CAMDEN LABOUR BRIEFING

SUPPORT THE 7 COUNCILLORS VOTING AGAINST RENT RISES.

The rent rise could not be justified as it was yet a further attack from the government passed on by the labour group. Council services and jobs have been slashed over the la 18 months. Despite promises of increased effeciency, what has beer left of council servivces has virtually collapsed. The building programme is at a standstill, repa and rehab is inexistant, sale of housing is policy, nurseries, day centres and libraries are closing, refuse collection, street cleaning and home helps are being yet further reduced.

The primary responsability for t cuts lies with the Tory Government but the fact remains that cuts in jobs and services and increases ir charges and rents are being implemented by the Labour group. seven councillors should be suppo for refusing to go along with yet another kick in the teeth of work and tenants in Camden. Their stanc means that they now have the credibility to help tenants associations fight the new housing laws.

This rent rise is part of the budge put forward by the Labour Group. Th budget is another cuts exercise drafted by accountants as the Labou Group has no political left but to remain in office at any cost. The Labour Group has been able to reduce the budget gap of £25 million throu the use sale of housing and other properties. The remaining gap (probably £10 million) will be clos by some £4 million cuts in services and maintaining a vacancy rate of 10%. But in order to manage these cuts, the Labour Group is consideri awarding huge pay rises to attract and retain the Chief Officers !

After last year's masive cuts, socialists can no longer ask Camden tenants and workers to pay more for yet less services. The Tory Government does have the money to meet the needs of Camden. It has it, but it is giving it away in tax cuts to the rich, in bailing out nationalised industries for privatisation, and continuing a massive armed force with nuclear weapons. Last year, the nurses forced the government to cough an extra £2 billion for the NHS though industrial struggle. Labour Councils with the unions and the party could do the same. But this option has been turned down because the leadership of the labour Group and the Party believe that it is impossible to win, and therefore we should not fight. In fact, there is no political will to fight.

Fred leplat (Somers Town)

Unilateralism: Kinnock comes out

Kinnock's television announcement that unilateralism will be abandoned at the October Conference is a declaration of war on Party activists.

Ken Livingstone has warned in the past that such a move would plunge the Party into a vicious round of in-fighting. Between now and October he will be proved right.

Kinnock's statement has set the media agenda. Issues such as the NHS, or Tory weakspots such as food hygiene, will slip off the political agenda as the media asks yet again: "Can Kinnock get rid of unilateralism?"

Kinnock will be headlined for a bout with Ron Todd that will be second only to that of Bruno and Tyson.

Kinnock is confident, because he believes the Policy Review can provide him with victory in his battle to deliver what the papers want.

An unamendable paper abandoning unilateralism will be put to the vote as an issue of confidence. This vote will supercede any Conference decisions on policy resolutions.

Kinnock also thinks that the TGWU June Conference can be used to give him outright victory by overturning their unilateralist policy of 30 years standing.

***Labour Briefing* w[illegible]**

[illegible]onists who are fighting to defend the [illegible]ainst commitment. We urge all other currents on the left to do likewise.

Our response must be fourfold. We must:

•send resolutions to Walworth Road condemning Kinnock's statement;

•promote unilateralism at the summer trade union conferences;

•prioritise unilateralism for Conference resolutions;

•and demand the right to amend Policy Review documents.

Now of all times, when Gorbachev is actually cutting back on arms, is not the time to abandon unilateralism for the tired old ideas of the last Labour government.

FIGHT THE POLL TAX

With Labour in the lead of the last opinion poll, now is the time to to seize the iniative against the Tories. The Poll Tax is a deeply unpopular measure which could be the focus of a mass united campaign against the Tories. The Poll Tax will mean a cut in the living standards of workers and tenants and will open the door to futher cuts in council services. It will also mean council staff being turned into tax snoopers to ensure everybody is registered and paying.

We need to go beyong well meaning declarations. A campaign of active opposition and non-cooperation by tenants associations, unions and labour councils would throw the Poll Tax into chaos. So far, it has been left to a handful of socialists to start the campaign. Every Labour Party member should help out with the campaign. Every tactic should be used : non-registration and non-payment, committees of 100, boycott by council staff, etc.. But now mass leafleting and campaigning is necessary to explain the issues to the community and council workers.

The labour group has washed its hands of the Poll Tax by leaving up to Chief Officers to introduce it. Not even a declaration stating "that regretably the council had introduce this tax but the government is to blame" has been issued. The labour group has not even dared launch a campaign with other councils such as the one the Tory councils in Kent have set up against Channel Tunnel Rail Link to which they voted £1 million.

The anger that does exist in the working class at the Tory attacks must be turned into action The Tories are now loosing their confidence with the crises of the NHS, Water Privatisation, inflation, interest rates, student loans, etc. Civil disobedience on a massive scale against the Poll Tax would put the Tories on the retreat.

CAMDEN AGAINST THE POLL TAX

PUBLIC MEETING :
Tuesday 14 March, 7.30
Council Chamber with speakers from local unions and tenants associations.

Get your Labour Party or Union branch afiliated and help out leafleting. Next planning meeting : Tuesday 14, 8pm at the Camden TU Unit, Eversholt Street. Or contact David Grace, 13b Murray St, NW1, 485 3690.

SATURDAY 18 MARCH.
BROADWATER FARM DEFENCE CAMPAIGN DEMONSTRATION.

Sat. 18th. Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign. Second anniversary of the Tottenham three convictions. Assemble 12 noon, Tottenham Green, Tottenham Town Hall (Seven Sisters tube; buses 243, 123, 279, 259, 149, 73, 41, 76. March through Wood Green, Tottenham. Rally, with Irish in Britain Representation Group, 3pm, Duckett's Common (Turnpike Lane tube, buses 123, 221, 41, 67, 29). Speakers include Bernie Grant, Unmesh Desai, relatives of the framed prisoners. Quash the Convictions! March for justice!

NEXT CAMDEN LABOUR BRIEFING.
MONDAY 20 MARCH, 8pm.
SWISS COTTAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE.
Topic for discussion:
"New Times" for Labour or same old struggle ?