

Nottingham Voice

PHOTOS: JOHN BIRDSALL

Over 1,000 people picket the opening of a new National Front headquarters in High Pavement



NAZIS OUT OF NOTT'M

Smash the National Front

OVER 1,000 PEOPLE turned up to a peaceful but noisy Anti-Nazi League mass picket on June 19th to protest against the opening of a National Front headquarters in Nottingham. The ANL had only four days to organise for the event.

The new HQ on High Pavement was opened by NF chairman John Tyndall - who has described himself as a

nazi and a racist. But very few supporters turned up. Many were turned back by the pickets.

WHAT THE EVENING POST HAD TO SAY:

"I can see no trend towards Nazism in this area and consequently do not rate the activities of the Anti-Nazi League highly in terms of local news importance".

(Said by Post editor Bill Snaith in a letter to the Anti-Nazi League dated 6th June 1978. He was explaining why the Post had totally ignored a public meeting of the ANL in April which attracted over 200 people.)

The police had High Pavement sealed off and they even turned back NF supporters.

Before the picket, one speaker told demonstrators they were there to clear the NF and its headquarters out of the town. The NF may be safe behind lines of police, locked doors and barred windows, he said, but if they attempt to build "we are here to stop them".

They were unable to come out onto the streets of the city, he said, but while the police were defending them in their building they would be planning intimidation and attacks on people like blacks and tenants associations.

The NF is believed to have bought the building recently. Called Albion House, it has a meeting room, offices and living accommodation.

After the picket demonstrators marched along Parliament Street to the Square where they dispersed.

The Anti-Nazi League is to hold a Carnival in Nottingham on 22nd or 29th July. People will march from the Square to the Forest where ten bands have already agreed to play.

For more information write to: Anti-Nazi League, P O Box No 1, Western PDO, Nottingham, NG7 6ND.



Albion House - new NF HQ.

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EVENING POST PRINTING WORK BLACKED

ALMOST ALL commercial printing work done by the Evening Post and allied companies has been successfully blacked.

Recent action has been taken nationally by two print unions - NGA and SLADE - who have asked other unions' members not to handle work done at the main Post premises on Forman Street and its offshoot in Huthwaite. They claim 90% of work has been blacked.

SLADE branch secretary Barry Wood told the Voice that the fight was going to carry on. Firms which advertise with the Post may be the next target.

The main reason is the refusal of management to consult with any unions. Union officials are not even allowed on the premises.

Mr Wood said that management had not kept to the "newspaper agreement" and hadn't made any agreements with the unions over commercial printing work.

VILLAIN

The villain of the piece is one Christopher Pole-Carew, managing director of both T Bailey Forman Ltd (which owns the Post) and the Huthwaite Printing Co Ltd.

Pole Carew retaliated to the latest union action by asking for 45 printers to volunteer for redundancy. He

offered three times the normal redundancy pay. But if not enough volunteered, he said he would declare the redundancies anyway - and give only the legal minimum payment. He gave them only two days to decide.

So keen were people to get out that almost the whole print shop volunteered. We are told that 70 out of 80 asked to leave. Nearly 50 were accepted.

This is just the latest in a long list of redundancies declared by the Post in the last few years. It is mainly due to new computer technology introduced without any discussion with the unions.

The Post now has the most advanced newspaper technology in the country. It is highly profitable. In 1976 the Post had a turnover of

£6½ million (nearly £5 million from adverts and the rest from sales) and a profit before tax of just over £1 million.

The accounts for 1976 show that nearly £3 million had been spent on new equipment and it was expected that a further £1 million would be spent in 1977.

Because of all this investment the government had allowed £810,000 in taxation to be "deferred" - which means that most of it may never have to be paid.

Evening Post, June 14, 1978

"While I am very appreciative of the police and the difficulties the police have

they must be informed to the effect they have not the right to arrogate this to themselves in relation to people when they are brought to court."

Smile with the Post,

New technology

NEW TECHNOLOGY at the Post has meant that many printing jobs have disappeared. People are no longer needed to set up columns of type as this is done automatically by computer.

One estimate is that since the dispute in 1973 the number of print workers has been cut from 150 to 40 or less.

The Post is the first paper in Britain to get to this stage. But it will not be long before some of the national papers catch up. Already many managements on Fleet Street are threatening large redundancies.

Many papers in North America already have advanced computer technology. It is said that the Washington Post can be produced by five people.

New equipment at the Post has been introduced without any discussions with the unions. They haven't been able to do anything about it - because since the 1973 dispute there have been enough non-union members to produce the paper almost normally. If the unions all went on strike no-one would

notice.

Journalists have effectively taken over work which printers used to do in setting up pages of type. They are also expected to make less mistakes for greater efficiency.

But prospects for journalists on the Post are good. They will be in demand because they are trained in the new technology.

Extra journalists have been employed for the separate editions for Mansfield, Newark and Grantham which the computer makes possible.

One of the things the computer hasn't been used for is to give later news.

Local NUJ branch secretary Frank Palmer (a journalist on the Daily Mirror) complained about this in a letter to the Post last year. He lives at Keyworth where he can get later racing results in the Leicester Mercury which has three times as far to travel.

Not surprisingly, the Post didn't print his letter. So he sent it to the UK Press Gazette. Post editor Bill Snaith replied giving the excuse of "commercial considerations".

What the new computer means at the Post

How it used to be done:

- 1) Journalists typed out each article onto a series of small sheets of paper.
- 2) Sub-editors corrected mistakes and rearranged the article by shuffling the sheets of paper around.
- 3) Compositors set each article in columns of movable type - like a huge John Bull outfit - then put the columns together to form each page.
- 4) Readers checked there were no mistakes in type-setting.
- 5) Each page of type was used to cast a curved metal plate to be wrapped round a drum on the printing press.

How it is done now:

- 1) Journalists sit at a Visual Display Unit (VDU) - a television screen and typewriter-like keyboard connected to the computer. Their "copy" goes straight into a memory bank. It is also shown on the screen so it can be corrected.
- 2) Sub-editors sit at another VDU. They call up complete articles from the memory onto the screen to correct and rearrange them. Articles for a whole page are called up onto another screen. They can be moved around to make them fit in. Headlines are added to taste. The computer remembers what size and shape each article is.
- 3) The computer prints out each article in columns using a photographic process. These columns are cut out and pasted down onto a large sheet to make up the whole page (this will soon not need to be done because the computer will be able to print out the whole page in one piece).
- 4) Believe it or not they still check for mistakes. But it is so much trouble to get the computer to correct them that they often don't bother!
- 5) The paste up of the whole page is used to make a plastic plate using another photographic process. The plate is used on the printing press in a similar way to the old process.

SMALL AD

"RED LADDER", a regionally based socialist theatre company run collectively, requires an administrator.

Apply, giving full details of political and work experience, and reasons for wanting to join, to:

Red Ladder Theatre Company, Cobden Avenue, Leeds 12 5PB. Tel: 0532-792228. Closing date: July 12th.

NOTTINGHAM VOICE is printed and published at 33 Mansfield Rd (tel: 411676).

Please contact us with any information you would like to see in the next issue, preferably by the beginning of August. There will be no July or August issues.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: £2 for 12 issues including postage.

The paper supports the rule

Fight against Post may be stepped up

He gave the example of a machine assistant, Malcolm Dunn, who was sacked in January while he was off sick. He had worked for the

The journalists union, NUJ, is not involved in the current dispute but branch secretary Frank Palmer has been trying to talk to Pole-Carew. He

One suggestion is that the government conciliation body ACAS should be called in.



POST UNIONS WEAK SINCE 1973 LOCK-OUT

When the dispute ended many of the strikers were made redundant - particularly the union militants. The people who stayed at work

Two companies were set up for the commercial work - TBF(Printing) and TBF (Process). Both operated from Forman Street and both were owned by Forman Hardy Holdings (which owns the

Huthwaite also appears to have been running at a loss. We are told it has around a

Almost all of this work has been blacked by the recent action. Huthwaite is trying to get a writ against NGA and SLADE. Damages of £900,000 have been mentioned.

- Thurs 22 June - "The role of the consumer in public transport", Frank Higgins (chairperson of Transport Consultative Committee), 7.30. WEA, Shakespeare St.
- Sat 24th June - Latin American conference, International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Road. 1pm Uruguay 3.15 Argentina, 5pm Chile,
- Fri 30 June - Women's Voice Disco, International Centre, Mansfield Rd. 10pm till late, late bar, 60p.

PERMISSION FOR DIY STORE TURNED DOWN

IT APPEARS that city Tory leader Jack Green's do-it-yourself shop on Nuthall Road will not have to face competition from a large DIY store proposed for the nearby "park and ride" site.

Last year a company applied for planning permission for "storage, wholesale and retail sale of builders' merchants materials, DIY, garden and leisure goods".

