LONDON LABOUR
BRIEFING
40p FORTNIGHTLY
No 96 JUNE 8-21 1988

STOP PRESS: Labour Party Org Sub intervenes to veto Mandy's selection, & block Campaign Programme (below). Support needed.

LET'S FIGHT — AND NO APOLOGIES!

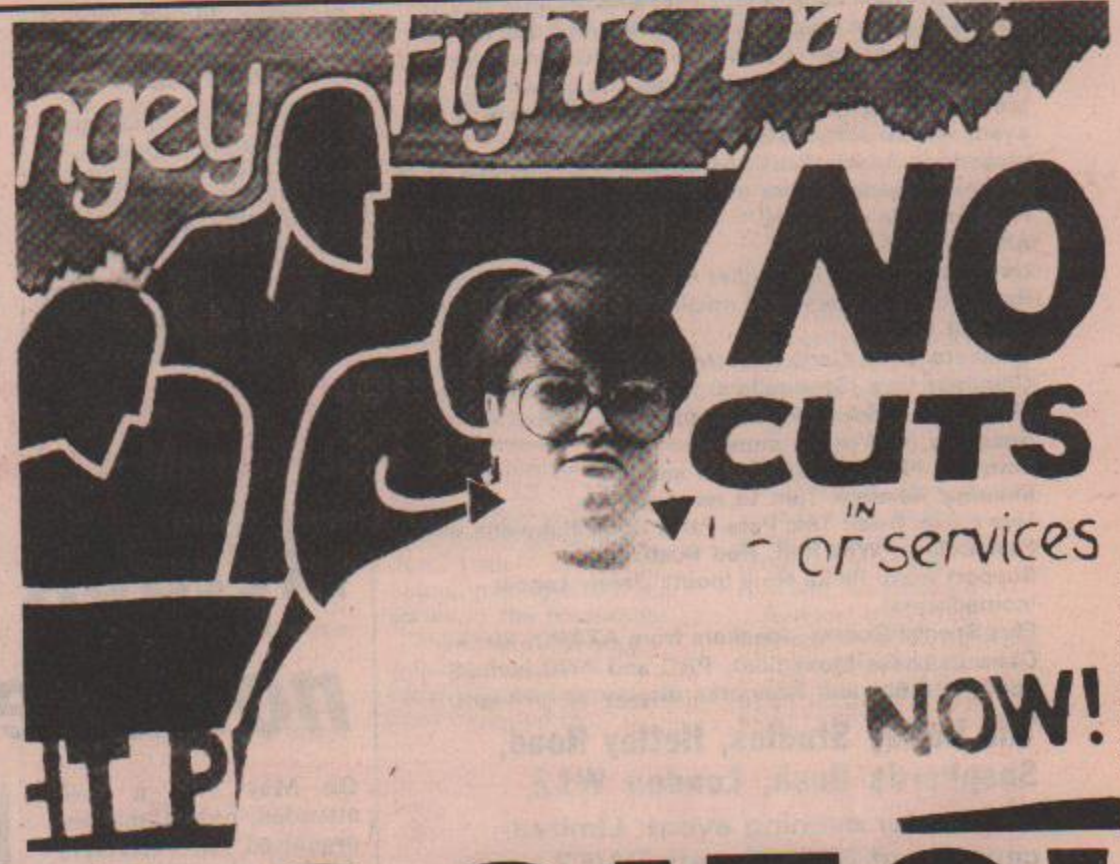


PHOTO: Leesa Herbert

On Wednesday June 1st I was selected to fight Bernie Grant's former seat, Bruce Grove, in a Haringey Council by-election.

Given that I am facing disciplinary action from the NCC, and that I have been vilified and harassed by the gutter press, even comrades on the left might find this surprising. So why am I standing?

The struggles around local government are so important that no one can afford to abstain. Socialists must fight not only to defend jobs and services, but — in the face of the GERBill and Housing Bill — for the right to have state services run by democratically elected representatives.

The right wing and many former lefts have followed the national Leadership's "new realist" retreat from class-based politics and callously made their "socialist" cuts.

Nothing we have seen so far can give us any confidence that they will lead campaigns of non-compliance against the GERBill, the Housing Bill, the Poll Tax, or Section 28 , where they would risk surcharge and disqualification for defending the interests of those who elected them.

Some on the left say that the constraints on socialists in local government are so great that we should get out. **This is rubbish.** Fightback campaigns everywhere have been a focus for local opposition.

By Mandy Mudd

Prospective Council Candidate, Bruce Grove ward, Tottenham CLP

Small victories have been won because of mass mobilisations.

