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For Justice & Peace

**SUMMER  
85**

**ONE WORLD  
CONCERNS  
in TELFORD**

**NE**



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The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the editorial group or the One World Week Committee.

R e c y c l e   Y o u r   T a x e s

Martin Howard is cycling around a great area of England and Wales this August to publicise and promote the PEACE TAX CAMPAIGN. The aim of the Peace Tax Campaign is to persuade the Government to introduce legislation which would allow those individuals who object to paying taxes to support military preparations on the grounds of conscience or profound conviction to instead have their contributions legally redirected to morally acceptable uses, via a Peace-Building Fund, into which the equivalent of their compulsory contributions to military expenditure would be paid. Martin arrives in Telford (from Stratford) on August 8th, and will be speaking at the Meeting House, Telford Centre on the evening of that day. The following morning he continues his ride, going on to Wrexham.



# Bread not Bombs

The 20th to 26th May saw a week of action by the Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) and Oxfam in favour of channelling resources to appropriate development rather than armaments - "BREAD NOT BOMBS", as the slogan goes.

At present, Third World governments import some \$25 billion worth of armaments each year, money which could have been spent beneficially to assist the poor. While armaments do not always kill people directly, it is clear that they contribute to the suffering and death of many in an indirect fashion. Oxfam and CAAT are calling on the British government to take a step forward.

Britain could reduce its exports of arms to the countries of the Third World and use diplomatic means to encourage other exporting countries to follow suit. Priority could be given to restricting the export of arms and equipment likely to be used to repress people protesting against hunger and poverty.

Locally, members of Telford Anti-Nuclear Group and the Oxfam Hungry for Change Campaign have leafletted the public in Wellington. If you would like to help, contact MARK STOKES, 7 BURTON CLOSE, DAWLEY. National organisations: CAAT, 5 CALEDONIAN ROAD, LONDON N1 9DX; OXFAM CAMPAIGNS UNIT, 274 BANBURY ROAD, OXFORD OX2 7DZ.

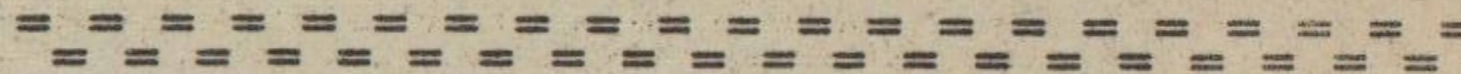


Recipes  
for  
JUSTICE

An international evening of music and dance will be held at ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, STIRCHLEY, on Wednesday 23rd October, at 7.30 pm.

There will be songs, dancing, music and drama from local ethnic and community groups, and admission will be free. Come and celebrate the richness and diversity of human culture in our One World.

More details of this and other One World Week events in our next issue.



## One World

# IDEAS

Why doesn't your group, your church do something for this year's ONE WORLD WEEK? "What?" you ask. The enclosed leaflet on this year's theme RECIPES FOR JUSTICE may be a help - and there are other materials available giving suggestions and ideas. These can be obtained via Sandra Howes, the Meeting House, Telford Town Centre - if you would like some resources or want to discuss your ideas, please give Sandra a ring (505634) or pop into the Meeting House.....and let us publicise your activities in the next issue of "ONE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE".



STOP PRESS - Further to the article on the Fowler Reviews\*:- Telford Town Committee are hoping to organise a STUDY DAY or MEETING soon to discuss some of the implications of the Reviews - look out for details.

# Buy more - and help whom?

( A N O P E N L E T T E R )

On a recent "Any Questions" Radio 4 programme, a member of the audience put a question to the panel contrasting the European 'mountains' of food and the starving in Ethiopia and elsewhere in the world. The general response was that the Third World ought to feed itself and not rely on handouts from the West (I believe I am fair in excluding the Eastern Bloc which is probably unable to assist, to any significant degree, even if it wanted to). A response with which I quite agree.

