

FREE PRESS
free ads

ANNOUNCEMENTS
'A world without money. Is it possible?' Meetings held every Wed at 8p.m. in the Manor Hotel, Union St, Birkenhead. All are welcome. Socialist Party of Great Britain.
Homosexual? The Campaign for Homosexual Equality needs your help in the fight for legal equality and an end to social prejudice. Merseyside local group organises regular discussion meetings and social events. Details from C.H.E. national H.Q. at 28 Kennedy St, Manchester 2.
Pre-school playgroup at St Bede's Church Hall, Hartington Road, Liverpool 8. Mon-Fri, 9.30-12.30. Age 3-5. 15p per morning, or special reduced rate 50p per week. Educational play and well chosen equipment. Run by qualified teacher.
Teacher available. Maths tutorials. Contact Paul Taylor, 170a Lodge Lane, Liverpool 8
ACCOMMODATION
Bed and breakfast at a farmhouse in North Wales, beautifully situated in return for 3 hours' work per day. Experiment in alternative life-style. Write for details: Gordon, c/o 63 Forfar Road, Tuebrook, L'pool 13.
JOBS WANTED
Interesting job required urgently. Used to be a boring accounts clerk, helping my capitalist pig of a father get rich. Now seeks happy, friendly employer. Please help. All offers considered. Age 20, long hair etc etc. BOX No 15.
WANTED
Wanted - advice on construction of a four-shaft harness foot power loom, as manufactured by Harris Looms. Anyone with this type of loom please write Box 27.
Anybody interested in forming a food-buying collective? Box 28

You can advertise free in the Free Press small ads. Just fill in the form below and say which classification you want—Announcements, accommodation, for sale, wanted, lifts offered and wanted, jobs offered and wanted.

Please write clearly
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____
AD(limit 50 words) _____
CLASSIFICATION _____

If you haven't room here use a separate sheet of paper. For box numbers please enclose a large stamped, addressed envelope.
Conditions:
1. Ads which involve buying, selling, etc are included free on the understanding that the advertiser does not make a living from this kind of transaction.
2. Where legal difficulties arise, publication may be refused.



Did you think that music was a cushy life for long-haired layabouts and had nothing in common with ordinary people who do 48 hours hard grafting every week of the year?

If you did you were wrong. Musicians have the same problems with money, management, unions, their right, as anybody else.

For a long time small complaints have muttered on, but now they are coming together loudly and productively.

A Musicians' Liberation Front has been started by two musicians in Liverpool 8 - Mike Evans and Mike Hart - and they are hoping to begin to put an end to the exploitation, the unfair deals. They want to start making it possible for musicians to stand firmly and autonomously on their own two feet.

During the last few years the situation has been increasingly difficult for most people working in the progressive music field - Mike amends that to "so-called progressive music" and explains that the image of the new pot smoking straightforward manager is quite erroneous, he is just as lacking in scruples as his cigar smoking predecessor.

There are the same fiddles and cons as in any business. And as in any business, the union cannot cope adequately with the situation.

RADICAL

There is a radical faction in the M.U. though, and they are hoping to work hand in hand with the Musicians' Liberation Front and radicalise the whole union.

So what is the Musicians' Liberation Front doing?

Well, forming a pressure group, encouraging non-union members to join the union for the small benefits they will gain, but also Musicians' Lib hopes to form a network of cells all over the country who will will organise and encourage visiting groups to fight for their rights. They list their intentions as:

1. To challenge, with agitation and propaganda, the entire concept of management.
2. To set up a defence fund and legal aid facilities for musicians in contractual disputes.
3. To encourage musicians to avoid managerial contracts, neg-

Music's just like any other business

otiate their own work where possible and generally control their own lives.

4. To urge musicians to demand to see all accounts, having independent accountants if necessary.

5. To cultivate a constant awareness of who is supposed to be employing whom.

6. To draw up a list of recommended hotels, transport cafes, etc where

musicians can get a fair deal. Also pressuring promoters for decent working conditions, in respect to bandrooms etc.

7. To generally promote a dialogue in the musical and underground press and in all aspects of the media, arguing from the standpoint of the liberated and self-respecting musician, to the end in view of a liberated and self-respecting music.

In autumn a sort of agency-that-isn't is starting, arranging for groups to play at only a 2% charge for Musicians' Lib.

