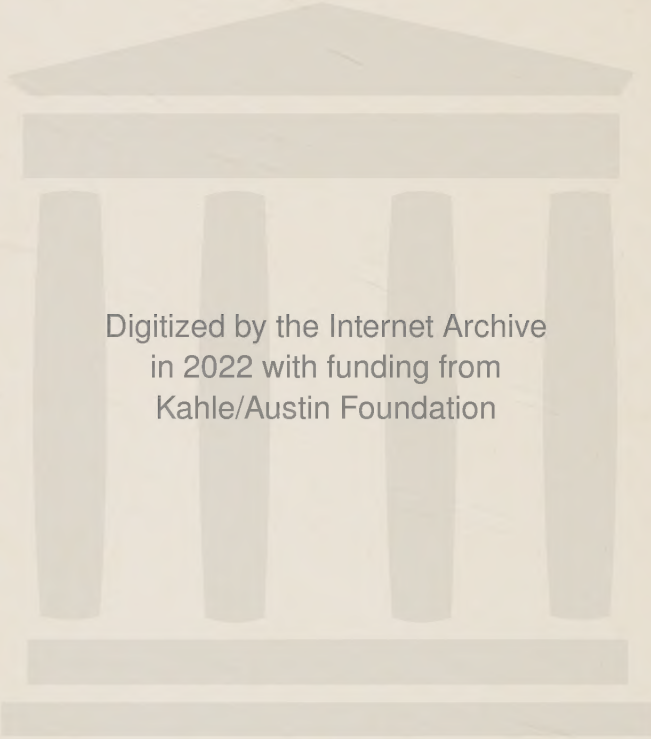


Modern Times

An oblique look at life in the eighties
by

Calman





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Modern Times

By the same author

Bed-Sit (*Jonathan Cape*)

Boxes (*Jonathan Cape*)

Calman & Women (*Jonathan Cape*)

My God (*Souvenir Press*)

The Penguin Calman

The New Penguin Calman

This Pestered Isle (*Times Newspapers Ltd*)

Couples (*The Workshop*)

Dr Calman's Dictionary of Psychoanalysis (*W.H. Allen*)

But it's my turn to leave you . . . (*Methuen*)

How about a little quarrel before bed? (*Methuen*)

Help! (*Methuen*)

Calman Revisited (*Methuen*)

What else do you do? (*Methuen*)

Modern Times

An oblique look at life in the eighties
by Mel Calman



André Deutsch

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Worcester

These cartoons first appeared in *The Times*

To my brother, Monte

It would not have contented the chivalrous mind of the master

I hope it's been
cleared with
Downing
Street...



When I first started working for newspapers in 1957, newspapers meant 'Fleet Street'. I got a sharp frisson of pleasure and adrenalin every time I walked to work at the *Daily Express* and passed the vans waiting to take the papers to the outside world. There was a hum about the Street that was almost theatrical.

And then came Rupert Murdoch and Wapping. *The Times* moved and I had to drive past shouting pickets to reach my drawing board. Computer terminals replaced typewriters. Suddenly I could not find any scrap paper to scribble my first thoughts on. Where I had previously used thick pads of cheap newsprint, I now had to rifle the wastepaper baskets for the backs of discarded press releases. (It is not meanness that makes cheap paper desirable – it's the need to avoid being threatened by the sheer whiteness of high-quality drawing paper.)

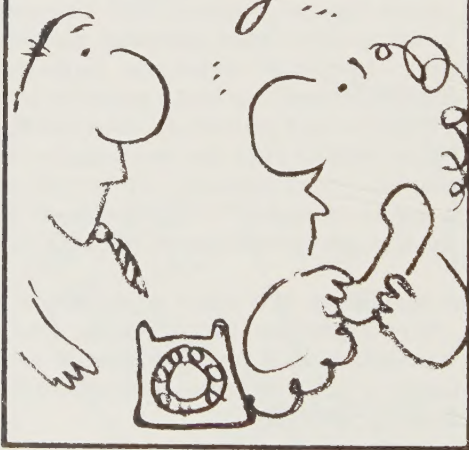
Slowly but inevitably, the other newspapers have followed *The Times*. Fleet Street no longer exists. The old sense of community has vanished: if you now want to meet a friend for lunch, it involves a NATO exercise of planning, a shuffling of maps and a flicking of Filofaxes.

But if Fleet Street has moved, the basic problems of finding merriment in the troubles and lunacies of the world remain the same. I still find my stomach churns as my mind races round the news and I look at my watch to find I have ten minutes less than I need to meet the deadline.

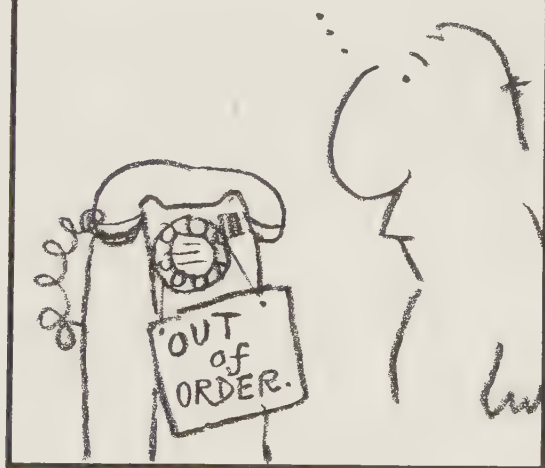
This selection is gathered from the last four or so years – in more or less chronological order. There are jokes about Unemployment, Cuts, NHS, Mrs Thatcher, Hijackers – and other hilarious topics. I hope they lift your spirits for a brief instant. If not – please don't tell me: I've got enough problems without hearing about yours.

Mel Calman London 1988

I dialled the
ENGINEER and
got a LOUD
raspberry...



PITY- I was going
to order some
Telecom shares..



There's a rumour
about bringing
STONING back...

LAW
&
ORDER.



♪ ♪ I do like to be
beside the
SEASIDE!

TORY
CONFERENCE

NO NO NO NO NO
NO NO NO NO NO
NO EASY ANSWER UNPALATABLE
PAINFUL EXPANSION GENERATE REAL JOBS
NO ONE SHOULD
NO NEW REAL JOBS TAX
BUT NEVER BUT
ETC



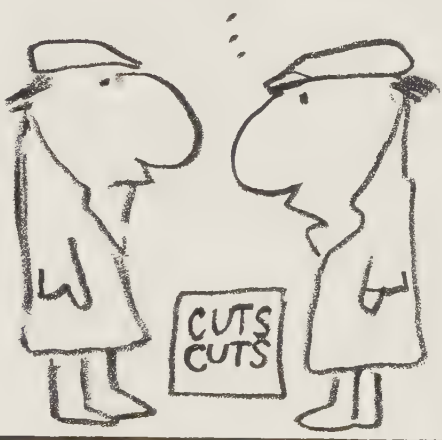
I hope the CHURCH
isn't going to start
taking MORAL
attitudes...



...

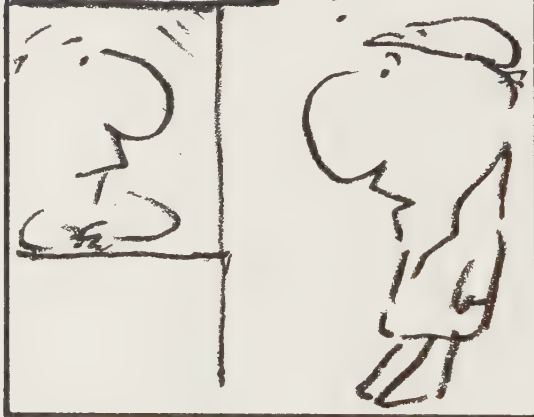


Nice to know
we have the BEST
DEFENDED Dole
queue in the West..

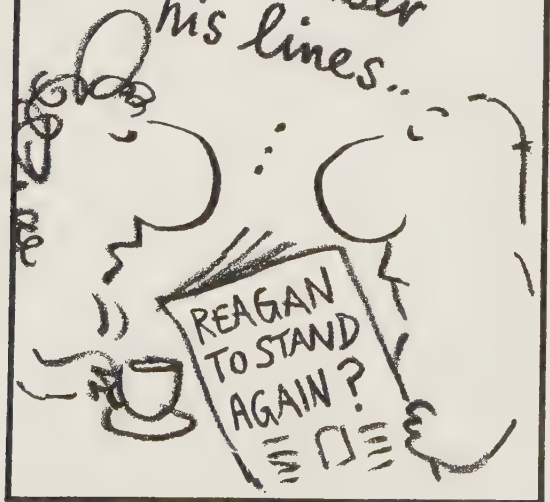


Haven't you got
anything for
a STATISTIC?

