

Mail robbery clue found in stolen lorry



BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN USED in the mail train robbery, this stolen lorry was found yesterday just off the Great North Road near Retford, Nottinghamshire. Police announced that they had found in the lorry bank note wrappings belonging to one of the banks which lost money in Thursday's robbery.

Inquiry by M.P. Into Road Row

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH REPORTER AN investigation into a row developing over Britain's road construction programme is to begin next month.

Mr. David Webster, Conservative M.P. for Weston-Super-Mare, will try to find out what lies behind Government allegations that "strained resources" in the construction industry are holding up road building.

The Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors has defended the big construction firms and strongly denied the allegations. A spokesman said to me: "If more money were provided we could build more roads."

"We have already promised 'Neddy' that we can expand our industry by 34 p.c. between 1961 and 1964, provided the Government can show their confidence in us by giving us long-term programmes. If private investment provided additional money for roads we would have the capacity to make use of it."

Mr. Webster will begin his investigations as soon as he returns from holiday in Scotland. He plans also to inquire into the benefits of private loan investment to assist road building.

This system is operated in some continental countries where the rate of road construction is higher than that of Britain.

Mr. Webster said: "I hope to find out just who is right in this dispute, the Government or the industry. The Treasury received £742 million from road taxation in 1962-63 and spent £223 million on roads in the previous year."

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter, Chief Secretary of the Treasury, says that money is not the problem. "I'm sure the construction industry does not support his claim."

"It is true that the industry has sometimes admitted that delays have been caused through a shortage of certain craftsmen."

STEPPING INTO LINE "If this is so, why couldn't some of the vast amount of money from road taxation be used to sponsor apprenticeship schemes?"

Whichever side is proved right, Mr. Webster will want to know why the situation has been allowed to arise.

"I want to see Britain step into line with some continental countries as far as road building is concerned," he said.

"After all, if our financiers can send money abroad for road construction, why shouldn't they be encouraged to help build our own roads?"

Woman, 99, left £161,000 Mrs. Rose Julia Wyatt, of Thorpe Green House, Essex, who died three months ago in her 100th year, left £161,038 gross, (duty paid £74,733).

Other Wills—P.6

TYRE THREAT TO BLUEBIRD

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH REPORTER DONALD CAMPBELL, returning to London next week, may be told he has a final chance to achieve a new land-speed record for Britain in his present car. Bluebird could be declared "dead" at any time early next year for shortage of tyres or wheels.

BUNGALOW MURDER HUNT

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH REPORTER A WOMAN with wounds in the neck and chest was found dead in her bungalow at Windmill Drive, Burgess Hill, yesterday. Police said: "We are treating this as a case of murder."

The woman was Mrs. Linda Bennett, 54, wife of Mr. Harold Bennett, retired insurance broker, who is an in-patient at a Hove hospital.

Mrs. Bennett was due to visit her husband on Friday night. When she did not arrive Mr. Bennett was worried and asked for inquiries to be made.

POLICE PUZZLED Supt. John Bridger, of East Sussex Police, said yesterday that so far a knife, which could have been responsible for the wounds in Mrs. Bennett's neck and chest, had not been found.

The police were puzzled by the absence of an apparent motive. Everything in the four-roomed bungalow appeared to be intact.

Police were investigating a report by a neighbour, Mrs. Ethel Poole, that a strange man aged about 30 spoke to her outside her home at about 9.40 p.m. on Thursday. Mrs. Poole said to me: "The man asked me where he could catch a bus to Brighton."

Taxi man dead in ditch

Sunday Telegraph Reporter Dorset police last night launched a full-scale investigation after the body of a taxi driver was found in a ditch near Yeatminster.

The dead man, Stanley Blackmore, 66, of North Street, Bradford Abbas, had been missing since his taxi was found in a lonely lane on the outskirts of Yeovil on Aug. 2.

A spokesman from Dorset police said last night that there were "suspicious circumstances." The body was found about six miles from the spot where the taxi was abandoned.

100 Give Mail Raid 'Tips'

By PETER GLADSTONE-SMITH Sunday Telegraph Reporter INSURANCE assessors offering a combined reward of £250,000 for information about the gang that carried out the £2,554,000 mail train robbery have received over 100 telephone calls from would-be informers. The Post Office has offered a further £10,000.

The total loss rose from £2,510,000 to £2,554,000 yesterday when the Clydesdale and North of Scotland Bank announced a loss of £44,000.

MONEY STILL IN BRITAIN Scotland Yard believes that the master-mind behind the robbery probably took steps to establish an alibi abroad. The Yard also thinks the money is still in Britain.

From new clues gathered by Buckinghamshire police, railway detectives and the Post Office investigation branch yesterday these facts emerged:

1—The actual number of men who took part in the raid was 12. This is double the number usually employed and points to the amalgamation of two gangs.

2—The raiders did not carry and probably did not possess firearms.

3—British Railways experts have rejected the theory that railwaymen were involved in the raid.

4—A year's research probably went into the planning of the crime.

The use of Army trucks and the military precision with which the raid was carried out has led detectives to believe an ex-Army officer may be involved.

ARMoured COACHES Mr. Bevin's, the Postmaster General, said at his home in Liverpool last night that he was considering the introduction of armoured coaches on mail trains. They would be without windows and could be broken into only with the aid of oxy-acetylene burners.

Thieves were now going after big money instead of jewellery. The credit system should be more widely used.

Miss Keeler: a statement

Miss Christine Keeler's solicitors have issued the following statement: "There have been innumerable criticisms of the fact that when the appeal of Aloysius Gordon was allowed, the statements on which this decision was based were not read out in court."

