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1988

Underground passengers and workers: unite and...

SACK THE BOARD!

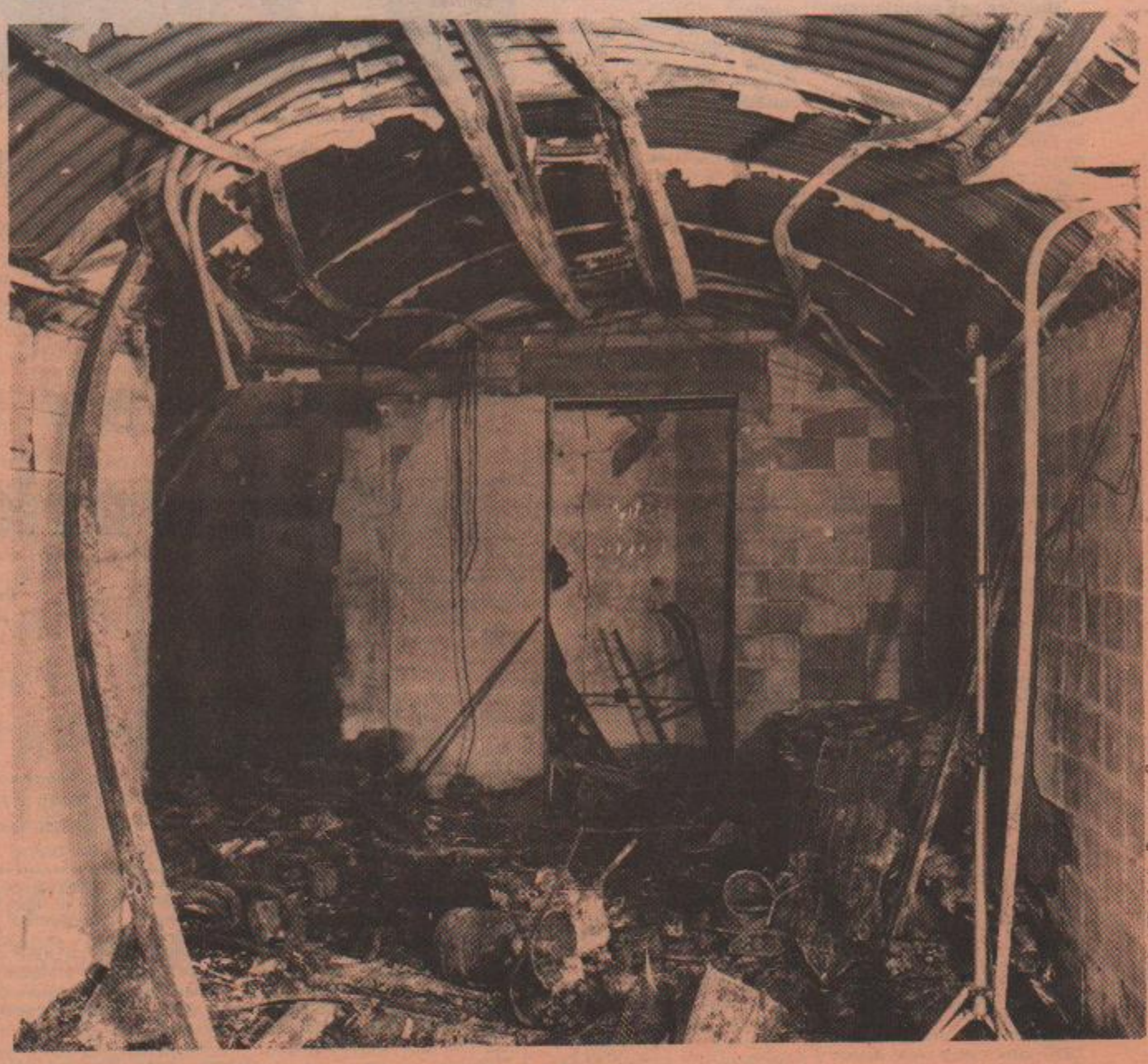
The King's Cross inquiry has come to an end — providing clear evidence of a serious breakdown in safety standards on London's underground.

On the face of it, the 91 days of testimony should have resulted in the immediate sacking of the entire London Regional Transport (LRT) Board and its key representatives on London Underground Ltd (LUL).

In fact, the inquiry, whilst opening a door into LRT's corridors of power, has largely reinforced the popular view of the fire as a "natural disaster" — a one-off combination of random events.

Now, with the inquiry finished, the door has been slammed shut again, and getting at the truth will be more difficult than ever.

By DAVE WELSH
Tubewatch



Devastation after the Oxford Circus fire: the lessons were ignored

PHOTO: LFB Media Resource Group

The "natural disaster" theory neatly suits LUL's present policies. The tube bosses have no intention of reversing the corporate policies which have resulted in job losses across the whole underground system since 1984. Their latest plans signal a grim determination to carry on cutting staff — through the Underground Ticketing System and even more one-person-operated trains.

