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THE TIMES

Leyland chief's plan wins pledge of support by employees

chairman yesterday won the car workers' backing for his reorganization scheme by taking a calculated gamble. After telling a managers that at least 12,500 jobs

have to close, he asked them to vote for a resolution pledging full Roger Courtiour, is being support for every aspect of his The authors based themselves programme. Only five hands were an conversations they had with Royal Family.

Lady Falkender, formerly Mrs Conversations between the suddenly receiving an invitation Liberals, because I had made raised against. The plan creates a Marcia Williams, Sir Harold's Sovereign and the Prime to drinks at his home, where he statements in Parliament and meeting of shop stewards and new "umbrella" company to who has issued her own denial, but about South Africa and the "I was very busy writing a with me. Penrose expressed control three subsidiaries: volume would have to go and plants might cars, specialist cars, components.

Plan creates three car companies

By Clifford Webb

Edwardes, Michael chairman, Leyland yesterday made a calculated gamble to win the support of 180,000 employees for his lastditch reorganization of the motor group and he succeeded. At the end of the toughest

speech ever made by a British motor industry leader 650 shop stewards and managers applauded for half a minute, It was then that Mr Edwardes played his trump card. He

asked the meeting in a Leamington hotel ballroom to vote on a seven-point resolution pledging its full support for every aspect of his new plans, some of which have not yet been spelt out. Only five hands were raised against him. "It was a gamble which

could have ended in disaster" a senior union official said. "So long as he left the issue open he was safe; but he chose to make an issue of our support, and he won." Mr Edwardes had told the

meeting that at least 12,500 jobs Cars, and hinted at plant closures as well. He rejected out of hand union demands that production should be stepped up to retain the present 130,000 labour force.

they had excess capacity. The panies: Austin Morris Ltd, for Mini question was not whether they volume cars, Jaguar Rover redundancy programmes, by body operations. plant closures, or by some The car companies would duced at Cowley. combination of these. Unless resume responsibility for all we can have active and posi- their exports. into British Leyland."

But it was vital to the policies. economy of the country as a

"Even if we have no disruptions for the rest of 1978, our not exist before, Mr Edwardes

British Leyland has recalled about 181,500 of its cars sold in the United States over the last eight years because of an assortment of defects (Frank Vogl writes). The recall follows investigations into the safety of many of its products by the National

Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The defects, which are said to include lighting failures and possible fuel pump and fuel tank leaks, in-

volve Triumph, Jaguar and

Austin models.

loss of market share everywhere in the world means that we will not be able to sell more than 819,000 vehicles — and that is assuming a 27 per cent share of the United Kingdom market, whereas we look like getting

only 21 per cent in January." There were no major surreported in recent weeks. A new company to be called

be formed as an umbrella and be the employing company He said there was no doubt for all car operations. It would

It would "be wrong and

had put the whole business at a Product Engineering Divi-

These central disciplines did

Motors had proved over many years of successfully merging Dathway to Chevrolet Buick, etc, in the United States, they were an essential part of a decentralized full unity

organization. Austin Morris would have major assembly facilities at Longbridge, Cowley and Abingdon as well as power train and ! transmission factories.

include assembly facilities at Synod of the Church of Eng-Jaguar Coventry, Rover Soli- | land yesterday that full comhull, Triumph at Canley and munion between churches de-Liverpool and Vanden Plas in | pended on a common faith in North London.

A separate subsidiary company to be called Land Rover other questions to be resolved Ltd would also be established before we can, as churches, Mr Edwardes revealed that

B. L. Components Ltd would | services.

also bring together all the United Kingdom body opera- welcomed by a packed synod prises in the plans he outlined. tions sited at Cowley, Swin- and public gallery in Church Most of them have been don, Llanelli, Liverpool, Castle House, Westminster, did not Bromwich and Dunstable.

