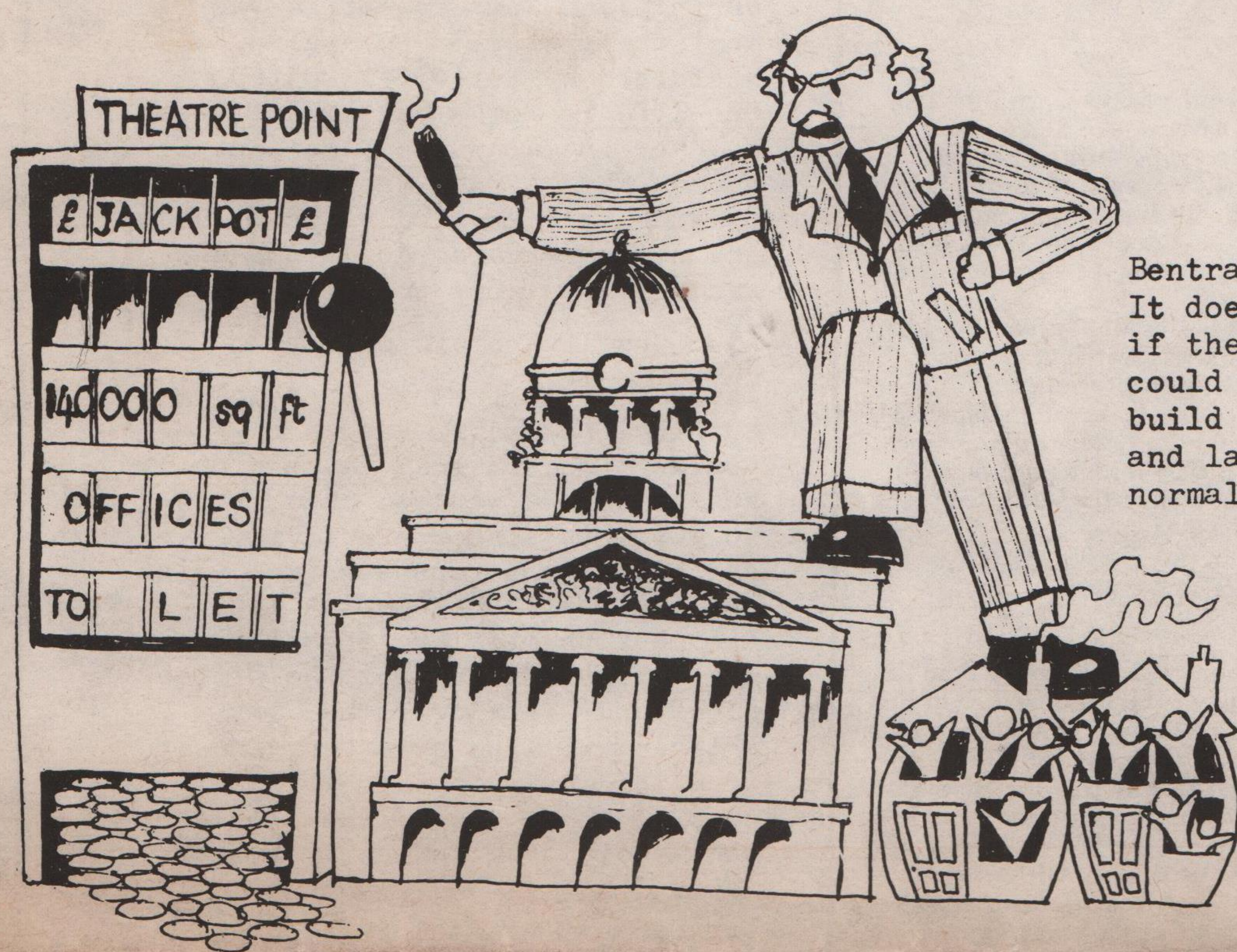


The HOOD

NO! TO THEATRE

POINT



Bentray are owned by ATV. ATV own the Theatre Royal. It doesn't take a lot of imagination to realise that if they knock down the Theatre then this plum site could be worth a hell of a lot to ATV. Whilst they build this there is a shortage of building materials and labour for houses. It seems that planning notice, normally 21 days, was rushed through in 17 days in this

case. To add to the scandal, Bentray could get a lot of money in compensation if permission is taken back. The Council's rehousing programme is already 20% behind schedule while there are about 8,000 slum houses in Nottingham with 9,000 on the council house waiting list.

Councillor Stephen Evans looked into the details of this and, for his trouble, is now suspended from the Labour Group.

Raleigh Area Residents Association sponsored a meeting to start a campaign against Theatre Point and for the needs of working people in Nottingham. There is a meeting every Thursday at 7.30 at the People's Centre for all interested in actively opposing the office block.

There is to be a demonstration on 25th May from the Forest. Some people have been knocking on doors and calling little meetings in the streets, asking people their views and explaining about Theatre Point.

How much council house rent goes to pay interest to money lenders (investors) who financed housing projects In Hackney (London) well over three quarters goes to investors.

A house has been built on the Forest as part of the Festival and Trade Fair. It is said to be worth several thousand pounds but after two weeks ON SHOW IT WILL BE KNOCKED DOWN. Why should PRESTIGE OFFICES and SHOW HOUSES take priority over slum clearance and the building of new houses?

Planning permission has been granted to Bentray Investments to build a 140,000 sq ft office block against the Theatre Royal in the middle of town. If they finish it, Bentray will own it. Then the ratepayers will have to fork out around £250,000 a year in rent to them.

Just what is going on? There are already 250,000 sq ft of vacant office space in the city and 500,000 sq ft under construction. This Prestige block will house council employees. Meanwhile, the Council have shown themselves incapable of providing enough decent houses for the people of Nottingham. As one local Social Worker put it "You can't put families in office blocks. All our job will become is regulating a queue that gets longer and longer from more comfortable offices!"

