

nottingham bulletin.

APRIL / MAY 79

No 1

PRICE 15p

INCORPORATING THE BULLETINS OF NOTTINGHAM WORKSHOP AND
NOTTINGHAM CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CUTS

INTRODUCING

Nottingham Bulletin has come into existence as a result of a merger between the Cuts Bulletin of the Nottingham Campaign Against the Cuts and the Nottingham Workshop bulletin. This has been done because we felt that there was a substantial overlap in the kind of articles going into both bulletins and also there was an overlap in personnel doing the work of putting them together. In the circumstances it was felt that we wanted to avoid a certain degree of duplication of effort

when person power resources were, in any case scarce.

In merging the two journals we shall continue to maintain distinct parts specifically for looking at aspects of research currently being done by Nottingham Workshop and also covering problems in the public services related to shortages and cut-backs in public expenditure. We shall also cover book reviews of interest to community groups and local trade unionists and news relevant to them.



Health and Safety
Forman Hardy Empire
Fire Brigades Union Opposes Cuts
May Day
Cuts in Education
State and Chips
Clamp Down on Council House Sales
Unemployment in Nottingham

THE FORMAN

In 1973 the Evening Post company was restructured with the formation of a holding company, Forman Hardy Holdings Ltd, in which a controlling share is held by Colonel Thomas Forman Hardy, a rich local landowner. Most of the other shares in the holding company are held by the Colonel's family. Another person with a large holding is Paul Granger, an

accountant who is also a fellow director with Forman Hardy on the board of Hardys and Hansons Ltd (Kimberley Brewery).

The main subsidiary of Forman Hardy Holdings is T Bailey Forman Ltd which publishes the Evening Post and "Penny Savers" (free advertising papers). Other subsid-

aries include:

F W Buck & Sons Ltd (which publishes "Notts Free Press").
Midland Direct Advertising Ltd
The Nottingham Garden Centre Ltd
F H Farms Ltd
TBF(Transport) Ltd(formerly TBF (Aviation) Ltd).
TBF(Printers)Ltd
TBF(Process)Ltd

Technological Change at the Evening Post

- 1962 Colonel Thomas Forman Hardy takes over control.
- 1966 Christopher Pole-Carew joins the Post with a brief to introduce computer technology.
- 1967 The Post has the first general purpose computer used by a UK newspaper.
- 1968 Pole-Carew becomes Managing Director.
- 1970 85% changeover from the old "hot metal" typesetting to computer controlled photo-typesetting achieved.
- 1971 95 redundancies.
- 1972 Record profits of £750,000 (pre-tax).
- 1973 Six week lock-out smashes unions.
 148 redundancies.
 All union officials banned from the premises for ever.
 100% changeover to computer typesetting achieved.
- 1977 Advanced computer technology eliminates compositors jobs, allowing journalists to control typesetting.
 Post forms Swiss subsidiary to sell computer systems abroad (2 sold in South Africa).
- 1978 The print unions NGA and SLADE black commercial printing work done by the Post and an allied company at Huthwaite.
 52 redundancies.
 Duke of Edinburgh cancels his proposed visit to the Post because of the print unions dispute.
 28 journalists sacked after joining a national NUJ strike over pay.
- 1979 NUJ calls mass pickets at the Post.
 NGA and SLADE black the Post's advertising nationally.

THE NUJ CHAPEL at the Evening Post says "The fight to secure the right to strike without fear of the sack is the bedrock of trade unionism and humane management".

They are asking:

- * Boycott the Evening Post. Refuse to buy it or advertise in it. Refuse to talk to their strikebreaking reporters.
- * Urge unions and other organisations to which you belong not to co-operate with the Post.

ACTION ON THE POST

Action against the Post by the journalists and print unions has been stepped up and there is the possibility that action could be taken jointly.

At the moment the NUJ is organising regular pickets and NGA and SLADE are blacking firms which have continued to advertise in the Post. Nottingham News, which is published by the journalists who have been sacked from the Post, is still not giving any backing to the campaign against the Post apart from statements in its editorials.

Picketing of the Post by the NUJ has been heavily policed with several arrests. An official complaint has been made about the way police manhandled Kevin Hill, Father of the NUJ chapel, on March 3rd.

On that occasion NUJ district secretary Frank Palmer tells us that while about 50 members outside the Post were discussing tactics the police broke them up and arrested several people on public order charges. Two were arrested for "slagging off" National Front supporters who were opposing the picket.

POLICE 'OVERKILL'

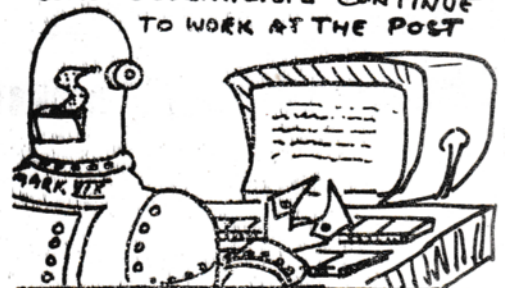
The policing operation has cost the ratepayers £57,000 up to the middle of March. Mr Palmer said the management should foot the bill. He accused the police of 'overkill' saying they at times

outnumbered pickets by four to one with several police in reserve with dogs and horses.

Magistrates are coming down hard on pickets who have come before the courts. NUJ Vice President Jake Ecclestone was fined £250 for sitting down in front of a Post van after police refused to allow pickets to talk to the van drivers on January 27th. Mr Ecclestone was told he was lucky he wasn't being sent to jail. Another London journalist was fined £150 after being found guilty of assaulting a policeman on the same day.

High Court action is being taken against the print unions because their campaign of blacking advertisers has started to be successful. Local SLADE branch secretary Barry Wood told us that up to 30% of the Post's advertising could have been hit. He said the Post was virtually giving away some advertising space just to keep up the number of pages.

SOME JOURNALISTS CONTINUE TO WORK AT THE POST



HARDY EMPIRE

Billogrove Ltd (a 49% interest in this Bristol haulage firm was purchased in 1973 after supplies of the Post's newsprint from Avonmouth were blacked on British Waterways during the 1973 dispute).

Another company associated with the Evening Post is Huthwaite Printing Co Ltd, mainly owned by Forman Hardy's son Nicolas and

daughter Delia (whose surname is now Broke). Col. Forman Hardy is chairperson. The company does high quality colour printing work including the Post's colour magazines. Until the company was blacked by NGA and SLADE last year it used to print some national magazines like "Home and Garden". The Managing Director of Huthwaite is Christopher Pole-Carew who is a director of all

Forman-Hardy Holdings subsidiaries.

(Some of the above information is taken from Nottingham Voice of January 1976 and may be out of date. We were unable to obtain the latest information about the Post companies owing to the strike of Civil Servants at Companies House. We will print any further information when it becomes available.)

HARDYS AND HANSONS

The Post Empire is not confined to printing. It has a major interest in the local brewery Hardy and Hansons. This brewery is an amalgamation of Hardy's Kimberley Brewery and Hansons Ltd. which took place in 1932. The Hardy Brewery was started in 1832 and was taken over by William and Thomas Hardy in 1854.

In 1926 T.E. Forman Hardy was 6 years old when his father died leaving him a major interest in Hardy's brewery. He worked for 5 years in the brewery learning the business and from 1945 onwards he succeeded W.G. Hanson as Chairman.

