

## KNUCKLE IS BACK

In the summer of '75, a group of people from the Brixton area got together because they thought that there was a need for a newspaper which could speak out with a free voice. A newspaper which could comment honestly on the activities of council bodies, business organisations and the like - on the forces which shape the places where we live and work. An alternative voice to the establishment line papers like the South London Press, which could present news and opinions normally ignored or treated unsympathetically by such papers.

The group began to produce a paper which they called KNUCKLE. It built up quite an enviable reputation for incisive and thoughtful news coverage and for honest and sensible research and coverage. But, sadly, last April it died.

This issue of KNUCKLE is not really a rebirth of that other paper, because most of the people who are producing it are different from those who produced the old paper. It is, however, being started to answer much the same needs as KNUCKLE 'mark 1'. It is also, like the old paper, being edited and published by a co-operatively and democratically organised collective.

The old KNUCKLE died not because it wasn't needed or wanted. It died because not enough people were prepared to make the effort to keep it going. We hope this isn't going to happen to the new KNUCKLE, but it easily could. If you agree with the aims of a paper like KNUCKLE it isn't enough just to read it. KNUCKLE needs people to send in stories, to help with production and to sell it, if it's going to survive. The paper cannot be in tune with its local community unless that community responds actively to its existence.

The editorial policy of the new KNUCKLE - like that of the old - is not fixed and rigid, it is merely the product of its weekly editorial and policy meetings. Anybody can have a voice in policy decisions as long as they are prepared to come to those meetings. You may not be in sympathy with the views of the present collective, as evidenced by the contents of this issue, but don't let that put you off - you can change the paper just by coming to its meetings - we hope that you will.

If you can't come to meetings please feel free at least to write and give us your comments and opinions on this issue. We would be very glad to hear from you if you can help in any way with sales.

### KNUCKLE MEETINGS

THE EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE MEETS EVERY MONDAY NIGHT, AT 7P.M., AT UNION PLACE, 122 VASSALL RD., SW9.

ALL WELCOME

# WHOSE JUSTICE?

## the railton 4

The case of the Railton 4 began six months ago, when an elderly man, Mr. Johnson, was stopped, searched and then assaulted by P.C. Gunner L666 and P.C. Dram L377.

Two women tried to help Mr. Johnson. One of them told the police that he did own a small shop, as he claimed, and that they had no right to harass him. The police grabbed her and began to push her towards the police car.

The other woman, Alcest Maglorie, who was 6½ months pregnant, ran to her assistance but she too was dragged into the police car, knocked and kicked, and then charged with obstructing the police in the course of their 'duty'. A Mr. Daniels was also arrested for allegedly kicking a police car, while talking to a police inspector, causing damage amounting to £25. Mr. Daniels was wearing hush-puppy shoes.

## picket

Immediately after the incident, many people who were present or who knew 61 year old Mr. Johnson and the other three co-defendants organised a picket to secure their release and have the false charges against them dropped. There was a lot of anger in the community at what was seen to be blatant injustice.

That this was a case of unjustifiable police harassment of innocent black people was borne out by the magistrate's own words when he accepted that the 2 PC's had deliberately and without real cause provoked the incident and harassed Mr. Johnson. He said that they had 'deliberately, falsely fabricated' evidence that could not possibly stand up in court.

Having said that, however, he found the 4 defendants guilty of the charges.

## political trial

The sentences were 'absolute discharge' for 3 of the 4 defendants and 6 months conditional discharge for Mr. Daniels. This clearly shows that the magistrate knew the defendants were not guilty, but because of the political implications of the case did not want to say so. If he had found them not guilty, there might have been an enquiry into the 'lawful right' of the police to stop and search people without 'reasonable suspicion'. An enquiry might have led to a change in the law, and a restricting of police powers. The prosecution had already strongly implied that if any change in the law were to take place, it should be towards increasing police powers rather than restricting them. The magistrate obviously did not disagree.

The fact that the sentences were 'absolute discharge' should not be allowed to blind us to the fact that in order to protect the police 4 innocent people were found guilty of crimes they did not commit.

The magistrate gambled on the fact that if he gave 'absolute discharge', the matter would end there. If the sentences were appealed against, the case would have to be re-opened, and the verdict 'guilty' shown to be blatant injustice.

# Council Destroys Homes!!



an unreasonable amount of force.

The tenant from No.4 had been rehoused out of Bed and Breakfast accomodation, and in sympathy with the residents of St Agnes Place. But when she was approached by them, she said she could not let them into the house before the council official arrived, as the council had threatened her with the loss of her tenancy if she did.

