Jail peril to luxury builders

By ARTHUR BUTLER

THE Government's Bill to clamp-down on "luxury" private building emerged yesterday — not as the expected emergency step but as a permanent control plan.

It will be a criminal offence to carry out such work without licence. Penalties of up to two years jail and a fine are to be imposed.

Minister of Public Bluiding and Works, Mr. Charles Pannell, is seeking powers to vary the controls by Order.

Priority

Thus he would be able to change the cost limit of £100,000 at which controls begin if conditions change.

But he will have to get the go-ahead from Parliament for any order making controls even tougher.

The Government's line is that urgent, socially-important projects — housing, industrial building, development district works—must get priority.

Efforts are being made to boost the building industry's output. But when it cannot meet all demands Mr. Pannell wants to be sure that luxury projects do not mop up the bricks and labour.

About 500 projects costing £180 million—about seven per cent of new building—are expected to be hit by the licensing scheme in the next year.

Liable for prosecution are: The building owner or developer, the contractor, or architects, engineers and surveyors supervising work.

But it will be a defence for these to prove that they had reasonable grounds to believe that money limits would not be exceeded or conditions broken.

This is an important loophole in a period of soaring costs.

The Bill does not apply to repairs, maintenance, or redecoration. But it covers all alterations.

It is retrospective, but no act done before it becomes law will be made criminal.

Dodds left £5,400

Mr. Norman Dodds, former Labour M.P. for Erith and Crayford who died in August, left £5,417 net. His property goes to his wife Eva.

Dr. Moore digs up those pipes

EMERGENCY measures to protect health were ordered by a council yesterday after marathon walker Dr. Barbara Moore severed a set of pipes buried under her garden.

Dr. Moore, of Old Bisley Road, Frimley, Surrey, said they should never have been laid across her land. And as a protest she had them dug up, cut, and blocked with concrete.

A spokesman for Frimley and Camberley Council said: "We take an extremely serious view. These pipes provided vital drainage and sewage services. Emergency measures have been taken."

And today a squad of council workmen will report at Dr. Moore's home to make repairs.

Trespass?

Said 61-year-old Dr. Moore: "I have asked for police to be present. If workmen enter my property I want them arrested for trespass."

After court actions involving Dr. Moore and the council the pipes were buried 11ft. down.

Dr. Moore said: "I have been reading legal books for the last six months. When I had reassured myself I was within my rights I hired workmen to put the pipes out of action."

Bumper trouble

Police drivers are not to blame for mounting damage to patrol cars, Swansea Chief Constable Mr. Sydney Roberts said yesterday. Main offenders—motorists behind who don't brake in time.

Mother-to-be Ruthin and owner Bernard Myers yesterday

Racing men bid for her baby with the 22-carat pedigree . . .

RIBOT	TEHERANI	BELLINI	
		TOFANELLA	
	ROMANELLA	EL GRECO	
		BARBARA BURRINI	
RUTHIN	ABERNANT	OWEN TUDOR	HYPERION
			MARY TUDOR II
		RUSTOM MAHAL	RUSTOM PASHA
			MUMTAZ MAHAL
	LIBERTY	FAIRWAY	PHALARIS
			SCAPA FLOW
		FANCY FREE	STEFAN THE GREAT
			CELIDA

She's the favourite mother-to-be

By RITA MARSHALL

A MOTHER-TO-BE will be fussed over—and fought for—by a lot of anxious men on Saturday.

Her name is Ruthin, a good racehorse in her own right.

But the men at the Newmarket sales will be more interested in her unborn baby, not due until February.

For its father is Ribot, the Italian wonder horse now standing stud in America.

And Ruthin is the only mare in the world, available for sale, carrying one of his foals.

Two years ago she was bought by London business man Mr. Bernard Myers for £23,625.

He sent her to America to meet Ribot. Cost, including fares and stud fees: £10,400.

A few weeks ago she came home to Mr. Myers' stud at Walton, Surrey—in foal.

Now breeders from many parts of the world will be hoping for a happy event of their own—by buying her on Saturday.

