

Crosland backs developer ...

but developer has doubts

Eight months after the public enquiry into the Laing's development scheme for the site between the Anchor Pub on Bankside and Southwark Bridge, the Minister - Mr Anthony Crosland - has decided to support the developers.

The day after the decision the North Southwark Community Development Group issued the following statement :

"The N.S.C.D.G. along with 14 tenants associations, trades councils, and community associations in North Southwark opposed the Laings Office Scheme for Bankside at a public inquiry in June 1975, saying that local needs were not considered by the proposal, and that the development, involving 177,000 sq. ft. of office space, would create a disastrous precedent for other sites in Thames-Side. Instead of capitulating to developers local organisations urged positive planning with the site being acquired for housing under the Community Land Act.

BOOST DEVELOPERS

In March the Secretary for State announced his support for the Laings scheme. In doing so, he has given a major boost to property developers and land-owners on Southwark's Thameside such as Hays Wharf, and for their friends in Southwark Council and the Government. Once again, the government has supported the interests of developers over the needs of inner London residents.

EXCESS OFFICES

While Southwark Council has been committed to Laings proposals for Bankside for many years, as was discovered at the inquiry, the GLC objected to them because of the excessive office content and this was why there was a public inquiry.

Local objectors thought that the GLC case was badly presented at the inquiry and now they, and we, must pay the price. The



Lily Taylor, one of the senior citizen volunteers who have been giving out the new bus passes at the Waterloo Action Centre.

Residents Shell out

Whilst local residents face increases in rents and rates and cuts in Council services, wealthy office owners and property companies have actually managed to REDUCE their rates - which means of course that we have to find even more.

For example, SHELL, who occupy the huge office complex on the South Bank and who made £98,000,000 profit last year will be paying Lambeth £341,000 less.

These companies have achieved this by claiming that the property slump has lowered the value of their large offices, and they've gained a revaluation at a lower level. Shell's went down by £ 2 1/2 million.

But the money has to be found somewhere, and Lambeth for instance have decided to increase rents by an average of £ 1 a week and domestic rates by 9 %, Southwark domestic rates by 7 p.

Rates of course pay for local services and amenities, and some Local Authorities argue that offices bring in more revenue than is spent on the services the office workers use.

more for less

Really ? The 30,000 office workers in Waterloo use every facility going, with the possible exception of Social Services. They certainly use the open space, the libraries, the transport system, sewerage, roads etc.

In reality Waterloo suffers because so much emphasis is placed on the needs of the commuter, and North Southwark is in danger of suffering the same fate.

geared to offices

Many local bus services stop running in the evenings or at weekends. The local market is geared to the office trade and locals have to pay higher prices.

Many local shops have been forced to close because office development brings higher rents. Those that remain are forced to pass on these higher costs to the consumer. And a lot of the shops become geared only to the office worker - such as sandwich bars.

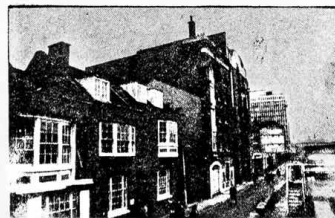
Both councils have cut their services next year, yet still found it necessary to increase rents and rates. They say that without these cuts even larger increases would be needed.

But the amount of money "saved" by the average domestic ratepayer in Lambeth, for example, will be only £2.40 a year on a 1p rate, whereas

GLC policy to restrict offices in central London is seriously threatened by the Laings decision. There are grave implications for the future of other sites in North Southwark.

LOCAL STRUGGLE

The struggle of local residents to get acceptance of their views and the campaign to change the attitude of Southwark Council and the government towards the North Southwark area is now even more important".



Mr. Crosland in a letter to the N.S.C.D.G. said that he had considered the case of local residents "with exceptional care" but decided in favour of Laings because the scheme included some housing as a planning gain, and because he thought that the "only alternative was for the land to lie derelict for a considerable period".

TENANT PULLS OUT

Yet Laings Development Co. announced soon after the decision that they might not be able to afford to build the offices or the housing anyway. Moreover it is rumoured that Alexander Howden Ltd., the prospective tenant for Laings office building, have pulled out. This may mean that even though Laings have planning permission the land may lie derelict for years.

SE1 SAYS SORRY

It now costs 7 1/2 p to produce each copy of SE1, so every issue is sold at a loss - even though it's written and produced by people who give their time for free.

We usually make up (most) of the loss through advertising, but after the latest increase from our printers we can no longer bridge the gap at the old price of 5 p.

Reluctantly, after much discussion, we have decided that we have to increase the price to 6p.

We would rather have waited one month and given you advance warning, but we didn't get any ourselves and we simply can't afford to delay any longer.

We hope you'll stay with us and still reckon SE1 is good value at 6 p.

Remember, it's only 3 good as the news you give us. Drop a line to 12 Meymott Street with whatever's on your mind. Better still, come to one of our editorial meetings on Thursday April 15th or 22nd. See you there !

Your Voice

Feeling ten years younger

Dear Friends & Neighbours,

In case you didn't go to the variety at Waterloo Action Centre on Friday evening, I'd like you to know what a wonderful night we had, the actors and actresses were really very talented people. The artists started off by singing all the old songs we love such as Daisy, Two Lovely Black Eyes, I was a Good Little Girl, and Why am I

Recollections

Dear SE1,
As 1976 is the fiftieth anniversary of the General Strike, we feel that it is an appropriate time to collect and publish the experiences and recollections of local people who were active in the strike.

With this purpose Union Place Publishing, a new locally based and non-profit making publishers, is appealing to readers who are interested in providing material for this book to contact us.

The first book will be concerned with events in Southwark, so we are especially interested in information, photos, posters, etc., that people may have hid-

ing away in their memories and/or attics.

