

THE News Line

Friday December 31 1976

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BEER PRICE UPROAR

ANOTHER beer price rise — on top of the 1p-a-pint budget increase — has sparked off a major row between the big breweries and pub landlords.

'The breweries intend adding another 1p-a-pint increase of their own', Alf Slinn, Northern Region spokesman for the National Union of licensed Victuallers, protested yesterday.

'It means that with VAT and other overheads, beer will cost about 3p maybe 4p more a pint very soon. It's crazy. Customers won't stand for it.'

Telegrams from angry pub landlords poured yesterday into the London head office of Whitbread.

Whitbread is the first big brewing chain to announce the extra price rise — to take effect nationally from January 5, which is 11 days before the budget increase comes into force.

Courage has hinted at similar plans. Scottish and Newcastle has applied to the Price Commission for an all-round 1p a pint rise in addition to the Budget duty increase.

Bass Charrington are applying to the Price Commission again and Watney's admit they are considering following suit.

Mr Slinn, of the King's Arms, Middleton, Manchester, told News Line: 'My customers' reaction to the news today was 'No — not again'.

BY CHRIS CORRIGAN

'This is a Watney's pub in a working class area and I know customers won't take much more of this.'

'Breweries must think money grows on trees. They make huge profits but they keep going in for price rises at least three times a year now,' he added.

Whitbread will have increased some of its beer prices by more than 10p a pint in two years — only 4p of which is the result of higher tax. Trophy bitter is being

exempted from the latest rise. Six months profits totalling £25m were recently announced by Whitbread, £5m more than the same period last year.

Tony Tucker, of the New Inn, Norwich, and chairman of the East Anglian Whitbread Tenants Liaison Committee, said last night: 'We have had a meeting today and are recommending all 186 of our members to increase beer by 3p a pint.'

Luton licensed victuallers decided yesterday to recommend all its 60 members, selling various brews, to put prices up by 3p a pint.

● SEE page 3



Order your New Year holiday edition now

News Line will appear as usual tomorrow, January 1, 1977, with special weekend coverage

We will not be publishing on Monday, January 3, but will be back on Tuesday

Be sure of your copy by phoning our Circulation Dept — 01-622 7029 — any time

PARIS — Gérard Freche, who according to French police has confessed to the Christmas Eve killing of former Foreign Secretary Jean de Broglie, was formally charged with murder yesterday. Police inspector Guy Simonet was charged with complicity. Police say 31-year old Freche, a petty criminal, was hired to shoot the ex-minister by business associates who owed him money.

Widow found dying by empty grate

ELDERLY widow Esther Jones, 70, has died after being found lying unconscious by an empty grate in her home during Christmas.

Police broke into the house in Dibden Purlieu, Hampshire, after a doctor noticed milk bottles on the step.

They found the prefabricated bungalow was cold, damp and fireless, with little food in the larder.

A neighbour, close to tears, said: 'She was a very sweet old lady but too independent to ask for help.'

POWER STATION TRAIN WAS RADIOACTIVE

A NUCLEAR waste container which travelled to a power station on a goods train was radioactive, it was revealed last night.

After its journey from Windscale nuclear plant to Wylfa power station in Anglesey, radiation in 'higher than normal levels' was found on the outside of the 70-ton steel box, which was empty, admitted British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.

The container was being returned to Wylfa after it had been loaded with nuclear waste and sent to Windscale for processing.

The BNF spokesman claimed: 'The container would have been checked for radioactivity when it left Windscale. While radioactivity was above the accepted level, it was still very low and represented no hazard to those handling it or to the public.'

Mirror sacks 400!

THE 'Daily Mirror' sent out dismissal notices to 425 of its London workers yesterday.

The sacking of the 425 print workers brings to a head the dispute which has led to the 'Mirror' and the 'Sporting Life'

not being printed in London on three consecutive days this week.

The men are members of the National Graphical Association. The dispute involves Christmas holiday payments.

TUC to talk with civil warmongers

THE TUC leaders' decision to hold friendly discussions with Margaret Thatcher's civil war Shadow Cabinet is deplorable.

The Tory front bench is packed with reactionary skinheads who see a showdown with the working class as the only solution to capitalism's economic crisis.

Some are members of the NAFF (National Association for Freedom) which goes out of its way to organise provocative strike-breaking stunts.

Blacking

These include the court action to stop postmen blacking supplies to the anti-union film processing firm Grunwicks where workers have been five months on strike.

The NAFF has organised scab labour to try to break another long-running strike also for union recognition at the Automat factory, Swinton Lancashire.

The NAFF financed the legal action by Tameside Tory councillors who defied the law on comprehensive education in

COMMENT

favour of grammar school elitism.

Thatcher's closest Shadow Cabinet advisors also include men close to the police-military hierarchy in Britain which is preparing for civil war.

Lord Carrington, Tory leader in the Lords, has attended discussions with Sandhurst brass on army intervention in strikes and other political and industrial struggles.

William Whitelaw, deputy to Thatcher, was for a long time the British overlord in the military occupation of Northern Ireland.

In Northern Ireland the British ruling class tried out the theories of military control of workers expounded in 'Low Density Operations', the army's manual for civil war written by Frank Kitson, now a general.

It was the same gang of Tories who approved the widespread introduction of torture and other psychological destruction of Republican prisoners-of-war in Ulster.

The Heath government, in

which Thatcher and the rest formed the right wing, introduced the Nazi methods of internment in concentration camps without trial.

Long Kesh camp has become infamous and has led to international condemnation of the British military occupation, its barbaric torture, and its crushing of democratic rights.

There are those in Thatcher's shadow cabinet who are ready to use such methods in this country as the slump forces a deepening of the class struggle.

Upheaval

If the Tories return to power, which is possible in the period of confused upheaval ahead, then there will no doubt be occasions when negotiations with the government might meet the temporary tactical needs of the working class.

But for the trade union leaders to hold friendly discussions with the Tories now to improve acquaintance is a different matter entirely.

The organised working class wants no truck with the Tory party. The ruling class intends to make workers bear the whole burden of capitalism's crisis through poverty and permanent mass unemployment.

There can be no compromise by workers on this fundamental conflict of class interests.

The civil war potential of Thatcher's Shadow Cabinet can be answered in only one way, by the organisation of the working class for revolution.

The threatened showdown with the ruling class cannot be averted by talks. Only a sell-out can emerge that way. The only way for the working class to prepare is by building the revolutionary party.



Writer Iris Murdoch, exiled dissident Victor Fainberg, and actor David Markham (left-to-right above) were three members of a picket outside the Soviet Embassy in London yesterday.

They were protesting against the continued imprisonment of Vladimir Borisov and Dr Zeniman Gluzman in the Soviet Union. Iris Murdoch is seen holding a photograph of Borisov.

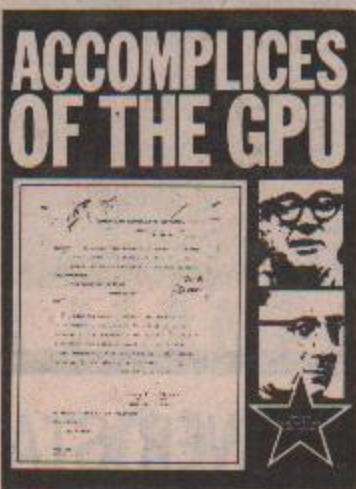
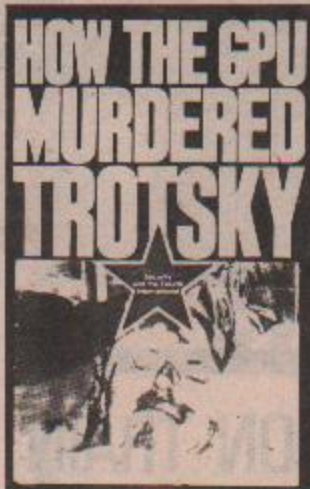
News Lines...

□ Thomson Holidays, Britain's biggest travel firm, hit by a catastrophic 25 per cent drop in bookings, is offering all customers a blanket guarantee that there will be no surcharging this summer, whatever happens to the pound.

□ Extreme right-winger Colin Jordan, former leader of the British Movement, failed yesterday in his bid to have a magazine editor face trial for criminal libel. Birmingham

stipendiary magistrate John Milward refused the application made against Maurice Ludmer, 50, editor of the anti-fascist magazine 'Searchlight'.

□ COLOMBO — The Sri Lanka navy took over the island's three main ports to break a dockers' strike yesterday. The dockers had walked out over pay demands after a warning from prime minister Mrs Bandaranaike of a 'get-tough' policy against the working class.



STARTING TOMORROW

ON Saturday, News Line starts publication of a new series of articles on Security and the Fourth International.

● New facts about Joseph Hansen and George Novack, the accomplices of the GPU. Further evidence showing the close ties between Hansen and GPU agent Sylvia Franklin, who was James P. Cannon's personal secretary.

● Unpublished documents dealing with the assassination of Trotsky and the whereabouts of his killer.

DON'T miss this series.

TOMORROW: Platform of Shame — The revisionists who are covering up the crimes of the GPU.

NEXT WEEK: Assassin at Large.

Order your copies today from our circulation department Telephone 01-622 7029

One day left — £761.41 to go! Make sure December fund is raised

MAKE THIS a memorable year for the News Line. Every month, throughout 1976, you have completed our monthly fund target and always in time. It is a great achievement and one which we are very proud of.

This year has been a year in which inflation has been at its highest. Food prices have gone up anything from 20 per cent to 70 per cent. Living standards have been slashed whilst huge cuts have taken place in the social services.

Our paper was the first to warn of the treachery of the

Labour government's policies as they aid the bankers and the employers at the expense of millions of working people.

We know we have your support. We are asking you, therefore, to make one last, huge effort this year to complete our £4000 December Fund. It is in our grasp. Please rush every donation immediately to:

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

Push up the daily amounts

After yesterday's total donations which went over £250 the fund has fallen back to just over £100. We must keep pushing up the daily amounts to meet our target. The fund for the development of the revolutionary movement is now long overdue. Without it we cannot make the decisive political intervention we must to prepare for the coming struggles.

Make a pledge for the New Year to get this money. Send donations immediately.

Yesterday we received:
Glasgow South £20.00,
Stoke, Coventry £10.00,
Coventry £26.00, Nottingham South £5.00, Lewisham £10.00, Bexley £1.00, Holloway £20.00, Forest Gate £5.00, Fulham £15.00, Sheffield £7.00.
TOTAL received yesterday: £119.00
TOTAL to date: £23,190.41.

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

Security and the Fourth International

● How the GPU murdered Trotsky (1)
£3.00 plus

55p postage and packing

● Accomplices of the GPU (2)
30p plus 14p postage and packing

● The GPU in the Trotsky Movement by G. Vereeken (3)
£3.00 plus 55p postage and packing

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INVESTMENT DOWN

CASH PULL BACK BY BOSSES

BY INDUSTRIAL REPORTER

EMPLOYERS hardened their 'investment strike' during 1976, Department of Industry figures confirmed yesterday.

Capital expenditure by manufacturing industry in the first nine months of 1976 was about 8 per cent below the level over the same period the previous year.

Only one industry, metal manufacturing, with a rise of 10 per cent, had a higher level of investment in the first nine months of 1976 compared with the corresponding period of 1975.

