

STH: LN77/HYK JULY 14TH, 1978 HBG: ADV

TO: TIME MEDICINE

FROM: LONDON BY: WHITE

SLUG: TEST TUBE BABY EOH

REGARDING LENGTHY STORY, POSSIBLY MAJOR TAKEOUT, PEGGED TO DELIVERY OF THE BABY, YOU WILL HAVE SEEN OUR ADVISORY TODAY ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE BIRTH IS IMMINENT THIS WEEKEND--AND THE HOSPITAL'S DENIAL THAT IT IS IMMINENT. WE WILL, OF COURSE, KEEP YOU ADVISED. AS FOR LINING UP SOURCES IN THE BROWN FAMILY, THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE: ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPER GROUP LTD. IS PAYING THESE PEOPLE A FORTUNE FOR THEIR STORY, AND THEY ARE NOT TALKING TO ANYBODY ELSE. THIS IS CHECK-BOOK JOURNALISM AT ITS WORST.

AS FOR STEPTOE-EDWARDS, WE HAVE MADE PERSISTENT EFFORTS ALL WEEK TO CONTACT THEM, WITHOUT SUCCESS. AFTER THE BABY IS BORN, HOWEVER, CIRCUMSTANCES MAY CHANGE, AND THEY MAY CONSENT TO INTERVIEWS. AND THE DAILY MAIL CERTAINLY WILL START POURING IT OUT. IN THE MEANTIME, THOUGH, THE DOCTORS ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW THE IDENTITY OF OTHER WOMEN WHO HAVE TRIED THE STEPTOE-EDWARDS FERTILIZATION TECHNIQUE. IF ANY OF THESE WOMEN COME FORWARD OR ARE IDENTIFIED, WE WILL GET TO THEM PRONTO. MEDICAL SOURCES, OF COURSE, CAN BE TALKED TO IN ADVANCE, BUT AS YOU ARE AWARE, THIS TECHNIQUE IS SO SPECIALIZED THAT WITHOUT STEPTOE-EDWARDS, THE QUESTION IS HOW FAR KNOWLEDGE CAN BE ADVANCED.

WE'LL FLAG YOU MONDAY ON DEVELOPMENTS. --SENT 1951/KEN

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