

Inflation down to 17.6% and fall will go on next year if pay rises are curbed, minister says

From Arthur Osman Birmingham

Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, maintained yesterday that inflation will continue to fall for the rest of this year. He announced a fall to 17.6 per cent.

Speaking in support of Mr John Sever, the Labour candidate for the Birmingham, Ladywood, by-election, he said it might also continue next year provided 12-month intervals were kept between wage settlements and given a 10 per cent ceiling on national earnings.

"The message is gradually getting across that moderate wage increases are the way to improve our standard of living," he said.

"At the beginning of the improvement which has long been awaited and needed. We are on course for the 12 or 13 per cent fall by the end of the year. This is now certain. It is a remarkable economic achievement but it is only the beginning."

July's retail price index marked the beginning of a period of moderate inflation began earlier than expected.

"In July prices rose overall by 0.1 per cent. That is the lowest increase since August, 1974, itself an exceptional month. Only three times since 1970 has a monthly figure as low been recorded."

The figures took no account of the fall in prices of petrol and oil. The six-monthly comparison had fallen to an annual equivalent of 15.9 per cent in May and 20 per cent in April.

"The retrospective annual rate of inflation, August, 1974, to July 1975 fell from 17.7 per cent to 17.6 per cent."

Mr Hattersley added: "There is no doubt that next month will show a much larger reduction."

The rate of inflation would continue to fall throughout this year. As long as the national wage bill does not

increase beyond the limit set by the Chancellor, the improvement will go on into the next year and the target of a single-digit inflation rate will be achieved.

"In fact, we can now predict with confidence that prices will be brought increasingly under control. Whether or not there is a continuation into 1976 is wholly dependent on the pattern of wage settlements during the next year."

What happened after Christmas was in the hands of the whole nation. The prospects were clear and the turnaround had arrived.

Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, also in Ladywood yesterday, said she was not impressed by a fall in prices.

"You always get a good month during the Christmas season because fresh vegetables are down," on inflation she said. "Even if it would still be an appalling high figure."

She said a return to free competition would not inevitably lead to some getting more than others.

"Workers have had their differentials compressed for two years and it is unrealistic to think they will go on with that."

Air traffic - control staff shelve work-to-rule

Air traffic control assistants at West Drayton, Middlesex, called off their work-to-rule last night after a meeting with Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC.

Meanwhile, British Airways flight attendants were disrupted during the weekend by unofficial action by engineers protesting against the dismissal of a union member.

Mr Murray told the control assistants' leader, Mr Kenneth Thomas, general secretary of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), that the CAA and British Airways should be held responsible for the current situation. He said the CAA should be held responsible for the current situation. He said the CAA should be held responsible for the current situation.

The air traffic control assistants are taking their action in support of a claim for payments for extra responsibility lodged five years ago.

The union started to ballot its members for a national strike by all 850 control assistants for four days from midnight on Thursday.

At Heathrow, some incoming and outgoing flights were delayed for an hour to discuss the matter.

In the second dispute, over the dismissal of Mr Jack Gatsky, a ship steward, 3,000 engineering workers in the north-western region were absorbed into Greater Manchester three years ago, the leader of the controlling Conservative group, Mr Christopher Herzig, declared that it had no commitment to introduce comprehensive education which was undertaken by the previous council.

Company concerned for safety of tenants and managers, some of whom have suffered serious injury

Psychologists to study violence in pubs

By Alan Hamilton

A team of psychologists at the University of Glasgow are to be commissioned by Whitbread, the brewers, to find out why people become violent in public houses.

Whitbread believes that public house brawling is a social phenomenon. The company receives on average one report each week of unruly behaviour in its pubs.

The academics will report regularly to a committee of public figures and members of the Whitbread board. Eventually they will produce a report which, it is hoped, will suggest ways in which alcoholic violence can be curbed.

At present the company has little idea of how to solve the problem, although they have observed that a well built landlord who is seen better by stopping a fracas than the landlord. Most seasoned drinkers know at least one female bartender of whom they live in fear and trembling.

