

"Doing Business" is a beginners guide to investigative research. It covers published and unpublished sources including company records, includes a brief guide to the law and advice on writing up and publishing the results. It is aimed at trade unionists, campaigners and mischief-makers who have little or no experience of research.

It was written as a response to repeated, friendly and unfriendly, questions about how the 1 in 12 Publications Collective gets its information.

**JUST HOW DANGEROUS
THIS BOOK IS DEPENDS
HOW YOU USE IT**

USE IT CARELESSLY.....

The 1 in 12 Publications collective is a non-profitmaking organisation which aims to publish material, particularly of local working class interest, which would not otherwise be published.

"Dirk Spig" is the somewhat unlikely pen (and stage) name of freelance journalist and Bradford Poet - Dirk Spig. In another life he was a trade union activist. He and his family live an irreproachably respectable life in another city.

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DOING BUSINESS

*a mischief-makers
handbook*

SPIG/1 IN 12 PUBLICATIONS

"DOING BUSINESS"

DIRK SPIG

Published by 1 IN 12 PUBLICATIONS COLLECTIVE
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INTRO

This all began as a guide to "mason busting" and an explanation of the 1 in 12 Publication Collective's technique of using public records to uncover the corrupt freemasonic network in West Yorkshire.

It is an investigation which has implicated senior politicians and industrialists as well as local figures in corrupt deals. It is an investigation which has undermined the accepted explanations of the Poulson affair.

It has upset politicians from both the Conservative and the Labour Parties. They have sought legal advice on a number of occasions but that advice has always been that a lawsuit should be avoided; our evidence was sound, our allegations well founded, our account "fair comment".

When we started we were amateur, ignorant and mischievous sleuths. We have remained so. If we have proved anything beyond our findings it is that you don't have to be an economic genius, or an accountant to unravel the knots in the web of corruption and that you don't have to be a professional journalist to get your findings published.

It would have been crazy to restrict the audience for this handbook simply to those interested in opening up the masons' secret society. Our methods can be used and adapted by anyone interested in researching the financial affairs of a company or organisation.

This makes "DOING BUSINESS" a useful guide for the trades unionist, campaigner, political activist, student (god help us) and the sadly dying breed of journalist interested in investigative reporting.

I hope it will also inspire those, mostly socialist, local historians who have taken the lives and social history of working people as their subject to adopt a more aggressive approach to economic history. Corruption and self interest have built and shaped the cities in which most of us live. They have been a powerful - if not the most powerful - force determining the way of life of the working, unemployed and unwaged population since the industrial revolution.

If it is mischievous, or to use Bradford Council's expression "scurrilous", to prevent sleeping dogs from lying and and from serving out their time unperturbed; as councillors, M.P.s, judges, lawyers, policemen, magistrates or civil servants, then all of us involved in the 1 in 12 Publications Collective are pleased to be regarded as mischief-makers.

This is a polite introduction to a potentially dangerous method. Just how dangerous this book is will depend on how you use it. Use it carelessly.

Doing Business is dedicated to the memory of Harry Goldthorpe, once secretary of the Bradford Unemployed Workers Association and later the author of Quebec Street and Room at the Bottom.

BUSINESS

A rudimentary knowledge of the way business is done will make research much easier.

Businesses themselves, whether industrial or commercial, can only be organised in a few ways. These dictate the geography of the business world:

1) Single Proprietorship: This is the sort of firm that has one "self employed" boss who is liable for all the firm's debts.

2) Partnership: Where there is more than one self-employed boss and at least one is responsible for all the business' debts according to a contract drawn up between the partners.

3) Cooperative: No longer just the local Coop supermarket, the workers co-op is a form of business organisation preferred by more radical enterprises, a sort of socialist republic

WHAT PUBLIC & PRIVATE COMPANIES HAVE IN COMMON

1) Shareholders:

Joint stock companies are owned by their shareholders but unlike a partnership the owners are not liable for all the company's debts. They are only liable for as much of the "face value" of their shares that hasn't been paid.

A share with the face value of one pound might be worth considerably more, or less, when sold.

A company continues to exist whoever owns shares in it or however much its name is changed until it is either compulsorily or voluntarily "liquidated" and "ceases trading".

within the boundaries of capitalism.

4) THE JOINT STOCK (OR LIMITED) COMPANY:

This is the mainstay of British and western capitalism. Without it there would be no stock market, manufacturing industry would have remained a largely backstreet affair and the west's economy would have been very different.

Karl Marx strangely enough thought that the joint stock company - which was fairly new in his day - might have held the key to social and political revolution. He was wrong.

There are two kinds of joint stock company:

PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANIES
PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANIES

A public company must have the words "Public Limited Company" or "P.L.C." in its name, a private company must have the words "Limited Company" or "Ltd" in its name.

In law the company is a separate entity to its owners; it can have debts, it can sue individuals and other companies.

2) Directors:

A limited company is governed by a board of directors elected by those shareholders entitled to vote. The board of directors elects a chairman (sic).

3) Dividend:

A shareholder is entitled to a cut of the company profits, called a dividend. The size of their dividend depends on the number and the type of shares they hold and a figure decided by the board of directors.

WHAT MAKES PUBLIC & PRIVATE COMPANIES DIFFERENT

PLC

- 1) Must have at least 7 shareholders.
- 2) Has no limit on the number of shareholders.
- 3) Can raise money by offering shares to the public.
- 4) Shareholders can sell their shares without the approval of the company's directors.

Ltd. Co.

- 1) Must have at least 2 shareholders.
- 2) Can have no more than 7 shareholders.
- 3) Cannot invite the public to buy shares.
- 4) Shares can only be sold with directors approval or to existing shareholders.

SHARES, CONTROL & OWNERSHIP

SHARES

Not all shares carry a vote, so not all shareholders can take part in the election of directors.

a) Preference shares have first claim on a dividend and this is usually a fixed percentage of the shares face value. As long as a company makes a profit preference shares will bring the owner an income.

One hundred "5% Preference shares" with a face value of £1 will bring the owner of those shares £5 of the company's profit. Because preference shares are a relatively safe investment they rarely carry voting rights.

b) Ordinary Shares are a much riskier investment. The ordinary shareholder is paid a dividend from the company profits after other shareholders and at the discretion of the directors. This sort of shareholder normally gets a vote for each ordinary share.



'The remarkable turnaround must be sustained and improved on.'

In the first of a series of three pre-election articles from the world of business, LORD HANSON explains why he keeps faith with the Conservative Party.





WHAT A SHAREHOLDER LOOKS LIKE:

There are more than half a million private companies and 15-20,000 public companies. Of these the largest 100 manufacturing companies produce about half the country's total output. Since the cut price sale of public corporations it is alleged that there now 8 million shareholders in Great Britain. This is, for a variety of reasons, an exaggeration. But whatever the figures the fact is small shareholders are powerless. The richest ten percent of the country still controls about 90% of the wealth within the country. Although there are rich and powerful individual shareholders, like messers Murdoch and Maxwell, by far the most powerful shareholders are the financial institutions. Interestingly the decision-making inside these institutions is made by people who aren't required to be named, or to own shares, who aren't answerable to other shareholders and don't have to declare their other interests. These are the faceless and nameless powerbrokers of the city.

Amongst the most important types of institutional shareholder are:

1) UNIT TRUST COMPANIES.

Which raise capital by selling Unit Trusts, a sort of share, to the public and other institutions. This money is then invested in shares by the company's money managers. The company profits are made from dividends and the sale of shares.

2) INVESTMENT TRUSTS.

Which are companies whose sole business is to hold shares in, and control other companies. They are at best parasitic and at worst commercial psychopaths. A quick profit at any cost is the hallmark of the "asset stripper" that takes over a company for less than it is worth and sells off its assets almost immediately. This releases more money with which to decimate other companies. The **Hanson Trust** - a company from over here doing some asset stripping and "corporate raiding" just about everywhere - is an Investment Trust.

The two largest types of institutional shareholders are:

3) INSURANCE COMPANIES AND PENSION FUNDS.

Each in its own way holds money for people for a rainy day. While they look after this money they put it to work for them. The financial managers of pension funds and insurance companies are amongst the most powerful people in the land.

4) BANKS AND BUILDING SOCIETIES.

Similarly they put other peoples money to work for them.

Insurance companies and Banks are public limited companies with shareholders, they make profits which are passed on to their shareholders.

CONTROL & OWNERSHIP

Although each shareholder is an owner of the company their influence over its decisions depends on the number of shares held.

More than a 50% "holding" of company shares gives total control over the company.

Although a company might have thousands of shareholders one person, or another company, with 51% of the shares might make all the decisions.

It is however possible to control a company without holding a majority of its shares. This either requires the support of other shareholders or a sufficiently large abstention.

"NOMINEE COMPANIES"

For economic or political reasons it sometimes suits shareholders to conceal their ownership of shares from the company, or from other shareholders, or from the government, or from the press and from the city. In this case their shares are purchased for them and held in the name of a "Nominee Company".

A Nominee Company is a financial "front" and can only sell those shares and vote as dictated by the shares' true owner.

A nominee company receives a fee for its services.

The mystery of Guinness's lost £5.2m

FIVE MINUTES walk from the Jersey Royal Court in the centre of St Helier lie the unassuming offices of Michael Dee's Europlan Holdings, a small offshore financial services company. Before the Guinness scandal broke, few people had ever heard of Mr Dee or his company, though its shares are traded over the counter in London by Harvard Securities. Any hope Mr Dee had of preserving

The Guinness scandal has moved to Jersey, reports Jeremy Warner.

Europlan's offices last week, John Nettles, the actor who plays the part of the detective, was heard to comment that the Guinness saga could provide the basis for a plot in his next series. Mr Dee is chairman of Marketing and Consultants, one of a large

to investigate the Guinness scandal. If he had refused to answer their inquiries he would have faced the possibility of jail for contempt of court.

But the DTI has no powers in Jersey where the veil of secrecy and anonymity which hangs over the island's commercial procedures is still a powerful force for attracting business. A good deal of this work is simple tax avoidance by the rich and the famous. Some of it, however, involves money obtained in Britain and other European countries by dishonest means.

the Guinness board. It has also stated that there is no evidence of services provided for the money. The says makes the invoice for the payment "false".

Many people in Jersey's financial community find the inordinate amount of attention being focused on this single payment rather odd and this single payment rather odd and week. "You should have been hearing about more than £100m of money then. This is chicken feed comparison."

But others believe the case highlights more important issues. They note that the Labour Party is

TAKEOVER BIDS:

In an attempt to gain control of a company - to take it over - an individual or company might offer to buy shares from shareholders at more than their market value or, as in the Guinness bid for Distillers to exchange shares in the company for more valuable ones in the company behind the bid. Before making an offer to shareholders a company intending a takeover bid may be purchasing any shares that come on the market or might even organise a "dawn raid" to gain as many of the shares and perhaps even a controlling interest without going through the formality of a takeover bid.

which are anonymous the largest in suspects with the Dee pre-paid to ng nobody resident his have been inter department c is appointe

Nowadays takeovers seem to be largely unfriendly, and opposed by the existing board, but it is still reasonably common for a takeover to be agreed and supported by the directors of both companies.

In the case of an unfriendly takeover the board will appeal to shareholders to reject the offer for their shares. If a successful takeover seems likely to result in a near monopoly of trade then the Minister for Trade and Industry may refer the bid to the Monopolies Commission (a voluntary organisation) and depending on their report may stop the takeover.

WHAT A COMPANY IS WORTH

A company is worth what anyone will pay for it. Some public companies are "quoted" on the Stock Exchange where their shares may be bought and sold. The Stock Exchange is a bit like the football league in that it has a number of "divisions" according to the size and age of the company and even a sort of non-league division called the "Unlisted Securities Market" for public companies not quoted on the exchange.

The value of that company is by convention the market value of the shares multiplied by the number of shares. In a bad day on the market billions of pounds can be wiped off the value of industrial and commercial companies. When a company's share value falls below its real value and the value of its assets it becomes vulnerable to the hostile attentions of an asset stripper or a company such as the Hanson Trust.

Until the so-called "Big Bang" in 1986 it was riddled with restricted practices and those practices were regulated by the Stock Exchange's governing body. With the de-regulation and the computerisation of the exchange during the big bang some of those restricted practices went but the city continues to largely police its own activities and to punish (and sometimes to protect) those guilty of malpractice.

"Insider Dealing" is perhaps the most common form of malpractice in the city. A stockbroker or civil servant might have access to privileged information which will affect the price of some shares. The City's code of practice prevents him from using that information to influence his or other peoples share dealing.

