

Copy to
A. Dennis

CF

MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE



Civil Service
Pm's
with map.

CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Telephone 01 273 5400

12/13/81

Sir Ian Bancroft G.C.B.
Head of the Home Civil Service

M Pattison Esq
Private Secretary
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

13 March 1981

Dear Mike,

INDUSTRIAL ACTION

You may care to have this summary of the industrial action in the Civil Service this week.

As I have let you know, the one-day strike on 9 March was not as well supported as the unions have made out. Nevertheless, the total (an estimated 275,000) is not insignificant. Selective and disruptive action began on 10 March in a few Departments, the main targets being in C&E and MOD. On average, some 1,300 civil servants have been on strike each day. In addition, there has been a general withdrawal of good-will, allied to working to rule in some Departments (for example of Customs and Immigration staff which will affect Heathrow this weekend).

The industrial action in C&E led to a proposal to place four Clerical Assistants at Liverpool on Temporary Relief from Duty (TRD). This led to protests yesterday in Departments generally in the Liverpool area, and to sympathetic action in various parts of the country today. The Council of Civil Service Unions called on civil servants to walk out this afternoon; this received some support (but we do not yet know how much) in the North of England and Scotland.

The selective industrial action is likely to become more serious next week if, as expected, the Inland Revenue accounts offices at Cumbernauld and Shipley are shut down by the unions for an indefinite period. Inland Revenue have contingency plans to help in countering this, but temporary loss of revenue will be inevitable.

M Pattison Esq

13 March 1981

... I attach a copy of a more detailed note.
I will report developments next week.

Yours ever,

Jeremy

J G COLMAN
Private Secretary

MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE

PS/LORD PRESIDENT

cc PS/Minister of State
PS/Permanent Secretary
PS/2nd Permanent Secretary
F G Burrett
Mr Fraser
Mrs Sloman
Mr Hodge
Mr Jarmany

SELECTIVE INDUSTRIAL ACTION

13 MARCH (16.00)

HALF-DAY STRIKE

CCSU called on all civil servants to strike this afternoon in support of the 4 CAs at Liverpool. At some locations a leaflet was handed to staff returning from lunch. The text (the information in which is quite wrong) is at Annex A.

2. Meetings have been held at various places including Cardiff (300-400 present), Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle and Edinburgh. It is not yet clear how many staff have joined this strike call, which was called at short notice, albeit, probably as part of the overall strategy of lightning strikes.

3. At one location (National Libraries of Scotland) local union officials refused to support the strike call which they considered too rapid and too confused. A list of places where some staff are known to have walked out is at Annex B. At present, the strike appears to be mainly confined to the North of England, Scotland and Wales.

SELECTIVE ACTION

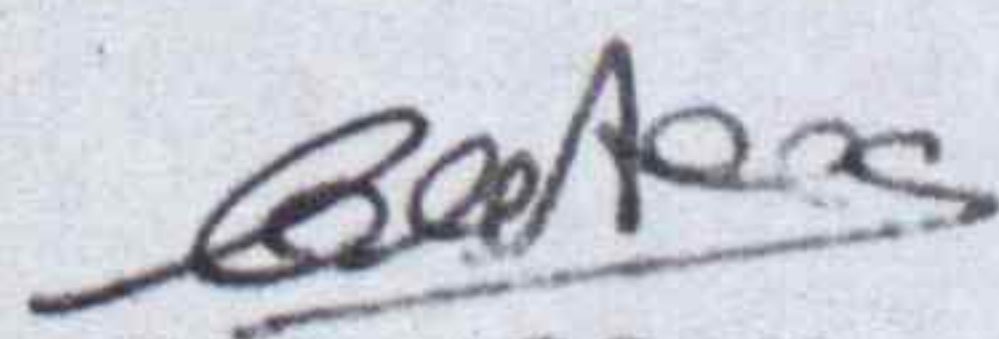
4. The selective action reported in earlier bulletins continues unchanged.

CUSTOMS & EXICSE - TRD

5. A further 4 staff at Liverpool (not 17, as CCSU claim) received first TRD Warning Notices today. If they still refuse to work as directed on Monday, C&E will consider giving them a final notice - but have undertaken to let CSD know before they do so. A message has been sent today to all C&E staff giving management's views of the situation at Liverpool.

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT

6. A press notice has been issued explaining delays in payment of unemployment benefit caused by the strike at the Livingston computer. The notice places responsibility squarely on the unions.


C C ALLAN
13 March 1981

P.S. We understand that the unions are seeking to negotiate resumption of normal work in Liverpool Customs & Exicse with effect from Monday. This is confidential.

MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE

TEXT OF CCSU LEAFLET ON HALF-DAY STRIKE

"Four CAs were suspended yesterday at Liverpool for refusing to do the work of 2 COs on selective strike. Seventeen CAs are under threat of suspension this morning and have been given verbal warnings. A nationwide walk-out has been requested this afternoon in support of your colleagues.

WALK OUT AFTER LUNCH

Council of Civil Service Unions"

LOCATIONS WHERE STAFF ARE KNOWN TO HAVE WALKED OUT

(Brackets show approx number of staff involved,
where known)

Rosyth Dockyard (450, and 900 industrials also laid off)
 Faslane Submarine Base
 Beith RN Armaments Depot
 Dept of Trade, Bootle
 Dept. of Transport - 7 Local Vehicle Licensing Offices
 (about 75 staff in all)
 Dept. of Transport - Edinburgh Traffic Area Office (25)
 Welsh Office, Cardiff
 ECGD, Cardiff
 DHSS - 212 local offices (out of 530)
 National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride (300-400)
 MOD - RAC Admin Office, Chester (50)
 Admiralty Marine Technology Division, Dunfermline (120;
 180 industrials also laid off with pay)
 Dept of Trade - Business Statistics Office, Newport
 (less than half the staff)
 General Register Office, Scotland (134, ie 30%)
 CSD - Norwich (only)
 MAFF - Norwich (only)
 Transport - Aberdeen and Manchester Traffic Area Offices (105)
 DOE - Manchester Regional Office (75, ie 34%)
 Customs & Excise - many offices affected
 HMSO, Manchester

Note:

DNS Staff at the National Savings Bank Glasgow were informed by management that pay, rounded down to the nearest 15 minutes, would be withheld for any absences and flexible working hours would be suspended. Staff have resumed normal working.