At the moment interest in Liverpool is running high and handsome, but national support is not quite so forthcoming, simply because many people still don't know about it. John Lennon is interested and Pete Townsend has pledged his support but the further publicity necessary, plus all the other running costs, especially the agency plans means that funds are an enormous problem.

You can contact either Mike Hart or Mike Evans at 70 Huskisson Street, Liverpool 8. Tel: 709 3938



The real cost of the civic centre

Liverpool's proposed civic centre is to cost £7,000,000 more than first forecast in 1969, when the plans were submitted to the City Council.

And Liverpool's City Planning Department are to join the opposition to the civic centre - by refusing to represent the corporation at any public enquiry into the civic centre plans ordered by the Minister for the Environment.

This determined move - which will anger Alderman Macdonald Steward, Conservative leader of the City Council - rounds off four years of discontent in the planning office with the schemes put forward.

And it puts a well-timed spanner in to the corporation works just as the civic centre lobby is preparing to hush up the real cost of the civic centre and push the plans quickly through the final stages of acceptance by committee and council.

Already it has been prematurely announced in the Municipal Review, a national magazine, that construction on the site will begin in June 1973.

With less than two years to go, it is still being described in the local press as the £10 million civic centre.

In fact, when the foundation stone is laid, the cost will be nearer £17 million.

But no councillor has been given that figure and there were no plans to provide the council with that information.

That figure has been carefully overlooked as the civic centre lobby, with Macdonald Steward and Stanley Holmes, the Town clerk at the helm, crossed their fingers and hoped for a quiet passage through the public enquiry that they know must now be inevitable.

Inflation has pushed the real cost of the civic centre up nearly £7 million and with it the enormous fees being paid to Colin St John Wilson, the Cambridge architect employed by Liverpool Corporation since 1965.

St John Wilson's fees are 6% of the total capital cost, based not on the 1969 estimate, but on the 1973

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

price projection. To date he has received more than £500,000

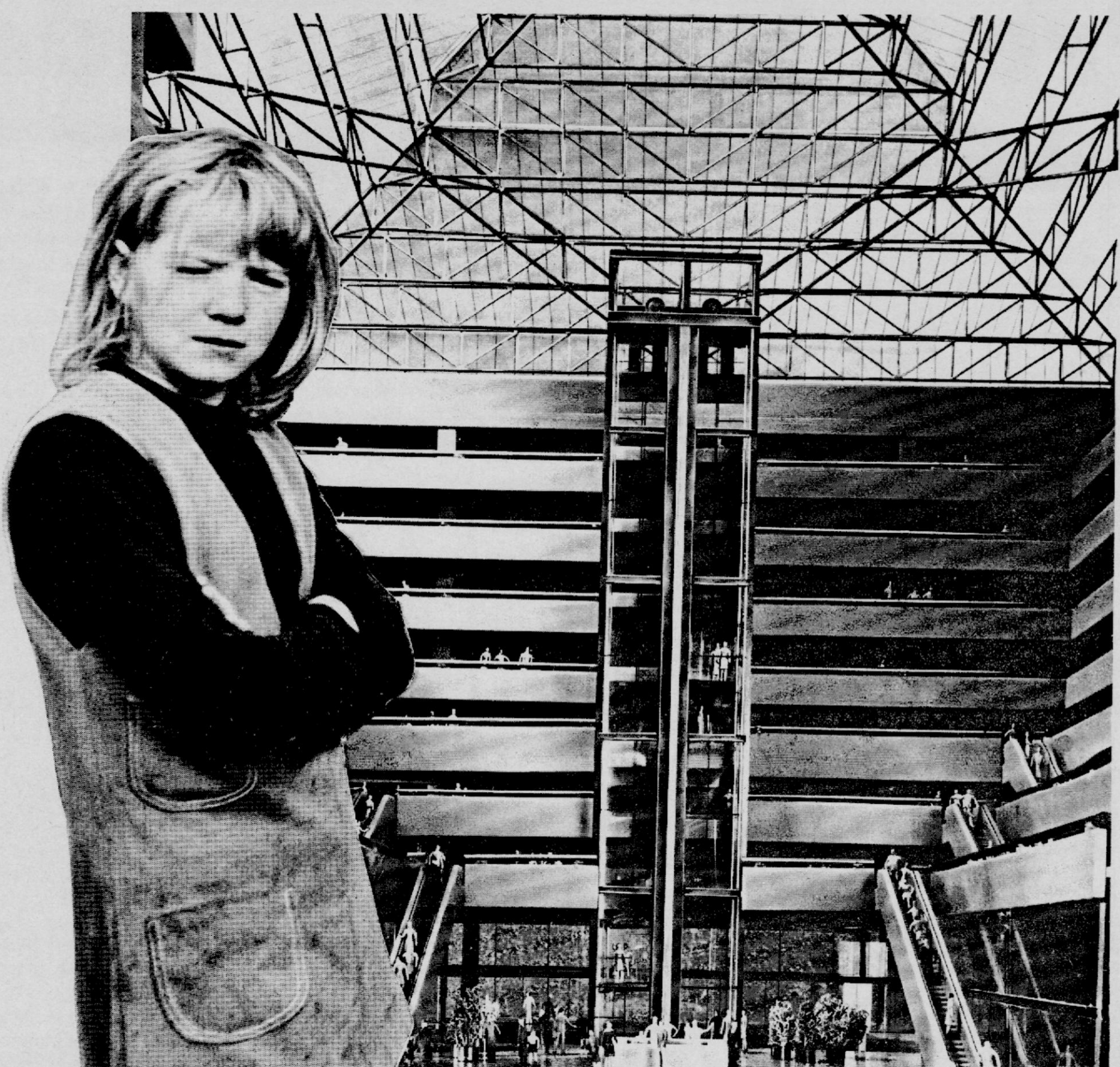
His eventual pay packet will be more than £1,000,000.

