

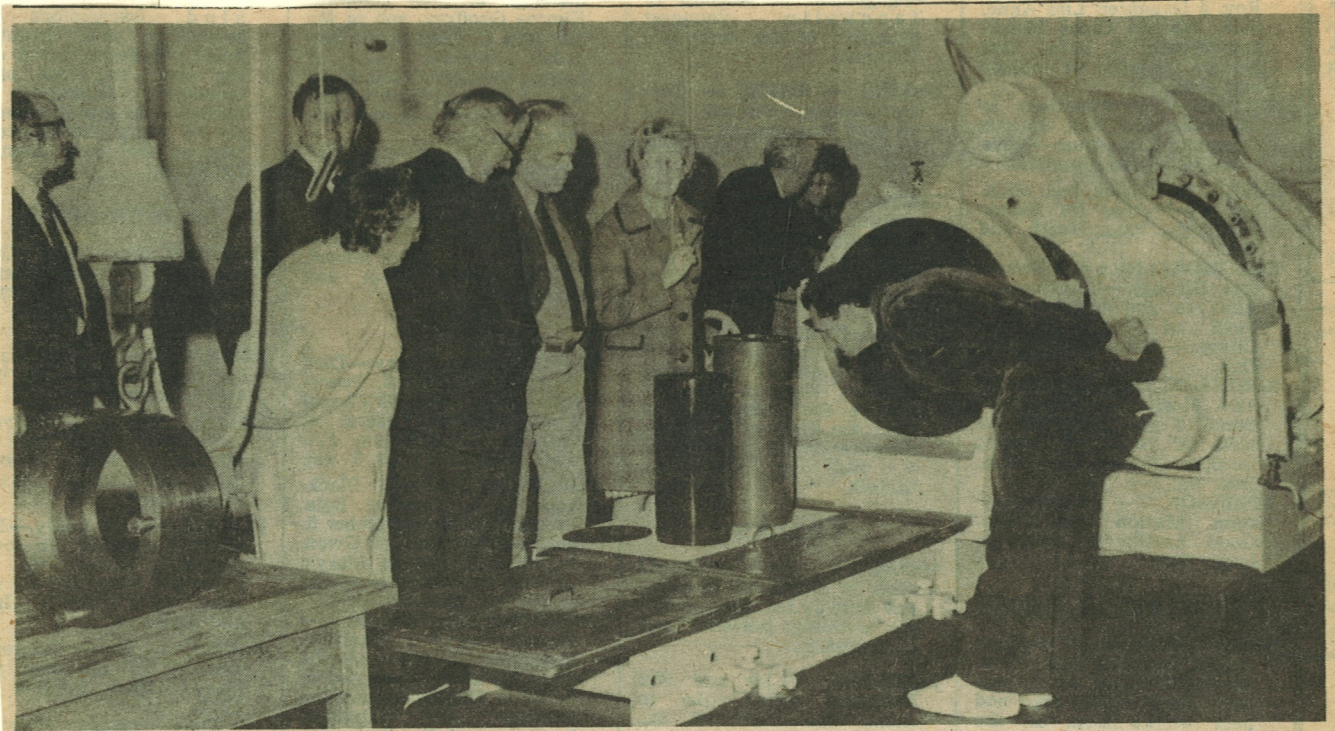
WASC 823

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# On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 823

West Essex Gazette  
11. 10. 74



● Councillors and the press take a look at what goes on at ERDE.

(1185)

# SAFETY COMES FIRST AT ERDE

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The chances of a "bang," as safety officer Mr John Griffiths says, is remote. Even if anything did go wrong it's unlikely that the public outside would know about it, apart, possibly, from noise.

Along with a party of town councillors and other pressmen I visited the place on Tuesday and found that safety comes before almost anything. In fact, it virtually dominates the day-to-day lives of the 800 staff, many of whom work in the big underground silos making plastic propellant for rockets. It devotes only about 25 per cent of its effort to high explosives.

Said Mr Griffiths: "Everything possible is done to eliminate any chance of an accidental explosion and all equipment and processes are continuously monitored by a full-time safety team. "No material is handled in more than tiny laboratory amounts until its properties are fully known and all potential hazards assessed. "We believe that our work is made entirely safe by these precautions and our accident record bears this out."

The visit was arranged after the town council had voiced fears about the establishment following the Flixborough disaster. The guests were welcomed by the establishment's director Dr J. L. J. Bellamy.

ALAN HAYLOCK

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