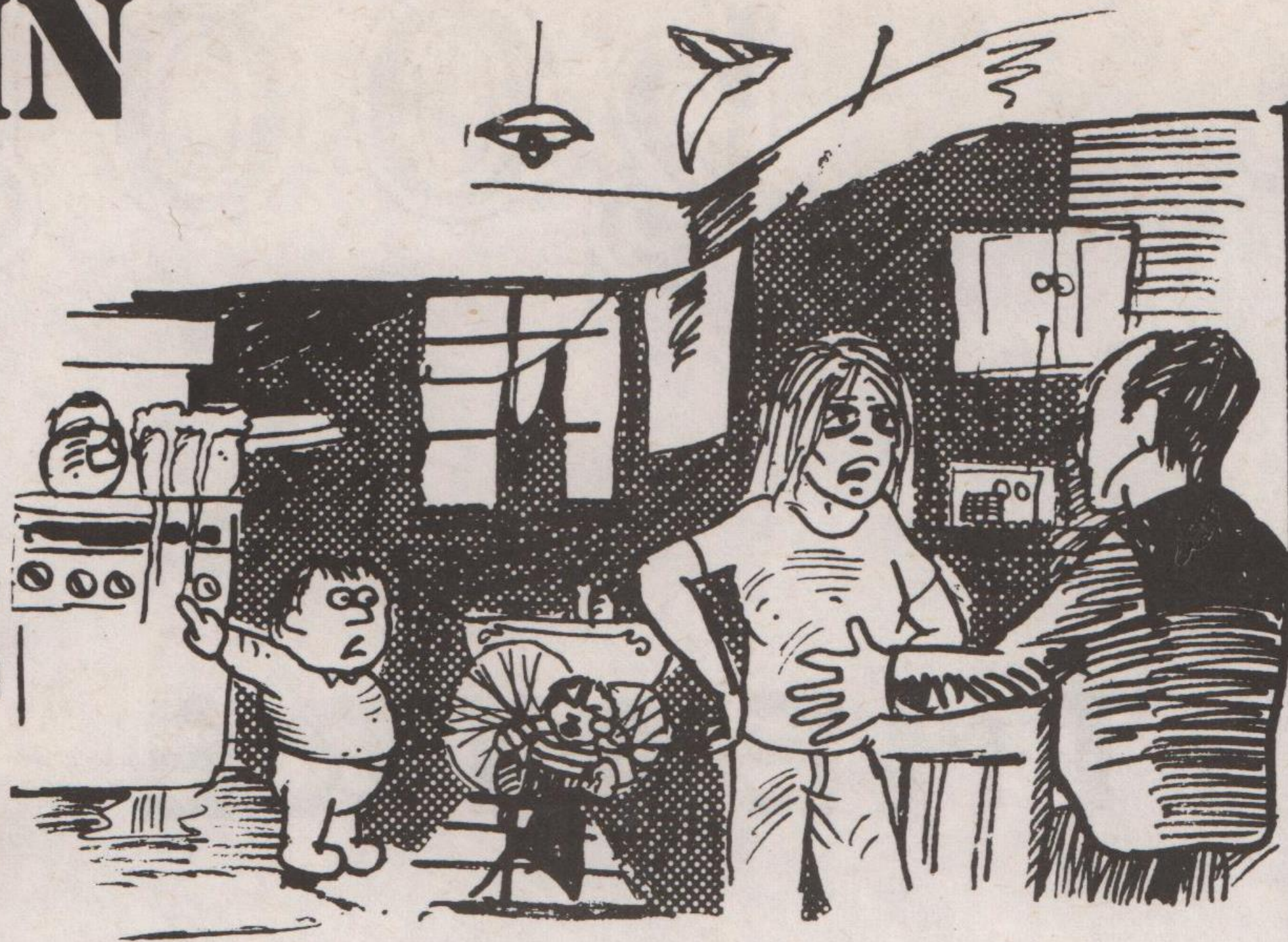
Councillor Butler has argued that they need all their offices close together. What is the point of this if all they do is get together to put people off since they haven't got the money left to supply our needs, anyway?

There is obviously something fishy going on. Centre point, a similar block in London, cost £5m to build in 1963. Although it's never been let it is now worth £45m. Colonel Siefert and Partners, who designed London's Centrepoint have designed Nottingham's Theatre Point.

The Action Group against Theatre Point is demanding:-

- A Public Inquiry into this affair
- Protection for council employees accused of spilling the beans.
- Stop the Office Block Build Homes on the site
- Publish all deals between the Corporation and the developers
- Open the books of Bentray Investments, ATV, Siefert and the Council
- No compensation for Bentray Investment
- Take over empty office blocks for council employees.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SUE & JIM



Polling Day. 7.30 am.

'Come on Joe, you're bloody well going to school today. Don't you lie in bed.....'
'There's an 'oliday Mum: 'lections.'
'Oh Christ. I've got you lot round my feet all day. AND I've got to do the shopping and go to hospital and fix that leak.....you'll 'ave to get your own breakfasts now.'
'Sue, Sue, the baby's crying....'
'Oh see to er yourself Jim. I've got this lot coming down the stairs now.'
'I've got to go to work you know. Money don't grow on trees....'
'Huh, well you piss it up against trees every night.'
'Anyway, if I go now I can vote on the way.'
'Ark at im. A vote aint going to stop our Alice crying, now is it? Ere—give er to me, and be off with yer. (Vote! What a time to choose!)
(LOUD KNOCK AT THE DOOR)
'Oo the ell can that be at this time?...go and see,

Jim, will you?

'It's the Llectricity Board..... says they've come to cut us off for not paying the bill.'
'Sod me, we spent it on the fire guards after Alice got burned. Tell em to piss off, and DON'T LET THE BASTARDS IN.'

11.0 am.

'Thank god we got Jim off to work in the end.... ad to get all the neighbours and their dogs out to get rid of those buggers from the 'Lectricity. Cut us off, would they?
Now er next feed's in an hour. Now where the ell ave those kids gone. I want them to do a bit of shopping....'
'Mum, Mum, Andy's tried to nick some sweets and the shop lady's calling the police.'
'Oh shit, the silly little.....look after Alice a minute while I sort that woman out....if she wakes up give er er milk—make it up, not out of the bottle.'

1.0 pm.

(LOUDSPEAKER: Today is polling day. Don't forget to cast your vote. Your nearest polling station is Grime Street Primary School.)
'When am I going to get a bleedin chance to vote at this rate? I'll ave to go tonight...now I must get off to that ospital. If I miss this appointment I'll ave to wait another five weeks and my insides are killing me....
Now where's that dozy babysitter? She'd better get ere quick if she expects her quid.'
(KNOCK KNOCK)
'Oh that'll be er now.'
'AH madam. I'm from the Conservative Party. Have you voted yet? We can provide transport.'
'Would you take me to ospital first, mate? Then the voting place. You see, I've got a terrible pain since I ad our Alice....'
'Well you see madam, we can only take people to the polls. If I took you to the hospital I'd have to take all of you....'
'Look, piss off mate, if you're not going to help. I wouldn't vote for your lot, anyway....fuck me, what a cheek. The upper class git.'

4.0 pm. Hospital waiting room.

'Look, I've been ere two hours. Ow much longer? I've got three kids ere cos my baby sittyer never turned up....'

4.30 pm.

'Well, Mrs Turner, since the business with the last baby you really will have to take things easier... A change of climate, perhaps? A little holiday?'
'Look, I've got no earthly chance of getting away on our money....and with Jim on split shifts there's always the kids. Our next door's pretty good but she's got six herself.....We ought to ave nurseries on our estate you know.'
'That's up to the politicians, Mrs Turner. I'm just a doctor....and if you don't watch your blood-pressure, you'll have to stop altogether....'
'Those blood-pressure pills make me so depressed.'
'Well, I can help you there, anyway. I'll prescribe some anti-depressants, they'll soon put you right, and some more to counteract the side effects of the two types....'

6.30 pm.

'Ere, stop fighting you two. I'm trying to feed the baby and she's as ungrateful as ell I was so long in that ospital. Those places make you more ill than when you first went in.....Now what the ell's appened to our Jim? That factory wearing 'im out. They'll be putting beds in the place soon and it'll be like visiting im in nick. D'you remember you've even got a father, eh Alice?.....Oh there you are at last Jim. What kept you? Boozing again?'
'Look love. Just been to a Union meeting.... they tried to give me the push today....I did a stupid thing....hit the fuckin foreman.'
'Oh no. That's marvellous. Back on the Dole. Off we go down the social security, kids and all. What with that and the hospital and the bleeding police, that should finish me off I reckon....'
'Look luv. Hold on. It's not final. I haven't been wasting my time. I've had a lot of support from the lads....and the other shops. Looks like a strike....everyone knows that bloke's a right bastard....the last straw was when he started on at me about the reds and the unions and the national fucking interest.'
'O K' luv, hold it yourself. You know I'll always support you in a strike—just make sure you help with the kids.'
'Of course I will. And I reckon we'll have the management over a barrel this time.'
'Oi! Who turned the lights off? Jamie! Put them back on this minute!'
'Mum, it aint me. All the lights and fires is off.'
'Sod me, Jim, look over there. Those bastards have dug the road up and cut us off.... told next door they was fixing something....the bastards....ow we going to manage with a six month kid an all? Get the candles and parafin heaters out will you?'

(FROM THE RADIO)

'With only 45 minutes left to close of polling, excitement is at fever pitch all over the country in this thrilling election which affects us all so deeply.'
'Can't see to piss, let alone vote.'
'You'd be better off pissing...'
'Shut up joking at a time like this. Look at Alice, she's frightened to death of the dark....'
'Mum, Billy's fallen down the stairs cos e couldn't see.'

