

Thought...

If Britain joins you-know-what, will our building standards stand up to European competition?



Field

Working people have been described by the New York Times as sluggish, clock-conscious, layabouts, etc for as long as anyone can remember.

The last straw came when the paper criticised municipal office employees for "sitting around chatting, reading newspapers or just daydreaming when they are supposed to be working."

Next day someone sneaked in to the New York Times office and took a photograph of the staff "taking it easy, sitting around, reading, doing crosswords, gossiping and flirting." The picture was published in the municipal workers' union newspaper.



The Police Federation (the nearest thing police have got to a trade union) is concerned about the keeping of secret files on its members. The federation is calling for regulations on the type of personal information which may and may not be stored in dossiers on policemen.

It is also asking for unqualified right of access to these records, and for it to be made an offence against police regulations to keep secret files on members of the force.

Perhaps while they're about it, the same rules could be applied to dossiers on members of the public.

Tackling local problems

There are many areas of Liverpool without tenants associations. Yet they are easy to form. And are vital if the tenant's voice is to be heard.

All it takes is a few interested people to leaflet the area. Sometimes this may be a whole estate. Other times it may just be one or two high-rise flats.

Then, when all tenants know about the proposed association, a meeting has to be arranged.

At the meeting a committee has to be elected. And a small yearly fee - between 10p and 30p

should be collected from every one who wants to join. This covers expenses such as telephone calls to corporation officials and letters. Once the committee has been formed, other ways of raising funds - such as tates - may be considered.

No politicians

It is important to keep local councillors and politicians out of influential positions in tenants associations. It is not even a good idea to have the committee run by well-known supporters of any

party, as this can cause splits in tenants associations.

Community spirit

By all means work with councillors to get things done in the area and to fight grievances. But the tenants association must be the voice of tenants and not under the thumb of politicians.

A successful tenants group can create a good community spirit by arranging social events as well as tackling local problems.

Tenants wake up to rents threat

The cost to you

WHAT FAIR RENTS WILL MEAN

- 1 Council House rents will double and, in some cases, treble. Some people will get rebates; the vast majority will pay more. Rents will rise by 50p - 75p from October 1972 for three years, until a 'fair' rent is reached.
- 2 By 1980 the Government will make £300 million out of council housing.
- 3 Each working single child living at home will be asked to pay £1.50 per week. This will hit those saving up to get married.
- 4 You will be charged an extra £1 for every aged parent living with you.
- 5 Ghettoes of poverty could be created. Private tenants living in houses bigger than they need won't get full rebates. Council tenants may be moved into, or rehoused from slums, into the worst areas of cities where 'fair' rents are lower, so saving rebates.

- 6 For every extra £1 a council tenant earns he will have to pay another 17p rent, as his rebate is lowered. Add this to the extra income tax paid and you will only get about 48p back for each £1 you earn on overtime.
- 7 Private tenants living in areas with controlled rents face huge increases - for all rents are to be decontrolled and replaced with a 'fair' rent.

Council tenants will subsidise:

- a) Poor council tenants who are the responsibility of all taxpayers.
- b) The private tenants' rent allowance scheme, through the rates.
- c) The owner-occupier with a mortgage, who gets tax relief.
- d) the private landlord.
- e) The Government, who will get £300 million to spend as a result of the new high rents.
- f) Much of the cost at present borne by the Supplementary Benefits Commission.

Most council tenants and some private tenants face a series of massive rent rises in twelve months' time.

Already some tenants groups have woken up to threat of the Government's 'fair deal for housing.'

Recently several tenants associations met at Stanley House to plan ways of opposing the proposed Bill.

They agreed to send letters off to MPs, Mr Julian Amery, Ministry of Housing, and to organise demonstrations.

At the meeting were representatives from Tower Hill (Kirkby), Bootle, Childwall Valley, Norris Green and Netherley.

by David Barnes

Above all, they are anxious to raise support from trade unions and shop stewards to join in the campaign against the 'fair deal'.

For they point out that any successful wage demands will be more than wiped out by the Bill which doubles or trebles rents.

