LONDON LABOUR 15p
BRIEFING
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ELECTION SPECIAL

ALL OUT TO WIN PEACE JOBS & FREEDOM!

by Ken Livingstone

Labour can win the election on June 9. Whilst the party's chances have been damaged over the last four years by the right wing attacks on socialists within the party, by the press support for the SDP which was created to keep Labour out of office and by the last minute NEC decision to impose Reg Freeson on Brent East,we can still win.

Labour can win votes if we can convince the people that we have a solution to the central problem of the economy. Thatcher's decision to go for an election a year early is because of the economic predictions the Tories are getting. We have been told by the Tories and big business that things are looking up, the recession is coming to an end and the economy is about to start growing. But the effects of four years of Thatcher is that we are in a weaker position economically than all of our competitors.

* Unemployment has risen twice as fast in Britain as in any of our rivals.
* Our manufacturing firms have contracted to the point where even if we did have a boom again there is not the capacity in British industry to supply the goods people would want to buy. Any boom in those conditions would simply suck in imports from abroad and cause a balance of payments crisis.
* Our dependence on oil means that if there was any further collapse in oil prices it could knock the bottom out of the government's budget.
* Our dependence on financial dealings in the City of London means that if any Third World country was to default on its debts we could see our entire banking system sucked down in the collapse of the international banking system.

Many economists are predicting that sometime before the end of 1984 we will see a world depression as deep and as unexpected as in 1929. They predict a complete collapse of the property market with ordinary peoples' homes losing up to half their value. If the Labour charge that the Tories want the election out of the way before the economy goes bust begins to stick,then the election could go badly wrong for the Tories. All that Labour wishes to do in government hinges on our ability to control the movement of capital. One thousand million pounds a month is flowing out of Britain to be invested abroad. A Labour government must take immediate action to halt that flow and redirect it into rebuilding our economy and the infrastrucuture of the welfare state.

There must be a cut in defence spending of four thousand million pounds in the first year of a Labour government and that money redirected into rebuilding health, education and housing programmes. This sort of action can start to create the jobs necessary to bring down unemployement.

No gimmicks such as wage control, devaluation or import controls are a substitute for a Labour government taking control of capital.

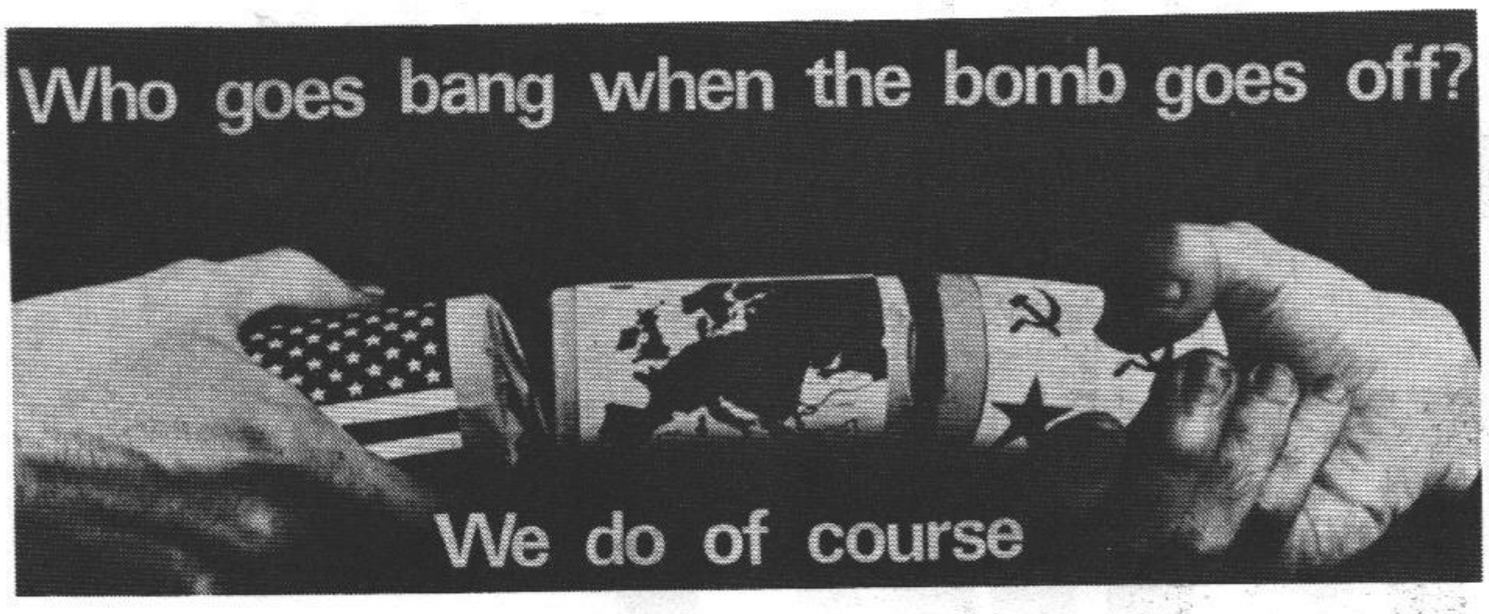
If we can convince the voters we are serious about such measures we can win a mandate.