(LOUDSPEAKER)

'You now have ten minutes left to vote. Use your democratic rights.'

June 6th sees a By Election in Forest Ward. This is the area covered by the 'Interim District Plan'

This is the first issue of a newspaper for the Nottingham area. We want to see things change.

Ie wrote, drew, typed and printed this ourselves. It's not as hard as you may think. Now the first one's done there will be weekly open meetings at 7.30 every Wednesday

3 Sherwood Rise, Nottingham.
Phone 64765

At these, policy will be made and we arrange to do the work.

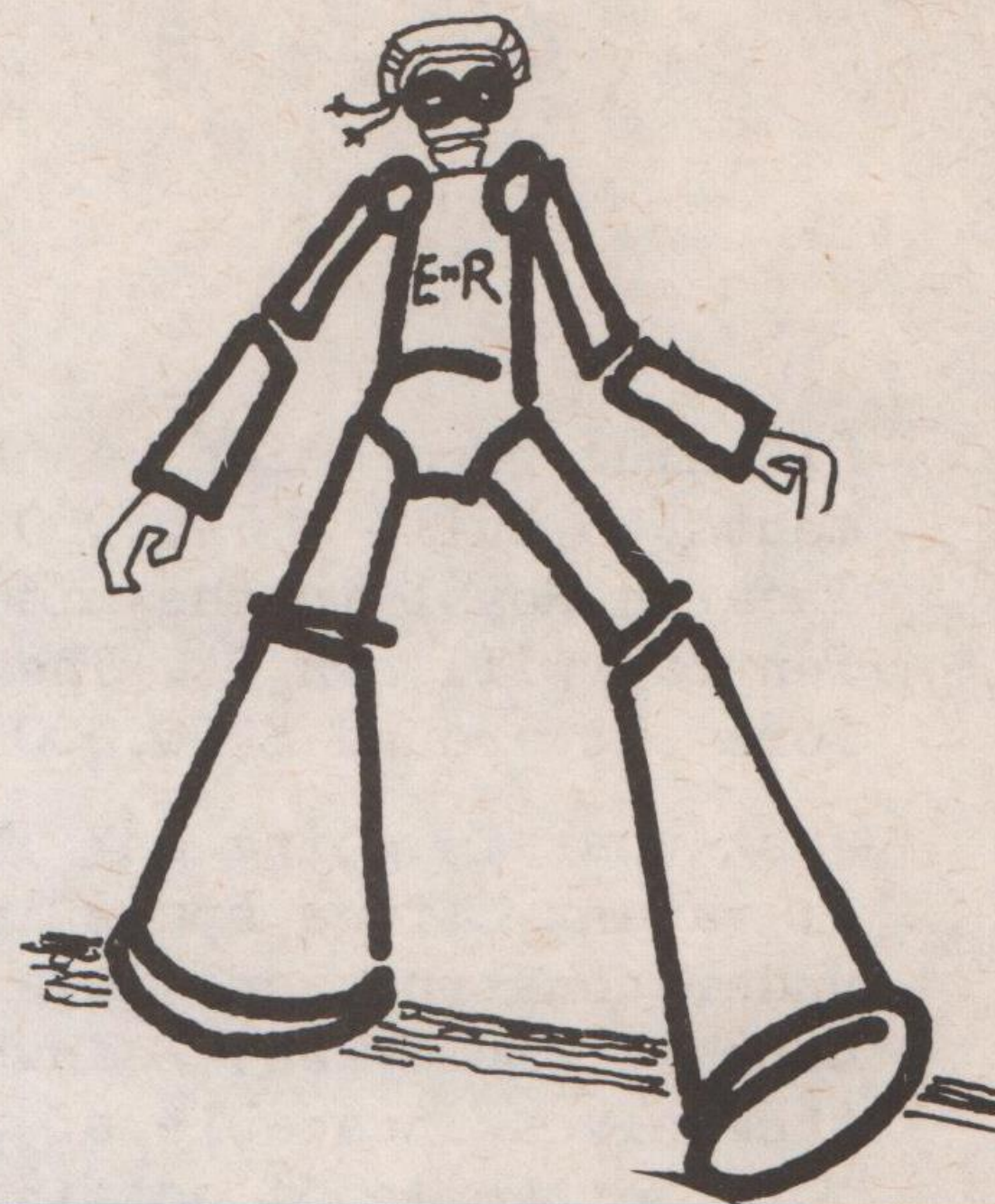
No newspaper is neutral. The Evening Post certainly isn't. One complaint of it's journalists during last Summers strike was that their stories were always distorted by Editorial Policy. Our life is for a better life for all working class people, men, women, kids, young and old. Bearing this in mind we welcome any actions where people's needs are asserted in place of the bosses

Also, we like a bit of fun.

The newspaper is not meant to be a thing in itself. Progress wouldn't necessarily means a daily huge sale! We want to contribute to everyone's self - activity and class consciousness (including our own). At the moment a few discussions might be a good idea. One which follows from the Office Block and Take over the City articles will be arranged; one from the Contraception article. Also, perhaps one of the problems that social and community workers face.

If you want something to go in then come along on Wednesday or phone Nottm 64765.

May 25 1974



CONTRACEPTION

WHAT IS A MUM?

A Mum is a;

cook
waitress
laundress
washer-up
shopper
cleaner
nurse
teacher
lover
comforter
dressmaker
bed-maker
entertainer
mender
hostess
story-teller

and she often has to "work" as well!!!

Then isn't it surprising that more mums aren't a;

nag
nervous wreck
physical wreck
bully
alcoholic
child-beater
drug addict
shop-lifter
murderess
deserter
or frigid?

Is this the price a woman must pay for sex?

Surely, a woman must have the right to choose whether or not she wants this sort of life - in other words, if she wants children (and when she wants them). Surely, a woman must also have the right to enjoy sex, without the continual fear of unwanted pregnancy (and perhaps, unwanted marriage). (continued over page)



Socialist Woman - Summer 1972.

WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT WORKS

The PILL

A small tablet taken by mouth. Usually once a day for 20 to 22 days with 8 to 6 days off during your period. (Some makes provide dummy pills to take during your period to help keep you in the routine.)

Each pill, except the dummies, contains one or two hormones (depending on the type) which change the balance of hormones in the body. It's the balance of these hormones that help to make you fertile. When they are put out of balance, by taking the Pill, you can't get pregnant (or the chances are very, very tiny.)

This is the most effective form of contraception apart from sterilization. As soon as you stop taking the Pill you are as likely, if not more likely to conceive, than if you'd never been on it.

WHERE TO GET IT

See below for list of addresses. You may also get the Pill from your own doctor (unless he /she is a Catholic or refuses to prescribe it on other 'moral' grounds. A G.P. is also allowed to charge a fee for the prescription (which can be quite dear) ON TOP of the cost of the Pills. If you think it's too much, tell him what to do with it and go to the Nottm Family Planning Service, where the 'advice' (i.e. the check-ups and prescription) is free.

COST

30p - 90p for a pack.

SIDE EFFECTS AND COMMENTS

The Pill must be taken at roughly the same time every day and must be taken every day during the cycle. ONE PILL WON'T PROTECT YOU FOR ONE DAY. So it's important to get into a ROUTINE of taking them - say, first thing in the morning or last thing at night - whenever you're least likely to forget. If you do forget one, take it as soon as you remember or as soon as possible after that - you'll usually be safe if you take it within 24 hours (try to be especially careful for the first week of each month - when you're most likely to get pregnant.) If you do forget a Pill for more than 24 hours use another sort of contraceptive for the rest of that month.

STARTING ON THE PILL : The body doesn't always adjust to the Pill right away and the many makes will have different effects on different women, so most doctors advise that you use another form of contraception as well, for the first 2 weeks of the first month.

