

**MORE VALUABLE THAN GOLD**  
by Striking Miners Children  
£1.50 from MVTG, 10 West Bank,  
London N16

MORE Valuable Than Gold is largely the result of a letter to "The Miner" asking for accounts of the strike from miners' children.

The title comes from a poem by Ellie Bence, whose father is a miner at Snowdown Colliery in Kent, describing what a miner is worth. It also applies to the mining communities who supported the strike, and to the coal which they produce. And it shows up the hollow argument which puts profits before people and which does not care about the destruction of communities.



by Striking Miners' Children

This is what the strike was about and why so many miners' children showed their support.

#### DOCTORS TO DECIDE FOR UNDER 16s GILLOCK GETS HER WAY

THE General Medical Council (GMC), in a disastrous interpretation of the Law Lords verdict which threw Gillick out, have sent her victorious after all!

The GMC have ruled that it is upto a doctor's discretion, regardless of a young woman's wishes, whether or not to tell her parents she is seeking contraceptive advice.

If a doctor thinks she is

"immature" then he/she can break confidence. The effect will be identical to the original Gillick ruling - under 16s won't go to their doctors for fear of parents being told.

The Health Minister Barney Hayhoe is soon making this law through new DHSS guidelines. Let him and your local MPs know what you think! More information - ring Jane on 822206.

Tina Yemm (Nott'm National Abortion Campaign)

#### NOTTINGHAM AGAINST APARTHEID

ON 25th January the people of Nottingham showed their disgust of Apartheid. Some 1500 people marched through the streets in the biggest ever demonstration held in the city.

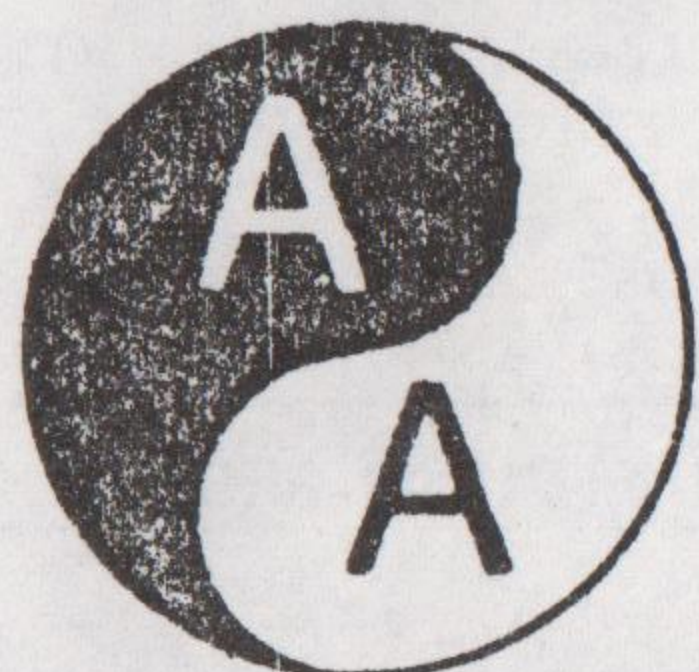
The march was held at a time of acute misery and suffering in South Africa typified by the state of emergency and censorship of the press.

It was begun to raise awareness and consciousness, support and commitment against apartheid and to display that the Midlands itself could be a centre of anti-apartheid

activity - the beginning of a massive disinvestment campaign.

Most importantly it was a community orientated event with the black community at the forefront - here drawing the links between apartheid in South Africa and racism in Britain, and with the rest of Nottingham in support.

Simon Kirby



#### LABOUR PARTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

DOMINATED by large numbers of white middle class and male "activists" (although apparently less so than in previous years) the whole local government conference seemed to take place in an atmosphere of unwarranted optimism.

Speaker after speaker rose in plenary sessions to claim that victory was in sight in authorities throughout the country.

