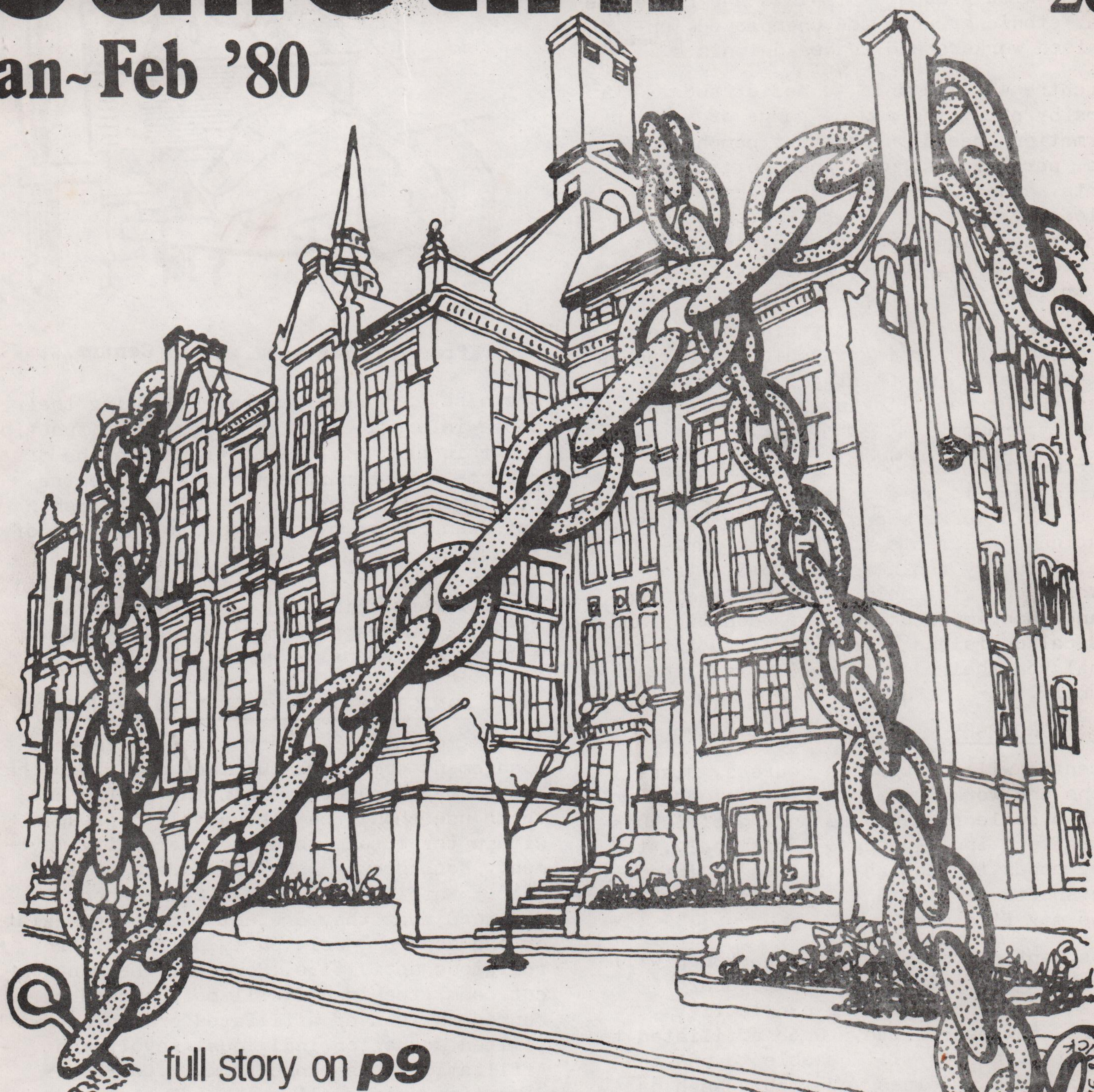


# nottingham bulletin.

No. 5

20p

Jan~Feb '80



full story on **p9**

**CLAREMONT SCHOOL SAVED!**

New Technology = Big Brother? • Housing Cuts in Nottm. • Job Loss in Textiles

118 Workshop at Home & Abroad • Nuclear Power & Political Action

Steel in E. Midlands • New Technology & Women • Lots More Besides!



# 118 WORKSHOP AT HOME...

A new centre called the 118 Workshop has been established at 118 Mansfield Road to make available research, information and printing facilities to Nottingham's community groups and trade unions. The 118 Workshop will be staffed by 3 full time workers who, apart from running the centre will concentrate on issues of poverty, health and safety at work, employment and the local economy and public services. The centre aims to work on these issues in close co-operation with groups of tenants and residents women, ethnic groups, the unemployed, unorganised workers and trades unionists.

The centre will be able to assist such groups by providing a wide range of information based on relevant pamphlets, books, periodicals, newspaper cuttings, reports, council minutes and documents for local groups to refer to, to use in their campaigns and to keep themselves informed of developments in their area of work or interest.

The centre will also be offering assistance to groups in developing campaigns strategies and organisation by sharing information and experience and linking work place and community groups.

Background research on problems and issues which affect local people will be undertaken to help workers and community groups investigate the facts about their workplace, industry and neighbourhood. Also 118 Workshop will help to assess the significance and implications of economic and political decisions (from local to international) on their jobs, services and their community.

## COURSES

The centre will be running courses, discussions and workshops as a means of developing a collective understanding of issues which affect local groups. Additionally, the centre hopes to publish a series of information sheets on relevant local issues which groups may find useful.

Groups wanting to use the 118 Workshop will be encouraged to acquire the necessary skills for producing their own leaflets, posters, newspapers etc. Once affiliated to the centre, groups will be able to use the wide range of machinery available such as duplicators, typewriters, printing presses and so on, with one of the 118 Workshop workers available to offer instruction and assistance as necessary.

## CENTRE NOT A NEW IDEA

The centre is not an entirely new idea. Since 1977, a resources centre for community groups has existed, and a research and information service called Nottingham Workshop has been operating since 1978, working mainly with trades unions. Now these two



## **After a day's work at the Centre.....**

organisations have merged reflecting their close informal links and overlap of function. But this has only been after 18 months of extreme hardship both for the 118 Centre itself and its user groups. This hardship has been caused by a desperate shortage of funds which meant poor and inadequate provision of facilities. Now the situation is different. Time and money exists to offer resources of a better quality and of a more comprehensive range.

## MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABLE TO GROUPS

At the moment 118 Workshop has an interim management committee but they are clear that both the resources within the centre and their use should be accountable to groups within the local labour and community movement. Both groups and individuals will be able to affiliate to the 118 Workshop provided that they are not racist or sexist, or engaged in purely party political or religious activities. However, the management committee itself will be composed of representatives of affiliated groups but with limited scope for individual involvement. Affiliation fees range from £3 to £50 depending upon applicants resources and size.

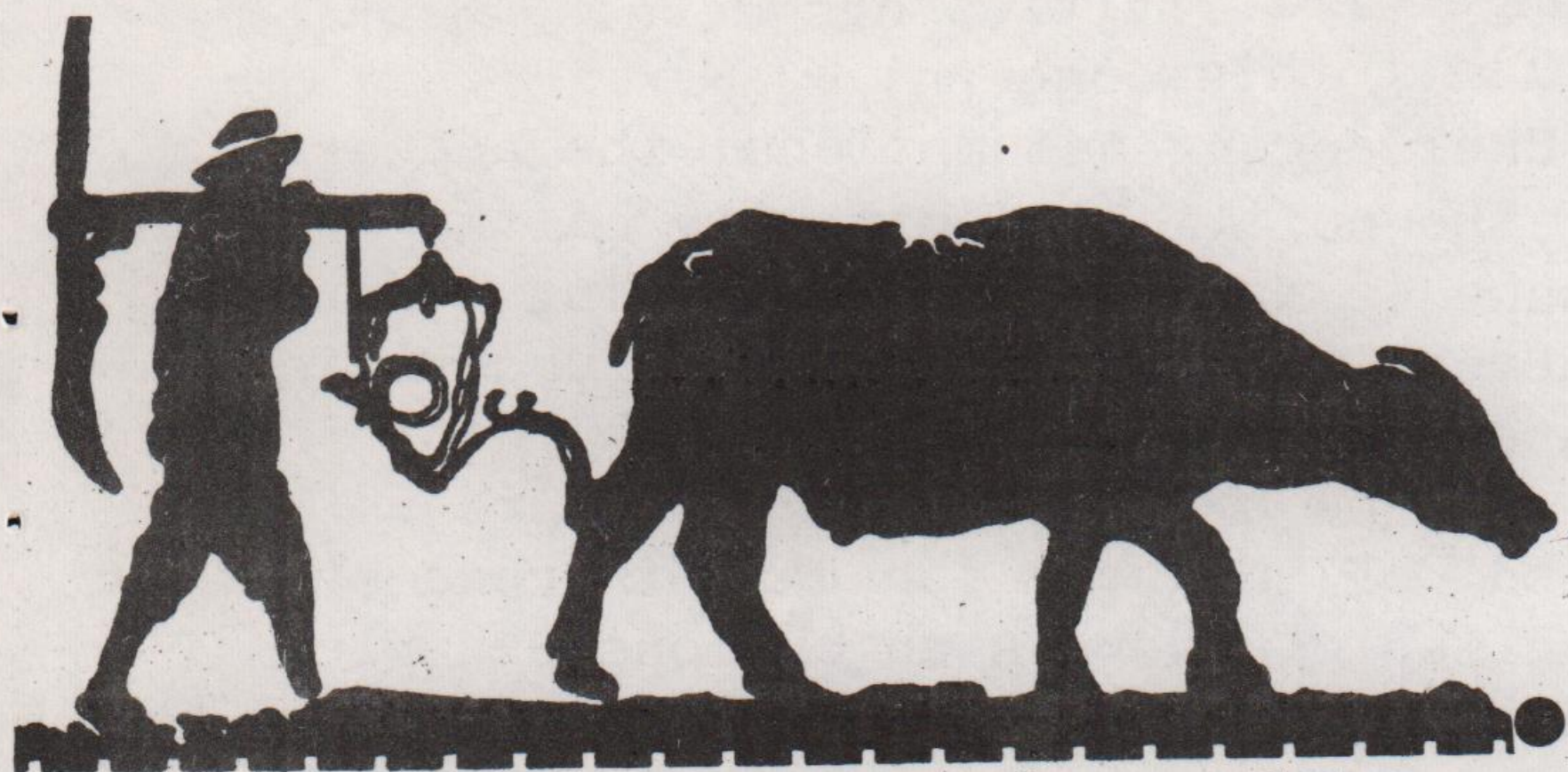
Though funding until 1983 seems secure 118 Workshop are keen to develop alternative sources of funding. War on Want cannot fund all our activities and besides we wish ultimately to become self-supporting. Such alternative sources might be in the labour movement or what is known as the 'Network' with which the 118 Workshop is associated. This is a group of similar research and resource centres which is being developed



at the moment. The Network will be looking for funding possibly at home and abroad, possibly on the basis of inter-project work. For the present however, additional income from teaching fees, affiliations, research commissions, student placement fees and

sales of publications will have to be found.

If you want to apply for affiliation or want more details, why not drop into 118 Workshop (118 Mansfield Road) or ring Nottingham 582369.



