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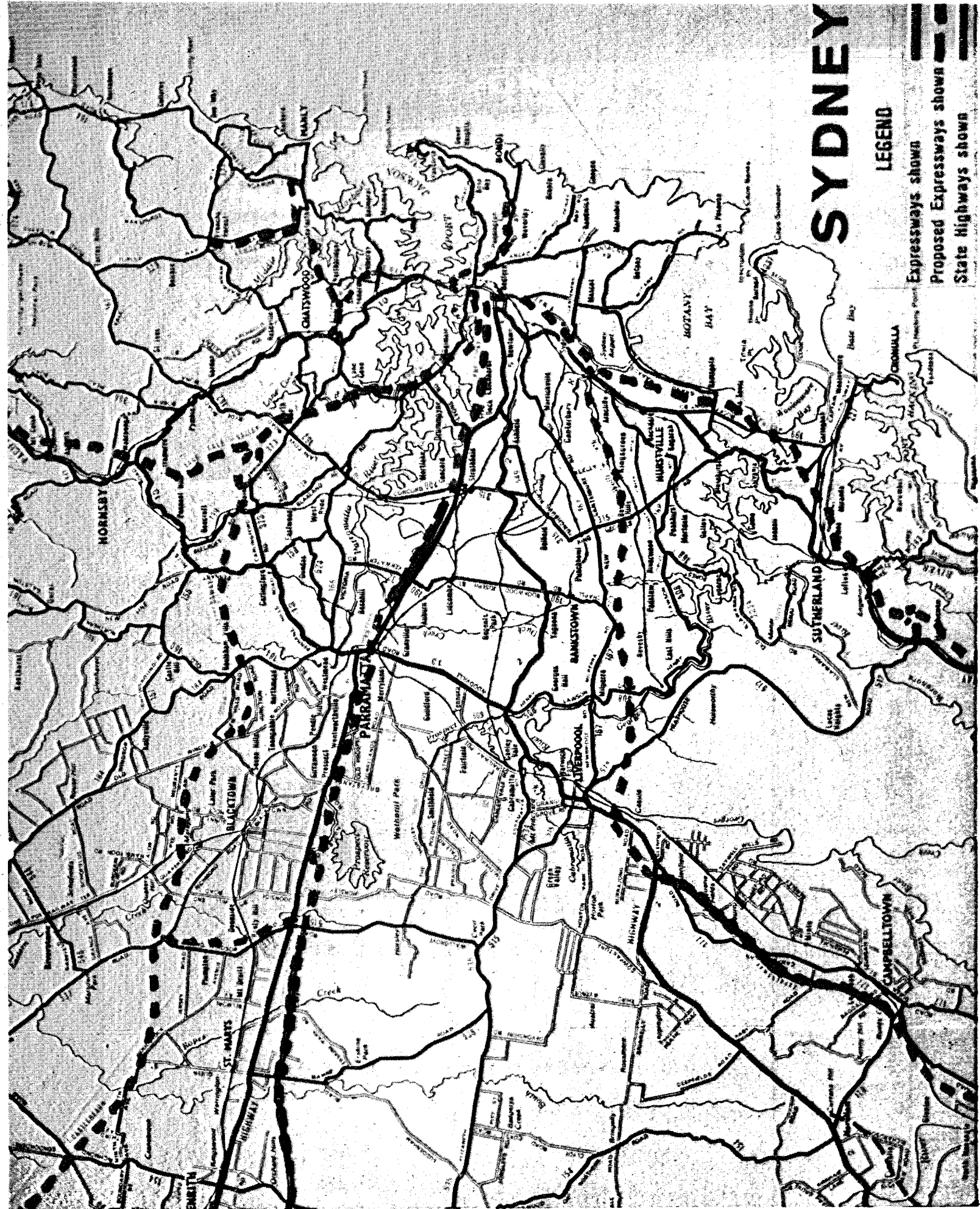
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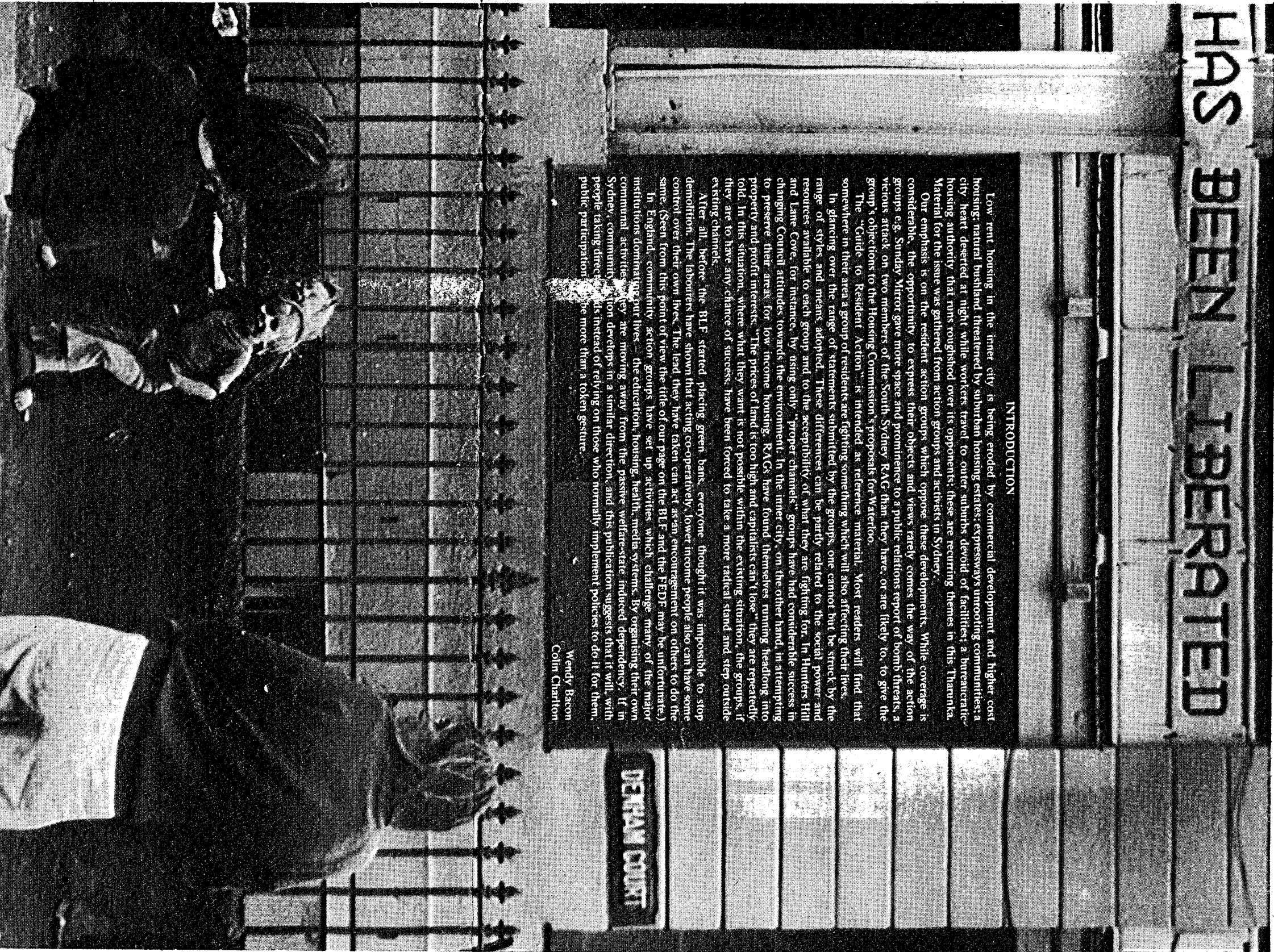
SYDNEY

LEGEND
Expressways shown
Proposed Expressways shown
State Highways shown

RESIDENT ACTION GROUPS

FOR OTHER A.R.G.s IN DETAIL SEE PAGES 13 TO 15

- ABBOTSFORD POINT.
P. Bailey. 83-7218. 13 Bateman Street, Abbotsford 2046.
- ANNANDALE ASSOCIATION
B. Mason. 660-3468. 239 Annandale Street, Annandale 2038.
- AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE CLUB
J. Hagan. 43-9595. 20 Tyson Avenue, Wollstonecraft 2065.
- AUS SRC
SRC Box 20 Wentworth Building 660-0522, 660-4051. 174 City Road, Darlinghurst 2008.
- BALMAIN ASSOCIATION
E. Tow. 82-4577. 8 White Street, Balmain 2041.
- BALMAIN BATTILERS
A. Lee. 82-4531. 349 Ballard Point Road, Birchgrove 2041.
- SAVE BALMORAL COMMITTEE
Mrs J. Bradley. 46 White Road, Mosman 2088.
- BEVERLEY HILLS RESIDENT REFORM GROUP
G. Scott. 86 Sharny Creek Road, Beverly Hills 2209.
- CAMMARAY GROUP
B. Walker. 959-5217. 6 Fontaine Parade, Cammaray 2062.
- CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASS
C. James. 31-7369. 2 Paddington Street, Paddington 2021.
- CENTENNIAL PARK RESIDENTS ASS
L. Kuncz. 605-4141. 2 Marun Road, Centennial Park 2021.
- CARINGBAH CITIZENS AND RATEPAYERS ASS
J. Leydell. 383-2181. 153 Gannons Road, Carlingbah 2229.
- DRUMMOYNE RESIDENT ACTION GROUP
J. Woods. 81-2617. 28A Lyne Road, Drummoynne.
- EASTLAKES RESIDENT ACTION GROUP
M. Shalotte. 665-6004. 955 Mascot Drive, Eastlakes 2018.
- GREENWICH ENVIRONMENT PRESERVATION ASS
E. Dowling. 43-5344. 11 Balfour Street, Greenwich 2065.
- GREENWICH PROGRESS ASS
T.G. Lee. 43-5516. 1 Crowhurst Ave, Greenwich 2065.
- GREENACRE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
G. Johnson. 272 Roberts Road, Greenacre 2190.
- GLEBE SOCIETY
J. Potter. 660-1604. 8 Gottenham Street, Glebe 2037.
- HUNTERS HILL TRUST
S. Sheffer. 89-1712. Box 85 Hunters Hill 2110.
- ILLAWARRA (Save Our Northern Shrubbs)
Vincent Goddy. P.O. Coburn.
- BATTLERS FOR KELLY'S BUSH
C. Dawson. 89-5061. 156 Prince Edward Road, Hunters Hill 2110.
- KURINGAI SHIRE TRUST
A. Bullen. 48-5286. 155 Burns Road, Turramurra 2074.
- LUFUS (ANTI) EXPRESSWAY
H. Meyer. 521-6545. 157 Lotus Avenue, Lotus 2234.
- LITTLE SALT PAN BASIN PRESERVATION GROUP
D. Tulloch. 771-3337. 108 Centaur Street, Rensley Heights 2212.
- MANLY (EASTERN HILLS) RESIDENT ACTION GROUP
D. Bulson Evans. 977-4865. 69 Wood Street, Manly 2095.
- MARECKVILLE ACTION GROUP
J. Day. 17 Victoria Street, Lewisham 2049.
- MORTDALE RESIDENT ACTION GROUP
N.V. Egan. 57-7994. 38 Queensbury Road, Penrith 2222.
- MOSMAN HOME UNIT ORGANIZATION
Mrs N. Turner. 969-3602. 10 Punch Street, Mosman 2088.
- MOSMAN PARKLAND & ASKTON PARK
J. Grah. 969-5418. 11 Wolladay Road, Mosman 2088.
- MOWBRAY PARK PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
E. Hickey. 42-6800. 22 Arran Crescent, Lane Cove 2066.
- MGMHONS POINT RESIDENT ACTION GROUP
A. Hope. 929-6819. 5 French Street, McMahon's Point 2060.
- NEWCASTLE RESIDENT ACTION COMMITTEE
J. Hayes. 67-1922. 35 Capital Street, Mayfield 2304.
- SAVE NEWPORT COMMITTEE
J. Wilson. 31-8066. 5 Oceania Crescent, Newport 2106.
- PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF NEWTOWN
S. Fenn. 51-4612. 278 Hay Street, Newtown 2044.
- NORTH HARBOUR CONSERVATION GROUP
G. Ward. 80 Condamine Street, Balgowlah 2093.
- NORTH SYDNEY CIVIC HEART ACTION
G. Wilson. 43-4803. 2/24A Shirley Road, Wollstonecraft.
- PADDINGTON SOCIETY
Mrs F. Thompson. 328-1078. Box 99 PO Paddington 2021.
- QUEENSLIFF & HARBORD RESIDENT ACTION GROUP
Mrs Cumb. 95-3554. 120 Lawrence Street, Harbord 2096.
- RANDWICK ACTION GROUP
Buchanan. 665-1422. 61 Black Street, Coogee 2034.
- ROCK DALE KOGARAH
B. Hyland. 387-4809. 8 Rousar Crescent, Hurstville 2220.
- RATING REFORM COMMITTEE
G. Turner. 533-2836. 67 Ogilvey Street, Peakhurst 2210.
- S.P.O.S.H.
S. Cave. Box 18, Wahroonga 2076.
- TUNKS ACTION GROUP
B. Christie. 921302. 7 Cairo Street, Cummeray 2062.
- COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY INTEREST
L. Thompson. 642-4411. 64 Tenyson Road, Greenacre 2190.
- VAUCLUSE & WEST WATLEY PROGRESS ASS
Y. Jayawardana. 11 Robuda Road, Rose Bay 2025.
- WENTWORTH FALLS GROUP
Mrs Cook. 36-4595. 2/6 Longworth Avenue, Point Piper 2027.
- WILLOUGHBY CHATSWOOD CITIZENS RIGHTS CAMPAIGN
S. Brown. 439-1191. 61 Alder Street, Chatswood 2067.
- WINSTON HILLS GROUP
J. Bock. 69-6391. 53 Biliotti Avenue, Winston Hills 2153.
- WOLLSTONECRAFT PENINSULA RESIDENT ACTION GROUP
J. Bock. 43-6816. 36 Gilbey Avenue, Wollstonecraft 2065.
- UPPER MOUNTAINS CITIZENS COMMITTEE
S. Robinson. 82-2978. 5/169 Lurline Street, Karoomba 2780.
- AUSTRAL HOME OWNERS ASSOC
G. Toulmin. 24th Avenue, Austral 2171.
- WOLLSTONECRAFT-WAVERTON RESIDENT ACTION GROUP
J. McGhee. 929-4834. 5/45 Gillies Street, Wollstonecraft 2065.
- COALITION RESIDENT ACTION GROUPS
PAT SHAW 663 3378



HAS BEEN LIBERATED

INTRODUCTION

Low rent housing in the inner city is being eroded by commercial development and higher cost housing; natural bushland threatened by suburban housing estates; expressways unrolling communities; a city being threatened that might never be seen; the need to control these developments, a representative body has been created, the Sydney Residents' Action Group (SRAG), to control these developments. Material for the issue was published from action groups and activists in Sydney.

Our emphasis is on the resident action groups which oppose these developments. While coverage is considerable, the opportunity to express their objections and views rarely comes the way of the action groups e.g. Sunday Mirror gave more space and prominence to a public relations report to bomb threats a weekend attack on two members of the South Sydney RUGB than they have or are likely to, to give the group a chance to express their views.

The "Guide to Resident Action" is intended as reference material. Most readers will find that somewhere in their area a group of residents are fighting something which will also affect their lives.

In glancing over the range of statements submitted by the groups, one cannot but be struck by the range of styles and means adopted. These differences can be partly related to the social power and resources available to each group and to the acceptability of what they are fighting for. In Hunter Hill and in the City of Sydney, the action groups have had considerable success in changing Council attitudes towards the controversial proposals. In the City of Sydney, the action groups have fought themselves running headlong into property and profit interests. "The prices of land is too high and capitalists can't lose" they are repeatedly told. In this situation, where what they want is not possible within the existing situation, the groups, if they are to have any chance of success, have been forced to take a more radical stand and step outside the law.

At the all before, the RLF started playing green bans, everyone thought it was impossible to stop demolition. The labourers have shown that acting co-operatively, lower income people also can have some control over their own lives. The land they have taken can act as an encouragement on others to do the same. (Seen from this point of view the title of our pages on the RLF and the FEDF may be unfortunate).

In England, community action groups have set up activities which challenge many of the major institutions dominating our lives—the education, housing, health, media systems. By organising their own institutions, they are challenging the existing institutions. In the City of Sydney, the action groups are developing in a similar direction and this publication is intended to help them, instead of relying on those who normally implement policies to do it for them, to do it more than a token gesture.

Wendy Bacon
Colin Clouston

DEAN COURT

Low rent housing in the inner city is being eroded by commercial development and higher cost housing, natural bushland threatened by suburban housing estates, expressways unroofing communities, city heart deserted at night, while workers travel to outer suburbs devoid of facilities; a bureaucratized, authoritarian, that runs roughshod over its opponents; these are recurring themes in this Tharwatian material for the issue was gathered from action groups and activists in Sydney.

[illegible]

Wendy Bacon
Colin Charlton

The Aboriginal Medical Service, established for nearly two years is set up mainly to cope with medical and social problems of the black community. These inter-related problems include

- lack of money;
- police harassment

- general racism.
The A.M.S. is autonomous, run by the black community and employing both black and white workers on salary and voluntary basis.
The A.M.S. programmes now embrace
— free food to impoverished black families;
— nutrition advice;

- assistance for special problems (unmarried men etc.)

The A.M.S. has presently inadequate premises in a hostile environment (South Sydney Council).

The W. D. Scott report refers to A.M.S. as a major and successful development in the black community.

For the A.M.S. to survive, and continue autonomous it must receive continuing help.

MURAWINA

Murphy's is found in a warehouse in Clujepedicle 17, was initiated and organised by blacksmiths to provide a breakfast programme aimed at young people suffering from malnutrition epidemic among students. Although it is a platform. This simple aim has diversified into a broad platform. This includes what it houses the Black Theatre, the Mostorom group, and the National Black Theatre; it provides a remedial reading service, has initiated steps to provide an alternative education programme to that enforced by the State - a programme to reinforce black identity, relating in the richness and strength of the Aboriginal culture.

The Australian Quadriplegic Association (A.Q.A.) was officially constituted on the 4th September 1967, at

The Australian Quadriplegic Association (A.Q.A.) was officially constituted on the 4th September 1967, at Prince Henry Hospital Little Bay. The major objectives of the A.Q.A. are to raise funds for the building of a hostel (WHEELCHAIR VILLA) and a sheltered workshop for those who are unable to return home or find suitable accommodation.

Quadruplegia occurs as a result of injury to the spinal cord at a high level, for example, the neck. As a result of this injury paralysis occurs in all four limbs, involving loss of sensitivity to the skin of the body and limbs as well below the level of the cord injury, thus complicating skin care.

At this moment there are approximately 600 Spinal Injury cases throughout the State. This number is increasing dramatically each year (Prince Henry Hospital's Spinal Injuries Unit has treated approximately 76 new cases in the past eighteen months). This is a constant, in addition to the ever increasing problems of accommodation and employment for Quadriplegics.

indeed make worse – the motor problems of the day – mass housing (i.e. house and garden), preservation of a workable, sane centre, with a diversity of activities at the centre, good residential areas in the inner area, and some reasonable proximity to the countryside for leisure.

Those with money skim off the high profits (units, office blocks, flashy cars, air travel), whilst the masses suffer the worst effects of urban blight. People with TV sets and the latest model car on HP, use bathrooms built in 1900 and unchanged since. ... Low income families spend fortunes on gas, the poles, ice-cream trucks and cars, but will not even buy their children school text-books, or pay for them to go on educational excursions. ... The right of the owner to sell out at top profit to a developer is put before the rights of those who have to live with the development ... And so on.

The ploy of all this lost and wasted potential is that the educational, financial and political institutions – and attitudes of our society *reinforce it*. Regional segregation within the city means that, in a disadvantaged suburb almost none have the chance of seeing how the better half live and play. And how we have old ladies in depressed suburbs, who have never owned a car, or seen a National Park, fondly crying out against road closures or moves to let the street trees grow (i.e. instead of pruning them ruthlessly like English garden playthings ...). The poor will not be told that the schools they send their children to are sub-standard; it is seen as an 'infall'. If you suggest a little stir to bring attention to the conditions of the local school, this is stunk from as 'barging politics' into it. How many people in poor areas have not even the faintest idea of how local government operates, what their rights are, what their local zoning is, what is possible and what is inevitable?

We are taught to consume blindly, never *de-appreciate*, to *preserve*. The County of Cumberland is a limited, finite area, in 1788 it must, under aboriginal management, have been a thoroughly defoliated place. Today, it is a timber-logging shambles, but worse still, it is nearly dead.

The next generation simply cannot act as we do, letting the inner and middle cores go waste through over-use, building areas of 'council houses' there will *imply not be room*. But that intellectual and attitudinal preparation we are providing for the next generation,

which *must* be conservationist, whether in terms of fuel, land space or car usage? None at all. We are like neolithic slash and burn farmers: we do not know how to replenish and preserve, so we go on to the unprovoked, where nature has done the work for us.

I have taken part in anti-expressway activity for three reasons. Expressways are the biggest 'grinders' of cities, as American experience and 19th century British railway experience has proved. A practical alternative public transport system for people, not cars, is a good exercise in the planning and sanity that *must* characterise the next generation's approach to things. I helped to form a local Resident Action Group to try and get Council to realise the social implications of the unplanned home-unit population increase it was thrusting upon the community, to the detriment of the historic architectural character of the area, and the welfare of its existing residents.

In one part of Summer Hill, population has increased by 50% in ten years, yet there is no open space, there are no kindergartens, play centres, parks, sports facilities, public toilets, libraries, or community amenities generally – apart from a private enterprise table-tennis establishment that is rather pricey for the area. Our group is using Bureau of Census and Statistics figures to present to council some idea of what it has done so far. It is long in this and other areas. Unlikely to stop until we are told to 'indiscriminate housing' and 'overcrowd' Summer Hill is a cheap area for housing, the demand for units is no longer pronounced.

I have also felt it necessary to work through the Labour Party, and hence have been active on an A.E.C. Town-planning and Social Welfare sub-committee, and may one day attempt to present my public transport ideas (so far delivered to various sections of the party and to other bodies in the form of addresses, summaries, pamphlets etc.) to the State Council Committee on the subject.

It probably all boils down to community education. The elite is one thing, but the masses who have swallowed the line for so long are another.

John O. Ward

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The pity of all this loss and wasted potential is that the educational, financial and political institutions – and attitudes – of our society *reinforce* it. Regional segregation within the city means that those in disadvantaged suburbs almost never have a chance of seeing how the better half live – and vice versa. And how 'house and yard' have the poor become? We have old ladies in depressed suburbs, who have never owned a car, or seen a National Park, loudly crying out against road closures or moves to let the street trees 'grow' [i.e. instead of trimming them

nutshell like English garden playthings . . .). The poor will not be told that the schools they send their children to are sub-standard; it is seen as an insult. If you suggest a little stir to bring attention to the conditions of the local school, this is thumbtorn from as 'hanging politics into it'. How many people in poor areas have not even the faintest idea of how local government operates, what their rights are, what their local zoning is, what is possible and what is invariable?

We are taught to consume blindly

the County of Cumberland is a limited, finite area. In 1788 it must, under aboriginal management, have been a thoroughly delightful place. Today, it is a mind-boggling slum, but worse still, it is nearly *flat up*. The next generation simply *cannot* act as we do, letting the inner and middle core go waste through over-use, building anew on the fringes; there will *simply not be room*. But what intellectual and altitudinal preparation are we providing for the next generation,

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John O. Ward

Research, by social scientists, (for what it is worth):

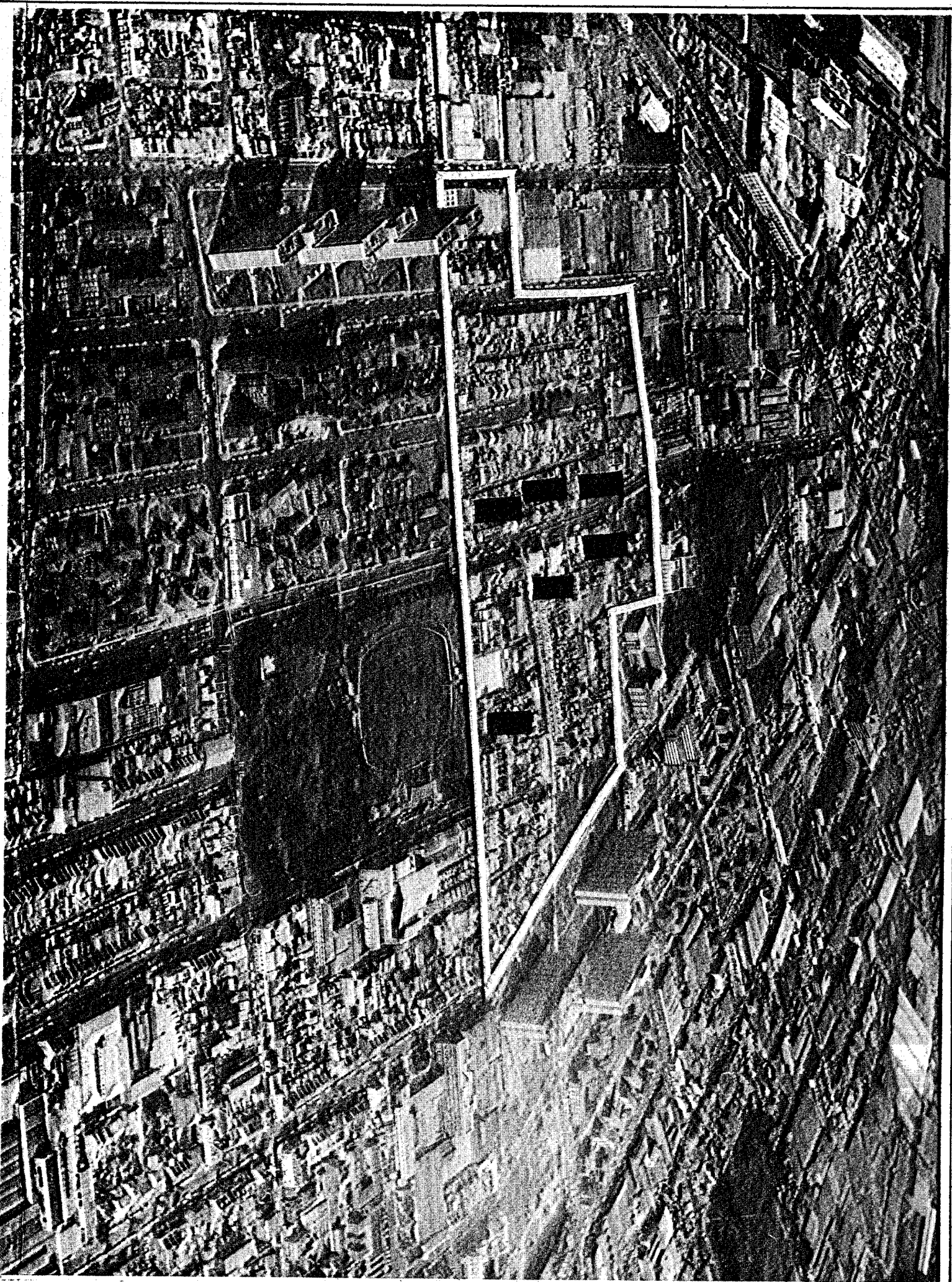
* survey of 10,000 people in USSR indicated that a high proportion of old people settle willingly on the ground on first floor of high-rise buildings, but no higher; that old people do not wish to be settled in special buildings as they felt this underlined the inferiority of practically healthy people.

* a study of old people in high-rise buildings in USSR showed that a bigger percentage of those on higher floors suffered from heart disease than those on ground floor level.

* 25% of people being treated in psychiatric hospitals in Australia have symptoms associated with high rise living.

Mr Bourke, Secretary of the NSW Housing Commission, on the other hand, claims that all the talk about highrise living is "hogwash" and that there is an increasing demand for highrise flats.

"Chicago has made more improvements than any other city in the United States"—Mayor Richard Daley



JOHN BOURKE'S

John Bourke describes himself as "one of the little people." The son of a train driver, he has lived in Petersham all his life. Even now, though Secretary to the NSW Housing Commission, he doesn't mix much with executives. He prefers "beer to whiskey," "pubs to clubs."

His career in the public service began in 1935 when he became a junior clerk in the Local Government Department. Quickly promoted he became Secretary to the Relief Works Registration Committee which organized relief work for the unemployed. These days, when there were 1,50,000 on the list and only 50 jobs, when he had to grab hold of the coat of a man who couldn't get a job as he tried to jump out the window, when another threw a chair across the room in desperation, left an indelible impression on Mr Boulike.

At the end of the depression, he joined the AIF and then in 1945 went to the newly formed NSW Housing Commission, charged with provision of accommodation for low-income earners, itself a victory for the social reformers of the 1930s.

At this time, a townplanning department was beginning at Sydney University. Bourke enrolled in the course. Walter Bunning, Sydney architect and town planner, was one of those who influenced the department in its foundation and practice. At that time, Bunning played in the tradition of those town planners who, since the 1980s, had reversed the housing of the poor in industrial cities. Near the beginning of a 1945 edition of his "Flames in the Sun"

"This (an aerial photograph of an inner city area) happens to be Sydney... It has narrow city streets, lanes and alleys and mean pocket handkerchief allotments ... The children play in the lanes and alleys; they live a lane life and their

parents sit on the doorsteps. The authorities call it a 'blighted area'. We can

The word 'slum' has been used by town planners since the 1890s. With some objective content, its moral connotations and use amounted to the condemnation

of a whole life style, a whole area. These social reformers were convinced that part of the solution to the "housing problem" was to sweep away these "hovels" in 'slum clearance' programs and replace them with government housing estates.

In a paper given in 1947 Walter Bunning made these comments:

governments and private enterprise should cooperate to see that people, especially the low income group, are properly housed, because of the ability of governments to build more cheaply by erecting whole estates of houses, by

employing mass production methods, and by building without profit. ... The advantage of lower cost for equivalent amenities and reduced land costs made the construction of flats, economical to the point where they must be considered

popular demand for proximity to work places and shopping facilities... the flat is best suited to solving the slum clearance problem in areas where the population is undeniably dense. Those who live in over-populated industrial areas have no doubt about this.

are unwilling to forego, even for improved housing... Thus if the existing population is to be retained under conditions that present standards demand, the main population must be housed vertically – instead of

horizontally.'

Unfortunately in the post-war years lack of finance prevented the amenities and the mixture of architectural styles envisaged by Bunning, and he himself is the architect responsible for some of the high rise blocks dotting Redfern today.

These then were the professional (and ideological) influences acting on the young Bourke. While passing his academic exams, he found that his real interest lay in "administration," in "dealing with people." Some of the people he dealt with in these years lived in the Housing

Commission's emergency camps – dull, cold, temporary buildings with few or no facilities. Despite the unpleasant conditions, Bourke looks wistfully back at the tenants of those days as "good people, cooperative and patient, grateful to have a roof over their head."

One of his regrets is that people today are not so easy as they were in the post-war years. From Waterloo where residents are opposing a slum reclamation program, to Mt. Druitt when an action group is demanding better facilities on

the Commission estate, to Bonnyrigg where a group complains of the harsh, confusing treatment they are receiving at the hands of the Commission's bureaucrats, people are beginning to speak out against the Commission's

policies. Tomorrow there might be a tenants' grievance committee demanding recognition from the Commission as there is in Kensington, Victoria or even a tenants' union as they have in England.

