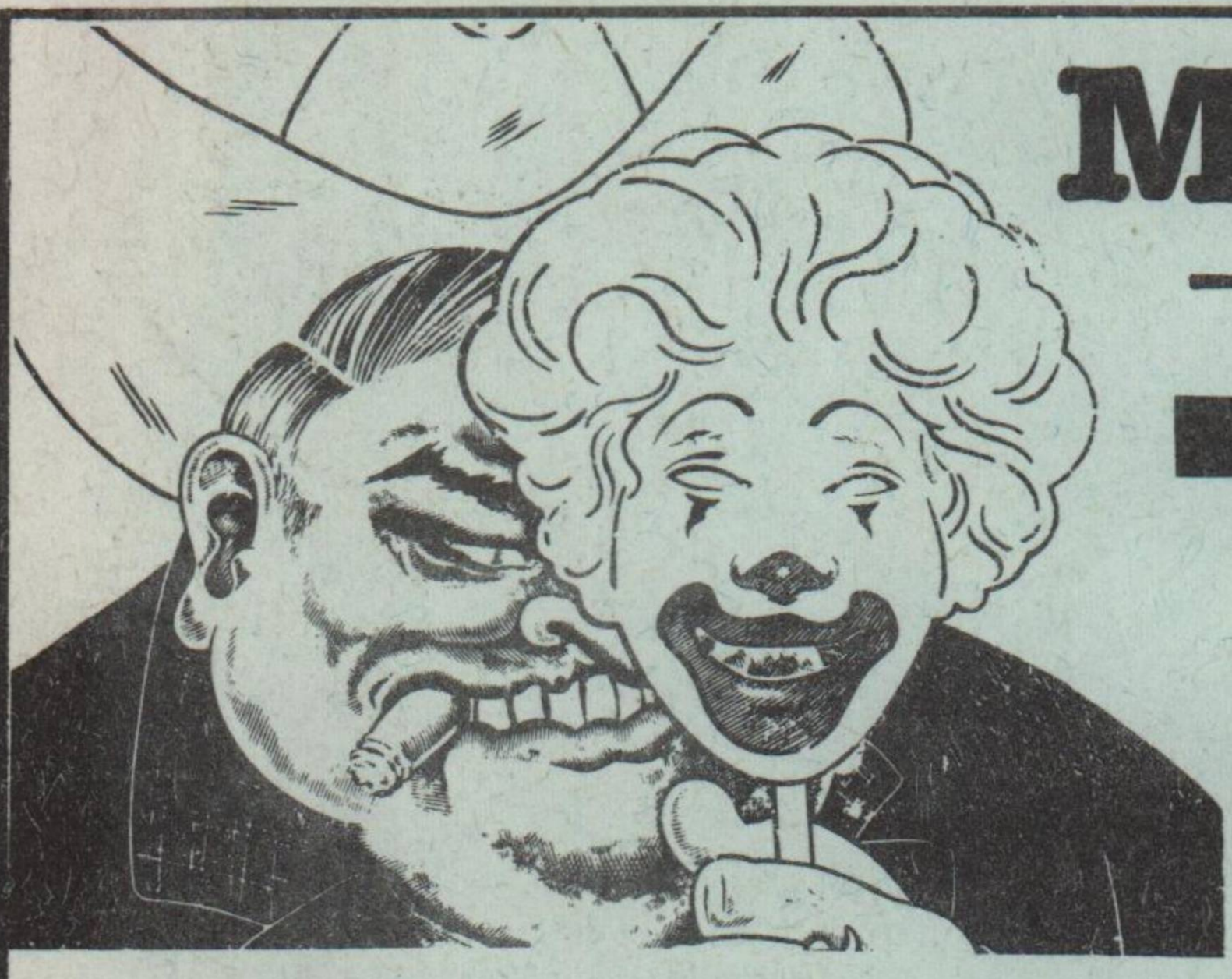


GREEN CAND



MCDONALD'S

▪ DOUNREAY ▪

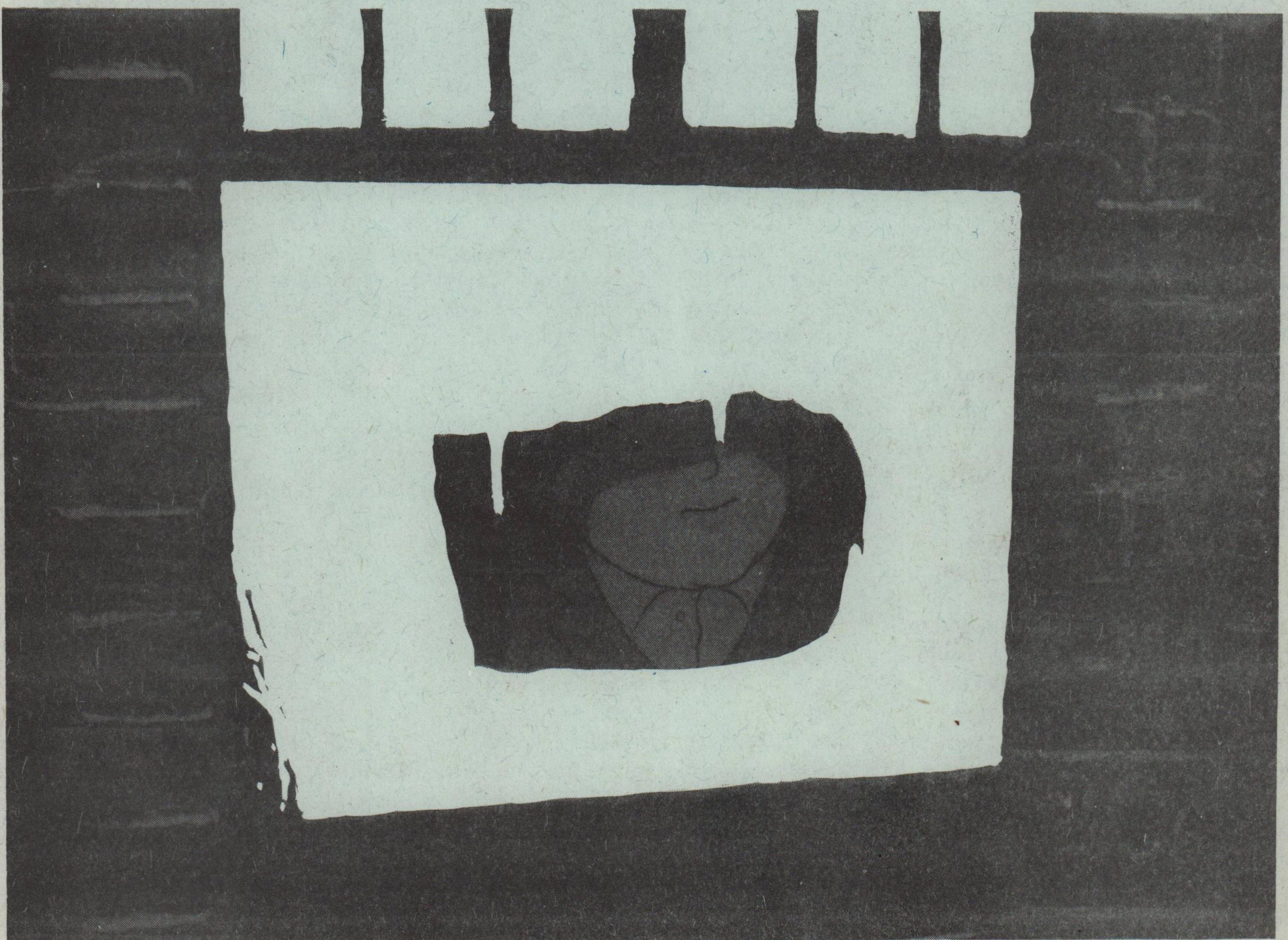
SIZEWELL 'B'

**NEWS
LETTER**

FEB-MAR

**IF YOU SEE JIM..
TELL HIM!**

30p



plus:

**▪ FOOD IRRADIATION
SNOWBALL**

We have been asked to point out that all contributions for this newsletter should be sent to us care of Merseyside CND, 24 Hardman Street, Liverpool. L1 9AX. The person who used to put the mag together is being swamped by mail and it's costing her a fortune to send it all to us.

Did you know that 1987 is European Year of the Environment? Well, it is and the UK E.Y.E. Committee wish to involve a wide range of organisations in a variety of projects to raise awareness of European environmental problems. They are also keen to hear any ideas you may have regarding possible topics for attention. Their address is UK EYE Committee, Room A315A, Romney House, 43 Marsham Street, LONDON SW1P 3PY.

Many moons ago, East Dorset Greens wrote to us asking to be sent a bundle of Green CND newsletters on a regular basis but by a feat of organisational genius, we've lost the letter. So if anyone from East Dorset Greens is reading this, please get in touch.

The Campaign for a Free Festival at Stonehenge this June is gathering momentum. A news-sheet is out and meetings are being planned (the forthcoming events list). With the news-sheet comes a handy events list put together by the Free Information Network. It has details of demo's, festivals, gigs and meetings around the country. It is also open to anyone wishing to advertise their events. To contribute to, or to receive it, write to FIN 99 Torriano Avenue, LONDON NW5 2RX. This is also the address of the Stonehenge 87 Campaign.

While we are plugging publications, we would like to recommend a pamphlet called 'Dirty Fingers in Dirty Pies' published by Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester. Priced 50p it details the companies and multinationals who profit from a variety of unsavoury enterprises such as arms trading, nuclear weapons manufacture, vivisection and Apartheid. It's vital reading for subversives everywhere!

Finally, the deadline for the April/May issue is Monday 23rd. March. Be prompt....

Irradiated Food— Who wants it?

An important new weapon in the battle to end world hunger, say its promoters. A dangerous fraud, whose real purpose is to provide a socially acceptable use for the nuclear industry's biggest liability, radioactive waste, say its opponents. The subject is food irradiation, a controversial technology on the verge of a dramatic expansion throughout the world.

Irradiation involves subjecting food to massive doses of gamma radiation in order to kill bacteria and insects that destroy or contaminate produce and meats. The potential benefits are obvious, especially in the developing countries where post-harvest losses are a major cause of food shortages, and where refrigeration and other methods of food preservation are not readily available. With irradiation, it is said, a raw steak could be kept on a shelf, unrefrigerated, for several years; fish could be shipped around the world without being frozen; strawberries and bananas could be stored for weeks or months without going bad.