If we fail to do so we open the door to five more years of Thatcher.

LABOUR—TAKE THE POWER!

LABOUR FOR KEEP THE BOMBS OUT OF BRITAIN

by Helen John



Cath Tate

I'm going to be calling for a Labour vote. Everyone in CND knows the election is a vital time to get our issues across, and we should do just that. But I depart totally from some people in CND who go for 'tactical voting'.

The SDP or the Liberals aren't what we want at the end of the day. Only one major party has unilateralist policies ready to put into practice.

We should be calling for a Labour vote, but demanding Labour sticks to its unilateralist policies.

Unlike Michael Foot we are not watering down our policies. There is a straight choice: either we ban Cruise from this country and get a breathing space to get full nuclear disarmament, or they'll be here for good.

I am very alarmed at the way Foot is talking. 'If they arrive', he says, 'then we will send them back'. And then he says we mustn't be despondent if they arrive.

But once they're here, people will say we can't send them back because the Russians will misinterpret it. They'll be in place and Reagan will be one step nearer to what he really wants, which is to start a nuclear war in Europe.

We have to stop them coming; and that means we the Labour Party has to get together with the unions to exert enough economic pressure to make sure they can't put them here.

That's why I'm disturbed that there seems to be some idea we should downplay disarmament and highlight unemployment. Clearly the two issues are desperately linked. I'm sure, for example, the Timex workers understand very clearly that money should be spent on their jobs instead of weapons. But unfortunately some people in the unions are trying to protect their jobs rather than their lives, and if you're dead a job isn't much use.



Photo : G.M. Cookson

PEACE



Photo: G.M. Cookson

TOGETHER WE CAN STOP THE BOMB AND THE TORIES

By Jim Coutts, Youth CND

On 7 May 70,000 young people filled Brockwell Park for Youth CND's first ever national event - a huge 'Rock the Bomb' festival.

Their message was loud and clear: Stop the missiles and kick out the Tories.

Nuclear disarmament has huge support. CND has held the biggest demonstration since the last war - 250,000. And on May 24 the Greenham Common women will stimulate something previously unheard of: the first nationwide industrial action against the missiles. They have called on all women to take action against the siting of Cruise Missiles in Britain. Their appeal has the backing of the Labour Party NEC, the TUC and five national unions.

So nuclear disarmament is the most decisive issue of the general election. Youth want Jobs not Bombs - but they don't want to be offered the jobs while Labour keeps quiet about the bombs, or pretends we can get rid of some of the bombs, but not all of them in case we upset our allies. You can't work if you're dead.

The Labour Party has to give a lead to youth by proving it will get rid of the missiles. Three-quarters of a million people will vote for the first time on 9 June. So if Labour campaigns for unilateralism it will prove to them it means what it says about the missiles. If it proves that you can't get rid of the missiles without getting rid of the bases, it will expose the hypocrisy and vacillation of the Liberals and their SDP allies.

But it's not enough just to get the youth vote out on polling day. *Whatever* happens in the election we must stop the missiles.

We can do it if we back up the Greenham women and the youth who filled Brockwell Park by working with them to bring this country to a halt if they try to bring the missiles in. And indeed, that is the *best* way to win the election. If May 24th makes it plain that a Thatcher victory will make the country ungovernable, just as in 1974 the miners made it plain, we will get the Labour victory we need.

So if you want to stop Thatcher, Labour has to put its weight behind CND, YCND and the Greenham women. Starting with the May 24th women's international day of action and going on the TUC day of action on Hiroshima Day - August 6th - and the big CND demonstration on 22 October together we can stop the bomb *and* the Tories.

ETHNIC MINORITIES - DON'T TAKE US FOR GRANTED!

by Vidya Anand

The 'de-selection' of Russell Proffitt in the new Battersea seat may not have made the headlines, but the message came back to the ethnic communities loud and clear that 'the Labour Party does not want us'. That is how this de-selection is perceived. Our communities do not make fine distinctions between left and right, or between progressive and reactionary wings of the party — they see the party and its performance as a whole. We cannot escape this brutal political fact.

No one in his right mind would wish to challenge the right of a CLP to choose whosoever they wish. But, equally, no one can dispute the fact that the party, and above all in London, is firmly supportive of the principle of positive discrimination in favour of women and ethnic minorities who have been discriminated against from the very early days of the Labour Party.

It is just not good enough to hurl 'verbal hand-grenades' or 'paper darts' at the establishment, the police, the civil service, the municipal bureaucracy, the armed forces, without asking what we are doing in our own party to promote the cause of justice for women and ethnic minorities. We are told that it is the party which is the power base where decisions are taken and not the serried ranks of officers who are held to be blocking, resisting and even sabotaging our policies. It is the party therefore where the changes have to come first and foremost.

The election this year at the AGM of the Greater London Labour Party of three more members of the ethnic minorities on to its Executive Committee is to be welcomed. But it is a small step along a bumpy road full of potholes, and barbed wire obstacles.

