

Europe 81

No. 12

December 1981



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a social programme
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**EURO
FORUM**

Social programmes – and getting the help to where it's needed



Much of the Community's work behind the European scenes consists of looking at ways of furthering social policies to which all member states are committed. In this issue we have reports on two such aspects of the Community's involvement in the issues of modern life: women's rights, by Melanie Davis (page 7), and safeguarding the environment (Ron Barry, page 17).

Roy Stemman's latest investigation into how European aid gets to those who need it, is from one of the most popular holiday areas of Britain, the West Country (opposite). Similarly, our story on the Community's action programme to combat poverty in deprived areas (page 10) focuses on two localities in London, and one in Brussels, where this scheme (now sadly curtailed) has been shown to work.

We have an interview with the MEP and former Labour minister, Barbara Castle (page 19), and an account by Noël Goodwin of an annual course for choreographers and musicians, supported – among others – by the European Community, photographed by Ben Johnson (page 14) during a session last summer under the eye of the legendary Merce Cunningham.



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Forecast for the West Country: brightening slowly

The fortunes of the south-west of England have changed dramatically since the days when there were hundreds of tin and copper mines in Devon and Cornwall, and the fishermen of the area could expect a good living from their catches. Those times are recorded for posterity on the Cornish county crest,

which has a miner on one side and a fisherman on the other. Today, only a handful of tin mines are to be found in Cornwall, and the south-west fishing fleet is hard pressed to make a profit. But now that both industries are receiving European financial support, they can view the future with rather more optimism.

Not many years ago, the spider crab would have provoked a Cornish curse from any fisherman unfortunate enough to find one in his pots. It was regarded as vermin because it ate the bait intended for marketable shellfish. So spider crabs would be thrown back in the sea.

Now, this same creature is treated with respect. It is caught intentionally, kept alive with care, then transported to France and Spain, where it is regarded as a delicacy.

The largest company specialising in the export of live and processed shell fish to the Continent is W. Harvey and Sons of Newlyn. The business was started in 1955 by three brothers, Ronnie, Jack and Gerald. Today,

ROY STEMMAN reports from a part of England where old trades and new industries are making headway – with financial help from Europe

The Harvey brothers operate from a new quayside building at Newlyn, built with help from the European agricultural fund.

they have a £1½ million turnover and the spider crab makes a handsome contribution to that total. They also have an impressive new building, standing on the south quay at Newlyn, which can hold 24 tons of live shell fish – crab, lobster and crayfish – in 16 sea-water tanks.

Built in 1980, it was partly financed by a £56,517 grant from the European agricultural fund. Harvey's was one of three Cornish fish processing companies (the others being Shipham's at Penzance and Interfish at Saltash) to share more than £250,000 from the fund.

Until the new building was constructed, the Harveys had to keep their catches alive in boxes floating in the harbour. But pollution ▶



HOW COMMUNITY FUNDS ARE HELPING THE SOUTH-WEST



Training the handicapped for working lives

Finding a job is difficult enough for most young people today, but for those with physical handicaps the outlook must seem bleaker still. St Loye's College at Exeter, Devon, has demonstrated that this need not be so.

With the help of a £90,999 grant from the Social Fund, it has given training to 127 such youngsters over a three-year period. Of those, 80 per cent have been successfully placed in open employment – either at fully skilled level after progressing through vocational training in the College's adult training department, or in semi-skilled jobs on completion of the work preparation course.

Because of the college's location, many of the youngsters are from the South-West. They have included a boy who spent 18 months at the unit, then went on to get work experience under the Youth Opportunities scheme. He now has a full-time job with a firm of solicitors in Bristol.

The unit, which is run by Peter Johnston, gives training in a variety of skills, including secretarial, engineering and electronics work. An £8,000 grant from the Social Fund has been given to the college for a follow-up study.



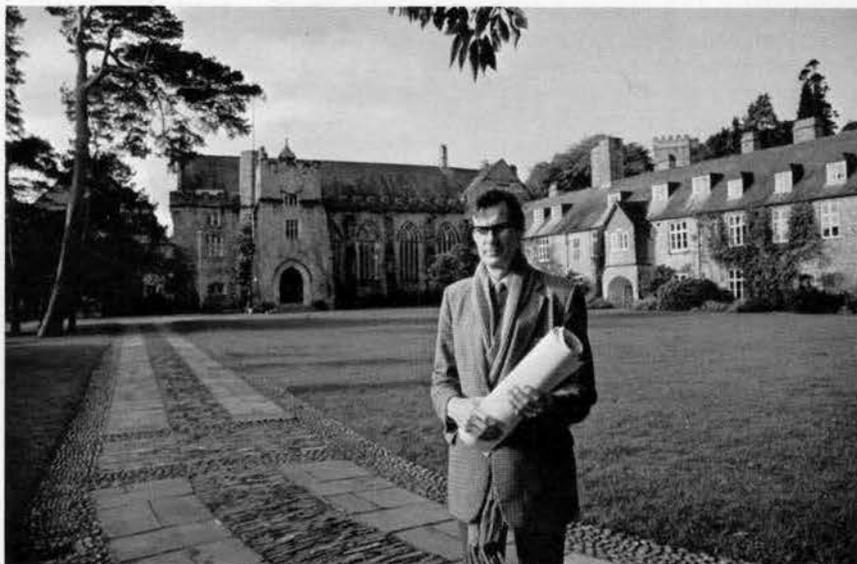
Preparing the not-so-young for a new career

It is not only the young who have trouble finding work. With mass redundancies being announced every week, more and more workers aged between 40 and 55 are finding themselves unemployed, often with the prospect of never having another job.

In the South-West, the Dartington Institute of Community Studies has just begun a two-year training programme through which 30 qualified but jobless people will be helped to find new employment, or set up new enterprises. Half the cost of the £57,000 project is being met by a Social Fund grant.

The institute was founded in 1980 'to stimulate the vitality of local communities' by applied research, practical experiment and close contact with others of like mind. Its director, Michael Dower, will have behind him the resources of the Dartington Hall Trust, which is a large local employer. Its training department has been made available for the scheme.

As well as training in a relevant skill, the participants will also receive counselling to help rebuild their confidence. Dartington – the famous Devon community concerned with the arts, crafts and self-help in particular – employs over 600 people in the area west of Torbay, which is an area of high unemployment. Applicants for places on the courses are expected to include many from the over-40 age group of jobless in the Totnes area.



Learning the craftsman's skills from a master

Money from the Social Fund is being used by a top British designer, John Makepeace, to train young men and women to become craftsmen in wood. The Community aid has gone to the Parnham Trust Ltd, a non-profit-making educational charity established in 1977 to run the School for Craftsmen in Wood at Beaminster, Dorset, to help the venture as an experimental pilot project.

Among the 20 students currently receiving an integrated training in design, wood-working, production, management

and marketing is Viscount Linley, 20-year-old son of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon. The Development Commission and the Crafts Council are among those who have contributed towards the costs of setting up the school. Students pay fees to attend.

Ten students are selected each spring for entry the following September. They receive an intensive, fully residential two-year course, and are encouraged to set up their own workshops after leaving.

John Makepeace, who is a consultant to the EEC, is noted throughout the design world and among enthusiasts for hand-made modern furniture. His workshops are at Parnham House, a superb building in beautiful gardens. It was in the Oak Room at Parnham that General Eisenhower prepared the plans for the invasion of Europe in 1944.



When shell-fish catches dwindle in the winter months, W. Harvey & Sons keeps its 40 employees busy filleting mackerel. Some 12½ tons a day – the entire catch – goes to a single local buyer, for smoking.

West Country fishermen welcomed the news in October that the Ministry of Agriculture, in lifting its ban on mackerel fishing off the south-west coast, had imposed a limit on trawlers of more than 40 ft to a weekly catch quota of 90 tons. This is likely to make it uneconomic for large trawlers from other areas, particularly Scotland, to fish in these waters.

It is not only the Harveys who have gained from European aid – every fisherman in the area has benefited as a result of a £165,000 grant towards the new fish quay and market at Newlyn, which Her Majesty the Queen opened in November 1980.

A £23,781 agricultural fund grant has also been made towards the cost of extending a quay at Brixham, Devon, for landing fish. Direct fish exports from the famous port, at which William of Orange landed in 1688, amount to an estimated £1½ million a year.

The fish-eating habits of the British differ considerably from those of other Europeans, and the Community-wide market for prime fish, such as sole, turbot and monkfish, has been a lifeline to the inshore industry, says David Harris, MEP for Cornwall and Plymouth. But he is unhappy about the attitude of French authorities to contraventions of European agreements.

At the same time as a West Country skipper was being made to dump herring that he had caught off Devon, at the end of last year, the French were apparently turning a blind eye to illegal landings of herring at Boulogne.

Left: the Harveys' premises at Newlyn.
Below: the new J.I. Case factory at Redruth, also backed with European money.

'Every fisherman in the area has benefited as a result of a £165,000 grant towards a new fish quay and market'

made that a risky business. Now they can keep their crabs for up to a month, so that they have sufficient for full loads to be taken to France and Spain in large, specially-equipped trucks, for sale – live – to discerning customers who prefer fresh seafood to the frozen kind. The Harvey brothers are also doing a thriving trade in brown crabs, which are processed and shrink-wrapped individually for the Swedish market. Because they have been pasteurised, the dead crabs can be kept fresh for six weeks before being eaten.





Tin mine extensions at South Crofty – with the help of a loan from Europe.

tration of industrial activity in western Cornwall. Today there are four, two of which are controlled by South Crofty Ltd, Europe's largest producer of tin concentrate.

South Crofty has been in existence since 1906 – it was one of the first tin mines to become a limited company – and attributes its continuing success to investment, enabling it to acquire 'lame duck' mines in the vicinity when they ran into trouble.

Its recent investment has been helped by loans at low interest rates from the EIB. The first, for about £1 million, is enabling it to sink its shaft even deeper, in order to mine new tin lodes. Another loan, for £2.46 million, is to enable its second mine to be sunk deeper and also to help towards modernising the mill and re-equipping and sustaining production at South Crofty.

A third European loan, for £226,000, is being spent in deepening a Cornish slate quarry which dates back to the year 1450. The Delabole quarry is the deepest in Europe, with a 510 foot deep pit and a perimeter of 1½ miles. South Crofty acquired the quarry in 1978. As well as producing roofing slates, Delabole also provides slate granules which are used in powder form in plastics, rubbers, paints, bitumen and other products.

The combined quarry and tin-mine workforce is 681. Since tin is of strategic importance because of its use in armaments, the difficult and expensive process of extracting it from the ore is likely to continue at Camborne for many years yet. Lately, a modern industry has moved to the area, where it will provide as many jobs as the tin mines: over 100 people now work at the Redruth factory of J. I. Case (UK) Inc, the British subsidiary of the American Tenneco group. The Case building, the largest single span of industrial space in Cornwall, is used to produce crawler loaders and dozers, mostly for the European Community market.

Until recently the company's base was Leeds. When it decided to do its own fabrication and assembly, in a purpose-built factory, the management chose Cornwall – partly because of the advantages it offered as a Development Area, and also because it believes the Cornish people have the right attitude to work. Long-term, it is hoping to provide jobs for up to 500.

The company's director and general manager, D. Malcolm Churchouse, says that in time the Cornish factory could also be supplying to part of Africa and the Middle East, as well as the Continent.

In addition to its EIB loan, the company has received a grant from the ERDF of around £1 million and an interest relief grant of £864,000. Says Mr Churchouse: 'The EEC financial help certainly made it easier for me to sell the concept of a factory in Cornwall to Tenneco. What it did was to enable us to build a new factory instead of having to use old ones for separate assembly and fabrication.' **E**

Mr Harris complained to the Commissioner for Agriculture and Fisheries about this breach of the conservation measures and provided him with a dossier of photographs. The Commission has initiated proceedings which could lead to a prosecution in the European Court.

Fish which travels from Newlyn by road, bound for export, is likely to pass through Penzance, perhaps crossing the rebuilt Ross Bridge across the harbour, which was built with the help of £150,000 from the Regional Development Fund.

The fish-laden vehicles will almost certainly be heading for Plymouth, where Brittany Ferries provide a link with Roscoff, in France. There is also a roll-on, roll-off ferry link between Plymouth and Spain. The existence of both has done much to encourage trade between the South-West and the Continent.

Plymouth, the largest city in the West Country with its population of 250,000, will soon be able to enjoy the amenities of a new civic theatre and conference centre to which the European Regional Development Fund is

As many as 150 tin mines once flourished in the Camborne – Redruth area. Today there are four

contributing some £2 million – just under a third of the total cost. The grant – which is probably the largest single payment from Brussels to a West Country recipient – was authorised partly because the conference complex will attract visitors to the city and the surrounding region.

A much larger sum – in excess of £3.6 million – has been loaned to a Cornish company by the European Investment Bank for one of the oldest industries in Cornwall. Tin once shared with wool the distinction of being Britain's chief export, and the tin mines of Cornwall were the main source of supply in the western world. As many as 150 tin mines are believed to have flourished in the Camborne-Redruth area – the only large concen-

How Europe stands up for women

Not so long ago, uttering the words 'women's rights' and 'the European Community' in the same breath might have provoked polite scepticism on the one side, or downright disbelief on the other. More recently, though, women have become increasingly aware of the contribution the Commission is making to promote equal opportunities for women at work.

The European Parliament's debate on women in the European Community last February, and the commitment by the Commission to respond to the European Parliament's demands for further action, have done much to publicise the European perspective on this sometimes controversial issue. Women throughout Europe have benefited from the Commission's three directives on equal pay, equal treatment at work, and equality in social security benefits. Many people even see the Community as giving national governments a little push to implement legislation — where otherwise the process may have been a lot slower.

The *raison d'être* behind the Community's commitment to a policy of equal rights for women at work rests on one article laid down in the Treaty of Rome. Article 119 clearly states: 'Each member state shall, during the first stage, ensure and subsequently maintain the application of the principle that men and women should receive equal pay for equal work.'

Its original intention was not, in fact, to further the rights of working women, but to prevent women being used as cheap labour and therefore create unequal conditions between competing European companies. But the changes in the social and economic climate in the Sixties and Seventies which led to so many more women working, gave Article 119 an altogether different dimension. It became the legal basis for the Community's directive on equal pay in 1975, for two subsequent directives, and for a policy on women at work.

The story of Article 119 does not, however, rest there. Distinct from the role it has played in Commission policy is its contribution to equal pay and sex discrimination law cases that have been referred to the European Court of Justice. Its interpretations have had a particular bearing on some British cases.

European Law is an independent legal system comprised of the Treaty of Rome and what is called the 'secondary legislation'. These are the directives and other legislation implemented by the Community and subsequently incorporated in the legislation of each individual member state. In some instances the Treaty of Rome confers rights and duties not just on governments but on individuals as well. The European Court of Justice (not to be

MELANIE DAVIS looks at the Commission's record in securing a fair deal for women at work — and how the European Court interprets equal rights under the Treaty of Rome

confused with the Court of Human Rights — part of the Council of Europe — in Strasbourg) interprets EEC law.

The European Court's role in equal pay and sex discrimination cases began with a Belgian air hostess, a Mlle Defrenne, who worked for Sabena Airlines. In 1978 she successfully claimed equal pay with a male cabin steward, even though the Belgian parliament had not itself legislated for equal pay. Since that precedent was set, it has been possible for a complainant in an equal pay case to rely on this provision because Article 119 confers rights directly on individuals.

Following the Defrenne case, the UK's Equal Opportunities Commission has backed a total of five cases sent to the European Court, each requesting an interpretation on the applicability of European law. One other important precedent was the European Court's ruling that, whenever there is an inconsistency between Community law and the legislation of a member state, Community law can override the domestic legislation.

The first British equal pay case to return with a European ruling was Macarthy's Ltd versus Smith. Wendy Smith was a manageress in a pharmaceutical company, Macarthy's Ltd. Her job had previously been done by a man who had left four months before she took over the job. She was paid £50 per week whereas her male predecessor had been paid £60. Under British law, women must be employed for the same length of time as a man before they can claim equal pay.

The British Court of Appeal was undecided about Mrs Smith, and referred the case to Luxembourg for an opinion on the applicability of Article 119. The European Court's decision in early 1980 was unequivocal. It ruled that, under Article 119, a woman can legitimately compare her pay with that of a man previously doing the same job. The case made legal history. It means that, in future, the Equal Pay Act will have to be applied in the light of that judgement.

