

### MCLIBEL 2 - DEFENDING FREE SPEECH

Helen Steel & Dave Morris, two unwaged supporters of Tottenham Solidarity Group, will be defending themselves against the \$24 billion-a-year McDonalds Corporation this summer in the High Court. Big Mac are trying to suppress criticism, including leaflets distributed by London Greenpeace supporters worldwide.

The trial, set to start on June 27th, will involve over 150 witnesses, lasting 4 months. The defendants, denied legal aid, will have to represent themselves and have also been denied a jury after McDonalds claimed the issues were too complex for the public to understand. The company has also withheld masses of relevant documents.

McDonalds uses libel writs to intimidate their critics, whilst spending \$1 billion

annually on ads promoting junk food and making hypocritical and sometimes false claims about its concern over environmental and social matters.

#### THE MCDAMAGE

The reality is it causes environmental damage with mountains of unnecessary packaging and by using cattle some reared on ex-rainforest land - cattle methane emissions ("farts" & "shit" ) are a major cause of global warming. It promotes the type of food and diet high in fat, sugar salt and "e" additives and low in fibre and vitamins - linked to tooth decay, heart disease, hyperactivity in kids and obesity etc. Its ads exploit kids and staff get poor pay & conditions. It is also responsible for the unnecessary and cruel deaths of billions of animals. Furthermore, Helen & Dave will prove that the company has lied to the public about its practices. They will also point out that its not just McDonalds', but the

food industry and big business in general which causes much of the world's problems and that people need to create a society based on respect for people, animals and environment.

#### DEFIANCE

Despite the cards being stacked against them, the 2 defendants are determined to stand up for free speech. They are backed by a campaign of defiance as people all over the country continue to hand out hundreds of thousands of London Greenpeace leaflets. This will send a message to all companies that campaigners and critics will not be silenced by libel threats and show that people together can make any oppressive laws unworkable.

**Saturday June 25th - 12 to 1pm - Picket McDonalds, Tottenham High Road**  
**Monday June 27th - 9.30 to 11.30am - Protest at High Court.**

# TOTTENHAM Community Action

BOX 12, 72 WEST GREEN ROAD, N15. 802-9804

SUMMER 1994 ISSUE 4

## Postman Pat says: Pay No VAT

**There are already 35,000 winter related deaths in the U.K. every year. It has been estimated that as a result of VAT on fuel a further 10,000 people will DIE every year.**

The fact that 35,000 die presently is obscene. The fact that the government know these figures and then put VAT on fuel should show every one of us, beyond any doubt, the value politicians put on OUR lives. To them a few quid comes before 45,000 lives a year. And, make no mistake, it is our relatives and friends who will die - not those of M.P.'s and the rich.

#### SO WHAT DO WE DO ?

There is no point waiting for Labour, the Liberals or the Greens to do it for us - Labour are still trying (unsuccessfully) to jail us for non-payment of the poll tax. The best way to defeat this new tax is to do it the "poll tax way" - to cause a huge amount of disruption by refusing to pay either the whole bill or just the VAT element. It is extremely unlikely that the gas or electricity board will cut anybody off, at the moment, for non-payment of the VAT part of the bill, as it will only be a few quid each. But, added together it will cost them millions. You could enclose a letter telling them why you are not paying and your views about VAT on fuel. To cause maximum disruption don't pay any part of the bill, at least until you get the red bill. The vast majority of households at the moment pay their bills, in full, within 3 days of receiving their blue bill. If we all delay until the final moment it will cause them enormous problems.

#### WHY ATTACK THE FUEL COMPANIES - SURELY IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT ?

These are privatised companies

whose aim is to make huge profits out of basic human needs (light and warmth) which should be free. These companies and the government are very closely linked. Many Tory M.P.'s own large numbers of shares in fuel companies, many more actually help run the companies, and fuel bosses and ministers are all in the same "old boys" network. Any attack on them is O.K. with us.

#### I'M ON A PRE-PAYMENT METER ALREADY. HOW DO I FIGHT THE VAT ?

If your arrears with the fuel companies are very low or non-existent, you can insist on getting the card, token or key meter removed free of charge. These meters need to be altered to take account of VAT. If you don't let them in they can't do this. They will then have to get a warrant. If enough of us do this it will take them ages to get warrants against us all, and in the mean time it costs them more time and money. As with the poll tax, VAT on fuel CAN be stopped by a national campaign (which means loads of local campaigns) of non co-operation, non-payment and protests.