Despite vague promises to "involve local authorities more" in the next Labour government, there seemed to be

no strategy other than "to get elected", no ideas on "policy development" and no clear proposals for tackling forthcoming Tory legislation.

More positive were workshops and fringe meetings covering subjects ranging from "decentralisation of service provisions" to ratecapping and the Local Government Bill.

Following the conference, it remains to be seen whether the way forward will be built on the empty rhetoric of the platform or the ideas and imagination of progressive authorities such as Sheffield and the GLC.

Jon Collins

#### WOMEN'S WORKSHOPS 1986

A WEEKEND of Women's Workshops will be held on Sat 8th and Sun 9th March at the Adult Education Centre, Shakespeare St. This has become a regular feature of the Nottingham Women's Festival.

Workshop themes will cover a wide range of issues, including discussions on the role of women in the Labour Party and trade union movement, Women Against Pit Closures, etc.

Financial donations, offers of help, further information from Gail Squires, 2/74 Musters Rd, West Bridgford (816094, work: 824824 x408) or Gill Selwyn, 23 Rutland Rd, West Bridgford (812798).

Book Review  
**SHIFTING HORIZONS**  
by Lynn Beaton  
Canary Press, £5.65

SHIFTING HORIZONS tells of the way in which two women from Blidworth, Notts, changed during the miners strike.

In their own words it shows the development of their deep full time commitment to the strike, the realisation of their own strengths and abilities, a tremendous widening of horizons and a changing consciousness of men and women in a village where most miners worked during the strike.

The women organise, travel, speak at meetings, raise fund to feed the strikers and their families, and picket.

A story of courage and endurance and a testament to all women of the mining communities which everyone should read.

Margaret Davies (604659)  
Nottingham Women  
Against Pit Closures

#### NEW IMAGE GLASGOW

THE Midland Group on Carlton Street is to be the venue of an exhibition of Scottish paintings, touring from the Third Eye Centre, Glasgow. It will be open until 15th March.

CONTRIBUTIONS to On Yer Bike are welcomed and should be sent to the editor: Nigel Lee, 51 Braidwood Court, Hysong Green (tel 788059). Priority will be given to items which are signed, less than 100 words, and relevant to the broad labour movement in Nottingham. Items longer than 100 words will be cut. Deadline is the second monday of the month (March 10 for April issue).

As a trial, for the next few months one page of each On Yer Bike will be offered to a group to describe their work in greater depth, as long as



#### ANTI-PRIVATISATION

LABOUR city councillors have been meeting trade union representatives to discuss ways of combatting privatisation.

Shop stewards are particularly concerned that some line managers have been using the threat of privatisation as a big stick.

One of the proposals being considered is a questionnaire to all the workforce to ask their ideas on how to improve services and working conditions.

Government threats to force privatisation of refuse collection, school meals, and a number of other areas have been delayed, but legislation is expected in the next year.



