SOUTHAMPTON LABOUR BRIEFING

No 8

1983

The Issues

1. Keep the commitment to nationalise clearing banks in NEC statement to Conference. (July 1982)
2. NEC should not oppose Conference amendments calling for removal of NEC's arbitrary powers over pressure groups and calling for impartial conditions for the operation of pressure groups. (September 1982)
3. Total opposition to incomes policy and support for guaranteed minimum wage. (September 1982)
4. Keep Benn, not Golding, as Chair of Home Policy Committee. (November 1982)
5. Carry out 1981 Conference decision to allow CLP's to carry out a full reselection in the event of boundary changes. (February 1983)
6. Against expelling the Militant editorial board. (February 1983)

How the candidates voted on the Labour National Executive Committee on key issues in the last two years. Where: F = For, A = Against, O = Abstention, – = Absent or not voting, * = Not on NEC.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Frank Allaun	O	F	F	F	F	F
Tony Benn	F	F	F	F	F	F
Betty Boothroyd	–	A	A	–	A	A
Eric Clarke	–	F	A	*	*	*
Laurence Coates	F	F	F	F	F	F
Ken Cure	*	*	*	A	A	A
Anne Davis	*	*	*	A	A	A
Gwyneth Dunwoody	A	A	A	A	A	A
John Evans	*	*	*	A	A	A
Roy Evans	–	A	A	A	A	A
Michael Foot	A	A	A	A	A	A
John Golding	A	A	–	A	A	A
Alan Hadden	–	–	A	A	A	A
Judith Hart	–	F	–	F	F	F
Denis Healey	A	A	A	A	A	A
Eric Heffer	F	F	F	F	F	F
Neville Hough	–	–	A	A	A	A
Doug Hoyle	A	–	F	*	*	*
Denis Howell	*	*	*	A	A	A
Les Huckfield	F	F	F	*	*	*
Neil Kinnock	A	A	A	O	–	A
Alex Kitson	–	A	A	–	A	A
Joan Lestor	A	A	A	*	*	*
Joan Maynard	F	F	A	*	*	*
Sam McCluskie	–	A	A	–	–	–
Jo Richardson	F	F	F	F	F	F
Gerry Russell	–	–	A	*	*	*
Tom Sawyer	*	*	*	F	F	F
Dennis Skinner	F	F	F	F	F	F
Shirley Summerskill	A	A	A	A	A	A
Syd Tierney	A	A	–	A	A	A
Eric Varley	A	A	A	A	A	A
David Williams	–	–	A	A	A	A
Audrey Wise	*	*	*	F	F	F

WHY WE CALL FOR A VOTE FOR ERIC HEFFER

Some peculiar things are happening in the Labour leadership election. Firstly we are in danger of having the terms of the election determined not by the membership of the Party, but by political commentators and the media. They are concentrating on secondary issues, but avoiding the real questions which must be confronted if Labour is to advance.

A second curious feature is Peter Shore and the right wing posturing as champions of rank and file democracy in the Party and the unions. The left should counter this dishonest attempt by being in favour of elections taking place at rank and file level in every union and constituency Party.

At the same time we think only those trade unionists paying the political levy should be eligible to

vote in their unions. The influence of the media should be counteracted by full circulation of the candidates' political platform, and by holding as many public hustings as possible.

In this election we support Eric Heffer. As he himself has stated: "I want to see Clause Four defended in the Party Constitution. There should be freedom of discussion. Members of the Party should not be expelled because of their political views. I don't believe that the problems of this country as a whole can be solved outside the context of democratic socialist policies."

On most issues Eric Heffer is more in line with the views of the majority of the rank and file of the Party than the other candidate being termed left-wing by the media, Neil Kinnock.

We have many differences with Heffer, over the strategy for socialism, over his lack of enthusiasm for women's liberation, and over his failure to openly oppose the Falklands war. He is however still the best candidate standing from the left.

The biggest possible vote for Heffer will be a vote for the conference policies that he has defended and that Kinnock has attacked. It would be a blow to the right, and would expose Kinnock's opportunist claims to being the unitary left candidate.

In the election for Deputy we support Michael Meacher. We think that he and Heffer should form a left slate and campaign together.

We are in danger of being rushed by a form of collective panic into supporting Neil Kinnock. Many are being conned into seeing him as a life-belt to save a drowning party. This mood must be resisted. By examining the policies the candidates stand for, their record, and strategy for Labour, it is clear that Heffer alone stands for the process of renewal undertaken by Labour since 1979.

SOUTHAMPTON LABOUR BRIEFING

SLB is produced by members of Southampton Labour Party who are in general agreement with the policies of the weekly newspaper Socialist Action. Socialist Action is a revolutionary socialist voice in the Labour Party, the trade unions, in the peace movement, and amongst youth.

We hold monthly discussion meetings. We can be contacted on Southampton 39851.

SOCIAL TO CELEBRATE THE 65th BIRTHDAY OF NELSON MANDELA

16th July, from 6pm

at 14 Bassett Close

Admission £1 includes food

Proceeds to Anti Apartheid Movement.

RELEASE NELSON MANDELA!

It is twentyone years since Nelson Mandela was arrested in South Africa for his activities against the racist regime. He has spent those twentyone years enduring the terrible conditions in the regime's prisons.

He expressed his ideals at his trial: "I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

As leader of the African National Congress he is seen by the black majority of South Africa as their legitimate leader.

The Labour Party should add its voice to the world-wide campaign for his release.