

You are invited . . .

Every Sunday evening, weather permitting, you can hear Communist policy on local and national issues, on the Old Market Square, 6.30 to 8.30 p.m.

Speakers include:

Des Atkinson

Prospective Communist Candidate, Byron Ward

Ken Biggs

Prospective Communist Candidate, Clifton Ward

Don Devine

Prospective Communist Candidate, Portland Ward

John Hardwick

Prospective Communist Candidate, Mapperley Ward

John Peck

Prospective Communist Candidate, St. Alban's Ward, also
Prospective Communist Parliamentary Candidate, North
Nottingham

If you agree with Communist views in this pamphlet
why not join?

Name

Address

Fill in and send to: Nottingham Area Committee, Com-
munist Party, 4 Fletcher Gate, Nottingham.

Published by the Nottingham Area Communist Party, 4 Fletcher Gate, Nottm.,
and printed by Wm. J. Butler and Co., Station Road, Bulwell, Nottingham

NOTTINGHAM

FOR

YOU



by JOHN PECK

6^{d.}

COMMUNIST PARTY PAMPHLET

**FOR LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FROM
A WORKING-CLASS POINT OF VIEW**

READ THE

Daily Worker

Every Day

3d.

— Order now from your newsagent —

QUEEN OF THE MIDLANDS

Nottingham people are proud of many features of our city. We have boulevards and parks, the envy of other northern industrial centres. Well laid out flower beds on traffic islands, in the city centre, and elsewhere, make a blaze of colour throughout summer and autumn. We have both ancient historic buildings, like the Castle and Wollaton Hall, and fine modern buildings such as the Technical College, the Co-operative Education Centre, and soon, the Civic Theatre. We have extensive housing estates and well laid out schools. Our expanding University is on one of the finest sites in the provinces.

Yet it is not always for progress that Nottingham is in the news. In 1959 we had the so-called "race riots" in the St. Ann's Well Road area. Conservative plans to scrap the Civic Theatre were condemned by progressives throughout Britain, and this outraged opposition forced the Tories to back down.

On a December Sunday in 1960, people woke in parts of Nottingham to evil-smelling flood water in their homes. Thousands live in houses nearly a hundred years old, in bad repair, with poor toilet facilities, damp, ill-lit, without baths. Children in some areas go to schools long out-of-date. Thirty-six houses in 1962 still have pail closets in the "Queen of the Midlands."

So we are critical as well as being proud. The progress that has been achieved has been in the teeth of the opposition of those who put profits first. The Tories who tried to scrap our Civic Theatre are the direct political descendants of those who opposed the opening of Nottingham's first public library in 1868, on the grounds that reading would be dangerous for the contentment of their workers. Further advance to the really beautiful city we all want will mean a fight against Tory ideas and power, locally and nationally.

This pamphlet gives the Communist view of many of Nottingham's problems, and our ideas as to how they should be tackled.

Who owns Nottingham?

Nottingham is a city of great industrial wealth. But who owns it? So-called private enterprise, which increasingly is becoming monopoly control.

The take-over of Raleigh by Tube Investments creates a near monopoly of cycle production in Britain. In fact, their long-term agreement with Motobecane of France, details unknown, may even make them a supra-national monopoly. The Imperial Tobacco Co. have two-thirds of the tobacco trade in Britain. The Monopolies Commission revealed recently that Imps. also held 42½% of the shares of their "rival," Gallaher. The fact that the Tory Government has refused to accept the Commission recommendations, that Imperial should sell their holding in Gallaher's,

brings out into the open the Tories as the servants of the monopolies.

Boots, Ericssons, and Rolls Royce, are also directly, and through agreements, monopolies in their respective fields.

Insurance companies, building societies, large office blocks, chain stores, monopoly supermarkets, are taking over more and more of the city, especially in the centre.

The Tories on the City Council are the political representatives of private enterprise, as opposed to the public interest, in our city.

What does this private ownership mean for Nottingham people?

Your Job in Danger

A recent Guardian Journal headline was "Workless Highest for Ten Years." In January, 1962, 3,375 were out of work, and in addition, short time working in hosiery and building was growing.

Tube Investments take-over of Raleigh has meant the closure of factories in Ashford, Newtown and Smethwick. In the same way, monopoly take-over can mean the closure of many small firms in Nottingham, especially in hosiery and engineering.

The monopolies introduce work-study, automation and mechanisation, with the aim of reducing the labour force. Nine workers at Players today produce more cigarettes than did ten workers some years ago, and the latest type machinery means a speeding up of this process.

It is the monopolies who are campaigning for Britain to enter the Common Market. They say fierce competition will make British industry more "efficient." Workers know what this means, more work for the same or less pay.

Macmillan says the effect of our entry would be like a bracing cold shower. Nearer the truth was the Journal of the Nottingham Chamber of Trade, when it said our entry could be likened to being dropped over Trent Bridge on a cold winter's night. It will be the workers and small men, not the big bosses, who are likely to go under.

This is true especially in hosiery. The Italian hosiery industry works a three-shift system, with modern machinery, longer hours, and lower wages than in Britain. What would be the effect on jobs and living standards of unrestricted competition with hose and knitted wear made in Italy by knitters on 2s. an hour, linkers on 1/5d. an hour, pre-boarders on 1/9d. an hour? Clearly disaster for hosiery workers, and the wholesale wiping out of all but the large hosiery firms.

To safeguard jobs, the Communists demand:

- **End the credit-squeeze — nationalise the monopolies.**
- **No entry into the Common Market — instead, expand our trade with the Commonwealth, the Socialist and the under-developed countries.**

- **Shorter hours and increased wages from automation.**
- **Slash the arms programme and use these resources to increase pensions and for a vast expansion in building houses, schools, hospitals, new factories, etc.**

Your Wages — Daylight Robbery

Increased wages, salaries and pensions would not only mean improved living standards, they would also mean an increased demand for hosiery, cycles, medical, lace, and all other consumer goods, to assist in maintaining full employment.