#### CITY MANIFESTO - 1987

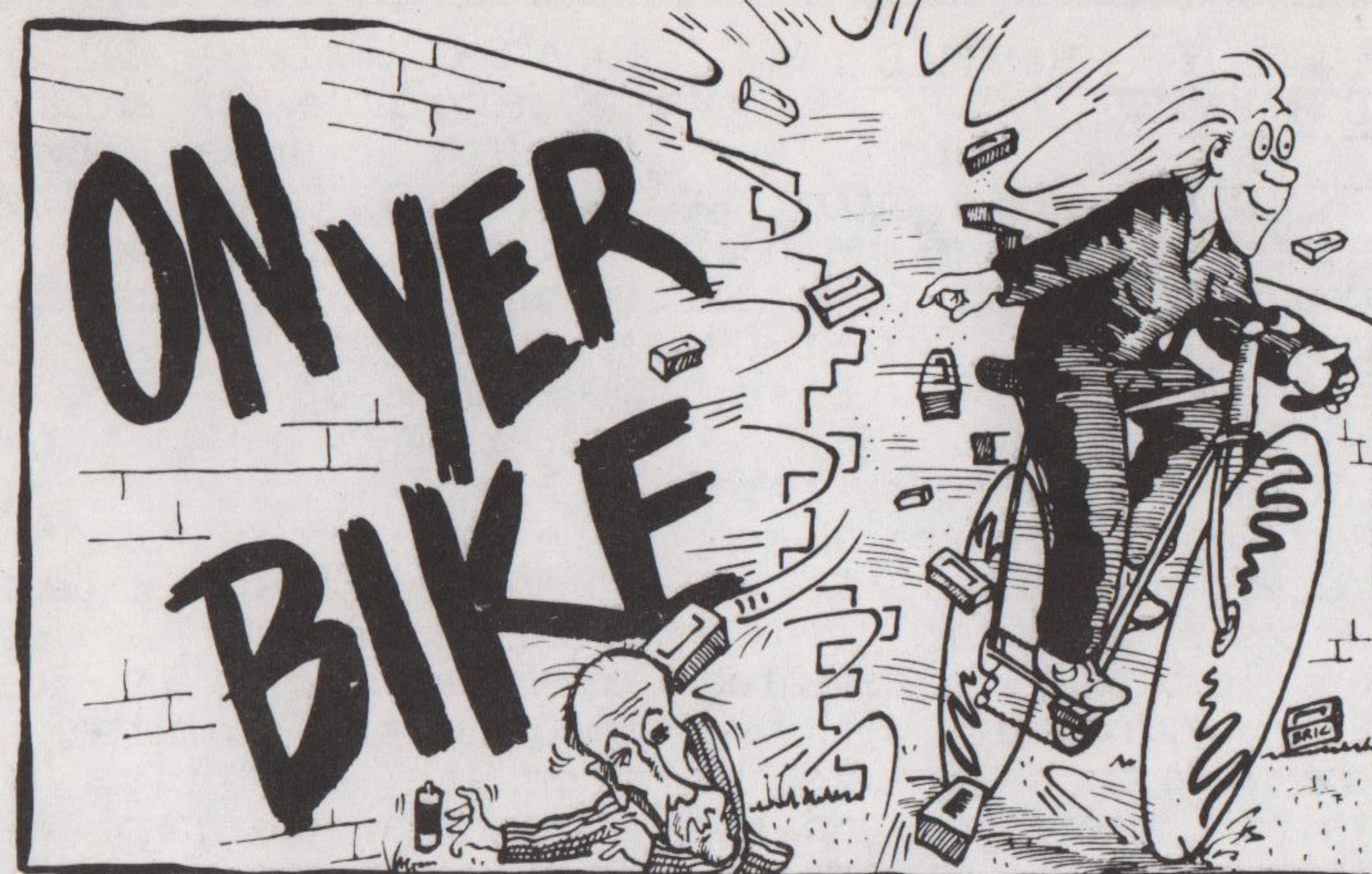
THE Labour Party is setting up working parties to prepare the manifesto for the City elections in 1987. Subjects are: Housing, Transport/Planning/Environment, Equal Opportunities, Economic Development, Leisure Services. Party members who wish to be involved should contact the party agent Ron Stevenson for details: 59A Derby Rd (418087)

this is of broad relevance within the Greater Nottingham area. Contact the editor for further details.

ADVERTS: Small ads free to labour movement and voluntary groups. Personal ads 1p per word. Display ads on request.

BULK RATES are available on request - from only 2p per copy. Orders must be received by the second monday of the month and will normally be printed by the fourth monday.

Printed by NUSU Printshop, Nottingham University.



#### No 8 March 1986 5p FOR THE NOTTINGHAM LABOUR MOVEMENT

ON YER BIKE is a monthly information service aimed at members of the labour movement in the Nottingham area. It is edited independently. Contributions are particularly welcome from women's, black, lesbian/gay, disabled and other disadvantaged groups; campaign groups; and from organisations and individuals within the labour movement.

