

Nottingham Voice



'PLANNING FOR REAL' in Radford

PEOPLE in Radford are being asked to show what they want in their neighbourhood.

Large numbers of houses in Radford West and Radford East are to be demolished. The question is - what to put in their place?

Local residents have built



Planning the new Radford (left - Ron Kennedy, chairperson of REATAR; centre - Professor Cliff Moughtin of Nottingham University Institute of Planning Studies).



Photograph of Radford taken from a balloon flown from Radford Primary School (shown in the foreground). Behind, to the left is Radford West clearance area, and to the right Radford East clearance area, separated by the trees along Radford Boulevard. To the right is the junction of Radford Boulevard with Ilkeston Road - known as 'Ation Corner because it had on its four corners a school (education), pawn shop (ruination), pub (damnation) and a church (salvation). (Photo by courtesy of David Birch (Balloon Survey)/Gordon Wallace and Rex Davies (Nottingham Teachers Centre))

their own 3-D scale model of the area complete with houses, tower blocks and factories. At a large meeting on 11th October they publicly ripped off all the old houses and started to work out how to replace them.

There will be many more meetings over the next three months to involve as many people as possible.

Schools are also in on the act. Local children will be building their own model. To help them the education authority has paid for a small balloon which is being used by the schools to take aerial photographs.

Two local associations are involved - Radford East Association of Tenants and Residents (REATAR) and Radford Phoenix Group.

Professor Cliff Moughtin, Director of the Institute of Planning Studies at the University, is acting as planning consultant. His students are doing a lot of the work - and learning how to

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From the lounge bar

supporter

VOICE readers will be familiar with Socialist Unity, the front organisation for the International Marxist Group. SU are hoping to stand against Jack Dunnett, Labour MP for Nottingham East, at the next general election.

Ian Juniper, their candidate, is an ardent supporter of Notts County of which Dunnett is the main shareholder and chairman. So keen is Juniper's support that he regularly buys County's lottery tickets, the proceeds of which are used to subsidise the club.

When I put it to Juniper recently that he was giving financial backing to Dunnett he replied "Notts County are a good team" - a statement which only shows what a tenuous grasp on reality Juniper has.

He also tells me that he is an addict of the Evening Post's "Find the Ball" competition.

Ian, the unions have asked us all to black the Evening Post.

thirsty

AUTUMN, season of mists and all that stuff, is also the season of wage claims. And some pretty tough talking is expected in the corridors of Nottinghamshire's largest employer - the county council.

Trade union negotiators I understand are more than a touch apprehensive about talking with the Conservative leaders. It seems their

powers of concentration tend to diminish as the session wears on . . . but then politics is very thirsty work.

nasty

THE END of Nottingham Areas Project, the ill-fated community work project which recently had its funding stopped by the County Council, may have made little difference to Alan Simpson one of the community workers made redundant. I hear that there were already moves behind the scenes to get rid of him before Brenda Borrett made this unnecessary by closing the whole thing down.

Simpson's troubles began a year ago when his local management committee in the Raleigh Street area failed in a bid to have him removed from the area. The nub of their complaint was that Simpson was impossible to control. After half of the management committee had resigned over the issue Simpson was gleefully spreading rumours that they were the nasty middle class people (unlike himself presumably) who couldn't get on with the genuine (i.e. working class) people who really represented the views of the residents.

The bourgeois faction then showed how nasty it could be - they even wrote to Borrett complaining that Simpson was out of control. The Simpson camp claim that Borrett used this letter as proof that NAP's policy of local groups managing community workers was ineffectual.

However one person to have

It is hoped that by using a model and fact sheets people will be able to talk to planners and other officials to work out what they want where. People in the area are certainly very enthusiastic.

The big question will be whether the planners who make the decisions will be willing to listen - or allowed to listen.

When the idea was tried in Raleigh Street last year, city council leader Jack Green ordered city planning officers not to attend meetings with residents. Even so the residents plans had some success in influencing the types of houses to be built in the Raleigh Street area.

Will Green have any more respect for the people of Radford?

come out of the whole affair OK is Simpson. Never slow to look after number one, he was the first of the seven workers to find another job - lecturing students at the Poly in how to be community workers.

I hear that Simpson is currently writing a book - but has decided not to call it "Machiavelli - The First Community Worker?"

rare

STILL MORE joyous celebrations at the Evening Post where I understand they're looking forward to another happy hundred redundancies . . . sorry, years.

All members of staff, except those black listed for representing any alternative points of view held by employees, have been given a handsome Coalport vase, bearing a loyal message and an artist's impression of the Black Hole of Forman Street. Worth about £10 each they tell me . . . and probably more as a collector's item because they're a limited edition.

Probably rarer still I should think judging by the number which have been thrown away already.

While on the Post I must congratulate old ramrod-back himself, Uncle Tom. His new Outlook magazine published on behalf of the Conservative Party is a fitting tribute to what can be done with a million pounds worth of equipment rendered idle by trade unionists attempting to secure the revolutionary right to be able to talk to their employer. Try driving up to the gate in a Ferrari lads, they'll send someone to interview you instead.

changes

LOOK FOR big changes soon in the policies of the city council. You can also expect some further changes among the men at the top. We've already had the surprise resignation of whispering Jim Broughton as Transport chairman. Who will be next? Put your money on the Leisure boss Cyril Swift.

The disappearance of Broughton follows a major row between him and his group leaders Jack Green and Bill Bradbury. Broughton, an astonishingly ambitious man

for one of his capabilities, made his stand, threatened resignation and Jack and Bill were pleased to see him go.

Plans are being drawn up for a vote winning cosmetic exercise in time for next year's elections. More importantly as far as Jack's concerned, threats to his role as council or even opposition leader are something he can do without. As for Cyril, well he looks like having a big chunk of spending power taken away, and I don't reckon he'll like it. What of busman Jim's future . . . I hear the Tories are giving him a job licking stamps in the local agent's office.

Greece

I WAS RATHER taken with Radio Nottingham's grandiose programming plans on the day Forest were "in Europe". As part of the Greek syndrome Dennis McCarthy (you know, the one who sounds simple and asks everyone what they're having for dinner) was dispatched to Athens for a live continental production of "Afternoon Special".

This broadcasting first finally went on the air about an hour late after both Dennis and the landline from Athens had been lost leaving Station Manager Tom Beasley to fill the gap with Greek-sounding records and pleas for listeners to ring in and talk to him - preferably about Greece. Listeners were finally entertained by Dennis interviewing anyone who could be found who spoke English and the usual load of drivel including "Swap Shop" where locals are encouraged to ring in and attempt to swap one load of rammel with another.

And I hope that the latest recruit to the Radio Nottingham newsroom is not indicative of future trends - one of their part timers is a Public Relations Officer in local government. Come to think - it shouldn't make any difference.

Albanian

AND FINALLY an Albanian joke.

An Albanian is asked what the difference is between communism and capitalism. The Albanian thinks for a minute and then says: "Capitalism is the exploitation of men by men . . . and communism is the opposite".

INKY

●continued from front page

talk to "real" people instead of just looking at statistics.

The model was built using "Neighbourhood Action Packs" developed by Dr Tony Gibson at the University School of Education. This involves fact sheets as well as moveable pieces like houses, shops and community centres.

Rex Davies, teacher/leader of Urban Studies at Nottingham Teachers Centre, is acting as schools coordinator.

"Planning for Real" has only been tried twice before - once in Raleigh Street last year and once in Glasgow. Further trials are planned in Manchester and Liverpool.

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Subscriptions are £2 for 12 issues including postage.

Hospital causes lack of health service!

COMMUNITY HEALTH services in Nottingham are hopelessly inadequate. But there are no plans to bring them up to standard for at least ten years.

There are only half as many health visitors and district nurses as the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) recommends. And provision for the elderly is atrocious.

These facts are revealed in the "Inner Area Programme" recently drawn up by the city council together with the county council and the area health authority.

The main reason given in the report is the cost of providing the new University Hospital - around £13 million. Services not benefiting from the hospital will remain "relatively ill provided", it says, unless more money is found.

Many health service chiefs admit privately that it was a mistake to build the University Hospital so big. It should have been much smaller so that better facilities could have been provided in the community as well.

The figures show that there is only one health visitor for every 7,500 people in the city.

