

RUBBISH

BY

BAKER



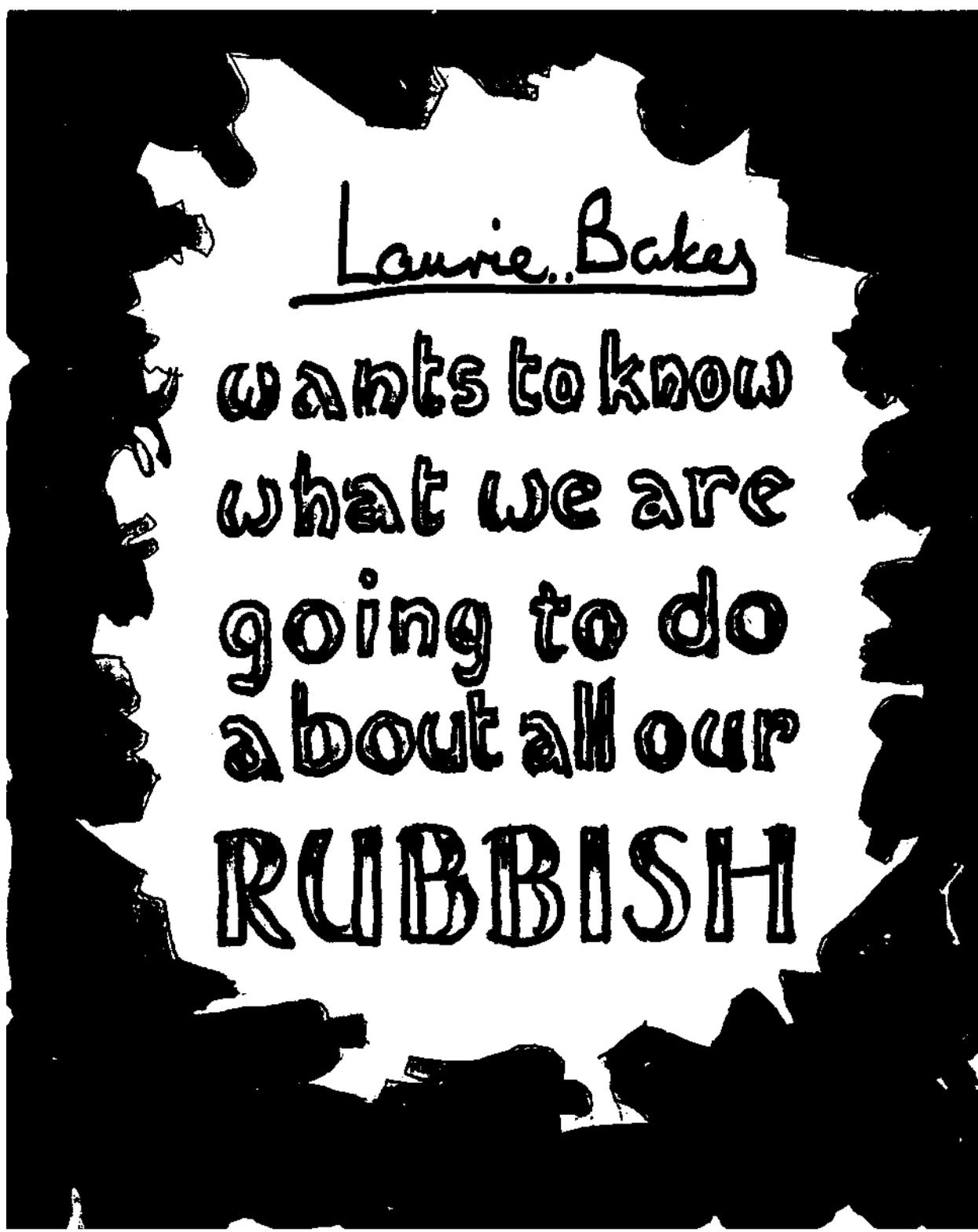
# RUBBISH

LAURIE BAKER

(1999)

RUBBISH -  
LIKE CHARITY  
BEGINS  
AT HOME





Laurie Baker

wants to know  
what we are  
going to do  
about all our  
**RUBBISH**



### **RUBBISH AND GARBAGE**

Dictionaries say

**RUBBISH** is waste or worthless material and

**GARBAGE** is foul refuse or worthless filth.

### **WHERE DO WE ENCOUNTER THESE?**

Along roadsides and canal sides.

In front of shops, stalls and markets.

In front of other people's houses.

### **WHAT SORTS OF RUBBISH AND GARBAGE?**

**ALL** sorts!

A great deal of plastic;

Paper, cardboard and rags;

Leaves and weeds;

Old tins, broken bottles etc. and;

The occasional dead animal.



**WHERE HAS IT COME FROM?**

Houses, shops, stalls, passers-by and probably you and me!

**WHAT HAPPENS TO IT?**

Some rots away with the help of sun and rain, dogs, cats, rats, goats etc.

Sometimes someone sets fire to it.

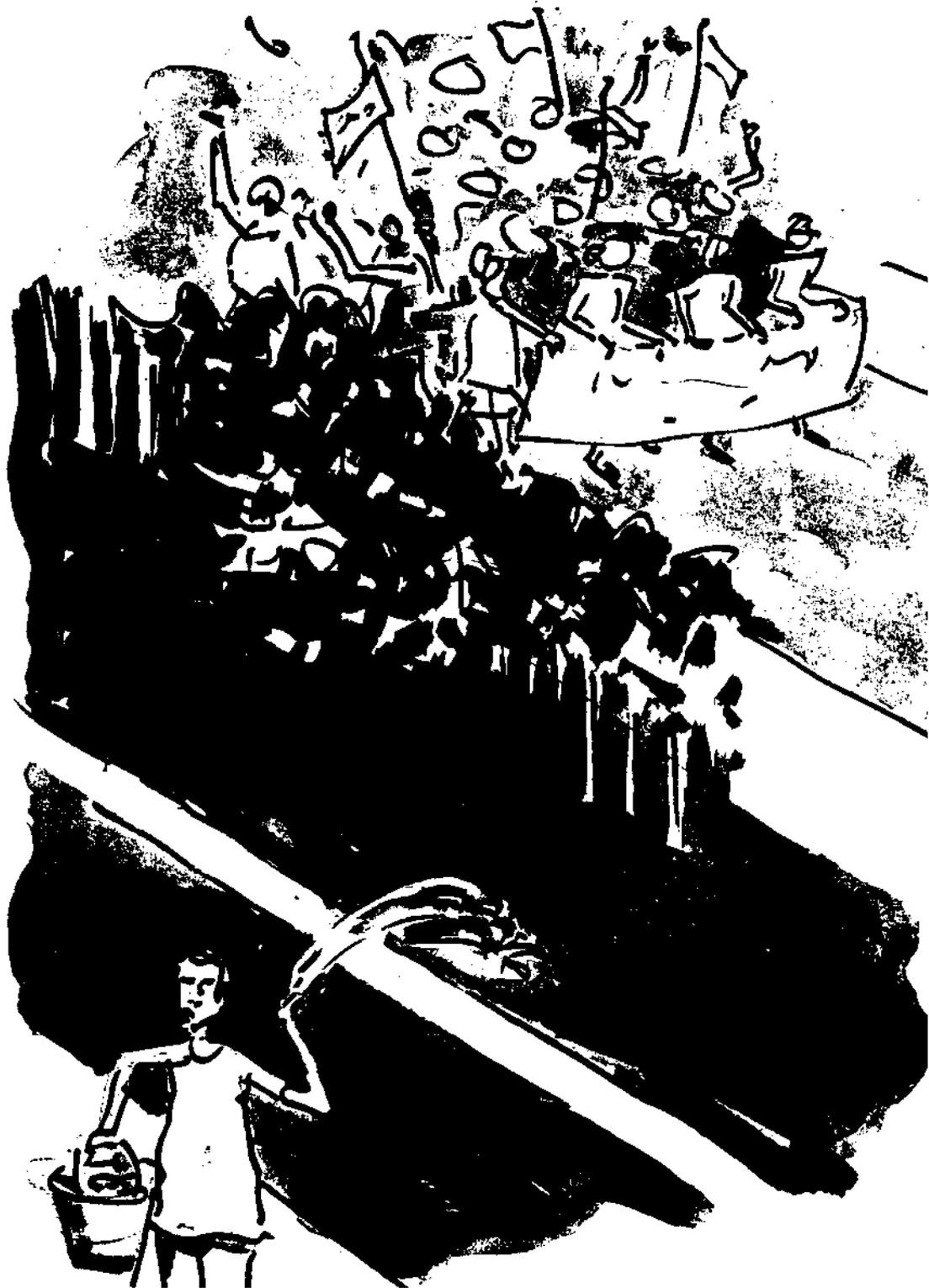
All these 'agents' tend to spread it around rather than remove it.

