

SIT-IN TO CONTINUE

No. 753 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4th, 1968 Price 3d.

EGM MASS VOTE DEFIED



The V.C. questioned in the Great Hall on Thursday

Guild Council last night voted to continue the occupation of the University administrative buildings, begun last Thursday.

It reversed the General Meeting's vote by 71 votes to 42 and decided to stay in the Great Hall, Vice-Chancellor's office, Secretary's office and in all other offices.

After a discussion that lasted nearly five hours, Ray Phillips rose to sum up on the motion that Guild Council should reverse the General Meeting's decision. "There was nothing in that meeting that made me think those people had gone there with an open mind," he said.

The occupation was constructive and creating a community. "Why don't we look to the future and not backwards?" he asked. "For the first time in the three years I've been here, students have some power." The house rose in acclamation, and tears were streaming down some councillors' faces.

When the tumultuous applause ended, Ian Nelson sprang up and yelled: "I propose a vote of no confidence in the President. I don't trust you any more." Before he could continue he was hauled down; the vote was taken but it was an anti-climax after the uproar that Ian Nelson had unleashed. So the occupation continues.

The General Meeting, the largest ever, had rejected a motion demanding a continuation of the sit-in by 2,346 to 1,542—a majority of over 800. The Great Hall had been filled to overflowing and the lobby was packed tight although the speeches were scarcely audible.

Several of the Science and Engineering departments had cancelled lectures to allow students to attend.

Professor Davies, Ian Nelson, Sue Jackson and Dr. Mike Hayes had met before the meeting to discuss tactics. They decided that if discussion was curtailed they would win, in contrast to Monday evening's meeting. This in fact happened and the motion was passed.

At Guild Council one of the most telling speeches was made by Mike Hartley-Brewer, who pointed out that the councillors were not only expected to vote according to their personal opinion, but owed it to themselves and their departments to do so.

The next move will probably be to call another E.G.M. to propose a vote of no-confidence in President, Executive and Guild Council, but Ray Phillips said that if the meeting took place it should last a whole day, and he hoped that departments would cancel lectures, as they had done before, so that there could be real discussion of the issues involved.

BATHURST RESIGNS



Nelson Bathurst, ex-Guild Treasurer

At Guild Council last night, Nelson Bathurst, Guild Treasurer, submitted his resignation. He stated that he has always supported direct action, and still did, but he disagreed with the way in which the Committee of Ten was running the actual occupation.

Ray Phillips apologised for the way in which Nelson Bathurst had not been consulted over the expenditure of Guild funds, but although Council did not wish to accept his resignation he refused to withdraw it.

In a printed statement he accused the President of mishandling the sit-in, claiming that it was unconstitutional to authorise the Co-ordinating Committee to spend money; it was pointed out, however, that in fact collections had been made at the general assemblies of the sit-in to defray some of the cost of it.

Nelson Bathurst also condemned Executive for not laying down clear policy on gaining access to files when the occupation forces moved in until later that night. He stated that he no longer had any trust in the President and Executive, and suggested that Ray Phillips be personally responsible for this expenditure.

TELL ME LIES ABOUT BIRMINGHAM

Since the sit-in began it has been reported by all three major news media, but while the radio and television reports have been of a limited nature and have been confined to the facts of the situation and to statements of individuals involved, the Press coverage has been widespread and in many cases has misrepresented the students.

Much has been made of the allegations by the Vice-Chancellor that confidential files have been opened and their contents copied by members of Guild Executive. Little coverage has, however, been given to the reasons for the sit-in. The popular Press found a "suitable" focus of interest in the story of the young, 30-year-old blonde telephonist "routing" the "long-haired militants."

A Press officer, Alan Munton, has been appointed, but in spite of his efforts, the majority of newspaper reports have been misleading.

A false image of students as "long-haired layabouts" and "bearded militants" has been constantly directed at the public, and pictures of students lounging in offices have abounded. Alan Munton said last night that "the Press Association, by its very nature, gives reports of straight facts; the bias comes from the decisions of editors and sub-editors."

Some articles, especially those in the national Press, have been accurate; for instance that carried by "The Times" yesterday.

Local papers, however, especially the "Evening Mail" and "Sunday Mercury" have been rather biased in their attitudes, and the editorials have been at a highly emotional level.

The amount of distortion by the Press has been of constant concern to the members of the sit-in, and repeated attempts have been made to make the people of Birmingham aware of the students' case, but the rift caused by the Press between students and the public will take many months to bridge.

FESTIVAL TO GO ON

FOLLOWING the implementation of the Guild's policy of direct action, there were serious doubts as to the future of Festival and Carnival. The Lord Mayor temporarily withdrew his support from Festival, but after John Butcher and Roger Keevil (Carnival chairmen from Birmingham and Aston respectively) went to see him yesterday afternoon, and explained the situation, once again gave his support.

As long as Festival has the Lord Mayor's support it will also have the support of the police and other official organisations. However, it is quite possible that business concerns, which contribute money, materials and transport to Carnival, may be alienated by the students' action, particularly after the unfavourable press coverage.

Letters were sent out yesterday to all such concerns informing

them of the situation, and saying that Festival would go ahead as planned if there were no further setbacks. The fact that Festival and Carnival are held solely to raise money for charity will be a strong point in their favour, and will probably prevent hostile businessmen from withdrawing support. The 28 Community Action programmes planned, which could save Birmingham Corporation and other organisations as much as £50,000, can certainly not go ahead without it.

REDBRICK

Commission for the future

"Education Committee have done more in the last three days than in the last seven weeks," said Charles Critcher last night. This sums up one of the most constructive aspects of the occupation of the administration block. For the first time people have been discussing their courses, their reasons for coming here, and their eventual aims. The discussions over the last three days have crystallised the ideas of the hundreds of students who have been occupying the building. The papers brought out creative ideas on the academic community in all its aspects.

But it must be recognised that this occupation is more than a teach-in; it is a demonstration of power. The university authorities are now confronted with an expression of student opinion which they cannot and will not ignore. Never before have so many people been so well informed and so vitally interested in university reform.

The General Assembly on Monday night was one of the most impressive meetings ever held in the university. Intelligent arguments and papers were rationally discussed, and nearly 2,000 people voted in favour of the occupation. The General Meeting on the other hand voted against the sit-in after less than an hour. To continue the sit-in is completely justified.

It is important that some demands are met; the four terms are a minimum in their principles, but their details are negotiable. The principle of "no victimisation" is important; the principle of abolishing secrecy in government is important. But the greatest importance in the long run is the need for a commission to investigate the re-structuring of the university into a democratic and valid institution, to fit the needs of the 1970's.

