planned

Morning Telegraph Reporter

Sheffield Civil Defence is setting up a £4,000 emergency administrative centre in the City Hall which will form the seat of local government in the event of a "nuclear near-miss."

The centre, which will be part of the national civil defence communications network, is to be built into the basement of the City Hall and will include an emergency telephone exchange, teleprinter, radio, lighting and water provisions.

An office off the main dancing suite is to be adapted over the next three or four months at a cost of £4,250, if the Home Office gives its approval.

The City Hall was described as a "perfect building for the purpose" by the Sheffield Civil Defence Officer, Mr. John Hetherington, last night.

"Very little has to be done to strengthen the room, which is 20 feet underground and surrounded by a very strong concrete shell. The cost of adapting the room is much smaller than it would have been if we had started from scratch," he said.

The centre is being built on the assumption that no nuclear attack would be made on Sheffield, or that if such an attack were made it failed to achieve a direct hit.

"Obviously we have to be realistic about this. If there was a direct hit, there would be complete destruction," said Mr. Hetherington.

Chaotic

He added that the City Council's outlay of £4,250, of which 75 per cent is reclaimable from the Home Office in the form of grants, was just "an economical bit of insurance."

The equipment in the special office will be tested once a fortnight, but will not ordinarily be manned. The office will be behind one of many identical locked doors on the basement level, and dances will continue regularly.

The special office will be brought into operation in the event of a strategic warning, which it is thought would be at least 48 hours in advance of any missile attack.

Civil Defence staff and Sheffield Corporation officials could then move to their joint HQ in the basement dancing suite.

Mr. Hetherington said that without an emergency administrative centre, conditions in the city after a near miss could be "chaotic."

Officials at the centre would first of all organise aid to injured people in the city and then carry out "the administrative phase for survival," he said.

The centre is being set up to replace a similar control centre on the outskirts of the city rendered unsuitable by the development of more sophisticated hydrogen bombs.

TOXIC GAS STOLEN

'run-down' tag

Morning Telegraph Reporter

A South Yorkshire mining village was angry yesterday about a planner's report which described it as "degraded."

The village, Dinnington, along with other villages in Kiveton Park Rural District, is the subject of a report on future development by West Riding County Council's planning department.

Dinnington is listed as being one of five villages where substantial future development can be allowed to cater for expansion.

Of these villages the report says: "In general these settlements have little to commend them, the largest Dinnington, being dominated by the colliery tip around which has developed an industrial area giving rise to a degraded or run-down appearance."

Harsh

Coun. Mrs. Freda Shirt, publicity officer for Dinnington Parish Council, said she agreed with much of the report but she thought it rather harsh in some of its comments on Dinnington.

She said: "Dinnington is no beauty spot but it does have its nice parts and there is no mention of the fine new shopping centre being built in the main street.

"I agree that the area around the tip is an eyesore but I would not say that it is run-down: They make us sound like a real old shanty town."

Coun. George Woollin, a postmaster at Dinnington and a member of the parish council said: "I think this is stretching it a bit but you know what planners are."

A spokesman at the planning department said: "The report is intended to raise problems as we saw them. I don't think anyone can deny that Dinnington has not got the get-up-and-go some other towns have."

Meeting on future of Sheffield mosque

Morning Telegraph Reporter

A public meeting is to be held at Attercliffe Vestry Hall, Sheffield, on Saturday to decide the future of a Moslem mosque in Industry Road, Sheffield.

The four trustees of the mosque have already signed a deed of sale. Members opposing the sale hope on Saturday to dismiss the trustees and to appoint new ones.

They have invited Mr. Alay Rasul, Sheffield's Community Relations Officer who has tried unsuccessfully to mediate in the dispute, to chair the meeting and give a talk.

Mr. Sasul said earlier that if the people wanted him to speak at the meeting, he would so.

Mr. Mohammed Sadiq Malik, of Industry Road, said yesterday that he thought they would need a meeting of about 200 people to be able to dismiss the trustees, but he was expecting an attendance of 600 to 700.

Trustees

"The names of new trustees will be put up by the people," said Mr. Malik.

Mrs. Ali Hedar, speaking for her husband who is a trustee, said last night: "They know already that the contracts have been signed, so I think it is too late for them to dismiss the trustees."

Mrs. Hedar said that a letter, signed by ten imams, saying that the mosque was not officially recognised because it was too near another mosque on Industry Road, was in the hands of their solicitor.

A former president of the management committee, Mr. S. H. Shar, of Chippingham Street, Sheffield, and his committee, had signed a paper handing over the mosque to the trustees for disposal, she said.

POLICE WARN MOTORISTS AFTER THEFTS

Staff told: be prompt

Hour for lunch

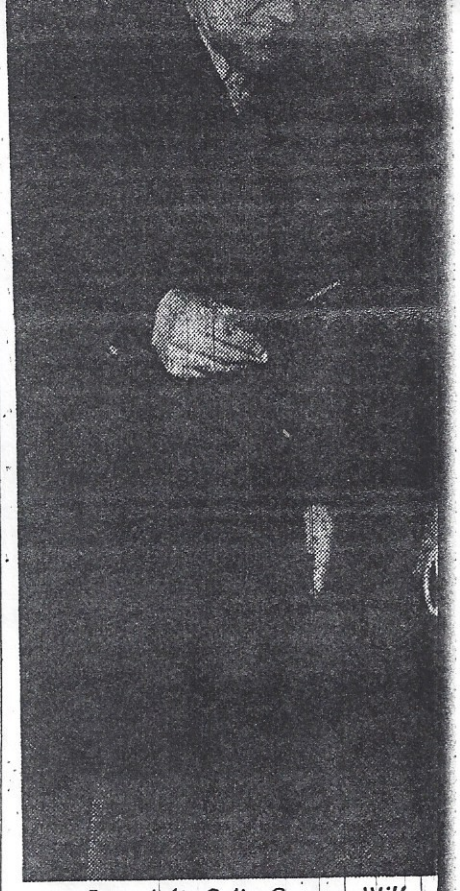
Morning Telegraph Reporter

Staff workers at one of Rotherham's largest steel plants have been asked to join the Back Britain campaign by cutting out time-wasting at lunch.

The staff employees at the Steel, Peech and Tozer works have also called for five per cent more effort during the working day.

Mr. Jim Garnett, chairman of the firm's Staff Council, said: "There are several ways we can help without working half-an-hour extra without pay.

"For instance, if everyone tried to do five per cent. more work it would be a great help, and, even more important, I



From left, Colin George, Wilfred

Theatre with resident playwright

By TIMOTHY BROWN

About 50 unperformed plays are submitted to Sheffield Playhouse every year and about 49 of them remain unperformed. But Colin George, the theatre's director, was enthusiastic about a new comedy in the post from Manchester.

He wrote off to the author, an unknown Charles Evison, to say he would accept the play. Then Wilfred Harrison, Mr. George's associate director at the Playhouse, admitted that he was the enigmatic Mr. Evison.

"Wilfred didn't want me to be accused of doing the play because it had been written by a friend of mine," Mr. George explained yesterday.

Finished

"Thank goodness I'd written the letter accepting it—I'd only finished writing it about three hours before Wilfred told me. It could have been very embarrassing, the things we might have said about it."

Mr. Harrison's play, Very Desirable Residence, will be presented during the Spring season — with Mr. George directing.

Mr. Harrison described it