The Executive Committee has already had to cope with a number of cases associated with charges of racial discrimination. Ansel Samuel is not an isolated case, unfortunately. The Commission for Racial Equality is giving full support to Mr.Selvarajan — a member of the Putney GMC — in his contention that ILEA has discriminated against him. These issues should never have arisen in the first place. It is up to the elected comrades to deal with these problems at the grassroots, and not to allow them to fester away, only to blow up in their faces; or worse still, to inflict damage on the Labour Party, and create distrust amongst the ethnic minorities about the real intentions behind the fine words.

With a general election in the offing, the party cannot afford to ignore the ethnic minorities in their communities. The ethnic minorities are not there to be tapped on and off for electoral purposes by party politicians. They expect that the politics is reflected in its actions. In Haringey, Brent, Lewisham, Hackney, and Islington — the Labour Groups have delivered! Women and Blacks have taken over key positions in the leadership of their respective local authorities. And immediately! There were no delays and excuses in implementing these central planks of their manifestos.

Today the Labour Party is at the cross-roads. It is faced with a mighty battle ahead and needs the whole-hearted support of trade unions, women, and ethnic minorities in the crusade against Margaret Thatcher's reactionary Tory Government.

This can only be achieved by a partnership where all the groups in this great alliance can transform the party into a socialist beacon of hope for people of all races and creeds throughout the length and breadth of the country.

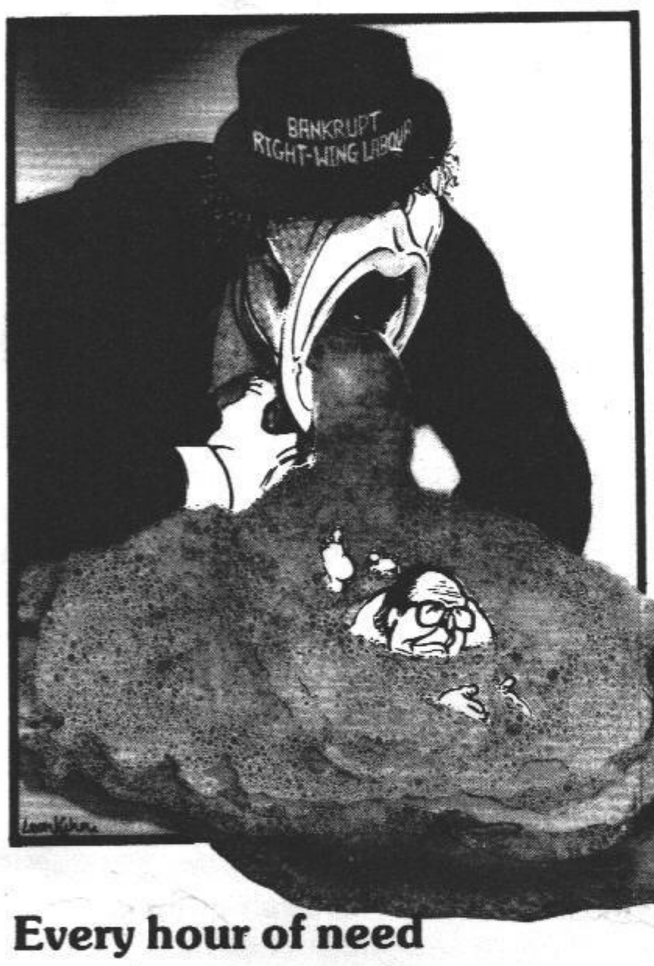
WHERE TO CAMPAIGN

Compiled by Deborah Knight (Brent East CLP) and Nigel Williamson (Tribune)

The boundary commissioner has reduced the number of London seats from 92 to 84. Of the remaining seats 14 have new names and Labour has lost 4 sitting MPs as a result of the changes — Reg Race, John Tilley, Stanley Clinton-Davis and Jock Stallard.

Of the 84 seats, Labour can only be certain of victory in about 28. Its most vulnerable seats to the Tories are Edmonton, Lewisham East and Lewisham West and Ealing North, which although won by the Tories in 1979 is now classified as a Labour marginal. In addition, it will be fighting SDP defectors in Erith & Crayford, Hayes & Harlington, Islington North and South, Hackney South, Woolwich and Leyton. The seats it most hopes to gain from the Tories are Dulwich (won by Labour in 1979 but now considered a Tory marginal), Hornchurch, Fulham, Westminster North, Ilford South, Putney, Eltham, Hornsey, Hampstead and Enfield North. It will also be hoping to take Bermondsey and Croyden North West from the Liberals. If Labour succeed in winning all these seats, London could return up to 44 Labour MPs to Westminster. To do so would require a swing to Labour of nearly 4 per cent across the whole of London.

The table below will allow Briefing supporters to decide where their energies will be best spent during the campaign. The addresses and phone numbers of constituency party election agents can be obtained from the London Labour Party 703 6511.



Leeds Postcards

Every hour of need throws up a hero ...

