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Broadwater Farm and IBRG:

MARCH FOR JUSTICE!

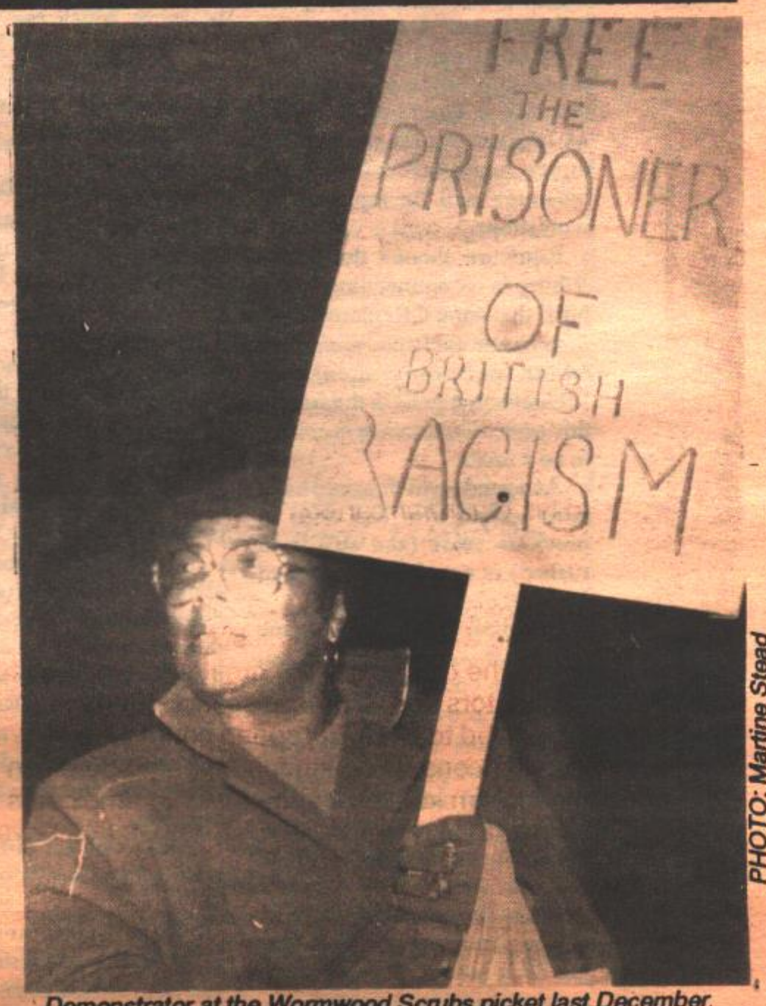


PHOTO: Martine Stead

Demonstrator at the Wormwood Scrubs picket last December.

On March 18th it will be two years since the frame up convictions of Winston Silcott, Mark Braithwaite and Engin Raghip.

To mark the anniversary, and show that the passing of time has neither cooled our anger at this outrage, nor eroded our determination to fight for justice, the Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign is calling for a mass demonstration.

We will be demanding the release of the Tottenham Three and all the framed Broadwater Farm youth, and justice for Britain's black communities.

The March for Justice will converge with the Irish in Britain Representation Group's St Patrick's day demonstration, demanding the release of the Guildford Four and Birmingham Six and the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

We will then hold a joint rally.

There are many lessons to be learnt from the struggles of the Irish community in Britain against the frame-ups of the 70s.

On the one hand, the re-opening of the Guildford Four case shows that the government can be forced to look again at miscarriages of justice.

On the other, the fate of the Birmingham Six, after their case was similarly "re-opened", serves as a warning against putting too much faith in the British legal system.

Following the refusal of the Appeal Court to grant even a hearing to Mark, Engin and Winston last December, our next step is an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

To the Defence Campaign and the whole community here, the Appeal Court's decision was further proof (if any more were needed) that the legal system will, in the words of Lord Gifford, "not give you justice unless you force it to."

Building a movement which will force the government and the courts to give us justice is now our priority. The first step is the forging of alliances with others facing similar problems and a common enemy.

