

undercurrents.....

Duke's Lane or Rip-off Alley?

"A welcome addition to a centuries' old tradition" says an advert for the new extension to the Lanes; what it doesn't say of course is that the tradition is ripping-off holidaymakers - and any Brightonians dim enough to expect anything more from the local centre of Olde Worlde Capitalisme.

Rents in the new development are pretty high - in line with profit expectations - and there is no reason whatever to suppose that anyone with more sense than money will find anything to their liking among the clutch of trendy boutiques

already clamouring for our wallets and purses.

As the developers (nearly) say: "The development of Dukes Lane proves that when a planning body and a developer can meet with shared views (profit rules OK) and an active interest (believed to be 25%) in the preservation of our heritage (swindling the public), the results are a credit (Barclay-cards welcome) to both. Dukes Lane is a very welcome addition to the historical delights of Brighton (who writes this stuff?), for resident and visitor alike."

Tory Bonanza

The Tory Party and its front organisations such as British United Industrialists, the Economic League and Aims, received £1,807,677 last year from 403 grateful companies.

Head of the list was Taylor Woodrow with over £64,000, followed by Allied Breweries with £53,525 and Rank Hovis McDougall (another reason for baking your own bread) with £46,000. Also prominent were Shell Petroleum, the Imperial Group (ICI etc.) and Barclays Bank.

Incidentally, the Liberals received a total of £500 and the Labour Party, nothing.

tea-leaves

A report just published by the World Development Movement on the tea industry reveals that many workers are paid as little as 15p per day. The WDM has launched a petition calling for substantial improvements in pay and conditions on the largely British-owned plantations and is urging tea-drinkers to buy shares in the tea companies to bring pressure on them at their Annual General Meetings.

The usual excuse for this appalling situation is that medical care, housing, education, etc. are provided free, but this myth is

Blunt - or just pathetic?

Poor old Julian got it wrong again over the Blunt spy panic, claiming there were twelve Labour M.P.s in the pay of the Kremlin (recognisable by the snow on their boots?) Unfortunately, his allegation, made after generous (not to say fluid) BBC hospitality, was totally unsupported by any facts and he was forced to withdraw it the next day following complaints in the Commons.

The whole ridiculous farce characterises the blimpish incompetence of this pathetic figure, beached like a dying whale by the ebbing tide of British imperialism. Even the appalling Thatcher refused to give him a post in her Government, and it is pretty clear that his career is now at an end. Local Tories, led by Lane, the Managing Director of Kearney & Trecker Marwin, are already limbering up for a crack at the safe Pavilion seat.

terrifying cock-up

One of the most terrifying events in recent history passed last month with a few column-inches in the press and a "ho, ho, fancy that" on the telly. An error in a computer in Colorado triggered off a full-scale nuclear scare, with bombers launched ready to attack the USSR - but the mistake was discovered in time, so that's all right, isn't it? Or is it? What if it hadn't been discovered for another couple of minutes, after the ICBMs had been launched?

Within a few hours, most of us would have been dead, that's what, and the earth would have been contaminated for tens of thousands of years. Think about it.

AMERY'S ACCUSERS SPEAK OUT



"I would like to apologise to the Right Honourable Member for Brighton Pavilion for the allegation made on the front page."

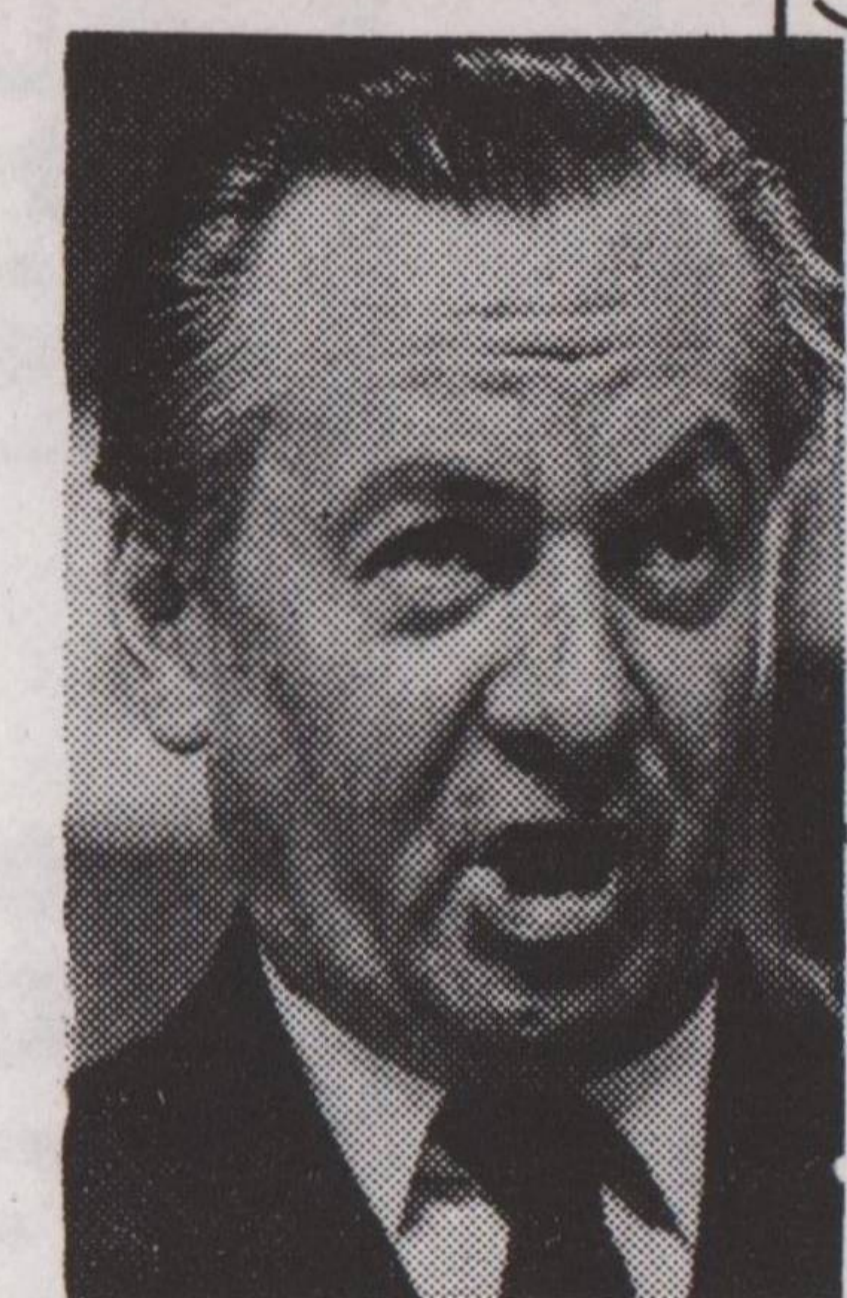
exploded by the report. Few employees are housed and only a handful of children attend company schools; pneumonia is a major killer disease and life expectancy is little more than forty years for most workers. Infant mortality has doubled in the last four years on the Tata Finlay Estates in Assam and yet there is vigorous opposition in the companies to wage increases, though Brook Bond have promised to "accelerate improvements in fringe benefits" for its Indian workers.

death for 'Life'

Some things are so ridiculous that it's impossible to make a joke out of them. Harrogate Council has banned the Monty Python film "Life of Brian" from the cinemas in its area without any Councillor having seen it. The ban arose from a recommendation by the Festival of Light, which provided the Council with what is described as "very factual" information on the film. However, the FoL has admitted that none of its officials have seen the film either.....

AMERY'S C.I.A. CONNECTION

for full facts
see back page



The sixth man?

PAINTING THE TOWN BLACK

& WHITE

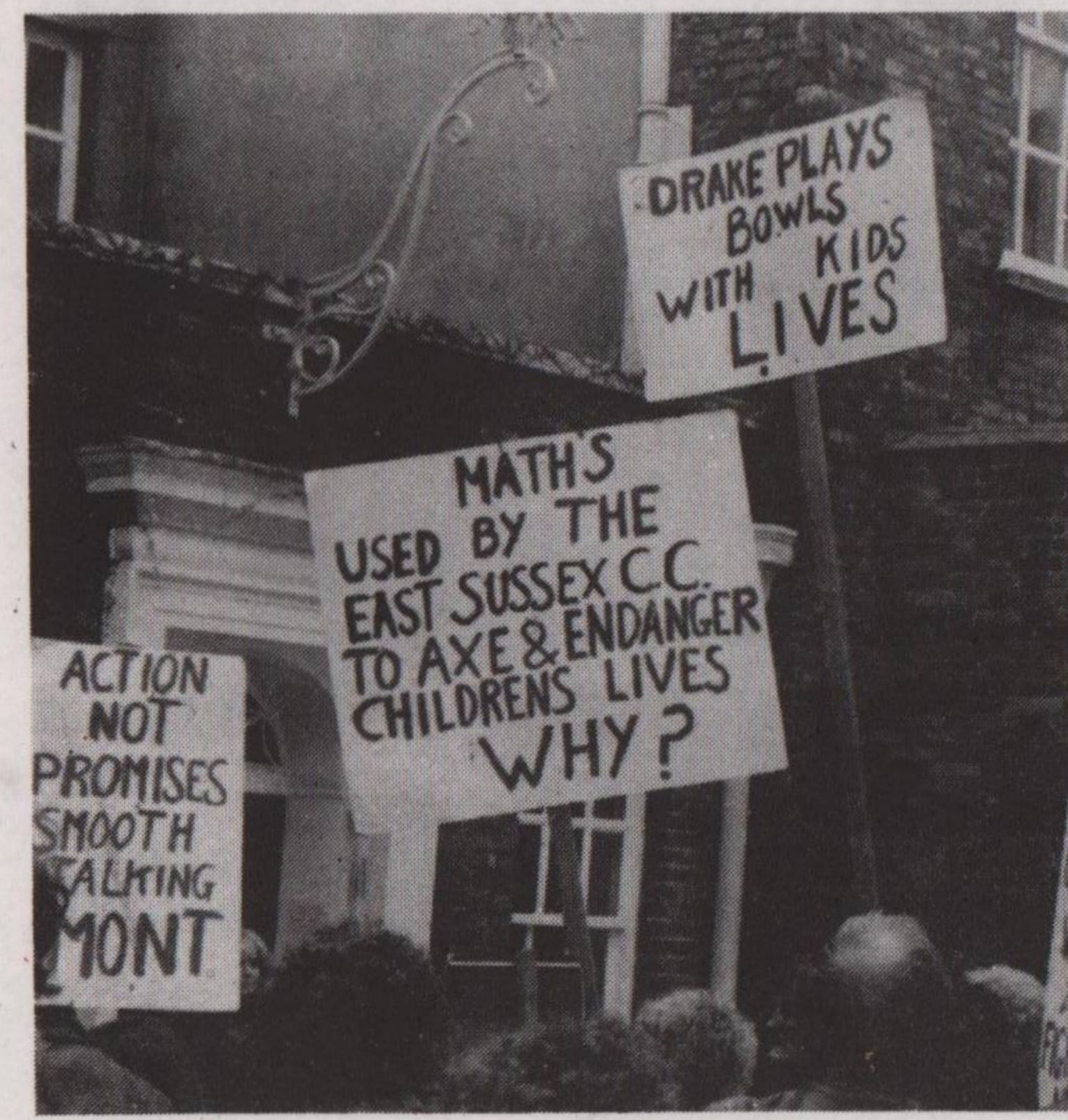
In September Moulsecoomb women found that the crossing patrol outside Moulsecoomb First and Middle Schools was to be axed. Straight away they launched a militant campaign. They began by setting up their own (temporary) voluntary patrol outside the schools in Hodshrove Rd. 308 children (120 of them unaccompanied) cross this road.

The women have also blocked the road, lobbied councillors, picketed council meetings at Lewes, and held protest marches with placards and leaflets (Voice 62). The most recent - and eye-catching - development is the appearance of unofficial zebra crossings!

see centre pages.

Scandalous low pay at Fortes

Waitresses at one of Brighton's best known restaurants - Fortes on Marine Parade - are currently being paid Dickensian wages, on which they could not possibly live, let alone bring up a family. What is worse - their situation is a common one in Brighton's catering industry - THE DISGRACE OF THE TOWN. Details on p2 of the Trades Council Bulletin (inside)



GROUPS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (BTW & HOVE GROUP) Tel. Colin or Mary 400832

ANOREXIC AID: Penny 775084, Jane 734862, Rosemary 507912 Meetings fortnightly.

ANTI-LOW PAY GROUP: B'ton 682295 or Lewes 77499

BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION: B'tn and Lewes Division of Sussex Beekeepers. Lyn Hawkins, 14 The Lees, Peacehaven 4522

BRIGHTON HOSTEL: 18 Dorset Gdns Soup run bottom West St. 10-11pm daily. Help needed 682089

BRIGHTON SOCIETY: Environmental group. S. Montford. 10 Clermont Road. 509209

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT: 28633

COMMUNITY ARTS WORKSHOP: Dance drama, mime, music. St. Anne's Hall, St. Georges Rd. Kemp Town. 697493 for dtls.

COMPASSION IN WORLD FARMING: Contact, Ms Lesley Turpin 4 Cedar Cl. Lancing 62661

CONFERENCE OF SOCIALIST ECONOMISTS: K. Smith, 10 Warleigh Rd.

FEDERATION OF TENANTS ASSOC. ATONS (BTW): 72, Swanborough Place.

FRIENDS CENTRE: Meeting Place with Further Education classes. 16, Ship St. 27835

FRIENDS OF EARTH: Kate Dessau B'tn 31083. Fortnightly meetings, Marlborough Hotel 8pm. Non-Members welcome.

FRIENDS OF THE WESTERN BUDDHIST ORDER: Yoga, lectures etc. Beginners meditation Mon. 7.15 15 Park Crescent Cl. or phone 692971

GINNERRAD: Selfhelp pressure

WOMEN

LESBIAN GROUP: Jill, 696298

WIDOWS CLUB: 47 Tivoli Cres., Dyke Rd. Meet 8pm, fourth Wednesday each month.

UNITARIAN HALL, NEW ROAD. WOMEN AGAINST FASCISM AND RACISM: c/o Resource Centre.

WOMENS AID: Refuge for battered women. Info from Women's Centre contact Women's Centre.

WOMEN'S CENTRE: at back of Resource Centre. Opne: Tue, We, Thur, Sat: 11-2 & Tue, We: 6:30 - 8pm. Pregnancy tests, rights, etc. 605911.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM: 684604 and Lewes 4161.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION: Meet Resource Centre every third Monday. For info, 605911.

WOMEN'S VOICE GROUP: based on Women's Voice paper. Sue 212 Sue 21260.

