

THE News Line

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Number 207

Gas blitz!



Park Street, Bristol, in the early hours of yesterday — reminiscent of war-time blitz days following a huge gas blast

Locals demand inquiry

**BRISTOL
AND
BRENTFORD
ROCKED**

CALLS for a full inquiry into gas blasts that injured 44 people were being made last night. Locals wanted to know how leaking gas was able to build up and cause blitz-like explosions in two shopping centres.

In Brentford where 38 people were maimed by flying glass and rubble. Gas Board officials admitted that 15 hours went by before they investigated a reported leak. Police said they had a report of the leak — in a men's clothes shop on Tuesday evening. At 5p.m. they told the manager. But North Thames Gas Board said they only learned of the danger at 8.25 yesterday morning.

A team was sent out and arrived 20 minutes later. But they were too late. At 9.43a.m. the blast shattered the high street, knocking people off their feet 200 yards away.

At Bristol the explosion was far more serious. It occurred at 5a.m. in Park Street, one of the busy city centre shopping thoroughfares. If the rubble had crashed down hours later, scores of shoppers and drivers would have been crushed.

Last night investigators said that gas was the most likely cause. But again there was no action by the authorities to stop this potentially killer blast.

One victim of the government's reduction in cash to the gas industry has been maintenance. The Boards have been economising and providing less cover than before.

● Have the Brentford and Bristol explosions exposed public spending cuts that will lead to deaths in the future?



Widespread damage — in Brentford High Street following the blast in Stones' men's-wear shop

ARMS RACE FOR WAR

A TOP-SECRET 'estimate' by United States intelligence officials of alleged Soviet military intentions has been deliberately leaked to the 'New York Times' as part of a drive towards nuclear war.

The report, discussed in the paper by outgoing Central Intelligence Agency director George Bush, claims the Soviet Union is seeking strategic superiority over the US.

A majority of leading American intelligence men now claim to believe that the Soviet Union is preparing to launch and survive a nuclear war.

They say the Russians are not just building up their conventional armed forces, but are concentrating on nuclear offence and defence.

They cite an intelligence report about vast Soviet spending on air raid shelters and dispersal of industry.

BY JACK GALE

experts has been deliberately timed to occur just before incoming president Jimmy Carter takes office.

Carter publicly pledged in his election campaign to cut arms expenditure by between \$5,000m and \$7,000m (that is, between £3,000m and £4,000m).

Now there will be powerful demands in Congress for this promise to be abandoned and war preparations intensified instead.

This has already found an echo in Britain. Yesterday's 'Times' argued that there was little hope of agreement between Carter and Soviet leader Brezhnev about slowing down the arms race.

The London paper claimed that the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks had already been undermined by the development of more and more sophisticated and powerful weapons.

Tone

The whole tone of the 'Times' editorial was that no 'serious business' could be done between Carter and Brezhnev.

From the standpoint of the British Tory establishment that leaves only one alternative — to prepare for war.

Plans

The 'New York Times' article spoke of Russian plans to 'develop forces capable of interfering with the free flow of ocean transport, denying raw materials to the west, disrupting fuel supplies, defeating the projection of power from sea to land by western forces, defending nuclear capability from American submarines and developing strategic forces that would ultimately have a superior first-strike capability'.

In fact, the Soviet Union has no plans to launch a world war. That danger comes, not from the workers' states, but from world imperialism.

The 'New York Times' leak of this top-level 'panel meeting' of intelligence

INSIDE TODAY

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Decisive bone test for Leslie

SURGEONS at the Hammersmith Hospital, west London, yesterday began tests to decide whether they can go ahead with a delicate bone transplant operation which could save the life of 11-year-old Leslie Dewhurst.

Leslie, from New Zealand, has only two months to live unless a donor can be found whose bone marrow is compatible with Leslie's own.

If yesterday's tests are successful, Leslie will receive a graft from his nine-year-old brother Peter on January 15.

Consultant Dr Edward Gordon-Smith said: 'He has a 50-50 chance. There was a blood infection when he arrived on Christmas Eve and he has stood up to that reasonably well, but he is still very weak.'

'CHARITY' DEAL IN SPARKS' STRIKE

BY CHRIS CORRIGAN Industrial Correspondent

SIXTY-TWO electricians on strike in the Black Country are being told they will be paid the nearly £100-a-man they are demanding — on condition they give it all to charity.

John Owen, managing director of the Rubery Owen car components factory at Darlaston, Staffs, agreed to make the offer at a meeting with TUC leaders on Tuesday night.

He drove to the talks in his silver-gray Rolls Royce. Next to the fabulously wealthy Pilkington glass family, Rubery Owen is one of the UK's largest family-run firms.

The group has made vast profits over a span of decades. John Owen's father, Sir Alfred Owen, took over the firm in 1929 and was rich enough to pour huge sums into the now defunct enterprise, British Racing Motors.

**Rubery Owen pleased
with union chiefs' role**



Scanlon



Murray

Union leaders are urging the electricians to agree to the £6,000 'donation' — even though it is the profits-hungry system personified by firms like Rubery Owen that leaves charities so desperate for finance in the first place.

'Honour has been satisfied', said one of the union bureaucrats present at Tuesday night's talks in London.

Among those present were TUC secretary Len Murray, engineers' president Hugh Scanlon, transport union national organiser Moss Evans, and electricians' president Tom Breakell.

The reformist union leaders, who have already accepted mass unemployment and state

pay laws, now want to play philanthropists (with their members' money, of course).

The electricians began their strike on December 8, claiming management had, during a recent three-week maintenance men's stoppage, broken an agreement not to lay them off due to any dispute in which they were not involved.

By agreeing to pay out the cash, the firm has proved the electricians were in the right and were entirely justified in going on strike and snubbing

management threats to close the factory unless normal working was resumed.

Before driving back to the Black Country in his Rolls-Royce — registration number BRM 5 — John Owen thanked the TUC for trying to arrange such a cheap settlement.

Owen had in his pocket a guarantee from engineering and transport union officials that they would stop their members pursuing any claim for a similar 'charity' deal.

What we think

Holiday on ice

BRITISH big business offered a new excuse yesterday for its age-old decadence.

'It is all the fault of workers who have taken an extra day or two holiday over Christmas and the New Year,' slandered the London Chamber of Commerce.

'With Britain currently struggling amid an economic crisis, the long holiday period has not improved Britain's image abroad. The Chamber is already receiving adverse comments from foreign businessmen,' said a spokesman.

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The statement is fatuous, hypocritical, and self-incriminating. In the first place, as the Chamber itself admitted elsewhere in its remarks, 'Britain does not have as many public holidays as many other European countries'.

This is a cynical understatement.

In fact, workers in this country get far less holiday than almost every European country. On top of that, wages of British workers are now nearly 50 per cent below those of their colleagues on the continent. But the Chamber is silent about that.

The gentlemen of commerce also admit, though in a mealy-mouthed way, that the tendency this year for the Christmas and New Year breaks to merge into one another is not the fault of workers.

'The Christmas confusion,' it states, 'follows the announcement of an extra Jubilee bank holiday (the Queen's silver Jubilee next year). The constant changing of other bank holidays results in problems of long-term planning for employers.'

□ □ □ □

The very mention of 'long-term planning' is derisory at a time of the capitalist system's greatest-ever economic and political crisis. But assuming for the moment, just for argument's sake, that planning could be of any use in the midst of British capitalism's bankrupt anarchy, who is responsible for the planning?

It is certainly not the working class, which is denied political and economic power by the armed capitalist state.

The machinery of government is in the hands of the ruling class, whether a Labour or Tory cabinet is in office. The

policies of the Treasury, the Bank of England, the defence establishment, the secret service and the police hierarchy still prevail.

So every attempt to blame workers for Britain's chaos is humbug.

But this does not deter the London Chamber of Commerce. 'The current holiday period now resembles the old-fashioned wakes week rather than two separate bank holidays,' it whinges on.

'The calendar has played a part in the current situation with Christmas and New Year falling on Saturdays. There will be a similar situation in 1977,' it adds, practically in self-parody.

It ends with a masterly example of confusion spread from the top, — the Chamber's suggested solution.

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'What has to be done is a conscious decision as to whether holidays should be concentrated into one period or whether they should be staggered throughout the year.

'If a policy of staggering bank holidays was introduced, then the loss to industry of entire working weeks, as has happened in several areas on this occasion, is less likely to be repeated.'

Clear as mud. No wonder the chaos is such that one popular newspaper headlined its post-Christmas confusion story: 'Nobody knew what day it was.'

One thing is clear, however: The London Chamber of Commerce and the entire capitalist ruling class, won't let the confusion shake their tight grip on their main priority: No more holidays if they can help it.

Chaos or no chaos, they are grimly determined on this, come what may.

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The ruling class, of course, is taking at least a week off for Christmas and the New Year. The Royal Family sets the standard by going away for nearly a month to one or other of their palatial country homes.

But a week for workers at Christmas? Not while Chamber of Commerce humbug lasts.

Front boasts 'screw' members

ABOUT 50 prison officers at Wakefield top-security jail are members or supporters of the National Front, according to a spokesman for the organisation.

A representative of the Front's Yorkshire area was quoted in the 'Yorkshire Post' as saying: 'I would estimate that 20 per cent of the warders are on our side — by that I mean very right-wing and very sympathetic towards us.'

The Front representative claimed membership at Wakefield jail had increased after IRA prisoners were transferred there after the rooftop protest at Hull prison.

'These IRA people always refuse to work and are usually on the punishment block and cause all kinds of trouble,' he said.

'This sort of thing hardens attitudes. All the trouble about Frank Stagg, the IRA hunger-striker, sickened them off too.'

The Home Office has refused an inquiry into the prison warders' scandal on the grounds that warders are quite free to belong to any party which is not proscribed as long as membership does not interfere with their normal duties.

Home Secretary Merlyn Rees told the Commons before

Christmas: 'I am aware that some prison officers belong to the National Front. I have no reason to believe the number is substantial.'

'I have no evidence of discrimination against coloured prisoners, but as I have previously said I will examine any such evidence.'

Watch the roads!

THOUSANDS OF motorists found themselves stranded by breakdowns due to the freezing weather yesterday. Both the AA and the RAC reported record numbers of breakdown calls.

Thousands of miles of roads were like skating rinks after a bitterly cold night in most areas with plunging temperatures adding frost to the remains of snow.

Freezing weather continued throughout the day and knocked out 17 League soccer matches in

England and Scotland. Trains were delayed by frozen points and a dense blanket of freezing fog meant that Heathrow airport had to divert more than 50 aircraft to Luton, Manchester and Gatwick. Others had to wait at their last stop on the continent.

The motoring organisations advised drivers to garage their cars if possible, put a blanket under the bonnet — and tie a duster to the steering wheel to remind you to remove the blanket before you set off.

**Still short of
the halfway mark**

OUR £50,000 Development Fund is still nearly £2,000 short of reaching the half-way mark, but we are as anxious as ever to make it to £25,000 by the end of the year.

That's only two days away, so, encouraging though yesterday's post was, a bigger effort still is required today. We know that our readers and supporters are fighting to complete the monthly News Line fund as well, but we cannot afford to let the Development Fund lag behind.

Big struggles lie ahead in the New Year, and that means we must expand all the work of our Party. The resources we need to do that come from nowhere but your support.

Yesterday brought: Enfield £12; Exeter £25; Upton Park £5.50; West End £200; B.B.C. £15; Runcorn Old Town £6.33.

TOTAL in yesterday: £264.83

TOTAL to date: £23,071.41

Post all donations to Development Fund
21b Old Town, Clapham, SW4 0JT

**December Fund
needs £981.58
Only two days left!**

THESE are anxious and decisive days. One huge, last-minute effort is needed to complete our £4,000 monthly fund. Please make sure we raise it all in time.

We know you will, dear readers. In every struggle you always give your magnificent support. We are sure that today there is an even greater response for our paper.

The more workers everywhere are forced to bear the brunt of this crisis, the more they seek a revolutionary alternative to the treacherous Labour leaders. This is why support for the News Line is growing. Only our paper fights for socialist policies, demands the bringing down of this government and fights every day to build an alternative leadership throughout the working class.

End this year, therefore, with one huge major effort for our monthly fund. Rush your donations immediately to:

The News Line December Appeal Fund
21b Old Town, Clapham, SW4 0JT

Survey reveals huge jobs cut

A BLEAK prospect for jobs in the New Year is revealed in the latest survey of company plans. Fewer employers plan to take on staff in the next three months and more expect to sack workers.

Manpower, the international jobs service organisation, says only 13.9 per cent of employers plan to take on staff in the next quarter compared with 17.8 per cent in the last three months, and 21.6 per cent in the summer.

At the same time, 10 per cent of

employers expect to reduce staff between now and April, compared with 8.1 per cent last quarter. Manpower surveyed 2,902 companies, employing more than a million workers.

Firms said they were cutting back because of renewed economic uncertainty and increased legislative restraints on employment. The biggest decreases in staffing levels and the lowest increases were forecast by local government.

One in five local government

departments plan to decrease staff by double the national average. Only 3.3 per cent of departments intend to increase staff. Local government was one of the prime targets of the recent Healey cuts package.

Also reflecting the effects of the Chancellor's latest measures is the building industry. Together with foundry, steelworks and textile industries, building employers said they would be cutting back on jobs.

But some sections of industry are

still planning modest increases in the number of workers they employ. Light, heavy and electrical engineering companies were more optimistic — 22.3 per cent of firms said they plan to take on labour and only 6.5 per cent said they would be getting rid of workers.

This time last year, 12.4 per cent of engineering firms said they would be shedding workers, and the same percentage said they were planning expansion.

● British Midland Airways announced yesterday that 250 staff — more than a quarter of its workforce — will receive redundancy notices on Friday. The airline, based at East Midlands airport, near Derby, lost £500,000 in the first half of the year.

Most of the sackings are among engineering and administrative staff. The company says overseas leasing business has declined. It is grounding three of its six Boeing 707s, but claims scheduled services will not be affected.

SHIPYARD MEN LOSE THIRD OF JOBS

EDINBURGH — Workers at the Robb Caledon shipyard heard yesterday that 237 redundancy notices will be issued there later this week.

The news came less than 24 hours after another Scottish shipyard — Ailsa, at Troon — announced it is cutting its workforce by 92.

Robb Caledon's managing director Gordon Milne said yesterday: 'Because of lack of work, we have had to inform the unions that 237 redundancies must take place among the manual workforce of 750.'

'The redundancies will be enforced on April 1 — thus complying with the 90-day period of notice required by the Employment Protection Act.'

Milne said the only work the Leith-based yard has at present is completion of a 12,000-ton bulk carrier and an order for a gas tanker.

Warned

He warned that more jobs would be lost unless fresh orders were secured in the New Year.

Asked what had been the response of union officials, Milne replied: 'Naturally they want to resist the redundancies. But I think they expected this news. I got the impression they were not taken by surprise.'

Robb Caledon is one of the yards included in legislation to nationalise the shipbuilding industry.

John Wright, president of the

BY AN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

Shipbuilders and Repairers National Association, yesterday warned that only a speedy 'survival plan' by the government could save some British shipyards from closing altogether.

'Unless decisive, speedy action is taken by government to produce a survival policy, shipyards will go into rapid decline and some of them will inevitably die', Wright said in an end-of-year message to members.

He confirmed predictions for 1977 which indicate British yards would continue to receive orders for only one-third of the tonnage necessary to 'maintain yard activity at the present level'.

Shipyard employers on Merseyside, the Tyne, the Clyde and elsewhere appear to be clearing the decks for mass lay-offs early in 1977.

One tactic they will be adopting is to force through sackings by threatening complete closure unless the unions accept a

smaller workforce.

This was the strategy used by the Chrysler car firm a year ago to slash its 24,000 workforce by more than 8,000 and get higher productivity at the same time.

As in the Chrysler affair, the Labour government is collaborating with the shipbuilding companies.

Nationalisation of the shipyard industry is not now due to take place until next November.

The Labour leaders and the employers both aim to blame delays in the nationalisation Bill as being the cause of cut-backs.

Reformist trade union leaders are playing an equally treacherous role.