By Shaun Waterman
BWF Defence Campaign

At the heart of this movement must be those who daily bear the brunt of police authoritarianism, brutality, and racism: the communities used as the testing ground for the state's new methods of repression and control, and whose liberties are being eroded — both in law and practice — as the cutting edge of an attack on democratic rights which ultimately threatens us all.

For this reason, the Defence Campaign is jointly organising the rally with the IBRG; we are mobilising support form anti-racist and black community groups all over London and beyond. The unity of the oppressed is the only weapon with which to confront the oppressor.

Generalising resistance to state attacks on our liberties is a problem which must be politically confronted by the labour movement if it ever hopes to offer leadership to the dispossessed, oppressed, and criminalised sections of the working class.

The apparent unwillingness of the national or indeed local leadership of the Labour Party and trade union actually to fight the Poll Tax has combined with the continuing crisis in local government finance seriously to erode what little credibility the labour movement might once have had in the eyes of inner city communities.

Those currents in the movement which genuinely do seek to defend the interests of these communities face a difficult task in attempting to articulate their demands and present a political programme which can win their support.

Mobilising behind the demand for justice for the framed youth will be a small step forward on that road, and the Defence Campaign hopes that as many trade union and Labour Party branches as possible will take it.

The March for Justice represents a crucial turning point for the Defence Campaign.

A massive protest now will ensure not only that thousands of local people on the streets that Saturday will learn that there are those willing to stand and fight for their rights, it will also be a clear signal to the state, both locally and nationally, that they may have quashed the appeals, but they will never quash the movement.

The alternative doesn't bear thinking about.

LABOUR—TAKE THE POWER!

GLLP Regional Conference

The Transitional Programme of Herbert Morrison House

The Tories abolished the Greater London Council. Is Labour now planning to abolish the Greater London Labour Party?

Delegates to this year's GLLP AGM will be going to a "transitional" Conference.

According to the GLLP leadership, it is in transition towards a Conference which will discuss just six pre-selected topics, and where compositing meetings will be replaced by workshops.

Rumours abound that Larry Whitty is recommending to the NEC that annual Regional Conferences be abolished altogether as an economy measure. Whatever happens in the future, this year's Conference is certain to be a mess.

An agenda which would have been spread over two days in previous years (and still been rushed) is now being crammed into just nine hours.

The draft timetable put to the Executive was a nightmare, but given the constraints it will be hard to improve on it.

Transport (understandably the topic which received most resolutions) and housing (including a 35 page London Housing Policy Review) get less than one hour each.

Other major debates, like nuclear weapons and Poll Tax, get 35 minutes. Local government gets just ten minutes!

Nine different topics are squeezed between a speaker from the European Socialist Parties and the vote of thanks on Saturday afternoon.

By JOAN TWELVES

The contentious motions at the Conference will inevitably be those which the Executive has already decided to oppose: Black Sectionns, criticism over the abolition of the Lesbian and Gay Working Party, and fighting Poll Tax.

The Composite on nuclear weapons, reaffirming unilateralism, was supported unanimously by the Executive; but this does not mean arms won't be twisted in union delegations before the debate.

The main aim of the current LCC/right wing leadership is to keep the Conference uncontroversial: in other words, to keep the London Labour Party invisible.

The London Labour Party should have a key role to play, defending the interests of Londoners against Tory attacks and influencing debate within the Party, on the Policy Reviews, on internal democracy, and on the right of those still excluded from power and decision making to organise.

When was the last time you heard of the GLLP doing any of this?

While Party membership falls, activists vanish, and by-elections are lost across London, the right-dominated Executive has concentrated on fiddling with the Regional structures, and Regional Officers have been busy witch-hunting rank and file members.

The much vaunted *Plan To Win* of 1987 has produced neither members nor victories.

Labour needs a much higher profile in London. It needs to give a platform and a voice to the struggles and campaigns being waged by Londoners against the Tories.

It needs to reflect the diversity of London's working class and to work to unfiy it around practical issues. It needs to build support for socialism across London and to campaign on the many issues facing Londoners.

There's the collapse of public transport, cuts in the NHS and local services, an escalating housing crisis and record numbers of homeless people benefit cuts... the list is endless.

None of this can be left to the ALA, or a handful of MPs, or even to the people at the sharp end: the workers in hospitals, in buses and tubes, Council workers, or the tenants fighting to keep their homes.