CONSTITUENCY	CANDIDATE	NOTIONAL 1979 MAJORITY ON NEW BOUNDARIES (BBC/ITN figures)	COMMENT
ACTON	Gareth Daniel	Tory	8,700
BARKING	Jo Richardson	Lab	8,250
BATTERSEA	Alf Dubs	Lab	6,950
BECKENHAM	Jim Dowd	Tory	13,900
BETHNAL GREEN & STEPNEY	Ian Mikardo	Lab	9,450
BEXLEYHEATH	Andy Erlam	Tory	10,400
BOW & POPLAR	Peter Shore	Lab	12,200
BRENT EAST		Lab	5,900
BRENT NORTH	Sandra Jackson	Tory	12,000
BRENT SOUTH	Laurie Pavitt	Lab	12,700
BRENTFORD & ISLEWORTH	Pete Rowlands	Tory	5,000 Lab needs 4.5% swing
CARSHALTON & WALLINGTON	Joanna Baker	Tory	10,400
CHELSEA	Nicky Palmer	Tory	15,950
CHINGFORD	William Shepherd	Tory	12,400
CHIPPING BARNET	Nigel Smith	Tory	14,000
CHISLEHURST	Alistair Macdonald	Tory	9,750
CITY OF LONDON & WESTMINSTER SOUTH		Tory	15,800
CROYDON CENTRAL	Andrew McKinley	Tory	8,800
CROYDON NORTH EAST	Kathy Riley	Tory	7,800
CROYDON NORTH WEST	Ian Smedley	Lib	— Was Tory marginal until Lib by-election victory 1981
CROYDON SOUTH	Robert Brooks	Tory	21,400
DAGENHAM	Bryan Gould	Lab	8,850
DEPTFORD	John Silkin	Lab	7,450
DULWICH	Kate Hoey	Tory	450 Won by Lab in 1979 but boundary changes now make it Tory marginal
EALING NORTH	Hilary Benn	Lab	1,400 Won by Tories in 1979 but boundary changes make it Lab marginal
ELTHAM	Colin Moore	Tory	3,000 Lab needs 3.3% swing
ENFIELD NORTH	Brian Grayson	Tory	4,100 Lab needs 3.9% swing
ERITH & CRAYFORD	M. Smart	Lab	4,500 SDP defector
FELTHAM & HESTON	Russ Kerr	Lab	4,100
FINCHLEY	Laurence Spiegel	Tory	7,900 Margaret Thatcher's seat
FULHAM	Tony Powell	Tory	1,500 19th most marginal Tory seat. Lab needs 1.7% swing
GREENWICH	Guy Barnett	Lab	7,000
HACKNEY NORTH & STOKE NEWINGTON	Ernie Roberts	Lab	9,350
HACKNEY SOUTH & SHOREDITCH	Brian Sedgemore	Lab	11,400
HAMMERSMITH	Clive Soley	Lab	3,500
HAMPSTEAD & HIGHGATE	John McDonnell	Tory	3,850 Briefing supporter. Tory marginal
HARROW EAST		Tory	9,100
HARROW WEST	Keith Thoms	Tory	18,500
HAYES & HARLINGTON	Peter Fagan	Lab	3,300 SDP defector
HENDON NORTH	Tony Williams	Tory	6,450
HENDON SOUTH	Doreen Neall	Tory	8,700
HOLBORN & ST PANCRAS	Frank Dobson	Lab	7,900

Editorial

HOW NOT TO FIGHT THE ELECTION

The attempt of the NEC to impose Reg Freeson as Parliamentary candidate on Brent East CLP is a kick in the teeth to the whole Party. It is an obscene abuse of the democratic right of constituency parties to select their own candidate, and is a thoroughly divisive move that can only demoralise our supporters.

If the NEC is prepared to tear up the Party constitution and go to such lengths to keep a socialist like Ken Livingstone out of Parliament, how much further will they go to avoid their radical manifesto commitments?

For *London Labour Briefing* the overriding priority is to secure a maximum mobilisation for a massive Labour vote at the election. It is infuriating that in this task we are obliged to fight not only the Tories and their media but also the right-wing splitters who control the NEC. We won't let them deflect us from our task.

Let Golding and company be warned. This is an episode Party activists will not forget.

