

June 5/1/70

Reprieve of the Basques

From Mr. S. O. Speakman

Sir, Mr. Rafael Valls (January 1) seems not to appreciate the feelings of many people in this country over the Basque trials. We do not believe that Spain "can do no right". I for one respect and admire the nation whose language and culture I happen to teach. Still less have we "sympathy for rebellion, banditry, terrorism and murder". We deplore them no less sincerely than in 1936 the Nationalist conviction that the only cure for the failures of the Second Republic was civil war.

Neither are the main issues whether it is still necessary to employ military tribunals 30 years after Spain became "one, great, and free", nor whether a true parallel is offered by the unhappy events in Ireland half a century ago. What shocked opinion here was the way in which the trials were conducted, especially with regard to the fundamental right of the defence to present its case adequately.

As to Mr. Valls's comparison with Welsh and Scots, I doubt, first, whether the most enthusiastic separatists would suggest that they have suffered recently quite as have the Basques. Secondly, for well-known reasons—ethnic, historical and linguistic—the Basque people have an altogether special claim that their identity, in some form, should be preserved for as long as possible. To the world, at large, not excepting English friends of Spain, the Basques are unique. Yours faithfully,

S. O. SPEAKMAN.

St. Lawrence College, Ramsgate, Kent.

January 3.

From Señor Manuel de Irujo

Sir, May I refer to the letter published in The Times (January 1) from Mr. Rafael Valls, legal adviser of the Spanish Embassy in London.

Any comparison which he makes between present-day Spanish law and British law in 1920 is irrelevant.

In Ireland in 1920 a state of war existed and was so declared by established legal authority in the United Kingdom. In Spain at present there is no state of war; the army has not been mobilized and it is not engaged in any warlike activity, apart from judging activities generally regarded as being of a political nature, and which is made possible by a decree issued by General Franco.

Furthermore, the Act of 1920 was sanctioned by the British Parliament under a democratic regime, while the Decree by Franco is that of a dictator. The British Government in 1920 was established legally, while a dictatorship can only be an arbitrary form of government, based on the exercise of a personal autocracy.

The action sustained by the British Army in 1920 can be judged from various viewpoints. But it can in no way be compared with a dictatorship installed with the efficient aid of Hitler and Mussolini.

Yours truly,

MANUEL DE IRUJO, Legal Adviser to the Basque Government in exile; Minister of Justice in the last Republic in Spain.

Headquarters of the Basque Government in exile, 50 Rue Singer, Paris 16e.

January 4.

Where does

How other people spend to meet; is all endlessly interested with over £4,000 a year dis

Weekly food bill for family of nine

	£	s.	d.
6 packets cereal ...		13	6
6lb. sugar and 1lb. castor sugar ...		5	10
8 loaves ...		15	4
6 pints milk daily ...	1	18	6
tinned milk ...		3	0
6 doz. eggs ...	1	6	0
cheese ...		10	0
meat ...	3	0	0
fish ...	1	15	0
potatoes ...		7	6
rice, semolina, etc.		6	0
tea ...		6	8
cocoa or malt drink		4	9
apples ...		6	0
spices ...		2	0
vegetables ...	1	0	0
butter ...		10	0
margarine ...		4	0
cooking oil ...		2	0
flour ...		4	0
jam, spreads, etc. ...		6	0
stock cube and bones ...		2	0
	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>

Household expenses

	£	s.	d.
dinner money ...	2	12	6
toothpaste ...		3	0
water softener ...		1	6
soap ...		3	0
soap powder ...		6	0
disinfectants and cleansers ...		3	0
washing up liquid ...		1	8
lavatory paper ...		7	6
shoe polish ...		1	0
hair shampoo ...		3	0
	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

It was at the time of all the strikes, not long before Christmas, that Mrs. Johnson sat down and itemized all her expenditure for the year. She wanted to see what it really cost to live, and both she and her husband were shocked by the total: "I don't know how poor people manage at all", she says, "perhaps we need to revise our ideas about minimum basic wages."

Not that the Johnsons are poor—far from it, for Mr. Johnson gets dividends from the family firm as well as having his own fairly high powered job. Their total gross income is somewhere between £4,000 and £5,000 in a good year, but they do have seven children aged from two to 14, so find it necessary to be fairly economic.



Fish and chips and sunshine

From Lieutenant-Colonel Gerald Haythornthwaite

Sir, Mr. Anthony Crosland (report, January 8) accuses the conservationist lobby of middle and upper class value judgments. What I think he means is an educated judgment, and this is not confined to any class of society. The tendency for the present majority of all classes is to be satisfied with fish and chips and sunshine—nothing wrong with these commodities, just a rather restricted menu.

If Mr. Crosland wishes to make a demographic assessment of the enjoyment of what conservationists have to offer, he should come to the Peak District and try to sort out the classes of people who walk and climb and pot-hole or who study nature and enjoy the varied menu of our richly endowed countryside. He would have his work cut out because most of us wear breeches and anoraks and tend to speak with a Yorkshire or Lancashire accent.

I am Sir, your obedient servant,
GERALD HAYTHORNTHWAITE
22 Endcliffe Crescent,
Sheffield.