## ...AND ABROAD

From the start the 118 Workshop intends to develop and international and Third World perspective to its work. The reasons for this are clear. The economic and political forces shaping the Nottingham scene are international in scope. There are transnational firms operating in Nottingham like Boots, Raleighs (Tube Investments), Plessey, and Players (Imperial Group) which view this area as just one part of their global operations. Equally these firms are affected by the activities of other transnationals, the decisions of overseas governments, and developments in international markets. Clearly these will have implications for employment and the local economy in Nottingham. So, whether we produce, what we produce, how it is produced, ~~how~~ it is marketed, how the profits are used all pose questions as relevant to our own door step as to the global village.

118 Workshop intends to explore these aspects in a number of ways. Firstly within the centre itself a room will be devoted to promoting and displaying information about what is happening in the Third World and the effect of local and national factors have on the Third World.

Local firms will be looked at to assess their contribution to Third World development and underdevelopment. For example, Boots sell a pain killer (Phenacitin) in India that is banned as unsafe in this country. Meetings and day schools will be organised on these sort of issues.

118 Workshop itself will attempt to establish links with organisations similar to itself overseas and will also encourage local groups of workers and residents to establish international links in order to share information and experience. 118 Workshop will be able to help with contacts, background information, translations and so on.

War on Want provides financial backing to the 118 Workshop. War on Wants concern is to fight poverty, poor health and distress, primarily in the Third World but they are aware that such conditions exist in this country as well. It is for this reason that

War on Want are supporting the 118 Workshop.

If you have any ideas as to how we might usefully take up Third World issues or want more information contact us on Nottingham 582369.

## ABOUT NOTTINGHAM BULLETIN

This is the first Nottingham Bulletin of 1980. It is produced jointly by the Nottm Trades Union Council, the Cuts Committee and the 118 Workshop. It is open to contributions and the individual articles do not necessarily reflect the views of any of the above groups. If the information or ideas important to you are not here then get in touch. Either write and article, supply us with information or send a letter.

**deadlines 21st March**

### CHANGING THIS BULLETIN

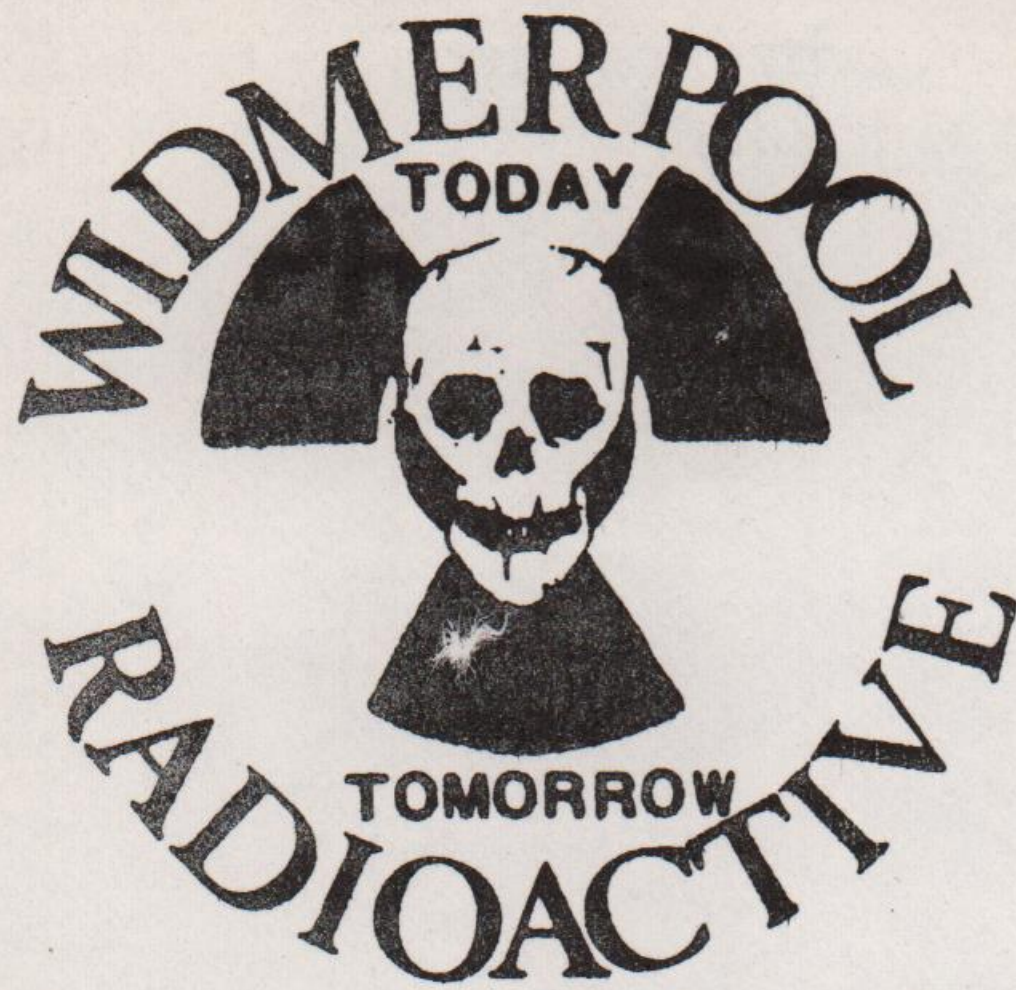
You may have noticed a change in format this time. The Editorial Group wants to see the Bulletin become more informative, easier to read and more able to serve the activities of its readers. Please contribute.

### HELP WITH NOTTINGHAM BULLETIN

Please write for, supply information to, help produce AND SELL THE BULLETIN. Either phone or write in.



# Nuclear Power and Political Action



The emergence in Nottingham of one more group in the 'environmentalist' camp might be seen as a fairly unremarkable event, at least from a broader social or political perspective. But the concern of the Nottm Safe Energy Group over its first 12 months has embraced far more than the 'tangible' (though considerable) threats that the development of nuclear power poses to the health, safety and ultimately to the existence of large population groups throughout the world.

There is a well documented<sup>2</sup> tendency in late capitalism for issues concerning the exploitation and distribution of resources to be de-politicised - that is, to be treated as purely technical issues which concern only well qualified experts rather than as explicit political choices inseparable from the values and interests of particular social groups. Clearly this process of mystification typifies the nuclear power issue, and this leads to potential problems for any group which sets out to oppose the industry. However, we have been increasingly concerned to relocate the issue within broader political and economic structures. The State's growing commitment to nuclear power is only explicable in terms of the overall needs and development of capitalism with all the social contradictions that that implies.<sup>3</sup> Thus a group such as ours must work within a wider framework of political action than is traditional amongst 'environmentalist' groups. We do not therefore oppose nuclear power solely in terms of its technical irrationality (this is largely to accept the state's choice of battleground) but also in terms of its political irrationality - that is it is undemocratic, centralist, leads to a concentration of resources and power, and legitimises the erosion of liberty in the interests of 'security'.

The role of a pressure group operating within a pluralist framework is obviously suspect, given the nature of the interests underlying the nuclear industry. Though it would be mis-

leading to suggest that any consensus is emerging within the Safe Energy Group as to what form a politically relevant role should take (nor is any rigid consensus sought), a range of activities has developed which reflect this concern:

- Challenging assumptions: the appearance of the political neutrality of the nuclear issue is maintained by treating certain factors (closely related to underlying interests) as 'givens' and therefore beyond the scope of the debate - the projected 'need' of industry for vast increases in available power is an obvious example. At the level of the local political scene, proposed nuclear installations are often sold to local people on the grounds that they will benefit the local economy. This assumption is rarely challenged, though considerable evidence exists to indicate its dubious validity.<sup>4</sup> One of our prime tasks must be to collect and use such evidence in a continual attempt to 'expose' the assumptions on which the unuclear case rests, thereby making explicit the political choices involved.

- Disseminating basic knowledge; trying to raise the level of awareness of nuclear issues through the media, leafletting, street theatre and so on.

- 'Consciousness raising' amongst ourselves by increasing our own level of knowledge. We have organised regular workshops meetings on different aspects of nuclear power and its implications.

- Direct Action; for example, our participation in the occupation of the Torness site in May. We will also be heavily committed to fighting the proposal to bury nuclear waste at Widmerpool.

The group is always receptive to new ideas and to criticism. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday in every month at 8pm in

*Environmental Factshop Goosegate*, and new people are very welcome. For further information contact Ouroboros, Mansfield Road (Tel. 49016)

Peter Totterdill (who is solely responsible for these views, which are not necessarily shared by anyone else in the group).

<sup>1</sup> See, for example, Ian Breach Windsale Fallout, Penguin (1978).<sup>2</sup> E.g. Jurgen Habermass Legitimation Crisis, Heinemann (1976).<sup>3</sup> David Elliott The Politics of Nuclear Power, Pluto (1978).<sup>4</sup> Economist Intelligence Unit, Employment Consequences of Major Construction Work in North Wales (1972)

## STOP PRESS

T.U.C. DAY OF ACTION - WEDNESDAY 14th MAY. T.U.COUNCIL HAS BOOKED THE MARKET SQUARE FOR A MASS RALLY AT LUNCH TIME.



# HOUSING CUTS IN NOTTINGHAM

The Tories are committed to cutting spending on housing, attacking the council house system and promoting owner occupation. Housing is an area bearing the brunt of the cuts.

## HOUSEBUILDING SLASHED

The council housebuilding programme has been reduced to a trickle, from the 2358 new houses in 1976 to 235 planned for 1980. Denis Healey cut the national programme to the lowest level since the war; his Tory successors have chopped yet more off housing - £268m this year and £280m next year. The Labour council is not putting up strong resistance - it's applied for only £4m of government funds for housebuilding (Compare 1976, when £31m was given for this).

Improvements in existing houses are meant to be an alternative to new housebuilding, yet only a third of the 14,900 council houses that need renovation are to be tackled in the next five years.

## WORSE REPAIR STANDARDS

The Direct Labour Force was savaged by the last Tory Council and its still nearly 40% down in strength from four years ago. The number of council houses repairs waiting to be done is triple the number four years ago; the current figure is some 15,000. And a new bill against direct labour organisations will require them to be run for profit instead of servicing needs and also give some of their work to private contractors.

## ATTACKS ON COUNCIL TENANTS

The present council's plans for selling 600 council houses a year mean longer waiting lists and transfer lists, a poorer choice of houses and losses to the public purse. Sales are part of the drive by both parties, but especially the Tories, towards owner occupation at the expense of the council housing system. The new Housing Bill will extend this by forcing councils to sell, at discount, to tenants who want to buy - even if the council doesn't want to sell.

## RENT INCREASES ON THE WAY

The government wants council house rents to rise by £1.50 this coming year. At the same time tax relief on mortgages for owner occupation has gone up to £1500m - making

it equal to the public housing subsidy, which the Tories intend to cut. Further, the rise in interest rates in November will cost councils more than the same amount of building work - including that done in the past and still being paid for.

## TIME TO FIGHT BACK

The Tories have the offensive - at the moment. Their measures will increase the waiting list (8,000+), the transfer list (3,400+), the extent of overcrowding (1,800 recognised cases) and the general decay of housing standards. Their present neglect can be expected to lead to large clearance programmes being necessary later in the 1980s.