BIRTH

BIRTH CENTRE (BRIGHTON): Info & support group. Pregnancy, Birth & Early Infant Child care. Yoga in Pregnancy classes and Infant Swimming classes. Cnct. 689194/28557

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC: 18/19 Western Rd 734258 Lewes, Newhaven & University Health Centre - Btn 23344

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN: contact WOMEN'S CENTRE.

ADVICE

AGE CONCERN: Old people's welfare. Mon-Fri 10-12.30 & 2-4pm

SERVICES

ALTERNATIVE EXCHANGE SERVICE: Exchange your skills, services, labour. 682955

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT: Resource Centre high-top transit and driver. 607141

THE GREAT MEDIC: Entertainment for children - suitable for playgroups, parties, community centres etc. 683930

MERLIN: Lewis Work Collective: Gardening, Decorating, tutoring, mechanics, etc. (over forty skills) - 5 Mount Fl. Lewes 4036 & Ringmer 812962.

PURE JOY: Whole Foods Catering Collective. 19 Hammy Way, Shoreham-by-Sea. S'ham 62301.

UNCLE BRIGHTON SHOW: 691713

WORKING ASSOCIATION OF MOTHERS: Baby sitting, social events, crèche, etc. Pauline Frise 556510.

WORKING WEEKENDS ON ORGANIC FARMS: Don Pynches, 19 Broadford Rd. Lewes 6286 (no callers please)

YOUNG UNEMPLOYED'S CLUB: Wed, 11.30-2. Institute. Queen's Sq

PAPERS

CARF: Paper of the ANTI-RACIST, ANTI-FASCIST CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE: A campaigning paper, nationwide, from Public House Bookshop, or Flat 3, 5 Huntley St. London. Bulk orders/Donations. QUEENSPARK: Paper for the Queens Park area; 18 Windmill St., B'ton.

WAYBILL: Newsheet of T&GWU, 1/402 B'ton & Hove District Busmen, from Conway Street

SHOPS

ANANDA: 19, Bond Street, Oads & ends, Indian crafts, incense, etc.

INFINITY: 25, North Road, 603563

FOOD: Macrobiotic/wholefood supplies. Open 9.30 - 5.00. Closed all day Wed.

BAKERY & PIE SHOP: open 9-5 except Wed., 9-5.30.

BULK STORE: Bulk supplies, Open Tues.-Sat. 9.30 - 1 & 2 - 5.

KEMP TOWN BOOKS: 91, St. George's Road, Radical literature: new and second-hand books.

PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKSHOP: 21, Little Preston St. 28357 Member of the Federation of Alternative Booksellers. Real books and mags, records and cassettes of ethnic and improvised music. Basement is open for continuous sessions and courses. See whats on PULSE: Closed.

SAXONS VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT: 48, George Street Btn. 680733 Mon-Sat. 11.30 - 5 also Fri & Sat. 7.15 - 11. Bring own wine.

SOLSTICE BOOKSHOP: 28 Trafalgar St. alternative books and mags, basement reading room, Tel.: 692880

SIMPLE SUPPLIES: Wholefood, recycling, publications etc. environmental centre. 11, George St. Btn. 694600. Mon-Sat. 9.30-5.30. Closed Thurs.

SUNRISE RESTAURANT: 16, North Road, wholefood, vegetarian. Run by the friends of the we. Mon Buddhist Order. Mon-Thurs. 12-5, Fri & Sat. 2-6 & 7 - 10 pm.

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

ACUPUNCTURIST: Peter Deadman B.Ac. B'tn & Lewes; Lewes 77996

ACUPUNCTURIST: J.P. Scott. See next entry.

ALEXANDRA TECHNIQUE: S.J. Scott 33, Surrenden Crescent. B'tn 559379. Appointment only

CLINIC OF CHINESE ACUPUNCTURE 6 Old Steine, Tel. 699716 Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-5 p.m. From

HOMOPATH: Robert Withers, B'tn 699212, Appointment only

79, Mill Street, Falmer.

SECOND SUN HEALING: Healing through direct action & increased understanding. 7 Terminus Rd B'tn 29248.

SHIATSU: Reflexology, Swedish massage, Bach flower remedies Marek Urbanowicz, Palmeira Cl 16

6 Palmeira Square, Hove B'tn 734465. Appointments.

Subscriptions £2-50 for 12

BACK ISSUES & "REGION SIX" Special Report are available from BRIGHTON VOICE c/o Public House Bookshop 21 Little Preston St. Brighton.

IMPORTANT: IMPORTANT: IMPORTANT

If you are a user of this page BRIGHTON VOICE have made an attempt over the past month to update the information on this page. Unfortunately we have been unable to contact various groups which used to appear on this page. If your group is not listed please contact us so that we can be moved.

Housing Crisis!

COUNCIL TENANTS FREEZE

Tenants of some Brighton council flats have been receiving electricity bills of £180 a quarter. Most of them are Old Age Pensioners who cannot afford to pay such ridiculous amounts. They have signed a petition to the town council, demanding that action be taken.

The flats concerned are seven tower blocks on John Street, built about 19 years ago.

The cause of the problem is under-floor heating, powered by electricity. Since the flats were completed, the price of electricity has rocketed, taking the cost of heating the flats sky high.

But the enormous charges seem to pay for very little. Mrs Taylor of Richmond Heights complained that even when the heating is on, it provides very little warmth. It has to be left on for several hours before it has any noticeable effect on room temperature. And there is no heating at all in the bathroom, bedroom or kitchen.

This heating then is not only disastrously expensive, it is also highly inefficient. It consists of coils set in the concrete between floors. There is a great deal of heat loss, making the system undesirable even if it were cheap.

Said Mrs Taylor, 'I and my husband recently bought a gas fire for £157 out of our savings, because we could no longer afford to pay the electricity bills. A lot of other residents are investing in alternative forms of heating.'

But not all the tenants are as lucky as Mr and Mrs Taylor. Only those on the first two floors can have gas fires installed. The other flats do not have the necessary air vents. The other main alternative to electricity is the paraffin stove, which can become a grave fire hazard for elderly people.

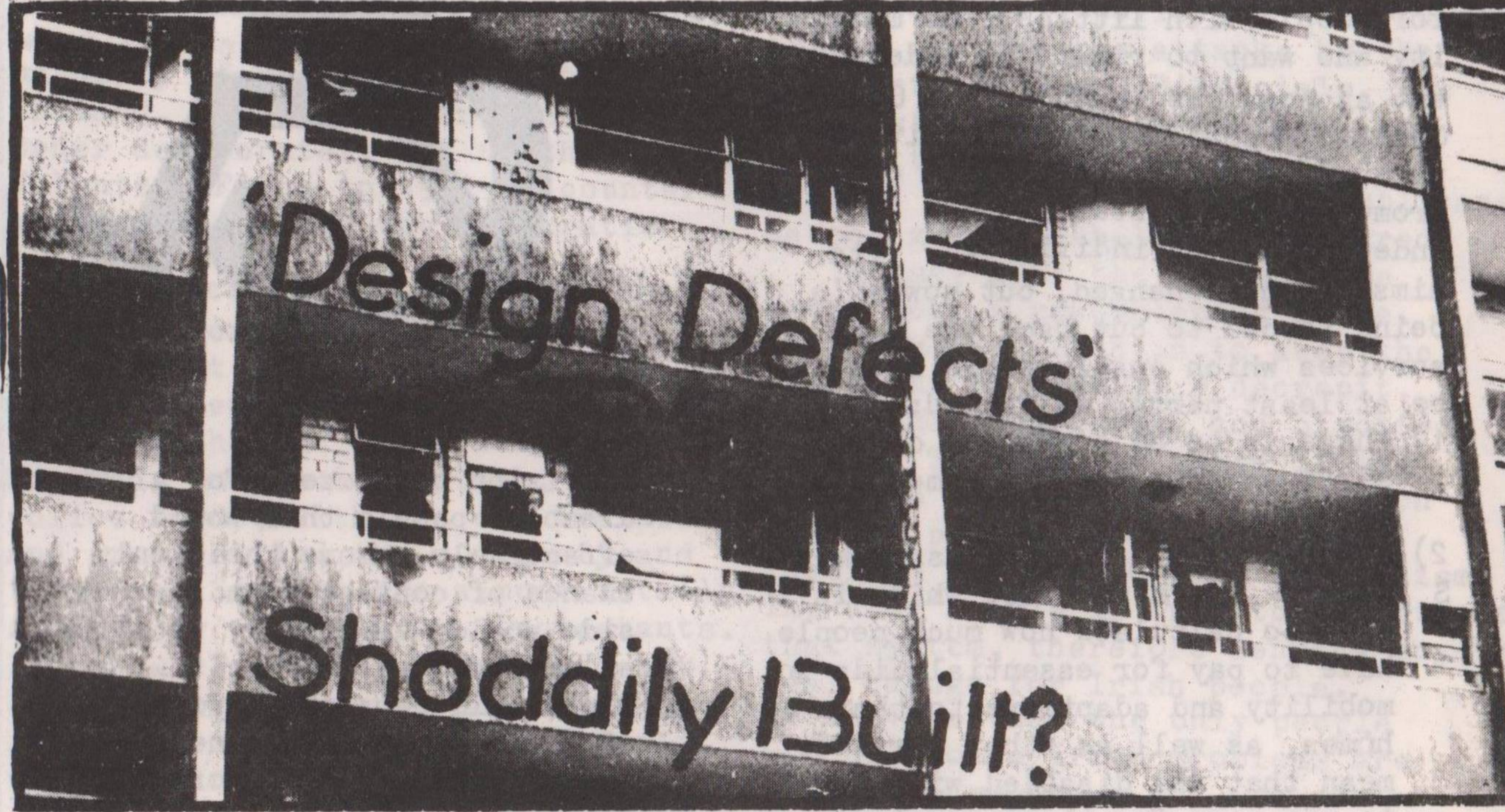
The elderly need heat, particularly if they are in poor health; many of the tower block tenants have to leave their electric central heating on all day. How do they cope with their enormous bills? Said Mrs Taylor, 'They pay weekly, and if it's very expensive they have to go without food.' Mrs Woods of Richmond Heights, who is nearly 62, said, 'I personally would rather stay cold. But the council must do something because it's going to get worse each year. Our pensions don't go up in step with the cost of heating.'

It was Mrs Woods who decided that the time had come to take matters in hand. She produced a petition, asked the other residents of Richmond Heights to sign it, and presented it to the council's Housing Committee last June. The petition demanded that the heating system in the tower block should be replaced.

In September, the Housing Cttee agreed to undertake a pilot scheme during the winter. After consultation with the gas and electricity boards, four flats are to be fitted with storage heaters and gas fires for a trial period.

Said Labour Councillor Tom Forrester, who has given his support to the petitioners, 'It will be up to us to put pressure on the Council when the results of the pilot scheme are presented in the Spring. We will have to mount a major mobilisation.'

But Councillor Forrester revealed a major gap in the pilot scheme. It will not be investigating insulation as a way of reducing heat

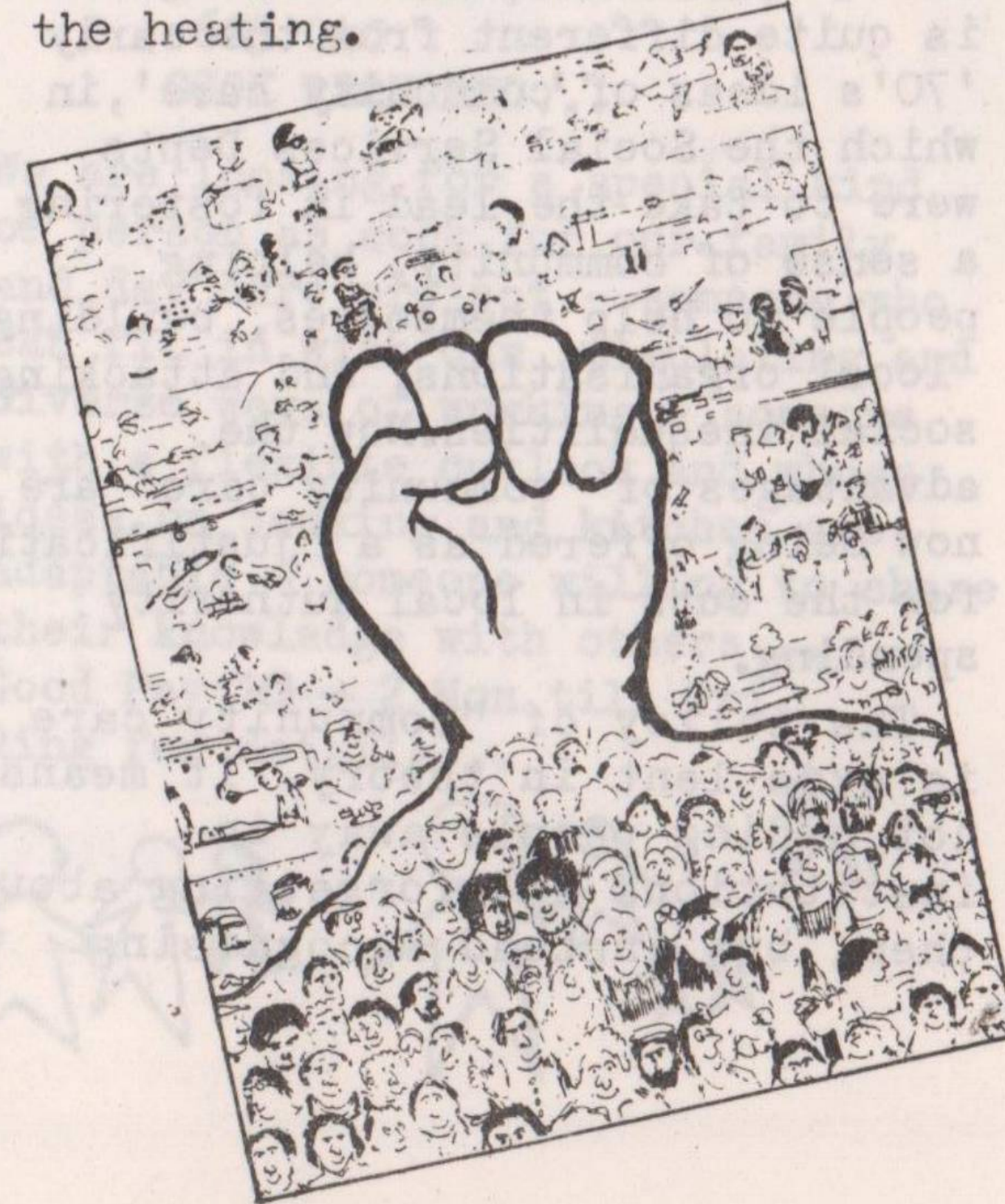


loss. He believes that it may be cheaper and more effective to improve insulation by double glazing than to install a new heating system altogether.

Why have the Housing Cttee neglected to explore this possibility? It may be a good idea to put pressure on them now before the pilot scheme has gone too far. We should demand that they make their investigations as comprehensive as possible.