"In view of the inferences which appear to underlie such criticisms, it is desirable that this matter should be clarified."

"The statements referred to were taken by the police from a number of persons who did not come forward to give evidence for Gordon at his trial."

"Such statements would only become evidence if repeated on oath in the witness box and subjected to the test of cross-examination."

NO PROCEDURE "There is, however, no procedure by which Miss Keeler, against whose truthfulness such statements are said to be directed, could be allowed in the Court of Criminal Appeal to be represented by counsel to cross-examine witnesses, to call evidence in rebuttal, or to give further evidence herself nor could a new trial be ordered."

"Under these circumstances, it would clearly have been a gross injustice to Miss Keeler for such untested statements to be read in court."

"There can be little doubt that the decision not to read the statements was based on the court's wish to see that justice was done to all parties, including Miss Keeler. A wish which does not seem to be widely shared at the present time."

£11,500 Ward works The exhibition of pictures by Dr. Stephen Ward closed in London last night. A total of 123 pictures was sold for £11,507 15s.

NEWS IN BRIEF Sea rescue.—A Norwegian ship picked up three yachtsmen in difficulties off Suffolk.

Cheque swindler.—Southampton C.I.D. are seeking a man who passed stolen cheques involving £600 by posing as a retired sea captain.

Queue for homes.—Young couples camped all night outside the office of an Epsom development company to be at the top of a queue for an estate of £3,795 maisonnettes.

Port strikes end.—French ports were back to normal after two weeks of strikes.

LONDON WEEK BY WEEK

SIR HAROLD NICOLSON, I can disclose, is at last willing to publish the diary he has kept daily without a break for the past 33 years.

His earlier journal, covering only the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, appeared before the war.

Though he was a fairly junior member of the British Delegation, the book is immensely more illuminating than the recent posthumous volume of Lord Hankey, British Secretary to the Conference.

In 1930, soon after his retirement from the Diplomatic Service, Sir Harold took up his diary again.

Each morning he types it on loose leaves which are then put between old covers of the Burlington Magazine (edited by his son Ben) and stored.

Munich Memories His opposition to Chamberlain's appeasement policy both in and out of Parliament, is, he thinks, the most dramatic theme.

But Sir Harold now in his 77th year, does not see himself as a Creevey.

"My diary," he tells me, "is no more revealing than a dentist's engagement book or the memoirs of a retired conjurer."

Draining the Bottle RARELY has the Foreign Office been so denuded of Ministers and senior officials as last week.

Lord Home's party which flew to Moscow for the signing of the test ban treaty included Mr. Heath (Lord Privy Seal), Mr. Peter Thomas (Minister of State) and Sir Harold Caccia (Permanent Under-Secretary).

The other Minister of State, Lord Dundee, was at first in Peru, then on leave.

So Mr. Peter Smithers, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, was left holding the champagne when the Ambassadors went to the Foreign Office to sign the test ban treaty.

Lords of the Isle MR. GODBER, Secretary for War, seems determined that the last months of British troops in Malta shall be memorably aristocratic.

The G.O.C. is Major-General Lord Thurlow. And now, I hear, Brigadier Lord Grimthorpe is soon to be posted there. Only last month, too, Rear-Admiral Lord Kelburn ceased to be Flag Officer, Malta.

Lord Grimthorpe will find it a convenient appointment. At Ravello, near Naples, he owns the Villa Cimbrone, one of the loveliest properties in the South of Italy.

From Valletta to Naples is about 350 miles by air—not much further than the distance from London to Lord Grimthorpe's house in Yorkshire.

Feminine Touch ONLY 48 hours after the tragic death of her husband, Mrs. Philip Graham both impressed and invigorated the staffs of the Washington Post and Newsweek by presiding over a hastily convened meeting of the board last Monday.

Eloquent and composed, she left them in little doubt as to who would now be running the Graham newspaper empire. Mr. Graham's holding of more than 50 per cent, ensures that she remains firmly in control.

Much of Kay Graham's stamina and ability has been inherited from her parents.

Her father, the late Eugene Meyer, owned the Washington Post, to which her mother Agnes was a full-time contributor.

A friend being conducted round the office by Mr. Meyer was once bashed into silence as they approached the desk where his wife sat hunched over a typewriter.

The sheet of paper was blank except for the title: "Women Aren't Men."

Old Man River PRINCE PAUL OF ETHIOPIA, a grandson of the Emperor, is, I hear, spending his summer holidays from Gordonstoun as the guest of Mr. Kenneth Dick, managing director of Mitchell Cotts.

And today the family will be joined at Oxshott by another of Haile Selassie's grandsons, Prince Alexander Desta, a former pupil of Dollar Academy, Clackmannanshire, he is C-in-C. of the Imperial Navy.

Mr. Dick's trading companies, which operate throughout Africa and the Middle East, have undertaken some adventurous enterprises in Ethiopia. They are the only foreigners allowed to buy freehold land.

In 1960 they began a £24m. pilot scheme for cotton cultivation in the lower Awash Valley, helped by a £1m. investigation of water sources by the United Nations.

My picture shows Mr. Dick with the Emperor during a visit to the plantations. Eventually 250,000 acres may be planted.

Merit Money TO succeed the late Sir Arthur Erskine, Secretary and Registrar of the Order of Merit since 1939, I hear that the Queen is to appoint Sir Norman Gwatkin, Comptroller, Lord Chamberlain's office.

It is not an arduous job. The heaviest burden is signing warrants of appointment for new O.M.s.—about two a year.

The salary is £100.

Scene Shifting ANTHONY POWELL has been having his first taste of backstage life, watching rehearsals of Afternoon Men, which opens at the New Arts on August 22.

