Photograph by Harry Kerr Flyovers of the two motorway access roads sweep round the caravans of the Westway gypsies' site.

Caravans nestle between motorway access roads and rubbish tip Health challenge over Westway gypsies' camp

By David Nicholson-Lord

Mrs Margaret Jones pointed through the window of her yesterday to the spot where last November a lorry plummeted 40ft from the motorway access road overhead, demolishing a wall, killing its driver and nar- of gypsy sites. rowly missing her two nieces, aged eight and twelve.

carried away."

residents on the Westway the first action in the High gypsies' site, in North Kensing- Court to force the councils to lead levels in children on the three-quarters of Britain's for the Reform of the Obscene ton, west London, the accident discharge their statutory duties site of as much as twice the gypsy families could not be served as a final and damning under the Caravan Sites Act, normal and increasing with illustration of the dangers to 1968. which they are exposed. The Among matters such an action "unusually heavy" lead con- she does not leave, Mrs Jones, site, she says with a touch of is likely to clarify is the defini- tamination in camp site dust, a widow with 19 grandchildren, solecism, is "unfit for human tion of an adequate site. There according to standards used by replies: "There is no room consumption ".

Later this year that opinion among Britain's estimated 9,000

Staff at the centre plan to To Mrs Jones and fellow launch what is believed to be day.

is expected to be tested by two gypsy families about the localegal actions brought on the tion of sites "next to gravesmall, sprucely kept caravan residents' behalf by staff at the yards, rubbish-tips and sewage North Kensington law centre. farms", in the words of Mr Both are being seen as provid- James Mercer, one of two Briing important precedents for tish representatives on the councils' siting and management international Romany Commit-

The Westwayprosecute Hammersmith council described by Mr Mercer as while admitting that the site is j They were this far away which runs the site jointly with among the worst he has seen. from it", she said, holding her Kensington and Chelsea coun- It is sandwiched between two hands a foot apart. "They cil, on public health grounds. raised motorway access roads thought it was a bit of a giggle They will ask the Department and bordered by a car-breakers' at first but they stopped laugh- of the Environment to instruct yard, an illegal rubbish-tip and ing when they saw the driver the councils to take action but a railway line, used by about failing that, they intend to 10 trains an hour during the

> Tests have revealed bloodwidespread resentment the Greater London Council.

Noise levels would qualify residents for double-glazing if they were council tenants, law Early action by Government centre staff say.

Hammersmith council, illegal tipping and says that the £40,000 annual cost of administering the site and the time taken is "absolutely disproportionate" to the numbers

It is estimated that about

From John Chartres

Heswall branch of the Royal

Select committee and minister clash on sick pay proposals

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent Government proposals to transfer responsibility for sick pay from national insurance to employers were pronounced seriously defective yesterday by the Commons Select Committee on Social Services. Their report brought an immediate condemnation from Mr Patrick Jenkin, capped, and strongly rejected Secretary of State for Social Services.

yesterday, both in their report ture on social services and and at a press conference in social security. the Commons, that their doubts a Bill is imminent, were based on the details of the scheme rather than the basic principles.

Mrs Renée Short, chairman of the committee, said that there had not been time to consider whether the idea of transferring responsibility was

Mr Jenkin issued a statement saying: "The most that can be said for this report is that the House will wish to note the issues it raises when it comes to debate the Bill in a few

providing an independent par- direct evidence.

deaths and children born handiits conclusion that the Govern- the ment did not know the effects The committee made it clear of its proposals to cut expendi-

His antipathy towards the about the proposals, on which committee's reports, each of which has been unanimous, bound to raise questions about the Government response to select committee work.

> Before she was aware of Mr Jenkin's response, Mrs Short stated that he should be grateful for the amount of work the committee had been able to do in the short time available. If their proposals were accepted, the committee would have saved him "an awful lot of odium and protests" from outside.

two months considering the comed the report and called Government proposals to trans- on the Government to recon-"I also expect the House will fer responsibility for the first sider their "ill thought out want to consider whether off- eight weeks of sickness to proposals". the-cuff opinion, not founded employers in return for reduc- The Government's Proposals for on any evidence heard by a tions in their national insurance Income During Initial Sickness, committee, is the best way of contributions. They took no Commons Paper 113 (Stationery

liamentary overview by select. The committee concluded committee." that the proposals had two main Mr Jenkin has now criticized defects. They would place turthree out of four of the comther burdens on employers, mittee's reports with varying particularly small firms, without degrees of hostility. He adequate compensation. They seriously questioned the comwould involve greater losses mittee's conclusions in its for families than for single or report on perinatal mortality childless couples, "a shift in about the number of avoidable public policy which is entirely

in the wrong direction". The report also questioned administrative savings claimed by the Government, because they amounted to transfer from the public to the private sector. The report called for effective monitoring

The committee also recommended that if the scheme were the first eight,

of any real savings achieved.