This was turned down. The reason given by the Planning Committee was that "the development would be contrary to the approved Town Map" (the Town Map dates

back to 1952). Planning Officer Stephen Byrne reported that the site was "zoned for school playing field purposes".

The company naturally lodged an appeal with the Department of the Environment.

But now it seems the appeal may never be heard.

The City Council has been talking to the County Council, which owns the land, about using it for a small industrial development.

The city Planning Department has suggested that the appeal should be dropped.

DUNNETT'S BANK LOSES MONEY

AND SO DOES THE GOVERNMENT

AUDITORS of Park Street Securities Ltd - the banking company of which East Nottingham's Labour MP Jack Dunnett is a major shareholder - have been unable to verify the total assets of the company.

Their opinion of the most recently available accounts (1975) states, in part, that they "were unable to express an opinion as to the values of the securities held against certain advances".

The directors' opinion was much more certain. They claim that underlying securities exceeded advances to customers by more than £2 million and that "no independent valuations of certain property securities have been obtained as this would involve unnecessary expense to the group".

This confidence is touching. The same accounts show that

Park Street wrote off £182,703 as a bad debt that year. The accounts do not show who owed the money.

LOSS

This "bad debt" was obviously the cause of the loss of £118,000 which Park Street made that year. The directors however were no doubt relieved to hear that they could offset this loss against taxation - over £30,000 of "deferred tax" was written off and a further £40,000 allowed for tax was "not required".

Only £8,410 was to be paid in corporation tax with a

running total of £128,000 taxation being "deferred" - i.e. not paid.

The accounts are no doubt accurate on all these matters - it took long enough to prepare them. Company law requires that companies return their annual accounts within a year. Park Street Securities consistently ignores this petty demand of the law. Its 1975 accounts were not filed until the end of 1977.

No doubt Jack, as a solicitor, is well aware of the existence of company law.

STAKE

What is Jack's stake in the company? Of the 500,000 shares he held slightly under half - 249,880 to be exact. Another major shareholder was Morris Wigram Nominees Ltd who held 150,000 shares. As an historical footnote Voice readers may remember our report in April 1976. We revealed that Dunnett was using Morris Wigram to hold nominee shares for him in Park Street.

Jack's friends will be pleased to hear that another of his companies has been making money. Lansdowne Properties Ltd (a property company) made a profit of over £9,000 in the financial year ending March 1976.

Assets included property worth nearly £1 million (at cost) as well as £435,000 under the name of Park Street Securities. Jack owned 99 out of the 100 shares with his wife Pamela owning the other share.

Corporation tax due on Lansdowne Properties at 1st January 1976 was just £190. (Companies information from People's News Service)

Campaign

LEGALISE Cannabis Campaign is a new national organisation.

"Smoking cannabis is more popular than watching Panorama", says Bob Nightingale of the Campaign. "About five million people in this country have used it, and that includes MPs, members of the police force, the judiciary and the civil service".



10,000 people a year are convicted of cannabis offences in the UK, 90% of them for possessing less than an ounce. Yet research shows cannabis is not a major health hazard.

Even US President Jimmy Carter is sponsoring a Decriminalisation Bill. "Penalties against possession of a drug should not be more damaging to the individual than the use of the drug itself", he told the US Congress last year.

In Britain you can get five years imprisonment for possession.

To become a member of the Campaign send £3 (£1 for students and claimants, £10 for organisations) to 29 Old Bond Street, London W1

Brewery threatens trees

BASS-WORTHINGTON, killers of real ale, now seem intent on extending their murderous activities to the beautiful horse chestnut trees which stand outside "The Jester" on Sneinton Dale.

Recently the brewery concreted over all the grassed areas surrounding the pub - even hard up to the trunks of the trees which are protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

Some people suspect this is part of a policy to prevent drinkers of synthetic beer in synthetic surroundings being distracted by sights of the natural world - which may lead them down the slippery slope towards brown bread, unprocessed cheese and real ale!

Local residents complained

that the lives of the trees were endangered. They enlisted the aid of the Forestry Commission Research Establishment and the City Planning Officer who ordered the removal of the concrete.

The future of the trees seemed assured. But two days later, at 7.30 on a Saturday morning, members of the Sneinton Environmental Society discovered three men lopping off branches at an alarming rate. The slaughter was soon stopped with the aid of more SES members and eventually the police.

Latest information indicates stalemate. But observers wonder how local residents, armed with a tree preservation order, will stand up to the forces of concrete flower beds and gassy beer.



Highwood - note the easy access for prams, up the steps.

New hostel under fire

"HIGHWOOD" - the city's super new hostel for the homeless on Cranmer Street - has been severely criticised in an article in the Architects Journal (12th April 1978). Highwood is the first purpose built homeless hostel in the country.

The article shows that many parts of the hostel designed for communal use are not being used as intended. Three or four more dwellings could have been provided for the same money, it says.

"The homeless officer believes in 'self help'. The playroom has been converted into his office", is just one comment. (The playroom was originally intended for one parent families to leave their children while looking for accommodation.)

Residents are banned from using the communal launderette - though staff are allowed to use it. The communal kitchen/dining room is also out of bounds.

"There is in fact a reason for everything", says the article.

"The reason why there is only one entrance is so that an eye can be kept on comings and goings.

"The reason why visitors have to leave the building by 21.30 hours and why residents have to be in by 22.30 hours is to avoid prostitution.

BAD NAME

"The reason why residents have to be up at 07.30 hours with curtains open is that 'Highwood' might get a bad name if local people going to

work in the morning saw the curtains still drawn.

"The reason why the balcony doors are kept locked is because one of the residents might shout something rude at local people and 'Highwood' might again get a bad name.

"The furnishings are primitive because the council don't want the place to be too comfortable. There is no television aerial, presumably because televisions are banned. The residents can't use the furniture store because they would be in and out all the time and something might get stolen.

"There are no gas cookers in case somebody tries suicide - which given everything else makes most sense of all."

The council can't even be bothered to put flowers in the flowerboxes on which it spent over £1,000.

For all this loving care homeless families have to pay £10 a week for a room plus £2 for each additional room.

One conclusion of the article is: "... 'Highwood' is not a sign of progress and does not prove that we are a genuinely caring society. On the contrary it is a symbol of failure, an indictment of a political and economic system in which such a measure is necessary ..."

Brandon-Bravo put down?

TORY COUNCILLOR Martin Brandon-Bravo has asked us to correct a statement we made about him in our last issue. We said he was not a member of St Ann's Tenants and Residents Association (SATRA).

Brandon-Bravo claims he has been a member for six months.

This surprised us. He is not a resident of St Ann's. He doesn't even live in the city. It is highly unusual for tenants associations to recruit outside their area.

We have written to SATRA to ask for their comments.

Brandon-Bravo is prospective Tory candidate for East Nottingham which includes St Ann's.

BETTY HIGGINS

He had one or two complaints about SATRA. In particular he complained about Betty Higgins. She is the personal agent of East Nottingham's Labour MP Jack Dunnett who was described by Brandon-Bravo as a property millionaire (Brandon-Bravo is only a factory manager).

Higgins writes the minutes of SATRA committees. According to Brandon-Bravo she writes her own version.

He also claimed that she decides what goes into Chase Chat, St Ann's community newspaper. He said Chase Chat had recently told him it would not print any more letters from him. He complained that Dunnett got his photo on the front page of one issue.

(Eds - our advice to SATRA is to get rid of both

Higgins and Brandon-Bravo.)

We received a late reply from SATRA's chairperson Ray Gosling.

"Brandon-Bravo gets his name in lights again", he says, "Nottingham Voice succumb to the oldest plot in the political world."

He explains: "kindly folk who express an interest and say they want to join are joined up. They are not 'recruited' but we don't refuse their money: should they wish to take part in SATRA affairs, as they have done, they are quickly put down."

"Oh, aren't politicians at election time lovely cartoons ..."

"Dunnett on the front of Chase Chat was he? Must be because he was our MP."

Ray also defends Betty Higgins. "She has been marvellous at all kinds of boring little things", he says. "And she's never made strong political feelings." (Eds - that's our Betty - never had a strong political feeling in her life.)

LEGAL RAPE

RAPING female hitch-hikers in California is legal. Judges (all male) in a Court of Appeal recently acquitted a man who raped a woman after giving her a lift. They said it wasn't unreasonable for a man in his position to believe that she would consent to sexual relations.

The decision has brought a storm of protest from the women's movement. (News Release)



HALLS TAKE £½m PROFIT

ACTION BY STUDENTS has forced Nottingham University to repay £50,000 to students living in halls of residence. This is part of a £200,000 surplus made by the halls this year as a result of overestimating inflation.

In the last three years university halls have made a profit of £½ million. They always say they are aiming to break even.

