

CONTACT

August
1970



Waiting to perform
(see page 181)

FLYING VISIT TO MANWEB

HEAD OFFICE



MANWEB chairman, Mr. D. G. Dodds with Mrs. Dodds, show Mrs. de Ferranti, *extreme left*, and Mrs. Steward, *extreme right*, around the Head Office building

Pictured during the tour of the building, *from the left*, Mr. S. F. Steward with the Chief Accountant, Mr. A. P. Whyte and Mr. D. S. Webb-Jones, a senior member of the Commercial Dept. In the background Board Secretary Mr. M. M. Parker and Mr. Sebastian de Ferranti

Members of MANWEB staff admire the 'bird' that settled down close to the Head Office building





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Editorial Staff
Keith Baldwin
John F. Perry
Sam Doughty

EDITORIAL

Bridging the Gap

MORE than one shrewd observer, after travelling in those parts of the world where for so long squalor, poverty, disease and malnutrition have reigned unchallenged, has gloomily prophesied that the final Armageddon would be between the "haves" and "have-nots," the white and coloured, the East and West.

If this picture of conflicting interests had continued unchanged, there might well have been much truth in these predictions. The starving beggar is not content for all time to lie at the gates of the rich man begging for alms.

Fortunately, perhaps, for the future of Mankind, there are changes—some obvious, some subtle—in the pattern. Slowly the skills and advanced technologies of the developed nations are acquired by the less sophisticated. Only too often, unhappily, some of the first skills include those involved in handling modern weapons of war, but the weapons of peace are also included. Many a Briton owes his life and health to the skill and devotion of Indian doctors and coloured nurses, without whose help our own hospitals would come under desperate pressure.

As in this country, one of the foundations of progress and development in any part of the world is the establishment and expansion of a reliable and efficient electricity supply industry.

Anyone from Britain who contributes his skill and experience to the development of electricity supply in the less advanced countries is making a notable contribution to the cause of world peace and friendship between peoples.

It is for this reason that we draw your attention to the establishment of the new Overseas Consultancy Service, described in greater detail on page 183 of this number of *Contact*.



The packed audience in the main marquee at the Eisteddfod

24th INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD AT LLANGOLLEN

THE HILLS around Llangollen were alive with the sound of music from many lands during the week of the recent International Musical Eisteddfod. This charming Welsh town in the valley of the River Dee thronged with thousands of visitors making their way to the huge marquee in the centre of the Eisteddfod field where they could see and hear some of the 10,000 singers, dancers and musicians from over two dozen countries as far apart as Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia in the East to Canada and the U.S.A. in the West. The competitors included Indian dancers from Walsall and Greek dancers from London.

Many millions more enjoyed the wonderful sights and sounds brought to them through their radios

and televisions. This was made possible by the service provided by the Men from MANWEB—more specifically the engineers and electricians from our Corwen Depot, who, a few days before the Festival opened, erected a temporary electricity supply of more than four miles of cable from a ring of poles



Electrician
G. E. Davies at
work on the
switchboard
in the
main marquee

Eighty-three years' service to the industry! Mr. Norman Evans, consumers' engineer (43 years) and his sister Mrs. Ethel M. Glascott Archer, saleswoman (40 years). Their father was manager of the Llangollen Electric Light and Power Company and later worked with MANWEB for a short period prior to his retirement.



OUR COVER PICTURE

shows one of the Continental competitors patiently awaiting his turn to take the stage

round the field. Cable was looped from tent pole to tent pole and from tree to tree.

Lighting and power points were provided in the 9,000-seat main marquee, the police control point, the Welsh Tourist Board exhibit, the various local and national newspaper sites, the mobile post office, banks and the catering tents.

This year, for the very first time, colour television was at the Eisteddfod. Again, our men prepared for this by laying approximately 300 yards of four-core cable underground, for the two TV companies. B.B.C.

Wales brought along their Colour Mobile Control Room which weighed 11½ tons and cost £250,000. Crammed with lots of rather complex electronic equipment, staff operating from inside the van, controlled four colour cameras sited round the field.

The Eisteddfod motto reads, "Blessed is the World that Sings." We thank our colleagues at Corwen for their part in bringing the Eisteddfod songs to the world.



