

B.E.A. CHIEF GETS TOUGH.

Recent troubles at London Airport, Britain's giant air terminal, have centred on the workshops of the British European Airways Corporation. Shortly before Christmas there was the possibility of a strike by B.E.A. staff. This would have brought the airline's operations to an almost complete halt. The trouble began when 315 engineers were sacked for attending an unofficial meeting during working hours. This meeting had called for "go-slow" working and a ban on overtime. Almost at once, the sacked men applied for their jobs back, and no strike took place.

The young chief of B.E.A., Mr. Peter Macfield, talked to our reporter about the causes of the dispute:

Only one of the dismissed men was not re-engaged by B.E.A. who say that they are determined to uphold the authority of their management. The odd man out was the convener of the shop stewards at the airport, Mr. Jack Peters. Peters had tried for many months to persuade B.E.A. to allow him to work full time at his union duties while still being paid by the company. Although some engineers have called for strike action to support Peters, (who is appealing for his job back) the union is refusing until all his appeals have failed. Peters, who denies he is a Communist, has sought re-employment three times. So far he has been unsuccessful.