The brewery does not believe that violence is directly connected with licensing hours. But it has noted that since the publication of the Sunday Times article, there has been a relaxation since there has been a substantial reduction in the number of prosecutions for offences connected with drinking.

Concurrently with its psychological study, Whitbread is commissioning a nationwide opinion poll on English licensing hours.

Publicans no doubt hope that the psychologists will favour stiffer sentences, for those convicted of public house violence. Yesterday's edition of the *Morning Advertiser*, the local newspaper, carried an account of the trial of a man aged 22 who had smashed a beer glass into a publican's face, causing the need for 17 stitches, and who was given a suspended sentence at the Central Criminal Court on a charge of grievous bodily harm.

Whitbread said yesterday that they were not alone in their concern at increasing violence, and that other licensed trade bodies were also seeking ways to curb it.

Councillor Bryan Harris, the Conservative group leader, said that his group could not support any breach of the law as it stands under the Education Act, 1976, which gave the Government greater powers to ensure comprehensive education.

Mr Richardson said yesterday that he could not advocate a breach of the law, but he felt that it would not be possible to put reorganization into effect in all the areas of Cheshire by the scheduled date. He said that if adequate time was to be provided for full consultation with parents.

In Trafford, which administers 17 secondary schools, eight grammar schools and a comprehensive school, Councillor Colin Walker, the Conservative leader, is determined to resist comprehensive education until there is a change of government, which he is certain will come about by 1979.

He says there are no financial resources available to build or convert properly equipped comprehensive schools.

In brief

Former agent on 22 charges

Francis Coates, aged 62, of Bromley, Kent, former agent for the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was charged with 22 offences for the RAF and MP for Bexley. He was granted a value of £1,025 and four for falsifying the accounts of the centre. He was remanded on £500 bail.

Manx curb on immigrants

The Isle of Man government department responsible for employment has warned employers that they must give preference to Manx workers.

A statement issued yesterday said that applications for permanent jobs are being made for the coming winter months would rarely be approved. Employers on the island were urged to train workers to take higher positions.

Dismissal suspended

The dismissal notice given to a reporter on the *Lancashire Evening Post*, which caused a stoppage by members of the National Union of Journalists on Thursday, has been suspended pending talks between the newspaper and unions on Tuesday.

Tower Bridge closed

Tower Bridge will be closed to all traffic from 9 am today until 6 pm tomorrow for redecoration and cleaning. The bridge will be up for most of the time but it is hoped that they can be lowered at intervals to enable pedestrians to cross.

Belfast boy has polio

Poliovaccination centres were set up in Belfast yesterday after it was confirmed that a boy aged five, from the Lennoxdown estate, had the disease, the first case in Ulster for three years.

Woman found dead

The body of Mrs Gladys Todd, aged 55, was found at her home in Runswick Drive, in the North-west yesterday morning. Police officers believe she had been attacked by an intruder.

More crisps in bag

The Smiths Food group will increase the weight of potato crisps in its standard bag by 19 per cent from now without changing the price.

Lads of the manor

The workers of Britain are in a hot property battle in a big way; 10 leading unions have almost a quarter of their combined property assets in the form of bricks and mortar. And as the heraldic devices and family mottoes come down in stately homes like *Sherwood*, *White* and *zine* reports tomorrow on "The Lads of the Manor".

NGA to oppose 12-month rule and 10 pc limit

The National Graphical Association printing union has at this year's Trade Union Congress demanded the rejection of a 12-month interval rule on pay settlements. The union has 108,000 members.

The official said yesterday that the union's national council had also decided not to support Government proposals that should be restricted in every case to 10 per cent on earnings.

New schools clash is imminent

From John Charities Manchester

After the Tameside dispute, renewed clashes between education authorities in the North-west and the Government seem to be imminent.

Cheshire County Council has created a working party for Thursday at which Councillor Alan Richardson, of Nantwich, a member of the controlling Conservative group, is expected to announce the conversion of about 40 schools to comprehensive status by September 1, 1978 and 1979.

