

THURSDAY 23rd MAY 1974

AT TODAY'S MEETING IT WAS REPORTED THAT ARMY PERSONNEL WERE UNLAWFULLY TAKING PASSES ISSUED BY THE U V C TO PERSONS IN ESSENTIAL SERVICES. THE COUNCIL VERY MUCH REGRET THIS INTERFERENCE WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS AIMED AT MAINTAINING ESSENTIAL SERVICES, BUT NEVERTHELESS ARE FORCED BECAUSE OF THIS TO SUSPEND AS FROM MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY ALL EXISTING PASSES. NEW OR VARIED PASS ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING CONSIDERED.

BAKERIES, DAIRIES

THE COUNCIL REVIEWED THE ARRANGEMENT MADE FOR BAKERIES AND DAIRIES AND FELT THAT THEY WERE OPERATING SATISFACTORILY.

WE HAVE LEARNT, HOWEVER, THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS SAID THAT HE IS PREPARED ~~XXX~~ TO STARVE THE PEOPLE AND THAT SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO FLY IN SUPPLIES OF BREAD FOR THE ARMY FROM NEXT WEEK ONWARDS.

SUPPORT

THE COUNCIL WISH TO THANK ALL THOSE IN THE COMMUNITY WHO ASSISTED THE COUNCIL IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE HARDSHIP. THE GROWING SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY WAS MUCH APPRECIATED PARTICULARLY FROM THE FARMING COMMUNITY WHICH HAS HAD TO MAKE SUCH HEAVY SACRIFICES. THE COUNCIL NOTED THAT THE RUAS HAD TO POSTPONE THEIR ANNUAL SHOW. IT WAS REGRETTED THAT THIS WAS NECESSARY BUT THE COUNCIL APPRECIATED THE RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE OF THE SOCIETY, BECAUSE THE DECISION WOULD HELP THE COMMUNITY IN ITS PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. THE COUNCIL HOPE ALL EMPLOYERS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS WOULD FOLLOW SUIT. THE COUNCIL HAS REVIEWED ALL SANCTIONS AT PRESENT IN OPERATION AND ADJUSTMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO ALLEVIATE HARDSHIP.

GAS SUPPLIES

BOTTLED GAS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE USUAL CHANNELS FOR DOMESTIC USE ONLY. THEY ALSO EMPHASIZED FOR SUPPLIERS NOT TO CONTRAVENE THE HOURS OF 2pm - 6pm. THE ARRANGEMENTS WITH WHOLESALERS FOR THE SUPPLIES TO SHOPS WILL BE REVIEWED WHERE SHOPS ARE OPEN OUTSIDE THE AUTHORISED HOURS.

PETROL AND OIL SUPPLIES

ALL EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF OIL AND PETROL TO HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL SERVICES WERE REPORTED TO BE SATISFACTORY DESPITE THE MEDIA'S MISREPORTING OF THE SITUATION THE OIL COMPANIES CONCERNED HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO NOMINATE SUPPLY POINTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY FOR THE PROVISION OF PETROL TO DOCTORS, NURSES, AND VETERINARY SURGEONS. ARRANGEMENTS WERE ALSO MADE TO SEE THAT FARMERS ALSO OBTAINED THE ~~NECESSARY~~ NECESSARY SUPPLIES OF FUEL FOR FARM PURPOSES. ALL ENQUIRES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE FUEL OFFICER AT

BELFAST 651131

Special cases or emergencies will also be dealt with in the same way.

INTERFERENCE THE COUNCIL WISH TO EMPHASISE THAT WHILE EVERYTHING IS BEING DONE TO PROVIDE FOR THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE THAT IF THERE IS INTERFERENCE BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES THESE ARRANGEMENTS MAY HAVE TO BE TERMINATED. IF THIS HAPPENS IT WILL BE THE ~~RESPONSIBILITY~~ RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, MERRYLYN REES, AND THE N.I. OFFICE.

POSTAL SERVICES

THE COUNCIL WERE DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT THE POST OFFICE HAD REFUSED THE OFFER OF THE WORKERS TO DEAL WITH GIRO CHEQUES AND MAIL RELATING TO SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE PAYMENTS. FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC THE WORKERS' OFFER WAS DECLINED ON THE BASIS THAT IF THE P O WORKERS CAME INTO WORK THEY WOULD HAVE TO HANDLE ALL THE MAIL OR NONE AT ALL.

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PROFITS

THE COUNCIL IS SETTING UP SPECIAL MACHINERY TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE WHO SEEK TO MAKE EXCESSIVE PROFITS OUT OF THE PEOPLE'S HARDSHIPS.

APPEAL

THE COUNCIL APPEAL TO LOYALIST ULSTERMEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN THE RUC AND ITS RESERVES, THE ARMY AND U D R NOT TO ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE USED AS A POLITICAL JACKBOOT TO THEIR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN WHO ARE SEEKING TO RE-ESTABLISH DEMOCRACY AND A CONSTITUTION THAT MAINTAINS OUR HERITAGE AND WAY OF LIFE.

END STATEMENT