

THE MERSEYSIDE dockers' fight against the Industrial Relations Courts ruling and the national fight against the threatened countrywide redundancies are both struggles against the employers' god - containerisation.

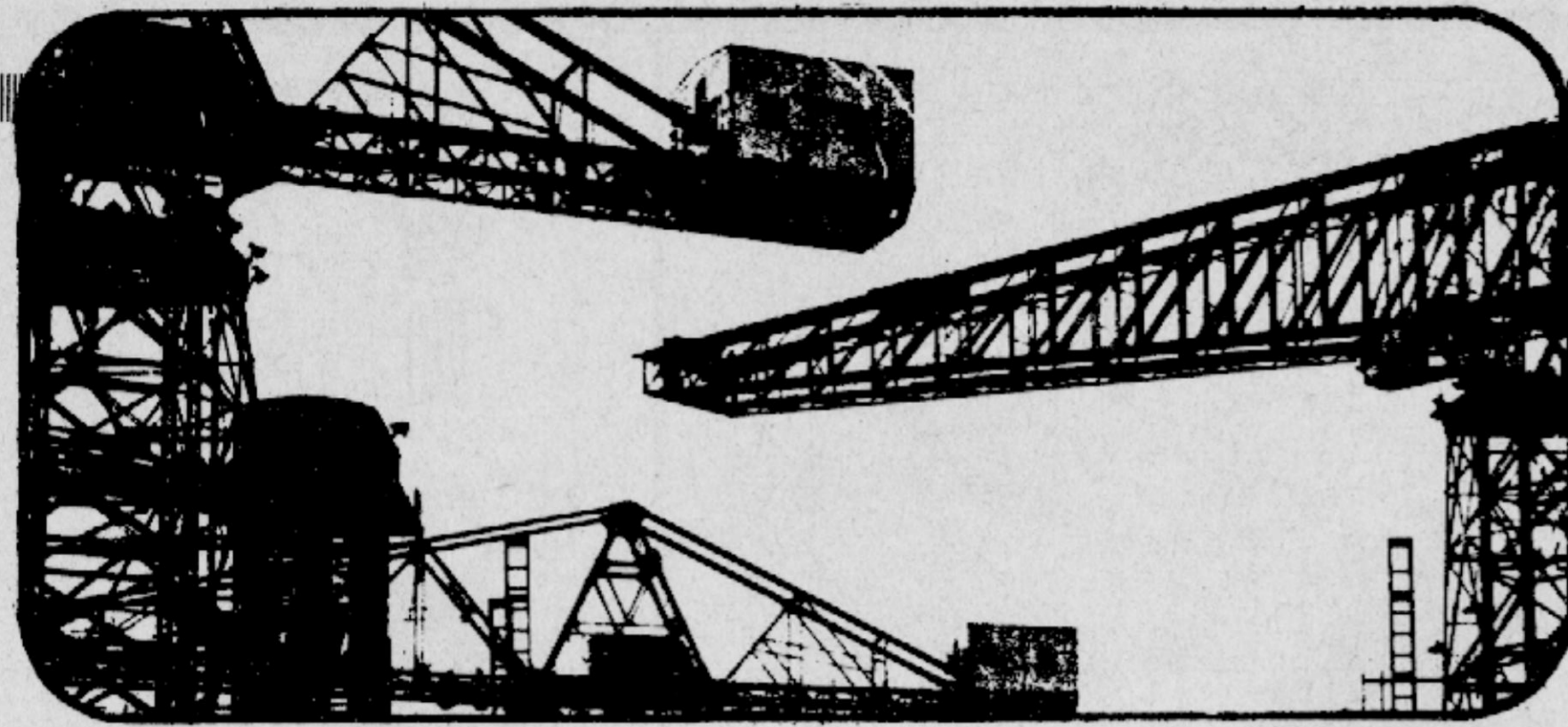
Containers - and other methods of rapid cargo handling - have equipped the port employers with a double-edged weapon: they do away with men's jobs and they allow cargoes to be taken out of the reach of the well-organised dock workers and put into the hands of unorganised labour.

Only in Liverpool have dockers forced the Containerbase employer to concede that stuffing and stripping (loading and unloading) containers is dock work.

The Liverpool dockers won their way with direct industrial action. Elsewhere container depots have taken dockers to Industrial Tribunals where they have been deprived of their right to container work. In Preston there are more non-dock workers than there are dock workers, and there the container base is on the docks!