The strategy can be summed up as "let it rip". This is confirmed by LRT's latest three year plan which points to massive passenger congestion for *years to come*. LUL clearly has no idea how to cope with the increased passenger demand — an increase of some 70% since 1982. Their only response is to raise fares to discourage people from using the tubes!

In the foreseeable future, conditions on the Underground will only get worse, exacerbated by the tidal wave of the South East rail/Channel Tunnel boom which will hit London in the 1990s.

Instead of planning with major government investment and subsidy for a radical expansion and redesign of the system, LUL chiefs can only stand speechless at the "success" of the pathetic Docklands Light Railway — a lego system which is about as revolutionary as the teabag.

The fire inquiry has concentrated almost exclusively on events immediately surrounding the fire, reining back suggestions that staff cuts were the key factor. The inquiry was beginning to attract press criticism for lasting over five months.

Government ministers have clearly not relished the sight of their LRT quango being hammered and the Railway Inspectorate being exposed as less a watchdog of public safety and more of a government poodle!

The "inquiry" must go on — but it will need to take a radically new path. *Tubewatch* has been calling for a campaign linking transport workers and users since before the inquiry opened. Now is the time to start pulling together the component parts of that campaign. It really is a matter of life or death.

LABOUR—TAKE THE POWER!

Local government round-up

The phoney war has started

The early summer is traditionally a quiet time in local government.

The budget has been set for the coming year, Group elections are out the way, the next round of government attacks are still wending their way through Parliament, the summer recess beckons.

Lambeth Council is no exception to that rule.

But this year the quiet is deceptive. The budget is set — but it hasn't been implemented. Group elections have been held — but none of those elected won an overall majority.

Lambeth is in a state of phoney war. Hostilities have been declared, a warning shot has been fired, but the real battle has yet to begin.

The story so far: after pushing through £60 million cuts, Linda Bellos and her allies discovered that local Party members weren't too keen on them, so they withdrew from the Group elections.

The more cynical saw this as a tactic to get the Party to reject the other candidates and plead for them to come back. This backfired, and Bellos's clique abstained in the Group elections, first to get the Party's nominees voted down and then to let the LCC take over.

Their first task was to put forward committee memberships. Here, the left and the centre united to remind the LCC they were a minority administration.

The Chief Whip's proposals were overturned by a proposal by Linda Bellos — seconded by myself — which removed the right/LCC from every place on the major Committees except for the Chair and Vice Chair and the ex-officio places.

The Left and Centre took all the places, although no Committee has an absolute anti-cuts majority if everyone turns up and the Tories vote with the right wing.

As a consequence of these "spoiling" and "mischevious tactics" (as the LCC described it in their bulletin), no one can predict the outcome of any particular Committee or Group meeting.

The centre's strategy had been for a "legal balanced budget" come what may. Many of the cuts in their budget have yet to be implemented — and the Centre are suddenly finding reasons why certain cuts shouldn't go ahead.

Without a coherent political strategy now they are out of office, there is little to hold them together. Although Linda Bellos has continued on her trajectory to the right, others occasionally vote with the left to block some of the cuts and closures.

Local community pressure in defence of services, has successfully blocked the closure of two lidos, a one o'clock club, and most of the social services' closures, particularly old people's homes in Committee. But this is a stay of execution — not a reversal of the cuts.

The main instrument of making cuts was a vacancy freeze, to reduce staff in post by 1,000 by March 1989. So rapid has been the haemorrhage of staff — drive out by low morale caused by lack of job security, lack of promotion prospects, and pressure of overwork due to staff shortages — that this target has already been met, nine months early.

By Cllr Joan Twelves
Lambeth

The LCC used to criticise Linda Bellos for handing control over to the officers. They have gone one step further!

At the Group elections they argued that resources should be concentrated on front line blue collar workers — not officers in the centre. In the short time they have been in office, what little they have done is exactly what officers have pushed them to do — things even Linda Bellos rejected.

So far, they have agreed to pay the Chief Executive an extra £6,000 a year, given chief officers a backdated regrading costing £40,000, whereas they have cut £7.50 from the gardeners' wages. So much for the front line workers.

Other workers have been treated less harshly than the gardeners, but certainly not very sensitively. Social Services staff received the letters telling them their jobs were being "deleted" on paper with *"Lambeth Services, Well Worth Defending" printed on it!*

The LCC make great play of the need to restructure the Council using long words like "perestroika"! But the restructuring taking place is that set in motion by Bellos & Co. as part of their panic cuts. And the LCC has not changed any of it — just speeded it up.

