

# LIVERPOOL Free Press

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supposed to know

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4p



Mr Gore and Sybil surrounded by their furniture in the back garden of the cottage.

## How the Gateacre line losses are fiddled

British Rail are grossly exaggerating their losses in order to justify closing Liverpool's suburban Gateacre Line.

BR claim the line faces a deficit of £150,000 in 1972 - a vast 226% increase over the 1965 loss, even though the rail service has been cut back drastically since the Beeching purge.

The inflated figures given by BR for track and signalling maintenance in 1972 are also absurd.

Track and signalling in 1972, according to BR will cost £77,000 - a mammoth rise of 541% on the

Full story - Pages Six and Seven

£12,000 figure given in 1966 for track and signalling on the Gateacre Line.

Operating costs have escalated in complete defiance of reality: the line has been run down, leaving only a temporary service with an hourly frequency.

Using costing techniques from independent and authoritative sources, including a British Rail executive, and a former General Manager of BR, the Free Press has produced evidence that BR's cost estimates for the Gateacre Line are unrelated to the real cost of operation.

British Rail's policy has clearly been to run down the Gateacre Line - even though the MALTS transport study of Merseyside gave the line an immediate and important role in serving the densely populated area of south Liverpool and the growing estates at Belle Vale, Netherley and Halewood.

## Leverhulme evicts his gardener

An elderly couple have lived in a mini-van for over two months, after being evicted from a 'tied' cottage owned by multi-millionaire Lord Leverhulme.

The couple say they were thrown out by their landlord and employer, Lord Leverhulme, when he discovered they weren't married.

Mr George Gore, aged 60, claims Lord Leverhulme dismissed him for making a false statement about being married, when he applied for the job of gardener.

In fact Mr George Gore and Sybil have lived together for seven years, and are married in the eyes of common law, the Inland Revenue and Social Security departments.

Lord Leverhulme, who lives like a feudal squire in his palatial manor house in Thornton Hough village, has said there was another reason for the sacking - and consequent eviction - of Mr Gore. But he has

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● LATE NEWS: Lord Leverhulme is favourite to succeed the right-wing Lord Salisbury as Chancellor of Liverpool University.

## CITY'S SOCIAL SERVICES THREATENED

# CASH CRISIS: SECRET PLAN

Secret moves to slash Liverpool Corporation's expenditure have been made in a last-minute attempt to stave off a financial crisis. Corporation departments have been ordered to stand by to cut their budgets by five per cent - and despite these massive cuts the city's rates will rise yet again by 15p or more from April.

The orders have not been passed by either the city council or any of its committees.

If the cuts are carried through a financial crisis may be averted but the city - deprived of vital expenditures on social services, education and health - will face a mounting social crisis.

The education department have warned that cuts on this scale will mean the reduction of teaching staff by not filling vacancies. And equipment, stationery and books in schools will have to be reduced - just as they prepare to raise the school leaving age.

Social services director Meredith Davies made a plea last September for more money.

### Critical situation

Any new cuts will cripple his already money-starved department, and most of the department's important projects will have to go by the board.

Further cuts will produce a critical situation at the city's rubbish

DETAILS: See Page Six

tips at Sefton Meadows and Otterspool.

In last September's round of Corporation cuts it was already stated that the city's sewers will not be adequately maintained in 1972.

The September cuts took their toll of many priority schemes: additional hostel places for the mentally handicapped, two ambulance stations, 70 extra nurses, 40 extra social workers, day care centres for the handicapped and the improvement of the pupil/teacher ratio.

Since the September cuts Liverpool's Conservative-controlled city council have given the go-ahead for a £35m civic centre, £7m expansion of Speke airport, and further stretches of the multi-million pound inner motorway.

Now they propose drastic cuts in social expenditure, and Liverpool is already in debt to the tune of £276,000,000.

## MINE'S A PINT

"He's only here for the miners!" That's the word among student drinkers at Liverpool University where an extra charge of 1p a drink is being made to help the miners and Fisher-Bendix workers.

The levy operates in two of the three bars in the students union. The third bar, the more snobbish Cocktail Bar, is reserved for 'blackleg-and-tan' drinkers who don't support strikes. There, the levy is going towards Panto, the students' collection for charity.

## 'TRIAL' FOR STRIKER

John Byrne, chairman of the electricians' strike committee at the Inland Revenue Office site in Bootle has been told to appear before the disciplinary committee of the Joint Industry Board, which dictates pay and conditions in the electrical contracting industry.

Said Mr Byrne: "It's not clear what I'm being charged with, but if I'm found guilty I could get a £100 fine, withdrawal of sickness and death benefits, three months' suspension or complete suspension from working in the industry"

Full story of the electricians' strike: Page Eight.

## £13m UP

Thorn Electrical Industries, who own Fisher Bendix, Kirkby, are expected to announce that their profits last year leapt by £13m (from £37m to £50m) and turnover by £100m (from £343m to £443m).

## Echo move threatens Bugle

One of Liverpool's best known community newspapers is fighting a move by the Daily Post and Echo Ltd which threatens its existence.

Staff of the Tuebrook Bugle (who all give their services free) have been told the Echo company plan to start up a new paper - The Anfield Times - in the Bugle's circulation area.

This, they were, told, would quickly close the Bugle, which for more than a year has been one of the few independent voices on Merseyside. They were told the

Anfield Times would take Bugle readers (it would be bigger and cheaper) and advertisers (by offering lower rates). One of the Bugle staff, housewife Mrs Chrissy Maher says she was offered a chance to write for the Anfield Times at 2½p a word (giving her about £25 a week). She rejected this offer.

The Tuebrook residents who form the editorial committee of the Bugle have retaliated by saying that if any paper is going to close it will be the Anfield Times. A "Save the Bugle - Boycott the Anfield Times" campaign

was launched on February 12 with a demonstration outside the Echo's offices in Victoria Street.

A leaflet said: "Every penny which comes to the Bugle from readers and advertisers is ploughed back into the paper... Every spare penny from the Anfield Times will go to the Post and Echo company. We think they have enough spare pennies already - they made £2,557,468 profit last year.

"For more than a year we have campaigned to get the Corporation (continued on page 7)