Only rarely is it detected or admitted and the penalties and risk are nothing compared to the profits to be made.

STATE CONTROL AND PRIVATISATION.

When the British economy is described by economists as being "mixed" it means that some services, industries and companies are owned by the state.

Most, but not all, of these companies were set up by the post-war labour governments which believed that state control or "nationalisation" was a socialist policy. Just as Marx had been mistaken when he thought that the joint stock company was a substitute for workers control so were the Labour politicians who tried to substitute nationalisation for workers (and users) control. The Nationalised industries were set up to mimic public companies. The shareholders were replaced by one shareholder (the government) represented by the relevant minister of state who appointed the board and the chairman. The workforce were represented on the board by a senior trade unionist who would be getting to know future colleagues in the House of Lords.

Because of the public corporations' resemblance to PLCs the Conservative Government has found it relatively easy to "privatise" them. Privatisation simply requires the appointment of a sympathetic board, the establishment of a PLC, and a sufficient number of people willing to purchase shares. This last was achieved by making sure the price of shares for the "floatation" were well below their market value. "Nationalisation" - as opposed to workers/users control - made it easy and painless for the government to privatise public corporations.



Floods of business. the paperwork from privatisation

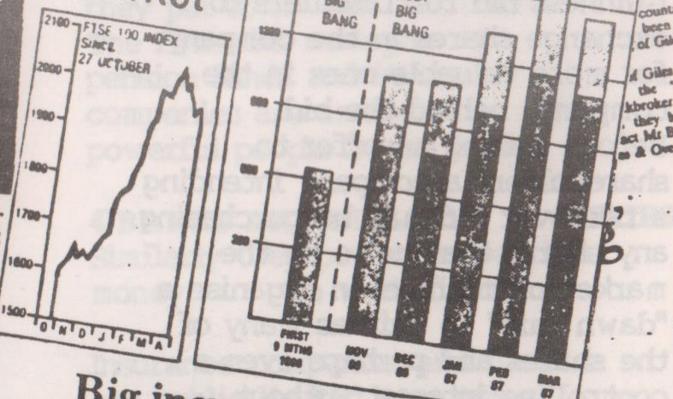


Mapping out the future: Lloyd's is facing up to technological change. A three-year contract has been signed with IBM Managed Network Service which will provide the network facilities, designed to improve the efficiency, not only of Lloyd's, but also the entire London insurance market. Big Bang II? Certainly not stresses Des Lee, head of the systems and communications group within the Corporation of Lloyd's. "This is a backroom big bang" - it will not change traditional methods of trading and it will not be on the lines of last year's technological revolution at the Stock Exchange, which changed trading methods forever.

Charnley Davies

Charnley Davies is being rescued under new insolvency legislation. Robert Peston reports.

HE administrator of Charnley Davies... accounts showed a deficit of £1.8m... will not be impaired. As part of the rescue, three regional insurance broking subsidiaries have been sold. The question of how the losses distributed between clients in the High Court... counter been a of Giles the "broker / they bar act Mr Bo & Overt



THIRTY thousand shares in the British Airports Authority were changing hands every second in the first few minutes of trading on Tuesday. By the end of the day 134 million shares had been traded. The timing of the BAA share sale could not be worse for the City's hard-pressed settlements system, which is the mechanism at the centre of the stock market, taking share certificates from sellers to buyers. The system is already snowed under with a huge backlog running into billions of pounds. Some firms have uncompleted share deals valued at £200 m, and the total is estimated to be £6 bn.

Some of these uncompleted share deals date back to 1980, but most have arisen since Big Bang nine months ago, reflecting a sharp rise in the volume of business. The Stock Exchange and the Bank of England are both concerned that the backlog could lead to financial difficulties for some stockbrokers. The real fear concerns the "domino effect", the risk of one firm's problems bringing down a whole number of others. Borrowings by stockbrokers, securities dealers and jobbers have risen by £5 bn to a record £17 bn since Big Bang. And they are still rising. For investors the

aud Squad probe licensed dealer

Scandal

By Peter Rodger. Editor. Business affairs. This is the basis of the City.

PUBLISHED INFO

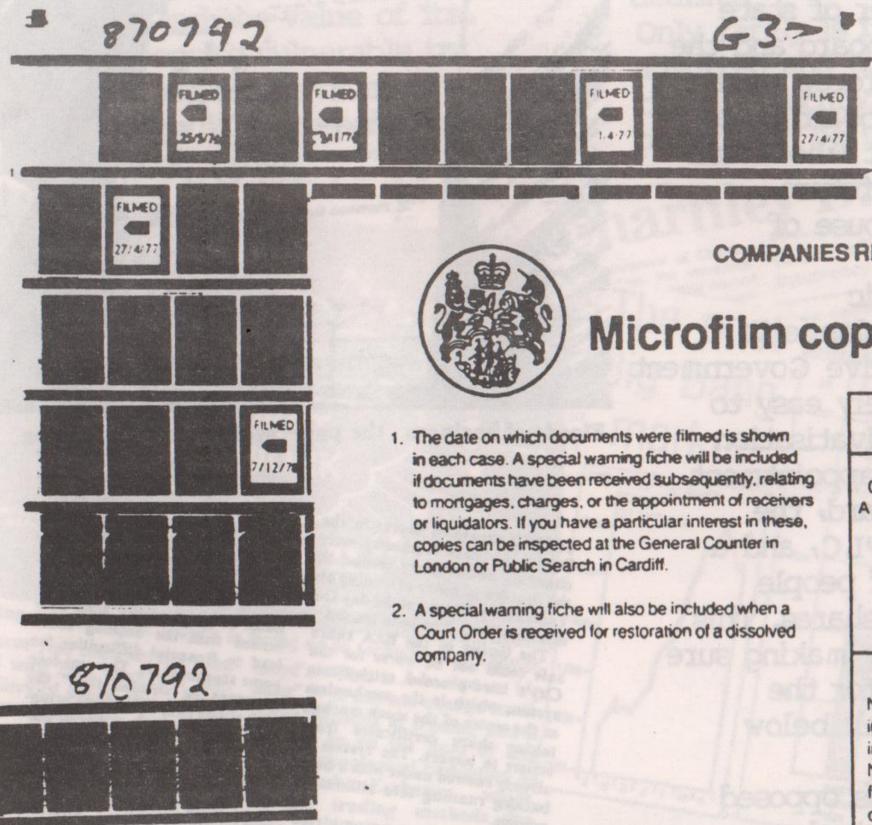
COMPANY RECORDS

A) Where to find them.

All limited companies (public or private) must make certain information available to the REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES. This information, the company records, is available to the public at the Registrar of Companies office - COMPANIES HOUSE.

Alternatively they are available on microfilm through public libraries which will also have the machines needed to read them.

All the larger libraries have the microfilm index of company records which gives you limited information about the company and its index number. If the library doesn't have a copy of the records - which is unlikely - then it will get them for you. It costs two or three pounds and the microfilm is yours, not the libraries. The library can also provide photocopies of any part of the microfilm documents for a few pence a sheet.



COMPANIES REGISTRATION OFFICE

Microfilm copy of company file

1. The date on which documents were filmed is shown in each case. A special warning fiche will be included if documents have been received subsequently, relating to mortgages, charges, or the appointment of receivers or liquidators. If you have a particular interest in these, copies can be inspected at the General Counter in London or Public Search in Cardiff.

2. A special warning fiche will also be included when a Court Order is received for restoration of a dissolved company.

SERIES LETTER	CONTENTS
G (or Gen)	General documents
A (or AR/AC)	Annual returns, accounts and related documents.
M	Mortgage Documents and Mortgage-Register.
CF	Consolidated Fiche. Full fiche available on request.

Note 1: An arrow after any fiche letter indicates the existence of a continuation fiche in that series.
 Note 2: The symbol (M) on the heading of the first fiche in the G Series indicates the existence of a fiche for Mortgages.

C407

B) What company records contain.

The "promoters" of a new company send two documents to the registrar:

1) The Memorandum of Association Which gives the proposed company's:

- *NAME
- *The address of its REGISTERED OFFICE
- *The amount of "AUTHORISED CAPITAL"
- *The OBJECTS AND AIMS OF THE COMPANY

This must be signed by at least

TWO (private) or SEVEN (public) founder members of the company.

2) The Articles of Association. Which is the constitution of the new company and will tell you:

- *The rights of different types of shareholder
- *The way in which shares are to be issued and transferred
- *How the company may raise and borrow money
- *How officers and directors are to be elected
- *The extent of the powers of the directors and board

No. 110 (Rule 182)

Number of Company

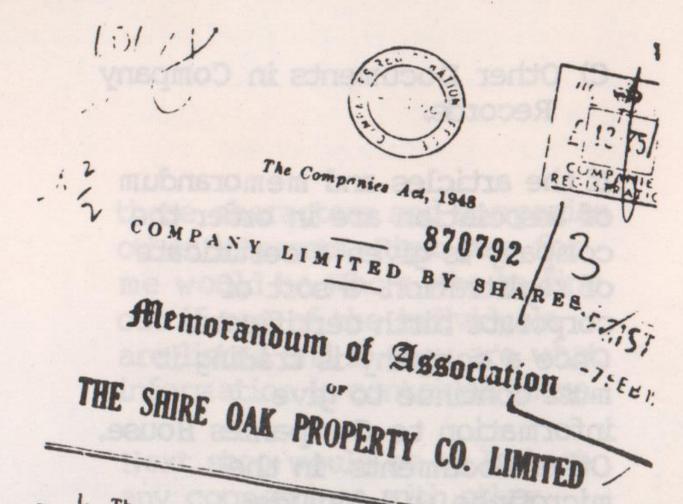
870792

THE COMPANIES ACTS 1948 to 1980

LIQUIDATORS' STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT (Members' or Creditors' Voluntary Winding-up) (Pursuant to sections 290 and 300 of the Companies Act 1948)

STATEMENT showing how the Winding-up has been conducted and the property of the Company has been disposed of

THE SHIRE OAK PROPERTY COMPANY



- The name of the Company is "THE SHIRE OAK PROPERTY CO. LIMITED."
- The registered office of the Company will be situated in England.
- The objects for which the Company is established are—

- (A) To purchase, erect, establish, alter, maintain, take on lease or exchange or otherwise acquire and hold any real and personal property and any rights, privileges or easements over or in respect of any property with all necessary or convenient curtailages, outbuildings, annexes and appurtenances, and to enter into and do all contracts and acts necessary for the purchasing or acquiring of land or buildings, and for the erection and furnishing of such buildings.
- (B) To let, use, sell, manage, exchange, lease, purchase, mortgage, dispose of, turn to account or otherwise deal with any land or buildings or any part thereof for the purposes of clubs, museums, assembly rooms, reading rooms, lecture rooms, libraries, public rooms, refreshment rooms, and concert, dancing, dining and billiard rooms, with kitchens, caretakers' rooms, garages, and other necessary offices and for the use and accommodation of such persons under such rules and regulations as shall from time to time be adopted by the Directors, and to build, erect, reconstruct, alter, adapt, furnish and manage such buildings as aforesaid or any other property belonging to the Company and to renovate and repair the same.
- (C) To buy, prepare and sell food, drink and other refreshments and all articles and commodities connected therewith, and to let or sell the right to supply all such articles upon any of the property



THE SHIRE OAK PROPERTY CO. LTD.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 30th April 1976

DIRECTORS

J. A. H. (Chairman)
H. B. (Secretary)
W. H. (Director)

The Directors have pleasure in presenting this Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 30th April 1976.

The company's principal activities during the year were as follows:

The Directors are pleased to state that the company has been successful in its operations during the year.

W. G. (Director)
H. B. (Director)
J. A. H. (Director)

C) Other Documents in Company Records.

If the articles and memorandum of association are in order the company is given a certificate of registration, a sort of corporate birth certificate. Once a company is trading it must continue to give information to Companies House. Other documents in the microfiche will include:

*STATEMENT OF THE NOMINAL CAPITAL - the amount of money with which the company was started.

*ANNUAL REPORTS - but prior to 1967 most private companies were not required to disclose very much information about their financial affairs. Since the 1967 Companies Act however all companies must file annual accounts of turnover, profits, debts, assets and the money paid to directors.

*If a company has a MORTGAGE on any property details of this must be given to the registrar.
*Notification of changes of directors-

These will give the retiring directors' name and their replacements' FULL NAME, ADDRESS, OCCUPATION and list other DIRECTORSHIPS.

Note: In the case of large or long established firms there may be hundreds of documents held by companies house. In this case the standard microfilm will only include what is called a "Consolidated file", in effect the edited highlights of the information available and you will have to specifically ask for the complete information.