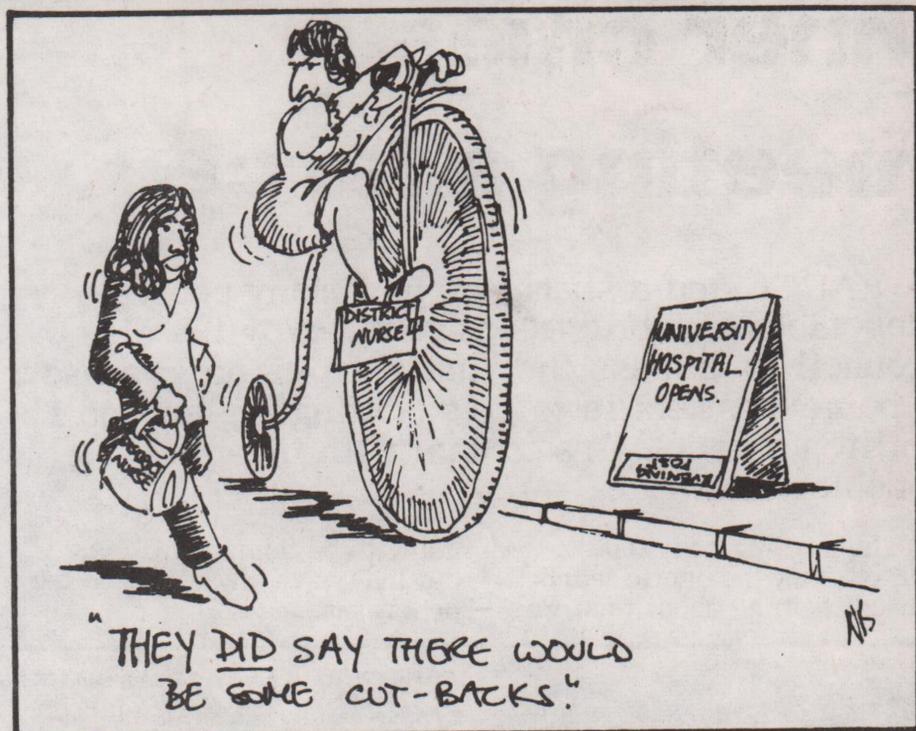
DHSS recommends one for every 3,000. That means the whole city has only 40 health visitors when it should have nearly 100.

In the case of district nurses, there is one for every 4,500 people when there should be one for every 2,500. In both cases the report says it will be more than ten years before the targets can be reached.

The report also reveals that one in 20 babies born in some inner city areas die in their first year. This compares to one in 200 in some of the richer suburbs. (These figures were first revealed earlier this year by "Housing Action", the paper of the local Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations.) "As in most areas of social welfare", says the report, "those people least in need of support are those most able to acquire it".

LOWEST

For the over 65s the report



says that Nottinghamshire has the lowest number of beds in the country. £2½ million is needed in the city to come up to target on hospital provision for the elderly, it says.

And day provision for the old in the city is appalling - the health service has only 100 places when 600 are recommended. The county council is also well below target on provision for the elderly in homes and day centres.

So the "Inner Area Programme" has shown up some of the very serious problems with health services in the city. But it intends to do very little about it. Only one twentieth of the inner area money from the government has been earmarked for

health services - £320,000 out of £7 million to be spent over three years. The lion's share will go to industry.

Three extra district nurses are suggested. The city is fifty short.

Four extra health visitors are suggested. The city is over fifty short.

(Twelve other health service staff, five of them part time, are also suggested.)

30 extra day care places for the elderly are suggested. The city is over 500 places short.

Meanwhile, the health authority is organising sight-seeing trips around the truly wonderful University Hospital.

ANL Carnival criticised

ORGANISATION of the second national Anti-Nazi League Carnival held in London in September was discussed at a local ANL meeting on 3rd October.

Several people criticised the decision of the ANL to proceed with the Carnival in Brixton, South London, instead of defending the East End from the National Front who marched there on the same day. This was a question of politics not organisation, they said.

Around 100,000 people attended the Carnival but only one or two thousand assembled in the East End to oppose the NF, where several were arrested in clashes with police. By the time extra people were sent from Brixton it was too late.

However, other people at the meeting pointed out that the NF had been prevented from marching to Brick Lane - an area where there have been a large number of fascist attacks, especially on Asians.

The meeting passed a motion supporting the decision to go ahead with the Carnival but saying that the organisation at Brick Lane was inadequate. It also supported the right of black people to organise to defend themselves.

The meeting was then addressed by Chris Roseblade from the Wolverhampton Anti-Racist Defence Campaign. He was appealing for support for people arrested on an anti-racist march in Wolverhampton earlier this year.

The march was to demonstrate against racist attacks and harassment of black people by police. It followed a labour movement inquiry into police attacks on black people.

Even the police agreed the march was well ordered. The only trouble was caused by a man who attacked the march. Police arrested four anti-fascists but the man mysteriously disappeared. One of those arrested faces a possible three year jail sentence.

DON'T BE CAUGHT!

PEOPLE'S NEWS SERVICE is trying to increase its circulation.

It is a fortnightly national and international news service. It costs 25p and is available through Mushroom bookshop on Heathcoat Street.

Recent articles have included: fascist attacks around the country, Nottingham Voice gagged?, Nottingham Evening Post ads to be blacked, the way the police smashed the Huntley Street squat in London, citizens band radio, Britain's secret war in Angola, opposition to nuclear power around the world, and much much more. Highly recommended.

But don't be caught reading PNS.

In August police at the port of Fishguard stopped two people because one was carrying a copy of PNS. They were arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and held for eleven hours. Photographs and fingerprints were taken and they were

questioned about their life style in detail (they were not told their rights and not told they could refuse to give fingerprints).

Two other people with them were also stopped and strip-searched. One of them was found to have cannabis but was charged and released within half an hour. The fourth person was not detained (she was a foreigner).

PNS report that about 3,500 people have been held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act but only 20 have ever been charged under the Act and 125 charged with other offences.

Clearly, says PNS, one of the main purposes of the Act is to provide a major source of gathering intelligence about the left in Britain.

Meanwhile, they advise their readers only to read PNS under the bedclothes late at night. Subscriptions are £2.50 for ten issues from 182 Upper St, London N1.

Inner cities meeting a farce

A FARCE and a sham was how many people described a public meeting called by the city council to discuss the "inner cities programme". The government is to give Nottingham around £2 million a year extra to deal with inner city problems.

The meeting cost £600 to put on. But the public learnt almost nothing about what was

going to be done. Still less did they have any effect on the programme.

In spite of the cost, there wasn't even a duplicated sheet of information for people at the meeting. Instead, a display of slides with a recorded commentary was given. But it broke down.

So city leader Jack Green had to get up to tell people what it was all about. He told hardly anything. Then people were allowed to ask questions - but only if they had written them down and given them in beforehand. Even then the platform of senior councillors and officers gave very little away. Many accused them afterwards of being abusive and arrogant.

Green nearly had a nasty bust-up with some black

people who were very annoyed about the way all their suggestions had been turned down. Green, at one point, threatened to have them thrown out by police (Green claims to be an expert on race relations and represents local councils on the subject). It was left to other Tory councillors to calm things down.

After the meeting the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) wrote to ask for machinery to be set up so that voluntary groups can be involved in the inner cities programme. Green replied by agreeing with Labour councillor Len Maynard who said that if voluntary groups want to get involved "they should join a political party".

But the voluntary groups aren't taking it lying down. CVS called a meeting of voluntary groups on October 16th. A working party was set up to look into how people can be involved in next year's inner city programme.

CONFERENCE

They are also to hold a conference inviting representatives from other cities and asking the Department of the Environment (who pay the money) to come along. They will also be telling the DoE that the city council's claim to have had public participation is totally inaccurate.

Another meeting will be held on Monday 20th November at the International Community Centre.

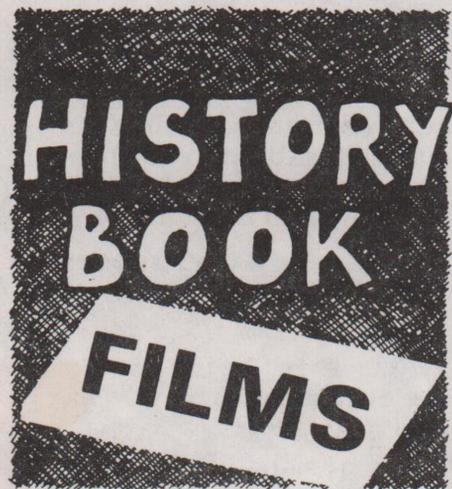
The council has now published a three year programme which it is putting to the government. 45% of the new schemes are to help industry and employment, 15% is to go towards recreation - like providing open space and improving recreation grounds and community facilities.

