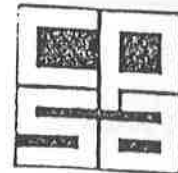
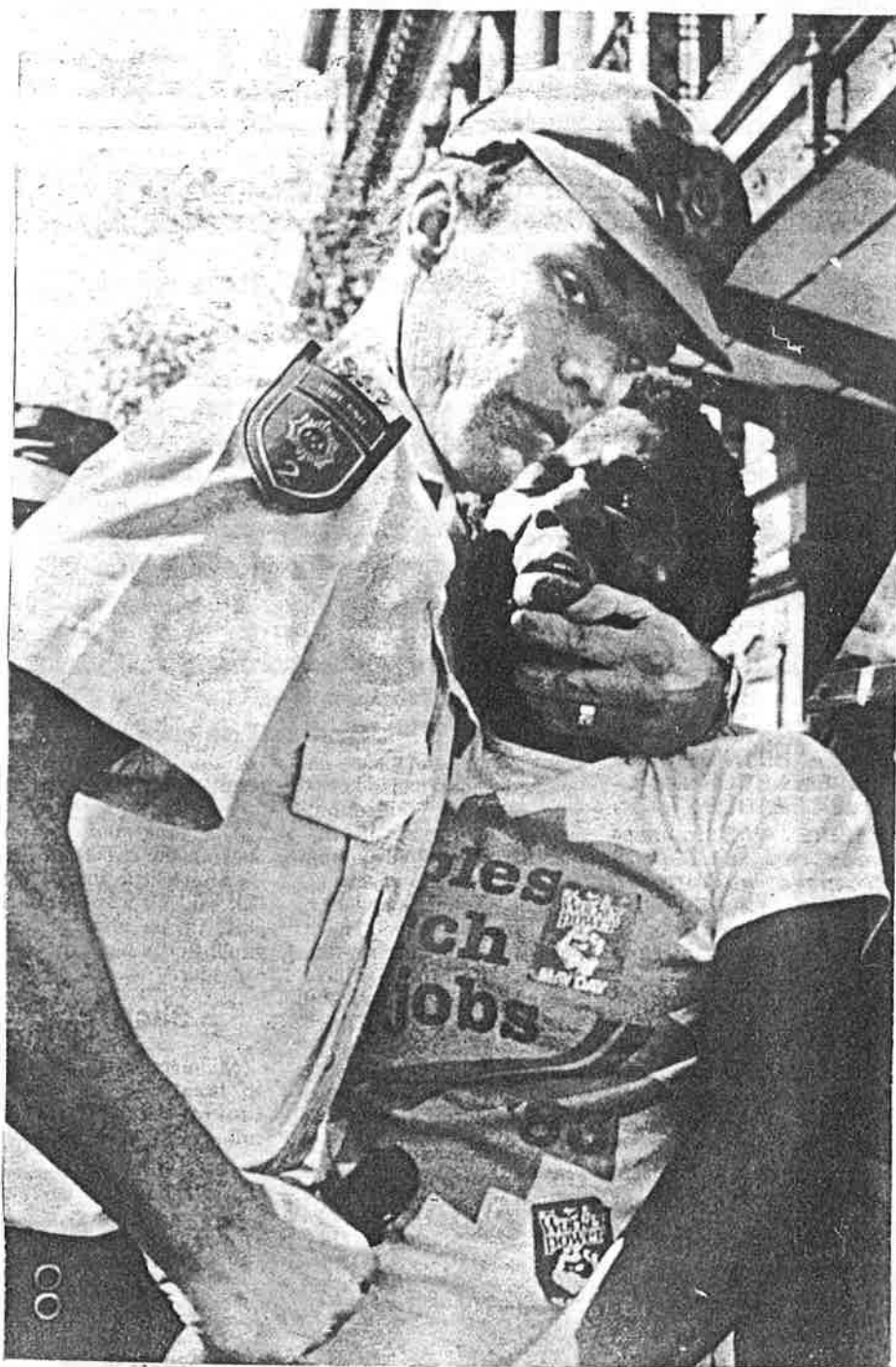


RED CLERK



RED CLERK IS THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF CPSA DHSS SOUTH EAST LONDON BRANCH.