Collective

It needs a co-ordinated collective effort. It needs a public commitment to a socialist alternative to the Tories. It needs an active, open, democratic London Labour Party commited to supporting and to helping build popular struggles.

It's time for a change. We can do this at the Conference by voting out those who are currently leading the London Labour Party up the garden path and replacing them with committed socialists who will rebuild Labour in London.

Vote for Jeremy Corbyn for Chair, Joan Twelves for Vice Chair, and for the following comrades in the CLP Section:

Bexley/Bromely: Gill Collins
Brent/Ealing: Madhav Patil
Kensington/Hammersmith/Wandsworth: Dave Holland
Lambeth/Southwark/Westminster: Joan Twelves
Merton/Kingston/Richmond: Kingsley Abrams
Redbridge/Barking/Havering: Alf Akhurst
Sutton/Croydon: Paul Whittaker
Waltham Forest/Haringey/Newham: Roger Harris

Voting will take place during the Friday evening session of the AGM. Make sure your delegates attend.

London Labour Party Conference,
Hammersmith Town Hall,
Friday March 3rd, 7pm-9.30pm;
Saturday March 4th, 9.30am-5.15pm.

Labour Briefing
GLLP Fringe Meeting
Hammersmith Town Hall
Saturday March 4th,
Lunchtime
Rebuilding Labour in London
With
Jeremy Corbyn MP
Martha Osamor
Mandy Mudd

GLLP Women's Conference

What an eye-opener!

I hadn't been to a London Women's Conference for a couple of years, and welcomed the opportunity to go again, this time as a delegate from the Co-op.

I hadn't realised how bad things had become.

The Regional Executive has prevented the Regional Women's Committee from meeting more than quarterly. This means that continuity of discussion, activity and campaigning is well nigh impossible.

But it also means that it is impossible to supervise properly the arrangements for Conference.

I made a big effort and arrived at Wesley House Women's Centre, Holborn, in plenty of time. I was less than impressed with having to queue up for ten minutes in the rain because the registration desk was only just inside the front door, and the man on it couldn't find anyone's name on the list.

Having ascertained that, out of five delegates from the Co-op Political Committee, three were present, and one (Mary) had been given the voting papers, I set out to look for them.

By Cllr Christine Shawcroft Bow & Poplar CLP

Fortunately, I know Mary, as we were both on the Regional Women's Committee a couple of years ago (it used to meet monthly in those days). I didn't manage to find her until after Conference had started (almost an hour late).

It transpired that, although she had a mandate from the Political Committee on how to vote in the Women's Committee elections, she hadn't been given the voting papers by the registration people, as they had already given them to the other delegate — Jean.

Neither of us knew this woman from Eve, so we had trouble finding her. In the end I asked the Chair to make an announcement, and we met Jean at the back of the hall.

We discovered that no one had told her she was part of a delegation rather than an individual delegate from her Co-op Party, and she thought the voting papers were her own.

We then had to sort all this out, do the voting, and go through the Resolutions booklet to make sure we all agreed on how to vote. (The Political Committee had made no mandate on many resolutions.)

Whilst we were doing all this, we missed the Poll Tax debate, and the first two card votes.

The first vote defeated Resolution 24, from Norwood CLP, and the second vote carried Res. 25, from Tottenham Women's Section with an amendment from Islington North Women's Section. Both of these were in opposition to the Poll Tax, both called for non-payment and non-collection by Councils.

Maybe 24 was a bit more rigorous than 25, but I couldn't see much difference between them.

There was further nit-picking when it came to debating the Housing Bill and Ireland.

Many resolutions were of the "against sin" variety, despite attempts to find controversy in the placing of commas and full stops.

The only really controversial resolution was on the disaffiliation of the EETPU. But it was moved, seconded, and supported by trade union women, and was carried overwhelmingly.

Biographical

Only Sheila Carroll, Elizabeth Short, and Sue Styles had been nominated for the three trade union women's seats on the Regional Executive, so there was no election. There were also, therefore, no biographical notes — so delegates were left in the dark about who these women are.

There was a running battle between Conference and the Standing Orders Committee on one side, and Margaret McDonagh (the Regional Women's Organiser) and the national hierarchy on the other.

