

... PAPERS

*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

ANANDA, 19 Bond St. Odds and ends to make your life good.

*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 VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT is closed for renovation. But it will shortly re-open and the food will be even better!

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

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 is moving; check location by ringing 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 202930 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, 8.00-10.00 every night. Brighton 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. DARLING'S, 53 Beaconsfield 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.

*PALMER

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 Women'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, 83 Edburton Ave, B'ton.

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

*FABIAN 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, c/o Arts D Post-graduate Pigeon-holes, Sussex University.

BRIGHTON VOICE

10p

No 36 March '77

POLITICAL POLICE RAID BRIGHTON FLAT

THE SPECIAL BRANCH, BRITAIN'S POLITICAL POLICE, HAVE STRIPPED THE BRIGHTON HOME OF JOURNALIST DUNCAN CAMPBELL.

Duncan Campbell, free lance journalist, Crispin Aubrey, reporter on the magazine Time Out, and John Berry a former soldier, were all arrested on charges under Section Two of the Official Secrets Act, after a meeting together in a house in Muswell Hill, North London, late on Friday 18 February.

The next day, just after 4.00pm, four members of the Special Branch raided Duncan's house in Franklin Road, Brighton. After being let in by a woman who also lived there, they shut themselves in Duncan's basement rooms and ransacked all his belongings, with a police photographer taking before-and-after pictures.

An unmarked van was used to carry away several thousand documents, a four-drawer filing cabinet, technical equipment, telephone directories and even ordinary books.

After loading everything they wanted into the van, the police left, despite protests by Andy Durr, President of the Trades Council, and Cllr Ian McGill, leader of Brighton Labour Councillors, who witnessed the raid. Later the two issued a statement with Geoff Jones, chairman of Brighton Labour Party, expressing extreme concern at what had taken place.

ransacked

Meanwhile, Aubrey, Berry and Campbell were being held incommunicado in the cells at Muswell Hill Police Station, without being allowed to talk to their solicitors. They were formally charged only at 5.00pm on Sunday, nearly 48 hours after being arrested.

Duncan, a freelance journalist who writes regularly for 'Time Out', 'New Scientist' and 'Undercurrents' and occasionally for 'Brighton Voice', has now had all the tools of his trade requisitioned by the police. Also, he has to report every day to the Brighton police station until his case comes up in mid-April. He is thus prevented from earning his living as a free ranging and free lance journalist.

illegal

The three have been charged under the much-discredited Section Two of the Official Secrets Act, and could be imprisoned for up to two years. Campbell and Aubrey have been released on bail, but John Berry is being held in Brixton Prison and could become the scapegoat in the affair.

John has said that he approached the journalists with information because he wanted to help the campaign to defend Phil Agee and Mark Hosenball, two American journalists threatened with deportation because of their revelations of dirty dealings by the American and British Intelligence Services.

During the hearing of Hosenball's deportation case it emerged that the case against him probably centres on an article about the government's communications headquarters at Cheltenham, that appeared under his name in 'Time Out'. To the annoyance of the Intelligence Services, it was also revealed in the hearing that in fact Duncan Campbell wrote 90% of this article (Duncan is an expert on communications technology).

The meeting on February 18 that led to the arrests was known to only a handful of people, but the police were waiting outside when it ended.

The only way they could have known about it was by using illegal surveillance, probably letter opening and telephone tapping.

Rees 'furious'

One person who did not know about the meeting was Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary. He was only told of the events of Friday night after the Intelligence Services had decided on the arrests and carried them out; when he heard, he was reportedly furious. It is also understood that it was in fact the Intelligence Services who pushed Rees into issuing the deportation orders against Agee and Hosenball.

So why is the Intelligence Service reacting in this way? What has it got to hide? The American intelligence service, the CIA, has caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people in democratic countries all round the world. Is the British Intelligence Service engaged in similar operations that it desperately needs to cover up, even if it involves by-passing the elected government and itself reviving laws widely considered to be dead and almost buried?

An Aubrey-Berry-Campbell Defence Committee has been set up by friends and colleagues of the accused. Offers of help and contributions towards the legal expenses should be sent to the ABCD Committee, c/o Time Out, 374 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8BB or via the Voice at 7, Victoria Rd Brighton.

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: Wherever they are. LONDON RD: News Stand (Sainsburys).

*WEST BRIGHTON & HOVE

CORDELLS: 99 Western Rd, Hove. PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKS: 21 Little Preston St. THREE ROOMS CAFE: 14 Blatchington Rd, Hove

*NORTH BRIGHTON

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



LABOUR MOVEMENT CALLED TO ACTION



The Southern Area Conference on the Criminal Trespass Law (CTL) heralded the first shots in a campaign to awaken trade unionists and the labour movement to the implications of this repressive bill. Over 120 people participated in a day of militant discussions.

The most pleasing aspect of the turn-out was the considerable number of Trades Unionists present. National CACTL organisers stress that now more than ever Trades Union branches should be taking up the campaign. The TUC Executive has now decided to oppose four out of the five major changes in the law and it looks as if the Labour Party National Executive will follow. They have already made joint representations to the Home Secretary Merlyn Rees expressing their concern. Resolutions should continue to flood into the Nat. Exec. of T.U.'s to act as reminders.

Probably the most constructive suggestions to emerge from the floor of the conference, was that the Labour Party should oppose the CTL in its local election manifestos and campaigns. This would stimulate the debate

on criminal trespass and hopefully other issues, such as the housing crisis. While Cactlites in Brighton are encouraged by the local Labour Party's stand and support over CTL, we believe they should mount an active and vociferous campaign of their own. After all it is their party in government who is trying to enact this reactionary piece of legislation. It's like the Party's useless stand on abortion - all words and no action.

The organisers would like to thank the speakers and those who held some very interesting workshop sessions.

Argus

As promised the Argus sent a reporter (and photographer) along. Her report, apart from the fact that the article was too small, given the complexity of the subject, was misleading, factually incorrect and unnecessarily snide.

The headline was a joke: "Squat Conference off to a slow start"

We made it quite clear at the outset that the conference was directed

at Trades Unionists (who are ill-informed on the subject) and not just squatters. The conference was not about squatting. She suggested that few people attended. While we know that the Argus stops work at 12 noon Saturday, the public have the right to expect reasonable coverage of public events. The reporter stayed for half an hour, looked at the exhibition, commissioned the photographer to take a snap, took a quick look at the audience and left. She made no effort to listen to any of the speakers and didn't return. If she had she could have interviewed the ubiquitous Andrew Bowden who deemed to grace the event with his presence. At least he was interested in the effects of CTL - obviously the Argus is not, in spite of the fact that if the bill becomes law it will effect the interests of vast numbers of its readers.

We issued a press statement following the report - this was not published, we are now considering taking up the question of bias in reporting with the local NUJ branch.



george st. lives ?

