

THE TIMES

Steel strike is called off as men agree to inquiry

A threat of a national strike by the National Union of Blastfurnacemen was lifted last night when the union agreed to a public inquiry into dispute over a new plant at Llanwern, South Wales. More than 4,000 steelmen who were ready on strike were expected to begin working to work at 6 am today.

Prospect of return to work this morning

Mr Jones, National Union of Blastfurnacemen last night called off threatened national steel strike. A public inquiry is to be held into the dispute over a new plant at Llanwern, South Wales. More than 4,000 steelmen who were expected to return to work at 6 am today.

to reconsider their positions after the findings are made known. Although no date has been fixed for the inquiry, both sides are anxious for it to be held as quickly as possible. British Steel has agreed to a public inquiry into the dispute over a new plant at Llanwern, South Wales.

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Miss Hearst sends a defiant message

From Peter Strafford New York, Sept 19

Miss Patricia Hearst, the runaway heiress arrested yesterday in San Francisco, today sent out a defiant message to the radical community: "Tell everybody that she's smiling, and that she feels free and strong, and sends her greetings to the brothers and sisters out there", her lawyer said after seeing her.

The message, together with her manner in court last night, showed that Miss Hearst remained firmly committed to the radicalism she has professed for the past year and a half; when she had to enter her profession on being taken to prison yesterday, she put down "urban guerrilla".

This attitude is not preventing her from trying to get a reduction in her bail, however. This has been seen at a total of over \$1m (£478,000) after federal charges in both San Francisco and Los Angeles, and Mr Terrence Hallinan, her lawyer, has said that he will try to have it reduced at a hearing later today.

Altogether, Miss Hearst faces a bewildering array of criminal charges, which could lead to many years in jail. She is accused of bank robbery in San Francisco and of illegal use of firearms in Los Angeles, both federal charges. In addition, she faces 19 state charges, ranging from kidnapping to armed robbery.

In the meantime, she will be undergoing intensive questioning by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on her activities over the past year and a half.

Miss Hearst was arrested in a flat in the Mission district of San Francisco, a shabby area very different from the sort of background that she grew up in. There is some dispute over the exact sequence of events which led to her arrest, with different FBI agents giving different versions, but it appears to have been the result of a routine check on the movements of people associated with the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA).

Miss Wendy Yoshimura, a friend who also has radical leanings, was arrested with her. Only an hour or so before, the FBI had also arrested Mr and Mrs William Harris, two members of the SLA, who are thought to have travelled around the United States with Miss Hearst.

FBI agents said that they had found about 10 automatic weapons inside the flat where Miss Hearst and Miss Yoshimura were arrested. Several other automatic weapons, some explosives and two gas masks were found in the house in another part of San Francisco where Mr and Mrs Harris had been living.

When she appeared in court, Miss Hearst seemed confident and unworried. She smiled a lot, and gave a clenched fist salute. The colour of her hair had been changed to reddish. She wore a purple T-shirt, khaki corduroys and dirty rubber sandals. She chewed gum.

Early today, her parents visited her in prison for what must have been a delicate meeting. They arrived with a bouquet of yellow roses and made no attempt to discuss the kidnapping and subsequent events according to what they said afterwards. They confined themselves to family matters.

When they left, they seemed relieved. "She was happy", Mr Randolph Hears said. "She really wants to come home". Mrs Hears added: "We told her we loved her and begged her to leave her. We just said we loved each other."

Mr Hears was asked if he would raise the bail money for his daughter. He replied: "I think so."

Mr and Mrs Hears have been at the centre of the case since it began. Soon after Miss Hearst was kidnapped on February 4, 1974, the SLA demanded that they should provide large quantities of free food for the people of San Francisco. This they did at the cost of some \$2m.



A smiling Miss Hearst leaves prison for her appearance in the San Francisco federal court.

Subsequently, however, Miss Hearst announced that she was staying with the SLA. She also proceeded to abuse her parents as "pig Hears" and as representatives of the rich, corporate interests.

In a press conference in Kansas City today, Mr Clarence Kelley, the Director of the FBI, went to some pains to deny the arrest of Miss Hearst and her associates had been a fluke. He added that he was disappointed that the FBI had never been able to infiltrate the SLA.

"Yes, it frightens me, and it concerns me that we cannot get into a similar revolutionary group, which want to overthrow our government and use the weapon of violence."

Unanswered questions, page 12

Washington, Sept 19.—Dr Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State, said that the United States is discussing the possibility of a long-term agreement to purchase oil from the Soviet Union. He also said that he believed the interim peace agreement between Israel and Egypt had reduced the chances of another embargo by Arab oil-producing states.

"We are discussing with the Soviet Union the possibility of purchasing Soviet oil", he told the Congressional Joint Committee on Foreign Relations during a session on the foreign policy implications of United States oil policy.

Asked if it would be to the advantage of the United States to have a long-term agreement with the Soviet Union, he replied: "That is exactly what we are discussing."

But this was a long-term project, Dr Kissinger commented. "Dr Kissinger said that another oil embargo was a distinct possibility in the event of a new Middle East war. But he said in response to a question from Senator Edward Kennedy (Democrat, Massachusetts):

Dublin resentful at British failure to discuss Ulster crisis

From Christopher Walker Dublin

The recent deterioration in the political and security situation in Northern Ireland has caused a serious and relatively unpublicized rift in diplomatic relations between the governments of Britain and the Irish Republic.

It has been brought to a head by the collapse of Mr William Craig's last-minute attempt to engineer a moderate initiative among members of the dominant "loyalist" coalition in Ulster's constitutional convention.

The latest developments in Ulster and the receding possibility of any agreed political settlement emerging soon were discussed at a meeting of the Irish Cabinet in Dublin yesterday. Although no official statement was issued afterwards, it is understood that there is growing dissatisfaction among ministers about recent British handling of the situation.

Feelings have been put out in recent weeks, but the Irish Government has not yet persuaded the British Government to agree to any official meetings at ministerial level. Privately, that has caused considerable resentment in Dublin, where an early top-level meeting had been expected after the spat of sectarian murders in the border areas of south Antrim.

In Dublin political circles, the lack of confidence in the policies of the British Government is widely recognized and often discussed. Many leading Irish politicians point to the irony that they are now arguing alongside the Ulster loyalists for

an immediate hardening of British security policy in all parts of Northern Ireland.

Describing the growing disillusion in the Irish Cabinet towards the British attitude, a senior Dublin official said yesterday: "Things are not good. But they have to be seen in the context of a marriage which is going through a bad patch, rather than one which has found itself completely on the rocks."

Senior members of the Irish Government have kept in close contact with politicians from the mainly Roman Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party in recent weeks. Neither side has been anxious to disclose the outcome of the discussions, but it is known that they share a conviction that Britain has increased the credibility of the Provisional IRA by continuing its private discussions with representatives of the political wing, Provisional Sinn Fein.

The feeling that some sort of secret deal has been reached between the British Government and the Provisionals is as widespread in Dublin as it is in Belfast, and is having a similarly damaging effect on Westminster's credibility.

Considerable satisfaction has been expressed in the Irish Republic after the news that Mr Craig will pursue his campaign for a possible compromise, despite the overwhelming rejection of his plans at Thursday's meeting of the United Ulster Unionist Coalition.

It was disclosed yesterday that Mr Craig will resign his

Continued on page 2, col 4

New Government of Portugal sworn in

Lisbon, Sept 19.—Admiral Pinheiro de Azevedo was sworn in today as Prime Minister by the new Government dominated by Socialist and centrist civilians and moderate military officers.

The composition of Portugal's sixth provisional Government is seen as a sharp setback to Communist political ambitions. Admiral Azevedo called his Cabinet a "Government of national salvation" and set it to work to heal Portugal's deep social divisions, rescue its faltering economy and restore respect for the law.

By giving the Socialists the largest number of civilian Cabinet posts and reducing Communist representation to a single seat, the Government for the first time reflected the results of the only free elections the military regime has conducted.

The televised swearing-in ceremony took place at the presidential Palace at 9.35 pm, after a three-hour delay caused by late minute squabbling over individual Cabinet posts.

Setting the keynote, President Costa Gomes said in his speech of investiture of the new Government: "The Government must work for the stability, re-launching of the economy, peace, security, order and liberty are the profound desires of the Portuguese people, whose will is sovereign."

The Revolutionary Council and the Government will work to the confidence of the people."

Dr Kissinger also gave a warning to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) against further oil price increases at its forthcoming meeting, saying that it would be in nobody's interest and "can only endanger the dialogue we seek."

Dr Kissinger said that China's entrance into the world market as an important oil supplier should ease the situation by undercutting the ability of Opec to set the price of oil unilaterally. This would be true even if Peking did not send the oil directly to the United States.—Reuters and UPI

Senator Kennedy criticized President Ford's \$2 (about £1) a barrel tax on imported oil, saying that it might lead to producing nations to raise the United States could afford even higher oil prices. Dr Kissinger defended the tariff as necessary to reduce American dependence on imported oil.

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In its political programme the new Government is committed to political pluralism and though it foresees the development of a classless socialist society, it specifically rejects the use of violence or dictatorship to achieve this long-term aim.

In its foreign policy the new Government promises to be oriented towards the West. The programme reaffirms Portugal's allegiance to the Atlantic Alliance and Major Ernesto Melo Antunes, the Foreign Minister, is on record as seeing Portugal's future tied to the Western community.

While Admiral Azevedo is considered a leftist, he is not regarded as a pro-Communist. His Cabinet, in any case, leans strongly towards the centre.

He is a career naval officer considered ideologically acceptable to the country's rival military and civilian political groups. Born in Luanda, Angola, 58 years ago, Admiral Azevedo was named Chief of Staff of the Navy five days after the military coup, which ended nearly 50 years of right-wing rule on April 25, 1974.

He is considered a close associate of President da Costa Gomes.

He was his country's naval attaché in London from 1968 to 1971, but returned to active duty as commander of the Marine Corps until the April 1974 coup.—AP, UPI and Reuters

Earlier reports, page 4

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2500 BC wreck found off Greece

From Mario Miliann Athens, Sept 19

Underwater explorers in Greece have identified near the island of Hydra the wreckage of an early bronze-age ship—the earliest known shipwreck in the world. It dates probably from about 2500 BC, as its cargo consisted of pottery typical of that period.

Mr George Papanassopoulos, the archaeologist in charge of submarine antiquities, who is also president of the Hellenic Institute of Marine Archaeology, said today: "This is an amazing discovery, unique in the annals of archaeology."

"The study of the earliest wreckage of a sea-going wooden ship is bound to reveal new facts about the construction of ancient ships, as well as navigational and trading skills in antiquity."

The wreckage was discovered by chance by a team of archaeology researchers led by Mr Peter Throckmorton, the American expert on ancient ships and underwater archaeology. He said: "We spotted it while skin diving in a small bay of Onkos, the inlet between Hydra and the mainland. The ship lies about 65 to 70m down. It is the oldest in the world."

He explained that on the seabed there were two heaps of broken pottery and "a lot of things in between" and sand underneath. "Shipwrecks are usually a bunch of broken pots on a reef", he said. "There is usually nothing left of the ship."

"The good, beautiful shipwrecks where we have wood and treasures are rare in a thousand years. It is estimated that about one twentieth of the original wood of the ship was still there."

"Imagine there is a harbour", Mr Throckmorton said, "and suddenly the wind changes. They try to set out but they hit a rock at the entrance of the harbour."

"The hull splits in two pieces and sinks 65ft below." He added that a heap of stones, which must have been the ballast of this particular ship, was found by the divers about 25ft down, "near where the ship must have struck the rock."

As soon as the Greek archaeological service was notified, Mr Papanassopoulos was sent to Hydra and joined Mr Throckmorton in the diving. They surfaced with 25 sherds of pottery. There were cooking pots, jug-cups, and especially the saucy-bowls typical of the Ceramic ware in early Bronze Age II.

"There was nothing that was outside that period", they said. "The discovery was quite fortuitous. Mr Throckmorton is the technical adviser of the Institute of Marine Archaeology. He had obtained financing from the American National Geographic Society and had commissioned a 48-ton caïque for a programme of exploration off the island of Hydra on behalf of the institute."

He added that the only things known about the Cycladic ships came from ships designed on clay pottery of that period. This is why they are known to archaeologists as the "frying-pan ships."

Mr Throckmorton said: "A ship would look like a centipede and might have 20 to 30 oars on each side. "One end has a ram which may be the bow or the stern. The other had a high structure

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Measures on less in 7s rather 7n weeks

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Mr Thorpe seeks City aid for votes reform

From Michael Hestfield Political Staff Scarborough

Mr Thorpe, leader of the Liberal Party, said he was not sure that the Government has a realistic view of the unemployment problem. He said that the Government's policy of "get it right or get it wrong" was not working.

His speech will come at the end of the Liberal Assembly at Scarborough, which has provided no serious embarrassment, although quite clearly there is a divergence of views within the party's ranks. Mr Thorpe will no doubt want to sharpen the cutting edge of the party's attack to pare off the social democratic-reformist elements in the two main parties to the Liberal cause.

He freely admitted in a television interview yesterday that he had held talks with City financiers and businessmen to secure their support for electoral reform. He also said he had talked to trade unionists.

There were a number of people, he said, who made investment decisions who did not like change of policy and a half year and lack of continuity. There was a tremendous amount of enthusiasm for electoral reform.

Mr Thorpe, who was interviewed in ITN's First Report, said he had not asked for any money for the party, but he had said he was not averse from taking some, provided there were no strings attached.

When asked whether he had mentioned to the City interests their donations to the Conservative Party, Mr Thorpe replied that he had merely said he was interested that they had given money to the Tories, and they had not got value for their money.

It is being said at Scarborough that some businessmen have held back their donations to the Conservatives until they are assured by the leadership that the party supports electoral reform. Mr Thorpe and his colleagues believe that about £400,000 is being held back.

US ready to buy oil from Soviet Union

Washington, Sept 19.—Dr Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State, said that the United States is discussing the possibility of a long-term agreement to purchase oil from the Soviet Union.

He also said that he believed the interim peace agreement between Israel and Egypt had reduced the chances of another embargo by Arab oil-producing states.

"We are discussing with the Soviet Union the possibility of purchasing Soviet oil", he told the Congressional Joint Committee on Foreign Relations during a session on the foreign policy implications of United States oil policy.

Asked if it would be to the advantage of the United States to have a long-term agreement with the Soviet Union, he replied: "That is exactly what we are discussing."

But this was a long-term project, Dr Kissinger commented. "Dr Kissinger said that another oil embargo was a distinct possibility in the event of a new Middle East war. But he said in response to a question from Senator Edward Kennedy (Democrat, Massachusetts):

"The Sinai agreement has given us more time to work on an overall peace agreement. The danger of using oil as a weapon is more remote."

Senator Kennedy criticized President Ford's \$2 (about £1) a barrel tax on imported oil, saying that it might lead to producing nations to raise the United States could afford even higher oil prices. Dr Kissinger defended the tariff as necessary to reduce American dependence on imported oil.

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Britain 'recovering'

Mr Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, told the National Press Club in Washington, that she detected signs in Britain of a turn in public opinion towards the "tough choice" of hard work and sacrifice. There were signs of recovery.

Signs of recovery

Infiltration: "Communists and nihilists" had penetrated some of the commanding heights of the economy, a Conservative frontbench spokesman said yesterday.

Accused man's injury: Scotland Yard is inquiring into why one of the men accused in the Guildford and Woolwich public-house bombings trial appeared in the dock yesterday with a black eye.

Brussels: Mr Benn denies that there is any rift among EEC ministers on questions of energy.

Washington: Couple ask for the right to allow their brain-damaged daughter to die.

Redundancies: Nearly 2,000 workers will lose their jobs with the Plessey group as a result of cuts in orders.

Features, pages 6-12

Link theory in Glasgow shootings

Police investigating two shootings in Glasgow were working last night on the theory that they were linked.

Two hours after a man was shot and critically wounded in a street in Garthcarrick, a shot was fired through the door of a flat in the Gorbals, narrowly missing the householder.

It is a career naval officer considered ideologically acceptable to the country's rival military and civilian political groups. Born in Luanda, Angola, 58 years ago, Admiral Azevedo was named Chief of Staff of the Navy five days after the military coup, which ended nearly 50 years of right-wing rule on April 25, 1974.

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Earlier reports, page 4

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Japan 'will cut car exports'

The Japanese car industry has given an assurance that it will substantially cut its exports to Britain over the next four months. This follows a British warning that controls would be considered if there was no reduction.

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Rail jobs warning

The British Railways Board will face "an awfully rough ride" unless it gives an undertaking that there will be no compulsory redundancies for at least six months, Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said yesterday. Page 2

Urgent press study

No executions in Spain for week

None of the 10 political activists sentenced to death in Spain will be executed for at least a week because the Cabinet has not been formally notified of the sentences, as required by law. It will not meet again until next Friday.

Page 4

Brake on US prices

Consumer prices in the United States rose by only 0.2 per cent last month. This was the smallest monthly gain since July, 1973. The index had been expected to rise sharply after the large gain of 1.2 per cent in July. Page 17

Bad start in golf

Britain 'recovering'

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Accused man's injury: Scotland Yard is inquiring into why one of the men accused in the Guildford and Woolwich public-house bombings trial appeared in the dock yesterday with a black eye.

£500 A MONTH IS NOT OUTRAGEOUS!! ... IN THE VIDEO GAME BUSINESS Just arrived from Canada and the U.S. "The electronic 'video game' is quiet, very profitable and is seen in the best places." It seems to be the most sensational development since a Chicago firm introduced the first pin-ball machine back in 1930. "WALL STREET JOURNAL, March 18, 1974. This can be your own business, operated on a strictly cash basis, with no accounts receivable, no cheques. All your profits in cash, immediately. We can furnish full facts upon request, including documented potential earnings. Excellent locations available. FULL-OR PART-TIME, NO SELLING Minimum investment required from £1,500 Please write or phone for details to: Dale Bailey, Calgrant Ltd., 1 West Halkin Street, SW1. Tel: 01-235 2868 or 01-235 2867 Name Address Phone (between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.)

HOME NEWS

Railwaymen give warning of rough ride if board fails to pledge no redundancies for six months

By Paul Rontledge
Labour Editor
The National Union of Railwaymen, faced with a threat to dismiss 3,000 men this year, yesterday warned Mr. Marsh, chairman of the British Railways Board, that unless he gave an undertaking of no compulsory redundancies for at least six months, the industry would be in for "a awfully rough ride".

farther at yesterday's talks with the unions than undertaking to consider the NUR's plan for reducing the wages bill without dismissing any men. The railwaymen have proposed a tougher but unspecified cutback to overtime, rest day and Sunday working, which costs British Rail about £158m a year, or a fifth of all wage costs.

Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the union, said that all three rail unions supported the move to prevent redundancies. He gave a warning that even if British Rail settled the wages crisis on the unions' terms, there would be fewer goods and passenger services.

Mr Dowson is sorry for Rank shareholders

Mr Graham Dowson, who was dismissed on Thursday by the Rank Organisation, yesterday met his solicitors to assess how much he would be left with after taxation.

Four men convicted in male prostitution trial

Four men were convicted in a homosexual prostitution trial at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Home loans by local authorities cost more

By Christopher Warmao
More than 100 local authorities are having to charge higher interest rates than the building societies for home loans because of the special tax arrangements for societies, according to a survey published by the National Housing and Town Planning Council yesterday.

Announcement soon on employment measures

Continued from page 1
self-help and voluntary work. Price freezes and consumer subsidies were no answer. There should be an attempt to avoid over-regulation.

Increase in crime by robbery

Crimes in England continues in 10 Office figures of day. Offences in this year of 1975 are 8 per cent higher than in 1974.

Inquiry by Post Office on night duty 'frauds'

The Post Office has started an inquiry into overtime and night duty payments made to thousands of staff throughout Britain. The move, ordered by Sir William Ryland, the chairman, comes after a five-week investigation in Glasgow, where it is understood, 15 workers have been suspended.

'Communist infiltration increasing'

By Our Political Staff
Infiltration by communists and nihilists had become a "growth industry" in Britain, Mr Eldon Griffiths, MP for Bury St Edmunds and an Opposition frontbench spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said last night.

febric could start to come apart. Mrs Jill Knight, Conservative MP for Edgborough, told a meeting of wongso Conservatives and Labour members that the British trade union movement was rapidly becoming a communist organisation.

'American bloomer': Middle-of-the-road Conservatives were privately severely criticising Mrs Margaret Thatcher's performance in America, Mr Walter Johnson, Labour MP for Derby, South, said last night.

Lloyd George letters

David Lloyd George and Frances Stevenson were lovers for just over 20 years until October, 1943, when they were legally married. Their intimate correspondence appears for the first time in The Sunday Times tomorrow, in extracts from My Darling Puss (Letters, 1913-41) edited by A. J. P. Taylor, to be published shortly by Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

'Wilson could go' warning

The Prime Minister has been given a warning that he could be ousted from Downing in his constituency, Hydon, as part of the battle between the Labour Party's left wing and the moderates.

54 juvenile fans cleared but called 'perjurors'

Fifty-four football supporters who were under 17 when they and 62 other youths were arrested after incidents in Bristol, 13 months ago, arising out of a Football League Cup game between Bristol City and Cardiff City, have been cleared at Bristol Juvenile Court yesterday.

Craig campaign for Ulster coalition to be launched

Continued from page 1
loyalist paramilitary organisations. Already all of those with any influence, apart from the militant Ulster Volunteer Force, have come out on his side.

Post office men hurt by raiders

Mr Haskon Kasch, aged 61, of Hynton, Merseyside, a Post Office employee, yesterday underwent an emergency operation for a fractured skull sustained when he and a colleague were attacked by three armed raiders who got away with mailbags containing £9,000.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded
Sun rises: 6.42 am Sun sets: 7.5 pm
Moon rises: 6.45 am Moon sets: 6.40 pm

Prosecution over was tip death

Essex County yesterday that it had been driven out of the letting market because of housing legislation.