Now students union president John Taylor says the students are to start a campaign against individual hall wardens. At least half of them are incompetent, he said. They don't understand accounts and they aren't fit to manage a hall, he told the Voice.

It was Taylor, together with last year's student president Stuart Bayliss who spotted

the university rip-off and set out to do something about it.

OCCUPATION

At first the University Finance Committee refused to give anything back. One committee member said it was "prudent in business" to make a large surplus.

Students didn't take kindly to this sort of attitude. 1,200 occupied the library for one night in May following the largest General Meeting of students seen for five years. The meeting also said that

VACANCIES FROZEN

LECTURERS at the university want extra academic staff to be employed. Around forty more are needed to bring the staff student ratio down to one to ten.

Over the last few years things have got worse, Professor Fessler, chairperson of the Association of University Teachers, told us.

The number of students is increasing all the time, he said.

Many vacancies have been frozen in recent years. This year around twenty vacancies have been unfilled.

Next year this should be put right. But there is still a need for many more staff to bring the teaching ratio back to what it used to be.

But can the university afford it? That is difficult to work out because the university accounts do not make it clear what money is available.

What can be said is that in the year ending last July a surplus of £375,000 was put into "Reserve Funds" - more than enough to pay the extra staff needed. "Assets" increased by more than £3 million and there was over £3 million "cash in hand . . .".

The university seems to be more interested in accumulating money than in employing a proper number of staff.

the 3,200 students in hall should withhold their hall fees for the summer term.

Hardly any paid. £½ million was paid into a central fund organised by the students union.

In the end the university agreed to repay £15 for each person in hall. This was only half of the £30 demanded but it was accepted by another large General Meeting.

Increases in hall fees will be only 5% next year - the lowest in the country according to Taylor. People in self-catering flats will have no increase.

FUND SHOULD BE SPENT

£3½ MILLION in a Nottingham University appeal fund should be spent, says president of the students union John Taylor.

He says that this money has been lying around since the early 50s doing nothing except collect interest. It was raised when the university moved to its present site to finance, amongst other things, halls of residence. Around £½ million was collected from the public according to University Bursar John Maddox. It has been spent on several things, he claimed, but wouldn't give any details.

The money has never been used for student accommodation, said Taylor. At least not until this year when £100,000 was lent for the first time. Interest is to be charged.

IMMORAL

It is immoral to lend the money, said Taylor. It should be spent, he said, because it is impossible to maintain the value of investments in real terms at the moment.

He said the fund was getting a low rate of interest - perhaps as low as 7%. He complained that last year the university borrowed over £100,000 from the Nottingham Building Society at 11% interest to build self-catering flats. Money could have been lent from the appeal fund at 9% and both the fund and the students would have benefitted, he said.

The Voice asked Maddox why this was not done. He dismissed Taylor's claim that there was £3½ million available as "rubbish" (the accounts show £3,362,000 in the appeal fund last July).

He claimed the interest on the appeal fund was much higher than 7% and said that using the Building Society money was the best way. When pressed for reasons he would only say: "It's rubbish". He was obviously keen to get back to counting his money.

The university will shortly be launching another appeal to mark its centenary. The students union wants people who give money to say that it must be spent.

**FACT MOST FAMILIES IN
NOTTINGHAM
FIND CO-OP MEMBERSHIP
— PAYS —**

**SHOPS EVERYWHERE
KEEN PRICES AND CO-OP
STAMPS — JOIN NOW AND
SAVE AS YOU SPEND**

**APPLICATION FORMS IN
ALL SHOPS OR FROM: —
GREATER NOTTINGHAM
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY,
PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPT.
14, BROAD STREET
NOTTINGHAM. TEL: 46094**



Basford tenants threatened

PHOTO: JOHN BIRDSALL



The Trades Council banner outside the Basford action centre.

TENANTS AT BASFORD FLATS are coming under increasing pressure from the council.

City Tory leader Jack Green has even got together with county Tory leader Peter Wright to "investigate" the Social Services community worker who is working in the flats.

The tenants have been occupying a small room in their tenants hall since early May.

The Housing Committee in May told them they could no longer use the room as an advice centre. This was after Housing chairperson Ted Hickey had been into the room to take photographs and search through their files. The group started a 24 hour a day occupation.

Hickey objected particularly to a poster which said "The

Council regret that, owing to the interests of big business, they are unable to fulfil their obligation to the homeless this year".

The poster has been reprinted on the back of Housing Action - the paper of the Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations which is distributed free to 10,000 council tenants.

KANGAROO COURT

Housing Action's headline on the way the Housing Committee considered the case was: "Kangaroo Court - no witnesses, no defence, hearsay evidence, photos taken secretly, accused not allowed to speak, no written evidence, no right of appeal - the Council call this democracy".

Support has also come for Basford from the Trades Council which displayed its banner outside the tenants hall at an open air meeting in May.

As well as the Trades Council several tenants associations spoke in support of the stand by Basford Tenants Action Group (TAG) which represents 600 tenants in the flats.

Representatives were present from Clifton, New Radford, Raleigh Street, Top Valley and the Meadows. The Claimants Union also gave support.

TAG lobbied the full meeting of the City Council in June.

They also went around to Hickey's house at 9pm one evening to ask if he would see them. He came to the door in his dressing gown. But he refused to speak to them while they were "illegally occupying" council property.

Following another attempt by the group to speak to Hickey at his house, Housing Department officials visited the occupation and said it was their last chance to come out peacefully.

It sounds as if the bailiffs may shortly be smashing their way in.

Donations and offers of help with the sit-in to: Action Centre, Old Basford Community Centre, David Lane (behind the Horse and Jockey).

Who is Sir Leonard Hooper?

Top security man named with Col. B and Lt. Col. A.

COLONEL B was not present in May when over 200 people marched past the government agency in Cheltenham which he worked for - Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ).

A loudspeaker car was used to inform the marchers - and hundreds of people in the city centre - just what GCHQ is up to.

GCHQ is the hub of Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) - a worldwide network which listens in to foreign governments' radio messages - mainly those of poor countries. Intercepted messages are sent to GCHQ for codebreaking and analysis.

This is illegal under international law. Britain has signed many conventions including one in 1973 which said: "Members agree to take all possible measures . . . with a view to ensuring the secrecy of international correspondence".

A very large copy of this was laid outside one of the GCHQ buildings by Crispin Aubrey and John Berry, two of the defendants in the Official Secrets Trial in which Col B, an ex-SIGINT officer, gave evidence.

Berry was a soldier working for SIGINT until 1970. He is accused of discussing SIGINT with two journalists, Crispin Aubrey and Duncan Campbell early last year. The full trial starts in September. The

three face sentences upto 14 years.

Berry told a "picket-nic" after the demonstration that he joined the army for the same reason as many others - because he needed a house and a job. "Economic conscription", he called it. He was put in Intelligence because he had five 'O' levels.

Another speaker was Denis McShane, president of the National Union of Journalists. He said he recently visited Cyprus which has a SIGINT base and had no difficulty in finding the names of past commanding officers. Two of these were Colonel Hugh Johnstone (better known as Col B) and Lieutenant Colonel John Taylor (believed to be Lt Col A whose name was so secret that the prosecution in the Aubrey Berry Campbell case refused to let it be known to the defence and Col B had to be called instead).

In the States, said McShane, journalists have guided tours round places like GCHQ and money voted for such places is not secret.

He compared the case to that of Dr Orlov - the Russian who got seven years hard labour for exposing what his government was up to.

BALLOONS

At the picket-nic, balloons were released with Lt Col A's name on, asking people

finding them to return them to Sir Leonard Hooper.

Sir Leonard Hooper is one of the people who the Aubrey Berry Campbell (ABC) defence campaign wants to "finger". He is one of the most powerful people in Britain though hardly known to the public. A former Director of GCHQ, he is now Cabinet Co-ordinator of Intelligence with the right to attend any Cabinet meeting.

He is thought to be behind the ABC prosecution as well as the deportation of the Americans Agee and Hosenball (Hosenball wrote an article with Campbell exposing GCHQ in 1976; Agee was exposing CIA activity).

Although Hooper receives regular reports about SIGINT he doesn't appear to pass them on to the Cabinet. One junior minister, told about SIGINT recently, said "none of this information is available in Government".

But the information brought out by Campbell and other journalists comes from public sources - which foreign agents can also use. So Hooper and his friends are trying to lock up journalists to stop us finding out what the Russians have known for years.

Meanwhile they continue to spend vast amounts of money in secret on illegal activities.

Donations to: ABC Defence Committee, c/o 374 Grays Inn Road, London WC1.

LOCAL COUNCILS INCREASE CONTROL

THE CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS are increasing their grip on many aspects of people's lives.