Publication of the report brought an immediate demand from the National Federation of Self Employed and Small Businesses that the Government abandon its proposals.

The British Institute of The committee spent about Management last night wel-

Father tells of ban on 'Moonie' girls

permitted only in strictly controlled circumstances which had not allowed his daughters Romania", the trust said. ensured that members of the to spend a Christmas with the public were not subjected to family in case they tempted two | 1978) was alive his marvellous, young relatives into the sect. It also called for the repeal Mr Robert Salter, of Fair- over the heads of the Langholm of obscenity laws covering the dene Road, Coulsdon, London, council. which declined to Speaking last week to mem- printed word, and the abolition | told Mr Justice Comyn and a | grant him the freedom of the bers of the National Campaign of the "artistic or literary jury in the High Court that he town. It bestowed that honour merit" defence available under | did not trust the two girls to | instead on Mr Neil Armstrong, join the family for Christmas in | the astronaut, who is descended The second reading of the 1978. "We did not trust them from a border clan but whose length of stay. There is designated sites. Asked why the report. The campaign has private member's Bill aimed at to be in close contact with personal connexion with Lang. expressed its disappointment making illegal public indecent young people because they holm has been described as Mr | could influence them and get | cosmic. ment has apparently "ducked Timothy Sainsbury, Conserva- them into the Moonies", he tive MP for Hove, is due in said.

> Mr Salter added that if his daughters were ill or in dire need, obviously they would be allowed home, but apart from that they were not.

He was giving evidence on the attaché at the sixtieth day of the libel action | Embassy in Dublin, who critiby Mr Dennis Orme, United Kingdom leader of the Unification Church, against Associated Newspapers. Mr Orme claims he was libelled in a Daily Mail | tions". Dr side, who had objected to the article in May, 1978, which

Hugh MacDiarmid: Memorial sculpture competition. Monument be responsible for the first 28 to the sickness rather than of Langholm

From Ronald Faux

Langholm, a small border town in Dumfriesshire, although cautious about handing accolades to local notables, is preparing to mark the memory of its most famous son, Hugh Mac-Diarmid, the poet, who was born and buried there.

The Scottish Sculpture Trust yesterday announced plans to create a memorial sculpture to him in a field near the town. The Duke of Buccleuch has provided the site.

The trust has launched an appeal for £7,500, which will be matched by the Scottish Arts Council, to fund a competition to provide the sculpture, "We tural activity in Scotland and The father of Judy and Jane | lead to the kind of work with Salter, who are members of the which Rodin honoured Balazc (the and which Brancusi created in Moonies) said yesterday that he the park at Tirgu Jiu, in

When MacDiarmid (1892evocative poetry seemed to sail

'Insult' envoy

Mr Robin Berrington, a press cized Ireland in a private letter accidentally circulated to the press, has been recalled to Washington "for consulta-

The envoy, who leaves tomorrow, described Ireland as "pretty small potatoes" compared with other European The hearing continues today. I countries.

Residents also complain that rats regularly block drains on obscenity law ruled out that the sale of pornographic Mr William Whitelaw, the magazines, and the viewing of pornographic films, should be

By Our Legal Correspondent Home Secretary, has said that there is no possibility of government legislation in this parrecommendations of the Williams committee on obscenity

and film censorship. Publications Acts, he did not indicate what he thought about and concern that the Govern- displays,

the issue". The committee recommended

the Commons today. Children's hospital saved from closure

orking for industry

offensive displays.

the present law.

Yesterday, however, Driver, chairman of the Mersey play even under the present families. Libel is denied. A working party had recom- Regional Health Authority, say- financial stringencies.

pool Area Health Authority

The Government yesterday during the next financial year

rejected a proposal to close the and £845,000 in 1982-83. Liver-

mended the closure of the 150- ing that the hospital should not

proposed

bed hospital to save £687,000 close. The decision has been welcomed by doctors, surgeons and child health experts on Mersey-

probably a racial attack and is manders who were present at approved by the Greater London not being treated as such by the meeting emphasized that Council's London Transport Lew move to

yesterday defeated a second attempt to oust him as chairman of Westward Television, which ceases operating as a television station at the end of this year.

