

IF WE'RE OUT OF WORK, IT'S NOT OUR FAULT — SO WHY SHOULD WE PAY THE PRICE? THEY WANT US UNEMPLOYED, SO LET

# HACKNEY

3p

# GUTTER

NUMBER  
4

# PRESS



Dockers fight on  
Gay Liberation  
Squatters Union  
Smash the Sex-Law  
Up against the Law

No-Go Area in Islington  
Mad McElligot Gives In

## Who Killed Aseta Simms?

Readers of Gutter Press No. 2 will have seen an article on Stephen Mearthy who died at the hands of the Upper Street Police in Islington. They may not be aware that there are also a number of murderers in blue uniforms wandering freely round the streets of Hackney.

On 13th May 1971 a black woman, Mrs. Aseta Simms of 47 Brighton Road, Stoke Newington was taken to Stoke Newington police station. She never came out alive.

This is what her cousin Faye remembers of the incident; "I was with Aseta most of the day and till the time she left me she was perfectly healthy and normal. Mrs. Simms was the landlady of Brighton Road and I went with her to a rent tribunal at Archway in the afternoon. She had been taken to

the tribunal by Mrs. Archer, the tenant upstairs - they never had very good relations.

"After that we went to my home. We didn't have anything to drink but when Aseta left about 9.00p.m. she took with her a bottle of whiskey three quarters full which she'd bought the previous day. She went home to look after her kids. "The next thing I heard about my cousin was about 2 o'clock in the morning when two policemen knocked on my door. They asked me a lot of questions about Aseta - how many kids? who was looking after them? where was her husband? But they wouldn't tell me why they were asking. They said I had to come to the police station. There they told me she was dead. The sergeant said the'd found

This paper is printed and published by Hackney Gutter Press, c/o, 34, Dalston Lane, E8. Its shape and form are discussed at open meetings. The next meeting is on Thursday (7.30pm), August 10th.

More help is needed with putting the paper together and with distributing it.

We want this newspaper to be used as part of getting to know each other. Organising to fight together. We want it to be used as a weapon to fight for our own control of Hackney.



her lying on the pavement near Stamford Hill. P.C. King said she couldn't sit up or stand on her own and she had to lie down in the police station. He also said she was struggling and fighting and screaming. How could she do that if she was nearly unconscious? I have never seen Aseta drunk".

## Inquest Whitewash

### AT THE INQUEST

Mrs. Archer, the tenant who had taken Mrs. Simms to the rent tribunal and had been given a week to get out said she had seen Mrs. Simms very drunk earlier in the evening. Mrs. Archer who admitted "Mrs. Simms and I never did get on", was taken to and from the coroners court in a police car.

## PIG SWILL

G. 196 P.C. King testifies:

"I saw a coloured woman lying on a forecourt in Manor Road N.16. I went to pick her up; she became terribly violent, grabbed my belt and began twisting it. After a struggle we got her into the van. We lifted her into the van and laid her out onto the floor. I then held her, both her wrists and P.C.277 held her ankles.

### AT THE STATION

"She was not capable of standing, her knees were badly bruised. I didn't see any bruising over her eyes; come to think of it, I did see bruising over her head. We then put her on the floor in the cell. She was calm and snoring quite loudly. While in there the snoring began to diminish, I thought she was asleep!" *Where did all the bruises come from?*  
Pig G. 277

"She was lying between cars and swearing, she appeared to be drunk even from a distance ...Two hours later I went back to where we had picked her up and found a whiskey bottle leaning against a wall with some whiskey in it."

*The pig says there was whiskey left in the bottle therefore Mrs. Simms drank less than three quarters of a bottle.*  
Sergeants 6.81 and 6.78 duly testified that they saw her struggling and shouting when taken into the van and into the police station, where she suddenly became semi-conscious presumably as a result of usual police pacifying tactics. As 6.78 says when they got her into the cell "Mrs. Simms was incapable of doing anything" - I returned later and saw P.C. GI96 sitting outside on the stairs with head in hands and he told me that Mrs. Simms had stopped breathing."

## Police Doctor

"There was swelling above the right eye and bruising below. There was deep bruising over her head but no fracture, but the brain was swollen. There was alcohol in the blood stream. It is arguable that some people might die with this level of alcohol in the blood stream but we have had people with much higher levels who are still alive today. The bruising was consistent with someone falling about or with someone who had been beaten. I cannot truthfully say what was the cause of her death."

*If she didn't die from alcohol presumably it was from a beating.*

The coroner, Douglas Chambers said "The Home Office says that the coroner has a choice to sit or not to sit with the jury in special circumstances. There are special circumstances in this hearing, therefore under the Home office rules for coroners courts, I shall sit with the jury."

# An Open Letter to All Doctors, Psychiatrists Etc. Who Deal With Me

In my inside bones

And my outside is flesh

And in between

Are corpuscles, intestines, livers, blood, veins, etc.

of all different shades of green

Each single thing, including the veins,

Is a mass of quivering

shivering

Aches and pains

But the worst part of all

If you dig this at all

Is what's going on inside of my brains

For you whom this letter's for

Must understand a metaphor -

That is, if your're hip

All of me is a ship

And what's at the wheel

Ain't the toes, blood vessels (not that these things don't have a vital role), fingernails or heel

No, guess again -

It's that stupid ole brain

And if that brain's not alright

Then the whole scene gets uptight

And, in spite of your scrutiny

Every bloody thing, from topmost getting-close-to balding topknot to feet and their skin, is in mutiny.

So while you stupid farts spend half your day lunch-eonig

There's a head not functioning

There's a psychic cripple

And the whole ship'll tipple

All that you're doing

is dolling out drugs

Different types of plastically chemical bacterial bugs

Which might ease the pain

Of a hung-up brain

But in the long run'll wither the heart/mind and the liver and stomach and drying-up balls

(And each thing is part of a human being's all)

Till you're just a total chemical ruin.

But whatever you do to me

There are still things I see which are all quite new to me

You haven't quite made me a vegetable yet

And whenever

I get myself together

And even if this never occurs -

I'll get to the state when the only fun

Will be to aerate your airless and stuffy bodies and

mind with a new treatment known as a 'Tommy Gun'

Or I'll strap uour heads into an experience reproducing machine

So you'll all feel directly what it's like to be in the limbo and hell you've put patients in

And if I don't do it someone else will sometime, but till that day you can go 'ah um' in your smart suits, your're safe till then - so don't fret.

*What the special circumstances were he didn't say but they were presumably that the police might have been accused of murder. The verdict of the judge and the jury was Death by Misadventure. What WAS the coroner doing by going with the jury?*

As far as we know the pigs involved in the death of Aseta Simms, G.196.G 227, G.81, and G.78, are still wandering round Stoke Newington. They've probably been promoted.

## Why no Inquiry?

Mrs. Simms family and friends and the Black Unity and Freedom Party have been trying to get a public inquiry into the affair for over a year without success. It seems that the verdict of Death by Misadventure was true in a way. The pigs probably didn't intend to kill Mrs. Simms. It seems like the usual form of police harrassment of black people and any others they dont like. Black people, young people, longhaired people, are regularly stopped by the pigs at night, questioned, abused, pushed around, and if there is any reaction dragged into a van to be charged with assaulting the police or some such crap. On the way the pigs pass the time bashing them around. With Mrs. Simms they made a mistake. She died. Remember Oluwale in Leeds ?



# DOCKERS STILL PICKETING HACKNEY DEPOT

Tuesday, men who have been employed by Midland Cold Stores in Hackney, came out and set up a picket line. They had placards which said: "Drivers, this is not dock work and never has been. Dock work ends at the dock gates." and "They want our jobs today - it could be yours tomorrow, so take action now." Dockers pickets admire these men for their principled stand and have been on good-natured terms with them.

## Dock Work Taken From Docks

A spokesman for the dockers said: "We are not demanding the sack for the men already employed in the depot, as trade unionists that would be more than we bloody well dare do. What we want are jobs, which Lord Vesty and others have moved inland by closing down wharves and opening up container depots like this one."

The dockers would like to see a similar agreement at the Midland Cold Store to the agreement already made at Chobham Farm, where the men who were already working in the depot were given other jobs and continue to be employed, with better wages than they had before, as a result of the dockers campaign.

The dockers are very concerned about the number of men who have been returned to the unattached pool. This is a direct result of the big fish like Lord Vesty pulling out of dockland and opening up container depots and cold stores inland and employing workers outside the docks industry.

The reason why this happened goes back to the days of the Devlin inquiry when the government of the day (Tory) asked Lord Devlin to head a commission to inquire into the docks industry and suggest ways it could be "modernised."

Briefly, the dockers now know that as a result of accepting the Devlin scheme (under which they were promised security of employment) they have been sold down the river. In fact, most of the docks work has been moved elsewhere to Tilbury (where only a fraction of the number have been employed) and to container depots inland where the employers recruit from outside the docks.

*The implementation of Devlin has meant that the docks force has been reduced from about 28,000 in the mid-1960's to about 17,000 at present. This process is obviously continuing as people like Lord Vesty attempt to get more modernisation and mobility at the expense of dock workers.*

## Bosses Go Back On Their Word

This is why dockers are now coming out of dockland and organising picketing of container depots. They were promised that all work done traditionally by dockers would be theirs under the new modernisation scheme. The employers have gone back on their word - not for the first time and not for the last.

The employers have got very scared of the dockers picketing which has reduced the number of lorries going into Midland Cold Stores to one or two a day - this means that the firm must be losing a lot of money.

In order to confuse the issue the employers have persuaded lorry drivers that the dockers are after their jobs, too. Some lorry drivers have listened to this rubbish - but not all. At The Lift a large depot on the outskirts of Hackney and at Chobham Farm, drivers have turned up to picket, claiming that dockers are after their jobs.

Dockers maintain that this is not true - that Chobham Farm proves this is not true, and that the employers have started this big scare in order to divide and confuse the drivers.

*A lot of drivers are with the dockers. One driver said to me "I can't understand these people who think the dockers are against them. It's a load of bollocks. The dockers are fighting the bosses not other workers. Any worker who swallows that one is doing the gumor's dirty work, whether he knows it or not. I went down to Parliament the other night (Monday) because some drivers had gone down to lobby their MPs about the dockers picketing. I said to them "Why are you talking to the friends of the bosses? Why don't you talk to your fellow-workers? You aren't going to solve this one by talking to your enemies - you should be talking to your friends!"*

Dockers are preparing for other pickets after they have been successful in persuading Lord Vesty to call off and make a deal. They are confident of success, but they also recognise that they have had a very bad press about what they are supposed to be doing.

## Press Campaign Against Dockers

With the exception of "Hackney Gutter Press" and other working-class papers they have had a vitriolic and lying campaign launched against them by them by the national press (the bosses press).

Despite innumerable writs from Industrial Relations Court those dockers named are refusing to recognise this court. This means that if the newspapers report what is said in court and only that, and don't ask the dockers what they think then the dockers' side of the story hasn't been printed. Only the 'Guardian' rather late in the day, has printed the dockers version.

## Private Detectives

Another development was the use by some-one unknown of private detectives to spy on the dockers, to take photographs of them, to pose as pressmen and interview them, and to pretend to be lorry drivers going into the depot and tape conversations with pickets.

As a result of the use of such dirty methods in an attempt to obtain "evidence" for the National Industrial Relations Court, a deputation from the National Union of Journalists arrived at the picket line this week to explain that their members strongly condemned the use of private detectives posing as pressmen and totally repudiated such methods.

*The dockers are making their own preparations to combat this propaganda. They are aware that they need the support of other workers... why don't you go down to the picket line and show solidarity. Above all they recognise that they need their side of the story to be put across nationally.*

Dockers have been very patient. They have seen the labour force in the docks halved in return for very little except the bankrupt promise of "security" - a security which hasn't materialised.