D) Liquidation.

A company only ceases to exist when it goes into "liquidation". This may be because it has gone bust in which case the liquidation is compulsory. But it may be that the directors and shareholders decide to close it down - say to "realise its assets, or because it is no longer profitable enough or because it no longer serves its purpose. In this case the liquidation is voluntary. In either case a receiver is appointed.

The receiver is an accountant whose responsibility is to see that the company, or all the company's remaining property, is sold and the money distributed to those to whom money is owed. The receiver has to be approved by the creditors.

If the company has gone bust the shareholders will receive nothing or a fraction of the value of their shares.

If it is a voluntary liquidation the money realised by the receiver will be distributed to the shareholders.

The index of companies will indicate if and when a company has been liquidated and documents relating to the liquidation must be filed with Companies House.

THE SHIRE OAK PROPERTY CO. LTD.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th APRIL, 1976

	Year Ended 30.4.76	Year Ended 30.4.75
Income		
Building Society Interest (Gross)	1,023.27	1,021.27
Loan Interest (Gross)	112.25	1,021.27
Expenditure		
Property	102.00	40
Insurance	36.40	22
Administration	27.00	6
Secretarial Fee	20.00	43
Printing and Stationery	43.20	297.30
Sundries		
		1,340

DIRECTORIES

There are hundreds of directories and they provide information on companies, organisations and individuals. The reference section of a library will have the main ones but for specialist directories (for example those covering the legal profession) you may have to look in specialist sections. Stuart Christie in the "Investigative Researchers Handbook" gives much space to "Networking", that is working out the inter-connections between companies, organisations and individuals. It is something that has to be done even though (because of the many links between industry, "charitable" organisations, political parties, politicians, civil and public servants) it can get very complicated. Networking relies on the use of directories.

Which Directory?

Just supposing you were investigating a private hospital development.

You may have already identified the company proposing the scheme and with the help of local press cuttings and the the company records you have a list of the company's directors, companies involved in designing and building the hospital, members of the local council who have spoken in its favour and those who have approved planning permission.

The next stage in the investigations must be to try to establish a detailed picture of

these characters and companies other interests. First stop for me would be Who's Who to find out if any of the individuals are listed and if they are what information is contained there.

Next stop would be to look at any connections with other private hospitals - there is an Association of Independent Hospitals which publishes a yearbook.

Then, rather than ploughing through the company records of all the other companies involved it makes more sense to first establish whether they are subsidiaries of larger companies by looking at "Who Owns Whom" finding out if they are listed in the "Directory of Directors". Finally look up entries in any of the trade directories. These might relate to individuals as professional people, such as the medical register or the registers of other professional bodies such as accountants or architects, or to companies providing services such as building or contract cleaning.

There are two golden rules:

*ALWAYS assume that the information you want is available somewhere in the reference section of the library.

*Everytime you come across a new name of an individual or organisation ALWAYS make a note of it and at some stage look it up in "Who's Who", "Who Owns Whom" or the "Directory of Directors".

In addition to these general directories there are a myriad of more specialised ones. The bodies which regulate the professions produce registers. Of these the Medical Register is the most well known but there is one for lawyers, one for accountants and one for just about anything else that is, or wants to be seen as, "professional". This includes the church of England. The financial professions are well covered by independently produced directories which are often related to a particular sort of work such as insurance or banking. Some professions have their own "who's who....".

There are also trade and commercial directories which are aimed more at advertising the services of anyone from plumbers to international private agents. Some organisations produce yearbooks which have directories in them. These can be a good source of information about councils and council officers; the outside interests and contacts of individuals, or socio-political-economic complexion of an organisation. If you want to identify the more important businesses in your region check out the local Chamber of Commerce's year book. There is a Stock Exchange yearbook.

The directories.

Who's Who:

This contains a remarkable number of people nobody has ever heard of. It contains all judges, all M.P.s, all senior civil servants, many important figures in local government. It contains senior figures in the city and industrialists, and virtually everyone who has sat on a government committee or inquiry. It doesn't contain dead people but the more important dead who's who entrants are published in "Who Was Who" and some libraries keep back copies (others sell them, my invaluable 1979 copy came originally from Salford Library). The entries are written by the people themselves and so aren't necessarily as extensive or as detailed as they might be but

they all provide a home or contact address, often a telephone number, frequently an abbreviated list of directorships, honorary titles, the various committees on which they sit, their hobbies and any clubs of which they are members.

Who owns Whom:

Lists the companies which own other companies and the companies owned by other companies ("subsidiaries")

Directory of Directors: this lists all the directors of major companies and also lists the directors' other directorships. It is extensive but not comprehensive. If you draw a blank here try one of the other directories:

INDEPENDENT June '87

Lord King sees no limit to privatisation

BRITISH Airways chairman, Lord King, last night urged the government to "sell the lot" in its privatisation programme and called for greater private sector involvement in the health service and schools.

He said: "The principle of free schooling and medicine are sacrosanct but their cost to the nation is huge and it is imperative that we secure for the taxpayer the maximum value for his money."

In a speech which clearly saw no limit to the possibilities of selling the "family silver", he said: "Airports, water and electricity were the only ones proposed by the Government as the next candidates for the private sector. I hope that we shall see coal and steel move higher on the list and I would also look closely at the two huge public services education and the National Health Service." The Government did not include steel in the manifesto list of



Lord King: 'I incline towards the sell the lot school of thought'.

privatisation targets, despite having said before the election that the industry was a priority for disposal, and has so far insisted there are no immediate plans to sell British Coal.

Lord King, delivering the Institute of Directors' annual lecture, said: "I incline towards the 'sell the lot' school of thought." He added privatisation was not an end in itself, but a means to better ways of working and to higher standards of living, "a means of re-establishing people's capitalism".

He told his KING, John Leonard; Chairman, Babcock & Wilcox Ltd, since 1972; b Aug. 1918; yr s of Albert John King and Kathleen King; m 1st, 1941, Lorna Kathleen Sykes (d 1969); three s one d; 2nd, 1970, Hon. Isabel Monckton, y d of 8th Viscount Galway. Founded Whitehouse Industries Ltd, 1945 and Ferrybridge Industries Ltd, subseq. Pollard Ball & Roller Bearing Co. Ltd (Man. Dir 1945, Chm. 1961-69). Chairman: Babcock International Inc.; British Nuclear Associates Ltd; SKF (UK) Ltd, 1976; R. J. Dick Inc. (USA); Dick Corp. (USA); Precismeca Inc. (USA); Vice-Pres., Babcock & Wilcox Española SA (Spain); Director: S. G. Warburg International Holdings Ltd; CIF Babcock Fives (France). Chm., Appeal Cttee, Nat. Soc. for Cancer Relief. Member: NEDC Cttee on Finance for Investment; Review Bd for Govt Contracts; Grand Council, CBI; Financial Policy Cttee, CBI; Chairman: City and Industrial Liaison Council; British Olympic Appeals Cttee. Mem. Engineering Industries Council, 1975. MFH Badsworth Foxhounds, 1949-58; MFH Duke of Rutland's Foxhounds (Belvoir), 1958-72. Recreations: hunting, field sports, racing. Address: Cleveland House, St James's Square, SW1Y 4LN. T: 01-930 9766; Wartnaby, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE14 3HY. T: Melton Mowbray 822220. Clubs: White's; Brook (New York).

Leading Article page

WHO'S WHO

Some "WHOS WHO" entries are very useful..

Yes... down from I taken serio are more lik sector inve: OECD obs shak. urge: WHO'S WHO 1978

Some are virtually useless..

HANLEY, Sir Michael (Bowen), KCB 1974; attached Ministry of Defence; b 24 Feb. 1918; s of late Prof. J. A. Hanley, PhD, ARCS; m 1957, Lorna Margaret Dorothy, d of late Hon. Claude Hope-Morley. Educ: Sedbergh School; Queen's Coll., Oxford (MA). Served War of 1939-45. Address: c/o Ministry of Defence, SW1.

WHO'S WHO 1978

sion to Sir Martin Farnival Jones as director general of MI5 - and the blackballing of Sir James - indicates the ability of the Security Service to beat the most powerful men in Whitehall.

The Security Service's candidate for the job was Sir Michael Hanley, who had been deputy director for a relatively short time - and had already been cleared by Sir Wright in the hunt, codenamed Harriet, for a "mid-dling grade agent" identified by a defector. MI5 wanted him because he was "one of them".

Mr Wright and his colleagues were confident that Sir Michael would impress the Prime Minis-

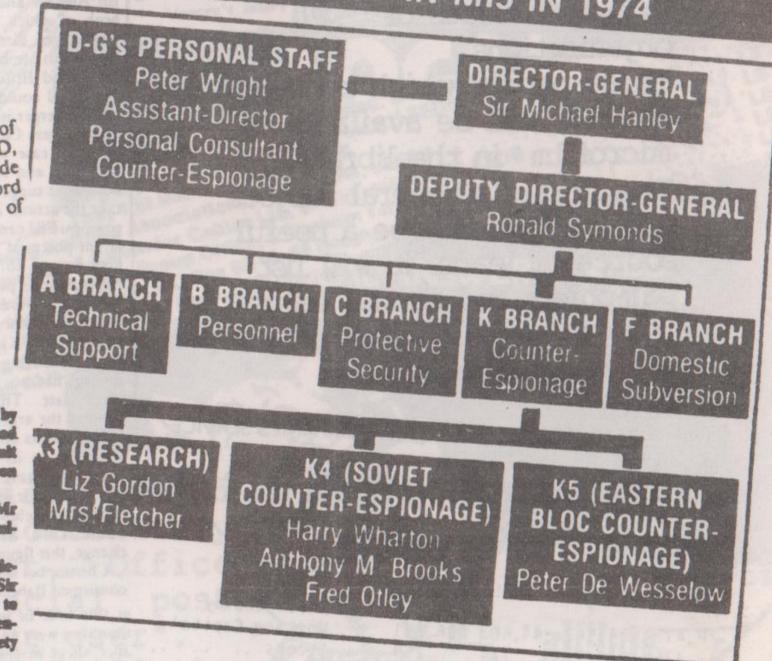
ter, Edward Heath.

They were subsequently told by Sir Martin that Sir Michael had got the job. "It's been a difficult campaign, but I have finally won through," Sir Martin said.

Sir Michael later appointed Mr Wright as his personal consultant on counter-espionage. But Mr Wright says that, despite his earlier backing for Sir Michael, the service began to change as the new director general promoted "men of safety rather than men of arms."

"I began to realise that a generation was passing," he adds. "The age of heroes was being replaced by the age of mediocrity."

WHO'S WHO IN MI5 IN 1974



PRESS CUTTING SERVICES

Again all main libraries keep the two major company information services:

EXTEL which gives information from the published reports of the larger companies.

McARTHYS which contains press cuttings from the financial press relating to larger companies.

Both have an index which lists the companies covered by their services.

LIBRARY CATALOGUES

Libraries usually keep a local Biographical Index which is a list of press stories about prominent local individuals or national figures in relation to area.

There will also be a similar index for issues or organisations.

These papers which contain the articles will be available on microfilm in the library. The library's general subject index might also be a useful source of leads, it will list pamphlets and annual reports as well as books on the subject you are investigating.

EXTEL U.K. LISTED COMPANIES SERVICE

BABCOCK INTERNATIONAL PLC (CA)

OF FUNDS (£000)	1983	1984	1985	1986
28,478	34,562	44,603	36,831	
475	46	124	259	
-	22,022	16,380	-	
6,002	3,209	3,956	3,042	
22	14	-	-	
34,983	54,853	65,063	40,132	
7,796	9,313	10,154	10,774	
14,121	24,128	26,980	23,045	
(619)	3,251	32,979	176	
		231	989	

Represented by:
 Working Capital
 Stocks
 Debtors
 Creditors
 Liquid Funds
 Cash
 Deposits
 Bank Loans & O'dra
 Increase (Decrease

NEWSPAPER INDEXES

All the stories and items in the "quality" newspapers are catalogued by name and subject. The most useful of these catalogues is the "TIMES INDEX" which list all the stories and names in the Times and cross-references to others in the Telegraph, Sunday Times, Times Education Supplement and Financial Times.

There is also a Guardian Index but unlike the times index it can be quite difficult to get hold of and doesn't go back so far. I hope before long there will be an Independent Index, since the Independent has already established its commitment to investigation and it doesn't shop its informants to the police like the Guardian.