When the question of these action groups is raised, Mr Bourke's "sweet old

group — Dean Elan, a minister in Waterloo, well, he giggles, he has a vested interest in the area, hasn't he? — Margaret Barry — she doesn't know what she's

talking about and her family's company.

owns property and wants to sell out at the highest price. (Margaret's house, which is mortgaged and not for sale, happened to be registered in a company, name set up by her family solely for that purpose.)

purpose — a strong, passionate woman and active community worker) — Martine Mowbray doesn't live in the area (Martine is a social worker at S. Sydney Community Aid). I cut him short at this point as at a press conference the week before I'd already heard him at length describing the action from various angles.

“mischievous”, “properly owners”
“misguided academics...”
Mr Bourke has it in for the South
Sydney Action group. Since his revelation
of the Commission's Waterloo plan
several weeks ago, the group has been its
main weekly critic. “That’s how

bulldozed slum replaced by six (or four) high rise towers and other medium rise housing and services, adjoining two other slum clearance programmes, one huge government housing estate, is a welfare-

community", Jack Bourke calls it. He claims that most of the residents in the area are on his side and anyway "there is no community there at the moment, is there?".

Group showed that 80% of the residents wanted to stay in their houses. Last week I went to Waterloo and spoke to the first people I came across – four women chatting in the street in Elizabeth Street (on the 32 acres). "Their parents sit on the doorsteps – Bunning.) They declared

that they "resented" being forced out of their homes. They know that their houses are not the best in the world but point out that the 4D freeze placed on the area at the beginning of 1972 (no repairs can be done without the Commission's approval) makes it difficult for them to

The philosophy behind the BLE and the FEDFA is that the quality of life of workers outside work hours is an important aspect of the union. Sydney and other cities are being developed by overseas investors who are not interested in providing hospitals, schools, child-care centres and community facilities that protect and improve the quality of life. The State Government has encouraged overseas investment in infrastructure, but not in the social services that are needed by the workers, and the builders labourers are providing public works, such as roads, bridges, and the destruction of Sydney by the developers. The BLE in their battle for minimum wage and permanency are also struggling for a say in what they shall build.

The following is an approximate chronological record of the green bans up until the end of July 1973:

1. Mid 1971, Kelly's Bush – an area of natural bushland in Hunters Hill threatened with extinction by A.V.
2. 1971, the Rocks Original Inn at the request of residents for proper
3. 1972, Fairfield Aboriginal Centre – this is one of the banners are going to build.
4. 20 South Sydney.
5. 21 Waterloo – 33 acres development.
6. 22 Port Macquarie – against high rise on beach head and water front.
7. 23 Port Phillip – preservation.
8. 24 Kellett House – preservation.
9. 24 Darlinghurst.

IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, RING THE UNION

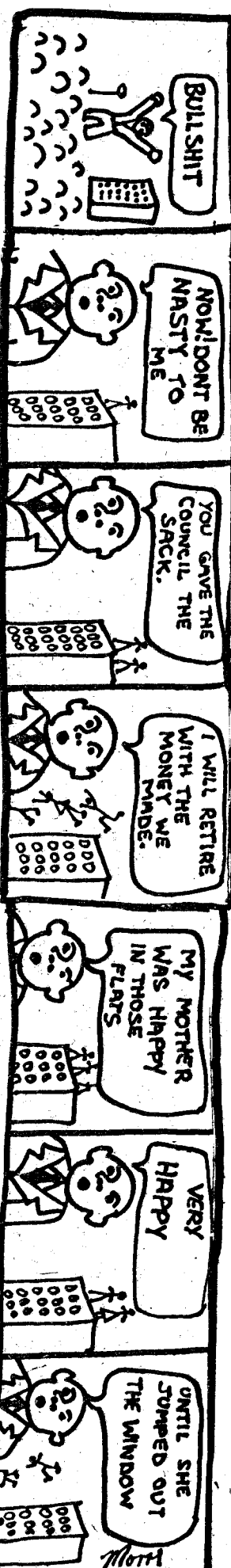


1. A new flat-topped, octagonal tower by the Royal Australian Planning Institute's scheme, prominently the first people's plan was drawn up for the Kooris area.
2. Enclaves, ban imposed when Parkes Development duplicated unit dwellers into believing that nearby open land was to remain park, only to find that the plan was privately owned by a Corporation, Church of England.
3. Corporational Church, first of the ban imposed on buildings considered by the National Trust to be worthy of preservation for historical or architectural reasons.
4. Theatre Royal — Demolition of Theatre Royal stopped until Land Lease guaranteed a live professional theatre.
5. Opera House Car Park — Car Park to be built by NPT Society would have destroyed fig trees in Botanic Gardens.
6. Moore Park Centennial Park.
7. ANZ Bank, Martin Plaza — preservation ban.
8. National Mutual Building, Martin Plaza, preservation ban.
9. Colonial Mutual Building.
10. Lyndhurst House, preservation ban.
11. Mascot High Rise, ban on single dwelling blocks.
12. Mascot High Rise, ban on single dwelling blocks.
13. North West Expressway.
14. Newcastle Hotel near quay in George Street.
15. Repent Theatre — live professional theatre guaranteed.
16. Royal Australian College of Nursing.
17. Mt. Druitt (Land Lease) housing commission (on resumption).
18. Woolloomooloo.
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SHAME ON THEM

This photo was taken from the Official Journal of the NSW B.L.F. The latest issue of the Journal has been published in Greek and Italian, as well as

The booklet will be of about 90 pages, illustrated, and will sell at \$1.00. It has been written by Pete Thomas for the Union in NSW.





WOOLLOOMOOLOO RESIDENTS' ACTION GROUP

We were just standing around at a street meeting, wondering what we could do about keeping working-class housing in Woolloomooloo, when someone suggested we start a Residents' Action Group.

Pow! The Woolloomooloo Residents' Action Group was born.

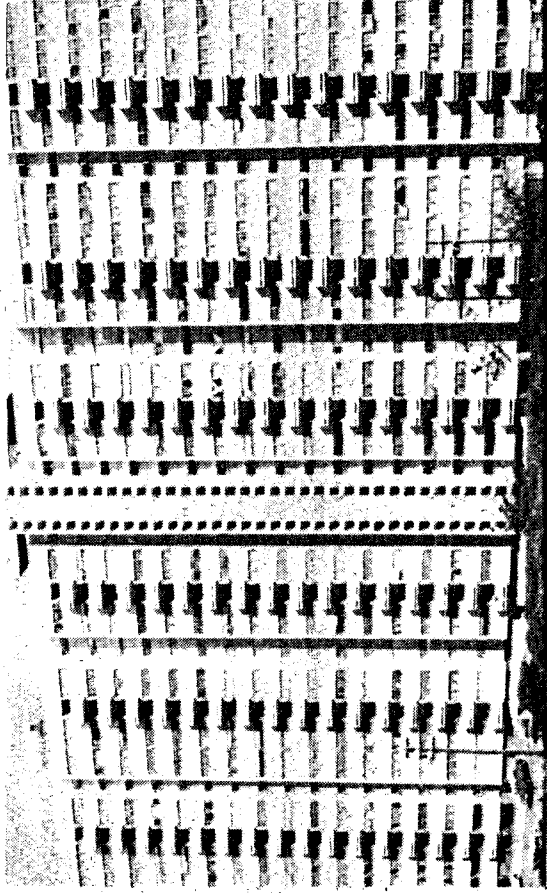
It was October 1972 and resident action groups were in the news. The street meeting, organised by the local Labor Party branch, had called for the NSW Housing Commission to build medium-density housing on land owned by the Federal Government and the city Council in Woolloomooloo.

So the first thing we did was to follow that up with a petition to the NSW Parliament. In one week 1500 people signed the petition demanding that Woolloomooloo be kept residential. We knocked on every door in Woolloomooloo, and by week's end everyone there knew about the local resident action group.

We also called on the Builders' Labourers' Union to refuse to demolish any houses in Woolloomooloo until we were certain of adequate housing. Led by Bob Pringle and Jack Munday, the Builders' Labourers' Union agreed to our request. Their green ban has been the single most important feature of recent resident action history in Sydney. Certainly, without that green ban, the Woolloomooloo group wouldn't have had a feather to fly with.

We found that out soon enough when the major developer, Sid Londish, decided to press on with a massive scheme for \$400 million dollars worth of office towers on his 9 acres. ("It is a government's job to create an atmosphere where private enterprise can flourish and make profits." - Sir Robert Askin, Premier of NSW, etc.)

Mr Londish's men moved in on their tenants and tried to get them out, while wreckers began to hammer down the old buildings. Then a strange thing happened.



JOHN BOURKE'S (commissioner for non-housing, waiting list 40,000) VIEW OF PENSIONER ACCOMMODATION AS SEEN THROUGH A DEVELOPER'S ARSE HOLE.

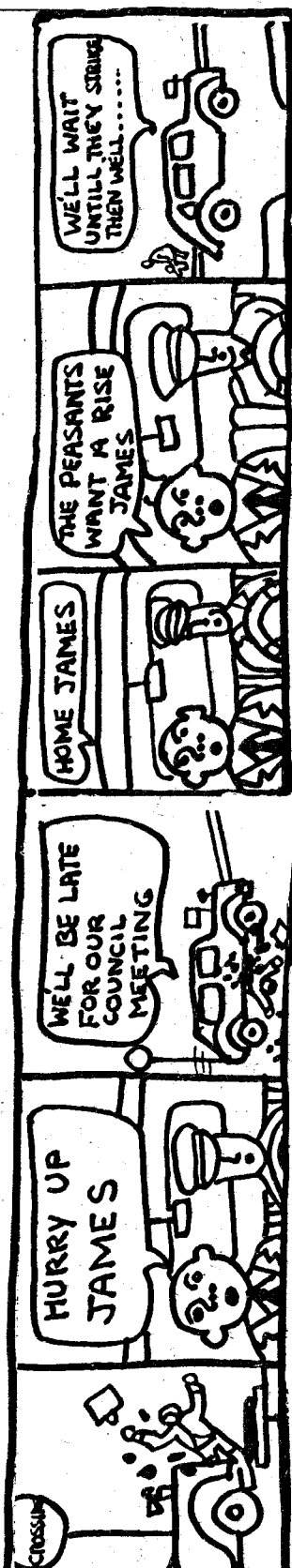
Next we had a street meeting to protest the eviction of longtime tenants and the systematic destruction of our neighbourhood.

GROUP PLANS "WALL OF FLESH" said the Sydney Morning Herald. Now people outside Woolloomooloo were getting to hear about us.

Our next street meeting zoned in on the Department of Main Roads. Their plan for an expressway through Woolloomooloo and Darlinghurst would, as "The Sydney Morning Herald" said, cut a concrete swathe through the neighbourhood.

These expressway plans were under heavy fire from traffic and roadway experts and Labor Party politicians said that a new government in Canberra would refuse money to inner-city expressways. So we protested that the DMR was inspiring evictions and the demolition of good houses for an expressway that would probably never be built. We called for a halt.

LET'S LIVE IN THE LOO

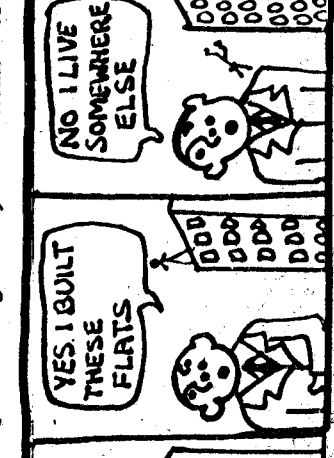


afterwards Mr Whitlam came outside to address the overflow crowd. He saw our group, read our signs and had a short discussion with us. Then he promised us that Woolloomooloo would remain residential. The next day he became Prime Minister and we felt very confident indeed.

In January we went to see the new Federal Minister for Housing, Mr Les Johnson. Our paper, "The Woolloomooloo RAG," reported: "The Minister spoke strongly in support of medium-density housing, against those who say that the only economically feasible thing for Housing Commissions to build is 30-storey blocks of flats.

Welfare workers have strongly condemned high-density housing and Mr Johnson showed that he was aware of this. 'The Australian Government,' he said, 'will not be partner to building schemes that breed juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, rape and violence. We must stop thinking solely in terms of economics and aim for human housing.'"

In April, concerned at the breakdown of communications between the various parties involved in Woolloomooloo, we called a public conference, inviting to it architects, town planners, developers and politicians. ("All these action groups and harum-scarums... I have nothing to do with them. I regard them with a great deal of dismay because I don't like their anarchism." - Alderman David Griffin, Lord Mayor of Sydney, etc.)



As a conference, it was a failure. But the anger and rage that boiled over again and again during that conference showed the middle-class planners and developers how deeply the working class resented being pushed around.

There were other failures: press releases that were ignored by the press, refusals by planners to consult the residents, talent amongst our members that was allowed to go unused...

Meanwhile, we continue to meet every week.

Gradually we are getting our thoughts together on an overall plan for our neighbourhood. Gradually we are learning to work with other groups, middle class and university people, in the Coalition of Resident Action Groups. Gradually democracy is happening in the streets and laneways of Woolloomooloo.

Contact: Woolloomooloo Residents' Action Group: Chairman: Mr John Muirhead, 13 Rue Place, Woolloomooloo; Secretary: Mr Jimmy Donovan, 2 Rowena Place, Woolloomooloo.

Edmund Campion

maintain their homes. One woman had been waiting months for permission to repair her roof. They would like assistance to renovate their houses but also recognize that some of the more dilapidated terraces in the back lanes could be replaced by new cottages. They are upset by press references to "hovels". They call them hovels. Well I know they're not Buckingham Palace but we do our best to keep them nice and they're comfortable enough.

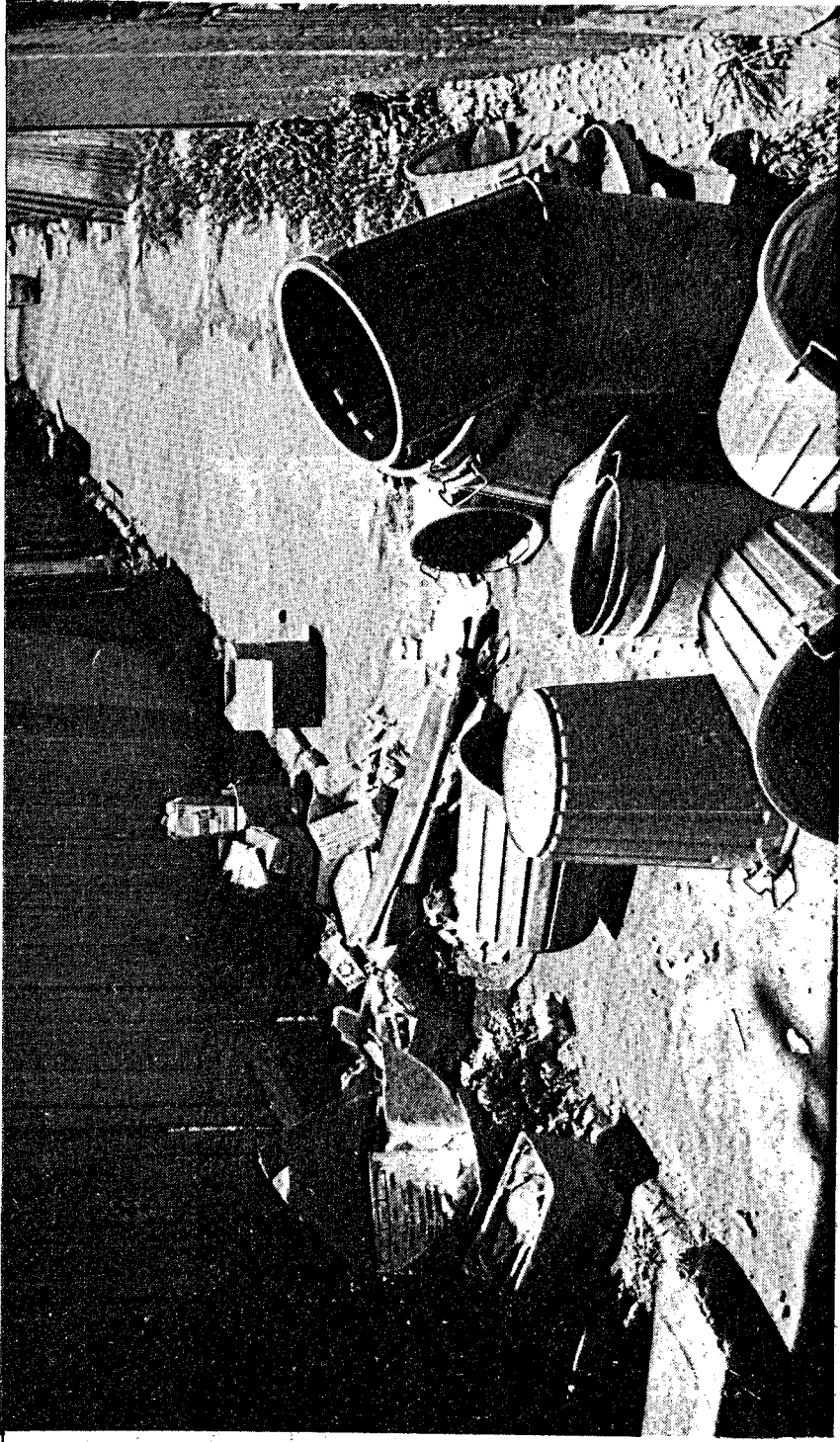
Bourke had claimed at the press conference at the beginning of his three day campaign to "sell" the proposal, that he and two other representatives of the Housing Commission had visited all the residents to consult with them last year. Admittedly, this was done after the 4D freeze. We had to keep the 4D freeze secret as private developers would have sought up and exploited the residents.

These residents denied that they had been consulted. Two men came... They looked in, looked at the houses, asked how many people lived here and how many bedrooms there are. They were very interested to see. They it's in their interests to see.

As for the community, or lack of one, as Bourke said, these women have lived in Waterloo all their lives. They know each other's parents and children. They know the old people in the area and keep an eye on them when they are out of times they mediated between several of these older people. "Everyone in this street knows each other," but ever angry. We keep to ourselves, but there is always someone there when you need them." Waterloo is THEIR AREA.

Mr Bourke has complained that the Action groups only express the feelings of an isolated minority. It is true that the groups are small - not that Bourke's vilification of those who are in the groups would encourage others dependent on the Housing Commission (it has practically unlimited powers of eviction) to participate more actively. However while there may be few activists they do give expression to the feelings and fears of many others.

At Bonnyrigg, Frank Hogan who has lived in the area all his life, went around and talked to other residents, many of them immigrants with a poor grasp of "English". He found that although they



Housing Commission photograph of back lane dust bin pose (strategically strewn, 10 bins + garbage) showing conclusive evidence of pressing need for immediate demolition of the area.

dreamed of full employment and participation of "little people". Unfortunately he has discovered that with "full employment, people develop a degree of irresponsibility." He never dreamt he "would see the day when he thought, as he does think now, that minority groups have too much say, receive too much attention."

At the press conference, lists of experts consulted were issued. Whatever their actual advice, Bourke's only use of them is to justify the Commission plans. He claims that Dr Dax of the Health Department told him, "if you go more than two floors, you need a lift and that introduces extra expense - if you're going to go three or four floors, why not go 34." Of experts, such as Colin James, who recently disagreed with the Commission's plans to build 2,300-storey towers for pensioners, he says: "People

like him, social minded architects and sociologists are well-intentioned but they don't understand what a working man really wants - his house, his public, the local TAB." He claims that the Commission did an economic feasibility study on rehabilitation of existing terraces. In the absence of public evidence one doubts it, especially since Bourke's own objections to partial rehabilitation are on aesthetic grounds - it will be "ugly", "chaotic," etc.

Mr Bourke claims there is a growing demand for high rise. His evidence? Last week the Commission made a survey of the top 300 people on the Housing Commission waiting list - over 200 of them said they would like to live in high rise. What exactly were the questions asked? We told them that only high rise would be available in the next two years and were they prepared to live in high

rise? Such is the evidence required by the Housing Commission. Bourke's central objection to the Action groups he put in these words - why do they have to drive wedges between government instrumentalities and people they exist to serve. "Simply because it is there, Bourke believes the Housing Commission must be serving the interests of the people. So much does he believe his own ideology, that he will ignore, manipulate and distort the facts and viciously attack individuals in order to prevent anyone standing in the way of the Commission's plans.

However, it is for just a moment he could forget his tolerance program and step down to Waterloo, he would find the people there feel much the same as he does. For Bourke to be so concerned with action in Petersham. The For Street extension may cover his house. He too knows and loves his neighbours, the local pub and his own area. "I don't want to move because I love my neighbours two old age pensioners. They mean a great deal to me. They've been told they don't have to move (I don't know about me) but I couldn't leave them. Every Sunday morning we have a session together (except when the Action group comes out to demonstrate). Last week they even mowed my lawn for me. They're all I have. I don't have any living relatives."

A leaflet produced by the South Sydney Residents Action Group states the group's objections to the Waterloo plans FORMULATING PLANS...

Since the Commission announced its intention to rebuild 26 acres of Waterloo over fifteen months ago local residents have strongly objected to the undemocratic and unilateral way the planning has been conducted.

THE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES... THE PLAN OF THE COMMISSION implies further high-rise. The Victorian Commission has decided that to build any more high rise flats. The social and medical effects of living in high rise are being questioned. This is not the time to build more.

ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY... High rise is not the only solution for housing low income earners in the inner city. A much more detailed check to house assessment with rehabilitation, integration and in fill on vacant land, would provide just as many homes at much less cost. Wholesale rebuilding must take account of the number of people to be rehoused (what the actual gain in population rehoused are) as well as the cost of acquisition and demolition.

Below: unarranged front view.



W.BACON

WATERLOO?

The Waterloo residents on the 32 acres speak of Government grants of money to rehabilitate their houses. While the State Government continues to think in terms of sweeping slum reclamation and huge Government housing estates, their idea will remain a fantasy. In other countries however e.g. Sweden, Governments have financed rehabilitation of individually owned houses and housing co-operatives. The following proposal for a low rent housing co-operative was drawn up by some people in the Victoria Street Resident Action Group. The principles of the proposal could be applied elsewhere in houses privately but co-operatively owned or in Government owned property.

LOW RENT HOUSING

TOWARDS CO-OPERATIVE LOW-RENT HOUSING

OBJECTS

- 1) To provide low-rent housing in Victoria Street.
- 2) To retain the basic structure and appearance of the street as it now stands.
- 3) To experiment in co-operative housing - so that the residents themselves control the buildings and the ways in which they will be used.
- 4) That work done on the site be organised according to the principles of workers' control.

FINANCE

That the Commonwealth Government be asked to finance such a proposal in Victoria Street - by buying the buildings for lease to syndicate (co-operative) of residents and by providing some money for reconstruction. (The Ministers for Urban Affairs, Housing and Environment to be approached).

That the syndicate's only undertaking to the Government be that they will keep the buildings in good condition and adhere to the basic objects of the project.

IT IS PROPOSED

That the project be run on a non-profit basis. That rent be paid by the occupants of the buildings. That rent collected be used to maintain the buildings, pay rates and provide for whatever facilities the co-operative decides upon.

That rent be decided according to income, facilities and needs.

That people on higher incomes will not necessarily be excluded but will have to contribute considerably more than those on lower incomes, e.g. pensioners on £25 might pay \$5, an architect on \$150 might pay \$50 or more.

That under no circumstances will any capital gains or profit be allowed to be made by any occupier, either through the selling of the dwellings or the selling of occupancy.

That the co-operative, initially decides what buildings are to be altered but no changes of radical kind are to be carried out until the plans are made fully public so that they can come under review.

That the co-operative produces plans in conjunction with workers and architects.

That the work on the buildings be organised along the principle of workers control.

That money for wages, materials etc. be handed over to a syndicate of workers to organize the work (some of these workers would have probably have been involved in the above steps).

That the work be done along co-operative, non-authoritarian lines (no foremen).

SOME SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

- 1) That Victoria Street be closed to the motor car - except for ambulances, doctors, taxis and other essential services, and some commercial vehicles such as removalists etc.
- 2) That the music, theatre and stalls in the street on May Day '73 be continued every Sunday.
- 3) It has been suggested that Paddy's Market be moved to Victoria Street; however steps should be taken to guard against the possibility that the street could become a rip-off tourist centre.
- 4) That Beecworth or some similar building be converted into a community centre. Alternatively a community centre could be built on the vacant block

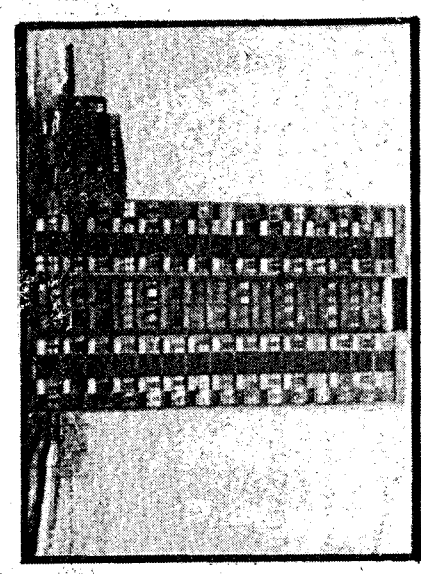
where demolition has already taken place. The site is presently owned by a developer.

- 5) That the fences be pulled down between the homes to provide several gardens, or one long garden, running between the front houses and the cliff face.
- 6) That a community-street school be organized by the co-operative for children of the area.

IN GENERAL

That it be part of the business of the Victoria Street Syndicate to actively encourage and support similar projects in other inner city areas.

That it be made clear to potential developers in other sites that the residents and the people have to be consulted.



HOW TO START A FOOD CO-OP

Advantages - cheaper food - 40%-50% saving increases as coop gets bigger - depending on the way it is organized, it can be part of the growth of a self-managing community.

A food coop can begin with just a few houses in one street.

Work out a food list - vegetables and fruit, weekly orders from each house with roughly enough money to cover the orders.

Do a master sheet from individual orders and not from how much money each house has given.

Go to the markets - Friday is the best day if you can go.

Others go to the wholesale market earlier in the week.


Note down the price of each item you buy at the market.

At home sort out the food into bundles and sort out a credit and balance sheet for each house.

As the coop gets bigger and you get some surplus, it is likely you can branch out into dry foods. Buy the food in bulk and houses can buy as they need food. For bulk buying of dry foods, you will need some special meetings of the coop, work can be shared amongst members - otherwise it may all come to depend on two or three people.

Another idea: Sharing appliances - washing machines, TV, juicer extractors.

KEEP ON
WALKING
330783
Scott
PIES



SUCK MUCH?
BITE EAR?
SUCKO.

EMPTY HOUSES
AND
HOMELESS PEOPLE
SHOULD
GET TOGETHER

"A SYDNEY SUBURB CALLED NIMBIN"

Rural decentralization is at least being adopted by the counter culture as the prototype for independent communities - but what is the hope for the Australian suburbanite?

The exaggerated dream of your own castle on your own estate has united into a dreary nightmare of square miles of quarter acre selfishness. The most (sub)urbanized nation in the world village has never improved on the untenable neighbourhood concept and repeated its relentless sprawl (Even Burley Griffin's prophetic subdivision at Castleknock, despite its relative success, hasn't been repeated through the grace of municipal councils).

The Nimbin experiment has application to alternatives in existing suburbs which require little physical alterations and additions but significant changes in lifestyle and social awareness. The joy of sharing - the willing adoption of communal roles without hierarchy - the significant use of ritual - the infectious spread of our ideology, are some of the Nimbin experiences that now appear feasible and applicable in our metropolises (metropolises?)

"RE-CYCLE A SUBURB FOR CHRISTMAS"

The new found voices of grass roots action now make it possible to bring communally orientated changes. The local political persuasion of the community group has already achieved notable successes in the environmental and planning fields. As yet though, local action is far from representative and usually anti-faith inspired. True geographical representation, ideally block on block, conspiring to constructive goals in addition to mainly preservation goals, could achieve the following image-goals.

COMMUNAL SHARING: The potential of pooling backyard space provides communal space which could house countless opportunities: Decent protected recreation areas, a swimming pool, craft and media facilities, garaged car pool, work truck and storage. Communal dining room, child-minding, laundry, tool store, food co-ops, swap shops, learning exchanges. It seems to make economic and social sense to have for example one decent piece of fully utilized shared equipment, such as a lawn mower, than countless part-time mowers. A beautiful piece of 1926 legislation called the Co-operative Societies Act and the bored suburban housewives could get it together.

UPPING THE DENSITY AND AVOIDING HOME UNITS

Australians are extravagant space users. Under the pseudonym of standard of living, they have at the same time expanded site houses and consistently rejected others the benefits of their locations. The so-called family room has now become an essential home space and turned the living room into an accepted

NIMBIN IN SYDNEY

under-utilized luxury. Now the average family house holding three and a bit persons would house at least an extended Chinese family of fifteen. The same Australian house often houses a six person group and could accommodate the nuclear family plus a separate flat for an aged relative.

Using the same technique of sharing yards and infilling between houses, space could be found for additional low-rise dwellings without resorting to useless demolition and multi-story units and flats.

THE DYNAMIC HOUSE: This is a dwelling which would respond to a couple's modest needs, though expansion for children and retraction as they leave home, to decreasing space use in old age. Ideally, modular, mobile or even temporary units could be added to a basic two person dwelling, and which at the appropriate time could be used as the basic start for another nuclear family set-up. The advertising slogan would probably urge consumers to trade in their old kitchen module for a 1975 one or inspect our new range of en-suite bedroom modules.

MULTI-PURPOSE SPACE: At both the communal scale and in the home the affluent Western civilization still insists on a separate unique place for its various institutions and activities. At the rate this same civilization is consuming and wasting resources it is apparent that conservation is highly desirable. The 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday to Friday central business districts, the 9.30 - 3.30 schools, the 8 pm to 11 pm suburban cinemas and the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. bedrooms, all exhibit wasted expensive space. Improvisation and adaption could eliminate much wasted effort and provide much more lively places for human activities. The backyard communal dining room, and kitchen could, for example, be a kindergarten, meeting hall, games room, gymnasium, child minding centre, study area, craft workshops and place for rituals by careful design and organisation of time.

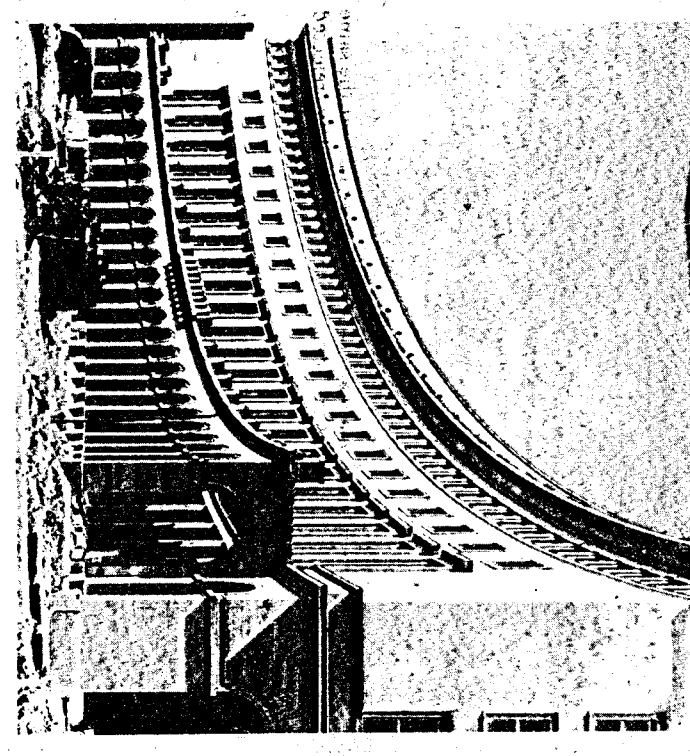
SURVIVAL AND INDEPENDENCE: The growing concern for the depletion of fossil fuels and the inadequate handling of waste has promoted more interest in energy systems and re-cycling. It is now feasible through the use of solar and wind energy to run normal household comforts and by collecting and re-cycling water and sewerage to be independent of conventional utility services. Furthermore home production of health foods, even in the suburbs, can promote less reliance on the self-perpetuating consumer system. The do-it-yourself scene from home building and farming to bartering and swapping and even institutionalizing council throw-outs as free community exchange leads to further escape from the urban race and hi-tech phase, mortgage prisons.