company would be Mr Ray communion as bodies. organization to own the assets Horrocks, 47. a former Ford | and Eaton executive. Reaffirming his intention to church to share in Holy Com-

development ADO88, he said a crash pro- sion of that full unity which the should de-man but by how much. Triumph for specialist cars, gramme would also be needed Eucharist of its nature signifies, problem must be and BL Components covering to update existing models by natural wastage, parts, foundry, SU/Butec and while a completely new middle. a means to be used to lead to range car (LC10) was intro- full ecclesial communion". He added that the managing

director-designate for Jaguar ing presupnoses not only the tive support and commitment Mr Edwardes said it had been Rover Triumph would be named same belief in the reality of at all levels of the company, decided to retain a central cars on Friday. He was a senior | Christ's presence in the sacred | there is no point in attempting authority because of strong and motor industry executive with species, but also a common l to persuade anyone that it is logical representations by considerable marketing experi- | faith in general. employees for a central unit as ence in Japan and the United! "I do not question for one a focus for employee relations States—both areas where JRT moment that the desire of so would be making a bid.

whole that it should succeed. senseless" to throw away seven be known as Leyland Vehicles God, a gift which impels us now Each year, its exports earned years work on common bargain- Ltd. and resume responsibility to work all the harder for the as much as Britain paid for ing dates and wage policies for its exports. With the loss of resolution of our difficulties. Japanese imports of cars, throughout the car factories. its export role to the new com- This desire is present in every cameras, television and audio Long-term product planning panies, Leyland International Christian church and communequipment. It was the country's and advanced engineering— will have a much reduced task ity throughout the land." seventh biggest employer, and those projects between five and under the new title of BL Inter-

Mr Edwardes said the director of engineering, would Presicola. Covering Continued.

250,000 vehicles lost last year be asked to recommend the Alvis and Aveling-Barford will led by the House of Bishops.

The entire synod rose when he on poisoned the entire synod rose when he on poisoned Leading article, page 15 had finished.

Photographs, page 17 and Financial Editor, page 19 '

No Downing Street 'conspiracy' with Buckingham Palace over timing of resignation Sir Harold Wilson denies allegations in 'Pencourt File'

By George Clark

the book The Pencourt File to the effect that he timed the announcement of his resignation as Prime Minister to disgaret's separation.

The book, by two former BBC journalists, Barrie Penrose and serialized in the Daily Mirror. political and private secretary,

By George Clark interview he has given to a must make it clear that at no Sir Harold Wilson yesterday newspaper since the serial time in my near eight years as denounced the story related in story began on Monday, said: Prime Minister have there been "It purports to outline a con- any discussions about the Royal spiracy between Buckingham Family, except matters of state, Palace and Downing Street to such as the arrangements for enable announcements about the investiture of the Prince of tract attention from the an- Princess Margaret to coincide Wales. forthcoming resignation.

> informed over a long period of Falkender." my intention to resign, the Sir Harold said he wanted to who had been assigned to go with a story about a wood discussions never once referred correct the impression given by into the whole question of South pigeon fluttering in a suburto impending events in the the two authors that they were African interference in British

humble journalists surprised at politics, particularly the thought of shooting. Minister in audiences and at poured out all his feelings elsewhere on these matters. Sir Harold, in the first in view of these allegations I treatment of Mr Jeremy book against a deadline and pre-

Thorpe, the former Liberal paring a speech on Euro-

month after leaving 10 Downing. period did I or anyone else dis- the BBC asking me if I would them.

communism which I was due to He explained: "About a make in Halifax on May 8, 1976. "Early the following week I Street, Mr Albert Murray (now received a note from Albert Lord Murray of Gravesend), Murray asking me to see them. who was in charge of my office. At all times it was made clear in Abbey Gardens, received a that this was an official BBC nouncement of Princess Mar- with the announcement of my "At no point throughout this number of telephone calls from request, and I agreed to see

"While the Palace was fully cuss these matters with Lady see two researchers of theirs, "The account of how the Mr Penrose and Mr Courtiour, meeting came about begins

"Then there was a telephone call, he claims from me, asking them to come to have drinks Continued on page 5, col 1

Religious Affairs Correspondent

develop four-wheel drive approach the altar of the Lord together," he said.