**WHAT ARE OUR OPINIONS ABOUT IT?**

Disgusting! Shameful!

"They should do something about it".....

Once a year, one in a million 'writes to the Editor' about it.



### **IF IT GOES – WHERE DOES IT GO?**

Usually it **GROWS**, not **GOES**.

Occasionally (Gandhi Jayanti, Green City, Clean City, etc) an attempt is made to take it away.

Usually what is taken away is taken to another less (for a time?) conspicuous place.

A large portion gets blown or shaken off while being transported.

### **WHAT ABOUT OUR OWN RUBBISH?**

Well! er...it accumulates at an alarming rate. We burn what will burn.

We put in a pit or bury what won't burn.

We throw a few harmless eggshells and banana skins over the wall...



We occasionally make feeble attempts at composting but soon learn that plastic won't 'compost'. We have a trash can or dust bin but it fills up very quickly and then we don't know what to do with it or where to empty it. Crows and Cats come and help to scatter it -

### **WHY DO ANYTHING?**

Because it **STINKS**.

It **LOOKS** nasty (and it **IS** nasty).

It is a breeding place for flies, mosquitoes, ants, etc. and is probably a source of disease.

Our children get mixed up in it.



**BUT WHY DON'T, OR CAN'T WE DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT?**

**WHERE** can we take it to?

**HOW** do we take it, even if we can find a hidden dump?

In any case, **WHY** don't "The Authorities" **DO** something about it?

**WHAT AUTHORITIES?**

Well! er! Surely there must be **SOMEONE** who runs the town! The Mayor?

Or the Collector? Or **SOME** one!

**WHY SHOULD THE AUTHORITIES** do this dirty work?

Whose **IS** this (our) rubbish?

Did the Mayor buy our milk in a plastic bag?

Did the Collector eat our bananas and throw the skins on the floor?



### **CAN THEY DO ANYTHING?**

“they” may have two or three trucks and a few ‘sweepers’.  
They **DO** remove as much as they can carry, and take it somewhere.  
But it all costs money! So...

### **PUBLIC WASTE**

There is often also a lot of ‘Nobody’s rubbish’ – along the road sides. “I didn’t put it there, so why should I do anything about it?”

### **THERE IS AN UNMENTIONABLE BIG SNAG ABOUT REMOVING PUBLIC WASTE.**

The backside of rubbish piles seems to be used, between 7 pm and 7 am as a ‘public convenience’ (actually, a private convenience).



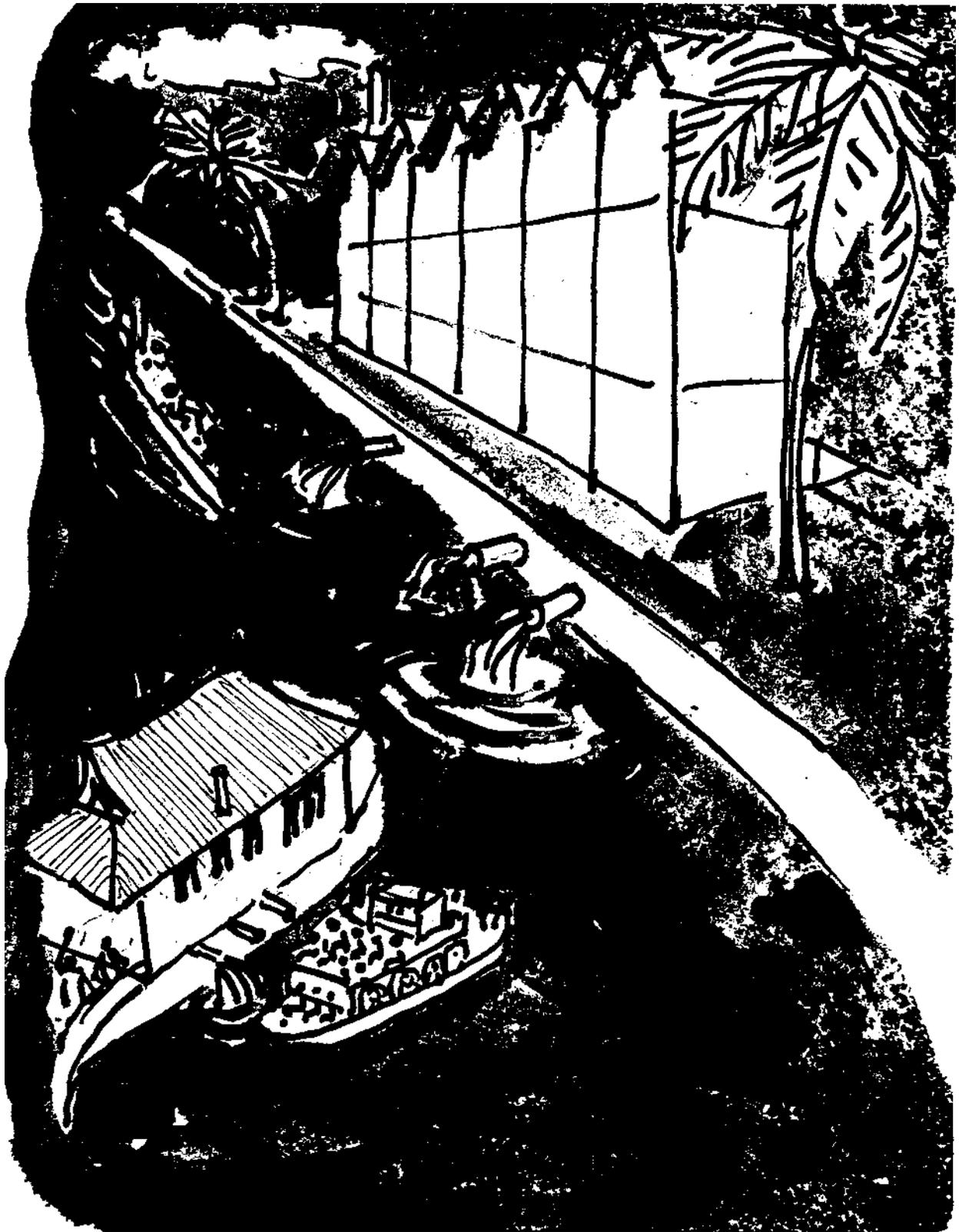
### **INDUSTRIAL WASTE**

This usually only occurs, and is seen, close to factories etc. should deal with their own waste – but the burning question is still there.

**WHERE** should they put their waste?

You can see the usual answer.

Even if, in a fit of madness, you **WANT** to do something about it, the Security Guards don't allow you to go through the huge iron gates!



Mentioning the problems of factory wastes reminds me that we should remember **NOT** to use **RIVERS** as **WASTE PAPER BUCKETS**.

We all know about Grasm – but there are dozens of such places where chemical (and worse) wastes are cheerfully pumped into the river, without, apparently, any thought about many terrible consequences.

I am reminded, too, of one of the new ‘facilities’, at a New Tourist Information Offices in a famous Tourist town. ‘Facilities’, besides information, are available and when the tourist uses this particular ‘facility’ and ‘pulls the chain’ his contributions shoot straight out in to the river where his fellow tourists are boarding sight seeing boats. Some sight!