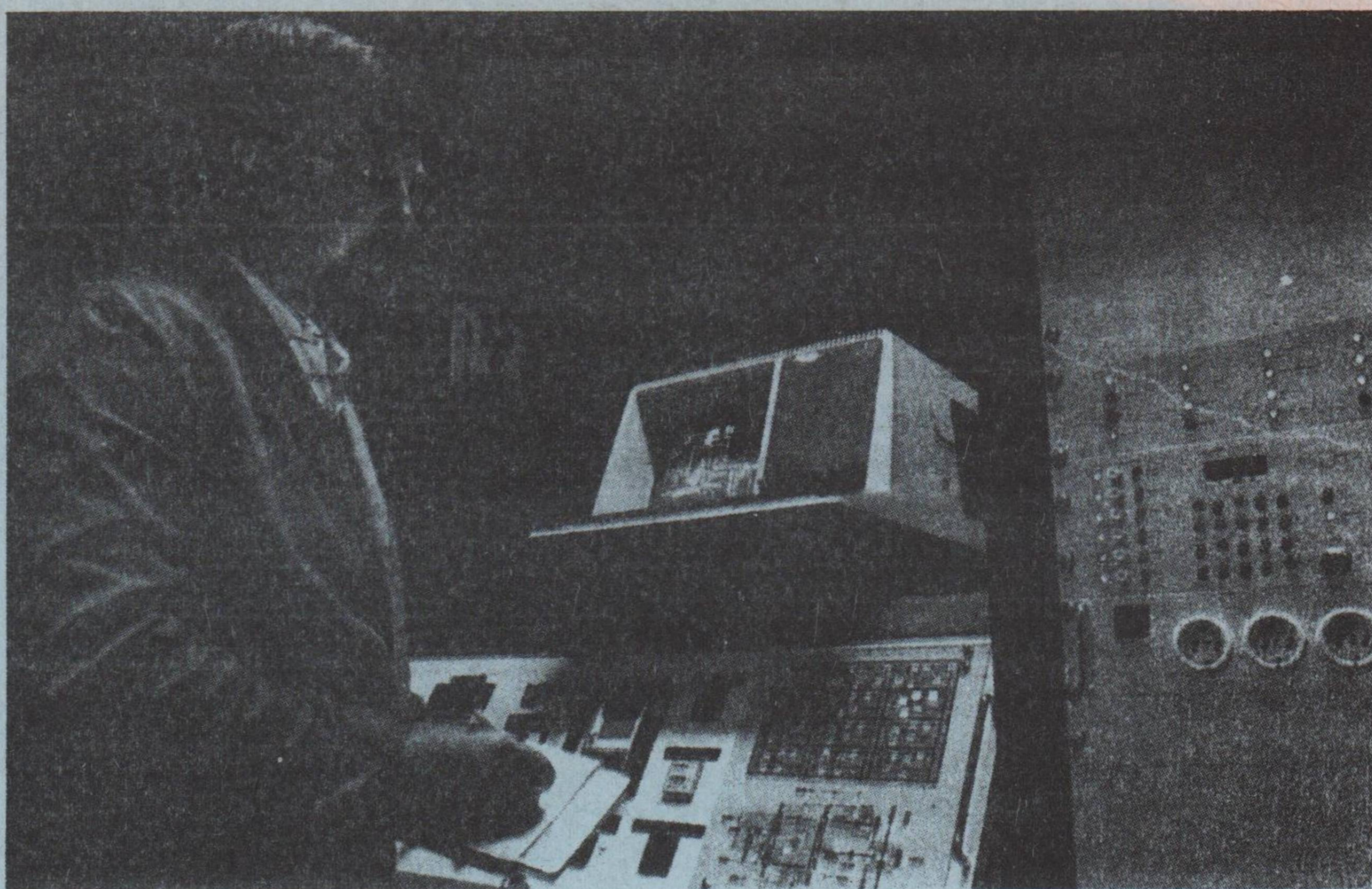
Critics of irradiation say its proponents are giving the false impression that it is a miracle cure-all, and the only alternative to dangerous chemical treatments. Dr Noel Sommer, of the University of California at Davis, who has conducted food irradiation studies since the early 1960s, contradicts that notion: "These people just don't know what they're talking about. For irradiation to work, fruits and vegetables would have to be much more resistant to radiation than the pathogens we want to kill, but our work has suggested that that is not the case." Other treatments, such as fumigation with carbon dioxide, which is already widely used in Europe and Asia, might be safer and more effective than either irradiation or chemicals. The citrus growers' associations of Florida and California have asked the FDA to ban irradiation of citrus fruits because, according to the US Department of Agriculture, irradiation makes them tasteless, causes the skins to pit and turn black, and hastens decay.

One thing everyone agrees upon is that irradiation at the levels suggested does not make food radioactive, anymore than standing in front of an x-ray machine makes a person radioactive. But irradiation does cause chemical changes to food; it produces new substances called *unique radiolytic products* (UPRs) in exposed foods. There may be hundreds or even thousands of these compounds; no one knows what they are or what the effects of eating them are. In 1980 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said that there should be a study of the possible toxic effects of UPRs, but no such study has yet been commissioned.

Irradiation also destroys or depletes essential nutrients, such as vitamins A, E, C, and the B complex, and certain amino acids. Supporters say that the losses are on a par with those caused by other processing methods. But Jeff Reinhardt of the San Francisco-based Coalition to Stop Food Irradiation (CSFI) says that irradiation destroys nutrients that the body needs to cope with the very chemicals that irradiated food contains. "This is another toxic time-bomb, like asbestos. You're going to see an increase in liver cancer, in gastro-intestinal diseases

Irradiating Food—A new role for radioactive waste

A food irradiation plant consists of an irradiation room, where the gamma ray source is housed, and a system for moving food in and out of the irradiation room. Operators control everything from outside the irradiation room, which is entered only for maintenance. The walls of the irradiation room are usually made of concrete and are 6 or more feet thick. The most common source of gamma rays for irradiation is cobalt-60 from Canadian nuclear reactors. Caesium-137 from US nuclear weapons facilities may become more widely used now that the US Department of Energy is preparing to lease



Food gets irradiated in the Netherlands

it for 10 cents a curie, one-tenth the price of cobalt. Some irradiators use machine-produced gamma rays or X-rays. If the gamma ray source is a radioisotope such as cobalt-60 or caesium-137, it is usually lowered into a water pool when it is not in use.

The structure in which the gamma source is embedded, called the plaque, is about the size of an ordinary door, much smaller than for medical products, which must be completely sterilised and can tolerate very high levels of irradiation. As in ordinary doors, the plaque has panels, but they are made of stainless steel. Each holds several "pencils", thin 18" long rods of caesium-137 or cobalt-60 wrapped in a double shell of stainless steel.

Food, in the containers in which it will be transported and sold, is sent into the irradiation room on monorail-type conveyors. In Hawaii, for example, where International Nutronics is building an irradiation plant, papayas in cardboard boxes will be stacked on wooden pallets, which are hung from the conveyor track with steel cables. With the source lifted from its storage pool, the food moves in on the conveyor belt, entering the irradiation room through a mesh door and turning through several corridors, whose walls block the gamma rays and prevent radiation from escaping through the mesh doors. Each load travels around the source, stopping at different points to expose all sides of the load. The whole thing takes only a few minutes per load, although the exact time varies with the type of food being exposed.

including cancers of the colon and rectum, and possibly exacerbations of various kidney diseases."

By killing certain insects and disease-carriers, irradiation alters the balance between insects, bacteria, and the foods they prey upon. Just as the introduction of DDT led to an increase in the number of DDT-resistant mosquitoes, as well as a decrease in the number of natural predators on mosquitoes and other harmful insects, irradiation will lead to unpredictable and possibly harmful changes in the present balance between insects, bacteria, and the foods they prey upon. Botulism, for example, which is caused by radiation-resistant bacteria, could thrive when its natural competitors have been killed by irradiation. Radiation-resistant strains of Salmonella have already developed in irradiation experi-

ments. Irradiation is also known to stimulate the production of aflatoxin, a naturally-occurring fungus that the EPA says is 1,000 times more likely to cause cancer than ethylene dibromide (EDB), which the government has banned for use in food. The fact that aflatoxin thrives in hot, humid climates and is already a major public health problem in developing countries casts doubt on irradiation being the ideal solution to Third World food shortages.

Irradiation is one offshoot of the "Atoms for Peace" movement that launched the International Atomic Energy Agency. The IAEA, and its sister United Nations agencies, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Health Organisation, have worked together to promote the use of irradiation, as a solution to the food shortage in developing

countries. In 1980 the three bodies jointly declared that food irradiated with up to one million rads, ten times the proposed US legal limit, is safe for human consumption. Some 25 countries have approved irradiation on a limited or provisional scale. Some hospitals in the US and Europe irradiate food for patients who require a sterile diet; NASA sends irradiated steak and corned beef into space for its astronauts. But the technology has never broken through to the marketplace on a large scale. Last year a mere 7,000 tons of irradiated food was sold worldwide, and most of that consisted of Japanese potatoes treated to prevent sprouting. Most developing countries are waiting for the United States to take the lead in the field.

WHO's 1980 imprimatur on irradiation was one of several fac-

tors that have fueled the current push for expansion in the US. Another was the recent banning of ethylene oxide and EDB, which sent industry looking for some other way to protect citrus fruits and grain from insects, and may have made irradiation, for some foods at least, commercially viable. A third is the nuclear industry's eagerness to find a "positive" use for nuclear waste, especially the type produced in weapons facilities. The Department of Energy (DOE) is encapsulating caesium-137, radioactive waste from the Hanford nuclear facility in Washington State, into a form appropriate for food irradiation, ready for sale as soon as irradiation is approved. The DOE, which runs Hanford and the country's other nuclear weapons plants, has already awarded a New Jersey firm a \$273,000 contract to build a mobile irradiator, which will be used to give demonstrations in farm areas. By the end of 1986 the DOE plans to be operating a \$3 million irradiation plant somewhere in California, to encourage private companies to adopt food irradiation. "This is a capital-intensive technology and we don't know if it's going to work," said Jack Sivinski of CH2M Hill, the Albuquerque engineering firm that is designing the plant. "The risk is more than a private person would want to assume on his own, so government develops the technology, to encourage industry."

Two Republicans from Washington State, Representative Sid Morrison and Senator Slade Gorton, have introduced bills that would remove the existing requirement that irradiated food be clearly labelled as such, and set up a federal group to promote food irradiation to the public and the food industry. "If food irradiation is such a good idea," Kathleen Tucker, a lawyer and director of the Health and Energy Institute in Washington, DC, said in a telephone interview, "the industry would take it up. Morrison's bill is attempting to shove it down the industry's throat—at the taxpayer's expense."

Tucker is also worried by the prospect of having large amounts of highly radioactive materials in private hands. Food is treated with from 30,000 to several million rads;

a typical chest x-ray, by comparison, delivers less than one-tenth of a rad. Because radioactive materials are always decaying (caesium-137 has a half-life of about 30 years), there must be steady replenishment to maintain a constant level of irradiation. The head of the United Nations food irradiation programme explaining the UN's decision to recommend against mandatory labelling, recently warned that "any word or statement containing the word "irradiated" . . . may cause the consumer to avoid the product".

Over the past 30 years there have been hundreds of tests of the health effects of irradiated food; the United States alone has spent \$80 million on irradiation research. Many studies were commissioned by the US Army, at the Natick Army Base in Massachusetts, located in Heckler's former congressional district. A review of the army's and other studies raises some disturbing questions, and casts doubt on Heckler's statement that "thirty years of research . . . have shown that the proposed levels of irradiation are safe and nutritious". An FDA review in 1982 found, according to an internal memo, that 344 of 413 studies on the toxicity of irradiated foods were either inconclusive or inadequate. The memo goes on to say that on "detailed examination of the (remaining) 69, five studies (1 per cent of all studies reviewed) appeared to support safety."