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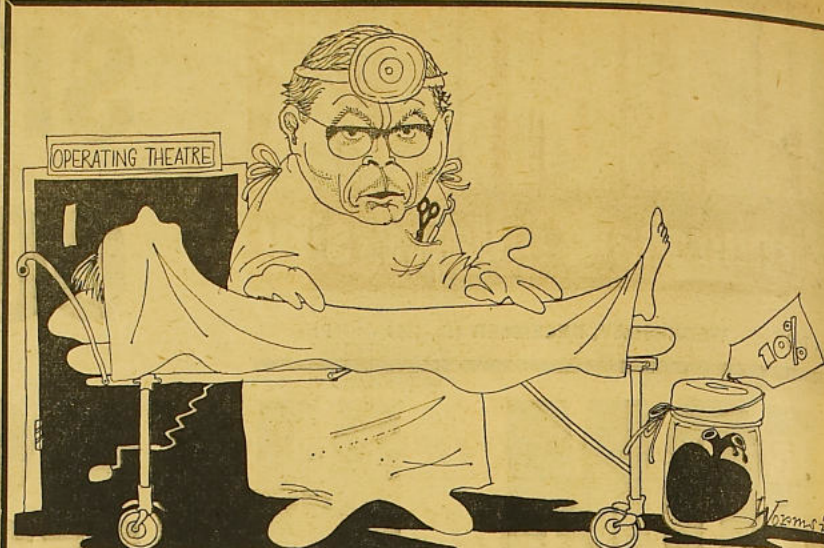
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How to organise a protest—and succeed

ON Thursday afternoon, when the official occupation began, no formal system of organisation existed. There were just 1,000 students sitting-in, as one giant body of protest, unified by a common belief in certain principles. Yet within 24 hours, this mass body had organised itself into a recognisably structured community, employing some of the formal regulative mechanisms of the society outside the Great Hall.

It was realised at an informal meeting in the early hours of Friday morning, that some controlling body must be elected, responsible for formulating and recommending policy and for making any immediate short term decisions required, but a body always answerable and responsible to a General Meeting of the student body. Therefore a committee of 10 was set up, comprising five members of Executive and five members elected by the General Assembly. The occupation is un-

der the control of this co-ordinating committee, but all proposals it makes must be debated and ratified by a General Meeting, which is held at least once every day. Since the occupation is part of the policy of the Guild of Undergraduates of Birmingham University and not the action of an unofficial minority group, the Executive members of the co-ordinating committee have the authority to appropriate any money required to cover the cost of the sit-in.

The committee immediately appointed certain students to be responsible for the various features of a community, which require some kind of organisation such as food and entertainment, liaison, services (cleaning, sanitation, etc.), health, recruitment, transport, publicity and information, and discussion groups. The work in each of these areas is

carried out by a number of volunteers.

Security is under the control of Chris Tyrrell, and a 30-man security force of volunteers is doing its best to prevent damage and vandalism within the precincts of the Great Hall and Administration building. Maintenance staff employed by the University may gain admittance to the Great Hall and surrounding areas for any necessary tasks by obtaining a permit, which must be signed by the Chief Maintenance Officer and Chris Tyrrell.

However, some damage has been done, both before and after the organisation structure was set up, but attempts are being made to repair it, and the bill for any repairs will be presented to the Guild of Undergraduates. Damage of any kind, accidental or otherwise, should immediately be reported to Chris Tyrrell.



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What the papers say

FROM TORIES TO ANARCHISTS

Various faculties within the University were coming down on one side of the occupation or the other (Law, Chemistry strongly against), messages of support and visiting delegations were pouring into Birmingham from all parts of the country.

Among the first to arrive were delegations from Leeds and Liverpool, and people from nearby areas and the Birmingham College of Education. Support, either by phone, telegram or actual presence was also received from London, York, Brunel, Leicester, Manchester, Loughborough, Hull, L.S.E., Bradford and Nottingham among universities. Support also came from the Radical Students' Alliance, from the Revolutionary

Socialist Students' Federation (who thought we were not nearly radical enough) and in a statement of cautious support from the Federation of Conservative Students.

Cables were sent to foreign universities, informing them of the occupation—including ones to the Free University of Berlin, the Sorbonne, the University of Rome and to the University of Madrid, which is also in the middle of a students revolution. Madrid, however, was the only one to express support, and two Spanish students actually came to join the sit-in.

After a delay, support for our conditions of withdrawal arrived on Tuesday from N.U.S. And in spite of the non-anarchistic nature of the occupation, support also came from the Anarchists in Brighton and in Lancaster and Morecambe.

CONSTRUCTIVE REVALUATION

ALTHOUGH the University refused to give us the two-day teach-in we originally asked for, a teach-in held in the Great Hall on Saturday proved a highly successful substitute. The main point of the teach-in was to discuss the educational implications of the sit-in and of the students' demands generally. Discussion on this took place in the morning, when Dick Atkinson, Nigel Young, Charles Wright and Liberal M.P. Wallace Lawlor spoke.

In the afternoon the meeting was split into a series of discussion groups, which considered different aspects of the proposed commission on the University. The aim was to produce thought about the re-evaluation of education at the University structure, and to split into groups enabled to state their views than would have been possible in the general meeting. The meeting later reformed to discuss external opinions of the occupation, both in the rest of the University structure, and to split into groups enabled to state their views than would have been possible in the general meeting. The meeting later reformed to discuss external opinions of the occupation, both in the rest of the University, the city, and other Universities. Speakers included Councillor Herringshaw, Chance, the President of the University, and students from other universities—Liverpool, Manchester, Salford and Leicester.

Following the discussion groups of Saturday, more were held on Sunday, in which meetings of the separate Faculties discussed the problems of education from a faculty point of view.



Charles Wright speaking at Saturday's teach-in.

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FLAMES OF OPINION

By PETE HARRIGAN

IT started as an unorganised and protesting mass of people swarming across the campus in the direction of the V.C.'s office and finished up working in the words of one deposed office-worker, "more damn efficiently than we usually do."

It also, however, inflamed University opinion — tempers have flown, apathy and ignorance, "a monster far worse than the 38-stone of Kildyke Bill," stormed into the Great Hall on Monday at 1.15 in a vain attempt to crush the solid determination of many of the students.

On Saturday many staff began to visit the sit-in. Said Dr. Chance, "The social scientists are incapable of doing anything in a proper way." Some professors have condemned the action in more than strong words: "This action is thoroughly disgusting and criminal in its attempt at blackmail," said Professor Slattery. "I have had nasty things happening in my department with strangers intimidating and molesting my cleaning staff. I will have to close the Chemistry department if disruption continues."

Professor Tobias stated that he would continue to aim at greater staff-student relationship and continue work "with the aim of giving value for money to the taxpayer." He also remarked that some of the "tactics adopted by the so-called activists bear a cunningly close resemblance to those used by Nazis."

Students have generally behaved in a sensible way, with most outbursts of dangerous ignorance coming from those who want to end the sit-in. Rhys Vaughan, putting up posters on Sunday, had a brief encounter with a gentleman from the Law Faculty who was tearing posters down as fast as they were put up, shouting: "What will my degree be worth after all this?" Steve Harrowel, decked with badges and topped with a puritan hat, was threatened with violence by anti-sit-in activists at the Monday meeting: "A great mob of them were shouting: 'We're going to smash you to pulp,' he said."

It has been a week when at last students and staff have become actively interested and involved in their affairs, a week to remember, whatever the result, a week when the V.C. pleaded: "Give me a break," a week when Dick Atkinson said hopefully of those on Senate and Council, "These men are not totally irresponsible."