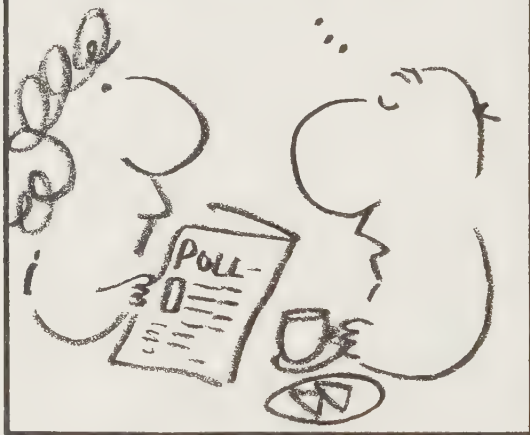
JOB CENTRE



He should retire
while he can
still remember
his lines...

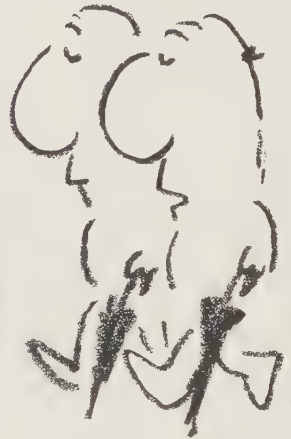


Remind me again-
What do the
ALLIANCE
stand for?



Damned
Un-British thing
to do...

BRITISH
AIRWAYS
MAKE A
PROFIT.



Seen much of
the Olympics?

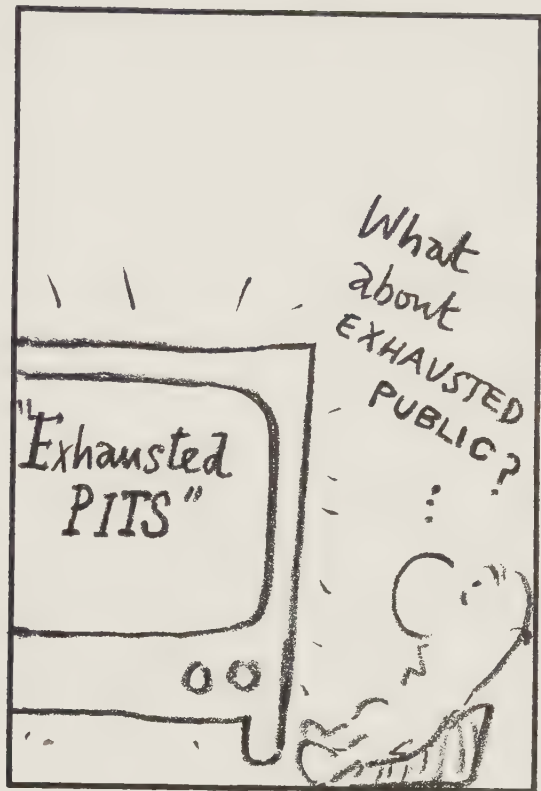


My ambition is
to TRAVEL and
∴ be arrested..



If CRUISE COMES -
can winter be
far behind?





Take my advice-
get RICH while
the going's good..

...

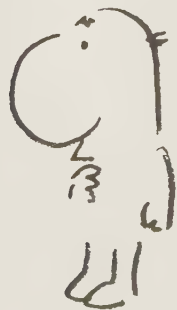


Operator-
is phoning one's
broker a FREE
call now?

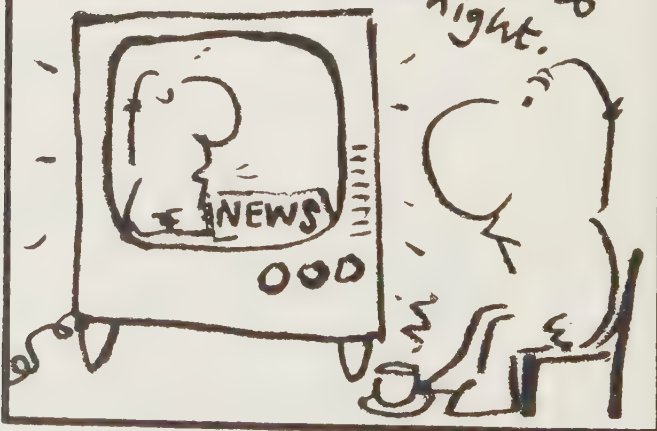


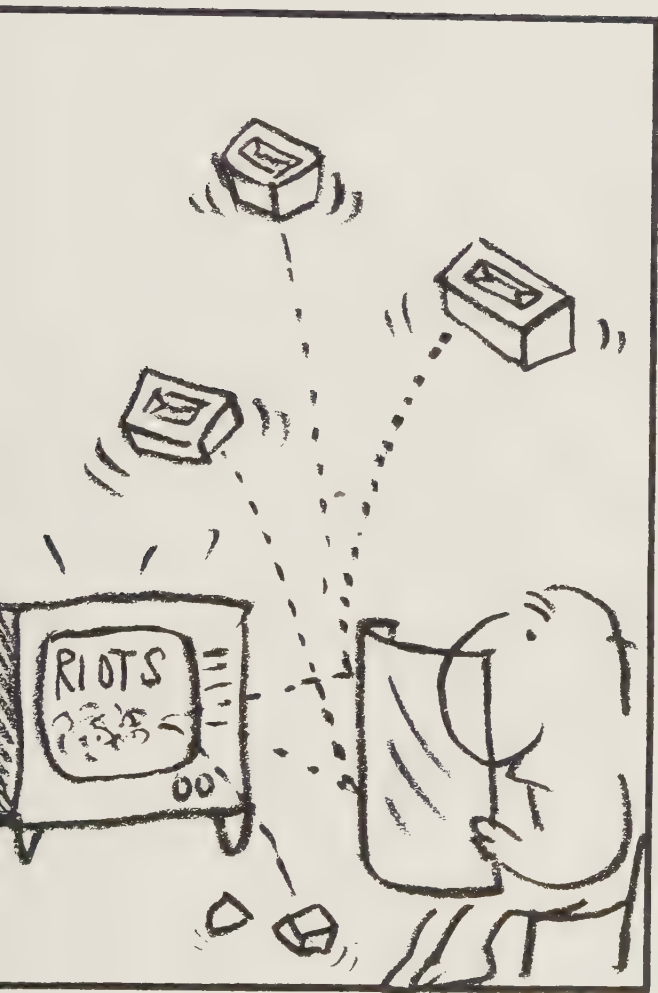
Can't one get
time off for
good behaviour?

SCARGILL
FOR
LIFE



GOOD EVENING- This
is the BBC And
there is [redacted] that [redacted]
now [redacted] and said [redacted]
[redacted] with [redacted] to
[redacted] so [redacted] and [redacted]
[redacted] by [redacted] tonight.





Wish I was...

⋮

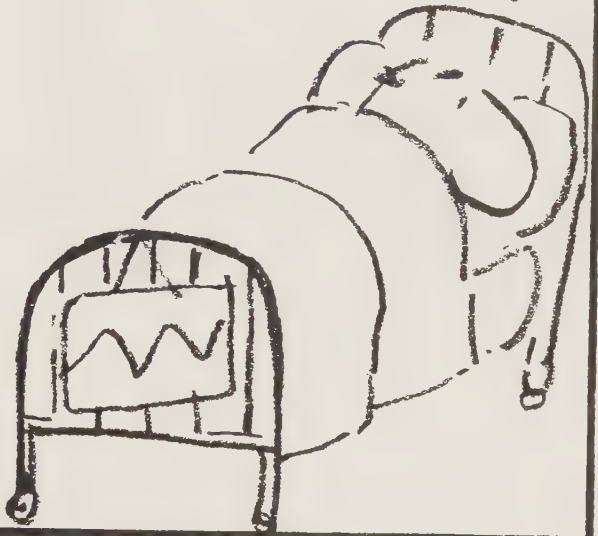


Forgive us our POLITICS
as we forgive those
who POLITIC against us.