EVERYTHING IS AN EVERYTHING THING: Increased leisure, better and more effective communication should focus more attention on the suburb/home. That the suburban home could at the same time operate as a shop, office, workshop, clinic, school and dwelling merely extends what is partly happening and what is inevitable. Some businesses and factories could, with good electronic communication, operate just as efficiently and more economically with the workers comfortably distributed over the metropolitan area. At the same future time the resultant redundant offices and factories could revert to housing and assume a 24 hour usage.

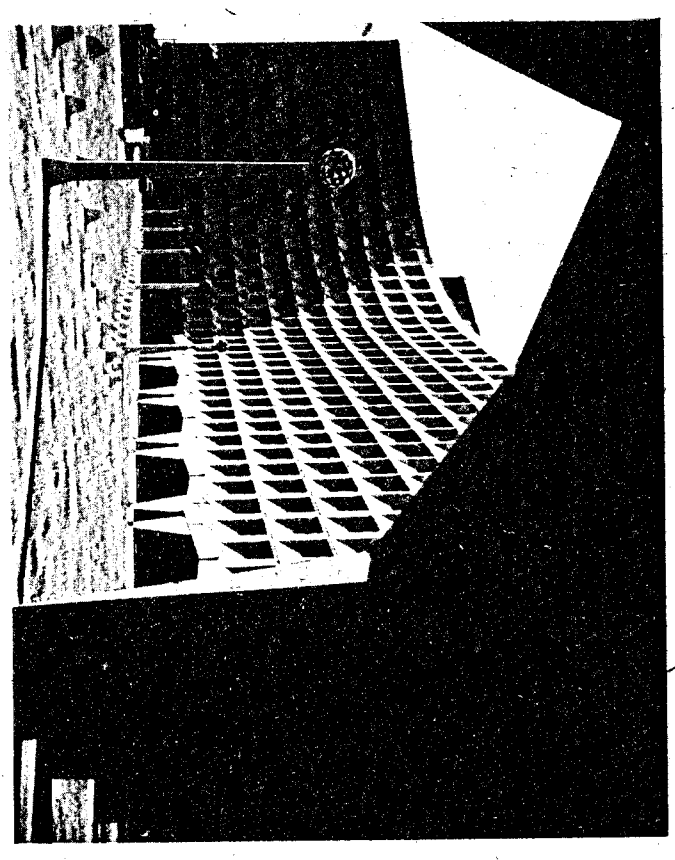
Rapidity of change brings with it a hesitant distrust of change for change sake but established ideological goals can provide a measure for evaluating change. Concepts of personal freedom and meaningful relationships with fellow man towards a peaceful and stable planetary existence may be such societal goals.

Reflections of a middle class do-gooder with a social conscience ... Col James.

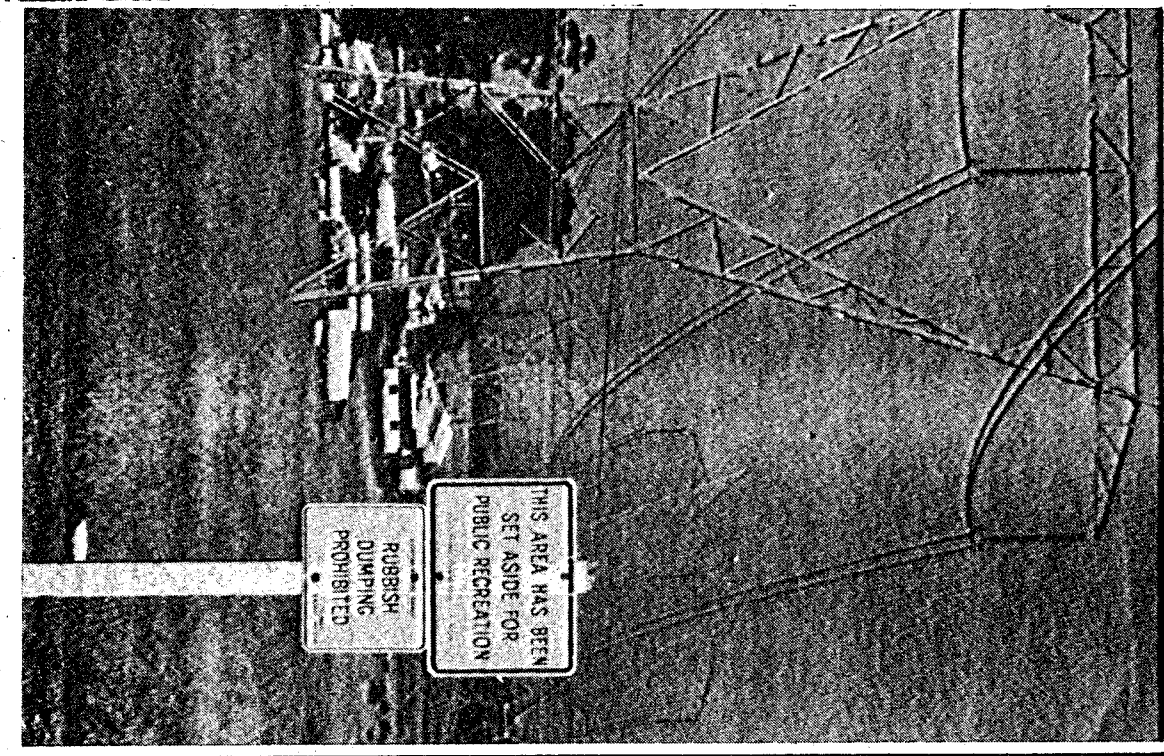
The Architecture of Repression



Architecture of the Third Reich, Berlin



Architecture of American government buildings, Washington, D.C.



your legal rights against eviction

Firstly - and let this be clear - legally, a landlord may not evict you without a court order. Without that court order, all he can do (legally) is ask you to leave.

And a notice to quit (from your landlord) amounts to nothing more than that.

Essentially, matters between you and your landlord are civil matters. Of course, a landlord may harass you - and landlords frequently do but, in such a case, you may bring the law on him (on paper anyway) - even through the police, in some instances.

Enterprising people, however, are able to make life somewhat nightmarish for landlords and rent agents. This applies especially to "finge" people - people who don't mind moving every few months especially if they change jobs frequently or keep it cool about where they do work or are prepared to use aliases (not that it's necessary).

Pay the deposit and the first week's rent (frankly it the last, as well) and change the lock on the door.

The first two or three weeks are usually brushed aside easily. When summoned such people may appear for themselves in court and ask repeatedly for adjournments - need to see lawyers, sickness, need to contact witnesses, etc. With the two or three weeks, usually tackled on after the decision goes against you - then you'll be damned unlucky if you haven't had at least four months occupancy. After that, it's probably best to split and start again.

If everybody did this, then, there would, indeed, be lower rents - for a time, anyway - until the State changed the laws.

Of course, landlords can get nasty but agents rarely do - after all, not that much of the money is theirs. I am referring to violence - up to the present time.

Protected, or otherwise, a tenant (legally) is not required to move until a magistrate's court orders that tenant be evicted. Usually, after the decision, something from a week upwards is granted by the courts before the actual eviction date.

Protected, or not, a tenant may arrange for a lawyer to advise and act for him/her. As indicated before, you may, also, act for yourself in the courts. For those who earn less than \$40 a week, free legal advice is available from the Public solicitor - but is not heartily recommended, especially for those fighting developers.

You do not have to talk to or explain anything to the landlord or agent at all, unless you want to.

If you have any queries ring or contact local resident action groups or tenants rights associations.

At the moment you, conceivably, may run into dead ends but, in the near future, tenants legal advice will really take off. Something, in the very near future, a tenants legal advice service will be on tap around the clock. And runnings about tenant unions (quite successful in NZ) can already be heard. RAGs, etc. will rapidly get to hear of it.

K.G.B.


"A rectangle of earth and a timber-frame, triple-front home with a fence all-around. That's what your average Australian wants and you'll never change him. He'll never change himself."

The pundits had a lot to say some years back, although not the final word.

Australians did change. Urgently. Enthusiastically. Moving back nearer to the city, into high-rise apartments, town houses, home units. We're helping to give these changing Australians a home. Building them tall homes.

Today we're extending our operations into key growth areas within the Australian community. We're making our expertise in financial management available to a broader range of business than ever before, through our corporate counselling service and through partnerships. Our contributions are doubly sound because we work from a strong and permanent financing base. Our personal loans and hire purchase business is growing at a rate above the industry average. We're in leasing, commercial loans, insurance, real estate developments, caravan parks. And overseas. What next?

ASSOCIATED
SECURITIES
LIMITED



ASL LIMITED

ASL is our business.

ADVERT. TIME 16.4.1973

OH GREAT GOD CAR



CURB YOURS

With the growing number of cars on our roads in recent years there has been a great increase in air pollution as can be seen any morning as you drive across the bridge with all those others in their one man operated mobile pollution production plants. The convenience of the car is something that many of us have got used to. If you find that you live just too far from quick public transport then there are a number of steps that you can take to help prevent our city from choking to death. Already there are many who have found the benefits of sharing expenses and company by getting group travel going. It worked during the bus and work strikes, so why not ask around your work mates and neighbours and see what you can do (just talking to your neighbours may be a whole new experience in itself).

The next step is to do something about your car. If you don't feel like trading in your Mercedes on a second hand Malvern Star then you can at least curb the amount of noxious nasties pumped out. If you are in NRMA they will do a free carbon monoxide check and carbide adjustment that will show you just how much you can cut by simple tuning of your car. However this improvement does not last very long and you are soon back to point one.

There is a device available that will reduce your carbon monoxide levels greatly. This is made by Duncan McWade. Industries and will soon be marketed by the Hamlyn organisation. Although the device has been on the market for five years it has been little heard of largely due to oil company pressure on NRMA and State Health Department. These bodies claim the device does not live up to its claims and NRMA Insurance at one to its embarrassed a story about it being a fire risk. In fact CSIRO and Wheels magazine tests show that it does work. Radio personalities John Tangle and John Laws use and find it works. Costing less than \$50 it also reduces petrol consumption greatly. It is this side effect that has led to its suppression. It can be obtained from Duncan McWade but call personally as his mail is interfered with and phone begged his address is 51 Market Street, Condon Park.

And remember customers, happy motoring.

Jeff Ibbotson



There are many benefits from riding bicycles rather than riding cars: Economical, easy, convenient to park etc., healthy (increases lung capacity - important when oxygen supply is being reduced by such things as cars), saves on petrol and speeding fines. And remember girls, it could help you to trim and firm your knees, calves and ankles.

If you had a car, what would you do with it.

Helen Leavitt, in a devastating analysis (Superhighway, Superhobby) of the American road-building lobby, notes that "our culture, aware that the average automobile carries 1.6 percent per trip and that, thus, fewer than 5000 people can travel a single line of freeway in one hour, while a double track rail system can move 50,000 people in the same time, still prefers the smell of exhaust fumes and the interminable wait in traffic jams."

A former US secretary of Transport, Alan Boyd, is on record as saying (during a significantly brief tenure of office): "If someone were to tell you that he had seen strings of noxious gases drifting among the buildings of a city, black smoke blotting out the sun, great holes in major streets filled with men in hard hats, planes circling overhead unable to land, and thousands of people choking in the streets, pushing and shoving in a desperate effort to get out of the city... you would be hard pressed to believe whether he was talking about a city at war or a city in the rush hour."

By 1975 there will be 215 million Americans, owning an estimated 98.5 million automobiles - one for each other man, woman and child. With the scrapage rate roughly stable at 40 per cent of the newly-registered increase (roughly nine million in a "good" year), the question is: Where are the cars going to be put?

Car occupancy in Sydney is 1.3 people per car.

Paris: Where are all the buses going?

Now the old, open-platformed vehicles no conductor swinging on the bell cord, have been replaced by modern buses with no conductor these buses are being asphyxiated in the sea of cars. Every year 1,000 million people in Paris ride on the Metro and 500-million use the buses. The 10 of the are responsible for 60 per cent of the deficit on the capital's urban transport.

"It is not surprising that so few people use them. They cannot move for the cars and their average speed has dropped to six miles an hour."

"Our modest ambition," the assistant to the Transport Minister said with a smile, "is to emulate the performance of the London buses and get ours also to travel at 10 miles an hour."

Herald 24.7.73

We bow down to these



(ABC National News - Monitored through Radio 3AR, Melbourne. Wednesday, April 11, 1973: 7.15 am)

"The Managing Director of Leyland Australia, Mr North, said anti-pollution controls for vehicles in the United States had been introduced too quickly. This had reduced the efficiency of some vehicles and added to maintenance costs."

Mr North said that in Australia the Federal Government had agreed to bring in anti-pollution and anti-noise legislation on a time schedule in 1974. This would allow the industry to investigate different methods in an intelligent manner."

Unimotional Leyland have just recently introduced their new P76, with larger 6 and 8 cylinder engines that burn up twice the petrol and churn out twice the volume of bad air than the small 4 cylinder engines - is this investigating different methods in an intelligent manner?

"The planet is basically hydrocarbon in structure - the atmospheric elements are nitrogen and oxygen and the organic life of the surface acts to recycle the oxygen material. Most lesser forms of life replicate this structure, and form a part of the oxygen cycle."

The dominant life form however is of ferrous alloy material, and is severely constrained from operating on natural organic surfaces. Our observers are not yet certain if this is due to biological or physical antagonisms. However, many organic surfaces have been used for the burial or disposal of extinct dominant creatures. What is evident however, is the conflict between lesser organic lifeforms and the dominant metallic beings. The dominant being removes this threat by creating structures of petroleum waste and silicate blocks which destroy all organic matter in their path. As well the beings produce noxious and poisonous vapours that destroy most remaining organic threats in a very short time.

The only organic lifeform that has adapted itself partially to this threat to its existence, takes out a survival as a parasite on the dominant form, feeding, walking and housing it, helping it to continue its growth and the extension of its micro-ferrous environment, in return for shelter and transport."

(After "What on Earth", a Columbia animated film)

In the greater Sydney area there are 2.8 million people and 800,000 motor cars. By 1983 the number of cars is expected to double and by the turn of the century, when greater Sydney's population will be about 4.6 million, there could be 2.5 million cars in the area.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR STREET



BONNYRIGG

Nineteen months ago, the Housing Commission put a 4D freeze, similar to the one the South Sydney residents are fighting on the area. Owners cannot without the Housing Commission's permission construct, build, repair, sell etc).

Last Christmas, the Commission resumed the land - overnight the area became tenants' land - no one could get any compensation, no one knew when they were going to get, no one knew when they would have to move.

The area is one of small farms. The residents, 90% immigrants own their own homes, although some are mortgaged. The area is not a wealthy one.

Frank Hogan, the spokesman, says that practically 100% of the residents agree to stay. They do not oppose the plan, but they want to keep their own homes and a couple of blocks of land. Hogan says that after the Commission to a resident in February 1973 said that the changing road pattern that would be evicted. This was only one day after Mr Bourke had assured another resident that he would be able to keep his own house.

It is this sort of confusing, contradictory behaviour on the part of the Commission that angers the residents. The Group has organized public meetings, petitions, and written many letters.

Contact: Frank Hogan, 249 Burns Road, Bonnyrigg

HOME SWEET HOME

A Lament for Bonnyrigg

How, in this wide brown country, Can a state department say, "We want you sixty families To get out, and go away."

"We have to house our people, No matter about you - We'll take your land (at old V.G.), There's nothing you can do."

"We're going to raise a new estate, (Don't bother about schools), We're empowered to send you packing, That's the game, and they're the rules."

"We step softly where there's wealth involved, Where influence might prod, But on little farms and house-lots We can really ride roughshod."

"You can holler all you want to, Though it's doubtful you'll be heard, For the media see it our way" (And for that just take my word).

It's a poor lookout for settlers, Or for migrants with the guts To buy 20 miles from Sydney (When the roads were still all ruts).

To take on a heavy mortgage, And scrape and plan and work, Then to have the little plot resumed, And be told to "go to Bourke".

To bad that our state government With all its many powers, Is so short of land in New South Wales That it must needs take ours.

A. Weir



BRONTE TARAMA RESIDENT ACTION

They are concerned with preserving the beauty of the area. They are against high rise flats and are trying to have the whole area zoned residential A (cottages etc.). The group is determined to halt the tidal wave of speculation.

They have to fight like hell to convince the Council that this should be done. A petition of 18,000 names has been presented. Some areas have been zoned residential A - but the Council is - well - don't let them come every body into thinking residential A is single cottages only. It's not, town houses are allowed.

Old buildings which are against the Council's own plans get approval. There is an old house in Yenko Ave, now divided into 8 self contained flats. The town planner's wife took up a petition to have it pulled down and the owner lives opposite the town planner - he bought the building knowing it was residential A - what's he hoping for?

Developments have been stopped in some streets. A quote from the group's annual report: "The people of Sydney are increasingly raising their voices against high density housing. The ratepayers and tenants are particularly awaking to the fact that it is they who are paying heavily for amplification and extensions to the water and sewerage services in the central business areas of Sydney. These are helping huge office block developments predominantly owned by foreign companies, banks, insurance companies, state and federal governments - as well as residential fringe sprawl and high rise office buildings."

Who is it for? Who's getting the benefits? All the instrumentalities that entice the local government to encourage this type of development must be cut."

Meetings are every third Tuesday of the month. We were formed in approximately Oct. 1970. Meetings are only for members of the society (the "home" and "Tarama" Aborigine Society). But anyone who lives in B or T can join. Contact: 385-5493 (Mike Drenney).

KEEPING BUNDEENA BEAUTIFUL

"Resident action" began in Bundena many years before the phrase was invented. In fact a big meeting took place under the fir trees at Bonnaville over 20 years ago. Since then the Bundena Beautification Association to press for amenities and a P&C, a Garden Club, and a Tennis Club. But only in recent years would the Council spend more than a minimum in Bundena.

Until a few years back everyone wanted "progress". Chop the trees, fill the swamps, kerb and gutter the roads, give us everything that Sydney's other suburbs have! These slogans are still heard, but only from a dwindling number of residents.

Maybe the replacement of the old Park Trust by the N.S.W. Council was a milestone. Or suggestions for amenity and recreational purposes, for example, to subdivide the amenities placed elsewhere. Or the sight of high rise buildings across Port Hacking. Or pollution and congestion in Sydney.

Whatever caused it, voices started to demand an end to concrete and clearing. The new subdivision above Spring Gully could not be cancelled. But efforts to unfreeze the previously owned land in the southern part remains "Open mile were blocked, and the land in the Park Space" petitioning the government to be alerted to higher reaches of Bundena Creek. Council-owned land stretches down to meet them - and at this moment they are threatened again. (With the best intentions, of course!)

For many years residents have wanted an area where old cars, fridges, rubbish which is not removed at Council clean-ups, could be dumped. Now a tip is being excavated, and a foot above the water table, and the tip and the Bowling Club. Mito's "hard-fill" is dumped in it? As the amenity - it cannot be used as a foundation for buildings or tennis courts.

Contact: Bundena Resident Action Group. Convenor: Neil de Nett. 525-2153 (Service Station); Secretary: Vic Leuliette. 525-1127.

DARLINGHURST

The earliest and most frustrating problem facing any number of DRAG was the apparent apathy of the local residents. Inevitably, bureaucracy, local residents' apathy, and the ever expanding Mobil Oil Company project and by the Lane Cove Valley expressway which will destroy 3 miles of mangrove river bank.

They use entirely legitimate means to pursue their aims and in particular work through the local M.L.A., Mr. Peter Coleman. Last year Coleman tried a barge and took a number of politicians for a trip up the river. Public meetings are held at the Lane Cove Council.

The Tams town plan was almost entirely adopted by the local Hunter Hill Council. It was forwarded to the State Planning Authority and it is expected to be returned soon. The plan was prepared through the voluntary services of professional members of the Trust.

Contact: Mr S.M. Sherren, 24 Prince George Parade, Woolwich. 85-1712.

LANE COVE RUSHLAND & CONSERVATION SOCIETY

The Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society started in 1971 with the primary aim at that time of preserving the natural bushland area of Lane Cove Municipality. The society expanded its scope to cover the "quality of life" issues facing the community. It is itself as being a continuing link between interested parties and all having an educational function.

To date the society has:

- fought a court action successfully to prevent the 19 acre Lane Cove (public) park from becoming a semi private golf course.
- Participated in other issues where the environment has been threatened.
- carried out a survey of all open space in Lane Cove.
- initiated the long term restoration of bushland partly by the local council.
- organised a series of public lectures on all aspects of the environment.

Current interests include waste recycling which is being considered by the local council for implementation across the municipality, the Lane Cove Valley Expressway, and the establishment of a legal base for the retention of "urban forests."

Membership currently stands at 400. Meetings are held on second Tuesday of every month at 8 pm. Meetings alternate between Green Hall in Phoenix Street on the 14th and 16th of the month.

DRAG meets at Pres. Church, corner Palmer & Stanley every Mon. 8 pm.



GREYSTANES RESIDENT ACTION

Early in April 1973, 51 acres of forest land at the corner of Bretts Road and Maryland Road, Greystanes were cleared for factory development. The approval for this factory had been granted with no notice appearing in any local papers.

A Residents Action Committee was formed and after all other action failed, the building trade unions were approached. Two committees met, counsellors with support of 40 residents campaigning in a walk out which triggered the campaign into a mass protest by residents.

Further meetings were held attended by 300 residents. The BLF imposed a Green Ban and other unions present as well as the local ALP indicated support. Further meetings have been held and a march to the Council Chambers also a petition has been signed.

This to date is the only fight in a municipality that has 2000 acres of natural land against 500 acres of parkland for 80,000 residents.

Contact: Brian Hall.

HUNTERS HILL TRUST

Formed in 1968, the Hunters Hill Trust has about 770 members. It aims to preserve both the natural and historical character of the area, which is threatened by both industrial projects like the ever expanding Mobil Oil Company project and by the Lane Cove Valley expressway which will destroy 3 miles of mangrove river bank.

They use entirely legitimate means to pursue their aims and in particular work through the local M.L.A., Mr. Peter Coleman. Last year Coleman tried a barge and took a number of politicians for a trip up the river. Public meetings are held at the Lane Cove Council.

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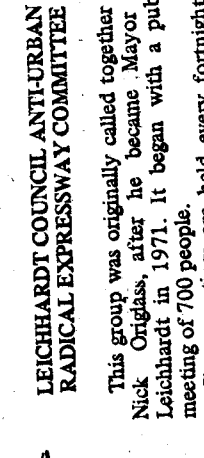
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LEIGHARDT COUNCIL ANTI-URBAN RADICAL EXPRESSWAY COMMITTEE

This group was originally called together by Nick Origas, after he became Mayor of Leighardt in 1971. It began with a public meeting of 700 people.

Open meetings are held every fortnight in the Mayor's room at Leighardt Town Hall. Next meeting, Wednesday, 11.8 pm.

The area is affected by the NW expressway which would cut through Glebe, Rozelle, Cityfield and Danmore. The DMR is continuing to acquire land and before a green ban was placed by the BLF, some demolition took place.

Opponents of the expressway believe that the DMR is attempting to commit itself to a heavy expenditure so that it will be harder to stop the project.

They Leighardt group has combined with groups in Glebe in marches, demonstrations and the construction of an avenue playground in Glebe.

Contact: Albert Mispel 660-5996

Local Government Study Group.

A group of aldermen and women who meet irregularly to discuss local government issues.

Contact: Gill Sutton, 42-1103.

A GUIDE TO RESIDENT ACTION

CRAAG

THE COALITION OF
RESIDENT ACTION GROUPS

663,3378

In New South Wales, the Coalition of Resident Action Groups is by far the most important of the outside groups that the individual resident action group can consult. CRAAG was formed just over two years ago by a dozen resident action groups meeting in the Department of Social Work at the University of New South Wales to talk over common problems. Now there are over eighty resident action groups in the Sydney alone. CRAAG has been formed this year, and conditions for the Illawarra are expected to be formed later this year. These groups are expected to link up in a series of quarterly conferences is proposed to consider a workable arrangement between the groups.

The CRAAG initially saw its function as a loose forum to discuss individual campaigns and common problems and that groups could find mutual support to each other in their campaigns. The number of new groups coming to CRAAG each month attest to the success which CRAAG has achieved in its mutual education and support programme. It is now a further stage of development that is being had fought and won at least one major battle. CRAAG is in the process of hearing new groups' problems at the monthly meetings. An attempt to reconcile the needs of old and new groups has recently been made with the formation of the CRAAG Steering Committee charged with the formation of policy. The Steering Committee is busy engaged in the preparation

of the CRAAG Policy Book, based on resolutions passed over the last two years. One of the tasks of the new Steering Committee is to reconcile the interests of all the various resident action groups in CRAAG. These groups at the present time fall into four broad categories: (i) planning groups (especially concerned with zoning and planning problems, e.g. the end supports groups); (ii) park and conservation groups; (iii) rates and taxes groups and (iv) social issues groups (e.g. tenants' rights, PM and Community Broadcasting etc). The preponderance of the town planning groups has led other groups, especially conservation and park groups, to feel they are being squeezed out of the limelight. But there has been a marked tendency for interests to be brought into the process of discussion and the formation of new groupings of the resident action groups.

CRAAG has aided sub-committees of common interests: for example, the Save the Parks Campaign, which is a coalition of five resident action groups seeking preservation policies for Moore Park, Centennial Park and Queen's Park; the Save the Illawarra Alliance, which is concerned to have the Illawarra Alliance, which is housing in inner city areas in the face of rising property values; the City of Sydney Resident Action Committee, which is concerned with preservation of residential quality within the City of Sydney; and the Inner Sydney Resident Action Groups (ISRAG), which is concerned with a wide range of social problems, such as social housing, as well as housing problems. In addition, CRAAG has sponsored a wider recognition on the part of the resident action

groups of the importance of FM broadcasting. Broadcasting FM broadcasting provides the opportunity for a vast increase in the number of radio channels as well as a considerable increase in the sound quality, which is interference free. And so all kinds of environmental groups, not to mention music groups, will be able to obtain more ready access to the airwaves. Radio development (for community group access to television is also being sought) is also being sought.

It can be seen that the urgent task of the CRAAG Steering Committee is to reconcile the competing demands for CRAAG time and resources, and where possible to guide social effort in productive ways.

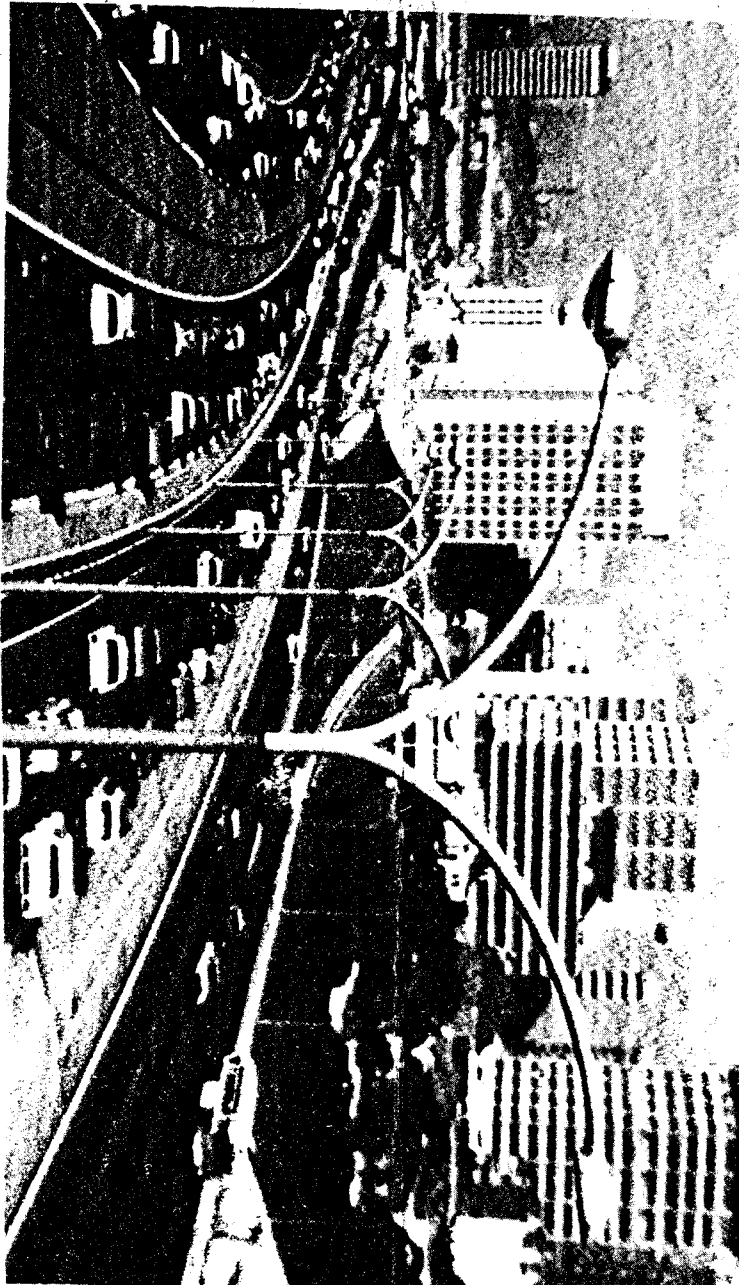
CRAAG: Political or Not Political?

CRAAG is not a political party nor is sympathetic with a particular political party. It sees itself, rather, as a significant finger group in the community. Individual resident action groups have run candidates in local government elections with varying degrees of success. Although the counsel to new resident groups is to avoid running candidates, it is clear sometimes that to their formation it is clear sometimes that to their (e.g. in Randwick or South Sydney) may achieve a viable alternative for the electorate. In some municipalities and others, whole councils have been removed as a result of resident action. However it should be noted that political office involves a negation of the resident action movement's role as a free critic. Resident Action groups have always to be

aware of attempts to politicise them in the party sense. This awareness must be heightened in pre-election periods or periods of threat by developers. A recent attempt was made by the Civic Reform Association, the governing body for the present City Council majority, to infiltrate the Centennial Park Residents Association to prevent the development of a new parkland. The plan was to use the association to prevent the residents seeking a green ban on high rise development in Cook Road, Centennial Park. An earlier attempt was made to infiltrate the same Association during the battle over the Moore Park - Centennial Park Sports Complex, in which the Association, as in the other two issues, was highly successful.

After the first shocks of confrontation and conflict, CRAAG has been able to help groups to admit that resident action groups are helping them to do their job better. And it is clear that the new Federal government welcomes the input of resident action groups in the re-thinking of urban and regional strategies. Certain members of the Liberal Party, also concerned with environmental issues, appear to be moving in this direction.