Town hall jobs drop

THE number of local government part-time employees in Scotland has dropped by about 3,000 to 70,150 but the estimated annual wage bill has gone up by £11,500, a survey revealed yesterday.

**WORKERS
REVOLUTIONARY
PARTY**

**Public Meeting
LIVERPOOL 14
Sunday January 2**

**Knotty Ash Hotel
Prescot Road
7.30**

**SPEAKER:
LARRY CAVANAGH
T&GWU Docks shop steward
Birkenhead Docks
(in a personal capacity)**

ADVANCE NOTICE

Workers Revolutionary Party & Young Socialists

proudly announce

A Festival of Trotskyism

**Sunday February 13
The Rainbow
Finsbury Park
London N4
from 4p.m.
featuring**

● 'Trotskyism is Leninism' — photographic exhibition

● 'Why and how Stalin killed Trotsky' — photographs, documents and evidence on the role of the GPU and Stalin's agents in the Trotskyist movement

● The campaign for an inquiry into the circumstances of Trotsky's assassination

Trotskyism today

Rally at 7p.m.

The world capitalist crisis and the revolutionary socialist road for Britain

**Speakers: G Healy (WRP Central Committee)
M Banda (WRP National Secretary)
Vanessa Redgrave (WRP Central Committee)
Simon Pirani (YS National Secretary)**

Followed by the play '1931'
Tickets £1, includes exhibition or 50p tickets for evening rally and play



BUKOVSKY HERE IN JANUARY

RELEASED Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky, will arrive in London on January 3 for a visit lasting about ten days.

Doctors at a Zurich hospital are releasing him today — his birthday — so that he can be with his mother and sister.

Since his deportation from Moscow, the 34-year-old oppositionist has been undergoing a series of medical tests.

His long imprisonment, his persistent hunger strikes, the use of torture drugs has left him in failing health: ulcers, failing eyesight and a heart condition.

Fought

David Markham (above), who led the committee which fought for Bukovsky's release, told News Line that although Bukovsky was weak 'his spirit is unbroken'.

Markham said that while Bukovsky's release represented a victory, he would continue to campaign to expose the members of the medical profession who colluded in his friend's incarceration.

'I think a body like the BMA should have a full inquiry into those British psychiatrists who didn't raise a finger to challenge their Soviet counterparts. On the contrary, they suppressed what was going on.'

Cough vaccine could be another thalidomide

A WARNING of another medical disaster on the scale of thalidomide was made yesterday.

Tory MP Robert Adley says that action should be taken over the possible connection between brain damage in infants and the whooping cough vaccine.

Adley warned: 'I believe there is a thalidomide affair in the making.'

He has written to health minister David Ennals asking him to instruct all doctors who administer the vaccine to warn parents of the 'possible dangers of brain damage'.

He also wants Ennals to take steps, if necessary by legislation, to give any parents whose children have suffered brain damage the right of access to their children's medical records before the date of

the vaccination.

'I have a case in my constituency where the parents dispute the department's claims that their daughter was suffering from brain damage from birth and that the vaccine was not responsible', said Adley.

Obstacle

He alleged that every possible obstacle was being placed in the path of

these parents to prevent them seeing the records.

Adley is to ask the Minister in parliament immediately after the Christmas recess to list the manufacturers whose whooping cough vaccines are available under the National Health Service and to describe what discussions he has had with all of them on the incidence of brain damage.

He will also press Ennals in the Commons to institute a public inquiry.

DOCTOR, SOLICITOR AND POLICE BAILED

TWO former policemen, a solicitor and a doctor were yesterday committed to the Old Bailey for trial accused of conspiracy and other offences.

The four, who had been before

a special court at Highbury, North London, over the past month, were Louis Sydney de Meza, 54, a solicitor; Barrington Spencer Cooper, 54, a registered medical practitioner; Peter

Gerald Shemming, 51, a clerk; and Edward Lewis Fuller, 51.

The charges involve uncut diamonds, gifts to influence a police case and misrepresentation of legal expenses.

SALES GET INTO FULL SWING



Brisk walk into a south London sale

One-parent family queue for 36 hours

MORE big sales opened yesterday with hundreds of overnight queuers surging through department store doors at 9 a.m. in towns up and down Britain.

Among the early raiders at Debenhams, Oxford Street, were two boys who had waited for 36 hours, sleeping on camp beds.

The shop expected 50,000 bargain hunters during the opening day. 'There is going to be a record sale this year. People are still buying like mad,' said a promotions manager.

'I think many are trying to anticipate the next budget and fear another VAT increase. Some people have kept their money for the sales.'

'I would think about 20 to 30 per

cent of our sales customers will be tourists. Most people seem to be going for the luxury goods, particularly electrical items like fridges, cookers and washing machines,' he added.

One of the young men who queued 36 hours through freezing weather outside the store was Paul Fouch, 20, of Chadwell Heath, Essex, who started his vigil at midnight on Monday.

'I wanted a stereo for my 21st birthday. It was marked down to £40 from £160. My mum said if I queued up and got it, she would pay for it. She just could not pay the normal price.'

His mother, Doreen, said: 'The boys decided to do it because we are a one-parent family and couldn't afford these things otherwise. I did feel a bit guilty about leaving them there when I was tucked up in bed and I kept coming along and giving them soup and coffee.'

Young master old game

THE VERY old game of chess is increasingly being mastered by the very young in Britain.

The national champion Jonathan Mestel, a Cambridge undergraduate, is only 19. And Tony Miles, of Birmingham, is a Grandmaster at 21, the world's youngest.

At 28, Britain's other Grandmaster, Londoner Ray Keene, is hardly in his dotage.

'It is not inconceivable that one of the youngsters examining his first

chess set this Christmas will be a Grandmaster in 20 years' time', says Paul Buswell, the British Chess Federation's general secretary.

'For chess is on the up and up, and talent shows at an early stage. We feel sure that among our young players today — and we have some of the world's best — we have other Grandmasters in the making.'

'We have, after all, taken the European and World junior championships in the past two years.'



A meeting of Stanton workers against previous redundancies at the plant

4,000 for short time at Stanton

GOVERNMENT spending cuts are being blamed for short-time working threatening 4,000 steelworkers.

The workers are employed in the Stanton and Staveley group, part of the British Steel Corporation tubes division.

A six-months standstill imposed by the Chancellor's mini-Budget two weeks ago on new water supply and sewerage projects will make Stanton and Staveley 'suffer severely', said a statement from the group just before Christmas.

The group manufactures both steel and steel reinforced pipes as well as castings and fittings.

It has works at Stanton, near Nottingham, Staveley near Chesterfield, Addiewell in Midlothian and Holwell at Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.

A BSC spokesman in London said yesterday he had nothing to add at this stage to the group's warning that short-time working is 'likely' to affect 4,000 employees during the early months of 1977.

Unions are appealing against the plans which would cut wages substantially.

During this year's drought, Stanton and Staveley worked flat out to supply nearly £3m worth of pipeline materials for drought-alleviation schemes.

'SUPER-MIND' ... ON THE DOLE

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

'SUPERMIND' Walter Dobson returned to another of his specialist subjects yesterday — looking for a job.

Walter, a 53-year-old bachelor, who was hailed as the best mind in Britain after winning the BBC contest, 'Supermind', screened Tuesday night, has been out of work for two years.

Walter's

153 IQ

doesn't

help to

keep job

He said at his terraced home in Stockton-on-Tees:

'I am on two registers, at Stockton and Middlesbrough, but so far I have had no luck.'

Walter, an industrial accountant, has an IQ of 153 — the average IQ is around the 100 mark — and qualified for 'Supermind' by winning the Brain of MENSA contest.

In 'Supermind' he was up against the winner of this year's 'Mastermind', the winner of the radio quiz 'Brain of Britain' and a resident panellist from 'Round Britain Quiz'.

Walter has an Open University degree and is qualified as a further education lecturer in liberal and business studies.

'Unfortunately it is not a good time to go into teaching,' he said.

The last job he had sought had attracted 75 other people. 'But I'm still hopeful. Perhaps winning this competition will make some difference. It is very depressing on the dole.'

This is the second time in his career he has been out of work. He was without a job for three months in 1965 and then lost his job in 1974 when the firm he was working for moved south.

In the 'Supermind' contest he took the lead on the first round after answering questions on his specialist subject, astronomy, and was never headed after that.

He disclosed yesterday that another of his specialist subjects was Greek mythology — the topic tackled by the 'Brain of Britain'.

'They seemed very difficult questions and I was quite happy I was not answering them,' he said.

SHELLFISH FLEET HELD UP IN POISON INQUIRY

THE shellfish fleet was at a standstill at Leigh-on-Sea, Essex yesterday as a food poisoning probe continued. Six hundred people were treated before Christmas after eating seafood cocktails containing cockles.

Southend's medical officer said no ban had been placed on Leigh catches, but Billingsgate Market in London was refusing to accept supplies.

Traders there take about 97 per cent of the catch.

Dr Griffin said that the public

Elm disease

DUTCH elm disease is affecting more than 500 trees in a broad arc of country through Dundee, Perth, Stirling, Falkirk, Linlithgow and Dunfermline to Edinburgh, says the Forestry Commission. The disease has devastated elms in southern England.

health laboratory at Chelmsford was examining the shellfish.

'People have been eating cockles for centuries without doing themselves a great deal of harm, so it would appear the contamination has occurred after the cooking and processing. My personal view is that it is probably a virus of some kind.'

At Leigh one cockle fisherman said yesterday: 'Our reputation has suffered badly over this and it will be a long haul getting it back after this scare. At present it is just not worth putting to sea until it is cleared up.'

Subsidiary set up in Channel Isles

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

A FINANCIAL manoeuvre which allowed one of the bread monopolies to side-step the Prices Code has embarrassed the government.

Spillers French, one of the big three bread producers, has been channelling funds for investment in short-term government loans through a special company set-up in Guernsey.

Guernsey, being outside the United Kingdom, is beyond the reach of the code.

So when Spillers claim before the Price Commission that cost increases have forced it to ask for price rises, it can exclude the substantial sums earned in interest by its Guernsey subsidiary — Old Change Limited.

Justified

Yesterday the company justified the practice on the grounds of 'financial prudence'. Chairman Michael Vernon said that they had raised over £11m from shareholders and invested the money through Old Change in high interest-bearing gilt-edged government stock.

He said both the Department of Prices — run by right-wing Cabinet Minister Roy Hattersley — and the Prices Commission knew all about the transaction and that there was nothing illegal

BREAD FIRM SIDE-STEPS PRICES CODE

ineffectiveness of the Prices Code. This piece of Labour government legislation was devised as window-dressing for the government's attack on wages.

Publicised

While workers' incomes were held back, the activities of the Commission and the Prices Ministry were publicised to give the impression that inflation was being controlled and reduced.

But rocketing food price rises — including bread — have proved that inflation is deeply rooted in the monopoly capitalist system.

Spillers are attempting to bolster their own shaken financial stability in a period of slump and threatening trade war.

The solution to inflation is not fake commissions and phoney publicity on consumer protection, but nationalisation, without compensation and under workers' control of the food manufacturers and supermarket chains.

or morally wrong in Spillers' behaviour.

But the two government departments responsible were tight-lipped about the affair.

Spokesman

A spokesman for the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection said: 'There is no action to be taken about this — there is no action that can be taken.'

A spokesman at the Prices Commission — officially

charged with carrying out the Prices Code — said: 'No comment'.

The Commission claims that all its dealings with the big monopolies over prices are 'confidential'.

Secret

The spokesman would not say whether Spillers had kept the Old Change company secret from the Commission.

Spillers' financial manoeuvre thoroughly exposes the total

ANOTHER SET-BACK FOR RIGHT-WING MP

ATTEMPTS by Cabinet Ministers to save the right-wing Labour MP Neville Sandelson have received a set-back.

Labour Party members have decided to put back meetings being organised in support of the MP until after a special constituency meeting which will decide his future.

Leader of the Commons Michael Foot has offered his speaking services to halt the move in the Hayes and Harlington constituency to send Sandelson the way of former Overseas Minister Reg Prentice.

Foot — once a well publicised left in the Labour Party — has been joined on the Sandelson bandwagon by right-wing Education Minister Shirley Williams and Neil Kinnock, a leading 'Tribune'-ite MP.

But this line-up has not cowed the Labour Party members who want Sandelson out.

Nor has it impressed other Party members who want to make their minds up without

interference from the government.

In a letter to Foot, Sandelson says that his local Party have decided to hold their meeting before the Labour leaders organise their meetings.

Sandelson said he agrees with the local Party's view that a public meeting with Foot 'might

be construed as an attempt to bring pressure to bear on my behalf'.

The constituency Party management committee voted by 23 votes to 17 to hold the special meeting to decide whether the constituency should ask Sandelson to resign his Labour candidature.



NEVILLE SANDELSON
Putting Foot off

Million signatures for retiring at 60

ONE MILLION signatures have now been collected for a petition urging that men should be allowed to retire on full pension at 60 instead of the present 65.

The petition for early retirement is being organised by Mr Greville Janner, Labour MP for Leicester West.

Yesterday he said that he hoped to present the petition to parliament in the early spring. It will be one of the biggest petitions yet to be carried into the chamber of the House of

Commons.

Mr Janner said: 'We are confident that the campaign will succeed and that it will be brought in by stages — it would clearly be a pipe dream to expect this reform to come in at once.'

'We send a Christmas message to all those who have helped us and give them the

assurance that, however rough the times are, we will not give up until men have equal retirement rights with women.'

More than half of the signatures received are from women.

But such petitions usually have little effect on opinion from the wastepaper baskets of Westminster.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

YOUNG SOCIALISTS

Incorporating 25 years of 'Keep Left'

Sunday January 16

Walthamstow Assembly Hall

Forest Road,

Walthamstow, E.17

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followed by

Young Socialists National
Speakers Contest
in the evening

DANCE

to live group and sound

YOUNG SOCIALISTS

APPEAL

for the Lebanese workers
and the Palestinian refugees

Collect medical aid and
clothing



Nineteen months of civil war — more than 40,000 killed — thousands maimed and wounded — families without fathers — children without homes — old people with no food or clothing — hospitals without drugs or bandages — refugee camps without water, electricity or food.

The Young Socialists issue an urgent call to the labour and trade union movement — give to those who have been battered by the artillery, driven out of their homes and herded into ghettos in Lebanon by the Syrian-backed rightists.

Time is precious — it means lives. Arrange

collection of medicine and warm clothing. Woollen blankets, warm children's wear, winter underwear and clothing are now desperately needed. The extremely cold winter that has now set in means that thousands face death from exposure. Act at once. Ask your local trade union branches and Constituency Labour Parties for contributions.

For details of the medical aid and clothing appeal, write to:

National Secretary
Young Socialists
21b Old Town
London SW4 0JT

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LEBANON: ARAB TROOPS ENTER SOUTH

A contingent of 1,500 men from the United Arab Emirates arrived in Lebanon to join the Syrian dominated 'Arab deterrent force' yesterday.

The contingent entered by land from Syria and headed towards the southern port of Tyre. This is the first time any troops from the Arab force have entered the area south of the River Litani.

Pressure

Up to now the Israelis have insisted that they would not tolerate any Arab troops in this region. The indications are that the Zionists are under pressure from the US to accept an Arab base if this could restrict Palestinian forces.

PALESTINIAN guerrilla sources in Lebanon reported renewed clashes with rightist forces yesterday, and claimed that some areas in the south had come under Israeli artillery fire for the second day in succession.

Propaganda

The announcement follows intense right-wing propaganda against the transfer of heavy arms to the south by the Palestinians, although they are entitled to do this under the long-standing Cairo Agreement.

The speaker of the Lebanese parliament, Kamel al Asaad met Lebanese President Elias Sarkis on Tuesday to discuss the southern situation.

Afterwards he announced that there would be important developments over the next two weeks related to 'the dangerous situation prevailing in south Lebanon, particularly on the border'.

The right wing Beirut daily 'Al Bayraq' said Sarkis would announce a 'big surprise' on the

security question within the next ten days — probably the formation of a new Lebanese army to be stationed in the south.