Where are the increased wages to come from? From the fantastic profits produced by the sweat and toil of Nottingham workers, and grabbed by those who neither toil nor spin.

Raleigh in their latest year, before Tube Investments' take-over, declared a profit of over £2 million; Players £18 million; Boots £5 million; Ericssons £1 million; Rolls Royce £5 million; these are the local "whales." But medium concerns, such as Viyella, Meridian, Paynes, Vedonis, Bairnswear, Simms Sons and Cooke, and many others, each make hundreds of thousands of pounds a year out of their workers. Smaller fry still make tens of thousands, and thousands.

Even in a nationalised industry, under the present set-up, workers produce a surplus for the private owners. The miners of No. 6 Area, living in and around Nottingham, recently established a national record by producing an output per man-shift of 54.6 cwts. Yet the basic wage of a surface worker is still under £10 a week; that of an underground day worker under £11 a week. Even the better pay of face workers has to be reckoned against the cost of life and limb, shown in the recent increase in serious accidents in local pits.

Who gets the benefit of the miner's labour? The domestic consumer? Not with the price of a bag of coal as it is at the moment. It's private industry, especially the monopolists, who benefit from nationalisation. Cheap coal, power, and transport help to inflate further still their profits.

The total extracted from Nottingham workers in rent, interest, and profit exceeds half-a-million pounds a week.

This is open, legal, daylight robbery.

Communists are for a Socialist society that would ensure an end to this robbery, and for all the wealth produced by working people to belong to them.

Meanwhile, we fully support every effort by the trade unions to improve the wages, hours, and conditions of their members. Communist Councillors and MPs would fight vigorously in the Council and in Parliament for the industrial as well as the political aims of the Labour Movement.

The character of nationalised industries, present and proposed, should be changed. The first charges should become good wages

and conditions for their workers, and a good product at a reasonable price to the domestic consumer. This would mean running them in the interests of the people, not the monopolies.

We also support the struggle of the Co-operative Movement against the growth of monopoly in the distributive trades. The latter may begin with the issue of free chickens, but could end in the nation being held to ransom for its food. By competitive prices, modern shops, and up-to-date service, Co-operative Societies can protect the interest of the consumer.

Housing The People

To many people in Nottingham, the problem of housing may seem to belong to the past. We have not yet the homeless families as in London, but the situation could reach those proportions here in a few years time. In the last decade, the waiting list has been held down to seven or eight thousand. With only 750 houses a year now being built by the Council, most of which are needed to re-house the people from slum clearance areas, plus health priorities, it is obvious the waiting list will grow.

Maybe newly-married couples can buy a house? 4,600 private houses for sale have been built within the city since the war, most of them in the last five years. More have been built outside the city limits. But how many young couples earn the £20 a week necessary to obtain a 90% mortgage on a new house? If they try to buy an older, cheaper house, then they may not get a big mortgage, especially with a credit squeeze.

The present generation is responsible for the housing of its children, since houses cannot be built overnight. Planners work on a twenty year basis. What houses does Nottingham need in that period?

Young people are marrying earlier and having children sooner. Old people are living longer, each family looks for a separate house, unlike the thirties when mass unemployment forced millions into "rooms." The population is growing faster than was projected. Last, but not least, out of 96,300 houses in Nottingham 40,000 will in twenty years time be over 100 years old!

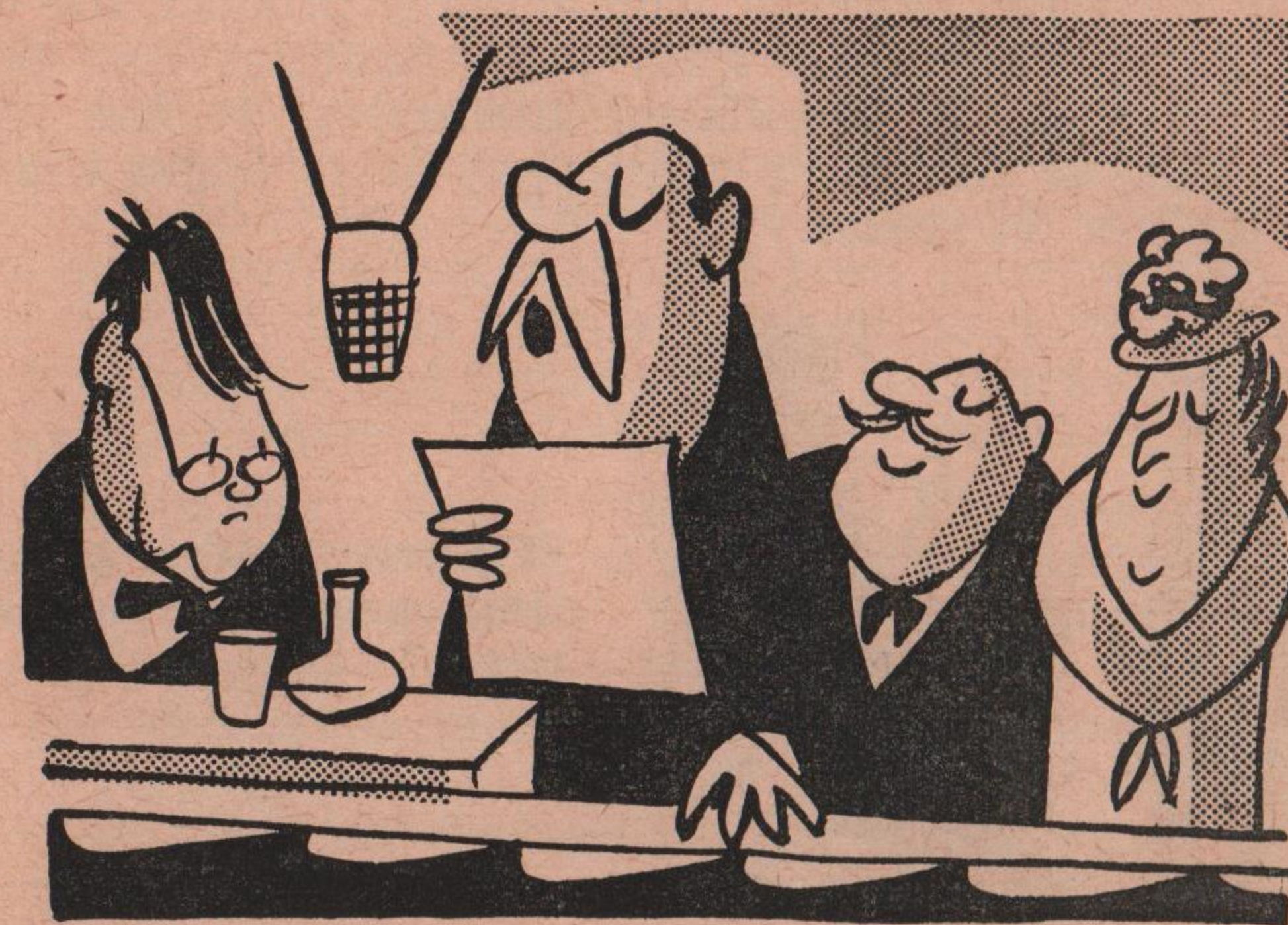
The thousands of houses in Nottingham with small sculleries do not meet the requirements of a modern kitchen. They are unable to hold washing machine, refrigerator, cooking stove, and sink unit. They even lack running hot water, and everything and everybody has to be washed at one small sink and cold tap. 40,000 out of 96,300 houses in the city have no bath, and toilets are exposed to all weathers at the bottom of the yard.