00 BABCOCK INTERNATIONAL

The Independent 5-8-87

LORD KING has taken to arguing from a position of weakness. He is chairman of British Airways and of Babcock International, both of which are planning mergers and warning of dire financial consequences if their deals are blocked.

BA and British Caledonian are arguing that BCal could collapse if their proposed airline merger is referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation. In the case of Babcock, an engineering company, and the smaller FKI Electricals, both sides suggest that Babcock is unable to take the actions it plans because of high borrowings. FKI can help to "unlock much of its latent potential" because its share price is high enough to allow it to launch a £97m rights issue as part of the merger package.

The dire warnings deserve close scrutiny. When he announced Babcock's planned merger with FKI to an astonished City audience, Lord King stated that Babcock's borrowings had not risen from the last balance sheet date. This statement immediately clouded the argument.

Documents issued at the weekend put his statement in its proper context. Babcock's borrowings have risen from £68.4m at the end of last year when they represented 35 per cent of shareholders' funds to £134m. But where Lord King was understating the change, this figure overstates it.

Christopher Taylor, the finance director, confirmed Babcock's borrowings usually rise at this time of year and are barely higher than they were 12 months ago. The next balance sheet may show a £20m increase but this reflects a £10m rise in the underlying position, hardly suggesting imminent collapse.

The irony is that the combined group could have higher gearing after hefty write off than Babcock did at the end of 1986, despite the planned FKI rights issue. Combined borrowings would be about £130m on

shareholders' funds of more than £300m.

The write offs would allow the combined group a better chance to increase profits, a privilege that has been denied to Mike Hoffmann, Babcock's chief executive, who has steered the group within the confines of its balance sheet for three years. He is likely to leave Babcock if it merges with FKI.

Babcock is riding a difficult course between extremes, suggesting financial constraints while not wanting to rubbish business and ruin morale. Luckily Lord King can call on fresh horses when the going is tough.

His other financial arguments centre on Babcock's high tax charge and low stock market rating. UK profits account for only a small part of the whole, which last year reached £37.1m after £7.1m redundancy costs. As a result the company has not been able to offset its advanced corporation tax which reflects high dividend payments to shareholders. As a result tax absorbed 40 per cent of last year's profits.

By contrast the UK accounts for most of FKI's profits, which last year reached £11.3m. The tax charge for the combined group would therefore be nearer 25 per cent.

But Babcock's tax charge would in any case fall once UK profits recovered. The prospects for this depend on a revival in the power station building programme as the company is one of two suppliers of boilers.

The argument about Babcock's rating is undeniable. Its shares have traditionally traded on a multiple below the market average. The bid has taken them to 304p where they stand on a p/e ratio of 21 times prospective earnings taking Greenwell Montagu's current year estimate of £33m before tax for Babcock on its own.

Just as the market expressed its view of Babcock's prospects with a low rating, it has spelt out its concern about the bid by knocking FKI's shares since the bid was announced from 203p to 175p, below the rights price.

Investors have yet to accept Lord King's argument from weakness.

McCarthy Information Ltd^o Manor House, Ash Well, Warrms

CHECKING NAMES AND ADDRESSES

It is vital to check names and addresses. To check that (for example) John G. Smith who is a director of one company is the same as Cllr. John Smith; to check whether Jennifer Smith, director of another company, is married to him.

This means checking addresses and for this the telephone directory and electoral register are the tools.

The local electoral register is available at the library, as should be telephone directories for the whole country.

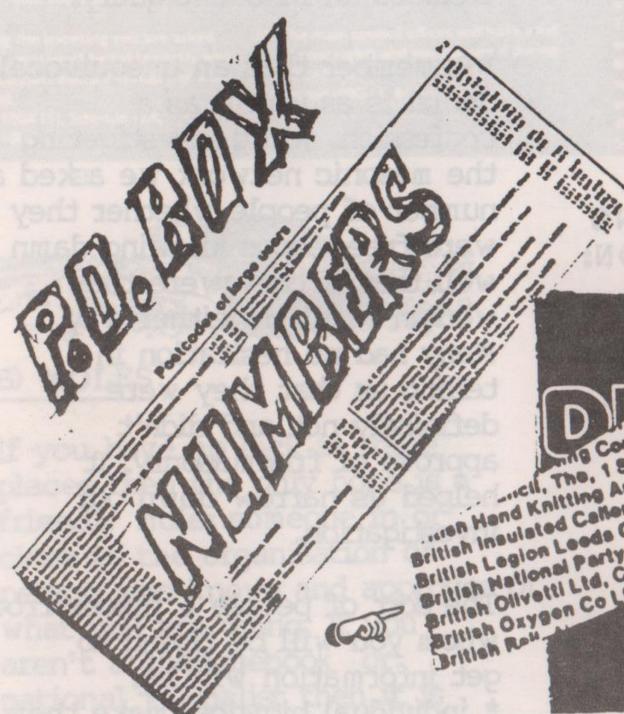
And if all else fails at least you can ring up and ask.

Leeds, Morley, Otley, Rothwell, Pudsey Area 1986/7

Leeds J.5.5 White Windows, Staircase La, Bramhope ..Leeds 042751
 Linco J, 7 Haven Gt 16 ..Leeds ..

JOHN GORDON SEYMOUR LINACRE

Age 66. Lives at : White Windows, Staircase Lane, Bramhope.
 Chairman of Yorkshire Post Newspapers Ltd and chief executive of its parent company - United Newspapers.
 United Newspapers made an '85 pre tax profit ..



THOMSON LOCAL ANSWER
 NOW EVEN MORE INFORMATION
 CLASSIFIED
 A-Z BUSINESS LIST
 INDEX
 OFFICIAL LOCAL Postcodes Directory.

Leeds, Morley, Otley, Rothwell, Pudsey Area 1986/7

Some organisations hide behind PO Box numbers. Unfortunately for them the Post Office allocates them a special post code for being a "large user". It then issues a list of all the names and addresses of all large users. Until last year this was printed in the back of Thomson Local Directories.

UNPUBLISHED INFO

Just because information isn't available in or through your local library or from your council it doesn't mean that is impossible or even very difficult to get it.

The "security" services and police use many legal, barely legal and downright illegal methods of gathering information; from stop and search and routine inquiries to telephone tapping, bribery, burglary and torture. I wouldn't be prepared to advocate these methods to the amateur investigator. It is too easy to get caught and besides which the state only resorts to drastic measures because most of its guardians are lazy and a bit slow when it comes to information gathering.

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY OF GETTING HOLD OF UNPUBLISHED INFORMATION:

ASK!

A) Who and How to ask.

By the time you are looking for unpublished information you will have an idea who will have it, how to get in touch with them and whether they are likely to give it you.

There are three ways of approaching the source of information:

- * Call in person
- * Telephone
- * Letter

The approach you choose will depend on common sense, the urgency or otherwise of the inquiry, your personal appearance, or the normal practice of any department you are dealing with.

* Remember it isn't always necessary to go straight to the top, the managing director of a company might regard suspiciously a question which the company's press office would treat as an innocent query.

* Remember that an unequivocal denial is as useful as a confession. While investigating the masonic network we asked a number of people whether they were freemasons knowing damn well that if they were they wouldn't tell us, either way. Many had no hesitation in telling us that they were definitely not and didn't approve of freemasonry. It helped us narrow down our investigation.

The sort of people & places from whom you will be trying to get information will be:

- * individual bigwigs (make them your last stop),
- * press and public relations departments of companies or organisations,
- * other departments of organisations.

Many councils have freedom of information rules and if you don't get any joy from them you could try kicking up a stink.

The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 takes effect from 1 April 1986 and applies only to information used by councils from that date. A copy of the Act can be obtained from HMSO, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT.

Community Rights Project

157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XF telephone 01-928 0080

14 reasons why the new law is good news for you

- 1 You have the right to attend meetings of the council and its committees and sub-committees, which make important decisions affecting you. Sections 100A and 100E
- 2 A council notice telling you about the meetings must be posted up at the main council offices at least three days in advance. Sections 100A (6) and 100E
- 3 Before the meeting, you can see the agenda, reports to be presented and relevant internal documents, until now kept locked up in council filing cabinets. Sections 100B, 100D and 100E
- 4 If during the meeting you are asked to leave, you must be told exactly why; later you can read a summary of what was said. Section 100A (5), Schedule 12A, Section 100C
- 5 You can ask your local paper or a councillor to get more facts on an item on the agenda if it is not clear to you.
- 6 All these agendas and reports are open to you for six years. Section 100C (1)
- 7 Important internal documents in the files are open to you for four years. Section 100D (2)
- 8 From the main council offices, you can find out the names and addresses of councillors and what committees and sub-committees they are on. Section 100G (1) & (4)
- 9 If a council officer is given power by councillors to take decisions on behalf of the council, you have a right to know who the officer is, and exactly what his or her duties and powers are. Section 100G (2) & (4)
- 10 The main council offices will have a list of your rights and you can see it during office hours. Section 100G (3) & (4)
- 11 You may have to pay to see internal documents (but not the reports, agendas or minutes) - but the charge must be reasonable. Let the Community Rights Project know if it isn't. Section 100H
- 12 You can go to the main council offices and make a copy or photocopy of available information during office hours. Again, a reasonable fee may be charged. Section 100H
- 13 These rights also apply to other bodies like the fire or police authority, joint committees of two or more councils, Joint Boards etc. Section 100J
- 14 All the permitted reasons for keeping things secret are listed in the new law and if you are prevented from seeing something you must be told under which heading you are barred. The council is not allowed to invent new headings or simply use terms like 'confidential' or 'contrary to the public's interest' to deny you information. They can only use one of the specific reasons listed in the Act. Schedule 12A

... and one good reason why the council should comply with this Act:

If someone at the main council offices stops you getting information to which you have a right under the new law, you can report them to the police, or to the Ombudsman/woman via your councillor, or tell the press or Community Rights Project.

They can be fined if found guilty by magistrates. Section 100



B) MOLES

If you have no luck in these places then the only hope is a friendly mole; someone in or close to the organisation or person who knows and approves of what you are doing. If you aren't a chequebook or national journalist then it is virtually impossible to find a mole out of thin air. It will be someone you know or a friend of a friend.

* Whether or not you are looking for unpublished information you must, as soon as you start your investigation, try to get some first hand information. At first this might not be confidential. Later on it might be. After KDIS published the first

of its articles on the Freemasons in Bradford we were approached out of the blue by a number of people with useful information but we were also approached by people with some strange ideas. The important rule in using this kind of source is to double check the information you have been given and never treat it as the gospel truth until it has been checked.

THREE BASIC RULES

- * KNOW WHO YOU ARE
- * KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW
- * KEEP AN ACCURATE RECORD.

Much of this is commonsense but it still worth saying.

*Knowing who you are.

You will have to introduce yourself and explain why you want to know what you want to know. It is much easier if you do not lie unnecessarily. You don't have to tell them that you are a revolutionary hell bent on the destruction of western capitalism or that you are a militant trade unionist. Any investigative researcher is two things:

1) A freelance journalist

Even if you have never had anything published before you aim to publish your investigation, and everyone's got to start somewhere.

2) A student

You will be studying local history, economics, preparing a project.....

REMEMBER if you are being a journalist don't be too clever. The popular image of the hard bitten hack is a fantasy, journalists, even some "radical" ones, are on the whole a bit dim and very idle. People used to dealing with them know it.

REMEMBER if you are being a student don't seem too probing, after all you're only writing an essay.

*If you are going to have to tell fibs try fibbing about where you are a student or what type of student you are. For example be a post graduate - but don't get out of your depth. Try fibbing about who you are writing for. But nothing too grand and nothing too local since they might know the staff there.

*Knowing what you want to know, and getting it.

You must be quite clear about the information you want. You will be dealing with professional people who don't put up with meandering chit-chats with strangers. Lead into your subject carefully, ask some questions to which you already know the answers. Ask questions that a journalist or student might ask if that is what you are being. It almost certainly won't help if you confront your subject head on.

Sometimes you will have to appear more knowledgeable than you really are (hoping the information you want will slip out during the conversation). At other times it will be better to seem humble or supportive. Sometimes you can be aggressive, fluster your subject and they might reveal information by accident.

KEEP A RECORD

Whether you do the asking in person, on the phone or in writing for godsake keep a record. If you haven't got a cassette recorder and a tie clip mike (Tandy sell very good, cheap ones) then write an accurate record of the interview as soon as possible.

As often as you have the door shut in your face or the phone slammed down, you will find someone who can't stop talking. We once ran out of tape during an hour long telephone conversation with Lord Marshall (who isn't a mason).



INTO PRINT

However you intend to make the results of your investigation public you must write them up, either as an article or a report.

