

# SUNDAY SPORT: IN HISTORY

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## SUNDAY Sport

Sunday February 9, 1979 12p

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THOUGHT: Everybody out

# PRIME MINISTER GOES ON STRIKE

**'If no one's working why should I', says not so sunny Jim**

EXCLUSIVE by DIRK STRANGE

**THERE** was confusion last night in Westminster after Prime Minister James Callaghan walked out on strike.

The wildcat action was immediately joined by Chancellor Denis Healey, Foreign Secretary David Owen and Home Secretary Merlyn Rees.

The trio gathered around a brazier outside the doors of 10 Downing Street to enforce an official picket.

At around 6.30pm, Energy Secretary Tony Benn started chanting "Scab" at Education Secretary Shirley Williams, who appeared to be attempting to cross the picket line.

It soon emerged that Mrs

## AYATOLLAH WOVES IRANIANS WITH OLD ERIC MORECAMBE GAG

A MASSIVE two million Iranians yesterday turned up to hear their new leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini proclaim a new Islamic dawn and even tell a joke.

With new Prime Minister Medhi Bazargan at his side the self-proclaimed 'Leader of the Revolution' and Supreme Leader for Life told his people: "All laws should be based on the laws of Islam."

"The leader of any Islamic faith should be a faqih who should be selected by a group of clerics."

"These clerics shall be known as the Assembly of Experts and they will be voted in by the citizens every eight years."

Just then the sound of a speeding

Williams had brought Bovril and sausage rolls for the strikers. Mr Benn apologised.

In a statement to waiting reporters, the Prime Minister, who by that time had been designated Official Shop Steward, said that the Cabinet "might as well join in" the current craze for striking.

Sunny Jim said: "If you can't beat them, join them. That's what I say. Everyone is on strike at the moment so we might as well be."

## Compromise

Talks were underway late into the night at conciliation service ACAS, where the government was meeting the government to thrash out a deal.

The government urged compromise on all sides but insisted the government would not interfere directly in the dispute.

In withdrawing their labour,

motor's wailing siren could be heard.

Turning to Prime Minister Bazargan the Ayatollah said: "He'll never sell ice-creams going that fast."

His quip was a direct reference to a Morecambe and Wise gag from their 1978 Christmas Show which, although shown in Iran at the time, has now been banned by the new fundamentalist ruling elite.

The meeting broke up to huge guffaws from the assembled throng. The Ayatollah remained stony-faced throughout.

Deposed Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi was last seen in t'Egypt.



DOWNED TOOLS: The PM

Mr Callaghan and his Cabinet colleagues join the miners, railway workers, electricity workers, nurses, binmen, grave-diggers, car-makers, print workers, water workers, council office staff, bus drivers, milkmen, lorry drivers, telecoms workers, steelworkers, shipbuilders, bankers, aircraft manufacturers, pilots, postmen, taxi drivers, shopworkers, mortuary attendants, insurance clerks and bakers on the picket line.

Last night the Department for Employment said that according to several reports beekeepers and "some" vicars were still at work.

● In a separate development, former MP Harold Wilson declared that handing over the Premiership to Sunny Jim in 1976 was "the biggest practical joke in political history."

## Retirement

Speaking from his retirement home on the Scilly Isles, Mr Wilson chuckled: "Jim had been itching to take over for ages, so one day I just said: 'There you go, it's your turn now'."

"Jim was like a kid in a sweet shop. He rushed into Downing Street and started giving it the big 'I Am'."

"He was on the hotline to Ford and Breznev, re-ordering departmental responsibilities and handing out honours — then he realised the country was knackered and bankrupt. You should have seen his little face!"

"He tried the old 'Crisis, what crisis'? but I for one know that every night he goes home and cries like a bitch."



## BONINGTON CONQUERS MOUNTAIN OF RUBBISH

EXCLUSIVE by BOB HARDMAN

BRITISH mountaineer Chris Bonington has conquered the perilous east slope of the huge mountain of rubbish that has built up in London's Trafalgar Square.

The world's most experienced mountaineer compared the assault to his 1975 expedition to Everest's west face, which he conquered with the loss of only 18 Sherpas.

Amazingly, he managed this new challenge without the use of oxygen and with only two Sherpas to aide him.

## Challenge

His assault began on Wednesday and almost came to a nasty end within the first two hours when one of the bin bags he was attempting to climb burst, covering the climber in chicken skin mixed with Kellogg's Frosties and the remains of a half-drunk bottle of chocolate milk.

Before his amazing assault, the Hampstead-born Brit said: "It's a challenge. By jove it's a challenge. That thing is

growing by the minute. It's a monster, what!"

But by 3.15pm yesterday afternoon he had scaled the rubbish mountain and, to cries of: "For Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, for my country, for Empire," he planted the Union flag firmly on top of a black bin bag containing numerous cans of Skol and an empty Watney's Party Seven pack.

His feat was witnessed by a group of striking binmen stationed at the bottom of the mountain and some flying pickets who sang songs in an acapella style as he climbed.

Ralph Walters, the National Union of Public Employees' Secretary who is representing the striking binmen, said: "We may go back to work tomorrow, we may go back in a month or in a year."

"It doesn't matter. What does matter is when we do go back most people's bins will be too full for us to empty anyway."

"We only empty bins with the lids closed. If the lids are open because there's too much rubbish in them we won't empty them."

## Gravediggers ask people NOT to die next Wednesday

GRAVEDIGGERS A representative of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) has asked people not to die next Wednesday ahead of a strike by all funeral employees.

A representative told Sunday Sport: "We're calling an indefinite strike from Wednesday onwards so if people are going to

die I suggest they die now and get buried by Tuesday at the latest."

"Alternatively, they can wait until the strike is over before dying."

## AMERICA'S CUP WON BY VIETNAMESE BOAT PERSON

- See Sport -

## SHARES IN BRAZILERS ROCKET

- See Finance section

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