BUSIER BRITAIN BOOSTS OVERTIME WORK

By TREVOR EVANS

NEW facts reveal that Britons have been busier than expected in the second half of this year.

An annual count of National Insurance cards shows that since June, the total number of workers in civil employment has been 0.4 per cent greater than a Government provisional estimate.

By the end of the four months up to mid-October there were 30,000 more men and 87,000 more women in jobs—making a total national workforce of 24,571,000.

Ministry of Labour figures indicate that the October workforce fell by 24,000 compared with mid-September, but this was mainly because of seasonal influences.

More evidence of bustling Britain comes from the Ministry's overtime returns.

In mid-October 2,202,000 operatives—or 36 per cent of all employed in the manufacturing industries—were working overtime. And on average they were putting in an extra eight and a half hours a week.

This estimate of workers on overtime was 93,000 more than in September.

Cheques warning

Ilford, Essex, police last night warned shopkeepers to be careful when accepting cheques from strangers in payment for goods following reports that dud cheques are being passed in the area.

ROW FLARES OVER CITY CENTRE TAX PLAN FOR CARS

Express Motoring Reporter

TROUBLE flared last night over the hint by Transport Minister Mr. Tom Fraser that he was considering taxing motorists who drive into the centres of London and other big cities.

A message from Mr. N. E. Carter, secretary of the Manufacturers' Agents' Association, asked him to consider most urgently the special problems that would arise for commercial agents.

He pointed out that such a plan would be an unfair and insupportable burden to its members.

Mr. Carter's message said that in the case of commercial agents the use of the highway in all areas was vital, not only for the purposes of carrying on trade but in enabling the commercial men to earn their living.

He added: "In particular I am instructed to request that you would especially consider the case of agents covering the whole or a large part of the British Isles.

"If the charge were to relate to individual towns the accumulated total would create an unfair and insupportable burden to a section of the community whose services are of the greatest importance to the wholesale and retail trade of this country."

QUOTE

—by Mr. Leonard Bradbury, head master of Ewell, Surrey, County Secondary School, at last night's prizegiving:—

ANYTHING that can break the monopoly of the G.C.E. "O" level tag, which has become an obsession with large numbers of employers, is highly desirable.

M.P.s demand 'flashes'

THE Government plan to instal alternately flashing amber lights at one-mile intervals along the 350 miles of motorway for fog conditions—at a cost of £100,000—has sparked off further demands for this kind of safety equipment.

A motion sponsored by Mr. Timothy Kitson, Tory M.P. for Richmond, Yorks., and 21 other Tory M.P.s, urges Mr. Fraser to place flashing warning amber lights on the whole of the 300-mile A1 road.

It asks Mr. Fraser to take into account that as some sections of the A1 are classified as motorway and other sections as dual carriageway, the whole of the road should have the same signalling system to prevent confusion.

Town to probe yacht levy

A committee of Poole council is to be asked to probe the effect on the town of a proposal by Poole harbour commissioners to levy dues on all pleasure craft over 10ft. using the harbour. The proposed dues were described at the council meeting yesterday by Mr. Frederick Rowe as "penal charges."

Too easy . . .

British industry has been taking things too easily in Commonwealth countries and many firms were not doing enough to boost exports, Lord Brown, Minister of State, Board of Trade, said in Belfast yesterday.