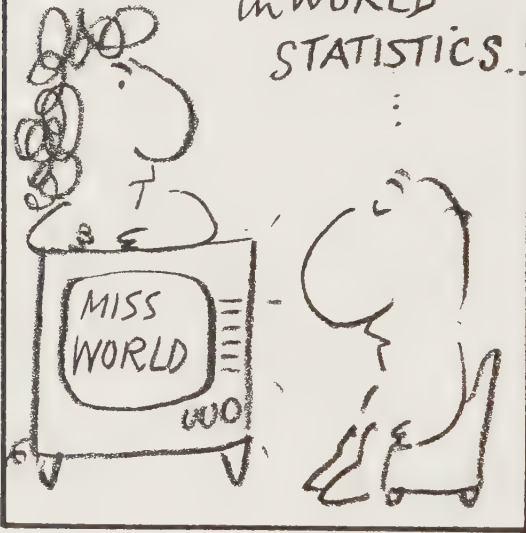


THIS EVENT IS
SPONSORED
by
MACHOFAGS...

COUGH!
COUGH!



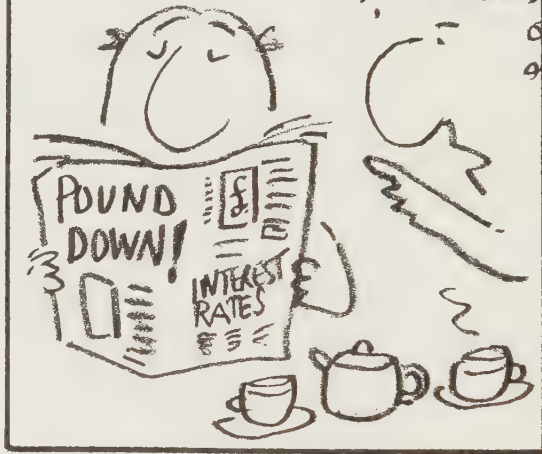
you know
I've always
been interested
in WORLD
STATISTICS.



How can I spell
'TEACHER'
if I never see one?
∴



I told you
we should have
SPENT ours while it
was worth
SPENDING!

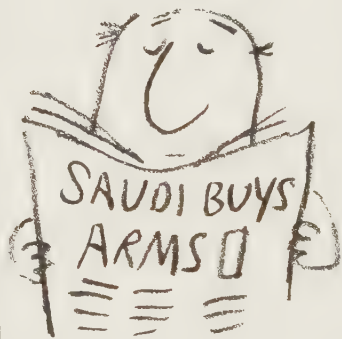


SMOKING is...
(cough) frightfully
good (cough, cough)
for SPORT (cough).
...



Nice to see
Someone still
BUYS BRITISH...

⋮



I wish the
DINNERS would
go on strike...



I suppose letters
will get LOST
more efficiently..



POST
OFFICE
to be
PRIVATIZED

I think Mrs. Thatcher's
going to need
his FLAK jacket...

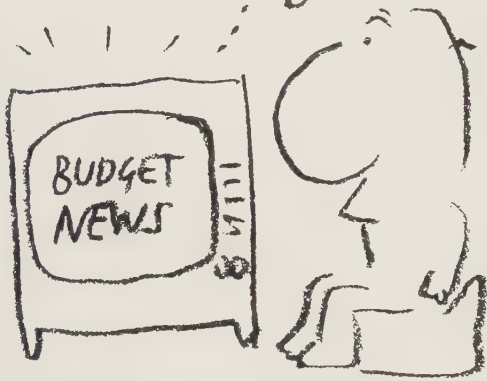


I suppose I'd better
start giving up
DRINKING and
SMOKING now...

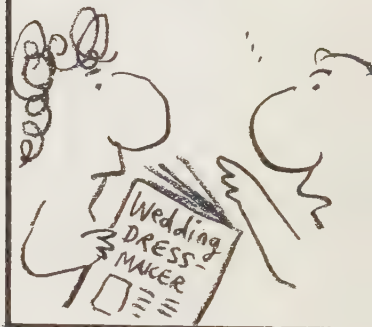


BUDGET
MARCH
18th

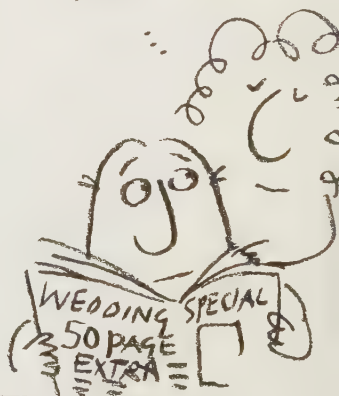
And a new TAX on
Smiling and
Laughing..



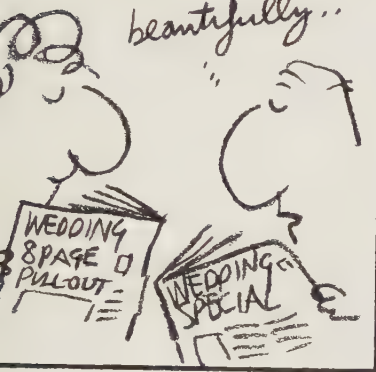
One word
about
THAT DRESS and
I'll start
talking
CRICKET..



I remember
instead of
'I DO' you said,
"I'LL TRY.."

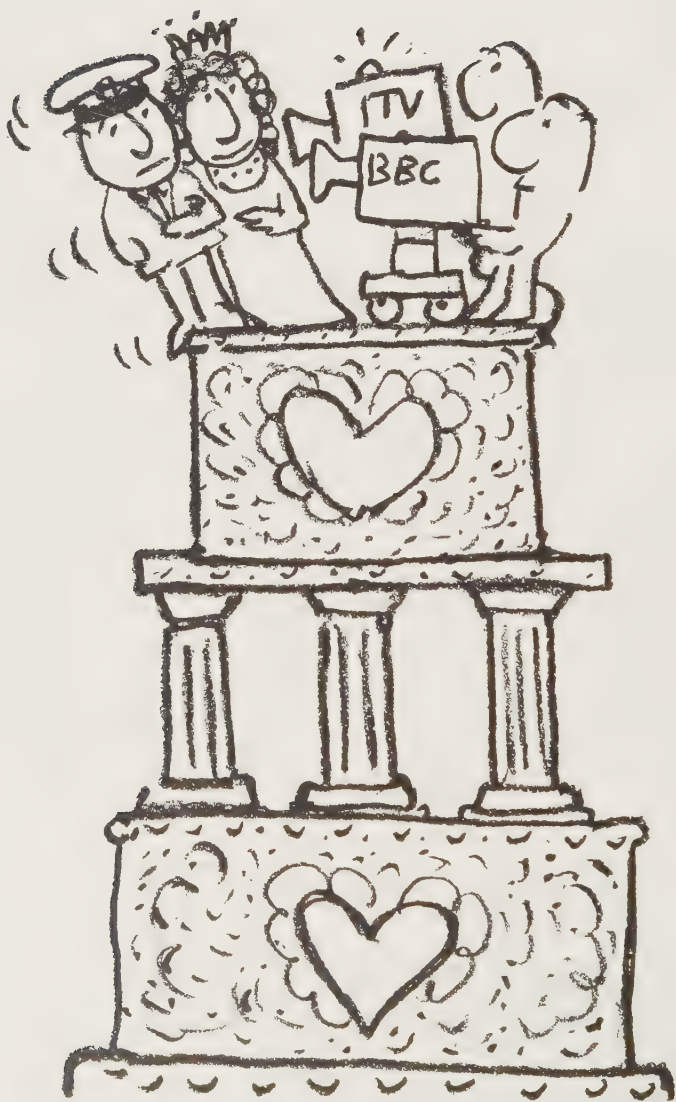


I thought
THE DRESS
performed
beautifully...



Ah - that
explains why
we haven't
been INVITED...

