

COUNTERSPY

compiled by Arthur Townley

**Mirror,
Mirror—on
the make**

A "bargain" offered by the Daily Mirror to its readers has been attacked by Mr Maurice Greasby, Chairman of the Retail Trading Standards Association.

The Mirror offer was for a pair of pillows selling at £1.97. A check in three London stores and one provincial store revealed that exactly the same product could be bought over the counter for £1.79, £1.90, £1.80 and £1.68 respectively.

What's more, a test of the stuffing showed that it did not, as the label claimed, conform to British Standard 1877 (which lays down the degree of cleanliness needed to meet hygiene requirements under the Rag Flock Act).

Roll off

If you want the kids to spend Christmas in hospital you couldn't do much worse than buy them roller skates. An American research agency studying cases admitted to casualty wards of hospitals has found that out of 348 injuries connected with toys, 54 involved roller skates — the largest single cause.

**An easy way to
lose a fortune**

Frustrated salesmen, ambitious factory workers, clerks with lofty aspirations, managers on the make, housewives after pin-money, the desperate unemployed, Mr Joe Public, your first million awaits you.

Need a supplement to your income? Looking for a lucrative sideline? And a better paid job? Look no further than the job advertisements of the national and local press. A new type of advert has emerged offering previously unheard of wealth.

Many commercial enterprises displaying such enticements are operating pyramid selling and distribution systems. In some cases the item being sold is an actual product, in others it is a more intangible commodity such as unit trust investment policies.

Holiday Magic Cosmetics and Golden Products Household Cleaners are two examples of the former. G & S Assured Investments and Abbey Life Unit Linked Investment Plans illustrate the latter.

If you are tempted by such advertisements and learn that the organisation wishes to employ you as a salesman or saleswoman in a pyramid type scheme, think twice before

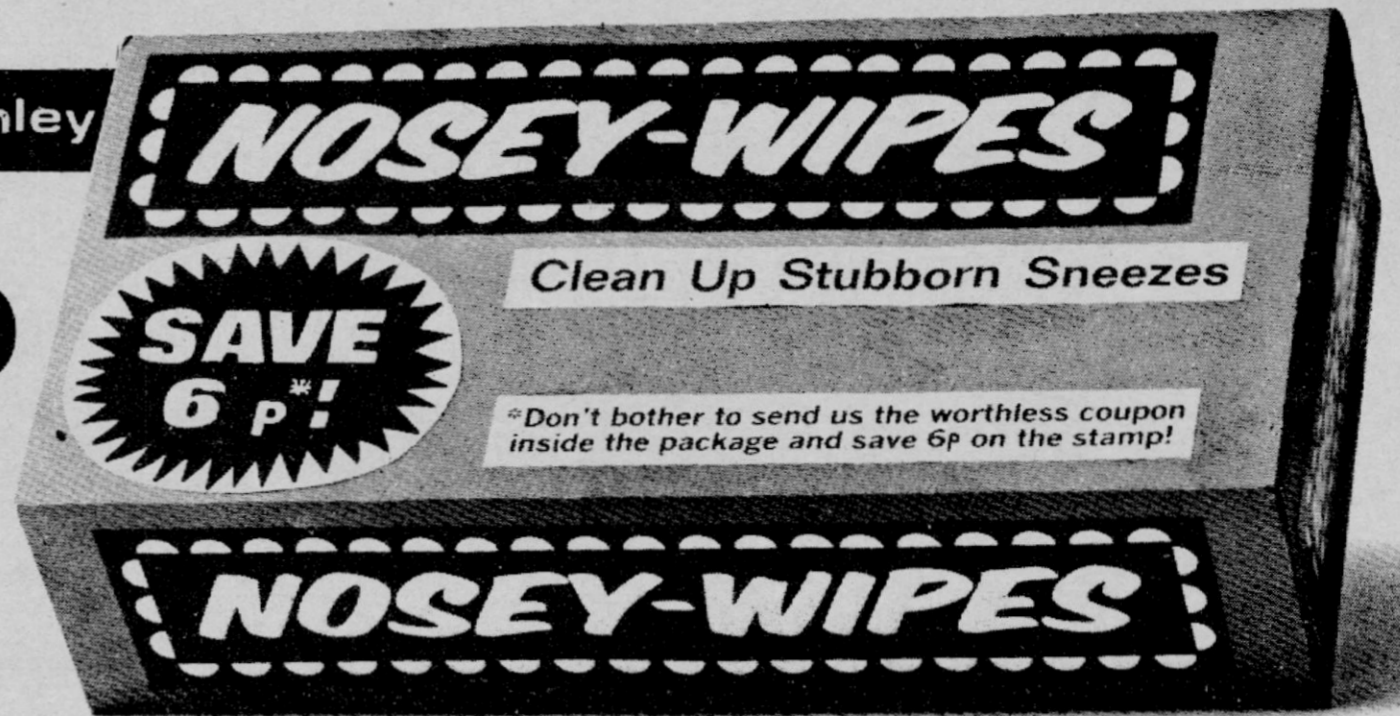
parting with your spare time, your cash or your existing job.

