Conference By-lines

BACK PAGE ~

The Liberals could be mistaken for a Local Government Party. The most effective presence at their conference was Cllr.Grieves and his Assoction of Liberal Councillors, and they had lots of ideas and literature on how to win elections. Sometimes they work; it was on their basically 'community politics' that David Rogers ousted Theobald in St.Nicholas Brighton.

The Liberals were painfully desterete for what Clement Freud called, with natural Liberal shymess, the 'forz-yard smell of real power at lest'. It was the dominant factor in all their lecisions, and seemed, in some subtle way, to get the tone of the Assembly. Liberals attract all the freskt in the political spectrum (and more nower to them for that) but this year there seemed to be noticeably fewer. The party was 'more reasonsible' not it felt nearer to power.

The Liberals' vounted juestion and answer section ('we are the only ores who do it') was just as stagemanaged as the other conferences. Destrits an apportance of open-neca the questions were not fairly apportioned very fer Young Libs were called) and those put were more often thin not singly not answered.

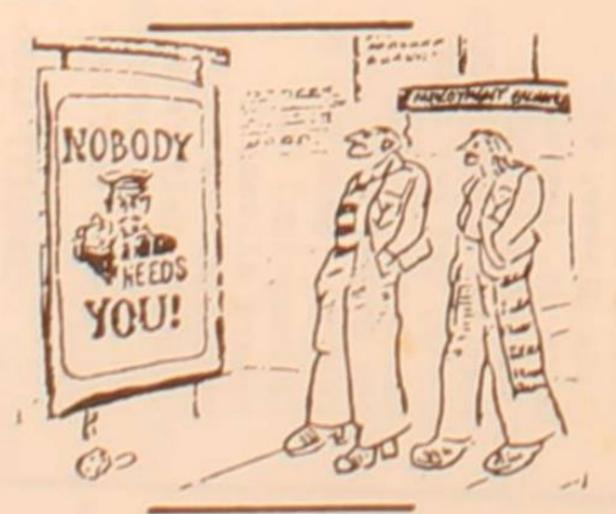
Labs r's usual conferenceotener of the Tribune Group 'Any Questions' session was even worse. They took in lots of guestions, but never read a single one out ! The big boys on the platform merely spoke to a topic, which got the audience pretty angry. Curious how frightened politicians are of the direct encounter with the real world outside the smoke-filled rooms.

6 One of the major causes of behind-the-scenes anger at the Labour conference is the number of resolutions not allowed by the Arrangements Committee to be discussed, mostly under the rule that prevents discussion of any one topic more than once in 3 years, no matter how urgent. When it comes to bureaucrats there is no bureaucrat like the Labour bureaucrat.

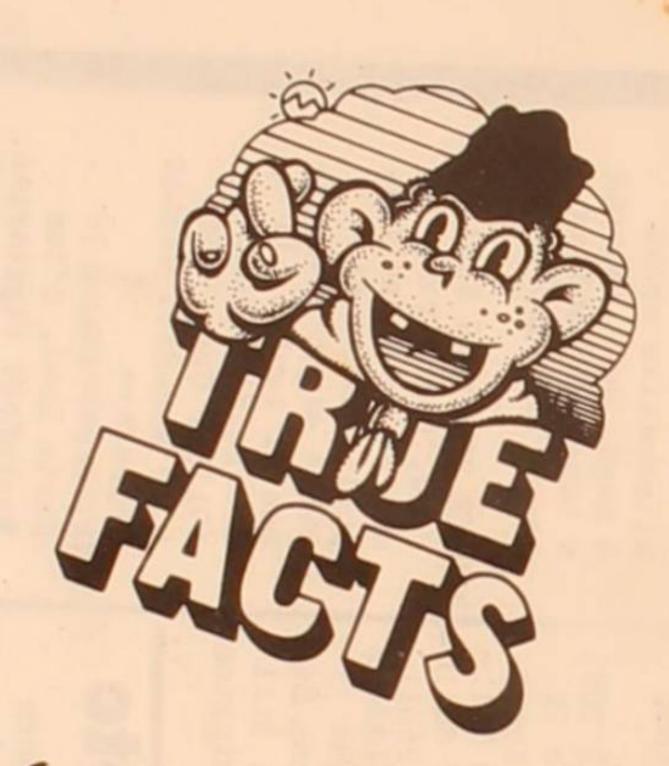
Inflation has hit the Labour 6 Party itself. When they were last here most of the frings meetings were free. This year the average charge is 30p, and some go up to a pound (with a cup of tea and a biscuit thrown in as a sweetener).

The machine at Transport House has taken an extraordinarily hard line on tickets and stalls this year. Rumour has it that they were encouraged in this by the Sussex police and 'Security' Roberts, in whose bailiwick the Centre is. No stalls at all have been allowed inside the Centre, except for that greatest non-seller of the 70s, the official 'Labour Weekly'. And they prefer to have banks of visitors seats empty rather than let the public in to see the performing politicians.

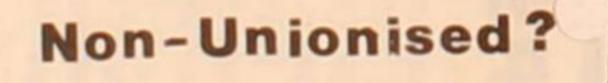
It is astonishing, and a good comment on our political machinery, that neither the Liberals nor the Labour party discussed unemployment meaningfully. The Liberals decided by 17 votes to avoid the topic altogether, and Labour had a very low-key lon't-rock-the-loat discussion. Even the Socialist Workers Party's Right to Work demonstrators outside the hall were pale imitations compared to the numbers and hassles outside the T.U.C at the Dome last year. Everyone seems to-have accepted 12 million out of work.



How very appropriate are the seating arrangements for Labour in the Brighton Centre. Solidly filling the centre of the hill sit the Trade Unions with their block votes, whilst around the fringes of the floor are scattered the constituency party delegates. When a vote is called -and it often splits into union/party linesa flutter of distant and diffuse hands is all the parties can show, but the unions fill all the near and middle distance with a secming forest of waving cards, and win hands up.



It says something about the Labour Party that it gave new converts Peter Hain and his buddy such a very antipathetic reception when they appeared on a Labour fringe meeting platform on Workers'Control. Hain in his turn seemed deperately embarrassed about the whole business - like a curate who had wondered into a brothel by mistake.



There are a large number of non-unionised workplaces in Brighton and there is a need for strong trade union action around the issue. In response to this need Brighton Trades Council have set up a special subcommittee to organise support for those workers who wish to form unions in their workplaces. The sub-committee aims to work with Brighton Work Hazards Group who have been active around the issue this summer. The next issue of the Voice will carry a special feature on the conditions in some of Brighton's non-unionised sweat-shops.

ALLOTMENTS TO LET

A sign has been put up on the Wilson Avenue allotment site advertising plots to let. We suggest that all of you who had given up hope of ever getting an allotment apply NOW to the Parks and Gardens Dept. We don't want them to start s'art saying that demand for plots has dried up.



OCT - NOV 77

GREAT INCENTIVE to finish Marina?

11/

Negotiations on behalf of the 250 construction workers employed on the Marina site continue. The

mployers, Taylor Woodrow, however, don't seem too keen on bringing them to a speedy conclusion. In May the management imposed an incentive/bonus scheme, without the consent of the workers, which resulted in some cases in men taking home £26.00 a week LESS than before the scheme was introduced. This issue is still outstanding and the men are demanding improvements in the payments under the scheme. Despite provocations against the picket line, despite extra payments of £4 to those who didn't at first come out on strike and despite management intransigence, the men and their stewards are fighting on for a successful conclusion to the dispute. (CONTD. ON PAGE THREE)

> ourselves carry a two-page article on their racist base in this issue. (see pp.4-5.) But we didn't know where their press actually was. Now we do know -so does Bowden, the Argus and several other papers, all listed at the top of her letter. It may not be news to some of them but the letter is right in calling For action against the NF publications. What are they going to do about it ? As for 27a Sutherland Rd, we checked it out, and sure enough the 'workshop' there belongs to the Hancocka, militant NE members who own the Heidelberg Hotel. No surprise there.

a Tory voter too, she says) we can assure her that people are already very concerned about the NF. We

PRESS

Minutes before going to press

we received a copy of a letter add-

ressed to Andrew Bowden, Tory M.P.

for Kemptown . It 'reveals' that

the National Front have a'secret

printing press' at 27a Sutherland

Road which produces 'anti-Jewish

tracts' saying that 'Hitler was a

good man and did not kill the Jews'.

The lady who wrote the letter hopes

that Bowden 'will do something about

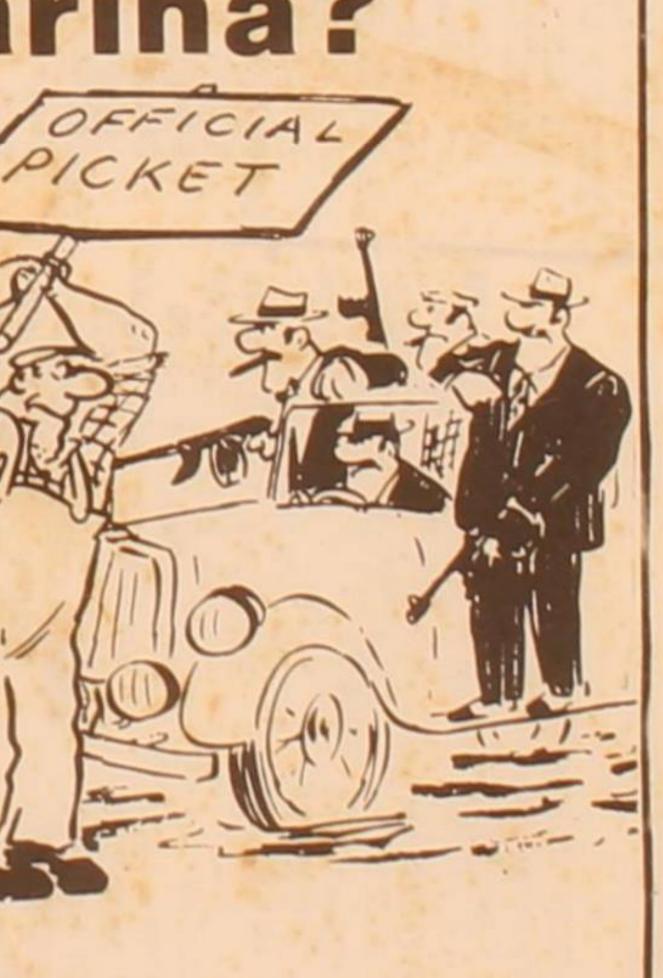
them' because the tracts are 'a dis-

grace to this country and this town'.