Here we see the marked contrast in the present set of values in society, with its labour-saving devices, and the poor facilities inherited from the past.

Back-to-back houses, one tap in the yard, and so on, have been cleared. Within the next 20 years we should ensure that housing

standards, which reached a peak just after the war, and have gone down since, are improved. Every house should have a bathroom, indoor toilet, and a kitchen big enough to house modern appliances, with hot and cold water.

Centrally-heated, or district heated houses, should be the rule of the second half of the 20th century. The waste hot water pumped from one power station into the Trent could heat whole areas in Nottingham. In this age of science, no technical reason exists why everyone should not live in a roomy, warm, comfortable, well-lit and labour-saving home.



"We Conservatives have always believed in home ownership. I personally own over a hundred and fifty."

Old people are some of the worst housed in our city. More houses and flats suitable for the aged would help to ease the situation for other sections of the community. Landlords who refuse to allow retired people living on their own in big houses to exchange for a smaller house, a bungalow, or a flat, should be made to allow better use of our stock of houses.

A lot of talk goes on about council house subsidies. **We Communists make the categorical statement that not a single council house tenant is, in reality, subsidised.**

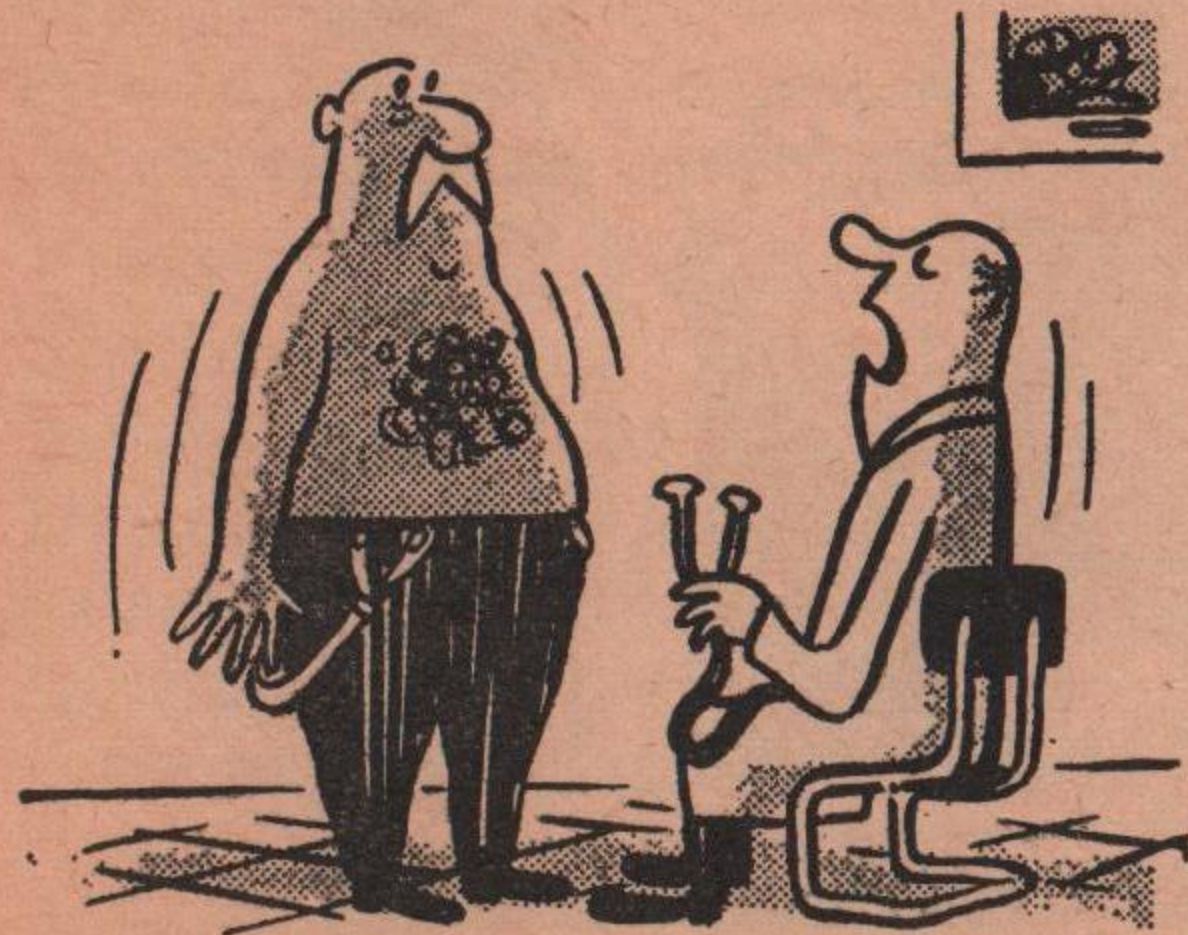
The rent they pay is **more** than the cost of the land, of building the house, plus management and repairs.