But he will not be in London for this adaptation of his first novel. He is leaving that morning on a Greek cruise with Lord and Lady Gladwyn.

A cruel portrait of Gay Young Things between the wars, Afternoon Men has had to be brought up to date. Scenes in private houses have been transferred to clubs, and in the world of films James Mason replaces Rod La Rocque.

Evelyn Waugh, who covered much the same ground in his *Vile Bodies*, told Mr. Powell the other day: "When you wrote the book, only a few people were like that. Now everybody is."

Death's Sting STEPHEN WARD'S death has exposed a curious defect in the machinery of the law. If a man dies soon after conviction his case may not be taken to the Court of Appeal.

The only exception is when the dead man has been fined. In that case, it was held in 1943, his family or executors have a financial interest in having the sentence quashed, so they may appeal.

But if the dead man has been sent to prison (or, like Dr. Ward, not lived long enough to be sentenced) his family have no means of clearing his name—whatever legal defects may be discovered in his trial.

This may be the law but is certainly not justice.

Impaired Sovereignty SOVEREIGN, Mr. J. A. Boyden's new 12-metre yacht, a potential challenger for the America's Cup next year, did not inspire much confidence at Cowes last week.

To get her tuned up in time she has been built with a year in hand. In this she has the advantage on *Sceptre*, the unsuccessful British challenger in 1958.

But the vital experience of Cowes has been largely frittered away by the use of borrowed sails which do not fit.

It seems unwise, too, to have employed helmsmen such as Peter Scott, who is unlikely to have either the time or the 12-metre skill to race against the Americans.

The party of observers which crossed the Atlantic to observe Sovereign's performance had a cheerful week. At best she was only just beating far older yachts such as Lord Craigmyle's *Norsaga*.

Grandmother's Domain DON JUAN, claimant to the Spanish Throne, was there in his new 18-metre yacht *Giralda*, one of the 130 now taking part in the 605-mile Fastnet race. But sailing was not the only reason for his visit.

With his son, Don Carlos, and the Spanish Ambassador, the Marquis of Santa Cruz, he made a pilgrimage to the tomb of his grandmother—Princess Beatrice, youngest daughter of Queen Victoria.

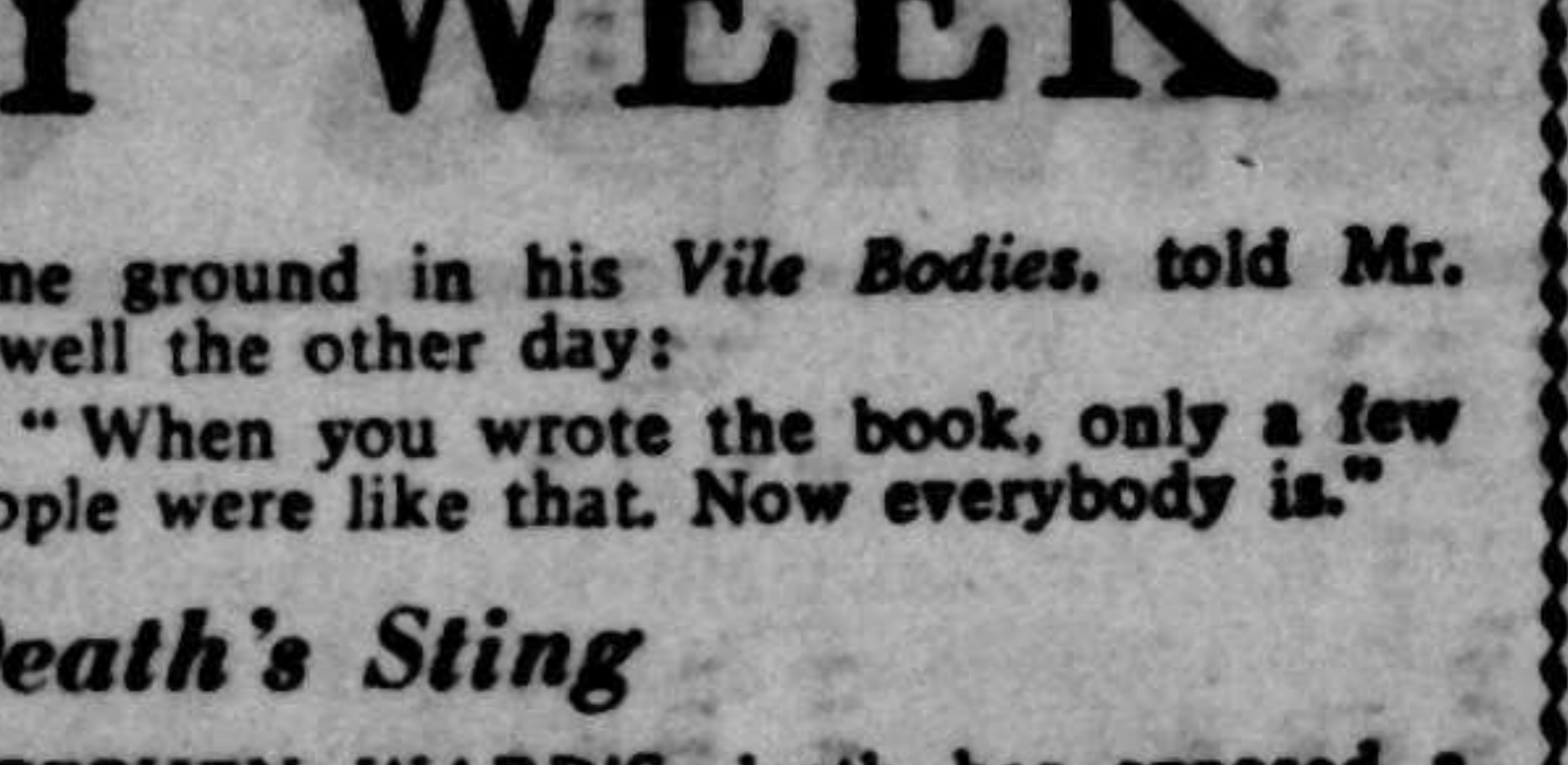
She was Governor of the Isle of Wight and of Carisbrooke Castle, and is buried at Whippingham Church, near Osborne.