Whoever this 'patriot' is (she's

LATE NEWS







No 41

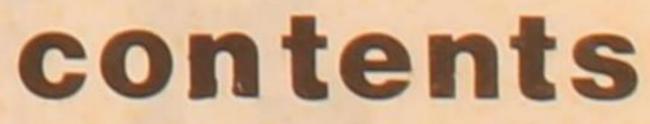
10p





On Tuesday, October 4th, in pouring rain and a biting wind, about 70 adults and children protested at Pelham House, Lewes, against the possibility that ALL nursery education in Brighton may be stopped by September 1975. This proposal, which is one of many education cuts before the East Sussex County Council, may never be carried out, but the protesting parents, teachers and children got nothing from the Committee they were lobbying, except an outrageous denunciation of the protest by Tory Cllr.Burton who pretended that the parents and kids were 'politically motivated' !!

And so the cut is still on the Council agenda and will be discussed by the full Council on October 25. The angry and alarmed parents, who had collected well over 2,000 signatures against the cut, in only a few days, will now be staging a massive protest in Lewes on that day. This is a priority for everyone.



3	Marina strike
4-5	National front special
6	Womens/Rights centres.
7-10	Council housing.
211	Quintin Barry interview.
12	Reviews.
13	Preston Circus.
14	Creed sellout.
Baok	Conference by-lines.

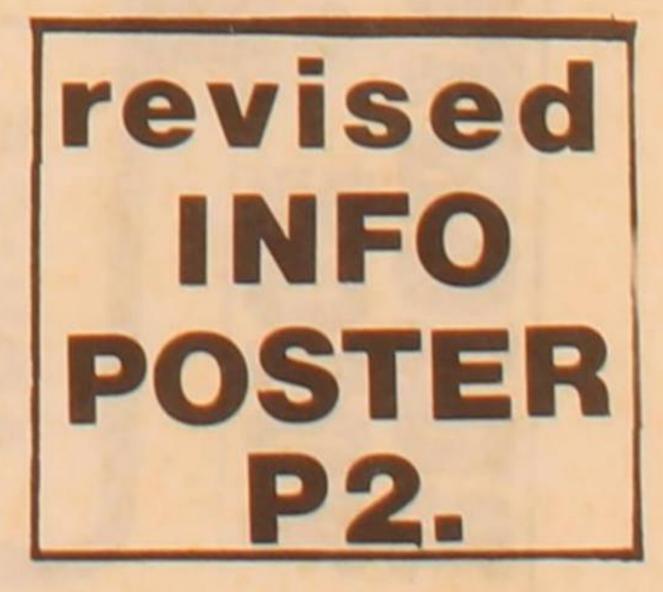


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BRIGHT POLOE	ADVICE	ACE CONCERN Old people's welfare. Mon-Fri 10.00 to 12.30 & 2.00-4.00. 57 Ditchling Rd, B'ton. 683275. BIT-BY-BIT Info and help service: 7 Victoria

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(CONTD.FROM FRONT PAGE)

Up until May of this year the management at the Marina site had the men split up into two groups paying each group differently.Not content with this, Taylor Woodrow introduced this new scheme, with the result that the men were now earning less for the same work. Within a month the Joint Shop Stewards Committee requested a meeting with T&G and UCATT Grea officials. A meeting reselted in a written undertaking from the management that the men would not lose any more money. The stewards reluctantly agreed to this. It only took three weeks for them to realise that they were being taken for mugs.So much faith did the stewards have in the word of the company that they checked the time sheets themselves over a period of two months and on one occasion found that a gang of 12 men had not been paid for 168 hours in one week alone !

By the end of August they'd had enough and on 3 consecutive days they requested a meeting with the Project Manager and each time they were put off. Finally he agreed to a meeting on Tuesday 30 August, projected for 9.30 a.m. The stewards came in to work that morning only to find that he had gone home at 7.30 !! This decidedly odd haviour on the part of the Pro-Ject Manager quite naturally led to a mass meeting of the men on the same day. The men decided on a one hour token stoppage to take place the next day from 11 a.m. to noon. The management was informed.

Returning from the meeting with the management the two senior stewards reported that no progress had been made. The management had refused to talk to the stewards. Discussions, they insisted, would only take place with area union representatives.Faced with the impossibility of making any progress the men then decided to strike indefinitely.

Thursday saw a meeting of the two senior shop stewards, two area union organisers and management. After 55 hours of discussions the management came to the amazing conclusion that they coulon t possibly talk while the men were on strike !

The site Director now contact ed the regional organisers of the unions involved. A meeting was arranged and to the surgrice of the unions the man gement failed to turn

The unions were willing to give strike pay back-dated to the first day of the strike.

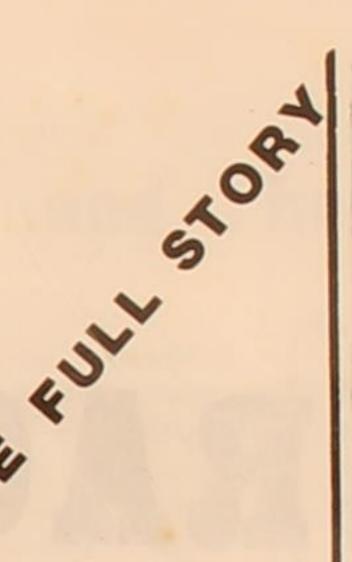
When the strike started the company were paying £4 a week to those who didn't come out. Now, into the second week of the strike 90% of those who had remained at work were out on strike.

Pickets were out from the time the strike started, and at this stage it appears that the police only appeared when requested to do so by the company. Despite denials it does appear that management became increasingly upset by the successes of the pickets and resorted to the police to help them out, but the only vehicle that got through was a lorry from Greenhams (a Taylor-Woodrow subsidiary). The driver of this vehicle was told to move over by Greenhams manager so that he could drive it through. The police became a permanent feature on the picket line when the strike was made official.

concessions

A meeting on Tuesday 13th September, however, resulted in a narrow majority in favour of returning to work. The shop stewards and regional organisers had succeeded in getting the company to return to the level of payments obtainable before May, and to include cleaners, tea-boys, and plant operators at this level and had come to an arrangement whereby the senior shop stewards were to be allowed as much time as they needed to fulfil their duties. They were also to have meetings with the management every 2 weeks. Sub-contract workers were not to be taken on until the senior stewards had enquired as to whether any of the men currently employed had the skill required. This was an important concession as some of the men have had to give up skills in the past in order to take up work on this site. Furthermore men who have still not joined one of the two unions will be encoureged to do so by the management - or at the least they won't be encouraged not to join. Two meetings on consecutive Mondays have still not resolved the problem of improvement in the incentive/bonus payments. The shop

stewards believe that unless another meeting is forthcoming during this up. The strike was now made official. first week of October they will have



no alternative but to resort once again to strike action. Conciliation is regarded as unlikely. If another strike is held the men are now sure of strike pay from the start.

Talking to the senior shop stewards was an enlightening experience. They are convinced that Taylor Woodrow are not the trusted, and at the same time are full of praise for the two local TandG and UCATT officials who have been involved in the dispute 20 times in the last 3 months.

Contrary to what Radio Brighton suggests the men are not trying to break the pay code.Perhaps if they showed some interest in what the men themselves have to say they might produce more truthful reporting. By contrast the Argus reporter came in for praise.



LETTER

Dear Brighton Voice,

Your reference to how little the 'caring, sharing Co-op' really cares about basic human freedoms (Vcice, no. 40) prompts me to write to you about a recent incident at the Brighton London Road Co-op involving our 11 year-old son.

After being accused by an assistant of stealing a toy, he was questioned in an office for 20 minutes to half an hour by three adults before he was able to convince them that he had bought the toy elsewhere.

During this time no attempt was made to contact us. In an interview with the Co-op's assostant security officer we discovered that there are no established procedures for dealing with children accused of shoplifting. In fact what the Co-op seems to be doing with child suspects (including those who are innocent, as our son was) is to put them through a fairly lengthy grilling in the presence of several hostile adults as a form of rough and ready deterrent.

This treatment of children seems to us to be quite contrary to the spirit, if not the letter, of the Children and Young Persons Act.

> Yours sincerely, Liz Osmond. 8 Tower Road, Brighton.

Another letter on p 14



R.F.

FAR TOO MUCE ATTENTION IS PAID TO THE NATIONAL FRONT - OF THE WRONG SORT. Academics and journalists write an account of the NF's activities and call it an anti-fascist stand, when all it does is to make the NF into an interesting political phenomenon and give it free publicity. They constantly remind the British liberal that the NF is a legal party and that it has a right to be heard, and then they quickly add 'Of course we're not in favour of its policies.

Well - let academics and high class journalists sit on their own barbedwire fences. THE FACT THAT THEY WON'T ADMIT IS THAT THE NATIONAL FRONT IS BREAKING THE LAW EVERY DAY AND IS THEREFORE A CRIMINAL AS WELL AS A FASCIST ORGANISATION. AND THE CRIME IT COMMITS IS THE WORST CRIME IN MCDERN HISTORY - RACIALISM. EMPITTERED, VENEMCUS, BRUTAL RACIALISM. It attacks all blacks, coloureds, Jews, mixed marriages and all organisations which believe in racial equality and freedom. Its aim is to poison the minds of people who have fallen on hard times or who are struggling in some way or other by telling them a complete lie - that their hardship is due to immigration. All their statistics are lies, but there's just e.ough people around who will believe anything to keep the party afloat. AND THERE'S MONEY TO BE MADE OUT OF RACIALISM, PLENTY OF MONEY. IT COMES FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND WHITE RHODESIA AND FROM ALL LEFT-OVER SUPPORTERS OF NAZISM AND FASCISM IN EUROPE AND AMERICA.



IN BRIGHTON the NF has been around as long as anywhere, but we have no intention of giving its history, except in one respect - to point out that its pioneers, James Doyle, Douglas Gordon White and Colonel E.F.Welch along with the Hancock family, were all basically racialists before they started adding fancy political theories to their loctrine of hate. Their first moverent was the Racial Preservation Society (RFS) and preservation means the elimination or at the very least the permanent slavery of all races they decide are 'inferior'. No wonder South Africa gives them money.

Take Douglas Gordon White who lives in Stone Street, off Preston Street. Everyone knows that he has handled all kinds of financial and business deals with the regimes of apartheid.

White Power

Take the Hancock family who run a 'Whites only' hotel called the Heidelberg in Lower Rock Gardens, they have received every possible variety of Fascist and Racist visitor from Africa and Europe, and are one of the main channels of money coming into the NF. They have enough to

fund a printing press on one of their properties which churns out most of the NF propaganda for the South East, tracts and pamphlets which should rightly be prosecuted under the Race Relations Act.