Hospital technicians

From Dr. C. D. Binnie and others

Sir, Dr. Tudor Hart (December 19) has rightly drawn attention to the pitiful remuneration of electrocardiographic technicians. The same situation obtains in electroencephalography, where grave shortages of staff and even closures of departments have occurred because of the poor salaries.

However, Dr. Tudor Hart is wrong in supposing that the medical staff are unconcerned with the plight of their technicians. Recently we and other consultants in electroencephalography from the London area, in common with colleagues from the Midlands, wrote to the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health about this matter, but unfortunately without apparent effect. Indeed the Whitley Council negotiations have since broken down as the management side was unable to increase its meagre offer.

Every group seeking a salary increase claims to have a special case but there can be few skilled workers who after two years basic training receive a wage of £13 a week for duties of similar responsibility. The present service is imperilled by staff shortages, yet how may we in all honesty persuade young people to enter this field without jeopardizing their future livelihood?

Yours faithfully,
C. D. BINNIE,
St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.1.
M. V. DRIVER,
Maudsley Hospital, S.E.5.
G. PAMPIGLIONE,
Hospital for Sick Children, W.C.1.
W. A. COBB,
National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, W.C.1.
J. B. MACGILLIVRAY,
Royal Free Hospital, W.C.1.
D. F. SCOTT,
The London Hospital, E.1.

Reprieve of the Basques

From Mr. Rafael Valls

Sir, To Mr. Speakman (January 6) I would say that under the Code of Military Justice of 1945, which is virtually identical to the Code of Military Justice of 1890, the procedures to be followed by the defence and the prosecution are most carefully laid down, and the most detailed provisions are made for the pre-trial taking of evidence by the investigating judge and for the written submissions and legal arguments of counsel.

As under most continental systems, the trial itself is short, precisely because all the evidence has already been placed before the court and examined, together with all relevant arguments and legal submissions.

That is the reason why the written findings of the Burgos court were necessarily extensive; and why it simply is not true to say that the defence was not presented adequately. That is a slur on the Spanish Army, which it naturally resents.

Secondly, I would remind Mr. Speakman, who teaches Spanish culture, that the ancient laws and customs of the Basques are expressly and exceptionally

preserved, and remain in full force by operation of Article 12 of the Spanish civil code.

Thirdly, I entirely agree that the Basques are a remarkable people, and I am personally honoured with the friendship of a great number of them, all of whom deplore acts of terrorism and murder allegedly committed on their behalf.

To Señor Irujo, who I am quite sure is equally unsympathetic to acts of violence and murder being committed ostensibly on behalf of his cause, I would confirm that the Decree-Law of August 16, 1968, which is placed before the Cortes, is a legislative enactment with full force of law under Article 13 of the Law constituting the Cortes (Parliament); and accordingly it has precisely the same legislative effect as did the Act of 1920 sanctioned by the British Parliament.

I would also remind Señor Irujo that the Republican Government of which he was Minister of Justice itself relied on the Law of Public Order of July 28, 1933, which expressly permitted the intervention of the army and the use of armed forces, even though no state of war be declared; and thus recognized the paramount necessity of the Government to maintain law and order which at that time was conspicuous by its absence. I know. I was there.

Yours faithfully,
RAFAEL VALLS,
1, Brick Court,
Temple E.C.4.

Swing from science

From Professor G. A. Barnard

Sir, There is a potentially dangerous error in the note by your Education Correspondent on January 4. He says that more than 4 per cent of science graduates in 1968-69 were still looking for permanent employment in the year beginning in the October after they graduated. The correct figure, given in Table 'D' of the Report referred to, is 3.1 per cent. This contrasts with 4.9 per cent among arts based students. Thus, an additional factor helping to check the swing from science may well be that the chances of gaining satisfying employment are better in science subjects than in arts.

Yours sincerely,
G. A. BARNARD,
Department of Mathematics,
University of Essex,
Wivenhoe Park,
Colchester, Essex.

Only one answer

From Mr. H. P. Kaufman

Sir, I did not imagine, when you were good enough to print my original letter (January 2), that the interest evoked would be so widespread and the shoal of letters I have as a result received so huge.

The solutions sent me have varied from the esoteric and profound to the elegantly simple and light-hearted. My correspondents, such is the span of *The Times*, have ranged from eminent academics, through Debrett and young mathematicians to eponymous and anonymous writers.

The most charming letter was from a lady, aged 82, who inquired whether I might be the undergraduate to whom she lectured 40 years ago, and did I remember her.

I was and do, and I have so far confined my reply to her. It is my intention, if at all possible, to reply also to everybody else, but since this could take weeks may I, Sir, once again seek the courtesy of your columns to express my gratefulness in the meantime to all those who so kindly vouchsafed an answer.

Yours faithfully,
H. P. KAUFMAN,
Chandos House, Palmer Street,
Westminster, S.W.1.

Etymolomania

From Mr. J. F. Ritson

Sir, Perhaps the Australians lead.

In Sydney washeterias are commonplace, the citizen can take his car to a lubritorium, his children skate at a glaciarium and his wife may patronize a fruitologist.

Yours faithfully,
J. F. RITSON,
91 Moor Lane,
Wilmslow, Cheshire.

The marriage took place quietly in London on Saturday, January 9, of Mr. Cyril Hamilton, of Roebuck House, S.W.1, and Miss Betty Brand, of Upminster, Essex.

