



photos: Strong

BRITISH DOCKS: what is missing?

Simon Scott Plummer interviews docks' leader

FIVE WEEKS AFTER the switch to permanent employment in the ports of Britain, 16,000 dockers are out on strike, with 143 ships tied up mostly in Liverpool and to a lesser extent in London and £160 million worth of exports delayed.

In London there is the insecurity of future unemployment as the dockers fear the work force will drop in the next few years from 23,000 to 13,000. In Liverpool the main issues are about local work conditions and the demand for parity of pay with London. In both ports there is dissatisfaction with what the dockers believe to be the inadequate preparations made by the employers for decasualization and, in London particularly, for the mobility of labour.

Thus, decasualization, seen by government, unions and employers as a new and better deal for the dockers, has led to what Prime Minister Harold Wilson last week called one of the most difficult industrial disputes in the country's history.

This dispute, which is undermining

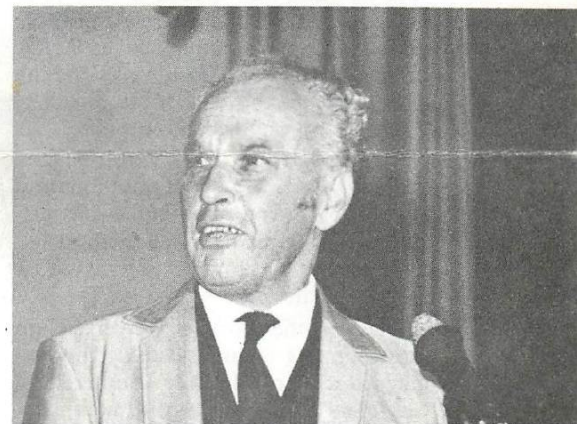
an economy already weakened as a result of the Arab-Israeli war, immediately brings to mind last year's crippling 7-week seamen's strike.

One of the men deeply involved in both cases is Tom Ham, a 51-year-old Cockney crane operator and a member of the executive council of the National Amalgamated Stevedores' and Dockers' Union.

The Prime Minister, speaking at the end of the seamen's strike, said one of the turning points in keeping the ports open was the action of the NASD in keeping their men at work during that crucial period. Ham was president of the union at that time.

Ham, who lives with his wife Florrie in a terraced house in West Ham, is a third generation docker. His grandfather was one of the founder members of the Stevedores' Union. His son, who is in a firm which takes photo finish pictures at race meetings, is the first of the line to move away from the docks since the end of the last century. Ham himself works at Woolwich for the Ben Line.

Shortly after the war, he was invited



Tom Ham addresses a meeting

to see Alan Thornhill's play, *The Forgotten Factor*, at Poplar Civic Hall. Thus began an association with Moral Re-Armament which has now lasted around 20 years.

'*The Forgotten Factor* was God,' Ham recalls. 'It brought me up with a jolt. I hadn't bothered with religion since childhood.'

'But, at the time, I thought it a very good idea for everybody else, but not for me.'

However, Ham started applying the standard of honesty in the docks, with the men he worked, in his home and in all he did. He also began going to church at the Mayflower Dockland Settlement, now run by former test

continued page 2

continued from page 1

cricketer the Reverend David Sheppard. This led to his being confirmed in 1955. He describes himself as 'an old man, but a young Christian.'

For Ham, MRA is practical Christianity, a care for people which enables him to see another's point of view, instead of adopting the attitude: 'I'm right and that's the end of it.'

'Jesus' commandment that we should love each other sums up the whole of MRA,' he says. 'You have really got to care. You can't say one man is more important than another.'

Ham has found that this attitude, when adopted by men and management, cures disillusionment, mistrust and apathy. 'It is a pity the public does not know how far MRA goes towards preventing trouble,' he says.

MRA has brought Ham into contact with people of all classes, races and creeds. 'It's really bringing people together,' he says, recalling a meeting in 1965 with dockers in Germany. 'I can't speak too highly of it. I'm really sold.'

It has also introduced a new relationship with management. Speaking about talks with employers at MRA houses in London, Ham says: 'In the first place we have a meal together. There is a convivial atmosphere.'

'I can say what I like with absolute equality. There are direct questions and answers. You can pin a bloke down.'

'No one is being plied with drink to make their tongue say what it doesn't mean to.'

