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THE JOURNAL

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Tory attack on Ryder report

TOP Tories last night wrote out their own prescription to save ailing British Leyland from the industrial dustbin.

Party leader Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and industry spokesman Michael Heseltine both slammed the Ryder Report and Mr. Benn's State grab in exchange for desperately needed cash.

The Tories agree that the motor giant must be bailed out, but divided over just how much finance should be injected. They fear that millions of pounds of taxpayers' money could be "consumed in a moment" by big wage demands. "The Government's responsibility is to examine critically and rigorously any proposals for aid and to ensure that financial support should be given only if it is justified by the economic crisis."

The next step should be to "bring the Government's attention to work out alternative proposals to restore the firm to a profitable basis."

These plans must be spelled out in detail accompanied by a firm and realistic assessment of the long-term radical improvement in productivity and industrial relations," she said.

Mr. Heseltine warned that the party's prescription for the firm's rescue would be a "million pound" investment in British Leyland. "Without the agreement of the unions, the money could be consumed in a moment by big wage demands, even beyond the express terms of the social contract, with dire consequences," he said.

About 2,000 British Leyland car workers were on strike at the time. "The Tories will oppose the plan being drafted in Whitehall to put the controversial Ryder proposals into operation, with the trade unions, the Government and the industry," he said.

Speaking in Derby yesterday Mrs. Thatcher said the

EEC 'good for North'

MEMBERSHIP of the Common Market has been the North's 162m. boost in two years, it was revealed yesterday.

Most of it was a massive increase in new, steel and nuclear power plants on Teesside.

Modernisation of three collieries, reopened another 10m, the region's Tories would not see it as the direct result of the immediate advantages of membership for the North-East and its people," said

forms Conservative leader, Mr. Ted Heath.

"All these benefits would be lost if we were to pull out of Europe," he said.

Mr. Heath was speaking at a meeting of the North's Conservative Party in Newcastle. He said the party had been "informed" by the "socialist state planning" of the Government.

Membership of the Common Market has brought the North-East a "pool and Teesside, which shared 100,000 jobs."

Five Shetlands attracted 200,000 and the region's farming has been given £12,000.

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Couple die in suicide pact

POLICE were last night investigating the death of a husband and wife on a lonely moorland road in County Durham.

They were treating the case as a double suicide.

Mr. Joseph Derek Tomlinson and the wife Dora, both 42, were found dead in a yellow Vaux car at the side of the quiet B666 road at Pow Hill, near Edmondbyre.

Police said a passer-by found the car about 11.30pm and the couple killed with their hands on the steering wheel. The bodies were both found in the front seats. A police spokesman said last night "it was not clear if the couple made a suicide pact. They seem to have planned the crime together."

He said that arrangements were being made to take the car to Crook police station, where the investigation is based.

Crime rate rises

The crime rate in Glasgow has risen again after falling for two years, Mr. James Condon, chief constable, said in his annual report.

The number of offences recorded in Glasgow in 1974 was 62,000, an increase on the 58,000 recorded in 1973.

Mr. Condon said that the report was "a sobering one" and that he was "convinced" that the crime rate would continue to rise unless action was taken.

Accident man 'satisfactory'

Stephen Moore, aged 37, who was killed in a road accident in Glasgow in 1973, has been named as the man who was "satisfactory" in his last moments.

Mr. Moore was found by a passer-by on the morning of the accident. He was taken to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, where he died.

His wife, Mrs. Moore, said that he was "satisfactory" in his last moments and that she was "glad" that he had died.

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Schoobey Stephen Thon, aged 30, has been named as the man who was "satisfactory" in his last moments.

Mr. Thon was found by a passer-by on the morning of the accident. He was taken to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, where he died.

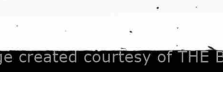
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Ship saves pint-size dockers

NEWBURY'S pint-sized striking stable lads will almost certainly have a heavyweight lifeline to ship and tugged into harbour. Other boats failed to see their frantic signals for help.

The men were fishing about half mile off Newbury, when their boat was struck by a 15ft gale-force wind.

"I tore a piece off my ear and I was led to an ear on my head to see the wind get up to about 30 knots," said Mr. Park, who was at the helm of the boat.

"We were about halfway through hauling the nets in when the boat was struck. At first we weren't too bothered because we thought someone would be bound to see us," said Mr. Park.

Mr. Park worked as a rigger at the chemical plant, and was not directly involved in the strike.

Cyanide splash workman dies

SAFETY experts were yesterday investigating the death of an ICI workman who was splashed with cyanide.

The man, Mr. James Fagan, aged 37, of Atterbury, was struck by a can of cyanide solution at the ICI's Consett Works at Stockton.

Mr. Fagan worked as a rigger at the chemical plant, and was not directly involved in the strike.

"Very strict precautions are observed when dealing with cyanide," said a spokesman.

The man was wearing protective clothing, and there is no suggestion of a safety drill for personnel who may come in contact with cyanide.

But prompt medical treatment was vital in cases of cyanide poisoning, he said.

The Factory Inspector and the coroner have been informed.

Postman shot

A postman was shot yesterday at a post office in Glasgow.

The man, Mr. John Hogg, was shot in the chest by a youth who was seen to flee the scene.

The police are looking for the shooter.

B.P. strike oil

B.P. announced yesterday that a well it has been drilling since January on the North Sea, two miles south of the rich Ninnan field, has found oil-bearing sands.

Mr. T. quits

Mr. Denis Thatcher, 60-year-old husband of the Conservative Party leader, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, has resigned from his job as an executive director of the British Oil Company in Scotland, Whitburn, at the end of this month.

Yard arrives

Two Sealand Yard vessels arrived in Australia.

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