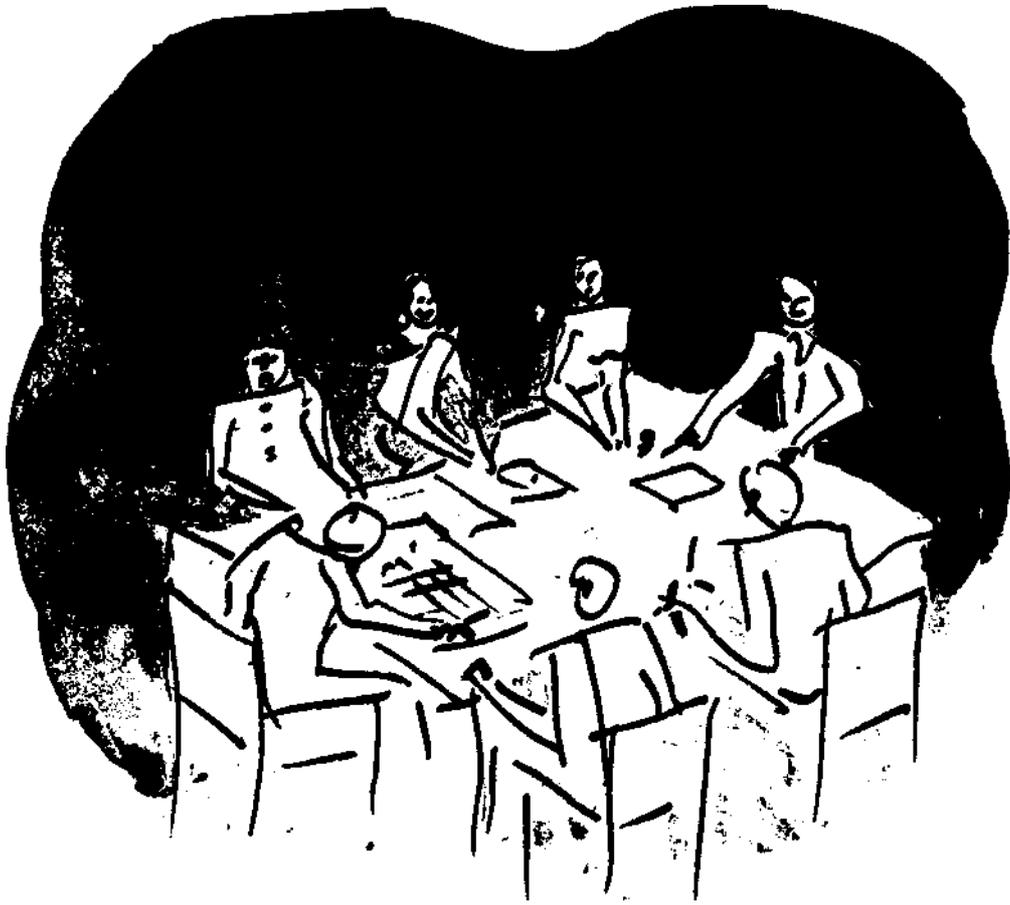


**SO, WHAT CAN WE DO about all these problems?**

I believe it must be firmly and clearly stated that all this is **NOT** merely a problem for the 'Authorities' to solve and act.

There are some things '**THEY**' will need to do, but that does **NOT** mean that **WE** can sit back and wipe our hands and wait.

Obviously **EVERYONE**, official and otherwise, must take up some of the responsibilities to deal with this growing problem and **ALL MUST WORK TOGETHER** if anything lasting and permanent is to be achieved.



### **WHAT STEPS MUST WE NOW TAKE?**

1. Study carefully **The SITUATION**  
**The PROBLEMS**  
**The REMEDIES**
2. Get everyone to make sensible helpful suggestions.
3. Experiment, when and where possible and / or necessary.
4. See what we, ourselves and our families, can do to **LESSEN THE AMOUNT OF WASTE.**
5. See what shops, producers of goods (milk, cement, sweets, etc.) can do to lessen the waste they cause.
6. Study, and try to remedy, the problems caused by packaging of almost everything we now buy!
7. Encourage the Government in acquiring land for dealing with waste.



### **HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS**

**PLASTIC** is a tiresome unmanageable waste form of rubbish.  
You can burn it, but it pollutes the atmosphere, badly.  
It can be recycled, but only with the use of short supply 'energy'.

**PLASTIC IS** a useful, versatile, material but it is product of materials which India is short of (and India has to import these materials). A lot of 'energy' (Fuel) has to be used in its manufacture and **INDIA IS VERY SHORT OF ENERGY.**

**CARRY OUR OWN BAG** (of cloth or paper) and then there is no need for a kilo of potatoes or tomatoes etc, to be given to us in a plastic bag.



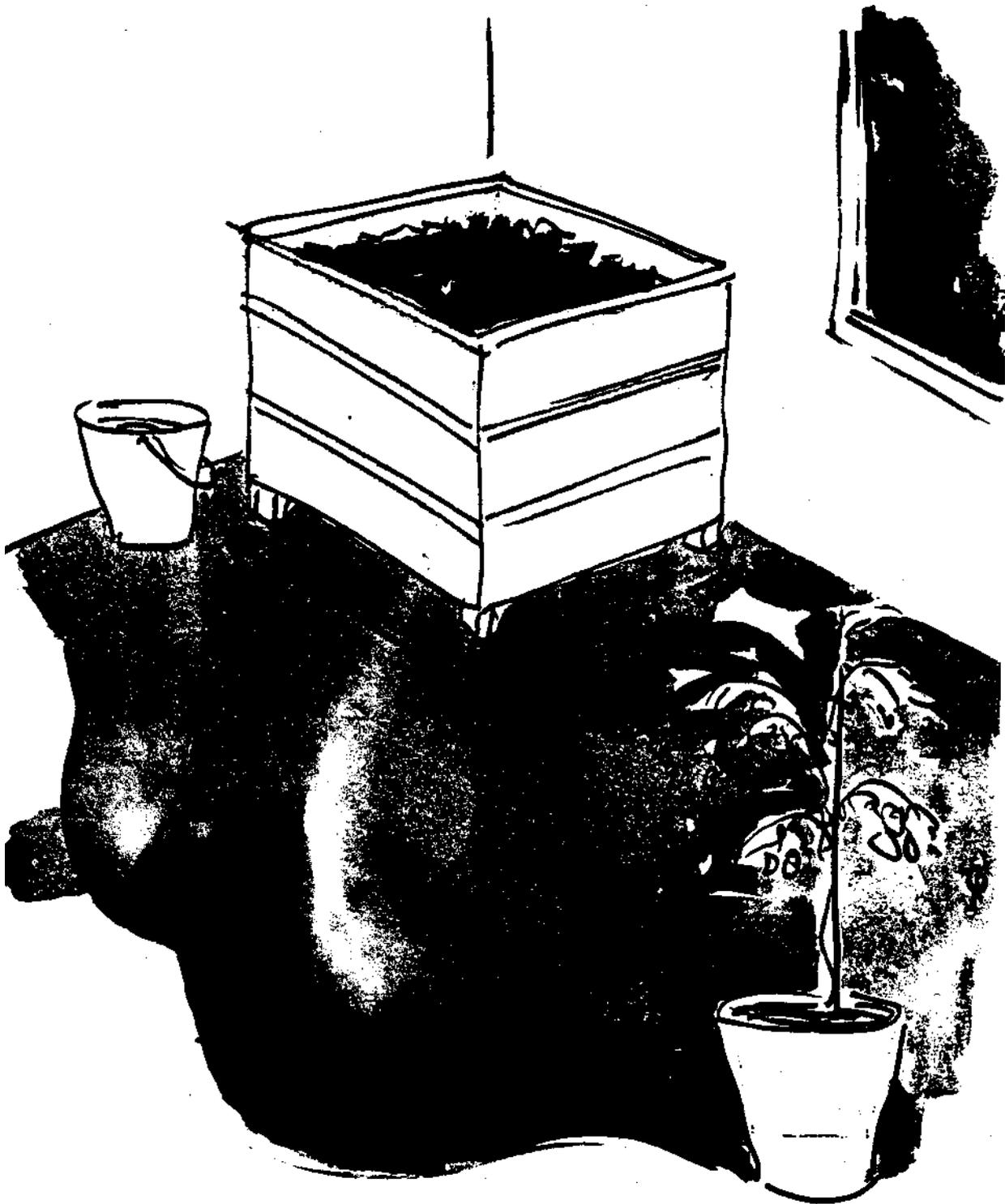
### **SO LET US DISCOURAGE THE UNNECESSARY USE OF PLASTIC**

Let it be **WE OURSELVES** who set the example and let us courteously encourage shop owners and salesmen to use less plastic for packaging.

### **A REMEDY?**

Where packaging **IS** necessary – use paper or cloth. Both of these come from renewable, replacable materials and **PAPER** can easily be recycled without the use of energy (fuel).

