

FINEST

'GRIMY OUTLOOK' IF ROAD IS MADE

DEMAND FOR APOLOGY AT BY-PASS INQUIRY

Yorkshire Post Reporter

A "DARK and ultimately grimy outlook" for Headingley if the proposed by-pass came into being, was forecast yesterday by Mr. Richard Thompson, a Leeds architect. "Babylon is not for my clients," he said when the public inquiry into the by-pass compulsory purchase order was continued at Leeds Civic Hall.

Mr. Thompson went on: "To everyone living and working in the neighbourhood the effect of these proposals, if allowed, will prove disastrous. If the Ministers support the Corporation in its choice

of alignment for this road, I can only plead that they will direct it should be sunk and not elevated.

"This would avoid the affect of the days of the railway era of 1837 or the Berlin Wall of 1962," Mr. Thompson said that the choice of line for the road was one dictated mainly by land vacancy and availability and not by sound planning principles.

It was a solution designed for traffic to the exclusion of almost all other essential considerations.

It would cut the village in two, introduce unnecessary traffic noise and shatter the environment of "this famous village."

It needed little imagination to visualise the effect on Headingley Hall, only yards away, of a road elevated 24 feet above the ground.

Landscaping could not be called upon to do a rescue act on a retaining wall. Mr. Thompson is a member of the Headingley By-pass protest committee. He was appearing on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. T. Whitham, of Headingley Hall.

At the opening of yesterday's proceedings, Mr. G. H. Cox, a solicitor representing several objectors, including the By-pass protest committee, asked for an apology from Mr. K. H. Potts, Leeds Corporation's principal assistant solicitor, for comments made on Tuesday about the committee. He said:

"My friend has chosen to conclude his opening address with what I took to be a very deliberate attack upon the bona fides of those from whom I took my instructions. You will be able to judge for yourselves whether there are any grounds for what my friend chose to say."

Mr. Cox said it was correct that the committee was formed early last year and he was calling Canon Emmerson, Vicar of St. Michael's, Headingley, to say how it was formed. There was a public meeting at which certain basic proposals were put before those who attended.

'TRIED TO KILL SONS' CHARGE

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Mr. Cox said he had with him a petition signed by 1,082 people. Canon Emmerson, a member of the Headingley By-pass committee, said it was elected in a democratic way. In its deliberations it excluded any reference to the personal case of Mr. Whitham, chairman of the committee.

Mr. Edgar-Firth, of Otley-Rd., Headingley, an objector, maintained that the line of the proposed by-pass was entirely wrong. A number of people, including thriving business men were "merrily unaware" they would be affected by the Corporation's plans.

Mr. Firth, of Firth Gibbs and Partners, auctioneers and estate agents, of Leeds, said he felt the proposed line was the wrong line in its entirety. He said that there were several important schools in Headingley which would be directly affected by noise and commuting problems.

Mr. C. G. Thirlwall, Leeds City Engineer, agreed to draw the attention of the Inspectors to the schools concerned. The inquiry continues today.