

info...

.... PAPERS

***EDUCAT** Local teacher and education magazine; 42 Egremont Pl. 680258.

***QUEENSPARK** Paper for the Queens Park area. 14 Toronto Terr, B'ton.

***SQUATTERS HANDBOOK** Available from 2 St Pauls Rd, London N1, or Open Cafe. 10p + postage.

***WHOLE EARTH** Alternative technology, organic living, local environmental action. 20p from 11 George St, B'ton. 691318.

***WRAG QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER** available from Womens Centre, 174 Thorndean Rd, B'ton; 50p for 2 issues.

SHOPS

***B'TON WORKERS BOOKSHOP** Marxist-Leninist classics and working class history. 9.30-5.30 Sats; 37 Gloucester Rd, B'ton. 684404.

***INFINITY FOODS** Macro-biotic and organic food and vegetables. 9.30-5.30 Mon-Sat (not Weds); 25 North Rd, B'ton. 63563.
***INFINITY BULK BUYING** 10.00-1.00, 2.00-5.00, Thurs-Sat; 3 Westbourne Gdns, Hove.

***OPEN CAFE** Cheap vegetarian food. 11.00-8.00 daily (till 11.00 Fris and Sats); 7 Victoria Rd, B'ton. 27878.

***PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKSHOP** More than just another bookshop - books, mags, records, coffee. Also 'Basement' events.

VOICE SELLERS

***CENTRAL BRIGHTON**
ANANDA: 19 Bond St.
ECCOTT'S: 52 Surrey St.
INFINITY: 25 North Rd.
OPEN CAFE: 7 Victoria Rd.
CHURCHILL SQ: News Stand.
SYMPOSIUM BOOKS: 12 Market St.
LONDON RD: News Stand (Sainsburys).

***WEST BRIGHTON & HOVE**
CORDELLS: 99 Western Rd, Hove.
PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKS: 24 Little Preston St.
THREE ROOMS CAFE: 14 Blatchington Rd, Hove.

***NORTH BRIGHTON**
FRANKLINS: 93 Preston Drive.
SCHOFIELD'S: 44 Lewes Rd.

Member of the Fed. of Alternative bookshops. 10.15-6.00, Mon-Sat. 21 Little Preston St, B'ton. 28357.

***SIMPLE SUPPLIES** Whole food, cast iron, jar and paper recycling scheme, publications, etc; Whole Earth Environmental Centre. 11 George St, B'ton. 691318.

***SUNRISE RESTAURANT** Wholefood vegetarian. Run by Friends of the Western Buddhist Order. 12.00-5.00, Tues-Sat; 16 North Rd, B'ton. 63188.

***SURVIVAL** Basic foods - grains, beans, etc. 10.00-1.00, 2.15-5.30 Mon-Sat (not Weds pm); 10 Station Rd, Lewes.

***SYMPOSIUM BOOKSHOP** Three floors of books, mags, comics and posters. Mail order imports. Coffee bar. 10.00-6.00 Mon-Sat; 12 Market St, B'ton. 28142.

***THREE ROOMS CAFE** Vegetarian cafe. 10.00-3.00, Mon-Sat. 14 Blatchington Rd, Hove. 779933.

***WIND HORSE BOOKSHOP** Buddhist literature and info; incense, posters, cards, etc. 10.00-5.30, Mon-Sat; 19 George St.

ADVICE

***AGE CONCERN** Old people's welfare. Mon-Fri 10.00-12.30 & 2.00-4.00, 57 Ditchling Rd, B'ton 683275

***BIT-BY-BIT** Info and help service; 7 Victoria Rd, B'ton. 27878.

***B'TON PREGNANCY ADVISORY SERVICE** Pregnancy testing, counselling, abortions,

vasectomies; Wistons, 138 Dyke Rd. 509726.

***B'TON RIGHTS CENTRE** Advice on legal problems. Free, confidential service by the Centre's workers and solicitors. 12.30-2.00 & 5.30-7.30 at 2 Prince Albert St.

***CANCER PREVENTION** 29801

***CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU** B'ton: 17 Ditchling Rise, 61664, 10.00-4.00 Mon-Fri, 6.00-7.30 Tues; 2 St Georges Place 10.00-12.00 Mon-Fri. Hove: Town Hall (Tisbury Rd), 734811, 10.00-4.00 Mon-Fri.

***FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC** B'ton: 18/19 Western Rd, 734258. Lewes: 4403. Also University Health Centre.

***FREE VET (PDSA)** 6 Oxford St, B'ton, 63606; open daily except Thurs and Sat afternoons.

***GAY SWITCHBOARD** Info and advice 27878, 8.00-10.00 every night.

***HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE** (Council) 9.00-4.30, Mon-Fri, 73 Grand Parade, B'ton. 681919.

***ICEBREAKERS** Gay counselling; 7.30-10.00, Fri and Sat, 202930.

***OFF THE RECORD** Help and info for young people; free and confidential. Call in or phone 8.00pm-10.00pm, Tues-Thurs, 6 Marlborough Pl, B'ton. 63080.

***RENT TRIBUNAL** Rent disputes, security of tenure, etc; 137 Preston Rd. 506381.

***SAMARITANS** For those in despair 733333 24 hours; 102 Clarendon Rd, Hove.

TOBIAS STORES: 167 Elm Grove.
TILLSON'S: 68 Preston Rd.
CONSTABLE'S: 37 New England Rd.

***KEMPTOWN**
BOOKS: 80B St James St.
WINDHORSE BOOKSHOP: 19 George St.
KEMPTOWN BOOKS: 91 St George's Rd.
SIMPLE SUPPLIES: 11 George St.

***FALMER**
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION.
UNIVERSITY BOOKSHOP: Main Counter
HILL'S NEWSAGENTS.
WHOLE EARTH BOOKSTALL.

***LEWES**
CLIFFE BOOKSHOP: Cliffe High St.
SURVIVAL: 10 Station St.

***VOLUNTARY SERVICE CENTRE** 17 Ditchling Rise, B'ton. 681919.

***WOMEN'S AID** Refuge for battered women; contact Women's Centre 27612.

***WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTION GROUP** Temporary contacts Gina 737791 or the Wcmen's Centre 27612.

POLITICS

***ANARCHIST WORKERS ASSOC** 689897

***COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (MARXIST-LENINIST)** Meets every other Weds, 37 Gloucester Rd, B'ton. 684404.

***COMMUNIST PARTY OF GT. BRITAIN** ('The Communist Party) M. Chaplin, Edburton Ave, B'ton.

***CO-OPERATIVE PARTY** B'ton: 86 London Rd 683076
Hove: Jean Cattell, 29 Foredown Drive, Portslade.

***FARIAN SOCIETY** Dot Voller, 49 Southdown Ave. 556185.

***INTERNATIONAL MARXIST GROUP** 687783

***INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS** 19 Elm Grove, B'ton.

***LABOUR PARTY** B'ton: 179 Lewes Rd. 62592
Sec Marylyn Hill, 22 Port Hall Pl, B'ton. 557704.
Hove: 40 Cowper St. Sec Jean Cattell, 29 Foredown Drive, Portslade.
Lewes: 3 North St. 4312

***LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS** B'ton: Pat Byrne, 64 Coleman St, or 61559.
Hove: Mark Morton, 64 Victoria Rd, Portslade 417843.

***LIBERAL PARTY** B'ton Pavilion: Frances Hix, 143a Western Rd, B'ton. 27960.
B'ton Kemptown: Alan Horner, 3 Lustrells Vale, Saltdean. 38532.
Hove: Ruth Davison, 286 Hangleton Way, Hove. 738425.
YOUNG LIBERALS Robert Eggleston, 56 Valley Drive B'ton. 507403

***REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST GROUP** Gareth Jones, o/o Arts D Post-graduate Pigeon-holes, Sussex University.

BRIGHTON VOICE

No 33 Nov 76 10p

M.P.'s
ATTACK:
BOWDEN TRIES TO
STIFLE 'VOICE'

Andrew Bowden, Tory MP for Kemptown, has launched a campaign to suppress the *Brighton Voice*. In a confidential letter to newsagents in his constituency Bowden, a leading Tory Party spokesman on 'freedom of speech', calls the *Voice* a 'vile publication' churning out 'deliberate lies and political filth' in an attempt to set up a totalitarian state. His letter implicitly advises newsagents not to sell the *Voice*.

Bowden's allegations are aimed at scaring and misleading the newsagents so that the *Voice* loses distribution outlets. His hope is

that the *Voice* will close down through lack of sales, thus losing the town its only independent newspaper. Bowden believes that only the puppet *Argus* has a right to exist.

This blatant attempt at right-wing censorship is unlikely to stop us. Our record is one of publicising the unwelcome truth, which Bowden wants to keep under cover.

The only 'lies' that Bowden can find in the *Voice* to wave at the newsagents are the facts of the well-documented Felsing police brutality case (*Voice* No. 29). This case went through a

fishy police enquiry and has been taken up by the NCCL, and now the *Voice* has fresh evidence to back up the accusations against the police.

By Bowden's own admission the police are not confident enough to fight this case themselves.

We reproduce Bowden's letter on the centre pages and outline the career and beliefs of the man who is trying to smash the *Voice* (page 7).

Bowden in full pp 7-9

Cuts p 10

George St. p 6

Prior House p 4

New Info pp 15-16

Vale'd Threat to Squatters

At the October meeting of Brighton Council, Tory councillor Mrs Catherine Vale proposed a motion calling on the Labour Government to make squatting a criminal offence. The motion was easily carried (39-12), with only the Labour members voting against.

The debate was, as usual, one-sided, with all the usual ruling class rubbish about squatters taking over hardworking peoples' property while they were on holiday, that squatters are a public nuisance, smelly, bug-infested, hippies, etc. Bob Cristofoli even described them as maggots. Ian McGill, leader of the Labour group, rightly described all this as the "politics of the cesspit".

What is the significance of all this?

In 1971 the Tory Government introduced the Industrial Relations Act to counter the power of the trade unions. At the same time they realised the need to create new laws to curb political and industrial protest or direct action and they instructed the Law Commissioners to draft proposals to reform the conspiracy and trespass laws.

The Commissioners produced their final report four years later in March 1976 and recommended creating five new crimes involving trespass. These are, in fact, an attack on all forms of direct action, however peaceful.

Affected would be occupations of workplaces, public buildings or colleges as a protest tactic, or squatting of empty and unused buildings by the homeless. Changes in the law would give the police powers to intervene in any occupation WITHOUT A WARRANT, and people arrested could be imprisoned for up to two years.

Brighton Tories timed their call for legislation to full effect, as the Government was then 'testing the water' prior to announcing their proposals for changing the law in the Queen's Speech at the opening of Parliament.

