MORE INDUSTRY—INCREASED WAGES

MAY I make one or two comments on the interesting correspondence on wage negotiations and a M.P.s responsibilities?

While it is natural that a M.P. should be anxious to help all his constituents, it is also natural that the trades unions should want to make quite clear to the public the facts about wage negotiations.

It cannot be too strongly stressed that wage negotiations between the trades unions and employers continue quite independently of any individual M.P.'s actions.

The increases in the cost of living which have taken place since the Tories came to power have made the low wages in Portsmouth go less far than ever, and it is no wonder that Conservative M.P.s should show concern at the results of their own Government's policies.

The Conservative ex-Dockyardmen who have contributed to this correspondence, should remember that whether they like it or not, trades unions have only been able to achieve better wages and conditions for their people because of the early struggles of the trade union movement and the Labour Party, of which it is a constituent part.

To-day, Conservative trade unionists are enjoying benefits won for them by their Labour predecessors.

It would be unfair to forget that from 1945/50, when the Labour Government was in power, benefits achieved by the unions in the Dockyard included staggered holidays with full pay, sick leave with pay for all employees, plus leave for hospital and dental treatment, increased earnings as a result of improved piecework schemes, and better welfare facilities and working conditions.

Finally, I agree most definitely with your correspondents who advocate increased industrial development in Portsmouth as a means of increasing employment and raising wages.

I am conducting an industrial survey of Portsmouth myself, and from my work up-to-date it is quite clear to me that the expansion of industrial development in the city is the most important way of increasing its prosperity.

Alma Birk.

Prospective Parliamentary Labour Candidate, Portsmouth West.

Letters to The Editor

Foot Service

THE letter in the Evening News (May 5) about a chiropody service very much interested us.

For the past 18 months, members of the Milton Good Companions' Club (an old folk's club) have had such service free from a chiropodist, who receives no pay.

D. M. Cole
(Leader).
V. G. Bedford
(Deputy-Leader).

I WOULD like to point out that the members of the Society of Chiropodists in Hampshire held a meeting with the Hampshire Council of Social Service at Winchester, at which it was agreed in principle, that we would, in conjunction with local welfare organizations, provide a chiropody service for old age pensioners unable to afford the normal fees.

We are drafting final details, and it is our intention to inaugurate the scheme within the next few weeks.

Although, as your correspondent states, such schemes operate in some big towns and cities, we are proud to be inaugurating the first county chiropody scheme within Great Britain.

R. A. Webb.

Chairman, South-East Hampshire and I.W. Branch, Society of Chiropodists.

Calling a Spade . . .

IN his letter (E.N. May 8) Mr. E. R. Bagnall appears to imply that councillors elected on a Party "ticket" are only interested in the well-being of their supporters once they are elected.

This is certainly not the case. The councillor is a much-maligned person, and it should be remembered that he or she is an unpaid voluntary public servant, who is only too glad to help ward constituents, irrespective of political or other views.

Mr. Bagnall's idea is sound in theory, but experience has shown that it doesn't work. Too often the term "ratepayer" candidate is just a pseudonym for a Conservative candidate.

In Southampton this year, it looks as if the local Conservatives have decided to own up, partially anyway. Their candidates are no longer "Ratepayers" but "Ratepayer-Conservatives."

We already have "Independent" candidates who hold Conservative Party posts locally, besides the "Independents" with Conservative support.

Let us call a spade a spade, and if a candidate has strong political leanings, let him or her declare it.

Radical.

Fareham.

Tender Subject

SO the ratepayer has to pay again — to the extent of £1,526.

I see that a tender for the erection of 64 houses at Leigh Park amounting to £82,518, has been rejected in favour of a tender amounting to £84,044.

The reason? The contractor submitting the lower tender did not divulge the number of apprentices that he employs.

Now, Sir, I strongly object to the nonsensical clause imposed by the Portsmouth City Council which requires that contractors tendering for Corporation contracts must employ a ratio of one apprentice to eight craftsmen.

This clause is costing the ratepayers a lot of money. Only a short time ago the interior of the South Parade Pier was renovated at a price which was £600 higher than necessary.

Portsmouth, incidentally, is the only authority imposing this restriction, and in view of the necessity of keeping down the rates, is it not time that this useless imposition should be removed, and that healthy competition be encouraged among building contractors?

As a ratepayer, I care not a rap how many apprentices a contractor employs, but I do object to paying unnecessarily in order that a whim of a few of our City Council members may be gratified at my expense.

Rambler.

Southsea

Policy For Housing a "Practical Plan"

KEEPING the nation's houses in repair should be above Party politics, yet the Labour Party is raising the cry of a "landlords' ramp."

No honest person believes this. It is a hollow joke to pretend that rents fixed, in some cases, as long ago as 1920 are sufficient to provide an income which would to-day keep a house in good repair.