A US government-sponsored study published in 1975 in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* found that malnourished children in India who were fed wheat irradiated with 75,000 rads had an increase in abnormal white blood cells, a condition associated with leukaemia. A control group eating non-irradiated grain, did not develop blood irregularities. In another study the same effect was noted in monkeys fed similarly irradiated wheat. Recently the US Department of Agriculture commissioned the largest food processing study ever, on the effects of eating irradiated chicken. Researchers found many problems in mice fed irradiated chicken, including cancerous lesions, kidney disease, and a statistically significant increase in testicular tumours. These problems did not

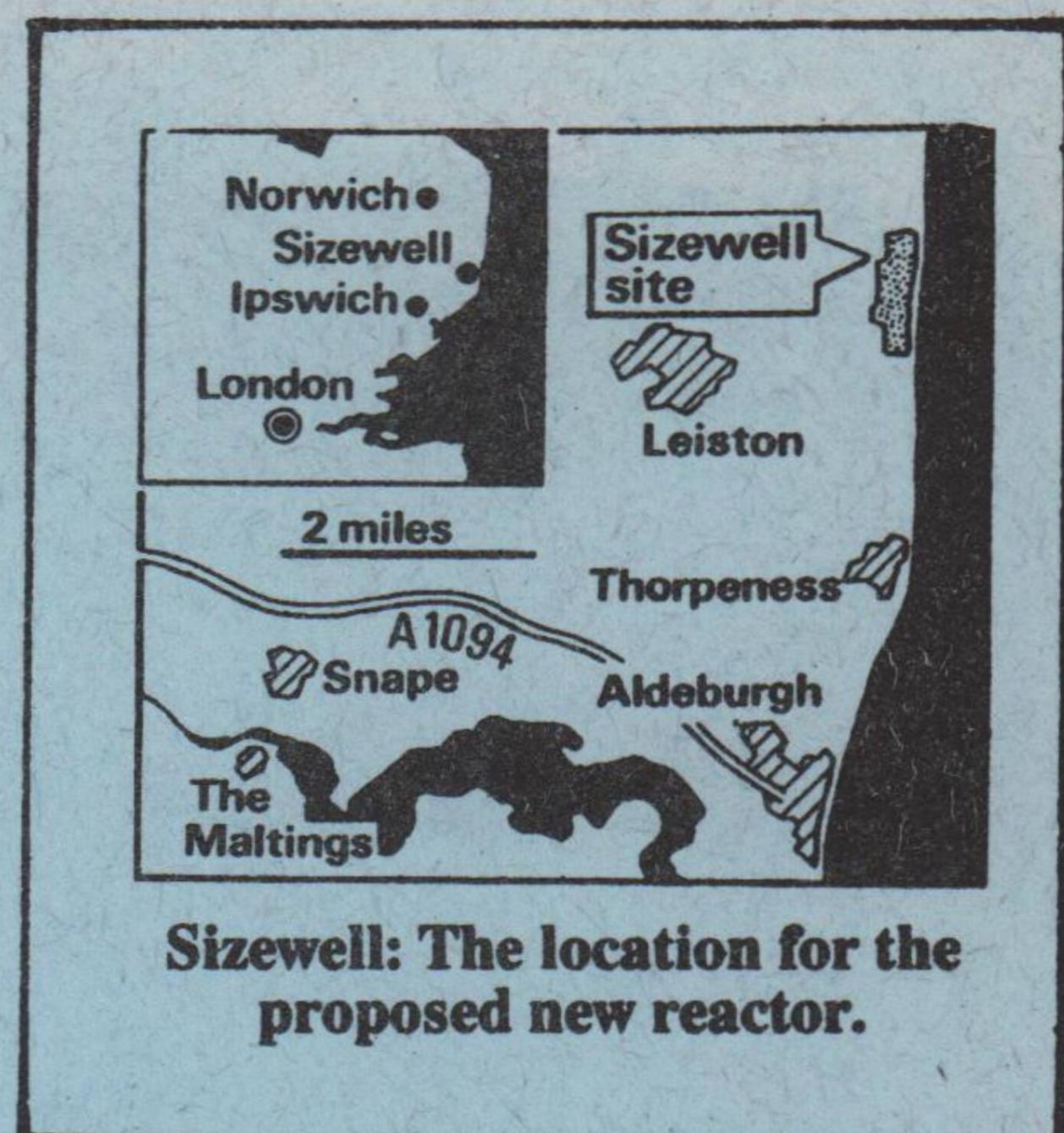
appear in a control group. The report concludes that although the irradiated diet was not "highly toxic . . . , the preponderance of evidence suggests some degree of toxicity was present." But the government's National Toxicology Programme, which reviewed the study at the FDA's request, recently declared that the ill-effects observed in the experimental animals were not the result of eating irradiated food.

That leaves the way clear at last for the FDA to officially adopt its draft regulations. Staff members sent the FDA commissioners a finalised version during the first week of June. The commissioners will seek the approval of the Public Health Service and other government agencies before formally adopting the regulations, probably later this year. With the FDA and the DHSS apparently committed to food irradiation, other countries are likely to follow.

Catherine Caufield

Catherine Caufield scholar and journalist, writes articles for the New Scientist on development issues, is author of In the Rainforest and currently working on a book on low-level radiation.

A GREEN VIEW OF NUCLEAR POLITICS



"..British industry needed nuclear technology to compete successfully in world markets.."
Sir Terence Beckett, (Director General of the Confederation of British Industry).

On January 26th. Sizewell with all its ramifications was given the green light. This is no surprise we agree, yet with angst, as we consider the future of energy policy in Britain. For it was almost 9 years to the day that Tony Benn, as Energy Minister, first authorised the CEBG to commence 'design studies' of a PWR. Although Benn has since recanted, the rest of us are still left reeling over the possibilities of any accident that nuclear power poses.

Nuclear power is one of the most contentious issues of our times. Nuclear energy means widespread contamination which is why it must be phased out and renewable energy phased in. What does the future hold for people in Britain with a government keen to see the land awash with nuclear installations? The cost of the paper work alone for the Sizewell Inquiry, (3,000 pages, with 120 just for the conclusion), outstrips the total amount of finance put into Britain's alternative energy Research and Development programme; currently a mere £14 million a year. So, 55 tons of paper, 195 witnesses and £20 million later, we have the onset of Sizewell 'B' before us, at an additional cost of £1,147 million (CEGB's figure, but now more like £1,500 million).

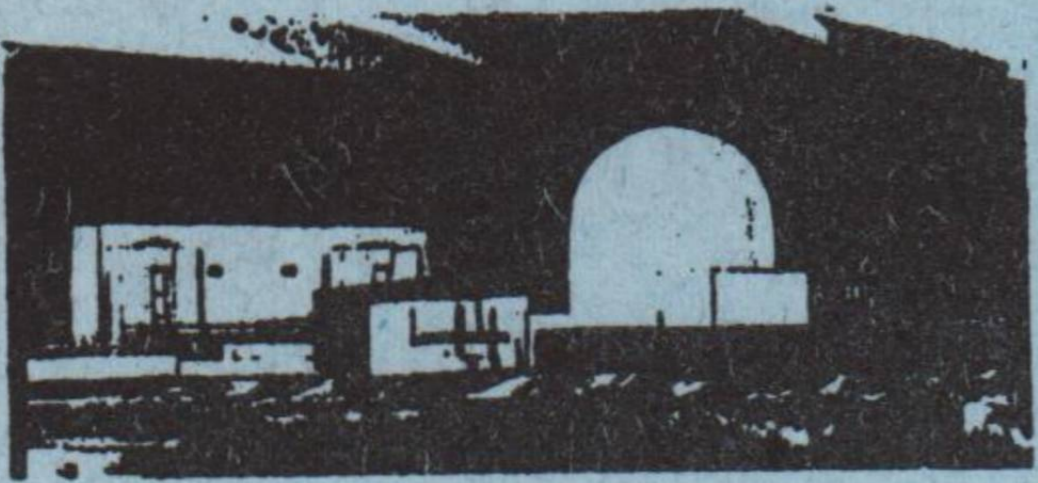
The Sizewell decision arrived just one week after a major Sellafield leak that reputedly contaminated 12 men with radiation doses higher than that considered safe for a whole year. This was the second major leak in 14 months, in the same area of building B277. Although incidents at Sellafield have had no bearing on the result of the inquiry, neither had the Chernobyl disaster, which was completely overlooked. The four year length of the inquiry ensured that much of the information used was out of date, and did not reflect current circumstances.

It was misleading of the CEBG and a misrepresentation of the case, for them to claim that a PWR at Sizewell would be comparable, if not cheaper, than other power stations, nuclear or coal. Capital costs for any type of power station are exceedingly high, whilst the figure quoted for Sizewell fails to include the cost of decommissioning the site, which could at least be one third of the original cost, making for an extra £383m minimum. If experience of nuclear construction in the U.K. and the USA is any indication of final results, then Sizewell 'B' is likely to over-run construction time, thus adding considerably to the projected costs. Frank Layfield's claim that 'Sizewell 'B' is likely to be the least cost choice for energy', cannot be substantiated. Martin Ince, writer of the 'Sizewell Report' asserts that, 'there would be over 3,000 people on-site at Sizewell 'B' for over 30 months; even at 21 hours per kw there would still have been over 24 million hours of site work carried out before Sizewell 'B' lit a light bulb.' On economic grounds, there is no outright case for a PWR.

On the other hand renewable energy is both safer, cheaper and non-polluting. The Mersey barrage, for example, would cost almost two-thirds less than the capital cost alone of Sizewell; whilst two tidal barrages would produce considerably more energy than a PWR, and would thus be more cost effective. CHP and District Heating schemes utilising refuse, together with large scale energy conservation, use benign energies in contrast with the nuclear industry's use of uranium.

A renewed major campaign needs to be launched in an attempt to oppose Sizewell, to inform the public of the other options, and further- to counter-act BNFL's £2 billion advertising/PR drive which has dominated TV screens recently, and has also infiltrated sport, via the sponsoring of Northern Rugby League clubs such as Barrow and Whitehaven; not to mention their advertising in Great Britain test programmes.

Now is the time for all out action, NVDA 'events', publicity for the environmental cause, and last but not least 'Rock against Sizewell'. The British Greens should follow 'Die Grunen' and win support and elections on an anti-nuclear ticket. Concentrated demonstrations at both Sizewell and Sellafield plus other sites, not to mention Downing Street and Parliament, are a way of focussing the media eye, (as is activity at the four proposed nuclear waste sites), the constituencies of some 20 or more Tory M.P.'s; at Humberside, Essex, Bedfordshire and Leicestershire. The WYLFA plant in North Wales is another controversial site, being closer to the capital of Ireland than the capital of England. The Connolly Association maintain that the Irish government should have been consulted over the site.



SIZEWELL: ALL SYSTEMS GO

"..The report is conservative: when he has to rely on a judgement, he falls back on the established bodies such as the CEGB and the NII.."

Professor Timothy O'Riordan, of the University of East Anglia.

"..it may leave non-violent disobedience as the only avenue for further protests.."

The Green Party; a statement issued after the Layfield Report.

Both Germany's nuclear programme and anti-nuclear programme are more proficient than those of the U.K. Germany is keen to develop HTGR's as opposed to PWR's. It can be argued that the HTGR's, which use chemically inert Helium coolant, are safer than PWR's but realistically no nuclear plant is intrinsically guarded against mechanical failure or operator error. Germany has mobilised much anti-nuclear feeling chiefly through 'Die Grunen', whose recent gain of 15 seats, (giving a total of 42 seats, 8.3% of the vote and the highest gain at 2.7%, will help the furtherance of their actions. In 1983, when they made their first major impact on the Deutsche Bundestag, 282 commercial plants existed in 25 countries with the USA, Britain, USSR, France and Japan accounting for 201 of these. A few thousand storage sites around the world also existed for the disposal of hazardous nuclear waste. A series of large anti-nuclear rallies over the years, the like of which had only been demonstrated in May 1979 after Three Mile Island, when 75,000 people marched on Washington, aided 'Die Grunen's' cause. In Germany, as each state has control over its media by complex arrangements over TV broadcasting, the Greens were able to run a series of adverts, and eventually have more ecologically based programmes. Greenpeace in Britain is now following suit with cinema advertising. Apart from setting up information stalls in towns, 'Die Grunen' also managed to steal the anti-nuclear show with the aid of their 'Green Caterpillar' bus, which toured the rallies complete with New Wave and German rock musicians - plus the candidates who offered speeches. In Britain, The Canal Boat Co-operative has plans to shake up the Inland Waterways, Chris Leah reports, by converting their barge into a touring anti-nuclear information boat. Campaigning on the German level is sorely needed here to challenge Sizewell, and the nuclear industry generally.

