

Nottingham Voice

"WHAT JOBS for the boys?" is a report on unemployment in Nottingham's inner city. It was commissioned by the All Saints Residents Association in the Raleigh Street Area - where unemployment is as high as 30-40% with young blacks suffering particularly badly.

The report quotes from official figures and reports. It makes it quite clear that local authorities and central government are doing hardly anything to help the unemployed. In fact they are making things a lot worse - particularly the City's housing cuts which could mean 2,000 more jobs lost when there are already 26 unemployed building workers for every vacancy.

One conclusion is that extra subsidies to private industry can't solve the problem. What is needed is much more public spending at all levels.

Reversing the cuts in house building and bus services is one obvious suggestion to provide hundreds more jobs - especially for manual workers who are 80% of Nottingham's jobless men (one serious weakness of the report is that it doesn't look at the problems of jobless women).

MANUAL JOBS LOST

Thousands of jobs - mostly manual jobs - have been lost in the city in manufacturing industries, mainly in the inner city. Much of this loss has been offset by a big increase in white collar jobs. But that is no use to areas like Raleigh Street, says the report, since three-quarters of the people are manual workers.

For this reason it criticises the County Structure Plan for wanting to bring more offices to the city centre. That will increase the number of white collar workers needed but it

REPORT ON UNEMPLOYMENT SHOWS HOW INNER CITY SUFFERS

What jobs for the boys and girls of Raleigh Street?

won't do anything for the people of Raleigh Street.

The most obvious cause for concern, says the report, is the tremendous increase in the number of men in the city out of work for over a year - a jump from 1,061 in July 1975 to 1,845 in July 1977. That meant 30% of unemployed men in the city had been out of work for over a year.

This had a major impact on the young unemployed. In the 16-24 age group the number out of a job for over a year leapt from 61 in 1975 to 243 in 1977.

HIGHLY CRITICAL

The report is highly critical of the government's short term job creation schemes for the young. When young people leave these schemes they often have nowhere else to go. So, while this has cut short term unemployment for the young, long term unemployment has got much worse. And there are hardly any government schemes for the 25-54 age group where long term unemployment is just as bad for men who are likely to be the primary breadwinners.

There are real grounds for concern, says the report, about the prospects of young men with a history of unemployment who move into the 25-54 age bracket where

there is little or no state provision.

13,000 JOBS NEEDED

At least 13,000 extra jobs are needed in the city by 1981 - just to reduce unemployment from 6% to 3%. But there is little sign of any programme likely to meet such a target, says the report.

It could find no clear assessment of job needs in the city undertaken by the City Council and no study of measures which could be taken to meet these needs.

The County Council, it says, has been mainly concerned about the loss of jobs in mining areas.

Efforts made by the City and County Councils to bring jobs to the area are shown to be small scale, piecemeal, underfinanced and in some cases wrongly directed.

And the report complains of conflicting policies at government level. The Department of the Environment stresses the need for regenerating inner city areas. While the Department of Industry is encouraging firms to move away from the city to "Intermediate Areas" picked out for development aid.

What help is given by the government to inner cities is chicken feed, it says. So far £1½m has been given for

industrial development in Nottingham but this has to be compared to cuts of £3½m made in the City Council's budget last year.

MECHANISATION

A number of reasons are given for loss of jobs in the city. One is that clearance has put many small firms out of business. Two others are economic decline and increasing mechanisation.

And economic recovery could put more people out of work, says the report, because that would mean more mechanisation. It concludes that incentives to business are unlikely to produce more jobs.

Only a massive increase in resources to the inner city will ease the situation, it says. One of its conclusions is that a labour intensive programme of public service work is needed.

It also suggests that community groups should press to get involved in discussing policies for the inner city.

The report was written by a team of social work students at the university together with a community worker working in the Raleigh Street Area.

It makes depressing reading. As it says, the people of inner city areas like Raleigh Street have suffered, are suffering and will continue to suffer.

The All Saints Residents Association will be considering what action to take on the report.

Copies of the report can be obtained from: Colin Savage, 5 Burns St; Alan Simpson, 118 Mansfield Rd; Dave Ward, Applied Social Studies Department, Nottingham University. The report is free but send 12p for postage.

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Health hazards at Raleigh

WITHIN DAYS of Nottingham Workshop's report on health hazards at Raleigh being published work was being done by Raleigh management to put some things right.

As reported in the Voice in March the Workshop pointed to hazards in Raleigh's Main-plate Factory 1 which chromium plates items like wheel rims for the rest of the factory.

DANGEROUS

One of the causes for concern was all the open vats containing highly dangerous chemicals like chromic acid.

A couple of weeks after the report came out the management closed down the plant to put in a new extraction system - to blow the fumes out into Lenton. It also covered up dangerous asbestos lagging on pipes in the factory - a point missed in the Workshop report. And work was done to repair leaks in the roof mentioned by the Workshop.

In spite of all this activity following the report, the unions are still hostile to the Workshop. This is mainly because the report was published before being shown to the shop stewards. The Workshop has apologised for this to Raleigh's convenor Les Chapman.

RUBBISH

Jack Hallam - District Sec-

retary of the National Society of Metal Mechanics, Raleigh's largest union - told us that the Works Committee had described the report as "a load of rubbish". He claimed that most of the remedial work had been on order for nine months - though workers in the factory were not aware of this.

He claimed that it was no coincidence that the roof had been repaired because Raleigh has a team of people working full time to "botch up the factory".

Work at Raleigh was always going to be dirty, greasy and dangerous, he said. The real answer was to knock the place down, he continued, but that would put a thousand people out of work.

SURVEY

The Workshop has since

carried out a survey of 60 houses next to Raleigh and discovered that many people are suffering noise and pollution from the factory as well as problems like car parking and lorries unloading on the street. The results are to be put to Raleigh stewards for their comments before being distributed to people in the area.

Research is also being carried out by the Workshop on a number of other topics including the problems faced by mentally handicapped people at work and the problems of outworkers (people who do work in their home).

SUPPORT

The Workshop is to give support to a group looking into sex discrimination. And research is being considered into the way the local media reports what is going on in the community.

Also a guide to do it yourself working class research is being prepared.

**SPANNER
IN THE
WORKS**



Solidarity against Apartheid

A WEEK of action in solidarity with the people of South Africa was held in March. It was called by the International Trades Union Conference and backed by the TUC.

This followed the designation by the United Nations of an International Year against Apartheid from March 78 to March 79.

SHARES

The Leicester-based National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers - with around 10,000 members in

Nottingham - has written to all the companies in which it has shares which are known to be major employers in South Africa. The list includes ICI, Shell and Unilever. The Union wants to know whether blacks are free to join unions and whether union officials have access to workers. The Executive will decide what action to take on receiving replies.

Locally the hosiery union has distributed TUC leaflets to members suggesting they should ask their British managements what trade union rights are afforded to black employees in South Africa.

BOYCOTT

Local Transport and General Workers Union branches have also had the week of action brought to their attention. Members have been asked to make their feelings known to any employers having any association with South Africa. A boycott of South African goods for the week was also suggested.

The local Anti-Apartheid group held a meeting with a representative of the South African Congress of Trade Unions.

Cuts in Bus services attacked

TWO MOTIONS attacking cuts in City Bus Services were passed at the Trades Council AGM in March. One opposed the closure of Bilborough bus depot. The other opposed a third fare increase in eighteen months and cuts in services.

Charlie Stevens from the Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union attended to thank Nottingham Trades Council for its support during the E&H dispute at Langley Mill. Support from Nottingham had been magnificent, he said. If the whole trade union movement had reacted in the same way it wouldn't have lasted 29 weeks before there was a settlement.

AFFILIATED

Fred Harris, Secretary, reported that there were 80 branches from 39 unions affiliated to the Trades Council. 250 delegates were entitled to attend meetings representing 35,230 trade union members.

But attendances had been disappointingly low over the last year, he said, with an average attendance of 46. They must try to recreate the interest of a few years ago.

Delegates had been on the picket line at Grunwick on many occasions, said Brother Harris. This dispute had showed that laws don't protect unions. There is no alternative to strong and determined trade union action, he said.

PROTESTED

The Council had protested about the financial policies of the Government and TUC, and locally about City Council policies to cut house building, run down repairs and increase rents. A campaign against public spending cuts had led to a Cuts Committee being set up.

Fred Harris stood down as Secretary. Chris Preston (SLADE) was elected to replace him.

Delegates elected to the Executive were: Vernon Gapper (AUEW-TASS), Joyce Donn (NUPE), Pushkar Lail (TGWU), Ray Coward (NUSMWH&DE), Tina Pampalin (NUT), Derek Wignall (SOGAT) and Julian Atkinson (NATFHE).

BBC apologises to Nottingham Trades Council

THE BBC HAS APOLOGISED to Nottingham Trades Council for the way delegates were treated in a BBC2 programme broadcast live from Nottingham on 15th March.

The programme, in the "Brass Tacks" series, dealt with preparations for nuclear war. Following a film which praised preparations in Nottinghamshire there was a live discussion with a studio audience consisting of military old fogies as well as Ray O'Brien who was until recently Nottinghamshire's Chief Executive.

"The Men in the Bunker" it was called and, judging by the way some of them were talking, you'd have thought they'd been stuck in a bunker since 1945.

COMMOTION

Nottingham Trades Council's reactions were also broadcast live but from a different studio. They weren't at all impressed with the "preparations" shown on the film. And they weren't impressed with the way the BBC handled the programme.