Another 15% is to be spent on education, most of it for extra teachers. These are to help in large urban schools which will lose out because of "uneconomic" staffing needed in small schools in country areas. In other words inner area money is being used to help schools in the rural areas!

The rest of the money is shared between housing, environmental improvements, community support, and health.

A total of £5½ million is being asked for over three years in addition to £1½ million already committed in urban aid schemes.

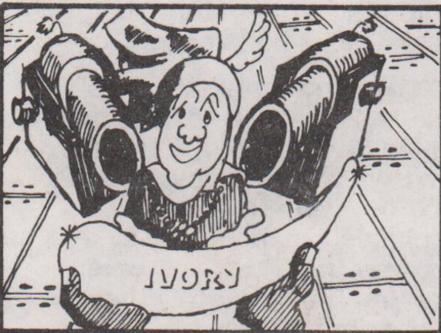
A rough guess is that this will add around 5% to the total local authority expenditure of about £50 million a year in the inner city area.



PART ONE: A FLICKERING LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS. EUROPE DRAGS ITSELF OUT OF THE DARK AGES. THE PEASANTS TILL THE SOIL, THE ARTISANS PRODUCE UTENSILS, THE LANDLORDS DO SO DALL, AND THE MERCHANT CLASS EMERGES...



PART TWO: AT DAWN, OVERCOMING ALL DIFFICULTIES, VASCO DA GAMA DISCOVERS INDIA. THE KNACK OF RIPPING-OFF HALF THE WORLD, WITH THE HELP OF AN ARMY OR TWO...



PART THREE: A BRIGHT FUTURE... .. FOR SOME. THE MERCHANTS EXCHANGE WEAPONS FOR A NICE FREE RIDE IN THE KING'S POCKET AS HE PACES OUT THE ROYAL STATE...



PART FOUR: BLOODY SCHEME. CLEVER JOHN HAWKINS COMES UP WITH A CRACKER OF A SCHEME TO SUPPLEMENT THE SHORTAGE OF LABOUR IN THE NEW WORLD.



PART FIVE: TRIUMPHANT SYMPHONY. THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. POVERTY IN THE SUN IS SWAPPED FOR POVERTY IN THE SMOKE, EXCEPT FOR THOSE WHO CREATED THE LATTER TO DOUSE THE FORMER...



PART SIX: MAKE-SHIFT SOLUTIONS. THE CAPITALISTS QUAKE AS EUROPEAN LABOUR ORGANISES ITSELF. SMILING HENRY STANLEY DEVELOPES THE KNACK OF CARVING UP AFRICA. "CO-OPTION" BECOMES A BEST SELLER...



PART SEVEN: THE COMING OF DARKNESS. AS THE CAPITALISTS RACE HEADLONG INTO WORLD WAR I, THE RUSSIANS STORM THE WINTER PALACE... BANG!! GALLOPING INFLATION, EXCRUCIATING DEPRESSION AND UP POP THE FASCISTS AND W.W.II.... BANG!! BUT IN CHINA...



PART EIGHT: THE NIGHT IS SINISTER. THE COLONIES REVOLT AND THE COLONIALISTS RELEASE THEM ONLY TO PUT THE NATIONALISTS IN THEIR OTHER POCKET WITH FOREIGN AID...



PART NINE: A NEW DAWN. THE PORTUGUESE COLONY OF GUINEA BISSAU, THEIR STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND THE ROAD AHEAD.



"HISTORY BOOK" is a film series in nine parts, each lasting about 15 minutes. The films outline the main forces and processes of history from the time of the break-up of feudalism in the Middle Ages through to the socialist revolutions and national liberation struggles of the 20th century.

The films were made in Denmark and translated into English. They present a history of the world in an amusing and entertaining way and from the point of view of the oppressed and exploited classes. Presented by Big Flame/World Affairs Group.

The films are being shown in four stages, 20p admission for each. All on Monday evenings at 7.45pm.

Parts 1-3 16th Oct, International Community Centre.
Parts 4-5 30th Oct, ICC - Slavery and Industrial Revolution.
Parts 6-7 13th Nov, St Mary's House, Raleigh St.
Parts 8-9 27th Nov, ICC - Colonial Revolt

Low paid will bury 5% rule

MILLIONS of workers take home £30 a week and less, a recent mass rally in Nottingham was told by Rodney Bickerstaffe, national officer of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE). Low pay is a euphemism, he said, we should be talking about poverty level wages.

44% of agricultural workers and two thirds of hospital workers earn less than £50 (gross), said Mr Bickerstaffe. And wages councils set deplorably low minimum levels, he complained.

The national average for male earners was £90, he said. But when he asked how many of the audience earned £90, no-one put their hands up. He bet that many people present who worked forty hours would have to claim social security benefits to make up a living wage.

The TUC had a policy of a minimum wage of two thirds average earnings, he said. A million local authority manual workers and 1/4 million hospital ancillary workers would be claiming £60 minimum for a 35 hour week.

But, said Mr Bickerstaffe to applause, if you want more than 5% you're going to have to fight for it. We're not looking for confrontation, he said, but we are not going to run away from getting our just desserts.

CONGRATULATED

Peter Davis, Leicester area organiser of the shop workers union USDAW, congratulated NUPE for organising the rally. The working class is not going to be conned any more, he said.

There are a hell of a lot of profits in retail distribution, he said, but we have yet to see it in wage packets.

The retail trade has one of the most exploited sections of female labour in the country, said Mr Davis. Many have had wage cuts, he said, because they were being asked to work longer with less staff.

And he gave some examples of how badly some Asians were treated. At one firm he had found 17 Asian women earning less than £17 for a 40 hour week.

It was up to the Labour government to stamp this out, he said, with a minimum wage that is going to be enforced.

He pledged support for the Ford workers on strike - because they are fighting for all of us in trying to break the 5%, he said.

Ray Coward from Nottingham Trades Council said the Labour government's wage restraint had a detrimental effect on people in the country. Employers were laughing all the way to the bank, he said.

WORSE OFF

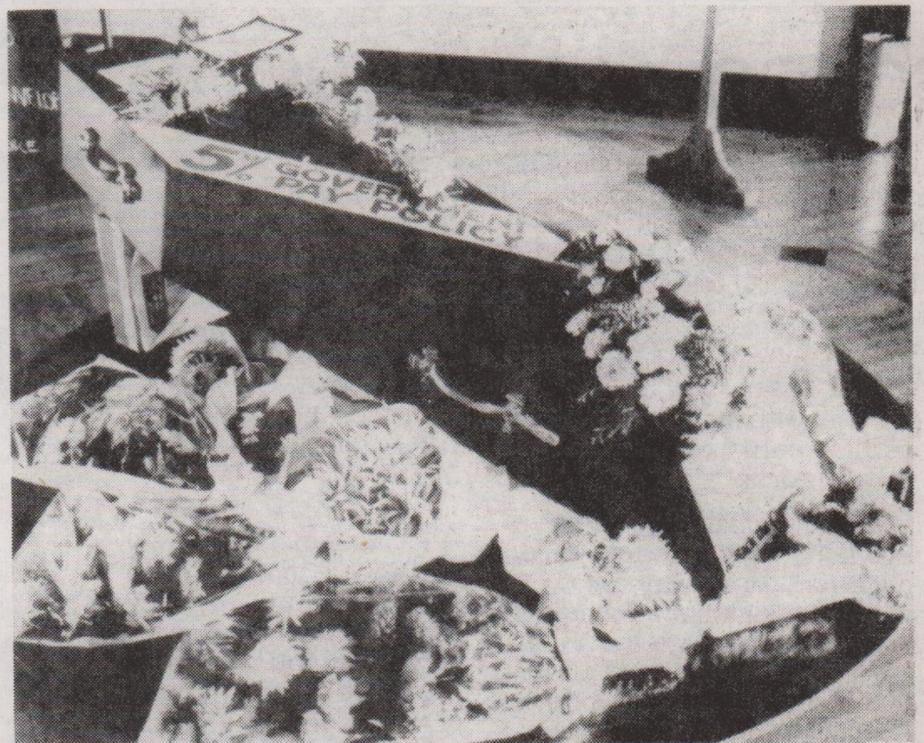
Harry Hinds from the Agricultural Workers Union said 40% of workers in agriculture earned less than £50 per week and took home less than £40. 15% were worse off than if they were not employed, he said. And their hours are greater than most.

Agricultural workers should be downright ashamed, he said. But he pointed out that the average number of workers on each farm is only two, so there are nearly as many employers as employees.