At the meeting, Mrs Marjorie Gallimore, secretary of the Childwall Valley Residents Association, gave a detailed list of the points in the Bill causing greatest concern. (We print these on this page).

The representatives then agreed that there was a great urgency to organise tenants to fight the proposals as the Bill could become law in October.



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Cornucopia

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November 7th, December 5th, 12th and 19th

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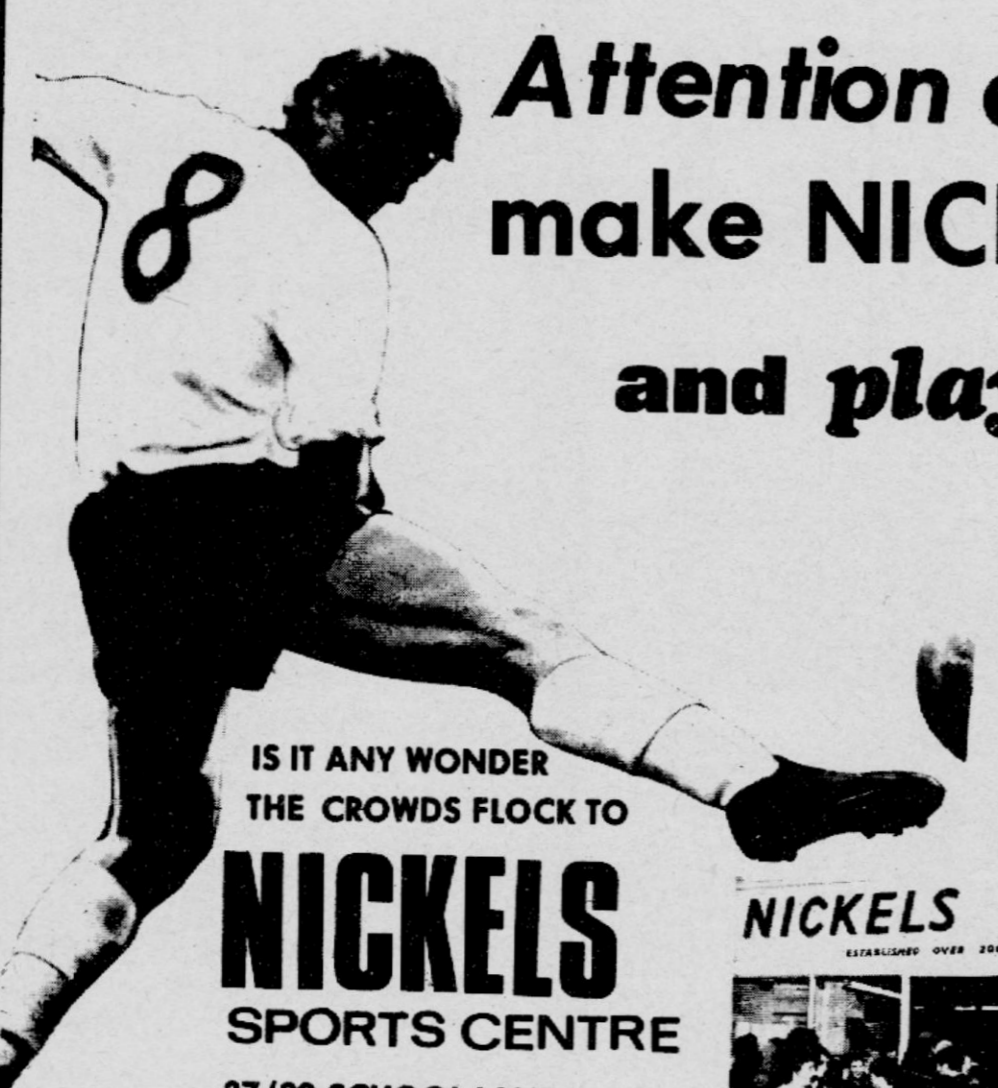
October 10th evening: Stack Waddy, Sarasvati, Medium Theatre, Derek Rose. Admission 20p. Commencing 6.30.

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