In Haringey, parents, teachers, and anti-cuts Councillors united to scupper plans for the amalgamation of 15 Junior and Infant schools. The anti-cuts Councillors gave voice in the Council Chamber and Committees to the massive campaign outside.

Our experiences show that a nationwide campaign around needs-based budgets, demanding the resources to provide decent homes and good quality education, would be popular.

The current Labour Leadership are not prepared to fight. Nor will they allow others to lead these struggles.

I am already being witch-hunted for my activities in Haringey Fights Back! Neil Kinnock felt so threatened by my possible selection that he had a "quiet word" with Bernie Grant to ask him not to resign from the Council!

Why? If the politics that *Briefing* represents were really so peripheral and lunatic, what would it matter if a *Briefing* supporter contested a local by-election? It is precisely *because* the politics we represent can win widespread support and show up the Labour Leadership's complicity with capitalism that they want to deny us a platform.

The campaign in Bruce Grove raises the same issues as the challenge to the Leadership by Tony Benn and Eric Heffer. We are both part of the same struggle to insist that the Labour Party defends the working class and fights for socialism.

My selection is also an assertion of my democratic rights as a Labour Party member and a refusal to be intimidated by the NCC. The threat of disciplinary action cannot be allowed to silence socialists who argue for the rights of women, lesbians and gay men against Labour Councils who renege on Manifesto commitments.

The *Sun's* attacks were a further attempt to intimidate and isolate me by seeking to discredit me as a feminist and socialist and ridicule me as a fat woman. The more people back away in the face of such virulence the easier it is for our enemies to get away with it.

I refuse to be intimidated. The by-election campaign is a welcome opportunity to expose the hypocrisy and double standards of the *Sun* and Tory Party.

Bruce Grove is one of the most deprived wards in Tottenham — with the highest unemployment rate in the Borough, no Council funded play group, or com-

Continued back page

LABOUR—TAKE THE POWER!

By-election

At a meeting of Kensington CLP to select a prospective candidate for the forthcoming by-election (caused by the death of Tory MP Brandon Rhys-Williams) Ben Bousquet lost a close contest to Anne Holmes.

Many comrades in Kensington regret that they will not now be able to back a black candidate for the third time running.

Anne Holmes' selecton was influenced by her strong performance at the selection meeting, and was supported by many women comrades.

Anne is 42, works as a housing adviser, and fought the seat in 1979. She has lived in the constituency for many years and is currently Chair of Governors at Holland Park School. (Her son John is currently playing a lead role in TV's *Grange Hill*).

By Kensington Briefing supporters

Help is needed! Though at the time of going to press the Tories have not yet moved the by-election writ, it is expected any day.

Phone 01 229 6259 to find out how you can help or turn up at Basement Flat, 92 Ladbroke Grove, London W11 (Ladbroke Grove tube).

'76 ★ SOWETO ★ '88

Anti-racist Day June 25th

The Azanian/Namibia Forum and ACAVA are to hold an all day open air anti-racist festival on Saturday June 25th. The event will commemorate the 12th anniversary of the 1976 youth and student uprising in Soweto and also seek to highlight the growing problem of racism in Britain today. Proceeds from the event will be donated to a number of children's projects in Azania/South Africa and also towards a proposed speaking tour of Britain by Azanian/South African trade unionists.

Afternoon 1-4pm
Live music from *The Jacket Potatoes* (trad./contemporary Irish music); *Batucada Mandela* (Samba group).
Childrens ents: *Carib Theatre Co.* (for under 5s), *Common Lore* (Storytellers), Workshops, Inflatables.
Plus West & South African food, Bar, Stalls, Speakers, and much more!
Entrance FREE for afternoon session
Evening Session 7pm to midnight
Live music from: Taxi Pata Pata, Dudu Pukwana with Fast Colour, Well Red, Red Bush.
Support from: Pitika Ntuli (poet), Jenny Lecoat (comedienne).
Plus Special Guests, speakers from AZAPO, Black Consciousness Movement, PAC and ANC invited.
Food, late Bar and Fireworks display at midnight.