Arthur Palmer, from the miners union at Gedling and prospective Labour candidate for Carlton, said the problem is the capitalist system. Those that produce the wealth should have the benefit, he said.

The meeting was chaired by Ray Sherer, Nottingham Area Organiser of USDAW.

GOOD black and white photography done fairly cheaply. Also b&w developing and printing. E.g. 20"x16" print from your own b&w negative - £2. John Birdsall 77194.



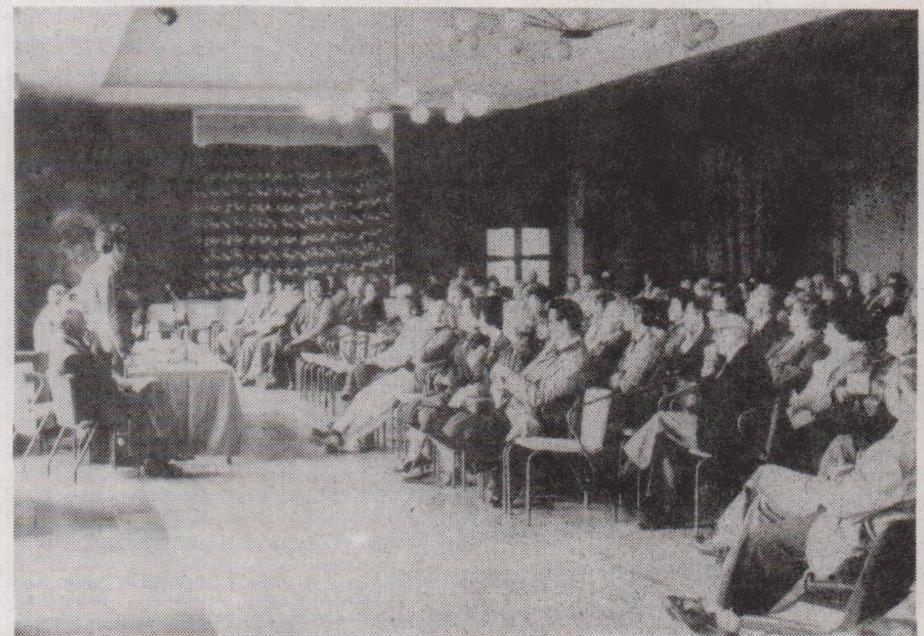
A coffin containing the remains of the Government 5% pay policy lying in state at the Low Pay Rally in September.

Many wreaths and bouquets were received as well as messages of condolence like this one:

Upon this day this wreath is laid for a living wage for the lower paid. So we say goodbye to the five per cent because we feel Jim should relent.

Another said:

Here lies the social contract in state, we pray that we have not left it too late. You have lived on the energy of our members for years so I am sure those present will shed no tears. Your death has left a vacant space which is bound to improve our needy case. R.I.P.



Rodney Bickerstaffe of NUPE addresses the rally.

JUMBLE WANTED

Clothes, toys, bric a brac, etc., needed by independent organisation to raise funds. Guaranteed not supported by governments, monopoly capitalism, Gulbenkian, etc.

PEOPLE'S CENTRE SHOP

33 Mansfield Road

UNEMPLOYMENT: CONTINUING REALITY

SCHOOL LEAVERS SIGN ON

ONLY a very small proportion of those who left school in July have so far found full-time employment. At the end of September 2,800 of the 5,000 school leavers who registered with the city Careers Office in July were still registered.

And bad though these figures are the reality of the situation is even worse.

Many of those registered have gone back into full-time education. Meanwhile 845 school leavers have found employment through the Youth Opportunities Scheme (YOPS).

YOPS does not provide permanent employment so many of the 845 will be back on the dole within a year. Further-

more, those on YOPS do not receive the same wage rates as other workers. Instead they receive a subsistence payment of £19.50 per week.

Many of those who have returned to full-time education because they can't find a job will also find themselves back on the dole when their courses finish.

Further education and the Youth Opportunities Scheme help to keep the figures on youth unemployment down to a politically tolerable level whilst a high percentage of young people are still effectively unemployed. They are no solution to unemployment in the long term.

YOPS: UNION FORMED

A BRANCH has been formed within the public employees union NUPE for those employed on Youth Opportunities Schemes. Difficulties in organising the union have been great because those on YOPS work on small projects in different areas of the public sector.

Despite this the Nottingham branch already has 50% membership of those on YOPS.

NO TOOLS

YOPS is an attempt to provide basic training and work experience for school leavers of 16-18 who would otherwise be unemployed. The programme was devised and is funded by the government Manpower Services Commission with full TUC backing. The programme offers young people a variety of schemes which last from two weeks to twelve months. There is flexibility in that youngsters can switch from one scheme to another.

In its negotiations with Manpower Services who finance YOPS the union will be pressing for changes in the way the schemes are run. In particular they will be trying for better machinery and equipment for those on building schemes.

Amazing though it may seem, no machinery is available for building workers on the schemes. Work like concrete mixing and trench digging has to be done manually. Young people on the schemes are therefore denied the opportunity of developing skills using machinery.

In this sense YOPS is no better than the roadbuilding and stone breaking schemes for the unemployed in Victorian times.

Another matter the new union branch could take up is the wages. At the moment workers on YOPS receive only a subsistence payment of £19.50 per week.

NURSERY NURSES AXED

NURSERY NURSES are being phased out of primary schools. It is the policy of Tories on the county council not to replace people when they leave.

These people give invaluable help to infant teachers. They do a lot of preparation work and often spend time working with small groups of children - giving

individual attention which it will be impossible for a teacher alone to do.

A petition to save this service has collected over 12,000 signatures. The latest batch was handed in at the beginning of October. The campaign to save these jobs is backed by local authority unions and teachers unions as well as by many parents.



The nursery nurses campaign with their petition at County Hall.



Madge Whittaker (County Council chairperson) takes the petition from Tony Morris (NUPE officer). Arthur Sandford (Chief Executive) looks on.

RACISM PERSISTS

OF THE 10,771 unemployed in Nottingham at the end of September, 1,100 were from the black and Asian community. Such a high proportion of black and Asian people out of work shows that discrimination still occurs within the employment sector.

Despite the efforts of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) employers still favour the indigenous population when there is high unemployment.

In order to combat this discrimination CRE sees two necessary developments. The first is that CRE must pursue its aims more aggressively with full support from the trade unions.

There must be full equality of opportunity both in job applications and within employment. Black and Asian workers often find promotional channels closed to them. If they complain of discrimination to the Commission they find themselves before a board of professional people with little understanding of their situation. Most such instances of discrimination go unreported.

Without full equality of opportunity within employment a second development is occurring. Minority groups have set up businesses of their own. Although the numbers employed are very small the Commission for Racial Equality sees them as

important. Full integration is only a reality in a situation of full equality of opportunity.

CONFLICT

High unemployment among black and Asian youths has caused much discontent. With little money to spend and a lot of time to kill many hang around the city centre during the day. In the past this has led to clashes with the security guards in the Victoria Centre where these youths have been accused of terrorising shoppers.

In order to combat this situation CRE has been operating a drop in centre for the unemployed at the International Community Centre.