The criminal trespass proposals are a Tory plan which were never part of Labour Party policy. We call on the Labour Movement to reject the proposals outright.

ABERTURA

CULTURAL
UM JORNAL MENSAL A MONTHLY PAPER

ABERTURA CULTURAL

editora Ltda
Caixa Postal 12.193 ZC-07 - Rio

Voice
of
Brazil

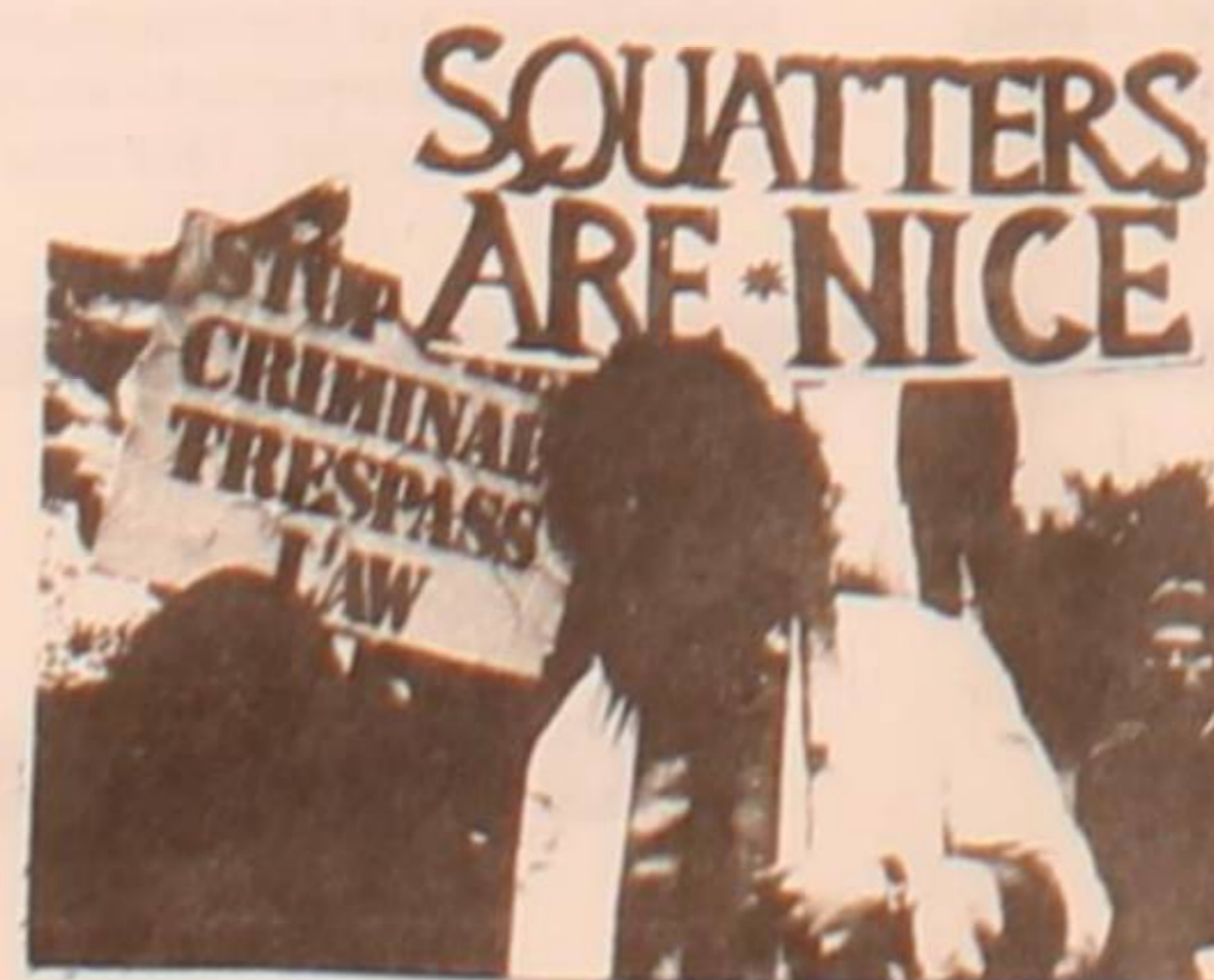
Mrs Felsing Protests

Extract from a letter sent recently to the national press. It was not printed. See 'law and order' on page 2.

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you over the disgust I feel about an article in 'The Sun', 5.10.76 "Police Kicked Prisoner". So now it has happened once again, a death while in police custody. Don't you think it's about time your News Editors gave even a little space over police brutality before it reaches untold proportions resulting in needless deaths. If more attention was given to the matter by newspapers then maybe the obituary notices might be excluded and the discontent in this country with our police might ease. I have heard of how our police are one of the best in the world for their humanity and kindness to the public but that is not the case behind closed doors. The public feel the brunt end of the police, via assaults. If a complaint is made then it goes via Chief Constable to the DPP who finds a surprising amount of the time that there is "insufficient evidence" to warrant a reprimand let alone a court action for assault - which is what an ordinary citizen would receive.

R Felsing (Mrs)
42 Chestwood Close



Dear Friends,
We received your letter and also two numbers of Brighton Voice. Your papers are very interesting for us; we have not seen anything from this parochial view mentioned in your letter.

In a certain sense Brighton is a world and the world is a Brighton. Our interests are not concentrated only on the anti-nuclear and ecological fight; we are participating in all third world cultural struggles, we maintain a Brazil-wide street theatre movement and maintain contact with many vanguard groups, even if they are going other ways than ours.

Living in an authoritarian state and fighting for change and freedom, we want to participate in as many things as possible - the same problems exist all over the world.

We are using your information on the Dublin hangings in our next issue and we see a parallel in this case with Sacco and Vanzetti. We will appeal to our readers to write to the Irish Embassy to protest.

We now have several dozen alternative papers in Brazil, a new way of expression stimulated by us. We have been operating now for more than four years and are in constant contact with many papers, groups and organisations in the USA, especially ecological, political and minority ones - blacks, Indians and chicanos. We would like to work with you as we have very few contacts in England - apart from APS you are our first.

We need material and information for ourselves and for our alternative news service to other papers and student publications. All papers mentioned in the Voice are interesting for us; we have no political or other preconceptions. We very much need contacts and information from the whole world, from the rising movement determined to make history, so that we can help to change life in Brazil and in Latin America.

Let us always hear Brighton's Voice,
Yours in struggle,

Otto Buchsbaum
Rio
Brazil.

LESSONS

There are a number of lessons to be learned from this struggle: first, it knocks on the head the vague Council threats that squatters will never be rehoused by the Council. Second, only by continued pressure backed by direct action will families on waiting lists get what they desperately need. Third, the quickest

The judge was obviously exercising great powers of imagination, for the Council had consistently refused to acknowledge this responsibility. We all know that often the last thing the Housing Dept wants to do is actually help those in housing need. Judge Grant and his kind work hand in hand with Councils to reinforce the oppression of the homeless -

Paul and Deirdre Hussein and their seven children proved the power of squatting when last week they moved into a council house ... as tenants. This is the successful conclusion to a long campaign waged by them and their supporters for rehousing by the council.

Prior to squatting, the Husseins were living in Waterloo Street in a small, unhealthy, two-roomed flat which, a Hove Housing spokesman openly admitted, was "infested with cockroaches." Welfare and Environmental Health Officers advised the Council Housing Dept that the family needed immediate rehousing, but the Housing Dept said they would only consider an application for the family to go onto the housing waiting list.

SIX MONTHS HOMELESS

For six months the Housing Dept gave Mr Hussein interviews, but no answer to his problems. The final straw for the family came when one of the children had a serious accident in the flat as a direct result of the overcrowded conditions. A Health Visitor advised that the child should not return to the flat because of the conditions there.

Then a friendly social worker suggested to Mr Hussein that the best tactic to force the Council to carry out their duty and rehouse the family would be to squat one of the Council's empty houses. Paul Hussein contacted the Squatters Union, which helped him and his family move into 29 Poynter Road, a house that the Council happened to be offering for sale with vacant possession.

SQUATTING TRIUMPH

Council officials started court proceedings against the family for repossession, despite an offer from the Husseins to pay rent, and despite the sympathetic media coverage that the family was getting.

The case was heard in Lewes County Court before Judge Grant, a judge noted for granting immediate possession orders to landlords. The hearing was attended by local squatters, who distributed a press statement.

But the whole process was a farce, with Grant saying at one point: "This court cannot get involved in housing policies. If people go into other people's property without any right whatsoever they must leave forthwith and fall back on the local authority's duty to rehouse homeless people."

their role is supportive of the doubtful freedom of the private housing market and the wasteful inefficiency of Council housing policies.

COUNCIL RETREATS

The hearing ended with the Husseins being ordered out of their house. Afterwards squatters surrounded Hove Council official Mr Moore and demanded help for the family. But it was not until the day of the eviction that the Council finally decided that it could not shirk its duty.

The Husseins were placed in an inadequate bed-and-breakfast hotel at a cost to the Council of £140 per week. But this was a price that the Council could not afford, and five weeks later they were allocated a terraced house in Hove.

.....
The Hussein family, minus Deirdre and one child, outside their new home.
.....



way to get housed is to make it more expensive for the Council to keep people homeless than it would to rehouse them.

The Squatters Union advises those families on Council waiting lists to organise against the divisive tactic of the points system of housing allocation. Form a union of your own. Find out where the empty houses are and occupy them en masse.

There are 750 families on Hove's waiting list and another 1400 on Brighton's; can you imagine 2,150 evictions? The town's 3,000 empty properties would adequately house the homeless.

.....

PRIOR HOUSE UNDER OLD MANAGEMENT

The Voice is often accused of exaggerating events in Brighton, ever sympathetic readers sometimes say that we see plots and conspiracies everywhere, or that we see the malevolent shadow of the Tory machine behind everything. The power structure in Brighton, we are told, is a complicated thing, whereas the Voice tends to see it in simple terms. ANYONE WHO THINKS LIKE THAT MUST HAVE BEEN SHAKEN RIGID BY THE PRIOR HOUSE AFFAIR.

creative

Over the last few years a genuine, grass roots community centre has been built up at Prior House. It was not the achievement of a few dedicated radicals. It grew out of the desires and needs of people who lived in the area and of people who wanted to help shape and strengthen their creative ideas. A huge range of activities got off the ground, often with little or no money. Not surprisingly, voluntary helpers with experience in social work or education or community work of some kind, wanted to join in, and the centre became one of the most friendly, energetic and successful ventures that Brighton has known for some time. It was alive and going places.