The Hetley Studios, Hetley Road, Shepherds Bush, London W12

Tickets for evening event: Limited capacity of 350. Tickets £4/£2 concs. In advance from ACAVA, at above address. Cheques/POs payable to Azania/Namibia Forum

INFO: Steve Lloyd, Rosie Farrar, 749 0484

"Bread Not Death Squads" for El Salvador

Public meeting to launch Bread Not Death Squads Trade Union support fund for El Salvador

Wednesday June 15th, 7.30pm
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1
Speakers:
Marco Tulio Lima
Leader, UNTS (El Salvadorean Trade Union Movement)
Jeremy Corbyn MP

Marco Tulio Lima will speak about attacks on the Trade Union movement in El Salvador, including sackings, tortures, and assassinations. He himself has received public death threats from the Army High Command.
On April 30th 1988, the UNTS HQ was destroyed by a bomb attack. On May 1st, 60,000 El Salvadoreans demonstrated against government repression.

Evening includes the inaugural showing of *Winning Democracy* — a video about the mass struggle in El Salvador

A collection will be taken to launch the fund

Student sit-ins

Academics accept divide and rule direction of the cuts

London students have twice organised sit-ins at the Senate House library of London University in recent weeks to protest against a proposal to make the library reference only.

The threat is part of the latest round of government cuts in higher education, which could lead to 40% to 50% redundancies in library and administrative staff and the amalgamation or closure of many of the smaller institutes.

By Paula Watson
Westminster South CLP

Underfunded

This side of the university has been underfunded for some time and an increase in government grant for the current year of only 3.4% represents a cut in real terms.

The library, a very fine one, is particularly heavily used by undergraduates, who are usually too poor to buy books at today's inflated prices and suffer from the excess of demand over supply which affects most college libraries.

Libraries

Few local libraries, excellent as many of them are, can afford the extensive specialist collections students need. If the lending section of Senate House is closed it will be the poorer undergraduates who will be hardest hit.

But the library is only one of the university institutions under threat. Many of the smaller research institutes, like Latin American Studies, much used by refugees from Pinochet's Chile, could be facing the axe, with the consequent loss of jobs and the dispersal of valuable collections. And the central administration is set for decimation.

The reaction of the academic profession to all this has been typical. Driven by fear, colleges have turned on the institutes, refusing all support while they try to protect themselves, and both have deserted the central administrative staff.

Union

Their union, if you can call it that, the Association of University Teachers, is a "non political" affair, largely run by timid, establishment - orientated liberals, who have continuously failed to organise an effective struggle against the government's policies by joining with the other unions involved, the NUS, NATFHE, NUPE and NALGO, in a principled fight against all cuts and closures.

Witch-hunt

Attack the Tories, not the socialists!

On May 19th a well-attended public meeting organised by Haringey Against the Witch-hunt Defend Mandy Mudd, and sponsored by Tottenham CLP, heard Sharon Atkin, Bernie Grant MP, Mandy Mudd, and Jeremy Corbyn MP speak out in opposition to the growing witch-hunt against socialists in the Labour Party.

By Ian Lund
Secretary,
HAWHDMMC

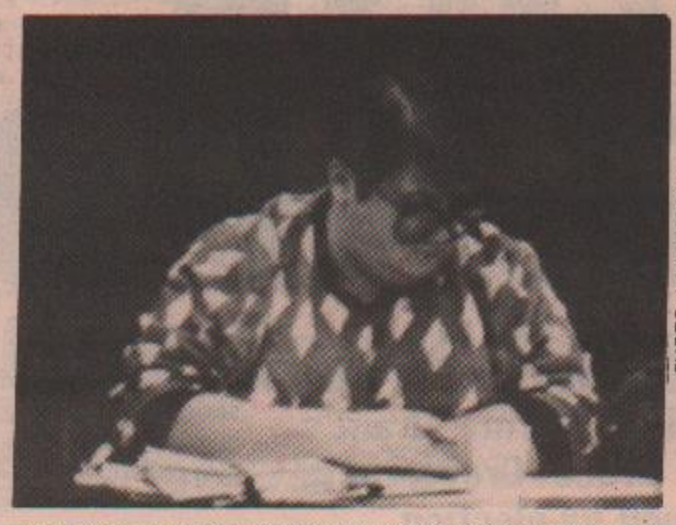


PHOTO: Leesa Herbert

Mandy Mudd, waiting to speak at Hornsey Vale Ward's public meeting against the cuts

Sharon Atkin, who was removed as PPC for Nottingham East by the NEC two weeks before the General Election campaign began last year, said in reference to the NCC that it was the only time in her memory that the Labour Party was setting up committees to expel socialists rather than to recruit new members.

The case against Sharon at the NCC had collapsed because of the incompetence of the Walworth Road bureaucracy.

For example, Larry Whitty, the General Secretary, stated that he did not know the difference between "charges" and "evidence".