		NOTIONAL 1979 MAJORITY ON NEW BOUNDARIES (BBC/ITN figures)	COMMENT
HORNCHURCH	Alan Williams	Tory	769 11th most marginal Tory seat. Lab needs 0.8% swing
HORNSEY & WOOD GREEN	Val Venness	Tory	4,250 Briefing supporter. Lab needs 3.6% swing
ILFORD NORTH	Mike Gapes	Tory	6,500 Lab needs 6.8% swing
ILFORD SOUTH	John Hogben	Tory	6,300 Lab needs 2.6% swing
ISLINGTON NORTH	Jeremy Corbyn	Lab	6,650 Briefing supporter. SDP defector
ISLINGTON SOUTH	Chris Smith	Lab	6,630 SDP defector
KENSINGTON	Ben Bousquett	Tory	5,200
KINGSTON ON THAMES	Peter Smith	Tory	13,550
LEWISHAM EAST	Roland Moyle	Lab	2,100 Lab's 30th most marginal seat
LEWISHAM WEST	Chris Price	Lab	867 Lab's 14th most marginal seat
LEYTON	Harry Cohen	Lab	5,700 Briefing supporter. SDP defector standing
MITCHAM & MORDEN	David Nicholas	Tory	— Was Lab marginal until 1982 by-election. SDP defector
NEWHAM NORTH EAST	Ron Leighton	Lab	10,000
NEWHAM NORTH WEST	Tony Banks	Lab	10,450 Briefing supporter. De-selected former Lab MP also standing
NEWHAM SOUTH	Nigel Spearing	Lab	12,800
NORWOOD	John Fraser	Lab	3,300
OLD BEXLEY & SIDCUP	Chris Kiff	Tory	13,450
ORPINGTON	David Bean	Tory	13,050
PECKHAM	Harriet Harman	Lab	10,450
PUTNEY	Peter Hain	Tory	2,600 Lab needs 2.6% swing
RAVENSBOURNE	John Holbrook	Tory	18,300
RICHMOND & BARNES	Keith Vaz	Tory	2,500 Strong Liberal hope
ROMFORD	Jack Hoepelman	Tory	8,800
RUISLIP NORTHWOOD	Mike O'Brien	Tory	17,200
SOUTHGATE	Mary Honeyball	Tory	18,350
SOUTHALL	Syd Bidwell	Lab	11,300
SOUTHWARK & BERMONDSEY		Lib	Safe Lab seat until 1983 by-election
STREATHAM	Madeline Long	Tory	4,800 Lab needs 5.4% swing
SURBITON	Nigel Waskett	Tory	10,800
SUTTON & CHEAM	Geoff Dixon	TOry	15,700
TOOTING	Tom Cox	Lab	5,050
TOTTENHAM	Norman Atkinson	Lab	9,850
TWICKENHAM	Pat Nicholas	Tory	12,900
UPMINSTER	Allan Hughes	Tory	9,100
UXBRIDGE	Jake Magee	Tory	8,000
VAUXHALL	Stuart Holland	Lab	8,600
WALTHAMSTOW	Eric Deakins	Lab	4,450
WANSTEAD & WOODFORD	Lesley Hilton	Tory	17,750
WESTMINSTER NORTH (PADDINGTON)	Arthur Latham	Tory	2,400 Traditional Lab seat lost by 106 votes in 1979. Boundary changes make this harder to win. Lab needs 2.5% swing
WIMBLEDON	Rock Tansey	Tory	13,300
WOOLWICH	Audrey Wise	Lab	10,600 SDP defector standing





Photo: Cath Tate.

RALLY TO BENN!

by Phil Vowles, Chair, Bristol East

Bristol East Constituency Labour Party is fighting for the Labour left's political life. At the local elections 23,240 people voted Labour in Bristol East, 22,961 voted Tory and 12,290 voted Liberal.

And the dirty tricks have already started. Within hours of the election being announced, Bristol East voters were getting anonymous phone calls - which later turned out to be from the Sun - asking their 'opinions' on Tony Benn. Labour voters were asked 'do you know Tony Benn backs unilateral disarmament?' and 'would you prefer to vote Labour if Peter Shore were standing?'.

We are sure a disproportionate amount of Thatcher's £20 million election spending will go into stopping Tony Benn getting back in the Commons.

But the whole labour movement is fighting back. We've just been set up but we've been flooded with offers of help. The South Wales miners and the Steel union are sending flying teams over. The Bristol Transport and General Workers Union have donated their Bristol office as a permanent headquarters and seconded fulltimers to the campaign, as have the National Union of Public Employees.

We are pulling no punches. We've agreed to put a Young Socialist and a woman speaker on every platform. Nuclear disarmament will be up front. We'll be out in force when the People's March comes to Bristol on 28 May and Tony will be in London to welcome the marchers when they get there. But the rest of the time he will be fighting in Bristol. We aim to find out the shift changes and meal breaks at every factory and visit them all, any time of the day or night if necessary.

The labour movement is solidly behind Tony Benn and the media is solidly against him. We need your help now!

Briefing is discussing help with transport for anyone who wants to spend a weekend helping Tony Benn. Contact us if you are interested!

STOP FUDGING—START FIGHTING!

Labour is going into this election with one hand tied behind its back.

We know the opinion polls distort. We know Labour's vote is swelling as disillusioned Labour voters are awakened by the horrific prospect of another five years of Thatcher.

But who can deny that the Tories have built a critical and damaging lead which it will take more than a huge canvassing effort to budge. *It will take the right politics and the right campaigning methods.* And we're not getting them from this leadership.

'Think positive' is about as inspiring as 'don't despair'. There is nothing positive about downgrading our unilateralism for fear of a media witch-hunt. Nothing positive about scoring the series of union conferences which have voted against incomes policy. Nothing positive about trying to get the People's March called off, as some trade unionists have done, so we can do more doorknocking.