## Not just paper solidarity

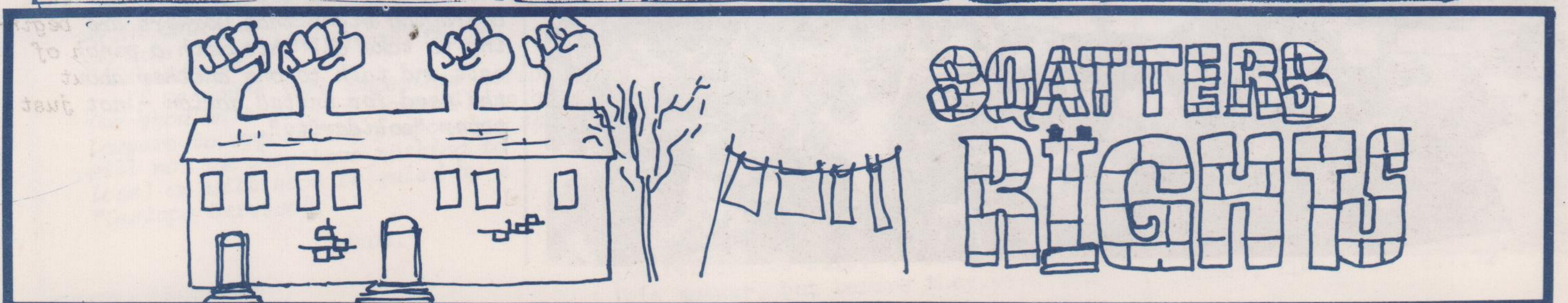
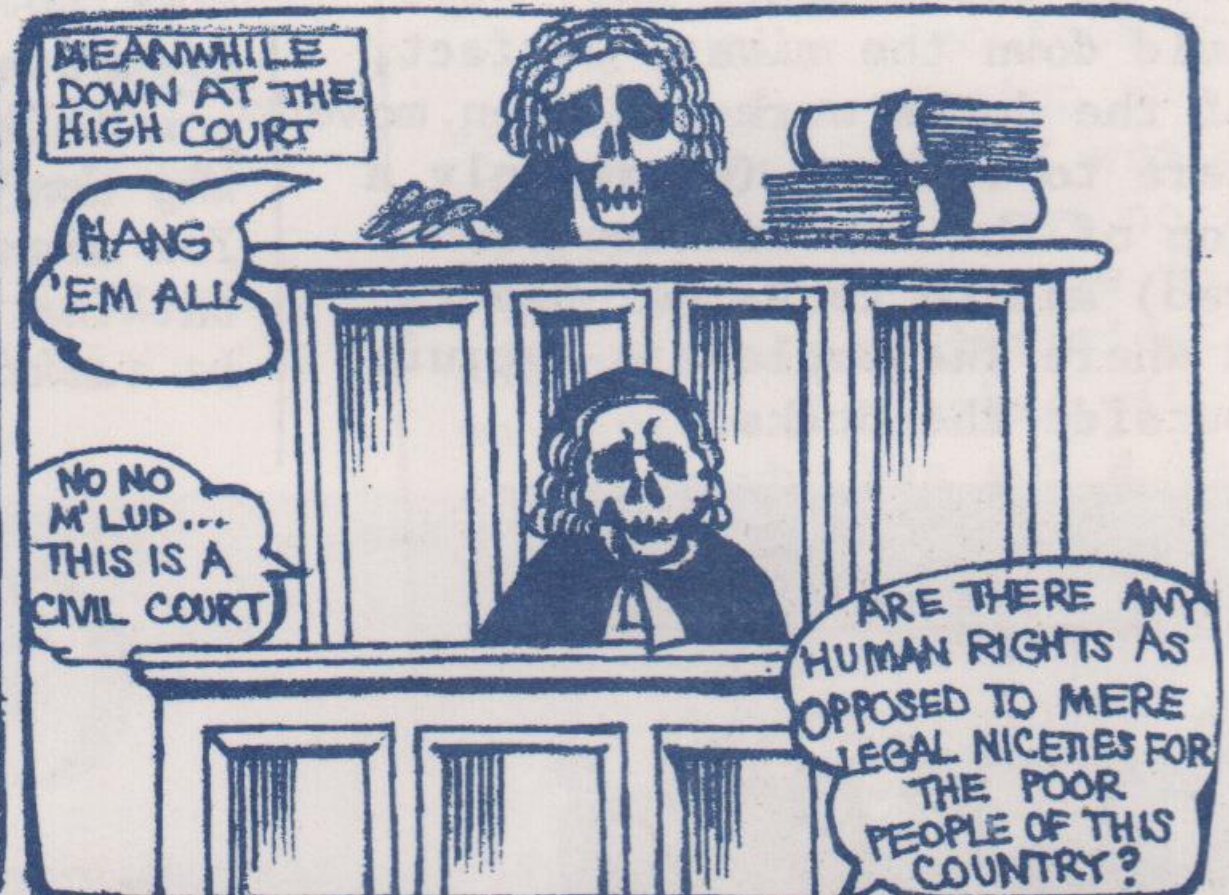
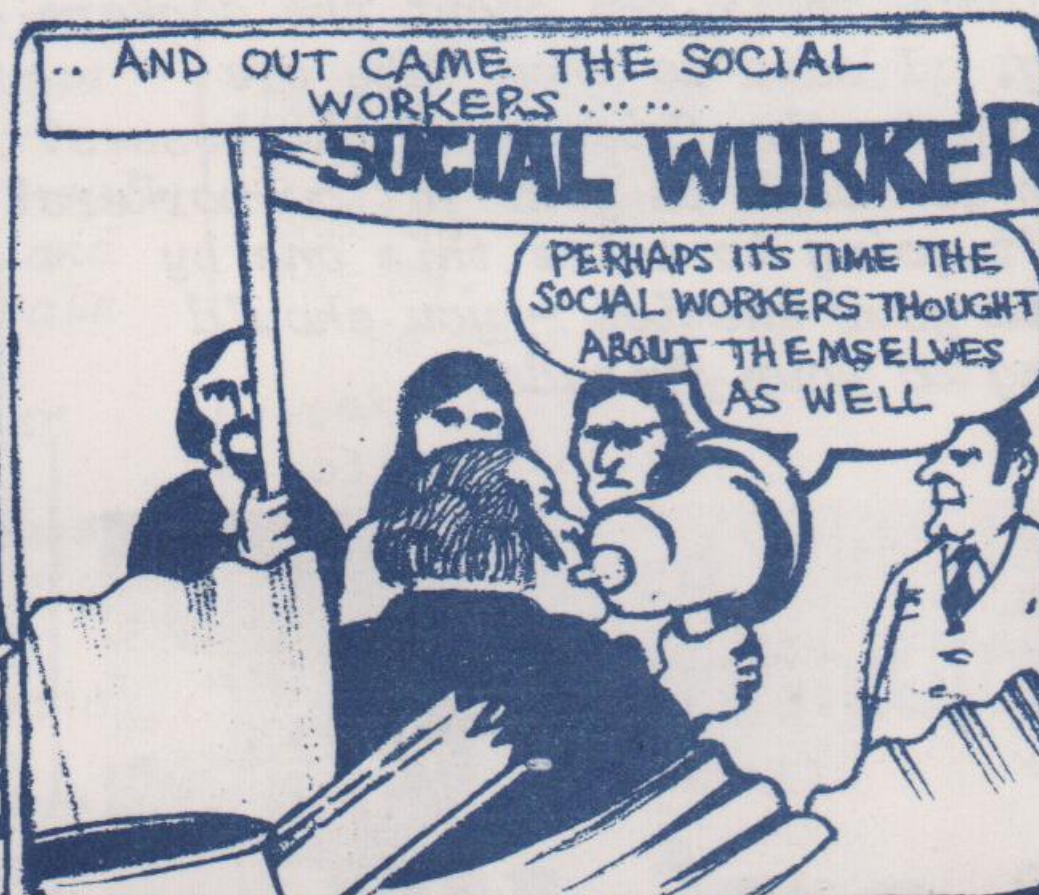
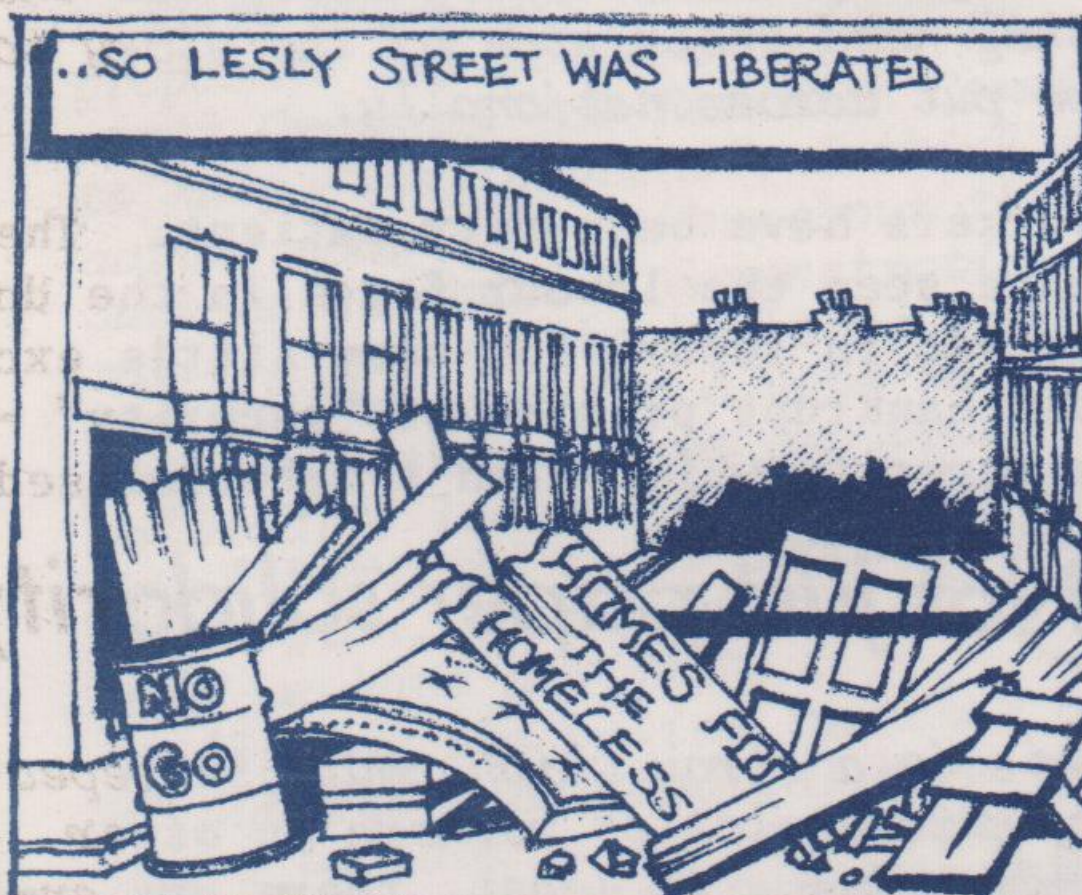
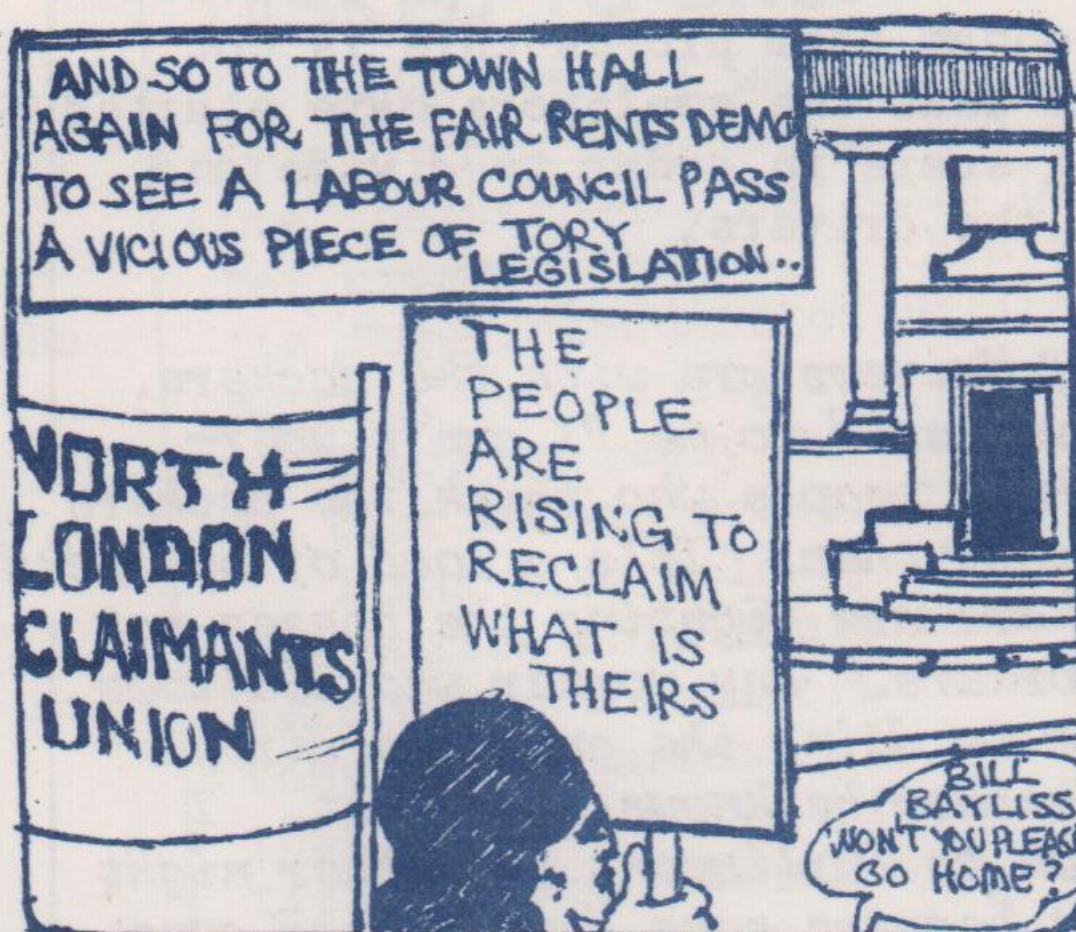
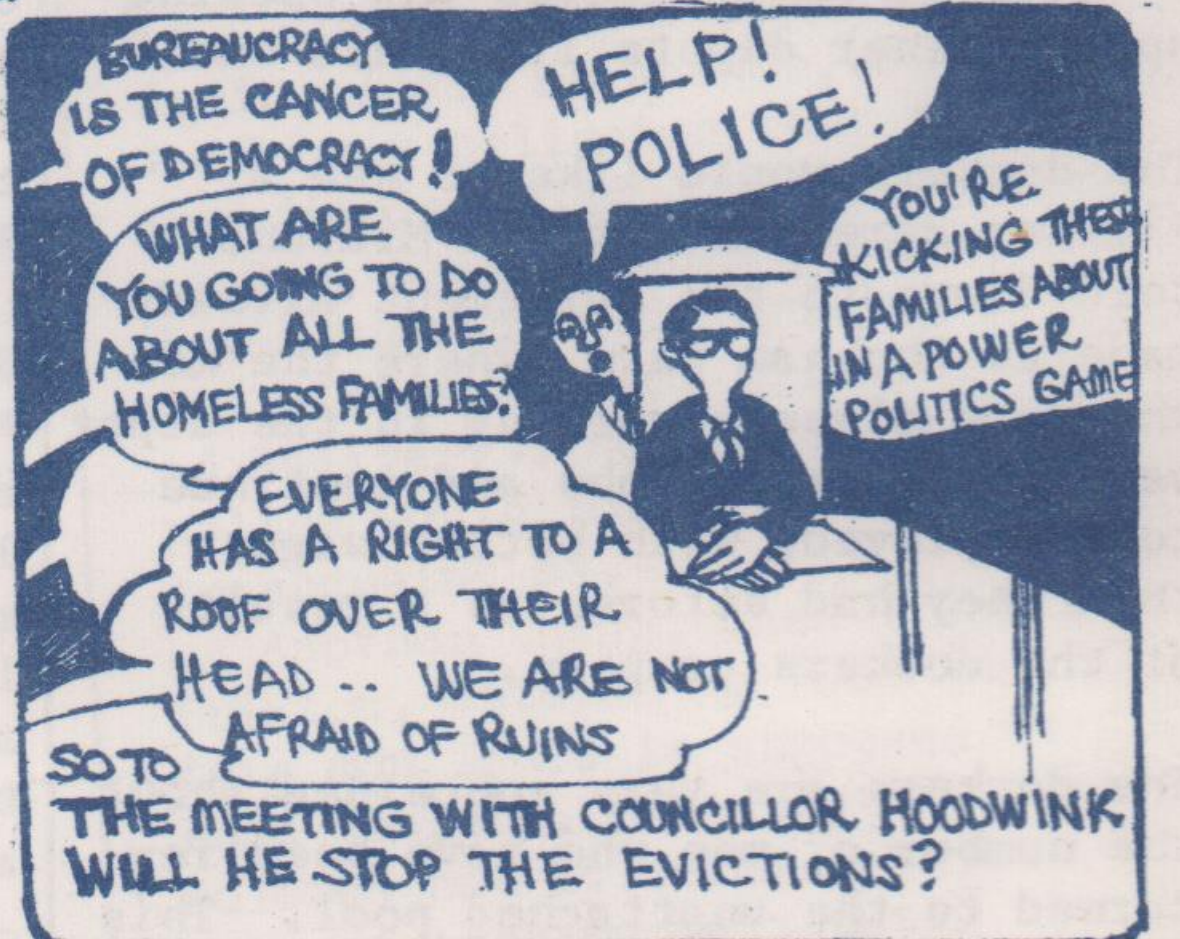
*This is a story which could be repeated by quite a lot of workers in other industries. At least, there are encouraging signs that workers are beginning to take all this with a pinch of salt and talk to one another about the need for united action - not just paper "solidarity".*