Pondered on this for a while and decided he was on our side. At about 8.30 a.m. tension was mounting as we eagerly awaited the arrival of the V.C. He arrived at just after 9 a.m., picked his way gingerly among the bodies and sat down at his desk. I think there was something in his regards his constitution as he kept shrugging his shoulders and raising his boney wee eyebrows. He left shortly afterwards to do some work, again in a bit of a huff.

My stars today said that if I cheered up no end until I persevered I would succeed. This suddenly struck me that if the dear man was also born under Cancer we'd be here forever. Later in the day everyone seemed to be getting a bit fed up with things, but some revisionists tried to start a counter-revolution and that pulled us all together considerably.

At the moment I'm lying on a certain someone's settee feeling relatively content except for this

CHE BUMLEY

Diary of a revolutionary

THURSDAY: Slept badly last night—about two hours. Walked into the Union bleary-eyed at lunch-time and to my surprise I was caught up in a wave of people rushing up the stairs to Deb. Hall and found myself being carried along with them. Managed to squish in among a multitude of people on the sides of the stage: Was roused from apathy by several stirring speeches but fell off the stage in the excitement and I got considerably trampled on in the rush to get to the Great Hall.

As I entered the lobby of the Great Hall nature called and so I veered off to the right to find the necessary little room. Found myself being followed by a train of people who thought I was going to storm the V.C.'s office—at this point I became a revolutionary. Sat in the office of the V.C.'s secretary and was mildly amused by the Registrar who acted as middle-man between students and Dr. Hunter and kept popping in and out of the connecting doors.

V.C.'s answers in the Great Hall confrontation were suitably vague and he eventually went off in a huff. Settled down to sitting-in in his office. Lovely place he's got there—thick carpet, large mahogany table, leather-topped desk etc. Mind you, I'm not keen on the picture over the fireplace. Still everyone to his own tastes. Didn't get to bed until about 5.30 a.m. when I found the carpet wasn't as thick as I had thought.

FRIDAY: I was awakened at about 7 a.m. by strains of the Beatles' "Revolution" drifting from the Great Hall. Looked out of the open door of the office and saw Karl Marx standing there with a benign smile on his face. Groaned and tried to go back to sleep but somebody had found a megaphone. Karl Marx did "Jekyll and Hyde," turning into a statue of His Majesty, the late King Edward VII who opened the buildings on July 7th, 1909. The base of the statue bears an inscription of the closing words of his address: "To you, the students, I say that the honour and dignity of this University are largely in your hands and I look to you to initiate and hand down worthy traditions to your successors."

Found a letter (typed) to some woman called Hilary. It would seem that the writer of this feels somewhat lustful to put it in as polite away as possible. Most of the men around here must feel a bit that way but this is no manner in which a true supporter of the cause would behave. Besides, it's all in the mind—remember, after three nights with very little sleep the flesh must surely be weak. (Either Hilary or the author will receive the letter in question on application to me in "Redbrick" office).

Panic set in at lunch-time when rumours that about 3,000 angry ratepayers of the city were heading this way. Nothing came of it, though there were a few tourists in the car park outside the Great Hall. It was raining, so they were sitting in their cars—if the weather had been fine you can bet they would have been on the grass picnicking until about 4 p.m. when they would have driven home to Selly Oak, leaving crumbs of salad butties littered about the place.

P.S.: Well, folks, they haven't left me room for Monday and Tuesday. I'd so much like to tell you about the punch up we nearly had on Monday (Chem. Eng. again?). They haven't even left room for my bloody signature. And that's what they call solidarity? Still, I suppose it's in a good cause—perhaps they're going to fill the space with pictures of our Ray and that nice Mr. Atkinson.

Merry Christmas, folks!

Yours radically,

BUMLEY

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Principles of sit-in put to test for first time last Monday

ACTION CHALLENGED

REDBRICK

Birmingham University

A MEETING of over 2,500 students in the Great Hall on Monday evening passed an almost unanimous vote of support to continue the sit-in, following a challenge to the sit-in supporters by a counter-revolutionary group headed by Ian Nelson and Roger Mathew among others. The evening meeting was the sequel to one held at lunch time, which got completely out of control when the shouting and heckling drowned the speakers, who were all trying to speak at the same time anyway.

The lunch-time meeting left people uncertain as to the future of the sit-in, and many were, to say the least, frightened by the Nazi-like behaviour of the audience. However, the evening meeting was highly organised and, with Mike Hartley-Brewer in the chair, left people with an incredible sense of solidarity and relief that the sit-in had not after all been rejected.

The motion put before the meeting, proposed by Dick Atkinson, was that the sit-in should not be abandoned until the University has agreed to the conditions for evacuation which were agreed at a General assembly on Sunday. These are: firstly, the acceptance of the basic principles behind "Student Role"; secondly, the abandonment of secrecy in the conduct of University affairs; thirdly, the establishment of a commission "to consider and make recommendations upon democratic alternatives to the present governmental structure of the University, namely Court, Council and Senate," and lastly, an assurance that no members of the University would be in any way victimised for their part in the sit-in and surrounding demonstrations.

Dick Atkinson's speech was brilliant, and the clearest statement of our case yet to be made. He stressed the importance of unity, and made a very clear statement of the position of the students towards the staff when he said that

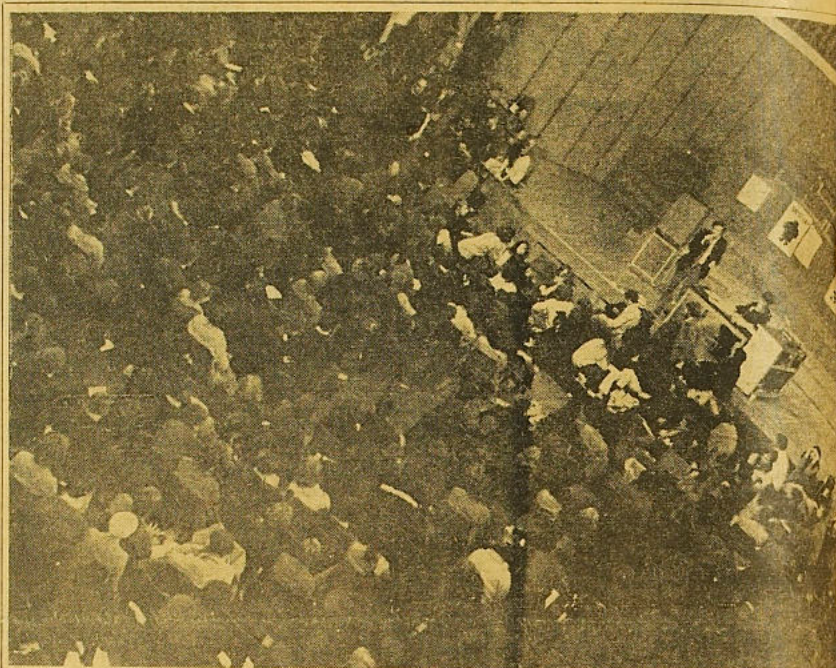
the conditions of withdrawal was not our final offer, but only a basis for negotiation: "We are prepared to negotiate. We are prepared to conciliate. We are prepared to step back on many of the details but not on the principles involved."