Support for the Benn-Heffer Leadership campaign was *"the best opportunity for blacks, the unemployed, lesbians and gay men, and the disadvantaged to argue our policies and views in their campaign to put socialism back on the agenda."*

Finally, she demanded that the Labour Party should be *"recruiting people in, to argue for socialism, rather than chucking socialists out."*

Bernie Grant MP complained about the "yuppiefication" of party policies in its undemocratic so-called "policy review". He attacked the "disgraceful decision" of the PLP to suspend Ron Brown.

Although Bernie thought Mandy Mudd was wrong to go "outside" the Party in opposing the cuts by Haringey Council, he *"supported her right to remain a member of the Labour Party."*

He also intended *"to work and campaign for Benn-Heffer as an alternative to the present Leadership."*

Mandy Mudd argued that the witch-hunt against her *"was not against Mandy Mudd as an individual but what she represents"*.

It revealed the political bankruptcy of the Labour Party Leadership which was *"a most cynical form of electoralism"*.

She rebutted Bernie Grant's criticism of her: *"it's not right for the Labour Party to make cuts to stay in office"*.

The positive side of the witch-hunt was the opportunity to use the publicity to argue for socialist policies. She recommended the LAW model resolution for Annual Conference to the meeting. The witch-hunt must be fought politically.

Jeremy Corbyn MP labelled the witch-hunt along with the treatment of Ron Brown by the PLP as a *"huge diversion"*. He called on the Party Leadership *"to start attacking the Tories rather than kicking socialists out of the Labour Party."*

This very successful meeting gives added impetus to the campaign against expulsions. For further information about the HAW or the LAW conference motion contact Ian Lund, Secretary, HAWDMMC, 23 Earlsmead Road, London N15 4DA, 01 885 3286.

Rac

Jus

In October 1984, Kalahasti Rajah was brutally attacked by a gang of racist youths in the GLC's Thamesmead estate in Greenwich.

Unconscious, he was taken by ambulance to Brook Hospital. Though badly injured and bleeding, X-rays taken revealed no broken bones.

While he was still semi-conscious and trying to clean blood from his face, two police officers entered the hospital and dragged him out into a waiting police van.

Mr Rajah said that one police officer then deliberately kicked him very hard on his shoulder and he became unconscious. He was taken to Woolwich Police Station where he was again assaulted.

Charged

He was told that he was going to be charged with being drunk and disorderly at



Our photo shows police on one

Stop sta of Kuom

Black people who stand up for side of the British establishmen launched a campaign to put Kuo Tories were looking for revenge to impose a third-rate communi Bristol following the 1980 uprisi

Then he spoke out against polic community in "Operation Delive more when he dared to go to Labour Party Black Section deleg

Home Office Ministers Douglas ed up with their friends in the me paign against Kuomba. In this cli had come to national prominence of the Black communities was w head of St Paul's Development A

The government withdrew par ths after seeing how well Kuo changed the rules giving themselv appointments in the Black volunt

On his birthday, two months af trip, police mounted a provocati who'd parked their cars outside t in Bristol. When Kuomba interven youth he was arrested and charge officer. Later shotgun rounds wer he was charged with illegally pos

The whole affair reeks of a fr almost murdered by a knifeman k was let off by the court despite hearing.

ist attack in Greenwich

stice for Rajah!

the hospital. A doctor who saw him at the station said he was in need of immediate medical attention and ordered him to be taken back to Brook Hospital.

There he was denied treatment, despite being in great pain. He said that the staff were abusive and threatened to call the police.

He was forced to make his own way to another hospital, Greenwich District, where he was treated properly.

Further X-rays were taken which showed that he had a broken collar bone on top of his other injuries. The previous X-ray showed no fracture.

Injuries

Mr Rajah's injuries have affected his life since that night. However, he is determined to win justice and to see that those responsible are punished.

He has issued a writ against the Metropolitan Police Commissioner for assault and false imprisonment. He is also suing the Regional Health Authority for negligence.

A local campaign has been set up to seek answers to several questions:

- Why were the police officers called to Brook Hospital in the first place? Why did they try to arrest a *victim* of racist violence, rather than the thugs who attacked him?