According to Interpress Services, Western diplomatic sources are saying the United States has been exerting strenuous efforts to persuade Israel to modify its negative attitude to Arab forces being based near their border with Southern Lebanon.

Dr Henry Kissinger has personally been urging the

Israeli government to agree to the Arab deterrent force entering the area.

Modified

The move by the United Arab Emirates force indicates that Israel has modified its position on the grounds that the real threat is not to Zionism but to the Palestinian Liberation Organisation.

Lebanese newspapers reported yesterday that

discussions are proceeding between Beirut and Washington to prepare for a visit to the US by Lebanon's president Elias Sarkis.

The date of the visit is expected to be shortly after Jimmy Carter officially assumes office as US president.

The reports add that Lebanon's deputy premier and Foreign Minister Fuad Butros will visit Washington soon to prepare for the Sarkis trip. They said Sarkis would consult with other Arab heads of state before his US visit.

SOUTH AFRICA

RACISTS TRY TO SPLIT TOWNSHIPS

SOUTH African riot police backed up by reinforcements from Pretoria were patrolling the black townships round Cape Town yesterday.

Senior police officers described the situation in Nyanga, Guguletu and Langa townships as 'uneasy'.

They admitted that 24 Africans died and over 100 were injured in riots in Nyanga and Guguletu over Christmas, but refused to say how many of these deaths had been caused by police action.

The South African Press Association (SAPA) said two more blacks had been killed in Langa when police opened fire on demonstrators.

In Natal police said 46 people were killed in what they described as 'inter-tribal clashes'.

But Africans, particularly in Nyanga, accused the police of stirring up fights between townpeople and migrant workers living in 'bachelor quarters' (that is, virtual slave labour compounds) in Nyanga East.

They say the police encouraged the tribesmen to ignore a call from youth leaders



Bodies of African youth shot by police

to make Christmas a mourning period for Africans killed by Vorster's racist forces.

Police encouraged migrant labourers to attack township residents and helped them by using tear gas to disperse the youth. Then the police urged the labourers to attack with petrol bombs, axes, iron bars and knives.

But this deliberate police provocation could rebound. The migrant workers are the most

oppressed of all Africans. Living in near-slave conditions many miles from their homes, they are constantly threatened with repatriation to their tribal reserves where there are no jobs for them.

Police agents may, in the short run, be able to use these men against the local youth. But in the long term their interests are identical. Their common enemy is Vorster and his racist state apparatus.

Richard could visit Smith

LUSAKA — The British chairman of the Rhodesia conference, former Labour MP Ivor Richard, may meet Ian Smith and South African premier Vorster during his southern African tour, according to diplomatic sources here.

Richard is due here today for talks with Zambian president Kaunda, and will be flying on to Botswana at the weekend.

But following the deadlock at the Geneva conference, the

Labour government's shuttle diplomacy may be overshadowed now by reports of a Soviet initiative. Soviet president Nicolai Podgorny is planning to visit Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique early in the New Year, according to African diplomats.

Apparently seeing the way the wind is blowing, Kaunda has made the gesture of expelling some rightist UNITA guerrillas from Zambia. The imperialist-backed UNITA men had organised mercenary attacks on neighbouring Angola. In Tanzania, the

government-owned 'Daily News' said yesterday that the British government's approach to the Rhodesian question smacked of racism.

The issue was not white against black, but a minority racist rebel regime against the people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), the paper said.

'It is ridiculous to suggest that the white rebels who are murdering Zimbabweans by the hour should be the same whites who should be entrusted with the security of the same Zimbabweans,' the 'Daily News' said.

MAPUTO — Rhodesian forces using napalm bombs have attacked Mozambique, and fighting was still going on yesterday.

The Mozambique news agency said troops with air support had attacked Chitanga, in Gaza province.

The Rhodesian planes had dropped napalm bombs, it reported. Fighting was still going on, but there were no details of casualties yet.



CARTER'S AMERICA

BROWN BOMBER

WASHINGTON — 'My word of honour is at stake', President-elect Jimmy Carter is reported to have told his Cabinet appointees, urging them to carry out the policies he advocated during the election campaign.

Senior campaign adviser Patrick Caddell has warned the incoming officials that it is not just Carter's reputation personally that is involved. He told them the public had continuing distrust and disillusionment with government statements of any kind.

Carter's exhortation to his team to implement campaign pledges was made in the presence of reporters, as part of his attempt to restore the Nixon-battered image of the Presidency.

Unfortunately, hardly had 'honest Jimmy' spoken, than two of his men made nonsense of his words.

Carter's choice for Defence Secretary, Harold Brown, told reporters that he did not think the Defence budget could be cut from seven billion to five billion dollars, a cut which Carter had promised in the election run-in.

Brown is certainly no man to stint on military expenditure — whether in dollars or lives.

During the Vietnam war he consistently argued within the Johnson administration for stepping up the bombing.

In a memo dated March 4, 1968, he advocated lifting of all constraints on bombing, and no scruples about hitting civilian centres.



Last year, discussing then Defence Secretary James Schlesinger's doctrine of 'limited nuclear war', Brown said it was unrealistic. He did not reject the use of nuclear weapons first, but said that once they were used it was unlikely all-out nuclear war could be avoided.

'I do not exclude the possible use of tactical nuclear weapons as a response to a large conventional attack in some geographical areas,' he explained. 'However, in my view, the chance of containing their use either geographically or in terms of weapons yields and aim points is quite small'.

Then it was the turn of Carter's choice for Secretary of Health, Welfare and Education, Joseph Califano, who said any new social programmes would have to wait until after the economic situation improved.

So much for Carter's election promises about improving the welfare system and setting up a national health insurance scheme.

NAME OF THE GAME

Chicago — A new coin-operated game called 'death race', in which players try to knock down 'pedestrians' on an electronic screen, has angered the US National Safety Council.

The player operates a steering wheel and an accelerator to chase the pedestrians. If one is struck, the machine gives out a loud shriek and rates the driver's skill on a grave-shaped panel.

The council's 'Family Safety' magazine said the game was one of the best selling in the country and was found in amusement halls, arcades, taverns and pool halls.

It quoted Dr Gerald

Driessen, a behavioural scientist with the council, as saying: 'I think the device adds to an already widespread "war and killing" mentality'.

'One of its most insidious and probably unrecognised characteristics is its shift from imaginary visual images of destruction, as you have in television violence, to actual behavioural actions taken by the player,' he said.

A California safety official said: 'We're trying to teach drivers how to take evasive manoeuvres on the road, like avoiding pedestrians, and here this morbid game comes along and encourages people to develop the opposite skill — how to hit people.'

Coffee boycott

NEW YORK — Americans are being asked to boycott their cherished coffee as a protest against an 80 per cent price rise and the campaign organisers say the response has been 'incredible'.

The campaign was launched by New York City's Commissioner of Consumer Affairs, Mrs Elinor

Guggenheimer, who said the 80 per cent price rise in the past year was scandalous.

Guggenheimer appealed to all Americans to give up coffee for a week, then cut consumption by half until the campaign takes effect.

Coffee prices in the New York city area have risen to an average of \$2.25 a pound, the spokesman said.

POOREST COUNTRIES VERGE ON COLLAPSE

PRODUCTION has declined and debts have grown in the world's poorest countries over the last five years, according to new data released by the World Bank.

And it means that development goals for the 1970s have 'collapsed', says World Bank vice-president Hollis Chenery.

If gross national product of the poor countries is given as 100 in 1970, then the figure in 1975 was only 98.9. The final figure for 1976 will be lower still.

The debt figures are not even up to date — they refer to 1974, and the situation has got much worse since then.

But even by 1974 the debt of the undeveloped countries was so big that they were having difficulty even in meeting the interest payments.

Fate

The World Bank is not unduly concerned by the fate of the poor countries in themselves — nor of the 1.7 billion people who live in them.

What worries the bankers is that loans to these countries have increasingly been advanced by commercial banks on a short-term basis.

Out of \$25,400m in loans to 86 poor countries in 1974, more than half — \$13,900m — came from private financial institutions.

This means that if any sizeable country fails to meet its payments, then a major bank could crash.

BY JACK GALE

This could now happen at any time. The World Bank is worried because 72 per cent of the poorest countries' outstanding debts to

commercial financial institutions at the end of 1974 came from just 11 countries.

These were: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Greece, Israel, Spain, South Korea, Malaysia, Algeria and Zaire.

Polish workers accuse police

WARSAW — Three Polish workers being tried on charges of ripping up rail tracks during last Summer's food price riots told a Warsaw court yesterday that they had been savagely beaten by the police.

Marek Majewski, a former Ursus tractor plant worker, pleaded not guilty, and said his jaw had been broken by a plain-clothes policeman and had to be wired in two places, on the night of the June 25 demonstrations. He had been arrested near the factory.

Jerzy Malchewicz and Adam Zukowski, also Ursus Workers, said they too had been beaten up after arrest.

Jacek Kuron and Jozef Lipsky, two members of the Workers Defence Committee, set up in September to aid workers jailed or dismissed after the riots, were absent from yesterday's trial after planning to attend. According to one source, police called on Kuron at 6.00 a.m. for

questioning, although there was no immediate confirmation of this.

Committee sources said they believed Kuron was being questioned in his house by police. Seweryn Blumsztajn, a committee sympathiser and student dissident, was also being held in detention at his house by police, the sources said.

Malchewicz pleaded guilty to trying to unscrew track bolts but said he failed in his attempt. He said he had drunk two bottles of wine, according to the eye-witness report.

Zukowski told the court he had been so badly beaten after arrest that he admitted all charges. Today, however, he denied having threatened the driver of the derailed locomotive but admitted he had unscrewed a few track bolts.

YAMANI FEARS EURO-CRASH

HAMBURG — Saudi Arabian oil minister Sheikh Yamani says fears of slump and working class revolt in capitalist industrial countries played a part in his government's decision to hold down oil prices.

In an interview for the West German magazine 'Der Spiegel', Yamani says:

'We are extremely worried about the economic situation of the West, worried about the possibility of a new recession, worried about the situation in Britain, Italy, even in France and some other nations. And we do not want another regime coming to power in France or Italy'.

Asked by 'Spiegel' whether he meant communists, the Saudi minister replied 'Yes', adding 'The situation in Spain is not so healthy either and the same applies to Portugal'.

Expressing concern at the effect of slump on oil demand, Yamani said: 'If the economic recovery does not take place it will not only have political significance for Saudi Arabia, it will hit Saudi Arabia economically'.

Saudi Arabia would be careful to see that oil firms did not pocket the difference in the price of Saudi oil and that marketed by other nations, Yamani said.



Yamani

The firms knew that if they did not behave they would be punished, he claimed.

He said Saudi Arabia would gradually increase its oil production although it expected demand to fall quickly in January and February 'because a large amount of oil was bought for speculative reasons'.

Turning to diplomatic aspects

of Saudi oil policy, Yamani said his government hoped for help from the US administration in achieving a Middle East peace settlement.

They also hoped there would be concessions on raw materials and technology at the next conference in Paris between industrial and 'developing countries' (the 'North-South dialogue').

He said the United States was capable of pushing through a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli question. Saudi Arabia did not believe that the problem could not have been solved already.

Asked whether he thought president-elect Jimmy Carter would justify Saudi hopes and accelerate efforts to find a Middle East solution, Yamani said, 'We hope he will be quicker'.

'Many of us thought he would not be good for the Arab cause, that he would not be neutral,' he acknowledged. 'But in the meantime there have been some indications to the contrary,' he claimed.

LEBANON

INFLATION RATE 100%

BEIRUT — Inflation is one of the many problems facing Lebanon as it struggles to recover from 19 months of war that has disrupted the country's economy severely. In the past year, the inflation rate has been approximately 100 per cent, although precise figures have not yet been drawn up in the cost of living index for the period of the war.

Most of the country's industries were brought to a standstill by the fighting. Even those factories that were not destroyed or heavily damaged were generally forced to close because their workers were unable to arrive for work owing to the danger of being killed on the way.

There was also a shortage of raw materials and an almost total collapse of the electricity system in June this year.

Agriculture, which has a larger role than industry in the Lebanese economy, also suffered severe disruptions. A number of vital artesian wells

were destroyed in the fertile Bekaa Plain, and in some areas, farmers were forced to flee from their villages by the fighting. In areas under rightist control, a deliberate policy of expelling minority population groups was followed.

A report by an economist of the Lebanese planning ministry estimates that, because of the fall in the Lebanese economy's productivity, the country became 88 per cent dependent on imported commodities, on which it had depended for 40 per cent of its needs before the war.

With the closure of Beirut's port and international airport, which became a battlefield, Lebanon's imports had to be brought in either overland through Syria or landed at smaller ports along the coast — Jounieh in the area held by the



Hotels blaze in Beirut during the fighting

(right-wing) Lebanese front, and Sidon and Tyre in the area held by the (left-wing) Lebanese national movement.

When Syria intervened militarily against the Lebanese leftists and their Palestine Liberation Organisation allies, the leftist-controlled area lost its overland route, and its sea routes were seriously threatened by Israeli naval blockade.

All these factors led to severe shortages of many essential goods. There were periods of several days when bread (the largest item in the poor man's

diet) was virtually unobtainable in Beirut.

The Palestinian and Lebanese leftists kept this problem under some control by importing flour and setting up bakery services, in which priority was given to distribution to the poorest families. But the price of bread is still twice that of pre-war days.

The prices of other foodstuffs which were in short supply, like rice, lentils, sugar, meat and poultry doubled or even trebled. Some of these have become somewhat cheaper since the ceasefire, but are still way above

pre-war levels.

The price of poultry is currently around 130 per cent higher than a year ago, sugar is up 50 per cent, meat 80 per cent and some types of fish 100 per cent. Transportation costs are up to 200 per cent higher for some journeys, due to fuel shortages.

The quantity of cash in circulation has doubled to 3,200m Lebanese pounds compared with 1,600 before the war. (The Lebanese pound is currently being exchanged here at around \$2.90 US). This phenomenon results from many citizens withdrawing their money from

the banks in the early days of the war and is now contributing greatly to inflation.

The main victims of this inflation are the poorest classes of the population. Since many of the working population have been prevented from earning their living for many months and even those who have continued work have not had wage increases to offset some of this inflation, there is a very severe problem of poverty. Many families which made both ends meet before the war are now finding basic essential foodstuffs beyond their reach.

BLASTS ROCK HIGH STREETS

BRENTFORD High Street was turned into a scene of destruction yesterday morning when a gas blast injured 38 people — some of them seriously.

The explosion totally demolished Stones drapers and wrecked shops and homes up to 200 yards away.

Susan Wallace, a local worker, described the scene: 'People were lying all over the pavement — we comforted them and did what we could until the ambulances arrived.'

'Some were quite badly injured. They included a baby with a badly gashed head and an elderly woman who staggered out of a shop with blood streaming from a head wound.'

The manager of a freezer centre, Bob Connell, 26, said: 'The explosion nearly knocked me off my feet — and we are a good 200 yards away.'

Among those detained in hospital are shop manager James Kirby of West Drayton who suffered severe burns to the face and hands and a broken leg. He was inside the shop at the time of the explosion.

At BRISTOL, two four-storey office blocks were torn apart as a huge explosion ripped through the centre.

Forensic experts and South West Gas officials launched a full scale investigation as other buildings threatened to collapse.

Fires were still raging in the vicinity of the blast several hours afterwards and police and rescuers were hindered by choking fumes as a huge pall of smoke hung over the city.

A restaurant — Jo-Jo's in Frogmore Street — was at the centre of the blast. A large entertainments complex was also damaged.

Four people were injured — wine bar owner Bob Lewis and three Spanish waiters, who were asleep. They escaped with shock and minor cuts.

A police spokesman said: 'It is lucky this happened when it did. With sales starting, it could have been a major disaster if the explosion had occurred a few hours later.'

The blast was heard five miles away.



The upper storeys of the blasted shop sag and walls crack as cleaning up begins in Brentford



A model still stands — minus an arm — in Brentford High Street even though the shop window has been completely shattered



William Stills, who lived only three houses along from the explosion was fortunate to escape injury. He was reading at the kitchen table. The blast shattered the windows with such force that the glass flew over his head and into the wall opposite. The door was wrenched off its hinges and blown into the house. Mr Stills, pictured above with his wife, said that if he had been standing up he would have been badly cut, at the least.