It's in the interests of tenants, community groups and the labour movement alike to link up effectively to halt this onslaught. A major task is to ensure that the Labour council doesn't find itself implementing the Tories cuts for them. The pressure needed to do this will require organisation.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- \* Discuss these cuts at your next trades union branch, tenants association, community group meeting and plan your action.
- \* Pass motions and call for the Labour council to refuse to implement these cuts.
- \* Publicize the effects locally through leaflets, community newspapers, etc.
- \* Come to a joint tenants group, trades council, public union conference on action to fight the housing cuts to be sponsored by the Cuts Committee in February.
- \* Send delegates to a national conference on "Housing: Cuts - Crisis - Fightback" in Manchester on Saturday Feb 23rd.
- \* Support your local tenants association and support the reformation of the Federation of Tenants Associations.
- \* Specific demands to the city council:
  - 1) End all council house sales now. Refuse to implement Tory government policy to force sales.
  - 2) Renew the council housebuilding programme
  - 3) A more vigorous approach to building up the Direct Works Department. Oppose Tory government attacks of Direct Works.
- \* Become involved in the Cuts Committee.

## a SMALL VICTORY

As we all know, cuts are often carried out through so-called 'natural wastage' - when someone leaves the job is left unfilled and those around have to pull in the extra work, either for free or maybe a bit of bonus.

This very thing was threatened among the cleaning staff at the Polytechnic late

in January. One woman was moved - nothing said - then it became clear that she was not to be replaced. On hearing this the NUPE Shop Steward put it to the supervisor that the extra corridors would stay dirty unless the vacancy was filled.

VICTORY. The following Monday the vacant post was filled.

KV.



# NEW TECHNOLOGY

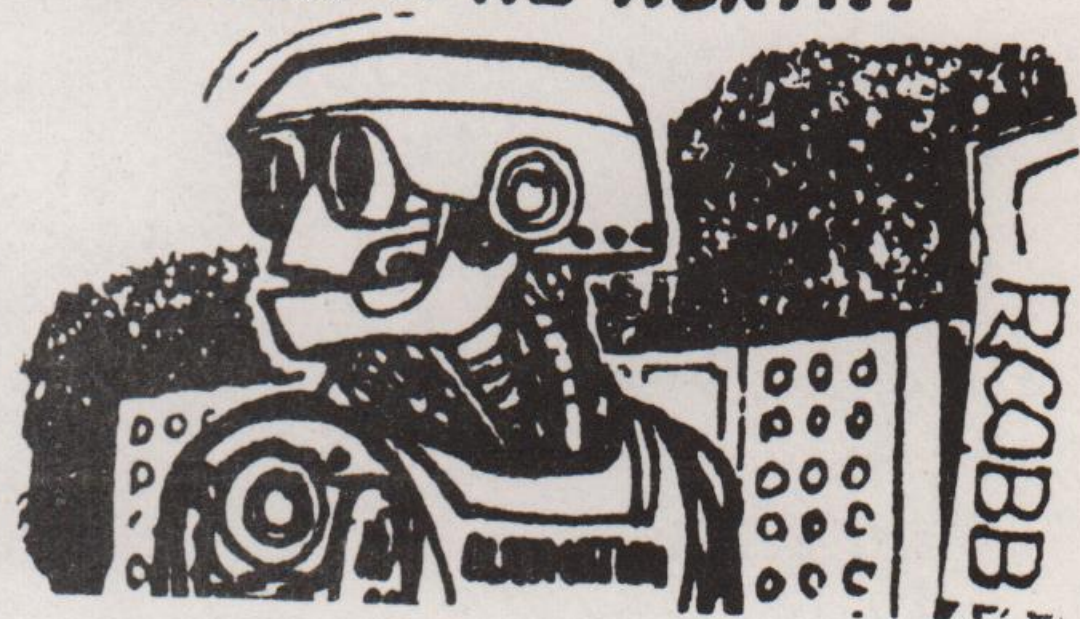
## the big brother implications

The micro-processor, the tiny computers that now cost considerably less than the hire of a workers time for a week, are information processors and are also linked to electronic memories. In this respect they are analogous to human brains. Human brains however can respond to an infinitely growing process and variety of stimuli and sources and can when they have the knowledge, make choices. Put in another way, human beings can, when they have knowledge, be free. No micro-processor can make choices in new situations - it can only do what it has been programmed to do with the information that has been supplied to it. However a micro-processor can be programmed to control the boring repetitive and unchanging work, involving no choices and no freedom that is the lot of most working people in our society. This is why it is a threat to jobs - in all work except free work. In this sense micro-processors could free us from unfree work. But they can also enslave us.

### REPRESSIVE TECHNOLOGIES

As we have seen in previous issues of Nottingham Bulletin an enormous amount of work will soon be done at and between computer terminals in offices, factories, shops, warehouses and banks. Since it is not possible for each individual enterprise to develop its own telecoms network to link these up the information will go through a common system - whether this be owned by the state or by giant transnational corporations like I.B.M. (I.B.M. is already putting up its own communications satellites) This in turn means that the controllers of the system can have unprecedented information about any individual should they seek it. While shopping, having passed through a computerised check-out system that automatically debits my bank account it would be possible for an eavesdropping state agency to get a record of every item of my purchases. The police could ask the County Libraries Computer for a read out of all the books that I had borrowed in the last few years and thus get a good indication of my interests and so on. We can be super-paranoid and take the whole thing much further into a possible future. Everyone could be fitted with an electronically coded identity card and they would have to keep them with these at all time. The Central Police Computer could not only know where one was at all times but a warning could be sounded at police headquarters whenever any suspected 'subversives' come within a certain geographical proximity to one another.

OH...HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?—  
THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION  
IS OVER... WE WON....



### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

If this seems like the ravings of a super-paranoid it is necessary to consider the following facts. According to a recent article in the New Statesman the Police National Computer at Hendon can already link details of 3.8 million people recorded to lists of known associates. The stolen/suspect vehicles file contains "details of association with an organisation political or otherwise when a police officer judges this relevant". There is also the case of a project to computerise the intelligence system of the Thames valley police force which has a capacity to cover 10% of the Thames valley population.

The sort of thing that might develop is shown in a more advanced form in Saudi Arabia. Here a computer subsidiary of BP has recently sold a computer system to the General Intelligence Department there. "Officials of the little known General Intelligence Department will make use of the system. As they switch on their video screens they will be greeted by the message 'In the name of Allah the Merciful, the Benificent - Welcome'. They will then obtain access to entirely secular records of the political and business activities of potentially a million people in Saudi Arabia and abroad. They will also be able to summon 'Black lists' and 'Surveillance Lists' of foreign and Saudi citizens, and take appropriate actions, including harassment, arrest, covert surveillance and interrogation." (Article in the New Statesman 23rd March 1979).

We might ask in passing why Britain has got an edge in developing these new systems. The reason is that the conflict in Northern Ireland has given the British state and manufacturers a lot of experience and information about techniques of mass computerised surveillance. The longer British troops and security forces remain in Northern Ireland the more experience and knowledge they will get.



### INDUSTRIAL EXAMPLES

Is it, moreover, superparanoid to suggest the state and employers could keep a minute by minute surveillance of workers? Consider the following that applies at the General Motors Oklahoma City Plant. Here a mini-computer reports to a central computer which then keeps a continuous record and reports to the foreman on a Visual Display Unit and also to higher management the following:

1. When the worker punches in and out;
2. When the worker starts his operation;
3. Minute by minute how fast or how slow the worker is running the operation;
4. Any - time the worker stops work for more than 2 minutes;
5. Whenever the worker takes a break;
6. Whenever the worker reports back late from lunch.

This system is no different from having the foreman stand over the worker for every second of the working day. The foreman then follows the instructions of the computer on whether to discipline out of line workers.

### UNDERMINING TRADES UNION STRENGTH

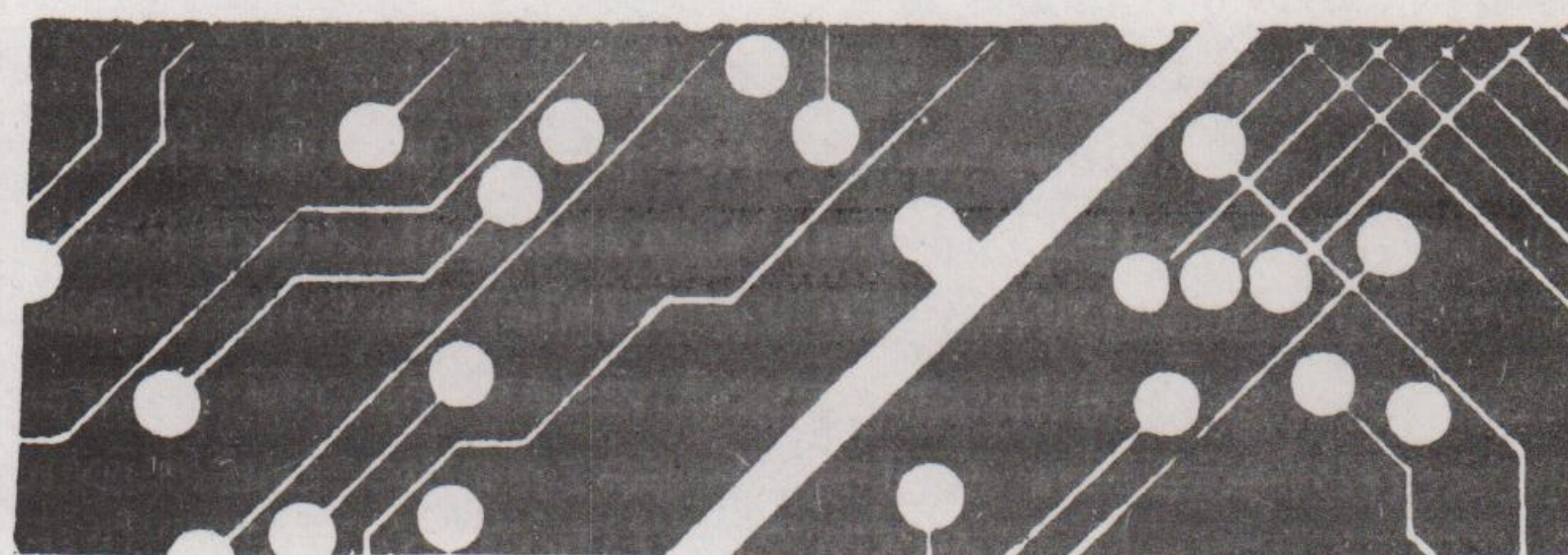
This is not to suggest that this whole system will be introduced all at once in its entirety. Naturally people would resist such a thing. However, the process is a piecemeal one, guided by no-body except the logic of market forces, combined with the growing social tension and unrest caused by economic crisis, poverty, unemployment and the like, that New Technology could add its own contribution to..

However, at the end of this piecemeal, but global process we shall find that the pattern of work organisation will have changed enormously - they will have become geographically decentralised and separated. With micro-electronic terminals connected via the telecoms system those who keep their jobs will be working in large part at vast distances away from the processes of physical production and each other since there are possibilities of instantaneous audio-visual communication and computer data

link ups with each other. This will lead to profound changes in the spatial and regional patterns of social organisation and could lead to massive exoduses of the remaining workers to their country retreats, a big decline in business travel to be replaced by teleconferencing etc. Many futurologists have already talked of a massive expansion of homeworking. This enables the employers to throw onto the workers the overheads of heat and light and all the rest that are currently paid for by the employers. IT COULD ALSO COMPLETELY ATOMISE THE WORKFORCE THAT WOULD NO LONGER BE GATHERED GEOGRAPHICALLY IN ONE PLACE WITH GATES THAT THEY COULD PICKET. CONTACT WOULD HAVE TO BE VIA THE TELECOMS NETWORK THAT WOULD BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE EMPLOYERS AND THE STATE. AS ANYONE WHO HAS STUDIED HOMEWORKERS KNOWS THEY ARE INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT TO ORGANISE.