How, then, to tackle the problem? The Government policy "Operation Rescue" is a practical plan to meet what the Housing Minister (Mr. Harold Macmillan) has described as the "greatest housing challenge."

He has explained that "the great majority of houses can be dealt with by landlord and tenant acting together. In some cases, there will be moderate increases. But, in every case, any increase of rent will be spent on repairs—and only on repairs.

No repairs expenditure, no repairs increase in rent. It is simple and it is fair.

Compared with this careful plan to safeguard your home and ensure absolute fairness as between landlord and tenant what do the Socialists propose? Why, to nationalize your home!

As Mr. Macmillan has said, the Socialist plan is apparently "to nationalize 7,000,000 houses, at a cost of about £3,000,000,000, and then hand them over to local authorities for management and repair. Of one thing you may be quite sure. The rents would go up far more drastically than under the Government's plan. And—an important point — the tenants would lose their security, of course.

Is this, then, a "landlords' ramp?" Or is opposition to it merely a Socialist vote-catching ramp?

A. G. Knight.

Gosport.

Free to Work

I WOULD like to remind workers in the building trade that under this Government they have been free to work and earn wages that would not have been possible under Mr. Bevan's "go-slow" policy. The fortunate occupiers would have still been on the waiting list a few more years.

More than 300,000 houses and de-rationing have been too fast for the Labour Party, which likes controls over life, work, and food.

We often hear the cry for subsidies, but I would point out that Sir Stafford Cripps and Mr. Gaitskell both stated that the limit had been reached in their day. This means that subsidies would result in rationing again for all.

Reflection.

Portchester.

NO TREAT?

MY daughter's Sunday School is again organizing a summer outing as a "treat."

As usual this means another day of worry for my husband and myself.

We do not like to refuse to let our daughter go with her friends, but it seems to me that these "treats" often end in disaster—minor, usually.

These times a day out is little novelty for children, and I consider that such trips are better left in the hands of parents.

Anxious.

John DYERS FEATURE

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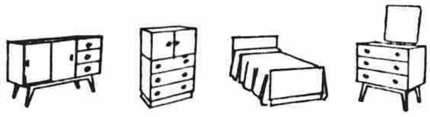

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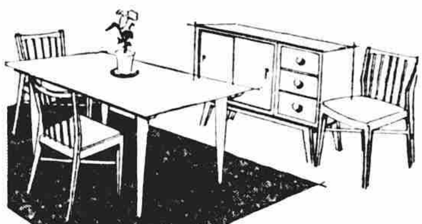

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CLASSIC CINEMA & NEWS THEATRE —To-day and all the week (exclusive to the Classic): "The Eva Braun and Hitler Story" (u), 11.40, 1.0, 2.25, 3.45, 6.45, 9.40. Gregory Peck, "The World in his Arms" (u), Tech.

CRITERION, Gosport.—Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sterling Hayden, Richard Carlson, "Eagles of the Fleet" (u), Cinecolor, 2.55, 5.45, 8.40. Wayne Morris, Frank Ferguson, "Star of Texas" (u), 1.50, 4.40, 7.30. Last show 7.10.

CURZON, Waterlooville — To-day Humphrey Bogart, Jennifer Jones, Gina Lollobrigida, "Beat the Devil" (a), 5.20, 8.25. Douglas Fairbanks Jnr., "Thought to Kill" (a), 3.30, 7.0. Last prog. 7.0. Open 3.40. Mat. Wed. 1.50.

EMPIRE, Havant — To-day, Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis, "Money from Home" (u), Tech., 3.05, 5.50, 8.30. Progs. 2.15, 5.0, 7.40.

EMBASSY, Fareham—To-day: Akim Tamiroff, Donald Sinden, Naunton Wayne, "You Know What Sailors Are" (u), Tech., 1.55, 5.20, 8.50. Richard Conte, Audrey Totter, "Under the Gun" (a), 3.40, 7.10. Thurs., Fri., Sat., Vera Ralston, Forrest Tucker, "Jubilee Trail" (u), Colour, 1.30, 5.0, 8.30. Wendell Corey, Evelyn Keyes, "Hell's Half Acre" (a), 3.30, 7.0.

ESSOLDO, Albert Road — To-day, Charles Laughton, John Mills, Brenda De Banzie, "Hobson's Choice" (u), 3.0, 5.20, 8.40. Lisa Daniely, Guy Rolfe, Patricia Dainton, "Operation Diplomat" (u), 3.45, 7.05.

ESSOLDO, Kingston Cross — To-day, Glenn Ford, Gloria Grahame, "The Big Heat" (x), adults only, 2.05, 5.25, 8.45. John Bentley, Dinah Sheridan, "Paul Temple's Triumph" (u). Open 1.45, last prog. 7.0.