Greenelms Properties have resubmitted their monstrous plan for a cavernous supermarket and office complex to be built in George Street, Brighton. This plan is identical to the one rejected last autumn. They seem to be working on the principle that if they submit the plan enough times they will wear down their opponents and the committee will pass it just to get rid of them.

Greenelms are also attacking the Save George Street Committee directly by attacking their alternative plan as "irrelevant diversion". The people of George Street have other ideas and are redoubling their efforts. Letters of objection to the Town Hall do have an effect. WRITE NOW and tell the Planning Committee of your objections to the wanton destruction of George St. Just a short letter will do but it must be in by 11th March. The address to write to is: Brighton Borough Planning Dept. 83, North Street, Brighton.

help!

Expectant mother needs accommodation. Either shared flat or house with other young woman. Contact Wendy at Brighton 27878

Threat to Social Work in E. Sussex

In April 1976, a Performance Review Task Force - sorry, Group - was set up by the Council's Policy and Resources Committee, which controls who gets what from the annual allocation, to investigate the Social Services Department. There was allegedly no stronger motive than idle curiosity for this, though no such previous group had been appointed and nothing similar since. They said they just wanted to chat to staff in a friendly, informal fashion, in order to come up with suggestions that would help everyone provide a better service. That's what they said anyway.

Social workers were not encouraged to hear that Cllr Green was the Group's chairman since it was Cllr Green who master-minded the vicious cuts in last year's budget. It was feared that he was seeking ammunition for a repeat performance. After all he doesn't represent Whitehawk or Moulsecoomb so it doesn't worry his electors much and it's all good for his reputation in 'out-them-down' Tory circles.

Alarm was increased by off-the-cuff statements about our 'Rolls-Royce Service' (not a reference to the Mayor's car, but a snide way of suggesting that far too much money already goes into Social Services in E. Sussex). Then in the final report came a list of recommendations devised to divide the Social Work staff. Many of these were flatly contradictory and most were totally unsupported by hard evidence. Some are just plain threats e.g. 'new ways of budgetary control ought to be developed to control spending' and 'the number of staff at headquarters should be reduced by as much as 25%'. Even more sinister is the recommendation suggesting that councillors 'play a greater role in determining the policies and priorities to be followed.' That sounds democratic BUT IS IT? Apart from the obvious stupidity of employing an expert then doing the job yourself, this would mean that the Tory-controlled Social Services Committee, whose members come largely from rural areas with less pressing social problems than Brighton and Hove, would be imposing their wishes on people living in the deprived and underprivileged urban areas. (see centre pages of this issue)

Social Services staff are currently considering the report and it will be discussed by the Soc. Ser. Committee on 1st April. We will report on developments as they occur. In the meanwhile the Social Workers likely to be affected are advised to study the report with utmost care: the people in Brighton who really need help from the Social Services have few friends or representatives among the decision-makers.

University occupation

After listening to the Vice Chancellor at a Union General Meeting on March 3rd., 600 Sussex University students voted - with only five against - to occupy the University's administrative building to protest against the proposed tuition fee increases.

The students demanded that the University authorities should refuse to implement the fee increases in order to force the Government to rescind its proposals to raise fees by massive amounts.

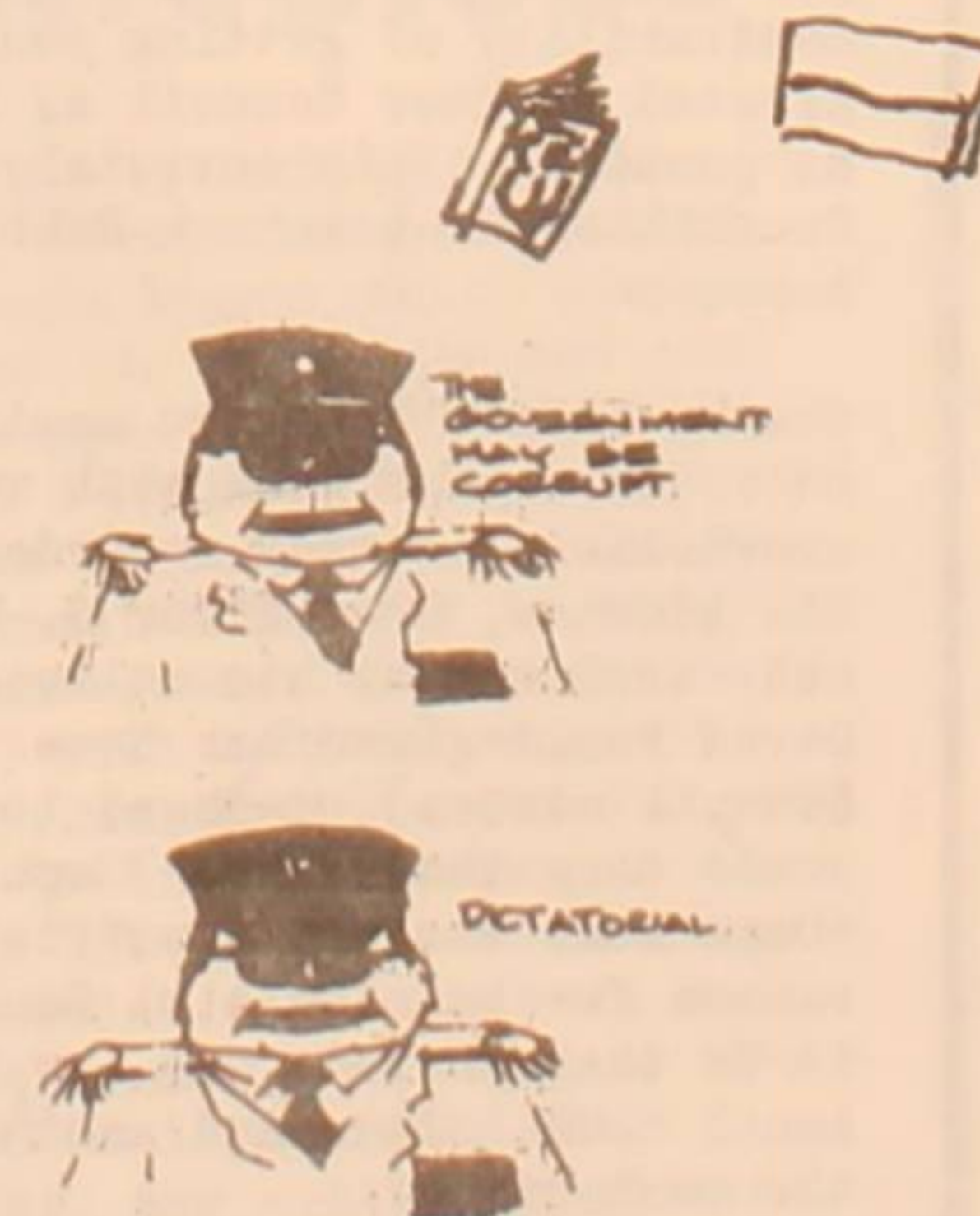
The increases, if implemented, would lead to a drastic reduction in the number of self-financing students in the University. At least 340 existing students will be affected.

