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CUTS ISSUE VOLUME 2



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TRADES COUNCIL NEWS

ABORTION — OPPOSE THE CORRIE BILL

RESOLUTION PASSED — SEPTEMBER T.U. COUNCIL

The Nottingham and District T.U. Council is totally opposed to the reactionary proposals of the Corrie Bill which will lead to an increase in dangerous back-street abortions and unwanted pregnancies. In opposing this Bill we furthermore affirm a woman's right to choose and we call for free N.H.S. abortions and an end to the odious practice of blackmailing women into sterilisation. The Nottingham and District T.U. Council further resolves to affiliate to the National Abortion Campaign and to support any initiatives taken by this organisation. In particular we resolve to support the demonstration on 28th October in London against the Corrie Bill.

Just as women are beginning to have some control over their lives. Just as women are beginning to have more choice about if and when to have children. Margaret Thatcher, our first woman Prime Minister, makes it loud and clear. Though she thinks her place in Parliament, the place for ordinary women is 'in the home'.

In the last few months we've seen nurseries cut, school dinners cut, hard won rights to maternity leave cut. Now we're also seeing an attempt to cut women's right to abortion.

Women want to be able to decide if and when to have children. They need to have control over their fertility through freely available contraception and abortion facilities. The 1967 Abortion Act allows abortion, not on request but when two doctors agree to permit it. Women already face many delays and difficulties in getting National Health Service abortions. They face problems in finding two sympathetic doctors to agree. N.H.S. facilities are grossly inadequate and half the women seeking abortions are forced to go to the private sector.

But Tory M.P. John Corrie sets out to make life more difficult for women in his private member's bill to RESTRICT the 1967 Abortion Act.

It proposes 1. To restrict the grounds for abortion. There would have to be a grave risk to a woman's life or a substantial risk of serious injury to her health. These three words will make it practically impossible for the majority of women to get abortions.

2. To lower the present time limit of 28 weeks to 20 weeks. Only 0.9% of abortions are 'late' (over 20 weeks). These are usually due either to delays in the N.H.S. or they are young girls or menopausal women who mistake the symptoms of pregnancy. A 20 week limit will mean that doctors will not do abortions after the 16th week to allow room for error.

3. To wreck the work of the abortion charities. Corrie says there can be no financial link between the referral agencies and the clinics where the abortions are performed. At the moment 25% of women wanting abortions have to go to the charities. Where will they go after Corrie?

A TUC CHARTER

EQUALITY FOR WOMEN WITHIN TRADE UNIONS

- 1 The National Executive Committee of the union should publicly declare to all its members the commitment of the union to involving women members in the activities of the union at all levels
- 2 The structure of the union should be examined to see whether it prevents women from reaching the decision-making bodies
- 3 Where there are large women's memberships but no women on the decision-making bodies special provision should be made to ensure that women's views are represented, either through the creation of additional seats or by co-option
- 4 The National Executive Committee of each union should consider the desirability of setting up advisory committees within its constitutional machinery to ensure that the special interests of its women members are protected
- 5 Similar committees at regional, divisional, and district level could also assist by encouraging the active involvement of women in the general activities of the union
- 6 Efforts should be made to include in collective agreements provision for time off without loss of pay to attend branch meetings during working hours where that is practicable
- 7 Where it is not practicable to hold meetings during working hours every effort should be made to provide child-care facilities for use by either parent
- 8 Child-care facilities, for use by either parent, should be provided at all district, divisional and regional meetings and particularly at the union's annual conference, and for training courses organised by the union
- 9 Although it may be open to any members of either sex to go to union training courses, special encouragement should be given to women to attend
- 10 The content of journals and other union publications should be presented in non-sexist terms

JOINT TRADES COUNCIL

ENQUIRY

Many Trades Unionists believed that the industrial programme of the Labour Party's 1974 Manifesto with state intervention in industry, would alter the trend of unemployment, and challenge the might of the multinational companies. Certainly it has not turned out that way, and the type of intervention has been in many cases the direct opposite to what had been hoped for and expected by the organised labour and trade movement. The National Enterprise Board closed factories in areas of high unemployment.

In Liverpool it was the Speke factory of British Leyland, in Newcastle it was Tress of Fairy Engineering that was closed and in Coventry massive redundancies occurred at Alfred Herberts. The activities of the NEB in particular in these three areas have totally worked against the interests of the workers employed in the industries that it controls. This must be viewed in relation to the position of private industry receiving £10 million a day, during the last three years of the last Labour Government term in office, to continue with its own profit making, and reduce labour force policies.

With a Tory Government now in power things are going to get worse, at least for the working-class and their organisations, of necessity we will be forced to spend most of our time and energy in defending the hard struggled for gains. We must not forget the need to learn from the past and to improve on the constructive policies of the Labour Movement.

It was with this background, and prompted by the pamphlets produced by each of the Shop Stewards Committees at Speke, Tress and Alfred Herberts which four Trades Councils in the areas especially affected by both high unemployment and vast state intervention, have decided to hold an inquiry into:

1. The Nationalised Industries.
2. The National Enterprise Board.
3. Planning Agreements.
4. State aid to private industry.
5. The State relationship to co-operatives.

Elected delegates from the four Trades Councils (Coventry, Liverpool, North Tyneside,

Newcastle) have held meetings and agreed to organise the inquiry in three stages.