De Trop M. POMPIDOU, the French Prime Minister, has just suffered a setback.

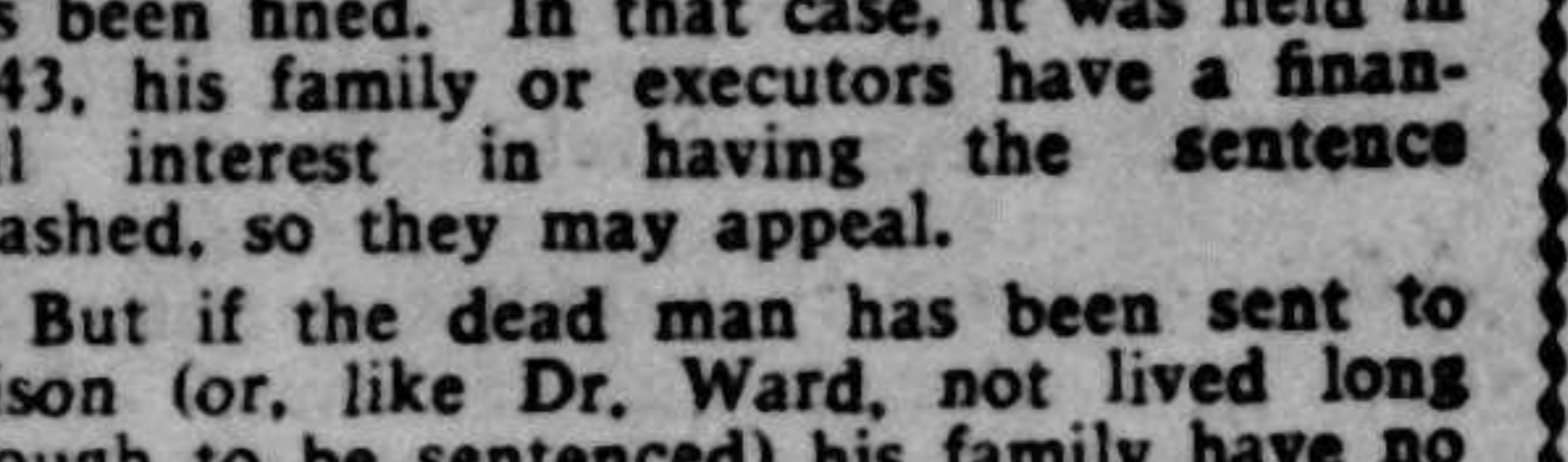
After hearing that his master intended to hold regular Cabinet meetings throughout the summer, he suggested hopefully through Mme. de Gaulle that it would be a pleasant change for the President and his family to move down to the Riviera. He had found just the right place near St. Tropez.

The scheme failed. The General said he would go to Colombe-Les-Deux-Eglises or nowhere. St. Tropez, he announced, was the centre of "universal snobbery."

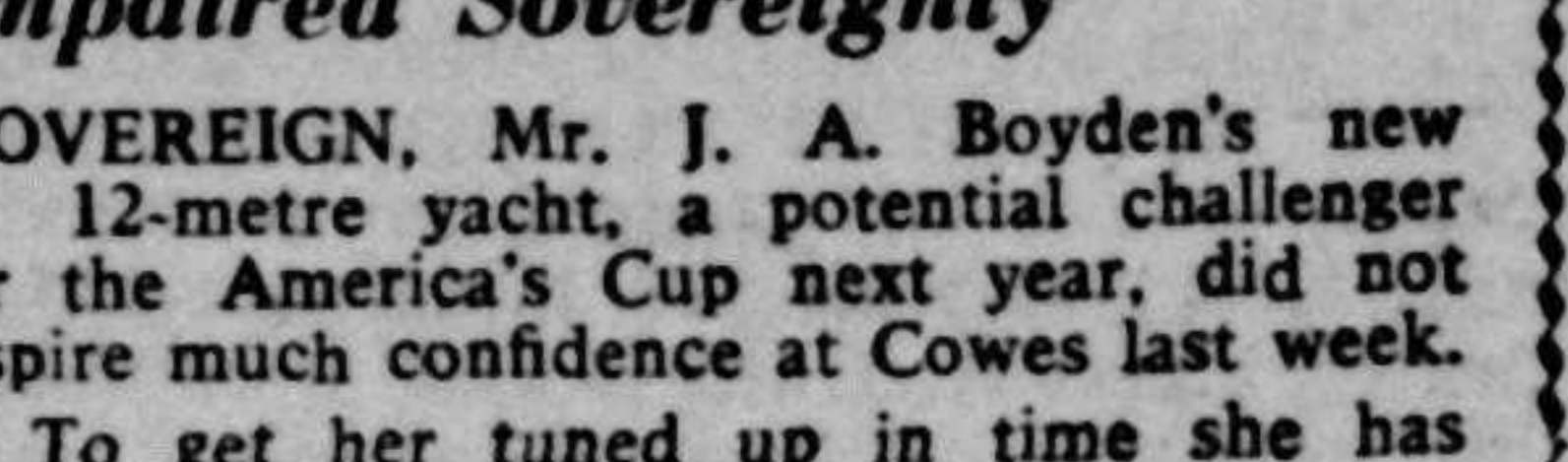
His only concession was to cancel last week's Cabinet meeting. Ministers will be reporting back for orders on Tuesday.