The second case to receive a European ruling was concerned with whether or not the 'death or retirement' exemption clause in the British Equal Pay Act, which excludes occupational pension schemes, was legal in

European law. This case was brought against Lloyds Bank by two women employees because female employees had different occupational pension scheme arrangements from men when they were under the age of 25. The issue to be decided by the European Court was whether this pension scheme qualified as 'pay'.

The Court decided that it did, even if the contributions were immediately deducted by an employer and paid into a pension fund. Moreover, it was no less applicable if actual sums were refunded to the employee under certain circumstances. The European Court, in its deliberations on this case, stressed again that Article 119 has direct effect within member states and can be relied on in national courts of law; and also that those courts have a duty to ensure the protection of the rights that Article 119 vests in individuals.

The European Court then, in effect, applied the concept of equality to at least one aspect of private occupational pension schemes, holding that victims of this type of discrimination have a right to take their cases to British tribunals and courts under European law.

The third case, also heard early this year, was an all-important case on part-time work. Its recommendations, in the end, were not as clear-cut as the previous two cases; but the Equal Opportunities Commission consider it to be an important step in the direction of achieving equal pay and conditions for Britain's 3¾ million women part-timers.

It remains to be seen to what extent Article 119 will further influence the development of British equal pay and sex discrimination case law. It depends on how many cases are taken to the British Courts. Britain's record of sex discrimination and equal pay cases taken to courts by individuals stands higher than any other European country, as does Britain's record of cases taken to the European Court. But, undoubtedly, Article 119 will continue to wield an important influence, not just on a case-by-case basis but also because of a European Commission action which is taking the UK government to the Court in Luxembourg.

This is the final stage of the Commission's infringement proceedings, which have been instigated because the Commission believes that the Equal Pay Act only allows for equal pay where a woman is doing 'like work' with a man, or where her work has been rated equivalent to his under a job evaluation scheme. The Act does not, however, oblige employers to carry out job evaluation schemes, and the Commission therefore considers that the principle of 'equal pay for equal work' is not being properly implemented.

The case against the British Government is expected to be heard early in 1982. Once again, British women will be looking to Europe and Article 119 for a decision that may help to raise their earnings to 100 per cent of men's, instead of hovering around the 70 per cent mark and despite the progress of equal pay legislation so far.

THE LONDON SUMMIT

No deal – but change is in the air

The 10 heads of state and government at the Lancaster House meeting had the task of changing the direction and emphasis of Community policies.

The progress they made was substantial. But it was still not enough to produce a final package of detailed measures.

The Community foreign ministers have now taken on the job. They will try to reconcile remaining differences, in the course of a series of informal meetings to be held before the Community's leaders meet again.

The full package had to be discussed as a whole. So, until it is adopted, individual elements cannot be formally adopted. Commission President Gaston Thorn, at a press conference, said that the problems had been complex, involving intense preparation. It was regrettable, he said, that in this difficult period it had not been possible to show more spirit of compromise and solidarity.

However, it was clear, he said, that the governments wished to move forward. 'We would not try to repeat the same experience, but would hope to deal with the problems at the foreign affairs council. I am confident that we shall do it,' Mr Thorn added.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who had chaired the London meeting, told the closing press conference that there had been more detailed discussion at the Lancaster House European Council than at any previous Community summit. The four unresolved issues were all

'I am confident that we shall do it' – Gaston Thorn

ones where political decision had to be expressed in detailed technical terms. These were the milk problem; support for Mediterranean agriculture; containing the costs of the common agricultural policy; and dealing with the British budget problem.

Mrs Thatcher said that it was not enough for Community leaders just to give general guidance on these four issues, leaving officials to work out the details later. These, she said, were matters where the political substance lies in the detail, since the ways in which the policies are actually applied touch the vital interests of individual member states.

It was on May 30 1980 that the foreign ministers agreed a short-term formula for cutting Britain's budget contribution and instructed the Commission to submit proposals for the development of Community policies which would avert 'unacceptable situations' in the future. The Commission presented its policy paper in June 1981 and a group of senior officials from member countries then set to work on these proposals, reconciling differences where possible.

Mrs Thatcher, with Gaston Thorn and press secretary Bernard Ingham at the post-summit press conference.

The Commission then supplemented its original recommendations with more detailed proposals. This preparatory work provided the basis for the Summit deliberations.

The negotiations at Lancaster House were on three main chapters: the development of common policies, the common agricultural policy and the UK budget problem.

There was broad agreement on the development of common policies. The heads of government accepted the need to concentrate the resources of the regional fund on the least prosperous regions of the Community and to provide some useful alternative such as technical training to young people unable to find work. The Commission's proposals for improving the working of the common market, stimulating the development of new industries, and increasing the funds for investment were also accepted.

The agricultural chapter raised some of the greatest difficulties. So sensitive were the decisions to be taken that the French and Irish agriculture ministers were on the spot to keep an eye on the drafting of detailed texts.

On cereals, where the Commission had proposed that guaranteed prices should be brought closer to world levels in the coming years, there was broad agreement, but on milk there was a clear difference of view, both on the need to limit expenditure and on the extent to which smaller farmers should have special treatment.

The general ceiling on expenditure on agricultural support proved another contentious issue which the foreign ministers must now try to resolve. The Commission had proposed that farm spending should not increase faster than the growth in the Community's own resources, but some governments were reluctant to see such a definite commitment.

There was general acceptance of the need to find a formula to deal with the high level of Britain's net contribution to the Community's budget, but differences as to how the costs of any rebate should be met and over the time the arrangements should last.

The British were arguing for a review after seven years or until the balance of Community spending had been achieved. Chancellor Schmidt was not happy that Germany should bear the full costs of any rebates, which in turn put the pressure on wealthier agricultural producers like Denmark.

The Lancaster House European Council ended in disappointment, but not in crisis. To quote Commission President Gaston Thorn in the final press conference: 'It was quite clear that the ten governments do not wish to wait any longer, but wish to move forward and get in tune.'



The convener of the Labour-controlled Strathclyde Regional Council yesterday described his party's desire to take Britain out of the Common Market as a 'crazy notion.'

Councillor Charles O'Halloran was speaking in Toulouse on Saturday at the end of a Strathclyde industrial and tourism promotion in the Midi Pyrenees.

'We are Europeans, and only together can we survive this recession and give hope to our young people. Of course the EEC is not a perfect institution - the common agricultural policy needs to be modified in the opinion of many and the inclusion of Spain and Portugal will impose additional strains. But the bonus for us all in Europe has been peace.'

- Scotsman

Few of the shoppers who find 'Extra Jam' in their supermarkets for the first time today will know that it marks the introduction of official Eurojam to the tea tables of Britain.

Those unfamiliar with the Jam and Similar Products Regulations 1981 will not realize that 'Extra Jam' is more than a brand name invented by marketing experts. It is a legal term at the heart of a campaign by the European Commission to harmonise jam laws throughout the Community.

Those regulations have been published and show that jam will be defined either as 'jam' with at least 35 per cent weight of fruit, or 'extra jam' with 45 per cent fruit content.

- The Times

British beef is third rate, according to a new European meat grading system.

Common Market officials say most of it is 'R4' - average and fatty - while top French beef qualifies for an 'E1', excellent rating.

The system, based on the word EUROP, grades the beef from excellent to P for poor and from 1-5 for fat content.

- Daily Express

Election pledges to take Greece out of the Common Market and NATO have helped Socialist leader Andreas Papandreu to a sweeping victory - and a long night of wild celebration in Athens.

But yesterday, faced with the responsibility of power as Premier, he already had a hangover of second thoughts - especially about leaving the EEC.

Dropping the EEC benefits could be a nightmare for Greek farmers. They are due to receive £1,200 million in aid over five years.

- Daily Mirror

The European Commission has stepped in to recognise the crisis of Britain's special steelmakers, concentrated in Sheffield. In a statement issued last night it says the steels, mostly made by privately owned companies, will be covered for the first time by rigorous price checks, from which they were previously excluded.

The move amounts to a form of special protection for Britain. It is also expected to follow up its three-paragraph statement next month with tougher guidelines on levels of special steel imports into Britain. This crisis measure will drastically cut cheap imports here.

- Guardian

After this year's harvest, the EEC's Intervention Board officers in London report a barley surplus, at the end of September, of around 320,000 tonnes. It seems absurd that farmers in Alkham, or Norfolk or Yorkshire, might be tempted to remove fragments of irreplaceable countryside in order to provide a few more superfluous tonnes.

- Spectator

The British government, in its role as current president of the EEC Council of Ministers, has issued a veiled warning to the military regime in Turkey that its recent behaviour may lead to the cutting off of economic aid from the Community.

Under the EEC aid agreement Turkey is entitled to receive some \$140m (about £70m) a year during the current five-year period.

- The Times

Opening the Bradford 'Export Europe' conference on 21 October, British Overseas Trade Board chief executive John Caines said that western Europe is a prime market, the UK's greatest opportunity. With 350 million consumers right on the doorstep and virtually no tariff barriers, it has five times the population of the UK and more than six times the buying power. 'It's a tough, sophisticated and quality-conscious market.'

- British Business

It has been calculated that under the present CAP, rigidly applied, Portugal, the poorest country in western Europe, would have to be a net contributor to the EEC budget. Besides such an injustice, the complaints of Britain and West Germany, at present the only net contributors, fade into insignificance. A system will have to be devised which derives from measurements of economic needs and strengths.

None of all this will be attainable unless the heads of government send out a clear signal to their ministers, officials, and peoples that they are serious about developing a real Community. Such a Community requires transfers of resources, not the pursuit of balanced national accounts with Brussels. It also needs enhanced democratic control by giving more power to the European Parliament.

- Financial Times

Community civil servants are getting down to the autumn's work with a new rash of 'Eurospeak' - the language of initials ranging from CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) to MFA (Multi-Fibres Agreement) and GPS (Generalised Preferences Scheme).

For cognoscenti there is EIB (European Investment Bank), POCO (Political Co-operation) and MCA (Monetary Compensatory Amount).

This autumn's Brussels catchword is 'structured'.

The community is at present in a 'structural crisis', which means it is spending too much on agriculture with no spare cash for the 'structural funds' (money to alleviate unemployment in areas hit by the recession).

- Observer

The Common Market's full potential has yet to be realised, Viscount Davignon, vice-president of the EEC, said yesterday. He also said that if Britain pulled out, the consequences would be worse for her than the Community.

For the market's full assets to be exploited, there had to be a better balanced industrial structure, he told industrialists, local government officials and trade unionists at an international forum at Aviemore.

He told the forum, organised by the Scottish Council for Development and Industry, that the response to the challenge of recession had to come primarily from industry. The process would be long and painful, but events had forced industry to re-think and reorganise.

- Daily Telegraph

Car firms throughout Europe were urged yesterday to adopt one pricing policy for all EEC countries.

A report by the European Bureau of Consumers' Associations showed that by buying a car in other Common Market countries, British motorists could save up to half the price on some models before tax.

A survey carried out by the BEUC covered the prices of 25 models. It showed that the average pre-tax prices for new cars in Britain were up to 90 per cent higher than in Denmark, 50 per cent higher than in Belgium and 35 per cent higher than in Germany and France.

- Daily Mail

The Belgian and French steel industries are in even more parlous condition than our own. The Common Market authorities in Brussels have at last stepped in to attempt to instil some order.

The EEC's system of national quotas for steel production is now beginning to have some effect on over-production. Last summer Brussels introduced a price control system designed to stop heavy discounting by producers and ultimately force prices up.

A huge European steel cartel has been created which in the next year or two may do more to make British Steel's balance sheets appear respectable than anything Mr MacGregor could have accomplished on his own.

- New Standard

WHAT'S IN THE PAPERS

JOHN FISHER reports on ways in which EEC social schemes are helping to beat the poverty trap

What is poverty? Can it be defined? And if so, are there better ways of fighting it than handing out cash benefits? The European

Commission believes that the answers may be found in the grass-roots projects which it has helped to fund, both in individual EEC countries and the Community as a whole.

The trends towards a new anti-poverty campaign within the EEC emerged as people came to realise that poverty is a relative condition, and that individuals and families feel poor – and are seen as poor, whatever their absolute standards – when their lack of resources cuts them off from the ordinary living patterns of the mass of society.

As early as 1972, leaders of the European Community admitted as much at their summit meeting in Paris, when they declared that economic expansion should not be an end in itself but rather the means of improving the quality of life of those living in the Community.

A Social Action Programme to combat poverty in the EEC was accordingly devised. In 1975, the Council of Ministers of the EEC approved a decision for the European Commission to 'test and develop new methods for helping persons beset by or threatened with poverty'. So the campaign covered not only those already in want of the barest necessities, but also those whose circumstances placed their own social and economic future and that of their families at risk.

Community action to help Europe's poor



The work was to be related to problems existing in more than one member state and was to be carried out as far as possible with the participation of (i.e. self-help from) those who were to benefit. This was a distinct advance on former relief schemes, in which those who benefited were given no responsibility and lapsed into apathy and resignation.

At the outset, two surveys were undertaken. One, carried out in all EEC member states, was an all-class survey, not confined to the destitute. It was designed to discover how the general public would respond to the anti-poverty campaign – for example, to what extent poverty was believed to exist, what were its presumed causes and the suggested remedies, what proportion of people, irrespective of their incomes, considered themselves to be deprived, and how many of these would be ready to contribute time or money to help an anti-poverty campaign.

The other survey – in Britain, Germany and France – was concentrated for the most part in areas where incomes might be expected to be less than two-thirds of the national average, and examined how far the existing social services met the needs of the poor.

These surveys helped the Commission to decide which of the many already existing voluntary projects should be supported and monitored with a view to extending self-help methods more widely. Nineteen projects were originally selected as test cases, and six more were added in 1977.

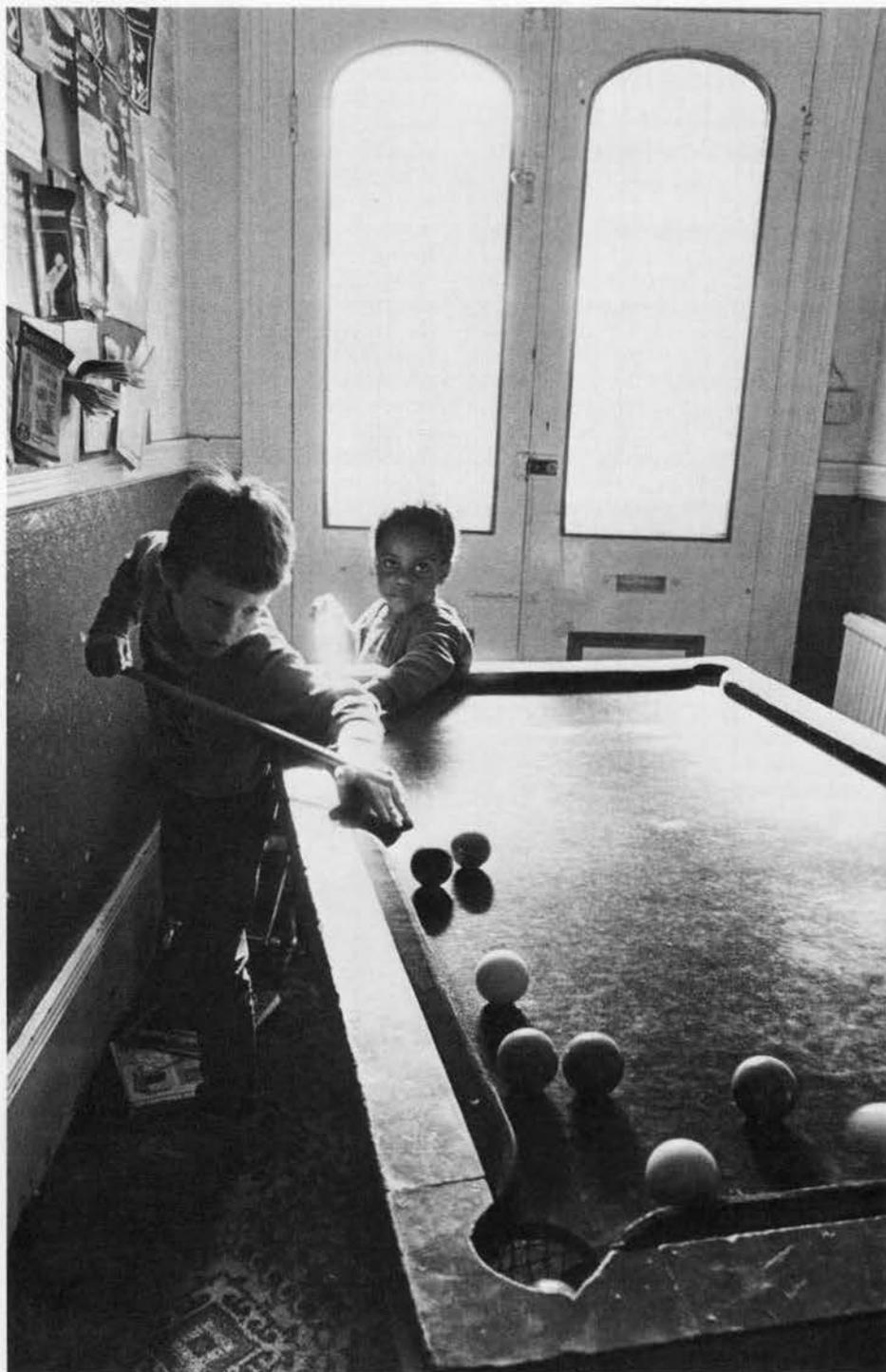
In Brussels, for example, the EEC gave financial support to a General Action Com-

mittee of volunteers which had already been set up in the Marolles, a picturesque but delapidated area near the Palais de Justice, where residents were living in constant fear of being moved out to allow re-development. The committee's policy was to combat re-development blight by encouraging residents to take a pride in the area, by circulating news of forthcoming events and meetings, and by promoting economic, social and cultural activities. It set up local small-scale enterprises, including an office cleaning service, a TV repair shop and a team of house renovators. Here was a pilot scheme that might serve as a model.

