

DAY 2

As the realisation that the constitutional stoppage was not a 'flash in the pan' spread throughout the Province, the Ulster Workers' Council Headquarters was inundated with phone calls. Less than 2% of these were abusive. Indeed, the U W C representatives were amazed at the vehemence shown by the callers - and the strong feeling was all in support of the Constitutional Stoppage. The clear and clarion call was:

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE DON'T GIVE IN. IF YOU ARE STOPPING, THEN MAKE IT AN ALL OUT ONE. WE HAVE SUFFERED LONG ENOUGH AND IT IS NOW TIME TO CALL FOR FULL AND TOTAL COMMITMENT.

While the morale of the U W C and its supporters was high there can be no doubt that Y O U by ringing U W C Headquarters boosted their morale to the highest possible pitch.

Support came in from all sources, including the Loyalist Para-Military Organisations, Loyalist Politicians, etc.

Meanwhile our enemies started their propaganda campaign. The B B C on the direct instructions of the Labour Government at Westminster, aided by the U T V, launched a vile and despicable onslaught against, not only the Workers' Council, but against every Loyalist citizen of N.I. Statements were issued to both B B C and U T V by the U W C and on each and every occasion they were deliberately distorted and quoted in such a way as to cause confusion among viewers and listeners. Meanwhile the English press and the Belfast Telegraph assisted the visual News Media in the presentation of the U W C as something less than despicable.

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The Constitutional Stoppage was described as a political strike. Rees stated that he could not negotiate with political strikers nor was he prepared to submit to political blackmail.

Despite the fact that the Labour Party when in Opposition had supported the Miners' Strike which was a strike against the Industrial Relations Act - a Constitutional Bill - Rees insisted that neither he, nor the Labour Government was prepared to meet the U W C.

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The Secretary of State threatened to use OUR TROOPS against us in our perfectly legitimate act.

LOYALIST workers were threatened by employers that if they supported the strike they would lose their jobs. This happened in the British Oxygen and Hutchinsons Yarns firms.

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