The trouble is that the money advanced to build is lent to the council with exorbitant interest. The money to build a £1,600 house is borrowed to be repaid over 60 years. At present rates of interest a total of £5,718 will be paid back; i.e., £4,118 in interest

alone. This works out at 26/- per week, part met by "subsidy," part by the overburdened tenant.

Housing should be seen as a social service. As it is now, a minority, lucky enough to be born into an upper-income family, can have a house built. They might occupy a luxury flat with electric underfloor heating, modern kitchen and bathroom, high-speed lifts, automatic refuse disposal, such as in "Rivermead." This is the biggest single building project now going forward in this area; 155 such flats being built by the Norwich Union Society, on Trentside, across the river from the Embankment. The rent? One-bedroom flat, £6 per week; three bedroom flat, £8 per week!

For the majority, however, who actually produce the wealth of society, it's an old house with poor facilities and perhaps a decontrolled rent; or stretching themselves to the utmost by overtime, etc., to pay off a mortgage; or to begin married life with in-laws or in rooms.



"I'd say you're as sound as that property you sold last week."

Communists are for the ending of this housing on a class basis. We demand:

- The building of 2,000 council houses or flats each year as a minimum, with the establishment of direct building by the council.
- Repeal of the Rent Act, so as to keep rent for old property at pre-1957 level; fullest use of powers of local authorities to make landlords do repairs.
- No more council house rent increases. Council pressure should be used to influence the Government to restore the full housing subsidy, and reduce interest rates to local authorities and owner-occupiers to 2½%.
- Nationalise the building and building materials industries and the land. By the latter means the take-over of valuable civic sites for private gain can be halted.
- Work out a building plan that would cut out new insurance offices, luxury flats, and other wasteful building. Concentrate finance, men and materials on council houses and flats, schools, hospitals, centres for young and old, and new factories.

Adequate Health Services – The Right of All

The Health Centre was to be the cornerstone of the National Health Service. In it, a patient was to be able to avail himself of the services of his own practitioner, plus other special services for teeth, eyes, lungs, etc. Through it, a doctor was to be freed from the numerous non-medical tasks that involve him at present.

Yet of the nine Health Centres proposed in the 1952 Nottingham Development Plan, only the John Ryle Centre at Clifton exists in reality, and this is far from original conceptions.

The administration of our Municipal Health Services is carried on under deplorable conditions. In no other city the size of Nottingham are the various health sections diffused and dispersed in old offices and rooms scattered about the city. For seven years a new administrative building has been promised. The site is available. Yet the Tories have refused to place it on the capital building programme, and their penny-wise, pound-foolish attitude means that uneconomic and unnecessary duplication continues.

Thousands of our citizens suffer from bronchitis, many of a chronic character. Ten times as many people die from this killer disease as from tuberculosis. Yet power station, locomotives, factories and houses continue to belch tons of smoke and grit into the air. This is the main cause of bronchitis and other chest ailments. Yet the actions against atmospheric pollution are apallingly slow, at the present rate it will be years before the whole city atmosphere has been cleansed.

Nottingham is desperately short of hospital beds, especially for the elderly chronic sick who do not require elaborate hospital treatment, but who cannot satisfactorily be nursed at home. Although the Regional Hospital Board are aware of this problem, and are trying to arrange for extra beds for the aged, not now required for tuberculosis, the whole operation needs to be speeded up.

A start is to be made this year to rebuild the City Hospital, but it is planned to take over eight years to complete. An entirely new hospital for the southern part of the city is not going to be tackled until 1971. Our growing population needs a start now.

After passing all examinations, a state-registered nurse starts at less than £10 a week. From this, heavy deductions are made for board, laundry, and many miscellaneous expenses.

No wonder many hospital beds are empty because of shortage of staff. This was spotlighted on October 23rd, 1961, when the Minister of Health stated that Nottingham hospitals were short of requirements by 37 trained midwives and 18 pupils. Two months later, a local headline was: "Wards Closed to Ease Acute City Shortage of Midwives." The domiciliary midwifery service is also understaffed.

Poor salaries account also for short supply of important auxiliary hospital staff, such as physiotherapists, laboratory technicians, radiotherapists. In recent months, the City Hospital Physiotherapy Department has been run with a staff equivalent to only two or three full-time workers. The full establishment for maximum efficiency should be eight.

Communists call for:

- A start to be made quickly on new health centres, a new hospital, and a Municipal Health Headquarters.
- Speeding up of smoke control schemes to prevent atmospheric pollution.
- Improvements in pay and conditions of hospital staff, especially nurses, to win young people to the profession.

Transport to Serve the City's Needs

A growing city with more of the population moving towards the city boundary needs an adequate and cheap transport system. For the majority of people in Nottingham the problem is not where to park their cars, but the cost and inconvenience of city transport.

Since the war we have had a never-ending vicious circle of higher fares, fewer passengers, less frequent services. Then higher fares still, even less passengers, and the latest stage in the cycle is the delivery in 1962 of the first batch of 77-seater buses. These, say the Transport Committee, "Will enable a saving to be made in vehicles and crews by a reduction in the frequency of the services on which they will be used."

