CAMDEN LABOUR BRIEFING

11th April 1988.

LONDON LABOUR COUNCILLORS AGAINST THE CUTS.

No one London borough can take on the Government single-handed and win outright victory, but joining together as a united front, there is far more chance of success. With this in mind, we are a group that represents 16 boroughs and comprises over 100 labour councillors who are against the class collaboration with the Tories that is being adopted by Margaret Hodge and the ALA by complying with Central Government's demands for cuts in jobs and services.

The working class in London is being attacked increasingly by the Tories whose aim is clearly to annihilate labour boroughs that have resisted attempts to destroy local democracy. There is tremendous deprivation amongst London's poor that needs to be addressed. The reduction in Rate Support Grant over many years has meant that boroughs are unable to provide the services needed to protect and support the increasing number of oppressed people trying to survive. For instance, in Camden, since 1980/81, no block grant has been given, resulting in an accumulated arrear of a massive £187 million. The government has stolen that money from Londoners who paid it over in the form of taxes. We demand it back so that we can implement our manifestos.

Complying with Tory cuts is a gross betrayal of working class voters who supported labour in May 1986 so that they would obtain a degree of protection against further Tory attacks. With no sign of a fightsback from the leadership of any London borough, whose only concern is to stay in office to protect their own interests, we will unite with trade unionists and London's vulnerable, in particular black and ethnic minorities, women, lesbians and gays, people with disabilities, the single, youth, pensioners, homeless people and the unemployed, to take on the Government and win.

Councillor Adrian States.

NEXT CAMDEN LABOUR BRIEFING MEETING :

MONDAY 18 APRIL, 8pm, in the Town Hall.

Future meetings will be on Tuesday 3 May and Monday 16 Ma

it is clear that the District Auditor's report on housing maintenance is being used to blame the Direct Labour Organisation for the present appalling repairs service to tenants. Formal assurances that the Labour Group remains committed to the principle of direct labour, have been undermined by accusations of inefficiency and outright fraud against the workforce. Nor are these assurances easily reconcilible with demands that management should have the right to manage, when senior management in the Housing Department is notoriously hostile to the D.L.O. and would prefer to rely exclusively on cowboy contractors using non-union lump labour with no employment rights or proper safety standards, no holiday or sick pay, no apprenticeship schemes and no equal opportunities policy.

The drastic cutback in repairs implemented by the Housing Department has severely reduced the bonus earnings of Building Department manual workers, with the result that some tradesmen have been taking home less than £100 a week. This has made nonsence of the principle of voluntary redundancies, many workers having been forced to sell their jobs because they can't afford to live on such lousy wages. In these circumstances, the publicising of exaggerated and untypical figures in order to suggest that high wages are common amongst L.B.C. building workers, is a grotesque insult. This is a method traditionally used by the capitalist press to attack trade unionists and those who resort to it, should have no place in the Labour Movement.

Bob Pitt, UCATT steward, Building Department.

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THE LONDON LABOUR CUTS LIST

BOROUGH	CUTS FOR 1988/89 £ MILLION	CUT AS A % OF TOTAL BUDGET
Brent	30	15
Camden	44	28
Greenwich	12	12
Haringey	46	30
Islington	10	10
Lambeth	60	37
Lewisham	16.5	11
ILEA	93	10

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL
FIGHT FOR LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS

Haringey Tories have played a major part in mobilising forces of bigotry and prejudice against the lesbian and gay communities since 1986. Their policies have led not only to an increase in violence against lesbians and gay men, but also to the introduction of 'The Clause'. They are now proposing a motion (see below) for the Haringey Council meeting on April 25th which is designed to deprive us of equal rights and to ignore the fact that we too are rate payers.

"This Council recognises the wisdom of the Local Government Bill 1987 and resolves forthwith:

(a) Immediately close the Lesbian and Gay Unit.

(b) Abolish the Curriculum Working Party

(c) To cease all measures to promote homosexuality anywhere children are in the care or control of the Council run schools.

(d) Immediately cease all Grant Aid to Reading Matters Bookshop and any other homosexual group.

(e) To abolish all references to homosexuality contained in the Labour Manifesto for Haringey approved as official Council policy."