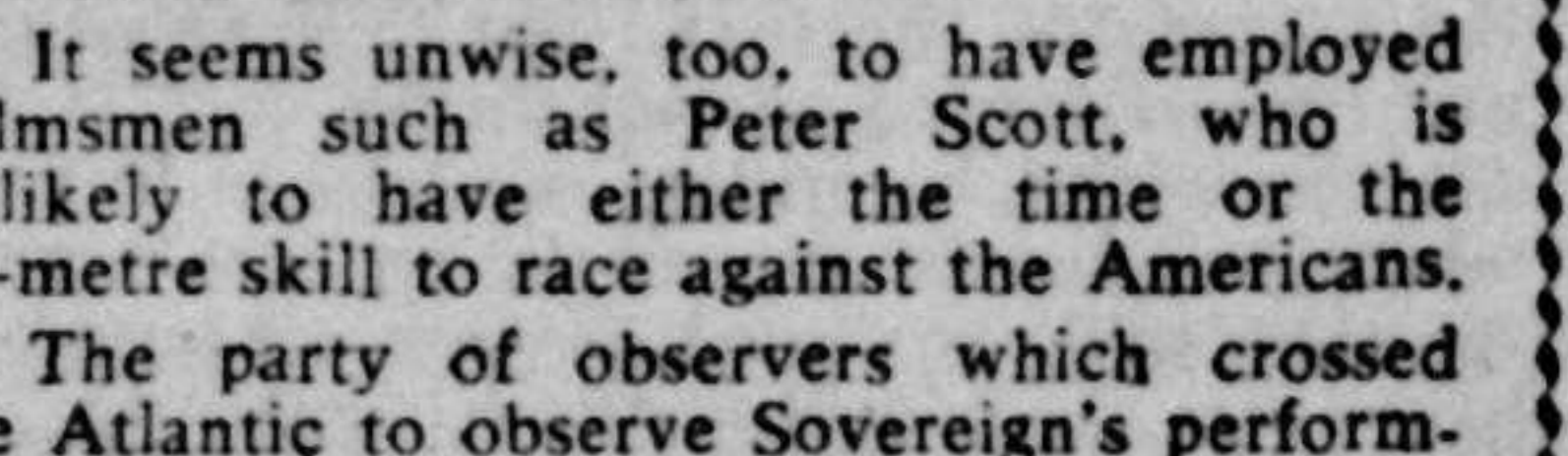
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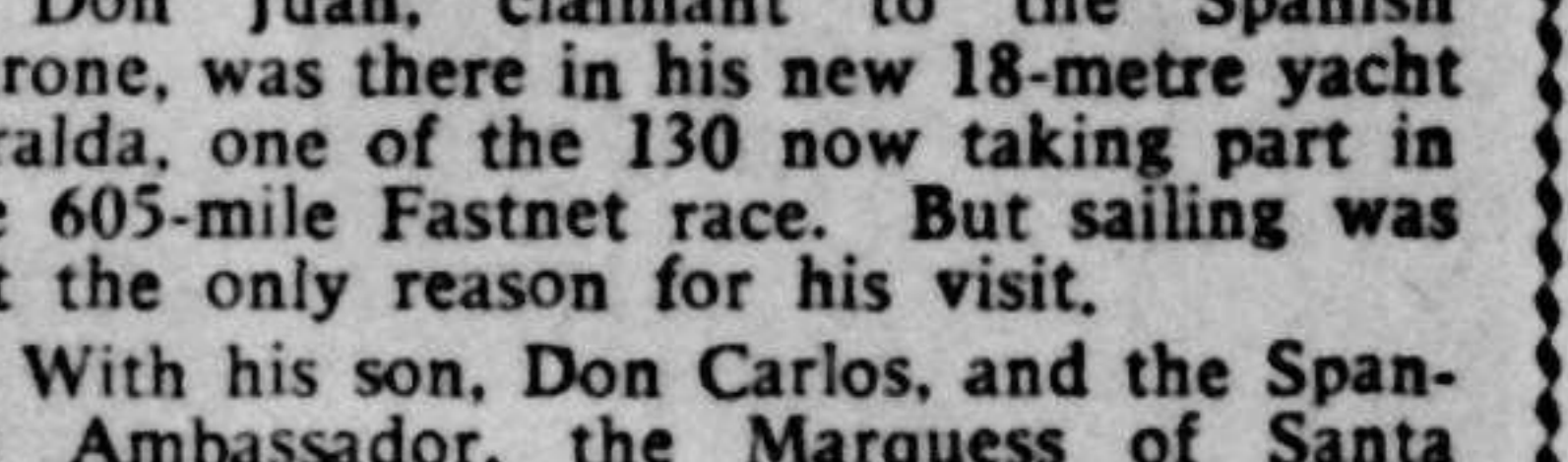
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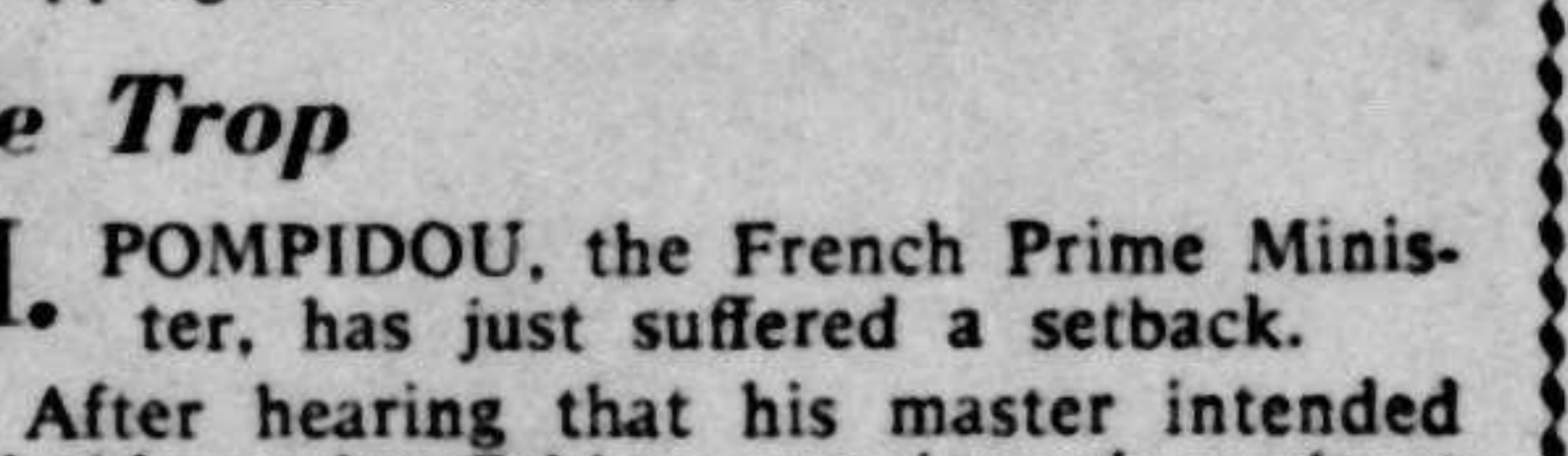