As you try to make it all readable and understandable the gaps in your research will become apparent and new possibilities will occur to you. The first draft will be followed by yet more visits to the library.

STYLE

There are countless - mostly unreadable - books to tell you how to write like a journalist. You might find them useful but if you just want some tips on how to write here are a few:

*Don't write like a student. (Essays which please examiners and academics bore human beings).

*Write short sentences. (Before you use a "," try using a ".").

*Avoid words that end in "ing".

*Don't be afraid of words like "don't", "isn't" or "wasn't".

*Be blunt.

*Don't waffle. Odd irrelevant facts do give writing colour. But you are being judged on what you have to say not how many words it takes you to say it.

*Write short paragraphs.

Don't let these hints stop you writing. Prepare your first draft the way you find easiest. Reread and rewrite it while asking yourself six questions:

1) Is it crystal clear what is being said in this sentence?

2) Is every word in this sentence needed?

3) Can any of the conjunctions - that's the "ands" and "buts" - be swapped for full stops?

4) Can any of the commas be swapped for full stops?

5) Can any of the words ending in "ing" be swapped for words that don't.

6) Is it boring?

Here is an example;

1st draft

"Don't ever waffle, although by all means add the odd irrelevant fact to give the writing colour but you aren't being marked on the number of words.

2nd draft

Don't waffle. Odd irrelevant facts do give writing colour. But you are being judged on what you have to say not how many words it takes you to say it.

REPORTS, ARTICLES, MAGAZINES

***The Mainstream Media**

The way to reach a wide and/or influential audience is to get an article published in a magazine or newspaper. You can either write the article yourself or persuade the paper to do the article about you and your subject



DOING IT YOURSELF

1) If you have no proven journalistic experience it is unlikely you will be able to persuade a magazine or paper to commission an article from you "unseen". It is perhaps worth contacting the editor in charge of the relevant bit of it - say Features - to find out if they are interested in the subject. If they are they will either ask you to send in an uncommissioned article to be considered for publication or decide to do the story themselves.

2) If you submit an unsolicited manuscript - and the Writers and Artist Yearbook will give you the names and addresses of all the mainstream media - make sure you type it with double spacing and give them a telephone number where you can be contacted.

Don't expect your article to be accepted. Don't build up your hopes and rely on this happening. There is an easier way of getting into the papers.

The Press Release and News Management.

The media, that is the radio, press and television, organises its news coverage from a newsroom. The newsroom is always understaffed and the journalists who work there are not often particularly sharp or enthusiastic. It is rare for a journalist to go out looking for a story. The stories come to them in the form of "press releases" from organisations and companies.

Professional, and good amateur, press and public relations officers are aware of the limitations and inadequacies of the newsroom and take advantage of it. The manipulation of news coverage is so well established it even has a name - News Management.

A press release is at its simplest a letter telling the news editor that something has or is going to happen. They are usually more sophisticated than this. Instead of a letter they take the form of an article, including a headline. The hard-pressed or lazy reporter just has to change a few words, cut a few out, make a couple of phone calls (if they're really unlucky) and give it to the editor. A surprising number of newspaper stories are little more than the press release sent to the paper.

A good press release has these things:

1) Headed note paper.

If you can't afford to get it printed you can always photocopy it.

2) Date of issue.

If you don't want the story to be used before a certain date you can put an "embargo" on it which will almost always be respected.

3) The words "PRESS RELEASE".

4) Headline.

Which like any headline tells the story as spectacularly as possible in as few words.

5) A newspaper story

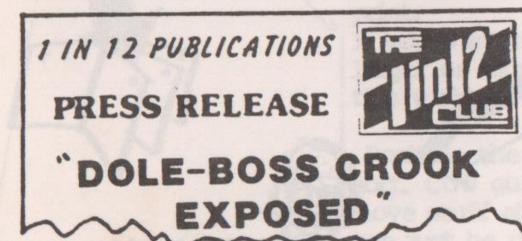
The press release isn't a letter to the editor or a information sheet. It's a piece of unsolicited reporting. So write about your subject - even if it is yourselves - as "They..." or "He..." or "She..." not "We...", "I..." or "Me...". It may seem odd but that is how it is done.

6) A contact name and telephone number (more important than an address).

7) Documents and Photographs.

Include in the press release any documents and photographs which support your press release. If you have published a report don't forget to include a copy.

NOTE when issuing a press release don't forget to send copies to the national dailies and weeklies that might be interested in the story, to all the local media and don't forget the Newsagencies. A newsagency doesn't sell newspapers. It files local stories to the national newspapers on a freelance basis. Most cities have one or two newsagencies, look them up in yellow pages.



PUBLISHING IT YOURSELF.

There is no great mystery to being a publisher. Even if you can't get anyone else to publish your story on your terms then do it yourself.

Probably the easiest way of doing this is to issue a report. It doesn't commit you to producing hundreds of copies and dealing with distribution. A few can be photocopied for press releases, copies to the influential, or for sale to anyone interested in it or through a small number of shops or other outlets.

This sort of publication can only reach a small audience unless it is taken up by the press.

The other possibility - especially if there are several of you involved in different projects - is to publish your own magazine.

Printing

There are three printing methods you could choose and the one you choose will depend on your resources.

Duplicating; The hand cranked Roneo or Gestetner duplicators are becoming unfashionable these days. The main disadvantage is their poor quality but for moderately large runs it is cheap method of printing.

Photocopying; Reproduces fairly fancy graphics well and even reproduces screened photographs (although not brilliantly well). For short runs it is the cheapest method and even for long runs has the advantage that you can run off copies as you get the money for them.

Offset litho; The method used for printing books and papers and magazines. It reproduces text and photographs very well and is cheap for longer runs (200+).

CAMERA READY ARTWORK

"Camera-Ready" artwork is artwork that is ready to be printed. All the printer has to do is take it, photograph it with a process camera, make the printing plates and print. If anything needs to be done to the artwork before printing it will cost money.

In the late seventies fanzines and punk bands developed a slapdash style of layout which owed more to the ransom note than the Avon catalogue. It had, and still has, an energy and life that more conservative layout could never achieve. Commercial magazines took it up - N.M.E., The Face etc. - but in a sanitized kind of way that had more to do with posing. It is easier and quicker to do and it doesn't need the resources or cost as much as "straight" layout. Unless you have a good reason for adopting the straight version seriously consider the advantages of a non-elitist style of layout.



SIZE

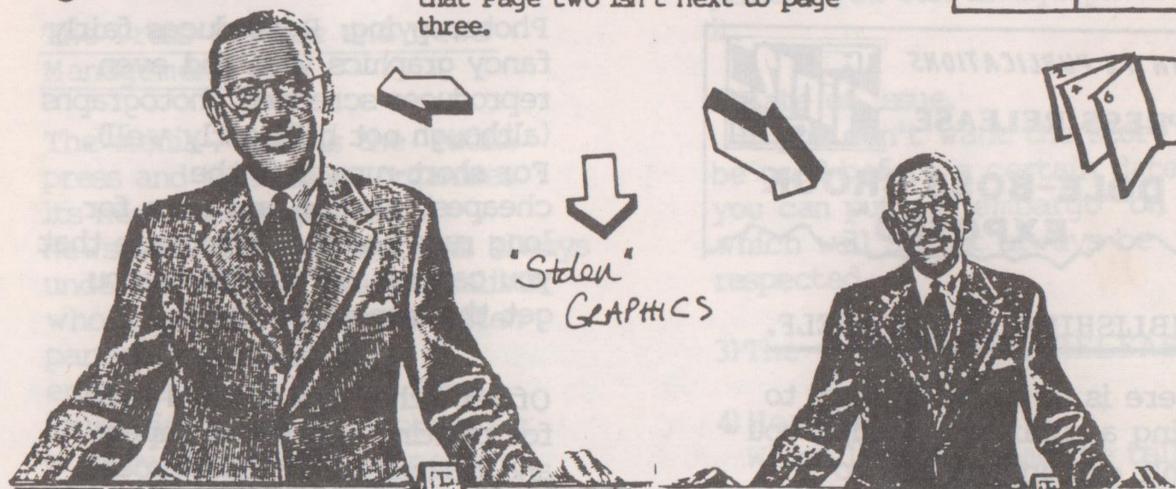
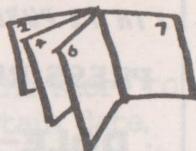
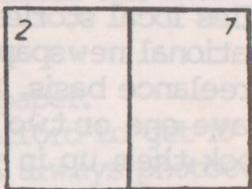
Continental paper measurements are A0, A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7.

As the number rises the size of paper decreases. The rule is that the next size down is exactly half the area. Take piece of A4 paper and tear it in half way down its longest side and you get two pieces of A5 paper.

REMEMBER that the width and length of A5 paper are not half those of A4. Bear this in mind when getting text or graphics reduced.

A booklet is folded so that on each printed page there are four pages of the booklet. An A4 booklet is printed on A3 paper, an A5 booklet is printed on A4 paper. Most small printing shops print A3 and A4 so that A4 and A5 booklets are the most practical.

The printer prints two pages at a time so that camera ready art work needs to be put together in the right order. In order to get the sequence of pages right make a model, number the pages and then break it up; you will see that Page two isn't next to page three.



& GRAPHICS

TEXT

Text should be as clear as possible. If you have access to a word processor or electronic typewriter you should be able to "justify" it. This text is not justified, the right hand side of blocks of text is ragged.

If you are rolling in money you can always get the text typeset. While typesetting looks very good it is very expensive and beyond most groups means for all but the shortest bit of text.

Line drawings and flat colour reproduce well when offset. Photographs have to be "screened" before being printed. The screen breaks the photograph into black and white dots (newspaper photographs are screened). The printer should be able to do this for you but it will be added onto the bill. It doesn't matter in this case whether the original photograph is bigger or smaller than you need.

For original photographs try and make sure that there is plenty of contrast in them and that they aren't too dark.

Photographs taken straight from newspapers or annual reports reproduce surprisingly well.



Screened Policeman



Shadow Lines



PASTE UP

Once you have the text (typed out clearly and to the right width) and all the images ready for the art work you can begin the paste up. I find it helps if you do a fairly rough "mock up" (using photocopies) first and use this as a guide for the finished job.

Cut a piece of thin card to the size of the page and mark it up using a light blue pencil which won't show up in the finished print.

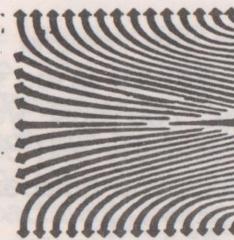
If you want to, or have to, you can prepare art work that is larger or smaller than the finished work. It is best to check this with the printer first.

Position the text and graphics on the card using glue of some sort. Cow gum is best since it doesn't buckle the paper, lets you move stuff about before it dries, and when it does dry the excess can just be rubbed off the page. Pritt stick isn't as good but does the job.

Make sure the edges are pasted down well since shadows can show on the finished work.

When everything is pasted down in the right place clean up the art work; remove excess gum and using tippex or process white paint get rid of any black marks.

When this is done cover the art work with a piece of paper to prevent it from getting mucky.



THE LAW

Those that make, and influence the making of, laws are not supposed to be above them. That, in practice, they are is not a problem caused by the way the law is drafted but with the way it is policed and applied. No laws state that "this law does not apply to company directors, vice presidents of the conservative party or anyone with a disposable income of £20,000". If you are lucky enough to unearth examples of law breaking by companies or directors you will probably have to be satisfied to have hoist your victim(s) on their own petard.

The chances of a prosecution are slim and the chances of a successful prosecution even slimmer.

It will of course strengthen your case, but be very careful because it will also increase the chances of legal action being taken against you.

CIVIL LAW

Civil (as opposed to criminal) law is concerned with disputes between individuals and groups of individuals. In civil law the state likes to be seen as a sort of umpire rather than one of the protagonists. The main concern of civil law is therefore that of disputed contracts; the payment (or non-payment) for property or for work contracted to be done and done well, done badly, done late or not done at all. It is a complicated, and for lawyers lucrative, branch of English law. You need a stronger stomach than mine

and a great deal of determination to master its intricacies. If you do find during an investigation that some knowledge of contract law would help it will be explained in one of A level law text books.



CRIMINAL LAW

A) A Company's Status

In law a company is an individual.

It can be charged with and found guilty of any criminal act. And this even includes acts - like murder - which require an intention by the guilty party.

In such cases the intention(s) of the director(s) are taken to be those of the company. Now there are some pretty awkward philosophical problems for the law when it comes to this sort of case. Could Union Carbide be given a life sentence for murder in Bhopal? These problems mean that there is little point in charging a company with an offence for which the penalty is inappropriate or the difficulty of proving an intention is outweighed by the minor nature of the offence.

