

2p

Number 58 - 12 Feb 77 - Fortnightly

Nottingham Voice



BEFORE CITY COUNCIL tenants are evicted in future their cases will be looked at by a sub-committee of the Housing Committee. In the past officers have made decisions which have then been rubber stamped by the Housing Committee. The latest round of permissions to proceed (a total of 51) were to be heard by the Committee on February 10th but instead the item was referred to a three man sub-committee.

This change follows this week's special Voice supplement which was circulated to councillors before the meeting.

We were concerned that no information about any of the tenants was given by officers to the committee, that tenants were not informed that their cases were being heard and that this serious matter was buried among the "B" items at no. 54 on the agenda.

Voice reporters visited nine out of the twenty-six cases where children are involved - details are in the supplement. This information is not the kind that we can check - but it is enough to raise serious doubts about the present policy on evictions.

In no case are we claiming that officers have acted improperly - and indeed officers appear to be implementing present policy quite correctly under difficult circumstances - the number of such cases before the Housing Committee has nearly doubled in the last year.

But some disturbing facts emerge. And it is the secrecy and lack of information about such decisions which brings such "administrative justice" into disrepute. The sub-committee will be no answer. Tenants will have no right to put their cases to this committee, nor will they be told what information has been put to the councillors. They may not even

be told their case is being considered.

We hope that we have provided the councillors with an opportunity to reconsider the way that these decisions are taken and that they will bear in mind that they have the responsibility of seeing that a part of our democratic government will remain so and not be transferred by default to appointed officials.



NATURALLY ENOUGH, the Evening Post couldn't forgo the chance to stand up for Britain's very wonderful honours system after some characteristic sniping in Parliament from that quintessential non-chap Dennis Skinner.

The Post's comment column - that is the one that's actually called "Comment" - was moved to thunder:

"It is typical of those in Westminster should think that all honours flow to politicians. They do not. Gallant servicemen, men and women in all walks of life who seek no reward but the satisfaction of doing their job well and serving the community to the full, also receive honours."

It goes on to talk of the pride and humility experienced by those worthy souls who do receive honours.

The author should know. For the piece was written by the Post's deputy editor Kenneth MacMillan, white bearded dwarf of Forman Street and high priest of the Forman Hardy creed of

extreme right wing politics.

And this honourable gentleman was no doubt very proud yet humble to receive his OBE - for serving his community so well - as editor of the Guardian Journal.

Service which was of course abruptly halted when the paper was cynically closed down during the 1973 strike . . . come to think of it, perhaps that's why he was honoured.



COMMUNITY GROUPS around Nottingham are very angry at the shabby treatment they have got from a secret sub-committee of the City Council Finance and Leisure Services Committees.

The sub-committee was set up to consider 37 applications for Urban Aid. 75% of Urban Aid money is given by the government to approved projects in areas of "special social stress". But the other 25% has to be given by a local council who have to decide which projects to back.

The sub-committee decided not to back any of the adventure playground schemes submitted by community groups. Instead they backed six Leisure Services schemes including four for "playground equipment". Only four summer holiday playschemes were approved and the amounts allowed were slashed to a minimum. The largest was only £240 and that went to - guess who - Leisure Services. No money has been allowed for playleaders to supervise children.

The Council cannot claim it

has no money to back Urban Aid applications - it still has two or three million pounds saved from scrapping the Festival Hall which can only be used for schemes of value to the community.

A dozen of the groups who were turned down have joined together to fight to get their schemes reinstated. The sub-committee's decisions have to be confirmed by the Finance Committee which meets at 2.30 on Tuesday 15th February. The groups have organised a picket and lobby and have arranged a meeting with the committee at 1 pm at the Council House. They want as many people as possible along for support. Contact Centre 118 (582369) for details.

They say they had no chance to argue their cases before the sub-committee and have been given no reason for being rejected. Without cash support, they say, voluntary organisations will fail to provide for the basic facilities so badly needed in Nottingham and at the end of the day the Council will have to face a bigger burden of community responsibilities.



THE SEVERN-TRENT Water Authority is imposing rules in some of its camp-sites which make one wonder what has been going on in the past. Campers shall not annoy other people by "wantonly and continuously singing or shouting" after 10 at night and shall not solicit or incite or provoke anyone to commit an

indecent act. Or, indeed, shall not cause annoyance by "exposing themselves on the camping ground without clothing or covering sufficient to prevent exposure of the person or otherwise effectually screening themselves from view."

Bookings for this year are now open!

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ENTERTAINMENTS

AT LAST! Nottingham Playhouse redeems itself. Steve Poliakoff's "City Sugar" is superb.

Disillusioned DJ, Leonard Brazil, transmits for local radio station "Nottingham Sound". Play tells of his relationship with his listeners "out there", especially ordinary Nicola Davies, who wins her way through to the final of the "Competition of the Century".