SOUTH AFRICA: *BLACK WORKERS DETAINED*



*Build
Links
Now!*



Under Arrest South African Style.
Trade Unionist Moses Mayekiso.

PICKET. SAT. 11th OCTOBER.

Picket of local shops selling Silentnight beds. Meet outside Morley's Dept. Store, 472 Brixton Rd. 11 am onwards.

SOCIAL EVENING. SAT. 11th OCTOBER.

Social organised by Lambeth Trades Council Disco - Cabaret - Food - Late Bar. Tickets £1.50 or 50p unwaged. Town Hall Social Club 8pm.

PUBLIC MEETING. FRI. 7th NOVEMBER.

Public Meeting with speakers from CPSA, NUM, Printworkers and TGWU. Fightback against unemployment! Room 8 Lambeth Town Hall 7.30pm. Organised by Lambeth Trades Council Unemployment Sub-Committee.

New Branch Secretary

My election as Branch Secretary has come at an important time for CPSA members. The combination of low pay and understaffing leading to high staff turnover is causing a crisis in many offices. At Oval LO and Camberwell AO in particular a potentially explosive situation now exists.

I intend to work closely with other Branch officers and members of the Branch Executive Committee (B.E.C.) for better organisation and communication in South East London. This journal is particularly important in letting members know what's going on in the various offices in the Branch.

We must also work to get across to other workers and claimants the grim realities of working in the DHSS. The Branch has to look at how we can publicise more the poor working conditions and rotten service the public get due to the lack of resources put into the department. Management have a lot to be embarrassed about.

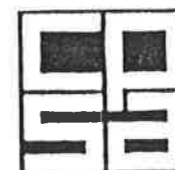
Kensington

Members at Camberwell, Greenwich Park, Hither Green, Kennington Park, and Oval, have all responded magnificently to the call for a one-day strike in protest over management's stupid actions at Kensington ILO (see pages 4 & 6 for details). Thanks to all those who took part. Collections to support the strikers should be going ahead in every office. Ask your rep. for details. Further action may be needed to win reinstatement for our victimised member too.

Pay

The next Branch meeting will be on 29th October at Hannibal House to discuss PAY 1987. We need to decide what our claim should be and what action needs to be taken to get the increase we need. Be there!

Rob Williams.
3.10.86.



CPSA DHSS SE LONDON ADOPTS SOUTH AFRICAN DETAINEES



Moses Mayekiso. I.M.W.U.

NEVER HAS THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA BEEN SO DESPERATE YET SO FULL OF POSSIBILITY.

Since President P.W. Botha introduced the state of emergency literally thousands of Trade Unionists have been detained. In an attempt to cut off the head of the Black Workers Movement many stewards and Union reps have been put in detention. Trade Unionists in this country, revolted with Apartheid, have taken direct action against S. Africa; Dockers in Southampton have blacked arms shipments being made illegally by the British Govt.; CPSA members in the Passport Office in London have blacked visas to S.A. businessmen. Even within our own branch we have had some success in changing offices banking with Barclays bank, a major investor in S. Africa.

When debating sanctions against S. Africa at this year's TUC Conference, Union leaders put all finances into producing a video on the injustice of Apartheid. Had it spent a fraction of the money on actively organising and campaigning for action against British links with the S. African Govt. and business it would have been a start towards getting real solidarity with Black Workers fighting Apartheid.

At our Branch meeting on Thursday 18 September we voted to take further action in supporting Black South African Trade Unionists. We passed a motion calling for the adoption of two detainees and for regular collections to both campaign for their release and to give much needed financial support to their families.

Letters have been sent to the S. African National Union Of Mineworkers and the S. African Clothing Workers Union asking for details of VICTOR BAMBANE and ZUBEIDA JAFFER, both Trade Unionists being held in Botha's prisons.

The move to adopt detainees and campaign for their release is growing. In CPSA in particular, already Holloway UBO and Inner London DHSS Branch have along with us written to give support and financial aid. In the words of Brian Williams, S. African Electrical and Allied Workers Union:

"BRITISH TRADE UNIONISTS AND SOCIALISTS WILL BE DISGUSTED AT THE TREATMENT OF THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN SOUTH AFRICA. BUT THEY CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO HELP IS TO ADOPT A DETAINEE."