The LGC has passed motions censuring the Group and maintains full support for Councillors Against the Cuts.

Although Party members are furious at being ignored, the LCC's contemptuous behaviour has also driven Council business off the Party's agenda. Why pass a motion demanding a Leadership you don't support does something you know they won't?

The LCC's strategy now is to keep their heads down and try to last to the summer break without to much hassle. They can overturn committee decisions at Policy & Resources (made up of all the right wing committee Chairs), and they can ignore Group decisions. It is clear that, despite all their talk, their political strategy is non-existent.

They are incapable of developing any strategy to fight Poll Tax or the housing legislation.

They argued publicly for non-implementation of the Poll Tax — it was the one thing on which they would consider illegality, they said. It is national Party policy to "take no action to appoint community charge registration staff." Yet with the support of Lindas Bellos they are allowing officers to negotiate with the government on extra funding to employ Poll Tax officers.

They are already having difficulty grappling with the implications of the Council taking over education.

To put it kindly, as one Party member did: "I might disagre with your lot's politics, but in terms of ability, we've got the third reserve team in charge."

Labour Briefing No. 97

An article by Alan Lenton "A Deal That Won't Work" published in the last issue of Briefing contained an allegation that Cllr Mike Goodman had admitted at a Labour Group meeting that he had failed to declare his interest in a building company working in the borough.

We have now received copies of the declaration of interest forms completed and signed by Mike Goodman on 16th May 1986 and 18th May 1987 which give clear details of his position as company secretary of Greater London Construction Ltd, a company in which he holds a non-pecuniary interest.

We now fully accept that at no stage did Cllr Gooddman state to the Labour Group or any other person or group that he had failed to fill out his declaration of interest form.

We also fully accept that the signed forms referred to above were lodged with the appropriate Council officers at the required time and that Cllr Goodman has not sought to conceal his position with that company, which has at no time whatsoever carried our work for the authority.

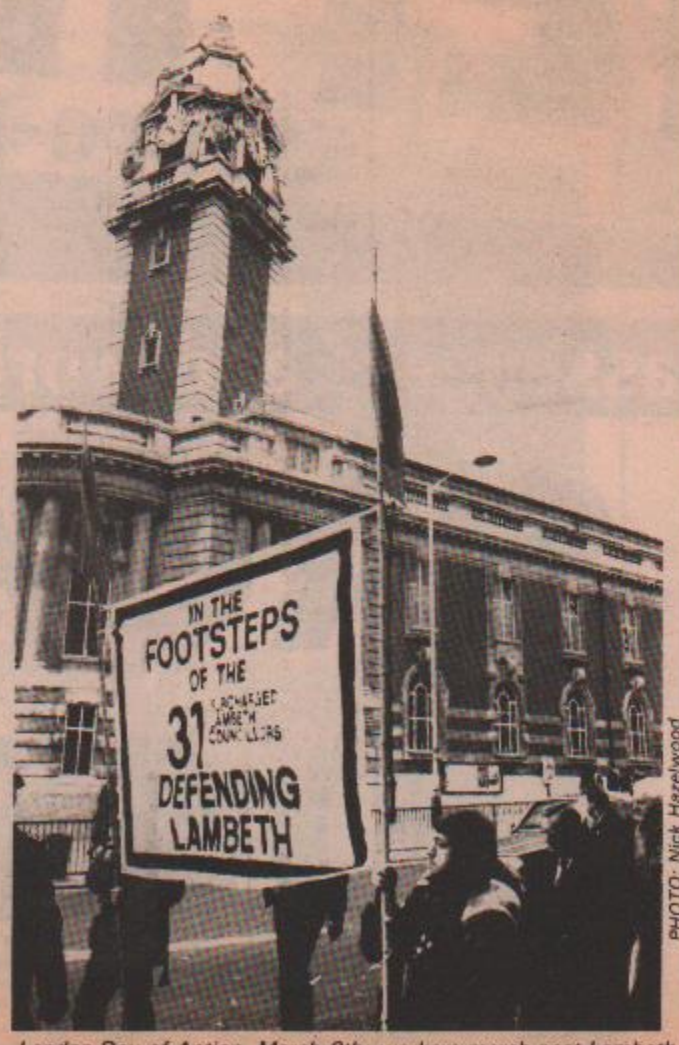


PHOTO: Nick Hazelwood

London Day of Action, March 8th: workers march past Lambeth Town Hall on their way to all-London rally

The Left's immediate aim has been to block cuts and closures. We have had some success, especially where the community has mobilised to defend its services.

We are the largest grouping in the Labour Group, we have the support of the Parties and our numbers keep increasing. The phoney war won't last much longer.

Haringey

Women unite defeat the cu

Voluntary sector playworkers in Haringey are celebrating a significant victory in the battle against the cuts in the Borough.