Themes - brilliantly evoke cynical manipulation and chilling banality of local radio/entertainment "industry". Who can ever take Radio Trent seriously again?

Usually "stars" hide behind their cameras and microphones - but this manipulator, Leonard Brazil, comes face to face with the manipulated, Nicola Davies. Then he knows his exploitation.

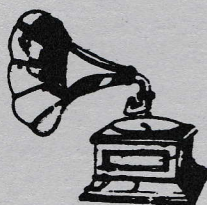
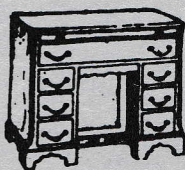
Characters - brilliant virtuoso performance by Malcolm Storrie as Brazil. There's talent beneath the typecast he's had to play in recent months.

This is everything a modern play should be - funny, sad, topical, thought-provoking, and, above all, hugely enjoyable. Don't miss it.

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THE LAND DIVISION of the City Technical Services Department has now decided that there are to be no more corner shops in the new Meadows development.

MATAR, the local tenants association, had fought hard to establish the principle that corner shops should be provided. The old Meadows used to support over 300 shops.

But it has now been decided that no shops will be provided in phase 4. The Council say that they would have difficulty in letting them at "market rents". However the corner shop which has recently opened in the now complete phase 1 is reported to be having difficulty in keeping up with demand.

Meanwhile over at Top Valley Woolco are asking for permission to build a 100,000 sq. foot hypermarket. If this goes ahead it will drive another nail in the coffin of the small shopkeepers. Since hypermarkets attract customers for miles around it is bound to take business away from Arnold and Bulwell as well as small local shops.

But hypermarkets are only accessible to those who have cars - the other half of the community will suffer. A campaign against the hypermarket is being planned by Nottingham Friends of the Earth. They are urging everyone to write objecting to Woolco being given planning permission to Planning Dept, City Council, Guildhall, Nottm to arrive not later than 22nd February. The plans are also available for public inspection in

the Dept. Further information from FoE, 33 Drayton Street, Nottingham ●

MEETING

THERE WILL be a meeting on Thursday February 17th called by the unfortunately named LABOUR ABORTION RIGHTS CAMPAIGN on William Benyon's Abortion Amendment Bill which is due to have its second reading in Parliament on February 25th.

The meeting, 7.30pm at the International Community Centre, will discuss the campaign against the Bill and for abortion facilities to be uniformly available through the National Health Service. Speakers will outline the present progress of the Bill and the position of LARC. It is hoped to form a local branch of the Campaign ●

NOTICE

HOUSING CO-OPERATIVES

A RATHER GOOD Directory of Housing Co-operatives has recently been produced following a conference on housing co-operatives last year.

The Directory contains lists of existing co-operatives, how to set one up, organisations involved in co-operatives, etc. It has an excellent index system and is a mine of information. Thoroughly recommended to anyone interested in tenant control and co-operatives in general.

To obtain a copy, send a large (12 $\frac{3}{4}$ "x9") stamped (11p) self-addressed envelope to Andy Dunning, 79c Balfour Street, London SE 17 IPL ●

UNIONS IN THE telecommunications industry are protesting against cuts in orders from the Post Office on February 14th. Members of EEPTU will be striking, and other unions will be demonstrating. Unions at Plessey's in Nottingham are lobbying Parliament and asking for a boycott of phones.

In spite of the massive profits (£1m a day) the PO are making, they are reducing orders for telephone equipment by £220m over the next three years - equivalent to 20,000 jobs! The PO say this is because telephone traffic has not risen in recent years - hardly surprising considering the cost.

The PO accounts will not, of course, show the social costs of this - dole payments, lost taxes, and the cost of dismantling the industry against the day when growth is needed again.

The present cutbacks are only the latest in a series starting in 1973 when Tony Barber announced a reduction of 20%. Further cuts of 30% were announced by the PO at the end of 1975.

Following strong representation from the unions the level of cuts were alleviated. They were told then that the new orders were "definitive". But, in spite of promises, less than 12 months later workers are faced with another and more serious reduction of work.

The Plessey Beeston joint unions were in the forefront of the campaign to combat the cuts. But the argument which produced

