

ITF

NEWSLETTER

INFORMATIONS

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ROAD AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT WORKERS

GREAT BRITAIN

Report urges. end to road haulage restrictions

A committee of inquiry - the Geddes Committee - has recommended, in a report to the Minister of Transport, that all restrictions on the capacity of the road haulage industry and on the work for which a lorry may be used should be abolished. In place of the present licensing system the committee proposes a system of permits to ply as a carrier of goods, whether for hire or on own account. These permits would be granted on demand, but held only subject to good behaviour as regards all aspects of safety. The issuing authority would have power to suspend, revoke or curtail any permit for offences against lorry safety, or for failure to comply with prescribed standards in this field. This power ought to be used vigorously.

Control of this system would be facilitated by the issue of carriers' permit plates, one to each lorry. The plate would be forfeit during any period of suspension, revocation or curtailment of the permit. It would also be summarily removed from any lorry found to be mechanically defective or overloaded.

PORT WORKERS

KENYA

Dockers reject Court award

Mombasa dockworkers have rejected the Industrial Court's recent award of a 3-cent hourly wage increase with effect from 1 January

1965. The Court had turned down the union's claims for improvements in leave and allowances, and the pay award was regarded as unsatisfactory. A four-day go-slow was organized between 25 and 29 May, but the union has now appealed to the government to reconsider its claims for improved wages and bonuses and is campaigning among its members and with the authorities for higher productivity in the port.

SEAFARERS

DENMARK

Manning scales issue to go before ombudsman

The Danish Seamen's Union intends to seek a ruling from the Danish "ombudsman" - the "grievance man" - on whether the manning regulations are being applied as they were intended to be. The union's complaint concerns the paragraph which permits dispensation to be granted from the regulations; since the regulations came into force a year ago dispensations have been sought and granted for all new vessels, 12 or 13 in all. The union considers therefore that what was supposed to have been an exception has become the rule, and until it gets satisfaction on this point it has withdrawn from participation in the work of the joint manning committee.

UNITED STATES

Strike of officers in Atlantic and Gulf ports

The Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association and the American Radio Association have called their members out on strike against nine shipping companies represented by the American Merchant Marine Institute, whilst the International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots and the American Radio Association are on strike against 16 tanker companies represented by the Tanker Services Committee.

Just before the strike deadline of 16 June the unions reached agreement with seven other companies grouped in the American Maritime Association, and the Masters, Mates and Pilots have reached agreement with the Pacific Maritime Association group of companies.

FISHERMEN

KOREA

Fishing limits agreement in treaty with Japan

The section on fishing limits in the treaty between Korea and Japan provides for new "exclusive fishing zones" which are virtually 12-mile limits. An intermediate zone will be banned to fishing by both sides.

CIVIL AVIATION WORKERS

UNITED STATES

Pay increases for Swissair New York staff

Pay rises effective from 1 October 1963 have been negotiated by the International Association of Machinists for its members employed by Swissair Transport Ltd., New York. New rates are: for cargo agents, \$571 per month; for cooks, \$829 per month; and for teletype operators, \$525. Maintenance technicians have a new hourly rate of \$3.96. The agreement, which expires on 31 September 1966, also provides for double-time-and-a-half pay for all work performed on public holidays, and better annual leave provisions.

GENERAL

NORWAY

New pension scheme approved in principle

The Norwegian parliament has given its approval in principle to plans for a comprehensive state pension scheme. Details are to be worked out later, but the broad outlines of the scheme, which will come into effect from 1 January 1967, are as follows; Pensions will be based on an average of a person's peak earnings over 20 years. The scheme, which is compulsory, sets a minimum pension of 5,400 kr. (£270) a year for a single person and 8,100 kr. (£405) for a married couple. The maximum is 21,870 kr. for a single person and 24,570 kr. for a married couple. Contributions are to be paid both by the employee and the employer, the latter paying the larger share.

People on lower incomes will receive a relatively higher pension in relation to contributions than those in the higher income brackets.

PERSONALIA

Adolph Kummernuss, member of the ITF Executive Board and former President of the German Union of Transport and Public Service Workers, celebrated his 70th birthday on 23 June. The Union has decided to rename its Trade Union Youth School St. Andreasberg "Adolph Kummernuss House" in his honour.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Icelandic seamen in the catering department went on strike from 10 to 18 June.

Japanese private railwaymen called off a half-day strike scheduled for 13 June after accepting an annual bonus of ¥146,000 to be paid to each employee in two instalments, one in the summer and one at the end of the year. This bonus is an increase of ¥16,000 on last year's figure. (There are about 1,012 Yen to £1 and 361 to US \$1.).

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- Sub-Committee on Railway Pay Structure - London, 1, 2, July 1965
- Executive Board - Copenhagen, 26,27 July 1965
- XXVIII Congress - Copenhagen, 28 July - 6 August, 1965.

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