

OSTM: LN5/NYK NOVEMBER 4TH, 1978 MSG: CAC

TO: TIME MEDICINE

FROM: LONDON BY: WHITE

SLUG: TEST TUBE BACKLASH TK: 2 EOH:

THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE NAMED MRS. MONTGOMERY AS THE SECOND EXPECTANT TEST-TUBE MOTHER, ON THURSDAY, NOV. 2, THE SAME DAY THAT LONDON'S DAILY MAIL, AND OTHER LONDON PAPERS DID. HOWEVER, AS LONG AGO AS AUG. 14 THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE PUBLISHED A STORY SAYING A SCOTTISH WOMAN WAS CARRYING THE SECOND TEST-TUBE BABY, BUT IT DID NOT NAME HER, OUT OF REGARD FOR STEPTOE'S WISHES THAT SHE NOT BE IDENTIFIED, AND BECAUSE THE OLDHAM PAPER HAD ESTABLISHED THIS POLICY LONG AGO. (THEY NEVER DID IDENTIFY MRS. BROWN UNTIL LONG AFTER THE LONDON PAPERS HAD DONE SO).

THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE PEOPLE SAY THEY KNEW THE WOMAN'S IDENTITY, BUT DIDN'T PRINT IT. WHEN THE MAIL AND OTHERS DID, THEN THEY WENT AHEAD.

NOT ONLY DID THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE PUBLISH A STORY ABOUT THE UNNAMED SCOTTISH EXPECTANT MOTHER, ON AUGUST 14, BUT SO DID SEVERAL LONDON NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING THE SUN. NONE OF THEM IDENTIFIED THE WOMAN, WE SUSPECT THAT THE SOURCE OF ALL THE LONDON STORIES WAS A STAFFER ON THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE, WHO WROTE IT FOR HIS OWN PAPER, AND SOLD IT TO THE LONDON PAPERS. ANYWAY,

AFTER THIS FLURRY OF AUGUST 14 STORIES APPEARED, WITHOUT IDENTIFYING THE WOMAN, STEPTOE, ON AUG. 17, PROTESTED ABOUT NEWSPAPERS HARASSING 'ONE OF MY PATIENTS, WHO LIVES IN SCOTLAND.' STEPTOE SAID THE BABY WAS IN DANGER IF THIS CONTINUED. AFTER THAT, APPARENTLY, THE PRESS LAID OFF THE SCOTTISH LADY, WHO NOW HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED, BY THE MAIL, AND OTHER PAPERS, AS MRS. MONTGOMERY.

WE REPORT THIS SIMPLY FYI. THERE'S NO NEED TO USE ANY OF IT IN THE STORY. SUGGEST STICK WITH '...SOME OF THE CRITICS MAY WELL HAVE BEEN TAKEN ABACK WHEN, TK DAYS AFTER STEPTOE'S AWARD WAS WITHDRAWN, THE DAILY MAIL AND OTHER PAPERS REPORTED, AND EDWARDS CONFIRMED, THAT SCOTSWOMAN GRACE MONTGOMERY ETC.'

OLDHAM SOURCES REACHABLE TONIGHT DID NOT KNOW STEPTOE HAD BEEN TO VENICE IN OCTOBER. THAT'S NOT SURPRISING, BECAUSE HE DOES NOT ANNOUNCE HIS COMINGS AND GOINGS. HE IS ON VERY POOR TERMS, FOR INSTANCE, WITH THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE, BARELY SPEAKS TO THEM. SO, WE CANNOT CONFIRM THE VENICE STORY YET. DO YOU WANT US TO PURSUE THIS TOMORROW, SATURDAY?

WHAT ABOUT THIS GUY SCIARRA, WHO SAID STEPTOE SPOKE IN VENICE? WAS SCIARRA THERE, TOO? DOES SCIARRA KNOW OF ANYBODY ELSE WHO ATTENDED, POSSIBLY FROM BRITAIN? DID THE ITALIAN PAPERS HAVE ANY REPORT OF STEPTOE'S ADDRESS? SEEMS A CELEBRITY SUCH AS STEPTOE WOULD HAVE BEEN COVERED. AS FAR AS OUR LIBRARY'S CLIPS OF U.K. PAPERS ARE CONCERNED, THERE IS NOTHING AT ALL ABOUT STEPTOE GOING TO VENICE.

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