This remedy would reduce considerably **OUR** quantity of rubbish **AND** give employment.



### **COMPOST ORGANIC WASTE**

Almost everything that can rot or decompose can be kept apart. (vegetable waste, tea leaves, fruit skins etc.). If you have one square meter you can turn this waste into compost – good fertilizers which can be put in the ground or in pots – and in it you can grow your own vegetables, flowers etc.

This not only deals with what is usually the largest amount of household rubbish, but it can reduce your expenditure on food stuffs **AND** give you pleasure in not creating rubbish by growing plants and eating vegetables **YOU** have grown.



**ALL PAPER** should be kept (as smooth or uncrumpled as possible) and you can **SELL** it to waster paper 'shops' (and often you can arrange with these dealers to come regularly to collect it!)

Similarly

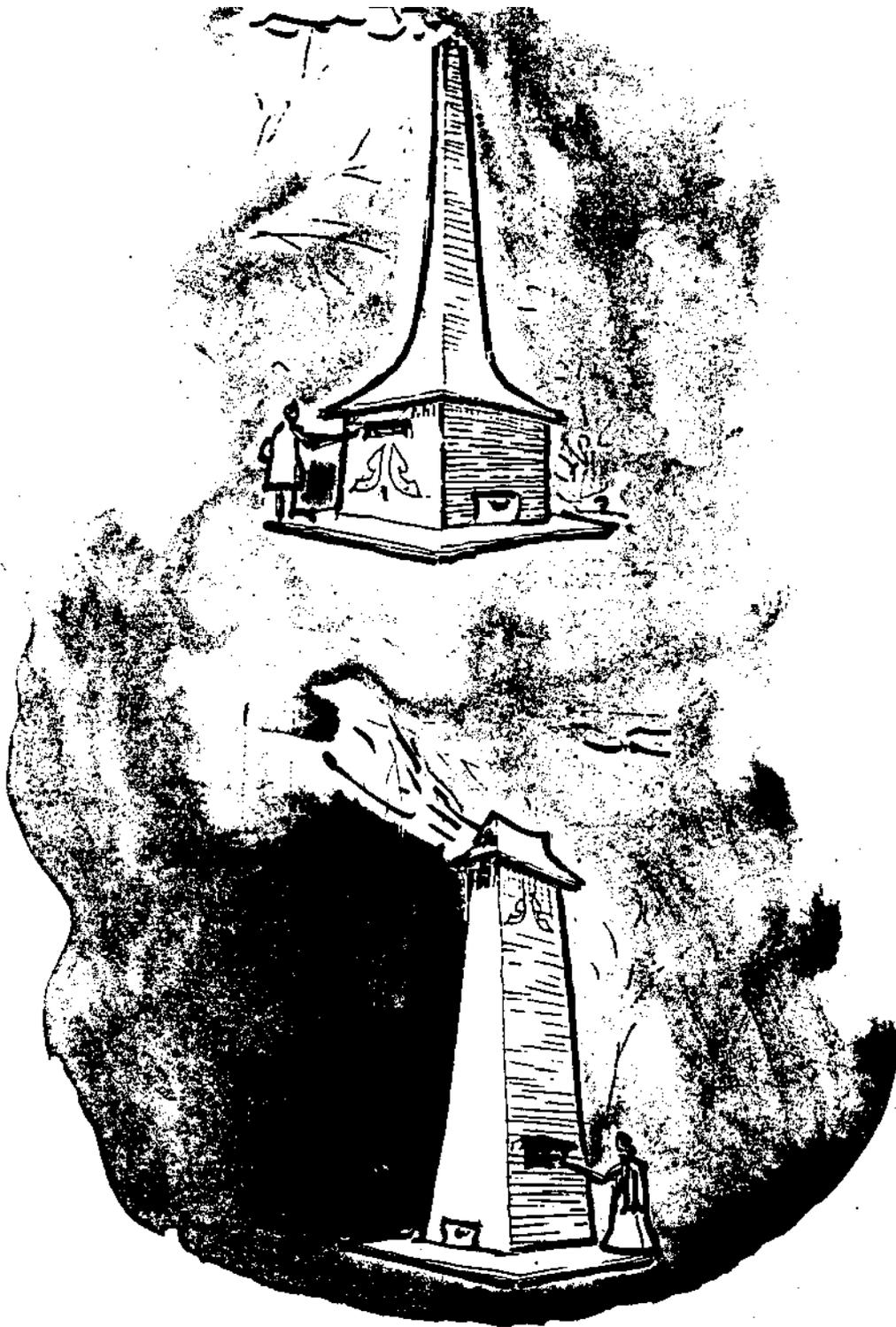
**TINS**

**BOTTLES** (even broken glass)

**PLASTIC BOTTLES**

**ALL FORMS OF METAL** (tooth paste tubes, all metal foil wrapping and containers, old metal utensils) can all be sold to dealers, who in turn pass on these materials for recycling by experts.

This will considerably reduce your household rubbish.



**INCINERATORS** are often suggested for burning rubbish  
**BUT INCINERATORS CAUSE**

1. Air pollution
2. They often get overfilled and clogged so that they **WON'T** burn!
3. People often stuff unburnable materials in, and again it gets clogged up and won't burn.
4. There is a limited quantity of rubbish that it will hold.
5. People also throw in wet items.
6. Most of what **WILL** burn could be more profitably and suitably be recycled and used again.

However there **ARE** limited uses for them (incinerators).



### **FAMILY SORTING OF RUBBISH**

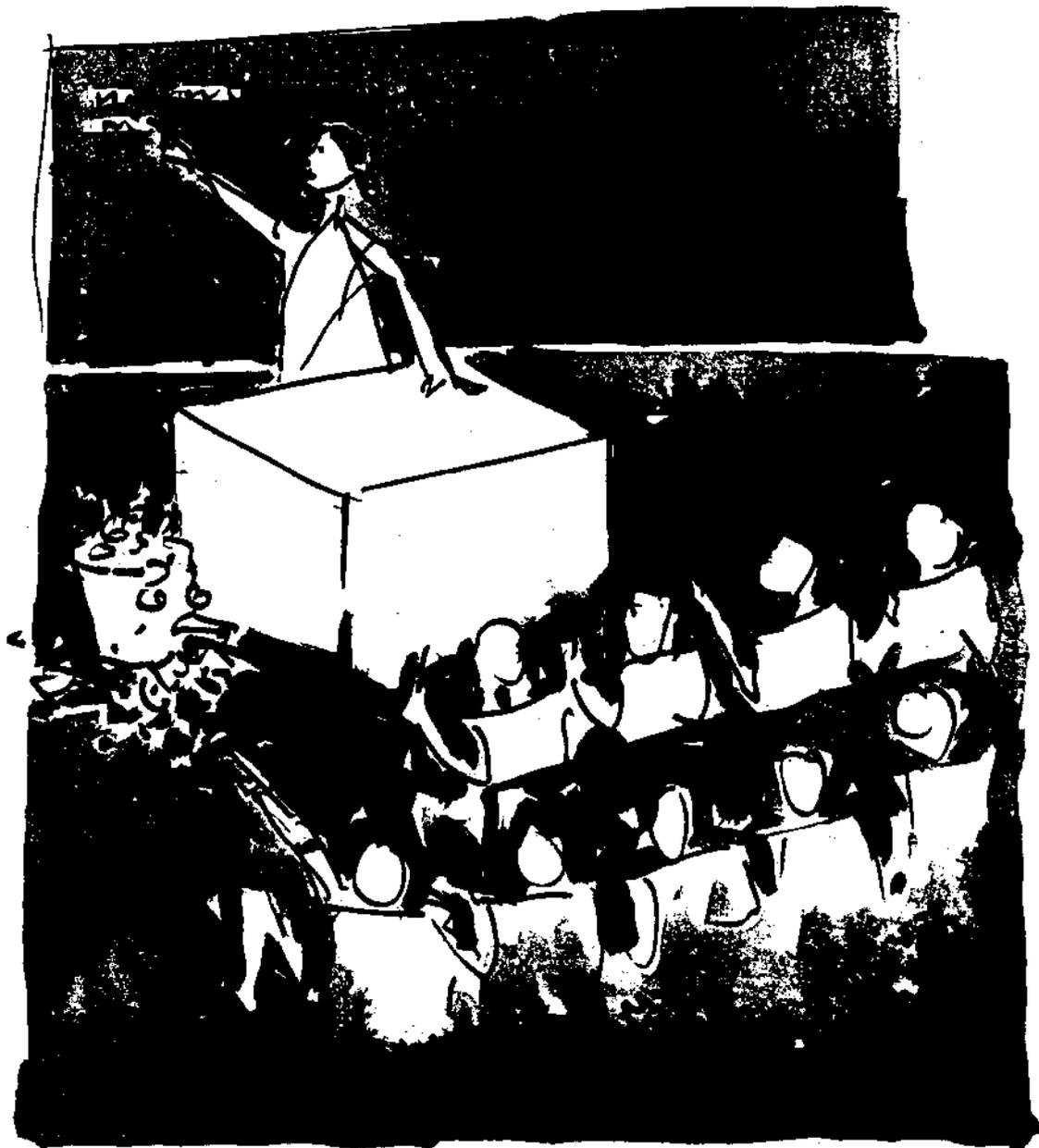
“All this talk of recycling and composting may be **OK** but I am a busy person and have no time to waste....”