Similar schemes, adapted to the needs of the homeless, the elderly and families living in high-rise blocks, have been part-funded by the EEC in Copenhagen, Cologne, Stuttgart, Duisburg, Amberg, and at Roubaix, Rheims and elsewhere in France, as well as in Italy and other member states.

Some British projects have proved highly successful. One is the Gingerbread Play Centre, nicknamed Gingerbread Corner because its premises are on a street corner in Croydon, South London, presided over by a Mrs Corner. The Gingerbread Play Centre provides a service for 100 lone parents (widowed, separated, divorced etc) who have

In the Marolles district of Brussels (left and below), and in an area of south Croydon (right), the Social Action programme helps old and young alike.



full-time jobs, and school-children aged 5 to 11. The children are collected from 17 schools every day after classes, and transported to the Play Centre in minibuses driven by volunteers.

Parents who might otherwise be partly or wholly unemployed are able in this way to accept full-time jobs and so escape from the 'poverty trap'. The scheme is managed by a committee of local parents, two of whom act as resident caretakers, and there is a permanent waiting list of people wanting to join in.

Another project, the Downtown Family Centre, operates from number 566

'Schemes to help the homeless, the elderly, and families living in high-rise blocks, have been part-funded by the EEC'

Rotherhithe Street, in an isolated and economically declining area between the Thames and the Surrey Docks. It is a 'drop-in' day-centre with special facilities for children under three, and a coffee bar where parents can talk over problems and perhaps help each other to solve them.

The Centre offers courses in sewing, adult literacy and keep-fit, and a weekly management meeting is held in which users participate with the staff. At first, some local families resented the centre, which they believed has been set up to deal with them as 'problem families'. This hostility has since been overcome by running the centre with locally recruited staff, and it now provides an antidote to the loneliness and sense of social rejection which formerly prevailed.

Other 'quality of life' projects, aimed at dealing with social maladjustment and deprivation, have been set up elsewhere in London, as well as in Liverpool and Edinburgh.

Apart from this, the Voluntary Services Unit of the Home Office has set up six Area Resource Centres, each covering a region, district or group of towns, to give encouragement, managerial advice and practical assistance, to local grass-roots groups. Three of these centres were originally part-funded by the European Commission.

Nevertheless, the Commission has recently found difficulty in raising the money needed to continue funding these new and experimental methods of combating poverty, and the EEC Council of Ministers is due to review the programme as a whole towards the end of this year.

In the meantime, the Council's proposed cuts in the 1982 budget gives rise to fears that some national governments, faced with rising unemployment, will wish to concentrate on short-term 'job-creation' schemes rather than dealing with poverty problems that existed even when times were good. 

□The children in these photographs can all look forward to a present or two in their stockings this year, thanks to the Gingerbread Play Centre.

European money, from a pilot programme to combat poverty, enabled Gingerbread to start a play centre for 40 children in 1976. When another application for financial support was turned down, the Community came to the rescue.

Gingerbread was concerned that many one-parent families fell into the 'poverty trap', because the wage-earner had either to take a job that coincided with school hours, pay for child-minders, or stay at home. The play centre solves that problem.

With the help of Community money guaranteed for a five-year period, it was able to start the project and build it to its present size, taking 100 children, aged between 4½ and 11, after school. It collects them from 18 local schools in three mini buses, then takes them to a large sprawling house in Fairfield Road, where a team of helpers keeps the children occupied until parents collect them after work.

During school holidays the centre takes them from 8 in the morning until 6 pm, filling the day with outings, film shows and entertainment to keep its lively charges occupied. About a quarter of them live with single fathers, the rest with mothers. Each parent pays just £7 a week, regardless of how many children he or she sends to the centre. The rest of the money comes from grants.

'Our EEC money ran out at Easter this year,' says Mitzi Moore, who runs the centre, 'and we thought we might have to close down. But we've now got £15,000 a year for five years from Urban Aid.'

The European Parliament decided, in May 1980, to spend £6 million on an interim poverty programme over two years while the full results of the pilot scheme were being evaluated. Hopes were dashed, however,



Helpers keep children occupied until a parent picks them up after work. Below: Gingerbread Corner, decked with flags.

when the Council of Ministers, meeting in June last year decided not to proceed with the interim programme, due largely to pressure from the Federal German Government.

Two Croydon mothers who have been able to escape the poverty trap, because Gingerbread looks after their children, joined 31 others (mainly unemployed parents from Scotland and Wales) on a weekend visit to Brussels in November, financed by a grant from the Gulbenkian Foundation. They attended an international get-together, organised by Jacques Van Der Biest, to lobby the European Parliament to make more funds available for anti-poverty projects.

With more financial aid, Gingerbread could perhaps extend its activities to single parents with toddlers, or to those with children over 11. Similar centres in other parts of the country could also be set up.

Meanwhile, 'Gingerbread Corner' is a reminder of how much can be done with so little.

THE HOUSE CALLED GINGERBREAD



EUROFORUM

OPINION

A Political Europe

It can be said without exaggeration that the European citizen's interest in Community matters is dwindling rapidly. Euro-barometers remain steadily on 'bad weather', and to the man in the street the Berlaymont, where the Commission has its headquarters, is an ivory tower.

Knowing that in 1984 it will have to face the European electorate directly for the second time, the European Parliament is already trembling at the prospect. Why should this be so?

This is a question to which there is no simple answer. It is my belief, however, that a major cause of the indifference of citizens vis-à-vis the Community, even after 25 years of hard work, lies in the absence of a genuine political authority in Europe. Co-operation among member states, which remains limited to the economic field, is obviously not enough to generate enthusiasm.

A genuine European identity which European voters can recognize has simply failed to materialise. The greater the economic problem, the more we are aware of the lack of an authentic political basis. This brings home to us the fallacy of the artificial distinction made so far between economic co-operation on the one hand and political co-operation on the other.

Personally, I am quite glad that the debate on European Union has got off the ground again, mainly as a result of the Genscher plan. Whether or not one agrees with all the elements of this plan, the fact that it stimulates debate has to be welcomed. Where it will lead to is in the lap of the gods. But I hope that, at least, agreement will be reached on the need for a central decision-making body, representing an ele-

ment of real European authority and clearly recognisable as such to the European citizen.

When it comes to tackling this indifference of the citizen, and offering him the possibility of identification in spite of the somewhat abstract nature of the Community, we cannot neglect the European Parliament, which is, after all, the only institution directly elected by the people.

The Parliament must become the public platform of Europe. It is of course, in the first place, up to the Parliament itself to achieve this; but the Council and the Commission on their part should make an effort to give important political issues a thorough airing before the Parliament. This is not possible without according the Parliament political recognition as a representative organ, and without giving Parliament a bigger say in the decision-making process.

The Commission itself should not lag behind, either. It has scope for boosting its profile as a political organ whose task is to defend the common interests of member states. A strengthening of the Community's political basis should not result in a strengthening of its inter-governmental character. Moves in this direction should be strongly and courageously resisted by the Commission.

It is up to the Commission to give the

lead in view of how difficult it is for the Council to reach a decision. For this reason the Commission must try and win back the right of initiative in Community policy-making.



FRANS ANDRIESSEN
Member of the Commission

TALKING POINT

Since the first oil crisis of the early Seventies, governments in Europe and elsewhere have been struggling to cope with the two modern phenomena it spawned—galloping inflation and unprecedented unemployment. Most governments perceived these products of international uncertainty as twin evils, to be tackled in tandem. More recently, doubts have begun to be expressed about the wisdom of this approach as the dole queues grow longer.

Battle lines have been drawn between those who believe that priority must be given to the fight against inflation and those who incline more towards spending their way out of the crisis, generally on borrowed money.

Each point of view has its merits. But, with unemployment in the Community now topping nine million for the first time, the pressure is mounting for more concerted efforts to create jobs without necessarily waiting for inflation to be brought under control.

While greater investment is needed, it must also be recognised that the Community is suffering a structural crisis, with too many jobs depending on declining sectors. We need to move more rapidly into expanding areas like high technology and energy creation and conservation.

At the same time, training, particularly for young people, must be stepped up and more flexible working patterns—earlier retirement, shorter hours and so on—introduced to make room for those without jobs. The thrust of the European Social Fund needs to be redirected towards job creation.

THE MONTH IN EUROPE

Trade

Japanese hear clear message from Commission

The Community's trade deficit with Japan - \$12 billion last year and possibly \$15 billion this year is approaching limits which are no longer tolerable economically and politically, European Commission Vice-President Wilhelm Haferkamp warned a group of high-ranking Japanese businessmen who toured Community capitals in October.

The declared aim of the tour was to examine the possibilities of greater industrial cooperation with the Community in the field of investment, transfer of technology and joint ventures in third countries, as well as the promotion of European imports to Japan.

However, Commission President Gaston Thorn told the group that the Tokyo government's undertakings over the last few years to regularise its trade with the Community had not been followed by concrete action and he warned that unless there were tangible signs of change Japan could not expect the Community nor the United States to keep their markets open.

Community to sign common fund pact

The Community is to become a signatory to the UNCTAD agreement to set up a common fund to stabilise the world's trade in commodities. Individual member states are also expected to ratify the agreement.

The common fund was agreed last year following four years of negotiations between the industrialised, developing and oil-producing countries. It consists of two accounts, one of \$470 million to finance stocks and the other of \$350 million to promote exports, re-

search and other trade developments.

The money will be contributed by the signatories to the agreement, which currently number about 55 out of the 90 needed if the agreement is to come into force before the deadline of March, 1982.

Restrictions on textile imports may be extended

The European Commission has proposed to the Council of Ministers that the Community open negotiations with 20-odd countries producing textiles and clothing to extend until 1987 the system whereby these countries limit their exports to the Community.

The present arrangements, which were negotiated to enable the Community to restructure its own ailing textile and clothing industries, expire at the end of next year. Between 1973 and 1980, employment in these industries throughout the Community dropped by one-third to 2.3 million, which now represents about 10 per cent of industrial employment.

The Commission is proposing that special arrangements should be made for the least developed of these exporting countries, but that state-trading and newly-industrialised countries should be asked to offer better access to the Community's own exports.

The Commission also wants to take measures to clamp down on fraud by tightening control of rules governing labels indicating the country of origin of its textile and clothing imports.

Agriculture

Action to boost sugar prices

The Community is to increase its carryover stocks of sugar for the 1981/82 season by 600,000 tonnes to 1.8 million tonnes as a measure to firm up world prices for its

exporters. The announcement has already begun to have this effect.

The extra sugar to be stocked is being taken from A and B grades on which export refunds would have had to be paid out of Community funds to compensate exporters for the lower world price. As a result of the Community action, the world price increased by 11 per cent in two weeks.

The Community sugar harvest is expected to reach a record 14 million tonnes this year, compared with 12 million tonnes last year. Almost half of this will have to be exported.

Farm spending shows signs of dropping

Spending under the Community's Farm Fund reached a record £6.7 billion last year, compared with £6.1 billion the previous year. Spending is expected to drop this year as a result of world market price movements.

The success of the European Commission's efforts to control controversial farm spending is indicated by two figures: the annual rate of increase, which averaged 23 per cent between 1975 and 1979, was held back to 8.4 per cent last year, and the gross cost of the Farm Fund in relation to GDP dropped from 0.6 per cent in 1979 to 0.57 per cent last year.

The Commission is also having to devote more time to the battle against fraud. There were 246 cases uncovered last year, amounting to £12.4 million, of which only £9.44 million have been recovered. This was a massive increase over the 1979 total of 116 cases involving 1.2 million.

France, Italy end wine war

A wine war between Italy and France ended in mid-October after two months of tension which posed

Smaller juggernauts

The European Commission, swayed by the opinion of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, which represents special interest groups, has dropped from 44 to 40 tonnes the maximum weight it is proposing for lorries. There has been considerable opposition from environmentalists and others in some member states since the proposal was sent to the Council of Ministers in January, 1979. See article, p.8.

Dearer steel

Steelmakers belonging to the Eurofer club have decided to increase their prices from January 1 by between 15 and 20 per cent, according to reports. This follows increases in the cost of raw materials and energy of around 50 per cent during the past year.

NEWS IN BRIEF**For the regions**

A new batch of grants from the European Regional Fund worth £118 million brings total grants from the fund since it was set up in 1975 to £2.5 billion. The United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, Belgium, Greece, Italy and the Federal Republic of Germany benefit from the latest allocation.

Less work = less pay

UNICE, which represents national employers' federations at Community level, has come out strongly against any further reduction in the working week unless there is a corresponding cut in wages.

Producing less

Industrial production in the Community fell by 3.6 per cent in the year to June, according to Eurostat. In France, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom, however, some signs of recovery or stabilization were evident.

Fair trading?

France and Ireland are being taken to the European Court of Justice because of their government-backed campaigns to promote domestically-produced goods in their own markets. The European Commission is asking the Court to decide if certain promotion practices are contrary to the Community's competition laws.

one of the most serious threats to date to the smooth functioning of the common market.

The situation arose over opposition of French wine growers in the Midi to imports of cheap Italian wine which is used to fortify some of the French wines. It came to a head when a cargo of Italian wine was destroyed in the French port of Sète.

Subsequently, the French customs refused to allow the importation of a million hectolitres of Italian wine on the grounds that the cargoes were not accompanied by adequate documentation.

After intense negotiations through September and October, in which European Commission President Gaston Thorn played an important "honest broker" role between the two governments, the French began to release the wine in mid-October.

A similar row, over imports of poultry into the United Kingdom and Ireland, because of different national regulations designed to control fowl pest, had still not been resolved as Euroforum went to press.

Cut-price gas leads to demo

Hundreds of angry farmers took to the streets of Brussels at the end of September to protest at the subsidised heating gas for greenhouses provided by the Dutch government to its growers.

The dispute has simmered for years but has now come to the boil as greenhouse producers in other EEC countries face increasing difficulties.

The Dutch say they are ready to phase out the aid by 1984. But this is considered too slow for their competitors who want the European Commission to initiate legal proceedings, unless the timetable is speeded up.

Fisheries**Common fishing policy in sight?**

The first major breakthrough in over six years of talks on a

Common Fisheries Policy has been made by Community Fishery Ministers.

The agreement, after 10 hours of talks, allowed the Community to ratify fishing agreements with Canada, Sweden and the Faroes. These had earlier been blocked for fear they would have resulted in cheap fish entering the Community and threatening the livelihood of some European fishermen.

This threat melted away when Ministers agreed to set up a marketing system, loosely on the lines to that used in the Common Agricultural Policy, to ensure fishermen a minimum price for their catch.

The final element in the package will see £15 million spent from this year's Community budget to encourage boat modernisation and fish farming.