McDonagh, I'm told, doesn't believe in Women's organisations — an admirable qualification for being appointed Regional Women's Organiser.

About three of four years ago, when I was involved in the Regional Women's Committee, Conference adopted a new set of standing orders. These were debated and voted on after full consultation with the Women's Organisations.

At this Conference, every time the SOC made a ruling, McDonagh said that National Standing Orders over-ruled our SOs, and so it had to be done as she said. SOC didn't even have a copy of these super Standing Orders!

Three speakers addressed Conference: Glenys Thornton (Chair of the Regional Executive); Maria Fyfe (a Scottish MP); and Jo Richardson MP, from London. Coming from Bow and Poplar, I found it disappointing that Mildred Gordon, an inner London woman MP and a longstanding member of the Regional Executive, was not invited to address the Conference — and never has been.

"Sensi middle mothe in by-e

The Labour Party's run of spectacular by-election defeats in Brent continued on February 9th, when the Party's share of the vote in Brondesbury ward dropped from 46% in the 1986 Council elections to a pitiful 19%.

There have now been three by-elections in Labour-held seats since the Council elections in 1986. Two have been won by the Tories and one by the Democrats.

In Brondesbury, Labour went from a majority of over 100 over the Tories to third place, 560 votes behind the Tory and 200 behind the Democrat.

Brondesbury had only previously been won in "good years" or when a very large amount of work was done (as in the 1984 by-election victory over the Tories by a majority of 700).

Winnable

But some of the local right wing tried to kid themselves that the seat was winnable (they certainly didn't fool anyone else).

This was despite the fact that:

- the local branch Party had been virtually defunct for the previous year;
- the by-election was caused by the resignation after a six month absence of the previous Labour Councillor (also Chair

Demo again brutal

On Oct. 4, 1984, police dragged Kalahasti Rajah out of Greenwich's Brook Hospital, where he was seeking medical attention following a racist assault.

He was taken to Woolwich Police station and beaten severely, resulting in a fractured collar bone.

To date police have yet to respond to the writ served by Mr Rajah against them.

On June 19, 1988, Ranvir Samra, a ten-year old, was forcibly bundled into a car and driven to Woolwich police station.

The police detained and questioned him — for allegedly throwing stones at the kidnapper's car — then sent him back with the kidnapper, who finally dropped him off several miles from his home.

At no point during Ranvir's four-hour ordeal did police contact his parents.

Brent

ible
e-aged
r" humiliated
lection shock



By Pete Firmin
Brent East CLP

The right claimed Brondesbury was "winnable" because there was a "good" candidate.

A strange nomination and selection process — whereby not all branch members were informed of meetings, only some members of the candidates' panel were asked if they wished to be considered for selection, and only some branches were asked to put names forward for consideration ensured the selection of the right's idea of a "good" candidate, i.e. a right wing one.

When candidate Peggy Quirke was asked at a Brent East GC what she was saying to the electorate that the Council should do about the predicted shortfall of £72 million in next years budget she replied:

"We are campaigning on the Housing Act."

Never mind that a tenant's desire to "stay with the Council" might be diminished by a £7 a week rent increase and an appalling service.

Her big publicity stunt for the election was to accompany Cllr. John Duffy, new Chair of the Labour Group, in opening dumped black rubbish sacks (Brent's rubbish collection is still haphazard after last summer's cuts).

The purpose of this was to look for addresses so that illegal dumpers can be reported to the London Waste Regulatory Body for fining.

Duffy recently wrote to the local press attacking the Tories because they had failed, during their period of controlling the Council with the Liberals, to realise that cuts in the refuse service could be made.

Propaganda

Quirke's most notable contribution to her own election propaganda was the statement in a leaflet that "I'm a sensible middle-aged mother."

Despite this obvious asset, virtually no-one turned out to work for her (where were the hordes of enthusiastic right-wingers?) and the voters gave her and the Labour Party a humiliating thumbs-down.

After this latest massacre, the Labour right cannot claim they are doing any more than marking time until Labour goes down to a massive defeat in the 1990 Council elections. Things are falling apart around their ears.

Some schools, fed up with cuts in teaching staff and uncertainty over school closures, are intending to ballot on "opting out".