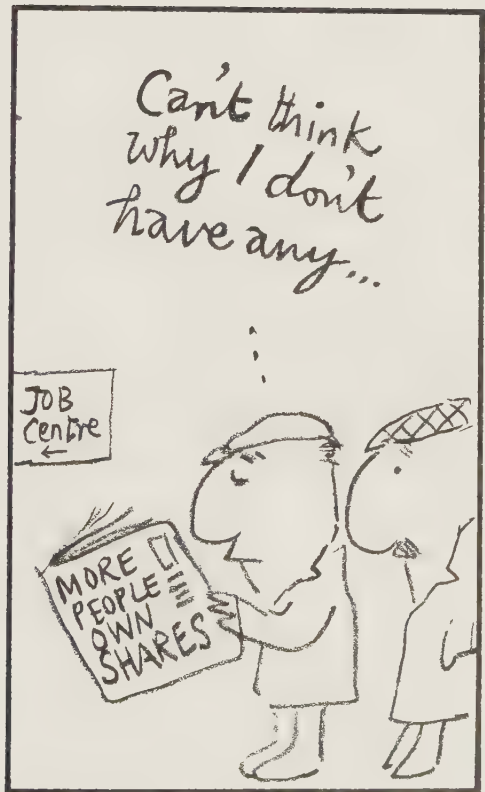


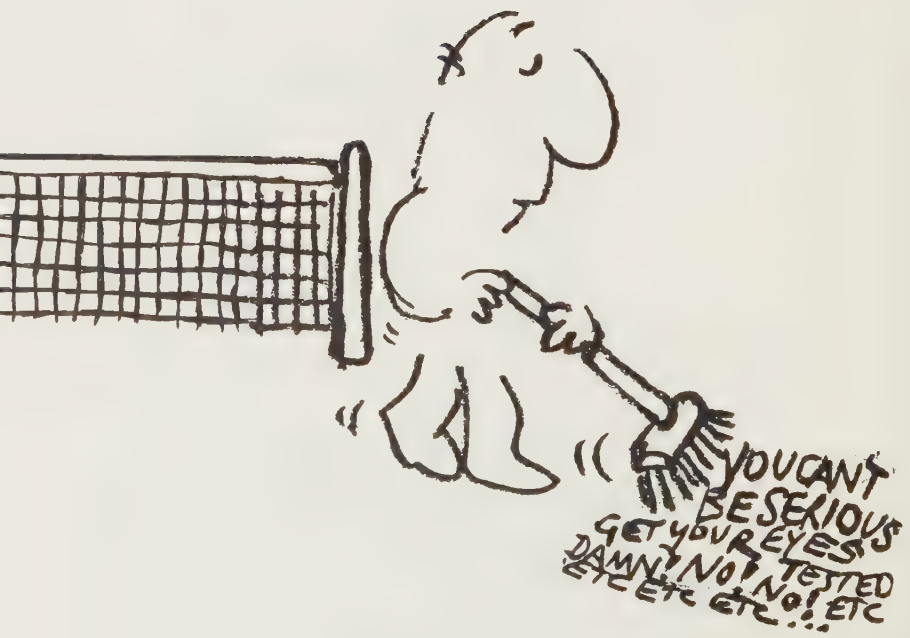


Can't think
why I don't
have any...

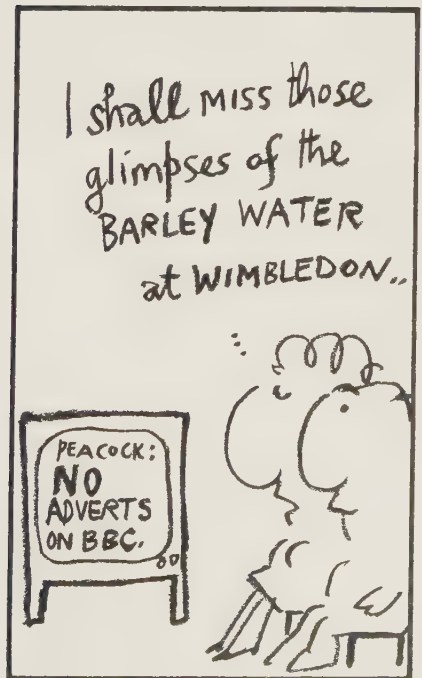
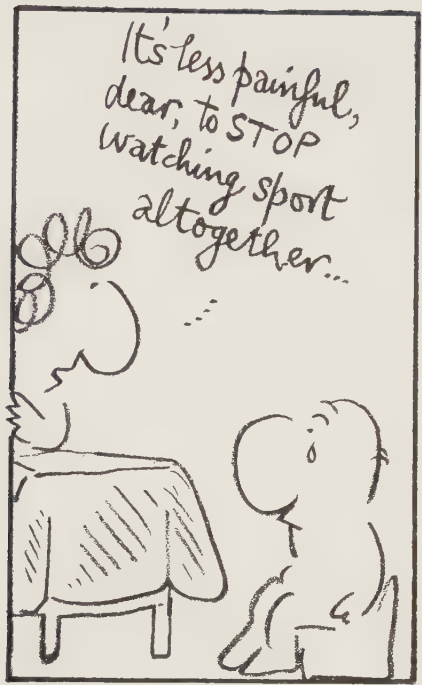
JOB
Centre
←

MORE
PEOPLE
OWN
SHARES

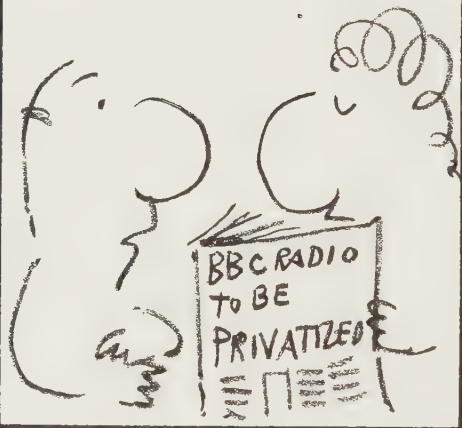




YOU CANT
BE SERIOUS
GET YOUR EYES
DAMN NO! TESTED
ETC ETC ETC NO! ETC
ETC ETC ETC ..



First, England
LOST to PORTUGAL-
and now this..





If ENGLAND
can WIN
a game - then
even SUMMER
may arrive.....

The score was
POLICE 200,
others 5...



WORLD
CUP
RIOT

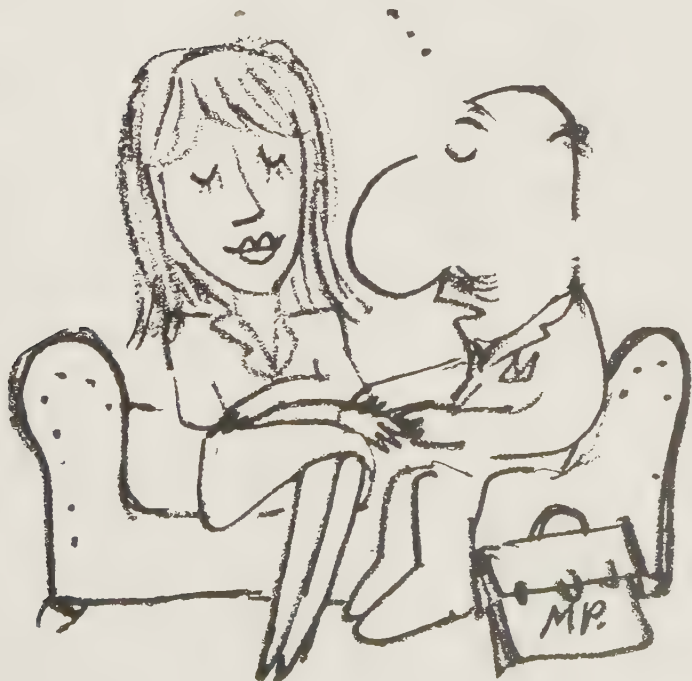
I see the GAMES
have been
ripped in the
BUDD...



Shall I NOT be
a TRAIN DRIVER
OR NOT be a
UNIVERSITY LECTURER
when I grow up?



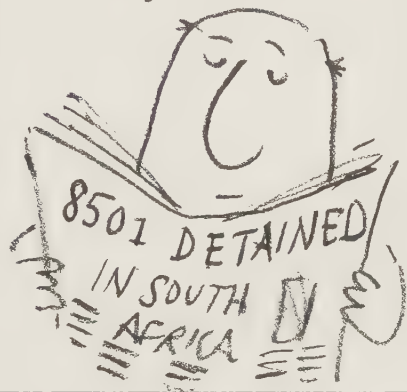
Come up and see
my copy of the
official Secrets
Act...



For a place
that's in
an uproar-
not much
happens..



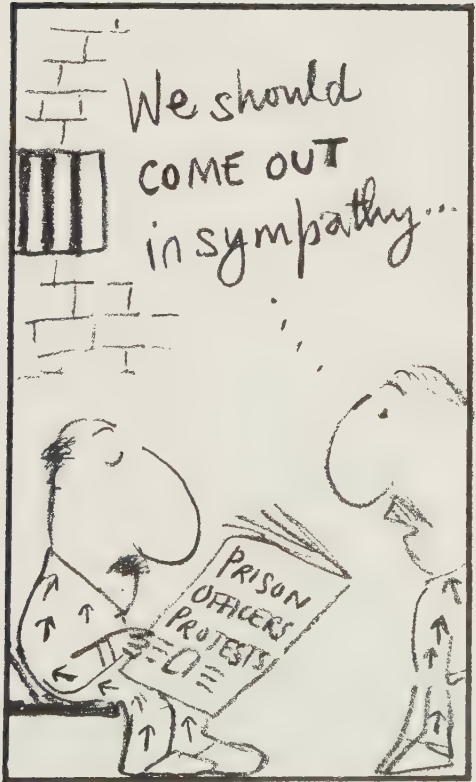
There will soon
be more people
INSIDE prison
than outside..