(See 'Forthcoming Events' page, for information about the 'CND EXPRESS')

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DOUNREAY INQUIRY

AN OBJECTOR LOOKS BACK.

It is worth pointing out that Dounreay was first a place - a community founded on crofting and fishing. In 1954 the UKAEA irrevocably changed all that and Dounreay became synonymous with nuclear power - the fast breeder reactor project and more recently and less obviously, the PWR reactor for Trident submarines. For over 30 years opposition to the activities at Dounreay Nuclear Establishment (DNE) was covert and disorganised. It was after all the major source of employment in the area and to this day remains so.

In May 1985 it was confirmed that DNE was UKAEA's candidate as a suitable site for the European Demonstration Reprocessing Plant (EDRP). For the first time, an Inquiry was to be held into proposed activities at DNE and obviously their previous experience could be publically examined and questioned. Everyone had heard of Sellafield but little was known about Dounreay. The major anti-nuclear groups - FoE, Greenpeace, SCRAM etc decided to boycott the Inquiry, which placed our local Nuclear Reprocessing Concern Group (NRCG) and the handful of others who finally took part, in something of a quandry. If we joined the boycott our credibility in the local community would have suffered, besides which we were unwilling to let the UKAEA have an easy time of it. Little did we know then what a massive task lay before us.

Having decided to take part, it rapidly dawned on us that it was vital to cross examine the nuclear industry witnesses at every turn rather than simply concentrate on presenting our own evidence when called to give it. However this did mean that we had to be present throughout every day of the Inquiry in Thurso Town Hall. Despite the narrow remit of the Inquiry, it was often possible to pursue lines of questioning into many aspects of nuclear power in general and query the activities not just at Dounreay, but at Sellafield and elsewhere in the UK and of course the events at Chernobyl. Any hopes on the pro-nuclear side that the Inquiry would be brief and easily won were soon dashed as it broadened in scope and wallowed in a surfeit of technical evidence launched from either side.

We amateur objectors suffered initially from a paucity of information and a lack of funds. The UKAEA were reluctant to provide relevant information early on but half way through the Inquiry, changed tactics and nearly drowned us in paper. We had a lot to learn and little time to do it. You had to appreciate that statements from the UKAEA or any government departments could not necessarily be taken at face value and that what was not mentioned in technical reports could be more revealing than what was set down in them. The Inquiry was a learning experience for all of us. What is truth when every comment or statement can be open to interpretation? Was your evidence sufficiently well researched or was it full of holes? Was it as up to date as possible or had it been superceded by more recent contrary evidence?

Looking back on it all, what the objectors did achieve seems now nothing less than miraculous. The main burden of the work fell on those few who had no full time job while the Inquiry was running but who did on the other hand have pre-school children to cope with and homes and families to manage. The developers however had no handicaps to distract them in the slightest. Such are the basic inequalities in the present Inquiry system. We had to make the best of it and what we lacked in funds and experience and knowledge we made up for with dedication, nerve and sheer good luck, seizing every opportunity to widen any chink in the armour of the UKAEA's evidence. The developers proved vulnerable on at least 3 counts. Firstly, the lack of a thorough environmental monitoring programme to determine the links between DNE's waste discharges and its effects on life forms; secondly their denial of any causative link between operations at DNE and the excess of leukaemia cases amongst the under 25's near the plant and thirdly the bulky but limited and little known evacuation procedures in the event of a major release of radiation from DNE.

Is there life after the Inquiry, do I hear you ask? A lot still remains to be done by the NRCG aside from wondering what to do with the 4 cwt of paper in the form of productions, precognitions and transcripts of all 95 days of the Inquiry etc. We must continue to monitor specific areas near DNE (for the actual analysis of sample material we are indebted to Dr Day at Manchester University) rather than rely on the UKAEA to police itself. We will continue to publicise any defects in the working practises as and when we hear about them from those employed at the plant.

DOUNREAY INQUIRY CONTINUED.....

The Inquiry decision is expected in the summer of 1987 and will almost certainly go to appeal and of course there always remains the question of siting (don't know where, don't know when) of the first Commercial Demonstration Fast Reactor (CDFR) in the UK. Dounreay sees itself as a strong contender for this so called prize. Last but definitely not least, Caithness (or NW Sutherland) may have to play host as a national repository for high level nuclear waste, if only because no other more populous region is prepared to countenance it.

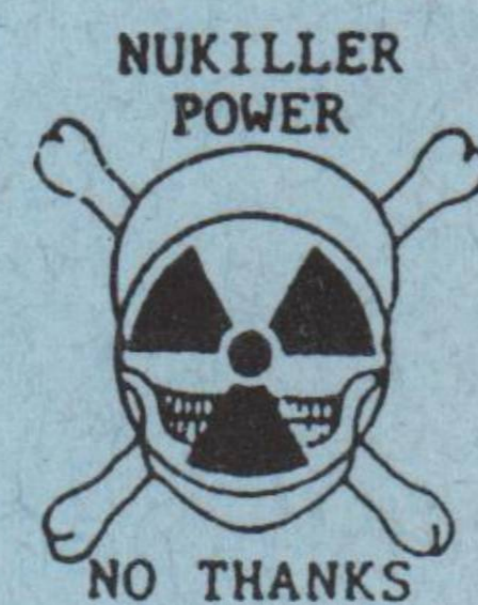
John Boyle

Contact NUCLEAR REPROCESSING CONCERN GROUP via

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Most people reading this magazine will have heard of Peace News, but for the benefit of the few who haven't, it is a radical fortnightly publication which concerns itself with issues relevant to the wider peace movement and those working non-violently for change. It provides one of the few forums for debate on tactics and campaigns within the anti-nuclear movement. Many activists see it as an invaluable source of information and comment.

Peace News is an independant newspaper - they have no Murdoch or Maxwell to finance them and they are heavily in debt. So much so that they have launched an emergency appeal from which they hope to raise at least £5,000. If the appeal fails, the magazine could well go under and the movement would lose a valuable campaigning resource.

We are echoing the appeal in the hope that more people will hear of PN's plight and send a donation, take out a subscription or start a bankers order. If you are unwaged or low paid, maybe you could organise a jumble sale, raffle, sponsored event or benefit. If you read someone else's copy you may decide to buy your own in the future. Surely all of us can do something to help them to pull through.

ANTI FASCIST ACTION

ANTI FASCIST ACTION is a national campaign, begun in 1985 to combat the alarming rise in racist and fascist activity. AFA believe that to ignore this activity in the hope that it will cease, only invites a dangerous escalation. With this in mind we are happy to print the following article from a member of Liverpool AFA.

Anti Fascist Action welcomes this opportunity to contribute an article to Green CND's newsletter. There has been a Liverpool AFA group in existence since last year. Originally formed to help mobilize against the National Front rally in Liverpool in June, we have continued since then to develop a broad based anti-racist and anti-fascist campaign on Merseyside. Our activities include both propaganda work, leafletting flyposting, holding meetings, and also monitoring work, to keep track of the activities of local fascists and racists, particularly the growth in racist attacks in Merseyside.

Until very recently, Merseyside had not suffered the spate of petrol bombings and direct physical assaults on the ethnic minority communities that places like London, Manchester, Blackburn, Leicester, Leeds and Bradford had since the renewed rise in racist attacks from about 1985. However there are signs that these attacks are mounting on Merseyside too - with a number of firebombings of Black Merseysiders homes recently getting publicity in local papers. Anti Fascist Action expects this trend to continue, accelerating particularly in the immediate pre-election period, when the Tory press will be eager for easy scapegoats to distract attention from their failed economic policies. And so the news floodgates of racist filth will open with a vengeance once the election date is more definitely set. AFA tries to challenge racism and fascism on a wide front, not just chasing a small bunch of Nazis about but more importantly carrying out ongoing propaganda activity against racism in its institutional and 'popular' forms as well.

Nationally, AFA has a network of local and student groups and an increasing membership. They organised a march through Cable St on the 50th anniversary of the famous 'battle' and will continue to call counter demonstrations on Remembrance Sunday while the National Front are permitted to march to the Cenotaph.

JOIN ANTI-FASCIST ACTION

- I would like to join AFA. Please send me details of membership, affiliation and more information on AFA's work.
- I would like to make a donation to AFA's fighting fund. I enclose /Please send me a bankers' order form.

Name

Address

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Send to: AFA, PO Box 273, Forest Gate, London E7.

SAVE THE RAINFOREST

Rainforests are the richest source of life on earth, containing over half of the world's wild species. Apart from being the home of thousands of tribal people, rainforests are valuable sources of medicinal and food products. But it is the demand for tropical hardwood timber which directly threatens the rainforests.

Practically half of all rainforests have been cleared since 1945. Each year, approx. 50 million acres of tropical forests, an area the size of Britain, is destroyed or seriously degraded. This equals 100 ACRES PER MINUTE, a rate which will virtually clear all accessible rainforests of W. Africa, C. America, S.E. Asia by the year 2000. Deforestation worsens droughts in dry seasons and increases floods in the wet. Ethiopia is a typical example.

— CRITICAL —

The World Bank has identified 10 African, 9 Asian and 11 Latin American timber-producing countries whose forest estates have reached a "critical" condition as a result of destructive logging policies (1985). Malaysia, Ivory Coast and the Phillipines are expected to run out of timber for export within the next decade unless logging practices change and replanting occurs at much higher rates. Nigeria and Thailand, traditional exporters, have become net importers of wood.

Britain imports 95% of its tropical hardwood supplies from badly-managed and unsustainable sources. In volume of imports, Britain matches Italy and France but in value terms, Britain is the largest importer of tropical hardwoods in Europe.

Friends of the Earth call upon the timber trade to switch to using hardwoods that have been grown sustainably, that is consumer nations using tropical hardwoods from areas where logging companies replant after felling and use already degraded land instead of destroying virgin forest. Waste can be greatly reduced. In S.E. Asia (exc. China) for every extracted cubic metre of wood, a cubic metre is left behind and a further one quarter cubic metre is lost during processing. As a result of poor management a staggering 100 million cubic metres of good wood is wasted every year.

Erosion of top soil and flooding caused by forest clearance means that exporting countries don't particularly gain. A 1986 World Bank study states that "rough estimates show the economic costs of unsustainable forest depletion in major tropical hardwood exporting countries range from 4-6% of GNP, offsetting any economic growth that may otherwise have been achieved."

— EXAMPLE —

Friends of the Earth wish Britain to show the world an example through the adoption of its Code of Conduct by the timber trade, to help moderate the impact on tropical forests. One of the sections of the Code of Conduct suggests that the tropical hardwood industry should help create and support a fund to ensure the long-term sustainable use of rainforests. This could be matched from various governments. Another is that importers should clearly label their tropical hardwood timber products with the country and concession of origin, using an internationally agreed labelling system.