Commenting on Monday's statement was due to his remark that the informal visits from members of Senate on Sunday showed a crack in the University's armour; he thought that their statement was no more a final one than ours, although, like the rest of the meeting, he was very worried by the threats of victimisation against students who caused injury, damage or "those who have been involved in any way in obtaining access to information in University files."

Commenting on this part of the statement, Ray Phillips said that there would be no action taken on the question of files unless the V.C. could produce evidence to justify his accusation.

The brilliance of Atkinson, coupled with the excellent speech of his seconder, Charles Wright, was no match for the opposition; Ian Nelson made an emotionally-overcharged speech, which he admitted was unprepared, and Doug Telford and Sue Jackson, his supporting speakers, spoke so badly that they completely belied their own case.

So the meeting erupted into a flood of confidence and solidarity; after his summing-up speech Dick Atkinson was given a well-deserved standing ovation, lasting for at least a minute.



At least 2,500 people attended some of the general meetings.

A PUBLIC EXPLANATION

FOLLOWING extremely unfavourable and distorted reports of the present student activity in the "Evening Mail" and sections of the national press, a group of students

worked through the early hours of Saturday morning to produce a leaflet explaining the reasons behind the protest.

The leaflet, which was distributed in the city centre on Saturday afternoon, outlined the rejection of the principles and most important proposals of "Student Role," and took issue with the more emotive claims about minorities of "long haired, unwashed louts" and "dupes of political agitators" trying to disrupt everything. It pointed out that about one-third of the student population, representing a fair cross-section of both academic and political persuasion, had taken part in many ways, many other students and staff support the protest and there has been no attempt to disrupt anyone's studies.

The dozen or so students involved in distributing the leaflet were surprised at how well it was received by the Birmingham public, who they had expected to be very much influenced by newspaper reports. Most people were prepared to read it, and a large number made favourable comments. Only one man crumpled the paper up, saying he had no wish to read it, and threw it in the donor's face.

Impressive non-violence

ONE of the first things agreed when the buildings were occupied on Wednesday was that at no time was there to be any violent action or personal aggression against anyone, including, of course, members of the University staff. This was very necessary, in view of the fact that a number of secretaries and other people working in the building were rather alarmed by the prospect of a student invasion.

At the general meeting on Wednesday evening it was also agreed to allow members of the Finance Office staff to continue

their work normally on Thursday and Friday, in order to prevent disruption of the distribution of pay packets. Staff were particularly worried that the junior technical staff, who are paid on Thursdays, might not get their wages, but these worries were in fact unfounded.

The fact of our non-violence policy seems to have impressed the staff favourably, in spite of the spread of untrue reports such as that of the Vice-Chancellor being forced to leave his room via the window. On Sunday the University personnel officer felt sufficiently confident of the peaceable atmosphere to bring his teenage daughter into the building, and several other members of staff were also around on Sunday, many with their wives and families.



Confrontation: Ray Phillips and the Registrar, Mr. Lewis

Wednesday

DEBATE:

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Outside the Great Hall at Birmingham University yesterday, hundreds of students await the result of the count of a vote on a motion recommending that the sit-in be continued. The majority voted to end the sit-in but despite this the Guild Council decided last night that the sit-in should go on.

Guild Council rejects mass meeting's decision

71-42 vote for students' sit-in to continue

Birmingham Post Education Reporter

Seventy-one members of Birmingham University students' Guild Council last night ignored the wishes expressed by more than 2,340 students earlier yesterday and determined by their votes that the sit-in should continue—indeinitely.

The vote—71 for continuation, 42 against and ten abstentions—came at the end of a stormy five-hour meeting that ended in uproar, with students shouting demands for the resignation of Mr. Roy Phillips, president of the guild.

Britain is warned by Russia

By C. F. MELVILLE

Russia yesterday accused Britain of taking a hostile attitude towards her and making the Russo-Czechoslovak situation the excuse for so doing.

Russia warned that this could lead to the future of Anglo-Russian relations "having to be looked at from a new angle."

The accusations were made on Monday by Mr. Gromyko, the Russian Foreign Minister, in a long statement by him to the British Ambassador in Moscow, Sir Duncan Wilson.

Mr. Gromyko's statement was issued for publication by the Russian Embassy in London yesterday.

British official circles yesterday were not taken by surprise that the Russians should have made their accusations, as it had been obvious from Russian Press comment during recent weeks that an anti-British propaganda campaign was being worked up by the Kremlin.

Surprise

What has caused surprise in Whitehall is that the text of what Mr. Gromyko said to Sir Duncan Wilson should have been made public by the Russian Government.

Gold reserves drop £82m

The sterling area's gold and convertible currency reserves fell by £82m in November. This was after loan repayments totalling £54m, the Treasury announced yesterday. The reserves (£1,046m) are at their lowest point since October last year.

THIS WEEK IN THE POST

ABORTION ON H.P.
JAMES CLAYTON reports on how the Abortion Act is working. Though legal abortions can now be paid for on instalments, back street abortions still operate.
TODAY: P. 6

PAY OR PERKS?
REGINALD BRACE looks at the growing range of fringe benefits with top jobs, though most executives would prefer more money.
TODAY: P. 6

FAMILY FORUM
Including: new methods of teaching maths and science; Christmas gift ideas; Dining Out at Kenilworth.
TODAY: P. 8

HALF-A-MILLION PEOPLE ARE FACING DEATH IN BIAFRA

It has been estimated that 500,000 people will die in Biafra this month. If this death-rate is to be arrested air-lifts of food and medical supplies must be increased 20 times. But the real answer still lies with a land corridor. W. E. HALL has been talking with the men at Oxfam who are closest to the situation.

A SEASON'S COOKERY

The season comes to an end. MRS. BOBBY BROWN rounds off her present series with a collection of puddings, cakes and sweets for the whole year.

CHRISTMAS BOX

The second of three Christmas shopping supplements crammed with gift ideas for the whole family.

AN IBO IN EXILE PUTS A WAR INTO FOCUS

'The crime of the Ibos is their success...'

THE news from Biafra these days focuses so heart-breakingly on the plight of the starving Biafrans, and on the efforts of the Red Cross, Oxfam and other official and unofficial organisations to help them, that we can easily forget that there are other victims of the struggle.

These are the political and intellectual exiles, journalists, former civil servants, diplomats who refused the Federal Government's recall order, Biafrans who happened to be out of the country at the time and have refused or have not dared to go back.

Tragedy of exile

They are not numerous, but they represent the tragedy of exile from a country they love as poignantly as the Jewish exiles who fled Hitler's Germany in the 1930s for unwelcome exile in Britain and America.

Sam Uba is one of these. A prominent journalist in Lagos, deputy editor of the African magazine *Drum* and foreign affairs commentator for the Nigerian Broadcasting and Television Service, he was reporting the way of British trading interests, and for their preference for American rather than British education.

He has now, after 18 months in Britain, a love-hate feeling towards this country: "I want to get out, but I can't get out. I have made many friends in Great Britain and received great kindness from people."

But I find that the ordinary man does not understand the situation in Nigeria, and the man who does understand it does not care. Britain is still in a position to stop the war; if it



Sam Uba, on the left, is a Biafran journalist, working for the Post. His story, outlined here, is one of bitterness and disillusionment — attitudes that are as tragic in their way as the greater, life-or-death plight of the Ibo people in Biafra.

stopped the supply of arms it would go a long way to help.

