

Nottingham Voice



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working conditions at Raleigh

CAUSTIC SODA, sulphuric acid, chromic acid, cyanide. These are all chemicals used in open vats in Raleigh's Mainplate Factory One - where wheel rims and other items are chromium plated.

This information is contained in a report by Nottingham Workshop, a local information unit for trade unionists. The hazards are described by a journalist who worked at the plant last summer. He thought there was cause for concern and approached the Workshop.

The workshop has passed the report on to the Raleigh Shop Stewards Committee which is looking at what further action may be necessary.

The main recommendation is that a more thorough study is needed.

NOISE

The company reacted predictably. "It's out of date", they said. This referred to tests on noise done by the City Environmental Health Department in the Salisbury Street area in 1975. As a result of those tests they said no houses should be put up in the area next to the factory when the present houses are cleared.

The report also quotes from "The Lonelin-

ess of the Long Distance Runner" by Alan Sillitoe who used to live just by Raleigh. He described the noise from Raleigh as "killing".

The rest of the report is up to date. It describes how components are put on jigs which are dipped in and out of a series of vats by hydraulic lifts.

HEAVY BAGS

One vat contains caustic soda. This is topped up with heavy bags of caustic soda powder which the workers have to drag up to the rim of the vat. They rip open the bags with a knife and pour the powder in. If the powder comes into contact with moist flesh - eyes, mouth, sweaty feet - it burns. The only protective clothing is a long rubber apron, rubber gloves, a flimsy mask and goggles. But, says the report, it's uncomfortable to wear and sweaty and there's no rigid enforcement of wearing it.

There is an extractor fan which is supposed to be on when the caustic soda is being topped up. Unfortunately, says the report, that sprays it all over Lenton and when the powder is added the workers are not told to use the extractors.

Another vat contains sulphuric acid. This is topped up from a small tanker which, says the report, is rotting away from acid burns. This tanker has to be pulled

around by hand in spite of its considerable weight. The report says that when the pump is switched off it sometimes syphons acid out of the vat onto the floor.

FUMES

It says the workers are directly in line with fumes from both the caustic soda and the chromic acid "and both can affect your chest very badly".

And some workers are so keen to keep the plant going, it says, that if a jig has fouled up they are willing to clamber over the open vats without safety clothing (a practice not supported by the management).

The report contains a section on the dangers of stress - which can be caused by many things including shiftworking and the need for continuous concentration. The mainplate plant is described as "boring, physically demanding and worst of all fast".

In one court case in America an employer was held responsible after a man working on a car production line had developed paranoid schizophrenia.

NURSES

Raleigh's Safety Officer, Mr Smith, spoke to the Voice. He told us that nurses go into the plating departments twice a week to check exposed parts of the body - looking particularly for chrome ulceration. But he said there were no regular checks by doctors and no checks for stress.

He claimed that the

payers, local record shops, Age Concern, the Genuine Rock and Roll Society, students and a Daily Mirror journalist to name but a few.

One woman, who claimed to be serious, said she liked the station.

We will have a fuller report in the next issue.

workers "aren't surrounded by dangerous chemicals" saying that the chemicals were 100 feet away from where they worked. This contradicts evidence from people who work in the plant who seem to think that they work just a few feet away from several dangerous chemicals.

On another charge that workers eat their meals in an open-topped "cabin" in the plating shop Mr Smith said this was against company rules and also against the law. They had time to get to the canteen he said.

On the question of the high turnover of labour - meaning that many workers in the plant are inexperienced - he said "some people have difficulty in accepting training to the standard required".

Perhaps the most interesting thing about the report is that it was only briefly mentioned on Radio Nottingham and Radio Trent. The Evening Post totally ignored it.

The Workshop is now following up the report by looking into pollution in the surrounding area.

FUTURE EVENTS - Nottingham Voice will give details of all events of which we vaguely approve. Deadline for April issue: 31st March.

- * "Alexandra Kollontai" (the only woman member of the Bolshevik Central Committee) - Beverley Jackson (Socialist Discussion), Tue Mar 14, 8pm, Roebuck, Mansfield Rd.
- * Anti-National Front meeting, Sat Mar 11, 1.30, Leicester Town Hall.
- * Meeting to form a Claimants Union, Wed 15 Mar, 7.30, St Mary's House, Raleigh Street.
- * Politics of the National Front - Dave Edgar (Socialist Challenge meeting), Thurs Mar 16, 7.30, International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Road.
- * Meeting to form Anti-Nazi League branch, Sun Mar 19, 2pm, International Community Centre.
- * Trade Unions and the Media - George Christopher (Socialist Discussion), Tue Mar 28.
- * Santiago Carillo and Eurocommunism (Socialist Discussion) - Mike Rook, Tue Apr 11.
- * Anti-Nuclear demo in London, Sat Apr 29 (re-arranged). Details: 51405(day), 603120 (evening).

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Please contact us with any information you would like to see in the next issue. This will be out around the 10th of next month.

DEADLINE for the next issue is the last day of this month.

Voice Editors are to be found in the lounge bar of the Peacock Hotel, Mansfield Road on Wednesdays from 1pm to 2pm. Readers are invited to join us.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: £2 for 12 issues including postage.

SHARP-EYED Voice readers will have noticed that the type is different in this issue. This is due to the fact that our normal typewriter was taken ill and had to be taken away. It should be back in time for the next issue.

RADIO TRENT took a hammering at a meeting on March 1st organised by the Independent Broadcasting Authority to find out what people think about Trent.

Attacks came from West Indians, Sikhs, Raleigh strikers, Women's Liberation, the local Council of Churches, Liberal candidates, Rate-

STOP PRESS - Education Minister Shirley Williams has confirmed our report on p4 that the Inspectors' report on Sutton will back the school.

"ALL LEGITIMATE MEANS" will be used to prevent the closure of Bilborough bus depot we were told by bus union branch secretary Harry Ball.

The depot is to be closed by the Tories in an economy measure along with cuts of 80 buses and 150 staff and large fare increases. They intend to turn it into a depot for the Housing Department's direct works department.

Harry is organising a public meeting to get groups together to oppose the Tories' run-down of the buses. He has sent a letter out to a large number of organisations asking if they will support a meeting.

As soon as he gets the replies a meeting will be fixed. Anyone interested should write immediately to: Harry Ball, 67 Mona Road, West Bridgford.

Harry said they warned the public over a year ago that the Tory policy would mean fare increases. Some people had faced 90% increases, he said.

The closure of Bilborough had been set for the end of March. But this has been put back, one reason being the recent fire at the Parliament Street depot.

Support for the bus-workers has come from all three Nottingham MPs.

FIGHT

In Leeds, where Tories tried to put fares up by between 20%

PHOTO: TRAVIS TOWNSON



Bilborough bus depot - threatened with closure

BUS PROTEST GROWS

and 43% last August, local organisations got together to fight the increases. The Traffic Commissioners, who have the final say on fares, told the Council they could only put fares up by 12% in August and 12% in February - a partial victory. The Tories appealed - and lost. They were criticised for cutting their support for buses by 44%.

TRICK

Nottingham Tories are

trying the same trick - both the County Council and the City Council are to blame. If they had allowed the rates to rise 10% in line with inflation they would have had no trouble in maintaining bus services. The County Council hasn't even asked the government for money which is available for public transport.

And, of course, it is the poorer people who can't afford to travel by car who get hammered.

They soon won't be able to travel by bus either.

