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RINGS
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THE ANGLE RING COLLECTOR STAFFS

BUDGET SPECIAL

City Notes: Ian Richardson, Birmingham Post City Editor, assesses the Chancellor's strategy. PAGE 4

Editorial Comment: reaction from Midlands industrialists and traders. PAGE 6

Mr. Healey's statement and the Conservative reaction; background articles on rate relief, dividends, the effect on threshold payments and the Shah's loan. PAGE 7

LATE NEWS

SIX KILLED IN U.S. EXERCISES
U.S. Navy jet accidentally shot down American helicopter during training exercises in Philippines, killing all six men on board. Navy spokesman said today. Navy officials investigating cause of accident. — U.P.I.

SKELTONS FOUND

Two skindivers training five miles off French riviera resort of Le Lavandou, found three skeletons, in wreckage of aircraft 150ft. under surface. Not established if civilian or military aircraft, type or nationality. — A.P.

STORE FIRE

Pocket of fire at Maple & Co. store still causing concern.

5 a.m. WEATHER FORECAST

(Down to desk)
Birmingham area: Mostly dry, sunny periods, rather cool, max temp 16deg. C, min 10deg. F; a few moderate north westerly. Further details — Page 6.

British tourists lie as Turkish jets blast Cyprus holiday hotels

British tourists were among about 50 people killed when Turkish jets made air strikes yesterday on the Cyprus seaside resort of Famagusta, according to eye-witness accounts. They said about ten hotels on the waterfront were badly damaged in the attack, including one where the side of the building collapsed like a pack of cards.

In Famagusta, the police station was reported hit and damaged. A British military convoy of about 20 vehicles had been trying to pick up British and foreign tourists to evacuate them from Famagusta when they were strafed by Turkish jets. Two British soldiers were injured.

In another incident, a Royal Marine corporal was shot and slightly injured by a Greek irregular. The incident occurred inside the northern perimeter of the British sovereign base of Akrotiri.

Foreign Secretary, announced in Brussels that Britain would send 600 soldiers and two squadrons of armoured cars to Cyprus to help U.N. peace-keeping forces. He said Turkey had initiated most of the fighting still going on.

Healey cuts rate of living

By IAN RICHARDSON
Birmingham Post City Editor

Mr. Denis Healey concentrated the main weight of his mini-Budget yesterday on reducing the cost of living by 1 per cent. By cutting VAT from 10 per cent to 8 per cent with a corresponding 1 per cent increase in the maximum retail price of road fuel, by reliefs for restaurants and by a subsidy on flour.

In ensuring the Regional Employment Premium. To double that very small boost to home demand (£200 million in 1974) does not upset foreigners and heave them into their money out of Britain, Mr. Healey has arranged to increase the rate of inflation in 1974 to 12 per cent from 11 per cent in 1973.



Five-hour drama of prison officer

A prison officer was held hostage at knife-point for five hours at Wakefield jail last night. The drama ended when the officer — aged about 30 and married — persuaded his captor to allow him to go and leaving the prison.

Wilson agrees to meet the health workers

The Prime Minister has agreed to meet a joint delegation of doctors, dentists, nurses and midwives over the financing of the National Health Service.

Rate relief and cut in VAT

By JOHN LEWIS
Birmingham Post Political Correspondent

Mr. Denis Healey, the Chancellor, last night cut VAT and excessive rate increases on householders in a desperate effort to curb inflation. The VAT reduction from ten to eight per cent is intended to act in two ways. It is designed to check the cost of living and prevent one or even two pay jumps over threshold agreements.

But there was no evidence of real fertility. At Mr. Healey will make clear in the Commons tomorrow the 1,200 million loan from the Iranian Government, which caused some alarm from Conservative sources, is not requested. It is a loan to be repaid by the end of this year.

Trusty order

Trusty Manufacturing of Bliston, which took over Lambert Cycles from the Receiver, yesterday announced that it had landed a large order from the Japanese owned Yamaha International Corporation.

Industry takes a dim view

Birmingham Post Reporter

Mr. Campbell Adamson, director-general of the CBI, said last night: "If it isn't an election Budget, it has remarkably managed to miss almost all the points that should have been contained."

P.-c. shot

The Police was shot through the window of his Ford car yesterday and was taken to hospital where he died.

Bomb experts called to fires

Bomb squad officers were called in when fires, suspected to have been caused by incendiary devices, swept through two furniture stores in Birmingham early today.

Good progress

Doctors treating Gen. Franco, the 81-year-old Spanish leader, said yesterday that he was progressing favourably. The doctors, who have ruled out surgery, said he was now in a normal condition.

Ryland stays

Mr. Anthony Ryland, Secretary for Industry, said yesterday that Sir William Ryland had agreed to continue as chairman of the Post Office until the end of the year. His appointment was due to end tomorrow.

Third Reading

The Finance Bill when implemented the March Budget was given an unopposed Third Reading in the Commons. The House rose at 1.54 a.m.

Peace task for Britain in Geneva

Britain will concentrate on ways to make the Cyprus cease-fire effective when talks open in Geneva.

Mr. James Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, who will represent Turkey and the Commonwealth yesterday, "I trust these talks will begin either tomorrow or Wednesday."

The Greek Foreign Minister had told him of his willingness to attend and the Prime Minister said he had indicated agreement to Geneva as a meeting place.

Britain's ceasefire approach should be implemented by the UN Security Council after the return of normality.

What is of importance is that the whole U.N. resolution should be implemented by all parties concerned," he said before meeting the U.S. Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger.

Asked if he were feasible for the Greek and Turkish Governments to be under the provisions of the UN resolution which called for a meeting between the guarantors of the treaty under which the constitution of Cyprus is protected — Britain, Greece and Turkey.

Mr. Callaghan's proposal to the Greek and Turkish Governments was made under the provisions of the UN resolution which called for a meeting between the guarantors of the treaty under which the constitution of Cyprus is protected — Britain, Greece and Turkey.

The agreement by the British Medical Association to meet Mrs. Castle over pay claims after Mr. Wilson turned down a request to meet them ten days ago.

The doctors have threatened sanctions, including resigning from the N.H.S. and hiring themselves back at a price, if their demands for more money are not met.

No date has been fixed for other meeting.

Operations stopped — Back Page

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