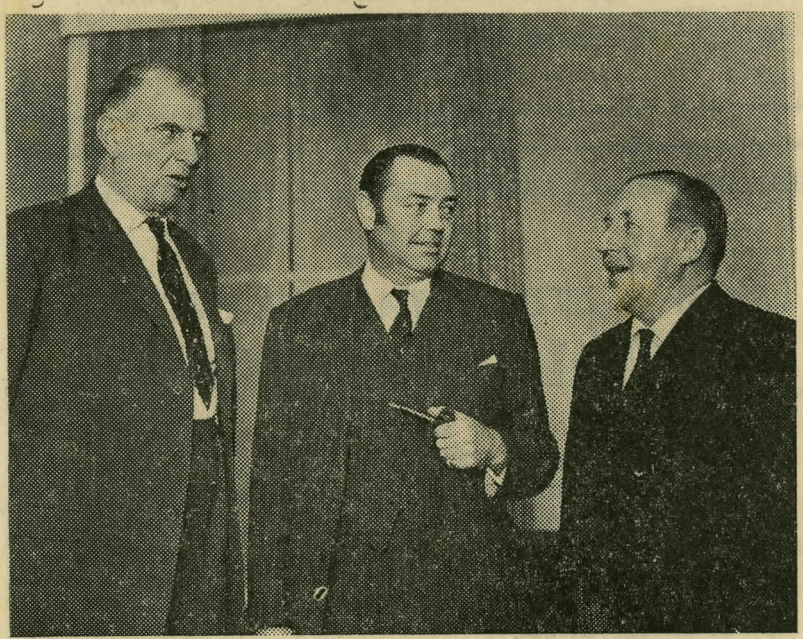
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KIRKWALL, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1970

£25,000 PLANT LAUNCHED



At the Press conference of Halmatic held in Glasgow—(l. to r.) Mr J. Donald Brown, County Convener of Orkney; Mr Clive Hunting, Chairman of Halmatic, and the new Chairman of the Highlands and Islands Development Board, Sir Andrew Gilchrist.

AT a Press conference in the North British Hotel, Glasgow, on November 23 last, Mr Clive Hunting, Chairman of Halmatic Ltd., announced the launching of a £25,000 plant at Hatston to produce glass-fibre hulls for commercial fishing boats.

This new industry besides directly increasing employment by some 50 workmen over the next five years would add to the order books of local yards where traditional woodworking and boat-building skills would be needed to fit out many of the hulls with superstructures and engines.

Both Mr Hunting and Sir Andrew Gilchrist, newly appointed Chairman of the Highlands and Islands Development Board, paid warm tribute to the assistance given by Mr Robert Strachan the County Development Officer who had worked very hard to ensure that no local obstacle was left in the path of this project.

Mr Donald Brown, Convener of Orkney County Council, in extending a warm welcome to Halmatic, said that the coming of the new industry coincided with strong rumours that a fish-meal factory would be set up in one of the North Isles.

If this turned out to be correct and if Orkney-based industrial fishing proved to be successful then these two developments could well be complementary to one another and mutually beneficial not only to themselves but to the economy of the county as well. He wished Halmatic every success in their new venture.