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SCHOOLS PROM
Classical · Folk · Jazz
Royal Albert Hall
Tuesday 4 November 1975 at 7 p.m.
An evening like no other...
Perhaps the most exciting evening in the history of young people's music-making will take place at the Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday, 4 November, 1975.

Mr F. F. Marston
Mr F. F. Marston, Head Reader of The Times, retired last night after 30 years' service with the paper. He began on Reynolds News as a boy of 15, and was a wartime lecturer on current affairs.

Film 'turned boy of 16 into fire-raiser'

A mother yesterday blamed the film, The Towering Inferno, for turning her teenage son into a fire-raiser. The film made something of a splash in the town, she said. "We learnt later that, unknown to us, he had gone back to see the film again and again. After seeing the film, he changed."

Mr Smith added that Torbin primary school and St John's parish church were destroyed by fires started by the boy. The damage was estimated at £400,000 and £300,000 respectively.

Weather forecast and recordings
Today Sun rises: 6.42 am Sun sets: 7.5 pm
Moon rises: 6.45 am Moon sets: 6.40 pm
Full Moon: 12.50 pm
Lighting up: 7.35 pm to 6.14 am.

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HOME NEWS

Commission to start urgent press investigation

A Staff Reporter The Royal Commission on the Press is to start an urgent investigation of the immediate difficulties facing national newspapers...

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Two basset hounds and their owners at the Ladies' Kennel Association Championship Show at Olympia, London, yesterday.

Professor wants 'oil rig army'

By Roger Vielvove Energy Correspondent A new military agency charged with protecting Britain's offshore oil and gas installations is suggested as the best means of preventing a surprise attack by politically motivated terrorist groups...

Chastagat Service seemed difficult to oppose. The greatest danger to Britain's oil and gas supplies came from terrorist action, Professor Watts said.

Mr Jenkins orders four to be held

By a Staff Reporter Mr. Jenkins, the Home Secretary, yesterday signed detention orders under the Prevention of Terrorism Act for four people detained by the police near the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday.

Bomb trial man arrives late with black eye

By Clive Borrell The trial of three Irishmen and a woman accused of being involved in the Guildford and Woolwich public house bombings last year was delayed for 45 minutes at the Central Criminal Court yesterday when one of the men arrived late in the dock with a black eye.

Hospital workers seek £6 rise as 'entitlement'

Leaders of Britain's 250,000 health service ancillary workers have lodged a claim for a £5-a-week pay rise under the Government pay policy, to take effect from the second week in December.

Impact of £6 pay limit on living standard assessed

By a Staff Reporter A guide to estimating the impact on living standards of the £6 pay limit was published yesterday by the Labour Research Department, an independent trade union research organization.

Medical services in Bradford have to be rationed

Medical services in Bradford are being rationed because of a shortage of staff, it was announced yesterday by the Bradford District Council.

Soldiers hurt in crash

Six soldiers were injured, one seriously, when a lorry carrying Royal Engineers overturned near a road junction at Farnborough, Hampshire, yesterday.

Martti Talyela ill

Martti Talyela has been forced to cancel his recital tomorrow at the Queen Elizabeth Hall because of influenza.

Merseyside plans to win people back

From Our Correspondent Liverpool A new structure plan for Merseyside calls for a reversal of the policy of decentralization, to overspill estates and to new towns, and for bringing the people back into the conurbation to develop more jobs and investment in the county.

Fingerprints protest over Davis sitdown

From Our Correspondent Leeds Police who arrested 11 supporters of George Davis during a sitdown protest were criticized by a solicitor at Leeds Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Mr Barrington Black said Leeds police acted "entirely improperly" in asking for fingerprints. It was also "extremely disgraceful", he said, to keep the accused in cells for 24 hours.

Mr Black was representing six of the 11 who were accused of obstruction. All 11, including two women, were fined £5 each and pleaded guilty.

Six more charged with tourist board frauds

From Our Correspondent Great Yarmouth Five more men and a woman appeared in court at Great Yarmouth yesterday after further arrests by detectives investigating alleged insurance frauds.

All six were charged with conspiring to defraud the English Tourist Board. They were remanded until October 10 on bail of £200 each and a surety of £200, except one man, who was bailed for £10,000 with two sureties of £5,000 each.

Jailed burglar's car seized

A judge yesterday ordered that the car of a man jailed for two years for burglary should be sold and the money used to compensate his victims partly.

Town starts off £1,000 lottery

Breckley, Northamptonshire, hopes to raise £20,000 for a new sports centre from a lottery to help finance its sports centre.

Setland air link bid

Orkney Islands Council is to seek representations to the Civil Aviation Authority to reconsider its refusal of a licence to British Airways for a Setland-Bergen service.

EEC MPs to call for drug companies curb

By George Clark Political Correspondent Labour MPs at the European Parliament in Luxembourg next week will support a demand that the EEC should exert stricter controls over the activities of pharmaceutical firms in Europe.

The debate will turn on a report, made available at the House of Commons yesterday, which states that pharmaceutical laboratories of multinational companies in Europe are putting on the market useless and even dangerous products, claiming them to be innovative and subjecting the consumer to a barrage of publicity.

The companies, it is alleged, frequently arrange among themselves to fix prohibitive prices and take advantage of the lack of European legislation to deflect the flow of trade between member states.

M Pierre Legorac, on behalf of the Socialist group, will initiate the debate. His report to the Parliament states: "It is estimated that 90 per cent of the medicaments put on the market each year are simply old products in a different guise, which make absolutely no contribution to medical science."

The report by the Socialist group says that the problem is complicated because some of the leading laboratories are in the United States and the enormous profits are passed through tax havens. It calls for a strengthening of

legislation by means of directives more strictly regulating the conditions under which medicines are manufactured, the fixing of prices, their introduction on to the market, their presentation and publicity, and imposing rigorous tests to determine not only their efficacy but also their non-toxicity.

Man in pain set fire to himself in car

From Our Correspondent Merthyr Tydfil A man who was living in constant pain from angina took a lunchtime drive to a mountain, where he poured petrol over himself and burnt himself to death in his car, it was stated at an inquest at Merthyr Tydfil yesterday.

When the charred body of Mr Lawrence Noel Mason, aged 59, was found on the Gelliger mountain, in mid-Glamorgan, it was so badly disfigured that only a ring and a cigarette lighter enabled police to identify him.

The death occurred on August 22. Mr Ben Hamilton, the East Glamorgan coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide while the balance of the mind was disturbed. Mr Mason, of Llanfahan Road, Nelson, Mr John Edmunds, of Bedlinog, said he thought the car was being burnt as a scrap vehicle. "I stopped and had my sandwiches and looked at it burning. After a while I drove my car over the conno and stopped near the burning car. It was a burnt-out shell. I got closer and saw a charred body on the back seat", he said.

Advertisement for Augustus Barnett wine stores. Features a grid of wine bottles with prices and a list of store locations around London and Britain. Includes the slogan 'AUGUSTUS BARNETT BETTER WINES AT LOWER PRICES'.

LIBERAL ASSEMBLY/SCARBOROUGH

Call for disarmament and withdrawal from Nato rejected

From Our Parliamentary Staff

A resolution urging British withdrawal from Nato and all other military alliances, an end to recruiting in the Services, a phased withdrawal of troops from overseas, including Northern Ireland, and an end to all foreign bases in Britain, was defeated.

The resolution was proposed by Mr Steven Atrick, chairman of the League of Young Liberals. His proposal for a day on the sale of arms was endorsed.

The chances of war end violence were increased by such alliances as Nato. There could be no division in the party on the question of nuclear disarmament.

On arms sales, he said they could not proceed, as other countries had once the arms left Britain it was useless to do with them.

It would be totally irresponsible if we were to advocate an immediate withdrawal from Nato.

Lord Banks, chairman of the European subcommittee of the party's foreign affairs group, said that the resolution should not be reduced to a state of complete defencelessness.

Mr Bernard Emsd, QC, Fellowes and Mr Hythe, supporting the resolution, said that responsible lawyers had been increasingly concerned in recent years at the cost of litigation.

Mr Thorpe, the party leader, has sent a cable to General Franco, the Spanish dictator, calling for clemency for the three men and two women sentenced to death.

Mr Thorpe told the delegates that the Spanish Ambassador in London had told him that no decision on the condemned people would be taken before next Friday.

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Centralized control of transport deplored

From Michael Kemp

An amended resolution calling for the removal of over-centralized, bureaucratic control of all forms of public transport was agreed.

The National Bus Company in many rural areas was asking for subsidies with the implied threat that services would be cut if those were not forthcoming.

Mr Eric Robinson, Lamb, said that unless something serious was done immediately the country faced the prospect of a total breakdown of the public transport system.

Mr Clement Freud, MP for the Isle of Ely, referred to a proposal in the resolution for reform of legislation preventing car owners from charging for carrying passengers.

Mr Dick Wilson, chairman of Colchester Town Council, said that the resolution for reform of legislation preventing car owners from charging for carrying passengers.

Delegates rejected the proposal in the resolution urging withdrawal from Nato, an end to recruiting, the immediate closure of all non-British military bases, and withdrawal of troops from overseas.

There were some 30,000 people without homes, yet there were more than enough vacant homes, many owned by local councils, to house them.

Mr David Alton, prospective parliamentary candidate for Liverpool, said that there had been exploitation of tenants, profiteering, and wheeling and dealing in the basic human need of housing.

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WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

Communists to have only one seat in Lisbon government after moderates win tough battle

From Michael Kemp

A new Portuguese government was expected to be sworn in tonight and will include members of two rival parties so bitterly opposed to each other that they have refused to negotiate directly during the Cabinet forming process.

It will be the sixth provisional government since the overthrow of the right-wing Castelo dictatorship in April last year. Portugal has been without a government for three weeks since the ousting of General Vasco Gonçalves, the pro-Communist Prime Minister.

During that time the efforts of General Spínola, the Prime Minister designate, to form an administration have been severely hindered by the venomous antagonism between the Popular Democratic and Communist parties.

The Popular Democrats who won 26 per cent of the votes in the April elections, regard the Communists, who won 13 per cent, as an unduly influential minority.

Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, today placed down two questions in the House of Commons.

Speaking at a Brussels press conference at the end of a week's tour of four European capitals, Mr Benn was far removed in manner from the man of a few months ago who projected a nation of shopkeepers.

After calling for more openness in discussion, Mr Benn was elegantly evasive in reply to questions.

Mr Benn said that the only way for Britain to seek protection of its investment in the high-cost exploitation of North Sea deposits.

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EEC rift on energy denied by Mr Benn

From Michael Horisby

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No Spanish executions for at least a week

From Harry Dehelius

Due to the 10 political activists sentenced to death in Spain in the past three weeks, the Cabinet was not formally notified of the death sentences in Madrid tonight.

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Tory lead says West lost the thaw

From Fred Emery

Washington, Sept 19 Mrs Margaret Thatcher declared there were no British public opinion polls in the air.

At the same time she said that the Tories were losing the thaw.

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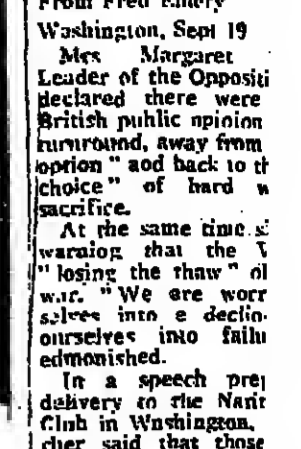
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Yevgeny Yevtushenko at Heathrow airport yesterday.

Yevtushenko is back in Britain

By Roger Berthoud

Yevgeny Yevtushenko, the Russian poet, is back in Britain after an absence of 13 years.

He arrived at Heathrow airport yesterday elegantly dressed in a green velvet suit, pink shirt and black leather coat.

Mr Yevtushenko's main business in Britain is to give a recital of his verse on Tuesday evening at the Cheltenham Festival of Literature.

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Italy urges practical steps to end EEC wine war

From Harry Dehelius

Venice, Sept 19—Italy today urged the EEC for immediate and practical action to solve its wine war with France.

The Italian delegation at an informal meeting of EEC agricultural ministers here emphasized the need to safeguard its vine growers against the effects of France's 12 per cent import levy on Italian wines.

According to informed sources, Mr Pierre Lardinois, the EEC Commissioner in charge of agriculture, said at today's meeting he hoped that, with good-will on all sides, a global solution to the problem could be achieved.

This would involve a new set of Community rules on the wine trade which would be agreed by formal meetings of EEC agricultural ministers called for October 29 and 30 in Luxembourg.

Mr Lardinois also told the meeting that the Italian and French wine surpluses might not be so great as was originally thought, and that this year's harvests were not expected to be as big as those of the past three years.

Earlier it had seemed that the ministers, who put the wine issue at the bottom of their agenda, might avoid a discussion of it completely. However, the meeting was extended for some two hours, and the leader of the Italian delegation, Signor Armando Cossiga, said that until a solution was found, Italy would retain the right to impose counter measures against France.

He did not elaborate on this threat, and there was no immediate comment from the French delegation. France has said it intends to maintain the import levy despite a European Commission ruling that it is illegal. Reuter.

Former bandit leader shot dead in Sicily

From Our Correspondent

Rome, Sept 19 Antonio Lombardo, aged 60, once one of Sicily's most dangerous bandits, has died as he lay in hospital. He was found yesterday shot dead in front of his remote cottage in the arid mountains behind Palermo.

Signor Lombardo was a member, and later chief, of one of the most ferocious gangs of bandits which terrorized Sicily in the years after the Second World War, exporting protection money, kidnapping rich landowners, holding up banks and post offices and robbing travellers.

Finally captured in 1949, he was sentenced to a total of 146 years for 16 murders, 14 attempted murders and 67 robberies. However, he was released after 24 years and spent the rest of his days tending a herd of sheep.

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Stonehouse legal aid 'a national scandal'

The grandeur of thousands of pounds of legal aid to Mr John Stonehouse was a national scandal, Mr Peter Hain, president of the Young Liberals, said when moving a resolution urging the legal aid and advice should be a social service.

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Mr Tony Greaves, of Nelson and Colne, addressing the assembly.

'Bulldozer mentality' in Britain's city centres

The crisis in the centre of many of Britain's cities was often caused by the local councils and it often derived from the bulldozer mentality of Mr William Strick, leader of the controlling Liberal group on Liverpool City Council.

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Adapt work to needs of family, ministers say

From Pat Healy

The ministers agreed that one way of achieving the aim would be to reduce the working week of parents when their children were small.

Norway and Sweden are considering introducing a six-hour day for parents as a state measure, but British delegates thought that aim was more properly the concern of trade unions.

A shorter working week for parents would have to be accompanied by changes in taxation and social security to compensate parents for any drop in income. The communists made it clear that ministers did not agree on how this should be done.

If one parent stayed at home full time and was given a low social security benefit for doing so, it would increase the tendency to make it a career choice. If the benefit was nearer the average wage, it would prove extremely expensive.

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Discovery off Greece of oldest shipwreck

Continued from page 1

Archaeologists expect to retrieve several hundreds of pots from this wreck.

Diving could continue until December to prepare the topographical surveys, and accurate maps. The problem is whether it will be possible to retrieve what remains of the ship.

Mr Throckmorton's team includes some experts on the preservation of waterlogged wood, who have worked on the Viking ships and the Hellenistic wreck of Kyrenia in Cyprus. But this is a very delicate operation requiring a great deal of study.

Mr Papathanassiopoulos believes that the early Bronze Age shipwreck could eventually become the nucleus for a special museum of prehistoric shipwrecks to be founded by the Institute of Marine Archaeology in Greece.

Mr Throckmorton said he proposed to explore the wreck of the Mentor, Lord Elgin's ship which sank in a storm in 1812 while carrying 17 cases of marbles from the Acropolis of Athens. He had located the wreckage of the Mentor off Kythera some 10 years ago.

However, the programme was suspended because of legal problems. So Mr Throckmorton was left with a chartered ship and a box of cages and tools. He took them on a theoretical seminar off the island of Hydra, where he had already identified more than 20 ancient shipwrecks. It was here that the discovery of the oldest shipwreck was made.

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French drop transmitter to Chad rebels

From Charles Hargrove

The latest message of the French Government to Mr Hissen Habre, the Toubaou guerrilla leader, who has threatened to execute Mme Clausure, the French ethnologist, next Tuesday, was dropped by parachute on the airstrip of Yehibou, in the Tibesti, this morning.

A powerful radio transmitter enabling him to reply to Paris was dropped with the message. The message was flown to the Tibesti by Air Force transport from Bria, near Orleans.

No details were available about the route or the manner of the drop, or the contents of the message. But it seems fairly certain that the message stops short of promising the delivery of military supplies.

As expected, the Chad Government has reacted strongly. In a broadcast statement, it condemned the move as a violation of its national sovereignty in defiance of all the rules of international law, and emphasized its determination to defend at all costs the unity of the country threatened by the Toubaou rebellion.

The Chad Government was right in condemning at the right time manoeuvres of which the obvious aim was to undermine the unity of Chad by supporting the rebellion on the territory of the republic, the broadcast said. The air drop of a powerful transmitter presupposed the presence of qualified people to use it, the broadcast said, suggesting that the French Government had already sent arms and equipment to the guerrillas.

The Elysée Palace last night published a statement calling on all French citizens not to visit the Tibesti, "when their security cannot be assured, and where their arrival in irregular circumstances could increase the difficulties in obtaining the liberation of Mme Clausure."

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Raider frees hostages and surrenders

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Sept 19 An Army deserter, aged 18, who took five hostages in an armed raid on a bank, gave himself up to police yesterday after payment of 6m francs (£600,000) ransom had been completed.

The second half of the ransom was handed over in a suit case brought personally by the mayor of Faverges in Haute Savoie.

The gunman released three women hostages on receiving the money but it held two men in a further two hours, laid down his arms and tried to drive his getaway car. The police on his own Faverges branch of Agriole armed with shotguns and five employees were the sixth or seventh threatened to shoot every half hour if they were not met.

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British policemen grant bail by Hongkong court

Hongkong, Sept 19

Two British superintendents of the Hongkong police arrested by anti-corruption officials appeared in court today on a joint charge of conspiring to obstruct the course of justice.

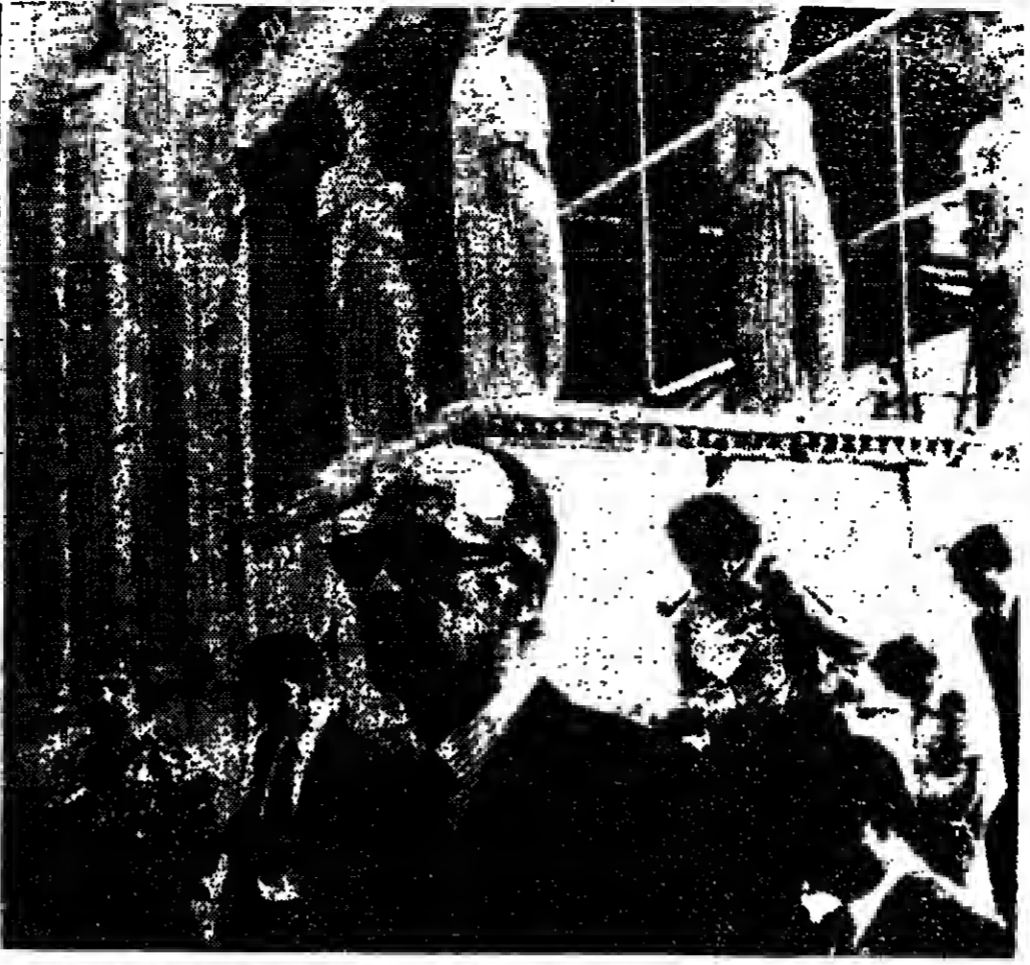
No plea was taken from Mr Cecil James Cunningham, aged 49, and Mr Beattie Thompson, aged 42. Both are married with two children.

Mr Cunningham, from Derbyshire, was further charged with making a false statutory declaration. Both Mr Thompson, from Wiltshire, were also charged with conspiring to obstruct the course of justice.

OVERSEAS

Political deadlock sends Lebanon into mood of despair while anarchy reigns in capital

From Paul Merin Beirut, Sept 19 The Lebanese Government...