VOMITTING: If you're taking the Pill and have diarrhoea and/or vomit within a few hours of swallowing your Pill, take another one to make sure it's absorbed into the body and will do it's job. If your upset lasts over several days, use another sort of contraceptive for the rest of that month. (If you take an extra one, don't forget you'll need an extra packet that month!)

SIDE EFFECTS : Many women say that the Pill made them put on weight - this can usually be overcome by changing to a different brand (IF the Pill is the culprit.) Spotting (losing a little blood in between periods) may occur if you are not very regular in taking your Pills (e.g. if you take it a few hours late one day) or again it may be that particular brand doesn't suit you. First, make sure you're taking them regularly and then, if you're still 'spotting', try changing to a different brand. ~~It~~ Losing a lot of blood is another matter - it probably has nothing to do with the Pill, but MAY BE SERIOUS - so see your doctor immediately. You should not have to put up with any minor side-effects, so make sure by having REGULAR EXAMINATIONS.

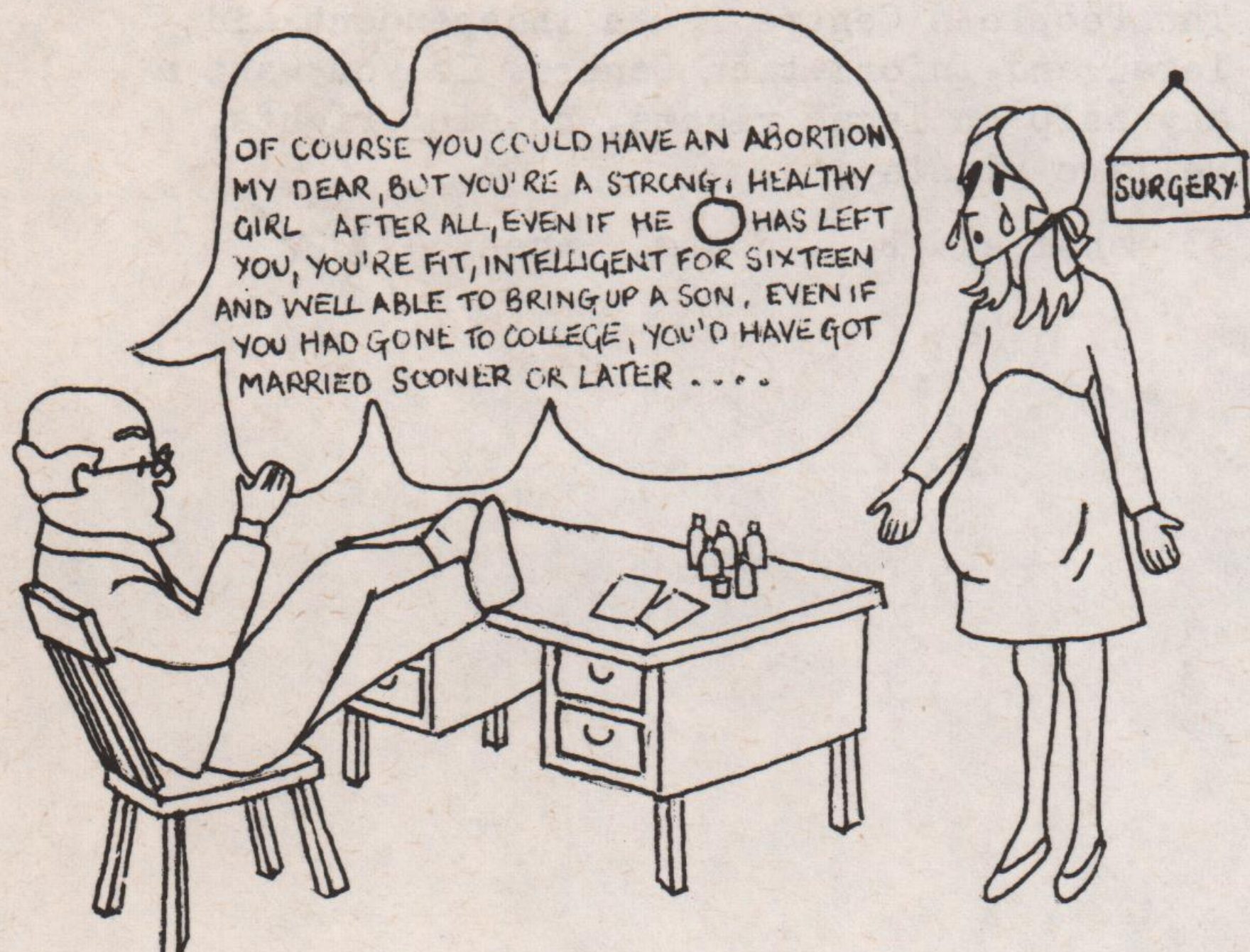
DON'T BLAME THE PILL for pains or depression and then put up with it. It's more likely that you're ILL - so see your doctor.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE : It's possible that the Pill can cause high blood pressure - so make sure your doctor checks that when she/he examines you. If you suffer from very high blood pressure, you may find the Pill unsuitable and be happier with another sort of contraceptive.

THROMBOSIS (BLOOD CLOTTING) : It's thought that there may be a very slightly increased risk of thrombosis if you're on the Pill. But this risk is very tiny, especially for younger women. This risk of death from an abortion, from pregnancy and from giving birth is far greater (and therefore more likely with a less effective contraceptive.) Much of the huge amount of publicity connecting the Pill with thrombosis, a few years ago was the result of research, backed by the London Rubber Industries. This firm manufacture almost ALL of the British made condoms (like 'Durex'). Obviously they saw the spread of the Pill as a threat to their profits - not much to do with your safety.

ADVANTAGES : The Pill is the most effective form of contraception other than sterilization. If used properly, it is virtually 100% reliable. Your Pills are in your control - you decide when to take them, when to stop. Also, many women find that their periods become lighter, less painful and more regular.

IMPORTANT NOTE : Some doctors in Nottingham have suggested to women that they go off the Pill for a month or so TO FIND OUT IF THEY'RE STILL FERTILE. Since the way to find out is by getting PREGNANT we would suggest you either use some other form of contraception or better STAY ON THE PILL if you're happy with it and don't want a baby or an abortion!! Doctors (Women) at the F.P.A. (Family Planning Association) in Nottm have said that THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THE PILL MAKES YOU STERILE BUT THAT IT MAY MAKE YOU MORE FERTILE.



For many women, unwanted children have tied them to an unhappy marriage and tie the man to a job he can't stand. Or they separate and the woman is left alone with the kids. State nursery schools are scarce, private ones expensive and these together with play groups are usually part-time, so a woman on her own with young kids hardly has the time for a part-time job, which won't support her let alone her family. So usually, she has to exist on the pittance from the Social Security and suffer the stigma of 'unsupported mother', poor housing, etc., etc. This is her punishment for either losing or leaving her man - she can't win!

How many women would not have to suffer this life if they had found reliable information on contraception and been assured that whether married or single there's nothing embarrassing, wrong nor dangerous (with help) about using contraceptives? How many women would be in a different situation if they had used a different contraceptive or had been examined regularly or shown how to use the contraceptive correctly.

Before we women can begin to take control of our own lives, we must first take control of our own bodies. It is not up to our husbands, doctors, parents, boyfriends, priests, teachers, employers, etc., etc., to impose their morality on us. We must enforce our right to choose for ourselves.

We plan to give an outline of the different methods of contraception around, the pro's and con's of each, how much (if anything) they cost and where they're available.

With this issue, we start on the Pill!

SOME HELPFUL READING (if you want more facts and less moralising!)

