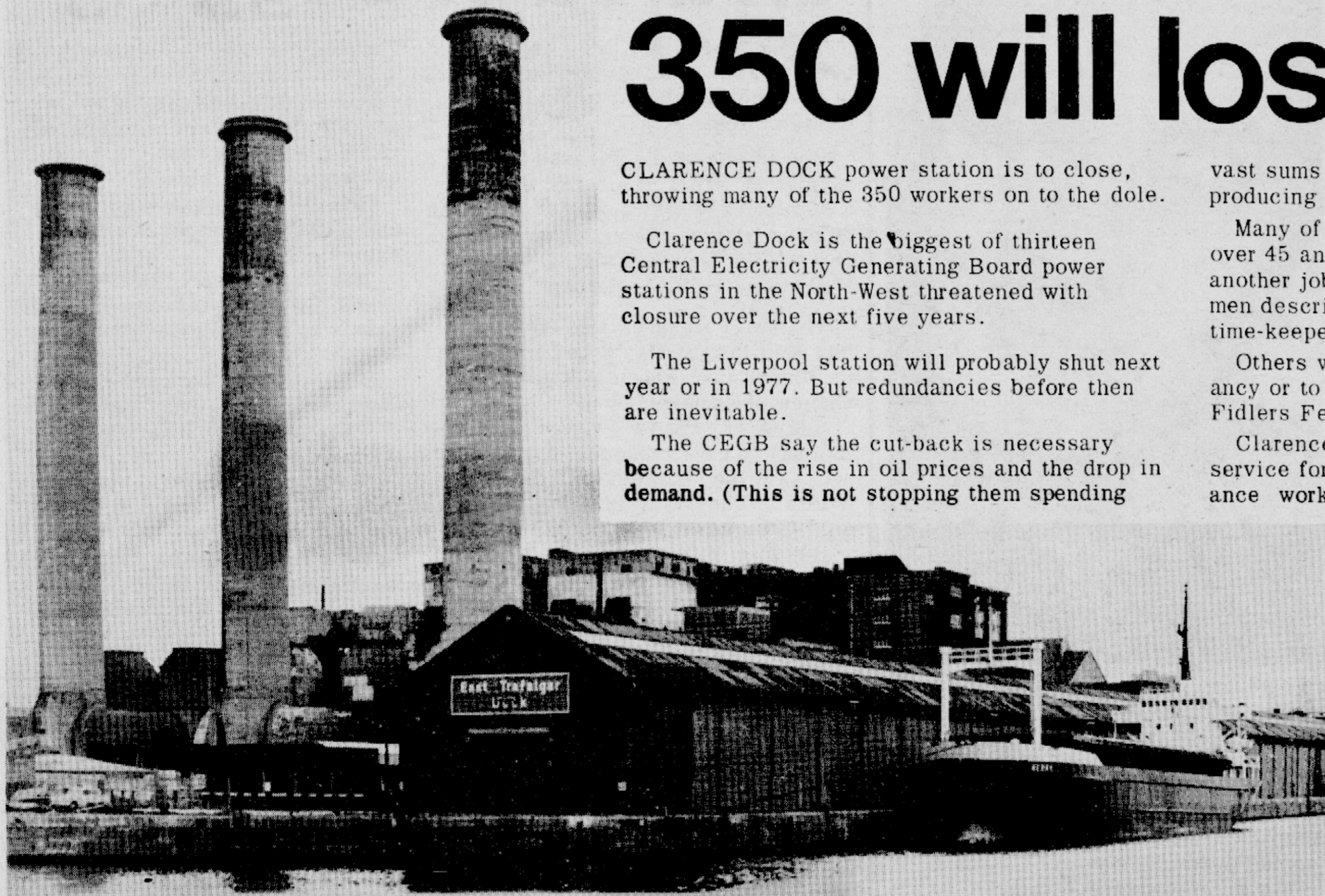


City power station to close: 350 will lose jobs



CLARENCE DOCK power station is to close, throwing many of the 350 workers on to the dole.

Clarence Dock is the biggest of thirteen Central Electricity Generating Board power stations in the North-West threatened with closure over the next five years.