# ISLINGTON SQUATTERS

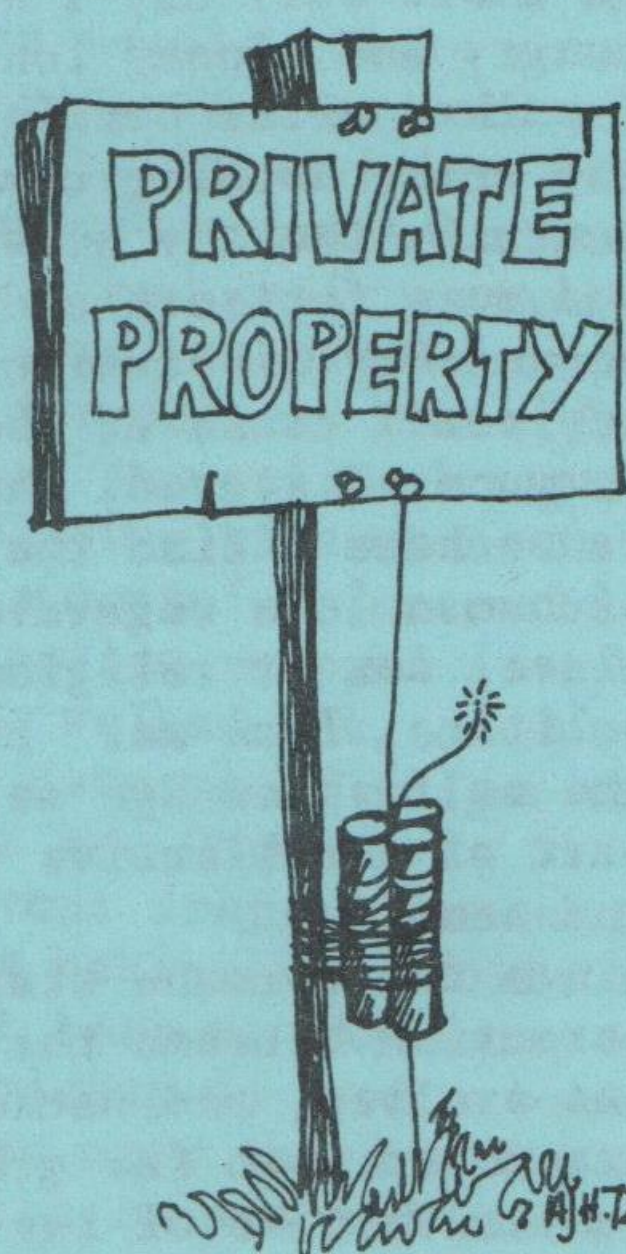
THE STORY SO FAR...





# HACKNEY SQUATTER'S UNION

## Demands Free Housing For All



We are squatting because we have been unable to find a decent home through any of the legal or official channels. We consist of all different types of people - families who have been evicted from their homes, groups of people who don't want to be restricted to small one man-one woman families and who are trying to work out better ways of living with each other, single mothers with children, and a lot of us who are in the Claimants' Union living on social security.

We are a union controlled entirely by squatters. We are demanding that there should be free housing for all people. We built the houses and we have the right to live in them without making some fat landlord happy taking the little money we have.

Houses are money. With house prices rising up to 40% a year, the bosses are investing their ill-gained loot in property. Whether there are tenants or not is not really important. Either way they make money.

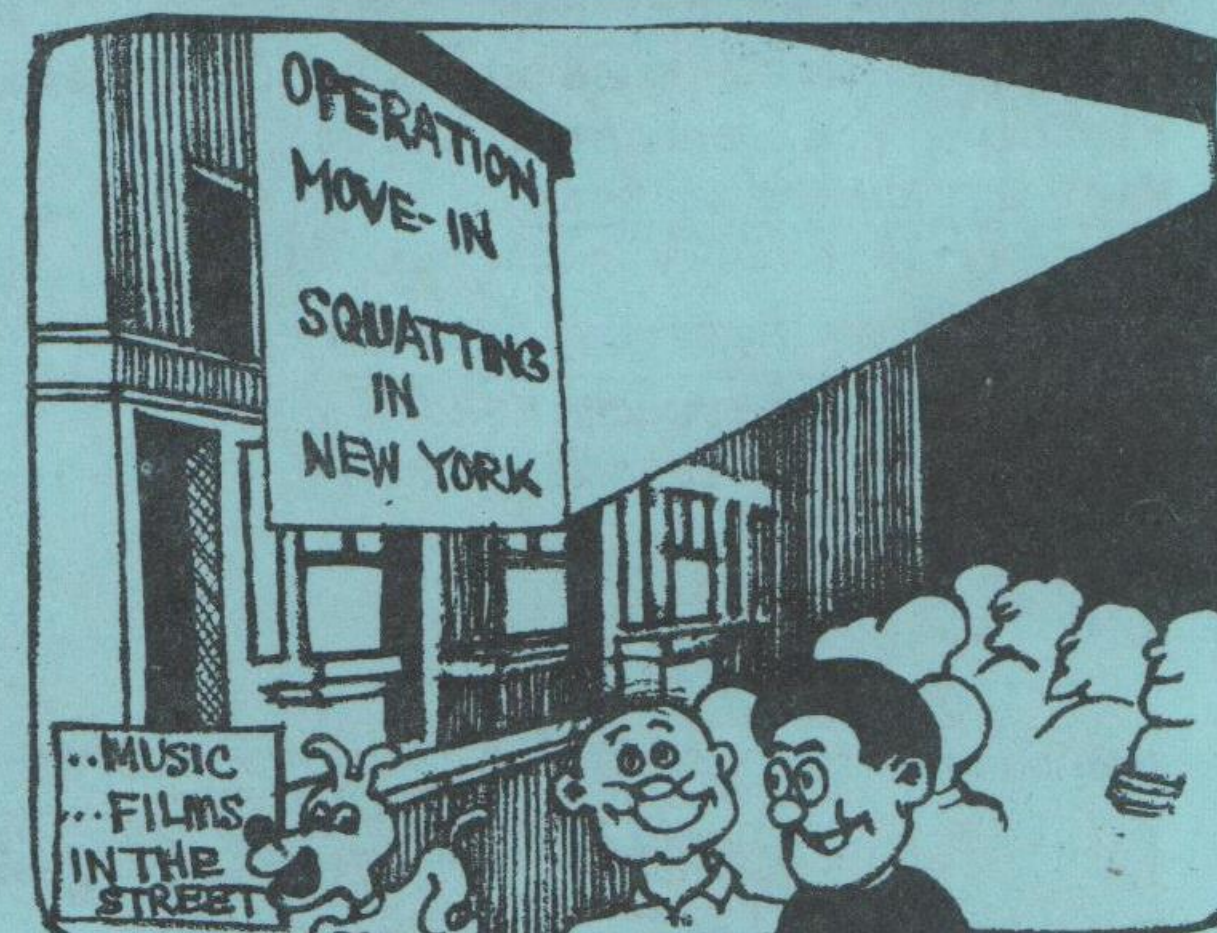
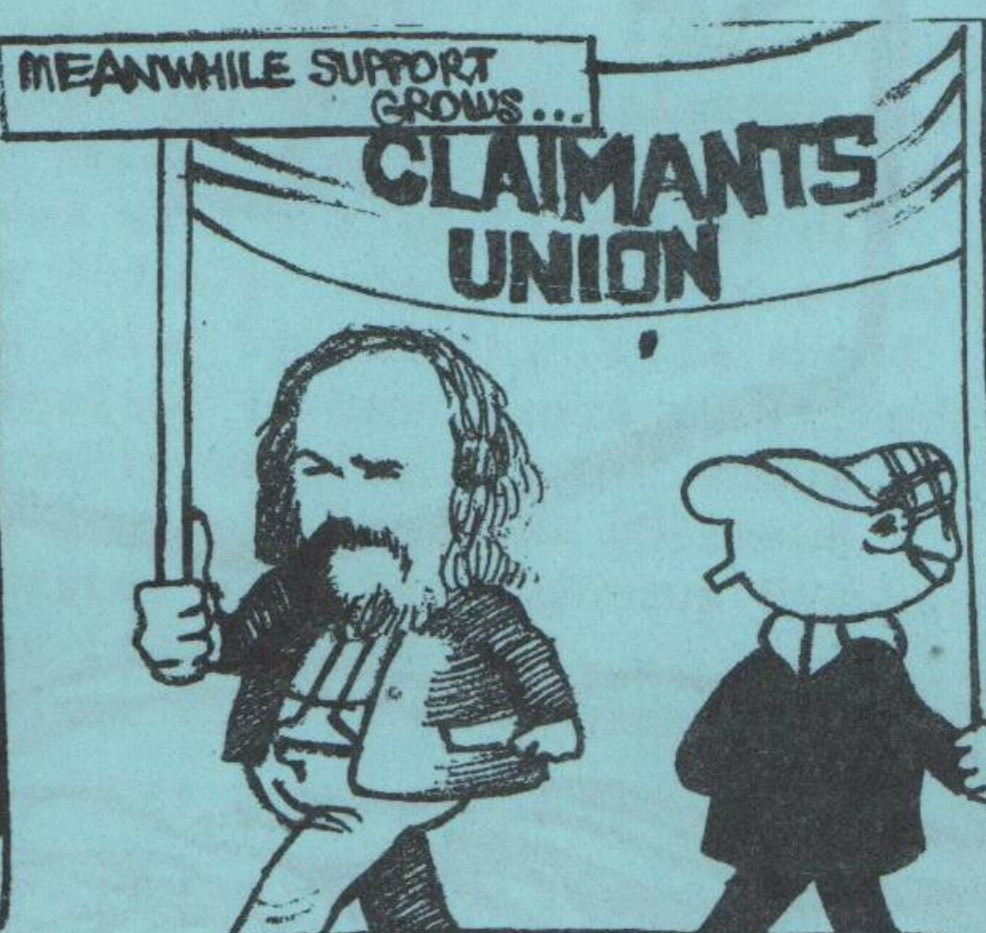
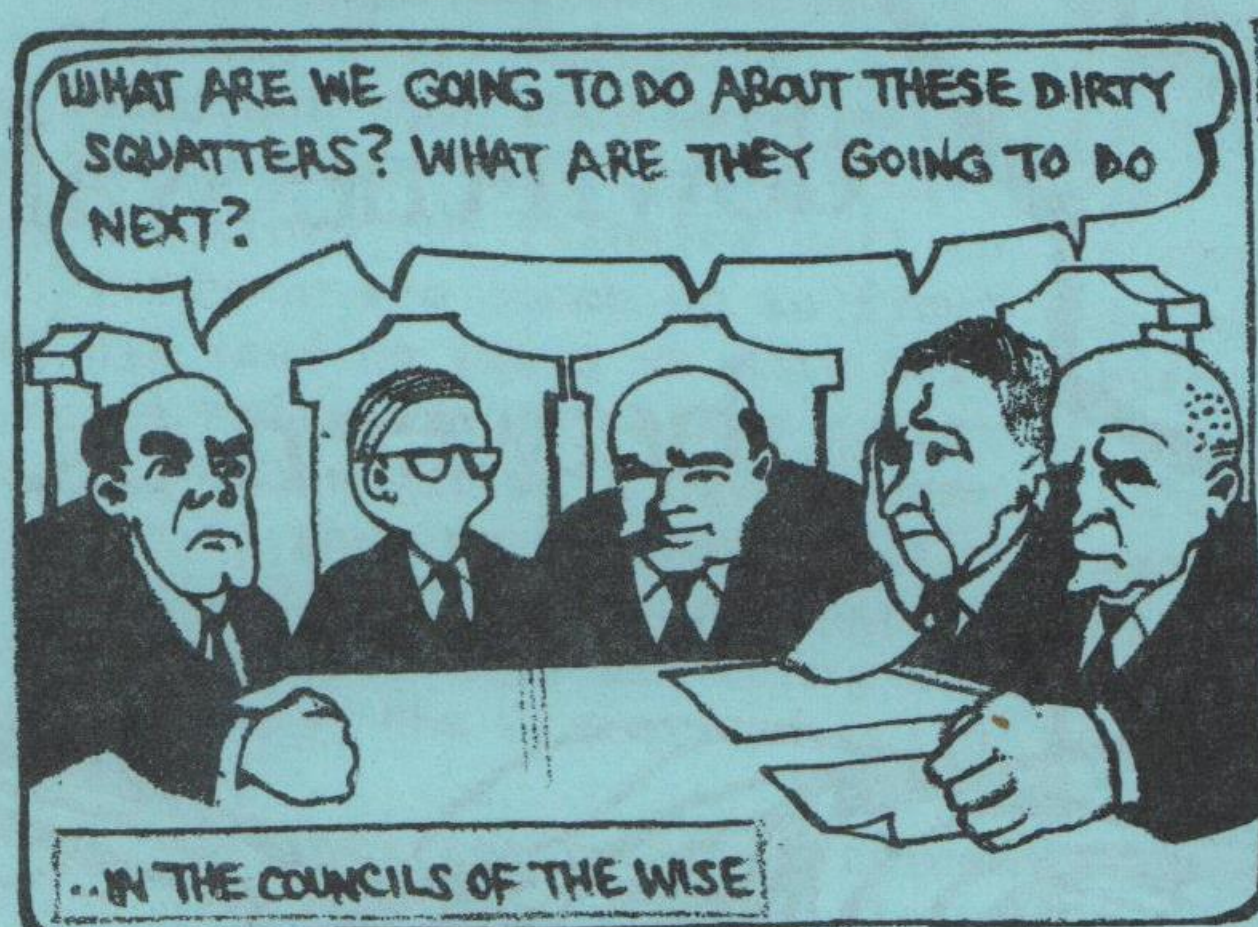
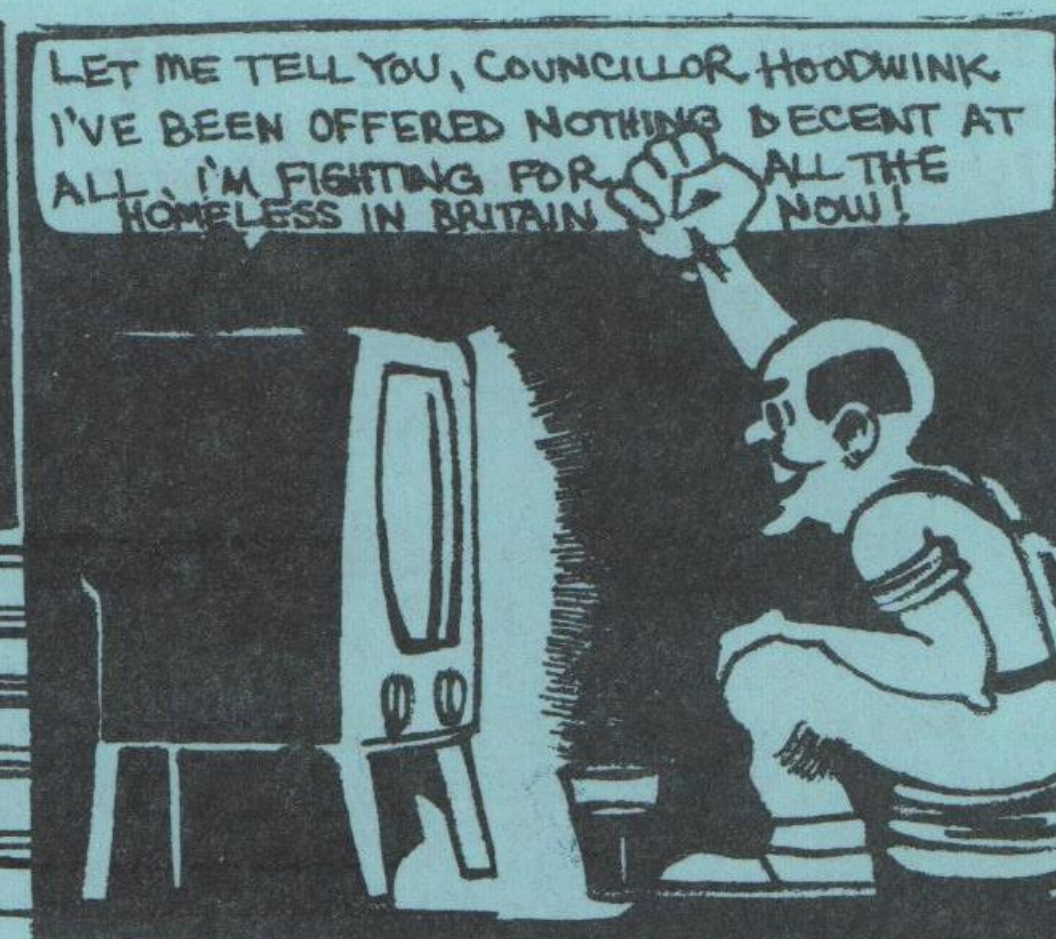
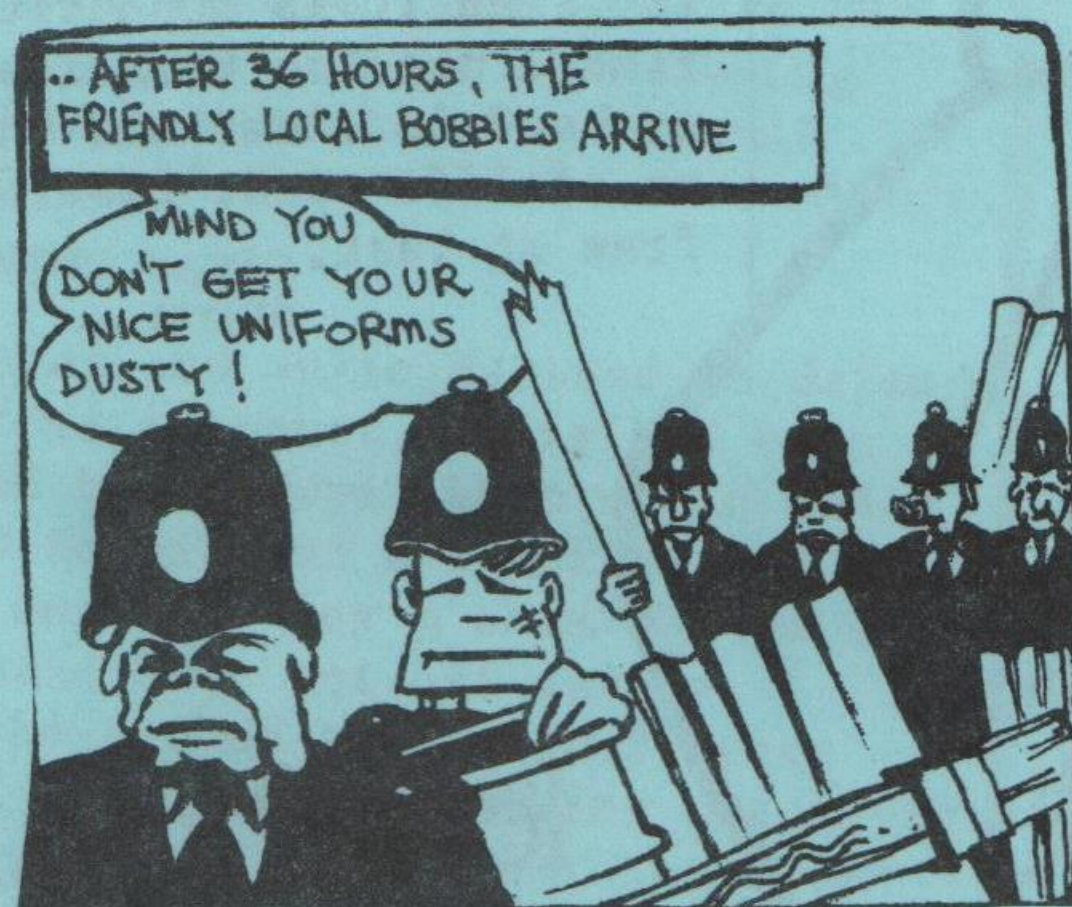
We are occupying an increasingly large number of empty houses in Hackney and are rebuilding them the way we want. Our only chance of winning is when there are so many of us that it is physically impossible to remove us. If you are sick of paying high rents for poky little rooms. If they won't even give you a poky little room. **THEN COME AND JOIN US.**