"I wish in a way I had never visited this country because before I came here I loved Britain. Now that I have come into contact with the people and the leading newspapers, I find them very prejudiced against Biafra."

The real problem is not one of food, but of putting the political situation right. The point is not what is right or what Britain wants for Africans, but what the Biafrans believe is right for them, and that, at the moment, is to run their own country.

Personally, I sometimes feel that I must start again from the jungle. Everything I have learnt or been taught is completely meaningless. My grandmothers, who was closer to the earth, was happier."

Mr. Uba, from his knowledge of the political views of former colleagues and acquaintances, and of the growing Russian presence in Nigeria, believes that the country is "set for Communism."

He is correspondingly appalled at the sight of Britain and Russia "putting aside ideological differences to team up with African reactionaries."

Shattered showplace

He does not hide the note of bitterness in his voice: "Our crime is that we loved property, that we believed in the age of technology, in efficiency. What has happened makes us more Biafrans. The more I see the justice of my country's cause."

To the Englishman, who is confused by the situation and finds it difficult to believe that his Government can willingly send arms to an oppressive regime in a former British colony, the one clearly graspable fact is perhaps the breakdown of the once infinitely promising relationship between black and white in the "showplace" ex-colony of Nigeria.

"I used to be completely at home with my white friends. Now I am a refugee. I am a stranger. I am a man with suspicion. Hunger is the most immediate and compelling, but the only tragedy to arise from the Biafran chaos."

KEITH BRACE

Parliament—Page 7

In tomorrow's Post W. E. Hall writes on the prodigious efforts to tackle starvation, and the equally prodigious size of the task.

Faculties closed

Authorities yesterday closed Barcelona University's political science faculty, the third department to be shut indefinitely, because of student disturbances during the past few days. Madrid University, where students are on strike, was reported quiet.—Reuters.

TO PEPE

... take it cool!

One of many

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Walker says: I will expose 'big myth' over rates

By DOUGLAS HAIG
Birmingham Post Political Correspondent

A storm over the Government's squeeze on councils broke last night when Mr. Peter Walker, Shadow Minister of Housing and Local Government, spoke of a missing £40m in the Government's estimates.

He said the Government's new rate support grant for 1969-70 could mean big increases in rates, which would be blamed on the Conservative-controlled councils, and decreases in some services.

He also expects a strong reaction from the country's Town Halls.

Mr. Anthony Greenwood, Minister of Housing, announced that the Exchequer grant to local government in England and Wales would be £1,686m. of the estimated £2,976m. expenditure in 1969-70 (a 30c. increase on 1968-69).

Grants of £1,765m. of the estimated total expenditure of £3,128m. in 1970-71, representing a rise in expenditure of 5 p.c.

The Government claimed that the Exchequer is thus increasing relief to local authorities by 3 p.c. in the pound for next year, and by a further five p.c. in the pound for 1970-71.

Mr. Walker, who is a financial expert in the City of London, says the real exposure will be of "the big myth" of the claimed 3 per cent increase in total expenditure on agreed services as opposed to the proposed 6 per cent.

'£40m wrong'

"Where they go wrong," he said, is that the 3 per cent increase is on last year's agreed figure by the Government.

"In fact, it turned out that that figure was £40m. wrong. It should have been £40m. more, which means that the Government's now offered increase works out at much less than 3 per cent."

Mr. Walker said last night that when the local authorities put forward their figures for 1969-70, the Government laid down theirs, the local councils proved to be right in their estimate of what

The grants

Birmingham will receive in grant in 1969-70 (provisional) £26,884,361. Coventry £28,230,231. Wolverhampton £26,699,506. Dudley £2,192,722. Solihull £2,740,387. Walsall £4,288,950. Warley £2,587,236. West Bromwich £4,166,183.

The provisional grant for county areas, including Warwickshire £15,134,684. Worcestershire £10,915,389. Staffordshire £18,494,726.

Just over half the additional basic grant to be given to Birmingham next year—£24m.—has been allocated for educational purposes.

But although the Government has given the extra money, it means that Birmingham is expected to spend a total of about £24m. more next year—and the balance will have to be found by the ratepayers.

The extra expenditure is £2m. this would mean 10d. on the rates. There are, however, no balances to draw on the rates.

Continued on Back Page, Col. 5.

LATE NEWS

021-236 3366 (London: 01-353 0811)

2 a.m. WEATHER FORECAST

(Dawn to dusk)

Birmingham area: Dull and misty with fog patches at first; some bright intervals likely in afternoon; max temp 8deg C (46deg F); wind light, southerly. Further details—Page 6.

Radio and TV: page 2

Police seek armed men in North

A porter at a Liverpool hotel where three armed men wanted for questioning concerning a £20,000 bank raid at Birmingham were thought to have spent Sunday night, said there were four men and a blonde girl. Hitherto, police have referred to only three men. The search has now moved to a town north of Liverpool.

A Liverpool police spokesman said yesterday that they were hopeful of early arrest. He would not say where the new search was being concentrated beyond "a Northern town."

New threat to blow up water supply line

Security measures along the 75-mile aqueduct carrying Birmingham's water supply were reinforced yesterday after a new threat was made to blow up the pipeline.

The latest threat—that another explosion would take place "tonight or tomorrow night"—was revealed by Ald. Dr. Louis Glass, chairman of the Water Committee, at last night's meeting of the city council. He refused to give any further details.

A police spokesman at the incident headquarters, Stourbridge, said last night: "We are taking all the precautions we possibly can. We have got to take this threat seriously and we are doing that."

Ald. Glass praised the staff of the Water Department for their work and commended Birmingham citizens who had responded spontaneously to

Woman shot dead in shop

A woman, aged about 26, was shot dead in a shop at Willenhall, Walsall, late last night.

She was named early today as Mrs. Handley, of Newhall Street, Willenhall. She had one child.

Police were called to the shop, at the corner of Newhall Street and Sturges Lane, just after 11 p.m. Police said: "We can give no further details at this stage."

The dead woman is understood to have been the owner of the shop.

Early today it was understood that a man was helping the police with their inquiries.

EMI bid

Electrical and Musical Industries, the big gramophone record, electronics and entertainment business, made a takeover bid for Associated British Picture Corporation yesterday.

City Notes—Page 4

Birmingham Post Reporter

appeals to economise in the use of water.

Ald. Glass said they knew the pipeline was vulnerable. In recent years the committee had been concerned that it could break down at any time. It had also been concerned with the security aspect of the pipeline.

The new threat was being treated seriously, he said. Stourbridge police yesterday issued an appeal for information from anyone who saw a mini-van or two accounts travelling along the A450 Stourbridge-Hagley road or parked in a lay-by near to Treherm Farm, West Hagley, several hours before Sunday night's explosion.

Supt. P. R. Hodges, officer-in-charge of Stourbridge division, in a statement, said that people who saw a mini-van near the scene of the explosion, which blew up two of the four pipes carrying water from the Eian Valley, agreed that it was light green in colour.

No Falkland deal, angry MPs insist

Birmingham Post Political Correspondent

The Commons erupted in angry protest yesterday because of the widespread belief that the Government proposes to sell out the Islanders to Argentina.