If this seems to pessimistic a point on which to end an article it should be pointed out that an alternative workers strategy and use of New Technology is possible that would be truly liberating and enhance considerably democratic control of the economy and society. This will be dealt with in an article in the next issue of Nottingham Bulletin. In addition there will be a WEA and 118 Workshop Day school on March 29th at the Queens Walk Community Centre to discuss just these alternatives. For further details contact 118 Workshop. Tel 582369

B.D.



## Don't Cut Staffing Levels

Members of the CPSA at Basford's Unemployment Benefit Office (Croft Close) were recently told that JUVOS, a new computer-based information-pooling system was to be introduced.

The 'Big Brother is Watching You' implications were considered but since JUVOS doesn't demand any new information the main issue was - 'would they get any additional staff?'.

Nearly every Public Sector management is trying to cutback on staff and/or increasing the workload at the moment so, Basford CPSA insisted that it would be 'No to JUVOS unless more staff were provided.'. After some argument, the union won their demand.

All well and good until the Steel Strike began. The extra staff were shipped up to Ilkeston to cope with claims coming out of the dispute at Stanton and Stavelly.

So, the union put JUVOS back on ice again awaiting the necessary extra staff and a strike was threatened. Management soon came round, supplying two more workers and promising another two.

Basford's UBO union have made it clear that manning levels mustn't be allowed to drop,. Which goes to show that with vigilance and organisation the effect of the cuts can be fought.

K.V.



# EILEEN CROSBIE: SUSPENSION FOR DEFENDING EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

Children in danger....

A Nottinghamshire Nursery Teacher, Mrs Eileen Crosbie, was suspended on Thursday 10th January, 1980 for refusing to work normally - or that's what her suspension letter said. In fact she had said way back in October last year that she was concerned about the proposals for the Nursery children in her care. Her report to the Head Teacher and Managers, asked that the DES recommended ratio of 1:13 ( para 13 - circular 2/73 ), be retained and that children be not admitted if it meant that the ratio was to be worsened. The report was ignored.

In the Education Budget the County Council decided to reduce the number of nursery nurses in many units and redeploy or sack 136 of them. Robert Mellors School, with a 40 place unit, originally had 2 Nursery nurses and one teacher, with a 1:13 ratio. They now have 1 teacher and 1 nursery nurse and a ratio of 1:20, as a result of the County Council's attempt to save money.

Mrs. Crosbie the Nursery Teacher, with the full support of the N.U.T., refused to teach more than the original 1:13 and was suspended.

The N.U.T. agrees with Mrs. Crosbie in feeling that:-

She cannot do her job safely and children will be at risk.  
She cannot fulfill her Educational role.  
She cannot accept the position of being just a childminder.

The N.U.T. would like to see the Local Education Authority re-instate the displaced Nursery Nurses, but if they will not do this, then we feel there must be a corresponding reduction in the number of pupils remaining in Nurseries, in fairness to the remaining staff, and so that the remaining children will continue to receive a proper Nursery Education.

## PROTEST MEETING

On Wednesday 23rd January 2000 teachers stopped work to attend a massive protest meeting in defense of Eileen Crosbie. Speakers from the NUT attacked the local authority for refusing to step down. After 20 approaches at many different levels the Authority are not willing to move one inch. They stood by their irresponsible stand that Mrs Crosbie should teach with a ratio of 1:20 and clearly intended it to be a test case. Mrs Minkley has defended this by stating that this was the situation in Scotland but union sources soon discovered the truth was that the Scottish ratio was 20 children to 1 Nursery Teacher AND one Nursery Assistant (i.e. 1:10!)

Mrs Crosbie and parents at Robert Mellors know what the 1:20 ratio means. In the 3 days beginning this term, under this ratio, the rate, reported in the accident book had gone up by 50% on the whole previous term. This is what a cut in nursery staff means.

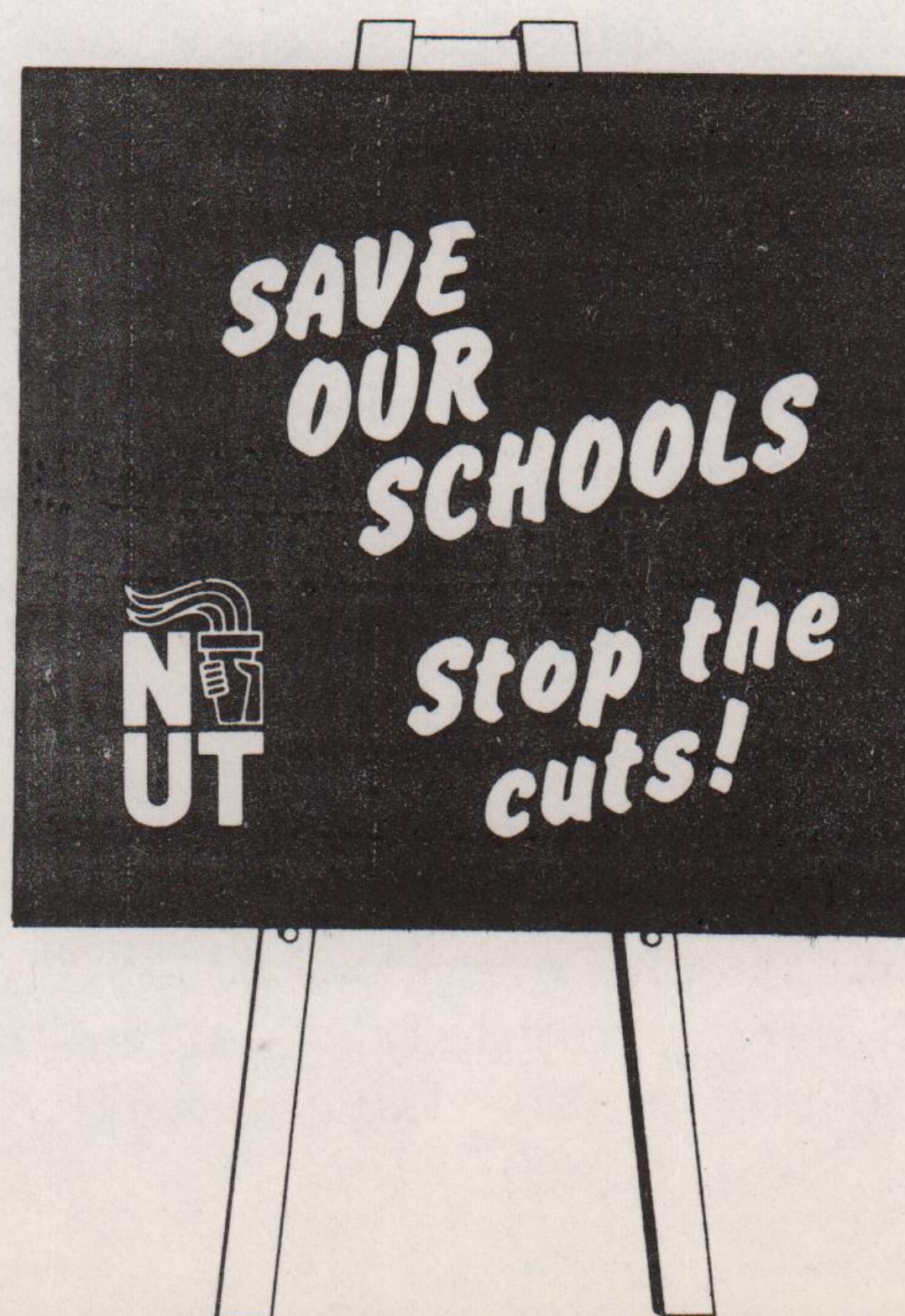
The NUT protest meeting was also supported by NUPE and NALGO. NUPE official, Tony Morris, stated that all other public sector unions were behind the NUT's stand. Parents in Arnold were also praised for supporting the staff at Robert Mellors. This aspect of the fight is crucial, said speaker after speaker.

The 2000 teachers voted unanimously to support Mrs. Crosbie and the striking teachers at Robert Mellors school and are now balloting to take part in 3 and 10 day strikes if the Authority refuses to step down. On Tuesday 29th January, 5 schools in the area are to on a 3 day strike, and with feeling running high, a policy of 'rolling strikes' is gaining large support. This policy aims at showing support for Mrs. Crosbie, a determination to stop the erosion of nursery education throughout the County, and a sharing of the inevitable loss in children's education.

The NUT appeal for support from all parents and other trade unionists. The stand of Mrs. Crosbie and the action which the NUT has been forced to take is to defend nursery education in the whole County. We stand for the maintenance of a safe educationally viable ratio of 1:13, and the expansion of nursery facilities to meet the needs of all who need them.

REINSTATE EILEEN CROSBIE!  
DEFEND OUR NURSERIES!

R. Tanner(NUT).





## **STOP PRESS: NOTTS' NEW PROPOSALS.**

Notts Education Authority have called 2 meetings, one with the NUT and the other with all of the public sector union involved to discuss nursery policy. The NUT have, for now at least, suspended industrial action as a gesture of good will. At the second meeting the authority put forward a number of possibilities. The first, which is unlikely, is to increase again the number of nursery assistants. The second would be to reduce the number of children attending nursery education to restore the 1:13 ratio. The third option is

to have children, on a rota, attending for less than 5 days a week in such a way as to restore the 1:13 ratio. The NUT have said that if they are not satisfied with the authority's eventual decision they will take action and over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of schools have voted to strike if necessary. Mrs Crosbie meanwhile has said that if the 1:13 ratio is re-established she is prepared to resume work and, as her suspension is for refusing to obey her head's instructions her suspension would be terminated.

# **Claremont Stays by Mobilising the Whole Community**

Claremont Secondary School will stay. That's the victorious outcome of two months of energetic protest. And there's no doubt it was public pressure that reversed the County Education Committee's decision. Taking time in her Chairman's Report to the Thursday 14th February Committee Meeting, Cllr Caroline Minkley admitted: "It was public opinion that counted in these matters", she also said:

"I would like to pay tribute to the residents for the work they have done in providing a very excellent report on what the (Claremont) school means to them. Not only the school but also the contribution it makes to the community".

The Committee had originally decided that falling school rolls and the deteriorating condition of the building meant that Claremont's children would be transferred to Cottosmore. On discovering this, a number of small then larger public meetings launched the CLAREMEON T ACTION GROUP (CAG)

In the forefront of the local residents and parents objections was the danger to which the children would be exposed from traffic if they had to travel to Cottosmore and the disappearance of what has been seen as a community school.

How did the CAG win this campaign? "It was always important to build support in the area - our meetings were open to everyone and the major decisions were made at them" said Leo Keeley, Chairman of CAG.

Every single stop was pulled out to muster support for the campaign. POSTERS AND BADGES. No matter where you walked in Forest Fields and Hyson Green during the height of the campaign, imaginative posters looked out at you from shops and people's front ~~room~~ windows. SIGNATURES were collected, opinion was canvassed, door-to-door.

During January, CAG produced their own 'COUNTER REPORT on the proposals to close Claremont Secondary School'. This carefully examined all the factors relevant to keeping Claremont and came up with the conclusion that Claremont should stay.

CAG published the addresses of all the CCUNCILORS and the MPs concerned with the decision. Hundreds of PHONE CALLS were made and LETTERS were written.

Eventually everyone in the area backed the campaign, including the local Tory Councillors and William Whitlock, MP. While Whitlock was prepared to criticise Cottosmore School, the CAG never took an anti- Cottosmore position.

The most remarkable event during the campaign was the Demonstration on Jan 12th. Over 200 hundred people most of whom had never been on any kind of demonstration before, made their way from the school to the city centre. The banners and placards caught the eye and got the point over without a doubt.