And the Tories in charge are clearly showing their prejudices. Some of their targets have been tenants groups, community groups,

progressive teachers, black people and other minorities.

In this article we list several different areas where the Local State has attempted

to increase its control in different ways. It is not a complete list. In some cases it has failed - as at Sutton Centre. In some cases it has met very little opposition - as with the International Community Centre. In other cases battle has been joined, either openly as at Basford and Top Valley or behind the scenes as with Nottingham Areas Project and the Council for Voluntary Service.

ACTION GROUP EVICTED

BASFORD FLATS Tenants Action Group has been hounded by the City Council for the last six months.

They were using a large house in Lincoln Street as an advice centre with the permission of the tenant. When she left TAG offered to pay full rent and rates and bring the house into a good standard of repair.

This was turned down. The house has been boarded up ever since TAG left.

To get them out the council offered them use of a small room in the local tenants hall.

But within a couple of months Tory councillors gained access to the room from the caretaker without contact-

ing the group. They went through the group's papers and took photographs.

The group was told to get out without any chance to put their case. They represent 600 tenants.

One of the Tories' complaints was a poster which said the council couldn't house the homeless because of the interests of big business.

TAG has campaigned against several of the council's policies such as the sale of council houses while families with children in high rise flats can't get a transfer, rent increases and the run down of the repairs department.

COMMUNITY POINT CLOSED

TOP VALLEY Community Association's community point is to be closed down shortly - against the wishes of the people using it.

It will be replaced by another building. But the group will have to share management not just with councillors but also with a self-appointed group recently formed by one Dave Buckley.

Buckley used to be on the Community Association committee. Several people didn't like him and voted him off last year.

But he has friends in high places including Tory county councillor Robert Stevenson. Tory city councillors Owen and Small are believed to be not entirely opposed to him. He formed his own group which was recognised by the city council even though the recommendation of the Arts Director was just to recognise the Community Association.

The local tenants association says that this was because local Tory councillors threatened to rock the boat unless Buckley's group got an equal say.

Top Valley organised a demonstration against rent increases last year.

RELATIONS ATTACKED

THE COMMUNITY Relations Council has been moved out of the International Community Centre. The city council threatened to withdraw its grant unless it moved.

One reason was the backing the CRC gave for the Afro-Caribbean Centre and the Indian Centre. Separate centres for these groups would be divisive, said some Tories. So they decided to divide the CRC from the International Centre.

The CRC is backed by the Home Office. Its main job

is to change people's attitudes on race. Obviously some Tories don't want their attitudes changing.

As it happens the CRC will be no worse off. It may even benefit because it no longer has to deal with the Leisure Services Committee which has some of the worst Tories like Philip Owen and Stuart Thompson.

One excuse used by these Tories for acting against the CRC was that two posters had been seen in the CRC about Rhodesia and Chile.

HOMOSEXUALS ATTACKED

LAST YEAR the Council for Voluntary Service was hauled before a secret meeting with the County Chief Executive and leaders of the Tory and Labour groups.

It was suggested that it hadn't got its priorities right - especially regarding its support for a homosexual advice session.

It should use its grant from the County Council properly, it was told.

CVS refused to change its policy. No further action has been taken by the County Council.

COUNCIL DECIDE

FOR THE FIRST TIME the County Council is demanding two representatives on the management of summer holiday schemes which get grants. In one case they will be helping to spend only £50.

SCHOOL INQUIRY

SUTTON CENTRE school - one of the most progressive state schools in the country - came under a very heavy attack from the County Chief Executive and top Tories.

But fortunately the school has a strong branch of the National Union of Teachers. They forced a proper inquiry. It showed that the school is one of the best in the country even though it hasn't been open very long. The Tories were not very happy about that result.

SEX INQUIRY

AN INQUIRY has been launched into sex education in the county's schools. The main reason for this was the failure of the Sutton Centre inquiry to find anything bad about that school. Now it is hoped that something can be found to complain about in other schools.

TIGHTEN UP

SCHOOLS in the county have been told that they must tighten up on religious education and assemblies. Even the religious syllabus agreed with the Church came under attack from some Tories for being too liberal.

AS ANOTHER TERM COMES TO AN END . . .

SCHOOL LEAVERS HIT DOLE

THERE WILL BE 5,000 school leavers looking for work in the city this year.

At the beginning of June the number registered for work at the city Careers Office was a thousand and is likely to climb to over two thousand during the summer.

Although the figures for this time of the year are disproportionately high because many jobs do not start until September, over 500 school leavers are expected to be still unemployed then.

Of these a large number will almost certainly be from the black community. Although only 12% of school leavers are from West Indian and Asian

families they form 17% of those in the 16 to 20 age range who were unemployed in May this year.

Continuing unemployment amongst school leavers is a result of the employment market not offering the vacancies that school leavers want. Many will have to take jobs below their expectations. Many more will have no job at all.

The District Careers Officer, Mr Rigley said that there would be 50% more males unemployed than females. This was because, within the city, there are many vacancies for machinists in

the textile industry which boys are reluctant to take. Traditional attitudes to employment are hard to change, he said, despite the Equal Opportunities Act.

The Community Relations Council and the Minorities Development Project highlighted some of the problems facing black and asian school leavers in Nottingham. Among these were unfair selection processes operated by some employers. Discrimination occurred mainly in the type of job offered. This led to despondency among black and asian school leavers that they would not get the kind of job they were looking for.

GROUP SAY NO TO NUCLEAR POWER

THE SITE of a proposed nuclear reactor at Torness near Edinburgh was occupied on May 6th and 7th by three to four thousand people. The occupation was used as a forum for discussing the future of the antinuclear movement.

There are two major arguments against nuclear power. It threatens all living creatures, and their natural environment, by producing unnatural amounts of harmful radioactive material which remains extremely dangerous for many thousands of years. It concentrates power in the hands of a few, needing a military style secrecy and undermining the principles of human liberty.

Several people who returned from Torness to Nottingham felt that the momentum achieved at Torness should be built upon. At a public meeting three "loose affinity groups" were formed. They are to develop ideas on direct action and education about nuclear power.

Affinity groups are based on the idea that people who know and trust each other act together more effectively. They are leaderless groups with a dozen or less members. Each member of the group is equally responsible for decision making which is by general agreement rather than voting. There are no directives from above.

It was felt that affinity groups would enable the sharing of ideas and skills - and would demonstrate an alternative to the centralisation of power which nuclear power would promote.

The groups hope to meet on a regular basis. They are organising film shows on nuclear power and workshops on direct action. There will be a general meeting at the International Community Centre on June 23rd.

General information on nuclear power is available from Mushroom bookshop, 10 Heathcoat Street and the Environmental Centre, 15 Goosegate. Information on further meetings from Mushroom or from Ouroboros wholefood shop, 37 Mansfield Road.

TORIES WANT COMPLETE CONTROL

IT IS RUMOURED that Tory county councillors are looking for an excuse to close down Nottingham Areas Project. NAP has five community workers in different areas of the city and a resource centre with a worker at 118 Mansfield Road (Centre 118). 75% of its funds come from the government through an Urban Aid grant which has to be renewed next year.

Centre 118 has only been opened a year but already has sixty or seventy local groups using it. Half a dozen community newspapers are printed there including Housing Action. Many of these papers have been critical of council policy, especially in the housing field.

Of more concern to councillors, perhaps, is that NAP has been encouraging people in the five areas to form local committees to control their workers. Two thirds of the main NAP management is composed of local representatives. Even the workers, who tend to be educated, middle class and good speakers, have been excluded from the main management.

Now the county council is saying it wants more control over NAP.

If NAP doesn't agree the whole project may be closed down.



Chileans giving out leaflets in Nottingham's city centre.

CHILEAN SOLIDARITY

CHILEAN refugees in Nottingham may be holding a hunger strike in July as an act of sympathy with 180 or more people on hunger strike in Santiago, the capital of Chile. These people are mainly relatives of around 2,500 political prisoners who have disappeared without explanation in the last five years.

In 1973 a military junta, backed by the United States, overthrew the democratically elected socialist government of President Allende. Since then General Pinochet's regime has tried to stamp out all opposition by means of imprisonment, torture and mass murder.

Last year a hunger strike forced Pinochet to promise to account for the missing prisoners. He failed to do this so another hunger strike started recently in a United Nations building and three churches in Santiago.

This brought another promise

from Pinochet. The hunger strikers have given him a month to come up with some explanations. If he doesn't the hunger strike will start again in July.

Chileans in Nottingham had planned a three day hunger strike in sympathy in June at the People's Centre on Mansfield Road. This was called off when the people in Chile stopped.

BOYCOTT

Amongst other things the Chileans are calling for a complete boycott of Chilean goods in the shops. They say that infant mortality in Chile has shot up since 1973 mainly as a result of lack of adequate food. A lot of Chilean food is being exported to pay for guns for the regime to continue their repression.