#### TORY LUNACY ON THE BUSES

NOTTINGHAM's bus services could be costing the ratepayer an extra £3.5 million a year from October, as a result of the 1985 Transport Act, if the same service to the public is to be maintained.

The Act forces councils to set up separate companies for their bus undertakings, and puts an end to the orderly regulation of bus services.

At the moment Nottingham's buses break even apart from the cost of concessionary fares for OAPs, etc. But the new company will only be able to break even by cutting unprofitable routes, cutting jobs, increasing children's fares, and shifting



responsibility for past employees' pensions to the ratepayer.

Pensions alone will cost nearly £1 million a year with other costs falling on the

#### MOLESWORTH 6TH FEBRUARY

DESPITE the atrocious conditions of snow and ice, over 6,000 people attended the CND blockade of Molesworth held on 6th February to mark the first anniversary of its invasion by Michael Heseltine and the Military.

The action started at 6am, with CND supporters from the midlands taking the first shift and in turn being replaced at 9am and 12 noon by Peace Groups from other areas.

Each of the four gates were blockaded and despite one attempt early in the morning to drive Ministry of Defence vehicles through the protestors nothing reached the base.

The obligatory visit by Olga Maitland and her "Peace through War" group went off without major incident and with only five arrests the action can be considered a success.

Jon Collins

#### RACISM IN COMMUNITY CENTRES TO BE TACKLED

ALLEGATIONS of racism at Sneinton Hermitage Community Centre are to be investigated by the City Council.

The City's Race Sub-Committee



#### Nottingham Women for a Nuclear Free & Independent Pacific

NOTTINGHAM Women for a Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific are part of an International Network campaigning for a Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific.

Our links are with the Pacific Islands and Pacific Rim countries - Australia, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Hawaii, Indian Ocean countries, Papua New Guinea, etc, and with their struggle against colonialism, racism, capitalism and nuclear destruction.

If you are interested in learning more about the situation in the Pacific and our campaigns, we are holding

ratepayers taking the yearly bill to around £25 million. In addition, if the Council wants to keep services on the unprofitable routes it will have to put them out to tender, at an estimated cost of £1 million a year.

There is also a small requirement to levy a special rate to provide a one-off payment of £1 million "working capital" for the company.

The likely result: worse services, higher fares for children, large job losses, and a cost of millions of pounds to the ratepayer!

This is what the Tories mean by "value for money".

(As On Yer Bike went to press full details were still being kept confidential.)

in January was told that the Management Committee had refused to make the centre available to Asian groups on sundays, and had refused to make bookings for Asian youth groups and women's groups.

Sub-Committee Chair Peter Burgess promised that the allegations would be investigated.

It was also agreed that community centre management committees should be encouraged to involve black people on the committees and in centres' activities.

#### COUNCIL BOOZERS EXPOSED

CITY councillors and their guests have been boozing their way through drinks costing nearly £100 a day, according to figures released by the City Treasurer.

He has revealed: "The actual expenditure incurred on wines, spirits, beers and squash drinks for civic receptions held at the Council House for

a meeting at the ICC, 618 Mansfield Rd on 4 March at 7.30pm (women only). We also have speakers available (for mixed groups too).

Jan Bostock  
17 Cromwell St (706131)



#### MARCH AGAINST APARTHEID ON MAYDAY

"Victory to the South African workers!"  
"Sanctions Now!"

THIS year's Mayday celebrations will centre on the theme of South Africa. Monday May 5th will hopefully show another massive display of support for all the forces fighting Apartheid in South Africa.

Assemble on the market square 10.30-11am, march to Queen's Walk Community Centre to hear a speaker from the fast developing South African independent trade union movement. There will be various stalls and food at the centre.