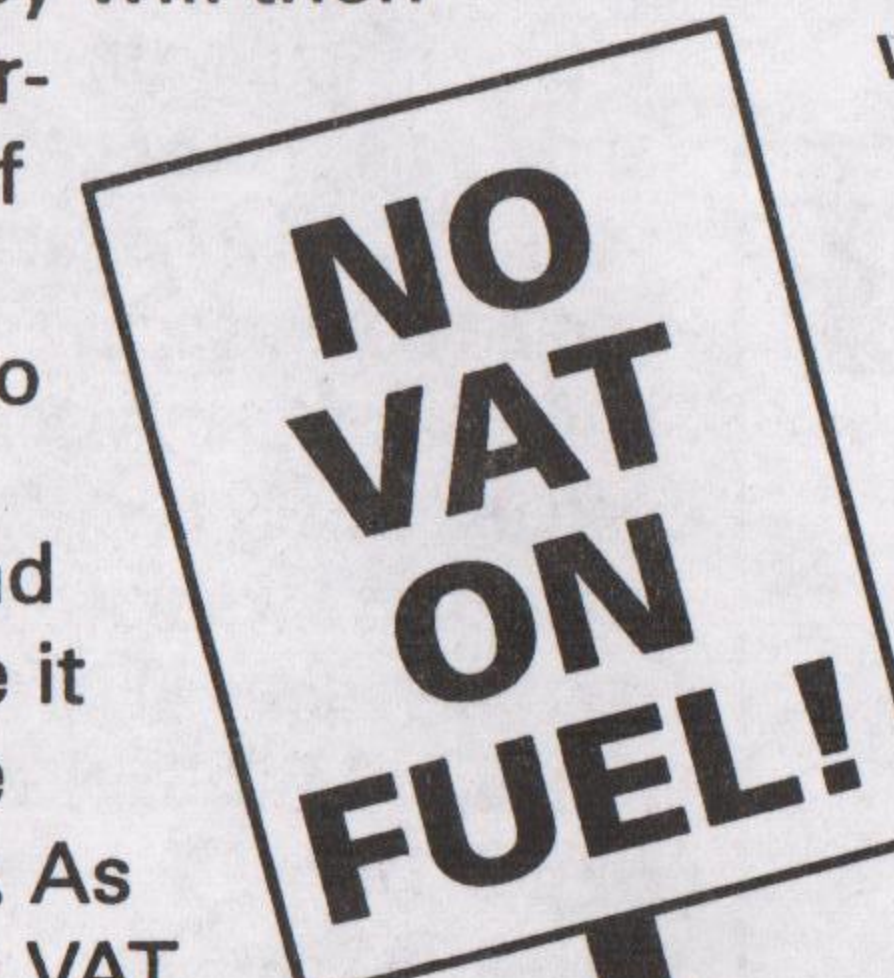
#### IS ANYTHING HAPPENING IN HARINGEY ?

Groups in Haringey have produced leaflets & posters,

held public meetings and picketed the gas showroom in Wood Green. Local people have already pledged to;

- not pay until they receive their red bill - at the earliest
- not pay the VAT element of their fuel bills
- not let the gas and electricity companies in to read meters or increase the charges on key, card or token meters.

Support those already fighting back and put up a posters in your window (we have loads); talk to friends, neighbours and work mates about the issue; deliver leaflets in your street, school, work-place, etc; get involved in a local campaign; get more informed about the facts. If anybody turns up to disconnect you, give them hell - they are no better than poll tax bailiffs. If you work for a gas or electricity company put a spanner in the works of implementation, collection & disconnection & pass on any useful information to us. We are being contacted by more & more anti-fuel tax campaigns that are forming, all the time, around the country. We can win -again !



### KIDS KORNER

**Ever wondered what to do with the kids during the day ? Fed up with the bad weather and bored children who want to get out of the house?**

Well there are a couple of parent & toddler groups around Tottenham (there may be others) which are run by parents and carers for themselves their kids and any other parent/carers with kids who wants to come along. The Burghley Road centre is just off Turnpike Lane and is open every weekday between 10am and 3pm for any parent/carer and child under 5 years of age. There are two rooms with loads of toys & games and a great climbing frame. There is an outdoor area with a slide, climbing frame, etc. They serve a vegetarian lunch for both children & adults.