Some of the staff who worked on the installation. Left to right : Messrs. F. Jones (installation inspector), P. A. Cowsill, A. O. Simpson, J. Blything, G. Williams and E. H. L. Webb (electricians). Others involved were electricians J. J. Morris, G. E. Davies and W. L. Humphreys and apprentice P. Morris

The Men from MANWEB at the Eisteddfod

Left to right : Messrs. J. A. Connolly and Lloyd Davies (linesman's mates), G. Roberts and H. W. Price (linesmen), E. E. Davies (foreman), H. Lewis (mate), W. R. Isbill (driver), Len Davies (linesman), J. Edwards (labourer), D. G. Jones (assistant section engineer), and R. J. Davies (labourer). Others involved were section engineer K. Griffiths and W. F. Lewis (linesman)



THE ELECTRIC CENTRAL HEATING BOOM—

ONE DISTRICT'S EXPERIENCES

For a long time the home central heating field was a tough nut for the electricity supply industry to crack. Most domestic central heating systems relied on the piped circulation of hot water, heated at a central boiler, and warming the house from radiators in the various rooms, and on economic grounds electricity was not a strong competitor for use in this way.

Then came the big breakthrough, with the development of the electric storage heater, accumulating its heat from cheap off-peak electricity at night, and giving it out during the whole of the 24 hours to keep the house cosy at all times.

The basic principle of electric storage applies to both the main types of electric central heating which have developed since then—the handy, movable night storage heaters which are plugged in at individual points, and the “*Electricaire*” system, which fans warm air through ducts to different points of the home from one large central electric storage unit.

Electricity Leads

So popular have these two systems become that we have now reached the stage where electricity leads the field in domestic central heating installations, as more and more people take advantage of the White Meter tariff to buy half-price electricity for all-day comfort. Night storage heaters—cheap to install and movable when you move house—were the first to catch on, but to an ever-increasing degree, builders, and particularly local authorities, rare installing “*Elec-*

tricaire” on a large scale in new developments.

Apart from being economical, electric central heating based on night storage has several other advantages—notably cleanliness, finger-tip convenience, and in eliminating the need for stoking or fuel storage of any kind.

Nowhere are these trends more apparent than in MANWEB's Liverpool North District, where a number of substantial contracts with local authorities is putting “*Electricaire*” well and truly on the map.

Four Councils Involved

Currently work is going on—or contracts have been accepted—for “*Electricaire*” installations for four local authorities—Liverpool, Bootle, Litherland and Crosby.

Altogether these contracts number several hundred new homes, while electric central heating is also going into more than 100 new Old Age Pensioners' flats being built by the “Help the Aged” Housing Association at Kirkby, and 45 houses at Netherton, being built by a local housing society.

Typical of these new enterprises, perhaps, is the installation of “*Electricaire*” in 45 houses now under construction by Litherland Urban District Council at Kirkstone Road North and Osborne Road, Litherland. This area has recently been cleared of “pre-fabs” of the immediate post-war era, which
(continued opposite)



Stan Ferris, ducting expert from Lister Drive, checks the installation of the warm air ducts.

William Hargreaves (contracting electrician) and apprentice David Gambon, at work installing one of the *Electricaire* units at Litherland



NEW OVERSEAS CONSULTANCY SERVICE REGISTER

A CHANCE TO WORK ABROAD

THE ELECTRICITY COUNCIL have recently established an Overseas Consultancy Service under the aegis of a Committee whose members are Mr. N. F. Marsh, Deputy Chairman, The Electricity Council, Mr. E. S. Booth, Member for Engineering, Central Electricity Generating Board, and Mr. W. D. D. Fenton, Chairman, London Electricity Board.

The Service will act as a focal point for enquiries received from home and overseas Government departments, and recognised organisations including established overseas electricity undertakings, who require technical information or assistance which may be provided either in the U.K. or by arranging for suitable staff in the supply industry, or who have recently retired, to go abroad on short term assignments or for longer periods of up to two years. From time to time there may be short term assignments lasting for just a few weeks, these may appeal particularly to retired staff.

A Central Register is being compiled of those who are really interested and would like, without commitment at this stage, to be considered for overseas appointments which in the main will be arranged by secondment.