The present board is very much a family affair. Besides Col Forman Hardy, R.W. Hanson and R.G. Hanson are on the board. T.T. Helps, another director is married into the Hansons family. The other two directors are P. Reynard and P. Granger. The latter has a large holding in Forman Hardy Holdings Ltd.

Hardy and Hansons profits for 1978 were £1.859m a record for the company. The company is shortly to go ahead with a £1.5m modernisation scheme at its Kimberley brewery.

R.C.

POLE-CAREW ON THE POST

EVENING POST Managing Director Christopher Pole-Carew gave some very interesting information about the Post in a public lecture he gave at the Polytechnic last November.

If T. Bailey Forman was sold it would be worth £20 millions, he said. The Post employs 700 people (600 full time equivalent) compared to 900 when he started in 1966.

There were only 27 people employed in the composing room (making up plates for printing) compared with 210 in 1970. Typesetting has been increased from 3 lines a minute to 1,400 lines a minute.

"We have always followed a very firm resolve that we would never introduce new equipment in order to put people out of work", said Pole-Carew. He went on to say that they had made 95 redundant in 1971, 148 in 1973 and 52 in 1978.

He claimed that the unions had refused to allow jobs to be created in commercial printing work. You shouldn't confuse unions with people, he said. But he admitted "It has not been easy changing people to the new systems". He revealed that he would like to expand into printing other people's newspapers as well as the Post.

When Pole-Carew arrived in 1966 the maximum number of pages in the Post was 24. Using old technology, he said, there would not have been space in Forman Street to print the present 48 pages so it was necessary to computerise. The Post now has 7 geographical editions and could have up to 12 or 18 in a years time.

He claimed the Post had the only computer editorial system produced outside the US with 60% of the programming developed by the Post and 40% by ICL (the largest British computer company). Now the

Post has a Swiss subsidiary selling computer systems. Three have already been sold in Switzerland and two in South Africa.

QUESTIONS

After he spoke, several people questioned Pole-Carew. He revealed that about 2/3 of the papers income was from advertising. But he didn't think blacking advertising would have much effect as they would just reduce the number of pages.

Asked why the paper hadn't reported its own disputes he said they had reported the 1973 dispute and "since then we haven't had any disputes". (He didn't explain why the Duke of Edinburgh cancelled his proposed visit to the Post last year - because of the print unions blacking commercial printing work.)

Frank Palmer, branch secretary of the NUJ, asked Pole-Carew if he could live the early 70s again would he handle things in exactly the same way? What lessons had he learned from the bloodshed? asked Mr Palmer. " I really don't know", said Pole-Carew. He went on to say that it would have been impossible to attain the present level of modernisation without the "strike" in 1973.

Another member of the audience pointed out that the 73 dispute started when management ordered SLADE members to operate new machinery just 6 days before a national agreement was to be worked out between SLADE and NGA; since that dispute Pole-Carew had refused to talk to any union officials; and the redundancies of 1978 were announced with only a couple of days notice. Do you think this is an appropriate way to treat trade unions? Pole-Carew was asked.

" Yes I do ", he said.

N.L.

POLITICS AT THE POST

Women's writer Daphne Oxland stood as a Tory for the City Council in 1971 and 1972 under her married name of Suthers. Her husband Martin Suthers is a Tory city councillor and ex-chairperson of the Land Committee.

Deputy Editor Kenneth Macmillan's wife Marjorie is a Tory councillor on Gedling Borough Council and Notts County Council.

Features writer Ailsa Stanley's husband Ron is Tory chairperson of the County Public Protection Committee (this is not a reference to the Mafia!)

The Holding Company which owns the Evening Post makes regular donations to the Tory Party.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NOTTINGHAM

Nottingham Workshop is currently researching the question of unemployment locally, particularly in relation to the problems of the Inner City and looking at the prospects for various sectors of the local economy. We are also examining the policy response to unemployment by the authorities both central and local.

In the last year unemployment has fallen in the Nottingham, Basford and Bulwell Employment Exchange Areas. (SEE TABLE).

to be as rapid in 1979 as last year. In this context it seems as if the upward march in the unemployment figures will be resumed nationally.

Unless something dramatic happens locally (like the City Council being able to attract some major employer to Nottingham) it seems likely that unemployment will start rising again in this area also. Perhaps this will be disguised by a yet further hike in the number of job creation schemes.

pruning their work force in Liverpool and Sunderland. So far Nottingham has been lucky, but even with the development of new products in Nottingham (private telephone exchanges, office automation equipment) there is no expansion of employment offered.

Likewise the local authorities are major employers who have been shedding labour over the last few years and while this process will cease there is no likelihood of a substantial upturn in employment. Only the Area Health Authority is recruiting more labour.

Unemployment Kills

A recent World in Action TV programme spelled out the implications of unemployment and made specific mention of the situation in Nottingham.

Following research in the USA which showed that death rates rise when unemployment rises the World in Action researchers set out to find out if this is true of Britain also. They chose Liverpool and Nottingham as locations for their case study - Liverpool because of its high unemployment and Nottingham because it was thought to be a relatively prosperous city where unemployment was a relatively new but nonetheless real problem.

The findings were that when unemployment rates rose by 1% - from 3 to 4% say - the mortality rate rose by 2%. So for Nottingham a rise in the unemployment rate of 1% is accompanied by about 100 additional deaths. And because unemployment rose by more than 3% between 1972 and 1977 - this means over 300 additional deaths in the city. For Great Britain as a whole unemployment rose by over 3% between 1972 and 1976 and there were an associated 54,000 additional deaths.

The exact cause of death varies but it is associated with the mental stress of being unemployed. Thus suicide rates react so sharply with changes in employment that it is virtually a good indicator of the state of the economy. Likewise death from cirrhosis of the liver associated with alcohol consumption is also related to unemployment. The World in Action interviewer also talked to Dr Alfred Minto, a consultant psychiatrist in Nottingham, who said that it seemed there was a correlation between mental illness and unemployment.

| | UNEMPLOYMENT | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------|
| | Nottingham | Basford and Bulwell | Total |
| January 1978 | 10356 | 2405 | 12761 |
| June 1978 | 10034 | 2170 | 12204 |
| January 1979 | 9063 | 2440 | 11503 |

This fall is slightly ahead of the national trends and the unemployment rate for the Nottingham, Basford and Bulwell Areas is now almost the same as the national average at 5.7% for December last (The figure is 5.6% for G.B. as a whole). However, quite a high proportion of the 1,258 fall in the numbers of unemployed (January to January) is likely to be accounted for by the various Manpower Services Commission job creation measures. Under the Youth

INDUSTRY BY INDUSTRY SURVEY

Information does not exist for a fully comprehensive industry by industry review of job prospects but in prominent local manufacturing industries the job trend is, at best stagnant, and otherwise points downwards.

In the Knitwear trade the protective Multi-Fibre Arrangements will not prevent a rising import penetration of a sagging domestic market and many companies are

looking to exports to the EEC and other Western European countries to maintain production and employment. But exporting is out of the reach of many of the smaller firms.

The demand for, and production of, bicycles has been rising steadily but new investment at Raleighs will prevent this being converted into substantial numbers of extra jobs and may even reduce employment.