It would seem that the aim of the Transport Department is to discourage, rather than to encourage, travel throughout the city, and to cater only for the absolutely necessary transport.

This policy leads to more and more cars (number of vehicles licensed in the city in 1961 was 52,860). This not only at times makes the central area of the city a nightmare, but also affects road safety. Forty people were killed and 1,936 injured on city roads in 1961. (Scandals such as the abandonment of the Clumber Street widening scheme affect safety, too. Here private gain was clearly put before public interest).

The Traffic Plan recently announced, with drastic route changes of many city centre bus services, and the proposals to divert the maximum number of other vehicles away from the Centre, is to be welcomed. But it will not fully succeed unless the public transport policy is completely reversed, to one of cheap and frequent service.

Communist policy for local transport includes, to bring this about:

- Plough back for the passengers' benefit the £496,523 made in profits on City Transport in the past.

- Reduce waste and improve the efficiency of the Department, without attacking working conditions of bus workers.
- Real action by the council to insist on the Government abolishing the fuel tax, reducing interest rates, and controlling the near-monopoly price of new buses.

Whilst we have dealt here mainly with the city bus services, we are for the maximum use of the railways by freight and passengers, to reduce road traffic. This means the re-nationalisation of road transport. Communists are opposed to the plans to close local railway services, especially with the threat to Victoria Station.

Educating the Citizens of Tomorrow

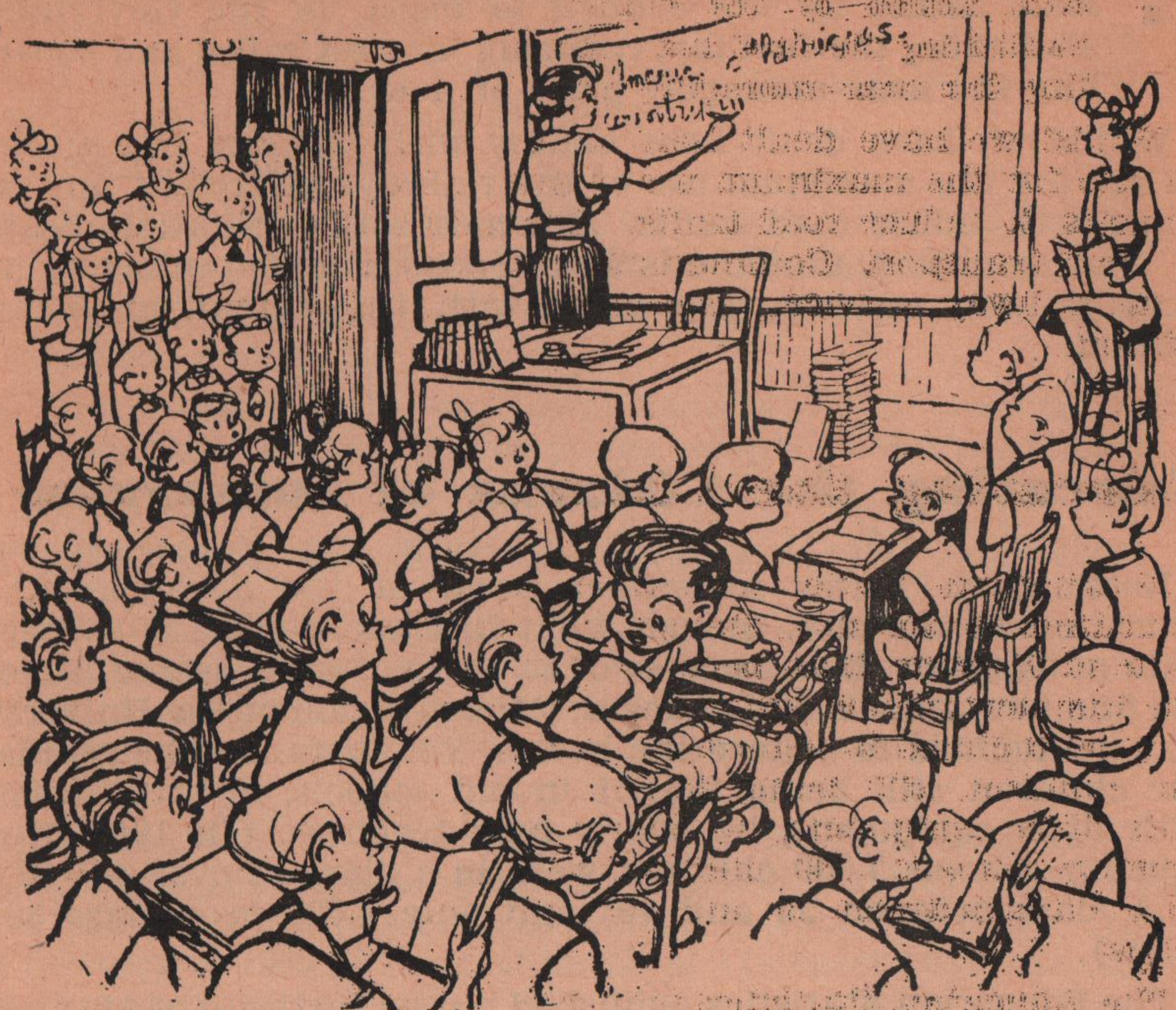
Nottingham Tories sometimes boast of the development of education in the city, though what has taken place is rather in spite of Toryism than because of it. Many people, seeing some of the fine new schools and colleges, the expansion of the University, may be inclined to believe the boasts. Yet there are thousands of our children still being taught in old schools, in large classes, with little equipment, by poorly-paid teachers. (In 1962 in our primary schools 7,000 children were in a class of over 40; 18,000 in a class between 30 and 40; and only 4,000 in a class 30 or below).