In the last few months the education authorities in Brighton have done their utmost to muzzle, stifle and dismantle this community achievement. Their narrow-minded power and authority is crushing the life out of Prior House. And if you think this is an exaggeration go and talk to anyone, and we mean anyone, who was involved in the community side of the centre.

assault

But we need to be more specific. Who exactly is responsible for this appalling assault on Prior House? Three men and a woman. Mr Lyn Jones, Education Officer for Brighton, Mr Ken Rawden, adviser on Further Education and all projects involving education and community projects, R.J. Cristofoli

Tory councillor and chairman of the interim management committee of Prior House, and finally Mrs Scriven, the new warden of the centre who was appointed by the other three and has worked closely with them in their open campaign against the centre. That's what has deeply shocked the supporters of Prior House. The attack is totally in the open: the naked use of power.

facts

- 1, Mrs Scriven is appointed by the three men with no prior consultation with the staff and workers in the centre. The appointing committee may have had one other member but the decision was theirs.
- 2, Mrs Scriven moves in and at once begins to close down several of the community operations. She antagonises all the voluntary helpers, makes a permanent enemy of the social worker there, Mary Willis, and creates an atmosphere of rigidity and tension.
- 3, Lyn Jones encourages Mrs Scriven to oppose Mary Willis in all her more 'radical' activities.
- 4, Lyn Jones dismisses Mary Willis and moves her to Woodingdean, out of the way. The voluntary helpers resign in protest and the whole centre is in an uproar. A public meeting is called to discuss the action of the education authority.
- 5, The public meeting is held on 28 September. Over 100 local people turn up. It's a really big attendance for such a meeting. Conspicuously absent are Lyn Jones, Ken Rawden, Cristofoli and Mrs Scriven. NO ATTEMPT IS MADE to explain their high handed action. Cristofoli is embarrassed because the interim committee of which he is chairman, condemns the dismissal of Mary Willis. He just turns the screw from behind the scenes.

- 6, The public meeting demands the re-instatement of Mary Willis and a return to all the successful community activities. Their representatives are rejected by Cristofoli who will not have any more co-opted members on the interim management committee. Their demands fall on deaf ears at the county level.
- 7, Mary Willis is given a temporary post out at Portslade. The authorities say there is no chance of her being re-instated at Prior House.
- 8, It is now clear that Cristofoli and Lyn Jones utterly spurned the decisions of the public meeting. They say it in no way represented the community, even when the facts show that spokesmen and spokeswoman for all the user groups at the centre were either at the meeting or sent strong letters protesting at the actions of Mrs Scriven.

Work has now started on a new constitution for Prior House. There are community hopes that it might give them at least a share of the power. But Mrs Scriven is still there, so is Cristofoli; so are Lyn Jones and Ken Rawden, backed by the County Education Officer, Rendel Jones. They all know that if it came to a real showdown they have the entire confidence of the Tory educational machine.

NAKED POWER. NAKED POLICIES.



But note:- The fight for Prior House goes on. Go there and express your views. Contact Liz Pendry there, or at Tidy Street. And if you live in Central Brighton write to Lyn Jones at the Education Offices, Royal York Buildings, Brighton 29801, or to R J Cristofoli at 51 Belgrave Street, Btn 62475. Tell him what you, as a member of the community, want Prior House to become. We can't pretend he will be interested but he 'says' he wants to be told.

Council Laughs at Bowden

Andrew Bowden's 'hysterical' letter to Brighton newagents had delegates to the October meeting of Brighton's Trades Council falling out of their seats with laughter.

Following a motion from the NUJ, the Trades Council condemned the letter as 'an attack on the freedom of expression'. But they went further.

They are writing to the Home Secretary protesting at the misuse of public funds and House of Commons facilities for Bowden to pursue his personal vendetta. And they will raise the matter with the TUC.

For the first time too, Brighton Voice will receive a letter of support in its campaign to expose Bowden's hypocrisy.

Another delegate urged his colleagues to each go and ask for Brighton Voice at their newagents - to show them the support that the Voice has amongst Brighton people.

The Trades Council also planned, at its meeting the day before this issue of the Voice was printed, to issue a statement to the press on the letter.

Delegates voted unanimously to support the NUJ's motion - so strongly that the motion was seconded by self-declared 'right-winger' Tom Parsons, asking if Bowden had 'already crossed the dividing line between sanity and insanity'.

TWIT OF THE MONTH

The twit of the month award for November goes to Brighton Police for their super efficient handling of the case of Michael James Breslin, arrested last August.

He was release from Pentonville prison on the 11th August 1976 where he had been serving a twelve month sentence for assaulting the police.

At 11.30 pm on the 24th of August, he was arrested in Brighton and told that he would be charged with committing indecent assault on a fifteen year old girl in Manchester two months before, on the seventh of June.

Since he was in prison at the time, he naturally protested. He was told that the police were looking for a Michael John Breslin who had been born on the same day as himself. But there the similarity ends. This Breslin was 5'5" blue eyed and blond haired. The wanted man was three inches taller, with grey eyes and brown hair. He was born in Surrey, the other in Donegal.

In spite of all this it was not until twenty hours later that an escort from Manchester appeared, brought all the way at public expense. The escort said 'He is not the man', and a five minute telephone call to Pentonville confirmed Breslin's alibi.

T.U.C LEADERS FURIOUS AT SOCIALIST REMARKS



A series of remarks at the recent TUC congress in Brighton which brought muttered curses from secretary Len Murray and other TUC worthies was overwhelmingly supported at the September meeting of Brighton's Trades Council. The remarks, made by the Trades Council president and secretary, at the welcoming and farewell addresses to the TUC meeting, concerned the Brighton trades unionists views of the economic crisis and unemployment.

Then in a forthright farewell speech calculated to bring red faces to Len Murray and his negotiating party, council secretary Keith Orange said that the trades council would support any seamen's strike. Murray had spent the week craving the seamen's leaders to accept low wages in 'the national interest'.

The remarks bit deeply, since our local trades council was the

host to this year's congress. So the Congress House hacks had to listen to some grass roots opinion during the major ceremonies of the congress week.

But the only heckling for Orange came from the platform party yelping 'get him off' just loud enough for him to hear.

The right wing factions of the Trades Council were incensed that this happened. Any threat to the TUC and its holy social contract was to be denounced. Fearlessly brandishing the threat of a Thatcher regime sweeping to power on the back of this Brighton-based sabotage of the social contract, they demanded full withdrawal of the horrendous remarks.

But it was they who withdrew when the trades council voted overwhelmingly to support the provocative speeches to the TUC.

Marina dries up

All work on the Brighton Marina is to stop after the 2,000 boat moorings have been laid, probably in mid-1978.

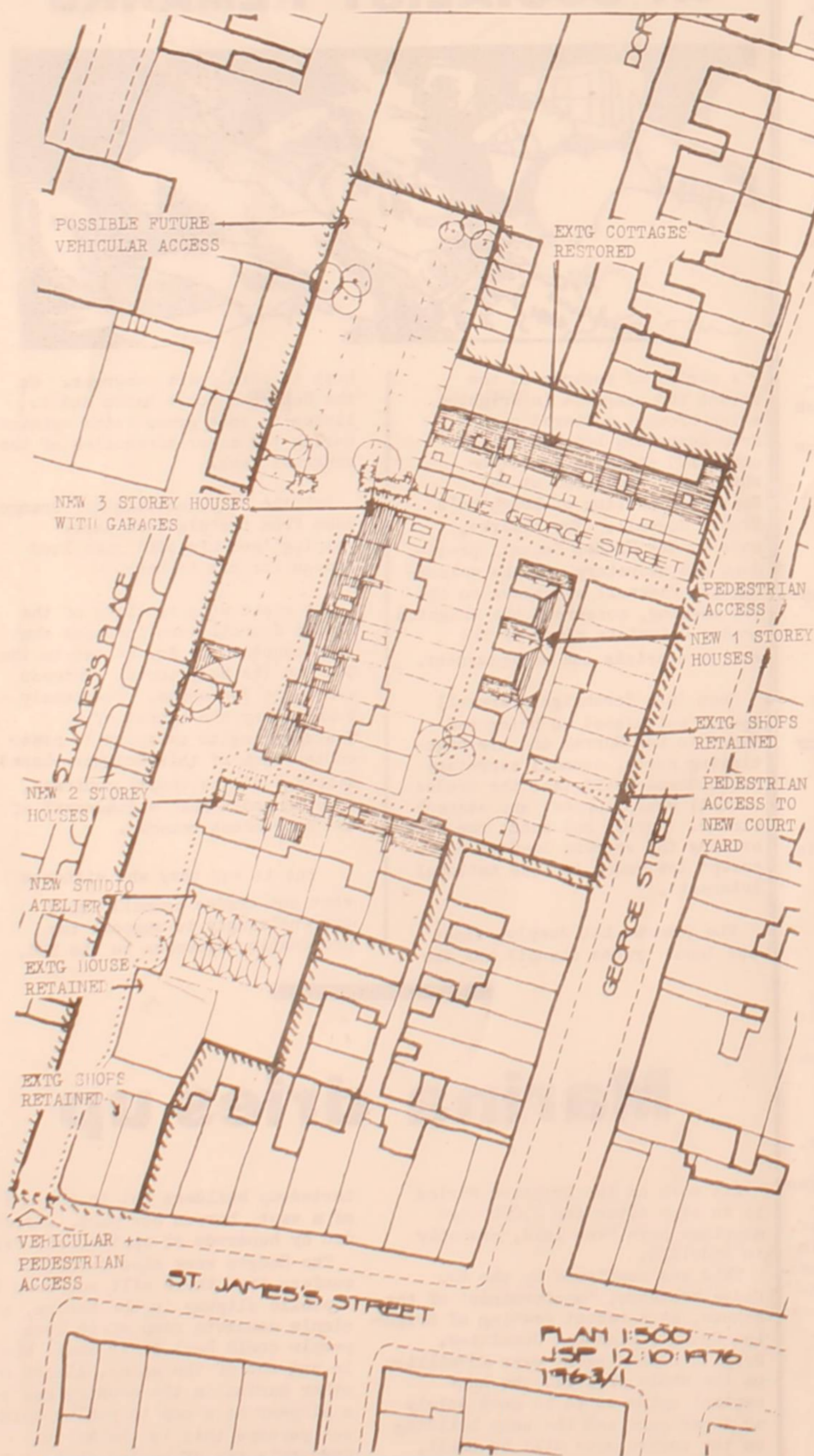
This was confirmed by the two Hodge brothers, 'masterminds' of the scheme, at a recent meeting of Brighton Council Planning Committee. Despite having spent over £39million on the whole project, the huge central spine is to be used solely as a car park and the only building on the entire site will be small, probably temporary, two-storey administration block.

No luxury flats, no hotels, no conference centre - nothing but a

tarted-up builders hut in the middle of a vast, barren car park, surrounded by hundreds of empty yacht berths.