The Timber Trades Federation (TTF) has initiated positive action on the newly-established International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO). Both the TTF and the National Association of Retail Furnishers (NARF) have expressed interest in the Code of Conduct.

Individuals are exhorted to support the Friends of the Earth 'SAVE THE RAINFOREST' Campaign. They can do this by writing to their local branch of the shops listed overleaf, requesting that the manager asks the suppliers and manufacturers to provide only tropical timber and timber products that have come from a sustainable source

MANUFACTURING/RETAIL OUTLETS

3 types of retail dominate: discount stores, department stores, and multiple furniture shops.

Discount stores: MFI, Queensway, Kingsbury Vogue Interiors, Status Discounts, CMFD.
Department stores: John Lewis, Debenhams, House of Frazer, Army and Navy, Wades.
Multiple Furniture Shops: Cavendish Woodhouse, John Blundell, Harris Furnishing, Williams.

Other types of store to check include:

Mail order companies: Littlewoods, GUS, Freeman, Keys.
Variety stores: Woolworth, Littlewoods, Tesco Home 'N' Wear, British Home Stores.

This list is just a beginning. Every town and city has its own individual stores in these areas.

MAIN DIY FIRMS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

1) Subsidiaries of larger groups.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Parent Company</u>	<u>No. of outlets nationwide</u>
B and O/Dodge City	Paternoster Stores Ltd.	100 (14 new ones expected 1983)
Texaco Homecare/Home Carm/ Two's Company/Sankey	Home Charm Group	124 (Sankey recently bought from N.C.B.)
Timothy Whites	The Boots Co. Ltd.	130 (mainly house users and small electrical appliances)
Great Kills	RMC Group	32
Do-It-All	WH Smith & Sons	40
Payless DIY	Marley Ltd.	57
Poundstretcher	Harris Queensway	31 (General discount stores)
Home Base	J. Sainsbury plc	5
Timberland	Comet Radiovision	48
Sandfords	Sharp and Fisher	7

TWO USEFUL ADDRESSES

National Association of Retail Furnishers
17-21 George Street
CROYDON CR9 1TQ

Timber Trades Federation
Clareville House
26/27 Oxenden Street
LONDON SW1 4EL

2) Independent Companies

<u>Name</u>	<u>Parent Company</u>	<u>No. of outlets nationwide</u>
FADS	A.G. Stanley Holdings	227 (mainly decorative products - 9 new stores 1983)
Wickes	Wickes Europe plc	19 (mainly timber and building supplies)
Wilkinson Hardware Stores		47 (home and garden products - anticipate 4 new stores)
Dews 8/Ten Ten/Ripolin	Jacoa Ltd.	174 (decorative products)
Wm Cato & Sons		15

THE LARGEST TIMBER GROUPS IN THE UK

MEYER INTERNATIONAL PLC

Its activities are diversified; traditional bulk imports (mainly of softwoods, but also softwoods and panels) represent now no more than 30% of turnover; the rest is represented by outlets turnover (DIY, shops, timber merchants and builders....). Amongst its numerous subsidiaries, the most important are:

Jewsons and Sons Ltd (retail and wholesale timber merchants with a turnover of £63.3 million in 1981/82)
Taylor and Low Ltd (timber merchants)
Bamberger Ltd (importer and timber merchants)
The Merchant Trading Co. Ltd. (Buildersmerchants)
MacMillan Broedel Meyer Ltd. (an associated company between MacMillan Broedel, the largest Canadian timber firm, and MLM; imports softwoods and plywood, with a turnover of £30.5 million in 1980)
William Brown (East Anglia) Ltd. (the largest network of timber merchants yards controlled by MLM)
Keizer Venesta (Southern) Ltd. (importers and timber merchants of plywood and other woods)
Baynes (Reading) Ltd. (timber merchants)
L Bloom (Plywood) Ltd. (importers of plywood)
Chapman Hall Gray Ltd. (timber merchants)

MALLISON - DENNY LTD.

Mallison - Denny Ltd. is made of numerous companies involved in all aspects of the timber trade. The main subsidiaries are:

Net Ltd. (A large network of DIY and timber merchants)
Mallison - Denny (Western) Ltd. (importers and timber merchants)
Mallison - Denny (South-Eastern) Ltd. (importers and timber merchants)

THE SABAH TIMBER GROUP

The Sabah Timber Group is a holding of many companies involved in foresting, wholesale and processing of timber. The main subsidiaries are:

Parker Timber Group Ltd. (the larger holding company of importers, timber merchants and manufacture of Sabah Timber; the turnover in 1978/79 was £51.7 million)
Sabah Timber SEM (Holds) Ltd. (a holding of importers and timber merchants)
Wm Stoner & Co. Ltd. (importers, timber merchants and retailers, mainly involved in softwoods through Wm Stoner (Softwoods) Ltd.)
The Wintringham Groups Ltd. (timber merchants, also builders merchants)

MAGNET AND SOUTHERNS PLC

This has been the best example of a group diversifying its activity towards manufacturing; well-known for doors, windows, etc. Has a considerable network of retailers (some 240 depots, yards and shops)

PRICE AND PIERCE (HOLDINGS) LTD.

This group is a holding of importers and timber merchants, as well as other interests, but mainly specialised in timber agents of which the larger groups are:

Price, Hallam and Foys Ltd. (timber agents for softwoods from with a turnover of £34.5 million in 1980)
Hallam, Ramsey and Co. Ltd. (timber merchants)
Foy, Morgan and Co. Ltd. (timber agents, especially from Russia)
Price, Morgan (Hardwoods) Ltd. (timber agents specialised in tropical hardwoods)
Price, Morgan (Plywood and Boards) Ltd. (timber agents for panels)

AARONSON BROTHERS PLC

A company specialised in boards, laminating and manufacturing, aconite - subsidiary uses 15% of particle board in the UK - vebeering, timber frames, etc....; also a timber merchant.

MAY AND HASSEL PLC

Holding of several timber importers, merchants, joinery and timber merchants.

CHURCHILL AND SIM LTD.

An importer, timber merchants and agent company

POWELL DUFFRYN TIMBER LTD.

Importers and timber merchants, manufacturer of timber frames.

PHOENIX TIMBER PLC

A timber merchants and imports company with also timber manufacturing and joinery interests.

PHAROAH GANE LTD.

Importers, brokers and timber merchants.

HOLLIS BROTHERS AND E.S.A. LTD.

A holding, mainly grouping timber merchants and manufacturers of office furniture, wooden toys etc.....

JOHN CARR JOINERY SALES LTD.

Joinery manufacturers and timber merchants

THE FOLLOWING TROPICAL HARDWOOD TIMBERS ARE RECOMMENDED FOR USE ONLY IF SHOWN TO BE FROM A SUSTAINABLE SOURCE

Mahogany, Meranti/Luan, Keruing, Ramin, Iroko, Sapele, Obeche, Teak, Afrosia, Utile, Makore, African Walnut

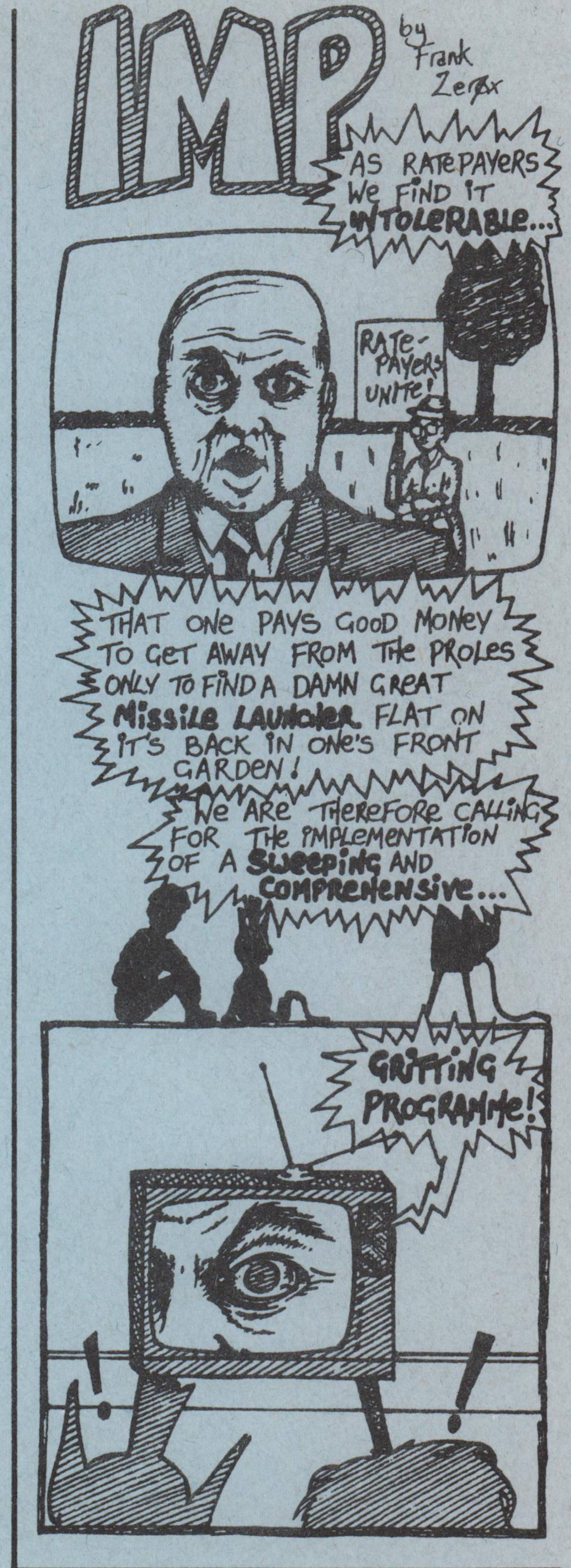
The main areas of origin for all of the above timbers are Africa (Ivory Coast, Ghana, Cameroon and Liberia), SE Asia inc. Phillipines, Brazil

THE FOLLOWING TIMBERS ARE RECOMMENDED AS ALTERNATIVES TO TROPICAL HARDWOOD

Oak, Maple (Sycamore Rock etc.), Beech, Ash, Elm, Pear, Cherry, Alder, Apple, Black Walnut, American Whitewood.

The main areas of origin for all of the above timbers are Europe, North America, Japan.

ALL INFORMATION ABOUT COMPANIES MENTIONED PROVIDED BY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH 377 CITY ROAD, LONDON EC1



EVENTS

FEB 13th. - APR 25th.