Take James Doyle, wealthy antique dealer with a shop in the Lanes. He is said to have invested over £100,000 in racial organisation and propaganda. But then he makes no secret of it.He has always been one of the more open of the Brighton racial fanatics and has allowed himself and his huge country estates to be used for any racialist activity that's going. What we don't exactly know is how many of his antique dealer pals are in there with him. Our source in the Lanes says that the trade is stiff with NF supporters, but since there's no solidarity among them it can't be called an NF monopoly. Some of them are still merely Monday Club enthusiasts.



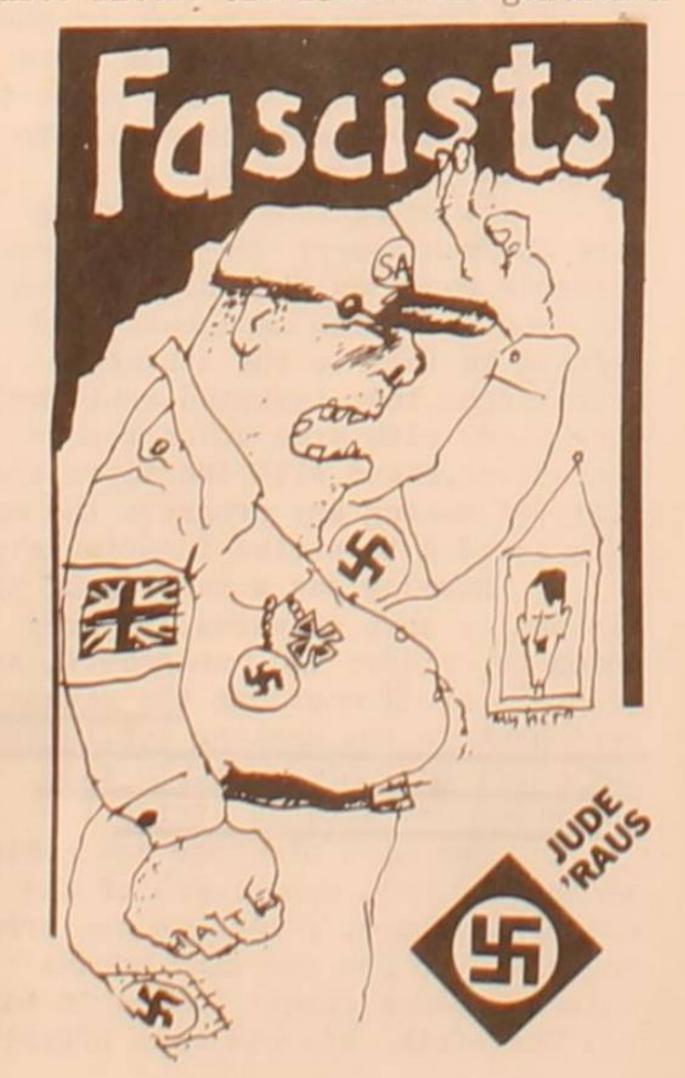
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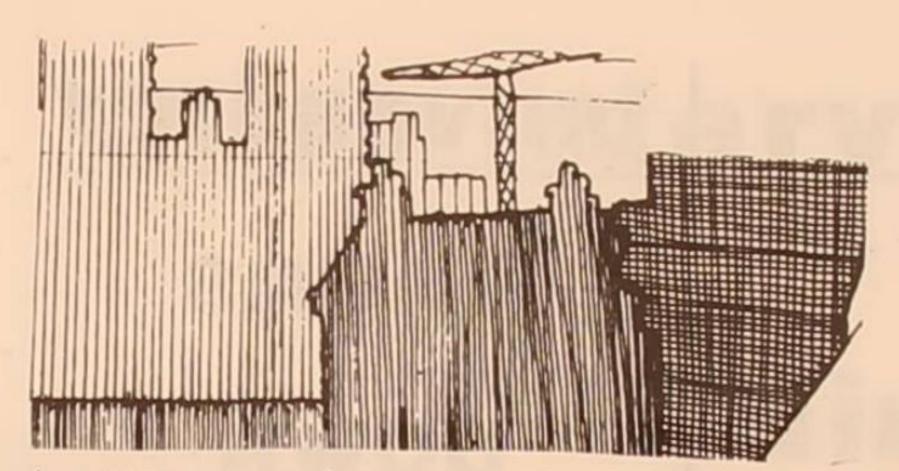




Worthing

Then move along the coast in either direction. WORTHING first. Here Oliver C.Gilbert, Charlwood Lodge, , Lansdowne Rd, Worthing, is the receiver and distributor of all NF literature and organiser of NF infiltration into 'respectable' Worthing society. His father was one of Mosley's henchmen, and he himself started as a brownshirt in the 30s. He now advertises Vodka for the illustrated magazines and is very wealthy. His tactics have found a ready audience in Worthing's Tory strongholds, even if he has been denounced by official Tory spokesmen. First of all it was the Worthing and Sussex debating societies that he took over, then he infiltrated the local bridge clubs and even the British Legion. A typical night at a bridge club would be one at which the players would pause half way through their games to listen to an NF speech, would nod their heads in agreement, contribute to the funds and go on with their game. It has been suggested by one political authority in Worthing that if the NF could field a sympathetic character at the general election he or she might easily pull 40% of the Tory vote. All the nice little old ladies and gentlemen

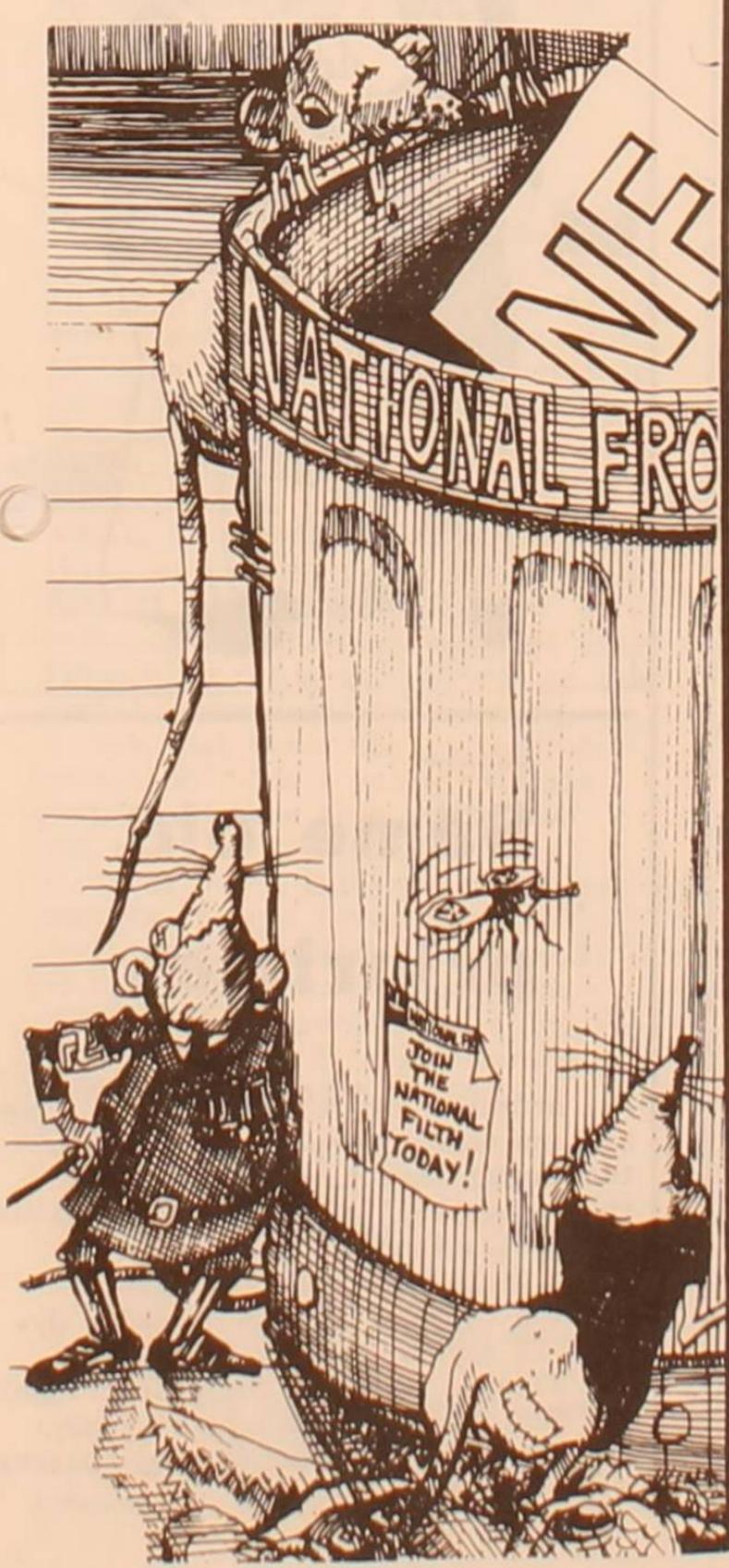




(contd.from p.4.)

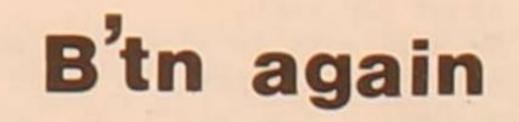
who have never met a black in their lives, except as servants in Rhodesia, but who hate them as if they have done them some personal harm. Such is the frenzy and irrationality of racialism. And where would the powerful accountants firm of Spofforth in Richmond Rd. be in all this ? Masses of money there, and plenty of dealings with the NF. Well worth a call if you've got shares in apartheid.

And if you want to visit the home of white racism , South Africa itself, there's the 1820 Settlers' Association of South Africa, 10 First Avenue, Worthing. Cheap flights available to see the next wave of police brutality against unarmed, black kids. And what comes back on the specially chartered planes. Just souvenirs ? Ring Worthing 205685 to find out.



Hastings

Go East and in Hastings you'll find H.E.H.Gabriel who has organised cricket tours to South Africa and is an NF stalwart, while the racialist movement hypocritically called something like Campaign for Freedom in Sport has one of its main headquarters in Eastbourne. Contact the NF there and you will find Albert Elder who is also in the antique trade - this time in rare books. First editions fetch a lot of money and in some circles they would doubtless pay a lot for a rare edition of Mein Kampf (with or without the author's dedication).

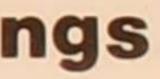


Back in Brighton the issue is now clear. The reason why the NF is strongest in the South-East, where there are very few immigrants outside London, is that it thrives on a combination of embittered fanatics and wealthy contacts with White racist regimes in Africa. The South African Connection. The Rhodesian connection (bypassing sanctions). The Fascist connection. The Nazi connection. If you've got any of these connections A and you think the Tory party is not and doing enough to protect your prejudices and your money, you join the NF or help it financially.