By Rashid Mopla with information from Justice for Rajah Campaign leaflet

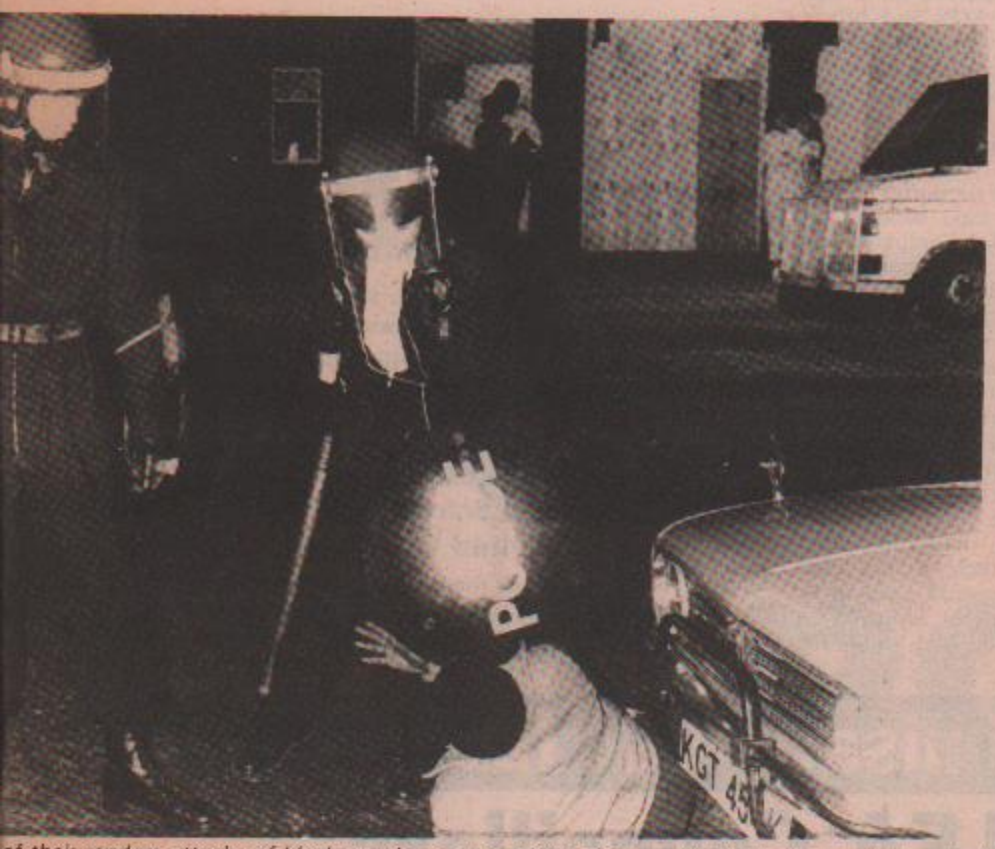
- If Mr Rajah was drunk and disorderly, why wasn't he charged?
- Can the Woolwich police tell us why one X-ray (taken before the police arrived) showed no broken bones but the second one, taken after Mr Rajah had been in police custody, showed a broken one?
- Why did Brook Hospital allow him to be taken away by the police, even though he was badly injured and in great pain?
- Why has the Thamesmead Housing Trust (which has taken over from the GLC) not taken any action against the thugs, offered any support or rehoused Mr Rajah?

Mr Rajah is not the only person who has been attacked by racist thugs, or beaten by the police, or suffered because of racism in the health service.

His story is one of state racism, of racist violence, of police brutality. But it is also the story of black people fighting injustice, brutality and racism.

The Justice for Rajah Campaign are asking you to send resolutions of support from Labour Party meetings, trade unions and community organisations. They also urgently need funds for the campaign.

Contact: Justice for Rajah Campaign, c/o GACARA, 78 Sandy Hill Road, London SE18, 01 855 4343.



of their random attacks of black people; as our articles show — black people are fighting back!

Drop the charges!

te victimisation
ba Balogun

lack rights are thorns in the . That's why the state has ba Balogun behind bars. The fter he exposed their scheme y centre on Black people in g.

e harassment of the St Paul's y". They were angered even lorthern Ireland as part of a ation in September 1987.

Hurd and John Patten gang- ia to orchestrate a hate cam- nate the Bristol activist who with his outspoken defence tch-hunted out of his job as gency.

-funding more than six mon- nba did the job. Then they es a veto over all such future ry sector.

er the Ireland "fact finding" e purge on Black motorists e popular Mozarts wine bar d to stop harassment of the d with "assaulting" a police produced by the police and essing them.

me-up. Earlier Kuomba was nown to the police. The man not turning up to the final

The state want to put Kuomba behind bars like they have the Broadwater Farm Three. *We must unite to stop them!*

Kuomba Balogun Defence Campaign, c/o Rupert Daniel, 63b Ashley Road, Montpelier, Bristol.

Drop the charges now!