The next day, the day she was moving out, a number of people occupied the house and received her permission to do so.

A council official repeated the threat to her, causing her to withdraw her permission for the people occupying the house to stay.

Workmen from Lambeth Council's Construction Department moved into 91 St Agnes Place on Friday 3rd December - but not to repair the house for one of Lambeth's 250 Bed and Breakfast families; instead as the tenants moved out into a new council flat, they wrecked the house. Three gangs ripped off the roof slates, cut through roof timbers, tore up floor boards, sawed through joists, disconnected all services, smashed the plumbing and ripped out the wiring.

The workers employed on the Council wreckings in St Agnes Place have mainly been non-unionized labour. Others are members of UCATT, who are acting against the motion passed by the local branch condemning this type of work.

## council vandals

Along with No.4 St Agnes Place, this wrecking was far more extensive, destructive and costly than any previous council vandalism we have seen. It also increases the cost of rehabilitation, and takes it outside the cost yard-stick within which Lambeth Self Help Housing Association (L.S.H.H.A) has to work.

No. 91 is the third house in St Agnes Place to be made uninhabitable within a fortnight, as part of the councils anti-squatting campaign.

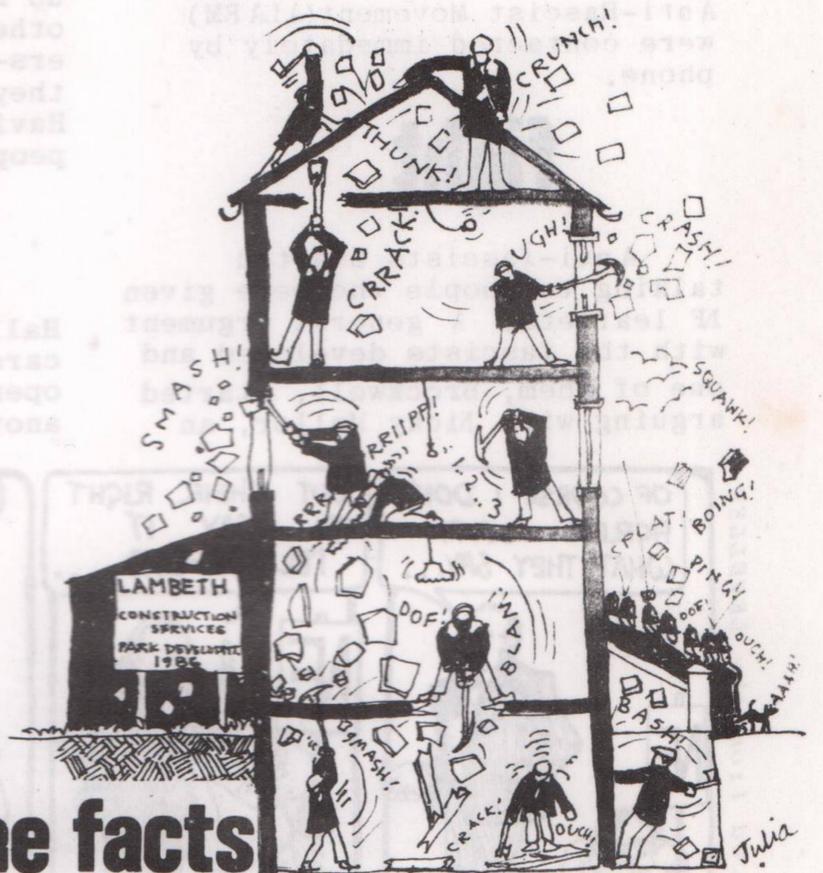
No. 64, one of the houses recently wrecked was also in excellent condition, having had £3000 spent on it by the tenants two years previously.

No. 4 had been rehabilitated by Quadrant Housing Assoc. approximately a year ago, and was in good condition.

These three houses could have been used to house families who would otherwise have been put in Bed and Breakfast accomodation. These houses could also have been easily renovated at very little cost.

## police

The police immediately entered the house and evicted the occupants, using



## the facts

In June of this year the full council meeting of Lambeth Council made a decision to demolish St Agnes Place, so as to unite Kennington Park with Kennington Park East. This decision ignored the facts that:-

1. No money is available for the landscaping of this site until later than 1981.
2. Permission to close the road in St Agnes Place, essential if the two areas of the park are to be joined, has not even been applied for.
3. L.S.H.H.A proposed a plan to rehabilitate the houses for a 5 year life, and already have enough money from the Housing Corporation ( a Central Government organisation) to start work.
4. Lambeth has 17,600 families on its housing waiting list and has 250 families in bed and breakfast accomodation at a cost of £500,000 p.a.