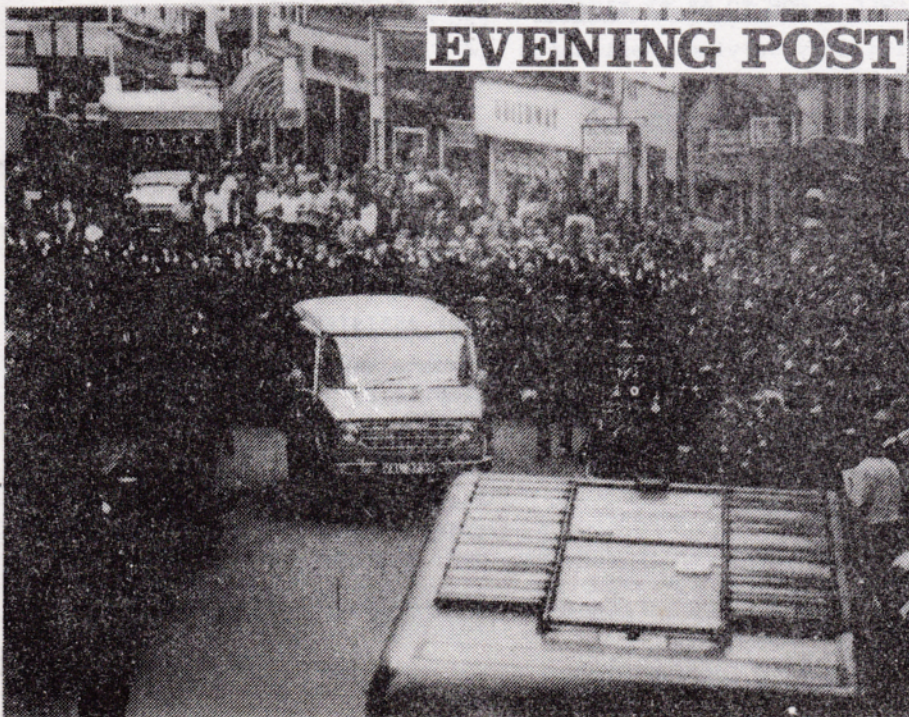
Stage one: A local inquiry, each Trades Council would hold its own local inquiry gathering evidence from Shop Stewards Committees concerned, and local Labour and Trades Union Leaders. The evidence would be brought to a delegate conference of those directly affected at which there would be a "Tribunal" of T.C. officers and leading local Trades Unionists. It would also begin the discussion of alternatives. This stage would be completed by 10th of September.

Stage two: A national Tribunal Meeting would be held on 31st of October in the House of Commons comprising of the Presidents of the Trades Councils. This would receive the evidence of the local Tribunals and request the presence of leading Trade Union and Labour participants in formulating and carrying out Labour Party and Government policies. This would be open to the Press and the findings would then be published as a pamphlet for the circulation throughout the Labour Movement in preparation for the final stage.

Stage three: A delegate conference will be held on 15th of December in Coventry to discuss the findings and alternative policies.

Each Trades Council will prepare its own background material and Coventry Trades Council has agreed to do all national background work. This will be assisted and supplemented by E. Loyden, former Labour M.P. for Liverpool who will gather information on Nationalisation and the National Enterprise Board.

POLICE HEAVILY OUT-
NUMBERED AND
SUBJECT TO SEVERE
INTIMIDATION ON
FORMAN STREET!



FOR INFORMATION

CAMPAIGN FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ADVANCE

Motion by the General Council for 1979 Congress

Recognising that economic stability and progress require certain key principles to be accepted by both Government and the trade union movement, Congress expresses its gravest concern at the repudiation of this approach by the present Government. It endorses the General Council's statement setting out the reasons for their opposition to the economic policy of the Government, and affirms the need for a positive alternative strategy, as follows:

- (i) a balanced growth of employment and output in both the public and private sectors entailing measures to strengthen the economic base including the strategic use of North Sea Oil and gas revenues and effective policies against increasing import penetration;
- (ii) the planned development of technological change coupled with measures to increase workers' confidence in this process, including reductions in working hours, major advances in industrial democracy and a strengthening of the effectiveness of the industrial strategy at sector, company and local level;
- (iii) taxation policies which promote the achievement of stable prices and a national consensus on the distribution of income and wealth, as opposed to regressive fiscal policies on rates and taxes, relying heavily on a high rate of VAT, which has disastrous effects on the cost of living;

- (iv) a recognition of the indispensable part which pensions, child benefits and the education, health and other public services play in the "social wage" which increases equality of opportunity, the quality of life and the generation of economic activity, investment and employment opportunities throughout the community; a recognition also of the massive social tasks which today have to be undertaken by public authorities, having regard to regional and manpower imbalances and trends in the age structure of the population;

- (v) recognition of the increasingly vital role of public enterprise and public investment; this requires defending the powers of initiative of the National Enterprise Board, and strengthening the contribution of the publicly-owned industries, as opposed to the sales of assets contemplated by the present Government.

Congress believes that it is of the greatest importance that the British people should understand how all the above points relate to their jobs, living standards and general welfare; and that collective bargaining strategies should be pursued which maintain and improve employment levels and living standards.



TUC DEMONSTRATION

ABORTION: AGAINST THE CORRIE BILL

Coaches leave the Salutation
8.00am Sunday 28th October
Hyde Park 11.30
March starts 12.30

Cuts COUNTY COUNCIL CUTS

Nottingham Trades Council Cuts Committee have moved into top gear in fighting the Tory cuts in services. The Cuts Committee have produced a list of the County Council cuts passed on the 16th October. We hope that this list of penny-pinching cuts in services will be used by community groups, tenants groups, trade unions, parents etc in promoting action; it is important that every single attack on the welfare state is fought off. Defend the welfare state - fight the cuts - come to the Cuts Committee meetings!

SOCIAL SERVICES

CUTS 1979/80 TOTAL OF £349,000

1 FIELDWORK

Cuts in jobs totalling £34,000.

- i One Senior Social Worker - Ashfield Cut from 1 Oct 79.
- ii One Senior Social Worker - Bassetlaw Cut from 1 Oct 79.
- iii Three Social Workers (Community Development) Cut from 1 Oct 79.
 - New Radford (City)
 - Harworth
 - Manton
- iv Four Social Workers (Community Care of Mentally Handicapped). Two posts planned for 1978/79; Further two in 1979/80. Total jobs lost - 9. Post currently occupied - 5.

2 COMMUNITY HOMES

Closure of Fernleigh (22 places) from 1 Jan 80. Total jobs lost - 15. Posts currently occupied - 1. Cuts in current financial year total: £9,000.