Now Liverpool dockers are embarking on Phase Two of their campaign to stop the cowboys and back-alley merchants - who serve the big shippers with their small warehouses - employing non-union labour in many cases and operating with a couple of run-down coal lorries to take the containers.

Heaton's of St Helens - whose director Robert Heaton is a former chairman of the North-West Road Haulage Association - and Bishops Wharf - part of the giant Transport Developments Group (1971 turnover



## Why the dockers are fighting...

£32 million, profits £3,983,000) are being blacked, because they refuse to agree to registered dock workers stuffing and stripping their containers.

The demarcation dispute which has been a big wrangle at other ports has been settled between the dockers and transport men and they fight the employers together.

The Liverpool dockers' target is based on £60 for a 20-hour week, which is based on the vast increase of productivity.

Besides working towards that figure and making sure they have secured the 200 jobs going at the Aintree containerbase, the dockers since 1967 have provided active support for nearly every major industrial dispute - BRS, Pilkingtons, Fisher Bendix, Fine Tubes, and the miners, to name a few.

And redundancies have been

successfully fought. Ireman Stevedoring Company planned 100 redundancies last October. The dockers said No, and quite mysteriously, work was found for the men.

Earlier this year the Port Employers informed the National Dock Labour Board that 560 dockers would have to go into the unattached pool - the dockers' dole - by May, because they were surplus to requirements.

The docker prepared for action, warned that they would strike if one man found his way onto the unattached register, and now the employers are confident that work will be found for all men.

A perfect way of undermining the dockers' and throwing a good many of them out of the industry would be to scrap the national dock labour scheme, which gives the dockers 50% say in the industry.

Scrapping the scheme is a long-cherished aim of the employers.

The Port Employers - most of them owned jointly by the major shipping companies such as Ocean Steamship, Furness Withy, Cunard etc - are working towards a situation where the number of dockers pushed into the unattached pool will make the entire scheme appear unworkable and persuade Carr, and Peyton, the Transport Minister to dismantle it.

Once that is done the floodgates will be open for scab labour and the back-alley container carriers to wreak havoc with the dockers' achievements.

The national fight comes to a head on April 7 when the 50 London dockers are due to be made redundant and return to the unattached register.

Locally the fear is that the 50 men who were put in the pool by a unanimous dock labour board decision, including T & G representatives, will take voluntary severance pay or be found jobs, conceding another round to the employers.

The position of the Liverpool Port Shop Stewards is clear. Jimmy Symes, chairman said: "If there is a call for national action we will support it. Our own position is completely in line with the nine point charter proposed at national level by the Port Shop Stewards Committee.

"We intend to make sure it is effective locally and we are prepared to fight."

The dockers' national demands are for the inclusion of all ports in the dock labour scheme, recognition of a docker's right to stuff and strip containers, no compulsory redundancy, and the retention of the Dock Labour Scheme.



In Mexico's prisons wives are allowed to visit their husbands, but husbands are not allowed to visit their wives.

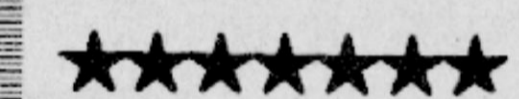
The governor of the women's prison there had some difficulty recently explaining why 250 of the 800 inmates were pregnant. Apart from one carpenter, he is the only male allowed inside.



At America's Disneyland imitation snow on the "Matterhorn Bobsled Ride" caught fire and dropped molten glass fibre on three riders, causing severe burns.



A Mr George Kirkby has been fined £5 for making obscene remarks to a lamp-post.

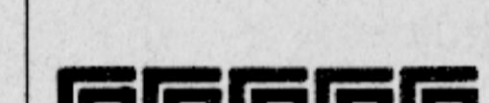


**ESSOLDO: "I am a Nymphomaniac".** Carole, a young virgin, bored with her humdrum life yet repulsed by the randy Eric, has a complete character change after falling down a lift shaft.

Birkenhead News



In Chester-le-Street a thief stole a whisky bottle and its contents from a woman's shopping bag. The woman was on her way to the doctor's and the bottle contained her specimen.



Mr Harold Bate, of Blackawton, Devon, claims to have invented a self-propelled bicycle. It will work on a rising and falling saddle with two fly-wheels and chains between the wheel and saddle. It will use bumps in the road to pick up speed. The problem, he says, will be to stop the bike, not to make it go. During the war Mr Bate converted his car to run on chicken manure instead of petrol.



A rocket nicknamed The Pot Shot has blasted off from Cape Kennedy carrying a spy satellite on a very unusual trip. Its mission is to detect fields where cannabis is being grown.