- FEB. 13th. SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE - to celebrate the 5th. anniversary of Nuclear-Free Wales. Starts at Brawdy. Tel. 0766 831833 for further information.
- FEB. 14/15th. WOMENS ANARCHIST FESTIVAL. At St. Merbury's Community Centre, Horley Rd., Bristol. Games/Music/Alternative Medicine/Workshops/Creche.
- FEB 16th.-APR 14th. 'CND EXPRESS' - A touring double-decker bus visiting towns and cities with marginal constituencies, to promote anti-nuclear arguments with a view to the run-up to the general election. Local public meetings will be held, at which CND speakers will be talking common sense. Prospective parliamentary candidates from all parties have also been invited to take part, which should add some extra interest to the debates. Further details are available from 'CND EXPRESS', 22-24, Underwood Street, London N1 7J6. Tel. 01-250 4010.
- FEB. 18th. STONEHENGE '87 CAMPAIGN MEETING. - Starts at 7pm. at 99, Torriano Ave. London, NW5. There will be an earlier workshop starting in the afternoon at 4pm.
- FEB. 20/21/22 MEN'S LIBERATION WEEKEND. Organised by MOVE (Men Overcoming Violence). To be held at Monkton Wylde Court. For details Tel. Ian Collier (0272 542357), or Steve Mason (0272 45346). An article about MOVE will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.
- FEB 21st. NALGO WORKING FOR PEACE CONFERENCE. At Renald's Building, UMIST, Sackville St. Manchester. (10.15-5pm.). Speakers include Bruce Kent (vice-chairperson, CND), Arkadi Masslenikov, (Pravda correspondent at Reykjavik), and George Strattan, (Trade Union CND). The conference is open to all Nalgo members, and will feature afternoon workshops on the following; Defence and Nuclear-Free zones, Nuclear Power and Nuclear Weapons, Women and Peace, and Nalgo working with local peace groups. For full details and registration, contact local branch secretaries.
- Feb 21st. RALLY AT CLWYD. To mark the 5th. anniversary of Nuclear-free Wales.
- FEB 23rd. MEETING TO HELP PLAN MARCH FROM UPPER HEYFORD TO OXFORD ON APR. 11th. Meet at 7.30pm. at West Oxford Community Centre. Tel. Nuala Young/Oxford 722883.
- FEB 23rd. 'A PUBLIC MEETING WITH BRUCE KENT' at 'Our Lady Star of the Sea Social Club', Endfield Rd., Ellesmere Port, (off Whitby Rd. near the train station) The meeting has been arranged to help re-launch Ellesmere Port CND, and apart from featuring Bruce Kent as a speaker, will also include a question and answer session afterwards. Starts at 8pm.
- FEB 24th. NUCLEAR-FREE EXTRAVAGANZA. To mark 5 years of Nuclear-free Wales. Tel. 0766-831833 for further details.
- FEB 25th. A PUBLIC MEETING ON THE POLITICS OF NUCLEAR POWER. Featuring guest speaker Jonathon Porritt (Director of Friends of the Earth). Starts at 7.30pm. at the Assembly Room, The Town Hall, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, Merseyside. Organised by the Wirral Green Alliance. Ring 051-652 1026 for further information.
- FEB 28th. 'ABUSE OF TRUST' A call for all women to demonstrate outside the American Embassy, Grosvenor Square, London. Against US development in the Pacific. The event has been organised by 'Women Working For A Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific', and runs from 1pm. - 4pm. (including a short vigil at 2pm.)

- MAR 1st.** SNOWBALL DAYSCHOOL. Including NVDA training. At Bishop Lloyd's Palace, Watergate Row, Chester. 10.30am. - 4.00pm. Phone: 051-722 5389.
- March 7th.** 'INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY '87''. A day of recognition for women's struggles and achievements worldwide. Event comprises a daytime fair open to all, with stalls, information stands, workshops, exhibitions, and a creche. In the evening there will be a 'Reclaim The Night' march, to highlight and protest about the dangers that women face in the streets after dark. After the march, there will be a women's music evening, featuring 'The Fabulous Dirt Sisters', from Nottingham, and women musicians from Merseyside. The event is being held in Liverpool, and further details are available by ringing 051-734 4950. If you wish to participate in the daytime fair - tel. Jane McAuley (051 647 2377 ext. 372).
- MAR 14/15** 'THE HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF RADIOCHEMICAL POLLUTION OF THE IRISH SEA'. An international conference for GP's, other health professionals and interested individuals. At the Prince of Wales Hotel, Southport. Contributions from National and international authorities on; The physical characteristics of the Irish Sea/Sources of Pollution/Pollution Monitoring/Biological hazards including genetic effects/Implications for the health of local populations/Ongoing or recently reported surveys.
- MAR 14th.** 'CONFERENCE FOR ARMS CONVERSION FOR WORKERS IN DEFENCE INDUSTRIES.' At Manchester Town Hall. Speakers will include Demzil Davies M.P., Daany Pearson - (TASS), and John Edmonds (GMBATU). Workshops to be organised on Shipbuilding Royal Dockyards/Electronics/Aerospace/and ROF's. For further information, and for registration, contact: National Trade Union Defence Conversion Committee, 22-24, Underwood St. London N1 7JG.
- MAR 28th.** LANCASTER CND PEACE MARCH. Bruce Kent will be the main speaker.
- APR 4/5th.** SNOWBALL WEEKEND. Contact 0603 631007 for details of local events.
- APR 11th.** MARCH FROM OXFORD TO USAF UPPER HEYFORD. For details write to 'April Event' /34, Cowley Road, Oxford.
- APR 15th.** MAJOR NVDA ACTION, at USAF Upper Heyford - to mark the anniversary of the Libyan bombing. For details write to Upper Heyford Peace Camp, Portway, Camp Rd. Upper Heyford, Oxford.
- APR 25th.** NATIONAL CND DEMO, LONDON. Tel. 01-250 4010.

28th. FEB RENEWABLE ENERGY AND THE MERSEY BARRAGE. An all day conference with workshops. Speakers include; MIKE FLOOD (Friends of the Earth consultant), speaking on 'Energy Without End', (windpower/solarpower etc.) DOUG SMITH (Whitehaven), on 'Low - Cost Energy Efficient Housing', LIVERPOOL GREEN PARTY on 'Nuclear Politics', REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MERSEY BARRAGE COMPANY/NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY/plus others.
10.00 am. Press conference, followed by workshops 10.30-5.30.
At: LIVERPOOL IRISH CENTRE, (opposite the University and Everyman Theatre), Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. Admission free, but contributions would be welcome to offset costs. Bar facilities available.

HUMANS - THE LAST ENDANGERED ANIMALS?

Although we do not realize it, forests are the most vital necessity for humans and other animals, second only to the living soil and assuming sufficient clean water, air and sunlight. Our ancestors lived in tropical forests before they learnt to make fire two million years ago and became hunter-gatherers. Those of us who still live in forests use them for shelter and food without destroying them. We who started farming 10,000 years ago outside the forests have been using them ever since for shelter, food and an increasing list of other things, including fuel. But, to do so, we have to destroy them. We, alone, among the millions of other species, bury our dead - and do this in wood from trees. We wear clothes which come from sources which displaced forests. It is, therefore, obvious that, as the human population increased, the forests would dwindle; and this has been happening for thousands of years.

In a recent press release Ecology Action of California stated: "In 1950 the earth had 20% of tree cover existing in 1800 and in 1975 10% remained. Today it is even less." These figures, apparently, do not take into account afforestation - the planting of quick growing conifers. But, in the long run, these evergreens are no substitute for temperate broad-leaf forests as they cannot support most wildlife and contribute to acidification of the soil. The reason the north suffered less from deforestation than the south is because we have coal and oil so don't any longer cut trees for fuel. But, in the next century, there will not be enough fossil fuel for the industrialized north. The reason we have only just become aware of rainforests is because, being around the equator, they were the least accessible; at the very heart of life on earth. What we are witnessing now is a rapidly increasing army of humans advancing on the world's most valuable remaining resource - forests - for sustenance. A survey for the DoE and the Countryside Commission found that 25% of Britain's broadleaf woodlands vanished between 1947 and 1980! What must be obvious to many is that we need more than a series of semi-sterile sustainably managed temperate and tropical forests. Friends of the Earth admit that a policy of population containment in developing countries is necessary to save the rainforests. However, this is unrealistic and unfair - unless we in the north reduce our consumption and, at the very least, limit our own population. Although there is great difficulty in doing all this, we are involved in a fight for survival which we are likely to lose. So why should we bother?

We should bother because not to do so would hasten environmental decay and encourage the worst human characteristics; this leading to violence by individuals, groups and nations as ecological disasters are misinterpreted as being political in origin. Witness the threat of military confrontation in the Falklands because of competition for dwindling fish stocks.

We should bother because the only way we are going to stop competitive production of expensive armaments is by concentrating the minds of the leaders of the industrialized nations on the common threat of environmental decay - the only possible catalyst or amalgamator there is ever going to be. The abolition of nuclear weapons will solve no problems since no country is going to dismiss its highly-trained defence scientists and technicians who will continue to invent more deadly weapons. Nuclear weapons will be abolished when more horrific weapons are invented, unless we stop competing for a "better life". Even socialist states compete against each other now.

If we are serious about saving our vanishing forests and soil - our living environment - it is going to bring about a great but gradual social and economic upheaval; a levelling process narrowing the difference between rich and poor nations. If we cannot voluntarily control and reduce populations in north and south it will be done by natural means - hunger and disease. AIDS may be a foretaste of things to come.

Brian W. Walker, President of the International Institute for Environment and Development writes: "The thin mantle of green that sustains all living things, with its fragile water supply, its critical oxygen ratio and its twelve inches or so of fertile soil, is under powerful, unrelenting assault across each of the five continents of our planet...the deserts of the entire globe are expanding."

Fertile soil is a precious and living thing. It is alive with millions of bacteria per ounce; perhaps 300 million insects, mites, millipedes, etc. per acre - all necessary for life on earth. From parent rock, one inch of topsoil takes from 100 to 2,500 years to form. By the year 2000 there will be 20% more humans, but we will have destroyed 20% of our present soil in the north and south. In ignorance and greed all humans contribute to this self-destruction. In selfishness and stupidity none accept responsibility. Only 11% of the earth's land area is

suitable for prime agriculture. As we destroy our forests the soil is either washed or blown away or is killed by chemicals. Who will read the writing on the wall? And who will act on it now?

ALEXANDER CROAL

SNOWBALL

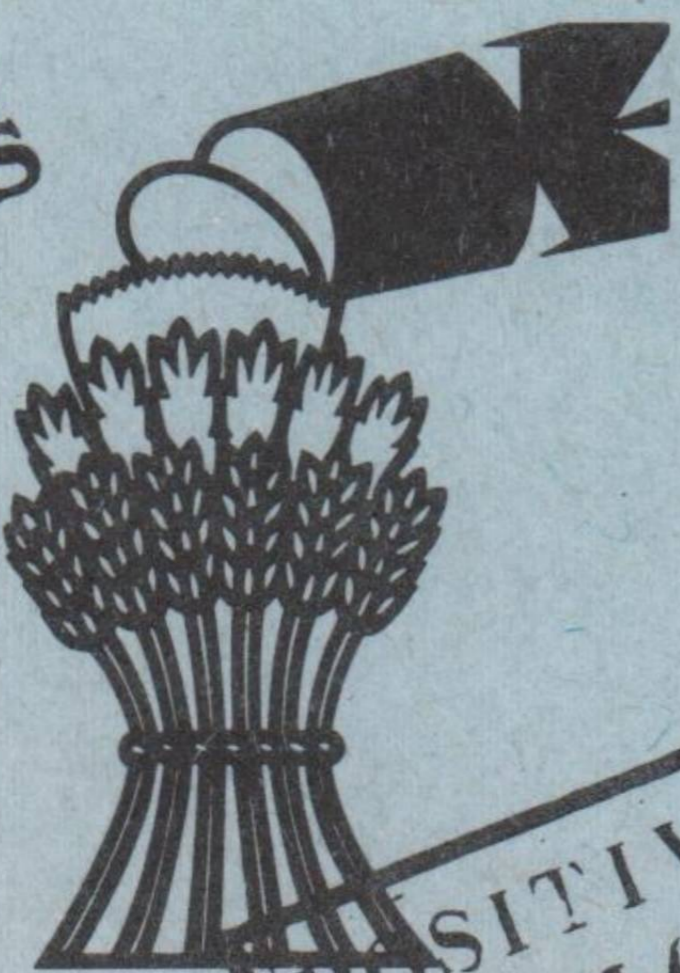
The 6th. Capenhurst 'Snowball' on Saturday, April 4th., will be something of an occasion - an event not to be missed. We are aiming for 100 people to cut the fence, but more importantly, to combine the Snowball with a Spring Festival with stalls, music and well-known speakers, (E.P. Thompson, Paul Johns and Meg Beresford have been approached). It would be marvellous to have a large number of 'cutters' as part of the festival; this would be a 'one-off' occasion, as large numbers would not necessarily be expected again. Our previous highest number has been 53.

