

# Our policy stays, says bus chief

Mr. Ian Patey, general manager of Bristol Omnibus Company, said today the company's policy regarding coloured labour had been clear for years and the action by the West Indians would not make them reconsider their policy.

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## BOYCOTT

man they were looking for and an interview would be arranged.

"Then I rang back to tell them he was coloured. Their tune changed. They said it was out of the question, and would I tell him there were no vacancies"

The West Indians have also asked the Transport and General Workers' Union in Bristol to see a deputation

But an official, Mr. A. J. Coxwell, has replied that the matter has been discussed fully in the past and the reasons for the policy stated clearly by company and union

"I see no point in pursuing the matter again," he said.

Mr. Stephenson said the union's attitude did not make sense. "How can a union prepared to support a boycott of South African goods refuse to do anything about racial prejudice on its own doorstep?"

"We shall go to the T.U.C. and Mr. Frank Cousins if we get no further satisfaction from the Transport Union in Bristol."

Mr. Sean McConville, secretary of the Bristol area council of the Movement for Colonial Freedom said today they would appeal to Mr. Fenner Brockway, M.P., their national chairman to take the matter up in Parliament.

Bristol University Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament plan to hold a protest march through the Centre and Broadmead tomorrow against Bristol Omnibus Company's attitude

"We don't employ a mixed labour force as bus crews because we have found from observing other bus companies that the labour supply gets worse if the labour force is mixed.

"A company may gain 15 coloured persons and lose through prejudice 30 white people who decide they would sooner not work with coloured people."

Mr. Patey said that if Mr. Stephenson could produce evidence of a bus company who had employed coloured labour and were better off for labour, he would be happy to review the situation.

"The evidence is entirely contrary to it. There is not a big enough supply of suitable coloured labour to fill all the vacancies.

"I can't find any bus company that employs coloured labour that is up to its requirements."

Mr. Patey pointed out that coloured labour was employed in the garages.

# W. Indians claim 100 p.c. support for bus boycott

**West Indians' boycott on Bristol's buses—in protest against the Omnibus Company's refusal to recruit coloured crews — was in full swing this afternoon.**

A campaign leader said: "We have got 100 per cent from the city's 7,000 West Indians.

"None of them is using buses this afternoon. Although it is hard to tell, we are sure many white people are supporting us."

## All-out fight

Bristol's West Indians are asking Parliament, Bristol City Council and all Christians to support them in their "all-out fight against the ruthless racial policy" of the company.

They were today approaching the Bishop of Bristol, the Bishop of Clifton and Bristol Council of Christian Churches asking them to denounce racial discrimination in the company.

A spokesman for the Bishop of Bristol, the Rt. Rev. Oliver Tomkins, said this afternoon: "The Bishop has no comment to make on this matter. He has no information on it."

Mr. Thomas J. Hughes, Vicar-General of Clifton, commented: "One would denounce racial discrimination in any company or anywhere." But he said this was not only a religious problem. He could not advise members of his Church to boycott the buses; it was up to the individual to take a course of action.

The Council of Christian Churches were meeting this afternoon, and a member said this might be on the agenda.

The campaign decision follows the refusal by the company to employ an 18-year-old West Indian, Guy Bailey.

A coloured youth worker, Mr. Paul Stephenson (25), who leads the West Indian Development Council in Bristol, said today he rang the company, not disclosing his race, and asked if they had a crew vacancy for Guy.

He told them the young man was of excellent character and above-average education, and was training to be a Boys' Brigade officer.

"They said he was the sort of

# Famous cricketer writes to bus company

## SIR LEARIE JOINS IN COLOUR BAR ISSUE



Sir Learie Constantine, High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago, and the West Indies most famous cricketer, has written to Bristol Omnibus Company about their refusal to recruit coloured busmen.

The West Indian cricket tourists visit Bristol on Saturday and it is likely Sir Learie will join them.

A spokesman at his London headquarters said the 62-year-old former lawyer and Government Minister had written to the company requesting information about their employment policy.

Sir Learie, said the spokesman, felt it would be unwise for him to comment on the situation until he had the full facts.

But he was also in contact with

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West Indian driver Mr. Arlophus Chamberlatchi (Snooshall) with his conductor Mr. John (Maverick) Bright take a break at Bathaston.

the West Indian Development Council in Bristol, and was informally making other inquiries.

Meanwhile, Mr. Paul Stephenson, leader of the West Indian Development Council in Bristol, said this afternoon that the corporation's Joint Transport Committee would discuss the issue on May 20.

"I have received a letter from the Council House saying they will decide whether to receive a deputation from us," he said.

The West Indian council have asked their community to boycott Bristol bus services.

This is in protest over the

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## COLOURED MEN BUSES AT BATH

By John Alexander

Coloured men are working as bus crews in Bath, barely 12 miles from the Bristol colour bar storm centre.