For further details contact the Chile Solidarity Campaign, Students Union, Nottingham University.

VOICE ON TV-SHOCK

MIDLANDS television is falling over itself these days to film things in the East Midlands. Presumably this is due to serious demands from the East Midlands for separate programmes.

Lew Grade must be very worried about the threat to break up his ATV empire. So he has sent his camera teams to find the most important things going on in the East Midlands.

For some odd reason they decided to film Nottingham Voice as well. We are to be shown on Left, Right and Centre - the programme where right and centre poke fun at the left.

The programme is on Monday June 26th (not 19th as we said in the last issue) and will look at two alternative papers - Birmingham Broadside and Nottingham Voice - and two community papers.

Our photographer caught the film crew in action when they came to film us. They were particularly interested

in the sentences handed out to the Tennyson Street Six - the six black people arrested last year when police lost

their cool and nearly caused a riot. One of the six, Peter Shand, showed them (and us) how it all happened.

It will be interesting to see how much Birmingham Broadside is allowed to say.

The paper is currently being sued by the Tory leader of Birmingham City Council, Neville Bosworth. This follows revelations in the February issue about Bosworth's connections with the Dennis Fell Group of Companies. (Send donations to 81 Grove Lane, Birmingham 21.)

Broadside has also just exposed the fact that 238 people are being held in British prisons without being sentenced, with no prospect of a trial and no certain date of release. They are held under the 1971 Immigration Act which allows the police to detain indefinitely people suspected of being illegal immigrants. The average time in prison is three months. Many who are imprisoned are later found not to be illegal immigrants.

According to Broadside, 60 are in Birmingham's notorious Winson Green prison. Over half are receiving "psychiatric" treatment - usually just drugs. One African has been in prison for three months even though he has proved that he lived and worked in Britain for eleven years - more than enough to qualify him for citizenship. He was arrested when he married and sent his passport and his wife's to the Home Office. There is no evidence that the man entered the country illegally. He has no chance of a trial or even a tribunal.

(Information on Birmingham Broadside from People's News Service)



Peter Shand shows the fence to which his father was handcuffed.



Peter Shand.



Two Voice workers (right) are interviewed.

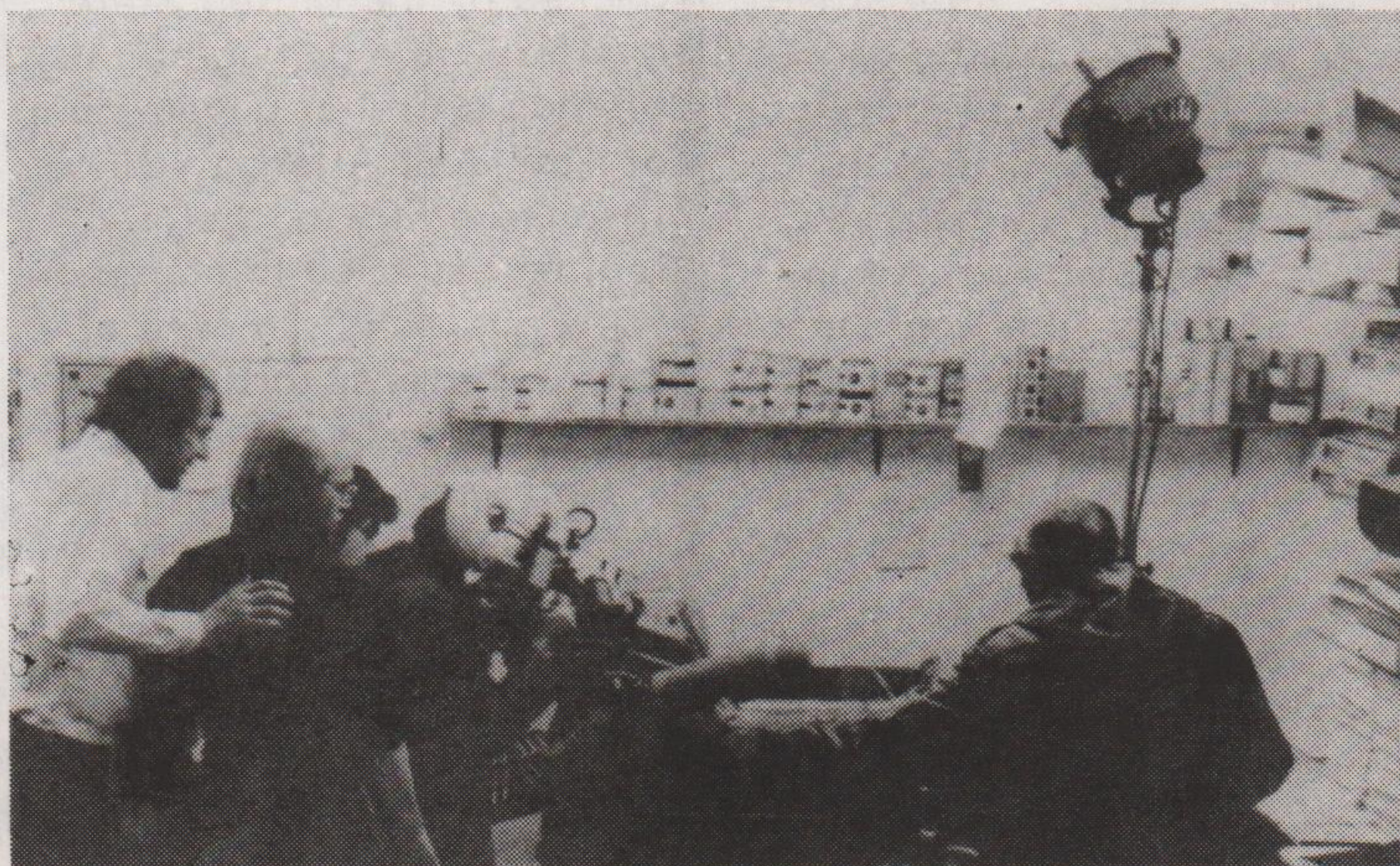
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Somewhere in there Nottingham Voice is being printed.

PHOTOS: TRAVIS TOWNSON

Jury doesn't believe police in Sheffield

BY COINCIDENCE a very similar incident happened in Sheffield on exactly the same day as the Tennyson Street Six were arrested - July 4th last year. But that had a better conclusion for some of the people involved.

On that day the Sheffield police were "pursuing their inquiries" into a robbery by arbitrarily picking up young blacks. Ten blacks were grabbed in two raids.

(Only two of them were ever charged with the robbery - and that wasn't until six weeks later when they were picked up again with two others. These four were found guilty on the most flimsy of evidence and sent down for three years. The prosecution depended on "confessions"

signed by the defendants while under duress, threatened with violence and refused access to solicitors.)

TRUNCHEONS

During the second police raid plain clothes police were seen beating a black youth with truncheons on the street.

Local residents, both black and white, intervened to protest at the way he was being treated. The police arrested five people, four of them white, and charged most of them with assaulting police.

At the police station, the defendants say that the police hurled racist abuse at the blacks and threatened them, with truncheons drawn, with a beating.

The whites were threatened, assaulted and called "do-gooders", "agitators", and "social workers". They were forced to stand spreadeagled against a wall, arms outstretched, for an hour and a half.

The defendants received a lot of support in the area. Three public meetings attracted over a hundred people each time. A defence group met regularly to work out tactics and arrange contacting witnesses.

Luckily, residents had taken photographs of the original incident. These were cleverly produced in court after the police had given evidence. They showed that the police evidence was a pack of lies.

The jury found all the defendants not guilty.

SIX MONTH JAIL SENTENCE IN "TENNYSON STREET SIX" CASE

Police win case against blacks

THE CASE AGAINST the "Tennyson Street Six" finally came to court at the end of April. These were the black people arrested last July after an incident in Tennyson Street provoked by the police.

It started with a window being broken accidentally. Police moved into the area in force and arrested six black people. Most of the charges were of assaulting the police. No-one has ever been charged with breaking the window.

One 18 year old, John Sealy, was given six months detention. Another, Peter Shand, received 120 hours community service and a £30 fine. His father had to pay a total of £70 including £20 compensation to a policeman.

A window was broken while Peter was playing cricket in Tennyson Street with some others. A policeman arrived and immediately accused Peter who was innocent.

He assaulted Peter, ripping his jumper. Peter refused to get into the police car and sent for his father. Mr Shand arrived, sent Peter home and tried to sort it out.

But the policeman was

determined to get Peter. Why, we don't know. Maybe just because he was black.

He sent for reinforcements who arrived in force. These heroic boys in blue followed Peter into his garden and proceeded to "arrest" him.