> The proof is in the Anglo-Rhodesian Society. On the surface a harmless lot of ageing colonials watching the sun go down on Ian Smith with a mixture of nostalgia and resentment. But if you check the national list of branch chairmen and secretaries you find that the majority are well-known supporters of the NF. Who's the Chairman in Brighton ? D, Gordon White Esq.

The NF have got a lot of small men 'out front' to take the flak. In Brighton they're people like Harold Jones and Robert Beaumont, alias Harvey Holford, Rodney Nixon and Sylvia Shaw - all of them candidates for the local elections with their names in the paper and their addresses out in the open (see Voice No.38). They also have their thugs and bully boys who try to intimidate their opposition but only show up the NF's Nazi heritage ven more clearly.

N.F.(cont)



But it's the money behind it all which needs the attention of the press, the government and the public prosecutor. How much of it comes from sanction breaking, financial fiddles and straight exploitation of black workers ?? We haven't the figures, but it's time someone had, not least because ALL THAT MONEY IS DEDICATED TO STIRRING RACIAL HATRED IN DIRECT DEFIANCE OF THE RACE RELATIONS ACT AND BASIC HUMAN VALUES. THE RACIAL CRIMES OF THE NF MUST BE STOPPED NOW

THE LAW: Under section 70 of the Race Relations Act 1976, it is an offence to publish or listribute any written matter likely to stir up racial hatred. WHY then haven't the Brighton police taken action against the NF press in the town ?

As for the streets our slogan now as in the 1930s :-

Pass

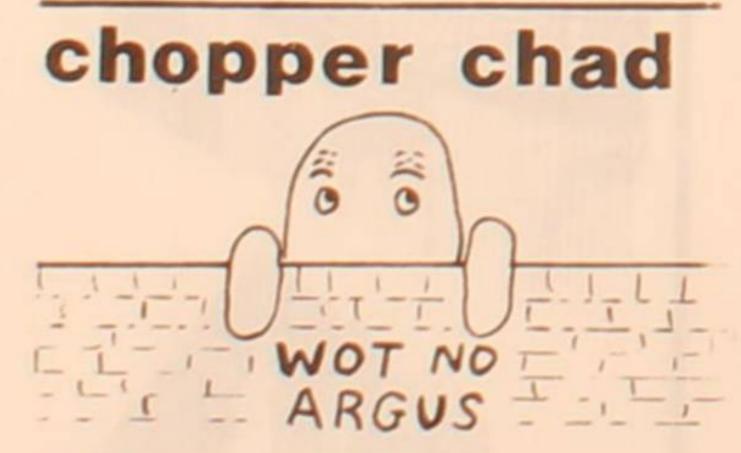
They Will Not



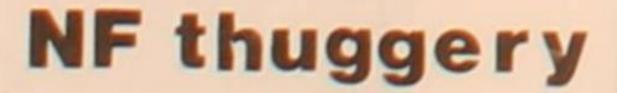
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The Brighton Rights Centre has just moved into its new premises in The Institute, Queens Square, keeping the old telephone number: Brighton 202492. The collective is confident that, having finally found a new home, it will be able to coninue and expand its activities in . orighton. The move follows a long ttle to retain its previous preses in Prince Albert Street. After inse three and a half day hearing judge, while feeling that the ncil's actions were "deplorable", ; obliged, in law, to order possion. Although the Centre has premises, it has still to raise costs of the case which amounted £350. An appeal has been started which the Trades Council and the sociation of Technical, Managerial j Scientific Staff (ASTMS), as ell as several individuals, have iready contributed. Any contriputions will, therefore, be more than gratefully received.

The Centre's immediate plans are to continue the public advica sessions at the same intere, Thursday 12.30-2.30 5.30-7.30. The collective will also be involved in running a number of welfare rights courses similar to that run last winter in the Resources Centre. Community groups that are interested in having a course mounted for their members should get in touch.



Evening Argus middle management are shaking in their boots after the appointment of a Mr. Chadwick as general manager of S.P.C. Transferred from another section of Westminster Press, he gained the nickmane "Chopper" for the way he streamlined the office staff - so S.F.C. executives are wondering who he will chop here.



We hear that the paper seller in Churchill Square has been threatened by the NF and as a result has stopped selling Socialist Worker.

Brighton Women's Centre has been based in the annexe of the Resource Centre for nearly a year now, though we are still looking for permanent premises of our own.

We are open from Monday to Friday between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. During this time women can call in for pregnancy tests - which are done on the spot, confidentially, and with immediate results. While these are free, we appreciate donations as tests cost us about 50p each.

We also want to give help and The Women's Centre acts as a con-

support on other matters which concern women - e.g. abortion, contraception, legal rights, gay rights, welfare information, and advice for battered or raped women. Also if women want to call for a chat we will be pleased to see them. tact point for other groups, e.g., Women's Liberation, Brighton Lesbian Group, Women Fight Rape Group, and others. We need a centre to coordinate and communicate these activities, but we also think it is essential for women to have somewhere to go where they can be sure of being only with women and where they will find female solidarity and sisterhood.

Women can be isolated in the home and under pressure from advertisers' images of femininity and motherhood. By meeting with other women and talking about these feelings, women can begin to realise the pressures society puts on us to conform to unrealistic roles which suit society's needs but not our own.





in sin

WOMENS

UNIVERSITY

BACKS

DOWN

Victory for inter-union solidarity at the University of Sussex. The University authorities have said they are not going ahead with the redundancies of estates and maintenance workers threatened earlier this summer. The fight now is to get these workers fully and democratically represented on the University bodies which control their jobs.



Same old priorities

Brighton and East Sussex say they have no money to spend ! Throughout the summer they have been wasting the ratepayers' money with ridiculous reorganisations of the traffic at Seven Dials and round the back of Preston Circus. Was it needed ? No. Does it improve the traffic ? No. Has it made it safer for pedestrians? No. Then what the hell is it for? Anything to divert money from housing and education.

196,166 Council and New Town houses were sold in England and Wales between 1960-75 (includes nearly 23,000 built for sale)

Brighton Council began selling off its houses in 1953, and a substantial number have been disposed of; since 1968 alone, nearly 500 properties have gone. These houses have been swallowed up by the private market and are lost to the community.

The Brighton housing waiting list now totals well over 1,000 (not counting those who haven't fulfilled the three-year residence qualification) at a time when new building has virtually ceased. How have we allowed this to happen? How can we allow it to go on? There has been little protest over the years, due not only to the relative weakness of the left in the area, but also, perhaps, to the widespread confusion as to the true effects of this policy. There is an erroneous belief that selling off bits of the estates will somehow create a "mixed" community and that this will improve the areas and make up for the years of Council neglect.

This is in fact quite untrue, as any visitor to (for instance) Moulsecoomb can see for himself; this Voice Special, in conjunction with the Shelter Community Action Team, brings out the real implications of a sales policy, the real effects on the community, and particularly on its poorer and least powerful members. Make no mistake, council house sales are designed to emphasise the ghetto aspect of the estates; the better-off tenants in the better houses may benefit, but what is left will become a dustbin of poverty and deprivation for those unable to get out.

SELLING COUNCIL HOUSES **MEANS:**

Higher rents.longer waiting & transfer lists.increased public spending · less choice · reduced mobility · greater social division · creating council ghettos · loss of jobs in direct works

the few wealthier tenants who buy do so at the expense

Introduction

The continued expansion and the improvement of council housing is essential. It is the only means by which all working class families will get decent housing at a reasonable cost, and based on what they want and need and not on their ability to pay.

The key advantage of council housing is that all the costs of the land, building and maintaining all the houses is shared by all the tenants. Rents of older houses more than cover their costs and this surplus is used to keep down the rents of more costly newer houses. Council housing is only paid for once and there are no private landlords extracting profits because of their control over this scarce resource.

Profit motive

This is in stark contrast to the private housing market in which housing is provided on the basis of the profit motive and allocated solely on the ability to pay. Owneroccupied houses, once built, continue to be sold at market prices in spite of the fact that their original cost will have been at least partly paid by the previous owner.

Many houses are paid for several times over. The owner who sells makes a profit at the expense of the new occupier. This keeps prices in the private market above the level that many people can afford. Such a system can never provide decent housing at reasonable cost for all working class families.

Asset stripping

There are now over 6 million council houses and flats in Britain which, despite many faults, are a major national asset. Attempts to sell off this asset are not new. The Conservatives first thought of it in the late 1920s within a few years of the start of council housebuilding. They have taken every opportunity to try to sell off as many council houses as possible whenever they have been in power - 104,000 council houses were sold off in 1972 and '73 which is more than the total number of new council houses built in Britain either in 1972, 73 or 74.

Now a new campaign is under way at a time when -

Over HALF of the so-called 'priority areas' outside London, where new council housebuilding is being concentrated as part of the Labour Government's spending cuts, are selling existing council houses, and building for sale.

- lists in England alone Conservative councils control 60% of all council
- houses in England and Wales.

Massive cuts What is particularly important about the current campaign is that it comes at the same time, and is part of, the massive cutback in council housing by the Labour Government:

- recent increases.
- the latter by over £250m.
- from 9,000 to 6,000 starts a month.
- many areas.
- pushed
- being expanded.



of ALL tenants and those waiting for a council house.

OCAL AUTHO

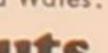
COV

25

COUNCIL

COMPLE

there are over 1,100,000 families on council waiting



*Rents up an average of £2.50 a week at current prices (1976) within the next two years - that's on top of

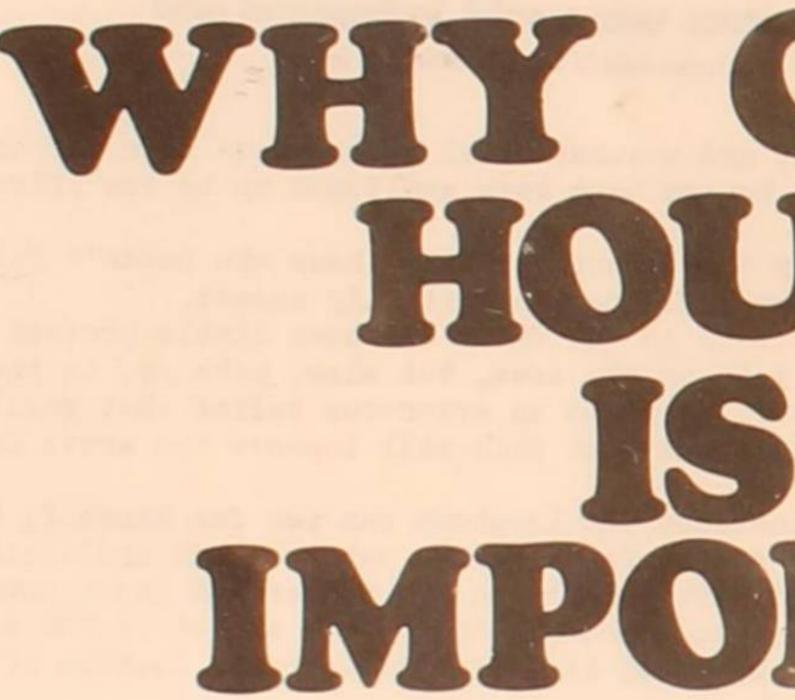
* Money for repairs and improvements has been slashed

Current levels of council housebuilding have been cut

Municipalisation of privately owned houses, usually tenanted properties, has been drastically curtailed. * Standards of council houses are being reduced in

* New forms of tenure like equity sharing are being

* Land earmarked for council housing is being sold off for private housing and build-for-sale schemes are



Sharing the costs

8

The system of council housing is based on two important socialist principles -

the pooling and sharing of all the costs between all the tenants, and

the building and allocation of houses and flats based on the need for accommodation.