Large falls were recorded for textiles, leather and clothing (29 per cent) and paper, printing and publishing (21 per cent) industries. The remaining industries had falls of between 13 and 4 per cent.

Expenditure on vehicles manufacturing industries was 12 per cent higher in the first nine months than in the corresponding period of 1975, but on new building work and plant and machinery it

was lower by 21 per cent and 7 per cent respectively.

In the distributive and servicing industries, investment in the first nine months of 1976 fell by about 6 per cent compared with the same period of 1975. Expenditure on new building work was down by some 10 per cent, on plant and machinery by 7 per cent, but on vehicles it was up by 1 per cent.

Inflation, jobless, wage ceiling all going up

INFLATION of around nine per cent will continue until 1979. Unemployment will keep rising in the first half of 1977. And there will be a 'Stage 3' wages increase of about 10 per cent if Healey makes 'substantial tax adjustments'.

These are forecasted by 'Management Today', the journal of the British Institute of Management.

'Consumers have drawn out savings to a greater extent than usual in the "beat the budget" spending spree, and rises in spending from tax rebates last August were matched by rising use of credit.'

In the New Year, therefore, the home market is likely to be seriously depressed — the more so

since the rate of price inflation will be around 15 per cent whereas wage and salary increases will be falling significantly below that level', they add.

'After stabilising in the last part of 1976 because of the spurt in production, unemployment will rise again in the first half of 1977.'

Other forecasts are that consumer spending will rise by 0.61 per cent, public consumption fall by 0.9 per cent and investment drop by 0.7 per cent. A rise of 9 per cent in exports is expected with imports up by 3.9 per cent. There will be a balance of payments deficit of £1,200m, and total output will rise by 2.5 per cent, says the forecast.

COST OF LIVING UP

Food bill up £22 for family of four

THE WEEKLY food bill for a family of four will be nearly £22 by this time next year, warn retailers.

The estimate is based on widespread forecasts that food bills will rise by another 20 per cent over the next 12 months. Many of the increases will start to bite soon after the New Year holiday.

Even before, in the case of milk, which goes up by 1p a pint on Sunday. Then the maximum price for bread rises by 1p on a large loaf on January 4 — though this may not affect shop prices, as retailers pass on to customers any increases in the discounts they can get from the big baking firms.

Both butter and cheese will cost up to 4p a lb more in the next few weeks as the effect of the last mini-budget subsidy cuts works through to shop prices.

Further rises for milk and dairy products are likely later in the year which could put the butter price up to 60p to 65p a pound.

Egg prices, down as usual this week by 4p a dozen because of the post-Christmas glut, will rise again when demand picks up.

The price of meat, particularly beef, is forecast to go up over the first four months of 1977, perhaps by as much as 10p in the £, because of the fall-off in home production.

But a further, steeper rise in May should be averted, because an EEC ban on beef imports

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

from countries like Australia, and Argentina will be lifted. Even so, prices will stay high, and more rises could come later.

Fresh foods like vegetables and fruit will also get dearer over the next few months because of seasonal shortages and the higher cost of imports due to the reduced value of the £.

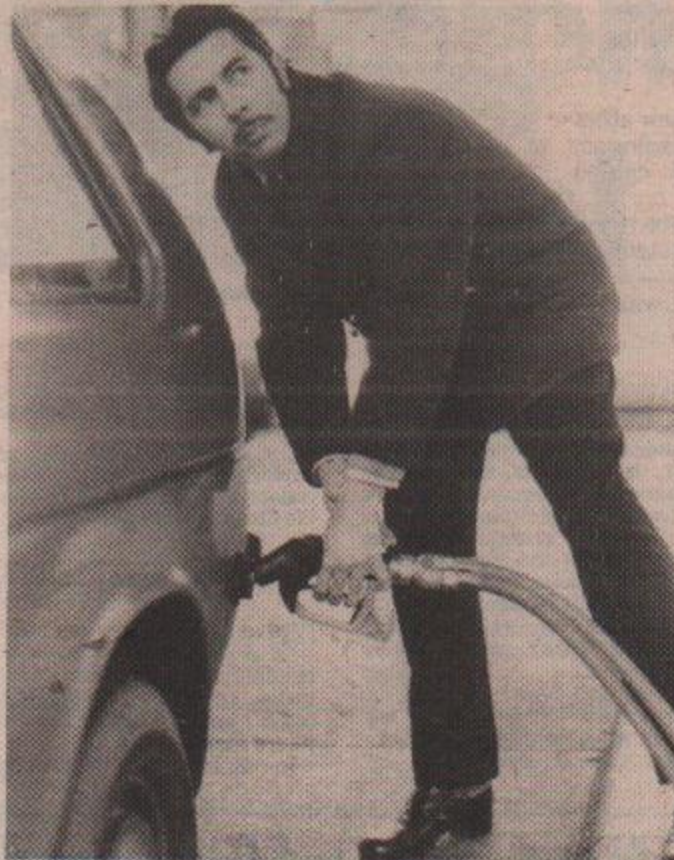
In fact, the depressed £ is a major reason why food bills must rise this year, as more than half of our food is imported. This has exacerbated the effect of higher world prices for many foods, of which coffee is the most striking example.

Other reasons for the rises still to come are the swifter cut-back in food subsidies announced in the Chancellor's mini-budget, the annual upward adjustment to EEC food price levels and the next round of EEC farm price changes.

Rowlands to visit Jamaica

FOREIGN office Minister of State Ted Rowlands is to visit Jamaica on January 7 and 8 for talks with government leaders. He is responsible at the foreign office for relations with Caribbean countries.

The '8p off petrol' is a swindle



THE great 'money off' petrol price fraud was exposed yesterday.

'You would never think it from driving along an ordinary road — but there is no such thing as money off the price of petrol', said the National Consumers' Council.

'When a garage offers you "10p off" it has made up the price for itself.'

An NCC survey found that four out of five cut-price garages in London are using signs aimed at pulling the wool over the eyes of motorists.

'Over a third advertised in terms like "8p off" with no indication of the actual price per gallon', said an NCC statement.

This abuse was found more commonly with the big

chains than with the privately-owned garages. Nearly two thirds of the pumps did not register the actual price to be paid.

'About one in three advertised in fractions without showing whether the price would be rounded up or down and about half the garages restrict their offers, often in small print, for example, to whole gallons only,' the statement added.

Michael Young, chairman of the NCC, urged motorists not to buy their petrol from places simply claiming 7p or 10p off pump prices. 'There is no way of telling what the pump price will be,' he warned.

'If all drivers only bought petrol from petrol stations which clearly marked the price they are going to pay, then pretty soon all garages would be declaring it.'

RETIRE AT 70 -ASHTON

THE retirement age should be increased to 70, Joe Ashton, a Labour government whip, suggested yesterday.

Ashton, Labour MP for Bassetlaw, Notts, complained there were too many people in retirement in comparison with the numbers in work.

Because he represents a mining

constituency, he was forced to concede that miners have a good case for retirement earlier than at the age of 65.

But, writing in today's issue of the Retirement Planning magazine, he puts forward the right-wing argument that early retirement for workers not in arduous jobs would be 'too costly'.

Fishing shambles claim

SCOTTISH Office Junior minister Hugh Brown was accused yesterday of making a 'shambles' of Scottish fishing policy in talks with the EEC.

The breakaway Scottish Labour Party called on the Prime Minister to relieve Brown, under-Secretary for Scotland, of his responsibility for the fisheries industry, and to order Bruce Millan, Secretary for Scotland, to take full control over all aspects of fishing policy, particularly the

negotiations with the EEC.

In a statement issued in Glasgow, Alex Neil, SLP general secretary, and Joe Farrell, the party chairman, claimed Brown had badly let down not only fishermen, but also the people, and in particular housewives.

'He should have been pressing for a 50-mile exclusive limit and telling the EEC, rather than the Scottish fishermen, that they had not a hope in hell of getting away with anything less,' the statement said.

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

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)

WORK HARDER HARDER INSULT BY EZRA



Derek Ezra

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

WORKERS should work harder if they wanted pay increases, Coal Board chairman Sir Derek Ezra said yesterday.

Extra pay should stem from extra effort, output or productivity, and these criteria should be used in a third phase of income policy due to start next August, he said.

Ezra, who is also chairman of the British Institute of Management, has held secret talks about a new pit productivity scheme with right-wing leaders of the mineworkers' union.

Standards

Although he wants miners and other workers to sweat harder in order to get pay rises, he has different standards for his fellow bureaucrats on the boards of nationalised industries.

Ezra complained that directors on state boards were underpaid — even though such directors usually earn more in one year than a miner or steelworkers does in ten.

Mud and straw schools ...in Devon

A COUNTY council is turning back the clock in a bid to come up with a money-saving scheme for building material which could be used for certain types of schools.

Devon is experimenting with a modern adaptation of a traditional building material, cobb — mud or clay and straw.

Waterproof

An experimental building — at Bicton Agricultural College, near Budleigh Salterton — will have its outer walls coated by a recently-developed glass-reinforced material, which, it is hoped, will stabilise and waterproof the walls.

The building, a simple, single storey farm store, will be constructed of unfired clay bricks.

It should also be possible in some cases to use material from the site itself, saving transport costs, it is claimed.

Stop cuts say masters

BRITAIN'S third-largest teacher union, the 42,000-strong Assistant Masters Association, has voted to fight any attempts to cut teacher-pupil ratios.

The Association's conference in Carlisle also voted to fight any compulsory redundancies among teachers.

The resolution, passed with only one vote against, recognised that Britain's economic situation required cuts in public spending, but said the cuts had to stop at the staffing of schools.

It pledged that the

Association would fight to ensure there was no deleterious effect on pupils' education.

Certain cuts would be discussed with authorities, but if the discussions failed the Association would consider sanctions, including non-cover for vacancies. Strike action has not been ruled out.

Elgar Jenkins, of Cardinal Newman RC School, Bath, said:

'We really are down to the bare bones in a number of authorities so far as educational expenditure is

concerned.'

In Avon and elsewhere the only thing left to cut was manpower and womanpower.

And he warned that if the association did not fight 'a lot of people here now will not have jobs next year'.

BI Davies, from Oswestry Boys High School, said: 'Obviously something has to go, and there is no doubt in my mind authorities are preparing for that. But it seems to me one of the places where nothing must go is in the maintenance of teacher-pupil ratios.'

Conference also urged legislation to make parents legally liable for the actions of their children.

Ted Pengelly of Brookfield Comprehensive School, Kirkby, Liverpool, told of a school's rural science department that had been burnt down by a nine-year-old and an eight-year-old, led by a six-year-old.

The children told the police 'You cannot touch us, we are under age'. This was true, said Mr Pengelly, and there was nothing the police could do.

Brentford gas blast

Who told who row rages

DEMANDS were growing yesterday for a public inquiry into the gas explosion which devastated Brentford High Street on Wednesday.

Police have been blamed for failing to warn gas board officials about the leak which caused the disaster.

Scotland Yard admitted they knew about the leak 15½ hours before the explosion, which injured 38 people and caused £500,000 worth of damage.

But the emergency services of the North Thames Gas Board — on 24-hour stand-by throughout the Christmas holiday — were not informed of the leak until it was too late.

