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W.A. Duguid

Prime Minister



CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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

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

13 April 1981

Dear Mike,

INDUSTRIAL ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

...

The attached Annex shows, by Department, the number of non-industrial civil servants on strike last Friday. The average number out each day last week was 3,300. In the five weeks since the industrial action started, a total of 335,000 man-days has been lost as a result of civil servants being absent without authority for a day or more. Some civil servants have been out for the whole of the five weeks.

These statistics are far from giving the whole picture. Each day there have been many walk-outs - some lasting a short while, some for half a day or more - and protest meetings involving absence from the office. Over 100,000 civil servants, for example, took part in such walk-outs or protests on 1 April. It is not possible to quantify either these or the effects of non-cooperation with management (working to rule, refusing to work overtime, and so on).

The main areas of industrial action last week were:

- (i) INLAND REVENUE - Accounts Offices at Cumbernauld and Shipley still closed; some staff in the Collection Office network on strike; 96 Temporary Relief from Duty (TRD), and others not working normally; and (a new development last Friday) 24 staff now on strike at the Worthing Computer Centre. Management staff - those at Bush House, for example - are working long and hard to bank as many PAYE cheques as possible, but they are under increasing strain. In some cases picketing has been severe and unpleasant.

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- (ii) MINISTRY OF DEFENCE - The Navy Department continues to be the main target, although there is, increasingly, industrial action in other parts of the Ministry. Computer staff went on strike at the Liverpool Bill-paying Office; contingency plans (based on the experience gained in 1979) have been announced and implemented. TRD action was initiated in some MOD establishments. At the end of the week, the unions were refusing to co-operate in allowing a Polaris submarine to be re-equipped. The unions have said that there will be Service-wide protest action if naval personnel are used to do the work of civilian non-industrials.
- (iii) CUSTOMS AND EXCISE - Industrial action switched back to the Northern Ireland Land Boundary and the West Coast ports. Despite union propaganda to the contrary, traffic is, however, flowing reasonably freely.

The unions announced at the week-end that there is likely to be a change in their tactics and that services to the public could be hit. They made it clear that Easter traffic would be affected by industrial action by Customs and Immigration staff; it is unlikely, however, that Air Traffic Control Officers will be taking further action until after Easter.

I am copying this to the Private Secretaries to Permanent Secretary Heads of Departments and Smaller Departments.

Yours ever,

Jeremy Colman

J G COLMAN
Private Secretary

SELECTIVE ACTION BY NON-INDUSTRIAL CIVIL SERVANTS

SUMMARY OF POSITION - 10 APRIL 1981

Department	Number on strike	Remarks
Customs & Excise	742	280 data processing staff on strike at Southend computer; 243 customs staff at West coast ports; 175 staff on the NI Boundary 7 HQ staff; 38 Manchester Betting Duty Office.
MOD	599	Strikes by computer and other staff at 4 dockyards, 4 RN stores depots, 2 RN armaments depots, Clyde Submarine Base, bill-paying (Liverpool), Mapping and Charting Establishment (Feltham & Taunton) Directorate of Submarine Projects (Bath) and 5 Oil Fuel Depots.
Employment	41	Staff at Runcorn computer handling RPI statistics (plus Job Release Scheme payments and DE Group payroll both so far unaffected).
Environment	12	Driving examiners at test centres.
DHSS	340	230 staff on strike at Newcastle computer recording NI contributions; 10 at North Fylde Central Accounts Office; 95 at Artificial Limb and Appliance Centres.
Inland Revenue	1476	901 on strike at Cumbernauld, Shipley and Worthing computer centres; remainder at various Collection Offices.
Lord Chancellor's Department	14	Staff at Leicester Crown Court.
PSA	10	Strike by maintenance engineers at RAF Brawdy works offices.
Depts of Trade & Industry	140	Strike by staff who handle search facilities at Companies House, London and Cardiff; telephonists at Cardiff.

Scottish Office	25	Staff at the Scottish Computer Centre.
Scottish Courts Administration	235	Strike by <u>staff</u> at Edinburgh and Glasgow Sheriff Courts.
Registers of Scotland	11	Strike by Administrative staff.
Paymaster General's Office	28	Strike by 10 computer staff; 13 in Finance Branch, disrupting Government banking transactions; telephonists.
FCO	49	Clerical Assistants at the Liverpool Passport Office.
GCHQ	not known	Radio operators at one location.
TOTAL	3,722	A net increase of about 386 since a week ago.