

00OUT OF TURN

STM: LN27/NYK

JULY 27TH, 1978

MSG: FIL

TO: TIME MEDICINE

FROM: LONDON

BY: WHITE

SLUG: IT'S A GIRL

TK: 1

--''SHE CAME OUT CRYING HER HEAD OFF..A BEAUTIFUL, NORMAL
BABY.'''--STEPTOE.--

--''THE LAST TIME I SAW HER SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL, EIGHT-CELLED
EMBRYO.'''--EDWARDS.--

BABY LOUISE BROWN, 5 POUNDS 12 OUNCES, ARRIVED AT 13 MINUTES
BEFORE MIDNIGHT TUESDAY, BY CAESARIAN. HER BIRTH WAS ABOUT NINE DAYS
PREMATURE BECAUSE MOTHER LESLEY BROWN HAD TOXEMIA, A CONDITION OF
PREGNANCY SAID TO BE FAIRLY COMMON.

REPORTED DR. STEPTOE AT A NEWS CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY AT PRESTWICH
HOSPITAL, GREATER MANCHESTER: ''SHE WAS SUFFERING FROM TOXEMIA
PREGNANCY, WHICH CAN CAUSE STILLBIRTH. IT IS COMMON MEDICAL
PRACTICE THAT WHEN PREGNANCY HAS REACHED MATURITY'' IT IS PRUDENT
''TO TERMINATE THE PREGNANCY TO AVOID SERIOUS ACCIDENTS.''

THE HOSPITAL RUMOR THAT MRS. BROWN HAD A MILD CASE OF TOXEMIA
WAS FLOATING AROUND LAST WEEK, AND HAD BEEN NOTED IN PRINT BY THE
OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE, SO IT WAS NO GREAT SURPRISE.

COOTHER NEWS STORIES, SUCH AS THE LONDON ''SUN'S'' TWO BEAU-

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TIES LAST WEEK--"IT'S GOING TO BE A BOY EXCLAM THAT WAS THE HINT FROM THE TEST TUBE BABY HOSPITAL YESTERDAY," AND "LORRY DRIVER GILBERT BROWN WILL WITNESS THE BIRTH OF THE CENTURY," PROVED TO BE EMBARRASSINGLY INCORRECT. AS IT HAPPENS, THE "SUN" IS CLOSED DOWN BY A STRIKE THIS WEEK, SO NOBODY KNOWS HOW THEY'D HAVE HANDLED THE ARRIVAL OF MISS BROWN).

MRS. BROWN, AND BABY, ARE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION, STEPTOE SAYS.

"AND HERE SHE IS...THE LOVELY LOUISE," HEADLINED THE DAILY MAIL THURSDAY, OVER A HUGE, PAGE ONE PICTURE OF A VERY CUTE BABY, EYES OPEN, SWADDLED IN A BLANKET. "BRIGHT-EYED AT 18 HOURS OLD." ACROSS TWO PAGES, 12 COLUMNS, INSIDE (HEADLINE: "THE EXCLUSIVE MISS BROWN") IS ANOTHER PICTURE OF THE BABY, BEING HELD BY HER SMILING MOTHER, AS BEAMING MR. BROWN CROUCHES BY THE BEDSIDE, GAZING AT HIS WIFE ADORINGLY. RUMOR THAT BABY BROWN WAS ARRIVING SHORTLY CIRCULATED IN OLDHAM TUESDAY EVENING, AS COMINGS AND GOINGS AT THE HOSPITAL INCREASED. REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS DESCENDED UPON THE GROUNDS, THRONGING THE ENTRANCE TO THE MATERNITY UNIT. AT 10:30 PM, NEWSMEN WERE TOLD TO LEAVE THE GROUNDS OR THE POLICE WOULD BE CALLED TO ESCORT THEM AWAY. AT 10:45, THE DOORS OF THE MATERNITY UNIT WERE SHUT BY SECURITY GUARDS. SOON AFTER MIDNIGHT, THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME: "MRS. BROWN HAS BEEN SAFELY DELIVERED BY CAESARIAN SECTION OF A FEMALE CHILD. THE CHILD'S CONDITION AT BIRTH WAS EXCELLENT. ALL EXAMINATIONS SHOWED HER TO BE QUITE NORMAL." THE BABY'S WEIGHT WAS GIVEN AS 5-12, OR 2,600 GMS. MRS. BROWN'S CONDITION AFTER DELIVERY ALSO WAS EXCELLENT.