One of Haringey Council's "caring cuts" was the slashing of "clearing up time" money from voluntary sector playworkers' wages.

This was a particularly savage cut affecting 98 part-time, low paid women workers — many from the Black and Ethnic Minority communities.

By Cath Roff
Voluntary Sector
Convenor, Haringey
NALGO

As a result, more than 50% lost employment protection due to reduction in hours and workers lost an average one-fifth of their take-home pay. Since April, when the cut was implemented, three women have been forced to seek alternative work because they could not afford to carry the loss in income.

It was a cynical and calculated cut on the part of the Council — aimed at a section of the workforce which is dispersed in nature, poorly organised and under-unionised. It was indicative of the Council's regard for women workers and the low priority it gives childcare as a political issue — probably banking on the women involved not organising to fight back!

Fortunately, they were wrong. Workers and playgroup users were not prepared to accept this cut without a fight. A Parents Action Group was formed, as has been reported in a previous Briefing, and pressure began to mount from all sides: playworkers, parents, NALGO, and the Labour Party Women's Sections all contributed.



This collective political action cluminated in three delegations in a week: to Social Services Committee, Women's Committee and finally, Majority Group, on June 30th.

Aided by a motion from anti-cuts Councillor Roger Harris, the Labour Group were shamed into voting for the £31,500 necessary to restore playworkers' wages to their previous level.

It is a major victory for the

Camden

Extra pay for extra work!

Camden Labour Group is once again going where no one's gone before — ignoring national agreements, and refusing to negotiate with their trade unions.

Since June 15th 15 NALGO workers in the DLO have been on strike for the right to negotiate extra pay for extra work.

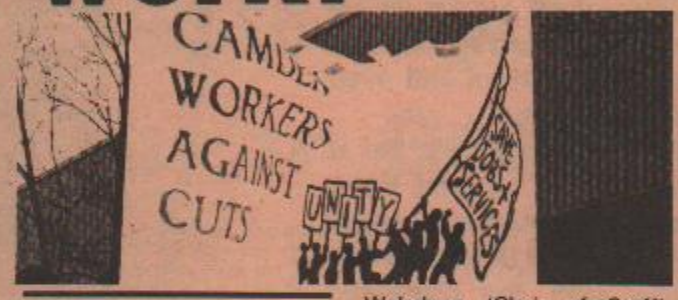
The 15, responsible for processing housing repair orders to maintenance staff, were told by management to take on extra duties resulting from seven "deleted" posts or they'd get suspended.

They refused, worked to their existing job descriptions, and had their pay docked by 10%.

The strike is solid, with UCATT members pledging not to undermine their action. Workers at all five District Housing Offices agreed only to deal with the emergency service, run by the strikers.

They were in turn threatened with suspension and/or docking of pay. NALGO in the Housing Department has voted to walk out if any member is threatened.

The dispute and action in support has clearly surprised the Council. At the time of writing no suspensions have gone ahead.



By Padrig Jones
NALGO Shop Steward
Housing Department

The NALGO branch Leadership, pressed into action by the strikers and the hard left, reluctantly campaigned for support. An emergency branch meeting on June 24th was narrowly inquorate, underlining the demoralisation of the workforce not directly affected.

However, the strike has now been declared official. The Leadership is dragging its feet, leaving both the strikers and others in isolation.

The Council's response is worthy of the Chair of P&O. Their collapse over privatisation is now clear — "don't strike, it'll harm the DLO".

This is more blatant than expected hypocrisy from a Labour Group who are trying to model the DLO operations on Wandsworth and whose management wanted to enrich themselves with pay rises totalling £56,000. The strikers demands would cost a mere £15,000.

The Councillors John Wakeham (Chair of Staff), amd Ken Hulme (full-time LCC Secretary), toured Tenants Associations at the end of June, asking that they deal directly with managers scabbing in the building department.

Although this attempt to break the strike is unlikely to succeed it underlines their determination to smash union organisation, sacrificing control over the budget and their all important "legal budget" in the process.

Meanwhile the Manifesto Councillors' response has been to come down to the picket line!

The new realist NALGO bureaucracy perceive the issue of strike ballots as more important than the very agreement they rely on. Camden NALGO's leadership has failed to challenge this.

Although the outcome of the dispute is in the balance, the light for other Labour Authorities is just about to turn green if we lose.

Join the pickets! They're held Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Holmes Road Depot, London NW5.

Tory Hou

Fight t Landlo Charte

Part of the attacks on the working class by the Tory Government is the Housing Bill.

Most of the criticism of this Tory legislation has come from housing professionals.

Tenants' views, both in the private and public sectors, have been ignored by Tory and Labour politicians alike.

According to press reports Kinnock is now vacillating on the Housing Bill. He seems to have accepted the Thatcherite myth that by forcing Councils to sell Council homes you will somehow increase tenants' choice, control, and power over their landlords.