The pooling and sharing of costs means that new council houses can continually be added to the stock and older houses improved, and the rents of these houses kept to a much lower and more equitable level than they would otherwise be, (and much lower than in the private market). While the rents of many older properties have in effect more than paid for these houses, tenants are paying for the use of their houses and for repairs, management and improvements, and helping to keep down the rents of newer houses.

Failure of private market

Experience shows over and over again that the private market - even when it has been allowed an almost completely free hand - simply cannot provide decent houses for everyone. The cost of housing is high and profits can only be made out of providing housing for richer people. And because private housing is shared out on the basis of profit, private enterprise will only provide houses while it is profitable to do so.

Isolation of the owner occupier

Owner occupation isolates the individual and fragments working closs interests. Owner occupiers do face some of the same problems as tenants - high interest rates, rising building costs, land speculation - all of which push up the cost of housing. However, the financial position of each owner varies so much that collective action is very difficult to organise. For example, there have only been two recorded mortgage strikes in this country. The opposite is true for council tenants. They have a common interest and a common landlord and this has been the basis of many working class gains in the past.

I'm alright Jack!

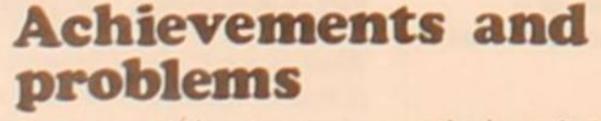
Some families do want to buy their council houses. They generally have to work and save hard to do so. But they are attracted to owner-occupation mainly by the faults in council housing - the lack of choice over the kind of home and location, the lack of freedom and control over the home itself, and not simply by the longer-term financial advantages owner-occupation could bring to them individually.

But these are problems which can and must be solved within council housing.

Tenants who buy their council houses, by adopting an attitude of self-interest, directly contribute to a worsening of the housing situation for their children (who will have to seek their own accommodation before they will inherit the house their parents own), friends and relatives and all other council tenants and those seeking and needing a council house,

WHY COUNCIL HOUSING IMPORTANT





Some council housing is amongst the best-designed and most attractive housing in the country, with open space and community facilities. Many of the council houses built in the 1920s are still very popular with tenants - proving that it pays both socially and financially to design to high standards. Set against these achievements is the fact that some council housing has been badly designed and/or cheaply built, and these have become the 'problem' estates of today. Tenants are still often treated as though they are

the 'undeserving poor'. But council housing will always be hamstrung while it has to operate alongside the private market. This is the reason

for many of its problems and inadequacies. Council housing has to compete for land in the highly profitable private land market.

Money for council housing has to be borrowed on the private finance market - on average, 62p out of every £1 of rent you pay goes in interest payments to the financiers. There is still profit to be made from building council housing.

In addition, various governments since 1919, except for some brief periods (when it has been expanded), have reduced the role of council housing from one of providing for general needs to one which provided only for rehousing from slum clearance areas. The money to manage and repair existing council housing has also been cut back.

Socialist housing policy needed

Clearly there is a need for a socialist housing policy. Council housing must be expanded to provide for general needs. Everyone has the right to a decent home at a reasonable rent. Council housing must be improved, both in terms of its planning and design ie. higher standards, more facilities, and its management. Much greater freedom and control for tenants is feasible and necessary within a publicly owned housing system. Many changes can be made NOW but the major changes can only be made when there is effective public control of all the banks and financial institutions and the construction and building industry together with the nationalisation of all the land

COUNCIL HOUSES AND LAND MUST NOT BE SOLD

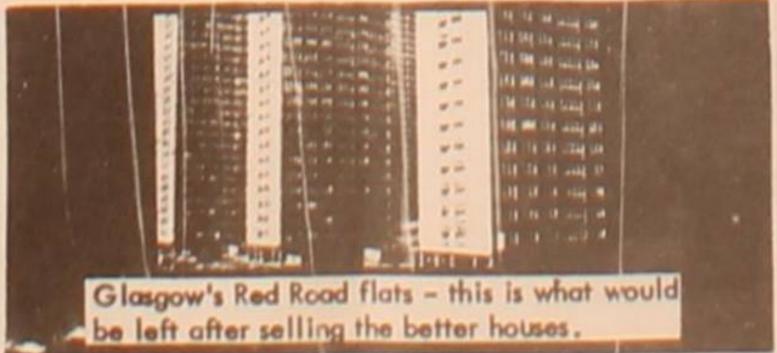
Council houses and land earmarked for council housing must not be sold because : it will mean that council housing will be pushed into a

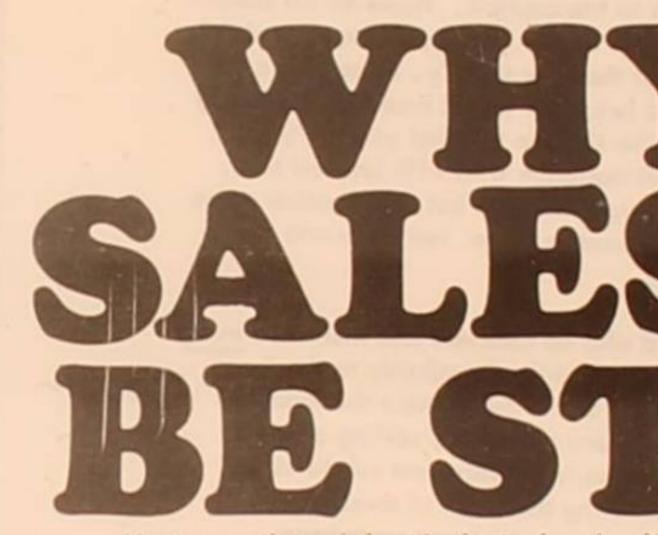
welfare role - a safety net only meant for the very poor. The continued expansion of owner occupation will mean that nearly all families will be at the mercy of the private market - a system that thrives on scarcity and provides houses for profit, not when and where they are actually needed.

2 council housing e only system ch allocates housing based on people's needs and demands, and not solely on their ability to pay. The aim should be to provide enough council housing for everyone who wants it, which will help to remove the restrictive criteria on which it is currently allocated.

3 tenants associations and federartions form an important part of the struggle to get radical changes and gains for working class families. Tenants have taken action not only to get decent housing but also more community facilities, better public transport and other services as well as supporting trade unionists in their campaigns. The expansion of owner occupation means a move away from tenants organisation and their ability to take action.

4 to sell off council houses to individuals or private organisations for private profit threatens all the principles of public ownership and the struggle for a socialist society. Nearly all the attributes of owner occupation eg. greater security, more control over your own home, greater opportunity to have a house and garden, can be abieved by reforms within council housing and a sales policy is a denial of this fact.





Having explained the ideological and political reasons why council houses must not be sold we now want to examine the practical effects of sales. Those who advocate sales generally put forward practical reasons such as reducing public spending, or improving 'social balance', and often state that sales don't have any adverse effect on rents, waiting and transfer lists etc. In this section we examine all these issues and show that the sale of council houses and land WILL have an adverse effect on ALL these issues and will benefit only a few wealthier tenants. All remaining tenants and all those seeking a council house will have to wait longer and pay more for less choice and worse conditions.

Those who advocate selling always claim that waiting and transfer lists and rehousing from clearance areas won't be affected because those who buy are sitting tenants and their houses wouldn't be available for re-letting anyway. However there are 3 reasons why sales will mean longer waiting and transfer lists:

I Evidence from Birmingham shows that on average 4% of owners of 'council' houses sell their homes each year once the 5 year resale restriction ends. In other words the house is sold on the private market and it is lost from the council's stock of houses available for renting.

So the council loses a large number of vacancies each year and over a period of 25 years the vacancy loss will equal the number of properties sold. In Birmingham this means that because the council sold 10,000 council houses between 1966-72 then over a 25 year period 10,000

households seeking to rent from the local authority will be unable to do so.1

Even if a council is building new council houses for rent the sale of council houses means that the council has less accommodation than it would otherwise have.

Consequently people living in clearance areas, individual unfit houses and those on the waiting list may well have to WAIT LONGER. Homeless families will have even less chance of getting a council house.

Less choice

2 Since it is the better council houses which are sold, then -

- * families with children in high rise flats
- * families who are overcrowded
- * those who need rehousing into houses for medical reasons
- * the elderly wanting to move from high rise flats * those who prefer houses to flats

will have to WAIT LONGER on the transfer list because there will be fewer houses and more restricted choice of the kind of accommodation, its condition and location.

Councils often try to limit the number of houses sold in any one area, eg Leicester allows up to 50% in 8 geographical areas of the city, in an attempt to limit the adverse effects on the waiting and transfer lists. However this is a meaningless sop because it is highly unlikely that the council could sell half of all its houses and in any case each sale adversely affects the waiting and transfer lists.

