

# Tenants run their own bus service

Tenants from Tower Hill, Kirkby, met with a blank wall of refusals when they asked the local authorities to provide a school bus for their kids aged 8 years and over.

Kirkby council said it wasn't their responsibility, Lancashire County Council said it wasn't possible.

So the Tower Hill Tenants' Association decided to do the impossible. And they started running a bus for 70 kids on the estate to take them to and from school.

The cost for each schoolkid is 10p a day. And by the winter the

tenants expect to be running two more buses.

Mr Maurice Lee, a member of the committee: "We are trying to embarrass the council into doing something."

## How they did it

He added: "There are no schools in Tower Hill and the kids attend about eight different schools. We found some instances of mothers having to pay their own bus fare and their children's to school, and their own fare back. Doing this twice a day was expensive. Before setting up their own school

bus the tenants:

- 1 Put out leaflets and questionnaires.
- 2 Collated the information.
- 3 Worked out routes.
- 4 Got a refusal from the MPTA and Ribble bus company to run the services.
- 5 Had the route approved by the police, to ensure they didn't create a road hazard.
- 6 Obtained offers from coach firms.
- 7 Accepted an offer of £35 a week. This works out at 10p a day for each child.
- 8 Arranged a meeting place for the children - the community centre.



In Switzerland a dealer in pornographic literature has been fined £47 because the books he advertised failed to come up to the expectations of his customers.



A competition to find the best community development project in the country is being organised by British Petroleum. Merseyside's Junior Chamber of Commerce (the club for 'young' businessmen) are nominating - you'll never guess - the Lord Mayor's Parade, which they organised.



What is it about PC Stan Hodgson of Litherland that makes swarms of flies repeatedly invade his home? In Kirkstone Rd West?

On the evening of August 23 the constable observed a large number of insects entering the premises and killed 230 of them in less than two hours - bringing his total of fly swats to 800 in two days. We trust he cautioned them first.



When told that he would not be sent to jail, Christopher Powers of Birmingham kissed the magistrate, Mrs Bella Greenway. He was put on probation for three years.



Unexpected support for disaster-stricken East Pakistan came when a shipload of brassieres arrived. A Red Cross officer ordered them to be cut in half and the cups were used to measure out rations of rice and flour.



When a pound note blew into the sea off the Cumberland coast a man dived in after it and was drowned.



Mr Clarence Ramsay was standing outside his home in Houston, Texas, when someone came up behind and stabbed him in the back. Turning round, he heard his attacker say: "Sorry! I thought you were someone else."

# The builder who broke his contract

Everyone knows vast fortunes are made in the building trade.

But only occasionally do the public have a chance to glimpse how employers often use non union labour and the 'lump' system to keep costs down, and profits up.

Just recently the doubtful actions of one building firm have come to light... Wren Construction.

Or rather, should have come to light.

For although it was clearly stated in a housing report discussed at the Housing Committee, no mention of the case was made in the 'responsible' press - the Daily Post and Echo.

Wren construction put in a tender of £1,550 to modernise 31 Albany Road, the show house in Kensington Fields. They won the contract, not surprisingly. For their tender was about 15%-20% below the price a firm of quantity surveyors later advised was reasonable.

## Sub-contract

But then Wren Construction sub-contracted the work to a Mr Peter Christian, a Kensington builder... although this broke the contract.

As the housing report says: "Wren Construction, without

knowledge or consent from the corporation and in breach of standing order 98 (3) - subject to which all tenders are invited - sub contracted either all or a major part of the work to a Peter Christian, a builder and general contractor whose place of business is in Kensington Fields, general improvement area."

A sorry tale. But things didn't end there.

For Mr Christian complained to the corporation that the job had cost him £2,300 but that Wren refused to reimburse him.

So Mr Christian had the nerve to ask the corporation to consider a claim for £800... although he had not put in the original contract, and had accepted corporation work which should not have been sub contracted.

## Tory opposition

Labour members on the housing committee recommended that Wren Construction should not be allowed to undertake any more corporation work.

And they said Mr Christian should not be paid £800.

The Conservatives opposed this, but the motion was passed as two Conservatives were perturbed enough to abstain.

No doubt when the matter comes to the City Council businessmen will try to reverse the decision. And no doubt the businessmen's papers will stay silent.

# Police supplies smoked out

Not only students and blacks are being raided by the police looking for drugs.

Now Liverpool's Vice Squad officers are having their desks and drawers searched regularly... by other police officers.

For ever since the outcry about allegations of policemen planting drugs, some officers had the sense to realise that there is more than a half-truth in these accusations.

They know drug planting goes on. But now they realise that the practice is becoming so widespread the good old image of the bobby

on the beat is fast disappearing.

One member of the Vice Squad told a Free Press reporter over a cup of tea: "Every member of the Vice Squad used to have samples of every kind of drug in their drawer. Just by comparing drugs which we seized, with our samples, we knew exactly what kind they were... long before the analyst gave us his report.

"But since all this fuss, our desks have been searched frequently and completely out of the blue.

"Now we're not supposed to keep any drugs, though of course, some still do."

## Well! Well! Mirabel



When Mrs Mirabel Topham, owner of Aintree Racecourse, announced that the Grand National was to be sponsored by BP everyone assumed she meant British Petroleum. However, as Mrs Topham's clenched fist salute reveals, the sponsors are in fact the Black Panther movement. Support from this source is not really surprising, writes our race correspondent, since no white horse has won the National for years.