But the political parties at various levels of government still have a love-hate conflict about the resident action movement. On the one hand, the older members of the Liberal Party are wary of the new groups. On the other hand, the Liberal Party frequently finds itself aligned with big business against what appears to be the worker capitalism of resident action.



TENANTS

PRELIMINARY SUBMISSION ON
REFORMS NEEDED IN LANDLORD AND
TENANTS LAWS AND PRACTICES

This is a short statement on the reforms needed in landlord and tenant matters, practices which is intended for public discussion and governmental consideration. It is not a precise legal statement on which to base precise legislative changes. It is a statement of the principles which are a minimum for the reform of the law. It is a statement of the guiding landlord and tenant relationships may become unnecessarily strained.

These proposals are directed toward residential tenants and their relations with landlords, but most of the principles apply to commercial tenants too. There are five phases of tenancy which need action and adequate provision:

1) Information and advisory services are needed. They are put forward at a time when there is a virtual housing crisis, with spiralling costs and increasing competition for adequate housing. It is a time when an increasing proportion of N.S.W. residents are tenants, over one third of the total population. It is also a period of continual pressure on housing stock, and upon the tenants who occupy a deal of it. It is a time when the law is inadequate, and daily numerous eviction action both inside and outside the courts. We estimate eight times as many evictions occur outside the courts as through them.

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INSPECT

INSPECT is an activist group specifically concerned with environmental education. It was started in 1970 by Dr Peter Elyard, who is now personal adviser to Wesc Cass.

Since it was begun in Canberra, INSPECT has been active in various parts of the country, including Sydney, as well as in Alberta, Canada. The programme is run by secondary and tertiary students together with teachers and other volunteers.

The initial programme involved speakers going out to the schools to give the students a basic understanding of the environment. The students then chose as to the environmental concern that they would like to investigate. These included analyses of water, air and noise pollution, research into the feasibility of recycling, attention to the needs for adequate programmes for the conservation of flora and fauna. In all these activities assistance was given by experts from the CSIRO, the Australian National University and the University of New South Wales.

At times has gone by the different states have developed a diversity of approaches based on the original INSPECT concept. Canberra has staged an 'environmental' rock opera called Earth and Sun. Sydney has held a four day residential conference on 'Planning new cities for Australia.' Exchange visits have been arranged between Melbourne and Sydney.

INSPECT has involved action on environmental issues in many parts of the country. It has been active in the National Population Inquiry, a campaign to save an area of mangroves on the Georges River, protests against the packaging industry recycling faxes, and so on.

The basic unit of INSPECT however is the individual. The person first contributes through trying to modify his own environmental behaviour. This is done by the person writing of submissions to the National Population Inquiry, a campaign to save an area of mangroves on the Georges River, protests against the packaging industry recycling faxes, and so on.

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and they all lived together in a little crooked house

Gustav Landauer, a German anarchist of the turn of the century, defined the state as "a condition, a certain relationship between human beings, a mode of behaviour". He saw that change could only come about by contracting other relationships and by behaving differently.

The living environment of a city can be looked at in a similar way. Buildings and structures, land and air-space pose questions not only of a political, economic, administrative and aesthetic nature, but also relational questions; questions that involve moral and ideological considerations because they deal with people's views of their own lives with other people.

In short, the city can be looked upon as the physical expression of a philosophy, a system of values in practice.

But this is not easily done. For a start, there exists already a notion of what a city is which works against this idea. This notion is based on a number of quasi-scientific, statistical, legal and socio-economic criteria, all of which have become so deeply accepted that they constitute pieces of conventional wisdom, home truths.

Everyone knows that a city is an environment with a population and a population density, a growth rate and a standard of affluence, certain zonings in which things can and cannot be done, official bodies that exist to ensure the maintenance of essential services, a standard of living, home ownership, job prospects, educational and recreational provisions, cultural life, architectural beauty, public facilities etc. Everyone knows that a city consists of a multiplicity of organizations each with their own problems.

This is the nature of the environment of the city: it has something to do with the inhabitants, but more to do with structures. That is, people living in this urban structure have to come to grips with it in order to survive. There are a number of implications to be drawn from this. Firstly, the city functions not only as the environment in which one lives, but also as the definition of what one is and what one can become.

From this comes the definition of what rights one has, and what one can and cannot do. Beyond this, the environment structure enforces particular kinds of experiences *beyond which one cannot go*.

Examples

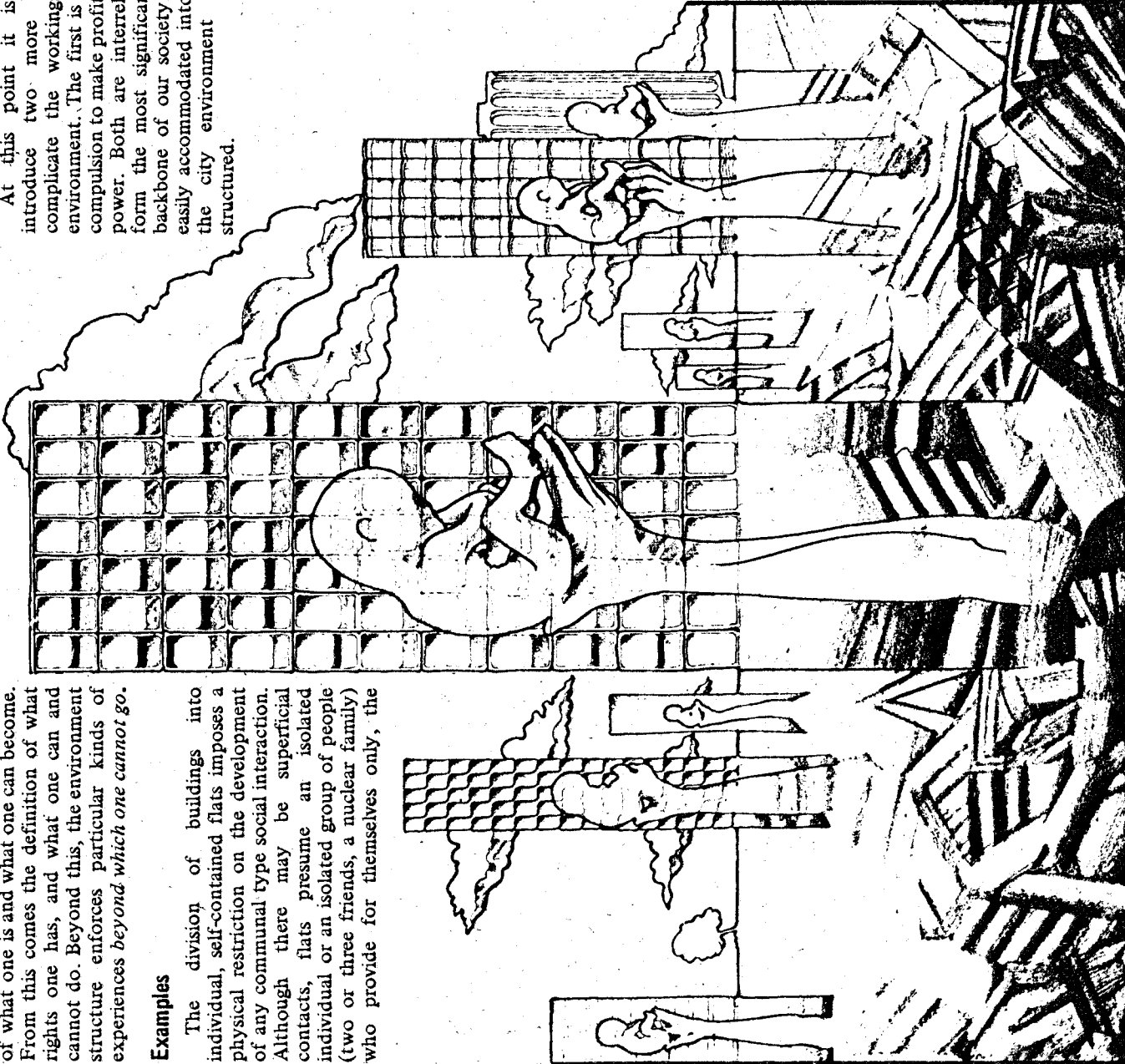
The division of buildings into individual, self-contained flats imposes a physical restriction on the development of any communal type social interaction. Although there may be superficial contacts, thus presume an isolated individual or an isolated group of people (two or three friends, a nuclear family) who provide for themselves only, the

amenities and basic provisions that they both need and can afford. This leads to an excessive amount of duplication as well as a break-down of contact, understanding and involvement between people. Flats perpetuate as well as create this.

This, however, tends to be a minor matter when viewed against the grotesque implications that this kind of environment has upon relationship structures. The enforced isolation leads to an almost obsessive hunt for a permanent monogamous coupled relationship. And any deviation which appears to be experimental, such as a succession of casual affairs, is usually an example of failed coupling. Since this is so frequently the case, the need for a companion with whom to share a flat thus becomes essential, but the number of companions limited.

The situation of the normal suburban house is even worse in its implications. Here the coupling (marriage) has already taken place and the environment acts as a virtual prison. And there is nothing that can be done about it because not only is the relationship by this stage *protected* by law, the environment itself is *protected* by a number of by-laws. All that is left is to glorify the environment by having the cleanest milk bottles in the street, or the greenest lawn, or worse still, the neatest best dressed kids you've ever seen in your life — anything, as one woman said to me that makes you feel as if you've done something worthwhile. Instead of attacking people for being sexist we should go out and burn a few 'dream homes'.

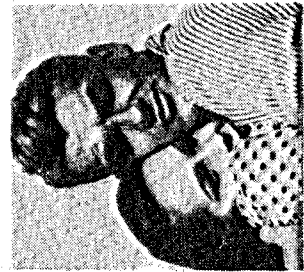
The last example is that of the motor car — two seats in the front, three in the back. At this point it is necessary to introduce two more factors which complicate the workings of the city environment. The first is money and the compulsion to make profits; the second — power. Both are interrelated and both form the most significant part of the backbone of our society. They are also easily accommodated into the nature of the city environment as it is now structured.



Ruling Class and Ruling Ideas

The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas, i.e. the class which is the ruling *material* force of society, is at the same time its ruling *intellectual* force. The class which has the means of material production at its disposal, has control at the same time over the means of mental production, so that thereby, generally speaking, the ideas of those who lack the means of mental production are subject to it. The ruling ideas are nothing more than the ideal expression of the dominant material relationships, the dominant material relationships grasped as ideas; hence of the ruling one, therefore, the ideas of its dominance. The individuals composing the ruling class possess among other things consciousness and therefore think. Insofar, therefore, as they rule as a class and determine the extent and compass of an epoch, it is self-evident that they do this in its whole range, hence among other things rule also as thinkers, as producers of ideas, and regulate the production and distribution of the ideas of their age: thus their ideas are the ruling ideas of the epoch.

Marx, *The German Ideology*.