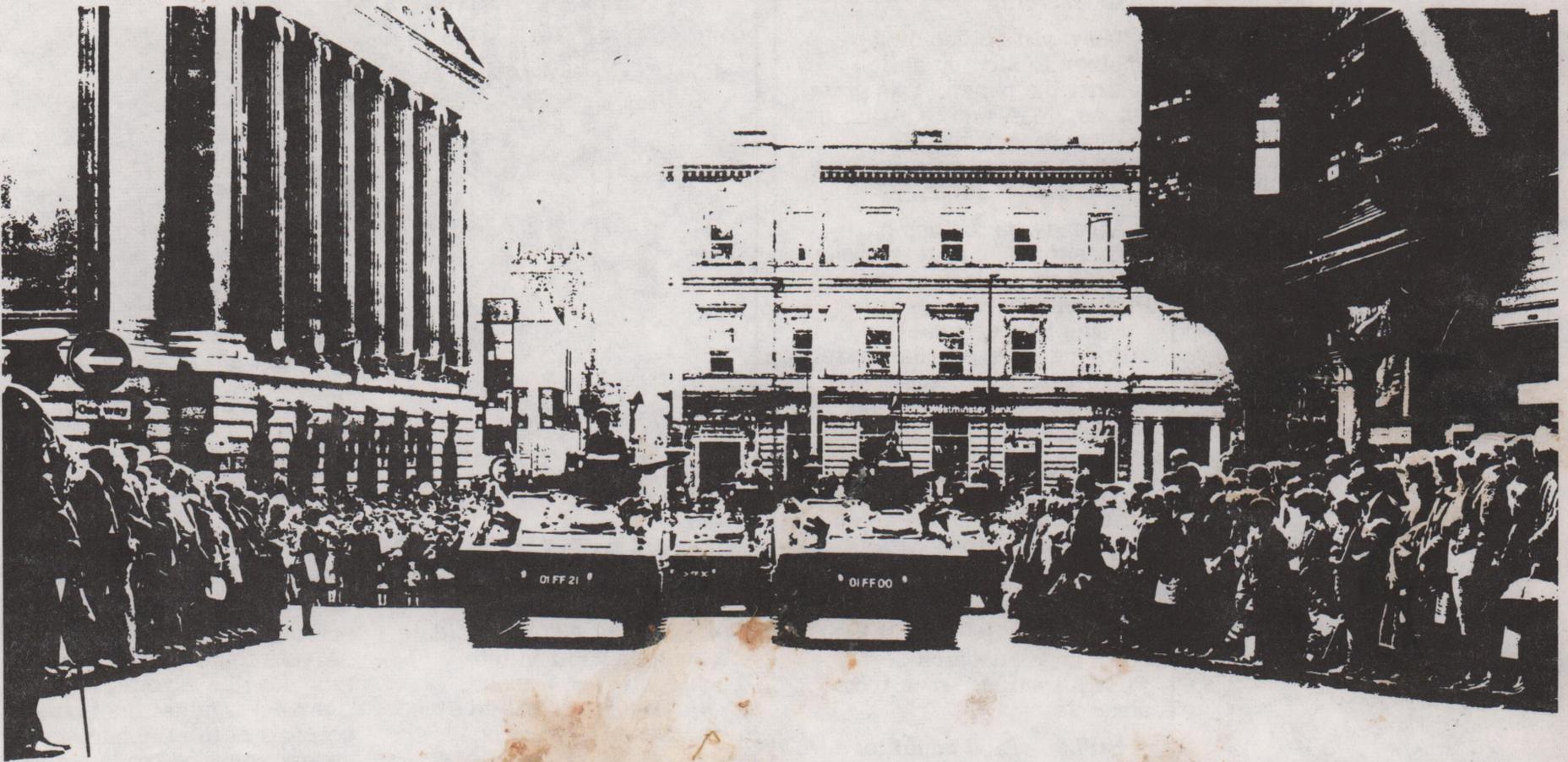
Two new centres are also opening soon - the Afro/Caribbean and the Indian centres. But their applications to the city council for help with running expenses have been turned down. So they will have to rely on the efforts of voluntary workers.

It is hoped to have the centres open full time so they can serve all sections of the black and Asian communities. They will provide workshops for people to learn new skills which can then be linked to courses in higher education. They will also provide a meeting place for people on the dole away from points of local conflict.

PHOTOS: DAVE BURGESS

TORIES RULE - OK?

PHOTO: JOHN BIRDSALL



No it's not Czechoslovakia 1968, it's Nottingham city centre 1978.

On Saturday 9th September 1978 the Tory city council gave the freedom of the city to the 17th/21st Lancers. And, as they made clear, freedom for the army means tanks on the streets.

Police even tried to prevent pacifists from giving out leaflets to protest at this outrage.

In the last two years local Tories have cut council house building and put up rents, cut bus services and put up fares, cut home helps and made old people pay for them, cut 1,000 jobs in the city, cut nursery places, cut consumer advice, cut community work, attacked teachers' morals and taken over control of the International Community Centre - to name but a few of their achievements.

But don't protest too loudly. They have powerful friends.

Get a story in the Voice

IF YOU WANT some action get a story in the Voice. This seems to be the message from Cauntun Avenue Flats.

In our last issue we explained what a sorry state the flats are in. We also reported that City Council leader Jack Green had refused to give any priority to these problems which are in his own ward.

Surprise, surprise. Within a week of the Voice article, a high level delegation including Green and Housing Director Campbell-Lee descended on the flats. Within a month they were promising to do all kinds of things - like paint the window frames and provide a community point and maybe even a play area.

Before Green read the Voice report, the only backing for the tenants had come from the local ward Labour Party and Labour's whizz-kid

housing expert Ben Allsop.

The tenants had also been helped by a Social Services community worker who was recently drafted into Cauntun Avenue Flats. This worker just happened to be based in the same office as the Hyson Green Flats Project which is led by one Roger Smith - who is a member of the Labour Party and works closely with Ben Allsop who is councillor for Hyson Green. Smith also has the ear of John Agass, the Housing Management Officer in charge of Cauntun Avenue Flats.

Could it be that Green fears there is a Labour plot to cause trouble in his own ward?

We must wait to see if Green can work as closely with his community worker in Cauntun Avenue as Allsop works with his in Hyson Green.

Buzby

DOES BUZBY, the telephone bird, support Aubrey, Berry and Campbell, the three who are on trial in London under the Official Secrets Act?

Their defence committee is selling tee shirts showing Buzby asking "Who is tapping your phone?". ATV Licensing who own Buzby's copyright have complained about this.

But the committee has answered, claiming "Buzby says because he does tap phones it is in the public interest if these activities are given the widest possible publicity".

Meanwhile, Peace News could be in more trouble. They were found guilty of contempt of court a few months ago when they named the mysterious Colonel B who figured in the Aubrey Berry Campbell trial.

The prosecution have now threatened to produce another secret witness - Mr C. This time Peace News named Mr C before he has appeared in court - so they can't be guilty of contempt of court in this case. Or can they?

Up to date information on the trial and the campaign is available locally at Mushroom, 10 Heathcoat Street. Also raffle tickets - 20p each, 3 for 50p.

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FUTURE EVENTS

Thurs 26th Oct - Socialist Challenge Forum - A Socialist Strategy for Women's Liberation with Celia Pugh (editorial board of "Socialist Woman"), 7.30, Room 4, People's Hall, Heathcoat Street.

Fri Nov 3rd - Women's Voice disco, International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Rd, 9pm-1am, food+late bar, 50p.

Tues Nov 7th - Anti Nazi League AGM, 7.30, TGWU offices, 259 Mansfield Rd (near Forest Rd). Motions to be submitted by 27th Oct to: ANL, P O Box No 1, Western PDO, Nottingham.

Wed Nov 8th - David Donison, chairperson of Supplementary Benefits Commission meets Nottingham trade unionists, 7.30, TGWU offices, 259 Mansfield Rd.

Sat Nov 11th - Cast (Socialist Cabaret and Black Comedy) presents "Confessions of a Socialist", 8pm onwards, Boulevard Hotel, Radford Boulevard (opposite Players), late bar, 80p.

Sat Nov 18th - the Anti-Nazi League is planning to hold a demonstration against the National Front headquarters on High Pavement. A march will probably start at the Forest at 11am but details have not been finalised as we go to press.

Mon Nov 20th - Inner cities meeting, 7.30, International Community Centre.

Bookmarx discussions - all at The Roebuck, Mansfield Rd on Tuesday evenings:

Nov 14th - Bob Sharpe on "1968 and After" by Tariq Ali.

Nov 28th - Brian Martin on "Our Flag Stays Red" by Phil Piratin (story of the battle of Cable Street - fighting Mosely's fascists in the East End in the 30s).

Dec 12th Roger Critchley on "The Local State" by Cynthia Cockburn (a marxist look at local government).

DECISION TO BE TAKEN

THE EVENING POST is to be discussed at a meeting of print unions in London on October 19th.

They will be deciding whether to step up action against the paper. Two print unions, NGA and SLADE, are in dispute with the paper because management refuses to recognise unions.

Already the unions have successfully blacked commercial printing work at the Post's headquarters in Forman Street and at an allied company in Huthwaite. And all trade unionists are being asked not to buy the paper or advertise in it.

Two possibilities for further action are blacking all advertising in the Post and strike action.

