

R E P O R T

JANUARY 1985

House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA
Tel: 01- 219 3000
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1. MINERS' DISPUTE

At the time of writing the prospects for the miners look very bleak - with the Government and the National Coal Board refusing to negotiate, except on terms which they know the NUM cannot possibly accept. Dulwich Constituency Labour Party are having a meeting in support of the miners on February 30th - at which I will be speaking.

2. UNEMPLOYMENT

I have now circulated to Ward secretaries the breakdown of unemployment figures for Peckham. They show a terrifyingly steep increase - particularly in the number of "long term unemployed".

3. SURGERIES

I continue to be inundated with housing problems at my surgeries. At the Walworth Town Hall surgery on February 1st there were thirty-seven problems brought in!

4. HEATING COSTS

During last month, when the temperature plunged down below freezing, the Government declared a period of "exceptionally severe weather" in South East London. This entitles those on Supplementary Benefits, and Supplementary pensioners, to claim from the DHSS any extra on their fuel bills due to the exceptional weather. But the Government usually fail to publicise this so that people don't turn up their heating in very cold weather because they are afraid of the bills. I called on the Minister to publicise this payment in local DHSS offices and post-offices and this was reported in the papers and on radio.

5. CRIME

A very common complaint at surgeries is people wanting a transfer off large estates (particularly North Peckham, Gloucester Grove and Camden) because they are afraid of crime. This has been taken up by LWT's London Programme who followed it up with their own survey which will be broadcast later this month. I and Mary Ellery were interviewed on the programme.

6. STREET MARKET

A completely untrue rumour has been circulated that I am trying to impose restrictions on - or even close down - East Lane street market. This is nonsense and I don't know where the rumour originated. But I mention it in this report so that party members can know that the rumour is false and can deny it if they hear it raised.

7. RATE-CAPPING OF INNER LONDON EDUCATION AUTHORITY

I received a delegation from Southwark Parents Association about the devastating cuts the Government are imposing on the ILEA budget, and I presented a petition on their behalf to Patrick Jenkin MP, the Environment Minister.

8. GLC ABOLITION

The Government are trying to speed through the abolition and are threatening to "guillotine" the Committee Stage of the Bill next week. By mistake "The Londoner" (the GLC free newspaper) reported me as "absent from voting" on a Tory amendment to the Abolition Bill - instead of reporting that I was on maternity leave (having had Joe less than three weeks earlier). The Londoner have promised to make amends by highlighting the particular problems a solution would cause former GLC estates in Southwark and emphasising my unswerving support and campaigning initiatives on behalf of the GLC.

9. SEX ATTACK ON WOMAN FIRE OFFICER

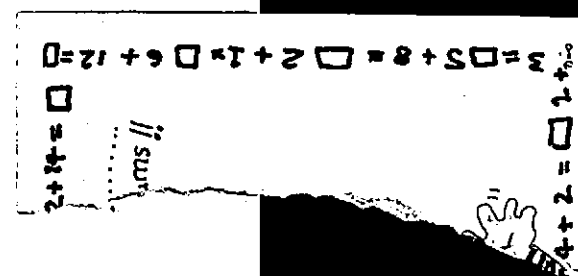
The GLC reinstated a fireman who had poured urine over a woman fire fighter and exposed himself to her. They decided that the behaviour did not amount to 'gross misconduct' justifying dismissal. I went on a delegation to see Ken Cameron, Fire Brigades Union General Secretary, to urge him and the GLC to overturn the reinstatement. The Trade Union Movement and a progressive Labour authority cannot be seen to condone sexual attacks on female employees.

10. MATERNITY LEAVE

I am now fully back from my maternity leave. Any rumours that I am pregnant again are false - it's just fat!!

6th February 1985

HARRIET HARMAN





R E P O R T

FEBRUARY - 1985

1. MINERS' STRIKE

It is a bitter disappointment that the miners' strike is over without a negotiated settlement. But the hard and long struggle of the miners has not been in vain. The fight against the pit closures will continue. The strike has revealed for all to see that the government are viciously anti-union; callous about smashing communities and destroying jobs, and prepared to spend limitless public money to defeat a just claim. The miners' struggle and their dignified and proud return to work will have won them great respect - even from people who did not support the strike at first. And Thatcher's vindictive determination to try to humiliate a proud union and its members will rebound against her. I believe that the end of this dispute will mark a turning point in Thatcher's popularity. We must build on that to continue the work for the return of a Labour Government committed to coal as the centre of a new energy policy. The strengths and weaknesses of the dispute must be analysed - and lessons must be learned. But we must all avoid a sectarian "hunt the scapegoat" exercise.

2. RATE-CAPPING

On Monday 25th February, Tory MPs from wealthy areas in Surrey, Sussex, Gloucestershire etc. voted to rate-cap Southwark and devastate our jobs and services. I spoke in the debate and have reproduced here the text of my speech. I have spoken at a number of anti-rate-cap meetings in Southwark, taken part in "Democracy Week" activities and attended the no-rate-fixing meeting of the Council on March 7th.

3. PHONE-TAPPING

I was not surprised to hear (from the 20-20 Vision Channel 4 TV programme) that I had been subjected to MI5 surveillance (during the period of a Labour government). I have asked the Prime Minister whether the allegations of snooping are true and to see my MI5 file.

4. WILLOWBROOK ESTATE

Willowbrook is full of asbestos. It is so bad that the public toilet has been closed. Yet the flats are still being lived in! Massive sums need to be spent to re-house all the tenants temporarily while the work is done. But the GLC funds (it is a former GLC estate) are at risk from rate-capping - as are the funds from Southwark Council. I visited the estate with the tenants' representatives and raised the issues on Thames at Six.

5. DODDINGTON GROVE ESTATE

I am in contact with the Tenants' Association following the tragic death of Helen Smith and her two children. The Tories and the press have attacked me for condemning the Government after her death. But I stand by my comments that it is a disgrace that in the capital city in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, a family should be living in poor housing and without enough money to keep warm.



6. IMMIGRATION

At the time of writing this report I am due to lead a delegation to see the Minister who is threatening to deport Lovelace Akwei. She is at school here and is living with her mother and two brothers - who are all legally here. The Home Office are trying to deport her on a technicality - that she did not have an "entry clearance" certificate.

7. SOUTHWARK LABOUR PARTY TRADE UNION CAMPAIGN

I am due to meet the officers to discuss

- (i) winning the trade union political fund ballots
- (ii) building TU affiliations from local branches to the Peckham CLP.