Ability to pay

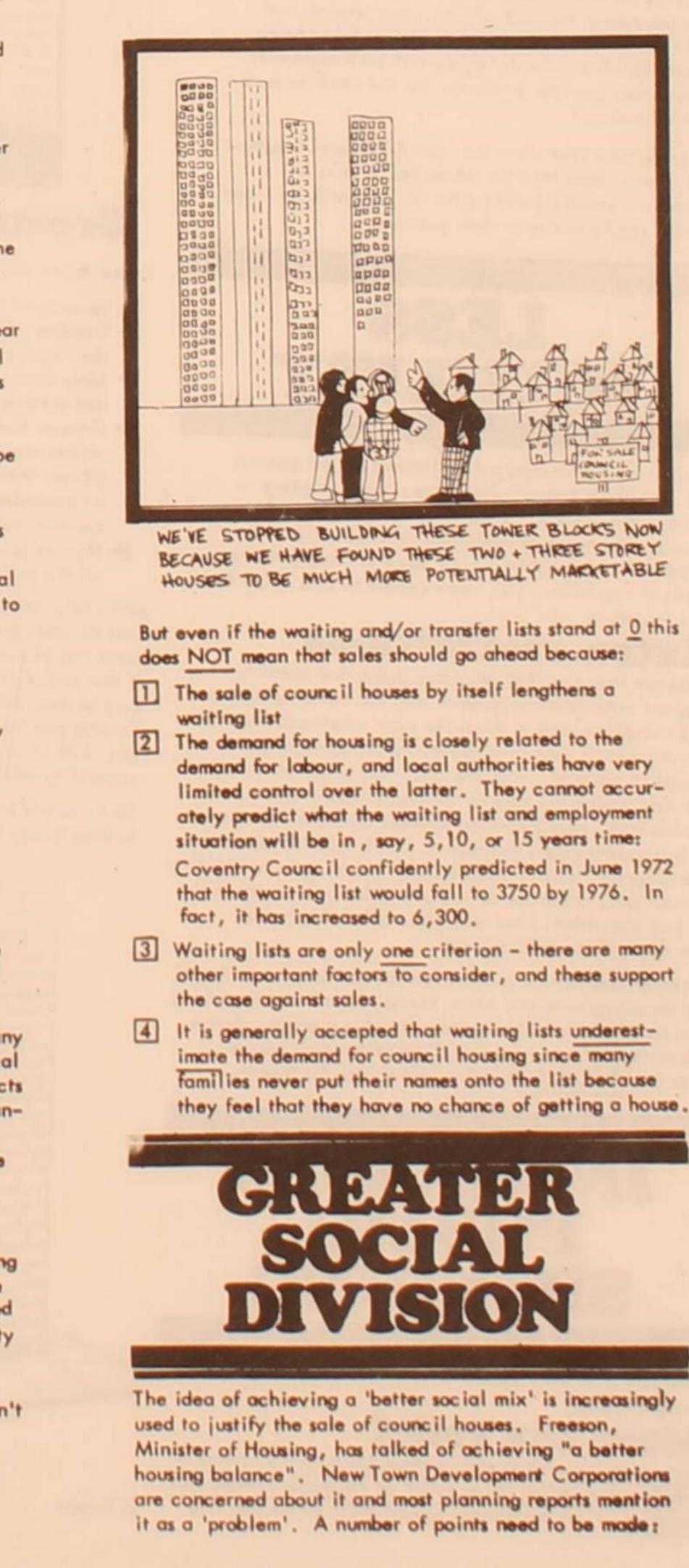
3 Selling off land, building-for-sale and equity sharing schemes also affect the waiting and transfer lists because the criterion used to allocate these houses is not the need for a home or a transfer, but is based solely on the ability to pay - a factor not even considered for application to the waiting list. This means that some people jump the queue at the expense of those who don't want and/or can't afford to buy.

To make matters worse, those councils which are selling off and building-for-sale are also those with massive waiting and transfer lists.



WHY ALL SALES MUST F. STOPPED

9



There is no magic proportion of tenants and owners with different jobs, incomes and backgrounds which forms the right 'social mix'. It's nearly always used to get more middle class people into generally working class areas rarely if ever the other way round.

The Tories talk about 'social balance' when owner occupiers are involved, yet when the same people are council tenants in the same houses with the same income, they are "featherbedded state scroungers".

In many areas, e.g. Newcastle, Nottingham, councils are trying hard to sell tenants those houses in private housing areas which councils acquired on an individual basis or whole estates bought to bale out private builders. It seems that it's perfectly alright to have owner occupiers in the middle of council estates but not alright to have council tenants amongst owner occupiers.

Council housing has tenants with a wide range of jobs, income, etc, and that's the way it should be. By offering some tenants the chance to be owner occupiers does nothing for 'social balance' - it only changes the tenure of the house. Far from achieving 'balance', the sale of council houses will lead in the longer term to greater division because the better houses and estates will be creamed-off, leaving councils with the rest concentrated in inner areas.

'Social balance' is often used as a smokescreen in declining areas to cover up the fact that people leave these areas because of the lack of jobs, poor services and facilities, etc, not because they cannot buy a house. (Private builders naturally agree with such arguments because they provide 'evidence' for the need for more private housing.)

It's quite clear that when the 'social balance' argument is used it only shows that the advocates of sales are desperately seeking justification for such policies - and showing the hypocrisy of their position.

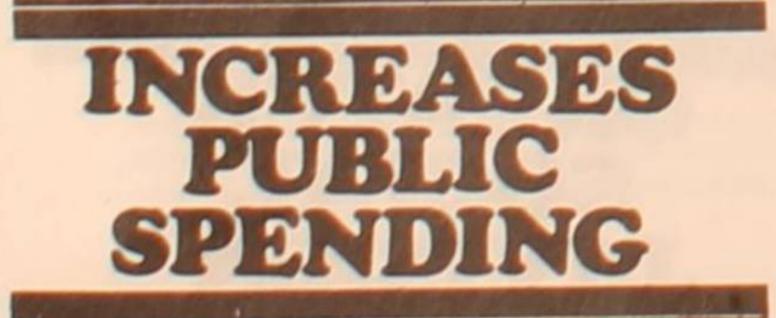


Council housing is constantly attacked on the grounds that it restricts tenants' ability to move from place to place. This 'concern' is not an expression of consideration for the needs of individual families but with the 'need' to have a mobile labour force to respond to the needs of capitalists, i.e. move people to jobs rather than jobs to people.

Extra restrictions

Evidence from the West Midlands shows that mobility amongst established households who are owner occupiers and council tenants is about the same - between 4% and 5% move each year. However, those buying council houses at discount prices are much less likely to move in the first 5 years because of the resale restrictions. Furthermore, equity-sharing schemes are likely to restrict mobility rather than increase it. With a partial share in the property, tenants may be stuck with an asset which they cannot sell, or cannot get a price which will permit them to buy elsewhere. They will also not be able to use the council's transfer scheme.

Greater mobility for council tenants can only be achieved by providing more and better council houses and improving the transfer scheme so that tenants have a greater choice when they wish to move. Selling off council houses can only DECREASE mobility and choice for tenants.



The sale of council houses affects both council and government spending.

More tax relief

Government spending will increase because the amount of public money going in tax relief on mortgage interest will Increase. (This has already soared 300% in the last five (in linedia

years to £1050 m. in-1975/76 and has risen faster than subsidies on council housing - up 233% in the same period).

When a council house is sold the Government stops paying subsidy on the house to the council. However all owneroccupiers get tax relief on the mortgage interest and this is usually much larger than the subsidy, eg selling a prewar council house in Leicester would save £30 in subsidy but tax relief would be £212 in the first year (it later reduces) on a £5,500 mortgage with 11% interest rate. Newer houses have large subsidies but their market value is also higher which means a larger mortgage and increased tax relief.

This tax relief would also be renewed and increased every time the house was sold while the subsidy to the local authority on that house would cease once the loan was paid off. In the long term therefore, selling council houses means an increase in Government subsidies to housing without increasing the stock of dwellings.

> Weighing it up, there is even less to upport the myth of parasitism. The counil house in which I live was built at a cost f1.000 back in the early 1950s. After 20 years of being a council tenant I must have paid £2,800 in rent and maybe more Inless the capitalist system is more extortionate than I think it is, that should have taken care of the interest, admini stration and maintenance charges. So for the next 20 years, most of what I pay in rent should go to generate more council jousing. If I were conservative-minded uppose I should be bitter and twisted about and demand a reduction in rent. But can't work up any excitement about either way. It just seems to be normal to want other people to have the same decent ousing that I have had. New Statesman 17 September 1976



Councils can decide NOW to give tenants -

Security of tenure

So a council house or flat can be your HOME without having to buy it.

Greater freedom NOW

- Freedom to carry out alterations and improvements to their homes with very few restrictions
- More control (and better allowances) for both internal and external decoration of their homes
- Greater freedom to carry out some minor repairs and maintenance based on a system of rent rebates.
- (Direct Works Depts, should be able to concentrate on expanding and improving council housing and
- carrying out major repairs and maintenance).
- More responsibility for their homes by getting rid of all the petty rules and restrictions.
- Obviously not all tenants will want or be able to do their own decorating and repairs. Nor will all tenants want to make any alterations to their homes. The important thing is that tenants can if they want to, and have the same control over their homes as owner-occupiers enjoy.
- Tenants pay for repairs and maintenance in their rent and any shift in responsibility must not be a means for the council to off-load costs onto tenants.



No. 3 don't buy theirs door to council tenaute."

More political

control

In the longer term, the Tories hope that the sale of council houses will enable them to continue down the road to their 'property-owning democracy', it fulfills their political beliefs and satisfies the interests they represent. More importantly, it means that more families have a financial stake in the capitalist system. "The point where more than half the houses in the country had become owner occupied was a significant milestone because even a small stake in the country does affect political attitudes. The greater the proportion of owner occupation, the less likely were extreme measures to prevail." Norman Griggs, Secretary General of the Building Societies Association, May 1976.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Buy 'The Great Sales Robbery' published by Shelter Community Action Team, 31, Clerkenwell Close, London, E.C. 1. Price: 6p. + 9p. p&p.

STATE & B. Barrel



Quintin Barry

To coincide with the Labour conference we went along to solicitor Quintin Barry to see what he had to say as prospective Labour candidate for Kemptown.

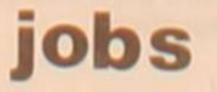
Q. First question, Why on earth should anyone join the Labour Party? A. There hasn't been much encouragement for people to join over the last few years due to the government's very orthodox policy. But that said I believe that the only way to get a socialist society in this country is to have the Labour Party in power with a working majority. The record of Labour in power is not very good, but I still have hope and confidence. It's the only way.

BUT, the labour MPs must carry out Conference decisions. The government can't go on ignoring them. Q. What should the disillusioned do? A. They mustn't opt out. Q.Shouldn't the Labour party split ? A. No. There's no future in that direction.

education

Q. What would you talk about at this Conference if you made a speech ? A. I would talk about education. In the next 50 years it is going to need vigorous defence if it is not to be badly weakened. It's certainly going to be under attack. And yet it's needed more than ever. I still believe that it is largely through education that people become more equal. In practical terms the first thing we must do is TO ABOLISH THE PRIVATE SECTOR. This would be an enormous step forward and give confidence to those who believe in the social importance of education. Q. But what about the content of education ? Can't you miseducate people and make them submissive and so on ?

A. True, but I think teachers are wanting to move forward and to free the content more and more. If we can launch the offensive and drive Rhodes Boyson and his lot into retreat then I think there's a lot of hope among teachers generally.



