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TO: LONDON

FROM: PUBLITTER

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THE FOLLOWING STORY SENIOR-EDITED BUT UNCHECKED, IS SENT TO YOU FOR COMMENTS AND CORRECTIONS.

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A LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

HE WAS ALREADY IN THE BOARDING AREA AT LA GUARDIA AIRPORT, HIS BAGS IN HAND, WHEN THE MESSAGE CAME. NO, HE WAS NOT TO FLY OFF TO MAINE IN PURSUIT OF A STORY ON ASTRONOMY. ON THIS MONDAY MORNING HE WAS TO HURRY BACK TO THE TIME-LIFE BUILDING AND BEGIN WORK ON A FASCINATING AND COMPLEX MEDICAL STORY. ASSOCIATE EDITOR FRED GOLDEN RETURNED TO HIS OFFICE AND JOINED THE OTHER MEMBERS OF TIME'S MEDICINE TEAM: SENIOR EDITOR LEON JAROFF, AND REPORTER-RESEARCHERS ADRIANNE JUCIUS AND F. SYNDOR VANDERSCHMIDT. TOGETHER THEY BEGAN TO SIFT THROUGH THE EVIDENCE AND SEPARATE FACT FROM FICTION FOR THIS WEEK'S COVER STORY ON THE APPROACHING BIRTH OF THE WORLD'S FIRST "TEST-TUBE BABY."

GOLDEN HAD A HEADSTART ON THE JOB. AS AN UNDERGRADUATE AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, HE HAD BEEN A PRE-MED STUDENT UNTIL DECIDING THAT HIS INTEREST IN WRITING WAS SO STRONG THAT HIS FUTURE REALLY LAY IN JOURNALISM. SINCE JOINING TIME IN 19XX, GOLDEN NOT ONLY HAS WRITTEN MEDICINE, BUT ALSO THE SCIENCE AND BEHAVIOR SECTIONS. HIS PREVIOUS COVERS INCLUDE A STUDY OF THE METRIC SYSTEM, THE BREAKTHROUGH IN DNA RESEARCH, AND

THE EXAMINATION IN WHEN OF THE AGE OF THE COMPUTER. BUT HE FEELS THIS WEEK'S COVER MAY BE HIS MOST CHALLENGING. SAYS HE: "IT HITS AWFULLY CLOSE TO HOME. IT DEALS WITH LIFE AND DEATH, AND IT ALSO RAISES ALL SORTS OF FEARS WE WANTED TO ADDRESS."

THE FIRST OBLIGATION OF TIME'S TASK FORCE WAS TO EXPLAIN JUST WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND WHAT HAD NOT BUT THE STORY HAD OTHER IMPORTANT DIMENSIONS. THE SERIOUS MORAL QUESTIONS RAISED BY CONCEPTION IN A LABORATORY ARE DISCUSSED IN A SEPARATE BOX, AND A SECOND ANALYZES THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CONCEIVING A BABY OUTSIDE THE MOTHER'S BODY AND THE PRACTICE OF CLONING, WHICH CAUSED A RECENT FUROR.

ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE STORY, ALSO DISCUSSED IN ITS OWN BOX, PRESENTED QUITE A DIFFERENT JOURNALISTIC PROBLEM: LONDON'S DAILY MAIL HAD BOUGHT THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO THE STORY FROM THE PARENTS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF TIME'S LONDON BUREAU CHIEF BONNIE ANGELO, CORRESPONDENTS NONETHELESS MANAGED TO TURN UP HARD FACT ON THE SEQUESTERED BROWN FAMILY AND DR. ^{Patrick} ALLAN STEPTOE AND DR. ROBERT EDWARDS, TRACKING DOWN PREVIOUS IMPLANT PATIENTS AND OTHER SCIENTISTS IN THIS LIMITED FIELD OF RESEARCH. CORRESPONDENT ART WHITE COVERED OLDHAM HOSPITAL, WHERE THE BIRTH WILL TAKE PLACE, AND OBSERVED A KIND OF PRESS CORPS A KEYSTONE KOPS COMEDY: "NEWSMEN FRANTICALLY FERTILIZED AND REIMPLANTED IN THEIR OWN PAPERS THE DAILY CROP OF RUMORS."

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, DR. STEPTOE DECLINED THE ANGELO'S REQUESTS FOR AN INTERVIEW. SAID HIS WIFE, NOT ONE TO BE UNKIND: "HE KNOWS TIME WELL AND OFTEN READS IT." MEANWHILE, FORTUNATELY, THE SEARCH FOR INFORMATION ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC HAD TURNED UP THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTS ON ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEDICAL STORIES IN YEARS.