

Police arrest 84 in a punch-up on the picket line



THE STRUGGLE: Police tackle a struggling picket during the angry confrontation outside the strife-torn factory yesterday.

BREAKING POINT

By GEORGE FALLOWS
DEFIANT union officials vowed last night that their supporters will be back in strength today on a picket line where anger boiled over yesterday.



Factory boss Ward

The day ten months of tension boiled over

Eighty-four people were arrested when police and pickets clashed outside a North London factory. There were charges that the police acted too strongly against the mass picket at the Grunwick Processing Laboratories in Willesden. Police deny it. And some officers believe that the demonstration attracted flying pickets who stirred up trouble.

The scene of a long struggle over union recognition. The picketing has been organised by APEX—the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff. Last night Chris Wright, secretary of the political branch of the union, claimed that police swooped as officers were trying to open factory gates to admit a van. "We will have ten coachloads of Kent miners joining us tomorrow," Mr. Wright said. He added that the union believed that George Ward, who runs the company, must negotiate or else up.

was marched off and flung in the vans.

"They were dragging people along the road by their heels, girls were crying, and in a few individual cases the police over-reacted in a physical sense."

Police Superintendent Francis Hickman-Smith commented: "Everyone who wanted to go into work was being called 'scab' and shouted at. There were about 200 mulling outside the gates and we had to put a cordon on to allow free access."

"I do not think there was any over-reaction. We were quite impartial."

The eighty-four arrested will appear at special courts today, charged mainly with obstruction.

Arrests

Police had insisted that there should be no more than eight pickets outside the factory.

As the numbers grew beyond that limit the arrests started. At one point the police ran out of transport to remove those arrested.

A picket said: "There aren't any more coaches."

A senior police officer replied: "Don't worry, love, there will be."

John Leonard, a 30-year-old carpenter and an official of the local Brent Trades Council, said later: "Anybody who tried to talk to anyone going into the works



THE FURY: A woman picket protests.



SEIZED: Police get to grips with a demonstrator.

DRUG GANG NABBED BY 'DROP-OUT' DETECTIVES

FIVE members of the biggest drug-peddling conspiracy uncovered in Britain will be sentenced at the Old Bailey today.

The five—all members of Triads a Chinese secret society—have already heard Judge Sir Edward Clarke, Q.C. describe their trade as "the scourge of civilisation". They were trapped after months of undercover work by young police officers who dressed and acted like drop-outs to crack the £3 million "Chinese heroin connection," not even letting their bewildered families into the secret.

Distributor

The leader of the five—Kok Lian Ng, a Malaysian known as Jason—had pleaded guilty to conspiring to supply Chinese heroin in Britain and smuggling and possessing the drug.

A jury found the other four guilty of conspiring with him.

They are Syed Bakar, 29, a Malaysian who acted as a courier, Toh How Lim, 22, Teng Poh Hai, 21, and Leonardo Elario, 34, a Hong Kong-born croupier with shares in an illegal Soho gambling club who acted as distributor for the gang.

Two men were found not guilty. They were Kin Cheung also a croupier, of Gerard Street, Soho, and Fong Cheong, of Peasepiece Road, Ilford, Essex.

Killer's decoy

A CALLOUS killer threw six-year-old Lynn Caunce's body from a 52ft. high window in a lower block to make her death look like an accident. But police discovered that Lynn, of Warwick Street, Preston, Lancs, died from asphyxiation. Now they are hunting the killer.

LABOUR'S LEFT TONE DOWN POLICY PLAN

By MARK DOWDNEY, Parliamentary Correspondent

LEFT-WING Labour M.P.s agreed last night not to rock the boat for the Government.

They dropped plans to demand more State control of industry and soak-the-rich taxes in a new manifesto-style document.

The decision by the powerful Home Policy Committee, led by Energy Secretary Tony Benn, is a victory for Premier James Callaghan.

He had made it clear that he did not want the document to detail some of the Left's more controversial proposals.

The draft version of the document claimed that capitalism had failed the nation. It urged take-overs of more leading companies, particularly in the pharmaceutical and building materials industries.

The committee decided last night that the document should be toned down before it is presented to the Labour conference in October.

TEA SETS FOOD PRICES BUBBLING

AN INCREASE of almost 2p in the £ in the price of goods leaving the factories was revealed yesterday.

Biggest rise was in the price of food heading for the supermarkets which, boosted by tea increases, went up more than 2p in

the pound during May. Factory prices have now increased by almost 21 per cent. in the past year, putting an extra twist in the inflation spiral which has prices in the shops going up 17½ a year.

And further increases are expected in the next few months with deater milk, bacon and pork.

But despite Arab plans to add 5p in the £ oil prices next month, which will affect all industry's costs, there is evidence of a brightening long-term outlook in the Depart-

ment of industry figures. Fuel and raw material bills dropped a half per cent. the first fall this year, reflecting the stronger £, slightly cheaper key commodities, including coffee, and the benefit of the Government's pay controls.

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R by JUNE S PENN

DAY TODAY: At times we suffer reverses, are tired to travel and are often with two people at once. We've had many problems, but we can change all that.

LEO (July 21-Aug. 21): It seems that in the second half of the year you will be accepting new responsibilities and obligations. You have a good chance of success in your life. Others may be surprised at the way you go about this. But you must do what you want. Relationships rally round.

VIRGO (Aug. 22-Sept. 22): Life seems to be settling itself out after a period when you felt confused about many things. Others may be pressing you for answers or trying to influence you in some way when you would rather be left alone. Take time to think. Autumn will be the best period for fulfilling your ambitions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Tell yourself that you can and will do that no one is going to stop you. Look on the bright side and carry on. Pursue your goals. People who need your bills, take your time. There could be news from across water and an invitation to go there.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It seems you will now be getting on with so much work and a more organised way of life. However, there could be worries over a new venture or younger person in your family. Good times start a business venture part-time job.

AGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 20): This summer could be very good for you, but the autumn will be even better because a lot of problems will have lifted. Personal matters seem to come to a head. You may have to talk straight to someone to explain what you expect. People cross the water may turn up or phone.

APRICORN (Dec. 21-Jan. 19): Meeting people you haven't seen for a while seems likely. This is an interesting period and a proposition put to you will reap rewards at a later date. However, there will be some trouble at work or place of work which uses momentary panic even less.

