

INSIDE: CAN WE AFFORD TO DITCH VORSTER?

DAILY

THE VOICE OF BRITAIN

EXPRESS



No. 24,054

Friday October 28 1977

8p

Amazing scenes as he denies all

A close, affectionate relationship with Scott—but no sex

I know nothing of Newton plot—and I will not resign

THORPE'S AGONY

Scott tells: How I got involved

THE THORPE DOSSIER
PAGES 19, 20, 21



PICTURE BY TERRY DISNEY

Jeremy Thorpe, his face showing the strain of the ordeal, leaves the National Liberal Club last night through a cordon of police with his wife Marion

THE torment of Jeremy Thorpe reached a new pitch last night when he faced inquisition by the world's Press.

With his wife Marion at his side, the former Liberal leader produced an armoury of denials aimed at clearing him of smears from the Norman Scott case.

No top politician has endured a more searching public interrogation.

By Paul Hopkins and John Warden

He was asked point-blank: "Have you ever had any homosexual relationship?" Blazing with anger, Marion Thorpe urged the questioner: "Go on—stand up and say it again."

Mr Thorpe with unruffled calm said: "That is not the major allegation. The major allegation is that there was a Liberal hired to murder a man."

A reporter: "Because he was having a homosexual relationship with you?"

Mr Thorpe snapped back: "It may be that our priorities are different. It has been alleged that a man was hired to murder somebody. That is a very, very serious crime."

The amazing Press conference was in

the Victorian gloom of the National Liberal Club in London. Police were posted at the door. Cameras and tape-recorders were banned.

First Mr Thorpe read a long statement that had taken a week to prepare. He spoke of the "almost intolerable strain on my wife, my family, and on me." Then he listed a catalogue of denials. He stated:—

THAT no sexual activity of any kind ever took place with Norman Scott, but a "close and even affectionate friendship developed."

THAT he was at no time a party to

Page 3 Column 1

POLICE SAY YES TO 10 PER CENT PAY DEAL: PAGE SEVEN