

# Carr's firm offer man £8 a week

A MA<sup>n</sup>, who applied for a job with the law firm run by Liberal leader Cyril Carr was offered the princely wage of £8 a week.

Frank Deegan, a 63-year-old ex-docker, applied for the job of office messenger after seeing an advert in the Liverpool Echo.

At the interview he was told the hours were 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition to the generous wage he would get luncheon vouchers worth

15p a day... bringing his pay up to the handsome hourly rate of 30p an hour inclusive.

Mr Deegan refused the job. The partners in the firm are Cyril Carr and his brother, Malcolm.

The Liberals believe that everyone should have a guaranteed minimum wage of about £24 a week. They say this is particularly important for people in a weak bargaining position (which presumably includes solicitors' messengers).

Mr Deegan says he was expecting the wage to be £16-£18 a week, and he would have taken the job if he had been offered that.

He left the docks when he took severance pay under the Jones-Aldington agreement. He wanted another job to earn more stamps for his card before getting his pension.

As it was, his sole money of £10.50 was more than the wage offered by Carrs.

Mr Deegan noticed several other

vacancies for messengers. So he answered more adverts and attended more interviews.

Another firm of solicitors, Silverman and Livermore (famous for Sir Harry Livermore, the former Labour Lord Mayor) were offering messengers £16, but the hours were 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. An insurance broker in North John Street was offering £22.

Liverpool Corporation employ disabled people as messengers. They pay £23 for a 40-hour week.



## A FINE SENSE OF JUSTICE

LIVERPOOL magistrates have a way of punishing some people which may actually encourage them to commit crime.

Normally people are allowed to pay fines in instalments if they can't afford to pay immediately. But not everyone gets this treatment.

Those who don't are the "overnight arrests" - people arrested (usually on a drunk-and-disorderly charge) and kept in the cells overnight to appear in court next morning.

Their possessions - including any money - are taken away by the police to be returned when they are released. When the magistrates fine one of these people, the policeman on duty tells the court whether the person had enough money in his pockets to pay the fine. If so, the full amount is confiscated and any change returned.

This super-efficient system sometimes means that people leave the court with no money at all - and no-one bothers to ask what the victim will live on for the rest of the week. The overnight arrests often include those people who most desperately need time to pay... those who carry all their wealth in the pockets and have nothing in the bank.

The magistrates have only themselves to blame if those same people are back in court a few days later charged with stealing a bite to eat.

## VENTURE

(Continued from page two)

house building programme, and sell off a large site in Halewood which was going to be used for council housing.

Why, if he thought we would have a surplus, did McVeigh then help to form a housing association from which he could benefit substantially in the way of fees?

We agree that the Grove Park site has been left vacant by the owner for many years. We too deplore this. We welcome the CPO. But we say the Corporation should build the houses and rent them... not Venture.

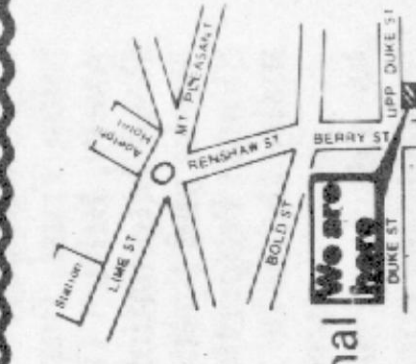
The Corporation do all the work, spend money of the CPO procedure and so on, but then they hand over the site. Some Labour councillors excuse giving the site to Venture because they say an association is more flexible and will build the houses quicker. This is a sad argument. Labour, until this year, were in power. They could have built on this site. All they had to do was buy it and put a council housing scheme up for tender.

Last year Labour built just over 1,000 houses in Liverpool. They might have built more if members like Crawshaw had pointed out in public their abysmal record, instead of campaigning for an incestuous association. Incidentally, before going to press, we tried three times to phone Colonel Crawshaw at home. There was no reply. Parliament was in recess at the time.

## PROGRESSIVE BOOKS

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Like the Lone Ranger's shack...

surgery in Scotland Road.

# It's Harley Street with an old tin roof...

IT'S SURPRISING to find occupants of slum houses refusing cheap accommodation nearby. And it's even more surprising when those occupants are members of the medical profession.

But seven doctors with surgeries in a row of terraced houses (some of them derelict) in Boundary Street off Scotland Road, have so far turned down four offers of a site for a new health centre.

Throughout the last three years they have resisted pressure from the local Vauxhall Community Project... (A resident of one house in Boundary Street presented a rat, caught on the premises, to a health inspector at one of the project's meetings).

The Scotie Press have also campaigned about it and even local councillors - a rare sight in these parts - have tried to get the doctors to move.

One doctor does intend to move...

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## Lewis's safety: Action at last!

