

'I know that I'll never work again'

The closure of Tate and Lyle's Liverpool factory means tragedy for entire families working at the Love Lane plant.

Some people have worked at the refinery for more than 40 years, and the shut-down will mean father and sons being thrown out of work.

Francis Fitzpatrick, of Stanley Park Avenue South, Liverpool 4, is the third generation to work at Love Lane, and can remember his grandfather talking about the days of 1880 when he first started with Tate and Lyle.

"I've been here for 48½ years, my brother works here, his son works here and now what do we do?"

Machine operator John Gouldbourne, of Roughwood Drive, Kirkby, has been at Love Lane for 32 years. Like many of the workers he is in his middle fifties and can see no prospect of ever working

JOINT PLEA FROM CHURCH LEADERS

Liverpool's two major church leaders, Roman Catholic Archbishop the Most Rev Derek Worlock, and Anglican Bishop the Rt. Rev. David Sheppard immediately got together to issue this statement:

"Although we have known for some years of the dangers threatening continued operations at the Tate and Lyle refinery, the news of its closure is a bitter disappointment.

"It is a tragedy for the 1,500 men and women facing redundancy and for whom new employment presents obvious difficulties. It is also bound to be

gravely damaging to the morale of the whole of Merseyside.

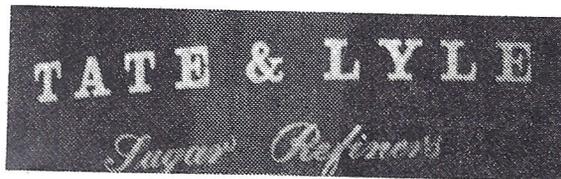
"Brave and imaginative attempts are being made locally to attract and develop new industry here. For this, courageous investment is required. Each new closure discourages such initiative and sets back the economic revival urgently needed in an area where unemployment figures have already reached unacceptable levels.

"Merseyside had special needs before the present recession became general. The area is particularly vulnerable and there is a

real danger that we are witnessing a tragic dismantling of an important industrial base vital for the long-term well-being of the nation.

"While expressing heartfelt sympathy to all those facing redundancy, we earnestly call on the Government to make an act of confidence in this part of the country.

"There is a need for some positive sign of commitment to Merseyside, which will itself be encouragement, and new initiative so urgently required to help restore the well-being of the community."



again. "This is my swansong, I'm just retired now, there's nothing left.

"But when you think it took years to build this company up, it has taken less than ten minutes to destroy it"

After two months of marriage, Steve Curtis took out a mortgage to buy a house for his bride, at Boxdale Road, Liverpool 18.

"Where do I go from here—on the dole I suppose?"

Tommy Hoy, a process worker for the past 25 years, said: "The quality of the sugar from this refinery is the best in the country and our productivity levels have recently broken all records.

"I think most of us blame the EEC for what's happened."

The first the canteen ladies heard of the closure was as they were all sitting at their morning break cup of tea chatting about television programmes of the night before.

Canteen supervisor Yvonne Cadwallader, of Marsh Street, Liverpool 20, who has been with the company 15 years, said: "It was shattering, there was silence while we all took it

was also in the canteen when the white unmarked envelopes were given out: "We'd been expecting it, but that didn't help when it actually happened."

John Duncan pointed out that workers had accepted 12-hour shifts two years ago in good faith in the hope that the deal would keep the refinery open indefinitely.

"All I know is that the pressure of working those long hours gave me a heart attack two years ago. Thatcher is the worst Prime Minister this country has ever seen and the closure is a diabolical disgrace."

LEISURE GUIDE

Continued from Page 2

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