Dr. R. Higgs and Miss S. Hewer

The marriage took place on January 9 at Henbury of Dr. Roger Higgs, son of the Bishop of Hull and Mrs. H. L. Higgs, and Miss Susan Hewer, younger daughter of Professor and Mrs. T. F. Hewer, of Vine House, Henbury, Bristol. Canon Geoffrey J. Rogers officiated, assisted by the bridegroom's father and the Rev. M. H. Drewett. A reception was held at Vine House.

Dances and parties

A list of some of the dances and cocktail parties arranged to take place during 1971 will be published on March 1. It will be revised and repeated on May 3, and again on July 5. The charge for inclusion in one list will be £4, in two lists £5 and in all three lists £6. Inquiries should be addressed to the Private Announcements Department, The Times, Printing House Square, London, E.C.4. (Telephone: 236 2000, extension 6170).

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, O.C., M.P., the Hon. H. A. A. Hankey, Sir Charles Hardie, Sir Martin Wilkinson, Sir William Armstrong, Sir Henry Mance, Sir Reginald Verdon-Smith, Sir Harry Brittain, Dr. Arthur Goodhart, O.C., Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Chant-Sempill, Mr. W. J. Keswick, Mr. J. M. Wallace, Mr. A. Gishford, Mr. Simon Kimmins, Mr. Robert Sigmor, Mr. John Corbett and Mr. Brian Connell.

National Sporting Club

The Chairman of the National Sporting Club, Sir Edwin Leather, entertained the Lord Mayor of Westminster at dinner at the Café Royal yesterday evening.

Reception

H.M. Government

Mr. John Davies, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, was host at a Government reception held at Lancaster House last night for members of the U.K./U.S.S.R. Joint Commission for Technology and Trade meeting in London this week. Those present included Academician V. A. Kirillin, a deputy premier of the U.S.S.R. and chairman of the State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. for Science and Technology, who leads the Soviet delegation.

Harrow School

The spring term at Harrow begins today. W. G. S. Massey (The Knoll) is head of the school this term. Founder's Day will be celebrated on March 13. The commemoration service in chapel will take place at 5.45 p.m., and the preacher will be the Rev. H. J. L. Gorse. The Old Harrovian supper and Tobacco Parliament will be held in the evening. Term ends on March 23.

Westminster School

The Lent Term at Westminster School begins today. Miss J. Allen, Mr. R. J. Hall and Mr. J. K. Thomson have joined the staff. N. J. Margerison is captain of the school. The confirmation service will be taken by the Bishop of Norwich on March 17. Music competitions will be held on March 1 and there will be a concert up school on March 26. Term ends on March 27.

Middle Temple awards

The Masters of the Bench of the Middle Temple announce the following awards:—

Harmsworth Major Exhibitions.—A. N. Campbell, Berkhamstead and New C., Oxford; J. Gaunt, Hulme G.S., Odham; and Selwyn C., Cambridge; H. J. E. Latter, Reigate G.S. and Trinity H., Cambridge; J. H. Malins, St. John's S., Leatherhead; and Brasenose C., Oxford; C. J. W. Moss, Christ's Hosp. and Brasenose C., Oxford; S. R. Powles, Westminster and University C., Oxford; W. R. Siberry, King's C., Taunton; and Pembroke C., Cambridge.

Harmsworth Minor Exhibitions.—G. E. Barling, St. Mary's C., Blackburn, and New C., Oxford; A. H. Bullett, Qu. Elizabeth's G.S. Barnet, and Lincoln C., Oxford; Miss L. T. Coghlan, Convent of the Holy Child Jesus, Birmingham, and St. Anne's C., Oxford; E. M. Cohen, Clifton C., Bristol, and King's C., Cambridge; Miss C. E. Harvey, Wimbledon H.S. and St. Anne's C., Oxford; D. S. Levin, High Wycombe R.G.S. and Churchill C., Cambridge; the Hon. G. R. J. Mansfield, Harrow and Oriel C., Oxford; R. S. Parker, Brentwood S. and Trinity C., Oxford; P. M. Rank, Collingham Woodhill Co. Sec S. and Queen's C., Oxford; N. J. D. Webb, Nottingham H.S. and Downing C., Cambridge; N. V. M. Wilkinson, Charterhouse and Christ Church, Oxford; M. P. Yelton, Colchester R.G.S. and Corpus Christi C., Cambridge.

Entrance Bursaries.—A. G. L. Nicol, City of London Freeman's S. and Selwyn C., Cambridge; D. H. Philp, Lancaster R.G.S. and Keble C., Oxford; P. G. Rennie, Beckenham and Penze G.S. and Sheffield University; J. A. Roberts, Repton and Keble C., Oxford; G. L. Taylor, Ebbw Vale G.S. and Keele University.

Today's engagements

Parliament reassembles after Christmas recess.
International boat show, Earls Court, 10-9.
Outdoor holiday show, Olympia, 10-9.
International racing car show, Olympia, 10-9.
Lighting show, Olympia, 10-6.
Requiem Mass: Nicaraguan Ambassador, Señor Don Marcel J. Ulvert-Portocarrero, Westminster Cathedral, 11.30.