In reality, nothing could be further from the truth. There is no way, under the Bill, that Council tenants can "pick their own landlord". Private landlords can — and no doubt will — pick their own tenants and, more important, the tenants' homes.

This will not increase the amount of private tenants, but will merely add to the problem of homelessness. Private sector landlords will not buy Council homes to let them to the former Council tenants. They will, however, get rid of the tenants, and sell the homes at a huge profit.

Does not comrade Neil realise that you cannot reform a Bill which is all about giving rights to private landlords and property speculators and deny

to ts



oluntary sector playworkers nd the users of Haringey's 33 laygroups. Although I gave as nuch support as possible in my ole as Voluntary Sector Conenor, the main union did not o as much as I believe it could ave.

Solidarity came from NALGO Women's Group but ltimately the main credit goes o those workers and playgroup sers who got organised, got ngry and got results!

This small political victory hows the success of unity betveen workers and users of Council services in confronting he consequences of right wing uts.

sing Bill his rds' r!

By Catriona Sanchez nd Scott Reeve Co-Convenors, South Hornsey Tenants Association

oth public and private enants the few rights they ave?

The injection of private noney merely means that enants will have to pay huge mounts of interest in their ent to Maggie's, and perhaps ow Neil's, new found rich riends in the City.

Yes, Labour must develop ew and radical housing olicies but ones which will enefit and therefore appeal to enants and not landlords.

- Tenants should be given he right to control their own omes and estates, with rents nly paying for building and aintenance costs.
- A national public building rganisation which will build illions of homes for rent very year must be stablished.
- All landlords should be ade to do repairs within trict time limits. If they do ot, tenants will immediately ave the power to claim rent redits until the fault is satifacorily repaired.
- Harassment and the inmidation of tenants should e made a criminal offence.

In addition the government hould fund, in every area, nants legal centres who ould be able to take legal acon against landlords.

P&O dispute


PHOTO: Laura Harchar

New Support Group formed

South East London

The South East London Support Group for P&O Seafarers was launched on June 30th at a meeting in Deptford Town Hall.

By Gary Ostrolenk

The meeting heard from two NUS members based in Southwark. Daily pickets of 500 are being maintained in Dover, with supporters, particularly miners, swelling this number at the weekend.

Discussion at the meeting centred on the need to maintain the strike financially. Collections must be maintained and increased. Regular levies in the labour movement must be made.

We propose to hold a street collection on Saturday July 9th, 10.30 at Deptford Market, near the Albany. The need to bring other seafarers out on strike again and raise the profile of the dispute in the labour movement was strongly expressed.

The meeting agreed to build for a larger public meeting to support the strikers on July 28th, 8pm, Deptford Town Hall. August 6th has been set for a trip to the Dover picket line — with transport provided.

Hither Green

CPSA workers push fascist Skeggs out!

Striking CPSA members at Hither Green DHSS have scored a historic victory for anti-fascists and anti-racists in the trade union movement.

By DAN CARTER

British National Party member Malcolm Skeggs has been transferred out of the Hither Green office.

Out for three months, and backed by London-wide one-day strike action, the CPSA members won their demand for the removal of Skeggs (see previous *Briefing* reports).

Management saved face by not sacking Skeggs outright and transferring him instead to the Hinchley Wood, Surrey office (part of headquarters) where the CPSA is very weak.

However, CPSA and NUCPS branches are both reported to be balloting on action against Skeggs, and Hither Green, amongst other sections, have promised full support.

The strike shows that political victories can be won by trade union action — even in Thatcher's Britain, 1988 — and gives a boost to those campaigning for the removal of National Front member Paul Nash from Tottenham DHSS.

London-wide action against these fascist organisers is needed to take the SS out of the DHSS!

London's Health

Healthworkers roll back the cuts!

Victory!

A dispute at the Maudsley Psychiatric Hospital has ended after a seven and a half week overtime ban and work to rule — with management conceding to all the union's demands.

It is hoped that this will see a final conclusion to a dispute which has been dragging on for two years.

In 1986, the Special Health Authority covering the Maudsley and the Bethlem Royal hospitals had a budget crisis. The Authority was overspent by £400,000, and was on target for further annual overspending of half a million pounds.

COHSE fought the cuts which were put forward to bridge the gap. At first, it seemed as if they had been successful. The cuts were halted. Government approval for the overspend was obtained — and the authorities began to talk about "underfunding", not "overspending"!

By January 1988, however, the overspend was gone — and the Authority's books were balanced on the original budget figures! This had been achieved by official prevarication on filling vacancies. Falling staff numbers had led to overwork for remaining staff; lower morale had pushed more healthworkers out of the hospital.