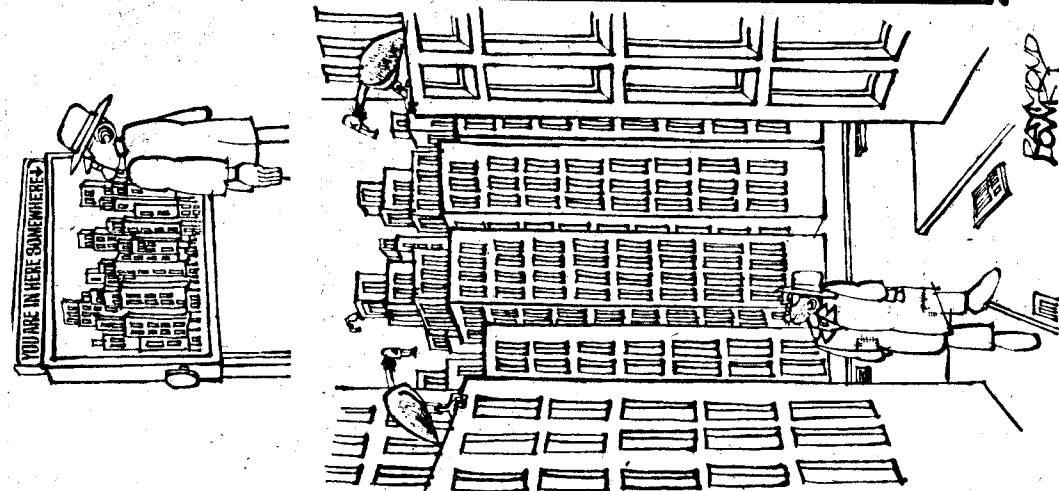
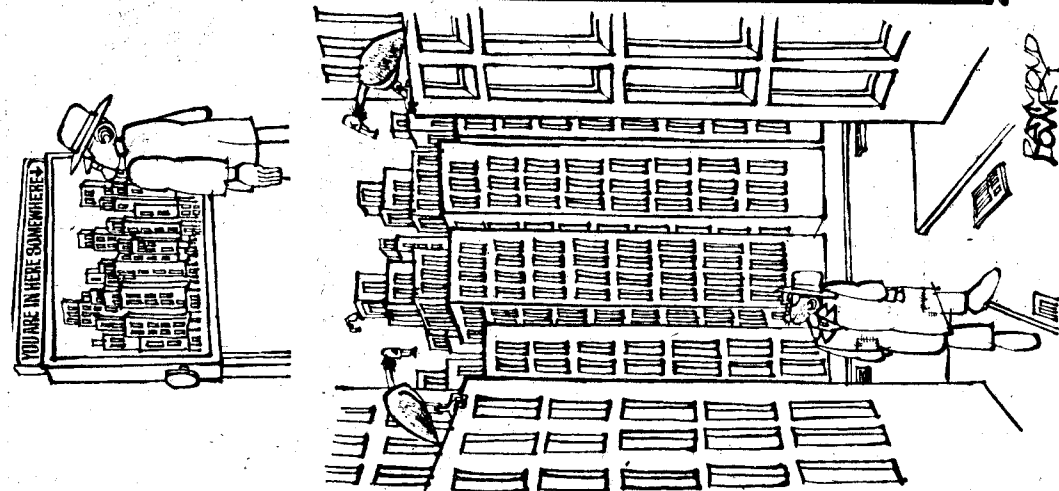
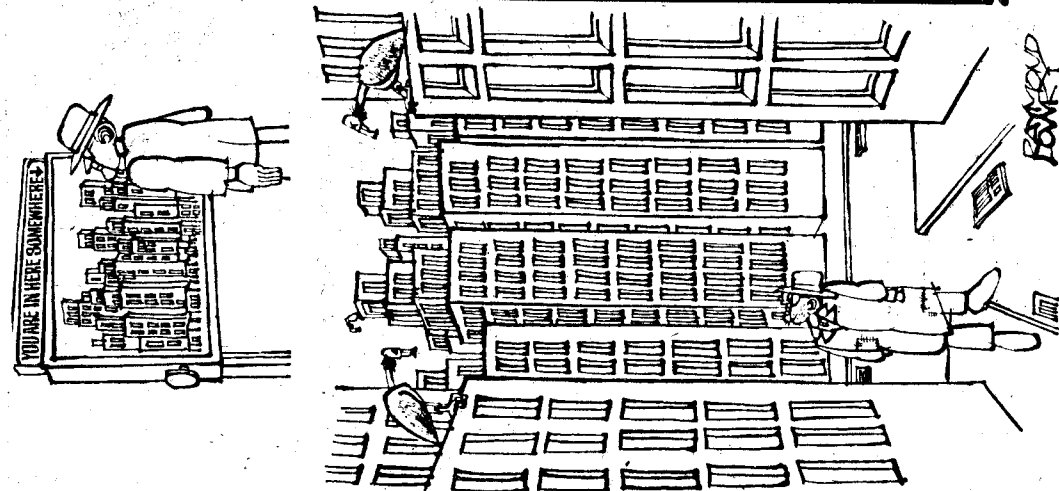
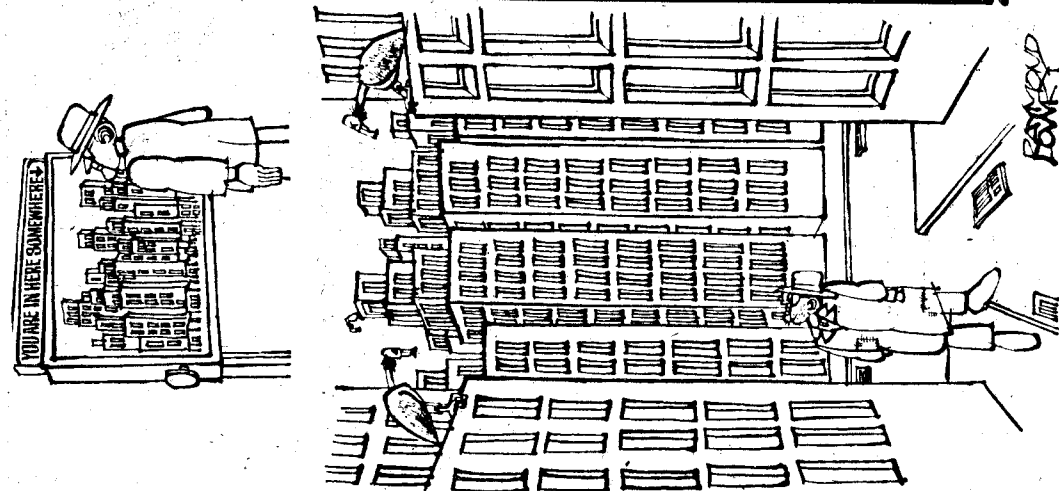
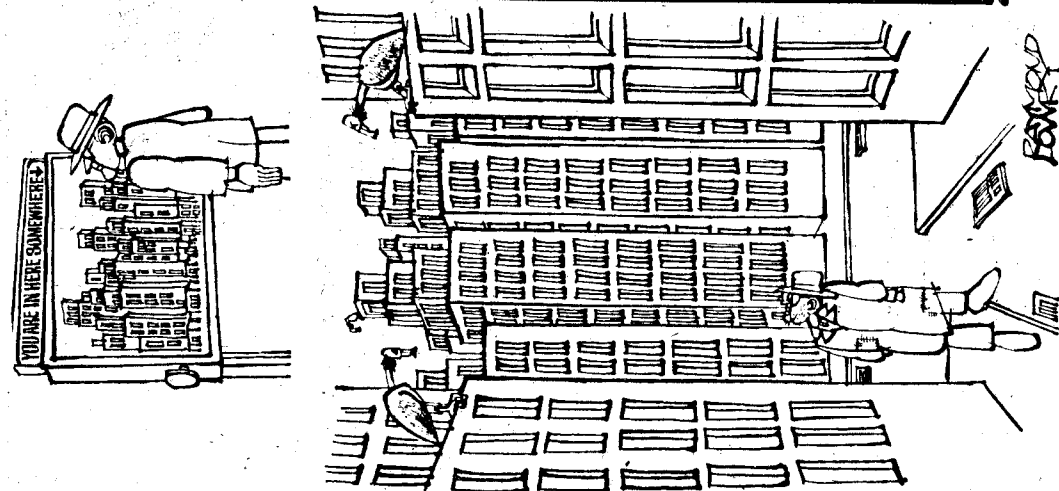
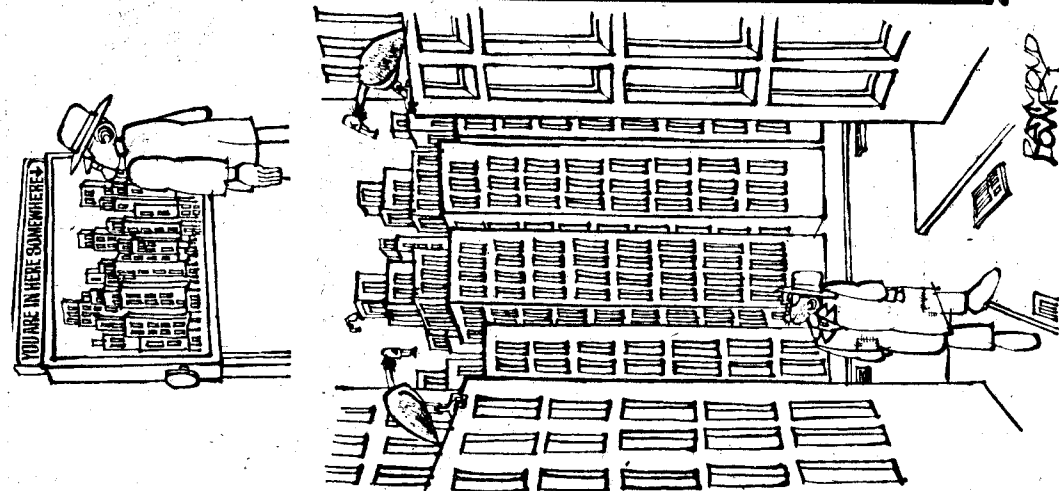
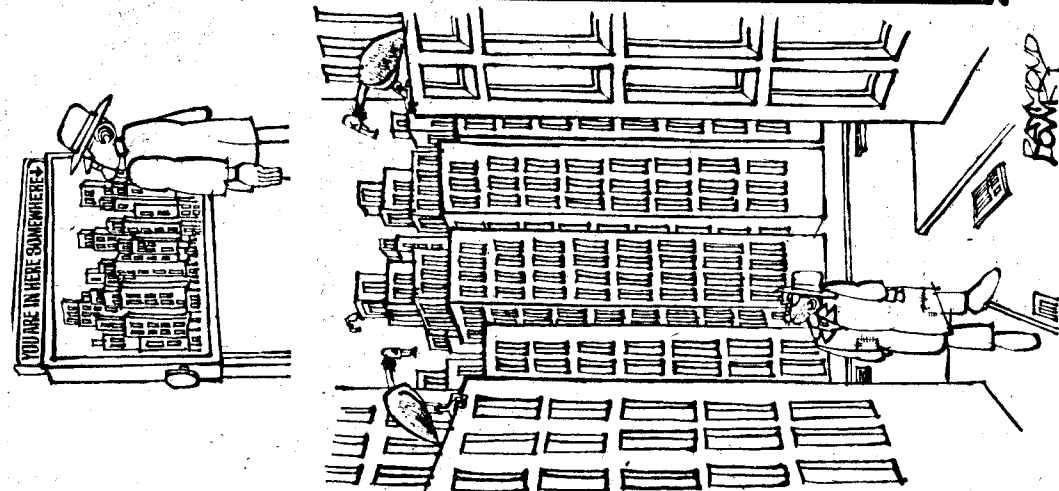
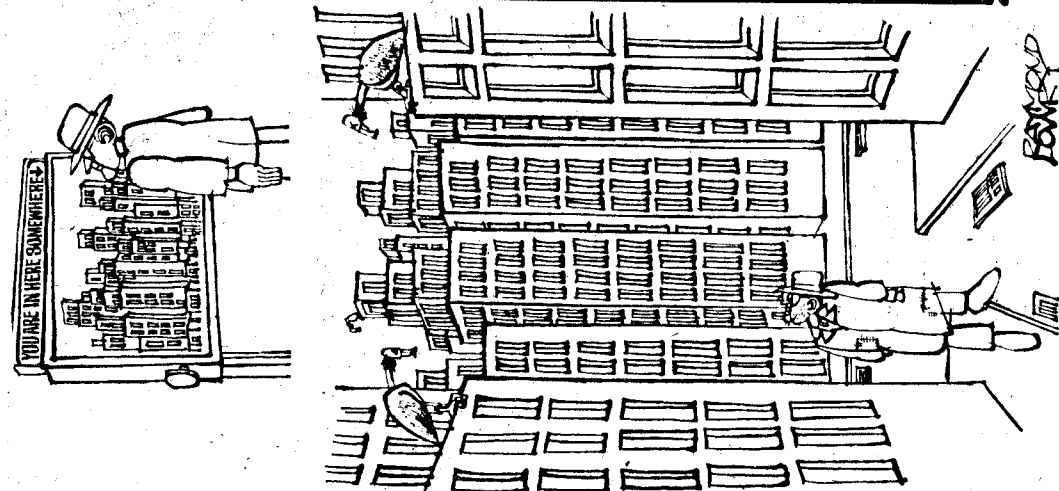
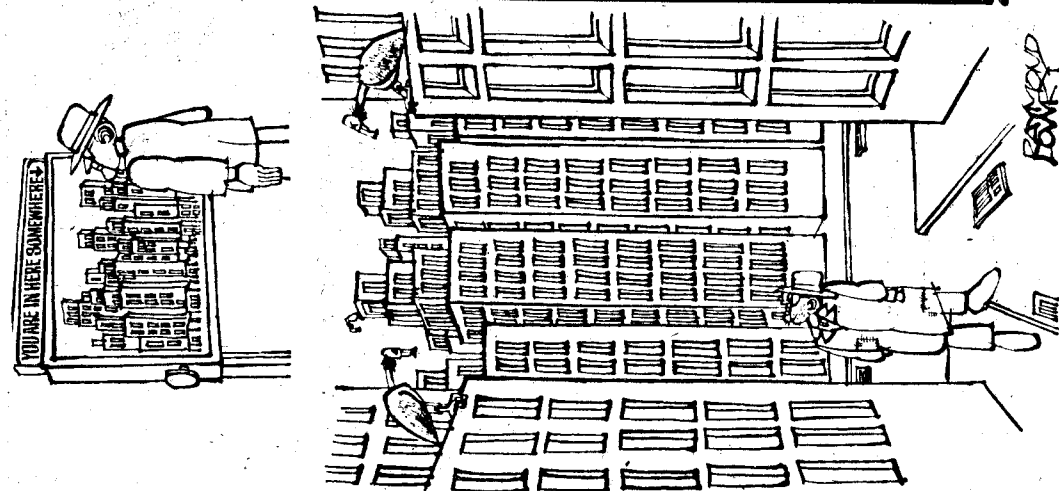
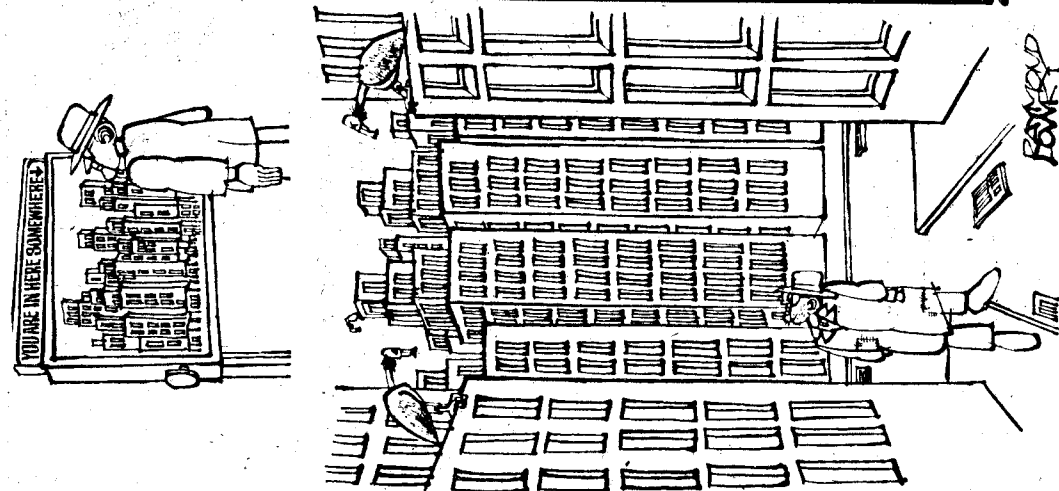
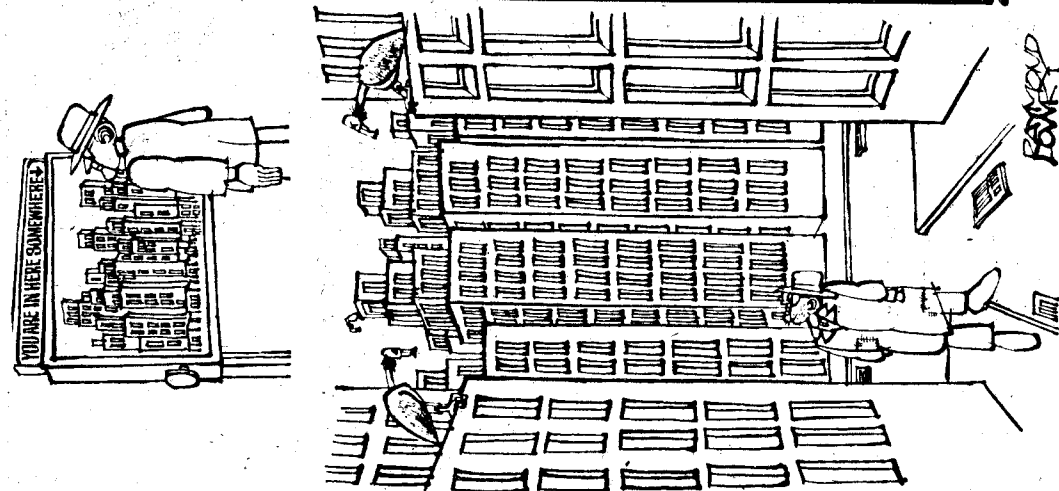
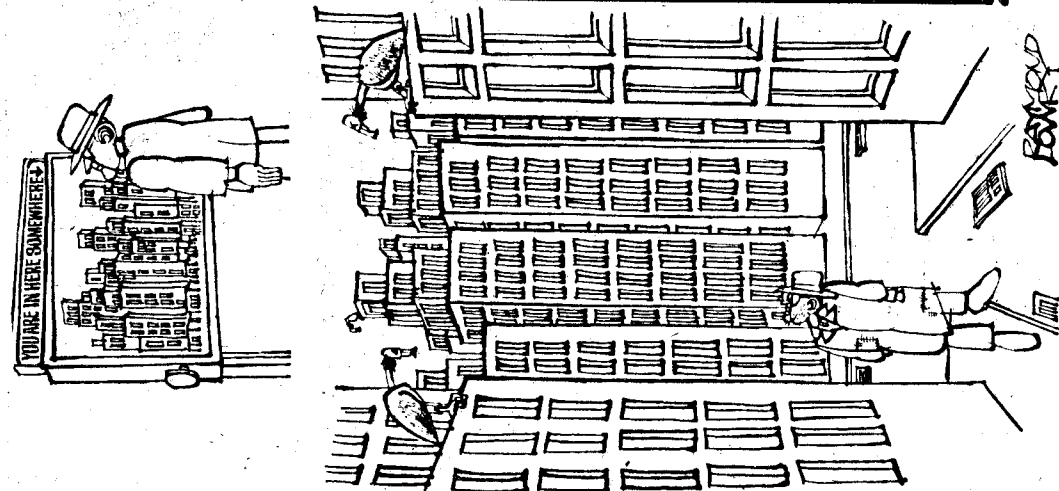
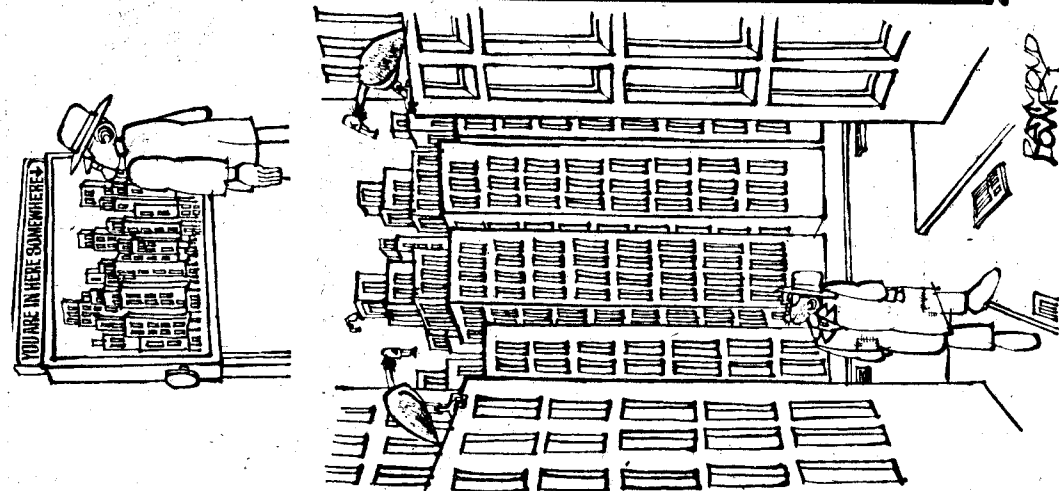
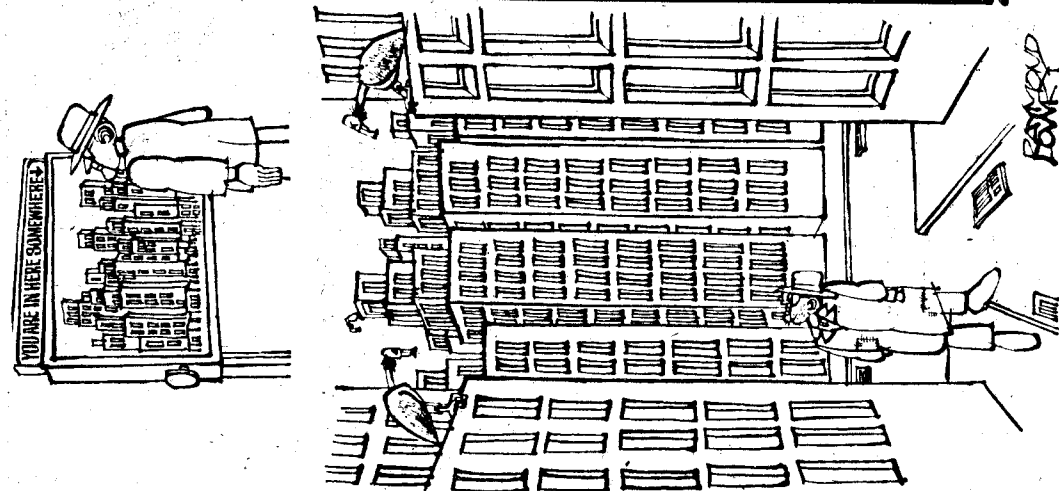
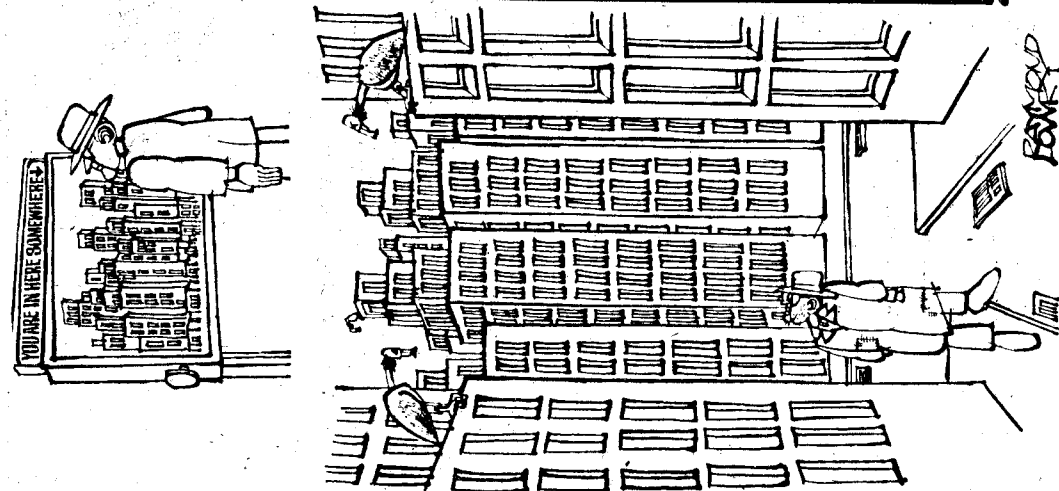
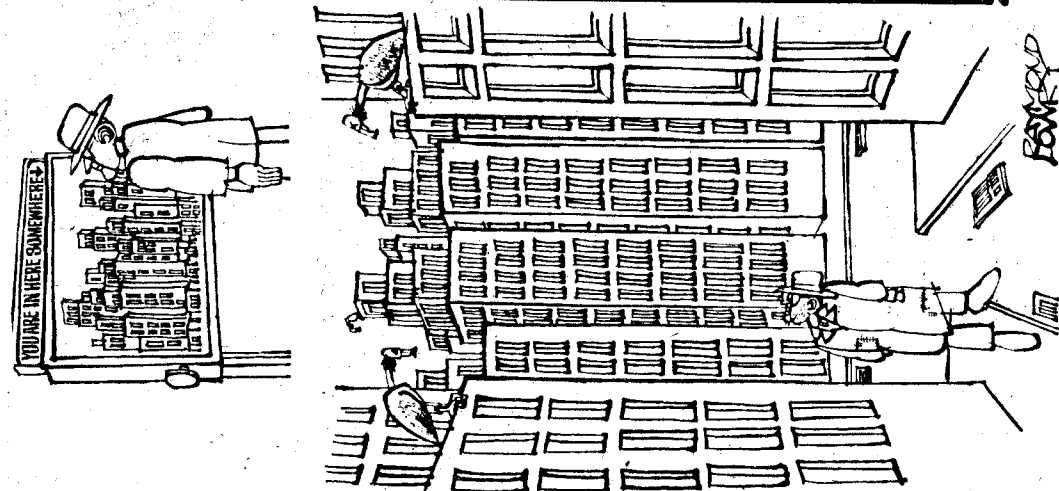
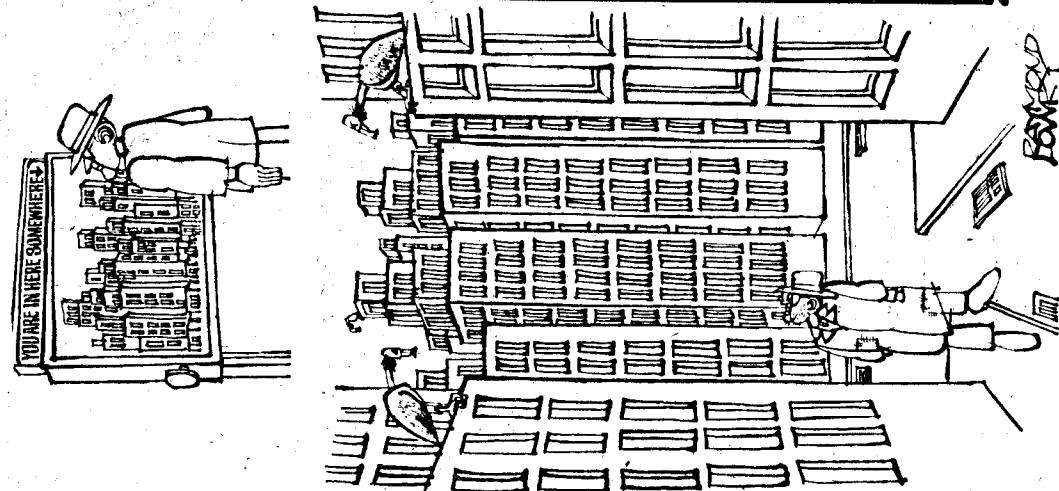
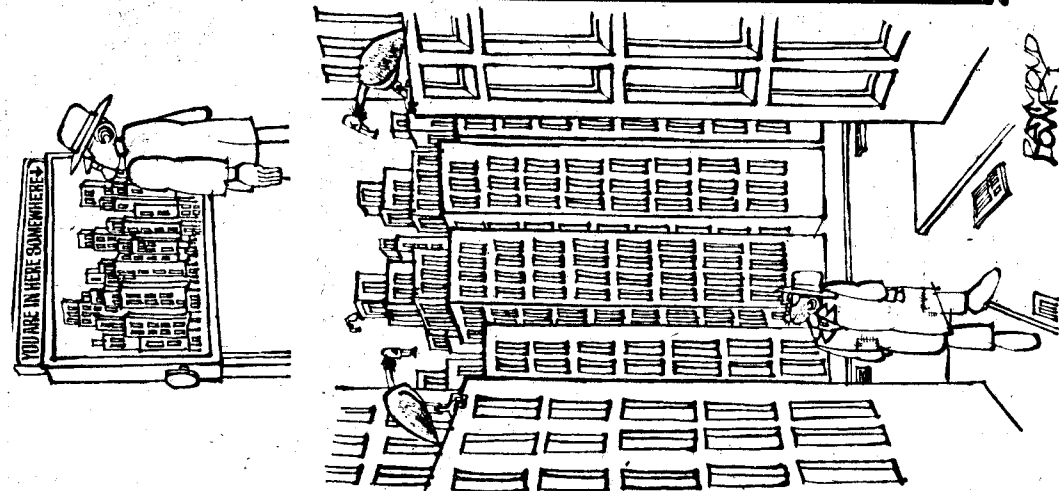
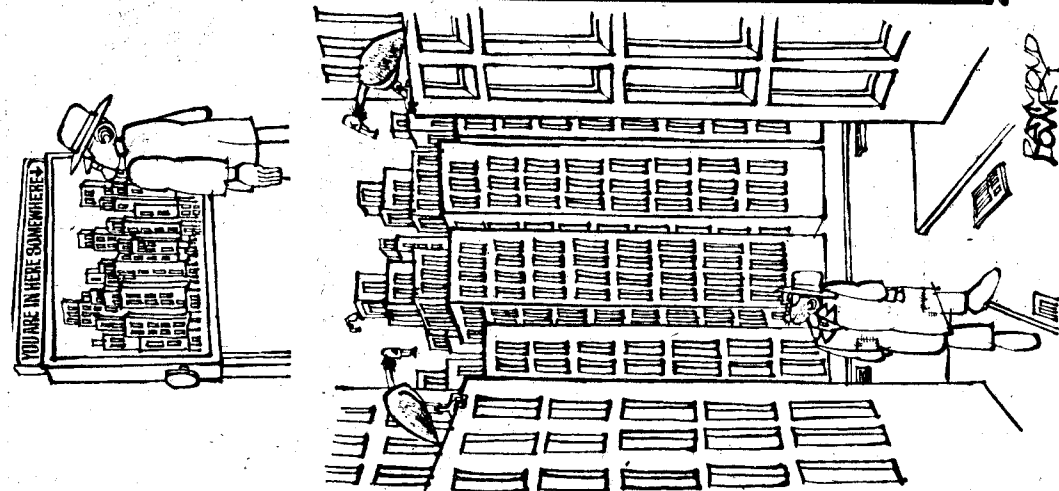
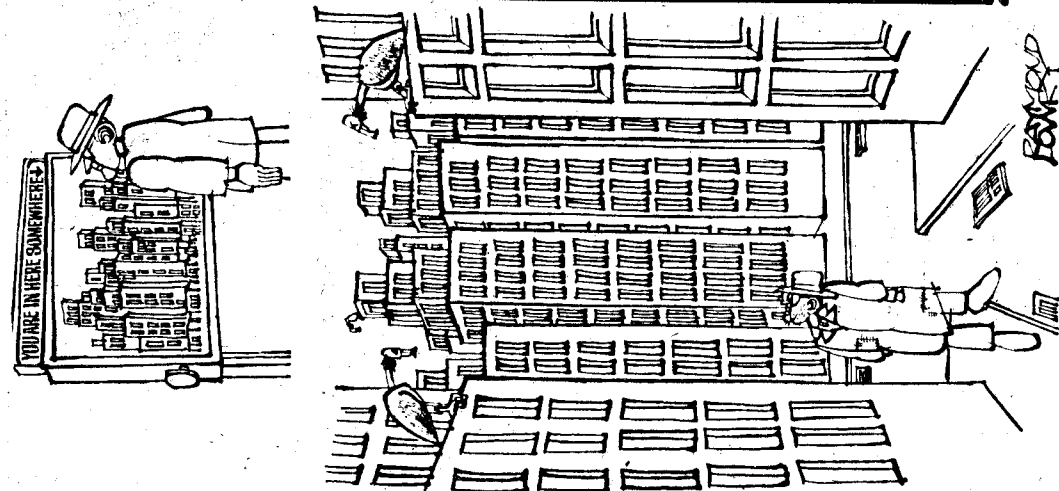
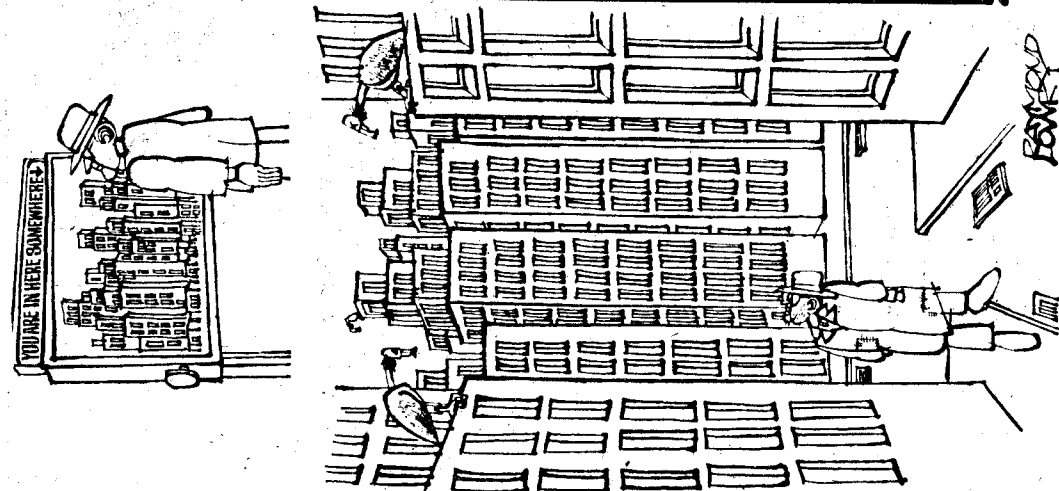
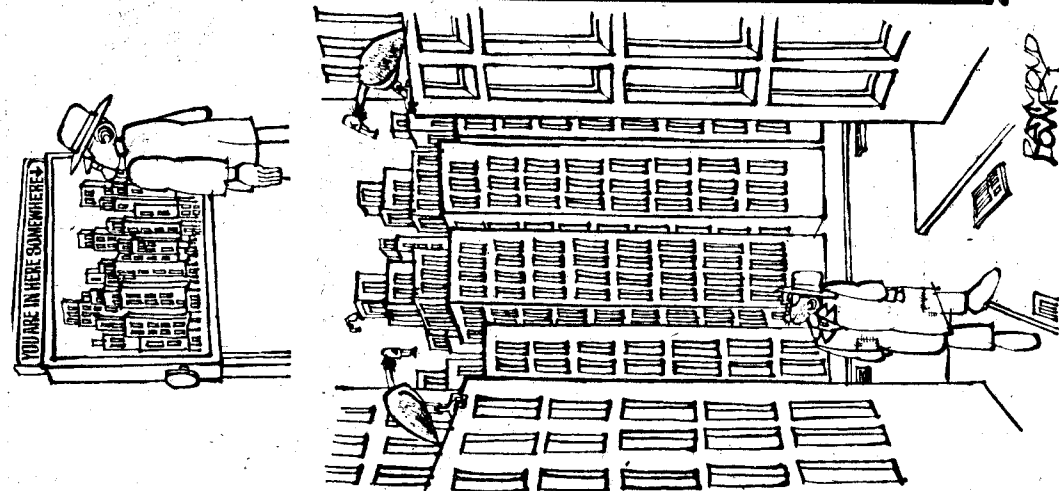
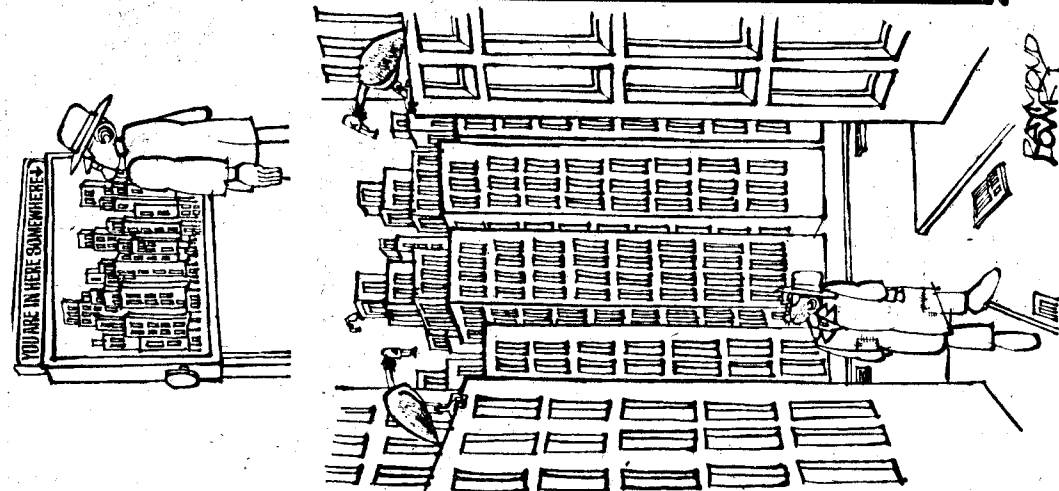
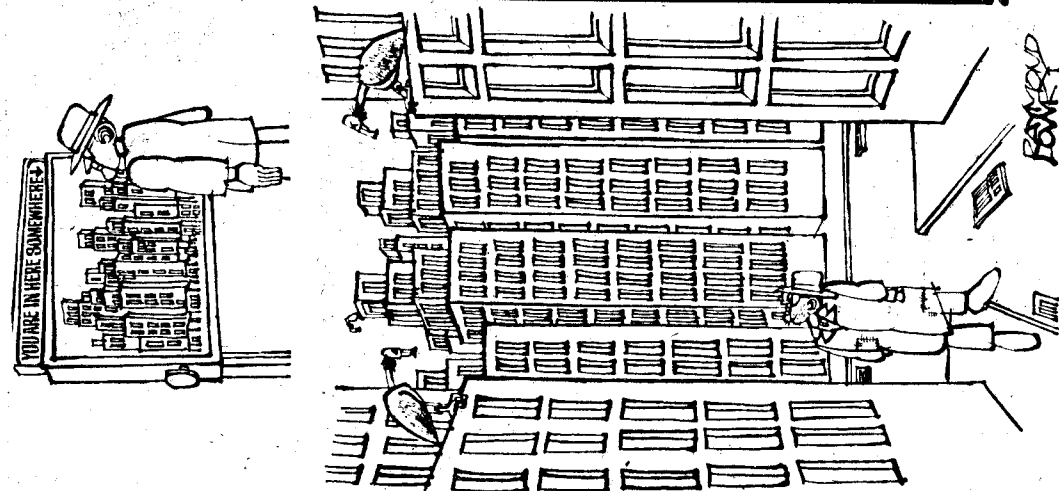
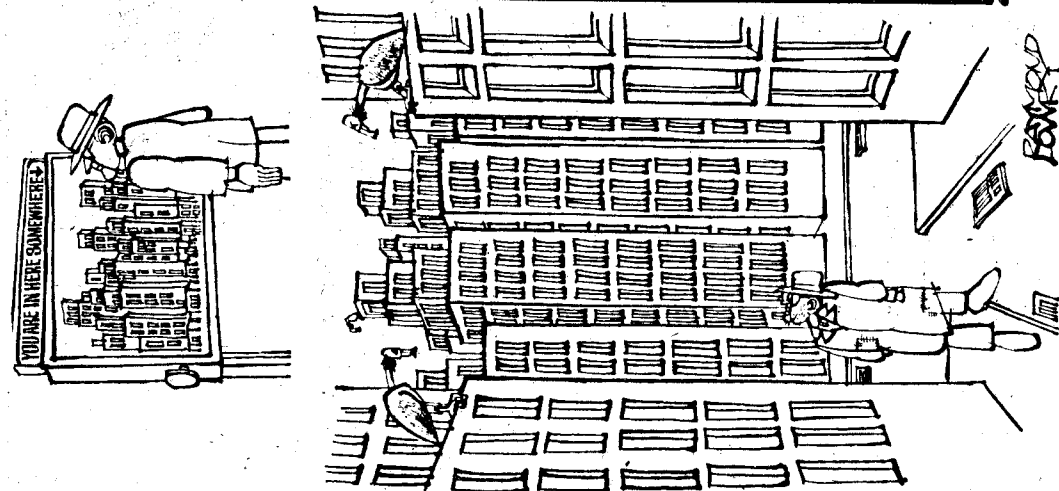
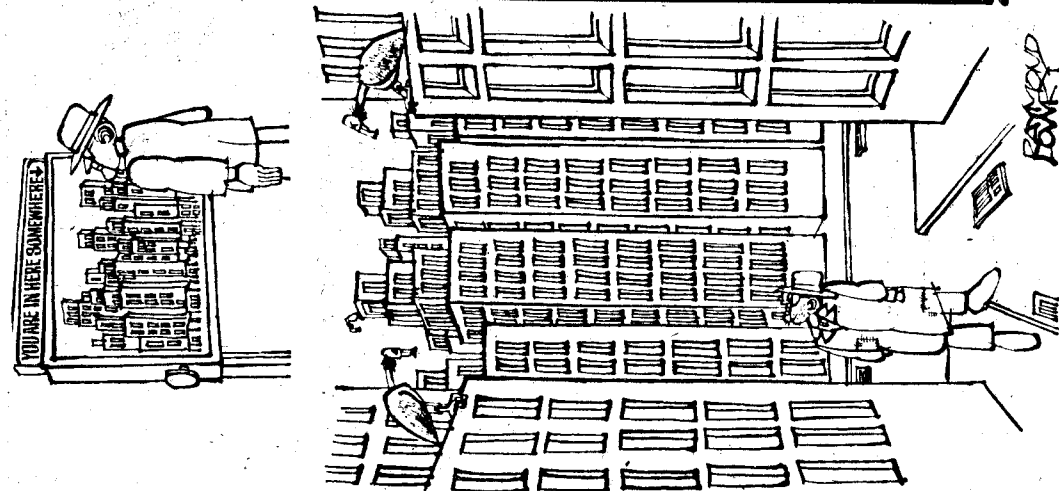