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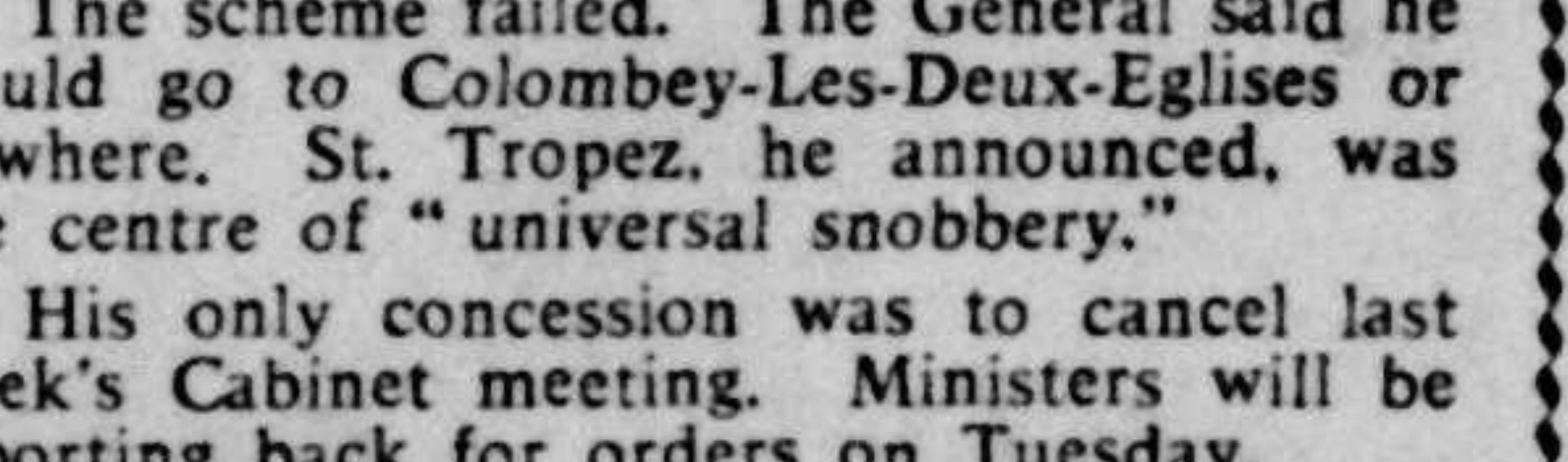
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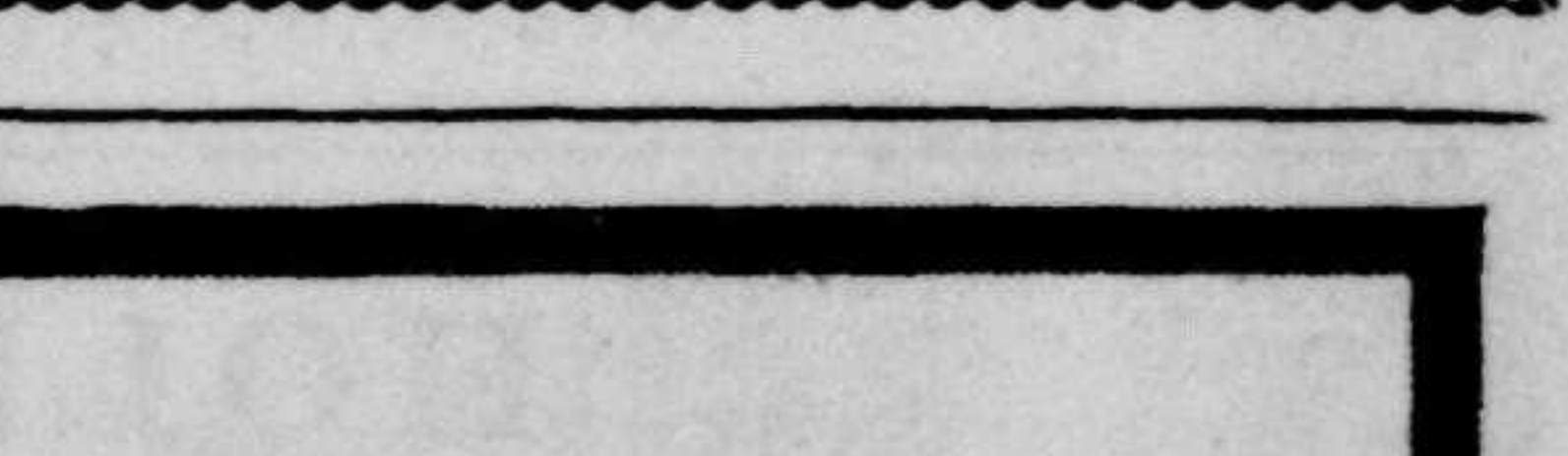
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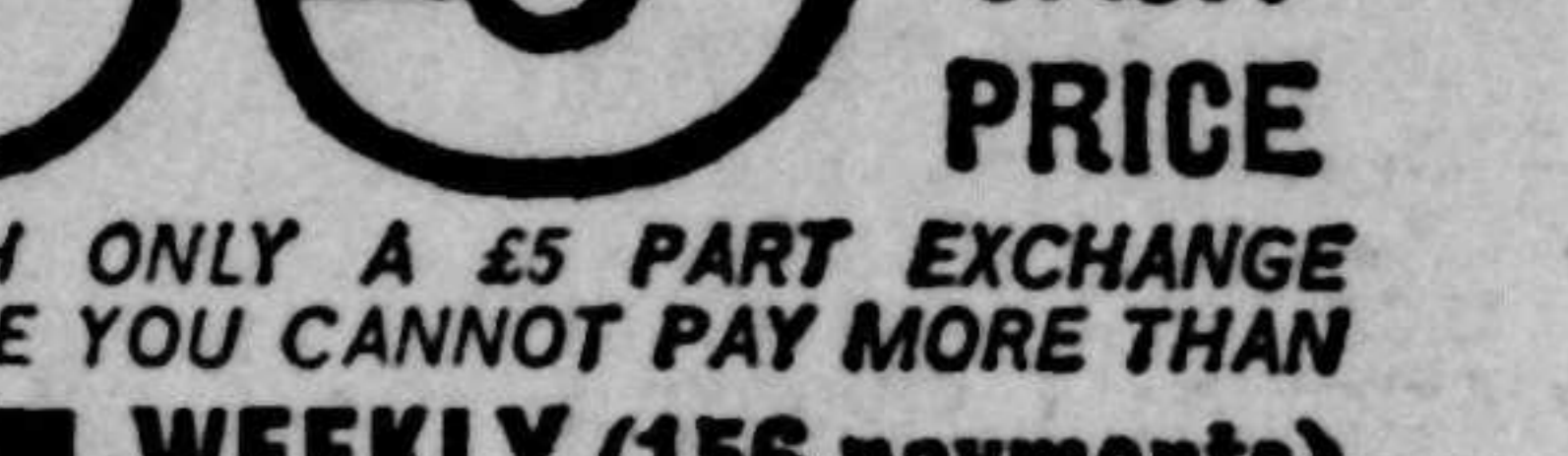
