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INTERVIEW WITH MR. ERNEST MARPLES

Mr. Marples.

Now in London the experiment is this, we've got an inner pink zone which we hope will be kept free and the traffic ^{will} ~~will~~ dispose. And around this pink zone we've got car parks, temporary car parks, for over 6,000 cars. We want motorists to leave their cars in there, and then walk into the centre, or come in by public transport which will be increased.

This is a bold experiment, and I think people are fed up to the back teeth with traffic congested delays and frustration. We've tried our best and we shall see what happens. The good parts of the experiment we shall keep, and those parts where we fail we shall have to modify our plans. They're going to be flexible, and above all we are really going to try.

BERKELEY SQUARE, W.1. MAYfair 9494 (PLEASE ASK FOR PRESS OFFICE)

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26th November, 1959.

CHRISTMAS TRAFFIC PLAN

RING OF CAR PARKS FOR LONDON SHOPPERS

Mr. Ernest Marples, Minister of Transport, announced to-day a Christmas traffic plan for London's West End.

It is an experimental plan to keep West End streets clear for moving traffic by encouraging shoppers to leave their cars at home or in temporary parking places close to the inner zone. The sole aim and purpose of the exercise is to keep traffic flowing.

The main features of the plan are:-

TEMPORARY CAR PARKS, mostly free of charge, with room for over 6,000 vehicles. These are situated close to the inner zone of London at points near bus and tube services.

FIRM ENFORCEMENT OF THE PRESENT WAITING RESTRICTIONS.

NEW RESTRICTIONS ON LOADING AND UNLOADING at kerbside key points.

MORE BUSES AND LONGER TUBE TRAINS through the inner zone between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

In this way it is hoped that serious traffic delays will be avoided. Last Christmas buses were held up in the worst-ever traffic queues for periods of up to an hour, and there are already signs that if nothing is done things will be even worse this year.

Starting date is Monday, November 30; finishing date will be not later than January 16 depending on the traffic situation.

The inner zone extends from Park Lane to Kingsway and from Euston Road to the Strand. This area, called the Pink Zone, is flooded at Christmas with vehicles carrying goods to shops and with people buying presents and viewing the decorations. All this is on top of normal traffic.

Details of the plan, given below, have been worked out by the Ministry of Transport in consultation with the Ministry of Works, the Metropolitan and City Police, the British Transport Commission, London Transport Executive, the L.C.C., the A.A. and R.A.C., and local authorities, and other interested bodies including trading and distributing organisations. These are all co-operating.

STANDING VEHICLES

All waiting restrictions in the Pink Zone will be firmly enforced. At present they apply from 8.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. During the Christmas shopping period they will be extended in the following streets to 10 p.m.:— Oxford Street, Regent Street, New Bond Street, Piccadilly, Park Lane and Hamilton Place.

This does not mean that parking is banned everywhere in the Pink Zone. Drivers can still park at authorised parking places, i.e. parking meters, or places marked with the "P" (parking) sign.

The police will take firm action against drivers who leave their vehicles within 100ft. of a traffic light signal. They will not hesitate to remove any vehicles causing obstruction.

GOODS VEHICLES

Loading and unloading at the kerbside will be prohibited between

1 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. at key points at and near the following junctions -

- (1) Euston Road from Albany Street to Gower Street,
including its junction with Tottenham Court Road.
- (2) St. Giles Circus and Charing Cross Road between
St. Giles Circus and Cambridge Circus.
- (3) Tottenham Court Road - Goodge Street.
- (4) Cambridge Circus
- (5) Charing Cross Road - Cranbourn Street.
- (6) Strand - Lancaster Place.
- (7) Piccadilly Circus
- (8) Oxford Circus
- (9) Piccadilly - Berkeley Street - Old Bond Street.
- (10) Regent Street - Oxford Circus to Langham Place.
- (11) Knightsbridge - Wilton Place to Knightsbridge Green.

The hours of existing loading bans at these points will be amended to conform with those on the new lengths.

Distributors and traders are asked to do their loading and unloading as early as possible. The Traders Road Transport Association are compiling a list of shops which will be open early for deliveries.

CHRISTMAS CAR PARKS

About twenty new temporary car parks will be opened. WITH ONE OR TWO EXCEPTIONS THEY WILL BE FREE OF CHARGE. The car parks are sited mainly to the west and south of the zone and include Horse Guards Parade, The Mall, North Horse Ride, Constitution Hill, Serpentine Road and the North Ride in Hyde Park, Albert Memorial Road, Chelsea Barracks, Lords Car Park, West Kensington Goods Yard, Battersea Park, Westminster Bridge (south side), side streets in the Waterloo Road area, two sites at the Elephant and Castle, and Fenelon Place (junction of Warwick Road and

West Cromwell Road). In addition, as a second line, sites are being prepared on Clapham Common and Wormwood Scrubbs. (A full list of the temporary car parks, giving details of accommodation, opening and closing times, etc., is attached).