There may be some staff who would like to be considered for a succession of assignments over a number of years. The majority of requests for staff are for engineers but from time to time others, e.g. accountants, administrators, industrial relations/personnel officers, commercial officers, training

officers, instructors and possibly other staff with specialist skills, may be needed.

If you would like to be considered for such appointments please ask the Deputy Secretary or Mr. W. A. Gibson at Head Office to send you a form to complete. The form is designed to enable you to give some brief particulars of your experience, and to indicate the length of the assignment in which you would be interested.

Retired staff are, of course, eligible for consideration.

If you apply you may be reassured that you will not be committed until you have specifically agreed to the terms and conditions of a particular assignment and the terms for your reinstatement on return to the United Kingdom. The effect of setting up the Service and the extent of the demand for assistance from it when knowledge of it is more widespread is not yet known, but the purpose of this enquiry is to get an indication of the interest of staff and retired staff so that we are ready for and may deal reasonably quickly with demands as they arise.

As the needs and work loads of the Board must be considered on each occasion when a secondment is contemplated, the final decision regarding release will rest with the Board.

Applications should not be made direct to the Overseas Consultancy Service at Electricity Council Headquarters.

ong out-lived the limited life forecast for them at the time they were erected.

These new houses represent some of the very latest ideas in municipal housing development. Each contains a comfortable lounge, a spacious dining-kitchen, downstairs W.C. and cloakroom, three good bedrooms, and, of course, full central heating by "Electricaire." Ample supplies of hot water are provided too, also heated at the low rate.

The method of construction of these houses is

bang up-to-date, designed to save both time and costs. The ground floor is built in the traditional bricks-and-mortar way, while the upper floor is prefabricated at the factory and placed in position as one unit—but there is no hint of the "pre-fab" about the finished product, and the people who have already moved in are delighted with their new homes and also with the streamlined and functional electric central heating system which is built into them and which heats the whole house so economically.

Talking Notes

HIS SIXTIETH SEASON

MORE THAN 4,000 concerts with Llandudno Town Band—that is the record set by principal trombone player, 71 years-old **Mr. Reg Williams**, of 12 King's Avenue, West Shore, Llandudno, now in his sixtieth season with the band.

Mr. Williams joined the band at the age of eleven and was originally taught to play the soprano cornet. In 1922 he became principal cornet player and in 1940 he changed to the trombone.

During his membership the band has had three conductors, Messrs. F. L. Traversi, W. Skelton and Mr. Robin Williams.

During the summer season the

band plays nightly, at the promenade bandstand, with an average of 80 concerts a year.

The prospect of turning out every evening for three months might daunt many a younger man, but Mr. Williams says that he looks forward to it.

"The response from the audience is very rewarding, and over the years you make many friends among the holidaymakers who return year after year. I wouldn't miss it for anything, and will keep on playing

while I have enough breath to blow my trombone."

Until his retirement six years ago, Mr. Williams was employed by MANWEB as a joiner at Llandudno.

Thanks

A Liverpool customer writes to our South District office:

"May I say how pleased I am with the work carried out by your electrician. Considering the damage caused by the lightning he has made every effort to make an excellent job bearing in mind the decoration of the room."

"In these days when we get so much 'couldn't care less' workmanship, it makes me appreciate all the more the job that he has done."

Now runs a shop

Those who remember **Mr. Jack Keating**, of Wallasey, will be interested to hear that he has left the industry and now keeps a newsagent's shop.

Election Success

At his first attempt, **Mr. W. R. Thomas**, of Wrexham District staff, has been elected a member of the Parish Council for Esclushiam Below (near Wrexham), and also to represent the parish on the works committee and the Denbighshire County Council.

Mr. Thomas has already served on Committees associated with his work with MANWEB. He is Chairman of the Local Advisory Committee, and also serves on the works committee and the District Ambulance Committee.

Now he has the opportunity to put his experience to work in his own parish, and on their behalf in the major local government work undertaken by the County Councils.

His colleagues wish him every success.

Narrow Squeak

We often hear of the adverse effects of vibration caused by the

Mr. Williams (centre) with some of his bandsmen colleagues



weight of traffic in our city streets these days, but **Mr. R. H. Morley**, District Engineer, North Wirral, and section engineer **Mr. Dave Price**, had a practical and unpleasant demonstration of what can happen in elderly buildings recently.