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS**

Can arrange for family sorting of rubbish. Each family or shops can have, say, four big bags (preferably of the sort of paper used for cement packaging) – (only plaster bags if other material is not possible!!)

The bags can be of 4 different colours. One for organic waster, one for metals, one for glass, and one for plastics, etc.

These can then be collected, at agreed times, for disposal to appropriate dealers or recyclers. (Collection, of course is another big problem – see later!)

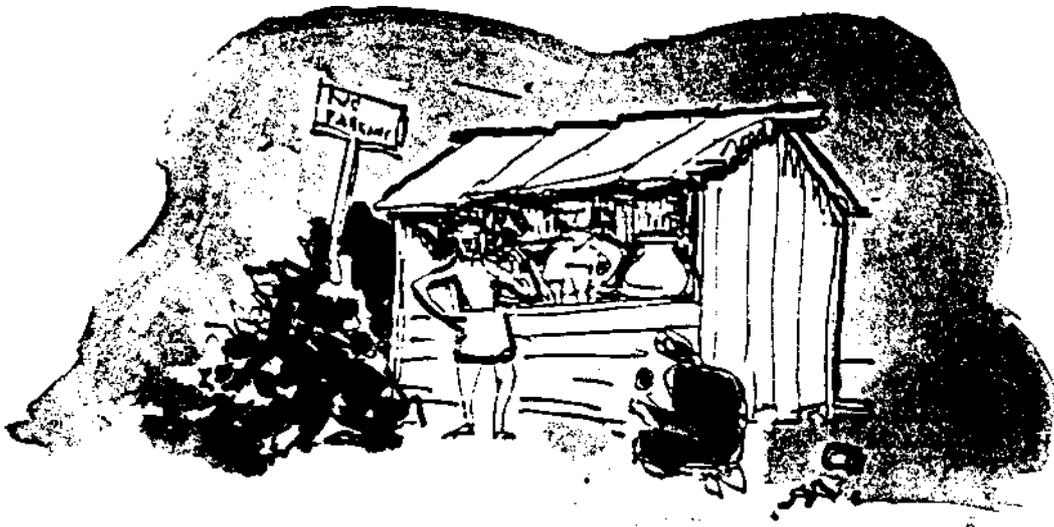


One further important point concerning our involvement in 'DEALING with RUBBISH':  
**WE OURSELVES** must set the example of not only dealing with rubbish that accumulates in  
our homes but we must

### **TEACH OUR CHILDREN**

Also to be careful –

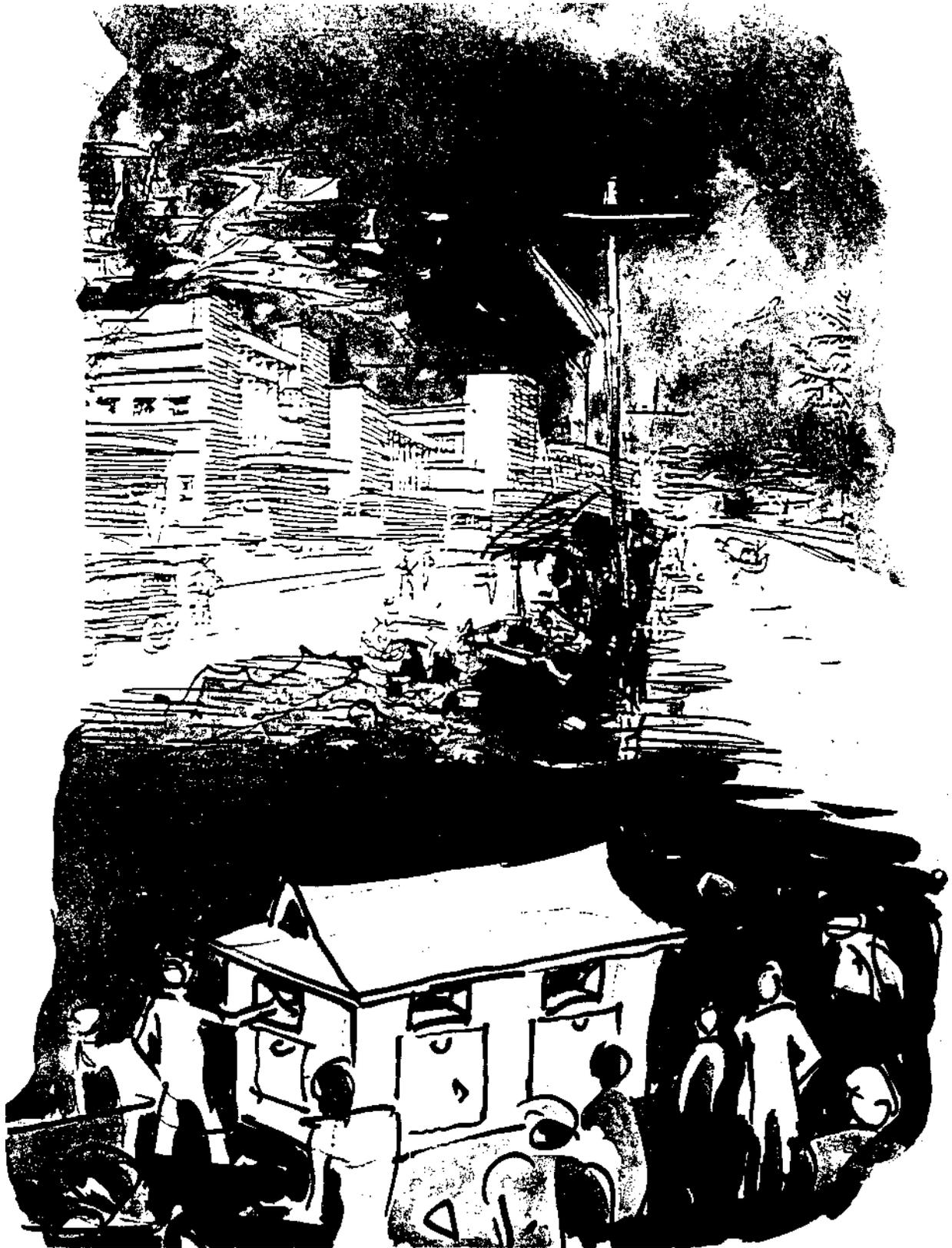
- A. Not to create unnecessary rubbish
- B. To keep various types of rubbish separate in properly provided containers
- C. Not to throw 'small rubbish' anywhere – but put it in its proper container
- D. Ask our school teachers also to help to make our children **RUBBISH CONSCIOUS**  
and **RUBBISH CAREFUL**.



Another category of **WASTE PRODUCERS** who need our sympathy and help are **SHOP** and **STALL** keepers.

For reasons best known to themselves, some of our 'Authorities' allow shops (even new ones) to be occupied and used without the provision for toilet or waste disposal facilities! (many do not even have water!)

Perhaps one way of helping in this context is to help design and provide suitable, portable, light weight, slightly separate containers (could be of fiber glass?) which could be collected (out of hours!) from shops.



Similarly a lot needs to be done, and provided, for the sales people in **MARKET PLACES** and for the areas where **STALLS** proliferate along the pavements of busy town streets. **PERMANENT STRUCTURES**, holding removable (fiber glass?) containers which must be regularly and frequently taken away (and replacements installed) need to be provided – this time by the **AUTHORITIES!** They also need to provide for the removal of this rubbish and garbage **REGULARLY**.