The Liverpool station will probably shut next year or in 1977. But redundancies before then are inevitable.

The CEGB say the cut-back is necessary because of the rise in oil prices and the drop in demand. (This is not stopping them spending

vast sums on new power stations capable of producing 25% more electricity by 1980.)

Many of the Clarence Dock power workers are over 45 and must face grim prospects of finding another job. Management have indicated that men described as "chronically sick" and "bad time-keepers" will be the first to go.

Others will be asked to volunteer for redundancy or to transfer to other stations like Fiddlers Ferry.

Clarence Dock has been temporarily out of service for a number of months while maintenance work is carried out. But the station, which is oil-fired, will be operating at a reduced level from October.

So far the unions seem glad just to have been "consulted". (The CEGB didn't even bother to do that when they closed another station at Blackburn earlier this year.)

One worker told us: "The unions don't seem interested at all. We've been trying to get an area official here for weeks."

"The CEGB seem to have won a psychological battle. The prevailing mood is apathetic."



TO SAVE MONEY, Bexley pensioners' luncheon clubs will give one meal a week instead of one a day. Councillor Tandy (Conservative) thinks it a good idea. "Because they will get only one meal a week they will enjoy it more," he said.



WHEN Constable Trevor Roberts tried to break into the cash meter on a snooker table at Cheshire Police Headquarters, a burglar alarm went off. The alarm was fitted because of two previous attempted robberies. Constable Roberts was given a three-month suspended sentence.



NEW regulations in Liverpool City Libraries forbid the use of "violet, abusive or obscene" language. Suppose it might make the air turn blue...



8804. Registered, 2201-01-84. GOOD Home wanted for 5 adorable, affectionate and clean coats, owners going abroad - 4591-7922 0817. GOOD Home wanted for Black Labrador 18 months old - 4591-7922 0817.

-Liverpool Echo



INVESTIGATION into the soaring cost of Hillingdon Civic Centre revealed that a nuclear fall-out shelter had been included in the building. For security reasons, the only person who knew about it was council leader Alderman Bartlett.

Security-conscious Bartlett was not available for comment... he was on holiday in Russia.



COUNCIL officials were among the unlikely visitors to the Watchfield pop festival. They spent the Bank Holiday weekend testing noise levels. Highest score - 93 decibels - came, not from the loudspeakers, but from a police helicopter.

KIRKBY PICKET BREAKERS BLACKED

WAREHOUSEMEN at Henry Diaper Ltd on Kirkby industrial estate have blacked a haulage firm which crossed picket lines at a neighbouring factory.

About 100 engineers and other tradesmen at John Dickinson & Co have been on strike since mid-July.

Most drivers have respected their small holiday time picket. But men from North West Freighters Ltd of Haydock have repeatedly crossed picket lines under police escort.

The firm even sent containers to be loaded secretly throughout the night.

As a result, the men from Henry Diaper have refused to deal with North West Freighters until the engineers' dispute is settled.

The strikers at Dickinson's, which is part of the international DRG Group making Basildon Bond and other stationery, are in a difficult position.

They suspect the management have deliberately provoked the strike to run down their stocks. Dickinson's market, especially for their envelopes, has been seriously affected by increased postal charges. And some weeks ago management were talking about lay-offs.

Then they announced that the engineers' annual pay award would run from June instead of April. Traditionally the engineers negotiate after the print unions, and this year the printers took longer to settle than usual.

Two weeks after the strike started, all 500 production workers were laid off.

The engineers have already lost more money than they are arguing about. But on "a point of principle" it looks like they'll stay outside the gate just as long as the management want them there.

"Your father has left you a list of housing complaints he made 23 years ago."



Police hit back at couple who complained

A LIVERPOOL COUPLE who complained against the police have been accused of wasting police time.

The case could have far-reaching implications.

The couple, Tommy Satchel and Rita Lindsay, were arrested in the back of a taxi and charged with being drunk and disorderly.

They complained that after their arrest they were assaulted in a police Land Rover.