Over half a million explanatory leaflets, with map showing the Pink Zone and the location of the temporary car parks outside the zone, will be distributed to drivers by the Police and motoring organisations.

PUBLIC SERVICES

London Transport Executive will operate as many additional buses during this period as their staff position will permit. Longer tube trains will be run between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The Executive will not run Christmas excursions into central London, nor will they run their former "roundabout" sightseeing tours. This decision has been taken to relieve congestion in the Zone.

THE BANK GUARD

During the Christmas shopping period, the Bank of England picket provided by the Brigade of Guards is using motor transport between the barracks and the Bank instead of proceeding on foot.

ADVICE TO PUBLIC

Car parks close to the centre of London, such as Horse Guards Parade, are likely to fill up early. Drivers should not count on finding room in them. In general they will probably save time by using parking places a little farther out.

This plan is experimental. If successful, it will make things easier for drivers, workers and shoppers. Private motorists can help

to make it succeed by:-

Keeping their cars out of the Pink Zone if at all possible.

Waiting until after the evening peak to see the lights.

Parking in a garage or at a meter in the meter zone, if they must come into the Pink Zone.

Locking their cars, if they contain valuables, before leaving them at parking meters or in a car park.

Using public transport

Avoiding the rush hours.

In short - FILL THE PARKS AND FREE THE TRAFFIC.

PARKING SITES ROUND THE INNER LONDON AREA

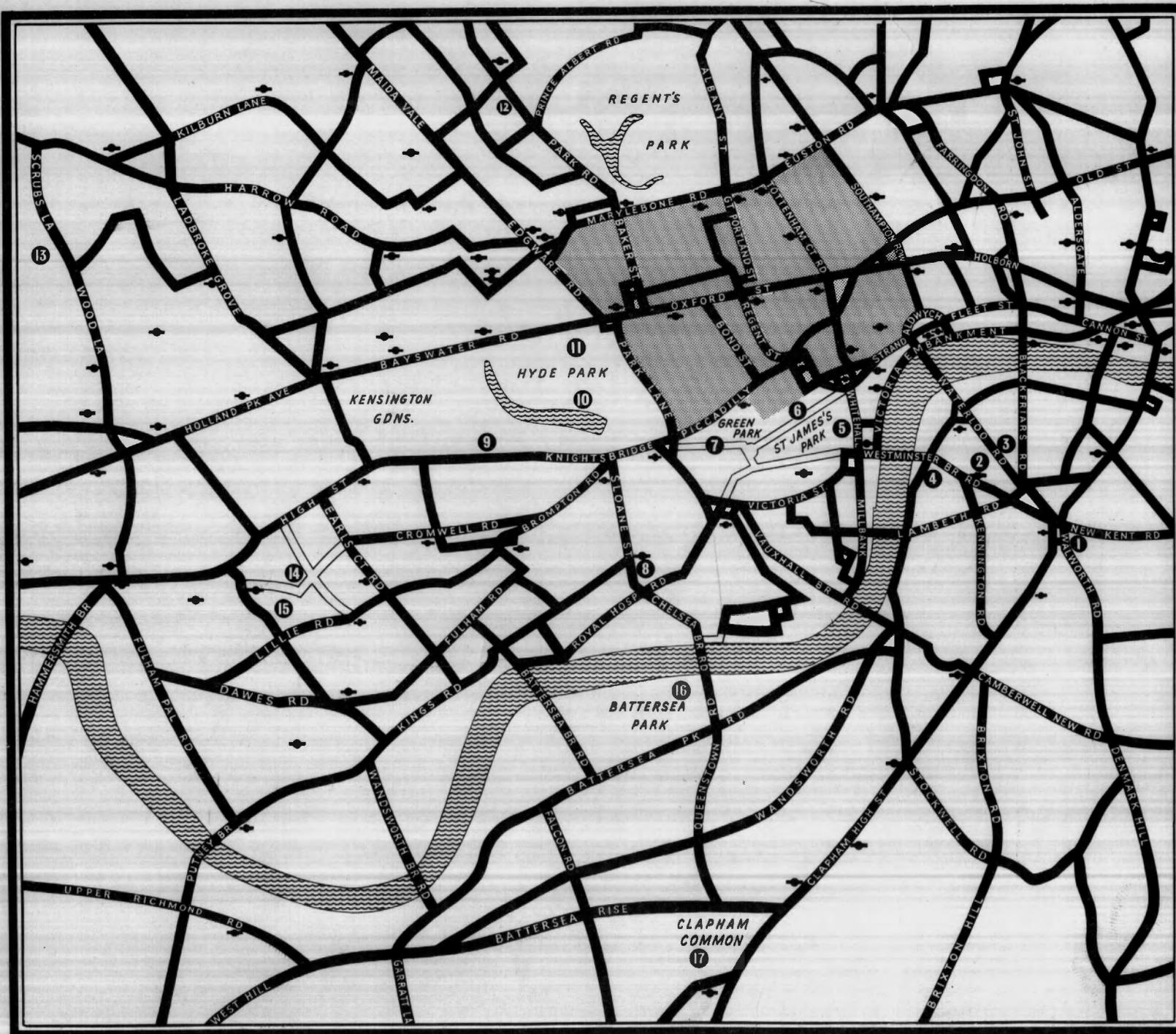
(Commercial vehicles will not be permitted to use sites in the Royal Parks, nor a number of other sites)

