

Britain Is Beset With More Problems Than Government Admits

By HARRY HOBBS
United Press International
 London — With unemployment its highest in 15 years and the door to the European common market closed, Britain is beset these days with more troubles than its government — or its business community — care to contemplate.

And what may be the most serious of all, no one here has any ready answer about how to find the cures.

Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, immediately following the French veto last month

Britain's application to enter the common market, told the nation in a radio and television address:

"Is there an alternative? There is not, in the sense of a sort of ready-made plan better than the one we have been pursuing."

Later he told Parliament the same thing and the country's most authoritative business newspaper, the Financial Times, said: "Macmillan didn't tell us where to go from here because he does not know."

Motions of no-confidence in

the government, proposed by the Labor party, have been rattling steadily off Macmillan's shield and because of the huge government majority in the House of Commons they have been easily defeated. But party loyalty has not concealed a rising swell of dissatisfaction within the Conservative party's own ranks.

Some of Macmillan's more outspoken editorial critics have been calling on him to resign. The Labor opposition has been demanding an early election

being confident the government would be thrown out. Whether or when Macmillan will call an election is unclear. He must do so under the law by October, 1964 — five years after the last general election.

The final assessment has yet to be made whether the abrupt ending for the present of Britain's common market ambitions was good or bad for the country in the economic sense. That it was a political defeat no one challenges. But on the business side there is a certain amount of relief that the long period of uncertainty is ended.

While the larger business and government assess the Euromark exclusion, the canker of unemployment and labor unrest provide a major challenge at home.

ment has earmarked about \$84 million worth of shipbuilding and other work for the area in one pump-priming effort.

Some highly dramatized labor disputes reflect the existing unrest.

With the country in the midst of its hardest winter in living memory a small group of electrical power workers instituted an unofficial "go slow" strike in a demand for higher pay. Resulting blackouts and power cuts affected millions.

London's blazing Piccadilly Circus was dimmed and even Buckingham Palace, home of Queen Elizabeth, was blacked out by a power cut (the Queen, however, was not in residence). Hospitals and homes across the country suffered. Coal became short as the demand

soared in this land of little central heating.

Another dramatic example of labor discord has been the giant Ford Motor company plant at Dagenham outside London, one of Britain's biggest auto factories. The plant has suffered some 300 labor "incidents" in the past four years and stoppages are estimated to have cost the company about \$84,000,000 in lost sales. The company has blamed agitators and Communists. The unions — the one plant deals with — 22 different trade unions — allege inadequate pay and bad working conditions.

The unofficial or "wildcat" strike has been one of the worst problems. Such strikes have been averaging about 2,000 a year and have dis-

tressed responsible labor men as much as industry and the government.

All told, strikes in Britain last year involved some 4,500,000 workers. Many observers believe strikes will hit harder this year unless the economy receives a major shot-in-the-arm.

It is that economic "shot-in-the-arm" the nation seeks without, at the moment, seeming to know just where to look.

Win Labor Approval

Any action by the government to limit profits and dividends would win heavy labor approval but a conservative government could scarcely do it except in delicate measure. For this reason organized labor has refused to cooperate with government plans to set up a national incomes policy. The way the

unions see it workers' earnings would be controlled one way or another while business profits went free.

On the other hand the trades union council (TUC) which is the main British labor union body, is working with the government in the National Economic Development Council, popularly called "Neddy."

This is a joint effort by government, management and labor to try to plan the economic path ahead. "Neddy" has set as its target a growth rate for Britain of four per cent per year until 1965.

A major problem for the government is to get this rate of business growth going without inflation.

Seeking Clearcut Road

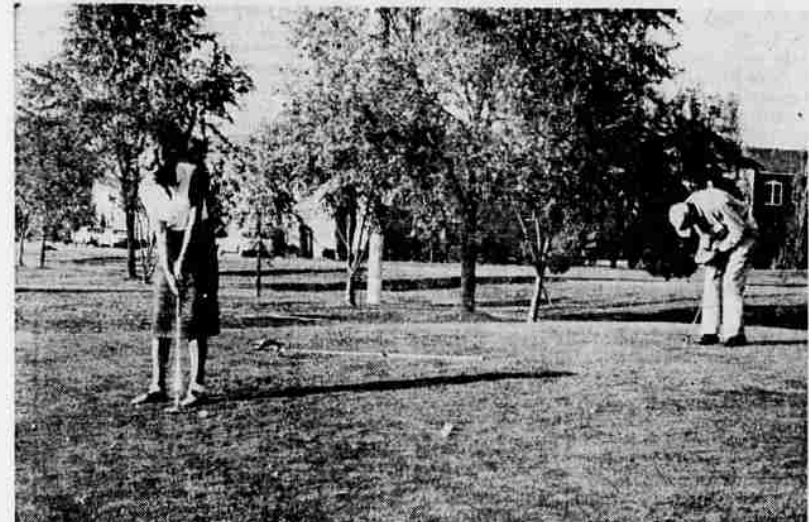
While seeking a clearcut road to Britain's economic future Macmillan has called in general terms for a "climate

of competition." The labor opposition agrees but demands specifics. It says the government needs to produce both tax and wage incentives and to give "state aid in building, equipping and running factories to fill the hard center gaps in our economy."