President Giscard d'Estaing visits the Acropolis in Athens yesterday.

Giscard plea for justice in Cyprus

From Our Correspondent Athens, Sept 19 President Giscard d'Estaing...

accounts must be taken of the relative importance of the two Cypriot populations...

Jordan to buy US missiles after all

Washington, Sept 19—Jordan is indicated to the United States that it is prepared...

Zambia loses patience with exile groups

From Nicholas Ashford Lusaka, Sept 19 Zambia, for long Africa's guerrilla capital...

Indonesian Marines rescue 31 refugees from Timor

Jakarta, Sept 19—Indonesian Marines have landed briefly in Portuguese Timor...

Woman pleads not guilty to Ford attack

Sacramento, Sept 19—Miss Lynette Fromme pleaded not guilty today to attempting to assassinate President Ford...

Ontario Government loses majority after 32 years

Our Correspondent Toronto, Sept 19 The Progressive Conservative Government of Ontario...

Mauritius may seek better terms for Diego Garcia

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent The island of Diego Garcia in the middle of the Indian Ocean...

S African heart operation for E Europe leader

Cape Town, Sept 19—Professor Christian Barnard, the South African heart transplant pioneer...

Couple ask for right to let their daughter die

From Patrick Brogan Washington, Sept 19 Mr and Mrs Quinlan want their daughter to die...

Court to hear Gandhi case arguments

From Kuldip Nayyar Delhi, Sept 19 The Supreme Court of India has not yet given its verdict on the Constitutional Amendment Act...

Bali girls greet Prince with dance

Denpasar, Bali, Sept 19—The Prince of Wales arrived here tonight for two days of relaxation...

In brief Mr Heath begins visit to Peking

Peking, Sept 19—Mr Edward Heath arrived here tonight for a two-day visit during which he is expected to see Chinese leaders...

Hughes suit fails

New York, Sept 19—A New York judge rejected an attempt to have Mr Howard Hughes, the millionaire, declared legally dead...

Africa 'revolted'

Cape Town, Sept 19—Mr Laurier Donn-Folowos, the Ivory Coast Minister of Information...

Hayward visit ends

Belgrade, Sept 19—Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the Labour Party...

Schlesinger tour

Washington, Sept 19—Dr James Schlesinger, the American Secretary of Defense...

Purge in Manila

Manila, Sept 19—President Marcos said today he had dismissed 2,000 government and military officials for corruption...

Gen Thieu on the way

Hongkong, Sept 19—General Thieu, former President of South Vietnam, arrived in Hongkong tonight from Taipei on the way to London to meet his wife and son.

Which will you turn to first this Sunday? Advertisement for a Sunday newspaper.

THE OBSERVER 21 SEPTEMBER 1975 With Colour Magazine! Advertisement for the newspaper.

Hostage for 6 days, Anthony Sampson's startling report on the Oil Giants and Arabs, Evelyn Waugh, All that concerns you in a Great Sunday Newspaper. Advertisement for various content.

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Hercule Poirot has died, at the age of 117. Or perhaps a bit less. It depends, since he came to this country and the printed page as a First World War refugee, on what is a reasonable age for him to have retired from the pre-1914 Belgian police. And that really ought to be fixed at least at 65 in 1913, since had he retired early he should have gone back into harness at the outbreak of hostilities. So 117 is not an unreasonable age to bestow on him for his splendid semi-posthumous last triumph, *Curious Case of the Mysterians* at Styles, his first encounter with the "Claremont" in my end is my beginning: it is not so inapt to quote the great poet, who himself did not disdain to take a passage-verbatim from Conan Doyle's *The Mysterious Ritual for Murderer in the Cathedral*. Agatha Christie is certainly the unchallengeable exponent of the pure puzzle crime novel. Poirot's last words, said to his old friend and first chronicler, Captain Hastings, returned from the Argentine at the fine old age, I calculate, of 88, "Claremont" they do echo his very first recorded words back in 1916, "Mon ami, Hastings!" There followed the first description of the "extraordinary looking little man": that he was hardly more than five feet four inches tall, that he carried himself with great dignity, that his head was exactly the shape of an egg and that he always had it perched a little to one side. And, above all, there were his moustaches, very stiff and military and his pride and joy, and there was the neatness of his attire, although it emerged only later that he almost always wore striped trousers, correct black jacket, bow-tie and oxford leather boots, with a muffler if the weather was less than hot. "What pleasure there was to be had from those boots. How often the little man in succeeding books had to sacrifice their immaculate shine in pursuit of a criminal or in search of some proof. Even when in *Evil Under the Sun* in a supposed 1939 he abandons them in favour of white suede shoes, worn with a suit of white duck and a Panama hat (will Albert Finney attempt this when he plays Poirot again in the film of this book?) he has to offer these up on the altar of detection. It is with simplicities such as this that Agatha Christie beguiled us. She has the enormous gift of being able to do the obvious. Yet she gets these obviousnesses so right that they are not, as they might so easily be in other hands, dull. Hers is the art of the clown, discerning the subtleties of your actions, relying on simple business performed without the least deviation. And, as with clowns, perhaps even the greatest, there are times when we find this simplicity not enough. But to counter that there are times

when, expecting to be somewhat bored, the sheer tightness of the simple things being done sweeps us away. It is certainly so in the final Poirot. I count myself a reasonably sophisticated person and it is not at all a sophisticated book, though it is clever. Yet I read it with a running feeling of pure pleasure. It is, of course, easy reading. Agatha Christie has always contrived things, so that almost every page of her books is dialogue, and that dialogue sits easy on the ear. There is never even much narration. Descriptions are minimal. There are very few pieces of mental analysis between the speeches, those passages that at once deepen insight and hold up the smooth flow. Her characters, though shrewdly observed, are sketched on types rather than individuals. It was a typical device of hers throughout her long career simply to use various breeds of dog to provide an instant picture; the homely aggressive fox terrier, the vapouring Pomeranian, the gruff and mossy-labbed sheepdog. A crude method. But read her descriptions of the lady she compares to a bloodhound in *Death on the Nile* of 1938 and the sheer soap of it will, I guarantee, raise at least a smile. Poirot himself, though he grew to be a characterization of more than a little width, encompassing a variety of traits—pride to the point of cockiness, obsessive earnestness, a vein of stubborn pertinacity, a basis of stolid common sense—was never complex. He was the Englishman's notion of the comic foreigner, *sure* as every body knew foreigners to be. It is a little unfair to say of him that he burst into French for the easy phrases and stuck fast to English for difficult expressions, but only a little. Even at the very end he is capable of such heart-warming and unlikely expressions as "the jidde of the bed manner" fit to stand beside "the money for the confiture, as you say." With typical ingenuity, his creator made use of his difficulties. She had her various suspects look on him as someone in whom the outrageous could safely be confided, since all foreigners are naturally outrageous. His comicality, too, gave him that necessary quantum of the endearing that allowed him to be invariably successful without becoming odious. But when his foreignness put him in danger of seeming totally frivolous she had a trump ready for that: his being Belgian. He came from the Continent, yes, but from sturdy "salient little Belgium". He was all right. He was more. The young Michael Innes charmingly acknowledged it in 1937 when in *Hamlet, Revenge* he made Mrs Platt-Honour-Platt, casting doubts on the scarcely-fledged Inspector Appleby, say: "There is a very good man, whose name I forget, a foreigner and very comical—but they say, thoroughly reliable." His final demonstration of

his powers came at good an example as any of the way his creator handled him, and one should remember that it is not in fact what the detective does with the clues that counts but what the author does with the reader's reactions. The situation we are given at the outset of *Curious Case of the Mysterians* is of a crude obviousness that would appal any writer attempting the subtle analysis of likely human beings (as many crime writers today successfully do). Poirot, staying at Styles Court, divided now to a guest-house, tells the faithful Hastings that one person in the assembled company is a particularly ingenious would-be murderer, and then Hastings one by one encounters them each in turn, as each of them says something to him that produces a sudden blossom of strong suspicion. It is like the clown producing one after another large coloured handkerchiefs from different parts of his baggy costume. You expect each one but none the less: you are delighted and with a flourish it appears just as you had expected. And because each tells you no more than that, then the expected gesture, you are content and you read on happily waiting for the next. And at the end the surprises and reversals mount to a climax of cleverness. If Agatha Christie works almost entirely with what the critic call stock responses, she knows too just how to take advantage of our responding to a stock way to the stock situations she puts before us. Here, for example, she gives us first the joke of Poirot's ever-black hair (even at the age of 117). It is neatly done, we smile. But then, when we come to the chapter headed "The Mysterians" it would hardly have been called "Poirot Explains" the fact that the proud Hercule turns out to have worn a wig proves, in a way that I certainly shall tell you, to be one more necessary and ingenious stroke accounting for who does it, and smiling away at the black hair joke, we have totally missed the plain clue. It makes you want to clep. It was ever thus. *The Mysterians* at Styles, for all that it languished unpublished from 1916 till 1929 and was accepted only by the seventh firm it was sent to, has been called, not without some justice, "one of the finest first ever written". It was not an enormous success, but it was enough of one for Mrs Christie to want to go on with detective stories. So before very long Poirot was set up sharing London rooms, at 14 Farway Street, with the humbling Hastings and with a landlady in attendance. It was all very much in the established tradition, though Hastings worked not as a doctor but as secretary to an MP (name and political affiliation typically not specified) and the landlady (again unnamed) was no Mrs. Hudson, rising out of total anonymity only from her habit of never leaving breakfast and tea things with the strict symmetry that Poirot required. It

is this kind refusal to flesh out that probably accounts for the low opinion many literary readers have of Agatha Christie. But it is also, of course, a prime reason why she was able to capture the great mass market. Yet she was never unaware of what she was doing, and she could on occasion mock at it in a confidently amusing way. The startling affair of *The Big Four*, of 1927, her most direct homage to Poirot's great forerunner, is an example. At the crisis of that astonishing case—it encompassed a mysterious Chinaman, darts tipped with deadly curare, a bid for world domination, instant anaesthetic and the capture of Hastings by a threatening, ingenuously to kill his wife ("My God, you fiend!")—Poirot announced that he would have to bring his brother into the business. "Your brother", Hastings cried in astonishment. "I never knew you had a brother." "You surprise me, Hastings. Do you not know that all celebrated detectives have brothers who would be even more celebrated than they are were it not for constitutional indolence?" Thus was Achilles Poirot brought to life, only to be revealed in the last pages as being Hercule all along, moustaches temporarily sacrificed. Hastings had returned from marriage in South America for this *jeu d'esprit*, or, as Poirot might have said, game of the spirit. But he was soon packed off again and seldom reappeared. The classic pattern of Holmes and Watson (with or without a brother Mycroft) has advantages. It allows a storyteller to have a detective who sees all but who credibly does not divulge all, and it softens the irksome brilliance of the Holmes because to feel irritated by it puts you on a par with the bovine denseness of the Watson. But the situation has disadvantages as well.

It limits the type of case open to the detective; it means that everything has to be seen through that other dull pair of eyes; it consecrates a musical act. So soon Poirot was established alone, as *Whitechapel Murders*, to busy talk, black-pleasing to him for the extreme regularity of its proportions. Here he reached a long high plateau of success. His creator was at her peak. As early as the third Poirot, and her sixth book, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, she had taken her powers and did the under-able-in-making. The Watson, the murderer, she also achieved, *besides*. Now gradually she made Poirot a little less absurd. The best work, *Perril or End House*, *Lord Edgar Dies*, *The ABC Murders*. They produce the authentic rabbit-from-the-hat shock that is the whole aim of this sort of book. Not until the last decade or so was there a talking-off. But, curiously enough, it was while Poirot was on this high plateau that Mrs. Christie evidently contemplated ending his career. Certainly by 1947 in a series of linked stories, *The Labours of Hercules*, his final final retirement is announced. But up he bobbed again the next year with *Taken at the Flood* and there were a good many books to come. Many crime novellas have taken against their chosen heroes in much the same fashion, from Conan Doyle tipping Holmes down the Reichenbach Falls, through Dorothy Sayers doing worse to Lord Peter Wimsey by

plucking him off, to Nicolas Freeling having his Van der Valk shot (but curiously implying in his very latest book that his hero is alive and well and a police chief in Barcelona, Barcelona?). Others have been happy to live with their heroes from start to finish. It depends, I think, on the type. The more remote they are from their creators, the more those creators come to find them too confining and plot to burst the bonds. But public pressure and, I suspect, certain obscure interior tuggings allied to those elements in their heroes that do reflect themselves is against them. So Poirot never totally quit the game until this very last adventure, pre-written and kept for almost 30 years awaiting its moment. His true last appearance was in *Elephant on the Loose* which came out in 1972 and clearly describes a period not long before its publication. In it Poirot's "little grey cells"—that famous and eventually self-mocked phrase which reportedly became the verb for the brain adopted by a whole African tribe—were still in fair working order and he was as proud as ever of their powers. Poirot, ever cockiness, was, as I have said, his chief characteristic. It was in *Murder in the Mews* as long ago as 1927 that he boasted: "If I committed a murder you would not have the least chance of seeing how I set about it." The claim is fulfilled (but how?) in the curmudgeon and the cockiness is never without justification. Poirot is truly shrewd. "To deceive deliberately that is one thing. But to be so sure of your facts, of your ideas, and of their essential truth that details do not matter—this, my friend, is a special characteristic of particularly honest persons." Or, as he says in *The Disappearance of Mr. Davenheim* in 1924, "The much abused 'loss of memory' case is rare, but occasionally genuine." The truth of that was proved two years later when Mrs Agatha Christie, her sensational *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* already a bestseller, herself suffered an attack of amnesia and disappeared for some considerable time being eventually found in a Harrogate hotel playing piano trios. Poirot's shrewdness is based on a firm belief in the rational. "We shall know! The power of the human brain, Hastings, is almost unlimited." And indeed the burning of the rational is, I believe, one of the underlying reasons for the continuing popularity of the detective story in a world apt to be swept by gusts of terrible irrationality. The rational is the key to Poirot's methodology. "Order and method" is his cry as he halts the case to build a card-house which will calm his brain. And, though on occasion he will observe something which humbler investigators miss, he vehemently despises frenzied

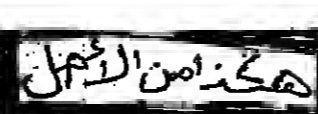
while uttering some rational praise tended to the indifferent (with a notion of that occasion countered, and six simple figures, Colette Koff) and is sometimes hostile. "Histoire de l'homme" he exclaims contemptuously the week of the opera star Mary Marvell *Adventure of the West* and, even more pointedly in the closing paragraph of *Women are not fly*, though they can sometimes "read". The one sort of won often ready to acknowledge in the most your mother, he adds in the closing paragraph *Murder on the Links*, "everything... You each other has been... the five and not found... And... I comprehend mother's heart... he de the Dowager... Duke... and to Lady Yard... as illustrious, he says low how "You are mere". No wonder the minutes later when... lies senseless on the... that moment in... diamond she is in... Poirot, who is as... woman in these matter... And for a final clea... the moment in... House where he says... Modern Miss heroine... the natural thing seems... a coffee high and... and the hat attached... hanging... it is... accusing four vicious... the air. "When the wis... he adds, "it was ag... you the misgives... do move the little... stage of... know... you ever be able to... answer now. Poirot... secret to the grave... course, we do not... want to know. Let him... peace, aged 117. (Times Newspapers Ltd... *Curious Case of the Mysterians* at Styles... Agatha Christie will... published by Collins (£2... September 29. The following Poirot... are in paperback: *Poirot's*... *Cases*, £2.50; *Elephant*... *Remember*, £2.50 and... *Halloween Party*, £1.50... *Third Girl*, £1.50 and 50p... *Clocks*, £1.50 and 50p... *Mom's Folly*, £1.50 and... *Hickory, Dickory Dock*... *After the Funeral*, £1.50... *McGinty's Death*, £1.50; *T*... *at the Flood*, £1.50 and 50p... *Under the Sun*, £1.50 and... *One, Two, Buckle My*... *Shoe*, £1.50; *Sad Cypress*, £1.5... *50p*; *Appointment with*... *Death*, £1.50 and 50p; *Death*... *at the Flood*, £1.50; *Murder in*... *Mezzo*... *£1.50 and 40p*; *Three*... *Travels*, £1.50; *Murder*... *Orient Express*, £1.50 and... *£1.50 and 40p*; *End House*, £1.5... *40p*; *The Big Four*, £2.

# Farewell, Hercule Poirot!

by H R F Keating

Our Crime Reviewer discusses the career of Agatha Christie's celebrated detective. His final case will be published on September 29.

Illustration by Franklin Wilson



Chess

Virtuoso player

'Is a case of history repeating itself: in the year 1948 the Hugarian grandmaster Laszlo So was leading in the Interzonal Tournament at Stockholm...'

'Here is a game from the Alexander Memorial Tournament. White - G. Sax. Black - D. Bronstein. Sicilian Defence...'

Harry Golombek

Gardening

Heather for luck

An old friend, a splendid amateur gardener and a keen rosarian, now nudging his 80th birthday, told me the other day that he was investing in heathers...'

Roy Hay

Special Offer

Be a good mixer



Mixing concrete or, to a lesser extent, potting composts or top dressings of soil, peat and sand can be hard work...'

part time, it pays to give him tools or machines that enable him to do as much work as possible for his £1, or whatever...'

DISCOVER SOUTH AFRICA. Includes an image of a lion and text about holiday planning.

he Times Special Reports. The subject matter on all the facts that matter.

Swans Art Treasures Tours. An account by an expert Guest Lecturer whose specialized knowledge of art history will bring to life much of their artistic, cultural and historic past.

Travel The last resort for Oscar?

The partial easing of the Middle East situation will have the side effect of benefiting tourism to the region, and tour company representatives were predictably optimistic when I contacted a number of them recently...'

Drop garden waste in... shovel rich compost out

Drop garden waste in... shovel rich compost out. The RotoCrop Accelerator compost bin helps you turn garden and kitchen waste into rich compost, quickly and cheaply.

'Accelerator' compost bin. Design Council Award 1975. Includes an image of the bin and a list of features.

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COVENT GARDEN THE ROYAL OPERA 330 1066
FRI. 7.30, SAT. 8.00
COLLEGIUM NATIONAL OPERA (01-836 5161)
TUESDAY, WED. & FRI. 7.30, SAT. 8.00

THEATRES

CHRYSTON, 330 3216, Pic. Cir. Ar.
TUES. 7.30, WED. 8.00, THUR. 8.00
NEW MUSICAL W/OP.
MICKY AND THE MICKY'S

CONCERTS

LUNCHEON MUSIC IN THE CITY
TUESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 1.15 PM
BLOOMSBURY HALL, 250 BLOOMSBURY, EC2

THEATRES

ADOLPH THEATRE 01-836 7811
TUES. 7.30, WED. 8.00, THUR. 8.00
A LITTLE NICKER MUSIC
JESS ACKLAND

THEATRES

OLD VIC, THE NATIONAL THEATRE
TUES. 7.30, WED. 8.00, THUR. 8.00
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W. G. SWIFT

THEATRES

VICTORIA PALACE, 81-83/1 317
WED. 8.00, THUR. 8.00, FRI. 8.00
MAX BYGRAVES
SWINGING MAX

CINEMAS

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MICHAEL SCARLATA, JAMES O'NEILL
THE BISHOP OF CROCKETT

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1000 3211
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WED. 12.30, THUR. 2.00

Wigmores

Monday: William Leno 26 Wigmores Street W1
Tuesday: TARIPO
Wednesday: MORE WORKS BY RICHARD BRADSHAW

Broadcasting Saturday

A sparkling night on the third channel with The Philpott File (BBC2 8.10) examining the making of a policeman, the First Picture Show (BBC2 9.30) looking at young film-makers and painter Helen Bradley...

BBC 1

9.00 am, Fingerbobs, 9.15, Jeannie, 9.30, Play Away, 10.00, Film, I've Got a Horse, with Billy Fury, Michael Medwin, Amanda Barry...

BBC 2

7.40 am, Open University: Ecology, 8.05, Thomas Carlyle, 8.30, Foundation Maths, 8.55, The Other Direction, 9.20, Why Comparative Politics? 9.45, Dauntler and His Robert Macaire, 10.10, Maths, 10.35, Maths, 11.00-11.25, Geomath, 11.30-11.55, Letters and Rivers, 12.00, Film, The Big Sky, by Howard Hawks, with Kirk Douglas, Dewey Martin, 4.35, Comics and the Stars, with Jack Jackson, 5.25, Money Programme, 6.05, Open Door, 6.45, News, 7.00, Rugby: Gals v Irish Wolf-tounds, 7.10, Born 1900, Helen Bradley, 7.18, The Philpott File, 7.30, Play, The Cornet Lesson, by Roy Knicker, 9.00, The First Picture Show, Open University: Geology: Ghost-eyes to the Future, 10.40, Howard Hawks, profile, 11.40, News, 11.45, Film, To Have and Have Not, with Humphrey Bogart, Walter Brennan, Lauren Bacall, 11.50, News, black and white.