APOLOGIES to all pubs selling Home Ales with handpumps. In the last issue of Nottingham Voice we said that the Newmarket sold the world's only hand-pumped Home Ales. This is not true (unless your world stops at the city boundary). Many pubs outside the city sell Home Ales on hand-pump. Sorry!

OPPOSITION to the proposed takeover of Shipstone's Brewery has been organised by the local Campaign for Real Ale. They have taken a petition round as many Shipstone's houses as they could saying "the high standard and reasonable prices of the product can only be maintained by the retention of the current independence of the company".

Shippo's may not be popular with all Nottingham drinkers. But it is virtually all "real ale" - traditionally brewed, not filtered or pasteurised, and not served up with carbon dioxide like most modern apologies for beer. And, like Home and Kimberley, it is a lot cheaper than national beers.

The takeover bid has come from Northern Foods Ltd, a Hull company with interests in dairies and

bakeries. It is a major supplier to Marks and Spencer. In 1972 it took over the Hull Brewery, now called North Country Breweries.

Since 1970 Northern Foods has taken over a total of ten companies, the latest being Fox's Biscuits. Just over half of Northern's shares have been created to buy out these companies.

Northern Foods employed 12,800 people in the year to September 1977 and paid an average of £2,500 to each. It made a net profit of £18 million before tax - £1400 for each worker. The latest report said profits in brewing were up in spite of industrial relations problems.

EXPLOITED

But if you think Northern Foods' workers

are exploited, a look at Shipstone's figures shows that its workers are much worse off. In 1976 Shipstone employed 1400 workers and paid them an average of £1400 - less than £30 a week. Profit before tax was £1.8 million - £1300 for each worker. So the average Shipstone worker was paid only half of what he or she earned.

A CAMRA member who recently lived in Hull told us about the Hull Brewery.

He said that the beer was properly brewed. But recently the brewery has gone over to bulk delivery from tankers - just like Northern Dairies delivers milk. Hand-pumps are being taken out of the pubs and replaced by electric pumps. And the beer is efficiently filtered so it cannot be described as real ale. The price

was higher than the Nottingham breweries charge but lower than the national breweries.

He said Northern Foods had been after other breweries in the Midlands, the North West and East Anglia. It seems as if it wants to build up an empire to challenge the big breweries.

But it looks as if the bid for Shipstone will not go through. One of the Shipstone family said on radio recently that he thought Shipstone would be sold soon, but for a higher price.

Shipstone shareholders stand to make a killing. Their shares on the stock market are only worth a total of £7½m. The Northern Foods offer would give them £13m - a profit of £5½m for signing a piece of paper.

Not a bad deal you would have thought.

SUTTON CENTRE school has been knocked around by the Tories in the last few months. But it should all backfire on the Tories in the near future. A School Inspectors' report is expected on 31st March and it is likely to come out in support of the school.

Sutton Centre has been described as the most advanced example in Britain of a "community school". It claims to have abolished detention, lines and the cane. Attendance is good and the Head has never had to suspend a pupil. A recent Probation report remarked on how little vandalism there is in the school compared to other schools.

It is situated in Sutton town centre and linked with a sports centre complex used by the whole community.

HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL

It is highly successful. But it is nothing like the Tory picture of what schools are like - teachers smashing the kids and the kids smashing the school. So it is no surprise that the Tories tried to have a go at it. One of their main complaints is that 'O' levels have been completely replaced by CSEs set in the school.

The witch hunt started when a few parents

NOTTINGHAM AREAS PROJECT, a community work project in the city, is being leant on by the County Social Services Committee.

Councillors have decided to withhold three-quarters of their £40,000 grant for next year pending discussions. Most of the money comes from the government under an Urban Aid grant.

One reason could be that they are reviewing community work. Another reason could be that a number of community newspapers are produced at Centre 118 which is part of the project. Not all of them are entirely in favour of current Tory policy.

ADULT LITERACY in the County has been saved. The County Education Policy sub-committee decided to take over payment for the scheme when government money runs out in April.

As reported in the last Voice there was a suggestion that the scheme might be cut.

complained about a lesson on swearing (the lesson was aimed to show why people swear, when and who to). They dragged up a few other complaints and went straight to the County Chief Executive Ray O'Brien who has since left. O'Brien by-passed the Head, the Governors, the Director of Education and the Education Committee and tried to set up an inquiry.

ILLEGAL

But he ran into trouble with the NUT, the union which represents two thirds of the teachers at Sutton. They told O'Brien that his inquiry would be illegal - only trained inspectors can look into education in schools.

O'Brien and the Tories backed down. They had to call in the government's School Inspectors to give a report.

But, like the fools that they are, they decided to go ahead with an "Independent Project Group" composed of local worthies. It could not look into education matters. All it could do was look into a few trivial attempts to smear the school.

NEVER TOLD

Ian Gasper, NUT representative at the school, told us that the NUT had refused to have anything to do with the Group. He said teachers in the school had never been told what the allegations were. But many have become common knowledge:

* The parents claimed the Head had sent his daughter to another school to do 'O' levels. In fact she has passed CSEs. She had to go out of the school to do one 'A' level because the sixth form at Sutton is not yet established - the school has only been going five years.

* They claimed a caretaker at the school had a record of minor sex offences. This was true but this was not known when he was appointed - Ashfield District Council had not checked his ref-

erences. When it was discovered the Head was told to sack him and did so.

* They claimed a teacher driving the school bus didn't have a PSV licence. In fact you don't need a PSV licence to drive a school bus. All drivers were properly qualified.

* They claimed children of complaining parents were victimised by teachers. In fact the opposite was true. Although some of the children were a nuisance teachers were reluctant to take action against them.

Other charges included a claim that some children had spent a whole week listening to Elvis Presley tapes and other children had been seen outside school drinking from a whisky bottle.

STUPID

We hear that at the hearing the parents making these complaints were made to look quite stupid after these pathetic attempts to drag the school through the mud. A report will be sent to the County Council. But it is likely to be buried as it will be an embarrassment to the Tories.

The report from the official Inspectors will be much more valuable. Their visit to the school was welcomed by the NUT.

Now another row is blowing up over the school. This is because a new Head has been appointed without the job being advertised.

This followed the announcement of the previous Head, Stewart Wilson, that he was to move to open a similar school in Edinburgh. He had been at Sutton since it started and he took two of Sutton's Heads of Department with him to his new school.

Instead of advertising the job Director of Education James Stone went to the Governors and got them to agree to appoint Tom King who was Head of Claremont school in Nottingham. King is not noted either as a progressive or a reactionary. But he is known

to be close to Stone.

He is well thought of by teachers in the area so there is no personal feeling against him.

HIGHLY UNUSUAL

It is highly unusual for Heads to be appointed without advertising. The only exceptions locally have been where Heads had to be found jobs following comprehensive reorganisation.

Why did Stone do it? Two reasons have been suggested - 1) to stop the Tories forcing a reactionary Head on the school, or 2) to prevent the Governors appointing a really progressive Head.

A more likely explanation is that Stone got his man in and stuck two fingers up at the Tory politicians who are causing him a lot of trouble these days.

The matter may be raised at an NUT meeting on March 18th. Some teachers want an inquiry into how Stone could get away with not advertising the job.

BASFORD FLATS is to get its very own housing manager. Room has been found for an office in the flats and shortly an officer will be present in the mornings.

It remains to be seen whether this will get repairs done any more quickly.

The main reason for this move by the council is probably to keep the natives quiet.