This is not the first time that a problem has arisen with the John Street Tower blocks. Bricks have come loose and fallen off. A quarter of a million pounds had to be spent on repointing them. In addition, the window frames were found to have faulty seals.

Even in view of these serious flaws in construction, Cllr Forrester was quick to deny the suggestion that the blocks were shoddily or cheaply built. 'This is not a case of Faulty Towers', he said, 'The blocks have a number of design defects. I would not say that they were shoddily built as such.'



CUTS ATTACK DISABLED

Disabled people in Brighton and Hove will soon be worse off than ever before, the result of a savings programme which John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury said in Parliament was not "designed to fall harshly upon the Social Services".

Cuts will be made. But because there are certain statutory obligations which Local Authorities must fulfill, it seems likely to be those which can be cut instantly and most easily - eg. home helps and meals on wheels.

Proposed cuts cover many facilities which are particularly useful for people with little or no mobility who want to remain as independent as possible. East Sussex County Council Social Services Committee puts great stress on its aim of promoting and sustaining the independence of individuals. Its aims haven't changed, but now it's being forced to cut back the very services which enable these aims to be at least partly fulfilled:

- 1) There is to be a minimum charge of £1 an hour for the Home Help Service.
- 2) Changes in the General Assessment Scale - the means test which is used to calculate how much people have to pay for essential aids to mobility and adaptations to their homes, as well as other services, mean that the disabled will have to pay more for these services.
- 3) It is proposed that telephone

East Sussex
"saves
money!"



- provision be frozen. For a lot of disabled people this would effectively remove their only chance of contact with the outside world, especially vital in an emergency.
- 4) There will be a standard charge of 25p per return journey by Social Services transport.
 - 5) There will be less places available in residential homes.

COMMUNITY CARE - does east sussex?

Whilst the Social Services Dept expects voluntary organisations to take on a lot of extra work, it isn't prepared to examine seriously the question of their funding. This is quite different from the early '70's ideas of 'community care', in which the Social Services Depts were to take the lead in fostering a sense of community, helping people to help themselves, building local organisations, and attacking social inequalities. Now the advantages of 'community care' are now being offered as a 'justification' for the cuts in local authority spending.

The policy of "community care" is excellent in theory. It means not hiding people away in institutions and forgetting about them, but instead recognising

their right to live alongside their friends and family in the community.

In practice, however, it seems that "community care" is too often a convenient excuse for withdrawing all financial and practical support to those who need it. For community care to work, resources need to be redirected from institutions to the community, not reduced or withdrawn.

And anyway, what does this word "community" mean? If grants to community/voluntary organisations are cut, and their full time workers made redundant, and if domiciliary services (home helps etc) are reduced, what then? "Community care" becomes the responsibility of isolated families, and most of all women.

Along with these cuts comes a promise of more Home Help hours and more money for aids to occupational therapist services. These are minimal improvements. They are to be paid for by the closure of a children's home in Brighton and a reduction of agency placements of old people in Brighton & Hove.

Disabled people will also suffer from the cuts in local authority grants to the voluntary sector (see opp. page). After all these cuts, what's left is a pretty strange policy for a Welfare State: "If you want to help yourself don't expect help from anyone else". Reg Prentis, Minister for the Disabled, has said that he wouldn't insult disabled people by exempting them from public spending cuts. It may not be an insult, but it's a drastic and, for many, irreparable fall in living standards - a concerted attack on the Welfare State in the interests of those at the higher end of the income scale.

And is this attack on all who are most vulnerable - the old, the young the disabled, the unemployed - really the only way to "get the country back on its feet again"? Last year mortgage Interest Relief, Capital Gains exemptions and relief from Stamp Duty totalled £2,875 m, more than twice the total amount spent on Social Services. So where's all that increased productivity then?

Women, as always, are expected to fill in the gaps in the "Welfare State" - unpaid, uncomplaining, and for a lifetime.

In the workplace low pay and unemployment hit women especially hard. Now women are going to feel even more pressurised than usual to stay at home.

And many of the unpaid workers in community and voluntary organisations are women too. Not only because they have more time during the day, but also because of the way women are expected to "care". In this sense, reliance on voluntary workers is exploitation of people who will work for nothing if it seems there is no alternative.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: Old to stay Cold this Winter

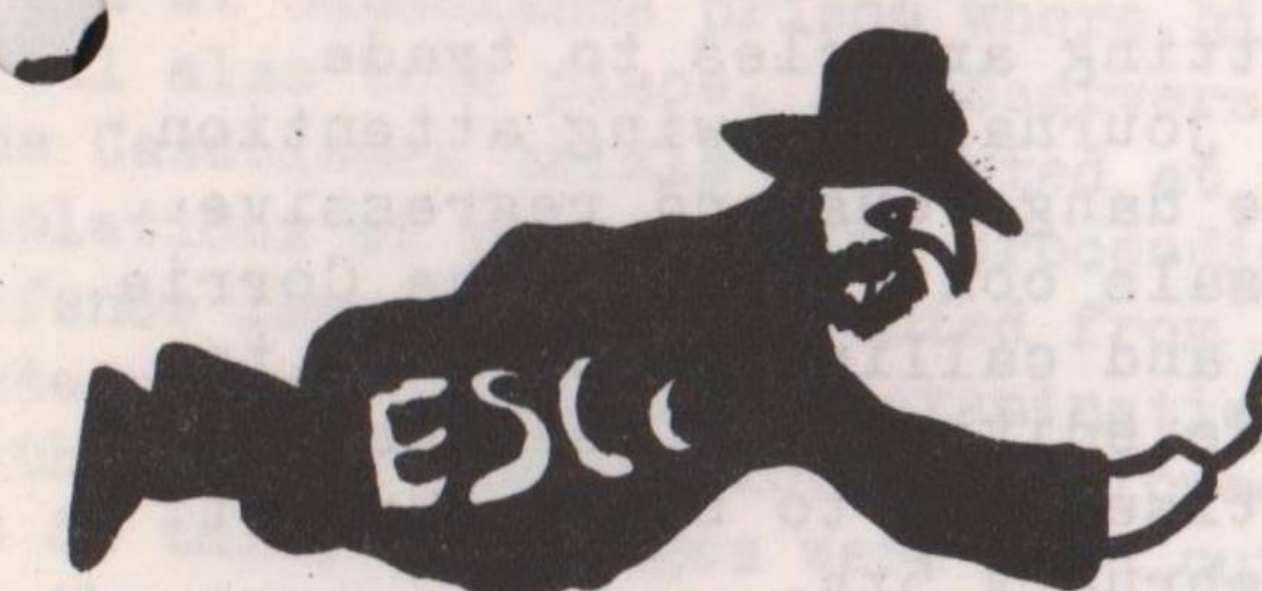
For the last two winters, Brighton Social Services has mounted an "Old & Cold Campaign". The report of the 1978/9 campaign workers has just been printed. It makes clear the need to extend community work with the elderly to enable them, and others, to fight the cold. The response of Social Services management? Cut the lot - don't run any campaign at all!

The Old and Campaign had been set up because it was realised that old people are dangerously at risk in the cold winter months. Many spend the whole winter shivering, dreading the next fuel bill. Others spend the winter plagued by cold-induced illness. Some don't survive the winter at all. As many as 60,000 may die each year from hypothermia.

Last year's campaign in Brighton had to tackle this by working closely with local community associations. The campaign workers were aware of the reasons for their work:

"A pension closely related to average earnings and index-linked to the cost of living would have made unnecessary much of the campaign's work. The excessively high cost of fuel (bearing in mind the subsidised prices to private industry and the fuel boards' own profits) put a warm home out of the reach of many pensioners' pockets." (p15)

Individual pensioners and neighbourhood groups praised the scheme. The community associations supported the campaign, although they did want more say in its planning and development. They also felt that it was too short and that there should be full time workers to develop this kind of work.



Brighton Voice wants to know

WHY the report was censored.

HOW people managing a department responsible for essential public services can defend their disgusting collaboration with spending cuts.

WHY Social Service management didn't go to the Council to demand more money for such essential services, rather than financing one at the expense of another.

WHAT this means for East Sussex County Council's bleatings about being committed to "community care", when the proposals of local community groups have been completely ignored.

Last winter's Old and Cold Campaign was run in the community with the slogan "Help the Old fight the Cold". This winter there is no special provision and the effect of Social Services management's decision is to

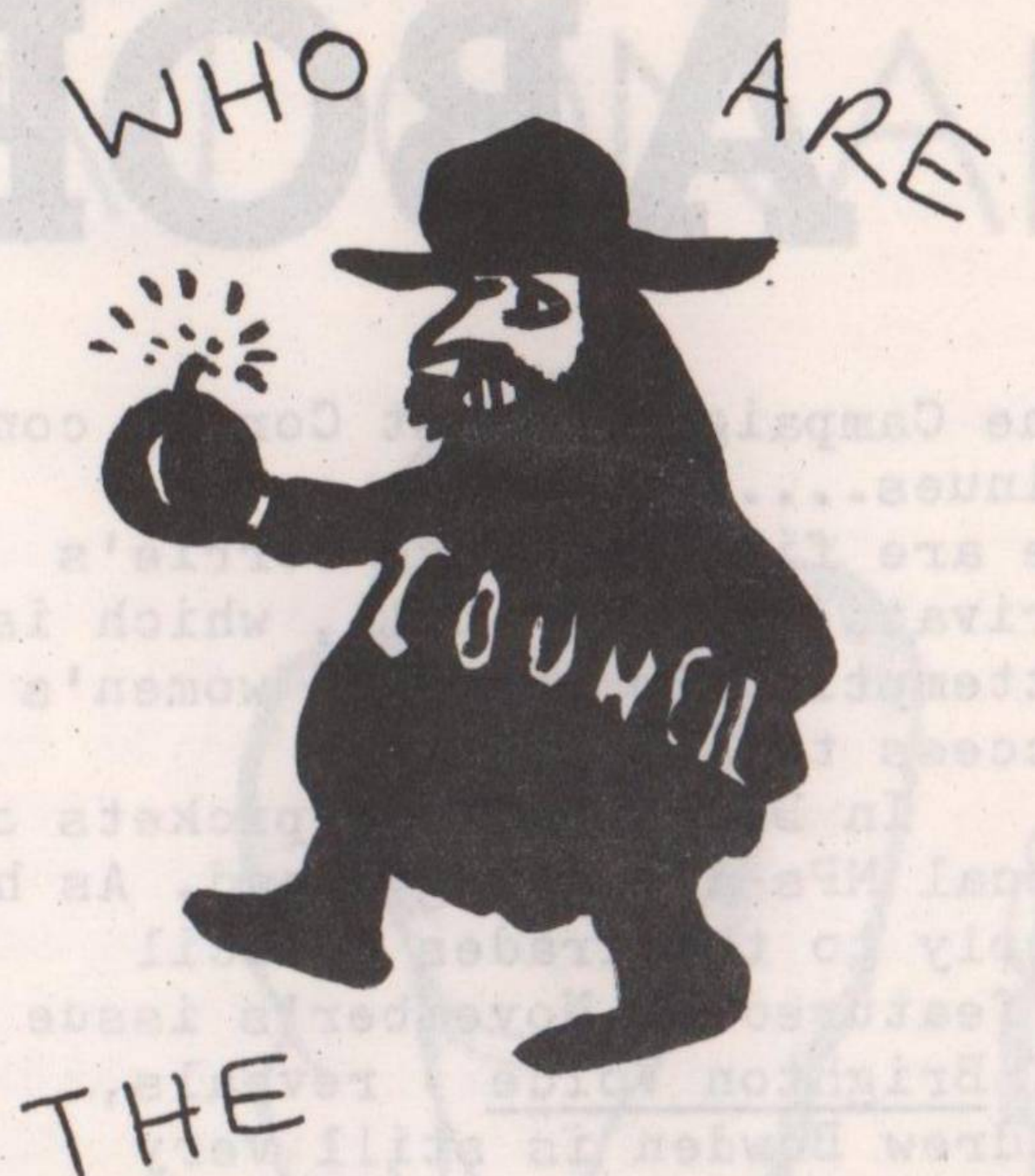
HELP THE COLD FIGHT THE OLD.

The Social Services workers involved in the five month campaign also made proposals for the future. However, if you have a copy of the report you will look in vain for their recommendations. Fortunately, one of last year's temporary workers had a copy. What did Social Services management censor from the report?

The workers proposed that Social Services:

- * "appoint a community worker with specific responsibilities for developing neighbourhood care schemes for the elderly" on the basis of the previous year's work.
- * expand last year's stock of heating aids and equipment which would be made available to community associations.
- * create a Brighton Old & Cold Standing Group to bring together organizations working in this field.
- * run an annual Old & Campaign for the winter months.
- * work with DHSS to speed up Exceptional Needs Payments.
- * support moves to pressure private landlords to improve insulation to their houses.
- * support council sheltered housing schemes.

Already Brighton social workers are under pressure from old people with heating problems. But then their needs don't matter. In the words of Peter Atkins (Brighton Social Services Director) it's "the current financial situation" that counts. Atkins is attempting to present the cut as merely a shift of resources to the Home Help service which is itself suffering from the cuts.



The decision to axe Brighton's Old & Cold campaign is entirely in line with the government's destruction of the Electricity Discount Scheme. This scheme gave some help to people receiving Family Income Supplement, supplementary benefit, supplementary pension of rent and rates rebates. It gave them a 25% discount on the portion of their electricity bill over £20. Last year five million people benefited from this.

Many of the poorest are dependent on electricity. Over half the pensioners visited during last winter's Old & Cold Campaign were totally dependent on electricity for heating. Since June of this year electricity prices have risen by 18.5%



Then on October 23, Patrick Jenkin (Health and Social Services minister) piously declared: "we have to cut our coat according to our cloth". I.E. no more discount scheme. This year only 345,000 people will benefit from the government's new scheme. Only supplementary pensioners over 75 will get an extra 95p a week. Families receiving Supplementary Benefit will only get help if they have a child under 5. There will be an extra £1 on top of the Family Income Supplement.

The government says it's a much more efficient scheme - by which they mean they will "save" £30 million. Put it another way. At least 4½ million people are going to face increased cold and/or poverty this winter because of an economic policy geared to the interests of the rich. Just whose coat and whose cloth is Jenkin talking about?

ABORT THE BILL!

The Campaign Against Corrie continues.....

We are fighting John Corrie's private members' bill, which is attempting to restrict women's access to abortion.

In Brighton, our pickets of local MPs are going ahead. As his reply to the Trades Council (featured in November's issue of Brighton Voice) reveals, Andrew Bowden is still very pro-Corrie. Tim Sainsbury says that he is basically against the Bill, but he'd like to see the present time-limit reduced. There is still Rathbone (Lewes) and Amery (Brighton Pavilion) to go. These pickets will be followed up by inviting them to a public meeting to state their views.