The Arts

Bishopsgate Hall, Ruth Waterman, Allan Schiller, 1.5; Open Space Theatre, The Scaffold, 7; Wigmore Hall, John Arran, John Bradbury, 7.30

in hono Secretary the Def Pritchard included Mr. Selby Baker, the Cayzer, N John Clay Craigton, Sir Charles Chief, Ma Marshal L Juan Hob Admiral Lake, Sir J Lieutenant Lord Rent Vice-Marsh

Latest

Latest before du Burns, M Arden (d Clissold under paid, £ Cumber son, u underw (duty p Dixon, Bromwic

Firth, M Bedford.

Hardy, M paid, £6

Grey, M (duty p

Jewsbury Solihull

Kirton, M Barr, S

£9,127) McCully, Fishbour

McMillan Sutton £29,962)

Mitchell, land (duty

Olson, M stead, Lon

£63,896) Rawson, M Bexhill-on

Russell, M (duty paid

Wade, Mr allerton (du

Ward, Mr. hew, of M (duty paid,

West, Mr. ford, War

£10,889)

Stewa farms

Mr. A has been the royal years, is quest on cessor is nounced

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From Th January

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Washing line of ing bef Commis Palestin ing b spokes Arab-A to rep 155,000 in the Jewish tine, tended, revoluti Arabs separat Jewish formati The q affected Palestin itarian allowed revoluti Arab n would dinated

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COUGH? USE HOARSE SENSE

The Basque Government in exile has, I discover, scattered to rally world protest against the Spanish sentences on its compatriots. Its legal adviser, Manuel Irujo (who was Minister of Justice in the Spanish Republican Government) is now with the Basque delegation in London; its president, Jose Maria de Leizaola, has gone to Venezuela, one of the main Latin American centres of Basque émigrés; and the agricultural adviser, Gonzalo Nardiz, is in Bayonne, headquarters of the 150,000 Basques in France.

The remaining members of the Government—all in their seventies but described as active and energetic—are the vice-president, Jose Rezola, Jon Iglesias (Minister of Works) and Jose Carranza (Minister of Education). Leizaola and Nardiz were both Ministers in the short-lived Basque Republic, founded by Jose Antonio Aguirre during the Civil War, which lasted from October, 1936, until the fall of Bilbao in June, 1937.

✱ The Government meets daily at its Paris offices at 50 rue Singer and once a month in Bayonne, where it maintains close contact with Enbata, the organization of French Basques, and with Anai-Artea, the local society for helping refugees. It organized the recent demonstrations in Spain.

It keeps in close touch with Basques not only in Spain but all over the world, especially in South America, where they are particularly numerous in Buenos Aires, Colombia and Venezuela. There are also many in North America and most of Europe, but it is largely the Latin American contributions that keep the Government going.

✱ The Government is identified with the Basque Nationalist Party: or, to give it the native title, Jangoi-koa Eta Legezara (God and old laws). Unlike the underground movement in Spain, E.T.A. (Euzkadi Ta Askatasuna, or Basque Homeland and Freedom) it does not believe in violence. But, says Berta Etcheverria, general secretary of the Basque delegation in London, "now we don't know what else to do".

They sympathize with the E.T.A. but do not know their plans. "I

don't think they do themselves", says Señora Etcheverria. "They work as separate cells. When the German consul was kidnapped the E.T.A. in London were as surprised as I was."

The Mermaid Theatre has this year revived its handsome pocket diary which, apart from selling to theatregoers for 8s. 6d. a time, it presents to selected friends of the theatre and its restaurants. A colleague was delighted to receive one—but horrified when he looked at the map on the inside front cover. "Central London Theatres and Cinemas", it says, but goes no farther east than Aldwych. The best the suppliers could do was to overprint "TO MERMAID THEATRE" with an arrow pointing along the embankment.

Buy George!

Lord George-Brown was launched last night as a book salesman. He embarks on an intensive promotion campaign on the publication by Gollancz of his memoirs in the spring—with press conferences in London, Manchester, Glasgow and Cardiff, literary luncheons, television appearances and bookshop signing sessions—and limbered up for booksellers and the trade press at the Cafe Royal.

"I've just been reading the proofs over the weekend", he said, "and it's bloody. I can't believe it's worth anyone's while giving it shelf room let alone paying for it". Nevertheless he rounded warmly upon a bookseller who asked how he could sell the book in the West Country.

"I started in life as a salesman, in the West End, selling mink coats at the height of the depression"—here his voice gained attack—"to ladies whose husbands couldn't afford to pay for them. If I could do that, you can sell my book." Nor was he cast down by the threat of competition from Harold Wilson—"I think there's room enough for both of us".

George-Brown was in a genial mood. He discussed the genesis of *In My Way*, the title of

The Times Diary

30/12/70

Basque elders scatter to rally support

which is taken from the Sinatra song, "which I find oddly moving and oddly apposite in its words". Labour colleagues and Foreign Office diplomats may find solace in the fact that he reckons that he has been "self derogatory". "I've blamed myself for most of the things which went wrong."

Dry run

Charles Robberts Swart, who was first State President of the Republic of South Africa has dispelled a South African myth. Sir Winston Churchill never swam the Apies river, which flows through Pretoria. The feat would have been a surprising one because the Apies is normally only a knee-deep stream, easily crossed by wading.