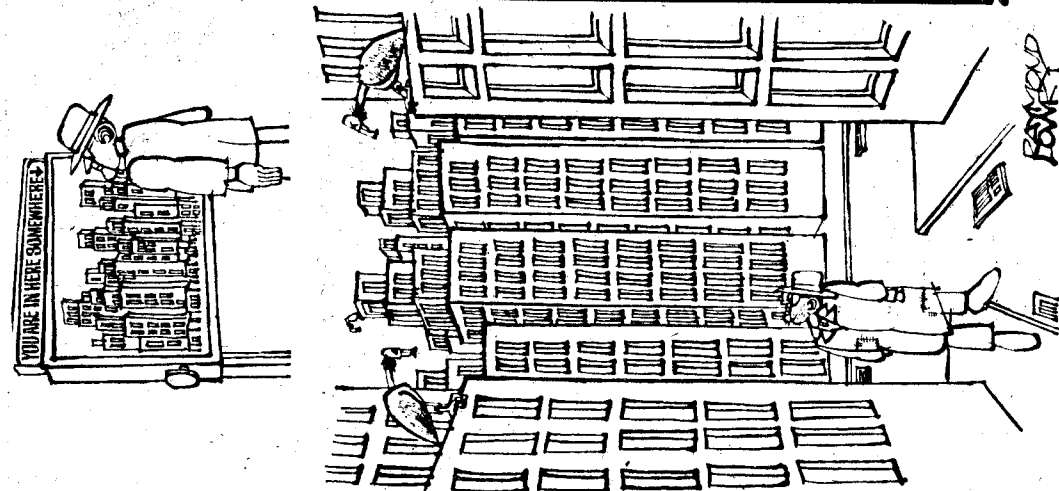
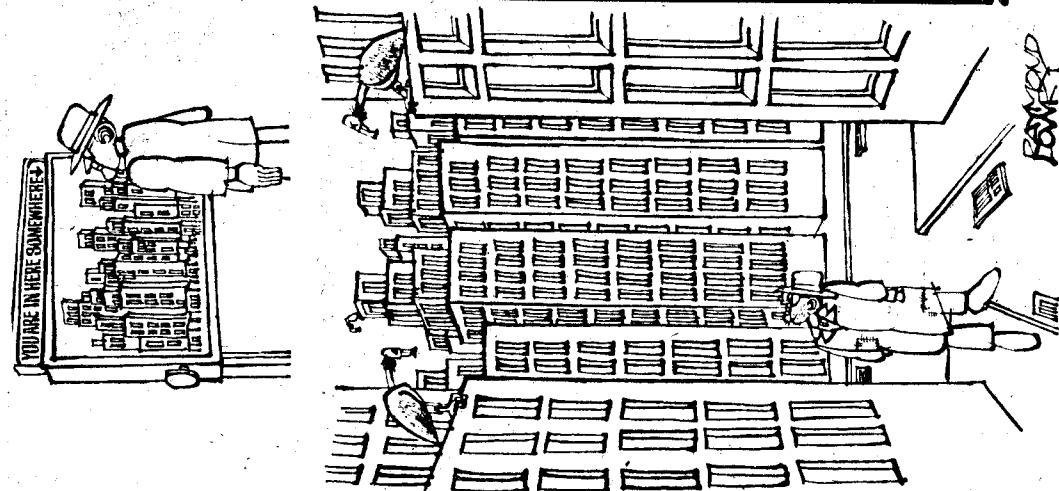
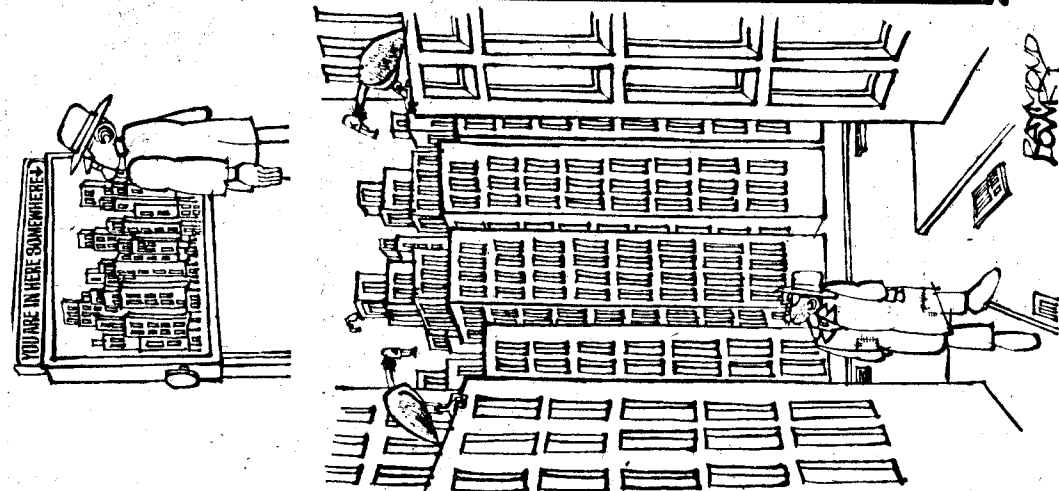
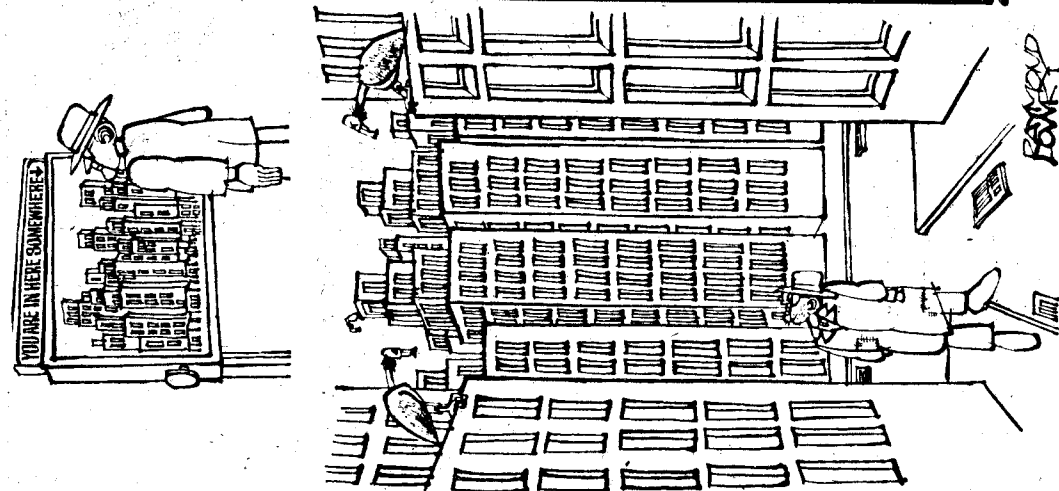
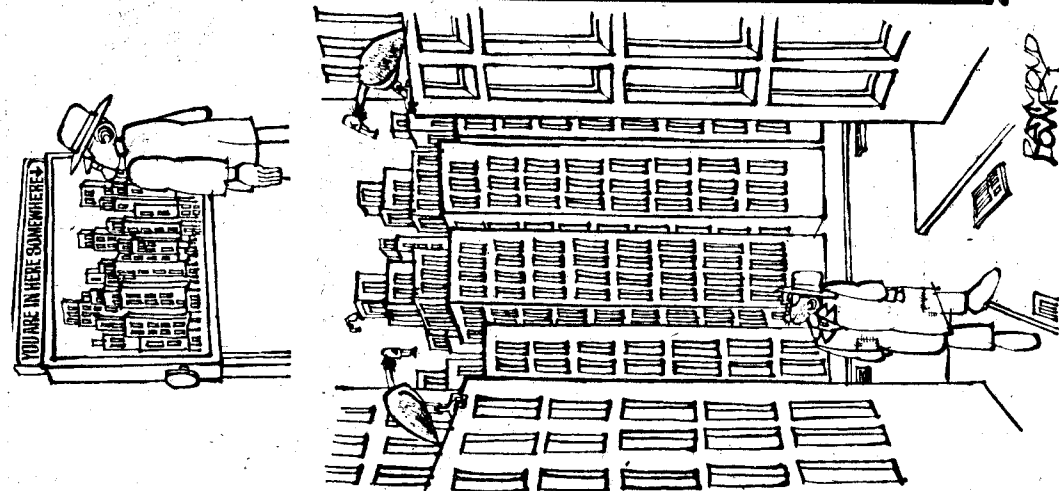
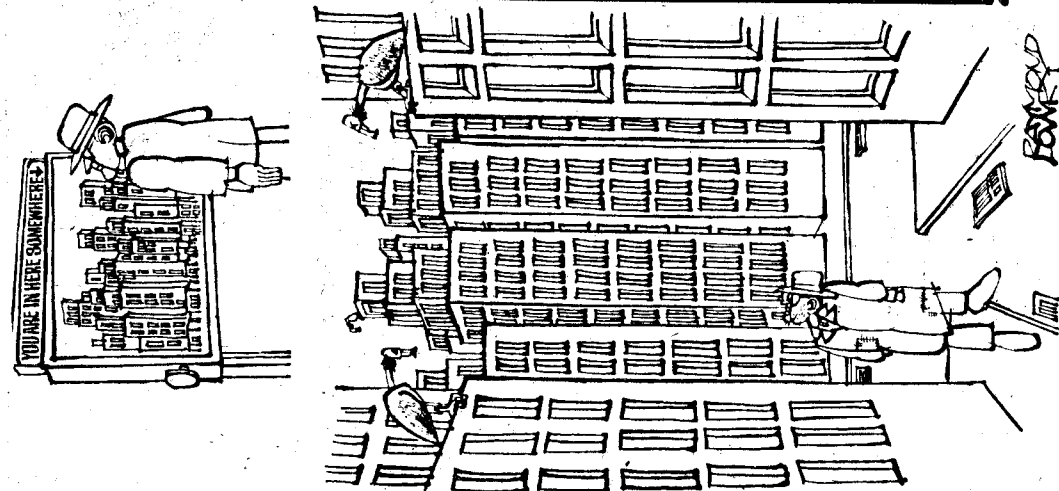
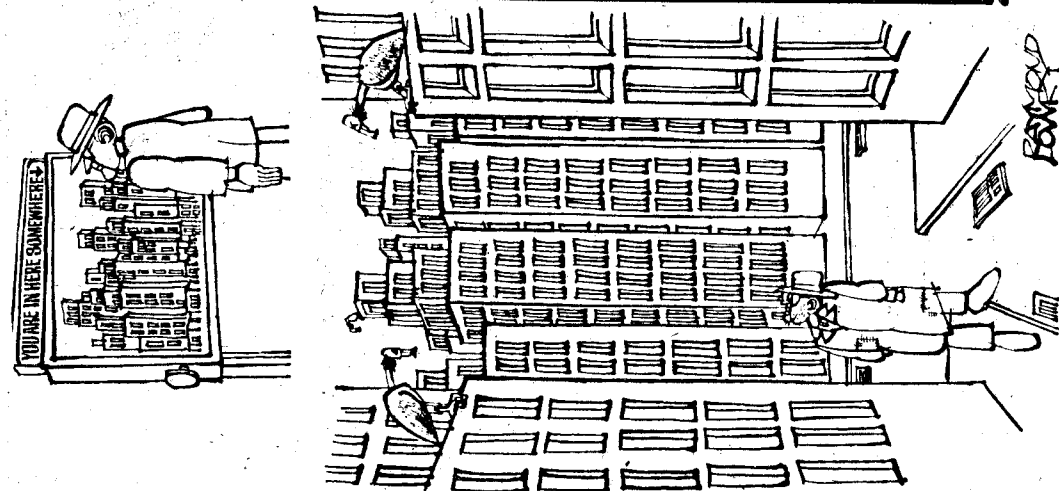
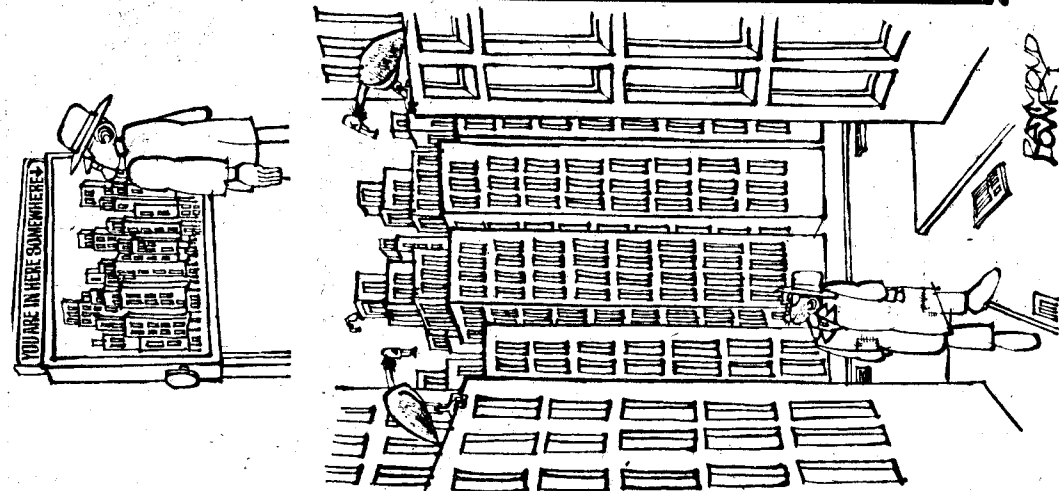
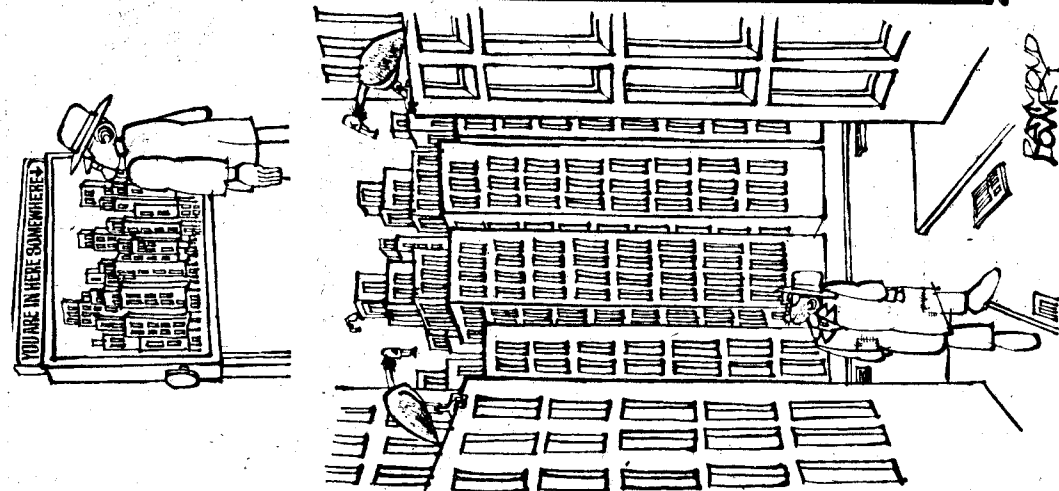
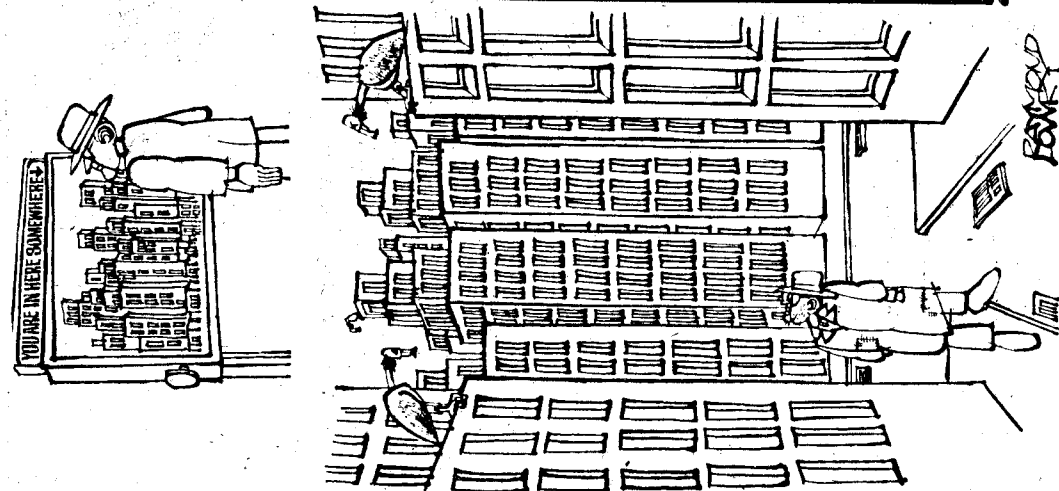
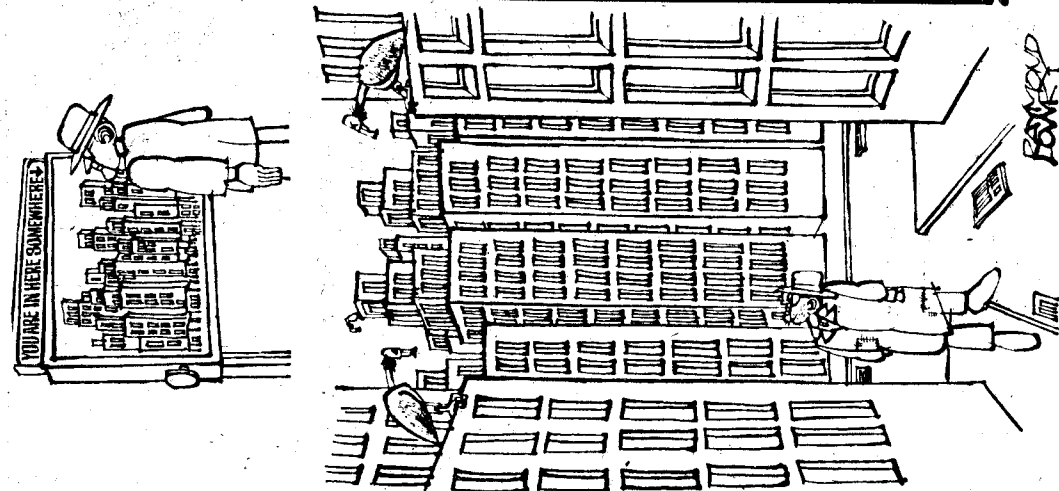
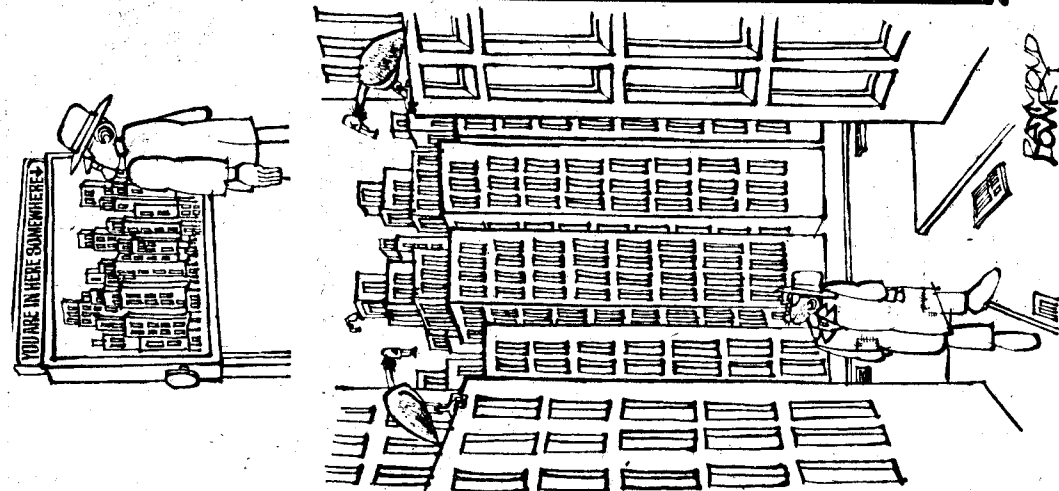
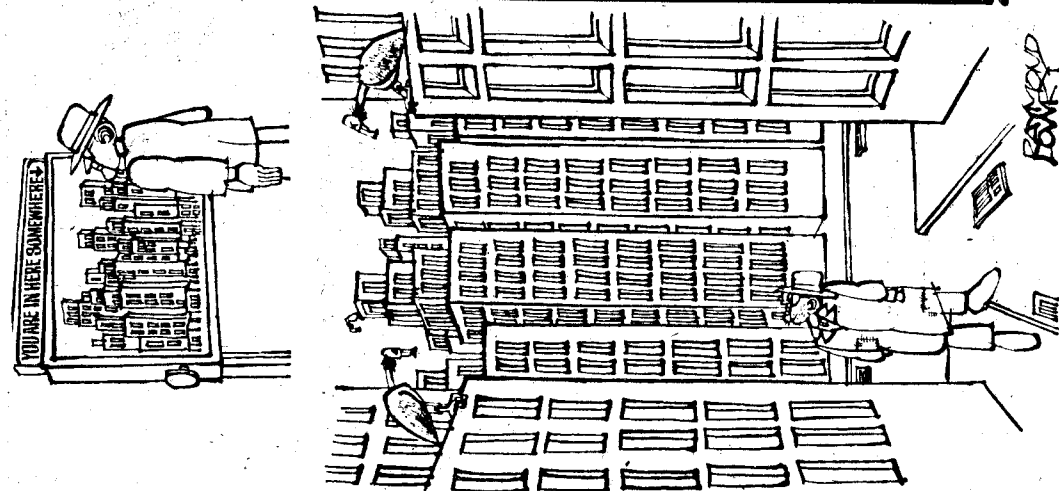
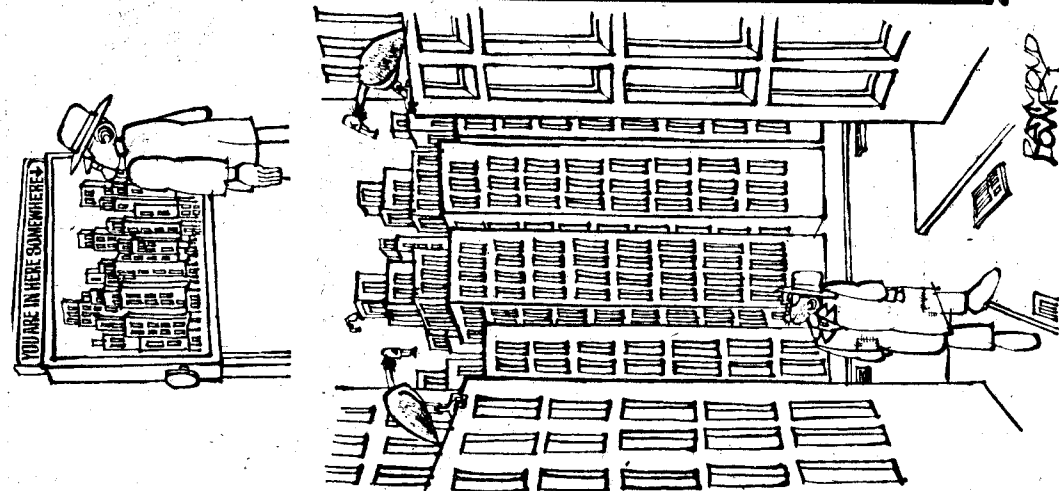
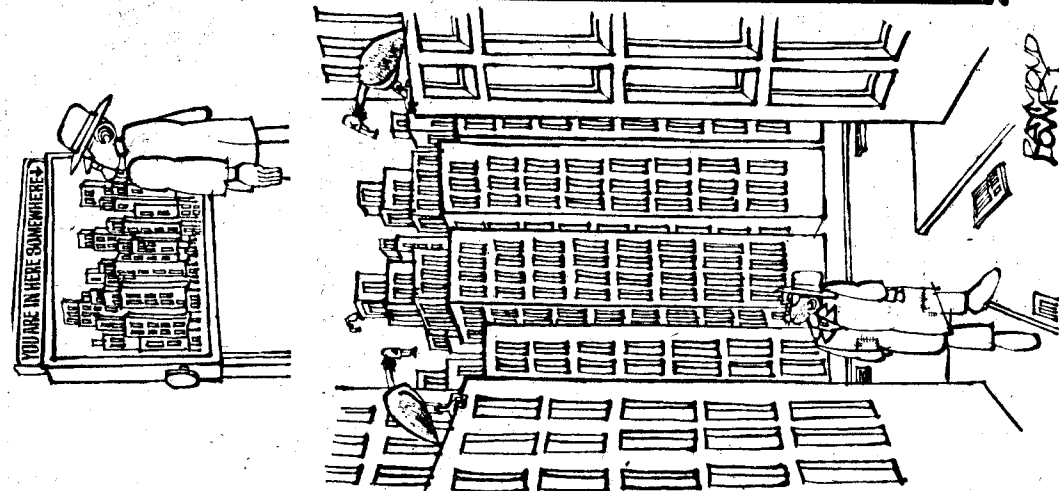
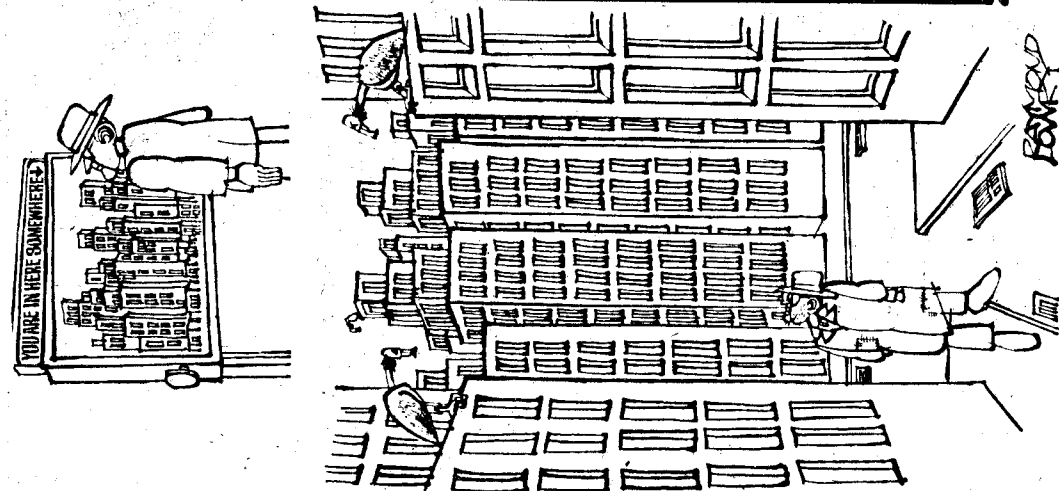
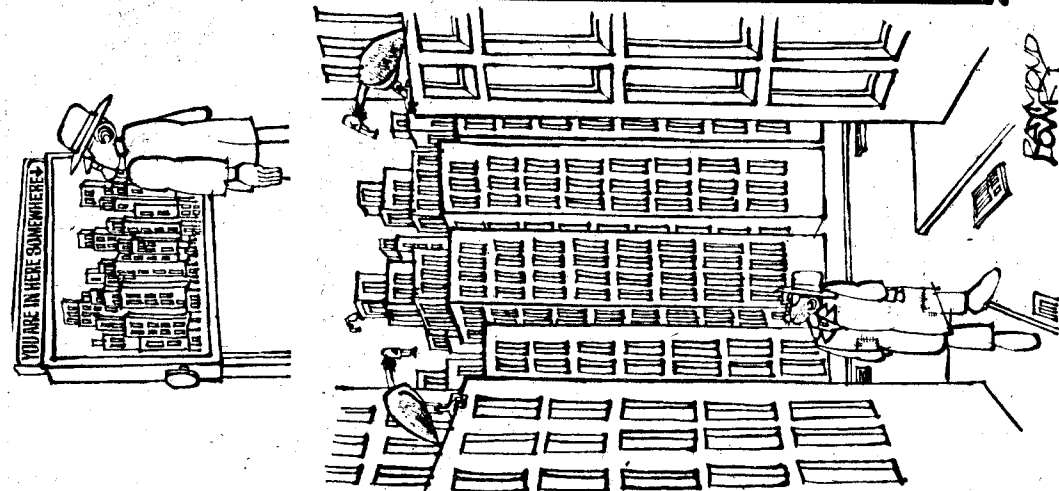
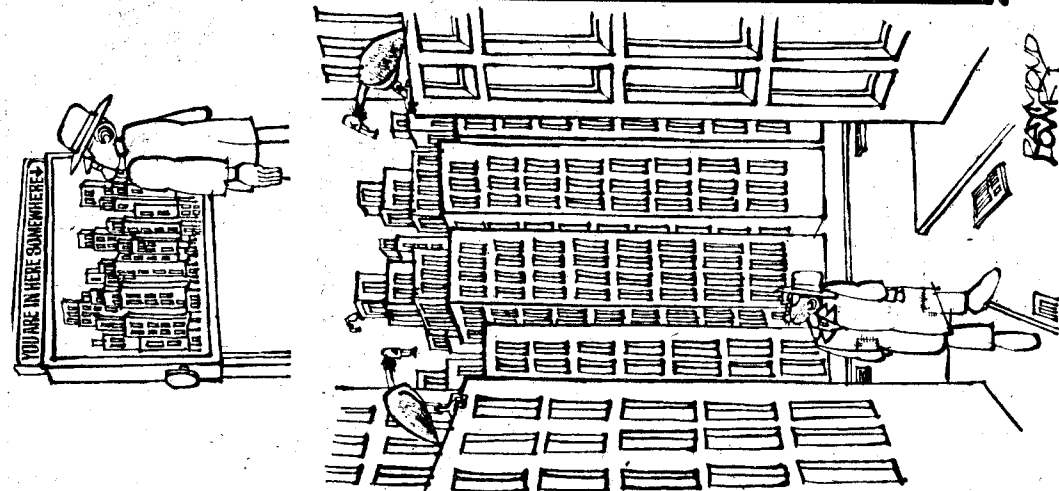
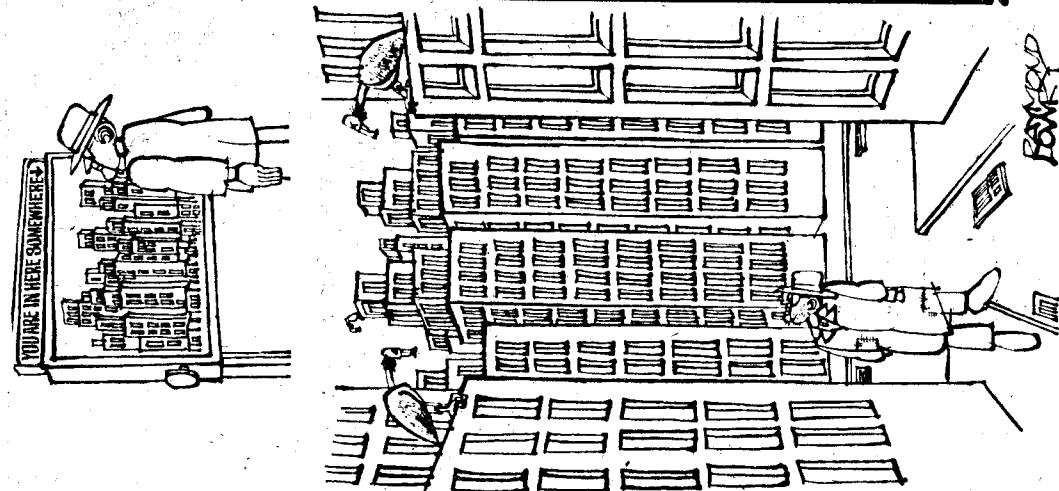
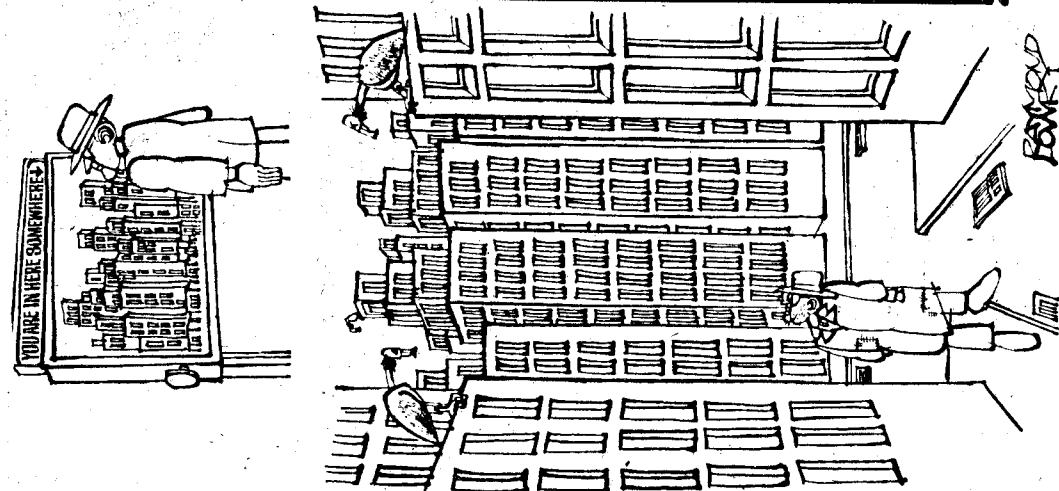
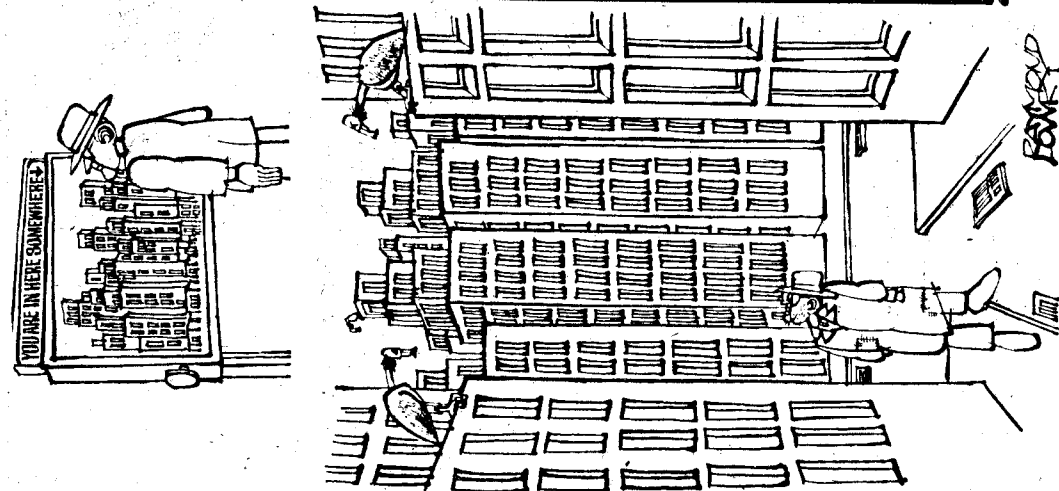
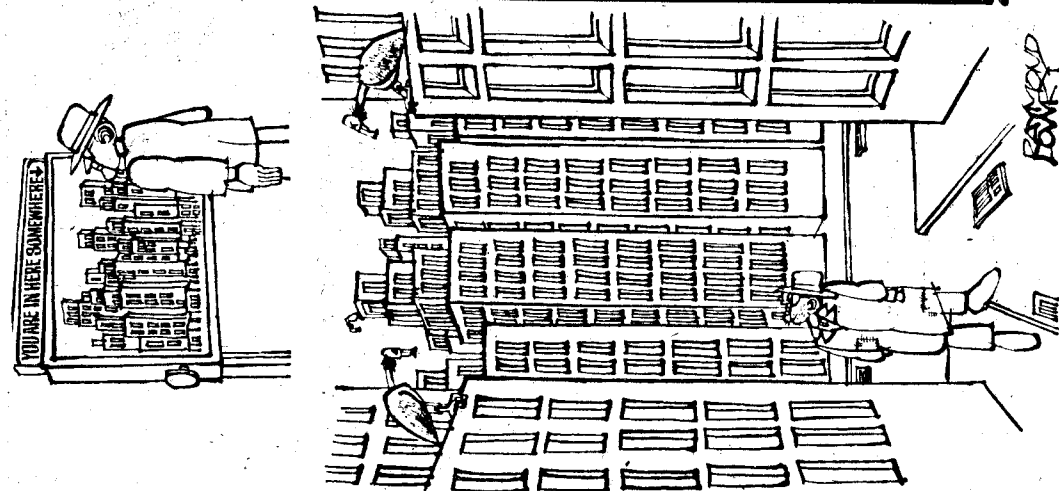
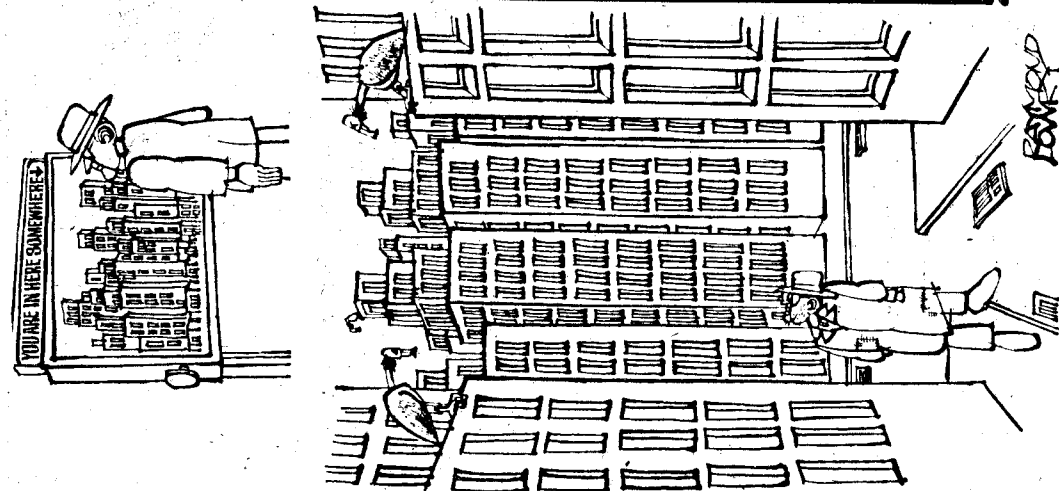
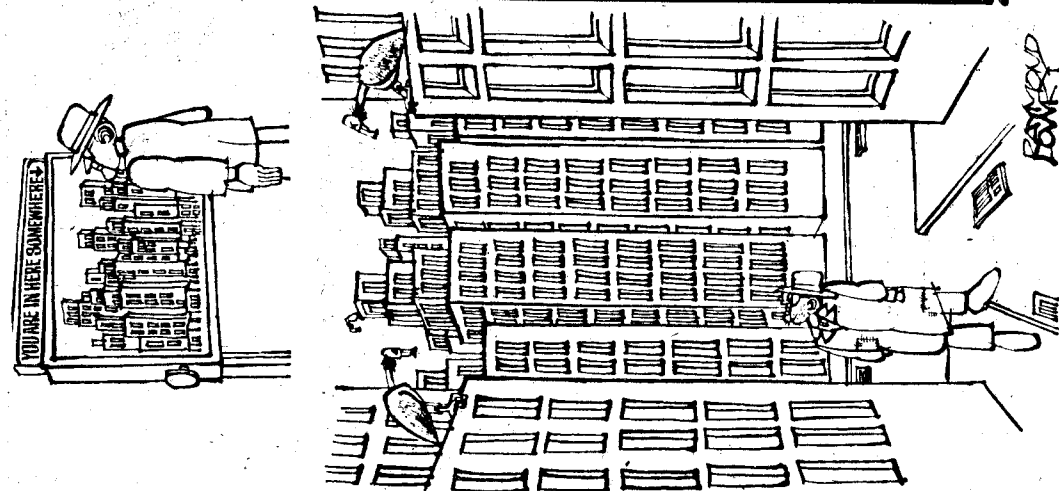
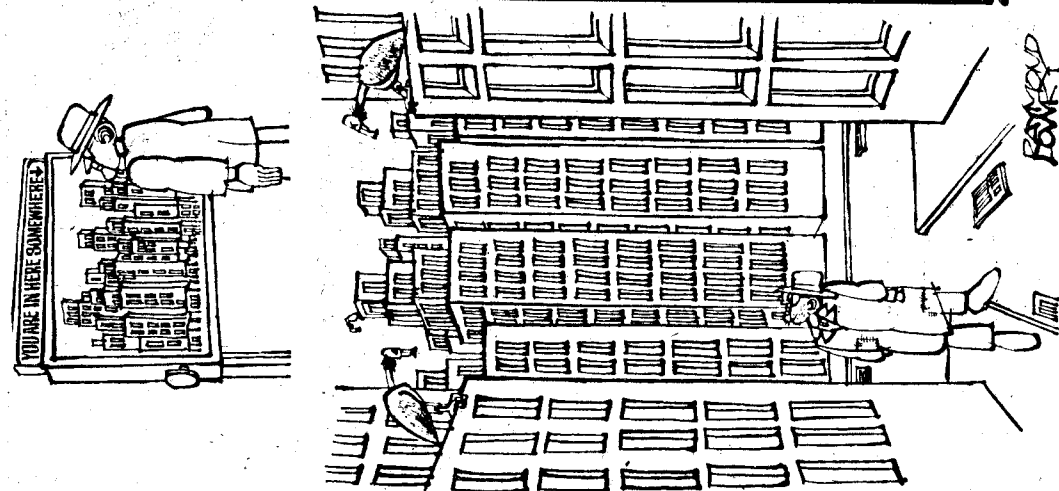
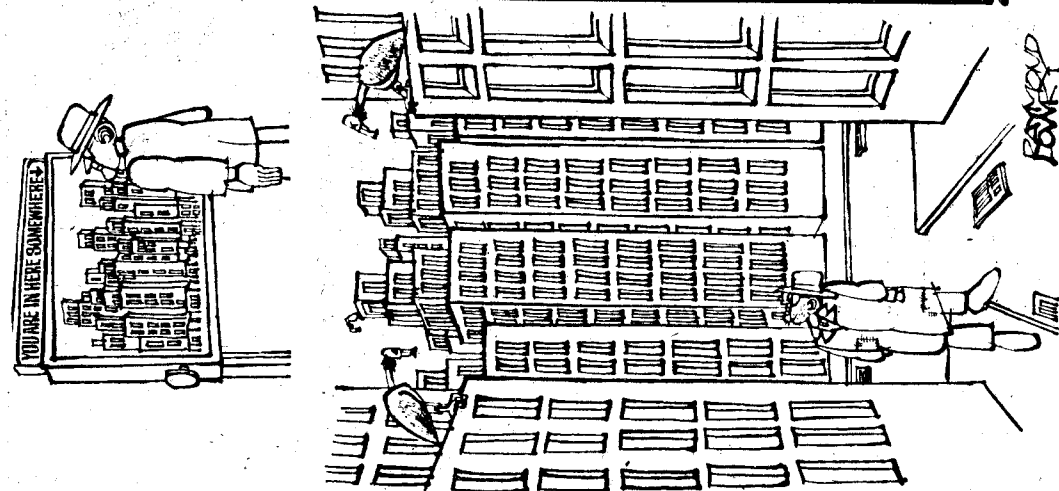