Gan Ind Stali

THE pro-Moscow Communist Party has cravenly licked the boots of Gandhi for years, has now turned that ungrateful lady.

The CPI has been the only party in the emergency, declared in June 1975, to support the government's rights.

Even sections of the premier's increasingly dictatorial powers as a Stalinist loyally swallowed the Congress Party conference speech ambitions.

In May, 1974, over 50,000 striking railway workers were jailed without trial, 10,000 more sacked and 30,000 driven out of their homes. This did not put the slightest strain on the Communist Party-Congress Party alliance.

When Indira Gandhi was found guilty in the Allahabad High Court of electoral malpractices, she calmly changed the law retrospectively and jailed all political leaders who had called for her resignation.

Quite right, said the Indian Communist Party.

They applauded again when Mrs Gandhi introduced the 40th amendment to the Indian Constitution, granting herself immunity from all civil and criminal proceedings.

Empowered

And the Communist Party of India was the only party — apart from Gandhi's Congress Party — to approve the fourth amendment to the Maintenance of Security Act.

The Act already empowered the state to arrest anyone without charge and without any right of appeal to the courts.

The fourth amendment empowered the authorities to re-arrest a person immediately the original detention order expired.

Last month the Gandhi regime granted itself power to outlaw any organisation it considers 'anti-national'. At the same time, all meetings called to discuss any government measures whatsoever were banned.

Opposition parties — all now illegal — claimed such a measure should not be passed without an election, and pointed out that Gandhi had postponed the elections till March 1978.

The Stalinists voted for the measure in both houses of parliament, just as they had voted for strikes to be made illegal.

Now this beautiful friendship has gone wrong — but not through any fault of the Stalinists.

Gandhi's repeated attacks on the working class and every basic democratic right, even going as far as a Nazi-style compulsory sterilization law, provoked deep and bitter opposition.

Gandhi attacks servile

Stalinists

Communist Party of India, which
attacks of Prime Minister Indira
Gandhi have been kicked in the teeth by

her party to support Gandhi's state of
emergency, which swept away democratic

the Indian Congress Party jibbed at her
and blatant corruption — but the
Congress Party now she has attacked them in a
for objecting to her son's political

BY JACK GALE

On top of that, the increasing
ambitions of her totally untalented
son, Sanjay, were too much even for
the CPI to swallow.

And when Sanjay's rival in Orissa
state — chief minister Nandini
Satpathy — was forced to resign and
the state clamped under central
government rule, the Stalinists
uttered a few mild protests.

They were not criticising Mrs
Gandhi herself, they hastened to point
out. Nothing, indeed, could shake
their loyalty to her, they stressed. But
wasn't Sanjay going too far and
threatening the unity of the Congress
Party?

Indira Gandhi's response was
swift. In a biting attack on the
Stalinists at last month's Congress
Party conference she declared:
'Their stand that they will support
Indira Gandhi but not others is not
acceptable to Indira!'

And she added that the Communist
Party had 'sided with the British Raj
during the independence struggle'.

Pushed into a corner, the
Communist Party has called for
demonstrations on January 1 against
what it calls 'a reactionary caucus'
inside the Congress Party — but not,
the Stalinists emphasise yet again,
against the ruling party as a whole,
nor against Indira.

Confident

The Congress Party leaders, for
their part, feel no fear of anything the
Communist Party can do. Gandhi
herself is confident of the support of
the Moscow bureaucracy in any clash
with the CPI.

And the Stalinists have lost
considerable support among the
masses because of their craven
support to the regime.

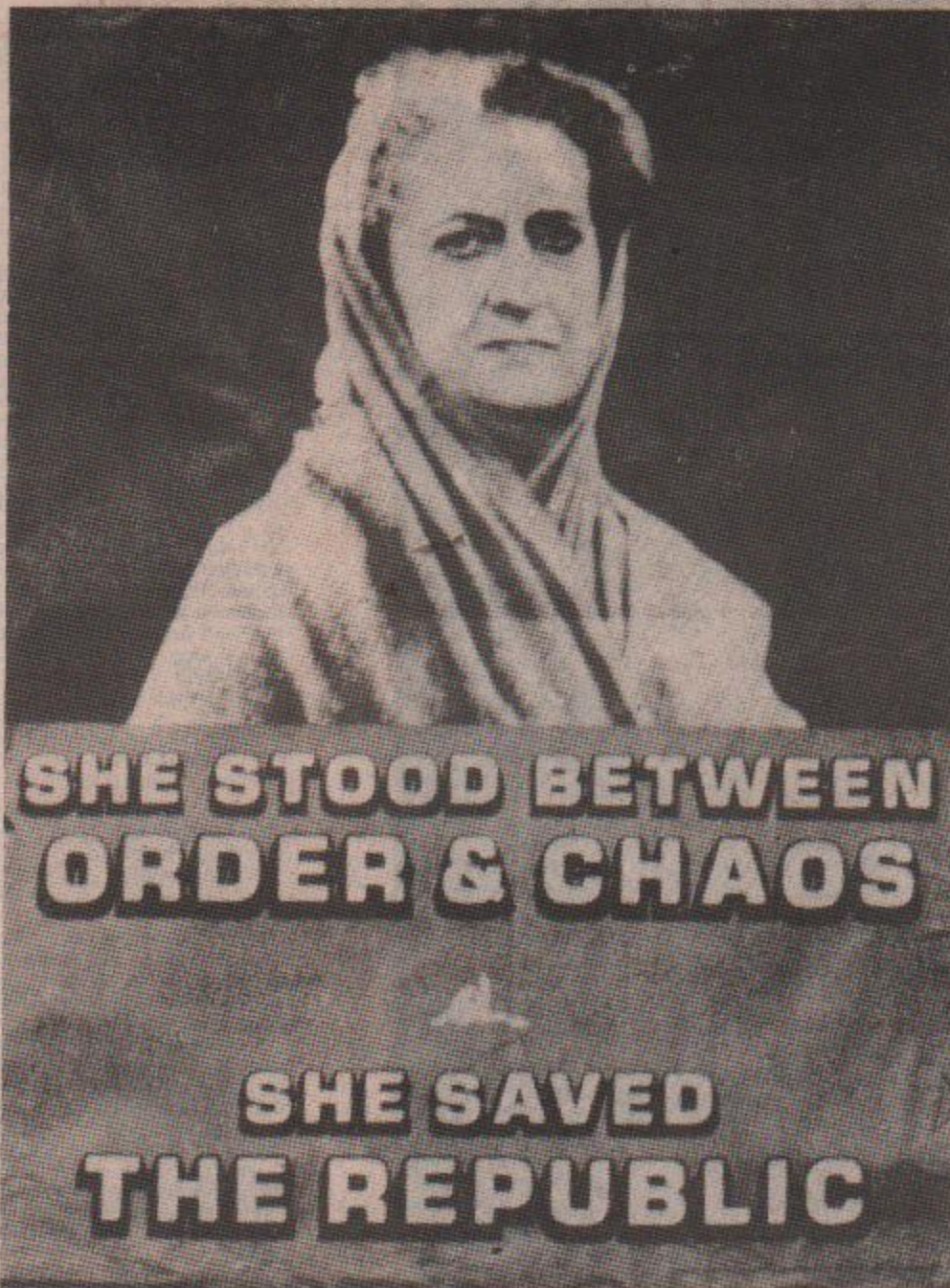
Having used the Stalinists, Gandhi
and her clique now feel able to toss
them aside.

However, the working class is
another proposition.

Rising prices amid a booming
black market, increasing
repressions, coercive sterilization
and massive unemployment are
creating a backlash among the
exploited millions of India that not
even the bourgeois Gandhi and her
Stalinist servants will be able to
contain.



Police clash with young Indian demonstrators during the
'state of emergency'



Poster extolling Mrs Gandhi's dictatorial prowess



Oppositionists Narajan Caborel and Fernandes (below) who
were jailed in Mrs Gandhi's dictatorial moves



The killing of Brian Stewart, 13

Murder and

the army's

big lie machine



The killing of Brian Stewart followed a step up in repression by state forces in the Turf Lodge area of Belfast

BRIAN Stewart, a 13 year-old Belfast boy, was cut down when British troops fired on children in the pro-Republican Turf Lodge estate.

The plastic bullet which according to the army should only 'stun', fractured the boy's skull and caused massive brain damage.

On October 10, six days after the shooting, Brian Stewart died in the Royal Victoria Hospital.

In their latest eye-witness report from Northern Ireland, the three anti-army campaigners, Father Brian Brady, Father Dennis Faul and Father Raymond Murray, accuse the army of murder and the Army press office — the source of most bourgeois Press accounts of Ulster violence — of acting as a lie machine.

Their report, called 'British Army Terror', outlines the Stewart killing and other incidents of brutal repression.

The residents all angrily deny the army version that Brian Stewart was 'rioting' in a crowd of '500' causing the army to fire several rounds of plastic bullets, one of which killed the 'unfortunate boy'.

Brian's mother denounces this as a cynical army cover-up. In her letter of thanks to the people who helped her son she says: 'I cannot thank the British Army man who appeared on television and told lie after lie, about my son rioting, and how he had watched him for a "considerable time".'

Confirm

'Brian had not left the house five minutes when I got word that he had been shot.'

'As his mother I have to defend my son who cannot do it himself.'

Neighbours like Mrs Mary Dobbin confirm that Brian was in the house at 6p.m. — five minutes before he received the killer blow.

She says: 'Brian . . . was sitting in the living room with his sister. She was helping him with his homework. Brian went off to the bathroom . . . I left Mrs Stewart's directly after 6.10p.m. I was just back into my own living room when Mrs Stewart came running in. She said Brian had been hit in the face with a bullet.'

But the most convincing evidence are the horrifying accounts given by witnesses

who saw Brian Stewart receive his fatal wound.

Frank Diamond said: 'At around 6.15p.m. I was standing at my doorway . . . a foot patrol was moving down Norglen Road (four men). There were no more than ten children in and around Monagh Crescent corner. They were not in a group.'

'The soldiers were walking backwards down Norglen Road. I heard a plastic bullet being fired. I saw a young boy falling to the ground on the footpath at the corner of Monagh Crescent and Norglen Road. A member of the patrol ran up to him and attempted to pull him by the leg down the street.'

Blood

'There was a couple of children around the boy. I feel the soldier who attempted to pull the boy away saw the blood pouring from the boy's head realised it was very serious, he retreated and backed down to his patrol. I ran over to the corner and the other neighbours lifted and carried him to Mulvenna's house in Monagh Crescent.'

'I went into the house with the child. I could see he was seriously wounded on the left temple. It was an open wound approximately two inches above his left ear. The top part of his left ear was black. Right above his left ear there was an immediate swelling.'

'We tried to stop the blood flow until the arrival of an ambulance. The child never spoke a word at all although his eyes were opening and closing. He did not appear to be conscious.'

'The boy appeared to be in a fit. His legs and arms were twitching and he was vomiting continuously until he was carried into the ambulance. The ambulance man looked into the boy's eyes and said: 'I think this boy has a fractured skull'. As far as I am concerned this is a true version of what happened at my corner.'

Another neighbour, Mrs Margaret Mulvenna, said: 'I heard a commotion outside. I

SCHOOL DINNERS IN DANGER

ABOUT 70,000 school children in Buckinghamshire are in danger of losing their school dinners. The county's education committee will discuss a call to axe school meals when it meets on January 13. The cut would make about 3,000 canteen staff redundant.

They may decide to provide

dinner for children who are entitled to free meals and for those whose parents are prepared to pay 50p a dinner rather than the present 15p. John Campbell, the committee's chairman, said: 'It's a question of meals or teachers.'

The county was aware that some children needed nutritious midday

meals to ensure that they were adequately fed. The interests of these children must be safeguarded, he said, but didn't say how.

Somerset Education Authority has told the Department of Education and Science that it will start an experiment in six schools next term to lower the nutritional content of school meals.

Moderate teachers in cuts anger

BY OUR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE EDUCATION system was being dismantled, a teachers' leader warned yesterday.

Leonard Pile, president of the 42,000-strong Assistant Masters' Association, called on teachers to resist the education cuts which he said went far beyond the 'sensible avoidance' of waste.

He told delegates at the Association's annual conference that they should not collaborate with the running down of a vital service. To authorities who failed to maintain pupil-teacher ratios, even though the government has supplied the money to do so, Pile said the AMA, traditionally a moderate union, would take a stand.

'We will insist that local authorities do not irresponsibly swell the already deplorable unemployment figures by failing to employ and maintain an adequate teaching force.'

They would oppose cuts in the ratio, because the future of education depended on it.

'We will oppose cuts in the pupil-teacher ratio from a conviction that the line from the undesirable to the impossible will have been crossed.'

Pile also lashes out at employers who are demanding schools train children for the factory floor.

He said that education was not a 'conveyor belt' turning pupils out for 'boring jobs'.

'True education has never had this as its aim, and I devoutly hope it never will,' he said at the AMA conference at Carlisle.

Pile told delegates representing Britain's third largest teacher union:

'The discontinuity between school and work might partly be our fault, but we are not entirely to blame.'

'If industry expects our schools to be conveyor belts producing humanoids who will step into the most boring of occupations with fixed smiles on their faces, industry must think again.'

In criticising schools, industry had to ask itself two questions, challenged Pile.

● What jobs were offered to school leavers which were likely to stimulate the involved interest which was so often lacking?

● What had industry done to improve the training of young workers?

Industry complained that schools did not always teach either the skills or qualities which a school leaver needed.

But firms often showed their greatest involvement in training future employees only by giving them poorly-paid evening and Saturday jobs, when they were at school. Such children might otherwise be studying.



Brian Stewart, hit in the head by a plastic bullet... he died six days later

ran out and I saw Mrs Clara Reilly and my son supporting a child up the street. My son was covered in blood it had soaked right through his shirt right over his body.

'I saw the child was bad and got him to lay the boy down on the settee. I got pillows and cushions to support his head. I ran and got a towel. The boy was violently sick. Three baking bowls that child brought up and he was having awful spasms. He was deeply unconscious. We could get no response from him.'

The woman who carried the boy along the street, Clara Reilly, said: 'I heard a bang and saw a white object strike Brian Stewart on the head. I later realised it had been a plastic bullet.'

Arrest

'The boy fell to the ground and I then saw a soldier remonstrating with a young girl who was trying to lift Brian Stewart up. The soldier was attempting to arrest the boy, even though he lay unconscious on the ground.'

She added: 'There had been sporadic stone-throwing incidents earlier on in the area, but from the time I saw Brian Stewart, until he was shot by the plastic bullet, I definitely did not see stones being thrown at the British Army. There was no riotous situation at this corner when Brian Stewart was struck by the bullet.'

'There were not 500 children at this corner either.'

The brutal slaying of Brian Stewart was the culmination of several week's brutality in the Turf Lodge area by the army.

Few people in Britain will

have heard of this killing, unlike the deaths which gave rise to the state-supported Women's Peace Movement even this incident was distorted by the media who attempted to disguise the fact that the car which crushed two children to death got out of control, because the army shot the driver dead).

This extreme bias in the bourgeois Press and television is a vital part of the propaganda war waged against the people of Ulster who resist army occupation.

The lies and blatant distortions are an attempt to prop-up the once widespread belief that the army are in the north of Ireland to keep the peace.

But within the Republican areas, the Turf Lodge Mothers Committee have affectively counter-acted the army version with their own indictment of the Brian Stewart killing. Their own statement reads:

Lie number one: The soldiers were under attack from 400 (later raised to 500) rioters when they fired on Brian Stewart.

Reliable

The truth: There are at least five reliable adult witnesses who are prepared to testify that there was no crowd, much less a riot, in the street at the time of the incident. Television camera crews failed to find any evidence of a riot when they arrived.

Lie number two: The soldier who killed Brian Stewart fired a plastic bullet at the identified ring-leader of the attacking group.