London Weekend

9.00 am, Thursdays, 9.45, Saturday Scene, 9.50, The Beachcomber, 10.20, Conversation, 10.50, Junior Police Five, 11.05, Carpool, 11.15, Liberal Party Assembly, 12.10 pm, Cartoons, 12.30, World of Sport, 12.55, On the Ball, 1.00, Speedway: World 1000m, Sandtrack Championship, 1.10, News, 1.20, The ITV Seven, 1.30, World of Sport, 12.55, On the Ball, 1.45, Caterick, 2.30, ATV, 2.45, Caterick, 3.00, ATV, 3.10, The Ryder Cup, 3.50, Half-Time Round-up, 4.45, Wrestling, 4.50, Results, 5.10, News, 5.20, Shock Beauty, 5.25, Sports World, 5.30, Sale of the Century, 5.40, ATV, 5.45, Comedy, 5.50, ATV, 5.55, Comedy, 6.00, ATV, 6.05, Comedy, 6.10, ATV, 6.15, Comedy, 6.20, ATV, 6.25, Comedy, 6.30, ATV, 6.35, Comedy, 6.40, ATV, 6.45, Comedy, 6.50, ATV, 6.55, Comedy, 7.00, ATV, 7.05, Comedy, 7.10, ATV, 7.15, Comedy, 7.20, ATV, 7.25, Comedy, 7.30, ATV, 7.35, Comedy, 7.40, ATV, 7.45, Comedy, 7.50, ATV, 7.55, Comedy, 8.00, ATV, 8.05, Comedy, 8.10, ATV, 8.15, Comedy, 8.20, ATV, 8.25, Comedy, 8.30, ATV, 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**SOUTH BANK CONCERT HALLS**  
 Director: John Dunlop CBE. Tickets: 028 3191. Telephone bookings not accepted on Saturdays. Information 028 2972. For enquiries when postal bookings have been made 028 2972. Postal applications must be accompanied by stamped addressed envelope.

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**ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY**  
 Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN  
 16th SEASON 1975/76  
 Wednesday, 13 October at 8  
 Kurt Sanderling  
**BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
 Wednesday, 13 October at 8  
 Pierre Boulez  
**CZECH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**  
 Wednesday, 16 December at 8  
 Vaclav Neumann  
**ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS**  
 Wednesday, 14 January at 8  
 Neville Martinich  
**LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
 Wednesday, 11 February at 8  
 Erich Leinsdorf  
**BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
 Wednesday, 19 March at 8  
 Rudolf Kempe  
**LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**  
 Wednesday, 14 April at 8  
 Eugen Jochum  
**BERLIN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**  
 Wednesday, 13 May at 8  
 Special 25th Anniversary Concert of the Royal Festival Hall in association with the Greater London Council  
 Herbert von Karajan

**QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL**

**FLORENCE BOONKIN WOMO** Piano recital  
 Beethoven, Sonata Op. 10, No. 3; Schubert, Fantasy, D. 760  
 £2.50, £1.50, £1.00, 50c John Coast

**MARTTI TALLVILA** (bass) HALF ORCHESTRA (piano)  
 Sibelius, Concerto for Bass and Piano, Op. 55; Kullberg, Concerto for Bass and Piano, Op. 10; Sibelius, Concerto for Bass and Piano, Op. 55  
 £2.50, £1.50, £1.00, 50c John Coast

**MAHESH CHANDRA** (soprano) SHRI PURANANDAN (bass) and  
 vocalists with the Mahesh Chandra Vocal Ensemble  
 £2.50, £1.50, £1.00, 50c John Coast

**RAM PRASAD** (bass) and vocalists with the Ram Prasad Vocal Ensemble  
 £2.50, £1.50, £1.00, 50c John Coast

**TALINO AKKA** (bass) and vocalists with the Talino Akka Vocal Ensemble  
 £2.50, £1.50, £1.00, 50c John Coast

**NSLIMKI CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**  
 Concerto No. 3 in G minor, Op. 58; Chopin, Concerto No. 3 in G minor, Op. 58  
 £2.50, £1.50, £1.00, 50c John Coast

**LONDON VIRTUOSI**  
 Concerto No. 3 in G minor, Op. 58; Chopin, Concerto No. 3 in G minor, Op. 58  
 £2.50, £1.50, £1.00, 50c John Coast

**JUAN MARTIN** (bass) and vocalists with the Juan Martin Vocal Ensemble  
 £2.50, £1.50, £1.00, 50c John Coast

**PETER KATIN** (bass) and vocalists with the Peter Katin Vocal Ensemble  
 £2.50, £1.50, £1.00, 50c John Coast

**NEW IRISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**  
 Concerto No. 3 in G minor, Op. 58; Chopin, Concerto No. 3 in G minor, Op. 58  
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Interview  
**David Niven, gentleman player**

The curious thing about David Niven is that although neither especially old (65) nor for a film star, unusually distanced from the world around him, he summons up words that one thought long dead. He is, for instance, amiably clubbable; he's also debonair, impeccable and resolutely jaunty. His memoirs, the second volume of which is published on Monday (the first, *The Moon's a Balloon*, having so far sold just two million and a half copies in this country alone) are those of an elegant gossip, poised somewhere midway between Harold Nicolson and Eedda Hopper and drawing not on the war high jinks of the Chloeden set but instead on the prewar high jinks of the San Simeon set.

As an actor, he remains after more than 80 films oddly indefinable: though an insouciant and consummate light comedian, a lack of interest and/or experience in the theatre stopped him being Rex Harrison, and an equal if more obscure lack of something in the way he photographed stopped him being Cary Grant either. He rose from and well above the ranks of the Hugh Williams-Nigel Bruce-George Sanders type of specialist English gentlemen players; yet never rose far enough to become the kind of star on whom you could hang a picture regardless of its script.

So there the grudge, just 40 years after his Hollywood debut as an extra in *Barbery Court*, an urbane reminder of a lost world of tennis parties and costume dramas, yet showing no sign of the decay which has been known to afflict film stars of his generation since the post-war collapse of their Californian capital. Unique among them in that he is still in both work and demand as an actor, Niven has also found a niche career for himself in the present decade: his first book, published in 1971, was far and away the most commercially successful ever written by an actor, and his second, given the amount of publicity on which he and his publishers are about to embark here and in America, ought to do it as well then at any rate more than respectably.

His title, *Bring on the Empty Horses*, is derived from an instruction given by the Hungarian Michael Curtiz while directing Niven and Errol Flynn in the 1936 *Charge of the Light Brigade*, and the book itself is a mosaic of Hollywood memories drawn from the quarter-century that Niven spent there. Talking to him this week in Norwich, where for logistical reasons best known to the producers of



American television series he has been taping the introductions to a set of documentaries which will be networked in the United States next year as *David Niven's World*. I asked what had led him into a latter-day career as a writer?

Sheer enjoyment. There's something very satisfying about sitting at a desk and just writing out your memories. Particularly when it's raining and there's nothing else to do. Mind you, I've not exactly abandoned my acting career: next week I'm going to Hollywood to do a Neil Simon film called *Death by Murder* with Maggie Smith as my wife and Alec Guinness as a blind butler and Peter O'Toole as a Chinaman, so that might be fun. We also have the careers of both Ian and Truman Capote making his screen debut, though he keeps giving interviews saying actors are a lot of halfwits, so it should be an intriguing picture one way or another. I've just finished one for Disney, or rather his studio. But he lives on, you know; whenever I suggested a minor change in the script, he'd say, 'Wait, wouldn't you like that?' and the script stayed as it was.

So why, since the acting offers so little comfort in tempt fate with another book?

"I know it can't possibly repeat the success of *The Moon's a Balloon* which was nothing more of a miracle, but there were some things I still wanted to say, especially about Hollywood. After all, I was inside the stockade whereas all the journalists who wrote about us in the 30s were on the outside peering in. I know, you know, would grant an interview for every 500 or so requests, and then after it was written it had to be handed back over the fence to be for correction, so papers at that time only got what we saw fit to give them. At least my stories are from the inside."

Having risen through the ranks of extras to featured and usually gallant-young-officer roles in *The Prisoner of Zenda* and *The Real Glory*, not to mention *Edgar in Wuthering Herbs* in which he managed to commandeer some of the acting honours from Olivier, Niven returned to Europe to serve six years in the wartime army, six years which took him from 23 to 34 and which he managed to retrace with the best of his acting days.

"By the time I got back to Hollywood in 1946 it was a different place; before the war I'd had the luck to emerge from Central Casting where I'd done extras chased 800 jobs a day, each paying less than a pound, but by the time I got back they'd forgotten most of what I'd done. Sam Goldwyn bought

The Bishop's Wife for me which had a marvellous part, the Angel; then he did the usual studio research to see if the audiences didn't know who I was, so Cary Grant got the first book might do to give a few friends for Christmas, but then when it did as well Purnam's in New York gave me a huge advance for the second which I spent in a year so the I had to write it.

"Do I wish I'd been taken more seriously as an actor? No, certainly not. I've done run stage plays in my life, once a hit *The Moon's a Balloon* and the other an horrendous flop (*Wino*), and I can't decide which I hated most. I've been grossly overpaid for doing what I enjoy in movies, but I have no desire to get stuck in a stage play repeating myself night after night. Besides, would I want to go to work when everyone else is just coming home?"

"What I do not wish to do is wait for the scripts to come in the post; then I ask them where the film is being made and who else is in it. That's all. Like Albee Terry, who used to ask if she had to get out of the house, if the answer to both questions was 'no' she'd do the film; if she wanted was enough money to go and eat cream cakes in the San Fernando Valley and she managed it."

"The other way, in Hollywood I went back to the office of Central Casting where I used to queue for work; now it's all computerized and the extras are only part-time but on the wall there are pictures of Clark Gable and John Ford. We were the only three who ever made it from there. They used to reckon the odds against stardom for an extra at 5,000 to one. Of course I've been bloody lucky, but I don't actors never did your work."

John Russell Taylor will review *Bring on the Empty Horses*, and Garson Kanin's *Hollywood* as next week's *Moodly Book*.

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Bridge  
**Test of stamina**

The first two places in the European championships again eluded us—the second place by only a hair's breadth. The usual inquests have been held and the Dunkirk spirit prevails; we lost our right to play in the world championship, but we really won a resounding victory. The sad part of the story is that we were represented by our six best players although out, perhaps, by the best team or the three best pairs for such an endurance test. In an exhausting succession of matches stamina counts for more than technique. Our performance was irregular because some of our champions were too old to play well, but we were otherwise cast in an actor for seasoned campaigners who have been partners for many years misunderstanding each other's bidding and misplaying the dummy?

The bidding goes as if North were preparing a special 'winches' draw to confuse the defenders. West has shown at least eight points and five hearts to a high honour (the rebid the suit) North continues to fiddle around. He finally turns off the heat bidding Four Hearts and virtually says: "That is the best contract I can find with your unattractive collection: now an down, if you date." And that is precisely what South proceeds to do.

It is not a difficult hand to play after West has led the ♠2 to the ♠A and ruffed the club return for which he is called by opening his lowest spade. West next led a diamond. To lead East off play, you win in dummy, surrender a trick to the ♠Q, leading the ♠2 to the ♠8 and preserving two trumps in dummy. If West refuses to win with the ♠Q he does not take another trick, because declarer plays two more rounds of hearts, finessing the ♠10, and returns to his hand with a diamond to draw the last trump.

South actually played his ♠K instead of his ♠8 on the ♠2, thereby losing control and eventually going two down. His opponent at the other table did a little better because he went over in Six Hearts. However, we won the match 20–11, possibly because our famous Swiss opponents were even older on average than the members of our team.

Edward Mayer

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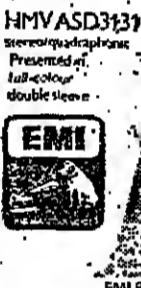
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The Times records of the month Triple welcome to Böhm's 'Così' French and Italian Baroque

Mozart: Così fan tutte. Janowitz / Fassbänder / Grist / Schreier / Frey / Panerai. VPO/Böhm. DGG Z 709 059. £9.75 (3 records).
Mozart: Così fan tutte. Schwarzkopf / Ludwig / Kraus / Taddel / Berry. Philharmonia/Böhm. HMV SLS 5028. £6.60 (3 records).
Wagner: Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg. 1974 Bayreuth Festival production/Vacavo. Philips 6747 167. £10.50 (5 records).
Weber: Euryanthe. Norman / Hunter / Gedda / Krause. Staatskapelle Dresden/Jonowski. HMV SAN 376/9. £10.20 (4 records).

Last year on his eightieth birthday Karl Böhm conducted Mozart's Così fan tutte at the Salzburg Festival. Deutsche Grammophon recorded the performance live and have published it this month. This is the third time that Böhm has conducted Così for the gramophone in the early 1950s. He recorded it for Decca with a standard Viennese cast of the day (Erich Kunz and Paul Schöffler were his most distinguished members), a set still available though now out of every minute of its age. Then during the 1960s, when he was conducting a famous Salzburg production, with Schwarzkopf and Christa Ludwig as the sisters, he recorded it for HMV. Böhm has now recast it on six sides and reissued it with new label numbers this month.

Böhm 2 was one of the great opera sets of its day and can still be highly recommended, especially for the glorious duelling of the two ladies and the deeply affectionate moulding of the orchestral music. It is a useful as well as elegant reading. The men were somewhat less handsome vocally than the ladies, though Alfredo Kraus's Italianate Ferrando, is often stylish and pleasing. His studio recording some of the ensemble singing was surprisingly unsteady.

In Böhm 3 some minor imprecisions, this being a record of one stage performance, as inevitable - there are remarkably few - at least of crawling and banging on stage; the prompter and the audience are mercifully quiet (applause at the end of each act). The atmosphere of a lively performance in the theatre comes invading across. Böhm's conducting of the score may be said to be a little less rich in incidental revelation than in the HMV studio version, but against that one must set the inspiration of an audience and a theatre, and perhaps the excitement of a birthday party.

The major reason for a third Böhm Così is nevertheless the cast: for the first time the ladies and the men are ideally balanced for ensembles, and indeed for solos. Rolando Panerai is, quite simply, the finest Don Alfonso I have ever heard: genial, routé of voice with superb attack and a rare intensity in the tiny aria "Nel mare solca", obviously a scholar and a gentleman, his every utterance felt and thought out completely.

His voice blends well in the opera's first scene with Peter Schreier's honeyed tenor and Hermann Prey's dark chestnut baritone. Above these, in the sextets, we hear Gundula Janowitz's clean, peppy, quite substantial Fioriligi, Brigitte Fassbänder's rich and golden mezzo Dorabella, and Reri Grist's incisive diamond Despina, an old head with a little-girl voice, as winning on record as in the theatre.

Few Fioriligi give equally cogent accounts of her arias, and none on record (Schwarzkopf in her earlier set conducted by Karajan came closest) but Janowitz strikes the right mood for each, characterising the various sections to the full; her rapid runs are more well-intentioned than fulfilled, and once or twice she almost coo in the had old Viennese manner. Hers remains a strong and lively line: a strong line, Fassbänder's Dorabella, in despair and enthusiasm



Fassbänder, Panerai and Janowitz.

alike, delights the ear so much that one regrets the disappearance of her second aria; Schreier, who altogether belies his name, likewise deserved his second and third arias, cut by Böhm. The abridgement of the score, defended by him on this page some weeks ago, is the only disappointment of this set. A serious Mozartian will want a complete Così fan tutte on records. The Decca/Solti and Philips/Davis versions have their drawbacks but both are complete; I would not like to choose between them.

Another live recording from the opera-house at a 1974 festival is issued this month by Philips who taped Wagner's Die Meistersinger during performances at Bayreuth. Silvio Varviso was the lively, responsive conductor completely involved in music and drama, greatly attentive to structure over long spans, and enthusiastic all the time. His cast includes, besides the marvellous Bayreuth chorus, its orchestra and the unique accuracy of Wagner's own Festspielhaus, the grainy, very human Sachs of Karl Ridderbusch, Anna Reynolds's young, fresh-voiced Magdalen, Hans Sotin as Pogner, a young impetuous David by Ender Stricker, excellent in his résumé of academic composition (what lovely music this is), and a sympathetic bel canto Beckmesser by Klaus Hirtz. The Eva and Walter are less pleasing to the ear, she shrill, he thrifty.

Unfashionably I believe that the hero and heroine are the most important people in the cast of this opera. Hamelore Bode and Jean Cox do not fulfil expectation on these records, though both contribute attractive moments. Only one other set is at present available, the EMI one conducted by Karajan. Some may find it too suave and

sophisticated. I love the professionalism of this studio performance, its effortless swirling and balance, the glorious shades of nuance, and the cast of fine voices carefully modulated and attentive to words as well as musical phrases. Comparison is hard on the new Bayreuth set. We have also to bear in mind two more recordings of Die Meistersinger already announced: one conducted by Eugen Jochum with Fischer-Dieskau as Sachs, the other with Georg Solti at the helm and with Fischer-Dieskau this time as Beckmesser.

A completely new acquisition to the record catalogue is Weber's Euryanthe, an opera well known only by its overture and the recorded opinion that its influential, often superb, music is rendered unacceptably by a notoriously incompetent libretto. Radio broadcasts, a pirate recording, a few (usually semi-professional) stage productions have revealed some of the good qualities in Euryanthe. Now at last a scrupulously prepared commercial studio recording, made in Weber's Dresden, permits the inquisitive to judge the opera's merits unprejudiced by poor casting, scratchy performance, or a disastrously bad presentation. Full marks for trying, at least, to HMV who collaborated with the East German VEB record company and the London impresario Robert Slover.

Euryanthe, with its chivalrous contents, scenes at court, when the ladies, good and bad respectively (how impressive visually their scenes together on the studio floor must have been, for both are as monumentally built as their singing at full power suggests). They might well have exchanged roles, but in the event the impersonation of the idealistic, ringing tenor for Adolar. It is even a pleasure to be pontificated at by Siegfried Vogel's pontificating King Ludwig.

Jessye Norman and Rita Hunter are exceptionally cast as the ladies, good and bad respectively (how impressive visually their scenes together on the studio floor must have been, for both are as monumentally built as their singing at full power suggests). They might well have exchanged roles, but in the event the impersonation of the idealistic, ringing tenor for Adolar. It is even a pleasure to be pontificated at by Siegfried Vogel's pontificating King Ludwig.

Couperin: Concerts 1-14; 2 Apothéoses; 3 sonatas. Kuijken family and others. Philips 6747 174. £12.75 (6 records).
Corelli: 12 sonatas Op. 5. Edward Morkus and others. Archive 2533 132-3. £3.25 each.
Vivaldi: Juditha triumphans. Finnäll, Hanser, Amelung, Springer, Burmeister/Berthel. Kammerorchester/Negri. Philips 6747 173. £6.50 (3 records).
Handel: Water Music. NYPO/Boulez. CBS 76440. £1.29.

Francis Couperin, the greatest French composer of the late Baroque (if you reckon Rameau as the next generation), is familiar chiefly for his keyboard music: miniatures of inexhaustible variety sharply defined character, exquisite workmanship. The same qualities distinguish his chamber music, which is far less well known. The new Philips box offers a large proportion of it: the two big collections of Concerts royaux and Nouveaux Concerts (all called Les Couperins), together with three early sonatas and the two Apothéoses works, one honouring Corelli, the other Lully.

Couperin himself took an amusing interest about musical tastes, in his youth he produced a group of sonatas to play to some connoisseurs, saying they were by an Italian (for no connoisseur thought a French sonata worthy of being played). He was disappointed that he had composed them himself in imitation of the Italian style. A preoccupation with the differences between French and Italian music was characteristic of French musicians in Couperin's time, and he himself believed that the "perfection of music" could be achieved only by a union of the two, a union which the Couperins were designed to represent, and which his later publication of those early pseudo-Italian pieces, now coupled to new French dance suites, also named. His two Apothéoses, depicting equal recognition for the two national masters on the Parnassus, and called the French and Italian, are a charmingly naive attempt at an Italianate manner would persuade us to one but a Frenchman. His Lully Apothéose is a series of pieces, for the most part in the French style, and the consummation of his stylistic union in a trio-solita has all the languishing manner, the detailed ornamentation and the short-breathed structure of French music; while the Couperin one, if less programmatic, certainly speaks the Italian musical language with a pronounced French accent.

Most of the Concerts - the term can be translated either as "concerto" (as French concert) or "sonata" (though in this context the latter is clearer) are in the form of dance suites for one or two instruments, with continuo; some, notably No 9 "Ritorno d'amore" have character pieces, though these too are often in dance style. Listening to Couperin at a sitting one becomes aware of the leisureliness of Couperin's age, and also of the refinement and the nicety of its expression; but that expression is not always in fact so usually - small scale, and behind the style's conventional there is strength, and ingenuity, and pathos.

The players here, using authentic instruments, are keenly aware both of the conventions and what lies behind them. Not only are the ornamentation and the rhythms truthfully realised; so is the spirit of the music. About occasional

the general in the numbers near the end and Vittorio Nini's stylised and general performance in sections are particularly good. The best, the one which, though not quite so good as the one of the servant of Hofstad, Sami is attractive. The best of the numbers near the end and Vittorio Nini's stylised and general performance in sections are particularly good. The best, the one which, though not quite so good as the one of the servant of Hofstad, Sami is attractive. The best of the numbers near the end and Vittorio Nini's stylised and general performance in sections are particularly good.

defeat me may I admit: the heavy, acquisitious of string players, the instruments (like a violin) with unbreakable, the occasion imagination (notably reorders but also Ad I am sceptical authenticity, as a musical advisability up a single piece instruments preferred alternately intended to recent occasions, each movement set of a melody r that, the set is welcomed: the m on subtlety, character come well: power come well: Edward Morkus discs of Corelli's clearly show the recent Italy and F a different world more direct, mo with a singing ir, logical progr more. And, in makes, with vira Morkus not only i ing technique to but also ornate movements to f The embellishme from contempore for the first six (allegedly) authed by Corelli Amsterdam publi the other texts. Dubourg, T co-temporary do that it is good; d and tasteless mos the 18th century, Dubourg was ans One cannot say us's playing of siest ornas fingerwork a mo and precision, in his rhythms shiv variety in the s the continuo dis a single cello, organ, but with c sordid as a nor 7 he goes seve using Geminiani' of the work as Altogether an a of discs, excellent of disc, excellent

And yet, except in some of those early sonatas, which, though not quite later fitted with French dances, are recorded here, Couperin's attempts at an Italianate manner would persuade us to one but a Frenchman. His Lully Apothéose is a series of pieces, for the most part in the French style, and the consummation of his stylistic union in a trio-solita has all the languishing manner, the detailed ornamentation and the short-breathed structure of French music; while the Couperin one, if less programmatic, certainly speaks the Italian musical language with a pronounced French accent.