Employment at Players is threatened from a number of directions. There is a declining overall market for cigarettes. Imperials (Players) failure to get fully into the King Size market is another factor. Finally, new cigarette cutting and packing equipment will cut labour levels. Plesseys have been drastically

PROSPECTS FOR THE ECONOMY

The main determinant of employment and unemployment trends locally is the overall national economic situation rather than factors particular to Nottingham. As far as this variable is concerned the last year has been one of a limited recovery in the economy stimulated by the consumer boom and some earlier limited revival in company profitability. Prospects for the coming year are uncertain but the economic recovery has definitely faltered in the last few months and expansion is not likely



Opportunities Programme Work Experience scheme 1617 places have been created in Nottinghamshire so a very conservative guesstimate in the number of such jobs in Nottingham itself is 500.

FIRE BRIGADES UNION OPPOSE CUTS

After the National Firemans Strike there was mounting pressure, from the employers side of the National Joint Council for the Fire Service, which was predominantly Conservative controlled, to force through cut backs in standards of fire cover in order to offset the cost of the wage settlement and the introduction of the 42 hour week. Many incorrect conclusions were drawn from the experience of the Firemans Strike, not least that the Fire Service was grossly overmanned. Certain facts were conveniently ignored by the employers and a biased press.

Facts such as:-

1. There was a phenomenal drop in the number of fire calls during the period of the strike. This can only be attributed to the extra care the public and industry took over fire prevention. This was costly and inconvenient to industry and commerce. This drop in fire calls has not been maintained, indeed fire calls are now running above the level they were prior to the strike.
2. There were many members of the fire service (Officer members of NAFO, part time firemen, members who refused to strike etc.) who did not take part in the strike. Their help proved a significant factor during the emergency.
3. Virtually all other work performed by the fire service ceased. Many of these duties the Fire Authority have a statutory obligation to perform.
4. Fire losses rose alarmingly. The increase in fire losses alone would more than pay for the present Fire Service.
5. It was a fact that there were more personnel in Notts. at any given time, on emergency fire call during the strike, than there is during normal times.

The power of a misinformed press is strong indeed!

PROPOSED LOCAL CUT BACKS

With this background the Notts. County Council are now proposing to cut back the fire service in the County. These proposals include such things as:-

1. The reduction of West Bridgeford Station from two pumps to one.
2. The reduction of Dunkirk Fire Station from two pumps to one.
3. The alternate manning of the Emergency Tender and the Turntable

ladder at Central Fire station, which means that if one is out on a call the other is "off the run"

4. The phasing out of the two rescue tenders (which attend road accidents) at Sutton and Retford.
5. The introduction of a 75% Confidence level. Put simply this means that the County Council make a man power saving by pre-programming the riding of four fireman instead of five on the first appliance attending an incident on 25% of occasions.

All these proposals save the County Council money at the expense of service to the public and safety to their firemen.

Consider these facts:-

1. The standards of fire cover for the whole County was reviewed in 1973 prior to amalgamation of the County and City Brigades. It was found then that there was "no scope for the reduction of fire appliances." Since then population has increased. Fire calls have increased. There has been a rapid industrial growth especially in areas covered by the Dunkirk Fire Station. The Queens Hospital complex has just been built next to the Dunkirk Station.
2. Dunkirk is the third busiest station in the County.
3. The Emergency Tender at Central Fire Station attended more rescues last year than any other appliance in the County.
4. The number of calls to road accidents are rising every year.
5. In 1959 a 75% Confidence level was proposed by the City Council and was subsequently rejected on the recommendation of the Chief Fire Officer on the grounds of safety to fireman. Chief Fire Officer Hilton said,

"It is impossible to comply with the instructions issued by the Home Office on Breathing Apparatus Procedure with only four men in crew; a crew of five was absolutely essential for this purpose." It can be seen that financial considerations are taking precedence over the safety of the public and their firemen. The Fire Brigades Union are opposing all reductions in fire cover and we feel that in a period of high unemployment a reduction in service cannot be justified.

We urge all members of the public to actively campaign against the cut backs. It may be a member of

your family who needs the Fire Brigade one day.

"A snatching of a fellow humans life from terrifying death may easily turn on a quarter of a minute...A matter of seconds."

(Chief Fire Officer of London. Court of Appeal. 1971).

Ken Smith
Notts F.B.U.

NEW BOOKS CUT

No new books can be bought by the Notts Schools Library Service for at least one year and possibly four years.

This is one of the meanest decisions made recently by the Notts Education Committee. They have also cut the whole bookfund for seven colleges outside the city. This will mean no new books and no periodicals can be bought by these colleges in the next year. There will also be no facilities for borrowing from libraries outside the county.

The Schools Library Service has around 400,000 books on loan at any one time to schools in the county including books in special project collections. This is a service of great value to all children.

About 25% of the books wear out or become outdated each year and have to be replaced. Because there is no indication that the bookfund will be restored in the Policy Budget for 1980-83 there could be hardly any books left in the service by 1983.

The amount spent in 1978/79 was £193,000 for the Schools Library Service and £64,000 for books and periodicals in the colleges affected.

The total is equivalent to ¼ penny rate. It could be met from county council reserves. Or it could be met by cutting instead the extra money being spent on 'gifted children' in Beeston and Stapleford - which benefits only a few children.

N.L.

CLAMP DOWN ON COUNCIL HOUSE SALES

The government have clamped down on council house sales and have attacked Tory Councils like Nottingham which have been 'outrageously irresponsible'. The Nottingham Housing Action Group (a sub-group of the Nottingham Federation of Tenants and Residents) welcomes the government's action.

The restrictions imposed by the government in mid-March 1979 have stopped the sale of new council houses and relets. Councils can now only sell houses occupied by sitting tenants for at least two years.

Peter Shore, the minister responsible, said, "I expect local authorities to behave responsibly. But some have been behaving so irresponsibly over the last year or so that I am forced to act...."

"...The 'Sale of the Century' approach to the disposal of public assets provide a short term way of cutting taxes and rates but it is financially irresponsible."

"You cannot give away public assets without someone having to pay the bill in the longer run."

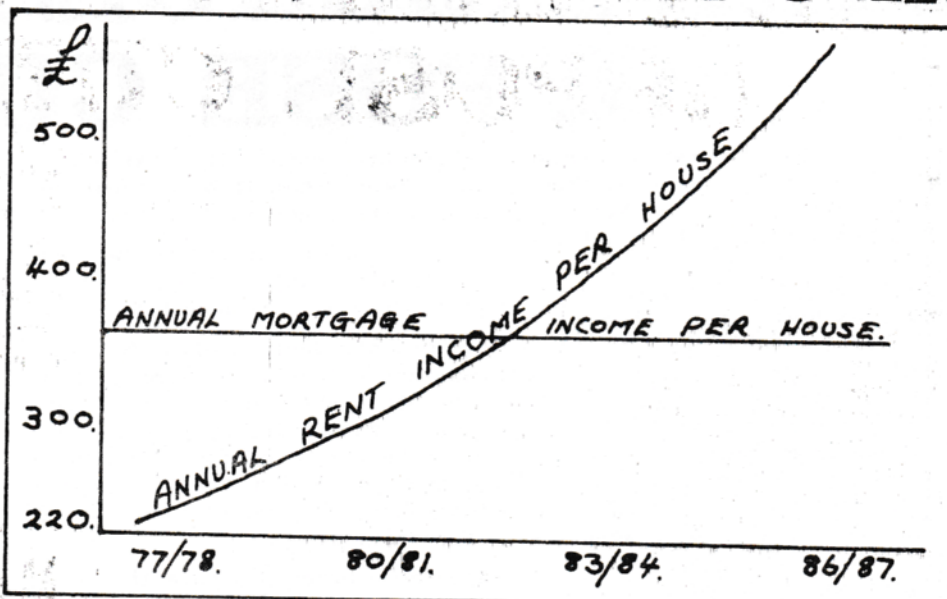
"The sale of council houses is likely to impose a substantial longer run loss on the public purse."