In Cheshire it is not certain whether Mr Richardson's motion at the meeting next week will succeed. It will be the third attempt this summer by some of the hard-line Conservatives to delay the change-over to a comprehensive system. The county is more than half way through a programme of conversion to comprehensive schools which was embarked on by the previous council.

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Violence is feared at marches

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may be present. There is also a football match at the Millwall ground to be held on Wednesday.

Mr David McEneaney, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has intervened, laying out the timing and routes of the two main marches. A anti-racism campaign's march is to start at 11 am from Ladywood and march through Lewisham shopping centre and make for Deptford. It is being stopped short of Deptford, where black people live, and which the campaign wanted to go through.

At the march, which was formed last January, before the Front's march was planned, includes representatives from the anti-racism campaign, and the churches, there is concern about the plans of the extreme left-wing group, the Workers' Party, which is represented in the campaign.

A statement earlier this week in Deptford, he planned to go into Deptford after the march to prevent the Front's march.

The Front's march is to start at 2 pm, through Deptford and Lewisham to Deptford.

Mr Peter Anderson, of the anti-racism campaign, said tonight in Deptford most of the reassurance from the campaign.

Hospitals in Lewisham and Deptford have lined up with staff materials and facilities. Guy's Hospital is standing by.

The Front's council has decided to move out of Deptford living in Clifton Rise, where the Front march is to assemble, to social centres.

Mr Martin Webster, activities organizer for the Front, said that such a move to show white people is the aim that had not been forgotten and to show the left that the Front could be fragmented.

Appeals for the march to be called off have included one from Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, and the Trades Union Congress.

The meeting, which lasted most of the day, ended with an industrial tribunal had reinstated two men who claimed unfair dismissal.

Mr Hughes said last night that the contractors had agreed to reinstate all six members of a concreting gang whose dismissal had started the dispute.

The work of the gang well recommenced on August 23. The Sun Centre should have opened in May.

MPs call for inquiry into county council

By Clive Cookson

Reading's two Conservative MPs have called for a full investigation into allegations by the retiring county secretary regarding alleged irregularities in the county council's financial accounts. The inquiry is to be held by the Local Government Commission.

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Sea temperatures record in foil Channel swimmers

By a Staff Reporter

Members of the Channel Swimming Association met in Dover last night to ratify the new sea temperature record set by Channel-swimming attempts.

On average 30 solo and 10 relay attempts are made between July and October each year, but low sea temperatures have prevented many attempts from being made.

The sea temperature is usually 65°F, but this year has seldom risen above 60°F.

Most swimmers set off from Shakespeare Beach, Dover, to catch the right current and cover twice a month. They cover 30 to 35 miles before setting out on their return.

Some are not satisfied with their own record.

Mr Des Renford, aged 49, an Australian, has swum it 11 times.

Mr Michael Reardon, aged 36, an animal nutritionist from Norwich, has swum it twice this year, bringing his total number of crossings to 11.

All swimmers are accompanied by a pilot and observer to avoid cheating.

Hypocrisy suggested at nuclear inquiry

Mr Herzig denied that there was any inconsistency. It was hoped to meet the needs of the worker and decrease proliferation risks, he said.

Mr Kidwell: "My mind goes to plutonium whenever the question of repressing is raised."

Mr Herzig: "So do I, but the technology has put pressure on countries, including the United Kingdom, to go nuclear. It happened after the Second World War when America tried to keep nuclear technology to itself."

Mr Herzig said that even if the Japanese were unable to send fuel at the right time, it was in the right quantities, British Nuclear Fuels was financially protected.

Mr Kidwell said: "In 1982, by the time we start to build the plant, the American president would have said that the Japanese are not allowed to send their fuel here."

Mr Justice Parker, the inspector, said: "As I understand it, the American president would have said that the Japanese are not allowed to send their fuel here."

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Woman found dead

The body of Mrs Gladys Todd, aged 55, was found at her home in Runswick Drive, in the North-west yesterday morning. Police officers believe she had been attacked by an intruder.

