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SUPPLY TEACHERS SACKED IN ILEA CUTS PANIC

TEACHERS BALLOT FOR STRIKE!

London schools have been plunged into chaos. A national NUT Leader has described the crisis as the worst in ILEA's history.

At the end of last term teacher unions concluded a class size, non contact-time and cover agreement with ILEA after a long, hard bargaining process. While not entirely satisfactory, it did provide for the first time a class size limit of 30, afforded teachers some non-contact time and limited how often they would be called upon to cover.

Most importantly, the deal provided for the "maintenance of the current level of supply teacher provision".

During the school holidays, without consulting the unions, ILEA introduced a new system of allocation of supply teachers to secondary schools, whereby each school would be responsible for managing their own supply teacher budget: local financial management by the back door!

Every secondary school in London thus suffered a drastic cut in its cover provision. Supply teachers were sent home, or told not to report to school. Most had many years' service with ILEA.

This was sacking in anybody's language. ILEA admitted that it had "sloppily calculated" how many supply teachers could be paid for by the budget allocation of £11m. To compound matters it rapidly reduced its numerical commitment to supply teachers from 973 to 720, and then to 587.

By Mike Loosley
Secretary, Inner London Teachers' Association (NUT)
Secretary, School Teachers Joint Negotiating Committee (Staff Side)

Under union pressure it "registered" 141 posts to bring the figure to 728. While officers of the Authority play mathematical games, many teachers are sitting at home forced to claim dole.

Our position is clear. The Authority, by this action, has abrogated the agreement signed in July and nothing short of a full restoration of the 195 missing posts will be good enough.

ILEA has been forced to admit that they have wrongly sacked 190 teachers. They now propose to re-employ them but only because of legal protection under the Employment Protection Act. However, this leaves a further 160 teachers they are still "considering", despite assurances that anybody with a year's full time service would be re-employed. They have reneged on this.

London teachers cannot accept this sort of behaviour from the largest Labour Authority in the country; one which still professes good employment practices. They will have to work very hard to restore the shattered confidence of London's teachers.

There is already low morale, because of government-inspired transfer and dismemberment of London's education service by April 1990.

The NUT is now balloting its 13,000 London members on strike action. We hope that, even now, ILEA will step back from the brink of a major confrontation. They should "restore" the 195 posts, so that we can work together to overcome the severe problems attendant upon abolition.

If ILEA does not co-operate we will not shrink from defending our members' jobs and our children's future education.

LABOUR—TAKE THE POWER!

Greater London Labour Party

Whose Conference is it?

Just once a year delegates from all London's Labour Parties and affiliated trade unions get together to thrash out policy, and debate (in comradely fashion) the latest witch-hunting proposal.

Who'd forgo that most scintillating of experiences: the Greater London Labour Party's Annual Conference?

By Jim Thain Hackney North & Stoke Newington CLP

There are now moves afoot to alter the format of this phenomenal event almost beyond recognition.

But why? Perhaps a glance at some of the recommendations made by Executive members Mike Parker, Elaine Gibbon and Dave Prior might yield some clues.

The current format is criticised: "Conference is too long; ... too much time [is spent] on marginal issues ... not enough direction from the Executive ... individuals use conference for their own purposes — platform for speeches ... 'points of order' which should not be allowed ... emergencies take up too much time ..."

Because "Conference is too long", it is "therefore recommended that the conference be held from 7.30-9.30pm Friday night and from 9.30am-5.30pm on Saturday" (eliminating Sunday altogether).

This would be preceded by a series of six half-day workshops: "The Executive would invite an 'expert' to lead the discussion (eg Nick Raynsford — Housing)(sic).

Bodies

"All affiliated bodies not represented at the commencement of workshops would lose their motions/amendments.

"Only delegates representing affiliated bodies who had submitted motions or amendments on the appropriate subject would be allowed to attend the workshop. The Standing Orders Committee (SOC) would determine which motions fell within the area covered by the workshops."

