

## Charter for grannies

AN ATTEMPT to introduce a grandparents' charter was being made in the Commons this afternoon.

Mr Robert Rhodes James, Tory MP for Cambridge, was seeking to introduce a Bill under the 10 minute rule.

It would allow grandparents to apply to magistrates or county courts for access to their grandchildren.

Mr James said: "It would mainly apply to cases where the parents of the children have been killed or divorced and the grandparents are not allowed to see them."

Even if leave is given for the Bill to be introduced, it stands no chance of passing into law this session. But endorsement by the House could smooth its passage at a later date.

It has all-Party support.

# Pony Express gets Grunwick post out

By JOHN McSHANE

A MIDDLE of the night operation code named "Pony Express" sneaked £250,000 worth of mail out of the strike hit Grunwick factory, it was revealed today.

Twenty-five members of the Right-wing National Association for Freedom loaded 1,000 sacks of mail into two lorries on Saturday, at

the Willesden, North London, factory.

Then began a military-style operation organised by former Army major John Gouriet, a director of NAFF, to post 100,000 packets of developed films in pillar boxes all over England.

Details were given today by Mr. Gouriet and his fellow director, Mr. Robert Moss.

The lorries were hired at a cost of £300 and the volunteers were met by Grunwick boss Mr. George Ward.

Within an hour the mail

was being driven to a secret depot 60 miles away in the direction of the Midlands.

The 100,000 packets were taken out of the sacks, stamped and sealed and the next stage of "Operation Pony Express" began.

Two hundred and fifty volunteers, all members or supporters of NAFF, began distributing the mail throughout the country.

Eventual posting places were from Plymouth in the south, to Preston in the north.

Mr. Gouriet said: "We organised all the operation in 48 hours."

Mr. Moss said there were no pickets when they arrived at Grunwick although there were some lookouts.

"The police were told of our plan beforehand," he added.

Grunwick, they said, would be footing most of the bill.

"This action by NAFF"

said Mr. Moss "was a normal civic-minded response to enable Grunwick to exercise its legal right to make use of the Post Office monopoly."

There were no plans for another operation.

Postal workers at Norwich were waiting for union instructions today about whether they should handle sacks of Grunwick mail.

Only about 50 pickets were on duty outside the Grunwick factory today.

## 'My fear of boss Ward'

A SACKED Grunwick worker today told the Scarman inquiry that the firm's boss, George Ward, would have "made my life hell" if he had voted for a union.

Mr. Itashid Mohammed voted "no" in a ballot on union recognition at the film processing plant.

He claimed his vote could have been identified because the ballot was carried out by department.

Mr. Ward attended the Government inquiry headed by Lord Justice Scarman into the 11-month-old dispute.

He was with his advisor, Tory MP John Gursl.

Mr. Mohammed said Mr. Ward told him he would not take part in another ballot carried out by ACAS, the Government conciliation service, because he was "not a fool."



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## SLIGHTLY MADDOCKS...



## 'National Gallery is under threat'

By LEONARD VIGARS

LONDON'S National Gallery would be ruined by a Government improvement plan, GLC chiefs said today.

The £1½ million Department of the Environment scheme includes installing air conditioning and re-roofing the eastern galleries.

The terraces and steps would be remodelled and new restaurant and lecture facilities provided.

And inside the Trafalgar Square building, false ceilings would be put up to conceal machinery.

A DoE spokesman said the facade would not be affected but the skyline would be changed. Work could start soon.

But the GLC is asking the

Department to think again about the scheme.

Mr. William Bell, chairman of its historic buildings committee, said: "The National Gallery occupies one of central London's finest sites with superb views from each side of the Square."

"These proposals will affect the building both inside and out."

Mr. Bell added: "While we fully agree that the pictures should be protected and displayed to their best possible advantage, we cannot agree to further erosions of the architectural quality of a building of this importance."

"Several handsome rooms would be spoilt by the false ceilings, he claimed."

## Storms hit holidays

STORMS and three hours of torrential rain hit the Weymouth area of Dorset today.

Homes were flooded, holidays ruined, power supplies were cut and roads made impassable.

The town's bed and breakfast belt, just off the sea-front, was the worst hit.

And at holiday parks drenched campers packed their tents in despair and went home.

In Marsh Road, in Weymouth, children played in boats in water two feet deep.

In hospitals, emergency power units were in use as lightning put main supplies out of order for more than an hour.

The island of Portland was cut off for an hour as rain-water poured over the causeway, the only link to the mainland.

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