STOP STATE

(Home Office, Police & Police-backed thugs)

VICTIMISATION

of

KUOMBA BALOGUN

and other Black community activists

PICKET

Inner-London Crown Court
Newington Causeway
Elephant & Castle, London SE1
Monday June 27th 1988, 9.30am

Hither Green

Organise solidarity with the strikers!

As action is stepped up in the strike against the fascist Malcolm Skeggs, employed at Hither Green DHSS, the CPSA members there have been boosted by news of his application for transfer.

On May 26th, DHSS offices and many other Civil Service workplaces were closed throughout London and hundreds rallied against Skeggs.

No ordinary racist, Skeggs was well known as a nasty piece of work to Ray Hill, the mole who infiltrated far right goups in the early to mid 1980s, and he features in Hill's book *The Other Face of Terror*.

Skeggs has applied for transfer and it appears management will ignore the usual three year requirement and grant it in order to save face and stop the escalation of action.

His first interview came at the end of CPSA Conference week, where strike leader Kaz received a standing ovation.

Hither Green office manager Vivien Steer is quoted on Skeggs' transfer as saying *"Obviously he hasn't been working in a pleasant environment for the last few weeks."*

Sneaking in before 7am to work with a bunch of scabs obviously isn't his cup of tea!

The strikers have received support from Anti-Fascist Action, the local Labour Party and other CPSA members. They recognise that his application for transfer is a victory for their determination and are committed to coming out again themselves in support of any new branch taking action at whatever place Skeggs is transferred to.

To push Skeggs out once and for all, the agreement with the CPSA National Executive to now step up the strike to the rest of the South London branch in the first instance needs to be carried out.

By DAN CARTER

The Hither Green strikers need *your* support. The picket is from 7.30-9.30am at 303 Hither Green Lane, London SE13 and the strike HQ is at Lewisham Labour Club, Limes Grove, SE13 6DA.

Housing Assistants

Unions go for all-out action

MSF members held a shop-wide ballot for all-out indefinite strike action in support of 15 housing assistants employed by the New Islington and Hackney Housing Association.

By MARK SEATON

Union members vote yes — by 23 to 13. The strike action will commence on Monday June 13th — unless, of couse, management see sense in the meantime.

This unprecedented industrial action in housing associations has been triggered by management's attempt to grade individuals — not jobs.

Management claim they want to recruit housing assistants on a lower grade than existing staff — in order to attract inexperienced applicants, including black and ethnic minority people.

But the result would be staff doing the same job for different rates of pay — especially in the absence of any training programme at the Housing Association.

Support is needed! Contact Aniekan Umoren, 123 Kingsland High Street, London E8, 01 254 1272.

Safety on the tubes

LUL bosses say: *It's negotiable*

The King's Cross fire enquiry has again demonstrated that safety is negotiable on London's Underground.

Managing Director of London Underground Ltd (LUL), Tony Ridley, whilst admitting gross deficiencies on safety, has now sanctioned the loss of 717 jobs in essential backup services.

He has also said that the £370 million needed for the removal of all inflammable material on the tubes is too high a price to pay.

This news comes on top of a massive programme of productivity and "flexibility" measures which the tube bosses are trying to impose on train drivers, guards, and station staff.

LUL's latest strategy has been determined by the impact of the King's Cross fire — not reversing its previous corporate policies but throwing the crisis onto the workforce.

This accounts for the proposals to restructure staffing of stations along "flexible" lines starting with a 13-station pilot scheme on the Metropolitan line.

Glossy "action stations", PR-style brochures have been used in a bid to present such plans as a response to the King's Cross fire. In fact, it will mean that some 2,500 more jobs will be at risk.

By DAVE WELCH

Workers will have to apply for their own jobs and a new "hire-and-fire" management will take over.

The latest plan for job loss is based on the view that safety on the tubes is a runner-up to cost. Workers in carriage cleaning, signal maintenance, and train repair cannot be removed on any proper safety criteria.

Two serious fires show why. Both took place on board trains on the Picadilly and Metropolitan lines and reveal in the first instance a serious flaw in fire evacuation measures, and in the second instance plainly contradicting management's claim that fires on trains are not a big hazard. The intense heat from the fire caused a carriage to be welded to the rails!

The King's Cross inquiry, despite its revelations, has carefully avoided the political issues surrounding the present and future of the Underground.

Though the Inquiry will have to publish a strongly critical report, it will also to some extent provide a clean bill of health for safety on the tubes.

Such a seal of aproval would be needed to attract private money into running the system as the present cuts policy points to the government's option of largescale privatisation.