They were sitting in Mr. Morley's office at Craven street when they



The "hot seat" at Craven street

heard ominous noises coming from above. Retreating at top speed into a corner of the room, they were just quick enough to avoid a heavy fall of plaster from the ceiling, on to the desk and chair.

Congratulations on being quick off the mark!

Above Average

Increases in electricity sales in the MANWEB area were well above those for the country as a whole during the year ended 31st March, 1970.

Electricity sales in Great Britain in the 12 months ended March 1970, reached a record 187,963 million units, according to provisional figures released by the Electricity Council. This represented an increase in sales over the previous year of 5.3%.

Expansion in the volume of electricity sales is to a great extent dependant on real increases in the level of industrial production and consumer spending. Both of these remained relatively flat during the 12 months. Despite this, electricity

sales maintained overall growth at a level of only about 1.0 percentage point lower than the previous financial year (+5.3% in 1969/70 as against +6.5% for 1968/69).

All sectors showed increases. Industrial sales of electricity were up by 4.3%, domestic sales by 4.7%, commercial sales by 5% and sales to farms increased by 2%.

By way of comparison, the MANWEB overall increase was 7.9% compared with 7.6% in the previous year. Our industrial sales increased by 10.1%, while the respective figures for domestic, farming and commercial sales increase were 5.7% and 4.1%.

Appliance Sales Soar

Sales of electrical appliances from MANWEB shops during June reached an all-time high figure, showing a tremendous 41% increase on the figure for June of last year.

The value of sales totalled more than £588,000, an increase of £71,000 over the previous best monthly figure, which was set up only in March.

Heat-wave refrigerator sales boomed to 5,360, compared with 3,115 last June. Business at the new MANWEB shop in St. John's Precinct, Liverpool, was 82% better than that of June of last year, when the shop was located in Whitechapel.

And talking of shops, mini-cars

were shoe-horned into the St. John's and Birkenhead shops as part of the Board's "Win a Mini" Competition.

Improvements in Electric Trucks

Striking improvements have been made in the performance of electric trucks over the past 10 to 15 years and developments have included battery capacity, laden travelling and fork lifting speeds. Solid state controls are now widely used for electric industrial vehicles to provide stepless acceleration, increased manoeuvrability in confined spaces and more trips per battery charge.

Round-the-clock working can be obtained by having two batteries—one in use and one on charge. Battery replacement is straight forward and can be carried out in a few minutes.

Electrically-powered trucks are economic in use, quiet in operation and simple to maintain. Absence of exhaust fumes and sump or gear box oil reduce hazards to personnel.

Overseas Visitors

During the past few weeks, Liverpool North District has been visited by two students from overseas.

Bob Nicholson, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and **Anders Hokberg** (Andy) of Skulptorp, Sweden, have

(continued overleaf)

COLLIERY VISIT

Members of the Chester Sports and Social Club had an interesting outing recently when they visited Bershram Colliery, near Wrexham. This picture shows the underground party with, *extreme right*, the two colliery employees who acted as guides for the trip



BARN HAY DRYING DEMONSTRATION

Story by Mr. RON ANDREWS (Agricultural Sales Engineer)

THE TRADITION in many parts of Wales is to cut hay and leave it unturned for two or three days and hope that one or two turns during the next couple of days will bring it to a standard fit for baling, provided of course that it does not rain.

This traditional method of conserving fodder, however, does not succeed in producing a good quality hay because the nutrient losses frequently range from 20% to 40% due to leaching, bleaching by the weather, and leaf shatter when baling in a dry state.

Fodder conservation in the high-rainfall livestock areas of Wales has always been a chancy business, and it is important to the farmer that every available technical aid is employed to harvest the crop in the shortest possible time without damage or loss by weather or mould. For success a series of fine days are needed.

Meteorological data during the period 1st May to 31st August for the 21 years 1949 to 1969 show that there are roughly twice as many spells of two consecutive fine days than of three fine days, and twice as many spells of three fine days than of five fine days. It follows, therefore, that any successful method of hay-making must depend upon the fewest number of consecutive fine days required, and to this end farmers need to make full use of the available weather forecasting services.