We are going to stand by each other and help each other in more ways than one. We plan to have play groups for our kids, food co-ops, transport available to us all and to share skills like knowledge of electrics, plumbing, etc.

We are not a social service and we don't plan to solve Hackney Borough Council's housing policy for them. We are taking back that which is rightfully ours. We are a union and we will help each other.

We are totally opposed to the Unfair Rents Bill and hope that our activities will be part of a much larger fight to defeat it. Most people pay a fair old rent already. And they want to double it!

Hackney Squatters Union may be contacted at the following addresses:  
 4, Abersham Road, E8.      4, Cecilia Road, E8.      8, St. Marks Rise, E8.  
 34, Dalston Lane, E8.      40, Clifton Avenue, Hoxton, N1.



WHAT NEXT?  
 THE MARCH TO CENTREPOINT  
 WITH A PETITION SENT ON TO  
 WESTMINSTER

MEANWHILE THE COUNCIL PLANS TO  
 GUT 100 HOUSES IN THE WESTBOURNE RD.  
 AREA, TENANTS IN REDEVELOPMENT  
 AREAS INCREASINGLY DISTRUST  
 REHOUSING PROMISES, COUNCIL  
 TENANTS EVERYWHERE AWAIT  
 RENT RISES IN OCTOBER ...



AT LEAST HERE THE DIVINE RIGHT OF PROPERTY  
 IS MADE CLEAR

THE FIGHT  
 CONTINUES



# Hackney Gay Liberation Front

av an ad

in the ackney

*Now is the time to end the oppression which we suffer under the system. Down the ages we have been Mentally, Economically, Socially, and Sexually exploited.*

*Independence from this exploitation is yours if only you will accept that liberation is the freedom and fulfilment you seek.*

*We stand united against sexism, that is we stand against the false roles that people have been brainwashed into accepting. We are against Male chauvinism which says that males are superior to Female and Gay people.*

*Gay people get the worst end of an authoritarian society, but are by no means alone. The heterosexual and homosexual are sexually oppressed and must struggle against their own sexual attitudes if they are to rid themselves of their shackles, and help the heterosexual and the homosexuals come together. For in reality the struggle against sexism is the same, and if we are to win we must GET TOGETHER. Having COME TOGETHER we must look deeply into ourselves, be aware of ourselves and others thereby removing the barrier which has existed for too long.*

*LET'S LOSE THE BARRIER AND COME TOGETHER. THAT UNITED WE WILL REMOVE SEXISM AS ONE PEOPLE TOGETHER.*

## GET TOGETHER GAY DAYS

13th August. Victoria Park. Gore road entrance.

27th August. Highbury Field Near Cottage

Gay evening 30th August

Held at 4 Abersham Road (commune)  
Hackney E8 Dalston Junction BR or Hackney BR.

Any Brother or Sister wishing to open up their house to a gay evening please say at the meeting.

An awareness group is starting in the near future for heterosexuals and gay people.

The Abersham Commune has at present no room for crash or long stays.

The Abersham Commune needs more bedding, clothing etc. cannot collect.

Meet at Abersham Road

Tuesday 18th July and 25th July.

## HACKNEY GAY LIBERATION FRONT

*Meets at 4 Abersham Road E.8  
at 7.30 pm on Tuesdays.*

## ABERSHAM COMMUNAL NOTES

Amid the turmoil of social change, a small house in the east end of London lives on cool and calm.

And amid the cool commune scene there is a change, a culture growing into an alternative to the system of this sick and stale society. Squatting is a means to an end - the end being the total abolition of the rental system of exploiting other people to give the favoured few a fat bank balance and power over people.

## To Live

Life has so much to offer therefore I do not hit people but the Bloody Sheep like Dead System that is lived.

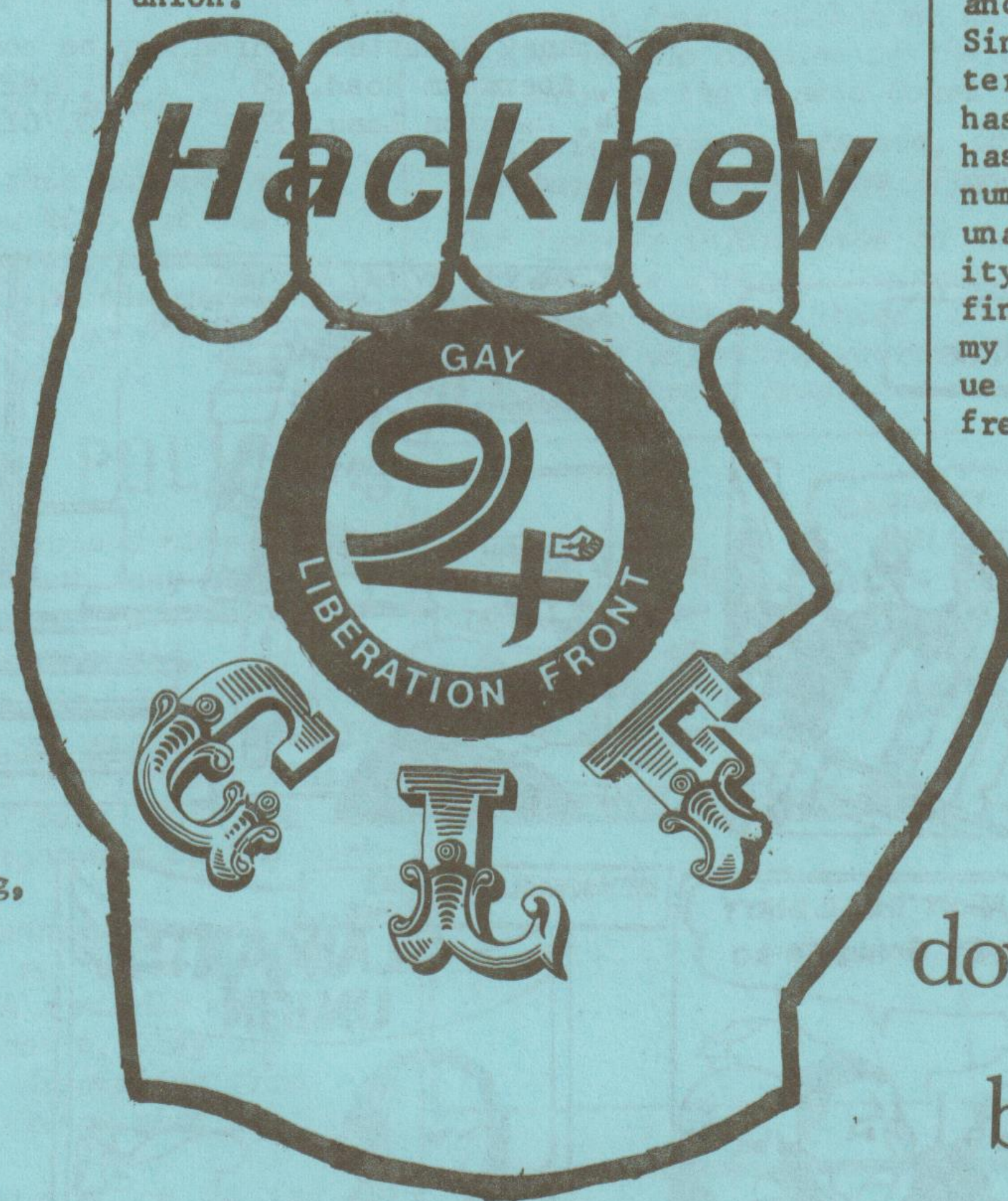
For my fellow communards and myself I must revolt against discrimination, class or sex wise. For I need people and people need me. In this solidarity of love we grow fully alive to each others needs and each others equality. Here the heterosexual and homosexual live without fear or favour. For basically all males and females need love. For too long the role playing male has defiled and defeated his own love and of those around him. By dominating love mentally emotionally and physically they restrict love in emotional as well as in physical union.

Hackney GLF wished to advertise their meetings in the Hackney Gazette. The reply from Mr. LS Leggett who calls himself a classified advertisement manager read as follows: "I thank you for your letter containing advertisement copy, but have to inform you that the advertisement contained therein is unacceptable by this newspaper."

On a wet July day I was cold, hungry and bloody lonely. I walked miles seeking home and work. Nothing came and mentally the day grew longer and more footsore and weary. I phoned Gay Liberation and they advised I crash at Abersham Commune; I stayed. Why, because here I find the warmth of human love regardless of class, sex or religion or politics. I am me. But not the selfish or Ego me. Me as part of a collective ideal and need.

Since the commune started, interaction between the squats has evolved, and Hackney GLF has moved into far greater number. We take of the communal need and give to our ability, and it is wonderful to find I need so much less. For my head is clear and the avenue of life open. Liberated and free at last.

Byron.



let's break  
down the walls  
between us.





# THE FIRST ANNUAL FAIR RENTS SHOW!

## ENTERTAINMENT!!

they give with their LEFT!!

books out of YOUR POCKETS!

with NO Safety Net!!!!

right into the laps of the Tory CABINET!!!

*Top Hat!!*

**SAWN IN HALF!!**

## OFFSTAGE!

## RENT RISES

ENTERTAINED

• 4

with big cash prizes for the speculators!

**GARDEN PATH!**

in the British Army at the ULSTER RIFLE RANGE.

st and Derry.

\* \* \* \* \*

# 1973 SHOW!

"MY FAIR RENTS".....

AT LAST THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR....

Laugh at the knockabout, slapstick antics of the clowns as they are pushed around by the RINGMASTER - Bring your own greasepaint and hats!!!!

*The Ringmaster will give everyone in the Audience a FAIR CRACK OF THE WHIP.*

Finally - Watch in Amazement the famous, old-time BAREFACED RIDERS ask for your Vote in the next BALLOT BOX PANTOMIME!