The Commissioner responsible for Fisheries, George Contogeorgis, said afterwards that the political will now existed among the Ministers to reach final agreement by the end of this year on the other outstanding issues, mainly fixing the total allowable catch, quotas and access for the fishermen of one member state to the waters of another.

Third World**New strategy to combat hunger**

A crusade against hunger in the world has been launched by the new European Commissioner responsible for relations with the Third World, Edgard Pisani.

The Commission has approved his plan of action to relieve hunger which results from the conference in Paris in September, dealing with the plight of the least-developed countries and the recent initiative of the Italian Government calling for a coordinated effort by industrialised countries. It now goes to the Council of Ministers for approval.

Mr Pisani has proposed a four-point strategy: an immediate additional aid programme of £24 million which would enable the Community to send 250,000 tonnes of cereals to the most needy countries; better coordination of the aid actions of the member states; regional programmes to combat desertification, stripping of forests and pests which can mean the loss of up to one-third of the harvest in some countries; and more active Community participation in inter-

THE MONTH IN EUROPE

national aid programmes.

At their meeting in Brussels on September 14, the Community's Foreign Ministers agreed on rules for defining food aid objectives and the procedures for implementing the measures involved. The aim is to make food aid, which amounts to more than 1 million tonnes this year, an instrument of the Community's general Third World policy.

The issue must now go before the European Parliament. One of the main points it will be considering is whether the Council of Ministers or the Commission should have the final say on the distribution of food aid.

Third World

Spotlight on South Africa's 'aggression'

The situation in Namibia and other Southern African nations which have suffered from South African aggression in recent months was one of the key issues discussed by European parliamentarians and their African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) counterparts at a recent meeting in Luxembourg.

Although the meeting condemned the 'repeated and persistent' South African aggression against other countries in the region, ACP proposals calling for stronger criticism of European states and multinational companies which continue 'through their activities to give active support and encouragement to the apartheid regime in South Africa' were rejected by the Europeans.

However, a resolution adopted by the parliamentary meeting 'deplored the fact that European governments had not drawn up reports on the results of the application of the Code of Conduct for Community companies operating in South Africa.

European states were also urged to 'observe strictly the embargo on Arms and oil against South Africa imposed by the United Nations' and to suspend all cultural agreements with Pretoria.

Budget

Cuts mean more money for new projects

For the second time this year the European Commission has been able to make substantial cuts in Community budget spending as a result of a rise in VAT revenue and a reduction in farm price support measures due to increases in world agricultural prices.

Member states will be reimbursed just over £413 million in total. The Commission has also been able to reduce envisaged agricultural spending under next year's budget by £224 million.

It is proposing that, of the money saved, £24 million be devoted to increased food aid to the poorest Third World countries, £37 million this year and £29 million next year for social measures in the steel industry, and £18 million as the first payment for a massive regional reconstruction programme in Northern Ireland.

During its September session, the European Parliament approved reduced budget spending this year which effectively ends a dispute between the Commission and certain member states which objected to the level of their contributions to the budget.

Money

More realistic rates fixed within EMS

Central rates within the European Monetary System were adjusted for the fourth time since the system was introduced in 1979 when Finance Ministers met in Brussels on October 4.

The Deutsche mark and the Dutch guilder were revalued by 5.5 per cent, and the French franc and Italian lira devalued 3 per cent vis-à-vis the Danish kroner, the Belgian franc, the Luxembourg franc and the Irish pound.

Neither the United Kingdom nor Greece is a member of the system, which is designed to limit exchange rate fluctuations between its members' currencies.

The new rates, which François-Xavier Ortoli, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for

economic and monetary affairs described as "realistic", were made necessary by the decline in the value of the U.S. dollar. This sent money flooding into the Deutsche mark which consequently threatened to go beyond its permitted margin of fluctuation with other EMS currencies.

Clearer picture of banks sought

The European Commission has suggested to the Council of Ministers that the larger banks in the Community should be subject to surveillance on the basis of consolidated accounts.

This would apply only to banks which have a majority stake in another credit or financial institution.

The move is seen as a logical follow-up to Community legislation adopted four years ago laying down norms for the setting up and operation of a credit institution. The aim is to give a clearer picture of a bank's total operations.

Energy

Community signs nuclear pact with Australia

Conditions for the transfer of nuclear material from Australia to the Community have been agreed.

The agreement, which will remain in force for 30 years, provides the Community with a further diversification of its nuclear suppliers and marks a substantial step forward in the development of its relations with Australia.

The conditions include prohibition of explosive and military use, application of a system of safeguard applied by Euratom and the International Atomic Energy Agency, fallback safeguards and adequate physical protection for workers in the industry and for the general public.

The agreement also sets out conditions under which nuclear materials could be reprocessed and retransferred to third countries, as well as procedures for consultations on conditions under which high enrichment can be carried out.

Davignon nudges Ten to closer cooperation

Energy Commissioner Etienne Davignon has unveiled a new Community strategy for conducting a joint energy policy that would give the European Commission a more central role in coordinating the policies of the Ten.

The strategy covers energy taxation and pricing, the development of nuclear energy (and security research), natural gas imports and common action to prevent price distortions in the event of world shortages.

The case for Community action is particularly relevant with regard to natural gas since five member states are currently negotiating with the Soviet Union to pipe gas from Siberia to Western Europe.

External relations

Turkey urged to restore democracy

The importance the Community attaches to the restoration of democracy in Turkey was emphasised by Commission Vice-President Wilhelm Haferkamp when Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen visited Brussels recently to discuss his country's relations with the Community. He also met Commission President Gaston Thorn in Luxembourg.

Mr Haferkamp said he hoped the programme announced by the Ankara government, which took over following a coup d'etat a year ago, to restore a pluralist parliamentary democracy, would be implemented without delay.

Turkey has an association agreement with the Community which is designed to pave the way for its eventual accession. Only those European countries whose democratic credentials are acceptable to the existing member states are entitled to apply for membership.

The European Trade Union Confederation has sent letters to Mr Thorn and to Lord Carrington, the current President of the Council of Ministers, calling for the suspension of the association

agreement with Turkey, as was done during the seven years of the Greek military dictatorship.

Disquiet over Korea's surplus

The Community's trade deficit of more than \$1 billion with South Korea last year, double the 1979 figure, was one of the main points emphasised by European Commission President Gaston Thorn when he met the Korean Prime Minister Duck-Woo Nam in Brussels recently.

The Korean leader assured the President that his government was gradually introducing more liberal arrangements for imports and that 90 per cent of its market would be opened up by 1985.

Mr Thorn also underlined the importance of a respect for democratic and human rights as a condition of the development of trade and cooperation between the Community and Korea.

Nuclear swop

An agreement between the Community and the United States for an exchange of information and the carrying out of joint

programmes to avoid nuclear accidents like Three Mile Island has been proposed by the European Commission. It must now be approved by the Council of Ministers.

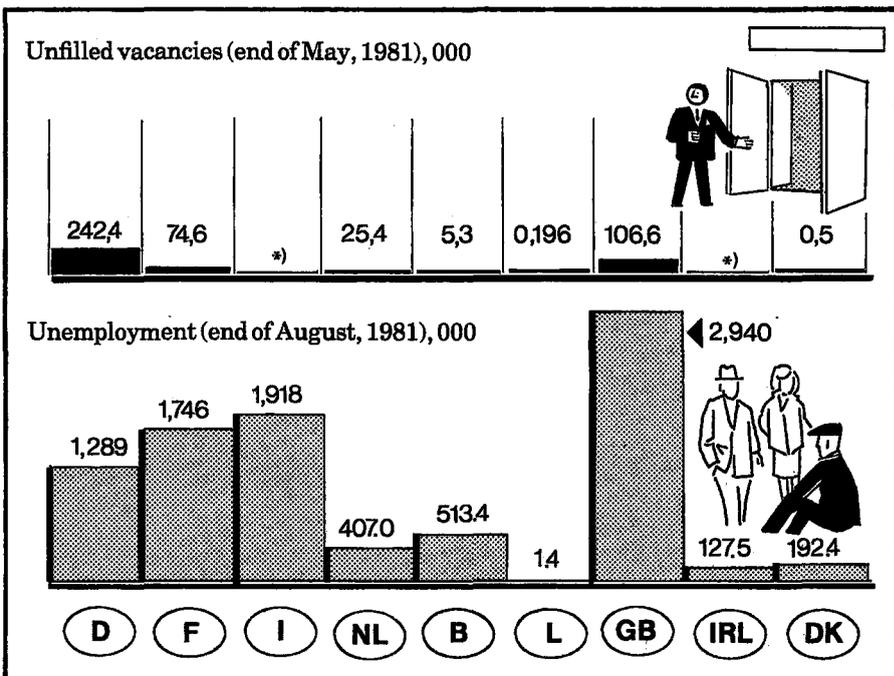
For almost two years the Community has been conducting research to prevent such accidents by means of the Super Sara project which simulates the Three Mile Island fuel leakage.

The economy Nearing the end of the recession?

The Community is coming to the end of the recession caused by the second round of oil price rises, according to the European Commission's annual economic report. Real GDP will fall slightly this year but should grow by two per cent next year.

Efforts to control inflation have met with little success and there are wide differences in performance between the Ten.

Next year, the level of price rises should be somewhat checked to around 10.5 per cent and unemployment, now running at 8.3 per cent of the working population and worsening, should stabilise at 8.5 per cent.



*n.a. = not available

EUROPE AND YOU

Community action in Year of Disabled

The International Year of Disabled People, as the United Nations has designated 1981, has done a lot to focus attention on the needs of the handicapped. As well as increasing public awareness about the problems, and encouraging more effective prevention of disability, IYDP (as it has come to be known) has emphasised the importance of integrating disabled people socially and economically into the life of the community, on a par with their fellow citizens.

All too often, inadequate housing, problems of transport, access to public buildings and entertainment, and difficulties in getting a job – particularly in a time of crisis – conspire to cut the disabled off from contact with other people. And with the best of intentions, special education, sheltered housing and sheltered workshops reinforce the "ghetto mentality".

The European Commission feels that the Community has an important role to play here.

There are about 23 million handicapped people in the Community, and every country makes special resources available to help disabled people overcome the practical and social problems they face. These problems overlap with almost all sections of Community social policy – employment, vocational training, social security and assistance, health, and so on. The Community can help member states benefit from each others' experience, and explore ways of combining individual actions into a coherent strategy.

'I want to see norms set from the best practices in the Community member states', says Ann Clwyd, rapporteur for the European Parliament's resolution on the economic, social and vocational integration of disabled people in the European Community, which was passed in March this year.

Though IYDP has intensified Community action in this field, concern for the integration of handicapped people at a European level goes back to a Commission mandate in 1969, and in 1974 the Community launched an action programme for the vocational rehabilitation of handicapped persons. As the Council of Ministers stated, its general aim must be 'to help these people to become capable of leading a normal in-

dependent life fully integrated into society. This general aim applies to all age groups, all types of handicaps, and all rehabilitation measures'. In 1976 the Community started financing pilot projects for building and adapting housing facilities, and this work goes on.

The European Social Fund offers financial aid to vocational rehabilitation efforts, especially in the less prosperous regions of the Community, and for projects demonstrating new methods. Financial support has been requested in the draft 1982 budget for special measures to help young handicapped people in the transition from school to work.

A number of specific actions have been completed or prepared for completion in 1981. In the field of employment a statistical study on 'The Handicapped and their Employment' is being updated, and data on disabled job-seekers is being collected to contribute to reforming the quota system under which between 2 per cent and 6 per cent of the workforce in larger firms in most Community countries has to be made up of handicapped people.

An evaluation of the action assisted by the Social Fund was held in October, and an evaluation study is underway on the Community assisted pilot schemes for housing disabled workers. Two conferences on related subjects have also been held.

A study on transport for disabled people is being set up by the Commission, and a comparative study on special education throughout the Community is being updated and extended to include Greece, Spain and Portugal.

A conference on 'The Preparation of Handicapped Children and Young People for Active Adult Life' is being held,

and Community experts have met with OECD representatives to consider ways to improve the social integration of the young handicapped. Four pilot schemes on the mobility and exchange of young handicapped people are being set up.

In another field, a feasibility study has been done for a proposed data bank covering the technical aids for the disabled produced or sold in Europe. As a result, a catalogue may be published. A handbook is also being prepared on technical resources to improve communication for the disabled, and regular cooperation meetings have begun between laboratories to improve information for users of technical aids.

More generally, an enquiry has been carried out on the practical consequences of disability as seen by the disabled themselves, and polls have been organised in three Member States (Italy, France and the UK) concerning the attitude of the general public to the disabled.

Links have been strengthened with European associations of disabled persons, and discussions have taken place with local authority associations to prepare for a conference in 1982 on "Policies concerning living conditions and social integration in the experience of local authorities".

With the aim of ensuring that the numerous activities involving various sectors are in future combined into one cohesive and strategic programme of work, the Commission is preparing new Community-level proposals in support of the social integration of the disabled.

With the year of the handicapped in mind, the proposed new Community Action Programme aims to involve all the sections concerned – education, training, employment, health, welfare, transport and housing – and all age-groups and categories of handicapped people. In particular, it aims to emphasise the importance of the local community.

The idea is to set up a network of district development projects based on more than a dozen districts throughout the Community. The aim would be to make it easier to carry out and evaluate at a local level the national policies to promote the social integration of the handicapped. A central steering group would help with the exchange of experiences and evaluate the European significance of what was being done.

Preference would be given to projects which stimulated innovations which

could be maintained in the long term, or multiplied elsewhere, rather than those which depended on a high level of Community support, which might falter once that support was removed.

Action would be concentrated in education and training, particularly the training of staff, participation by parents, provision of learning aids, and training for independence. In health and welfare, the emphasis would be on education, prevention and diagnosis, and on supporting the disadvantaged.

In employment, guidance and placement systems, retraining, and incentives to employers would be emphasised.

In transport, housing and access, the aim would be to help disabled people to participate not only in employment but also in the full cultural and social, and leisure life of the community.

As far as technical aids are concerned, the emphasis would be on improving information about the full range of aids available for learning, communication and mobility.

The Commission is also aware that there is an important job to be done in information, communication and public awareness, as well as in cooperation and coordination between the statutory and voluntary services.

In each district the Community programme would be responsible for research, facilitating innovation, organising the exchange of experiences, evaluating and disseminating information both nationally and at a European level. If the Council of Ministers approves this sort of integrated programme, work could probably start in earnest in 1983.

ECYC needs more cash to keep going

An energetic American lady with a passion for Europe and its youth, and a persuasive way of putting her point across, is currently touring Europe looking for businessmen who are willing to help finance her dream.

Joy Bryer is the Secretary General of the European Community Youth Orchestra, and is committed to winking out the money needed to keep it going.

Fresh from its fourth season, and flush with accolades from the critics, the orchestra needs private sponsors to

supplement the budget it receives from the European Commission and the ten member state governments. Mrs Bryer is confident of getting that private finance in time for the 1982 season.

As she puts it: 'I don't mind seeing 2,000 businessmen and telling them how they should use their money – maybe its because I'm American. We're seeing a number of possible sponsors throughout Europe and are hopeful of a major sponsor coming through'.

The European Community Youth Orchestra (ECYO) is made up of 130-odd musicians between the ages of 14 and 23 from the ten member states. Competitions are held throughout the Community every year and the young musicians are chosen on merit, although the organisers try to aim for as even a proportion of musicians from the ten countries as possible.

There is a nucleus of regular players in the orchestra although they still have to re-audition for their places.

The prize for being chosen is the chance to work with top conductors and soloists on a tour that annually sees the orchestra playing in venues throughout Europe. The competition and tour are fully subsidised, so no young musician should be prevented from taking part for financial reasons.

'The main commitment on my part', says Mrs Bryer, 'is to make sure we have the funds for national competitions and to ensure that everyone is given a chance'. Mrs Bryer does not expect governments to come up with more money than they already do. 'We must be the last thing that anyone wants to give money to because we're basically youth and we're amateur', she says. 'We wouldn't anyway want governments to withdraw money from a professional outfit to give it to an amateur one, which is why we approach the private sector for finance. We have found a number of companies interested in the arts and also interested in the European ideal'.

The orchestra is unique in that it is subsidised by the European Commission, the ten member state governments and the private sector working together to accomplish a common goal – a Community Symphony Orchestra. Mrs Bryer sees the ECYO as a natural stepping stone for musicians from school orchestras and national youth orchestras.