Greater London Labour Party Conference:
March 4/5th,
Hammersmith Town Hall
Deadlines:
November 18th: Motions
January 11th: Amendments
January 11th: Nominations
February 8th: Delegates

These workshops will produce policy statements, motions and amendments to be debated at the slimmed-down Conference itself:

"One hour's debate would be allocated to each of the six policy areas. Each would commence by a member of the Executive presenting the EC's policy document and the two selected motions being moved then seconded.

Debate

"After a general debate there would be rights of reply by the movers of the motion and Executive before moving to a vote."

"Remaining motions [to be prioritised by the SOC] would be listed by the SOC and a time of one hour would be allocated to hear them."

"The amount of time allocated for emergency motions would be 55 minutes."

"Emergency motions accepted at the Conference itself have to relate to occurrences which took place in the preceding month only."

Cynical

A cynical mind considering these proposals might come up with phrases like "stifling of debate," "superficial discussion" or "rubber stamping". But draw your own conclusions.

BY-ELECTION NEWS

Help Needed!

After 2 years of waiting, Labour has the chance of "winning back" Tower Hamlets Council for Labour. Following the resignation of Cllr Pat Fletcher, first from the Liberal Focus Team and subsequently from the Council, Labour is aiming to win back a seat in the traditionally Labour Lansbury ward. A Labour victory will leave the Liberals/Salads/Democrats hanging grimly on to the Mayor's casting vote in full Council; but will also give Labour control of a majority of the Liberals' decentralised neighbourhoods. A Labour victory will also affect the balance of power London-wide on the ALA.

Canvassing is from Bow & Poplar Party Room, 172 East India Dock Road from 6pm Monday-Friday; from noon on Saturdays (for leafletting the adjacent Chrisp St. market with celebrity assistance) and from 11am on Sundays.

There have been a number of by-elections recently: Lewisham, Haringey and Hackney, with mixed results for Labour. *Labour Briefing* will be examining these elections in the next issue. If you wish to contribute to this assessment, phone 01-733 7016 to let us know.

POLL TAX

Don't pay; don't collect — demonstrate!

The Poll Tax makes a complete mockery of any idea of a progressive taxation system.

It is a regressive tax in line with Thatcher's overall philosophy of giving more to those that have and taking from those who have not.

By VALERIE COULTAS

This ruthless ruling class theft is to be backed up, at enormous cost, by police state methods of collection. The Tax will be collected by Community Charge Registration Officers subject to no one's control save the government's.

They will have access to every conceivable piece of data available — electoral register, DHSS, Vehicle Licensing, Council housing waiting lists, library membership — to identify those liable to pay.

Strategy

The only strategy capable of defeating this outrageously inequitable tax is to build a mass non-payment campaign.

The majority at Labour Party Conference may not have voted for the "red flag of defiance" on this issue — as urged by Mr Jimmmy McVicar — but many delegates have not yet been forced to consider the real implications of this Tax for working class people.

The call not to register, not to collect, and not to pay has been supported by 18 Labour MPs. Pressure must be put on more of them to join this list. Thatcher's confidence is based on Labour's lack of resistance.

Poll Taxes in the past, levied by the most repressive regimes, have been made unworkable by mass protest.

Working people have not just the right but the power to resist bad laws and unfair taxes. The lead will come from the grassroots of the labour movement on this issue.

Axe

Join the Axe the Tax march on October 22nd. Build the Stop the Tax movement in your Borough. Come to the National Action Conference (see back page of national Briefing for details).

Don't pay. Don't collect. We can win the moral high ground and stop Thatcher from winning again.

MARCH *and* RALLY

AXE *the* POLL TAX

Assemble: 12 noon
Brixton Oval
(opposite Lambeth Town Hall)
March to Kennington Park
Saturday
22 OCTOBER

speakers include:
John Fraser MP Stuart Holland MP
Jeremy Corbyn MP
Cllr Joan Twelves
Cllr Linda Bellos

sponsored by:
Lambeth Labour Local Government Committee
Vauxhall Labour Party
organised by:
South London Socialist Conference

South-East London Socialist Outlook Forum
October 24th, 8pm
Deptford Town Hall
"Gorbachev's Gamble"
Speaker: Phil Hearse

Council t

At 1.20am on Friday 30th September, High Court Sheriffs, police and private contractors finally broke the occupations of three Hackney libraries.