The Education Statistics published by the Institute of Municipal Treasurers reveal that Nottingham spends 5% less than the average in Britain on books and stationery per pupil. The national average spent on furniture, apparatus and equipment in secondary schools is one-and-a-half times that in our city. It is worse when one realises that Britain spends on education per head of population, only one-half of the expenditure in the U.S.A., and only one-third of that in the Soviet Union.

But our local Tories have wielded the axe further still. With the exception of teachers' salaries, they are providing less money for education estimates in 1962-63 than the previous year. With more pupils and higher costs, this means a substantial reduction in provision per pupil.

Some cuts made include £2,419 less on social and physical training for secondary children; £6,638 less on equipment, stationery, and materials in primary and secondary schools; £589 less on books in secondary schools. The replacement of old wire mattresses by divan beds in handicapped children's hostels is to be halted. Afternoon performances of English classics at the Playhouse for fifth and sixth forms are to be reduced. The College of Art has a £3,140 cut in painting, minor renewals, and furniture, which raises doubts as to whether it will have the standards necessary to become a Regional College under the new national proposals. Nursery school furniture is slashed by half. In other

words, the Tories are meeting additional costs and more pupils by cutting back educational services.



Scientific advances demand greater technical skills. Young people are caught up in the spirit of the jet and space age. But training to meet the challenge is available only to the minority of schoolchildren.

The development of higher education in a modern age can only proceed if every child is given a full secondary education. Not until in our primary and secondary classes we have less than 30 pupils, will teachers be able to give the personal help and attention necessary, for every youngster to develop capabilities to the full. This needs more teachers.

The development of the Clifton Teachers' Training College is to be welcomed, but if our Council really desires to tackle the teacher supply problem, they should support the higher salary proposals of the National Union of Teachers. Only the provision of an adequate salary, especially for young people just entering the profession, can ensure that sufficient people enter teaching to bring down the size of classes.

The comprehensive school at Clifton and the bilateral schools are proving the fallacy of the division of children artificially at the age of 11. One out of every three children obtaining passes in the "O" level GCE in 1960 did so from a bilateral or secondary modern school. Communists insist on the development of a fully compre-

hensive system of education in the city. The hated 11-plus exam. has been abolished, but in its place we still have selection, though on a different basis. Only when all children attend a comprehensive school will they have the possibility of full and all-round development.

In further education it is good to see new buildings and facilities provided for our young workers — and to see them so full and busy. But closer examination reveals here, too, the Tories try to operate selection into watertight levels of "operators," "technicians," "technologists."

Industry benefits greatly from trade and technical training, and ought to pay much more towards it.

The Tory Government is granting £132,110 less for 1962-63 for our University maintenance and development. Our local Tories show their attitude by the cut of £17,000 made in the 1962-63 education estimates for aid to students. The Tory chairman defended this by pointing out that the estimates had increased by 8% compared with the previous year. But he "forgot" three things. This increase will be more than eaten up by increased fees; the number of children reaching university entrance level has increased too; and in this age we need higher education to rapidly expand, not just mark time.

Communists therefore demand:

- The quick replacement of out-of-date schools, and the development of a comprehensive system of education throughout the city.
- Rapid expansion of nursery schools, especially in such areas as Clifton.
- Higher salaries for teachers so as to reduce the size of classes; more training college places.
- More Government grants specifically for education.
- Extension of higher education in every sense, day-release and apprentice training, colleges and full-time university students.

In the Evening of Their Lives

It has been said that the standing of a nation can be judged by its treatment of the aged. If so, Britain comes out very badly, the old age pension here is the lowest of the advanced nations of the world.

The mass of millions of pensioners today seem to have taken the place of the mass of millions of unemployed thirty years ago, the section on whom everything bears the hardest. National Assistance today is a good deal different from the Means Test before the war, and over a million pensioners draw "supplementary." But can one blame the other million who are eligible, but prefer to "manage" on the bare pension and some scanty

savings, rather than divulge to a complete stranger all the details of their personal affairs? The only real solution to the problems of the aged is an immediate basic retirement pension of £4 per week per person, as a start towards a future pension of at least half the working wage.

Of all the local Tory "economies" the attack on the Home Help Service was the most despicable. Pensioners form the vast majority of those using the service, and the number requiring help increases as the expectation of life goes up, and the increase in the proportion of pensioners in the population. In December, 1961, there were 455 on the waiting list for the service, increased from 364 a year previous. Yet the Tories chose this period to reduce the Home Help Staff from 491 to 451 to "save" £10,000.

Electricity and gas are sold to consumers on a two-block differential price system. The first block of units are sold at a much higher price than the second. Since pensioners are of necessity small consumers, they actually pay more per unit than the average consumer. They should have a special tariff rate.

Loneliness is one of the worst evils that face old people. Voluntary bodies that help to bring retired people together need to be given greater support and assistance. Television is a great boon. But even if they can obtain a cheap set, or have one given, the £4 annual licence becomes a nightmare. This should be abolished for pensioners on their own.

Our Future - the Youth

The problems of Nottingham's young people are basically those of the nation's youth as a whole; insecurity from the cradle to late adolescence, with the shadow of the H-Bomb overall; dead-end jobs, without training, face two out of every three lads, and nine out of every ten girls. Young workers are seen by the employers as a source of cheap labour. The millions of pounds spent on war preparation mean for the teenager inadequate facilities for leisure-time activities, sport, and cultural pursuits.

Nottingham's teenage population is rising fast. Between 1959 and 1964 the number aged 15 to 21 will have increased by 25% or 7,500. What are the Tory Council's plans to meet the situation?

Last year, the chairman of the Nottingham Standing Conference of Voluntary Youth Organisations said that to meet locally the national aim of 45% of teenagers in youth organisations by 1970 would mean an expenditure of £1 million in ten years. The organisations affiliated to the Conference have announced building plans of £150,000 for the next five years. Clearly Council action is needed to break the back of the problem.