The only way to win is to harness the despair of the unemployed, the anger of women, the determination of anti-nuclear protestors and the rebelliousness of youth in Labour's cause. The only way to win is to demonstrate *now* that Thatcher cannot hope to govern this country. Which means a clear indication that Labour, and the unions, intend to *stop fudging and start fighting*.

We may, or may not, succeed before the election. But we have to *start* now. To prepare for every possible outcome, the left must lead Labour's campaign on the ground. If Labour wins, we want the strength to stop another IMF-dictated surrender. If there is a hung parliament, we want to stop a coalition. If the Tories win, we want to start the battle against the right from the strongest possible position.

All these options demand the same thing: the biggest possible vote for Labour, won by using the methods of struggle instead of the methods of compromise.

Briefing therefore welcomes the initiative, however hard it has been to organise in the time available, taken by Socialists for a Labour Victory. SLV is mailing out draft leaflets putting forward Labour's socialist policies to every constituency; we reprint a sample here. It is sending out campaigning guidelines which, in our view, represent the best way to mobilise Labour's vote: linking up with the mass campaigns, defending Labour's socialist policies, mobilising the youth and the unions. It has prepared a speakers' panel for parties wanting to make these links and get our socialist message across.

If you want to make use of the service which SLV is offering Labour's campaign, contact SLV c/o the secretaries at 28 Middle Lane, London Nl. For speakers phone Val Coultas on 582 3667.

Labour says

FIGHT RACISM

For the last four years, Tory policies have been designed to appease the racists, divide working people and fan the flames of racism. Under this government registered unemployment among blacks has more than doubled; there has been a massive increase in harassment under the immigration laws; a new racist Nationality Act has been passed; the police have been promised a great increase in powers.

INTERNAL PASSPORT CHECKS

Hospital treatment isn't free for everyone any more. Since last October overseas students and visitors must pay for treatment. It is now becoming common for black or 'foreign-looking' people to be asked to show their passports to prove they qualify when applying for treatment, jobs, housing and welfare benefit.

DIVIDED FAMILIES

The wives and children of men settled here often have to wait years and go through long and humiliating interrogations before they are allowed in. Some are refused admission. Anwar Ditta's children were only able to join their parents in Rochdale after a six-year campaign. Elderly parents can't come in at all — even when the children can look after them.

The Tories say they support the family — if they're white! Black people have to prove their marriages are 'genuine' before they can be united, and can then be deported if it breaks up.

RACIST DEPORTATIONS

The Tories have put a lot of effort into kicking out many black people who have lived here for a long time as 'illegal entrants', without any right of appeal before they are sent away.

RACIST ATTACKS

Black people are physically under threat. It is estimated that there are 10,000 to 20,000 racist attacks *every year*. The Tories have done nothing to stop this violence. Police action has been concentrated against the black community. They reject the idea that racist behaviour should be a police disciplinary offence, and want to increase the police's powers of harassment in the Police Bill.

BLACK AND WHITE UNITE

These attacks on black people are only a part of the Tory assault on all working people. The Tories use racism as a tool to divide working people — at a time when unity is more than ever needed to fight back against unemployment and the cuts in public services.

LABOUR STANDS AGAINST RACISM. LABOUR WILL:

- Repeal the racist Nationality Act and the 1971 Immigration Act within a year;
- Restore free treatment for everyone in the NHS and end passport checks in hospitals, dole queues and other social services;
- Allow black families to be reunited — wives and children, fiances and parents;
- Give a full right of appeal for those threatened with deportation;
- End discrimination and the scandalous cost in registering to become a British citizen. Restore the right of citizenship to East African Asians, which Labour took away from them in 1968.
- Stop any attempts to reintroduce the Tories' Police Bill.

Labour says

YOUTH DEMAND A FUTURE

What does a new Thatcher government promise young people? NOTHING AT ALL. Since the Tories got elected four years ago, there has been:

— *No jobs.* Less than half of this year's school leavers will get a job.

— *No training.* There are 40% *fewer* apprenticeships than in 1979.

— *No money.* No Supplementary Benefit for two months after leaving school. Training allowances kept down to £25. Grants worth 10% less than in 1979.

Tory Party 'thinkers' have their plans for young people. They dream of going back 100 years to Victorian Britain.

- They talk of stopping Supplementary Benefit payments for all 16 year olds.
- They threaten to cut off dole money to force young people onto non-union, £25 a week slave labour 'training' schemes; and maybe into the army.
- They will cut college courses that aren't needed by industry.
- They will reintroduce their Police Bill.

The Tories promise a kick in the teeth by the police for those who are black or who complain. They want to give the police more powers, like detaining people for four days without access to friends or lawyers.

The main promise young people can expect from the Tories is nuclear war. For young people, the 'Tory Future' is one without jobs, flats or education. They will have plenty of time to stand and watch as the Tories spend billions on bombs, enough to blow us up 30 times over.

IF YOU WANT A JOB, THEN MAKE SURE THATCHER IS BEATEN ON JUNE 9th.

LABOUR STANDS FOR:

- Unilateral nuclear disarmament
- A grant for FE students
- An increase in training allowances
- Trade Union rights on training courses
- No Police Bill
- Cutting unemployment
- Special training schemes for young women to help them get better paid jobs.