Occupiers stood by helplessly as hired thugs loaded books onto BRS trucks and then set about the remaining shelves and fittings with crowbars and sledgehammers.

By Peter Chowney Hackney North & Stoke Newington CLP

The 200 day campaign by local people to keep their services open was finally over.

But with this supremely insensitive act of municipal vandalism, the Council leadership may have played their last wild card. Within the Party, trade unions, Labour Group and even in the cloistered inner sanctum of the Council front bench itself, dissent is breaking through.

The library occupations have forced the hand of the Council leadership. They have demonstrated that cuts policies can only be enforced by enlisting the authority of the central state and the inevitable brutality which that entails.

As they retreat further into the dogmatic mythology of a "balanced budget", the leadership's fervour for bulldozing through unpopular cuts packages is trapping them in a vicious circle of secrecy and deceit.

Little hard information comes out of the Town Hall, but finance department moles reveal a current year deficit of £16m and a plan to close six more libraries.

New policy documents propose an assault on homeless people to reduce expenditure. Overcrowded lettings, substandard properties and restrictive acceptance practices are all being considered.

This is arousing dissent within the Council workforce. Housing allocation workers are on indefinite strike over attempts to change working arrangements without negotiation; day care workers are escalating action against unplanned cuts in social services.

At a recent NALGO branch meeting, Ivan Beavis, the pro-cuts chair, was ousted and a motion pledging continued support to the library occupations was carried, despite veiled threats of "sequestration" from union officials.

Motions from previously supportive ward parties are tumbling into the Chief Whip's office in opposition to cuts policies and oppressive tactics. Both Hackney GCs have condemned the library evictions and demanded an end to the use of Tory courts as a means of enforcing cuts.

Perhaps most worrying of all for the leadership is its declining support within the Council Labour Group. Although this is difficult to assess until another round of cuts comes up for rubber stamping, those prepared to speak out in favour of the leadership's policies seem to be reduced to a hard core of political thugs and popular local hate figures.

Most significantly, Jim Chrystie, previous leadership supporter and Chair of the Public Services Committee, has tossed his cap into the anti-cuts arena. Others will surely follow. Council Leader Andrew Puddephatt can't keep a £16m deficit under wraps for ever; judgement day could be very close at hand.

The response of the council leadership to their deepening crisis has been muted. In the past, Puddephatt has offset dissent through evangelical displays of personal charisma. Now worn down, his performance at Party meetings is lacklustre and unconvincing.

He and the Deputy Leader now front the ineffective and dull Chief Whip, Peter Watson, at GCs. Watson has all the charisma of a centipede; the power of the leadership over the Party is slipping away.

So as autumn gales blow away the last few torn pages scattered outside the repossessed libraries, there are changes blowing in.

The smashed and boarded buildings stand as public memorials to the failure of the capitulatory cuts policies of a Council that once masqueraded as socialist. Resistance is growing all the time, unstoppable as the coming of winter: we are going to win!

Community or

"Where there is oppression there is resistance" was the slogan raised in the Six Counties 20 years ago when the nationalist people declared their intention to defend themselves.

By Graham Smith Hackney Community Defence Association

Resistance can take many forms — survival, public demonstrations, uprisings, organised defence, and, ultimately, armed struggle.

Any realistic analysis of the balance of political forces in Britain shows the right consolidating its power with unbounded confidence. On the other hand, the left is in disarray.