3 DOMESTIC HELP

10% reduction in domestic home at various Social Services establishments over 79/80 and 80/81. Cut of £29,000 in this financial year. Loss of seven F.T.E. jobs by 1 Oct 79.

4 HOME HELPS

Cut of £21,000. Reduction in number of homes. Loss of seven F.T.E. jobs by 1 Oct 79.

5 TRAINING

Cut of £40,000. Fewer secondments on training and reduction of trainee posts, totalling 19 places by 1 Oct 79.

6 MANAGEMENT/ADMINISTRATION/RESEARCH

H.Q. 1st deputies group - clerical assistant - 1 post.
H.Q. City Division Records - clerical assistant - 1 post.
H.Q. Common services - typist - 1.
Minority Development Project - clerical assistant 1-5 posts.
Cut of £11,000 by 1 March 80.

OTHER "MANPOWERS" REDUCTIONS

- i Sheltered Employment - Sherwood Industries - Tradesman - one post. Disabled Employees - 5 posts by 1 Oct 79. Cut of £15,000.
- ii Day centres - instructors - 8 posts by 1 Oct 79
- iii Community School - Risley Hall. Residential Social Workers - 2 posts - by 1 Oct 79.
- iv Homes for Physically/Mentally Handicapped Supt. - 1 post - by 1 Oct 79. Total jobs lost - 17. Post currently occupied - 0.

8 GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY BODIES

Resulting from non-approval of 2 Urban Aid applications £2,000.

- 9 Members conference expenses - £11,000.
- 10. Reduction of community service volunteers - £3,000.
- 11. Reduction of Advertising for new staff - £12,000.

PLANNED ADDITIONAL POSTS - NOT YET ESTABLISHED - NOW TO BE RE-ELECTED

- 1 Domiciliary Services Assistants - 13 posts.
- 2 Management/Administration/Research
 - Domiciliary Services - Clerical Assistants - 3 posts (1 and 2 to be jointly financed with A.H.A.).
- 3 Amberdale observation and Assistent Centre - Secure Unit Staff. Residential Social Workers - 8 posts. (part of 1979/80 proposal for 16 posts).
- 4 Community Schools - teachers 2.5 posts.
- 5 Family Aides - 8.5 posts.
- 6 Brook Street Day Centre for the elderly Sutton in Ashfield New Centre will not now be opened - organiser - 1 post.

Total 39.9 F.T.E. posts

All figures given are for full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs. It should be noted that a great many of these jobs are part-time (especially domestics, care assistants, Home Helps, cooks, clerical assistants etc.) and that 90% of part-time jobs are held by married women. This is one group of workers which is particularly affected by cuts in the services sector.

CUTS 1980/81 TOTAL £509,000
COMMUNITY HOMES

Closure of Homelea (10 places) from 1 July 80. Total jobs lost - 7. Cut of £54,000.

OBSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT CENTRES

Closure of Enderleigh (20 places) from 1 Apr 80. Loss of jobs - 9. Cuts of £44,000.

DAY NURSERIES

Closure of West Bridgford - (25 places) from 1 Dec 80. Closure of Sycamore - (35 places) from 1 Dec 80. Loss of 8.5 jobs. Cut of £33,000.

DOMESTIC HELP

10% reduction in domestic helps at various establishments over 1979/80 and 80/81. Cut of £42,000 in this financial year. 14 F.T.E. posts to be cut by 1 Apr 80.

HOME HELPS

Reduction in numbers of homes. Loss of 7 jobs. Cuts of £20,000. Increase in Home Help minimum charge from 50p to 65p per week. 1 Apr 80.

CARE ASSISTANTS

2 posts axed at homes for the elderly by 1 Mch 80. Cuts of £7,000.

TRAINING

Fewer places for secondment on training and trainees. 14 places by 1 Sept 80. Cuts of £66,000.

MANAGEMENT/ADMINISTRATION/RESEARCH

Cuts of £42,000. 12.5 jobs lost by 1 Mch 81.

LEISURE

The cuts made by the County Council in Leisure Services will be £112,420 in 1979-80 and £197,250 in 1980-81.

CUT

LIBRARIES

Close four libraries -

Annesley Woodhouse.
Balmoral (Worksop).
Oxclose (Arnold).
either Carlton Hill or
Bakersfield.

Reduce mobile library fleet.

No start on Top Valley library.

No site extension for Wollaton library.

Close all libraries on Saturday afternoon.

Cut jobs in libraries.

Discontinue purchase of newspapers and periodicals except for archives, local history and specialist resources.

Increase various charges.

YOUTH SERVICES

Replace four full-time youth leaders by part-time leaders.

Transfer four full-time voluntary youth leaders to employment by their own management and grant aid at 80%.

Reduce level of youth service grants

SPORT

Abandon low cost sports hall.

Cut residential sports coaching courses.

Reduce grants to local sports groups.

Reduce spending on country parks and picnic sites.

Cut grant to English Sinfonia.

Cuts in administration.

Reduce grants to Nottingham Playhouse and East Midlands Arts.

ENVIRONMENT

Rundown in highway sweeping standards.

- Effect

Dirtier streets.
Jobs lost.

Reduce road gritting programme in Winter.

- Effect

More accidents.

Cease grants for historical buildings, archaeological digs and various nature conservation schemes. Reduce tree planting programme.

- Effect

Decline in rural environment.

TRANSPORTATION

1979-80, 1980-81

Transportation primarily refers to road building and improvement, Road Safety remedial measures, Traffic Management schemes, street lighting, etc. are also included but in 1979-80 there will be a $\frac{1}{2}$ reduction and in 1980-81, a $\frac{2}{3}$ reduction.

Most highway schemes have been deferred or deleted.

SCHEME

Retford Town Centre eastern relief road.

Orig. Start Date	New Start Date
June 79	Sept 82
Aug 79	Aug 80
June 80	deleted
Aug 79	deleted

Kilton Hill Junction improvement.