The worst aspect of this was that a second film was shown right at the end of the programme. This suggested that the real reason for preparations was to deal with civil commotion as in the General Strike in the 20s. It pointed out that it was the Heath government which started off the current preparations - when he was having a lot of trouble with the unions, particularly the miners.

But after this film there was no chance for Trades Council delegates to reply.

"A serious error of judgment on our part", claimed the BBC in a letter to the Trades Council. A serious error indeed - they had to quell a minor riot in the studio after the programme finished.

In fact the producers had expected some trouble. They asked the Trades Council not to give any publicity beforehand - because if the BBC management knew what they were doing it would ban the programme, they said.

NUCLEAR ARMS

Delegates had very little opportunity to make any points. President Don Devine said the preparations were for the elite. Vice-president John Peck said the best defence against nuclear attack was to have no nuclear weapons. Vice-president Brian Simister agreed and wanted to know what would happen to the supply of food, electricity and water.

At the March meeting of the Trades Council Lionel Jacobs, a past President, proposed a motion regretting that the BBC had departed from its normal high standards. They had been given a guarantee, he said, that they would be able to make their points and question the people in the other studio. And he accused the producer of trying to ask loaded questions.

It was agreed to ask the BBC to redress the balance and allow the Trades Council to deal with arguments that they didn't have the chance to answer.

Secretary Fred Harris,

who had watched the programme at home, said the Trades Council came over very well. The more the people in the other studio put forward their points of view the worse it became, he said. He congratulated the BBC on doing the programme.

His motion calling for the banning of nuclear weapons and the fullest public discussion of the emergency plans was passed. He said those who know the military mind know that if they have made plans they would like to carry them out.

John Peck, seconding the motion, said he thought the

programme did a powerful lot of good. He thought the apology from the BBC was genuine. He was of the opinion that there are people in the media who want to get the truth across.

An amendment expressing worry that civil defence could be used to erode democratic rights and attack trade unions in action was narrowly defeated.

Delegates agreed with Don Devine that County Chief Executive Arthur Sandford should be asked to come and explain to them what he would be doing in his bunker.

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NO GRANT

A YOUNG COUPLE recently made the mistake of buying a house in Sneinton from the council.

More importantly, Mr and Mrs Keen made the mistake of relying on the council surveyor telling them that the house was all right.

And so it was. There were just a few things needed doing - for example they found the power points weren't working when they moved in.

Then the bombshell. They wouldn't get a grant, the council said, for doing things like putting in an inside toilet and bathroom unless they had work done to the tune of £5,203. Which they can't of course afford. They only paid £2,750 for the house.

"We thought we could trust the council", said Mrs Keen to the Voice.

Groups boycott community study

TWENTY COMMUNITY GROUPS from around the city walked into an official meeting on 22nd March and delivered an ultimatum.

The meeting was a Study Group on community work set up by the Social Services Department with a national group called the Community Projects Foundation (CPF) and Nottingham's Council for Voluntary Service.

The community groups were complaining that they weren't being allowed to have their say on the Study Group. And they said that letters written to Social Services and CPF had been ignored. In the end they walked in on the meeting

and handed in copies of the letters already sent.

Then they gave the Study Group half an hour to meet their demands that they should be given a say.

WITHDRAW SUPPORT

The Study Group said it couldn't give an answer in this time. So now the groups have written to all other community groups in the city asking them to withdraw support from the Study Group.

The idea of the Study Group is that the Social Services' six community workers in the city would be linked with another six paid for by CPF in one super-project.

Work published by CPF makes it obvious that they are professionals who zoom into "deprived areas" and write long reports with long words that only people with university degrees can understand. Then they have the cheek to tell local people what is good for them.

Community groups in Nottingham don't want this sort of project. If there are going to be any more community workers in Nottingham they want them controlled by local groups. That is to make sure that what is being done is in the interests of local people.

SECRET

The Study Group was set up in secret about six months ago without telling any local groups.

Then recently it appointed a research worker who went round local groups asking for information and opinions. Without this information the

research would be worth very little. It is cooperation with this research that has now been withdrawn.

The research that has been published so far by the Study Group has come under criticism already.

One report is on housing in the city. This has been criticised because it just repeats information already published by the City Council or by the local Housing Action Group. And it avoids drawing the conclusions which are obvious to local groups - for example that both the Tory City Council and the Labour government are determined to make people pay much more for housing at the same time as making less decent houses available.

WORSE

The Study Group's report on employment in the city is even worse. One section relies very heavily on information published in Voice 70 last August. For example our guess that Courtaulds employs around a quarter of the 20,000 textile workers in the area is repeated without saying where it came from.

It misses out all the employers missed out by the Voice (we were only looking at the large private employers). Like us it forgot to mention Dobson Park which employs 6,000 people in the area. And it doesn't mention any public employers like the County Council (around 15,000 - the largest employer in Greater Nottingham), the City Council (5,000), the Coal Board, the Health Service, the Electricity Board and all the government departments at Chalfont Drive.

The community groups which are now refusing to cooperate with the Study Group have formed themselves into a new group called the Community Resources Group.

Its next meeting is on 12th April at 118 Mansfield Road. For details contact Sue Walker at 171 Evans Court, Old Basford or through 118 Mansfield Road (tel: 582369).

FUTURE EVENTS

Nottingham Voice will give details of all events which our readers might like to know about. Deadline for May issue: 30th April.

There are two series of socialist discussions held fortnightly on tuesdays.

One series is organised by people in the Socialist Worker Party and meets at 8pm in the Roebuck on Mansfield Road. Discussion topics advertised by us have on some occasions been changed but the group has always met on the advertised days:

- *11th - Trade Unions and the Media, George Christopher.
- *25th - Eurocommunism, Mike Rook.
- *9th May - not yet decided.

The other series is organised by people in the International Marxist Group under the title of "Socialist Challenge" meetings and meets at 7.30 at The International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Rd:

- *18th - Some Rank and File Movements of the Past, Mike Hamlin.
- *2nd May - Socialist Strategies in the Trade Unions Today, Rich Palser.

Other events:

APRIL

- *Sat 15th - Bop against battering in aid of Rushcliffe Women's Aid. 8-12pm, Queen's Walk Community Centre, Meadows. 50p.
- *Sat 15th - Transport Seminar, 9.30am-4.30pm, County Hall, West Bridgford. £2.50. Details: Community Council for Notts, 110 Mansfield Rd.
- *Mon 17th - Claimants Union, 7.30, St Mary's House, Raleigh St (playgroup for the kids).
- *Tues 18th - Windscale: what's all the fuss about? Friends of the Earth public meeting on nuclear power. 8pm, ICC.

- *Sat 22nd - Community Market, 10am-12.30, SATRA club, St Ann's Well Rd.
- *Sun 23rd - Anti-Nazi League public meeting, 2-6pm, ICC.
- *Tue 25th - Socialist Unity, 7.30, ICC.
- *Wed 26th - Bus cuts protest meeting, 7.30, ICC.
- *Thurs 27th - Prawns in the Game, play and discussion with Basford Tenants Action Group, Basford Tenants Hall.
- *Sat 29th - Anti-Windscale Demo in London. Details: Friends of the Earth, 51405.
- *Sun 30th - Carnival Against the Nazis in London. Details: 36 Birrell Road.

MAY

- *Mon 1st - May Day Rally, 10.30am Market Square, 12noon-12.30 meeting on Forest with national TUC speaker, 12.30-2pm Broadside Theatre and other activities.
- *Fri 19th - George Ward to speak to Carlton Tories at Frank Wheldon school.

There are a number of interesting conferences on the 15th-16th April:

- *Libertarian Education, Leicester. Details: 6 Beaconsfield Rd, Leicester (0533 552085).
- *Community and Alternative Papers, York. Details: York Free Press, 73 Walmgate, York (0904 29736), or from Nottingham Voice (411676).
- *Institute for Workers Control Sheffield. Details: Ken Fleet, Bertrand Russell House, Gamble St, Nottingham (74504).

There is a conference called Marxism 78 organised by the student organisation of the Socialist Worker Party in London from 30th June to 7th July. Details: PO Box 82, London E2.

(ICC - International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Rd)

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Neighbourhood News



RADFORD RATS — IGNORED BY COUNCIL

A SUGGESTION to revive the idea of a clearance areas association was backed at the March meeting of the Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations.

The suggestion came from Federation Secretary Howard Witts following a description of conditions in Radford East, the largest remaining clearance area, by Ron Kennedy, chairperson of the Radford East Association of Tenants and Residents Associations (REATAR).

Ron said the area seemed to be ignored by the council as far as keeping the area clean was concerned. REATAR was actively clearing rubbish like brick rubble, he said, and rats could be seen playing in the streets at night.

They wanted a code of practice in clearance areas, he said. Other areas had

gone through it before, but the council was still doing the same silly things.

The Health Department was not willing to go through with prosecutions, complained Ron. He gave one example where the Department had put a "nine day order" on a house in February. A 77 year old man's bed was soaking because of holes in the roof.

But when the landlord hadn't done the work after nine days they gave him more time — because the weather was bad!

Eventually council workers had to be sent in but they said the house was too bad to be repaired. Even so, the Department refused to put a closing order on the house — because the Housing Department would be swamped if the Health Department did its job properly and forced the rehousing of people in such houses.

TENANTS EXPLOITED

INCREASES in heating charges in council flats were attacked at the March meeting of the Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations.