In the "Any Answers" programme which later included listeners' letters there was one which urged us to buy and eat more Third World produce - sugar cane, coffee, peanuts and so on - the assumption being that the increased income generated would enable the poor of those countries to improve their standard of living. Such a proposition, if not entirely false, is certainly mistaken.

Generally the real poor of the Third World are those who live on the marginal lands where the soil is relatively infertile. There is little work locally - many of the more able migrate to the towns in the hope of a better life: few of them succeed in their search.

If we in the West bought more sugar cane,

coffee, cotton or whatever is grown as a cash crop in the Third World then what this would chiefly stimulate is the further gobbling up of land by the rich and powerful. A few new jobs might be created, but many would be lost as agricultural mechanisation was introduced. The extra income would be largely confined to the wealthier sections of society, to be spent largely on imports. Government investment in additional arms and security equipment to 'maintain order' (i.e., squash protest among the growing poor driven onto marginal land or into urban squalor) would be required. There are many current examples, in all parts of the Third World, of this process taking place.

To reverse this process each of us, including the author, should cut back on purchases of Third World goods, whether food or non-food items, or at least purchase from more trustworthy or open sources. To advocate spending more money on Brooke Bond, Nescafe, Del Monte, Volkswagen, Gulf & Western or Lonrho (eg) products is to support the continuation and growth of the suffering of the poor. The poor of the world ought to be free to develop in their own way, able to farm their land for themselves and not to be denied this by foreign companies and their customers, that is, us.

ROBERT SAUNDERS

FOOTNOTE - In recent years Ethiopia's major exports have been meat, cattle, cotton lint and coffee - all grown or fed on the fertile land denied to the poor.

## "One World" — & YOU?

JOHN FORDE would be very interested to hear from any community/ethnic groups in the Telford area wishing to participate in the international festival at Stirchley on 23rd October, or to celebrate One World Week in any other way. For further details please contact him on Telford 595906.

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### *Vegetarianism Increasing*

Over half of the population of Britain will be vegetarian by 1991 - so the Vegetarian Society are predicting. Their optimism is prompted by a recent Gallup Poll which suggested that, in 1984, nine million people cut their consumption of meat, and that vegetariansim in Britain is now growing at a rate of 6% per year.

Encouraged by these trends, the Vegetarian Society has launched a major campaign to promote "a healthier diet", in which they will aim to make people more aware of the vegetarian lifestyle. The Society is receiving substantial numbers of enquiries from people wishing to know more about the vegetarian diet, and there is great interest especially among young people.



## THE COST OF THE CAN



The life of an aluminium can (the sort that Coca-Cola, for example, put their product in) is a very long one. Unlike the alternative coated-steel can, which at least rusts away in time, the aluminium variety does not corrode, but instead becomes yet another example of the persistent debris scattered by our society.

The useful life of the aluminium drinks can is, however, very short indeed. Millions of them are being produced, and they are highly marketable packaging - but once the contents have been consumed, unless the can is recycled, it is likely to deface the countryside for many years ahead. Even if users comply with the manufacturer's suggestion that cans should be "disposed of properly", that is a costly operation, which at some point the consumer has to pay for.

Although highly convenient for the manufacturer, cans themselves are very expensive to produce, both in terms of financial and environmental costs. Bauxite, the raw material from which aluminium is produced, is generally blasted out of opencast mines. The conversion process is energy-intensive (18,000 kilowatt-hours for each ton of aluminium), and produces large quantities of waste and some not very desirable bye-products.

(Continued on next page)

It is well worth comparing the trendy can with the traditional bottle. The current trend towards using non-returnable glass containers is itself often damaging to the environment: but at least glass production consumes raw materials that are plentiful and readily available, and recycling of glass has proved one of the easier waste retrieval projects to develop. And the energy involved in glass-making is considerably less than that needed to turn out those colourful cans.