Retford Town Centre pedestrianisation ph.2.

Meadows redevelopment.

Huntingdon Street widening.

July 79

Oct 84

Vernon Road improvement.

July 79

Oct 81

Bulwell Town Centre relief road, ph.2.

Oct 79

June 83

The likely effects of these deletions will be to maintain traffic congestion and delays to maintain stress on neighbourhoods and city centres from juggernauts and through traffic, to continue to jeopardise safety for the young and old pedestrians, etc.

The provision for private street works, replacement bridges, landscape works and surveys are reduced.

The provision for new starts for small schemes under £100,000 will be reduced in 80/81 from a maximum of £1 million to £500,000.

Provision for bus shelters in 79/80 is reduced from £8,000 to £1,000 and deleted totally for the following year.



FIRE BRIGADE
~ fight the cuts

Reduce publicity and survey work for traffic management initiatives

- Effect

Less public involvement in Council decisions.

Reduce rural bus services.

Reduce school crossing patrols to minimum statutory levels.

- Effect

More accidents.

Approximately 112 jobs lost through the above reductions.

Total number of jobs lost in all departments, 2050 + 50.

PUBLIC PROTECTION

43 posts in the fire service scrapped. Abandon proposed improvements at West Bridgford and Beeston Fire Stations and at the Divisional H.Q. at Bingham. Reduction in minor works.

- Effect

Jobs lost.
Less fire prevention work.
Reduction in fire fighting capacity.

4 posts in Trading Standards Dept. scrapped. Reduction in grants to citizens advice bureaux.

- Effect

Jobs lost.
Fewer investigations into unfair tradings, etc.

Cuts

EDUCATION

The cuts in the services provided by the county education committee are designed to save £1,887,000 in the current year and £2,450,000 next year. The resulting staff displacement will be 755 full-time posts (in terms of the actual number of people employed, at least 1,000 jobs will disappear) and many staff will be made redundant. The cuts fall more viciously on the deprived areas of the county with older school buildings and a greater concentration of social/educational problems. The cuts will reduce the educational, social and recreational opportunities of all people of all ages in the state educational system.

Reduction in the school building programme.

- Effect

Poorer school buildings. Less work in construction industries.

Increase in the length of the Christmas Holiday by one week and decrease in the length of the Summer Holiday by one week.

- Effect

Long established work and holiday patterns will be changed. Working mothers will suffer. Examination candidates will lose valuable teaching time.

10% reduction in book and stationary supplies to schools.

- Effect

Decline in standards.

No new resource equipment for loan to schools will be purchased. Record loan service scrapped.

- Effect

Decline in standards.

Reduction by 136 posts the staff establishment in nursery schools and nursery units.

- Effect

Jobs lost. Staffing ratios

Charge introduced for instrumental teaching in schools.

No more instrumental teachers will be appointed.

- Effect

Decline in standards.

Severe reduction in in-service training for teachers.

- Effect

Poorer teachers.

New initiatives on provisions for gifted pupils will be scrapped.

Eleven new Educational Welfare Officer posts will be scrapped, including four in the inner city.

- Effect

Truancy will continue to rise.

All financial support for secondary school swimming for schools without their own pools scrapped.

- Effect

Less children will learn to swim. Children in schools without swimming pools will be severely disadvantaged.

Six proposed units for disruptive pupils will be scrapped.

- Effect

Violently disruptive pupils will remain in the schools and be unable to be given special help. Fellow pupils will suffer.

Ten posts in the schools career service will be scrapped.

- Effect

Jobs lost. Poorer careers advice. Extra work for teachers.

Reduction in the number of librarians in comprehensive schools.

- Effect

Jobs lost. More work for teachers. Book stock more prone to loss and damage.

Housecraft orderlies in comprehensive schools will cease to be employed.

Reduction in the number of primary school assistants by 152 posts.

- Effect

Jobs lost. Extra workload on teachers. Children with special difficulties may be neglected.

School pianists will cease to be employed.

- Effect

Loss of educational opportunities. No musical education in schools without a piano-playing teacher.

Time available for teaching swimming in primary schools halved.

- Effect

Less children will learn to swim.

Decrease in school bus services.

- Effect

8-11 year olds will be required to walk up to 3 miles to school. Greater danger of road accidents. Greater danger of being 'picked up by strangers'. Loss of income for bus companies.

Proposed new initiatives to handicapped pupils will be scrapped.

Proposed residential school for maladjusted pupils will be scrapped

- Effect

Some maladjusted pupils will remain in the schools.



EDUCATION (cont'd.)

Reduce choice in school meals.

- Effect

Jobs lost.
Poorer nutrition.

Orchestral concerts for schools will be discontinued.

- Effect

Impoverishment of musical education for children.
Loss of income for professional orchestras.

No progress will be made in proposed initiatives to foster closer links between schools and industry.

- Effect

Less awareness on the part of schools of the skills required by industry.

Number of supply teachers reduced by fifty.

- Effect

Jobs lost.
Decline in standards.
More work for teachers.
Classes of absent teachers may remain unsupervised.

10% reduction in stationary supplies to Colleges of Further Education.

- Effect

Decline in standards.

Grants to Student Unions in colleges of further education will be scrapped.

- Effect

Students Unions in these establishments will cease to exist.

Fifteen posts in further education scrapped immediately. £25,000 reduction in money allocated to each college of Further Education.

- Effect

Decline in standards.
Approximately sixty jobs lost.

Non-vocational classes for adults will be severely restricted.
Fees increased.
O.A.P.'s charged full fees.

- Effect

Lessening of educational opportunities for adults.

Fees introduced for English Language classes.

- Effect

Many non-English speaking citizens will be unable to afford to learn English.



SAVE OUR NURSERIES (see over)

Lettings of school buildings to outside bodies will be reduced from 40,000 to 3,000 per year.

- Effect

Many community groups will have nowhere to meet. Unused school buildings more prone to vandalism. Caretakers lose essential overtime.