The Hodges were also forced to confess that there will not even be a public slipway in the Marina, a simple concrete ramp where local people could haul their small boats in and out of the water. Almost every other marina in the country has such a slipway as a sop to public opinion, out perhaps this is the Marina Company's way of saying that if the rich are not going to use the Marina, then the poor aren't either.

Alternative Plan for George St.



Rehabilitation rather than redevelopment is the idea behind a recently produced development plan for George Street Brighton.

The plan is a reaction against the supermarket proposals outlined in the last issue of the Voice and has been produced by a group of local residents and shopkeepers called the Save George Street Committee. They have already written a letter to the County Planning sub-committee and talked with councillors who visited the site on Tuesday 5th October.

Their alternative plan was first unveiled at a meeting of the County Planning Development Control Sub-Committee on October 13th after architects John Schwerdt and partners had worked through the night preparing it. The sub-committee were thus able to view it informally before making their final decision on the supermarket proposals. During a lengthy debate the supermarket plan, which was subsequently thrown out, was described as a scheme which would transform the area into "a little Western Road". The chairman, commenting later on Radio Brighton, stated that the alternative plan was "ideally the right way to deal with this problem".



VIEW LOOKING NORTH FROM COURTYARD OF NEW HOUSING WITH RESTORED COTTAGES IN LITTLE GEORGE ST IN BACKGROUND.

The Save George Street Committee have now submitted their plan for outline permission and await an official view of their ideas. Confident of the economic feasibility of their plan they would like to help form a housing association to undertake the development.

Ideas or offers of assistance should be directed to the Save George Street Committee, c/o 11 George Street, Brighton.

BOWDEN EXPOSES HIMSELF

TORY M.P ANDREW BOWDEN NAKEDLY REVEALED HIMSELF IN HIS LETTER ATTACKING THE VOICE. HE DID HIMSELF JUSTICE. WE PUBLISH THE LETTER IN PHOTOCOPY OVER THE PAGE, BUT FIRST, BOWDEN THE BUSINESSMAN.....

'chaos and anarchy'

Andrew Bowden likes the world to think that his occupation is 'Personnel Consultant' (this is how he is described in 'The Times Guide to the House of Commons'). But, in fact, he runs a barely-solvent second, third and even fourth mortgage finance business.

He started his working life at Conservative Central Office in 1947, moving on from there to become a sales executive, first with Unilevers and then with various firms of paint manufacturers.

In 1969 he made his first venture into personnel consultancy (i.e. investigating potential employees of companies and their private lives) when he became Managing Director of a firm called Personnel Assessments.

Clients of the company probably wished in retrospect that they had carried out their own investigation of Personnel Assessments, however, for in September, 1971, the business folded owing creditors £25,000. Mr Bowden, by then an MP, had fortunately left the company a few months previously.

Chairman

Despite being Kempton's full-time MP (salary £6,062) from 1970, Bowden has found plenty of time since January 1973 to be involved with the very shaky finance group Jenkin and Purser (Holdings) Ltd.

The carefully polished reputation of Mr Bowden, Chairman of J&P(H) since 1974, begins to tarnish somewhat with the knowledge that this is a group of companies that specialises in giving second, third and fourth mortgages, and that a former employee is suing the group for £42,000 for

wrongful dismissal and breach of contract.

J&P(H) Ltd began in the late 1950's, retailing motorbikes. In 1969 the group was acquired by Anthony Towner, a resourceful local businessman who lives at Freckborough Manor, Ditchling Common.

Under Towner's influence all connections with the motor trade were dropped by the Spring of 1971, when the group moved fully into the 'provision of finance facilities'. During the four years of Towner's control of the group there was considerable buying and selling of other businesses, including in January, 1971 the acquisition of the mortgage company General and Housing Finance.

Towner's diverse business interests brought him plenty of money but also some embarrassment, as he was periodically forced to reveal in the group accounts that much of the trading that was taking place was, in fact, with other companies that he had a major stake in.

Andrew Bowden became a director of Jenkin and Purser (Holdings) shortly before one of the most dramatic periods in the group's history.

Just three months after he joined, on April 28, 1973, while Towner was still in charge, the group bought an office block in Streatham High Road, South London, for £250,000. This purchase was financed entirely by a special share issue and it doubled the net assets attributable to shareholders. Nine weeks later, on July 3, the block was sold for £312,680, cash.

But at the same time a more complicated deal was taking place that resulted in the group losing at least £116,512. On April 26, 1973, two days

before the Streatham deal started, the group acquired three advertising companies formerly owned by Bulex Ltd in satisfaction of an unrepaid loan of £131,838 made by the group to Lewis and Elliott Ltd, another subsidiary of Bulex.

Anthony Towner, Bowden's predecessor as chairman of the group, was a director of all the companies involved in this operation.

On July 5, 1973, two days after the conclusion of the Streatham deal, Towner left the board of J&P(H) Ltd. On October 10, 1973, the three recently acquired advertising companies were discovered to be virtually worthless when they could only be sold, with the aid of a loan to the buyers, for £35,000.

Since then the group has been in a sorry state, with the accumulated deficit last year amounting to £468,000, while turnover was only £34,500, £22,500 down on the year before. With fixed assets of only £3,000 and loans of £185,000 to cope with, Mr Bowden's business prospects look somewhat bleak.

But Bowden is not alone in his hour of need, for many local friends and neighbours are also shareholders in his company. It must be of some comfort, for instance, to know that East Sussex County Councillor Gordon Bradley, representative for Brighton Hollingbury, is in this thing with him; Mr Bradley is on the Council's Land and Buildings Sub-committee. Also shareholders are: solicitor and commissioner for oaths Paul Albrecht, a senior partner in the Howlett and Clarke practice in Ship Street; Gordon Camping, who runs the Hove-based firm of Camping's Luxury Coaches; Hove turf accountant Ernest Hayes; and many other prominent local business and professional people.

'deliberate lies'

It's reassuring for all the readers of Brighton Voice to see Bowden behaving in the stupid and frightened manner we have come to expect from him. It's what we've been saying for over three years. When it comes to ignorance, repression and sheer stupid bullying then Bowden and his Tory cronies carry it every time. You just can't fault them. They come up with the goods time and time again.

The underprivileged and down-trodden in this town have one chance of being heard and that's by telling the truth. Bowden calls this 'deliberate lies'. When they stand up for their rights Bowden calls it 'Political Filth'. His twisted and cynical distortion of language merely underlines what we've been saying, that Brighton is run by people who are totally unscrupulous.

Leaving Bowden alone for the moment, the real issue raised by his intimidating action is the threat not just to the Voice but to all the causes the Voice has supported over the three years. If he calls the Voice 'deliberate lies' then he has deliberately rejected the truth about the honours and badly founded in this town. In issue after issue the Voice has emphasised that homelessness in Brighton is a scandal of monstrous proportions. Bowden obviously is not interested in these facts. He wants to repress them. He also wants to repress the cause of kids with nowhere to play, the old people in rented flats with no one to protect them against the

harrassment of landlords; the down-and-outs who can be picked on by the police without anyone lifting a finger to help them; the unemployed and badly paid, and the women who don't get equal opportunities, let alone equal pay.

The Voice has been a mouthpiece for all these underprivileged sections of society, but Bowden calls their protests 'deliberate lies'. He finally attacks a mass of ordinary Brighton people who see houses demolished to make way for car parks, Marina roads, office blocks, luxury flats, conference halls, American Express, more car parks, more Marina roads, more office blocks, more luxury flats, more conference halls, bigger, greater American Express..... sumptuous law courts, banks, seven-lane highways (we may have helped to stop some of those) and 'you name it they'll build it' providing it doesn't give the community more houses to live in or improve amenities for people who desperately need them.

Bowden has read the Voice. His action is therefore a calculated threat against a hell of a lot of people in this town, against the rights of the community in its struggle to survive, against the town itself. But none of these people are scared by his bullying, libellous tactics. Their fight is a big one, and Bowden is a rather pathetic front-man, that's all. We're after the bigger stuff behind.



'political filth'

Mr Bowden's attempt to suppress this newspaper is rather curious when you consider that he is the Tory party representative on the ALL Party Committee For Freedom Of Information. However, it must be remembered that this Committee is, in fact, run by members of the East Grinstead-based American Church of Scientology whose activities have been severely attacked on both moral and legal grounds.

But Bowden is probably best known for his fight to deprive women of their right to abortion,

as he is one of the most vociferous anti-abortionists in the country. He is a committed supporter of SPUC, the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, the group that thinks women should have children they don't want, leaving them with no alternatives but to risk their lives going to backstreet abortionists. It is a fact that in countries where abortion is illegal (such as Italy) women die in their thousands every year having abortions done by medically untrained extortionists under

unhygienic conditions. Bowden obviously thinks the foetus more important than the woman who bears it. He believes that abortion violates the sanctity of life, yet interestingly enough he advocates the re-introduction of the death penalty and is opposed to nuclear disarmament.

Bowden was a member of the Select Committee on Abortion, made up entirely of men, which recently recommended drastically cutting back on the availability of abortions, and he was an avid supporter of the now defunct James White (Amendment) Bill, which sought to do the same. He frequently speaks at SPUC meetings and marched at the head of a large

anti-abortion demonstration in London earlier this year.

If you were one of those whose health, happiness or career has been shattered by an unwanted pregnancy and the lack of free abortion facilities, then you have this man and his kind to blame.

Bowden also gave his public support to those now-famous statements by Sir Keith Joseph that society should restrict the "breeding" of "social classes 4 & 5" on the grounds that they are the least fitted to be mothers. In supporting these views Bowden shows himself to be a social fascist of the very worst kind.



'law and order'

In picking the case of John Felsing (see Voice No 29, April 1976, p3) to illustrate his libellous attack on Brighton Voice, Bowden is on very unstable ground.

John Felsing went to Brighton Police Station to complain about a traffic ticket, for parking without lights, which he (wrongly) thought he should not have had. He got rather angry and when a policeman grabbed his arm he shook him off and was promptly arrested.

He says immediately after his arrest he was severely beaten up by a police sergeant. Our article described this in detail and reported on how the subsequent police enquiry was handled. A photocopy of this article was circulated by Bowden with 'THE LETTER'.

The Felsing case is well documented and is still being pursued by the Sussex branch of the N.C.C.L., they and Brighton Rights Centre, have both had extensive dealings with it, and are convinced of the justice of Felsing's case. The N.C.C.L. told us "Our interest is not just to arrive at the truth of Mr Felsing's case but to open up the public debate about the right of an individual to access to his case records when he makes a complaint."

The injuries which John Felsing received on the 8th August 1975 were extensive. After a considerable battle with the authorities the Felsing's were allowed to see hospital records which substantiate this. (This occurred after our article went to press). They also have photographic evidence of his injuries. The big question here is: if the police did not beat him up then who did? Significantly the police offer no explanation whatever as to the cause of these injuries.