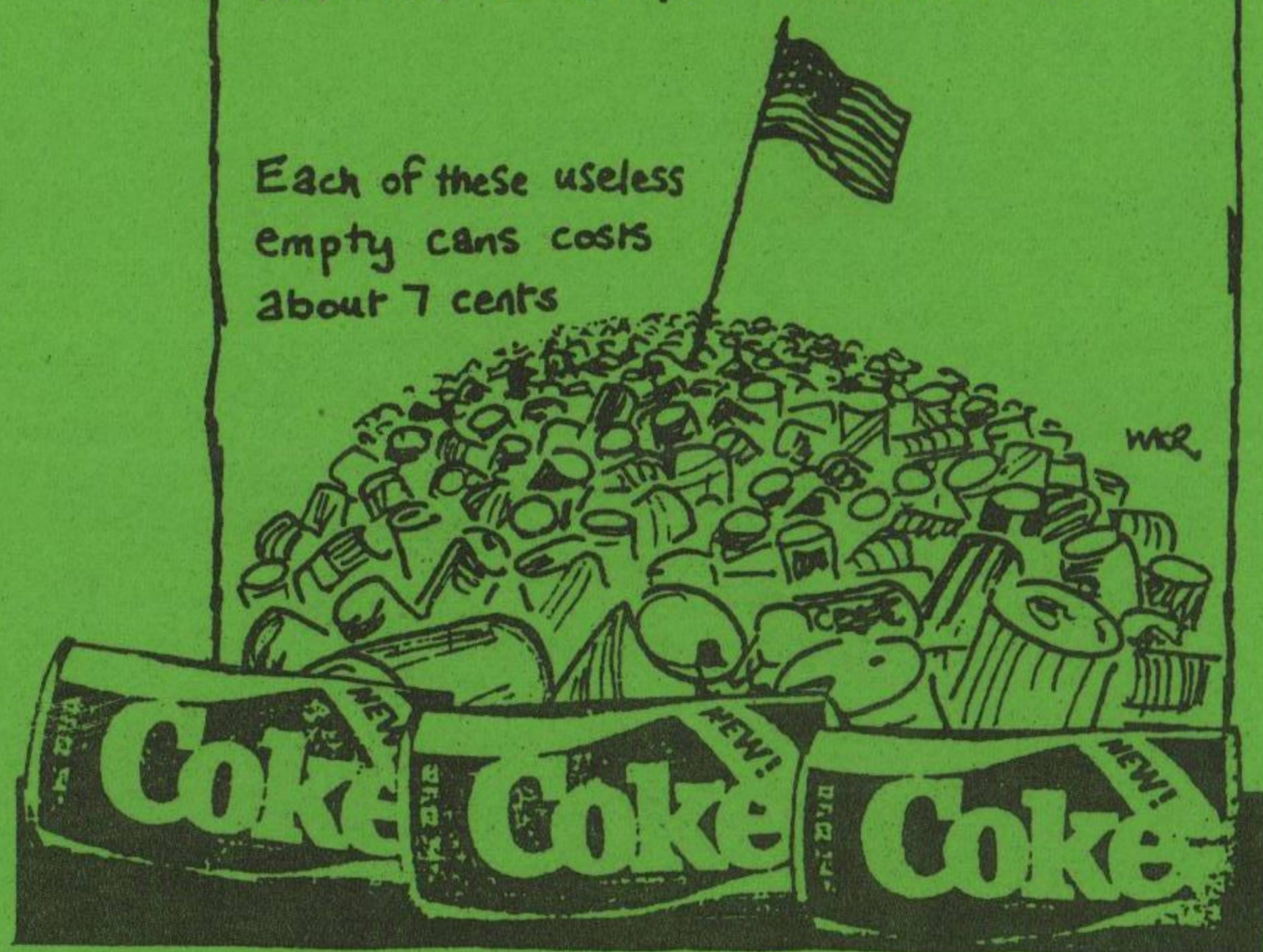
So aluminium soft-drinks cans represent a wasteful use of the earth's limited resources. And the cost of production is inevitably passed on to the consumer. It has been calculated that canned Coke, for example, costs about 40% more than the bottled variety - how many of us are aware of that?