8. JAY GINN

I have taken up the case of Jay Ginn, a single parent with two children who was charged with breach of the peace on a miners' picket in Yorkshire. She was refused legal aid and sentenced to 56 days imprisonment. She has no previous convictions and is a pacifist. She is on bail awaiting appeal, and I am taking up the case with the media, the Home Secretary and the Lord Chancellor.

7th MARCH 1985

HARRIET HARMAN

spending. We cannot solve the problems by spending alone, but we cannot solve them without spending increases.

Let me give some examples. The Willowbrook estate used to be a nice place when it was built some 20 years ago. People were placed to live and bring up their families there. Now the window frames are rotting and the panes are falling out. When the workmen went to repair the window frames they discovered that the cause was virtually made of asbestos. Therefore, they could not do the work while the tenants were still there. There is nowhere to move the tenants because the Government have more or less stopped any housebuilding in the area and more houses cannot be built on the empty land in the borough.

The council has closed the public lavatory on the Willowbrook estate because it says that the asbestos makes it dangerous. What an irony that the public lavatory should be closed while people are still having to live in the estate and bring up their families surrounded by asbestos. When people move out of the flats the council is trying to leave them empty so that eventually the major work can be carried out. But with the ever-increasing waiting lists, people move in and squat in empty flats. There is a terrible circular problem.

Those Conservative Members who are grinding up their loins to romp through the Lobby to vote about what should happen in Southwark would not be prepared to live surrounded by asbestos on the Willowbrook estate. They talk about peripheral savings and economies when we are concerned about the millions of pounds that need spending to meet the council's obligations to its tenants.

The Gloucester Grove estate has a design fault in the refuse system. Flies nest and breed in the brick rubbish warm up the brick and as soon as the rubbish doors are open the flies about on like something out of a Hitchcock film. Therefore, people do not want to open the doors to put their rubbish in, and leave it beside the chute. Dogs tear open the bags and the place looks like a pit. I hope that nobody will make any cheap political points about it being a Labour council because the two estates that I have just mentioned are former GLC estates and the GLC has been successively controlled by the Labour and Conservative parties.

The Summer estate is another former GLC estate which is just getting too old. The lifts there keep breaking down. It is no joke to live on an estate where one either has to walk up five flights of stairs leaving the shopping at the bottom while taking a push chair and kid up, risking having the shopping mugged, or leave the push chair and kid at the bottom while taking the shopping up, worrying all the time that he kid will run off in the meantime. These estates are getting old and need to be brought up to date.

The GLC built these estates and Southwark council is responsible for managing them. The estates have to be kept in good order. The Government call Southwark irresponsible, but it is the other way around. Responsible authorities want to carry out their obligations to their tenants, the elderly, the under-fives and the local work force and they want to spend money to meet the needs of the community. Irresponsible authorities say, "Our services and let them stew behind their own doors. We shall carry on putting up rents and tough for them."

Last week I was in Love Walk day centre for the elderly. The increasing number of elderly people in the population will spend week after week isolated and

vulnerable in their own homes unless they can get social services transport to local authority day centres. Why do we not have enough driven to take elderly people to those day centres? Conservative Members talk about the efficient use of resources, but there is nothing efficient about leaving day centres half empty because there are not enough driven to transport the many elderly people who want to go to the day centres.

It was said earlier that providing local authority services was expensive. We should remember that we are talking about people's wages. Council manual workers are already low paid for providing a valuable public service and for doing jobs that are sometimes dangerous and often dirty. They need an increase in wages and not the proposed cuts in the cost of services.

Most council manual workers live in their local borough and have seen their rent and rates lurch up, their houses not being repaired quickly enough and services to their families coming under threat. It is an insult to people to talk about public services not being productive. How dare they say that work with under-fives in play schemes and nurseries is not productive?

Mr. Gerald Bowden: Will the hon. Lady explain why the cost of providing services in Southwark is in many cases twice that in neighbouring Wandsworth and in many cases three times as much?

Mr. Harman: Southwark council, to its eternal credit, is struggling to increase and improve its services to meet needs. It needs to do more of that and not less. I back the council and stand by it in that endeavour.

It is an insult to say that those who work in council services are not productive. It is productive to look after young children. How dare people claim that it is not productive to look after the elderly? Home helps do an important job trying to look after the elderly and to allow them to stay in their own homes. I thought that the Government favoured care in the community, but it seems, far from it.

How dare people say that repairing houses, cleaning streets and collecting rubbish is not productive work? Of course it is. The Government want to substitute cut-throat entrepreneurship for care and compassion. The Government are offering worse or non-existent services and exploitative terms and conditions of employment or no job at all.

We cannot look at rate capping in isolation, because the people of Peckham are being hit from all directions. The health service locally is threatened with £1 million of cuts which will mean fewer jobs and services at a time when health problems are increasing and will increase even more if housing deteriorates because of the proposed cuts.

The Inner London education authority is also being threatened. The proposed millions of pounds of cuts will mean job cuts and cuts in school meals services and clothing allowances. Children's education will be undermined. If rate capping is implemented and the GLC is abolished, its former estates will be badly hit.

The Government are trying to divide and rule in Labour areas. They would like to see a low-paid work force get angry with the local council because it feels that it cannot increase their wages as much as they ought to be increased. The Government would like to see the work force get angry with the council because workers do not feel secure in their jobs. The Government would like tenants to get

(Mr. Harman)

angry with the council because rents are being forced up and conditions are worsening. The Government would like to see tenants get angry with the work force because repairs are taking longer. However, the Government have not succeeded in their divide and rule strategy, because they have been humbled. In Peckham and in Southwark they will face a united front of tenants, unions and councillors. As the hon. Member for Peckham, I will be standing alongside those groups.

Of course rents are too high. The Government should not have reduced the rate support grant. The council wants to provide the services and reduce the rates. That will require more help for a poor council in a poor area and the Government can well afford that help. We are a wealthy nation, not a Third World country struggling with the problems of drought and underdevelopment. We are certainly wealthy enough to ensure that we have decent employment and housing in Southwark.

A lot of rubbish is talked about ratepayers being wealthy business men. That is an insult to the ratepayers in my constituency, many of whom are low paid and have to struggle to pay their rates. The hon. Member for Dulwich (Mr. Bowden) should be ashamed of complaining that about one third of householders do not pay their rates. They would like to be in his position and be able to pay their rates. They cannot do so because they do not have enough money, not only for rates, but for anything else.