Technical aids available to the farmer were clearly shown recently when quick hay-making

techniques and barn hay-drying equipment were demonstrated at Court Calmore, Montgomery by permission of Mr. A. M. Jones.

The event was organised by the National Agricultural Advisory Service in association with the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society and the Powis Grassland Society.

By arrangement with the Ministry of Agriculture, MANWEB installed an operational low-cost Dutch hay-drying unit at the farm.

In preparation for the demonstration and by arrangement with the farmer, grass had been cut a week previously, wilted down to 35% moisture content in the field, baled and carted to the barn a couple of days later when construction of the hay stack was commenced.

The system is very simple and is easily applied in most open-sided barns. No sheeting up, cladding of the barn sides, or special drying floor is required. Thus building and structural costs are very low.

The principle is to form a central duct in the hay stack by means of a bung unit which may incorporate a downward-blowing fan using cold air only or by simply forming a vertical duct connected with a ground level or underground horizontal main duct, in which case the fan is then mounted at ground level. Recommended moisture content at baling is 35% with a maximum upper limit of 40%.

Recommended air flow is 10 C.F.M. per bale at $2\frac{1}{2}$ " water gauge with bale weights of 52 lbs. to

Talking Notes—continued

been working in the Engineering Department.

Bob, who studied at Queens University, Kingston, is keen on the outdoor life and has spent some of his time as Councillor at the Rocky

Mountain Boys' Camp in British Columbia.

Andy is a keen electronics fan and studied at the Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg. He has worked at A.E.G. in Germany and Eks Radio in Gothenburg.

Both of our guests have expressed their appreciation of the hospitality extended to them and especially the visit to Blaenau Ffestiniog and Trawsfynydd Power Stations.

The photograph shows Mr. A. W. Hawley, District Engineer, explaining some of the details of a 33/11kV transformer. Left to right—Mr. Hawley, Andy and Bob.



The Cliff Britland Trophy

Mr. Cliff Houlbrook, Chester District Senior Clerk, was umpire at

a testimonial cricket match held recently as a memorial to a former MANWEB sportsman, **Cliff Britland** who died during a cricket match last year at the age of 26.

The captain of the MANWEB Chester team, Robin Collier of the Estates and Wayleaves section, Area 2/3, played in one of the representative teams made up from Mid-week Chester and District league, in which MANWEB play. The winners were presented with a trophy by the Mayor of Ellesmere Port, Councillor Williams, and this trophy which bore their son's name was presented in turn to Mr. and Mrs. Britland to hold for twelve months.

Cliff Britland was a former member of Area 2/3 and head office staff and was a secretary of the Mid-week League.

62 lbs. for a 36" bale or 43 lbs. to 52 lbs. for a 30" one.

A typical installation would need two 15' x 30' bays to accommodate 3,000 bales. A 25 h.p. (30,000 C.F.M.) fan and a bung unit 4' x 4' would provide 50 tons of super quality hay of high protein value which would show a saving in feeding costs of £6 to £8 per cow per annum by reducing the amount of concentrates required to feed the cows during the wintering period.

At the demonstration the opportunity was taken to show the Schwarting hay tower system which mechanises the barn-dried hay process. The system has been designed for drying and storing chopped grass to conserve maximum nutrients, and to unload mechanically for feeding stock.

Geratebau Schwarting K.G. of Germany, pioneered the system. Around 2,000 of their towers are in operation on the Continent and are now being imported into this country.

The hay tower is constructed of ten vertical tubular steel columns with channel ties, every three feet to support the perforated asbestos sheet walls which are topped by a conical galvanised roof.

Located at the centre of the tower is a mast with a

4 h.p. motor at the bottom which revolves the hay distributor spout from the blower at the top and also turns and slowly raises the six feet diameter bung as the crop rises to leave the centre chimney.

A 20 h.p. axial flow fan blows 28,600 C.F.M. at 3" W.G. through a bottom tunnel, up the chimney and as the bung prevents it escaping out of the top the air is forced through the hay and out of the louvre walls. A 48 kW heater bank on a humidity control cuts in about 80% relative humidity to raise the temperature 8°F.