Like the NUS, the unions must prepare for a campaign of industrial action to reverse all jobs cuts, productivity, and "flexibility" deals. LUL hasn't changed its name, though it has certainly adopted the strategy of P&O following the Zeebrugge ferry disaster.



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Let's fight!

Continued from front page

munity centre; and severely understaffed social services.

Ward Councillors Martha Osamor and Vince Gillesepie have led the fight for more resources and against cuts, and have long been involved in struggle for the liberation of black people and lesbians and gay men. I will be proud to work with them.

The Bruce Grove by-election will not be an easy campaign. We will face hostility from the media, the Labour Leadership and right wingers in the local Party. The comrades in Bruce Grove have shown they are prepared for this challenge by selecting me.

The Campaign will give us the platform to argue ★for the defence of local government, ★for support for the seafarers, ★for the right to self-organisation of black people in the Labour Party, ★against Section 28, ★for the withdrawal of British troops from the 6 counties, ★against racist immigration laws — and through these to build support for Benn and Heffer... all in a media spotlight.

It is a challenge we must not shirk. We will need help from *Briefing* supporters all over. Come and canvass and fight for socialist policies!

The campaign starts on June 13th.

Canvassing is from 7pm Monday to Friday; and from 11am on Sunday, starting from 113 St Loys Road, N17; 10 minutes walk from Seven Sisters tube, 5 minutes walk from Bruce Grove BR, buses 123, 171, 243, 159, 279.

Call Isabel Handovsky 808 2542 for details

London Area Contacts

Brent Mick Woods 624 1931
Camden Gill Entwhistle 387 8557
Ealing Oliver New 571 5019
Greenwich Alan Freeman 858 5865
Hackney Jim Thain 809 1384
Haringey Mike Marqusee 341 9203
Hounslow Cath Larrissey
Islington Nik Barstow 226 1234 x7470 (days)
Lewisham Nick Doran 318 6018
Leyton Joe Ukemenham 558 7012
Newham John Lang 74 Kingsland Rd, E13
North North London Ken Livingstone 440 3668
South East London Andrew Yunge-Gordon 854 9521
South West London Pete Cooper 228 7000
Westminster/Kensington Paula Watson 638 5308

Tony Benn

June 21st, 7.30pm
Woolwich Town Hall, SE18

Public Meeting

Additional Speakers:

Diane Abbott, Audrey Wise, NUS

Access details: Ramp to ground floor venue; disabled toilet, ground floor; some disabled car parking at venue
Creche: register children for creche in advance, please, with Eve Oldham, 858 6865
South East London Benn-Heffer Campaign: contact Andrew Yunge Gordon, 204 Elmley Street, Plumstead, SE18 7NL, 854 9521 (evenings).

SOUTH WEST LONDON PUBLIC MEETING

The Case for Socialism

Tony Benn MP
Eric Heffer MP

Sharon Atkin
(surcharged ex-Councillor)

NUS STRIKER
Joan Twelves
(GLLP Regional Executive — personal capacity)

Weds. July 6th, 7.30pm
Battersea Town Hall
Theatre Street, SW11

(off Lavender Hill 5 minutes walk from Clapham Junction BR)
For further details: ring 228 7000

Solidarity with P&O

Organise in solidarity with the strikers!

Around 40 people listened to rank and file P&O strikers shortly after Sam McCluskie had called off the national action to remain within the law.

The meeting was on May 17th, and had been called by Hammersmith & Fulham Trades Council.

The mood among strikers at Dover and Deal was "despondent" after McCluskie's sell-out, according to Simon Groombridge from Deal.

By Steve Lloyd
Hammersmith & Fulham Briefing

According to Eddie Loydon MP, the trade union movement now stood at a point similar to that before the unions were legalised.

Loydon went on to say that *"unions cannot fight without offending the law"* but that the seamen could not win without the support of the entire movement.

The fact that Kinnock was witch-hunting Ron Brown at the time of the P&O dispute was a "disgrace" according to Dennis Skinner. The real meaning of Kinnock's "New Realism" was the plan by Hammond and Jordan to split the TUC.

Alan Norman from the NUR outlined the similarities between the ferries and London Underground. In the same way that cuts led to the Zeebrugge disaster, Norman blamed LRT for the King's Cross tragedy.

Despite the deliberately prolonged inquiry into the fire, LRT were still seeking further cuts in safety and maintenance staff.

From the floor, a speaker from the RCP lamented that the P&O strikers were campaigning centrally on health and safety issues, rather than *"more important issues such as pay and conditions"*. The RCP's only answer to the strategic problems facing the seafarers appears to be the plea for everyone to join the RCP!

