

SCENE AROUND SIX

13 MAY 1974

We turn now to the Ulster Workers Council threat to call a general strike later this week. The movement of Loyalist workers say they will take the action if Mr Faulkner and his supporters, vote in favour of Sunningdale in the Assembly tomorrow, today the workers have been meeting Loyalist politicians in Larne and the politicians have given their backing. In a moment we will be talking to one of Mr Faulkner's supporters to see how the threat is affecting his attitude.

Mr Harry Murray works for the Belfast Shipyard and Billy Kelly is a power station worker. They are talking to Eric Waugh.

INTERVIEWER

First of all Mr Murray, what is the position going to be on this stoppage if it occurs, is it a long one or is to last one day, or how long.

MR MURRAY

Well if the Faulknerites and Republicans vote accordingly to ratify Sunningdale tomorrow, it will be indefinite.

INTERVIEWER

Mr Kelly what is the situation on power supplies, there has been some conflicting views expressed on this, some people say essential authorities will be alright, others say no.

MR KELLY

Can I say this first of all Mr West that some people want to get the name right of the organisation, we don't call ourselves the Loyalist Ulster Workers Council, it is called the Ulster Workers Council, not affiliated to any politically party nor do we want to be, nor do we want to be associated with any organisation, only as an organisation for the working-class people.

INTERVIEWER

Could you answer the question first, I think a lot of people would like to know the answer, will power supplies be affected if this strike occurs or not.

MR KELLY

Our supplies will be drastically cut.

INTERVIEWER

There was a statement issued this afternoon saying the opposite.

MR KELLY

Well, the statement issued this afternoon was that the essential services should be maintained. It is up to the Faulknerites and the SDLP and how they vote tomorrow at 6 o'clock. If they say that Sunningdale is out, that is fair enough, then we will go back to work. But if they vote against, our own politicians ~~xxx~~ all the people, then they will start running down at ten past six.

They are fed up to the teeth, they are fed up they can't get to their work or get home from work. Now the people who are being hit is the working class people and it is the working-class people now who have to decide where they stand, it is up to them. All we want is a return to normality. We want to be able to go out without fear. All we want is the will of the people to decide.

INTERVIEWER

Mr Murray, can I ask you at this stage whom you do feel you represent.

MR KELLY

We are vastly represented by the full 6 counties of this Province who want action on what is said. It is a working class organisation. We have stood 5 years of this violence, we are now not represented as the majority in this country in a so-called elected assembly.

INTERVIEWER

Well is this sort of action that you contemplate going to contribute do you feel to the ending of violence, is there not a risk that perhaps it might even increase it, do the opposite.

MR KELLY

Well no I don't agree with that at all, it simply is this, we can't have any more violence at the moment, but I might say there will be enough power for essential services. Householders, farming community, the hospitals etc. will not be without power unless Mr Hume decides to use it for industry. If he does so, then it is on his head.

INTERVIEWER

As a power station worker, can you back up what Mr Murray has said, will there be enough for hospitals etc.

MR KELLY

There will be enough power to supply to the emergency essentials. If Mr Hume gives a guarantee that he will shut down industry, then we will supply ~~the~~ enough for the system

UTV REPORTS - 13 MAY 1974

Loyalist Ulster Workers Council has given notice that they will bring the industrial life of the Province to a standstill if there is a vote in favour of the Sunningdale Agreement in the Assembly tomorrow. The result of voting on the Sunningdale debate is expected around tea-time, and if the workers go ahead with their threat, the electricity supplies are likely to be hit first. This afternoon I talked to Harry Murray, a spokesman for the Ulster Workers Council.

INTERVIEWER

Mr Murray the latest heard is this from you because they don't know how many people know of the extent of the Ulster Workers Council and what it's about, so I would like to establish your credentials and that of your organisation. For instance, how many paid ~~UP~~ members, how many card carrying members are there in this Ulster Workers Council, how big an organisation is it.

MR MURRAY

It is a definitely a large organisation with a six-county Council, covering the six counties of this Province, ~~the~~ Belfast makes up the seventh.

INTERVIEWER

How many members have you?

MR MURRAY

At the moment I would say round about 50,000 to 80,000.

INTERVIEWER

Fifty to eighty thousand members.

MR MURRAY

Yes.

INTERVIEWER

This business tomorrow. You <sup>INTEND</sup> ~~intend~~ as I understand it to call a general strike if there is a vote in favour of the Sunningdale Agreement.

MR MURRAY

That is correct.

INTERVIEWER

Why?

MR MURRAY

Because for the past 5 years we have had a Government destroyed, we have had the whole structure of law and order broken down. We have come along the road and we have given, given, given, we find now that there is people who are prepared to ratify Sunningdale and the whole set up of the Council of Ireland, with people who are seeking a United Ireland.

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Now we believe that we have taken enough and we say now to those people stop at the brink, because we are at the brink, enough is enough. We are at the end of the road where we have come now, we can give no more, so therefore we are saying to those Faulknerite Republicans, enough, think before you act tomorrow with Sunningdale.

INTERVIEWER So you would seek to force them to change their minds because of this situation. That is democracy in your interpretation that you would force a man to change his, how he would vote.

MR MURRAY I disagree with the <sup>SETUP</sup> because simply is this. For five years we have democratically tried every way known with democracy. We have had 4 elections, we have stated clearly that we wish to remain British subjects. Four hundred thousand people now are now being represented at the moment. The people that voted at the last election, the 11 MPs which are joined to Westminster.

INTERVIEWER You are not claiming to speak for them are you, the 400,000 people, you can only speak on behalf of the people of **YOUR** own organisation.

MR MURRAY No we are speaking for a lot of people in this Province.

INTERVIEWER I can't understand how you can speak for people who are not members of your organisation.

MR MURRAY Correct, it is a good question you are asking. Simply is this, those people I am speaking about now, the 400,000 people who voted in the last election, are in the same frame, they might not be in this organisation but their aims are the same, to restore this country to normality.

INTERVIEWER Normality as far as you are concerned Mr Murray tomorrow, can I just establish again what is going to happen, what will we see happening.

MR MURRAY Well, tomorrow at 6 o'clock if this vote is taken to ratify Sunningdale, from 6 o'clock on, the power will come off. There will only be enough power for the essential services and this matter, after this tomorrow at 6 o'clock, Mr Hume, the Minister of Commerce will be in charge, and we say to him there will be enough power for essential services, the farming community and all the householders in this Province.

INTERVIEWER:

But otherwise there will be a complete cut off.

MR MURRAY

If he misuses it, then it's on his head that if the householders, the farming community and the essential services fall down, it is Mr Hume's fault, if he misuses it for industry.

INTERVIEWER

Just to justify the point to you Mr Murray, I am sure some people are thinking they should be talking here about pressurising the British Government into accepting some of your demands, to do that that you want to force the hand of people who are living and working in London and they will say you are going to disrupt people here, disrupt the business life, the lives of the ordinary folk in Northern Ireland, I will ask you a very simple question, who is going to suffer.

MR MURRAY

We have suffered 5 years. Millions of pounds, over a thousand dead, the fire bombs is still going on, assassination is still going on, people are getting murdered day and daily, the industry is coming to a halt anyhow, so therefore we are bringing this to a halt.