Nationally, the turnout of sixty thousand people in protest against the Bill on October 28th was fantastic, but this is just the beginning. The third reading of the Bill is on February 8th 1980, and we must be prepared for continued action up to and even after this date.

The only way that MPs votes will be swayed is if they see that masses of people are serious in their opposition and to convince them of this we need the backing of the Trade Union Movement for the activities leading up to the third reading. Below is a model resolution which we urge everyone involved in a trade union to put to their branch:

This branch/committee etc. opposes John Corrie's Bill, aimed at restricting the 1967 Abortion Act, and calls on the TUC and all affiliated Unions to intensify their campaign against the Bill, leading up to its third reading in February. It supports the building of national opposition to the Bill by:

- calling on the trades council to urge the Regional TUC to organise, before the third reading in February, a regional conference against the Corrie Bill.

- calling on the NEC to officially endorse February 5th as a Day of Action against the Corrie Bill, and to call out trade union members to support the mass lobby of Parliament on Feb. 5th.
- supporting the national assembly of women at the House of Commons on the day of the third reading (probably February 8th).
- submitting articles to trade union journals drawing attention to the dangerous and regressive proposals contained in the Corrie Bill, and calling on the NEC to include editorials/free one-page advertisements to build support for February 5th.

COULD YOU TELL ME THE WAY TO HARLEY BACK STREET PLEASE?



- initiating a specific campaign within this Union, at local and national levels, to..... (insert here whatever activity your union is best suited to undertake).

- calling on MPs who are members of this Union to hold a union meeting (eg. in the House of Commons) to discuss their attitude to the Corrie Bill.

- submitting evidence against the restriction of the Abortion Act 1967 to the Parliamentary Committee on the Corrie Bill, and to the Campaign Against Corrie.

Local events:

Third reading of the Bill 4th - 8th Feb.

Mass lobby of Parliament, followed by a Rally, at Central Hall, Westminster 5th Feb.

National Assembly of Women 8th Feb. (Central Hall) Westminster

National Events:

"The Feelings Behind the Slogans" 4th Dec. (Queen's Head) Steine Street
Discussion of Eileen Fairweather's article in October Spare Rib 8pm WOMEN ONLY

Next Campaign Against Corrie meeting 6th Dec. (Resources Centre) North Road

Public Meeting on: "Abortion: Our Right to Choose", with Rose Knight from NAC 13th Dec. (Resources Centre) 8pm

Trade Union Workshop 5th Jan. (Friends' Centre) 2pm

campaign against corrie..... campaign aga

CUTS family planning..

Brighton Health District are proposing to make cuts by abolishing or reducing the services of the family planning clinics. A "Save the Clinic Clinics" campaign has been set up, and has written to the Area Health Authority, District Management Team and Community Health Council etc. A leaflet is to be distributed through the Trades Council and to various organizations. The main points being made are:

- A woman's right to choose between Family Planning Clinic and G.P.
- Many G.P.'s are not willing or trained to give a full contraceptive service.
- Nationally, a contraceptive service provided by G.P.'s works out more expensive per patient.
- The proposed closures/reductions are one of the many attacks on our public services.

There is a public meeting on Tuesday December 11th, 8 pm at the Resources Centre, to discuss the campaign and its future.

Not so long ago a Minister in the House of Commons agreed that Brighton Health District was short of funds. Yet instead of getting more funds the District will soon have to make even more cuts.

As a result of the last round of Government spending cuts East Sussex Area Health Authority has to save £1½ million in 1980-81 and it has ordered Brighton Health District to make cuts worth £650,000. This is in an area where many hospitals, clinics, nurses homes, hospital laundries etc. are already in a terrible state and won't get essential repairs. There is already a severe shortage of nurses, porters, ambulance drivers etc, and this next round of cuts will certainly bring further attacks on health workers, since the wages bill makes up about 75% of the District budget.

Management are also looking for ways of saving money by reducing X-rays and blood tests, getting rid of more beds, closing wards and even wise hospitals and cutting down on the number of ambulances. The Observer recently reported the plan to close down local Family Planning Clinics, and the Save the Family Planning Clinics Campaign, which successfully fought to maintain Family Planning Clinics two years ago, has been set up again.

It is essential that the campaign is successful again, because most G.P.'s have virtually no experience with family planning. For example, some only fit 2 or 3 I.U.D.'s a year, and many women have suffered at the hands of incompetent GP's (see below).

It is difficult at present to try and fight the cuts as Management is looking at all services and jobs and exactly where the cuts will be made won't be known until early in the New Year. What is certain is that jobs and services will be very badly hit, with the likely result being even longer waiting lists for operations, poorer and even dangerous conditions

for health workers and patients, longer waits for ambulances at accidents, and ultimately more sick people being cared for at home by relations (which will of course mainly affect women).



AND VOLUNTEERS

Cuts in the Social Services means more work for the Voluntary Organisations. But they are not safe from government attacks either.

Two government programmes which help to finance local voluntary & community organisations have suffered from cuts in this year's Budget. The Urban Aid programme was cut by 4% - local Urban Aid applications submitted by the Brighton Rights Centre and the Brighton & Hove Community Resource Centre were turned down. The Training and Employment programme was cut by 32%, including a £44 m. cut in the STEP budget (Special Temporary Employment Programme). Locally this has put 12 STEP workers out of their jobs in a number of community/voluntary organisations. The Council now proposes to cut the grant given to

the Brighton Voluntary Service Centre from £30,100 to £27,800 for the year 1980/81.

When it comes to making decisions about which areas of local authority spending to cut, voluntary groups are in a particularly vulnerable position.

Local Authority grants are "discretionary" - therefore voluntary organisations whose work is considered marginal or contrary to existing local authority activity may find their grants cut. Paid workers in voluntary organisations are more likely to be the target of cuts than local authority employees. For one thing, their wages form a higher proportion of the organisation's small total budget than they do of local authorities large one. Secondly they do not usually have the job security of council employees.

Voluntary organisations are also vulnerable because their grants are negotiated annually, therefore making their financial situation insecure. In the summer the Social Services Sub-Committee on Voluntary Organisations noted that:

"Some bodies have come to anticipate receiving an additional grant at the end of each year, and some may seek a specific undertaking for an additional payment in respect of inflation. There can ... be no guarantee of the Council's ability to enhance the original grant since there can be no certainty that the resources will be available".

The Sub-Committee recommended that extra grants to cover inflation should only be paid in exceptional circumstances, and that original grants should be decided in principle for three year periods, but that the Council should have no obligation to pay beyond the first year.

The Sub-Committee have realised the problems this will cause. Voluntary organisations will have no secure guaranteed income, at a time when more and more work is devolving onto them. Their ability to plan ahead, to take on more staff, to expand or open new premises, will be hampered, and they will be forced to spend much more time on fund-raising, as opposed to providing services. The Sub-Committee proposed a working party, to be established in Autumn 79, to look into these problems.

However, at their next meeting, in October, they considered a report by the Director of Social Services, and then decided that "they did not feel it was necessary to appoint a working party". A fairly rapid change of mind. Instead, they're going to look at a detailed report at their next meeting, which is 'nt till December 10th.

PHANTOM ZEBRA STRIKES AGAIN



IN BEVENDEAN

The people of Bevedean have won their fight to keep their crossing patrol. The surprise news came at the "eleventh hour", just before they began their campaign of militant action.

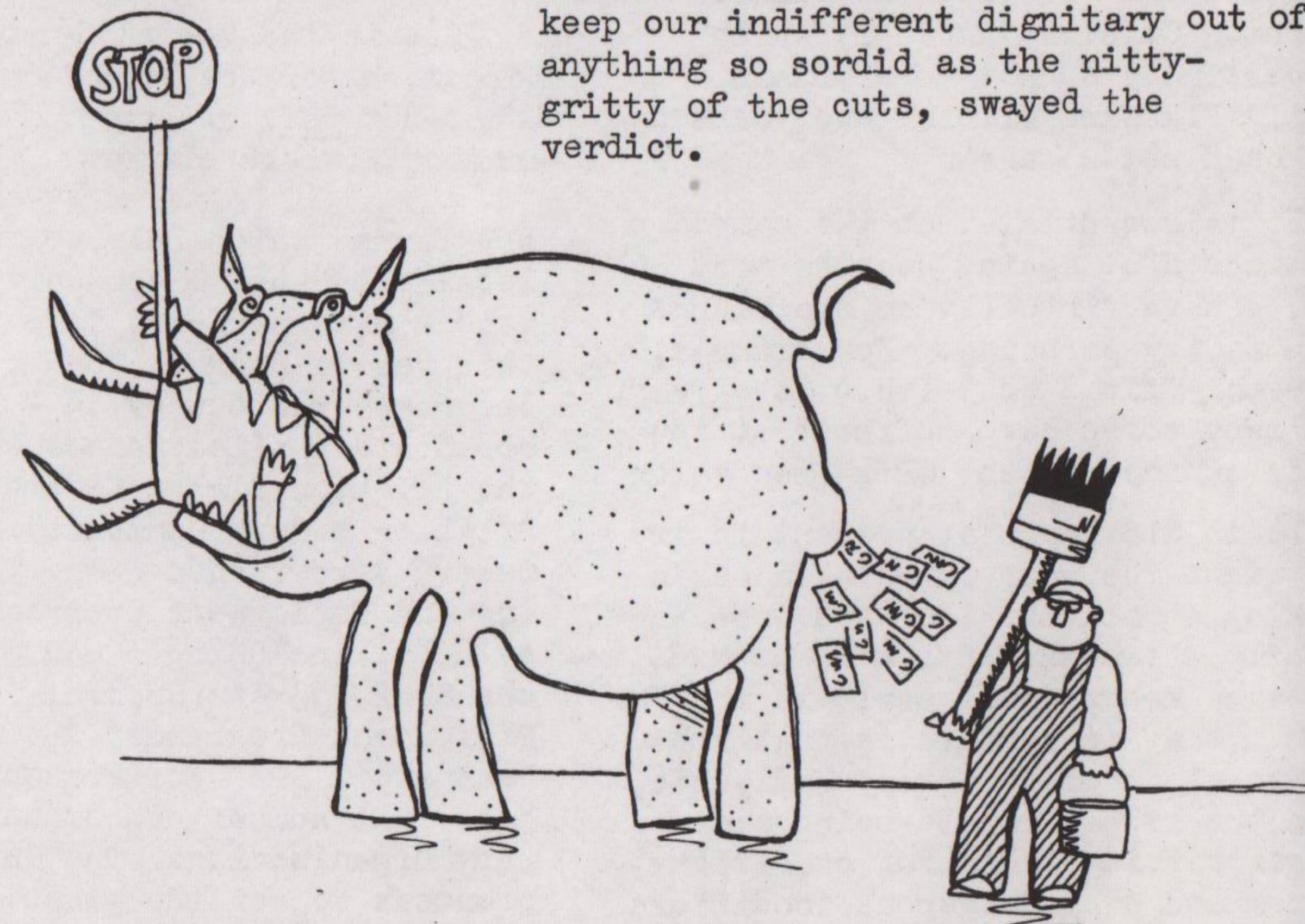
A blockade of the Bevedean estate had been planned for the morning of Monday Nov. 26th. Having exhausted all conventional channels of protest, they reluctantly realised the only way their cause would get sufficient publicity was through militancy. With hundreds of children's lives at risk, the mothers were determined not to be beaten.

The crossing patrol was situated in front of Bevedean Infant and Middle Schools on Heath Hill Avenue, described by one father, a taxi-driver by trade, as 'one of the most dangerous bends in Brighton -- the fact that the council had offered to train volunteers means that they are aware of the dangers involved.'

The County Council had declared that 'the ultimate responsibility must lie with the parents' -- for parents substitute mothers. The mothers, however, were unimpressed by their attitude, one mother told me she thought it was a direct attack on working women. As most of the women are forced to go to work either by their economic circumstances or wish to continue a career they felt that it was their right to have safe roads for their kids, and that they would not or could not give up their jobs to provide cheap labour for the Council's voluntary scheme. To defend their rights they were prepared to take to the streets!

But the victory is not total, it is a compromise. The crossing patrol remains, but in a changed position, so that she can now meet the council's magic criteria. Instead of standing at the school entrance,

she stands at the junction of Auckland Drive and Heath Hill Ave., about twenty yards from the gates. It is a vitally important position, but it means of-course that it will be tempting for kids coming from the opposite direction to go straight across the road to the entrance. Dare they ask for two? But why have the Council compromised at Bevedean, when they are being so obstructive at Moulsecomb. Have the mothers of Brighton frightened the council by their militancy? Is it that Moulsecomb has just become a rather embarrassing principle, which they find impossible to change in case they lose their authority. If the Moulsecomb mums had not caused so much trouble for the council, I'm sure Bevedean would not have its crossing patrol now - the Council just could not face taking on yet more militant mums.



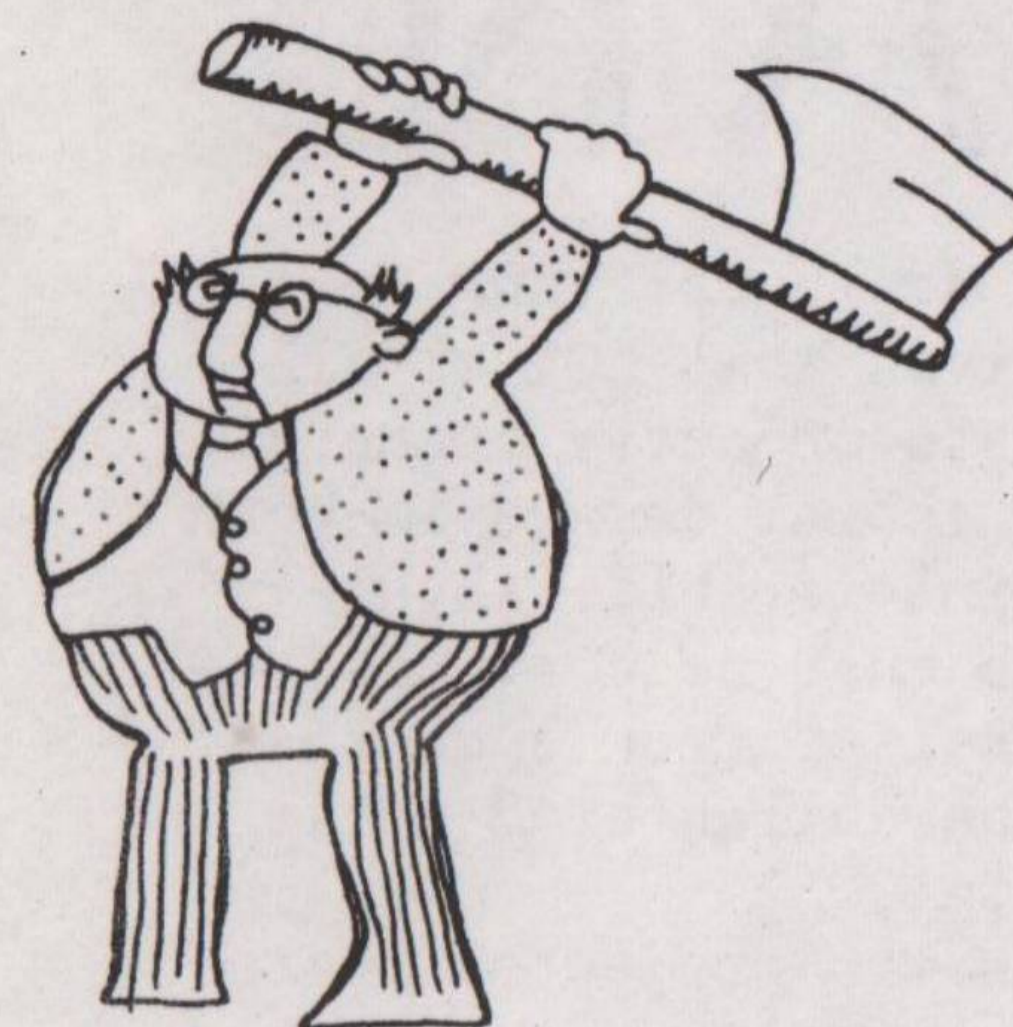
IN MOULSECOOMB

When the Hodshrove Road lollypop person left her job in September, parents discovered that she was not to be replaced. Why? According to the Council's new criteria, traffic outside Moulsecomb First and Middle Schools is not heavy enough to justify a crossing. What the Council ignored when they did the crucial survey was that much of the traffic is that going to and from the Alan West factory, and that this factory was on strike at the time!

