



You are charged that, between 1977... you did conspire with



It has all been most upsetting says Scott

THIS is Norman Scott, the man at the centre of the case.

"The last thing I ever wanted to do was create a national scandal," said Mr Scott, who went out riding on Dartmoor yesterday.

The 38-year-old former model lives at Chagford, Devon. "When I heard that Mr Thorpe had been called to the police station, I wasn't gloating," he said. "The whole affair has been most upsetting."

He had not spoken to Mr Thorpe since 1965—"I no longer have any feelings of either friendship or hostility towards him."

THORPE

JEREMY THORPE stared straight ahead from a small courtroom dock yesterday, his face showing no emotion, as he was charged with conspiracy to murder.

Dressed in dark suit and waistcoat the M.P.—one of Parliament's finest orators—spoke just five words in the 22-minute hearing.

Court clerk Mr Fred Wynder asked: "Is your full name John Jeremy Thorpe?" In a steady voice he replied: "It is." And asked whether his address was Orme Square, London, he said: "That is so."

Charged with the former Liberal Party leader and sharing the dock in the magistrates' court at Minehead in Somerset, were three men:—

DAVID HOLMES, 48, merchant banker and a former deputy treasurer of the Liberal Party, of Eaton Place, Belgravia, London.

GEORGE DEAKIN 35, club owner and gaming machine operator, of Baglan Road, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan.

JOHN LE MESURIER, 45, a business man, of St. Bride's Major, near Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan.

They were all charged "that between October 1, 1968, and November 1, 1977, in the county of Devon and elsewhere, they conspired together and with others to murder Norman Scott."

£5,000 BAIL

All were remanded on bail, on sureties of £5,000, until the next hearing on September 12.

One of the terms of bail was to surrender their passports to the police, who could return them at their discretion.

Magistrate's chairman Mr Edward Donati—he is an architect—said: "These conditions are imposed having regard to the seriousness and the nature of the offence."

Both Thorpe and Holmes indicated they had plans to make visits abroad.

The day for all the accused men began with meetings with their solicitors, who drove them, by previous arrangement with the police, to Minehead police station.

Watched by holiday crowds from the nearby North Devon resorts—some of the children were carrying balloons—their cars were guided into the specially cleared police forecourt.

First to arrive, half an hour

EXPRESS REPORTING TEAM:

- Paul Hopkins,
- John McCormick,
- John King and
- John Christopher



John Le Mesurier



George Deakin

He gave his answers in a steady voice

early, was John Le Mesurier. He sat in the passenger seat, his head covered by a white raincoat.

Then came David Holmes, his face in his hands, and George Deakin, who shielded himself with a newspaper.

At 11.50 a.m., all speculation ended as Jeremy Thorpe arrived in a chauffeur driven white Ford. Sitting in the rear seat with his solicitor, Sir David Napley, he looked directly ahead.

uniformed policemen, the room, crowded with Press and TV reporters, was hushed.

Thorpe, who appeared to study each of the reporters in turn, stood throughout the hearing with arms folded or hands clasped behind him.

He wore two rings on the small finger of his left hand.

During a short adjournment by the magistrates he talked with his one-time best man David Holmes and smiled briefly.

CHARGE

Inside the police station, each man was charged in turn by the officer who has led the 10-month investigation, Detective Chief Superintendent Michael Challes.

At lunchtime, tea and a few sandwiches were provided—and barely touched—as the men sat in an ante-room awaiting court appearance.

As they walked into the panelled court and stepped up to the dock, manned by three

The charge, under Section 1 of the Offences Against the Person Act, carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment—increased from 10 years by the Criminal Law Act of 1977.

When the time came to discuss the terms of bail Liberal peer Lord Avebury—the former Mr Eric Lubbock—stepped forward as Thorpe's surety.

Other sureties: For Deakin Mr Peter Richards, a steel stocktaker, of Aberavon; for Le Mesurier, Mr Olive Harvey

I won't resign as MP

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morning and the executive committee at night."

Yesterday he telephoned Liberal leader David Steel and whip Alan Beith and told them he was to be charged with murder conspiracy.

Mr Beith has already been in touch with all other members of the parliamentary Liberal Party and will be pass-

ing their comments to 49-year-old Mr Thorpe, their former leader.

Mr Thorpe has held North Devon since 1959. His majority is more than 6,000.

George Lochhead writes: The timing of the next General Election is affected dramatically by yesterday's events concerning Mr Thorpe. Labour believe the charge against Mr Thorpe may cause

further Liberal voters to change their allegiance in favour of the Tories.

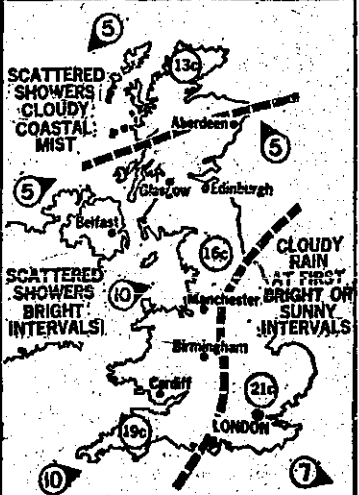
So it now looks as if the idea of an October election may well be out and that Mr Callaghan's appeal to the country may have to be made in the spring.

Meanwhile leading Liberals were almost despondent last night about the Party's future.

WEATHER

AROUND THE WORLD AT NOON YESTERDAY

AMSTERDAM	cloud	18 (61)
ATHENS	sun	27 (81)
BARCELONA	sun	26 (79)
BELGRADE	cloud	29 (84)
BERLIN	fair	23 (73)
BRUSSELS	cloud	18 (64)
COPENHAGEN	rain	16 (61)
FLORENCE	sun	28 (82)
GENEVA	sun	24 (75)
GIBRALTAR	sun	30 (86)
LAS PALMAS	sun	24 (75)
LISBON	sun	23 (73)
MADRID	sun	31 (88)
MAJORCA	sun	31 (88)
MALAGA	sun	29 (84)
MOSCOW	sun	27 (81)
NEW YORK	cloud	25 (77)
NICE	sun	27 (81)
OSLO	fair	18 (64)
PARIS	cloud	18 (64)
ROME	sun	32 (90)
STOCKHOLM	storm	22 (72)
VIENNA	cloud	21 (70)
VIENNA	cloud	28 (82)
LONDON	cloud	17 (63)



TODAY'S FORECAST: — London, S.E., East Anglia, Midlands: Sunny intervals, scattered showers. Max 22C (72F). Channel Isles, Isle of Man, East England: Generally cloudy, outbreaks of rain. Max 18C (64F).

OUTLOOK:—Mostly cloudy with some showers. Below normal temperatures.

Moon sets 9.03 p.m., rises 5.05 a.m. tomorrow. Sun sets 6.43 p.m., rises 5.30 a.m. tomorrow. Lighting-up time: 9.13 p.m. to 5.01 a.m. tomorrow. High tide at London Bridge: 3.49 p.m. and 3.08 a.m. tomorrow.

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS TO 6 P.M. YESTERDAY: Warmest places in Britain: London, Birmingham and Poole (Dorset) 21C (70F). Coldest: Fraserburgh, Glenmore Lodge (Inverness-shire) 9C (48F). Sunniest: Shanklin (Isle of Wight) 11 hrs. Wettest: Alder Grove (Northern Ireland) 0.63in.