

# PARK ROYAL VEHICLES STRIKE

## *Information issued by the P.R.V. Strike Committee*

On Wednesday afternoon July 2nd, 1,100 P.R.V. workers stopped work on a fundamental issue of Trade Unionism, the right to negotiate on behalf of Trade Union members.

That same day 78 men had been sacked on the alleged grounds that there was no work, that this was due to the roofers who were already in dispute with the Management on contract prices. Because of the obstructionist tactics of the Management the 22 roofers had stopped work 10 days previously and were still out.

In sacking 78 men without warning the Management deliberately and wilfully ignored existing Trade Union Agreements on redundancy. This agreement to which the Management is a party explicitly states that discussions will first take place with the Works Committee before redundancy is operated.

We are demanding :

1. RESUMPTION OF WORK FOR ALL WORKERS INCLUDING THE 78 MEN SACKED AND THE 22 MEN INVOLVED IN THE DISPUTE.
2. A WORKS CONFERENCE TO TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY ON RESUMPTION TO FIX CONTRACT PRICES FOR THE ROOF DEPARTMENT.

The Management are refusing to meet these justified demands.

The Management have made a declaration of war, for in Mr. Black's words—and he is the Managing Director—there is no doubt as to what is meant when he says “one does not announce ones intentions when one goes to war.” (Mr. Black be it noted is a “Justice of Peace”). This was in reply to a question as to why he had not observed the agreement on redundancy entered into with the Works Committee.

### **What is behind the P.R.V. Management's Declaration of War ?**

At the 40th Annual General Meeting of ASSOCIATED COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, 21.2.52., Lord Brabazon of Tara (formerly Mr. Moore-Brabazon), in the course of his speech as Chairman and Managing Director, reported a decline in the Combines profit and indicated that the body building arm of the Combine (Park Royal Vehicles) was not showing the amount of profit he would like to see.

The Management of P.R.V., undoubtedly aware of the sentiments expressed in the Lord's report, have over a period resisted fixing prices in an endeavour to cut them. This policy led to the stoppage of the 22 roofers.

Mr. Black, Managing Director of P.R.V. has, during the present dispute said he wanted new agreements with the Trade Union which would be “more advantageous to the Management.” “More advantageous to the Management” to us means “less advantageous to the workers.”

It is evident that the Management are launching an attack on wages and piecework prices. There can be no doubt that Lord Brabazon's report; Mr. Black's delaying tactics and his desire to get "new" agreements drawn up in P.R.V. has one aim and one aim only.

## **CUT WAGES — INCREASE PROFITS**

Why did Mr. Black choose this moment to deliberately spurn the Trade Union Agreement?

Because he, in his unwisdom, expected the collapse of the workers in front of his assault in the holiday period; the disintegration of the Trade Union organisation in the factory and an open road to putting the screws on and bringing down the wages of the workers.

He led with a "left" labelled "redundancy" and planned to smack over a "right" . . . "wage cuts."

**THE UNITY AND SOLIDARITY OF THE P.R.V. WORKERS WON THE FIRST ROUND.**

**THE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE DISPUTE BY THE N.U.V.B. AND THE SUPPORT OF NORTH LONDON DISTRICT COMMITTEE A.E.U. IN ASKING THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO RECOGNISE THE STRIKE HAS WON THE SECOND ROUND.**

**WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE SUPPORT OF ALL TRADE UNIONISTS WE WILL WIN THE NEXT ROUND AND SOONER OR LATER VICTORY.**

We have no illusions as to what we are up against.

We base ourselves on and draw our strength from, the lads who are on strike at P.R.V., the Trade Union organisations who are supporting our struggle with financial assistance and messages of solidarity, on the age old Trade Union truth that:

**UNITY IS STRENGTH.**

We repeat our readiness to negotiate with the Management for an honourable settlement on the basis of the demands set out in this statement.

**We FIGHT:**

*To defend our standard of living—Defeat the attack on our wages.*

*To maintain and strengthen our Trade Union organisation.*

*To strengthen the unity of the working class for jobs with decent wages.*

*We ask every Trade Unionist and every Trade Union organisation to give us their support. In this vital struggle we need your financial assistance and moral support.*

*We urge every fair minded citizen to help by supporting us financially.*

*With your support we are confident that the workers of Park Royal Vehicles will achieve victory.*

Please send all cash to:—K. HATTON, (Hon. Treasurer),  
62 PILGRIMS WAY, WEMBLEY, MIDDLESEX.

We will gladly send you, or your organisation, collecting sheets, Statements of the Strike Committee and Speakers on request to:

H. A. TANK, 91c UXBRIDGE RD., EALING, W.5.

For and on behalf of the P.R.V. Workers on Strike,  
P. J. MACHON, Secretary, D. HOWARD, Chairman, P.R.V. Strike Committee