

# London HEALTH EMERGENCY

# ACTIVISTS BRIEFING

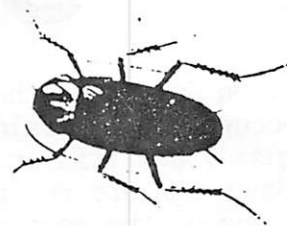
AUGUST 1984

## BARKING'S FIGHT MUST BE YOUR FIGHT

Every effort is being put into the mass picket at Barking on Tuesday 7th August, and with the support of the Miners, it is hoped that the scabs' van will be stopped. The strike, now in its 20th week, is still solid with 24-hour picketing

The poor standard of cleaning being carried out by Crothalls is causing much concern, and many patients are refusing to be admitted to Barking Hospital. Reports from King Georges and other local hospitals indicate that patients are being taken there instead. Crothalls are carrying out what the strikers call "cleaning by crisis" - as a crisis is reached in one area, most recently the kitchens, which were the subject of much publicity, all Crothalls' efforts were put into cleaning there while other areas were neglected. This is similar to Pritchards' style in another infamous area, Wandsworth, where rubbish collecting took place in those areas where people made the most complaints, leaving other areas poorly covered until they too complained.

The Strike Support Committee is asking supporters to picket on Sundays, ringing the strike line to book 2 or 4 hour shifts, as well as coming at 7am any morning. The resolve of the women on strike proves that we can win battles against privatisation - we can all help bring about a victory at Barking that will encourage all domestic, laundry and catering staff facing tendering in the Autumn.



## SCABS OUT of Barking Hospital

Join the mass picket with the Barking Hospital Domestic. NUM Vice President, Mick McGahey will be there. Please bring your friends too. Together we'll kick Crothalls out!

**TUESDAY 6.30am  
7th AUGUST**

For the latest news ring STRIKELINE on 01-592 5038

**VICTORY TO THE BARKING  
STRIKERS!  
VICTORY TO THE MINERS!**

**OCTOBER 6th**

*This is an early warning notice for a major London-wide Conference on Fighting Privatisation, organised by London Health Emergency at County Hall. Please make a note of the date and send details of tendering timetables in your area to London Health Emergency, 335 Grays Inn Rd, WC1. Tel: 833-3020 for further details.*

**PATIENTS NOT PROFITS**

# VICTIMISED!

## DHAs PUT THE BOOT IN

With the Autumn just around the corner and with privatisation plans hitting the fan left, right and centre, DHAs across London are now limbering up for a full-blooded round of union-bashing. Recent events in Bromley and Hackney are a clear warning that the victimisation tactic is back with us once again.

In Bromley a NUPE steward, Mark Cole, is being disciplined for writing to his local paper complaining about health cuts and the attitude of the DHA Chair in forcing them through. For exercising his right to express his views in the local press, Mark is now being disciplined by the Authority for daring to question the judgement of his superiors.

In Hackney, the NUPE Branch Chair, Geoff Craig, and the COHSE Branch Secretary, Andrea Campbell, have been suspended following their involvement in the St Leonards Hospital occupation. After using the police, the bailiffs and their own private army of security guards to smash the St Leonards occupation, the DHA obviously decided to use the opportunity to try to smash the unions as well. Geoff Craig and Andrea Campbell have both been suspended pending charges of 'gross misconduct', again for challenging the authority of the DHA - by resisting its attempts to close down a hospital.

It now seems likely that these victimisations are merely a few warning shots and that the DHAs are gearing up for an all-out assault. Activists mustn't be left to fight management in isolation. If there are any examples of victimisation in your district, let us know so that we can keep people up to date.

# St Leonards

At 6 a.m. on July 16th, the St Leonards Hospital occupation was raided by the DHA's security guards, bailiffs and the police. The City & Hackney DHA are now trying to prove themselves one of the most callous and brutal in the country.