It is nonsense to say that high rates cause unemployment. The reverse is true. Where commercial rates are low, property owners put up rents so that businesses and up paying the same for their premises. They merely pay the money in one rather than in rates. When money is paid in rates it is at least ploughed back into the community through local jobs and local services. That does not happen when the money is paid to property companies.

I find it sickening to have to debate what is happening in Southwark with Conservative Members from Wiltshire, Northamptonshire, Surrey and Sussex who know nothing about the situation in my constituency. They have no right to go through the Lobby and vote down services in my constituency. They are not elected to decide on services in Southwark. The House should raise its own business and let Southwark people decide about Southwark's services.

It is ironic that we are being asked to support the order, which curtails power, by a Government who were elected on a pledge to "bring power to the people."

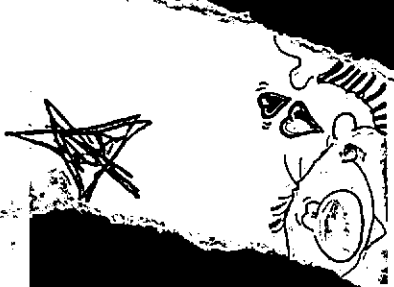
8.27 pm

Mr. Jerry Hayes (Harlow): What a remarkable little speech that was from the hon. Member from Peckham (Mr. Harman). I am sure that it will go down well with the Labour party's women's committee, but it will not cut much ice in the House or with her constituents who have been thrown out of work because of high rates.

The hon. Member asked for the evidence that people had been thrown out of work because of high rates. The Sheffield district chamber of trade has welcomed rate limitation and even gone so far—

Mr. Bill Mickle (Sheffield, Hoxley): Will the hon. Gentleman give way? He has mentioned Sheffield.

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OVES ME
Issues against my s





R E P O R T

MARCH - 1985

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1. DODDINGTON GROVE ESTATE

Following the death of Helen Smith and her two children on Doddington Grove Estate, I attended a meeting of the Tenants' Association Committee and have strongly endorsed their request for a proper inquiry into the tragedy. I think it is only in very exceptional circumstances that an inquiry is justified - but this is one such case. An inquiry is necessary to establish the facts, both for the sake of Doddington Grove tenants and also tenants on other estates. And there lies ahead of us a major task of rebuilding the confidence of the tenants on Doddington Grove Estate who feel, understandably, very bitter about what happened. The demand for an inquiry is not satisfied by the Coroner's inquest, which is very narrow in its terms of reference. I also have supported their attempts to find premises for the Tenants' Association to meet in. The tenants on the estate are very demoralised and, more than ever, need a strong tenants' association to try to help rebuild the community's confidence. I attended the funeral of Helen Smith and her children, and also the public meeting called by the Tenants' Association on April 2nd.

2. PENSIONERS

Following the meeting I had with Southwark Pensioners Action Group at the Lobby at the House of Commons, it has been agreed that, jointly with SPAG, I will make representations to Norman Fowler about income for pensioners. At the moment Fowler is conducting a series of reviews (including one on pensions) which he has announced as intended to "clarify" complicated benefits, but which are clearly a thinly-disguised cost-cutting exercise. SPAG and I have agreed that once the Fowler review is published we will contrast it with the representations we have made, and build a campaign through local pensioners' clubs against Fowler's proposals.

3. IMMIGRATION

In my last report I mentioned the case of Lovelace Akwei. The Home Office were trying to deport her to Ghana, despite the fact that her mother and two brothers are living here, and there is no one to look after her in Ghana. Following a very good campaign involving the Humming-bird Tenants' Association (where the Akwei's live) the local church (which the Akwei's attend) and Warwick Park School (where Lovelace is a pupil) and following detailed representations which I submitted, the Minister finally agreed to allow Lovelace Akwei to stay.

4. SCHOOL HOLIDAY PLAY SCHEMES

Despite often paying lip-service to the importance of play-schemes, the Government have cut urban programme funding for play-schemes by up to 100 percent in some parts of the country, and in others up to 60 percent. Southwark will be badly hit. I have received numerous letters and visits to my surgery from parents concerned about what will happen to their

children in the school holidays if their play-scheme closes. In particular, a play-scheme for mentally handicapped children, run by Cambridge House, is threatened. Together with all the organisations involved in the "Play Movement". I organised a lobby at the House of Commons to protest at the Government's cuts, have tabled an Early Day Motion, and asked a question in Prime Minister's Question Time. Most parents either work, or are looking for work, and cannot therefore drop everything to look after their children in the school holidays. And even if they could, being stuck in a flat with your parents is not the best way for a child to make the most of the school holidays.

5. D H S S

Following a recent visit to the local DHSS office, I made a very strong protest to the Minister about the squalid conditions in which people have to wait while claiming benefit. Most people do not want to claim benefits in the first place. But it adds insult to injury to have to wait in degrading and inadequate conditions. I am sure that long waiting times in a place with no toilet, few chairs and no proper facilities deters many people from claiming their benefit entitlement. I have also protested to the Minister about the visit of the Special Claims Control Officers to the Blenheim Grove DHSS office. The office already has a fraud section, and in the past the Special Claims Control has simply served to undermine relations between claimants and those working in benefit offices, and withdraw benefit from those who are entitled to it.

6. COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

There will be an election in the Shire Counties on May 2nd. This will be a very important election for Labour nationally, as it will test our new increase in the opinion polls. I have assisted in the campaign by doing a "social services tour" in Nottinghamshire and Suffolk. I have also been involved in drafting a charter for child care for children under five, which will be used as part of the County Council Election campaign.

7. POLICE

I am making comments in response to the local police consultation. I am liaising with the Southwark police monitoring unit, and the Council. I will be arguing that crime is growing in this area, but people's fears of crime are growing even faster. Crime is fostered by decaying estates and unemployment. The police must respond to people's fear of crime, and in particular concentrate on beat policing. One of the most vital aspects of the prevention and detection of crime is a good relationship between the police and the public. The police locally carry out random stop and search, which they are not entitled to do, and do not obey the rules about protection of suspects, particularly juveniles when in the police station. If anyone would like a copy of my full comments on the police consultation, could they please telephone my office on 219 5137.

8. WIFE KILLING

I have protested about the disgusting comments of Judge Thomas Pigot, who virtually congratulated Peter Hogg, an Airline pilot, who murdered his wife. The Judge seemed particularly influenced by the fact that Mr Hogg had been "provoked" by his wife's adultery. The Judge praised Mr Hogg as a "good father". I publicised my complaint about the Judge's remarks and in particular questioned how the Judge could describe as a "good father" a man who had killed his children's mother.

