CAMDEN LABOUR BRIEFING

January 1984

BOROUGH CONFERENCE BULLETIN -

SUPPORT THE CAVERSHAM RESOLUTION ON RATE CAPPING

THE CAMPAIGN MUST START NOW

The government's proposals on 'rate-capping' will take effect next year. When they hit Camden they will hit us hard.

Our only source of revenue - the rates - will be set by the Tory government. We will have no option but to implement cuts. If we want to stay within the law we will have to make service cuts, impose redundancies and drastically reduce the standard of living of most of the inhabitants of the borough.

The new law has been cleverly designed. The Tories know how unpopular rate rises are. They can claim to be defending rate-payers and council tenants from over-spending socialist councils when, in reality, they will be making the most severe attack on working people since the war. Rate-capping is a political sledge-hammer, and it's aimed at us.

The only way to face this attack is head on. No amount of dodging or compromise is going to deflect the blow. We must start now to campaign, publicise and speak up for the tremendous good Camden is doing for ordinary people. When the crunch comes - in just over a year - we must be confident that the public understand what is happening and why.

Camden must refuse to implement the cuts. It must refuse to sack workers. It must defend, and be seen to defend, the people of Camden. If this means breaking the law, so be it. If we begin to campaign now we may be successful. It is the only alternative to carrying out Tory policies.

- SUPPORT THE CAVERSHAM RESOLUTION
- SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT ADDING 'and no rate rises'.

BRIEFING BOROUGH CONFERENCE FRINGE MEETING: 12.30 p.m. Committee Rm. 2.

DAVID BLUNKETT & REG RACE - 'Which way for Labour against the Tories'

Admission free. You don't have to be a delegate to come!

COME TO THE CONFERENCE ON SAT. 21st JANUARY, 9.30-4.30. HEAR THE SPEAKERS...

OPEN EDITORIAL MEETINGS CAMDEN LABOUR CLUB: 3rd MONDAY EVERY MONTH, 9pm

NGA STRIKE - BETRAYED!

When the TUC reversed the decision of its employment committee to support the NGA, the gravest defeat for the trade union movement for 50 years occured. There should be no doubt about this.

The Stockport Messenger struggle had become the spearhead of Thatcher's attempt to ram through the greatest anti-union laws since the 1920's. The Tebbitt anti-union laws forbids solidarity strikes and threatens the closed shop. It is these laws that Murray and the TUC want the unions to obey, and this has now opened the door for employers to attack union organisation, wages and conditions.

The Labour Party was created to defend the right of trade unions to exist, the very issue at the heart of the NGA dispute. Yet Neil Kinnock, Roy Hattersley and the entire right wing in the Labour movement actively sabotaged this struggle. The 'dream-ticket' has shown its true colours - it worried about the 'national interest', and this means obeying the law and showing they can control the workers movement better than the Tories.

An opportunity to strike a body blow to the Tories has been missed and this will weaken not just the trade unions, but also the Labour Party.

A fight-back must start on the shop floor by rebuilding the shop-stewards organisation. But in itself this will not be sufficient, because as the right wing holds the top positions in the unions, it will sabotage every action that comes from below. What is needed now is a new and powerful Minority Movement which can challenge the right wing at every level. The broad left in the unions must be built and extended. Kinnock and Hattersley's line has to be challenged in the Labour Party. The right wing is openly destroying the movement - it is not only incapable of winning advance for working people, it is also incapable of defending the most basic rights of the Labour Movement.

F. LePlatt