

a protest strike by members of the staff. It is understood that on Friday of last week, five men were sacked on the grounds of redundancy. Later, the rest of the operatives went on strike in protest. In the evening the strikers were handed their cards.

Throughout this week officials of the National Union of Furniture Trade Operatives have been meeting the employers in an effort to solve the dispute.

Said an official of the Union, "The question of whether the strike will be regarded as official or unofficial depends upon the results of the negotiations now proceeding."

The firm has stated that the matter was "unofficial" and contrary to the National Labour Agreement for the furniture industry, and followed a number of previous stoppages.

GIRL BURNED

Nine-year-old Angela Tilbury was slightly injured when she threw paraffin on a fire at her home in Maitland Park Road, Kentish Town, on Sunday.

Angela received burns to her right leg. She was taken to New End Hospital, Hampstead, and treated for her slight injuries but not detained.

THE NEW CABINET Labour clamours for election

LABOUR Party leaders in Islington are alarmed at the way Mr. Harold Macmillan became Prime Minister. They claim that the Conservative Party involved the Queen in politics and assert she should never have been faced with so difficult a choice as that between Mr. Macmillan and Mr. Butler.

Declared Mr. Eric Fletcher, M.P. for East Islington: "It is most unfortunate that the Queen should have become involved in the internal manoeuvres of the Tory Party. In my view there is no indication that the new appointment of the Prime Minister will result in any change of policy and the sooner we have a General Election the better."

"The Opposition will continue to press for a General Election in order that the country may have a chance to express its views. If there is a General Election the Labour Party will be returned with a large majority."

On the Cabinet reshuffle, he was not impressed with the new team, and believed it was "a great mistake to allow Selwyn Lloyd to remain as Foreign Secretary."

Mr. Fletcher believes that the resignation of Sir Anthony Eden was inevitable. "His policy has proved so disastrous and our relations with the Commonwealth and America have been ruptured so seriously that it was essential for him to go so that someone else should take over the reins of government."

This view was endorsed by Mr. Albert Evans, M.P. for South-West Islington.

Said he: "I should have thought that the Tories' own shame would have compelled them to go to the country. We take the view that these men have discredited the country. How can we go to the Commonwealth and America and work for a better understanding with these same men in power? They know that if they go to the country they will suffer a bad set-back."

Mr. Evans added: "I don't say that there should be an immediate General Election, but I do think that the country is entitled to give its verdict over what has happened in the last few months."

Commenting on the appointment of Mr. Macmillan as Prime Minister, Mr. Evans said the rank and file of the

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MASS RENT STRIKE IS ONLY ANSWER SAYS LEADER OF COUNCIL

WHAT should St. Pancras tenants do if their rents are increased? STRIKE, says Cllr. John Lawrence, leader of the Labour-controlled borough council.

Mr. Lawrence told the "N.L.P." in an exclusive interview: "A mass rent strike is the only answer to the problem."

"If everybody stands together over this issue, there can be no question of mass eviction."

Mr. Lawrence made the statement after a meeting of the Holborn and St. Pancras United Workers' and Tenants' Defence Committee held at Richard Cobden School, Camden Street, Camden Town, on Saturday.

Earlier, he told the meeting (held to protest against the Rent Bill): "This Bill means the Tories have decided to call the bailiffs in. "They have been unemployed for a number of years. Now, if this Bill becomes law, they are liable to be very active again."

'We can stop this Bill'

He added: "I believe we can stop this Bill becoming law."

Mr. Lawrence recalled the mass rents strike in Glasgow during the First World War... the time when the housewives got together and threw pease pudding at the bailiffs and refused to pay their rents. The result, he said, was rent control.

"If Glasgow housewives can achieve rent control," said Mr. Lawrence, "then surely the working-class of 1956 can retain it."

"We will have to do something more drastic than pass resolutions."

A voice from the back of the hall: "Like what?"

Mr. Lawrence: "We should refuse to pay the increases if this Bill becomes law."

MRS. LENA JEGER, M.P. for Holborn and St. Pancras South, and one of the principal speakers at the meeting, said: "This sense of insecurity which will automatically follow can undermine the whole life of a family."

"I think this Bill is the most degrading, the most anti-social and the most wicked piece of legislation which has been drafted since the war."

Some examples of possible rent increases were given to the meeting by Mr. Lawrence. They referred to property owned by the council.

Mr. Lawrence said: "Of course, these properties will not have any rent increases, but other similar property not owned by the council will have to face this type of increase."

Here are some of the examples: a house in Georgiana Street could go up from £1 13s. 9d. to £2 15s. 10d.; a house in Arlington Road could go up from £1 10s. 7d. to £3 1s. 7d.; a house in Plender Street could go up from £1 9s. 11d. to £3 0s. 5d.; and a house in Galsford Street (the more "select" part of the borough, said Mr. Lawrence) could go up from £2 0s. 1d. to £2 4s. 4d.

LATEST DISPUTE

The firm says: "The operatives at Henry Ronson Ltd., of Arlington Avenue, have been reinstated and have returned to work."

Said Works Manager, Mr. S. Grant: "The men are back at work pending negotiations."

18 Jan N.C.P.

With the helpers, Mr. Corney, wife licensee, Mrs. E. shall, Mrs. E. Mrs. Mary Coe B. Wyatt.

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