Why Capenhurst? BNFL's uranium enrichment plant on the Wirral has been the scene of all types of protest over the last five years, mainly because people feel threatened by the link between Trident and the A3 MOD plant at Capenhurst. This installation, costing £100,000,000 - will produce highly enriched uranium for Trident submarine reactors. After five years the new plant will enrich uranium to 'weapon's grade'. At the AGM of BNFL in 1985, a spokesman said that the uranium from Capenhurst would be used to 'meet all Britain's defensive needs'. A certain amount of reprocessing, very dangerous and radioactive, also takes place with 'old uranium' from reactors at Chapel Cross and Calder Hall being re-enriched. This uranium is contaminated by decay products of fission. Urenco's civil plant at Capenhurst is a vital link in the nuclear chain, as it enriches uranium in the form of uranium hexafluoride, to fuel nuclear power stations. Uranium 238 is used as a 'tamper' for nuclear bombs, a 'blanket' for H-bombs, and as a target rod in military reactors.

We also oppose the use of Namibian uranium at Capenhurst. South Africa occupies Namibia, and against U.N. decree No.1, sends uranium to the BNFL plant for enrichment in the civil and military programmes. BNFL and Britain are overtly supporting a harsh apartheid regime in allowing this desperate trade to continue.

If you would like to register to take part in the 'Snowball', have a stall, are a musician, support the event or would simply like more information, please contact: Merseyside CND, c/o 24, Hardman St., Liverpool 3. Or telephone 051 708 7764 on any Tuesday.

**BREAD
— NOT —
BOMBS**



**POSITIVE
ACTION**

'BREAD NOT BOMBS' BY POSITIVE ACTION. A 33 rpm record produced by MERSEYSIDE CND, and available now - from the above address (price £1.00, plus 20p for postage). WRITTEN/PERFORMED/PRODUCED by members of the MERSEYSIDE TRADE UNION COMMUNITY AND UNEMPLOYED CENTRE - for 'BREAD NOT BOMBS WEEK'...and it's even got a catchy tune you can sing along with!!! -you lucky people!

*Take a look towards the east, and take a look towards the west -
Each side of the world believes its way of doing things is best.
And we here in the middle, must convince them both to face the south,
Where money spent on death machines, should go to feed a starving mouth.*

GREEN TEACHER

A new bi-monthly magazine is now available by subscription to anybody with an involvement in the sphere of education, or who is just interested in new developments in the Green movement in general. 'GREEN TEACHER', (already heading towards its third issue), aims to fulfill a number of functions, and- as the editorial comment in issue number two states, 'GT assumes that educators will want to help students to develop their understanding of, and their skills in helping with....

- People's need to co-operate with, and care for, the Earth.
- People's need to co-operate with, and care for, each other, across boundaries of all kinds.
- People's need to grow as independent, self-reliant, confident individuals, able to fulfil themselves.
- People's need to design and use technologies and lifestyles which support these aims, towards a sustainable society.
- People's need to work at new ways of doing politics, in the basic sense of controlling their future.
- People's need to take part in the spiritual transformation whose 'shifted paradigms' must underlie all other change.'

Personally, I find it to be a very well put-together and well thought-out magazine, which will be of great interest to more than the target audience of 'Teachers, Teacher Educators and Curriculum Developers'. True, much of the content is indeed geared to providing resource materials such as worksheets and topic exercises, for teachers practically involved in trying to get Green ideas across to their students. As such, the introductions to 'Futures Education', (whereby fictional futures 'reveal problems in the world we now inhabit and construct'), and activities constructed to illustrate the key stages in the nuclear fuel cycle, are a good foundation in making the process of education relevant to environmental and philosophical problems.

But there is much more to be found than this, and I particularly welcomed an article proposing 'Ten Red Questions To Ask Green Teachers', in which John Huckle - a teacher of Geography at Bedford College of Higher Education - offers a pertinent, if damning, critique of the validity of the Green position in education, in relation to what he feels to be a more effective, less impotently idealist, Labour Party/Socialist standpoint. Whilst, as readily affirmed in the introduction to the piece, many readers may consider many of the conclusions reached to be 'misguided or unfair', it is of tremendous importance that we can develop cohesive and cogent replies to such criticism. For example in the article, the author provides the following answer to the rhetorical question: 'Are you sufficiently aware of the ideological nature of much environmental education?

'Much green literature on education is a blend of utopian environmentalism and progressive, child centred, or utopian notions of education. Nature and the child are thought to have rights and education and society should be reshaped to take account of laws of natural development and ecology.

Such ideas of natural or ecological determinism are at best romantic and at worst positively reactionary. They failed teachers at a time when it might have been easier to establish environmental education in our schools and are currently no answer to the attack on education being mounted by the new right. At a time when schooling is being restructured to make it better serve the economic and cultural needs of capital, teachers deserve a more realist theory if they are to practice and defend education FOR the environment. Capital's need to resolve its environmental crisis means that powerful interests are backing education ABOUT the environment and pushing more and more materials into schools.

Green capitalism is already exerting its influence on schooling and if teachers are to recognise and combat this, they need to be exposed to socialist ideas about the environment and education. To base such education on a green, rather than a red perspective, could be a recipe for another round of idealism which offers pupils a haven while at school but does little to prepare them for the harsh realities outside. Tensions between green and red are discernable within World Studies and its publications and conferences have done much to sharpen debate.'

Not that 'Green Teacher' is uniformly 'heavy' in its analysis and treatment of issues. There's also a handy 'Ecogame' in issue two, which can be photocopied. It's a board game in which children are encouraged to consider the consequences of various personal actions which may be construed as being either constructive or damaging to the environment.

For example; for refusing to be supplied with paper bags in shops, for picking up litter, and for monitoring smoke emissions from a local factory, points are given. Whilst for eating sweets and crisps each day, using weedkillers on plants, and for dropping litter - the appropriate number of points are taken away. It may never replace 'Trivial Pursuits', but it's a good and positive way to 'reinforce the value of positive attitudes towards the environment', and there is always room to debate certain premises as they arise.

In a thorough report on the Californian 'Lifelab' project, Gary Appel shows how science teaching in schools can be incorporated into 'an agriculturally based elementary science and nutrition programme', in which children gain a sense of social responsibility by developing, tending and caring for a garden laboratory, (and by carrying out such experiments as those to discover the effect of soil compaction on plant growth, and the effect of the use of compost on plant growth). In this way the students learn, in a very personal way, of their interdependence with the natural world, whilst gaining an effective scientific education which has a thorough basis in ecological considerations.

The issue of 'Green Teacher' reviewed, also features articles on the 'New University Project', which is currently gaining ground in Birmingham; and a report by Matthias Finger, of Ecoropa, about the establishment of a 'Green University' in Geneva. Both of these articles are well worth reading, so if you wish to know more about the subjects mentioned in this review, (and more about 'Green Teacher' in general), then write to:

DAMIAN RANDLE; LLYS AWEL, 22, HEOL, PENTRERHEDYN, MACHYNLLETH, POWYS, WALES.

MAIL ORDER LIST

- EMBRACE THE EARTH. A simple booklet giving a green view of peace. £1 incl. p&p.
- GREEN CND WALL POSTER. Richard Hunt design. 50p. incl. p&p.
- ECONOMY LABELS. Envelope resealers for re-using old envelopes. £1.25 per 100.
 - BALLPOINT PENS. inscribed "Penpushers for Peace" 20p. each
 - BALLOONS. 11 colours, with CND logo. £1 for 20.
- CARRIER BAGS. White plastic with CND and logo. £1 for 20.
- CAR STICKERS. 4" diameter "GREEN CND" - 35p.
- First Class Stickers. "Buy New Zealand Nuclear Free Goods" 50p. per packet.
- GREEN CND BADGES. "1" diameter. 20p.
- GREEN ANARCHIST ECONOMY LABELS/GREEN CND 'SEED OF LIFE' STICKERS.

CASH WITH ORDERS PLEASE. CHEQUES AND POSTAL ORDERS payable to GREEN CND

**NICK HARVEY. 21, HOLME PARK COURT, BERRYBROW. HUDDERSFIELD, W.
YORKS. 661650**

MCDONALD'S

For those of you who would rather step into the path of an oncoming bus, than step into a "McDonald's" for a burger and chips - a helpful leaflet has been produced which digs deep beneath the fast-food facade, and explores the murky consequences of continuing expansion at this end of the meat-trading spectrum.

Produced by Greenpeace (London), and titled "What's Wrong with McDonald's?", the leaflet aims to hack away at a lingering image of smiling staff, cheap good quality food and friendly surroundings, by way of a careful analysis of all aspects of the company's operations worldwide. If by this point you are tempted into thinking "Well, so what? I never eat there anyway", then please - think again. The consequences of this blight on the high-streets of the western world, go far deeper than the addition of a bit of cholesterol to the diet. As the leaflet explains, it is no longer enough simply to pass quickly by, with a sneer of contemptuous dissatisfaction aimed at those open-mouthed and burger-munching patrons, staring out of "McDonald's" windows nationwide. The very existence of this particular chain of "shop-front abattoirs", (and others of that ilk), is a palpable threat, not only to public-health - but also to the economies of many Third World countries; and above all, to the vast tracts of land now covered with rainforest, which "McDonald's" bulldoze and burn at the rate of 100 acres per minute, to provide grazing land for cattle.

As one of several giant corporations with investments in land in poor countries, "McDonald's" are directly responsible for the evictions of large numbers of small farmers, who would otherwise be growing food to support their own people. As it is, most of the food grown is exported to the United States, including staple crops, to be used as animal feed.

In the wake of this expansionist fervour, "McDonald's", (and another U.S. corporation, "Burger King"), are cutting a swathe across Equatorial rainforests which presently support about half of all the Earth's life-forms; including about 30,000 species of plantlife. The role that the rainforests also play in producing the bulk of the planet's supply of oxygen, is acknowledged as preeminent. This seems to be of little concern to profit-conscious "McDonald's" of course. These lands continue to be cleared with powerful and deadly poisons, to create grazing pastures for cattle destined to end up as burgers and pet food for the western markets. The trees that are felled during the land clearances also become a part of the "McDonald's" legacy of destruction; they end up as the wrappings and packagings around a "quarter pounder", (actually comprising 48% water; their figures), and a milkshake. To provide "McDonald's" with a ready supply of the paper that eventually ends up blowing around your ankles in any major city on a Saturday afternoon, it takes the eradication of 800 square miles of forest each year.