走·走·走·走·走·走·走·走·走·走·走·走·走·走·走·走

**on ICE SHOW!!**

TICKETS IN ADVANCE FROM YOUR LOCAL COLD STORAGE DEPOT.



# TORY RENT ACT vs. TENANT'S ACTIVITY

In October, the Tory Government is forcing through rent rises right across the country. They are aiming to double council rents, and raise the rents of unfurnished private tenants even higher. To do this, they want £1 a week from October and rises EVERY YEAR FROM THEN ON.

October is just where it begins.

The Local Council is meant to operate this Act or have its control over housing removed by the Act. Hackney Labour Council is sitting on the fence - "No action, no discussion". What they want to do is wriggle out of the October £1 rent increases like other Labour councils have been allowed to do by the Tories, agreeing to operate the Act in return for a few bob knocked off the increase. The Tories are quite satisfied with this. The Labour Party calls reduced rent rises "a gift horse which labour councils cannot afford to look in the mouth". This little Labour Party 'victory' is a sell-out for tenants, because what the Government wants above all is acceptance of the Act....a few bob here or there doesn't worry them too much - they can always stick the difference on again next year.

## THERE'S MORE TO THIS ACT THAN RENT RISES!



Rents under this Act are intended to meet - the original cost of a tenant's house, interest paid on the money borrowed to build it, the cost of buying new land, the cost of building new houses, the interest paid to moneylenders on money borrowed to build them, rent rebates and allowances and the cost of running the Act itself. In other words, the entire cost of housing falls on the backs of tenants themselves.



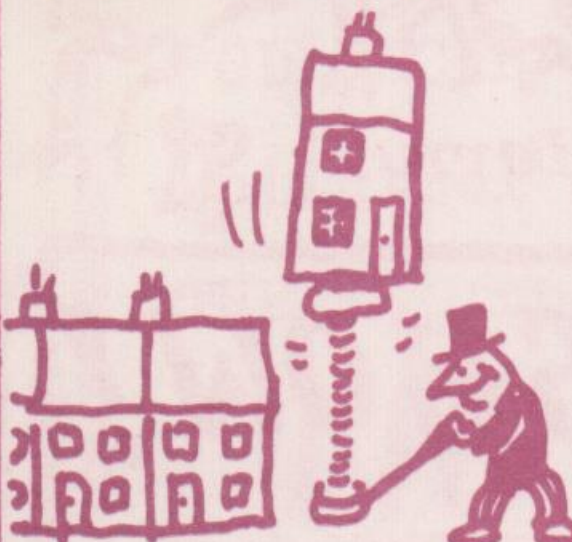
Millions of tenants will be entitled to a very complicated means-tested rebate, repeated every six months. As the rebate for most tenants entitled to one will be for just over half of the new high rent, and since rents will soon double, it will mean that, even with a rebate many tenants will be priced out of their homes.



The Act will raise rents to the level of local property prices, market values. These rents are to be decided on and fixed by estate agents, Tory Government officials, and -surprise, surprise - local property dealers...all well-known friends of tenants! Council tenants will have no right of appeal against these rents, nor can they turn to their local council for support in appeal. The local council has to accept the rents too!



If the local council does support tenants by refusing to operate the Act, then in comes a Housing Commissioner appointed by H.M. Government to take over all the council's housing powers. Uncooperative councillors are threatened with jail and fines. Most of them have become remarkably cooperative, and the exceptions in this Borough are in a minority....and they can't do the splits between the council chamber and the tenants' interests forever.



This Act will force up private rents too, as landlords cash in on tenants driven into inferior furnished accommodation. The Act leaves tax relief for Owner-occupiers untouched - How many working people can afford £15,000 for a house in Hackney. It says in the Bill:- "Home ownership is the most rewarding form of house tenure"....and the most rewarded!

The many effects of the Act are difficult to understand - someone certainly doesn't want tenants to know what its all about - but we reckon it can be summed up in one sentence:

## ITS NOT JUST THE POUND IN YOUR POCKET THEY'RE AFTER - ITS THEIR POUND OF FLESH TOO!

This is why we say this;

As long as the British ruling class was holding its own in the battle for world markets it could let the working class have a larger share of the cake, not that it didn't have to fight for it. The British working class have fought a long battle over the last 60 years, firstly for controlled rents and then for council housing.

But because the British ruling class, at this point in time, is being pushed up against the wall by international competition and the profits of its members threatened, it has to try to take back from the workers the gains they have won.



In effect they are mounting the most vicious attack on the living conditions of the working class since the first World War.

And the reason we can see less and less difference between the Labour and Tory policies is that Parliamentary democracy is at root the democracy of the ruling class.

"We cannot defy the law. Parliamentary democracy must be respected" warned Labour shadow housing minister Tony Crosland, as he told Labour councils to accept the Tories Act. Labour tried to force "In Place of Strife" onto the unions but they wouldn't have any of it, and now we get the Tory "Industrial Relations Bill". The Labour 1965 Rent Act that laid down unfair rents for private tenants also laid down the basis of the Tory's 1972 Unfair Rents Act for council tenants.

THE TORIES ARE TRYING THEM ALL ON NOW - what they can't get out of our wage packet (thanks to the miners, railwaymen, and other organised sections of the working class fighting back) they want to get in rents, and what they can't get in rents they are trying to get back by creating unemployment, productivity deals, welfare cuts, currency devaluation and rising prices.

What they want apart from straight cash is a beaten down working class to guarantee their profits, not just this year, but for the next ten years. This means that they want to lower the standard of living of the working class and attack its strength on the shopfloor and on the estates.

## FORGET THE WELFARE STATE!..THIS IS THE WARFARE STATE...THE CLASS WARFARE STATE!

WE ARE BEING ATTACKED AS TENANTS AND WORKERS - SO WE MUST FIGHT AS TENANTS AND WORKERS

Labour MP's want us to fight as election fodder, Councillors want us to fight as local election fodder. Labour party tenants' leaders spend more time arguing in Labour Party committee rooms than they do as tenants on the estates. All these parasites on the backs of tenants who talk about their tenants' movement or say that they are 'organising' tenants are either organising their careers in the parliamentary circus, or, where their intentions are honourable are, through political shortsightedness, leading tenants into confusion and defeat.

TENANTS, they want to divert our energies into endless lobbies of parliament, endless representations to our bashful council, endless meetings at which the politicians and leaders talk at tenants.

When Councillor Gerry Ross says that the time for talking is past and the time for action is here, yes, but it is because so many so many useless, and misleading statements have been made by Labour Councillors and Labour Party tenants' 'leaders' on this Act, from threatening fire and brimstone if we don't vote them back, through to complaining of the agonies of being a councillor, that the real situation facing tenants has never even been raised.



The biggest joke as far as all these nervous councillors goes, and the most important point for us as tenants to grasp is that the effect of this Act is to take away all power over housing from the Town Hall -(unless it toes the Government line, which amounts to the same thing)- which clarifies the real issue at stake for tenants and the working class - WHO TAKES CONTROL OF THESE COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS? THE GOVERNMENT OR THE LOCAL WORKING CLASS COMMUNITIES?

Since there is no middle ground left under this Act what are so-called tenants' leaders doing standing on it????

## TOKEN ACTION IS NOT ENOUGH!

We say that the call for a 2 week rent strike is too timid, and limits the struggle before it has begun. The 2 week rent strike called by the Hackney United Tenants Federation for October 2nd is intended to get the Tories to withdraw the Act. Why only two weeks? Token action is no use, this is not a token attack. October is only the beginning - how about November? how about December? How about those tenants who may not strike right away, but will take longer to get started? How about the need to develop the Strike from stronger to weaker organised estates? Why only plan to withhold the increase after those two weeks (as they suggest) when so much more is at stake than the increase?



# TENANT'S CONTROL OF TENANT'S STRUGGLE MEANS SELF-ORGANISATION

IF TENANTS ARE GOING TO ORGANISE EFFECTIVELY AGAINST THIS ACT, THEN THEY MUST SEE IT AS A MASSIVE RENT INCREASE WHICH IS ALSO PART OF A WIDER ATTACK ON THE WORKING CLASS.

AND AS MEMBERS OF THE WORKING CLASS THE ONLY EFFECTIVE FORM OF ORGANISATION FOR TENANTS IS THEIR OWN SELF-ORGANISATION.

But Tenants are being diverted from the strength and necessity of this self-organisation. Tenants are being diverted from the lessons of previous struggles:

- The need for tenants' associations and action groups that can call democratic assemblies of tenants, with no separate leadership from the body of tenants. Don't let leaders do our thinking for us!
- The need for staircase by staircase, balcony by balcony organisation - all the vital details of sustaining a rent strike on the estates - picketing rent offices - following rent collectors around to break the use of the "well so and so's paid" line, or kicking them right off the estate- Producing information sheets and posters - and in the event of attempted evictions having flying squads of tenants ready to fight off the bailiffs and police.
- The need to draw all sections of tenants into the struggle, black and white, men and women, adults and children.
- The need to bring together Borough and GLC and private tenants - we are all under attack this time. We must prevent them playing off sections of tenants against each other.
- The need for tenants' own papers and information sheets, describing the struggle estate by estate and circulated to all striking tenants. Fleet St will black out news of the struggle as it develops just as it did with the GLC campaign.
- The need for selective and effective industrial action which gets its impetus from the struggle in the community - stoppages called for and contained by the union leadership are not enough.

These are some of the things that need to be discussed and acted upon. But also, because rent strikes are part of the armoury of the working class, they are not the tenants only weapon, nor can they be sustained without extending them into forms of activity where the working class no longer just defends itself, but begins to set the pace.

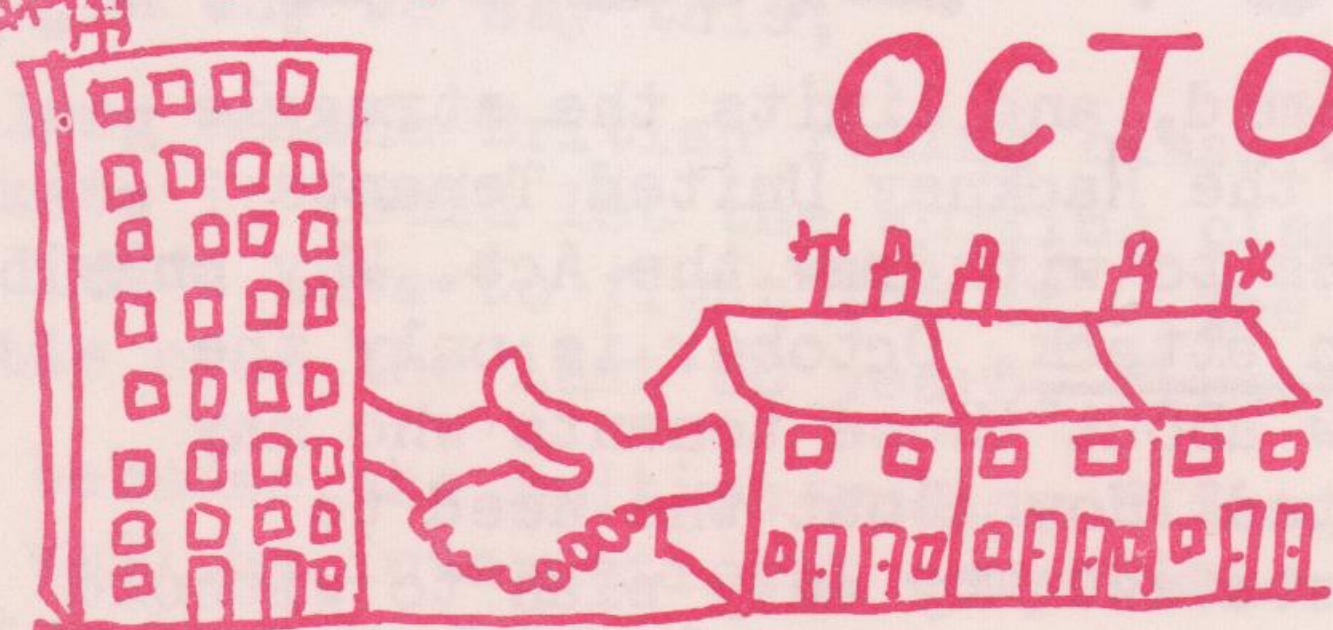
## A FAIR RENT IS NO RENT!

The GLC tenants' struggle in 1968-9 used the slogan 'no politics', but this Act is a POLITICAL attack, an attack directly on the working class, as a class, and only a political counter-attack can hope to defeat it, by which we mean OUR POWER AGAINST THEIRS, the slogan this time round must be

## NO TO POLITICIANS! YES TO WORKING-CLASS POLITICS!

The struggle to build the working class movement is the struggle for working class control over production, housing, education and welfare - control over all the 'parts' of our lives.

It is by fighting for these objectives that tenants can go on to win greater victories - but first we have to bury the forces that claim to represent the working class, while in reality they hold it back.



## OCTOBER IS ONLY THE BEGINNING!

This leaflet is currently circulating among tenants in Hackney. You can get more copies from; Hackney Gutter Press,  
c/o 34, Dalston Lane, E.8.



# Mad McElligott Gives in

FATHER HITS SON WITH AXE  
AND MAD McELLIGOTT says  
CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IS  
RIGHT ON

Julie Curlie and Heather Logan, members of Hackney Claimants' Union, went down to Lower Clapton Social Security office to claim a clothing grant for an old man in hospital whose friends had saved up for him to go away for convalescence.

They were told by an SS clerk to fuck off and that the SS didn't waste money on people likely to die any minute. They were then told that they wouldn't be interviewed unless they only had one representative with them.

They stood their ground so the manager closed the office down and called the police. The office re-opened, but the police hung around until after closing time when there were only Claimants' Union members left.

The police ordered everybody out. Everyone walked out, except for Julie who was determined to get something done for Mr. Chambers.

The cops dragged her out, pulling her kids behind her. Julie went straight back to the door, knocking and demanding to be let back in. Heather came over to warn her to be careful as the cops would use any opportunity to arrest her. The cops must have heard because they arrested her almost immediately for threatening behaviour and Heather for assault when she told them to hold on a minute.

## TWO MONTHS LATER

Heather and Julie decided to defend themselves in court. Julie had been defended by a lawyer before who had managed to get her a £30 fine and suspended sentence for a sham charge that she should have got off easily.

So the two of them with friends spent a few evenings working out their case together - particular the questions for the cops and the manager of Lower Clapton, Chris Whiteside.

We found out that they were going to be tried by Mad Magistrated McElligott, notorious for refusing bail to nearly everyone who comes up in front of him and sending twice as many defendants to prison as any other magistrate. So we thought we'd have a demonstration to show up the way McElligott gets away with things and particularly the way the cops are being used to try and break the Claimants' Union organisation.

About thirty or forty people turned up to the demonstration - other Claimants Unions failed to turn up, because of the sunny weather or something. But there were people from Hackney CU, Hackney Gay Liberation Front and the Stoke Newington Eight Defence Group.

The cops were pretty worried and tried their best to provoke us into a fight. They tore up one of our posters and were then heard to say over their walky-talky: "Sorry sir - failed to take the bait."