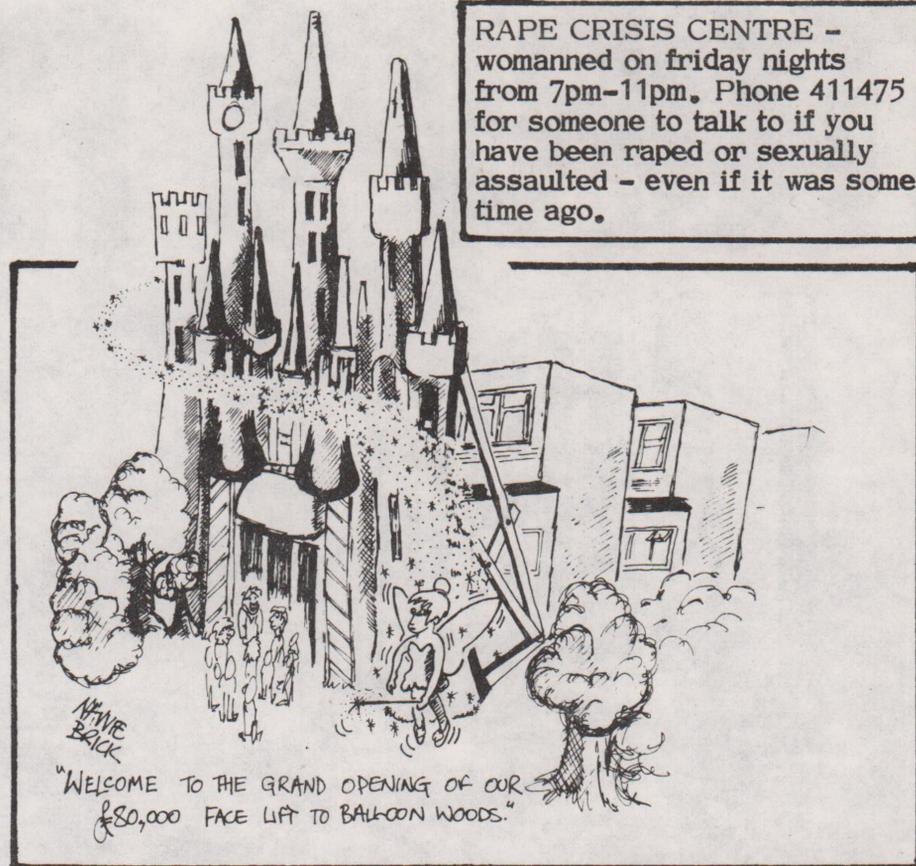
Blacking advertising would have an immediate effect and could break the Post if kept up. Three quarters of the Post's income comes from advertising.

Strike action could lead to scenes on Forman Street like those at Grunwick. This is perhaps unlikely. There are very few print union members left at Forman Street.

At the beginning of September, four of the last six SLADE members were sacked at a moments notice. Management refused to pay them any money owed unless they signed a form accepting redundancy. SLADE claim their jobs are still being done by other workers - so they should not have been declared redundant.

The City Council is to hold a reception on October 27th for 300 people to mark the Post's centenary. SLADE want this called off and have asked Labour councillors to boycott it.

In July, the Duke of Edinburgh called off his planned visit to the Post because of the dispute.



RAPE CRISIS CENTRE - womanned on friday nights from 7pm-11pm. Phone 411475 for someone to talk to if you have been raped or sexually assaulted - even if it was some time ago.

LABOUR INVESTIGATION

SOCIALIST UNITY candidate Ian Juniper has run into trouble with the Labour Party. Mr Juniper is to stand in the General Election against East Nottingham's millionaire Labour MP Jack Dunnett.

The problem arises because Mr Juniper is a member of the North Nottingham Labour Party and a representative on their management committee.

He sees no conflict between his membership of the Labour Party and standing as a Socialist Unity candidate.

"If anyone needs to be kicked out of the Labour Party it is Jack Dunnett", he says.

"Dunnett is a millionaire property dealer who has a record of opposing those in the Labour Party who want socialist solutions. In a survey by the National Council for Civil Liberties, Dunnett came bottom out of all Labour MPs on his civil liberties record in Parliament.

"A vote for Socialist Unity is also a vote for those in the Labour Party who want to get shot of Dunnett", says Ian.

But not everyone in North Nottingham Labour Party agrees. Some of Dunnett's friends have called for Mr Juniper's actions to be investigated by the constituency executive. Mr Juniper will have to wait and see which side they support - Dunnett or socialism.

Socialist Unity has a peculiar attitude towards Labour. They want to see a Labour government returned. But they are standing candidates against Labour candidates like Dunnett who

are obviously not socialists. "A vote for Socialist Unity", they say, "is a vote for a fightback against the rotten policies of the Labour government and trade union leadership".

They are against wage controls and want a £60 a week minimum wage.

Unemployment won't be solved by discrimination against women and black people, they say. More jobs should be created by reducing the working week without loss of pay and without increased work.

They want to see the public expenditure cuts reversed with a programme of socially needed projects like houses, hospitals and schools - and less supersonic jets and arms expenditure.

They also want to see the big firms nationalised under the control of the workers. The banks should be nationalised as well, they say, and interest rates slashed.

Other topics covered in their manifesto are democratic rights, women's rights, and opposition to all forms of racism - including immigration laws.

They want the troops pulled out of Northern Ireland immediately and recently handed out leaflets at army recruitment displays urging school leavers not to join the army.

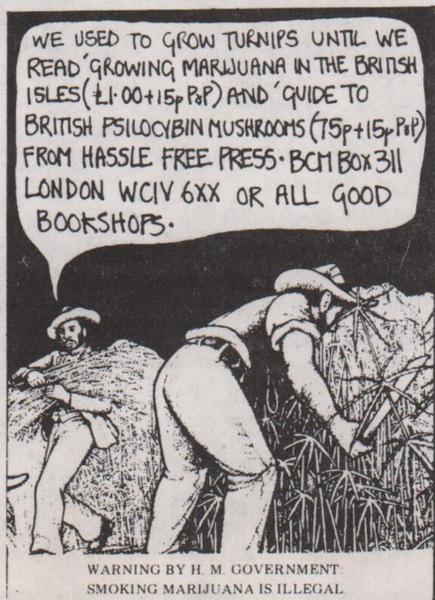
In another campaign, they picketed Lincoln Jail over a "prisoner of race" held there. He is one of the hundreds of people held without trial in British jails under the immigration laws. They are supporting a demonstration in Bradford on this subject on October 21st.

14 years

"A GUIDE to growing Marijuana in the British Isles and Other Cool Climates" is described by News Release as "well written, nicely illustrated and a good guide".

Their only criticism of the book is that it fails to warn people that growing marijuana is a crime - for which the maximum sentence is 14 years and an unlimited fine.

The guide is available from Mushroom, 10 Heathcoat St.



Closure will mean cuts

BUSWORKERS have given up the fight to save Bilborough depot. They say they have not received support from the public in their attempts to prevent the closure.

It seems they had hoped that public opinion would change the mind of Tory councillors. Industrial action does not seem to have been seriously considered - because it was thought it would turn the public against them. But the public will suffer once the depot has gone.

Bilborough is the only purpose built bus depot in the city and the only depot on the west ern side of the city. It is to be closed in mid-November. Around 80 buses and 200 workers will be transferred to other depots.

Bilborough shop steward Ken Garratt told the Voice there are serious questions about the future of other depots. Central Market could be closed at any time because it is only temporary. And Sherwood is dangerous, he said - there could be trouble over the new health and safety regulations. There are also questions about Trent Bridge depot.

With Bilborough depot gone, the city's capacity is down to 400 buses from 500. If another couple of depots close that will go down to 300.

Bilborough is to be converted to a base for the housing repairs department at a cost of £1 million for conversion plus £300,000 a year rent. Council house tenants will have to pay for this through their rents. Still, its not every city that can boast a repairs department run from a converted bus garage.

Harold Chapman, union official at Bilborough, told the Voice that services will be worse as soon as the depot closes.

Last buses will leave the city at 11pm instead of 11.30, he said. But drivers will get back to their depots later because they will have to return to town. They will then have to travel back out of town to get home. 40% of the drivers live very near to the depot and up to 70% will be adversely affected, said Mr Chapman. He also said that first buses in the morning would be ten minutes later.

And he claimed that the amount of "dead mileage" would be increased because the first buses out of the city in the morning and last buses into the city at night would be travelling empty. Tories had claimed that closing Bilborough would reduce "dead mileage".

Astounded

A LANDLORD has avoided improving four houses in Eastwood Street, Bulwell for two years. But still the city council refuses to take effective action either to see the improvements are done or to rehouse the tenants.

Local Communist John Peck says in a letter to the Housing Director Malcolm Campbell-Lee that he is astounded.

He says the tenants signed for an improvement scheme in 1976 and the city council served improvement notices on the landlord. They gave the landlord until December 1976 to do improvements which he had agreed to. He has still done nothing.