We can be contacted at Union Place, 122 Vassall Road, SW9, Phone 735 6123.

Yours

Union Place Publishing

Golden Oldy

Flo Measures lives on Peabody Estate, Southwark Street, but started life 83 years ago just opposite an alehouse called the "Fanny on the Hill" in Welington, Kent. She hasn't been far away from a pub since.

A short period in service at the age of 13½ at £10 a year paid monthly with stoppages, was enough to make her look elsewhere and an advert in the Evening Advertiser for a job in a pub, the Northumberland, Walworth at 6/- a week as a learner took her from a bit lonely, and fancying a chat downstairs to East Lane.

Most of the things Flo was to learn later generations have forgotten. Those were the days when "Quarten of Gin and Three out" was the shout.

After working at other pubs in Walworth Flo married, had a son, but returned to work soon after at the Punch Tavern in Fleet Street, where people drank Baby Poly and other drinks. One day she was asked to pass on a message to Tommy Noble. When a man asked for the message Flo gave it him saying "My husband follows you all over the place" When asked why, Flo answered "You are Tommy Noble the Boxer aren't you?" This Tommy Noble was a writer for the Daily Sketch and didn't think he looked like a boxer.

always a Bridesmaid, sung by Miss Julia Sutton with a wonderful voice. Everyone joined in singing. If we had paid top prices for an opera we couldn't have been more pleased with Mr Terry Wymer, or the lovely little Scots singer with a voice like a nightingale. Chairman Pete John was very witty & pianist Mr Peter Pontzen worked very hard, as did all the others who made the evening so enjoyable.

I had all my family up from Stafford and they thoroughly enjoyed it so they want me to thank the W.A.C. for a most enjoyable evening and may we have many more; a good laugh takes 10 years off our oldies' ages.

Gratefully,
Lily Taylor
9 Roupell St, SE1

Dear SE1,

Cat's Life?

I could not help noticing the top right hand corner of your paper, and a little boy holding a cat in his arms. This is a sure way of letting people know that the city is here to stay, come rich or poor it's here.

With rents that have to be controlled to stop the con merchants of building and the bow tie landlords, so that we can live with something in the area; with something like a cigarette or maybe a pint - though nothing

else since wages are not all that much and the cost of living is high.

But nevertheless all seem to find some way out of the poverty thrown at us. This I say is typical of city life, and no matter how it is tried to change the way of living it is not altered but just goes on.

Yours truly

T.Cressey,
58 Summer Buildings,
Summer Street, SE1.



FLO MEASURES AGED 17 YRS. THE PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN IN THE FANCY DRESS STUDIO, TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD IN 1913

After the war Flo worked in 'Wheeler's' at London Bridge, and after working in several other pubs in the area finished her career at the age of 73 in the 'Trinity' in Trinity Church Sq., although ten years later she still spends some time the other

side of the bar, telling jokes like - "Why did the barmaid blush?"

Because the stout porter bitter.

Dear SE1

With reference to an article in your March issue concerning the move of the DHSS office from Marshalsea Road to Redcross Way, it stated that an official from DHSS said that a 'High Official' from DHSS had walked around Redcross Way and thought it a suitable location for the DHSS.

For what my opinion is worth, I would have said that a stray cat walking down Redcross Way had more intelligence than that 'High Official'. To even think of putting this DHSS office next to two primary schools and in the midst of blocks of flats and food shops showed a lack of intelligence.

If this is the way the brain of a 'High Official' works, can you wonder at the state of the country today?

Yours truly,

Catherine Schofield
Marshalsea Road, SE1.

Residents lose Parking Bays

Dear SE1

How many residents noticed among the public notices of the South London Press (February 20) Southwark's intention to revoke many residents' parking bays in North Southwark?

Although it states they intend to redistribute them, I gather from one of their officers, residents will lose much more than they gain.

In my area, this can be a greater hardship for residents than the council realise. In Collinson Street, which is now closed to traffic due to rebuilding, we have lost one complete street of parking bays.

Also included are plans to make Trinity Street and its surrounding areas meter zones. If they make available the same amount of residents' parking bays that they made for us in the first place, more residents are going to be driving around the other side of Borough Road looking for the few bays left.

T.Johnson,
156A St.Suffolk Street,
Southwark

* The full proposals are available at the NSCDG office at 108 St.Suffolk St., SE1.

Objections to them should be sent to: Director of Planning & Transportation (PT/TO/PO/R) Greater London Council, County Hall, London SE1.

WRITE

to SE1. We want to hear your news and views. Send your letters to: SE1 Community Newspaper, 12 Meymott St. SE1.

Energetic?

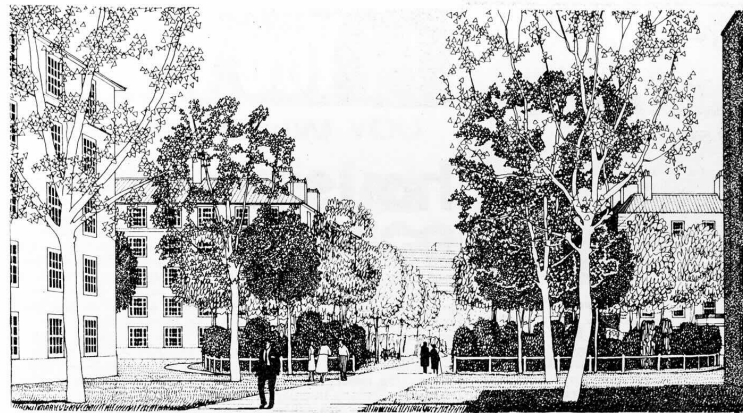
Dear SE1,

We were both very flattered by Tony Dunne's letter in the last issue. But we must tell you that we are only two youth workers among many who work with young people in the area every week. And all the others do the work without getting paid.