Police claimed yesterday it was not their responsibility to inform the Gas Board of the leak. 'We merely called out the keyholder. It was up to him to call in the gas people,' a Scotland Yard spokesman said.

Gas officials said police had strict instructions to tell them every time they were called to a gas leak.

But Scotland Yard said: 'We are not aware that it is standard procedure and are not prepared to discuss the matter further.'

Examined

Scotland Yard said later they had been called out to the shop by a neighbour. They contacted the key holder, James Kirby, who examined the premises and turned off the gas at the mains.

'This apparently stopped the smell and the neighbour was advised to call the gas board emergency service straight away to have the system checked.'

'As the source of the smell had been located and dealt with and no trace of gas found in the street, the police withdrew.'

Gas Board spokesman Derek Dutton said: 'We have made representation to the police and steps have been taken to remind them of the procedure.'

Asked whether the blast could have been avoided, if they had been told immediately, Dutton said: 'Yes, possibly'.

The gas exploded one hour

BY JOHN SPENCER

after the gasmen finally arrived at the scene of the leak, in Stones Menswear shop on Brentford High Street.

The emergency squad was informed of the leak one hour and 20 minutes before the blast by the staff of Strand Glass, a firm selling glass fibre equipment next door to Stones Menswear.

The Gas Board has said its men were trying to clear the area when the explosion struck. But this is contradicted by

witnesses who say the gasmen told them it was quite safe to stay put.

Gas officials fear the spate of explosions could have been caused by a build-up of gas over the Christmas holiday.

Spark

'Five days — and often more — is a long time for gas to be building up. A cigarette, a lit match or even a light switch could spark off a blast', said a Board spokesman.

In Bristol city engineers,



The shopfront in Brentford high street yesterday

police and owners of property wrecked in the city centre explosion were meeting yesterday to discuss some of the problems caused by the blast.

Meanwhile South West Gas officials were continuing to investigate the explosion which ripped through the main shopping area just four hours before the New Year sales rush.

Two four-storey office blocks in the Park Street area were wrecked. One was flattened and part of the second was demolished for safety reasons yesterday.

For the first time since the

blast owners of property inside the building were allowed inside to salvage documents and records.

Injured

Three foreign waiters were slightly injured in the explosion and Bob Lewis was flung out of bed as he slept above his wine bar some 80 yards from the heart of the blast.

Police closed Grafton Place, Regents Park, London, to traffic yesterday after a gas leak was detected in premises there.

Metal Box man leaves £24,000

SIR Robert Barlow, chairman of the Metal Box company from 1941 to 1960, left a total of £43,693 (£24,946 net), it was disclosed in his will published yesterday.

He died in September, aged 85. He was honorary president of the company — one of Britain's biggest firms — until his death. He lived at Wendover, Bucks.

Among his bequests were £500 to his former secretary at Metal Box, £1,000 to the Salvation Army, and £5,000 to Miss Joan Brown, aged 54, of Shirley, near Croydon, Surrey, who had nursed him since 1960.

House-building standards dropping fast

HOUSE-BUYERS seem to regard the colour of the bathroom suite and positions of the power points as more important than the structural stability of the building, says a report published yesterday.

The report, by Hepper Watson and Sons, a Leeds-based firm of chartered surveyors, declares:

'Whilst there is no doubt

that amenities in housing have improved considerably, the way in which houses are actually put together has deteriorated dramatically.'

A 'high percentage' of homes are poorly built, it says. Defects include an overall cheapness and lack of care and responsibility, coupled with construction errors, particularly under floor and in roof void

areas where mistakes tend to be obscured.

The report says that builders are having to 'build down' to a price, and there is also a lack of pride in craftsmanship.

Buyers should not rely on National House Building Council (NHBC) protection, it adds.

'We urge private purchasers and professional firms to make a stand against poor building, otherwise the situation is likely to continue and possibly deteriorate further.'



Pickets at the Grosvenor Hotel

Angry 50 fighting for union in hotel

SHEFFIELD — Forty five workers at the Grosvenor, a £21-a-night four-star luxury hotel, have lost their jobs.

All 45 have been on official strike since December 16 demanding union recognition in the hotel. They are members of the Transport and General Workers Union.

Management of the Grosvenor, which is owned by Trust House Forte (THF), has offered the strikers their jobs back on worse terms than they were employed before.

Conditions

Three conditions have also been added to their future employment first, workers must never take industrial action against the company again; secondly, to accept that the T&GWU is not recognised by THF; and thirdly, that holiday and sick pay depends upon the completion of three months 'satisfactory service'.

Those on strike have totally rejected this offer and are continuing to picket the hotel 24

BY OUR OWN
CORRESPONDENT

hours a day.

T&GWU shop steward Trevor Jones, a vegetable chef, told News Line: 'The dispute started about 34 weeks ago.

'The staff, about 120 of us, decided we must have a union in the hotel. We felt it was necessary because management were getting away with too much.

'For example, staff were doing unpaid overtime and the general conditions of work were not good.

'Ninety-two of us joined the T&GWU. Originally the management agreed to accept the union, but they wanted a shop steward with no

negotiating powers at all over wages and conditions.

'We had a ballot and we agreed on strike action.

Dismissed

'Since management have dismissed all 50 of us, we are prepared to stay out until the problem is solved to our satisfaction,' he added.

Jim Holmes, T&GWU local officer, has said that the union was taking steps to stop the

'Grosvenor getting supplies from other THF hotels.

Mr Holmes has said: 'There is a fight on. We shall see who is stronger. Trust House Forte or the Transport and General Workers Union.'

The union is demanding withdrawal of dismissal notices, assurances of no victimisations, and full recognition of the union by management.

There are similar strikes over union recognition at the Linton Lodge and Randolph hotels in Oxford.

A sweet addiction crisis for Scots

SALE of sweets in school tuck shops should be banned according to a 'Watchdog' group.

The Scottish Consumer Council said yesterday it was urging the Scottish Office, directors of education and dental officers to use their influence in stopping the use of sweets as school prizes, as well as the sale of sweets in tuck shops.

'We don't expect a warm welcome for this campaign,' said Mrs Joan Macintosh, chairman of the Scottish Consumer Council.

'It is almost impossible to persuade people in Scotland to take teeth seriously. False teeth are just a joke — not a sad necessity. No wonder Scotland has the worst teeth in Europe.'

Mrs Macintosh said that a survey had shown that 44 per

cent of all Scots over the age of 16 had lost all their natural teeth — and the high consumption of sweets and sugar was generally held by expert opinion to be largely responsible.

Some parents who excluded sweets from their children's diet up to the age of five, she added, found that their children had 'sweet addiction' forced upon them — not just by other children but by the customs and expectations of school authorities.

ANSWERS TO PHOTOQUIZ ON CENTRE PAGES

- 1) Ex-actor and California governor Ronald Reagan failed to win the Republican nomination for President. His Le Point over an article alleging the dossier on his business, Dassault is suing the boss's money and a secret
- 2) By blowing the lid of the US Congress sex-on-the-payroll scandal.
- 3) Benazir Bhutto, the first woman prime minister of Pakistan, was named as the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.
- 4) They are Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands (with his wife Queen Juliana), former Italian president Giovanni Leone, and former Japanese premier Kakuei Tanaka. All three were named as recipients of bribes from the Lockheed aircraft corporation.
- 5) Brazilian dictator Ernesto Geisel, who came to London in May for talks on loans and trade deals.
- 6) French aircraft tycoon Marcel Dassault, whose accountant has been accused of corruption.
- 7) Standing in the background is the flag of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The flag is that of the German Democratic Republic — East Germany. While on a concert tour in the West, East German singer Wolf Biermann was deprived of his nationality by the East German Stasi security services, who have banned him from returning home.
- 8) The press figure is Korean-born Reverend Sun Myung Moon, head of the Unification Church. Reverend Moon has been mentioned in the United States in connection with the South Korean Central Intelligence Agency, currently the centre of a bribery and corruption scandal.

PRISON BIAS IN CERTAIN COUNTIES

MEN who appear before magistrates in Lancashire, Sussex, Gloucestershire, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall are far more likely to be sent to prison than in other areas, it was claimed yesterday.

RAP — the Radical Alternatives to Prison group — made the claim in a survey it has published.

Bristol RAP is writing to the Lord Chancellor proposing that 'the power to imprison should be removed in its entirety from justices of the peace who have proved so unequal to the

responsibility'.

Male defendants appearing before Britain's reactionary band of JPs are two-and-a-half times more likely to be jailed in Dorset than in Gwent, the survey states.

Gwent sent only 2.48 per cent of its convicted male defendants direct to jail — compared with a national high of 11.04 per cent in Gloucestershire and a national average of 6.83 per cent.

Bristol RAP also proposes that the decision to remand a defendant in custody should only be taken by a crown court,

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

YOUNG SOCIALIST

Incorporating 25 years of 'Keep Left'

Sunday January 16

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Starts 2p.m.

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DOCKSIDE TIME BOMB

Nine workers killed as tanker explodes

OIL and power company officials plan to press ahead with plans for new natural gas and oil facilities in the Los Angeles harbour area, despite the explosion of the tanker 'Sansinena', on December 17 in which nine workers were killed.

The port area, stretching from San Pedro through Wilmington into Long Beach, is already one vast time bomb. There are miles upon miles of refineries, oil wells, fuel storage depots, and facilities for loading and unloading tankers.

The 'Sansinena' blast was one of the most powerful non-nuclear explosions in history, heard forty miles away, and breaking windows twenty miles away.

Many of the 70,000 people in the port city of San Pedro thought an atomic bomb had been dropped because of the

A widespread Press silence about the dangers of oil tanker explosions has been mounted worldwide to hush up the incapability of the oil companies to prevent these disasters and the resulting loss of life.

The facts are daunting. There have been 104 tanker explosions in the last seven years, and the future, with the concentration of oil storage and refining depots in fewer, much larger centres, means further disasters could result in much greater loss of life.

The 'Sansinena' incident in Los Angeles Harbour has been subject to a national clampdown by the American Press. Here an American correspondent gives the whole story.

mushroom cloud and the shattering of virtually every window in the city. The damage just in broken glass is over \$1 million.

The explosion occurred just as the Union Oil tanker had finished unloading its cargo of 507,000 barrels of light crude oil, and had taken on 20,000 barrels of bunker fuel oil for the return trip to Indonesia.

Missing

The entire superstructure and upper deck of the ship were blown off, flying 100 feet through the air and crushing a guard shack on the pier. The guard in the shack was apparently killed, as were four crewmen whose bodies were recovered, and four who were missing.

Thousands of rivets were rocketed through the air, as well as pipes and other pieces of metal which were driven into the asphalt to a depth of three

feet.

Overshadowed by the massive publicity about oil spills, is the fact that in the last seven years there have been 104 oil tanker explosions worldwide. This is the major cause of death among merchant seamen.

Tankers grow unstable as they unload their liquid cargo and gases form which can be extremely dangerous unless inert gases are used to neutralise them. The 'Sansinena' was an older type of tanker built in 1958 without such safety devices.

The Los Angeles-Long Beach harbour is already visited by more than 100 oil tankers every month.

Long Beach has been designated by Sohio Oil as the main terminal for Alaskan oil, which would greatly increase the amount of flammable material shipped through the port.