HOUSING ACTION GROUP PAMPHLET

The Nottingham Housing Action Group agree with these arguments in their pamphlet 'The Case Against the Council'. The Action Group claims that millions of pounds of public money will be wasted and lost due to the policies of selling land and houses.

The case falls into 4 sections in which examples are given:

1. Houses sold at a loss.
2. Redevelopment Land Sales.
3. Rent loss.
4. Council income lost in the future.



Copies can be obtained from the Nottingham Housing Action Group c/o 118, Mansfield Road price 5p

The Action Group's research supports the government's arguments that the effects of selling will be with Nottingham for years to come. The following graph is produced showing the long term effects.

This shows that income from mortgages is steadily reduced because of inflation. If the houses had been rented the income to the council would keep pace with inflation.

What this means is that in the short term income will increase but over the longer term there is a loss to the council.

The Nottingham Housing Action Group have been planning to make a complaint to the District Auditor (the person who inspects the council's books) that by selling houses, at less than it cost to build them, and leaving them standing empty for months they have acted irresponsibly - the group felt that the present statement from the government has supported their case.

J.M.B.



The document lists criteria by which to assess schemes and itself gives examples of the type of project which meets some of the criteria. One theme coming out clearly is the need to ensure that policies positively discriminate in favour of the more socially disadvantaged - particularly racial minorities. For example "training schemes established by the programme organisers should incorporate a clear analysis of young people of Afro-Caribbean and Asian origin" and "the social, cultural and ethnic mix of the inner city ought to determine staffing and training provisions within the social services department".

The document also contains a Appendix drawing out the connection between the Inner City Programme and the Councils' main policies. The point is made, and seems to have gained general acceptance, that recent cuts in expenditure and employment by the local authorities have had far more impact on the local employment situation and the quality of life in the Inner City than the ICP expenditures will. (On the City Council's employment trends in the recent past see elsewhere in the Bulletin).

B.D.

INNER CITY PROGRAMME

Following meetings between representatives of voluntary groups and the City Chief Executive and the City officers responsible for the Inner Areas Programme the City's proposals for voluntary participation on the Inner City Programme are becoming clearer. The main offers are for regular meetings between city officers responsible for drawing up the programme and representatives of voluntary groups. In these meetings the whole programme will be discussed. In addition consultation with the politicians is offered via the Community Facilities

Sub Committee. The first meeting with officers has now taken place and it has come out of this meeting that VOLUNTARY SECTOR PROJECTS FOR SUBMISSION FOR NEXT YEARS PROGRAMME MUST BE IN TO THE CITY BY MAY 25th.

Meanwhile voluntary groups have been working out a set of criteria for judging Inner City Programme schemes. These were discussed and approved at a meeting on 31st March to which all inner city voluntary groups were invited. A discussion document on criteria was circulated to groups prior to the meeting and this was approved with some minor amendments.

RESTRICTIONS ON MARCHES AND DEMONSTRATIONS ?

Over the next few years all County Councils in England and Wales will be presenting private clauses restricting marches and demonstrations. These clauses may require up to seven days notice of any marches to be given to the police along with details of routes, members attending and the names of the organisers. Non-compliance with these provisions, if enacted, would result in fines of up to £200. At present, there is no statutory requirement for such notice or details to be given before marches; instead flexible and informal arrangements for setting up marches have worked well in the past.

These Bills are a by-product of local government reorganisation whereby all County Councils in England and Wales are required to enact, before the end of 1984,

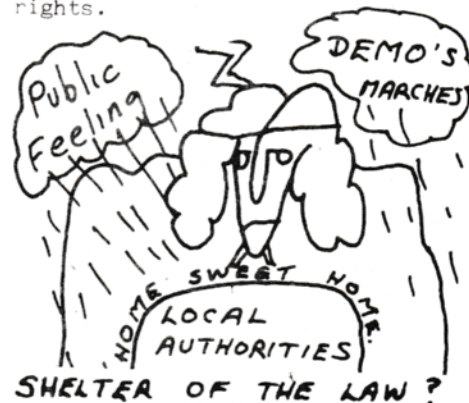
existing by-laws that they wish to retain. The problem is that a number of districts within counties have old by-laws requiring notice and details of marches and these may be retained to apply throughout the whole county.

REPRESENTATIONS MADE

The General Council of the TUC have made representations to the Home Secretary opposing these restrictions. The Nottingham and District Trade Union Council have made representations to our County Council as to what, if any, restrictions are envisaged. Similar clauses were recently withdrawn from the West Yorkshire Bill following strong representations from the TUC's Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Council.

The return of a Conservative gov-

ernment would mean a whole new threat to the Labour and Progressive movement, particularly in the area of public demonstrations. The removal of the ability to hold a spontaneous march, whether by a political party or a trade union, would be a direct interference on hard won political rights.



TRADE UNION COUNCIL AND WHITLOCK M. P.

The Trade Union Council wrote to Mr W. Whitlock MP in January after learning that he had sent his usual Christmas card to the Evening Post. The Post had chosen to publish the card received on the front page.

The principle taken up by the Trade Union Council, was that of giving support to affiliated unions—the NGA and SLADE in their recognition dispute and for the reinstatement of the sacked NUJ members.

The Trade Union Council took up with Mr Whitlock, as we did with all Labour MPs, Labour Councillors, Parties, etc., the question of boycotting the Post, ending all official contact with it and not making press statements to it. All other individuals, bodies and

parties contacted over this matter, except Mr Whitlock, gave a positive response. Constituency Labour Parties issued instructions to end all contact with the Post and MPs made public declarations. Mr Whitlock, however, saw the actions of the Trade Union Council as an attempt to "control the actions of a member of Parliament and to coerce him into accepting your point of view."

The Trade Union Council's job, when one of its affiliates is in dispute, is to work with and along side it, in gaining support until a successful conclusion. In the case of the Evening Post, the NGA and SLADE approached the Trade Union Council in the summer of 1978, and we afforded our services

to these unions in publicising the situation at the Post. A leaflet printed by SLADE, calling on trade unionists, the Labour and Progressive movement, to boycott the Post went out to the movement in Sept/Oct 1978. The latest move by the T.B.F. management, escalating the dispute, was to sack the 28 journalists. This, combined with the moves by SLADE and NGA in the their blacking campaign of advertisers, meant a whole new role could be taken up by the Trade Union Council.

Recently a Trade Union Council and Print Unions liaison committee has been set up to 1. Form a broad committee 2. Co-ordinate between different unions 3. Organise a mass picket while working with the wider movement.

C.N.D. MARCH: LONDON—FASLANE NOTTM: Fri. 27 April

meet the marchers!
film 'THE WAR GAME'
accommodation wanted

Sq meeting
Sat. 28th ?

NOTTM. T.U. COUNCIL

FOR DETAILS CONTACT CHRIS PRESTON - TEL. 51035.

