

Branch mediates in 'street kids' row

THE NUJ Nottingham branch provided a forum for a debate on a media issue that has split the city.

The City Council has been to the High Court in a bid to stop a production team interviewing street kids for a documentary commissioned by Channel 4, and Council leader Graham Chapman has called for tighter regulations to stop such interviews.

The union brought together Graham Chapman and Tom Roberts of October Films, director of the documentary, to the May branch meeting. Journalists joined Channel 4 representatives and council officials and press officers who have been putting out statements against October films.

There was no vote, and it had been

agreed the discussion would not be reported.

The High Court case had been inconclusive: the application to stop the filming was refused, but conditions were imposed that some of the film could not be used. The council referred the judgement to the Independent TV Commission with a call to tighten up the regulations, but broadcasting minister Janet Anderson said in Parliament on May 26 that there were no plans to do so.

Branch secretary Kevin Stanley said: "The discussion made us all take a step back and think about the work we do. It's good for us and the union to take up these kind of issues, especially when statements are made in Parliament about them.



UNION GOES UNDERGROUND

NOTTINGHAM BRANCH held a special meeting in the city's caves in April, where local expert Bill Shaw gave a talk on the history of Nottingham's extensive network of sandstone caves. Next the branch plans a visit to a brewery. Branch secretary Kevin Stanley, pint in hand, is second from left.