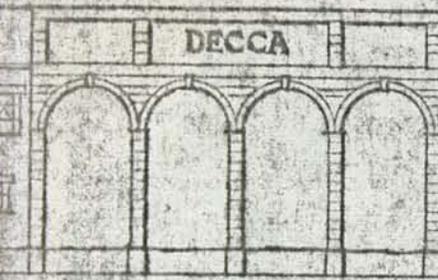


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London  
Press

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... studio started the row.

# SOCIETY'S PROTEST

... according to be built on the site of ... in quiet West Hampstead Mews, off ... have been denounced this week by the ... Society as "a monstrous outrage," an ...

... protest has been sent by the society ... Council, whose approval is necessary.

... built for ... occupy ... Gardens ... and ... stores on ...

... building, ... with ... sketch) ... are ... Society in ... C.C. who ... planning ...

... block is ... development ... expansion ... destroy ... of the ... though not ... tant, is ... and, char- ...

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... Mr. Gatch, ... city, who ... the pro- ... Hamp- ... designed ... sional is ...

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... W ... on ... INGTON ... NUMBER ... NG THE ... R FIVE ... D FOUR ... S NOT ... SE ... va Bull ... ere were ... egestion

LABOUR members of St. Pancras Council threatened last week to ask the District Auditor to surcharge Conservative members responsible for a decision to pass over the site of the Old Bedford Theatre in Camden High Street in favour of a site in Euston Road for the erection of a central library. The surcharge would relate to £300 architect's fees incurred for plans for the former site.

The reference back of a recommendation of the planning and housing development committee approving the Euston Road site was lost by 27 votes to 34.

Cllr. Mrs. Jean Jenkins said that 80 per cent of the population would find a library on the Bedford site easier to reach. The other site was totally unsuitable in some respects.

It would be dangerous for children and its resources would be used by students and office workers to the detriment of residents of the borough. A large scale duplication of books would be required.

### POLITICAL WHIM

Cllr. Mrs. Jenkins said the decision was purely a political whim on the part of the Conservatives. An architect had been commissioned to draw up plans for the Bedford site and unless they were used for a secondary library the Opposition would ask the District Auditor to surcharge members.

Mr. John Richardson said Euston Road was one of the most dangerous parts of the borough and totally unsuitable for a children's library which would have to be included in a central library of any scope.

There was not the same danger in Camden Town. Libraries today had got to the stage where they had to create a demand and they would not do that in Euston Road. A library there would become a central museum containing films, records and archives. The common people would not use it. They did not live anywhere near it.

Cllr. G. J. Batchford, leader of the opposition, described the recommendation as "just one of the tricks of the people opposite." The council would not be able to build there for five to seven years owing to an L.C.C. road-widening scheme.

### NOT SERIOUS

People from the north of the borough would have to make a detour to the library in Euston Road and would then find themselves in one of the most dangerous places in North London. He suggested the Conservatives were not serious about the proposal at all but were merely delaying matters.

Cllr. Myrrdin Evans said Camden High Street was also dangerous. The term "central library" was out of date. What they wanted was a principal library but there was a good case for having an improved branch library in Camden Town.

Cllr. Clive Jenkins said the Conservatives had produced a plan "hatched in politics." He did not believe that that council would build a library anywhere. The Euston Road plan did not fit the needs of the citizens. They had a special problem of a large day-time influx of people but their own residents had to be served.

They warned the council that if it proved that the money already voted for architect's fees in respect of the Bedford Theatre site had been squandered they would take steps to see that the people responsible were brought to book.

### DAY-TIME USERS

Cllr. Mrs. Grace Lee, who was chairman of the committee when the then Labour Council decided to acquire the site of the former Bedford Theatre, said they went into the problem with great diligence. They agreed that £22,000 was paid for the Euston Road site for a central library. They agreed that a library in the south part of the borough was essential but not a central library. The Euston Road population were only day-time users of the library. She urged the committee to think again.

Cllr. P. A. Prior, leader of

the council, said the Euston Road site was bought in 1940 with the help of the L.C.C., with the object of building a central library. The council at that time agreed. The price for the site was reasonable and the value had risen since.

To get to King's Cross Station or to Euston Road junction was comparatively easy. One only had to stay on the bus a bit longer. The site was easily accessible from all parts of the borough and to people on their way home from work in the City and the West End. It was important to have regard to the future and Euston Road would always remain the principal artery and centre of administration of the borough. The need for people shopping in Camden Road was for a branch library.

### NO SUPPORT

"No doubt at the end of our three years we shall have provided that as well," said Cllr. Prior. The remark was followed by uproar from the opposition.

The site had good access, unlike the Bedford site which had a small frontage on Camden Road. The Euston Road site was already owned by the Council and had the advantage of administrative convenience, better placing, better frontages and a car park and was much cheaper.

Cllr. P. Jonas said his side were mainly concerned with locating the library in the geographical centre of the population.

Miss I. C. Mausel, chairman of the planning committee, declined to accept the reference, back and it was defeated in a division by 27 votes to 34.

# Underpass plan for Euston Road

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING ON TUESDAY APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE THE PROVISION OF AN UNDERPASS AT THE INTERSECTION OF EUSTON ROAD AND HAMPSSTEAD ROAD TO CARRY FOUR LANES OF TRAFFIC—TWO EACH WAY—IN ONE TUNNEL, IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLAN TO WIDEN EUSTON ROAD AS PART OF THE INNER CIRCULAR ROAD ENVISAGED IN THE L.C.C. DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

The underpass plan succeeds one for a roundabout low bridge, inadequate because of heavy traffic.

The underpass will run from Fitzroy Street in the west to Gower Street in the east.

The L.C.C. are waiting to hear what the municipal borough councils think of the plan. The Minister of Transport has said he will consider the improvement for grant purposes.

The cost of the widening scheme will be about £500,000. In addition to land already acquired, about four acres containing commercial and industrial premises on the northern

frontage of Euston Road are needed.

Property belonging to London Transport Executive, the Crown Estate Commissioners and the Church Commissioners is also affected.

The L.C.C. propose to seek compulsory purchase powers for all the land required for the improvement except for Crown interests which will be acquired by agreement.

The scheme will involve the rehousing of 60 people.

The total estimated cost of all the property including the church land now to be acquired is £3,045,000. The Government will provide three-quarters.

# THE MONEY-SAVING EVENT OF THE YEAR