ESSOLDO, Cosham —To-day, Charles Laughton, John Mills, Brenda De Banzie, "Hobson's Choice" (u), 2.0, 5.20, 8.40. Lisa Daniely, Guy Rolfe, Patricia Dainton, "Operation Diplomat" (u), 3.45, 7.05.

ESSOLDO, Eastney. — To-day, John Derek, Wanda Hendrix, "Sea of Lost Ships" (u), 2.20, 5.40, 8.50. Also "Perilous Journey" (a). Open 2.0. Last show 7.0. Thurs., Fri., Sat., Massimo Girotti, Ludmilla Tcherina, "Spartacus the Gladiator" (a), 2.10, 5.30, 8.50. Also "Whistle Stop" (a).

FORUM, Gosport — To-day, Alan Ladd in "Hell Below Zero" (u), Tech., 2.50, 5.48, 8.46. Scott Brady in "Desert Patrol" (u), 1.36, 4.34, 7.32. Last prog. 7.05.

GAIETY.—To-day on the wide screen, Gary Cooper, Barbara Stanwyck, "Blowing Wild" (a), 2.0, 5.25, 8.50. James Cagney, Pat O'Brien, "Angels with Dirty Faces" (a), 3.35, 7.0.

GAUMONT Southsea (phone 74685) —To-day, Kirk Douglas in "Act of Love" (a), introducing Danny Robin, 1.25, 4.50, 8.25. Steve Cochran, Carole Mathews in "Shark River" (u) colour, 3.20, 6.55.

GAUMONT, Portsmouth, phone 719231 To-day Kirk Douglas in "Act of Love" (a), introducing Dany Robin, 1.20, 4.50, 8.25. Steve Cochran, Carole Mathews in 6.25.

ODEON, North End Phone 72175 — To-day: Shelley Winters, Barry Sullivan, "Playgirl" (a), 2.30, 5.55, 9.0. Rock Hudson, Barbara Rush, "Taza, Son of Cochise" (u), 4.0, 7.25. Open 1.45, last house 7.25.

ODEON Southsea Phone 22153 — To-day, Shelley Winters, Barry Sullivan, "Playgirl," (a), 2.15, 5.40, 9.0. Rock Hudson, Barbara Rush, "Taza, Son of Cochise" (u), 3.45, 7.5. Open 1.45, last house 7.5.

ODEON, Cosham Phone 76347 — To-day: Shelley Winters, Barry Sullivan, "Playgirl" (a), 2.20, 5.40, 9.05. Rock Hudson "Taza, Son of Cochise" (u), Tech., 4.05, 7.30.

PALACE To-day: Gary Cooper, Barbara Stanwyck, "Blowing Wild" (a), 2.05, 5.20, 8.50. James Cagney, Pat O'Brien, "Angels With Dirty Faces" (a), 3.45, 7.10.

REX, Fratton Road—To-day: David Niven, William Holden, "The Moon is Blue" (x), 5.30, 8.55. Edward G. Robinson, "Actors and Sin" (a), 4.0, 7.25. Open 4.0.

SAVOY (A.B.C.)—To-day on the new Panoramic screen, Charles Laughton, John Mills, Brenda de Banzie, "Hobson's Choice" (u), 1.45, 5.10, 8.40. Guy Rolfe, Lisa Daniely, Patricia Dainton, "Operation Diplomat" (u), 3.35, 7.05.

SAVOY, Fareham — To-day and remainder of week, William Holden, David Niven, Maggie McNamara, "The Moon is Blue" (x), adults only, 2.25, 5.30, 8.45. Dermot Walsh, Lana Morris, "The Straw Man" (a), 1.0, 4.10, 7.15.

SHAFTESBURY. — To-day Gary Cooper, Barbara Stanwyck, "Blowing Wild" (a), 2.15, 5.30, 8.50. James Cagney, Pat O'Brien, "Angels with Dirty Faces" (a), 3.40, 7.05.

TIVOLI To-day Bill Elliott, Preston Foster, Peggie Castle, "I the Jury" (x), adults only, Mon./Fri. 5.40, 8.45. Sat. 2.25, 5.30, 8.40. Douglas Fairbanks Jnr., Patricia Cutts, "The Genie" (a), Mon./Fri. 7.20. Sat. 4.05, 7.10. Last perf. Mon./Fri. 7.10. Sat. 7.0.

TROXY To-day, Bill Elliott, Preston Foster, Peggie Castle, "I the Jury" (x), adults only, 2.15, 2.25, 8.40. Douglas Fairbanks Jnr., Patricia Cutts, "The Genie" (a). Last prog. 7.0.

VICTORIA (A.B.C.)—To-day, Glenn Ford, Gloria Grahame, Jocelyn Brando, "The Big Heat" (x), 3.5, 6.0, 9.0, adults only. Scott Brady, "Desert Patrol" (u), 1.45, 4.40, 7.40.

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