Support is needed from the trade union movement, labour parties, student groups, etc. Money is also needed to cover the costs of the day - cheques payable to "Nott'm & District TUC". Information, offers of help, stalls, etc: Steve Battlemuch, convenor, Trades Council Mayday Sub-Committee, 16 Drayton Street, Sherwood (620947).

the period 1 April - 20 December 1985 amounts to £17,122.74."

This includes the cost of booze supplied to the private rooms of Labour and Tory leaders, Lord Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Sheriff. No separate account is kept of how much booze is knocked back privately by these civic leaders.



## POWELL BILL RESURRECTED!

KENNETH Hargreaves, Conservative MP for Hyndburn, is busy breathing life back into Powell's Unborn Children's (Protection) Bill which was successfully talked out of time in the Commons last year. Hargreaves' Bill is identical in intention to Powell's. If passed it will severely restrict embryonic research, limiting tests on disabilities and infertility and giving legal status to the foetus

which could lead to banning abortion, the coil, and the morning after pill. Hargreaves' Bill was also talked out of time in January but in early May it is due to be read again.

Oppose the Bill!! Write to your local MP and support the lobby the National Abortion Campaign is organising for the next reading. For more information ring Jane on 822206.

Tina Yemm (Nott'm National Abortion Campaign)

## STILL A LOAD OF OLD RUBBISH!



A REPORT ON THE DISTRICT HEATING SCHEME IN ST ANN'S. PREPARED BY THE NOTTINGHAM HEATING PROJECT FOR THE ST ANN'S HEATING GROUP.

### A LOAD OF OLD RUBBISH

200 ANGRY St Ann's residents attended a public meeting in February to demand action on their heating system.

The district heating system based on a rubbish burning incinerator at Eastcroft has been dogged by controversy and technical faults since it started.

The meeting was told that houses in St Ann's were paying for 23,000 kilowatt-hours of heat each year when 14,500 should be enough to keep a modern 3 bed house warm.

Complaints included cold bedrooms, standing charges too high, loss of heat in the mains, and meter faults. The

St Ann's Heating Group was supported in its demands for a full investigation.

Local councillor Peter Burgess claimed the meeting was not representative. But Hassan Ahmed pledged the support of the St Ann's Labour Party for the campaign and promised to put pressure on the council through the Labour Party.



REASONABLE HEAT!  
REASONABLE COST!

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMPROMISE

THE COUNTY Labour Group has agreed to set up an Equal Opportunities Sub Committee responsible for both employment within the Council and service delivery.

There will also be three working parties on women, race, and disability. A proposal for a fourth for gays and lesbians was defeated. Each working party will have one third trade unionists, one third councillors and one third from relevant community groups.

### NO TO NUCLEAR WASTE

PADDY Tipping, recently adopted as Labour's prospective parliamentary candidate for Rushcliffe, is pressing the County Council to approach the Department of the Environment to make an early announcement about future sites for nuclear waste disposal.

One of the sites identified by the Government consultants, NIREX Ltd, is the Widmerpool basin in South Notts. The County Council has already expressed total opposition to the proposal to bury nuclear waste there.

Paddy Tipping said "People in this area have lived too long under this threat. It is important we all say no to this proposal."

### ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID

ANOTHER month of action against apartheid is being organised for March. The main week will be 17th-22nd, when it is hoped to have a campaign bus on the Square.

A consumer boycott petition against South African goods will be directed mainly against Tesco's and Sainsbury's and handed to the managers of those stores.

A public meeting is to be fixed. Further details from Geoff Morris (472440).

### BITTER CONFLICT AT COUNTY HALL

THE LAST month has been a time of bitter conflict in the Labour Group at County Hall with councillors split over proposals to spend £164,000 on improving office and members' facilities.

A motion to Council tabled by George Miller and eventually seconded by Alan Simpson cancelling the spending was criticised for breaking Group standing orders, particularly since defeat over the issue seemed likely.

Despite a special Group meeting, the issue remained

The Sub-Committee will also be responsible for areas of "overlap" at present covered by the JESSLS Committee (Joint Education, Social Services, Leisure Services) which could now disappear.