- 'Family Planning' this book is equally useful to women who aren't planning a family - but avoiding one! It's a paperback and relatively cheap - and worth it. (Mine's an old copy so can't tell you the exact price - probably about 40p.) It's published by the Family Planning Association (FPA) and bought at The FPA, 14, Regent Street, Nottingham (near General Hospital.)
- 'Contraceptives' This is very expensive for an 80 page paperback book (£1.35). But it is very good. It sets out all the different forms of contraception and tells you almost everything you want to know. Can be bought at A Which? Supplement. Sisson and Parker, Wheeler Gate, Nottingham.

LIST OF FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS

Bilborough Welfare Centre 45 Bracebridge Drive	Monday 9 - 11am
Radford Welfare Centre Baldwin St	Monday 6 - 8.30pm Friday 2 - 4.30pm
Bulwell Health Centre Main St	Tuesday 2 - 4.30pm
Basford Welfare Centre Southwark St	Tuesday 9 - 11.30am
Bestwood Park Health Centre Pedmore Valley	Wednesday 9 - 11.30
Hyson Green Health Centre Gregory Boulevard	Wednesday 2 - 4.30
John Ryle Health Centre Southchurc Drive	Wednesday 6 - 8.30
Ernest Purser Welfare Centre Wilford Rd	Thursday 2 - 4.30
St Anne's Health Centre St Annes Well Rd	Thursday 9 - 11.30
FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION 14 Regent St, Nottingham	

this is the latest address list we could get hold of. There may be mistakes. Also, as to the cost, they are definitely free if you're on F.I.S. on Social Security or Unemployed. The F.P.A. gives free advice and the situation is better in the county than the city.

Nottingham Women's Liberation Group

Meetings on Thursday at 8.00 at Newcastle Chambers, next to the Bell pub in the Market Square.

pathfinder book centre

for books and pamphlets on.....

Housing and Social Security problems, Womens liberation, Black nationalism, Labour history, Economics, Colonial revolution, Civil liberties, political theory, Ireland....

93 Goldsmith St., Nottingham. ph. 45689

Discussion of 'Take over the City' with some women from Hackney is planned for early June.

Books available from HOOD include
Up against the Law
Claimants Union books
Take over the City
Fighting in the Street
Housing Crisis: Women's Offensive
'Big Flame' and 'Solidarity' pamphlets
Men's liberation pamphlets include
Men in Crisis, Children and Collectives
Bad time for the Bosses
Don't be too hard on Soft Cops
Available Wednesday evenings

Peoples Centre

The People's Centre is an independent aid, legal and Information Centre. If you want any help on legal rights, housing rights, welfare rights etc

33 Mansfield Rd., Nottm. phone 411227

FITTING IN WITH THEIR PLANS

In the next six years, 7,000 of the 20,000 houses in Basford, Radford, Forest Fields will be totally demolished. Only a third of the area flattened will be reused for houses.

What will this mean? The recently published 'Interim District Plan' describes how every aspect of this District, in which 60,000 people live and 35,000 work will completely change. Shops, factories, roads, schools, housing, pubs - our whole way of life will be altered.

MASSIVE HOMELESSNESS

IN THIS PLAN THE COUNCIL ADMITS THAT THERE WILL BE A HOUSING CRISIS OF IMMENSE DIMENSIONS AND THAT THEY DO NOT KNOW HOW TO SOLVE IT. Just imagine what must happen if two thirds of the tenants in Clearance Areas are moved out and rebuilding continues at its present slow pace.

- * more young people will have to live with their in laws
- * more families will double up. OVERCROWDING.
- * the long council house waiting list will get longer.

Every option considered in this report - building and reletting more houses, renewing part of the clearance areas, buying privately owned prefabs, putting back the clearance programme - is inadequate. THEY ADMIT THIS.

Those who stay in the District will find that everything is different.

Those in Clearance Areas can expect some of their neighbours to move out before others and to get new neighbours. RATS in the EMPTY HOUSES. Broken down streets where the drains get blocked, the lights don't work and the RUBBISH PILES UP. There will be a health risk. Exactly who is to go, and when, leads to a lot of confusion. For example, the boundaries of the Gawthorne St Clearance Area are still not clear. The game? Now we move you. Now we don't.

Those who move to the outskirts of the city (and that will be most people) can expect very little control of where they go (tenants living in St Anne's or Meadows found this) and will have to leave their friends behind. Top Valley, a 'favourite' place has no decent shopping centre, no pub, no community centre and a lousy bus service. Another problem is the huge increase in rent. Tenants in St Anne's who used to pay thirty bob a week find themselves having to pay £12 a fortnight.

PARTICIPATION IS A CON TRICK

They say that this District Plan has been published now so that residents of the area can 'participate' in the decisions that effect them. Can we believe this? They have a nasty habit of pushing through these complex and costly plans despite what any body says. All we'll get is a few minor alterations, whilst our voices will be used by one group of Councillors to play off another. Unless a lot happens the Council will push through every major part of this plan. 'Participation' in this scheme is not enough.

FIGHTING BACK

What can we do about this? It would be a pity if each issue, (such as people losing their jobs because small factories close down, repairs needed in clearance areas, bad pay for the building workers on the new houses and so on) which comes up is seen in a seperate little box. To change any part of the plan may mean taking on the whole lot.

What sort of organisation already exists and what might come into being? In the Meadows last summer there was a rent strike because repairs weren't getting done. At the same time rent and rate arrears increased so that thousands are now owed. In a Council report it turns out that "tenants.....are becoming more and more reluctant to give (up) possession voluntarily....." Tenants won't move voluntarily because THEY KNOW there is nowhere decent to move to.

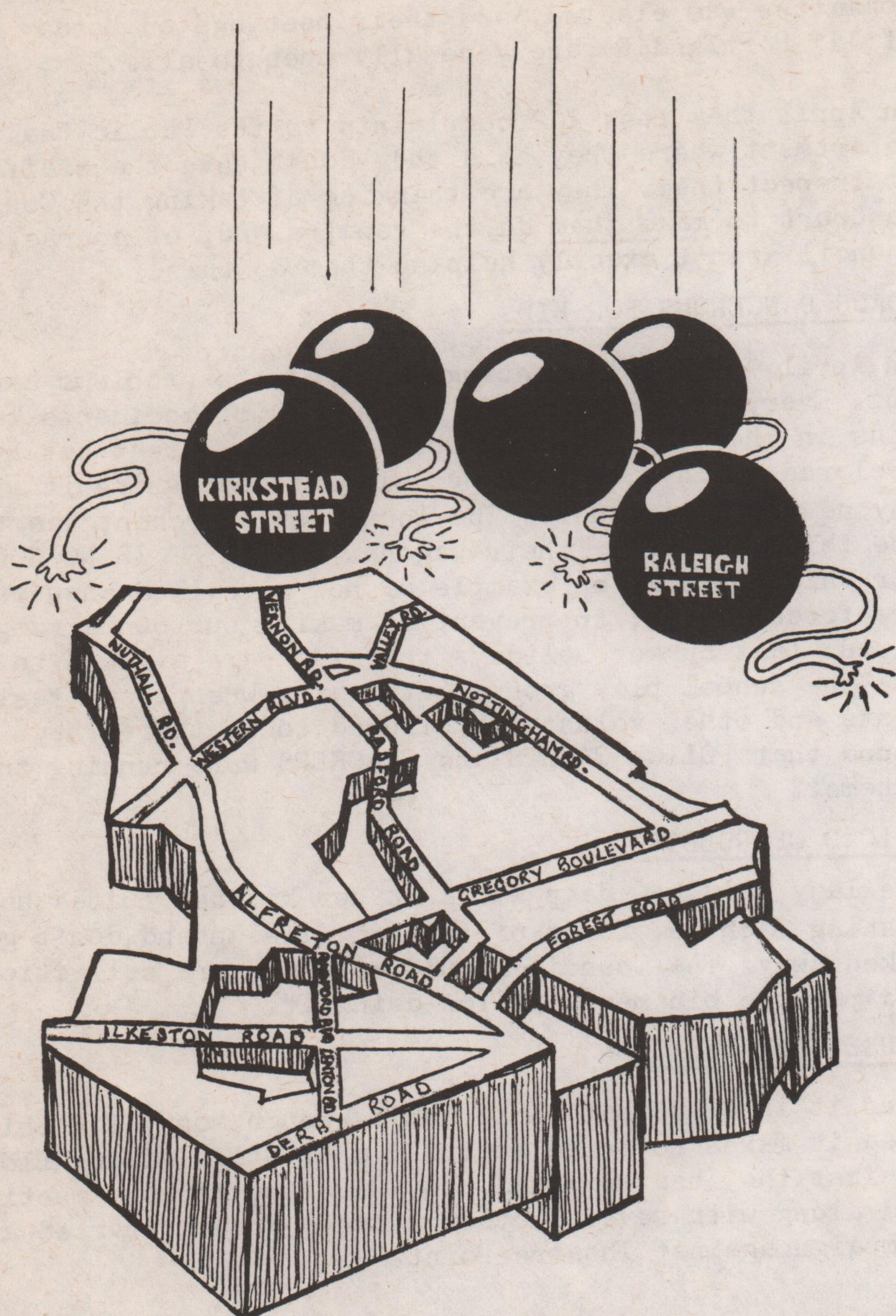
Public meetings, information sheets written and controlled by tenants, parties, dances, bonfires to bring people from different areas together, demonstrations which go through several areas, festivals - all of these may help get things going.