At feeding time an unloader with 21 finger wheels on three arms is turned by the 4 h.p. centre mast motor at 16 r.p.m. to tease the crop down the chimney to a conveyor carrying it out of the other half of the bottom tunnel opposite the fan. It will deliver 25 lbs. of hay per cow for 80 cows in about half an hour.

From the views heard expressed, it seems that the event was a most outstanding one and it has successfully stimulated a high degree of interest in barn hay drying due to the fact that the farmers who came to the demonstration were able to see the systems in operation.

Visitors looking round the MANWEB exhibit at the Welsh grassland exhibition at Montgomery



Left to right: MANWEB demonstrators Wendy Baker, Barbara Strange, Christine Farrell and Vivian Beanland, and manufacturers' demonstrators Teresa Lennon, Dorothy Horning and Lorna Logan



BRISK BUSINESS AT THE LIVERPOOL SHOW

Simultaneous demonstrations of several domestic electrical appliances, with an amplified commentary on what was going on provided by a MANWEB



There was always an interested audience for the cookery demonstrations (Wendy Baker at work)

senior demonstrator, were a feature of this year's MANWEB stand at the Liverpool Show.

The show, held as usual at the Wavertree playground, Liverpool, was attended by above-average crowds, and there was always something of interest for the thousands who visited the electricity stand.

First returns indicate better business for the Board than at last year's Show. Each manufacture was given a target figure, and the best result was 60% over target, and 100% up on last year.

In addition to the demonstration of appliances of all kinds, including home laundry, cleaners, small appliances, and cookers with self-cleaning and stay-clean ovens, frequent cookery demonstrations by our own girls helped to keep the visitors interested.

We were fortunate to have a better position than last year—adjacent to the main floral marquee and show ring, and this ensured that most of the show's visitors passed by the electricity stand.



Left to right: Messrs. Vernon Collard (sales supervisor), Joe Need (display), Tom Saladine (sales supervisor and stand manager), Les Brown (Radiation), Ted Kelly (salesman), George Myers (Radiation) and Howard Walton (sales controller)



The scene on stage after the choosing of St. Helens Show Queen

The Camera follows The Girl from MANWEB

The Girl from MANWEB (Miss Peggy Francis) has been having a busy time recently. The pictures on this page show her (*above*) at the St. Helens Show, when she was one of the judges for the St. Helens Show Queen contest, and (*below*) at the "Heat a Home" exhibition staged by the Board at St. Mary's Sunday School, Penketh, Warrington.

This exhibition was opened by Mrs. A. Stapleton, vice-chairman of Warrington R.D.C., and was of particular interest to the people living nearby as this locality is scheduled to become a smokeless zone fairly soon.

Part of the "Heat a Home" exhibition at Warrington



The Girl from MANWEB (Peggy Francis) chats to Mr. C. McKeown (assistant consumer's engineer) on the MANWEB stand



Staff on the MANWEB stand at St. Helens. Left to right: Messrs. Mahandra Makin (CEGB trainee), F. Kelly (sales rep.), F. Halliwell (sales rep.), K. Appleton (energy sales engineer), and D. Tinsley (assistant consumers' engineer)

At the exhibition—left to right—The Girl from MANWEB, Mr. W. A. Morrison (clerk to Warrington R.D.C.), Mrs. A. Stapleton and Mr. R. G. Monk (D.C.E.)



QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

Landlords (Resale of Gas and Electricity)

Mr. John D. Grant asked the Minister of Technology what representations he has had from the Trades Union Congress to prevent landlords overcharging their tenants for electricity; and if he will introduce legislation to deal with this matter.

Mr. Golding asked the Minister of Technology whether he proposes to introduce legislation to enforce maximum prices for the resale of gas and electricity by landlords to tenants.

Sir J. Eden: Interested organisations including the T.U.C. were consulted by the Ministry on 23rd February on a scheme with this objective in mind. The T.U.C.'s reply generally supported the scheme. I will consider what further steps to take when all the replies have been received.

Nuclear Power Station, Flintshire

90. **Mr. Barry Jones** asked the Minister of Technology whether he will sanction the building of a nuclear power station on the River Dee, Flintshire.

