

# Secrets of the city's £15,000 flying circus...

Revealed! — The document we have all been waiting for. The official report on Liverpool's £15,000 'Mission to America,' headed by Sir Tiny Mac.

Written by Liverpool's new Industrial Development Officer, Mr James Gorrie, the report shows the extent of the mission's success (or lack of it).

For instance, Mr Larry De Leers, vice-president of the First Wisconsin National Bank "gave the name of one quality leather handbag company which was considering manufacturing in Liverpool," writes the £6,000-a-year Mr Gorrie.

In Chicago — "The management of a company which specialises in electric blankets was clearly expanding in Europe and wished to be briefed further on Merseyside advantages."

Is this a hint of some grand design to make Liverpool the centre of the world's electric blanket and handbag industry?

But perhaps the wittiest passage in the report is Mr Gorrie's account of the mission's visit to Mayor Daley in Chicago — one of the 'highlights' of the tour. For "Mayor Daley outlined in dramatic terms [You bet he did!—Eds.] how he had successfully met the challenges of city administration over a period of 20 years. Unlike other major cities, he felt that Chicago had reached a plateau of stability."

## 3,000 ton fouler

On January 10, Manchester Corporation took possession of their new "sludge vessel" which will carry 3,000 tons of sewage out into Liverpool Bay three times every week.

This is in addition to three other ships — The Mancunian, The Percy Dawson and The Salford City (hired from Salford Corporation) [Free Press No 3].

The name of the new vessel is, appropriately, the Gilbert J. Fowler.

## Nearly sold

Royal Enfield motor bike, 250cc for sale. Nearly running, needs slight attention. £17.50 o.n.o. Also Tiger Cub. Tel: 709 9421

## HORSE SENSE



by GEORGE

# Why favourites often win...

In this issue we take a systematic look at the favourites. For contrary to popular belief the best backed horses do win the most races.

First favourites win approximately 40% of all races and second favourites win about 10-15%.

Therefore first and second favourites between them win more races than all the others put together, and this can be a useful guide to backers.

As we advance in the betting, third, fourth and fifth favourites each win a lesser number of races and when we come to the long shots, the number of races they win drops dramatically.

Why do favourites win most races? The answer might be one specific reason, or a number of them put together. As it is the weight of public money which makes a particular horse favourite

it is up to the punter to find these reasons whenever possible and to judge them accordingly.

It could be that a horse has shown good public form and performs well on a certain course. Sometimes owners particularly like to win races on their favourite course, and may send a horse to win a special race.

It could be that a certain jockey is riding and/or has travelled a long way to ride a particular animal and may be riding at his minimum weight, for a shrewd trainer. It is possible for news to have got out about a horse giving an impressive performance whilst training. Whatever the reason, it is usually as well to consider these favourites when making a selection.

It is important to note also that besides 40% of favourites winning on average, the percentage

goes up when selected races are chosen. For example if we strike out handicap races, the percentage of favourites goes up to as much as 50%. When we select favourites in non-handicaps, for two-year-olds the percentage goes up further still and the second favourites go up in ratio

If we select courses where favourites do particularly well, we improve our chances still further.

Here are a few more rules to help us win:

- Always consider the best backed horses before making a final selection.
- Bet systematically and be shrewd.
- Study the form, trainer, jockey, going and course.

NEXT MONTH: A LOOK AT SOME BETTING SYSTEMS

The Bootle dispute which could hold the key to better pay and conditions for 60,000 men...

# Electricians fight for equal rights

One of the longest industrial disputes Merseyside has known is a year old this month. And the outcome will affect 60,000 electricians on building sites throughout Britain.

The dispute is at the new 18-storey computer centre being built for the Inland Revenue Office (IRO) at Bootle. It involves 18 electricians employed by James Scott (the firm exposed by Granada's World in Action programme for price-rigging Government contracts) and Lee, Beesley & Co.

The problem is that while other stewards in the construction industry are allowed to negotiate locally with their employers, electricians' stewards are forbidden to negotiate. As a result, an electrician's hourly pay has fallen to 35p or more below that of the lowest paid building worker on the IRO site.