Ray Coward from New Radford said tenants felt they were being absolutely exploited and there had been a lot of angry comments. They had to pay an average of 48p a week all year round.

A lot of flats have only one radiator, he said, and maisonettes had no upstairs heating.

Dave Phillips from Basford Flats said Basford tenants had to pay extra to subsidise high price electric heat in some other flats.

Federation Treasurer Frank Haskey reported that in Balloon Wood Flats many thermostats were not working on heaters which were supposed to combat condensation. This was because they hadn't been serviced. It was estimated that 50% of the heaters were not working as a result, he said.

CHURCH GETS £60,000

GROUPS in Radford are not happy that All Souls church has been backed by the council for a £60,000 urban aid grant from the government for a community centre in Radford.

At the March meeting of the Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations George Daley from Radford East Association of Tenants and Residents said that community halls should belong to the people and not to the church. The church was putting in nothing apart from selling some land for £20,000, he said, but the new building would include a small church.

The church can only get a congregation of 15, said George. The whole thing stinks, he continued, saying they were getting a new church on the ratepayers and taxpayers.

Ray Coward from the New Radford Community Association said the vicar had used

RESIDENTS DEMAND ACTION

A FLATS LINK UP was formed in March by representatives from flats complexes around the city. It was convened by the Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations and will be meeting monthly in future.

Several proposals were agreed and the council has been called on to implement them.

The group wants the right

for tenants to transfer to a house if they have children under 18 or if they have been in a flats complex for over five years.

There should be adequate community facilities for flats, it says, and more warden aided facilities for old age pensioners.

It wants immediate action taken on water penetration and condensation problems — widespread in city flats. And it wants an immediate investigation into the District Heating Scheme with full consultation with tenants and heating charge increases suspended until the results are made public.

The group also wants the council to make sure that dwellings are handed over to new tenants in reasonable condition, and new tenants should not be made responsible for anything to do with previous tenants, it says.

his dog collar to go round the area getting advice. He's been given preferential treatment over New Radford, Radford East and the Radford Care Group, he said.

New Radford had been turned down for a grant, said Ray even though they had been told they were doing a good job. He accused the council of being biased against tenants associations.

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CHILE BOYCOTT

BOYCOTT goods from Chile - including wine, fruit, vegetables and shoes. This is one of the aims of a campaign being organised by the Chile Society at the University.

At the beginning of April they have a display in the window of the People's Centre at 33 Mansfield Road.

Food is not a traditional export of Chile. In fact Chilean food is sold here while Chilean children in the big cities can be seen searching for food in the dustbins. It is not surprising that there has been a dramatic increase in infant mortality in the last four years since the socialist President Allende was bombed in his palace in a military coup.

The military dictatorship needs to sell food abroad to buy guns to repress the people at home. Since 1973 50,000 people have been

killed, 300,000 arrested and 1,000,000 exiled. Several Chileans are now living and working in Nottingham.

At the moment Chilean apples and onions are the things to watch out for. If you buy them, says the campaign, you are helping to pay for guns which support the blood-thirsty tyranny of General Pinochet, helping to prolong the misery and suffering of Chilean workers and encouraging a regime which has been condemned by the United Nations, the British Government and the TUC.

Don't buy any produce from Chile. Put the torturers out of business.

TORIES GAIN £½M

BILL BRADBURY, City Council Finance chairperson, recently said that the Tories had sold 2,441 council houses for £18m. That was a profit of £6m, he claimed, over what it cost to build them.

But, quite apart from the question of inflation since these houses were built, the City Council hasn't actually received £18m because people are buying these houses on council mortgages.

In fact, the council says it will receive £2,400,000 from mortgage repayments in the next year. But even this has to be set against losses.

Firstly, there is the loss of rent income from these houses - around £800,000

over the year even taking the cost of repairs and management into account.

Secondly, the government stops paying housing subsidy on houses sold - the council estimates a loss of £600,000 in a year.

Thirdly, there is the loss of rent and rates on all the houses empty waiting to be sold - at any one time there are over 1,000 houses empty meaning a loss of around £400,000 a year.

If you add all this up you find that the Tories will be making a net gain of just over £½m in 1978/79 from their house sales policy. To achieve this they will have sold off over £20m of the City's assets.

And it is no good saying that over the years they will get this £20m back. They won't. The Housing Action Group has already shown that after only five years these houses will be bringing in less in mortgage repayments than they would have been bringing in from rents.

This means that in the long run not only will the Tories' policy have lost thousands of houses for the City Council, it will have lost millions of pounds as well.

You can bet these Tories don't run their own businesses in the same way.

MILITARY

MYSTERIOUS annual "Defence Studies" are held in the University Senate Chamber, we are told by Gongster - the university students newspaper.

Gongster was refused access to the last meeting recently and no-one would say anything about what was going on.

Many military people were there as was Pro-Vice Chancellor Nash of the Physics Department, rumoured to be working on a secret Defence project.

Only official University functions are allowed in the Senate Chamber, claims Gongster. So just what is the University cooking up with the Military?

Perhaps the organiser of the meeting provides a clue - he is a lecturer in the Botany Department. Could it be that the Military has at last caught on to Flower Power?

NOTTINGHAM VOICE is printed and published at 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham (Tel: 411676).

Please contact us with any information you would like to see in the next issue. This will emerge around the 10th of next month.

DEADLINE for the next issue is the last day of this month.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: £2 for 12 issues including postage.

P.S. The Voice still needs more people to help with writing and production.



An advert for killers seen recently in Nottingham.

Anti-Nazi League

THE ANTI-NAZI LEAGUE is to hold a mass public meeting on Sunday 23rd April in the International Community Centre from 2pm to 6pm. There will be a national speaker as well as local speakers from the Trades Council, the Church and Immigrant groups.

Forest manager Brian Clough has been asked to speak though it is doubtful whether he will be available for public meetings until after the end of the football season.

He has, however, already given his support to the Anti-Nazi League.

The meeting is a week before a big rally in London on April 30th when the Anti-Nazi League is holding a "Carnival Against the Nazis" with entertainment including the Tom Robinson Band (recently reviewed in Nottingham Voice).

The Carnival is timed just before the May elections which are being held in many parts of the country. The National Front has said that it will be putting up 1,500 candidates in these local

elections and 500 candidates in the General Election.

That will mean enormous coverage in the press and television for racist and Nazi ideas.

Two coaches will be leaving from the Salutation on Maid Marian Way at 8am. For details contact Malcolm Knight, 36 Birrell Road, Forest Fields. Donations towards the Carnival should also be sent to this address (cheques payable to: The Anti-Nazi League (Nottingham)).

The Anti-Nazi League has only just formed a branch in Nottingham. There is a steering committee including representatives of the Islamic Centre, Pakistan Friends League, Trades Council, Communist Party, Socialist Worker Party and International Marxist Group.

At the beginning of April 150 people attended a meeting in Loughborough where Miriam Karlin was one of the speakers.

Nationally over 30,000 supporters cards have been distributed so far.

Gardeners

FRUSTRATED city gardeners who lack land may be interested in Greenfingers.

This is a voluntary gardening group which can put you in touch with old people unable to manage their gardens.

Some will let you adopt their garden for vegetable growing. Others just want maintenance work. If you can help contact Greenfingers - they have a long list of gardens and a short one of volunteers: Ted Mann-ers, 31A Mansfield Rd. Tel 46714 Mon, Wed, Fri 1-3pm.

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PHOTO: PEACE NEWS

Socialist Unity

SOCIALIST UNITY is starting to get a campaign under way in Nottingham East with a view to standing a candidate in the next election.

Socialist Unity is a fairly new national organisation designed to bring together socialists who want to fight back against "inadequate wages, high cost housing, rising food prices, prejudice against women and black people and the increasing threat of unemployment as social services and social security are cut to the bone".

At a local meeting in March supporters were told that groups around the country were preparing for local elections in May. Optimism is high particularly in London and Liverpool.

One aim is to dovetail local campaigns with national and international issues and to point to a longer term strategy.

A leaflet discussing some of the issues which Socialist Unity wants to be concerned with locally has just been produced.

Some of the things it wants to see are:

"Extra teachers" to be used to reduce class sizes, and unemployed builders and bus people to provide more houses and better transport.

All large companies in the city to open their books to make clear their investment and employment intentions.

The sale of council houses

to be stopped and council house building to be restarted.

More nursery facilities - Nottingham has a high number of women workers but not many nurseries.

Race is going to be a large issue at the next election, says Socialist Unity - Margaret Thatcher and the National Front will see to that - and black people will be used as a scapegoat for the failure of successive governments to deal with the country's problems.



Socialist Unity says it will be ready to defend the rights of black people and to join with other groups to do so.

A particular attack is made on Jack Dunnett - Nottingham East's Labour MP. He is described as a wealthy businessman and property tycoon who should be in the Tory party.

The next meeting of Socialist Unity is Tues 25th April, 7.30, International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Rd.

UNFAIR DISMISSALS?

POLYTECHNIC director Ron Hedley is to face three industrial tribunals in three days in April. They should make very interesting viewing.

Three lecturers sacked by Hedley are claiming unfair dismissal. They are victims of the way the Poly played the job market when it knew that cuts in staff would have to be made.

The plot was to put staff on temporary contracts even though they had been there for years so they could be sacked with only a few months notice. But they were led to believe their jobs were secure.