The crunch had come. Inspired, as were many other healthworkers, by the nurses' action in Manchester, COHSE nurses took 24 hour strike action in February — the day before the London-wide Day of Action.

By CHRISTINE FRASER

Despite this warning shot, and further 24 hour strikes coinciding with NHS Days of Action, the Authority was not moved. Healthworkers were on strike everywhere: they didn't need to take any initiative to stop the action at Maudsley!

COHSE's answer was to realise the managers had something to lose — their reputation as skilled managers who had "saved" money without making cuts. COHSE members went on an overtime ban.

Their demands were that minimum staff levels be set for each ward, and that ward staff conduct their own recruitment. In the meantime, to minimise risks to staff and patients, services should be reduced.

In this way, COHSE members could oversee the process of recruitment — and make sure it happened quickly, unlike the managers, who had been trying secretly to hold it up. Also, any threat that management would step in and close services altogether, using the staff shortages to justify "temporary" closures, was avoided.

The overtime ban took some time to take effect. It coincided with a seasonal recruitment of student nurses, which lessened the impact of the action.

As the ban began to take effect, some beds had to close. This brought other medical staff round behind the action, and further pressure was brought to bear on management.

The crunch came when the COHSE Branch threatened to escalate the overtime ban to indefinite strike action. Just two days later, management had given in!

Their victory has greatly improved morale at the Maudsley. No one's pretending that Thatcher will throw up her hands in horror at COHSE's success in one hospital and resign; but the action has shown that Tory government policy on the NHS *can* be reversed if industrial action is taken.

Now we must tell other healthworkers about the victory at the Maudsley. If only the health union Leaderships would give a lead, and if the TUC and other unions would back them up, we could take the kind of general industrial action that would defeat the Tory plots on the NHS once and for all.

Until that happens, and while we can all keep up the pressure for it to happen, healthworkers in each NHS unit will have to take confidence that they have the power to save the part of the NHS where they work.

Link up!
Join the London Healthworkers Co-ordinating Committee!
Contact Andy Phillips, Union Office, Royal Free, 794 0500 x4146



Riverside

Join the vigil at St Stephens!

Police were summoned to disperse a "demonstration" outside St Stephen's Hospital last week by irate hospital management — only to find that the "demonstration" was a patient in a wheelchair and two seven year old girls.

The three have been holding a vigil outside St Stephen's since the North West Thames Regional Health Authority announced plans to demolish St Stephen's and close four other hospitals in the Riverside District.

They belong to a patients' organisation who call themselves The Clowns and aim to draw attention to the hospital closures. They are currently collecting 1,000 signatures a day for their petition.

The NWTRHA is increasingly uncomfortable at the overwhelming public opposition to the hospital closures and is making wild attempts at stifling such opposition.

St Stephen's Patient Service Manager, Lynn Clemence, tried to move the three protestors once by telling them that they were not allowed to sit outside the hospital (on a pavement!).

She then called the police — twice — claiming that there was a demonstration that needed dealing with. The police told the patient and the little girls that they were within their rights to stay there, and refused to move them.

The vigil continues every day and will be joined by other patients and members of staff. Future activities include a lobby of Parliament on July 12th.

The patient on vigil is called Barbara, and can be reached after 6.30pm on 01 834 0173.

For further details of the Campaign for the Defence of Riverside (CamDOR) contact Naomi Hillman, 01 602 2940 (evenings), 748 2040 ext. 2211 (days).

Education in London

Life after ILEA's death?

The mass immigration of the Shire Lords and Ladies has ended the speculation that ILEA might possibly survive Thatcher's third term, in some form. Where do we go now? PAUL FOLEY of the SOCIALIST TEACHERS' ALLIANCE looks at the issues.

Why are the Tories so keen to dismantle ILEA?

The funding of ILEA is redistributive in that Westminster and the City (very rich Tory London) are net contributors of £400m to ILEA's budget.

This subsidises the education service in very poor Labour London.

For example, Hackney contributes £36m but consumes nearly £100m of the budget.

Ever since the days of Keith Joseph, the Tories have stated their wish to reduce ILEA's budget by the £400m contributed by Westminster and the City. Their attempts to do this have so far failed.

In the early 1980s, they withdrew Rate Support Grant from ILEA and since 1985, they have rate-capped the budget. Until this year, ILEA has avoided both a head-on confrontation and a budgetary crisis, through employing a variety of "creative accountancy" measures.

This strategy, popular since 1985, is no longer possible because the Tories have closed the loopholes and because it relied on the election of a Labour government which would bale out ILEA.

In 1988 it was no longer possible to protect jobs and services from the effects of rate-capping. The budget has been cut by £93m and 6,000 plus jobs will disappear.

Nor is this year's budgetary crisis a one-off. Nicholas Ridley has made it very clear to the Inner London boroughs that there will be a reduction of £400m in the education budgets by 1993.

