



Frank Marsden, the Vauxhall councillor who also divides his time between Westminster and Liverpool, put in only 30 hours.

It's little wonder that the Scotland Road area of the city doesn't get much of a voice in council affairs. Their three councillors — Marsden, Orr and Dunford (now an Alderman) — only attended a total of 80 hours out of a possible 220 hours.

Marsden, M P reveals all

I read with some interest your article headed 'Labour Councillors who play truant', in which my name was mentioned and the fact that I had attended only thirty hours out of a possible two hundred and twenty hours on City Council meetings.

I was elected to Parliament in a bye-election in the middle of my Council term.

You cannot be in Westminster and Liverpool at one and the same time. That was the reason why the Liverpool Borough Labour Party instructed me not to stand again as a City Councillor for the City of Liverpool. Therefore I no longer serve as a Councillor. Even so my total of thirty hours out of a total of eighty hours for the three Councillors of the Vauxhall Ward is not bad — not bad at all.

No mention was made of the six years I served on the Council, my two year as Liverpool's Market Chairman, my service as a Justice of the Peace for the City and the Governorships I held on various technical schools, and also my general welfare work. In fact of the many hundreds of thousands of hours to my credit in twenty-five years of political work in my City on behalf of other people.

Let us have the full picture when a case is being made out.

Everyone knows anyway except the Liverpool Free Press.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK MARSDEN

● Our article was not a general criticism of Mr Marsden. It concerned only the attendances of Labour councillors. The people of Vauxhall ward are entitled to the same representation at council meetings as people in other wards, and they have been inadequately represented for at least a year. As soon as he became an MP Mr Marsden should have made way for someone with more time to attend council meetings — not waited a year and a half.

Unfair dismissal

In a summer when school leavers and young people generally, particularly those without any examination qualifications, will again find difficulty in getting jobs I wish to bring to your readers' attention a serious case of discrimination, injustice, as well as misrepresentation of the facts by the local press, against

a Bootle youth.

Patrick Stenson, 16 years of age, had worked in a supermarket since the beginning of February. Every day, accompanied by the shop's undermanager, Paddy would take the day's takings to the local bank. On the evening of Friday, June 16, Paddy and his superior were 'jumped on' by two men and a sum of £800 taken. The following morning at a meeting with the undermanager and area manager Paddy was dismissed, the reason given being 'poor references' — nearly five months after starting work. The same evening the Liverpool Echo reported the robbery, stating that the manager and undermanager alone were involved — no mention of Paddy! Paddy protested to the Echo about this but to no avail.

Surely if this sort of thing recurs — and young people seem to be increasingly getting the rough end of the stick from employers — the youth of today will become more cynical and apathetic.

MALCOLM SHEPHERD
(Careers Officer)
80 Darby Road
Liverpool 19.

● The manager of the supermarket concerned would not comment when we telephoned him.

12 year old and police

I have been buying your paper since it came out. I have been reading the article on Lennie Cruickshank, where you said the Liverpool Echo ignored his case.

They also ignored mine. I rang them on April 28 and asked them would they come to my home where my boy Stephen had 14 stitches put in his face after being hit off a police sergeant from Copperas Hill.

He is only 12 years of age and the sergeant threw his baton at him. He is still attending the hospital. My MP, Bob Parry, has taken it up for me. The sergeant told me in the ambulance that he done it. He didn't deny it but he said it is his duty to throw it at a boy who is resisting arrest.

This boy of mine is the boy who three years ago (you may recall it) fell 100 feet into Lime Street Station. It was all over the papers.

I have eight children and no husband. He didn't break his teeth in this accident, but the police sergeant broke three teeth on him.

I would also like to tell you that at no time in the police station did he say he was sorry. If he gets away with this I would please like you to print my story. I am just waiting to see what happens. Yours sincerely,
Mrs M. Kenny
125 Brownlow Hill
Liverpool 3.

● Stephen's story is on page ten.

Mr Dorling visited the picket lines yesterday to assess the situation, without the dockers noticing. Afterwards he explained his methods. "I will drive to Stratford police station and ask for assistance. There will be a line of — lice between me and the pickets."

THE GUARDIAN

Backdoor ports take the trade

"IF THIS container bother in England carries on we'll be well away. Work at Holyhead will build up."

Those words were spoken by an anonymous railwayman who works at the British Rail Docks, Holyhead, on Anglesey.

He is one of 250 Welsh railway men who are also dockers. And his opinion demonstrates precisely why Merseyside dockers are worried about unregistered ports like Holyhead.

A registered port is bound by the conditions of work laid down in the National Dock Labour Scheme — fallback pay, some safeguards against redundancy, and a 50% representation on the local dock labour boards.

But unregistered ports — there are others at Glasson Dock, near Lancaster, and Mostyn on the River Dee — are the weak link. At Holyhead the basic wage is £21, average gross wage is £30-£35 for days, £40-£44 for nights, on container work, and there are no safeguards against redundancy.

At Mostyn last August 17 men — nearly half the labour force on the dock — were sacked. A number of them are still on the dole. It isn't so much the practice, though, as much as the potential of these ports which is the danger.