Without these volunteers we could not run the clubs we do.

But we need more helpers. If any of your readers have a few hours to spare each week and a bit of energy we could use them. We want to do lots more but need more help. So if anybody fancy's themselves as a football manager (or manageress), or helping run a cafe, or as a carpenter, or as a painter, or... or... You name it and we can probably use you. Please call us on 928 9521, or 928 4821 if you can help.

Yours Steve Lancashire
and June Bell.



ROCKINGHAM GARDEN CITY

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ROCKINGHAM ESTATE that include private gardens for ground floor flats, the closing of Falmouth Road, and the laying out of space with trees and grass are being considered by the GLC. If residents want to comment, further information can be found at the Tenants Association flat or at the Tenants Assoc. Annual General Meeting on April

Labour election shock

In a surprise result the General Management Committee of the Southwark Bermondsey Labour Party have elected a chairman who for the first time in many years is not a councillor.

With a comfortable majority of 12 votes over his nearest rivals, Peter Flower a delegate from Riverside branch is the new chairman. His nearest rival councillor Coveney from Abbey branch was widely expected to get the position following the withdrawal from the election of the retiring chairman Cllr Harold W.G. Young from Rotherhithe branch due to the fact that his union did not nominate

him to the GMC, thus removing his delegate status.

Other councillors including Councillor Tucker for Riverside Ward were also outvoted later for seats on the executive committee.

A member of the General Committee told SE1 "In the past it had been felt that discussion at the Management Committee has been dominated by an allegiance to Southwark Council rather than discussing wider Labour Party issues some of which would not find favour in a council with the political leanings of Southwark Council." Last year there was some controversy over the admission by the leader of the Council John O'Grady and other councillors that they were members of the Right Wing Social Democratic Alliance.

A major criticism of the past has been that with councillors in key party positions also sitting on Council Committees bound by confidentiality, serious debate has not been possible.

Observers of the Southwark political scene are waiting to see how the new chairman copes with the pressures of the job, with members thirsting for debate. SE1 wishes him well.

GLC turn down office development

The GLC have told town and Metropolitan Properties that development proposals involving between 170,000 and 270,000 sq. ft. of offices plus an entertainment complex on Emerson St, Bankside are unacceptable. The developers have been told to go back and think again because the schemes do not contain sufficient public benefit nor do they meet local needs.

The developers began negotiating with Southwark back in 1972 and actually reached agreement with them in 1975 including the use of a piece of Southwark owned land on Skin Market Place. But the GLC were excluded from these negotiations and only now have had an opportunity to look at the proposals.

See next month's SE1 for details of the proposals and of the manoeuvres which led Southwark to virtually clinch real behind the back of the and local residents.

Hays Wharf Developer goes bust

Amalgamated Investment and Property Ltd, one of three development companies with an interest in Hays Wharf, have gone bust. They were one of the largest property companies in Britain and it's possible that in the next few months other companies may also become bankrupt.

AIP had a development option on four acres of the 38 acre Hays Wharf site. The other two development companies are St Martins Property Corporation and Argyle Securities. Argyle is also also in financial trouble and may withdraw but St Martins, which is owned by the Kuwait Government, are staying put and may buy up the other options.

There is no reason why these changes should make any difference to the future of Hays Wharf. Southwark and the GLC can still buy it outright from the owners of the land, the Proprietors of Hays Wharf Ltd. According to their 1975 accounts the land is valued at £70,000 per acre - a bargain for such an important site.

New SS office-Search goes on

THE LATEST INFORMATION that SE1 could get on the proposal to move the DHSS Emergency Payments Office from Marshalsea Road to Redcross Way is that several alternative premises had been looked at and found to be unsuitable. Further premises are being looked into near the Elephant and Castle, and a final decision is expected. A spokesman at Southwark Council said several sites have been pointed out to the DHSS. It is up to them to decide.

Tenants move Council

In a reversal of earlier policy, Southwark Council have now supported residents of Peabody Estate Southwark Street in their opposition to the proposed Peacou office extension on Great Guildford Street.

They have turned down the latest planning application and at last it seems that local points of view are being taken seriously. But the outcome lies with the GLC who have yet to make a decision, although Southwark's decision will make things easier for them.

Waterloo groups get together

The Association of Waterloo Groups is holding its A.G.M. on 30 March at 7pm.

The A.W.G. links Tenants and Resident Associations, Churches, The Adventure Playgroup, the Parent Association, the Waterloo Community Development Group and other groupings of local residents.

It provides a vital opportunity to exchange news, discuss problems and arrange to work together to tackle these. Anyone may attend, but voting (which is hardly ever necessary) is confined to representatives of the affiliated group.

If there are any organised groups of local residents in Waterloo who do not belong we would encourage them to affiliate. At the A.G.M. officers will be elected and policies and priorities decided for the year.

NME discord

Staff of New Musical Express the rock music weekly are angry about their office in the new Kings Reach Tower on Stamford Street. They used to have a scruffy but friendly office in Covent Garden.

For 3 weeks many of them worked at home instead, several people left and others became ill. The staff shortage became so bad that one week they didn't publish the paper at all. Meanwhile it's business as usual for another IPC paper, Melody Maker, housed in prefab offices in Meymott Street. There are no plans to move them.

COMMUNITY PLANNING CENTRE

108 Great Guildford Street

IMPORTANT NOTICE

FLAT IRON SQ. SHOPS PUBLIC INQUIRY AT PECKHAM TOWN HALL APRIL 27th please come along

LET US PLAN OUR AREA

ring NSCDG
928-8165



this is not time for smugness

In the last six months we have seen some rays of light coming from the planning committees of Lambeth Council and the GLC as they began to acknowledge the need to build family housing in our area and build up the community once more. The GLC are taking a harder line on office development.