One of the three was on a series of temporary contracts for eight years! At one point, two minutes before her case was supposed to come before a tribunal, the Poly agreed to pay a proportion of her salary for the rest of her working life - the normal settlement for lecturers made redundant. Having put off the tribunal the Poly then went back on this agreement.

One question the case

raises is that if the Poly is going to stick to the letter of lecturers' contracts what would happen if lecturers did the same? We saw what happened in schools recently when teachers stopped doing work outside their contracts - like supervising school meals. Lecturers in colleges could also cause disruption just by sticking to the letter of their contracts.

The three tribunals are billed for 26th, 27th and 28th April. They should provide valuable insight into Hedley's disgusting attitude to his staff.

RAPE CENTRE

A RAPE CRISIS centre opened in Nottingham in March. It is womanned for four hours on Friday nights from 7-11pm.

Women who have been sexually assaulted or raped, even if it was a long time ago, should phone 411475 on a Friday night if they would like someone to talk to.

BUS PROTEST MEETING

BUSWORKERS are to hold a meeting in April to oppose plans to cut down bus services and increase fares. They have invited a large number of groups to send delegates to the meeting.

The City Council is determined to cut the support given by ratepayers to public transport. And the County Council has refused to apply for the full transport subsidy available from the government.

Part of the City's plan is to cut 80 buses and close

Bilborough bus depot - the most modern depot. They will then use Bilborough for the Housing Department's direct works depot at present at Eastcroft.

If this is done it will mean that even if Labour gets back in next year they will not be able to expand the bus fleet again - because there will be nowhere to put any extra buses - unless they spend several millions on another depot.

So it is important that the Tories' plans are stopped now.

Claimants Union launched

A CLAIMANTS UNION was launched in Nottingham at a meeting in March. The 25 people at the meeting had a good discussion with almost everyone having their say.

Those taking part were mostly claiming Social Security or Unemployment Benefit with a handful of interested trade unionists, people from a community centre in Bulwell, a community worker and three sympathetic members of the DHSS union (CPSA).

After talking about the usual bad experiences as claimants - waiting for hours, no facilities for children in the offices, money cut off for no obvious reason, six weeks suspension of benefit for leaving a lousy job, separated mothers having their personal lives pried into, and much more - it was agreed that "you don't get anything unless you organise and fight for it".

Nottingham CU hopes to get a lot of support and be capable of winning claims and wider issues.

One way of doing this is claimants supporting each other in the offices, at the dole and on home visits. The other important way is seeking the support of other working class people, through trade unions, tenants assoc-

iations, women's groups and immigrant groups.

Already the CU has been invited to speak at a Basford tenants meeting. The local Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations has expressed an interest. The Trades Council has sent a small donation and its Executive will be discussing possible links with the CU.

With rising unemployment, a Claimants Union must prevent some claimants getting shunted into lousy jobs and all claimants suffering the label "scroungers", says the CU. Everyone should have good conditions and an adequate income whether working, bringing up children, living as a pensioner or on the dole.

It was agreed that sympathetic DHSS employees, union members and claimants should look for common ground.

The next meeting is at St Mary's House, Raleigh Street, 7.30 Mon 17th April. There's a playgroup so you can take the kids.

FOR A FREE COPY OF WORLD REVOLUTION, UK magazine of the International communist Current, write to BM Box 869 London WC1V 6XX.

DOWN TO EARTH WHOLEFOODS

20 Hockley Tel: 584322

for cheap wholesome foods with a personal service

Honey	48p/lb	Brown Rice from	22p/lb
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Peanut butter (smooth or crunchy)		48p/lb	

Open: 9.30-6pm six days a week

Racial Backlash

A WEST INDIAN father of two was convicted of armed robbery by an all-white jury at Bradford Crown Court in February. He was later sentenced to two years imprisonment.

Anti-racists in Bradford believe that the man, George Lindo, was convicted because he is black - a victim of a racist backlash after public attacks on blacks by politicians and the media following Margaret Thatcher's statements on immigration.

There was no positive identification evidence and no forensic evidence against him. He had three alibi witnesses who testified that he was on the other side of the town at the time of the robbery.

The case against him rested solely on a "confession" signed after 15 hours in custody. George said he was not allowed to telephone his solicitor or his family and he was pressured into signing the "confession" which was written by a police officer.

The police said George dictated the "confession". But George speaks the Jamaican language while the confession was in standard English. George was interviewed by two academics at Bradford Univer-

sity, one an expert in West Indian linguistics and the other a psychologist. They found that he could not have dictated the confession and one of them went to court to testify to this.

The Bradford police force is infamous for framing innocent people. Recently two cases of frame-ups and perjury have come to light. In one a white man was charged with rape in January last year after allegedly confessing to the offence while in custody. He was cleared of the charge in February this year after another man confessed to the offence. The Chief Constable has ordered an inquiry. One of the officers in the case was also involved in George Lindo's case.

An action committee is determined to prevent George from serving time for a crime he did not commit. An appeal has been lodged and letters of protest have been sent to the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's Office.

Letters of support and donations to: George Lindo Action Committee, The Studio, 8 Springbank Place, Bradford (tel: Bradford 497997). (People's News Service)

Burning Babies

THE AUTHORS of "Babies for Burning" have made a public apology to the British Pregnancy Advice Service (BPAS).

The book has been shown to be full of malicious lies about "the abortion business in Britain" - for example the ludicrous claim that fetuses had been sold to make soap.

In spite of this the book had a powerful effect. A copy was sent to every MP and the two authors were the only individuals who were allowed to give evidence to the Select Committee looking into the working of the 1967 Abortion Act.

Attempts to restrict abortions have been based on the findings of this Committee.

BPAS has spent £25,000 on legal costs in the case but couldn't afford the extra £50,000 needed to get it into court.

BPAS has launched an appeal to help recover the £25,000 and is asking every woman who has benefitted under the 1967 Act to make some donation: BPAS, 58 Petty France, London SW1.

Meanwhile the Director of Public Prosecutions has threatened to prosecute a consultant gynaecologist carrying out menstrual regulation.

This has stopped the use of this technique - widely considered to be the safest and

simplest form of abortion. It involves emptying the womb using a vacuum method within 10 to 18 days of a missed period. At that stage it is not always possible to tell whether or not a woman is pregnant.

It seems that if they can't stop women having abortions they will at least make it as difficult and unsafe as they can for them.

(News Release)

PRISONERS

PRISONERS should have access to local councillors. And councillors should be able to report back on prison conditions. So says Islington Council in a message to a Government inquiry. This follows discussions with the prisoners' rights organisation PROP and the Board of Visitors of Islington's two prisons, Holloway and Pentonville.

Islington has been backed by Hammersmith Council (Wormwood Scrubs) and Wandsworth Council (Wandsworth Prison).

Any chance of Nottingham councillors taking an interest in the inmates of Nottingham Prison? (People's News Service)

BUST OUT

"WATCH FOR: the possession of 'These are your rights cards' or pamphlets by loiterers generally . . . Obviously they will be carried by persons who consider it at least possible that they will break the law and be interrogated by police. Thus they are carried by male homosexuals, by industrial and other agitators, by 'Angry Brigade' inadequates and similar amateur criminals . . . possession of such written matter often means subsequent false complaint against you . . ."

This is an extract from "The Signs of Crime - a field manual for police" by the Deputy Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

So if you are a homosexual anarchist criminal trade unionist and you would like to be worked over by the police why not write to Release for their new Bust Card (send s.a.e. for one or £1.10 for a

ID PARADE

HOW DO YOU ensure that the suspect is picked out from an identification parade? Easy: you make sure that all the other people on the parade are of a different race!

That's what police in Glasgow did when a black fifteen year old boy, Bassey Duke, was suspected of attempted rape.

A policewoman told the Sheriff Court that an arrangement with a local restaurant to provide non-whites for ID parades had broken down. But one of the others was asian and another had an afro hair style, she said.

Bassey was found guilty and given two years detention. (News Release)

Gay Activists

GAY ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE is a new national organisation which has emerged as a result of the solidarity generated by the National Gay News Defence Committee which organised the recent gay rally in London - the biggest gay demonstration ever seen in this country in which 5,000 gay people took part. This followed the prosecution of Gay News for publishing a blasphemous poem which the powerful Mary Whitehouse didn't like.

The first action of Gay Activists Alliance will be to mount a campaign against W H Smith who have stopped selling Gay News. As wholesale distributors Smiths have an almost total monopoly in supplying many newsagents in the UK. (People's News Service)

100 to Release Publications, 1 Elgin Ave, London W9 3PR). Or 1p each from Mushroom, 10 Heathcoat Street. (News Release)

Bust Card

For help about making complaints, or for further information contact: RELEASE 1 ELGIN AVENUE LONDON W9 Telephone: 01-289 1123 24-hour emergency: 01-603 8654

RELEASE

In practice you have few enforceable rights against the police: even evidence illegally obtained by them can be used against you in court.

