

Local youth beaten by police

TEENAGER, Trevor Monerville, was hospitalised after being arrested by Stoke Newington police on New Years Eve.

It was not until two days after his arrest that his parents found out where he was and that he was in hospital. A local pro-police newspaper has described his injuries as "serious".

Reports confirm that brain damage is included on his list of injuries.

The Monerville family have withdrawn a complaint to the police due to the Police Complaints Authority obstructing them in their search for justice.

They have now been forced to bring a civil action against the police.

There is a public meeting on the campaign to get justice, at Hackney Town Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th February.

I used to live on the Isle of Dogs at one time, not that I chose to live in a tiny bedsit with condensation, growing mould on the walls, rats and mice, and continual noise from HGVs roaring past day and night.

I took the bedsit in June 82 believing that I would be rehoused within nine months as told by a Tower Hamlets housing officer.

After living there for a year the place was sold to the LDDC. My first reaction was one of optimism, hoping that they wouldn't charge us rent, and naturally rehouse us as soon as possible from this place of abyss.

Although the rent was reduced, they did no repairs to the house internally or externally, there was a hole in the roof and rain-water would drip on my head at night in bed keeping me awake.

During the time I lived there I didn't get a decent nights sleep. It became even worse when a gravel lorry repair garage opened next to the house, and the owner put two barking alsations in the yard as security at night time.

The LDDC were fully aware of the conditions we were living in, but wouldn't willingly do even simple repairs, like the leaking tap that only needed a new washer but took four months to repair. The house was broken into on three occasions and they didn't replace the broken door locks, and when the front door was smashed in with a sledge hammer, they just put a piece of plywood over the existing door.

After three years of this they told us that the house was on the site of the Canary Wharf project. I was told by Simon Coussel (a real bastard) of the LDDC that they would pay my removal costs, but compensation payment for being moved out was out of the question.

Within weeks of them first informing us of their intention to demolish the place, I was rehoused by a housing association in Hackney. Some weeks after moving in I recieved a letter from the LDDC wishing me good luck for the future in my new accomadation, I think it's time they considered the present, making tenants live in such acute poverty they call housing.

More local elections (YAWN!)

THREE candidates are campaigning in the election on March 5th for the place on Hackney Council left by 'Liberal'(sic), Pierre Rambo Royan.

But how representative of us will the 'winner' be? Not at all, we think.

He or she will join the rest in wasting money while essential services are neglected, as *all* councils do - Labour, Tory and Alliance.

You only have to open your eyes to see that so much needs doing; Broken pavement that trip you up, dirty streets, delays of two years for repairs, street crime, and the complete lack of decent housing in the area - *unless you're a rich yuppie!*

But yet there *is* hope. More and more of us are realising that we can do away with these parasites and get things done properly

The only way to do this is to *do it ourselves!*

We don't need councillors to tell us what we want. WE ALREADY KNOW!

EASTENDER is written by ordinary working class people who live or work in the Hackney/Tower Hamlets/Docklands area.

We welcome any letters or articles from local individuals and organisations who agree (or not) with the things contained in the newsletter.

Please send any contributions to the address at the foot of this page.

At the moment we are limited to a print run of about 1000 copies per issue. Please feel free to pass your copy of EASTENDER on to friends, neighbours and workmates. Better still, you could photocopy it and distribute it yourself.

This newsletter is financed entirely from our own not-so-full pockets.

If you would like to make a donation to ensure that it carries on coming out, please send it to the address below.

EastEnder

AND TOWER HAMLETS TOO!

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THE EAST END IS BEING 'GENTRIFIED' In other words, rich people are pouring into the area.

Houses which were once occupied by working class people, while landlords refused repairs until they were unfit to live in, are being done up and sold for over £100,000.

Who can afford these prices? Not us. We can just about survive on pathetically low wages or the pitiful sum they call social security.

Working class people still live in high rise blocks paying out of order rents, where the lifts don't work but you can look down on the

leafy squares where the rich have taken over.

It is sick that people live in an area all their lives only to get priced out by a bunch of "okay yah" tossers.

Communities and families are being split up. When young people leave home they have to move out of the area to find anywhere they can afford.