The recent cuts in local government spending will severely limit Lambeth's building and development programme. Even so, Cllr Noble, chairman of Lambeth's housing committee, continues to reject proposals put forward to rehabilitate the street. If the empty houses in the street were rehabilitated at no cost to Lambeth they could be used to house many homeless families.

The L.S.H.H.A proposal for the rehabilitation of St Agnes Place will be put forward for consideration at the next Housing Committee meeting on 7th January 1977.

# On The Streets.....

Fascists were driven off the streets of Brixton on November 13th when they tried to sell rascist propaganda.

The National Front (NF) turned up outside Brixton Tube as part of their election effort in Angel ward, to consolidate a base in Brixton. Brixton Tube is a site regularly used by local leftist groups for literature sales. That day 5 socialist groups including the West Indian Defence Committee were present. Other anti-rascists, mainly supporters of the All Lambeth Anti-Rascist Movement (ALARM) were contacted immediately by phone.

## fight

Anti-fascists started talking to people who were given NF leaflets. A general argument with the fascists developed and one of them, Brockwell, started arguing with Nicky Mellor, an

International Socialist, then pulled her to the ground. With others rushing to her defence a general fight broke out.

Brockwell then turned on Peter Polish pushing him through the window of Colliers. Meanwhile Colin Weedon, secretary of the local Right to Work campaign, had his collar broken. At the sound of the window smashing the NF ran off.

They regrouped outside the town hall. About 15 anti-fascists went over to tell them they should get out and hustled them up Brixton Hill arguing, whilst other people explained to passers-by what was going on, until they reached Brixton Water Lane. Having driven the fascists out, people headed back to Brixton.

## accusation

Outside the Civil Defence Hall a police van and two police cars pulled up. The back doors opened and Brockwell and another thug got out. Brock-

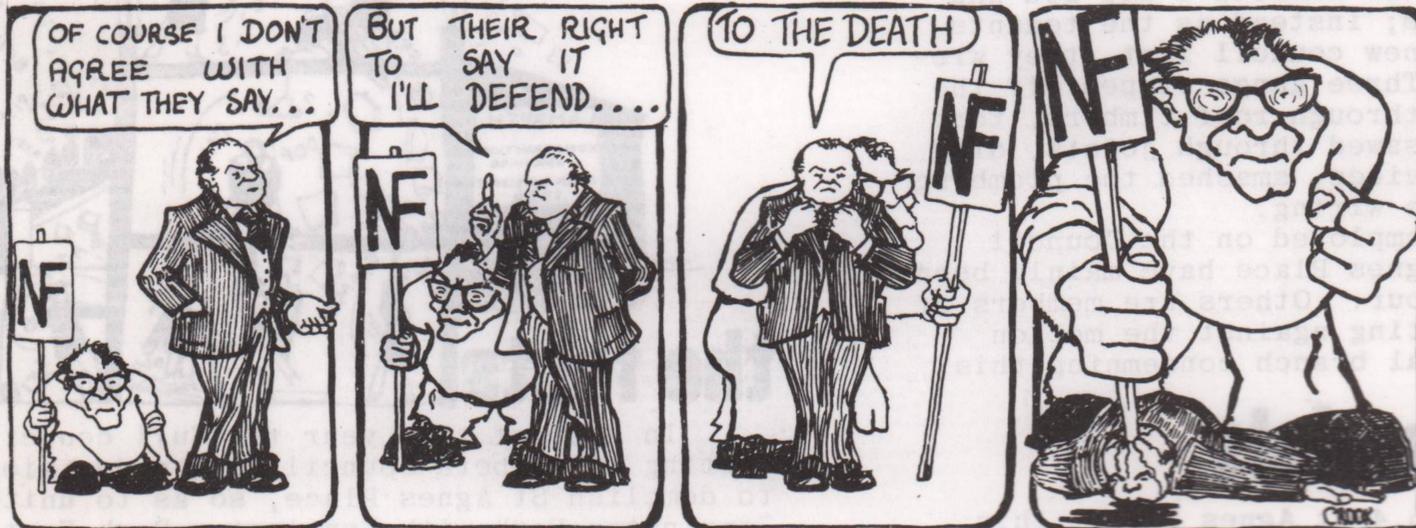
well pointed to Tony Ferron, one of the few black guys present, and told the police "he's the one who assaulted me". Amid protest the police demanded that Ferron give them his name and address, which he refused to do in front of the fascists. Ferron was then arrested for assault and in the ensuing confusion three others - Norman Maclean, a 31 year old EPTU member from Wandsworth; John Helps, a 30 year old UCATT carpenter from Clapham; and Elizabeth Harris were busted for obstruction.