The other playgroup is at Tottenham Sports Centre. It has three rooms; one with paints and playdough; one general room with loads of toys; and an incredible soft room where the floor, walls, steps and slides are covered in soft foam so that kids can't hurt themselves ( it's well worth a visit for this room alone). Like Burghley Road it is for kids under 5, and it's open on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday between 10am and midday. Both centres are incredibly friendly (I am a parent who has been to both) and welcome any new parents/carers and toddlers. As they are run by the users, both would love more people to help out on a regular basis, or just general help during opening times. But if for the moment all you want to do is go somewhere your kids can enjoy themselves that's fine by them.

Burghley Road is at 23 1/2 Burghley Road, N8. It cost 50p a day and lunch is 45p for children and 65p for adults. Tottenham Sports

Centre is on Tottenham High Road nearly opposite the Spurs football ground. Again the cost is 50p a session and 20p for tea/coffee. All the money goes into running the centres. Nobody takes any wages but all are happy to put time in for free as they know there is no boss telling them how to do it. Both are examples of people taking control of their lives and surroundings without the interference of bosses, M.P.'s etc, and we are more that willing to publicise any such activities as long as they don't discriminate against others from our class.



Lunchtime at Burghley Road

### WHO & WHAT WE ARE WHO & WHAT WE ARE WHO & WHAT WE ARE WHO & WHAT WE ARE

*Tottenham COMMUNITY ACTION is the newsletter of Tottenham Solidarity Group. We are local people some of whom were involved in the anti-Poll Tax campaign in Tottenham, who see the need to fight other attacks on our community. We are not connected to any political group or party. Although the fight against the Poll Tax is not over (the Council is still trying, unsuccessfully, to intimidate us with bailiffs and the threat of jail), other issues that affect our lives and environment also need changing - and NOW. This newsletter is one way we hope to inform local people about these issues. We hold regular meetings which are open to any resident who feels as we do. For more information leave a message for us on 081-802-9804.*

Please return this slip to: Tottenham Solidarity Group, BOX 12, 72 West Green Road, London, N15.

- I donate £..... towards the cost of the next issue of Tottenham Community Action (cheques to:"TSG")
- I would like to get involved with Tottenham Solidarity Group and/or Haringey Women's Group

I can distribute \_\_\_\_\_ copies of this newsheet at my playgroup / child's school/ street/ estate/ workplace/ other (please state)

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address & Phone no: \_\_\_\_\_



# Can Police Be Nice People?

In Haringey we have recently seen a number of incidents where the police have acted totally illegally, yet not one officer has been found guilty of any offence. Cynthia Jarret & Joy Gardner were murdered, the "Tottenham Three" were fitted up and recently the police broke into a house near Turnpike Lane, held guns to the heads of four people who they thought were terrorists only to find they had the wrong people. Nationally the police and courts "fit-up" and jail hundreds of innocent people - sometimes for years. Nearly every month another innocent person is released from jail. To keep us quiet they sometimes pretend to bring guilty officers to "justice" - normally they don't even bother with this. With the Broadwater Farm riots, detective chief superintendents Melvin & Maxwell were charged with perjury and preventing the course of justice at the beginning of 1991. But their

trials have been postponed yet again - SURPRISE SURPRISE. If this is dragged out long enough they hope we'll forget and then charges against them can be dropped. In the Joy Gardner case three officers have finally been charged, but will any of them be found guilty - we doubt it. There were at least 8 police present when Joy died. Why are still doing the same job?

## ONE ROTTEN APPLE

The police and all governments argue that "it's only one or two bad apples in the force". This is bullshit and they know it. In the last few years dozens of innocent people have been released from jail and HUNDREDS OF OTHERS are still inside. The police know these people are innocent but lie, use violence, plant evidence and forge documents because they need to find somebody guilty - even if it's the



wrong person - and it normally is! The West Midlands Serious Crime Squad (and these cops certainly committed some serious crimes) have been disbanded; officers from Stoke Newington nick are under (an internal police) investigation for supplying the drug Crack; officers in the Birmingham 6 case were guilty but let off; Maxwell, Melvin and the cops who killed Joy Gardner are still fac-

ing charges; and there are loads more examples. This IS NOT just one bad apple. The whole system is corrupt from the top to the bottom. But in all these cases (and 100's more) none of the cops were/will be found guilty because their mates and the courts will always help them out, otherwise its bad publicity.