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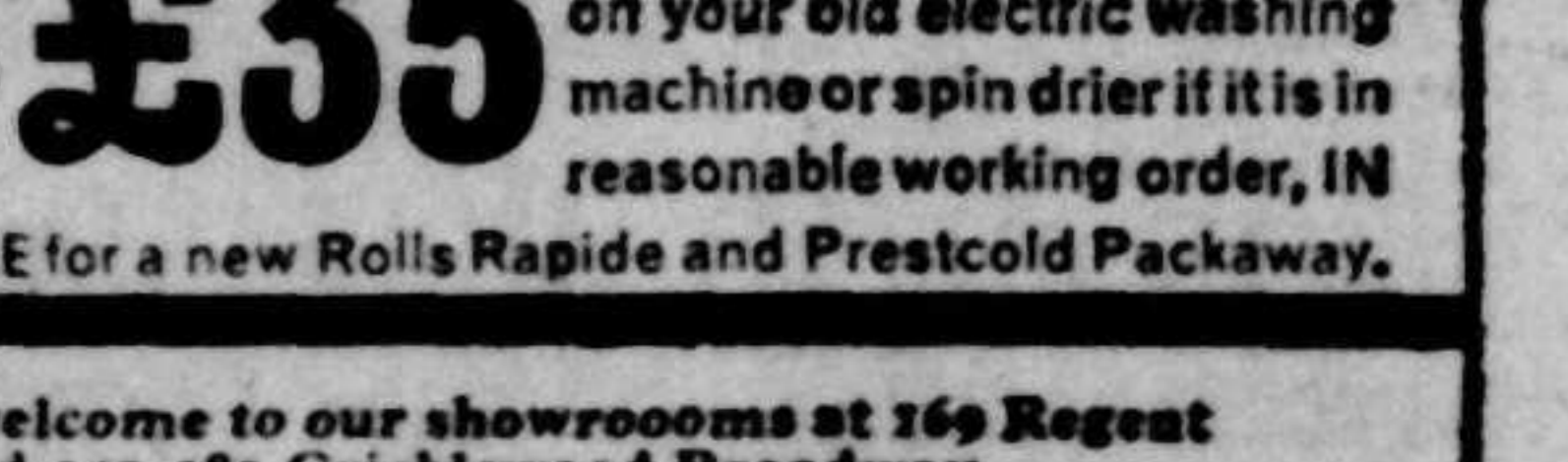
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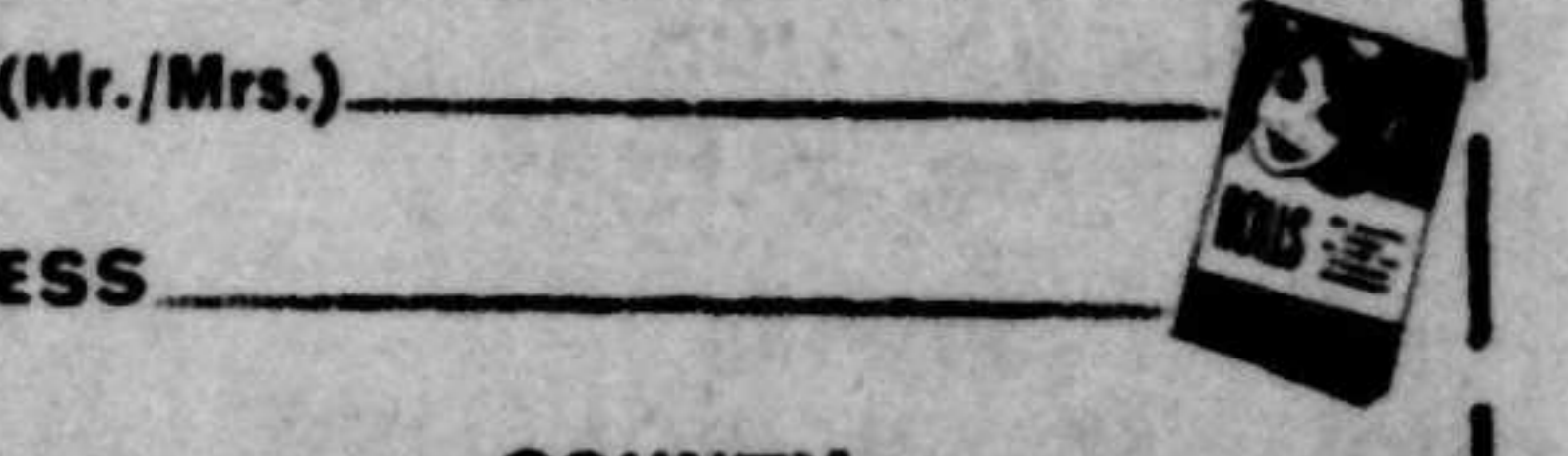
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RAIL CUTS MAY BE DELAYED