One of the port employers Ham most admires is John Houlder, managing director of Houlder Brothers and Company Ltd, who played an important part behind the scenes in last year's seamen's strike.

'He will meet men,' Ham says, 'and if he says no, it is for an honest reason. He is a Christian who puts into practice what he believes.' Ham thinks that a recent meeting between Houlder and Jack Dash, the unofficial dockers' leader, will have changed Dash's poor opinion of employers.

Earlier this month, Ham was invited by Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of the Mahatma, to spend three months in India giving his experience to workers there. This followed an invitation last year to meet dockers in Australia and New Zealand.

Ham feels very honoured by these invitations, though he thinks he should at present remain in Britain, working for a just and lasting settlement in the docks.

The Brain Drain

by Dr Bryan Hamlin

Dr. Hamlin completed his Ph.D. in Biochemistry 15 months ago. He was all set to take up a research fellowship in the United States, going on an immigration visa. With his baggage on the high seas, his air-line flight booked and his money in dollars, he dramatically changed his plans, after attending a Moral Re-Armament conference, seven days before he was due to leave.

THE PUBLIC REACTION to the Government's Brain Drain Report* published on 10 October demonstrates our colossal self-centredness as a nation.

For what the sensational press reports fail to emphasise is that while only 434 of the 6,200 engineers, technologists and scientists leaving our shores in 1966 went to underdeveloped nations, 1,650 entered Britain from the Commonwealth, largely from the underdeveloped countries, plus 2,000 returning from countries like the United States with valuable scientific experience. As *The Times* editorial of 11 October points out, 'The loss is relatively greatest in poor countries. Britain stands in an intermediate position. For long a beneficiary of the currents of migratory talent, it is now a net loser.'

While our Brain Drain may hurt us, the drain from Asia and Africa to Britain is crippling those countries far more seriously.

The report itself raises this issue and it is a great pity that it did not feel it necessary to develop this particular point in more depth. While stating its concern for this 'major international problem whose long-term consequences could be very serious for the developing countries' and which 'cannot be eliminated by each country taking unilateral action', the report decides, as *The Times* editorial puts it, 'to compete in the market' with an attitude which suggests that it's every man for himself. The editorial then goes on to say, 'It is to this end that the committee offers its recommendations.'

The recommendations made are important and should be implemented, but their range is limited to monetary incentives and the improvement of the status of scientists, in order to attract them back from America. It is difficult, however, to see how Britain can hope to reverse the Brain Drain by direct competition with the United States. If we raise our bids surely they will raise theirs.

If we cannot hope to attract men back from North America on a materialistic basis then one must appeal to higher motives. In describing why some return to Britain, the report rather timidly suggests that 'some (a figure of 6% is given) may also have felt a strong sense of moral obligation to the society which provided their upbringing and education, and may want to serve that society in return.'

Of course, if the older generation has for years now been telling us young people that such idealism is out of date, then it is small wonder that few now respond. Embarrassing though it may be, such factors will have to be faced.

But the Government cannot hope for any sense of concern for Britain from its younger scientists until it in turn shows more concern for those countries less fortunate than our own.

We are in fact to Asia and Africa what America is to us.

As Britain demonstrates a sincere concern for meeting the colossal human needs of the underdeveloped nations, several of whom are in her own Commonwealth, and to narrowing the at present still widening gap between the 'haves' and 'have-nots', she will capture the idealism of the younger generation and enlist their talents in tackling what must be the most urgent need in the world and the greatest threat today to world peace.

Scientific experiments were first carried out by gentlemen of leisure, and much research today is an academic pursuit. But at this present time in human history we may not be able to afford such a luxury. Without the application of our wills, money and scientific skills to this one colossal problem we may not have a world left to explore.

In the October issue of *Science Journal* Dr Olaf Helmer, Senior Mathematician at the RAND Cor-

continued on page 4

* *The Brain Drain, Report of the Working Group on Migration, HMSO, London.*

'NO ONE CAN BE INDIFFERENT' SAYS SWISS DAILY ON NEW JURA MOVE

by David Porteous

GENEVA WATCHES over an ever-flowing stream of international conferences. There are always at least four going at the same time and they deal with problems of colour, class, language, poverty and human rights. Indeed Switzerland might be called the world's arbitrator.