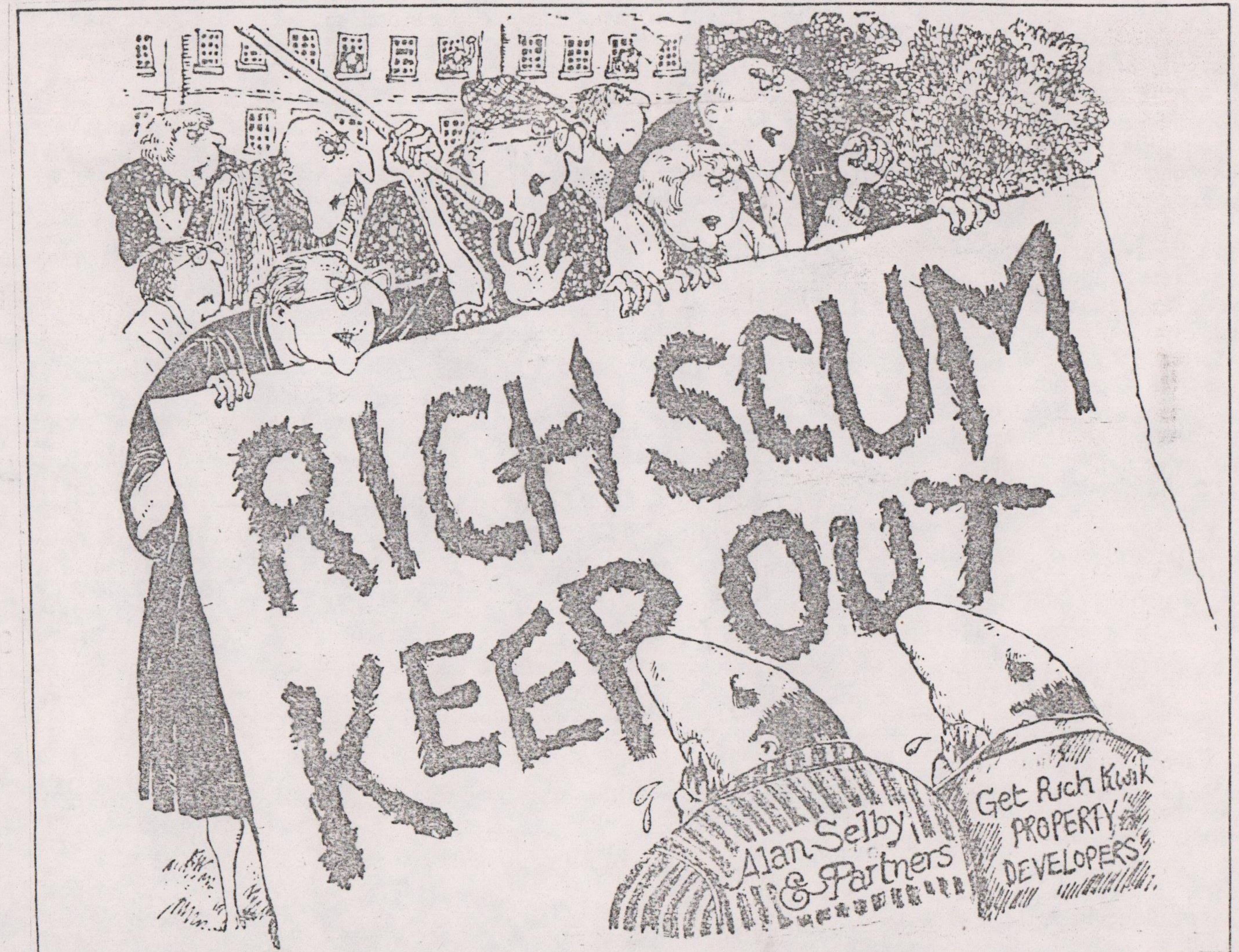
The houses should be done up for the original occupants or the homeless.

Any spot near canals, rivers, or parks is prime development area. With the conivance of local councillors - themselves trendy

'yuppies' - developers make huge profits out of building homes for the rich, while working class people have to live in sub-standard accommodation, with whole families in one room bed-and-breakfast.

It has got to be possible to stop the influx of rich bastards, halt the spiral of price increases and preserve our communities.

We have to show the rich they're not wanted. Let's not wait till the East End is only populated by 'Hooray Henries' before we do something to stop it!



★ STOP THE ROT - EVICT THE RICH! ★

★ OUR FIRST LETTER! ★

OUR HOMES IN DANGER!