Julie walked into court with little Christopher under her arm, and both she and Heather took a friend as their 'McKenzie Advisors'. Julie took the piss out of McElligott and the cop



witnesses beautifully when little Chris put his hand up her skirt and she said, "Ooh your honour he's just put his hand up my fanny."

Heather and Julie barraged the police with their questions about whether they were acting lawfully in throwing claimants out of the office when they hadn't had their claims heard.

As the cops were starting to squirm on their seats, Mad McElligott adjourned the case for a week.

Next week we turn up in force again. Julie was about to start questioning Whiteside, when the Mad M decides he's

had enough and stops her cross-examining. Tells her to shut up and sit down.

With much theatrics and eloquent festures, the pig law still tries to convince the Mad M that Julie was using threatening behaviour by knocking on the door - they have to work hard for their money, these police lawyers.

Julie shouts: "Threatening what? - The door"

Laughter from the gallery at which McElligott gives a last splatter that anyone who laughs will be thrown out and then with a sigh of relief dismisses Julie's case, trying to score a last point by telling Julie she'd been foolish in her choice of friends (presumably meaning Heather among others - we all know how UNbiased magistrates are) and adjourns Heather's hearing for another week. Triumphant exit by the Union.

WE WON. THEY LOST (again!)

## TRIALS OF THE MAD McELLIGOTT

Mad McElligott remanded in custody a man charged with stealing a car. He had pleaded not guilty and requested trial by sessions.

*If you choose judge and jury rather than Mad McElligott you have to pay. It may be months before he comes up at sessions where he may get off.*

On applying for bail, it was pointed out to McElligott that his mother-in-law had committed suicide the previous week and he wanted to see his wife who was very upset.

Wednesday, July 11th.  
Old Street magistrate Mad McElligott says:

*"Sometimes it is necessary to administer corporal punishment and I entirely disagree with those who say it should not be done."*

Robert Weeks of Homerton was conditionally discharged after pleading guilty of assaulting his fourteen year old step son causing actual bodily harm.

The police say the father accused his son of "playing out late" and according to the lad, he beat him on the buttock with the flat end of a chopper.

*Whose violence, Whose law and order?*

## MEAN McLEAN

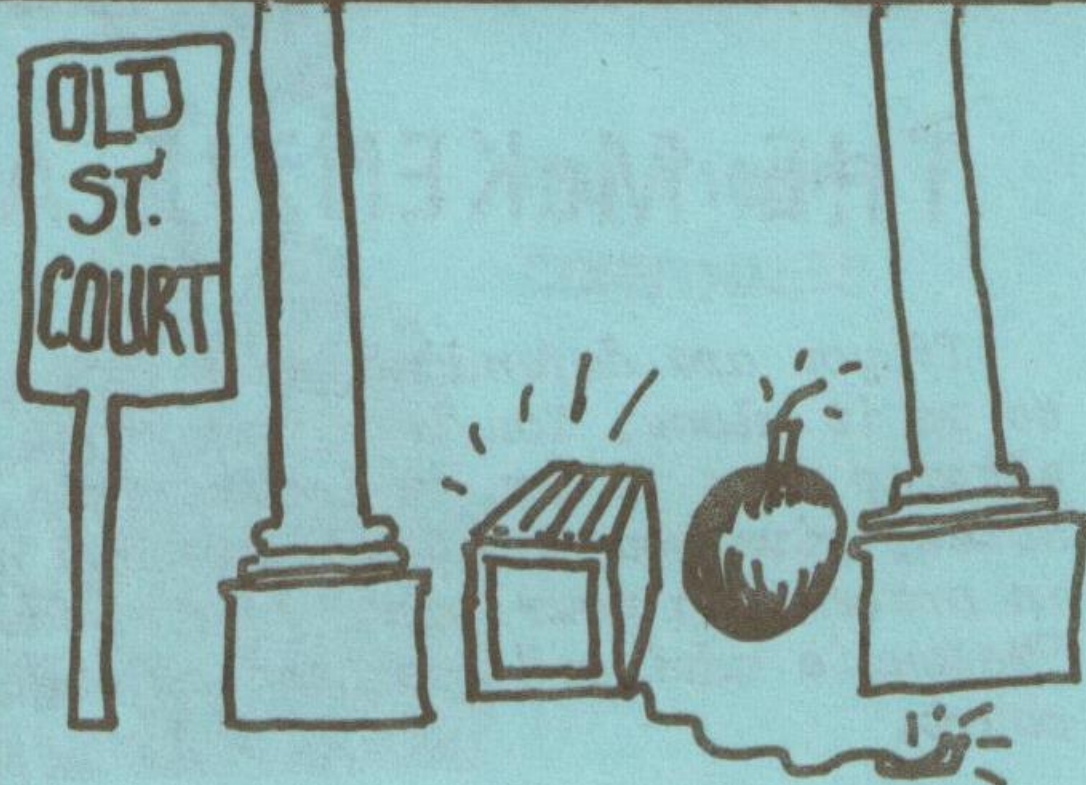
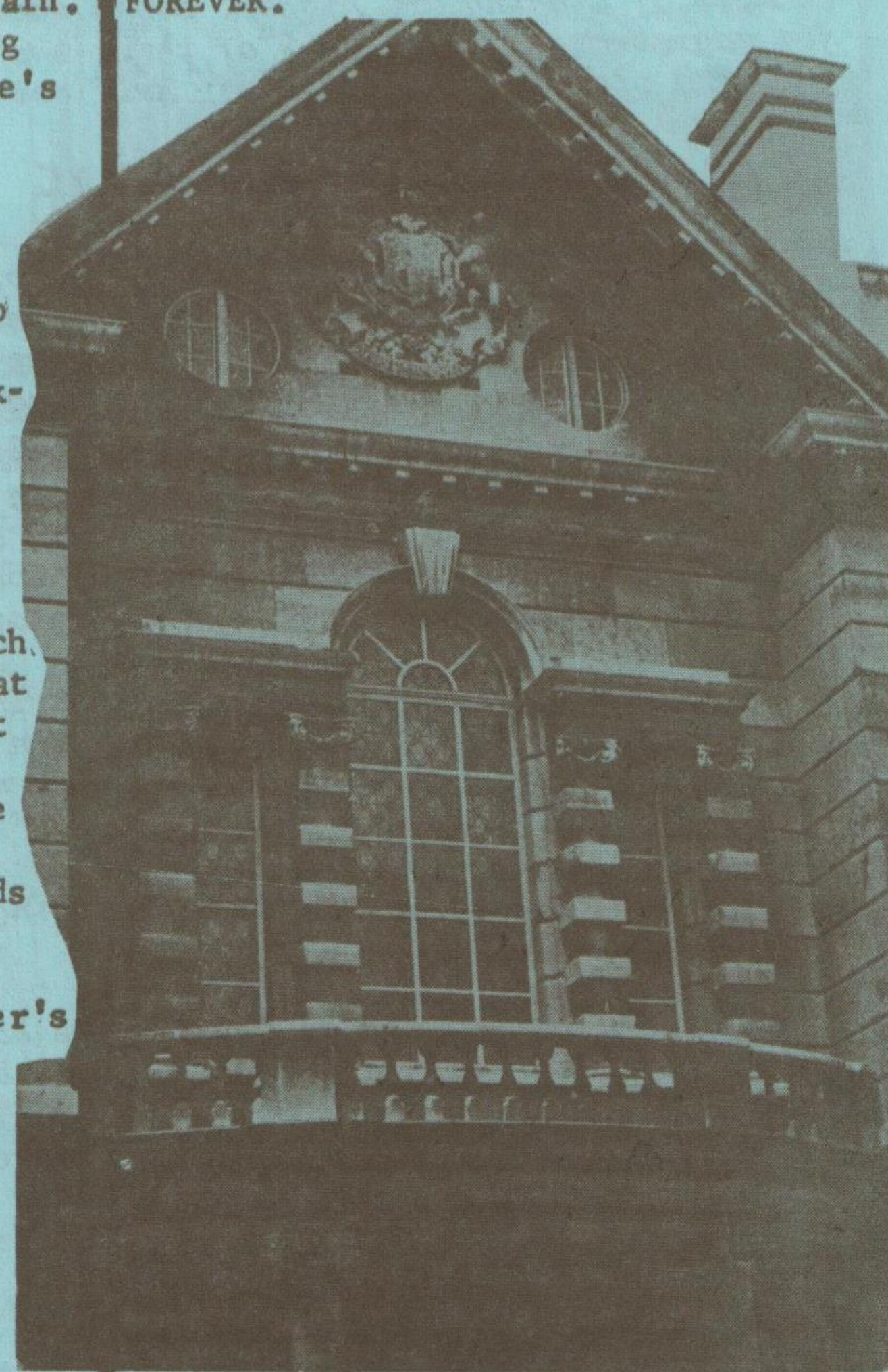
THE MAD McELLIGOTT'S PARTNER IN CRIME AT OLD STREET, AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS THE MEAN MACLEAN, IS ALSO NOT GREATLY RENOWNED FOR HIS UNBIASED JUDGEMENTS.

REMANDING TWO IRISHMEN IN CUSTODY FOR ALLEGEDLY STEALING A HANDBAG VALUED AT £2.50 HE SAID

"WELL YOU CAN BEHAVE LIKE THIS IN IRELAND, BUT YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BEHAVE LIKE THIS HERE."

WELL, MACLEAN, YOU CAN BEHAVE LIKE THIS TODAY.

BUT YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT FOREVER.





# THE BEST FORM OF DEFENCE IS ATTACK



In the previous issues of the Hackney Gutter Press, we have described on the one hand, the powers and one-sidedness of the police and the courts. And on the other hand, we have described several instances where the defendants have won.

## DO IT WITH FRIENDS

The reason for these victories are that more and more defendants are fighting back and being supported by friends. The evidence shows that the more often you have a demonstration outside the court, the more often you pack the public gallery with friends, then the more chance you have of getting off. Some examples are

1. Three Hackney Claimants Union members accused of criminal damage were acquitted on appeal (Gutter Press 1)
2. Five people were arrested following a street fight in Grosvenor Avenue involving the police Special Patrol Group. Of the six charges, four were later thrown out. (Gutter Presses 2 and 3)
3. An unsupported mother accused of assaulting police near Bonhill Street SS office, recently got the charge laughed out of court. (Chocolate bar incident in Gutter Press 2)
4. Ludlow Scarlett - see "Fraud by SS: Claimant wins" in this issue.
5. A lorry driver accused of hijacking at the Old Bailey last year sacked his barrister halfway through the case, carried on himself and got acquitted.
6. Five people arrested at a Guy Fawkes party in Powis Square, Notting Hill, in 1970 defended themselves and won.

It would be blind to suggest that this happens every time. All we are saying is that if you kick out the lawyer and go on the attack in the courts, then the chances of winning are higher. Don't know the statistics for magistrates courts, but of those who go for trial by jury and plead not guilty, over half get off.

## SAY NOTHING TO THE POLICE

Except in exceptional circumstances plead not guilty, make no statement to the police - in fact, say nothing to them other than your name and address - ask for a remand to work out your case and defend yourself.

- a) Because no lawyer can know the details of the case as well as you and because no lawyer can express himself in the same way as you. He comes from a different class.
- b) Most lawyers are completely out of touch with the lives we lead and are unbelievably ignorant of the working class.
- c) By doing it yourself, you are demanding control of your future. Just as the workers can run their factories, we also don't have to go through a middle man.
- d) You can say things which lawyers can't. They are bound up in legal etiquette and face discipline from the Law Society. We can say all the things that we think need being said.
- e) Your vested interest is in getting off, or failing that, going down fighting. But lawyers have their careers to think of. Their future comes before any particular case.
- f) Lawyers often do deals with the prosecution and judge or magistrate - completely unknown to their clients, the defendants. Go visit Old Street or North London Court and it won't be long before you hear a lawyer agreeing with the magistrate that "borstal training would be in the defendants' best interests."

## THE MCKENZIE ADVISOR

If you are defending yourself, you still don't have to go it alone. You have the right to have a friend sitting next to you in court. This friend can take notes, give you moral support and help and advise you in presenting your case. In at least one instance, the "McKenzie advisor" has been allowed to speak to the court.



## THE ACCUSED ARE ACCUSING

At the very beginning of the case, make the following application: I'd like to request to have a friend to sit beside me to assist me in representing myself.

If by any chance, the magistrate or judge hesitates or objects, you should continue on the following lines: I'd like to make a formal motion to have a friend assist-me represent myself. Every party to a case has the right to have a friend with him, qualified or not, to help and advise in the conduct of the case. The main authority for this is the recent Court of Appeal decision in McKenzie against McKenzie, 1970, the weekly Law Report, October 2nd, 1970. Page 472.

For further information on defending yourself, contact the Hackney Claimants' Union or the Hackney Squatters' Union. Some duplicated "notes on defending yourself" are available from the Gutter Press.



### AND THEN THE LIFT BROKE DOWN.

Living up here on the sixteenth floor  
No-one ever knocks on the door  
The kids drive me crazy whenever they're home  
So out they go round the streets they roam.  
I once had a friend she moved away  
She wrote me a letter once, by the way,  
But only once.  
I don't have much money and the rents too high  
And I count the years as the days go by  
I shouldn't complain there's lots worse than me  
But never a friendly face do I see  
Everything could be worth while  
If you stopped to chat and gave me a smile  
You or you or you or you.

As far back as our records go we are able to state as a fact that no-one in Hackney has ever died of laughing..... and that's tragic.



# GUTTER ADS

## CLAIMANTS' UNIONS

### HACKNEY CLAIMANTS' UNION

meets Wednesdays at 12.30pm at Centerprise, 34, Dalston Lane, E8. The office is open at that address between two and five on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tel: 254.9787 The weekly meeting is open to all claimants.

### EAST LONDON CLAIMANTS UNION

Dame Colet House, Ben Johnson Road, Stepney, E1. Tel: 790.3867 SPITALFIELDS AND WHITECHAPEL CU 48, Hanbury Street, E1. Tel: 247.2689.

