



CUTLET

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NO AGREEMENT, NO RETIREMENT, KNIGHT TELLS EXECUTIVE

The Council will insist that agreement on restructuring is reached before staff are released for early retirement, Council Leader Ted Knight told the Executive Committee yesterday, October 22. As agreement is reached, department by department, staff in those departments will be allowed to leave. But he warned that "if there is no agreement on restructuring, then there will be no early retirement".

Councillor Knight was meeting the Executive to discuss Heseltine's proposals for further controlling council spending next year and to answer questions on early retirement, restructuring and office accommodation. He was accompanied by John Spall, assistant director of management services.

The Executive told Councillor Knight that the Council has treated the people who applied for early retirement very badly. They applied in good faith and most had been told that they would be released soon. Many had made plans. They now had no idea when they would be allowed to go. Fourteen members in Finance and one in Public Services had just been told that they were not going to be released after all.

He told the E.C. that the Council has to show the Government and the District Auditor that dismissals under the early retirement scheme are accompanied by deletion of posts which will provide savings. They will therefore have to specify, at the time that staff are released under the scheme, which posts are to be deleted. They cannot do this, he said, until agreement on restructuring has been reached.

QUICK AGREEMENTS

Ted Knight insisted that the Council is anxious to get quick agreements so that staff can go. He suggested that he should meet the staff side weekly to review progress and to "cut through the red tape on both sides". John Spall said that the salaries of those who want retirement total approximately £250,000 a month, and that the sooner they go, the more money will be saved. However, they admitted that there "will come a point in this financial year when it will not be viable for early retirement to go ahead".

RESTRUCTURING PROPOSALS

Only four directorates provided details of their restructuring proposals by the Wednesday, October 20, deadline promised by the Council. The proposals, for DF, DICEPS, DMS

and DTP, are being studied by the directorate shop stewards committees. Stewards should be consulting members shortly. Proposals for DALs and DEHCS are now expected at the beginning of next week; those for DAS and DSS should be received towards the end of next week. The position in DCS and DHPS is complicated by the restructuring proposals already under consideration for the GLC transfer.

NO SHORT CIRCUITS

The Executive had agreed at its meeting on Monday, October 20, to reaffirm "its commitment to ensuring that any restructuring would as far as possible protect and advance the interests of members and the services they will continue to provide, and rejects any attempt to short-circuit proper consultation with the members concerned

COUNCIL CLIMBS DOWN ON CARISBROOKE AND BRANCH OFFICE

The branch's campaign of opposition to Council plans to move the Carisbrook Training Unit into Blue Star House and to dispose of the branch office appears to have helped to persuade the Council to drop both proposals — for the time being, at least.

This news was given to the Executive Committee at Thursday's meeting with Council Leader Ted Knight. He informed us that he was not going to push either of these issues at the moment because the Council would have to review office accommodation when the effects of early retirement and restruct-

Lambeth are chess champions

CONGRATULATIONS to members of Lambeth NALGO chess club who have just won the annual NALGO Metropolitan District chess championship. The club secretary, Saul Ackroyd, was presented with the trophy and a cheque for £10 at the District chess section's AGM on Wednesday evening.

Members who helped achieve this success include Sheila Jackson, Alan Footer, Steve McDonald Ross and Tony Wilson.

Sheila, from DCS, also happens to be the current British women's chess champion. But you don't have to be of such a high standard to join the chess club. Players of all abilities are welcome. If you're interested, ring Saul Ackroyd on 274 7722 ext 3020.

.....All proposals must be agreed by the directorate shop stewards committee, and a directorate meeting where necessary, and ratified by the branch Industrial Action Committee" Members will be informed of further developments.

Ted Knight also outlined his proposals for Lambeth under Heseltine's new legislation. These will be covered in the next CUTLET.

uring were known.

The Executive had decided earlier in the week to adopt a policy of strong opposition to both of the proposals because of the total inadequacy of the terms offered, and had threatened to withdraw from key negotiations, e.g. those on the GLC transfer. Clearly, the united position adopted by branch members has paid off. However, Ted Knight made it clear that the Council may well come back to the branch on these issues. Further fireworks can be expected if they do not then put forward proper alternatives.