What more proof is needed that when Labour does the Tories' dirty work it only paves the way for Tory victories?

The Tory majority is likely to be big enough next year to allow them to cut and privatise at will what little remains after Labour's devastation.

None of this, of course, is going to deter the current Labour Group from pushing ahead with high rate rises and even more large-scale cuts, thus adding further to the misery of the community and making the Tories increaingly "attractive".

It is unlikely now that even a left victory within the Brent Labour Parties could turn around the damage done by the Labour Group, either to services or the Party's election chances.

But what it could do is begin to build the kind of mass campaign that can not only resist further attacks this year, but also be in a position to defeat the Tory offensive next year.

A serious drive by the Left to win selection in the safest Labour seats and campaign in the election on *rejection* of the Council's record is an important part of such a fightback.

WOOLWICH

onstrate
st police
lity

By Ai Meun Lim
Greenwich
NALGO Black
Workers Group

Local black groups, incldiuing Greenwich Action Committee Against Racist Attacks and Greenwich NALGO Black Workers Group, as well as Greenwich Anti-Apartheid and other locl activists are marching to Woolwich police station on February 25th to protest against these and other incidents of racist policing in the Borough.

There are currently 33 known cases of racist attack in the Woolwich area, about which police have done nothing.

Meanwhile, the use of "stop and search" continues unabated and police are in the forefront of an ever-widening net of agents acting on behalf of the immigration officers.

The people of Greenwich now see "community policing" as a cover for harassment and assault of certain sections of the Borough's residents, in particular members of the black and Irish communities, travellers, lesbians and gay men, and working class people in general.

If you are a black person wishing to report a crime, you are more likely to face arrest, interrogation, and a check-up on your immigration status than to have the crime investigated.

The demands of the February 25th march include an end to police involvement in internal immigration controls, of attempts to use these controls to criminalise black people on the streets, in their homes, at workplaces and in custody.

DEMONSTRATE: Saturday, February 25th. Assemble 12 noon at St. Nicholas gardens, Plumstead, SE18. Rally at General Gordon Square, Woolwich.

HARINGEY FIGHTS BACK!

A local campaign to defend jobs and improve services

DEMONSTRATE!

Monday, March 6
Civic Centre
Wood Green
7pm

On Monday, March 6th, Haringey Council will meet to set its budget for the coming year. Last year they cut spending on public services by *one third*. With a current deficit of over £13 million — rising fast — what will they cut next?

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Come to the Civic Centre to show you're against:

•CUTS IN EDUCATION — We face a shortage of some 200 primary school teachers for next year; class sizes are growing; buildings need urgent repair.

•HUGE RENT RISES FOR COUNCIL TENANTS — a rent rise of over 40% is being proposed for Council tenants, who already suffer an appalling service.

•THE SACKING OF OVER 600 BUILDING WORKERS — The Direct Labour Organisation, which builds and repairs homes, is under attack — in the midst of a drastic housing crisis!

•THE BREAK-UP OF SOCIAL SERVICES — Over 120 children, registered as at risk from child abuse, are left without a social worker.

MORE CUTS TO PLAYGROUPS, VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY GROUPS, LIBRARIES, SPORTS CENTRES, PARK-KEEPING, RUBBISH COLLECTION...

The majority of Labour councillors have given in to the demands of the Tory government for more and more cuts.

We say: Fight back for the jobs and services we need! Stick to your 1986 manifesto promises! Defy Thatcher's orders — and stand up for Haringey people!

This demonstration is jointly sponsored by Haringey Fights Back!, Community Against the Cuts, and Haringey Councillors Against the Cuts (Cllrs Blanchard, Brewin, Cooper, Crossan, Doble, Gillespie, Hargreaves, Roger Harris, Steve King, Makanji, McCulloch, Moore, and Osamor).

South London Anti-Poll Tax Federation

Community Resistance

Inaugural Meeting

Sunday April 16th, 10am-4pm
Lewisham Labour Club
Limes Grove, Lewisham, London SE13

Lewisham Community Resistance, in liaison with other groups, has called a meeting to set up a South London Federation of Anti-Poll Tax Groups, based on Scottish models.