Most of the Concerts - the term can be translated either as "concerto" (as French concert) or "sonata" (though in this context the latter is clearer) are in the form of dance suites for one or two instruments, with continuo; some, notably No 9 "Ritorno d'amore" have character pieces, though these too are often in dance style. Listening to Couperin at a sitting one becomes aware of the leisureliness of Couperin's age, and also of the refinement and the nicety of its expression; but that expression is not always in fact so usually - small scale, and behind the style's conventional there is strength, and ingenuity, and pathos.

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Solti and Masur: neck and neck

Beethoven: Symphonies Nos 1-9. Overtures including Egmont, Lenzore No 3. Lorenz/Minton/Burrows/Alvela. Chicago Symphony Chorus and Orchestra/Solti. Decca 11BB 188-96. £19.95.

Beethoven: Symphonies and Overtures complete. Tomov/Sinkov/Burrows/Selzer/Adam. Leipzig and Berlin Radio Chorus, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra/Masur. Philips 6747 135 (9 records). £15.75.

Beethoven: Symphony No 7. New York Philharmonic-Symphony/Toscanini. RCA AT 153. 55p.

recordings. The Solti set impresses as being The Chicago Symphony is clearly the more virtuosic orchestra, the Decca acoustic is more immediate and very clear, and Solti's readings are consistently challenging. In contrast, Masur and the more recent Leipzig Gewandhaus, recorded with less impact but very spaciousity, may appear at first conformist and uninteresting, but as I hope to show, that first judgment may well be wrong.

In a certain extent it depends what you want from Beethoven. If every detail must be given maximum significance, every passage played for all it is worth, Solti is your man. If you are more interested in the long view, in line and with what Spike Hughes called in his book on Toscanini when discussing his Beethoven, "rhythmic equality", a key factor, you will prefer Masur. Above all, if you like a warm, European orchestral sound, with a blessedly rounded and yielding string section, and a rather leaner sound all round, you will go for the Gewandhaus as against the Chicago orchestra's much fatter quality. After listening to two or three symphonies, the ear begins to weary of Decca's often unreal realism, with cellos and basses pounding away as one never hears them in concert hall. As befitts his whole

approach, Solti takes a much more energetic view of the first two symphonies, more exciting, more excitable than Masur, and seen much more through nineteenth-century eyes, but he fails, as Masur with his wonderful rhythmic zest and Masur's steady eye, does not repeat the first movement's exposition, as Solti makes clear in his talk, is essential to balance the long development section. In the Scherzo, Masur strikes a more natural speed than Solti, and in the finale he achieves as much if not more sense of unity by carrying phrases through more surely, whereas Solti's liveliness tends towards the aggressive.

These contrasting characteristics remain remarkably constant throughout the cycles. In both the Fourth and Eighth, the Solti's reading of the first movement, and in following the old master he rightly gives both symphonies, especially the first two movements, of the Eighth, the scale they deserve, although the Scherzo of the Eighth is unduly ponderous, while Masur in his less remarkable reading relates the movement more easily to the rest.

Masur lacks urgency in the first movement of the Fifth, where Solti's attempt (vide his own words) to see the exposition in one span is successful if it does not equal Carlos Kleiber's, as the finale taken by Solti in a single burst of triumphant energy that Masur almost but not quite rivals. In both the Seventh and Ninth, one has to balance the brilliance and control of Solti in the outer movements as against his comparatively matter-of-fact slow movements, just where Masur and his players score with their inevitable flow and inwardness, qualities that inform the whole of Masur's wonderfully realized Pastoral with a storm: not a whit less awesome than Solti's (what a marvellously original passage this still seems).

Solti's Ninth has been issued before, two and a half years ago, when I reviewed it here. Further acquaintance has not altered my view of his Adagio, which is squarely phrased and too portentous, seeming even

more so now beside the beautifully balanced and integrated Masur performance. Solti's finale remains imposing and he is much better served by his bass soloist (Talvela) in the recitative, but when it comes to the flow of the main subject, Adolar, comes into his own, and Philips's Eastern Europe quartet is more evenly balanced than their Western counterparts.

So, by and large, Masur is my man. Solti has moments of supreme inspiration; Masur is consistently spontaneous and bas, to my mind, a more exact Beethoven orchestra, and sound. Listen to the first movement of the eighth, the slow movements of the seventh and ninth, and make up your own minds who suits you. In the meantime hasten to buy Toscanini's seventh, an overwhelming performance for all seasons, lovingly remembered. Here is Beethoven done sans pareil.

Alan Blyth

SAC

- Schubert's Best Songs
Mozart's Best Piano
SAGA 4004
Piano Music of Franz Liszt
Hungarian Rhapsody
David White, piano
SAGA 5405
Dances of G.H.V. (Hydn, Mozart, Lanner, Johann S. Vanna Volksgesung
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from HMV, Philips, Harmonia Mundi, Decca, EMI, Nipper, SAGA RECORDS, 128 Canal Road, London

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# The Times records of the month

## A neglected pleasure

## Boxed bargains



Bergonzi and Verdi.

di: I masnadieri. Caballe/gonzi/Cappuccilli/Raimondi. Gardelli. Philips 6703 064. 50, until January, 1976.

di: Tenor arias sung by lo Bergonzi. Philips 6747 193. 30, until January, 1976.

bert & Sullivan's Greatest CBS 30060. £1.29.

lips's annual Verdi set coned by Lamberto Gardelli is of the great pleasures of the and I masnadieri this with is no exception. No-one accuse Philips of sticking to highways. I masnadieri has a neglected, particularly in a country where it had its mire at Her Majesty's in 7, with Jenny Lind as the aged Amalia, Gordon as lo the spurned son who has an up with robbers of the and Lablache as his father's chief reason for pushing the one side is the shabbiness Meffia's libretto, based on iller's first play Die Räuber, begins improbably with Carlo King Pinocchio and regrettably life that now he leads; it is even more improbably in he stabs the poor Amalia marches off to the scaffold.

of desperados, and perhaps Sullivan was listening at Her Majesty's.

But against such crudities have to be set two superb vocal roles for the tenor and soprano. The baritone part Francesco is awarded two or three fine solo roles, notably sung in this recording by Piaro-Cappuccilli but they could not fit more awkwardly with this triple-dyed villain. The bass, Count Moor, has an affecting duet with Amalia towards the end of the first act and then little apart from a racconto of how he was thrown into prison. Ruggero Raimondi cries hard, but it remains a dull number.

For Amalia and Carlo affairs are rather different. Carlo carries the opening three scenes virtually singlehanded and Bergonzi, apart from an occasional stretching for a high note, is in his most luscious voice from the start. He also shows all his skills in "Di ladroni storniamo" which looks forward to Alvaro's "La vita inferno" in Forza. (The two operas have quite a lot in common, both musically and in the sprawl of their respective plots).

Monserrat Caballe is equally disarming in Jenny Lind's part. Spanish nightingales can while on Swedish ones and Mimó Caballe shows off her glittering upper voice in the same way that, by all accounts, Miss Lind did. Julian Budden, in a just and interesting introduction to I masnadieri, suggests that Amalia needs a "Gilda" voice. But there is more than a touch of Lucia as well, notably in the soprano's opening aria "Lo sguardo avea angeli" in which Amalia recalls her ecstatic days with Carlo. Caballe dispatches all the Donizettian runs and trills with her usual ease and brilliance.

Lamberto Gardelli has switched from the RPO to the New Philharmonia for this opera and draws fiery and uninhibited playing from them. All in all a thoroughly worthwhile issue in which the glories of the Donizettian runs and trills with her usual ease and brilliance.

the wrong orchestra is credited in the libretto—as indeed have two arias from the Gardelli Act II. But the rest of Bergonzi's run through Verdi from A to Z, or rather *Oberto to Falstaff*, has been newly recorded with Nello Sanzulli/Previn. Decca 1538 218-20. £7.50 (three records).

Schumann: Carnival: Three Pieces from Album for the Young. Michelangelo/RMV ASD3129. £3.20.

Haydn: Piano Concertos in D major and G minor. Zurich Chamber Orchestra/Edmond de Smet. RMV ASD3128. £3.20.

Alfred Brendel has now completed his pilgrimage through the piano music of Schubert's maturity. 1822, the year of the Wanderer Fantasy, was his starting point, and his eight discs carry on from there to the posthumous B flat sonata, written only a few months before Schubert's death. Since better able to accommodate his own acute susceptibility. Striding changes of key throughout are symptomatic of Brendel of startling changes of emotional climate, none of which can be char...

Some of the pleasures have to go in the curiosity class: Oronzo's "La mia letizia" for instance, from *I Lombardi* in which Bergonzi gives one of Lauri Volpi's favourite arias all the brilliance of the great tenor, or Fenton's "Dal labro il canto" which is usually sung by artists starting out on their careers rather than those like Bergonzi who have spent a number of years at the top. But the real satisfaction comes from the middle operas, the period of Verdi which Bergonzi has far so long made his own and which best shows off his command of accents. There they are on side S: *Vespro, Ballo and Forza*, fine performances all.

Another curiosity comes from "35 this month in the shape of Groucho Marx singing "I've got a little list" on Gilbert and Sullivan's *Greatest Hits*. Helen Traubel is also billed in *The Mikado* finale; I confess I couldn't distinguish her, but she would well have been singing in the previous duet. The track's really worth hearing on this record, which has presumably been culled from broadcasts of yesterday, are those with Nelson Eddy and Robert Roomerville are best avoided.

The opening scenes of I masnadieri has been snipped from this set for inclusion in *Carlo Bergonzi sings Verdi*—

Schubert: Late Piano Works. Brendel/Philips 6747 175. £16.50 (eight records).

Prokofiev: The Five Piano Concertos: Classical Symphony: Overture on Hebrew Themes: Autumnal, Op. 87. Decca 1538 218-20. £7.50 (three records).

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Now and again his rhythmic freedom might be thought dangerous idiosyncrasy for concert raising on a grandiose phone record, especially in the great A major sonata of Schubert's last year (and not only in the episode of catastrophic panic in the *Andantino*). Yet every detail of every work—and that goes also for smaller pieces like the rarely heard *Essays* and Hungarian Melody in B minor—has plainly been thought out in terms of pedalling, touch and tempo as well as authenticity of text. More important still is the immediacy of the performances: Brendel makes you feel that he is living through Schubert's emotional experience on the spot, not just recounting it 150 years later.

The Ashkenazy-Previn Prokofiev concerto box is also a bargain at £7.50. Extras include not only the *Overture on Hebrew Themes* found in the recent much-praised Béroli/Mozur Prokofiev package, but also this composer's early tone poem "Autumnal" (as a student he obviously knew his Debussy as well as his Scriabin and Rachmaninov) and still more of a collector's piece, the *Classical Symphony* with Ashkenazy (again the only pianist) as conductor. Even the LSO are hard-pressed in keep up with him in the finale, which, like the first movement, he takes faster than the master-piano marking. He counterbalances this haste with a slower than specified slow movement and Gavotte. As soloist in the concertos he again favours a slower than prescribed Moderato (II) in No. 5, emphasizing its strain of grotesquerie. But not even Ashkenazy's vivid tonal palette can transform No. 4 into a real

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John Higgins

Joan Chissell

# Saturday Review

## Good Food Guide Northern delights

In spite of the industrial blight that stains parts of Durham and Tyne-side, Northumbria still has enough unspoilt coastline and upland, 'border' castles and remote islands, as well as Hadrian's Wall, and archaeology in action at Roman Vinodolanda. Earlier this year even, the weather was perfect—a comfortable five degrees or so cooler than the tropics of Yorkshire to the south. So what prevents the holidaymakers from streaming in? Some might mention a lack of good restaurants at reasonable prices, and the local Tourist Board is trying to encourage proprietors to introduce fixed-price menus. But this is evidently still a seller's market for a good caterer, try to get a booking at the Golden Calf in Hesleden, to which we hope to return in a later article. Understandably, some of the best restaurants prefer to rely on local custom, not only renouncing publicity but making it virtually impossible for the casual visitor to discover their existence.

Take the Traveller's Rest in Durham. With a comparable place in France, roadside piazzas would already have warranted the moorings of its existence ("see specialities, son comfort") on arrival in the city. But here, even if you pass by, there is nothing to indicate that this old black-and-white pub has an excellent restaurant upstairs. To add to the confusion there is apparently another Travellers Rest a mile up the road and several more in the immediate environs. Yet, although these tactics keep strangers at bay, the restaurant is so full of initiates and it is wise to book.

The menu varies according to who is cooking that night, but it is kept sensibly short with perhaps three choices for each course. Borscht and cold cucumber soup are popular, and a Good Food Guide visitor had an excellent coquille de fruits de mer, with scallops and prawns in a cream and vermouth sauce.

The main courses tend towards elaboration but generally the wish to impress is not allowed to take precedence over the taste. Fillets of sole bussarde, for example, were wrapped round a delicate salmon stuffing and served in an unexpectedly pink hollandaise. An imaginative selection of fresh vegetables, which may include deep-fried asparagus rings, is included in the price of the main course. The license, too, is Anderson's, used by industrial artists, which may explain why the dishes he and his wife Gloria produce seem to be designed rather than cooked. Our visitor's small rumpsteak of paper liver pâté was decorated with a radish, two cranberries, a slice of near-truffle, a borage flower, a half tomato, an olive and two lettuce leaves, and underneath the foliage the flavour was good. The crab cocktail was dressed with a radish, two cranberries, a slice of near-truffle, a borage flower, a half tomato, an olive and two lettuce leaves, and underneath the foliage the flavour was good.

Anyone unable to contemplate so much food might be better advised to try the draught McEwans ales and the bar snacks, which include homemade steak and kidney pies, and even stovies, which are a local version of a bap, split and filled with meat or cheese.

A small converted shop at the end of a suburban parade half way between Gateshead and Sunderland sounds equally unpromising. But the French Blackboard at Cledon is packed twice nightly next door. The menu is chalked up on the wall, bistrot style. The chef and co-owner, Arthur Murray, makes a good rough terrine and the main courses, richly under £2, include a mobby daube mignonne, local sole meunière and cæson on robe de chambre (slices of duck breast sandwiched in a well cooked pastry case with a course duxelles of mushroom, onion and bacon). The vegetables in the main price, are ample and tasty in good—perhaps celery in the channel, pommes lyonnaise and a quarter of a small cabbage not over-cooked. Sweets are fruity and alcoholic, or the profiteroles, filled with whipped cream and neatly piped with good dark chocolate. A pity, though, that the wine list is so short and dear.

West of Newcastle, in Hadrian's Wall country, the Highlander at Ovington is a small stone-built inn on the pretty, non-industrial side of the Tyne valley. Here the French flavour of the menu is faithfully maintained by the Newlands although the original caterer, Nicole Fyauzet, is no longer most of her time at her more recent acquisition, the Golden Lion at Stokesley, Teesside. A long-stay visitor might tire of the menu which, apart from steak done various ways, contains only half a dozen main dishes. But most would be only too glad to repeat the experience of eating Mlle Fyauzet's vegetable soup, a Perfect Blend of berry tart with tiny croutons, the course fish soup, served with garlicy French bread and rouille.

Of the main courses the poulet provençal and stranzoff de boeuf are good, and at least the tins peas come from are French ones. Salads arrive with a pleasant ravigotte dressing. The thrifty may like to save 30p by forgoing the coffee which, though described as filtre, tends to be thin and bitter. There is a good range of French wines. Again you serve yourself, but temperatures are well judged. Golden Calf, Hesleden, Durham, Tel. Castle Eden 493. Closed Christmas and Boxing Day. New Year's Day: Sunday, Monday, Meals 12.50-2, 7.45-9.30. Book. Table d'hôte lunch £4, dinner £4.75, with wine.

Traveller's Rest, 73 Claydon, Durham, Tel. Durham 65370. Closed Christmas and Boxing Day; Sunday, Ince. Dinner only, 7.30-9.30. Book. A la carte meal with wine £5.40.

Earl Grey, West Kyo, Durham, Tel. Stanley (Co. Durham) 4187 and 3863. Book. Table d'hôte meal with wine about £7.30. A la carte meal with wine £5.95.

French Blackboard, 83 Finner Street, Cledon, Tyne & Wear, Tel. Heddon 1297. Closed Christmas and Boxing Day; New Year's Day, Sunday; Ince. Dinner only, 7.30-10. Book. A la carte meal with wine £3.85.

Highlander Inn, Ovington, Northumberland, Tel. Prudhoe 32016. Closed Christmas Day, Sunday, Meals 12.50-1.45, 7.15-8.30. Book dinner. A la carte meal with wine £5.25.

The closing date for reports to be included in the 1976 Good Food Guide is September 23, 1975.

Times Newspapers Ltd and the Good Food Guide (Consumers' Association and Hodder) 1975.

### Out and About

#### THE LINKS COUNTRY PARK HOTEL

WEST RUNTON, NORFOLK

An ideal holiday centre on the beautiful North Norfolk coast. Close to sea, many outdoor sporting activities readily available—own golf course. The hotel is excellently appointed, offering luxurious accommodation and superb cuisine. There are many attractive features, all of which contribute to the style of gracious living which can be enjoyed at this lovely hotel.

For brochure and reservations: Tel.: West Runton 691.

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#### IN TOWN TODAY HEWLETT-PACKARD

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### WIDEST SELECTION

#### ARTESIANA SPANISH FURNITURE

As a low cost alternative to the more expensive traditional wooden furniture, our range of modern, contemporary, and traditional styles is available in a wide variety of finishes. Now available in this popular range, you can see at our Kings Road Showroom. Tel. 01-235 2121.

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Exhibition of African Tribal Art. Tel. 01-754 3840.

### Collectors

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Old White Swiss. Tel. 01-754 3840.

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#### SINGLE LETTER

Single Letter. Tel. 01-754 3840.

### Collectors

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Scott-Down Industrial. Tel. 01-754 3840.

### Collectors

#### GARRARD

The Crown Jewellers. Buy Jewellery and Silver. Tel. 01-754 3840.

### Collectors

#### Spink and Woollam

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHOOSING A LIBERAL LEADER

The Liberal Party assembled in Scarborough this week against a background of speculation about a leadership crisis. It has not... Mr Thorpe's speech on Wednesday put a stop to the time being at least to any possibility that his position would be under threat.

difficulty with a complicated formula that appeared designed to leave the effective decision in its own hands while associating the party in the country with the process as closely as possible. The memorandum presented to the assembly was ingenious rather than logical. It declared that "the parliamentary party must be allowed to decide who is to give it leadership within the Commons".

parliamentary party's choice to a special delegate meeting. On one interpretation that leaves the final decision in the hands of the MPs. But it could equally mean that the assembly is determined to make the choice itself. That question was not resolved and could be a cause of embarrassment for the future.

From Mr H. A. Faircloth Sir, It came as no surprise when someone on behalf of the Civil Service... no less a person than Mr John Dryden (General Secretary of the Civil Service National Whitley Council Staff Side) took exception (September 18) to the comments made by Jo Grimond in the second of his articles on bureaucracy and bureaucrats.

From Mr C. St J. Pullyey Sir, As a retired civil servant I am deeply grateful for the Pensions Increase Act, 1971. Nevertheless I felt, even at the time when the current rate of inflation was not forecasted to be introduced, that it would have been preferable to introduce the EEC system whereby retired officials receive pro-rata increases in their pensions each time that an increase is awarded to the rank or grade in which they were serving at the end of their careers.

From Mr A. J. Williams Sir, Before Mr Thorpe's recent remarks start another round of doing arguments for and against incomes policies may I suggest it would help if you asked correspondents to state whether they are chiefly thinking of the private or the public sectors of our economy? Also I suggest they should tell us whether they are in favour of a mixed economy and, if so, how their proposals for a comprehensive incomes policy can be stopped from leading us to a communist economy?

The traditional Mass From the Reverend Laurence Bright OP Sir, Since the texts of the Tridentine rite and the new "Mass of Paul VI" are in all essentials identical, it is not at all obvious what all the fuss is about. The point surely is that they have become associated with opposed theological positions.

WIFE-BEATING IS NO MUSIC HALL JOKE

More violence, perhaps, occurs within the family than in all the rawls and robberies that happen outside it. The strongest feelings are concentrated here, and the emotional and physical difficulties of escape are greater than they are in most other situations.

behaviour that shades into tolerable conduct, as a poet that varies depending on the expectations and endurance of the wife. This treats special problems in identifying and making legal and social provision for the problem. Real dilemmas of privacy are involved. The degree of brutality that some marriages can sustain without disintegrating is remarkable, and is not simply a measure of the limited alternatives that many wives face.

jects in being, with at least twenty-three others in the process of being set up. But it recommends that there should be some 5,000 places of this kind up and down the country, which is plainly cut of the question in the immediate future. Some of the existing centres are already in financial difficulties.

From Mr David Green Sir, Arrangements for Civil Service pay and pensions were changed at the beginning of this decade because it could be demonstrated that they had fallen behind comparable industrial and commercial levels of the 1950s and 1960s, and because 25 years of full employment, the issue of job security in the Civil Service no longer seemed reasonable by way of discussion.

From Mrs Ann Plowden Sir, Mr Grimond's article on bureaucracy (The Times, September 16) is particularly relevant to a recent decision by the East Berkshire Area Health Authority to close one of three local maternity units.

From Mr G. M. Arnold Sir, Further to Jo Grimond's excellent article (September 15), may I add an extra question for the left and centre of the Labour party? Do you believe that a government is elected to govern (and, by implication, to take decisions), or merely delegated to implement the decisions of the party machine?

