

'ARD TIMES No. 13

MATERNITY

BENEFITS



UP IN FLAMES

-Women's Rights Under Attack-

On April 6th the government turned the clock back 76 years by abolishing the universal maternity grant introduced in 1911. Along with this they have replaced the Maternity allowance and pay (paid by the DHSS) with Statutory Maternity Pay to be paid by the employer. Employers have made it clear that they dislike the extra paperwork this causes for them and it is obvious that women are now going to have greater and greater difficulty finding out what those rights are and securing them. Women who have been in a job for less than 2 years may find they are sacked when they discover they are pregnant, so that the firm can pay them a lower rate of SMP. The highest rate is only on a par with the lowest rate of sickness benefit, and women who naturally try to cover up the fact that they are pregnant might be damaging their health. Women have to have worked continuously for the first 6 months of their pregnancy anyway to qualify at all for SMP. It has been estimated that 74,000 women are likely to lose their benefits. For women already on supplementary benefit or Family Income Supplement, the new Social Fund will pay out £80 extra to them, less than half what was available under the now defunct Single Payments scheme. It's a joke to expect a measly £80 to pay for all the stuff you need for a new baby. On top of all this they are abolishing free milk and vitamins for pregnant women and children under 5, and they're getting rid of free school meals. This disgusting attack on women, children and working class people in general has to be resisted at all costs. For more info:-

The Maternity Alliance, 59-61 Camden High Street, London.

JOKE NUMBER ONE

What's the difference between a Tory MP and a miner?
One buys shares for his "grandchildren" and makes a fair few bob in the process; the other fights for a job for his grandchildren and gets nicked.

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MAY DAY

(A)

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THE 'ARD TIMES
COLLECTIVE
INVITE YOU TO AN
ANARCHIST
MAY DAY PICNIC
ON
SOUTHAMPTON COMMON
AT 2 PM
BRING BOOZE & FOOD

MEET AT THE
COWHERDS.

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INDONESIANS have too many parties, talk too much when they are supposed to be working and should spend less time on the toilet, according to the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Dr Mochtar Kusmaatmadja.

"If you go to the toilet, do not sit there too long. That kind of attitude is not what Indonesia wants," he told an election rally.—

FLUSH THE POLITICIANS
DOWN THE PAN!!!

JOKE NUMBER TWO

Well there wasn't much joy in this years budget for us, (what a suprise), but perhaps thats because the chancellors name is Nigel Lawson. If you rearrange the letters you get:
WE ALL SIGN ON.

YUPPIES IN SOUTHAMPTON

We commented in the last 'ard Times on the new houses being built in Ocean Village and how old working class areas have and are being changed into Yuppiedom - the worst examples are in the East end of London. Just to help you along with saving up for one of the new places in Ocean Village or Hythe Marina Village here's a few Prices;

At Hythe Marina Village

2-bedroom apartment.....£85,000

4-bedroom apartment (and 4 bathroom !!).....£375,000

Evidently prices of old houses are rocketing as well - a 3 bedroom house bought for £86,000 15 months ago is now over worth over £160,000. Oh, we'd better point out (just to be fair) that these prices include a 999 year lease and a mooring (better start saving for your yacht as well).

Meanwhile down at Ocean Village prices are as follows:

For a single bedroom apartment.....£68,000

For a 4 bedroom townhouse.....£154,000

These prices also include moorings in the Ocean Village Marina.

Now, if we all start saving the 60p rise we've got we might just manage to buy aGarden Shed !!

TOUGH SHIT IF YOU CAN'T (and whoever said there's no money around)

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