That was his reply to the sugon Friday he would outline gestion by the Archbishop of these plans to a meeting of Ley- | Canterbury, Dr Coggan, last | land's 2,000 car distributors and week that the time had come dealers in Wembley conference | for Anglicans and Roman | Catholics to share Communion

The cardinal, rapturously condemn individual acts of The managing director-desig. intercommunion, and his empha-British Leyland Cars Ltd would nate for the new Austin Morris sis was on churches sharing in

"The Roman Catholic Church holds, as you know, that for one that in the short and long term control three subsidiary com- press ahead with a Super munion at the altar of another the church is the sign and expres-

"We believe that this shar-

many to share the same Euch-Leyland Truck and Bus will arist is anything but a gift from

the future of up to a million 15 years away—would also be national.

people could be affected by central activities. A task force Special Products, which in from the position usually occupied by the synod chairman.

With the first from the position usually occupied by the synod chairman.

Wall in the position usually occupied by the synod chairman.

The Edwardes Plan bishop of York, Dr Blanch.

By Clifford Longley

Saying that he felt he could be blunt among friends. Card-Jaguar Rover Triumph would | inal Hume told the General

"We recognize that there are

Cardinal Hume explained.

Cardinal Hume was received In thanking him, the Arch-

Continued on page 2, col 5

Governing council for Rhodesia proposed

Valletta, Feb 1.-Rhodesian nationalist guerrilla leaders said sions here with Dr Owen, the today that Britain and the Foreign Secretary, and Mr United States had accepted new Andrew Young, of the United proposals for a switch to black States, "have managed to lay a rule and called for a partner- very useful basis for further ship with Britain to lead to legal negotiations".—Reuter. independence for Rhodesia. But Mr Robert Mugabe and respondent, writes: No agree-

Mr Joshua Nkomo made clear ment was reached by Dr Owen at a press conference after and Mr Young with the Patriotic three days of talks with British Front leaders when the talks and American negotiators that ended today. the discussions were still at an inconclusive stage.

reporters they said: "The governing council has not previbeen so intensely dialectical. ously been publicly mentioned sign of a new development at the Malta negotiations.

to free elections.

Mr Mugabe said the discus-David Spanier, Diplomatic Cor-

Although the central disagreement was over the balance In a joint statement read to of power, military and political, before independence, the whole British Government accepted range of issues involved in a that there should be a govern- settlement in Rhodesia was ing council during the transi-vigorously discussed, and few tional period." The idea of a international meetings can have The argument is expected to

in Anglo-American peace efforts be resumed shortly, probably in and appeared to be the only Africa, where Nairobi has been mentioned as a possible venue. Our Salisbury Correspondent Mr Mugabe said the Patriotic writes: Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Front, of which he is co-leader the moderate Rhodesian African with Mr Nkomo, foresaw itself leader, resumed discussions playing a substantial role and today with the three other the British a supervisory role delegations at the internal "a kind of partnership" settlement talks. But he is releading to legal independence. fusing to budge from his stance But he made clear that the of last week that he would only Patriotic Front guerrillas must accept 20 parliamentary seats "guarantee the irreversibility" for whites elected on a separate of a transition period leading voters roll under a majority rule constitution.

Site sought

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

for future airports.

port, a big development of travelled first class under his Stansted, or converting an RAF own name on the last standby The Department of Health station into a civil airport. and Social Security advised oranges before eating and to dustry last night was that before noon. Stansted or a military airfield was the most likely option.

tion Campaign expressed disap- failed to arrive at the court pointment that Gatwick was to here. Mr Polanski, who is 44, have a second terminal and deal pleaded guilty last September with 25 million passengers a

Leading article, page 15 France-Presse.

absorb sound too.

for absent Roman Polanski, the film

director, was believed to be in The Government is soon to London yesterday after boardbegin searching for a site for a ing an airliner shortly before new London airport for the an American court was due to 1990s, by which time the four | sentence him for having illegal airports serving the capital will sexual intercourse with a girl

British Airways officials in publication yesterday of a London said that Mr Polanski White Paper on national policy | arrived at Los Angeles airport without a reservation on the The options were a new air- only flight to London. He seat on the airliner, which Opinion in the aviation in- arrived at Heathrow shortly Santa Monica, California, Feb

1.—A warrant was issued for The Gatwick Area Conserva- Mr Polanski's arrest after he His lawyer told the judge that his client had left the country White Paper, page 4 and did not intend to return Parliamentary report, page 8 for sentencing. — Agence

Tories drop support for Ulster power-sharing

By Fred Emery

A power-sharing administration in Northern Ireland was no longer a practical possibility, Airey Neave, opposition spokesman on Ulster affairs, said yesterday.