Several of them are working on the bus services, including four West Indians.

I talked today to one of the supposed rascals in the city — a West Indian and a Scot.

The words "colour bar" have no place in the vocabulary of snooty "Snooshall" Chamberlatchi and his conductor, "Maverick" Bright.

The nicknames spring from the friendship which has drawn us between them.

"We like a game of cards together when off duty, and that is how I got the nickname Maverick," said Mr John Bright, a cheerful Scot, who lives at 131, Newbridge Road, Bath.

"Snooshall" — Mr Arlophus Chamberlatchi, of Hranwood Street, Bath — left the West Indies about seven years ago, and has been working on Bath buses for about six and a half years.

He started as a conductor, and is now a driver.

"There are about seven of us — four West Indians and three Pakistanis — working on Bath buses, and we are happy Workers' Union querying the union's attitude towards the employment of coloured workers on the buses.

The letter asks if the union's manager, Mr. Ian Patey, controls

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University students forming up outside the Victoria Rooms late this afternoon.

## STUDENTS ON MARCH

Banner-carrying students — some coloured — marched off from the Victoria Rooms this afternoon to support Bristol's 7,000 West Indians boycotting Bristol buses.

More than 100 of them marched off down Queen's Road and Park Street on to The

Centre to hold a 10-minute vigil outside Bristol Omnibus Co's head office. From there they were due to picket the country bus station and then move on to Transport House.

There they were hoping to hand in a letter to Mr. Ron Nethercott, regional secretary of

the Transport and General Workers' Union querying the union's attitude towards the employment of coloured workers on the buses.

The letter asks if the union's manager, Mr. Ian Patey, controls

**BEWILDERED JAMAICAN FEELS DOWNHEARTED**

# I thought there was no colour bar, says Guy



Mr Guy Bailey

by MALCOLM SMITH

The man at the centre of the bus boycott storm, 19 year old Guy Bailey, told me today : "I feel really downhearted. I never believed there was a colour-bar."

The £6-a-week Jamaican, who has been in Bristol since he came to the country a year ago, was given time off from work in a local factory to tell me his story.

His employer called him a good worker and well liked, but begged: "Do not mention our firm. We have nothing to do with it."

Asked if there was any political significance in the issue — Communism or other political association — Guy replied: "None at all."

### UNION MAN

"At home the Labour Party are strong and I support their views, but I am not a member of the party. I am a member of my union—but I can't remember the name. My card's in my jacket."

Did Guy know there was a bar on the employment of coloured bus crews in Bristol?

"I never believed there was a colour bar—honestly. They employ coloured bus crews in Birmingham and London, and I thought they would here."

### MOTOR ENGINEER

"In Jamaica I worked for two months in motor engineering and it's the job I want to do here."

For that reason I am studying English and maths at night school. But I thought I would first become a conductor."

And the appeal of the conductor's job?

"Well, my aunt used to be on the buses in Jamaica. I liked the idea of being out with people. I liked the spirit of bus conducting."

Asked if he believed that this had been a deliberate move by the West Indian Development Council in Bristol to precipitate this situation, Guy went on:

"It was just a case of me meeting Mr Stephenson at night school, and because I did not

want to lose any time at this works it was agreed that he should fix the interview for me

"I am very depressed at the result. It is a great surprise I am the only bloke working here who is coloured and I am friendly with everyone and everyone is friendly with me."

"What I am really glad about is that the Christians of this country are with us. And I say congratulations to the students who are supporting us with a march."

How does Guy spend his week?

**MONDAY**—He attends the Docklands Club.

**TUESDAY**—Education evening classes followed by Boys' Brigade training as an officer.

**WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY**—Playing for St. Mark's Cricket Club on the Y.M.C.A. ground

**FRIDAY**—Attends Baptist Mills Youth Club.

### LONDON JOBS ?

Guy said his interview with the bus company was fixed for last Wednesday. On the day the welfare officer of his firm rang to see where he should attend.

The welfare officer told the company he was a West Indian, and the bus company said the interview was off.

"I handed in my notice after I knew this, and I finish at my job this Friday."

"I don't know what I am going to do next. I may get a job on the buses in London, but I want to keep on my room here. I really like Bristol. I would hate to have to leave."

# Bus firm drops colour bar

**Western Daily Press Reporter**

The colour bar on Bristol buses is over.

Ten coloured men who have applied for jobs will be interviewed shortly.

The decision, announced yesterday, is the outcome of months of negotiations between Bristol Omnibus Company and the busmen's union—the Transport and General Workers

The talks were opened after a storm of protest in May this year when, it was claimed the bus company refused to take on a young man because of his colour

**Mr Ian Patey**, the general manager, told a Press conference:

"There will now be complete integration without regard to race, colour or creed. The only criterion will be the person's suitability for the job"

## 'As humans'

He said that, while it had not been easy to reach agreement, he hoped that integration would now go forward without any fuss.