### TOTTENHAM CLAIMANTS UNION

71, Broad Lane, N8 Tel: 808.8126

HOMERTON AND SOUTH HACKNEY CU Kingsmead Community Centre, E9

### NORTH LONDON CLAIMANTS' UNION

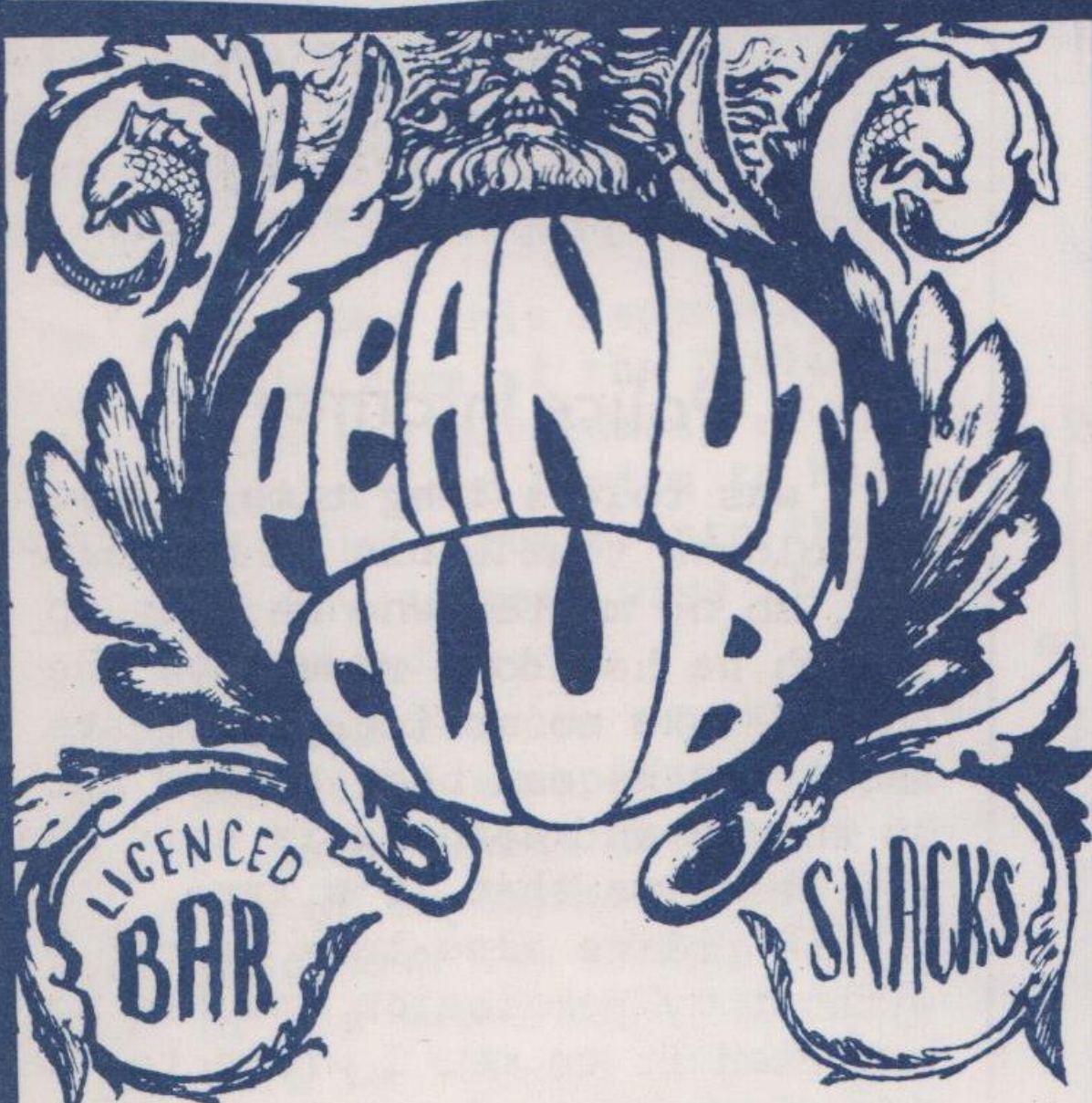
18, Ashbrook Road, N19 tel: 272.0029 Meets 8pm Tuesdays.

THE HACKNEY CLAIMANTS' UNION, HAVE STARTED UP A SWOP SHOP. THIS IS SO THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE CLAIMANTS CAN BRING IN CLOTHES AND MATERIAL THAT THEY NO LONGER WEAR OR USE -AND TAKE WHAT THEY NEED.

IT IS OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 11PM UNTIL 12.30PM at 4, ABERSHAM ROAD, E8. COME ALONG AND HELP YOURSELF.

## GLF

Hackney Gay Liberation Front meets every Tuesday evening at 4, Abersham Road, Hackney, E8.



The Peanut Club on Saturdays from seven till eleven. Folk-rock plus modern jazz, plus folk-folk. Above the King's Arms, 213, Bishopsgate, EC1. (100 yards from Liverpool Street station).

## GUTTER PRESS MOVEMENT

As we put together the fourth issue of the HACKNEY GUTTER PRESS, the second Islington Gutter Press is already out and meets every Thursday evening at 11, Hemingford Road. Write c/o, 33 Windsor Road, N7

The Gravesend Gutter Press is on its way.

### FREE TRANSPORT

Hackney Citizens Rights is holding a meeting on free public transport on Tuesday, July 25th. Everyone welcome. AT CENTERPRISE



## Activist Advice Centres

Childrens' Rights, Box 70, 55, Stewart Grove, SW3  
Gay Liberation Front, legal group, 3, Caledonian Rd. N1  
Womens Liberation Workshop, legal study group, 22, Great Windmill St. W1 437.6118

### Legal Activists

Advise, 313, Upper Street, N1 226.9365  
BIT, (information) 141, Westbourne Pk Rd. W1. 229. 8219  
Release, 1, Elgin Avenue, 289. 1123

HACKNEY CITIZENS RIGHTS - free aid and advice on Thursday evenings between 6.30 and 7.30 - financial, legal, housing, social security at 34, Dalston Lane. 254.1620

South Hackney Post, available at Centerprise or c/o Toc H Hackney, Prideaux House, 9a, Church Cresc. E9.



### HOME WANTED FOR PRESS

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The press on which the Hackney Gutter Press is printed has been evicted from its premises (boo,hiss). If anyone knows of a small workshop to let in Hackney or Islington please contact us, c/o, 34, Dalston Lane, E8.



Are you aged between 7 and 12? Without much to do during the holidays? Then join the Centerprise Playscheme at 123, Holly Street. Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10. 30 to 5.30. Its just off Dalston Lane and starts on July 25th.

\*\*\*Games  
\*\*\*Outings  
\*\*\*Painting  
\*\*\*Camping  
\*\*\*Making things

## Non-profit Bookshops

Agitprop, 248, Bethnal Green Road, E2  
Centerprise, 34, Dalston Lane, E8  
Grassroots, 54, Wrightman Rd. N7

## Prisoners Groups

Prisoners' Union, 18, Ashbrook Road, N19. 272.0029  
Women in Holloway, 18, Ashbrook Rd, N19. 272.0029  
Radical Alternatives to Prison, 104, Newgate Street, EC1. 600.4793

## Defence Groups

Stephen McCarthy Defence Group, c/o, 50, Courtney Court, Drayton Park, N5  
Stoke Newington 8 Defence Group, c/o, Box 359, 240, Camden High St. NW1.  
Tony Sinaris Defence Group, c/o, Black Liberation Front, 54, Wrightman Road, N7  
Anti-Internment League, 139, Holland Rd., W14.  
Liason Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, c/o, J. Hiles, 1, Teynton Terrace, N17.

## THE ARTS LAB LIVES

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The Arts Lab is fighting and like most people and organisations which are fighting, the effort is giving us strength. The fight centres around finding a venue to meet. We're no longer at Stamford Hill Library. By the time this edition has gone to press we will have met in the Crypt and whether or not this becomes a regular venue, for anyone to find the Arts Lab come to or phone Centerprise about 7pm any Tuesday and the word will be going around to say where we are meeting.

## Cryptography

The next occasion for The Crypt folk club at Old Hill St. near Clapton Common, E5 is on July 28th.

Prisons are built with the stones of Law, Brothels with the bricks of Religion.

The busy bee has no time for sorrow.

The road of excess leads to the palace of wisdom.

Prudence is a rich ugly old maid courted by Incapacity.

Expect poison from standing water.

The fox condemns the trap not himself.



# GUTTER LETTERS

Dear Hackney Gutter Press,

"The Slippery Sands of Housing Associations" in Gutter Press 2 sparked off a lot of arguments about housing associations in general, and Second Actel in particular.

The Mr. Sands in the original article is in fact secretary to the committee which must, by law, run a housing association. The committee consists entirely of 'professional' people, and includes a parson, solicitor, surveyors, and accountants, who give free advice. Hackney Borough Council appoints one member. Mr. Sands was a founding member of Second Actel, and has been secretary ever since. *The committee is self electing and self perpetuating.*

Just how much Sands makes personally through his connection with Second Actel is hard to say exactly.

He is partner in a firm called Cole and Cutler, Surveyors, who handle about half of Actel's conversions. Second Actel, since its creation about has purchased about 300 houses for conversion.

The surveyor is paid a fixed percentage of conversion costs, according to a sliding scale worked out by the British the Royal Institute of British Architects. On a high cost conversion the fee can be as low as 10%, on a low cost as high as 20%.

Some houses will be converted at a cost of £6000!

Dear Hackney Gutter Press,

All of our readers must have heard of the new proposals put forward by the "Governments Criminal Law Revision Committee" to help "the innocent". I think some action should be taken about this now! Such as nationwide demonstrations and rallies before the barbaric proposals are put forward for a vote in the Commons. Otherwise we can trust our beloved(?) leaders Mr. Ted Heath, Mr. Wilson and their puppets to pass the motion, to deprive us of our rights - if we have any left.

Already the police (another branch of puppets incorporated) have the power to lock us up (on remands) for months on end until our case comes up in court and then release you because certain facts were proved to be "misleading".

If we don't take immediate action (we shouldn't rely on councillors and lawyers to oppose the proposals; they will not as they have nothing to lose) we will soon be ruled by a "Gestapo Service".

Anon.

## UP AGAINST THE LAW

Sir,

I know you always champion the cause of the poor coloured man. A month or two ago, a coloured man named Ronald Louis of 24, Quebec House, Preston Road, London, E14. followed me from my work place and pushed me when I opened my front door. So that I was unable to lock it back. So he came in, held me by my throat and took out a razor with his right hand. And said he was going to kill me for he was told that I knew where his white girl friend was. Her name is Dolores O'grady.

The young lady, Dolores lives at her mother's address but goes to see this man Louis on and off.

I was able to get out off his grasp after someone knocked on the door that was not locked, only closed.

And I ran out of the house to Arbour Square Police Station. I made a statement to the police and they advised me to take out a summons the following morning.

The morning I went to Thames Court (that adjoins the police station) and asked the magistrate for a summons to be taken out.

After explaining the circumstances of the incident, the magistrate asked the police if this man Louis was known as a violent man. The police said, "Yes, very violent." The magistrate then issued a warrant for the arrest of Louis.

### ASKED TO DROP CHARGES

Weeks after I was told by his girl friend that the police did not execute the warrant, but told Louis in her presence of it. I then wrote to the Superintendent of Police, Arbour Square, explaining the situation.

I got no reply but someone told me that he was arrested the next day.

I was also told by Dolores that the police told Louis that I had written to the Superintendent, so they had to arrest him. I may mention that certain parts of the confidential letter, Dolores was able to tell me the exact words that I wrote.

When Louis appeared in Court, the police asked me to drop the charge. I said "no". He was granted bail on the condition that he does not molest me.

He molested me near to my house a week or two later. I returned to the police station.

### Arrested With No Bail

Meanwhile, I was arrested by the same Arbour Square police in Clapton over another matter.

When taken to court, I was not allowed bail, but a white man who was charged with me was allowed his own bail (no objection by the police).

After being remanded seven times by the magistrate, on the 26th May I intended to speak a little more for my rights.

So after asking the magistrate to speak I explained that it appeared to me that because I was a black man he refused me bail. I did not hear his answer, but before they were able to take me back to my cell, a lawyer I contacted appeared.

Eventually, after he explained that for 25 years that I have lived in this country, I have never been convicted of any offence whatsoever, and a lot of talk, the magistrate decided to grant bail on condition that I sign on at the Arbour Square police station every Wednesday and Saturday.

Now the police have stopped me on the street several times and searched me on the pavement without telling me what they are searching me for.

Another thing, I was never told by the police anything of the case against Louis. All I know is that every time I was taken to court, the police would tell me its best for me to drop the case against Louis. I said "no".

After not hearing anything about it, I write to the Superintendent. Again, I got no answer, but was told by a policeman that the case was dismissed as I did not appear.

Now, this is what puzzles me. I was summoned for driving without 'L' plates and got a letter (Recorded Delivery). How is it that the police would forget conveniently to acquaint me.

Another thing, when I was in Brixton, entered my room and with this man Louis is supposed to find some tablets. (They had my keys and Dolores had my other keys). I did not get back my keys until the day I was bailed.

All my property was kept by the police. Why not send it to the prison as they usually do with other prisoners' property.

### Police Informant

I was told a long time before by Dolores that Louis is an informer, so no matter who he cuts up (which he has done recently) the police take no notice. He boasts about how he can beat up and cut u up anyone and nothing is said about it. It seems that it's true.

The police also took my car without my permission and had not returned it to me. I wrote to the Superintendent. I got no reply.

It appears that the police is waging a war of intimidation against me because I clashed with their informer who has got a lot of people convicted innocently.

I do hope you can grant me space in your Gutter Press to show other folks what the coloured man has to go through. I wonder if the Thames Magistrates as well as the police can remember how I brought food to them when the war was on and saved their lives by not letting them starve. Thanks for the good work you are doing by letting everyone see the wrongs that we have to face. Thanks agains,

Yours sincerely,  
Emile Bill Toussaint,  
16, Chasely Street,  
London, E14 6.7.72



## LETTER FROM BRIXTON

I have just read the third edition and would like to congratulate you on a fine beginning.

The proposed new laws by the Law Commission are enough to scare every Thinking man in England. Even the Lord Delvin in today's Sunday Times pointed out that the police would coerce confessions, intimidate witnesses, etc - though he is too much a part of the Establishment to just state flat out that the Police now use Nazi tactics; and would even more so under the new rules.

Your letter by Brian Reeve points out exactly what happens. It is not a matter of the Guilty getting off because of the rules - it is a matter of how many of those brought to trial should never have been arrested.

All your readers should start a campaign to the MP's now. The law has already been drafted and is ready to be presented to the Commons with government backing.



As an additional help, Mr. Reeve should file a complaint with the Law Society against his solicitor (I doubt it will do any good); further, he should file a civil writ against his solicitor for mal-practise and negligence. In addition, he should file direct with the DPP (Department of Public Prosecutions) - police wouldn't accept it - criminal action against arresting police and all police making statements, for perjury; plus civil damage suits for false arrest and malicious prosecution.

If these actions were taken every time the Police used abusive tactics it would slow them down - and more importantly, alert the Public. If the DPP will not accept the Perjury charge, file it as a Private Prosecution.

If some research could be done on acquittals at the Crown Courts (old Sessions and Assizes) for Greater London for the last 3 years and find out who were acquitted - and especially in which ones the case failed for lack of a case - before the defence was ever called (no case to answer), we would have strong figures and arguments to refute the Committee and Mark (police commissioner).

Further, a follow up to each of these people could provide plenty of ammunition for a fight - and also would be extremely helpful, if published in a documented form, for the use of every prisoner on trial - against verbals (remarks that the police tell the court that the accused made when being questioned).