Mr. Ridley: Before reaching a decision I shall need to consider with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales the implications of the Deeside Planning Study, and the report of the public inquiry at Mold provisionally fixed for 14th October.

Industry (Pay Levels)

Mr. Golding asked the Secre-

tary of State for Employment and Productivity (1) what criteria he is using, when asked to intervene in disputes, to recommend levels of pay for varying occupations in the private sector of industry;

(2) what criteria he will use when asked to intervene in disputes when recommending the levels of pay for different occupations in the nationalised industries.

Mr. Bryan: I do not recommend levels of pay in either the private sector of industry or in the nationalised industries. The Government regard it as of the greatest importance that, when negotiating increases in pay, employers and unions should have regard to the effect of their agreements on the economy generally as well as to the needs of their own particular industries.

Central Electricity Generating Board (Fuel Purchasing Policy)

51. **Mr. Tugendhat** asked the Minister of Technology whether he will grant the Central Electricity Generating Board permission to convert three further coal-fired stations to oil; and whether he will make a statement on the Government's policy towards the board's purchasing policy in relation to oil, coal and natural gas.

Sir J. Eden: I am considering this. Purchasing policy is primarily a commercial matter for the board itself.

Mr. Tugendhat: Is my hon. Friend aware that the fact that the electricity industry has to give so much preference to coal means that the price of electricity here is much higher than in most other European countries and that unless the C.E.G.B. is given the ability by the Government to purchase the lowest cost fuel that situation will remain?

Sir J. Eden: The interests of the electricity industry and of the coal industry will both have to be determined.

Mr. Alan Williams: May we have an assurance that before the Minister authorises any more conversions and approvals he will have full consultation with the N.U.M.? Is he aware that if suspicion built up in the coal industry that the interests of the coalminer are to be ignored, this could have extremely severe repercussions over the whole of the power field this winter?

Sir J. Eden: As I said in answer to a previous supplementary question, I hope to see some of the N.U.M. leaders later this week.

Mr. Palmer: Can the Minister say whether the C.E.G.B. has made application for these conversions, and if so, will he give the names of the stations concerned?

Sir J. Eden: Yes, Sir. That is why I said I am considering the matter. The stations are Aberthaw A, South Wales; Richborough, Kent; and Northfleet, Kent.

Mr. Emery: Does my hon. Friend realise that his statement is extremely important? He said that purchasing policy is mainly the responsibility of the nationalised industry. This is entirely contrary to the policy pursued by the previous Government, which made certain demands on the industry to purchase coal, at considerable expense to the taxpayer.

Sir J. Eden: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Eadie: Does not the hon. Gentleman agree that if this policy is pursued it could mean unemployment for miners? Does he not also agree that there is a lot of propaganda coming from the C.E.G.B. and apparently from some of his hon. Friends in an effort to defame the coal industry, whereas the C.E.G.B.

has problems in relation to the cost of nuclear power?

Sir J. Eden : I am aware that this is a very sensitive subject, but I think we ought to bear in mind what was said, for example, by the Chairman of the National Coal Board the other day, that if coal was not available for these power stations conversions would have to be considered.

Nationalised Industries (Return on Capital)

55. **Mr. Golding** asked the Minister of Technology whether he proposes to change the planned rates of return on capital required of the nationalised industries.

Sir J. Eden : This is a matter which must be kept under review.

Mr. Golding : Can the Minister say how the nationalised industries can be expected to achieve these target rates of returns if prices are controlled artificially? Will he state whether the levels of investment in the nationalised industries are to continue to be dependent upon these industries achieving the target rates of returns?

Sir J. Eden : There is a direct correlation between price control and the targets which the industries have been set. I hope that the industries concerned here will

be able to meet their targets by placing themselves in as competitive a position as possible.

Mr. Emery : Will my hon. Friend make certain that, in contrast to the practice adopted by the previous Government, the return on capital required by the Government is given to the nationalised industries well in advance of the period in which it is to operate? If that is not known it is impossible for the industries to operate properly.

Sir J. Eden : I think that that is an important matter.

Electricity Supply Workers (Wages and Conditions)

18. **Mr. Dalyell** asked the Minister of Technology if he will refer wages and conditions of electricity supply workers to the National Board for Prices and Incomes.