Addressing a Conservative women's conference at Surbiton, Surrey, he said priority should be given instead to a reform of the system of local government in the province. His statement was welcomed by Ulster Unionist MPs. Mr Neave

"Thanks to the Irish Government, a power-sharing admini- Ireland who oppose the reform assembly MPs by the same stration in Northern Ireland is of local government out of a method. no longer practical politics. We fear that it might lead to dishave always said it could not crimination and injustice. They Roman be imposed. All our efforts forget that over the last few better must now be concentrated on years a great deal of legislation simple majority, or first-pastimproving the structure of local has been enacted to safeguard government in the province, the rights of all Ulstermen, in- yesterday by Mr James Molywhich in its present form has cluding the Catholic minority. neaux, Ulster Unionist MP failed to win the full-hearted support of the community.

issues relating to health, education roads, water and planning discern as a rapprochement would get one seat, under the are now taken by statutory between of a socialist government are al- will come today in the Com- writes: There was a predictably

the power of the Northern Irestructive work again on behalf be a Roman Catholic. of the community. "There are some in Northern

"I am sure those fears can be overcome and I shall be Decisions on important consulting the SDLP."

community. It would diminish Labour MPs opposed to PR.

land Office and its legion of posed the single transferable civil servants. It could also vote system for Ulster in in looking at what Mr Neave foster a better understanding order—although this is not between the various political stated—to ensure that at least parties, who would at last have one of the three European an opportunity of doing con- Assembly MPs from Ulster will The Conservatives hold that

> Catholics might be helped the-post, He said the boundary commission could draw up a con-

ways in a majority. This is deep- mons. A Unionist amendment mixed response in Northern offensive to a community seeking to delete the Govern- Ireland to Mr Neave's declarawhich has no time at all for ment's proposal for proportional tion. A cautious welcome from representation (PR) in Ulster for Official Unionists was balanced "A new system of local gov- the European Assembly elec- by a total rejection by the SDLP ernment is needed for the tions may well be carried with and somewhat milder criticism benefit of all sections of the full Tory support and that of by the Alliance Party.

The Government has pro-

it is wrong not to elect all

stituency that would make An indication of what some almost certain that the SDLP

Mr Harry West, leader of the Official Unionist Party, said: "We shall have to be careful means by a new system of local government. Devolved government is something quite distinct from local government."

Sinn Fein man's baby son shot

The 21-month-old son of Irish Government during torwest Belfast last night.

was taken to the European Court of Human Rights by the was wounded when gunmen

jected oranges with mercury, at normal temperatures. The letter said that copies including Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. It added: "Our aim is

Citrus fruit accounts for a Kevin Hannaway, a Provisional tenth of Israeli export revenue Five Dutch children who ate Sinn Fein member, whose case and Britain and Ireland together make up the largest Maastricht were ture accusations against Britain, stamped Jaffa, are due to be German Government began attacked the family's home in the season is reaching its mercury had been found in The baby, who was struck in | than half of all oranges eaten stadt. The authorities in West the face, arms and thigh, was in Britain and they are now Berlin and Hamburg decided to boards on which the nominees former allies, the Unionists, Our Belfast Correspondent in an intensive care unit last arriving at a rate of nore than carry out Jaboratory tests on three million a week.

the Israeli economy."

By Hugh Clayton

West Germany.

Agricultural Correspondent

The Department of Health

and Social Security issued a

warning about poisoned oranges

last night after Israeli fruit

injected with mercury had been

found in the Netherlands and

the Arab Revolutionary Army

Palestine Command said in a

letter received by Reuter in

London that "oppressed Pales-

tinian workers" in Israeli-

occupied territories had in-

not indiscriminately to kill

shoppers to split all Jaffa report any with small metallic droplets in the flesh. No poisoned oranges had been found in Britain, the

A Hamburg chemist tests the peel of an Israeli orange.