The way in which the investigation into Felsing's complaint was handled, by a senior officer from Worthing, who just happened to have been stationed at John Street until 1968, illustrates the weakness of a procedure for complaints against the police wherein all investigations are made internally and there are no facilities for outsiders to state their case or to observe the proceedings. Even when the victim dies, as in the case of Liddle

Towers, (the inquest on whom was reported extensively during week ending 9th October in the national press), the proceedings of the Coroner's Court can be heavily loaded in favour of the police. For example, police witnesses can decline to be cross examined, yet the coroner has no power to refer the case to the Director of Public Prosecutions for examination in a court where they can be required to speak.

Why did Bowden choose this particular case for his attack? If our article is libellous why then did not the police take legal action? It seems that the case is just politically extremely uncomfortable and Bowden's letter is an attempt to prevent similar cases being publicised by killing the only organ in Brighton that is likely to handle them.

Such articles seem to be one of the few ways in which ordinary people can defend themselves against police brutality and are essential if we are to stem the creeping erosion of our civil liberties. An erosion which, if not stopped, will result in the very totalitarian state which Bowden says he so fears. We do not intend this to happen and will continue to expose brutality and corruption wherever we find it.

'Mrs Felsing Protests' - See page 2 for an extract from a letter which Mrs Felsing sent recently to the national press. It was not printed.

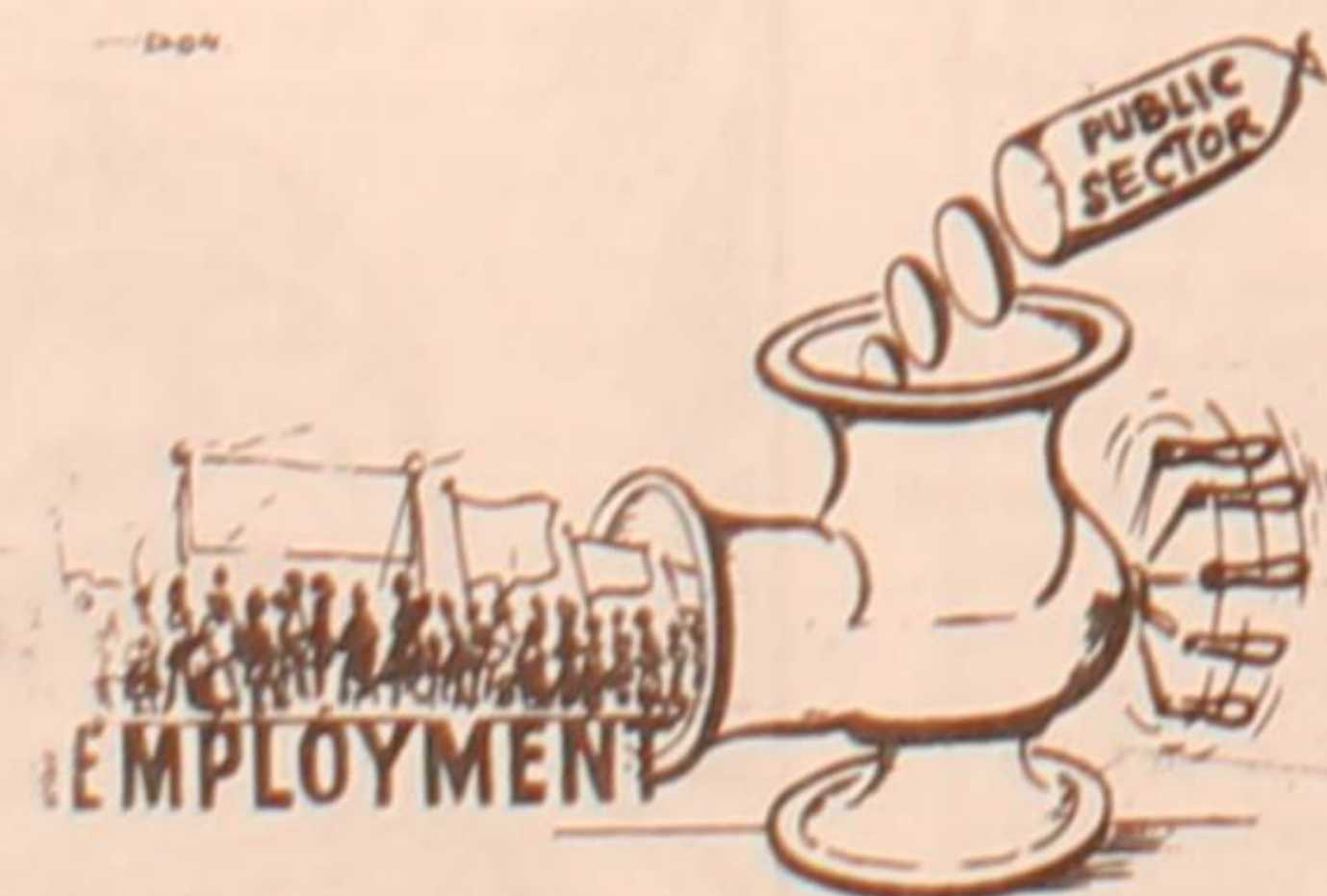


The Chop

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE IN EAST SUSSEX IS GOING TO BE CUT BY £3.8 MILLION OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS. WHERE WILL THESE CUTS FALL? WHO WILL SUFFER?

In Social Services, Denis Allen, Director of East Sussex Social Services, must find savings of £150,000. Already Furze House, an old people's home, is in the process of closure. Withdrawals of grants to grant-aided sheltered housing is proposed, reduction of overtime payments to staff at residential planned. During the last year attempts were made to "re-assess" the needs of elderly people previously entitled to a telephone for emergency contact, with a view to reducing this expenditure by 20%. Social workers refused to undertake to do the reassessments - they didn't happen.

In Education, savings of £800,000 - £850,000 are to be made. The proposed savings will be via a 10% cut in capitation, ie less books, less equipment, less resources per child; with further cuts achieved through less repair and maintenance of schools, advisory services, winter swimming lessons (frills?), and a reduction in the numbers of some non-teaching staff - ie lunchtime supervisors. School meals are to cost 10p per day more from September '77. With a budget which consists of 60% of staff wages and salaries, where can cuts come next but in redundancies, once 'natural wastage', non-filling of vacancies and early retirement have taken up the slack?



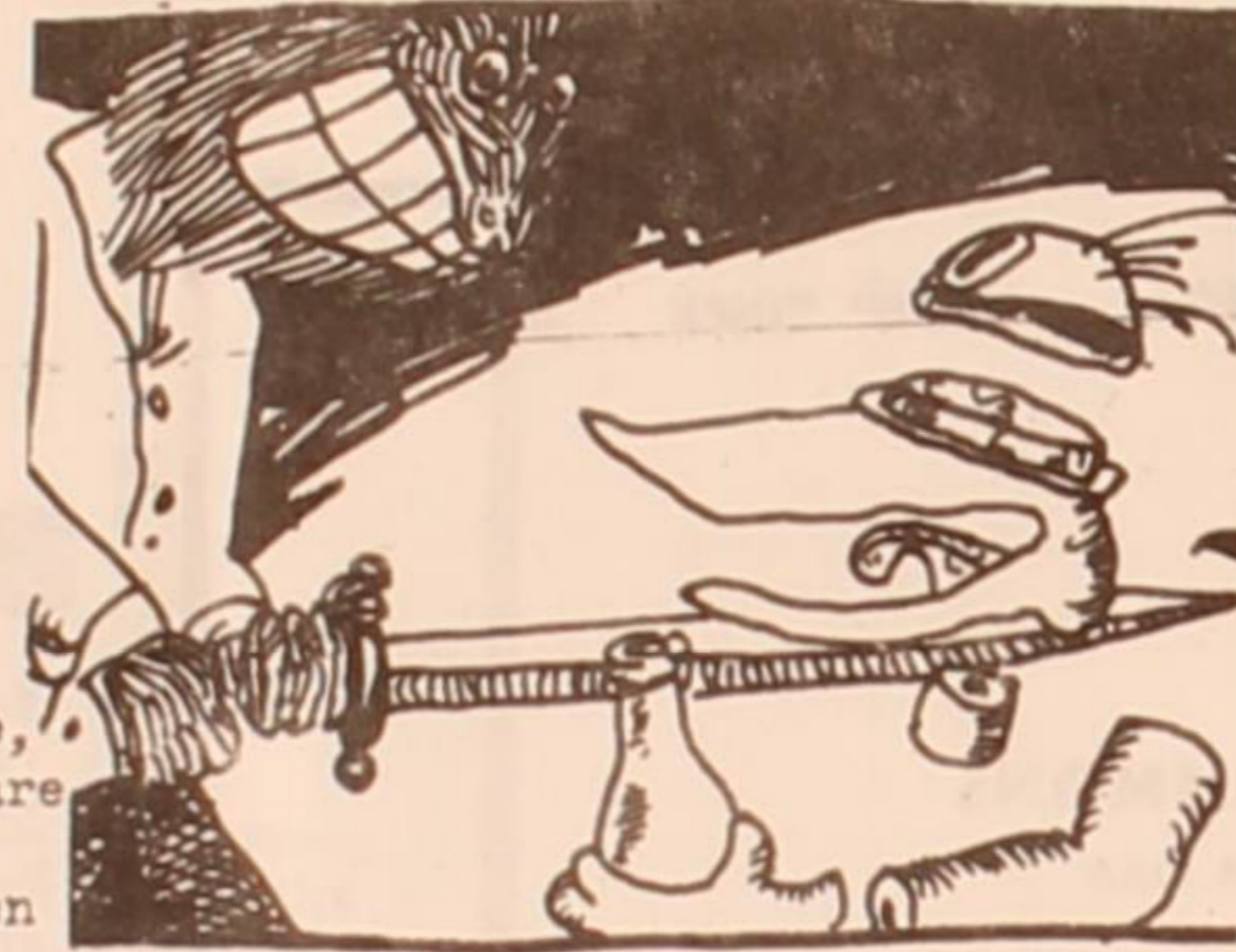
WHO'S TURNING THE HANDLE?

In every area of public service, the actual services you receive are being threatened. Huge cuts in local authority spending have been ordered; in the council house building programme, in road building, maintenance and improvements, refuse disposal, recreation, planning, libraries, you name it... and all the facilities (nurseries, health clinics) that could have eventually made into a reality the legal implementation on non-discriminatory legislation for women at the beginning of the year, will now be demolished. Women will not only find it harder to work, they will also be the first out of a job when redundancies come (legislation or no legislation). Their battle for real equality is seriously impeded. The Womens' Centre in Brighton is struggling to exist, will it be Womens' Aid next?