A Sohio spokesman indicated



Large pipes were blown from the ship with such force they became embedded in asphalt.

the company would press ahead with its plans regardless of the dangers exposed by the 'Sansinena' explosion. 'It's my hope,' he said, 'that after the shock of this wears off and people are able to look at it in an objective fashion, that we won't lose any of the momentum I think our project is starting to pick up.'

Storage

On top of this, Southern California Gas is pushing plans for a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) unloading and storage facility on Terminal Island,

across a narrow channel from the site of the catastrophe.

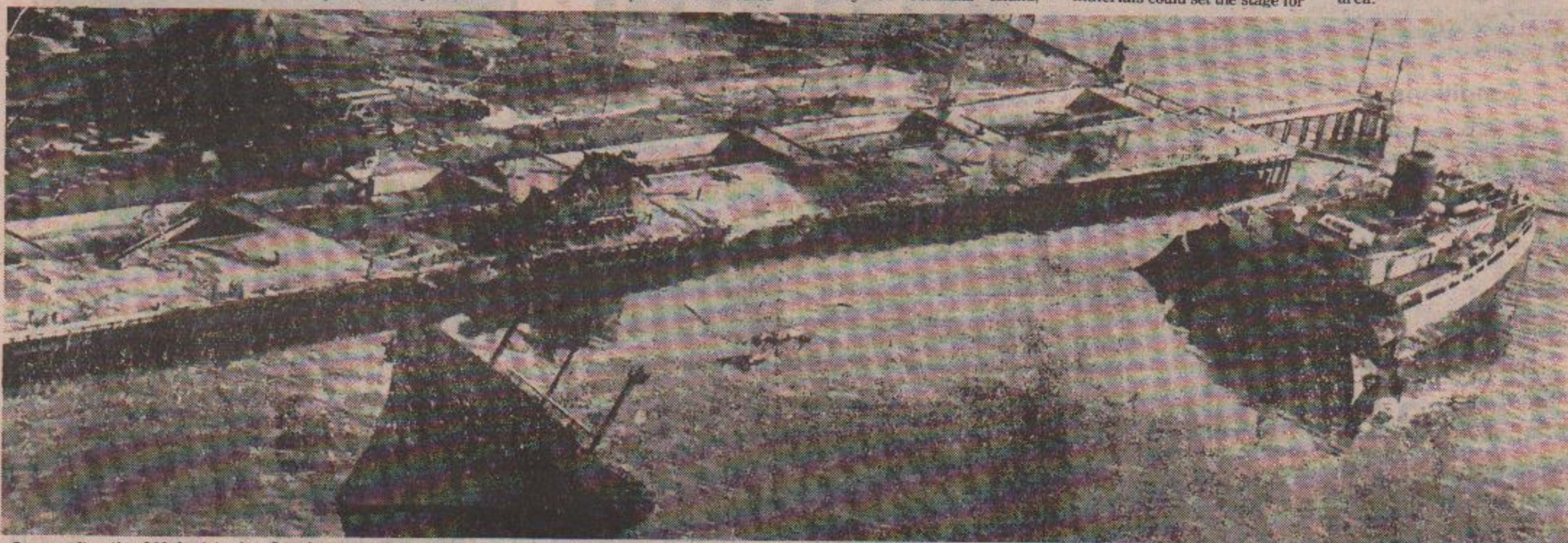
Los Angeles Fire Department officials have already expressed doubts about the project, saying even if a new fire station were built next to the LNG depot, they would still have qualms. They pointed out that the LNG depot would be adjacent to a container terminal, and that the contents of the containers would be unknown, but could include explosives or other volatile materials.

The main fear is that the continued piling up of explosive materials could set the stage for

a chain reaction which would make the 'Sansinena' blast pale by comparison.

A study conducted by Pacific Lighting Corporation, the parent company of Southern California Gas, indicates that a worst-case accident at the LNG depot, even without the chain reaction effect, could lead to the ignition of a natural gas cloud which would kill 97,000 people.

Nonetheless, the oil and gas companies are going headlong in pursuit of a quick profit, regardless of the incredible dangers to the people of the area.



Scene after the 810 foot tanker Sansinena exploded in Los Angeles Harbour. The smouldering remains of the superstructure are at upper left.

NEW YORK — The captain of the Liberian tanker 'Olympic Games,' which leaked 133,500 gallons of oil into the Delaware River on Monday, has been arrested and charged with violating federal pollution laws.

The spillage, which has contaminated hundreds of water fowl, came after the 'Olympic Games' ran aground while trying to dock at the British Petroleum refinery at Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania.

The captain, V Vilsmaas, was held on bail of \$50,000. The charges against him carry maximum penalties of two years in prison and a \$12,000 fine.

The Liberian government announced earlier that its inquiry into the wreck of the Liberian-registered tanker 'Argo Merchant' off the Massachusetts coast two weeks ago would be headed by former US federal district judge Lawrence Walsh.

He led the investigation 20 years ago into the sinking of the Italian liner 'Andrea Doria' after a collision with the Swedish ship Stockholm near the spot where the Argo Merchant ran aground.

The 'Argo Merchant' eventually broke in two and gushed its entire cargo of 7.5 million gallons of heavy oil into the sea.

The wreck is the subject of a current court case in which the continental insurance company is trying to recover more than \$2m in damages from the tanker's owners, Thebes Shipping, for the lost oil.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, a coastguard spokesman said no oil had leaked from a tanker, the 'Daphne', which ran aground on the island's south coast on Tuesday night with a cargo of 47,160 tons of oil condensate.

The spokesman said oil was being off-loaded to enable the Liberian-registered 'Daphne' to be refloated.

'You won't need me'-Gaddafi

TRIPOLI — Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi has announced a national debate to start tomorrow, and says that plans for a people's democracy could make his role redundant.

Popular conferences are to be held around the country, starting tomorrow, in order to prepare a People's Congress.

Speaking on television on Wednesday night, Colonel Gaddafi said the Congress would choose a Secretariat to replace the Council of Ministers, and a Secretary General to replace the Prime Minister.

The popular conferences would choose a name for the new republic, whose laws will be based on the Koran, the President said. The period of national debate will end by next March, and a draft declaration on the new constitution will be finalised then.

He added when the people exercise authority through the people's congresses, people's committees, trade unions and the People's General Congress, there would be no revolution command council and no Muammar Gaddafi.

The presence of a president,

council, party, sect or family was in direct contradiction to the people's authority, he said, which meant the end of governments, rulers and presidents.

Colonel Gaddafi added 'This does not mean anarchy since the people's authority, which is the new factor in the experiment, is based on the people's congresses and people's committees as well as trade unions and the people's general congress.'

He also said general military training would replace voluntary military service in the new republic.

PLO denies tension in South

BEIRUT — A spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has denied reports by Lebanese right-wing news media of fierce tension and violence in South Lebanon.

He termed these reports 'figments of the imagination of right-wing parties which are trying to stir up a propaganda campaign.'

'The situation in the south is very good,' the spokesman told IPS yesterday. 'It is calm and there is no fighting going on. I have spoken to people who have just come to Beirut from here, and they said no shooting is going on there.'

Right-wing parties and newspapers here have been claiming for the past few days that tension in south Lebanon, which borders Israel, is rising. This campaign began following a reported agreement for the Palestinians to remove their heavy weapons from Lebanese towns and transfer them to south Lebanon, instead of handing them over to the Arab deterrent force which is responsible for law and order here.

Agreement

The right-wing parties have demanded that, like the Lebanese combatant parties in the conflict here, the Palestinians should hand over their heavy weapons. The Palestinians say they are allowed to keep such weapons under the 1969 Cairo Agreement with the Lebanese government.

The pro-Syrian Beirut daily 'al Sharq' said today there have been urgent contacts between Arab capitals regarding the situation in south Lebanon 'with the aim of defusing the bomb'.

The paper added that Lebanon's prime minister Dr Selim Al Hoss and foreign minister Fuad Butros have been playing a leading part in these contacts. Dr Hoss returned here this afternoon from visits to Egypt and Libya, and earlier today Butros returned from a visit to Damascus.

Asked on arrival at Beirut airport whether he had discussed the situation in south Lebanon with Egyptian and

Libyan governments, Dr Hoss replied he had stressed the south was 'A collective Arab responsibility', and its solution required a comprehensive Arab effort.

Diplomatic efforts have been underway for some time to ensure the entry of Arab deterrent force units to the South. At present there are no deterrent force soldiers south of the River Litani, essentially because of warnings by Israel that it was opposed to their presence.

A deterrent force contingent of 1,500 men from the United Arab Emirates was expected to enter the southern port of Tyre, but it stopped a few miles short of Tyre yesterday, which lies south of the Litani.

But 'al Sharq' claimed yesterday that deterrent force units from the United Arab Emirates and north and south Yemen are expected to enter Tyre in the next few days, and later extend their control to other areas of the south.

BY CHARLES PARKINS

The Beirut-based Arab News Agency (ANA) said yesterday US chargé d'Affaires Robert Houghton would see president Sarkis 'to outline Washington's point of view on efforts being exerted to convince Israel to give up its opposition to the deterrent force's presence in the South. The United States is known to be exerting such efforts to favour the force's stationing in the south.'

Meanwhile, Lebanon's leading Press magnate Ghassan Tueni announced the suspension of the publication of his newspapers as a protest against censorship measures by Syrian army units of the deterrent force. Tueni's two newspapers, the Arabic 'al Nahar' and the French-language 'L'Orient-le Jour' were forced to stop publication when their offices were occupied by the deterrent force 11 days ago. They were the only two conservative newspapers to be subjected to such a measure.

ISRAEL Prepare for 'first strike'-Zionist general

TEL AVIV — An Israeli general who acts as special assistant to Defence Minister Shimon Peres says the Israelis must remain prepared to launch a pre-emptive first strike in any war.

Reserve Major General Israel Tal, in an article to be published in the current issue of the Army magazine 'Bamahaneh', says 'Under present conditions in this arena, the side which is smaller must adopt the principle of the first strike and take the offensive and not the defensive'.

He said that if, for political or other considerations, a pre-emptive strike was not

possible, Israel should adopt the 'lesser of the evils left — to adopt an elastic defence aimed at destroying as much of the enemy as possible.'

'Under no account should we endanger ourselves by adopting a rigid defence to hold on to territory at any cost. And since on some of our fronts there is little room for such elastic defence, there may be no alternative but attack.'

Tal was deputy Chief of Staff during the 1973 October War. The Minister he assists now, Peres, is widely expected to make a bid for the leadership of the ruling Labour Party at its next conference.

'PEACE DEAL NEAR'-SADAT

BEIRUT — 'A final comprehensive settlement' of the Arab-Israeli conflict is within sight, according to Egypt's President Anwar Sadat.

In an exclusive interview published yesterday in the Beirut daily 'al Anwar', the Egyptian leader says the Arab governments must prepare for the reconvened Geneva peace conference as 'the last battle' in the conflict, and the 'final peaceful solution with the attendance of the Palestinians and all the parties, including Lebanon'.

Sadat's statements came on the same day as it was announced from Bonn that West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher will travel to Syria and Jordan in February to discuss Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

His visit to the Middle East will follow that of Marshall Tito, due in Cairo on January 20. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy is to visit West Germany in spring.

Proclamation

Sadat said yesterday the proclamation of a joint Egyptian-Syrian political command after his talks with Syrian president Assad last week was a part of the preparations for Geneva.