'In a way we represent the best and the finest the Community is doing for its young people. There must be projects like ours and I hope there will be more with young people meeting together. Otherwise it is hard for people to understand why they are Europeans. The

level we work at means we are not solely concerned with the musicians but are involved with their families who come to understand what they are doing, that they are part of a Community which has perhaps been a little alien to them.

'It is simpler to identify with Europe through music and through the work of these young people. At the cultural level this is a unique way of involving them'. She adds: 'I would like to see a European jazz orchestra, a European soccer team – the field is open to anyone who wants to go out and do it'.

The ECYO was born as a result of an all-party resolution agreed by the European Parliament in 1976. Its aims and ideals are to demonstrate the co-operation and creativity of European youth, giving them a chance of living and working together and developing friendships in a bid to break down national barriers, thus producing more enlightened Europeans equipped to play a part in the welfare and betterment of Europe.

'We cannot bring up young Europeans today simply by putting together a Community which exists solely for economic reasons,' says Mrs Bryer.

The enthusiasm the young people have for their orchestra has led to an ECYO Chamber Orchestra being formed from the cream of the ECYO, a project put forward by the musicians themselves. The young musicians have given concerts in the major capitals and regional towns of the Community and have performed with many leading musicians. Daniel Barenboim claims they compare favourably with most of the world's famous orchestras.

The orchestra received rave notices wherever it played this summer with the most adventurous concept performed at St Albans' Abbey in St Albans, Hertfordshire. The Brahms Violin Concerto with Shlomo Mintz was followed by the Berlioz Te Deum, involving a massed choir of about 500 voices, tenor Francisco Araiza and organist Martin Haselböck. The Te Deum was simultaneously broadcast by BBC Radio, filmed by Polytel and recorded by Deutsche Grammophon for the ECYO's first record.

Auditions have started for the 1982 European Community Youth Orchestra and the new orchestra will be announced at the end of February. The successful musicians will have the unrivalled opportunity to work with some of the world's finest conductors, giving concerts in about eight cities. And Mrs Bryer is determined that the 1982 season will prove even more of a success than 1981.

EUROPEAN REVIEW

Wanderlust pays little heed to economic crisis

Though clouds of doom, blackened by the energy crisis, darken the economy to the colour of an oil slick, there still appears to be a silver lining for the travel trade.

Shortages of energy and income have not stopped people travelling. Indeed, last year was yet another record for world tourism, up 2 per cent in receipts on the previous year.

In money terms, according to the OECD, receipts were up 15 per cent for its members, which include all the Community countries. Australia led the field with an increase of 36.5 per cent.

The Community fell a little short of the average on 11.5 per cent, with a wide range of performance among the individual member states: the Netherlands (+ 21.2), France (20.7), Ireland (16.1), and the United Kingdom (15.3) above the OECD average, and Germany (14.2), Belgium/Luxembourg (10.8), Italy (8.7), Greece (4.3) and Denmark (1.9) below.

Reading between the lines

Book prices in different member states are being investigated by the European Commission to determine whether various agreements which exist in the trade are in contravention of the Community's laws designed to prevent monopolies.

Initially, studies of the book-publishing industry are being confined to English and French language areas, but it is proposed to extend this to German and Dutch areas next year.

Bid to reduce accidents in the home

The Community has decided to set up an Interpol to identify dangerous products which cause accidents in the home, a phenomenon which has reached worrying levels as

household gadgets and other products become more complicated.

An information network is being set up between the member states which, working in collaboration with consumer groups, hospitals and other interested bodies will monitor accidents. The system will be capable of handling more than 300,000 cases a year.

At the end of a 30-month experimental period, information relating to the accidents will be collated and it is hoped in this way to identify the frequency of involvement of certain dangerous products. Community legislation could then follow to remove them from the market.

Keeping pace

Consumer price rises in the Community were exactly in line with those in other industrialised European countries during the first six months of the year, according to the OECD.

The rise during the six months to July for Community and non-Community countries was 6 per cent. For the 12 months to the end of July, the increases in the OECD were 11.2 and 12.3 per cent respectively.

Should Ten join the space race?

A former chief test pilot of the Concorde aircraft, André Turcat, took advantage of his latest appearance in the European Parliament during its September session to appeal for a greater European commitment to space.

Mr Turcat, a member of the European Progressive Democrats group, tabled a motion on behalf of the Parliament's energy and research committee calling for a Community follow-up to the European Space Agency's Ariane programme.

The French parliamentarian would like to see the Community develop its own heavy launcher and to be in a position to place heavy satellite stations in geostationary or low orbit before 1990. Nor does he

see any reason why the Community should not be capable of developing the know-how for performing rendezvous and docking in space, unmanned space flights and re-entry and recovery operations.

The Parliament approved the motion and called on the European Commission to submit proposals within six months for an ambitious Community space programme. Commissioner Etienne Davignon said he saw the chief problem as being whether space fell within the Community's competence or not.

Looking to our health

Proposals for a Community health research programme which would cost more than £118 million have been drawn up by the European Commission and now must be approved by the Council of Ministers.

The five-year programme, a follow-up to an existing programme started in 1978, would concentrate on three main areas — health problems connected with critical stages of life such as birth or ageing; the improvement of medical technology and personnel training; and the effects of nutrition and pharmaceutical products on health.

Fog lifting over Channel

The Channel Tunnel, which has been a topic for intermittent discussion since the days of Napoleon, who first suggested it (and of Wellington, who didn't like the idea) is back in the news again following the recent visit to London of President Mitterrand of France.

Both he and the British Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher revealed that they had agreed, among other things they discussed, that there could yet be light at the end of the Channel, a project which was kept alive at Community level while national authorities on either side of the Straits of

Dover blew hot and cold on the idea in recent years.

A few days after the Downing Street talks, French Transport Minister Charles Fiterman discussed the idea in more detail during a meeting he had in Brussels with Transport Commissioner George Contogeorgis. The Commissioner subsequently held talks with the British Transport Minister David Howell.

Community aid could be available for the project as it is seen as an important rail and possibly road link between the United Kingdom — and to a lesser extent Ireland — and their continental Community partners.

MEP sees Mum as password to unity

Should all Community member states celebrate Mother's Day on the same date each year? That is a question which was posed recently by Eugène Remilly, a French member of the European Progressive Democrats in the European Parliament.

The question of celebrating Mother's Day and similar important events on the same date throughout the Community is currently a matter of discussion in the Parliament's Political Affairs Committee.

Mr Remilly wanted to know if the European Commission could persuade national authorities to come to some arrangement on Mother's Day at least. He felt this would help to promote the idea of European unity.

The Commission said that it would await the outcome of the Committee's deliberations with interest, but it pointed out that account should be taken of the fact that traditions vary from one Community region to another.

EUROFORUM is prepared by the information services of the European Commission in Brussels. Editor: Peter Doyle.

The Left faces isolation over Europe

Distance, it is said, lends enchantment to the view. But looking back to the Labour Party conference in Brighton this year it is equally true that things which seemed clear and sharp at the time are perhaps now more blurred and indistinct. The European debate was a good example.

Here is an issue which, for good or ill, affects profoundly Britain's trading links, our lifeline to the rest of the world, for the rest of this century and beyond. Our international political relationships in a sometimes uncomfortably hostile world, our capacity to contribute to the development of the Third World, our attractiveness to inward investment from North America and Japan are all affected in some degree by membership of the EEC. The debate at Brighton was over in little more than half an hour, and it failed to examine any more than a handful of the issues involved.

The European Community, it seems, is simply the embodiment of all Britain's national ills. Self-evidently, therefore, we ought to withdraw from it as soon as possible to build again in our new Jerusalem amid the dark satanic shells of disused and bankrupt factories in post-Thatcher Britain. Having said that, we can safely consign the European issue to the file marked 'not to be thought about'.

Or can we? Have we in the Labour Party perhaps allowed ourselves to be taken over too completely by anger at some of the priorities and practices of the Community? Have we even perhaps allowed ourselves to be dazzled by the powerful oratory in favour of withdrawal, to the point where we can accept the superficial?

Have we in the Labour Party thought carefully enough about the alternatives that may be available to us after withdrawal? Is it possible that, even as socialists, we have committed the sin of letting our hearts rule our heads?

In pragmatic terms, the argument about trading patterns needs further examination. It is certainly true that Britain's trade deficit with the EEC grew alarmingly in the first few years of membership, but in more recent years this has turned into a visible trade surplus. Of course, it is argued that the figures are distorted unfairly because a proportion (13 per cent in 1980) is accounted for by oil. That argument has never been used about other similar, but more historically accepted, exports. And it ignores both the effect of being an oil producer on the exchange rate and the fact that investment in the oil industry in the past is now clearly reflected in the pattern of British industrial production and exports.

In the event of Britain's withdrawal from the EEC, careful negotiations would therefore be necessary to safeguard these existing export markets; and it must be borne in mind that, whereas we depend on the Community to take around 45 per cent of our exports, only 7 per cent of EEC exports come into Britain.

KEN COLLINS, MEP for Strathclyde East, deputy leader of the Labour Party group in the European Parliament, suggests there could be second thoughts about Labour taking Britain out of the Community

Again, of course, we are told that we would be negotiating from a position of strength. But it is a little difficult to see how, if there are now problems in trading and competing with other Community countries, we can suddenly become powerfully competitive from outside.

Clearly, there are implications for employment if we withdraw. The UK currently takes about 50 per cent of Japanese and North American inward investment in Europe, and all of the production from that investment is aimed directly at the Community. BL's new Triumph Acclaim is designed for such a market in conditions of free trade, and we must ask ourselves whether such a venture, and such investment trends, would continue if Britain were outside the Community.

It is said that the real socialist case for withdrawal from the EEC is the effect that our membership has had on our own independence and our own parliamentary sovereignty. The Treaty of Rome (so runs the argument) would not allow us to intervene to save our industries; and it is therefore necessary for socialists to advocate dissociation from the burdens of Common Market membership.

The curious thing about this argument is that it is only in Britain that the Left can be found using it. The idea of sovereignty and socialism in one country hardly appears on any other left-wing party's agenda. And indeed it is not at all uncommon to find that it is the Left who argue most strongly in favour of a convergence of member states, in political as well as in economic terms. In other words, the issue is generally not seen as the touchstone of left-wing politics anywhere except Britain.

Secondly, the activities of President Mitterrand's new socialist government in France would suggest a different approach anyway. He has refused to become enmeshed in speculation about the grand theory of the Treaty of Rome. He has his economic strategy, and it appears he has the political will to put it into practice.

Is it so ridiculous to suggest that the Labour Party could perhaps learn from his experience? It may even be the case that, by so doing, the Party could contribute enormously to the achievement of serious change in the order of

priorities in the Community itself, so that it would be more acceptable to socialists throughout Europe.

It is, of course with precisely this in mind that, in recent weeks, a new group within the Labour Party has been formed, with George Foulkes as vice-chairman. They are called Red Rose (using the popular symbol of so many socialist parties) and they are campaigning for a socialist Europe. They are not pro-Market in the old starry-eyed right-wing sense, but wish to see Britain remain within the present Community of Ten so that they can work with socialists and the broad Labour movement to build a proper Community in social and political terms.

'The Labour Party could learn from Mitterrand's experience'

Far from being in love with the present priorities and the present relationships, Red Rose are at least as critical as any of the traditional 'antis'. But instead of retreating defensively into our own island, they are concerned to attack, to forge links, and to change.

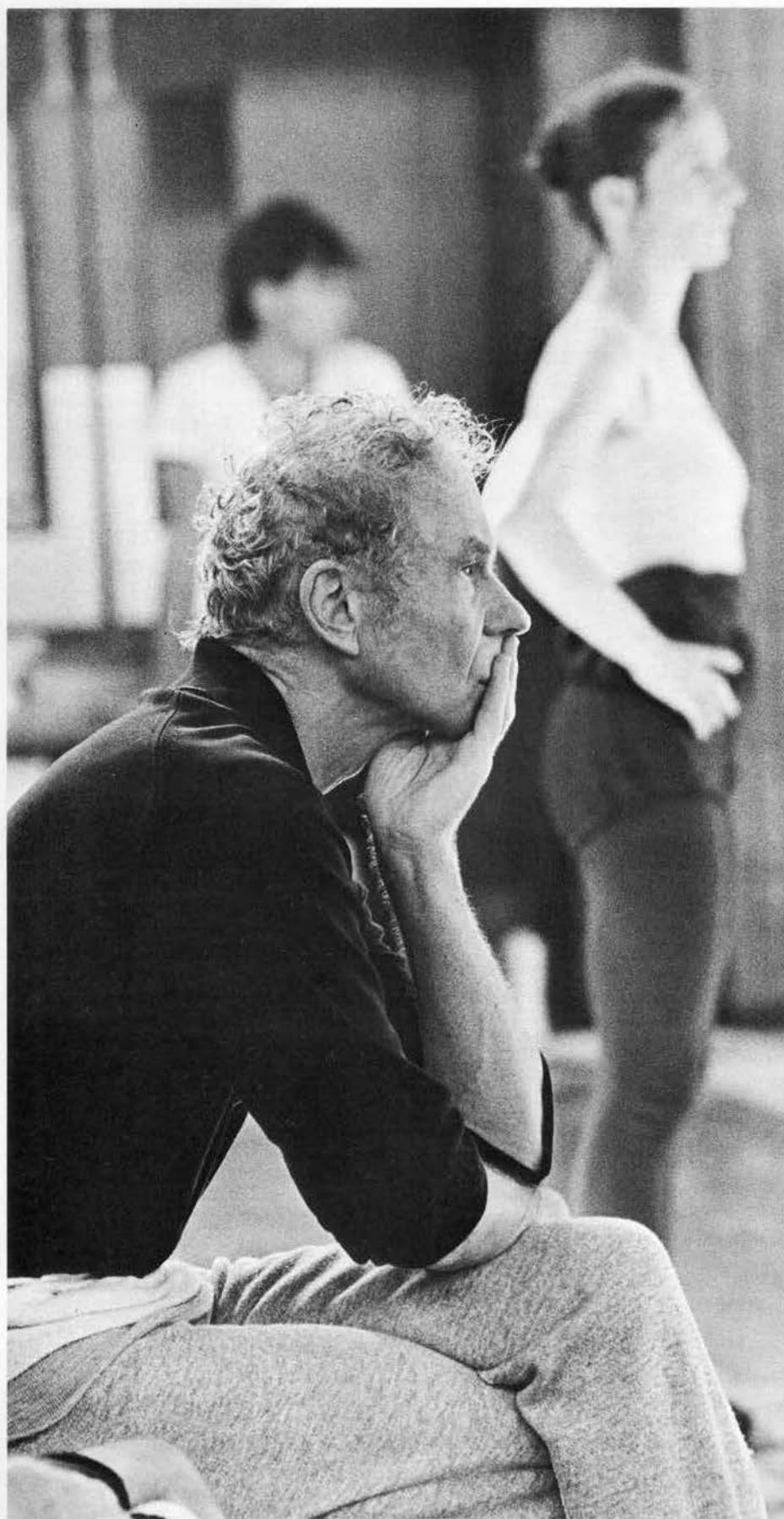
The fact is that, in the two years or so since direct elections to the European Parliament, cracks have begun to appear in the structure of the Community. Farm spending is down as a proportion of the total budget, and it is now accepted that no one country (least of all a poor one) should be the paymaster of Europe.

The Parliament itself, although an uncertain and clumsy fledgling of an institution, is slowly learning how to scrutinise sharply, how to influence, and how to be a uniting platform for peoples whose political views are often separated by the narrower concerns of nation states.

The Labour Party are, of course, central to all of this. They could ignore the signs of change, and they could ignore the implications for their future policy when they form the next Government. They could even ignore the case of the pragmatists for remaining within Europe.

The Labour Party, however, are a canny party; and although the voice of conference appeared clear, it seems increasingly likely that the thought of being isolated from the mainstream of socialist activity in Europe in favour of major change in the Community will become more unpleasant, and that the clear image of Brighton in 1981 will blur.

□ This article is reproduced with acknowledgements to The Scotsman.



PICTURES: BEN JOHNSON

Young choreographers develop their talents under the experienced eye of the American director of the 1981 course, Merce Cunningham.



Those who survive it often say the experience has changed their lives. Actually, nobody has been lost – only taken aback that it is so tough, concentrated and demanding, intellectually as well as physically.

