

# 'UNSEEN PETITION' ON BY-PASS PLAN

## INQUIRY QUESTIONS ABOUT COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES

*Yorkshire Post Reporters*

**P**OINTED questions about the activities of the Headingley By-Pass protest committee were asked by Mr. K. H. Potts, principal assistant solicitor to Leeds Corporation, when a public inquiry into the by-pass compulsory purchase order opened at Leeds Civic Hall yesterday. The inquiry continues today.

Mr. Potts said that the establishment and activities of the committee had resulted in the scale of the inquiry and would bear some investigation. "Who are they, and who elected them?" he asked.

### Extra teacup proved youth's story false

**A** TWIN's attempt to prevent his brother being implicated in a series of office and shop-breaking offences was foiled by a cup of tea. Mr. Ralph Cleworth, Q.C., Leeds Stipendiary Magistrate was told this yesterday.

The twins were Alexander and Ian Scobie, 19, of York-St., Wakefield. They pleaded guilty to what Mr. Ian Pollard, prosecuting, described as "A senseless series of joint offences of shop and office breaking in Leeds and eight other joint offences of Alexander Scobie's offences of

It was fairly clear from documents that they were a self-appointed committee and most of them appeared to live in or around the vicinity of Shire Oak-Rd. They began in a small way, these people, who, one felt were concerned with self-protection.

By virtue of leaflets, Press publicity, advertisements and canvassing through a church magazine, they managed to get a number of people to sign a petition. Leeds City Council had never seen this petition, and neither had the Ministers concerned.

Mr. Potts said it was not known who had signed the petition or how many, or whether they lived in the vicinity of the proposed by-pass. It did seem that whether these people had all signed the petition or not, one man was footing the bill.

### 'ONE BACKER'

He read a cutting from a newspaper which said that the committee's activities so far had been financed by "one backer." "Who is the one financial backer?" Mr. Potts asked.

He did not know whether Mr. G. H. Cox (who is appearing for the committee at the inquiry) would be prepared to disclose the backer. If he was a person who was chairman of the statutory objector's interest in the matter Headingley Hall.

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He did not know whether Mr. G. H. Cox (who is appearing for the committee at the inquiry) would be prepared to disclose the backer. If he was the person who was chairman of the committee, his interest in the matter was that of a statutory objector through property at Headingley Hall.

The Inspectors suggested Mr. Potts might like to consider whether they felt the interest of the objector concerned was entirely that of an objective and disinterested party. Mr. T. Whitham, of Headingley Hall, Leeds is chairman of the Headingley By-pass protest committee.

Certainly the committee had not produced an alternative route. All it had proposed as an alternative suggestion was that the road should be sunk in a cutting, the effect of which would be to remove the road bridge proposed at Shire Oak-Rd.

## ADVERSE EFFECT

Mr. Potts began by saying that a number of objectors to the scheme thought an alternative route should be planned. They felt the present proposals would have an adverse effect on their property.

They might be right, but was it possible for a large engineering project of this size to be put through without affecting someone? "We genuinely sympathise with those persons affected," said Mr. Potts.

"But it would be difficult to find a route of this length in an established urban area which would cause so little disturbance to existing property." The City Council owned nearly all the land which was required, which was 17.8 acres, including working space.

Otley-Rd. today was a multi-purpose road with cross-traffic moving local traffic going into shops, pedestrians, and loading. The result was considered to be

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Some people would be adversely  
affected. But on balance the by-pass  
would be an added amenity to  
Headingley rather than a dis-  
advantage.

Mr. T. Whitham, 78, chairman of  
the protest committee, said last night  
that his reply to Mr. Potts would be  
made in a statement read for him by  
Mr. G. H. Cox, the solicitor acting for  
the protest committee. He thought it  
out of place for him to comment on  
Mr. Potts' remarks at that time.