Describing it as a 'new page' in relations between the governments, he added it would not conflict with plans for unity between Syria and Jordan.

The Egyptian leader had praise for incoming US President Jimmy Carter, whom he described as a religious man 'governed by morality and principles'. He referred to the departure of Henry Kissinger as 'a loss', however.

Asked what role Saudi Arabia could play vis-a-vis the United States, Sadat replied this was based on 'our understanding of the close relations between Saudi Arabia and America, and we also have close relations with Saudi Arabia.'

Agreement on this role, he indicated, had been reached at the Riyadh summit. He added it was up to Arab countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, to give Carter 'a true picture' of the Middle East.

Sadat said there is 'a very great probability' that Israel possesses nuclear weapons, but denied the Arabs would surrender, be afraid or suffer a paralysis of thinking because of this.



Sadat

He declined to say what counter measures Arab countries could take, as this was a 'military secret', but warned that any act could be answered with a similar or larger act.

He reaffirmed that the Arab states do not have nuclear weapons and would not be the first to introduce them into the Middle East, but if Israel did so, 'we would have to bear all the results ensuing from that'.

Israeli threats to use nuclear weapons were 'psychological warfare, and we should not take it as more than that', he said.

Israel, he said, 'has no alternative but to go to the peace conference to make peace' although it was resisting this and 'placing obstacles in the way'. Israel's strategy is to exploit inter-Arab differences and gain time. He maintained Israel is afraid of peace, and has no leader with the courage to face the public with a peace plan.

Sadat said he regards a military blow by Israel as a distinct possibility. But if it struck such a blow without preparing world opinion, it would suffer a heavy loss, and the Arabs were ready for this, he added.

Sadat declared he still favoured the formation of a Palestinian government in exile.

Concerning Palestinian representation at the Geneva conference, he had reached an agreement with President Assad on the broad outlines, and the details would be worked out in discussions later.

Asked who was responsible for the Lebanese conflict, Sadat answered: 'We as Arabs are all responsible, including myself. In the first instance, I hold [former Lebanese president] Franjeh and the leaders of Lebanon responsible.'

He said all Arabs had lost from this conflict, and the only winner was Israel. But he added that if the Lebanese had been left alone without external interference, the problem could have been resolved of its own accord.

He affirmed Egypt's opposition to any portion of Lebanon's territory being detached from it, whether through partition or through capture by Israel. Lebanon should attend the Geneva conference, he declared, since it was one of the 'confrontation states' and had signed an armistice agreement with Israel at the end of the 1948 war.

Disagreement

Egypt's disagreement with Syria in connection with Lebanon, Sadat said, had arisen over the role of the Syrian army. Egypt felt it should play a neutral role of separating the combatants, and disagreement arose when the Syrian army had taken sides in the fighting. (Syrian troops fought against the leftist Lebanese National Movement and the Palestine Liberation Organisation from June to October this year.)

Sadat added he had reached agreement with Assad and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat on the sensitive issue of collecting heavy weapons from parties to the Lebanese conflict.

CHINA

PEKING — Troops have been suppressing disturbances which turned into armed conflict in the northern Chinese city of Paoting, according to sources here.

The simmering political unrest in Paoting earlier this year reached the level where factories were blown up, banks robbed and rival groups took hostages', they added.

Ten days ago, there was reference in the official 'People's Daily' to 'beating, smashing and looting', destruction of military equipment, disruption of transport and theft of state funds.

The paper blamed the violence on 'black agents' of the ousted group of four, led by Mao's widow Chiang Ching.

According to reliable

Riots in Paoting

sources here, the army was ordered into the Paoting area, and instructed to round up all weapons, ammunition and explosive materials.

Orders to suppress disturbances are believed to have gone out following the arrest of the group of four in October. But three weeks ago, the 'Paoting problem had not been completely resolved', according to one source.

Troops were also sent in to deal with unrest in southern Fukien, and yesterday the 'People's Daily' reported strikes and sabotage in the massive western province of Szechuan.

On December 20, the paper reported a Paoting delegate at an agricultural conference here as saying there had been armed clashes, and accusing

the purged group of four of infiltrating 'layer upon layer of agents' to take over the Party committees.

A small handful of class enemies took advantage of the situation to mislead and manipulate a few people into beating, smashing, looting, destroying military equipment, stealing state property and funds.... it was reported.

It charged the aim of the 'gang of four' was to create disorder in Paoting and surrounding Hopeh, and eventually to threaten the security of Peking.

After the arrest of the radicals, Paoting was uniting and settling down, the delegate was said to have told the conference.

Another speaker at the

conference, vice-premier Chen Yung-Kwei said the radicals had seriously disrupted agriculture in six southern provinces — Yunnan, Kweichow, Szechuan, Fukien, Chekiang and Kiangsi.

Yesterday the official new China News Agency accused the 'gang of four' of creating disturbances in the central Chinese province of Honan.

The agency quoted a delegate from Honan to a national agricultural conference and said the radicals attempted to instigate agricultural sabotage.

In Hsuehchang (a county in Honan), they instigated a small number of bad elements to rig up factional organisations in violation of the party's



Chiang Ching

instructions, in a vicious attempt to split the party committee at various levels and the ranks of masses,' it said.

'These people created disturbances, attacked or even paraded leading cadres who upheld chairman Mao's revolutionary line,' it added.

THE NEW YEARS HONOURS LIST

Labourites lap up the annual parade

THE VERY notion of titles and the privileges that go with them is obscene.

For one man to have power and influence over others by right, regardless of merit, is a reactionary relic of feudalism.

For a Labour government to carry on capitalism's compromise with the aristocracy and continue propping up the House of Lords, the Monarchy and the honours list, is obscenity compounded.

When individual trade union and Labour leaders enter the ranks of the 'nobility' in a pathetic effort to breathe life into this farcical corpse, the obscenity is complete — and stifling.

But reformism is a permanent breeding ground for such political degeneration.

Two recent Labour Party leaders have leaped at the chance of permanent privilege in the House of Lords — Edward Short and George Thomson.

Short was Wilson's deputy in the Labour government. The Newcastle MP became notorious during the Poulson trial when it was revealed that Short had accepted a £500 payment from T. Dan Smith in Smith's early years of bribing his way to power and influence in the labour movement and local government.

Short did not resign but remained at the heart of the Wilson leadership which moved heaven and earth to prevent a full-scale Labour Party inquiry into corruption among its leaders and particularly in its North East Region.

Newcastle and the North East were the centre of operations for Smith and the trade union bureaucrat jailed with him, Andy Cunningham of the General and Municipal Workers' Union and Labour Party executive member.

George Thomson has also been made a baron. Having betrayed Labour Party conference policy and voted with the Tories in 1971 for Britain to join the Common Market, the former Dundee MP then went the whole hog and took a lucrative job as an EEC Commissioner in Brussels.

Short is no stranger to luxury either.

Sent by the working class to represent their interests in parliament, Short used the money he made (including presumably the £500 he got from looking after the interests of the crook T. Dan Smith) to buy himself an expensive country cottage in the Lake District.

But that was not enough. He then purchased an even more expensive cottage nearby, not to live in but to change the boundary and then sell again, leaving his first haven with even greater seclusion.

To underline the reactionary nature of the House of Lords, another man made baron is Brian Faulkner, the hard-line former boss of the monarchist political circus that ruled in the north of Ireland before the British military occupiers demanded direct control from Westminster.

That other reactionary instrument of capitalist state power, the Privy Council, has also been reinforced. Labour MPs Alan John Williams, Robert Sheldon and Jesse Dickson Mabon, all right wing enough to be in the Tory Party, have agreed to crawl in front of the monarch.

But apart from the archaic

knee-bending Privy Councillors perform, the body retains menacing constitutional powers and could become the legal voice of dictatorship in an emergency.

Not surprisingly, another recruit is Sir John Kerr, the Australian governor-general who aided the political coup which removed the Gough Whitlam government and installed the ultra-conservative Malcolm Fraser, known as Kerr's cur.

Kerr bent the law on another issue this year when his wife-to-be got privileged treatment for a 'quickie' divorce from her previous husband.

Joining Kerr and the Labourites on this particular reactionary bandwagon are Liberal leader David Steel and Scottish nationalist Donald Stewart.

Backing up these bastions of ruling class privilege are the lesser gentry, who nevertheless perform important auxiliary roles.

Dan McGarvey, a solid supporter of the TUC's most servile and conservative policies, is rewarded with a knighthood.

Sir Dan of the boilermakers is joined by a reactionary gang which ought to trouble the thickest of skins.

Sir Robert Mark, the posh front-man for the corruption-riddled Metropolitan Police, is one.

Colonel George Anthony Wharton, a big noise in Territorial Army circles, is another.

They become Knight Commanders of one description or another.

Devotion

But what they all have in common is devotion to preserving the capitalist state.

Other smaller fry honoured for the same reactionary proclivity are Cledwyn Hughes, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, teachers' union leader Terence Casey, British Rail labour director Bert Farrimond, Dorset police chief Arthur Hambleton, London top copper Patrick Kavanagh, BBC boss Gerard Mansell, Ford labour director Robert Ramsey, and many more.

One curious relic remembered from the past and honoured is Norman Henry Turner, the Official Solicitor.

He was the mysteriously 'self-motivated' instrument who got the Pentonville dockers out of jail and prevented a general strike in 1972. Later he made another intervention during the Industrial Relations Act conflicts to get the ruling class out of a tight spot.

Prompts

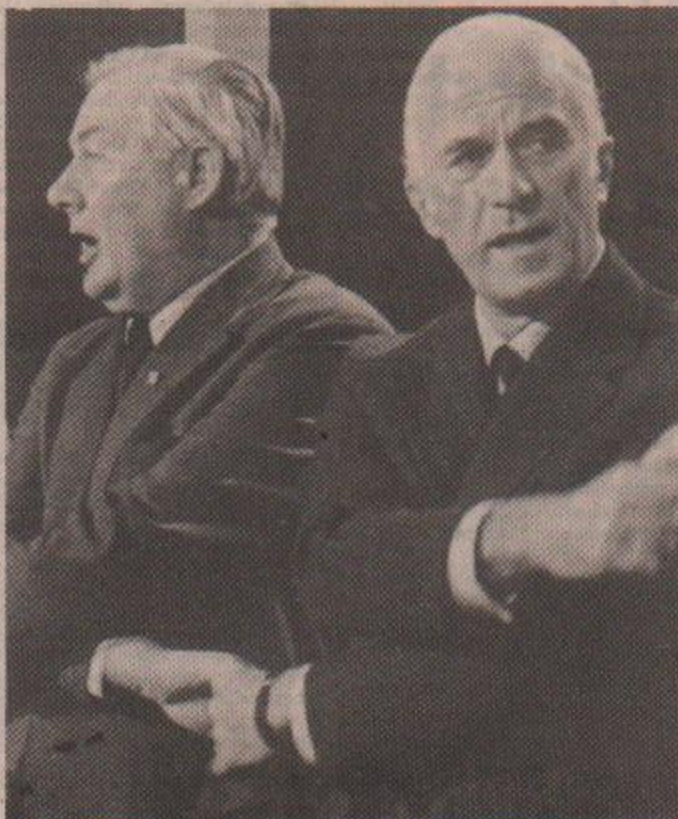
But his CBE now prompts the question: Is he being dusted down again for use sometime in the future?