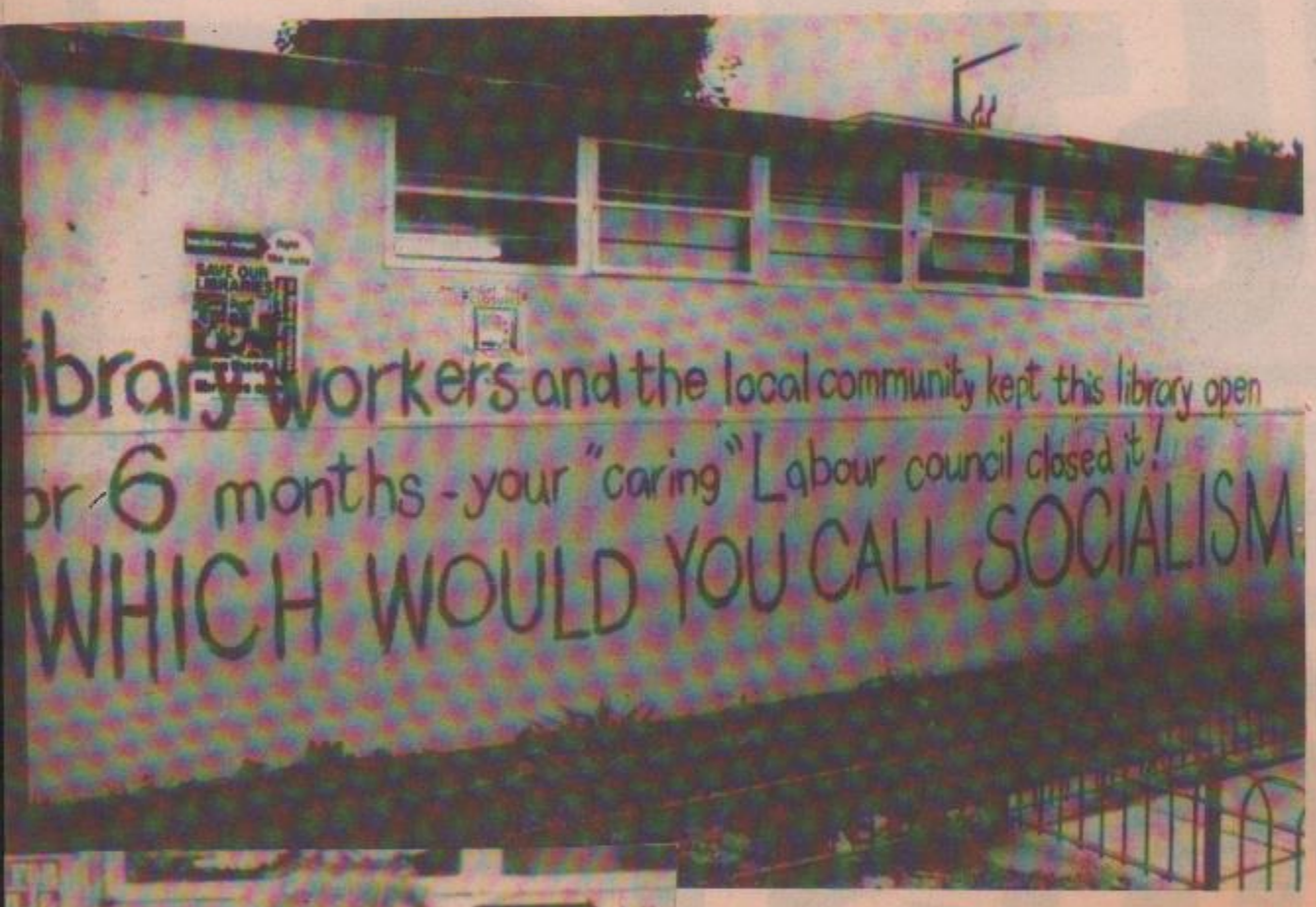
While the left has involved itself with the dissemination of ideas, working class resistance has centred on practical work solidly based on our communities' opposition to the forces of repression.