The Tenants Action Group has been very active and has caused some embarrassment to officers and politicians. The new housing manager could be an attempt to get tenants to by-pass the action group and reduce its strength.

PARK BRANCH of the local Labour party has decided to affiliate to the Labour Campaign for Gay Rights.

This follows attempts by County Labour leader Michael Gallagher to prevent the local Campaign for Homosexual Equality running a telephone advice service in the Council for Voluntary Service premises on Mansfield Road.

When the Voice exposed the activities of Gallagher and his friends he threatened us with legal action. We are still waiting to hear from Gallagher concerning this.

TELEVISION FOR SALE. 12" black & white, portable, mains/batt, de-luxe Ferguson, £80 shop price, for £40. Owner unable to afford licence. Fred, 411676.

NOTTINGHAM Trades Council may be appearing live in a BBC2 programme on March 15th.

The programme is about Britain's civil defence - what will happen if an atom bomb is dropped, for example. There will be a film, part of it shot in Nottingham, followed by a live discussion. This will consist of "experts" in a studio in Manchester and Nottingham Trades Council in a studio in Nottingham.

And it is obvious that the BBC does not want informed comment from the Trades Council because it has not given enough time to get people together to discuss the issues beforehand. They want "off-the-cuff" comments Trades Council secretary Fred Harris told us.

IGNORANCE

We put it to BBC producer Roger Lawton that this meant that Trades Council delegates would be speaking from ignorance. Why hadn't he given enough time for them to discuss the issues in their union branches beforehand, we asked. "We are not into official delegates", said Lawton.

ANTI-NAZI LEAGUE leaflets have been distributed at a dozen schools in the city in the last month.

The leaflets state the case against the National Front and include statements from Forest manager Brian Clough and punk singer Johnny Rotten. Leafletting is to be continued by the local Anti-Fascist Committee for the rest of this term.

Already a number of pupils have approached the committee to say they wish to take up the fight against racism and fascism in the schools. The committee says it will continue working amongst youth in the city.

Now a local branch of the Anti-Nazi League is to be started at a meeting on Sunday 19th March at the International Community Centre.

Meanwhile the Trades Council's anti-racist committee has been meeting with ethnic groups in the city. They are to be invited to a full meeting of the Trades Council in April.

Obviously they don't want working people to think too much about Britain's civil defence preparations. But it will be worth watching the programme to see how much they tell.

One booklet which covers the subject is "The County Warbook" published by Mole Express in Manchester. As it says, County Councils have an obligation, under the Civil Defence (Planning) Regulations 1974 to plan for war in coordination with the Military and the Home Office.

SECRET

Most Counties have kept what they are doing secret. But many have let things slip. "The County Warbook" pieces together what has been

said publicly.

The main point that emerges is that in the event of War the County Chief Executive will take over power as "Controller". And at least one Council has decided that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Policy and Resources Committee would exercise all the powers of the Council. If the same is decided in Nottinghamshire then Tories Peter Wright and Herbert Bird would be in complete control along with Chief Executive Arthur Sandford.

Several Councils have also appointed other officers - for example the Director of Education as Food Officer (school meals for all). Bolton has even appointed its Director of Recreation as "Officer for the

Burial of the Dead" (Eds - did that say re-creation?).

FRIGHTENING

What is more frightening is that the government has said that there should be a closer relationship between planning for War and planning for peace-time emergencies.

How long before a major strike is considered to be such a threat that the emergency plans are swung into action and democracy goes out of the window?

The County's new emergency HQ at County Hall was used during the firemen's strike. This gave the Chief Executive the opportunity to practice at being an "Emergency Chief".

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SPANNER IN THE WORKS



NOTTINGHAM WORKSHOP finally got off the ground in December. This is a new information unit for trade unionists and community groups. It is based at 118 Mansfield Road and meets there every first Monday of the month at 7.30.

It produced its first bulletin in January and followed it up recently with a report on Raleigh (reported on page 2). It ran into some trouble with the Raleigh report by publishing it before workers at Raleigh had a chance to study it. It is to discuss how to avoid this sort of problem in future at its April meeting.

Other areas being looked into include out-working (where people work in their own homes often at very low rates), wages paid to mentally

handicapped people in "training" centres and the problems local women have in getting equal pay.

The first bulletin explained the aims of the Workshop. It pointed out that employers, central government and local government have plenty of access to research resources. Working people need similar resources. The Workshop will aim to help working people to do their own research.

Meetings have been held at the University and the Polytechnic to draw up a list of academics and students willing to assist in the work of the Workshop.

The project is backed by the Trades Council and has also approached the WEA for support.

SAVE Highbury Hospital Committee is continuing the battle to save the hospital in Bulwell.

The South Nottingham Community Health Council has agreed to organise a public meeting on the issue though they refused to allow a deputation from the campaign committee to address their meeting in March.

But they say they are not going to change their support for the closure. The meeting, they say, will only be to inform the public about a decision already made.

But, according to the campaign committee, the

Area Health Authority hasn't yet started the formal consultation procedure which must take place before any final decision to close the hospital.

So aren't the Community Health Council jumping the gun in supporting the closure?

MAY DAY this year should be more of an occasion now it is a bank holiday.

The Trades Council plans to march from the Square to the Forest where there will be a gala day with sideshows, childrens' sports and so on.

TRADES COUNCIL delegates gave their backing to blind and disabled workers moving into the County Council's new workshop for the disabled on Stonebridge Road.

A representative of the National League for the Blind and Disabled attended the Trades Council to ask for support.

The Social Services Committee has decided to cut rates of pay by £3 compared to what blind workers are receiving at the moment (though individual workers will have current pay protected).

The Committee decided also to cut sick pay entitlement. The reason was that the normal provision was "not appropriate when applied to employees suffering from disabilities which are very likely to produce periods of sickness with consequent absence from work". In other words they can't have sick pay because they might need to make use

SOME Social Workers are considering whether to change unions.

Most of the unionised social workers in the county are in NALGO, a pretty useless union for them for two reasons. Firstly, it refuses to allow a separate branch for Social Services. And secondly, it is dominated by the people at the top of the local government hierarchy - who really act like the bosses.

The Nottinghamshire Association of Field and Residential Workers has been discussing whether to set up a branch of NUPE - a much more grass roots union. Area Directors and above would not be allowed in because of their divided loyalties.

In November, they had discussions with representatives of the Birmingham Social Services NUPE branch. That started by breaking away from NALGO.

DIRECTLY employed labour saves the County Council a lot of money on high-way improvements.

A report of the Director of Planning and Transportation shows just how much cheaper their own workforce is than private contractors.

In almost every case direct labour was able to complete work for less than their tender price. Savings over private tenders ranged from 13% to 60% in eight schemes looked at.

Almost all work carr-

of it.

Trades Council vice president Brian Simister said it was a disgusting attack on a group of workers without industrial muscle. He thought they should be protected by the trade union movement.

The Trades Council has written to the local MP and the Director and Chairperson of Social Services.

Also passed at the meeting was a motion opposing attempts in Parliament to make it more difficult to get an abortion.

In the annual nominations Don Devine (President), Brian Simister and John Peck (Vice-presidents) and W Ludlow (Treasurer) were returned unopposed. Fred Harris stood down as Secretary but took the post of Assistant Secretary.

Elections for Secretary and the Executive will take place at the AGM in March.

But it wasn't easy. Management refused to negotiate with them at first and sacked the branch secretary.

These two issues were fought through one strike which was a great success. Membership took off and the secretary was reinstated.