In spite of these objections, the notion that Churchill swam the river during his escape from the (still existing) Staats Model School in Pretoria during the Boer War has been a cause of some civic pride in the South African capital. Pretoria City Council's electricity department even has a sub-station called Winston at the spot on the river bank where the famous escapee is supposed to have rested.

However Swart "revealed the truth" in a recent interview with Hoofstad, Pretoria's Afrikaans newspaper. Swart recalled a conversation with Churchill in front of the fire in the drawing room at Chequers in 1954. He teased Churchill about the Apies story—and Sir Winston dismissed it as a "figment of a reporter's imagination", saying that he had never

30/12 La sekurono ne estas reproduco de la manifestacion de N.Y. Contador de la Paucantat. Et reproduco de la sekurono de la manifestacion de la vancal sekurono de la F.F. W.W. Je...
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the Night Visitors

and is ideally suited to a large concert hall like the Queen Elizabeth. As a complete contrast *The Box of Toys* is an enchanting shadow play done with large and brilliantly coloured flat puppets miming to a piano solo.

John Wright says that he first became interested in puppets when he made one. He came over here from South Africa in the 1930s and worked first as stage carpenter and assistant stage manager to Antony Tudor with the Ballet Rambert at the Mercury Theatre and then as a stage designer. But he says "this puppetry grew in my mind as something I could experiment with and gradually I took it up as my living. I find it enormously satisfying because I become involved in every aspect of it. First I see it as a dramatic piece, then as something visual. Then you think about the style of puppet and carve them, then how the play is going to be set; there is the scenery, the lights, the music, the voices. I can't sew, so I don't attempt to make costumes, but I do everything else".

He explains the different characteristics of the various styles of puppets: "Shadow puppets lend themselves to music and poetry, they can't really mime, but just suggest movement, then with glove puppets you can get fantastic effects, very exciting and dramatic—think of Punch and Judy. The string puppets are a medium entirely out of this world. They don't come out at the audience the way glove puppets do. They drift about in their own mysterious, magical way and I think for this reason it is wrong to try and do modern plays with string puppets, one should concentrate on fairy tales and mystery plays. It is fascinating to use these figures in contrasting ways. You get a completely different sense of appreciation from children watching a glove puppet show to children watching a string puppet show."

One tends to think of puppets as children's theatre. Mr. Wright says, rather wistfully, that he prefers to think of them as an art form which appeals particularly to children, "I believe that it is a thing that can appeal to adults enormously but it seems to have become relegated to

photograph by Frank Hermann

the entertainment of children. We consider ourselves primarily as entertainers of children. At the same time we have to write and produce on two levels because we feel that the adults must be entertained along with the children they bring, otherwise the children don't get the right sense of appreciation.

"When we perform in countries like Germany it is the adults who write to us afterwards saying we have given them the most unforgettable experience of their lives. Even here, sometimes, a man will come and see the show with the idea of bringing children to it and then end up booking the theatre for an office party—that has happened".

Besides John Wright and his wife Lindie, who is the designer, the company usually employs about six permanent puppeteers and the theatre is the focal point for a loosely formed group of about 20 professionals. Their average age is young and they come from a variety of backgrounds, art school, drama school or they are just people who want to be puppeteers. The present company includes a German university student and a Czech girl trained as a puppeteer in Prague and now on a year's contract. Mr. Wright says that there is no difficulty recruiting people, the problem is keeping them once they are trained because suddenly there are more and more companies starting up, "it is the renaissance of the puppet theatre".

*The Little Angel Theatre Company will be at the Queen Elizabeth Hall until the end of this week, performances at 3 and 7.45 p.m. (Box Office 01-928 3191) and at the Playhouse, Oxford next week. At the Little Angel Theatre, 14 Dagmar Passage, Cross Street, London N.1, a subsidiary company is performing *Skinflint*, a village drama at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily (Fridays and Sundays at 3 p.m. only) until January 5 and then again on Saturday, January 9, and Sunday, January 10. (Box Office 01-226 1787.)*

Moira Keenan

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suites in damask. Usually

Save £49. "Chatsworth" 4-seat
settee suite. Usually £298.1

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settee suite in damask. Usually £459.1

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Usually £145.1

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velvet. Usually £279.1

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tables. Usually £75

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G-Plan Form V units. Exampl
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or mahogany veneer. Usually £48.1

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Usually £62.1

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finish. Usually £45.1

Save £5. Nests of tabl
mahogany veneer. Usually £29.1

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CURRENT EVENTS

John Gordon

WHETHER our embarrassing guest Rudi Dutschke will be told to leave the country this week or not—and it rather looks like thumbs down for him—some of the background to this mysterious business needs explanation.

Rudi was first admitted for one month by Mr. Callaghan, then Home Secretary, at the request it is said of Mr. Michael Foot. Periodic extensions have allowed him to be here for two years. Granted mostly on the persuasion of Mr. Foot.

IN the two years the police and M.I.5 compiled a dossier on Rudi's activities here. Exactly what it contained we do not know. But in explanation of Mr. Callaghan's various permits to stay, it is said he was never shown the dossier. If that is true, who held it back from him? And why? Was it someone at the Home Office? We ought to be told if only to lift suspicion from civil servants.

