

es to under- register, kept up-to-date as except those who are not to be "Many employers pay interviewees' expenses, but an

# ter use for the money

Mr Barnett's "ier," Feb- any historic city which neglected. t if, in this many will t funds from be used to ation of the ndstand, pri- benefiting overlook it. sses can no ause of the ; them; we ; the rates, ding. sort of ludi- have been ation of the l be put tion of this sing stock. to live in / desirable ay music in year. ald Steel. d,

applications, and taking into account the contributions that would be made to local authorities, the finance committee unanimously agreed to waive the charges for the hire of the Marryat Hall. For bookkeeping purposes only, the finance committee awarded a grant equivalent to the rent of the Marryat Hall and these are the amounts included in Mr Barnett's letter. These grants, therefore, did not involve the district council in any expenditure.

The Magdalen Green bandstand is a different proposition, as it will require a considerable financial input if it is to be restored to its original condition. The director of arts and recreation has investigated a number of proposals for restoring the bandstand but, because of the specialised nature of the works, it has not been possible to find a solution which can be

committee's policy of conservation of the countryside.

The discussion which took place in committee and the decision reached was based solely on this policy and was therefore taken for the protection of the amenity of the countryside.

(Councillor) Peter M. Young, Conservative Group Secretary, Perth and Kinross District Council.

2 High Street, Perth.

**"Snail mail"**

Sir,—On February 19 I had occasion to post a letter, plus an important document, to a government department in Dundee. These were posted first class and were received only this morning, February 25, a total of six days for a journey of only a few miles!

metic and, because of Government policy, grossly under-financed. The more cynical, or realistic, among us feared that this would be the case, and have been proved right.

The contempt with which our entirely reasonable pay demand has been met by the Government is indicative of its general attitude to education.

If your correspondent is not unfamiliar with union activity and the taking of industrial action, then why is he (or she) putting up with his/her erosion of pay, status, &c.?

Teachers are indeed not unique, but, thank goodness, are no longer showing the defeatist and fatalistic attitude with which your correspondent's letter is imbued. We have "got on with our jobs as best we could" for too long. Such a self-congratulatory pose has done nothing for us, nor the children, in the past. It is undignified and contemptible.

If our action is causing sections of the public to stir from their uninterest and complacency to anger against us, then I for one welcome this. It is better than contempt, and all that remains is for them to learn the next lesson and direct their anger to its proper target—the Government.

I write, by the way, as the parent of two children, of whom one at least will be seriously affected by this week's strikes. Name and address supplied.

**So generous**

Sir,—We should be thankful for small mercies—like the 65p on our pension the Government has given my wife and me to help pay for the £111 increase in our rent this year.

T.C. Elder.  
26 Woodhaven Avenue, Wormit.

**Monarchy next?**

Sir,—Within the past year we have seen the Queen and Prince Philip sent to America to be feted along with stars of screen and television. They were followed by Prince Charles and Princess Diana. Even Prince Andrew and his ship weren't spared.

Now we witness our future King in Texas to help the Americans in their celebrations. Is the monarchy next in line for privatisation?

(Mrs) Jean King.  
34 Main Street, Hillend.

"All too often, applicants left to foot the bill for interview expenses, thinking they can ill-afford they are unemployed. A card would be a great boon for many unemployed people in their search for work."

**Luck Pennies**

I HAVE heard from Mr Donald Mitchell, Guildy Smithy, Ikie, on the subject of Luck Pennies which have been mentioned in this column recently.

He writes: "Mr D. M. Mitchell (no relation to myself) Cooper & McKenzie, asked if 'Luck Pennies' existed in farming transactions.

"I can assure him they certainly do.

"Twice in 1984 when my father purchased some corn at Stirling Mart, two different sellers approached him and gave him £1 back as a 'Luck Penny,' and in October when I sold some sheep Edzell, I had hardly regaled my place outside the when I was approached by a buyer, a farmer from Banchory district, 'seeking Luck Penny.'

"What is, I feel, just another twist to the same theme is the practice of at least one local mart. After an animal has been 'knocked down,' the buyer gets his purchase for less than he intended pay."

**The shopper caught out!**

ETERNAL vigilance must be the watchword for the car housewife in the shops.

A Dundee woman tells me she was buying a packet of sausage and onion stuffing in a supermarket and noticed that there were two sizes of packet, smaller pack priced 17p and a larger one, priced at 37p, which a placard above described as an "economy size". She chose the economy size assuming the weight would be greater than two small packets.

Not so. The larger size weighed exactly the weight of two small packets—and its price was actually 3p higher than the cost of two small ones!

I wonder how many shoppers have been caught by this artful sales device, whose only "economy" is to reduce the manufacturer's packaging costs?

The lesson is—always compare price, and weight.

**Where are the thrushes?**

A DUNDEE family feeding the wild birds at Camperdown

## Readers' Letters

undertaken from the financial resources available.

If Mr Barnett is of the opinion that he can raise the funds required, or if he has a solution to this problem which can be undertaken from the financial resources available, then I would be very willing to meet him to discuss his ideas.

James F. Hoey, Chief Executive, City of Dundee District Council.  
City Chambers, Dundee.

By first post today I received a letter from South Africa which was sent only three days ago.

I should like the comments of the postmaster as to the faults in this "snail mail," this being no isolated example. I have had three such experiences recently and friends cite many more.

Could it possibly be that anything posted to government departments is, quite literally, left on the shelf?

(Mrs) E. R. Dunbar.  
177 Albert Street, Dundee.

### Decision taken to protect countryside

Sir,—In your edition of February 22 you carried a comment from Councillor Ian Luke on behalf of Dundee Nuclear Free Zone Committee welcoming the decision taken by Perth and Kinross District Council Development Control Committee refusing an application by Tayside Regional Council proposing to convert Baldinnie Reservoir into a regional emergency control centre.

I would like to make it clear to Councillor Luke and the public generally that the development control committee of this council is an apolitical committee and reaches its decisions on planning considerations only.

Tayside Regional Council's application included a proposal to fell eight large broad-leaved hardwood trees and this

### Defeatist for too long

Sir,—It is a pity that your correspondent ("Will someone do something?") seems only to have become worried about the position of our schoolchildren with the prolonging of the teachers' pay dispute.

Most of us who have been solidly behind the campaign have for years been frustrated by the neglect of our children's potential. Education costs money, and not just for teachers' pay.

Many of us hoped that, with the reduction of school rolls, the belated implementation of the Munn and Dunning reports (and what of the Pack report?), classes would become significantly smaller and more resources would ensure an improvement in the general quality of education.

Such changes as have been

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