By Our POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT MOUNTING opposition to the Beeching Plan now threatens to delay some major cuts planned by British Railways.

Meanwhile criticism of Dr. Beeching is growing among railway officials for the lack of "follow up" to the proposals last March for improving freight and passenger services.

They feel that the two years has been spent on thinking and talking about cuts rather than improvements. There is evidence, too, of an increasing switch away from rail for road by industry because of uncertainty about the railways' future.

A LITTLE HOPE Senior officials are pointing to the remarkable success of the London-Manchester "speedy freight" service, the prototype of the nation-wide "liner" train freight services planned by Dr. Beeching.

Opponents of the Beeching Plan have been heartened by the rejection by the Transport Users Consultative Committee of the proposed closure of the Haltwhistle-Alston line in Northumberland. But this was a "pre-Beeching Plan" proposal.

Mr. Marples has set up special machinery to study all proposed closures.

Prison wives "live in fear" Sunday Telegraph Reporter The wife of a Dartmoor prison officer who organised a petition from Dartmoor wives to the Home Secretary against "softness" to convicts who attacked men on the staff was nursing her husband yesterday after he had been attacked.

She is Mrs. Dorothy Goodyer, 25, whose husband, John, 25, was struck in the face by a convict with a steel bar. His face was severely bruised. It was the second attack on a prison officer at Dartmoor within two days and follows five others which have taken place recently.

Mr. Goodyer said last night: "I am not an hysterical woman but we all live in fear of our husbands being assaulted." Her petition followed Mr. Brooke's substitution of psychiatric treatment for a sentence of birching imposed on two Dartmoor convicts after an attack on staff.

Editor gaoled Mr. Mike Norton, 23, Cape Town editor of the non-white newspaper *Post*, was sent to prison for a further eight days yesterday when he refused to answer questions about the sources of a story. The article alleged that children of unmarried white mothers were being adopted by coloured couples.—Reuter.

Advertisement for ROLLS PRESTCOLD washing machines and refrigerators. Features include: TIP TOP TWO, BACK AGAIN-DIRECT FROM ROLLS PRESTCOLD, together at a low, low price-59 GNS CASH PRICE, EVEN WITH ONLY A £5 PART EXCHANGE ALLOWANCE YOU CANNOT PAY MORE THAN 7/11 WEEKLY (156 payments) £11.19.0. ONLY ROLLS GIVE A GUARANTEED MINIMUM OF £5 UP TO £35 on your old electric washing machine or spin drier if it is in reasonable working order, IN PART EXCHANGE for a new Rolls Rapide and Prestcold Packaway.

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Gladstone-Smith, Peter, Sunday Telegraph Reporter. "100 Give Mail Raid 'Tips'." Sunday Telegraph, 11 Aug. 1963, p. 3. The Telegraph Historical Archive, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IO0709055286/DSLAB?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DSLAB. Accessed 23 Aug. 2023.