Questions of staffing and budget have not yet been decided.

The decision represents a compromise within the Labour Group between the manifesto commitment for a full Equal Opportunities Committee and adequate staffing, and attempts by the right wing leadership to prevent anything effective being set up.

### BEESTON CAMPAIGN REPORT

LAST May Beeston South Branch was one of the few branches to return a Labour councillor with an increased majority. This was achieved not only by a lot of hard work but by using some new ideas, some improvement on traditional ideas, and involving the majority of our branch members.

Whilst not wishing to blow our own trumpets we had a good result and wish to spread the information about how we did it. We have produced a 12 page report covering the campaign, complete with a fairly detailed analysis on the final voting figures.

Copies of this report may be obtained from the branch treasurer P. Anderton, 11 Hallcroft, Beeston at 50p, or by contacting me on 228518.

Woody Woodyatt

### CONTRACT COMPLIANCE

THE City Council is to set up a Contract Compliance Unit to tighten up control of private contractors.

A new approved list of contractors will be drawn up with special attention paid to their commitment to equal opportunities, apprenticeships and health and safety as well as quality of work.

unresolved as the full Council meeting began. However before it could be put, Cllr Miller withdrew the resolution, reportedly on the promise of another special Group meeting at which Cllrs Tipping and Pettitt (Group Leader) would speak against the spending.

Despite these assurances, however, both George Miller and Alan Simpson were amazed when Dennis Pettitt seconded a resolution at that meeting, supporting the improvements. It was passed and the Council will now proceed with the spending.

Jon Collins

## NOTTINGHAM & DISTRICT TRADES UNION COUNCIL IRELAND SUB-COMMITTEE

1986 sees the 70th anniversary of the Easter Rising of 1916 against colonial British rule in Ireland. In this article, IAN JUNIPER describes the work of Nottingham Trades Council's Ireland Sub-Committee and argues that the working class in this country should support immediate British withdrawal from Ireland.

"So come all you people who give to your brothers and sisters the will to fight on They say you can get used to this war, that doesn't mean that this war isn't on The fish need the sea to survive just like your comrades need you

And the death squad can only get through to them if first they can get through to you."

### STRIKING MINERS SEE FOR THEMSELVES

IN 1984, Nottingham Trades Council sent its Secretary as delegate, together with striking South Notts miners, on the August delegation to Ireland to see for themselves just what the striking miners had in common with the nationalist people.

They took part in the annual demonstration in Belfast which remembers the introduction of internment without trial on August 9th 1971 - indeed the Secretary was the first platform speaker at the Republican Rally before it was attacked - and later gave an eye-witness report of the premeditated RUC all-out assault on the Rally, during which John Downes was killed by a plastic bullet.

As a result, Council reiterated its Irish policy thus:-

"This Council recognises that the gerrymandered Northern Ireland entity is founded upon and only maintained by such institutionalised state violence directed against the nationalist people, and further recognises that Ireland will never be at peace until she is free and enjoys self-determination of the Irish people as a whole."

"Council therefore reiterates its call for Troops Out Now and a total military, political and economic withdrawal, involving the disarmament of the paramilitary RUC, disbanding the sectarian Ulster Defence Regiment, and the abolition of all the sectarian and repressive paraphernalia used to prop up the orange state."