Work on holiday centre to be resumed

Work on the £4m Sun Centre on Ray's promenade, which was held up by a strike since January, will resume today.

It was decided that talks between the main contractors and Mr Eric Hughes, regional secretary in the North-west of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians. The meeting, which lasted most of the day, ended with an industrial tribunal had reinstated two men who claimed unfair dismissal.

Mr Hughes said last night that the contractors had agreed to reinstate all six members of a concreting gang whose dismissal had started the dispute.

The work of the gang well recommenced on August 23. The Sun Centre should have opened in May.

Precautions for Apprentice Boys' march

Leaders responsible for Provisional IRA propaganda made another attempt to register the bomb by maintaining that the bomb that exploded in the union of the Provisional IRA on Thursday night weighed 7lb and had been planted before the Queen's arrival.

The security forces, who said that the bomb contained only 1lb of explosive, they added that it had probably been planted near a road after security had been relaxed in the wake of the Queen's arrival.

Although some of the tension arising from the royal visit had been lifted, another intensive security operation is being mounted in Londonderry today to prevent clashes during the annual Apprentice Boys' march.

Fewer children recorded in primary stage

There was a record number of pupils in secondary schools in Northern Ireland, but as the population fell, according to provisional statistics released yesterday by the Department of Education and Science.

The secondary school population grew to more than four million, whereas the number of children in primary schools dropped by 105,000 to 4,943,000.

The overall ratio of teachers to pupils fell virtually no change, at 17.0 for primary schools and 23.8 in primary schools.

The number of children attending nursery schools either part or full-time increased by nearly 30,000, but the number of children in the number of 16-year-olds (25.8 per cent of the total) who chose to stay on at school.

The proportion of secondary pupils at comprehensive schools increased from 76 per cent in January 1976, to 80 per cent last January.

As the Britannia sailed out of Northern Ireland waters towards the Queen's visit, a personal message of thanks to Mr Mason and all concerned in the visit.

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Peace formula is agreed for the FT

The Financial Times, which has not appeared since Thursday last week because of a printers' strike, is expected to resume publication on Monday.

Last night, both sides adopted a peace formula, under which a joint dispute appeals committee of the Newspaper Publishers Association and the NGA.

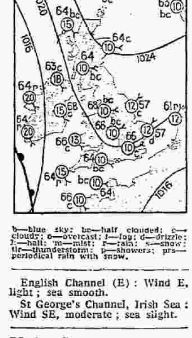
The NGA, the Financial Times was over 46 printers who were dismissed for taking a strike over work provisions as unauthorized nights off. The printers received the official support of the NGA, their union.

Both sides are now to enter formal negotiations on a management proposal for work provisions and the appeals committee wants a report on this Friday.

Until the end of the negotiations, deductions of money for days taken off and money already paid for work will be paid into a joint management-chapel account for disbursement in accordance with the eventual agreement.

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Weather forecast and recordings



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State of leaders in chess tournament still confused

From a Chess Correspondent

A little clarification of the confused situation at the top of the British Chess Championship at Brighton, started yesterday.

All the overnight leaders drew in the final round. George Botsch agreed to a draw with the leader, but the draw was still on the board. Botsch is still on the board with a tangible lead.

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At the resorts

24 hrs to 6 pm, August 12

Resort	Sea	Wind	Temp
South coast	2-3	15-20 S	17-25
East coast	2-3	15-20 S	17-25
North coast	2-3	15-20 S	17-25

Get herring catch quota

Herring fishing in the Irish Sea will be limited from Monday to 400 tons this year to conserve stocks, the Government announced yesterday.

Poor apple crop likely

Fruit farmers in the Cotswolds and Vale of Evesham declined yesterday that local apples would soon cost 50p to 60p a bushel because of a poor crop. The weather was the poorest for 50 years.

Council inquiry

Twenty-five Hampshire County Council employees have been suspended on full pay while detectives investigate alleged irregularities in time sheets.

Yesterdays

City	High	Low
London	18	12
Manchester	17	11
Glasgow	16	10