

# Heath works to end British trade dispute

LONDON—Prime Minister Edward Heath entered into last-ditch negotiations with the 10-million-member Trades Union Congress (TUC)—Britain's equivalent of the AFL-CIO—Monday to end the country's industrial civil war.

But the country's 29,000 railroad engineers announced a 24-hour nationwide rail shut-down starting at midnight. At the same time the engineers said they were willing to enter new pay negotiations on Jan. 22 with the state-run British Railways Board.

"The executive committee has reaffirmed that the 24 hour strike will take place tomorrow," said Ray Buckton, head of the engineers union, at the end of a three hour meeting called to consider the Railways Board's offer for new talks.

However, the Railways Board's offer was conditional on an end to the slowdown and the announced 24-hour strike left the talks in doubt. The slowdown by engineers has

strewn chaos throughout commuter schedules and freight deliveries and contributed significantly to Britain's virtual economic collapse.

With coal miners refusing to work overtime, the country's coal supplies are dwindling fast, and Heath decreed a three-day work week to save the energy available. More than a million workers have temporarily been forced onto the dole. Political sources said if Heath's negotiations with the Trades Union Congress (TUC) failed, Heath might dissolve parliament this week and call new national elections.

Some sources said new elections could come as soon as early February.

The major source of conflict between Heath's Conservative government and the unions is economic controls patterned after President Nixon's wage and price controls. Government officials said Heath was making an all-out effort to reach agreement with the TUC leaders.

## The magnificent 'fuzzy thing'

WASHINGTON—The comet Kohoutek will make its closest approach to earth Tuesday, but binoculars will be needed to see it.

The fading comet, once expected to be a brilliant evening object in the sky, will pass about 74.9 million miles from earth on its journey back out of the solar system. It will be 59.9 million miles from the sun Tuesday, traveling at 118,000 miles per hour.

The comet is so faint in the sky now that

the Naval Observatory here has given up on its plan to let the public look at Kohoutek through the observatory's telescope. Astronomer Paul Routhly said the chances of getting a good look are slim.

"It's a very disappointing object," he said. "It is certainly not a naked eye object. With binoculars, the average person could look at sunset, just above Jupiter, and maybe see a fuzzy looking thing."



Henry A. Kissinger

## Ehrlichman hearing postponed until Feb.

LOS ANGELES—A county judge Monday delayed until Feb. 25 a hearing on whether burglary charges should be dropped against John Ehrlichman and others in connection with the break-in of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office on grounds they were acting as federal "police officers."

Superior Court Judge Gordon Ringer also postponed until Jan. 29 a decision on whether another former White House aide, David Young, should have charges against him dropped on grounds the grand jury indictment was improperly prepared.

Attorneys for Ehrlichman, Young and a third defendant, G. Gordon Liddy, are prepared to argue that the White House "plumbers squad" was acting under orders of President Nixon to investigate security leaks when the files of Dr. Lewis Fielding were rifled.

The defense contends that they were therefore just policemen. It also argues that the prosecution is discriminatory since the district attorney does not prosecute local policemen who make an illegal search for evidence.

# Peace plan rejected

Egypt rejected Monday the Israeli plan for troop disengagement along the Suez Canal and gave U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger a counter-proposal to carry back to Jerusalem. Kissinger said, however, that the gap between the sides has been "narrowed substantially."

The United Nations reported the Egyptians had called off Tuesday's scheduled meeting with the Israelis in Geneva on the controversial troop separation issue.

Before leaving Aswan, Egypt, Kissinger said his talks with Egyptian officials were "friendly, constructive and useful as usual."

"My talks here have narrowed substantially the gap between the two sides," Kissinger said.

U.S. Ambassador-designate to Egypt, Herman Eilts, said Kissinger hopes that the gap "will be narrowed down further in the next day or two."

Earlier Monday, Kissinger said "This is the toughest negotiation I've ever been in and the most complex. It's tough to reconcile the two sides. But I like the people."

The semi-official Egyptian Middle East News Agency said Kissinger wound up a full day of negotiations with a one hour meeting with President Anwar Sadat before taking off for Israel.

The chief point of debate appeared to be the number of Egyptian forces to be left on the Israeli-occupied east side of the canal and also an Egyptian desire for precise wording of the agreement.

The Israeli military command said the Egyptians initiated mortar, artillery and small arms fire at Israeli positions along the Suez front Monday, with no casualties reported. The Syrian front was reported quiet.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi told a news conference in Aswan, "The Israeli plan Dr. Kissinger brought with him was not satisfactory."

A short time later, Israel said it received word from the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) commander, Maj. Gen. Ennio Siliusvuo, that the Egyptians had broken off the Geneva talks and recalled the

Egyptian delegation there.

"The Israeli delegation has postponed its return to Geneva pending further notice of the return of the Egyptian delegation to the Geneva talks," an Israeli government spokesman said.

In Aswan, Fahmi said Kissinger was returning to Israel Monday night "with an Egyptian plan and an Egyptian map on disengagement with Israel." He said Kissinger then planned to come back to Egypt Tuesday night, presumably with Israel's response.

Kissinger had delayed his scheduled flight to Israel for more than four hours while U.S. and Egyptian officials pored over maps at

the upper Nile city in an effort to reach an agreement on the separation of Egyptian and Israeli forces on both sides of the Suez Canal.

Fahmi said any disengagement agreement "should be sufficiently detailed that there can be no hang-ups. Everything must be in clear-cut language so that there will be nothing again like point B."

This was a reference to the part of the Nov. 11 cease-fire consolidation agreement calling on Egyptian and Israeli military representatives to negotiate a return to lines held when the first U.N.-ordered cease-fire went into effect Oct. 22.

**The Daily Tar Heel**

## On The Outside

from the wires of United Press International

Compiled by Tom Sawyer  
Wire Editor

## 'No conflict' claimed in milk deal

WASHINGTON—The White House said Monday it was a mistake for aides to have informed President Nixon of plans by milk producers to contribute \$2 million to his re-election campaign.

However, presidential spokesman Gerald L. Warren said there was no conflict between this occurrence and Nixon's assertion on Oct. 26 that he never discussed campaign contributions.

Warren also stuck by White House insistence that the information on the campaign contributions played "no part whatsoever" in Nixon's decision to increase federal subsidies for milk.

## Soviets denounce Solzhenitsyn

MOSCOW—The Communist party, in its most violent denunciation of Alexander I. Solzhenitsyn, said Monday "every honest man on earth cannot but turn away in anger and disgust" from the Nobel Prize-winning author because of his "staunch" anti-Soviet works.

It gave no indication, however, of any pending official moves against him.

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