### WHAT NOW?

Perhaps now the campaign is won, everyone concerned can sit back and relax. Not so! It seems that a community spirit has developed whilst meeting the day to day demands of the campaign. Many local residents and parents, having felt that standing up in large numbers can have an effect, are prepared to get involved in new directions. The best of luck to them.

CAG wishes to thank everybody who took part.

K.V.



# WEA

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION (Nottingham Branch)

## INDUSTRIAL GROUP

16 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham NG1 4GF

Tel. Nottingham 45162

### WORKSHOP on SATURDAY

## 29 March 2-5pm

Queens Walk Community Centre

(See Map Overleaf).

WOLLATON HALL  
NATURAL HISTORY  
MUSEUM -  
REOPENED  
A.D. 2050

# THE CHIPS ARE DOWN!

What will it mean?

What can we do?

## MICROTECHNOLOGY

Speakers:

- ★ JANE BARKER: centre for alternative industrial & technological systems
- ★ ALAN MARSHALL: AUEW TASS plessey nottingham
- ★ HILARY WAINWRIGHT: research worker, lucas aerospace combine shop stewards committee

Playgroup available

FEE 80p

### Plus

**Play on Microtechnology by  
NORTH WEST SPANNER  
THEATRE Co.**

8pm start



tear off

TO: FRANK WALTER, WEA DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, 16 SHAKESPEARE STREET, NOTTINGHAM  
TELEPHONE 45162

WILL YOU PLEASE RESERVE ME ....PLACES FOR THE COURSE AS ABOVE.

NAME.....

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

N.B. PLEASE RETURN BY WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH.



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## T.U.C. INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

### CAMPAIGN FOR A TUC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME ACCOUNTABLE TO THE MEMBERSHIP.

This campaign is being launched by trade unionists to demand of the TUC that they inform their membership just how they are spending our money in their international work.

Allegations have been made that, in some cases, funds have been used to oppose real and representative workers' movements overseas. These funds are swelled by our union dues. There is also well-founded concern about the Foreign Office's links with the TUC's international department.

So far, the TUC has failed to make a detailed reply to these various charges. But a more serious cause for concern to rank and file trade unionists is that the TUC has refused, so far, to make its

international work accountable to the membership.

At present, the TUC's overseas bill amounts to about £600,000 a year, including an annual £180,000 from the Foreign Office. No details are provided to the membership about who receives this cash and for what purpose.

This secrecy makes impossible even the idea of a workers' international solidarity. At the same time, the global recession, consequent unemployment and erosion of trade union rights both at home and elsewhere makes it more imperative than ever that workers link up across frontiers.

For further information, contact:-  
DON THOMPSON, 1 Cambridge Terrace, London  
N.W.1. tel: (01) 935 5462.

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## The Axe Doesn't Cut

One of the Tory election promises was to reduce the size of the Civil Service and the axing of 40,000 jobs with savings in staff costs of £212 million was recently announced. These cuts were welcomed by the Tory press as being the first step towards drastically reducing the number of "faceless, well-heeled bureaucrats" and making a substantial reduction in public expenditure.

In fact, the cuts will only effect the modestly-paid lower grades and will seriously reduce services. It can be seen, for instance, that whilst there are no cuts in

defense or law and order spending there will be far fewer resources for Job Centres and SkillCentres. The Tory press have also overlooked the fact that a large part (estimated at £60 million) of the savings in staff costs will be lost because the work will be put out to private contractors.

Various administrative measures have been introduced to cut staff and therefore reduce Government spending but some of these measures are purely cosmetic exercises. One minor administrative change in local Income Tax Office procedures will 'save' 110 clerical jobs and result in a net loss of £1.6 million.

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## Good Bye To the Local Post Office

If pensions were only paid fortnightly and family allowances monthly it would cause hardship for those receiving them and might lead to fewer local Post Offices

The Federation of Sub-Postmasters are lobbying their M.P.s in protest against this proposal since the reduction in the number of dockets processed would lead to a loss of business and the eventual close down of some sub-post offices. Redundancies would certainly be on the cards.

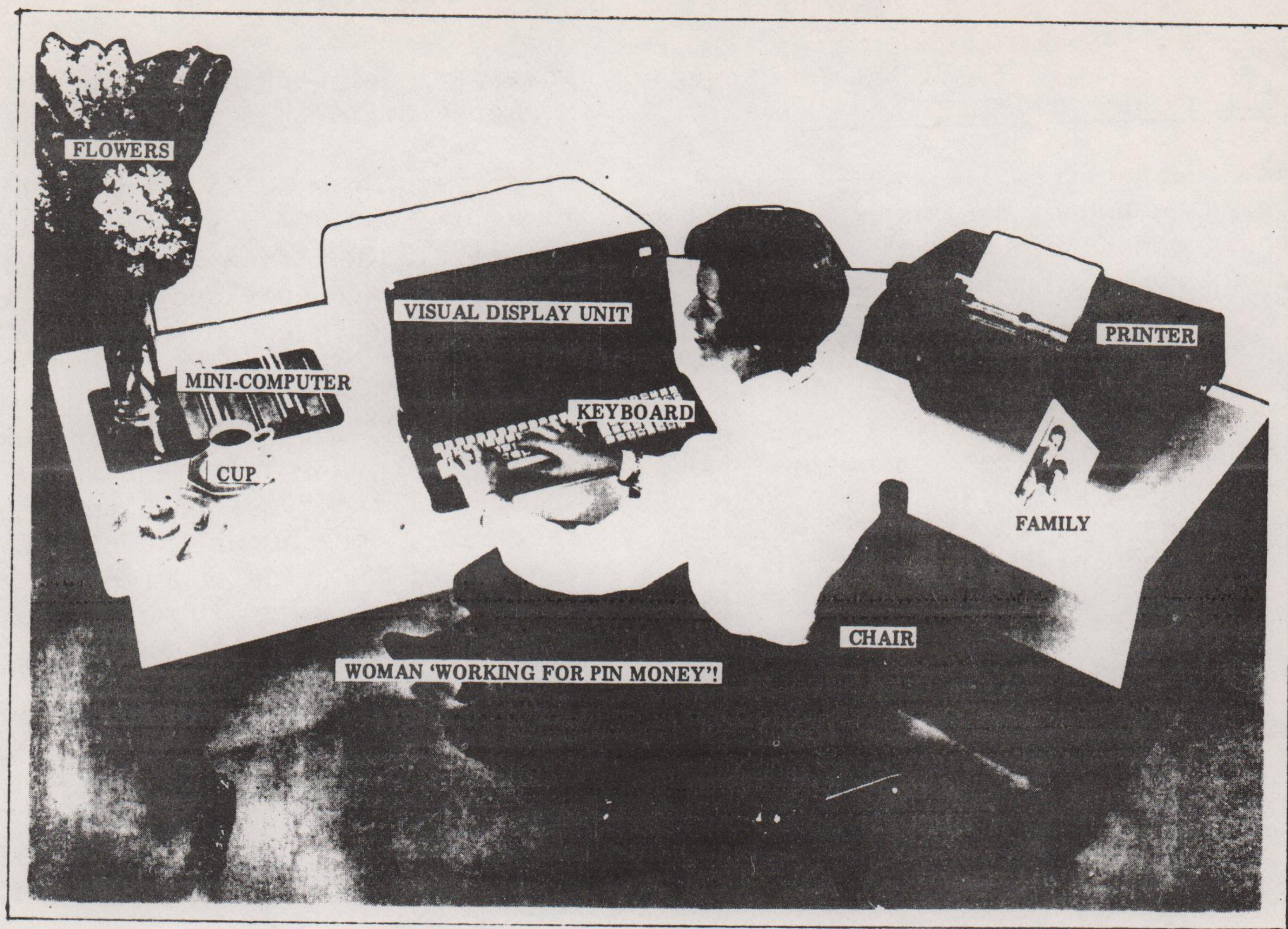
If the government do bring in this scheme there could be considerable hardship caused to the old people and single parents who would "rather be hard up two days a week than four days a fortnight" to quote one old lady. It would mean more travelling to the fewer post offices and ~~ok~~ once you're there a poorer service.

Look out for the Sub-Postmasters petition and write to your local M.P.

K.V.



# NEW TECHNOLOGY & WOMEN



## NEW TECHNOLOGY & WOMEN'S WORK.

Yorkshire & Humberside Socialist Feminist group recently held a conference on Women and New Technology, and 2 of the group, Ursula Hows and Jude Stoddart, wrote a paper which considered why especially N.T. affected women. Their conclusions were as follows:-

### Because of the sort of jobs we have:

**SERVICE SECTOR:** In both public and private services, the vast majority of people doing other people's housework are women - in hospitals, nurseries, hotels, schools; cooking, cleaning and caring. Women are also the main processors of information - in shops, offices, banks, local and central government. Many of these areas are already being directly - and drastically - affected by new technology e.g. word processing is being introduced in offices; automatic checkouts in supermarkets; 'cashpoint' machines in banks; centralised, computer controlled cooking in schools and hospitals.

**MANUFACTURING:** In manufacturing, the 'service' jobs are affected in the same way but women are also affected by changes in the production process itself. Here, women are mainly ghettoised in the boring, repetitious, unskilled jobs which are the first targets for automation. Changes in the actual products reduce the number of components necessary - 1 electrical part can take the place of scores of mechanical ones - and cut the number of fiddly soldering and assembly jobs - also work mainly done by women.

**SKILL LOSS:** These changes mean fewer jobs for women, and higher unemployment all round. For the minority of 'skilled' women workers, the chance to use these skills will disappear. For those classified as 'unskilled' work becomes even more stressful and machine-like.

### Because we also work at home:

**DOUBLE SHIFT:** Our double responsibilities - for home and work - restrict the hours we can work, and how far we can travel to get there. New Technology brings changes in working hours (eg, 24-hour shift systems) and location of employment.

**MOBILITY:** We are moved in and out of the workforce (because we have kids, because husbands move etc.). This means we have little or no employment protection - and present Government policies are removing what little we had. Ours are the jobs that disappear with 'voluntary redundancy' and 'non-replacement' policies.

**TRADE UNIONS:** Although our record of militancy is quite as good as men's when we're given a chance, we are poorly served by unions, and badly represented within them. We don't have time to go to meetings (which are held at the wrong time); are patronised or ignored by sexist union officials, and our interests put at the bottom of lists of priorities. We are also much more likely to be working for small firms or isolated in scattered workplaces such as cafes or shops - the areas where unions can't or won't recruit. All this



makes it harder to fight back when our jobs are threatened.

CONSUMPTION: As the people mainly responsible for 'consumption work', women bear the brunt of the depersonalisation and extra work created by automation in services e.g. queueing for hours in clinics, government offices or supermarket checkouts, coping with the frustration when machines go wrong, and suffering the rudeness of unsatisfied de-skilled bureaucrats.

HOMEWORKING: Government reports predict that new technology will bring new jobs that can be done in the home e.g. using terminals linked up to central computers over GPO lines. But how much of a gain will this be for women if homeworkers remain isolated, ununionised and badly-paid, pressurised into working too fast because of the inadequate piece-rates? Do we really want the stress of having our kids around while we work, machinery cluttering up our living rooms, and the pile of work always there, waiting to be done, 24 hours a day?

#### Because of how we are educated :

CONDITIONING: Both the schooling we get and general attitudes to women in society mean that most of us know very little about science and technology. This means that we are unlikely to get the few skilled and relatively creative jobs which the new technology introduces. More importantly it means we are badly equipped to challenge the increasing domination and control of our lives by the technology and its applications, whether in the workplace (e.g. a machine recording every time you stop for a fag or a pee ) or outside it (e.g. your social security file or medical records ending up on the police computer).