### RELUCTANT TO WITHDRAW

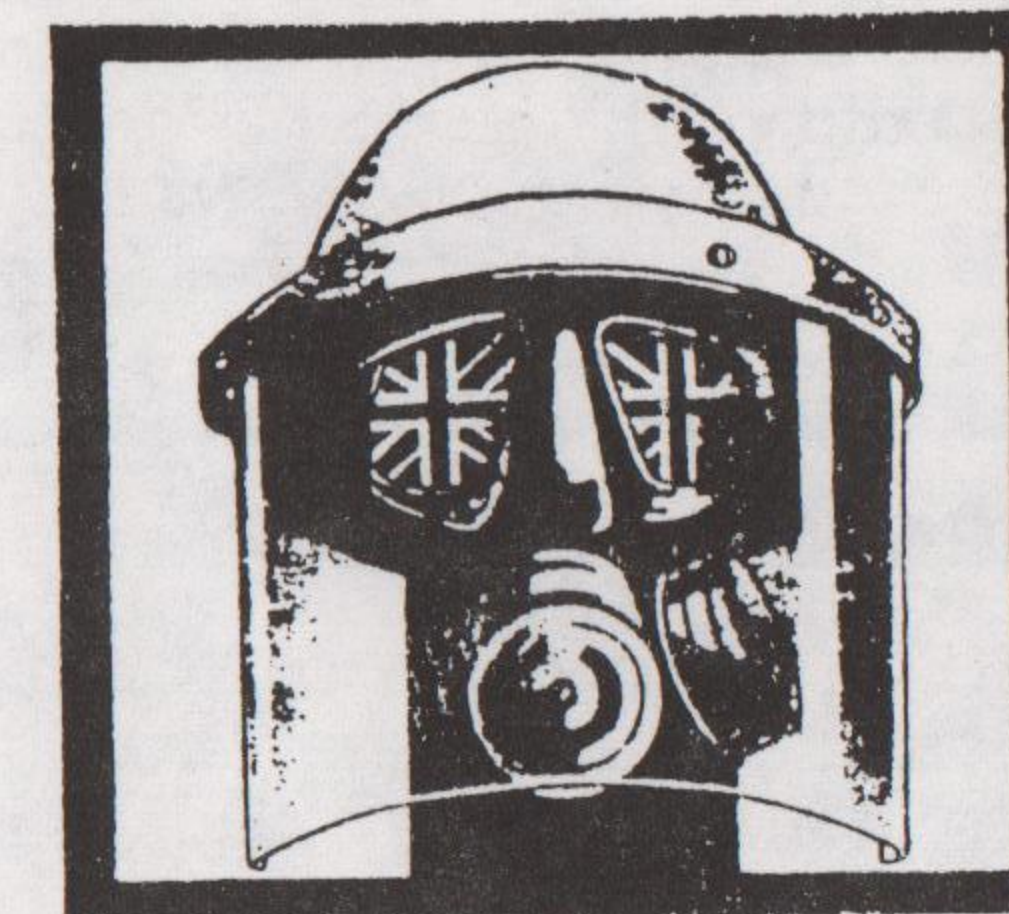
BRITAIN is still reluctant to withdraw from its oldest colony, Ireland, where human rights are being violated every day as a result of its rule. Within Ireland, opposition to the British presence and support for the republican movement grows and grows.

For over 16 years, British troops have been occupying a part of Ireland, not as a

CAROL ANN KELLY 12 STEPHEN KILLED BY PLASTIC BULLETS NORMAN McALEER WILLIAM McALEER SIBBART McALEER DUFFY McALEER McALEER (11)