B) Laws Specific to Business and Directors.

There are a number of laws which are concerned with the way in which business is conducted.

Examples would be the **COMPANIES ACT (1968)** and the **FINANCIAL SERVICES (INSIDER DEALING) ACT (1986)**.

The first lays down the way in which a company is to be run, the financial affairs are to be accounted for and the information required to be made public.

The second governs the way in which privileged information about the exchange of shares can to be used.

Other examples of business specific laws would be some of those governing taxation.

Most companies walk a tightrope on the one side of which lies tax avoidance (legal and canny accountancy) and on the other side of which lies tax evasion (theft from the state).

c) Fraud and Theft

The two main requirements in law for theft or fraud to have happened are:-

- 1) That property OR financial interest has been obtained
- 2) That this has been obtained by dishonesty and/or deception

The more complicated cases under the **Theft Act (1968)** involve those where the dishonesty or deception involves withholding or not offering information.

Two - as yet untried - examples of this would be:

a) The Guinness attempt to deceptively bolster its share price in order to make its offer for Distillers look more attractive.

b) Two Leeds MPs and several councillors failure to disclose their personal or masonic interest in the controversial A660 road scheme. (See "The Shire Oak Affair").

D) Bankruptcy & Liquidation

The **1914 Bankruptcy Act** makes illegal certain actions by bankrupt (and soon to be bankrupt) individuals. They mostly relate to the disposal of assets prior to a bankruptcy in such a way as to prevent the repayment of debts. Other provisions of the law relate to the behaviour of an undischarged bankrupt.

A company doesn't become bankrupt but goes into liquidation. The laws that relate to a broke company are similar to those relating to a bankrupt individual.

There is a strict hierarchy of creditors at the top of which is the state and at the bottom of which are the shareholders (as shareholders of News on Sunday discovered). Attempts to get round this are almost always offences either for the bankrupt or the company in receivership.

Without going into detail it is worth pointing out some anomalies.

Limited Liability was invented to prevent the shareholders in a firm being automatically made bankrupt if the firm goes bust.

It is therefore possible for:

*A firm to go bust owing a vast amount of money to customers without bankrupting any of its directors.

*A firm to go bust owing a vast amount of money to suppliers without bankrupting its shareholders.

There are plenty of crooks and con-people prepared to use these anomalies. It's the sort of rip-off which makes a living for many television and radio presenters.

*It is possible for a majority shareholder in a solvent company to become bankrupt. Bankruptcy means having insufficient funds to meet commitments.

It is an offence to continue trading and running up debts while insolvent.

E) Corruption

At its most gross corruption is the taking and giving of backhanders, that is pre-judging a commercial or social or political decision by giving money or gifts to those involved in the decision making process.

There are subtle forms of backhanders and the debate can end up being about where

generosity and hospitality ends and bribery begins.

The law which governs the corrupt behaviour of employees (public or otherwise) is the PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ACT (1906 and amendments). The main provisions of this act are that

1) If any agent obtains, or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain, for himself or for any other person, any gift or consideration, or
2) if any person corruptly gives or agrees to give or offers any gift or consideration to any agent, - as an inducement or reward for doing or forbearing to do, or for having done or foreborne to do, any act in relation to his principal's affairs, or for showing or forbearing to show favour or disfavour to any person in relation to his principal's affairs...."

Elected members of public bodies are not strictly employees and their corrupt behaviour is regulated by the PUBLIC BODIES CORRUPT PRACTICE ACT (1889). The provisions of this act are almost identical to those of the Prevention Of Corruption Act.

Neither act is much used.

THURSDAY 2 JULY 1987
Collier gets suspended sentence and £25,000 fine

MPs protest at insider dealer case 'mockery'

F) Declaring an Interest

When an issue is being debated by elected representatives it is commonly expected that if they have a financial stake in the decision, for example they are shareholders in land about to compulsorily purchased, they should "declare their interest" and abstain from voting.

The law is very hazy about this. Councils and parliament now keep lists of members' "interests" but these are either voluntary or, if compulsory, rarely enforced. There is little in law that can be done if some elected spiv or wide-person chooses not to declare their interest, and/or take part, in the voting.

In such instances popular opinion and pressure can sometimes be mobilised to good effect. This happened during the Poulson Affair but failed to happen in the Thatcher/Cementation affair.

In this the greatest obstacle is the deeply rooted, anarchistic folk belief that elected officials are on the make anyway. It is difficult to be outraged by something you expect to happen no matter how outrageous it is.

He read the stock market like the bottom of his glass, but with the crackdown on insider dealing he chose the worst time to cheat.

THE DIARY OF AN INSIDER DEALER

Nov 2: Collier learns of Helle's bid for A&E	investigation
Nov 3: Collier buys A&E shares through Los Angeles. Helle's take-over announced	Dec 2: Summons served on Collier alleging insider dealing
Nov 10: Collier resigns	Jan 7: Preliminary report sent to DTI
Nov 13: DTI investigates Collier's adviser. Stock Exchange hands over papers	Feb 23: Collier appears before Wimbleson magistrates
Nov 16: Financial Services Act rushed into effect in reaction to Collier case	March 1: Collier Schweppe calls for probe into his share dealings
Nov 18: Inspectors appointed to DTI in-	July 1: Collier appears at Old Bailey

G) Policing and Applying the Law

There are two official bodies responsible for deciding who is investigated, and for carrying out the investigation.

Obviously one of these is the police and in the case of company affairs most probably the Fraud Squad.

The other body which polices and enforces the Companies Acts and other business specific laws is the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

While the police answer to the Director of Public Prosecutions and ultimately the Home Secretary the DTI investigators answer to the minister for Trade and Industry. So imagine the minister's embarrassment when his own family firm is being investigated.

This happened to Paul Guinness Channon.

There is little formal mechanism by which DTI and Fraud Squad can work together. Indeed there is a great deal of competition and overlap and it is unusual for charges to be brought by both the DTI and the Police.

In the case of complicated and large scale fraud both DTI and police rely on the goodwill of city institutions and city slickers.

It is quite unlikely that, for example, insider dealing would be identified from outside the city. It is particularly difficult to investigate a crime when you don't know that it has been committed.

SHIRE OAK

THE SHIRE OAK AFFAIR.

I have chosen the "Shire Oak Affair" as an example of our methods for two reasons. Firstly it was a very successful piece of research which uncovered a great deal of information. The second reason is less glorious. For although the Shire Oak Affair is one of the best documented accounts of masonic corruption to come to light so far it has caused little reaction.

As an example it serves two purposes; it demonstrates successful research and warns you that successful research doesn't always produce the results the researchers think it deserves.

IDENTIFYING THE TARGET

Freemasons are a natural target for radical research and have been in our sights since before Stephen Knight's book "The Brotherhood" was published.

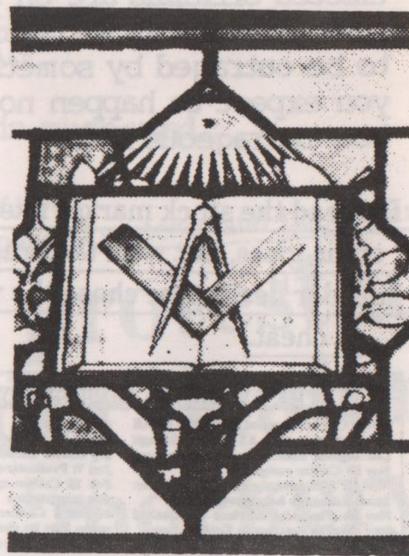
What makes them a target is their class base, their secrecy, their elitism and their prejudice. They are a sort of mutual benefit society for the comfortable middle and upper classes. They don't differ in this from any number of other organisations - golf clubs, rotary clubs, gentleman's clubs and the like. The masons do differ from these in the way that pro-masonic prejudice and partiality are formalised and solemnly sworn. The mason swears on his holy book - as he might in court - to behave in a way that breaches many codes of practice and regulations of employers, breaks the law and indeed undermines the whole of the supposed foundation of English law.

Discover a mason and he is condemned by his own words and the practice of the "craft":

6. - BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS A STRANGE BROTHER.

You are cautiously to examine him in such a method as prudence shall direct you, that you may not be imposed upon by an ignorant, false pretender, whom you are to reject with contempt and derision, and beware of giving him any hints of knowledge.

But if you discover him to be a true and genuine brother, you are to respect him accordingly; and if he is in want you must relieve him if you can, or else direct him how he may be relieved. You must employ him some days, or else recommend him to be employed. But you are not charged to do beyond your ability; only to prefer a poor brother that is a good man and true before any other poor people in the same circumstances."



The cautiously guarded secrecy of the Brotherhood has limitations. It is reluctantly discarded when for political or economic reasons it suits their purpose.

In many towns and cities "masonic temples" or "masonic halls" are run by limited companies.

In the Articles of Association of the few masonic hall companies that we have seen it is always a strict condition that shareholders and directors are freemasons.

The list of directors and shareholders of this type of company is an absolutely reliable source of information.

We came across two references to the Shire Oak Property Co. in masonic documents.

One was in an unpublished, internal, lodge agenda but the other was in the company records of the "Leeds Masonic Hall Co Ltd." In this it stated that the masonic hall had been given a £2,000 loan from Shire Oak "repayable at the directors' discretion at a rate 1/4% above the building societies' commercial rate".

The favourable terms of the loan convinced us that we had stumbled across an unusual - or at least un-obvious - masonic firm.

INITIAL INQUIRIES

- 1) The index to company records indicated that the company's registered office was in Leeds and that the company had gone into liquidation.
- 2) The company wasn't listed in the telephone directory.
- 3) The company wasn't listed in the Directory of Directors, or covered by Extel or McCarthy's.

The thinness of information suggested a rather shady company.

THE SHIRE OAK PROPERTY CO. LTD.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 30th April, 1971

DIRECTORS	Directors' Sharehold	
	10/- Ordinary Shares at 30.4.70	at 30
W. G. Harrison (Chairman)	200	(10
L. C. Halkiwall (Secretary)		(*800
H. B. Haddon		10
D. G. Lydster		(200
C. B. Hobson		(*230
		100

*Held as Trustee with no Beneficial Interest

I'll keep an eye on these road plans - MP

By Tony Mitchell,
EP Parliamentary
Correspondent

The whole question of roads in North and North-West Leeds requires radical review, especially in the light of other road proposals, said Sir Donald Kaberry, M.P. for Leeds N.W., today.

In a tough letter to constituents who had written to him objecting to Leeds Corporation's plans to build wider roads along Headingley Lane and Otley Road either by by-pass or by widening, he said:

"I shall yield to no one in seeking to protect the amenities of Headingley Lane and Otley Road and, indeed, all the districts in North-West Leeds."

Minister at the Department, which stated:

"The Woodhouse-Otley radial road, of which the by-pass is part, has been shown on the Leeds Development Plan for many years."

"The Minister has recently approved the review of the Leeds plan, in which the by-pass is shown as before."

"This approval followed a local inquiry into objections to the plan; though, in fact, there were no outstanding objections to the proposed line of the road."

"The by-pass is now in the list of schemes on which detailed design work is proceeding."

"There will almost certainly have to be an inquiry into the necessary compulsory purchase..."

North-West Leeds."

1) The index to company records indicated that the company's registered office was in Leeds and that the company had gone into liquidation.

2) The company wasn't listed in the telephone directory.

3) The company wasn't listed in the Directory of Directors, or covered by Extel or McCarthy's.

The thinness of information suggested a rather shady company.

COMPANY RECORDS

The first set of records we obtained, through the library, from Companies' House was incomplete. It was however enough to confirm our hunch. Most of the directors of Shire Oak were also directors of the Masonic Hall.

While we waited for the complete records we tried to identify the plot of land owned by the company and what had become of it.

It took some time to do this but when the complete records arrived things became clearer. The land had been sold and the company was being wound up voluntarily. The shareholders had received a reasonable although not spectacular return on their investment.

Part of the land had been compulsorily purchased in 1971. A little knowledge of local history provided the explanation of this purchase. To fill in the background to the A660 road scheme we looked up the library catalogue which contained an extensive list of documents about the controversial plans.

The planning department of the council was able to show us detailed maps of the land and access roads. But because Shire Oak had withdrawn its request for planning permission we couldn't be told what they had planned to build.

The next question to be asked was who had been responsible for the compulsory purchase. That is who had been on the council in 1971.

The library provided us with a list of councillors and aldermen for that year.