## help

A picket formed outside the police station, protesting about the arrest and police support for the fascists. Political differences were forgotten with the need to defend the 'four'.

Meanwhile representatives from Brixton Community Law Centre went to the police station

reproduced from the LEVELLER



## eye-w

During the recent by-election in the Angel Ward, Lambeth, the National Front held a public meeting at Loughborough School. This is an eye-witness account, as it was told to KNUCKLE.

There were about 200 people at the meeting - mostly men but with a fair sprinkling of middle-aged women. Many of the men were really young looking - about 17 or 18.

## 'No-Go'

The first guy who spoke was there to introduce the NF candidate to the audience. He called Brixton a 'no-go' area - people were afraid to walk the streets at night and about how old ladies were being mugged every day by 'black youths'.

Then Kathleen Mott, the candidate got up to speak - "They say I'm a housewife, but make no mistake, I'm standing on behalf of the NF." She spoke very haltingly and inarticulately and after only a couple of minutes her speech was over.

## ALARM

Over the last year there has been a sharp increase in the growth of fascist organisations. Fascism is a threat to all of us and it is vital that the NATIONAL FRONT (NF) and the NATIONAL PARTY (NP) are not allowed to get a real foothold in the power structures of our community.

Many groups in Lambeth have already recognized this fact and have initiated action against fascism and racism in the borough, but so far this action has been largely uncoordinated. The ALL LAMBETH ANTI-RACIST MOVEMENT (ALARM), has been formed both to coordinate this activity and to start new initiatives.

ALARM is not only concerned with fighting on the

local level - it is also concerned with the wider struggle. Both the trade union movement and the labour party have ducked the issues of racism and fascism. They often go totally unchallenged - treated as a joke or as not being relevant to the particular struggles being considered by such groups.

ALARM is an open, non-sectarian organisation. To achieve its aims it needs a secure delegate base with representatives from all organisations sympathetic to its aims.

This means that all of us should try to ensure that any organised groups to which we belong, whether tenants associations, trade unions or political parties should affiliate to it.

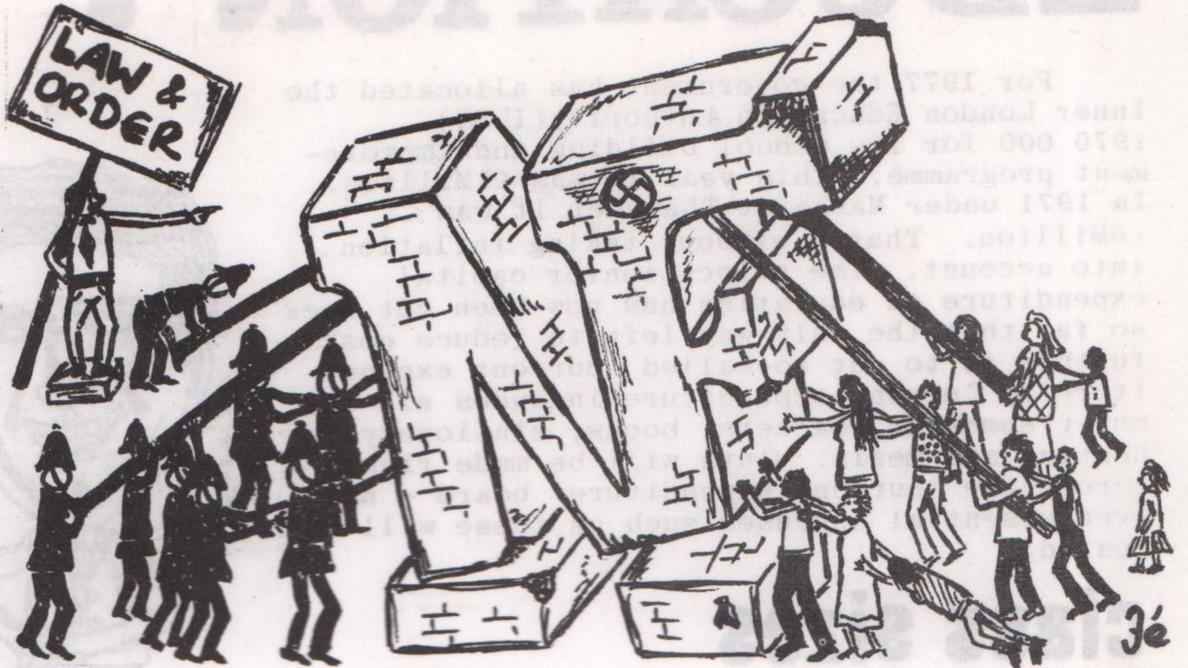
ALARM can be contacted for help or information c/o South Bank Polytechnic Students Union, Rotary St., SE1.

to help those arrested. One of those arrested said that at first the police were arrogant in their handling of the four, but once the picket got going their attitude changed and they became quite friendly. He also thought that their speedy release was partly due to the presence of the picket.