The truth: A woman visiting the Stewart home is prepared to

testify that Brian had left his home only minutes before he was fatally injured. He had not time to become involved in anything, much less the ringleader of a non-existent riot.

Lie number three: A soldier who went to render first aid was attacked and had to retreat.

The truth: A soldier tried to drag the injured boy away by the heels. When a young girl at the scene remonstrated with him and held onto the child, the soldier threatened to shoot her.

Detestable

The Mothers of Turf Lodge will not be deflected by this detestable incident from their goal of protecting their children from the murders of the British Army and mourning in a dignified way the death of Brian Stewart. Our demands still stand:

1. The immediate retraction of British Army lies.
2. The charging of the soldier who fired the plastic bullet with murder.
3. The charging of the officer who ordered the bullet to be fired with conspiracy to murder.
4. The immediate and permanent withdrawal of the British Army from Turf Lodge.

'Two of our children, Leo Norney and Brian Stewart, have been murdered; Sandy Lynch has been seriously injured by British soldiers. We are determined that no more of our children will be destroyed. We are determined that these murderers will not be allowed back into Turf Lodge.'

Tomorrow: 'The drunken patrol that terrorised Turf Lodge'

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PUERTO RICAN 'PHONE COMPANY CAUGHT IN THE ACT

WIRE TAPPEERS TAPED

BY CHARLES PARKINS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — America's backyard colony, Puerto Rico, has got its own 'Watergate' wire-tapping scandal. And many people are, to say the least, sceptical that anything will come of official investigations.

The Puerto Rican Telephone Company (Telco) has been caught conducting regular monitoring and taping of people's telephone conversations.

Among those whose conversations were recorded and kept in secret files were leading members of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP).

This puts the government-run telephone service in violation of the island's penal code and of the constitution.

find employment in the telephone company. Adolfo Villafana, formerly with the New York police department, was brought in quietly, to train selected Telco employees and members of the Division of Special Investigations (Puerto Rico's FBI) in telephone tapping techniques.

Secret

Exposing the telephone-tapping affair on July 30, 'Claridad' revealed that the monitoring programme was being conducted from a secret room at Telco's central building known as the Central Observation Headquarters, and supervised by a Cuban rightist emigré, Octavio Mestre.

Mestre, who was selected by Rodriguez Aponte to direct the wire-tap activity, prepares a list each week known as a 'Service Observing Assignment', specifying the numbers to be intercepted.

Nearly a thousand phones from various parts of Puerto Rico are intercepted each week.



Ex-cop Salvador Rodriguez Aponte of Telco — records conversations, but 'only for quality control'

Since the affair was first exposed during the summer by the Socialist Party's daily 'Claridad', the authorities have stumbled from evasion to denials, from excuses to contradictions: from promises of an investigation to attempts at silencing the man who has exposed them.

Reinforcing the 'Watergate' smell, there has been the president of the telephone company (an ex-Police Chief incidentally) reporting that tapes were missing; and a break-in at the home of a key reporter on the case.

The Puerto Rican Telephone Company used to belong to the ill-famed US corporation, ITT. A Public Service Commission had jurisdiction over the company until the Puerto Rican government took it over in 1974.

Czar

Governor Rafael Hernandez Colon appointed former police chief Salvador Rodriguez Aponte as President of the government-owned company.

Rodriguez Aponte had been known as the 'Czar of Fortaleza' because of his influence in the Hernandez Colon administration. (The Fortaleza is the Governor's mansion, a sort of junior White House.)

He wasn't the only ex-cop to

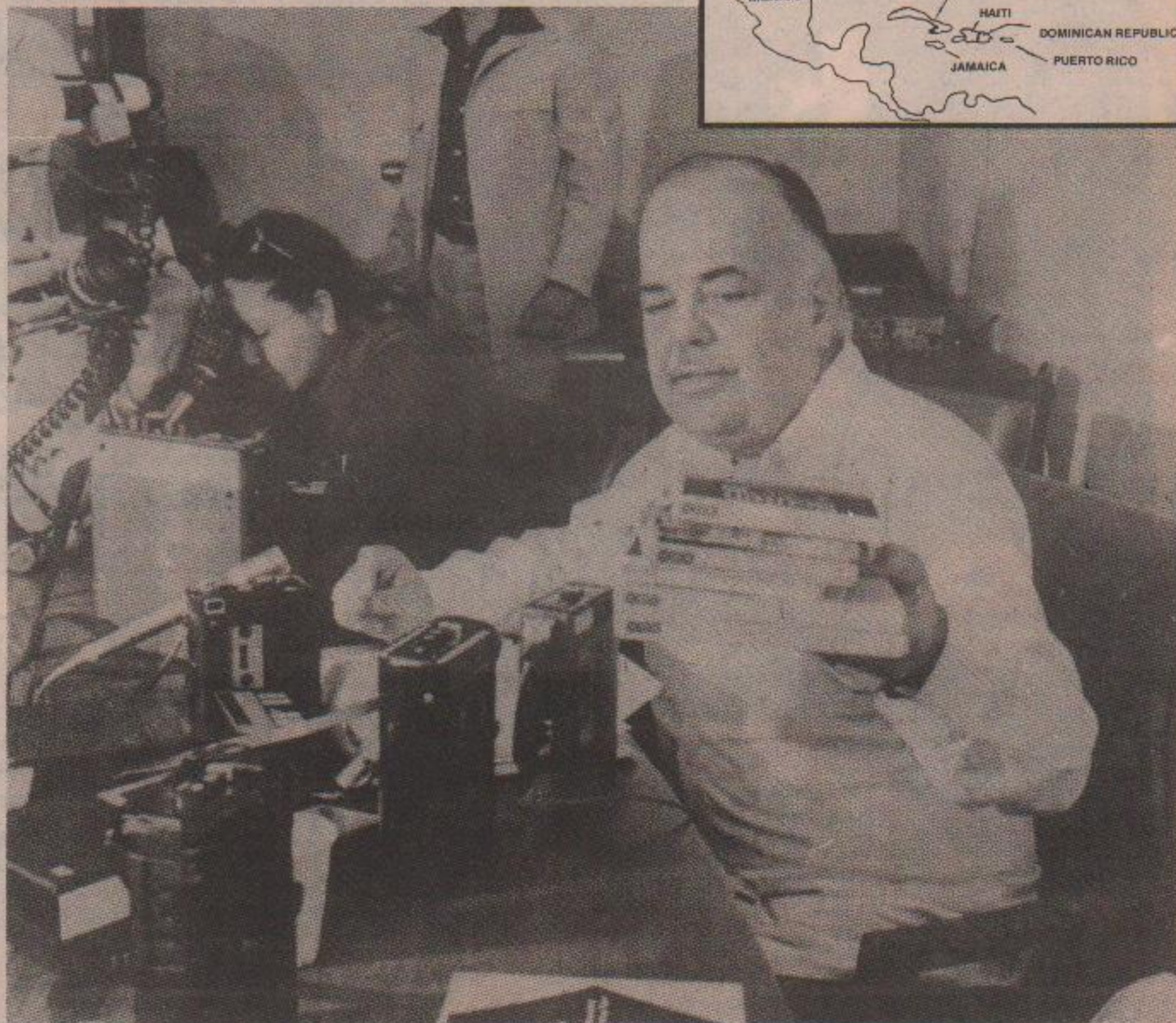


Governor Hernandez Colon — 'heard rumours'

without the knowledge let alone consent, of the persons making the calls. The telephone staff who connect the recorders do not know the names of the people whose phones are being tapped.

According to 'Claridad' sources, Rodriguez Aponte himself has ordered particular tapes sent to his office. The ex-police chief has also authorised the FBI and CIA, as well as the Puerto Rican Department of Special Investigations, to participate in the telephone surveillance.

Telephone tapping is prohibited under Section 10 of the Puerto Rican Constitution, and condemned by Articles 144 and 145 of the Penal Code.



Mari Bras — with the tapes

The first reaction of Rodriguez Aponte was simply to deny that there was any truth in the accusations.

But after the PSP's Juan Mari Bras had revealed that he had some tapes provided by informants inside Telco, the company came out with an admission cum cover-up.

Yes, they were recording telephone conversations, but only for the purpose of testing the telephone service. The 'Quality Surveillance Program', as it is called, was recommended by the Federal Communications Commission. Recordings only lasted twelve seconds at most, being used to check whether people had got the right number. The phone numbers checked were chosen at random.

The practice was standard with American telephone companies, they said, and had been used by Telco for over 30 years. 'What we tape is the process of the telephone call, not the conversation'.

It was a reassuring tale, except that it was easily proved a false one. The thousands of feet of tape obtained by 'Claridad' included such conversations as one between two PSP officials, Perez Gandia and Manuel Gonzalez. It lasted for at least 47 seconds. Each of the tapes lasted far longer than Telco's 'twelve seconds'.

Telco had also claimed that recorded conversations were not kept on file. But on August 2, after Juan Mari Bras had played his tapes to a Press conference, the Justice Department announced it was ordering an inquiry. Rodriguez Aponte told the police that several tapes were missing, believed stolen.

Mari Bras asked the obvious question. If the company does not record conversations, and

there are no files of tapes, how can the 'non-existent' tape recordings be stolen?

On August 6, 'Claridad' obtained another scoop. Alleging that there were 30 undercover police agents working inside the telephone company, it was able to back this by naming six of them.

Denied

The police immediately denied the story. Then four days later they admitted they did have agents working in the telephone company. One of the agents was already known anyway — he had appeared in court earlier in the year to give evidence against six members of the Telephone Workers Union charged with sabotage — a frame-up that failed.

Another fact revealed is that taped telephone conversations were used to gain evidence against the National Workers Union in a criminal case.

Governor Hernandez Colon said at first he knew nothing about telephone tapping. Then he conceded that he had 'heard rumours' about it before.

Two days later, the Bar Association's Civil Rights Committee published correspondence it had exchanged with the Governor back in April 1974 (while Telco was still owned by ITT) asking him to look into telephone tapping charges!

The government's investigation is even less credible than its excuses. The man appointed to conduct it, Esteban de Jesus Pizarro, is the same district attorney who three years ago was supposed to be prosecuting right-wing terrorists who had attempted to bomb the 'Claridad' offices and started a bloody shoot-out.

Although the men were identified by witnesses, De Jesus Pizarro has yet to do anything, and the attackers are still free.

Not surprisingly, Mari Bras has refused to appear before this man and say how he got his tapes (although he does disclose they came from trade unionists in Telco). He is insisting on his right as a journalist to protect his sources.

Mari Bras is willing to help the Bar Association conduct its own, public inquiry, and has given them the tapes. Rodriguez Aponte has refused to allow anyone access to the Telco

recorders, which would be necessary for experts to determine whether the tapes were made on them.

Meanwhile, having failed to have Mari Bras convicted of contempt for protecting his sources, the Justice Department has attempted to have him disbarred from the legal profession instead (he is a lawyer as well as a journalist).

And under the US Freedom of Information Act, Mari Bras has been able to obtain 35 of the 68 documents which the CIA have admitted keeping on him. It turns out they've been keeping a dossier on him since 1948.



Puerto Rican paper exposes — 83,200 phones tapped in a year. Thirty under-cover cops in telephone company

TV LineUp

GRANADA

9.30 Out of School. 11.00 A Boy with Wings. 11.45 Cartoon Time. 12.00 Little Blue. 12.10 Mister Trimble. 12.30 Parents Day. 1.00 News at One. 1.20 Take Kerr. 1.30 Crown Court. 2.00 Holiday Matinee: 'I Married a Witch'. 3.20 Beauty, Bonny, Daisy, Violet, Grace and Geoffrey Morton. 4.20 Little House on the Prairie. 5.10 Nature's Window. 5.15 Crossroads. 5.45 News at 5.45.

6.00 GRANADA NEWS HEADLINES

6.05 LUCY SPECIAL: 'Lucy Gets Lucky'. Lucy applies for work at a hotel so she can watch a Dean Martin show

7.00 ONE MORE TRAIN TO ROB

9.00 THE SQUIRRELS: 'The Argument'

9.30 THIS WEEK

10.00 NEWS AT TEN

10.30 MITZI AND A HUNDRED GUYS

11.30 HOMICIDE: 'The Fireworks Man'. The Squad find that festivals have different meanings for different people

12.30 Closedown

THAMES

9.30 Out of School. 11.00 The Saint. 11.50 Cartoon Time. 12.00 Little Blue. 12.10 Mister Trimble. 12.30 Parents Day. 1.00 News at One. 1.20 Today's Post. 1.30 Crown Court. 2.00 It's More Life with David Bellamy. 2.25 South Riding. 3.20 Beauty, Bonny, Daisy, Violet, Grace and Geoffrey Morton. 4.20 The Little House on the Prairie. 5.15 Bless This House. 5.45 News.

6.00 TODAY

6.35 CROSSROADS

7.00 ONE MORE TRAIN TO ROB Western starring George Peppard as train robber seeking revenge on his double-crossing partner

9.00 THE SQUIRRELS: 'The Argument'

Rex and Harry fall out

9.30 THIS WEEK

Jonathan Dimbleby, Peter Taylor, John Fielding and Peter Williams report

10.00 NEWS AT TEN

10.30 MITZI AND A HUNDRED GUYS

Extravaganza from Hollywood with Mitzi Gaynor, Bob Hope and many others

11.30 MARCUS WELBY, M.D.: 'No Gods in Sight'

A researcher who has joined the practice becomes very involved with the patients

12.25 Close: Joyce Frances Carpenter reads her poetry, followed by Closedown

BBC 1

9.35 The Wombles. 9.40 Scooby Doo. 10.20 Children of Destiny. 10.45 Bugs Bunny. 10.50 Flash Gordon. 11.15 Tarzan's Peril. 12.30 Midday News: Weather. 12.45 Year of the Horse. 1.45 Barnaby. 1.55 Come September. 3.45 Unnatural History. 3.55 Play School. 4.20 Astronaut. 4.25 Jackanory. 4.40 Blue Peter. 5.15 Screen Test. 5.35 Noah and Nelly. 5.40 Evening News.

5.55 NATIONWIDE

6.40 THE OSMONDS

7.10 ARE YOU BEING SERVED? 'The Hand of Fate'. A vacancy on the board of directors has aroused everyone's ambitions

7.40 SYKES

8.10 KOJAK starring Telly Savalas

9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS: Weather

9.25 FILM: 'Five Easy Pieces' 1970 film directed by Bob Rafelson, with Jack Nicholson and Karen Black. Nicholson plays the drop-out son of a middle-class family of musicians

11.00 READ ALL ABOUT IT This week's look at the paperback scene, introduced by Melvyn Bragg, with Alan Coren, Frank Muir, Marsha Hunt, Colin Wilson, Clive James

11.40-11.42 Weatherman

BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 11.25 Closedown.

7.05 NETWORK: 'Master of the Moon'. BBC South programme about a man who has cleared a polluted river single-handed

7.35 NEWS ON 2: Weather

7.45 TOP CROWN: The Final of the BBC 2 Masters' Trophy. Norman Dawkes (Staffordshire) v Tony Poole (Shropshire)

8.10 PERRY COMO'S CHRISTMAS IN MEXICO with Vikki Carr, The Captain and Tennille, Ballet Folklórico de Mexico and other Mexican artistes

9.00 THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME Victor Hugo's classic, adapted by Robert Muller, with Warren Clarke as the hunchback bellringer in the Paris of 1482. Also starring Kenneth Haigh, Michelle Newell, Christopher Gable

10.45 LATE NEWS ON 2: Weather

11.00 IN TRIBUTE TO JEAN GABIN: 'La Grande Illusion' Famous 1937 Jean Renoir film set in a German prison camp during the First World War. Gabin plays the captured French officer and Erich von Stroheim the German commandant

12.50-12.55 Closedown: Paul Scofield reads Dannie Abse's 'Letter to Alex Comfort'

REGIONS

CHANNEL

1.20 Channel Lunchtime News, What's On Where and Weather. 1.30 Crown Court. 2.00 Greenwich — A People's Heritage. 2.25 South Riding. 3.20 Beauty, Bonny, Daisy, Violet, Grace and Geoffrey Morton. 4.20 The Count of Monte Cristo. 4.30 Lost In Space. 5.45 News at 5.45. 6.00 Channel News And Weather. 6.10 Woodhills. 6.30 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'One More Train To Rob'. 9.00 The Squirrels. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 The Motorway Film. 11.00 Film: 'The Gorgon'. 12.30 News And Weather in French followed by Weather. Closedown.

