

# UNION CITY NEWS

BULLETIN OF NOTTINGHAM TRADES COUNCIL

ISSUE 7

## ELDERLEY PERSONS' HOMES INNOTS ONCE AGAIN UNDER THREAT & CHILDRENS RESIDENTIAL HOME CLOSURE PLANNED

A year since Notts County Council's planned closure of 13 elderley persons homes in Nottinghamshire (which provoked trade union and community action, not to mention a revolt within the ruling Labour Group) they're at it again! A report by CSL consultants has recommended that approx half the present number of elderley persons homes should be transferred to trust status - a growing trend amongst local authorities increasingly strapped for cash. Despite platitudes about "non-profit making" and protection of employee rights, experience of similar exercises elsewhere such as in Gloucestershire, have proven disastrous both for workers and the service they provide. Assurances given by councillors that the plans are still up for negotiations have been thrown into doubt by persistent rumours within the Social Services Dept that the proposals are scheduled for the June Committee meeting. NALGO and NUPE are jointly organising around the issue and hope to draw support from other interested parties in the community.

On top of this plans have been made to close 2 childrens residential homes - Skegby Hall in Ashfield and Broughton House in Newark. The closure of Broughton House would leave the Newark area without any childrens residential facilities. The plans stem from a review of the residential service which has yet to be released to NALGO despite having appeared in the local press a day before its approval by the Social Services committee!

The disgraceful failure of the authority to honour even basic commitments to consultation (management in Social Services now refuse to even use the term 'negotiation') is becoming the norm in Social Services. Just what will it take for the Labour controlled council to reign in these managers adopting such a contemptuous stance against the workforce and to honour its own agreements?

By a Notts County NALGO member

**S** THE  
SOCIALIST  
MOVEMENT  
Trade Union Committee

Second  
Conference 1992  
18th - 19th July  
Conway Hall, Red  
Lion Sq, London

WHICH WAY FOR  
SOCIALISTS IN THE UNIONS?

**Fighting  
the employers'  
offensive**

**Resisting new  
management  
techniques**

**Unshackle  
the Unions:  
fighting Tory laws**

☆ 'I hope that you will support the Conference by spreading the word through your union or locality, and by encouraging your trade union body to sponsor it and send delegates. The voice and vital political role of eight million trade union members must be re-established.'

Tony Benn

☆ 'I welcome this conference as an opportunity to explore the best way of developing an organised campaign of resistance against the Tory Trade Union Legislation. It is a conference which can challenge the defeatist ideas of the 'New Realists' and show that active resistance is an alternative.'

Arthur Scargill

## REGIONAL ANTI FASCIST RALLY

**FRIDAY 26TH JUNE  
DOORS OPEN 7.00PM  
SPEAKERS 8.00PM**

**FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, CLARENDON ST,  
NOTTINGHAM**

**SPEAKERS INCLUDE:  
LEICESTER RACIAL ATTACKS MONITORING PROJECT  
DERBY CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM & FASCISM  
LABOUR MP  
"OUTRAGE"**

**STALLS/FOOD/HOT & COLD  
(NON-ALCOHOLIC) DRINKS**

**ORGANISED BY NOTTS ANTI FASCIST  
ALLIANCE**

**(TO JOIN NAFA SEND £2 WAGED/£1  
UNWAGED TO PO BOX 179, NOTTM NG1 3AQ)**



### **SAVE THOSE RECORDS!**

Does your union branch or district office have any old (or even perhaps recent) records stashed away gathering dust and in danger of being binned or burnt? Trade union records are being lost all too frequently, yet, however insignificant some records may appear at first glance, these form part of the heritage of the trade union movement. This is an appeal for all unwanted records to be placed in a library or archive so that they are not lost forever.

There are a number of places where local Notts TU records can be deposited: Notts Archive Office, High Pavement; The Local Studies section of the Hallward Library, Nottm University. Both these places already have some tu records deposited with them. Their staff can give advice & information.

More widely, records can be deposited at the Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick which has a very extensive TU collection. The TUC library at Congress House, London similarly has very large holdings. Or there's the Working Class Movement Library at Salford.

Anyones who may be worried about ther confidentiality of certain records could deposit them with restricted access &/or a 'closure' of say 20 years.

For further info contact Nottm Trades Council or Richard Stevens on 0602 588025 (evenings)

## **ONE FUND FOR ALL**

Notts has an unemployed centre in Ollerton, with discussions taking place in Mansfield and Nottm. We now have a OFFA Bank Account to support the campaigning work of Centres. A recent Government report talks of 3 million being out of work by the year 2000. That means the real unmassaged figure will be 4.5 million. Adding dependants and family we are talking of 10 million being affected. An appeal is made to individuals in work (inc. TU Officers) to make a bankers order each month to the OFFA a/c (£1-£20). The OFFA a/c can be used for union members in work to agree to have 10p - 50p a month/week deducted with their union subscriptions at check off. Please contact Secretary for the paper work re. OFFA. Tel. 501035

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF TU COUNCILS**

This years reinstated annual conference, following the tremendous victory of reversing a General Council decision, was a success. There exists no substitute for the exchange of views and ideas and an understanding of being a part of a broad movement than to have and attend a national conference. Eleven resolutions were debated and several emergencies accepted. Notts CATC submitted one condemning the proposed regional cuts with its inevitable knock on effect of weakening TU Councils. This was passed unanimously. The dismay that was present in Conference turned to anger when TUC official Brendon tried to justify the General Council position. At the finish of Conference it was noted 'time and venue' of next Conference was not on the agenda. We were reminded that Conference was still under review and could be cut.

### **EAST MIDLANDS TUC UNDER THREAT**

The General Council has adopted a plan of wide ranging cuts at National and regional level. Part of these plans include the merging of the East and West Midland Region TUCs. The Notts County Association of TU Councils put the following resolution to the TC Conference in May and was passed unanimously.

'Notts CATC is alarmed at the General Councils proposed cuts in the Regional TUC structure. Such moves will inherently weaken the movement especially the Trades Council and Unemployed Centres. Mindful of the need to work within a reduced budget, Conference calls upon the General Council to set aside the specified proposed reductions and open a broad and wide ranging discussion with the regions and unions'.

The Trades Council urges all affiliates to adopt the resolution; to press their national unions to conclude same and instruct General Council members to reverse the draconian cuts and initiate the much needed debate. Further info contact Sec or Regional Sec 472444.

### **ATTEND:**

The Trades Council meets on the 3rd Wednesday every month at the ICC, Mansfield Rd starting at 7.30pm

**AFFILIATE:** Is your branch affiliated? If yes, have you paid your 1992 affiliation? Send your cheque to 204 Noel St., Forest Fields, Nottingham. If your branch isn't affiliated-why not? For details of cost ring Leo Keely on 703135

### **CONTRIBUTE:**

Send articles for the next issue to Steve Battlemuch, 191 Burford Rd, Forest Fields. Typeset & printed by Eric McNaughton (GPMU)