The emphasis would be on *aiding action*, not providing a platform for political posturing.

In order to beat the Poll Tax, our local campaigns must be co-ordinated across South London. We must know what other groups are doing. We must be able to share ideas and resources.

We believe that to win this fight our campaign must be based on:

•non-registration;
•non-payment;
•non-implementation.

We feel strongly that the time has passed for the debate on legality; we want to win and our best chance is by using the "can't pay, won't pay, shan't collect" policy.

For further details contact Brian Harrisson, 62 Marsala Road, Lewisham, London SE13 7AD.

Greenwich

Left in the lurch

By Mike Phipps Woolwich CLP

Greenwich Against the Poll Tax took a decisive step in the wrong direction at its AGM on February 10th.

With over 60 people attending the meeting, more time was spent on political infighting than planning an escalation of a serious campaign against the Poll Tax.

Different strategy motions were presented by the left — spearheaded by *Militant* and SWP supporters — and the right — the CP and New Communist Party.

The left called for an orientation to Town Hall workers and the need to start campaigning now around the crucial issue of non-payment.

The right argued that such tactics would threaten the "breadth" of the campaign and argued for more flyposting and leafletting. In a class piece of duplicitous logic-chopping, the NCP resolution stated:

"We recognise that campaigns that place a disproportionate burden on Town Hall workers and Councillors, like the campaign against rate-capping, are doomed (!) *to failure."*

Despite considerable cross-voting, the right won, and proceeded to pack the incoming executive with their chosen nominations, to the exclusion of a single left candidate.

These typical "overkill" tactics — from those who dishonestly claim to be working *for* unity — in fact endanger the unity of the campaign.

What future does GAPT have now?

It has no policy on solidarity with Scotland and is ducking the central question: how will the campaign relate to the thousands of people in Greenwich who will not pay the Tax simply because they cannot afford to? How can the Campaign organise them into a coherent opposition?

If GAPT chooses merely to obstruct the Tax, accepting that its imposition and collection are inevitable, it will be abandoning large numbers of the Greenwich working class.

London Labour Briefing
Editorial Board
There is a vacancy on the LLB EBI
If you are interested, slightly moved, or if you can spell "LLBEB", get in touch with the Briefing Office.
The LLBEB is responsible for compiling the London Supplement: commissioning articles, sub-editing, design, paste-up, promotion... and is accountable to the meetings of London Briefing supporters which it convenes.
We are trying to get the LLBEB going again, to bring you a brighter, better London Briefing.
Get in touch!

Haringey

Capitulation, Chaos, and Collapse

On Thursday, February 9th, an extreme right-wing Tory defeated a left Labour candidate by some 300 votes in a by-election in the previously marginal Woodside Ward.

On the following Monday, the right-wing majority of the Labour Group on Haringey Council voted with the Tories to sack over 600 workers in the Council's Public Works Service (PWS).

The two events are not, as they say, unconnected.

There were a number of disturbing factors in the Woodside result. We had a strong candidate and ran a well-organised campaign.

On polling day, we were well supported by Party members and succeeded in getting out nearly 55% of our promises (some 1100 votes), normally enough to win a by-election.

But the Tories, whose campaign (see last issue of *LLB*) consisted of crude racist and homophobic propaganda, and whose candidate, Jim Buckley, is an out-and-out fascist thug, were still able to draw 1400 votes.

It appears that all the Tories have to do to win seats like this in present circumstances is press the right buttons — a hint of racism, a dash of homophobia, and a bucketful of anti-Council hysteria.

The votes in Woodside were also alarmingly divided along racial lines.

By Mike Marqusee Haringey Labour Briefing

The bulk of the white working class has now bolted to the Tories, leaving the black and ethnic minority communities to vote Labour, along with a handful of white leftists mostly employed in the public sector or the professions.

No one can take any comfort from this result and no one (least of all the left) can be scapegoated for it. The problem is political, not organisational.

Tory policies (notably "right to buy" for Council tenants) and Tory rhetoric had already made major inroads on local Labour support. The huge cuts in jobs and services made by the Labour Council have nearly finished the job.

As we predicted, the attempt to maintain a cosmetic rhetoric of "equal opportunities" while slashing back on already inadequate services has opened the door to a dangerous right-wing backlash.

