

LABOUR'S "NO" TO MERSEY STRIKE

Thousands of Liverpool dockers stage an unofficial strike against a new wage increase of 11/- a week agreed by their union. The docker today enjoys regular employment. Gone are the old days of casual labour. Now these men flaunt those who won them their security and bring busy Merseyside docks to a standstill. At a time when Britain needs the greatest effort from all, these ships lie idle, waiting for their cargoes. Many men, to their credit, are still working, but agitators want to bring out all dockers in the land. Speaking for organized Labour, the General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, Mr. Arthur Beakin, says:-

"The unofficial dockers strike is due to the reckless agitation of a group of saboteurs calling themselves the National Port Workers Committee. The ten people causing the stoppage have no sense of responsibility and are just a bunch of gamblers ready to mislead, then running away from the consequences of their action. I repeat there is no justification for the stoppage."

But at mass meetings strikers are urged to stay out. It's hard to resist the glib promises of agitators. Money doesn't go far today. And because they didn't grow up with the unions like their fathers, they're easily swayed. The unions succeeded because men gave them loyalty. Today the thoughtless betray their leaders.

Loyal to their men, the women stifle their worries. But to Britain, whose very life depends on a swift turn-round of her ships, the idle docks are near tragedy. Nine hundred million pounds of imports and exports pass through Liverpool each year. Standstill at the docks could bring Britain to her knees. And that is what Communism wants.