Withdraw support for Nottingham Playhouse Roundabout Company.

- Effect

Company will cease to function next April. Actors jobs lost. Less professional support for drama teachers.

£176,000 reduction in finance available to Trent Polytechnic for 1979/80.

- Effect

Decline in standards and opportunities.

This list is not exclusive! There are other cuts in minor grants and awards, etc.

POLICE

38 posts scrapped (15 Manual=Workers, 15 Traffic Wardens, 7 Admin. Staff, 1 Assistant Chief Constable).

- Effect

Jobs lost.

LAND AND BUILDING

1979/80 £105,000 (1.5%)
1980/81 £110,000

Direct Works Unit - building tradespeople will not be replaced, with corresponding cuts in tools and materials.

Building maintenance - reduction in provision.

Tollerton gypsy site will stay closed.

Defer development of Wilford Lane Playing Fields.

Deletion of provision for temporary staff.

Reduced cleaning in Council buildings.

Jobs lost - 25.7 F.T.E.

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[redacted],
Nottingham.

SAVE OUR NURSERIES

Below we print a short extract from an interview conducted with Carol and Margaret, two of the mothers leading the SAVE OUR NURSERIES CAMPAIGN. (the full transcript is available from Nottm Bulletin).

interview

WHY NURSERIES?

M. Nurseries are a great necessity because they cater for the underprivileged children, from one parent families. Overactive children, for example, are in great danger of being battered. They need 24 hour supervision, which one person is not capable of giving. In the event of having a nursery, the strain is taken off.

C. But nurseries are very necessary for all children. They get a lot of stimulation. Nurseries should be available to every child, not just the underprivileged.

M. Also, it gives the children a good start in life. They can have Educational Toys, for example, and things we could never afford.

C. And they can relate to one another. It teaches them manners and makes them more forward. The future generation will be better. We should be aiming for a better life.

DIRECT ACTION WORKS

Q? How did the ball start rolling?

M. I think in the first instance, the demonstration at the County Hall and the heckling from the gallery was a necessity. Because otherwise we would never have had a meeting with Brenda Borrett. We had a hell of a lot of criticism about that and about blocking Trent Bridge.

C. I don't regret it, at all. Several mothers have said it was unnecessary, but it wasn't. It's letting them know that we want some action, and we want some action quick.

M. We didn't get much aggro from the public. In fact, 99% supported us. It was a very organised thing. Nobody dare call us for being a rabble.

Q? Where have such criticisms come from?

M. A lot from the Conservative Party. It was them that made it political. I definitely was unbiased. And I still say, that even if it was the Labour Party that was trying to implement these cuts I would have done exactly the same.

Q? What has your attitude been to the Nursery Nurses?

C. The mothers will be right behind them and they will be behind us.

Q? What about the mothers?

C. We still have to plug at them, but the majority have got the drive.

M. We spoke to 80 people. mostly mothers this afternoon and they are going to set up their own group.

WOMEN

Q? What do you think about the attitude of people in authority towards women at the moment?

M. They want to tie you to the kitchen sink, get you back into the home.

It's ridiculous to say that women are naturally more capable of bringing up children. Girls are given dolls to play with when they're little, boys are given footballs and guns. This is where you get the distinction, nowhere else. Bringing up children is a responsibility that should be shared by both partners.

Q? Do you think the fact that the campaign is leading women will give women generally more confidence?

C. Oh yes. We're made to feel that we're inadequate and we're stupid and that our place is at the kitchen sink and that was it but we've shown them, we've shown them all!

FIGHT THE CUTS CONFERENCE

+ creche start 10.am

saturday 17 nov.

W.C.2~shakespeare st

speakers: nick wright
n.u.p.e.

'fightback'

workshops on fighting
the cuts

further info: phone

THE Son.

Save Our Nurseries Campaign
Newsletter No.1 October 1979 6p

Have A Heart!

AN OPEN LETTER TO COUNCILLORS.

We wish to protest most vigorously against vicious cuts implemented during the outback in public expenditure.

It seems every time this sort of action occurs the people most greatly affected are those who are not in a position to help themselves- the young, old, sick and handicapped.

When a County Council is elected it is because the electorate as a whole feel that the person elected is of a suitable mentality to do the job. They are thought to be people that care, people to whom we can take our problems, and yet it is soon manifest that this is simply not the case. They implement cuts that affect us the electorate at the very essence of our existence.

In the present instance there are people severely agitated with certain areas of the spending cuts. Mothers with children in two of the city's Day Nurseries are expressing their concern if the threat of cuts is implemented. They will find themselves in a position where they have no means of earning their living if the situation arises where nurseries are shut and children must remain unattended. These mothers are not scroungers, they are in fact fighting for the right to work. There are one parent families, parents of handicapped children, even parents who through their own physical or mental incapacity are not in a position to look after their children.

There are also the nursery nurses, one of the least militant and vociferous groups of workers, whose jobs are threatened by the cuts. These women are trained at county expense for two years and are surely entitled to something better.

It is time the County Council sat back and reviewed the situation. It is time they realised that figures on pieces of paper represent human beings not just statistics. It is time they thought of the distress they are causing. It is time they listened to the voice of the public saying "Have A Heart, County Council". We are after all the people who put you there. And do not forget, County Council, we are also the people who can get you out- the election is not far away.

SAVE OUR NURSERIES CAMPAIGN.

TELECOMS + COMPUTERS

The marriage of telecommunications and the computer has brought a new word to the vocabulary - 'communications'. And communications will mean a very different way of life for all in the next few years. First and foremost it will effect the way that work is organised - and office work in particular. But it may also effect domestic life and leisure. Indeed, one important effect may be to make it possible for many to do their work at home rather than in the office. (Not that this is usually desirable from the workers point of view!)