9. THE MEDIA

I continue to make every effort to highlight in the local papers the issues of importance to the constituency on which I am working. Recently, I have been on Thames at Six, the London Programme, TV AM (it looks like I am going to be a regular "guest" on this), Good Afternoon (BBC TV), This Week Next Week (BBC TV) and I am due to appear on Question Time on May 9th.

10th April 1985

HARRIET HARMAN

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steps putting
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R E P O R T

APRIL - 1985

House of Commons,
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1. BENEFITS

I have obtained figures from the Department of Health and Social Security which show that the number of people on supplementary benefit in Peckham has gone up by nearly one hundred per cent since 1979.

2. HOSPITAL WAITING LISTS

I have obtained figures from the DHSS which show that waiting lists in the Lewisham and North Southwark District Health Authority (GUY's) are increasing. They have gone up by over thirteen hundred in the last year, and include people due for urgent operations waiting for over a month, and those due for non-urgent operations waiting over a year.

3. HOME HELPS

I have obtained a copy of a report which shows that the government intend to abolish the Home Help service and, instead, pay those who need help at home a small cash grant. They would then have to employ a home help privately - by putting a postcard in a newsagent's window, or put themselves in the hands of a commercial agency. They intend to introduce this in Northern Ireland. And if they get away with it there they would no doubt try to introduce it in the rest of the United Kingdom. I am working with NUPE to oppose this plan on the grounds that it would -

- i. leave vulnerable old and ill people in the lurch;
- ii. mean sacking of home helps and, if they were employed in private agencies, worse pay and conditions;
- iii. leave the way open for the government not to increase the grant in line with inflation;
- iv. be yet another way by which the government could use taxpayers' money to subsidise cowboy businesses.

4. STREET TRADERS

The London Labour Group of MPs have adopted the position John Fraser MP and I have taken in opposing withdrawing the street traders' right of succession. John Fraser and I have put a block on the GLC Bill which contains the measure we are opposing. I went to East Lane Market to deliver a letter to every street trader, explaining what action I have been taking. I was accompanied by the Street Traders Association.

5. NYE BEVAN LODGE, SE5

I learnt for the first time about allegations of fraud, mismanagement and mistreatment in the Nye Bevan old folks' home when the media started ringing me up. The Times had reported a secret council document which made very serious allegations. I immediately visited the home, accompanied by the director and assistant director of social services, and the NUPE representatives, and talked to staff and residents. I am being kept closely in touch with the progress of the review on this matter which the Council are undertaking.

6 ELECTONS

(a) Despite the headlines, which implied that the Lib/SDP Alliance were the "winners" of the recent County Council elections, the most detailed analysis shows that if there had been a general election, Labour would have won an overall majority in the House of Commons.

(b) The Peckham Parliamentary constituency has still not been "allocated" between the SDP and the Liberals - although most seats have already been allocated. I assume this is because the Liberals are still trying to get it from the SDP.

7. UNBORN CHILDREN (PROTECTION) BILL

This is a Private Member's Bill proposed by Enoch Powell MP. It would make it almost impossible for infertile couples to have test-tube babies. I have consistently opposed the Bill and spoke against it in the recent debate. Unless it gets given government time, which is most unlikely, the Bill will not become law.

7th May 1985

HARRIET HARMAN



HARRIET HARMAN, M.P.
Member of Parliament for Peckham

R E P O R T

MAY 1985

House of Commons,
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1. TRANSPORT

I have met with branch representatives of the Transport and General Workers' Union at Walworth Bus Garage. London Regional Transport want to close Walworth bus garage in February 1986, sell the site and move the workers and buses to the Camberwell garage. The TGWU fear this will mean a loss of jobs and part of a contraction of public bus routes leading up to "commercial operators" taking over profitable routes. I have protested strongly to LRT about the closure and expressed my full support to the workers.

2. HEALTH SERVICE

(a) I have protested about the meagre pay rise awarded to nurses by the pay review committee. I met a delegation of nurses from the Maudsley Hospital. They told me that a nurse of "sister" grade, after five years' training, takes home £89 per week. (They have to pay accommodation on top). The pay rise will mean only an extra £6.

(b) The Camberwell District Health Authority is carrying out a consultation on its plans for the next ten years. I have put in a submission protesting that existing services need to be expanded - not cut back. Let me know if you want a copy of my submission.

(c) In an answer to a parliamentary question by Frank Dobson, Labour Shadow Health Minister, the Health Minister, Norman Fowler, said he did not rule out the idea of American style private management being used to run NHS hospitals. Frank has produced many terrible cases of how such American management behaves - including one case where they told a woman that they were going to keep her baby in hospital until she had paid the maternity ward fees! I have written to the two local health authorities, asking them to guarantee that they would strenuously oppose any attempt by government to make them do that in our districts.

3. SOCIAL SECURITY REVIEWS

Norman Fowler announced his "shake up" of social security on 3rd June. It is a clear part of cutting social security and using the money to give tax cuts to the rich. This borough will be very badly hit because of the number of people on

- * supplementary benefit
- * housing benefit
- * pensioners

I have circulated a briefing paper to tenants associations, pensioners groups, and ward secretaries. Please let me know if you want extra copies.

/continued....

4. SPECIAL SURGERIES

(a) Brunswick Ward have arranged a special surgery on the Elmington estate for me and the local Councillors, on 2nd July

(b) Newington Ward have arranged a special surgery for me and the Councillors on Doddington Grove estate, on 15th July.

(c) Liddle Ward have arranged a special surgery for me and the Councillors on the Sumner Estate, on 11th July.

5. JOBS AND INDUSTRY CAMPAIGN

I have been helping the launch of the Charter for Women and Work on June 10th, as part of Labour's Jobs and Industry campaign.

6. WILLOWBROOK ESTATE - ASBESTOS

As requested at the last G.C. meeting, I arranged for a Labour member of the House of Lords, Baroness Birk, to raise the problems of former GLC estates, and specifically mention Willowbrook, in the GLC abolition debate in the House of Lords.

7. STREET TRADERS

In my previous reports, I mentioned the threat to the street markets in the GLC (General Powers) Bill. This would have given councils the powers to "de-designate" streets which had previously been markets, without giving traders a right of appeal. It would also have taken away the traders' right to nominate their son or daughter to take over the licence on their death. Basically, these provisions have been imposed on the GLC by Westminster City Council - which is having a long war with its own traders. I worked closely with the Southwark traders to oppose these arbitrary powers and tabled an "instruction", blocking the Bill in the House of Commons. Tony Banks MP then withdrew the offending clauses on behalf of the GLC, who had never really supported those clauses anyway.