The squeeze that the government are putting on local authorities to limit spending could put these ideas in the dustbin. Land for housing is expensive in SE1. Councils are being encouraged to use the new Community Land Act to make profits by selling land for development which in SE1 would mean more

office blocks. Councils may well be tempted to spend what money they have in areas where it will go furthest, and that won't be SE1. Their eagerness to get development may encourage them to do deals with developers as in the Langs scheme on Bankside and the Brooke Bond site in Lower Marsh.

This is no time for smugness and complacency. We must keep the pressure on local authorities (and that includes Southwark Council) and not let up until they put their promises into practice by building more family housing, more industry, more shops, more open space.

have you noticed?

Earlier this year in this column we have highlighted the issue of confidentiality, and keeping the public in the dark. In this month's letters column Mr. Johnson raises another problem, that of spotting information when it is made public, but either lost amidst a mass of other notices or spotted too late to

act on. Even though officially the time is up for writing on the parking issue SE1 has been told that representations will still be considered as the final decision will not be taken for 9 months, which makes us ask why families are given so little time to write in the first place.

borfly

The Mitre Hatfields

The traveller can have few more welcome sights than the warm glow of the Mitre peering through the darkness of the railway arches, beckoning him to rest his weary limbs. It is a temptation few can resist, for in this dark and dangerous corner of SE1, where highwaymen and brigands roam the streets, the Mitre proves a friendly refuge.

During the long trek south from the Rose & Crown a mighty thirst can develop, but the Mitre is equal to any reasonable demand for liquid refreshment with its wide range of ales and stout.

The Whitbread family, who have been brewing in London for over

two centuries continue to supply the Tavern and drafts of Tankard, Trophy, Mild and Heineken lager can all be had at reasonable prices. Unfortunately the brewers do not see fit to supply the excellent Marlow bitter, a fine Buckinghamshire brew available at a limited number of Whitbread houses in London, but not locally in SE1.

Nevertheless the Mitre's ales remain extremely palatable and enjoyment is enhanced by the landlord and his wife, Jim and Maud. The public bar is well equipped with the usual pub games, darts and darts but unfortunately lack of space prevents the playing of skittles and shove ha' penny, while for those interested, the saloon sports a colour television.

All in all The Mitre is well worth a visit despite the somewhat illusory dangers outlined above (not attributable to excessive sampling!) But it is as a local, rather than for the sporadic visit, that the Mitre really scores and for the warmth of its welcome.

"... If you require a piece of meat on which you can rely... then go off down to Union St., and give our Jim a try..."

ENGLISH & SCOTCH BUTCHERS

PAUL BERT & JIM always at your service

You've never had it so bad!

What the Government cut backs will mean to YOU

housing

The Housing programme for 1978-79 is cut by £355 million, with smaller cuts in the next two years. Spending will stay roughly level, but this will mean less new homes, less modernisation, higher council rents and less maintenance.

House building: Though government spending on housing has risen, the number of new council homes has fallen because higher interest rates are taking a growing share of the money. Last year 6% of all local authority spending on housing went to pay interest charges (£1400 million). Nearly all council housing is financed by borrowing money. The rising cost of land (an average £3,000 per house) also has its effect.



Modernisation/rehabilitation

The government's allocation to local authorities for modernising and converting old houses and council estates in London has been cut from £96 million to £88 million this year. Southwark asked for £17 million, and received £7.5 million. The Council estimates that by the end of the year it will have 500 homes that cannot be used because there is no money to repair them. This means that housing that would have many more years of life will have to be left to rot. And that could mean a return to large scale demolition and redevelopment in the future.

Maintenance and repairs

Ken Livingstone, GLC member for Norwood, has recently pointed out what the GLC's 'no growth' policy will mean for GLC tenants. The restrictions of the past years mean that there is a large backlog of maintenance work waiting to be done - the GLC's allocation for maintenance is £4 million too low.

Priority in painting and decorating will be given to vacated homes: so the 5-year repainting programme will break down.

There are cuts of £5,200,000 in the programme of repairs - so work on things like roofs, gutters, paving, fencing, obsolete fireplaces, drains, hot and cold water services, flood prevention and windows will be reduced.

The mobile caretaking service has recently been heavily criticised since it was introduced. Yet the GLC plans to cut spending in estate management by £600,000 so the service is likely to get even worse.

Inevitably these cuts will lead to further rundown in GLC flats and estates. For the pre-war estates, urgently needing modernisation, the lack of repairs could eventually bring demolition instead.

schools

Education takes the biggest caning by the government. Although spending on most other services will at least stay roughly level, spending on education will actually be lower in 1978-79 (£175-76: £6,164m, 1978-79: £5,995m).

The birth rate is falling so there won't be so many children to teach but instead of those children getting a better education in smaller classes, standard won't be improved at all. For the second year running

the ILCA is planning not to improve services, the increase of £87.8 million in their budget is to cover inflation. There will be less money spent on building new schools (£24.5 million compared with £28 million) and because of inflation this means a drastic cut.

The government has slashed the money for building nursery schools from £32 million last year to £6 million in 1979-80. Parents will be paying more for school meals next September, probably £1 a week.

Less than two years ago children were being sent home from school because of a shortage of teachers now there are 8,000 teachers unemployed. Normally the ILCA take on 1,500 new teachers each year but this year they will take only 100. Classes are bound to get bigger as a result.

health service

Barbara Castle actually managed to get a 1% growth in total health spending over the next few years, to take care of the rising number of old people. But cuts of £152 million have still been made and it's new hospital building that has been hit worst with cuts of £80 million. Yet 2 of all hospital beds are in

pre-1918 buildings and 600,000 people are on waiting lists.