The police usually decide there is no truth in complaints against themselves. And usually that's the end of the matter. But in this case - most unusually - the police have retaliated against the people who complained.

The charge of "time wasting"

normally deals with people who maliciously report crimes which haven't happened, bomb hoaxers and the like. One Liverpool lawyer thought it was the first time the charge had been used in connection with an official complaint.

Tommy Satchel and Rita Lindsay made their complaint more publicly than most people. Late last year they were featured in a Granada television programme about Merseyside police.

The programme came at a bad time for the police and it made them very angry. It was just after the inquest on Kenny Williams, who died after alleging he was beaten up in a police Land Rover (see Free Press

nos. 17 and 18). And it was about the time the police watchdog group, 'Vigil' was being formed.

In March, following more allegations, Merseyside's Chief Constable, Mr James Houghton, tried to polish up the force's image.

In a lengthy report to the Police Committee he said people were exploiting the complaints procedure in an "unscrupulous manner."

Whether the present prosecution will illustrate his point remains to be seen.

But whatever happens, it should - very conveniently - reduce the number of complaints and give the impression the police are better behaved than they used to be.

Secret go-ahead for high risk plant

PERMISSION for a large and possibly dangerous industrial development at Seaforth Grain Terminal has been given in private by Sefton Council.

The council's planning committee threw out the Press and public on the curious grounds that misinterpretation of the discussion "could cause unnecessary public alarm."

The development is a £6 million soya bean processing plant, to be built by an American-owned company at Seaforth.

The beans will be turned into vegetable oil and animal meal using a highly inflammable chemical called hexane.

According to an ICI handbook: "Despite stringent precautions and the use of flame-proof equipment there is a danger of fire when using these solvents owing to the large quantities of flammable vapour present."

Safer chemicals can't be used on soya beans because they remain in the meal and harm cattle. Thirty thousand gallons of inflammable hexane will be stored underground at the Seaforth plant.

Before giving permission for the plant, a number of Sefton councillors and officials visited a similar factory just outside London. But it is not generally known that the plant

they saw is being extended and was not fully operational at the time of the visit.

It also seems curious that Sefton Council have applied to the Department of the Environment for relaxation of building regulations governing fire hazards.

Obviously all of the regulations do not apply to all buildings. But one of the regulations the council want to forget at the Seaforth plant lays down standards of fire resistance for floors and walls.

No doubt these observations are alarmist and arise out of a misunderstanding through not hearing the planning committee's discussions. After all, the nearest houses in Anderson Avenue are all of 550 yards away from the proposed site.

And almost 100 men will have the privilege of working for the firm, Continental (London) Ltd. So the plant has been welcomed by the Transport and General Workers' Union.

But if the people of Bootle and Seaforth who will live near the plant have little to fear - others have even less to worry about. They are the 14 (out of 16) councillors at the Sefton planning committee meeting who live in Southport and other nice places, well away from dangerous industrial plants of any sort.

SUCCESSFUL authoritarian right-wing governments tempt investors, but they are getting few and far between. South Africa and Spain, for instance, are not the stable places they once looked. But now a much more attractive proposition has come into the picture. Brazil, which long closed its doors to outside portfolio investment (you could buy car factories but not shares) has had a change of heart.

Sunday Times Business News

Advertisement

NEWS FROM NOWHERE

RADICAL BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

48 MANCHESTER STREET, LIVERPOOL 1 (051-227 2514)
(End of Victoria Street, near tunnel entrance)

NOW IN STOCK

Alternative England & Wales (£2.50)

John Berger: *A Seventh Man* (£1)

George Jackson: *Blood In My Eye* (50p)

Trevor Pateman: *Language, Truth and Politics* (£1.40)

The Red Paper on Scotland (£1.60)

IWW (*Wobblies*) Songbook (25p)

Print: *How You Can Do It Yourself* (70p)

Gaston Leval: *Collectives in the Spanish Revolution*

Robert Tresselt: *Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*

Jack London: *Iron Heel* (75p)

and many, many more

Also available - complete list of (over 300) pamphlets in stock and list of publications for trade unionists and industrial militants (send s.a.e.)