

**Right
SAYS
LABOUR**

**Too
early
SAYS
TORY**

THE Civic Society's condemnation of the leisure centre design brought sharply contrasting reactions from two leading Exeter councillors today.

"Absolutely right," said the Labour leader on the city council, Mr. Pat Spoerer.

"An over-reaction and a premature one," came back the Conservative council's leader, Mr. John Landers.

Mr. Landers said there had been an excellent relationship with the civic society, but he added: "I am disappointed they have over-reacted and prematurely."

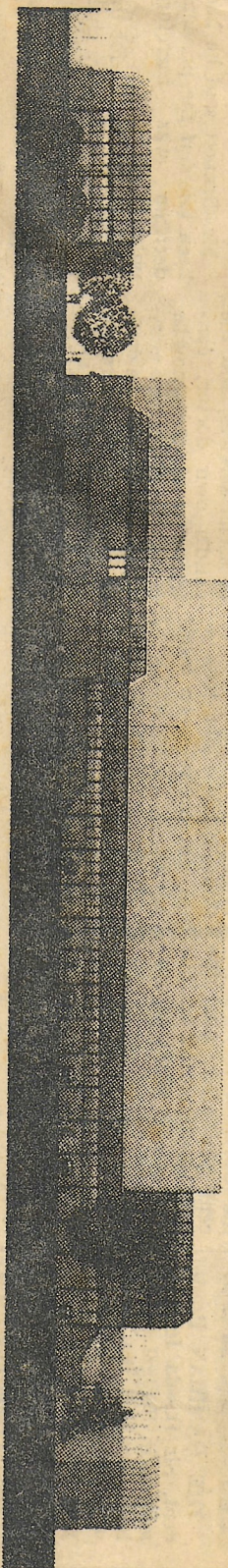
Improvements

"This matter has been discussed at great length and the society's comments do not accord with those of the Fine Arts Commission which the council consulted."

The council were asking for improvements in the design of the facade and for alterations to the Wadhams Stringer part of the site.

Mr. Landers continued: "The architects commissioned by the developers

'AN INSTUIT



How the leisure centre would look from St. Thomas Station.

TO EXETER,

PLANS for Exeter's controversial leisure centre today came under scathing attack from the city's conservation watchdogs.

They say that if the centre is built with its present design it will be "an insult to the whole of Exeter's heritage, as well as to St. Thomas."

In a letter which is going to all members of the city council, Exeter Civic Society says it feels the City deserves something better.

Thomas, we would earnestly urge you to look very carefully at the design of the centre and its planning and environmental implications.

Massive walls

Expressing the hope that "a ghastly planning mistake" can be avoided, the letter adds: "On behalf of the society and its members and, we are sure, a large number of people in St.

"The development, the appearance of which received very little advance publicity, has been described as 'an insult to St.

Thomas,' 'an airship hangar,' and 'a planning disaster'."

The society recalls the high degree of sensitivity and care for the appearance of other buildings shown by the council in the area.

It comments: "We find it unbelievable that the council should now seriously consider permitting the erection of a wholly in-

appropriate building only a short distance away, even though its purposes are welcome and the need quite genuine."

The design of the leisure centre, says the society, is of a building three times as high as a double-decker bus, topped by metal cladding.

"The only building in its vicinity that it matches in any way is Renslade House.

Surely, we need only one such building to remind us of past errors of judgment."

The society is hoping that the development committee will reassess the leisure centre proposal, which has not yet been given final approval by the full council.

**jinx
beats
a city
raider**

A CAT burglar high ambitions foiled in an attempt to break into the city's last building last

A broken window second floor of Debenham's store put the only clue today the daring attempt

Detectives suspected would-be thief climb the roof of the Fram a shop at the foot of the

ern side of Debenham. From there he took tag of maintenance folding to scale the side of the store to a floor window.

Detectives said window was smashed no indication that the lar went in. The store ger, Mr. Derek Wanne it was possible he was

vented by a fixture behind the window. There was no such in an Exeter wine bar

by thieves last night. C.I.D. believes about was stolen from Co Wine Bar in Gandy

The money, in a case was the previous day. To cap it the took a box of cigars

**LONG
WAIT
NEARLY
OVER**

**A shadow over the
royal honeymoon**

HEAVY rain and thunderstorms cast a shadow over the second day of the royal honeymoon today.

Grey skies over Broad-

CHEER UP! Those few summer days in the sizzling seventies have not gone for good. The thunder rain and isolated storms in the Westcountry today do not mark the end of our sunshine ration. By Sunday the short, wet spell will have died out and dry go-to-the-beach weather should be with us again predict the Met

HUGE SUMME