From the Revd Dr A. P. Bird Sir, It is a pity that your responsible leading article of today (September 13) about Mrs Justice Heilbrunn's decision is marred by a statement to the effect that when a sterilization operation is indicated for therapeutic reasons the sole decision should lie with doctors and specialists, since "a purely clinical judgement is required and only those with the knowledge of the medical factors involved can make it".

elective schools in Russia: how the system works

English is located in our Academi-gorodok, where there are no factories or plants, but there are many scientific workers. Naturally, the school pupils are mainly the children of these workers and employees, while those of workers constitute a mere 5 per cent. But at School No 70, where a number of subjects are taught in French and which is located in the industrial part of the city, the children of workers, 25, and employees, 261.

win the three rounds of an Olympiad. The third, final round is held in Academi-gorodok. It is preceded by three weeks' studies in a summer camp, where the children listen to the lectures read by leading scientists, train in solving very complex problems, and take part in the work of scientific circles, with spells of rest in a pine forest, bathing, reading and visits to theatres. The speakers at the camp thus far to Academi-gorodok are financed by the state.

From Mr J. F. Wallicombe Sir, Your readers may be interested in the performance calculations I have made recently for a Greek trireme under oar propulsion. I have assumed a 120 ft hull length, 35 tons displacement propelled by 170 oarsmen, these show that a crew of fit oarsmen rowing in an efficient fashion could achieve a maximum speed of about 15.5 knots under the best conditions. A crew producing the same power output as a boat race crew could achieve 12.5 knots for a half-hour period in moderate weather conditions. Speeds of the order of 11 knots require only half the maximum power output and could probably be sustained for several hours, whilst speeds of the order of nine knots require only 25 per cent of maximum power and can be sustained more or less indefinitely.

From Major General Sir Alec Bishop Sir, Most people with experience of the situation in Cyprus as it has developed since 1963 will agree with the views expressed by Professor Buchan and Major General Burgess in The Times of September 13. It is, however, desirable to enquire, despite our undertaking under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, we did nothing beyond making verbal protests when those provisions of the Constitution which safeguard the position of the Turkish Cypriot minority were disregarded by the Greek Cypriot Government from 1963 onwards.

From Mr Eric Merrill Sir, May I make it clear that the reason why the Minister for Transport, Dr John Gilbert, gave an incorrect answer to a question in the House of Commons on August 4 (The Times Diary, September 16) was that, at short notice, he was inadvertently given wrong information by the British Railways Board.

From Mrs Susan Brooksbank Sir, It strikes me as curiously inconsistent that a suitably mentally handicapped girl should not be sterilized as it would "deprive the girl of a woman's right to reproduction". Whereas on the other hand abortion denies a perfectly normal unborn child the right to life, let alone parenthood.

From Mr Peter Richey Sir, Bored by a concert this evening, I tuned by mistake to Radio Moscow, just in time for its "Glaucé at the British Scene". I recommend the programme to anyone whose credulity has survived the month or two since Helsinki. Whatever the topic—U.S.S.R., inflation, football violence—he will hear nothing but hostile jargon of the sort once reserved for countries at war with each other. It would be interesting to know the identity of the well-spoken Englishman who carries on where William Joyce left off.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen will open the new Post Office Research Centre at Marlborough, Suffolk, on November 27. The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry Squadron of the 7th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Fusiliers, on October 29, to mark the merging of the squadron into the regiment. Princess Anne will attend the finals of the World Cup for Gymnastics at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on October 29. Princess Anne will visit the Horse Owners Association at Hampton Court Palace on November 13. The Duke of Gloucester will open a design exhibition of the work of Industrial Artists and Designers at the Science Museum on October 22. The Duchess of Gloucester will attend the harvest service of the Guild of Agricultural Journalists at St Bride's, Fleet Street, on October 21. Princess Alexandra, as patron, will visit the new factory and headquarters of the London Association for the Blind on November 18. A funeral service for Sir James Farman will be held in the Grosvenor Chapel on Monday, September 22, at 11.30 am.

Birthdays today

Miss Gillian MacKay, 52; Mr Kenneth More, 61; Sir David Nicolson, 53; Sir Robert Riches, 67; Lord Gornow-Roberts, 62; Sir Robert Scott, 70; the Hon Maxwell Stewart, 60; Mr T. Winter, 49. TOMORROW: Mr Austen Albu, 72; Dr Edith Batho, 80; Sir Edward Bullard, 68; General Sir John Gibbon, 58; Sir John Hall, 63; Mrs Susan Cannon, 53; Sir Peter Matthews, 53; Sir William Neild, 62.

Reception

Anglo-Texas Society The Anglo-Texas Society held a reception yesterday evening at the Lansdowne Club in honour of the American Ambassador. The guests were received by Mr. J. M. Bryceson, chairman, and Mrs Bryceson, and Mrs M. V. K. Wilkinson, deputy chairman.

Luncheon

British Council Dr P. A. J. Tabourdin, assistant director-general, British Council, was host at a luncheon held yesterday at the St George's Hotel in honour of Secretary-General Permanent Under-Secretary, Ministry of Education, Sudan.

Dinner

Chartered Insurance Institute The annual dinner of the Chartered Insurance Institute was held last night at the City Hall, Cardiff. Lord Harlech was the guest of honour and Mr D. A. Blizard, president, was in the chair. Other guests present included: Dr C. W. E. Evans, Mr G. S. Shaw, Mr W. H. Braden, Lord Chalfont, Sir M. Wilson, Mr R. A. Oldfield, Colonel of the Regiment, presided. Captain J. P. Smorun, The Danish Life Regiment, was the guest of the regiment.

Service dinners

XX The Lancashire Fusiliers The XX Lancashire Fusiliers was last night at the Queen's Club, Navy Club, Lieutenant-General Sir George Lea presided. Captain E. W. Burch, RN, Commander M. M. Wilson, Major A. Oldfield, W. W. Eyles, were also present.

The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment) held their annual officers' dinner yesterday evening at the Grosvenor Hotel, Chester. Colonel of the Regiment, presided. Captain J. P. Smorun, The Danish Life Regiment, was the guest of the regiment.

Reserve Forces Association The Reserve Forces Association held their annual dinner at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, last night. Rear-Admiral P. C. Barr presided. The guests included: Rear-Admiral J. V. Conway, Rear-Admiral G. C. Shephard and Air Commodore the Hon P. B. Venoc.

Science report

Cancer: Outside influence

A good deal of evidence has accumulated indicating that 80 to 90 per cent of cancers are caused by environmental influences, and that a further 10 per cent are hereditary. Dr J. Higginson, director of the international cancer research agency in Lyons, told a conference in Manchester yesterday. World studies of the incidence of the disease suggest that the western industrial nations have more varieties of cancer and those found in the developing countries tend to be the same as the native forms of the disease. People moving from one community to another tended to become prone to the cancer of their new circumstances. Comparisons between countries showed that the United States had the highest number of different forms of the disease. Not all the environmental factors were as obvious as man-made chemicals and smoking. Dr Higginson pointed to a high correlation between alcohol and cancer of the mouth, gullet and the liver. He presented the opening paper to an international conference entitled "Cancer—the great war of medicine." Experts were reviewing progress in early detection, treatment and research.

Elections at Cambridge University

The following elections have been made at Cambridge University. GOVAILLS AND CAUSIS COLLEGE. President: (1) Anthropology: (2) Archaeology: (3) Architecture: (4) Botany: (5) Education: (6) Economics: (7) Geography: (8) History: (9) Law: (10) Literature: (11) Mathematics: (12) Medicine: (13) Modern Languages: (14) Natural Sciences: (15) Philosophy: (16) Religion: (17) Science: (18) Social Sciences: (19) Theology: (20) Veterinary: (21) Arts: (22) Music: (23) Drama: (24) Film: (25) Television: (26) Radio: (27) Journalism: (28) Public Administration: (29) Law: (30) Medicine: (31) Science: (32) Arts: (33) Music: (34) Drama: (35) Film: (36) Television: (37) Radio: (38) Journalism: (39) Public Administration: (40) Law: (41) Medicine: (42) Science: (43) Arts: (44) Music: (45) Drama: (46) Film: (47) Television: (48) Radio: (49) Journalism: (50) Public Administration: (51) Law: (52) Medicine: (53) Science: (54) Arts: (55) Music: (56) Drama: (57) Film: (58) Television: (59) Radio: (60) Journalism: (61) Public Administration: (62) Law: (63) Medicine: (64) Science: (65) Arts: (66) Music: 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SPORT

Racing

Roman Warrior taking giant strides

By Michael Seely
Roman Warrior, trained on the course by Nigel Angus, was a smasher. All weight-carrying records to the race when bumping 10st to victory in the Ayr Gold Cup, sponsored by Burmah...

than he has this autumn. Angus gave particular credit to Seagrave, who knows the horse so well. Roman Warrior was bred by his owner Jim Brown, who also owned that outstanding miler, Right Tack, winner of the 2,000 Guineas in 1969.

Angus, who also took this race with Swivling Junior three years ago, plans to run yesterday's winner in the Diadem Stakes at Ascot next Thursday. The trainer considers Roman Warrior to be more than an outstanding bandicapper, as he thinks that the colt has only fully furnished to his best form this season. Although he admits that Roman Warrior was carried off his legs in the early stages of the Nunthorpe Stakes, where he came home strongly to finish second to Bay Express, he is adamant that Roman Warrior can now take on the best over six furlongs.

Woodsome's trainer, Fairhurst, also considers that he has a great chance of taking Royal 15 of the Crown. Plus Two, Apprentice, who finished fourth to Mayab in a nursery at Doncaster last week, may well turn in this round. In the principal race, the Bogside Cup, Neville Crump runs his incredible 12-year-old warrior, Whispering Grace, who signalled his return to form when scoring a hat-trick in the early stages of the season, winning four of his five races, including two valuable events at York, the Wildemore Memorial Stakes at the spring meeting, and the Courage Stakes at the July feature.

Breaking fresh ground at Catterick

By Jim Snow
By the 'smaller' courses graded in group four, none is perhaps more popular or more well-attended than Catterick Bridge. There are farmers and agricultural workers in plenty around. This racecourse was once known as belonging to the North Riding, but from last year was graded by Whitehall into the somewhat chilly North Yorkshire.

Mid Beat may thwart sentiment Newbury double for Balding

By Michael Phillips
Today the spotlight switches to Newbury where the Mill Reef Stakes; the Peter Hastings Stakes and the Newbury Autumn Cup are the highlights of what promises to be a thoroughly absorbing day's racing. The Mill Reef Stakes is for good two-year-olds while the other two races could easily shed some light upon the two races that comprise the autumn double—the Cambridge and the SKY Casewitch.

Mid Beat (3.20), Idiot's Delight (2.30) and Coed Cochion (3.0) are my selections for the three races in question. If Paul Cook had not appeared against the sentence, I would have been more inclined to back Idiot's Delight on the day because his three-day suspension would have been a factor in his selection. As it is, his appeal has still to be heard so Cook is free to take up a number of promising rides and he will profit if both Mid Beat and Coed Cochion win.

Naturally Ian Balding would dearly love to win the Mill Reef Stakes and the Peter Hastings Stakes not on account of what they were worth but for sentimental reasons. This first race is named after the wife of the late Lord Curzon, who was instrumental in the raising of Newbury to its present rank as a racecourse. Neither race looks simple but Balding would appear to have an excellent chance of winning the Peter Hastings Stakes.

Ayr programme

Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Details. Includes Crown Plus Two Handicap (15.25-0), Blackhouse Handicap (2.30-0), Bogside Cup (Handicap £2,400; 1m 5f), Galloway Handicap (£1,576; 7f), Craigmole Stakes (3.30-0), and Fourth of Clyde Stakes (2.30-0).

Catterick Bridge programme

Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Details. Includes Bishop Auckland Handicap (6.15; 7f), London and Northern Securities Handicap (2.40-0), Ralph Lawson Handicap (£214; 11m 40yd), and Askragg Stakes (Div II; 2.30-0).

Warwick NH programme

Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Details. Includes Frankton Hurdle (Novices; £340; 2m), Globe Hurdle (Handicap; £340; 2m), and Maiden Stakes (2.30-0).

Improving May Hill could be danger to Nobiliary

From Pierre Guillot
French Racing Correspondent
Paris, Sept 19
Because of the stable lull action that has been going on since the Prix de Diane this year, Nobiliary has been able to establish herself as the leader of the field and to do so in a race that has been additional significance this year.

Newbury programme

Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Details. Includes Coral Race (15.15; 1m), Mill Reef Stakes (2.40-0), Highclere Nursery Stakes (2.30-0), and Arlington Stakes (£272; 1m).

Bangor NH programme

Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Details. Includes Houghton Hurdle (£272; 2m 92yd), Reprebok Hurdle (Handicap; £408; 2m 92yd), and Croxtan Steeplechase (£272; 2m 180yd).

Warwick NH programme

Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Details. Includes Stonebridge Steeplechase (Handicap; £423; 3m), Brandon Steeplechase (Novices; £340; 2m), and Quinton Handicap Hurdle (Handicap; £476; 2m 5f).

Rain should help Nutha repel English challenge

From an Irish Racing Correspondent
Dublin, Sept 19
The rains have come just in time for the Irish Sweepstakes and the English challenge. Nutha is a strong fancy for the Epsom Derby until it became obvious that the ground was going to be very fast on the day.

Bangor NH programme

Table with 3 columns: Race Name, Time, and Details. Includes Houghton Hurdle (£272; 2m 92yd), Reprebok Hurdle (Handicap; £408; 2m 92yd), and Croxtan Steeplechase (£272; 2m 180yd).

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# THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Personal investment and finance, ages 18 and 19

## Japanese pledge to UK of 'substantial' cut in car sales over rest of the year

Peter Hazelhurst, Sept 19. The Japanese Government will consider imposing import restrictions on cars if Japan does not live up to its promises and the flow of motor cars into the United Kingdom on a voluntary basis, Mr. Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, said in Tokyo.

Mr. Shore, who has Japanese interests in his business, said in a discussion with the world press, bilateral trade and controversy surrounding less car exports in particular had received much attention. He said that the Japanese Government had agreed to a substantial cut in its exports to Britain in the next four months, a reversal of a trend which has seen Japanese car sales up 1 per cent during the first half of the year.

Asked by journalists whether there would be any further restrictions on Japanese cars if there was no substantial reduction in exports during the remainder of the year, Mr. Shore said: "We will have to consider it if there is no reduction."

When asked whether he considered import quotas as a possible measure, Mr. Shore said: "You are least of all likely to get a quota. I hope the situation will become clear tonight, that there had warned Japanese

leaders that the British Government could no longer ignore the vast imbalance between British car sales in Japan and the Japanese market in Britain.

Reading off direct inquiries on the question of whether he had issued a specific warning about import restrictions, Mr. Shore said he had "discussed all aspects of the matter."

He indicated that the British Government was not so perturbed by the political aspect of the outcry of the unions against Japanese exports; but he had pointed out to Japanese leaders that in terms of British attempts to correct the huge trade deficit with Japan, it was imperative that Japanese exports be reduced.

A situation where one country was benefiting to the detriment of another in a period of stagflation would be harmful to long-term trade policy, he told the Japanese, and they had accepted his argument.

Japanese leaders, including government officials and businessmen, were aware of British difficulties and had promised to support a system of voluntary restraints.

"Both government and industry are now fully aware of our concern about this," Mr. Shore said. "I can certainly say that from my discussions with government leaders and industry that the sharp upward turn we have had so far this

year, will certainly not continue for the rest of this year. The trend will be reversed."

He refused to give details of how the Japanese motor industry intended to reduce its exports, but said he understood that both deliveries and the sale of inventories would be reduced.

When reminded that the Japanese car manufacturers issued a statement yesterday declaring that they would not abide by a system of voluntary restraints, Mr. Shore refused to comment.

"I would also like to say nothing further on the question of the future in 1975 because this has been the subject of discussion as well and we have not completed talks."

Failure to penetrate the Japanese market was partly due to the situation of the British motor industry and its inability to meet both domestic and foreign demand.

But he said it would be wrong to single out the British industry's performance in the Japanese market because the very small number of British cars sold in the Japanese market was an expense shared by all manufacturers in the Western world.

Mr. Shore said he believed that Japanese car sales would have to drop below 10,000 a month for the rest of the year. "I am not proposing to do the arithmetic at the moment, but there will have to be a considerable reduction."

## Bank issues another short-dated 'tap' stock

By Melvyn Westlake

In an attempt to soak up the exceptionally large amounts of liquid funds now slopping around the banking system, and simultaneously help to finance the huge public sector borrowing requirements, the Bank of England has decided to put yet another government stock on the market. This unexpected move came yesterday afternoon.

The news that another short-dated "tap" stock was coming on sale depressed the gilt-edged market and prices eased. The need to take this action has resulted from the low level of demand for bank loans, which has left the banking sector with much more surplus cash than usual.

In recent weeks the banks have been bidding heavily for Treasury bills at the weekly tender, attracted by the relatively high rates of interest that can be earned from these bills. But this heavy demand has threatened to drive interest rates down at a time when American rates have been rising.

The Bank of England has made it clear recently that it is opposed to any reduction in London money market rates because it would make sterling less attractive to foreign holders if yields in London lost their traditional competitive edge.

As a result of this opposition to lower rates, the curious situation has arisen of firm rates coinciding with substantial bank liquidity. Although the obvious move by the authorities in this situation would be to make a call for special deposits to be lodged by the banks with the Bank of England, it is feared that such a move would do little to reduce the obvious surplus of funds in the banking community at a time of deep economic recession.

The new "tap" stock (a stock which the authorities feed the market from the Government's portfolio) is angled specifically at attracting money from the banks. It is the third tranche of the Treasury 9 per cent 1978, and has an issue price of 95 per cent of £100. About £400m will be on offer.

Including the two previous tranches, the total value of this stock will amount to £1,500m, making it the largest tranche of the Treasury 9 per cent 1978. Its redemption yield is 11.38 per cent.

What is surprising about this offer is that it does not, as is usual, replace an exhausted "tap" but is in addition to all the others. The authorities now have at least four "tap" stocks at their disposal.

However, the other stocks were not really suitable for the banks, and the authorities hope the latest one will come closer to their requirements, being only 24 years away from maturity. Initial response from the banks yesterday was enthusiastic. They prefer the high yields on money market assets.

The Bank of England is being much less effective in attracting this money into Government hands, yesterday's offering needed to fund this year's £9,000m public sector borrowing requirement.

## 2,000 Plessey workers lose jobs because of Post Office cutback

By Malcolm Brown

Nearly 2,000 employees are to be made redundant by the Plessey Group as a result of the Post Office's decision to cut back its orders of telephone equipment.

The group's lay-off announcement yesterday was immediately followed by a warning from Sir William Whitelaw, Chairman of the Post Office: "We have the money to buy equipment, we don't need and the economic facts which apply to industry apply just as much to the Post Office."

Striking an unusually irritable note Sir William added: "One day we are being told that we must keep our costs down; that we must cut our stock according to our income. The next day there are alarms about the consequences of doing precisely that."

The facts of life are that business is down because of the state of the economy and of the effects of government policy for a return to realistic prices of Post Office services."

Mr. Plessey, who is seeking further meetings with the Post Office and Whitehall to protest about the severity of the cuts, they have already lodged a strong protest during a meeting with Mr. Peter Carey, Permanent Secretary (Industry, Whitehall's top industrial civil servant.

The Plessey cuts, whose final details still have to be negotiated with employee representatives, will affect 1975 employees out of a total payroll of 21,320. The largest cuts will fall on the Edge Lane, Liverpool, headquarters of the telecommunications division, where 950 jobs out of a total payroll of 7,055 are to go.

A further 150 will go from the so-called satellite plants at Fleniag Road in Liverpool, Chorley, Lamberhead and Wigan, and another 105 at the Kirby and South Shields factories. At Euston, near Nottingham, 500 jobs are to be cut and a further 270 will go at Sunderland.

Mr. Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Liverpool Walton, said last night that Mr. Gregor McKenzie, Minister of State for the Department of Industry, had agreed to meet a deputation of Merseyside MP's and regional leaders from the white collar unions Peterborough, Shildon, Pye TMC Composites, a subsidiary of the Pye Group of Cambridge, announced yesterday that it was stopping production at its new factory in Peterborough. Sixty workers will lose their jobs at the eight-acre factory site, which was opened last year on the Westwood Industrial Estate as part of the city's £600m expansion scheme.

time working and that "further reductions in resources" would have to be considered unless there was a significant relaxation by the Post Office.

The Plessey redundancies come less than 10 days after GEC announced plans to make 4,800 workers redundant and close three factories over the next year because of the Post Office cutback.

Meanwhile, Standard Telephone and Cables, the Post Office's third main supplier, yesterday reassured staff that there would be no immediate redundancies in its telephone switching division.

But Mr. Kenneth Corfield, managing director of STC, gave warning that in the face of continuing downward revision of the Post Office ordering programme, redundancies will eventually be forced upon the company.

Plessey, STC and GEC are seeking further meetings with the Post Office and Whitehall to protest about the severity of the cuts. They have already lodged a strong protest during a meeting with Mr. Peter Carey, Permanent Secretary (Industry, Whitehall's top industrial civil servant.

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## Mr Slater sells nearly half of his Lubok stake

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Jim Slater, the City financier, yesterday announced the sale of a big slice of one of his main personal assets, in order to reduce borrowings.

He has sold to "business associates" 2.25 million of his 5.25 million shares in Lubok Investments, the publicly quoted company which came to the fore just over a year ago as his chosen vehicle for speculation in the gold and gold share market. Theo Mr Slater and a number of associates bought large stakes in Lubok at 10p a share.

While yesterday's announcement gave no details of the price paid on disposal of part of Mr Slater's holding, it appears to have been close to the current market price of 32p, indicating that he may have netted a profit of around £500,000 within 13 months.

Mr Slater still has three million Lubok shares, worth another £1m at current prices. Since he became chairman and major shareholder the group has made half a dozen acquisitions and dealt heavily in krugerrands. But Slater Walker Securities, Slater's company, recently revealed a drop from £10m to £2.2m in its first-half profits, while the former managing director, Mr Tony Buckley, recently announced his departure. Mr Slater's personal holding in the bank and financial services group is worth just over £1m.