WORK has now started on Lewis's new staircase, ordered by the corporation as a result of a Free Press expose of the store's fire precautions.

Lewis's managing director, Mr Denis Greensmith is still not fully recovered from the bad publicity and is understood to have urged the corporation to "do something" about the Free Press.

Meanwhile the sign in the store: "Emergency exit - No way out" (photographed in our last issue) has been replaced with a more sensible "Emergency exit only."

not out of the slums but into them. Dr. Shiffman has a surgery in Scotland Road in what looks rather like the Lone Ranger's shack.

He intends to mosey along up the road to the delights of 235 Boundary Street when the present tenants are rehoused. The tenants have to leave because the health authorities have put a closing order on the house.

The doctors argue that all the sites they have been offered have been too far away from their existing surgeries - although all are within a mile - and are therefore inconvenient for many of their patients.

The only site the doctors consider acceptable is an area of land directly opposite their surgeries, land which they know they can't have because it's needed for a new road.

In the past doctors have been reluctant to move into health centres because of increased overheads. But

with government grants they can now claim back 75% of their costs, and as the building itself is also built with public money there is little financial outlay required by the doctors. So why are the GPs in Boundary Street fighting to stay in their slums?

The reason is quite simply that they have old, well-established practices and most of them own the houses and so have low running costs. Life is very comfortable at the moment (they don't of course actually live where their surgeries are - they have tenants to do that) and they don't want to be disturbed with such things as health centres.

And so it seems that a group of doctors can impose their will upon residents and patients, who will continue to sit in miserable and depressing waiting rooms. Or, if there happens to be a bout of influenza and it's crowded, they queue up outside.

## Trainees lose rights

YOUNG PEOPLE who are offered jobs as trainee technicians at Liverpool University are being asked to sign a strange - and horrifying - document.

By signing (and there's no job unless they do sign) they lose rights to redundancy payments and to compensation for unfair dismissal.

The trainees, mainly school leavers aged 16-18, are employed on a fixed-term contract which lasts for three years.

When the contract runs out the university can, if they choose, sack them... no matter how hard or how well the trainees have worked. And it won't cost the university a penny in compensation.

Liverpool is thought to be the only university operating this archaic

system, and certainly young technicians at the corporation's further education colleges don't have to forfeit their rights.

The university apparently feel they have too many technical staff and have tried to make a few redundant. This has been resisted by the union, ASTMS. So the university have come up with this new scheme for getting rid of youngsters at the end of their training.

The result is that the university can make use of cheap labour under the guise of 'training' with no obligation to give trainees permanent jobs afterwards.

The union are now raising the issue with the university and also at national level.

## Top people take time off

IT WAS GOOD to see that Jim Hall, Liverpool's director of housing managed to take time off mid-week to visit Liverpool Show.

Despite the almost total paralysis of the housing department through lack of staff, he seemed to be enjoying himself.

Or was it really a working visit? Has the housing overlord found a permanent use for all those tents? Also at the show's first day celebrations

was George Cregeen, commandant of Liverpool Echo (easily recognisable in his dark glasses) along with other members of his editorial junta.

By all accounts he had a very jolly time attaching Radio Merseyside advertising stickers to the backs of unwitting passers-by.

The Echo appeared as usual that night and seemed little improved by its editor's absence.



IN BERKELEY, California, 55 education experts, school administrators and psychologists listened intently to a scholarly lecture by a Dr Fox on "Mathematical game theory applied to physical education." In a survey afterwards, 45 of the 55 said they found the lecture clear and stimulating.

"Dr Fox" then announced that he was an actor and had been talking a load of rubbish.

THE U.S. NAVY are having obedience problems with their new anti missile gun, the Phalanx, which picks its own targets and fires itself.

On its first test, the gun tried to attack the island of Santa Barbara, which it identified as "a fast-moving target."

MRS JEAN JESSOP, Tory chairman of Sefton District Council, refused the BBC's offer of a free trip to watch the Southport "It's a Knock-out" team compete in Belgium.

Instead, she travelled all the way by chauffeur-driven car. It cost the council £100.

WHITE HEAT of the technological revolution: Nuclear scientists at Dounreay have taken to burning peat in their homes because it's cheaper than electricity.

RACING at Aintree is a mixed blessing for William Davies, the property man who bought the course last November. His colleagues tell us he suffers from a rare medical condition which makes him allergic to horses.

This may explain his latest brain-wave, which is to turn part of the grandstand into a "wedding centre" to be run by an obscure firm called Weddings Universal Ltd. No doubt Becher's Brook will have to be re-named Lovers' Leap.

LIVERPOOL magistrates are reported to be sitting comfortably now that a blockage in the courts' drainage system has been put right... at a cost to the city of £6,500. Some people really should be more careful.

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