WESTWARD

9.30 Out of School. 11.00 A Crop of Complaints. 11.30 Plymouth Rock. 11.55 The Woosies. 12.00 Little Blue. 12.10 Mister Trimble. 12.30 Parents Day. 1.00 News at One. 1.20 Westward News Headlines. 1.30 Crown Court. 2.00 Greenwich — A People's Heritage. 2.25 South Riding. 3.20 Beauty, Bonny, Daisy, Violet, Grace and Geoffrey Morton. 4.20 The Count of Monte Cristo. 4.30 Lost In Space. 5.45 News at 5.45. 6.00 Westward Diary. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film 'One More Train to Rob'. 9.00 The Squirrels. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Westward Darts Final. 11.00 News and Weather. 11.05 Film: 'The Gorgon'. 12.30 Faith For Life. 12.35 Closedown.

SOUTHERN

9.30 Out of School. 11.00 Going, Going, Gosh. 11.30 Plymouth Rock. 11.55 The Woosies. 12.00 Little Blue. 12.10 Mister Trimble. 12.30 Parents Day. 1.00 News at One. 1.20 Southern News And Weather. 1.30 Crown Court. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25 South Riding. 3.20 Beauty, Bonny, Daisy, Violet, Grace and Geoffrey Morton. 4.20 Space 1999. 5.15 Sinbad Junior. 5.45 News at 5.45. 6.00 Day By Day. 6.30 University Challenge. 7.00 Film 'One More Train To Rob'. 9.00 The Squirrels. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Shannon's Mob. 11.30 Southern News. 11.40 Phyllis. 12.05 Closedown.

CLASSIFIED

THEATRE

BUSH THEATRE Shepherd's Bush Green, W12. 01-743 5050. Tues-Sun 8p.m. **THE FOSDYKE SAGA** by Bill Tidy and Alan Plater. Adm. 30p, students 70p.

KINGS HEAD THEATRE 01-226 1916. Evgs 8p.m. **Spokesong** by Stewart Parker.

SOHO POLY 16 Ridinghouse Street W1. 01-636 9050. **Happy Christmas Miss Figgis** by Eric Sutton. Lunchtimes at 1.15p.m. All seats 80p.

YOUNG VIC (by Old Vic) 01-926 6363. **Charley's Aunt** by Brandon Thomas. 7.00p.m. All seats 80p.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE, Sloane Square, SW1. 01-730 1745. Reopens January 13 with **SIZWE BANSI IS DEAD** devised by Athol Fugard, John Kan and Winston Ntshona. 7p.m.

CINEMA

THE OTHER CINEMA, 25 Tottenham Street (at Charlotte St), 01-637 9308. Today 3.45p.m. **YUKONG: A WOMAN, A FAMILY**, 6.30p.m. **YUKONG: THE FISHING VILLAGE**, 9.15 p.m. **THE OILFIELDS**, £1 (Members 80p).

Weather followed by A Better Way: Closedown.

HTV

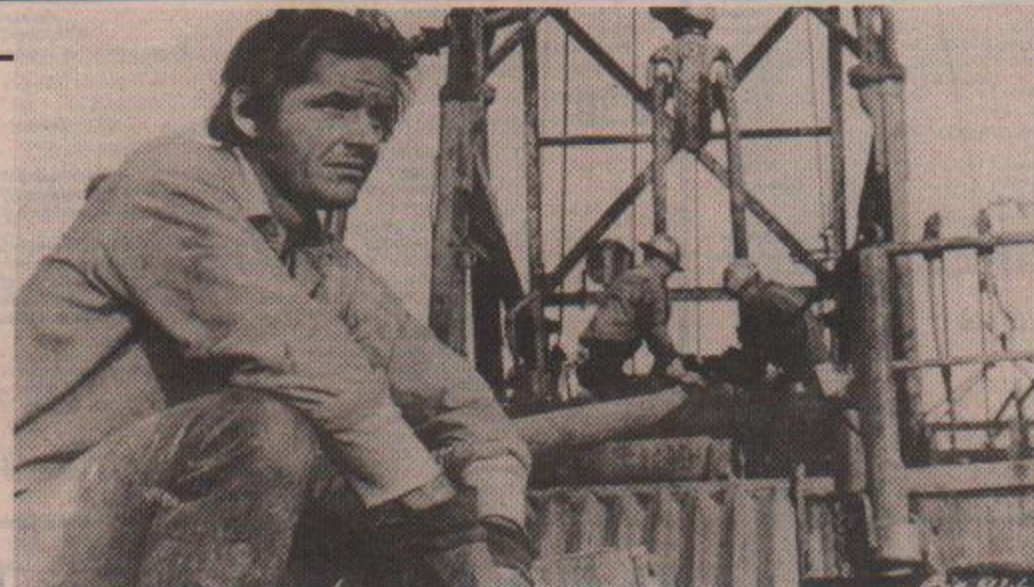
9.30 Out of School. 11.00 The Owl And The Pussycat. 11.05 A Crop of Complaints. 11.30 Plymouth Rock. 11.55 The Woosies. 12.00 Little Blue. 12.10 Mister Trimble. 12.30 Parents Day. 1.00 News At One. 1.20 Report West Headlines. 1.25 Report Wales Headlines. 1.30 Crown Court. 2.00 Women Only. 2.25 South Riding. 3.20 Beauty, Bonny, Daisy, Violet, Grace and Geoffrey Morton. 4.20 Woody Woodpecker. 4.45 Return To The Planet of the Apes. 5.15 Breaktime 5. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.45 News at 5.45. 6.00 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Happy Days. 7.30 Film 'One More Train To Rob'. 9.00 The Squirrels. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Mitzi And A Hundred Guys. 11.30 Police Woman. 12.30 Weather and Closedown.

HTV CYMRU-WALES As HTV General except: 1.20-1.25 Penawdau Newyddion Y Dydd. 4.20-4.35 Miri Mawr. 4.35-4.45 Seren Wib. 6.00-6.15 Y Dydd. 10.00 News At Ten followed by Report Wales. 10.35 Our American Dream.

HTV WEST: As HTV General except: 1.20-1.30 Report West Headlines. 6.15-6.30 Sport West.

ANGLIA

9.30 Out of School. 11.00 The Red And The Blue. 11.05 A Crop of Complaints. 11.30 Plymouth Rock. 11.55 The Woosies. 12.00 Little Blue. 12.10 Mister Trimble. 12.30 Parents Day. 1.00 News At One. 1.25 Anglia News. 1.30 Crown Court. 2.00 Women Only. 2.25 South Riding. 3.20 Beauty, Bonny, Daisy, Violet, Grace and Geoffrey Morton. 4.20 The Romper Room. 4.45 Anita In Jumbleland. 5.15 Black Arrow. 5.45 News at 5.45. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'One More Train To Rob'. 9.00 The Squirrels. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 George Hamilton IV. 11.00 Love Story. 12.00 Skiing With Gina. 12.25 The Living Word followed by Close.



Jack Nicholson as Bobby Dupea, in 'Five easy pieces' on BBC 1 at 9.25

ATV MIDLANDS

9.30 Out of School. 11.00 Animated Classics. 11.50 Hamilton At The Music Festival Cartoon. 12.00 Little Blue. 12.10 Mister Trimble. 12.30 Parents Day. 1.00 News At One. 1.20 ATV Newsdesk. 1.30 Crown Court. 2.00 The Addams Family. 2.25 South Riding. 3.20 Beauty, Bonny, Daisy, Violet, Grace and Geoffrey Morton. 4.20 Film: 'The Time Travellers'. 5.45 News at 5.45. 6.00 ATV Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'One More Train To Rob'. 9.00 The Squirrels. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Barretta. 11.30 Gardening Today. 12.00 Barry Alcott. 12.05 Closedown.

ULSTER

9.30 Out of School. 11.00 Cartoon. 11.05 A Crop of Complaints. 11.55 The Woosies. 12.00 Little Blue. 12.10 Mr Trimble. 12.30 Parents Day. 1.00 News At One. 1.20 Ulster

News and Lunchtime. 1.30 Crown Court. 2.00 Just In Time. 2.25 South Riding. 3.20 Beauty, Bonny, Daisy, Violet, Grace and Geoffrey Morton. 4.18 Ulster News Headlines. 4.20 Woodhills. 4.45 Castaway. 5.15 Dusty's Trail. 5.45 News at 5.45. 6.00 UTV Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'One More Train To Rob'. 9.00 The Squirrels. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 What's It All About. 11.00 Sportscast. 11.30 Closedown.

YORKSHIRE

9.30 Out of School. 11.00 Hammy Hamster. 11.10 Tarzan. 12.00 Little Blue. 12.10 Mister Trimble. 12.30 Parents Day. 1.00 News At One. 1.20 Calendar News. 1.30 Crown Court. 2.00 Born Free. 3.00 Beauty, Bonny, Daisy, Violet, Grace and Geoffrey Morton. 4.00 The Swiss Family Robinson. 5.45 News at 5.45. 6.00 Calendar. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film 'One More Train To Rob'. 9.00 The Squirrels. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At

Ten. 10.30 Mitzi And 100 Guys. 11.30 Lucille Ball Special. 12.25 Closedown.

TYNE TEES

9.25 Starting Point. 9.30 Out of School. 11.00 Paddy and Sonny. 11.05 A Crop of Complaints. 11.30 Plymouth Rock. 11.55 The Woosies. 12.00 Little Blue. 12.10 Mister Trimble. 12.30 Parents Day. 1.00 News At One. 1.20 North East News and Lookaround. 1.30 Crown Court. 2.00 Tarzan. 3.00 Beauty, Bonny, Daisy, Violet, Grace and Geoffrey Morton. 4.00 The Swiss Family Robinson. 5.45 News at 5.45. 6.00 Northern Life. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film 'One More Train To Rob'. 9.00 The Squirrels. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Mitzi And A Hundred Guys. 11.30 Ready When You Are, Mr McGill. 12.25 Epilogue. 12.30 Closedown.

BORDER

9.30 Out of School. 11.00 Cartoon Time. 11.05 A Crop of Complaints. 11.30 Plymouth Rock. 11.55 The Woosies. 12.00 Little Blue. 12.10 Mister Trimble. 12.30 Parents Day. 1.00 News At One. 1.20 Border News. 1.30 Crown Court. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25 South Riding. 3.20 Beauty, Bonny, Daisy, Violet, Grace and Geoffrey Morton. 4.20 The Little House on the Prairie. 5.15 Spiderman. 5.45 News at 5.45. 6.00 Border News And Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film 'One More Train To Rob'. 9.00 The Squirrels. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Mitzi And A Hundred Guys. 11.30 Gardening Today. 12.00 Border News And Weather. 12.05 Closedown.

SCOTTISH

9.30 Out of School. 11.00 Rain Stops Play. 11.05 A Crop of Complaints. 11.30 Plymouth Rock. 11.55 The Woosies. 12.00 Little Blue. 12.10 Mr Trimble. 12.30 Parents Day. 1.00 News At One. 1.25 Road And Weather Report. 1.30 Crown Court. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25 South Riding. 3.20 Beauty, Bonny, Daisy, Violet, Grace and Geoffrey Morton. 4.20 Tarzan. 5.15 Calimero. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.45 News at 5.45. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.20 Garmock Way. 7.00 Film: 'One More Train To Rob'. 9.00 The Squirrels. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Mitzi And A Hundred Guys. 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 Hawaii Five-O. 12.30 Closedown.

GRAMPIAN

9.30 Out of School. 11.00 Cartoon Time. 11.05 A Crop of Complaints. 11.30 Plymouth Rock. 11.55 The Woosies. 12.00 Little Blue. 12.10 Mister Trimble. 12.30 Parents Day. 1.00 News At One. 1.20 Grampian News Headlines. 1.30 Crown Court. 2.00 All We Need is the Sun To Shine. 2.25 South Riding. 3.25 Beauty, Bonny, Daisy, Violet, Grace and Geoffrey Morton. 4.20 The Little House on the Prairie. 5.15 Wildlife Cinema. 5.45 News at 5.45. 6.00 Grampian Today And Weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film 'One More Train To Rob'. 9.00 The Squirrels. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.35 Mitzi And A Hundred Guys. 11.25 Lucille Ball Special. 12.20 Evening Prayers. 12.25 Closedown.

RADIO

ENGLAND

Radio 1 VHF 88-91MHz at certain times: 247m 1214kHz
Radio 2 VHF 88-91MHz: 1500m 200kHz
Radio 3 VHF 90-92.5MHz: 464m 847kHz

BBC RADIO 1

6.00 As Radio 2. 7.00 Noel Edmonds. 9.00 Tony Blackburn. 12.00 Paul Burnett including 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.02 David Hamilton (S). 4.30 N's DLT OK! 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.02 John Dunn (S). 11.00 John Peel (S). 12.00-12.05 As Radio 2.

BBC RADIO 2

6.00 News Summary: Weather. 6.02 Colin Berry (S). 6.15 Pause for Thought. 7.02 Terry Wogan (S) including 8.27 Racing Bulletin. 8.45 Pause for Thought. 9.02-11.30 Pete Murray's Open House (S) including 10.30 Waggoners' Walk. 11.30 Jimmy Young (S). 1.50 Sports Desk. 2.02 David Hamilton (S) with 2.45 and 3.45 Sports Desk. 4.30 Waggoners' Walk. 4.45

202m 1484kHz: 1500m 200kHz

Radio 3 VHF 90-92.5MHz: 188m 1594kHz: 464m 847kHz
Radio Scotland VHF 92-95MHz: 371m 809kHz

BBC RADIO 3

Sports Desk. 4.47 John Dunn (S) including 5.45 Sports Desk. 6.45 Sports Desk. 7.02 Two By Two. 7.30 David Allan's Country Club (S). 9.02 Folkweave (S). 10.02 Sports Desk. 10.05 Freddy Staff (S) in Band Parade. 11.02 Len Jackson with the Late Show. 12.00-12.05 Midnight Newsroom, weather, motoring information.

BBC RADIO 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Overture (S). Praetorius, Gibbons, Vivaldi, Stamitz. 8.00 News. 8.05 Morning Concert (S). Mozart, Dvorak. 9.00 News. 9.05 This Week's Composer: Tchaikovsky (S). 9.45 Masters of the Lied (S). Mahler, Schoenberg, Mahler. 10.20 Organ Music

WALES

Radio 4 VHF 92-95MHz: 285m 1052kHz: 330m 908kHz: 434m 892kHz
Variations:
SCOTLAND
Radio 2 VHF 88-91MHz: 202m 1484kHz

BBC RADIO 4

6.20 News. 6.22 Farming Today. 6.40 Prayer for the Day. 6.45 Today, including News at 7.00 and 8.00 and at 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.45 Jumbo. 9.00 News. 9.05 These You Have Loved. 10.00 News. 10.05 From Our Own Correspondent. 10.30 Daily Service. 10.45 Morning Story. 11.00 News. 11.05 Time For Action. 11.50 Brian Johnston (new series). 12.00 News. 12.02 You and Yours. 12.27 My Word! (S). 12.55 Weather

BBC RADIO 4

8.25 Rainer Maria Rilke (S). 8.45 Concert (S) Part 2: Ravel, Stravinsky. 9.35 Drama Now (S). Two Gentlemen of Hadleigh Heath by Tom Mallin. 10.50 Rene Leibowitz (S). 11.05 Schubertliads (S). 11.55-12.00 News.