8. SOCIAL SERVICES

The Government have prepared a Green (consultation) Paper on social services. It has not yet been published but it is feared that it will involve hiving off council social services to private businesses and charities. I have drawn up a campaign plan to ambush and oppose these proposals, and I am working with the unions, voluntary organisations and the Association of Labour Councillors (A M A) to mobilise opposition. Please let me know if you want a copy of the campaign plan.

9. UNBORN CHILDREN (PROTECTION) BILL

I have taken part in opposing Enoch Powell MP's Bill, which would have ended test-tube babies and research on embryos to find the cause of hereditary disabilities. At the time of writing this report looks as if the Bill has finally been defeated.

10th JUNE 1985

HARRIET HARMAN



HARRIET HARMAN, M.P.
Member of Parliament for Peckham

R E P O R T

AUGUST 1985

House of Commons,
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1. HOME HELPS

Using statistics obtained for me by the House of Commons Library, I published the London League Table of Home Help Provision. This shows the number of Home Helps per thousand of the population over 65 years of age that each London borough provides. The DHSS national guidelines say these councils should provide a minimum of 12 Home Helps per 1,000 people over 65 years. As you can see from the table set out below, all the Labour councils are at the top and all the Tory councils are at the bottom (except for the City of London where there are very few elderly). Some of the Tory councils provide less than one-quarter of the national minimum.

<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Home Helps per thousand of population over 65 years</u>
City of London	17.70
Hackney	16.19
Lambeth	15.83
Lewisham	15.25
Haringey	15.15
Camden	13.89
Greenwich	13.42
Hammersmith and Fulham	13.19
Brent	12.50
Newham	12.02
<hr/>	
Islington	11.52
Southwark	11.30
Wandsworth	10.93
Tower Hamlets	10.38
Waltham Forest	9.49
Bexley	9.21
Westminster	8.77
Barking and Dagenham	7.80
Hillingdon	7.32
Kensington and Chelsea	6.17
Bromley	6.02
Essex	5.86
Herts	5.55
Ealing	5.22
Richmond	4.92
Croydon	4.86
Kent	4.76
Sutton	4.05
Barnet	3.96
Kingston	3.68
Surrey	3.47

I have circulated the information to all Labour groups in London and hope it will be useful for the campaign for next May's election and in the struggle against rate-capping and penalties.



2. SOCIAL SECURITY REVIEW. GOVERNMENT GREEN PAPER

a) By now I hope that everyone will have seen the 6-page briefing I prepared summarising the Government's plans to dismantle the welfare state. The briefing paper has been widely circulated in Southwark. Please let me know if you want extra copies. I have spoken at a number of pensioners' meetings about the proposals.

b) I also asked some parliamentary questions about the plans for a new, strengthened, "presence test". This would give DHSS officers the duty to investigate a claimant's "links with this country", which would mean discrimination and harassment of black claimants, with DHSS officers possibly asking for passports before granting benefit. I wrote to all the ethnic minority organisations in the borough, informing them of this threat.

c) I will be attending the Southwark lobby of the DHSS at Elephant and Castle on 16th September, protesting at the Green Paper.

3. IMMIGRATION

As usual, I am dealing with a number of constituents who are fighting deportation. Generally the Home Office take a very hard line. But I am very pleased that in the last month, following extensive representations and even meetings with the Home Office Ministers, two families I feared would be deported have been allowed to stay. One is a family originally from India, and one from Cyprus.

4. UNEMPLOYMENT

Someone leaked to me a Government plan to use up to 50,000 unemployed people in charitable organisations which provide social services, such as MENCAP, Spastics Society, Dr Barnardo's, Age Concern. I published the proposals and condemned them, both as an attempt to conceal the true level of joblessness and to undermine council social services. The jobless person would be paid no more than £50 per week and it would only be for a year. Those who need services deserve better than a shifting army of "volunteers". The unemployed need real jobs, not phoney schemes.

5. HOUSING

You may remember that some time ago I did some research on some of the thousands of housing problems which constituents bring to my surgeries. At last, I have found someone to write up the report, which I hope will be published before the May Council Elections. It will show just how drastic the housing problems are in Southwark and draw attention to the extra resources that are needed if the problems are to begin to be solved. It will use statistics from my surgeries and quotes (anonymous, from what people say in the surgeries and in letters to me.



6. HEALTH

a) I made submissions to the Camberwell District Health Authority in response to their "consultation" document. In it, I argued that the DHA must protest more strongly about the effect of the cuts - rather than just "managing" the decline of the health service in this area.

b) Hedley Atkins' Breast Cancer Unit

I am continuing to work on the campaign to keep open this unit, which is in the Lewisham and North Southwark DHSS area.

10th SEPTEMBER 1985

HARRIET HARMAN



R E P O R T

SEPTEMBER 1985

1. PARTY CONFERENCE

The Party Conference has dramatically altered Labour's prospects in the country. It has also had profound implications for alignments within the Party. None of us foresaw this, but we must all take it into account.

We emerge from Conference with markedly increased popular support. Conference re-affirmed its commitment to the miners and to the local councils who are at the sharp end of defending working people against government attacks. Neil Kinnock must follow up his justified criticism of the 31,000 redundancy notices sent to Liverpool council workers, with a visit to Liverpool and statements that demonstrate our deep concern about the devastation in our inner cities which Tory policies are causing. His criticisms of tactics in the miners' strike must be followed up by undertaking a visit to Nottingham, with the firm intention of mobilising support for an undivided NUM and against the breakaway Union.

The rest of the Party must renew its determination to concentrate upon popularising Socialism by active campaigning.

There also remains the important task of building a progressive framework around the leadership, so that we do not drop into half-hearted, watered-down, pragmatic positions.

Whether the popularity for the Party created around the Conference is sustained, depends very much on the continuing work which the Party as a whole undertakes. We must build on the position which we are now in, towards the council elections and the next General Election.

2. R I O T S

Brixton and Tottenham have seen very serious riots in the past weeks. And Peckham, too, though to a lesser extent, has suffered from rioting. It is appalling for people to be afraid to walk out on the street or to fear a bottle or a brick coming through the window of their flat. Nothing can justify such behaviour and our condemnation of it must be unequivocal and total. There is nothing "socialist" about being an apologist for violence. It is because of concern about such events that we must seriously consider their causes. Undoubtedly "inner city" despair, joblessness, and poor housing play their part in creating the conditions which can lead to outbreaks such as were seen in Peckham last week. We cannot expect to see the problem of violence and criminality solved by plastic bullets and CS gas. On the contrary, such tactics would lead to further confrontation and violence, with more innocent people getting hurt.



Attempts to solve the problem and prevent further rioting and the "skirmishes" which happen almost weekly, must focus on restoring the community through jobs, decent housing and creating a better relationship between the police and the community - particularly between the police and the black community.

3. HOME HELPS

Following my London League Table of Home Help Provision, I am publishing a National League Table of Home Help Provision. All the Labour counties are at the top and the Tories at the bottom. But most significant of all - is that those "caring", "nice" Liberals are bottom of the National League Table. The Isle of Wight, which has been Liberal controlled for many years, has fewer than one-quarter of the Government minimum of home helps. I hope this will be useful information for all areas where the Liberals are making a strong challenge in the council elections. When they are actually in power, the Liberals are even worse than the Tories!

4. SOCIAL SECURITY

My briefing paper on the Fowler Social Security Green Paper has now been circulated throughout the borough, including -

- Trade Unions
- Tenants' Associations
- Pensioners' groups
- Black groups
- Schools
- Disabled groups
- Women's groups

It looks likely that Fowler will slightly modify the proposals. But the modifications which have been leaked so far show that the heart of the proposals will remain as bad as ever and the opposition to them must be vigorously maintained.

5. HEALTH SERVICE

I am doing some work on gathering information about

- (a) the lengthening waiting lists in Southwark.
- (b) the increasing number of times that accident and emergency departments in the large hospitals in Southwark are closed because of temporary bed shortages.

I will circulate it and publish it when it is ready.

9th OCTOBER 1985

HARRIET HARMAN



HARRIET HARMAN, M.P.
Member of Parliament for Peckham

REPORT

OCTOBER, 1985

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1. May Council Elections

Between now and the election in May I plan to engage in a methodical programme of work with each of the eight wards in Peckham. So please can each ward discuss and consider how best they can use me on :-

- * issues of concern at ward level that I could raise in the local papers.
- * particular estates where our support is weaker than it should be.
- * visiting local playgroups/pensioners lunch clubs/youth centres, etc.
- * membership drives/canvassing - with a leaflet in advance notifying people I will be coming to a particular estate.
- * meeting local trade union branches.

Please contact me to discuss your ward's programme of activities.

It is, of course, absolutely imperative that we win all the Southwark Council seats that we currently hold and that we add to our Councillors by winning wards in Dulwich which are currently Tory-held, and wards in Bermondsey which are Liberal held. This is important, first and foremost to ensure the continuity of Labour policies in the borough and in the Inner London Education Authority. But it is also important for other reasons.

A fall in the overall Labour vote - even though we keep control of the Council - would be seen by the Tory Government as an encouragement to take further punitive action against Southwark and impose steeper penalties and harsher rate-capping.

Any rise in the Liberal/SDP vote would be used by them to further encourage the "snowball" effect of the Liberal win for Simon Hughes, M.P. and the Liberal bye-election successes in Bermondsey wards.

A larger Liberal/SDP group on the Council would not only give them a greater platform on Council issues, it would also give them a boost which would undermine the success we are having in bye-elections in Dulwich, which we should be building on in order to regain the Dulwich seat for Labour. It would also make much more difficult, the task of winning back the Bermondsey constituency for Labour.

The Liberal/SDP Alliance use their scarce resources where they think they see an "opening." If they gain a significant number of votes in Peckham - or even, God forbid, some Council wards - it might well encourage them to use national and regional resources in Peckham as well as Bermondsey. It looks likely that a Liberal will be selected to fight the parliamentary constituency of Peckham. Previously it has been allocated to the SDP.

I will, together with the ward branches, be playing an active part in the election campaign. But what will be of critical and overriding importance will be the Council itself concentrating on publicising work on issues of local concern and avoiding "own goals."

2. The right to vote

There's nothing worse, at election time, than finding yourself on the doorstep of a staunch Labour supporter - who is not on the electoral register and therefore cannot vote.

The figures for non-registration are as follows :-

White	- 12% not registered
Afro-Caribbean origin	- 24% not registered
Asian origin	- 27% not registered

I hope each ward will be undertaking registration drives. Let me know if you want to discuss the details of how to organise registration drives among Labour supporters.

I am alerting the ethnic minority organisations in Peckham of the low registration of their members. I will also be working with the religious organisations and those churches whose congregations are mainly black to increase the right to vote among ethnic minorities.

3. Home Helps

The national league table of home helps (which I mentioned in last month's report) was published on 17th October. It received an enormous amount of publicity in just about every local newspaper in England and was featured on the radio and T.V.

The Liberals in the Isle of Wight, who came bottom of the league table as they have the fewest home helps, have been frantic as all their local papers carried headlines denouncing them. Labour groups of councillors in Tory and hung areas have been using the table to challenge the Tories and Liberals.

The next league table I plan to do is on services for children under 5 years. Again, I expect to discover that all the Labour areas are at the top of the provision of nursery classes and day nurseries - and the Tories and Liberals will be at the bottom.

4. Child Benefit

The real value of child benefit is being cut by 5% this month. The government, for the first time, will not increase it in line with inflation. To keep in line with prices, Child Benefit needs to go up by 50p. Instead it will only go up by 15p. There will be a major campaign against the government on this. The government plan to save



£175 million per year by this cut. But child benefit forms a significant proportion of the net incomes of families where the parents are at work - but are still poor.

This will hit families in Peckham very hard. The government say that some of the savings will go into the new "family credit". But family credit is means-tested and has to be claimed through the DHSS, which means many who need it won't get it.

As well as working on this locally I will be helping in the National Save Child Benefit Campaign and in the Labour Party's campaign.

5. Starvation in the Third World

The Third World Development Movement organised a very impressive lobby of the House of Commons in October. About 40 people attended from Peckham and following a discussion with them, various initiatives were agreed - including me and the Southwark TWD Movement writing a joint letter to the South London Press.

6. Camelot School Library

I opened the new library at Camelot Primary School in Bird-in-Bush Road. I was very glad to see Labour members among the parents, governors and working on school dinners!

7. Gloucester Grove School

I attended the official opening of 50 new nursery places at the school. It was opened by Jill Gascoigne of the "Gentle Touch." She has said she is very keen to come and help with our work in Peckham during the next general election.