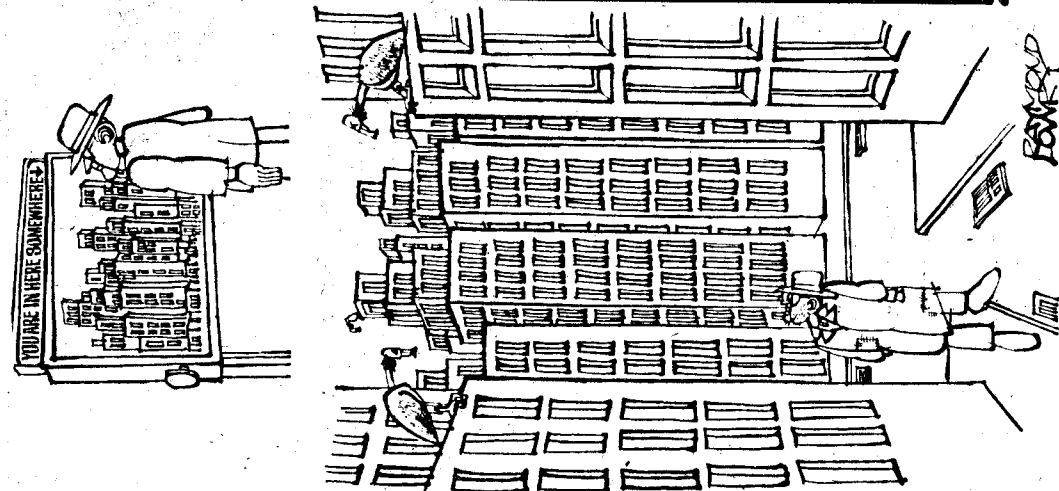
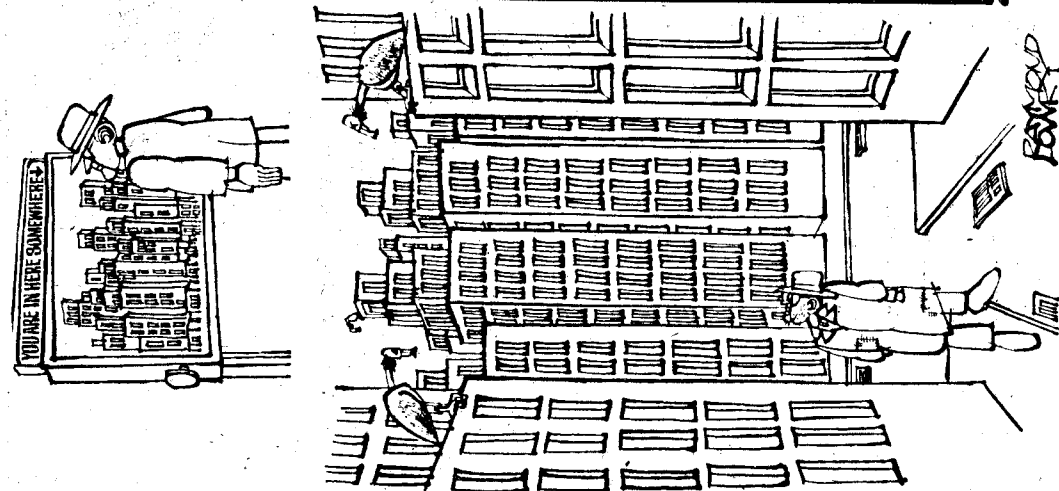
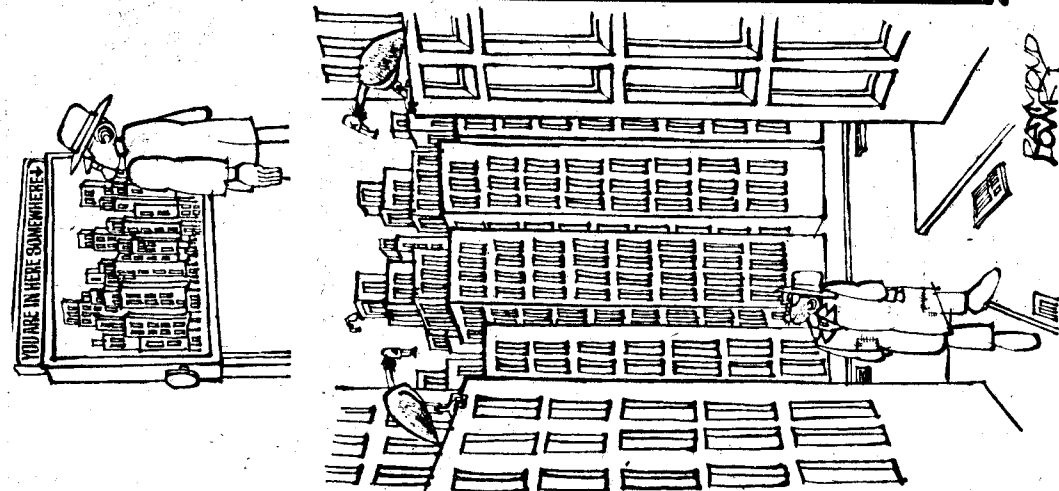
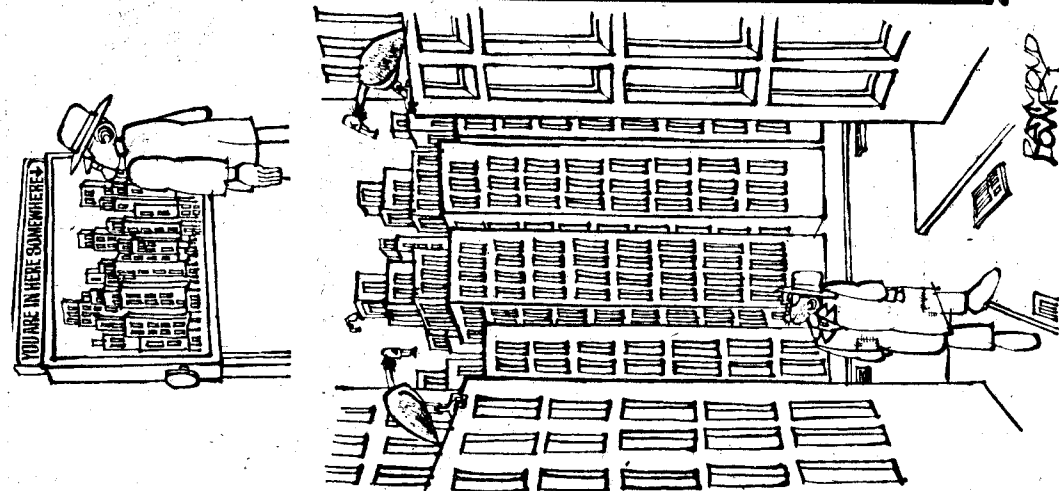
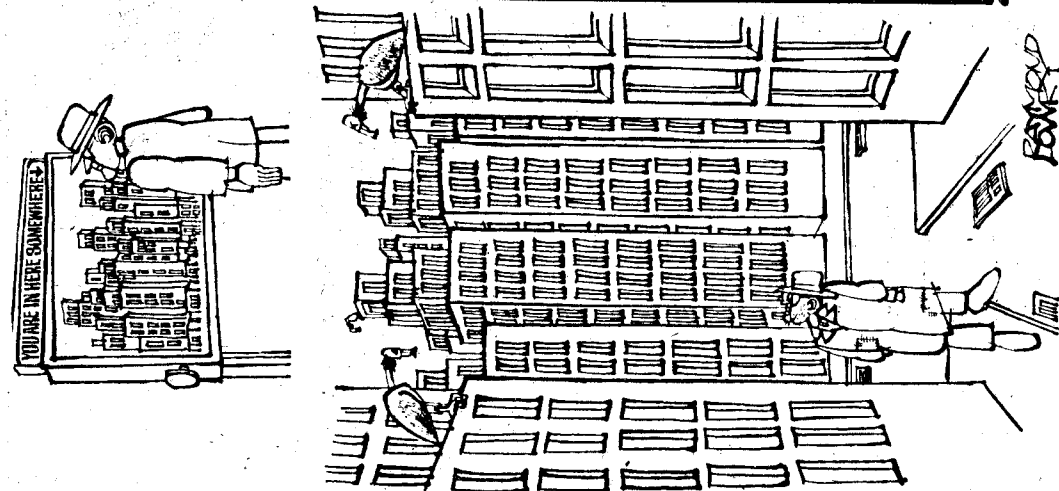
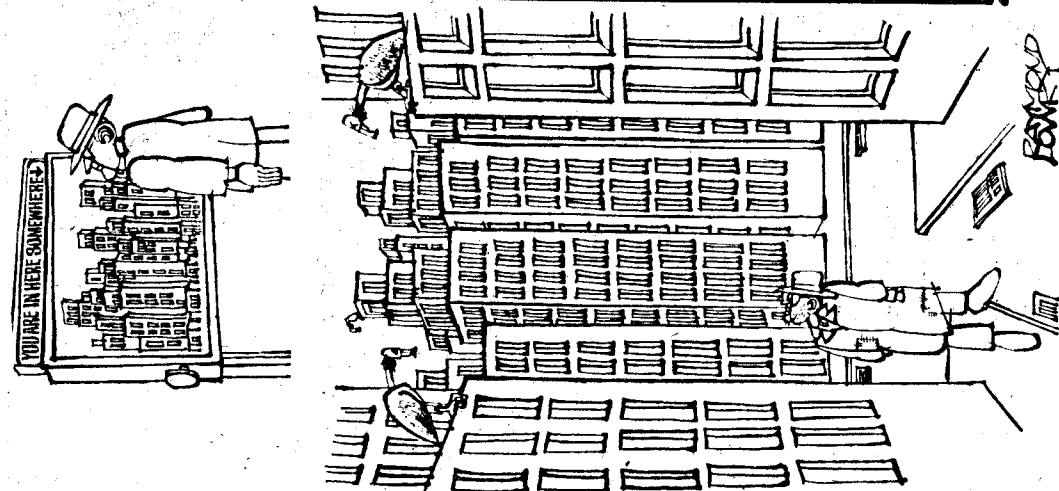
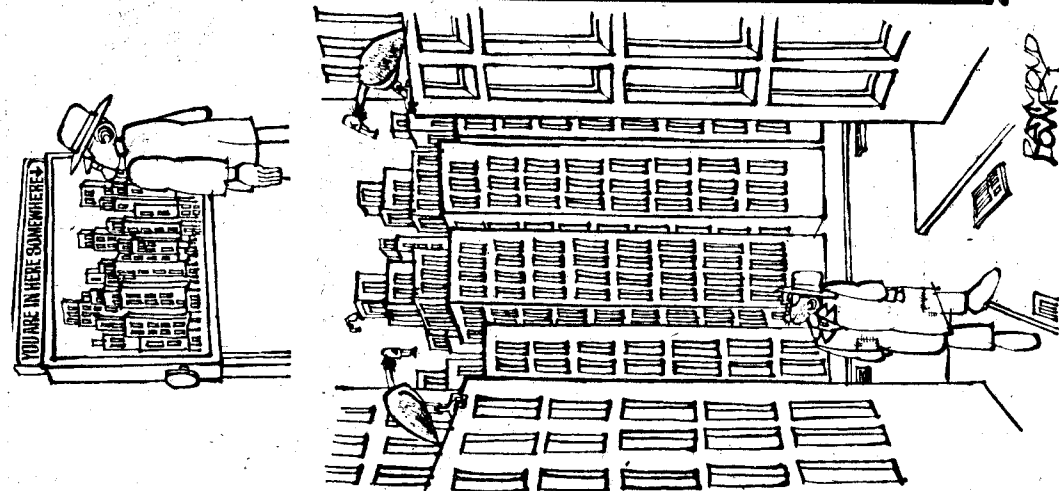
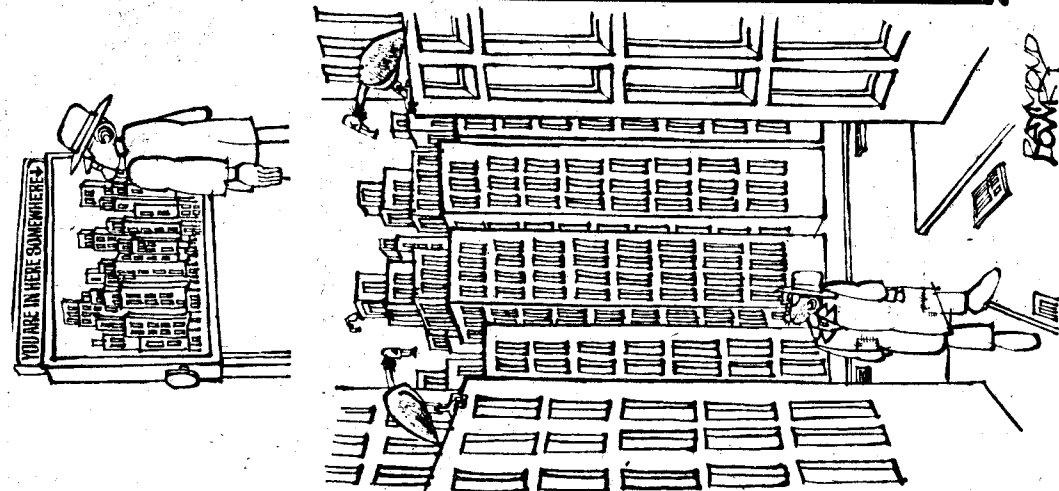
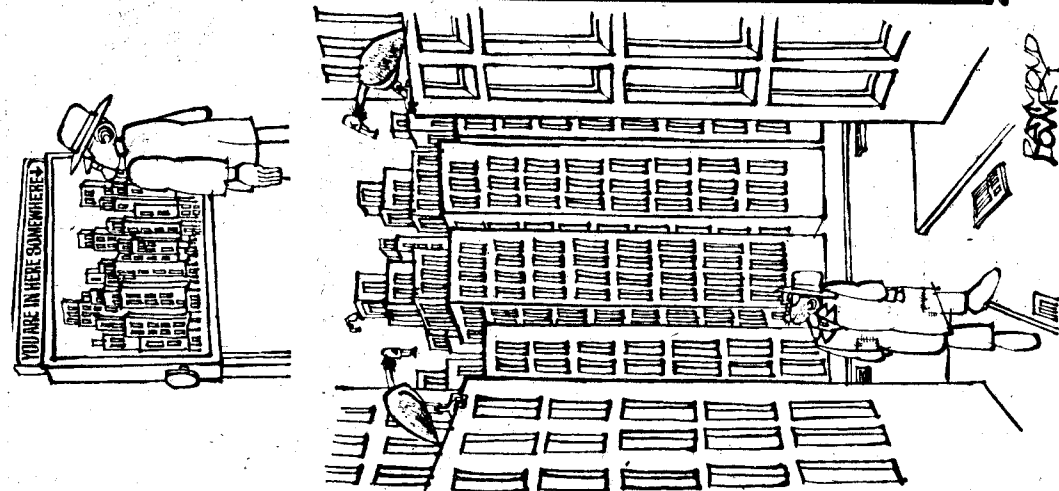
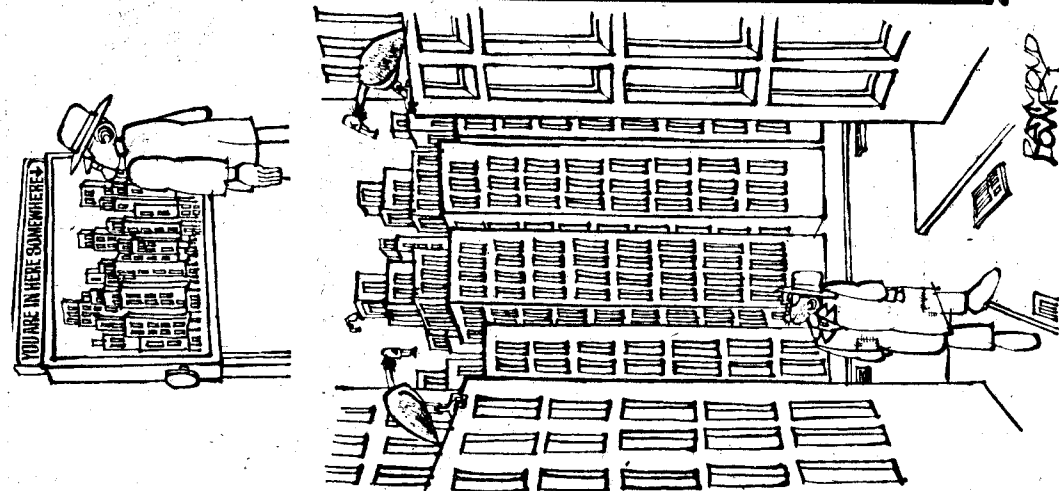
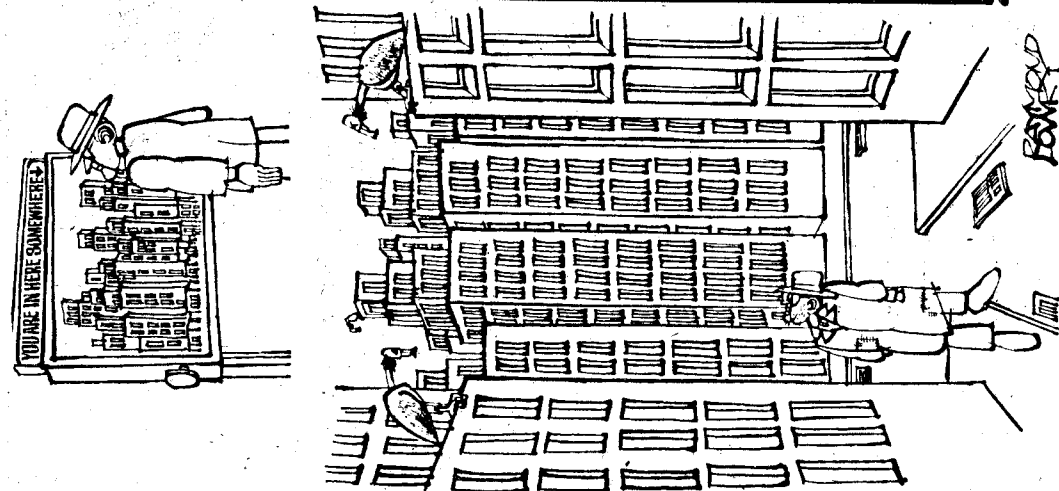
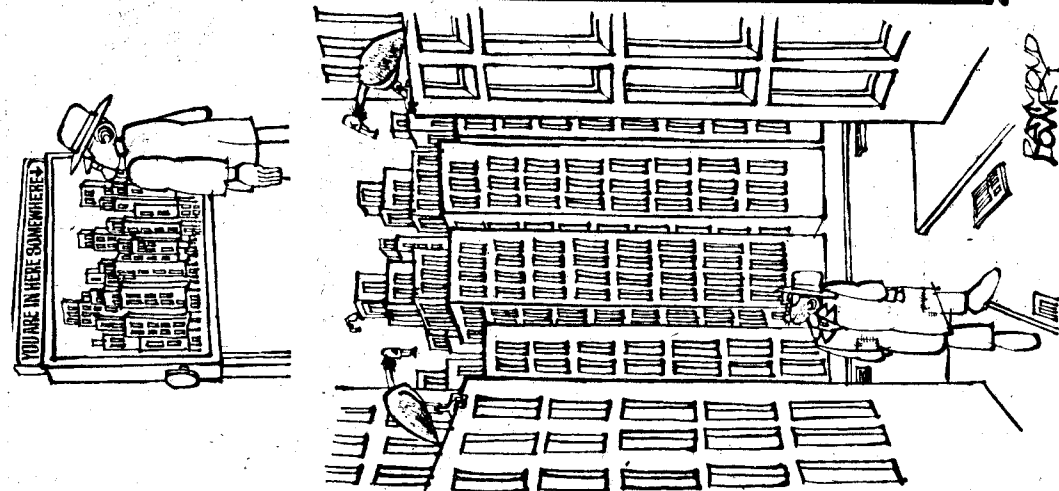
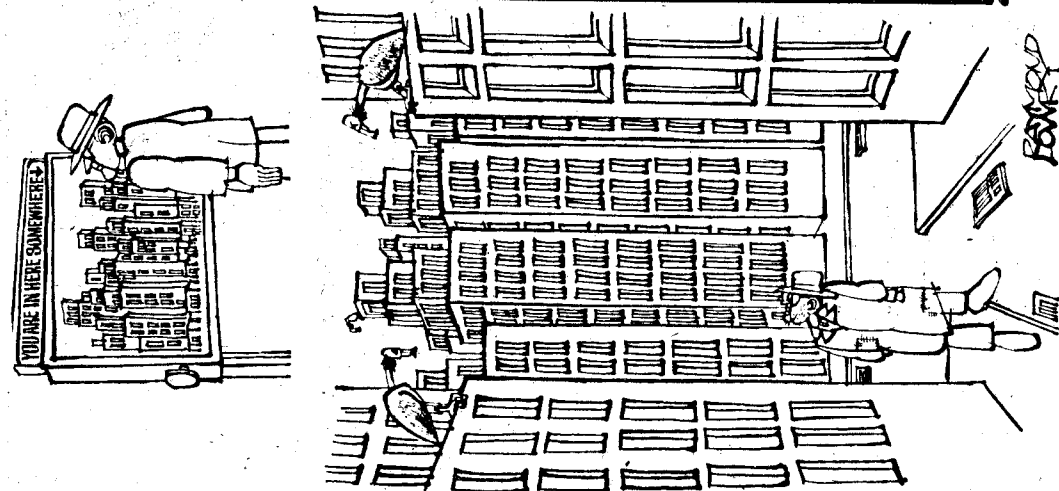
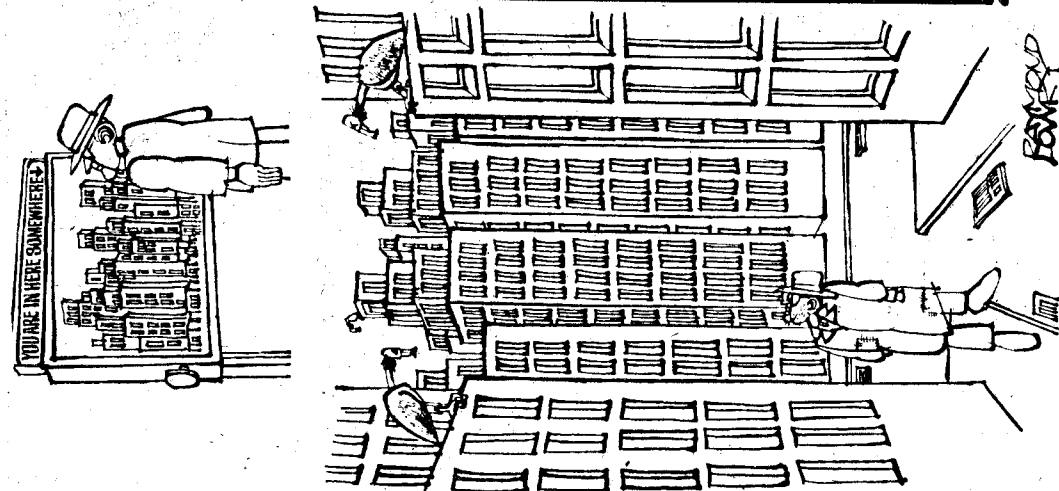
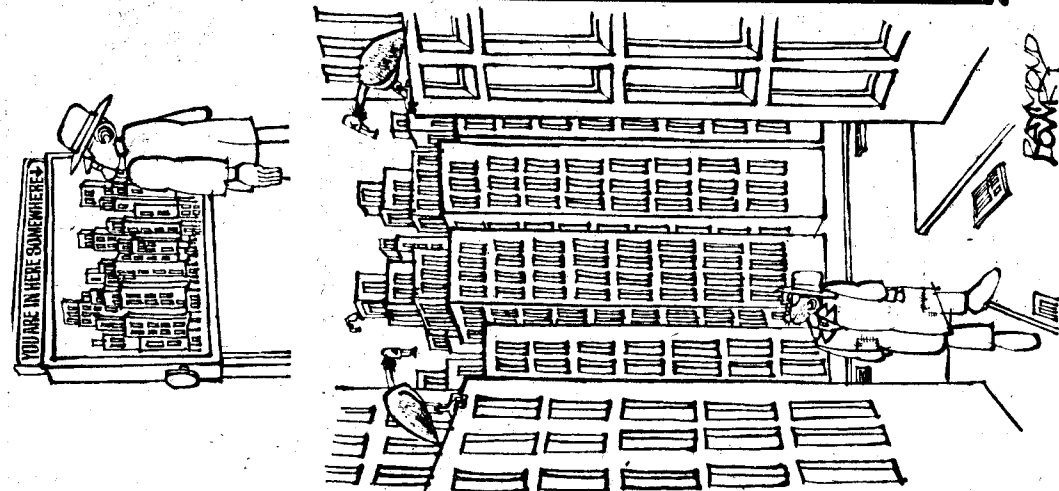
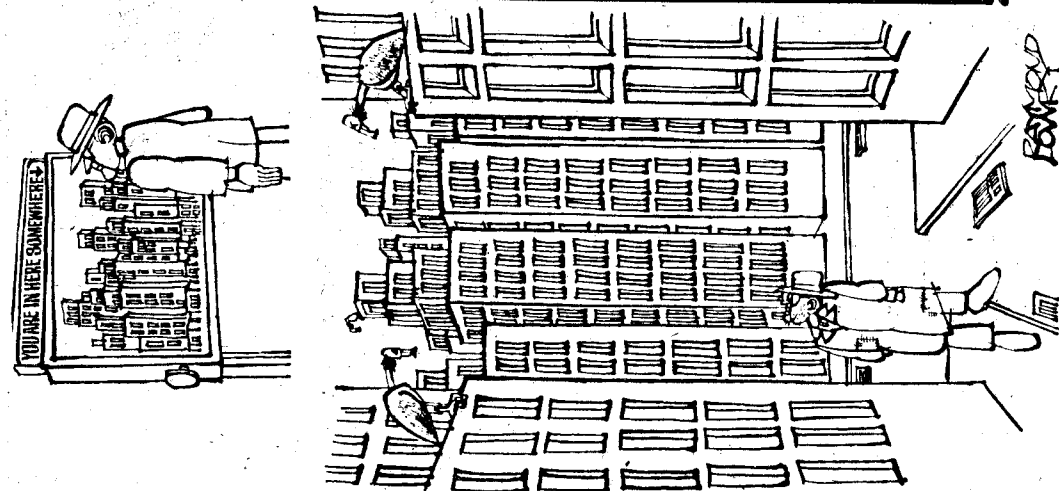
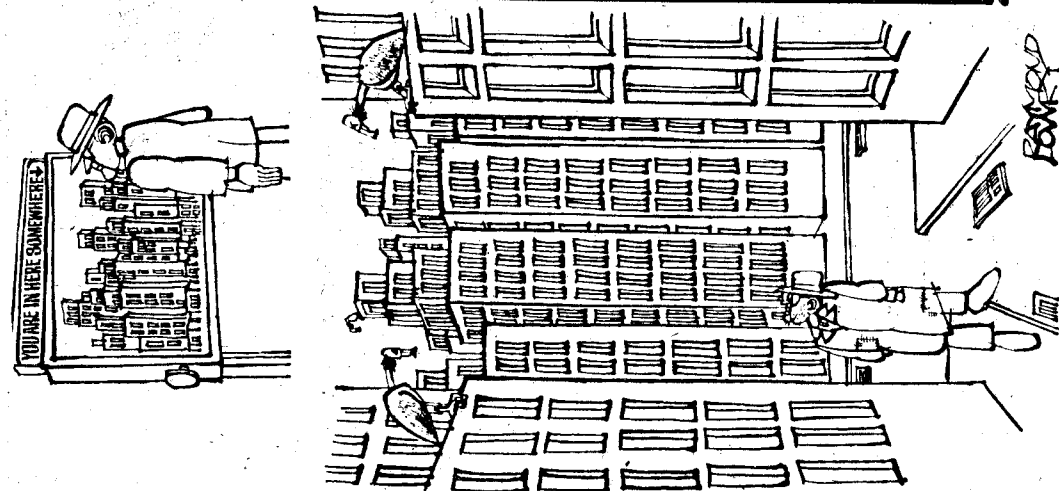
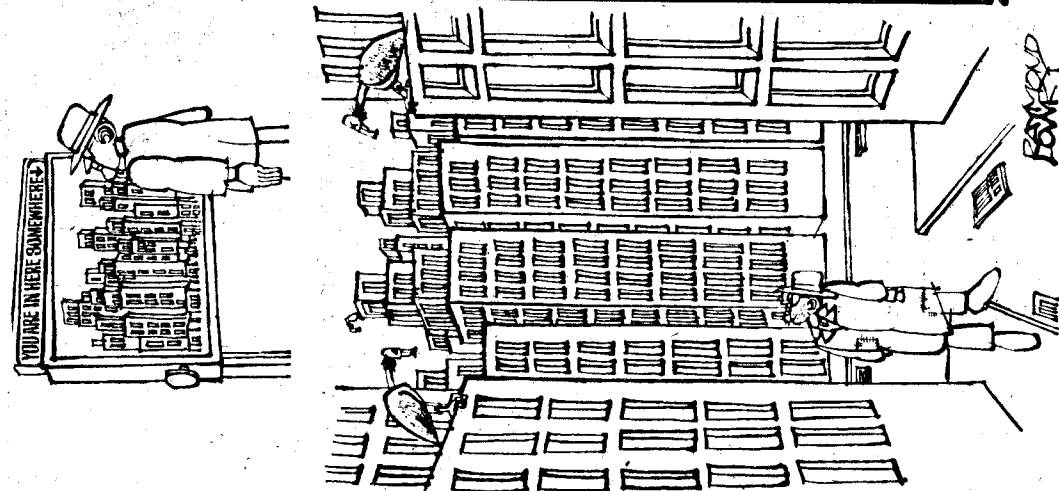
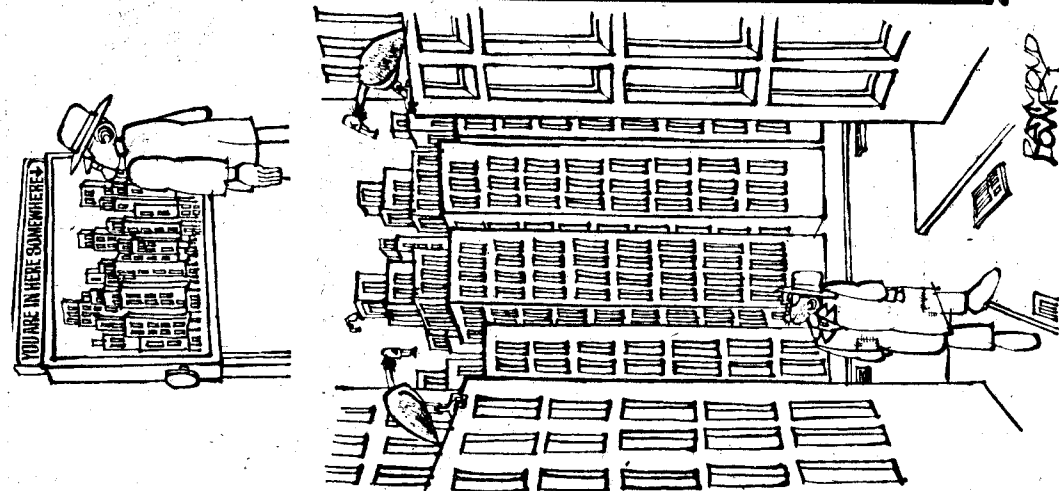
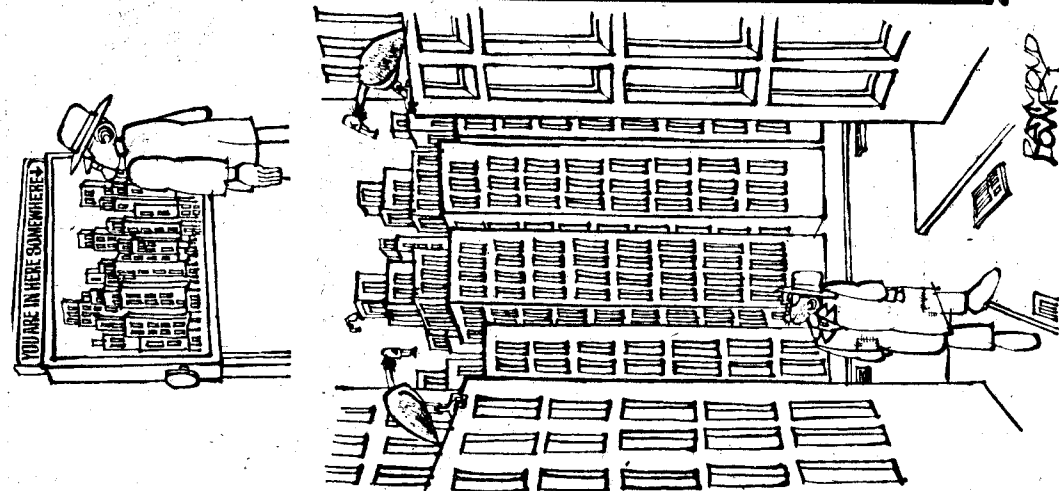
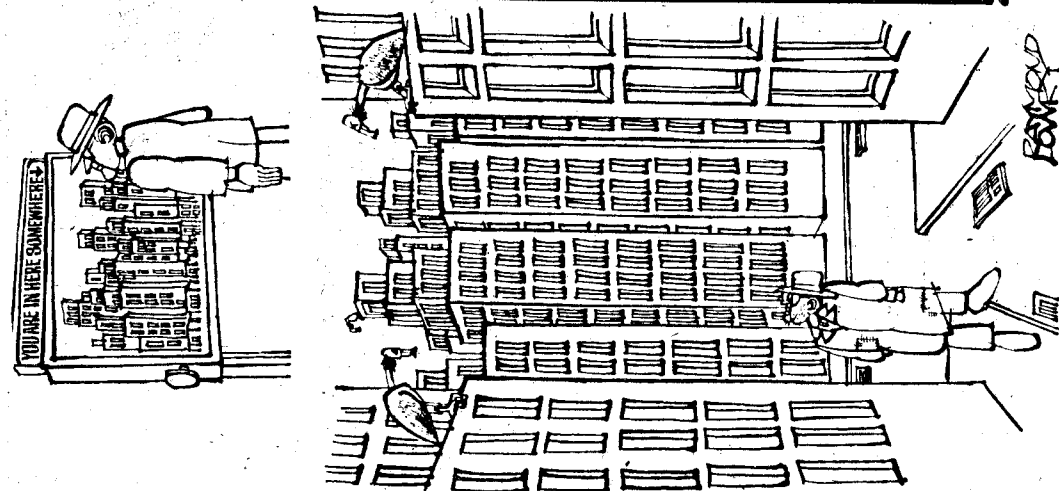
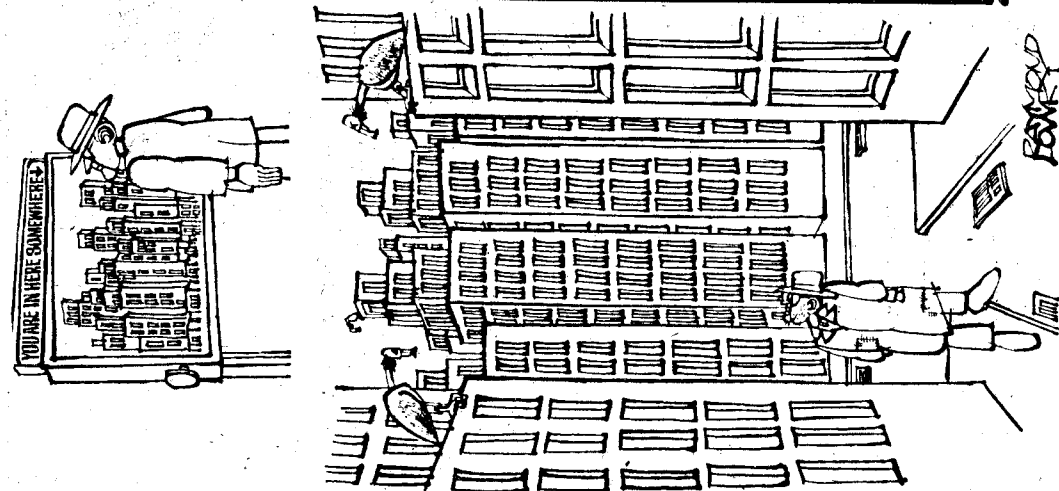
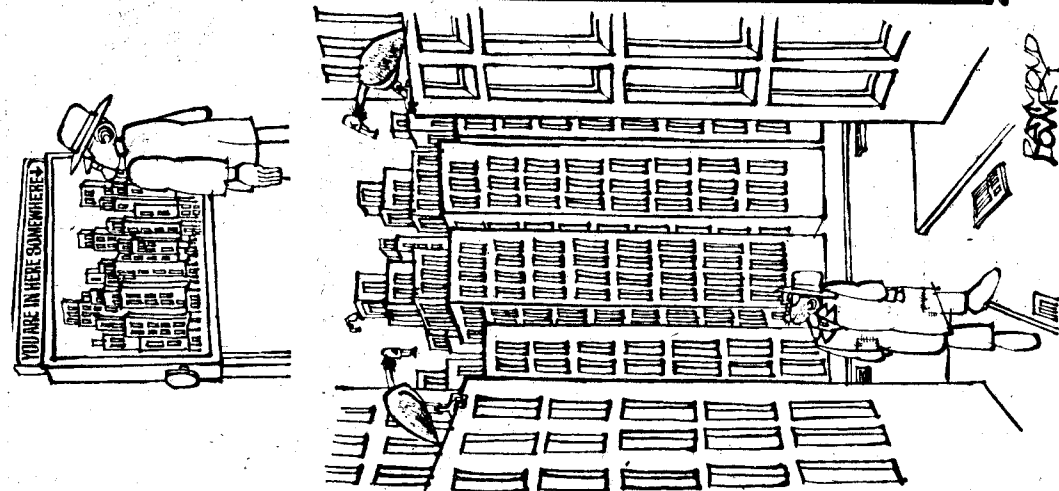
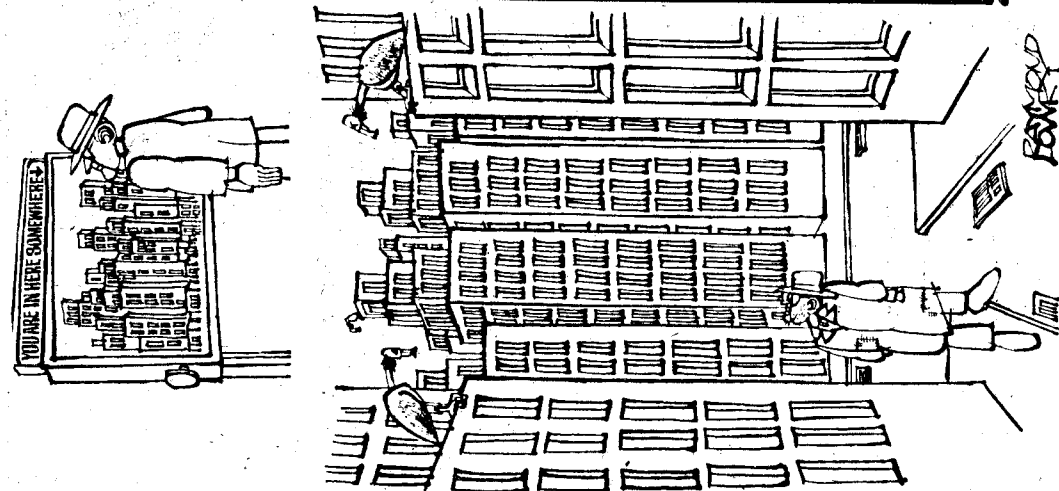
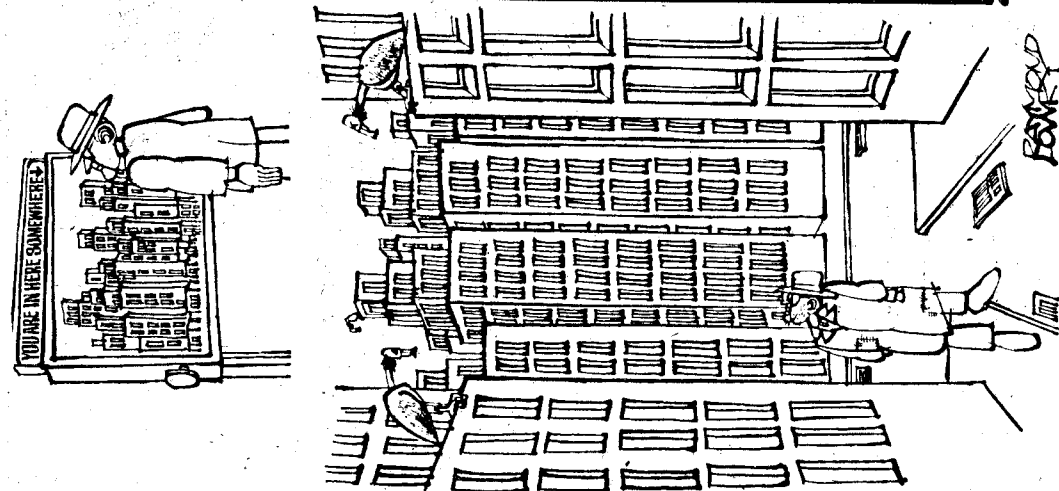
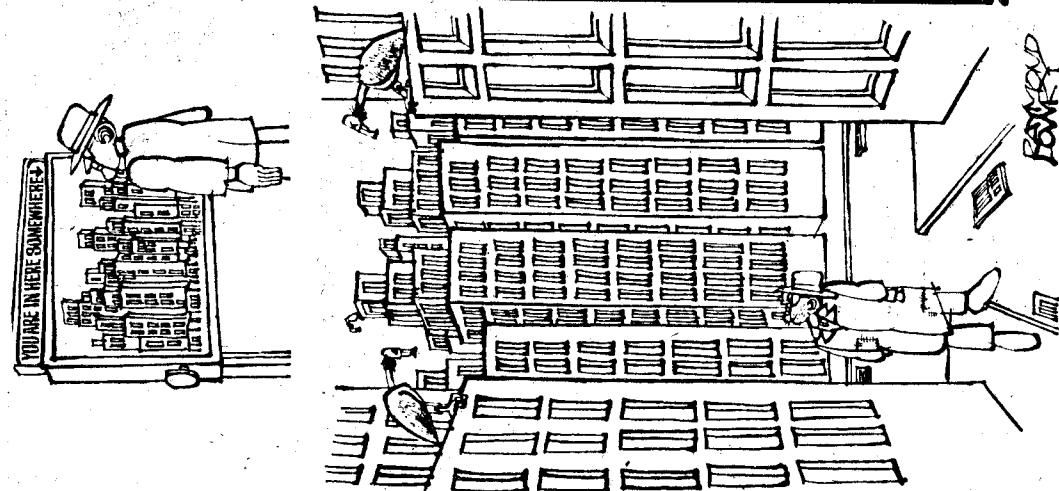