Services in the Guy's and St Thomas' districts are among the best in the country, it is areas outside London that will suffer most.



social service

New building such as children's homes, old peoples homes, day centres is badly affected by the cuts because they all represent 'growth'. Because there can be no expansion of services, if a new building is opened another one must close or the money saved from somewhere else. Southwark Council already had plans to spend an extra £400,000 this year so the no growth policy means cuts of £400,000 in other things:

*Elderwood Home for the Elderly will close as soon as the new Heygate and Corbet Homes open and the residents and staff transferred. Although Elderwood was on the list for closure it will now close much sooner in order to save money. According to the council's own figures there were 379 people waiting to enter council homes for the elderly and physically handicapped last September, and few of these will be accommodated in the new homes.

*Plans to employ 12 more home helps have been abandoned.

*Free school milk for 7 - 11 year olds is likely to be scrapped.

*Charges for meals-on-wheels will rise from 10p to 23p and meals in lunch clubs and day centres from 10p to 25p.

Lambeth Council, caught in the same no-growth trap, have abandoned plans for a day nursery in the Central Hill area and plans to build a home for the younger physically handicapped in Stockwell are also likely to be shelved.



LUNCH CLUBS like this one at the Blackfriars Settlement will be amongst the worst hit by the cuts. Meal prices will rise from 10 pence to 25 pence at a stroke!

Money down the drain

The government already spends more each year than it gets in taxes, rates etc. The difference is made up by borrowing from the City (last year about £900 million was borrowed).

who lend money to the government such as insurance companies, banks and pension funds, set the interest rates and dictate the terms.

Interest rates have risen from 7% in 1968 to between 12% and 14% now. This, together with the increasing sums that the government needs to borrow, means that its debt to the big City institutions is rising rapidly.

The craziness of the situation can be seen by the fact that out of the nine billion pounds the government borrowed last year, five billion was needed to pay interest on money already borrowed. By next year, the government will be paying £7 billion in interest charges. That's more than its spending on anything else except social security. And all that cash goes straight into private hands.

The City now has more influence than ever before on government policy, and they have been pressing the government to

make British industry more profitable - which is why prices haven't been controlled nearly as tightly as wages, and huge tax concessions have been given to private industry.

No Growth

No growth means that councils and government departments must arrange their budget so that they are not spending any more in 1976-77 than they did in 1975-76 except what is needed to cover inflation.

The problem is that they are already committed to some growth because of plans made in past years - more housing, more residential homes, more schools. When they are built they will cost money to run and because they are paid for by borrowing, more will have to be paid out in interest charges. To allow for this growth, savings must be made elsewhere, eg less new building in the future, closing old homes when new ones open, cutting staff and services, less maintenance and repairs.

The housing shortage in London is still as bad as ever, schools and hospitals have been starved of funds for years, social services can't keep up with demand. The no-growth policy means that we will have to suffer for many more years unless the policy can be changed.

Are the cuts necessary?

All the major industrial countries in the western world are in the middle of the worst economic slump since the 1930s. Falling profits create a loss of confidence in industry and less demand for goods. This leads to unemployment and falling living standard (in the thirties it meant cuts in wages, in the seventies inflations, with prices rising faster than wages).

speculation
Unemployment gives industry a ready pool of labour when expansion comes again, and cuts costs (wages) so that profits can rise again.

The British recession is

worse than in most other countries, however. One of the main causes is lack of investment in industry. Machinery is outdated and inefficient, costs more to run and can't cope with the high demand when the economy and exports are booming. This lack of investment is because the City financiers have found more profitable ways of using their money - such as speculating in office development (as in North Southwark and Waterloo) in commodities (raw materials like copper, zinc, wheat, corn) and in industry abroad.

There must be more investment in British industry. The government says the only way to do

this is to cut back on public spending so that the money can be used for investment instead. It plans to cut £2,414 million off its programme for 1978-9, and spend an extra £500 million on industry.

no controls

BUT THOUGH huge sums of money are being made available for investment in industry, there are no controls to make sure this money is spent properly. There is nothing to stop investors from putting money into hotel and office development, nothing to stop industry from building factories in South America, Spain or Hong

Kong - where repressive governments ensure a pool of cheaper labour and keep taxes low - instead of building factories in Britain.

More jobs?

The government claims that investment will create more jobs. But the investment will be used to increase the productivity of existing industry, rather than create new industry. As productivity increases, less labour is needed to produce the same amount - so the number of jobs actually falls. This has happened already: in 1964 there were 9,010,000 workers in manufacturing industry; in 1974, only 7,758,800.

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What Where When?

Council meetings

Lambeth (at 7.15pm at Town Hall, Brixton Road, SW2)

- 29 March Planning and Development
- 31 March Amenity Services
- 1 April Health and Consumer Services
- 5 April Housing
- 6 April Public Services
- 7 April Social Services
- 8 April Management Services
- 12 April Finance and General Purposes
- 28 April Council (at 7.30pm)

Southwark (at 7.00pm at Town Hall, Peckham Road, SE5.)

- 29 March Highways and Works
- 30 March Planning and Development
- 31 March Libraries & Amenities
- 6 April Planning Applications
- 7 April General Purposes and Finance
- 12 April Policy and Resources
- 28 April Council

Community Health Council

- 22 April Guys Health District: Nurses Old Dining Room, St Olaves Hospital, Rotherhithe.

Easter bazaar

Saturday April 10th from 1.00pm. 5p entrance. St Alphege's Church Hall, Pockock Street.

Stalls, games, food, auction, lots of fun so come along!

Shows

North Peckham Civic Centre, Old Kent Road, SE15.