I wonder what
else didn't
happen there?

11
DEAD
in S.A.

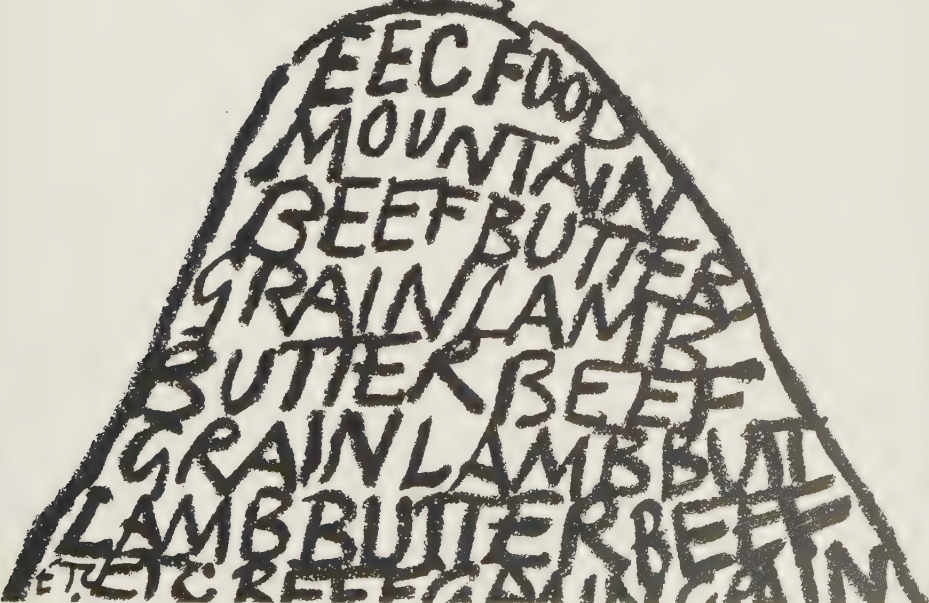
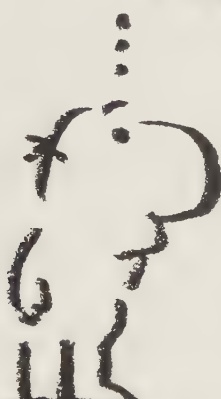




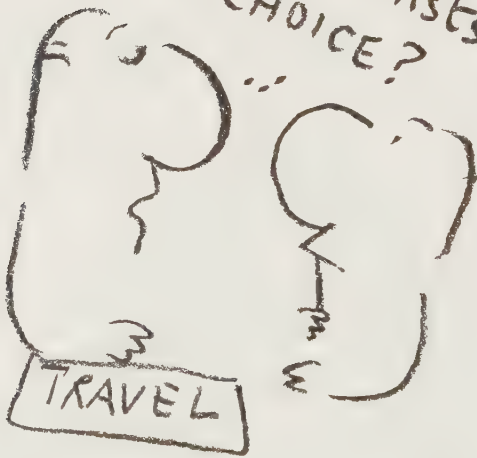
I thought it was
UNCONSTITUTIONAL
to disagree
with
MRS. THATCHER...



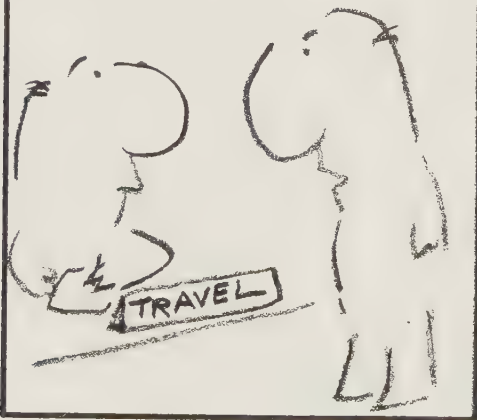
On a clear day
you can see
ETHIOPIA...



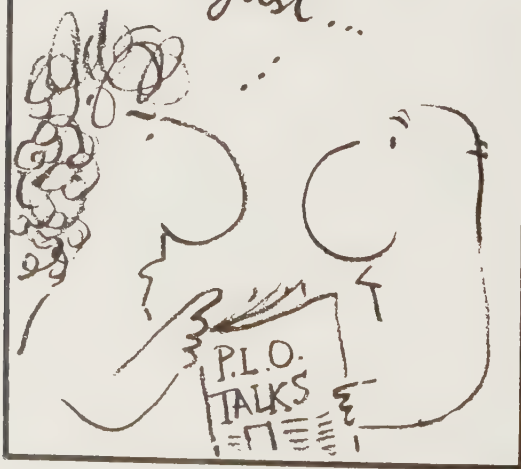
Would you like
14 nights kidnapping
with the terrorists of
your CHOICE?



Got anywhere
where it's
SAFE to
BREATHE?
...



Before we negotiate
let's both practise
WALKING OUT in
disgust...



At least they
ought to see
what one looks
like...

TO THE
SUMMIT

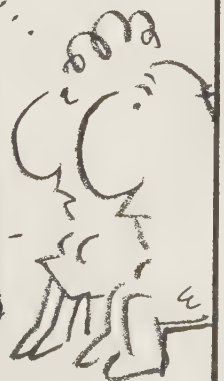


YES

I thought
KINNOCK was
trying to do
that...



Shall we turn
the BIAS knob
up or down?



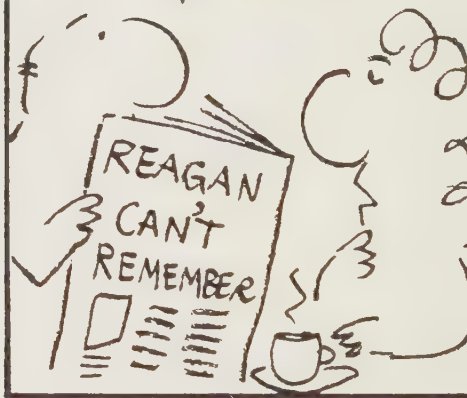
I wonder if some
of the extra CASH
could be spent on
another digestive
Biscuit with
my Tea?



A diet of
CURRIE alone
might be frightfully
bad for ones
HEALTH....



Good thing
he isn't doing
anything
important -
like ACTING...



He has some
UNBELIEVABLE
lines to say
lately...



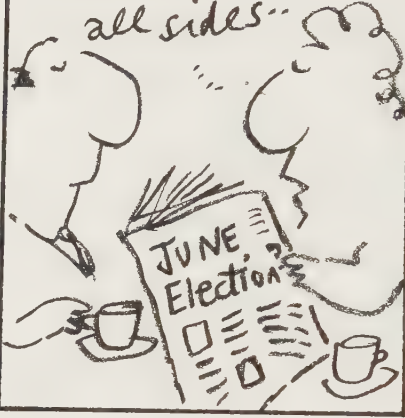
SPY LEAK
SHOCK-
don't read
all about
it!



It stands
for KICKED out of
GREAT BRITAIN..



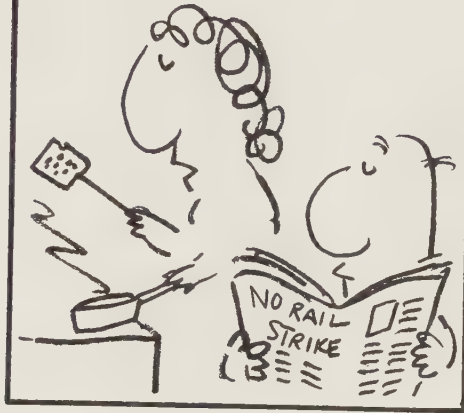
You'd better
steel yourself
for some heavy
WOOLING from
all sides...



"Question 1:
WHAT IS A
JOB?"