The police are thinking of prosecuting Brockwell for actual bodily harm against Polish, they may also bring charges for assault against Nicky Mellor. However the 'four' still have charges pending against them.

## breach of peace

Saturday 20th November: 20 fascists turned up in Brixton, some members coming from miles away. Their presence had been anticipated by ALARM, and 40 anti-fascists were ready. The fascists started selling their papers shouting, "If they're niggers send 'em back, if they're red shoot 'em dead". The police started pushing the anti-fascists away and protecting the fascists. When a police officer was asked whether he intended to prosecute the NF for behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace and breaking the



race relations act, he threatened to arrest the person asking the question! Participants in the ALARM picket thought they handled the situation badly, but are determined that in future they will be more effective.

## against us

One of the participants in both weeks events (a NATSOPA

member) told KNUCKLE, "I think it's important that white people realise the NF are against us as well as the black people. As trade unionists we must realise this. We've got to fight them before they're too strong".

The NF thug Brockwell is a member of UCATT as are John Helps and other members of ALARM. We would like to know what branch he is a member of, so we can pass it on to people who can rectify this situation.

## witness

I heard later that Webster wrote the speech for her himself - it's not surprising that he only let her speak so briefly.

The next speaker was Webster. He called Kathleen Mott a 'brave and courageous lady' and then launched into the sort of fascist tirade for which he is famous. He railed against the 'Immigrants', the 'Welfare State' and the 'pimplly Commies' in the Labour Party - all the usual sort of thing.

## Sick

Everybody cheered and shouted really fervently at everything he said. It made me feel sick to watch the response of the audience.

By this time I was quite obviously being watched by some of the very heavy looking 'stewards' who were standing around the edge of the hall. They must have noticed I was the only one there not clapping and getting excited.

I just couldn't take any more so I left. But the meeting went on for some time after this.

# What Knuckle Says -

With unemployment nearing the 1 1/2 million mark and yet another round of expenditure cuts on the way, the appeal of groups like the NATIONAL FRONT and the NATIONAL PARTY cannot be underestimated. In times of crisis one of the most common human reactions is to find a convenient scapegoat and hit out at it. The parties of the Ultra Right are trying to capitalize on this reaction by providing the victims of the present crisis - us - with ready-made scapegoats.

The most common characteristic of scapegoats is that they are in a more disadvantaged position than those who using them as scapegoats. The second most common characteristic is that they are easy to identify and therefore easy to victimize.

The black community fits the bill for a scapegoat like a glove - the % of black unemployed is far greater than that of whites, blacks get paid on average far less than whites, they do worse jobs, live in worse houses and above all of course,

they are easy to identify - far easier than that other major target of the ultra-right, the left.

In the recent by-election in the Angell ward the ultra-right candidates, between them, polled nearly 25% of the votes. It's true that this statistic may result from the fact that there was a very low poll - under 40% - but the lowness of the poll may be in itself a reason for criticism. It could simply show how apathetic most people are to the threat of the ultra-right.

The only cause for optimism in the whole business was the size and enthusiasm of the anti-racist demonstration held outside the hall when the NF had their pre-election

'public meeting'

The 'Front' must have really been pleased by the election result because Brixton is an area in which they would deeply love to promote or create racial hatred. This is shown by their activities on the street the other Saturday. They are turning out in force to harangue the people of Brixton and to try to convert them to their principle of scapegoat bashing.

The true enemy of the working class is the organised system of economic and social deprivation which represents the interests of big business - not the black man. It's up to each of us to recognise this fact and to act upon it - to support organisations like ALARM - to struggle against the repression of the bosses and those in power.

Above all we should not try to look for convenient scapegoats instead of facing the true facts of the current crisis in the face.

# EDUCATION

For 1977 the government has allocated the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) £970 000 for its school building and improvement programme. This year it was £1 Million. In 1971 under Margaret Thatcher it was £6 Million. That's without taking inflation into account. The allocation for capital expenditure on education has now been cut back so far that the only way left to reduce costs further is to cut so-called 'current expenditure'. Current expenditure includes all the money spent on teachers, books, stationery, heating and meals. Cuts will be made right across the 'current expenditure' board - not even essential expenses such as these will be spared.

