

Advice on doctoring profits

HAVE YOU seen your doctor lately? Did he mention how har-pressed he was? How difficult it is in these times of flu and inflation to remember the ideals of medicine?

Next time you see him, cheer him up by referring him to the *General Practitioner*, a glossy magazine sent free each week to all family doctors.

The *General Practitioner*, in a recent series, sweeps aside all the ideals with the bold statement: "The General Practitioner is a businessman like any other. His livelihood depends on profit. And to maximise that profit he must grasp the fundamentals of good business practice."

The magazine's view of our family doctor is a far cry from the usual image of the harassed GP who, if he doesn't actually go around saving

lives, does at least try to "comfort always".

The magazine's "battle plan" for GPs is much more in keeping with Aneurin Bevan's dour observation in 1947 that if he was to get the NHS off the ground he had to "choke the doctors' throats with gold".

Just how much do GPs need to squeeze every penny they can get from the NHS and their patients? The basic earning of an average GP is around £8,000. This doesn't take into account any private work he does. Nor does it include these "profitable sidelines" which themselves can add up over a year to as much as some of us earn:

Immunisation fees; signing passport photos; cervical smear tests; contraceptive advice; maternity medical services; emergency treatment; out-of-hours responsibilities.

How to maximise your flu profits

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Profit

Next time your doctor charges you 40p for a sick note, ask him if there's any other way you can help him to boost his income. Could he earn a little more by encouraging more vaccinations and immunisations, for instance?

Does he know he can charge for circumcising a patient on religious grounds? That if he classifies a temporary patient as an 'emergency', the fee is more than double? Can you help him to increase the profit

he can make on flu vaccinations?

As the *General Practitioner* says, there is little time in a busy surgery to digest the latest circular about charges and at the end of a tiring day the GP hopes to relax rather than take the 'red book' to bed with him;

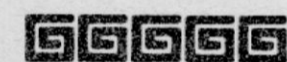
So do help if you can. After all, it may be only the Pill to you, but for him it could be the difference between a Cortina and a Volvo.



JIM STANTON was a hard man. "Some deadbeat hadn't paid his bill, so I cut off the supply," he said. The deadbeat turned out to be the mayor, who was half way through a shower. Jim now has a new job which involves crawling along trenches.



LIFE in Redcar was too quiet for building worker Stuart O'Halloran. So he made a cannon from a steel pipe, put in gunpowder from a few fireworks, and a ball of lead. He lit the blue touch paper and stood back. With an enormous bang the cannon ball shot straight through the walls of a gentlemen's convenience and was last seen heading towards Denmark. Six fire engines rushed to the scene. Mr O'Halloran was fined £100 for damaging a lavatory with an unlicensed cannon.



LONDON — Britons are becoming experts on their neighbours love making habits — because of the flimsy partitions between modern houses. Anthony Cadman, Director-General of the Brick Development Association, believes that people will only be able to keep their sex lives private if walls made of timber and plasterboard are replaced with solid — and more expensive — brick partitions.

Athens News



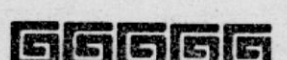
MANCHESTER company director Adolf Muller hired a speechwriter for the Annual General Meeting. Amongst all the boring stuff about profits and investment the writer included stage directions like "Pause, look around the room," and "Take a sip of water". Unfortunately poor Adolf didn't realise they were only stage directions — and he read them all out. At the end, to the shareholders' great mirth, he ordered himself to sit down.



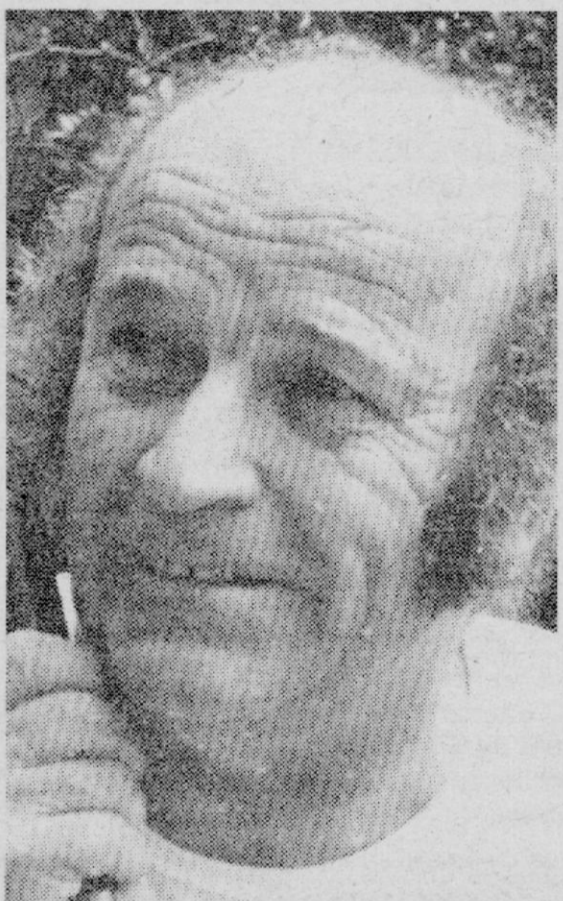
missed.—Loving Wife Vi.
ARNOLD (Ernie) — Passed away Feb. 19 1976. If roses grow in Heaven, Lord, pick a bunch with care. Place them in my Uncle's ars, to show that I still care. Will always be remembered. R.I.P. — Teddy.
ARNOLD (Ernest). Passed aw



SALES of fruit juice soared in Green Haven State Correction Facility, New York, until guards discovered that inmates left the table swaying and singing. The juice turned out to be neat whisky specially packed by an underground firm for £20 a can.