In Surrey, threatened redundancies were averted by union action. In West Sussex, redundancies have only recently been announced and there is a threat to freeze annual increments. It will be East Sussex next and we already have 13,000 unemployed in Brighton.

Throughout the whole of the public sector, in local government, the Civil Service, gas, electricity, water, transport, health (all the services which you pay for through your taxes and rates) the government is planning long term and drastic cuts.

How does the government justify action like this? Ostensibly, as an attack on inflation, the argument being that the amount of money spent on the 'unproductive' public sector is far too large. Yet, as a percentage of our Gross National Product, Britain's public expenditure is lower than that of any other EEC country.



THE CUTS ARE UNNECESSARY

They are being forced on us by a government that is not prepared to carry out the policies of its own party.

SO WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING SO FAR TO FIGHT THE CUTS?

In October last year social work staff in Brighton and East Sussex, perhaps the first to get wind of the changes which affect them very directly in their work, demonstrated their opposition to the cuts on Brighton's streets, through the Argus and on television. Soon after a public meeting sponsored by the Trades Council, the Brighton Action Committee Against the Cuts was formed. The Sussex Federation of Students organised protests against the cuts in education expenditure and the County Association of Trades Councils arranged a conference on unemployment. Throughout TUC week in September there were meetings, demonstrations and pickets to show opposition to the cuts and unemployment.

Nationally, within the Trades Union movement things have been moving. All the major public sector unions, seeing their 'Contract' with the government broken by the government, despite the unions' own efforts to honour it, have recognised the urgent need for a nationally organised and co-ordinated campaign to fight the cuts and unemployment.

The public sector unions recognise not only the threats to the jobs of their members and to the services that they provide (closely linked, obviously), but also that working people in the private sector are equally and obviously threatened by such cut-backs. Every new project that is cancelled, every school that isn't built, creates redundancies in the

(Continued opposite)

Resources Centre under way.

There will be a general meeting of the Resources Centre in the Presbyterian Church Hall on Sunday 7th November at 7.30pm, at which the steering group will report on its work since the last meeting in the County Court, the new constitution voted on, a new steering group elected, a series of community workshops decided on and the direction of the Centre discussed. A party is being arranged to take place after the meeting.

Workshops suggested so far cover four topics - starting and running a Community Association; fund-raising; newsletters; newspapers and Community Communication; community groups and planners. In addition, there will be a series of workshops on using silkscreen equipment and another series is planned for next year on Welfare Rights.

The Centre also intends to gather information on community development in Brighton and would like to subscribe to all community newspapers.

Eventually general information for groups will also be made available at the centre.



A Vegetarian Romance

Three Rooms Café

I suppose the idea of the cafe started about 20 years ago when I first started in catering.

The hard life in the kitchens convinced me that if I was going to work this bloody hard it would eventually be for myself.

A stint in the National Service, catering college and West End hotels made me yearn for some different experience. So I spent 4 years as an Air Steward in BOAC when you could still see the propellers - a wonderful opportunity to experience many types of cuisine.

Being a child of the 50's the pull of the States was very strong (Upton Sinclair was my guru). Seven years was spent mostly in California. It was there that I decided to change over to a meatless diet during a period of being very run down.

New life came to me and I started cooking strange concoctions to take to work. Asking the I Ching one night what I should do with myself I got the answer, "do what you do best".

Sold up and came back to England, I was quite homesick though I enjoyed the States. Settled back in Hove and found the cafe. My parents were a great help at the beginning and we slowly got it together with the help of friends.

It took almost two years before we got busy and about this time, during a trip to Infinity I met Claire packing rice and sniffing herbs. After a courtship of tea and rissole rolling she resigned from teaching and joined the cafe. From then business boomed, and new blood flowed through the rooms.

After nearly 4 years of life the cafe flourishes and continues its policy of providing the neighbourhood (many of our customers are CARNIVOROUS bless them) with value for money. My brother redesigned the garden last summer and it is open to eaters and sippers.

Our latest idea is the early bird lunch, a reduction of 25% for those who come in before 11.45. If you haven't had breakfast fill up on soup, savory, veg and dessert for less than 50p. Though we do use a lot of cheese and eggs we always have dairy free dishes available.

Thanks to Infinity Bulk Store we can keep our prices low and more important our quality high.

Open Tue - Sat 10 - 3. Full take away service.

Anthony Golding

cuts cont'

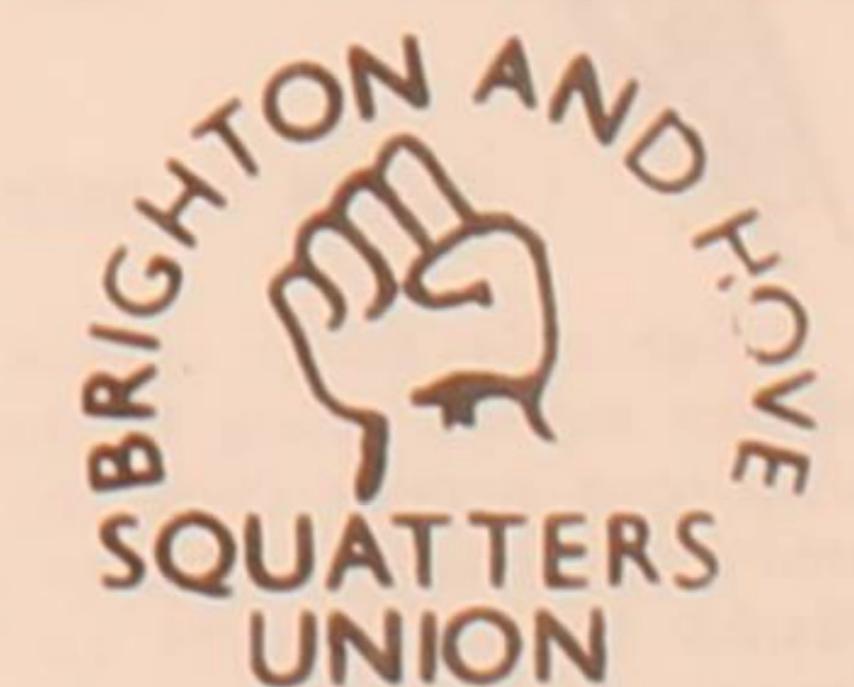
(from opposite page)

building industry, or in the factories that provide the public sector with their equipment or in the companies that supply the nationalised industries.

So the greatest need in Brighton is to establish an equally co-ordinated campaign to fight the cuts being implemented both by the Brighton Borough Council and East Sussex County Council. The cuts don't have to be carried out, Haringey Council has already refused to do so. In Brighton the local unions have already demonstrated their ability to prevent

redundancies. In NALGO East Sussex, a 'Save Your Services' campaign has been set up. NUPE, NALGO and other unions are already moving towards the setting up of an united front against these threats.

If you can't join a union fight the cuts through your community associations, tenants associations women's groups, let your MP know how you feel, write to the Argus! Note; there will be a national lobby of Parliament in London on November 17 and locally the Labour Party are planning a conference on the cuts for late November.



FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY

NOV.6th
8.30 p.m. onwards.
Art College, Grand Parade.

with :-

MOONFLEET
AMAZON BLADES
+
STREET THEATRE
FANCY DRESS
+

40p.
Squatter members 30p.

White Elephant Takes Shower

The ludicrous saga of Brighton Social Services' new office building continues. Having decided to move (at great expense to the ratepayers) into one of the most expensive office blocks in Brighton - chosen, it seems to the Voice, more for its proximity to the Department's car park than for its suitability for social workers - they were beset by one problem after another.

First, the social workers themselves protested at great length about the total unsuitability of the building and its cost, at a time of massive cuts in services to the public; then the builders were ordered to remove the appalling we-see-you-but-you-can't-see-us one way windows due to the changing of appearance of a listed building without planning permission. (An appeal against the order has been lodged, but local people seem to have rejected it

already, judging from the growing number of broken windows).

Then there was the question of the two unused floors - one containing three flats. It was discovered that the County Council had leased the whole building, not just the part they occupy, and were therefore responsible for these as well. Voice inquiries revealed that there were no immediate plans for the office floor - despite the desperate need for accommodation by various community groups, such as the Women's Centre - and that the flats were intended for use as staff accommodation "when they are fit for habitation". Fit for habitation? Well, it's like this, you see; the building was so badly constructed (Parsons and Sons Builders) that there have been a stream of complaints about the damp, the badly-fitting windows, etc, the cracks in the walls and last but not least, the hole in the roof.

The attractive "open-air look" has ensured a rotting ceiling and mouldy walls on the top floor for some time, but the recent rains have resulted in the useful addition of running water in all rooms as far as three floors down. Staff are of course delighted with this unexpected bonus, and many can wash their hands (or indeed take a shower) without moving from their desks.

Parsons & Sons have leapt into action, ripping several holes in the ceiling trying to find out (unsuccessfully) where the water is getting in and, before retreating in confusion, leaving a pleasantly coloured plastic bucket to catch the drips. We have been unable to find out so far whether the person employed to empty it works for Parsons or the Council. But see our next issue for the latest on what promises to become one of Brighton's most successful, long-running and expensive farces.

