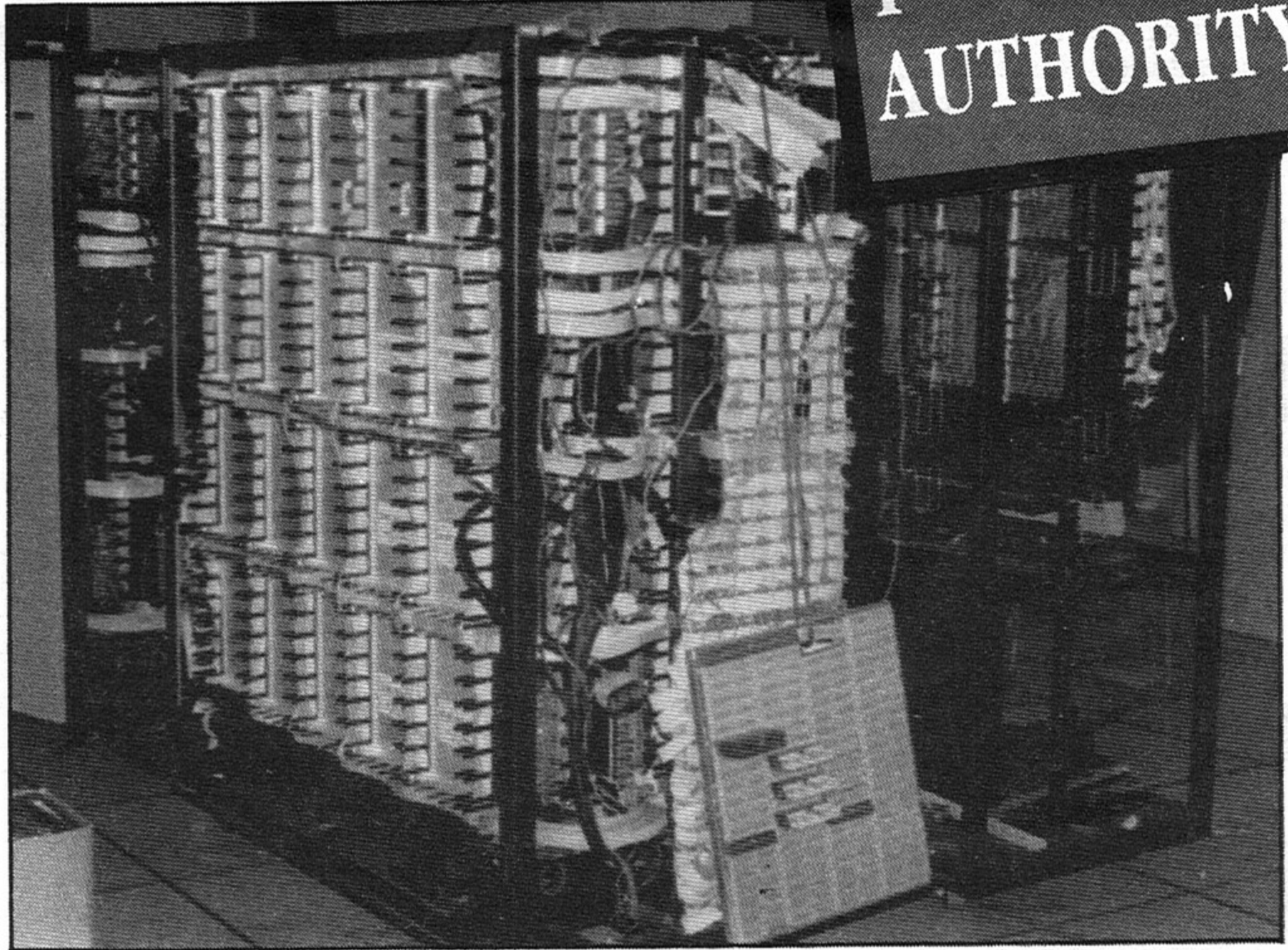# Obituary to a faithful giant

As soon as the official inauguration of the Rehost Computer by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal on 18 June, 1990 was completed, the red carpet was removed and in rushed the LATCC engineers to remove the IBM 9020, writes *Brian Pritchard*.

After 15 years providing initially all Civil Flight Data Processing at LATCC and then Radar Data Processing in 1985, the time had come to despatch all 65 tons to a respectable graveyard in Lancashire. W & S Metallics successfully tendered for the contract and filled four 40ft trailers, which travelled north to await salvage. The main value lies in the precious metals such as gold bearing materials, silver and palladium.

The cabling which has to be removed is estimated to be some 20 miles long and LATCC staff have a formidable task in removing such a quantity, and also ensuring there is no impact

The end of an era for the IBM 9020.

on operational services.

Following this it is planned to replace totally the computer floor and refurbish the air conditioning ducts to provide a suitable environment for the new systems being provisioned for the Central Control Function Operations, Stages 2-5. This is the start of another major period of extensive change at LATCC to take it into the 21st Century.