

TO: TIME MEDICINE

FROM: LONDON

BY: WHITE

SLUG: IT'S A GIRL

EOM:

STORY IS FINE, NOTING THE FOLLOWING:

STEPTOE, OF COURSE, IS A MEDICAL DOCTOR, BUT EDWARDS IS A PHD, NOT A MEDICAL DOCTOR. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER TO SAY DR. (RATHER THAN DRs.) PATRICK STEPTOE AND ROBERT EDWARDS SPOKE ETC.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS NOT IN OLDHAM. IT WAS HELD ABOUT TEN MILES AWAY FROM OLDHAM, AT PRESTWICH HOSPITAL, IN THE SMALL TOWN OF PRESTWICH, WHICH IS IN GREATER MANCHESTER. IT WAS HELD AT PRESTWICH HOSPITAL BECAUSE THAT'S THE CONFERENCE CENTER FOR THE NORTHWEST REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY. SUGGEST SIMPLY SAY AT A PRESS CONFERENCE NEAR (INSTEAD OF "AT") OLDHAM.

STEPTOE DID NOT CHARACTERIZE THE TOXEMIA WHICH LESLEY BROWN HAD AS "MILD." STEPTOE CALLED IT TOXEMIA PREGNANCY. IN THE RUMORS FLOATING AROUND THE PREVIOUS WEEK IN OLDHAM IT HAD BEEN DESCRIBED AS "MILD." SUGGEST DROP WORD MILD AND SAY STEPTOE EXPLAINED THE BABY WAS DELIVERED EARLY BECAUSE LESLEY HAD DEVELOPED TOXEMIA.

YES, NOVEMBER 10 WAS THE DATE OF THE EGG REMOVAL. THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HELD WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, SCHEDULED FOR 3 PM START, ACTUALLY STARTED ABOUT 3:30.

THE 85-SECOND OPERATION TO REMOVE THE EGG WAS THE FASTEST ONE THEY'VE EVER DONE, A RECORD -- BUT THEY DIDN'T SAY THAT WAS MRS.

PAGE 2 LM59

BROWN'S OPERATION. THEY DID NOT SAY HOW LONG IT TOOK TO DO MRS. BROWN. BUT THEY MADE A POINT OF SAYING THE OPERATION (NOT MRS. BROWN'S OPERATION, BUT THE OPERATION IN GENERAL) IS USUALLY A MATTER OF A FEW MINUTES, FROM ABOUT TWO MINUTES TO 20 MINUTES. SO WE CAN ASSUME MRS. BROWN'S OPERATION TOOK ONLY A FEW MINUTES. THAT, OF COURSE, IS THE ACTUAL REMOVAL OF THE EGG, AND WHEN THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT THAT RECORD, 85-SECOND OCCASION, EDWARDS MADE A POINT OF SAYING "ONCE THE PATIENT IS IN POSITION, THE OPERATION TOOK 85 SECONDS."

THE SENTENCE AS YOU HAVE IT SAYS THAT "IN WHAT STEPTOE DESCRIBED AS AN 85- SECOND OPERATION, HE EXTRACTED " ONE OF LESLEY'S EGGS ETC. AT NO TIME DID STEPTOE-EDWARDS DISCUSS THE TIME IT TOOK TO EXTRACT LESLEY'S EGG. THE DISCUSSION WAS A GENERAL ONE ABOUT THE AVERAGE PROCEDURE.

SUGGEST SAY THAT FINALLY, ON NOV. 10, IN WHAT STEPTOE DESCRIBED AS AN OPERATION THAT USUALLY TAKES ONLY A FEW MINUTES, HE EXTRACTED AN EGG ETC.

MAKE IT TWO AND A HALF (NOT TWO) TO THREE DAYS LATER, WHEN THE EGG ETC.

IN THE EDWARDS QUOTE, "WE'RE AT THE END OF THE BEGINNING-- NOT THE BEGINNING OF THE END," USE A DASH AS USED HERE, NOT THREE DOTS, FOR SEPARATION. ENDIT.

SENT 2090 AV

ETX: