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Report to
Peckham GMC 8.1.82

- Thanks for inviting
 - Brief report on what done so far & what plan to do.
 - Met many during selection but want to meet with wards in near future to ^①be in touch with their work ~~help~~ ^②be involved where I can help. Written to nearly all ward secs.
 - Hope also to re-visit women's sections note "women's right to work conf" in Feb. contacted childcare campaign.
 - Ys. meeting in Feb.
 - TU. Mv/ment - in touch with TC. Sec & hope to work with TGWU Sth. London CC South London Campaign for Ec & Soc Adv. ~~Meet with Regional organiser~~ Jack Jones re prisoners orgs.
 - Also want to attend council meetings + visit council housing office local DHSS, Job Centre. I've contacted Southwark Law Project & hope to meet with them soon.
 - Also keen to get to know tenants orgs. Hope those active in party will let me know when activities to which I might come.
- Purpose - listen to what's happening, plus opp. to meet me.

- Please to meet Harry Strapin after selection allowed to sit in on surgery, hope to work closely with him in next months & years.
- Meeting Harry Hinds next week + arranged ~~to~~ Richard Balpe.
- Met SHP & SEH. Mercury - Jo Johnson.
- Disco - Mabel's merit award
- Christmas Day - People Care Assoc.
- ~~Thanksgiving Rally~~
- Rally called by Bermondsey Labour Party
- ~~Open~~ Attack on LT & Hestertine → TLEA
- London Assembly - Hope
- TLEA campaign - Southwark Parents Action Committee.
- ~~But~~ look forward to working v. hard ^{round on policies} campaigns
- But would ask for ~~for~~ members of party to :-
 - Keep me informed of meetings etc
 - Message on answer phone or note.

Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

Report of Harriet Harman, Prospective
Parliamentary Candidate, to AGM of
Southwark-Peckham CLP 12th February 1982

Lansbury House,
41 Camberwell Grove,
London SE5.

703 4808

1. Community Groups

I have, so far, met with Southwark Pensioners Action Group, Southwark Group of Tenants Associations, Southwark Law Project, Walworth and Aylebury Community Arts Trust, Southwark Parents Action Group and staff at the Southwark Institute of Adult Education. All the meetings have been very positive and productive and I look forward to working with these and other community organisations in the future.

2. Trade Unions

I had an extremely useful meeting with the three TGWU officers from the Camberwell office; two from London Transport and one from Public Services. They are keen to develop closer links with the Peckham Party and to help both at elections and in the general campaigning work of the party. I have also met with the Regional Secretary of the TGWU (who sponsor me) to discuss close liaison between the union and its sponsored candidates. I will be speaking at a TGWU south London Meeting on Tebbit's Bill on 24th February 1982.

3. Campaigns

(a) Together with Harry Lambourn MP, I took up the question of Special Heating Payments for those on supplementary benefit. This involved meeting the DHSS area managers at Blenheim Grove and Bournemouth Road and getting them to put up special notices on heating payments. This was well covered in the South London Press and the South East London Mercury.

(b) Together with Kate Hoey (PPC for Dulwich) I helped organise the Southwark Parents Action Group Lobby of the House of Commons against Hestletine No2 Bill. The SPAG were very pleased with the turnout and aim to organise school meetings to continue the opposition.

(c) With the help of Peckham councillors, the building unions in Southwark, Southwark Group of Tenants Associations and party members, I produced a party leaflet as part of the National Anti-Dampness week. The leaflet aims to highlight that building workers are out of work while tenants live in damp conditions and focusses attention on government spending cuts as holding back repairs and major maintenance.

(d) I am helping the Southwark Pensioners Action Group organise for the National Pensioners Lobby on 18th February. I have arranged for the TGWU to provide a free coach for Southwark Pensioners. Can people let me know of any pensioners who would like to go on the coach.

4. (a) I am hoping to visit all the wards in Peckham. I have been invited to Liddle Ward and have been taken round Faraday by the Secretary.

(b) I have been attending Harry Lambourn's surgeries.

(c) I have met with Harvey Hind, GLC Councillor.

(d) I've written articles for Peckham Labour News and for the forthcoming recruitment newsletter. I would be happy to write short articles for
d newsletters.

PTO

(e) I spoke at the Young Socialist meeting on Peter Tatchell and Labour Party Democracy.

(f) I will be speaking at the 20th February conference to build for the 5th June Women's unemployment demonstration.

(g) I was due to speak at the party's meeting on Poland but had to give my apologies because of the House of Lords Contempt judgment against me that day.

5. Party Secretary

Liz Bendall has been an enormous help to me in my first two months as PPC. She has worked extremely hard and I would like to add my thanks and very best wishes to her. I look forward to working as closely with the next Secretary.

6. Contempt of Court

The Law Lords turned down my appeal against Denning's ruling that I had committed contempt by showing documents to a journalist after they had been read aloud in open court. The judgment is a blow to press freedom and a financial blow to NCCL. But I have received 100% support from the party - including the Parliamentary Labour Party - and the TUC and the media.

Harriet Harman

12th February 1982

Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

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Harriet Harman

12th February 1982

Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

REPORT OF HARRIET HARMAN
PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE
TO PECKHAM GMC

MARCH 1982

Lansbury House,
41 Camberwell Grove,
London SE5.
403.3088 office
960.5121 home

1. Trade Unions

- (i) I spoke at the meeting organised by the TGWU South London Co-ordinating Committee on Tabbitt's anti-trade union Bill and I've written an article for Peckham Labour News on the Bill.
- (ii) I've been developing further my links with the TGWU in the area, including meeting with Ollie Jackson (buses) and Radix Philburt (building).
- (iii) following my meeting with the TGWU Regional Secretary, I will be reporting quarterly to the South London Co-ordinating Committee and to the Regional Committee.
- (iv) With UCATT and the TGWU I have been negotiating with the City of London Police over the march through the City on 23rd March called by the TUC Construction Committee. I hope as many party members as possible will join the march.

2. Women

- (i) I attended the AGM of the Southwark Childcare Campaign.
- (ii) I've been invited to chair a workshop on part-time workers at the Women's Fightback Conference on March 27th.
- (iii) The Labour Co-ordinating Committee is launching a campaign on the Alternative Economic Strategy. The LCC model resolutions recognise the central importance of the AES as a means of ensuring equality between men and women as well as redistributing wealth in favour of working people. I am organising a briefing meeting about women and the AES for LCC at County Hall on 15th May 1pm.
- (iv) I will be attending the meeting of the Women's Section on March 11th.

3. The Police

- (i) I have already received a number of cases relating to Carter Street Police Station. I have taken up the case referred to me by a TGWU building shop steward of Lloyd Christie who, on the basis of "mistaken identity" was dragged from his home and wrongly detained in Carter Street.
- (ii) I have had a meeting with Harcourt Alleyne of the Southwark Community Relations Council to discuss Carter Street.

4. Pensioners

Over 50 Southwark Pensioners came on the Southwark Pensioners Action Group/TGWU "Pensioners Express" to the House of Commons on 18th Feb. Thanks are due to the TGWU for providing the coach and Mabel Goldwin who helped organise for the coach.

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The Anti-dampness leaflet has been circulated through UCATT and the Southwark Group of Tenants Associations as well as through the Party. It also received excellent press coverage in the South London Press and the South East London Mercury. There are still about 500 left if any ward would like to use them.

6. The Budget

Together with Harry Lamborn MPI have prepared a press statement attacking the Tory budget as bringing more cuts in services and unemployment to the people of Peckham.

7. Press and Publicity

I feel it is very important for me to get as much coverage as possible in the local press clearly identifying me with party policy and issues of concern to local people. I will be meeting with Penny Newell, Press Officer to discuss this. I am pasting up all the press clippings which refer to me in my role as PPC in the local and national press. GMC members can inspect it at any time!

I appeared on a one hour LBC radio phone-in on 23rd Feb. Though the call were mainly on NCCL's policy on the police, Tebbit and contempt, I also answered questions on women's unemployment and the Labour Co-ordinating Committee statement on extra parliamentary activity. I was also asked a general question about the NEC and I emphasised my opposition to the enquiry into Militant and concern that the party should unite and consolidate around our policies.

8. Greater London Region Labour Party AGM

I attended ex officio as Peckham PPC and I chaired a fringe meeting on Bishop Stortford organised by the RACS and the LCS at which the speakers were Richard Balfe, Les Huckfield, Jack Dromey and Eric Heffer.

9. Wards

I will be visiting Liddle, Consort and Brunswick in the near future. In the meantime I would be happy to help wards leaflet for the local election campaign, which will help me get to know ward members and the area. A phone message about when and where can always be left on my answerphone if people cannot get hold of me at work. 960.5121.

10 Extra Parliamentary Activity

At the January GMC I reported that I would be signing the LCC's statement by PPC's on extra parliamentary activity. I attach a copy of the full text because, in an attempt to make the divisions in the Party worse it was wildly misreported as an anti-Foot plot, by the press.

11. Together with Kate Hoey (Dulwich PPC), Peter Hain (Putney) and Pat Hewitt (Leicester East) I am meeting David Hughes, National Agent to discuss better "services" from Walworth Road for PPC's.
in Peckham

12. I paid a visit to the Book Place to talk about their work and I attended a party they gave to launch a new publication on 6th March.

"As prospective Labour parliamentary candidates we are firmly committed to the achievement of a democratic socialist society in Britain. To this end we believe that:

1. this aim will require the election of a succession of socialist Labour governments in free, open and democratic elections;
 2. extra-parliamentary action must play a major role in the efforts of the Labour Movement to establish a democratic socialist society in Britain;
 3. the election of a government does not give that government an absolute right to pursue whatever policies it chooses, irrespective of the wishes or interests of the mass of British people. It is an essential democratic right of individuals and groups to campaign for or against the policies or strategies of elected governments;
 4. there are many centres of power in society - multi-national companies, the C.I.A., the media, and others - which are not subject to effective democratic control through Parliament or other structures and which consistently pursue actions detrimental to the interests of the majority of British people. It is as essential today as it ever has been for the Labour Movement to mobilise popular opinion and action against the abuse of this power.
 5. support for extra-parliamentary activity does not contradict our individual and collective support for parliamentary democracy. Quite the reverse; extra-parliamentary activity is essential if political parties are to keep in touch with the people they represent and to articulate their interests through the parliamentary system. The failures of parties to do this has already undermined confidence in Parliament.
 6. the building of popular support for Labour, and of Labour's support for popular action for change, will be essential to carrying out the socialist transformation of Britain. The election of socialist Labour governments will not be achieved unless the Labour Party is seen to be active in advancing the interests of working people, not just in Parliament but in every sphere of their lives. For this reason extra-parliamentary action must form an essential part of Labour Party strategy in and out of government."
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Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

REPORT OF HARRIET HARMAN
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TO PECKHAM GWC

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TO PECKHAM GMC

Lansbury House,
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APRIL 1982

1. Branches

I was very pleased to be able to go to a meeting of Liddle branch and Consort branch, and I have been out leafletting with St Giles and Newington branches.

2. Trade Unions

a) I attended the Building Workers March on 23rd March. There were about three thousand people on the march so unfortunately I did not find the comrades from Southwark!

b) In order to assist the local election campaign I have helped set up a meeting called by the TGWU South London co-ordinating committee to discuss involving unions in Southwark in raising money, workplace meetings, leafletting etc. I have been liaising on this with the Trades Council secretary, the agent and the TU Liaison Officer.

c) I signed the call to Southwark NALGO members to vote for affiliation to the party.

d) I have started a programme of visits to local trade union branches, beginning with the TGWU Southwark ACTSS.

3. I have written a brief piece for the Newington Labour News and a piece for the Southwark Childcare Campaign on childcare and the Alternate Economic Strategy.

4. Black People and the Police

a) The case of Lloyd Christie which I took up (mentioned in March Report) was well reported in the South London Press and West Indian World.

b) I met the editor of West Indian World and hope to get coverage in that paper as well as the SLP and SE. London Mercury.

c) I wrote a piece on Racism and the Law and Order Campaign for Peckham Labour News.

d) I have joined the Labour Party Race Action Group. Is the party affiliated?

e) I have arranged to visit the Britannia pub which appears to be subject to police harassment.

5. I will be appearing on Robin Day's Question Time on 22nd April. I will be wearing my NCCL hat as well as Peckham Prospective Parliamentary Candidate. I will do everything possible to promote Labour's policy given the Local Elections, two weeks later.

6. a) I have met the head teacher of Peckham Manor School and have arranged to go on a tour of the school, with Kate Hoey after the election in May.

b) Together with Kate Hoey I visited the Good Neighbour home for the disabled in Mary Datchelor Close.

c) With Kate Hoey and Patricia Hewitt, we met with David Hughes, National Agent, Joyce Gould, and Walter Brown at Walworth Road. We managed to clarify the information which PPC's are meant to receive and urged that regional schools be held for candidates and that an evening of Party Conference be devoted to a discussion of the party's campaigning strategy.

d) I have had a meeting with Mike Philips from Peckham Settlement

e) I attended the 13th March Rally in defence of London Transport and the feeder march from Camberwell Green.

f) I was very pleased to be invited to speak at a Southwark CND meeting. The meeting was packed and was a great success. I have joined Southwark CND and to help build local trade union affiliations.

g) I am finding it very helpful to attend party officers meetings.

h) I attended one session of the Southwark Seminar on local government.

i) I omitted to mention in my last report I attended the presentation to Harry Lambourn of the Freeman of the Borough. It was an enjoyable evening and enabled me to meet a number of councillors and council officers.

7. Pensioners

I will be taking up, together with the Southwark Pensioners Action Group, the atrocious proposals to make the death grant subject to means test.

HARRIET HARMAN

Prospective Parliamentary Candidate

Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

REPORT OF HARRIET HARMAN
PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE
TO PECKHAM GMC

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6. a) I have met the head teacher of Peckham Manor School and have arranged to go on a tour of the school, with Kate Hoey after the election in May.

b) Together with Kate-Hoey I visited the Good Neighbour home for the disabled in Mary Datchelor Close.

c) With Kate Hoey and Patricia Hewitt, we met with David Hughes, National Agent, Joyce Gould, and Walter Brown at Walworth Road. We managed to clarify the information which PPC's are meant to receive and urged that regional schools be held for candidates and that an evening of Party Conference be devoted to a discussion of the party's campaigning strategy.

d) I have had a meeting with Mike Philips from Peckham Settlement

e) I attended the 13th March Rally in defence of London Transport and the feeder march from Camberwell Green.

f) I was very pleased to be invited to speak at a Southwark CND meeting. The meeting was packed and was a great success. I have joined Southwark CND and to help build local trade union affiliations.

g) I am finding it very helpful to attend party officers meetings.

h) I attended one session of the Southwark Seminar on local government.

i) I omitted to mention in my last report I attended the presentation to Harry Lambourn of the Freeman of the Borough. It was an enjoyable evening and enabled me to meet a number of councillors and council officers.

7. Pensioners

I will be taking up, together with the Southwark Pensioners Action Group, the atrocious proposals to make the death grant subject to means test.

HARRIET HARMAN

Prospective Parliamentary Candidate

Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

REPORT OF HARRIET HARMAN
PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE
TO PECKHAM GMCA

Lansbury House,
41 Camberwell Grove,
London SE5.
403.8888 office
860.5121 home

APRIL 1982

1. Branches

I was very pleased to be able to go to a meeting of Liddle branch and Consort branch, and I have been out leafletting with St Giles and Newington branches.

2. Trade Unions

a) I attended the Building Workers March on 23rd March. There were about three thousand people on the march so unfortunately I did not find the comrades from Southwark!

b) In order to assist the local election campaign I have helped set up a meeting called by the TGWU South London co-ordinating committee to discuss involving unions in Southwark in raising money, workplace meetings, leafletting etc. I have been liaising on this with the Trades Council secretary, the agent and the Tu Liaison Officer.

c) I signed the call to Southwark NALGO members to vote for affiliation to the party.

d) I have started a programme of visits to local trade union branches, beginning with the TGWU Southwark ACTSS.

3. I have written a brief piece for the Newington Labour News and a piece for the Southwark Childcare Campaign on (childcare and the Alternate Economic Strategy)

4. Black People and the Police

a) The case of Lloyd Christie which I took up (mentioned in March Report) was well reported in the South London Press and West Indian World.

b) I met the editor of West Indian World and hope to get coverage in that paper as well as the SLP and SE. London Mercury.

c) I wrote a piece on Racism and the Law and Order Campaign for Peckham Labour News.

d) I have joined the Labour Party Race Action Group. Is the party affiliated?

e) I have arranged to visit the Britannia pub which appears to be subject to police harassment.

5. I will be appearing on Robin Day's Question Time on 22nd April. I will be wearing my NOCL hat as well as Peckham Prospective Parliamentary Candidate. I will do everything possible to promote Labour's policy given the Local Elections, two weeks later.

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HARRIET HARMAN

Prospective Parliamentary Candidate

✓ Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

REPORT OF HARRIET HARMAN
PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE

Lansbury House,
11 Camberwell Grove,
London SE5.

April 1982

Report to Region 1 TGWU

403.1888 office
960.5121 home

1. Peckham is an "inner city area" in South London. The main problems are high unemployment, housing badly in need of repair and growing fears about crime. Peckham is one of the areas whose population has fallen over the last few years leaving a large elderly population. There are two bus garages in the constituency, Walworth and Camberwell, and there are, of course, a large number of TGWU members employed by the local council.
2. In the first few months after being selected as PPC, I have had three main objectives (i) to try and help build on the links between the party and the TGWU locally and community groups (ii) to get to know better the people and organisations in the area (iii) to get myself known in Peckham.
3. Work with the South London Co-ordinating Committee. The co-ordinating committee has been invaluable to my work as PPC. Shortly after being selected I had a meeting with John Mackley (secretary) Peter Gibson (chair) and Terry Allen, all of whom have been very helpful as a source of ideas and contacts. Since then we have (i) arranged for the co-ordinating committee to provide a coach to take 50 Southwark pensioners to the February 18th lobby of parliament. (ii) we had a meeting of TGWU reps, local councillors and party members to help promote TGWU involvement in the local election campaign. Aubrey Edwards is setting up a pre-election meeting for Labour councillors to address his members at Kings College Hospital. And the co-ordinating committee will be distributing leaflets and posters. (iii) Invitations to me to speak at co-ordinating committee meetings on Tebbit and London Transport have provided a further opportunity to meet TGWU members and given me a "platform".
4. Together with Kate Hoey, who is the candidate in the next-door constituency for Dulwich, I will shortly be having a meeting with Aubrey Edwards and John Newe.
5. I helped with some of the organisational arrangements for the Building March on March 23rd, and attended the march.
6. Peter Kavannagh, Tooley Street office, referred me a very bad case of a TGWU member who had been wrongly arrested by Peckham police. The case received good local publicity and we think the police might offer him compensation. Radix Philburt, TGWU construction shop steward, also helped in the case.
7. I have started a round of visits to TGWU branches in Peckham.
8. Together with the Peckham party and the Southwark Group of Tenants Associations, I produced a leaflet as part of Anti-Dampness Week. It mentioned the concern of the TGWU about job loss among building workers.

9. Work with the Peckham Party

(i) I attend officers' meetings and report to every meeting of the GMC. I attend the surgeries of Harry Lamborn MP, who is retiring at the next General Election. Despite many policy differences between us, he has been giving me every assistance. Together we conducted a widely publicised campaign to ensure that after the exceptionally cold winter, people got the extra heating payments they were entitled to from the DHSS

(ii) I have been doing as much as I can to help with the local election campaign. It has not been assisted by Bob Mellish MP's call for people in Southwark not to vote Labour. Bob Mellish is sponsored by the TGWU!

I think there is still quite a lot of work to be done to ensure closer links between the Peckham Party and the TGWU so that the policy and concerns of the TGWU can be brought into the party at local level.

10. Community Groups. I have already started working with groups such as the Pensioners, the Parents organisation, Community Relations Council and Southwark CND.

11. Conferences I attended the Greater London Regional Conference of the Labour Party ex-officio, and I hope to attend the National Labour Women's Conference in June.

Harriet Harman
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
Peckham

Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

REPORT OF HARRIET HARMAN
PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE

April 1982

Report to Region 1 TGWU

Lansbury House,
11 Camberwell Grove,
London SE5.

405. 1688 office
969. 5121 home

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Harriet Harman
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
Peckham

Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

REPORT OF HARRIET HARMAN
PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE
TO PECKHAM GMC AND BRANCHES

MAY 1982

Lansbury House,
41 Camberwell Grove,
London SE5.
403.3888 office
960.5121 home

This report covers the period April 8th to May 3rd 1982.

1. May Election Campaign

The campaign to win a large majority for Labour in the elections for Southwark Council have been a priority in my work over the last four weeks.

- (a) As mentioned in my report to the April GMC, I helped set up a meeting called by the TGWU South London Co-ordinating Committee to discuss mobilising TGWU assistance for the election campaign in Southwark. The meeting was held at the TGWU offices on 23rd April and was attended by lay reps and full-time officers covering the major TGWU workplaces in Southwark, together with councillors from each of the three parties. As a direct result of the meeting:-

* A press statement was issued re-affirming TGWU support for Labour in Southwark, despite the remarks of Bob Mellish MP (who is TGWU sponsored!): The press statement received good coverage in the South London Press.

* Labour Councillors addressed two mass members meetings of 260 TGWU members in Kings College Hospital on 29th April. Kate Hoey (Dulwich PPC) and Richard Balfe (Euro MP) and myself were introduced to the members at the meeting.

* In Peckham Bus Garage vote Labour posters were put up, and leaflets distributed.

Not only did the meeting provide invaluable assistance in the election campaign, but I hope that it will lay the basis for a closer relationship between the party and the TGWU locally, particularly those members in the Bus Garages and Kings College Hospital.

- (b) When speaking at local meetings I have made a particular point of highlighting the election campaign. For example, when speaking at the Southwark CND meeting I drew attention to our manifesto pledge on a nuclear-free Southwark. This received good coverage both in South London Press and the South East London Mercury. I also made the link between Transport and the local elections when I spoke on the London Transport campaign at a meeting on 21st April organised by the TGWU for members in the bus garages.
- (c) I have been out canvassing/leafletting/collecting postal votes etc. with each of the wards in Peckham. This has provided me with an invaluable opportunity to meet more party members and to get to know the area better. I hope to follow this up by visiting branch meetings after the election. Congratulations are due to all ward organisers who all appeared to be running

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extremely efficient operations! I will also be spending all of May 6th in Peckham and will attend the count.

2. Women

- (a) I will be leading a workshop on 'Positive Action for Women' at the major conference on Labour's Social Policy on May 29th and 30th. Despite the steep fee of £8 I hope a delegate from the party will be able to attend as Labour's Social Policy has been much neglected in the past. Other speakers include Ruth Lister, Jimmy Reid, Michael Meacher and Peter Townsend.
- (b) I am acting as legal adviser to the Action Committee for a Women's Right to Work to help negotiate with the police for the march on 5th June.
- (c) I will be attending the National Labour Women's Conference in Newcastle on June 11th, 12th and 13th as Peckham Prospective Candidate. Unfortunately, I will therefore have to give my apologies for the GMC on 11th June.
- (d) On May 10th I will be in Strasbourg conducting a case in the European Commission of Human Rights against the Immigration Rules which prevent women who are British citizens but who were born abroad from bringing their husbands to live with them in this country. These rules therefore discriminate against women and in particular against black and Asian women. While in Strasbourg I hope to meet up with Richard Balfe, Dick Caborn and Alf Lomas MEP's.

3. Pensioners

- (a) Jointly with the Southwark Pensioners Action Group and Harry Lamborn MP, I have issued a press release condemning the Government's proposals on the death grant. The new proposals would mean a double means test and an overall reduction in the amount spent on death grant.
- (b) I will be speaking at the Bi-annual members meeting of the Southwark Pensioners on May 19th at North Peckham Civic Centre 1.30 pm. I am hoping to arrange for the TGWU to provide two coaches at cost price for the pensioners; cost to be split between the RACS, the Trades Council and Peckham Party.

4. (a) I have been interviewed by Cosmopolitan for an article on future women MP's.

(b) Perhaps the most helpful bit of publicity I have so far received was a photograph of me and Harry Lamborn MP together with Kate Hoey and Sam Silkin in the April edition of Southwark Sparrow.

(c) I will be attending the ceremonial opening in consort ward of the Benhill Garden on May 5th.

(d) On May 20th I will be speaking on Law and Order for the South London Legal Action Group.

(e) I attended the May 3rd Burgess Park Festival and gave the prizes to the football teams. The trophy was won by Deptford Labour Party.

HARRIET HARMAN

3rd May 1982

Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

REPORT OF HARRIET HARMAN
PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE
TO PECKHAM GMC AND BRANCHES

MAY 1982

Lansbury House,
41 Camberwell Grove,
London SE5.
403.3888 office
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HARRIET HARMAN

3rd May 1982

GMC 14.5.82

Notes of oral report

Election work

wards,

meetings,

TGWU - press statement
new leaflets

meeting

Proposal - spoke to TGWU.

Public Sector 4%

- support struggle
- write to RHA. Governors.
- keep other unions informed
(notify neighbouring parties)
jointly w TC.
- overcome cynicism
- build working relationship
- ensure party involved locally
in battle against cuts.

Pensioners

- carrying on work w pensioners
- v. militant bunch. "Carbun"
has policy inadequate
standing charges } etc
death grant
- Statement on death grant.
[Harry EDM.]
- meeting next Wednesday.
Propose £30 for coach
~~fare~~ ~~fare~~ agreed
delay & mugging.

Unemployed Centre Women

- has women's conf.
- March on June 5th
 - SERTUC / TGWU.
 - police negotiation.
- Strasburg.
- Southwark Child Care
Campaign.

- Falklands - ~~question time~~
- written to CPF.
 - speech on Sunday ? agreed
w GMC's approval.
 - banned from ? Time!

Party branches -
~~Friday?~~
Newington.

~~Tenants Assoc~~ - no
~~speech~~ - just attend.

- Annual Dance
excellent

Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

REPORT OF HARRIET HARMAN
PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE
TO PECKHAM GMC AND BRANCHES

Lansbury House,
41 Camberwell Grove,
London SE5.
403.3888 office
960.5121 home

JUNE 1982

This report covers the period May 3rd to June 3rd 1982.

1. Health Service Pay Dispute

The health service workers (a majority of whom are women and many of whom are black) provide a vital service to the community, yet they are amongst the lowest paid. They have quite rightly rejected a 4% offer (nurses 6.2%) and are claiming 12%. The Government have flatly refused even to go to arbitration and it looks like the dispute is going to get increasingly bitter. At the May GMC it was agreed to give full support to the dispute and I took this message from the party to the pickets at Kings College Hospital and Guys Hospital which I visited on the first day of industrial action (19th May) together with Jack Jones. The message from the Peckham Labour Party was very warmly received by the health service workers. Kate Hoey (Dulwich PPC), Richard Balfe MEP, Harry Lambourn MP and I issued a statement in support of the dispute. We hope that one of the women from Kings College Hospital will be able to attend the Women's Sections meeting on 4th June to talk about the dispute. These workers are in the front line of the struggle against the Government pay cuts and so I'm sure any moral support or help which wards could give would be greatly appreciated, such as explaining the workers side of the dispute in ward newsletters, visiting the picket line, helping to distribute leaflets about the dispute etc.

2. Pensioners

- (a) The joint statement I issued together with the Southwark Pensioners Action Group on the Government's atrocious new proposals on the death grant received very good coverage in the South London Press and the South-East London Mercury. We hope that other organisations and individuals will also write to Hugh Rossi MP, House of Commons, London SW1 objecting to the Government's new proposals to subject the death grant to stringent means tests.
- (b) The Southwark Pensions Action Group bi-annual meeting was attended by over 200 pensioners. The speakers were Jack Jones, Jeff Rooker MP, the former SDP councillor who represented Lane Ward and the Tory candidate for Dulwich as well as myself. The pensioners gave a great round of applause on hearing that the Peckham Labour Party, the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society and the Southwark Trades Council had jointly paid for the coaches to bring them to the meeting.

3. Women

- (a) The Southwark Childcare Campaign took part in a meeting for Labour MPs called by the National Childcare Campaign. Unfortunately despite a large turn out from the National Childcare Campaign only 3 Labour MPs attended. But it was a useful meeting and it has been agreed to test the waters in

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the Parliamentary Labour Party on the question of childcare by getting Joan Lester MP (spokesperson on women) to put down an Early Day Motion. The motion will call on the Government to introduce an integrated system of free childcare, for babies through to school holiday and after school provision, and the National Childcare Campaign will then urge all MPs to sign it.

- (b) The GLC have formed a Women's Committee and a meeting was called to discuss the aims and objectives of the new GLC Women's Committee. The Committee will be taking initiatives relating to women in employment, childcare, education, as well as reserving a page of the 'Londoner' for women's issues. The GLC Women's Committee hopes to work closely with the Women's Committees in the borough including Southwark Women's Committee. The GLC Women's Committee has 350,000 pounds to give away to projects concerning women. The deadline for applications is 30th June. If any projects in Peckham which are applying for funds let me know, I will do what I can to help them get the funds.
- (c) The South-East Regional Council of the TUC and the TGWU have been busy helping to mobilise for the march on women's unemployment on 5th June. We have also been helping the Women's Action Committee in their negotiations with the police over the route. Unfortunately we are facing competition for the route from the Horseguards who are rehearsing the Trooping of the Colour ceremony.
- (d) I've taken up the case of a Peckham woman who came here from Pakistan when she was ten years old. She returned briefly to Pakistan to get married and returned home to Peckham when she became pregnant, hoping that her husband would then join her. The Government, however, changed the immigration rules and her husband was prevented from coming to join her and her child here. I am trying to get permission for the husband to enter on compassionate grounds and am liaising with the Asian Community Action Centre on the case.
- 4. The opening of the Benhill Nature Garden was very well attended
- (a) and provided a useful opportunity to meet and chat with parents, children and some of the teachers.
- (b) Stuart Banks (Newington Ward) kindly invited me to visit the community drug project in New Church Road, SE5 where he works. It was very useful to learn about their work and the problems of drug abuse in Peckham and particularly glue sniffing (solvent abuse) and dependency on tranquillisers.
- (c) After a visit to the Housing Advice Resource Unit at the Southwark Council for Voluntary Service, I feel slightly better informed about the many housing problems which crop up in Harry and I's surgeries - particularly requests for transfer and delays in repairs.
- (d) Local Council Election - The GLC have done a computerised statistical analysis of the election results in London. Labour in Peckham was 32.9% ahead of our nearest rival - the Tories - which makes us fifth in the league table of Labour constituencies in London. For Southwark as a whole, Labour polled 43.6% of the votes cast, Tories 28.6% and Lib/SDP 24.2%.

5. Falklands

- (a) Following the discussion on the Falklands at the May GMC I attended the Falklands Peace March on 16th May and spoke at the rally in Jubilee Gardens. I highlighted the importance of the press informing us about what is actually going in the South Atlantic, rather than simply re-issuing the 'authorised' version from the Government and jingoistic condemnation of all those who dare to canvas different views as 'traitors and subversives'
- (b) There was quite a good turn-out under the Peckham Labour Party banner at the demonstration called by the Ad-hoc Committee for peace in the Falklands on 23rd May. The march was able to go down Whitehall despite fierce arguments with the police during the week who had wanted to prevent the march going down Whitehall and to re-route it down Northumberland Avenue.
- (c) As a member of the Campaign for Press Freedom I asked them to take up the question of the press reporting of the Falklands issue and they made a statement condemning the intimidation of journalists and broadcasters who attempt to cover views which dissent from the official Government line.

HARRIET HARMAN

30th May 1982

SOUTHWARK-PECKHAM LABOUR PARTY

REPORT OF HARRIET HARMAN
PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE
TO PECKHAM GMC AND BRANCHES

LANSBURY HOUSE
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1. Health Service Pay Dispute

- The health service workers (a majority of whom are women and many of whom are black) provide a vital service to the community, yet they are amongst the lowest paid. They have quite rightly rejected a 4% offer (nurses 6.2%) and are claiming 12%. The Government have flatly refused even to go to arbitration and it looks like the dispute is going to get increasingly bitter. At the May GMC it was agreed to give full support to the dispute and I took this message from the party to the pickets at Kings College Hospital and Guys Hospital which I visited on the first day of industrial action (19th May) together with Jack Jones.
- The message from the Peckham Labour Party was very warmly received by the health service workers. Kate Hoey (Dulwich PPC), Richard Balfe MP, Harry Lambourn MP and I issued a statement in support of the dispute. We hope that one of the women from Kings College Hospital will be able to attend the Women's Sections meeting on 4th June to talk about the dispute. These workers are in the front line of the struggle against the Government pay cuts and so I'm sure any moral support or help which wards could give would be greatly appreciated, such as explaining the workers side of the dispute in ward newsletters, visiting the picket line, helping to distribute leaflets about the dispute etc.

2. Pensioners

- (a) The joint statement I issued together with the Southwark Pensioners Action Group on the Government's atrocious new proposals on the death grant received very good coverage in the South London Press and the South-East London Mercury. We hope that other organisations and individuals will also write to Hugh Rossi MP, House of Commons, London SW1 objecting to the Government's new proposals to subject the death grant to stringent means tests.
- (b) The Southwark Pensions Action Group bi-annual meeting was attended by over 200 pensioners. The speakers were Jack Jones, Jeff Rooker MP, the former SDP councillor who represented Lane Ward and the Tory candidate for Dulwich as well as myself. The pensioners gave a great round of applause on hearing that the Peckham Labour Party, the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society and the Southwark Trades Council had jointly paid for the coaches to bring them to the meeting.

3. Women

- (a) The Southwark Childcare Campaign took part in a meeting for Labour MPs called by the National Childcare Campaign. Unfortunately despite a large turn out from the National Childcare Campaign only 3 Labour MPs attended. But it was a useful meeting and it has been agreed to test the waters in

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the Parliamentary Labour Party on the question of childcare by getting Joan Lester MP (spokesperson on women) to put down an Early Day Motion. The motion will call on the Government to introduce an integrated system of free childcare, for babies through to school holiday and after school provision, and the National Childcare Campaign will then urge all MPs to sign it.

- (b) The GLC have formed a Women's Committee and a meeting was called to discuss the aims and objectives of the new GLC Women's Committee. The Committee will be taking initiatives relating to women in employment, childcare, education, as well as reserving a page of the 'Londoner' for women's issues. The GLC Women's Committee hopes to work closely with the Women's Committees in the borough including Southwark Women's Committee. The GLC Women's Committee has 350,000 pounds to give away to projects concerning women. The deadline for applications is 30th June. If any projects in Peckham which are applying for funds let me know, I will do what I can to help them get the funds.
- (c) The South-East Regional Council of the TUC and the TGWU have been busy helping to mobilise for the march on women's unemployment on 5th June. We have also been helping the Women's Action Committee in their negotiations with the police over the route. Unfortunately we are facing competition for the route from the Horseguards who are rehearsing the Trooping of the Colour ceremony!
- (d) I've taken up the case of a Peckham woman who came here from Pakistan when she was ten years old. She returned briefly to Pakistan to get married and returned home to Peckham when she became pregnant, hoping that her husband would then join her. The Government, however, changed the immigration rules and her husband was prevented from coming to join her and her child here. I am trying to get permission for the husband to enter on compassionate grounds and am liaising with the Asian Community Action Centre on the case.
- 4. The opening of the Benhill Nature Garden was very well attended
- (a) and provided a useful opportunity to meet and chat with parents, children and some of the teachers.
- (b) Stuart Banks (Newington Ward) kindly invited me to visit the community drug project in New Church Road, SE5 where he works. It was very useful to learn about their work and the problems of drug abuse in Peckham and particularly glue sniffing (solvent abuse) and dependency on tranquillisers.
- (c) After a visit to the Housing Advice Resource Unit at the Southwark Council for Voluntary Service, I feel slightly better informed about the many housing problems which crop up in Harry and I's surgeries - particularly requests for transfer and delays in repairs.
- (d) Local Council Election - The GLC have done a computerised statistical analysis of the election results in London. Labour in Peckham was 32.9% ahead of our nearest rival - the Tories - which makes us fifth in the league table of Labour constituencies in London. For Southwark as a whole, Labour polled 43.6% of the votes cast, Tories 28.6% and Lib/SDP 24.2%.

5. Falklands

- (a) Following the discussion on the Falklands at the May GMC I attended the Falklands Peace March on 16th May and spoke at the rally in Jubilee Gardens. I highlighted the importance of the press informing us about what is actually going in the South Atlantic, rather than simply re-issuing the 'authorised' version from the Government and jingoistic condemnation of all those who dare to canvas different views as 'traitors and subversives'
- (b) There was quite a good turn-out under the Peckham Labour Party banner at the demonstration called by the Ad-hoc Committee for peace in the Falklands on 23rd May. The march was able to go down Whitehall despite fierce arguments with the police during the week who had wanted to prevent the march going down Whitehall and to re-route it down Northumberland Avenue.
- (c) As a member of the Campaign for Press Freedom I asked them to take up the question of the press reporting of the Falklands issue and they made a statement condemning the intimidation of journalists and broadcasters who attempt to cover views which dissent from the official Government line.

HARRIET HARMAN

30th May 1982

Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

REPORT OF HARRIET HARMAN
PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE
TO PECKHAM GMC AND BRANCHES

JULY 1982

Lansbury House,
41 Camberwell Grove,
London SE5.
403.3888 office
960.5121 home

This report covers the period from June 3rd to July 1st 1982.

1. National Labour Women's Conference

Together with Mabel Goldwin and Di Robinson from the Peckham Women's Sections, I attended the National Labour Women's Conference in Newcastle. There were about 600 delegates and visitors, double the number who attended last year. My impression was that the number of women in the trade union delegations remained the same, the increase in numbers being in the delegates from Women's Sections which shows a growing interest and activity in Women's Sections. The conference passed, by a narrow majority, resolutions calling for positive action to ensure equality for women within the Labour Party. These included, a woman on every shortlist for parliamentary candidature; the women's conference to put down five resolutions for annual conference and the NEC Women's Section to be elected by the Women's Conference. These measures, which I strongly support, do not now automatically get included in the party constitution because the Women's Conference only has advisory status. But the growing support for these measures ensures that they will be appearing on the agenda for next annual conference. Most of the rest of the conference was devoted to non-controversial debates. Mabel, Di and I felt that there was little opportunity at the conference to discuss practical activity and campaigning that women from Women's Sections and the trade union movement could be carrying out together at a local level and we have therefore written a joint article for Labour Weekly floating the idea that one session of the conference could be devoted to workshops. Incidentally, does the Peckham Party have anyone responsible for selling Labour Weekly at Party meetings?

2. Middle East

Like many party members, I was horrified at the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the continuing occupation, with the killing of tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees, as well as many leading members of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. Mabel, Di and I attended a fringe meeting at the National Labour Women's Conference organised by the Trade Union Friends of Palestine and I am thinking of joining either them, or the Labour Middle East Council.

3. Transport

Because of the Government's policies, Britain's transport system is approaching collapse. They are selling off the profitable parts of public transport, refusing to legislate to allow subsidy to London Transport, failing to invest in British Rail; all of which adds up to deteriorating services and rising fares. The Transport Unions, to build support for their fight back against the Government, are calling a march and rally on July 10th 'Save London Transport' assembling 11.30 am Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, marching to Trafalgar Square for a rally at 2.00 pm.

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I will be attending and I hope as many Party members as possible will be able to go.

4. Health Service Workers Dispute

The Government's shameful offer of 4% to the health workers (6% for the nurses) and their failure to increase it except by a paltry 1%, has galvanised wide sections of the trade union movement to see the health service battle as the struggle around which to fight the Government's economic policies. The health service workers must be very encouraged by the support they have received from the Peckham Party, including discussions and collections in Wards and Women's Sections, articles in Ward newsletters about the dispute and a good turn out from the Party on the march from Dulwich Hospital past Kings and the Maudsley up to the Elephant on 23rd June.

5. Surgeries

I've now been attending Harry Lambourn MP's fortnightly surgeries for six months. It will be no surprise to report that the overwhelming majority of cases, (approximately 90%) concern housing. The main problems include; long delay in carrying out repairs; failure of Housing Department to reply to or acknowledge letters or telephone calls; constant burglaries; people unable to get transfers and noisy neighbours. I hope to meet with Tony Ritchie, the Housing Committee Chair to report more fully on these problems and hear in more detail the Council's plans to try and cope with the situation.

6. Branches

I'm continuing my visits to Party branches. I was pleased to visit Faraday last month and will be going to Friary shortly. It is very encouraging to see the number of wards who are now producing their own newsletter. Entering the field are the Brunswick Bulletin and newsletters from Burgess and Faraday. I'd be very happy to help out with any ward's membership canvass.
So please let me know if you are planning one.

HARRIET HARMAN
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate

29 June 1982.

Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

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Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

REPORT OF HARRIET HARMAN
PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE
TO Region One TGWU

Lansbury House,
41 Camberwell Grove,
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403.3888 office
960.5121 home

July 1982

1. Local Council Election Campaign - May 1982. In Peckham, the Labour vote was 32.9% ahead of our nearest rival - the Tories - which makes us 5th in the league table of Labour constituencies in London. Peckham returned 100% Labour councillors, and the election campaign was well organised in all wards. I made the campaign to win a large majority for Labour in the elections a priority in my work in the months leading up to the election. (1) As a result of a meeting called by the South London co-ordinating committee of the TGWU to help with the election in Southwark, Aubrey Edwards (TGWU officer) set up a pre-election meeting for TGWU members in Kings College Hospital. About 200 members attended the morning meeting and about 70 members attended the afternoon meeting.. The meeting was addressed by a number of council candidates as well as myself and Kate Hoey (prospective Parliamentary candidate for Dulwich). (2) Election posters and leaflets were distributed in the bus garages. (3) Canvassing and leafletting in each of the eight wards provided me with a welcome opportunity to get to know party members better as well as meeting many of the electorate on the doorstep. The help that the TGWU was able to provide in the local elections in Peckham will, I hope, be a very good basis to build on for the forthcoming general election!

2. Health Service dispute. The Peckham Labour Party has made campaigning in support of the health workers a major priority over the last four weeks. Speakers from health service unions have been invited to the General Management Committee, local wards meetings and both the women's section meetings. At each of these meetings collections were taken. Together with Labour Party members I have attended pickets on each of the days of action and a march from Dulwich Hospital past Kings to the Elephant and Castle on 23 June. The Peckham party, jointly with the Royal Arsenal cooperative Society and the SERTUC health services committee, is organising a rally in support of the health service workers on 21 July 1982. Aubrey Edwards, TGWU, will be speaking at the meeting and I will be chairing it. The Peckham Labour News carried an article I wrote urging Party members to support the health workers, and there was a similar article in one of the ward newsletters.

3. Transport. The national demonstration on public transport on July 10 was widely advertised in the Peckham party. There was a contingent from the Southwark Transport Campaign on the march.

4. I attended the national Labour Women's Conference held in Newcastle in June. The conference was twice as big as last year and some useful resolutions were passed urging positive action to ensure equality of opportunity for women within the Labour Party in order to ensure that the Labour Party is in a position to build support among women in the electorate. But there was a strong sense of division between the women delegates from the Labour Party women's section and women delegates from trade unions. I feel this could be remedied in two ways. (1) By each of the trade union delegations holding a social, or meeting, for all the women's section delegates who belong to that union. For example, though there were only six TGWU delegates from around the regions there must have been

at least 50 TGWU members among the delegates from the women's section, yet there was virtually no contact between these TGWU members and our union's delegation. (2) There are too many set speeches on non controversial policy and at the end of the conference delegates are in no better position to go back to their localities to work jointly with the trade union movement at local level on issues of joint concern. There should be more discussion of practical campaigning, possibly in workshops. I had a useful meeting with Margaret Beckett who is the TGWU sponsored Parliamentary candidate for Derby South. She gave me a lot of helpful advice about how she works with her region and her district committee and has sent me a lot of material. Together with the other delegates from Peckham I wrote an article in Labour Weekly urging more practical discussion.

5. (1) Terry Allen (TGWU officer) is arranging a meeting between myself, Kate Hoey (Dulwich PPC) and Peter Tatchell (Bermondsey PPC) to meet the officers in the Camberwell office to discuss further work. (2) I went to speak on women in the Labour Party to an open meeting of John Newe's (TGWU officer) Labour Party branch on women in the Labour Party. I have visited Peckham and Camberwell bus garages on a number of occasions to distribute leaflets and have got to know Bill Murrell and Ollie Jackson (TGWU bus reps). Once again the South London Coordinating Committee of the TGWU, provided a free coach for a meeting of the Southwark Pensioners Action Group. The meeting, which was addressed by Jack Jones and myself among others was attended by over 200 pensioners.

6. Work with the Party in Peckham. Since the May elections I have continued to attend the meetings of the GMC and have also attended a meeting of each of the eight wards. I am working closely with the Party on its activities and campaigns in the area.

7. Community Groups. Peckham is an area with many strong grassroots community organisations and I have been fortunate to be able to work with the following : Southwark CND, Southwark Pensioners Action Group, Southwark Group of Tenants' Associations, Southwark Parents Action, the Community Relations Council, the Southwark Council for Voluntary Service, the Southwark Childcare Campaign, the local community drug project, and the Southwark Black People's Association (to name but a few!)

8. Conference. I will be attending the annual conference in September in Blackpool.

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Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

REPORT OF HARRIET HARMAN
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Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

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PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE
TO PECKHAM GMC AND BRANCHES
SEPTEMBER 1982

Lansbury House,
41 Camberwell Grove,
London SE5.
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960.5121 home

This report covers the period 1 July to 3 August 1982. I will be on holiday for 3 weeks in August.

1. Health workers: Jointly with the Royal Arsenal Co-op and the South East Regional Council Health Services Committee, Peckham Labour Party organised a public meeting in support of the health workers' pay claim on 20 July 1982. Sadly the meeting was very small but it had its positive aspects! Jane Kelly's hard work contacting the unions locally and demonstrating how keen the Peckham party is to help the health workers will, I'm sure, have created lasting good will towards the party locally. It was agreed from the meeting to write to the TUC health services committee urging them to consider involving local Labour parties and coops, when any future days of action are planned. It was also agreed to write directly to all the hospitals in the area expressing the support of the Peckham Party and the RACS. Hopefully, there will be more coordination among full-time officers in the health service unions locally and we can be involved in their plans from an early stage. I chaired the meeting, Ann McNaught spoke on behalf of the Party. The South East Regional Council of the TUC paid £50 towards the cost of the meeting.
2. Tenants Organisations: Though I have made good links with trade unionists and local community groups, I have yet to meet many tenants activists. As housing is one of the major concerns of the Borough, and as it is feeling the brunt of the Government cuts, it's obviously important for me to be fully involved with tenants' activities. Through the Southwark Group of Tenants Associations, I issued a statement stressing support for tenants associations and opposing Government cuts in housing. The statement was circulated to Tenants Associations in Southwark and was picked up by the South London Press. I am now embarking on a programme of visits to TAs through Party members providing contacts. In Liddle, I'm hoping to go to the Summer TA; and in Friary Ward to the Ledbury TA and Goldsmiths TA; in Newington to the Brandon and Lorrimore and Carter TAs. If any other Party member can arrange for me to come to a committee meeting of their TA, that would be very helpful.
3. I had an extremely useful meeting with Tony Ritchie, Southwark's chair of housing, and discussed some of the housing questions which come into Harry Lamborn and my surgeries. Tony also introduced me to the Housing Computer!
4. Trade Unions :
 - a) The General & Municipal Workers Union, many of whose members work in local schools, have written to me and Kate Hoey (Dulwich PPC) to suggest a programme of visits and to meet GMWU members locally to encourage them to vote Labour and join the Labour Party. I've liaised about this with Mrs Wentworth (a GMWU delegate on Peckham GMC) and Mick Bryant (TU Liaison officer for Peckham) and hope to take up the GMWU's offer in September. Perhaps if this initiative is fruitful, Mick and I can try and arrange for other unions to do the same.
 - b) Terry Allen, TGWU bus group officer is arranging a meeting for me, Kate Hoey and Peter Tatchell to meet the full-time TGWU officers in the Camberwell office.
5. Ireland : In February this year there was a 'Labour Movement conference on Ireland' addressed by a number of speakers including Clive Soley MP. There is to be a recall of this conference on December 11 in Conway Hall called 'Peace Through Democracy'. Together with Kate Hoey and Richard Balfe, MEP, I have agreed to sponsor it.
6. Black People : Following a request I made to the Labour Party Race Action Group, of which I am a member, LAPRAG have asked all their members and affiliated organisations to give them information and news about black party members meeting together. I have passed a copy of their letter on to Southwark Black People's Association, who though not exclusively Labour members might have some useful comments to make. Has the party ever discussed whether black sections would be useful in making the party more responsive to the interests of black people and involving more black people in the party?

7. Pensioners: September 29 1982 is national pensioners day. I've written to the 'Southwark Pensioners' Action Group to offer to help in preparations for any activities they are planning for the day and I have asked them to keep the party closely informed of their plans. I'm going to a meeting of Southwark Age Concern on 7 September.
8. Women:
- a) I've arranged a meeting with Val Wise, Chair of the GLC's Women's Committee, on 8 September to discuss and lobby for those organisations in Peckham who've applied to her committee for grants.
 - b) I attended the July meeting of the Southwark Childcare Campaign and continue to be involved in their work.
 - c) Jim McLoughlin (Liddle Ward) kindly arranged for me to go to the open day / fete of the Whitstable Day Nursery where his mother works.
- 9(a) I was very glad to be invited to the Young Socialists for a discussion on Labour's Plan for Jobs (the Alternative Economic Strategy).
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Harriet Harman
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate

3 August 1982

Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

REPORT OF HARRIET HARMAN
PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE
TO PECKHAM GMC AND BRANCH MEMBER 1982

Lansbury House,
41 Camberwell Grove,
London SE5.
403.3888 office
960.5121 home

This report covers the period 1 July to 3 August 1982. I will be on holiday for 3 weeks in August.

1. Health workers: Jointly with the Royal Arsenal Co-op and the South East Regional Council Health Services Committee, Peckham Labour Party organised a public meeting in support of the health workers' pay claim on 20 July 1982. Sadly the meeting was very small but it had its positive aspects! Jane Kelly's hard work contacting the unions locally and demonstrating how keen the Peckham party is to help the health workers will, I'm sure, have created lasting good will towards the party locally. It was agreed from the meeting to write to the TUC health services committee urging them to consider involving local Labour parties and coops, when any future days of action are planned. It was also agreed to write directly to all the hospitals in the area expressing the support of the Peckham Party and the RACS. Hopefully, there will be more coordination among full-time officers in the health service unions locally and we can be involved in their plans from an early stage. I chaired the meeting, Ann McNaught spoke on behalf of the Party. The South East Regional Council of the TUC paid £50 towards the cost of the meeting.
2. Tenants Organisations: Though I have made good links with trade unionists and local community groups, I have yet to meet many tenants activists. As housing is one of the major concerns of the Borough, and as it is feeling the brunt of the Government cuts, it's obviously important for me to be fully involved with tenants' activities. Through the Southwark Group of Tenants Associations, I issued a statement stressing support for tenants associations and opposing Government cuts in housing. The statement was circulated to Tenants Associations in Southwark and was picked up by the South London Press. I am now embarking on a programme of visits to TAs through Party members providing contacts. In Liddle, I'm hoping to go to the Sumner TA; and in Friary Ward to the Ledbury TA and Goldsmiths TA; in Newington to the Brandon and Lorrimore and Carter TAs. If any other Party member can arrange for me to come to a committee meeting of their TA, that would be very helpful.
3. I had an extremely useful meeting with Tony Ritchie, Southwark's chair of housing, and discussed some of the housing questions which come into Harry Lamborn and my surgeries. Tony also introduced me to the Housing Computer!
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a) The General & Municipal Workers Union, many of whose members work in local schools, have written to me and Kate Hoey (Dulwich PPC) to suggest a programme of visits and to meet GMWU members locally to encourage them to Vote Labour and join the Labour Party. I've liaised about this with Mrs Wentworth (a GMWU delegate on Peckham GMC) and Mick Bryant (TU Liaison officer for Peckham) and hope to take up the GMWU's offer in September. Perhaps if this initiative is fruitful, Mick and I can try and arrange for other unions to do the same.
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6. Black People : Following a request I made to the Labour Party Race Action Group, of which I am a member, LAPRAG have asked all their members and affiliated organisations to, give them information and news about black party members meeting together. I have passed a copy of their letter on to Southwark Black People's Association, who though not exclusively Labour members might have some useful comments to make. Has the party ever discussed whether black sections would be useful in making the party more responsive to the interests of black people and involving more black people in the party?

7. Pensioners: September 29 1982 is national pensioners day. I've written to the Southwark Pensioners' Action Group to offer to help in preparations for any activities they are planning for the day and I have asked them to keep the party closely informed of their plans. I'm going to a meeting of Southwark Age Concern on 7 September.
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Southwark-Peckham Labour Party

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Harriet Harman
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate

3 August 1982

PECKHAM Parliamentary By-Election

Candidate
**Harriet
Harman**

LABOUR

Campaign
Headquarters

T. GOSS
41 CAMBERWELL GROVE
LONDON SE5

Tel: 703 4808

HARRIET HARMAN MP

Candidate's Report on follow-up to by-election campaign

We managed to stick firmly to the objectives of our campaign as agreed at the September GMC and at the first meetings of the Campaign Committee. Those objectives were to highlight Peckham's problems and Labour's Socialist alternatives on

Jobs * Housing * Living standards * Peace

We also ensured that in addition to the vital work of leafletting, canvassing and knocking-up we had a campaigning approach. In particular

- * Leafletting youth clubs and unemployed Benefit Offices
- * Leafletting and visiting pensioners
- * A leaflet plus a day of activities on women in Peckham, involving women MP's, candidates, and councillors
- * Writing to and visiting black groups in the area and arranging stories in the ethnic minority press
- * Identifying with trade union struggles e.g. NHS dispute and the Post Office unions' Day of Action

Looking back over the campaign, my main impression is of its strengths and the deep support that the Party commands in Peckham. But we must not be unselfcritical! Though the campaign showed our strengths, it also revealed where more work needs to be done to lay a solid base to win support for our policies and to build for the General Election. I make the following suggestions as points for discussion in the GMC. branches and affiliated organisations.

1. Trade Unions The support from trade unionists at local and regional level was magnificent. We must ensure that local support continues by getting branches to affiliate to the Party and developing our involvement in local workplace issues. It should be possible to get the bus garages, local hospitals and POEU branches (to mention just a few) to affiliate if we approach them promptly. If I, together with the Secretary and/or T.U. liaison officer, visit them to thank them for their support, we can urge them to affiliate at the same time. There are two huge telephone exchanges in our area. Perhaps we should meet the branch officers of the Post Office unions to discuss work on the battle against privatisation with them. An early meeting of party officers, myself and those most directly involved in mobilising support for our campaign will no doubt

yield more ideas for action.

2. Unemployment Ian Hamilton and many members of Southwark Unemployed Peoples Action did a marvellous job campaigning at the U.B.O.'s. I hope to include a message of support from Labour on the leaflet on the Southwark Unemployed Centre which will go out to all U.B.O's and unemployed projects and will advertise the opening of the centre on 4th December.

3. Pensioners There is a great deal of good will towards Labour among the pensioners. I will be revisiting all the lunch clubs, bingo sessions, old folks homes, etc. which I went to during the campaign. We need to turn that support into membership. Perhaps the Membership Officer (as well as the relevant councillor) would come with me on these re-visits, possibly with a special leaflet urging pensioners to join the Party they support. Members of the Southwark Pensioners Action Group will help us with this campaign.

4. Women I think ours was the first Election campaign in which a special leaflet to women went in with the election address. I will be re-visiting the Mothers and Toddlers Clubs, schools etc. that I went to during the campaign. Perhaps with the women's sections we can produce a leaflet to recruit more women into membership and take them with us on visits to Mothers and Toddlers Clubs.

5. Ethnic Minority Groups There were two large articles about me in the Greek language newspaper which is very widely read in the Cypriot community. I don't know what they said! But I assume they were friendly. There are enough Cypriots in Peckham to make it well worth having a registration/membership drive. I am sure we could find a member in the Cypriot community who would be our Greek Liaison Officer! Anstey Rice (Consort) and Jeremy Hawthorne helped arrange a letter to, and visits to black groups and the by-election campaign got universally supportive coverage in the black press. The Asian community supported us in the by-election. But we are still very much a white party. The work developed in the election campaign needs to be discussed and developed in the branches.

6. Peace movement Due to a problem with the word processor we were not able to contact directly all the CND members in Peckham. CND is not, of course, affiliated to the party, but it's important that Labour is seen as the party of peace. Perhaps the Labour Party members who are most active in CND and the Party officers and myself can discuss our future work on this vital issue, in addition to discussion in the branches.

7. Youth The youth leaflet, planned for inclusion in the envelope with the election address never appeared! We should try and do it now. The electoral register identifies young voters in the constituency. Perhaps, with the YS we can discuss the content and the possibility of getting it out through the wards.

8. Council tenants Problems with Council housing are a major area of concern for people in Peckham. The new council has an excellent programme for attempting to deal with hold-ups on repairs and for devolving power and rights to tenants' associations. There are many Labour Party members in the Peckham tenants movement. Yet despite this the Party's involvement with tenants is not nearly as good as it should be. And our strategy for campaigning on housing is not really yet fully developed. I feel this ought to be a priority issue. Perhaps we should have a special GMC or EC discussion on the subject (if the officers feel that time permits) together with our councillors who are on the housing committee and Labour Party members who are active in their Tenants Associations. I know many branches are already discussing campaigning on housing at ward level and are using their newsletters to this effect - but we need, as well, a campaigning strategy at constituency level.

9. Membership levels Now that we have a record of all those who promised to vote Labour, plus a record of those who actually voted, we should be able to use visits by ward members to turn that support into membership.

10. Thank you for voting Labour leaflet - would be an important follow-up to the election campaign.

The by-election effort put up by the Peckham Labour Party was magnificent. I know that the whole trade union and Labour movement was encouraged and impressed by the campaign. It was a real pleasure and privilege to be the candidate and my thanks are warmly extended to everyone in the Peckham Party. In particular I'd like to thank the person with the most difficult job - the Agent - Tony Goss!

Harriet Harman
2nd November 1982



HARRIET HARMAN M.P.

REPORT - NOVEMBER, 1982

1. Following the by-election on 28th October, I "took my seat" on the 4th November, which was the earliest possible date I could do so. I was "introduced" by Jo Richardson, M.P. for Barking (and the only other London Labour woman M.P.) and Clive Soley, M.P. (who had been my parliamentary aide during the election).
2. I made my first speech the next day during the debate on that part of the Queen's speech which dealt with "inner cities." I emphasised the points we had made during the by-election about government policies being directly responsible for joblessness poor housing, increased crime and the run-down of our inner cities. And that only socialist planning for peoples' needs will end the despair and hopelessness which is now growing.
3. In my first weeks in parliament I have concentrated on building links with local organisations in the constituency and intervening in debates on matters of greatest importance to Peckham. This means I have drastically pruned my other commitments and am turning down dozens of invitations to meetings all over the country, from CLPs, Unions, students and women's groups. I will be trying to remain active on the NCCL Women's Committee, the Labour Co-ordinating Committee and within the TGWU, but I have had to resign from a number of committees and will only take up new ones if they are a matter of great priority. This will enable me to make work on constituency issues a priority in my first year in parliament.
4. Pensioners
 - (a) On my first day in the House of Commons I received a delegation of London pensioners lobbying against standing charges.
 - (b) Together with Jock Stallard, M.P., I have put down an Early Day Motion on the government's "claw back" on the pension. (An Early Day Motion is similar to a resolution and M.Ps are asked to sign it). I do not yet know how many signatures our EDM has attracted.
 - (c) I spoke at the Southwark Pensioners Action Group AGM and was able to thank them for supporting Labour.
5. Transport
 - (a) The Government have introduced a Transport Bill which is the latest in the attacks on the Labour GLC's cheap fares policy. After liaising with the TGWU and the GLC Transport Committee, I spoke in opposition to the Bill. I had hoped to gain a seat on the Standing Committee considering the Bill but was unable to do so. Reg Race, M.P. is the only London Labour M.P. on the Committee and I am liaising with him in supporting amendments on the Bill.

Transport Cont'd

- (b) I will be meeting with Terry Allen, TGWU Bus groups Officer, Ollie Jackson, TGWU Peckham Garage rep. and Penny Newall, Secretary of Liddle Ward, to discuss putting pressure on the GLC to extend the P3 route.

6. Privitisation of Public Services

The Government have introduced the Telecommunications Bill, which will hive off the profitable parts of British Telecom. The Bill threatens both jobs and services as well as spiralling prices. I have arranged to meet the Trade Union representatives in the telephone exchanges in Peckham and Walworth to discuss opposition to the Bill in Parliament and how the Bill will affect them at local level.

7. Women

- (a) I have tried to ensure that press coverage of my pregnancy highlights the inadequacies of childcare facilities - not just for members of Parliament - but for millions of working women trying to balance the commitment of young children and a job.
- (b) I have initiated a back bench women's committee of Labour M.Ps. Jo Richardson, M.P. will convene it and we expect to meet soon. The aim is to co-ordinate the activity of those in parliament concerned with women's issues and to provide a forum where women's organisations can come to call for support from sympathetic Labour women M.Ps. I hope the committee will support the work of our spokesperson on women - Joan Lestor, M.P.

8. Social Security

Staff working in DHSS offices are finding it increasingly difficult to cope with the massive workload caused by soaring unemployment. The Civil Service Unions (SCPS and CPSA) have called a day of action on December 3rd and I will be attending the picket line of the Peckham DHSS offices and meeting with the members there to discuss further support.

9. The Council

- (a) I have had extremely useful discussions with Alan Davies, the leader of Southwark Council and the Chief Executive as one using parliament to defend and support the Council's work.

The Council Cont'd

- (b) It is rumoured that the Government plans to take over a prime site owned by Southwark and the GLC and force the Council to allow the Lysander company to develop it for shops and offices. The Council want to keep the site for much needed housing. I have enlisted the support of Gerald Kaufman, Labour's Shadow Housing Minister, and together we will be meeting the GLC and working with Southwark to oppose the Government's plans.

10. Surgeries

- (a) As discussed at the last meeting of the GMC, I am setting up an extra surgery. This surgery will be in addition to the two evening surgeries, but will be held during the afternoon to enable those who cannot get out in the evening to attend - particularly pensioners and people with small children. It will be on the 2nd Friday of every month, 2-3.30 p.m. at Camden Tenants Hall.
- (b) Roy Kennedy (Newington Ward) and Peter Troy (Consort Ward) have very kindly agreed to help with my surgeries. The surgeries are so packed they last nearly 5 hours! I feel it is very important for party members to be involved in the surgeries so that there can be as much feed-back of the issues raised there as possible. Would anyone like to help with the Camden afternoon surgeries? Please let me know if you can.

11. Visits to the House of Commons

Clare Mundy, Francis Boyle and I are discussing plans for a Peckham Labour Party outing to the House of Commons.

Each M.P. gets 2 tickets on a regular basis. My next set are for December 13th. Please let me know if you'd like to come. I very much welcome seeing Peckham Labour Party members up here!

12. I do not yet have a 'phone number at the House of Commons. If you want to contact me please 'phone my secretary. She is Leonie Foulkes and her 'phone number (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) is 219 4218.
13. I am now a Southwark resident!

HARRIET HARMAN

1st December, 1982

Harriet Harman M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

PECKHAM BY-ELECTION

REPORT TO T.G.W.U.

1. Harry Lambourn, Peckham's M.P., died suddenly in August, 1982 and the by-election was fixed for October 28th 1982. The Conservatives put forward John Redwood, who had previously stood for the Conservative Party in the GLC Election. The SDP candidate was former Labour Minister Dick Taverne.

2. The Peckham Labour Party and myself decided at the outset of the campaign to highlight Peckham's problems, and Labour's Socialist Alternatives on -

Jobs * Housing * Living standards * Peace

It was also agreed that in addition to the vital work of leafletting, canvassing and knocking-up, we would have a campaigning approach.

3. The support from the T.G.W.U. in the by-election campaign was magnificent and was very greatly appreciated both by myself and by the Peckham Labour Party.

(i) TGWU Camberwell Office - This office became our Press headquarters where our Press Officer was based and where we held our daily Press Conferences. It was ideal for us to have a Press headquarters separate from our Party's Organisation headquarters. The daily Press Conferences throughout the campaign were very well attended and this meant that hordes of journalists started tramping into the TGWU office from first thing in the morning until late at night. I am very grateful to the TGWU Officers based at Camberwell who so willingly put up with the disruption to their work, and also to the office staff who were so helpful. Particular thanks must go to Terry Allen who as well as co-ordinating the office facilities, was of considerable assistance to the Press campaign.

(ii) 20 per cent of the electorate in Peckham are over 65 and we, therefore, had a special pensioners campaign. This consisted of a leaflet specially directed at pensioners (copy is attached); a team of pensioners going round the constituency in the TGWU mini-bus canvassing other pensioners and visiting OAPs lunch clubs, pop-ins and bingo sessions.

Peckham By-Election
Report to TGWU Cont'd

The TGWU Retired Members' Association gave marvellous support to this initiative, as did Jack Jones, who is President of the Southwark Pensioners Action Group, and who spoke at our eve of poll rally. Particular thanks must go to John Newe, the full-time Officer who was mainly responsible for co-ordinating the pensioners' campaign, together with Margaret Davies of the Brighton Co-Op.

- (iii) Peckham contains three large bus garages, Peckham, Walworth and Camberwell. Ollie Jackson, TGWU Bus Rep. from Peckham Garage, took us round these garages and also to New Cross bus garage, to help mobilise support.
- (iv) In and around the Peckham area there are a number of large hospitals, including St. Thomas's, Guys, Dulwich, King's College Hospital, The Maudsley, St. Giles and New Cross hospital. Aubrey Edwards, (TGWU Health Service Officer) greatly assisted in the by-election campaign by ensuring that our leaflets went to all TGWU members working in those hospitals and also assisted in arranging for me to address mass meetings.
- (v) We received tremendous help with the vital work of canvassing, leafletting and knocking-up both from lay members of the TGWU and also from full-time Officers. In particular, on the day of the election a very large number of officers came and assisted with the work, including taking people to the polling station by car and using loudspeakers.
- (vi) Jack Dromey (TGWU Officer) was responsible for co-ordinating the efforts of the Trade Union Movement in London to help with the by-election campaign and did a magnificent job of mobilising help including, in particular, the campaign of leafletting with a special leaflet on Unemployment outside the Unemployed Benefit Offices. Jack helped prepare and was responsible for the printing and distribution of leaflets on Unemployment, the Health Service, and the pensioners (see attached). The work that Jack Dromey and the other Officers put into the Peckham by-election campaign has gone a long way to cement good relations between the industrial and political wings of the Party at local level and has replaced a relationship which was sometimes rather distant, with a firm intention of working closely together in the future.

Peckham By-Election
Report to TGWU Cont'd

4. Trade Unions for a Labour Victory (London)

TULV was most helpful in providing the enormous resources of equipment (microphones, photo-copiers, typewriters, etc.) required at short notice in a by-election campaign. It was also through TULV (London) that Trade Union help was put into the wards, arrangements were made to use Trade Union in-house printing facilities and a great deal of fund-raising was done. I believe this is the first by-election campaign TULV (London) has been involved in and it certainly proved the vital role that TULV can play.

5. The Peckham Labour Party has some 350 members, many of whom actively helped in the election campaign and we had a local agent. We were also greatly assisted by full-time Officers from London Region and received a great deal of help from London Labour M.Ps, M.Ps from outside London and from Labour Parties throughout the country.

6. The result of the by-election was as follows :-

Harriet Harman (Labour)	11,349
Dick Taverne (SDP/Lib.)	7,418
John Redwood (Conservative)	2,800
Martin Webster (National Front)	874
William Boakes (Public Safety)	102

Labour Majority: 3,931

Poll 38%

7. At the previous General Election Harry Lambourn for Labour had a majority of nearly 11,000 over the Conservatives, who came second. In the by-election the Conservative vote collapsed and John Redwood lost his deposit. Most of the Conservative vote went to the SDP. Part of the reduction in our majority was due to the SDP taking 10% of the Labour vote. Partly the reduction in the majority for Labour was due to the low turn-out. Peckham characteristically has much lower turn-outs for elections than the rest of the country. At the by-election in 1972, in which Harry Lambourn first got into Parliament, the turn-out was only 29%! We were very pleased that despite the low turn-out, Labour took over 50% of the votes cast but we cannot be complacent about the result and the Party has, therefore, embarked on a comprehensive programme of campaigning leading up to the General Election, which we hope will involve cementing our relations with the Trade Union Movement, as well as building our relations with the Tenants' Movement, the pensioners and the unemployed in the area.

Peckham By-Election
Report to TGWU Cont'd

8. Finally, can I reiterate my very sincere thanks for the magnificent involvement of the TGWU in this by-election campaign. The contributions of the TGWU will be warmly remembered not only by myself but by all in the Peckham Labour Party, who I am sure would wish me to add their thanks.

Harriet Harman

17.11.82



HARRIET HARMAN, M.P.

REPORT - DECEMBER, 1982

1. I hope everyone had a good break over Christmas and the New Year. No party deserves it more, having fought 2 elections in one year - as well as all the day to day work. I'd like to warmly thank the party for all your support over the past 12 months.

This year will probably see a General Election. Our major task will be to win the mass of people to our policies and to work closely with the community on issues which affect them. The only way we will win the next election is to convince people that Labour provides a credible alternative to the Tories. The next election will be vital, the consequences of defeat would be dire and the election is likely to determine the shape of politics in this country for a decade to come. Another 5 years of Thatcherism would spell disaster for working people and set further back the cause of world peace.

2. Unemployment

New figures produced by Southwark Council show that, for the first time, unemployment in Southwark has gone over 20,000. The rate of registered unemployment among men has also for the first time, gone over 20%. The rate of female unemployment has also risen sharply.

In response to a Parliamentary question I put down to the Minister for Employment, the Government have revealed that between April 1979 and October 1982 the number of long term unemployed (over 52 weeks without a job) rose by 211%.

in Peckham

I attended the opening of the new Southwark Unemployed Centre in December and will be working with the Centre in the future.

3. Women

- (a) I have become active in the Women's Signing On Campaign. The Campaign is a really excellent initiative, started by unemployed women in Greenwich. They have discovered that literally hundreds of millions of pounds of Unemployment Benefit remains unclaimed by women. The Campaign aims to urge women to claim and highlight the enormous hidden problem of unregistered female unemployment. On behalf of the Campaign I hosted a press conference in the House of Commons; have tabled 13 Parliamentary questions; spoke for them on "You and Yours" on Radio 4 and to the New Standard. Jointly with the GLC 100,000 leaflets will be produced for distribution in London. I hope to liaise with the Women's Sections about future work on this vital issue.

- (b) I spoke in the debate called for by the Labour Party, in the House of Commons, on the effect of the recession on women - concentrating on measures that must be taken to ensure a more equal share of work in the home, such as shorter hours of work and more childcare facilities.

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4. Transport

The TGWU bus workers tipped us off that London Transport plans to change from the flat fare of 30p to a graduated fare from 20p - 40p on the P3, P4 and P5 routes on January 29th, 1983. For many this would mean a 33% increase in fares.

Jointly with the TGWU Camberwell Office, I organised a quick delegation to protest to Dave Wetzel, Chair of the GLC Transport Committee, and to urge him to set up the new route from Peckham to the Elephant. The Delegation consisted of bus workers, representatives from the Labour Party wards most directly affected (Ann Hayley - Friary and Penny Newall - Liddle), Gloucester Grove Tenants Association, Kate Hoey, Labour candidate for Dulwich, Tony Goss (Vice-chair Southwark Transportation Sub-Committee) and Southwark Transport Campaign. We have yet to hear whether the GLC will be able to stop LT putting the fares up but follow-up campaigning on this will be very important. I'll be raising this at Southwark Transport Campaign's meeting on 10th January.

5. Ireland

- (a) I introduced a mini-debate on the use of plastic bullets in Northern Ireland by means of a question for oral answer to the Minister for Northern Ireland and I have sponsored the forthcoming Connolly Association conference on working for a united Ireland and the conference in Manchester on plastic bullets.
- (b) As a general rule, to make the Parliamentary Labour Party effective, I think it is very important to vote according to the Labour Whip. But I am totally opposed to the Emergency Provisions Act, which denies the right of jury trial for terrorist offences in Northern Ireland and which has never properly been debated by Parliament, as it was supposed to be a temporary, short-term measure. So I voted against the whip in opposing the renewal of the Act on the ground that it fuels terrorism by further undermining confidence in the courts and makes a political solution more difficult to achieve. I also intend to vote against the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which comes up for renewal in January - on broadly similar grounds (unless I am in labour!)

6. Immigration

- (a) The Home Office's hard-hearted attitude to deportations together with racist and sexist nationality provisions, have produced some tragic situations for families in Peckham. I have been doing my best, together with the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, to try and stop deportations and the break up of families.
- (b) I spoke in the debate on the proposed new Immigration Rules

Immigration Cont'd

on the plight of children who, although previously entitled to citizenship, will be made stateless by the new rules.

7. Building Unions

At the request of the building unions in London and the South East, the South East Region of the TUC convened a meeting of London Labour M.Ps and the building unions to discuss a major new initiative in the new year. The building unions will be aiming to fight back against the increase of "labour only" sub-contracts and attacks on unionisation in the industry by a campaign to be launched on sites in the City. I have arranged for the Tribune Group (which I have joined) to support this initiative with press statements, advertisements, speaking at site meetings and picketing and I hope that the London Labour Group of M.Ps will do likewise.

8. The Southwark Site - Lysander

Environment Minister, Michael Heseltine, has announced he will be taking this site in Bermondsey from the Council and giving it to the London Docklands Development Corporation, in order to allow building for offices, hotels, shops and housing. Southwark Council want to keep the site for housing.

After a meeting at the GLC, I issued a press statement, together with Gerald Kaufman (Shadow Housing Minister for Labour) and George Nicolson (GLC Councillor, Bermondsey), saying that Labour will strenuously oppose the "vesting order" Heseltine intends to put through Parliament.

9. Black People

I had an extremely useful meeting with the Southwark Black People's Association and will be putting down some Parliamentary questions for them about the involvement of black people in tenants' consultative procedures at national level.

10. I have agreed to do a regular column both in Labour Weekly and Walworth Inprint. Any ideas for or comments on the columns will be very welcome.

11. I attended a large number of Xmas Socials, including the Trades Council, the Women's Sections and the excellent Peckham Labour Party dance in Warwick Hall. I also popped in to the People's Care Association dinner at Dulwich Baths and the Friends of Walworth Association dinner at the Aylesbury Day Centre. The work that Party members do for these events in ensuring a good day for pensioners who otherwise would spend the day alone is really magnificent. The efforts particularly of Ron & Sylvia Slater and George and Lil Smith and Jim Greening are outstanding.

12. With my baby due in February I am noticeably slowing down. I shall be making arrangements to ensure cover for all urgent work around the time of the birth. There is no maternity leave for M.Ps - but I hope to sort out a reasonable period of absence with the Peckham Labour Party Officers and with the Labour Party Whips in the House of Commons. My Secretary, Leonie Foulkes, will continue to be available on 219 4218.

HARRIET HARMAN

5th January, 1983