Not satisfied with victimising local trade union organisers (see above), and intimidating other members of staff involved in the occupation, they also seem to have gone out of their way to make life uncomfortable as possible for the patients remaining in the hospital.

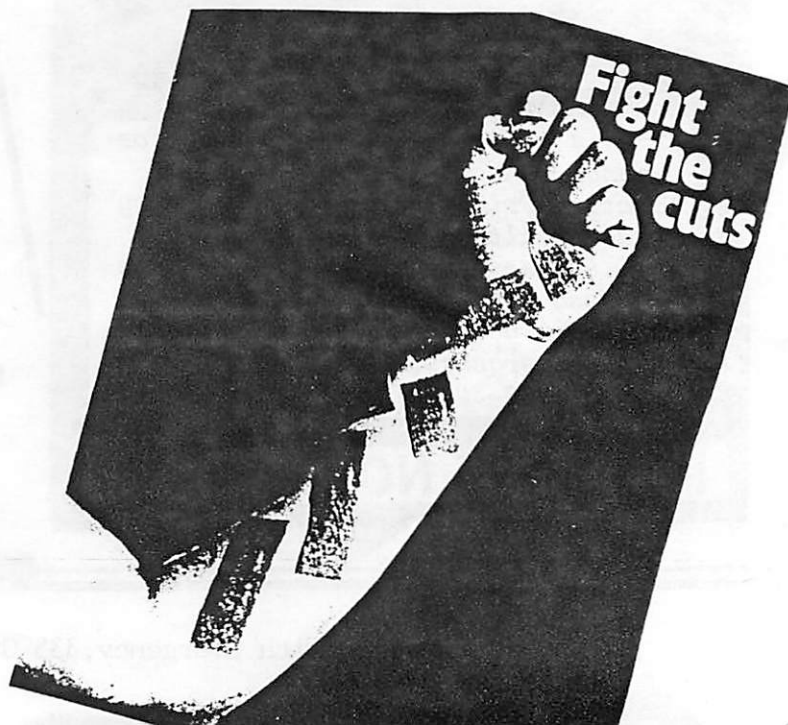
In order to proceed with their closure plans against the wishes of patients, relatives, workers and the local community, they have employed a private army of security guards. This gang of mercenaries, as one local campaigner described them, has cost the DHA almost £1,000 a day, money which is desperately needed to restore the crumbling services in the District.

There have also been horrific reports of patients being bundled out, driven to Barts and their possessions being sent on much later because they hadn't been told they were to be permanently moved.

Since the occupation was broken up, a picket line has been maintained 24 hours a day outside the hospital and the drivers from the London Ambulance Station have refused to move the patients out.

This resistance to the closure of the hospital led to the DHA resorting to using its own transport vehicles (instead of LAS) to move the remaining patients out on August 1st. Those fighting to save the hospital saw the most frail, chronically sick patients being forced to leave the hospital and staff they had known and trusted and being driven away to an uncertain future.

(Full report in September's issue of 'Health Emergency'.)





# SOUTH LONDON HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN

Despite the fact that the Wandsworth District Health Authority have managed to gradually run the patient numbers right down in the last few weeks, the spirited occupation of the South London Hospital for Women continues.

The Authority have attempted to use the courts - at great expense to the public - to regain possession of 'their' building but their case has been adjourned. It's certain that they will try again soon so it is absolutely vital that as many supporters as possible, especially women, become involved in the occupation.



## ... AND YET MORE CLOSURES

The Lewisham & North Southwark District Health Authority have gone out to consultation on the closure of three more hospitals (2 have already been closed) - these are Hither Green, New Cross and Sydenham Childrens Hospital. A public meeting has been organised by the district's shop stewards and is sponsored by the local health campaign, for Aug 8 at 5.30 at Deptford Town Hall, New Cross Rd.

Bloomsbury DHA have also announced a closure - the National Temperance Hospital in Hampstead Rd. The NUPE branch has already met to organise resistance to closure.