#### Because economic crisis hits women hardest:

UNEMPLOYMENT: No research has been done on how women's personal lives are affected by unemployment although male unemployment is recognised as leading to increased suicide illness (mental and physical ) and other 'social problems'. A very high proportion of women are now the sole breadwinners for their families, and many who are not single parents are dependent on their wage to live above starvation level. Women form a growing proportion of the unemployed, and this will continue to rise as male workers demand that 'womens' jobs should go first'. In the past new jobs were created in the service sector for those displaced in manufacturing, but this is no longer the case as new technology decimates the service jobs.

CUTS: Cuts in public spending force women back into the home at ever increasing rates. Not only are womens' jobs lost from this sector, but the cuts also place a heavy burden on all women - looking after children, preparing school meals, caring for the sick, the elderly and the mentally ill.

MULTINATIONALS: New Technology is capitalism's answer to the crisis. It allows for a major shake out of labour and investment in new machines which can produce huge increases in productivity with a much smaller, super-productive and super-exploited workforce. To the multinationals, women are an attractive source to draw on for this new labour force - cheap, under-organised and dispensable. Already, much of the labour intensive work required for silicon chip production is done in South East Asia, where the electronics multinationals can employ young girls for as little as 40p a day. The production process is extremely hazardous, and the employment system highly authoritarian. After four years of this type of work, the eyesight deteriorates to an extent that makes women unemployable. Often, the only alternative source of income is prostitution.

#### COULD NEW TECHNOLOGY HELP BRING WOMENS LIBERATION?

The writers of the paper also consider that, as the people most directly on the receiving end of all the worst effects of the new technology, in all areas of our lives women are in the best position to develop a total picture of its likely effects. We are used to bridging the gap between the two worlds of home and outside workplace, and learned the importance of taking action on both fronts. If new technology is not to be used to erode the gains we have made and oppress us even further, it is up to us to work out the demands we want to make.

Could the technology be used to get rid of unpleasant jobs - paid or unpaid - and free us for creative lives - or would we need a different technology to liberate us?

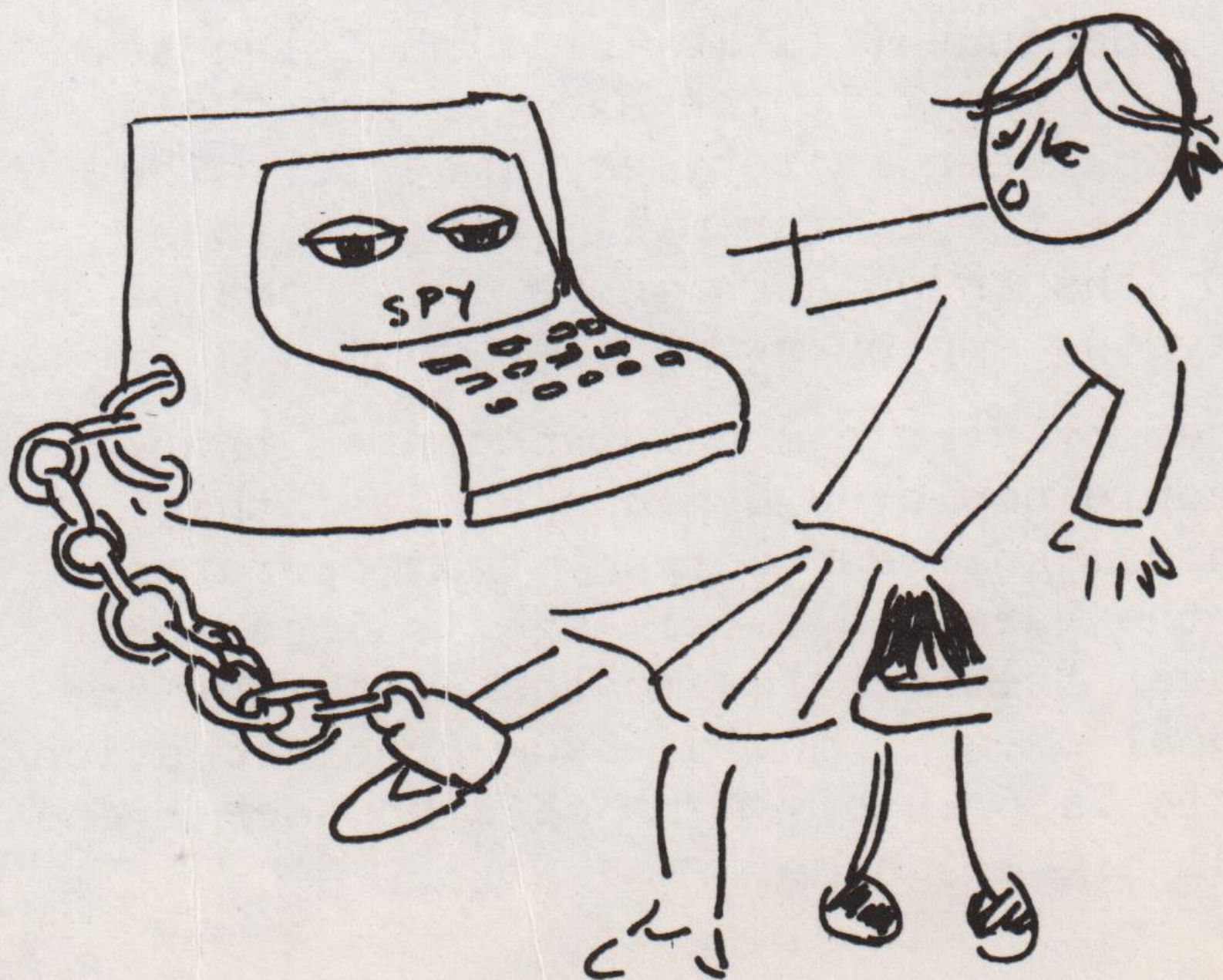
How should we organise to take action at work, in the community and with other women?

What should our demands be in our unions, and how should we raise them?

How can we raise these issues with other women?

How can we combine struggles in unions with struggles elsewhere?

What sort of technology do we want?





# Job Losses in Textiles

## Protection or Industrial Restructuring?



Over the last few years there has been considerable job loss in the textile trade which is especially important to the local economy. To the west of the city several subsidiary companies of Courtaulds have been 'rationalised' and employment levels cut. A recent article in Community Action shows how that company - in common with many other large multi-plant and transnational corporations has a policy of closing down entire plants and 'streamlining' the operations of others. This has happened particularly in Yorkshire and Lancashire. Such policies are based solely on considerations of private profit - the balance of the company's private costs and revenues. They take no account of the social costs - the poverty, unemployment and unhappiness they impose upon working people and their communities.

Now, in the context of increased international competition in the textile, hosiery and clothing trades these policies and trends are being felt in this area among the transnationals and among the smaller local independent firms. British Celanese, Furzebrook has felt the axe. So has the Wolsey Knitwear factory at Kimberley. The closure of the latter will mean the loss of 250 jobs in an area where is is **one** of the biggest employers.

Also recently it has been announced that 700 people employed by John Beales, the Nottingham knitwear company that operates under the Marathon label, are to lose their jobs over the next few months. Industry in the local area is moving back into recession and this is probably part of a broader trend towards higher unemployment.

### FOREIGN COMPETITION-WHAT CAN BE DONE?

All of this, however, is not to mention one crucial question - that of textile imports. Recent studies have shown that, in fact, the import of manufactured products from the 'cheap labour' countries (labour is cheap because of high unemployment and repressive regimes) do not cause a big displacement of production and employment in the developed capitalist economies like our own. (See, for example, Restructuring British Industry: The Third World Dimension, produced by the Catholic Institute for International Relations, 1979). However, in a very few industries and product lines it is the case that there is employment loss from Third World imports - in particular in some categories of Hosiery and knitwear and clothing.

This, in turn, poses big political problems. To call for import controls is to call for foreign workers to be made unemployed - not British workers. It sets workers against workers. But yet how are local jobs to be saved? The question is complicated still further when you realise that the loss of some jobs in our own country would mean far more jobs would be created in a poor country like India. A recent study by the World Development Movement (Textiles-A Brief Introduction - December 1979) has argued that "Ten thousand jobs lost in the EEC, with its greater capacity to adjust, would save an estimated 100,000 jobs in the Asian sub-continent". (p. 12). Moreover it would be advantageous for the domestic consumer in terms of the lower prices of imported goods.

These questions are likely to come to a head in the near future since positions are now being worked out with regard to the renegotiation of the protective Multi-Fibre Arrangement which regulates the flow of textiles from the developing countries into the markets of the developed countries. Both the employers and the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers support protection and point to an employment loss of 15-20% in the last 5 years. They say that the Multi Fibre Arrangement is to short term and should be protection for 8-10 years rather than having to be renegotiated every 3 to 4 years.

If one doesn't support import controls there is the question of how to replace the jobs that are lost in Britain. The Third World countries and the activist groups like the World Development Movement are calling for a restructuring of British industry and this is undoubtably a vital adjunct to their opposition to import controls. If it could be guaranteed that for each job lost in the



## JOB LOSS IN TEXTILES (cont.)

U.K. industry another job could be found in some other industry, or in a different line in the same industry then the need for import controls would be removed as far as the workers are concerned. However, it should be added that this would be the case only if the alternative jobs could be found in which terms, conditions and pay were in no way inferior to those lost. And there would have to be a really full compensation of any inconvenience to displaced workers in shifting to their new jobs.

This whole question of restructuring clearly needs a lot more thought. But the demand that new jobs are created is probably one that will have to be taken up in any case since the industry is likely to continue to run down, even if another protective MFA is negotiated. But this isn't something that one would expect the Thatcher government to lightly take on board as it implies government intervention in the economy to balance the social costs of the operation of market forces. Of course, the Thatcher government, while being very much in favour of letting market forces do their worst are not in favour of spending and intervening in the economy to deal with these social costs. Meanwhile workers have to cope with the trend towards lay-offs and closures that we have been seeing recently.

## HOW TO FIGHT BACK

If workers are to fight closures and redundancies of this type they need plenty of advance warning - and more than is provided for under the redundancy consultation provisions of the Employment Protection Act. Workers in the textile trades - and indeed in all industries and firms - need to negotiate information agreements getting access to regular information on finance, production, stocks, sales etc. The movement of people, products and machinery should also be watched as they often provide important clues to companies' 'rationalisation' intentions. Better still the company should be obliged to give details about its employment and investment plans at the level of the group and at the level of individual plants within the group.

Also vital is for workers to make and keep contact with workers in other plants in the group if they are part of a multi-plant company like Courtaulds. Workers in multi-plant companies need to set up inter-union and inter-plant combine committees that can confront and negotiate companies at the level at which overall corporate investment and employment decisions are made. Bargaining and action at the level of the plant alone are not enough when the crucial decisions are taken at a higher level.

If help is needed in this process we at the 118 Workshop will be glad to see what we can do.