Mr. Heath, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, quiet-mannered Minister in the Wilson Cabinet, Mr. Shinnell, and Mr. Christopher Mayhew, all joined in hammering the Government.

It was plain for the Cabinet to see that Parliament will not have any gradual absorption of the Falklands by Argentina.

The extraordinary situation arose that Mr. P. Mulley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who made a statement in the Commons yesterday on the Government proposals, will be forced to make another today.

This will follow hasty consultations with Lord Chalfont, Mr. Mulley's opposite number

in the Lords, who recently visited the Falklands and Argentina to discuss the future of the islands.

At one point, it was suggested that Lord Chalfont should be brought to the Bar of the Commons to answer M.P. questions.

Anger reached a new peak over the reported statement in Buenos Aires that Britain and Argentina must make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be "convenient."

The most devastating intervention was that of Miss Herison, now a Labour Back-Bencher, who asked: "What further evidence does the Government want about the will of the people of the Falklands?"

Mr. Mulley replied: "I should have thought that the words 'No transfer against the wishes of the islanders' were clear enough for anyone to comprehend."

Parliament—Page 7

Attack from all sides on Mrs. Short's ban

Birmingham Post Wolverhampton Staff

Mrs. Renee Short, Labour MP for North-East Wolverhampton, who has called for a ban on work-vouchers for immigrants into the town was criticised yesterday by the Wolverhampton Council for Community Relations.

"While there is obviously some merit in certain aspects of her proposals which would demand serious consideration, it is to be regretted that she should have based her proposition on two fallacies," said a statement by the council.

Rail closure will bring fares rise

Birmingham Post Reporter

Fears that hundreds of commuters, who use the doomed North Warwickshire railway line, will have to pay more to get to work in Birmingham were confirmed at a city inquiry yesterday.

But exactly how much it is going to cost them was not revealed.

Mr. G. B. Morgan, representing the Midland "Red" Bus Company, who hope to replace the axed line with extra buses, said: "We cannot afford to run this service at less than the cost proposed. We wish it were otherwise."

The official objectors to the Midland "Red" proposals were Stratford-upon-Avon Borough Council, Stratford Rural Council and Bromsgrove Rural Council. Warwickshire County Council and Solihull Borough Council.

Mr. Morgan, in answering criticism to the proposals said: "It is true that certain persons will be inconvenienced by the service being along the Stratford Road. One has to measure the whole number of passengers who will be carried by the service and decide whether the majority should suffer for the minority, or let the majority win."

"There is no question of the capacity of the vehicles being

inadequate to cope with the demand when the passengers transfer to our service."

"We expect to have 30 to 50 per cent of the passengers. When it becomes apparent that passengers are being left behind then duplication will be provided."

Mr. Frederick Stephens, chief engineer for Solihull Borough Council, said he felt the A54 was already considerably overloaded.

Quoting 1965 official figures he said that 1,900 people travelled by road to Birmingham from Solihull between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. and 700 travelled the other way. Between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. there were 944 to the city and 1,700 returning.

"The practical capacity is 1,000 vehicles a day," he added. "The Stratford Road will carry vehicles far in excess."

He maintained that the five proposed buses would be inadequate and stressed that train passengers will have to use private cars.

The first of these was that Wolverhampton was receiving a disproportionate amount of the work vouchers issued.

The second that between 15 and 20 children of school age were coming into her constituency every week.

Unemployment in Wolverhampton was below the national average, 2.2 per cent compared with 2.7 per cent in the industry, absorbing the labour force and it was because of the presence of these jobs that people had come.

"In West Bromwich for example, where immigrant percentage is less than Wolverhampton, 5.6 of the households live at a density of more than 1.5 persons per room."

"In West Bromwich for example, where immigrant percentage is less than Wolverhampton, 5.6 of the households live at a density of more than 1.5 persons per room."

"There is one serious implication to Mrs. Short's proposal," continued the statement. "One voucher holder has been admitted to Britain, does she suppose that some limitation should be placed on their movement within the country? Such a step would scarcely recommend itself to the British people."

Mrs. Short denied yesterday that she was "lining up" in any way with Mr. Enoch Powell on immigration, said she had always believed that there should be controlled immigration.

The Co-ordinating Committee against Racial Discrimination in Birmingham, also criticised Mrs. Short.

"The committee charges Mrs. Short with engaging in an unprincipled contest with Mr. Enoch Powell, while the immigrants as the shuttlecock of political expediency."

Mr. Enoch Powell, Conservative MP for Wolverhampton South-West, commented on Mrs. Short's proposal, referred to in the BBC TV Panorama programme, showed that 38 per cent of coloured people interviewed would like to leave the country, of origin if they received financial help.

After excluding, as is logical, those who count of origin in Britain, and he does not know, the proportion wishing to return is 47 per cent," he said.

"This shows how grossly the value of the Conservative policy of assisted voluntary repatriation has been underestimated."

FUTURE CINEMA
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Jumbo size helper for the teacher

Birmingham Post
Redditch Staff

When it comes to teaching five-year-olds at a Midlands primary school, mathematics, geography or zoology, the headmistress always remembers to call in the latest member of the staff—"Big Ears."

For Big Ears is a five ft-high paper-mache elephant that has taken children at Crown Meadow Infant School, Alvechurch, nearly three months to build.

But Big Ears is not there just to be a pretty face around the school. It is such a favourite of the children that he is brought in to help them in their studies, as well. Although it is useful to have an elephant's memory in the maths class, Big Ears teaches children by a method measured while they learn the metric units.

And as an African-style elephant, he provides a touch of realism to the geography class, and, later, he models before the zoology class.



Some of the pupils put the finishing touches yesterday to their new teaching aid, a 5ft-high paper mache elephant, named Big Ears, which took three months to build.

NCB's 50 empty houses a 'social evil' - alderman

Birmingham Post
Sutton Coldfield Staff

Applications qualified on grounds of overcrowding, but the other 13 had no real needs, the committee maintained.

Mr. R. Haines, Chief Public Health Inspector, said in the committee's report that the tenants were made on the grounds of insecurity as they no longer had any protection about the housing situation at Arley.

"There are 600 NCB houses at Arley, 50 of which are empty. Because of recent colliery closures, many of the tenants are no longer employed in the coal industry."

Ald. D. W. Prosser said: "It is a social evil that these 50 houses should be allowed to remain vacant."

The committee would then be asked to consider the need for the repairs and maintenance of the car parks at Adams Hill and Walton Hill.

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Cash plea for Clent Hills

Birmingham Post
Stourbridge Staff

Halesowen Council is being asked tonight to increase its contribution towards the maintenance of the Clent Hills from £100 to £150 until further notice. The increase would come into effect next year.

This is in response to an appeal by the Clent Hills Management Committee to all contributing authorities urging them to make larger annual contributions.

The committee points out that because of higher costs and wages the small balance of cash in hand will be spent during the coming year.

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THE MIDLANDS THIS MORNING

Tribesmen give former Midlander a chief award

A former Midlands butcher has been made chief of a tribe of Nigerians. Eight years ago, Mr. John Lakin, aged 52, gave up his business at Redditch and decided to go to Africa to help out in a leper colony.

