



CUTTLET

number 20

THE NEWSLETTER OF LAMBETH NALGO

19 JULY 1982

Rents up £4 a week, heating & hot water charges up 30%, spending on repairs cut; other services cut and advice centres threatened with closure

All these proposals are being discussed at the first meeting of the new council, as well as cuts which spell redundancy for 6 NALGO members.

Join the lobby by workers & tenants:

WEDNESDAY 21 JULY

LOBBY 6.00pm Town Hall, Acre Lane

PUBLIC MEETING 7.30pm

SPEAKERS INCLUDE: John Fraser MP, Lambeth Federation of Tenants spokesperson, union and pensioners' representatives

SUPPORTED BY: LAMBETH FEDERATION OF TENANTS, SAVE OUR CONSUMER ADVICE

CENTRES CAMPAIGN, LAMBETH TRADES COUNCIL AND LAMBETH COUNCIL TRADES UNIONS

WHY NALGO HEALTH WORKERS ARE ANGRY

- When health workers' pay increases were due (in April), and the cost of living had risen 12% in 12 months, the Government offered 4%.
- That was the third year running that health workers were expected to take a cut in their standard of living - making them poorer by about 15%.
- Many health workers were already among the lowest paid in our society. Over 75% of NALGO members take home less than £50 a week.
- Other public-sector groups, meanwhile, were treated as 'special cases'. The police got 13.2%; firemen got 10.1%. Private-sector groups were free to negotiate without Government restrictions.
- Nurses too became a 'special case', when the Government offered them an extra 2.4%. That was a move to drive a wedge between the nurses and other health workers.
- But the nurses said 'No' to 6.4%; and the others said 'No' to 4%. Eleven trade unions affiliated to the TUC together pressed for a more realistic offer.
- It took four one-day strikes to convince the Government that the health workers meant business. But its improved 'final' offer was still only 6% - and a special 7.5% for the nurses.
- The claim is for 12% (which would only partially protect living standards) and no 'special cases' - the same for all health workers.
- Even for the favoured nurses a 7.5% increase is a miserable offer. The revised 6% offer for the rest would still mean a 5% cut in real pay this year, a 13% cut since 1980.
- That is why NALGO health workers, alongside their colleagues in other unions, will be on strike on 19, 20 and 21 July.

None of us wants to go on strike. It is always an act of last resort. But sometimes it cannot be avoided - when it becomes the only effective way to register our protest.

On 19, 20 and 21 July NALGO members working in the NHS will be on strike, with their colleagues in other unions, against Government pay policy. They will receive support from NALGO members working in other public services and from other unions. They can count on considerable public sympathy.

These are skilled, dedicated and responsible people, many already poorly paid, doing essential work. They are being asked to take a cut in their living standards for the third year running.

If you value your health service, you must also value those who work for it.

GIVE THEM YOUR SUPPORT MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

If you have not written yet to your MP (at the House of Commons, London SW1), do so today. For the sake of your health service and those who work for it.

Collections and individual donations to the health service strike fund should be sent or taken to the branch office. Make cheques payable to "NALGO MDC HEALTH STRIKE FUND".

"Cutlet" is published by the Lambeth Branch of NALGO, 6A Acre Lane, SW2 and edited by Jackie Lewis. All correspondence should be sent to the Editor, c/o 6A Acre Lane, SW2.

Pay claim goes to arbitration

Arbitration was the appalling outcome of negotiations on the 1982 pay claim at the National Joint Council meeting on July 8.

PAY 82 LOCAL GOVERNMENT

When NALGO representatives again rejected the 5.25% offer and the restructuring proposals that went with it, the employers stated that they wanted to refer the whole issue to arbitration. Since the NJC constitution allows either side to impose arbitration on the other, the trades union side was powerless to do anything but note the employers' decision. The arbitration process could take up to three months.

LONDON WEIGHTING

The 1981 London Weighting claim has been settled at last. Increases of 10% in the Inn Inner and Outer London allowances, with effect from 1 July 1981, were agreed on June 4. The new rates are:

Inner London £1008
Outer London £531

Members should receive the backdated increase in their August pay.

NALGO has yet to submit a claim for this year's increase, due on July 1.

NEW TECHNOLOGY DISPUTE OVER

The dispute over the New Technology agreement and the introduction of a microcomputer in DMS was resolved at a meeting last week between branch and DMS representatives. The branch's boycott of all development work or discussion with management on the introduction of new technology will be reconsidered by the Executive Committee at its meeting today (July 19).

Should the boycott be lifted, the Joint New Technology Working Group (the central negotiating body set up by the agreement) will be reconvened to consider a large number of management proposals from the introduction of new technology. The proposals affect most directorates; stewards will contact members in the sections affected.