However, his move to dismiss former

Mr Cheevers wanted to know cigarettes. From next Wednesday most brands will cost 4p Department of Trade.

> board had cut the dividend after considering profitability, for the company. Lord Harris ever been given to shareholders they would see the

thought Mr Cheevers's requisitioning the meeting at a time The Doncaster Gazette closed | when the Independent Broadpublication. The paper's ing the new television fran-Westward losing its franchise.

Plymouth

He was one of three directors

to sever links with the com-

why Westward had been the only company to cut its divilast year, why shareholders had not seen the Gallaher is to follow the accountants' report into the affairs of the company, and corder, said that similar Robin McGibbon, a publisher, raising the price of its company finances needed investigation, it did not call in the

> cash, and the general outlook accountants' report.

Fear grows among black leaders that racial attack led to 12 deaths

By Lucy Hodges

A big campaign has been launched by blacks in South London who believe that the in 12 deaths two weeks ago was the police.

Meetings have been held in the past week, including a big demonstration outside burnt-out house in New Cross Road, and a fact-finding inquiry has been established by the black community.

A Massacre Action Committee has also been set up. Yesterday a £5,000 reward was offered by Westindian World for information leading to the conviction of those responsible for the fire. The fire, which happened on January 18 after a party, is

being seen by black leaders as the greatest tragedy to affect their people in Britain. This week's Westindian World referred to it as the "Lewisham mass murder". Yesterday Mr Mike Phillips, of Westindian World, told a

meeting: "We have got our own Jack the Ripper wiping out a dozen black people at a time. We are hoping to help to solve the crime and to concentrate area, where racialist attacks are on the case. taking place all the time."

fire in Deptford which resulted they now had an open mind. Two Metropolitan Police com-

> extremely seriously. The Special Branch had been fare. called in and more than 50 officers were working in what was Hitchhiker attacked largest police inquiry mounted in south London, they

racially motivated but no recent weeks. evidence had been found. He and Commander Graham Stock- BA dispute goes on well, who is organizing the inquiry, sympathized with the grieving relatives.

felt numb. "My heart is broken | staff. and I can still hear the sound of the screams", she said.

Commander Stockwell said he welcomed the £5,000 reward attention on how bad the crime offered. A team of fire investi- 20, an equestrian champion, the 200,000 voting shares. was and on the situation in this gation scientists was working | died in a hospital in Southamp-The fire had been caused by

Blacks are critical of the way paint thinner being sprinkled the police have handled the over Mrs Ruddock's front inquiry. Mr Russell Profitt, a parlour at about 5.30 am.

Lloyd's brokers jailed for bilking railway From Our Correspondent

Southend

jailed for 28 days at Southend | claimed implicated her in a sex Crown Court, Essex, yesterday. | scandal. Mr Brian Higgs, QC, the reoffences might also produce and Everest Books, his comcustodial sentences.

Mannion, aged 32, of Flemming | drew attention to a case in | Crescent, both Leigh-on-Sea, which BBC disc jockeys and QC heads inquiry brokers at Lloyd's, had denied been offered sex to play chair a panel of inquiry into a joint charge of conspiring to | records. defraud British Rail.

catc. He sold the original ticket | with the case. to Mr Felstead for about £250 and they used the two tickets | the jury found that the letter, | of they were caught.

By Kenneth Gosling

Dorothy Squires loses libel claim over letter

Dorothy Squires, aged 57, the singer, lost a High Court Two commuters who de- livel action in London yesterfrauded the railway were each day over a letter which she

In the action, against Mr pany, Miss Squires alleged that Clifford Felstead, aged 37, the letter, from Mr McGibbon of Elm Road, and Anthony to Harold Robbins, the author. both insurance producers were said to have

Mr Christopher Hookway, for Mr Robbins to "ghost" Miss on her when she was left alone the prosecution, said they were Squires's autobiography. She in a flat at Welling, Kent. both short of money. Mr Man- had been acquitted at the Cennion reported his annual season | tral Criminal Court in 1974 of | ticket lost and obtained a dupli- | a corruption charge connected

not defamatory.

