

STH: LN11/1Y NOV 2 78 MSG: FIL

TO: TIME MEDICINE

FROM: LONDON BY: WHITE

SLUG: TEST TUBE BACKLASH FOH:

IF THERE ARE DOUBTS ABOUT THE STEPTOE/EDWARDS IN VITRO FERTILIZATION OF LESLEY BROWN, THEY ARE NOT BEING EXPRESSED HERE. THE DARREN FOUNDATION'S WITHDRAWAL OF AN AWARD TO STEPTOE SEEMS UNFOUNDED, AND FOOLISH, TO U.K. OBSERVERS.

STAFFERS ON THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE, WHO HAVE BEEN CLOSEST TO THIS STORY, HAVE NO PARTICULAR AFFECTION FOR THE RATHER HAUGHTY STEPTOE, BUT THEY DO NOT DOUBT FOR A SECOND THAT STEPTOE/EDWARDS DID WHAT THEY SAID THEY DID. NOR DOES ANYBODY ELSE WITH INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SITUATION. STEPTOE HAS INSISTED ALL ALONG, AND INSISTS NOW, THEY SAY, THAT HE AND EDWARDS HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY PAYMENT FROM THE PRESS FOR THEIR STORY. STEPTOE IS EN ROUTE TO AUSTRALIA FOR SOME KIND OF ENGAGEMENT (THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT, OR WHERE). STEPTOE WAS QUOTED IN LONDON PAPERS OCT. 30: "I HAVE NOT SOLD MY STORY TO ANYBODY--AND CERTAINLY NOT TO THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER."

THE BROWN FAMILY WAS, INDEED, PAID BY ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS, PROBABLY FAR LESS THAN THE POUNDS 300,000 FIGURE WHICH WAS BANDIED ABOUT. RELIABLE SOURCES THINK IT WAS ABOUT POUNDS 100,000. AND STEPTOE/EDWARDS DIDN'T GET ANY OF IT, THEY SAY. FILES AT THE TIME, WE RECALL, NOTED THAT THE REPORTED POUNDS 300,000 FIGURE WAS UNRELIABLE AND PROBABLY INFLATED.

THE BIG NEWS TODAY, ON PAGE ONE OF THE DAILY MAIL, IS THAT A SECOND TEST-TUBE BABY BY THE STEPTOE/EDWARDS METHOD IS DUE TO BE BORN ABOUT FEB. 14. THIS IMPENDING BIRTH WAS REPORTED EARLIER BY THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE. THE MOTHER-TO-BE IS A SCOTTISH WOMAN, MRS. GRACE MONTGOMERY, 32, AND SHE HAD SIMILAR TREATMENT AT OLDHAM TO THAT WHICH LESLEY BROWN HAD. IN FACT, FOR A BRIEF TIME SHE OCCUPIED THE BED AT OLDHAM GENERAL WHICH MRS. BROWN HAD OCCUPIED.

MRS. MONTGOMERY HAS NO FALLOPIAN TUBES. IN FEBRUARY, 1977, MRS. MONTGOMERY WAS ONE OF SEVERAL WOMEN AT THE STEPTOE/EDWARDS HOSPITAL WHO HAD EGGS FERTILIZED OUTSIDE THE WOMB AND THEN REPLACED. ALL THE OPERATIONS FAILED. LAST MAY SHE RETURNED TO OLDHAM, AND THIS TIME 21 WOMEN HAD THE OPERATION. ONLY MRS. MONTGOMERY'S WAS SUCCESSFUL. THE DAILY MAIL QUOTES MRS. MONTGOMERY, WHOSE HUSBAND, JIM, IS AN INSURANCE AGENT: "IT WAS HEARTBREAKING WHEN ONE BY ONE THE GIRLS LEFT. I KNEW THIS WAS MY LAST CHANCE BECAUSE I HAD DEVELOPED ANOTHER MEDICAL COMPLICATION. I DECIDED I WAS GOING TO THINK (UNDERLINE THINK) PREGNANT."