As soon as we had checked off the list of councillors against the list of shareholders we knew we had our story and arranged publication with Leeds Other Paper.

SEE CARD INDEX

Council of the	
Lord Mayor:	
Alderman A. R. Bretherick	
Aldermen:	
Name	Residence
✓ Mrs. A. G. J.P., F.C.A. ...	"Oak Ridge", 12, Belvedere Avenue, Leeds, LS17 8BW
✓ Mrs. Norman Bellow, J.P., LL.B., F.C.I.	3, Sandinor Avenue, Leeds, LS17 7DW
✓ Mr. Edward Bidgood	2, Strickland Avenue, Leeds, LS17 8TU
✓ Mr. Webster Bradley, LL.B.	1, Chalfont Court, Spen Road, Leeds, LS16 5JE
✓ Mr. Robert Bretherick (Mayor)	Repton Lodge, Otley Road, Bramhope, Leeds, LS16 9JU
✓ Mr. Brooksbank	15, Grove Road, Halton, Leeds, LS15 0LQ
✓ Mr. Brown	20, St. Hilda's Mount, Leeds, LS9 6BY
✓ Mrs. Mary Cardno	11, Shire Oak Road, Leeds, LS8 2LD
✓ Mr. Stanley Cohen	7, Marshall Terrace, Leeds, LS15 8EA
✓ Mr. K. Crotty, LL.B.	5, Grovehall Parade, Leeds, LS11 7AE
✓ Mr. Travis Davison	Green Mead, Foxhill Crescent, Leeds, LS16 5PD
✓ Mr. Derek Fielding	2, Hollin Gardens, Leeds, LS16 8NL
✓ Mr. William Hall	"Squires Cottage", 9, Otley Road, Bramhope, Leeds, LS16 9AN
✓ Mrs. Ellen Henson	889, Scott Hall Road, Leeds, LS17 0HU
✓ Mr. Stanley Jowitt	8, The Nook, Alwoodley, Leeds, LS17 7JU

4

Still there were ends that needed tying up. The land had been sold at considerably below its market value. Why? We could find no record of councillors and M.P.'s declaring an interest. Had they?

ASKING

We wrote to the chief officer of the council, we rang up some of the shareholders of the company and we rang the liquidator who was very helpful. It was this conversation which really helped fill in the gaps in the story. It was published in December 1986.

Extract from a telephone conversation with Leslie Moxon, liquidator of The Shire Oak Property Company:

KDIS: I've been looking at the company records [of Shire Oak] and there's one or two points that I hope you might be able to clarify for us.

LM: I'll try to, I don't know if I can.

KDIS: If you can remember. The first point concerns the Estate Agents, Howard Burton and Associates. I've been trying to get in touch with Mr Burton but he's always unavailable. I've got down as the fees for the sale of the land £4,600 which represents 11%. Now I'm just wondering why they appear so high.

LM: Well it took a heck of a lot of time and a heck of a lot of work to get actually finally sold in actual fact.

KDIS: Yes?

LM: I think it was a period of five years in which they were negotiating with various people and eventually it came...it was a housing trust which took it over, because the land was land locked as you know.[We didn't!]

To: Mr. Rawnsley
Chief Executive
Leeds City Council
City Hall

Dear sir,

We are making enquiries concerning the purchase of land by Leeds Council in 1970. The land was 2.63 acres at 64 Headingley Lane. The cost of the land was £23,500 and was bought from the Shire Oak Property Co. Ltd.

We would like all the relevant information concerning the purchase of this land, including:-

- 1) why was the land bought
- 2) was it bought under a compulsory purchase order
- 3) who valued the land
- 4) Did the Council initially approach the owners, or vice versa.
- 5) Which Committees etc did this matter pass through, and was it discussed at a full council meeting
- 6) Which Council members and officers were involved in this matter at each stage, and did any declare an interest? If so, whom.

We would greatly appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely

LEEDS

J RAWNSLEY Solicitor
Chief Officer and Director of Administration

Leeds City Council
Selectapost 2
Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 1UR

Direct Line (0532) 462372
Switchboard (0532) 463000
Telex 556237
Mr O'Connell
Your ref:

Our ref: A4/AOC/HR

Date: 19 November 1986

Dear Sir

RE: LAND AT HEADINGLEY LANE

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 14th November 1986 enquiring about the above plot of land.

I would confirm that the Council did acquire the land from the Shire Oak Property Company Limited on 15th January 1971. However the property was subsequently vested in the West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council under Local Government reorganisation and consequently the deeds relating to this matter were passed to the County Council on 12th March 1979. I have therefore now forwarded your letter on to the Residuary Body at County Hall Wakefield as I presume the land will now be vested in the Body after the abolition of the County Council in March of this year.

Yours faithfully

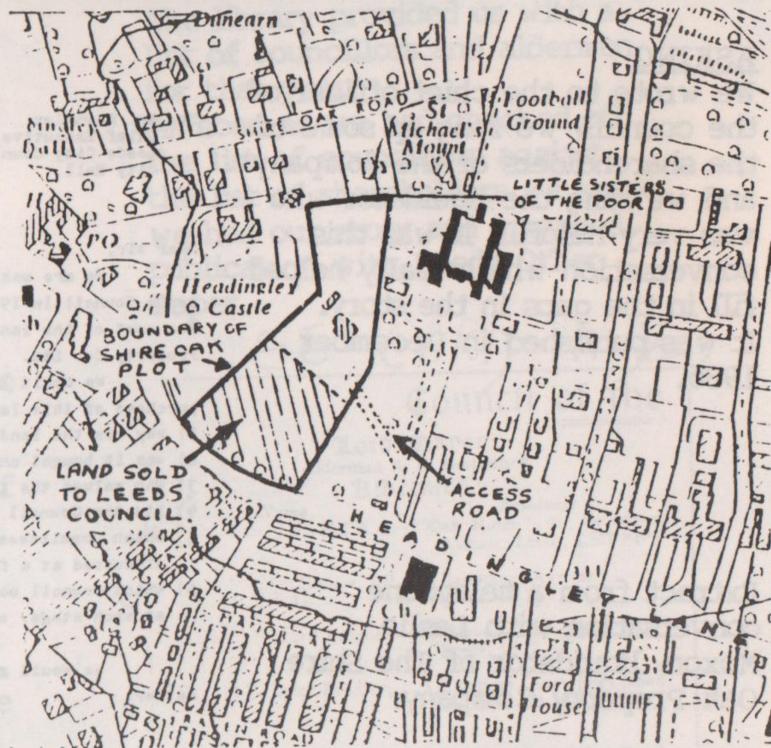
Chief Officer and Director of Administration

Leeds masons and councillors in land deal

TWENTY years ago 12 local masonic lodges became involved in the setting up of a property company that bought a parcel of land next to a proposed by-pass for Headingley.

Many of the individual freemasons who bought shares in this company figured prominently in public life on Leeds Council, which at the time backed and was responsible for the road scheme. Many were also prominent businessmen.

The "1 in 12" Publications Collective, which earlier this year published an influential book on Freemasons in Bradford, has now untangled the web of ...



The Shire Oak affair

IN 1963 the Yorkshire Evening Post reported that Leeds City Council had "passed a resolution of the Town Planning and Improvements Committee recommending the making of the City of Leeds (Headingley Bypass) compulsory purchase order."

It was the first stage in a grandiose plan to drive a multi-lane highway through Headingley and into the city centre. That dull resolution — which set in motion the council's compulsory purchase of land and property lying in the bypass path — also holds the key to a network of Freemasonic activity in the city involving senior councillors, prominent businessmen, lawyers and members of Parliament.

In 1966 the "Shire Oak Property Company Ltd" was formed and purchased 5 acres of land at 64 Headingley Lane for £30,806. Half of this land was already earmarked for purchase by the

council for the road scheme.

Once the bypass had been built, the remaining 2½ acres would be prime building land yielding an impressive profit for Shire Oak and an equally impressive dividend for its shareholders.

But Shire Oak was no ordinary property company. The major part of its 60,000 shares were held in trust by each of the 12 masonic lodges meeting in the masonic hall at Gt George Street — headquarters of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Yorkshire (W. Riding).

Each lodge in turn encouraged over 400 individual masons to purchase shares in the company — including the present Provincial Grand Master. Annual General Meetings were held in the masonic hall and, as could be expected, all four of its initial directors were also directors of the Leeds Masonic Hall Co. Ltd.

These included John Bromley, the solicitor from Bromley and Walkers, who remained a director when the company was

finally wound up in 1982. Early in our inquiries we tried to interview him on the phone, but although he was clearly disturbed by our questions he would not discuss the company.

It wasn't until January 1971 that the council compulsorily purchased the 2½ acres of land required for the road improvement. In the intervening five years the 'property boom' had started in a big way and the council had to pay £23,500 for the land.

Now, without the bypass, Shire Oak's valuable plot of land would remain "land-locked", that is it would have no direct road access. They were however confident of their ability to guarantee that the road would be built, since the 1970 council included amongst its members:

1. **John Astle JP** — councillor, alderman, sat on the Transport Committee and Traffic sub-committee. Excelsior Lodge's trustee for the Leeds Masonic Hall Co. with 200 personal shares in Shire Oak.

2. **Irwin Bellow JP** — councillor and alderman with 100 personal shares in Shire Oak. He later became leader of Leeds City Council. After the last General Election he was turned into Lord Bellwin by Margaret Thatcher and became Minister for Local Government.

3. **Donald Bradley** — Councillor and alderman sitting on the powerful Finance and Planning committee. Morning Star Lodge's trustee for Leeds Masonic Hall Co. holding 1,770 shares in Shire Oak in trust, as well as 200 personal shares.

4. **Allan Bretherick** — councillor, alderman and Lord Mayor and personal shareholder in Shire Oak.

5. **Harold Jowitt** — councillor and alderman sitting on the Finance and Planning sub-committee with 200 shares in Shire Oak.

6. **Donald Wolstenholme JP** — councillor and alderman with 100 shares in Shire Oak.

7 & 8. **Peter White and Mrs Jessie White** — husband and wife

who were both councillors. Peter White, political agent for Sir Keith Joseph M.P. (Leeds North East), held 60 shares. Jessie White now has a C.B.E. and still sits on the council.

9. **Mrs Margaret Suttentall** — a councillor whose husband John held 100 shares.

10. **Alfred Vickers** — councillor with 80 shares in Shire Oak.

In addition to these councillors with a direct interest in the company the council also contained prominent freemasons whose lodges stood to benefit from Shire Oak's success.

11. **Sydney Symmonds** — councillor, alderman and director of Leeds Masonic Hall Co.

12. **George Somers** — councillor, alderman and director of Leeds Masonic Hall Co.

Other shareholders included: 13. **Bernard Lyons JP** — councillor until 1965, ousted in a power struggle with council leader Lord Frank Marshall. Deputy Lieutenant of West Riding from 1971.

14. **Joseph Hiley MP** — MP for Pudsey 1959-74. Deputy Lieutenant of West Riding from 1971. Made honorary alderman for Leeds 1970.

Hiley's fellow Tory MP, Sir Donald Kaberry (Leeds North West), former vice chairman of the Conservative Party and now Lord Kaberry of Adel, didn't hold personal shares in Shire Oak, but his lodge held them in trust. He was a very important local freemason and a director of Leeds Masonic Hall Co.

His constituency included Headingley and when angry residents approached him in 1972 complaining about the proposed bypass, his reassuring response was reported in the YEP (3.8.72) under the headline "I'll keep an eye on these road plans" — M.P.

INTEREST

Two months later the YEP announced that work on the bypass would start in 1975.

Despite detailed and protracted inquiries we were unable to find any instance of these figures declaring their interest in the Shire Oak Property Company Ltd.

In 1973 the scheme's opponents, frustrated by the council's determination to back the road scheme, decided to stand eight candidates in the municipal elections and took a sizeable share of the vote in Tory stronghold Westwood. The Shire Oak backers must have had considerable faith in their political clout in favour of the road, because the opposition was very strong.

Indeed, even then, the Headingley bypass was an on-off saga stretching back almost 20 years. It has, of course, been resurrected and ditched on occasions since.

Following Government re-organisation, responsibility for the scheme passed to the new

Another shareholder in both Shire Oak and the Leeds Masonic Hall Co. was prominent Tory businessman and freemason Sir Jack Lyons — a man who is presently at the centre of the Guinness corruption scandal.

Guinness directors arranged to illegally buy some of their own shares to bump up the price for the takeover of whiskey manufacturers Distillers. One of these was Sir Jacks "off the shelf" company J. Lyons-Chamberlayne, which was paid £300,000 in fees. Sir Jack Lyons admits to receiving "in excess of £2 million" personally.