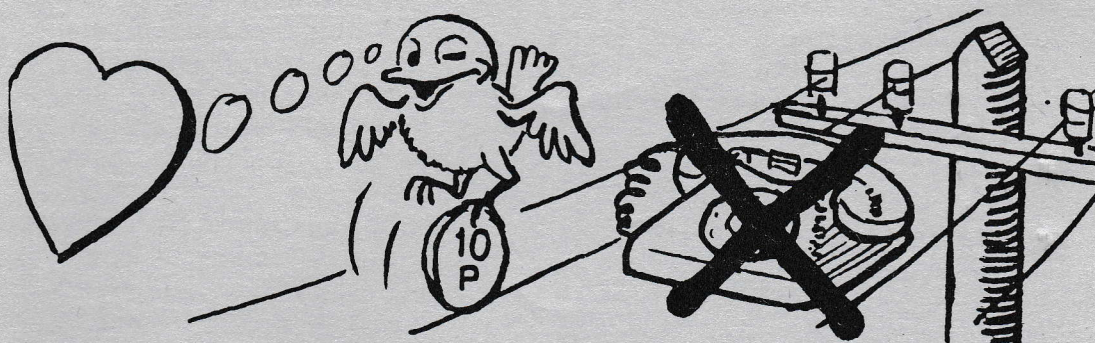
the most leverage in 1975 - that losses of jobs in the NW and NE should be minimised - will probably not receive sympathetic consideration in the face of worsening unemployment and the success of the government in obtaining "acceptance" of unemployment as a necessary hardship.

The major companies in the telecoms industry - GEC, Plessey, Standard Telephones (part of ITT), and Pye/TMC (part of Phillips) have for many years been satisfied by making profit from the featherbedded market supplied till recently by the PO. No serious efforts have been made to develop products suitable for export (the equipment supplied to the PO is idiosyncratic to this country). Multi-nationals with subsidiaries overseas are in any case not interested in exporting to markets they already command.

Entry into overseas markets is now proving difficult and there is little chance that sufficient work can be obtained to fill the gap left by cuts.

The unions have submitted alternative proposals to the PO and the Dept of Industry including a joint PO/Industry "marketing" exercise, including the reduction of the installation charge, to stimulate demand for telephone services. A similar exercise in W. Germany two years ago was successful and the increased demand has been maintained since.

BRIAN HARRISON



DON'T RING YOUR VALENTINE - OR ANYONE ELSE'S

THE TELEPHONE INDUSTRY IS FACED WITH A LOSS OF 20,000 JOBS DUE TO THE POST OFFICE CUTTING BACK ORDERS FOR NEW EQUIPMENT AND SQUASHING DEMAND FOR TELEPHONE SERVICES BY TOO HIGH INSTALLATION, RENTAL AND CALL CHARGES.

IF THE BRITISH INDUSTRY IS ALLOWED TO BE RUN DOWN, THE POST OFFICE WILL NEED TO BUY FUTURE EQUIPMENT FROM ABROAD WITH BORROWED MONEY :
THEY DON'T CARE — WE LOSE OUR JOBS — AND YOU PAY.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

WE ASK ALL TRADE UNIONISTS AND WORKING PEOPLE NOT TO MAKE TELEPHONE CALLS ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 14TH (EXCEPT IN CASES OF EMERGENCY). GIVE YOUR SUPPORT TO OUR CAMPAIGN TO SAVE JOBS AND PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR COMMERCE AND THE COMMUNITY.

BOYCOTT THE PHONE ON FEB. 14th

PUBLISHED BY THE JOINT UNION COMMITTEE REPRESENTING ALL WORKERS AT PLESSEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACTORY AT BEESTON, NOTTINGHAM.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL is concerned over the cost of providing school dinners (which will be going up from 15p to 25p in the next school year). The Council points out that nearly 10% of all meals are provided to adults free of charge. These free meals are taken up by teachers and canteen staff. The Secretary of State for Education has recently pointed out that there is a "disproportional increase" in the number of teachers taking free meals.

Because of this - wait for it - the Education Committee is being asked to prepare a report "on the provision of free meals to adults". The odds are, of course, that the Committee will find some way of doing away with them ●

Nottingham & District
Tribune Group

A public meeting to discuss
AN ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC
STRATEGY FOR LABOUR

Leaders of discussion:

AUDREY WISE, M.P.
DEREK GREGORY, N.U.P.E.

at the International Community
Centre, Mansfield Road,
Nottingham.

Friday, 18th February,
7.30 p.m.

THE LATEST EDITION of the VICTA (Victoria Centre Tenants' Association) Newsletter has fallen into our hands. It contains a full half-page article on the new White Hart pub at the back of the Centre.

"The place has been transformed into and lively and interesting pub . . . you could do no better than pay a visit to the White Hart . . . first class lunches at reasonable prices . . . why not pop in? . . . you will soon find that this pub becomes your local."

This glowing plug for the White Hart fails to mention that it is one of the most expensive pubs in town. Bitter, for example, is 30p per pint while in many city pubs it is a mere 24p.

Congratulations to VICTA however for explaining why this drivel was ever written. In the same article they point out that they have received a £10 donation and "refreshments" from the White Hart management.

Other potential advertisers please note the rates are £20 a page plus "refreshments".