- Remember:
- 1 Don't get drawn into conversations with the police. You do not have to say anything or write a statement. You have the right to refuse to answer all police questions but you may be arrested for refusing to give your name and address if the police reasonably suspect you have committed certain offences.
 - 2 If in doubt do and say nothing until you have contacted a solicitor or Release.
 - 3 If anything you ask for is refused ask why and remember the reason given.
 - 4 As soon as possible make full notes about what has happened. These can be used in your defence.
- IN ALL DEALINGS WITH THE POLICE:
- 1 CHECK THEIR IDENTITY: ask to see their warrant card; remember the details. If they are uniformed, remember their numbers.
 - 2 IF YOU ARE STOPPED & SEARCHED IN THE STREET: Ask the reason. The police can search you for drugs, firearms, 'terrorist' documents or articles, stolen property (only in London and some other cities) on 'reasonable suspicion' that you have these things - and you can be taken to a police station, without being formally arrested, to be searched. In all other cases, a body search is illegal unless you have been arrested.
 - 3 IF YOU ARE TAKEN TO A POLICE STATION:
 - a) Ask if you have been arrested and why. They must give reasons. If you have not been arrested you are legally entitled to leave the police station.
 - b) Ask to see a solicitor or a friend.
 - c) Ask to phone a solicitor, Release, a relative or friend. The Criminal Law Act, 1977 s62 gives the right to insist that someone is informed about your detention by the police. You are not legally limited to one call.
 - d) Ask to be charged or released. You cannot be kept at the police station indefinitely.
 - e) Without an order from a magistrates court, it is illegal for the police to forcibly fingerprint you. Forcibly taking your photograph is also illegal.
 - f) In order to get bail (ie released from the police station before going to court) you will probably have to satisfy the police that you have a fixed address.
 - 4 IF YOUR HOME IS TO BE SEARCHED:
 - a) The police do not need a warrant or your permission to enter in order to arrest someone. Ask who they want and why.
 - b) Otherwise a police search without a warrant or your permission is illegal. Ask to see the search warrant, you are entitled to demand the reason for the search and refuse entry.

Lucas layoff

LUCAS AEROSPACE are thought to be planning 4,000 redundancies for April.

This adds urgency for the implementation of the shop stewards' "alternative plan". The plan shows how redundancies could be avoided if Lucas changed its range of products - the stewards have drawn up a list of "socially useful products" which they could make such as kidney machines.

The management, of course, would rather sack people than listen to what its own workers have to say.

A Centre for Alternative Industrial and Technological Systems has been set up to provide help for the Lucas campaign and others.

It wants people to pass resolutions supporting the Lucas workers and others with the same ideas, to write letters to the press, to send it press cuttings about Lucas etc, and to give technical advice on products proposed in the plan.

Contact: Mike George, CAITS, North East London Polytechnic, Longbridge Road, Dagenham, Essex. (01-599 5141 ext 091). (People's News Service)

TRENT-radio without local voices?

I LOOKED IN last month at the IBA forum on what was wrong with Radio Trent. I didn't expect to stay long. Isn't Trent just 98% boring old rubbish, topped off with about 10% more of the same for good measure? Well, to be fair, strange muffled noises can be heard occasionally suggesting there are good broadcasters attempting to fight the mush (when they are not too busy fighting against getting the push).

When you've said that you've said it all, surely.

COMPLAINTS

But no, the complaints were long and weighty coming from individuals representing many imposing organisations and interests.

The Raleigh Strike Committee condemned their strike coverage.

A "Mirror" journalist, hot from researching a ball by ball commentary on George Best's bedroom action replays, demanded Trent do serious investigative reporting.

Prospective Liberal Party candidates had been ignored in spite of their bombarding the station with, it seems, details almost as exhaustive as those the Mirror had gained on George.

Vital questions of the day like the attitude of Ratepayers councillors to expense allowances hadn't been covered - while non-serious issues like the dunking of a DJ in the Trent had. (And it was no good, the station was sternly told, to say that a charity collection had been made.)

There wasn't enough local news; there was too much repetition of news.

The music came in for a bashing as well. The same records are played too often.

PLAY LIST

Local record shops weren't asked to help with the "play list".

The "play list" being apparently the name for the collection of records used - a somewhat confusing title as much seems played out and listless.

Not all though - certainly some are merely raucous and repetitive and these, the Programme Director explained (with the optimism of his kind he preferred to call them "zippy and up-tempo"), were played often to "come out of the news" - a somewhat mysterious process - though, I suppose, related to the anaesthetic qualities of the news on Trent.

Anyway Trent is soon actually going to make a profit the Managing Director said and I think he implied they would be able to dump the old records and get some new ones - though probably, on second thoughts, he was just talking about the staff as usual.

So the complaints rolled on. The black community didn't get any of their music, nor did the old age pensioners. Or, for that matter, Wild Wally of London, an aging ted with advanced eardrums who could check the authenticity of a rock and roll record from a two hundred mile range. And to top it off the jingles were

mostly the same.

It was a damning indictment, especially as we didn't hear from the largest organisation concerned about Trent - the Injured and Disabled ex-Radio Trent Employees Association - though mention of its martyrs brought a hush to the audience.

SLUSH

Curiously though as the evening progressed heretical thoughts started to surface. OK the station sounds like its run by ex-car salesmen, the British Leyland of radio except that the slush comes over the air waves instead of going to the Arabs. But a station that consistently ignores boring old farts like prospective Liberal party candidates can't be all bad - can it?

I started to think of ways to make the station tolerable during Managing Director Dennis Maitland's last few months. Could all the good ideas be combined? Maybe - and these are just a few random thoughts - maybe the news could be improved, made more local and different if Raleigh were to agree to go on strike more often (and from what I read about safety they need to) but they should get them over with more quickly (successfully ofcourse) so it doesn't get boring.

What to do about the Liberal Party? Well it's a fact the Liberal Party loves rock stars and is much concerned about them being overtaxed (and quite rightly too, my guess is that Britt and Rod broke up because

they got on each others nerves couped up, skint in some squalid bed sit).

But anyway now the liberals are so much into music, perhaps local record shops could draw up a list of the top ten local liberal candidates. Then say thirty seconds worth of a snappy up tempo prospective Liberal party candidate coming out of the news on the breakfast show might be just the thing to finally push Trent into the black.

REGGAE

As for black music, well reggae is into pretty heavy politics. How about the local brothers coming up with funky hard hitting investigative reggae on a Liberal grassroots man in Bassetlaw?

For old age pensioners maybe a quartet of Liberal Party candidates could knock off a few jingles - variations on the theme Lloyd George knew my Father.

As for those ratepayer councillors - how about dumping them in the Trent and making a collection for their expenses - would that be serious enough?

Anyway that's all I've time to think of for now - its my turn to become a prospective Liberal Party candidate - (send SAE for full biography, number of missing National Insurance card, types of dogs I like shot, etc.). But if you've any other ideas I'm sure Dennis Maitland, Radio Trent, Castle Gate would be very glad to hear them.

BY OUR MAN IN THE TRANNY
-- with the cloth ears.

the silly bit

THERE APPEARS to be an organisation called the Liberal Party which is intent on turning our proud city into a port and delivering us up to hordes of lascar seamen from e.g. Europe. "Queen" of the Midlands is likely to be another flavour altogether if we're flooded out with sailors.

And what goes with sailors? Docks, for a start. Narsty smelly places with slippery cobbles encrusted with fish guts and "slightly-damaged-in-transit" whiskey bottles. Bang goes the quiet haven of Victoria Embankment. In come

drunken Swedes, concrete silos full of Dried-blud 'n Octopus Muesli base, stinking culverts cascading into inky pools studded with last week's contraceptives now inflated like miniature mines.

Next to the docks (what used to be Victoria Embankment) will be the streets of ill-repute and cut-price fancy goods. The Meadows will transform overnight into one massive house of shame - the "Gröperbahn of Nottingport" will become infamous throughout the hellholes of Europe and, make no mistake, parts

of Wollaton. Forest Road will have to be closed down.

It's really not on, is it? If we're really honest, who wants to see a huge chunk of the city given over to drunken whoring with "tax-free" goods freely available?

And it's not even practical. Even if it's accepted in principle and the river is dredged and canalised and exquisitely prepared - the powerful combined efforts of bureaucracy in the Council House, County Hall, Whitehall and Brussels will make sure that within a week of opening a million ton

supertanker will be allowed in by mistake and completely jam the river.

Actually... thinking about it... what a good idea!... A supertanker... enough fuel to last for years; no need to build a new bridge - just drive over the ship; space for several thousand flats inside with on-roof car parking.

Hmm. So - despite the prospect for the Meadows - I reckon I'll be voting Liberal next time.

P.J.GROB WORTH
(released on ransom)

NOTTINGPORT - A NEW ANTWERP?



ARTHUR SANDFORD

THE MEN IN

YOU MAY HAVE SEEN County Chief Executive Arthur Sandford on BBC2 on March 15th. He was shown lecturing a select band of men including City Chief Executive Michael Hammond on how to deal with food riots.

This is all part of their preparations for the possib-

ility of nuclear war.

These preparations are not secret. All of the information in this article was given to us freely, mainly by County Emergency Planning Officer Andrew Walker.

But although they aren't keeping this information secret they haven't exactly been keen on telling people

what is being planned.

Until recently Mr Walker told the County Public Protection Committee hardly anything about what he was doing. The average councillor would have thought he did nothing except organise trips to the Home Defence College in Yorkshire - where councillors are told how necessary it is to prepare for the possibility of nuclear war.

Mr Walker will be pleased to arrange talks on his work to interested bodies. Telephone 811846.

COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMITTEE



PETER WRIGHT



RON STANLEY



FRED WOODWARD



CECIL HEMPSALL

NUCLEAR WAR PREPARATIONS

AS SOON AS A NUCLEAR ATTACK is seriously threatened Arthur Sandford will become Controller in charge of the whole county. He will be answerable only to a secret Regional Commissioner hidden deep in the bowels of the earth somewhere.