But the Tories are cutting, not expanding. In the past few months they have cancelled or postponed the Derby Road Youth Centre, the Broxtowe Estate Youth Centre, and the Bestwood Park Sports Scheme. Their total estimate to be spent on Service of Youth in 1962-63 is £47,624; less than a 3d. rate, and less than £2 per head for each teenager.

Communists demand:

- **The spending of £1 million in the next ten years, mainly on Youth Centres, owned and controlled by the Council, administered by committees of representatives of all organisations genuinely interested in youth. Activities should be controlled by a committee elected by the young people themselves.**
- **A fight by the Council for more Government assistance to youth schemes, at present only one tenth of cash is provided nationally.**
- **Full trade training for all youth and equal pay for equal work with adults.**

Youth problems are particularly acute on our large housing estates, e.g., it is estimated that the present 2,000 in the 16-20 age range on Clifton Estate will be over 5,000 in ten years time. Supt. J. Stanley, head of the Southern Division of the Police, says: "I think they (the teenagers of Clifton Estate) are wonderfully well behaved, considering they have no cinema, swimming bath, billiard hall, or skating rink." One could add, no dance hall, only two meagre clubs, poor sports facilities, etc. Even the new £50,000 YMCA centre will cater for only 700 members. What of the rest? Our estates present problems that need ambitious plans by the Council.

The provision of playing fields in the city falls well short of the six acres per 1,000 of the population set by the National Playing Fields Association. The health and physique of our future generations need a positive approach, money spent now will be amply repaid in years to come.

Communists therefore suggest a complete re-examination of land usage in the city with the aim of using for sport land now used or earmarked for colliery tips (102 acres), and agriculturē (310 acres). Mining waste should be packed underground, thus avoiding surface tipping and reducing subsidence.

We also call for adequate facilities for indoor sports, boxing, gymnastics, and for lower rate allowances on premises of amateur sports organisations. The Council should insist that the Government devote the £100 million collected annually in taxes on sport, to an expansion of facilities, indoor and outdoor. In one year, for example, this money ploughed back could build 200 swimming pools and 500 sports grounds.

Finally, Communists believe that our Council and local organisations should support the demand for the vote at 18, so as to bring the enthusiasm and vitality of youth to the rescue of often dull local politics.

More Democracy

It was recently said in the council, with some truth, that this city is (really) run by six Tory aldermen, members of the

Finance Committee of the council, none of whom have to face election by the citizens. We believe that all members of the council should regularly have to come up before the electorate, and the position of "Alderman" should be abolished.

Political and other leaders often complain at the apathy in local elections, when the poll is usually less than half the electorate. Yet how often does the council seek to draw the citizens into the making of decisions? How many Town's Meetings do they hold, how many referendums? Very few, and only when they are forced upon them.

On a few council committees and sub-committees, such as in the sphere of education, there are co-opted members. This could be enormously expanded, so as to draw in the greatest number of organisations to assist in running the city's affairs. Trade Unions and other Labour Movement bodies could be especially valuable.

The attitude of the council to the bulk of its own employees is nothing short of a disgrace. In words, they appreciate their service. For example, we can read, in connection with the severe weather over Christmas 1961, in the March 1962 Summary of Decisions: "The Water Committee paid tribute to the staff who have worked extremely long hours in wretched conditions to deal with emergencies." The Education Committee "recorded their high appreciation of the prompt action taken by many caretakers which had the effect of considerably reducing damage" and also, "expressed appreciation of the valuable work of all members of the Works Department Staff whose unstinting efforts enabled . . . all schools to open after the Christmas break."

"Wretched conditions," "prompt action," "unstinting efforts," but what of real appreciation? The wages of local government workers are the lowest of any section of workers in Britain. Without overtime few would take home over £10 a week.

Also the amount of joint consultation between trade unions and council committees is far too sparse. Finally, isn't it time that the thousands who work for our council had the democratic right to stand for election to it?

Amongst the higher grades of local employees, there are many who are devoted to their job and serve our city well. In fact, they are often frustrated from taking progressive measures by the reactionary, backward character of some of the committees they serve. But there can also be dangers, as came out in the Popkess affair, when the whole power of press and television was turned against a democratically elected Watch Committee, who took a fully justified action against the Chief Constable for refusing to carry out the committee's decisions. Democracy must be safeguarded in all fields by making sure that elected bodies have real authority over appointed officials.

For Civic Initiative

There are many fields where the council has powers to develop its activities, but holds back. The modest development of Civic

Catering has run at a profit despite great difficulties and should now be greatly expended.

The Tory Council have been forced to back down on the issue of the Civic Theatre. Now they, and the new council which will take over when they are cleared out, should use to the full the 6d. rate for cultural purposes in the city. At present only a tiny fraction of this is used.

The Council have a special responsibility to secure the integration into the life of our city of the hundreds of West Indian, Indian, and other Commonwealth citizens, who have settled here in recent years. They should be alert to actively oppose any form of racial discrimination that rears its ugly head.

At long last, after ten years of delay by the Tory Government, deliberately caused by landowning interests, the danger of the flooding of the River Leen is to be tackled. Work on the Development Scheme should be pushed ahead with all possible speed. Not only should this have the aim of preventing floods, but also in the process the Leen should be converted into a real asset to the city. As it meanders on its way, it could flow between beautiful banks, with trees and seats, a delight for thousands. It will need also strict control of the industries bordering the Leen to end pollution.

The Way Forward

Nottingham Communists have presented in this pamphlet some analysis of the problems faced by our city. We have given our ideas as to what steps could be taken now, and some proposals that would be part of the Socialist city of the future.

We realise that many of the measures need national action or legislation. Above all, to finance these proposals needs both immediate and then basic long-term changes in local government finance.