The action is part of the NUS National Campaign on cuts and the students hope, by occupying the University, to win the support of all who are opposed to cuts in expenditure in the social services.

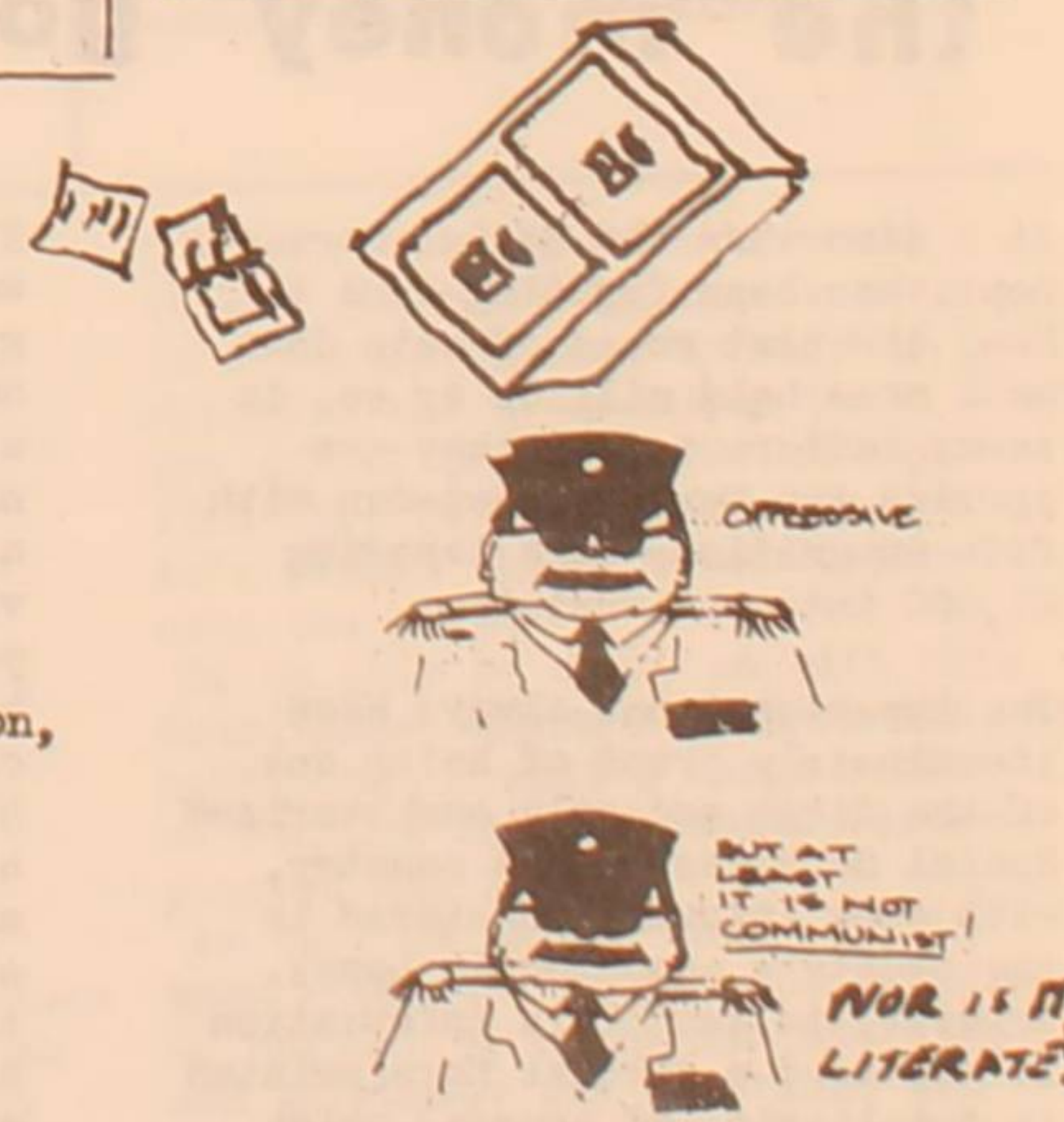
The increases would lead to further cuts in LRA expenditure, or increased rates, to pay the fees of students on mandatory awards.

By linking up in united defiance of the proposed cuts they aim to force the authorities and the Government to back down and not to implement the fee increases.

Pig Ignorant



Items taken from Duncan Campbell's flat include ALL his journalistic research and background papers. Among these were papers on housing speculators and property companies in Brighton, material collected for Brighton Voice. The police also took a number of books, including The Grapes of Wrath and, in the index made out by the police, 'The Female Unk' by Germaine Greer.



POSTER PAINT



While on the subject of the West Pier, a friend of the Voice went up to London to report on the meeting which resulted in the winding up of the West Pier Co. Together with the Argus reporter he was kept waiting outside the room where the meeting was taking

place until its conclusion. Then the Argus man was invited in to speak to company chairman Harold Poster while the entrance of our friend was barred and he was told in no uncertain terms what Mr. Poster thought of the Voice.

So overcome was the Argus reporter,



Adam Trimmingham, with his dubious honour that he produced a piece of the most nauseating sycophantic drivel ever to appear in print (even in the Argus), suitably entitled, "Pier saga cools ardour of a Brighton-loving tycoon."

Branch Lines

More doubletalk from the Chief Constable of Sussex, Mr George Terry. Coming just one year after he had the nerve to argue that a police photographer at a Brighton demo was taking general crowd scenes, when it was clear to everyone else that he had a telefoto lens and was taking "mug shots" of some of the participants, Mr Terry is now suggesting that police investigations of the political views of teachers in East Sussex (see last issue) are consistent with the police's "basic function of maintaining the Queen's peace."

No wonder that the local NCCL, to whom this comment was addressed, is dissatisfied and is pressing for more information. But it is unlikely that they will get much joy from Mr Terry, who one day moans about not having enough policemen and the next sends his Special Branch off to seek out subversives in the NUT. If they want to investigate the political views of someone, perhaps the Special Branch should start with their own Chief Constable and ask what his political motives are in sanctioning such obnoxious investigations.

The Benyon Bill

Last Friday, 25th. February, a new anti-abortion Bill introduced by Tory and SPUC supporter passed the second reading in the House of Commons. Not surprisingly, Andrew Bowden (Brighton Kemp Town) and Julien Amery (Brighton Pavilion) voted in favour of the Bill to restrict abortion.