It is – to give its unavoidably clumsy title – the International Dance Course for Professional Choreographers and Composers. Its purpose is to benefit the art of dance in the widest sense, through a unique opportunity for collaboration between choreographers, composers and dancers from several different countries at a time.

Held for two weeks each August at the University of Surrey at Guildford, 30 miles from London, it has been partly funded since 1979 by the European Commission, through bursaries to participants from member countries. It originated in 1975, from support given to dance in Britain, by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, on whose advisory panel for dance I was then serving, which set it up to meet a need for more creative opportunity in the profession.

Dance companies operate under such economic pressure that it is seldom possible, in a busy performing schedule, to set aside time, space and dancers for emergent choreographers to try out ideas and gain creative technique and experience. We also found that little or no attempt was made in musical training to encourage composers to write for



Invitations to the dance

'Creative self-discovery' is the aim of an annual course for choreographers and musicians, supported by European grants, which was directed this year by Merce Cunningham, writes NOËL GOODWIN

dance, to study its particular needs, and to find that – contrary to ingrained prejudice – it could be a satisfying and profitable market for their talents.

Robert Cohan, artistic director of London Contemporary Dance Theatre, who has twice directed the course, told those taking part: 'What you have put together here in two weeks would have taken you two years to do elsewhere.' The essence of it is creative self-discovery, in a practical but deliberately intensified working situation, undertaken without the pressures of public performance, box-office success or competitive rivalry.

The prototype course was worked out in association with its first Director, Glen Tetley, an American choreographer based in Europe, and was confined to choreographers and composers then working in Britain – eight

of each, with a pool of about 24 dancers. From the high level at which we began, it was soon apparent that no one country could fill all the places on an annual basis. Australia and Canada, where similar courses have since been started, sent nominees from 1976. The following year the first German choreographer heralded wider European participation; and seven member countries of the EEC were represented by 1981.

Each course takes its character from the personality of its director, for whose task there are only a handful of suitable candidates in the world. None were available in 1980, so we suspended the course that year. After initiating the first course in 1975, Glen Tetley returned in 1979. Norman Morrice, now Director of the Royal Ballet, consolidated its first impact in 1976. Robert Cohan extended its character and content in 1977 and 1978. The New York composer, John Herbert McDowell, was music director from 1976 to 1979.

In 1981 a new character and method of working were brought to the course by Merce Cunningham, with John Cage, his long-time associate, as music director. It is too soon to assess the results, but individual comments suggest that a few more lives have been duly changed. None of this would have been achieved, however, without the forethought in planning and care for detail of Gale Law, the indefatigable administrative director for

each course, in reconciling fifty or so assorted temperaments for smooth day-to-day operation.

Those taking part do so entirely free of charge as individuals. So quality alone can be the first consideration in a rigorous selection process, undertaken by representative and funding bodies in the countries of origin. In Britain this is carried out by the trustees of the independent operating body, Creative Dance Artists Ltd, a registered charity (on which the Arts Council of Great Britain is represented), with a pool of dancers chosen from applicants of known professional reputation, or from auditions held in London.

There has never been any lack of applicants, even when it became known that the course involves a working day of 13 to 14 hours, from the first technique class at nine o'clock each morning to the performance and discussion of creative projects at night. Except for a slightly different pattern set this year by Merce Cunningham, the usual practice has been for the director to set creative projects at or after lunchtime, often allowing no more than three hours to compose what original choreography and music can be achieved in the time.

With such artificial time-pressures consciously applied, the object is not necessarily to produce a finished work but to make the best use of available time – in discussing, composing, relating, perhaps polishing. ▶

What emerges may be no more than a minute or two in duration. The process reflects, in concentrated form, the professional need to work within specified limits. At the end of the course, each choreographer receives a videotape of his or her project-work.

Usually the eight choreographers and eight composers work in pairs, permuted from day to day to bring about as much variety as possible. Some directors, especially towards the end of a course, may spread a project over more than one day. The composers involve themselves in the performance of each other's works, with up to four extra musicians invited as instrumentalists. The scores may range from a solo instrument or synthesiser study to a fully-scored chamber ensemble.

Obviously, the course requires facilities beyond residential and catering accommodation for upwards of 60 people. It needs a hall large enough for over 30 dancers to take class at one time, and in which project work can be performed. It also needs not less than eight individual studios for project work to be simultaneously prepared, and other space for composers to work and rehearse. Since 1976 the course has been well housed at Guildford, where the University has made available the advanced technical resources of its *Tonmeister* degree music department, as well as other facilities.

'It is now becoming possible to observe the influence of the course on modern dance'

So far, the courses have involved 48 choreographers and 48 composers. More than 150 dancers have benefited from working with them, and from taking class with the outstanding teachers who have also been engaged. From the first five courses, we know that all the choreographers, and most of the composers, have later created professional work for dance, whether in their own countries or elsewhere. Some choreographers have gone on to become directors of companies; and some composers have made careers within dance they would never previously have contemplated.

Within the last 10 years or so, classical and modern dance has become a universal growth area in the arts. Much of its health depends on the nurturing of new talent for new works, without which any art must stagnate. The International Dance Course exists to help artists realise their creative intentions, with a practical and imaginative awareness they would not otherwise have acquired at the outset of their professional careers. It is now becoming possible to observe the widening influences of the course on modern dance, on classical ballet, and on the musical element of both.

It has been the subject of a BBC Television

documentary, and a short TV film on its work is available for showing in other centres. The nature of the course makes it cost-intensive – operating costs have risen from some £14,000 in 1975 to more than £35,000 in 1981. For the first three years it was funded almost entirely by the UK branch of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, which then began reducing its commitment when the course was seen to be successfully working.

Individual bursaries have been awarded to British participants by the Arts Council. Equivalent organisations in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Greece also help

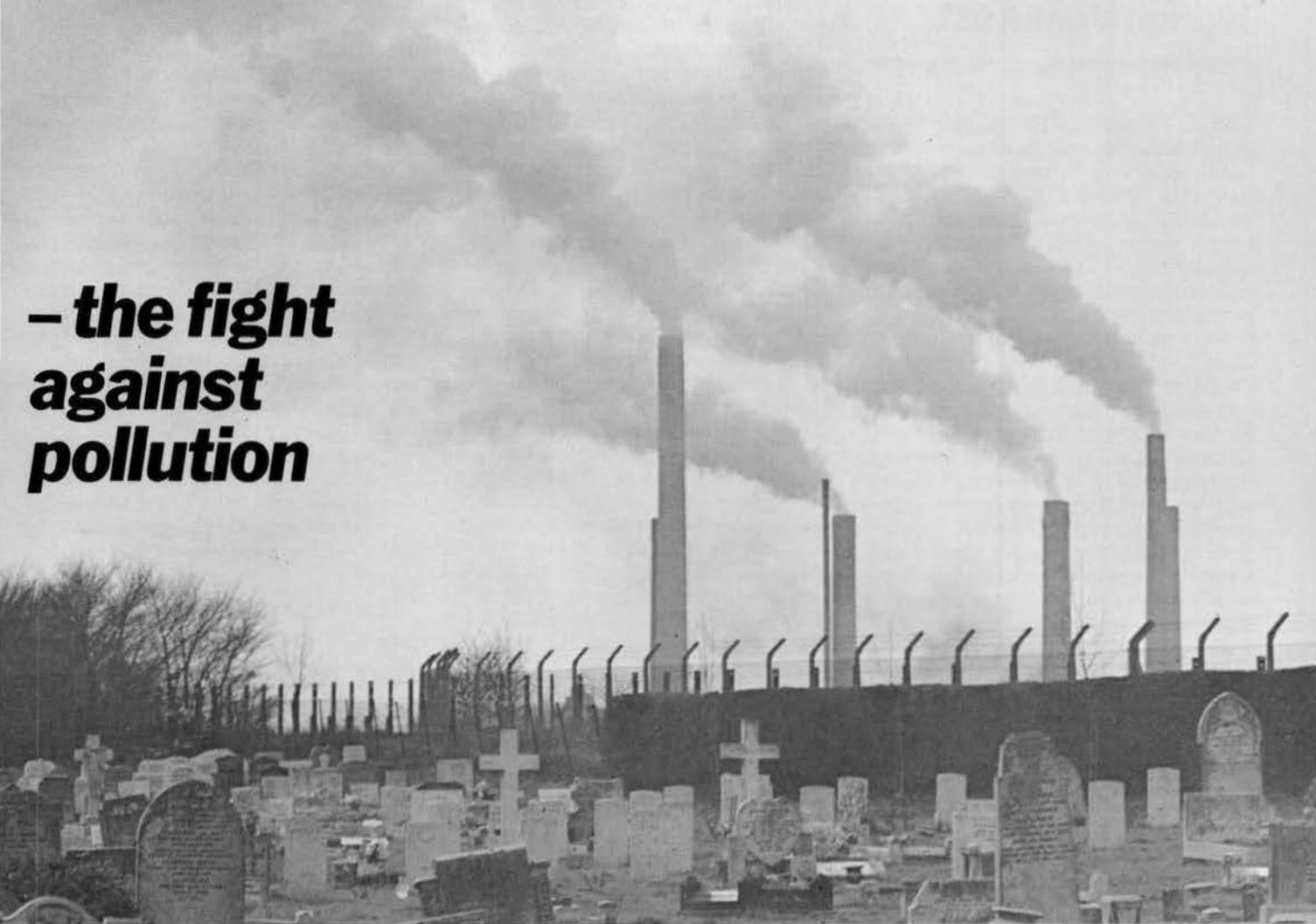
with funds, as does the EEC. What is still needed is some guarantee of a basic sum for preparatory organisation each year – a credit balance in hand to work with, to assist a project which is not a matter of public presentation (and is, indeed, deliberately kept away from the public eye for the benefit of the artists involved), but which is now making an increasingly significant contribution to the art of dance in many countries.

□ Noël Goodwin, a trustee of the International Dance Course, is chairman of the Arts Council's dance advisory panel and associate editor, *Dance and Dancers*.



A CAUSE FOR EUROPE

- the fight against pollution



RON BARRY reports on the Community's efforts to make its environmental policies stick – and on what it is ready to spend on ecological research

When the Community's member states signed the Treaties of Rome, it was with the aim of improving the standard of living for all their citizens. In recent years they have come to realise

that economic progress is not enough: it needs to be accompanied by an improvement in the quality of life – which is largely conditioned by the physical environment.

Pollution in one form or another affects the daily lives of us all – in particular the 70 per cent of the Community's population who are city-dwellers. Suburbs are extending and merging. Concentrations of men and industry generate pollution, to a point where one wonders to what extent the environment is capable of absorbing Man's assault on Nature.

The level of public awareness has been heightened in recent years by some spectacular disasters, notably at Seveso in Italy and at Flixborough in the UK, demonstrating the risks inherent in the industrial processing of dangerous substances. Similarly, the Amoco

Cadiz and Torrey Canyon disasters have illustrated the dangers of oil pollution at sea.

The heads of state or government attending the EEC Paris summit in October 1972 agreed that an acceptable Community policy covering all aspects of environmental control would not only overcome such suspicions, but could also lead to savings. These could be achieved through better use of renewable and non-renewable raw materials; by rationalising often fragmented and expensive scientific research through the regular exchange of resources and ideas; and by giving authority to Community rules relating to the manufacture and use of toxic substances.

The first action programme along these lines was drawn up and adopted in 1973 – backed by the formation of a unit for the prevention and control of environmental pollution within the European Commission. This has been followed by a five-year programme for 1977-81. It is now well under way, and a third programme is at the discussion stage.

The objectives within the Community's environmental policy are achieved by assigning to member states responsibilities falling under four main headings. First of these is the reduction, by remedial means, of pollution and nuisances detrimental to natural re- ▶

'Toxic wastes can find their way into human stomachs'

sources. The second objective is to protect natural resources and the environment by regulation or – in the longer term – legal restriction. Thirdly, member states are pledged to organise back-up measures in the form of research, publicity, economic studies and educational campaigns. Finally, they must seek international solutions where this is most appropriate.

To be wholly effective such a policy must observe certain basic rules. The polluter should meet the costs of preventing or removing the nuisance; but in certain circumstances he should have recourse to Community finance in setting up, say, a pilot scheme on technologies likely to be of benefit to other member states. Prevention is given a high priority. And the appropriate level for effective action should be chosen – whether local, regional, national, Community or international – so that effort is neither repetitive nor fragmented.

More specifically, the Community should only step in if action at a national level needs to be placed within a wider authority to become fully effective, or if it involves a common interest (such as the safeguarding of water); or when the adoption of divergent national measures would cause major economic or social problems within the Community.

Such collective action in this field is already extensive. It covers the safeguarding of all natural resources which could be harmed or over-exploited by economic or social development. The work completed or in progress revolves around a double axis: the battle against pollution and nuisance and, increasingly, better management of the countryside, environment and natural resources.

The means to achieve such goals range from scientific study and research to the adoption of specific directives obliging member states to draw up their own laws or regulations in line with Community provisions. Some 60 European directives have already gained approval within the European Parliament.

Sea pollution is the subject of two series of provisions: one covering the control and gradual reduction of titanium dioxide waste – the origin of the 'red sludge' which destroys plankton growth – and a second aimed at controlling and reducing hydrocarbon discharges, the present level of which is a frightening 6 million tonnes per annum.

An action programme, adopted in 1978 following the Amoco Cadiz disaster, formulates disaster plans which embrace inventories of pollutant substances, methods of treating them where they occur, and an international list of tankers in service for which existing Community directives already require certain safety standards.

It is in areas such as these that the combined weight of the Community membership has some meaning in negotiating rules applicable to toxic products and their safe transportation with the United States and with other nations through such international bodies as OECD, UNEP, ECE and the Council of Europe.

Control of atmospheric pollution is largely an internal affair, with European directives already limiting air pollution by motor vehicles, the level of sulphur in heating-oils, and the lead content of petrol. Other directives set out quality levels and pollution limits for sulphur dioxide and suspended particles. Maximum noise levels have been laid down for cars, lorries, motor-cycles, tractors and subsonic aircraft used or manufactured within the Community. Another directive defines methods to be used in measuring the noise emitted by manufacturing industry, both within the plant and outside.

In an attempt to control the impact of chemicals on the environment, several Community directives define 'biodegradability' standards for detergents, as well as classification, packaging and labelling norms for pesticides, solvents and paints. The use of several dangerous chemical substances, such as PCB, certain phytopharmaceutical preparations, and fluorocarbons in aerosols which destroy the earth's ozone layer, has also been specifically limited.

New provisions, drawn up following the Seveso accident, aim to prevent the risk of major disasters in certain industrial processes, and to limit their consequences by requiring the publication and dissemination of safety procedures and disaster plans.

It is becoming clear that all the things we dump into the environment return in one form or another. Atmospheric pollutants are dispersed by the winds and then brought down to earth again by the rains. Pesticides, herbicides or fertilisers, when extensively or indiscriminately used, can have serious effects on wildlife, watercourses, soil composition and so on.

Toxic wastes – particularly lead, mercury and other heavy metals – can enter the food chain at any point and find their way to human stomachs. In the Mediterranean, the level of pollution has reached disturbing levels. The Rhine and the Schelde have been virtually turned into sewers.

As reported in the October issue of EUROPE 81, the Commission is involved in drawing up an ecological 'map' to help visualise the differing environmental data, so that it can be related to economic and social demands. There is now provision for all major industrial, agricultural or infrastructural projects to undergo a prior study of their impact on the environment. This embraces the use of effluents from intensive farming such as piggeries; the protection of plant species; the ecological aspects of large drainage or irrigation projects; and the use of pesticides, some of which have been banned.

Two Commission reports have been dedicated to forest policy, seeking to preserve a

balance between the main function of timber-growing and the rational use of the land. There are procedures and norms for the elimination and recycling of waste oils, and of toxic and dangerous wastes. Joint research programmes are helping to develop the recycling of urban and industrial waste and sewage sludge, as well as paper and cardboard, of which the Community is largely a net importer.

As for the financing of such projects, between 1980 and 1983 the EEC's Joint Research Centre will allocate more than 43 million EUA to research into the ecological impact of traditional electricity generating stations and of certain chemicals. Similar work to be undertaken during the period 1981-85, backed by a similar grant of Community funds. It will concentrate on climatology and the improvement of weather forecasting methods; the study of pollution – its causes, effects and possible reduction; the protection and management of the natural environment; the improvement of related data banks; and a study of the relationship between mankind and the environment. All this is overdue. But it may still be in time.