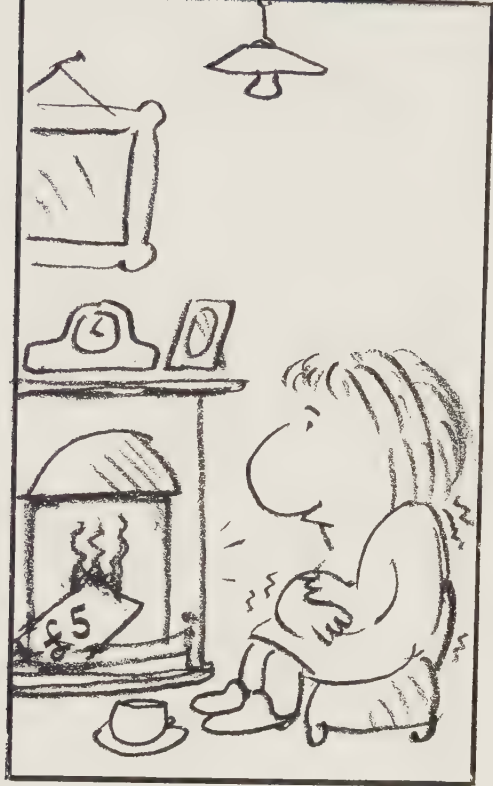
Looks like they can't
get the STRIKES
to RUN ontime
anymore...



It's called
'Yes BUT-
Prime Minister'









If it'll make you
feel any better--
we SPEND the tax
cuts..

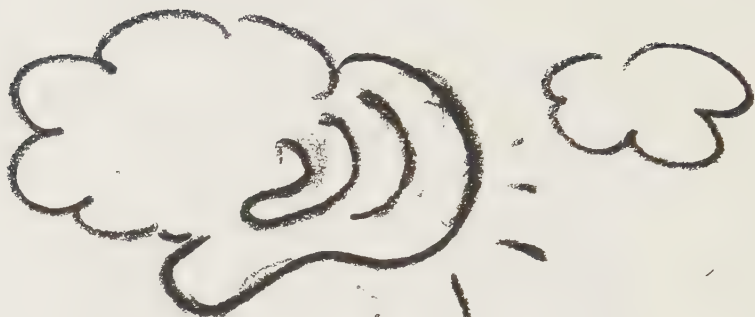


I see you've started
celebrating the
NO CHANGE in tax
on booze ..









Perhaps it's
GOD listening
to
ANDERTON...

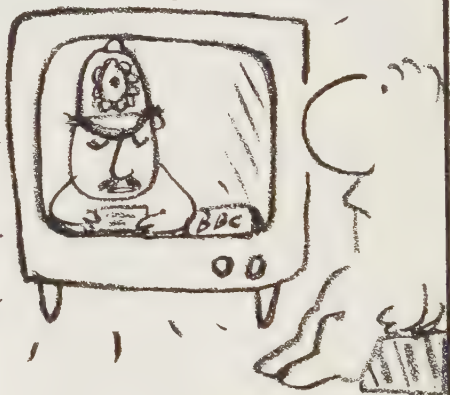


SPY
IN
SKY
ROW.

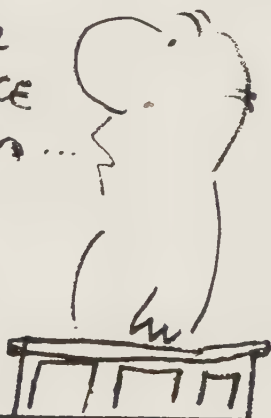


In case of
EMERGENCIES-
DIAL 999
FOR
FIRE GOD
~~POLICE~~
AMBULANCE

And anything you
WATCH may be taken
away and used
in evidence...

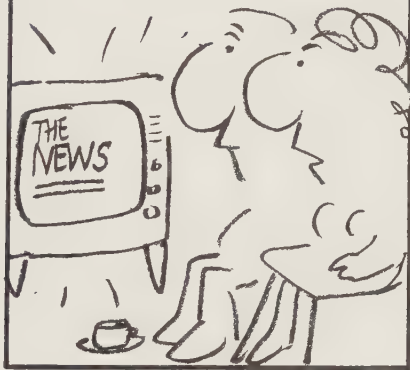


We find the
defendant NOT
GUILTY - but
we'd like to
hear
all the
EVIDENCE
again...

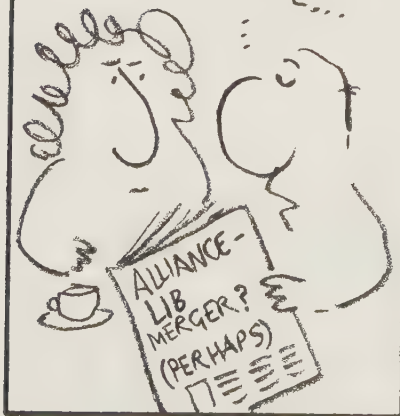




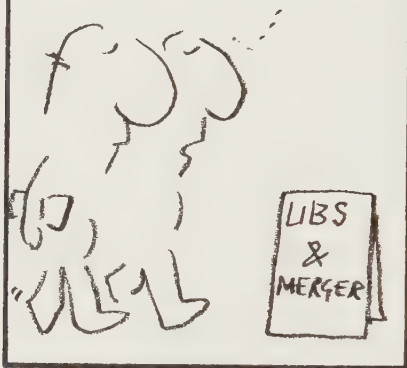
I see the SDP
have decided
NOT to DECIDE
anything...



You rarely see
a HORSE
with TWO JOCKEYS
winning a RACE...



It should be called
"The ALLIANCE of
PARTIES that like
TALKING about
MERGERS..."



It looks like
they're at last
built the FENCE
they want to
SIT on...



At the third
STRIKE, it
will be ...



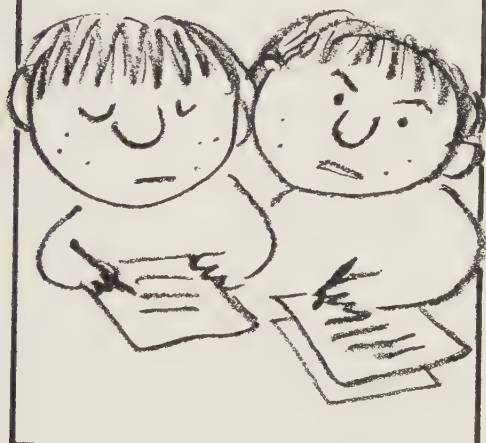
Another good
reason for
AVOIDING
the stuff..



Excuse me, SIR-
I couldn't do
my HOMEWORK
'Cos I'm working
to RULE...



If we don't go
to school, it's
TRUANCY - if they
don't go, it's
PRINCIPLES...



Funny there's
200,000 people
called
Keith Best..



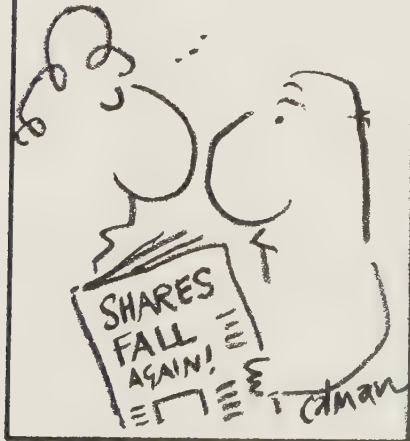
I hear it's HANGING
for INSIDER
DEALING...



Will this include
LESSONS in
multiple SHARE
applications?



Arent you glad
we're not
RICH?



Good thing we
diversified from
SHARES into notes
under the mattress,
isn't it?

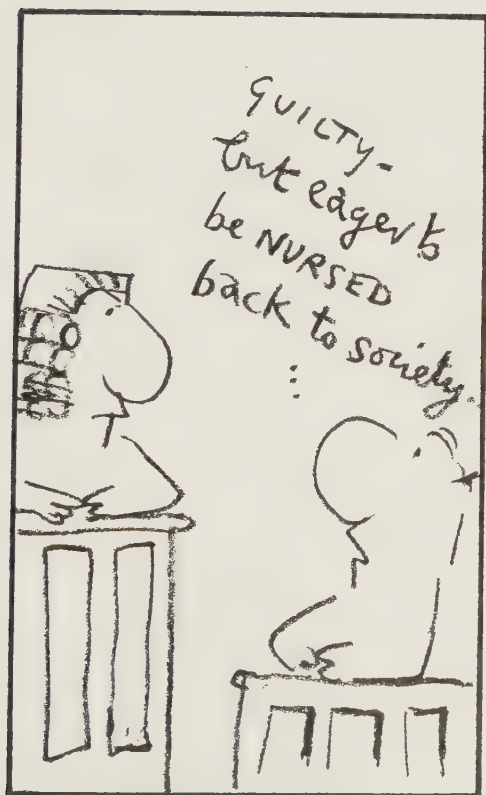


Lets' buy a
JAPANESE
copy instead..