Lastly, for those who remain unconvinced of the utter worthlessness and sycophancy of the honours system, there comes the special section in the New Year's list reserved for the Queen's own Royal Victorian Order.

Awards go to the Yeoman Bed Hanger, the keeper of HM swans and cygnets on the Thames, the director of music in HM yacht Britannia, and the Woman of the Bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Mrs Patrick Frances Olivia Campbell-Preston.



Rees with Mark



Callaghan and Short



McGarvey (right)



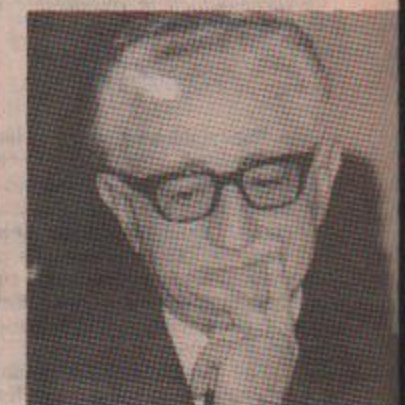
Faulkner

FA

Some of the personalities
See if you can
who they are



2 This lady was able to achieve her lifelong ambition this year by travelling in the opposite direction to the majority. How?



7 A friendly pat on the shoulder — but the seated man looked worried. The man doing the patting was also named after the Lockheed affair. He and his seated senior partner were in an election campaign on October 3, but had moved apart since. Can you name them?

CES PHOTO-QUIZ

political
s of 1976
an guess
e



1 The 'Fifties Hollywood movie was called 'The Winning Team'. It was to turn out particularly inappropriate this year for the leading man. Why?

ieve
year,
osite
in



4 A bunch of three. Each of the men is from a different country, but they were all in the news for the same connection. What's the connection, and can you name the men?



5 The gent in the topper was the Queen's guest at Buckingham Palace while on a business trip in May. Remember who that was?



6 Up in the air over the French magazine 'Le Point' and is suing them over an article on his financial affairs. Who is he?



3 Made a big advance in elections under his party's and patriotic flag. Who is he?



8 The man in this picture won't be able to stand under that flag any more. Why?



9 Due in Britain in 1977 — already in the news in America and elsewhere. His name has been connected with some less spiritual affairs than the picture might suggest — who is he?

Carrillo is freed on bail

MADRID — Spanish Communist Party leader Santiago Carrillo was released on bail yesterday, along with seven other party members arrested with him on December 22.

Large forces of police stood on guard outside Madrid's Carabanchel prison as Carrillo left in a car with his wife, and his lawyer Manuel Lopez. The CP leader waved to a crowd of supporters waiting outside the gate.

His release followed numerous protests both in Spain and abroad over his detention. On Wednesday night police made several arrests as thousands of workers demonstrated in Madrid demanding his release.

The arrest and jailing of Carrillo, on charges of illegal association, endangered negotiations between Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez and the opposition parties over elections due before June.

The opposition said they could not negotiate under unacceptable conditions.

Carrillo is one of the negotiating team that has been set up to meet Suarez for formal talks. His stand-in in case he was unable to attend, Simon Sanchez Montero, was one of the Party members arrested with him.

Bail for Carrillo was set at 300,000 pesetas (£2,770) and varied between 150,000 and 200,000 pesetas for the others.



CARRILLO

Woman poet is exiled

MOSCOW — A Leningrad court yesterday sentenced poetess Yuliya Voznesenskaya to five years' exile in a remote region of the Soviet Union on a charge of spreading lies defaming the Soviet system, her husband said.

Speaking by telephone from Leningrad, Vladimir Okulov said his 36-year-old wife, a leading figure in the city's underground artistic community, pleaded not guilty. Voznesenskaya, whose trial

began Wednesday, faced a possible sentence up to three years in a labour camp. But Okulov quoted the court as saying it was imposing five years' exile, as demanded by the prosecution, because she has two children, aged 16 and 12.

Okulov said his wife, who planned to appeal against the sentence, was continuing a hunger strike she began when she was arrested ten days ago and had said she would keep it up until the accusations against her were withdrawn.

Eritrea chief expects statehood

BEIRUT — Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) spokesman Othman Salih Sebhi has declared that 1977 will be a year of important geographical and political changes in North-East Africa.

He forecasts 'the proclamation of Eritrea and Djibouti as independent states and the restoration of Somali territories to the democratic republic of Somalia'.

He said forces fighting for Eritrean independence would soon surprise the world with 'an escalation that will lead to complete liberation'.

The pro-Libyan Beirut daily 'Al Kifah al Arabi' quoted Sebhi as saying the ELF had discussed military, political and information co-ordination with Somalia and the western Somalia Liberation Front.

He said that the latter's forces are engaged in a fierce war with Ethiopian troops along a 2,000-kilometre front, in which the Ethiopian army has suffered 4,000 casualties.

The two fronts are co-ordinating their military escalation, he added.

The ELF spokesman called for a halt in weapon supplies to the Ethiopian government.

He said Israel is continuing to supply light weapons to Ethiopian units trained by 26 Israeli experts under the command of Colonel Tobas.

He also accused the Ethiopian government of trying to provoke the (North) Yemen Arab Republic by overflying their territory and seizing Yemeni fishing boats.

The ELF, he warned, will obtain gunboats similar to those of the Ethiopian navy.

'Al Kifah al Arabi' reported that Sebhi is currently visiting Somalia, where he has been holding 'very successful' talks.



A supporter of the Fascists in the 1930s

Ultra-right urged to join the TA

EXTREME right-wing groups are urging their members to infiltrate the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve to gain military experience for a civil war.

Earlier this year, there were questions in parliament after the discovery that members of the pro-Nazi organisation Column 88 were training at a Territorial Army camp.

Now the extreme right-wing British Movement has adopted a policy of infiltration. The

August-September issue of its journal 'British Patriot' contains the following item:

'The British Movement in its latest members' bulletin encourages its membership to join the Territorial Army, Britain's part-time army.

'It does so on the assumption that the crime rate, and in particular crimes of a political nature, are likely to increase and envisages the formation of a "Free Corps" should the government's forces cease to maintain stability.

'Furthermore, a recruiting campaign is being organised aimed at attracting the former members of all sections of Britain's armed forces.'

The reference to the 'Free Corps' is particularly revealing. The Freikorps emerged in Germany under the Social-Democratic government of Scheidemann and Noske immediately after World War I.

Composed of demobilised soldiers under the command of fascist officers they were

unleashed on the German working class by the Social Democrat traitors to crush the revolution of 1918.

It was the Freikorps which murdered Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, the leaders of the German revolutionary movement. These armed bands provided the raw material for the Nazi SS and SA during the 1920s and 1930s.

During the war, the Nazis recruited a small number of British prisoners of war to serve in a unit called the 'Free Corps' alongside the SS.

The British Movement has close links with the Rhodesian racist regime. The speakers at its conference held in Kensington Library on November 27 included Ken Rodgers, leader of the Rhodesian White People's Party.

The revelations about right-wing penetration of the TAVR follow exchanges in parliament over the growth of right-wing recruitment in the prison service.

How Warwickshire cuts will bite

BIRMINGHAM — The impact of public spending cuts on jobs and services is becoming clearer at an alarming rate.

FIRE SERVICES: Roger Paramor, Warwickshire's chief fire officer, has criticised a plan to save finance by reducing the number of fire engines first called to the scene of a blaze.

It would lead to some fires burning out of control before additional fire-fighting equipment could get to the scene, Paramor has warned.

Reducing initial attendance involved a calculated risk, he said — but nevertheless agreed that such a move had to be considered.

Proposals have been made to cut £59,286 of the county's 1977-1978 fire service budget.

Other plans under consideration involve reducing fire cover generally, and failing to appoint trained fire officers in line with the requirements of the Health and Safety Act.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: About £12,000 should be cut from this service operated in Warwickshire. The county has already been warned that further reductions would mean avoiding statutory requirements.

SCHOOL MEALS: A proposal to make 1,130 school meals supervisors redundant has been announced in Warwickshire.

ROADS: More than 160 planning and highways workers are threatened with the sack as a result of a proposal to slash £212,580 from their department's budget.

This figure is widely expected to increase substantially when the extent of further government grant reductions is known.

SPORTS AND ARTS: At Sandwell, a project for a major indoor sports centre has been scrapped.

James McKenzie, chairman of Sandwell's amenities and recreation committee, said sports and arts facilities were always looked to first when economies were necessary.

● Secret talks are under way to impose 'massive cuts' in Hereford and Worcester's education service.

'I cannot discuss any individual part at the moment', Phillip Hart, chairman of the education committee, told reporters this week.

'I think you can assume that no part of the service will be left untouched. Until various negotiations are done under the Employment Protection Act, I cannot discuss what we are planning.'



Birmingham NUPE members in London on November 17 for the demonstration against the cuts

Acid leak into River Medway

SOUTHERN water authority officials were last night investigating a carbolic acid leak into the River Medway, near Rochester, Kent, that could kill off fish and river life as well as endanger human health.

Sale-room turnover up by a third

INCREASES of a third in the 1976 turnover figures for both Sotheby's and Christie's auction rooms indicate that London still holds its dominant position in the world's art markets.

Fears that Britain's economic problems might have affected the city's position have been dispelled by the figures, which are a record for both companies.

The net world-wide turnover of Sotheby Parke Bernet from January to December was £108,022,000, a 33.84 per cent increase on 1975. Of this, London alone produced £40,104,000.

Christie's total for auctions in London and overseas was £54,529,000, an increase of 33 per cent with £40m accounted for by London and some £1m from three house sales in Ireland.

Murder and the army's big lie machine

PART TWO

Drunk patrol shot Kathleen, 23

KATHLEEN DOCHERTY, a 23-year-old girl living with her parents on Horn Drive, near the Suffolk estate in West Belfast, was hit by flying glass on September 29.

Her right eye was badly injured and her face damaged.

She was injured when a British soldier fired his rifle at point-blank range through the window of the stationary car in which she was sitting. Witnesses said Kathleen was covered in blood.

The unprovoked shooting was one incident in a calculated campaign of intimidation against Catholic workers in

West Belfast which culminated in the killing of 13-year-old Brian Stewart.

The army version of the shooting of Kathleen Docherty came in a brief communiqué issued about 12 hours after the incident. It claimed a foot patrol had challenged an armed man in Horn Drive and fired a shot after him.

Part of the patrol followed

him and a second shot was fired. Two soldiers remained by a parked car, which appeared to have been struck by the first round. No hits were claimed on the gunman who escaped, but a woman who had been sitting in the parked car was later admitted to hospital.

This version is directly contradicted by the sworn statements of at least six local witnesses, who have testified that the shooting was the work of a drunken patrol who had been annoying residents in the Horn Drive area for 30 minutes before the shooting.

Testified

The witnesses testified that the four-man patrol were knocking up residents at 1 a.m. asking them what they thought of the security forces and in drunken fashion saying they were from BBC TV or Candid Camera.

Mrs Jean McClinton of 49 Horn Drive testified she was dozing in bed at 1 a.m. when she heard what sounded like drunks arguing outside. When she heard their accents she realised it was the army.