Hostility to the Council is now shared by all sections of the local populace. There are plenty of good reasons for this.

The streets are filthy. The housing service has ground to a halt (and rents have gone up four times in less than two years).

A severe teacher shortage is playing havoc with education; class sizes have grown, funds for equipment and books have dried up, and buildings in urgent need of repair have been left to decay.

Social services is frighteningly under-staffed, with an alarming number of children on the "at risk" register left without a designated social worker. Voluntary and community groups are being squeezed out.

The fact that one year after total spending on services was cut by a third, the Council has found itself "suddenly" over budget by at least £7 million has done little to restore confidence in a Labour regime now widely perceived as *both* incompetent *and* uncaring.

Hostility

But there are also plenty of bad reasons for the widespread hostility to the Council, not least racism, homophobia, hatred of travellers, and petty chauvinism of all kinds.

The tragedy is that in the minds of many local working class people, the good reasons and the bad reasons have become hopelessly intermixed.

The streets are dirty, the argument goes, because the Council spends so much on lesbians and gays (or blacks, or travellers, or — in the words of one former Labour voter — "Nicaraguan refugees").

This disaster has been compounded by the collapse of the two CLPs in the Borough.

Membership is down; public profile is virtually non-existent; activity has been circumscribed to a narrow range of politically "safe" (and ineffectual) initiatives.

Neither the Labour Council nor the CLPs are offering *any* alternative to the Tories, no less a radical socialist one.

In these circumstances, with the best organisation and the best politics in the world, no three week by-election campaign can have any impact.

The problem for the left is that we are being dragged into the mire by the right-wingers controlling Party and Council.

We have to think hard and act decisively if we are to break free of the dead hand of the LCC guided careerists, most of whom quite obviously no longer give a shit what happens to Labour in the 1990 Council elections.

The collapse of Labour in Haringey made for a dispiriting spectacle at the Council meeting on February 13th.

According to the ruling right-wing clique, there is only one solution to the financial crisis in Public Works — sack half the workforce; and only one way to decide which half should be sacked — weed out those who show no "commitment to Public Works". The Tories were delighted to agree.



PHOTO: Frankie Quinn

Lobbying Haringey Civic Centre with consistent left demands.

The message from Labour "leaders" Toby Harris, Philip Jones, and Peter Kane was that lazy workers took advantage of Haringey's excellent terms of employment and therefore "restructuring" to achieve "competitiveness" was necessary.

"Efficiency", they blathered, was not inconsistent with socialism. Who could argue? But not once during the long debate did they even ask in whose interests and at whose expense this "efficiency" was to be achieved.

Not once did they note the human and social costs of making so many people redundant. Not once did they point out the origins of much of the huge PWS deficit in the accounting methods foisted on the Council by the Tory Land and Planning Act.

Not once did they explain that one of the costs incurred by the Council in running the DLO is ensuring health and safety standards on the building sites.

The left Councillors made these and other points from the back benches.

Again and again they reminded their fellow Labour councillors about the inveterate Tory hostility to all Council DLOs — part and parcel of Tory loyalty to the big private building firms which fill the Party's campaign coffers.

This was not news to the DLO workers in the public gallery, who know from experience the exploitative and all too often lethal employment practises of the building moguls.

Steve King said that the logic of the local Labour leadership was now indistinguishable from the rationalisations of Macgregor, Murdoch, P&O, etc. "It is simply unacceptable to fire someone just because management's sums don't add up."

He called the idea of selection for compulsory redundancies a "charter for grassing-up, a recipe for setting neighbour against neighbour, workmate against workmate, a deliberate use of fear to divide and cow the workforce".

In response to the argument that there was no longer enough "work" to keep the DLO going, Peter Doble pointed out that the state of the Borough, especially its housing stock, was such as "to keep the DLO busy till kingdom come."

"the policy of collaboration with the Tories was presented as a tactical retreat," he said. "But this tactical retreat has led to further and further retreats with no end to retreat in sight."

He told DLO workers not to put their faith in the Council. "Power lies in your hands," he said. "Defend yourselves in whatever way you think fit. Organise and fight back."