The Bill among other things, seeks to reduce the legal time limit for abortion to 20 weeks in pregnancy; put the charity abortion agencies out of business; restrict the categories of doctors allowed to authorise abortion; and widen police powers to identify and interrogate women who have sought abortions if infringement of the law is suspected. It is estimated that Benyon's Bill will reduce the number of legal abortions by half. Benyon admitted that he would have liked to have put in a Bill actually restricting the grounds for abortion, but failing that, SPUC are now urging MPs to introduce

such an amendment now at committee stage - which may reduce the availability of abortions by 80%. Benyon like other Tory squires holds the view "If a woman doesn't want a child she can give it to others" for he is concerned about the declining population in Nordic countries and thinks that "abortion is partly to blame for this". The National Abortion Campaign fights any restriction

The National Abortion Campaign fights any restrictions on abortion facilities and this Bill will pose enormous difficulties for women - if women cannot obtain an abortion legally there will be a return to back-street abortions. NAC is working locally and nationally to organise the fight-back against the Benyon Bill, which includes a national demonstration on May 14th. Details of local activities, petitions etc. may be obtained from 57a Preston Street.



DEFEND
ABORTION
RIGHTS



That's the way the money goes....



At a time when the Social Services Dept. has been fighting hard to keep the next round of cuts down to a mere half million or so, it seems ludicrous that they can provide the Tory hatchet-men with free ammunition—like throwing £1,000 into the dustbin.

The Department has always been inordinately proud of being one of the first and only computerised Social Services in the country, with case information stored in the county's computer in Lewes. However, to feed this information in you need a special form (printed in triplicate, of course) which breaks it down into numbered codes, and it is this form that is the cause of the trouble.

Staff, given the usual advance warning of change—about 5½ minutes—greeted the news that an exciting new redesigned form was to be issued with characteristically friendly noises and gestures, but were amazed to see that the new form was virtually identical in every respect to the old one, apart from being an even more revolting pink colour. Despite this, orders came from on high that all of the old forms must be destroyed immediately, including recently-ordered stocks that had only just arrived. A Brighton administrative worker estimated the cost of this in the Brighton Division alone to be over £150—and there are six Divisions. This brings the total cost to not far short of £1,000, at a time when social workers need all the money they can get to preserve as much as possible of a deteriorating service. With such an appalling waste of resources, the vulture's chorus can only grow louder.

Argus writ.

Solicitors acting for Local Aid ex-director, Gerry Howard, have served a writ alleging libel against the Southern Publishing Co. Ltd. following an Evening Argus Opinion article published on December 7th last year.

Daylight Robbery

If you've ever been banned from driving, or if you have a couple of endorsements on your licence, you might like to reflect on the desirability of getting yourself elected to Hove Council as soon as possible. It's certainly done Councillor Cruickshank-Robb no harm.

Coming before Brighton magistrates the other week with two convictions already recorded on his licence, Councillor C.-R., ably assisted by his solicitor David Barling (another Hove Council member), managed to persuade them that doing 70mph in a 50mph zone was not a sufficient reason for banning him! Could it be that there's one law for local Councillors and another for the rest of us?

"The huge unaccountable wealth and dignity of the monarchy achieves something like the complete renunciation of wealth by a monastic order, but by opposite means. This is reason enough why the Queen should never be required to account for tax purposes."

(The Times)

the case for Cannabis

Presented by Bit-by-Bit information/help service

Enough paper has already been covered setting forth the pros and cons of cannabis use. This article intends to outline the positive aspects of cannabis and suggests ways of incorporating it into our culture rather than forcing it underground and perpetuating the myths, muddles and misused monies that the present legal situation creates.

66ME FACTS

- CANNABIS IS
- (1) Illegal in Great Britain
 - (2) Expensive (due to above)
 - (3) Very widely used (about 5M in G.B.)
 - (4) The object of a great deal of police time and public money in efforts to control its use (unsuccessfully)
 - (5) Medically acceptable

- CANNABIS IS NOT
- (1) Dangerous
 - (2) Addictive
 - (3) A corrupting influence
 - (4) A social evil



SO WHY IS IT STILL ILLEGAL?
POLITICALLY—with our so called "democratic" power structure cannabis is unacceptable because:

- (1) Those in power who know little about it and do not use it feel it may undermine our way of life and cause cultural and social upheavals were it generally available
- (2) Many individuals in positions of power have financial involvements in alcohol, tobacco and other established drugs and see cannabis as a threat to their profits.

ECONOMICALLY—cannabis suppression costs the ratepayer an awful lot of money especially in a town like Brighton that attracts the kind of people likely to use it.

cannabis legalisation, on the other hand, could raise money for the good of everyone in various ways:

1, Imported cannabis would have a similar position to alcohol and tobacco ie. duties and taxes could be levied. Since cannabis is cheaply produced at source and can be 50 times its original price on the black market legal cannabis can easily undercut black market prices and still raise an awful lot of revenue.

2, Cannabis could be grown commercially in GB., perhaps even become a nationalised industry, ensuring a consistent quality, reasonable prices to the consumer and a contribution towards our economic struggles. A good deal all round.

Medically cannabis has been used for thousands of years. It is known to:

- 1, Inhibit various forms of cancer.
- 2, prevent glaucoma
- 3, be of use in many conditions such as period and labour pains.
- 4, acts as a sedative and tranquilliser (preferable to barbiturates, mandrax, valium etc which tend to build up tolerance in the user leading to higher and higher dosage).

5, help break the nicotine habit (cannabis is not addictive in itself and there are no withdrawal symptoms when its use is stopped).

1977 should see a nationwide campaign to reform the laws relating to cannabis. We are doing our Bit (by Bit) towards the campaign and you can help us with donations and information. If you are busted or harrassed for cannabis use let us know at once (Btn 27878) and we can give advice, find legal assistance etc.

Keep us informed if you are stopped and searched even if not arrested. The Home Office is at present investigating police stop and search powers and statistics would be of use.

Keep grinning - we're winning.

GOOD NEWS

charges have been dropped and police have promised to return leaves.

There have been two or three cases in Brighton and Hove where

ALL NIGHT LEGALIZATION BENEFIT in aid of RELEASE. FRI. MARCH 11th
featuring PINK FAIRIES, TIM BLAKE, AMAZORBLADES, & others—Lights, film OLD REFECTORY
SUSSEX UNIVERSITY food, bar 7pm-8am. £1.60 adv. from Virgin, Union Shop etc. £1.80 on door.

behind the glitter

According to a recent definition from the Department of Environment, Brighton and Hove have 25 areas which can be described as badly deprived. Over 6,500 people live in these districts and their situation can be compared with that of deprived people in such places as Bolton, Blackburn and Clydebank, Leeds, Coventry, Wandsworth and Teeside.