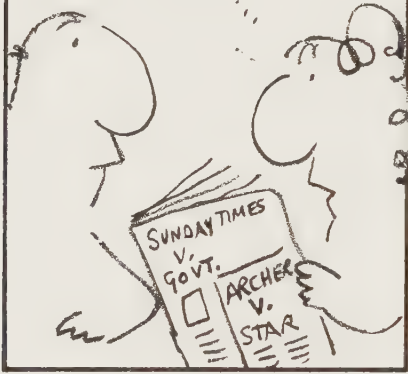
Perhaps he's
afraid of
JUSTICE..



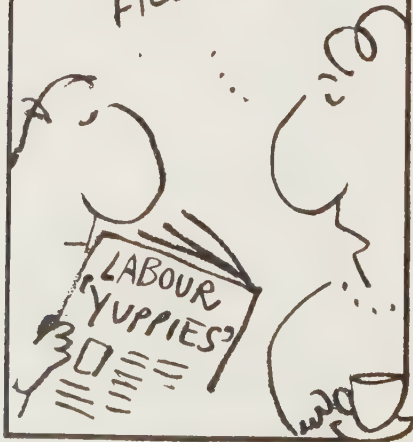


GUILTY -
but eagerly to
be NURSED
back to society.

Any NEWS that
isn't either
IN CONTEMPT
OR
BEYOND IT?



Does that mean
they plan to
nationalize
FILOFAX?



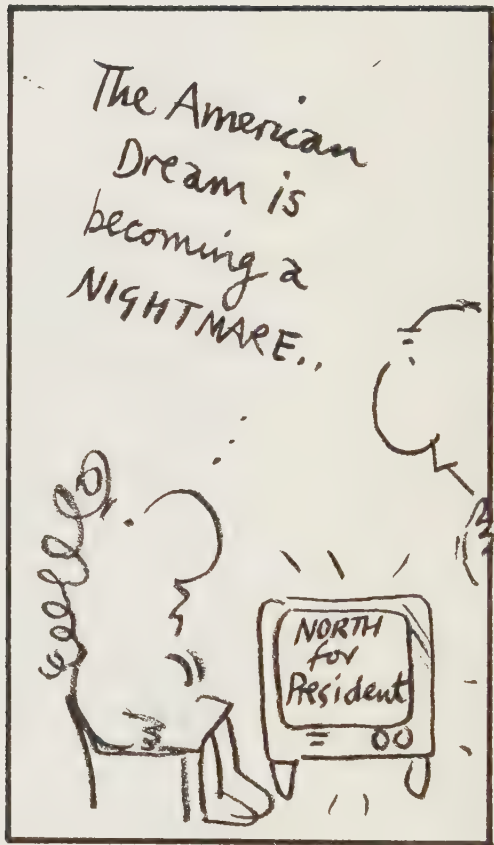
That should
reduce some of the
political
BACK STABBING...



I wouldn't
mind one of
those M.P. JOBS -
now the money's
a BIT better...



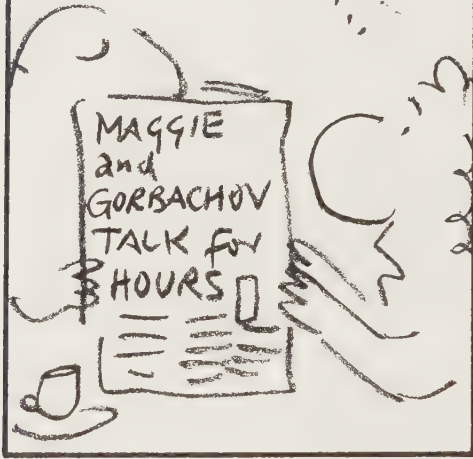
The American
Dream is
becoming a
NIGHTMARE..

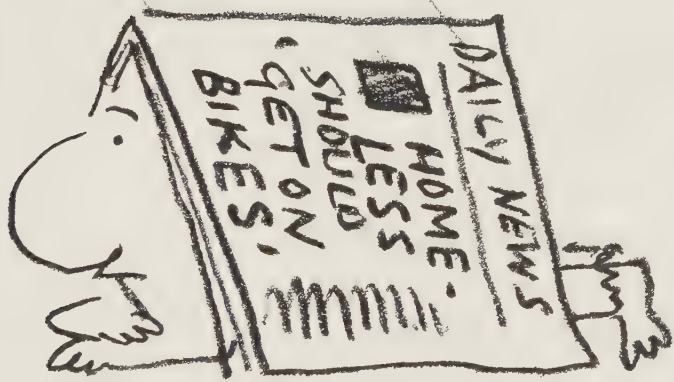


If the PRESIDENT
can admit he's
WRONG - why
can't you?

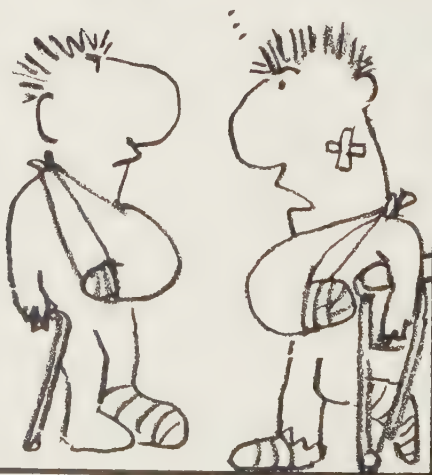


Perhaps
that's because
they're NOT
married to each
other..



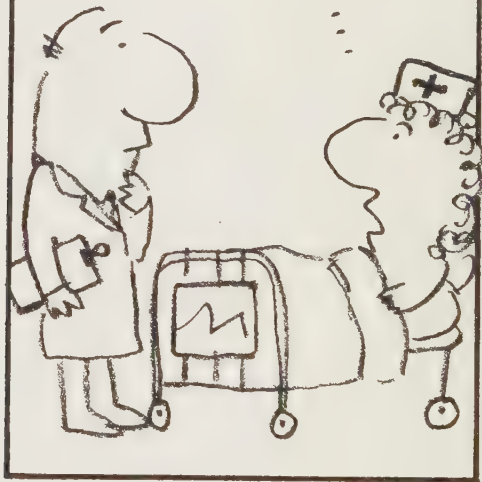


These hooligans
are giving
VIOLENCE
a BAD name...





I'm NOT on strike -
I'm just TIRED...



Your BLOOD PRESSURE
is fine - it's
MINE that's
RISING!



Every time I read
The WHITE PAPER
I see RED!

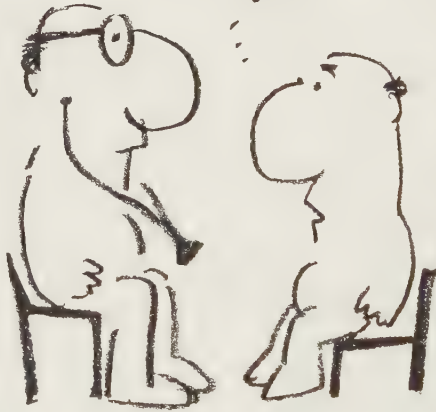


Anyone there?

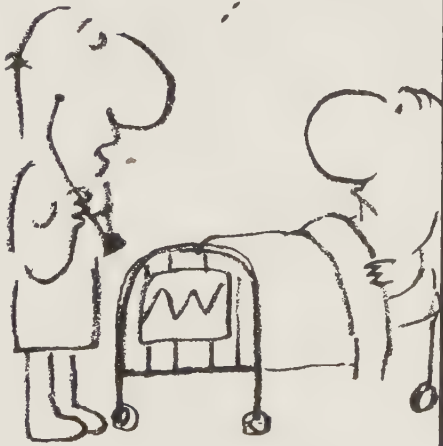
⋮



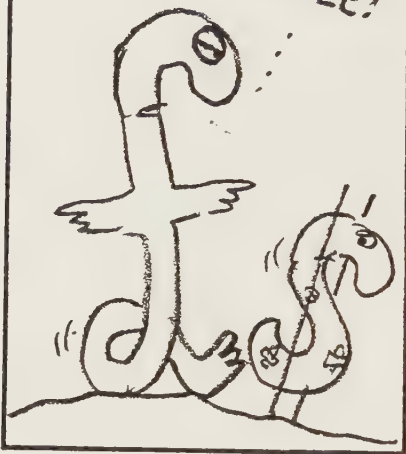
I'd like a PILL
to help the
increased
charges go
down...



Keep taking the
STATISTICS...