Mostyn is the nearest non-registered port to Liverpool. Last year 300 ships docked along its 1,000 ft of quayside, carrying 200,000 tons of cargo. They came from all over Europe, north Africa, and some from Canada, bringing wood pulp, chemicals, timber, steel and gravel.

Mostyn Docks and Trading Company is a subsidiary of the Sheffield



Mostyn Dock

engineering group, Thomas Ward, and employs 35 dockers. Cargo handling has doubled since 1966, and the biggest customers are the three Courtauld's factories at Flint and Greenfield. In 1971 the turnover was £1¼ million.

Shop steward Bill Williams told the Free Press: "We would like to be a registered port. At the moment we get exactly the same rates as the Liverpool lads, and in 1970 we were out on strike with them. We aren't a scab port."

Fair enough, but docks manager Bill Williams (no relation) has other ideas about the future of Mostyn. "Soundings have shown that we have got about as much natural water as Liverpool without dredging. And that's just some indication of how great our potential is," he said earlier this year.

No dredging costs, no tug dues, low harbour dues, no job security for the dockers, and big plans —

Mostyn's threat is obvious.

Holyhead has far greater potential. Each month a ship berths at the Anglesey Aluminium Company's jetty carrying 50,000 tons of ore.

The capacity of the new container terminal is 100,000 containers a year — 2,000,000 tons of cargo. And there is no shortage of deep sea anchorage for the big ships.

Glasson Dock, near Lancaster, handled 5,000 tons of cargo in 1963. Last year 50 ships a month docked at the six berths and unloaded 110,000 tons. Still a drop in the ocean, maybe, but business is booming in the same way at all unregistered ports and wharves, as jobs decline in the registered ports.

And if things don't go their way in the big ports, and the national dock labour scheme is kept, the shipowners won't be slow to increase their use of the backdoor ports.

Free radio chase

(continued from page one)

over another tree not far away, came down, switched the tape recorder on and the show began.

After a time Bob saw three official looking people drive past a nearby road in a Volkswagen car. They drove past, then came back. The car stopped and the men got out. They began walking to the field where the illegal radio was operating.

Bob hurriedly grabbed the transmitter and the tape recorder and dashed off. The officials saw him and chased after him. Bob threw the transmitter into some stinging nettles and ran down the lane.

Then he tripped and fell flat on his face. He looked up, expecting to feel a hand on his shoulder, but no-one was there.

"So I threw myself into a large bed of nettles and stayed there dead still for fifteen minutes. The officials searched around for me. They shouted 'Come out, we know you are there.' Then one of them began barking like a dog to frighten me," said Bob.

The game's up

They didn't find him, but that time they lost their transmitter, two car batteries, the aerial wire and their transformer.

The next week Bob and Dave again set up their equipment in a farmer's field. They turned the programme on and moved off to keep a look-out. When the programme was nearly over Bob walked back. He

was within ten feet of the equipment when a GPO official who had been hiding behind a few bushes jumped out and shouted "The game's up!" Exit Bob, pursued by GPO officials.

Again he got away, but this time they lost almost all their equipment.

The free radio stations on Merseyside were set up by individuals who resent the monopoly of the BBC and its power to dictate what programmes — particularly pop music programmes — the public should listen to.

They are modelled very closely on the old pirate radio stations, such as Radio Caroline. They have similar jingles and their staple diet is music.

Better reception

But a member of the Cheshire Free Radio Organisation, which produces a newsletter about the progress of the local stations, said: "It's not commercial radio we want, it's free radio. When you have too many adverts the radio station becomes controlled by the companies who advertise."

Despite the huge losses of Radio Free Liverpool recently, it is still fairly cheap to start your own local or community radio. Bob tapes his three-hour music programme at home on a £25 cassette tape recorder. The whole cost of the equipment is no more than £150.

Then on Sundays he travels with his friend Dave to places like Rainford, Huyton or Hale, finds a suitable field, puts the 150-ft aerial

up, sticks earth rods in the ground, sets up the transformer and transmitter — and hey presto! the show's begun.

Until a few months ago Radio Free Liverpool had a very weak signal, and reception was poor. But now it can be picked up by a good portable radio within a radius of 20 miles. And the organisers have even been heard as far away as Dublin and Preston.

Your guide to local free radio:

Radio 225: One of the oldest. Began transmitting new location in Wallasey, was raided by GPO, who removed their aerial. The operators escaped but no broadcast will start again for some time.

Radio Rag 225 metres: Manchester students' pirate station. Made more broadcast this February. GPO investigated and broadcasts ceased — for the time being.

Radio 222 Innovation: New station. Broadcast from 2-6 p.m. on Sundays. GPO investigation known to be imminent.

Radio Galaxy/Radio Rhonda: 227 metres. Radio Rhonda was formerly Radio Galaxy on 217 metres. Test transmissions made recently, with good reception on Wirral and in Liverpool. No plans yet for regular broadcasts.

Radio Free Cheshire: 221 metres. Picked up in Winsford area. Has tried other frequencies such as 222, 280, 266 and 215 metres. Now seems to have settled for 221 metres.

Radio Venus North: 199 metres. Also heard in Winsford area. Little else known about it.

Anyone interested in hearing about, helping with, or setting up free radio can write to Liverpool Free Press, 24 Wapping, Liverpool 1, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. We will pass letters on to the Cheshire Free Radio Organisation.