'The difficulties are real – but they should not be allowed to frustrate aspirations for better control of the environment'

Examining the problems and producing possible solutions is one thing. Implementation throughout the member states is another. It is here that most of the stumbling blocks lie. To begin with, there appears to be a considerable imbalance between the vast amount of work to be undertaken and the number of staff available – and qualified – to undertake it. Unanimous agreement is always difficult; so there often remains considerable scope for interpretation once an individual study has been undertaken. Industrial health and safety is a case in point – age of plant, depth of technological development, and national attitude to risk-acceptance, can lead to differences of opinion and delay the adoption of the remedies proposed.

The difficulties are real enough. They should not, however, be allowed to frustrate or circumvent Community aspirations for better control of the environment. Sizeable as it is, environmental control expenditure is running at less than 0.3 per cent of the annual rate of inflation in the Community. By cutting down damaging losses and the wasteful use of certain raw materials it is possible not only to purify the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the surroundings in which we live – but also to create job opportunities, estimated at several hundred thousand, throughout the Community. ☐



'There is no sense of equality for us in Europe – none at all'

BARBARA CASTLE, in an interview with Frank Entwisle, shows that she is still fighting – this time, for drastic changes in the structure of the Community

The Europe of the Six is comprehensible . . . The Europe of the Ten is in crisis . . . The Europe of the Twelve – without fundamental changes – is impossible. *Impossible!* Put that in your article. Put it in there!

The scene is a farm cottage in the Chiltern Hills, forty miles from London. Brilliant beechwoods illuminate autumn dusk. Red pantiles half hidden in a dell.

The speaker – preacher, rather – is Barbara Castle, MEP, Member of the British House of Commons from 1945 to 1979 ('I'm the Yorkshire girl who ended the Wars of the Roses by representing a Lancashire constituency – Blackburn'), Britain's first Minister of Overseas Development with cabinet rank, first woman Minister of Transport, Secretary of State for Employment and Productivity, then for the Social Services.

She sits in a plain armchair in country woollens, a wrought silver pendant her only elegance, the once flaming hair now russet.

In such a setting Brussels, Strasbourg, even Westminster might be remote abstractions. But her language, her rhetorical pauses, the way she lifts her arms, modulates her voice, are part of the immediate evangelism of the hustings rather than of conversation before a banked log fire in the Buckinghamshire countryside.

We have talked of old campaigns. 'My obsession was colonial freedom. I remember Winston Churchill viciously attacking the Prime Minister, Clem Atlee, when we made the centrepiece of our policy the independence of India. And this class! . . . this group! . . . these predecessors of Ted Heath! . . . they were so outraged when we said India must be free. To us, freedom and equality had to be world-wide. The world was our stage – not Europe. It had to reach into Africa, Asia and Latin America.

'One of the things that turned us against the European Economic Community was that it was a little closed shop for western privilege – with gracious relationships with some of the

people of Africa and Asia.

'Our fight is now against European exclusiveness . . . a rich nations' club patronising the poor nations in a world of the rich, and not really believing in their equality.'

Inevitably, we come to the apparent contradiction of her membership of the European Parliament.

'It's a very good question. A lot of Labour people ask me this. One example – I voted in the British Parliament against direct elections – against the Rich Mens' Club having the right to say that anyone who goes into this directly elected Parliament must have a European salary. The European salary would be the highest – the German salary. Twenty-four thousand a year in 1979. Nonsense! Grotesque! I relate to the British people who elected me. And I was not going to ask them to vote me a European salary when they were on British wages.'

'That is still not an answer to the question – which is why you became a Euro-MP.'

'I'm coming to that. I don't disagree with the Market of the Six. I can understand why they got together. It was historically and economically relevant in the aftermath of war. I can understand why young people in France and Germany should wish to leap the barriers and become one. I could understand why Italy – always weak and afraid – should wish to take protection.

'I could understand why Benelux should say "Well – it's not a bad deal for us." But the Europe of the Twelve is impossible. Let me explain that. I do not wish you to say that I am

like some of the French and German right wingers who are against enlargement. I am in favour of enlargement. *In favour!*

'But . . . enlargement is only possible within the context of the abandonment of the Treaty of Rome, the abandonment of the parameters of the Europe of the Six. There's got to be a fundamental, root-and-branch reconsideration and rebuilding. There should have been that when Britain, Denmark and Ireland joined.

'There's got to be a complete change in the bargain struck between France and Germany. Germany wanted the free market in manufactured goods. France said "We will only come in" – France said it, and they talk about Britain laying down terms, for God's sake! – "We will only come into your Common Market in manufactured goods if you give us a common agricultural policy which will underpin French agriculture".'

'France's terms meant that the enlargement of the Community from six to nine was unworkable. The terms France got made the enlargement from six to twelve. . . . *explosive!*

'Now – I understand France's anxieties. I am an internationalist. I *hope* I have sensitivity towards the problems and needs of other countries. I am a *bad* hater. I am a natural – I was going to say lover – but my instincts are towards tenderness, understanding and adaptability.

'The Treaty of Rome must be re-written before there can be any love, tenderness and sensitivity.

'I became a European MP because I'd studied the set-up. I'd suspected that the whole purpose of admitting Britain was to make her finance European agriculture – to make Britain take her food purchases away from cheaper sources like New Zealand. Europe is *not* industry. Europe is agriculture – 70 per cent of the budget. And only three per cent of our working population in agriculture.

'And I'll tell you the price we're paying now. When we say, "But look, Britain does not want to multiply her tax on beer to help the French wine industry" – and that's only one example – "Oh", they reply, "But when Britain joined she accepted the rules, so you must just subsidise the French and *blow* the British brewing industry . . ."

'There is no sense of equality in Europe for us. None at all! As far as Europe is concerned, Britain is a slightly awkward offshore island.

'When Britain negotiated they cooked the books. *They cooked the books!* They knew they'd got a fellow-traveller in Ted Heath. You know – he was so obsessed by the European idea that he just did not look at the small print – or even the large print! There was a terrible surrender by Britain. A surrender of equality.'

'What would you reply to a European who listened to this and said that you had gone into their Parliament as a saboteur?'

'Oh well, if you like to describe as a saboteur someone who says you are trying to finance yourselves on a basis which won't work, who says that the poor dear British infantry come

'There's got to be a complete change in the bargain struck between France and Germany'

in and buy your dearer food and then pay the second highest contribution to your inflated agricultural budget ... if you call that a saboteur I would call it a truth-teller.

'I believe that the European Community has taken to a path of mythology which won't work. They believe – they *pretend* they believe – in economic and monetary union. They *pretend* they believe in a federal Europe. This has kept the exponents of the European idea going. My experience is that the only people in the Community who *really* believe in an economic and monetary union are the Italian communists.

'Yes, it's very interesting this. It's part of the sophistication of European politics. The Germans don't want a federal Europe. The

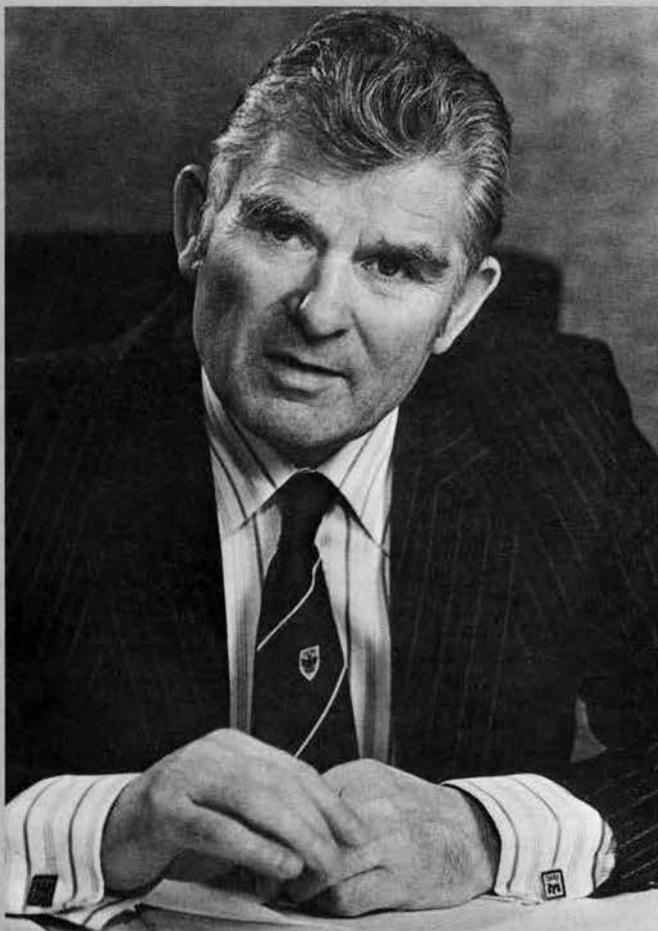
French are *totally* antagonistic.

'We must not drown ourselves in a mythology that Europe is about everybody sinking their self-interest. Baloney, my dear Frank! *Baloney!* The Community is the most nationalistic group I have ever met.'

But if Barbara Castle got the reforms *she* wants, could she see Britain ever joining in – or would it still be a rich mans' club?

'Since I entered the European Parliament I have worked for change – and I cannot say with much success. Now it is up to the Community to prove it can reform itself.' ☐

BRITAIN AND EUROPE – A TRADE UNION VOICE



It is now fairly clear that the Labour movement is taking up withdrawal from the European Economic Community as a major policy plank for the next Labour government.

I cannot disguise my lack of enthusiasm for this trend. It seems to me that many of our supporters and members have been misled by prominent party spokesmen into believing that there is one cause for Britain's economic decline. I still believe we will deceive ourselves if we suggest to the electorate that this decline began in 1973, or that it would end in 1985 when a Labour government takes us out.

We hear much talk about our loss of sovereignty to Brussels

and Strasbourg. But what country with our economic record can expect to be independent in a world where multinationals are more powerful than some nation states?

A policy for withdrawal from the EEC which has no considered alternative might win easy acclaim in the conference hall. But that is not the environment in which the next Labour government will have to live and succeed.

Has any serious investigation been undertaken by the National Executive Committee of what we are to do with our trade after 1985? Take the steel industry: more than one million tonnes of steel products were sold to the EEC in 1980, a bad year from an exporting point of view. We have been steadily closing the gap between exports to and imports from the Community. A million tonnes was about 10 per cent of our output last year, roughly equal to the output of Llanwern steel works.

Where are the proposals to maintain these sales, either by somehow getting them into Europe or by gaining alternative markets? To decide to withdraw and then work out what to do seems a severe case of putting the cart before the horse.

My main interest now is in what we do with our proposals. Let us suppose that we study the prospects for every industry and work out how each is to survive outside the EEC. It will still be a gamble. It will require the full attention of everyone in the country on such a momentous decision.

It cannot be allowed to slip by on the grounds that it is an integral part of the Alternative Strategy. The proposal must be isolated and voted for on its merits.

Opponents of the Common Market seem to believe that coming out now is even more important than not going in. What were they saying at the time Edward Heath took us in? Why, they were calling for a referendum of course! At our conference in 1973, Michael Foot promised us 'a General Election in which the matter would be settled, or a referendum in which it will be settled.'

Well, we had the election in 1974 and we won it on the pledge quoted in our resolution – a pledge to consult the British people on the renegotiated terms. We held the referendum – and it produced a two-to-one majority after an impassioned and informed national debate.

I respect everyone's right to their views on the EEC. But memories are short. I seem to recall Tony Benn in the aftermath of that referendum – a referendum he had done so much to achieve – declaring that the British people had spoken and that we must tremble before their voice.

At the time, doubts were expressed about whether there should be a referendum. But, once one has taken place, who will be arrogant enough to deny that it takes a further referendum to reverse the people's verdict? ☉

– BILL SIRRS, General Secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, speaking at the 1981 Labour Party Conference.

Why Latin America feels it is being cold-shouldered by Europe

Latin Americans generally look on the European Community as a successful example of the integration they themselves have tried to achieve since they won their independence in the last century. At the same time, from the Community's earliest days, they have watched its development with apprehension. Today, there are few signs that their concern is diminishing. On the contrary, Latin American leaders believe that the Community continues, however benignly, to neglect them and their aspirations.

Carlos Alzamora, the head of SELA, the economic body grouping all Central and South American countries, clearly conveyed this sentiment when he met European Commission President Gaston Thorn in Brussels last July.

To support this complaint, Latin Americans refer to the Community's preferential links with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries through the Lomé Convention. They also point to the trade arrangements with the Mediterranean and EFTA countries, and look enviously at the South East Asian nations, who seem to have won the attention of Brussels. Other grievances concern the Community's common agricultural and trade policies; recent measures to 'restructure' or 'protect' (depending which side of the Atlantic you live on) traditional industries such as steel, shoes, textiles, and shipbuilding; and the potential harm that they see being done to their economies following the expected accession of Spain and Portugal.

These misgivings go back to the 1950s, as the negotiators of the Rome Treaties prepared to associate pre-independence African colonies with the Community, in what has since grown into a privileged relationship. To Latin Americans, the special trade and aid privileges offered under the Yaoundé and Lomé Conventions have amounted to discrimination against them, as members, in varying degrees, of the Third World. The fact that some of their Caribbean neighbours are in the Lomé 'club' has not helped. They note that the European Community favours Jamaica and Trinidad, but not Honduras and Haiti. Haiti being the only one of these Latin American countries to be classified by the United Nations as 'least-developed.'

The 'Southern Cone' countries are likewise neglected. For them, the formation of the Community's customs union and common external tariff stimulated trade among the member states – that is, diverted trade from elsewhere – and raised the average tariff level in Germany and the Benelux countries, which were important trading partners of Argenti-

MARTIN MAUTHNER, reporting from Caracas, finds this is a part of the world that would welcome the Community's favours

na, Chile and Uruguay. When the common agricultural policy took shape, with its special guarantees for 'home-produced' beef, wheat, and dairy products, the 'Southern Cone' countries really began to protest at what they saw as unfair treatment. In Buenos Aires I was lectured: 'First, you virtually close the European market to our products through your excessive protection. Then, just as we begin to capture new markets elsewhere, you start dumping your subsidised surpluses on those markets, hurting us again.'

Further blows came when Britain – traditionally a vital trading partner of countries such as Argentina and Uruguay – joined the Community in 1973, and when the Community negotiated free trade agreements with the remaining EFTA countries shortly afterwards.

By this time, the Community had made one significant concession to Latin America, and to other non-Lomé developing countries, particularly in Asia. It introduced its generalised system of tariff preferences for manufactured goods – a step designed to help the Latin Americans become less dependent on exports of food and raw materials. Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela were already making huge efforts to build up a wide range of industries, often relying heavily on European finance, know-how and equipment. In some sectors, their industries became competitive and started exporting to the European and other industrialised markets. Brazilian shoes, textiles and steel products are well-known examples.

When, in the Tokyo Round, the Community agreed to reduce its already low tariffs on imports from all other countries, this was, paradoxically, unwelcome in Latin America. It threatened to narrow their margin of preference, over goods from such major exporters as Japan and the United States.

Meanwhile, the energy crisis and subsequent mounting unemployment led the Community to apply a series of measures which caused the more advanced developing countries in Latin America to complain that the EEC was curbing the growth of their exports of industrial goods, notably steel, shoes and textiles.

More recently, a new complaint has

emerged. The conventional wisdom in Community circles has long been that Spain and Portugal, as Community members, will act as a bridge between Europe and Latin America, easing cooperation. Latin Americans are less sanguine. The present Ten will have tariff-free access to the Spanish and Portuguese markets, and vice versa, unlike the 'outsiders' in Latin America and elsewhere. One economist asked me: 'If the Lomé Convention is supposed to help former colonies, where is the logic in Spain, when it becomes an EEC member, allowing duty-free entry to products from France's ex-colonies, while having to charge the full tariff on similar products – say sugar and coffee – from its former colonies in Central America?'

It is factors like these that are now leading Latin Americans to claim that their continent, more than any other, is bearing the burden – or paying the price – of European integration. Their economists state that, by 1978, the Community's imports from Latin America had fallen to only 2.9 per cent of its total imports, compared with 6.3 per cent in 1962. Put another way, they argue that Europe should have spent \$29 billion on their goods in 1978, rather than the actual \$13 billion. And they note that EEC exporters have fallen behind in the Latin American market.