THE HOUSING & PLANNING ACT came into force on 7th January. This new law is a grave danger to our homes and communities. It allows our homes to be taken away from us and sold off to the rich yuppies who are pouring into the area. It is aimed at smashing our working class communities. It must be resisted!

UNDER THE Act, local councils can sell off their housing estates to property developers. The new owners will be able to put up rents and wipe out what services are provided to tenants in the way of repairs and transfers etc. Tenants will eventually be forced to move out, either due to the poor services or by being evicted for rent arrears.

Their newly vacated flats and houses will then be done up for sale at prices way out of the reach of most local people, or demolished to make way for posh housing developments.

A private company that takes over a working class housing estate will want to get shot of its tenants as soon as possible.

In these times of soaring house and land prices, property developers know that there is much more money to be made in building and selling new or modernised flats and houses to the rich than in providing rentes accommodation for the poor.

Private rented accommodation in inner-city London has become almost non-existent as landlords realise that they can make a fortune by selling their properties to the 'nouveau riche' yuppies and city gentry who are bored with the traditional wealthy areas like Hampstead and the 'Stockbroker Belt'.

EVICIONS

However, a council can only sell off an estate if at least half the tenants agree. But this doesn't mean we're safe.

The new law says that tenants can be evicted from their homes and the estates sold empty!

This is possible if the council intends to 'redevelop' the estate. 'Redevelop' doesn't only mean demolition and rebuilding. It can mean any works, including repairs and renovations.

Evictions from estates due for modernisation are already

common...they are called 'DECANTS'.

Under the Act, any estate where tenants have been decanted (evicted) while their flats are being modernised can be sold off - plus the parts of the estate which are still occupied. *And in this case the tenants have no right to object!*

Tenants who had been decanted would have no right to return to their homes once the work was completed.

They would be sold off on the open market to one of the swelling number of rich brats anxious to find a place to live in the East End!

Some councils, such as Hackney, have said that they will not use their new powers to sell off estates.

However, many people think that the councils will be forced to start selling housing properties in the very near future due to their financial problems.

Also, the Government have indicated that they will make the sale of estates compulsory if councils do not take advan-

tage of the new law.

The spectre of estate sales could be with us very soon!

HOMES FOR THE RICH

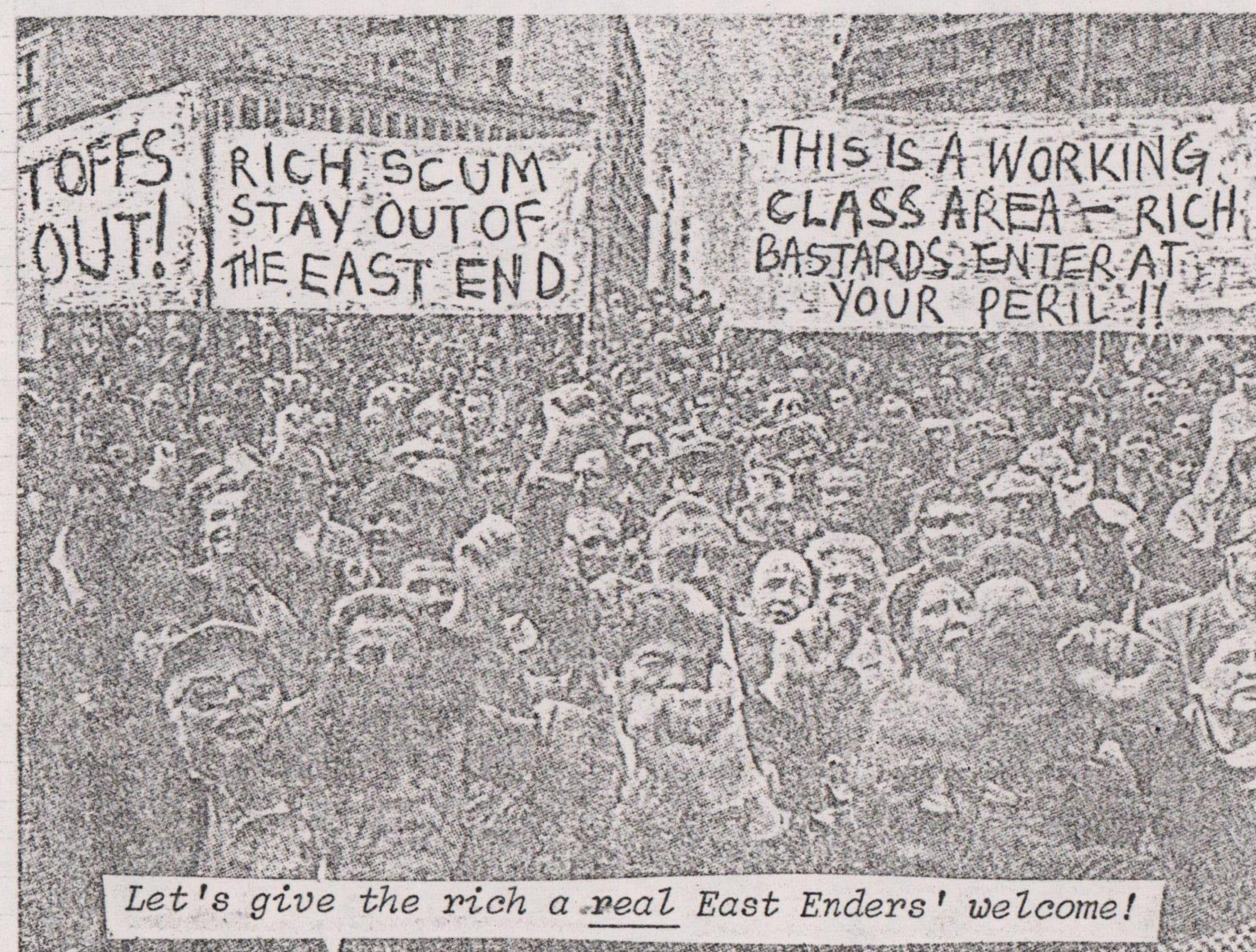
The Act also allows the Government to give financial assistance to developers to promote 'housing development' on 'difficult' sites in places like the East End.