The local dissidents have sent out a questionnaire to social services staff asking what they think about staying in NALGO.

We hear that many social workers complained that there was no space for "don't know" answers.

Further developments are expected in the next few years.

Meanwhile we hear from the Manchester City Enquirer that 400 NALGO members in Tameside left to form a NUPE branch after the dismissal of a NALGO branch secretary following his arrest on a Grunwick picket line.

ied out by outside contractors exceeded tender price so the saving by using direct labour is even higher.

There were many reasons given by the Director why direct labour is much cheaper. The first reason was that it does not aim to make a profit.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL has decided to donate £1,000 to the armed forces for the magnificent job they did in breaking the firemen's strike.

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TEACHERS have won another year's employment for 46 teachers in primary schools in the County.

Caroline Minkley, Education chairperson, backed down on her plans to reduce the number of primary teachers by 126 over the next year. Now "only" 80 primary teaching jobs will be cut.

The climb-down followed a threat of action by the largest teaching union, the NUT. They said they would refuse to teach classes larger than 32 in primary schools and 30 in secondary schools.

Over 300 teachers joined a mass lobby of the County Council on 21st February when next year's budget was being discussed. Tory councillors made a decision not to meet them to hear what they had to say. Tory Manpower chairperson Fred Woodward called the teachers "rabble rousers".

But Minkley obviously knew that the teachers meant business. She announced that she had "found" an extra £50,000 and this, together with savings in her Education budget, would keep the extra 46 jobs.

CALLED OFF

Now the NUT wants to know just what is involved in these extra savings. They have called off their threatened action until they meet Minkley on March 14th.

The original decision to cut 126 primary teach-

WORKERS on strike at E.H. Architectural Products of Langley Mill were finally defeated in February. They had been on strike since last August after the firm refused to negotiate with officials of the Furniture Timber and Allied Trades Union.

The 18 union members out of 30 workers walked out and were sacked. They have been fighting for reinstatement and recognition of the union.

Help came from trade unionists in Liverpool and Birmingham who refused to accept the company's products. And mass pickets were held once a fortnight.

But, though there was a lot of support from Nottingham, there was not much support from the local area so it was not possible to step up picketting.



Teachers lobby the County Council to protest against teacher cuts.

class struggle?

ers was made because of the fall in the number of children. But over 500 primary classes have over 35 children in them - and that can only get worse unless more teachers are employed.

Meanwhile, an extra 80 teachers are to be taken on in secondary schools because the number of children in these schools will continue to rise for the next couple of years.

The new plan is to cut 80 primary teachers'

jobs so the total number of teachers employed will be the same. But there are still plans to axe 45 primary school helpers. And in two years time the plans still say there will be 333 primary school teachers less than at the moment.

(If the County Council had allowed the rates to rise 10% in line with inflation they would have been easily able to maintain primary school employment to keep class sizes down. Alternatively they could have used more of the

large bank balance which they have built up in the past.)

Now the teachers have a new battle on their hands. This time it is their national pay claim. They asked for 12% and were offered only 9%. So both the NUT and the NAS/UWT, the two largest teaching unions, have decided to stop cooperating with things like school meals supervision. This has forced schools to send some children home.

Nottinghamshire teachers are not happy at the moment.

It cannot have helped when the strike at Grunwick in London was sold out by their union APEX and the TUC.

Perhaps the final straw came recently when one of the pickets died from a heart attack. Presumably the strain had proved too much.

There were only eight of the original strikers left. They settled with the firm for a total of around £2,000 to be shared between them. The union had probably paid out more than that in strike pay.

The firm has agreed to recognise the union. But this is meaningless because there aren't any union members still working in the factory.

The union has agreed not to take any further action against the firm.

Five of the strikers are now on the dole.

INCENTIVE BONUSES have not increased the production of coal. Total production in the week ending 10th February was 1% less than the same week last year.

The bonus scheme is based on production last summer when miners knew there was a possibility of going on strike and they weren't trying too hard to build up coal stocks.

Miners who are getting a £20 a week bonus, as well as their 10% pay rise, are getting over 30% more than a year ago without doing any more work.

But at what cost? Bargaining is carried out at individual pits with some pits having different bonuses for different faces. So it

will be more difficult in future to get united action by miners throughout the country on future pay claims. And inflation will soon erode the value of bonuses.

The miners may not have suffered as badly as the rest of us at the moment. But they will suffer in the next few years.

SOCIAL WORKERS have finally won a proper salaried "stand-by" team to cope with emergencies at nights and weekends.

The County Council conceded this after many months of threats by social workers and senior social workers to withdraw from doing voluntary stand-by duty.

Flood excuse

PEOPLE flooded in Top Valley last year can blame the hard ground according to a drainage expert who spoke to the February Housing Committee. In the heavy rain he said water was coming off the grass areas as if off roads and roofs.

It appears that experts who designed the drainage system never thought about rain coming off these areas. So the sewers couldn't cope and people got flooded. It isn't the first time. But each time the Council comes up with new excuses.

Even if the ground behaved as it should do and absorbed rain water there would still be a problem. This is because, as reported in the last Voice, the sewers have not been designed to cope with exceptional storms that happen once a year or so.

The City Public Services Committee has asked the Severn-Trent Water Authority to put in extra sewers.

Five bungalows and ten flats had to be evacuated. The Council is to pay compensation to all those not insured.

Fares up 50%

BUS FARES are going to go up again in the near future. This was decided by the City Tories in February.

It is the second rise in six months. This will make a total increase of 50% in less than a year for a third of the passengers. These are the people who travel 1½ to 2 miles.

Fares which were 8p last summer are now 10p and will shortly be 12p. And fares of 10p last summer will soon be 15p. Another large group travel 2½ miles - their fare will be up from 12p to 17p (40% increase).

Another quarter of passengers travel 3 to 4 miles. They get off lightly - only 21% increase from 14p to 17p.

Transport chairperson Jim Broughton claimed that the current increase was only 10.92% "overall". Presumably he meant that would be the increase in takings after taking account of all the people who would refuse to pay such high fares.

The increase was "10% in line with inflation", said Finance chairperson

Bill Bradbury. He was lying.

SERVICE CUTS

Meanwhile bus services are quietly being cut back at peak periods. A quarter of all buses on most routes at peak periods are being taken off. This is because the Tories on the County Council have cut off the money which was paid by the previous Labour Council for extra peak buses. They have even refused to ask for extra money which is available from the government.

So far, services cut have included those to Sneinton Dale, Mapperley, Top Valley and Rise Park. Also the services through Carlton to Arnold, along Castle Boulevard to Radford and from the Meadows to St Ann's.

Other cuts have been made by linking services from West Bridgford to Bulwell and West Bridgford to Basford. When these schemes were brought in last October the queues in West Bridg-

ford were so massive that even the Evening Post couldn't ignore them. All that happened was that one extra bus was put back.

Even further cuts are planned for West Bridgford along with cuts in services to Beeston, Aspley and Bilborough. The Arnold service will also be cut but not as much as the others.

Only three extensions to services have been made in the past year. A service through St Ann's has been extended to Sherwood but its off-peak frequency has been cut from 20 to 30 minutes so less people are using it. A Meadows service has been extended along Wilford Road to the industrial estate by the Trent. And the off-peak service to Edwards Lane Estate has been improved while cutting the peak service.

A total of over 60 buses will have been cut by the end of July. This is in addition to six buses to be taken off the city centre service.