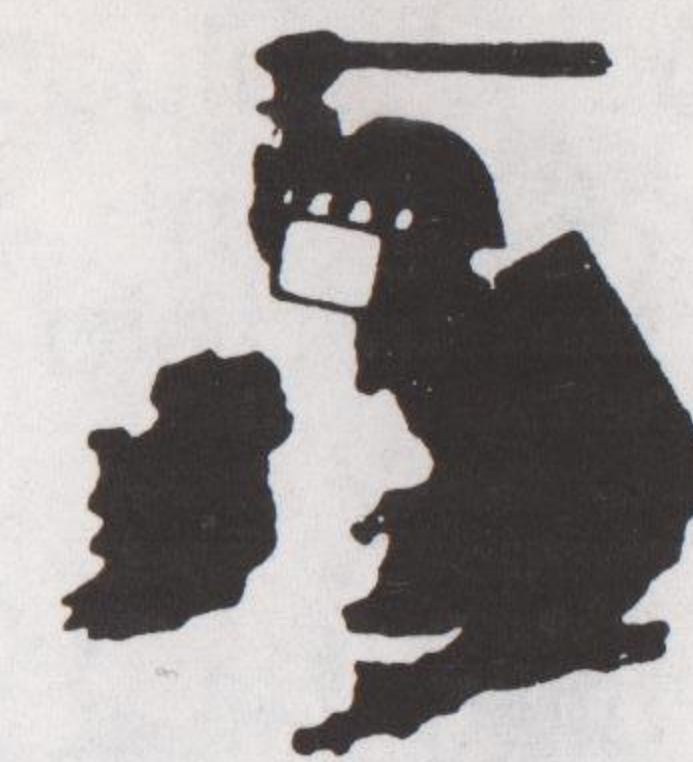
peace-keeping force, but coercing and oppressing the Nationalist people.

Yet, after all this time, the vast majority of people in this country don't - or don't care to - understand what is going on; and work on Ireland



is often neglected in favour of other issues, while the mass media's psychological operation goes unchallenged. The trade union movement hasn't so much turned a blind eye, as torn them both out.

So, although it is OUR government and OUR army which is responsible for the repression, the withdrawal movement remains relatively small.



### IRELAND SUB-COMMITTEE

FOLLOWING their Day Conference held on Ireland on St Patrick's Day in 1984, Council called for an end to the bi-partisan policy of the Labour Party in relation to Northern Ireland, and an end to the co-operation of the British Trade Union Movement with the British Political Establishment on the question of Northern Ireland; and resolved to carry out an educational campaign.



### PAST SPEAKERS

PAST speakers have included Dr Maire O'Shea; Tom Redmond, Trade Unionists for Irish Unity & Independence; Dave Douglas, NUM; Martin Walker, "A State of Siege"; Pam Oldfield, Notts Women Against Pit Closures; Dick Skyers, Nottingham Inter-Union Race Relations Group; Arshad Begum Campaign (in personal capacities); Sarah Spencer, National Council for Civil Liberties, plus showing of the uncensored version of the film "The Cause of Ireland".

Brenda Downes, widow of John Downes; Emma Groves, blinded

### JUST POPULAR RESISTANCE

THE Anglo-Irish Accord cannot be allowed to obscure that what is at stake is whether the just popular resistance of the nationalist community succeeds or fails. Whether or not people in this country approve of how that resistance is taking place is almost beside the point; it's the fact of the resistance which counts.

For the objective of the British presence is to smash what's really happening, not what might have been - and success for the British in that attempt would give a tremendous boost to all reactionary forces in Britain and beyond.

In this, the 70th anniversary of the EASTER RISING led by James Connolly and Padraic Pearse, it is time for the working class in this country to realise that its own interests lay in immediate British withdrawal from Ireland, and that without fighting for the rights of oppressed nations like Ireland, the British labour movement could not hope to realise its own aspirations for a more democratic and just society in this country.

TROOPS OUT NOW  
SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE AS A WHOLE!

The Ireland Sub-Committee was set up to co-ordinate this campaign.

Nottingham & District TUC is itself affiliated to the Troops Out Movement, which has a Trade Union sub-group, and which organises an Annual Delegation to the North of Ireland, which Council has supported for the last few years.

The aim of this is to meet the people of the oppressed nationalist community, and to break down the wall of misinformation that surrounds the role of the British government and its troops in Ireland.

Council has supported Irish demonstrations and, through the Sub-Committee, is holding a series of meetings to shovel away the sand that the trade union movement has got its head in on this matter.

by a rubber bullet in 1971; Berrange Bandle, Pan African Congress Movement; Alan Simpson, PPC Nottingham South (Lab) (the first two on behalf of the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets; the latter two in personal capacities).

