

UNDER CONTROL

This shining effort of the joint creative talent of the programming/technical support staff was created in the early 1970s at Sheffield Regional Hospital Board/Trent Regional Health Authority and reflects the divisions that existed between the second-floor programming staff and the first-floor operations department, then running a large ICL 1904S mainframe under the George 3 Operating System.

This was in the days before personal computers and networking, certainly in the UK and in the early days of online computer terminals, in ICL terminology, known as Multiple Online Programming or MOP.

If you don't want to work,
Without having to shirk,
And have an I.Q. in two figures,
Data Control
Should be your goal,
Serving with Noddy and Big Ears.

Let's meet the eight
Who are going to decollate
The output in endless streams.
Printed or not,
They'll tackle the lot,
Producing blank paper in reams.

The conditions are good.
They don't even spill blood,
When operating the guillotine.
Instead they spend hours
Tending their flowers,
And discussing what's on the pop scene.

Now and again,
They're kept until ten,
On the day that payroll is run.
But they'll be at the door,
A minute before,
Awaiting the starter's gun.

They couldn't care less
When they're in a mess.
It's all blamed on "them beggars upstairs".
All jobs run on MOP
Have to come to a stop
And be run in background - in -pairs:

Turn-round is slow,
Thanks to Dave Bujko,
Constantly running his T.T.T.P.
He sits in his chair
Shouting "Don't load that tape there:
It'll slow down my other three".

You can stand there ignored,
Getting frustrated and bored.
Data Control just don't seem to know
The printout is there.
But no programmer dare
Stop the knitting part way through a row.

The Girls are fine really
And deserve their pay, clearly;
The work-load has increased n-fold.
But scale ones and scale fours
Seem a bit much for the cause.
They must have other virtues untold.

A Joint Effort
c 1973