

THE
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Society Notes

One reasonable test to apply to the Journal is to examine its response to the various pressures and attractions that may be included within its role. And I suppose I define these the more willingly because Journal 68 appears to confront the examination quite confidently!

Responding to the Right Questions?

Does it show its proper concern for consumer Co-operatives in the U.K. - and also give attention to the other sectors of the wider Co-operative movement? Is its preoccupation with the U.K. combined with some scrutiny of Co-operation in other countries: how can we Britain know who only Britain know? Is its engagement with the economic objectives of Co-operation balanced with examination of its social aspirations? And is the Journal sensitive not only to the needs of active Co-operators but to the interests of those whose commitment is to study and assessment of the movement?

The contents of No. 68 show a fair achievement. We are grateful to all the contributors: equally grateful to all of them, and perhaps, as the saying goes, most equally grateful to the colleagues who have sustained us in a new initiative by inaugurating the *Reports from the Co-operative Sectors*.

Journal 69

We plan the same scope for Journal 69 due out in the second half of August. This will include: the third budget of *Reflections and Projections on the Statistics of Co-operative Trade for last year*; further attention to the *search for Co-operative values and to research into consumer Co-operatives in the U.K.*; reports from consumer movements in member states of the E.E.C. on their *preparations for the Single Internal Market in 1993*; and further examination of the decision on *what is to follow the demise of the Co-operative Development Agency* in September.

Annual Conference and AGM

As the separate publicity intimates, the Annual Conference and A.G.M. will be held at the Co-operative College on 14-15 September (*not* 7-8 September as forecast in Journal 67). The Conference theme will be the implications for consumer Co-operatives of the Single Internal Market.

These implications are of great and urgent importance and none the less so for emerging not suddenly from the Single Act leading to the Market but from a process that has been under way for some considerable time. We hope to attract strong interest and support for the Conference from both the professional and democratic areas of responsibility in the Co-operative movement.

April 1990

R.L.M.