Only ten Councillors backed an amendment ruling out compulsory redundancies: Ron Blanchard, Craig Brewin, Davina Cooper, Peter Doble, Vince Gillespie, Kevin Hargreaves, Roger Harris, Steve King, John Moore, and Martha Osamor.

They are now the only real opposition to the Tories on Haringey Council.

Workers in Public Works, isolated, divided, demoralised, and mystified by Council and management tactics, now face a difficult struggle. It is quite clear that the only way to stop half the workforce facing the chop is industrial action.

Haringey Fights Back!, is calling for a lobby of the Council's annual (and last ever) rate-making meeting on March 6th.

Hornsey and Wood Green CLP

Return of rotten right wing

Only a few years ago, Hornsey and Wood Green CLP was in the forefront of socialist struggle within the Labour Party.

It adopted left-wing policies, increased its membership, scored major by-election upsets, voted to admit local resident Tariq Ali to membership and for some time defied NEC edicts to exclude him.

All that is past. Today, the CLP is dominated by an unprincipled alliance of old-fashioned right-wingers, dispirited ex-lefts, and hard-nosed LCC hacks, united only in a visceral hatred of the left in general and *Labour Briefing* in particular.

The political (and moral) degeneration of the CLP was starkly illustrated at January's regular GC meeting.

What can only be called dishonest practises succeeded in destroying the meeting and effectively disenfranchising Party members on a crucial issue: next year's Council budget.

The right-wing dominated LGC had laid down a timetable for Party consultation on the budget, and a number of branches had made special efforts to discuss the issue and submit resolutions.

This was to have been the main item of business at the GC, and the only chance for the CLP to debate the question.

By Mike Marqusee Haringey Labour Briefing

The right generally enjoys a clear majority on the GC, though non-attendance by right-wing delegates has given the left surprise victories on some occasions (notably a recent commitment to oppose compulsory redundancies of Council workers).

At the January meeting, the right were apparently not confident of getting their way through the normal democratic mechanisms, and resorted instead to flagrant violations of Standing Orders, filibustering, and crooked manipulation of the agenda and the votes.

As delegates were still entering the room, collecting and reading papers, and settling in seats, Chair Andy Love rushed through the opening items on the agenda, including the "agreement" of the Executive Committee minutes.

It was soon discovered that these minutes included a "recommendation" that LCC Agent... sorry, CLP Agent, Jo Moore be one of our five delegates to Greater London Labour Party Conference, leaving the remaining four places to be elected as usual.

Several delegates objected to this sleight-of-hand and said that Ms. Moore should submit herself to the normal democratic process.

From the Chair, Andy Love refused to take any votes on these proposals, though a procedural motion to move to next business was defeated.

Love refused to allow a vote on a challenge to his ruling — because, he said, he hadn't made a ruling!

Apparently, it was simply a fact of life that Jo Moore was one of our delegates to GLLP Conference, even though the GC had been given no clear opportunity to vote on the matter.

As for Jo Moore herself, the honourable course would have been to put an end to the time-consuming procedural dispute by agreeing to stand in the election for delegates along with other Party members.

Instead, she sat silent, while Andy Love singlehandedly appointed her a delegate, in breach of the letter and spirit of Party 'democracy.

But the Moore manoeuvre was not the end of the evening's outrages.

Constant and lengthy interventions from the Chair wasted precious minutes, and by the time we got to the main business, resolutions on the Council budget, it was 10.30pm - time to adjourn.

Delegates moved that a special meeting of the GC to deal with these resolutions be called on February 13th.

In the following vote, this was clearly supported by a majority of those present, but Andy Love nonetheless declared the resolution lost.

Shocked delegates demanded a recount (as is their right under Standing Orders) but Love refused to acknowledge them and declared the meeting closed.

We then secured the signatures of the 25 GC delegates necessary to requisition a special GC meeting. We were informed by letter that despite Standing Orders, the CLP officers were refusing to call the requisitioned meeting — on the grounds that the GC had already voted against having this meeting.

If the left had behaved as Love and Moore behaved, the Regional office and the NEC would be down on them like a ton of bricks.

But as Moore is rumoured to be on her way to join "our" team at Walworth Road and Love is a top bureaucrat in the Co-op, no help whatsoever can be expected "from above".