A TALE OF THREE HOUSES

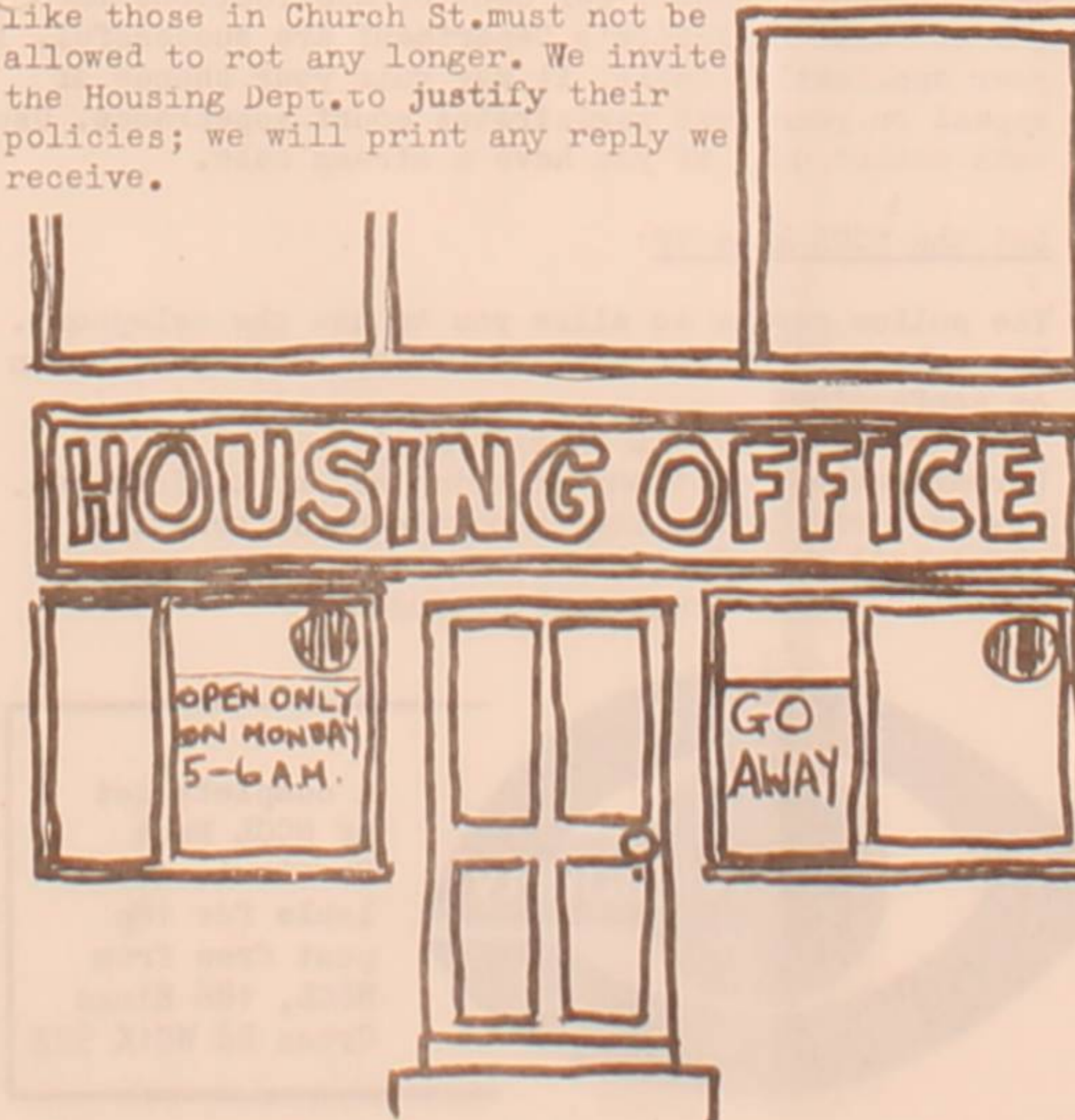
15 Church St.

In the heady days of the early 1970's this shop with a separate, self-contained flat above was purchased by the Council as part of the proposed redevelopment plan for the area. The couple living in the flat remained until they moved out of Brighton in December 1974, and at that time it was in good condition, consisting of two bedrooms, sitting room, bathroom and kitchen. Now, after being empty for nearly two years it is, according to Housing Dept. official 'unfit for human habitation'.

This appalling unconcern for the homeless in Brighton seems to be becoming almost normal in Brighton. The Council owns innumerable properties, particularly in the area below Queen's Road, but very few are used to reduce the misery caused by the lack of decent (or, indeed, any) accommodation.

Perhaps the Council values car-parking spaces more than houses? As boarding-up and demolition proceed only National Car Parks are happy. They had record profits last year.

THE COUNCIL WERE NOT ELECTED TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF N.C.P. SHARE-HOLDERS. Empty houses owned by the Council (i.e. by us) should be used at once, or handed to the Squatters Union. The callous attempts to drive the poor away from Brighton must stop. Everyone has a right to decent housing. It was ex-Mayor Danny Sheldon, who said 'If people can't afford to live in Brighton, they should go somewhere else.' The Voice says NO. Flats like those in Church St. must not be allowed to rot any longer. We invite the Housing Dept. to justify their policies; we will print any reply we receive.



35,36 Campbell Rd

Over 12 years ago these two adjoining houses were bought by a subsidiary of Shell Petroleum Ltd. with the intention of demolishing them to build an access to the back of the Circus Garage in Preston Rd.

The Company applied for planning permission, which was quite rightly refused. After a suitable lapse of time they applied again, and again were refused. **THE HOUSES HAVE BEEN EMPTY FOR TWELVE YEARS.** Each has 6 rooms, kitchen and garden.

Three tears ago, irate residents forced the Council to take action over the health hazard and environmental effect on the street. The Company who were no doubt hoping for permission to demolish on these grounds, were ordered to clean up the houses and paint the outsides.

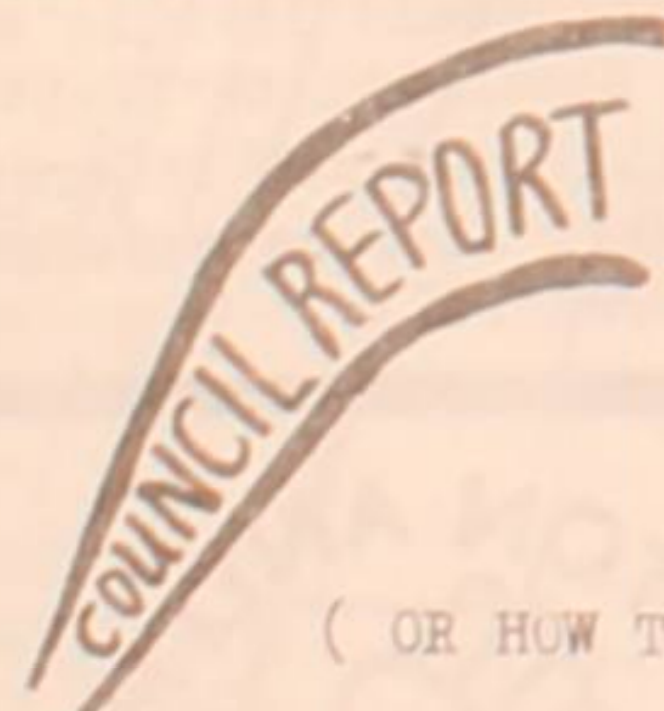
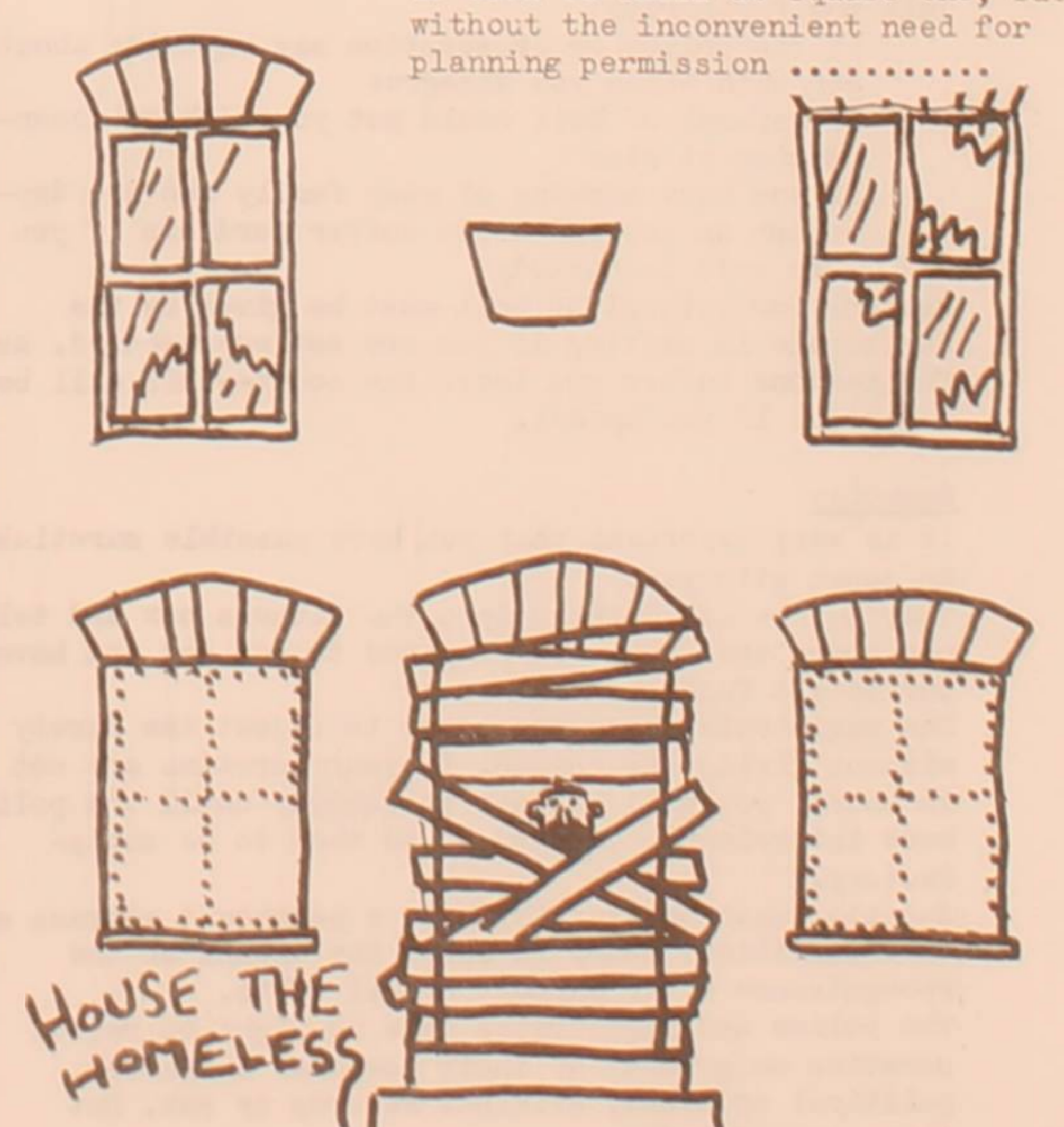
In May 1975 the Company wrote to a local resident that 'we are at present in negotiations with Brighton Corporation with the view to their taking a long lease which would enable them to bring the properties up to standard and be used for housing. I hope the above will reassure you that we have not needlessly prevented these houses from being occupied.' (!!!!)

This information is confirmed by a letter from the Housing Manager to Wally Newman, ex-leader of the Lab-

our group on the Housing Committee. It says that 'a resolution that the Council take a lease of these properties and that they be repaired and converted to provide four units of accommodation was accepted by the Council on November 21st 1974.'

Ten months later in September 1975 the Housing Committee minutes stated that 'the Borough Surveyor reported that he had been informed that the premises were in the course of being sold' and it was therefore decided that no further action be taken in the matter. A subsequent letter from Shell to the local resident, however, dated 26 Jan. 1976, informed him that 'the properties will be placed on the market before the end of this month.' They were in fact advertised in February and are still on sale for £5,000 apiece.

The facts as stated here are confusing, to say the least. They indicate an intolerable combination of lies and incompetence on somebody's part. But whatever the true state of affairs, 35 and 36 Campbell Road **ARE STILL EMPTY.** No private developer is prepared to pay for the necessary repairs and conversions, so if the Council doesn't reverse its decision nothing will happen, except deterioration to the point where demolition will be inevitable, taking us back to Shell at square one, but without the inconvenient need for planning permission



Sailing close to the wind.