Allan Smith, a road manager with a record company was just checking the £2,000-worth of amplifying equipment in his van before leaving it parked off Piccadilly, London. The police arrived, and suspecting he had stolen the van, 'invited' Mr Smith to help with their enquiries at the station. Two hours later he was released - only to find the van had been stolen in the meantime.

## Row over social work

SOCIAL WORKERS in Liverpool have successfully resisted an attempt by the city's Department of Social Services to silence them.

Nearly 100 social workers signed a petition to Dr J Meredith Davies, Director of Social Services, complaining about the low standards and inadequate service provided by the department.

In an unprecedented move, for Liverpool, the field workers pointed out that they have no time for intensive or preventive casework.

Dr Davies replied with a few soothing words and a promise to hold regular meetings with social workers.

But he also reacted by trying to tighten discipline. He decided to shuffle around the officers in charge of districts.

Three district officers in charge of militant districts were to be moved to areas where social workers were more passive. The vocal areas were Netherley, Toxteth and Norris Green.

The officers there were to be replaced by three who had dampened down the revolt in their own areas.

Above all, this was an attempt to crush the social workers who had the courage to reveal the inadequacies of the social services in Liverpool.

The move was only defeated when some districts involved sent off another memorandum to Dr Davies.

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# Abortion clinic sold

MERSEYSIDE'S ONLY private abortion clinic, the Lynwood Nursing Home, has been bought by a charitable trust for £100,000.

The British Pregnancy Advisory Service (formerly Birmingham Pregnancy Advisory Service), which has bought the Parkfield Road clinic, is the largest non-profit making organisations arranging lawful abortions outside the National Health Service.

This move means that the danger of pregnant women and girls from the North-West being financially exploited has been greatly reduced.

The Lynwood Nursing Home - owned by Lymebrook Ltd, a company set up to speculate in property - used to charge £150 in cash to women needing abortions.

The BPAS will immediately cut the fee to £60 - £50 for the operation and £10 referral fee. This will be lowered even further when a loan has been paid off.

The trust also gives financial help to "genuinely impoverished" women who cannot afford the BPAS charge.

Since setting up in 1968, the trust has given grants and financial help totalling £44,400. One in three women using the BPAS services applies for an interest free loan. And this is granted to one woman in seven.

The sale of Lynwood reveals just how much the private abortion clinics have been hit by the government's decision to stop them advertising abroad. Their money-spinning days are over.

The money for Lynwood was originally put up by Parvis Holdings which gave Lymebrook Ltd a £100,000 mortgage on April 16, 1971. Parvis Holdings is owned by



**DR PARVIZ FARIDIAN, who financed Lynwood: "My charity is taking girls to nightclubs."**

Dr Parviz Faridian, who also owns Britain's biggest private abortion clinic - the Langham Street Clinic. This was also recently put up for sale for £1 million, but has now been refused a new licence by the

Department of Health.

The BPAS reveal in their report to the Lane Committee on the working of the Abortion Act, that Liverpool is one of the hardest places in the country for pregnant women to obtain legal abortions.

Figures for 1970 show that Liverpool has an exceptionally low abortion rate (about 4.5 per 1,000 resident women aged 15 to 49, compared with 6.5 in Newcastle). And that 769 women were forced to go outside the Liverpool area to have an abortion, whereas the report says the number should be less than 400.

BPAS also point out the failure of the National Health Service to meet the demand for abortions, particularly in Liverpool. This failure has opened the door to opportunities for quick money making on the part of nursing home proprietors.

## Why tile profits dropped

**CONFIDENTIAL FILES from the St Helens Plastics factory, which has been occupied by workers, reveal one of the main reasons for the firm clocking up huge losses.**

The giant Reed International company sold the factory to Linpac, a private company, after making losses of £139,849 in 1970 and £261,018 in 1971.

Naturally, an attempt has been made to blame the workers

But files at the factory, where ceiling tiles were made, show a very different story.

The tiles which were made looked right and were the proper size and

thickness. But complaints about the poor adhesive quality of the tiles came rolling in.

The company had the tiles tested. The report said: "The ceiling was well prepared, the tiles were easily and readily fixed, but in one and a half hours parted company with the ceiling."

The occupation began at St Helens Plastics on March 3. The men arrived for work as normal, but instead of being let in they were given their cards,

Offers of support, etc to: Bro E Johnson, Official Treasurer, Transport House, 35/37 Islington, Liverpool 3.