And that figure does not include the fees for the quantity surveyors, the services engineers, or the structural engineers. Councillors have still not been told how much these fees will amount to.

The dissatisfaction with St John Wilson, felt on more than one occasion in the City Architect's Office has been shared by other architects in Liverpool.

Colin St John Wilson disregarded the brief set out for him by Liverpool, based on the Shankland-Cox city centre plan.

Shankland advocated "something more than just a particularly monumental office block."



Artist's impression of the civic centre's interior.

St John Wilson obliged by producing a particularly monumental office block - a monolithic slab of expensive office block, with bronze facade, air conditioning, and something called 'solar gain control with tinted glass.'

If he had been working on the plans for a public toilet he would have been subject to stringent limitations. Not so when it comes to a £17 million civic centre.

St John Wilson's first scheme, submitted in 1967, was estimated to cost more than £25 million.

When he was called upon to revise it and produce a cheaper version, he did so by chopping off, as requested, the provision for social amenities, but leaving essentially the same huge slabs of office block.

Still standing empty a stone's

throw away from the site of the civic centre is Concourse House in Lime Street, Liverpool's Centre-point, and another good reason why we don't need more office space in the city.

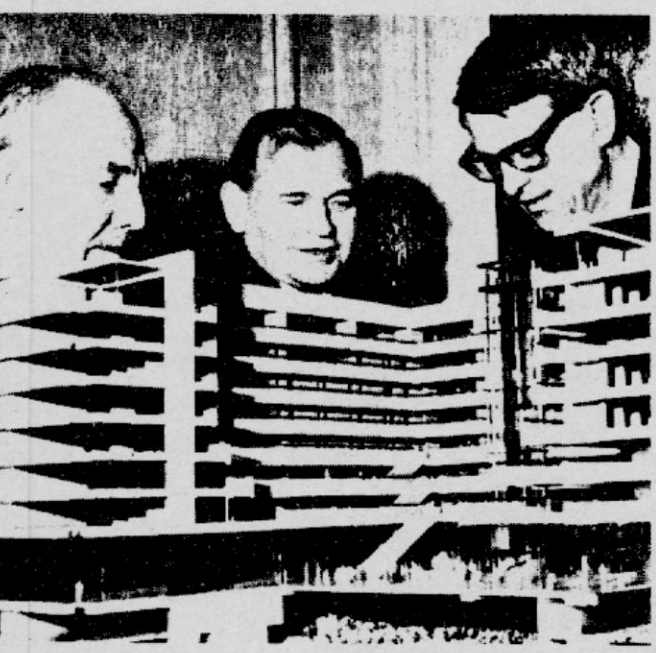
In the appraisal of St John Wilson's schemes, Merseyside Civic Society pointed out that in submitting his revised plans the architect had omitted to give any indication of the area of the building or the cost of the scheme ir.

either of the first two phases.