Perhaps it may be necessary to impose a fine on stall holders if they do not make proper use of these facilities.

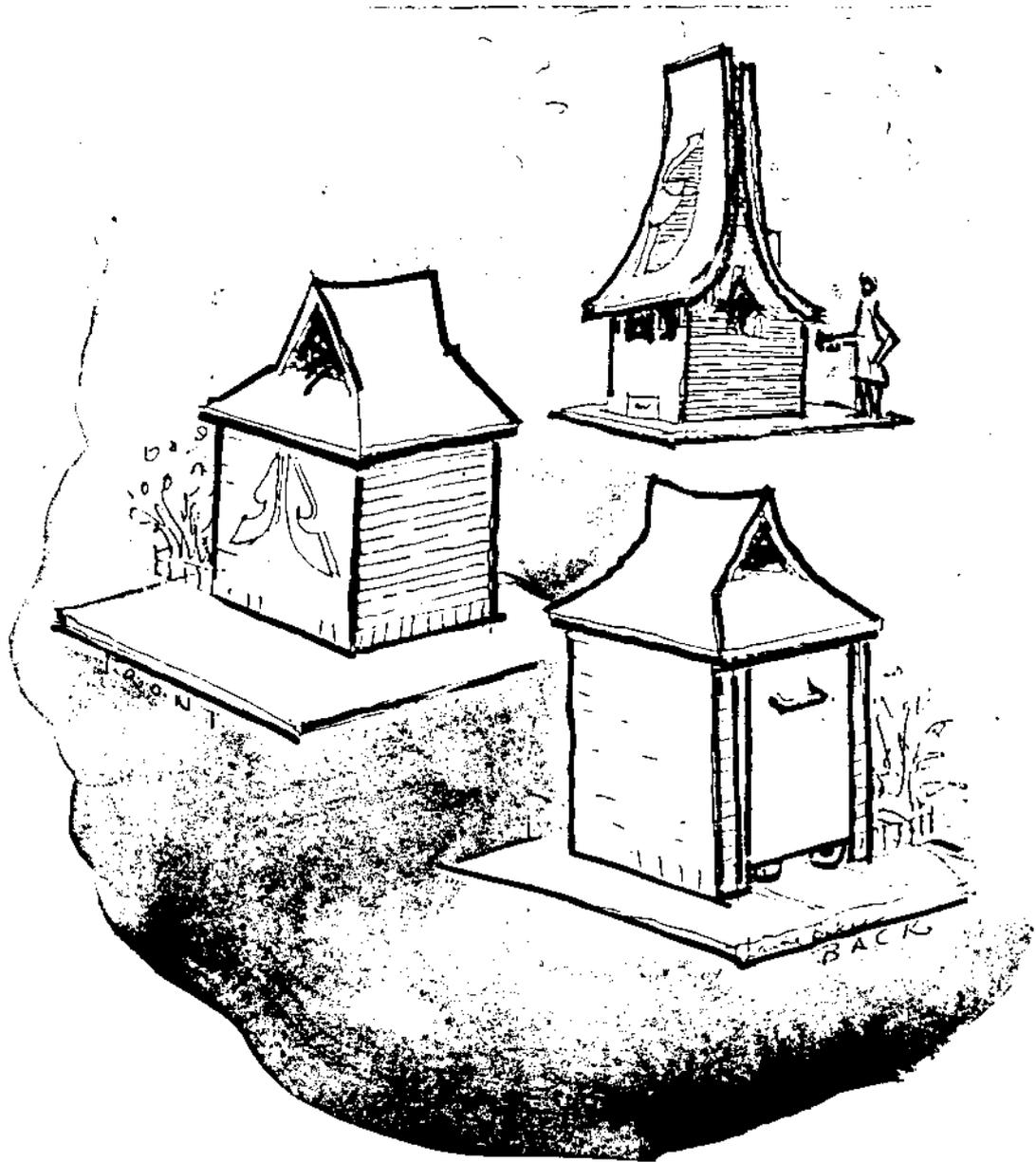
(Can't we fine the Authorities for non-cooperation?)



As usual there are **3 main problems** about all of these proposals and suggestions.

1. **WHO** makes **DECISIONS**, **MAKES**, and **PAYS** for these schemes?
2. **WHO** empties, removes and replaces clean containers?
3. **WHERE** do 'they' take the rubbish to?

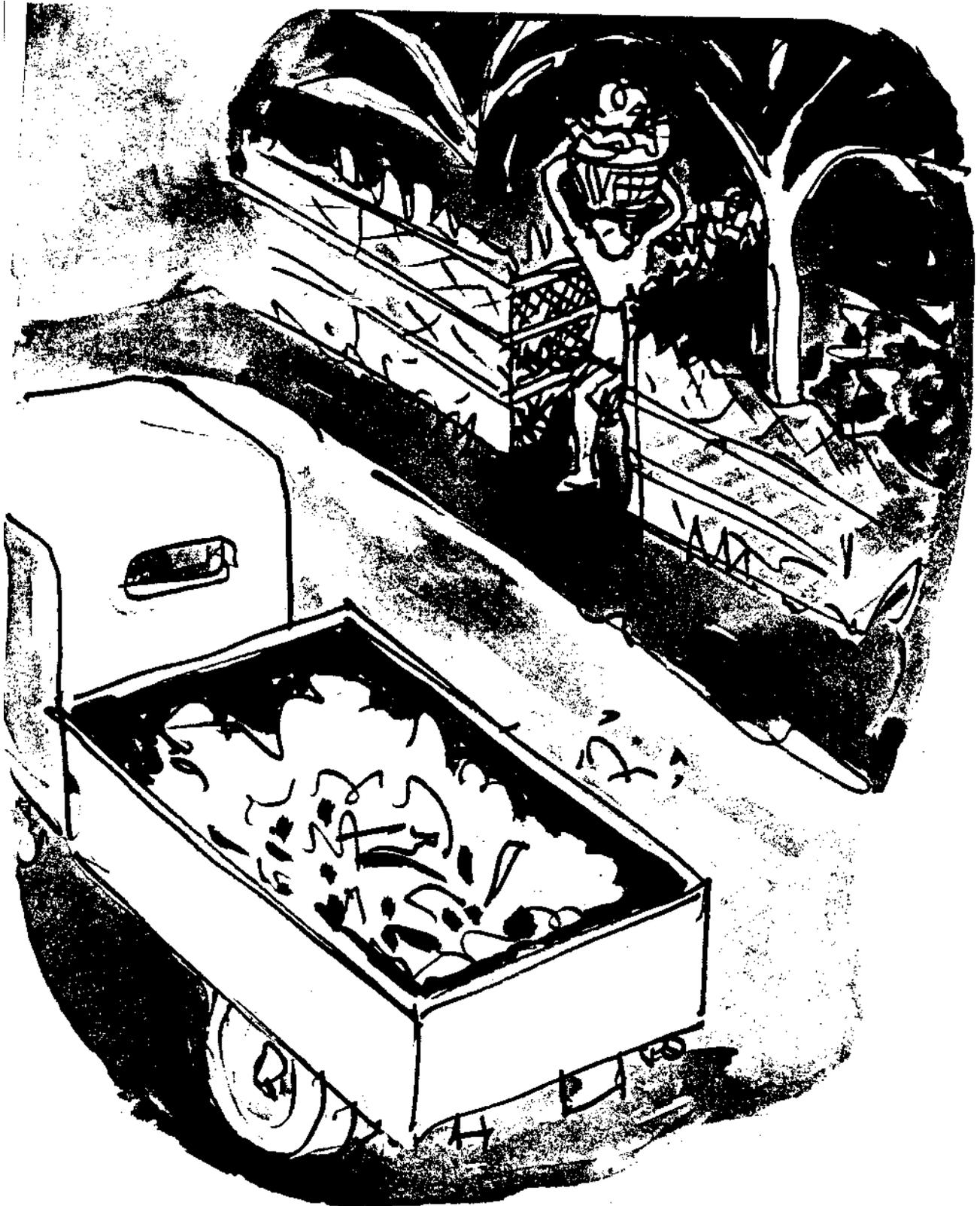
(Not to mention the question of **HOW** do they take away nasty smelly garbage to its dump or recycling depot?)