Yet at the other end of the mountains sweeping from Geneva to the north lies a problem of language and division that is perplexing Swiss leaders—the Jura. This is a part of one of several cantons in Switzerland which are bilingual.

The French-speaking minority, which lives in the Jura mountains, is revolting against the German-speaking majority and demands a status of autonomy inside the canton of Berne or even outside the Swiss Confederation. Last month in the largest town, Delémont, the Separatists celebrated the 20th Anniversary of their founding. Thirty thousand people, equal to one third of the region's population, were at the demonstration. At the same time, in another city, 10,000

gathered at the Anti-Separatists' rally.

Protests are expressed by arson, sabotage and intimidation. Slogans of 'Jura libre' and 'FLJ' (Front for the Liberation of the Jura) are painted everywhere. Young people are known to walk 20 miles to Separatist rallies.

The Jura was handed over to the Swiss canton of Berne by the Vienna Settlement of 1815, despite differences of language and culture. A life-size portrait of the French Emperor, Napoleon I, still looks down from the wall in the Great Hall of Delémont.

Close affiliation with Berne was until recently hampered by the physical character of the Jura. Only lately have good roads penetrated its mountains. The valleys, divided by ranges and practically snowed in for the winter, have built up semi-independent communities, employed in farming and watch-making.

An international force of MRA arrived in the region one week ago with the musical comedy *Pitié pour Clementine*. They were invited by a com-

continued on page 4



photos Maillifer

The Mayor of Delémont (above) said: 'I hope your action can play a part in bringing people together'. Young workers of the Jura (below) listen intently to the ideas of members of the cast after the premiere

NEWS REPORT: PLAY 'HITS ITS TARGET'

THE SWISS GENDARME was polite but firm. It was closing time in the pub and even the Prefect and Mayor would have to go. The community leaders had been so engrossed in talking about the Jura premiere of *Pitié pour Clementine* that they had not noticed the hour. They had already spent almost the whole day with the 14-nation MRA force.

Elsewhere another group—young leaders of the Jura Separatist movement—were in earnest conversation with some of the MRA representatives. Earlier they had planned to boycott the show and prevent others coming but after meeting members of the cast they had changed their plans.

'MRA is making a valuable contribution to the search for unity and understanding,' said the Mayor of Porrentruy, Charles Parietti. 'We welcome you with open arms,' said the Prefect of the district of Porrentruy, Jean Jobe. 'I hope that your action

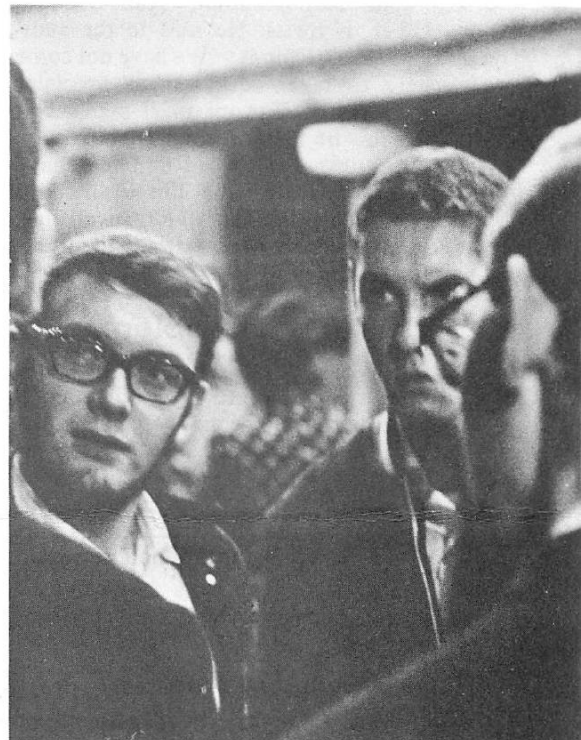
can play a part in bringing people together,' said Georges Scherrer, Socialist Mayor of Delémont, largest town in the Jura.

With these words three of the men on the invitation committee of prefects and mayors welcomed the 84-strong MRA force last week.

The leading Jura daily *Le Democrate*, reporting the premiere, wrote: 'A chorus of forty young people expressed all through this remarkable play answers to the countless problems of the social life of a state which is racked by difficulties that can only be solved by understanding between men.'