‘I looked out of the window and saw the soldiers flashing a lamp around Docherty’s house. Then they came to our house and did the same thing. They had a notebook and they were talking.’

While they were talking Kathleen Docherty came out of her house. Whatever the soldiers said to her she got very angry. She got into the car, sat down, put on the engine, turned on the headlights.

The soldier was standing in front of her car. As soon as she put on the headlights, he aimed his gun directly at her and shot her at point blank range. No warning whatever was given. The bullet went through her car into her boyfriend’s car which was parked behind hers.

After the soldier fired the shot he just stood there. When Kathleen’s boyfriend heard her shouting, he ran out. The soldier was refusing to allow him to go near the car.

After five to ten minutes he allowed them to get to the car. They had to force their way towards it, her brother Jim, her boyfriend Peter McCloskey, and friend Kevin Best.

There was no one in Horn Drive when this happened. The soldier who shot Kathleen tried to get into the Docherty’s home.



Troops in West Belfast

The family would not allow this. He then radioed Woodbourne Army Base to say a high-velocity shot was discharged in Horn Drive. I said: ‘Are you trying to cover yourself now you shot that girl?’

The four-man foot patrol, Kings Own Scottish Borderers, seemed to panic and backed down Horn Drive. Just at the corner of Doon Road the same soldier aimed and fired another shot up Doon Road. He then radioed Woodbourne Army Base again. More soldiers arrived in a Saracen. Supposed to be looking for the gunman the soldier was talking about.

Capers

There was no gunman. This was just the end of their mad capers. The soldier who shot Kathleen Docherty was either drunk or drugged. No one in their senses would have deliberately shot a woman sitting in a car. He saw her getting into it and was just the length of the car away when it happened.

I wakened my neighbours who were shocked. The neighbours all complained to the patrol saying: ‘The shooting is another mistake you have made.’ No matter what was said by the people, not one soldier spoke. They were not going to say anything as their story was they

had been challenged by a gunman. I saw what happened. There was no gunman.

Other neighbours testified to the drunken behaviour of the patrol before the shooting. Bernard Rooney of 3 Horn Drive gave a statement saying he was woken at 1.40 a.m. by an army patrol knocking on his door.

‘A soldier stood there with a rifle in his hand. He said: ‘I’m from BBC Television’. He asked me was I watching television. I said: ‘No, I’m only out of bed.’ He said: ‘I thought you were in bed as the blinds were drawn.’

He says: ‘I have a few questions to ask you.’ He asked: ‘What do you think of the British Army in Northern Ireland?’ I said: ‘What do you mean?’ He says: ‘I’ll ask you again. Do you think they are doing a good job or a bad job? Or would you like to see Irish regiments from the British Army here?’

I said: ‘I don’t know what you’re talking about.’ He said: ‘I’ll put it another way. How would you like the RUC back in full strength in this area?’ He lifted his rifle in both hands and held it across the front of my face and said:

‘I can prove I’m from the BBC Television as I have no magazine but dummy.’ At this time there were three other soldiers sitting on the edge of the kerb, with one across the street. They were laughing. I said to

him: ‘I don’t believe you’re from BBC Television.’

I closed the door and went to bed. I was just in bed about five minutes when I heard a shot fired. I pulled on my trousers. I was half way down the street in my bare feet when a Saracen overtook me and an ambulance was about 50 yards behind it going round Horn Drive.

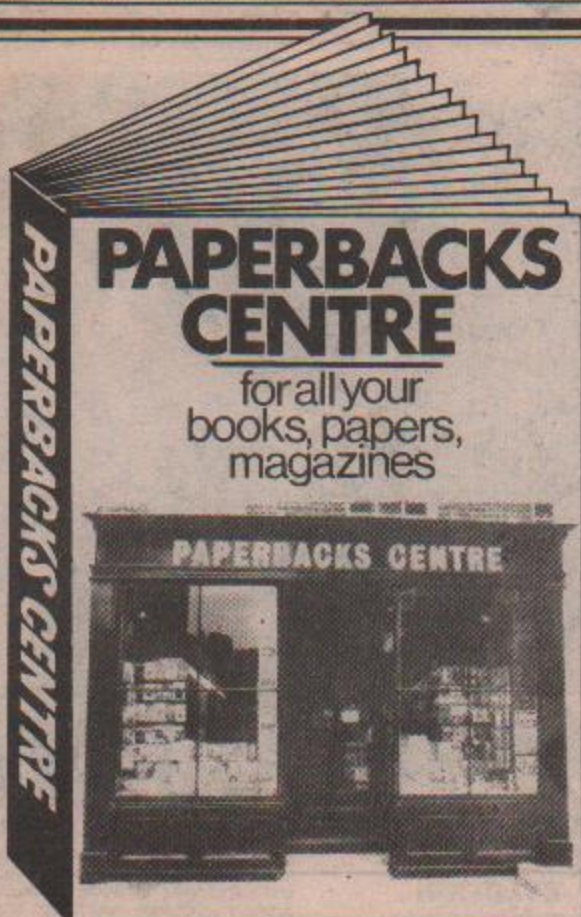
The army’s only answer to these and other witnesses was a statement issued by the headquarters Press office on September 29 at 8.30 p.m.

Statement

The statement said: ‘The army categorically denies the totally untrue allegations made today against the soldiers of the patrol which fired at a gunman in Horn Drive at 01.45 hours this morning.’

‘Furthermore the claim that the patrol was in the Docherty family house prior to two shots being fired is equally untrue. This house was checked by the patrol only after the gunman had escaped in the direction of the Stewartstown Road.’

On September 29, the morning after the shooting, half the Kings Own Scottish Borderers regiment was withdrawn from the West Belfast area, no doubt in order to hamper further inquiries into the shooting of Kathleen Docherty.



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FILM REVIEW

BY BRIAN MOORE

ISRAEL'S armed commando invasion of Uganda last July to snatch hi-jacked airline passengers was hailed by every reactionary imperialist regime the world over.

It revealed a line-up of forces that actively worked for the military assault on Entebbe airport and gave the greatest warning to all the liberation movements in Africa that imperialism would not hesitate to use similar military operations against them.

That warning was only too brutally confirmed when Rhodesian troops later crossed over the border of Mozambique and massacred 200 black refugees from Rhodesia and buried them in a mass grave.

Israel's terrorist attack on Entebbe gave the go-ahead for it.

Homeland

Having driven the Palestinians out of their homeland, the Israeli imperialists arrogantly claimed the right to make armed raids on African countries and were supported joyously by the Ford-Kissinger administration, the Tory Party and Callaghan's Labour government.

This act of international terrorism six months later is being hailed now by Hollywood, with a cast of stars like Kirk Douglas, Elizabeth Taylor, Burt Lancaster and Helen Hayes.

The rush to glorify this piracy in which 20 Ugandans were shot and seven 'terrorists' gunned down in cold blood, proceeded at an obscene haste. There are at least three films made about it and the first to hit the screen is 'Victory at Entebbe'.

In a life-time's devotion to the services of international capital, this piece ranks as the most blatant piece of Zionist propaganda. It is shoddy and, above all, dishonest.

Its premise is simple. Two of the hi-jackers are Germans, therefore they are Nazis. They are in league with Amin, who wanted to build 'a memorial to Hitler'. Their sole purpose is to launch a pogrom against the Jews, refugees from the Nazi concentration camps. Israel stands alone — 'as usual we are alone again'. David slays Goliath — 20 Ugandan soldiers, seven terrorists and three hostages.

This unscrupulous fabrication is a pack of lies from start to finish. It is the kind of amalgam of falsehood and innuendo that would have done credit to the Third Reich itself.

Commandant

Everything is slipped in to distort. The German girl hi-jacker is portrayed as a camp commandant. The old Belgian Jew looks into the eyes of the German hi-jacker and shows him his tattooed Dachau number.

ENTEBBE RAID

Just a crude piece of Zionist propaganda



Yonatan Netanyahu (Richard Dreyfuss) of the Israeli commandos, begins the raid

'What's the difference,' he says, 'between you and the Nazis? It's the same thing.'

That's the theme constantly harped upon to justify the racist, Zionist regime. For Zionism is racist and imperialist. It preaches the 'exclusive destiny of the Jewish race'.

Target

Its target is the Arab-Palestinian masses whom it exploits to maintain its imperialist backed and sponsored state. As everywhere else, it is used to divide the working class — the Jewish worker from the Arab worker.

The foul racialism of Hitler that sent millions of Jews to the gas chamber has the same root as the racialism of Zionism — the degeneration of imperialism throughout the world.

To invoke Hitler's murder of countless Jews to justify Zionism, its oppression of the Palestinians and eviction from their homelands, is a cynical violation of the victims of

Dachau.

This hastily cobbled film is just a blunt tool of the counter-revolution — crude, hypocritical and dishonest.

A protest against its propaganda must go out from the British labour and trade union movement.

In Japan five Arab Ambassadors protested against the film when it was released there for its 'one-sided, Israeli propaganda'. It has subsequently been withdrawn from release.

The same must happen here.

Struggle

The film of the century yet to be made is the struggle of the Palestinians, thrown out of their own country, hounded, betrayed, conspired against by every reactionary regime, massacred, facing every known odds, but determined to fight for their liberation and the liberation of the oppressed Arab masses.

That film no one in Hollywood seems rushing to make.



Edra Vilnofsky (Elizabeth Taylor) pleads with Yitzhak Rabin (Anthony Hopkins) while Herschel Vilnofsky (Kirk Douglas) looks on

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SOCCER



Jim Platt... Dropped by Charlton after a tactics row

JACK DROPS N°.1 KEEPER

BY BRENDAN MARTIN

JACK Charlton, the Middlesbrough manager, has dropped regular goalkeeper Jim Platt after a row over tactics.

Platt was down to play against Everton on Wednesday night at Goodison Park. But the pair had a disagreement and Platt was left out.

Jack Charlton said yesterday: 'The disagreement is personal and private.' Platt said: 'I'm a bit upset about the situation but I have nothing against Middlesbrough.'

Platt has been an automatic choice for several years and earlier this month he played his 250th league match. Pat Cuff, who replaced Platt against Everton, will play at home to Stoke tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Gordon Lee, manager of north-east rivals Newcastle, explained yesterday why he spent £80,000 on

Chesterfield goalkeeper Steve Hardwick.

Lee revealed that the career of Roger Jones, transferred from Blackburn last March, is in jeopardy because of an injury to his right knee.

Lee said: 'I had to buy Hardwick as insurance against an injury to our first-choice goalkeeper Mike Mahoney. A specialist has refused to allow Jones to play, and I cannot argue with a specialist.'

'We were caught out last season when we had our two experienced goalkeepers injured at the same time and I could not allow that to happen again.'

Lee stressed, however, that Mahoney keeps his place against Manchester City at St James' Park tomorrow. Hardwick joins his new teammates on Tyneside this morning.

Row over tactics

CONTEH TURNS DOWN

LOW PURSE

JOHN CONTEH, the world light-heavyweight champion, has rejected an offer to defend his title in London against Miguel Angel Cuello of Argentina.

Promoter Mike Barrett, who had offered Conteh a guarantee

of £50,000, with the option of 40 per cent of all receipts, said yesterday: 'Conteh's reason for turning me down was that the purse was insufficient. I had already received a cable from Cuello to say he was willing to fight in London.'

