

WASC 650

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ERDe bangs cracki g
greenhouses

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E.R.D.E. BANGS CRACKING GREENHOUSES

EXPLOSIONS coming from the Ministry of Technology's Explosives Research and Development Establishment at Waltham Abbey are worrying a local nursery.

In a letter to the council, the nursery—R. P. Greenall and Co., of Avey Lane—say: "We are most concerned at the powerful and frequent nature of the explosions being carried out at the E.R.D.E. establishment."

The letter claims that the bangs are having "a noticeable effect on our glasshouse structures, and we have many cases of slipping and cracking glass caused by the vibration of these explosions."

"If continued on the present scale this would have a serious effect on our nursery in particular, and I am sure, on the nursery industry in general."

Call a halt

R. P. Greenall want to call a halt to all further tests at E.R.D.E. until a "careful and thorough investigation" has been made, and asks for council support.

But Mr. Peter Riley, chief public health inspector, told the public health committee at the town hall on Tuesday night that the council had no powers to take any action against the ministry establishment.

Even if it had, he said, he would advise no action.

But County Councillor Mrs. E. M. Tuck called the explosions at E.R.D.E. "proper wallops."

Unnerving

Councillor Mrs. M. Bird said, "The explosions will make the Greater London Council people jump about a bit until they get used to it!"

Following a suggestion from Councillor Michael Davies, the committee agreed to write to the nursery expressing "sympathy with its problems." It also agreed to ask E.R.D.E. if it could keep the explosions to a minimum.

A spokesman for E.R.D.E. said this week that test firings were carried out at "infrequent intervals," but most were not loud enough to be heard. "Previous complaints have been unfounded," he said.

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