**THE DETAINEES
MUST NOT BE
FORGOTTEN!**



Two months ago, following guidelines from the CPSA Woman's Advisory Committee, Oval AO started investigation into Cancer Screening facilities being provided to members.

Thousands of women die every year from cervical cancer, the cost of bringing a mobile unit to three offices; Brixton ILO, Kennington Pk ILO and Oval AO, is £150. A mere £50 per office. Management refused to pay, advising women Union members if they wanted cancer screening they'd have to go to the NHS or contact the 'Daily Mirror' Campaign for cancer screening. Time off work for women members to go together to the NHS facilities was 'nt mentioned.

The 'Daily Mirror' 'campaign', on investigation, doesn't exist - Unless Big Bob Maxwell is keeping it very close to his chest.

It's nice to know management has our best interests at heart !

Following a report to the B.E.C. the Branch are looking into alternative funding for a mobile unit.

-Under Siege-

The Social Security System in London can no longer cope ! That's the judgement of Welfare Organisations, DHSS Unions and Claimants.

During the staffing campaign last year we said we needed an extra 15,000 staff. We didn't get anywhere near that amount and now the DHS is paying the price - stress on staff with the impossibility of the system and the claimants' frustration of extensive waiting have finally come to breaking point :

Greenwich Pk ILO staff walked into work to find it had been fire-bombed, claimants could not put up with anymore delays and when CPSA walked out on strike a minor riot broke out - All staff on strike for the 2 days received full pay when management admitted staff should have been sent home...



'South London Press' investigates DHSS.

One week later at Camberwell AO staff faced a siege as Clmt realised the mess Management have made of the Blenheim Grove move...

The following week it was Oval AO's turn when three screens were smashed.

The Story

Continues....

Sexual Harassment - A Trade Union Issue

As women and as workers we face discrimination at various levels every day. Not only do we find ourselves forced into generally lower paid jobs (whilst very often caring for and supporting families and homes at the same time.) but once at work we are faced with yet further discrimination from our fellow workers as well as from management.

Though, in the DHSS, women make up over 66% of the workforce it's clear that we occupy the lower grades - our promotion prospects are not equal to those of our male colleagues.

At the same time, those sexist attitudes which prevail in our society mean that comments made by men we work with, which we feel are offensive to us, pass unnoticed or are quite often regarded as 'just a laugh' or a 'joke'. But no matter how offensive or inoffensive comments/remarks may seem to be they should never be trivialised or belittled. We don't need a sense of humour when faced with a sexist joke! Sexual harassment is not 'just a laugh' either, and it's not something that women should feel they must put up with as part of everyday life.

Precisely because sexism - like racism - is so much part of this society, women will tend to feel embarrassed or even intimidated from bringing incidents of sexual harassment to the attention of fellow workers, and more importantly, of their union reps.

But, just like racism, it's important that as trade unionists we take up every incident of sexual harassment suffered by women members - whether it's regarding offensive remarks or even a physical action/attack.

Sexual harassment is not a problem for women to tolerate or solve as individuals - it's something which we should confront as trade Unionists confident in the support our Union will give us. If any women do experience sexual harassment at work the Union is there to support you and to take up your case. Though it may be common place, sexual harassment is not an acceptable aspect of our everyday working lives.

... IT IS A TRADE UNION ISSUE.



M. Loebner.

March For Jobs

Dear Comrades, Fifty years after the Jarrow March to London, mass unemployment experienced by millions of people throughout Britain, has reached unprecedented levels in London.

It is young people, especially, who face the misery of dead end YTS and dole queues today and a dismal tomorrow. Youth unemployment in areas of London exists at between 60-80%, disproving the myth that the capital city, situated in the 'soft south', is the heart of prosperity. Youth need a better future than this!

Hence, in the traditions of the Jarrow Marchers, a London Youth March for jobs, made up of unemployed youth and young workers, will be marching a circular route of over 100 miles around London. It will bring to the high streets, the communities, work-places, schools and colleges the message from London's youth: WE DEMAND A FUTURE!

The march will set off from Bermondsey on the 4th October, passing through most London Boroughs. The final leg on October 18th is a march from Tower Hill to Southwark Park.

We hope, through the march, to highlight the real conditions facing youth in London.

Help us to build a future that will meet the hopes and aspirations of young people.