In support of their claim for a better deal, the IRO electricians have been on strike for a total of ten months since last February. They returned to work twice—once for seven weeks and later for two weeks—in the hope of a settlement that never came.

## Fixed rate

Main obstacle to parity with the other trades is the JIB (Joint Industry Board) which fixes pay and conditions for the whole electrical contracting industry. The board consists of 11 employers' representatives and 11 officials of the Electrical, Electronic and Telecommunication Union (better known as ETU).

Since the JIB took over all negotiations four years ago, electricians have become the lowest paid workers on building sites. No electrician can earn more than the JIB-fixed rate—no bonus, no dirt money, no danger money.

- On January 14, the IRO electricians were joined by 500 representatives from sites all over the country for a march round the Inland Revenue Office site in support of three demands:
  1. Wages above the present JIB rate.
  2. An end to blacklisting and engagement of the unemployed by taking first those men longest out of work.
  3. ETU stewards to have the same negotiating rights as other stewards in the construction industry.

This has led to men working up to 58½ hours a week (the maximum) to earn a reasonable standard of living for their families.

Even some employers are fed up with the JIB. Following a 15-week strike on the Alcan site near Newcastle on Tyne last year, N.G. Bailey & Co defied the JIB by agreeing to pay their employees more than the fixed rate. The JIB threatened to discipline the firm... but nothing happened.

In December last year the JIB made a concession—they decided that where electricians' wages are out of line with those paid to other trades on the same site, they are prepared to consider claims for parity.

But no direct negotiations between stewards and employers are allowed. Instead, to quote the JIB's own rules, "The JIB will determine to appropriate rate of pay... and will attach whatever conditions it thinks fit to the payment of this rate."

Strong support from the



Some of the pickets at the IRO site in Bootle. Their dispute is one year old this month. [Picture: John Bossons]

other trades on the IRO site has been one of the electricians' most effective weapons. Several management attempts to bring in strike breakers failed when building workers refused to work with them.

But this support will be put to a very severe test this month when 120 men on the site are made redundant. Seventy of these redundancies are blamed on the strike, although the electricians claim this is just an attempt to turn the building workers against them. They say there is no reason why the building side of the job should not go on without them.

## Test case

Meanwhile the men are mobilising support from other ETU members in the industry. For they see the dispute as a test case against the JIB. And they point out that their own claim is in line with the call for a basic £1 an hour for a 40-hour week plus negotiating rights for stewards, which was passed overwhelmingly by the National Contracting Conference at Southport in 1970 and is being ignored by the union executive.

Offers of support to: IRO Strike Committee, c/o John Byrne, 44 Sydney Road, Bootle. Tel: 051-922 9736.

# COAL'S FUTURE IS NOT SO BLACK

A miner today produces 57% more coal than he did four years ago. His earnings during this period have risen by 25%.

These figures from the Trade Unions' Consultancy Service — Ruskin College research unit — will receive little publicity in opposition to the government's propaganda of a "declining industry".

Yet throughout last year coal was imported to this country from Europe, Australia and the USA — a measure of the Government's commitment to aid a dying industry.

A surface worker with two children receives £16.42 after deductions. The Coal Board's latest offer (as we go to press) would give him £17.74, an increase of 8%.

But this offer will be backdated to November 1971, during which time the cost of living index has risen by 10%.

The Financial Times reported last September that "big price increases and strong demand have helped the coal industry to achieve one of its best financial

years in a long time. In its latest account for 1970-71 the NCB made a profit of £500,000, despite expectations of a multi-million pound loss."

Political hostility from the oil-producing countries and the fact that on present estimates of reserves and demand, world oil supplies will be exhausted by the year 2,000 (although there are enough coal supplies for another three centuries) — indicate a brighter future for the coal industry, and the miners deserve their share in it.

able to persuade them to lend a hand.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21): Lot of family planning going on during the week-end, and, if you are a parent, you will be taking a rather firm line with one of the youngsters to-morrow. SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 20): The

Liverpool Daily Post