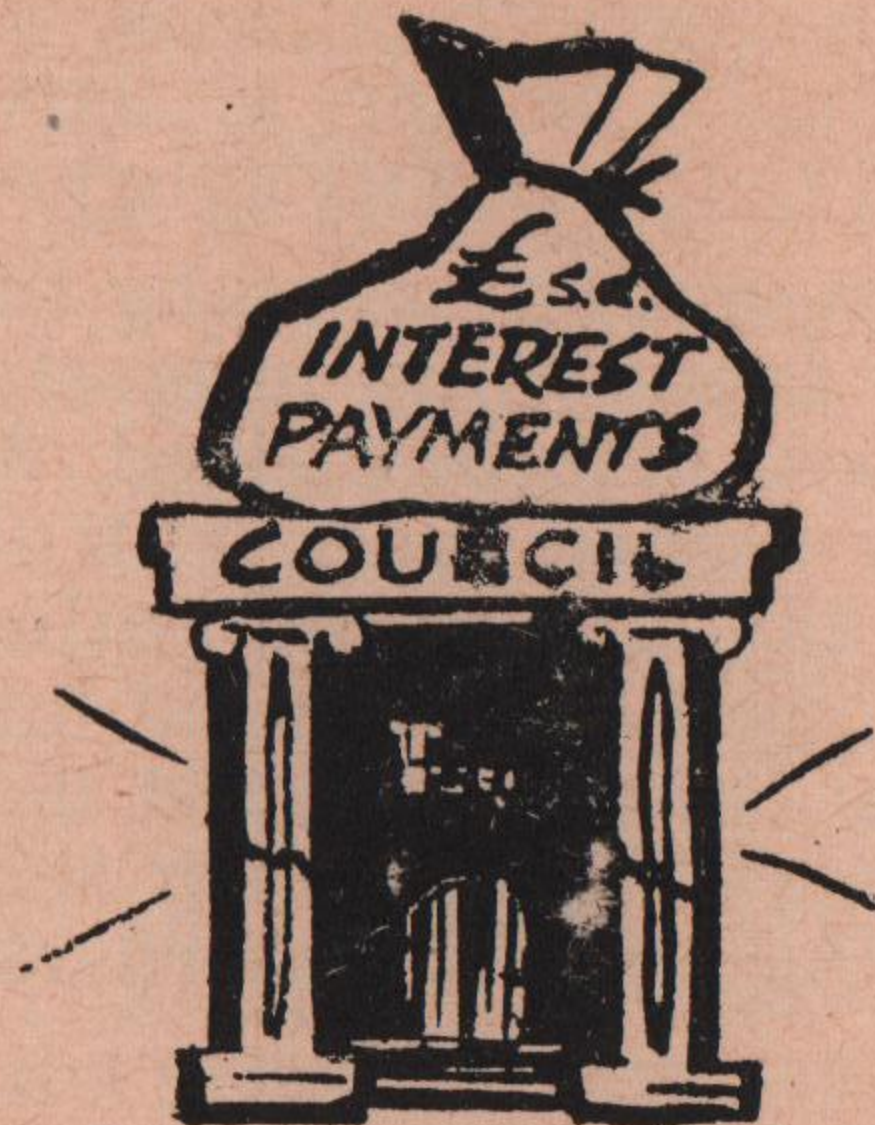
Our immediate solution is increased Government grants; and also to rouse people to the dangers of the revaluation of household property now being conducted. If this is allowed to operate, it will mean that the average family will pay, directly as owner-occupiers, or indirectly as tenants, over one-third more in hard cash in rates than at present. (Over £5 a year more rates for owner-occupiers; over 2/- a week rent increase for tenants).

Our long-term proposal is to end this ancient and unfair business of "rateable value." It means that those on lower incomes pay a higher proportion of their wage on rates than the better off. We believe that the money for local government should be raised in proportion to income, especially from the profits made by industry.

Some people talk of "taking politics out of local affairs." But the two are inextricably linked. The money that could now be spent on houses, schools, hospitals, the old and the young, is

wasted on high arms expenditure. This is politics. Tory politics puts arms profits before the people; Socialist politics puts the welfare of the people first.

Communists are for slashing and then ending arms expenditure. This could be achieved if Britain were to pursue an independent policy of peace, to ban nuclear weapons, quit NATO, and champion general and complete disarmament. In other words, if we were to end the cold war, and co-exist peacefully with the Socialist countries.



The Tory Government, which represents capitalism and landlordism, must be cleared out. It should be replaced by one which will carry out a Socialist economic plan, take over the monopolies and release all the pent-up productive energy of Britain's workers, scientists and professional people.

Only a Socialist society can provide constantly expanding production, and enable wages to be steadily increased, hours reduced, and an all-round improvement in material and cultural conditions to take place.

How to Achieve it?

By building now an alliance of working people and all progressives, to get rid of the blight of Toryism, and to begin the construction of Socialism. In this, Communists have an indispensable part, such as in putting forward the ideas in this pamphlet to inspire and guide the Labour Movement.

Communists on the local Council and in Parliament would be ceaseless in their struggle for progressive policies. They would also assist the mass movement outside, especially the organised working class, to influence council and Parliament. Marches, demonstrations, petitions, lobbying, would all be welcomed by Communist representatives, adding strength to their fight.

To build the alliance, to return more Communists to councils and Parliament, to advance every current struggle, to speed a

Socialist Britain, needs a much larger Communist Party than at present. Why not join yourself?

Alongside the return of Communists needs to be waged a struggle in areas with no Communist candidate; to return the best possible Labour men and women, genuine Socialists, to the council and to Parliament.

Unity of Communist and Labour can ensure that the Tories are cleared out, not to turn up again like a bad penny a few years later, but forever. Then the Tories will be relegated to the history books, along with the barons and the sheriffs who once terrorised the ordinary people of this area. Then we can look forward to a city in which it will be an ever-increasing delight to work and live, a Socialist Nottingham.

Appreciation is expressed to those Communist and Labour people in Nottingham who have made many helpful suggestions towards the policy in this pamphlet.