As Greenpeace point out, this uncontrolled deforestation is at least partly responsible for the famines in Ethiopia and Sudan; and they estimate that about one billion people



MCFACT

GROSS MISUSE OF RESOURCES

GRAIN is fed to cattle in South American countries to produce the meat in McDonald's hamburgers. Cattle consume 10 times the amount of grain and soy that humans do: one calorie of beef demands ten calories of grain. Of the 145 million tons of grain and soy fed to livestock, only 21 million tons of meat and by-products are used. *The waste is 124 million tons per year at a value of 20 billion US dollars.* It has been calculated that this sum would feed, clothe and house the world's entire population for one year.



MCFACT

FIFTY ACRES EVERY MINUTE

EVERY year an area of rainforest the size of Britain is cut down or defoliated, and burnt. Globally, one billion people depend on water flowing from these forests, which soak up rain and release it gradually. The disaster in Ethiopia and Sudan is at least partly due to uncontrolled deforestation. In Amazonia - where there are now about 100,000 beef ranches - torrential rains sweep down through the treeless valleys, eroding the land and washing away the soil. The bare earth, baked by the tropical sun, becomes useless for agriculture. *It has been estimated that this destruction causes at least one species of animal, plant or insect to become extinct every few hours.*



globally depend on the water which flows from these forests. Once, they would have soaked up any rainfall, and would then have released it gradually in regulated quantities. But this is no longer possible.

"In Amazonia - where there are now about 100,000 beef ranches - torrential rains sweep down through the treeless valleys, eroding the land and washing away the soil. The bare earth, baked by the tropical sun, becomes useless for agriculture. it has been estimated that his destruction causes at least one species of animal, plant or insect to become extinct every few hours".

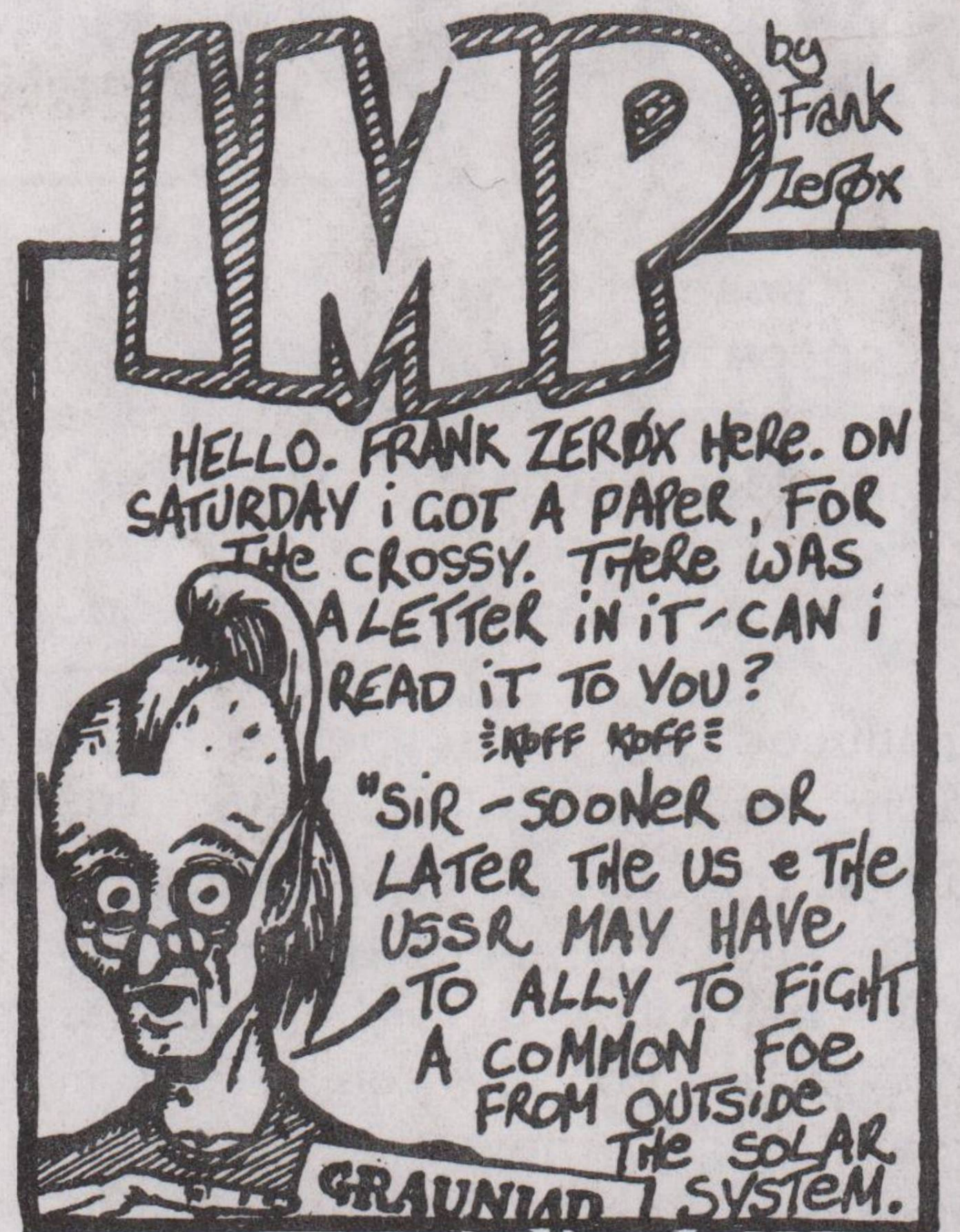
It's certainly worth thinking about this frightening cost next time you pass by that "McDonald's" window. Reflect also on the sheer and unadulterated hypocrisy of much of "McDonald's" advertising, which is largely aimed in the direction of impressionable children, via a happy charade of 'fun events', clowns and gimmicks. In dissecting just "What's Wrong with McDonald's?", Greenpeace have produced a very thorough leaflet indeed, and happily it appears to have been made copyright free, so that it can be adapted by individuals or groups for local actions or protests. We are taken through a guided tour of "McDonald's" reprehensible employment practises; the health consequences of 'fast-food nutrition; the use of seductive advertising to exploit children, and the heartless cruelty which lies behind the cultivation and "constant slaughter, day by day, of animals born and bred solely to be turned into "McDonald's" products."

The cattle, before they are transmogrified into burgers, end their miserable lives being prodded, beaten and electrocuted. Though this final savagery, condoned as a supposedly 'humane' method of stunning the animal, doesn't spare them the horror of having their throats cut while still fully conscious.

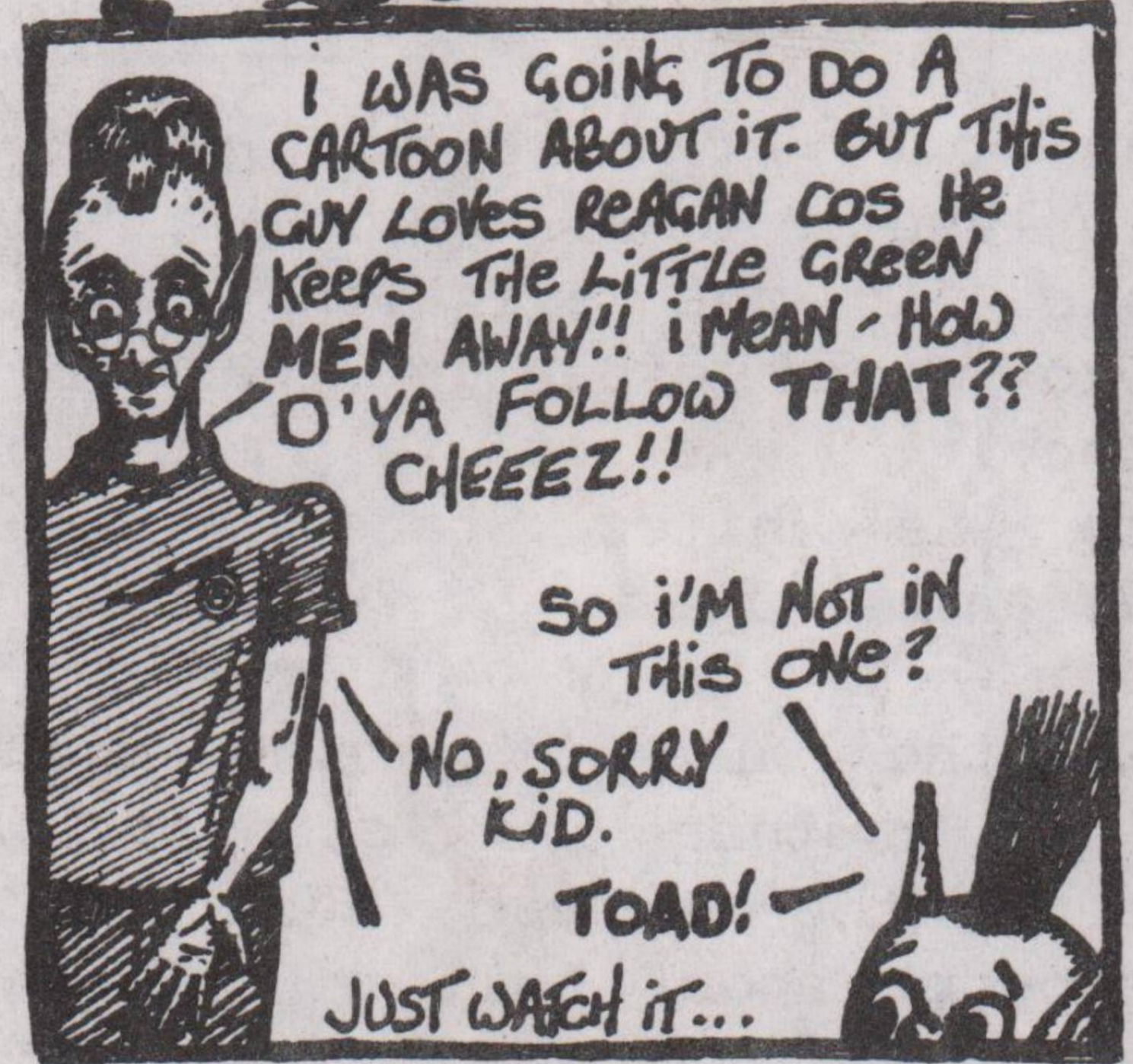
Worldwide Anti-McDonald's protests take place very year on October 16th; the date of the United nations "World Food Day". The slaughter of thousands of sentient animals, and the felling of the disappearing rainforests - takes place every single day. It's a juggernaut of stupidity and greed, that continues to roll on and on. if you want to do something about it, having recognised that is is a cultural problem that affects all of us, then write to:-

GREENPEACE (LONDON,) 5, CALEDONIAN ROAD, LONDON N1.

and ask them to send you a copy of the leaflet. "At McDonald's we've got time for you", is the boast. For thousands of animals, millions of trees, and the peoples of Ethiopia and Sudan - their time is already up.



THE SDI COULD BE ESSENTIAL FOR THAT DEFENCE OF EARTH; AND FOR THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR ON EARTH, MAKING NUCLEAR WEAPONS OBSOLETE. FUTURE GENERATIONS OF THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE GRATEFUL FOR MR REAGAN'S COURAGEOUS STAND IN REYKJAVIK. I AM NOW.
 YOURS FAITHFULLY...



Special Thanks

'THE ECOLOGIST' for permission to reproduce the article on Food Irradiation. Helen Prescott: for the article on Sizewell, Kevin Corner: Rainforests report (and neat typing), Alexander Croal: Humans; the last endangered species?, Leslie Carter/Keith Hodgson: allsorts!.....and to the 'Incredible' Phil Hargreaves (thanks for letting us use your IMP strip).