ABOVE all I think we ought to be told what made Mr. Foot so ardent a pleader for Rudi. Was he fully aware of Rudi's activities? Did he make a misjudgment? Was he misled? What was it that persuaded him?

He owes his country, his party and Parliament a full explanation.

NOTE where the two tankers which broke in half off the American coast were built. One in Sweden, one in America. Five Japanese-built tankers have also cracked amidships. But I can't recall one case of a British tanker suffering a similar catastrophe. Quite a tribute to British ship-building, isn't it?

SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME is a most likeable man. And popular. But as our Foreign Secretary he seems to me quite ham-fisted.

He protested to Franco in the name of Britain about the Basque death sentences. Sentences which I agree outraged us all. But when he made public the terms of his protest, no doubt to Franco's embarrassment, he might well have executed the Basques instead of saving them.

HOW much more wisely the Pope acted. He too protested. But he kept the terms of his protest strictly secret.

However deeply we feel we

should never publicly poke our nose into the internal affairs of another country. We resent it when any country does it to us. As for instance Spain blowing hot air at Gibraltar.

Having said that I add I'm delighted that the death sentences both in Spain and in Russia have been commuted. There is enough stupid killing going on in the world without that sort.

MAKING a small purchase at an Exeter store, a customer found printed on his purchase label two prices, one in £ s. d., the other in the new decimal style. The £ s. d. price was 4s. 10d. Decimal price 0.29p. One shilling higher than it ought to have been.

"Just a human error," explained the store manager. And, of course, since Decimal Day is not yet here, the customer paid the correct price of 4s. 10d.

BUT I wonder how many errors we are going to see after D-Day?

My advice: be arithmetically watchful.

IN the Cabinet records for 1940, now "open" for the first time, is told the story of Churchill's battle with the Daily Mirror over its criticism of some aspects of his war policy which he thought was deliberately trying to shake the nation's confidence.

The quarrel was so long ago that it is hardly worth reviving except for one thing. Herbert Morrison, then Home Secretary, was instructed to prepare a memorandum about Mirror control. Presumably about who were its major shareholders and the influence, if any, they exerted on policy.

THAT memorandum is not included in the records now opened. It is officially to remain secret for another 20 years. Why? It doesn't involve national security. It cannot now affect any issue one way or another.

To keep it secret for another 20 years is an absurdity, utterly unjustifiable. In fact, nonsense that should be ended.

FROM the TV declarations of pert young Mr. John Cousins, I get the impression that the Prime Minister must do only the things of which Mr. Cousins approves.

Cutting Mr. Cousins down to size, of which I'm sure he wouldn't approve, could make it a happier New Year for the rest of us. And I hope that's how it will turn out.

MARY, 15, VANISHED IN SNOWS

I believe ma



Balloon hits power cable

Four young Londoners escaped serious injury last night when their hot-air balloon hit a power cable while landing at Battle, Sussex.

The only injury was to Alison Moffett, aged 23, of Great Smith Street, Westminster, who suffered slight burns.

The balloon, piloted by Robert Robin Griffith, aged 27, of Sheffield Terrace, Kensington, had taken off from Robertsbridge, 10 miles away. Seeing high tension cables ahead, Mr. Griffith decided to land in a field near Potnans Lane, Battle, but did not notice a smaller power cable in the way.

TOGETHER AGAIN: RICHARD AND KIM

THEIR marriage was dissolved in 1966 after less than a year. But now actress Kim Novak and actor Richard Johnson are together again.

They are walking to a car at London's Heathrow Airport. Richard, 42, was there to meet Kim, 37, when she arrived yesterday from Chicago.

Kim said: "We are going to Austria for a couple of weeks skiing together."

to come forward. Mr. Hallinan was still unconscious on Thursday morning.

AND the door could offer a dog a home.

published in the coming weeks.

The woman who prayed for the Basques' reprieve



● Sr. Manuel de Irujo, the Basque delegate to Britain, who is devoted to the Basque freedom cause.

A QUIET terraced house in West Hampstead has been the nerve centre of the now successful bid to save the lives of the six Basque nationalists condemned to death by a Spanish military court.

For the past few weeks, mother of three Mrs. Berta Edxvarria, who is general secretary of the Basque delegation in Britain, has spent sleepless nights and anxious days awaiting news of the future of her countrymen: A future which seemed cer-

by KEITH CROUT

tain to end in front of a firing squad.

I was with Mrs. Edxvarria on Wednesday afternoon, at her headquarters in Greencroft Gardens, when she was told that General Tomas Garcia Rebull, had signed the papers confirming the death sentences.

Happy

She told me with tears in her eyes: "There is little hope now. Only Franco can save them."

And only hours after I left Mrs. Edxvarria who was

about to pray for the condemned six it was announced that they had been spared.

The news came through shortly after 6.30 p.m. General Franco had commuted the death sentences to terms of 30 years jail.

"We are all extremely happy at the news," said Mrs. Edxvarria after the news was announced.

She added: "The protests, demonstrations and pressure on Franco from the whole world has paid off, because he feared a second revolution."

In the interview I had with Mrs. Edxvarria before

the General's decision was announced, she told me the Basques' view of what had happened two years ago when the men were arrested.