This staggering revelation, which blows sky-high the complacency of local government and planners in East Sussex, comes from research by Sally Haltermann of the Department of Environment, and her report shows that Brighton and Hove is more deprived than Kingston-upon-Hull, Haringey, Southampton, Bristol and Cardiff.

The Haltermann study proves that Brighton and Hove should be treated as a locality which qualifies for inner urban relief. It doesn't get this at the moment because the area is divided up and split between two County Councils. This split hides the true extent of the deprivation and means that the people who should be getting more help from the central government are not getting it. They are therefore MORE DEPRIVED THAN EVER.

1 wages

Other studies point in the same direction. A comparison of average weekly wage levels between Brighton and Hove and other areas shows that wage earners can expect to earn almost £5 per week less in Sussex compared with the national average. This figure rises to £10 a week less when compared to the more industrialised zones of the country mentioned above. Indeed out of 68 regions Sussex is in the bottom 10 of wage earnings. In addition a local study of employment in the East Sussex area found that over 50% of workers were earning £25-40 per week, whereas in the South East region and in Britain as a whole over 50% of workers earn over £40 per week.

2 unemployment

As for unemployment, since February 1975 the Brighton area has had a higher rate of unemployment than Britain as a whole. This is remarkable because the Brighton area is part of the South East region which has one of the lowest rates of unemployment in the country. Clearly the Brighton area can be justifiably considered as a depressed area of the South East if not even of Britain as a whole.'



3 cost of living

Cost of living is known to be high in Brighton and Hove. Partly due to its proximity to London the area is one of expensive housing.

Also the hotel and catering industry generally commands low wages and creates seasonal unemployment. This is important when considering deprivation as it means that in general people have less money to buy goods and services to provide for their own welfare and indicates a lower level of demand and hence lower prosperity in the service industries of the area which provide 80% of the jobs in Brighton and Hove.

4 stress

Levels of demand upon the Social Services have also been investigated and found to be heavy in Brighton and Hove. Sussex spends more on its Social Services than any other county, and a disproportionate amount is required by Brighton and Hove.

5 handicapped

Then if you look at cases of physical handicap the figures are just as serious. In fact they are startling. In Brighton one person in every sixteen suffers physical impairment, and in Hove it is 1 in every 14. Many of these cope by relying on relatives and friends, but 77% are deemed to be 'in need of service'. Against the national figure of 20% Hove contains 33% and Brighton 26% of people over pensionable age. Many of them are living in small converted dwellings such as bedsits. This relatively older population means that Brighton and Hove have approximately 7% less people of working age to support the elderly.

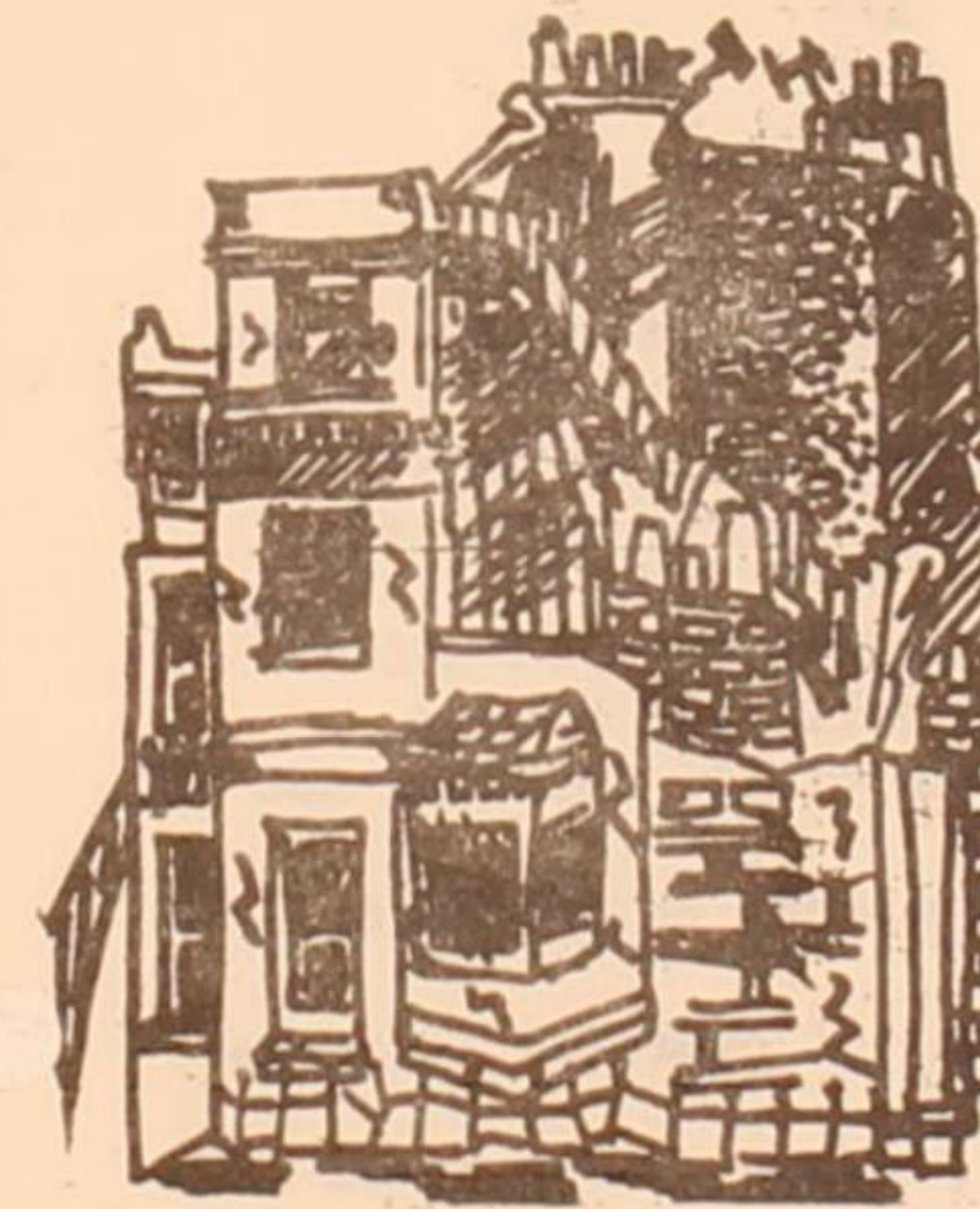
WE PRINT HERE THE RESULTS OF RECENT RESEARCH INTO THE STATE OF BRIGHTON AND HOVE BEHIND THE FACADE OF RICHES AND LEISURE. THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING ALL THE INFORMATION TOGETHER IS ALESTAIR BAILEY, BUT ANY ENQUIRIES INTO THIS ARTICLE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE VOICE WHO TAKE ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FIGURES QUOTED AND THE INTERPRETATIONS MADE.