It means that 100 less drivers and conductors will be employed and nearly 50 other jobs will be lost.

The Tories also intend to close Bilborough bus depot.

But not without a fight from the unions.

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BIG LAND DEALS

FOUR MORE private companies were given a licence to make money out of Nottingham people's housing needs at a closed meeting of seven City councillors on February 1st.

This was a meeting of the City's Housing Partnership Sub-committee - set up to arrange for private builders to build houses for sale on council land. Labour councillors Carroll and Burgess voted against the deals.

The four contracts cover 46 acres at Bulwell, the Meadows and Top Valley on which a total of 670 houses will be built in the next couple of years. The companies will pay a total of over £860,000 for the privilege - nearly £1,300 per house.

The biggest deal went to Canberra Developments Ltd. They are to pay £395,000 to build 194 houses on Top Valley Phase 8.

But where will they get the money from to

pay for this? As of February 21st all the assets of the company were mortgaged to the Midland Bank. One piece of land in Cheltenham was mortgaged to another firm as well.

Voice readers will remember that in June 1975 we had an article on Canberra. We reported that the City Council had to give Canberra an extra year to pay £88,000 on a land deal in Top Valley. Even then it wasn't paid because it was offset against £3m which the Council agreed to pay Canberra to buy back part of the land with 319 houses.

The Council made the first payment as a matter of urgency before the houses were completed. "Could it be that Canberra needed the money so badly?" we asked.

We will take a closer look at Canberra in the next issue. (Mortgage information was provided by People's News Service)

WHERE THE RATES GO

RATEPAYERS will be paying less rates this year than last year after taking account of inflation. The total rate will be 84.4p in the pound for domestic ratepayers in the city compared to 81.6p last year, a rise of 3%. This means a reduction in rates of 6% after taking account of inflation.

This has been achieved by cutbacks in services by City and County Councils. Hundreds of jobs have been cut especially in public transport and building work. Also the authorities are all running down their reserves in order to keep the rates down.

The rates which have been announced are (pence in the pound - last year in brackets):

City	19.9 (19.9)
County	62.0 (60.0)
Water	21.0 (20.2)
	<u>102.9</u>

Domestic ratepayers get 18.5p relief from the government so they only pay 84.4p.

COMPLICATED

We thought we would like to look at what the rates are used for once they are paid. It is complicated because the government makes up the rates in several different ways, paying twice as much to local authorities as do the ratepayers.

We start by looking at what will happen to every £100 paid by a domestic ratepayer in the city for the year starting this April. (Note - the following figures do not apply to business ratepayers who don't get the domestic rate relief.)

GOVERNMENT

For every £100 paid by a domestic ratepayer the government adds on £22 in rate relief.

So your £100 has become £122. This is divided between City Council (£23), County Council (£74) and Severn-Trent Water Authority (£25). You can reckon that your original £100 is divided up as:

	£
County	60
City	19
Water	21
	<u>100</u>

Now it becomes even more complicated. The City and County Councils both receive a government grant called a "Resources" grant. This is designed to make poor areas and rich areas more equal - the poorer areas get more.

In the case of Nottingham this adds on an extra £27 for every £100 paid by domestic ratepayers. £7 of this goes to

from domestic rates.

This can be summarised:

	£
domestic rates	60
govt - rate relief	14
- "Resources"	20
- "Needs"	78
- other grants	20
County reserves	6
County spending	<u>198</u>

SEVERN-TRENT

The Water Authority is a bit simpler because

KOUNCIL KUTS

the City and £20 to the County.

CITY COUNCIL

Let us look first at the City. So far it has a total of £30 - £19 from the ratepayer and £11 from the government. But the government doesn't stop there. It also gives many specific grants, mainly for housing, adding up to another £53. Finally the City has decided to use up some of its reserves to keep the rates down. This adds an extra £14 for each £19 received from a domestic ratepayer. This can be summarised for the City:

	£
domestic rate	19
govt - rate relief	4
- "Resources"	7
- other grants	53
City reserves	14
City spending	<u>97</u>

COUNTY COUNCIL

Now to turn to the County. As well as the "Resources" grant the County receives another grant from the government - a "Needs" grant which is based on the number of children, number of old people and the area covered by the County - in other words the needs for education, social services and roads. This is a large grant - another £78 for every £60 from domestic ratepayers. The government also gives grants for specific functions adding up to another £20 for the County mainly for education and the police. Added to this the County has decided to use up some of the reserves saved in previous years. This will add £6 to make a total of £198 to be spent by the County for each £60

£198 for the County, £97 for the City and £28 for Severn-Trent. (For every £100 from our rates the government adds £200 from taxes while £23 will come from reserves.)

Only the main items of spending are shown. (The amount contributed in specific government grants for each item is shown in brackets.)

COUNTY COUNCIL

	£
Education	113 (8)
Social Services	20 (1)
Police	17 (8)
Roads	12 (2)
Trent Poly	10
Fire Service	3
Libraries	3
Other	20 (1)
	<u>198 (20)</u>

CITY COUNCIL

Council houses	33 (33)
Rent rebates	16 (12)
Slum clearance	7 (5)
Refuse collection	5
Theatre Royal	4
Parks	3
Concessionary bus fares	3
Other	26 (3)
	<u>97 (53)</u>

SEVERN-TRENT

Water supply	12
Sewers	6
Sewage treatment	<u>10</u>
	<u>28</u>

It should be noted that the above lists are based on net spending. Total spending is much higher but most of it is met by what people pay direct for services. For example the amount shown against "council houses" is just a subsidy from the government which doesn't even cover interest payments on debt charges for money borrowed to build houses. Council tenants pay most of the rest of the cost of council houses through their rents.

(Eds - there are probably many mistakes in this but you can get a rough idea of where your rates go.)

SPENDING

Now we come to what these authorities say they are going to spend their money on in the year starting this April. The following lists are on the basis of what will be spent for each £100 paid in domestic rates in the city after adding on the amount paid by the government.

So spending is worked out as a proportion of

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Letters

Dear Voice, - I refer to your letter in which you ask me to comment on an article under the heading - "Divide and Rule in the Pits".

This is the usual clap-trap being bandied about by opponents of the incentive bonus scheme - mainly the left-wing element - and contrary to what they claim (that it has split the Area and divided the men) the evidence at our disposal shows that it has provided bigger wage packets for all concerned, men are more interested in their work, and as for safety, as I have repeatedly said, people who make statements to the effect that our men will risk their lives for an extra "bob" or two, are insulting the intelligence of the men we represent.

As for explaining why men may possibly get more money at one pit as opposed to another, the Agreement is based on effort, and negotiations at pit level should take into consideration bad geological conditions.

This scheme has been operating since the beginning of December and if there were any complaints, I am sure we would have received them in this office. However,

at the time of writing, I can honestly say that no such complaints have been received.

Finally, as President of this Union, I would stress that at all times I have carried out the democratic decisions determined by the majority of members in the Nottinghamshire coalfield, who incidentally have at all times voted for an incentive scheme. That is what I was elected to do, and that is what I shall continue to do, despite sniping from a certain section of our membership who apparently prefer to ignore the wishes of the majority.

Yours sincerely,
L.A. Clarke J.P.
President
National Union of Mineworkers
Nottingham Area

Dear Voice, - The article 'What are community workers up to' (Voice 74, Feb) appeared to me to be more about community worker control than resident control. While understandable that community workers, aspiring professionals, have a vested interest in these communities remaining dependent on them it is disappointing that the Nottingham Areas Project (so committed to local control) is reluctant to appoint and retain local people as community workers and dis-

appointing too that no comment is made by the Voice on the increase of state control as every local group tends to be infiltrated by 'friendly community workers'.