In brief

Flat bus fare for outer London

A flat 25p fare has been pro- Liverpool Children's Hospital, faces a £2m annual deficit. Lewisham councillor, said that posed for bus routes in the which has an international the impression given by the outer areas of London from reputation for dealing with the Gerard Vaughan, Minister for proposal, believing that the alleged that the Moonies brainpolice last weekend was that April 4. At present fares range cleft palate type of speech Health, wrote to Sir Eric hospital has a special role to washed converts and broke up they were ruling out racial from 12p to 58p. Graded fares defect. motives. He was glad to see | will still apply in central Lon-

The scheme has to be they were taking the fire, committee, which meets on which they think was started deliberately, and the 12 deaths more than half of London Transport's total, will be flat-

Police were hunting yesterday for three men who picked up Commander John Smith, who a hitchhiker at Dartford, Kent, ; in charge of the local divi- drove to Gillingham and assaulsion, said the arson attack | ted him, stealing £63. It was the | might turn out to have been | sixth such attack on the M2 in |

Separate talks by British Airways management and unions at | director, wanted removed from Earlier Mrs Gee Ruddock, the offices of the Advisory, Conthe mother of Yvonne Ruddock, | ciliation and Arbitration Ser- | had not exercised sufficient | who had been celebrating her | vice ended yesterday without | financial control over the comsixteenth birthday at the party any sign of a settlement in and died in the fire, said she | a pay dispute involving ground |

Champion dies

Miss Bianca Serjeant, aged ton yesterday after her parents told doctors to switch off life support systems. She received brain injuries in a road accident on Tuesday.

Porter shot in raid

Mr James King, aged 44, a housing office porter, was shot in the thigh after throwing his coffee over three armed robbers in Peckham, London, yesterday. The men ran off

without taking money. Cigarette price rise example of Imperial Tobacco

more for 20.

Mr Arthur Mildon, QC, is to the death of Lucy Gates, aged Mr McGibbon had wanted two, who died when a fire fell

Newspaper closes After a three-hour retirement | yesterday after nearly 200 years | casting Authority was discussfor about eight months until written in September, 1975, was | seven journalists will be offered | chises was a large factor in redundancy or redeployment.

Independent TV programme makers form new group

Mr Peacock said there was a theory in some quarters that

over and from now on every gathering behind the emergence of channel four."

From Philip Robinson

Lord Harris of Greenwich

whom, Mr William Cheevers, former Westward managing the board because he said they

Lord Harris was defeated at a special shareholders' meeting in Plymouth by three to one, with Lord Harris supported by holders of more than half of Hambros, who bought a fifth of the voting shares from Mr Peter Westward last November as part of an agreement he made

Moves to oust Mr Ronald Perry, the present managing director, and Mr Kenneth Holmes were also defeated.

Mr Holmes told him that the He told shareholders that he

at lower cost — and the development cannot be ignored. Collaboration between Harwell and industry

has resulted in a new approach to grout monitoring, essential to the method by which oil and gas platforms are anchored to the sea . bed. Reacting to a tight commercial timescale and working under tough conditions, Harwell scientists have developed a new inspection method involving radiation gauges. This

provides an objective and permanent record

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being yesterday when 200. He said that until now there unions, especially those repre- the new channel is expected to independent programme-makers had been no way for indepen- senting performers and writers, broadcast. launched a trade association dent producers to sell their would welcome the new associaand announced plans for co- work to the BBC or the inde- tion. operating with the Channel pendent television companies. He spoke of a production, made tion had a potential member- that final decisions have got to Four Television Company. Mr Michael Peacock, chair- at a cost of £75,000, for which ship of 500 but he thought the be taken. This is totally to misman of the Independent Pro- the BBC had offered only figure would settle at between gramme Producers' Association, £6,000.

great benefit to the British tele- flexibility was needed. Much A new production force in vision, film, information and tough talking and argument lay makers will contribute at least British television came into entertainment industries.

said at a press conference in

Mr Peacock said the associa- channel four "is still 'iffy' and ' 250 and 400. It would levy 1 per He said new agreements cent of the value of commis-London that the launch marked would have to be drawn up sions from the fourth channel. the start of a new industry that with the unions and all the The association would be apwould create employment and present agreements would be pointing an administrator and opportunities that would be of examined to see where more an industrial relations officer.

ahead, but he thought the 10 hours a week of the 50 hours

understand what is happening. "The days of waiting are sees the momentum

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