Mike Waller

SSCHHYOU KNOW WHO



Don't tell David and Shirley but here is a picture of their new boy Bill Pitt before he became a famous person.....on a PICKET LINE !!! (Shock,horror).Is Bill secretly a Ted Knight mole in Parliament will he be the first Social Democrat/Liberal to defect to the Labour Partywill Michael Heseltine,in the face of the awesome wrath of Lambeth NALGO's chairperson,now withdraw his horrendous legislation? Watch CUTLET

SERVICE CONDITIONS NEWS

LONDON WEIGHTING UNDER ATTACK

The principle that London Weighting should be based on the costs of living in London is under heavy attack from the national employers.

They have refused,so far,to make any offer based on the government's indices,which show that increases of 12% should be granted.Instead,they have offered an increase of 7½ per cent and negotiations on its distribution.

Our negotiators have rejected this offer as totally unacceptable.If we let the employers get away with it ,then we will probably lose for ever the 'cost-compensation' basis of London Weighting.

NALGO is planning to build up a campaign throughout its London membership to help persuade the employers to pay the proper amount.Joint action with teachers, who are in a similar situation,is being considered.

NJC meeting ends in uproar

Tuesday's meeting of the National Joint Council,the national negotiation body for local government,broke up in uproar as a result of the extraordinary behaviour of the employers,who refused to discuss the scheduled business.

Although the subject of the Liverpool typists strike was not on the agenda,they wanted the union side to adjourn at the start of the meeting to discuss their response to questions from the employers on this dispute The unions,lead by NALGO, said that they would be happy to adjourn after the main business had been concluded,as is the custom

in such circumstances.

This was not good enough for the employers and they rejected a ruling from the chair that the agenda should be considered first. At this stage,union representatives walked out in protest.

Many important service conditions items were on the agenda and are now in limbo, and the Liverpool typists dispute is no nearer to being resolved.The employers sudden interest in the dispute should be contrasted with their behaviour in the summer when they ignored a suggestion from NALGO that the NJC secretaries should attempt to help resolve it.

Mike Waller

EARLY RETIREMENT Very early retirement

The Council has actually already allowed one person to leave under the early retirement scheme.It approved the application of Bill Murray,the director of housing,on September 11 and he "retired" a week later,after 33 years in local government. He took with him a lump sum of £36,000 and his pension,which will be approximately £12,000 a year.

But Bill had already got another job.He is now a principal lecturer in housing management at Hackney College,at a salary believed to be not much less than £10,000. By the way,the South London Press got it wrong again — Matthew Warburton did apply for the Hackney job but Bill did not get "sweet revenge" by beating him for the job: Councillor Warburton withdrew before interviews took place.

In brief

Planning director

The Council will shortly be considering whether or not to fill the post of Director of Town Planning,left vacant when Ted Hollamby moved to the London Docklands Development Corporation as Chief Architect and Planner.

NEC by-election

Joy Flashmann,an accountant from Barnet, won the NEC by-election.The result was as follows:

FLASHMANN,Joy D	10,377
BEAVIS,J Ivan	5,421
DULEY,George	3,808
FANCY,Will	3,807
HOLLINGHUM,Neil	3,644

Government plans for Gas

The Government announced earlier this week that it is postponing its proposed legislation to force British Gas to sell off its 900 gas showrooms.However,it is going to order British Gas and the British National Oil Corporation to sell off all their profit-bearing oilfields to private enterprise.

The announcement was seen in many areas as a climb-down by the Government in the face of a threatened all-out strike by gas workers,backed by electricity and water workers,to stop the sale of the showrooms However,NALGO and the other unions involved have reacted angrily and predicted that there could still be widespread strike action. The Government has already ordered BGC to sell off its 50 per cent holding in the highly profitable Wytch Farm,the largest on-shore oilfield in Britain.NALGO's National Emergency Committee has authorised the boycott of all work involved in the sale of Wytch Farm into which £20million of gas consumers' cash has been invested.

Directors are not fleeing'marxist grip'

There were 247 applicants for early retirement.Six of them in particular have attracted a lot of press attention.They are chief executive Frank Dixon Ward and five directors: Jack Halligan (DF),David Krause(DCS), Duncan Nicholson (DCEPS),John Handel (DMS) and Bill Murray (DHPS).The papers have attributed their intended departure to "serious disenchantment with Red Ted Knight's Marxist grip on Lambeth Town Hall" (Daily Mail).Robin Pitt ,leader of the Tory group,told the Telegraph that it was "a protest against....personal humiliation by extreme .left-wingers"Bill Murray has already left and the others:are not really in a position to be able to reply directly to these speculation.However,Dixon Ward,Handel and Halligan have said that they have their own reasons for leaving — and Ted Knight's policies are not among them.