Sir J. Eden : No, Sir.

Mr. Dalyell : What contingency plans have the Government to become tough with the supply workers—as we were told during the General Election they would be—when they put in an Autumn pay claim?

Sir J. Eden : I do not think that arises from the original Question.

'CONTACT' 1970 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

★ Entry is free, but restricted to **MANWEB** employees, pensioners and their families.

★ Photographs must have been taken since **May 1st, 1969**.

★ Any number of **Black and White** prints may be submitted in the **Portrait and General Sections**. Only **FIVE** colour shots (transparencies and/or prints) in the **Colour Section**.

★ Don't forget to enclose a note with your name and address and **TITLE** of each picture.

★ Prizes as follows :

Colour :
1st Prize—£10
2nd Prize—£5
3rd Prize—£3

Black and White :
Portrait—£5
General—£5

Special Prize :
For picture taken from furthest point from Chester—£2

★ Send your entries, well protected, to :

The Editor, 'Contact',
MANWEB, Sealand Road,
Chester CH1 4LR.

to arrive not later than
30th September, 1970



The Girl from

Manweb 1971

—look out for details in
next month's 'Contact'

RETIREMENTS

MR. R. E. HUGHES

After 45 years' service to the industry, Mr. R. E. Hughes, 1st assistant District Engineer, Conway Valley, retired on July 9th.

On behalf of his many friends and colleagues he was presented with a radio/clock by Mr. L. Griffiths (District Engineer, Clwyd), at a ceremony at Mostyn Broadway, Llandudno.

Making the presentation, Mr. Griffiths recalled that Mr. Hughes began his working life with Bangor



Mr. Hughes (left) receives his farewell gift

Corporation in 1925. He later held the posts of District Engineer at Caernarvon for the North Wales Power Company, assistant operations engineer at Llanberis, operations engineer at Rhuddlan, and finally assistant District Engineer for MANWEB at Llandudno.

He wished Mr. Hughes, on behalf of his friends, a long and active retirement, and in reply Mr. Hughes thanked everyone present for their friendship and co-operation.

FAREWELLS AT MARSH LANE

Eighteen members of the staff at Liverpool North District—ten jointers and eight labourers—have recently left the service of MANWEB.

In many cases, the men concerned had spent a

lifetime in the service of the Industry and had opted for retirement a little in advance of their normal dates.

At ceremonies attended by large gatherings of all their colleagues, the two groups of men were thanked by the District Engineer (Mr. A. W. Hawley) and cheques were handed over.

The jointers involved were Messrs. Charlie Murdoch, Jimmy Baxter, Freddie Clarke, Frank Keight, Cass Roberts, Tommy Greenhalgh, Danny O'Leary and Tommy Thomas (*jointers*), together with Harry Voss and George Beardwood (*mates*). Between them they had contributed 260 years' service to the Industry—most of it in strengthening and extending the network in Liverpool North District.

Tributes were expressed by representatives of many interests. These included Messrs. C. S. Shimmin (*1st assistant D.C.E.*), J. Heaton (*Southport District Engineer*), Bill Jaques (*section engineers*), Roy Fallows (*Vice-Chairman of the Works Committee*), Alan Connor (*fitters*) and Dave Mellor (*younger jointers*).

Mr. Fallows, shop steward, said that the arrangements made showed a welcome management-staff relationship and on behalf of the men concerned Mr. Harry Voss, Works Committee representative, proposed a vote of thanks. Speaking personally, Mr. Voss felt that this opportunity to retire would help him from a health point of view.

Not long afterwards a similar occasion marked the departure of the eight labourers—Messrs. W. Williams, A. Wright, W. Hughes, A. S. Powell, H. A. Ginniver, J. J. McDonnell, W. May and J. McKie who also have our good wishes for the future.

MRS. M. E. JONES

Mrs. May Jones, a shorthand-typist at Conway Valley District office, retired recently after 12 years' with MANWEB. Before moving to Conway Valley twelve months ago, Mrs. Jones was a secretary at Head Office.

On behalf of her colleagues she was presented with a food mixer by Mr. G. D. Cooksley (District Administrative Officer), who wished her a long and happy retirement.