6 kids in care

The number of children in care also indicates that the area contains considerable family stress. In March 1974 Brighton, with a population of 163,860, was caring for 480 children. Only 19 other county boroughs cared for more. In this respect Brighton is once again comparable to areas which we normally think of as far more deprived than our own town, e.g. Sunderland, Brent, Leeds, Haringey, Southampton and Bristol.

7 housing

In the housing field, there are often near-slum conditions. 22,000 dwellings in Brighton did not come up to the 12 point standard in the Department of Environment's circular 50/72, and 11,500 households were in areas of housing concern. In Hove 12,000 were not up to the 12 point standard, and 3,700 households were in areas of housing concern.



8 resources

Despite all this, it is often asserted that Brighton and Hove are wealthy enough to solve their own problems without needing to attract funds from outside the area. In terms of private wealth that is probably true but you can hardly get the Dyke Road millionaires to part with their money for deprived areas in the centre of town. And as for public resources Brighton and Hove have no more funds than areas traditionally thought of as deprived. Seen in this way Brighton and Hove desperately need a programme of government financed urban relief.

- ~ BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARE AMONG THE WORST 43 AREAS IN THE COUNTRY IN TERMS OF DEPRIVATION
- ~ BRIGHTON AND HOVE DOES NOT GET THE FINANCIAL HELP THEY NEED BECAUSE THEY ARE SPLIT BETWEEN TWO LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
- ~ THE SCANDAL OF LOW WAGES AND BAD HOUSING NOTED HERE IS SOMETHING THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT. AND LOCAL PEOPLE CAN ACT TO DEMAND IT. THEY CAN HAVE NO ILLUSIONS NOW.

conclusion

In conclusion, all these studies, based on official figures, show that Brighton and Hove as a whole is in need of the kind of help given to other urban areas where people are known to be deprived. Few people recognise Brighton and Hove as one of these areas: the fact would certainly amaze the casual visitor. Those of us who live here will not be so surprised but the extent of the deprivation may not have been apparent even to those working in the Social Services. Comparisons with other towns made in these studies certainly leaves no room for doubt.



BEND OVER BOWDEN

It was only to be expected that Andrew Bowden would quickly join the 'blame the teachers' herd. He takes up and drops causes as frequently as ladies of fashion change their hemlines.

He has apparently been told that some teachers are eating school meals without either paying for them or doing a dinner duty. Who are these teachers? If they exist his informant has only to tell the Area Education Office, which is the proper vehicle for any investigation of local school affairs. His informant had no need to go to Mr. Bowden unless political publicity was the main consideration.

Headteachers are having to fight to keep their present level of dinner help and every free meal has to be accounted for. Economy is properly being balanced against the need for order and safety during the dinner hour. Often teachers do dinner duty when they would far rather have a rest from children's chatter and prepare for the afternoon's lessons in quiet.

Teacher's free meals are a necessary tool in providing children with school meals and training in basic table courtesy, just as Mr. Bowden's free travel from Brighton to Westminster is a tool which enables him to operate as an M.P. I presume that he is using the tool economically and would expect him to make the same assumption about teachers.

Unless Mr. Bowden can show evidence of misuse of free meals by teachers he might find himself left with school meal egg on his face.

Val Neves
(N.B. Ms Neves is writing in a personal capacity and not as Secretary of the Brighton N.U.T.)

focus on: GEORGE COOPER

Any discussion of working class movements in Brighton since the war would be incomplete without a mention of George Cooper, until recently the President of the Brighton Trades Council, and an unflinching activist in every field of the local union movement.

A native of Brighton, George did not become politically active until he moved to Birmingham, a move prompted by family reasons and the low wages in Brighton - Allen West were paying £2.50 per week compared to the national average of £5. The engineering unions were much stronger in the Midlands and his political ability was soon spotted. He was asked along to the Branch meeting and was immediately co-opted onto the Branch Council, and within a few months he was on 9 committees and the local Trades Council.

It was at this time that he first came into contact with the Communist Party through its paper The Daily Worker where he first found his own ideas in print. Communist analysis of events and institutions expressed George Cooper's feelings. Marxism filled the gaps and gave structure to his politics. He joined the party in 1938, but drifted away during the war. Afterwards he joined the Labour Party, but left very soon: its politics did not fit him.

In the late 1940's George returned to Brighton with the idea of slowing down his political activity and spending more time with his family. His reputation had travelled before him and within a few days of his arrival he found himself at a Union meeting.

Allen West were once again behind the rest of the country in conditions - this time $5\frac{1}{2}$ instead of a 5 day week. He called for strike action and found the other workers calling him a fascist and a dictator - he was sent to Coventry for a week. This was a bitter homecoming for George, giving him a taste of the extreme weakness of the union movement in Brighton. He was determined to change things and singlehandedly worked to bring most of the Allen West employees up to the National Agreement - from less than £6 to £8.50pw.

'Black Friday'

He continued his interest in the Trades Council and in 1965 became President. This first year saw the eruption of the GBR strike - one of the longest and most bitter in Brighton's labour history. GBR were taking on for a compulsory

Poly Rebellion

For the first time ever, Brighton Polytechnic witnessed an occupation of the administration on all three sites. The reason behind the normally 'passive' Poly students taking militant action was the massive increase in tuition fees for both home and overseas students.

	Undergraduate		Postgraduate	
	Home	Overseas	Home	Overseas
1976-7	183	416	183	416
1977-8	500	750	750	850

Adult education courses will more than double in cost and many courses covered by discretionary awards are in danger of being closed down.

The Polytechnic which has about 700 overseas students and about 400 self-financing students has acquired a reputation of being the least active body of students in town.

However, on Wednesday, February 10th, the Lewes Road site occupied and the Art College followed the next day. The following Monday the teacher training college at Falmer, after initially deciding not to occupy, voted by a large majority to occupy.

Four days later the Polytechnic Authorities conceded on the major demands:

- 1) No quota system i.e. restriction on the number of overseas students at the Polytechnic.
- 2) No self-financing student in the middle of his/her course would have to leave because they couldn't afford the new fees.
- 3) The active opposition of the director to any fees increases locally and nationally.

The lesson is fairly obvious - that without direct action nothing would have been achieved

Tony Greenstein

72 hour week and sacked immediately 14 people who had joined the Hosiery Workers Union. A strike was called with the Trades Council working for support and fundraising. It effectively organised the strike for the ten months it was on, the union officials coming from Leicester to Brighton once a month. About half the 14 found other work and in December the union persuaded the workers to accept compensation - but no jobs. George calls this "Brighton's Black Friday" and makes no bones about his absolute disgust at this sellout of the workers' interests by an absentee union executive. He saw this as continuing evidence of the weakness of unions in Brighton, and as showing the vital importance of working to develop the local labour movement.

towards a fascist state

It is in this need for development on many fronts that George sees the role of the Trades Council. The problems for the unions now lie in their failure to consider the reaction of capitalism as a whole. The unions are isolating themselves into a more purely economic role without considering the implications of this. The Trades Councils, as the centre of local union activity must help in this increasing of awareness by emphasising the need

to attend to all kinds of problems being faced by its members - wages, conditions, housing, welfare, education, national and international problems. Unions must learn to recognise the threat to their existence even if they do not apparently affect their members.