## TIME TO EVEN THE SCORE

We need to start fighting back. Even when an innocent person "only" receives a fine or caution, it still means another person has had to pay for something they did not do and the police have got away with it again. Below are a few ideas about how, we feel, we can all stop the police (and the courts) having things their own way - we are sure you can think of other ways as well;

- STICK TOGETHER & help each other even if you don't know the person being arrested. If somebody is being hassled help them out. Note down what happens. Agree to be a witness for the person. Find out where the police are taking them.
- If you are arrested don't say anything and talk to a GOOD solicitor first - they must let you call one

(eventually). THEY HAVE NOT GOT RID OF THE RIGHT TO SILENCE SO YOU CAN STILL SAY NOTHING.

- Get good witnesses who saw what you claim you did, or did not, do.
- Set up a defence campaign. The campaign can start looking for witnesses and evidence and publicise what happened. Lots of innocent people have either been found not guilty or have been released from jail because of the hard work of a defence campaign.
- If somebody is sent to prison support them. Having people "outside" supporting you, is great for the morale. It also shows the authorities that the person is not alone.

## CONCLUSION

The police are basically there to protect the rich & powerful, and to keep the rest of us in our place. They won't arrest (or "grass-up") other police, and the courts don't want to find cops guilty. The idea of "one bad apple" in the police force is a joke, but it will continue to be the same until WE change things. Until we achieve this we must support each other against the police and stop letting them intimidate us.

# GOVERNMENT SUPPORT ACT

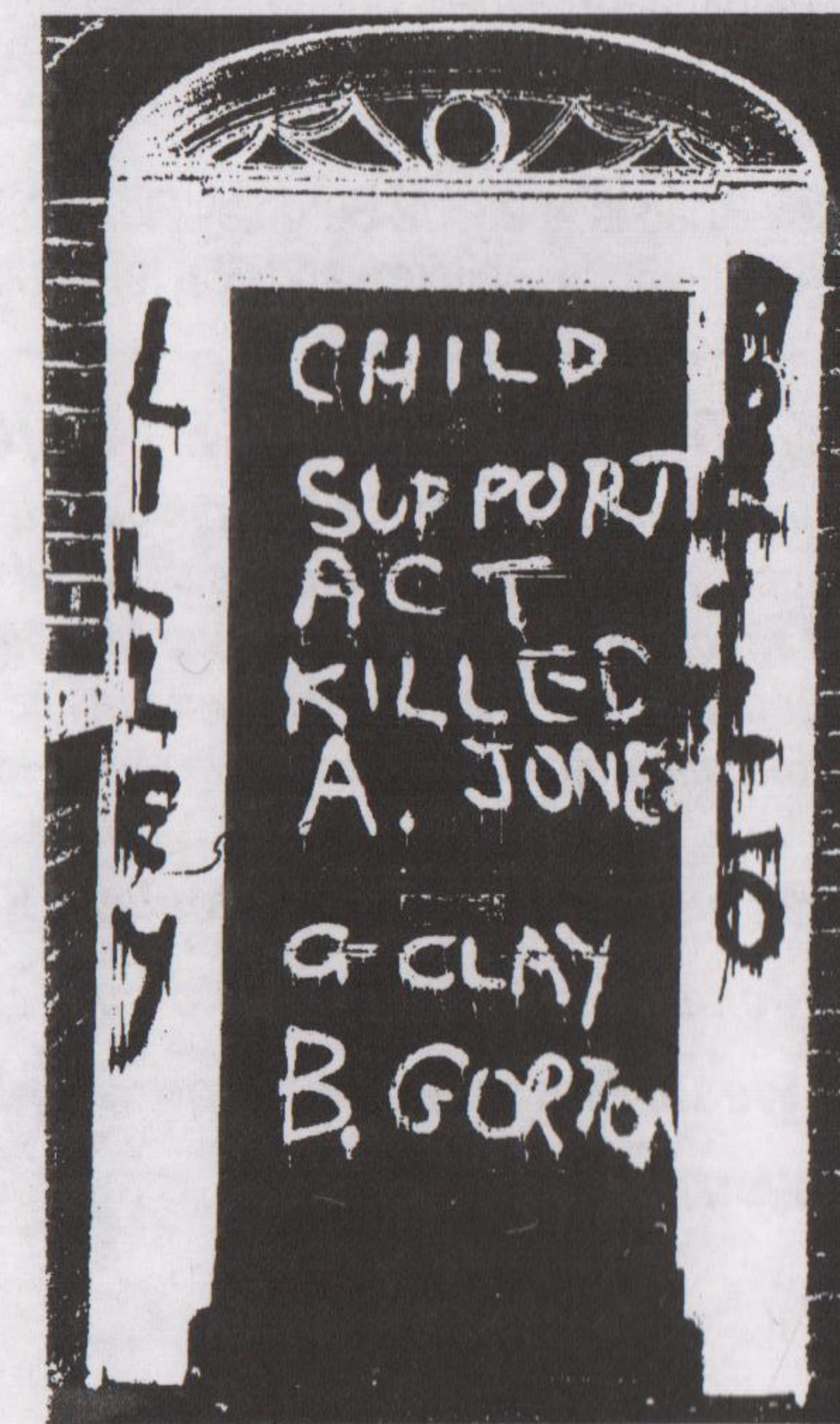
The Child Support Agency has been discredited by the non co-operation movement. The first crucial challenge to the Agency has been single mothers widespread refusal to complete or sign the Maintenance Application Form (MAF). Mothers are refusing to be intimidated into authorising the agency to go after the fathers for maintenance and many women who were misled or brow beaten by the agency into signing the MAF are now demanding to withdraw their authorisation - often successfully. By Nov 93 over half a million MAF's had been sent out. Mothers returned less than 2/3, many of them incomplete. This major movement of non co-operation by woman has had a huge influence, played down by the government and media. The Agency is in crisis.