## class sizes

Many people have been complaining loudly in recent months about the low standard of education in this country. One of the more obvious ways in which the quality of our education could be improved is by reducing the size of classes.

The upper limit for class size, as accepted by both the ILEA and the National Executive (NE) of the National Union of Teachers (NUT), is supposed to be 29. Yet a recent survey by the Lambeth branch of the NUT revealed that about one quarter of all primary classes in the Borough had over 30 in them.

It's common sense that smaller classes improve the quality of our children's education. Even 29 pupils in a class is too many. More teachers means smaller classes, yet at this moment there are an estimated 8 000 teachers out of work in the London area.

## redundancies

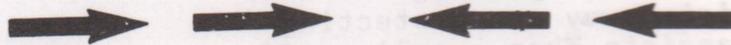
It's not only that new teachers are not being taken on - there are also redundancies to consider. The number of children in London has been falling for many years. Instead of using this situation as an excellent opportunity for reducing class sizes the ILEA has used it as an excuse to axe jobs. This year alone 500 teaching jobs have been cut. Douglas Orton an unemployed Lambeth Maths teacher told

"I was made redundant from Tulse Hill school where I had been teaching 3 days a week. I calculate that it's costing the country just as much to have me on the dole as it would for me to halve the size of a class somewhere. I gave up a lucrative career in the computer industry to teach and I feel very angry."

The ILEA forecast for next year is that a further 500 teachers could be dispensed with. However, it has magnanimously offered to keep these teachers on if the NUT will agree to a policy of "compulsory transfer and redeployment".

## supply teachers

The normal workload of teachers is supposed to be kept at an even level by the use of 'supply' teachers. These are not employed on a regular basis or in any one school and who can, therefore, be moved around as the need for extra teachers arises. Now, however, a quota system has been introduced which gives Lambeth a full complement of only 53 'supply' teachers.



Since there are about 140 schools in the Borough this means that there is only one spare teacher for every 3 schools. The lack of supply staff means teachers being forced to take extra classes. This increases their workload and gives them less time to prepare their normal lessons.

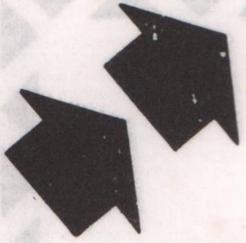
About 50 schools in London (8 in Lambeth) are currently trying to fight teacher shortages by refusing to cover for colleagues absent for more than 3 days. This action is, however, unofficial because the NE of the NUT considers that since the ILEA is the most 'progressive' authority in the country it should not be fought over the cuts issue.

Both the Labour controlled ILEA and the NE of the teachers own union are trying to make London teachers accept the cuts without protest. Although there are many teachers who are not prepared to take this lying down, without proper backing from their Union there is little they can do through the normal channels. A recent 'Week of Action' in Lambeth, for example, (consisting mainly of meetings with a march on the Saturday) didn't turn out to be very aptly named. Meetings were poorly attended and the march had to be called off because too few people turned up.

## fight back?

The lack of support for a campaign against the cuts in education spending is not, however, only the concern of the teachers. Investment in education is investment in the future. To cut back spending now is only to create bigger problems in the future. It is, therefore, in everybody's interest to back the teachers in their struggle and try to bring pressure to bear against the cuts themselves.

# OMEGA



# EVICTION

Wednesday 10th November: the Omega charity shop and food co-op, 59 Brixton Rd., faced eviction by the GLC. Seemingly more concerned with their policy of creating temporary open spaces than with the enterprising and positive use to which the premises were being put - sending relief to Bangladesh and providing cheap goods to the local community - the GLC had obtained a possession order for the premises and were intent on implementing it.

Liz and Terry, who run the shop, were not going to give up without a struggle. Barricades were erected and a leaflet distributed urging support on the day. 32 local supporters turned up.

11.30a.m. the bailiffs arrived. Seeing the state of Terry's defences they had a quick conference and decided to admit defeat for the day.

# still open

The next step was to complete the occupation of the shop next door (No. 61/63).

Thursday 18th: GLC officials, including the chief valuation officer, arrived and tried to evict Liz from 61 without having to go to the trouble of obtaining a possession order. She said she would not go. Workmen then tried to smash their way into 59. Before giving up in the face of Terry's defences, they succeeded in vandalising the bathroom at the back of the shop.

Liz is very grateful for all the help she had.

The Omega shop, 59/61/63 Brixton Rd., remains open, selling second-hand clothes, dried whole food and now fresh fruit and veg. too - all very cheaply.