TARGET

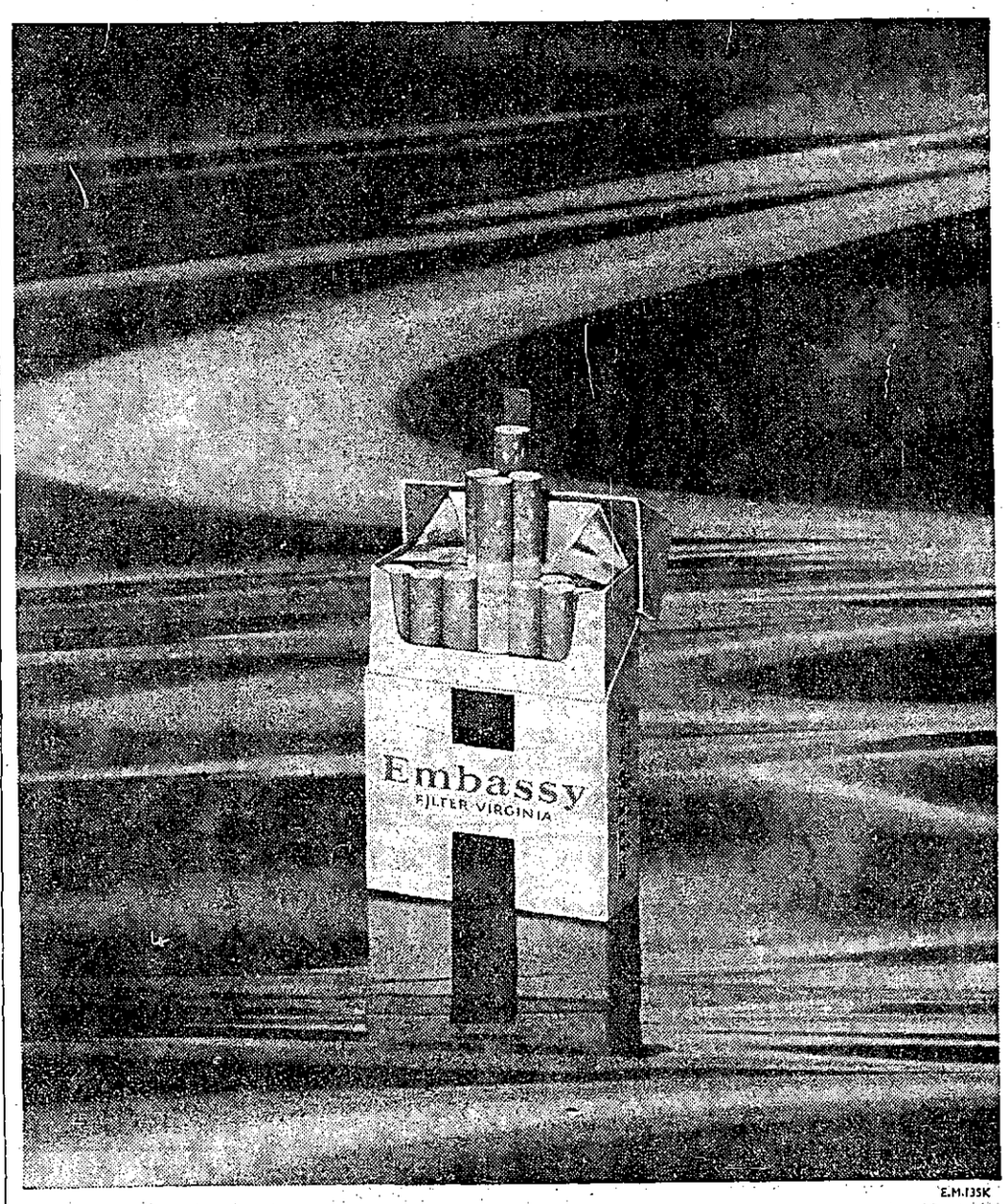
E	R	R
S	E	T
T	O	T

W

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters in the square on the left? In making the words, each letter may be used once only. Each word *must* contain the large letter, and there *must* be at least one ten-letter word in the list. No plurals; no foreign words; no proper names. TODAY'S TARGET: 15 words, good; 18 words, *very good*; 20 words, *excellent*. Solution tomorrow.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION: Enlist entitle inlet inset islet istle leet lent lentil lest lilt lint lintel list listen little LITTLENESS nest nestle nettle sent sestet sett settle silent silt site sleet slit steel stile still stilt stint tell tenet tense tensile tent test tile till tilt tine tinsel tint tintless tidle titleless tsetse.

Wills introduced Embassy three years ago, bringing quality to coupon cigarettes and promising the best in smoking. Wills have kept their promise. Today, Embassy is the accepted cigarette that outsells every other brand in Britain.



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