She said that the police chief who was killed was known to the locals as "the monster". She claimed that he demanded that local women had intercourse with him, and if they refused their husbands were tortured.

Revenge

One such husband got his revenge, but, she alleged, the six Basques were arrested for the murder.

It was only when the Basques kidnapped a German delegate was the incident really brought to the notice of the world.



● Mrs. Berta Edxvarria the general secretary of the Basque delegation who runs the headquarters

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TAYERS' CUP

(Flat)

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AY at 7.45

(inc. Race Card)

ON ICE

URDAY 2, 5 & 8 p.m.
EN 1/2 PRICE (ex Sats)

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divided to enable two streams of passengers to board simultaneously. Passengers boarding on the right-hand side will buy their tickets inside the bus from an automatic machine using 3d., 6d. or 1s. coins in any combination up to the value of the fare required. This will release the turnstile gate to allow them into the main part of the bus.

Passengers boarding on the left-hand side of the entrance will buy their tickets from the driver, who will also issue all children's tickets and deal with Red Bus Rover and other special tickets.

London Transport asks passengers whenever possible to have the right coins ready for their fare as they board, as this will help to avoid delays. The buses have a centre exit.

Development scheme changes

NEW tenders have been invited by Camden Council for stage five of the Abbey Road development.

This is the final stage of the development, begun by the former Hampstead Borough Council, consisting of residential accommodation, a shopping centre, health centre and a public house.

Camden has already received seven tenders but in each case feels the price range "unrealistic". The cheapest is for £768,027.

Now Camden Council says that modification of planning could save money.

move educational advantages to the girls at the grammar school and he criticised The Inner London Education Authority for putting parents in a position where they could not choose where the children could be educated.

Mr. Thersby said: "As a Conservative governor of the school I was against the ILEA decision to merge, but when they finally decided this I think they could have at least given us a proper comprehensive."

"At the beginning it was said the school would be an eight form school but we now know that it is to become a six form. This has no educational advantages to the girls of Maida Vale High School."

He added: "All it means is that opportunities will be reduced for a higher stan-

Mr. Thersby said that the reduction in the size of the new school would restrict the range of courses and impede its efficiency as a comprehensive school.

ILEA schools sub-committee claims that the reduction in numbers is because of an expected future fall in the population "north of the Thames". But Mr. Thersby believes this will not be so.

"I can't see how they made this out but I do not agree that the population in this area will fall," he said.

Mr. Thersby said he felt that despite protests only a decision by the Minister of Education, Mrs. Thatcher, could stop the merger going ahead.

He and other Conservative governors of the school will be at a special meeting that has been called for by parents to discuss the amalgamation.

LOBO

Co-starring Jorge Rivera Jennifer O'Neil Jack Elam

Victor French Susana Dosamantes

Screenplay by Leigh Brackett and Burton Wohl Story by Burton Wohl

Music by Jerry Goldsmith Directed by Howard Hawks

Technicolor A Cinema Center Films Presentation Released by 20th Century-Fox

PLUS

WALT DISNEY

Productions present

The Silver Fox and Sam Davenport.

starring Gordon L. Perry

Directed by Henry Schloss. Screenplay by Albert Aley based on 'The Biography of a Silver Fox' by Ernest Thompson Seton. Narration written by Winston Hibler and Roy Edward Disney Jr. Associate Producer Winston Hibler

TECHNICOLOR

Doors open Thurs. Sat. Tues. 1.15 p.m. Fri. Mon. Wed. 2.15 Sun. 4.00

RIO LOBO

Thurs. Sat. Tues. 2.35 5.40 8.40 Fri. Mon. Wed. 3.35 6.40 9.40 Sun. 5.20 8.25

THE SILVER FOX AND SAM DAVENPORT

Thur. Sat. Tues. 1.30 4.30 7.35 Fri. Mon. Wed. 2.30 5.30 8.35 Sun. 4.15 7.15

Me refiero a la carta publicada en The Times del viernes 1 cts por M. Rafael Valls, legal adviser de la Embajada Española en Londres.

La semeblanza que hace entre la ley española actual y la britanica en 1920 es irrelevante.

En 1920 existía en Irlanda un estado de guerra declarado por los Poderes legales establecidos en el Reino Unido, mientras que en España, en la actualidad, no hay estado de guerra, ni el Ejercito ha sido movilizado, ni interviene en acción bélica alguna, fuera de la facultad de juzgar hechos conocidos generalmente con la denominación de delitos políticos que le atribuye un Decreto dado por el general Franco.

Por otra parte, el Acta de 1920 fué sancionada por el Parlamento britanico en un régimen democrático, en tanto que el Decreto del general Franco es otorgado por un dictador. El Reino Unido, en 1920 como hoy, constituía un régimen de derecho, mientras que una dictadura no puede pasar de ser un régimen de arbitrio, asentado sobre el ejercicio de una autocracia personal.

La lucha mantenida por el Ejercito britanico en 1920 puede merecer estimaciones diversas. Pero en manera alguna cabe compararla con una dictadura instaurada con el eficaz concurso de Hitler y Mussolini.

BASED ON REPORTS FROM BASQUE AGENCY O.P.E.

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LONDON, S.W.1.