This massive reduction will be necessary because of the Tory commitment to Poll Tax and the Unified Business Rate. The effect of this will be to shift the burden of local taxation from businesses to domestic residents.

The government knows very well that under Poll Tax arrangements it will be impossible to maintain the current level of Local Authority services, including education.

So the most important consequence of the break-up of ILEA will be a massive reduction in the scope and range of education services in Inner London. This reduction will not be uniform across all sectors, the biggest threat is posed to the non-statutory sector (under fives and 16 plus) much of which will simply disappear.

However, the political motives for breaking up ILEA are as important as the financial ones. Of course many Tories simply "see red" at the very mention of ILEA: to them it is the very symbol of political and educational practices which they detest.

Behind this single-minded hatred lies a very real political strategy. The Tories calculate that they could never win political control of ILEA and at the very best it would be an unwilling participant in the privatisation projects which are the very foundation of Tory local government policy.

The danger for the Tories is that ILEA could provide a very potent focus of opposition to both its education and local government policies.

The inner cities, including London, are a major focus for the Tories. They are now aiming to construct an electoral base in these areas. This involves both a massive reduction in services and the break up of the democratic structures of local government.

The services will be reconstructed in a way that will materially benefit a significant section of the inner city population and draw it in to the new Tory consensus.

The key services are housing and education. The multiple provisions of GERBIL — opting out; local management; national cirriculum; national testing, etc. — will all weaken the ability of LEAs to determine education policy.

Under the GERBIL arrangements it is very difficult to foresee any political function for LEAs other than to award contracts and shut down the "unpopular schools". Not only will the traditional functions of LEAs disappear but there will be a considerable reduction in education provision.

It is very doubtful if the Tories have any concern at all for the educational needs of young working class Londoners, beyond attempting to use schools as a crude form of social and ideological control.

By Paul Foley
STA

However, a few will be able to take advantage of an elitist education. Those labelled "gifted" will have City Technical Colleges and aspirations of promotion to a higher social class. This will enable the Tories to preserve the illusion of education as a vehicle for upward social mobility.

In this way the Tories would hope to develop a small but significant working class base in the inner city among those who materially benefit.

What then of the response to the Tories? At ILEA level, this response has been made by the senior officers rather than Labour Group.

On the matter of budget cuts, they hoped to persuade Baker to spread the cuts over three years rather than one. This was never likely to be successful because the cuts in this year's budget are the first in a series.

In addition, the offer to make cuts exposed the ILEA Leadership as accomplices of the Tories. After all this, any unified campaign with students, parents and education workers was impossible.

Having accepted the cuts, ILEA had no alternative but to attack the trade unions, in particular ILTA. The chosen tatic was the threat of indefinite suspension for unofficial industrial action. This, together with the suspension/expulsion of the ILTA Eight ruled out any possibility of widespread unofficial action and official NUT sanction for industrial action was not forthcoming.

Belatedly, ILEA woke up to the threat posed by the Heseltine/Tebbit amendment on abolition. Its response was not sufficient to build a mass campaign to counter the threat.

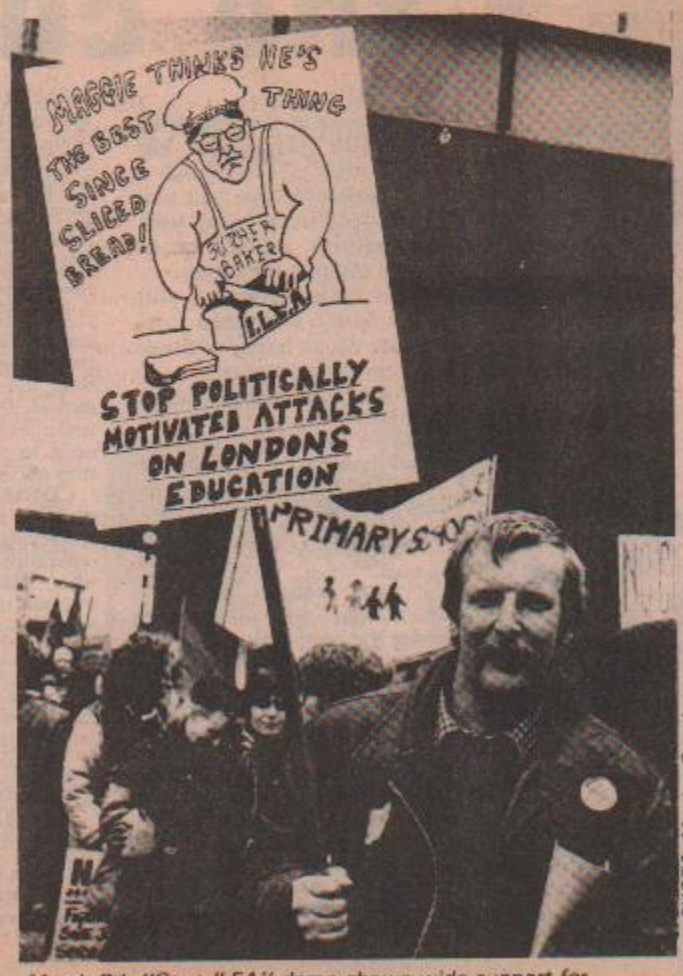


PHOTO: Martine Stead

March 8th "Save ILEA" demo shows wide support for education in London.