# FARE



# FIGHT

Over the last eighteen months underground fares have risen by 114%, and will go up yet more next year. Recently William Rogers, the Transport Minister, ordered the GLC to cut the planned investment budget for London Transport by up to 35%. Between £39-64 million will be lost. "Cuts of this magnitude would do irreparable harm to public transport in London," said Jim Daly, Chairman of the GLC Transport Committee.

But what is anyone doing to fight this irreparable harm?

# direct protest



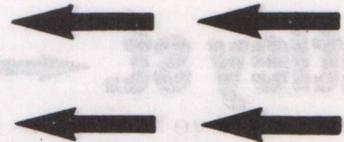
LT and the Government, who imposed the cuts, are quite happy for people to protest, as long as they do so ineffectively. We do them no harm running round in circles trying to "put pressure" on the union branches, to "put pressure" on the union leadership, to put pressure on the Labour Party, to put pressure on the government, to put pressure on..... And in any case all this takes time and effort.

FARE FIGHT, a campaign organising resistance against the fare increases and cuts which cause them, have come up with a more direct protest.

All you have to do is buy a ticket for what YOU think is a REASONABLE fare, and then fill in a deferred payment slip (see below). These slips are, in effect, IOU's acknowledging that you owe LT some money. THEY ARE COMPLETELY LEGAL, provided you buy a ticket (it doesn't matter if it's only a 10p one) and provided you don't practice any deception in order to avoid paying the full amount. Of course you must fill in the slip correctly. Your position is that you are intending to pay the money, but you are merely deferring payment as a protest against the increases.

If enough people start using these slips then LT is going to find its bureaucracy is unable to cope with the extra work (they have already had to increase their staff to deal with them). Eventually this could make the fare increases uneconomical, and then they'll have to lower the fares, or at least not increase them in the future.

# legal



FARE FIGHT recommend that you carry some form of identification if you intend using a deferred payment slip - ticket collectors may ask to see it, to check you are who you say you are. They also suggest that if your journey involves one or more changes, then to be absolutely safe you could get a ticket that covers you beyond the last of them.

London Transport is now admitting that the campaign is perfectly legal. They published in their TRAFFIC CIRCULAR (the weekly instructions to staff) that the slips should be accepted and sent to 55 Broadway.

The FARE FIGHT deferred payment slips are becoming so well known that some ticket collectors, when they've been given home-made slips, have said they only accept the 'official' ones, i.e. the FARE FIGHT ones!

If you would like books of deferrment slips or more information contact anyone at Union Place, 122 Vassall Rd., SW9 (tel. 735-6123).



To: LONDON TRANSPORT EXECUTIVE Date \_\_\_\_\_

I have today travelled from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

and tendered a ticket for \_\_\_ p. Should you wish to recover the outstanding sum, my name and address is:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

# Court Evictions



Mr and Mrs Ledford work for Lambeth Council. For seven years they lived in a flat in Wigmore Rd., SE24, paid their rent promptly and kept it nice. It was, they thought, their home. What they didn't know was that their landlord, a Mr Hope, had bought the property on a mortgage, on the condition that he did not sublet any of it.

When Mr Hope disappeared abroad the finance company, Coptic Ltd., foreclosed on the mortgage and applied to the court for possession of the house. And they got it, because in the eyes of the court, Mr and Mrs Ledford were illegal subtenants - and therefore did not exist.

## larkhall rise ← evicted ←

The same thing happened to a whole group of tenants in Larkhall Rise. When their landlord, Mr Dockwra-Jones, defaulted on his mortgage, the finance company, the Royal Trust Co. of Canada, were granted possession, despite the curious fact that if you give someone a mortgage on a block of flats on the condition that they do not let them to anyone, it might be said that you need your head felt or know damn well the mortgage conditions will not be obeyed.

## santley st. ←

Another five tenants at 7 Santley St., SW4 lost their homes in April this year in the same way. This time Newid Property Investments Ltd. got possession of the house from the landlord, a Mr Henry Nwigwe for default on the mortgage repayments.

During the court case a number of very strange facts emerged, after documents that were not revealed to the tenants solicitor turned up in court. In this case the finance company clearly knew that there was subletting because in a valuation of the house that they had done for them it included details of tenancies.

It also turns out that the solicitor for the finance company, a Mr David Birn, of Rose and Birn (137/143 Stoke Newington High St., N16), was also the onetime solicitor for the 'landlord', a fellow director of the 'landlord's' property company, Ebernie Investments, Director of the Insurance company which acted on the loan, and secretary of the mortgage company.

It was shown in court that he had not revealed his knowledge of documents relating to tenancies, which was one bit of defence for the tenants and crucial to their case.