There has been talk of changes to the Agency regulations and the newspapers are constantly reporting cases of mistaken identity and harassment. Already a single mother, Angela Jones, has been murdered by her ex-partner and four absent fathers have committed suicide due to the work of the Agency. As our picture shows, Peter Lilley, one of the main MP's responsible for setting up the Child (un)Support Act recently had his front door re-decorated with the names of those who have died. The Agency has no concern for the children it pretends to defend and has done more harm than good. It is purely concerned with getting money for the Treasury, no matter who suffers.

By attacking single mothers on Income Support and trying to force them back into economic dependence on ex-partners the Child Support Act is another attempt to further limit the rights, especially of working class people, to live a life of their own choosing. Income Support, little money as it is, has made it possible for women and men to end relationships they were otherwise trapped in. This is especially important for women living with violent men. If benefits are undercut the right of everyone to choose what kind of relationship we want - or don't want - becomes a privilege of only the rich and wealthy.

Spread the word. Challenge and publicise all harassment, threats and illegal pressure by Child Support Agency officer. Let others know. If you have filled in a MAF and want to reverse your authorisation it is possible.

The Child Support Act is falling apart. Lets hope it happens sooner rather than later. For legal advice & info contact The Campaign Against the Child Support Act, P.O.Box 287, London, WC1H 9DZ or phone 071-837-7509.



The names left on Mr Lilley's door by the demonstrators.

# RED ROUTES = DEAD ROUTES

## WHAT ARE THE PLANS ?

The government is proposing to turn 300 miles of London's roads into Red Routes. These will ban stopping, parking and loading between 7am & 7pm, Mondays to Saturdays, except in the occasional bay. Locally they will cover Green Lanes, Tottenham High Road, Bruce Grove, Westbury Road, Great Cambridge Road, and the Roundway. The government claims that Red Routes will cut down traffic congestion.

## WHAT IS THE REALITY ?

In reality Red Routes are urban motorways; "rat runs" to the city, destroying the life of every community they pass through. They will encourage more cars onto the roads. They will bring more accidents, more pollution, more noise and more structural damage to buildings.

## IS THERE A BETTER SOLUTION TO THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM ?

Yes. Car usage is high only because public transport is relatively expensive and unreliable. This can be changed. The money due to be spent on Red Routes should be put towards improving public transport. Trains, tubes, buses and trams should be made cheaper, safer, more frequent and more accessible. Cycle routes should be drastically increased and many more traffic calming measures, such as road humps and especially pedestrianisation, should be brought in to make our communities safer. This has been done in other European cities.

## IF THIS IS SO SENSIBLE, WHY IS IT NOT BEING DONE ?

Increasing car usage is in the interests of the "Road Lobby" - a collection of some of the biggest industrial concerns in the country (eg car manufacturers, oil companies, road builders, road haulage companies, etc). They contribute millions of pounds to Tory party funds and the government returns the favours.