The campaign which arose in protest to this decision has gained much publicity from the appearance of hastily painted zebra crossings on a number of Moulsecomb roads. So far, there have been at least 5 zebra crossings. The Council sent its workers to remove the paint, but after the first time they decided to show support for the campaign by refusing to remove the paint. Since

NO CUTS

Perhaps the full answer is not quite so optimistic! It must of-course not be totally unconnected that Brighton's first lady, the one and only Mrs. BOWDEN wife of Brighton's infamous M.P., sits on the board of managers at the Bevedean schools. She refused to participate in the fight for the crossing patrol, but perhaps the kind consideration of the Council to keep our indifferent dignitary out of anything so sordid as the nitty-gritty of the cuts, swayed the verdict.



then outside contractors - non-union workers from the Thormack firm in Moulsecomb - have had to be brought in. On one occasion the scab contractors were met by the angry protests and chants of the women. It costs the Council about £200 a go to bring in the outside contractors. By now the costs run up must at least equal the cost of employing one lollypop person for a year - £880. (Dis-gracefully low wages aren't they?)

The Moulsecomb women have also picketed Radio Brighton - an off the cuff response to an interview in which Mrs Mont (Tory councillor and School Manager) said the Moulsecomb mums had "scored a victory." By this she meant the Council's offer to train, equip and insure a volunteer patrol. But, say the women, having volunteer patrols is just passing the buck. The responsibility should remain that of the Council. Angrily the women and their kids besieged Radio Brighton and refused to leave until their side of the story had been put.

"Politics?"

And the mums themselves, what do they think about the way their campaign has been going?

"People think we're 'political'. We're not political, we just want to do this for our kids." The women are glad of the support they've had - from the Council workers, from the Southdown bus drivers (who have twice provided cheap transport and a volunteer driver for protests in Lewes), from the Trades Council, from the students and other sympathetic individuals. Ironically this support from others has apparently led East Sussex County Council to say that the campaign meetings are not to be held at the 67 'community' centre, because the parents have got too militant.

Meet Your New

SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL



COMING JANUARY 1980



Said one of the women, "If people want to help us - and actually do it - we don't care about their politics. The Labour Party was supposed to be helping us. No-one turned up to our meetings. The last time we went up to a council meeting at Lewes, we found our petition, with 800 signatures on it, had been lost. So had 2 letters; one of them was from the mayor, Dennis Hobden, who supports our campaign. Mrs Mont was supposed to be speaking for us at the meeting - she didn't even turn up. At least 20 of us went up in a minibus, and were made to look fools when there was no-one to represent us!"

What the women are sad about is the lack of support from parents in North Moulsecomb and other areas. As if, because their crossings are safe, they're not willing to help the areas whose kids are at risk. They say they'll continue to agitate until they get a crossing patrol or a zebra crossing. Volunteer patrols are not the answer. And in the end, who would be expected to be volunteers? The mums themselves, of course, and, if they're working, as most have to, they've enough to do as it is.

BRIGHTON DIVIDED BY BY-PASS PLAN

THREAT TO PATCHAM

TWO VIEWS ON THE PROPOSALS TO BUILD A NEW ROAD 'BY-PASSING' BRIGHTON.

WHEN IS A BYPASS NOT A BYPASS?

Answer: When it distributes traffic from one part of the town to another.

You will have seen many references in the local press to the "Brighton Bypass", and you might be forgiven for thinking that a new A27 will relieve a lot of congestion in Brighton. If you do think so, we have bad news for you - it won't.

The Brighton "bypass" would enable through traffic to avoid the built-up area of the town, but this through traffic is only a small part of the total traffic in the area. Most traffic wants to go to the centre, and the new A27 will make this easier, by providing more useful access points to the built-up area.

In June 1975, East Sussex County Council pressed the Department of the Environment for a new A27 route to be built before the widening of the A23

In June 1975, East Sussex County Council pressed the Department of the Environment for a new A27 route to be built before the widening of the A23 which is also on the stocks. Why? So as to ensure a free flow of the extra traffic into Brighton.

The way the new A27 would speed the flow of traffic into Brighton is this: at present, most traffic from the north reaches Brighton on just two routes: the London Road (A23) and Lewes Road (A27). Both these routes are sometimes heavily congested. But there are other routes which are less congested: Dyke Road and Ditchling Road.

The Brighton Central Area Plan mentions redevelopments of the circus St. area. What's there now? The Municipal Fruit And Vegetable Market. Where would the market go? To Patcham, according to Brighton Council minutes, following the construction of a new A27 road.

We can expect a sizable industrial complex to grow up at this site; where the A23 & A27 (if built) would

DO WE NEED A NEW A 27?

It is an obscenity that in 1979 a Primary Distributor road, the A27, passes through a highly residential part of Brighton.

The road falls down perilously from Dyke Road in the West causing noise, fumes and serious difficulties for pedestrians. It hammers through Preston Circus and up Viaduct Road causing endless environmental damage, traffic chaos and danger for pedestrians. Then it winds alarmingly along the narrow and dangerous Upper Lewes Road and exits tortuously into Lewes Road in the East.

Yes it's anti-social and environmentally damaging to a lot of Brightonians - it is indeed an obscenity in our midst!

Now let us look at the most recent traffic counts for Preston Circus and its associated roads :-

	peak hour flow	average/hr over 7 hrs
PRESTON CIRCUS	3,730	3,320
LONDON ROAD	1,934*	1,574
VIADUCT ROAD	1,331	1,220

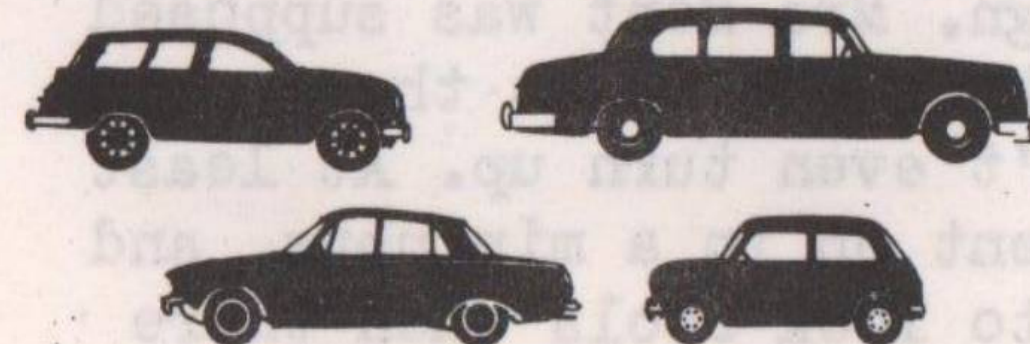
* 1950 is considered its maximum capacity!

cross. Pease Pottage, with its warehouses and supermarkets, shows what can happen when major roads cross. Now we learn that Albion plans to move to the edge of the town - a new ground with space for 7000 cars to park. A hypermarket and sports centre may be included to help it pay.

Thus if Brighton accept this road plan then a whole development strategy may follow. Instead of re-furdrishing the town centre, new investment will go into the A27 plan, and a string of car based developments along the edge of the town.

Meanwhile the centre of Brighton will become one large car park, judging from Brightons plan to spend £1.3 million on a new multi-storey car park in King St/Bond St. The Future - Cars, Cars, Cars...

There has to be and can be, a better future, and that is why the plans for a new A27 must be opposed.



These figures are horrifying in themselves but, given that 20% of all traffic consists of heavy commercial vehicles, the social damage is both obvious and intolerable. Anyone with any conscience must be convinced of the need for relief from such traffic flow and to the enlightened it is absolutely vital.

Add to this the projected increase of heavy port traffic from Shoreham and Newhaven, then the urgent need for the By-pass to the North of Brighton is conclusive. This will bring significant relief to Preston Circus area in particular, but also to the whole of central Brighton. I am fully aware of the argument that only 3.5 to 4.0% of drivers wish to bypass the Brighton conurbation but, given that this figure proves to be correct, it will represent 50 vehicles an hour, most of which would be heavy commercial vehicles from the ports.

But this is only half the story, for many of the roads surrounding Preston Circus are used as 'rat runs' by cars and lorries and these vehicles do not figure in the official tables, quite apart from causing serious offence in narrow residential streets. The Preston Circus Association believes that the number of such 'rat run' vehicles would significantly swell peak hour figures if included.

So, faced with the here-and-now, the case for the By-pass is unanswerable we are aware of the arguments of the environmentalists - but they must consider us! We are conscious of the charge that we wish to impose our problems upon others living in the outer boundaries of Brighton. True, we would be pleased to have the problem shared but, even given environmental problems on the line chosen for the northern By-pass, compensation and aids of modern technology would be provided as of right to protect the residents and their environment. No modern technology can protect fully the residents who have no front gardens between their homes and the narrow streets which were not built to serve modern traffic needs. Those living round Preston Circus have lived with this problem for the last 20 years.

The By-pass must come and the traffic obscenity in the centre of Brighton must go. We hope at no one's expense, but the serious problem has to be solved for the effect in central Brighton increases almost by the hour and there must be no delay this time.

Mike Neves - Chairperson Preston Circus Association

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

'Amnesty International' is an organisation which seeks to obtain the release of any people who have been imprisoned for their political beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religion, provided that these people have not used violence. It also advocates fair and early trials for all political prisoners, and opposes the death penalty and torture of any prisoners. 'Amnesty International' (A.I.) is a world-wide movement with 2,000 branches in 35 countries (in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas and the Middle East) and has individual members in 74 other countries.

The size and effectiveness of the organisation stems directly from the fact that it is completely independent of any political party or religious ideology: violations of human rights in both right-wing and left-wing countries are criticized by A.I.

A.I. operates partly through national and international campaigns. But the bulk of the work is distributed to local groups by means of a system whereby each group "adopts" 2 'prisoners of conscience'. Thus, for each prisoner researched and selected by A.I. there is a constant core of people to work on that case. This "work" mostly comprises of fund-raising activities (for publicity and occasional help for the prisoner's family if necessary) and keeping up a barrage of correspondence (to the government and prison authorities of the country concerned, and to the prisoner herself, if possible).

In the Brighton group of A.I. we have adopted two very different prisoners of conscience: one is a Russian religious dissident and the other, a Moroccan political dissident. The case of the Moroccan prisoner is particularly disturbing:

ALLAL el AZHAR IS IN PRISON

In Marrakesh, Morocco November 1974, a 30 year old school teacher Allal el Azhar, was arrested. His crime? Simply this; he did not agree with the extreme right-wing policies of the Moroccan government and was brave enough to voice his objections. For this, Allal el Azhar was detained for 3 years before he was even brought to trial.

Part of that detention period, Allal spent at Casablanca prison where his trial also took place. AI observers at the Casablanca trials protested at the violations of normal trial proceedings: defence lawyers were prevented from intervening during cross examinations although the prosecution was allowed to do this; no charges were read out to the prisoners in court; the defence lawyers were restricted and harassed and not allowed to communicate with the accused during the hearing; the defendants and their lawyers were prevented from making statements in court about the torture which took place after their arrest and during detention.

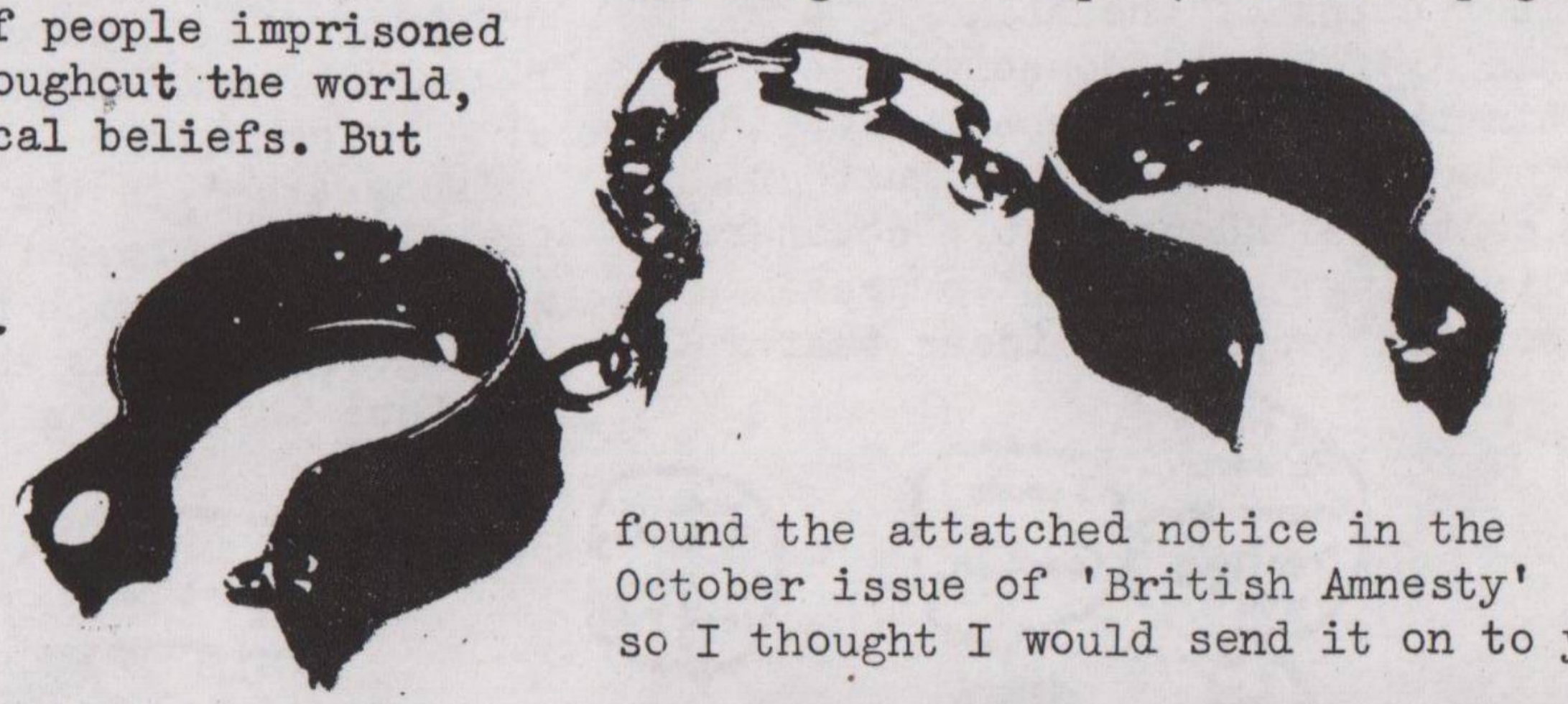
ON THE BASIS OF SUCH A TRAIL, ALLAL EL AZHAR WAS SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IMPRISONMENT!