Yours Fraternally,

Mick Moore
March Co-ordinator
London Y.T.U.R.C.

cartoon by Bill



Letters:

Kensington DHSS Strike

CPSA and SCPS members at Kensington ILO have been on indefinite strike since September 16th. It is a strike about pretty fundamental rights:

The right to be treated as innocent until proved guilty;

The right not to be punished when no crime has been committed.

No-one would argue with those basics.

No-one, that is, except DHSS management - a group of people who have had to get used to defending the indefensible over the years. It is they who have suspended our CPSA colleague for 2 months and who now stubbornly refuse to give us the absolute guarantees about her future which we are seeking. The member has been suspended simply because management, with their familiar blend of ludicrous over-reaction and cynical buck-passing, panicked when another Clerical Officer was arrested by the police for alleged offences relating to National Insurance numbers (he is now on a holding charge whilst DHSS investigators attempt to accumulate evidence against him.) Management rushed out a suspension notice simply because the police had to question our colleague to help their enquiries. She was released without charge - but the suspension remains. Since then not one single allegation has been laid at her door. We have picked through the DHSS Contributions Codes (which regulate National Insurance procedures) and found that they have been abided by to the letter. Yet the suspension, and therefore the implication of wrong doing, has not been lifted. Why?

Worse still, when we started pressing for re-instatement some weeks ago management eventually responded with a stupidly provocative statement which asserted that, even if her name is completely absolved after DHSS enquiries into the other CO are completed, she will still have no automatic right to re-instatement - and then only at a location of managements choosing! We have already shifted them from this amazingly authoritarian position after 3 days on strike and tremendous supportive action in the rest of our Branch - but they are still clinging to their determination to decide her future. We say: RE-INSTATEMENT NOW! NO CRIME, NO PUNISHMENT!

Please support us.

Yours Fraternally,

CPSA Inner London Branch.

GENERAL SECRETARY



GOODBYE AL ...

CPSA MEMBERS RAISED A CHEER WHEN ALISTAIR GRAHAM LEFT HIS JOB AS CPSA GENERAL SECRETARY.

Despite high unemployment, which stops many of us gaining alternative employment, Graham stepped into a very

nice number with the bosses on £50,000 per year. In the election that followed his departure the majority of the membership voted for a change - voted for a new leadership.

John Macreadie won the election over BL'84 candidate Geoff Lewtis and Graham's chosen successor John Ellis.

...HELLO JOHN, GOT A NEW JOB?

But winning the election wasn't enough with our right-wing National Executive Committee. They declared Macreadie Couldn't take up the post of General Secretary on the spurious grounds that they expected allegations of ballot-rigging.

It is normal practice for the G.S. to be installed in post while complaints are being looked at by an independent body. If their candidate had won by no matter how small a majority we can be sure normal practices would have been followed - They didn't like the political colour of the winner and therefore took the unprecedented action of excluding John Macreadie from office.

Following the NEC's pronouncement, anger amongst CPSA members was very high. Unfortunately, Macreadie went to court to challenge the NEC's action instead of turning to the members who had elected him. The outcome of the court case was hardly surprising: They found against him in their fine tradition of attacking workers' organisation. After the court cases arising from the Miners Strike and the Inner City riots, we should be under no illusion that the courts are somehow impartial.

Meanwhile, the loser, John Ellis, presides over Union affairs and the NEC continues to abuse our Union funds on 'legal opinion' to back up their scandalously undemocratic actions.

BRANCH SAYS NO TO N.E.C.

As a Branch we cannot allow this travesty of justice to go unopposed. At the August BEC a motion from Greenwich Pk ILO was carried condemning the NEC and calling for a Special Delegate Conference to install John Macreadie as our rightfully elected General Secretary.

This motion, along with one calling for petitions and collections towards the 'CPSA Election Defence Fund' was passed at the following all members meeting at Hanibal Hse. on Thursday 18 September. The BEC has already donated £50 towards the fund when the issue was first raised.

Conference is the place where we, the Ordinary members make decisions and instruct the NEC on how we want the national Union to be run. We've had enough of this Sham ! It's time the members had a say.

WE DEMAND THE N.E.C. RECOGNISE OUR

ELECTED GENERAL SECRETARY !