NAP to be true to its convictions must plan sooner or later to appoint and retain local people as workers. Social Services projects with no such pretensions must honestly admit that they are at present about increase of state control and paternalism and that local people are encouraged only to do the work which is both 'safe' and unpaid.

Chris Moss
Querneby Road
Mapperley.

Dear Voice, - For some time members of Nottingham Friends of the Earth (FOE) have been developing an interest in nuclear power. A keen eye has been kept on those bodies involved in its production and distribution such as British Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL).

In addition to this FOE have considered it a high priority to open up public debate. When BNFL first applied to the Cumbria County Council for permission to build the oxide fuel reprocessing plant at Windscale, their response was considerable. A vigorous campaign was launched on the streets, in the media and through local MPs to ensure that a Public

Inquiry was set up. And when the public saw fit to peacefully demonstrate their concern about the issues during the inquiry in Cumbria, Nottingham FOE was one of the largest and most enthusiastic groups involved.

Now that the Inquiry Report has been submitted to Peter Shore the local activists are most interested in the nature of his final decision. Not surprisingly they are determined to make sure that Mr Shore is aware of the continuing public concern, for example, about the waste disposal and terrorist problems.

This is why the local Friends have chartered a train to take people to a nationally organised anti-Windscale demonstration in London on Saturday 29th April. At least 250 people are expected to go on this venture which was formerly scheduled for 19th March.

FOE think this is one of the most important issues of the decade and would welcome anyone who wishes to come on the train. The purchase of a ticket could secure more than a seat. A cleaner, cheaper and safer future for all will hopefully lie at the end of the line.

Andy Flockhart
FOE Coordinator
(tel: 51405 day, 603120 evening)

rather serious the sitty bit

IT SEEMS that there is an organisation called the "Young National Front" which is concerned about the growth of the Red Menace in Our Schools. They are not too precise in their definitions of "Red" but I gather that anybody politically left of Himmler is definitely suspect, and David Steel qualifies as a Bolshevik in their eyes.

Even so, I fail to see what they are making all the fuss about. In my experience most schoolteachers pass the Front's reliability test with flying colours, being at best political puddings and at worst

obsessed with exams and punishments. Either way, beyond a narrow academic channel they maintain a blinkered view of reality - and see success for their pupils as a pale reflection of their own ego. And in their perpetual search for truth they are content to read the Daily Express and the Mail. As a body schoolteachers are a right-wing lot.

The very existence of the "Young National Front" (an oxymoron?) proves the point. If the teaching body were left-wing surely they would be producing school leavers indoctrinated with

left-wing views. (Where are they? I've not met any.) And if these Red teachers are such lousy propagandists, what's all the fuss about? Ignore them.

It seems to me that the "fuss" is a form of outrage. Kids have spent ten years at school, being filled with stuff they didn't want to know (Battle of Hastings, formula for Copper Sulphate, capital of Greenland) and not being told about things they actually need to know. Politics is the first, ironic, example. Psychology, real problem solving, personal relationships are others. The kids only know that they're no use for what they've been given. They may be dimly aware that there should be something better, somehow.

They finish school - not even a lousy job waiting.

They are ignorant of basic political theory and sociology. They have

confused ideas of how they fit into the world (not at all, mainly). They are easy meat for the pathetic psychotics of previous neglected generations who make up the basis of the National Front. Frightened, unloved people who have turned to vengeance on society (or certain defenceless sectors of it) as a substitute for self-fulfilment. They offer some sort of security, of order. They are angry. The young school leaver is very angry, with every right. He needs security. And the only people who seem to understand are the National Front. He joins.

If Mr Callaghan is alarmed and despondent, he only has himself and his party to blame.

If they really cared about these people, there would not be a "Young National Front".

Chas Griffin
(P.J.Grobworth has been purged)

NOTTINGHAM VOICE does not normally cover events happening outside Nottingham. However there are some things of great significance which we have to cover because they are ignored by the national press.

One such issue is the current attempt by the State to prosecute two journalists (Duncan Campbell and Crispin Aubrey) and an ex-soldier (John Berry) under the Official Secrets Act. The three spent an evening talking together. What they said has been kept secret but no-one seems to think it was very damaging - apart from the prosecution. They face up to 14 years each in jail.

PEACE NEWS

The Peace News office in Nottingham was visited by three detectives from Scotland Yard after the paper printed the name of a prosecution witness - a military man whose name the military wanted to keep secret. The detectives threatened prosecution for contempt of court. They also visited all of Peace News' directors with the same gentle message.

If the prosecution of Aubrey, Berry and Campbell is successful it could mean that anyone trying to find out anything about what the government is doing would risk a jail sentence.

The prosecution says that just possessing any note, sketch or photo of a "prohibited place" is prejudicial to the State under the Official Secrets Act.

One example they gave was a picture of the Post Office tower which Campbell had! (Any government office is a "prohibited place" according to the Act - that includes Post Offices and Social Security Offices!)

EAVESDROPPERS

Duncan Campbell is an expert on telecommunications. He has written many articles especially for New Scientist and the London magazine Time Out.

In 1976 he wrote an article called "The Eavesdroppers" for Time Out. He wrote it with Mark Hosenball - the American journalist deported last year with ex-CIA man Philip Agee because they had exposed CIA activities in this country and elsewhere.

"The Eavesdroppers"

SECRETS TRIAL

exposed electronic surveillance techniques used by the British and Americans in this country and identified some of the bases involved. All the information came from public sources or government officials. The article quoted evidence to a US Senate Committee that all phone calls to and from the States are monitored and commercial communications are also intercepted.

BUGGING

Last year Chapman Pincher in the Daily Express also gave details about the involvement of these bases in spying. Their activities included tapping MPs' phones and bugging Harold Wilson's private room in the Commons, said Pincher, as well as surveillance of trade union leaders.

This is the sort of activity that John Berry was employed in by the army. He was so concerned by "the paranoid reaction of the British government" to Agee and Hosenball that he made a statement to the National Council for Civil Liberties.

This led to a meeting with Campbell arranged by another journalist Crispin Aubrey. It was straight after this meeting last February that they were arrested.

ILLEGAL

Berry says he was employed by SIGINT (Signals Intelligence) from 1966-70 "directly concerned with processing information gained from the illegal interception of the military and diplomatic traffic of other countries".

He also said: "It appears to me that secrecy is one of the most important keys to power. The existence of an organisation capable of spending vast sums of money in the total absence of public control should do much to dispel any illusions about the democratic nature of our government".

The three have been committed for trial on September 5th.

At the committal pro-

ceedings the main prosecution witness (named by Peace News) said "The whole subject of SIGINT is classified". He also thought "any reference to SIGINT in the media is damaging".



Don't look!

OFFICIAL SECRET

During the proceedings Campbell was described as "a thoroughly subversive man" though it was agreed there was no question of him working for a foreign power.

Campbell said: "I think this is an abuse of the law and an attack on press freedom in Britain. It runs counter to everything that I or any other citizen would reasonably have understood to be the law. It's in total discord with public policy and the statement of the Home Secretary that in the government's view the mere receipt of information would not be an offence".

Part of the case against Campbell is that he has put together public information and deduced so-called "secrets". This could make investigative journalism a criminal offence.

