

redundancy money for a registered dock worker was £8,500 for a man with more than 20 years service.

It is estimated that there is a daily surplus of 1,300 deckers in Britain's ports.

*23/9/80 PR Thomas*

# RIDDLE OF WHAT PC SAW ABOVE THE COMMONS

**THREE POLICEMEN**, a fireman and a parliamentary clerk last night stared and pointed into the sky from the terrace of the House of Commons for more than half an hour at what they swore was an unidentified flying object.

They said it whipped back and forth in and out of the clouds, spun round, shimmered and flashed but when one policeman telephoned the Ministry of Defence for information he was told, "Mind your own business."

Then another policeman hailed a passing Thames river police launch asking if he could borrow their binoculars... They didn't have any.

Then came along Mr Nigel Spearing, Labour MP for Newham South. First he pronounced, "It looks like a bird with gilded wings."

Then after further observation, he said firmly, "It is a bird with gilded wings." But then he revised his judgment and said, "I have no idea what it is. I do not discount UFOs."

Mr Spearing then changed his mind yet again, saying, "My opinion is that it is a hovering bird of prey." But as he left, three policemen, one fireman and a parliamentary clerk plainly did not agree with him.