ILEA sought to sperate the question of abolition from the cuts, its line being that workers and students would have to bite the bullet and stand firm on the abolition issue.

Another problem was the counterposing of industrial action to parents' action and the limited nature of the latter. Undoubtedly, ILEA's political Leadership view industrial action as alienating parents.

There is little evidence of this over the past decade, for Inner London teachers have always successfully mobilised parents during that period.

In effect, the whole political strategy of ILEA has proved a barrier against recreating the ILEA, teachers, parents alliance which has been so successful in previous "Save ILEA" campaigns.

The final question remains: are the Tories irresistible?

There are many in the labour movement who would answer no. Indeed, the dominant "new realist" current would argue that resistance is both futile and undesirable. Yet Tory plans for Inner London's education are so horrendous that some form of resistance is almost inevitable.

An obvious starting point must be an alliance between education workers and users. By itself, this will not be enough.

Campaigns of resistance must be taken into the Labour Party and not simply on the basis of defending the status quo. A left programme for education msut include positive demands, proposals for a Socialist Education Policy.

On a more general level, we must look for alliances with other Local Authority workers and users for the Tory attack on education in Inner London is part of a more general attack on Local Authority services. Only a generalised response will defeat them.



PHOTO: Richard Hawkins

Kensington by-election July 14th Phone 960 8990 for details

Bromley Benn-Heffer Campaign:
SOCIALIST AGENDA

The Case For Benn & Heffer

Labour Leadership Election

Monday July 11th, 7.30pm

H.G. Wells Centre, Bromley Labour Club, St Mark's Road, Bromley South

(off Masons Hill, 2 minutes walk from Bromely South Station)

Speakers:

Campaign Group MP

Cllr Ron Huzzard
Secretary, Labour Action for Peace
personal capacity

NUS Striker

Black Sections

Mark Cole
Political Economist

Steve Cowan
International Policies for Socialism

STOP PRESS:

Saturday July 16th:

Visit to support P&O Strikers, Dover

Meet 10.30am, 13-15 High Street, St Mary Cray.

All Welcome. Donations welcome: Money, Food, Baby Products.

ILEA victimisation

Now lobby ILEA Labour Group!

Tony Marriott and the ILEA NALGO branch are still campaigning to ensure his reinstatement as an ILEA Careers Officer.

Tony was sacked suddenly, just before the end of his probationary period, for his work not being up to scratch.

Or, if you believe what Joan Hooker, ILEA member for Islington South, told one of her constituents, it was a "political decision" to sack him for his trade union activities!

If you don't know the background to Tony's case, look it up in the last few copies of *Briefing*, or phone ILEA/GLS NALGO on 01 633 5569/70.

The campaign has now produced a short briefing paper on the case, including a model resolution and a summary of the facts.

The next focus for the campaign will be the ILEA Labour Group meeting on Monday July 18th, at 6pm, County Hall. Pass the model resolution below wherever you can, and lobby all the ILEA Councillors you know — for example, by attending surgeries.

However, as much lobbying as possible must be done before July 18th, so don't wait for surgery dates before making contact if these are later.

Labour movement bodies which have passed the initial resolution will need to be mobilised for the lobby. They can also usefully look at what effect their policy is having on their ILEA members, and take follow up action where appropriate.

Send copies of resolutions passed to ILEA members, Greater London Labour Party Executive and GLS & ILEA NALGO. Turn up for the lobby, bringing delegations and banners.

By Jenny Fisher
Bow & Poplar CLP

Model resolution

"This CLP/GC/Ward:

1. deplores the sacking of a NALGO Shop Steward from the ILEA Careers Service

2. calls on the ILEA Labour members for this ward/constituency to

a) utilise their authority to ensure the reinstatement of the steward and

b) to set up a member level inquiry into the sacking of a NALGO Shop Steward which will investigate:

i) abuses of ILEA Equal Opportunities Policy

ii) flouting of the ACAS Code of Practice

iii) the ignoring of the Grievance Procedure within ILEA

3. resolves to support the lobby of the ILEA Labour Group at County Hall on Mondy July 18th from 6pm.

Defend jobs and services in ILEA! Defend ILEA!