RUSSIA

Campbell's solicitor told the court "I thought it was only in Russia that people were put in prison for being anti-establishment".

Following the committal proceedings the Aubrey Berry Campbell (ABC) Defence Campaign issued a newsletter with details of the case.

It invites the support of "everyone who wants the government and

its civil and military wings to be answerable to all of us". Their first objective is the dropping of the charges but they are also "fighting for 'the right to know' and the use of that knowledge to challenge the way in which the State behaves".

The Campaign marched through London on 19th February - a year after the arrests. They handed in slices of a large birthday cake at various "secret" places on the route.

These included Euston Tower where mail is intercepted, MI5 in Curzon Street, the Post Office Tower, and the Home Office run by Merlyn Rees who was responsible for deporting Agee and Hosenball.

The local ABC group can be contacted at Mushroom, 10 Heathcote Street (582506 - messages only). They organised a picket recently when Merlyn Rees visited local Police HQ at Sherwood Lodge.

MUSHROOM

Mushroom has free leaflets and is selling badges ("I am a security risk", etc - 17p), stickers ("This building is an Official Secret", etc - 1½p or 50 for 60p) and T-shirts ("Listen you lefties we don't want anyone to get hurt but we've got our job to do" - £2.50). They are also selling tickets at 20p for a draw on April 2nd: 1st - radio/cassette recorder to record your own secrets, 2nd - pair of I-spy binoculars, 3rd - catch-'em-at-it camera, 4th - one year's sub to Time Out.

Mushroom will also be donating their share (1/3) of the price of each copy sold of:

- 1) Political Police in Britain - Tony Bunyan, £2.50.
- 2) CIA Diary - Philip Agee, £1.
- 3) Technology of Political Control - Karen Margolis, £1.25.

So dig deep folks to help keep these guys out of jail. Nottingham Voice could be next on the list along with Peace News and Mushroom.

Meanwhile the government will soon be giving their proposals for reforming the Official Secrets Act. They did say they were going to make it so journalists wouldn't get prosecuted so easily. Any bets?

Reviews

Signed reviews or articles do not necessarily represent the views of the editors.

F-eyre-well

RICHARD EYRE bids farewell to Nottingham with his much anticipated production of 'Deeds'. This is something of a joint farewell from the dramatists who have been closely associated with Eyre's reign - Trevor Griffiths, Howard Brenton, Ken Campbell and David Hare.

The roll-call, as well as other names like Adrian Mitchell and Edward Bond, illustrate the extent of Eyre's achievement in bringing the best of modern

British drama to Nottingham. And even if the last few seasons have seemed a bit patchy, Eyre, like Neville before him, has had to face that great albatross of the local arts: the philistinism of our local authorities (Nottingham Corporation takes about as much in rent from the Playhouse as it gives in grant, whilst Gedling and other adjacent authorities refuse to contribute on the grounds that it is a City amenity).

COT-DEATH

'Deeds' is the story of a man whose child is a victim of cot-death. He discovers the reason why, and sets off to find exactly who is responsible - though with an anger which is tempered with a great deal of humour. It sounds as though it could be one of the best plays for a few years.

Gunman

"SHADOW OF A GUNMAN" is the third Sean O'Casey work to be put on at the Playhouse in recent years. Unfortunately, director John Mackenzie hasn't quite managed to sustain the high level of the previous productions.

Some of the actors, including, surprisingly, John Hurt (of 'Quentin Crisp' fame) have a certain woodenness, partly because they didn't seem to have come to terms with their Irish accents. Hurt plays Donal Davoren, the poet, in a Dublin still under British rule, who is mistaken for an IRA gunman. The best performances, however, come from the supporting cast - especially Ken Hutchinson as the shrewd

fellow lodger Seamus, and Ann Hasson, as the hero-worshipping Minnie Powell, eventually carted off to be shot by the Black and Tans.

POIGNANT

"Shadow of a Gunman" is one of those plays which becomes more poignant as the years go by. The sound of rifles and machine guns which impose their staccato rhythm on the stage have, of course, their counterparts in the outside world. Perhaps it is the tragic history of Ireland more than the acting which undermines the force of the play. O'Casey's sharp observation of the delusions, the romance and the reality of Irish politics seems strangely distant from the present confrontations of Belfast or Derry.

john maxwell

John Hurt and Ann Hasson in "Shadow of a Gunman" at the Playhouse



Albion's Sword Dance

THE LAST Playhouse folk concert headlined a bunch of musicians straight from the National Theatre where they provided the music for a passion play and 'Gawain and the Green Knight'. A night of traditional, authentic, even academic folk music? Well not exactly, for these eight musicians were highly electric - right down to the wah wah pedal on Rick Sanders' violin - and share a tradition and ex-personel with Steeleye Span.

They emerge from the early seventies folk/rock experiments but their recent theatrical interlude is not so bizarre. They're as concerned or more so than the Fairports and Steeleye to rediscover Albion's underground or overgrown musical tradition. For proof of that they gave us everything from jigs to reels to the minuet, the galliard to the Ampleforth Long Sword Dance. Their Albionism though is no little England stance as they demonstrate with a Swiss sea shanty 'Poor Old Horse' and a gypsy/country and western song 'Will there be Travellers in Heaven?'.

MYTHICAL

Though the band once titled itself a country dance band they're not concerned to invent some mythical rural idyll - some Jethro Tull or Strawbs type happy haven for stranded hippies. The darker side of Albion's past/present surfaces in the magnificent 'Gresford Disaster', a mass mining accident from 1934, a near local event apparently and sung magnificently by local folky made singer/writer/accordion player, John Tamm.

Now that Steeleye Span are performing their own wake and Fairport Convention are a mere

caucus of rapidly scattering delegates, its time Albion came into their own. Their next record 'Rainbow Over the Hill', a Richard Thompson composition, proved a pleasant encore and is worth checking out.

As for catching them live again locally - well it could be they'll be gigging in your factory canteen, for they are planning to tour with a theatre group. Get your shop steward to put in for it. It would make a tasty fringe theatre benefit to a measly 10% rise.

George
Christopher

Modern Guru

Ivan Illich, et al
Disabling Professions
Marion Boyers £1-95

IVAN ILLICH is quickly becoming the guru of our times. His devastating attacks on medicine (in "Medical Nemesis"), education (in "Deschooling Society") and transport (in "Energy and Equity") have made him a figure on which the disillusioned left and the disenchanted moderates are converging.

"Disabling Professions" is slightly disappointing in that Illich has written only one chapter, much of which summarises his previous arguments. The other chapters, which deal with medicine, law, the service professions and the decline of craftsmen, sometimes lack the incisive quality of Illich, and hide their arguments behind a certain amount of jargon. The book, like Illich's others, contains a great deal of truth: the professions have become as powerful as they are by forcing people to become dependent upon them. However, many will quarrel with some of the assumptions behind the arguments, eg that class is an outmoded idea, or that the solutions, if any, are to be found in other than political channels. Illich seems

to be heading for the worst fate available to reformers: maximum admiration, combined with minimal reaction.

Alan Hudson

The State against the People

Cynthia Cockburn,
The Local State,
Pluto Press £2-95

THOSE ON the Left have always thought a lot about the role of the state in Britain. Most of this, though, has been devoted to central government whilst local government - in many ways the agency which ordinary people have the most contact with - has often been ignored. This penetrating book by Cynthia Cockburn, based on her experience in Lambeth, changes the balance.