Q. What do you have to say about unemployment ? A. It's the most fundamental ques-

tion of today. Nothing else is as important. And I believe the government recognises this. It knows

that if it can't solve the unemployment problem then it has no chance at the elections, despite the economic recovery of the last 12 months. Q. Do you think the unemployment situation turns people to the extreme right, to the National Front ? A. There will always be a fringe who go that way, but the vast majority will just not vote labour. And why should they if they see Labour actually presiding over the state of chronic unemployment.

N.F.

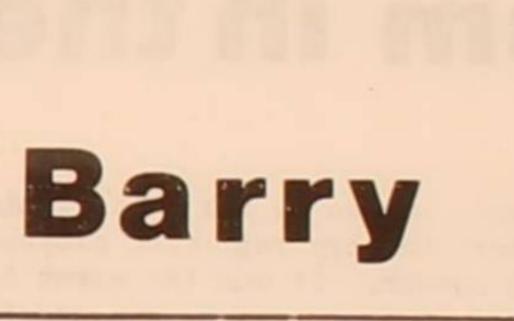
Q. On the question of the National Front, you're in the law what would you advise the Home Secretary to 10 ?

A. I'm afraid I'm all for repression, though I find that difficult to square that with what I feel about human freedom, but I think the National Front is abusing its freedom just as they did in the 1930s. We had the Public Order Act then and we can act again now. Q. You mean ban the party or what? A. You can't ban the party, no. You can't ban a philosophy. But you can prevent it from provoking and carrying out violence. The machinery exists. You don't need new legislation. You can only get rid of the party by exposing the squalid ideas behind it. Q. You don't think the right wing of the Labour Party would demand, as a quid pro quo, the banning of left-wing demonstrations ? A. No, I don't think they would

be so silly.

locally

Q. Coming down to the local scene what would you say about Brighton if you were speaking at the Conference? A.I couldn't resist the jibe that here is the Labour Party meeting in an enormously expensive place, not far from another vast expenditure (the Marina). Is this the way to improve the lives of people who have got very little ? The philosophy behind all investment, public and private, is to put more money in the pockets of those who have already got plenty. I find this deeply depressing.



The other thing I would want to say is that we must preserve the first schools in Kemptown and East central Brighton which are threatened. It is totally wrong to start closing schools just because the birth rate has fallen. We have a marvellous chance of better education with smaller classes and we must take it.

HERE'S YOUR LIFETIMES

RATION OF DEMOCRACY -

XX

et the

BUT DON'T GO OFF

WITH THE PENCIL.

TEN

XXXX

CROSSES -

Q. What about housing ? A. Yes, in Brighton it is possibly the most abominable reminder of our unequal society. The housing committee is full of people with the most offensive dogma, and we see their effect on the council housing provision in the town.

Q. How can you convince the local voters in Kemptown that it is the offensive dogma of the Housing committee and not the economic policy of the Labour government ?

A. I don't know the answer. Government power oftens stops short of the town halls and yet it's the government that gets blamed for the decisions of the local councillors. We just need better political education.

Bowden

Q. As both a solicitor and a prospective Labour party candidate do you think you should represent employers against one of their employees, as you did when you represented the University recently ?

A. You have to accept that you live in a world in which such things as employers exist. As a member of a profession I have to deal with all sorts of different institutions. I am, of course, representing the Bakers' Union in their local dispute with Clarks.

Q. Anything to say about your opponent, Andrew Bowden? A. Not really except to say that I really objected to his foulmouthed attack on the Friends Centre. It was totally uncalled for.

Q. What about causes given a lot of space in the Voice, squatting, CACTL and so on ? A. I think, by and large, squatting has been a very useful movement. And I fully support CACTL.

11

Racism in the Media

Racism in the newspapers and on TV has been growing at a disturbing rate. Irresponsible and discriminatory reporting played a major part in the race troubles of last summer. It was the worst trouble in Britain for many years and resulted in four murders and countless physical attacks.

In their pamphlet "In Black and Whiteracist reporting and how to fight it" Campaign Against Racism in the Media (CARM) relates some of the worst excesses of last year from Powell through the Malawi Asian refugees to Robert Relf.

12

The booklet which is priced 35p and contains 40 pages is written mostly by journalists with the journalist in mind. But it is a useful handbook for anybody who wants to see how the press works in covering certain "news" stories.

It is also good for pointing out some of the more subtle forms of racism. For instance, the press glamourised Robert Relf the fascist who refused to sell his house to a black person. It gives the National Front credibility by reporting what they do. It will needlessly harp on about the colour of someone's skin when that bears no relation to the story.

Many journalists are prejudiced and many will go out of their way to sensationalise a race story because they believe that is what the majority of readers want. But the leaflet is a bit too 'black and white.' There are a few enlightened reporters and editors who honestly do not know what to do for the best. People who despise the National Front but know it will not go away if one attacks it as attacking it gives it credibility and publicity.

At points the pamphlet limps into hackneyed polemic but it is very sound in analysing biased language and biased selection of facts and sources. An eye-opener too is the information it gives about the shockingly small number of coloured journalists in this country and the race bias of newspapers' staff.

It finishes off with a list of ways to fight racialism within the organisations of the media and a list of dos and don'ts which are valuable to journalist and non-journalist alike.

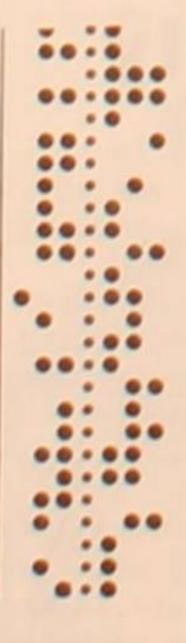
The booklet also makes the point that between anti-Semitic propaganda, anti-Asian, anti-Union, anti-everything, only the names change; the story stays the same.

Why not use this pamphlet next time you read your Argus and see what you some up with.

They have got your life on tape - and on file. Information about you is on records you probably don't know exist, stored away in computers and in manilla folders. The information may be correct. It may be wrong. You don't know. In most cases, you can't find out or challenge it. And you do not even know who has access to your file and all the information in it.

In a new report, Privacy ; The Information Gatherers, Patricia Hewitt, NCCL General Secretary, documents in almost frightening depth the scale upon which personal information is collected by and sounted between diverse state and private organisations in this country: and how easily damaging errors can creep in. The report shows now far "The United Kingdom has fallen benind most Western countries in protecting individual privacy".

Examples of the audacity of the information gatherers abound. For example, there is the case of the Midland Bank and the Public House Bookshop, in which the tank sent a member of its staff to investigate the political nature of the Public House Bookshop and its customers. (see Voice 34 Dec 76 Another more recent example is the way in which the D.H.S.S. in Eastbourne asked all it's counter staff to let their managers know details of all social relationships information given for one purpose with claimants at that office.



They have got you taped

m - in

Do not think that just because YOU have nothing to hide that privacy does not concern you, th errors that can so easily creep into a file that you may not even know exists may stop you getting a job, or a morgage, or credit. An erroneous entry in a memo may get you labled as a baby batterer, or anything.

Givil lib

2

Charter of Fair Information Practice which the NCCL beleives must be implemented in order to safeguard the individual's privacy. The charter stresses that :- there should be no personal data bank whose very existence is secret; individuals should have the right to see, chal enge and correct their own files, with only the minimum exceptions needed for police and national security files; there should be legal controls on methods of collecting information, for instance to prevent private agents from posing as government officir's; information collected should be relevant and regularly updated; and should not be used for another without the individuals consent.

PRIVACY: THE INFORMATION GATHERERS

A factual and disturbing account of the growing threat to the citizen's privacy from central and local Government, the police and security services, and in the sphere of health, education, employment and credit.

A call for the right of people to control information about themselves. From the NCCL, 186 King's Cross Road, London, WC1X 9DE Price

£1.25

SUSSEX NCCL

C/o Public House Books.op 21 Little Preston St, Brighton.

DEMOLITION:

The campaign by residents in the Preston Circus area against the demolition of up to 50 homes in Viaduct and New England Roads continues to be vigorous. They have now finalised their criticisms of the plans so far released by British Rail consultants, Nathaniel Lichfield, and their own set of proposals for the Brighton Station site.

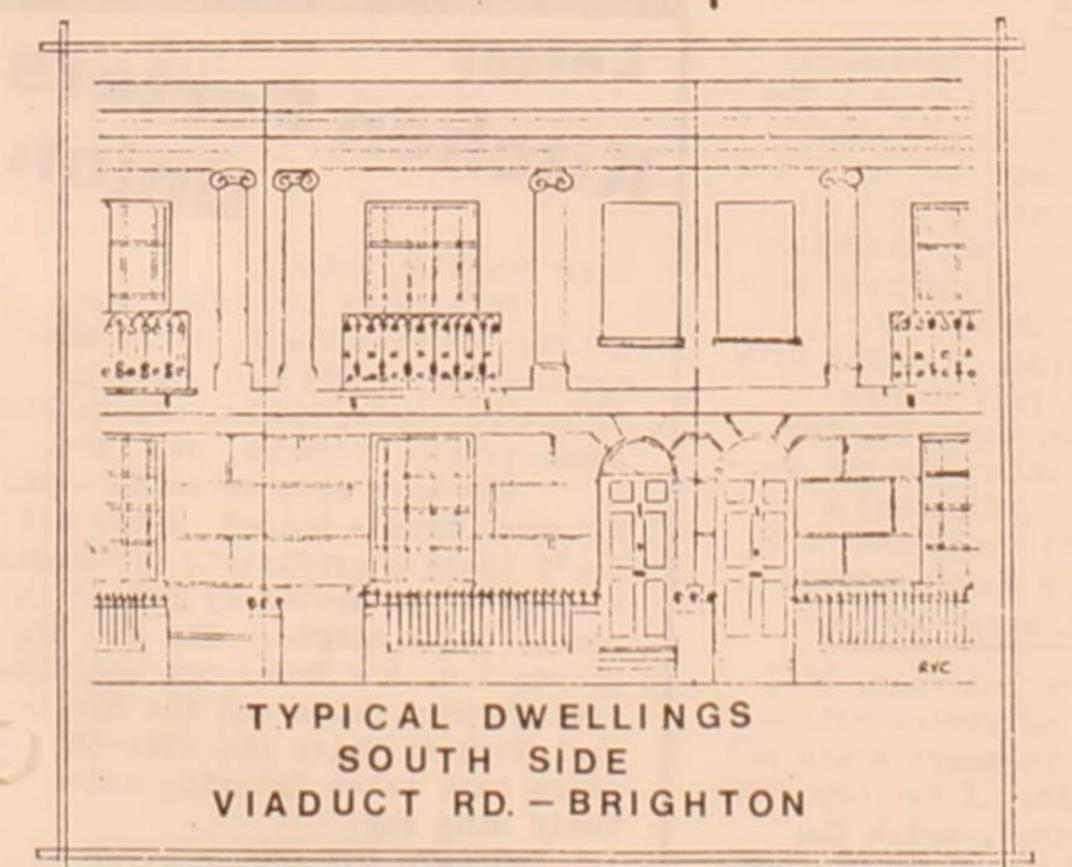
They say many of the items on the British Rail plans are unnecessary. Brighton certainly does not need 100,000 sq.ft. more office space to add to the existing 264,000 sq.ft. which is unused; existing shops around the site should be sufficient (and a survey among local shopkeepers showed they are against fur-

er competition from new shops of course); nor do we need yet another entertainment centre to rival the Top Rank Centre or the Brighton Conference Centre; and not a sports

The plans would not only benefit the Borough Council by cutting the housing waiting list and bringing in revenue in rent and rates, but could also be made acceptable to British Rail if the Councils backed them. Above all, a housing-only scheme would generate such a minimal increase in traffic (only 4.5% or 150 movements at peak hours - figure from the County Engineer himself), there could hardly be reason to

demolish 50 homes.