He settled in the western region of Nigeria where he taught the natives to build the land, breed pigs, build hospitals and schools out of wood.

Last year he was awarded the OBE for his work among the lepers and now the natives have paid tribute to his work by electing him as chief of the tribe.

His brother, Mr. Eric Lakin, a butcher of Evesham Street, Redditch, said last night: "As I understand it, he made the natives work when all they wanted to do was die. He worked hard out there to the accompaniment of natives as his friend."

"But there cannot be any greater compliment paid to him than the fact that he has been elected chief of the tribe. He has written to say he is delighted with the appointment."

£100 grant
HALESOWEN: The borough council is being recommended to contribute £100 a year for the next five years to "Enterprise Neptune." The National Trust had asked for £242, equal to twopenne a head of the population.

Club badge
HALESOWEN: The local branch of the Worcestershire Regiment's Association Rifle Club has asked permission to include the borough coat of arms on the club badge. The council is being recommended to agree.

Safety quiz
DUDLEY: A team of pupils from Kingswinford Secondary School will meet a team from Saltaire Secondary School on December 12, in the final of the inter-school road safety quiz. The winners will receive a shield and represent the borough in an inter-town contest.

Mud menace
WEST BROMWICH: Special attention is to be given to the cleanliness of Dunkirk Avenue, Green, following complaints from residents that they are treading mud, which has fallen from passing lorries, into their homes. The lorries are tipping on a site which is scheduled for a school.

Garden winners
WOLVERHAMPTON: Two women have won the main prizes in the 1968 garden competition. Mrs. V. Vincent, of Springhill Lane, won first place in the lawn garden section and the winner of the small garden section was Mrs. E. M. Maybrick, of Langley Road.

Birmingham City Council

Aldermen attack student minority for 'sit-in' protest

Birmingham Post Reporter

Birmingham City Council last night publicly condemned the minority group of students at Birmingham University who have been taking part in the recent sit-in protest.

One senior alderman on the council described the students as "hairy coccinut" and another member of the council challenged the students who had occupied the Vice-Chancellor's office "to have the courage of their convictions, and name themselves."

Ministry asked for explanation

Birmingham Post Reporter

Birmingham Corporation is to ask the Ministry of Health and Social Security to explain "confusion" over hospital management committee appointments in the region.

Some members have been told by the Regional Board that they will not be selected — before their names have even been put forward by the city council.

The board has been reducing the number of management committees and it is from these mergers that the confusion has arisen.

Ald. Stanley Bleyer, secretary of the Birmingham Conservative group, told members yesterday that at least two councillors whose names were to be submitted had already been told they would not be accepted.

Was there any point in approving the nominations and

BST 'kept under review'

Birmingham Post Reporter

Birmingham City Council is to keep under review the effects of the new British Standard Time, and have documentary evidence available for the Government at the end of the winter.

Coun. Bernard Ziesman, chairman of Birmingham's Road Improvements Traffic Sub-Committee, said: "This change has caused widespread concern. Although it has a limited advantage to people exporting to Europe, we must be concerned with the effect on the majority of our citizens."

Available

"The various committees of the council should collect the effects, and have it available for the Government."

Ald. Neville Bosworth, chairman of the General Purposes Committee, agreed with the idea, and said he thought the Government would be re-examining the experiment in the spring, and this information could then be made available to them.

Where the council paper goes

Birmingham Post Reporter

Birmingham City Council's intention to have closer links with industry—announced last month—has been to have started in an unusual manner.

Coun. Ken Barton, a welder at the Pressed Steel Fisher Works in Castle Bromwich, asked if the chairman of the General Purposes Committee was aware that sheets of Birmingham Corporation toilet paper was being used at the factory.

"It is lavatory paper — and each sheet is stamped 'Birmingham Corporation'. I wonder if a large consignment has been lost, or whether the council has gone into the private enterprise market, and is selling it."

Afterwards he said: "There is a large amount of it. It has been in all the lavatories — and there are 9,000 employees — for the last month."

Ald. Neville Bosworth, chairman of the General Purposes Committee, commented: "I was not aware of this taking place, but I agree with Coun. Barton, the situation looks very interesting."

Increase in rate levy to pay HP debt

Birmingham Post Reporter

About 2s in the pound of Birmingham's rates is being paid by ratepayers each year to help pay off the city's "hire purchase debt."

This was stated last night by Ald. Frank Griffin, leader of Birmingham City Council and chairman of the Priorities (Expenditure) Committee which looks at the capital programme of the city council for the next five years.

He added that this sum would increase by 2d or 3d in the pound next financial year as the city's capital expenditure increased at a time when the city was having to pay 7½ per cent interest on money it borrowed.

He said that the scheme whereby Birmingham borrowed money for schemes was relatively new and that generally speaking money was repaid over 60 years.

Ideal system

"When interest rates are low it is an ideal system, but when they are at their present height of 7½ per cent, each capital expenditure scheme has to be looked at very carefully."

For every £1m the city borrowed it must be held there as to pay back £75,000 in interest a year. "It is obvious that the council should pay something towards the facilities that they will be enjoying, but we have got to look carefully at what we are committing them to."

He said there will be no question of his committee vetoing projects approved by the full council, but that each project would be looked at and, depending on its urgency, it would be placed in the queue — the total charge with repayments means that we pay 4½ times the original capital investment, Ald. Griffin said.

Look carefully

He appealed to the committee chairman to look very carefully at any freehold assets they might have in their control which could be sold to the council, for the money thus realised would be very useful to the city.

A move by the Liberals on the city council to have the estimates of the committee reviewed at and cut was defeated. Ald. Griffin said: "You (the Liberals) have approved the new library complex, the reformatory theatre — surely you would not want to see the city's redevelopment held up while we went ahead with these other schemes."

Growth of child population 'alarming'

Figures of the growth of child population in Handsworth and other concentrated areas of Birmingham were "alarming," Coun. Neil Scrimshaw, Primary Education Sub-Committee chairman, said.

He was speaking in a debate on the failure to find a site for a two-form primary school in the Birchfield area of Handsworth. Provision for the school was made in this year's programme, but because a site has not been found, a start is unlikely.

Ald. P. T. D. Hall, Education Committee chairman, said the committee had been making efforts to find a site since 1966. "It is all very well grousing and grumbling, but what I am waiting for is a constructive suggestion," he said. There was now the possibility of a site.

The council felt it had spent enough time debating the issue and that a decision could not be delayed any further.

The reference back, supported by the Liberals, secured only three votes.

Coun. Charles Collett told the council: "I quite sincerely believe that we do not need a civic theatre."

Instead he favoured a multipurpose one, capable of staging the very best in light and opera and ballet and some repertory.

He estimated that the combined cost to the city of the capital repayments on the new building and the contribution towards the running expenses would be £208,000 a year.

Ald. Sir Frank Price, the Labour leader, rejected any suggestion of delay. "We have missed around in making a decision for far too long."

"A lot of people outside the city boundaries do believe we are a cultural desert and if we go on listening to Coun. Collett and Mrs. Hinks we shall be standing still," he said.

Coun. Edward Franklin thought the council should look more closely at the management of the new theatre than the buildings — to make sure it was run soundly and good audiences were attracted.