Department said. It saw no reason to advise against purchase because small amounts of mercury were not a threat to health: "The authorities are keeping a close watch", it said. It is understood that the mercury found in oranges in the Netherlands was in a nontoxic state, like that used in

An organization calling itself thermometers. flesh discolour in the week-long journey to Europe.

metal which remains liquid . Mr Moshe Deutsch, head of the board's office in London, said that the 14 poisoned had been sent to 18 countries, oranges found so far had been detected outside Britain and all Israeli oranges for sale in Britain were sent direct. The letter claiming responsibility your population but to sabotage which reached Reuter was postmarked in Stuttgart.

contaminated export market for it. More than from hospital after 24 hours 700 million Israeli oranges, all with no ill effects. The West sent to Britain this year and spot checks after one fruit with height. Israel supplies more Frankfurt and one in Darm-Israeli oranges.

liam Mann on Grétry's Richard

Peter Evans looks at women in

the police force; Robert Cecil

reveals some home truths about

Sport, pages 12, 13 Cricket: Big task for India in final

Test against Australia; Encourag-

Stock Markets: Index stock John

Brown helped lift the FT Index

Business features: In Economic

Notebook Melvyn Westlake dis-

cusses obfuscation ' in the

Business News, pages 17-23

Coeur de Lion at Nottingham

Features, pages 10, 14

Philby's Silent War

The Citrus Marketing Board of Israel said that the oranges must have been injected in Europe because mercury added in Israel would have made the EMI quiet.

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Curbs on petrol prices likely as supplies are cut

As the petrol tanker drivers' work-to-rule cut supplies to filling stations by a third, the Department of Energy said it was watching the growing number of price increases closely. It was thought likely that the department would reimpose maximum retail prices, perhaps in a twotier system covering rural and urban supplies separately

The Government is out of touch in seeking to suppress the national debate on immigration, according to Mr Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St seas off Land's End last night and an oil Edmunds. He called on men of good will rig was drifting dangerously towards the in all parties to "drop the humbug" and French coast, off Guernsey as gales swept face the questions openly

Herr Leber resigns

Tories and their first-pass-the-post system.

Herr Georg Leber, the West German Defence Minister, who has been under espionage and bugging cases, has offered to resign. He told a Cabinet meeting that Parliament had again been misled about the matter: new checks had disclosed more illegal activities by the military counter intelligence service Page 5

Electricity price rise

New tariff proposals for submission to the Price Commission are being completed by the Electricity Supply Boards in England and Wales. The proposals call for a price rise by an average of 5 to 6 per cent from April 1 Page 17

A lightship went adrift in mountainous Page 2 the Channel

Higher allowances

Councillors have received a 20 per cent increase in their subsistence allowance and attack for his handling of recent a 14 per cent increase in travelling allowance under new scales announced yesterday. Under the Government's pay guidelines, councillors have already been given a 10 per cent increase in their attendance

allowance from £10 to £11 a day. Surprise Dayan trip

Mr Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, is to make a surprise journey to America next week, hard on the heels of President Sadat's visit. Although officially he is making a fund-raising tour, he is expected counter Mr Sadat's impact American public opinion Slump reconsidered: The 1930s were not the depressed and wasted years that

popular mythology has made them, a book Overseas News Appointments 16, 18 Washington: "Vicious lobbying" British aircraft landing system attacked 6 Fishing: Personal appeal by EEC Commissioner to Mr Silkin

Leader page, 15 Letters: On Anglican-Catholic inter-communion, from Dr Bryan Thwaites and others; voting on Scottish devolution, from Mr George Cunningham, MP Leading articles: Inter-communion between churches; Leyland; air-

ing innings by Gatting in New Zealand Ohituary, page 16 Sir Charles Clay; Dr Letitia Fairfield; Sr Manuel Jimenez Books, page 9 Michael Ratcliffe reviews A Pre-Raphaelite Circle by Raleigh - 2.9 to 469.8; Gilts firmed in better Trevelyan; E. C. Hodgkin on Abba Eban's autobiography Arts, page 11 Irving Wardle on Joking Apart at

Home News 2, 4, 5 Diary European News 5 Engagements Law Report Motoring Parliament

Scarborough, and the changing recent public spending

role of F. M. Tennent Ltd; Wil. Paper.

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