Today this means fighting the cuts, wherever they may fall, and the Criminal Trespass Law. It is this law which George feels shows the way fascism is working in Britain today. The media has been vital in stirring up the public's indignation against squatters in particular while the reality of the bill is elsewhere. It removes more of the few remaining possibilities for people to express their anger at the kind of system that leaves them homeless or jobless. It is to show that there is union resistance to the developing police state that George wants to see the Trades Council active in support for one of its members - Duncan Campbell, a victim of one of the most blatant attempts by the police to demonstrate its power and to frighten opposition.

George Cooper has found time and again that he has gone against the official policies of union and parties to which he has belonged. He sees himself mostly as a rebel, someone who realised at an early age that all was not well in the order of things, and who has worked ever since to change that order.

SHORT BACK AND SIDES



Quote from a social worker: "We spend more time telling people what we can't do for them than doing what we can do."

Once again the Cuts Season is here, when our political masters (egged on by the government) sharpen the axe and look around for more services that can go without losing them any votes.

The sum required when inflation is considered, simply to maintain the current year's services, is £15,743,000; current estimates for next year are £15,217,400 - a loss of £525,600 by the part of the community least able to bear it, and least able to protest.

The Tory-controlled Social Services Committee's policy, laid down in October 1975 and maintained through thick and thin for at least an hour and a half, is as follows:

- 1) That the Department concentrates first on providing those services that it alone can provide and maintains potential for helping voluntary organisations.
- 2) That the Department tries to maintain its field and domiciliary services.

Centre piece

Brighton's sparkling new Conference Centre is now revealed as an even bigger white elephant than its opponents had ever dared suggest. According to the Council's Resorts and Conference Services Director, Tony Hewison, the estimated benefit to Brighton from conferences and exhibitions in 1977 will be £10m compared with £9.2m in 1976. But the cost of the Centre to ratepayers this year is likely to be more than £1.1m which means that we shall be subsidising the thing to the tune of at least £300,000. Moreover, any assessment of the value of conferences to the town fails to take account of where the money goes to. It certainly doesn't go to the people but to the restaurant and hotel owners, i.e. people like AVP Industries who have such a high concern for the wellbeing of Brighton that they allow the West Pier to fall apart. Meanwhile, it looks as if organisations using the Centre are not going to be charged for the privilege.....

NALGO Slams Argus

In a strongly worded article in the latest NALGO union newsletter, East Sussex branch secretary Ron Parsons attacks the Evening Argus for "shallow reporting, distortion of facts and scurrilous, generalised and unsupported attacks" on local government workers. These are regarded by the editor, he says, as "idle, tea-swilling layabouts."

"What annoys me most about the editorials of the Argus is the illogical and almost megalomaniacal attitude to local government. They want massive cuts in expenditure but not in services. Broadly, they want all pen-pushers sacked; it is never explained how the necessary administration and support services are to function without them. Presumably teachers and social workers, firemen and policemen, can spend their time on administration, rather than teaching, social working, etc."

He concludes by criticising the paper's lack of interest in publicising opposing points of view and calls for a boycott of the paper by trades unionists to secure a change of policy.

3) That the specialist children's accommodation continue to receive priority.

So much for the theory - what about the reality? As usual with the Tories, so-called principles have been the first things to go in the

past and they've made sure that they don't come creeping back later. So the real 1) 2) 3) reads: 1) £14,000 increase in charges for Meals on Wheels for the elderly and a cut of £37,500 in the Home Help service for the old and disabled. 2) £67,500 saved by reducing the employment and secondment of social work trainees and by making less effort to fill vacancies. 3) £18,400 saved by keeping a new unit closed at a hostel for mentally handicapped children.

What a ridiculous farce the whole business is! The only surprising feature of the 1977-8 estimates is that no-one has suggested (yet) that the whole Department be closed down, thus saving £15,000,000 plus - think how pleased the ratepayers would be then. We are getting closer and closer to the point where the facade is all that is left; everything behind is crumbling away. Dynamic, computerised East Sussex Social Services is fast becoming the smug smile of the Tory Cheshire cat.

LETTER



Dear Brighton Voice,

On 21st January 1977, I launched a Charity (one man operated) on Radio Brighton. I appealed for radios, record players, tape-recorders and televisions. They do not have to be in working condition but if they are then it's all to the good.

I repair or recondition these items and then distribute them to the aged or handicapped (all handicapped people qualify irrespective of age) - free. I will also repair radios record players or tape-recorders for these same people free of charge or give them another in exchange. I am not financed by anyone at all and once again I do all this free.

I am a very poor council house tenant and the only wage earner in a family of six. My wife is disabled and my children (4 of them) are all of school age. You may find this rather surprising but it's always the poor who try to help the poor.

To be able to carry on with this charitable scheme I need continuous publicity. I want a large number of radios, tape-recorders, record-players and TV's.

As well as this I also want to know about the people who require my service as a one-man charity, and of course any donations of cash or saleable goods to raise funds.

My phone number is Bton 691713 - this is the number to ring for donations or my free services.

Brian Wing
53, Challey Road,
Moulsecomb, Brighton
Sussex.

PROPERTY IS THEFT

Housing; AN ANARCHIST APPROACH. by Colin Ward (Published by Freedom Press. 182p. Price £1 25)

This book for me is one of the most important to be published on the subject since Ambrose and Colenutt's "Property Machine", and for sheer idealism made practical, rates with his own earlier work "Tenants Take Over". The book, like most of his publications, is not heavyweight or complex and can easily be understood by layperson or expert. It is a collection of his reflections on "Housing" written and spoken over a period of 30 years, which neatly developed and edited make a cohesive whole.

The book breaks up into 5 main areas: 1) Direct Action for Houses
2) Human needs in Housing 3) "Socialism" in Self-help or self-management
4) Housing by Professionals or People 5) Dweller or Tenant Control.

Interesting for the "Voice" readers might be his point of historical departure. There are frequent references to the Brighton Vigilantes- the "Ex - Servicemen's Secret Committee", which was said to have as many as 400 members. These activists stealthily placed homeless working-class families in the town's hotels - which were kept empty awaiting profitable summer trade. The first recorded act of vigilante squatting was in June 1945 in Round Hill St. These activities achieved widespread support with enquiries about how to act from all over the country. The Vigilantes realised quickly the need for mass direct action, attending conferences and organising open-air meetings to spread the word. The group's secretary encouraged others in his address to a crowd in July 1945:

"If you see a house, take it and let the law do its damndest. We have started a movement here which we hope will spread over the length and breadth of the land". What better encouragement could we ask for?