AI first heard of Allal's plight in 1975 and in July of that year Allal's case sheet was passed to the Brighton Group for investigation. Since that time, the Brighton Group have kept up a barrage of correspondence to the Moroccan authorities whilst also petitioning locally for

support. Contact was eventually established with Allal and despite the severe prison censorship he replied saying how glad he was to have friends who knew and cared about him. Another letter was received in September 1978 in which he complains of his teeth decaying and of his nerves.

Allal is, of course, just one of many thousands of people imprisoned and tortured throughout the world, for their political beliefs. But

PARDON - AMNESTY?



international pressure can alleviate this situation: according to AI statistics, 5 'prisoners of conscience' are released every day as a result of such publicity.

If you want to help Allah el Azhar, please write a letter (it must be courteous I'm afraid!) to the King of Morocco. Otherwise, come and join the Brighton Group! (See Info. page).

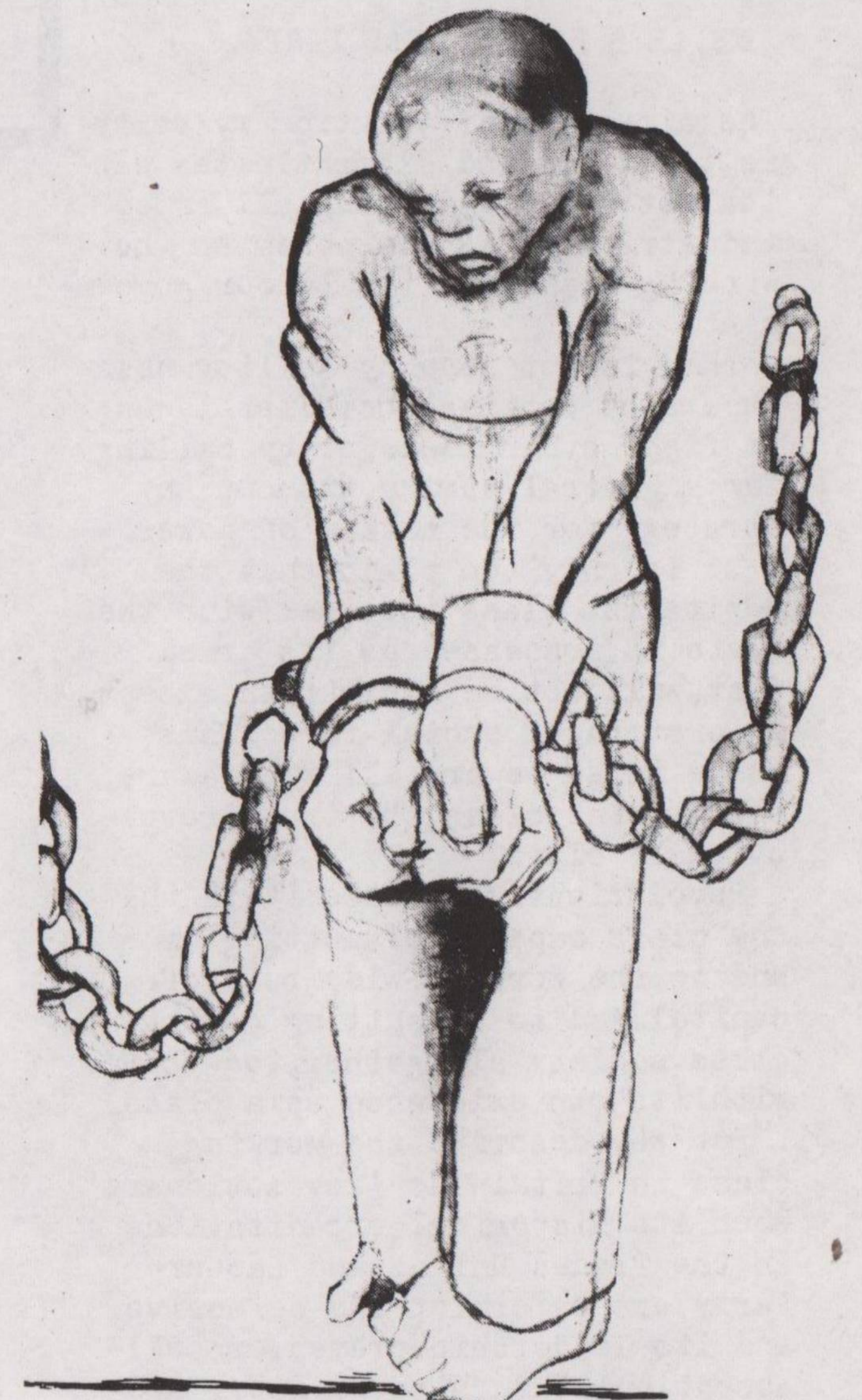
found the attached notice in the October issue of 'British Amnesty' so I thought I would send it on to you.



CONTRARY to some press reports, so far at the ICM with regard to individual homosexuality. The Council decided that anyone imprisoned for being homosexual could be considered a prisoner of conscience. In cases where homosexuality could be assumed by a pretext for imprisoning individuals for their beliefs, AI could adopt them as prisoners of conscience.

There is some controversy over Amnesty's policy towards homosexuals. The member who came to our meeting was asked about this and has sent in the notice below. We would welcome more evidence or comments on Amnesty's slightly ambiguous statement printed here.

Dear 'Brighton Voice' Collective, I came to one of your meetings a few weeks ago to ask about an article for Amnesty International. Someone asked me whether Amnesty would also support people who had been imprisoned for being homosexual. I



REVOLUTIONARY LABOUR!

YES, LETS HAVE A REAL PARTY.

The aim of any revolutionary party is to disarm and dismantle the capitalist state, and bring all arms, industries, and state power to the working class and its Labour government.

This is not done by selling newspapers, by setting socialist ideas to fight other ideas, or by calling for a general strike, without any strategy for the taking of power.

It is only too plain that the capitalist class together with the state it possesses as its armed fist, will not be overthrown except by a stronger social force. This force is, as we are all well aware, the working class, the truly revolutionary class.

Revolutionary because it is the one class capable of putting an end to the world-wide rule of capital. And so of putting paid to class society altogether, together with its own existence as a class.

But why describe the working class in Britain as 'revolutionary' when its historical organizations in the Trades Unions and Labour Party are reformist and defensive, and its leadership craven, or collaborationist? This timidity, 'moderation' or 'right-wingism' in the Labour Movement is not the original sin. It is rather the concession working people have made to the continued dominance of capital; to the employer as the source of employment; to the material power of the state, with its real Judges, real policemen, prisons, monarch, intelligence chiefs not accountable even to the bourgeois Parliament, and officer corps of the standing army.

This 'reformist' consciousness within the working class is not, then an independent force, that must at all costs be independently countered by directing 'socialist' propaganda at working people. The ideas that rule

CONTINUING OUR SERIES ON THE ACTIVITIES AND VIEWPOINTS OF LEFT GROUPS IN BRIGHTON, WE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE FROM SOCIALIST ORGANIZER, ON THE LABOUR LEFT.



THE PERVERSIVE FORCE OF CAPITALISM

long experienced, the consciousness of workers will be transformed as swiftly as conditions are changed.

Today the capitalist economy of Britain is disintegrating. Near to nil growth, the collapsing rate of profit, the flight of investment, are all the advance shock-waves of the impending crisis that must shift the very ground on which the capitalist structure stands. What does this mean immediately for Labour? Clearly that reforms and sweeteners for the working class have been swept off the table. In their place ever deeper cuts in the social wage,

the trimming away of women's rights and of every 'welfare' aspect of the state, unemployment fostered governmentally as a means of subjugation. In a word, counter-reforms.

'Moderates' in the Trade Unions and Labour Party are left without any attainable end with no object of reform in sight. Which is why, in the words of Mr. Paul Channon, a Minister of State

IF YOU WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS SERIES, OR FOLLOW UP SOMETHING SAID IN AN ARTICLE, WRITE TO B.V.C./PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKSHOP, LITTLE PRESTON ST., BRIGHTON.

us would be disastrous." One may trust Mr. Channon will have good reason to be terrified.

But what of ourselves? Left-libertarians, feminists and revolutionists within our own factions?

Do we stand aside and view with a sectarian disdain the conflict in the Labour Party seeing it only as the cunning machinations of Benn to take the leadership, and failing to grasp that this conflict is a very clear reflection of the gigantic power of the organised working class as it begins to measure out the ground, look to its weapons, and challenge capitalist rule?

In our view, new forms of struggle under a new, accountable Labour leadership can be forged only on the ancient class battlegrounds where workers have traditionally organised themselves in the Trade Union Movement and its intended political arm, the Labour Party.



A line runs steadily from the union branch, co-operative parties and trade councils, through to the official and unofficial strike committee, picket-line and work-place occupation.

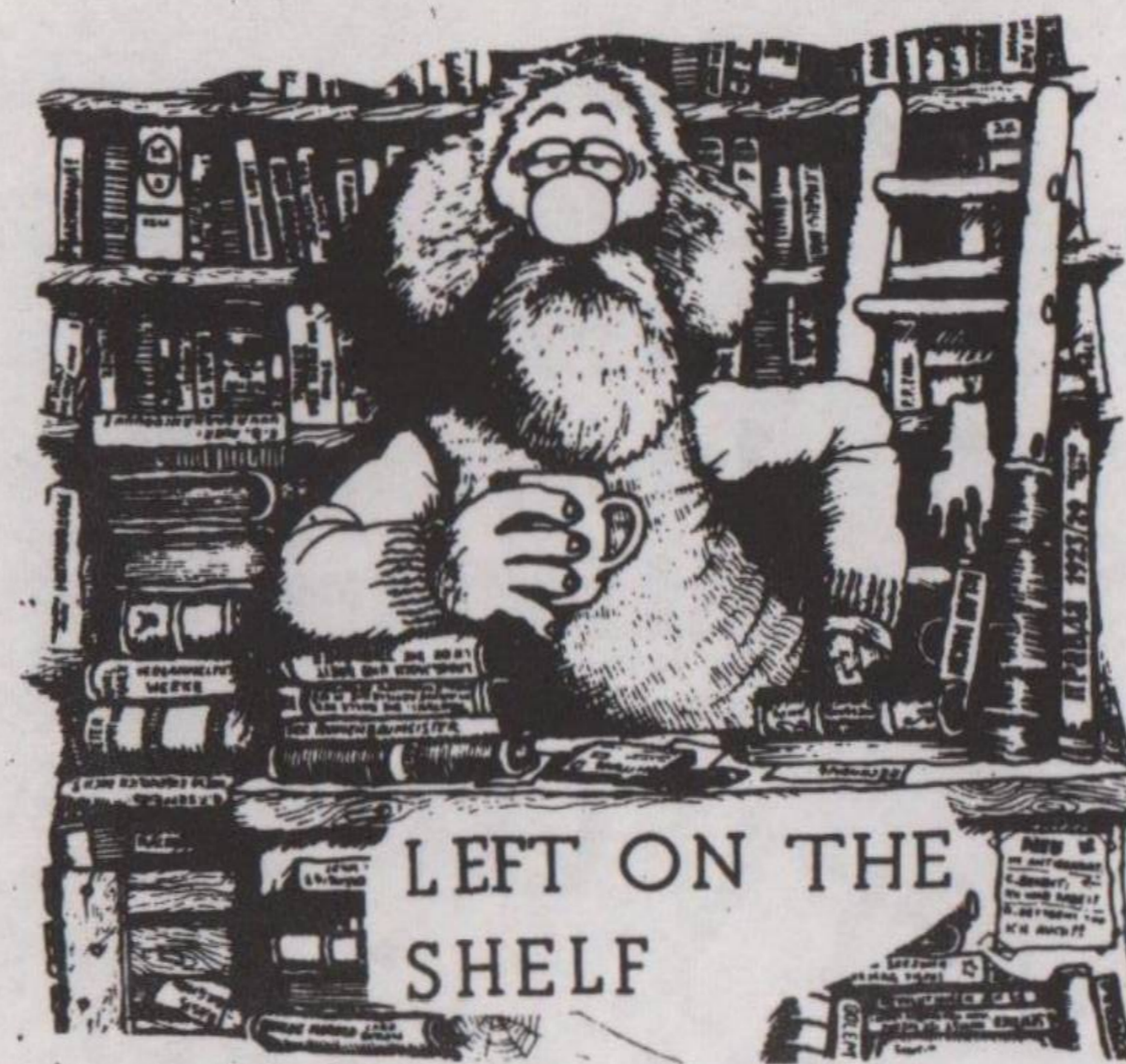
We maintain that revolutionary activists, if they are serious, must participate fully, unreservedly, in the Labour movement; must learn to handle the weapons the workers themselves have painfully constructed.

What is certain is that the working class will not break ranks with its own organisations; but will transcend them. It will create new forms of struggle only as the revolution impels.

Revolutionary Comrades!

We believe that while maintaining your own organisations and developing them, you should see also the necessity of bringing your union card to the secretary of your branch Labour Party, or contact the secretary of the Brighton Labour Party.

SOCIALIST ORGANISER, AND RANK AND FILE MEMBER, BRIGHTON LABOUR PARTY.



BIG RED DIARY, 1980: POLITICS IN SPORT (PLUTO PRESS)

"Politics has no place in sport", the Orient Chairman told Football Against the Nazis earlier this year, a statement disproved comprehensively by the 1980 Big Red Diary, seventh of the series combining the usual information with a particular topic, viewed from a socialist standpoint.