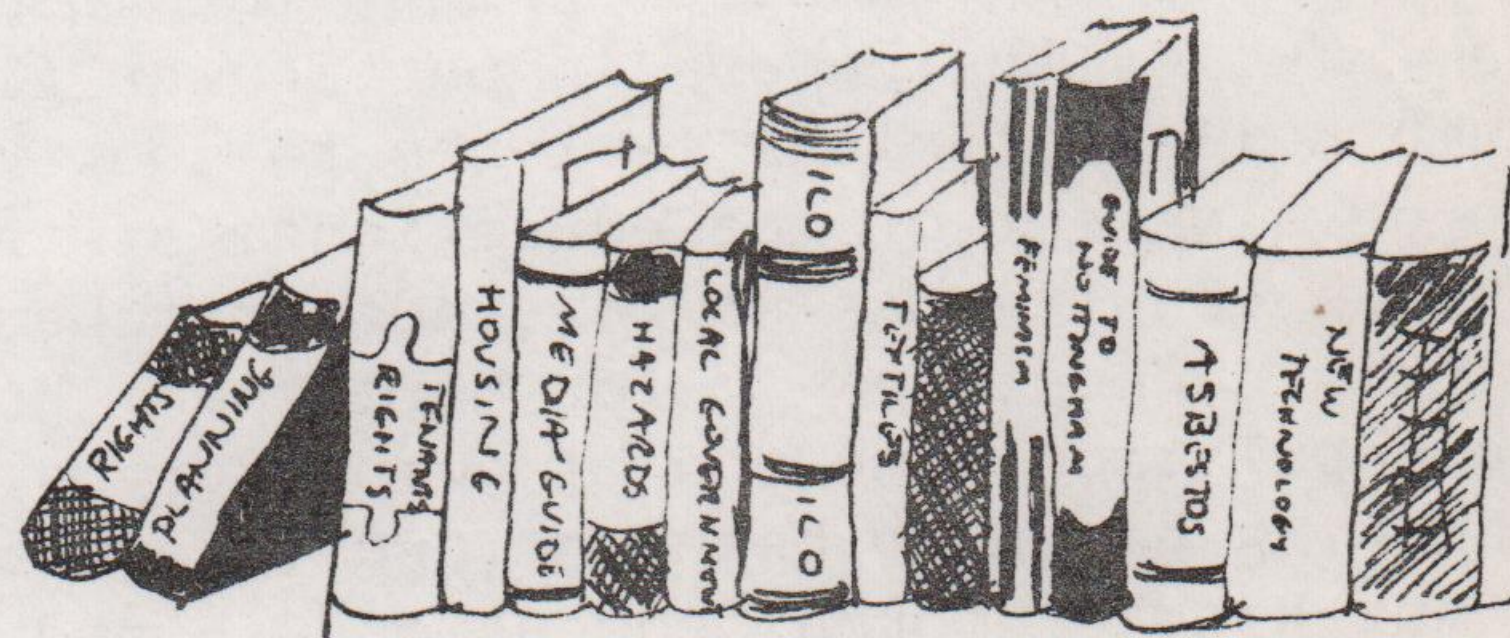
B.D.

## REVIEWS

THE EFFECTS OF THE EDUCATION CUTS: BRIEFING PACK FOR LOCAL GROUPS & PARENTS - Advisory Centre for Education, (18 Victoria Park Sq., London E2 9PB)/Child Poverty Action Group (1 Macklin Street, London WC2B 5NH) (SEPTEMBER 1979)

At a time when many local education authorities are more or less eliminating their discretionary services, and also cutting back on staffing, equipment, and maintenance, teachers and the community they serve will have to be increasingly on their guard if our children and indeed ourselves as adults are to continue to benefit from the education system.

The appearance of this Briefing Pack is a valuable contribution to the organisation of effective campaigns against cuts in education. It contains information explaining how education budgets are worked out, the timing of crucial decisions and what to look out for, and also a fact



sheet on education welfare benefits (what they are, the present requirements, changes proposed by the government) as well as information on how to fight back.

The welcome feature of this section is that, as a Briefing Pack directed to Social Groups and Parents, it advocates activity which is designed to draw in the trade union movement in united campaigning, and also suggests activity not only at the school level, but also at the local level.

I.B.J.



XX  
REVIEW FEATURE

CRISIS IN EDUCATION: THE GREY PAPERS -

K.H.Lawson & contributors. Published by The Save Adult Education Action Group, Churchside, Vicarage Lane, Ruddington, Notts. 39pp. Price 50p.

"England is the paradise of the rich, the hell of the poor, and the purgatory of the wise". (an American quoted in the Edinburgh Review, 1897).

The publication of the Grey Papers towards the end of last year by the Save Adult Education Action Group is in itself a significant step in the direction of developing a campaign which stands any chance of defeating the potentially fatal attacks presently being made on adult education, marshalling as it does the arguments for its expansion and development and exposing the myopia of present policy. The contributors to the collection of papers are all members of the Group which was established last year in response to the policy of cutting public expenditure on education.

The booklet consists of a series of seven separate papers, which are all concerned in their own ways to analyse what the Foreward describes as the "crisis in education". A theme central to all the papers is that "adult education properly conceived should be recognised as an integral part of a system which begins in nursery schools and continues by providing educational opportunities right into old age." Two of the papers in particular give thumb hail historical sketches to show how the development of the educational system in this country has nowhere near matched up to this conception - "for more than half the population, the end of compulsory schooling has also been the end ( forever ) of any kind of formal education". - and the collection portrays a vivid picture of what the consequences will be of further restriction.

As with other public sector services, the principle that adult education should be the part of the publicly funded service ( which was established by Section 41 of the 1944 Education Act ) is being swept away by Notts County Council with the equally ideological notion that it should be a self supporting leisure activity for those who can afford it. The local Tories would appear to be at variance with their national leaders - in a Parliamentary debate recently, Education Under Secretary Dr Rhodes-Boyson said he and the Governemtt believed that expenditure on adult education was among the most purposeful and productive in education spending.

However, notwithstanding the Governments' "firm and clear commitment to adult education", the service has already been suspended in some counties, and crippled in Nottinghamshire by the closure of its evening centres, the reduction or removal of fee concession for pensioners, for literacy work, etc. and by increased fees. The resulting economies represented 'only 10% or thereabouts of the total reduction in educational expenditure. The result however is an 85% reduction in the number of classes being offered."

NOW, the Notts Education Committee has just decided to withdraw its grants for the year 1980-81 from the University of Nottingham's Department of Adult Education and the Workers Educational Association (WEA) East Midland District. The amounts involved are £14,000 to the WEA and £20,000 to the Department of Adult Education. The decision threatens the very existence of the WEA in Nottinghamshire and it could lead to a complete cessation of classes in the County by the Department and even the closure of the University Adult Education Centre in Shakespeare Street.

The Grey Papers are especially acute in contrasting the attack on the concept of "lifelong education" with the ever-growing necessity for it caused by the coming of the "New Technology". Overall, the Papers put forward a cast iron case for adult education and, incidentally, bring out the fact which is easily overlooked that unlike the school system, the students are volunteers.

"If the voluntary principle were introduced into the school system, I suspect that we could solve the overcrowded classrooms and teachers shortages problems immediately! " Is this a policy that the Tories would adopt in their quest for cuts I wonder?

But I think the main service of the Papers lies in their analysis of the response to the attacks on the adult education service. As is pointed out, there is no effective trade union lobby to defend the service and the extensive reliance upon part time staff means that teachers and heads of centres can be dismissed at short notice and , in the case of Notts, even a modest reduction in expenditure can wipe out many classes taught by part time teachers.

In particular, one of the Papers, entitled "Go Political or Die" critically examines the response to cuts in adult education and this Paper has relevance in judging the effectiveness of actions being undertaken, or not to oppose the cuts.

All in all, the Grey Papers should be commended not as an academic treatise on the value of adult education but as a vital campaigning resource.

I.B.J.



# Steel: The Picture in the East Midlands

The national steel strike has found its Achilles Heel at the Stanton Ironworks at Ilkeston, which resulted in the migration of flying pickets into the area from all over the country. Recognising that Stanton is the best example of what the British Steel Corporation hopes for nationally, flying pickets have moved to shut the plant down.

Because of the history of the Stanton and Staveley plant, which is in the Tubes Division of B.S.C., the national strike call has affected only a very small proportion of the workforce by virtue of union membership - there are no I.S.T.C. members at Stanton, where the mass of the workers are members of the General and Municipal Workers Union, and are covered not by heavy steel, but by heavy engineering agreements. However, there are 14 GMWU members out on strike as they are covered by heavy steel agreements and the 120 Blas Blastfurnacemen are out and these men have been picketing.

The BSC management say that as the Stanton and Staveley businesses cover the manufacture and supply of pipe components in spun iron, concrete and reinforced plastics they have nothing to do with the dispute which they try and back up with the small proportion of the workforce covered by heavy steel agreements and consequently on strike. In fact, the Stanton management have applied for dispensation, on the grounds that the works is an engineering establishment and not a steel works. However, at the same time, they're refusing to abide by national engineering agreements for instance, the guaranteed week, and the men who have been laid off at the Works (at the time of writing 950 - 50% of the workforce) will not even be receiving related earnings payments from the Department of Employment during the course of the strike. This decision came from the Regional Organiser of the DE in Birmingham and will place a financial strain on the men laid off.

The crucial question for the success of the strike at Stanton at the moment, however resolves around the question of picketing and - with the Tories Employment Bill settling out to limit lawful picketing to a pickets' own place of work - increasingly the right to picket.

NUB pickets have been on duty but the plant is still working owing to the open-plant nature of the works and also because of the positions taken on crossing picket lines by certain union officials in this area. In fact, workers who refuse to cross picket lines can't rely on official union support and, indeed, the full time GMWU official

has instructed the members to cross the picket lines to work. (Interestingly enough during the engineering industrial action of last year, the GMWU instructed its members at Stanton not to take part in the weekly strikes, and at its Steel Conference of last year rather than endorse a national steel strike to fight the closures at Corby, the GMWU accepted the closures.)

Also there is no official union support in this area for Stanton drivers who refuse to cross picket lines at Stanton (and who also incidentally, live in tied houses). This has led to the Strike Committee producing a leaflet for TGWU members driving lorries to and from the works which read in part as follows:-

"We are picketing daily but lorry drivers at our plant are crossing picket lines" and your official "will not give any clear instruction other than to work normally. As a result Stanton drivers are going in and out and drivers from outside see this and cross our lines."

(As one lorry driver said, "This is the only steel works we can get into now." And lorries from all over are being diverted into Stanton.)

"We think any trades union official with principles would tell members to observe picket lines, but even at a meeting with us he would not commit himself to support us." Your officials "lack of support is making it extremely difficult for us. We appeal to you as fellow trades unionists to make strong representations to your official, to commit your union to our support."

The success of the steel strike is crucial - and indeed critical to defeat the Tories solution to the whole economic crisis - one of wage cuts, lay-offs and vastly accelerated de-industrialisation. If they succeed in steel, then every other section of workers can expect more of the same.

Again, it is crucial that this strike succeed, and it can only succeed if basic trade union principles are respected and carried out. Below we reprint the Rank and File Code of Practice;

1. No crossing of picket lines.
2. For the building, and defence of, 100% closed shop. For sanctions to be applied against any individuals breaking closed shop.
3. For full rank and file discussion and decision making by traditional democratic procedures - no enforced secret ballots.
4. Pickets to be positioned at whatever locations necessary to win the dispute and



in sufficient numbers to ensure that picket lines are observed. Strikes to be run by elected strike committees.

5. All appeals for blacking and financial assistance to be carried out wherever practicable,

6. Support calls made by strike committees for mass and sympathy pickets;

7. No settlement of disputes without full report backs to, and decision making by, the members concerned.

The Steel Strike demands the support of every trade unionist in the following ways-

- \* invite steelworkers to speak at your union or workplace
- \* take collections at work. Send the money to the local strike fund c/o Ron DUNBAR 37, Northern Drive, Trowell.
- \* support the pickets at Stanton Ironworks
- \* don't cross the steelworkers pickets
- \* boycott all steel brought into your factory since the strike began.