In June 1977 Mr Campbell-Lee assured Mr Peck "action will be taken at the appropriate time". But in a letter to Mr Peck in September this year he says "the Local Authority must consider all avenues . . . before resorting to carrying out such default works as are necessary".

Now Mr Peck reports that the tenants are "exceedingly disappointed in the council". They are refusing to pay any rent until the improvements are done.

Mr Peck asks Mr Campbell-Lee to meet a deputation of himself and the tenants to discuss a speedy solution.

Children

A LARGE NUMBER of children are again living in some council maisonettes where the council decided in 1973 there would be no more children.

The Bulwell Tenants Association says that following a lobby of the city council and a mass meeting of tenants in 1973 the council moved almost all families with children out of the top decks of Crabtree Farm Estate Courts.

But now, they say, the position is probably worse than it was then. In a census of 63 maisonettes on the top decks they found a total of 67 children, 48 of them under five years old.

Recently a four year old boy fell over a balcony and had to spend two weeks in hospital with head and back injuries.

The tenants association is urging the council to revert to its policy declared in 1973 of rehousing families with children.

THE LOCAL Trades Council Campaign Against the Cuts is to be reformed. Welfare and Housing groups as well as trade unions are being invited to take part.

Raleigh

POLLUTION from Raleigh is being tackled by a specially formed group of residents next to the factory in the Cycle Road/Johnson Road area of Lenton.

The Lenton Action Group was formed in June to follow up a report from Nottingham Workshop, the local information unit for trade unionists and community groups.

The report was based on a survey of 59 households in the area. 28 complained of noise, 30 complained of fumes and smells and 26 of soot and smoke. Car parking and lorries making deliveries were also a problem.

The group reports that Raleigh management has made some alterations to reduce noise. This followed a visit by the Environmental Health Department. The action group's committee has also met Raleigh management together with local councillor John Carroll.

But, according to the group, traffic and noise have both got worse. Their next step is to take this up with Raleigh using photographs and tape recordings.

("Pollution in our Midst" is available from Nottingham Workshop, 118 Mansfield Road. Tel: 50428)

KINKY

CHIEF CONSTABLE Charles McLachlan wants "total resources" to "overcome our enemy" in a "war against crime", he says in his Annual Report for Nottinghamshire. He says the police should have only "minimal restrictions" on the way they do their job.

It is no doubt with this end in mind that 34 brave volunteers (all male) have been drafted into a Special Operations Unit. Specialised training is given in "crowd control, the use of protective shields and advanced self-defence". Firearms were issued on 32 operations last year.

But just who does this Unit regard as the enemy. The figures show that their main targets have been prostitutes in the Hyson Green area (224 arrests) and football hooligans (187 arrests).

So the crack troops think that women and kids are public enemy number one.

Rumours that the Unit has been issued with black leather truncheons and whips have not been confirmed.

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TRUANT GIRL'S FATHER TO BE JAILED

TRUANCY has been hitting the headlines locally. But is the problem caused by children and their parents - or by the schools? Helen Fletcher, a local member of the A S Neil Association, writes about the case of Shirley Hastings whose father faces two months in jail because she has refused to go to school:

SHIRLEY HASTINGS, 15 years old, has been going to Player school since she moved to Broxtowe in 1973.

Broxtowe is a council estate in which many "problem" families are housed. Player school is where their children are "educated" - all the children who are not going to make it, who are considered as having no future in this society (that means they are not going for O or A levels). And those are the words of some people who taught there.

So "social" problems are easily located and the council can physically control them by setting probation officers and social workers onto them at any time of the day to preach the good word.

Shirley asked for a transfer two years ago when she started to get beaten up by other young girls. No answer was ever given. So she started to refuse to go.

LEGAL BLACKMAIL

Her father, Frank Hastings, got caught into the legal blackmail. "If you don't force her to go, you will get fined", he was told. So he did his best. He even tried

beating her up but she just went to the police and accused him of assault.

Shirley started to fake going and truanting during the day with three other girls. She told me that anyway she was not going to be in the classroom - the headmistress asked her to become the secretary's runner in her last year - and that nothing was really taught in her class.

"They don't know what to teach you. They're teaching me what I've learnt in the first form. I know all what I need and what I want now is to find a job." Shirley is a young determined woman who is literate and numerate (she has shown me some of her homework).

JAIL

She got involved in a supermarket theft with three other girls who are living in the same area. One of the girls' fathers, unemployed like Mr Hastings, was fined £30 for his daughter truanting. Another, unemployed as well, saw his daughter sent into care. The third, employed, managed to get the transfer for which, like Shirley, his daughter had asked before. Frank Hastings was sentenced to jail (two months). He is appealing.

Mr Hastings, who taught himself to read and write when he left school at fourteen, is straight and articulate about what he thinks and is well aware that the Education Act is servicing the economical and political

system and not the needs of the children.

Shirley was brought before the juvenile court as being in need of "care" and "protection" on the 4th of October. Her case was adjourned on the condition that she promised to go to school every day and that if she missed only one day at school she would be taken away into care the same day. No explanation was given about the meaning of being in "care" to her. All I heard was the threat being repeated again and again.

NO SUPPORT

When I told them about the Education Act section 36 they were astonished. They thought school was compulsory. Nobody, not even Mr Hastings' solicitor, told them it is not so, that in this country only education is compulsory.

Nobody listened to Shirley and to what she had to say.

Nobody inquired about her school and the so-called "full-time" education it provides.

Nobody tried to contact her headmistress or teacher, as far as Shirley knows.

When I proposed to become her tutor till she'll be 16, her solicitor at the court answered with a sarcastic smile and interrupted me with: "Are you a trained teacher? - No? WE want her to go to school".

It is not only a "social" problem. It is a case of blackmail from the authorities

to keep the people away from knowledge of the law so they can legitimate their power. Mr Hastings should sue the education authority for not providing full-time education and for ignoring Shirley's age, ability and aptitude according to which she should have been educated.

In his battle he needs help because the Notts education authority have now started a hard campaign against truancy.

If parents and teachers were openly and loudly supporting similar cases all over the country (and there are many at the moment), maybe the suggestion in the 1969 Children and Young Persons Act that the protection of society and the promotion of the child's welfare are one and the same thing would start to appear to more people as wrong and dangerous.

Maybe more of us would have to face the fact that we are now standing at the crossroads and that we must choose between a schooled society or a learning society.

THE A.S. NEIL TRUST aims to secure greater freedom for children and adolescents. It also publishes a newsletter available in Mushroom, 10 Heathcoat Street. For details contact Helen Fletcher on 622593 on Wednesdays after 4pm. Helen is also involved in "Education Otherwise", which aims to help parents who are "deschooling" their children - this includes legal advice as well as practical advice.



A CRAFT FAIR was held recently at Nottingham Community Arts and Crafts Centre on Gregory Boulevard (between Noel Street and the

police station). The next fair will probably be on Saturday December 9th - a good opportunity for buying Christmas goodies.



PHOTOS: DAVE BURGESS

Letters

Uninformed cliché?

Dear Voice,

We write regarding an article in your last publication concerning the non-payment of a Karnival donation to the People's Centre. We fully accept that the grant of £1,000 remains unpaid, but feel the reasons given in your article, namely "political chicanery by . . . John Taylor and his cohorts" to be totally incorrect and an example of uninformed journalistic cliché-writing at its worst.

In the past Karnival played a large financial role in the establishment and running of the People's Centre. In 1977 it was decided by mutual agreement that the People's Centre ought to move towards self-sufficiency: reliance on Karnival for over 50% of its income tied both the People's Centre and Karnival. It was therefore decided that any money granted in 1977 ought to be used for the establishment of a profit-making shop.

Shortly before the grant of £1,000 was given to the People's Centre minutes of the AGM showed the money was not to be used for a shop, but for the purchase and upkeep of a van. We felt, far from increasing self-sufficiency, a van was a very dangerous liability to take on - as any car owner realises cars cost a great deal to maintain. John Taylor advised Karnival of this sudden change in plan, and we felt that until the matter was resolved the £1,000 ought to remain unpaid.

This led the incoming Karnival Director to examine the People's Centre accounts. Serious discrepancies appeared between the audited accounts 1976-77 and the projected accounts given in the original appeal for mid-1977. It was agreed that if the projected accounts were a true estimation of the People's Centre's financial situation, all was going well, and the grant ought to be paid.

However, it was felt very likely that the audited accounts 1977-78 would not show such a bright picture; in fact, they could be expected to show a dire financial situation, in which case further liabilities, such as a van, would be most unwise. Karnival '78 therefore wished to see audited accounts for the year 1977-78, so that the

true financial picture could be seen. If the accounts matched the projection, all would be well, and the People's Centre could use its money to expand as set out in its original application.