All businesses sell products and thereby make a profit. The vast majority of businesses operate their own selling and distribution departments so that the item to be sold is moved from the production line to the consumer by its own employees. Recently, however, a new plan has been introduced in which the product or service reaches the purchaser by an outside, self-employed labour force. In principle this sounds fine but if the recruitment of the labour force is based on the pyramid system then the only people who benefit are the owners of the company concerned and those individuals who join the sales team as soon as the scheme is initiated.

Profitable

The pyramid system is constructed so that once a person has joined the operation, it is more profitable for him to induce other people to join than to work as a salesman himself.

This is because he receives commission on all the sales of the people



**Danger
in the
kitchen**

Washing up liquid which, it is claimed, may be drunk by children in mistake for lemonade is being made by Lever Brothers of Port Sunlight.

On the container it is described as "Sunlight Lemon Liquid with real lemon juice" and a picture shows a juicy-looking lemon segment.

The container does, however, carry a warning to keep the liquid out of children's reach.

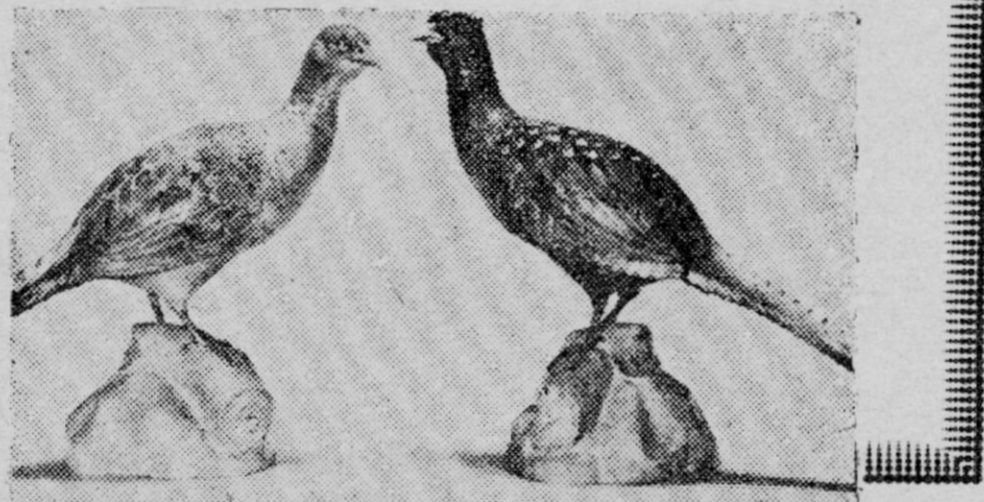
Lemon Liquid has already been banned by the Sainsbury chain of supermarkets. And in the House of Commons recently Mr John Pardoe, M.P. called for a complete ban on sales. But junior Home Office minister Richard Sharples rejected this idea without giving any reason.



Three years after the event, Chrysler (UK) are still boasting in their adverts that the London-Sydney marathon rally was won by a Hillman Hunter. In fact the car which won was no ordinary Hunter. It had an uprated engine (Rapier H120 Holbay) and uprated suspension.

**A BIRD IN THE
HAND WORTH £69**

Our sympathy this Christmas goes out to poor Messrs. Stoniers of Williamson Square, Liverpool, who are trying to sell these model pheasants at £69.80 each... and to the Liverpool Echo, which on November 18th suggested that readers might like to buy them as presents for their friends.



**NO SPIES AT PILKS
—SPECIAL BRANCH**

Pilkingtons, the giant St Helens glass firm, were swift to add fuel to the flames of the Great Red Spy story as it appeared in some of the national papers.

It was only to be expected that some newspapers would make dark suggestions about Communist subversion in industry. Notable among the scaremongers was the Daily Express, although the published text of the memorandum and the two letters from Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas Home to the Soviet Foreign Minister, Gromyko, made not the slightest accusation of Russian interference in strikes.

But the fertile imagination of the Express worked overtime to find a Red under every workbench. It harked back to the seven week strike at Pilkington's last year, when the management put about rumours of "outside foreign influences".

The same insinuation from Pilkington's management was repeated to reporters when the spy story

broke. The truth of the matter is quite different, however, and Pilkingtons know it.

Although it was not made public at the time, a team of Special Branch detectives made a detailed investigation into allegations of Soviet contacts with the unofficial strike committee. They found no evidence to support allegations of Russian subversion and a secret report to this effect was given to the management at Pilkingtons. Clearly they chose, for their own good reasons, to ignore it.

Building workers on Costain's sites might be interested to know that Richard Costain's profits for the first six months of this year were £961,000 before tax — 50% up on 1970. The firm also made £213,000 profit on property sales. Profits for the whole year are expected to equal the record level set in 1970.

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make NICKELS your goal
and play better...**

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**THE FINEST FOOTBALL BOOTS
IN THE WORLD
NOW AT NEW LOWER PRICES!**

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SPECIAL CLUB DISCOUNTS

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