

1-2-3. 123 was the majority by which the House of Commons rejected a bill to reintroduce the **death penalty**. It was good to find the Home Secretary speaking strongly against, both on the grounds of the danger of the condemnation of the innocent, and the knowledge that the death-penalty would not deter terrorists — rather the opposite.

We have consistently been critical of the figures for **nuclear power** finances. It now turns out that millions of pounds will be needed for safety measures on the older power-stations, Bradwell, Berkeley and Hunterston A.

We regard it as serious that the CEGB is urging that **safety rules be relaxed** at Britain's advanced gas-cooled nuclear power station to reduce loss of output during refuelling.

Leukaemia among young people living near the **Dounreay nuclear power plant** is appearing at twice the national rate.

Britain is planning by 2010 to **reprocess** as much **plutonium** as the total arsenal of the USA or USSR. For peaceful purposes, of course.

The BMA says that in an **all-out nuclear attack** on Britain doctors would have to choose whom to treat. The most seriously injured would be low on the list; so would businessmen, civil servants and nuclear scientists. Priority would probably be for those with survival skills, builders and farmers. The estimate is that half the population would die and a further 6 million be injured.

According to the report **Nuclear Warships and Naval Nuclear Weapons** based on materials publicly available, Britain now possesses 128 strategic nuclear weapons and 198 tactical nuclear warheads, about 30 nuclear capable ships and naval aircraft — considerably more than even experts imagined. Altogether 16,000 nuclear weapons in NATO and WTO hands, about a third of the whole stockpile, are navally based.

We disapprove of the Arms Trade whether carried on by private dealers or national representatives. When the National Audit Office criticizes the Ministry of Defence for failing to control **profits by defence contractors** in non-competitive contracts we feel it is very ugly. The profits were declared for 1982-4 "well in excess of the target rate then applicable and appreciably higher than for British industry generally". The excess profits — excess, mark you, not the profits — were estimated at £100,000,000.