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL COUNCIL ?

The Council have stated their opposition to Red Routes but these words have not been translated into action. On the contrary, they have displayed glossy government propaganda putting the case for Red Routes as part of a so-called consultation exercise.

## CAN WE STOP THE RED ROUTES ?

Yes. In East London 1000's of people have mobilised against the building of the M11 link road and similar campaigns are being mounted up and down the country (eg Twyford Down & Oxleas Wood). Already the government has been forced to postpone several major road schemes as anti-Red Route groups confront them throughout the country.

## WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT ?

We can't wait for others to act on our behalf. We need a visible, lively and imaginative opposition to the Red Routes which can't be ignored by the powers that be.

## HELP TO GET A CAMPAIGN GOING :

- produce and deliver leaflets in your street
  - display posters in your windows (we have some)
  - write to local & national newspapers. Transport Secretary John McGregor lives at 7 Onslow Gardens, Highgate.
  - contact radio "phone-ins".
  - use any other means you can think of.
- We will publicise any activities you do and are happy to put people in touch with each other to set up local anti-Red Routes campaigns.

ADVERT  
**HAVEN DISTRIBUTION**  
 (non-profit)  
 We have books, comics, T/shirts, zines, records, tapes & periodicals, in the punk, ska & HC vein. Books & pamphlets on anarchism & anarcho-feminism to anti-sexism & vegan cook books.  
 For latest listings, send an A5 SAE to  
 BM HAVEN, London WC1N 3XX.

# A FEW THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PENALTY FARES..

London Underground Ltd.(LU), have recently introduced a £10 penalty fine for anybody they find travelling without a ticket. To a businessperson £10 is nothing, but to those of us on low wages or the dole is can be a fortune. We already have the highest fares in Europe and one of the worst systems.

But don't panic! The inspectors who are supposed to enforce this policy have almost no legal powers. They are relying on bluff.

Inspectors cannot make you pay a penalty fare immediately. The London Regional Transport (Penalty Fares) Act 1992 states that "the only obligation on you if you are UNWILLING or UNABLE to pay a fine on the spot is to provide a name & address". In theory they can fine you up to £500 if you refuse to give a name & address. In practice the inspector has no power to arrest you and they can't even demand proof of identity. If an inspector refuses to let you out of the station this could count as FALSE IMPRISONMENT and you could sue for compensation.

If you are given a fine, dispute the reason for it and refuse to pay it there and then. You are then meant to give your reasons for non-payment to LU within 21 days. A valid reason is that there were no facilities available for buying a ticket at the start of your journey. A ticket machine that does not give change or has chewing gum stuck in it isn't really a facility for selling tickets. If the inspector want to phone through and check your story and detains you it could be False Imprisonment again. Maybe you lost the ticket you bought.

Even if you don't give any reason (and assum-

ing they have your correct name & address) the only means LU have of enforcing the penalty fare is by means of a County Court Summons. If you enjoy ridiculous court cases it may be worth going to court as it will cost LU far more than the tenner. We reckon you should just ignore the summons.

Some individuals think that if people dodge the fares, "honest" passengers will pay more. This is rubbish. The less we resist paying their fares the more they will fleece us with higher prices. And if you believe fares will come down if we all pay you are living in a dream world - it will just mean more money for the rich parasites (shareholders & bosses) who own LU. We won't see jack shit out of it. So support your fellow dodgers and TRAVEL FOR FREE.

## OTHER THINGS YOU CAN DO

- (on top of free travel)
- If you see somebody being hassled by an inspector, tell them their rights. This will also demoralise the inspector and get right up their nose - and will make you feel good.
- Pass this information to everybody you know.
- If you do give a false name & address why not pick a dodgy landlord or boss who deserves a nasty letter from LU.
- If you have bought a ticket and an inspector wants to see it, take forever to find it as this helps those who ain't got a ticket.
- Chewing gum or glue in ticket machines puts them out of action. Get rid of LU's penalty fares posters.
- Giving your travel cards away helps others dodge fares easier. Tell them where you bought it and at what time.
- Have fun and piss them off - we don't get many chances to enjoy ourselves.

Source Fare Dodgers Liberation Front & Guardian 26/3/94

# RED ROUTE



# DEAD ROUTE