7 HOBART PLACE.

BASQUE INFORMATION SERVICE

Release No.

[Handwritten notes in Spanish, partially obscured by a horizontal line and the typed text above. Some legible words include 'para', 'aunque', 'esta', 'que', 'se', 'puede', 'comparar', 'con', 'una', 'dictadura', 'instaurada', 'con', 'el', 'eficaz', 'concurso', 'de', 'Hitler', 'y', 'Mussolini'.]

Britain's protest over the Basques

From Mr. Enoch Powell, Conservative M.P. for Wolverhampton South-West

Sir, Private citizens, in the light of their own notions and the information available to them, may form views, and are free to express them privately or publicly, on how they would like the Spanish authorities to act in the matter of the condemned Basques. Not so Her Majesty's Government. Unless British persons or interests are involved, they have no standing to advise other governments how to manage their internal affairs.

The communiqué said that H.M.G. "are confident the Spanish head of state will take humanitarian considerations into account". The statement was pointless if the confidence is real, and impertinent if the confidence is feigned.

It was not excused by telling the Spanish chargé d'affaires that the Government "felt justified" in its action because "public concern was so great". The expression of "public concern" (whatever precisely that may mean) is amply catered for without H.M.G. exceeding its functions.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
J. ENOCH POWELL,
 House of Commons, December 30.

Dental charges

From the Secretary of the British Dental Association

... seems to be muddled thinking
 ... in the Govern...

LETTERS

Effects of air

From Mrs. H. G. M. Bass

Sir, I hope that during the season, the workers at Heathrow Airport, who have been crowded and slow, will be able to spare the many families abroad who have been travelling past week. Secure in their rounded by children, and friends, perhaps they would the situation their actions.

Children, between the ages of 17, have had to sit alone at Heathrow Airport sometimes from 12 until 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon until their planes took off. Lesotho then had the last flight to Johannesburg and have missed connecting flight to Bloemfontein. This has meant that they have had to stay in an hotel in Johannesburg when they have arrived at night, grey with fatigue, then a car journey of 90 miles to Johannesburg.

Parents have sometimes had to make the 90-mile drive only to find that their children have not arrived—some families different members on three separate flights. One parent with a 10-year-old son has had to drive 300 miles to Johannesburg to see him, since they do not recall the name of his staying alone in an hotel.

How many workers would be allowed their sons and daughters to spend a night alone in a hotel in a large and strange city?

The managers of B.O.A.C. should do their best in the circumstances cannot possibly keep all passengers satisfied, neither can they have ties not only of the...

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Latest wills

Mr. George Murray, of Esher, Surrey, former chief leader writer on the Daily Mail, left £39,117 net (duty paid, £9,751). Mr. Murray was a director of the Associated Newspapers Group, publishers of the Daily Mail. He left his property mainly to his wife and children. Other estates include (net, before duty paid):

Beazley, Sir John Davidson, of Oxford, former Professor of Classical Archaeology in Oxford University (duty paid, £18,085) £51,500

Kimpton, Mr. Seymour Walter Innocent, of Muswell Hill, London, civil servant (duty paid, £17,158) £70,400

Mason, Miss Mary Isabel, of West Kirby, Cheshire (duty paid, £38,562) £86,613

Meakin, Mr. Kenneth Tom, of Oadby (duty paid, £31,017) £74,824

Shorn, Mr. Solomon, of Romford, outfitter (duty paid, £15,119) £51,391

Tobutt, Miss Ellen Amelia, of Barton-on-Sea (duty paid, £27,298) £68,469

Memorial service

Lord Bilsland

The Queen was represented by Lord Rowallan, who also represented the Order of the Thistle, at a memorial service for Lord Bilsland which took place in Glasgow Cathedral yesterday. The Rev. Dr. William J. Morris officiated and an address was given by the Very Rev. Dr. Nevile Davidson. Among those present were:

Lady Bilsland (widow), Lord Clydesmuir (chairman, Scottish Council (Development and Industry), the Hon. Mrs. North Dalrymple-Hamilton, the Hon. Mrs. Philip Whitcombe, Mrs. Norman Colville, Mr. James Colville.

The Lord Provost of Glasgow and the Lady Provost, Lord Polwarth (Governor) and Commander J. Findlay (deputy Governor, Bank of Scotland), Mr. Robert Maclean (chairman, Scottish Industrial Estates Manage-

Forthcoming marriages

The Master and Miss I. A.
The engagement between Andrew Scott, son of I. Caroline Lady P. elder daughter of Surtees and Mrs.

Mr. J. S. Benne and Miss S. H.

The engagement between John S. of Mr. and Mrs. of Hartwell Gloucestershire, mione, daughter of Inglis-Jones and Inglis-Jones, of berley, Surrey.

Mr. E. V. Cook and Miss G. M.

The engagement between Edwin, and Mrs. E. Birchington Road, N.W.6, eldest daughter of P. V. Wadsworth Avenue, Hove.

Mr. J. Kennedy and Miss G. A.

The engagement between John, J. P. Kennedy and J. P. Kennedy, co. Wicklow, Re and Gillian Ann and Mrs. O. C. Thurstaston Road, Cheshire.

Mr. R. J. Linga and Miss R. E.

The engagement between Richard and Mrs. J. L. Derbyshire

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