Less and less work is now done in the form of direct physical production. More and more work takes the form of processing and communicating information. Offices are places where information is gathered from a commercial, industrial, distributive or governmental process, where it is aggregated, digested and sent out as messages to workers, customers, tax or rate payers, or to workers in other offices. Instructions, requests, payments, memos, accounts, are all given and received. This enormous volume of activity is mainly in the form of paperwork. Pen pushing and typing keeps a lot of us busy.

NEW SYSTEMS OF WORK

'Communications' - or what has also been called the 'New Information Technology' will radically transform the way that work is done. We are not meaning here merely a change in individual practices but a change in the entire system of work. We begin to get a flavour of this when we stop thinking of information processed on paper, filed in cabinets and sent by post and, instead, think of information typed straight into computerised equipment and visible on visual display units (VDUs). Information is recallable on the VDU not by walking to the filing cabinet for a carbon copy - but by the typing out of the appropriate code on the terminal. Moreover, instead of being transmitted by post, information will be transmitted via the telecoms network instantaneously to the VDUs of other offices or homes.

Conversly, information will be summoned from the memory banks of computers, or computerised equipment, in other enterprises,

branches, libraries, homes or governmental institutions (provided they are prepared to part with it) via the telecoms network and satellites.

PRESTEL

The Post Office already has in operation the beginning of such a system known as Prestel which allows a user to call up any of 200,000 'pages' (the information that can be displayed on the screen) by pressing buttons on a calculator style keypad. By this method the user is connected directly to the Prestel computer and will be able to send information or questions back to it as well as receive them.

It is this interactive character of the Viewdata system which makes it different from other forms of media, like books, newspaper or TV programmes. These are all 'one way' - from the information source to the reader or viewer. With the development of communications technology, however, it is possible to ask questions of, and send instructions and information to, the information source/computer.

Say, for example, one gets information on something for sale - one will be able from one's own terminal to ask for further details, credit terms, availability of stocks etc. You might then check that your bank balance is adequate by summoning this up onto the screen and then, if you have enough money type in your bank credit number and make a direct purchase using electronic funds transfer. Communications links between the banks, Prestel, and the supplying company would then do the rest. Someone, of course, has to supply the product to your door but you may have seen the computerised robot in the TV programme 'Tomorrows World' that runs on rails on the floor and carries things without a driver....

The embryo of such a system already exists. Clearly a large number of jobs have disappeared in this vision of the future.

OTHER VIEWDATA EXAMPLES

Other facilities in home, office, shop, factory and warehouse will be increasingly linked up in the communications net. 'Telemetry' is the

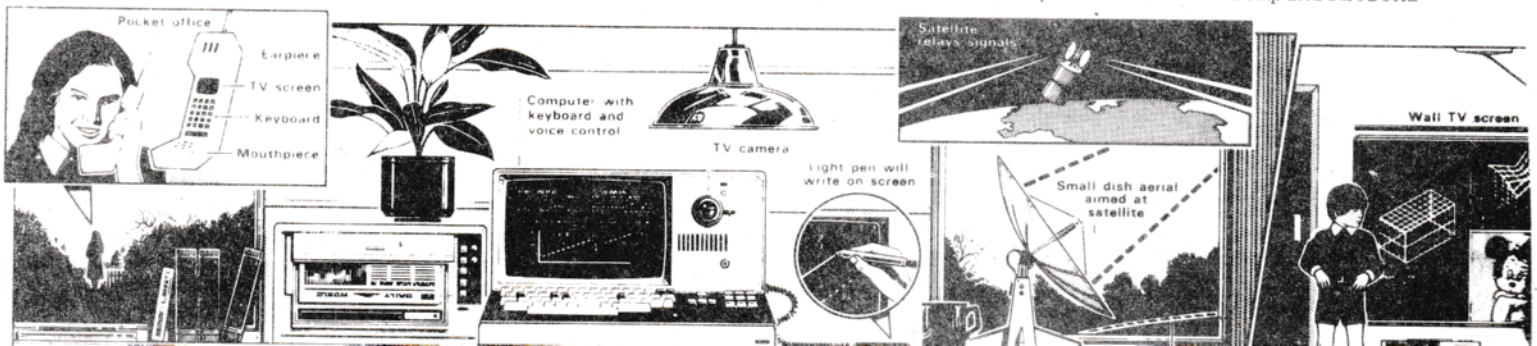
word coined for the automatic reading of gas, electricity and other meters and the sending back of the reading to the computer that makes up your bill. In the shop the retail terminal (where the simple cash till used to be) will take on the functions of recording and calculating the remaining levels of stocks from the information gleaned from goods checked out through the terminal. The shop's computer can then automatically re-order when stocks run low and, via links with the customers bank account an automatic debit to bank balances can be made. One could go on and on with such examples.

Once computerised equipment with electronic memories are linked it is less and less relevant to think of there being a set of separate computers owned by different organisations and individuals. There is, rather, one computer network which, given the international character of the telecoms system and the development of satellite technology, will be international in scope. Quite apart from the implications for jobs the other consequences are at once exciting and frightening.

They are exciting because of what they represent in potential for all people - including working people. Enormous amounts of information can be processed rapidly and brought to bear on production and the organisation of the economy and society. The enormous increase in the productivity of labour could bring increased leisure time and well being for all - and time for democratic participation in the key decision making functions of society. The possibilities for democratic control would be enormously enhanced in an 'open' computer network in which everyone had the opportunity to ask questions from, and interact with, memory banks of productive enterprise and state.

THE PARANOIC VIEW

However in our society access to the computer network will cost money - which most working people don't have much of especially if they've thrown out of work by the new technology. Moreover parts of the communications



will be closed off for reasons of commercial and state secrecy. Conversely it would become possible for the state to have access to enormous amounts of information about people—not just directly on police computers— but also by sifting the memory banks of employers, local authorities, banks and any other organisation you might have contact with.

Say, for example, you were a member of the special branch and wanted to know a persons interests—their political or personal views. You might, for example, scan the memory banks of the computer at the County Library to see which books the person concerned had taken out over the past few years. (We are not writing of present actualities but rather of future possibilities).