Peter Ratcliffe

#### STANTON N.U.B. STRIKE FUND APPEAL

Strike Committee,  
c/o 37 Northern Drive,  
Trowell.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On January 2nd our union, the National Union of Blastfurnacemen, along with the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation began its first national strike in 50 years. The strike began in response to the BSC's insulting offer of less than 2%. Since then their offer has been increased but with so many strings attached affecting the financial and job security of steelworkers, that the Executives of both unions have found them totally unacceptable.

The strike looks as if it is going to stretch into many weeks. Locally at the BSC Stanton Works we have over 120 members of the N.U.B. on official strike. I am making an appeal on their behalf to the broad labour movement for financial and whatever other support may be possible. Please send messages of support and donations to our strike fund to the address heading this letter. Please make cheques/P.O.'s payable to Ron Dunbar (Strike Committee). In anticipation of your support I thank you.

B.Killeavy  
( Senoir N.U.B. delegate, Stanton )

12, EMMANUEL AVE.  
NOTTINGHAM NG3 6HF  
TEL. 51035

#### TRADE UNION COUNCIL

#### MAY DAY

TO: TRADE UNIONS  
LABOUR PARTY

Dear Brother/Sister,

The T.U. Council has decided to once again celebrate MAYDAY on Monday 5th May. In order to organise/arrange the preparation, and decide what type of demonstration/celebration to have, a MayDay committee is to meet on Monday February 25th 7.30pm ( Albert Hall Institute) Derby Road off Lower Parliament Street Nottingham. This will be the first meeting, and it is hoped that an ongoing committee will be formed from it. Your organisation is cordially invited to attend.

Yours fraternally,

Chris Preston  
SECRETARY T.U.COUNCIL.

**BROADSIDE MOBILE WORKERS'**  
**THEATRE** present  
**"THE PARTICIPATION WALTZ"**

AT: W.E.A. UNIVERSITY ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE,  
16 SHAKESPEARE STREET, NOTTINGHAM (opposite  
central police station).

ON: FRIDAY 28th MARCH AT: 7.00 pm  
FEE: 50p



# OLD FATHER TYME'S AXE — a statement from the Cuts Committee Executive.

Old Father Tyme brought in the New Decade carrying not a scythe but an axe. The Government's expenditure plans for 1980/81 are based the view that public expenditure is 'at the heart of Britain' present economic difficulties', demanding a continuing fundamental attack on all the services provided by the Welfare State (although the social security programme is planned to rise, as are those for defense and law and order). All the gains of free education, free health care and social services for all workers at time of need are threatened and we face the mushrooming of a two-tier system - one for the rich and a crumbling public set up for the mass of working class people.

Experience of the response to the cuts in public spending over the last few months has shown that they cannot be defeated service by service or authority by authority - efforts to defend the National Health Service under Labour and the example of the Clay Cross Councillors show that only a cross-union, cross-service movement can defeat the attack from the Tories. And again, such a movement of public sector workers cannot succeed without the fullest support in action both from those who use those services and the industrial sector.

The plain fact is that it is only the united mass action of the whole labour movement which can defend the Welfare State and defeat the policies of the Tory Government. The fight has got to start to force the trade union and Labour Party leaders into organising the sort of all-out national strike action which alone can defeat the cuts. The TUC General Council have confirmed plans for a national demonstration against the "Cuts" on Sunday, March 9th, and for a national Day of Action on 14th May. But one thing is for sure, if the cuts are to be defeated we need to go far beyond more protest actions and inevitably involves the prospect of concerted industrial action.

## LABOUR IN POWER?

Some Labour Councils are refusing to implement the cuts in services, but are talking about putting up rents and rates. What this in effect means is transferring the responsibility from central government and replacing the burden more squarely on working people, who, of course, pay and rates.

This isn't the policy needed to mobilise the movement against the cuts and plan the necessary national and local action to defend services. For a start, almost half the money spent by local authorities goes straight to bankers in interest and debt

repayments. Those should be stopped NOW - this would be the best way to actually start the fight for the long held Labour Party policy of nationalising the banks and insurance houses, as well as public service supply industries who makes millions out of our needs.

With this money a massive programme of public works to extend the NHS, education and the social services could be started which would also provide jobs for the unemployed.

## THE CAMPAIGN IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

In Nottingham, we have seen a succession of protest actions and demonstrations by specific interest campaigns, and we've had united mobilisations like the lobby of County Hall in October and the Nottm Cuts Campaign demonstration in January. (see elsewhere in the Bulletin)

This important activities are just the beginning - we have to build from them an ongoing campaign which increasingly draws all sections opposed to cuts in a united, EFFECTIVE and forceful opposition. There are several indispensable levels to the fight. The kind of mass protest action taken by the nursery campaign (mentioned elsewhere) is invaluable. Pickets, demos, leafleting, radio coverage, posters and stickers. The action of the National Union of Teachers to protect staffing levels - that is, County-wide strike action - could have the effect of preventing the County Council from riding roughshod over local people. At the same time, if the steel workers manage to teach the Tory Government a lesson it would seriously weaken the Tory's will to impose cuts.

Our policy for achieving this includes THE CUTS HOT LINE Nottm 582369 - if you want or have information about the cuts in your area or action being taken against them.

NOTTINGHAM BULLETIN - which spreads information, including the effects of cuts  
PUBLICITY in the local media - Nottingham News/Radio Nottingham & Trent and local community newspapers.

MASS LEAFLETING AND LOCAL CONFERENCES  
ACTIVE SUPPORT for individual campaigns and initiating UNITED ACTIVITY

## VERY IMPORTANT

The Annual General Meeting of the Nottingham Trades Council Campaign against Cuts is to take place on Tuesday 19th Feb, 1980 at the offices of the Transport and General Workers Union on Mansfield Rd., at 7.30. Please make sure your organisation is represented.

For more information phone Nottm 582369



# TUC Demonstration

Sunday March 9th, 1980

Assemble at Hyde Park:  
11.00am.  
March to Trafalgar Square:  
12.30pm.

**STOP  
THE SO-CALLED  
'EMPLOYMENT'  
BILL**

1,000 from Nottingham on Nov 28th, let's  
make March 9th 10,000.

Could all Unions please inform the Trades  
Union Council Secretary have details of  
the numbers going on the demonstration and  
the transport booked. ( Address 12,  
Emmanual Ave. - Tel. 51035 )

NORTH WEST SPANNER



IN NOTTINGHAM:  
15-29 MARCH  
for further details,  
phone: 864183.

presents  
**Safety First...or last?**

## NOTTINGHAM NEWS APPEAL

### Introduction

Nottingham News was born out of the provincial newspapers' strike last winter when twenty eight journalists were sacked by the Nottingham Evening Post.

As well as fighting for reinstatement in the traditional unions ways — blacking, picketing, boycotts and mass demonstrations — we decided to launch our own weekly paper. At the same time the NUJ, NGA and SLADE have been campaigning for union recognition at the firm.

In the beginning we wrote the stories, sold the adverts, canvassed newsagents — and then stood on street corners in bitterly cold weather for hours selling the newspaper.

We made arduous delivery rounds to dozens of newsagents for the first few weeks until three local wholesalers decided to take and distribute the paper.

Through our own efforts the paper — born on a shoestring budget of £500 from the NUJ — has grown steadily. From an edition of 12 pages, which first hit the streets on February 1st, 1979, the News has grown to 28 pages every week with a solid circulation of 12,000 on which to build.

The Nottingham News, competing against one of the most powerful provincial newspaper monopolies, is a workers' co-operative. It has carved out a viable place in the life of the city.

Advertisers and customers alike greeted the News with enthusiasm as a much-needed alternative paper in Nottingham. This enthusiasm has convinced everyone connected with the paper that the foundation laid over the past few months will serve as a springboard for the future.

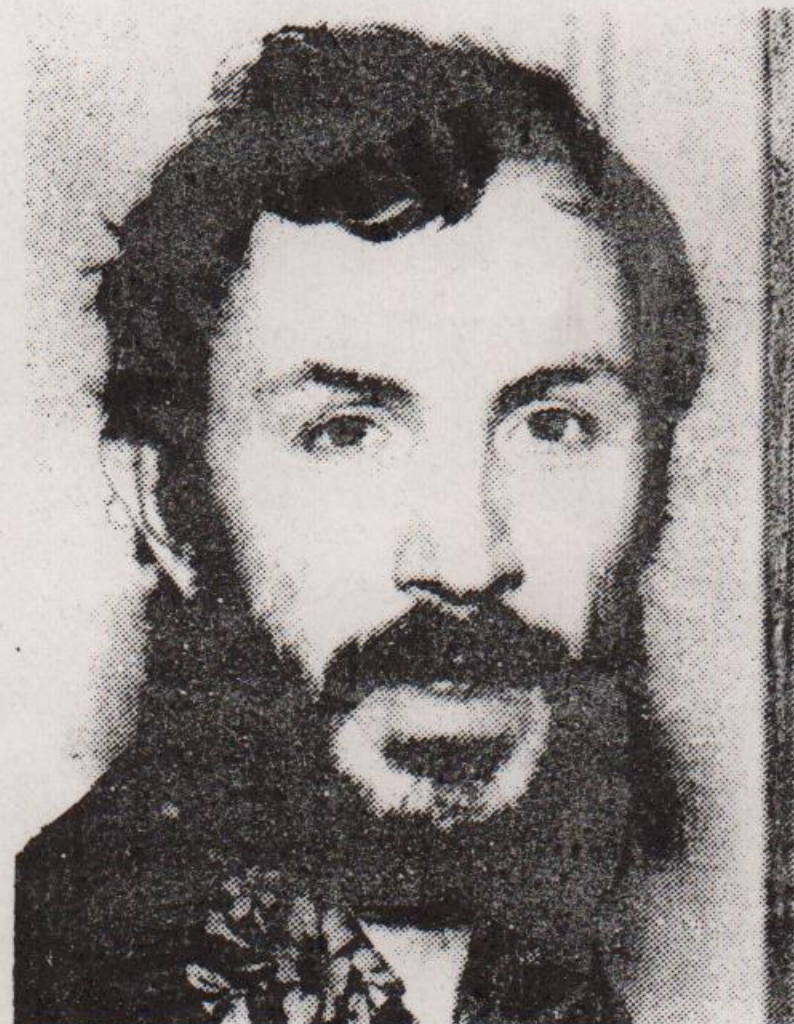
We are aiming to put circulation figures in the 20,000 bracket and to increase to 32 pages — and beyond — in the weeks to come.

To be able to develop the Nottingham News in the way we are certain it can be, we need financial backing on a far bigger scale than we can manage through our own resources.

We are appealing to the Labour movement to contribute towards an exciting development which, if it is successful, could have far-reaching effects on the future pattern of the British Press.

The Labour movement has the resources and we have the will to make the Nottingham News really take off.

If this can be achieved it will not only mean job security for journalists and printers, but also give the people of Nottingham an alternative to the reactionary Evening Post.



JAKE ECCLESTONE



KEN ASHTON

The National Executive Council of the National Union of Journalists has considered the draft prospectus prepared for Nottingham News and Sport Co-operative. The Council was responsible for commissioning in June, at a cost of £3,500, a professional consultants' report assessing the potential for an independent weekly newspaper in Nottingham. The council endorses the prospectus issued by Nottingham News and Sport Co-operative and wholeheartedly commends the venture to members of the NUJ and other interested groups, particularly within the trade union movement, for their moral, practical and financial support.

*Jacob Ecclestone*  
(President)

*Ken Ashton*  
(General Secretary)