Even the police and the military will be answerable to Sandford, it seems.

Democracy will no longer exist.

All of the functions of the County Council will be carried out by an Emergency Committee of four men - Tory leader Peter Wright, Public Protection chairperson Ron Stanley, Manpower chairperson Fred Woodward and Land and Buildings chairperson Cecil Hemsall.

over all resources in the city - that includes County Council staff like social workers and school meals organisers. (He will probably also take the opportunity to close down Nottingham Voice - Eds.)

EARMARKED

All schools, libraries, community centres and other suitable buildings have already been earmarked for some form of emergency centre. Nottingham's caves will also be used.

There is no shelter policy. In the case of nuclear attack people will be advised to stay in their own homes which, say the experts, can provide protection against radioactive fall-out. (This, of course, depends on the enemy kindly using one of those new neutron bombs that carefully avoid knocking down people's houses.)

Advice will be given on how to increase the protection of your home. This seems to consist of constructing a lean-to against an inside wall and piling all your belongings on top of it. Meanwhile, the rich are busy buying fall-out shelters to bury in their gardens.

The main aim is to avoid contact with any dust which will fall outside, preventing

EMERGENCY HQ

Sandford will operate from the Emergency HQ in the basement of County Hall which is protected against radioactive fall-out but not against a direct hit. It has its own communications network.

This is the HQ used recently to coordinate operations to break the firemen's strike under the control of the Chief Executive - then Ray O'Brien. It was also used when the Trent flooded last February.

In the city Michael Hammond will become Controller answerable to Sandford. His Emergency Committee will be Tory leader Jack Green, Housing chairperson Charles Borrett and Public Services chairperson George Howe.

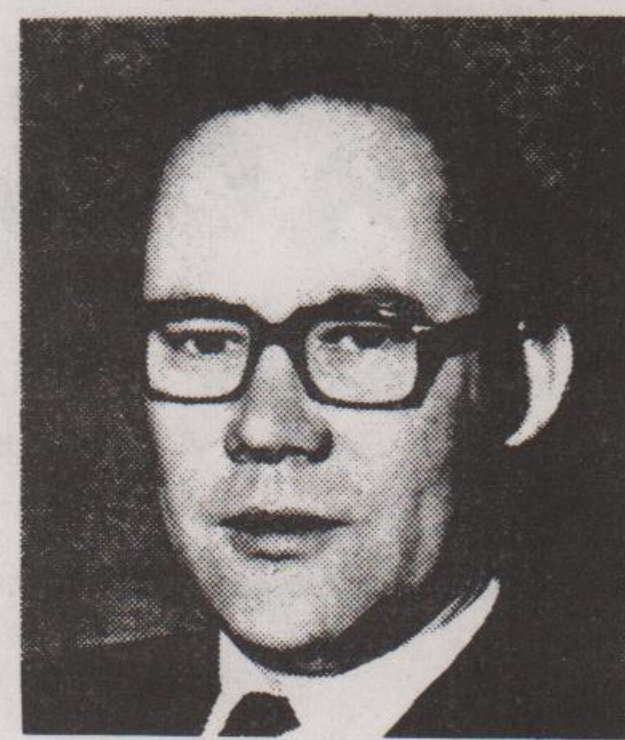
Hammond will have control



THE BUNKER

(THERE WON'T BE MANY WOMEN)

CITY CONTROLLER



MICHAEL HAMMOND

it, if possible, from getting in through doors and windows. It will take about 45 minutes after a blast before the main fall-out comes down. In that time it will be carried several miles by the wind.

You are advised to stay under cover for at least three days and then only spend a limited time in the open. You will be told when it is "safe to come out" by regional broadcasts or by officials with loud-hailers touring the area.

An emergency feeding plan will aim to provide one hot meal a day for all survivors in need. This will be based on the school meals organisation supported by government advisers and, believe it or not, the County's

Consumer Protection Department.

You will only be admitted to hospital if you have a good chance of still being alive a week later.

DISASTER PLANS

PLANS FOR PEACETIME emergencies and disasters are closely linked to the wartime plans.

In this case Chief Executives will take control of situations where necessary but they won't be called Controllers and they will still be answerable to the elected council. It is up to the Chief Executive to decide when he (or she - these posts are supposed to be open to women as well) should take control.

Normally it is up to the police to activate disaster plans and call in local councils where necessary.

The idea is for local authorities to have plans to meet their statutory obligations - eg accommodating the homeless and caring for old and disabled people and young children. This may involve supplying food and warmth, perhaps by extending the meals on wheels service.

The plans mainly consist of lists of telephone numbers of key officers and voluntary organisations who will help in emergencies.

FIREMEN'S STRIKE

The main emergencies dealt with recently by the

County have been the firemen's strike, the flooding last February and the school bus crash near Ravenshead. None have greatly involved the City.

County Public Protection chairperson Ron Stanley told us that they had learnt a lot from the firemen's strike. He pointed out that there had been no deaths from fire in the county during the strike and put this success down to the willingness of people to co-operate with the emergency control. This mainly took the form of people volunteering to help or provide equipment in response to public appeals.

In the city, Management Services Officer Bill Tupholme is responsible for keeping the city's contact list up to date and circulating it to everyone who may need it. He told us there are several sites where an Emergency HQ could be set up.

The Director of Technical Services who controls much of the City's resources has his own contingency plan involving stand-by arrangements. But he always has to report to the Chief Executive.

CITY EMERGENCY COMMITTEE



JACK GREEN



GEORGE HOWE



CHARLES BORRETT



WHOSE SIDE ARE THEY ON?

ANY SERIOUS CIVIL DISTURBANCE like an attempt at revolution would be dealt with according to the wartime emergency plans.

The government would only have to declare a state of emergency and Chief Executives around the country would be leaping into their bunkers to defend the State.

And what would happen if a situation arose as in Chile? There the military had to murder a democratically elected socialist president. This was because he wouldn't resign even though the country was being brought to its knees by the actions of American multinationals. Whose side would our Chief Executives be on if the military had to smash a socialist government in this country and wanted to round up all its supporters?

Perhaps the most insidious effect of the emergency plans will be the effect it has on the way that Chief Executives and other officers think and behave.

The plans bring all government resources - whether central or local government - under a unified system of control with bureaucrats unhindered by elected politicians. 1984?

Is it a coincidence that the last County Chief Executive Ray O'Brien tried to launch a potentially illegal inquiry into Sutton Centre school - by-passing the Head, the Governors, the Education Committee and the Director of Education?

Reviews

Signed reviews or articles do not necessarily represent the views of the editors.

Windscale Again

Windscale Report
HMSO, £2.15

WINDSCALE is already a big nuclear site. What the ill-famed Inquiry was about were plans to build a giant plant to reprocess used nuclear fuel, both from British and foreign power stations. The objections to this are numerous, and therefore confusing. However, three main worries stand out:

1) Safety Plutonium is radio-active, highly poisonous and stays that way for thousands of years. No-one yet knows enough about safe levels of radiation, storage, possible accidents in the future, etc. to be able to give any guarantees. Imagine if the stuff was around in Roman times - it would have to be guarded through the Viking raids, the Norman Conquests, the Civil War, the World Wars, etc. That's what we're committing our descendents to for the next few thousand years.

2) Economics Windscale will be the largest reprocessing plant in the world. All the others, though smaller, have been plagued with trouble. In fact, the USA has decided that reprocessing is non-commercial!

3) Proliferation The truth is that any kind of plutonium could be made into an atomic bomb. And an equal danger to terrorists getting their hands on it, is that of terrorist governments, eg Iran, Brazil, South Africa, making and using bombs in this way. The Americans, belatedly, have woken up to the dangers and soured relations with France/Pakistan and West Germany/Brazil by opposing big nuclear deals between them. They also have the right to veto Japanese fuel shipments to Britain, and it is possible that this might happen - and destroying the main reason for going ahead with Windscale immediately. In

fact, it is little known that Japan has a spanking new reprocessing plant, but that the USA has forbidden its use!

But all this was water off a duck's back to Justice Parker. His Report is dogmatic, and hostile to all the objectors.

On all the controversial points he finds in favour of British Nuclear Fuels. He ignores or dismisses serious evidence - one respected objector gave evidence for a day, only to find himself dealt with by three lines in the Report. Most of the objectors were handicapped by lack of resources yet he made them meet almost impossible deadlines. One of the key elements in his findings - that plutonium could be made even more radio-active than it already is, to deter terrorists - was only presented in the final summing up so that the objectors had no chance to comment on it. In fact, scientists are divided as to how effective this measure would be.

CONSEQUENCES

So the Report has solved nothing nor could it have, for the question of nuclear power is not something that one man at one planning enquiry can ever hope to solve. It is quite simply the most important decision that has ever had to be made, for the consequences of making the wrong choice could threaten the survival of planet Earth. As such, the least which can be done is to have TIME to really consider it and British Nuclear Fuels admitted at the inquiry that the plant is not needed for British use for several years.

This question is so important that it crosses all political lines. It is the reason why Arthur Scargill, groups within the Conservative Party and the churches can all hold the same views that a delay in pressing ahead with Windscale and fast-breeder reactors is not just common sense, but a matter of survival.