STATE AND CHIPS

"The Government is determined that Britain should get up front in seizing the mind-boggling opportunities of the electronics revolution". (Prime Minister Callaghan 22.1.79) As a result, the Government appears committed to the maintenance in the U.K. of an indigenous computer industry capable of research, development and manufacture of all aspects of computer technology; witness it's support to chip production and application via the National Enterprise Board, and the provision of financial assistance programmes. Furthermore, the government clearly believes it has a major educational role to play after an unpublished Dept. of Industry report revealed that only 8% of British Industry has done anything about the chip. All this amounts to a concentrated stimulation and servicing of private enterprise by the state. The alternative is presented as economic collapse at the hands of Britain's competitors. Conversely a minimal attempt at incorporating any social control and responsibility is being made. This article sets out to examine some aspects of the ever-increasing relationship between the state and the new technology.

MANUFACTURING ADVENTURES

The state entrepreneur is the National Enterprise Board (NEB). In order to safeguard the notion of British competitiveness, the NEB has invested £50m in INMOS - a high volume and high quality silicon-chip manufacturer. Although the U.K. research centre is in Bristol, initial production is in the U.S.A. yet the hope is for 4000 jobs in 4 U.K. factories. The NEB has also established NEXOS, an office equipment subsidiary, with state investment of £40m. It will market and develop a complete micro-electronics office system. NEXOS will buy it's equipment from a group of associated companies in which the NEB is intending to take substantial shareholdings, eg. Logica which makes video typing system word processors. Another example of the NEB's venture capital deployment is INSAC, which is marketing the Post Office Prestel information system in the U.S.A. INSAC was established in 1972 with a commitment of £20m.

FINANCIAL CARROTS

The state has also provided extensive financial support of a much more conventional kind through it's M.A.P. and M.I.S.P. exercises. The Microprocessor Applications Project (MAP) (cost £55m) aims to encourage U.K. industry to apply

microprocessor technology to a wide range of products and processes. For awareness and training -£3m; for consultancy and feasibility -a maximum of £2,000 per study; for development projects -a grant of 25% of the costs or a 50% grant towards the costs with a levy on the profits. The Microelectronics Industry Support Programme (MISP) (cost £70m) is designed to assist the development and manufacture of special components and selected standard products, and to increase micro-electronics exports and imports substitution. It offers 25-50% grants towards research and development projects and 25% grants towards plant, equipment and buildings. It is from this source that the recent grant of £7m to GEC-Fairchild for a chip factory near Chester has come. In addition to the standard state aid under the '72 Industry Act, the government runs a protection racket known as procurement policies: alias a guarantee to buy at a fixed price for a fixed term; I.C.L. is the major beneficiary of such a scheme although there is intensive pressure to widen the scope of eligibility. As in the U.S.A. defence contracts and the arms business have provided a major impetus to the research and development of the new technology, the costs of which have been underwritten by the government while the profits are assured.

The state, both in industry and as an employer, has not been slow to set examples for private enterprise in terms of micro-processor applications and labour relations. In the former the Post Office, with the recent emphasis on making vast profits, particularly from telecommunications, is introducing the System-X digital telephone exchange. These are a thousand times smaller than the existing exchanges and self-maintaining. It's likely that there will be extensive job loss in the Post Office when the introduction is complete. Similarly the N.C.B. is developing computer controlled mining at Bretby for application in the Vale of Belvoir coal seams.

Local authorities are also eagerly supporting the micro-electronics industry by offering attractive industrial sites fully serviced and in some cases, as at Tyne and Wear, inducements such as rent free periods, rate and interest relief and subsidies for land acquisition. In addition to this, they have been en-

couraged to apply the new technology - Bradford M.D.C. introduced word processors, cutting typists by 66%. Notts County Council has spent a year evaluating the need and options for introducing a new generation of administrative micro-computers. Clearly any admin/office work, the majority of which is information storage and retrieval, is particularly prone to new technology introduction, and vicious labour reductions:- approx. 2.326.000 local authority workers are at risk in England, Scotland and Wales. In 1970 there were 103 major administrative computers in the Civil Service. Today there are approx. 200. The recent Civil and Public Service Assoc. dispute illustrated dramatically workers' concern about job security and realistic pay.

ON A PLATE

And to make sure that private enterprise and big business avails itself of the mind-boggling opportunities, the state serves the chips on a plate. Under the M.A.P. scheme, mentioned above, there are generous training subsidies. State-funded promotional projects such as trade exhibitions, conferences, public relations resources and consultancy facilities are being created. Two headlines from the Financial Times in the last month illustrate the scale of promotion -"£12m MICRO-CHIP FUND FOR YOUTH PROGRAMME" and "TOP LEVEL MICRO-PROCESSOR BRIEFINGS TO COST £10m", - this being to brief the countrys' 50,000 leading decision makers, with the Dept. of Industry prepared "to underwrite certain events in areas of particular regional or sectoral need." The D.O.I. has also established a microprocessor information centre to provide data "more useful and relevant to the needs of industry and policy-makers". Furthermore, in November '78, the Dept. of Education and Science proposed a national programme "to help schools and colleges become fully aware of micro-electronics and to make the best use of the new opportunities it offers." Nottingham Univ. has introduced a new electronics course with probable "financial assistance for industry students

The government has also initiated a number of high-powered intelligence gathering and information giving facilities such as the National Economic Development Council Sector Working Parties,

STATE AND CHIPS CONTINUED

the Think Tank, the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development and so on. In all approx. £100m has been allocated to these aspects. In startling contrast to this intensive propaganda offensive, the government has established just one evaluation of the social and labour implications of the new technology:- the Dept. of Employment Manpower Study Group.

It can be seen therefore that the state guarantees the offsetting of research and development costs and initiatives; provides markets and profits, offers subsidies and handouts; sets examples for micro-electronics applications and for labour reductions; and undertakes the training and propaganda drives. Yet at the core of the state's relationship with the new technology are a series of contradictions and inadequacies. The government argues for a commitment to Brit-

ish chip production yet funds competing manufacturers- GEC-Fairchild and INMOS; it also permits 3 American firms to set up production in Scotland; INMOS, the state concern, is developing a 64K Ram component for introduction in 1982 - Texas Instruments of the U.S.A. already has this component on the market; INMOS is supposed to create jobs but is producing in Colorado Springs, U.S.A.; for INMOS and other state-aided enterprises to survive they must export, yet the U.S.A. and Japan are already very well established and import penetration to this country exceeds exports by approx. £200m; the government has established NEXOS, the office systems subsidiary yet the world is clogged with competitors more advanced; the NEB, as state entrepreneur, and the NEDC responsible for national industrial strategy refuse to

cooperate (F.T. 1/2/79); the government, concerned (?) by rising unemployment, embrace labour reducing technology; INMOS H.Q. is situated in Bristol away from the areas most needing industrial regeneration; millions of pounds are being spent on promotion and education with the knowledge that the electronics multinationals cannot be effectively controlled through present state powers; reports abound on the opportunities: meagre

resources are deployed to assess the likely damage. This list could go on, but it illustrates the extent to which the state is running up a blind alley. The state provides the meal, shows the diners how to eat, and actually pays the bill for this beggars' banquet!

P.M.B.

118 LIBRARY

At all levels union members are in need of information more than ever before. However, public libraries have not shown themselves able to meet union information needs in the same way that the major public libraries have been built up with commercial users in mind.

Although many unions have a research department, lack of staff means that the spread of information doesn't reach key officials and rank and file members. And in Britain there is more reliance on unpaid representatives, such as shop stewards, and less dependence on paid officials than in any other European country.

This has caused many people, including in the library profession, to ask whether Library Services to Trade Unionists have been ignored or forgotten.