(OR HOW TO MAKE A PERSONAL PROFIT OUT OF BEING ON THE COUNCIL WITHOUT, QUITE, BREAKING THE LAW)

Brighton's large office and shop owners may be going to suffer less than most people from the recently announced council charge increases, thanks to a manoeuvre in the Oct 7th Council meeting by Tory councillors, the legality of which was questioned by Labour members.

At the meeting C'llr Stanley Theobald, former mayor and one of the town's most powerful businessmen, moved an amendment that may lead to charges for the collection of refuse from trade premises being pegged at their present levels instead of rising the modest 15-20% that was proposed. The rise would have brought an increased yield of £8,500; by comparison, the 100% rise in allotment rents will bring in £7,600 and the 150% increase in the cost of a wash and brush up in a public loo just £60.

The Tory group on Brighton Council contains a very large number of businessmen who stand to benefit

from the ratepayers loss of this £8,500 and it is, of course, illegal for councillors with an interest in any matter before the council not to declare that interest and thereafter abstain from the discussion - and none did so in this debate. How then could a large number of our elected representatives be apparently discussing in the council chamber the raising of their next years profits without fearing the midnight knock on the door?

Well Mr Theobald is a very clever man. His amendment was not actually about the refuse charges themselves but about "whether or not there should be a written report on the legal necessity or otherwise of making the charges." A fine distinction, you might think, but apparently just big enough to keep a sizeable proportion of Brighton Town Council out of jail.

Labour councillor Brian Fitch, currently Tory Party Enemy No 1, protested "I am very disturbed to see

so many members present in this chamber when so many of them clearly have an interest in this matter. Why should the large traders of this town be singled out to miss the increases?"

Mr Theobald denied that the Tory members could be said to have an interest, because of the careful way he had worded his proposal. He had consulted the Town Clerk beforehand, who had agreed with him. The unhappy looking Town Clerk, Mr Morgan, was then called upon to verify this statement. After considerable hesitation he confirmed that Mr Theobald appeared to be correct in his assessment of the strict legal position.

The leader of the Labour group, C'llr Ian McGill, remarked "We're always interested to see how close to the wind the Tory group can sail."

The Council then went on to approve all the other charges before them.

YOUR RIGHTS part 5

Bail and how to get it

This is the fifth in our series of edited NCCL Fact Sheets on your legal rights. This time, we look at entitlement to bail and how to go about getting it.

After Arrest.

Ask for bail at the police station--don't expect to be offered it.

Don't make statements incriminating yourself in exchange for an offer of bail. Remember that you can rarely retract a statement once you have made it.

You must be granted bail unless;

the police consider the offence to be serious you are brought before the magistrates within 24 hours of being arrested you are under 17 and there is strong reason for not granting bail.

If you are not granted bail you have the right to make a telephone call. Use it. Ask to telephone your solicitor. Give him the names and addresses of possible sureties. If you have no solicitor, ask to telephone a friend. Tell your friend:

the name of the magistrates court where you will appear and the time the court starts, to take to court anyone who is prepared to stand surety, to contact a solicitor if possible,

At the Magistrates Court

The question of bail arises because either you or the prosecution want an adjournment to prepare the case or, after your conviction, when magistrates may want further information before sentencing you.

Ask for bail. The court is under no obligation to ask you if you want bail.

Objections to bail may be raised by the police. Most common objections are that you will not appear at your trial, you will interfere with witnesses, you will commit further offences, police enquiries are not complete, etc.

Do not let the decision to refuse bail be taken without a discussion.

Tell the magistrate:

if the police or prosecution say anything about you with which you disagree
if refusal of bail would put your job or accommodation at risk
if you have members of your family who are dependant on you and would suffer hardship if you were held in custody

Reasons for refusal of bail must be given by the magistrate in writing if you are not represented. Ask for reasons before you leave the court--this will be important if you appeal.

Sureties

It is very important that you have possible sureties in court with you. They may be asked to go into the witness box and tell the court that they are prepared to act and have sufficient funds.

The magistrates have the power to reject the surety without giving any reason. If your sureties are not in court, you will be kept in custody until the police have interviewed them and found them to be satisfactory.

Sureties must be over 18, have a permanent address and have sufficient money to cover the amount of the recognisance after payment of all debts.

The police and magistrates have no right to reject sureties on grounds of their personal character, political opinions, criminal records or sex. But they sometimes do.

Subsequent Appearances.

If you are refused bail and remanded in custody you must be brought back to court within 8 days. The magistrates may remand you again for further periods of 8 days until the hearing of your case or until you are committed for trial at a higher court. If you are committed for trial there will be no further appearances until the hearing of your case. If you are granted bail, a date will be fixed for your next appearance in court.

After Conviction.

If you are found guilty, the magistrates may want further information or reports before sentencing you. Always ask for bail.

Bail is not likely to be granted if refused before the trial. Objections to bail may occur even though it was granted previously. Bail should normally be granted if the sentence cannot be imprisonment.

Bail Appeals.

If you are refused bail by a magistrate you may appeal to a high court judge (judge in chambers). Legal Aid is not available for these applications except where you have been committed to a Crown court for trial.

If you can afford a solicitor, he can make an application and represent you before the judge. This takes about a week. About 50 per cent of applications are successful.

If you cannot afford a solicitor, you may make a written application to a judge through the Official Solicitor's Department.

A card should be displayed in prison explaining how the procedure works. Get an Application Form from the prison staff and complete it as fully as possible. (Remember--the judge knows nothing about you or your case except what you tell him in the Form and what the police say).

This application will cost you nothing and will take about 10 days.

You will not be allowed to appear personally before the judge.

Warning--Only about 7 per cent of applications through the Official Solicitor's Department are successful. If your application fails, it may ruin your chance of appeal on your next magistrates court appearance. Use this method only if you have a strong case.

Let the NCCL know if:

The police refuse to allow you to use the telephone. The police offer you bail in return for a concession or confession.

You were refused bail unreasonably. Unreasonable conditions were imposed by magistrates. You have had difficulty in obtaining information about bail appeals.

Your surety is unreasonably refused.



A complete set of NCCL Fact Sheets is available for 18p post free from NCCL, 186 Kings Cross Rd WC1X 9DE

info...

GROUPS

GATHERINGS ETC

*ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP
Contact Hugh Bayley, c/o Nalgo, 104 Queens Rd, B'ton

*A.S. NEILL TRUST For alternative education projects 691712.

*B'TON & HOVE SQUATTERS UNION AND TENANTS ASSOC. Meets 8.30, Tuesdays, at 7 Victoria Rd, B'ton.

*B'TON & HOVE TRADES COUNCIL Co-ordinating group of local trade unions affiliated to TUC; Keith Orange 688777. B&HTC LABOUR HISTORY PROJECT and LABOUR HISTORY PRESS 179 Lewes Rd, B'ton.

*B'TON ARTS WORKSHOP Mime, dance, music, community events; Richard 28142 or Penny 689507.

*B'TON FEDERATION OF TENANTS ASSOCS Secretary, 72 Swanborough Pl, B'ton.

*B'TON FILM THEATRE 64 North St. 29563. Support your local non-profitmaking cinema.

*B'TON HOSTEL Soup-run 10.00-11.00 daily under the arches; meals 12.00-2.00 Sundays. Need clothes, food, help! 686320; 105 Islingword Rd, B'ton.

*B'TON LESBIAN GROUP 1st, 3rd & 5th Weds at Fl 1, 9 St Michaels Pl; info from Lee there.

*B'TON SHORT-LIFE HOUSING ACTION GROUP 2 Prince Albert St. 202492.

*B'TON SOCIETY Environmental group; Selma Montford, 10 Clermont Rd.

*B'TON TRADES & LABOUR CLUB Meeting place for trade unionists; 16 Lewes Rd. 61101.

*BRITAIN/GDR SOCIETY Facts and info on East Germany; 686259.

*CAMPAIGN AGAINST A CRIMINAL TRESPASS LAW c/o 7 Victoria Rd, B'ton. Watch for developments, especially meetings.

*CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY Details of regular meetings from 27878 8.00-10.00pm daily. Also CHE Women's Group.

*CONFERENCE OF SOCIALIST ECONOMISTS Keith Smith, 10 Warleigh Rd, B'ton.

*FRIENDS CENTRE Meeting place with educational classes; 16 Ship St, B'ton. 27835.

*FRIENDS OF THE WESTERN BUDDHIST ORDER Meditation, classes, discussion and lectures; 19 George St, B'ton. 693971.

*GINGERBREAD Self-help and pressure group for one-parent families; 774087

*MENTAL HEALTH GROUP Bringing psychiatric patients into the community; c/o Open 27878.

*MOULESCOOMB ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND Needs money, materials and help; c/o 67 Centre, off Hodshrove Rd.

*NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN Contact Womens Centre.

*NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES (Sussex Group) 689385 or write c/o Public House, 21 Little Preston St, B'ton.

*PRIOR HOUSE Youth and Community Centre; many activities, incl open creche; Carlton Hill. 681925.

*RANK AND FILE Organisation of teachers with NUT. 689113 after 6.00pm.



*RIGHT TO READ Mrs Prior 29801.

*RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN Organising trade unionists and the unemployed to fight for the Right to Work; 19 Elm Grove, B'ton. Messages 720891.

*SOCIALIST ENVIRONMENT & RESOURCES ASSOC 236 The Wrekin, Lindfield, Haywards Heath; Lindfield 3760.

*SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING Daniele Furci, 12 Berkeley Row, Lewes.

*SUSSEX ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY GROUP c/o 11 George St, B'ton. 691318

*TRANSPORT 2000 Kevin McNulty, 75 Upper Lewes Rd.

*WE WANT THE WEST PIER CAMPAIGN John Lloyd, 5 Belle Vue Gdns, B'ton. 28578.

*WOMEN'S CENTRE Open daily for advice, help, company, pregnancy testing; temporarily at 174 Thorndean Rd. 27612.

*WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM 684604.

*WORKING ASSOC OF MOTHERS Linda Kinsella 55134. Baby sitting, creche, etc.

PAPERS

*BRIGHTON FIGHTS BACK Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) pamphlet on the cuts. 10p from 37 Gloucester Rd, B'ton.

*HAZARDS BULLETIN Health and safety magazine for rank and file trade unionists, published by Science for People Group (give local advice). Dave Albury, Fl 2, 5/6 Western Rd, Hove. 77289.

The Voice Collective Meets every Sunday 8.00pm at Open Cafe, 7 Victoria Rd. All are welcome.

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OF COURSE I CAN PUT YOU DOWN FOR AN ABORTION - BUT THERE'S A NINE-MONTH WAITING LIST...