The law as it stands makes a distinction between knowledge of tenancies and consent to them. In this case the mortgage deed allowed lettings with the mortgage companies written consent, and it was held that the mortgage company had not consented.

But what happened to the Ledfords and the Larkhall Rise tenants? Mr Ledford was given 28 days by the court to leave his home of seven years. He then got one of Cooper-Reinder's eviction threat letters (a standard item containing a number of illegal suggestions). This was despite the fact that he had shown himself to be both willing and able to but the house, which Coptic had told the court they would have to sell.

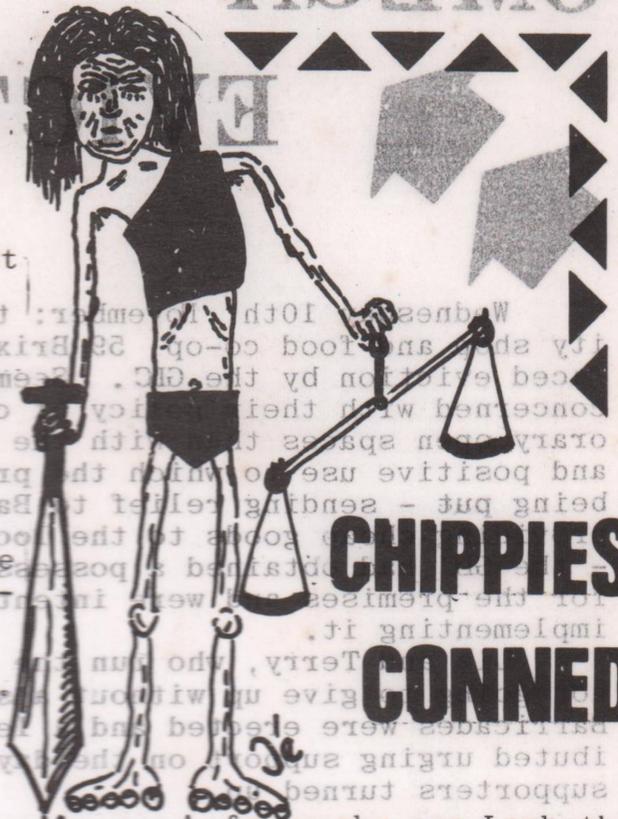
On August 8th, two days after he'd received the threatening letter, he got home from work to find the locks changed and all his possessions still inside. On the advice of his friendly local constable he 're-occupied', ie squatted the house, and has only just been evicted.

The tenants from Larkhall Rise got the finance company to agree to their staying until April 1st next year, so they too will have joined Lambeth's homeless looking for accomodation.

## loophole ←

In these and many other cases it is impossible to escape the conclusion that what the law is providing is a no-risk way of raising money for landlords. Because the mortgage conditions on not subletting are binding on the landlord the tenants have no rights against the finance company when they repossess the property. Hence problem-free evictions, as they don't have the protection of the Rent Act.

The Law Centre and others such as Brixton Advice Centre who have handled these cases are now getting out some submissions for the government review of the Rent Act to get this loophole stopped. For the moment, all you can do is hope your landlord actually owns the property you're renting - or pray!



## CHIPPIES CONNED

A few weeks ago Lambeth Community Law Centre got a telephone call from the Kennington Citizens' Advice Bureau. A fourth carpenter had come to them in just one week wanting advice on how to get his wages, holiday stamps and P.45 out of his boss. They rang the Law Centre who started digging into it.

This is what they found:- A Mr Henry Mitchell set up a £100 company in 1971. Just two shares were issued, one to him and one to his wife. It was called Clarendon Bricklayers Ltd. Nobody knows what it did till this year, because it never made a return to Companies House, which is illegal before giving up for a start.

This year Mr Mitchell has been working on a lot of Mansells sites around London. He puts in a 'standing order' at the Labour Exchange for chippies and then does not pay them. Now that the Law Centre have told them, the Exchange has put a block on sending him any more.

He is not registered with the Federation of Building Employers and by using him, Mansells are in clear breach of the Working Rule Agreement. The Holiday Stamp people have heard nasty rumours about him. He is never at home and when someone does at last get a cheque from him - surprise, surprise, it bounces.

So far the Law Centre is acting for nine men who have been done by him and Court Summons have been served on the company. The Company is just a shell, so the Law Centre had to get what is called a garnishee order against Mansells, who are holding retention money.

They would like anyone else who has suffered from Mitchell to get in touch with them as soon as possible. They are at 506/508 Brixton Rd., SW9 and the phone number is 733 4245. Ask for Richard, Lena or Danny.