Nottingham's Magistrates ruled on May 13th that landlords must do repairs in the case of Mrs Newton and in similar cases when Section 99 of the Public Health Act apply .

The Union of Clearance Areas Association (UCAA) which includes New Basford, St Annes, Meadows, Raleigh St, Nth Sherwood St and other tenants associations is calling for much better conditions in Clearance Area policy.

Several empty houses have already been occupied (squatted) in Basford, St Annes, Nth Sherwood St as a direct answer to the problem of homelessness. Information is available on this from the PEOPLE'S CENTRE.

This District Plan presents a lot of problems for us all. Together, we'd better find some answers - quick.



Nottingham Clearance Programme:
AN **EXPLOSIVE** SITUATION?

This area is up for REDEVELOPMENT. That is, some parts will be left alone, some knocked down, some slightly changed.

Within this area are GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AREAS (G.I.A.) where small changes are made and grants to landlords may be available to improve houses.

A CLEARANCE AREA is one which will be totally demolished. Here, the Council buys up all the property under a COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER. Is your area soon to meet the bulldozer?

A PUBLIC INQUIRY is held for objections to the whole scheme. Usually, the Public Inquiry is just a sham and all it does is confirm the original plans.

CLEARANCE AREAS	WHEN IT COMES DOWN	HOW MANY LIVE THERE	
		before	after
Kirkstead St	1973/77	2550	720
Raleigh St	1975/78	1990	510
Basford	1975/78	1110	570
Dorset St	1976/78	460	255
Shipstone St	1976/78	520	none
Salisbury St	1976/79	1700	540
Radford West	1977/80	2040	810
Radford East	1977/80	2340	1110
Birkin Ave	1978/81	2120	810
Gawthorne St	1974/76	1055	570
Peveril St	1979/81		
Arboretum Area	1980/81	520	360
Nth Sherwood St	1979/81	-	-
Burns St	-	-	-

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AREAS	WHEN IT STARTS
Wilton St	1973/74
Berridge Rd West	1974/75
Vernon Rd	1974/75
Fox Grove	1974/75
Basford	1975/76
Belton St	1976/77
Vernon Ave	1976/77
Kennington Rd	1976/77
Bailey St	1976/77
Forest Fields A	1977/78
B	1977/78
C	1978/79
D	1978/79
Nottingham Rd	1979/80
Belper Rd	1979/80
Johnson Rd	1979/80

SMELL A RAT ?

In 1975 the Council will start demolishing the Raleigh Street Clearance Area if all goes to plan (which it won't). This includes most of the area between Cromwell St - Oliver/Larkdale St - Forest Rd - Alfreton Rd. Where people have lived and worked, gone to school, played with their friends, chatted with a neighbour, gone for a pint will be gone. Housing conditions are bad, in response to this many people are in rent arrears. About 2,000 live here. After the rebuilding only 500 will remain.

Here's an account of how people have been fighting.....

IN LATE 1972 when the news that the area was due for Clearance first came out several meetings took place. Quite soon we agreed to make a list of repairs and go in a group to the Council Offices and present them. After 10 local residents stood around in the Offices and did this the repairs were soon done.

REMEMBER THE RATS?

If you ask Councillors what they think of Oliver Terrace, which is in this area, the more honest ones will admit they are scared to death of the place! Within a few days last year there was enough anger and unity showed to get a few thousand pounds worth of repairs done

PROMISES, PROMISES.

In April, without any preperation about ten of us took the previous nights 'catch' of rats from someones kitchen, along to the Housing Offices on King St in a box. We were told we couldn't see anyone so we walked straight past the counter into the back. "Here's what we have to put up with!" we said, "How would you like to live in conditions like these?" and scattered the rats all over the floor. The Housing Manager wasn't very pleased but that night we were on the front page of the Post. And tenants from other areas came along and congratulated us, and offered help.

Councillors rushed up and down the Terrace, full of promises but since by the day after next they still hadn't done anything we collected up all the rubbish helped by dozens of kids and burned it ourselves. Everyone from all around was talking about it. By now the Council knew we meant business.

More pro uses were made but since we didn't trust the Council we called them to a meeting. At this meeting, anger bottled up over years of living in terrible conditions burst out. The Council even had two plain clothes body guard coppers there to keep an eye on us. It was a very stormy meeting.

One of the best times was when lots of us from the Terrace, joined by people from the Claimants Union and Squatters Union, took our part singing and marching on the May Day March along with thousands of other working class people. With our own banners we were among the liveliest on the march.

WHAT WAS WRONG?

Due to come down in 1975 the houses were left unrepaired full of rats and mice, no decent lights, blocked drains and so on.

WHAT WAS DONE?

Not enough! But quite a lot. They repaired doors and windows, toilets, fences, staircases, put lights in, put a new surface on the Terrace. Through our actions we achieved a lot very quickly.

Our actions were effective because the Council knew that many tenants were active together. They knew there would be trouble if they didn't get on with it.

