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EVENING POST

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Wed., Mar. 27 1968

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Big pay claim by engineers rejected

The Engineering Employers' Federation today declined to meet a claim for a substantial wage increase and better conditions for three million workers.

Instead they put forward an alternative proposal.

They proposed to the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions that there should be talks on productivity bargaining and on improving earnings levels for the lower paid.

The employers also turned down sick-pay and pensions schemes, a third week's holiday and equal pay for women.

The biggest

But they said that job measurement to ensure a fair reward for the job done would apply equally to men and women.

The unions' claim was the biggest since the Government imposed emergency restrictions in July 1966.

They asked for a substantial wage increase, without naming a figure, a shorter working week, increased overtime pay, longer holidays, equal rates for men and women and a non-contributory pension scheme.

They proposed a new long-term agreement to follow the three-year "package deal" which expired at the end of last year.

Employers' plan

The employers today put forward a three-point plan. Both sides should sit down together nationally and agree in general terms

PAGE TWO

DANGER GIRLS

Who were the Secret Sweeties? They were girls with a far from sweet job. . . read all about them and their dangerous task in tomorrow's EVENING POST.

And that's not the only reason for buying tomorrow's paper. Just look at these attractions: ANOTHER DREAM comes true tomorrow. Will it be yours? Even if it isn't, you can be sure it makes a



Wars come and wars go; life changes little on the farm. Mr. Loder pictured today at his 200-acre farm in Somerset.

I LED A SECRET BAND OF SOMERSET GUERRILLAS

by RAY STOKES

Many times during the Second World War, farmer Mr. Eric Loder was asked: "What are you doing for your country?"

But it is only in the past few days that Mr. Loder, who runs a 200-acre farm at Podimore, near Ilchester, has been able to answer that question.

For his war-time role was vital—and secret.

He was the leader of a group trained in guerrilla warfare who would have sprung into action if the Germans had invaded this country.

Mr. Loder, now aged 50, was given special permission by the Ministry of Defence to tell the Evening Post about his wartime activities following the publication of the book "The Last Ditch" which discloses the existence of this "secret army."

For 28 years, Mr. Loder has kept his secret—even from his family—

fascinating, heartwarming story.

DAPHNE HUBBARD gets on the telephone line. She asks are things better with S.T.D.?

CHRISTINE THOMAS brings news from the churches. Don't be disappointed—help your newsgang and yourself. Place a regular order NOW for your

EVENING POST

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Tells story of a man whose lips were sealed

although at times it proved embarrassing.

During the war years, he was several times sneered at by people who thought he was doing nothing for the war effort—and because he was sworn to secrecy was unable to defend himself.

"I just used to ignore the comments, although it was a bit embarrassing," said Mr. Loder as we chatted in his 17th century thatched farmhouse today.

His activities in Auxiliary Units—the official name for the guerrilla groups—could have come from the pages of a schoolboy adventure story.

It started in 1940 when Mr. Loder volunteered to join the Local Defence Volunteers—soon after to become the Home Guard.

Later that year, he was approached by a senior officer and asked if he

would undertake a secret assignment.

He agreed—although he wasn't given any details.

At a later interview, he was told to pick five other local men to form an Auxiliary Unit.

He picked his team—all of them, like him, farmers' sons who knew every ditch and hedge of the local countryside.

The men he picked were Dennis Ford, who now lives in Taunton, John Denning, Glyde Scammell, Bob Hillyer and George Hutchings, who all still live in the area.

Mr. Loder, who had the rank of sergeant, was promoted Lieutenant. He then went on a course to Coleshill, in Wiltshire, to learn the arts of unarmed combat, the use of weapons, grenades, explosives and sabotage techniques.

Hide-out

All this information he passed on to his group during their training session—most of which were held in his home, Church Farm.

The group also had a secret hide-out—dug into the side of a hill near Sparkford.

Mr. Loder chuckled as he recalled: "We tried to

PAGE TWO

WILSON TO DISCUSS THE WEST

by PAUL FLUCK

Prime Minister Mr. Harold Wilson will discuss the future of the West when he comes to Bristol in May.

He plans to meet the Regional Economic Planning Council on Friday, May 10, after he opens the £14 million Avonmouth

extension to the Imperial Smelting Company's works.

Like all regional engagements, Mr. Wilson's visit to the West is subject to postponement, so that he can attend to urgent State business.

A spokesman at 10, Downing Street said today: "The arrangements are still very tentative, because of the problem of looking so far ahead."

Learners to pay more

Fees for driving lessons are to go up from 25s. an hour to about £2 an hour, the Motor Schools' Association decided today.

But, said their general secretary, Mr. Pat Murphy, this would not increase the overall cost of learning to drive.

"We are urging streamlining of instructional methods," he said.

With present methods a driver takes about 20 hours instruction behind the wheel costing £25—and 52 per cent of their fee.

The new idea is for a learner to spend only 12 hours behind the wheel, costing a total £24 at the higher price, and the other eight lessons in the classroom for about three shillings a lesson.

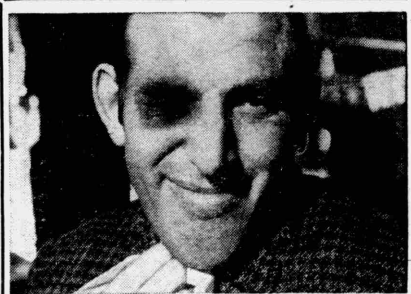
Pencilled in

"It is only pencilled in Mr. Wilson's diary, but I have no reason to think that it will not become firm."

"This is one of Mr. Wilson's regional visits which we hope will take place, but which we are unable to confirm."

The spokesman confirmed that Mr. Wilson will meet the Planning Council, and also the Planning Board of Civil Servants, if his visit takes place.

I understand that Mr. Wilson will see the Planning Board in the morning, attend Imperial's opening ceremony and lunch, and then go on to meet the Planning Council in the afternoon.



Here, Paul G'tty could starve insisting on Entrecôte Bordelaise. But for a big, juicy steak—the kind of steak meal you'd cook for yourself—you've only to say the word. That's right. The kind of steak meal you'd cook for yourself at home. But you'd be hard put to do it for less than you pay at The Hole in the Wall.

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PRIME FILLET STEAK 16/9 GOLDEN FINGER 15/-
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 BERNI INNS MAKE EATING OUT A PLEASURE



Mr. Desmond Donnelly.

Brown stays silent as Donnelly is expelled

by PETER CARVER

Mr. George Brown, who has decided to remain as the Labour Party's Deputy Leader, sat silently opposite Mr. Wilson for most of the Party's National Executive meeting this afternoon.

He spoke only briefly to give a short report as chairman of the Home Affairs Sub-committee.

Mr. Brown even abstained from the one vote in the proceedings—in which the decision to expel Mr. Wilson's chief Labour critic, Mr. Desmond Donnelly, M.P. for Pembrokeshire, was taken.

Mr. Donnelly's expulsion, on the grounds that Mr. Donnelly had "failed to adhere to his constitutional obligations to the Labour Party," was approved by an overwhelming vote.

The meeting accepted a suggestion from the Prime Minister that the Cabinet and the N.E.C. should get together at Downing Street on April 28 to discuss the economic situation.

During the meeting general secretary Mr. Len

PAGE TWO