## Rise in American consumer prices smallest for over two years

Frank Vogel, Sept 19

Consumer prices in the US States rose by 0.2 per cent last month to give the best monthly inflation gain since July 1973. The low season-adjusted rate helped real earnings to rise by 0.2 per cent. This is the first since February, 1973 that earnings have shown an increase over the year.

The Department of Labour reported today that the consumer price index had risen by 0.2 per cent to 162.3, equal to the white collar spendable earner's index but with special rates earlier in the year, dented by 1.1 per cent in August, 1974.

The news was followed by trading on Wall Street, where Dow Jones industrial rose 15.18 points to 2,317. This means the index had risen 31.74 points in two

Fears are widespread of a sharp increase in prices in October because big fuel price rises are expected as a result of President Ford's veto of price control legislation. Today's figures produce an annual rate of inflation on a seasonally adjusted basis, as determined by the data for the last three months, of 8.7 per cent.

The sharp decline in the inflation rate last month was largely caused by a slowdown in the upward pace of food prices, and no gains were registered on average for this category, after rises of 1.7 per cent in July and 1.5 per cent in June.

Non-food commodity prices also contributed to the slowdown, with many categories showing a price advance of just over half the July increase at 0.5 per cent. Prices of services in August, gained by 0.5 per cent, as they did in July.

Today's news has strengthened confidence about the economy in the stock markets, where gains have been seen in the past couple of days largely because of hopes that the Federal Reserve would ensure that interest rates remained stable and because of evidence that the health of the economy is improving.

The Department of Commerce last night published improved corporate profits and revised gross national product figures for the second quarter. The latter showed a real gain of 1.9 per cent, compared with

an earlier revision showing a rise of 1.6 per cent. The original preliminary figures for this period showed a decline of 0.3 per cent.

First National City Bank held its prime lending rate at 8 per cent today, and money market dealers said the Federal Reserve was in the market extending "repurchase" agreements, so supplying some funds to the market and enabling some rates to fall slightly.

Latest Fed figures show that the money supply on an M1 basis rose over the past three months at an annual rate of 5.2 per cent. This gain is well within the Fed's target range of 5 to 7.5 per cent annual growth, and could enable it to supply some additional liquidity to the markets, so checking the upward trend of interest rates.

But some banks remain pessimistic about the outlook and interest rates. Citibank economists see short-term rates rising further and inflation again becoming the major economic problem. This view is widely shared by experts.

However, the present interest rate levels, the low inflation rate by international comparison, and the huge balance of payments surplus are all combining to give additional strength to the dollar on the foreign exchange markets.

Foreign exchange dealers in New York expect the dollar to be less cautious about the United States currency than they were just a few months ago.

## Expansion moves by Grand Met

By Patricia Tisdall

Grand Metropolitan Hotels is involved in a detailed discussion with at least 10 London hotel companies in an attempt to expand its operations. Despite some gloomy predictions for both holiday and business traffic, the group, one of the largest in the world, is interested in expansion and confirms that talks are in progress.

The company has just completed negotiations to take over the management of three leading hotels in the London area: the Grosvenor, the Europa Lodge in Newcastle and the Westmoreland in London, which is due to reopen on October 1.

Negotiations are understood to involve two further parts of the ill-fated Piccadilly Estate Hotels group, the Rathbone Piccadilly and the Montcalm in Great Cumberland Place in London.

In recent years Grand Met's policy has been to arrange management only deals with hotels on a profit-sharing basis with the property developer. Concentrating mainly in the popular priced hotel room market with large hotels such as the London Hilton, it has promoted its hotels on a group basis.

Within the past few months however, it has lived off its four top-grade London hotels, the Grosvenor, the Europa, the Grosvenor and the Grosvenor, the latter a separate division in order to attract more business traffic to these hotels.

Altogether the group has 13 hotels in continental Europe based in Great Britain. Expansion plans apply wherever the group has hotels, as well as in the United Kingdom.

The group has just completed an agreement with the Albert Heijn group of companies based in Beirut for the joint management of the 11-floored Marathons in the Middle East.

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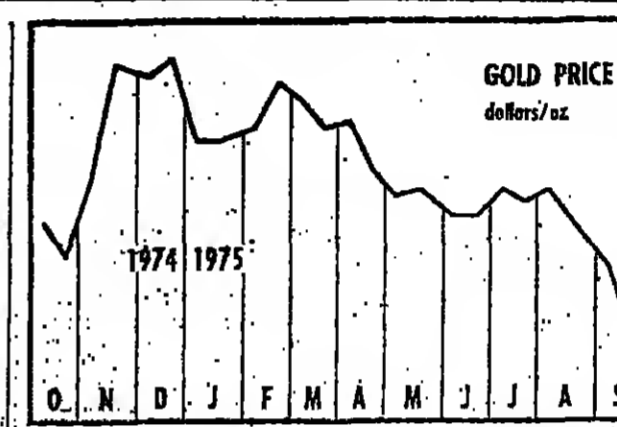
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Gold slide continues: The gold price yesterday continued to slide, dropping another \$2.75 an ounce, in London, to close at \$136.50. It has now fallen \$23 an ounce since the beginning of this month, and stands at its lowest level for 14 months. Dealers said that there was further heavy selling yesterday. They suggested that there was

## Babcock £11m rights issue after first-half profits surge

By John Whitmore

Babcock & Wilcox, the power generation equipment and engineering group, yesterday confirmed recent stock market predictions that it was about to raise additional long term finance by unveiling an £11.2m rights issue.

The main reason behind the issue is the group's wish to sustain its investment programme in the United Kingdom without having to rely excessively on short-term borrowings.

Although Babcock recently reported more than £31m from its sales of power plant in Germany, the company had already indicated that it would prefer to reinvest this money overseas rather than repatriate it.

American Babcock, with 23 per cent of the United Kingdom company's equity, has not

## 'Foot dragging' loses Europe \$500m loan

Brussels, Sept 19.—Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp, the EEC Commissioner for economic and financial affairs, said today that the Community had lost the chance of borrowing up to \$500m (about £238m) from Venezuela because of "foot dragging" by Community governments. Venezuela had informed the Community it was no longer able to offer the funds.

## Shares index at 3-month high

The equity trading account ended strongly and share prices moved up fresh as dealing for the new account got underway in the London stock market. EMI (201p), Bats (317p) and Tube Investments (250p) all attracted investors, and GKN (220p) quickly shrugged off the overnight news of a sharp fall in interim profits.

The FT index gained 8.9 on the day to close at 343.6, the highest level since early in June. Over the week, market indices have risen by nearly 8 per cent.

Gifts were also firmer yesterday ahead of the announcement of a new tap stock at the shorter end of the market.

Investor's Week, page 19

## Shah puts 15pc limit on oil rise

Copenhagen, Sept 19.—Iraq will make a "moderate" rise and insist on nothing beyond a 15 per cent increase of the crude oil price with the ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meet in Vienna next Wednesday, according to the Shah.

In an interview recorded in Tehran yesterday and broadcast here late today by Radio Denmark, the Shah also predicted that Iran's position would be of "some influence" at the meeting.

## Irish fertilizer companies sold

Fitzwilliam, the Dublin-based conglomerate headed by Mr. Tony O'Reilly, which has been experiencing liquidity problems, has sold its minority interest in two fertilizer companies to ICI for £2.4m.

ICI already owns the balance of the shares. Fitzwilliam owned 49 per cent in Richardson's Fertilizers and 32.7 per cent of Ulster Fertilizers, both of which were based in Northern Ireland.

## Firmen of Export-Import Bank and SEC to resign

US Correspondent, Sept 19

Mr. Carrer, head of the Export-Import Bank and the Securities and Exchange Commission, announced today that he and Mr. William Casey, head of the Export-Import Bank, would resign from their posts.

Mr. Carrer's resignation comes 18 months ago. His resignation comes as a surprise, and is his letter to the President he said that after five years, he would like to spend more time to attend to his own business and financial matters.

Mr. Casey has been given a rough time by Congress and the courts. He had tough ceilings placed in the last year on the volume of loans the bank can make to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Carrer, whose departure had been widely rumored, said in a letter to President Ford that he believed his resignation from the SEC would cause little disruption to the agency's operations. He will remain until November 30 and then return to private law practice.

## Transatlantic air charter fare controls to stay

Controls on transatlantic charter fares are to stay for the time being, the Civil Aviation Authority announced yesterday. The new minimum advanced booking charter prices for the North Atlantic routes will show an overall average increase of about 9 per cent.

The authority says that the controls, which were introduced on an experimental basis during 1975 to improve the profitability of airlines and air travel organizers should continue for another year. But it adds that controls will be removed to allow market forces to govern prices "as soon as the market improves sufficiently."

## Government revises loan terms and takes £2m shares in Marathon Shipbuilding

By Maurice Corlett, Industrial Editor

Britain has taken a share in the Marathon Shipbuilding Company (UK) and revised the terms of the state loan which helped rescue the old John Brown shipyard on Clyde-side.

No reasons are being given for this move, and the Department of Industry is unable to indicate the full extent of the financial assistance.

In July 1974, after the crisis on the Upper Clyde, the Government-based Marathon Manufacturing Co bought the John Brown yard for £115m and received extensive state assistance which has never been fully disclosed.

## German plan for £450m Clyde chemical works

By Ronald Faux

A £450m chemical plant which could act as an important spur to industrial regeneration in West Scotland may be built on a 175 acre site at Loughgheed Point on the Clyde.

A feasibility study is being prepared for a consortium of four German chemical companies: BASF of Ludwigshafen, Bayer AG of Leverkusen, Veba Chemie AG of Bonn and Wacker Chemie GmbH of Munich, which represent two-thirds of the German chemical industry.

The proposed complex would be able to process about one million tons of crude oil a year into raw material for the plastic industry, and would employ more than 2,500.

## Bank agrees raise in lays stake

Sept 19.—First Trust Bank of New York today said that it has agreed with Lloyds has been given British and United regulatory agencies its shareholding in Bank of London to from 40 per cent.

The bank is the majority in Grindlays, and a increase in the positions designed in Grindlays after a loan losses.

Case in Citibank's being undertaken purchase of additional issued Grindlays' through Lloyds £27m subordinated to Grindlays.

The second largest world and achieved as the any other bank last year.

## Boycott on unofficial motor show

By Clifford Webb

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and individual car companies are boycotting a privately organized motor show which is being staged in London during the first week of the official Earls Court Motor Show next month.

Ford has advised its dealers not to exhibit. British Leyland, Chrysler and Vauxhall have officially taken a neutral attitude to dealer participation, but they do not approve of a show which clashes with the industry's annual "showpiece."

Under the title "Fleet Motor Show '75" the second show is being organized by Mr. A. H. Turner group of companies which includes a large contract hire fleet. It is being staged at the West Centre Hotel in Littlewood, Fulham, from October 15-17. It will be a 10-minute walk of Earls Court.

## Hongkong fails to raise EEC textile quotas

Brussels, Sept 19.—Negotiations between Hongkong and the European Community on raising textile export quotas have broken down and are not expected to resume, EEC sources said today.

Three days of talks ended in deadlock late last night when the two sides decided they had not found a mutually acceptable solution.

The collapse of the talks means that Hongkong textiles, valued at millions of dollars, mostly winter clothing, ordered by EEC importers will remain barred from the Community.

Sources close to the Commission negotiating team said: "It was not thought that Hongkong had strong enough arguments for not accepting the quota limit set in July."

The talks "It is now up to Hongkong to consider the position."

## How the markets moved

The Times index: 143.27 +2.67  
The FT index: 343.6 +8.9

Rises	Falls
Ass Port Cement	9p to 180p
Bussines	5p to 280p
Minster Assets	5p to 42p
Imp Chem Ind	4p to 280p
Int Computers	7p to 51p
Journalist	5p to 13p
Royal Group	2 1/2p to 21 1/2p
Tube Invest	5p to 250p
Brit Leyland	1p to 34p
Bracken Mines	35p to 210p
Ciro Ridge	1p to 1p
Dawson Day	1p to 9p
EMT	1 1/2p to 20p
Lafarge	7p to 28p
GKN	5p to 39p
Equities ended the week with	firm strong gains.
Gold fell by \$2.75 on the day to	\$136.50 an oz.
S&P 500 was 1.17398 on Friday while	S&P-E was 0.564359.
Commodities: Rest of the	week at 1157.6 (previous, 1156.8).
Reports, pages 19 and 20	

## THE POUND

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia	1.70	Switzerland	2.50
Austria	1.64	US\$	2.13
Belgium	40.90	Yugoslavia	38.25
Canada	80.00		
Denmark	2.18		
France	13.00		
Finland	8.15		
Germany	9.55		
Greece	5.40		
Hongkong	70.75		
Italy	16.75		
Japan	1,980.00		
Netherlands	628.00		
Norway	5.25		
Portugal	12.00		
Spain	61.00		
Sweden	11.65		
Switzerland	9.55		
US\$	2.13		
Yugoslavia	38.25		

Rates for small denominations bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank. Excludes travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE



Followed... eventually give way to the workers... via such worthy concepts as flexible participation, cooperative coordination and job democracy.

When the workers' takeover comes

The latest issue of Money Why magazine contains a number of important pointers for potential worker-investors. Perhaps you don't know what a worker-investor is. The concept is a novel one and arises from the growing habit of workers in stage a do-it-yourself takeover operation and start running the show on their own, without being cluttered up with unnecessary top management.

The details differ widely from situation to situation, but the underlying trend is self-evident and its implications clear. It is not the worker who considers the nature and remuneration of the work he is expected to do, but also before signing on he must take careful note of what is likely to be in it for him in the event of a sudden appropriation of the company's assets by the workforce.

The whole idea is a natural part of the process whereby private investors give way to institutional investors, who give way to "stateholders" who in turn eventually give way to the workers, and only the workers, via such worthy concepts as flexible participation, cooperative coordination and job democracy.

The Money Why article provides a useful reference point for the worker-investor and concentrates on a number of typical examples and their possibilities.

Duckbilled Platypus Explains: This Australian mining hole is a very rough guide to the workers, and only the workers, via such worthy concepts as flexible participation, cooperative coordination and job democracy.

From the heady beginnings when reports of enormous quantities of nickel, molybdenum, coal, and manganese nodules were constantly being flashed over the teleprinters, the worker-investor who had left playing his cards till too late would now find himself in possession of a very deep hole with a brass bedstead at the bottom, plus the prospect of having to dig even deeper before he hits anything at all, even water, the company having also run out of shovels in the meantime. A classic case of neither having one's cake nor eating it.

Cogg and Sprckett: A Midlands engineering company, Francis Kinsman

Fixed interest investment

Government's man in the market

September morning in the City, and there are high clouds over the great domes above the looming mass of the Bank of England. Just round the corner in Moorgate, in comfortable portland stone, the portraits of past partners in the offices of stockbrokers Mullens and Cc almost visibly deplore the pop music drifting in at the open windows.

On the entrance of Thomas Anthony Gore Browne, First Broker to the National Debt Commissioners, it mysteriously stops. It was in any case the wrong time; it should have been the British Grenadiers.

For the Government Broker comes of an army family and is, by long-abandoned but not forgotten tradition, an army man. But he has few regrets about his forward-looking move from the Guards to the City almost 30 years ago. "I've been very lucky," he says.

In part his lack lay in the opportunities for wide-ranging experience which arose with Mullens, the stockholding firm he joined in not quite blissful ignorance in 1948. The senior partner at Mullens has been Government Broker since the end of the eighteenth century

and the top hats which all the partners of the firm still wear are but an outward sign of its venerable traditions.

However, Mullens has plenty of business other than that which its senior partner and his assistant transact as agents of the Bank of England.

So Mr Gore Browne was set to remedy the deficiencies in a legal and military education with five years of dealing with banks and discount houses, experience which he classifies as "quite invaluable". After that there was a spell of looking after ordinary shares for the firm's customers, so that, by the time of his appointment as assistant to the Government Broker in 1967, he had a useful view of investment markets overall.

Last year, on the retirement of Sir Peter Daniel, he took over as senior partner.

At their most basic the functions of the Government Broker are to superintend the operation of the market in gilt (government stock), and to help finance the government debt by sales of new stock. In addition, he sometimes acts as an agent of the monetary policy decided by the Treasury and the Bank

of England, by affecting the trend—or, at any rate, the pace—of interest rate changes through his operations in the gilt-edged market.

With issues of government stock continuously coming up for redemption, the first of Mr Gore Browne's functions is to buy in stock which is near to maturity and to ensure that there is available longer-dated stock into which the investors thus relieved of their investments may reinvest the proceeds.

Almost one third of the government stock now in issue is due for redemption within the next five years, so that this is itself a task of some size.

In a mechanically perfect world, stock due for redemption this year would be replaced by issues with redemption dates into the second decade of the next century; but since investors tend to have particular preferences and requirements, the operation in fact assumes the characteristics of a slow shuffle forward of maturity dates.

Into the range of maturity rates, running and redemption yields which are available on government stock—something

for everyone", says Mr Gore Browne—a new issue is from time to time inserted to help fund the government borrowing requirements. These new issues are known as the "top stocks", and their issue is the second function of the Government Broker.

He decides, in conjunction with the Bank of England, upon the timing and the terms of the stocks and feeds them into the market, adjusting the price from time to time so that it becomes necessary to set things moving.

In both of these capacities the Government Broker, as the agent of the Bank of England, acts to encourage investors to put their money into government stock. In the knowledge of this overriding objective, the market tends to view such of his activities as comes to its notice—which are few—with some suspicion, looking for the bluff and double bluff.

Imprecision is further complicated by the Bank's tendency sometimes to use the Government Broker's activities in the market as a means of regulating the trend of interest rates. Thus there was a long period in the early months of this year

when no new short-dated "top" stock was issued, so that demand at the short end of the market could be satisfied only out of existing issues, prices rose—and yields fell in line with the Bank's wishes.

But it is plain enough that the extent to which the Government Broker can determine the trend of interest rates is limited, given the existence of a multitude of factors beyond his control.

These functions apart, Mr Gore Browne also regulates the new issues queue, ensuring that companies or corporations coming over the market are not falling over themselves to their mutual detriment; and he is an ex-officio member of the Stock Exchange Council.

It is obvious that, quietly, he derives much pleasure from his place at the heart of the City machine with all its attendant responsibilities—down to recollect four times daily top-hatted colleagues at the Bank. Yet the two sons who are following in his footsteps were chosen not the City, but the Guards.

Adrienne Gleeson Mr Thomas Gore



Insurance



Problems peculiar to flat-dwellers

Most of the articles written about household insurances are for house owners. But owners of flats can be in a difficult position—since they have only a long lease and do not own the freehold of the site. Not all insurance men appreciate their problems.

Naturally, it is usually the responsibility of the company owning the freehold (which I shall call the freeholder) to insure. But many leases are vague on this point. A lease may simply state that the freeholder will insure for fire and whatever other perils it considers appropriate. And there is not necessarily an obligation on the freeholder to rebuild.

Often, therefore, a flat-owner is very much in the hands of the freeholder—and thus may not know whether the insurance cover is sufficiently wide, or whether the insurance has been arranged for the full cost of rebuilding. This is a particularly important point in these days of soaring building costs.

The freeholder may be cooperative by giving information on these points; but that is not a foregone conclusion. Should the whole building be destroyed, but the insurance money is insufficient to rebuild it, the freeholder will be obliged to divide the policy proceeds equitably among the flat-owners; but that may not amount to much in return for the disappearance of your home and investment.

If, for any reason, you are dissatisfied with the insurance arrangements made by the freeholder, or have suspicions of one kind or another, you may like to make your own arrangements with an insurance company—so as to be sure of some protection.

In this event, there is really little point in insuring for the cost of rebuilding your flat—even though one can arrive at that figure by taking the cost of rebuilding the whole building and doing some fairly complicated sums.

The real point is that you want to protect the value of your flat. If, for any reason, it cannot be rebuilt, you want to have the cash to be able to buy a comparable flat elsewhere.

Many insurers, therefore, will insure your flat, not for the cost of rebuilding, but for its value on the open market.

Naturally, it will be up to you to decide on the figure for which to insure, based on the prices for which other similar flats (with the same length of lease to run) are selling.

So far, so good. The snag is that when you start talking to an insurance company it is likely to want the full rate of premium on the figure which you are insuring—despite the fact that this is really only a form of long-stop insurance, and will pay out little or nothing if the freeholder is adequate.

Many insurance companies will want to charge you £24 per £100 insured, although it would be possible to obtain a lower rate with help of a good broker. In practice, of course, the freeholder paying a full rate of premium on the whole building, and you paying premium for your own flat.

Provided the freeholder's insurance is adequate to meet the cost of rebuilding, you will not be able to claim the sum insured under your own policy. The latter is only a long-stop, and comes into play if and when the freeholder's insurance does not give you proper protection.

Insurers appreciate this difficulty, but will be reluctant to

reduce the premium charged to you unless they have fairly full details of the insurance which the freeholder has arranged, and can assess whether the sum insured on the whole building is adequate.

And, of course, your reason for wanting to take out supplementary insurance may be the fact that you cannot obtain satisfactory answers to your inquiries in this area. After all, if the freeholder's insurance is quite adequate, there is little point in your spending money on your own insurance—apart from the liability cover which is provided.

You may, however, be able to extend the insurance so as to obtain cover for the cost of living elsewhere temporarily after the destruction of your flat. This would be additional to the cover already provided by the policy covering the contents of your flat.

If the freeholder will give details of the insurance in force, your own insurers may well be prepared to reduce the rate of premium which they want to charge you. If, however, you make little progress, at least you may be able to find out with which company the freeholder has insured the building.

You can then approach that company for your own insurance. Provided it can trace the details of the freeholder's insurance in its files, and you can help to show that the sum insured is adequate for rebuilding, your own insurance cost should be reduced.