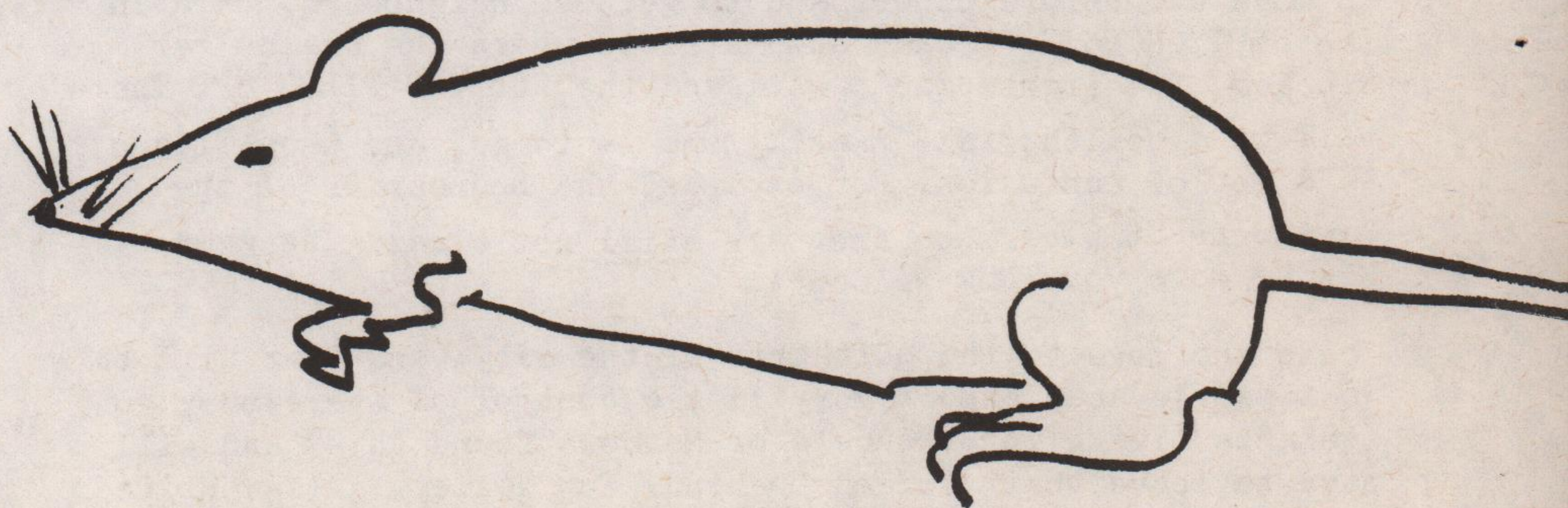
Rather than send in a petition, or a repairs list with someone we all went down, together. The effect of the bonfire of rubbish was to spread the word to many others in the area. People had a chance to chat freely and find out what was going on. It was this way of organising, in which everyone had a part to play, everyone could get involved which was our strength.

However, we also had our weaknesses. We didn't keep on pushing the Council so, after a while, they realised

they could drag their heels when getting certain people moved.

Also, we didn't try to get the whole area sticking together. We should have realised that every working class person has problems in common and at least called meetings and given out leaflets in the Raleigh Street area. We should have looked at the Council's plans and worked out what we wanted. Our actions could have ranged over a lot more than just conditions such as nurseries, schools and so on.

Big Ones



Little Ones

RECENTLY, a small group of people took round a question and answer sheet to find out what tenants were worried about. Then a meeting was called on 20th February and Raleigh Area Residents Association (RARA) was formed. A committee was elected, and their meetings on Monday eves at 111 Portland Rd are generally open to all.

In April they took 212 complaints to the Public Health Department where they said they don't have the staff to inspect them. They are thinking of taking the Council to Court to make them do the repairs and, of course, the Council aren't exactly helping them do this.

ROADS DANGEROUS FOR KIDS

In April, at a RARA meeting a lot of the problems came out. Every year since 1972 the number of accidents to kids in the streets has doubled. Ireton Street has been declared a Play Street - but without discussing it with anyone who lives there! The local Coal Merchant has to use this street for their wagons. IRETON ST IS NO GOOD for this. This is an example of how so-called answers are forced on us, to prevent us making our own arrangements. Last Summer holidays the kids were allowed to use the school play ground but again, when local residents and other volunteers offered to be there they found that POLICE CADETS and TEACHERS were running the scheme!?

A LOAD OF RUBBISH

One lady said how damp walls in her kitchen ruined her washing machine. Loads of rubbish pile up and don't get taken away. The Council should arrange more collections and pay the bin men more for doing it.

HOUSES NOT OFFICES

When it is said that there isn't enough money for this area it makes no sense to build a Prestige Office Block against the Theatre Royal. So, RARA sponsored a meeting and along with several other tenants groups started a campaign against Theatre Point.

take over the city

Since the Autumn of '69 the class struggle in Italy has spread from the factories to every area of people's lives. The working class has fought against the housing conditions, with widespread and prolonged rent strikes and mass occupations of empty flats, and against rising food prices, expensive transport, inadequate schools and nurseries, and lousy medical facilities. They have begun to create within their communities a new way of life, outside the control of the bosses.

ASSEMBLIES IN THE FACTORIES

In the factories in 1969 many of the important three year labour contracts in the engineering industry were due for renegotiation. Before the 'official' negotiations began thousands of workers went out on strike or remained in the factories and occupied them. These occupations were often controlled by regular mass meetings (Assemblies). They didn't just want a wage rise: they wanted the abolition of the system of grading, equal pay rises for all and a drastic reduction in the pace they were being forced to work. Rather than passively come out on strike, like the Unions wanted them to, they began to organise a struggle inside the factories, with mass meetings on the job, rotating strikes inside different sections which brought production to a standstill, marches through the factories and so on.

These struggles have gone beyond the Trade Union tradition that limits the class struggle to the fight for higher wages. The Italian working class have recognised that their needs for a freer, happier life cannot be realised by increasing the spending power of individual groups of workers. Any gains made inside the factories have been countered by rising prices and rents.

Rent strikes have developed not as a protest against government policy, but as a direct response to the tyranny of rent. Thousands of families, finding they can't afford to pay the rent or can't see why they should pay it, when they live in run down tenements or on estates where there are no amenities, fall into arrears and are threatened with eviction. The rent strike binds them together and makes an active weapon out of a series of passive and isolated protests.

The strikes are organised block by block, staircase by staircase, with regular meetings, wall newspapers, newsletters and demonstrations. They make sure that the rent collector and the bailiff can't carry out their jobs. Women play an essential role in the organisation of rent strikes. During the day they guard the estate against bailiffs and police.

Sometimes, buildings have been taken over, including modern blocks of flats left empty by speculators. In some cases the workers building the flats have joined in the occupation. Control of the flats and decisions about how the struggle should be fought are in the hands of general meetings. In the course of the struggle new, collective ways of living - nurseries, communal canteens, people's health centres - are developed

The struggle doesn't end here. People want to take back everything that has been stolen from them over the years. It's not just a question of money, but of every thing they need, especially for the kids.



SOMEWHERE SAFE TO PLAY

In Alessandrina (nr Rome), the local park, the only place where kids could play without being run over, had been closed down. On Sunday, 9th May, the tenants held a 'village festival'. They circled the park, singing and playing games. Then they opened the gates and the kids took over the park. The Council, of course, called in the police. But, with the kids making him look a fool, and because he was afraid of a massive reaction from the people of the area, he soon gave up trying to throw them out. Now the park belongs to the people and the kids can play there every day.

PEOPLE'S SURGERY

In June '71 in San Basilio, one of Rome's outlying slum areas there was a meeting about medical facilities in the area. No first aid post, no surgery, with the nearest medical centre being the clinic in Rome. It was decided to start a fight to set up a decent surgery and a medical centre in the area.

On Wednesday, after a deputation had gone for the nth time to the Council and still not be recieved a decision was taken to occupy the Social Centre. The occupation took place after a meeting and demonstration which had gone right round the neighbourhood. The involvement of the women and the workers, of young people and the support expressed by local people prevented any action being taken by the police.

The people who took over the Centre formed themselves into a permanent assembly which stayed there all night. They sent out an appeal to all left-wing doctors to get in touch with them. Meanwhile people talked about the inhuman living conditions under which they live. They realised that if you're going to get rid of sickness you have to do away with exploitation in the factories where people breath in smog and break their necks on the production lines, or on the building sites where people work in rain, mud and dust.

TAKE OVER THE CITY and other pamphlets
available from 3 Sherwood Rise, Nottm

BUILDING WORKERS AND TENANTS GET TOGETHER

Last month the labourers at McInneries site on the Roman Rd in East London went out on strike. They were building the second stage of a housing development and some of the labourers lived in the completed first stage. The tradesmen were on the Lump whilst the others were on a pretty bad (and illegal) bonus scheme. Hundreds had passed through this job. They struck to get a guaranteed bonus which would mean that their basic rate would be £1 an hour.