Lyons was also UK advisor to Bain & Co. who acted as "consultants" for Guinness. When the scandal blew, Bains sacked Lyons — just a fortnight after he'd entertained Maggie Thatcher at a private dinner.



Sir Jack Lyons: key figure in the Guinness scandal.

County Council but, fortunately for Shire Oak, the County Council was as enthusiastic as Leeds Council about the road — after all, Leeds had established its reputation as "Motorway City".

In 1976 a buoyant Shire Oak applied for planning permission to build on their land.

At the very moment that it seemed the Freemasons were going to make a killing — disaster struck! The Labour government, facing a growing financial crisis, announced massive cut-backs in its road improvement plans.

The County Council was forced to axe £30 million from its budget and the bypass was put on ice. Shire Oak withdrew their planning application — with the result that we were unable to discover their proposals.

Things went from bad to worse. A 1977 report recommended that the bypass scheme should be held over until "at least" 1982. Shire Oak had already gone into voluntary liquidation.

It was a difficult and slow death for Shire Oak. What should have been 2½ acres of some of the most prime building land in the city took over four years to sell.

Without the bypass the land remained land-locked, and although estate agents Howard Burton & Associates managed to interest several potential clients, they would not make a firm offer until this problem was resolved.

Attempts to buy property on Shire Oak Road to build an access road failed, and the only alternative access was through land held by the "Little Sisters of the Poor". For some reason the sisters stubbornly refused the brethren's requests.

Finally a client was found by the estate agents for whom the "Little Sisters" would allow a road to be constructed across their land. The WPHT Housing Association built an award win-

The Masonic Accountants

The first registered office of the Shire Oak Property Company Ltd. was the offices of chartered accountants WL Gallant, McLaren & Co. at 24 Lower Basinghall St.

In 1973, Gallants merged with the firm of Pannell Fitzpatrick & Co. and Shire Oak moved to their offices at Atlas Chambers, King St.

In 1980 Pannells changed their name to Pannell Kerr Foster whose offices are now at Pannell House, 13/19 St. Pauls St.

Pannells are an old and prestigious Leeds firm. Their connection with the Leeds Masonic Hall Co. dates back to the last century. They serve as a training centre under contract to the Institute of Chartered Accountants, and senior partner DJ Lewis is honorary secretary to the W. Yorks Society of Chartered Accountants.

Another senior partner, Ronald Harrison, was a personal shareholder in Shire Oak.

Pannells provided Shire Oaks liquidator Leslie Moxon. Although the liquidators fee was a modest £345, Pannells fee for "secretarial" services was almost £4000.

The estate agent employed to handle the land sale was Howard Burton & Associates. Although estate agents fees are normally between 1% and 2% (according to several leading local valuers), because of the difficulties encountered, Burtons' fees were pushed up to a staggering 11% (£4,600).

Solicitors for Shire Oak were Bromley & Walker.

ning "Carers" sheltered housing project.

But, although the land would have been worth in excess of £120,000 (according to information supplied by the Halifax Building Society Research Department) in 1982, when it was finally sold, WPHT picked it up for a mere £42,000.

Liquidation completed, shareholders received 83p for each 50p share — a profit of 66% but little when the rampant inflation of that period is taken into account. Had everything gone according to plan they should have made a profit of around 300%.

The period covered by the Shire Oak affair saw a number of scandals involving masonic activity, such as the notorious Poulson affair and the London Porn Squad trials.

So shrouded within the secret world of the Freemasons were the activities of this company, that we would never have discovered them had it not been for a single reference to an unsecured

loan of £2000 made by them to the Leeds Masonic Hall Co. in 1976.

The influence of the Freemasons throughout the fields of civic and public service came as a shocking revelation. Even though the movement is presently in decline, only a full and open public inquiry can now reveal the extent to which this secret society has corrupted those in public office.

NOTE: Company Records; The Shire Oak Property Company Ltd. Ref: 870792, The Leeds Masonic Hall Company Ltd. Ref:



FURTHER READING

This booklet wasn't intended as an academic exercise and if you want to know more then you should really get some first hand experience of research.

As you research a subject, an individual or a company you will discover both how easy it is to do the research and also the limitations of "Doing Business".

The sections on business and the law were extremely simplified. This was to make them practical and certainly as you begin a project they should contain all you will need to know. Later on you will possibly need to know more and for this I would recommend you start looking at A level text books. Law and economics are A level subjects and although the books hardly make bedtime reading they are usually good, and not too difficult, reference books.

If you are unsure about the choice of your first victim the obvious possibilities are a local company involved in a dispute, your employer or the local filthy rich. You could do worse than take a look at the freemasons.

If you have any problems in the investigation or worries about publication I in 12 Publications will be happy to help if they can. They would also like to see the results of your investigations, published or unpublished.

Until information is used it only has a sort of curiosity value

*If you intend to put "Doing Business" to some use then there are a few books you should try to get hold of:

A much more comprehensive guide to radical investigation is "The Investigative Researcher's Handbook", Compiled and edited by Stuart Christie, published by BCM REFRACT, LONDON, WC1N 3XX. ISBN 0 946222 05 3

As an indication of what can be done there is

"Who Owns Leeds", a guide to the Leeds Ruling class compiled by I-Spy Productions. Now out of print.

"Written in Flames - Naming the British Ruling Class", I-Spy productions, published by Hooligan Press, Box BM Hurricane, London WC1. ISBN 1 869802 07 1

Both of these were compiled using published sources. The secret of investigative research lies in the way information is interpreted not really in the secrecy of the information. Most of the information used in the notorious "ABC" secrecy trial in the seventies was obtained from telephone directories.



THE NEW RICH

Name	Company	Activity	Personal holdings (£m)
Alan Sugar	Amstrad	Electronics	457.50
Richard Branson	Virgin	Leisure	149.24
John McCarthy	Mccarthy Stone	Construction	84.88
Beckwith Brothers	London & Edin	Property	63.60
John Norgate	Trencherwood	Property	60.50
Michael Green	Carlton	Communications	60.28
Sophie Mirman & Richard Rose	Sock Shop	Retailing	45.56
John Foulston	Atlantic	Computers	44.44
George Walker	Brent Walker	Leisure	40.85
John Apthorp	Bejam	Retailing	28.35
Richard Lines	Marlborough	Chemicals	23.19
David Parker	Debor	Retailing	22.27
Stevan Marks	French Connec.	Retailing	22.22
Malcolm Walker	Iceland Frozen	Retailing	20.0
Seatchi Brothers	Seatchi	Advertising	18.58
Harold Woolf	Underwoods	Retail Chem	18.22
Brian Kingham	Reliance Sec.	Security Serv.	17.72
Alan Prince	Share Drug	Retailing	16.20
Sidney Corob	Mayfair & City	Property	15.79
Cecil Duckworth	Worcester	Central Heat	15.62
Hon. Michael Samuel	Maybom	H/hold Chem	15.19
Howard Hodgson	Hodgson	Funerals	15.00
John Summerill	Yellowhammer	Advertising	14.65
Tony Berry	Blue Arrow	Employment Serv.	14.43
Bourne Brothers	Local London	Property	14.02
Gordon Roddick	Body Shop	Retailing	13.85
Dr. Richard Harding	Micro Systems	Electronics	13.82
Anita Roddick	Body Shop	Retailing	13.75
Samuel Rosen	Burford	Property	13.04
Alan Green	Jacques Vert	Retailing	12.92
Peter Gummer	Shandwick	P.R.	12.69
Richard Murray	Avesco	TV.Video	12.45

Research by Damian Reece.

TOP SHARE OPTION PROFITS TO 1987

Name	Company	Potential Profit (£)
John Beckett	Woolworth	7,323,328
Glen Renfrew	Reuters	6,184,858
Alec Monk	Dee Corporation	6,027,336
Victor Monk	Charterhouse	5,777,400
Sir Ralph Helpem	Burton	5,561,041
William Wylie	BSR International	3,300,000
Paul Plant	Burton	2,679,711
Laurence Cooklin	Burton	2,515,778
Michael Wood	Burton	2,390,690
Lord Hanson	Hanson Trust	2,239,636
Geoffrey Mulcahy	Woolworth	2,183,142
Colin Brown	Woolworth	2,080,239
Richard Harker	Woolworth	2,080,239
Stanley Kalms	Dixons	2,063,209

Some or all of the potential profits have already been realised.

TOP BRITISH DIVIDEND EARNERS 1985/86

Name	Company	Amount (£)
David Sainsbury	Sainsbury	13,374,708
"Tiny" Rowland	Lorndo	8,100,000
Sir Terence Conran	Storehouse	4,481,853
Sir John Sainsbury	Sainsbury	4,033,207
Sir Phil Harris	Harris Queensway	2,605,093
Rocco Forte	Trusthouse Forte	2,293,560
Simon Sainsbury	Sainsbury	2,023,214
Olga Polizzi	Trusthouse Forte	1,868,437
Timothy Sainsbury	Sainsbury	1,858,929
John Aspinall	Aspinall Holdings	1,289,269

Directors' estimated dividend income, pre-tax based on total dividend for period of accounts. UK dividends taxed at 27%. Table assumes directors retained the shares stated in the accounts.

TOP BRITISH SALARIES 1985/86

Name	Company	Remuneration (£)	Rise (%)
William Brown	Waltham Bros	1,288,583	46
Sir Ralph Helpem	Burton	1,004,000	85
Paul Plant	Burton	710,000	77
Laurence Cooklin	Burton	705,000	78
Robert Bauman	Beecham	690,000	
A director	Robert Fleming	509,000	
Stanley Kalms	Dixons	487,654	134
David Scholey	Mercury Secs	478,000	
Gerald Ronson	Heron	449,000	1
Richard Ringwald	Laporte	409,308	91

Source: The Rich Get Richer: The growth of inequality in Britain in the 1980s, by John Rentout. Umwin Paperback price £4.95.

Brussels bomb hurts two

From Richard Owen
Brussels

An explosion ripped through a Masonic Lodge in central Brussels in the early hours of yesterday morning, injuring two people and causing extensive damage.

The bombing, thought by Belgian police to be a terrorist attack, came only a few days after EEC Interior Ministers had agreed at their emergency London summit to tighten up co-ordination of the European fight against terrorism in the wake of the recent Paris bombs.

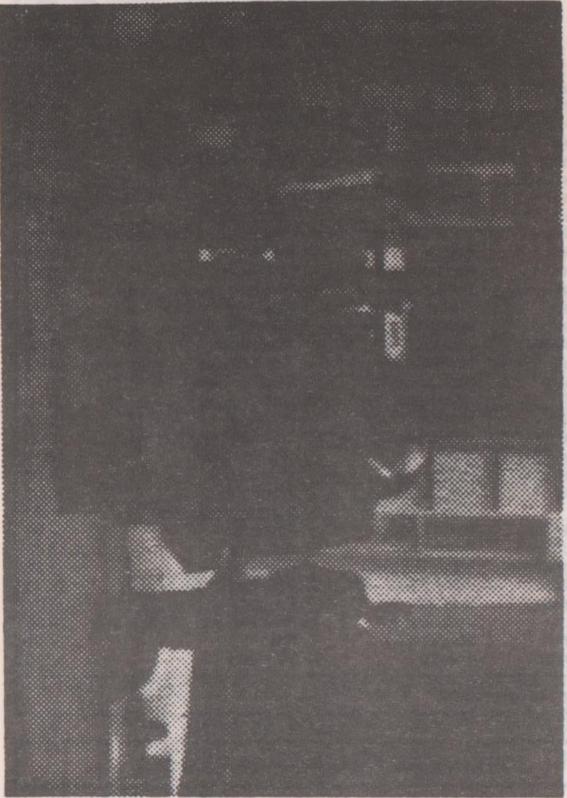
Immediate suspicion fell on the Belgian terrorist group, the Fighting Communist Cells (CCC), although police emphasized that no one had claimed responsibility for the blast and there was no hard evidence that the CCC was behind it.

Four CCC ringleaders - including M Pierre Carrette, the CCC mastermind - were arrested in a dramatic police raid at the end of last year. But Belgium has been bracing itself for a recurrence of terrorism by lower level members of the CCC, which receives arms from Action Directe, the French terrorist group espousing a similar anarchistic form of Marxism.

Eye witnesses said a car had drawn up outside the Grand Orient Lodge, headquarters for about 80 Masonic lodges, and one or more terrorists had leapt out, placing a suitcase of explosives at the Lodge entrance before driving off.

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