Of course, community groups have less resources than trade unionists to call on.

The aim of the Library is to build up an information bank which would not be available elsewhere for reference purposes. For instance, there is a range of material available from pressure groups and information services like the Low Pay Unit, Counter Information Services, Social Audit, Labour Research Department, and the WEA Service Centre for Social Studies, which we are bringing together.

We are also bringing together the publications of other research and resource centres which have come into being as part of the demand for information. Also all the stuff we review in this Bulletin becomes part of the Reference Library.

We are especially concentrating on stocking relevant pamphlets as many libraries are still unwilling to stock material in pamphlet form. These are often more use than full scale works and often too, they are all that a labour movement organisation can afford to produce.

EMPLOYMENT: legislation; wages and conditions; trends; unemployment.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

ENVIRONMENT

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

LOCAL ECONOMY

PUBLIC SERVICES AND EXPENDITURE: cuts in public expenditure and the social wage; provision for Education, Elderly, Health, Transport, Under Fives etc.

HOUSING

RIGHTS

WOMEN

RACE

Traditionally, the labour movement has recognised the importance of education and access to information. Many union banners carry the slogan "Knowledge is power" and certainly it suits employers for union members to be left in the dark.

Hopefully, the 118 Library will become an important tool of the labour movement in Nottingham.

For further information on opening times, content etc. please drop in or phone Nottm 50428

I.B.J.

118 REFERENCE LIBRARY

This yawning gap has been recognised by both Nottingham Workshop and the 118 Management Committee and a REFERENCE LIBRARY is now being built up in the Centre.

CATEGORIES STOCKED

The Library is being organised under a number of categories of information on the following subjects:

CUTS IN EDUCATION

The County Council's latest budget brings cut backs in Education expenditure in particular. The Education Committee plans to economize in the following ways:-

1. The number of infant helpers employed is to be cut by 112 over 2 years.
2. Expenditure on library services is to be cut by 55% for one year. Effectively this will mean no new book purchases during that year.
3. Fuel expenditure 2%; water 10%; playing fields 5%; cleaning materials 10%; plus other miscellaneous cuts.

Of these cuts the infant helpers and library cuts will strike the most at the heart of education. Books are the tools of teaching and with no new ones being purchased, the education of children is bound to suffer.

However, the role of infant helpers is not so obvious to outsiders, yet their loss could be even more irreparable. In order to illustrate this, we present three case studies prepared for the NUT. In order to prevent possible victimisation, names have been omitted:-

THE ROLE OF INFANT HELPERS

School 'A'

Teacher reports that they have lost their infant helper and she has not been replaced. The parents have got up a petition which staff have all signed too.

She says that the teachers of the infant classes are now unable to get through the task of hearing every child read (individually) which is essential if they are to master the skill of reading. In fact so pressed for time are they and so important do they deem this part of their teaching, that they are now giving up their dinner hours to hear children read.

The infant helper was invaluable because she had the right 'professional attitude to the children (not allowing herself to be 'ramped' nor to be harsh with them). Also she knew where everything was and exactly what wanted doing in preparation of craft work etc.

Mothers, though willing have to be instructed over and over, are not always correct in their handling of children and are in no way a substitute for the paid helper.

School 'B'

I interviewed the Acting Head and she felt very strongly that the 'phasing out' of Infant Helpers was a very retrograde step, especially with reception classes.

infants as they have had this term (though there is an additional member of staff coming next term to remedy this ratio).

She explained that with five year olds there are so many 'non-teaching' tasks that an adult has to do for the children; doing up buttons, tying laces, wiping bottoms, clearing up accidents, first aid, etc etc. that without the aid of an infant helper the teacher is in danger of having no time left to devote to the children's education.

As well as the 'nursing type' tasks, the infant helper also takes small groups for craft work or cooking, leaving the teacher free to teach smaller numbers for a while.

The Infant Helper also helps with display work and preparation of paint etc. taking some of the heavy load of tasks which adults naturally have to do for very immature pupils.

This school found that most mothers in this area had paid jobs and so had not the time to come and assist in school.



School 'C'

The headmistress said that it would be a disaster if they were to lose their Infant Helper because their reception class had 38 infants this term which is too large even with an Infant Helper but with one single teacher it would be well nigh impossible.

The whole school is overcrowded having 152 infants and 4 full time teachers plus the Head and Infant Helper.

This end of the village does not have the advantage of a Nursery School and some of the children arrive at school unable to talk and not toilet trained. Some are not socially trained and are very aggressive. This school is not designated as a Social Priority Area where Infant Helpers would be protected. The Head says that

particularly in the reception class the child needs a lot of individual attention so that the teacher can talk with him and make him feel at home and gradually get used to the numbers of children. Children find getting used to school routine and discipline quite an ordeal when numbers are so large.

The fact that children come up from the Infant and Juniors unable to read, aggressive, or disruptive would demonstrate the need to spend more on Infants Helpers, Infant Teachers and Nursery provision rather than being forced to spend more on Borstals, prisons and the police.

In general, it should be realised that infant children are not simply reduced versions of older children - they are not juniors cut down to size. They are different, and have their own characteristic problems. Infant children are particularly vulnerable in both physical and emotional aspects. They are accident prone, not having the physical co-ordination of older children, and do not possess the resilience to overcome quickly the shocks of accidents. Young children often have accidents, and when they do, they need immediate attention - not only as a physical necessity, but also because they are easily frightened. They cannot anticipate nausea or control it. They are often sick in the classroom. They wet and soil, and at such times must be isolated for their own self respect, from the other children, and need to be cleaned up and their clothing changed. Teachers cannot leave their class to do this, but it is a vital that children be treated in a sympathetic manner when these unavoidable accidents occur.

Infant children who become ill in school should be taken home, or to some caring neighbour, as soon as possible. Little children do not have the stoicism of the older children, and do not cope easily with pain and discomfort. If there is no Infant Helper who takes the sick child home? Staffing ratios in the Infant Schools have never been generous - lip service is paid to their importance, but nothing is done, hence the poor Pupil/Teacher Establishments. Because they are so badly staffed, the occasional help which can be afforded in the teaching situation by the Infant Helper is invaluable. An Infant Helper can be responsible for small groups, affording individual attention, for such activities as Art and Craft, a small number, or conversation.

For all these reasons the work of an Infant Helper is vital to the smooth running of an infant school.

B.S.

A WORKERS ENQUIRY INTO THE MOTOR INDUSTRY by I.W.C. MOTORS GROUP
CSE Books 102pp. £2.25 (Discount rates to T.U. Branches, workers organizations etc.)

The challenge before the labour movement set acutely by the last few years of Labour government is to develop a WORKERS strategy to solve the economic crisis - an alternative to the strategy of mass redundancies, closure of plants, reorganisation of work and tighter discipline which the government has clung limpet like to.

The Workers Enquiry into the Motor Industry published earlier this month is another initiative in the direction of a workers' solution to the crisis-in this case, of course, specifically in the motor industry, which has experienced a period of upheaval in the past five years which has hit workers hard on the shop floor. This impact on shop floor workers is gone into in detail in the Enquiry and is explained in the following way: "The motivation for vehicle production is primarily the maximisation of profit. But, the rate of return on capital invested is constantly in danger of falling. This does not mean that the mass of profits that firms make are falling-quite the contrary-but that an ever increasing amount of capital, and increased productivity in its use, are needed to maintain the rate of profit even at the same level. The bosses in the car industry are faced with a unrelenting pressure to invest more and to pressurise the workers in the industry more."