Radio 2 VHF 88-91MHz: 341m 881kHz

NORTHERN IRELAND
Radio 4 VHF 92-95MHz: 417m 719kHz
Radio Ulster 224m 1340kHz (S) Stereophonic

and programme news. 1.00 The World at One: News. 1.30 The Archers. 1.45 Woman's Hour (2.00 News). 2.45 Listen with Mother. 3.00 News. 3.05 Afternoon Theatre (S). 3.50 Jack de Manio Precisely including 4.00-4.05 News. 4.35 Story Time. 5.00 PM Reports. 5.50 Financial Report. 5.55 Weather, programme news. 6.00 News. 6.15 Top of the Form. 6.45 The Archers. 7.00 News. 7.05 The World in Focus. 7.30 Happiness is... 8.00 Something to Declare. 8.45 The 'Great Escape'. 9.30 Kaleidoscope. 9.59 Weather. 10.00 The World Tonight: News. 10.45 A Book at Bedtime. 11.00 The Financial World Tonight. 11.15 Logical and Lateral. 11.30 News. Weather. 11.51-11.54 Inshore Forecast.

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PUNCHESTOWN—Horses and jockeys for Irish card

12.30 DUNSTOWN WOOD MAIDEN HURDLE (DIV I) £600

2m (14 runners)			
2	00F	MAC'S CHARIOT O Toole 5120	DT Hughes
3	0	LORNA DOONE Rochford Hyde 6116	GJ Newman
4	0	CON HURLEY Henley 5116	
5	4	BAY'S PHANTOM DL Moore 5116	T Carberry
6	0	TREATY STONE A Watson 5116	M Morris
7	000	INDIGO GIRL Donohoe 5116	M Curran (7)
8	00	JULIE S Evans 5116	Mr A Evans (7)
9	0	THESSINGER M Hayes 5116	
10	0	KNOCKARDAR P Shortt 5116	
11	0	TUCKERS TOWN M Connolly 5117	M Maher (5)
12	0	LONDON LIGHT WE Rooney 5116	Miss R Rooney (3)
13	0	BALLYSHU Cox 6116	E Corcoran (7)
14	0-0	GLANGOOL EPHarty 5116	F Berry
15	0	TERRYLAND McDonogh 5116	T Kinane

PROBABLE SP: 9-4 On Mac's Chariot, 5-1 Bay's Phantom, 10-1 Ballyshu, 12-1 Glangool, 14-1 Treaty Stone, 16-1 Tuckers Town, 25-1 others.

1.00 DUNSTOWN WOOD MAIDEN HURDLE DIV II £600

2m (14 runners)			
1	4	CENDIL McCreery 6120	T Carberry
2	000	LEIRUM Lusk 5116	M Morris
3	0	KILTANIA F Fitzsimons 5116	Mr FG Fitzsimons (7)
4	0	PARK FOX McEntee 5116	
5	0	MARTIAL SAM McCartan 6116	Mr T McCartan
6	000	DOUBLE BAR Heron 6116	JPHarty
7	000	IRISH RAMBLER Crowley 5 11 6J	Crowley
8	00F	KILCOOLEY GUY V Keane 5116	PJ Farrell (7)
9	00F	MISS CLERIHAN P Brennan 5116	F Murphy (7)
10	0-0F	CANTERUP WE Rooney 5116	D Andres (7)
11	000	MR ROCKFOOT Private 5116	T Kinane
12	0-00	BUNCLODY RAMBLER EPHarty 5116	F Berry
13	0-00	ODDS AGAINST O Toole 5116	RSTownend
14	P	TWO FARTHINS Norris 6120	M Coogan (7)

PROBABLE SP: 6-4 Leirum, 9-4 Cendil, 8-1 Double Bar, 10-1 Irish Rambler, 12-1 Mr Rockfoot, 14-1 Buncloody Rambler, 16-1 Martial Sam, 20-1 others.

1.30 HARRISTOWN CHASE £1,500

3m (16 runners)			
1	02-2	STAR OF PEAFIELD Private 8120	Mr PR Joyce (7)
2	012	MIFLAME Mahon 8120	F Berry
3	10F	BILLYCAN AJ Maxwell 8120	R Coonan
4	021	LOWEALLEN Lusk 7120	M Morris
5	133	DUBLIN EXPRESS O Toole 5112	DT Hughes
6	F-04	JARVEY'S ROUTE Private 7117	M Furlong
7	340	GODFREY SECUNDUS AL Moore 6117	A Moore
8	000	MACAULIFFE G Hogan 6117	JPHarty
9	3	CHETS DREAM Private 7117	
10	F00	REFORD PROBLEM P Murphy 7117	RS Townend
11	0-3	DARK SPECTRE Private 7117	J Fowler
12	422	KENSINGTON GORE Auld 7117	R Short
13	0	TORTUGA BAY P Taaffe 7117	G Newman
14	FF1	BALLYCROSS JR Cox 6117	
15	P0	TARTAN PRINCE P Hogan 5115	
16	4	HAYNESTOWN CHIEF R Walsh 5115	LO'Donnell

PROBABLE SP: 9-4 Dublin Express, 4-1 Miflame, 5-1 Tortuga Bay, 6-1 Loweallen, 8-1 Ballycross, 12-1 Billycan, 14-1 Dark Spectre and Kensington Gore, 20-1 others.

2.00 MORGIANA HURDLE £1,500

2m 4f (19 runners)			
1	022	SKYMAS Lusk 1114	M Morris
2	F-00	HAPPY LAD DL Moore 8114	T Carberry
3	1-1-0	SPANNER Weld 9114	R Short
4	230	ARLONSTOWN BOY A Watson 6114	DT Hughes
5	4	SHUDDOWN Casserly 6114	LO'Donne
6	040	HELENIUM Neville 8114	J Brasil
7	21	BALLYCROSS Dreaper 5114	B Hannon
8	022	THE CLIMP EPHarty 6114	F Berry

9	000	NOTARY P V Doyle 4114	T K Kinane (3)
10	14-0	DOUBLE DEFAULT Magnier 6114	
11	F01	ISNISHOWEN W Willis 71011	Miss J Willis (7)
12	224	CAHIR CASTLE J Cullen 61011	D Farrell (5)
13	340	LEVANKA Heron 71011	DM Keblell (7)
14	241	CHESTNUT BELLE Private 61011	J C Murphy (7)
15	002	WELSH QUIZ Private 61011	TV Finn (7)
16	2-03	SAYOURRAH P V Doyle 61011	NO Toole (7)
17	241	CROBOY LODGE Oakes 4106	AC Brennan
18	20-0	ROYAL ROVER Shields 4106	J McDowell (7)
19	002	FRIENDLINESS L Browne 4106	T Kinane

PROBABLE SP: 3-1 Skymas, 7-2 Spanner, 5-1 Shuil Donn, 6-1 Ballyross, 8-1 Helenium and The Climp, 10-1 Notary, 12-1 Double Default, 14-1 Friendliness, 20-1 others.

2.30 DUNLAVIN OPPORTUNITY H'CAP HURDLE £1,000

2m (16 runners)			
1	330	GLENMACCOLLA T Taaffe 8110	SLynch
2	000	PARIJATAK Mullins 5116	J P Murphy (4)
3	300	TARQUINS ROSE Warren 10114	
4	041	SCOTCH GALE Magnier 4112	P Clark
5	033	MISS SOMERS J Cullen 71013	D Farrell (2)
6	000	LOVELY PINE Private 51012	S Kennell (4)
7	0P0	NEON LIGHT McCartan 41011	T Townend (4)
8	100	MOUNTAIN HOME P V Doyle 41010	NO Toole (4)
9	000	SHEILAS QUIZ Private 5109	D J Howard (4)
10	021	PARIS MIST Meade 5108 (7 ex)	E Cocoran
11	304	SCOTSPREE Cox 6107	
12	000	CHERAMBLE Shields 5107	J McDowell
13	031	MARINERS BARGE McCreery 7106	C Moore (4)
14	233	KORONA P Taaffe 6105	P G Murphy (4)
15	200	NOT TO WORRY Meade 4102	
16	100	DONT LIKE P Woods 4100	TV Finn (4)

PROBABLE SP: 7-2 Mariners Barge, 4-1 Paris Mist, 5-1 Parijatak, 6-1 Miss Somers, 8-1 Scotch Gale, 10-1 Tarquins Rose and Glenmacolla, 14-1 Mountain Home, Scotspree and Korona, 20-1 others.

3.00 COOLMOONAN HANDICAP CHASE £1,750

3m 2f (8 runners)			
1	4-4F	WAR BONNET Dreaper 6106	T Carberry
2	F3P	HIGHWAY VIEW Cox 11105	F Berry
3	000	CASTLERUDDERY McCreery 10104	M Furlong
4	F20	VULABALOO DL Moore 798	E McDonald (3)
5	41P	ESCARI Cox 1098	
6	340	DRUMROAN Mrs Nolan 897	T McGliveran (5)
7	220	CLOGHEEN Neville 997	J Brasil
8	000	DOLAN Private 597	M Kinane (3)

PROBABLE SP: 2-1 War Bonnet, 7-2 Highway View, 9-2 Drumroan, 8-1 Vulabaloo, 10-1 Clogheen, 12-1 Castleruddery, 14-1 Dolan, 20-1 Escari.

3.30 MULLABODEN PLATE (4-Y-O) £600

2m (17 runners)			
1	0	TACK MONEY Private 119	Mr D Patton (7)
2	0	LITTLE ORPHAN Moorhead 119	Mr FG Fitzsimons (7)
3	0	DEEP RUBY AL Moore 119	Mr O Sherwood (7)
4	400	POULDINE Private 119	
5	0	PRINCE RUDOLF Private 119	Mr N Madden (5)
6	0	BALLYVELLY Casserly 119	Mr PJ Casserly
7	00	BALLYMEE Neville 119	Mr W Cronin (7)
8	00	DONNELLYS HOLLOW A Maxwell 119	Mr J Fowler
9	0	WHITE PAPER Mullins 119	Mr W Mullins
10	004	GOONDIWINDI Private 119	
11	004	MUST WASH Private 119	
12	04	COUP D'ETAT Private 119	Mr M Goldsmith (7)
13	0	KILMORNA II McCreery 119	Mr T M Walsh
14	00	MISS HEREFORD Auld 119	Mr B Grassick (7)
15	0	THREE OF DIAMONDS McEntee 119	
16	044	O'SHAUGHNESSY Private 119	
17	000	BET SHA TEN McDonogh 119	Mr D McDonogh (7)

PROBABLE SP: 5-4 Kilmorna II, 4-1 O'Shaughnessy, 5-1 Donnelly's Hollow, 10-1 Must Wash, 14-1 Ballymee, 16-1 Pouldine and Bet Sha Ten, 20-1 others.

Cendil to follow half-brother's success

THE cancellation of Warwick and Newcastle's meeting means there is no racing in England for the second day running and attention is diverted to Punchestown in Ireland.

With Cendil making a spectacular comeback after a 22-month lay-off at Kempton on Wednesday, his six-year-old half brother Cendil would be an appropriate winner of the Dunstown Wood Maiden Hurdle, Division Two (1.00).

This Centaurus gelding made a promising debut when fourth behind odds-on Kilbaillet Star at Waterford and Tramore last month, and should complete a double for Tommy Carberry. Tommy should also win the first leg (12.30) on Bay's Phantom — possibly at the expense of Mac's Chariot.

Ballyross impressed when scoring at Navan in November and looks a sound bet to land the £1,500 Morgiana Hurdle (2.00). Irish Fasion captured this event on the way to his great Schweppes Gold Trophy Hurdle victory at Newbury last year — and Ballyross also appears to have a bright future.

Jim Dreaper's five-year-old justified hot favouritism in emphatic style at Navan, cruising home by four lengths from Carrow Boy.

His chief rival today could be two-mile Champion Chase hero Skymas, who reverts to the smaller obstacles after performing gallantly under big weights in steeplechases this season.

Dublin Express, who ran on into third place behind Master Munday in Wednesday's Irish Sweeps Hurdle at Leopardstown, switches back to fences for the Harristown Chase (1.30).

Mick O'Toole's versatile five-year-old won a novice chase at Leopardstown earlier this month by six lengths from Kensington Gore, and is the obvious choice for this three-mile event.

PROFESSIONAL CYCLING DYING

PROFESSIONAL cycling in France, home of the world's most famous cycling race, the Tour de France, is in danger of dying.

Only 44 of this season's riders are sure of keeping their jobs next year. Cyrille Guimard, former manager of Belgium's Lucien Van Impe, 1976 Tour de France champion, has predicted that France will soon have no professional riders.

One of the aspects Guimard says is killing the sport is the low prize money in local races.

Cyclists rely on these throughout the season to earn a living, Guimard claims. 'Riders are transformed into clowns by circus managers.'

More than 50 of the 77 professional riders in France barely scrape a living and earn less than 2,000 francs (£250) a month from these events.

Expenses

Professional teams claim they can do little for their riders because of the huge expenses they are faced with. The number of teams has fallen drastically over the last decade, dozens of riders being forced onto the dole.

Guy Fabert, former manager of the now defunct 'Jobo' group, said French cycling was not only disorganised but that it was also being undermined by corruption. 'Victories are usually bought in

the last kilometres of a race,' he said in a recent interview. 'I had no secret cash to play that sort of game. That's why I gave up.'

A recent spate of drug scandals among riders is accelerating the death of French cycling.

Tour de France doctor André Dumas said drug-taking was not a new phenomenon. 'Way back before 1914 cyclists used to take strychnine to improve their performances,' he said.

However, it was only in the late 1940s that modern drug-taking techniques were introduced.

Several doctors have complained of being attacked physically by riders after dope tests. They decided to react after

some riders had set up a special committee 'to break their noses'.

They have now asked police to organise dope tests and to treat any culprit as a drug offender.

Amateur cycling is booming, however. There were 40,000 registered amateur racing cyclists in 1969. Now there are 70,000 throughout France.

Sales

And cycle manufacturers are still doing well. They produce around 2.5 million bikes a year and are very happy with their sales of de-luxe models at prices between 3,000 and 5,000 francs each (£360 and £600).

Wolves well on to a



Alan Sunderland... Wolves leading goalscorer

IT IS a long time since a club in the top two divisions scored more than a century of League goals in a season.

But Wolves are well on their way to doing just that, and their reward, if they do make treble figures, will be more than just a place in the record books.

For a start, even though their defence has little to boast about, they are virtually certain to bounce back into the First Division if they maintain their present scoring rate of 50 goals in 20 matches.

Richer

And the club will be £2,000 richer, too, if they reach 100 League goals. Already they are being sponsored at £10 per goal and the total will be doubled if it reaches 100.

The main incentive, though, is obviously a quick return to the top bracket. They left it only last season, when their fate hung in the

CRICKET SPORTSLINE

THROW-AWAYS

Light and little railman force Greig to concede



CHRIS OLD... Showed form with the bat again

GAUHATI, India — Binal Bharali, a 26-year-old local railway employee, batted for three-and-a-half hours here yesterday to deny MCC victory over East Zone.

The little right-hander was 45 not out when, with two of the final 20 overs remaining, MCC captain Tony Greig conceded the light was too bad for play to continue and led his team off.

East Zone, set 210 to win at a run a minute, finished on 137 for seven and once again a victory over an Indian zonal team eluded MCC.

On a pitch that had taken spin from the first day, it was surprising that Greig relied heavily on his seam bowlers to prise out the East Zone batsmen.

He gave the Yorkshire off-spinner Geoff Cope an extended bowl, but only introduced Geoff Miller after nine of the final 20 overs and gave himself just one over shortly before the close.

Chris Old broke through straight away when East Zone started their second innings, knocking down Sambaran Banerjee's off stump with his

eight ball.

But then Ramesh Saxena, who played in one Test on India's 1967 tour of England, and Bharali, thwarted MCC.

The 32-year-old Saxena batted as well as anyone in the match, making 35 before falling to Selvey just before tea. Although five more wickets fell after tea, Bharali saved the day for East Zone.

Squander

MCC had tried hard to squander their chance of victory starting the day on 64 for two in their second innings — a lead of 130 — they proceeded with little urgency and in an hour added just 40 runs off 16 overs for the loss of two more wickets.

Certainly the pitch was not easy to score quickly on. It was slow and produced variable bounce — but the passive approach of the batsmen was surprising.

Greig went to the opposite extreme, trying to cart the second ball he received from left-arm spinner Dilip Doshi out

of the ground, and was bowled for a duck.