- 13 April Cabaret Showtime with Rene Devraux 7.30pm
Tables for 8: £2, single tickets 25p.
Variety Showtime plus Barrie Manning's Champagne Spectacular. Tables for 8: £2.40 & £2, singles 20p/25p
Club Night with Alan Elsdon Jazz Band and Betty Smith 8.00pm. Tables for 8: £10, singles £1.30.
- 2 April Club Night with Margaret Savage from the Minstrels 8.00pm. Tables for 8: £10, singles £1.30.
- 15 April Club Night with Margaret Savage from the Minstrels 8.00pm. Tables for 8: £10, singles £1.30.

OVAL HOUSE
21 April to 2nd May, Rex Artos Productions presents "King Arthur's Roman Games"

FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL Cup Finals Night 31s March at Camberwell Baths, 7.30pm. Admission 20p. Presentations by Gordon Jago (Manager, Millwall FC) plus exciting exhibition match.

SE1 next issue meetings

EVERYONE IS WELCOME to SE1 meetings to discuss the running of the paper and contents of the next issue. The next meetings will be held on:
Thursday April 15th at 7.30pm
Thursday April 22nd at 7.30pm.

Next issue of SE1 will be out on APRIL 30th. Articles and letters should be sent to SE1 office by Thursday April 22nd.
subscriptions
Twelve issues of SE1 at the bargain price of £1.75 including postage. Send cheques to SE1 office, made payable to 'SE1 Community Newspaper Group'.

Residents Shellout

cont. from page one.
large offices such as Shell save £38.000.

As Councillor Ken Livingstone pointed out recently, whether rents are increased to keep the rates down, or services cut for the same reason, the overall benefit is concentrated on businesses and large offices rather than ordinary residents, who end up paying more for

less. Some people argue that increased commercial and office rates are only passed onto consumers through higher prices, so there's no advantage in squeezing more out of offices. However if like Shell a firm has profits of £980 million, then a little squeezing could only be of advantage to local residents.

Stereo System !

Peabody (Southwark St.) Residents' Assoc. offering for sale Stereo System. £50 o.n.o. System is twin-decked, with amplifier, - 75 w per channel - attachment for earphones, cassette etc but no speakers.
If interested please ring 01-928 8165 (day) or 01-928 6697 (eve)

Top of the bill

WE HAVE HAD FOUR SHOWS put on by the Lambeth Amenities, and they have been of a very high quality, and they have been enjoyed by all who saw them. The attendance at the two variety shows has been very good, and it actually doubled between the first and the second occasion. This was also the case with the tickets for the second Children's show. The sporting events have been going well, and this is also being enjoyed by every one taking part.

The one show that has not been mentioned has been the one for the Pensioners at the Young Vic, which was asked for by the Pensioners themselves as they wanted a show to be put on in the afternoon and to be held in a central place. This was all arranged and very well advertised by posters in the area and in SE1. Those of you who did not go missed a very good old time Variety Show.

Although the Shows have been going well, there have been some difficulties between Lambeth Amenities and us. We believe that this is because of the short notice given from the first meeting with Lambeth Amenity and the first show, and that the programme is a short one with everything going on in one month and not spread over a longer period. We hope that the communication between us will improve and that this will not stop shows coming to the Waterloo area. So with your help and support we hope to show Lambeth Amenity that the people in this area want this type of show. We hope to see you all at the last show and please tell us what you think (or write to us) as all the feedback we can get will be of great help to us to keep the Shows alive.

from the Waterloo Amenity Group, c/o W.A.C., Baylis Rd.

*see Lily Taylor's letter page 2.

One and All!

Southwark PHAB 25 Club is a club where both physically handicapped and able-bodied people participate in social activities. In addition to a variety of events arranged in our regular meeting place, we also organise excursions to places of interest in London and elsewhere. We meet on alternate Mondays from 7.30pm - 10pm at the Community Centre, Lambeth Towers Kennington Road, SE11.

The club is open to all residents between the ages 20-50. Welfare transport is only available for disabled members living in the boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark.

If you are interested please come along or contact our chairman Mrs Pat Williams, 5 Robert Gerard House, Romney Road, SE27. Phone 670 4208.

Down to earth

Mint Street Adventure Playground will be open over the faster holiday and have been importing vast quantities of timber for building dens and camps. The playground is also making a garden with some soil recently delivered by Southwark Council.

The playleaders and committee hope that parents and children who have not been to the playground before will visit over Easter. Children of all ages will find a friendly and creative place where they can play safely. The playground is open on Mon-Fri from 10 till 8 and 10 to 6 on Saturdays.

admission 2p per session
LOTS OF FUN!
CAMPING WEEKENDS, PAINTING, MODEL MAKING, CANDLEMAKING, FOOTBALL, TABLE-TENNIS, OUTINGS & LOTS MORE.

Rollup Rollup

for the grand EASTER PLAYSCHEME at St. Alphege's (Pockock St.) for 5-15 year olds.
April 12th-23rd
10.00am - 1.00pm & 2.00 - 5.00pm

Relax ~ go fishing! ---with Moreland Old Boys Angling Society

Contact E.J.Valler.19,Ariel Court, Kennington.SE11. 735 6109

Grand Easter Disco & Cabaret

FRIDAY APRIL 9th from 8.30 pm

at **WAC** ALL WELCOME ! Entry 20 p 3p OAP's **BAR!**

Resident attacks GLC inaction over empty flats

People who campaign to save historic buildings should come to Stamford and Aquinas Streets to see solid well-built flats which are standing empty and neglected instead of being used by the GLC to house thousands of people dying for homes for their families.

The GLC, can, if they wish, house these families temporarily while they endeavour to build new and modern houses sometime in the future. Revenue which the GLC ought to be getting, and would be getting if these flats were occupied by families on waiting lists, is being lost, and not over a period of months but over years. Plans to renovate these flats have been on the books but so far no massive renovation work has started on them. Each time a flat becomes empty, children move in with stones to break doors and window glass panes. Aquinas St. has empty flats boarded up with plywood looking as though no one wants to live in them anymore.