Aluminium cans can be recycled, and it would be of great benefit to all if more of them were. However, if you decide to collect up cans for recycling, be warned that 'mixed bags' of aluminium and steel cans are never acceptable, only aluminium (i.e., non-magnetic) cans alone. Far better, though, to avoid buying drinks in non-returnable containers, and especially to avoid the wasteful can!

(INFORMATION FROM AN ARTICLE IN THE CONSERVATION QUARTERLY "GREEN DRUM" - ISSUE 53)

The average citizen of the United States gets through 17,500 assorted tins in his or her lifetime.....

Each of these useless empty cans costs about 7 cents



water  
Source  
of  
Life

Water is ever-present in our damp and rainy island. As a commodity we take it for granted. If I turn on any of the eleven taps in my house, water gushes out that is pure and ready to drink, use, or (quite possibly) waste.

For much of the Third World, water is quite literally the gift of life. The effects of disaster are multiplied by the spread of disease from infected or polluted water. In the drought-stricken areas of the Sahel, people have to travel many miles to find even the most dubious and insanitary water supplies.


(Continued overleaf)

Yet good supplies of water may be easily obtainable (maybe just a few feet underground), if the right resources can be provided, and purification and provision of safe supplies can be put into effect very rapidly if the financial support is there.

Currently, OXFAM are stressing the role of water projects in their work among the world's poor. The water packs they have developed can pump, store, test and treat life-giving water for 5,000 people - and in emergency clean water can be supplied within three days.

Currently, therefore, they are appealing for donations to help maintain and expand their work in supplying good and safe water in areas of need. It is a vital work, and literally a matter of life and death. It costs £240 to repair a mile of irrigation channel in Peru, or £130 to deepen a well in Gujurat, India - or £10 to supply a replacement valve for an emergency water supply system. Every donation makes a difference to what can be done - contact Oxfam at 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ.

CND National Demonstration  
London - October 26th  
Watch out for details!



## Reform of Social Security

The Fowler Reviews  
- Some comments.

The Fowler Reviews, now published as a Green Paper (for consultation) are claimed as being the most far-reaching review of our social and welfare system since Beveridge, with the aim of enabling the spread of benefits to meet more effectively the needs of today's society, and of targetting resources in on those who are in most need. Response to the Green Paper is requested, to reach the DHSS by 16th September.

Since the proposals contained in the Green Paper will affect, in some way or other, nearly every member of our society, and since they will be of vital significance to the many who depend chiefly or entirely on benefits for the basics of life, it is to be hoped that they will be widely read and responded to.

The cost of the material may, however, limit the ability of those who depend on benefits to see what is proposed. Although Volume 1 costs only £3, to obtain the further three volumes of review material will mean spending about another £27.

A number of initial points may be made, however, the first being that the 'nil-cost' remit of the Review greatly hampers its ability to respond adequately to the needs of the poor. Any improvements in what is being offered to particular groups has therefore to be

funded by cuts elsewhere. In particular, there seems little prospect of improving our tangled and complex Supplementary Benefit system without increased resources being put in.

'Nil-cost', of course, is likely to mean that improvements in living standards for those who are poorest will be chiefly funded by those who are themselves "on the margins of poverty". In fact it is surely wrong to examine social security spending in isolation from the system of tax reliefs which itself may be seen as a 'hidden welfare state', and which benefits many who are far from being the poorest in our society. In particular, Housing Benefit, where substantial cuts are proposed, cannot properly be considered in isolation from mortgage tax relief.

Targetting of resources inevitably means increased use of means-tested benefits, and a switch of emphasis away from benefits (like child benefit) that are available for all. This is underlined by the negligible increase in child benefit announced by the Government for this autumn. Unfortunately, though in theory means-tested benefits ought to be a valuable and effective way of ensuring help reaches those in most need, experience suggests that this frequently is not the case.