'The last song in particular "Enough men with enough courage" captures the intentions of sensitive author Jean Jacques Odier, backed up admirably by a realistic producer, Michel Sentis.

'To sum up, the play presented by Moral Re-Armament in Porrentruy hit its target.'



continued from page 2

poration, in an article predicting future trends in science, says, 'The search for truth *per se* will thus be replaced or at least augmented . . . by a search for what is both morally right and attainable. The purists' motto of "science for science's sake" will carry less weight than the pragmatists' "science for society's sake". To translate such new aspirations into fact will not come easily, however inevitable the commitment to this trend.'

This task of gearing science's skills to humanity's needs could be pioneered by Britain. America's vast resources will of course be needed, but Britain could give the lead.

Here may be the solution to the Brain Drain and far more besides. In fact this may be Britain's opportunity.

continued from page 3

mittee of mayors and district prefects, representing Socialist, Catholic and Liberal Parties, and have been staying in the homes of trade unionists, industrialists and farmers.

The leading actor, Michel Orphelin, from Paris, spoke after a performance in Delémont of the linguistic, racial and cultural unity Switzerland has shown the world. He urged Switzerland to become a 'Tower of Babel' in reverse where everyone had a part because he cared for others.

The play's author, Jean Jacques Odier, is Swiss. He said to the audience in Delémont: 'We have not come here to take sides but to proclaim the task that Europe must take on in the rest of the world. It is shaken by great turmoils. Hatred and fear have become part of the life of modern man. We think that this can change. It means each man getting rid of his own selfishness first.'

Language problem

'The toughest problems, with God's help, can be solved. We can build a world where everyone lives in dignity, has enough to eat, a roof over his head and where nobody needs to be afraid of his neighbour. We are convinced that the Jura will take its part in the rebuilding of this kind of world.'

This same call was made by 50 young Indians led by Rajmohan Gandhi to the Jura last March.

Move begun in Delhi to meet Indian industrial crisis

REPORTS, published by the Government of India, state that in the last six months 68 factories in West Bengal have been closed through labour violence. Industrial disaster threatens the entire state. Employers, virtually deprived of all police protection by the State Government, in many cases no longer dare to go to their factories, and the rule of law is in almost complete collapse.

In Kerala, with its Communist-led coalition state government, a similar situation prevails. K M Cherian, editor-in-chief of *Malayala Manorama*, has complained to Mrs Indira Gandhi, India's Prime Minister, that the police have 'evidently been expressly instructed not to interfere in such situations'.

These events pinpoint the significance of the premiere in Delhi last week of the industrial drama *Jo Bhool Gaye Hain*, a Hindi translation of *The Forgotten Factor*, by Alan Thorn-

hill. Commenting on the play, which depicts an end to class warfare through a change in attitude by both labour and management, a Delhi trade union leader said: 'If management changed like this, workers would give their lives to work with them.' Meherchand Sharma, chairman of the works council of a Delhi engineering factory, with twelve of his fellow workers, was part of the cast of the play.

Officials of nine ministries, the family of the Deputy Prime Minister, a supreme court judge, diplomats, labour leaders and Members of Parliament, were among the audience who packed the Sapru House Auditorium.

'This deals exactly with the problems we face today,' said the general manager of India's largest textile mill. A senior army officer called it 'Unbeatable—absolutely on the button', and a Delhi businessman told the cast, 'You will speak to the masses'.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UNITED STATES The three national Sing-Out casts have given a series of performances in Houston, Texas, headquarters of the National Aeronautics and Space Agency; Wilmington, Delaware; and in Colorado Springs, Colorado for the convention of the Southern Newspaper Publishers' Association.

In New York Norman Vincent Peale, famous for his best-sellers, has just had published a book, *Enthusiasm makes the Difference*, in which he says Peter Howard became in many ways the 'greatest spiritual leader of his time'.

BRITAIN London University's *Sennet*, in reviewing *Annie*, recommended students to patronize the Westminster Theatre.

ETHIOPIA Ethiopian authorities this week have purchased £1,000's worth of MRA films as a permanent stock for use throughout the country. On their invitation James Baynard-Smith, his wife and son leave London for Eritrea for an initial period of a year.