This is resulting in what is described as an "onslaught" from the multinationals and the report examines and assesses the effectiveness of the various alternative strategies for the motor industry which are advocated within the labour movement: import controls, nationalization, participation schemes and the defence of jobs. The conclusion is that traditional and isolated responses to the present reorganisation of industry are inadequate and that what is needed are constructive initiatives which are concerned with the appropriate use of technology and the ultimate priority of workers and community interests - as in the strategies pursued, for example, by the stewards at Lucas and Vickers.

The Enquiry therefore puts forward the idea of a Workers Plan for the industry but at the same time insists that this cannot be achieved without a new INDUSTRY-WIDE organisation being set up by workers, a unified industry wide shop floor organisation which would have the political strength

REVIEWS

necessary to challenge the logic being enforced by employers and government.

I.B.J.

Workplace Nurseries: A Negotiating Kit published by NALGO. Price 20p

This pamphlet, produced by the NALGO Equal Opportunities Committee aims to provide basic facts and information to all those involved in campaigns or negotiations with employers for workplace nurseries. It contains a wealth of useful information on potential costs of nurseries, DHSS guidelines on standards of accommodation, arguments to use when negotiating with an employer, and practical examples of nursery campaigns.

Although NALGO's own policy is to fight for a comprehensive state run service for the Under Fives, it believes that workplace nurseries can make a limited contribution to day care provision, and that wherever possible, unions should enter into talks with employers who may be able to provide this service.

At present there are some 90 workplace nurseries in Great Britain, providing places for 2571 children. Surveys show that workplace nurseries are popular with parents, the advantages being that they can journey to work with their children, spend lunch times with them, and are there in case of emergency. But there have also been disadvantages, mainly arising from the fact that employers have tended to set up nurseries to meet their own recruitment needs - often to attract and retain women at low rates of pay - rather than to provide increased opportunities for their women workers.

To counteract these problems, the pamphlet suggests a new approach to the setting up of workplace nurseries, with close union involvement in both the planning and the running of the nursery. The union should seek to establish day care for working parents as a right (like other service conditions), rather than a privilege, and ensure that the existence of a workplace nursery is combined with increased training and promotion prospects for women workers. In addition, joint involvement by parents, the unions and the employers in the running of the nursery could ensure a high quality of child care, with parental involvement in the selection of nursery staff and policy within the nursery (e.g. use of non-sexist reading materials).

SECTION 99 REPAIRS KIT-LAMBETH LAW CENTRE, 506/8 BRIXTON ROAD, LONDON S.W.9 8EN (Tel 01-733-4245); 45p

This is an informative, thorough and profusely illustrated handbook on how to take the Council to Court if they let your home stay in a serious state of disrepair. Under Section 99 of the 1936 Public Health Act, the Council is committing a criminal offence if a council dwelling is either prejudicial to health or if it is a 'nuisance' to neighbouring property.

With the aid of humorous cartoons the handbook deals in clear detail with the various stages of the procedure. It explains the inspection by the Environmental Health Officer, the obtaining of a summons at a Magistrates Court, the actual wording of the summons, the compensation and costs that can be claimed; the hearing itself how to present evidence, and the implications of the verdict.

In addition, there are samples of the letters that need to be written, examples of the legal documents and the relevant extracts from the legislation.



A Section 99 case is a complex, but effective tactic, and frequently just the threat of taking out a Section 99 summons is sufficient to persuade the council to fulfill its statutory requirements. However, this handbook is timely especially in the light of the vicious vendetta against council housing carried out by Nottingham's Tory controlled city council. The handbook is also a much needed weapon against the monopoly of information and finance which is at the Council's disposal. It is also a weapon for both individual tenants and tenants organisations in the struggle for decent and cheap housing for all.

At 45p this is highly recommended. It can be purchased direct, or through the 118 Centre, 118 Mansfield Road. There is also a copy in the 118 Library for anyone wanting to have a look.

NEWS SERVICE

At it's last meeting the Cuts Committee decided to launch a new avenue of information, apart from the Cuts Bulltin, and as such are setting up a 'News Service'.

The purpose of the News Service is to make publically known, as best we can, the full extent of the 'cuts' in public services. We are all, in one way or another presented with bits and pieces relating to reductions in public services, job losses as a result of natural wastage, productivity deals, early retirements etc., but we are not in a position to build up a picture of the full extent of the ways in which our public services are continually weakened. Most 'cuts' are seen in isolation and the opportunity to see the cuts in total is, at the present time non-existent.

We intend, by extending our scrutinising of a wide range of reports both at local and central governmental level to record not just for our own use but for all interested parties, the cuts both actual and threatened as they occur. Such scrutiny however, also

calls for workers and members of the public to keep us informed of the developments in their own particular fields as they occur.

The News Service does not and cannot set itself up as a 'here are all the weeks cuts' information bureau, if only because the cuts are coming at us so quickly and in so many diverse and differenc ways that it is virtually impossible to record them all. What we can make generally available is that information which we locate in the course of our looking throught the range of reports.

The practicalities of the News Service are as follows:

A stencilled leaflet will be produced every two weeks which will outline in paragraph form the details of the relevant information. Each paragraph will have a main heading to give the general area, this will be followed by the main details and will be concluded with sources of further information being given.

The News Service regretablely is not free but we feel that for the cost it is reasonable. Access to the News Service is through affiliation and the affiliation fee is £10 per year. £10 may

seem expensive but when you consider it's paying for a 'Watchdog Service', a regular stencilled sheet and postage twenty six times a year it doesn't sound quite so bad.

We are aware that even at £10 some groups and individuals will be discouraged and in recognition of this fear, therefore, we are open to offers from groups with limited funding.

It is up to groups and/or individuals to pursue the information and to decide how best to react. We do hope however, that whatever action you intend to take you might inform us at some point in time. Cuts affect us all, not just one particular group, the fight against the cuts in public services is your fight just as much as it is ours, and the only way we can ever hope to defeat the cuts is by fighting together.

We hope that you will be prepared to affiliate to the News Service and we look forward to hearing from you. For additional details write to:

Nottingham Campaign Against the Cuts, c/o [REDACTED], Nottingham.

THE GREAT ESCAPE

Was the Tory-controlled County Council unjust in the way which it reached its decision to slash the financial support to the Nottingham Areas Project (NAP) in June 1978? This is the question which the Ombudsman for Local Administation in York has been deciding since Christmas.

NAP was a community development project working in 5 city neigbourhoods and operating a Resource Centre providing facilities, information and back-up for community groups. It had been financed by central and local government grants with a year remaining of the original 5 year funding term.

NAP took the view, and a complaint was made to the Ombudsman, that there had been political bias, ignorance, distortion and innaccuracy on the part of the Tory Council which undermined the chances of a reasonable, informed and mature decision being taken.