8. Hospital waiting lists

The waiting lists for the Lewisham & North Southwark (Guys) Health District are soaring. The worst increase is among people whose treatment has been classified as 'urgent' but who still have to wait longer than a month. In just one year this number has increased by 43% -

	<u>March 1984</u>	<u>March 1985</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Urgent	624	781	25.2 %
Urgent who have waited more than one month	385	554	43.9 %
Non-urgent	5,492	5,700	3.8 %
Non-urgent who have waited more than one year	1,127	1,359	23.8 %

The waiting list for the Camberwell (Kings) District remain high - but they are not increasing.

9. Poverty in Peckham

I have just released to the local papers figures that show that the number of people (covered by the 9 DHSS offices which serve Southwark) who claim Supplementary benefit has increased by 81% since 1979.

10. Unemployment

I appeared on TV-AM with Henry Cooper on the question of Youth unemployment. Sadly, Henry insisted that unemployment among young people was a fact of life which we will simply have to get used to. No doubt his children are not unemployed - or his attitude might not be quite so complacent.

11. Surgeries

The size of my surgeries mounts every month - and the problems are getting worse. I am very grateful to all those Party members who help at surgeries - in particular Councillors Peter Troy, Andy Troke, and Norina O'Hare, Roy Kennedy, Ed & Hilda Portlock, Mary Ellery, Debbie Welsh, Councillors Dave Fryer, Liz Bendall and Danny McCarthy, John Anderson and Dave Clerverly.

HARRIET HARMAN

5th November, 1985



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SPECIAL REPORT

LIDDLE WARD BY-ELECTION 19 DEC 1985

1. The Peckham party must regard the Liddle Ward by-election as crucial - an absolute priority.
The result will affect not only the Liddle Ward - but also the whole of the Borough of Southwark and the three parliamentary seats in Southwark.
2. The main opposition will undoubtedly come from the Alliance. 'Pinkie' Payne, who is an activist in the Southwark Pensioners Action Group and lives in Dulwich, is standing for the SDP.
3. Mary Ellery is Labour's candidate, and has the considerable advantage of being very well known in the Ward. Mary helped me set up the surgeries I hold every month on the Camden Estate and always helps at the surgeries.
4. A good result for Labour would discourage the Alliance. They would probably then regard all of Peckham as 'unwinnable' and not really worth a huge amount of work when it comes to the May Council elections. A good result for us would also help the Labour Party in Dulwich and Bermondsey. It would show that the "Bermondsey factor" is not the unstoppable force that the Alliance try to make it out to be.
5. A bad result for Labour - or an Alliance win - would encourage the Alliance to make Peckham a 'target' area in the May Council elections. The Alliance have just won a 'safe' Labour seat in a ward in Coventry and made national news out of it. They would do the same if they gained a seat in Peckham. At present Peckham has 100 percent Labour Councillors - we must keep it that way.
6. I have explained to the Chief Whip that during the by-election my parliamentary duties must be kept to a minimum - so I can make campaigning in the Ward a priority.
7. Suggested themes in the campaign.
 - * Mary Ellery as a truly local candidate - She lives on the Camden Estate. Pinkie Payne lives in Dulwich.
 - * Mary having my full support and working with me as a team when she's a Councillor.
 - * The Alliance appalling record when they are in power, eg the Liberals came bottom of the league table for home help provision in the only council in which they held power - the Isle of Wight.

- * We must emphasise that - An Alliance vote is not a wasted vote - it's a Tory vote.
- * Crime - It is clear that this is not a strong point for Labour. But we cannot ignore the issue because many people are concerned about it. And the facts support us. Crime has rocketed in the inner cities, particularly among the young unemployed, since the Tories came to power. We need more jobs and safety on the estates, including more caretakers, better lighting, entry-phones etc.
- * Housing - Yes, much needs to be done. As a Council tenant, and someone who is active in her tenants' association, Mary knows the problems only too well. And that's why she wants to go on the Council - to improve things for the tenants.
All canvassers should have a constituent's problem form when they go out. So when you come across a tenant who says they won't vote Labour because of a housing problem, fill in one of the forms I have provided and I will send them a letter the next day informing them that I have taken up their case.

8. By-election activity

I hope all party members will come and help. If you feel nervous about canvassing you can always go out canvassing with someone else. Or if you are sure you don't want to canvass - there's always plenty of leafletting to do, and someone to go with you. Whether you can help during the day-time or in the evening, whether it's just for an hour, a week, or more regularly - All help will be valued.

9. Mary's flat on the Camden Estate -

56 Chepstow Way - Telephone: 701 3557
 is the main committee room.

26th November 1985

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R E P O R T

NOVEMBER 1985

1. LIDDLE WARD BY-ELECTION, 19th DECEMBER

The by-election campaign has taken up most of my local work this month. Together with the candidate, Mary Ellery, and party members, I have been involved in

- * leafletting outside schools
- * canvassing
- * visiting pensioners groups and mother and toddler groups
- * visiting trade union branches
- * signing up and collecting postal votes

As at the time of writing (10th December) nearly all the Ward has been canvassed. The turn-out for canvassing has been good but we still need more canvassers.

And help on the day - 19th December - will be absolutely vital.

2. TONBRIDGE HOUSE, WILLOWBROOK ESTATE

Tonbridge House has been designated "exceptionally expensive to heat" by the DHSS. This means that there is extra help with fuel bills from the DHSS. I have written to every tenant in Tonbridge House explaining the designation and enclosing an excellent information leaflet by the Southwark Right to Fuel Campaign.

3 SPECIAL SURGERY

Together with the Tenants Association, Councillor Danny McCarthy and I held a special surgery on the North Peckham Estate on December 4th. One of the major problems we are following up is failure of the heating system and ensuring tenants get rebates for when the heating is not working, and low level of heating even when the heating is on.

4. GLOUCESTER GROVE

On 21st November the postal workers decided to refuse to make deliveries to the Gloucester Grove Estate. This decision was prompted by an attack on a postman on the Gloucester Grove - which followed a number of other attacks on different estates in the area.

Councillor Danny McCarthy called an urgent meeting at the Town Hall which was attended by -

The Tenants Association
The Postal Workers Union representative
The Post Office management
The local Police
Councillors McCarthy and McNaught
Housing Department officers
And others

The meeting was constructive and, following the discussion, the Post Office Union representative agreed to propose to his members that they re-start the postal services with police supervision.

The serious matter of the withdrawal of the postal service provided the media with a major opportunity to indulge in sensational "No-go Estate" reporting. I was misquoted on the front page of The Standard and the Mirror, without checking with me, reproduced the misquote on their front page.

The difficult task faced by elected representatives in such a situation is that we need to

- *reflect the deep concern that there is on the Estate, concern which the tenants' association has constantly been raising - and call for more action to improve the Estate.