At that point Peter had committed no crime. The police had no reason to arrest him. They dealt with him like they deal with people on demonstrations, throwing him to the ground, sticking the boot in, punching him and generally pacifying him.

Peter was found guilty of two charges of assault causing "actual bodily harm".

DRAGGE D

His father, a small 54 year old man, tried to pull the police off. He was dragged over the road and handcuffed to the fence around Windley school.

Mr Shand was found guilty

of assaulting a policeman and ordered to pay him £20 compensation as well as being fined.

In the heat of the moment, John Sealy picked up a stick and used it to hit a policeman. He got six months for "malicious wounding" - his first conviction for assault.

Peter's 16 year old brother and a 15 year old friend were found guilty of assaulting police and fined £15 and £20. Peter's godfather was bound over to keep the peace for a year - just for telling the police what he thought about them.

After the incident Peter and John were remanded to Lincoln prison for a week.

None of the police were charged with any offences.

Police files

NEARLY one in ten people in the county are on police file. Chief Constable Charles McLachlan revealed in his Annual Report that they have files on 80,000 people.

Another 10,000 are added each year.

SAVE OUR BUSES

SAVE OUR BUS Services Action Group (SOBSAG) is a new group working alongside busworkers to fight cuts in public transport. It was formed at a meeting in April organised by the Transport and General Workers Union and attended by delegates from unions, tenants associations, environmental groups and the Labour party.

Ken Garratt, chargehand at Bilborough depot, spoke against the closure of the depot and the Tories' decision to get rid of 100 buses.

It was strongly rumoured, he said, that another two depots could be closed and the fleet cut to 300 buses.

Frank Higgins, Labour's transport chief on the last County Council, said that no cities in the world could run public transport without a subsidy. Even cities in the United States gave 24% support compared to 10% in this country.

He pointed out that 80% of people in the city - including a large percentage of women - are dependent on public transport.

FIDDLE

The only way Nottingham's buses could break even, he said, was to pad the accounts in a fiddle with the Housing Department.

Bilborough depot is to be rented to the housing department for use as a repairs depot. Council tenants will have to foot the bill.

At a meeting of SOBSAG in June Ken Garratt again slated this decision.

Bilborough is essential for the efficiency of city transport, he said, and gave several reasons why the other depots wouldn't be able to cope.

If business consultants came to look at the Tory plans they would fall over themselves laughing, he said. Ratepayers would start losing after three years, he claimed.

The meeting was told that several letters sent to the Evening Post had not been printed.

A suggestion that £800 be raised to pay for a half page advert in the Post to get the facts across was turned down. They are "virtually our enemies", said one person.

From the lounge bar

Rumblings

THERE ARE going to be some right royal rumblings in the city council's Conservative group about the future of the Theatre Royal.

When the Tories came to power they were pledged not to press ahead with the Festival Hall. The scheme was killed off at great cost and the Tory group rested quietly.

Sadly for their leader Jack Green not everyone has been as easily pleased. Notably the Methodists who run the Albert Hall who've been mounting a notable guerrilla campaign ever since aimed at getting the Corporation to renovate their shambling old ruin of a place under the guise of providing better concert facilities.

They've a lot of support, not just among pale-faced music freaks but among performers themselves and the media, who seem to think that one duff piano in the Albert Hall is a big deal of considerable proportions.

Take it from me. The city council will put extra money into the Albert Hall. Just shows how standards of public life are slipping. Once upon a time you had to shake hands in a funny way to get what you wanted. Now you just have to show the right page of the Methodist Hymnal.

Guinness

MEANWHILE I hear that Ron Coles has been ringing up attractive young ladies engaged in voluntary and "good works" asking them if they can drink a pint of Guinness. Ron, you may remember was the BBC Radio Nottingham executive who master-minded the most gripping radio programme of last year - a two hour recital of the Nottingham Electricity Board's street plans.

It seems that Guinness are promoting regional competitions to find attractive young ladies engaged in good works, etc.

When I asked Ron about this peculiar turn of events all he could manage was "No comment".

Cowan

CAN ANYONE REMEMBER Michael Cowan?

Labour Party supporters may move on to the next question since Michael's failure last year in the Ashfield by-election lost the party its second safest seat in the country - a disaster as certain of a place in Labour Party history as the

Tonyrandy Massacre.

Having of necessity given up all hopes of a job in Westminster (salary £6,000 pa) this veteran of the selection conference is now working for the Citizens Advice Bureau as organiser of its Ollerton branch (salary £1,500). Such posts are normally fought over by stolid post-menopausal ladies - but perhaps in this case the competition wasn't too hot.

No doubt the bureau's management committee felt that Cowan's overbearing rudeness and love for the niggling nit-picking point are qualities more of the successful adviser of the citizen than of the victorious by-election contestant. We can only hope that this proves to be the case.

One person who will not be seeking advice from "silly old Cowan" (as Voice readers know and love him) is Cllr Frank Haines, the present prospective parliamentary candidate for Ashfield whom many thought, rightly as it turned out, should have been picked as the by-election candidate.

(P.S. Rumours that Michael is currently writing an autobiography entitled "How to win friends and succeed in politics" are false. The great man is in fact writing a book on local government finance. Watch the best-seller lists for further details.)

the silly bit

A RESOUNDING tinkle.

Yes, Nottingham's reputation as the Rio de Janiero of the North has been boosted again by the latest fortnight of unbridled goings on and Carnival; "it's like Mardi Gras and Fasching rolled into one," was the opinion of a visiting Mormon bible runner. "It's like Sodom and Gomorrah all over again."

But is Nottingham Festival as bad as all that? Personally I saw nothing going on in the streets that would have outraged anyone, much less interested them. True the Square was noisier than usual, and a few people caused the occasional disturbance in a dramatic sort of way. But I would have said these events had more the feel of being sideshows to a main event, or centre. And what a main event! What a centre!!

Well, actually, I didn't

Memoirs

THERE ARE some very drawn faces in Nottingham's corridors of power at the moment . . . not to mention the odd retirement home in Skegness. The reason is that the quavering hand of Lord Mayor Oscar Watkinson is currently committing to paper the memoirs of his political life in which, he tells me, he intends to reveal all. I hope he remembers my advice that truth is stranger than fiction.

Action

I HEAR THAT the city's housing chief, Ted Hickey, is thoroughly relishing his somewhat less than Titanic struggle with the Basford Tenants Action Group. So impressed is he with the standard of actions that he's thinking of banning all tenants groups . . . just to give them something to do.

FLooding

AS RECENTLY reported in the Voice, the Nottingham area emergency control centre (for use in war, civil disorder, etc) is located past the toilets under County Hall. However I am reliably informed that there is a possibility of this control centre flooding - it is below the Trent water line.

Still in this event our masters at County Hall will be able to ring up yet another

er emergency control centre underneath the new Severn Trent Water Authority block in Mansfield and get the lads to come down and pump them out.

Amin

RADIO TRENT may be getting more listeners these days (heaven knows why) but their contempt for local expertise and knowledge continues unabated.

Recently they managed several consecutive news bulletins in which they consistently referred to "Amin Street, Arnold". It was of course a typing error on a press release and should have been "Main Street, Arnold".

INKY

Letters

Good Job

Dear Voice,

With reference to your article on Sneinton, I don't think James Watt would be too pleased with you giving the credit to George Stephenson as the inventor of the steam engine, although the sentiments of that article are well appreciated. It is well recognised that unless a scientist has a story to tell then his name will sink back into the quagmire of equations and laws that abound in text books.

Also I don't think "Padre Padrone" has anything to do with the Nottingham Festival as reported by John Maxwell.

Apart from that I think the Voice is doing a really good job and may it continue to do so.

Dave Heath,
Cripps Hall, Nottingham University.

PS Will the Tory rag, the Sunday Telegraph also be prosecuted for printing Col. Johnstone's name? I think not!

Good Story

Dear Voice,

I can quite understand why you would not wish to spoil a good story by seeking some real facts but had you contacted the BBC before publishing your recent article about my Civil Defence programme ("BBC apologises to Nottingham Trades Council", issue 76), I would have been pleased to have corrected the several errors.

You got the title of the programme wrong - it was actually "The Men in the Ground". But, more seriously, there is not one grain of truth in your suggestion that the programme was in some way sneaked on to the air under the noses of the

BBC management.

The Trades Council did indeed undertake not to publicise our programme; that undertaking was sought by us for easily understandable journalistic reasons and was, for less understandable reasons, promptly broken by at least one member of the Council.

"A studio audience consisting of military old fogies" is an inexact description of the five studio participants, of whom only one, Sir Leslie Mavor, had a military background.

The saddest thing about this exercise from our point of view is that in the hubbub, the Trades Council failed to appreciate that four of the studio participants were, to varying extents, criticizing the present civil defence plans and were very much in agreement with the sentiments expressed by the Trades Council members.