When residents of Aquinas St first came to live here.

both Stamford and Aquinas Streets were full of people and there were no empty flats.

The flats, though built more than 60 years ago and having no bathrooms, one tap in each flat, in the kitchen, are large enough and neat enough to satisfy many people. People who lived in the flats long before we arrived tell us that the flats were owned by the Crown - the Duchy of Lancaster, before London County Council took them over.

maze of ruins

Now the eastern side of Stamford Street and the whole of Aquinas Street, have become a maze of ruins. Many families have been moved out, perhaps some left of their own accord, probably out of uncertainty at what was going to happen to the flats.

Each time a flat is emptied, it is left empty, not far months but for years. We have always wondered whether, the GLC know that the flat was going to be empty before or after the occupants had moved out. We

think that the GLC does gross injustice to people who are dying for houses where they might settle down with their families.

Each year we hear that the GLC has long lists of people dying for homes all over London. We hear too that the GLC wants to rebuild the flats or renovate them, put in bathrooms, before new families are taken in. We agree with this policy, but cannot understand why renovations cannot begin as soon as flats become empty.

The flats are neat and solid and in many ways beautiful, even though they have no bathrooms. We don't imagine that people who are dying for homes, people who for years have been on waiting lists would reject these flats simply because they have no bathrooms. People want homes more than they want bathrooms. People don't need a bath every night, but they do need somewhere to sleep every night.

from Nyadzie Mokgatle

GLC caretakers: settlement soon

THE GLC CARETAKERS' dispute which has stopped all normal repairs on Lake, Ley and LeRoy Estate in Southwark Bridge Road is likely to be resolved in two to three weeks, according to Mr. Watts, the NUPE Branch Secretary concerned with caretaking staff in Southwark.

The reason for the dispute is that the GLC failed to introduce new work programmes for caretakers when they acquired new estates such as Lake Ley and LeRoy. Now the GLC have agreed to new programmes which may mean that there will be one or two extra staff in the Southwark area.

YOUR RIGHTS

FRANK GRIFFITHS WAS DISMISSED by his company for being absent without permission: when he was supposed to be in the factory, he was seen in the local pub having a drink with some friends.

Frank felt that being sacked was stiff punishment for something the shop floor management knew happened often. The foreman himself used to nip out to place the odd bet. Only this time he was reported to higher up - the Production Manager, who had little direct contact with what happened on the floor.

Frank appealed to the Industrial Tribunal that he had been unfairly dismissed and won, getting a substantial bit of compensation.

circumstances

The Tribunal accepted the company's view that he had committed serious misconduct, but agreed with him that IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES dismissal was too severe a penalty. The management with whom he had contact had tolerated this kind of behaviour in the past, and so he couldn't be expected to think it might lead to instant dismissal.

It pays for a worker to be aware of his rights. One important area of these is that if he/she has been working for the same employer for more than 6 months, the employer cannot dismiss the worker without good cause. As Frank's case shows, what are reasonable grounds for dismissal depends very much on the circumstances.

If you think you have been unfairly treated check out your situation with an advice centre like BIAS at Blackfriars Settlement or a CAB. And do it quickly; claims will only be considered if made within 3 months of the dismissal.

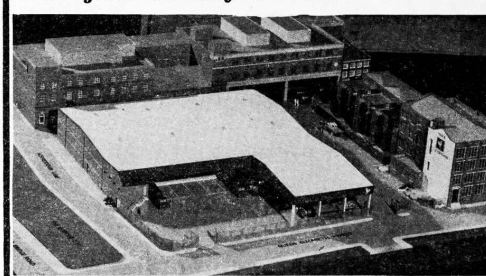
DHSS maths: 2-1=No help

The DHSS has put out a new temporary benefit that might help one parent families if they are already well-off. It is called the Child Interim Benefit. This benefit offers £1.50 family allowance for the first child of one-parent families. It goes into effect from 5 April. This sounds good until you read between

the lines. Single parents who are claiming supplementary benefits or widow's benefits are unable to gain anything from this new benefit. They represent over half of the one-parent families and obviously the ones who are in greatest need of the money.

Other one-parent families trying to claim this benefit would be in danger of losing more than they gain by losing free school meals, rent and rate rebates, or Family Income Supplement. Anyone who pays tax would gain only 62p because this benefit is subject to tax.
So who does it help? The package looks great from the outside but if one-parent families are trying to get to the goods inside, most of them might as well forget it. One parent families can thank the DHSS again for nothing.

1500 jobs to stay in SE1



Encouraging!

It now looks as though plans to move Courage's brewing operations out of London are finally being shelved, with a £1 million development to substantially increase warehousing space and improve distribution facilities at Courage's Tower Bridge Brewery.

The project involves the building of a new beer warehouse capable of holding 9,000 barrels. The work also includes new facilities to operate the tanker fleet for transportation of bulk

beer.

When asked about the change in company policy on the move to a Reading site, a company spokesman told SE1 that the Reading site would go ahead but it would only be to cope with future increased demand, not replace the Horeselydown plant. A union official said that the future looked secure.

With the brewery and bottling plant employing around 1500 people this is good news for SE1.

Support Your Local Shop

- * fresh milk daily
- * newspapers
- * frozen foods
- * confectioners & tobacconists
- * all groceries & provisions
- * hot snacks, rolls and sandwiches to take away

Green Shield Stamps on all items. Double Stamps Saturdays.

OPEN UNTIL 8pm MONDAY-FRIDAY,
7pm SATURDAY,
1pm SUNDAY.

THOS. E. DAVIES & CO (TOMS) 137 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1

Up for grabs

The curtain came down at the Old Vic last month after 13 years as the home of the National Theatre (who moved to their new home on the South Bank). And no one is quite sure when, and in what form, the Vic will come to life again.

