

be a party to handing over powers to anybody but directly elected representatives of the people, but the same people who now elected Boards of Guardians also elected the Town Council to which it was proposed to transfer power. Every body was bound to delegate its powers to committees. You could not get on without them. It was not proposed to create any new authority, but whatever authority, for instance, had charge of public health should be given the control of the whole of public health in its particular locality. The Registrar of Public Assistance would be the servant of the democratically elected Council. There was no intention of giving him any more powers than that of a Clerk to the Board of Guardians. He would have no other authority than that which the Council choose to give him. Boards of Guardians were the least democratic bodies ever known. As to the objection to getting rid of an *ad hoc* body, whatever was the Education Authority for the time being should deal with the children, and the same with the sick, and so on, whether it was an *ad hoc* body or not. In Scotland the Education Authority was still the School Board. You could not possibly have separately elected bodies for every purpose. It was far better to have one election and not a great many, which only increased the difficulty of securing adequate working-class representation.

W. Harris (South Wales Miners' Federation) supported the resolution and gave an account of the work of Labour representatives upon a Board of Guardians in a district in South Wales where, out of forty-five members of the Board of Guardians, twenty-one were Labour representatives.

Lewis H. Berens (English League for the Taxation of Land Values) did not agree with either the resolution or the amendment, and thought they would get to the root of the problem by the taxation of Land Values.

C. Burgess Snelling (Chelmsford Star Co-operative Industrial Society) opposing the resolution, emphasised the necessity for local bodies meeting at a time when it was possible for representatives of the workers to attend.

Frank Smith, L.C.C. (Right to Work National Council) supporting the resolution, said he was in favour of concentration. As to the charge of bureaucracy, officials had to carry out the instructions given them. Officials took their colour and their cue from the majority, so that wherever you had a reactionary majority you had reactionary officials.

Frank W. Goldstone (Sunderland I.L.P.) supporting the amendment, spoke in favour of an *ad hoc* Education Authority and against permissive legislation.

Dr. Marion Phillips (Central London Women's Labour League) said that when the Guardians were the sole authority