The Merseyside Civic Society's appraisal is quoted at length by two Liverpool architects, Jim Hunter and Ken Martin, whose critique of St John Wilson's scheme appeared in Centreview, the magazine put out by Liverpool's Design Centre.

The Royal Fine Arts Commis-

A CASTLE FOR THE POLITICIANS



Aldermen Steward and Sefton with Colin St John Wilson admiring the model of the civic centre.

The justification of the civic centre - if you ignore the needs of the prestige-hungry politicians - is that it groups all the corporation departments under one roof.

Yet it is already the policy of a number of corporation departments to decentralise and set up offices throughout the city, dealing directly with people in a particular neighbourhood.

The concern for prestige underlies much of the support for the civic centre, and clouds out serious considerations of the social cost in terms of resources that could be channelled into solving the housing crisis, cleaning up the

foul Mersey, or improving public transport.

When St John Wilson produced his first model in 1967, Macdonald Steward and Alderman Bill Sefton (leader of the council's Labour group) were pictured side by side with the architect, smiling peacefully at it... their dreams coming true.

☆☆☆☆

Their dream is of a Liverpool rivalling the grandeur of London. A Liverpool that can never decline. A Liverpool with a civic centre (in the words of the public relations officers) befitting a

great city. Overcome with adoration, Bill Sefton gazed at the model and cooed to the press: "It is the greatest experiment in democracy any city has attempted."

An odd, and ironic tribute to a glorified office block, which the people of Liverpool never had any chance to reject.

St John Wilson neatly mirrored the views of the politicians when he commented in his first report: "Members of the public are confined to the Central Reception Area, eliminating the necessity for barriers and corridors to prevent access to confidential papers."

But we don't even need it

It isn't only the wishes of the people of Liverpool that have been ignored in designing the centre. The City's planning office has hardly been consulted over the major scheme that will sprawl across the middle of the city.

The differences between St John Wilson and the City Planning Office were soon apparent when Mr Francis Amos, the City Planning Officer, gave his comments to the committee considering the civic centre plans in 1967.

Amos found little to please him in the plans. He considered the adjacent buildings will be dwarfed by the mammoth scale of the civic centre.

□□□□

No public debate could have been expected through the columns of the Daily Post and Echo.

Until St John Wilson's revised scheme, the Echo building in Victoria Street was definitely planned for compulsory purchase to make way for the Civic Centre.

In the second scheme, the Echo building is not directly affected. The Echo is concerned that the building will still be bought by the corporation as part of the 'deal' arranged in the early sixties which meant the Echo took the plum site in Old Hall Street, next to the Inner Motorway, for their new building; got rid of the former Tinlings/Express building in Victoria Street and received a good price for their old building.

Now the Echo management are worried.

ion are worried about the effect of the scheme on St George's Hall. And well they might be. For St John Wilson was quoted in Building magazine (August 11, 1967) as saying: "We might wonder whether it might not be better to dispense with St George's Hall."

Is this man an architect - or a demolition expert?

It is now clear that St John Wilson should have been 'laid off' while the disquiet brewing within and without the corporation had been fully heard and the fundamental issues sorted out.

Instead, Liverpool's civic centre lobby has seen to it that good money has been poured unhesitatingly and uncritically after bad.

□□□□

The Planning Department's opposition does not extend to the principle of the Civic Centre. They are not opposed to a civic centre on the present site, just to the St John Wilson scheme.

Alderman Macdonald Steward and Stanley Holmes, Town Clerk, have forgotten what the costly McKinsey report said:

"A decision to allocate funds to one particular project such as the civic centre or the new road system could mean that the council is condemning old people to live for a further number of years in squalid conditions."

The £17 million civic centre is just another overpowering vision of prestige. It is being pushed through, without adequate consultation with the planning department, without any consultation with the people of Liverpool, and with a distorted picture of the real financial and social cost. "It appears to have been dropped on us from the sky," said a senior Liverpool planning officer in 1967. Like a lot of other things that drop from the sky in Liverpool's pigeon-infested city centre, it is both uninvited and unnecessary.