DON'T WASTE YOUR VOTE. VOTE LABOUR. THIS GOVERNMENT IS TOO SERIOUS TO MUCK ABOUT WITH.

But don't just vote Labour. Help make sure it carries out the policy. Join the Labour Party Young Socialists and organise with other people to force the government to give us what we need — A DECENT FUTURE.

Labour and the People's March

GREET the PEOPLE'S MARCH !

THURSDAY JUNE 2nd
2p.m. MASS RALLY:
Brent Town Hall. Tony Benn, Ken Livingstone, Ray Buckton.

FRIDAY JUNE 3rd
1.30 p.m: meet march at Ealing Hospital, with Ealing C.L.P. 3.00 p.m: RALLY at Southall Community Centre, with Michael Foot.

SATURDAY JUNE 4th
10.30a.m. Assemble Battersea Bridge. March to Crystal Palace. RALLY all afternoon.

SUNDAY JUNE 5th
12.00 noon. Assemble Battersea Park for march to Hyde Park.

Deptford, Battersea, Ealing N. & Putney C.L.P.s will be leafletting for the March whilst canvassing. What about your party ?



ACCORDING to Ron Todd, the chairperson of the organising committee, there should be a quarter of a million people on the streets in London on June 5 for the rally to mark the end of the People's March.

Already 3000 have turned out in Sheffield to greet the Yorkshire and Humberside legs of the march. A Yorkshire marcher reports: "All along our route the support from workers, the unemployed, pensioners, and in fact most people we passed, has been very strong and most uplifting".

. This response is proof that support can be gained for action against the Tories. And the fact that the March will now run through the election campaign is a great opportunity for Labour.

Only Labour could conceivably implement the policies needed to restore employment – expanded public services, hospitals not holocaust, a shorter working week, nationalisations. The Tories do not even pretend to have any programme for jobs other than waiting for the automatic mechanisms of capitalism to bring a revival.

by Martin Thomas

The People's March and Labour's election campaign should dovetail, each boosting the other.

The problem is that Labour's Shadow Cabinet never wanted the March in the first place – they thought that angry unemployed youth on the streets would harm Labour's image. They will be loth to identify themselves with the March now.

None of this stops local Labour Parties from identifying themselves and their election campaigns with the March, and organising a visible and vocal Labour presence on demonstrations to greet the marchers as they come through London.

Supporters of the March will be receptive to the message that only the labour movement can win the right to work – by getting a Labour government and continuing the fight for socialist policies. And by a strong identification with the March Labour Parties can fight the despair and demoralisation which is the Tories' no.1 political asset.



'STREET LIFE' SUPPLEMENT

Making our socialism relevant

The last four years of Tory government in Britain have inflicted more misery and ruin on most people's lives than they have ever experienced before. It seems incredible therefore that at the time of writing, Labour is still trailing behind the Tories in the opinion polls. Quite clearly we have not succeeded in convincing people that Labour's policies are an alternative. We are not convincing people that we have solutions to the problems we face. Yet we *are* a real alternative. So where are we going wrong?

I think we have failed to recognise that the capitalist and patriarchal society we live in, doesn't just oppress us economically, it oppresses us as human beings in terms of the conditions it forces us to live and work in, and in the social relationships that exist within and between families and individuals. The labour movement (including the left) has often denied the human and social aspects of many issues, reducing them to slogans and demands. Where it has taken them up, it has rarely attempted to go beyond picking up the pieces and applying the sticking plaster. The consequence is that the image of the Labour Party is one of austerity and deprivation. In continually *defending* the Welfare State without going beyond it, we have become identified with a second rate society – poor council housing, inadequate health and education services etc. The Tories, despite their actual practice, are identified with a vision of a better wealthier society. I think that the Labour Party Manifesto despite its title 'New Hope for Britain' fails to provide a *positive*, *relevant* image of socialism.

HOUSING – REDUCED TO STATISTICS

For example, in tackling the awful problems of homelessness and bad housing conditions, the issue is reduced to one of statistics – how many houses we will build, how we will improve repairs programmes. What is completely ignored is the fact that many of the major problems that exist on council estates, such as crime, vandalism, and the terrible isolation that especially women feel, are built into the estates in their design. Nowhere do we consider what kind of houses people want to live in. We need to consider the design of houses in order to enable us to live in the size and type of social unit we would like, rather than imposing the standard sized nuclear family as the norm.

LETTING MEN OFF THE HOOK

'The better deal for women' in the Manifesto aims to achieve women's equality by transferring the 'burden' of childcare and social service provision from women to the state, and then removing obstacles to women's opportunities in employment. In other words, it does not challenge the view that it is women's caring and nurturing role in society that has hampered our progress to equality. It denies the value of this role and the needs of women and children, as well as firmly putting the emphasis on women to change to fit into male organised structures, completely letting men off the hook from taking their share of the caring and nurturing side of society.

Its response to violence against women is just to pick up the pieces by helping rape victims and setting up family crisis centres. It doesn't even attempt to deal with the causes of violence against women.