JAGO'S WORLD

With a little bit of the old razzamataz thrown in

BOB PAISLEY'S pre-Christmas present of a seven-year contract with Liverpool overshadowed the news that Gordon Jago was to be given a three-year contract by Millwall.

But if Liverpool's faith in Paisley was unexpected in a month when two successful managers departed, Jago's faith in his unglamorous Second Division club was even more so.

One of the most respected coaches in the game, and a man whose mind is overflowing with ideas for improving the game, both on and off the field, Jago had turned down lucrative offers from Everton and America in recent years.

Yet here he was, tying himself to a club with no tradition of success, a ramshackle ground and average gates of only 7,600 last season. 'The very fact that there is so much to do attracted me,' says Jago.

'It is a barren area, but it is a challenge too. Millwall will never be a fashionable club. I do not particularly want it to be, but it has a special character.'

'There is a homely character and I believe that can be built on to make it a successful club on the field and at the gate.'

The 44-year-old former QPR manager's words may seem like wishful thinking for Millwall, but his ideas are serious. 'You can no longer announce the game, open the and expect the people to come in,' he says.

'You must make their visit worthwhile, interesting and enjoyable.'

Jago saw what such promotion can do while managing Baltimore in the United States. The local American football club boosted their attendances from 5,000 to over 50,000 by involving the whole community.

'Players visited local supporters' clubs, buses took families and parties from the club to the ground, there were open days at the stadium and scores of special events involving players and supporters. They even made the players live in the city,' says Jago.

Last Saturday, Millwall gave away 10,000 cigars to supporters in the latest of Jago's promotion schemes. 'These give-aways are common in America,' he says, 'but they are only an eye-catching part of the plan.'

'Entertainment before the game and at half-time are others.'

Football remains Jago's number one priority and despite the lack of cash at Millwall he has built a side already attracting praise.

Careful shopping in the game's bargain basement, bringing in stars like Trevor Lee and Phil Walker from amateur football, and suiting his style to the players available has taken Millwall into the Second Division promotion race.

Jago has many more ideas and feels that his three-year contract is just the right timetable for seeing his plans materialise.



Trevor Lee... One of Jago's 'finds' from amateur football

Dornan walks out at Sheffield

PETER Dornan, Sheffield United's recent signing from Linfield, has walked out on the club and is on his way back to Ireland.

The 23-year-old midfielder, who joined United for £30,000 from Linfield on December 4, was yesterday transferred back to his former club. He played one full game for Sheffield and twice came on as

substitute.

United manager Jimmy Sirrel said: 'He told me he did not want to be a professional footballer. He did not like the life and was not enjoying playing. He just walked out.'

'He had no grouse with the club. I am sorry we have had to let him go home again as he had tremendous potential.'

RUGBY LEAGUE

Featherstone look to top again

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS, convinced they are capable of winning the Rugby League Championship this season for the first time, have an excellent chance of improving their title prospects this weekend.

With the championship situation opening out after the Christmas defeat of leaders ST HELENS, Featherstone are at home to WAKEFIELD TRINITY on Sunday and look certain to capture both points.

Struggling in the relegation zone, Wakefield have been badly hit by injuries and it is a commentary on the changing fortunes of the

game to remember that just 12 months ago they were the League leaders.

There are signs though that Wakefield are finding touches of their old form and with the example of players like full-back Trevor Widgely to spur them, they should soon start to climb.

St Helens face a difficult trip again on Sunday, when they meet WIDNES, having been beaten last week by another neighbouring club, WIGAN.

Match of the weekend programme promises to be tomorrow at Wheldon Road, where fourth-placed CASTLEFORD take on second-placed BRADFORD. Castleford drew at Featherstone on Monday, while Bradford whipped WARRINGTON 26-7 in their last outing.

Steve Norton, the Castleford and England loose forward, sent off in the BBC 2 Floodlit Trophy final against LEIGH, was suspended for one match by the R.L. disciplinary committee in Leeds yesterday.

Other decisions were: G Ballantyne (Wakefield Trinity) four matches; Alan Hodgkinson (Rochdale) three matches; A Banks (Workington Town) two matches; C Dixon (Salford) two; A Dearden (Widnes) two; E Prescott (Salford) one; O Mahoney (Oldham) one.

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Helens	15	10	1	4	264	183	21
Bradford Nthn	12	8	2	2	239	124	18
Featherstone R	13	6	2	3	221	150	18
Castleford	12	7	1	4	223	162	15
Wigan	12	7	1	4	210	191	15
Hull K.R.	14	7	1	6	211	214	15
Salford	14	6	1	7	231	233	13
Leeds	13	6	1	6	186	190	13
Workington	13	6	1	6	135	149	13
Widnes	10	6	0	4	165	147	12
Warrington	14	6	0	8	237	256	12
Oldham	14	6	0	8	189	206	12
Leigh	13	5	1	7	168	215	11
Wakefield	14	4	2	8	222	232	10
Barrow	13	4	0	9	141	273	8
Rochdale	14	2	0	12	164	281	4

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dewsbury	12	10	0	2	188	86	20
Hull	11	9	0	2	257	89	18
York	13	9	0	4	214	158	18
Huyton	14	9	0	5	197	196	18
Keighley	12	7	1	4	183	112	15
New Hunslet	12	7	1	4	169	139	15
Swinton	11	6	2	3	151	122	14
Huddersfield	13	5	0	8	214	166	10
Bramley	10	5	0	5	158	180	10
Halifax	12	5	0	7	134	159	10
Batley	13	4	1	8	140	232	9
Whitehaven	12	4	0	8	134	172	8
Blackpool	11	1	1	9	99	177	3
Doncaster	12	0	0	12	111	363	0

STATE BID

FOR THE BOOKIES

WEALTHY bookmakers, accused of sucking profits from the racing industry, reacted angrily yesterday to a Tote plan for the nationalisation of Britain's 14,000 betting shops.

The big four chains, William Hills, Ladbrokes, Mecca and Joe Coral all hit out at the scheme aimed at ploughing betting profits back into the hard-up industry.

Wishful

Ladbrokes said: 'This is pure Alice in Wonderland stuff.' A Hills spokesman claimed: 'The proposals are wishful thinking and would deprive the punter of the benefit of shopping around'. Tote chairman Woodrow Wyatt, the former Labour MP, says his plan, which goes to the Royal Commission on

Gambling, is vital for the future of racing in Britain.

Yesterday he declared war on the big bookmakers in no uncertain terms. 'They have sucked out profits from the racing industry to spend on hotels, casinos, marinas, amusement centres and so on.

They've had a good run. Their profits have been enormous and the bonanza must come to an end. So long as the racing industry suffers this haemorrhage there will never be enough money to make Britain a leading racing nation again.'

The duty on horserace betting raises £109m a year. The privately owned bookmakers pay a mere £9.5m

to the levy board,' Wyatt said.

'£118.5m are available to the state and racing in Britain. £371m are available to the state and racing in France. Those are the important figures.

Across the Channel where they order things differently, with approximately the same amount bet on horses yearly in France as in Britain, the French racing industry flourishes while the British racing industry declines.

'Off the course, the Tote proposes a gradual takeover by the Tote of all bookmaking businesses whether in cash betting shops or in credit offices. The change of ownership from private

bookmakers to the Tote would take from three to seven years.'

The number of shops would be cut back to about 8,000 under the Tote's plan. Wyatt said the cost of buying out the betting shops would be about £20m.

The Tote calculates that if it were to run a state betting monopoly, some £240m would be available for distribution between the state and racing.

Standard

The standard of British racing would be raised immediately. Amenities of racecourses would be dramatically improved.

It would be possible to reduce admission charges.

Attendances at race meetings would increase,' Wyatt said.

In addition to their state betting monopoly proposals which will be bitterly contested by bookmakers, the Tote makes further controversial proposals by recommending horse racing should take place on Sundays, with full on-and-off course betting facilities.

The Tote considers horseracing is part of the leisure industry and must compete with other activities on Saturdays and Sundays — the biggest leisure days of the week.

But it is stressed that to promote racing as a spectacle only on Sundays would be self-defeating without the opportunity to bet both off and on the course.

William Hill

BY PAUL FELDMAN

Tote plan brings angry business reaction



One of Britain's 14,000 betting shops the Tote wants to take over

Villa plan to spend £1m on new stand

ASTON Villa are to spend £1 million on a new luxury stand at the Witton End of their ground. The project starts next month and is expected to be completed by late August.

The stand will seat 4,000 with terrace room for approximately 6,000 standing, all of whom will be under cover. It has been specifically designed to accommodate 38 executive boxes which will house six people at a cost of between £6,000 and £7,500 for a three-year lease.

The revenue from the boxes alone will bring Villa an estimated £250,000 every three years, and while crowd capacity will be reduced by 2,000 to 54,000 they will have increased their seating to 20,000.

Conroy will miss New Year games

FIVE players with an accumulation of 20 points have been suspended by the FA disciplinary committee.

Three of them will not be able to play in the New Year programme on Saturday and Monday. They are Terry Conroy (Stoke) whose two-match ban begins on January 1, Mick Packer (Colchester) suspended for three games also from January 1, and George McBeth (Stockport) with two matches from December 31.

Tony Kenworth (Sheffield United) with a two-match ban commencing January 3, will be able to play on New Year's day, but not on Monday, but for Sam Allardice of Bolton two matches beginning January 4 means that he is clear for his club's important holiday promotion games.

Law says no to Irish games

Dennis Law, capped 56 times for Scotland, yesterday turned down a chance to play for League of Ireland side Athlone Town.

FULHAM CHALLENGE LEAGUE OVER BEST'S CONTRACT

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

FULHAM have thrown down a challenge to the authority of the Football League over the contract of George Best.

They have refused to give the League an undertaking that Best will complete the season with them before returning to America.

Best will play at Cardiff tomorrow if he recovers from injury, despite a statement by the League that his registration is subject to the undertaking from the Second Division club.

In a letter to the League, Fulham have questioned the authority of the management committee's

power to impose such a condition.

The club's argument is that it is unfair to treat Best different to any other Fulham player, especially as Bobby Moore, and possibly Rodney Marsh, will return to play summer soccer in the United States.

The League have been unhappy about Best's contract obligations since he joined Fulham from Los Angeles Aztecs in August. For that reason, they said at the time that his registration would be reviewed at the end of the year.

Before Christmas, League secretary Alan Hardaker hinted that Best had been given the go-ahead to play for the

rest of the season, but Fulham received the demand for an undertaking concerning the player on December 23.

They sent their reply on Wednesday. Graham Hortop, the club secretary, declined to comment whether Best, who has been attracting large crowds around the country, would be returning to America before the end of Fulham's League season.

In the letter, Fulham state:

'We have not been able to find a reference in any rule in the regulations of the Football League to a registration subject to a review, nor for that matter have we found any rule which could empower the

management committee to impose such a condition.'

The club undertakes that regarding Best, Fulham will abide by the rules and regulations of the League, not vary his contract without prior notice and deal with any application Best might make to leave before the end of the season in the same way as it would with any other player.

Fulham want to know if the League has asked any other club to give a similar undertaking to one the club is being asked to give.

Whether the League has such power is doubtful. But when challenged over its authority in the past, the management committee has invoked an all-embracing clause which gives them powers over almost anything.



GEORGE BEST... Back to States?