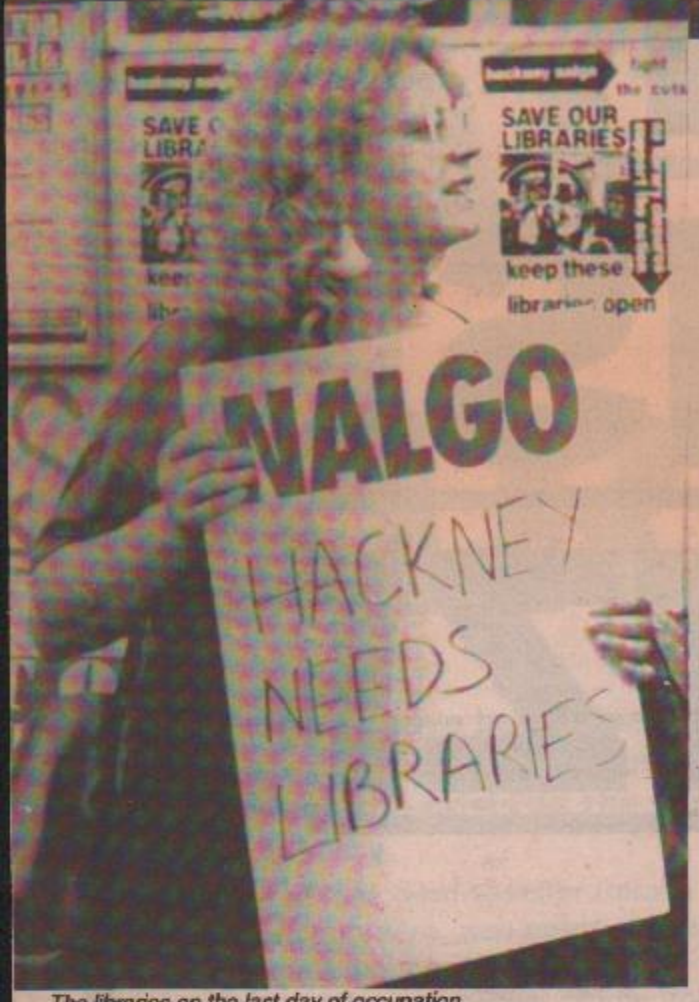
Black working class communities have had to look to their own resources. In defending their interests, they have had to confront state racism and the criminalisation of the inner city communities.

In recent years three people have died in Stoke

HACKNEY

eeters on the brink





The libraries on the last day of occupation.
PHOTOS: Martine Stead

A rebel speaks

I was born in Hackney just after World War I. My parents couldn't afford books; like most in the 30s, my father was unemployed upto six months a year. So I got my books from the local library.

Now I am a pensioner. I love reading, but, like most of the kids in the Borough, I can't buy many books, not even paperbacks.

So how does our "caring" Council "support" us? By closing lending libraries, reference libraries and school borrowing schemes.

How can they condemn elderly and disabled people to a life without books? And young children are too small to travel further afield on their own.

Yet its our money that provides the library service. I've paid rates to Hackney Council most of my life. But this Council isn't interested in how we think our money should be spent.

So for the past six months I have done my best to help people by occupying my library. I've never done this kind of thing before but I was determined we wouldn't lose this one without a fight!

I was livid when I heard they'd sent the bailiffs in in the middle of the night, smashing down doors and disturbing the whole neighbourhood.

But I've learnt a thing or two over the past six months and I shall be more than willing to help fight any future loss of services: libraries, laundries, nurseries or whatever.

ganises self-defence

Newington police station — Aseta Simms, Michael Ferreira and Colin Roach. Within days of the station's demolition in 1987 Tunay Hassan died at Dalston police station where Stoke Newington police had been transferred.

Earlier, Trevor Monerville had had brain surgery after being held in Stoke Newington police station.

But the Hackney and Stoke Newington communities have fought back.

Injured

Following a successful torchlit march remembering the dead and injured in January of this year the Trevor Monerville Campaign and Hackney Anti-Fascist Action began building the Hackney Community Defence Association.

With support from established groups, including the Newham Monitoring Project and East London's Community Alliance for Police Accountability, the HCDA has been established as a federation.

Malpractice

The bases of the HCDA's work are the many instances of racist/fascist attacks and police malpractice.

The importance of campaigns is evident. The recent acquittal of Trevor Monerville and others of 32 serious criminal charges was largely due to the efforts of the Trevor Monerville Campaign.