John Drummond

Two new funds

After the August downturn in gross unit trust sales, which were some 25m lower than the £18.77 (net sales were virtually unchanged at £12.3m), the industry appears to be making a comeback this month.

The improvement in September sales will get an additional boost from the launch of new unit trusts, including the new "Keyser's Key Energy and Industrial Fund".

There is nothing new about specialist funds in general and energy funds in particular. As

Keyser's Brian Rutz, manager to the fund, says: "It is clear to us that the most important resource of the next 20 years is energy."

The minimum investment is 750 units, which, at 50p, works out at £375.

Barclays' Unicorn International's new Unicorn Trust will not swell domestic unit trust sales. Quoted in dollars and in British pounds, the investment from the United Kingdom arm of the offshore fund industry—it is designed for international investors looking for an international spread.

Unit trust performance

UNIT TRUSTS: Growth and specialist funds (progress this year and the past three years). Unit holder index: 1,522.1; rise from January 1, 1975: 51.5%. Average change offer to bid, net income included, over past 12 months: +21.7% (vs +21.6% for the industry as a whole). Figures compiled by Money, Management and Unitholder, 30 Finsbury Square, London, EC2.

Table with columns for Growth, Specialist, and Unit Trust performance. Lists various funds like Dreyton Growth, National West Finan, etc., with their respective performance metrics.

Motor insurance The penalty of not belting up...

The whole question of the use of seat belts in a car has become a hot topic over the past few months.

One insurance company has performed a service for the industry by taking a case to the Court of Appeal. The result was that three Lord Justices decided unanimously that for a passenger in the front seat of a car not to wear a seat belt constitutes contributory negligence.

This means that if the passenger is injured and claims from the driver of the car (who, of course, is obliged by law to be insured for this type of claim), he cannot expect to receive as much compensation as if he had been wearing a seat belt.

Until the Law Reform (Contributory Negligence) Act 1945, anybody claiming compensation for an injury sustained while travelling in a car was held to be liable as a result of not being worn.

By no means can the available evidence be taken to show that a failure to wear a seat belt would be a significant contributory factor in the injuries sustained.

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if not wearing a seat belt over the past few months.

Other suggestions made along the lines of accident: that it is not necessary to wear a seat belt on a high-speed car driving in fog on a road where the visibility is poor. Lord Denning on that there is an accident every time on the road.

By how much it would be reduced depends on the individual circumstances of the case. In some cases, it is held that no diff injuries sustained, that even there reduction in the available as a result of not being worn.

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Investment trust valuations

Table with columns for Company, Date of Valuation, Annual Dividend, and Market Value. Lists various investment trusts like Alliance, British Overseas, etc., with their respective financial data.

\* Applies to Ordinary/A Ordinary only. \*\* adjusted for scrip issue, etc. \*\*\* valuation two months ago. \*\*\*\* includes special dividend. \*\*\*\*\* conversion stocks are treated as fully converted at the rate for the next conversion date, or where a figure is marked 'x' as prior charges; warrants or subscription rights are treated as exercised, except where a figure is marked 'w'.

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Investor's week

Market optimistic • Doubts on shareholder protection

Equity market took off in a rush after the Quarterly Report from the Bank of England had lent support to their prospects for over-inflation in the United Kingdom...

The decision of the leading unit trust group M & G to pull out from the City's two shareholder protection organisations over the lack of effective action in the wake of the share attack in a tea cup...

committee of institutional shareholders to reach any agreement over Distillers and the fact that M & G was losing touch with the valuable time of its active investment experts...

Stock markets

Shares move up strongly at close of account

The last day of the trading account saw share prices moving up strongly, with the inevitable profit-takers clearly outnumbered by fresh buyers...

Even the long-dated stocks were affected by the news of the first hour's trading. But prices soon turned higher as profit takers were absorbed...

The major interactional records small losses at the end of the first hour's trading. But prices soon turned higher as profit takers were absorbed...

issues continued to find buying support. AP Cement (180p) put on 5p when some sizable buyers found the market unprepared. Shares in R. Costain were back in demand...

Investments (25p) and Electro-Machine (16p). Preference shares in Godfrey Davis were quickly marked up to 75p bid on the move in reply to its 79p cash...

Water for the lifeboat

A number of secondary issues at least there is now a real light at the end of the tunnel. It is unlikely that the proposed rescue operation which is being undertaken in the dot and County Securities...

Its response has been to stretch hard. Its balance sheet total has been reduced by about a third in the past year and a half on the fundamental philosophy that if it could show the world that its scope of its business was conservative in balance-sheet terms it would be much better placed to return to the money markets for funds again...

recipients—UDT, First National Finance, Mercantile Credit and Keyser, Ullmann—share they have all been heavily involved in property. Liability in present circumstances to dispose of property portfolios is proving a serious hindrance to many companies' ability to retrace...

BPC is held back by interest charges

Throughout the current year, Sir Charles Hardie, chairman of British Printing Corporation, has been cautious. After the setback of the three-day week, which brought pre-tax profits down from £2.3m to £2.0m in the first half of 1974, he said last April that to draw conclusions from the hearing on results in the first quarter of 1975 would be wrong...

credit for the better figures. In printing pre-tax profits climbed from £1.04m to £1.46m, with all principal sectors improving except Sun Printers. The publishing end trading division's contribution rose from £1.22m to £1.5m, due to the success of the BBC English Language course in Japan and improved results from K. G. Berthmarks Folio AB in Sweden...

Latest dividends

Table with columns: Company, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Anglo-Wash, BPC, Dorada, etc.

Brokers' views

The debate inside the City on the implications of the Sandilands report for company accounting is enlivened this week by a strong recommendation to investors to 'welcome Sandilands and exert every influence... for its speedy implementation...'

cast. Kemp regards its prediction of total requirements of about £10,500m as below market consensus, and thinks that the correct balance of gilt is based on a 'misplaced' focus about the requirement. With industrial shares looking better, several stockbrokers have taken a look at recent favourites. Pilkington Bros will be a prime beneficiary of the anticipated recovery in world economies and the shares are substantially undervalued...

7-day for working wives

It is a time link for income on the horizon which is sufficiently important to interrupting the series of capital transfer tax. October the deadline for working men and their husbands who are contemplating either electing separate taxation or drawing a claim already...

Table showing tax calculations for 1974-75. Columns: Earnings, Investment Income, Less Personal Allowances, Tax payable, Tax saving from separate taxation.

power to extend the limit in special circumstances. Once the election is made it stands for all future years until husband and wife jointly decide to revoke it. Where income fluctuates greatly from one year to another it may not always pay to go for separate taxation.

Greaves Org plunges to £1.4m loss after write offs

Borrowings and the housing slump forced profits at Greaves Organisation down from £54,000 to £7,000 in the first half year and they made for heavy losses in the second. Pre-tax profits of £1.1m for the year to March 31, 1974 gave way to a loss of £1.4m in the first half year to June 30 last. Management accounts suggest that action taken so far has returned the group to more acceptable profit but no positive forecast can yet be made.

US Steel agreement

Pittsburgh, Sept. 19.—United States Steel has agreed to buy an interest in, and also itself from, Associated Manganese Mines of South Africa. The American giant said it will acquire a 10 per cent interest in 335 shares. United States Steel also said it had agreed to buy up to three million tonnes of iron ore each year for 15 years at a price subject to annual negotiation. United States Steel has also agreed to a loan for Associated Manganese of up to \$6m (about £3m) which will be used to expand that company's iron ore capacity.

Brighter Norvic to raise dividend

Despite a recent 15 per cent cutback in profit and substantially lower pre-tax profits in the first half to June 30, Norvic Securities, the Norwich-based share group, plans to raise its final dividend to 2.10p from 0.59p, after declaring an interim payment of 1.20p against 2.68p. This reflects the board's confidence that trading will improve sharply in the second half year. Pre-tax profit in the first six months slumped from £208,000 to £109,000, as turnover fell from £4.7m to £4.3m. In the last full year the group turned in pre-tax profit of £28,000, representing a considerable second half trading slump.

Unilever has 51pc of Nairn

Having acquired 51.4 per cent of Nairn Williamson's equity through market purchases, Unilever has now gone unconditionally on its £2.2m offer. Meanwhile, pre-tax profits of Nairn Williamson slumped from £1.4m to £92,000 in the six months from June 30. This is after interest of £100,000 against £35,000. Turnover was £15,27m, against £13.8m. The dividend is duly cut from 5.09p to 3.08p, reflecting after tax, a loss of £29,000, against a profit of £673,000.

Gardiner Refrigeration bought by Prestcold

Prestcold, the largest member of the Leyland Special Products Group, has bought the 85 per cent stake it did not already own in Gardiner Refrigeration and Air Conditioning for £580,000. The 85 per cent stake was held by Gardiner, Sons, Carlton Industries owns 91.9 per cent of the ordinary capital of Gardiner, Sons. Gardiner Refrigeration, which is based in Bristol, is the largest commercial refrigeration distributor in the South-West.

Two bids by Paribas

Paris, Sept. 19.—Cie Financiera de Paris et des Pays-Bas SA (Cofinac) and Cegapar SA, in which it et present holds stakes of 23 and 41 per cent respectively, through a share exchange offer.

Lean year for Titan

British Titan, which produces and sells titanium compounds, has suffered a collapse in pre-tax profits to £1.2m from £3.72m in the first half. Sales declined from £53.1m to £42.6m.

Dorada buoyant

The shares of Dorada Holdings rose 5p to 25p yesterday on news of a recovery. In 1974 pre-tax profits fell from £234,000 to £177,000 but the first six months to June 30 shows a rise from £155,000 to £185,000.

Maple's debenture

Maple Macwoods is to put forward proposals for the early repayment of its 61 per cent first mortgage debenture stock 1983-85 of which about £1,491,000 is now outstanding. These proposals follow the sale by Maple of a substantial part of the properties charged as security for the stock. The money from these disposals is currently on deposit in the name of Trustees of the stock. The application of this cash in the repayment would enable the company to be released from the various restrictions contained in the Trust Deed securing the stock, enabling Maple to deploy its assets more effectively.

Tara gets Navan lease

The Fire Ministers for Industry and Finance have now formally signed a lease for Navan property. Receipt of the lease will enable the company to complete arrangements for the senior financing required in developing Navan. Work on site will now be resumed, and the full construction programme will be put into effect when financing has been finalized.

Bemrose advances

Racked by a 22 per cent increase in turnover to £12.54m for the half year to June 28, the Bemrose Corporation, the Derby-based printers, packaging and publishing group, pushed up pre-tax profits from £845,000 to £868,000. The interim dividend rises to 1.55p, the most allowed.

East Rand Cons

East Rand Consolidated's pre-tax profits jumped by 70 per cent to £420,000 in the half-year to June 30. Profits reached a peak of £239,000 in 1972, fell to £27,000 in the following year and then recovered to £318,000 in 1974.

Advertisement for IMON LAW FIRMS LTD., 100, Elm St., WC1. Text: 'If a claim is to be made both husband and wife must jointly make an election on a Form 14 obtainable from the tax office and it must be received by the office within the laid-down time limits. These are quite generous and cover a three-month period, starting six months before the start of the tax year for which separate taxation is being claimed.'

Barker & Dobson accounts qualified by auditors

There is no sign of recovery at Barker & Dobson, the confectionery, manufacturing and distribution concern. The group loss in the first three months of the year to March, 1975, has soared from £318,000 to £529,000, following a trading loss of £3.8m in the last year.

Briefly

FIRST NAT CITY-GRINDLAYS First National City Bank of New York has reached agreement with the Bank of England for approval by British and United States bank authorities to enlarge its shareholding in Grindlays Bank from 40 to 49 per cent. The recent losses by Grindlays will be reflected in Citibank's third quarter figures, but are 'not material'.

TRUST & AGENCY OF AUSTRALIA

Pre-tax profit £701,800 (£29,900) including realisation profit of investments of parent company of £31,700 (£15,900) in half year to June 30. Net asset value £26,100 (£100), interim dividend 1.22p (same).

WILKINSON WAREHOUSE

Sales for half-year to June 30, £5.62m (£5.62m). Pre-tax profit, £241,000 (£240,000). Interim dividend raised from 2.25p gross to 3.08p gross.

SIR ISAAC PITMAN

Pre-tax profit £136,000 (£136,000). Turnover £15.1m (£12.8m) in year to March 31. Interest £475,000 (£215,000).

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Issues & Loans

Finance for Industry lends £4m to Vaux

Vaux Breweries has arranged to borrow £4m in the form of a 10-year loan from Finance Corporation for Industry, the medium-term lending arm of Finance for Industry.

Mr Douglas Nicholson, chairman of Vaux, said at the annual meeting in Sunderland yesterday that the loan will be drawn down over the next two years and will be repaid in four equal instalments between 1982 and 1985.

The funds will be used to finance the expansion of brewing facilities at the group's capital works over the next two years and will be repaid in four equal instalments between 1982 and 1985.

Mr Nicholson said: "It will enable us to secure funds available for the expansion we expect to be necessary because of greater prosperity in the

Chairmen report

Unitech warning of slowdown

At the annual meeting of Unitech, Mr F. Curry, the chairman, warned shareholders that results for August were not up to expectations. If this trend continues, the half-yearly results will be down on the record £600,000 achieved last year.

Sandelson outlook

The big improvement in Sandelson & Co's figures for 1974-75 was due almost wholly to the upsurge in stock market

South East of England and Scotland.

Santa Fe bond

Finance Corp of the United States, which specializes in providing loans to the oil and gas industries around the world and has a stake in the North Sea Thistle field, is raising \$25m through a Eurobond issue.

PIPELINE CREDIT

Hungary is to grant a \$30m credit for the building of the Adriatic Pipeline, which will run from the Yugoslav island of Krk through Yugoslavia to Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

NOBSK HYDRO

Basle, the \$8m franc, 7 1/2 per cent, 15-year loan floated by Norsk Hydro AS on the Swiss capital market was oversubscribed.

QUEBEC URBAN COMMUNITY

The originally proposed coupon of 9.5 per cent on the \$55m Eurobond issue by Quebec Urban Community is to be maintained but the decision has been taken to price the loan, which is open for subscription until September 25, to yield around 9.75 per cent.

activity in the first quarter of 1975, declares Mr A. F. Knapp, chairman of this firm of stockbrokers, in his annual report.

Clyde Paper hopeful

The piecemeal recovery in Clyde Paper's markets has continued, but not to the point where a general trend can be foreseen, particularly as the recession appears to be worsening.

WOODROW WYATT

Co is on course for "a pleasant improvement in profits" in the current year.

Commodities

COPPER

COPPER was steady in a dull market. The price rose on Thursday while three months was unchanged.

SILVER

SILVER was slightly higher on a buoyant market. The price rose on Thursday while three months was unchanged.

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Spot Position of Sterling

Market rates for sterling spot positions are shown in the table below. The pound is trading at a discount to the dollar.

Forward Levels

Forward rates for sterling are shown in the table below. The pound is trading at a discount to the dollar.

Discount market

Discount houses faced a acute shortage of funds on Friday yesterday and the Bank of England was eventually required to assist the market on a very large scale.

Rates of 10 per cent and above were used on the day though focal balances were mostly being picked up within a band of 9 1/2 to 10 1/2 per cent.

Money Market Rates

Rates for Treasury bills in the market were 10 1/2 to 10 3/4 per cent for two-month paper and 10 7/16 to 10 5/16 for three-month paper.

STERLING

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Wall Street

New York, Sept 19.—Stocks ran up solid gains throughout the first day with the cost of living rate taking an unexpectedly sharp drop.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 15.18 points to 829.73. More than five times as many issues gained as declined.

Volume totalled 20,830,000 shares, compared with 14,300,000 shares yesterday. The last time volume was higher was on July 17, when 21,420,000 shares changed hands.

Analysts said the stock market rally was in reaction to a combination of factors, including a fall in the cost of living rate.

US gold rallies

NEW YORK, Sept 19.—GOLD prices pulled back from early trading gains but recovered in the afternoon.

The New York Comex closed the session at 103.10 for the spot price, up from 102.10 at the opening.

Analysts said the rally was in reaction to a combination of factors, including a fall in the cost of living rate.

Foreign Exchange

The dollar closed mixed in European currency trading yesterday. A decline in some New York money market interest rates, reflected in Eurodollar rate levels, and the apparently small rise in the United States money supply, last week, helped brake the dollar's advance, dealers said.

Sterling was in good demand yesterday and closed at a discount of 20.8500. The pound's effective rate improved from 27.7 to 27.5 per cent.

Mentime, on the billon market, the gold price again fell, dropping \$2.75 an ounce, to close in London at \$136.50.

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Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Table listing various authorized units, insurance companies, and offshore funds with their respective details.

Insurance Bonds and Funds

Table listing various insurance bonds and funds with their respective details.

Offshore and International

Table listing various offshore and international funds with their respective details.

T. Marshall profits spurt 70 pc

Thomas Marshall (Loxley), the Sheffield-based fire-cylinder manufacturer, boosted pre-tax profits by 70 per cent in the half-year to June 30, to £425,000. Sales rose from £385m to £536m. The interim dividend is 15 1/2p against 0.75p. The directors say they do not expect the second half to differ materially from the first.

Howard & Wyndham

The board of Howard and Wyndham, the theatre publishing group, is proposing a scrip issue of one "A" ordinary share for every 10 ordinary and "A" ordinary shares. It also announces pre-tax profits up from £147,000 to £318,000 for the year to June 30. Turnover rose from £3.7m to £9.2m and chairman Mr Ralph Fields relates the successful results to the recent acquisitions of Warner Communications Inc, Tandem Publishing, Wilson Guthrie, and Lang.

Chambers & Fergus

Net profits of Chambers & Fergus, seed crushers and edible oil refiners, slumped from £96,000 to £9,000 in the year to June 28. Turnover of £4.5m, against £5.1m.

LAW LAND

Pre-tax profit £252,300 (£253,000); gross rents £1.2m (£1.7m) for half year to June 30. Dividend 1.0p (0.95p).

Recent Issues

Table listing recent issues of shares and bonds, including company names and issue details.

CONVERTIBLES

Table listing convertible securities, including company names and issue details.

DM-Deutschemark issue.

Table listing DM-Deutschemark issues, including company names and issue details.

Bank Base Rates

Table listing bank base rates for various banks, including Barclays Bank, C. Hoare & Co., and others.

M. J. L. NIGHTINGALE & CO LIMITED

Table listing M. J. L. Nightingale & Co Limited shares, including company name, price, and other details.

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

Table listing Eurobond prices for various countries and maturities.

AMERICAN STOCKS

Table listing American stock prices for various companies.

AMERICAN BONDS

Table listing American bond prices for various maturities.

AMERICAN CONVERTIBLES

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AMERICAN DM-DEUTSCHEMARK ISSUES

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AMERICAN FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Table listing American foreign exchange rates.

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AMERICAN WALL STREET

Table listing American Wall Street news and market reports.

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AMERICAN CONVERTIBLES

Table listing American convertible securities.

AMERICAN DM-DEUTSCHEMARK ISSUES

Table listing American DM-Deutschemark issues.

AMERICAN FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Table listing American foreign exchange rates.

AMERICAN MONEY MARKET

Table listing American money market rates.

AMERICAN SPOT POSITION OF STERLING

Table listing American spot position of sterling.

AMERICAN WALL STREET

Table listing American Wall Street news and market reports.

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the teamworkers Taylor Woodrow

Stock Exchange prices Strong gains in equities

BIEL'S SCOTCH WHISKY More ye go

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday, Dealings End Oct 3, 5 Contango Day, Oct 6, Settlement Day, Oct 14. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Main stock market data table with columns for various stock categories: ISX FUNDS, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL, FINANCIAL TRUSTS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, OIL, PROPERTY, RUBBER, MISCELLANEOUS, SHIPPING, MINES, and RIES AND DISTILLERS. Each category lists numerous stock symbols and their corresponding prices.

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES table showing various market indices and their values, including the FTSE 100 and other sector-specific indices.

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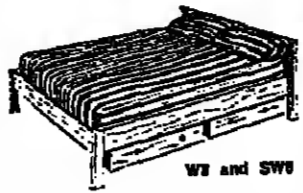


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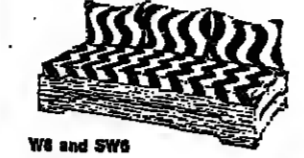
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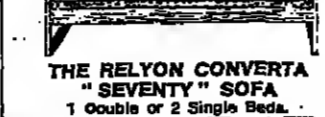
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MECHANICAL DESIGN ENGINEER (1)
ELECTRICAL DESIGN ENGINEER (1)
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Maximum age 35, good salaries and benefits.
CONTACT IN FIRST INSTANCE
01-486 6655

NEW WINE BAR, S.W.1
NEEDS MANAGER
Apart from being imaginative,
creative, friendly and
able to work under pressure,
the manager must be able to
take responsibility for day to day
operations, not be afraid of hard
work and capable of handling
staff. Must also have some
commercial experience.
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YOU AT
DRAKE PERSONNEL
Call us on Monday,
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30 Blomfield Road, E.C.2, 01-4117
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ADAPTABLE VOLUNTEER MAN
REQUIREMENT: mid 20s,
enthusiastic, energetic,
able to work under pressure,
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SMALL FAMILY WITH BUILT
UP PROPERTY IN S.W.1
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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS
ALMAGATE Legal Staff, The special-
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of a confidential service in
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ASSOCIATE LEADER
The Associate Leader will be No. 2 in the First Violins and will
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Salary by negotiation, Pension Fund, Sick Benefit Fund.
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Oakham School reassembled on Sunday, 7th September
Numbers exceed 900 for the first time in the school's history,
and are divided as between 600 boys, 300 girls & 550 boarders, 300
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PERRY MASON
PA/SEC
£2,800
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TOP P.A.: £3,000
Chief Executive at Central
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Two Senior Secs. in two
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Office people who work out
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An interesting position awaits a
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