Another valuable weapon would be a research into all 70 of the coppers disciplined last year - their names, addresses, activities causing action, cases involved. Perhaps the people they lied about, cheated or beat could be persuaded to bring legal action.

We must scream to the heavens about the English GESTAPO..... Obviously, you cannot use my name - or I'd be put on bread and water here. Will get this to you somehow.

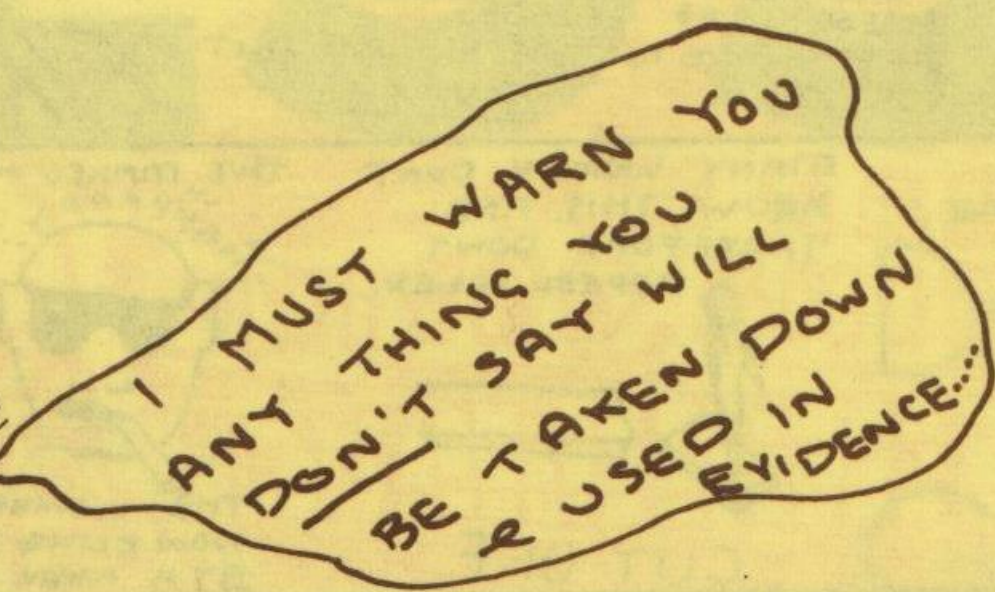
I believe there are thousands of persons who have been wrongly charged, acquitted or who have served a sentence who would contribute funds if you would start a campaign to fight the proposed new laws.....don't let the do-gooders have it. News stories and coin collection boxes, ads, etc. could be used to raise money and help fight the system and to provide bail - cigs, etc. for the needy.

Good luck on your work -

Sincerely,

An inmate.

Hackney Gutter Press is also distributed in the remand prisons in London, where many Hackney people await trial.



All of our readers must have heard of the new proposals put forward by the "Governments Criminal Law Revision Committee" to help "the innocent". I think some action should be taken about this now! Such as nationwide demonstrations and rallies before the barbaric proposals are put forward for a vote in the Commons. Otherwise, we can trust our "beloved(?)" leaders Mr. Ted Heath, Mr. Wilson and their puppets to pass the motion, to deprive us of our rights - if we have any left though.

Already the police (another branch of puppets incorporated) have the power to lock us up (on remands) for months on end until our case comes up in court and then release you because certain facts were proved to be "misleading".

If we don't take immediate action (by believing shit like counsellors and lawyers will oppose the proposals, which they will not as they have nothing to lose) we will soon be ruled by a "Gestapo Service."

Anon.



The law "experts" say that the proposals are to tilt the balance in favour of the prosecution, as too many "criminals" are getting off. How they work this out when about 90% of those appearing in magistrates courts are convicted, God only knows.

The situation as they see it is that any one who appears before the courts is automatically a criminal and should be convicted.

The CHANGES they recommend include: **ABOLISHING THE POLICE CAUTION**

At the moment, before the police charge someone they are supposed to warn them that they don't need to say anything and if they do it can be used in evidence against them. They often don't bother to caution people anyway, but in future they will warn people being charged that they must mention any fact on which they will rely in their defence or it will be held against them at the trial.

Presumably everybody is supposed to carry round with them records of every little detail of their lives in case the police happen to stop them.

**UNSWORN EVIDENCE and RIGHT OF SILENCE**

At present the person accused has three options about giving evidence himself.

He can refuse to make any statement.

He can make an unsworn statement from the dock.

Or he can go into the witness box and make a sworn statement, but then he will be subject to cross examination by some smarty pants lawyer.

People confronted with the purposefully intimidating courtroom atmosphere often do not have the confidence to go in to the witness box and be questioned by some aspiring Perry Mason. In future if the defendant refuses to go into the witness box the court is supposed to draw "any proper inference" from this. That is if you don't want to be subject to cross examination it will be assumed you are lying.

**PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS**

The way the law's supposed to work today is that you are innocent until you are proven guilty (BULLSHIT).

You are therefore supposed to be tried only on the evidence before the court and not on your "bad character". If you have any previous convictions it is not normally supposed to be mentioned. The new changes mean that previous convictions can be brought up more easily. The court is meant to assume that if you have been convicted once you are likely to be guilty this time.

**FORCED CONFESSIONS**

One of the nastiest of the new changes is that in future "confessions" are still valid even if produced by bribes or threats.

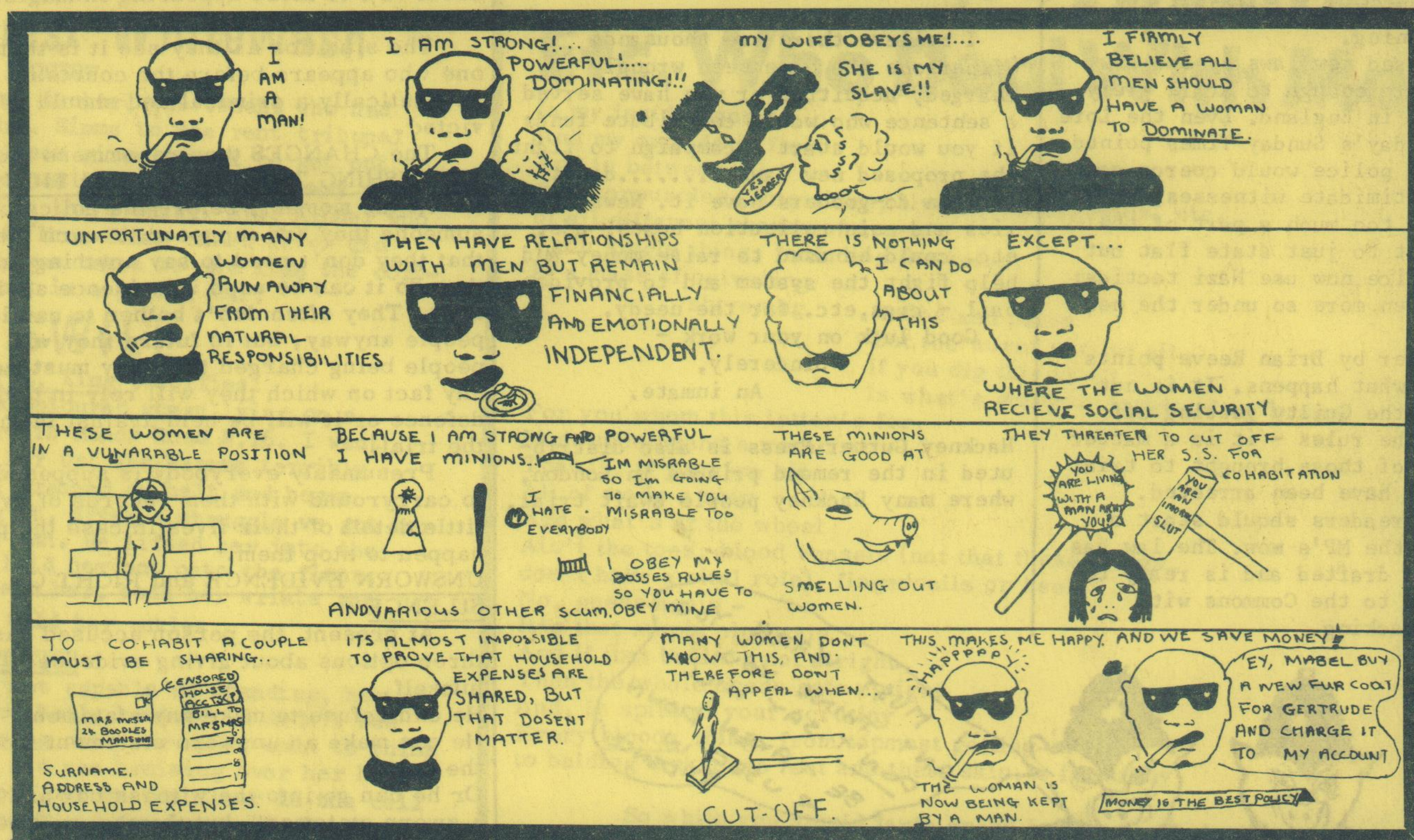
The police have a habit of producing "confessions" by belting them out of the prisoner, promising something in return such as a lighter sentence or it can just be invented. Some pigs could win the Nobel Prize for their literary imagination. The defendant can at the moment refute a previous "confession" on the grounds that it was forced out of him in some way.

Other proposals include calling wives to give evidence against their husbands and vice versa, and tape recorders in every police station - presumably they'll cut out the sound of blows and groans.

The whole object of the changes is to make the accused presumed guilty until proven innocent and to make the police into judge and jury as well as individual administrators of corporal punishment and sometimes executioners.



# Gokhabitation Confrontation

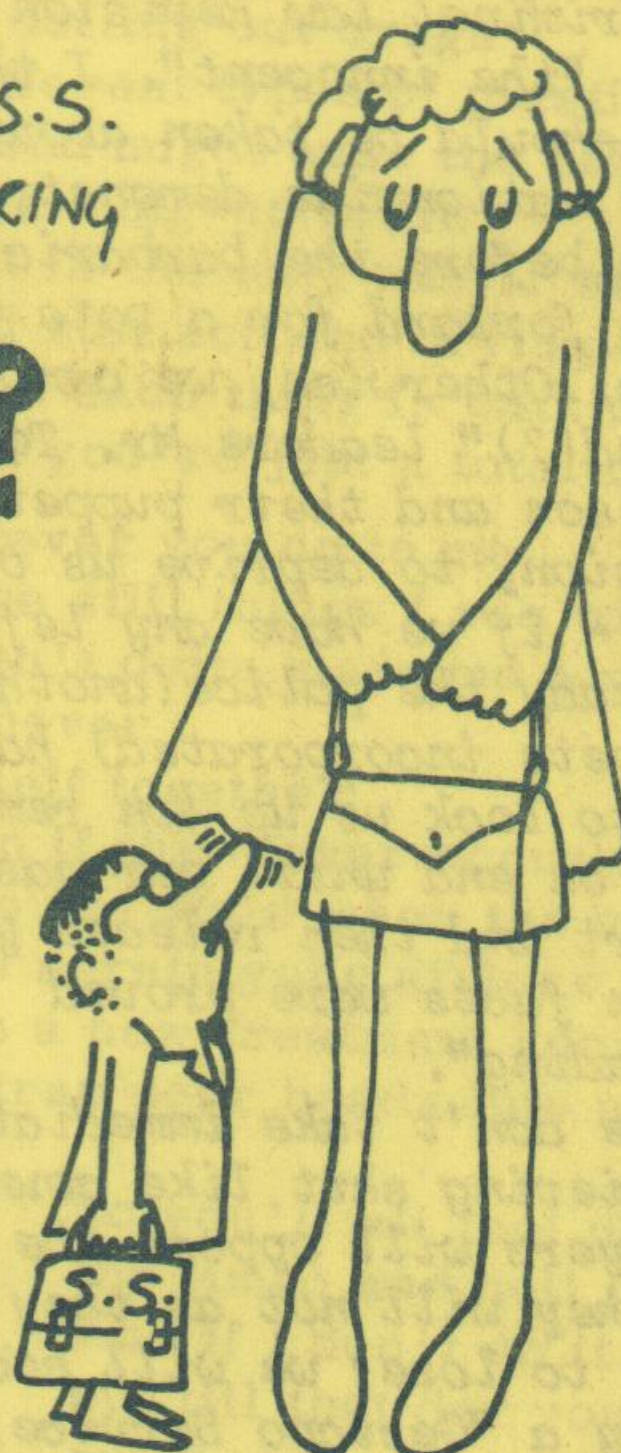


## Claimants' Unions combat SEX-LAW



"Two nights a week and that's your lot - any more and you'll be cut off"  
 "We don't pay you to sleep with who you like"  
 "When did you last have sex?"  
 - just a few of the chioce remarks that women on Social Security regularly have to put up with down at the S. S. offices.  
 Last year 1,000 women were cut of their Social Security money for being found sleeping with a bloke.  
 100 more 'Special Investigators' (we know them as SNOOPERS') were employed last year by the S.S.  
 Their only job is to spy on women on S. S. - hanging around front doors, watching who goes in and out, night and morning. If they see a man staying more than a couple of nights - SWOOP - and they cut the woman's money off and tell her to live off her bloke.  
 So the woman usually has to turn to prostitution, stealing, killer-jobs like nightcleaning.  
 50% of women in Holloway prison

IS THE S.S.  
 INTERFERING  
 WITH  
 YOU?



have been on Social Security and are in there because they've started taking what they need to live on rather than begging the S.S. for money.

The morality behind the 'Cohabitation Ruling' as it's officially known, is that all women should be dependant on a man and that a woman who wants to live independantly is a whore and slut.

### WE SAY:

We want to live independantly - sleep with who we want to when we want to and not be forced to beg money off every man we sleep with.

On the week beginning the 21st. of August there will be a week of NATIONAL ACTION by the Claimants Unions - picketing, occupations, demonstrations.

### WE DEMAND:

END OF THE COHABITATION RULING.  
 A GAURANTEED ADEQUATE INCOME FOR WOMEN WETHER MARRIED OR NOT

## Fraud by SS:

## Claimant Wins



Ludlow Scarlett, claimant at Lower Clapton Social Security office and living with his family in a flat high up in Hindle House, was accused of defrauding the SS.

The amount was £16. 50p and the offence was alleged to have been committed four days before Christmas.

Mr. Scarlett explained how each Tuesday he would sign on at the Labour and be promised a "giro in

post." By each Monday when it had not arrived he would return to the Labour and be paid over the counter. This happened week after week.

Mr. Scarlett had also put in many claims at Lower Clapton for clothes for himself, his wife and his children. On Tuesday, December 20th, he received what he thought was his long awaited clothing grant - £16.50.

But the Labour had mucked things up again and they claimed that it was

the payment for the week they had paid him over the counter the previous day (Monday) The giro had in fact taken six days to arrive instead of one.

They nicked him and he was tried on July 13th at North London Magistrates Court.

He pleaded not guilty, defended himself and won. He stood up for himself and forced Magistrate Hopkins to laugh the four SS and Labour bureaucrats out of court.