Cockburn singles out two things which have greatly affected local authorities (including those in Nottinghamshire) in recent years - corporate management and community development. The former tries to make local authorities more efficient by having more central co-ordination and control, the latter wants to increase community 'participation' in local government.

Many people see these two pulling in separate directions. But Cockburn sees them as two sides of the same coin: the perpetuation of the capitalist system. Corporate planning does it by making a repressive form of government more efficient: community development by 'managing' - and neutralising - local people and their organisations eg tenants' groups. Her conclusion, predictably, is harsh: "experience shows that Labour councils are a little more able than Conservative councils to respond to the interests of the local working-class is seldom allowed to shake two beliefs: that the vehicle is obediently in the command of whoever sits

in the electoral driver's seat, and that when Labour does so, the people do".

Alan Hudson

Energy Policy
Department of Energy
£2-15

NOT EXACTLY bedtime reading, but arguably one of the most important documents to be published this year.

As the name implies, the paper shows government thinking on the energy options which are available to Britain. This means, basically, vast investment in coal and nuclear power over the next few decades and the onset of the "plutonium society".

Unfortunately it makes the same old assumptions and follows the same tired logic as all the previous Establishment 'studies'. To take just one example, it blindly assumes that economic growth will range between 2-4% until the end of the century at a time when many other countries are seriously studying the implications of zero growth.

Then, to compound the error, it believes that energy consumption will increase at roughly the same rate as growth. Of course, it makes the usual ritual bow towards conservation, complacently thinking that our

Then, to compound the error, it believes that energy use will rise at roughly the same rate as the economy. Of course, it makes a ritual bow towards energy conservation but complacently thinks that the present derisory measures are the best available! Someone should tell them that other countries have far more advanced energy conservation programmes than Britain and that some authorities believe that up to 75% of our present consumption could be saved.

Now, inexorably, we are creeping towards a plutonium society without any real attempt by government to assess the merits of alternative energy paths. This book shows the blinkers they put over themselves.

Depressing. Very depressing. Better book your place on the FoE train (see Letters).

DUCKS ON WALLS

"WALL PIECES AND OTHERS", an exhibition at the Midland Group Gallery Craft Section until March 18th, begs one question. Why get involved in work that is very middle class in conception when you have formed a gallery for the people?

It's not that the work isn't nice - it is. That's the trouble - the exhibition has a soft gooeey niceness which threatens to rip your fillings out one by one.

As usual, however, the pain is deadened by some good work. The ceramics of Gillian Allen display a beautiful pastiche of the middle class obsession with flying ducks on walls, and also shows she has a passion for the snails which figure frequently.

The catalogue says: "It is hoped to involve the viewer in contemplating the effects of destruction and decay of a once familiar urban environment". To some extent she does succeed, but in a comic manner. I smiled too much to feel that the soft underbelly of my conscience had been pricked much at all.

Caroline Tate designed and made some large quilts, and was involved with one of the central pieces of the exhibition - the Sutton Bonnington Jubilee Quilt.

This was a village

effort, with people from 12 to 70 involved in its design and execution, all intending to produce something that would make 1977 memorable. On reflection it might well be the only good thing to come out of that elaborate and costly jamboree.

Tate's giant backgammon set was fun but if, as she claims, she is influenced by folk art is the work going to be hung in community centres or, as the prices seem to suggest, in the foyer of a bank?

I do have a passion for the weird and wonderful when it comes to ceramic sculpture and Alun Jones doesn't disappoint me. His misshapen figures are a delight and I'm sure that one or two of them will find suitable homes in the Park.

Pay a visit to this exhibition in your lunch hour and don't forget to put what you think in the visitors book - remember the Gallery is a part of Nottingham and desperately needs some sort of feedback from the public.

Coming up on Sunday, April 9th, at Nottingham Playhouse is a lecture by John Berger and Jean Mohr entitled "Image and Text (their political use)". This should be fascinating as well as informative, especially as Trevor Griffiths and Ken Coates, amongst

others, will participate in the discussion which follows the lecture.

Berger is a Booker Prize winning author, a critic and a TV performer. It's good to see he's come out of his 4 years self-imposed exile from the lecture circuit.

For those who missed it on TV, his highly acclaimed "Ways of Seeing" is to be shown at the WEA on 6th/7th April at 7pm. There is also a discussion chaired by Midland Group organiser Lynda Morris and local artist Paul Waplington. This should be required viewing for those who haven't seen Berger's superb insights into the differing ways we perceive reality.

Mohr is a photographer and author of

the "Fortunate Man" and the "Seventh Man". There is to be an exhibition of his (unpublished) photographs of the World, taken on 4 continents over the last 20 years, at the Midland Group between 11th April and 6th May.

The forthcoming attractions look to be very strong, and with the success of the Oliver Kilbourn, Terry Atkinson and Towards another Picture shows behind them the Midland Group seem to be achieving real results. Let's hope that the past policy will still be followed and that 1978 will be a good year for Nottingham art and those who care about it.

steve humphries

Films

The current season of the Nottingham Film Theatre draws to a close with some interesting films.

In the very successful "Challenge to Imperialism" series, there is the highly acclaimed "Night Cleaners", a study of London charladies by the Berwick Street Collective (Mar 10th). This is followed by Godard's "Le Gai Savoir" (Mar 17th).

Godard also figures in the 'normal' programme with "Numero Deux" (Mar 18th-19th). Very much a 'love-it-or-hate-it' film, it is a close

study of a French working class family.

More conventionally, there is Richard Brooks' "Bite the Bullet", mainly notable for its superb photography and the performances of Gene Hackman and Candice Bergen (Mar 11th-12th).

Their final offering is the under-rated "The Man Who Would Be King", Directed by John Huston and starring Sean Connery and Michael Caine, this reconstruction of a Kipling short story gives - if you ignore the colonial ambience - a competent picture of life on the old North West Frontier.

john maxwell

WOULD YOU LIKE to do some work for the Voice?

All the work on the Voice is voluntary. As a result people drift in and out. At the moment we have a bit of a gap (partly due to one of our ace reporters taking a well paid job in advertising).

Working for the Voice could give you valuable experience - in writing, typing, layout, printing, photography or drawing - to name but a few of the skills which you could develop.

The main aim of Nottingham Voice is to provide information about what is going on in the city - especially the sort of things you don't find out from the Post or local radio.

You could help us with:

NEWS - send in any information, especially about tenant or union activity. If you want to follow anything up contact us to avoid duplication.

FEATURES - we are running three series. If you would like to contribute to these or have any ideas of your own please contact us first:

- 1) On the areas where people live - we want a sympathetic look at all the features of an area rather than hard political analysis (eg Beeston in the last issue).
- 2) Nottingham's major employers - a hard look at the facts and figures (we have already covered Boots and Plessey).
- 3) Characters of local interest (eg George Green in the last issue).

LAYOUT - most is done in the first seven days of each month for publication around the 10th. We can show you how to do layout - but give us plenty of warning about when you can come in.

PHOTOS/CARTOONS/DRAWINGS - these help to improve the look of the paper. Send in anything you have or contact us with ideas. (For photos we can work from negatives but prefer good black and white prints - size doesn't matter.)

DISTRIBUTION - at the moment most city centre newsagents and bookshops sell the Voice apart from Smiths and Menzies. But it is not on sale outside the city centre (except in the university).

If you would like to take the Voice to sell, eg around pubs, you can take 2½p for each copy sold (this is the cut the newsagents get).

Or, if you can persuade shops to sell the Voice this would be helpful.