



Police forced me to confess, claims boy

Those boardroom militants

Spare a tear for the directors this Christmas. Times are hard and they're having to tighten the belts a few more notches. Anyway, that's the view of the Directory of Directors, a useful guide to your director's interests in other companies.

The introduction to the 1971 edition has this to say:

"What makes directors unhappy is the frustration of running businesses in a country torn by industrial anarchy and with a labour force activated to a large extent by a desire to get as much as possible for doing as little as possible.

"While industrial leaders report falling profits and consequently falling investments, their workpeople go slow (if they go at all) because they have been offered only a 10% increase in wages instead of the 25% or 30% they have demanded.

"It might be more tolerable if directors' salaries were keeping pace with those on the shop floor, but in most cases they are not....

"Perhaps it is time directors started going slow, or even going on strike now and again."

P.S. The directory costs £6, but you can read it free in the Central Library, William Brown Street.

In Skelmersdale there is a boy whom we will call Timothy. His mother has brought up six children successfully; his father is away at sea a great deal.

Last summer Timothy, then sixteen, left home for a few weeks - a not unusual thing for an adolescent to do.

While away he spent most of his time living with the parents of his girlfriend. But he did put himself in the wrong by helping himself to the contents of his older brother's wallet.

His brother, not realising it was Timothy who had taken it, reported the loss to the police. Later, Timothy owned up and his brother said they ought to go and tell the police so that inquiries would be stopped.

Timothy was taken by his brother to Skem police station and here his trouble began. He was detained for the whole night and during the course of it was transferred to Chorley police station. He alleges that in both police stations he was extremely roughly handled and forced to sign an admission that he had committed another ten 'break-ins'.

The solicitor concerned confirmed to Watchdog that detailed evidence of the brutality used to extort the confession would be central to the defence plea of not guilty. Here was a chance for journalists to take a verbatim note in open court of a possibly sensational case.

Remanded

Several national newspapers ordered the case to be covered and Granada Television sent its own reporter. Did the police smell a trap? Certainly something happened because (miracle of miracles) just before the case was due to go on the prosecution dropped all their ten charges, leaving just the admitted one of stealing the brother's wallet, for which Timothy was fined £25.

Although the police knew his mother's telephone number they made no attempt to contact her and presented Timothy in Chorley juvenile court the next morning as someone of no fixed address - with the result that he was remanded. It was not until late evening that day that Timothy's mother discovered her son was in a remand home.

Then curious things began to happen. The police adjourned the case several times and when they brought Timothy up on August 25 in the juvenile court they discovered (to their delight?) that the previous week he had had his seventeenth birthday, so the charges would have to be represented in an adult court. A hearing was fixed for Preston Quarter Sessions.

Brutality

After this, Timothy's mother contacted Liverpool Watchdog.

There are other alarming tales of brutality from police in Skelmersdale and Chorley; they may or may not be true. But the Chief Constable could find little better to do in the few months before he retires than looking closely at the behaviour of his own force. One of his deputy chiefs is at present in London examining serious allegations on an unprecedented scale against members of the Metropolitan force.

Surely it's a case of taking the plank out of one's own eye first?

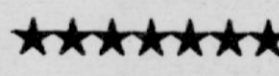
In Penarth, Glamorganshire, the local Festival of Light people were banned from lighting a beacon - on the grounds that it would be an offence against the Clean Air Act.



A young man who appeared before a court in Lorton, Virginia, charged with calling a policeman a pig, was ordered to go to a pig farm and see if he could tell the difference between the inmates and the officers of the law. The sentence was quickly changed to a 50-dollar fine when it was discovered that pig keeping is illegal in the state of Virginia.



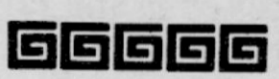
An Indian sadhu (holy man) and his elephant were arrested in Wadhwan and charged with rape. A 19-year-old girl washing clothes on the bank of a pond was raped by the sadhu "with the help of his elephant." Both man and beast are in custody. Meanwhile in Ahmedabad, a sadhu with miraculous powers has been arrested for attempting to lift a car with his penis.



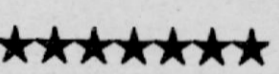
The U.S. army has dropped the old fashioned war cry: "Kill, kill, kill" as recruits charge the dummy with bayonets. Now they shout "ya, ya." Colonel Will Carter explained: "We are trying to keep things modern and in good taste."



Making a speech to students at the start of term, the Vice Chancellor of Liverpool University said: "Not ALL Vice Chancellors are card carrying members of the Fascist Party." Is he trying to tell us that some - or even most - Vice Chancellors ARE members? And come to think of it, just what is the British Fascist Party, whose cards they are supposed to be carrying?



The campaign within the Tory party to bring back hanging has nothing to do with the fact that Mr Anthony Barber, MP, is a former director of British Ropes, Ltd. Meanwhile another MP wants to bring in gassing instead. "The gas chamber is the most humane form of execution," says Dr Vaughan, Tory member for Reading.



Americans must not be eaten. There is more DDT in the average American's body fat than is allowed in food in Britain.

You've never had it so good wack

By Ron Biggs

"Make it big in Liverpool" says the advertisement, "and you've got the world in your pocket."

One man who has made it big in Liverpool is Mr James Gorrie, recently appointed Industrial Development Officer at £120 per week.

Only days after getting the job, Mr Gorrie got the world in his pocket - he was whisked off on the whirlwind tour of America (see last month's Free Press).

Backslapping

Appointed because he has substantial contacts with Industry, Mr Gorrie's job will consist almost entirely of backslapping and entertaining businessmen in the cause of industrial development.

One of Gorrie's first problems when he gets home will be to deal with the list of misleading half-truths in the embarrassing "make it big" advert. (Produced by Liverpool's public relations office and the uninspired Brunnings Advertising Agency). For instance the advert chirpily claims "There's a wide variety of well situated sites to choose from and a skilled, adaptable labour force on hand."

In reality, one of the problems facing Liverpool is the shortage of suitable sites for large scale industrial development. Another is the "Mismatch" of labour - where there may be vacancies for skilled workers which unemployed workers cannot fill.

Again the advert claims "Superb surrounding countryside" and a wide



variety of relatively low-cost housing". The fact is, if you want to buy a relatively low-cost house you will have to move out of Liverpool because house prices in the city are some of the highest in the country. And as for the "superb surrounding countryside" they must be talking about somewhere else.

If you can't recognise Liverpool in the advert write in to the public relations office for more details - of the stuff that adverts are made of.

Firm who broke rules may get £800 bonus

Business interests on Liverpool Council have won the second round in their amazing bid to over-pay a builder who broke his contract.

Wren Construction won a contract with the corporation by offering to repair and improve a house in Kensington Fields for £1,550 - 15%-20% below normal prices.

As revealed in last month's Free Press, Wren broke the contract by sub-contracting the work to a Mr

Peter Christian. Mr Christian lost £800 on the deal and asked the corporation for the money.

The housing committee at first refused to consider this claim, but now a committee has been set up to investigate. This latest move has been condemned by Labour councillor Ken Stewart as "messing about with the ratepayers' money."

If the business interests get their way, it seems likely that Wren will receive £800 more than the corporation originally agreed to pay, on the understanding that this is eventually paid to Mr Christian to make up his loss.

By putting in such a low tender Wren took a risk of losing money on the contract. By sub-contracting against the rules, they caused someone else to lose the money.

If Mr Christian's deficit is to be paid, it would be more reasonable to take the money off Wren than off the ratepayers of Liverpool.

★ So far only the Free Press has named the firms involved in the dispute.



JAY GAULDING & DENNIS HARPER