Scandal of the backdoor baby sellers

B ABY selling is causing alarm in Britain.

Adoption agencies have found that more and more babies are changing hands in backdoor deals.

The situation was spotheighted last week in a court case when a woman said she paid 50p for a baby boy.

She was allowed to keep the boy on the order of three judges in the Appeal Court.

WOrse

Official a doptions reached a peak of 26,986 in 1988. The figure in 1999 was 26,049—and has been failing ever since.

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The committee was seen for the last twenty years.

A procedure resulting place.

The heartbreaking place.

The cashing in on the situation.

Without any hope of setting a baby."

The situation.

The situation.

The situation.

The situation.

The cashing in on the situation of British Adoption Agencies have a certain a mount of Dianing Agencies have much place.

The committee was seed to see this a number of times you begin to wonder."

In an attempt to cut out the muc

THIS ODD WORLD

SCOOBY, a Labrador, was "arrested" at Morch, Cambs, for stealing neighbours' Sunday joints.

GIRLS staging a sit-in at a shoe factory in Faken-ham, Nortolk, spent yesterday knitting.

A GULL was rescued after flying into the lightning conductor on a Brighton church spire.

POLICE at King's Lynn, are trying to identify a man who died in Australia by tracing his dentist.

SYLVIA McCURDY, of Ashtead, Surrey, has writ-ten a book on her Vic-torian childhood—at 95.

Easter Parade for women prisoners

CHIEFS of women's jails can now spend £33—a rise of £5—on new Easter Parade civilian outfits for each prisoner.

The aim is to help to restore self-respect.

Wheel of misfortune

Death in the sun

A 14-MONTH-OLD girl died in a station wagon parked in sunlight for two hours near Sydney, Australia.

By KEVIN DOWLING THEY call themselves The

Silent Defenders.
They train in secret and are dedicated to revenge against the

Last week, Sunday Mirror cameraman Robert Rendle and I became the first journalists to meet the hooded men of Ulster, the self-styled leaders of a Protestant backlash.

It was an unnerving experience.

Our meeting was arranged by a Protestant of high professional standing.

He wanted he said to show the world the realities of Protestant power.

power.
It was nearly midnight

when we were picked up by a car with blazing headlights on a desolate road near Cookstown. Two hooded men with pistofs leapt out and blindfolded us with black linen bandages.

BACKLASH

linen bandages.

Then followed a long, slient drive through the night, ending at a farmyard.

Our blindfolds were removed.

We found ourselves in a whitewashed barn decked out with Ulster flars, Union Jacks and pictures of the Queen.

Hoods

I saw seven men, all wearing black hoods. Most of them were armed. An eighth stood guard at the doorway. Their leader sat at an old table. He pressed a button on

a tape recorder. A voice boomed out. "I address you as the commander in chief of the organisation, Silent Defenders," the voice said

I meet hooded gunmen sworn to revenge

HATE

Detenders," the voice said.

His lieutenants, the voice explained, were representative of the six counties of Ulster.

They would die rather than submit to the bunch of blood-thirsty animals roaming the province.

And, the O-in-C went on, they could command support from all parts of Ulster a nd across the Irish Sea.

So the voice went on.

Irish Sea.
So the voice went on It uttered warnings against the IRA Mr. Wilson, Mr. Callaghan, and "Tory traitors."
When the voice had

finished, and as we were being escorted from the building, one of the hooded lieutenants took in his rife and emphasised the point about Mr. Wilson.

He shot at a picture of the Labour leader which was pasted on a gun target.

The 0.22 builtet punched a hole in Mr. Wilson's temple.

Gunman

"That's what will happen to all traitors," the guman said in a thick Belfast accent.

We were permitted to talk to volunteers in the unit, who told us that there were few B-Specials in their ranks.

Most of their membership was made up of



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CAMERAMAN RINGO

BEATLE Ringo Starr was back on the pop scene yesterday—but behind a camera instead of his drums. He was at a T Rex concert at Wembley filming the group's lead singer Marc Bolan for a documentary he's making.