**Mr Arthur Coxwell**, the union's regional officer for road passenger transport, said: "We have received them into the organisation as human beings."

**Mr Paul Stephenson**, said on behalf of the Bristol West Indian Development Council, of which he was leader at the time the dispute started:

"Bristol coloured immigrants are grateful to the many Bristolians who gave support and sympathy in their struggle against racial discrimination.

"Coloured people offer goodwill to the bus crews and ask that the past be forgotten so that friendship and understanding will prevail."



Raghbir Singh setting out from Old Market, Bristol, last night

# The first coloured conductor thinks it's so nice

By George Halladay

Bristol's first coloured bus conductor is Raghbir Singh from the Punjab. He was on the No. 8 between Kingswood and Southmead last night.

His verdict on the job: "Very nice."

"The passengers are so nice, the bus crews are so nice. Everyone is so helpful," he said.

The colour-bar on Bristol buses, which caused a storm four months ago, ended last month, after talks between the bus company and the local branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

When he read the announcement, he applied for a job.

Last week, he passed out of the company's training school with flying colours.

## Ex-fitter

Mr. Singh came to this country from India four years ago. His last job was a fitter in an engineering works in Staple Hill.

He lives with his wife and three children—girls, aged 14 and one-and-a-half, and a boy aged seven—in Meridian Place, Clifton.

"Since I started my new job, everybody has been most co-operative," said 37-year-old Mr. Singh.

Last night, he was wearing a blue turban. "It goes with my uniform. If I wear a brown suit I have on a brown turban," he said.

## Pleased

Mr. Arthur Coxwell, regional trade group secretary of the TGWU, said last night: "We, as a union, are very pleased that Mr. Singh has passed his conductor's test."

"He is a very capable fellow." Last word on the subject came from Mr. Singh's driver, 23-year-old Mr. Roger Wilson of Woodchester, Kingswood.

"He's all right, mate," said Roger. "Colour does not worry me. They can be black, blue or yellow."

# BRISTOL'S NEW CITIZENS

## The Full Facts On A Controversial Issue

Why are there no coloured men working on Bristol's buses? If you take a bus ride in London, Oxford, Birmingham or West Bromwich the chances are the conductor comes from Jamaica or Barbados—you may even find the driver does too. But in Bristol there are no such opportunities for the new citizens. Evening Post reporter Malcolm Smith tells you why in this full inquiry.



• Friendly and polite — that's the verdict on London's coloured busmen.

# NO COLOUR BAR ON OUR BUSES

*—but no jobs  
either for the  
immigrants*

The coloured bus conductor is a cheerful and willing character you will find collecting fares in many a British city. But not in Bristol.

He is a fellow most any Londoner or Midlander will give a good name for efficiency and politeness. On Bristol buses he is never given a chance.

There is a flat refusal by the under-manned Bristol Omnibus Company to employ coloured people in their crews, however high their skill.

The company's reason is based on a belief that:

- Among white workers there is a strong prejudice against the coloured at this level of the industry.

- That whites believe coloured workers lower the "tone" of the job.

- And that recruitment of whites falls off so that manpower shortage is never solved.

It has been said by some that bus crews are afraid that full employment cuts overtime.

It has been alleged that in Bristol there is a colour bar among local members of the Transport and General Workers' Union.



• In many provincial cities, coloured workers share the same opportunities

## ■ Resources: Bristol Bus Boycott – sequence of events

In April 1963 Bristol Omnibus Company (BOC) did not employ any Black staff on the buses.

There were no laws against racial discrimination.

A young man called Guy Reid-Bailey came to England from Jamaica. He lived in Bristol and wanted a job on the buses.

Paul Stephenson, an African-Caribbean youth worker in Bristol checked that there were jobs on the buses and that the qualifications that Guy had were good enough. He arranged an interview for Guy. When the interview had been confirmed he phoned BOC back and told them that Guy was African-Caribbean.

Bristol Omnibus Company cancelled the interview.

Paul Stephenson met Ian Patey, the General Manager of BOC. He confirmed that they did not employ Black staff on the buses.

Paul Stephenson, Guy Reid-Bailey, Henry Owen, Roy Hackett and others organised people in Bristol to boycott the buses.

They also contacted journalists on the Bristol Evening Post , national papers, Caribbean papers like The Gleaner and the West Indian Gazette. Many articles and TV interviews were produced.

White Bristolians, the African-Caribbean community, students and others boycotted the buses by walking or travelling by bike. They also marched with banners to protest.

Local and national politicians got involved.

The BOC and the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) talked for months.

Finally in August 1963 the BOC agreed to employ Black staff.

A Sikh man called Raghbir Singh was the first Black person to work on the buses in Bristol.