

STM: LN12/NY JULY 22 78 MSG: CAC

TO: TIME MEDICINE

FROM: LONDON BY: WHITE

SLUG: TEST TUBE BABY EOH:

REGARDING THE TRANSPORTING-OF-EGGS-INSIDE-RABBITS:

NEWSPAPER STORIES HAVE REPORTED THAT BOTH REPEAT BOTH EDWARDS AND STEPTOE HAVE DONE IT.

THE OLDHAM PAPER SAID THAT "WHEN EDWARDS NEEDED TO TRANSPORT FERTILIZED EGGS FROM CAMBRIDGE TO OLDHAM, HE COULD BE SEEN DRIVING HIS CAR WITH A RABBIT IN A BOX (NOTE: NOT A CAGED) ON THE PASSENGER'S SEAT--THE RABBIT BEING THE HOST WHICH CARRIED THE FERTILIZED EGG IMPLANTED IN IT TO KEEP IT AT THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE."

COMES NOW A STORY WRITTEN BY THE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT OF "THE OBSERVER" WITH A BIG HEADLINE: "WHY MR. STEPTOE DROVE RABBITS TO CAMBRIDGE." LEDE SAYS "DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS, MR. PATRICK STEPTOE...HAS OFTEN DRIVEN FROM OLDHAM TO CAMBRIDGE WITH A RABBIT FOR HIS PASSENGER. CAREFULLY COCOONED IN THE RABBIT'S IDEALLY WARM WOMB WERE EGGS TAKEN FROM WOMEN UNDERGOING OPERATIONS FOR A VARIETY OF GYNAECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS IN OLDHAM. THEY WERE FOR DR. ROBERT EDWARDS...WHO...HAS WORKED ON THE PROBLEM OF FERTILIZING HUMAN EGGS BY MIXING THEM WITH SPERM IN THE LABORATORY."

REASON WE REPORT THIS IS THAT ITS POSSIBLE THE RABBIT STORY

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PROPERLY BELONGS TO STEPTOE, WHILE THE OLDHAM WRITER IS
ATTRIBUTING IT TO EDWARDS.

NO WAY TO CHECK EITHER STORY. WORRIES US A BIT BECAUSE IT
SEEMS MORE LIKELY TO US THAT STEPTOE WOULD BE TRANSPORTING
UNFERTILIZED EGGS IN THE RABBIT TO EDWARDS, RATHER THAN
EDWARDS TRANSPORTING FERTILIZED EGGS BACK TO STEPTOE. WHAT
THINK? PERHAPS BEST TO SAY NEWSPAPERS HAVE REPORTED THAT BOTH
STEPTOE AND EDWARDS HAVE TRANSPORTED EGGS IN RABBITS.

0422/TAS

ETX:

CC