- *avoid talking too graphically about the problems to such an extent that people feel you are bad mouthing the area and disheartening the many tenants who are trying to improve it and make it a decent place to live.

That is not an easy balance - but it is one I have in mind in all my comments.

5. SOCIAL SERVICES

Following my "home helps League table". I am now producing the League table of services for children under five years. This also shows the Liberals at the bottom. They have no day nursery places at all on the Liberal-controlled Isle of Wight. This is despite the fact that 57 percent of women in the Isle of Wight work. The League table also shows the Tories making very poor provision for under-fives. Most Labour Councils are at the top of the League. Unfortunately we are let down by Labour-controlled Barnsley and Rotherham, who have no nursery places at all.

6. LIVERPOOL

The National Executive Committee of the Labour Party is examining complaints by members of the Party in Liverpool. The NEC team includes four left-wingers, including Tom Sawyer, NUPE, Margaret Beckett MP and Audrey Wise. They will be reporting to the NEC in January. I do not think it would be right to pre-empt their findings, so I hope that the Peckham Labour Party will not sponsor any meeting in Southwark called by Militant in support of the Militant in Liverpool - opposing the inquiry.

7. I am going on BBC TV QUESTION TIME on January 16th.

8. Please will all Wards contact me to let me know your Campaign plans for the May election so that I can start working on them with you.

10th DECEMBER 1985

HARRIET HARMAN



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REPORT

DECEMBER 1985

1. Liddle Ward By-election.

The result in the Liddle Ward by-election on December 19th was a tremendous victory for Labour in Peckham.

The turnout was low - only 15% - but that is not unusual for Liddle Ward which consistently has low turnouts.

	<u>Votes</u>	<u>% vote</u>	<u>% in 1982</u>
Labour	1032	82%	67%
SDP/Lib.	164	14%	18%
Conservative	67	4%	15%

This means that there was a swing to Labour and away from the Alliance. The Tory vote collapsed.

There was nothing "automatic" about this success. It was the result of hard work, careful campaigning, good leaflets and a well-known local candidate - Mary Ellery. The SDP were not able to get their band-wagon rolling because our campaign started straight away and the momentum was maintained right up until the polls closed. Had the Alliance detected any complacency on our part they would no doubt have stepped up their work. As it was, one visit was enough for Simon Hughes - Bermondsey's Liberal M.P. Clearly he did not want to become identified with what was a humiliating result for the Alliance. We need to build on this result for the May Elections.

Many members of the Party worked very hard, so thank you all. And special thanks must go to Mary's family who put up with people tramping through their home morning, noon and night, seven days a week.

I met Simon Hughes at LBC Radio Station and he told me that the Alliance expect to win Council seats in St. Giles, Barset, Brunswick and Faraday Wards!

2. May Council Elections.

So far, I have been to Newington Ward and Friary Ward to discuss the May Council Election campaign. Please let me know when your Ward is discussing this campaign so that we can plan my involvement in your activities.

HARRIET HARMAN

January 8th, 1986



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ANNUAL REPORT 1985

1. I won't go through my work for the past year in detail because I produce a monthly written report, which goes to all members of the General Committee and each branch of the party. If anyone does not receive theirs please let me know.

2. Surgeries and constituency casework

I have now had over 3,000 constituency cases since I became M.P. for Peckham three years ago. Constituents come in large numbers to my surgery - at one surgery there were over 90 people - and many more write or telephone me. The steep increase in my constituency case load reflects the growing problems in Peckham - particularly -

- * the acute problems in housing
- * the increase in people forced to claim benefit and the inability of the local DHSS offices to cope with the increased workload
- * harsher Immigration policies from the Home Office Ministers.
- * growing unemployment

I could not manage the enormous case load if it were not for the tremendous help from Peckham Party members.

I hold three surgeries a month -

1st Friday of each month - Walworth Town Hall 5.30 p.m.

2nd Friday of each month - Camden Tenants' Hall 2.00 p.m.

3rd Friday of each month - Peckham Town Hall 5.30 p.m.

When the new Labour Club premises are fully operational I will discuss bringing the Peckham Town Hall surgery "back" to Lansbury House.

3. Press and publicity

I have consistently publicised in the local and national papers, TV and radio, the acute problems that this government's policies are causing in Peckham. It is important that the problems in Peckham are highlighted. But it is also important that Labour M.Ps are seen to speak up for their constituents and are seen to be active and campaigning.

4. The Liberal/SDP Alliance

It is clear, particularly in Peckham and Southwark as a whole, that it is the Alliance who are our main threat - not the Tories. Building opposition to the Tories is not enough - particularly if those we convert from the Tories proceed to vote Alliance! All our actions must be geared not only to undermining the Tories but also undermining the Alliance - and building support for Labour.

We must attack the Alliance not on personalities - but on their record. No branch newsletter, or speech, is complete without exposing the appalling record of the Alliance!

5. The Labour Party in Parliament

We have a new Chief Whip but the Parliamentary Labour Party is still woefully inadequate as a vehicle for campaigning for socialism. There appears to be no strategy for maximising the use of our small numbers

The Labour Party in Parliament cont'd

and even if there was a strategy it would be hard put to succeed because of the lack of collective action and the deep-rooted individualism in the PLP. I am not alone in thinking this..... and we are working on it!

The Tribune Group appears to be having a revival - and I am hopeful that if it continues to regenerate we will have a useful base for nurturing socialist strategies in the PLP.

6. The Year Ahead

In May there will be elections for the Council. All our actions between now and May must be checked to ensure that they -

- * build support for Labour
- * undermine the Alliance
- * do not damage Labour locally

The elections for the Council in May are an immediate and urgent priority. I am working with the wards on their campaigns - particularly the wards on the Alliance "hit list" - i.e. Brunswick, Barse, Faraday and St. Giles.

7. Socialism in practice

The operation of a constituency party locally should be an example to the people in the area of socialism in practice - it is no good preaching the principles of equality, humanitarianism, openness, democracy and socialism, unless we all practice them locally. Whether it is in the Council chamber, in the ward meetings, in the GMC or (in my case) in parliament, we must all be judged by what we do and our actions. If we don't live up to those principles in how we act in the party - we cannot expect the trust and the votes of the people in Peckham.

8. Finally, I would like to thank those in my office who work so hard - Leo Foulkes, Pat Clegg, Ieuan Jenkins and Helen Yates; and all the members in the party in Peckham with whom it has been a pleasure and a privilege to work.

HARRIET HARMAN

January, 1986