back; adaptable to both the courting couple and the family with a couple of kids. My own family experience in this regard is interesting. Fifteen years ago, when we were all living together in one house, a total of 12 people, we bought a van. Later, when we became more affluent, and the three families moved into separate houses, the van was sold to be replaced by three cars — two seats in the front, three in the back.

These are examples of ideology working through the environment created by the structure of the city. However, the structure does not outwardly express these results. Rather, they appear because of the pressures and repressions generated by these structures in operation. This becomes the history of an individual's everyday life — the compulsive evasion and adaptation to already-formulated patterns and solutions. But this is not all. Our society happens also to be terrorist: it demands a corroboration and reproduction of what is natural from each individual. The city thus becomes a vast apparatus whose function is to enforce uniformity.

At this point it is necessary to introduce two more factors which complicate the workings of the city environment. The first is money and the compulsion to make profits; the second — power. Both are interrelated and both form the most significant part of the backbone of our society. They are also easily accommodated into the nature of the city environment as it is now structured.

Next, a move was made into the immediate areas surrounding the heart — the inner city area. Aided by the State Planning Authority whose experts declared the area to be depressed and beyond rehabilitation, a plan for redevelopment was drawn up and the area rezoned. The SPA also decided that because of the high fragmentation of ownership (i.e. lots of people owned individual houses) private finance should be encouraged to aid in the consolidation



BEING EVICTED ?

Why Squat

1. While 40,000 people await Housing Commission homes, and others, homeless and not even on the waiting list, sleep in parks, hundreds of houses and flats in the inner city area stand empty. Others pay high rents for appalling conditions while nearby premises in a reasonable condition are vacant. Why not squat?

2. For those interested in saving an area from redevelopment by private owners or government authorities, squatting or constant vigilance may be a necessary tactic. While green bans prevent wholesale demolition, owners will try and destroy their buildings from the inside. In the Rocks, the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority paid men on unemployment relief to remove anything of any value — fireplaces, gas fittings etc — from empty houses. In other inner city areas, developers have left their houses open to vandalism or have even paid drunks as "demolishers." If buildings are destroyed by vandalism, or become health or fire hazards, the case for preservation may be lost by default. Why not squat?

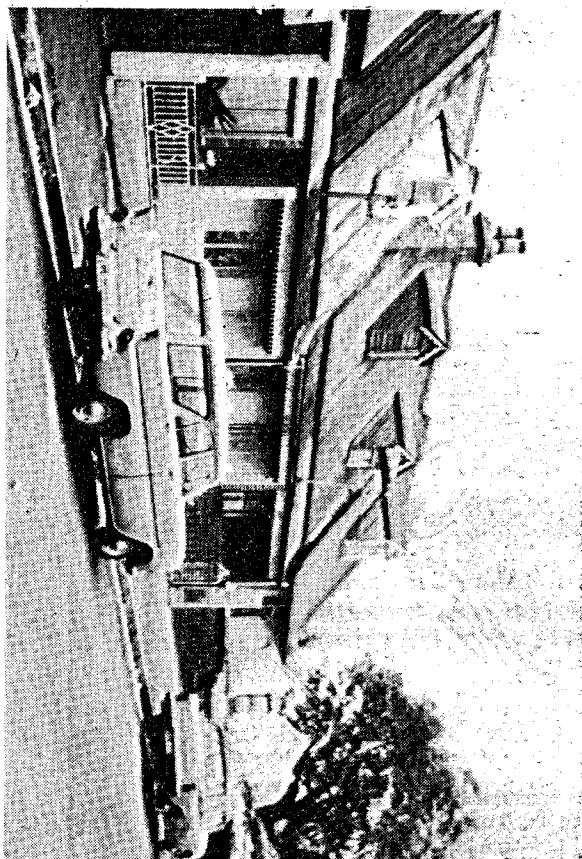
How to Squat

When you squat in premises it is essential from a tactical point of view that you secure the premises with *your own lock and key*. You must remove the existing lock so that the owner does not have access to his building. You should at all times keep the premises locked so that no one can enter without breaking in (which is illegal) unless they have your key.

Arrange for essential services (electricity, gas, water) to be put on. If they are already on, put the gas and electricity into your name (it would be better not to use your real name). Deal directly with the Sydney County Council and the Gas Company. These authorities are under a legal obligation to supply their services. If they show some reluctance and indicate that they are aware you are squatting, insist that you are living in the building and that any dispute about your occupation is the matter for you and the owner only. Experience in

Squatting is the continuous occupation of unoccupied premises. It is also the occupation of premises after tenancy has run out.

Disorganised squatting has always occurred in empty houses. However in an organised way, squatting is now beginning to take off in Sydney as it did in England, Italy, U.S.A., Holland and South America, a couple of years ago. Last year, anti-expressway activists squatted



EMPTY HOUSES LIKE THESE ARE AVAILABLE AT WOOLLOOMOOLOO DARLINGTON ST SOUTH SYDNEY VICtoria ST KINGS X THE ROCKS

not clear what this phrase means precisely, but it is clear that it must fall short of maiming or injuring or causing a tumult. Also remember that, particularly when mothers, children and old people are concerned, an owner may be loath to take action which could involve the press.

In Victoria Street so far, the police have not become directly involved in removing squatters. This means that names or the lack of them are a key factor in the situation. Three summonses under the S.O.A. have been

there is nothing further to discuss.

5. If they persist, ask them if they are there to arrest anyone and if so whom, and on what charge.

6. At no stage open the door. The police cannot arrest you through the door.

7. If the police have come to arrest a named person, advise the police that you do not wish to discuss the matter further. Avoid any questions demanding to know if the particular named person is in the building.

TIERED OF RIP-OFF RENTS

Victoria Street has shown that once essential repairs are done, these authorities have been cooperative.

Unless you are a handy man or woman, it is obviously going to be easier to choose a house where the services are still in working order. However in Victoria Street where this is not the case, the squatters have had help from a friendly plumber and electrician. As squatters, electricians and carpenters, similar to a legal aid bureau, could be formed to help with repairs in much the same way as a legal aid bureau works. In London, squatters have taught each other many necessary skills. A squatters' handbook, filled with lots of practical information on gas, water, and electricity fittings is available from 11 Hemmingsford Street, London N1.

What is the Legal Position of Squatters?

1. The police may decide to act officially against squatters under the Summary Offences Act. They do not need to know who you are, nor do they need a warrant under the S.O.A. But police cannot under the S.O.A. just move you out. They have to arrest you and have you charged. *A police order to get out, not accompanied by arrest, has no legal force.*

2. The owner himself may take action under the S.O.A. However in order to get a summons against you, he will have to have your name.

3. The owner may take action through the civil courts to evict you (for trespass). Before such a case comes to court, the owner could try to get a temporary injunction preventing you from being on the premises. Again for any such action, he has to know your name. If you are found to be a "trespasser", a landlord is entitled to use "reasonable force" to remove you. It is

served. One of these was served on the wrong person. Craig Young was found guilty and sentenced to one month's hard labour suspended on condition that he leave Victoria Street. However he immediately appealed which means a stay in execution of the sentence. The appeal may take months to come up. John Cox's case has already gone for two days hearing and will not be completed until at least July 31. He too will enter an appeal if he loses. While all this has been going on, more squatters, nameless to the owners, have moved in.

Time to enjoy the advantages of his or her new house is what a squatter wants so:

Plead not guilty and ask for as long an adjournment as possible to prepare your case, engage witnesses, employ a lawyer etc.

If your defence takes more than a day you may need another adjournment.

If you are found guilty immediately put in an appeal.

What to do if the Police Call

1. Appoint one person to speak with the police. Speak to them through the door, a window or from a balcony. Even if the police ask you to open the door or let them speak to you inside the house, do not open the door.

2. Ask the police why they have come. Try to persuade them to see that the matter is a civil one, between the agent and the residents and that the agent has ample means to take civil action.

3. If this fails, say you wish to discuss the matter with the other people in the house.

4. At this point, go back and say to the police that you have had legal advice on the matter and that you have been advised that it is a civil matter. Tell them

8. If they persist and show that they are prepared to enter forcibly, do not open the door. Tell them that, according to legal advice, the police would be acting in contravention of the Imperial Acts Application Act 1969.

9. If the police forcibly enter, demand to know if you are being arrested and on what charge. You cannot be told to get out by the police. They have to formally charge you before you are required to leave the premises.

10. If you are charged, do not resist. Make no further statements except your name and address (the address at which you are squatting). Ask to contact a lawyer.

What to do if the Agent Calls

Do not open the door. Tell the agent that your lawyer has advised you not to speak with them. Say nothing more. Although the landlord can use "reasonable force" to eject a trespasser, it would be debatable in court whether breaking and entering could be held "reasonable".

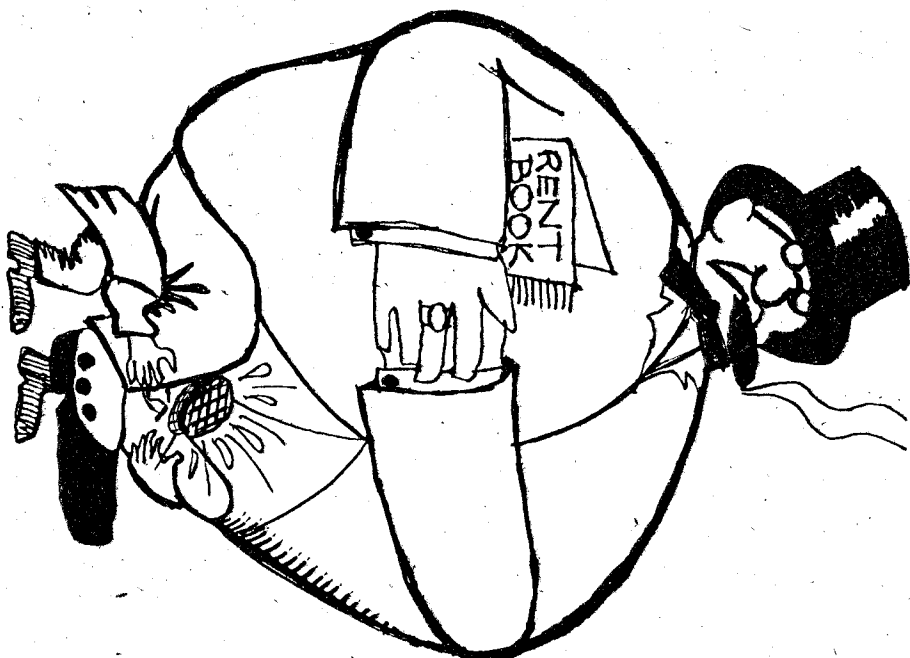
Rather than taking action to remove you, the police may engage in other harassment. They could, for instance, enter, without a warrant, to search for drugs. For this reason the squatters in Victoria Street decided to keep the places "clean". They may also charge squatters with vagrancy, and this has in fact been done to two people in Victoria Street. For this reason, squatters should make sure that they can show evidence of a job, unemployment benefits or a pension and have access to a small amount of money.

It is hoped that a tenant's legal aid service can soon be organized. However in the meantime, contact the

squatters at the Stables, Victoria Street, 338-5946 and leave a message you can be contacted.

Squatting in Victoria Street

When the squatting began in Victoria Street several weeks ago, ten people prepared to sleep the night in no, 57 fully expecting to be busted within a day or two. Perhaps it was because he hoped the B.L.F. would follow the National Trust in backing his new plan for high cost housing and commercial development, perhaps it was because the police weren't willing to cooperate,



AND PARASITE LANDLORDS?

SQUATTING ELSEWHERE

In London

For several years there has been extensive squatting in London. The situation is somewhat different there than in Australia as Councils have an obligation to provide housing, and this gives the squatters a strong public case, at least when they are occupying council property. The squatting has also spread to provincial centres. In a period of several months, there were 27 squats in Oxford.

In Camden, a working class suburb of London, there are between 700 and 1000 squatters, organised in street committees loosely federated into a union which negotiates with the Council. In Hackney last year, squatters won court cases against both the Council and Acetel Housing Association. Against the Council, the judge ruled that the bureaucrats hadn't shown enough good reasons why they needed the houses immediately. The Acetel Housing Association's cases failed because in the opinion of the judge they hadn't made enough efforts to obtain the names of all those involved.

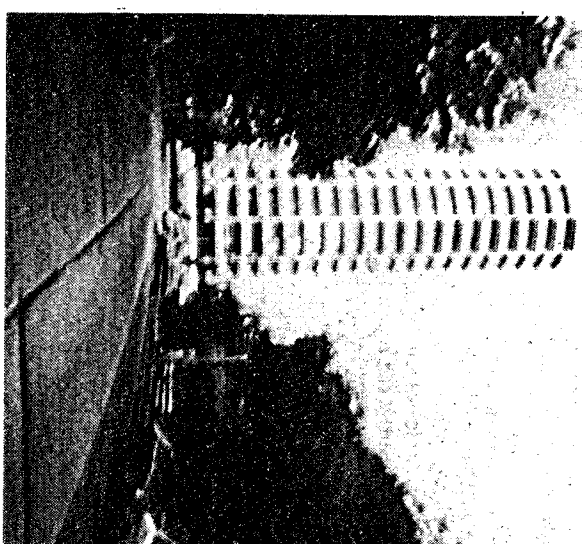
London Oz in its Jan/Feb edition reads, "There's all different kinds of people squatting at the moment. There are family squatting groups who arrange for temporary homes for homeless families from the Council and charge a small rent. Some people say the Family Squatting Advisory Service is as bad as the Council. Family Squatting Advisory Service, 44 Nelson Square, London).

There are also people like the ever growing squatter-freak community around the Prince of Wales Crescent, area of Camden. Some 280 people live there, 30% of them graduates living on an average income of seven pounds a week. They have organised the Camden Recycling Housing Association, 19 Vians Road, NWS

NEED A HOUSE ?

perhaps it was through sheer bewilderment at the shocking events befalling him — for whatever reason, Frank Theeman, the owner, failed to take legal action against the squatters for a couple of weeks. By that time there were more than 20 squatters occupying four houses.

We are attempting to create in the street, a community more resilient than the one which the agents crashed several months ago — to what extent we are successful is difficult for those most involved to judge, each day seems to meet with some new crisis — a court



DO YOU WANT HIGH RENT? HAVE 300 WEEKS OVERLOOKING SYDNEY * 4 BEDROOMS, BATHROOMS, LIVING ROOM DINING ROOM AND KITCHEN * FULLY AIR CONDITIONED * SWIMMING POOL * 2 GARAGE ROOMS * DOUBLE GARAGE

case, the gas company sent to remove meters, a robbery. People with great difference not only live together, they must also work together if we are to survive. Mothers, children, students, a seaman, teacher, bibles, pacifists, students, invalid pensioners, people in need of a home, people escaping from another home, people interested in low income housing, people who say they are interested in low income housing but turn out to be just looking for a crash pad for a couple of nights. As each new person comes, squatters explain to him or her what the issues are, and hope that those who are not involved will see it in their own interests to leave. Open meetings of the action group (Mondays, Thursdays, 6-30 pm, the Stables, 109 Victoria Street) plan immediate action and thrust out general policy.

A food-coop has been organised and a weekly street news just started. A few of the tenants and squatters set aside rent for Theeman should he ever decide to accept it, others do not agree with paying rent to landlords. Instead, a maintenance fund has been organised which is being used to buy locks for gas and electricity deposits and other communal expenses. The basic rate is \$3.00 for an individual and \$5.00 for a family, although those who earn more, will give more. However if we are not to create our own myths, one should add that there is some difficulty in collecting the maintenance from some people.

Children's street parties with the Berta Dance Company have been organised twice and there are plans to begin a play centre. There is frustration when protesters planned fail to get off the ground as quickly as hoped.

There are still more houses although some of them need a lot of repairs. More squatters are needed, particularly families, women and older people. If the present policy of serving summonses under the Summary Offences Act continues there seems no reason why anyone should not get a couple of months cheap good housing and longer if they don't get hold of your name. If you are interested in squatting, go to the Stables, 109 Victoria Street, preferably between 6 and 6.30, Mondays and Thursdays. Phone: 338-5946

W.B.

WHY NOT

SQUAT ?

In USA

"In Boston a group of low-income families recently

squatted in newly renovated apartments in their neighbourhood just before the higher income tenants were scheduled to move in. Within a month the landlord was forced to lower his rents and the public housing authority to provide a rent subsidy for the families. In New York city similar actions have forced the city agencies to make housing available for low-income people. In one case, the squatters organised under the banner of "Operation Move-in". Working at night, with crowbars, the people opened doors and windows of apartments scheduled for demolition by the city. The payments were often in reasonable condition. (At one point the city had maintenance crews deliberately destroy the toilet fixtures in buildings to deter the squatters — but later conceded to the opposition).

It is true that many of the people in these apartments still face eviction by the authorities. But this is a factor which must be measured against the alternate of planning and waiting for housing that will probably not happen at all. Another factor is how this direct action counters the usual feeling of hopelessness in poor neighbourhoods. "The ones who were willing to do it were pretty strong people," said one of the squatter organisers. "When they first went in it was like they were liberated — they were exhilarated." After the initial forces of the operation more and more people signed up on waiting lists for new squatter actions. The larger this group becomes, the more difficult it will be for the city to actually remove people without providing alternate housing. It becomes a process by which the disenfranchised become aware of their potential power when they are willing to act together."

(From "After the Planners" by Robert Goodman)