Rifle before him, the leader of the hooded men sits at a table flanked by his lieutenants.

Picture: ROBERT RENDLE

soldiers who fought in World War II. And even some who bore arms in World War I.

World War I.

They produced between them, two pistols, a rifle, shotgun, and a handgrenade. They said they had other weapons elsewhere.

If the order were given they could "finish the fight against the IR A inside twenty-four hours."

Shoot

They would shoot at British troops only to save their own lives, but they would be merciless to any Republican elements.

Their representatives across Ulster, mainly in the country towns, had

"top ten," lists drawn up of people marked for assassination.

Their main support was in Ulster, but they had good friends in Scot-land and Canada.

They had no links with the Orange Order.

Training was entirely carried out at night. But, they said, it was difficult to train properly because of the Army, the police and the Ulster Defence Regiment.

But, one man said, their army training meant they didn't have to drill.

to drill.

"It's not drill we believe in, it's action and
shooting. We're all
marksmen shots. Ulster
will be ours, and believe
you me we really and

truthfully mean it." With that the show was over.

Blindfolded once more, we sped through the he night at the end of the interview.

At least twice along the way our car made a rendezvous with other cars, presumably as a security check.

Fog

Then they left us, standing in the freezing fog in the middle of the movement of the freezing for the freezing for the freezing f

we have met the name Silent Defenders, but in the past two or three weeks, we have come across reports of the same sort of thing in Co. Down and Co. London-derry.

"You are the first person to have made direct physical contact with an armed Protestant cell."

with an armed Protestant cell."

Northern Irel and is former Home Affairs Minister. William Craig, loid a massive Protestant rally in Belfast yesterday: "We are ready to do or die."

A banner-waying crowd of 70,000 pledged support to the Vanguard loyalist movement which, said Mr. Craig, planned to make any unacceptable political initiatives unworkable.

H UNDREDS of men for a job which means making love to lonely

The men, it is claimed, could earn up to £500 a week.

The women would pay about £12 an hour for their services.

The new-style brothel is to be opened in Ham-burg shortly by club boss Dieter Glocke, 33.

He has bought an empty block on the edge of Hamburg's notorious vice district, split it into

From VICTOR SIMS, Hamburg, West Germany

thirty flats, and called it The Yellow House.

The Vellow House.

Now he is advertising in sex magazines for men to "sell" love.

The "finalists" on a short list will be judged by a panel of six women, who, he claims, "know a man when they see one."

Boast

Mr. Glocke sald yester-day: "About 300 men have already applied. Nearly all boast of their prowess and potency. Some reckon they can

take on ten female clients a day.

"My establishment is fust what desperate women need. At present they can only go to shady bars or dance-halls hoping to meet men."

He has plans to print a full coloured eatalogue of available men, from which women will be able to select the ones who interest them.

The brochure will list

who interest them.

The brochure will list the me n's qualities, such as "mean and moody." or "big, but gentle." and describe special services they will perform.

Mr. Glocke has registered his establishment with the authorities as an hotel with apart-

ments, a bar and keep-fit centre.

A Vice Squad spokes-man commented: "We don't think this will be a success, We doubt whether women would go openly to such a place."

Girls found

TWO missing girls aged ten and eleven were found yesterday in Bromley, Kent, after vanishing from their homes the night before.

Shut-eye

SCIENTISTS were yesterday checking a fault which shut down the cameras of Mariner-9, orbiting Mars.

Irish demos

By RONALD MAXWELL

THE Government has banned Trafalgar Square meetings on the Irish troubles.

troubles.
Action has been taken to prevent the danger of Ulster-type riots in London.
The ban applies to meetings which could lead to demonstrations about treland even if the meeting is called for other reasons.

One meeting, called by the Anti-Internment

League, has already been refused. Meetings in support of Government policy on the Irish issue will also be banned, I understand.

understand.

Last night Mr. Enoch
Powell hit out at talk of
the man in the middle of
the man in the

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