The Lump workers carried on working. McInneries have a sign which says "Build every home as if you were going to live there yourself!" They knew that the way the flats were being built they wouldn't want to live there - even if they could afford to.

They produced a leaflet saying how the Lump system encourages bad workmanship such that plasterboard was 'patched up', brick work was buckled in places, scratched baths were nailed in. The only way to change this was to pay decent wages so that there was no need for the LUMP.

THIS LEAFLET WAS GIVEN OUT TO LOCAL TENANTS and quite a number called along to the site, giving support to the pickets and the strike. It seemed that the interests of tenants and workers were the same.

Eventually a guaranteed wage of 92p per hour was won and a promise that the Lump would be off the site by the end of the month.

NO SIR, WITH LOVE

Mr. Manuel 'manny' Moreno has just been victimised and pushed out of teaching. You may have heard about it in the press, TV and radio. We tell here the story. It has serious implications for all of us, young and old.

GIRL'S PROTEST

During the week of the 11th to 15th February, many 5th form girls at Garibaldi Comprehensive school in Clipstone a mining village near Mansfield had had enough of another year of compulsory schooling. Their dads were protesting by having the miners strike. The girls protested by boycotting lessons. They were complaining about the lack of suitable courses in the extra year they had to stay on, they wanted a say in school matters and to wear any sort of trousers. The headmaster, Mr. McIntosh, was not interested in their demands, like the government were not interested in the miners demands.

The event appeared on the front page of the local newspaper, the CHAD. This infuriated the new head because it meant that an incident in the school was outside of his control and that the local public and parents were informed about the protest. He blamed a teacher, Manuel Moreno, for instigating the protest and reported this to the governors of the school.



MANNY BLAMED

This teacher had been at the school for over two years and practiced an informal method of teaching in which he encouraged the children to learn through their own interests and to discipline themselves rather than telling them what to do and how to do it all the time. Children respond well to this and they enjoyed his lessons. This approach in teaching is growing but headmasters like Mr. McIntosh regard this approach as a threat to their authority and power over children. They just want them to shut up, obey them and get on with their work; it's a training for when they go to work.

Mr. McIntosh used the 5th form protest as an excuse to get Mr. Moreno out of the school. He presented a report to the governors with a series of allegations and concluding that he was not a suitable person to be a teacher. Some of the allegations were, being off school for a minor operation, not supporting school uniform, giving an 'inflammatory' assembly, driving without an experienced driver once and ineffective control over children. This report was considered by the governors on the 20th March and they decided without any proof one way or the other, to suspend Mr. Moreno with pay pending an enquiry by a disciplinary sub-committee of the Education Committee on the 9th May 1974.

ORGANISED PROTESTS GROW

Within 2 weeks after the 20th of March the pupils at the school organised themselves and nearly 800 pupils out of a total of 900, signed their names to a petition demanding that Manuel Moreno be reinstated. Copies were sent to Mr. Stone, the Director of Education and Councillor Cairns, Chairman of the Education Committee.

The pupils by doing this were the first to have such a large organised protest concerning schools in the area. They have set a precedent by challenging authority. A Defence Committee was then organised by parents, pupils and teachers concerned about the case demanding his return. They were following the example of the children. Meetings were held to inform parents about the victimisation of Mr. Moreno. Neither the school nor the education authorities had bothered to inform parents. They do not think parents are important enough to consult or inform.

The Committee organised a parents petition demanding the teachers reinstatement. It represents 60% of families who send their children to Garibaldi school and presented it to the disciplinary sub-committee by its secretary, Mrs. Irene Bentley on the 9th May, together with a personal letter from herself and another from Councillor Brian Marshall, governor and parent, expressing great concern about the triviality of the allegations.

With this parental pressure and concern has developed an awareness about the school and what they feel should be done there.

UNION FAILS

The National Union of Teachers, NUT, and the teachers at the school have taken a very passive role in the affair. In the face of a teacher being victimised and his livelihood threatened, the NUT has done the minimum to help Mr. Moreno, that is, for him to have a representative from the union, Mr. G. Swallow, the East Midlands regional officer. But he has only sought compromise and attempted to hide the victimisation by the headmaster, and so played into the education authorities hands. Local branches of the union refused to exercise pressure on Mr. Moreno's behalf. Teachers are supposed to keep pupils in order so that they conform to capitalist society when they leave school. Teachers are also career orientated and promotion very much depends on the headmaster's report on them, so it is not surprising that most teachers at the school were afraid to align themselves with Mr. Moreno. Some teachers at the school and outside it have, however, helped alot. A petition to support Mr. Moreno was organised by lecturers and teachers and sent to the Education Committee.

PUPILS FIGHT BACK

The pupils at the school have continued over Manny's 2 months suspension to be interested in the case and to fight back. On Saturday 4th May, a demonstration was organised by them and 200 marched from the school into Clipstone. This was a good turn out considering their inexperience with marches, shopping in Mansfield, the F.A. Cup Final and May Day marches locally.

The children really enjoyed it, chanting slogans and singing songs. Rumours were going round the school that they would take further action if Manuel was not reinstated.

SUITABLE BUT NOT AT GARIBALDI- COVER UP

On Friday 9th May the disciplinary sub-committee met and took a marathon 11 hours to conclude, against the head's view, that Mr. Moreno was a suitable person to be a teacher but not at Garibaldi. On most charges he was cleared, but they recommended that he had to be 'punished' by transferring him to another school. If they decided to reinstate him then the head would be seen to be wrong by the parents and the kids and so his authority would be weakened. They did not sack him because they knew there would be an outcry and militancy. The education authorities are more concerned with not embarrassing the head and upholding authority than with the children and their education and well being.

The sub-committee told people to keep the decision secret. They wanted to hide the truth from the public and local people, but Mrs. Shirley Moreno in anger told the press.

On Monday 12th May after break hundreds of pupils stayed out on the schoolfield to protest against the decision. After senior teachers at the school had used strong arm police tactics most of the younger pupils went back to classes, but about 50 4th formers stayed out.

On Wednesday 14th May, 60 4th formers walked out of school in the afternoon. The next day, 13 lads each got 2 strokes of the cane on the behind. The boys were furious. Some angry parents went to the school to complain. For the staff it was about them laying down the laws and others just obeying. The 5th formers who had been active before, were at this time doing exams but many were refused permission to enter school by the head and senior staff. This is in fact illegal but the school was afraid that the 5th year would be active again and thus encourage other pupils to do the same. Future action is still planned by them.

The Defence Committee and other people are demanding a public enquiry into the running of the school. Many parents are unhappy about the new head, Mr. McIntosh. They find him aloof and unapproachable, children find him difficult; he is interested in the academic children when Garibaldi is mainly composed of pupils who want to leave as soon as possible. Very little is done for these kids. Staff have been complaining since he came about his poor communication and his rigid ideas, but they haven't the guts to say so. Many are leaving or have been applying for jobs.

THE SAME MACHINE

The recommendations of the sub-committee were, as was expected, ratified by the full education committee on Friday 17th May... a rubber stamp. It took them all of 5 minutes to do it, and this was after they asked the public and press to leave the chamber. They are part of the same machine which attempts to enforce conformity amongst teachers and children.

Cairns, the chairman said after to Radio Nottingham that they did not consider any of the petitions. This is an insult to parents, children and teachers whose feelings and demands are not taken notice of. The school authorities persistently do this. If this is how they treat constitutional methods of protest, it is no wonder that people are taking direct action.

The parents and pupils at Garibaldi have shown others the way as far as schooling is concerned and are now much more alert and aware about their rights and power, as are the cringing teachers. The children won't sit down and just take it now. They are now very suspicious of all school authorities and won't take no for an answer. They won't become fodder for school or work. Authoritarian teachers beware. The writing is on the wall- the struggle continues.