I have indeed apologised to the Trades Council for delaying the second film until there was little time to discuss it. With the wisdom

of hindsight, I think my "error of judgement" was in showing the second film at all. I tried to put too much into one programme, and might yet get round to making a second programme.

My several colleagues present at the outside broadcast were made very aware of the Trades Council's understandable dissatisfaction but they cannot recall being called upon to quell riots, minor or major!

Yours faithfully,
David Geen,
Producer, "Brass Tacks",
BBC Manchester.

PS Your correspondent must think BBC management very blinkered for them not to have noticed the promotion in the Radio Times, and the "trail" on BBC-2 the night before the transmission of our programme. Both were very explicit!

(Eds - we can quite understand why Mr Geen would not wish to spoil a good letter by

quoting the real facts.

We did not say that the programme had been sneaked on under the noses of BBC management. What we said was that the producers had asked the Trades Council not to give any publicity because they said BBC management may ban the programme if it knew what they were doing. (The Trades Council in March was told that this was said to the the Trades Council Executive.) It was Mr Geen and his friends who invented this story and not Nottingham Voice.

We don't know how we managed to call the programme "The Men in the Bunker" since the correct title was so memorable. And we can't think how we came to suggest that all the old fogies in the studio were from the military.

Finally, we are pleased to hear that the Trades Council was able to make the BBC very aware of its dissatisfaction without having to resort to rioting.

Our reporter writes: I apologise for any errors in the report but would like to take issue with Mr Geen on one point. He claims that four of the studio participants were in agreement with the Trades Council. I do not think that is true.

The impression I got was that those in the studio wanted more civil defence preparation whereas the Trades Council wanted to reduce the need for such preparations by banning nuclear weapons. They also wanted a full public discussion.

It seemed to me that the producers deliberately tried to get the Trades Council to say that there wasn't enough civil defence preparation. They even rehearsed delegates shouting "no" before the programme - but in a different context.

It is my belief that "Brass Tacks" was being used by the powers that be to push the idea that more money should be spent on increasing a cold war mentality in this country.

Wheretobuy theVoice

NOTTINGHAM VOICE is available in the following newsagents, bookshops, etc:

City centre

Sisson & Parker, Milton St
Mushroom, Heathcoat St
Sants, Trinity Row
Dillons, Lincoln St
West End News, Long Row West
Briddocks, Parliament St
Flanagans, Burton St
House of Bewlay, Long Row
Virgin Records, King St
Shipstons, Theatre Sq subway
Elsewhere

Union shop, university
Dillons, university
Masons, Canning Circus
Sharps, Robin Hood Chase
City News, Manvers St
Phillips, Hucknall Rd
Also

Newmarket Hotel, Parliament St
Nottingham Playhouse
Ouroboros, 37 Mansfield Rd
Down-to-Earth, Hockley
Centre 118, 118 Mansfield Rd
People's Centre, Mansfield Rd
Libraries

The city libraries take eight copies. They are put first in the following libraries and then circulated around the others: Central (Local Studies), Hyson Green, Clifton, Radford/Lenton, Wollaton, Bilborough, Sherwood, Bulwell.

Wholesalers

Both Smiths and Menzies have refused to distribute the Voice to newsagents. Smiths said the cover price of 10p is not high enough. Menzies suggested we sell it by subscription instead.

A DEMONSTRATION is to be held by Basford flats Tenants Action Group on Sat 24th June. It starts at the Forest at 11.45am.

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PLAYERS FACE CRISIS

LAST YEAR saw the tobacco industry in crisis with falling sales and the threat of more taxation.

The marketing of a cigarette with a tobacco substitute, NSM, was a flop which cost the Imperial Group which owns Players over £2 million.

New common market regulations have ended the protection that the UK industry has enjoyed since 1901. The American industry is already infiltrating the UK market - one firm is planning to open a factory in nearby South Normanton.

In the last decade Players'

Nottingham factories have been mainly manufacturing the best selling brand No 6. But now the market for that brand has collapsed. This is due to the introduction of the common market "Specific Tax". This means that the tax on a packet of cigarettes is the same regardless of the weight in tobacco. This makes smaller cigarettes, like No 6, almost as expensive as king size cigarettes - so the market for them is contracting and they are being phased out.

Players No 6 king size have been introduced to try and hold a good share of the king size

market. But at the moment Players only has a 12% share of the king size market with their No 6 and John Player king size (produced mainly at its Stirling factories). And there is no reason why Players should be able to dominate the king size market in future.

This is because the market forces which made No 6 so successful no longer apply to the king size version - because they are no cheaper than other king size brands.

In future the tobacco companies may have to engage in very competitive price cutting - with the risk of declining

profit margins.

That is likely to mean a loss of jobs.

In the next decade the Players factories in Radford, which are old multi-storey constructions unsuited to modern methods of production, will face the threat of closure.

This would leave Players with just the Horizon factory in Nottingham. It is a modern factory on the Lenton Industrial Estate producing over 100 million cigarettes a day. It employs 2,000 out of Players' 6,000 workers in Nottingham



Players Horizon factory at Lenton, built on reclaimed marshland - sinking slowly under pressure, perhaps?

PLAYERS PLEASE: THE MYTH DEVELOPS

THE MAN whose bearded profile has appeared on millions of Players cigarette packets for over half a century was called Thomas Huntley Wood.

As a sailor serving on the warship Edinburgh in 1897 he caught the eye of a commercial photographer. A year later a drawing of Mr Wood's photograph appeared on a tobacco advertisement.

The sailor, who must have been rather surprised, wrote to Players who sent him "two guineas and a bit of baccy" for himself and for his mates.

The successful marketing images adopted by Players set the scene for the enormous expansion of the tobacco industry in the twentieth century.

In 1924 the slogan Players Please was adopted and printed on millions of cigarette packets.

The slogan and the use of the sailor's head brought the association of health and independence to the smoking habit. These images were by no means unimportant in the successful marketing of a

product which had the country hooked for over half a century.

The tobacco industry was able to perpetuate the myth until the reports of government health committees revealed the truth to an alarmed public.

Increasingly denied access to television and radio advertising, the tobacco industry has ploughed large sums of money into sports sponsorship to keep the myth alive.

This is not to say that the myth needed much initial encouragement - for the growth of John Players in Nottingham was speedy enough.

In 1877, when John Player bought his first tobacco manufacturing business in Broadmarsh, cigarettes were still hand rolled.

A packing department soon came into existence and a trade mark was adopted. The customer was thereby able to identify cigarettes made in Broadmarsh.

Expansion at this time was a matter of foresight - land

and rents were extremely cheap. For a small amount of capital Player bought an extensive site of three factories in the densely populated working class area of Radford. Labour was to be no problem.

Although at first only one of these factories was used, by 1898 all three were manufacturing cigarettes and Players, now a limited company, was employing over 1,000 people mainly from the area.

The cigarettes were now made by machine but Players continued to employ 200 girls who rolled cigarettes at the rate of 2,000 a day.

As the country adopted the smoking habit the craving for nicotine increased to such an extent that Players was employing 5,000 workers by 1926.

In the 1930s, to cope with increased demand two new factories were opened - the No 2 and No 3 factories.

Players must have been very pleased indeed when the smoking habit was adopted by women during these years of early emancipation.

IMPERIAL TOBACCO

THE GROWTH of the industry was not as smooth as the figures seem to suggest.

The American Tobacco Consortium made an attempt to buy up the British tobacco industry fully realising the huge profits to be made.

To protect themselves against American competition the tobacco manufacturers in this country combined and formed the Imperial Tobacco Company in 1901. The main interests in this were Players and Wills.

Competition between Players and Wills for the largest share in UK tobacco sales has always been strong.

In 1955 Players overtook Wills as the biggest tobacco seller within Imperial by introducing their Bachelor brand - a low priced filter cigarette.

By 1959 Players held 49% of Imperial production and in 1961 introduced Gold Leaf Virginia, another low priced filter tip brand.

The success of these low

priced filter tip brands in reducing Wills' share of the market caused alarm in the company.

The public obviously wanted a low price filter tip brand.

Amid a lot of secrecy and backed by huge advertising and promotional costs, Wills launched Embassy filter with coupons. Embassy held 18% of the market by 1965 and were the largest selling brand.

Wills had chosen the name Embassy because it was "classy" and gave coupons for the first time. This was the start of a new trend.

The public bought cigarettes with coupons because coupons represented a saving. In actual fact the weight of the coupons was deducted from the cigarettes in tobacco.

It was by now clearly recognised by Players that its future prosperity depended upon its ability to successfully market a low priced filter cigarette. The price of a packet became of paramount importance when successive governments increased tobacco taxation in their annual budgets. (Taxation accounts for 75% of the retail price of tobacco.)