Recently NAP received a letter from the Ombudsman which explained that he was refusing to investigate. He said that "elected representatives excercising their judgements...may well involve their giving weight to their own prejudices." Say no more!

| | | | | |
|--|---|---------|----------|-----------|
| L A B O U R F A C T S H E E T. | Nottingham District Labour Party has issued the following fact sheet for use by canvassers in the city elections. Information is taken from city council budget statements: | | | |
| | | 1976 | 1979 | reduction |
| | Workers engaged in housing maintenance | 758 | 509 | 33% |
| | | 1976/77 | 1979/80 | |
| | No. of council house starts | 2183 | 156 | 95% |
| | | 1975/76 | 1979/80 | |
| | Amount spent on improving council houses | £3.5m | £700,000 | 80% |
| | | 1976 | 1979 | |
| | No. of off street parking places available | 4446 | 3649 | 18% |
| | | 1976 | 1979 | |
| | No. of street sweepers | 117 | 102 | 13% |
| | | 1976 | 1979 | |
| | No. of buses in the city transport fleet | 494 | 378 | 24% |
| | | 1976 | 1979 | |
| | No. of drivers and conductors on city transport | 962 | 789 | 18% |
| | | 1975/76 | 1978/79 | |
| | No. of fare paying passengers on city transport | 80m | 65m | 19% |
| | | 1975/76 | 1978/79 | |
| | No. of passengers on Central Area Services | 6m | 2m | 66% |

HEALTH AND SAFETY

On 21st February a large meeting jointly organised by Nottingham Workshop and the Industrial Group of the WEA heard Pat Kinnersly, author of "The Hazards of Work", talk about the struggle for Health and Safety in the workplace.

After giving some information on the scale of the problem - like the 30,000 widows who have lost husbands as a result of injuries and diseases at work - Pat suggested that the law cannot be relied upon to solve workplace health and safety questions. The 'good laws' are not, in fact, enforced. For example, section 63 of the 1961 Factories Act says that if something dangerous is going into the air, even if it is not endangering the lungs, it should be extracted at source wherever possible. But this is not enforced by the inspectorate who are reluctant to prosecute.

However, despite being unable to rely on the law, there is a new spirit abroad in the trade union

movement on health and safety and Pat argued that the new regulations should be exploited to the full. He said that many employers, for example the NCB and NHS, were moving to try to set up consultative committees on the wrong idea that there is an identity of interest between workers and employers on health and safety. The need at this stage is not to leap into such committees but to take stock of the situation at the workplace and for joint safety representatives to find out what is wrong and needs to be put right.

TWO WAYS FORWARD

Pat concluded by demonstrating two ways forward for health and safety. One was the cheap option favoured by employers to clap on a lot of uncomfortable and often ineffective goggles, gas masks and ear muffs. The other was symbolised by workers using gas sampling equipment and noise meters to monitor hazards and forcing employers to stop them at source.

A lively discussion followed. A number of trade unionists mentioned conditions and struggles at their workplace. An inaudible fire alarm which, despite repeated complaints to management had not been fixed, forklifts driven without adequate training, hazards of dust and noise where Factory Inspectors had not adequately backed up workers. In addition many people complained of being unable to get on the TUC 10 day health and safety course. It was said that there was a 2 year waiting list locally as there was a shortage of trained teachers. Finally there was some discussion on the need to form a local group of active trade unionists on health and safety questions - to pool information, experience and acquire equipment. This idea was endorsed by the meeting and it was agreed to invite representatives from a similar group elsewhere (e.g. Coventry or Sheffield) to speak about their experience.

I DON'T MIND

THE DISCOMFORT - OR THE HEAT -

OR THE DANGER

BECAUSE WHEN I
LEAVE HERE I'LL HAVE
ENOUGH CASH TO BUY A
NICE LITTLE PLACE AND....

DONG!



Setting up a local group

At a meeting held on Thursday 22nd March, with two speakers from the Sheffield Area Trade Union Safety Committee, the Nottingham trade unionists present decided to press ahead with the preliminaries of establishing a health and safety group for trade unionists in Nottingham.

After hearing the speakers from Sheffield, people were concerned that Nottingham was being left behind on the question, although the Chairperson of the Health and Safety Committee of the Derby Area Trades Council said he thought that Nottingham Trade Unionists were well placed to get something going, as they had available the facilities of Nottingham Workshop.

THE ORGANISATION OF TUSC

John Lawson, the P.R.O. of Sheffield TUSC, explained that his organisation was a sub-committee of Sheffield Trades Council but which also invited affiliations from trade union branches and so on to involve grass roots trade unionists as much as possible.

John himself had a personal motivation for being interested in health and safety as he has Vibration Syndrome and Vibration Induced White Finger (better known as Dead Finger) and he said that TUSC had organised a series on this and other subjects, including Welding Hazards. This particular meeting was filmed by the BBC TV 'Panorama' programme "My Job is Killing Me".

Other activities of TUSC have included a survey into the extent of infections of oils and coolants in the Sheffield area involving the analysis of 75 samples, the production of a Newsletter and also the holding of regular surgeries, the aim of which is to enable people to get advice and assistance on health and safety problems.

The second speakers, Seb Schmoller, explained that TUSC worked in close conjunction with the Sheffield Hazards Group, of which he was a member. He said that the Hazards Group had monitoring equipment for

noise, dust and fumes, and had an extensive library and hazards filing system, and could help with technical information.

STEERING GROUP ELECTED

The meeting was very impressed with what was taking place in Sheffield and there was a firm conviction that activity on health and safety at work should be started in Nottingham. The meeting decided to work towards a trade union safety group which got back up from Nottingham Workshop and an ad hoc Steering Group was elected for this purpose.

Interested trade unionists would certainly be welcome to sit on the Steering Group - the more the better to make a Nottingham Action on Safety and Health (NASH!) group a viable proposition.

For more information contact:

NOTTINGHAM WORKSHOP,

How The Cuts Have Affected City Council Employment

A look at the Manpower Statistics in the City Budget for 1979/80 and a comparison with earlier years shows how the cuts in public spending and the policies of the Tory Council have affected direct employment by the City over recent years. The figures show a loss of jobs far greater than the number of new jobs that will be provided in the Council's employment promoting advance factory programme.

EMPLOYMENT BY NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL 1976-1979/80

| | <u>Whole Time</u> | <u>Part Time</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1976 | 5402 | 246 | 5648 |
| 1977 | 5058 | 211 | 5269 |
| 1979/80 (proposed Budget figure) | 4755 | 300 | 5055 |

Sources: The figures for 1976 and 1977 are for March 31st and are from the City Treasurers Report and Financial Statistics. Figures for 1979/80 are from the City of Nottingham Budget for that year.

The major falls have been in Housing (and in particular on the Direct Works Department) and in Transport with the run down of Bus Services to the detriment of less well off city residents.

EMPLOYMENT BY COUNCIL DEPT/COMMITTEE

| | <u>Housing</u> | <u>Transport</u> |
|---------|----------------|------------------|
| 1976 | 1159 | 1547 |
| 1977 | 1041 | 1448 |
| 1979/80 | 947 | 1248 |

**NOTTINGHAM
EVENING POST**

**support
all union
mass picket**

**Sat May 12th
11am Forman St**

UNION BANNERS
MESSAGES OF SUPPORT
HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE
UNION DELEGATIONS
LABOUR MOVEMENT MOBILISATION

NOTTM T.U. COUNCIL

TU COUNCIL SOCIAL

Guests - Soviet Minsk Delegation

FOOD - BAR
POST OFFICE SOCIAL CLUB
Thursday 7th June at 7.30.

ALL WELCOME

MAYDAY — MAYDAY — MAYDAY

Monday MAY 7th

**Joan Maynard
+ Print Union
Speakers**

**mkt sq. 10.30.
march 11.00.
forest 12.00-3.00.
meeting/stalls**

— family day —

NOTTM T.U. COUNCIL