For the left there are some serious problems to grapple with. First, there is the necessary battle to raise enough funds to keep the strikers out on strike. The collection of over £500 from a small meeting proves that this can be done.

Cash in itself, though, clearly is not enough. The speeches of Skinner and Loydon in many ways were examples of lack of direction from the Leaders of the left.

Skinner, for example, recalling the events of 1972, said that the call for a 24 hour General Srike was *"not a slogan"*. However, until sections of the labour movement can see the Campaign Group of MPs and others begin to organise people around such a demand it will not become a reality either.

Supporters

Briefing supporters spoke about the links between the Benn-Heffer Campaign and the P&O fight, paricularly how it was an opportunity for rank and file militants to challenge the likes of McCluskie and other union bureaucrats tied to Kinnock.

Briefing supporters also raised the problem of a Broad Left for the NUS. Bearing in mind, though, the experience of "election machine" lefts in other unions, such a new left grouping would need to be open and draw on widespread rank and file support.



PHOTO: Nick Hazelwood

Solidarity demo in Dover

Support the Seafarers!

London Support Meeting

Monday June 13th, 7.30pm

Tolmer Square Community Centre

(close to Warren St tube, corner Hampstead Road & Drummond Street)

These meetings will now be held fortnightly to promote and co-ordinate support work in London
Representatives of Support Groups and individuals who want to get involved are invited to attend

Ground floor meeting room, no steps
Ground floor toilet, not specifically for disabled use
Some carparking nearby; none reserved

Victimisation at ILEA

Why are ILEA Councillors upholding draconian management victimisation?

On June 8th, ILEA NALGO members in County Hall will be on one-day strike.

On June 24th, they will be out again — and they'll be backing a lobby of the Education Committee.

They are fighting for the reinstatement of Tony Marriott, a sacked shop steward. The NALGO leadership are backing the case; not, it seems, most ILEA Councillors.

Tony started work for ILEA as a jobshare employee in November 1987, after seven years previous experience as a Careers Officer in Haringey and in Essex. Just four and a half months later he was sacked under a little used draconian clause JA3 in the Staff Code.

In February the Careers Service Shop Stewards considered a resolution on their conditions of service especially the application of a six months probationary period, which is not the norm for LEAs (and virtually unheard of in transfer cases, like Tony's).

Report compiled by
Jenny Fisher
Bow & Poplar CLP

They agreed not to co-operate with the 8 and 16 week reports given during the probationary periods, aiming for a mutually agreed code of practice.

Tony duly did not co-operate with his 16 week report. A second shop steward is under threat of disciplinary action for non co-operation.

Despite his non-co-operation, Tony's 16 week report was produced. His work was deemed "not up to the required standard".

In contrast, a school where Tony worked produced a statement that, far from turning in a poor performance, he'd done all that was asked of him and done well in a school which, having 88% Bangladeshis, needed a good careers service.

Tony, and NALGO itself, are viewing this dismissal as a sacking for trade union activities not for work record. Tony was elected shop steward in March 1988. He had previously taken out a disciplinary as he felt he was being harassed for trade union activities. He later took out a second grievance, feeling that his probationary assessments were not taking into account that he was a jobshare, or that he had seven years previous experience.

It is not clear what ILEA is doing using measures like the Clause under which Tony was sacked JA3. This enables managers to dismiss staff during the six month probationary period with no right of appeal and no obligation on managers to account for their actions.

Accord

How does JA3 fit into equal opportunities policies? JA3 doesn't even accord with the ACAS code of practice, which is that the District Officer of Branch Secretary should be alerted to the proposed sacking of a shop steward.

But this action is unusual even for ILEA. A genuine case of work not up to required standard would usually face an extension of the probationary period not a week's notice while the worker is on holiday!

Tony's fellow workers walked out when they heard the decision and turned to the union branch. At a hearing with officers on the sacking, the managers upheld their decision and, in an unprecedented move, refused an appeal to members.

The branch is now balloting for a work to rule, and further strike action. The one-day strike on June 24th, together with the lobby of the Education Committee, is particularly important.

But also the branch is hoping that Labour Party members will, through resolutions at GCs, lobby their ILEA Councillors. If the NALGO Leadership can accept that Tony Marriott has been victimised for trade union activity, and is supporting his appeal to an Industrial Tribunal - *what are our ILEA Councillors doing upholding such a management regime in a Labour Education Authority?*

For further details contact ILEA GLS Branch Office: 01 633 5569.