By 'housing development' they do not, of course, mean building homes for the likes of us; more like building luxury estates for the rich, like the ones that are already polluting our neighbourhoods!

This 'financial assistance' is taken out of the money that the Government gives to local councils to build and improve council houses.

Our public money is going to be used to line the pockets of rich property tycoons who are building homes for their own kind, while we have to fight tooth and nail to get even the most basic housing.

We must start to organise our resistance now, before it's too late!



EAST ENDERS MUST FIGHT TOGETHER!

THE HOUSING AND PLANNING ACT is an attempt to divide and weaken working class people. Its aim is to play tenants and council workers off against each other, with both sides loosing.

THREAT TO JOBS

Council workers are already threatened by a whole pile of new laws which aim to put council services into the hands of private contractors.

A 'tenants' takeover' is no less a threat to their jobs than any other form of 'privatisation'. They will be forced to resist it.

This means that we'll all be fighting amongst ourselves while the rich continue to steal our homes from under our noses.

We should not be fooled. After all, can you really imagine the Tories suggesting something as radical as working class people taking control of their own communities? Not on your life! The only way we'll ever get

that is by *fighting* for it!

CONSULTANTS

This part of the law is all about the bringing in of 'housing management consultants' who take over the management of estates 'on behalf of' the tenants. These companies will, of course demand a fee for their 'services' - and a large one at that.