The fight for union rights, equality for women and civil liberties and against racism and fascism are touched on and there are useful observations on big business sponsorship and the close connections with militarism and xenophobia.

Personally, I find the format unhelpful and some of the snippets seem to have been put in more as fillers than for any useful purpose. Photos across the diary spaces highlight the difficulties: if you want to make a date on November 13th you'll have to write on Pele's head - inconceivable!

If, however, you can cope with this problem, the diary is a better bet than the the International Capitalist's Diary (or whatever) from W.H. Snurge - provided your pocket is at least 6" by 4". It also reminds us, should this be necessary, that:

When the One Great Scorer comes To write against your name, He writes - not that you won or lost - But how you played the game. What more can one say?

UTOM reply

Dear B.V. Collective, In reply to Peter Garrett in the last issue, we in the United Troops Out Movement think its defeating to start with the assumption that UTOM = IRA propaganda.

This is exactly the stance taken by the BBC, ITV, Press and Radio: that any reasoned, informed opinion or discussion which doesn't totally agree with the role of British troops in Ireland is tantamount to IRA propaganda. This is not so... by listening to UTOM, Peter Garrett is not hearing arguments from those active in the present IRA campaign. In fact if he wanted to hear these arguments he'd find it impossible as the media presents all IRA actions as senseless violence and terrorism. The suggestion that there might be some political issues involved, to be discussed by English people

is viewed as sedition by this society. For this reason it's not surprising that most people, along with Peter Garrett, have a distorted view of the political orientation of the IRA i.e. that it has no interest in changing society as such. Their political programme is spelt out in their document "Eire Nua", which claims that their goal is a 32 county socialist state - a united Ireland which would necessarily include the downfall of Catholic dogma, full rights for women, etc.

Other factual errors and distortions in Peter Garrett's letter reflect the effect of censorship on Ireland. He states that the majority of people in the 6 counties (the North) are against unification. This is hardly surprising, given that the N.Ireland state was purposefully created with this aim in mind... to act as a bulwark against Irish Nationalism. Peter Garrett may like to be reminded of the 1918 election when the Nationalist Party won the majority of votes for a united Ireland. Lord Carson and the Orange Order deliberately set up the Ulster Volunteer Force in 1912 to counteract and undermine the democratic process.

Both economically and politically the Northern Ireland state falls short of the concepts of fairness and democracy as we know them in our 'mother of democracies' - England. In the 6 counties, the police force, with its own trained and armed elite; the judiciary and the Civil Service are almost totally staffed by - and led by - Protestants. In the whole history of the Ulster state, only one party has ever been in power, it is the Unionist Party, which excludes Catholics from membership. To maintain that party in power a whole system of boundary rigging was created - called Gerrymandering - which disfranchised whole sections of Catholics. In fact the whole concept of democracy has always been a farce in the 6 counties. Where else in the world would the basic demand of one person one vote lead to the complete collapse of government.

Economic discrimination has gone hand in hand. There is a much greater proportion of Catholics unemployed. Catholics occupy fewer positions in the professions and in management. They get the worst housing, the worst schools.

One glaring red herring in Peter Garrett's letter is his assertion that one million people from the North would fare badly in a United Ireland because of Catholic dogma on things like abortion, contraception, divorce and education. Whereas the laws on these issues in the rest of the U.K. have become more liberal they never applied to Northern Ireland, which maintains a Victorian morality on all these subjects. Apart from a few liberal changes in the Republic the north and south are similar in these respects.

But one of the most interesting developments of the past few years has been the growth of the women's movements north and south, in Catholic areas predominantly, but including Protestant women; in struggles over contraception, abortion and battered women's refuges. It is not only the IRA, therefore, who wish to change Irish society north and south of the border.

It is interesting to see how Peter Garrett fits his definition of democracy into the real situation of Ireland today: - the British Govt. having been taken to the Court of Human Rights for torturing prisoners, the existence of the no-jury Diplock courts, the continued use of the emergency Powers Act to impose curfews and deny rights of assembly and demonstration.

Our most fundamental disagreement is of course on the role of the troops in N.Ireland. When the troops first arrived, many of the Catholics welcomed them - believing them ready to act against the attacks by the loyalists and the 'B'Specials'. The speed with which the British Army turned their force almost solely against the Catholics and Republicans caused great disbelief and hatred.

We say that the troops have never been a peacekeeping force. They were not sent in to keep the peace but to prop up a decrepit, reactionary, sectarian and bigotted system. That system whose living force is brutality and repression was the product of Orange Order ideology and late 19th. capitalism. The army's role is only to perpetuate that system, therefore denying any real change for Irish people. We believe that the only people who can solve Irish problems are the Irish people. Thus our two demands: - Troops Out Now Self Determination for the Irish people.

Yours Brighton UTOM PS. join us.



SAINT GABRIEL'S FAMILY CENTRE, 18 WELLINGTON ROAD, BRIGHTON. 605 040 COOK REQUIRED...

We are looking for a special kind of person as cook for our family and day care project - someone who can fit in with our stimulating and diverse ways of working - someone with a flexible outlook and whose ideas on cooking and kitchen are adaptable - someone willing to share their knowledge with others... Good Pay; 10 - 2 Mon till Fri. Ring for details...



society do so only by virtue of the fact that they are the ideas of the class that owns and rules the economy. These ideas penetrate the working class too, where they continue to serve the interests of the capitalist order under the guise of 'moderation!' Because it is dependent on the real conditions of life that workers have



for the Civil Service: "It is a terrifying scene watching the Left gradually taking over the main Opposition Party against the totally unsuccessful opposition of the so-called Social Democrats. If Britain ever fell into the hands of the extremists in the Labour Party the consequences for all of

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6th Imitations
7th Missing Persons
8th Rampart Music
13th Blitz
15th Breakfast
21st Stormbringer Disco
22nd Missing Persons
24th Stormbringer Disco
29th Lions
31st Fan Club

NORTHERN
1st Airport
6th Raw Deal
7th Tinsell
8th Airport
13th Tokyo Rose
14th Tinsell
15th Airport
21st Tinsell
22nd Airport
24th Airport
31st Tinsell
JANUARY
4th Tinsell
5th Airport

folk

SPRINGFIELD
2nd Jenny Beeching
HOME
3rd John Martyn
15th Leonard Cohen
JANUARY
6th Spinners
26th Dec-9th Jan
Robinson Crusoe (Panto)

RESOURCE CENTRE XMAS HOLS

STANFORD ARMS
4th NCP
5th Brighton CP
6th SWP John Deason 'Politics of Sport'
13th SWP
20th SWP
27th SWP

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Hove & Fortslade: J. McCormack, 11 Wellington Avenue, Hove 738462.
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Hove. C. Walder, 120 Clarendon Villas, Tel. 722218
Lewes: A. Prynant, 16 Willow Walk. Newt-aver. 6299.

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Anti Nuclear Campaign Contact: Margaret McIlroy: 30 Over St. Brighton. Tel: B'ton 696425
BIG FLAME: 68 Compton Rd, or phone B'ton 721287, for details of meetings, etc.
BRIGHTON ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP: Meik at 18 Bloomsbury Place, COMMUNIST PARTY G.P.: contact Sec. P. Goffin, 95a Saint George's Rd. (687336) meet-1st. Wed. of month at the Stanford Arms, 7.45.
Phone for details.
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COOPERATIVE PARTY, B'ton: 86 London Rd. 683076. Hove: J. Cattell, 29 Foredown Drive, Fortslade.
ECOLOGICAL PARTY: B'ton Branch. Sec. Val Collett, 680750. Meet fortnightly at the Marlborough Hotel, Tue. 9pm.
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GAY SWITCHBOARD: Info & Advice 202930, 8-10 every night
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LESBIAN GROUP: Jill 696298

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Phone 202492
SAMARITANS: For those in despair Btn 772277 (24hr); Hove 102 Clarendon Rd

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TRADES UNION COUNCIL: Coordinating group of local trade unions affiliated to the TUC. Ann Jones, 70 Hartington Rd. 601599.
LABOUR HISTORY PROJECT & LABOUR HISTORY PRESS: as above.
TRADES & LABOUR CLUB: Meeting place for trade unionists. 16 Lewes Rd. 601101
TRANSPORT 2000: Meetings 2nd Tues. of month, B'tn Station 7pm.
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WOOF: send s.a.e. for info. to 19 Bradford Rd, Lewes.
WORKERS MUSIC ASSOCIATION: Basement, 28 Livingston Rd, Hove.
WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: Brighton 680654.
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GROUPS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (BTN & HOVE GROUP) Tel. Colin or Mary 400832
ANOREXIC AID: Penny 775084, Jane 734862, Rosemary 507912 Meetings fortnightly.
ANTI-LOW PAY GROUP: B'ton 682295 or Lewes 77499
BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION: B'tn & Lewes Division of Sussex Beekeepers. Lyn Hawkins, 14 The Lees, Peacehaven 4522
BRIGHTON HOSTEL: 18 Dorset Gdns Soup run bottom West St. 10-11pm daily. Help needed 682089
BRIGHTON SOCIETY: Environmental group. S. Montford. 10 Cleremont Road. 509209
CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT: 28633
COMMUNITY ARTS WORKSHOP: Dance drama, mime, music. St. Anne's Hall, St. Georges Rd. Kemp Town. 697493 for dtls.
COMPASSION IN WORLD FARMING: Contact, Ms Lesley Turpin 4 Cedar Cl. Lancing 62661
CONFERENCE OF SOCIALIST ECONOMISTS: K. Smith, 10 Warleigh Rd.
FEDERATION OF TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS (BTN): 72, Swanborough Place.
FRIENDS CENTRE: Meeting Place with Further Education classes. 16, Ship St. 27835
FRIENDS OF EARTH: Kate Dessau B'tn 31083. Fortnightly meetings, Marlborough Hotel 8pm. Non-Members welcome.
FRIENDS OF THE WESTERN BUDDHIST ORDER: Yoga, lectures etc. Beginners meditation Mon. 7. 7.15 15 Park Crescent Cl. or phone 693971
GINGERBREAD: Selfhelp pressure group for one parent families Basement 6 Marlborough Pl. Mon-Thurs 9-1 or phone 697208 or 688661
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WOMEN

LESBIAN GROUP: Jill, 696298
WIDOWS CLUB: 47 Tivoli Cres., Dyke Rd. Meet 8pm, fourth Wednesday each month. Unitarian Hall, New Road.
WOMEN AGAINST FASCISM AND RACISM: c/o Resource Centre.
WOMENS AID: Refuge for battered women, Info from Women's Centre
WOMEN FIGHT RAPE GROUP: contact Women's Centre.
WOMEN'S CENTRE: at back of Resource Centre. Opn: Tue, We, Thur, Sat; 11-2 & Tue, We: 6:30 - 8pm. Pregnancy tests, rights, etc. 605911.
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM: 684604 and Lewes 4161.
WOMEN'S LIBERATION: Meet Resource Centre every third Monday. For info. 605911.
WOMEN'S VOICE GROUP: based on Women's Voice paper. Sue 212 Sue 21260.

BIRTH

BIRTH CENTRE (BRIGHTON): Info & support group. Pregnancy, Birth & Early Infant Child care. Yoga in Pregnancy classes and Infant Swimming classes. Cnt. 689194/28357
FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC: 18/19 Western Rd 734258 Lewes, Newhaven & University Health Centre - Btn 23344
NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN: contact WOMEN'S CENTRE.

ADVICE

AGE CONCERN: Old people's welfare. Mon-Fri 10-12.30 & 2-4pm 57 Ditchling Rd. B'ton 683275
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ALTERNATIVE EXCHANGE SERVICE: Exchange your skills, services, labour. 682955.
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT: Resource Centre high-top transit and driver. 607141.
THE GREAT MEDICI: Entertainment for children - suitable for playgroups, parties, community centres etc. 683930
MERLIN: Lewis Work Collective: Gardening, Decorating, tutoring, mechanics, etc. (over forty skills) - 5 Mount Pl. Lewes 4036 & Ringmer 812962.
PURE JOY: Whole Foods Catering Collective. 19 Hammy Way, Shoreham-by-Sea. S'ham 62301.
UNCLE BRIGHTON SHOW: 691713.
WORKING ASSOCIATION OF MOTHERS: Baby sitting, social events, creche, etc. Pauline Prise 556510.
WORKING WEEKENDS ON ORGANIC FARMS: Don Pynches, 19 Bradford Rd. Lewes 6286 (no callers please)
YOUNG UNEMPLOYED'S CLUB: Wed, 11.30-2. Institute. Queen's Sq

PAPERS

CARF: Paper of the ANTI-RACIST, ANTI-FASCIST CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE: A campaigning paper, nationwide, from Public House Bookshop, or Flat 3, 5 Huntley St. London. Bulk orders/ Donations.
QUEENSPARK: Paper for the Queens Park area; 18 Windmill St., B'ton.
WAYBILL: Newsheet of T&GWU, 1/402 B'ton & Hove District Busmen, from Conway Street Depot, Hove.
WHOLE EARTH: Alternative technology, organic living, local environmental action. 11 George St. 694600.