AT THE END OF JULY, WITH EVERYTHING GOING WELL, MRS. MONTGOMERY RETURNED TO WORK AS A COOKERY AND CRAFTS TEACHER. THE ONLY UPSET SINCE THEN HAS BEEN A CONTRACTION LAST MONTH, THE MAIL SAID, WHICH FRIGHTENED HER. BUT AFTER A COUPLE OF DAYS IN THE HOSPITAL, SHE WAS WELL AGAIN. YESTERDAY, LESS THAN 24 HOURS AFTER SEEING AN ULTRASONIC SCAN OF HER HEALTHY BABY, SHE SAID: "I FEEL GREAT--BETTER THAN I'VE FELT FOR YEARS." THE MAIL CARRIES A PAGE ONE PICTURE OF MR. AND MRS. MONTGOMERY. MRS. MONTGOMERY SAYS SHE WAS TOLD SIX YEARS AGO SHE COULD NEVER HAVE A BABY. THE DAILY MAIL SAYS THE NEWS OF MRS. MONTGOMERY'S PREGNANCY "CONFIRMS



THAT THE TECHNIQUE DEVELOPED'' BY STEPTOE/EDWARDS ''IS A BREAK-THROUGH WHICH WILL GIVE THOUSANDS OF CHILDLESS WOMEN NEW HOPE.''

THE GUARDIAN, REPORTING WITHDRAWAL OF THE AWARD BY THE BARREN FOUNDATION, SAID NOV. 1 EDWARDS SAID STEPTOE AND HE FULLY INTEND TO GIVE THE FULLEST INFORMATION TO THE MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PRESS.

SIR JOHN DEWHURST, PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS, TOLD THE GUARDIAN HE THOUGHT THERE HAD BEEN NO UNDUE DELAY IN PUBLISHING, SINCE THE BABY HAD BEEN BORN ONLY THREE MONTHS AGO.

PROF. JOHN DOBBING, PROFESSOR OF CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT AT MANCHESTER U., SAID IT NORMALLY TOOK ABOUT SIX MONTHS FOR AN ARTICLE TO APPEAR IN A LEARNED JOURNAL. HE SAID: ''I WOULD WORRY IF WE DID NOT GET A PUBLICATION BY THE SUMMER, BUT NOT BEFORE THEN--THAT'S THE TIME IT TAKES.'' OTHER AUTHORITIES THOUGHT IT COULD TAKE EVEN LONGER.

THE TIMES QUOTED EDWARDS: ''I THINK THEY (BARREN FOUNDATION) ARE ABSOLUTELY FOOLISH.'' HE SAID A SCIENTIFIC REPORT WOULD BE PUBLISHED ''IN THE NEW YEAR.'' EDWARDS SAID ''WE ARE NOT GOING TO PUBLISH AT OTHER PEOPLE'S BECK AND CALL. IN THE MEDICAL WORLD YOU PUBLISH WHEN YOU ARE READY.''

OLDHAM SOURCES BELIEVE STEPTOE/EDWARDS MAY WANT TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE SECOND BABY (MRS. MONTGOMERY'S) IS BORN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LANCET SAID IT HAS HAD NO FURTHER COMMUNICATION FROM STEPTOE/EDWARDS SINCE THEIR AUG. 12 LETTER, AND THE LANCET DOESN'T KNOW THEIR PUBLISHING INTENTIONS. THE LANCET HAS NO REASON TO DOUBT STEPTOE/EDWARDS STATEMENTS. THE DELAY BETWEEN RECEIPT AND PUBLICATION OF A MANUSCRIPT CAN BE BETWEEN TWO AND EIGHT WEEKS. IF AN ARTICLE IS URGENT, IT CAN BE

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BETWEEN TWO AND EIGHT WEEKS. IF AN ARTICLE IS URGENT, IT CAN BE PUBLISHED WITHIN A FORTNIGHT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, BUT THIS IS A CONFIDENTIAL MATTER BETWEEN THE AUTHORS AND EDITORS.

DR. RICHARD BLANDAU IS UNKNOWN TO SOURCES CONTACTED HERE.

WE ARE PURSUING FURTHER COMMENT FROM EDWARDS, AND WILL ADVISE.

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