**PERMANENT CONTAINERS** need to conform to several requirements:

They must be

1. **STRONG** and not easily defaced or destroyed.
2. **PROMINENT**, so that we do not have to hunt for them
3. **SIGHTLY** and **BEAUTIFUL** so that we do not replace an unsightly dump with an ugly, overflowing container!
4. The **EXTRACTION** of separate containers (portable) must not be different.  
(But probably lockable?)
5. These separate **CONTAINERS** for different types of rubbish – either ‘four in one’, or separate ones, where needed (i.e. for cabbage leaves and fish heads where the decapitation takes place).



**TRANSPORT**, for removal of rubbish. Vehicles are necessary for carrying waste from source to 'Dump'.

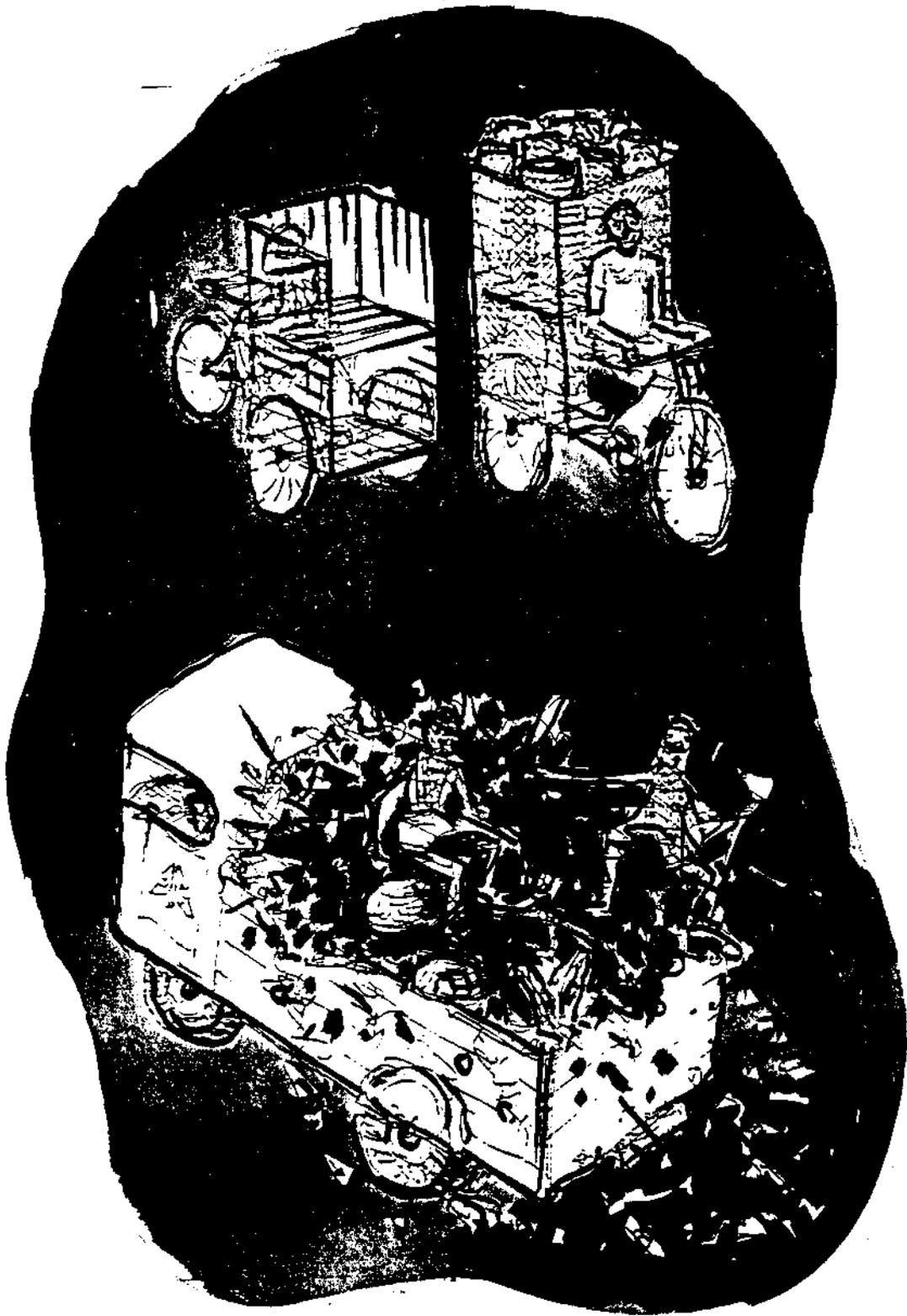
The **VEHICLE** will depend on the location of the rubbish and its distance to the 'dump'.

Much rubbish comes from places not on roadsides but reached only by patio or very narrow lanes.

**LORRIES AND TRUCKS** will only reach some sources of rubbish. Head loading to a road is undesirable (!)

**AUTOS**, adapted, can reach a larger number of houses etc.

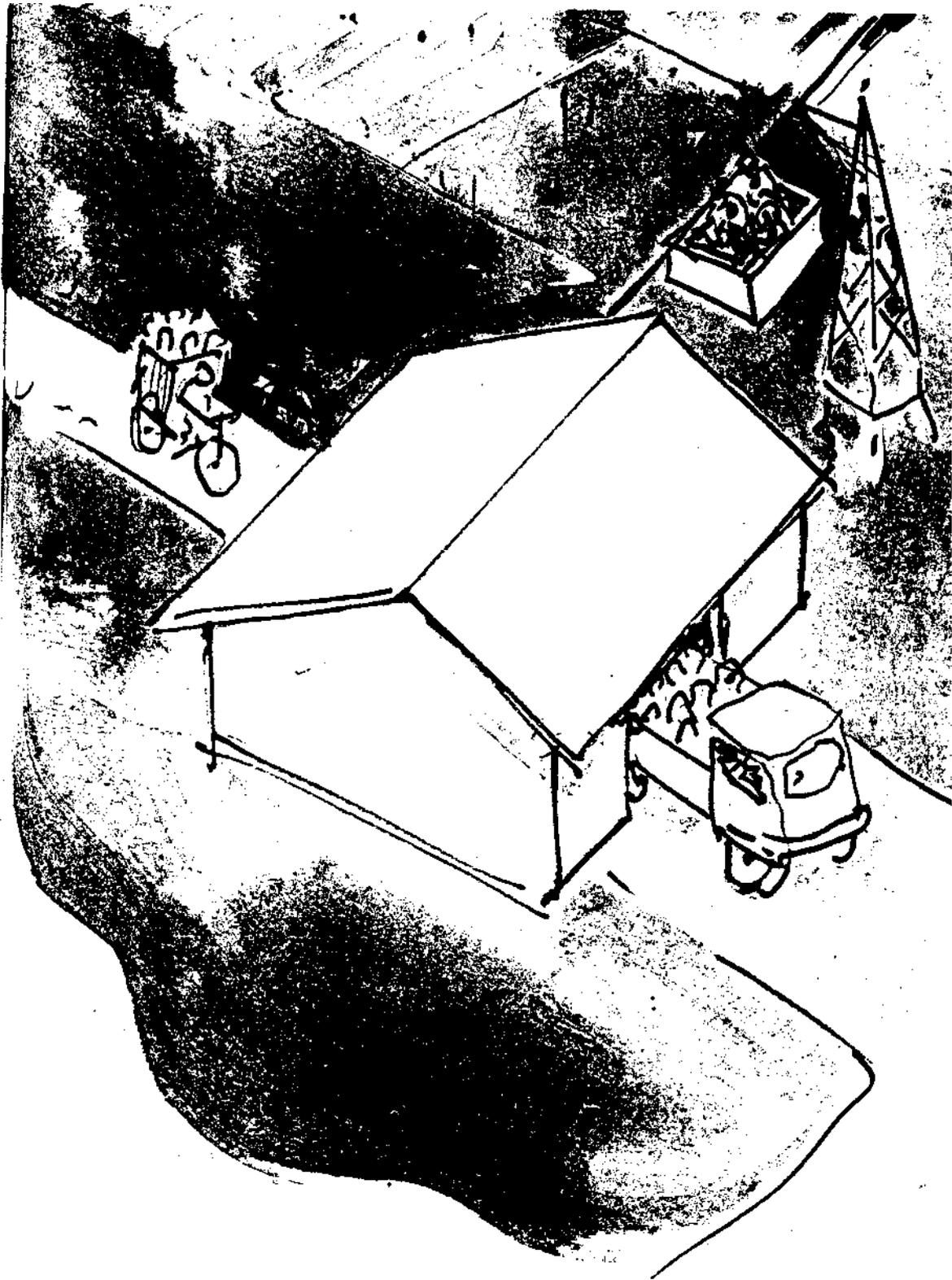
**CYCLES** (and tricycles) can reach almost every where.