The issues are being fought out in the House of Commons amid continuing editorial complaint that no one appears to be providing any real answer either to what ails Britain now or what economic dangers it faces.

One contributor to the famed "letters" column of the London Times, put it this way: "Have they so soon forgotten," he wrote, "the greatest and most successful offer of all — nothing but blood and toil, sweat and tears?"

Britain waits for the verdict.



VOLUNTEER SERVICE—Typical of the White City, is this picture of volunteers at volunteer service provide for veterans at the Domiciliary's pitch and putt course. the Veterans Administration Domiciliary,

Volunteers Honored at VA Party

White City—More than 25,000 hours of volunteer services were recognized and rewarded at the annual Turnabout party for Rogue valley members of the Veterans Administration Volunteer Services Friday night in the domiciliary theater here, according to Frank J. Glonning, deputy chairman of the group.

Topping the long list of pin and certificate and ribbon awards were those who have contributed 2,500 hours including Mrs. Lella Lamb, Mrs. Helen Lusk, Mrs. Mary Schulz, Mrs. Mary Parker and Mrs. Rita Holmes. Domiciliary Director C. T. Jackson made the presentations.

One-thousand hour certificates were presented to Mrs.

Faye Allison, Mrs. Mary DeBerry, Mrs. Dorothy Leuty, Mrs. Lorena Leach and Mrs. Amie Randall.

Organization Members

The Volunteer Services are made up of members of 23 organizations in southern Oregon and northern California. Their work in behalf of the disabled veterans is enhanced by other organizations throughout the state.

Dr. E. G. Everett, chief medical officer and chairman of the Volunteer Services advisory committee, was master of ceremonies for the introductions, presentations and musical program for the evening. Ms. Joyce Gooch, chief dietitian, was chairman of the committee for refreshments which were served guests and friends following the program.

thor H. Thompson presented piano solos, and Pat Kobos played his own designed multi-string rhythm makers.

"We feel the VAVS program exemplifies to the highest degree and in the finest sense, the volunteer spirit of this entire valley," the domiciliary director said. "Through your sincere and unselfish efforts, you make the stay of our veterans at the domiciliary more wholesome and worthwhile. . . . In honoring you . . . for your devotion to volunteer duty on behalf of our members, we recognize the great contribution each of you has given in the welfare of our disabled veterans."

Jackson presented ribbons for 50 hours, certificates for 100, 300, 500 and 1,000 hours and pins for 2,500 hours.

Time Changed for Pauling Assembly

Ashland—The time has been changed from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the Linus Pauling assembly to be held on the Southern Oregon college campus March 15.

A winner of the Nobel Prize in chemistry and a professor of chemistry at California Institute of Technology, he will speak under the auspices of the American Friends Service committee.

A noon luncheon sponsored by the Soroptimist club will be held in honor of his wife, Ava Helen Pauling, who is national vice president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and a member of the American Civil Liberties Union. Mrs. Pauling will speak at the luncheon on "Prospects for World Cooperation and Peace."

Reservations for the luncheon may be made by calling the 482-3266 or Mrs. Mabel W. Winston, SOC registrar at 482-3311.

Dr. and Mrs. Pauling also will be honored at an informal coffee hour in Britt Student center at 9 p.m. the evening before. The public is invited to attend the event as well as the luncheon and the assembly.

An overture by the domiciliary orchestra, composed of many former musicians with top nationally known bands, "Strike Up The Band," led the evening's entertainment as produced by the recreation section here. Arthur Kenton was director of music with Kenneth Haecker as stage manager.

Featured In Orchestra

The orchestra features Haecker, director, pianist and organist; Kenton, arranger, clarinet and saxophone; Louis Nichols, accordion; Thomas Ray, guitar; William Hunt, bassist; Bert Vlastelica, drums and organ; Joseph Garner, trumpet and vocals, and Allen Elliott, vocals.

In addition, Robert Tobias and Eddie Grossenbacher gave harmonica solos and duets, Irving Gray sang, Ar-

Photographic Group To Meet on Monday

The Southern Oregon Photographic association will meet Monday, March 4, at 8 p.m. in the Red Cross building, according to Mrs. J. R. Wilson.

Members will submit color slides and black and white salon prints for exhibit in the "Winter Theme" exhibition which will be judged by members of the association.

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