Graham Barlow, 43 not out overnight, completed his 50 in 135 minutes before falling to Doshi for 61. It was a dismissal that clearly did not meet with Barlow's approval.

Barlow glared at the umpire after he judged the ball had touched his bat as well as his boot before bouncing up to the wicketkeeper's gloves.

Greig then made his brief appearance — his departure made MCC 95 for four — and at 118 Bob Woolmer and Geoff Miller were out in the same over from Alak Bhattacharjee.

Roger Tolchard was seventh out, another Doshi victim. He made six, the lowest score he has been dismissed for in two tours of India. Finally Chris Old was stumped just before lunch for 33.

When the last 20 overs started, East Zone were 86 for five and an MCC victory looked the most probable result. But the stubborn Bharali refused to budge and in a 32-run sixth wicket stand with Barun Burman he dashed MCC's hopes of their first win over a zonal team since 1964.

SCORECARD

MCC First Innings 213 for six declared (D W Randall 55, R W Tolchard 53)

EAST ZONE First Innings 147 (R Mukherjee 62, R G D Willis five for 29)
MCC Second Innings (overnight 64 for two)
G D Barlow c Banerjee b Doshi... 61
R A Woolmer st Banerjee... 22
b Bhattacharjee... 22
A W Greig b Doshi... C M
Old st Banerjee b Bhattacharjee 33
G Miller c Saxena... 0
b Bhattacharjee... 0
R W Tolchard c Banerjee... 6
b Doshi... 6
G A Cope not out... 0
M W W Selvey not out... 0
Extras... 6

TOTAL (eight wickets declared) 143

FALL: 1-11, 2-49, 3-95, 4-95, 5-118, 6-118, 7-131, 8-143.

BOWLING: Burman 19-3-49-2, Kakati 7-1-25-0, Doshi 23-8-35-3, Bhattacharjee 10-5-28-3.

EAST ZONE Second Innings:
S Banerjee b Old... 0
R Saxena c Miller b Selvey... 35
B Bharali not out... 45
R Mukherjee b Cope... 3
T Raj c Brearley... 8
b Selvey... 8
A Roy b Cope... 1
B Burman b Cope... 15
A Bhattacharjee c Randall... 0
b Cope... 0
D Doshi not out... 8
Extras... 22

TOTAL (seven wickets) 137

FALL: 1-3, 2-65, 3-68, 4-82, 5-84, 6-116, 7-118
BOWLING: Old 8-5-5-1, Willis 11-1-34-0, Cope 23-5-55-4, Selvey 8-0-17-2, Greig 1-0-1-0, Miller 3-0-3-0.



GRAHAM BARLOW... MCC's top scorer yesterday

their way century

Main incentive is return to First Division

BY BRENDAN MARTIN

balance until they lost their last match — to champions Liverpool.

Since then they have lost only four League games, and the victims of their ten Second Division victories are always ready to testify to Wolves' promotion claims.

They reserve their best form for away games, as Bristol Rovers, who lost 5-1 on Boxing Day, and leaders Chelsea, who rescued their unbeaten home record with two goals in the last ten minutes a week earlier, have discovered.

Two Wolves' forwards, young England international Alan Sutherland and evergreen Bobby Gould, are among the top ten scorers in the Second Division, with 12 and 10 League goals respectively.

And the way John Richards has been performing since

his recent return after a cartilage operation suggests that he won't be long in catching them up.

The attacking style of the team's midfield men — starlet Steve Daly, Martin Patching, Kenny Hibbitt and the currently injured Willie Carr — is typical of the approach that has brought 26 goals in ten away games.

Strategy

Not only does the strategy work, it is also making them among the top crowd pullers in the Second Division. Only Fulham and Chelsea attract more spectators for their visits.

So it will be only just if they do make their 100 goals, and £2,000 and promotion — and the Second Division's loss will truly be the First Division's gain.

AUSSIES GIVE UP THE GHOST

ADELAIDE — Australian vice-captain Rodney Marsh and his seventh wicket partner Gary Cosier were booed for slow batting after the first Test against Pakistan ended in a draw here yesterday.

Marsh, who made 33 not out, and Cosier, 25 not out, scored only 32 runs in the last 15 overs and Australia ended 24 runs short of victory, on 261 for six.

Spectators slow-handclapped the seventh wicket pair through the last half hour and booed at the end of the match.

After the Pakistan second innings had ended at 466 in the morning, Australia were left with 259 minutes plus 15 overs to score 285 to win.

Enterprising batting by Alan Turner, (48), Rick McCosker (42), Greg Chappell (70) and Doug Walters (51) put the target in sight. But after the score had slumped from 201 for three to 228 for six, Cosier and Marsh batted down.

Chappell, the Australian captain, said afterwards that he gave no instructions to Marsh and Cosier to play for a draw, and as far as he was concerned Australia were always trying to win.



MUSHTAQ MOHAMMAD... Surprised by the Aussie's tactics

'I gave no instructions to Marsh or Cosier,' Chappell said. 'I left it to them and they did their best in the circumstances. Neither team wanted to lose, and near the end it became obvious we could not win with the defensive bowling and field setting adopted by Pakistan.'

Pakistan captain Mushtaq Mohammad said he was happy with the draw and added: 'I was surprised that Australia gave up trying to win so early. When they had only 42 to get from 11 overs, I thought they could get them in singles.'

To a large extent Pakistan's success in forcing a draw was due to the superb innings of all-rounder Asif Iqbal, who was unbeaten on 152 when the Pakistan second innings ended. He won the 1250 man-of-the-match award.

Ian Davis, who made a century for Australia in their first innings, was out to the third ball of the second innings, but Turner and McCosker were soon setting sail and kept their team up with the clock.

Australia met with another set-back when the second wicket pair were dismissed in quick succession after lunch. But Chappell and Walters, the most experienced Test batsmen in the team, renewed the bid for victory with a fourth wicket stand of 100 in 94 minutes.

The shut-down by Marsh and Cosier came after the dismissal of Walters, Gary Gilmour and Chappell while 28 runs were added to the total.

Left-arm bowler Iqbal finished with excellent figures of four for 84 off 30 overs.

SCORECARD

FIRST TEST

PAKISTAN 272 (Zaheer Abbas 85) and 466 (Asif Iqbal not out 152, Zaheer 101)
AUSTRALIA 454 (D Walters 107, D Davis 105, Mushtaq four for 58) and 261 for six.
Match drawn.

PAKISTAN second innings (overnight 47 for one):
Asif Iqbal not out... 152
Iqbal Qasim... 4
Extras... 21
TOTAL... 466

BOWLING: Lillie 47.7-10-153-5, Chappell 11-3-31-0, O Keeffe 52-13-86-3, Cosier 5-1-11-0, Walters 2-1-5-0, Gilmour 14-1-47-1.

AUSTRALIA second innings
I Davis b Sarfraz Nawaz... 0
A Turner c Sarfraz Nawaz... 48
b Javed Miandad... 48
R McCosker c Wasim Bari... 42
b Iqbal Qasim... 42
G Chappell c Mushtaq Mohammad... 70
b Iqbal Qasim... 70
D Walters c Wasim Bari... 51
b Iqbal Qasim... 51
G Gilmour b Iqbal Qasim... 5
G Cosier not out... 25
R Marsh not out... 13
Extras (b1, 1-b3, n-b3)... 7
TOTAL (for six wickets) 261

FALL: 1-0, 2-92, 3-100, 4-210, 5-219, 6-228.

BOWLING: Sarfraz Nawaz 8-1-24-1, Imran Khan 5-0-25-0, Mushtaq Mohammad 9-1-50-0, Iqbal Qasim 30-6-84-4, Javed Miandad 21-4-71-1.

Olympic medallist killed in car crash

BY BRENDAN MARTIN

IVO Van Damme, the 22-year-old middle distance runner who won two silver medals at the Olympics five months ago, and an athlete with great potential, was killed in a car crash in France yesterday.

Fireman fought for more than an hour to free Van Damme from the wreckage of his car after it had jumped the barrier of the Marseille-Orange motorway and hurtled into oncoming traffic. He died on the way to hospital.

The blonde and bearded athlete shot to fame when he came second in both the 800 and the 1,500 metres at Montreal.

Earlier this month, he was awarded the 'Trophée Nationale du Mérite Sportif', one of Belgium's highest sporting accolades, for his Olympic performance.

His powerful running was one of the surprises of the Games. Only the incredible Alberto Juantorena beat him in the 800 metres, and John Walker finished just one tenth of a second in front of him in the 1,500.

Walker, the world record holder for the mile, predicted after that race that Van Damme would be the man to take the record from him. 'For the immediate future, I think Van Damme is going to be the greatest,' said the Olympic champion.

At the time of the accident, Van Damme, who was engaged to marry fellow Belgian athlete Rita Thys, was on his way to a training session in Marseille.

Fulham await Best report

FULHAM will wait to see the report from referee John Homewood before deciding whether to support George Best in an appeal for leniency when he faces the FA disciplinary committee for reaching 20 points.

Best was booked by Homewood at Chelsea on Monday for dissent and faces a three match suspension.

'We cannot decide anything until we see the report,' says manager Bobby Campbell.

'But Best's only fault is that he talks too much. He needs protection from defenders and he asks the referee for it.'

Points

George McBeth, of Stockport County, sent off twice this season, is one of five players who will be at the FA headquarters, Lancaster Gate today, after accumulating 20 disciplinary points.

McBeth, sent off at Huddersfield on September 25, and at home to Scunthorpe on December 17, is due to start his suspension on December 31.

The other players attending the disciplinary meeting are: Terry Conroy, of Stoke (suspension to start January 1), Mick Packer, of Colchester (January 1), Tony Kenworthy of Sheffield United (January 3) and Sam Allardyce, of Bolton (January 4).

Press may black Scots Chile game

THE row over Scotland's plans to play Chile in Santiago next year grew last night with journalists threatening to black reports of the match.

Two branches of the National Union of Journalists have the issue on their agendas for meetings next week.

One motion calls on sports journalists not to set foot inside the stadium, used by the military regime to torture and execute political opponents.

John Hodgman, NUJ regional organiser in Scotland, said he hoped the TUC would call on other unions to 'black' coverage of the game.

'Any move towards an NUJ blackout of the whole match would have to be approved at our annual conference. But,

speaking in a personal capacity, I am in complete agreement.'

Ron McKay, NUJ Glasgow branch secretary, said yesterday: 'I do not think any of our members should set foot inside Chile.'

'The Santiago Stadium has been used as a concentration camp by the fascist regime, and thousands of trade unionists have been tortured or killed.'

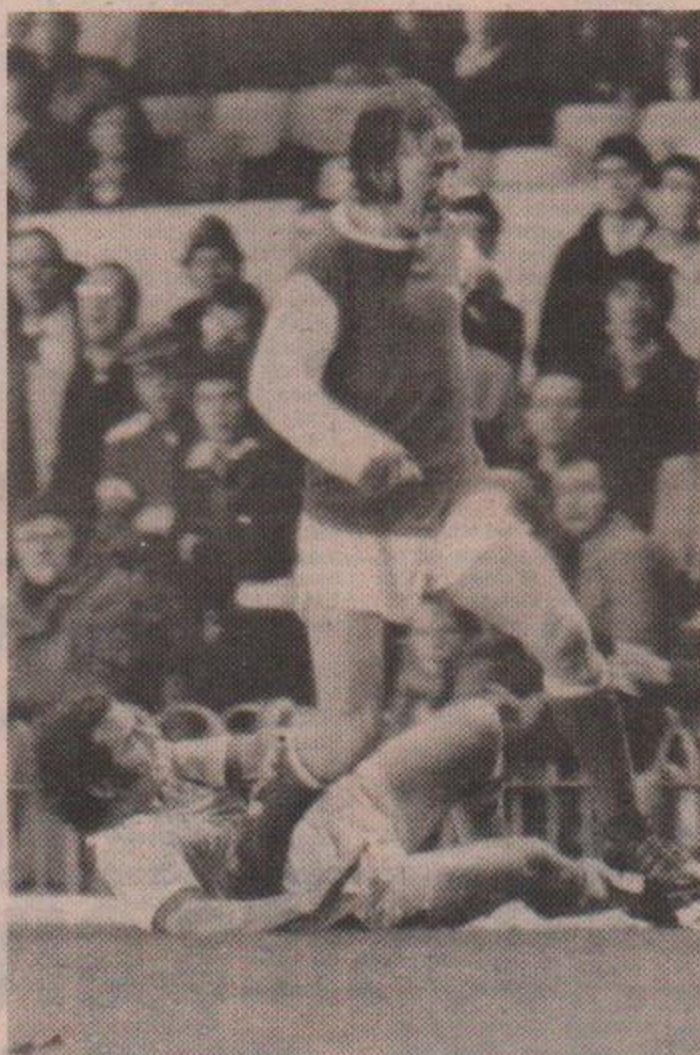
And last night Labour MP Judith Hart, Lanark, urged the Scottish Football Association to think again. She said if the match was played, she would support the NUJ move to boycott it.

SNOWED UNDER!

BY PAUL FELDMAN
Sports Editor

THE BIG FREEZE savaged the second leg of the holiday football programme last night, with eighteen games postponed in England and Scotland.

London and the Midlands were the worst-hit areas. Seven games in the capital, including the three Division One fixtures, were postponed by the afternoon.



George Armstrong says he will play for Arsenal again, but missed his chance last night because of the freeze

Not even Highbury's famous under-pitch heating could save their game against West Brom.

Only last week the club was happily explaining how the system not only heated the ground when it was frozen but also dried up surface water after heavy rain.

The postponement ruined George Armstrong's peace plan. Last week he said he would not play for Arsenal again.

But manager Terry Neill persuaded him to change his mind and the 31-year-old winger was set to rejoin the first team last night.

The Midlands clash between Aston Villa and Derby County was another victim of the frost and ice.

Attractive

Leicester's home game against Newcastle was also put off and Stoke's attractive game against Manchester United also fell foul of the weather.

East Anglia's derby game between Ipswich and Norwich at Portman Road was also postponed.

The weather has crippled

18 games are off

three League programmes already this season.

Though the season was extended to allow for World Cup training periods, a serious log-jam is building up.

There is one more week's break scheduled and the end of the season is taken up with the Home Internationals after which several countries fly off for summer tours.

The chaos likely next summer will give more ammunition to clubs wanting the Football League to put a stop to the training period experiment introduced this season.

And it is also likely to fuel the old debate about whether football should take a winter break in line with many European countries.

Whisky award for Stranraer

THE Stranraer committee, who have been running the team in the absence of a manager, have been nominated personalities of Scottish football for December by a whisky firm.

Stranraer, who are well in the promotion race, are the first Division Two side to win the award — the giant bottle of whisky and £100.

Gravell out

RAY GRAVELL, the Llanelli centre, is out of the Probables side in Saturday's Welsh trial at Cardiff. He has a cut ear which had to be stitched during Monday's game against London Welsh. Gerard Davies, the Cardiff wing, is also doubtful with a sprained ankle. And J.J. Williams has withdrawn with a hamstring injury.

SPURS BACK BURKINSHAW

KEITH Burkinshaw, the young manager of struggling Spurs, had one weight lifted from his shoulders yesterday when he learned that the club's board have every confidence in his ability to take the team out of the relegation zone.

Chairman Sidney Wale scotched suggestions that Burkinshaw might soon find himself out of work by telling him that the board is right behind him.

So at least Burkinshaw, who stepped up from coach after Terry Neill's close-season departure from White Hart Lane, can proceed confidently as he tries to stop the club being



KEITH BURKINSHAW

relegated for the first time for over 40 years.

But there is little else to cheer him. Last night's match against Queens Park Rangers was frozen off.

So big centre half Willie Young, automatically suspended for one match after being sent off against Arsenal on Boxing Day, now misses Saturday's clash with fellow-strugglers West Ham.

And the free-for-all punch-up which preceded Young's dismissal must be an indication of the frustration building up among Burkinshaw's first team squad.

They have continually failed to get encouraging results, and although the draw with Arsenal lifted them to third from bottom, they must admit the point was rather more than they deserved.

That is not a pleasant thought as they prepare for Saturday and West Ham, when anything but a win is very bad news.