The theatre of Emma Cons and Lilian Baylis has for a long time been a centre of Shakespeare and other 'high class drama' as the Vic's charter puts it.

The charter also allows high-class opera, lectures, films, music and exhibitions 'at such prices as will make them available for artisans and labourers'. The theatre always has had a few cheap seats up in the gallery but it's never paid much attention to the people who live around it - and they haven't paid much attention to it. Nevertheless it's been a landmark for many years (how many?) and a lot of people must be wondering what is going to happen to it now.

more money needed

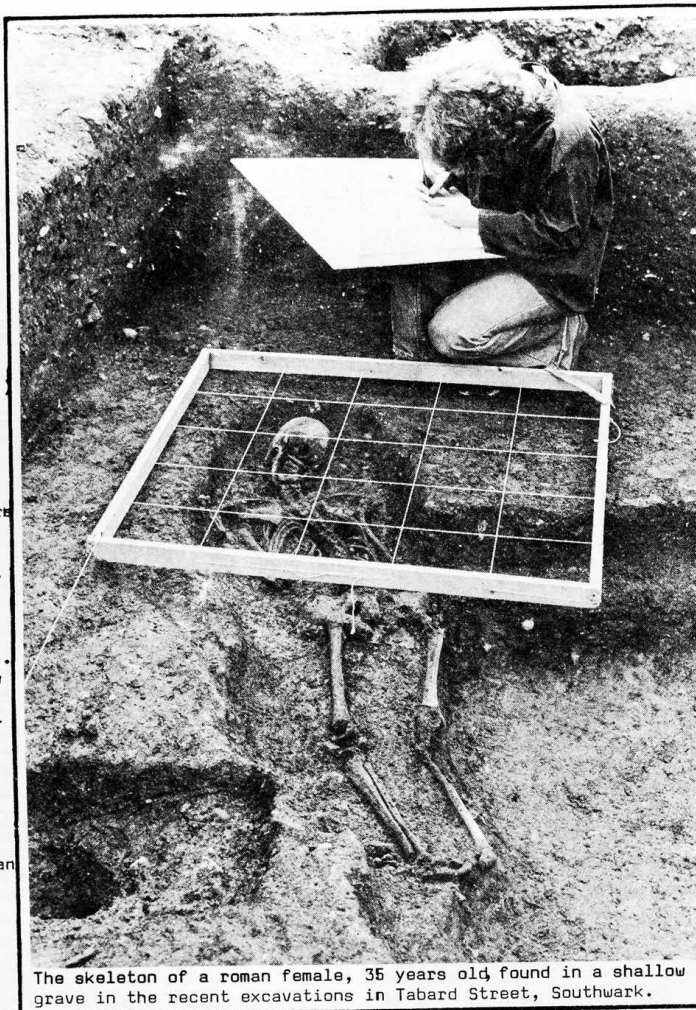
The governors of the Old Vic have had several schemes put to them by theatre companies, including the Young Vic. The main problem of course is money, because whoever takes over will need a subsidy - 'high-class drama' doesn't pay any more.

One idea, put forward by the Arts Council, is for three companies to share the theatre - they suggested the Prospect Theatre Co., the English Opera Group and the Royal Ballet New Group - Each being there for 4 months and touring round Britain for the other 8. The Prospect Theatre has ideas of its own, which it is keeping close to its chest, and discussions are going on about them too.

The Young Vic has 2 schemes, which it is discussing with the Old Vic. Donald Sartem, General Administrator of the Young Vic, sees the Old Vic as the natural home for them and says many people had assumed they would move in. The Young Vic building further down the Cut is only temporary and the lease runs out in 1979.

further abuse

Whoever takes the Old Vic, it will probably be the Arts Council who subsidises them. They are already being criticised by provincial theatres for the amount of money which has been poured into the new National Theatre. They are likely to get another load of abuse if they agree to subsidise another theatre in Waterloo. But is it right to let the Old Vic die?



The skeleton of a roman female, 35 years old found in a shallow grave in the recent excavations in Tabard Street, Southwark.

CAMPBELL BUILDINGS

Readers of SE1 will have noticed references to Campbell Buildings Tenants Association and their fight for improvements on their estate. A delegation from the Tenants Assoc. attended a meeting of London Borough of Lambeth Housing Management sub-committee and was assured of improvements that would go some of the way towards making life in Campbell Buildings more tolerable - at least for the immediate future. These improvements are a gas fire for the front room, a water heater and

Improvements not cause of rent rise

a sliding door for the kitchen. A well-equipped playspace on the estate is also planned together with an empty ground floor flat for use as a community room. As no flat is available at the present time, a display of brochures showing pictures of the improvements has been put up by the Association outside the Waterloo Action Centre in Baylis Road.

The Director of Housing and Property, Mr. Yates, has given the Tenants Assoc. a written assurance that the recent rent

increases are unconnected with the improvements. All Lambeth Council tenants have had their rents reviewed and rents will go up for tenants even if they choose not to have any of the improvements.

There is still a lot wrong with Campbell Buildings. Different tenants have different ideas on what should be done and we would like to appeal to those tenants who have not yet joined the association to come forward so that their views can be represented.



YOU CAN GET GOOD, CHEAP, CLEAN, NOURISHING FOOD AT OVAL HOUSE BETWEEN 6-30 EVERY EVENING. BUT IF YOU WANT TO BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN OF EATING GET TO THE OVAL BEFORE 9.30 BECAUSE WE ALWAYS RUN OUT



HEALTH WATCH

St Thomas' Community Health Council

IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT ABOUT THE HEALTH SERVICE, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL MEMBER.

Bernie Spain
48 Roupell St. S.E.1.
phone - 928-5852