THE DAILY MAIL, WITH EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO THE BROWNS, REPORTS THURSDAY THAT BABY BROWN HAS BLONDE HAIR AND "POWERFUL LUNGS THAT BELLOW DOWN THE HOSPITAL CORRIDOR." GROGGY AFTER THE ANAESTHETIC,

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MRS. BROWN SPENT MOST OF WEDNESDAY MORNING ASLEEP. BUT BY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON MRS. BROWN WAS SITTING UP, "IN A PALE BLUE NIGHTIE SURROUNDED BY HOTHOUSE ROSES. SHE...HELD A TINY PERFECT BABY... THE BABY IS BEING BOTTLE FED FOR THE MOMENT UNTIL LESLEY CAN BREAST FEED WHEN SHE IS FEELING STRONGER. "I HELD OUR DAUGHTER IN MY ARMS WHEN SHE WAS JUST A QUARTER OF AN HOUR OLD," SAYS JOHN BROWN, "BUT THERE WERE TEARS IN MY EYES AND I WAS SHAKING SO MUCH I HAD TO GIVE HER BACK...!" "I'VE BOUGHT A SILVER WATCH TO GIVE HER TODAY AND I'M GOING TO GET A GOLD HEART ON A CHAIN TO GIVE HER FOR HER (31ST) BIRTHDAY ON MONDAY." HE SPENT MOST OF TUESDAY WITH LESLEY. THEY READ THE PAPERS TOGETHER AND WATCHED A (TV) FILM WITH NO REALIZATION THAT THIS WAS TO BE THE DAY...HE FINALLY LEFT HIS WIFE IN THE EARLY EVENING. "I KEPT THINKING ABOUT HER," HE SAYS, "I WAS A BIT WORRIED SO ABOUT A QUARTER TO ELEVEN I PHONED THE HOSPITAL TO SEE HOW SHE WAS. THEY SAID WOULD I COME BACK IN BECAUSE SHE WAS A BIT UPSET. I GOT BACK TO THE MATERNITY WARD, POPPED IN TO SEE LESLEY AND WHEN I CAME OUT OF HER ROOM I WAS TOLD SHE WAS GOING DOWN TO (OPERATING) THEATRE. I WAS IN A HAZE...THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN THE SECURITY GUARD CAME IN AND HE SAID, "I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU TO SEE YOUR DAUGHTER. I WALKED THROUGH THE PASSAGES INTO THE THEATRE AND THERE SHE WAS SCREAMING HER LITTLE HEAD OFF...SHE IS BEAUTIFUL, WITH A MARVELLOUS COMPLEXION, NOT RED AND WRINKLY AT ALL. I CAME OUT OF THE HOSPITAL. IT WAS RAINING AND I JUST STOOD IN THE RAIN WANTING TO GET WET TO TRY AND CALM DOWN. MY HEART WAS BEATING SO FAST...I WENT AND PHONED THE MOTHER-IN-LAW AND SHE WAS JUST OVER THE MOON". "

BECAUSE LESLEY NEEDED REST WEDNESDAY, THE MAIL REPORTS, JOHN SPENT MOST OF THE DAY SITTING IN A CHAIR OUTSIDE HER ROOM. THE MAIL

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QUOTES JOHN: "THEY (STEPTOE AND EDWARDS) HAVE BEEN SO WONDERFUL TO US I JUST GET CHOKED WHEN I TRY TO SPEAK ABOUT IT. I'M A LITTLE BIT AFRAID OF MR. STEPTOE BUT I KNOW HIS BARK IS WORSE THAN HIS BITE. WITH DR. EDWARDS, WELL, GOODNESS FLOWS OUT OF HIM...LESLEY AND I ARE NOTNOT GOING TO BUY A NEW HOUSE. WE'VE BEEN HAPPY WHERE WE ARE (IN BRISTOL) AND WE WANT TO GO BACK TO OUR OWN PEOPLE, OUR OWN LIFE. WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A HOLIDAY IN THE LAKE DISTRICT WITH SHARON , SHELTY AND LOUISE". (SHARON IS HIS 17-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER BY PREVIOUS MARRIAGE, SHELTY IS THE DOG. WE CANNOT BELIEVE THEY PLAN TO TAKE BABY LOUISE ON A HOLIDAY TO THE LAKE DISTRICT. THE BABY COULDN'T GO YET. BROWN MUST MEAN SOME TIME FROM NOW.)

THE MAIL QUOTES BROWN: "THEN ONE NIGHT WE'RE JUST GOING TO GO HOME AND TRY TO SLIDE BACK INTO OUR OWN WORLD...WE DON'T WANT A NEW-FANGLED LIFE...I WOULD LOVE FOR LESLEY TO HAVE ANOTHER BABY...WE WOULD BOTH GO THROUGH IT ALL AGAIN TOMORROW GIVEN THE CHANCE."

THE IDEA THAT MRS. BROWN MIGHT HAVE ANOTHER TEST-TUBE BABY MAY NOT BE FANTASTIC. STEPTOE SAID AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THAT THE PROCEDURE COULD WELL BE REPEATED ON A TEST TUBE MOTHER. END TAKE. MORE TK.

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