

BUSINESS CAPITAL:

Here's a picture of 8,400 buses not being there - and that's quite something, for it's 21 years since London's buses were completely stopped by an official strike. So London walks to work - grousing, joking, approving, disapproving, or just waiting to see what happens. In normal times, the great red monsters are so much of the landscape, that it's hard to think of London without them - but when the 50,000 men and women who operate them feel they have a grievance, they're in a very strong position to make the fact known.

At the Express Hall, a pre-strike meeting. An industrial court has already awarded an 8s.6d. rise to Central London busmen but union leader Frank Cousins wants all London busmen to benefit. London Transport Chairman Sir John Elliot turns down the union's compromise suggestion that the same total - a million pounds - be spread to give everyone 6s.6d.; so the strike is on - for the original claim of an all-round 10s.6d. No one knows how long it will last - and meanwhile if you haven't got a car, you walk - and if you have, it may still take you almost as long.

Views on the strike are collected by our interviewer, Bill Symon:

"How's the Bus strike affecting you?"

Girl: "Well it's only been on a day, but my feet are killing me!"

Of course, if you're lucky enough to live by the river, there are other ways of getting to the City.

While this chap's working his own private solution - over to Stockwell Garage for a busman's view:

Interviewer: "What do you think about this Strike?"

Busman: "Well the answer of London Busmen this morning with a 100% stoppage is good enough for me."

Interviewer: "Do you feel sorry for the travelling public?"

Busman: "I do feel sorry for them, we have every sympathy for the travelling public, but the responsibility doesn't just rest with us, it rests with the L.T.E., the Minister of Transport, and with the Government".

Interviewer:

"Excuse me ladies, what do you think about the Bus Strike?"

Housewife:

"Well, I don't think it's all that convenient at the moment, but you've got to look at both sides of the question. I was a bus conductress myself once, and I do know that quite a few of the bus conductors and conductresses are very rude. I think if they were a bit more polite, more things could be done".

Interviewer:

"How does the Bus Strike affect you?"

Business Man:

"Well I have to travel around all the time in my business, and use buses a lot, and I find it extremely awkward, as thousands of others must, but I don't bear any sort of grudge against the staffs of the buses, because I feel they are only trying to make a better life like we all are"...

Interviewer:

"What do you feel about the Bus Strike?"

Elderly ladies:

"We don't agree with strikes. (One lady continues) Why don't they give us old people a bit more money, that's what I say, us that wants it, we ought to strike, I think - not them." (The other lady continues) "But we can't strike. There's thousands that can't strike can they? My husband don't earn £9 a week and he can't strike, or they'd soon tell him where to go!"