Most such cases result in convictions and lengthy prison sentences. Yet the Trevor Monerville Campaign, by working with chosen solicitors and barristers, ensured justice prevailed against a police fabricated case.

Where justice is not gained in the courts campaigns play a central part in informing the community of the truth.

For example, the Inquest into Colin Roach's death after he was shot in the foyer of Stoke Newington Police Station in 1983 reached a verdict of suicide. The Roach Family Support committee established beyond doubt that Colin Roach could not have shot himself.

Police

The police version of events, backed up by the Inquest, is no longer believed. To the majority of Hackney and Stoke Newington people Colin Roach was murdered.

We need to remember those who have suffered and died in police custody. The HCDA will organise annual commemorations every January.

Armoured

We are also preparing for the future. Armoured Landrovers, used extensively in the Six Counties, now patrol London's streets.The new Stoke Newington police station is due for completion in 1989.

The police have turned their backs on community demands for accountability by building a fortress in our midst complete with 200 cells.

BROADWATER FARM

Commemorating the anniversary

Wednesday October 5th was the third anniversary of the death of Cynthia Jarrett.

She died at the hands of DC Randall, during an illegal search of her home by Tottenham police.

The next day, fierce fighting followed the police's attempt to break up a peaceful demonstration. During the police's attempt to execute their military-style "contingency plan for control of disorder", PC Keith Blakelock was tragically killed.

The subsequent trials resulted in 49 convictions, the sentences ranging from 12 months to 30 years.

Mark Braithwaite, Engin Raghip and Winston Silcott received life imprisonment for the killing of PC Blakelock. Their convictions were obtained through false and often self-contradictory "confessions" forced from them after long periods of detention, during which they were denied access to their solicitors and families.

Amnesty International and the Burnham Committee have cast serious doubts on the safety of these convictions. No proper evidence was presented against the three at their trial. Families and friends know that they were scapegoated.

This year there was a commemorative vigil on Broadwater Farm in the Memorial Gardens dedicated to the memories of Cynthia Jarrett and PC Blakelock. A local church choir attended, with members of the families of the men scapegoated, and representatives of local community organisations.

The Defence Campaign, Labour Party Black Sections, and the Campaign Group of Labour MPs hosted a fringe meeting about the frame-ups at the Labour Party Conference.

MPs Tony Benn, Bernie Grant and Jeremy Corbyn, and representatives from the Guildford Four Campaign and the striking P&O Ferry workers called for a public enquiry into the events of 1985, and the campaign of police terror which followed them.

For further information contact Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign, c/o No. 79 Tangmere, BWF Estate, London N17; tel. 01-885 3752.

(Taken from BWFDC press release)



WESTMINSTER

No all-out strike throws all out of work

All 765 employees of Westminster City Council's cleansing department are facing the sack.

By Paula Watson
Westminster South CLP

Lady Porter's Tories, ever in the Thatcherite vanguard, have sold off the Council's street cleaning and refuse collection service for £12 million.

The five year contract has gone to MRS Environment, a private company set up by three of the Council's senior officers, Ian Ross, Dave Meredith, and Bob Zear, all assistant directors in the cleansing department.

The only rival bid was an in-house tender from the Council's existing workforce. They stood absolutely no chance.

Labour Councillors claim that the Council's determination to award the contract to its senior managers deterred other companies from tendering. The District Auditor has been asked to investigate on the grounds of unfair competition.

The whole affair has brutally exposed local NUPE Officials. It was they who strenuously resisted calls from a rank and file organisation, Westminster Workers against the Cuts, for all-out strike action against the Council's privatisation plans.

Instead, they sold their members the entirely bogus in-house tender idea, and stood idly by while the more militant shop stewards were sacked.

Their jobs are safe. It's their wretched members who now face the dole queue.

Advertisement/Poster

KINGSTON COUNCIL MUST DEMOLISH COLDITZ!

Defend our environment!

J. Hayball, Chairperson, Chessington South Branch Labour Party
17 Leas Close, Chessington, Surrey

CUT HERE