So, book your place on the trip to the demonstration in London. And remember, this one will run and run ...

robert
mulholland

Bad News

Peter Beharrell and Greg Philo (eds)
Trade Unions and the Media
Macmillan £2.50

"THE GLASGOW media group reported that in the unofficial Glasgow dustcart drivers' dispute in 1975, during 13 weeks and 21 interviews shown on the national news none of those on strike was interviewed." This was said by Lord Annan in his report on the future of broadcasting.

This new publication is edited by two of the Glasgow Media Group and includes contributions from trade unionists as well as academics.

"British Leyland's future threatened by huge dividend payouts" was the sort of headline you didn't hear in 1975 - in spite of the Ryder report saying that 95% of Leyland's profits between 1968 and 1972 were distributed in dividends leaving hardly any for investment. The spotlight was turned on the car workers instead - the book reports that they got 24% of TV news' general industrial coverage in the first half of 1975, whilst nine out of the twenty "principal disputes" in all industries got no coverage at all.

The view of Denis Healey and the Treasury that wage increases were the main problem was uncritically repeated. Other explanations - for example that lack of investment in manufacturing industry was the problem - were given much less time. Lost production was frequently blamed on strikes but seldom on breakdowns caused by obsolete machinery. There was routine coverage of wage demands but not of movements of investment capital - a key factor in the decline of productive industry.

The authors' conclusion is that TV news consistently gives a picture of society which blames workers for the problems of a capitalist economy.

Another study of coverage of the Mayday strike in 1973 shows how the media presented the action as irrational instead of relating it to a growing fightback against the Heath government. "May Day Madness" and "What a Flop" said the papers - even though no national newspapers were published, nearly two million were on strike and most mines, car works, railways and docks were closed for the day. Less than a year later Heath was forced out by the miners strike.

The book also includes contributions on the way

students, farmworkers and local government officers have been treated by the media, the problems faced by producers and the unions inside television, and what the union movement could do to combat the present bias.

nigel lee

Surrealism

Franklin Rosemont
Andre Breton and the First Principles of Surrealism
Pluto Press, £1.80

PLUTO PRESS is a pretty new left-wing publisher, with a book list which ranges from Marxist theory to modern British play texts. This latest book - both a biography of Andre Breton and a study of the Surrealist movement - continues this adventurous policy, and adds to their reputation.

It also co-incides with a revival of interest in the subject, such as the recent exhibition at the Hayward Gallery, London. The fact that Franklin Rosemont is a leading member of the movement ensures that this book at least does not fall prey to the misconceptions which abound.

He shows that Surrealism, despite the excesses of some of the fringe figures such as Salvador Dali, is not just negative. It's main aim is to destroy the fierce distinction we make between our conscious and unconscious lives... "to free the imagination from the mechanisms of psychic and social repression, so that the inspiration and the exaltation heretofore regarded as the exclusive domain of poets and artists will be acknowledged as the common property of all".

More important, he shows that the mainstream of the movement was very political: that they saw (and see) economic and social revolution as a precondition for any psychological revolution. As he says: "It is an unrelenting revolt against a civilisation that reduces all human aspirations to market values, religious impostures, universal boredom and misery".

This is a very good, sympathetic and reasonably priced introduction to the subject. Whatever one's views, a movement which has contained such exciting figures as Max Ernst or Rene Magritte in painting, Luis Bunuel in cinema or Antonin Artaud in the theatre is at least worth reading about.

john maxwell

Stroszek and friends

THE NEW SEASON at the Nottingham Film Theatre is a mixed bag, which generally keeps up the high standards of the past.

Pride of place must go to the excellent "Stroszek" (Fri, Apr. 7th-Sun, Apr. 9th). Director Werner Herzog is one of the most creative film-makers around and this is his most easily understood film.

It stars Bruno S., of 'Kaspar Hauser' fame, who must be the ultimate in natural actors - like his film role he spent most of his early life in institutions, and Herzog found him working as a lavatory attendant in Berlin. His simplicity and vulnerability make the film extremely moving.

Knocked about in his native Germany, Bruno emigrates with his girlfriend and an old man to America. There follows the most incisive and humorous view of the 'American way of life' as ever I've seen on the screen, with the mediocrity and materialism caught in images that stay in the mind for a very long time. Definitely one of the best films to be made in the 70s.

The rest of the bill largely centres around two directors: the Japanese Mizoguchi and the American Robert Aldrich.

Mizoguchi must also rank as one of the world's top directors, and two of his best films come up in the next month. "Five Women Around Utamaro" (Fri, Apr. 14th) is about the great 17th century print-maker of that name, and the women who surround him. "Ugetsu Monogatori" is also a period movie, set in a strife-torn medieval village. The leading figure - a potter who merely tries to get on with his trade - was a matinee idol of the time so was anything but an matinee idol of the '50s, so this was anything but an 'art' film to the Japanese!

In marked contrast to Mizoguchi's sympathetic portrayal of women are the violent, male dominated films of Robert Aldrich. The month brings a film about Vietnam in the militaristic "Dirty Dozen" (Sat, Apr. 29th), a reactionary Western - made recently, but in which the Indians are still unmitigated 'baddies' - in "Ulzana's Rival" (Sun, Apr. 30th)

john maxwell

Strange and Self-Abuse

MACBETH
Nottingham Playhouse

WELL, strange, anyway, because this is not yer average Macbeth. For us, Macbeth needs blasted heaths, thunderstorms, brooding doom and black and midnight hags.

This production plays down all these elements in favour of a sort of Chekhovian/Ibsen-esque exploration of dictatorship and personal responsibility set in a vaguely nineteenth century limbo land.

The costume ranges between "The Crucible" Puritan for servants, De Gaulle military for Duncan and retainers, and Late Hippy for the witches.

We also have a very gentlemanly Malcolm sipping tea from a delicate china cup and a retainer doing an oil painting. The "midnight hags" have become lusciously stoned tarts, turning up tarot cards for their predictions, just as bemused by the whole thing as Macbeth.

At the preview, the actors did as well as could be expected, declaiming some of Shakespeare's more Gothic lines in an austere incongruous context.

John Price did well as Macbeth but some of the more melodramatic moments drew chuckles from the trippers in the gallery. It's somehow OK for a hairy Scottish chieftain to rave in a way that a Nordic

gentleman can't.

Jan Chapell (Cally of BBC's "Blake's Seven") looked the part for Lady Macbeth but lacked some of the vital presence of someone like Sian Phillips whom she resembles in many ways.

The set was good. It was a sort of trelliswork cage over back, sides and roof of the stage, various bits of which could drop down to form a very effective atmosphere of gloom and doom. The designer was Lubos Huza of Czechoslovakia who is currently

Head of Design for Norway's National Theatre in Oslo. The oddly unScottish setting must owe a lot to his influence.

Director Roland Joffe clearly feels that the theme of Macbeth is timeless. Undoubtedly, he is right - but we feel that Shakespeare wrote well enough for his timeless truths to come across even when dressed in the settings and costumes he intended. To shift the setting is unnecessary: to mix the settings is confusing. Gilding the lily comes to mind.

But we enjoyed it, especially the second half, when the pace picked up and murders most foul met with their just desserts. Try it.

anne and chas griffin

DUE AT the Playhouse at 8pm on Sunday April 23rd is Quentin Crisp, the legendary transvestite, and his highly acclaimed show. Adding spice to the occasion is the appearance of John Hurt who played Crisp in the TV play based on his life. Tickets are £1.75 and it should be worth attending.

