeded the warning of the Action Council, it advises parents to weigh up the situation for themselves in each area before sending children to school.

GPO. Post Office sorting and distributing depots are permitted to have skeleton staffs to ensure the delivery of social security payments. Post offices are asked to co-operate by opening from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

MILK. Milk roundsmen are requested to join in the stoppage and to co-operate with the UUAC in developing alternative forms of distribution.

BAKERIES. Bakery workers are advised to maintain a minimum staff for the production of plain bread only. Bread roundsmen are requested to co-operate by withdrawing labour.

NEWSPAPERS. Deliveries as normal by newspaper publishers. Newsagent shops are to remain closed, but copies may be sold outside on the pavement

FOOD WHOLESALERS. Food wholesalers are asked to co-operate by complying with the 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. opening hours of shops selling food.

MEAT PLANTS. Meat may be killed for home consumption only. Killing for export is disallowed.

HOSPITAL SERVICES. Normal services permitted for the present.

PASSES. The passes issued yesterday have been discontinued because of large scale forging.

DO YOU KNOW? The decision to give the Shell Company ship order to Harland and Wolff was made early in the New Year, but the announcement was held back, presumably to enable Mr. Roy Mason to use it at the most effective moment. The Japanese Government lodged a strong protest with the British Government in February about it because a lower tender by Japanese shipbuilders had been passed over.

ON THE POLITICAL FRONT. The Official Unionist Association in Dromore has pledged its support for the constitutional stoppage. Its members had a collection at the meeting for the stoppage fighting fund. It amounted to £100.

Official Unionists in Banbridge have pledged their support for the stoppage and have instructed that the photograph of Mr. Harry West be removed from the wall.

Continued

The members of Iveagh Official Unionist Association have identified themselves with the stoppage.

Mrs. Sheila Conn and Mr. Herbert Heslin, Official Unionist representatives in the N.I. Convention, have each issued statements of support for the stoppage. To date both statements have been ignored by the media.

Lieut.-Colonel E.H. Brush, CB, DSO, OBE, Deputy-Lieutenant for Co. Down and Official Unionist representative in the N.I. Convention has written a superb letter to The Daily Telegraph associating himself with the stoppage.

ARMY STRENGTH. UUAC observers at ports and airports estimate that 9,000 additional troops and their equipment have been brought into Ulster. Some of the lorries are direct from the factory with the fibre-glass sections of the body still unpainted. If the Government had shown a similar desperate urgency in dealing with the IRA, the present situation would never have arisen.

TODAY' JOKE. Last night Mr. Roy Mason explained that the mass movement of troops into Ulster was not an attempt to pressurise loyalists, but purely in case the IRA should learn about the stoppage and begin a terrorist campaign.

ON THE OTHER HAND Roy Mason has announced that he considers the bomb hoax call when he was flying to Northolt to be "intimidation". By calling it "intimidation" he has qualified himself for social security benefit for the remainder of the stoppage. Perhaps Roy is not the mug that Mr. James Callaghan thought he was when he asked him to take on the Ulster job!