

U DX127

**Newspaper cuttings relating to
the Industrial Relations Act**

1963-1974

Historical Background:

The Industrial Relations Act 1971 introduced by the Conservative Government was a highly controversial piece of legislation concerning trade unions, employers and employee rights. It specifically sought to weaken the collective bargaining powers of unions, allow employers to insert 'no strike' clauses into employment contracts, required unions to be registered and required a secret ballot before a strike could be called.

It provoked fierce objections across the Trade Union and on 1st March 1971 an estimated 1.5 million people stopped work across the country in an unofficial day of protest. The Act also established the National Industrial Relations Court (NIRC) which was given powers to hear a range of labour disputes. 32 trades unions that complied with the Act by registering as a union were suspended by the Trades Union Congress in 1972.

In July 1972 five shop stewards were jailed by the NIRC after refusing to obey a court order about picketing a depot in East London. The arrest led to the TUC calling for a general strike and the five who were nicknamed the 'Pentonville Five' were released on appeal a week after their arrest.

The Act was repealed in 1974 following the Labour party's victory in the General Election. Some elements including the right not to be unfairly dismissed were included in the 1974 Trade Union and Labour Relations Act but the NIRC was dissolved.

Custodial history:

From the library of Professor P.G. Espinasse donated to the archives on 24th Feb 1976

Description:

Press cuttings (1972-1974) from national newspapers including 'The Times' and the 'Guardian', relating to trades unions, industrial relations and the National Industrial Relations Court and a file of cuttings and pamphlets on the Rookes v. Barnard case (1963-1971)

Extent: 4 volumes & 1 file

Related material:

File. National Industrial Relations Court, 1972 [Ref U DCL/598/8]

Files of Press cuttings amongst the Papers of Tony (Anthony John) Topham [Ref U DTO/6/50-51]

Other papers of PG 'Espinasse are at U DX90 and U DX299

Access conditions:

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

Hull History Centre: Newspaper cuttings relating to the Industrial Relations Act

U DX127/1	Volume of press cuttings: Industrial Relations Act 1 volume	Apr-Dec 1972
U DX127/2	Volume of press cuttings: Industrial Relations Act 1 volume	Dec 1972- Sep 1973
U DX127/3	Volume of press cuttings: Industrial Relations Act 1 volume	Oct 1973- Mar 1974
U DX127/4	Volume of press cuttings: Industrial Relations Act 1 volume	Apr-Dec 1974
U DX127/5	Rookes v Barnard File primarily containing press cuttings relating to the Rookes v. Barnard case. (re the dismissal of Rookes, a draughtsman at London Airport) and other cases relating to that decision and to trade disputes. It also includes the pamphlet 'Keep the Unions Free' (1964) published by the Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association reprinting a number of speeches and articles on the subject; a TUC leaflet entitled 'Relations between unions' (1964) and a pamphlet 'Trade unions hamstrung : the meaning of Rookes v Barnard' by Owen Henry Parsons (1964). 1 file	Jun 1963- Mar 1971