VICTA ARE ALSO asking residents not to take the short cut through the fire escapes across the roof. This has led to fire doors being left open and being damaged by blowing around in the wind. VICTA might be better off campaigning against the closing off of access at night to all but one set of lifts which forces tenants to take such "short cuts" ●

PORTLAND ARMS

PORTLAND ROAD, NOTTINGHAM

BEST KIMBERLEY ALE
COOL GUINNESS & LAGER
CHIP BUTTIES
BACON COBS & SOUP
JUKE BOX
POOL TABLE
FRUIT MACHINES

RUGBY PLAYERS WELCOME

Don't cry for me E. Regina

I am your liege my lady
 With all your foes I've foughted.
 With ten more men
 All fine and true
 Your very own Liege United.
 You've been a monarch now for
 25 years
 And to me it don't seem like
 nowt
 With your radiant grin and your
 rosey pink skin
 You're definitely my favourite
 Kraut.
 You prefer Welsh Corgis to
 Chinese pekes
 And have a penchant for bald
 rich Greeks
 A bit like Jackie Onassis
 You're a real English rose
 With a beautiful nose
 And I'm glad you don't wear
 glasses.

Ode for Jubilee

O most regal and munificent
 English, and, at the moment
 of writing, Scottish Queen,
 Most wondrous to be seen,
 From a fine braw family, no
 doubt moral,
 And a nice detached house at
 Balmoral,
 You rule this green and pleas-
 ant land
 With a crown on your head and a
 sceptre in your hand;
 At the quality of your orbs we
 cannot bilk
 They are most certainly of a
 quality that cannot be bought
 at H. Samuel or any other shop
 of that ilk.
 With the assistance of a Greek,

undoubtedly rude,
 You raised a noble family, a
 braw bricht moonligcht brood.
 There's bonny Prince Charlie,
 who for bravery none can
 touch,
 And Red Hot Annie who is
 actually rather more butch
 Than Andrew, Edward, Irving
 and the rest of your clutch,
 And your Mother, who almost
 pulled off the equestrian hat-
 trick
 First in the Oaks and St Ledger
 but only a poor second at
 Catterick
 The Stud's excuse was that she
 is virtually geriatric
 (My readers will excuse me if
 my tenses are somewhat peri-
 phrastic)
 This then your ongoing Jubilee
 scenario situation
 Which will loose the Daily Tele-
 graph leader writers' verbal
 constipation
 And may even help Willy Hamil-
 ton feel a little elation
 But will not help the average
 man-in-the-street's
 impecuniation.

P.J.G.

Queen sends Jubilee message to
 Nottingham Voice: "We are not
 amused." ●



WE HEAR THAT Cllr Michael
 Cowan, recently selected by the
 Labour Party as their candidate
 for the forthcoming Ashfield by-
 election, is making strenuous
 efforts to ingratiate himself with

the mining community.

Even though Cllr Cowan had taken the precaution of having a particularly short haircut a couple of days before the selection meeting, miners are known to be annoyed that their own candidate, Frank Haynes, was not selected. The miners have even threatened to withdraw their financial support from the Party.

Cllr Cowan was therefore to be seen arriving at the local NUM Conference on Monday 7th February at the same time as the Energy Minister, Tony Benn. The steward on the door, wondering what Cowan was doing there, asked if he wanted to go into the conference - but Cllr Cowan admitted that he didn't (one delegate mentioning that lynching might be the result). The explanation for his presence was even simpler. As Cllr Cowan explained, he was just there for publicity photographs to be taken of him with Tony Benn.

And for students of local politics: Paul Foot, ex-Private Eye heavy and editor of Socialist Worker, is to stand in the election on the SW platform. There is no truth in the rumour that dissident miners engineered this in order to have at least one left wing candidate in the election ●



MICHAEL HAMMOND, the Chief Executive of the City of Nottingham, reports that the number of empty houses in the Basford,

Radford and Forest Fields area has now reached 1,005 - or over 6% of all houses in the area.

So alarmed is the City Council about all these houses lying empty that it intends to "make enquiries of the owners of vacant houses so as to ascertain their intentions". And if the owners don't intend to do anything with the property the City Council "may wish to consider requesting" owners "to sell the property either to the Council or to a suitable Housing Association".

The only drawback to this stimulating plan is that the Council has only been allocated £45,000 for buying houses and has hardly any money available to improve them (Government cuts rule OK). Or as the Council puts it "it is not certain that the Council will be able to do anything about this problem."

And it is a real problem. These empty houses - in just one part of Nottingham - could rehouse nearly 15% of all the families on the Council's waiting list.

Homeless families, squatters, etc., requiring a list of these properties should write, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope, to Cllr Charles Borrett, Chairman, Housing Committee, Council House, Nottingham ●

JUMBLE SALE

West Park Pavilion, Loughborough Road, 26th February, 10am. Admission 10p. (Posh area, good stuff.)

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14, BROAD ST. NOTTINGHAM. TEL: 46094**