On Thursday 26th July the vacant wards in the hospital were occupied by scores of women in a unique "lie-in" protest organised by the Occupation Committee. Solid links have been built with the people campaigning to save St Leonards Hospital in Hackney.

Join the 24-hour picket at the hospital on Clapham Common South Side, opposite Clapham south tube station.



'Health Emergency' will be back in September with a packed issue on the latest developments in the privatisation war; full reports on the recent hospital occupations and the lessons to be learnt from them; and a round-up of health campaign videos that you could show at your meeting.

## Out now!

**London HEALTH \* EMERGENCY**

**OCCUPY AND WIN**

**A manual for fighting hospital closures**

At last! The manual health campaigners have always wanted! The A-Z of how to occupy a hospital against closure, drafted by experts and veterans, with a view to encourage others. 50p including postage from London Health Emergency, 335 Grays Inn Rd, WC1.

# Hammersmith Hospital

## ON STRIKE against PRIVATISATION

### On behalf of workers and patients!

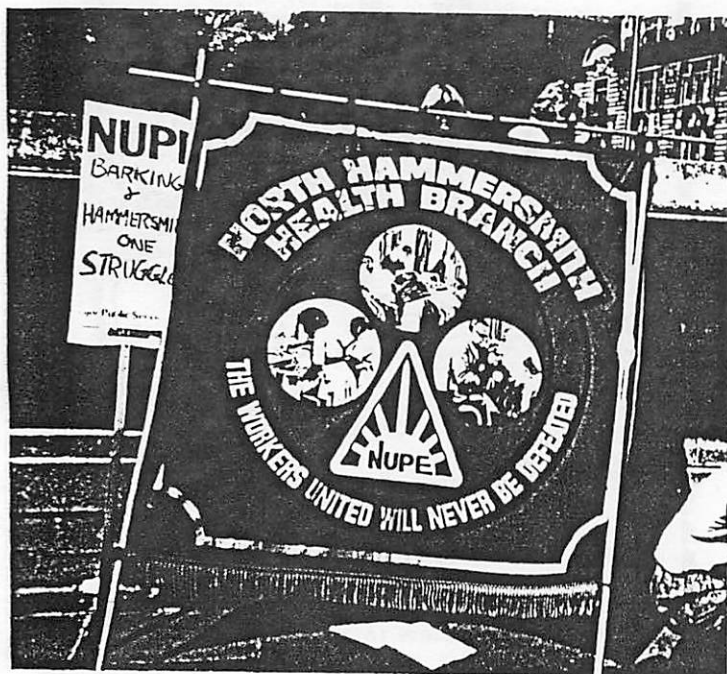


The strike against privatisation has become a strike against management's in-house tender, which would:

- :: sack nearly 40 workers outright;
- :: reduce full-time staff from 123 to 15
- :: cut pay by 50% (it used to be £66 for a 40-hour week;
- :: cut weekly cleaning hours from 6170 to 3140.

On July 18th a national day of action by COHSE in support of Hammersmith, which included a one-day strike by 800 workers in Cardiff, brought a mass lobby of the Hammersmith Special Health Authority (SHA). There were 5 arrests at the lobby, and an occupation of the Treasurers Office in protest. Demonstrators were removed from the office by police with crowbars! Despite the protest, the Special Health Authority accepted the in-house tender, supporting the cut in half of cleaning hours.

The hospital is being picketed from 9-5 in Du Cane Road every weekday, and your help would be appreciated. Anyone who works in the area is also asked to invite speakers to workplace or trade union branch meetings. First Barking, now Hammersmith - your hospital could be next.



## BADGES



NEW RANGE AVAILABLE NOW!

Just 20p each plus stamped addressed envelope from London Health Emergency, 335 Grays Inn Rd WC 1.

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Tel: 01-833 3020

**London HEALTH EMERGENCY** ★

FIGHTING FOR LONDON'S HEALTH SERVICE

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