

Government cash helps bakery break strike

SAYERS, the Liverpool bakery firm, have used Government money to break a strike.

The directors sacked sixteen of their drivers who were on strike and picketing the factory.

They paid a number of these drivers redundancy payments. Those who did not qualify for redundancy money were given a lump sum.

The Government pays 50% of the redundancy terms, and it does this only on the understanding that the jobs no longer exist.

Yet there was work for at least some of the drivers. Christmas is naturally a busy period for the bakery firm. So busy Sayers immediately began interviewing applicants for the drivers' jobs.

And they then employed about seven drivers on a day-to-day basis.

The company even publicly admitted they had deliberately made the strikers redundant. They told the other workers they had to get rid of some of their drivers. And they said they made the strikers redundant rather than the "short service men, many of whom were against industrial action."

This attempt to buy off the strikers was meekly accepted by officials from the Transport and General Workers' Union.

They actually negotiated the redundancies.

Mr Dick Palmer, divisional organiser, told the Free Press he went to try and have the men reinstated. But he said he found nine of the drivers wanted to be made redundant.

The role of the T & G in the dispute at Sayers has been remarkable.

Twenty workers are on strike - ten engineers, seven electricians and three sheet metal workers.

Their strike has been made official by both the AUEW and the EEP TU. This isn't surprising as they were sacked for striking in support of a lorry driver steward (who had been sacked) and for not doing overtime.

But the T&G aren't keen to help the twenty men dismissed for supporting a T&G member.

The head office of the T&G has issued a directive to Sayers driver to go through the official pickets and to carry on with their jobs.

Worse, they warned a steward at Union Cold Storage (where Sayers food is stored for several days) not to help the sacked men. The steward had wanted to black Sayers products.



Sayers pickets talk to a driver entering the factory.

Without a doubt united action by the T&G drivers could have forced Sayers to reinstate the men. The bakery could not have afforded to lose the pre-Christmas trade.

And while the drivers drive through the picket lines the strangest sort of people are doing the work of the electricians and the engineers.

The directors, Fred, John and Tom Sayer are all ready to try their hand at the skilled work.

But more seriously for the strikers, the directors are using a highly-paid scab fitter. A caravan has been moved into the factory yard and he's actually living there 24 hours a day.

The management say he's there for safety reasons. But his real job is to ensure none of the machinery breaks down and to make sure no production is lost.

Of course the police have been watching the pickets constantly to see that Sayers' food reaches the shops. They have tried to ensure that only four pickets stand outside the gates. And they have threatened to arrest other pickets for obstruction.

But gradually the twenty sacked men are receiving support from other

workers. They have received £500 in donations so far (including £50 from Dunlop workers) and have been promised £100 by the dock shop stewards.

Certainly they need more help, and they have called for a complete boycott of all Sayers products.

The dispute looks like being a long struggle. The sacked men face a reactionary management.

In December the Free Press revealed that five shop stewards had been sacked by Sayers in 1975 even before this dispute arose.

And we detailed how the directors drew up a secret plan to get rid of Harry Rimmer, the electricians' steward, while he was negotiating a pay claim.

Ironically, the founder of the firm, the late Fred Sayer was a keen supporter of the Labour Party, giving financial and physical help at election time.

At one time his workers even bailed him out when he was facing bankruptcy, by dipping into their own savings.

Support to: Sayers Engineers Strike Committee, H. Rimmer (EEP TU), 118 Allerford Road, Liverpool 12.

TOAD OF TOWN HALL...



Liberal leader Bill Smyth is looking for a safer seat. Anyone fancy telling him where to go?

Just the place for your dear old mum

LIVERPOOL'S elderly rich will soon have the chance to spend their final years in £100-a-week comfort.

Mr R.J. Swards has decided to start an elderly persons' home at a detached house at 26 Queens Drive, Allerton. The home will cater for ten old people.

And the cost will be a staggering 98 guineas a week for a single room or about £60 for those willing to share a bedroom with up to three others.

If the customers are prepared to pay these prices the lucky Mr Swards could collect £30,000 a year.

But Mr Swards' money-making plans have met a few obstacles.

Firstly, planning permission for the rest home has been turned down by the planning committee.

And secondly the home hasn't been registered yet or approved (as it should be) by the Social Services Committee.

Still, these minor points aren't going to stop Mr Swards. With open bravado he told the Free Press "I'm open for business. I will take any-

one who comes along."

And he has already sent out brochures to doctors, advertising the rest home.

The four-bedroomed house has, says the brochure, "all the qualities as a luxurious hotel on a small scale."

Mr D. Cheetham, the assistant director of the Social Services Department, has warned Mr Swards about going ahead with his plan. In the letter he wrote: "There is, however, the matter of the means of escape which is being dealt with by the City Building Surveyor still outstanding."

Mr Swards should know the regulations. He already has one old people's home in the former Abberley Court Hotel in Ullet Road. He charges about £40 a week there.

Still, Mr Swards is a very determined man. Very determined. He's certain he'll get his planning permission. And he said he felt like "belting Evans [the chief planning officer] right between the eyes."

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Minutes kept-hours wasted

LIVERPOOL Liberals - who've maintained a shaky grip on the city through two elections - have finally lost control... of their own secretary.

The minutes of the Liberal Party Executive meeting of October 13 have just come into our hands (a little later than usual, but then they're more interesting than usual). Here are some extracts:

"Well known orators rose and held forth, at some length about burning ambitions to be campaign co-ordinators etc. At that point I started transcendental meditation, it appearing to be the most worthwhile occupation with which to indulge for the time being. If they reached agreement about anything, an outsider might be excused for failing to notice.

"Another of these frightful meetings drew to a close, circa 11.55 (so much for guillotines and early nights).

"I wish my successor a jolly year ahead. What about a male Hon. Sec. next time around? With absolutely no regrets that this is my last Liverpool Liberal Party meeting. - PENNY CROCKETT."

Kil-oy no here

LIKE A LOT of MPs, Robert Kilroy-Silk lives as far away as possible from his Ormskirk constituency.

Unfortunately, one or two people have discovered the ex-directory phone number of his home in Maidenhead, Berkshire.

And, recently, troublesome callers have been astounded by greetings like: "Hello, this is Chinese laundry... Solly, English no velly good."

They could only imagine it was Mrs Kilroy-Silk saving her husband's face, although he remained inscrutable when asked about it.

Perhaps other people will be able to get more sense out of the MP (Member for Peking?) by ringing 0628 21401.

SAFETY MAN

(Continued from page one)

the corporation purchase of Baldwin's houses is the various valuations placed on them: Baldwin asked for a total of £25,000 plus surveyors' fees and £1,000 disturbance payment.

The District Valuer has put a price of £6,000 on each of them. And yet Baldwin's own housing department has stated that the houses can only be renovated at great expense, and should be demolished.

£6,000 a time to demolish a house seems a trifle expensive. Especially as Baldwin - who admits he paid less than £1,000 for number 10 - claims he spent £4,000 putting number 10 in good order.