WHAT JOBS WILL WE CREATE?

The Manifesto's programme for the industrial revival of Britain again reduces the issue to one of economics and statistics. It is concerned with numbers of jobs and levels of investment, but doesn't deal with the type of jobs we will create. It says 'we intend to create *new* companies and *new* science-based industries', but what will these companies be manufacturing? – what services will they be providing? – what will be the working conditions in these companies?

Above all, the Manifesto creates the impression that the Labour Party can do everything on its own, and everyone else just needs to sit back. *We* make the same mistake if we think we have all the answers and don't build a movement which is habitable for and representative of all races and cultures, of both sexes and of people with disabilities.

We can only convince people that socialism is a real alternative by making it relevant to our needs in our daily lives. The peace women have brought the issue of nuclear disarmament to the fore by relating it to the things that people are most concerned about – our homes, children and families. We need to have a positive vision of the society we wish to live in, which takes into account human needs and relationships, and which we can begin to put into practice now. The 'Streetlife Supplement' has attempted to begin that process. Another term of Tory government would not only be a setback it would be a disaster. The election of a Labour Government and the implementation of the manifesto policies is vital, but that must be just the beginning if we really want to build a mass movement committed to socialism.

Jane Stockton
(after discussion with other women)

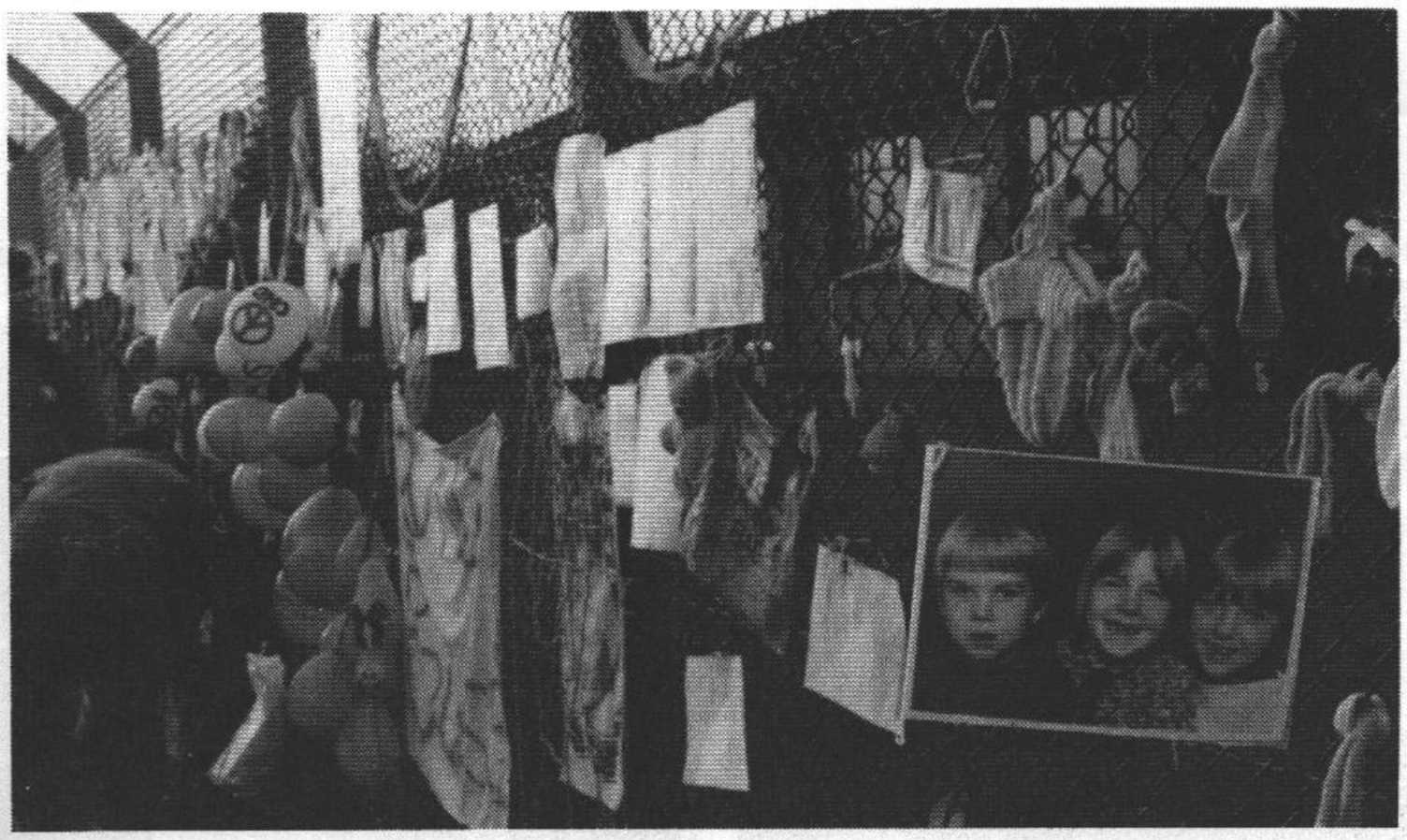


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