The existing Family Income Supplement (FIS) scheme has, for example, suffered from an extremely low take-up rate. Commentators suggest that the Family Credit scheme now proposed to replace FIS will, if anything, be even less adequately taken up. The fact that this benefit will be paid through the wage-packet may, in addition, make the help it seeks to provide less accessible to the wife and mother - a retrograde step. Improved take-up of benefits does not come across as a prime objective of this Green Paper.

It is impossible in this short space to adequately summarise the main proposals of the Review, but the main areas covered are :-

Family Income Supplement to be replaced by a new Family Credit, claimed through DHSS but paid in the wage packet.

Supplementary Benefit to be simplified, and the long-term rate abolished. The new system will combine an income support system with varying rates for different client groups, with a social fund from which grants or loans to meet particular needs may be made. 100% payment of rates will end, and payments for mortgage interest relief may be restricted.

Housing Benefit spending to be cut by £500m, and local authority power to provide more generously for particular groups to be removed. Supplementary and Housing Benefits to be brought more closely into line, but generally by levelling down to the less generous of the two.

State Earnings Related Pension to be phased out. Replacement of the Death Grant by a means-tested provision from the Social Fund. Changes in widows' benefits which will provide more help immediately on bereavement, and for widows less likely to find employment to support themselves.

Replacement of maternity grant by means-

(Continued on next page)

The editorial team for "ONE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE" is: Robert Saunders, Mark Stokes (addresses elsewhere in this edition) and Bill Rowell (612894)

tested provision from the Social Fund. Some changes in the system of maternity allowance/maternity pay.

The proposals include some positive suggestions, but the effectiveness of any improvements is limited by the 'nil cost' remit. The Green Paper presents social security expenditure as being a potential "millstone" holding back any general economic improvement. This is far from proven, and is indicative of a perception of the role and purpose of the welfare system far removed from that of Beveridge, whose Plan advocated "security against want without a means test" and was aimed towards building a society in which poverty was not merely relieved, but eradicated.

WKR

## Join Us

### FIGHT WORLD POVERTY

On 22nd October we shall celebrate One World Week at the "Mother of Parliaments" in London. The WORLD DEVELOPMENT MOVEMENT are organising a lobby of Parliament on that date to urge the Government to direct more of its aid to the world's poorest people, and to prevent future famine. Everyone who cares is invited to be in London and to SHOW THE GOVERNMENT THAT WE CARE. So make that date free in your diary now!

The coach party will be organised from Shrewsbury and other West Midland centres. Please watch this newsletter for details. Enquiries and bookings to Malcolm Verrall, 24 Span Meadow,

Shawbirch, Telford TF5 ONF. Telephone (evenings only) 40820.

T E L F O R D

A N T I - N U C L E A R  
G R O U P



August 6th and 9th are Nagasaki and Hiroshima Days.

Watch out for details of local events, including a film show on August 9th (No More Hiroshimas / The Lost Generation).

Also: TANG Barbecue, August 31st - for details contact Laurens Otter (54728).

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER BY THE PEOPLES' CENTRE, MADELEY.

YOUR RESPONSES TO ARTICLES, COMMENTS, NEWS, LETTERS WELCOME - TO :-

ROBERT SAUNDERS, 24 GLADSTONE HOUSE, HADLEY, TELFORD.

PRODUCED BY AN EDITORIAL COMMITTEE ON BEHALF OF TELFORD ONE WORLD WEEK GROUP.

MINISTRY IN A POST-INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY is the title of a brief contribution to current debates about alternative futures. It examines the role and organisation of the Church in the light of current developments in such subjects as work, leisure and welfare. It has been written and produced by Rev Colin Hart, Vicar of Wombridge, from whom copies can be obtained - telephone Telford 613334.

NEXT "ONE FOR JUSTICE & PEACE"  
- SEPTEMBER 1985