LOBBY HARINGEY COUNCIL
HARINGEY CIVIC CENTRE
(WOOD GREEN TUBE)
MONDAY APRIL 25TH
6PM ONWARDS
ORGANISED BY THE CO-OPTEES OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY SUB-COMMITTEE.

JOIN THE MARCH ON LONDON

April 30th/Assemble Embankment at 12.00
Rally and festival Kennington Park at 3.00

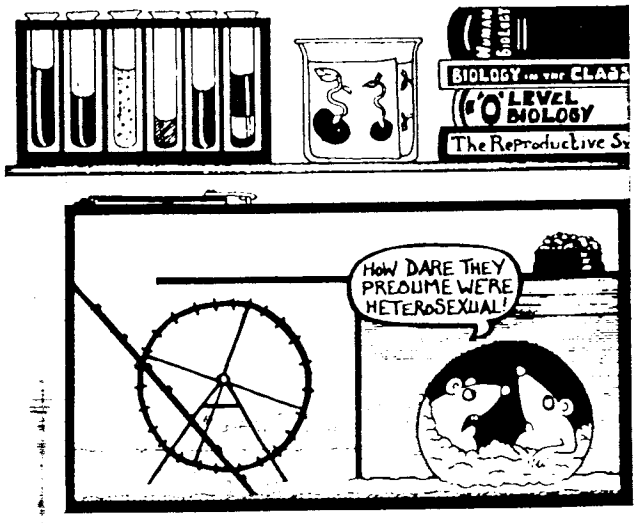
Entertainment/food/drink/safe area/creche.
Signers/transport for people with disabilities.

Speakers include representatives from Women Against Pit Closures, COHSE, NUPE, NALGO.

The campaign needs £10,000

send your donation *now* to Stop the Clause Campaign, c/o ULU Malet St., WC1 Tel 580 9551

Make cheques payable to Stop Clause 27



One of a set of 8 postcards produced in support of the Stop the Clause campaign. Available from good bookshops or from Cath Tate, PO Box 647, London SW2 4JX at £2 the set (cheques payable to Cath Tate)

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU

The LCC (Labour Co-ordinating Committee), a one-time soft-left group, who are now amongst the most intolerent right-wingers in the Labour Party, are collecting information on Labour Party members:- "Information" in this line of work is, of course, anything but. LCCers in Bermondsey for example, have furnished a profile of all members of the local G.C. in which former Labour Party General Secretary, Jim Mortimer, is classified as a fellow traveller of Militant!

CLP Youth and Student Officers

At this time of year CLPs hold their AGMs and elect their Youth and Student Officer. LCC Youth is trying to draw up a register of YSOs — so please send us the name, address and political affiliation of your YSO.

My CLP is .....

My YSO is (name) .....

His/her address is .....

..... postcode .....

telephone .....

LCC ☐ Other democratic left ☐ Militant ☐

Other ultra-left ☐ PLEASE SPECIFY ..... Right-wing ☐

Other ☐ PLEASE SPECIFY .....

Councillor Ken Hulme is the National Organising Secretary of the LCC.

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SOCIALISM BACK ON THE AGENDA.

Last October, more than 2000 people went to the Socialist Conference in Chesterfield. Now there is a follow-up Conference in North London. Tony Benn will be speaking at the Conference and workshops will aim to develop socialist policies - back on the agenda, now that Benn and Heffer are challenging Kinnock's and Roy (women who died of back street abortions before 1967 had a choice) Hattersley's leadership.

Gill Entwhistle.

THE SOCIALIST CONFERENCE

Help to build a fighting, united left!

April 16-17, 9.30-6

North London Polytechnic, N17

£5 waged, £2 unwaged

Delegates encouraged

Limited access; food available; professional creche (must be booked in advance)

Workshops include:

Green politics, Ireland, Economy, Victorian Values, Black representation, immgration and deportations, International Solidarity, Women for Socialism, Defend Local Services

Speakers:

Diane Abbott, Sharon Atkin, Tony Banks, Geoff Bell, Jeremy Corbyn, Paul Foot, Dave Kitson, Ken Livingstone, Mandy Mudd, Peter Tatchell, Valerie Veness

For details write to 23b Mildmay Road, London N1, phone 254 5582