It is morally criminal that planners and councillors should even consider demolition. There are elderly residents who have lived in Viaduct Road virtually all their lives and, like many others, do not want to move. Moreover, some of the Viaduct Road houses have architectural value, early Victorian (1840-50) in Regency style - the only examples in Brighton and possibly in the country.



centre which would be a drain on the rates like the King Alfred; light industry is needed in the town, but it would generate too much traffic at the Circus. These facilities would be better located on the outskirts of Brighton, near the housing estates which lack adequate shops, entertainment and certainly employment.

The residents' own plans for the site are for mostly low and medium cost housing, 2 and 3 storey terraces in squares. As for much of Brighton's centre, there would be no garages, and restricted residentsonly on-street parking. Better use should be made of, say, the York Hill car-park, at present grossly under-patronised. The housing should be of mixed ownership - some first-time buyers, some rented from the Council, some for senior citizens, some for single people, etc. A small community centre/health centre should also be included.

The residents' plans should be seriously considered by all interested parties and the Association is once again urging for representation in discussions.

OLD SHOREHAM ROAD ALLY

anter the second

But the residents are facing tough opposition. Preston Circus is the cross-roads of the two major routes in the town, the A23 to London and the A27 Honiton-Dover highway, and these 'road improvement' schemes have been raised (and successfully fought) before. This time the Brighton Station site is being used as the excuse.

and The Alternatives

All along the south coast, at Portslade for example, the A27 has already been widened at the expense of local communities, while elsewhere (e.g., Worthing and Lancing), local groups continue to fight. Perhaps it is time such groups got together to fight something more than localised battles. But while Ministry/Department/County/Borough planners 'improve' roads in a piecemeal fashion, it is often difficult to grasp the overall implications.

£1m Deal

The fight is tough inleed. Not only do the planners work in secret, but financial deals are involved. British Rail are offering £1 million to the East Sussex County Council for the Preston -Circus road improvements - an incentive (difficult to refuse) for county planners to approve British Rail plans for the Brighton Station site. Already the Chief Planner, Mr Andrew Thorburn, has shown his sympathies, suggesting that, in order to make the building of yet more offices on the site an attractive idea, existing unused office space in the town should be converted to homes !!

The County Council are determined to bulldoze through a four-lane highway, even though it will split Brighton in half.

Antes con

RESTON

CIRCUS

WEW ENGLAND &

BRIGHTON

STATION

SITE

What Preston Circus residents are saying is, if they lose for Viaduct Road and New England Road, WATCH OUT UPPER LEWES ROAD AND OLD SHOREHAM ROAD - YOU WILL BE NEXT!

Celia Mather Secretary Preston Circus Association 39 Stanley Road Brighton. Tel. 691771

(HR)HH SH

NAUSEATING BOOTLICKING STATEMENT BY AUEW

ITT Creed management and representatives of the AUEW engineering section have been holding discussions during the period since normal working was resumed at the Hollingbury factory 29 days ago.

These discussions have resulted in a settlement today, agreed by both sides. The Company has received advice from the Department of Employment concerning the settlement which is strictly within the Government's Pay Policy.

The terms of the settlement, which include increased flexibility of working and the more efficient use of manpower, will result in the Company's production programme being met with fewer man hours per unit.

The present settlement is based on the Union's earlier acceptance of a 5% increase from May 30th under Phase II of the Pay Policy. A further increase or approximately 5%, made possible by the new flexibility/efficiency agreement, partment of Employment, the Labour will be paid when the economies given by the scheme have been achieved.

The above statement was issued by the AUEW at Creeds on the 23rd of Sept. It represents the culmination of an industrial dispute at the Hollingbury factory which has been going on throughout the summer and sadly a defeat for the workers concerned. lary factors played a role in this lefeat, including the TUC 12 month rule, the Labour Government, the Decartment of Employment, and the Union branch.

4

Jim Watson, one of the workers at Greeds and a member of the local AEUW branch, described how the dissute developed:

"The negotiating committee originally worked out their claim using facts and figures based on the rate of inflation, price increases, etc. The result was a demand for a 45.5% wage increase. The management rejected this, disputed the figures and presented their own at 30%. The negotiating committee said that their members would probably agree to that. However the management ver refused this and only offered % under Phase II of the pay code ack dated to May 31st.

NDUSTRIAL ACTION

A factory gate meeting was organised and the position explained to the nembership. Many proposals were heard, but the proposal that was accepted was that a series of "lightening strike" actions should be taken. Production was effectively disrupted for two weeks. The factory was almost at a stand-still, especially after the machine setters and operators went home. Machines could not work and operators were unable to work their machines. Work could not pass inspection while the inspection section was out. So work piled up as production was being disrupted more and more.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

The management then leafletted all employees using veiled threats. The leaflet concentrated on arguments around the Government's pay code and mentioned the possibility of lost production and orders and therefore redundancies. The leaflet also mentioned that if the management breached the pay code, then the Government would cut their orders through Creeds main customer, the Post Office. The union did not respond with another leaflet and management persistently said that they would not negotiate under duress. SUSPENSION OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION

The works committee convenor, Bill Prout, suspended industrial action because he said management would not otherwise negotiate. A factory gate meeting was then held, which the union manipulated and at which they proposed a two week suspension of industrial action. This was a tragic mistake, because if the industrial action had continued, management would have been forced to negotiate. However the result was a psychological defeat for the workers and a moral victory for management.

THE UNION RESPONSE

The union branch failed to support our action at all (although the union secretary did support us). The branch used exactly the same arguments as management and their allies. We were not even allowed to use the legal and other resources that we have in our own factory.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT

Two shop-stewards were delegated to visit the Department of Employment only to be told that their claim was not valid. They were sent away demoralised and dejected.



BACK TO WORK

The dispute is now over. Management are very happy and negotiations are now being finalised. The lower paid workers are getting 10% and the skilled and higher paid 13%. The claim has been whittled away to this low percentage. Also to get a further £1.00 increase a more rigid flexibility agreement will have to be signed. This will mean the possibility of enforced night-shift work, being moved to other sections and also 21 redundancies.

DEFEAT

The dispute was quite clearly lost because industrial action was called off, while the management were allowed to use the weapon of the pay code and the union did not support the claim. In the future it must be made clear that we should be negotiating with management using the strength of united industrial action and must not allow union officials to hide behind the cover of the De-Government, etc."



Dear Brighton Voice,

This is to introduce the Kitchen Porters Union, it is not exclusivly for kitchen porters. It covers chefs, cooks, nightporter: chambermaids, postmen, etc etc.

Why have another union - the Kitchen Porters Union? After all isn't there a proclivity of Unions already? The answer my friend is really quite simple. The two hig Unions i.e. the Transport and General Workers Union and the Municipal Workers Union who over the years have taken Catering under their wing say:

"WE HAVE NOT ENOUGH STAFF TO COVER EVERY CATERING ESTABLISHMENT IN THE COUNTRY .. "

BAH! I SAY CODSWALLOP TO THIS. I should think they have not. Not long ago, I broke my ankle. Did they ask for compensation on my behalf? Oh dear no! Why? Cos I was in arrears. I am sorry if my Union gives the impression of militancy. Our aim is to stop:

1) Bad relations between men and the management.

2) Bad wages from big profits. 3) Bringing attention to the public of the almost Nazi- type concentration camp of work. 4) Negotiate 2 days off during the

week for everybody. 5) Negotiate a basic 80p an hour

rate for everybody.

6) To stop the tax-man robbing waiters and waitresses from their hard earned tips.

Fred Chaffeur, c/o the Resource Centre.

and the set of the set	SOLSTICE BOOKSHOP	alternative pooks	& Mags. Soon opening a basement reading	room. Tel 692880.	SUPPL	and paper recycling,	licati le ear	mental centre. 11	George St, B'ton. 691318. Open 9.30-	-	SUNRISE RESTAURANT 16	North Road, B'ton Wholefood vegetarian.	Run by f	, Open; Tues-Thur 12-3pm		ΗT		Mon-Sat 10.00-3.00.	-	WIND HORSE BOOKSHU George St B'ton	Buddhist	posters,	Mon-Sat 10.00-2.50.	WORKERS BOOKSHOP (B'TON) Marxist-Leninist	classics and working	class history. Open . Sat's 9.30-5.30.	37 Gloucester Road, Brighton. 684404.		MUSIC ASSCCIATION	(Sussex branch) Basement Flat, 28 Livingstone Rd Hove, Sussex.			NUMBER FORTY ONE, OCT 1977. aper, please send additions and toria Road, Brighton Sussex.
In dront to 22 mature	Avenue Brighton. SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY	19 Elm Grove, B'ton. 687848	YOUNG COMMUNISTS (B'TON)	Richmond St, B'ton.	YOUNG LIBERALS c/c David Rogers, 8	YO	ion; I	559.	53 Blatchi	-	WOLK CIC	MERLIN; The Lewes Work	OLO	Mechanics, and many other things. (over	40 skills) 5 Mount Pl,	PURE JOY; Whole Foods	Catering Collective;	By Sea. S'ham 62301.	VARIETY WITH THE VENTURAS Charity concert party	OAP clubs, childrens	WONDERWHEEL BICYCLE WORKS	repairs & servicing of	cycle problems.	a aglos	LHELK YOUR	LTRY. TE	IT CHANGED		ERK ROOKSHOF WORKERS			PRESTON ST. V.R.	D AS PART OF BRIGHTON VOICE NUMBE ar with each issue of the paper, F on Voice Information, 7 Victoria
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Brighton & Lewes Division of Sussex

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Hove, Town Hall	Cleremont Road, B'ton, LIBERTIES (Sussex Gr		62592, Sec Marylyn	inity or go round the
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