HAS Radio Moscow got something the BBC hasn't got? Authorities in the Soviet state of Georgia are concerned about people burying televisions and radios along with the dead.



Leatherbarrow — unworried

USA trip for George

LIFE continues at an unworried pace for builder George Leatherbarrow as police investigations into his contracts with Kirkby Council continue.

George and his charming wife, Nareena, spent November as usual in the apartment they own in Miami, Florida. (Hard graft still has its little rewards, thank goodness!)

The couple also appear to be planning for the future with confidence. Nareena has persuaded George to buy an even bigger house in posh Caldy, though it's a mystery what she will do with all that extra space if George is ever obliged to stay in one of Her Majesty's hotels.

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Ex-police chief in bribe inquiry

THE FORMER head of Liverpool's regional crime squad, Det. Supt. Eddie Washbourne, is now involved in a second outside police inquiry into alleged corruption in the Merseyside force. The latest investigation is into a tape-recorded conversation between a Liverpool club owner and Constable Alan Gray, of Belle Vale police station.

Gray demanded £100 from the club owner so that evidence would be changed at a Crown Court appeal. One the tape Gray names a witness who "is going to play ball all the way. He wants the money in his fucking hand before he does."

The club owner — Michael Kountis, of the Acropolis Club in Princes Road — says he complained repeatedly to Supt. Washbourne about Gray's demands for money. But the head of the regional crime squad in Liverpool did nothing.

Washbourne admitted to the Sunday Times: "I should have realised I was guilty of a disciplinary offence by not reporting it."

Midlands police were called in earlier this year to investigate another case involving Washbourne, who retired some months ago.

This case involved an escaped prisoner, Brian Williams, who claims that while on the run he had a telephone conversation with Washbourne. He says Washbourne told him that Det. Con. Daniel Gidman had a safe hidden in his garage.

The safe, which contained stolen property, was later found — accidentally, according to the police — by Gidman's wife. Gidman says it was planted [see Free Press No. 29].

The latest case under investigation began in December 1974 when three police officers banged on the door of the Acropolis club at two in the morning, after a tip-off that a wanted man was in the club.

The officers were Det. Sgts. Alan Larkin, Francis Keating and David Pugh. Club owner Kountis says the police shouted: "Open up, you Greek

fucking bastard", and he denies he ever struck Keating.

On April 1, 1975, Kountis was sentenced to four months in prison for assaulting a police officer.

After his conviction Kountis was determined to appeal against both his conviction and sentence. It was then that Gray appeared on the scene.

Despite working out at Belle Vale, Gray is a well-known and unwelcome visitor to many Liverpool 8 clubs.

But on April 21, 1975, when Gray visited Kountis to talk about a bribe, the club owner was carrying a hidden tape recorder.

Extracts from the tape were pub-

lished in the Sunday Times on October 31. The recording was originally made for Granada Television, but somehow they never got round to using it.

Constable Gray has now been suspended from duty until the result of police inquiries is known. When he arrived at Belle Vale to hand in his uniform the desk sergeant refused to allow him into the rest of the police station.

● Our Lodge Lane patrolman reports: A Constable Gray has approached a club owner requesting additional finance for a holiday that is being contemplated.

The bribery tape

Gray: Now the situation. What you've got to do in the morning is this. You've got to make positive moves like [Larkin*] has got to make positive moves and the idea of the exercise is to get you off going to prison.

Kountis: That's what I want. I don't mind...

Gray: We're not bothered about a fine. I just don't want you to go to... I want you to get either a suspended sentence... or a fine. Understood? And that's the object of the exercise. Now in the morning you will contact your solicitor right away.

Kountis: Tomorrow?

Gray: Yes. You'll say 'Look, this is Michael Kountis speaking. With regard to my case I want you to alter my appeal to one against sentence only. I only want to appeal about this imprisonment now at this stage.' Say, 'It's caused a lot of trouble this with everybody, the police and all that. I don't want to cause trouble with people. It was just a mistake.

Kountis: But what happen if [Larkin] say no, what...?

Gray: [Larkin] is fucking saying yes, that's what he's getting paid for. That's what the fucking money's for. Your barrister will get up in court and he will

say this: "Look, Mr Kountis has been a club proprietor in this town for many years. He's of Greek nationality. His English is bad and his understanding of the English language, despite his long stay here, is difficult for him." Listen to me, we're talking to the judge now... and we're trying to get your sentence reduced.

Kountis: Not to go to jail.

Gray: Not to go to jail, never mind reduced... Now here's what the hundred pound is being spent for...

[A crackling sound is heard]

Gray: It's only my radio. I'm on duty. I've got to listen out. I should be up at fucking Belle Vale.

[Later in the tape Kountis promises to pay the £100 two days later. Then...]

Gray: Listen to me. Let's get one thing fucking straight. In all this trouble you've fucking got on here you've got one fucking friend, you have.

Kountis: Who is it?

Gray: Me. One fucking friend. All your chief superintendents, your fucking Eddie Washbourne, the fucking lot of them have done fuck all for you...

* The Sunday Times did not name the witness who was to be paid. Free Press inquiries have shown that the witness named by Gray was Det Sgt Alan Larkin, one of the arresting officers.

Save it! (if you've got it)

LIVERPOOL Housing Department have brought out a leaflet intended to help tenants who have difficulties paying their fuel bills.

It explains one scheme where tenants can save up towards future bills by paying the corporation a bit extra along with their weekly rent.

The snag is that this is unlikely to benefit tenants with serious

money problems — the rules say that only tenants with no rent arrears can join the scheme.

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