It is also already possible to electronically monitor on a minute by minute the work patterns of operatives working with computerized equipment. Employees and and the state could call on electronic time and motion records at their will.

In short, it is as well to remember it is only 5 years to 1984.

B.D.

PLESSEY — FUTURE TROUBLES

System X — 'electronic lego'

NEW TECHNOLOGY AND PLESSEY

The implication of micro-electronic technology will affect 95% of the economy. First of all it is affecting companies in the field of electronics and telecommunications. In this area that means Plesseys. In this area the company is producing equipment for the public telephone system and is also developing private exchanges for companies direct or for the Post Office to hire out to companies.

SYSTEM X — 'ELECTRONIC LEGO'

In the market for the public telecoms system Plessey is developing, in a consortium with its competitors G.E.C. and S.T.C. and with the Post Office, a fully computerized telecommunications network known as System X. System X is based on digital technology which means that voice messages are converted into electronic pulse codes during transmission which are then reassembled into speech patterns at the receiving end. With this system it is also possible to send computer data by the telephone line. Increasingly the phone lines will be hair thin strands of glass fibre and information will be sent by light pulses along them. (Fibre Optics).

System X has been described as 'electric lego' and is based on different standardized modules which can be plugged into each other to make the required exchange — whether it be simple and small or the largest international exchange. It is thus a very flexible system and new bits can be added as the technology develops. It was this flexibility with its development possibilities which created an impression when System X was recently unveiled at the recent Telecom 79 Exhibition in Geneva. It also has a very wide range of facilities and functions. Computer programs will be written in to take care of all accounting, overload control, day-to-day system management, the compiling of statistics of use for management planning and so on. One program surveys the entire system for signs of faults.



SMALLER LABOUR REQUIREMENTS

Much has been written about the smaller labour requirements in the manufacturing, installation and maintenance of System X as compared with older types of electro-mechanical exchanges or indeed the semi-electronic exchanges of the TXE 2 and TXE 4 type. An enormous number of jobs have already been lost. In the Plessey Group these job losses have mainly been in Edge Lane in Liverpool and in Sunderland. Beeston has been relatively mildly hit because in this area the complete range of telephone equipment is produced from the old Strowger electro-mechanical exchange, to semi-electronic exchanges, to System X. But even in this area the number employed has fallen from about 7,200 to 5,200 in the last 4 years, through voluntary redundancies and natural wastage.

In the future the number of jobs available will depend on the total level of orders for System X. Of course Post Office orders in this country are assured — although by 1986 only about 6000,000 of 25 million lines will be on System X on current plans. Domestic orders alone will by no means be sufficient to prevent a run-down of employment. For this reason export orders for System X are key to its commercial success — and to job prospects.

As might be expected though, the advanced countries have markets which are, by and large, already tied up. National companies are usually supported by the National Post and Telecommunication authorities — the Bundespost buying from Siemens, the French PTT from CIT Alcatel and Thompson CSF and so on. The giant American market is already saturated and, in any case, dominated by AT and T. Since these companies in these markets are already going over to the computerized digital technology with its lower labour requirements they too are impelled by the same logic to look to international markets.

FIERCE COMPETITION FOR THIRD WORLD MARKETS

What this means in practice is fierce competition for Third World markets, and in particular for markets in the Middle East which are the freest and most open.

Whether System X will succeed in this export race remains to be seen. But it has some pretty grave disadvantages in being so late in the field. Other national companies already have digital systems on the market and are already making sales. These include the Canadian company Northern Telecom; LM Ericson of Sweden; the French companies Thompson CSF and CIT Alcatel; ITT,



Nippon Electric and Western Electric. With the few free markets in the Third World already being snapped up by these companies the greater sophistication of other advantages of System X may not be a sufficient advantage to offset lateness in the market. The French companies have already landed fat contracts in Africa, the Caribbean, Egypt and the Soviet Union.

Other considerations will affect the degree of competition and the size of the market. The systems are being bought on loans and there is fierce competition over the terms of loans on offer - with low interest rates and long pay-back periods. The ruling elites of Third World countries can use this competition to get other things they want - military equipment in particular. "You allow me to buy your fighters and I will also take your telephone system". Quite apart from asking about the desirability of this arms business, from the point of view of the Third World development, there is another fundamental question - does the transplantation of such super advanced technology into the Third World really benefit these countries? The available skills, infrastructure and resources are very different in the Third World from



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FOR EVERY NEW CUSTOMER YOU RECRUIT

PLESSEY VULNERABLE

the advanced countries where multinationals are developing these systems. Many Third World and radical economists are asking whether this type of technology transfer does not, in fact, distort the economic development of the Third World. (We shall be looking at this question further in future issues). At any event, if there were some examples of failure and chaos in the operations in these first systems the remaining market would contract even more at the time System X was available for export.

A recent article in the Financial Times pointed out that Plessey is far more dependent on the success of System X than its two partners in the venture G.E.C. and S.T.C. "G.E.C., after all, has sufficient financial strength in other areas to bear failure: while S.T.C., as I.T.T.'s U.K. subsidiary, could be expected to receive help from its parent. Plessey stands alone: and the comment made of System X - that it is U.K. telecommunications last chance to break into world markets applies with poignant force to Plessey".

office equipment



DIVERSIFICATION INTO THE OFFICE SYSTEMS MARKET

A further determinant of the number of jobs will be Plessey's ability to diversify into the new 'communications' and office systems market. In order to spearhead development in this field Plessey have set up their 'Digital Technology Centre' at Abbeyfield Road on the Lenton Industrial Estate. Plessey Telecommunications has recently been renamed Plessey Telecommunications and Office Systems and has a specialist office systems subsidiary.

Plessey's way into the office systems market is via the private telephone exchange - the PDX (Private Digital Exchange) which as the link between the office and the telecoms network is to be developed and extended to have an accounting as well as a communications function. (A smaller private exchange is also being produced for the Post Office to rent out called the C.D.S.S.1 - the Customer Digital Switching System No. 1. The C.D.S.S. 1 is also being produced for the Post Office by G.E.C.).