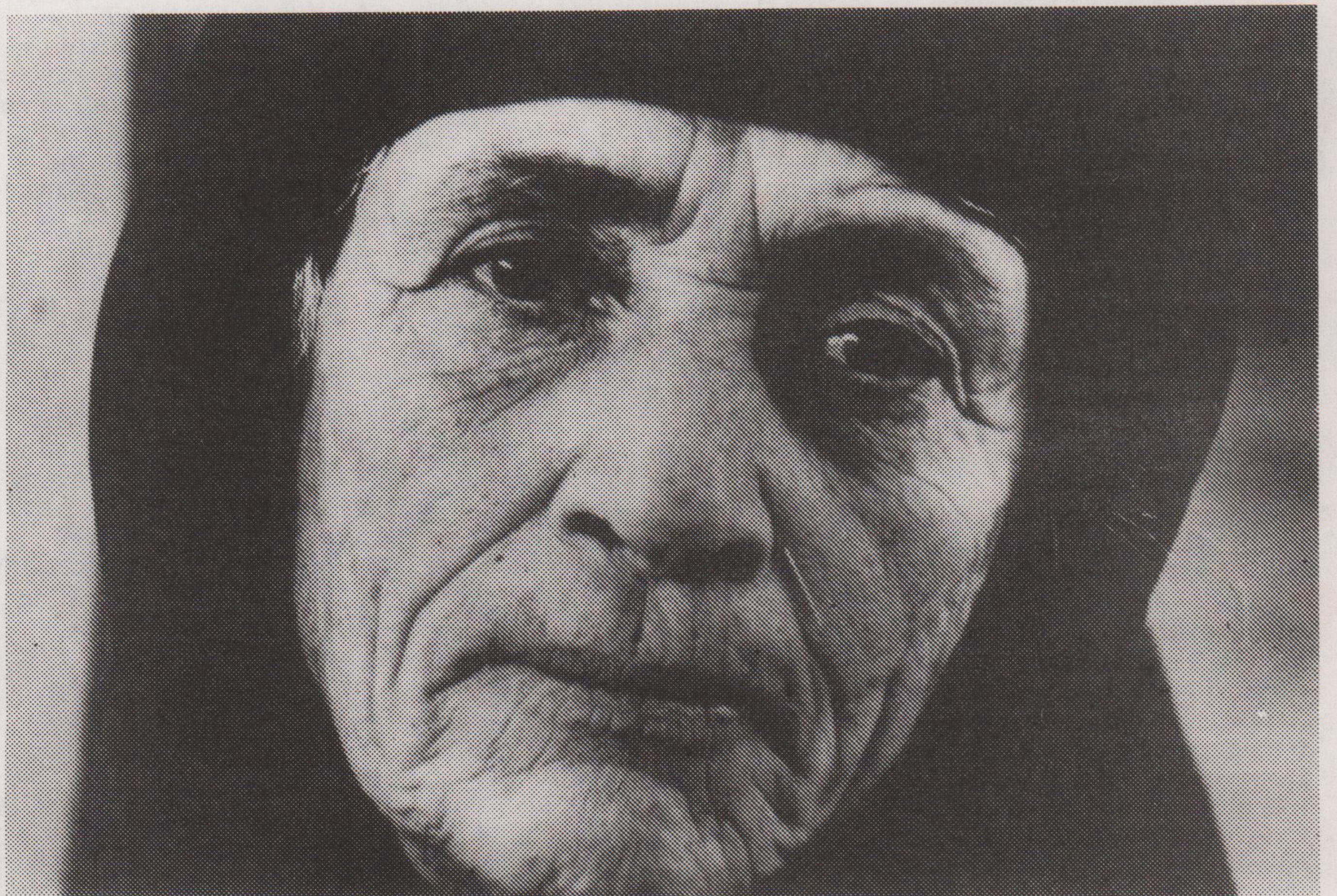
Music

SEVERAL EVENTS for City music afficianados in the next few weeks.

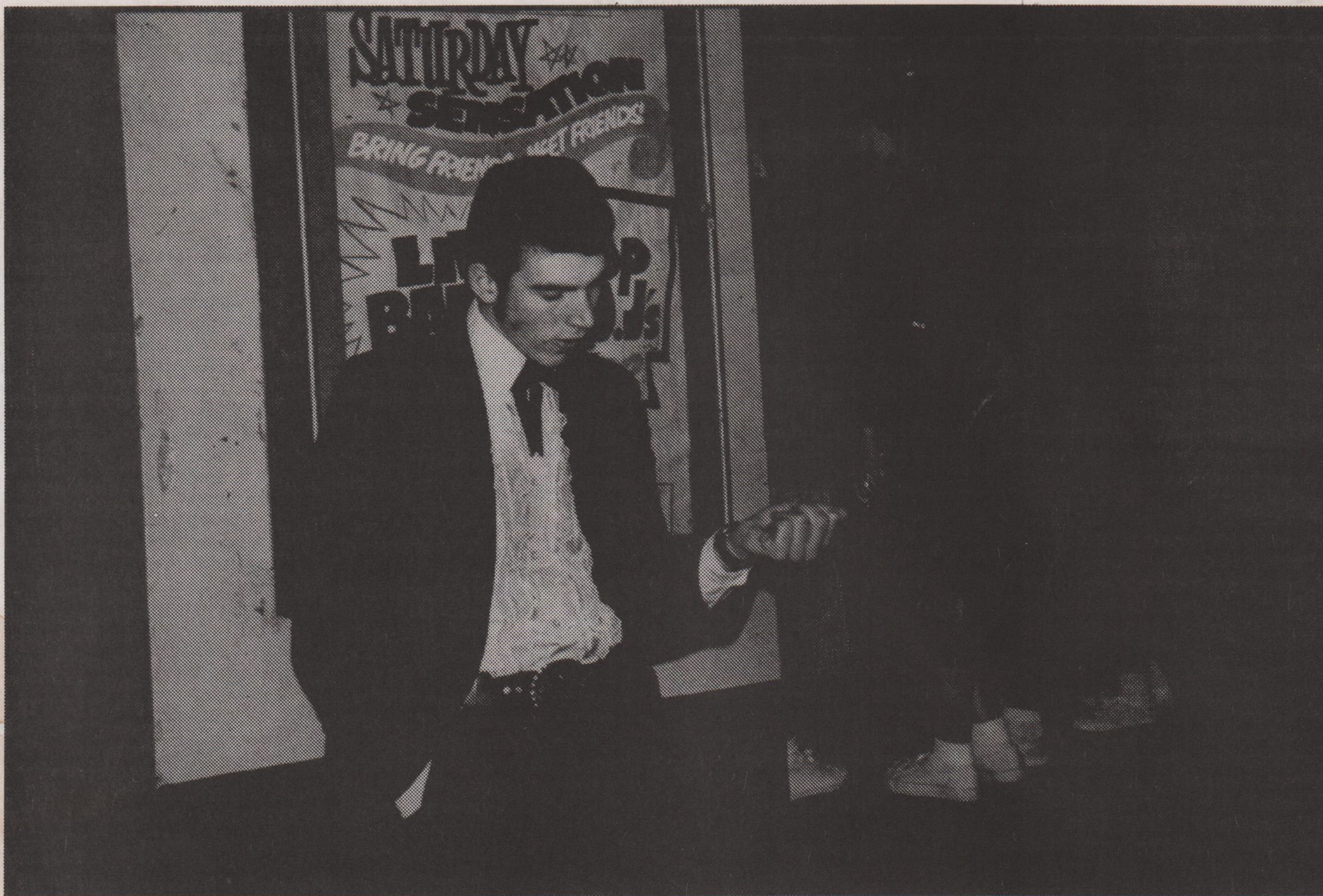
Early May brings a three day visit to the County by the Philharmonia Orchestra, with concerts at the Albert Hall on Tues, 2nd and Thurs, 4th May. The first features flautist James Galway and the music of Haydn, Mozart and Sibelius, whilst the second has work by Prokofiev, Liszt and Rimsky-Korsakov. Both concerts are included in the five concert discount ticket sold by the County Council.

Another interesting event should be "Music of the Tudor Era", played by the London Early Music Group at St. Mary's Church, Radcliffe on Trent on Fri, 14th April. The instruments include crumhorns, citterns, rebecs and sackbuts.

Finally, there is the forthcoming visit of Rostropovitch on Monday April 17th at the Albert Hall. Tickets are £2.50 (often not very good) and £3.50.



"Untitled" by Jean Mohr.



"Teds". by Ricardo Gomez-Perez.

Mohr - Open Photography?

"IN 4 CONTINENTS", a major exhibition of work by the French photographer, Jean Mohr, opens at the Midland Group Gallery on Apr. 11th. The photographs, some of which are previously unpublished, deal mostly with the Third World and should be very interesting to see.

The exhibition links with a visit to Nottingham Playhouse by Mohr and John Berger on Sunday, Apr. 9th. Berger is a truly excellent critic, and his lecture on "Image and Texts (their political use)" should be extremely good. Other luminaries taking part include Trevor Griffiths (author of "Deeds" and "Bill Brand") and local boy Ken Coates.

The fee is a pricey £1, which includes the 2pm lecture, and a temporary exhibition of Mohr's photographs (which then transfer to the Midland). However, a nice piece of initiative by the Playhouse from whom tickets can be obtained.

see over for photo

ALSO at the Midland Group is another highly recommended exhibition, called "Open Photography". Following the example of "Towards Another Picture" this is a catholic collection, with work from many different individuals, periods and styles. This is one of the things which makes this exhibition - and much of the Midland's work so successful. It forbears the shorthand categories of 'movements', 'styles', etc, which, for all their uses, can blind us to the richness of a society's art at any particular time.

The 146 photographs by 101 people have been chosen by John Szarkowski from the New York Museum of Modern Art and the painter R. B. Kitaj. They range from the most intimate of portraits to evocative landscapes, from incisive 'social concern' to abstract motifs.

For me, one of the most interesting was David Arksey's "Rape". This is one of the few colour photographs in the exhibition but the colouring is used in an emotive, non-representational manner. The thick brown lines of a road and ditch brutally divide a pale yellow

cornfield: a rape which is both graphic and symbolic.

Another landscape which, though less brutal and immediate, is extremely effective is "Untitled" by Murray Johnstone. With its straight lines, etched across a dark, featureless landscape leading who knows where, it produces thought in the same way as a Rorschach ink spot.

SOCIAL CONCERN

Many of the photographs offer insights, both amusing and serious, into our everyday lives. Two pictures by Ricardo Gomez-Perez of old-style Teddy Boys capture perfectly their combination of defiance, machismo and vitality.

At the other end of the social ladder are two gems by Bob Irons and Dennis Warren. In one a bowler hatted figure incongruously clad in glaring white sunglasses, watches the horse trials from a shooting stick besides his sports car. The other is a delightfully frozen ballet where the grace and power

of a horse scorns the awkward, gangling limbs of its supposed masters.

As a vegetarian, I find several of the animal pictures especially appealing - at least until I saw one of a ram having its horn sawn off. One especially is beautifully framed: a wooden floorboard divides a collection of heavy boots at the top from the blank faces of sheep beneath. Animals trodden underfoot by man? I'd like to think that was Jim Byrne's intention.

It would be easy to go on writing about it all ... about the trampolining figure caught upside down at Blackpool, as incongruous as a Magritte figure ... about the sad portrayal of New York in Roger Raglan's picture of a car burning in some run-down neighbourhood. But go see it for yourselves... and rest assured that if there's not at least one exhibit here that you like, then photography's not for you!

john maxwell