CARPETBAGGERS

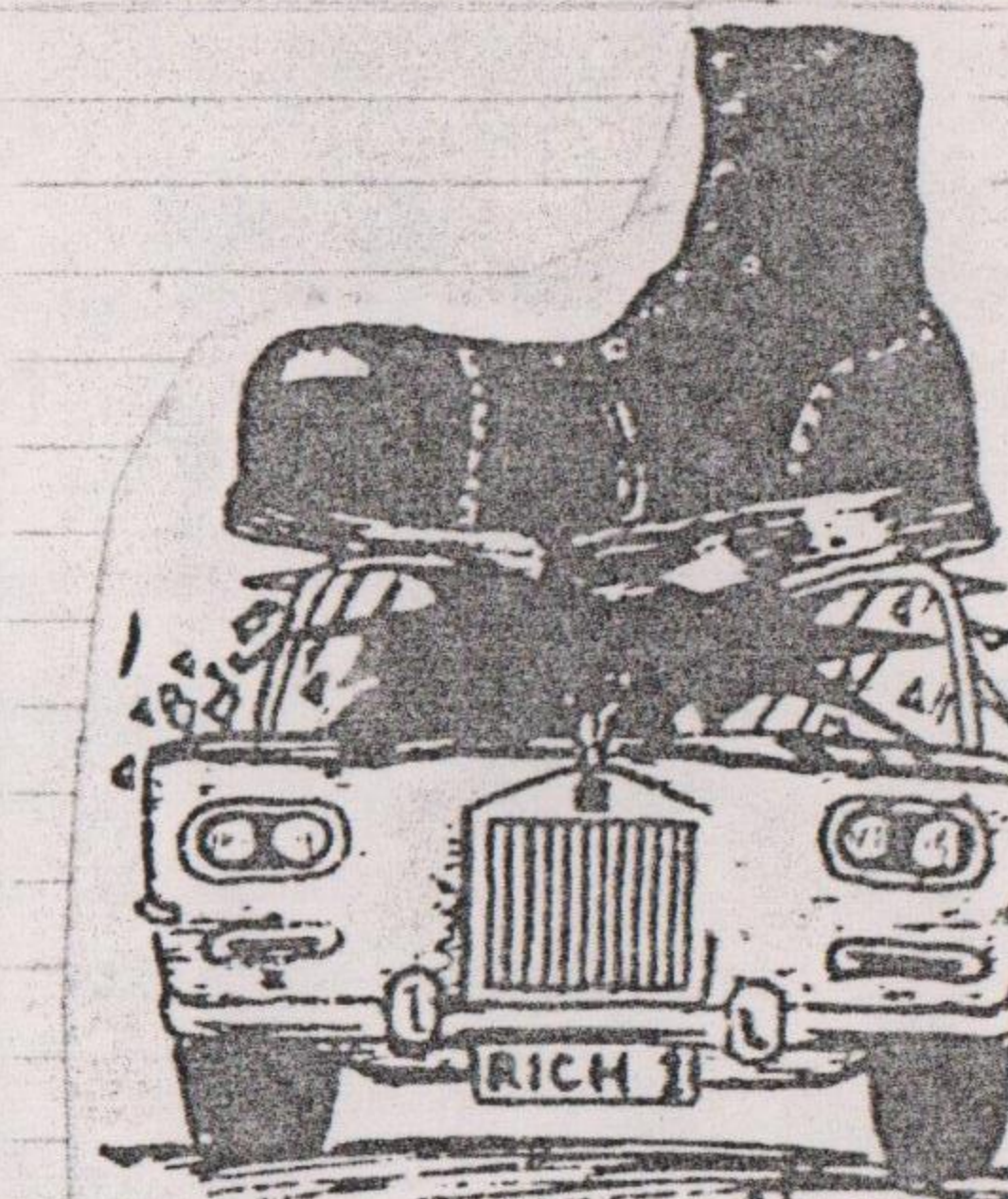
These companies are nothing more than modern-day Carpetbaggers; only interested in making a profit out of our desire for decent housing.

They are parasites and should be treated as such!

STICK TOGETHER

Tenants and council workers must stick together if we are to protect our communities and livelihoods.

Fighting amongst ourselves only makes it easier for the rich to keep us in our place.



RESISTANCE

What can we do to defend our communities?

For a start we can forget about the politicians and the bureaucrats in the Town Hall!

Councillors are all full of talk about how we must stand up and tell the Government this and that, but at the end of the day talking will achieve nothing.

It will be us, the tenants and council workers and other ordinary local people who will be taking any effective action, while the Councillors and the bureaucrats concentrate on promoting their political credibility by saying the right things to the press.

Relying on politicians who are only interested in doing deals with the Government and getting their names in the papers will not save our communities. Neither will petitions,

public inquiries, letters to MPs and ministers or any other passive protests.

Just look at the Docklands where, despite over four years of struggle by the local community, their has



Passive protests will not save our communities!

been no let up in the flood of rich parasites coming into the area to steal homes from the poor and put up unwanted office blocks where homes for local people should be the priority.

The only way we are going to stop our communities going down the drain is by *direct action*. This means anything from rent strikes to occupying council and contractors' offices, and even mass picket of property developers' offices in the City. The list of actions open to us is endless. We must not be afraid to use our imaginations.

We must show the rich that they are not welcome in our area, and that, if necessary, we are prepared to physically boot them out!