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necessary to do so. In practice it would be more convenient in terms of the Parliamentary timetable if a State of Emergency were not declared before 10 December, since otherwise it might prove necessary to recall Parliament before 12 January in order to authorise a renewal of the Emergency Regulations, if at that stage they were still needed.

**Police Pay**

*The Home Secretary* said that the Ministerial Steering Committee on Pay Negotiations had agreed that the police should be offered an immediate general pay increase and, in addition, a review designed to produce further special payments to improve the strength of the police force. The Official Side of the Police Council, however, had decided not to adopt the course approved by the Government and had offered an increase of 12 per cent without any further review. This had been rejected by the Staff Side of the Police Council. He had subsequently discussed the matter with the members of the Official Side, who had now agreed to make an offer in line with the Government's wishes, comprising an immediate pay increase of 10 per cent, to be followed by negotiations on further specific increases for particular grades in order to improve the strength of the police force. An offer on these lines might satisfy the Staff Side, who appeared interested in reaching a settlement.

**Demonstrations  
on 8 December**

*The Home Secretary* said that unofficial strikes and demonstrations appeared likely to take place on 8 December in various parts of the country in protest against the Industrial Relations Bill. They might cause some inconvenience to the public and some loss of production in certain industries and services; but support for the protest appeared to be less strong than the organisers had hoped. In London there would be a mass march of 20,000 or more from Tower Hill to Speaker's Corner. The organisers were co-operating with the police as regards the necessary arrangements for the march; but, even though special measures would be taken to increase the number of police available, there might be some difficulty in controlling the crowd.

**The Cabinet—**

- (1) Took note of the statements on pay negotiations, threatened industrial action and demonstrations planned for 8 December.
- (2) Invited the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, in consultation with the Lord President of the Council and the Secretary of State for Employment, to arrange for appropriate guidance to the Press on the correct interpretation of the pay offer made on 2 December to manual workers in the electricity supply industry.