'Latin America is not just Europe's forgotten relative'

All in all, Latin Americans maintain that the European Community has not taken them seriously enough. The 'dialogue' in Brussels started in 1971, has, in their view, been sterile. Unlike the Community's trade agreements with the EFTA and North African countries, those with Latin America contain little substance – Argentina declined to renew its trade agreement last year.

However oversimplified, that is how Latin Americans tend to present the state of play between the two continents. That trade between them has declined, is not in dispute. That the Community is primarily to blame is, however, an allegation that Brussels challenges vigorously.

With their political systems, economies and degrees of development so diverse, the Latin Americans obviously acknowledge Europe's difficulties in treating them as a homogeneous grouping. On the other hand, their very variety, and therefore complementarity, should facilitate their economic integration, a process in which the Community is only too anxious to share its experience.

Above all, the Latin Americans – generally moderates in the rich-poor confrontation – are impatiently awaiting the outcome of the 'North-South Dialogue'. Here the Community has an unequalled opportunity to prove that Latin America is not just Europe's forgotten relative. 

Europe on the trot

Like most people, I get my inklings of how the European Parliament works from newspaper reports, topped up by articles in specialist journals such as this one. Perhaps most of us may be forgiven if our mental picture of EEC democracy is somewhat hazy. What is needed is an unprejudiced handbook which tells us all we want to know, written from the inside.

I have been reading a publication that meets these requirements very well. It is called 'The European Parliament: what it is, what it does, how it works', and it is written by Michael Palmer, who is himself deputy director-general of the European Parliament*. I am left with a feeling that, with all the admitted frailties of the system, the men and women who are part of it have a job to make it work; and in particular that most MEPs are not - contrary to popular belief - living the life of Riley.

In a letter to a friend who was thinking about putting his name forward as a candidate for the European Parliament - included here as a real-life warning to others - Mr Palmer begins by telling him how splendid it would be to have him aboard, then sets out the snags which might persuade him to think better of it. There is the physical strain, imposed by the number and length of meetings. There is the incessant travelling, plus hanging around airports in fog or snow. There are the committees, the delegations, the consultative sessions. There is the lack of a place of your own to go home to. And - he also warns - there is the diet of cream sauce and fried potatoes.

As incentives, Mr Palmer cites elsewhere in his book 'the challenge of the job - making the Parliament an effective political instrument.' He mentions promotion - there are important rapporteurships, subcommittee and committee chairmanships, even the possibility of rising to Vice-president or President of the Parliament. No prospect of Cabinet office, you notice, since there is no Cabinet; or elevation to the Lords, since there is no Other Place.

Promotion as a committee-person might not be seen as too tempting a prospect by some. However, the money is enough, I would guess, to attract the right kind of idealist who also has a few mouths to feed. MEPs' salaries, I discover, have not been set at common levels: there is no question of same wage, same job. Generally, an MEP receives the same salary as that of a member of his or her national parliament.

The daily expenses allowance - £50, payable for every working day spent in attendance at a European Parliament meeting - is on top of the MEP's salary. British MEPs, alone of the Ten, have to pay income tax on it. With

JOYCE BETTS finds a book which gives a realistic idea of what it means to be a member of the European Parliament



typical stoniness, the Inland Revenue regard this £50 as part of a member's salary, and insist on taxing it accordingly. British courts have upheld the Revenue's action, on a point of law. It now awaits a word from the European Court of Justice.

Meanwhile, MEPs can also draw a travelling allowance of about 23 pence per kilometer for the first 400 kilometers of a journey, and 9 pence for every additional kilometer, for travel from halfway between their national capital and their home to wherever the Parliament is meeting, regardless whether they travel by road, rail or air.

Much of this moving about is due to what Mr Palmer calls 'one of the most aggravating problems in the lives of members of the European Parliament - the fact that it is not in one place, but three.'

This, he tells us, costs the European Parliament about 15 per cent of its budget, amounting to some £12 million, every year. Mr Palmer adds, with some warmth: 'Even if all these meetings were held in one city, the strains of constant travelling would be considerable. Working in three different places, and without being able to install oneself in a permanent flat or office, the pressure on a member is even greater. How can the Parliament carry out its work efficiently if, during a Strasbourg session, half its staff remain in Luxembourg?'

A good question; and Mr Palmer does not sound as if he expects a good answer. He says that 'vested national interests' make it hard to change the status quo. Belgium profits from the 12,000 Euro-officials, plus their families, who live or are based in Brussels, plus the

attendant pressure groups, press corps and processions of visitors on Community business. The French are equally unbending over Strasbourg, seat of the original Council of Europe, and the Luxemburgers over Luxembourg. Also, I suppose, officials and their families who are well dug in with homes, schools and congenial neighbours are likewise not volunteering to uproot themselves.

We must expect the European Parliament, like other human institutions, to reflect our several weaknesses as well as strengths. Mr Palmer writes as if he reckons it still has some way to go before we can be really proud of it. He sums it up rather gradually, as 'a remarkable experiment in transnational democracy'.

He obviously believes the European Parliament needs stronger backing from member governments, and he warns that it could be sold short by the European Council. If that happened, 'direct elections could prove a sham, and the future of democracy in the European Community could be a mere charade.'

MORE EEC CASH TO HELP THE UNEMPLOYED

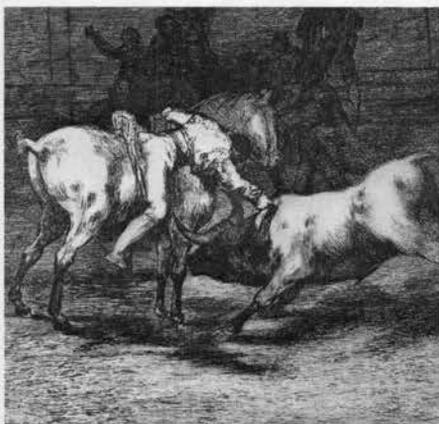
The European Commission has announced the third and final allocation of the 1981 Social Fund grants for the UK totalling £100.5 million. Money from the Fund is used to assist vocational training, retraining and resettlement schemes in the member states of the Community, with emphasis on helping the unemployed. The UK has received a total of £140.88 million in 1981.

In order to be eligible for assistance from the Social Fund, a training scheme must have financial support from a public authority. For schemes run by public authorities themselves, the Commission will meet up to half the cost of the project, while for schemes run by private organisations, the Commission may match public authority support.

In the UK, most applications for assistance from the Fund are made by the Manpower Services Commission, which has had support for the Youth Opportunities Programme, the Training Opportunities Programme (TOPS) and a number of other schemes concerned with helping the unemployed and young people enter the job market, especially in poorer regions. Grants are also requested by other public bodies such as the Industrial Training Boards and local authorities. However, applications have increasingly come from private companies and voluntary bodies supporting local unemployment and training initiatives.

In this last allocation for 1981 over £25 million has been granted to help handicapped people enter open employment.

*Pergamon Press, £4.50. Hardback: £7.95.



A taste of Spain in London

Spanish art has been prominent in the London galleries this winter. At the National Gallery, works on loan from public and private collections reflected the taste for Spanish painting – from El Greco to Goya – in Britain and Ireland. At the British Museum, Goya has an exhibition to himself – a comprehensive survey of the incomparable prints.

Just why Spanish art should have made such a strong appeal to British taste over the years is not clear. Perhaps the qualities of the classic Spanish artists strike a chord in a people whose own imperial rise and fall has affected the national character.

However that may be, the wealth of Spanish painting in British collections is, we are told, unrivalled in Europe. Murillo, for example, has enjoyed stupendous popularity in Britain – there are more of his works here than there are in Spain.

The exhibition included a dozen fine examples, including the famous pair from the Dulwich Gallery. Gainsborough copied Murillo with deep admiration. With Velasquez, a master who has enjoyed even greater acclaim in Britain, he left a mark on English art.

Goya's admirers used to refer to him as 'The Hogarth of Spain'. This was due partly to the element of caricature in his portraits, but equally to the sardonic bite of his prints. Some of them proved too strong for Ruskin, who had them burnt.

The magnificent show of Goya's prints at the British Museum includes several capable of jolting more hardened sensibilities than his. Most have been made familiar through reproduction, but confrontation with the originals comes as a totally new experience. They announce, with ferocity and pity, the arrival of an age in which common people have to bear the enormities of terrorism and war.

Goya's captions are exclamations of helplessness and despair. The images are beyond words. Their bitter urgency has never been more appropriate than now, in times as blood-soaked as his own.

DENIS THOMAS

ECSC GRANTS FOR EX-STEELMEN

The European Commission has announced readaptation grants totalling £4,398,000 to finance measures to help workers in the British steel industry affected by plant closures and modernisation. The grants, announced at the end of October, are made under Article 56 of the European Coal & Steel Community. They will be used to help fund current schemes for early retirement, retraining and income support. The breakdown is as follows:

Sheffield: £55,000 for 22 workers affected by the closure of the hot rolling mill at Cocker Bros Ltd Fitzalan Works; £34,000 for 18 workers affected by modernisation at Spartan Sheffield's Attercliffe and Huntsman Works; £140,000 for 69 workers affected by cutbacks at the Ecclesfield Works of Aurora Steels; and £3,790,000 for 1,900 workers affected by the closure and cutback at Hardfields Ltd's plants.

Leeds: £116,000 for 44 workers affected by the closure of the Coghlan Forge & Rolling Mills Ltd, Hunslet Forge.

Wednesbury, West Midlands: £13,600 for seven workers displaced at J. G. Hughes & Company, following closure of the Patent Shaft Steelworks Ltd plant.

Wishaw, Scotland: £250,000 for 94 workers affected by closure of John Williams (Wishaw) Ltd's works.



The Greek siesta

Mr Gert Höhler's article on the Greek siesta (July issue) is full of arbitrary generalisations and inaccuracies.

He should let your readers know that Greek shops open 42 hours a week, that large-scale industries work on a 24-hour basis, and that it was the Greek labouring classes, not Greek governments, who disliked the siesta and had a strong preference for working continuously, so avoiding extra commuting from home to work and vice versa.

Yannis Schizas
Athens, Greece

Too pro-Europe?

I was rather horrified at the views expressed by Messrs Pedley and Tivey in the Letters page, October issue. If EUROPE 81 is indeed too pro-Europe, it is in sharp contrast to the anti-EEC bias being fanned by some sources in Britain.

The idea of achieving the simple objectives set out in the preamble to the Treaty of Rome seems so good and advantageous that I wonder anyone should wish to oppose it. Many thanks for what you and your colleagues are trying to put across.

Norman Webster
Slackhead, Cumbria

Time warp

I think we should all recognise that Mozart was way ahead of his time. But not to the point of wearing a wrist watch with a metal band, as depicted by Richard O'Callaghan on page 5 of your October issue.

(Dr) Keith Thompson
Croydon, Surrey

'Euro-art'

I am finding your magazine a more and more necessary counterweight to the 'traditional' media treatment of the EEC.

Congratulations especially on the 'Amadeus' article in the October issue. I hope for continuation of the 'Euro-art' page, featuring not only British artists but other European ones as well.

Matt Kelly
Reading, Berks

Buying a car

I have recently ordered a car from a German dealer on the basis of a quoted price much lower than the British retail price for an equivalent model. I wonder if you can now confirm that the Commission intends to limit the variation in car prices between one country and another.

J. Corby
Low Fell, Gateshead

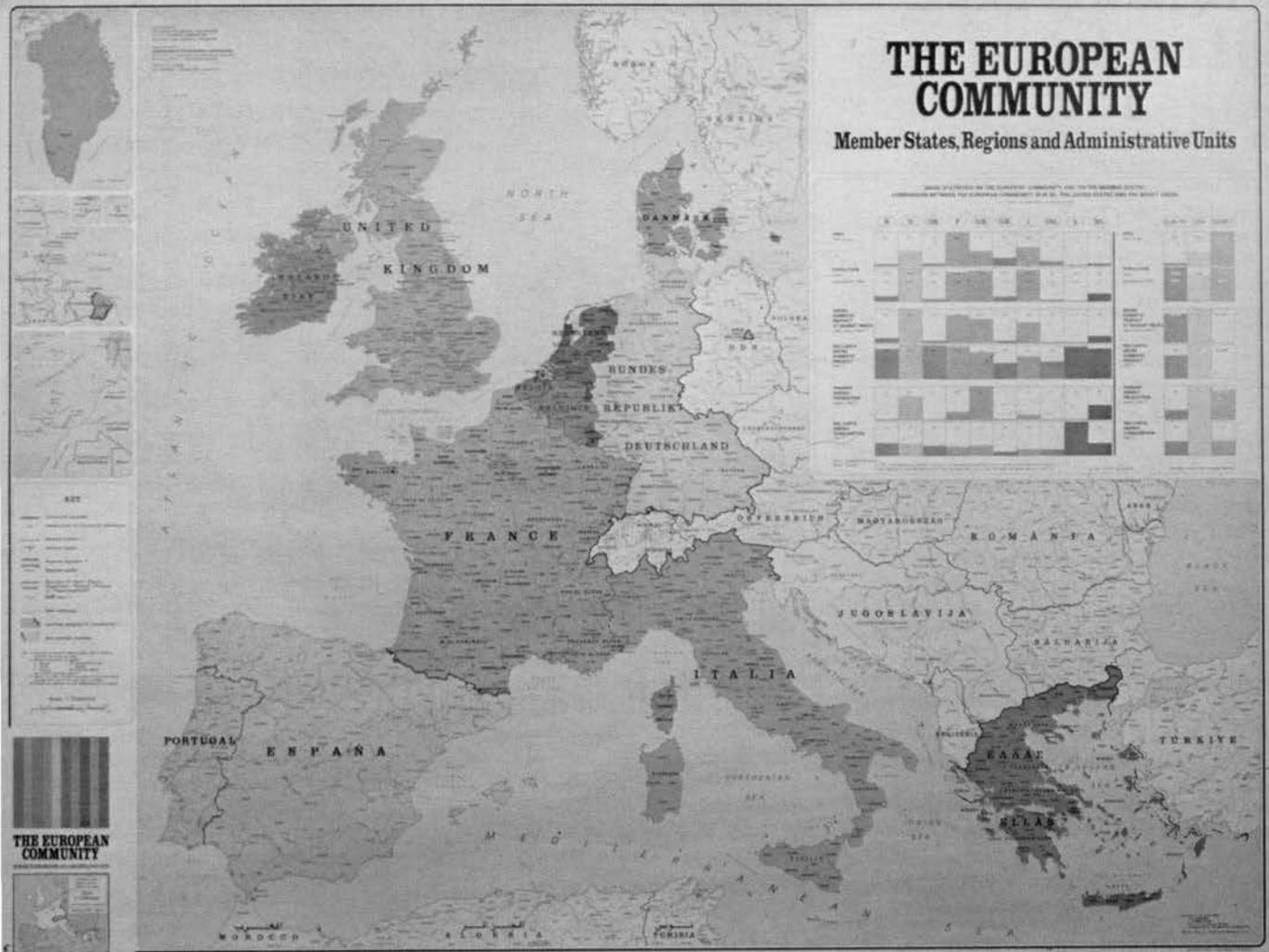
The Commission is looking closely at car price differentials, which seem to be against the spirit of the Treaty of Rome.

Rolling on

Regarding the letter in your October issue, 'Fair play for monsters', the definition of a juggernaut today is: 'A heavy goods vehicle which has overreached its potential in weight, speed, size and intimidation'.

Eric T. Rawlins
Thornton Heath, Surrey

NEW FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY AN ALL-IN MAP OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY



With the accession of Greece, there are now ten member states in the European Community. This new map, printed in colour, shows the Ten plus neighbouring countries from Norway in the north to Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia in the south, Turkey in the east, and Portugal.

European Community counties, departments, provinces and waterways are included, along with diagrams showing such basic statistics as population, area, gross domestic product, production and

The map is available in seven languages – Danish, German, Greek, English, French, Italian and Dutch. It is published by the Office for Official Publications, Luxembourg, and issued by the Commission of the European Communities, Brussels.

Scale: 1:3000000 (1cm = 30km)

Price (UK) £1.80. Available folded, in plastic wallet, or flat, from Ordnance Survey agents and stockists throughout Great Britain or HMSO

Overseas orders from Hammond and Kell Ltd The London Map Centre, 22-24 Caxton Street, London SW1 0QU

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