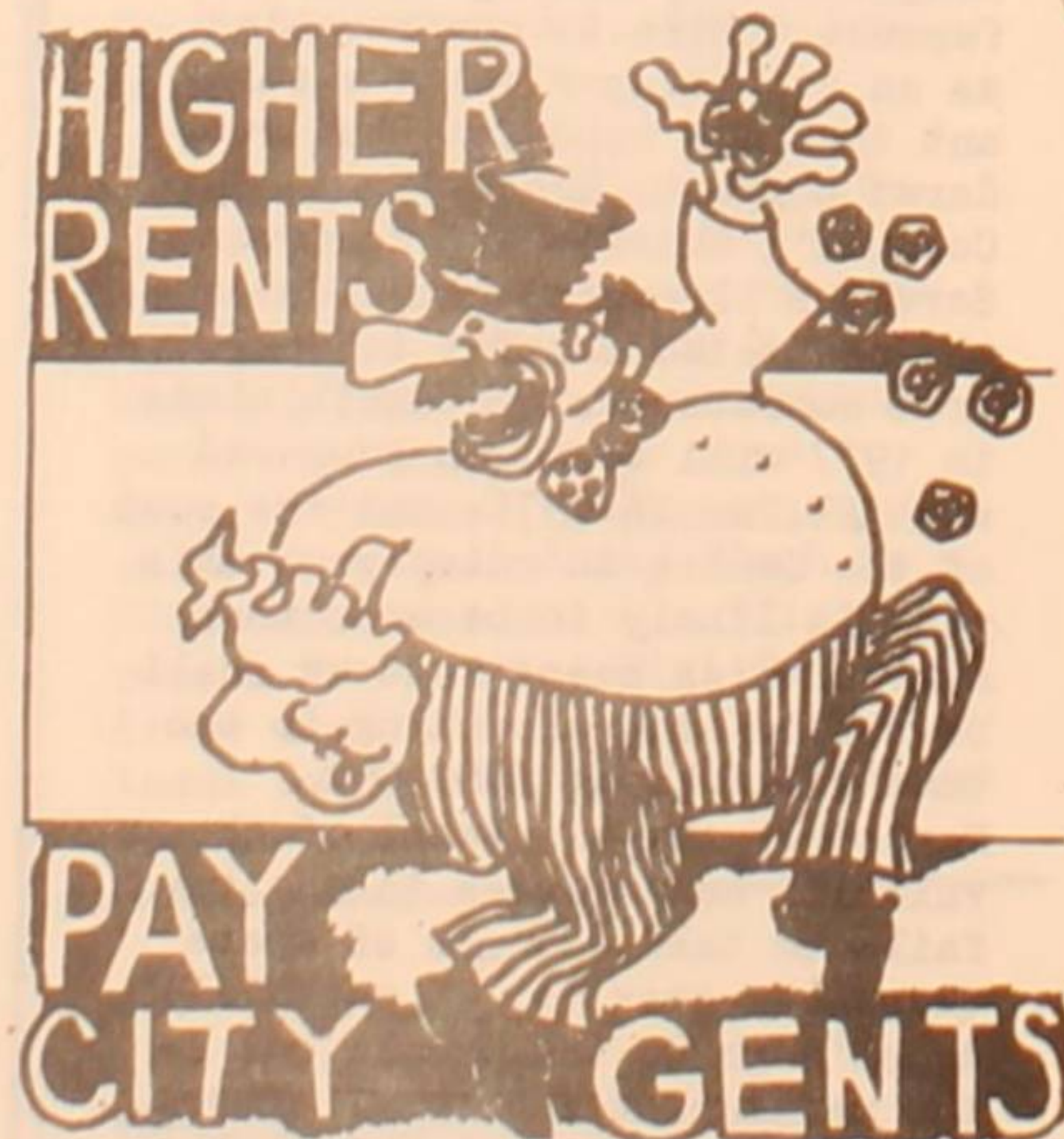
Ward does well to point to the dangers of leadership and political party infiltration. The arrest of the five communists said to have inspired the London Squatting outbreak dissipated the movement's strength which in reality lay in its spontaneous action. Today, too often we look to figure-heads to parry us. Perhaps there are 40-50,000 squatters throughout the country; everyday they are questioning housing authoritarianism and offering ways out of the country's housing dilemma.

Ward shows us what it is in squatting that is anarchist and revolutionary. It is because we are appropriating a resource that is unequally distributed and equally distributing it according to need. We do this without recourse to complex organisation. We organise on simple co-operative, mutualist basis, repair and rehabilitation and we retain control (where possible) over the appropriated housing - which we view as a social resource to be used but not to produce endless profit.

Elsewhere in the book Colin Ward shows us the delights in the spontaneous Squatter cities in the Third World; encourages us to form a third arm in housing Co-ownerships, co-operatives, gives us models and indicates the practicality of it all. He tries to convince us of the ability that Council Tenants have to purchase their estates and run them themselves. Personally I agree with the principle of self-management, but I'd rather free the council tenant of the financial burden after all, how are those poor tenants who exist as such only because of rebates, be expected to help buy their estate. "Free Tenants from Landlords....sack Council management now."

What I like most about Ward's approach is his ability to make the non-anarchist, anarchist, and turn Reformists into Revolutionaries. Who else would make Lord Goodman a serious social critic when he says

"It is only in a society where we have a government working day and night on our behalf that the housing problems are insoluble."



In case you hadn't noticed, the local fuzz are now driving about in unmarked yellow Triumph Dolomites.

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&HFC 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 BUS USERS ACTION GROUP Secretary, 78 Holmes Avenue, Hove. 722596.

*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 202930 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.

COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS SUNDAY MARCH 20th

All articles etc. to the VOICE at 7, Victoria Rd. Brighton.

*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.

POETRY AT OPEN Thur 8pm

*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 10.00-1.00 Mon-Fri and 6.30-8.30 Weds eves at Resources Centre, Presbyterian Church Hall, North Rd. Tel 27612.

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

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

WORK HAZARDS GROUP. Information and resources (including Hazards Bulletin) on health and safety at work. 68 Compton Rd. Brighton.

PAPERS

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

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

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

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

Reproduction of BRIGHTON VOICE articles, in whole or in part, is welcomed, as a contribution to the spreading of information and development of public debate but all rights are reserved with respect to the publication as a whole. No part of this or any other publication by Pendkarn Ltd may be microfilmed without the prior permission of the copyright owner. Printed and Published by Pendkarn Ltd, 7, Victoria Rd Brighton.