- 1.- Elephant and Castle. - Sayer Street-St. George's Road -
Up to 300 car spaces on two sites 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- 2.- Waterloo Road
Coral Street. - Up to 50 car spaces 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Morley Street. - Up to 100 car spaces on two sites 8 a.m.
- 10 p.m.
- 3.- Southwark, Ufford Street. - Up to 130 car spaces on two sites
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- 4.- Lambeth Palace Road. - Between 100 and 250 spaces 8 a.m. -
10 p.m. Availability dependent on construction work in
progress. A charge may be made.
- 5.- Horse Guards Parade. - Up to 500 car spaces 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- 6.- The Mall, North Horse Ride. - Up to 240 car spaces from 10 a.m.
to 10 p.m.
- 7.- Constitution Hill. - Up to 160 cars can be parked on the
carriageway from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- 8.- Chelsea Barracks. - Up to 700 car spaces 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- 9.- Albert Memorial Road. - Up to 120 car spaces 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 10.- Serpentine Road. - Up to 350 car spaces 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- 11.- North Ride, Hyde Park. - Up to 300 spaces 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
(From 11th - 24th December only) (Weather permitting)
- 12.- Lord's Car Park, N.W.8. - Up to 450 car spaces 10 a.m. to
6 p.m. (at 2s. 6d. per car space).
- 13.- Wormwood Scrubbs Car Park. - Up to 600 car and coach spaces
8 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Second line site).
- 14.- Warwick Road (Fenelon Place) (junction of Warwick Road and West
Cromwell Road). - Up to 500 cars (depending on weather conditions).
8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

- 15.- West Kensington Goods Yard. - Up to 250 spaces for cars
or coaches 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 16.- Battersea Park. - Up to 550 car spaces 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
A charge may be made by British Legion.
- 17.- Clapham Common. - Up to 700 car and coach spaces 8 a.m.
to 10 p.m. (Second line site).

All sites are being specially sign-posted by the R.A.C. and A.A.
None of the sites will be open on Sundays.

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This Christmas, for the first time on a large scale, many extra car parks, most of them free, are being opened in London. On the map you will see a tinted area known as the pink zone. The car parks are outside this zone. All of them are close to bus and tube services and are specially signposted.

- *1 Elephant and Castle — Sayer St., S.E.17
— St. George's Road, S.E.1.
- 2 Waterloo Road — Morley Street, S.E.1.
— Coral Street, S.E.1.
- 3 Ufford Street, Southwark, S.E.1.
- 4 Lambeth Palace Road, S.E.1.
- 5 Horse Guards Parade, S.W.1.
- 6 The Mall, S.W.1.
- 7 Constitution Hill, S.W.1.
- 8 Chelsea Barracks, S.W.1.
- 9 Albert Memorial,
Kensington Gardens, S.W.7.
- 10 Serpentine Road, Hyde Park, W.2.
- 11 North Ride, Hyde Park, W.2.
(Open from Dec. 11th.)
- 12 Lord's Car Park, N.W.8.
- *13 Wormwood Scrubs Car Park, N.W.10.
- 14 Warwick Road (Fenelon Place), W.14.
- *15 West Kensington Goods Yard, S.W.5.
- *16 Battersea Park, S.W.11.
- *17 Clapham Common, S.W.4.

**These also accommodate coaches.*



UNDERGROUND



BUS SERVICES