If, as Karnival feared, all was not well, financial rescue would be the first priority. If this was not done, bankruptcy would prevent ANY of the People's Centre's laudable activities continuing. At the time of writing no accounts for the year ended April 1978 have been presented.

I hope this clarifies the situation, and that such defamatory words as "political chicanery" and "cohorts" are not used in this publication again unless they truly reflect the situation reported.

Yours faithfully,
Matthew Davis
(Karnival Director '78)
Marc Moninski
(Union President '78-'79)
University Park
Nottingham

(Eds - The article referred to in the last issue was written by the People's Centre committee. They will be replying to a number of the points raised in the next issue. In particular, they say that John Taylor has seriously misrepresented their intentions regarding a van.)

Expensive

Dear Voice,

I recently unearthed in the archives of Nottinghamshire County Council a document which may throw light on their need to cut back on worthwhile projects.

This was a claim of a senior official (£12,000 salary, £935 car allowance and £6.25 an hour extra when he lectures on his speciality during working hours) in respect of a trip to London. There he had a private chat with one Skyrme and attended an official dinner.

For rail fares the county treasurer paid £16.60, for the official's dinner £10, for a room at Holiday Inn ("Free heated swimming pool, high quality food, direct dial telephone, spacious bedrooms always with double beds, a private bathroom and colour TV") £15.70, for subsistence £1.60.

The total of £43.90 seems a trifle high for a short talk and a night out. The rate-payers have paid a high price for access to a swimming pool and colour TV in the bedroom. Why could not the official have slept off the effects of the dinner on the midnight train and saved about £20? One

wonders how many such claims are met by the rate-payers each year.

A test of sincerity of local councillors (and of the steel of their personnel officers in warning them of troubles ahead) lies in the refusal of the negotiating body for chief officers' pay (£12,000 - £17,000) to give way to government pressure to renege on an agreement to pay these officials 11½% more from 1st July last. If the local councillors implement the agreement, will they expect the lower-paid essential workers such as dustbin-men, car-park attendants, porters and the like to accept 5%?

Yours faithfully,
Oliver Lever,
Park Road,
Plumtree.

Robbery

Dear Voice,

Junior criminal hooligans who have recently robbed and tortured elderly disabled people in their homes have set a precedent that is eagerly being followed by the county Social Services Committee.

Under the leadership of Brenda Borrett, their chairman - er, person? - they are now operating a

vast countywide robbery of thousands of disabled, chronically ill and elderly people with a nasty piece of extortion by intimidation which they claim as a successful application of political policy.

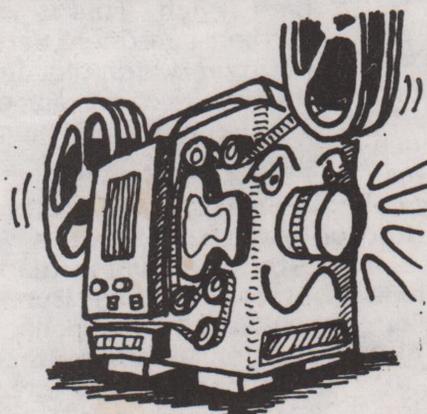
Well we all know what Brenda's policies are, and the committee's. Here is how they are putting them into operation.

First they carefully select their victims. Only the seriously disabled, chronically ill and helpless elderly will do. Brenda and company don't want to get hurt by picking on anyone who can fight back. They then means test these victims and when they find the ones who are so poor they can't afford to live, and so in need of help they are getting home help, then they order the home help to tell the victim as follows: "If you don't sign that form to pay 50p per week then I am to walk right out of here and you will not get any help for a month. No signature, no home help."

Neat isn't it. Robbery with violence at somewhere around two million pounds a year.

There is no help for the people in this situation and it is not planned to offer them any. Nice, isn't it?

A Chronically Sick and Disabled Person
(Name and address supplied)



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Reviews

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Nazi justice

Sebastian Cobler
Law, Order and Politics in West Germany
Penguin, 90p

THE DARK FACE of West German material prosperity is its spiritual poverty: a society where political, and many other forms of, dissent is ruthlessly suppressed. Excluded from any participation in the political system, it's no wonder that millions of Germans have turned against it. The methods of the Baader-Meinhof gang may be misguided, but there's no doubt that their aims are shared by many.

This book is, simply, a tour de force: a succinct, committed explanation of the German security system and the way in which it developed, which is not only highly informative but also very well written.

Cobler shows how, from the 40s onwards, successive measures have strengthened the powers of the state well advance of any threat to it. In particular, it has always been concerned as much with opinions as much as actual actions against it. One example out of many in the book is the definition of High Treason which has been used for years: this can include "the exercise of intellectual or moral influence on the population".

One thing which Cobler does show clearly, is the extent to which much of the relevant law is derived, in spirit and often in letter, from Nazi models. In addition, of course, it is often implemented by policemen, judges etc who themselves have past Nazi connections.

At last, what is going in West Germany has been realised in other countries - although needless to say, not by the media which continues to present the Baader-Meinhof activities without ever considering their context.

Two recent developments which have contributed to this have been the practice of 'Verufsverbot' - under which all state employees (including those in local government and the nationalised industries) have to prove their loyalty to the state - and the vilification campaign which has been carried out against liberal intellectuals such as Gunter Grass or Heinrich Boll. Anyone they say, who dares to criticise the states response to terrorism, opposition to nuclear power etc must

themselves be enemies of the state.

This book is one of the most important to be published this year. The reason is that what has happened in West Germany could easily happen here. That is why the more people know about what is going on there, the more that the work of bodies such as the Bertrand Russell Tribunal which has been investigating the question will be helped. If this kind of repression is allowed to continue in West Germany, it won't be too long before the 'Colonel B's of this world try to import it to the United Kingdom.

john maxwell

Plays

There's still time to catch the truly excellent production by Geoffrey Reeves of 'Henry V' at the Playhouse (till October 31st). The play contains some of Shakespeare's best writing (albeit in a dubious cause), which is well brought out by the cast, especially Tom Wilkinson as Henry himself. The result is that, for all its length, the play moves - with the exception of one or two of the court scenes - extremely quickly.

The highpoint of the play lies in the controlled tension of the pre-battle scenes: the world weary realism of the British against the bragging heroism of the French. This is underlined by the magnificent setting: a giant howitzer which trundles out from the depths of the stage, and creates a perfect martial atmosphere.

Three plays are coming up for November. First is "The Strongest Man in the World", the story of an East European miner, which is being sponsored by the British Miners Welfare fund. This is supported by Pinter's "The Caretaker", and "The Beaux Stratagem". Also coming up, on Oct 29th, is the Steel Band of Great Britain, which should be worth a visit.

david smith

WOMENS FILM FESTIVAL



Women's Festival

THIS AUTUMN sees an exciting new project in Nottingham - a Women's Festival of the Arts. From October to December there will be a season of films, theatre, literary events, dance, exhibitions and performance art by and about women.

Why is this? Is Nottingham the centre of feminist revolution in Britain? Well, not quite, but we're doing our best!

The idea for the season began last year when the Nottingham Film Theatre experimented with a different programme, setting aside Friday nights for a series of films called "Challenge to Imperialism". For once you saw films not through the white, male Western eyes of Hollywood, but through the eyes of the Third World.

This caught the attention of members from the Women's Liberation Group. Wasn't it

about time that we began to explore some of the myths and stereotypes of women which persist in film. If this is so male dominated, what implications does this have for the films that are made, the subjects that are chosen and the way women are presented. Now, if women are working in cinema themselves, what subjects do they choose and how do they deal with them? Could we see, for a change, films through female eyes?

These discussions led to a varied programme of seventeen films directed by women - from those working in Hollywood, through the independent cinema to films from the feminist movement; from documentary to comedy and animated film.

Just when we were putting the finishing touches to the programme, the Film Theatre discovered that it could not put on the season. The East Midlands Arts Association stepped in, and the films are now to be screened at the Midland Group Gallery.

Once the films had been worked out, it stimulated other offices at East Midlands Arts to look at their own programmes. Could they not, in a similar way, present women working in different forms of art - to see how women artists see themselves, and how they use these forms to discover themselves.

So the idea of the Festival grew to include theatre, literature and photography. The difficulty has been finding enough evenings to pack in all the goodies. Make sure you don't miss any!

jane brown

FOR A FULL LIST of events in the Women's Festival see the programme which is inserted in this issue.

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