

SHANKLIN'S HUSH-HUSH WEEKEND

Shanklin is the scene of the year's big political mystery - what's brewing at the old Manor House? The 17th-Century mansion (now a Worker's Travel Association guest-house) is under police guard as a Pathe cameraman takes these pictures of Labour's Secret Conference. Ministers and party chiefs are in holiday mood. Herbert Morrison's there and Noel Baker (Commonwealth Secretary), Scotland's Arthur Woodburn and Party Secretary Morgan Phillips. Aneurin Bevan's a picture of nationalized health.

Returning from Shanklin's village Church we spot Sir Stafford Cripps, who's rumoured to be cutting prices. Before getting down to business, the Ministers of Labour and Education enjoy the climate in the Manor grounds. Mannie Shinwell prefers to be alone. Dr. Summerskill casting bread on troubled waters, still can't tell butter from margarine. The Government's first-eleven, including Food Minister Strachey (who can't catch for derationed tuffee-apples) are training for the Wembley of politics - the General Election. What their play will be, no one's allowed to know - yet.

While Britain looks on, Ministers are joined by Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin before the Secret Session begins. The Party Conference in June will decide how Labour will conduct its great campaign for re-election. Meanwhile Prime Minister Attlee & Co. find Shanklin is oh-so bracing. There must be something in the air.