Whether Plessey will succeed in this market is questionable. Not just Plessey is moving in. Separate firms in hitherto separate industries are finding that as technologies converge they are moving into the same market.

Telecoms firms are moving into computer electronics, office systems and reprographics - e.g. Plessey and G.E.C. in Britain, A.T. and T. in the U.S.A. etc. From the other direction computer companies are moving into telecoms and related fields - e.g. I.B.M. Again office equipment companies are moving into the other fields. Nor is this all. Giant multinationals in hitherto unrelated fields are also homing in on the market - like the Exxon Oil Corporation (U.S.A.) and Volkswagen.

A large number of giants are on collision course and the result could be a multiple pile up. In such a pile up the survivors will be the biggest companies and those companies who were lucky, sharp and manoeuvrable enough to find themselves a niche in the market not covered by the others. Plesseys might, of course, be lucky but by international standards it is not big nor does its management seem to be very sharp or on the ball.

To make things difficult for decision-making by company strategists the technology is changing very rapidly. The question must be asked whether Plessey has enough cash to launch itself into the field in the right way and enough managerial acuteness.

Recently Plessey has been stockpiling cash by selling its £35 m. stake in I.C.L. but it has not been profitable in recent years and has a critical cash flow problem. Moreover its management has been slow to make up its mind about how to develop. The consultants Larsen Sweeney in a report on the U.K. electronics industry have claimed the larger U.K. groups are "probably controlled by large main boards, the majority of whose members appear to be senile if not actually moribund" (quoted in Electronics Weekly 30 May). In a recent interview Plessey were asked whether they intended to move into office systems through acquisition or internal reorganization - "we would not rule out either strategy and prefer to keep our options open". But Plessey have been slow to take opportunities in the past and they can only dither for so long.

In these circumstances it would be interesting to find out how P.D.X. is selling. Extravagant claims are made for it - that it is more advanced than the equivalent product from I.B.M. - and also that sales are going well. But then, of course, would Plessey claim that it was inferior to the I.B.M. product or advertise where it broke down or its

To conclude then, articles in the financial press for some while have suggested that there is a

reorganisation necessary in the British electronics and telecoms industries if they are to meet the rapid and far reaching developments and changes in the world economy. In such a general re-organization Plessey, weak in terms of its "performance" and profitability in the last few years, has been frequently written off as being a likely candidate for take-over. Such a development would undoubtedly precede dismemberment and would have far reaching consequences for Plessey workers. The operations in this area might not escape so lightly as in the past.

B.D.

[illegible]

A worried management
exhorts the workers.

These two articles on Communications and Plessey have been researched and written by Nottingham Workshop 118, Mansfield Road Nottingham. Further separate copies of these 4 pages can be obtained from this address.

PRESS RELEASE

The British Society for Social Responsibility in Science (BSSRS) has recently formed a Micro-processor Working Group.

The Group, consisting of trades unionists, computer specialists and social and natural scientists, believes that this "new technology" will have severe impacts on the lives of millions of people. Many applications of the new technology create unemployment for some and routine, highly-controlled, de-skilled work for others.

The Group has set up a Trade Union Information Service to answer enquiries about the impact of micro-processor applications from people faced with the introduction of new technologies at their place of work and to provide speakers for trades union, shop stewards' and other meetings.

Enquiries, either about the Group or specifically related to the introduction of new technology into particular workplaces, should be sent to:

BSSRS Microprocessor Group,
9 Poland Street, London, W.1.
or
telephone David Albury, 01-519 4433

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General Council to the
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TUC PUBLICATIONS.

STOP THIS DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS

In line with the demands placed on them by the present Tory Government and the previous Labour one, Nottinghamshire's Area Health Authority and County Council have announced massive spending cuts. The effect on jobs and services in the area, unless these cuts are stopped, will be disastrous.

IT'S ONLY GOOD FOR THE RICH

The Tories intend to undermine many aspects of the Welfare State and make people pay for what should be theirs as a right. This will mean private education, health, nurseries and so on. One set of chances for the rich, another for the poor.

THEY'LL HIT WOMEN MOST

The people who will suffer most will be women. At a stroke they will destroy many women's jobs (for example, in health and education) and give women no choice but to be at home, doing similar work like childcare, caring for the sick - in less adequate conditions, FOR FREE. Behind this is the belief that women must not have the right to choose how to spend their lives - they must be at the beck and call of everybody and do it out of the goodness of their hearts.



CUTS COMMITTEE HOT LINE 582369
For information about cuts (daytime)

WE MUST BE AGAINST ALL CUTS

It's no good being against the cuts that effect us and in favour of those that effect others.. United action will be needed.

WE NEED

BETTER SCHOOLING

(for example, lowering class size)

BETTER NURSERY FACILITIES

MORE PUBLIC SAFETY

(for example, an improved Fire Service and more road safety)

A BETTER HEALTH SERVICE

MORE JOBS

-

NOT LESS

MORE SERVICES

-

NOT LESS

FIGHT THE CUTS

This Conference is organised to encourage maximum participation by workers in both the Public and Private Sectors and all users of services - members of tenants and community groups, women, black people and so on - in discussion about how to FIGHT THE CUTS.

NOTTINGHAM TRADES COUNCIL CAMPAIGN
AGAINST THE CUTS

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- * STOP CUTS AND CLOSURES
- * SAVE JOBS AND SOCIAL SERVICES
- * SAVE OUR NURSERIES
- * NO EDUCATION CUTS

AIMS OF THE CONFERENCE

This will be a working Conference and, although information will be provided, we don't want to just cry on each others shoulders, we want to discuss and decide how to build massive, broad-based and wide-ranging action, uniting workers in the Public Sector and those using services. Unless we join NOW in action against the cuts, virtually all social progress achieved in the last few decades could be lost.

ASK YOUR ORGANISATION
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