### **CYCLES VS TRUCKS**

Carrying Rubbish by cycle has many advantages over a truck.

1. You can buy 200 cycles for the cost of one truck.
  2. No fuel.
  3. No air pollution.
  4. No noise pollution.
  5. Can go almost anywhere.
  6. Less, and easier, maintenance and repair costs.
  7. Creates unskilled employment.
  8. No need to 'lift high' when loading containers.
- Etc.



### **MULTI VEHICLE TYPE**

Depending upon the distance to carry rubbish containers to 'Dumps' – it may be desirable for **CYCLE CARRIERS** to take containers to local roadside depots and then **TRUCKS** can take the containers the longer road distance to 'dumps' or recycling factories.

These latter are likely to be well away from the town (we hope).

However – this intermediate transfer operation calls for more labour.

Aerial Rope-ways could be considered for this longer distance (and could go straight over paddy fields etc.).



### **THE MAIN 'DUMP'**

Obviously, any scheme will not work until a suitable place (or places) are available for taking **ALL** the rubbish and garbage of a town to.

This almost certainly is a (local) Government job.

This '**DUMP**' should not be envisaged as a permanently growing disgusting mountain....

There must be places for –

A. **COMPOSTING** and fertilizer manufacture.

B. Recycling plants for **PAPER, METALS, GLASS, PLASTICS** and

C. a **CREMATORIUM** for dead carcasses.



All this Rubbish Talk is not just being fussy. Our D.T.P's should tell us that **WE** are the **VICTIMS** of our own rubbish! We suffer nasty smells, ill health, diseases, and even ultimately expiry if we just let this curse of modern life, together with our filthy habits, go on increasing like politics and population.

We make such a 'to-do' about washing and bathing but don't even bother to raise a depreciating eye brow at our G.R.P's (Growing Rubbish Piles). Let's start saying GoodBye to rubbish before the end of this millennium.

**WE ARE WELCOMING THE NEW  
MILLENNIUM IN MANY WAYS.  
HIGHWAYS WILL BE LINED WITH  
FLAGS AND LIGHTS - AND, MORE  
PROBABLY THAN NOT,  
PILES AND OF RUBBISH!**

**AFTER A FEW DAYS OF CELEBRATION  
THE FLAGS AND LIGHTS WILL BE  
TAKEN AWAY....**

**...WHAT IS YOUR  
PREDICTION ABOUT THE RUBBISH?**



**R**OTTEN



**U**GLY



**B**ROKEN



**B**EASTLY



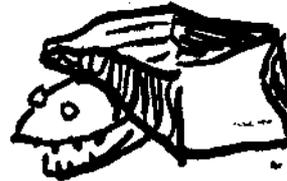
**I**NEXCUSABLE



**S**HAMEFUL



**H**ORRID



Concerning this subject of **RUBBISH**, I have my doubts about the development of enthusiasm coming from any of our Government departments. On the other hand there are a few very successfully active N.G.O's – several of them specializing in training the unemployed and particularly unemployed women, in various occupations which not only provide them with work which can be paid for – but the sort of work that helps the country to get rid of some nasty shameful practices.

We must shed this old **SWEEPER** mentality by we, ourselves, sorting out and collecting in suitable receptacles all the rubbish we create, and then, in modern workshops, they can be recycled or properly and hygienically disposed of.

This booklet is suitably entitled 'Baker's Rubbish' and I do earnestly hope that it will help change our whole attitude and approach to **RUBBISH** – both creating it **AND** properly disposing of it, and that both Government and Non Government organizations will take up the challenge for the new Rubbishless millennium.

**Laurie Baker**

Finally I think it is obvious that this must be a **WHOLE COMMUNITY PROJECT**.

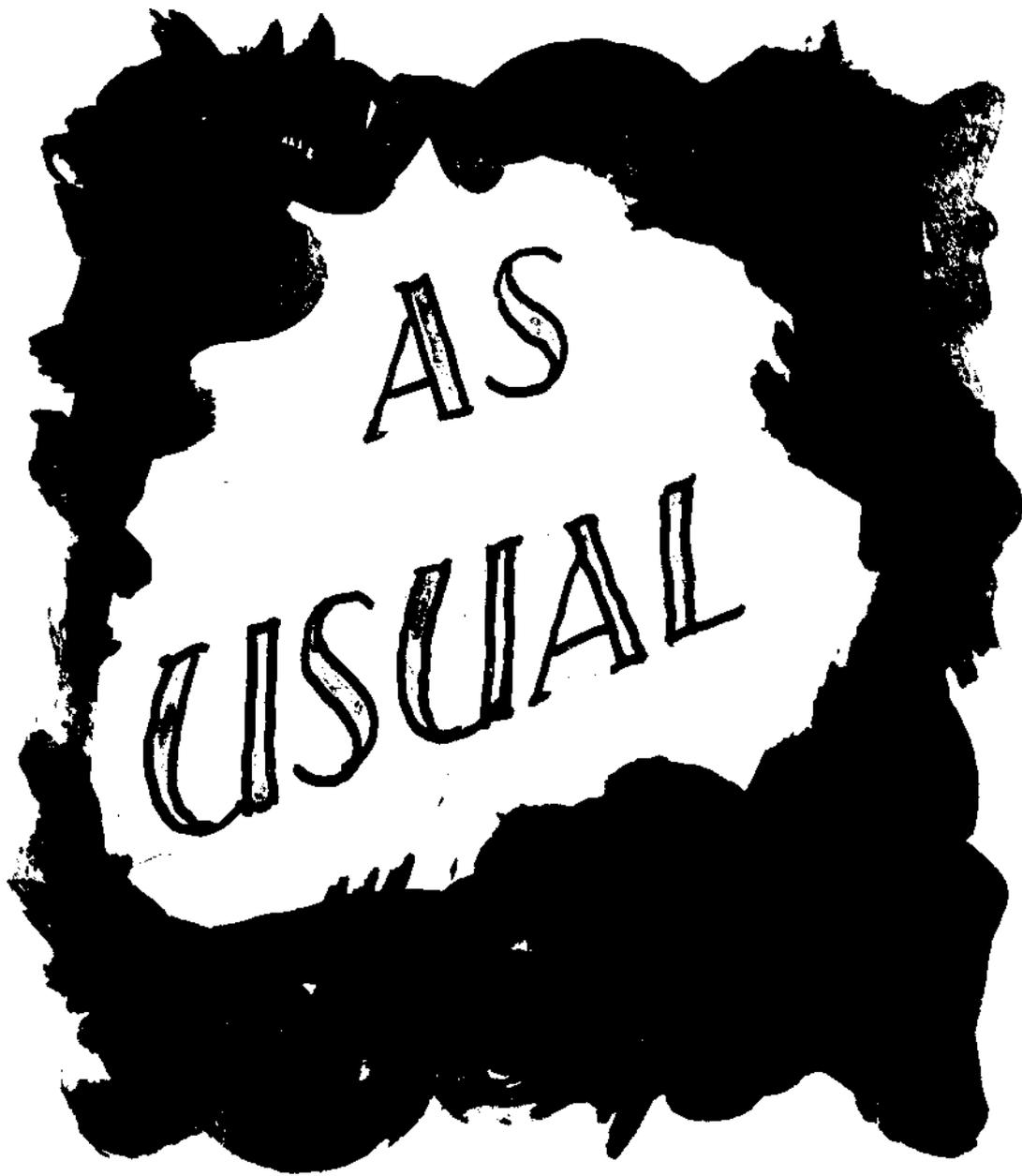
It must cater to the whole area and its people.

It will benefit the whole area and all its people.

It must have the support and the cooperation of **ALL** the people of the area of the project.

It must be the concern and the will to make it succeed of everybody.

Only then will it be a success.



END