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WEST HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 21359.
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KEMP TOWN BOOKS: 91, St. George's Road, Radical literature: new and second-hand books.
PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKSHOP: 21, Little Preston St. 28357 Member of the Federation of Alternative Booksellers. Real books and mags, records and cassettes of ethnic and improvised music. Basement is open for continuous sessions and courses. See whats on
PULSE: Closed.
SAXONS VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT: 48, George Street Btn. 680733 Mon-Sat. 11.30 - 5 also Fri & Sat. 7.15 - 11. Bring own wine.
SOLSTICE BOOKSHOP: 28 Trafalgar St. alternative books and mags, basement reading room, Tel.: 692880
SIMPLE SUPPLIES: Wholefood, recycling, publications etc. environmental centre. 11, George St. Btn. 694600, Mon-Sat. 9.30-5.30. Closed Thurs.
SUNRISE RESTAURANT: 16, North Road, wholefood, vegetarian. Run by the friends of the Western Buddhist Order. Mon-Thurs. 12-5, Fri & Sat. 2-6 & 7 - 10 pm.
THE ODD VOLUME: Second-hand books: literature, left, feminist, education and many other subjects.... 53 Upper Gloucester Road. 10-6, Mon-Sat.
THREE ROOMS CAFE: 14, Blatchington Rd. Hove, vegetarian. Mon-Sat. 10 - 3. 779933
WINDHORSE BOOKSHOP: 19 George St. Btn. Buddhism, books, Indian clothes, gifts, candles, incense, cards. 10-5, daily.
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ALEXANDRA TECHNIQUE: S.J. Scott 33, Surrenden Crescent. B'tn 559379. Appointment only
CLINIC OF CHINESE ACUPUNCTURE 6 Old Steine, Tel. 699716 Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-5 p.m. From
HOMEOPATH: Robert Withers, B'tn 699212, Appointment only 79, Mill Street, Falmer.
SECOND SUN HEALING: Healing through direct action & increased understanding. 7 Terminus Rd B'tn 29248.
SHIATSU: Reflexology, Swedish massage, Bach flower remedies Marek Urbanowicz, Palmeira Cl'c 6 Palmeira Square, Hove B'tn 734465. Appointments

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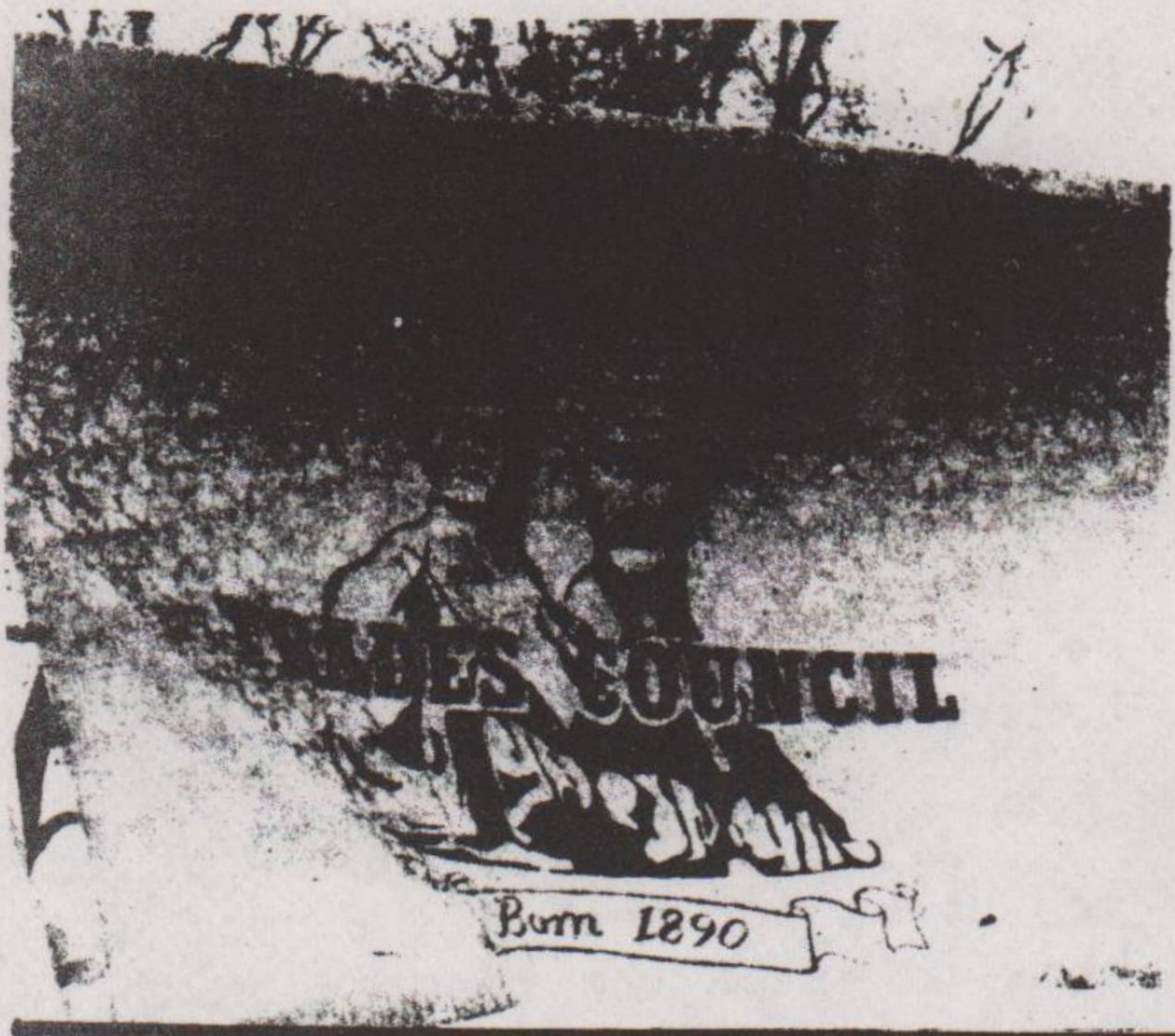
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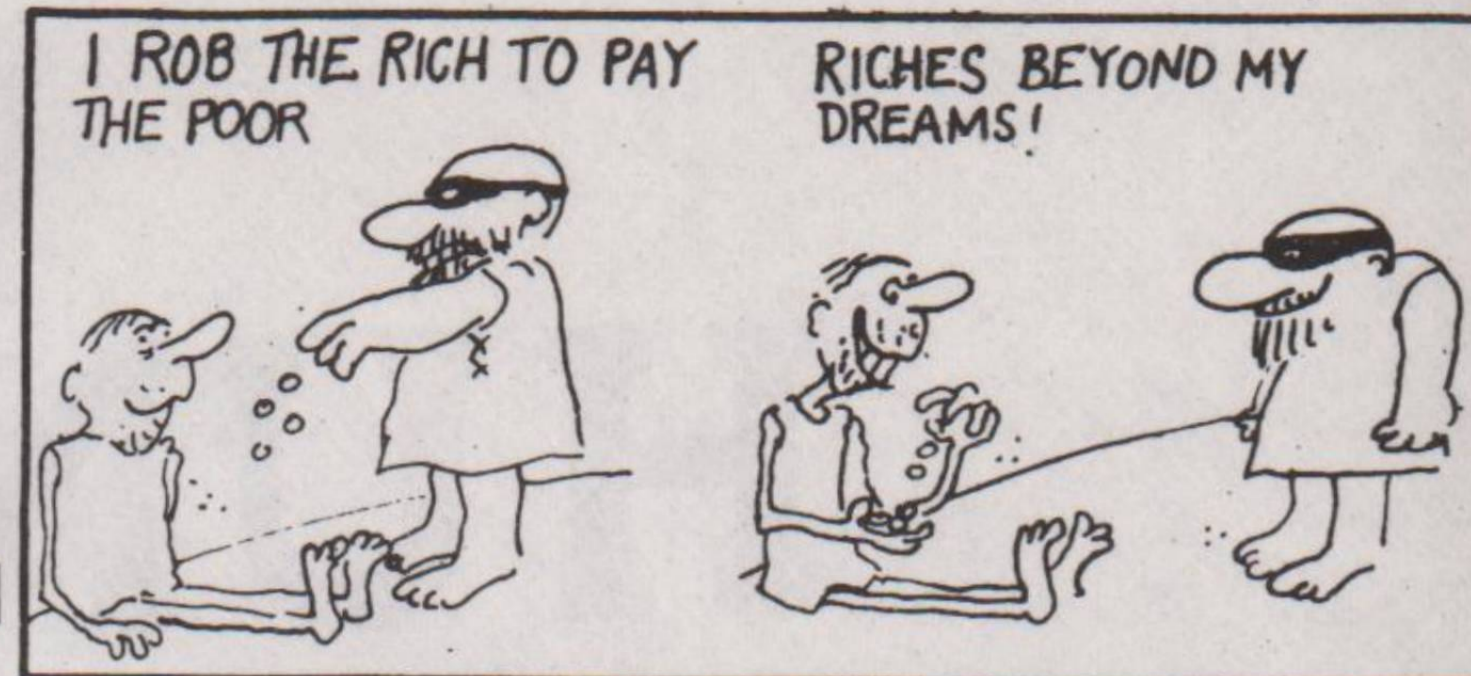
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Hove. C. Walder, 120 Clarendon Villas, Tel. 722218
Lewes: A. Bryant, 16 Willow Walk. Newhaven 6299.



TRADES COUNCIL BULLETIN



no.
10

WHO PAYS THE TAXMAN?

Who would think that cuts in the Inland Revenue could be a matter of concern to you? They are, and they will affect your standard of living to a much greater extent than the taxman ever did.



"Why aren't these people working?"

It was highlighted at the recent Autumn General Meeting of the Brighton Taxes branch of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation that a government which came to power on a platform of "Law and Order" is very selective in the laws that it chooses to uphold. It is spending money, during a time of cuts, or "savings" as they are now being called, to track down Social Security "Scroungers" who defraud the nation of as much as £4 million per year. It is at the same time, cutting back in the Inland Revenue and preventing its staff from investigating tax evasion which may, at a conservative estimate, reach £600 million. It does this secure in the knowledge that money will be taken out of your pay packets every week or month, BEFORE it arrives in your hands, to pay for the "necessities" which it considers should be paid for. Needless to say, these do not include Education, health or the Social Services.

Those who can afford accountants and complex stratagems to avoid paying tax will not be harassed. Those who cannot avoid it, the employed, as Sir Geoffrey Howe has recently said, will continue to pay at much the same level as before to subsidise these criminals whom they choose, for political reason, not to pursue.

The recent cuts in income tax were blatantly in favour of the wealthy. The current selective cuts in the Civil Service are also, where not directly to the advantage of the rich, distinctly to the detriment of the poor.

The I.R.S.F. is fighting to maintain something of the equity upon which the British tax system is theoretically based. Please show your support - we are doing it on your behalf.

Following on from here....

With the £600 million which makes up the notorious "Black Economy" cuts in the Health and Education budgets would not have been necessary. Women currently restricted to the home, due to the appalling lack of nursery provision, could now be at work and contributing to a growing, rather than a stagnant, economy.

Low taxation, which the Tories argued would result in rising investment, industrial expansion and more jobs has instead caused further unemployment. Increased profits have not been invested in British companies, but in countries such as South Africa, where the system of Apartheid is a safeguard for cheap labour.

The short sighted view of a number of the British electorate put the Tories where they are today. Hopefully that mistake will not be repeated.



National Council for Civil Liberties

UNSURE ABOUT PICKET RIGHTS?

OR ANY OTHER CIVIL LIBERTY PROBLEM?

IF SO CONTACT

SUSSEX N.C.C.L.

21, LITTLE PRESTON STREET,
BRIGHTON.

OR PHONE
689385

MEMBERSHIP: £1 PER YEAR.

JOIN NOW AND HELP

DEFEND CIVIL LIBERTIES.

The Tory government has given you back the "right to choose" by cutting taxes on incomes in favour of increased 'indirect' taxation. For the average worker these tax cuts will be totally offset by cuts in the public services and by the higher tax on "luxury" goods such as petrol (who said food prices would not be affected?) clothes and fuel. The political stance of the conservative party makes it essential for these cuts to affect those with high incomes - more commonly known as "protecting your own".

The top 10% in society only pay about 25% of their income in taxes - company cars, houses and expense accounts serve to enhance already luxurious lives.

HUNGRY FORTES!

scandalous low pay

Have you ever had a meal in Brighton's famous seaside restaurant on the corner of Marine Parade - FORTES ? Thousands of summer tourists go there, but in the winter it's pretty quiet, and the difference is cruelly felt by the waitresses. In the summer months their scandalous low wage of 70p an hour is topped by a reasonable amount from the service charges, but in winter months they can take home as little as £6 for a seven hour day . And waitresses who have worked there for as long as twenty years get the same miserable amount. BASIC WAGE - 70p AN HOUR, WHICH MEANS UNDER £25 FOR A FIVE-DAY WEEK OF 35 HOURS.

Of course, say the management they take home much more than that, for they get 4p in the pound on every bill they make up . So if you eat a £2 meal there the waitress who serves you gets a staggering 8p for her efforts. Now in the summer that mounts up, they say, so that in a good week a waitress can gross £50. WOW ! It's amazing that Fortes with its string of restaurants round Brighton, can afford it. The waitresses ought to be grateful for having a job at all. what do they expect - a living wage ? 'what do you think we are - a charity ?'

And so the slave labour goes on under our nice clean noses. Typical winter's day : they only want you for 4 hours, but you have to be there so you turn up at 10 and work till 3, with an unpaid hour in the middle. Only a handful of customers, so very little percentage. Take home pay wears a hole in your pocket - a total of £2.80 for your four hours plus a quid or so extra. And that's the lot of the many women who have to take what they can get, because there is a serious shortage of jobs in Brighton - even in the slave market of the catering industry.

Now, just to show you how aware they are at FORTES that life is getting more expensive and that changes in wages should be made from year to year, they have just REDUCED their percentage for waitresses from 5p in the pound which they gave last year to 4p this year. In place of the lost 1p there is talk of a bonus, but no one on the staff really believes it - not until it's there in hard cash.

And what does the Union do? Union ? what union ? At FORTES ? There isn't one. But why don't the women start one, or join one? Not surprisingly they say that they need the work, however low the wages, and they don't think that membership of a union would help them keep the job.

THIS EXPLOITATION IS COMMON IN THE HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS IN BRIGHTON. Without it the tourist and conference industry would not be nearly as profitable as it is. And revelations like this one about Fortes seem to do little to improve things.

There's no substitute for trade union activity : it must be made to work - throughout the catering industry. And to do this the TUC has to spend money on a massive campaign in low pay areas. There's an active low pay committee sponsored by the Trades Council, but without massive funding its power is limited. Even so, people like the waitresses at FORTES should contact it and tell the committee the full facts of their exploitation.

Contact Brighton 682295
or
Lewes 77499

under protest

I attended the Anti Apartheid rally held on Sunday November 11th. The march that ensued was organized, peaceful and well attended, and the police - many of whom apparently weren't supposed to be there - were likewise well behaved!

After the Rally and a cup of tea by way of revival, I headed home to watch the reports on the evening news. The Rally took place the Sunday before the full report of the Zimbabwe peace formula was released, a significant time to make our protest. Thus I was amazed at the 45 second coverage on the main evening news in contrast to the many minutes given to reports of violent demonstrations in other countries.

It is a poor reflection on today's society that unless the press is provided with a Martyr for the cause, coverage of our protests is scant and in any event non-committal - Remember Blair Peach?

Protest marches and rallies are becoming an accepted vehicle for expressing our views, but how often does acceptance dissolve into complacency?

We have already given the government a head start by mandating them through apathy. Those people, and they must now be in the majority, who are discontented with the dictates and elitist policies of those who profess to represent us, should discard their armchair politics and become involved in peaceful protest while they still can - fight your own battles and have a thought for the future. The vehicle of protest may then become effective rather than still born.

In every area of Brighton and Hove there are community associations already fighting. They need and must have our support. The Trade Unions are actively fighting the governments arbitrary policies their opposition must be strengthened by ACTIVE support of ALL members.

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Commenting on the picket currently in operation at

Goring Cross Hospital, Social Services secretary Mr. Patrick Jenkin, displayed an "admirable" concern:

"The rights and wrongs of the dispute pale into insignificance beside the horror of seeing cancer patients pleading for their treatment to continue

Yesterdays scenes outside the hospital must be as dismaying to you as they were to me."

I wonder if this concern is duplicated when those same patients appear on waiting lists as more hospitals are closed?