Broadly-based

Coun. Mrs. Margaret Cooke described it as "perfectly ridiculous" to talk about repertory being limited; it was about the most broadly based theatre you could have.

The opponent to come out emphatically against a theatre of any kind at this stage was Coun. Peter Tullett.

He was for theatres, he said, but only after the housing problem had been solved, all the schools which needed replacement had been replaced and all the homes for elderly people which were necessary had been built.

Ald. Neville Bosworth, the General Purposes Committee chairman, said that though the corporation's contribution was limited to £840,000, the city might be liable in an appeal fund did not meet its target.

But there had been assurances from the repertory board that the appeal target should be met.

The Arts Council is to contribute £150,000.

"The time has come to take a decision," Ald. Bosworth said. The council agreed.



A toy wonderland for one small boy Christmas window shopping in the Bull Ring Centre, Birmingham, yesterday.

From Page One

'Rates must go up' warn many Midland councils

Many Midland councils have already overspent this year by a 4d rate.

Towns in the Midlands last night also warned of rate rises.

Coun. H. R. Elliston, Worcester City Council Finance Committee chairman, said he expected an increase in the present 12s 6d general rate. He thought the Finance Committee would be able to make an announcement at its meeting later this month.

In many ways we have already taken steps to hold back growth, but because of Government action and the rising costs against us, the bill will be up," said Coun. Elliston.

COVENTRY City Treasurer Mr. J. D. Hender, warned that the increasing from tenpence to 1s 3d in the pound of the Government's special grant to counter rate increases should not be taken as an indication that the city's rate would not rise next year.

Increased costs which are

faced in Coventry in 1969/70 exceeded the amount of a five-penny rate.

Coun. W. Lunn, chairman of WARLEY Finance Committee, said that, though the Government's announcement helped the domestic ratepayers, he thought industry was "getting a raw deal."

It was a further instance of industry carrying an extra burden.

Coun. P. L. Lugg, chairman of the WEST BROMWICH Finance Committee, said that, though local authorities were being restricted to a 3½ per cent increase, they were being asked to provide an ever increasing range of services. "In the end it is bound to lead to a rise in rates, generally or a cut in services," he said.

Ald. Arthur L. Garratt, chairman of STAFFORDSHIRE County Council Finance Committee, said that further cuts could put the council in a "very serious position."

and would mean a complete recasting of many council plans.

Ald. Bernard Carman, chairman of LICHFIELD City Council Finance Committee, said he could not imagine what further cuts it was possible to make.

Mrs. Joan Hadley, leader of the Conservative-controlled REDDITCH Urban Council, said: "Redditch is going to have to face a programme of rising rates for some time. It is going to be extremely difficult to pay the rate when other prices are rising."

The Government's announcement came just as WORCESTER City Council was approving expenditure of £1,671,000 — just £50,000 more than it is to be allowed.

Further cuts would have to be made, though the present programme was "very realistic," thought Ald. W. M. Bird, chairman of the Finance Committee.

Report on actions of alderman

Birmingham Post

Nuneaton Correspondent

Mr. Peter Eccles, Nuneaton's Town Clerk, has made a report regarding the actions of the borough alderman and it may be sent eventually to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

He is to ask the Chief Constable of Warwickshire, Mr. R. B. Matthews, whether Ald. Reginald Hadden, was in breach of Section 76 of the Local Government Act at the October meeting of the borough council.

It is alleged that Ald. Hadden may have been in breach of the Act, which requires a council member who has a pecuniary interest in a matter to disclose the fact.

Proposal

Ald. Hadden proposed that waiting be allowed on the north side of Queens Road, Nuneaton, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. during the full meeting of the council.

He pointed out at the time that he was acting on behalf of other shopkeepers in the road. He stated that his premises were not in the section of the road affected by the proposals.

Malcolm: 'Post' is challenged

Birmingham Post Reporter

Ald. Anthony Beaumont Dark criticised Press coverage of Little Malcolm and mentioned particularly The Birmingham Post, when he addressed Birmingham City Council, yesterday afternoon.

"An article by Patricia Young in The Birmingham Post last Friday's Birmingham Post."

A steady stream of four-letter words flows from the mouth of the 14-year-old schoolchild and his mother.

At least some of them do. Others blurt out in a fit of anger. The four-letter words are part of the play, Little Malcolm, which is being staged at the Birmingham City Council Theatre.

Extract from Patricia Young's article in last Friday's Birmingham Post.

stage. Rubbish — as she well knows, and bluntly, as her editor should know."

Ald. Beaumont Dark continued that Anglo-Saxon words were used on nine occasions during the play. He added: "I think The Birmingham Post fell very much below its usual high standard in reporting this time."

He thought Press reports had been "monstrously unfair" and that they were trying to play when such words were used in my experience, such words used by an audience of school children appear to be a 'steady stream'."

No question Patricia Young writes: "There was no question of myself or my colleagues attempting to interview or photograph people during the performance. On the occasion we spoke to schoolchildren who had seen the play, we approached them outside the theatre."

"Neither were we asked to leave the theatre. On each occasion when we went to the theatre we approached the Press officer before entering."

"As for a steady stream of four-letter words, even if as Ald. Beaumont Dark says, there are only nine occasions during the play when such words were used, in my experience, such words used by an audience of school children appear to be a 'steady stream'."

Expert aid sought for parents

Birmingham Post Reporter

Ministry approval is being sought for a scheme designed to give Midlands parents with blind children expert advice on how to care for them.

The scheme has been put forward by Mr. Douglas Foley, principal of the Lister Grange School for the Blind, Birmingham, who feels that many parents with blind children are not being given trained instruction on how to care for them.

Mr. Foley suggests in proposals that have been submitted to the Department of Education and Science that a full-time teacher at a nursery for blind children should be appointed in the Midlands to assist parents.

He said yesterday: "It normally leaves parents bewildered and confused when they find their child is blind. This confusion tends to harm the child, because it results in it being brought up the wrong way."

Weak link

Health authorities in the Midlands often visit parents to advise them, but he said that few parents were given "really adequate" instruction.

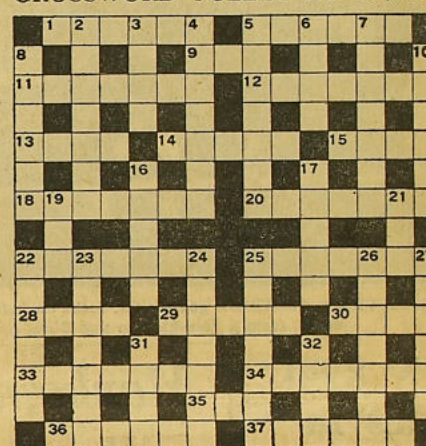
Local health visitors were not in a position to give professional assistance. At present this is a weak link in the welfare of the blind in the Midlands, and this scheme will fill it," he said.

Dr. J. N. Langdon, who for the past two years has been preparing a survey into the services for blind children and young persons, last night welcomed the suggestion.

"Evidence shows that there are some parents who feel that they did not receive advice at a critical time."

A spokesman for Birmingham Corporation Welfare Department said yesterday that every attempt was made to assist parents with blind children.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 12,047



J.E.S.

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