Every time you get
ill - I feel
TERRIBLE!



"If you don't get
this LETTER, please
'phone me - if it's
not BROKEN..."



Must have been
a very LARGE CAKE
to smuggle that in...



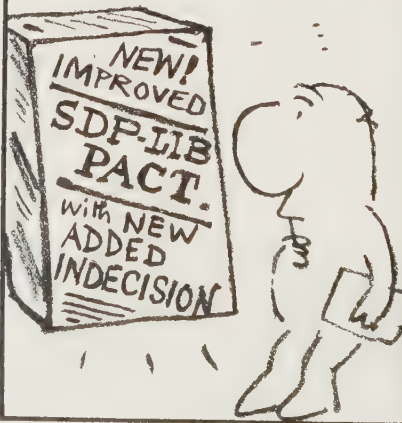
I hear the
LUFTWAFFE
is keen to do
the job...

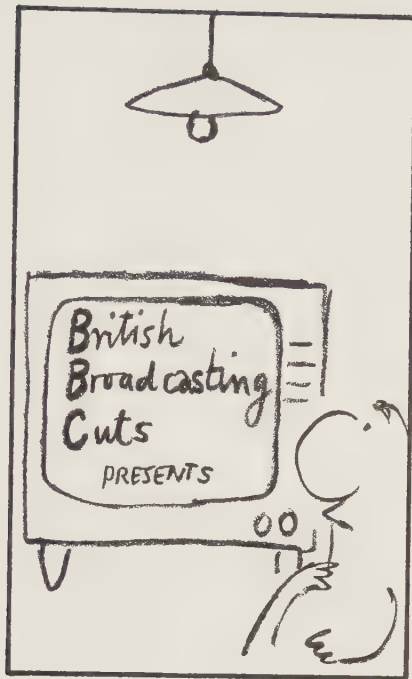


If they withdraw
their Intermediate
Range UMPIRES,
we could withdraw
our GATTINGS...



The more I read
the LABEL—
the less I know
what's in it.

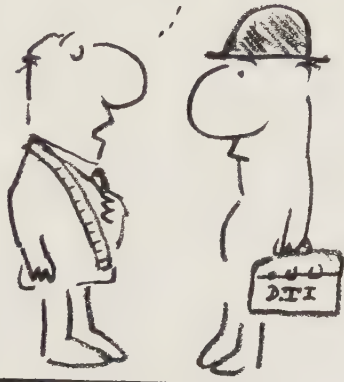






BURTON

Are the inquiries
made to measure or
off the peg?



Are you
WALKING OUT,
BOYCOTTING
or merely BREAKING
for COFFEE?





It's LOVE at first BITE ...



That's nice- but
I'll still be UNEMPLOYED
on December 26th...

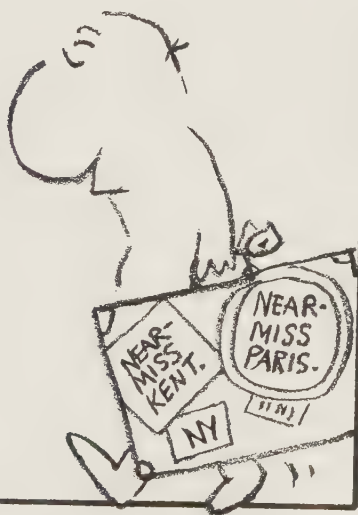




There's another
country that
doesn't know how to
forecast STORMS...



ARRIVALS.



There goes your LAST EXCUSE
for putting it off...



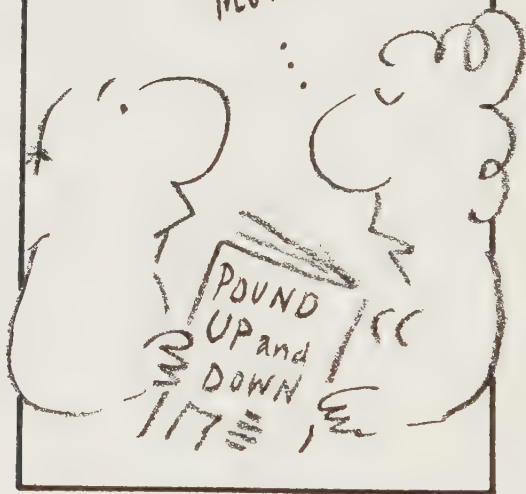
Even you can't
object to making
MONEY now...



More news
of the ANGL0-IRISH
DISAGREEMENT?



Just to be on the
SAFE side-
give me
more...



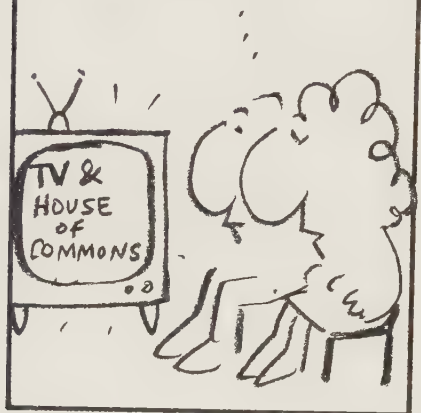
At last a BUDGET
that gives me
an INCENTIVE
to make money..



Can a STAND-IN
become
the STAR?



There's enough
BAD LANGUAGE
on TV already..



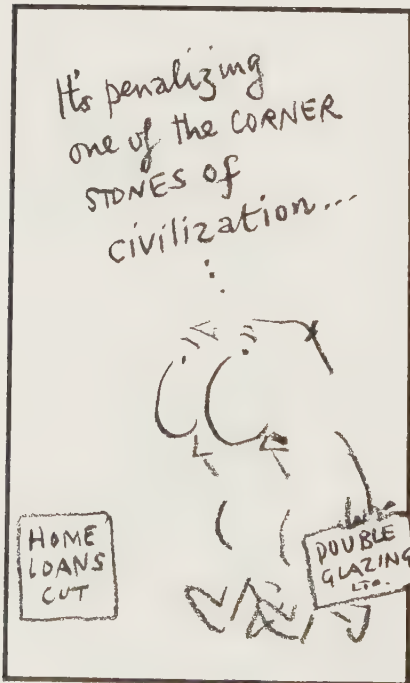
I don't think
it affects the
Two cypress trees
beside the front
gate..



I wish they'd show
REPEATS
we haven't
seen before...



It's penalizing
one of the CORNER
STONES of
civilization...

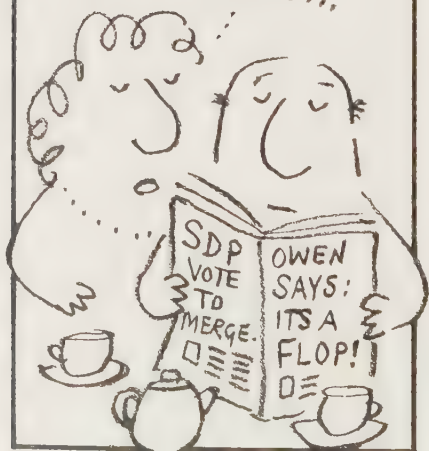




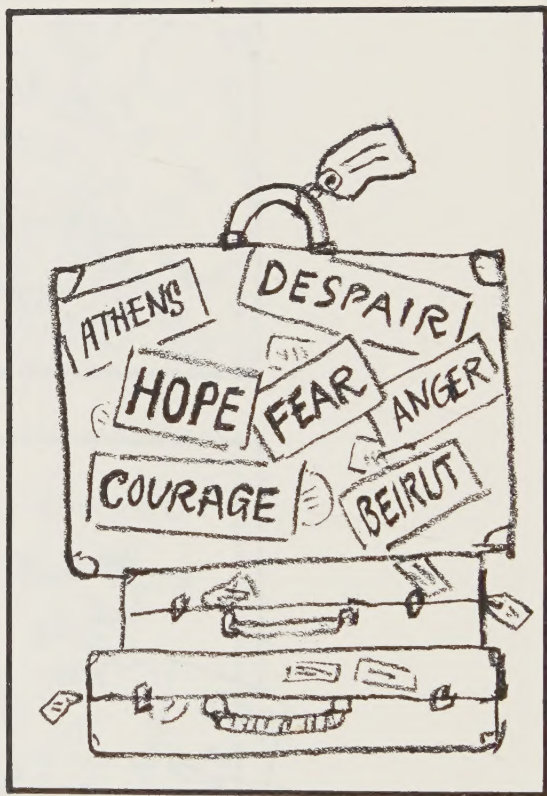
I expect she told
them to PRIVATIZE
it...



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sides...







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9