The response at Players was the launching of No 6 with coupons. By 1976 No 6 had a 17% share of the market, making Players' Nottingham factories the biggest producers in the UK.

SMOKERS CONTINUE TO COUGH UP

IN THE 1950s the correlation between lung cancer and other respiratory complaints and smoking was revealed.

In an attempt to allay public anxiety the tobacco companies put out a statement that maintained that the evidence was inconclusive.

They then rather ironically gave the Medical Research Council £250,000 for research into the causes of lung cancer. This was rather a small sum compared with the £8 million a year they spent on advertising. But it did help the Medical Research Council to report that the correlation between the increased deaths from lung cancer and the smoking of tobacco was conclusive. The council's report was supported by the government.

Since that time the public has been made almost painfully aware of the harmful effects of smoking on health - the myth has been exposed.

In 1968 the tobacco companies were banned from advertising cigarettes on television. In 1972 government health warnings appeared on cigarette packets. Tables of the tar contents of various brands were displayed in public places. Films on lung cancer were shown to horrified schoolchildren. Adverts showed that not only does smoking damage your health but it ruins your sex life as well. And all to little avail.

Research has shown that people are likely to stop smoking if the price is too

IMPERIAL HOLDSON

PLAYERS has been able to maintain its position within Imperial as the largest tobacco interest. But the response of Imperial to government taxation and health warnings has been such that it now relies less on sales of tobacco.

In 1961 it realised the market for tobacco sales would decline and started to diversify its interests by buying Golden Wonder Crisps.

Diversification into non-tobacco products has continued, particularly into foods which are a safer area.

The Imperial Group now owns, among other companies, Finlay and Co (retail tobacconists)
Golden Wonder
Ross
Youngs seafoods
Harp lager
Taunton Cider
Courage Breweries
Smedley HP products
Lea and Perrins
Wine Traders Consortium
Thomas Forman (a Nottingham printing firm, once associated with the Formans who owned the Evening Post, which now prints cigarette packets for Players).

TOBACCO WORKERS - UNION STRUGGLES ON

THE TOBACCO WORKERS union has just over 3,500 members in Nottingham of which about 50% are women.

The implementation of the Equal Opportunities Act has been slow due to the way the industry is structured, said Mr Fetherstone the TWU leader. As with other industries the Equal Pay Act has meant that although women receive the same rate as men there is little movement of women into jobs which earn the highest rates.

The move to the new Horizon factory at Lenton in 1972 involved the introduction of a two shift system which was opposed by union members. Nevertheless the employers were able to introduce the double shift system by giving incentive bonuses to the workers.

The move to Horizon involved the breaking up of close knit communities by more alienating modern production methods. Mr Fetherstone said that as a rule workers tended to prefer the old Radford factories because they worked in smaller units and had more personal contact. The workplace was an extension of the community, whereas workers at Horizon worked in vast areas personalised by only a colour or a number.

Although the union had negotiated with employers for

high rather than to worry about their health.

After every budget increase in tobacco tax sales of tobacco fall off - to such an extent that Players factories have had to go onto short time working. The sales start to pick up again some months later to almost pre-budget figures. But as the costs soar the sales decline. In the past six months tobacco sales have fallen as taxation increases the cost.

Will the government tax cigarettes out of the market? It seems unlikely that the government would sincerely try because if people stopped smoking it would lose the millions of pounds in revenue that tax on tobacco now

a free bus service from the city out to Horizon, one was not provided.

With contracting tobacco sales and a price war on the way the union is likely to be involved in negotiations over redeployment of labour.

As the price war gathers momentum Players is going to have to do everything it can to cut production costs. This means introducing more machinery and may lead to some loss of jobs, something which the union will try to prevent. As the tobacco industry is specialised the loss of a job is more tragic because skills cannot be used elsewhere.

Already the workforce is being reduced steadily as people who leave are not replaced. Every year between 150 and 200 people retire from the company. The staff turnover is low and many of the workers joined in the 1920s and 1930s.

It seems likely that early retirement will be introduced. At the moment the union is engaged in negotiations to ensure that this does not involve hardship.

The role of the TWU is protective rather than radical. As with other unions, union meetings are poorly attended.

Mr Fetherstone did say that a contracting tobacco industry is not likely to weaken the position of the union in its negotiations with employers.

supplies. The drop in revenue would be so disastrous that the government would have to tax something else to get money out of the consumer.

So all these health warnings are a liberal facade. The government is stuck in a dilemma. If you smoke the burden will fall on the health service in medical care. If you don't smoke the health service will have less money.

And the tobacco companies know this.

So it looks as though the nation's smokers will continue to cough up.

MICHAEL BROWN

Reviews

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

Hoolifans & Vandalouts

Football Hooliganism
Ingham and others
Inter-Action Imprint, £1-50

THOUGH IT never made the back pages of the Express or the Mirror, this book is the first reasonable and objective study of football hooliganism.

Published under the auspices of the Inter-Action Trust, a charity which specialises in community arts and activities, it draws on much of their work in the field. In addition one of the authors is a Director of Oxford United.

Its starting point is expressed by one of the contributors: "Unless one believes that a particular minority of football supporters are gripped or possessed by the Devil every Saturday from lunchtime onwards, there must be a reason for their behaviour"

The explanations which this book comes up with will be no great surprise to anyone with a modicum of social awareness - the boredom and frustration of dead end jobs (or no jobs at all); undermining of family and neighbourhood ties in working class life; inadequate recreational facilities, etc.

They also emphasise the extent to which the world of football fans is a genuine society, with its own rules and hierarchies.

One especially interesting section shows how the media sensationalise and misrepresent the nature of football crowds and violence, and the way in which their habit of reporting the game in violent language spills over to their coverage of the terraces.

As one contributor writes:

their faithful and involved fans should be birched or caged in or hosed down... is a very fine and wavery one indeed"

In fact, the media's ideal fan would be a truly schizoid figure: "You can chant and cheer, but don't jump up and down and upset others. You should come in large numbers, but arrive separately. You should take sides, but only at a distance. You should get excited, but please remember that 'it's only a game'. A more prevaricating and impossible demands it is difficult to think of".

However, the authors are not merely critical but offer suggestions based on the work of the Inter-Action Trust. These include (apart from changes in attitude) more and less hierarchical youth clubs, more city farms and play space and more use of intermediate treatment by social workers.

All in all, an extremely interesting and valuable book which will be of interest to soccer fans and social workers alike.

david smith

Bicycles

The Bicycle Planning Book,
Mike Hudson,
Friends of the Earth, £1-95

THE MOST underestimated form of transport is the humble bicycle. Once a major form of transport, only neglect has allowed it to decline to its present level. Even so, it still accounts for 8% of all journeys made in Britain.

Ivan Illich has also shown that the bike is also the fairest form of transport there is: more efficient than walking, yet available at a price that everyone could afford. It's also simple enough to be understood even by non-mechanics, and can be made in any part of the world.

This admirable and timely book shows the potential which exists for bike use. Over 80% of all journeys are less than 5 miles, a fair proportion of which could be pedalled.

Some towns, such as Peterborough, have taken limited steps towards

releasing this potential, but none match up to the efforts made in Holland. There they even have inter-urban bike-ways !

This prompts the question, what's happening in Nottingham? The answer, at present is very little. This is despite the fact that a survey several years ago showed that the problems of using bikes in the city was a major concern of residents.

However, the County Council shortly has to tell Whitehall what its 'bike policy' is... so it's a time when lobbying could be especially effective.

john maxwell

Elites?

COUNCILLOR Howard 'Fatty' Noble thinks that the Playhouse caters only to an intellectual elite. A brief glance at their programme over the next few weeks shows how wrong he is.

Running until June 24th is "The Devil's Cut", a children's play set in 1800 when the canals were being cut. It's performed by the Roundabout Company, that highly successful

branch which takes drama out to schools etc.

Also playing until June 24th is "Kiss me Kate", the old favourite of stage and screen. With the music and lyrics of Cole Porter, enjoying it can hardly be restricted to the 'intellectuals'. This is followed by Mike Stott's "Funny Peculiar", another play which has proved popular up and down the country.

On top of this are the Festival events which will take place at the Playhouse. And, on Sun 25th of June at 8pm, there is the Sanskritic Festival of the Arts of India which should be very interesting.

The Voice has often criticised the Playhouse for its choice of plays, and argued the need for more socially committed drama. This would be the last thing which 'Fatty' would like to see.

Given the political realities of Nottingham, the Playhouse has struck a reasonable balance between the needs of different groups - those who want a 'night out', those who want 'political theatre' a la Trevor Griffiths etc.

Let's hope that Noble gets the raspberry he deserves.

david smith

"Globus" by David Gould, from an exhibition at the Midland Group Gallery. Begins July 1st.

