

75  
S TO  
FUEL  
ICY  
of the National  
orkers met in  
terday for a  
ssion on the  
dustry. The  
ference opens

s year's execu-  
t year, the fall  
and the con-  
the industry  
punities. Un-  
k's conference  
considerable  
bject and will  
the Govern-  
union's so-  
policy.

rikes  
were on strike  
pits yesterday  
on grievances.  
d at Kings-  
0 at Kingshill  
erton colliery  
was recently  
al has been  
the second  
dit weeks. A  
cribed it as

ates made by  
ment of the  
Railwaymen  
Act of the  
mission will  
the next  
ld mean an  
between now  
ad an

slightly  
figure of

takes no  
on's bor-  
moderni-  
cluded in  
the union's  
will be  
annual  
next

Vickers  
Barrow  
who  
and  
his yes-  
rds was  
national.

# CHANGES IN U.K.'s A-POWER PLANS EARLIER SWITCH TO IMPROVED REACTOR

By Our Scientific Correspondent

Important changes are, it is understood, being considered in the development of the U.K. nuclear power programme.

These changes are likely to include a more rapid changeover in reactor furnace design from the improved Calder Hall type to a more advanced form of reactor than had been expected and an early return to the practice of contracting for individual parts of the stations instead of as at present contracting for complete stations.

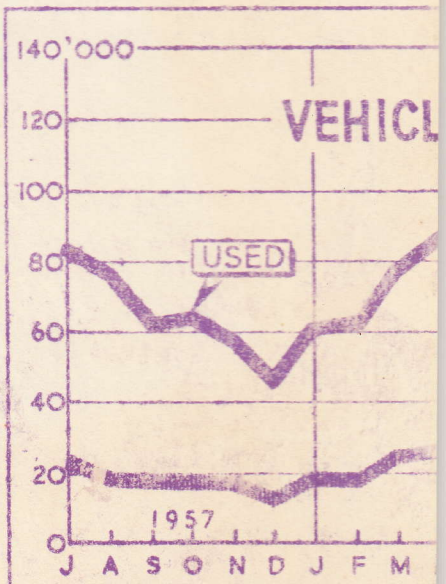
Inquiries for tenders for the Dungeness station have already gone out and this will be an improved Calder Hall type plant similar to the Hinkley Point, Somerset, station. Inquiries for the Sizewell, Suffolk, station, which may have a 600 megawatt capacity, are likely to go out later this year, and this station is likely to be of a similar type.

The next U.K. nuclear power station to be ordered will, however, almost certainly be of the advanced gas-cooled reactor furnace type, similar to the experimental plant

now under construction at Windscale, Cumberland.

It is at this stage the Central Electricity Generating Board is likely to change back to the piece-meal system for contracting for power stations instead of placing orders for complete nuclear power stations. Such piece-meal ordering is standard practice in the case of oil and coal-fuelled power stations.

During the next few years the C.E.G.B. is planning to spend about £1/6m. a year on research into the operation of nuclear power stations. This research will not, however, clash with that carried out by the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority—which spends about £20m. a year on development—or by the nuclear power station construction companies.



Credit sales of motor vehicles are at all-time peak of 167,919 contracts, diagram indicates, the rise in June the main contribution  
Editor

## SCRAPPING PLANT

From Our Own Correspondent

Draft proposals for dealing with the section of the cotton industry were submitted to the committee of the Master Spinners' Federation.

Details will not, however, be finalised until they have been submitted, together with others from the various branches of the industry, to Parliament later this month.

Individual companies will then have an opportunity to decide how much machinery they will scrap after considering the terms of compensation payable. The Government has already announced that it is prepared to pay two-thirds of the cost of redundancy, the other third to be provided by a levy on machinery still in use.

Although details of the scheme are still secret, it is believed the

time  
been f  
panies  
scrapp  
Augus  
Board  
up the  
Septem  
By  
surplus  
be net  
70,000  
Spec  
payme  
for sc  
offered  
whether  
workin  
comple

## FINAL SETTLEMENT OF E.P.U.

Details of agreements concluded with other countries in settlement of U.K. claims and debts following the ending of E.P.U.—the European Payments Union—were given in the House of Commons yesterday by Mr. R. A. Butler, Minister of Finance.

The U.K. debt of £135m. to the Union was converted, at the time of E.P.U. liquidation, into bilateral debts and claims totalling £160m. and £31m. respectively.

Of the £160m. of debts, £135m. was already covered by bilateral amortisation agreements concluded in 1954 and in 1955, extended between

## TRADE SURPLUS IN AUSTRALIA

### HOPE OF FREER IMPORTS

From Our Own Correspondent  
MELBOURNE, July 3.  
Australia's success in achieving a trading surplus in the financial year 1956-57 has given rise to hopes of freer imports when

## GOVERNMENT ARBITRAGE

By Our Financial Correspondent

The Government has expected to raise £1,000 million of the Treasury