

Agenda

- Sunday October 7, 10am - 4pm.
- 10am Registration/Assembly
 - 10.30 Opening remarks. Speakers invited: Ken Livingstone, Rodney Bickerstaffe (General Secretary, NUPE)
 - 11.15 Tea Break
 - 11.30 Workshops — morning session
 - 1.00 LUNCH
 - 2.00 Workshops — Regional strategy discussion (Including speakers from Barking or Hammersmith strikes)
 - 3.30 Chair's concluding remarks.
 - 4.00 Finish. Tea available.

Video and tape/slide shows will be on display during the lunch break. A cheap meal will also be available.

All-day creche facilities: BRING THE KIDS.



Please send me briefing packs and credentials for the October 7 conference.

Name

Address

Organisation

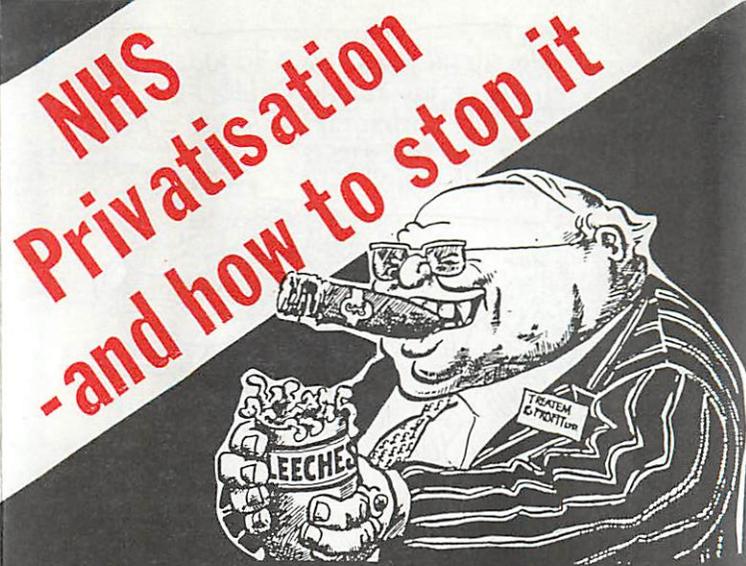
Delegate/Observer

No. of children for creche

Signed

I enclose £

Conference fee £2 waged/£1 unwaged. Send to London Health Emergency, 335, Grays Inn Rd, WC1.



NHS Privatisation - and how to stop it

A working conference, open to all trade unionists, Labour Parties and community organisations.

**Sunday Oct. 7
County Hall, SE1**



Organised by London Health Emergency, in conjunction with the London Coordinating Committee of SE Region TUC.

Workshop discussions

MORNING	<p>The experience of privatisation; case histories.</p> <p>The law, the DHAs, and resistance to privatisation.</p> <p>Tory strategy in the public sector and our strategy to fight it.</p>	<p>Frontline: women & ethnic minorities, and privatisation.</p> <p>Getting the message across: exposing the myths of privatisation.</p>
AFTERNOON	<p>Privatisation, cuts and closures.</p> <p>The contract firms — and their friends.</p> <p>Privatisation and white collar staff.</p>	

Regional strategy workshops to discuss the next steps in the fight.

NW Thames NE Thames SE Thames SW Thames Oxford.

I'm afraid you'll have to wash your own pajamas Mr Gribble. The private contractor skipped off when he got his first pay cheque!



The problem

Three of the most basic hospital ancillary services — domestic cleaning, catering and laundry — are immediate targets for privatisation by the Thatcher government. One leading contractor has forecast that private firms could make as much as £3,000m per year by taking over these services. The effect on health workers and NHS patients would be traumatic.

The government has pressurised District Health Authorities to draw up a timetable for putting their ancillary services out to competitive tender. With only a handful of exceptions (7 in London) they have now complied. Many have gone much further, and already accepted tenders; still more will do so this autumn.

The threat to jobs

Privatisation runs hand in hand with the *cutbacks* in the NHS brought about by rigid government cash limits. The London area has borne the brunt of NHS spending and

manpower cuts.

The tendering process sees cash savings as the central issue, and standards of patient care and hygiene as secondary. The welfare and jobs of NHS ancillary staff are actually seen as an obstacle to be overcome; government circulars have warned health authorities *not* to stipulate minimum wages or conditions for staff employed by contracting firms.

This procedure favours the most grasping, exploitative, low-wage, non-union employers — and forces any NHS staff who might consider submitting their own "in-house" tender to propose cuts in their own wages and conditions if they wish to "compete".

Full-time NHS ancillary jobs could be almost entirely eliminated in some hospitals, and replaced with low-wage, insecure part-time employment. This in turn will undermine pay and conditions for *all* hospital staff, especially nurses.

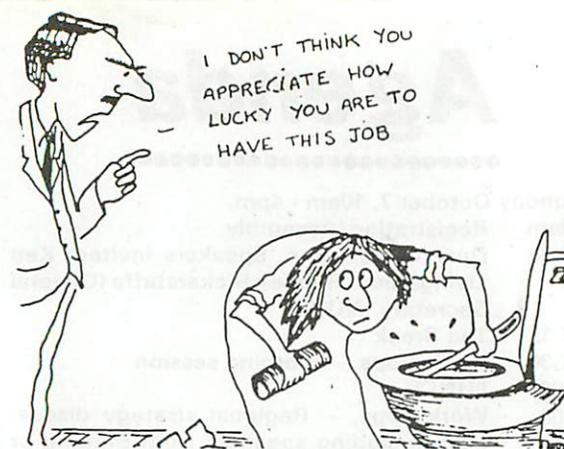
Experience so far

At Barking Hospital, cleaning contractors Crothalls cut their tender price by 41% by slashing hours of work, wages and conditions of 100 domestics, triggering a long-running and bitter strike which began in March. At Hammersmith Hospital, NHS management drew up an "in-house" tender which meant sacking 40 workers, decimating the full-time staff, a 50% cut in pay, and a halving of the hours allocated to clean the hospital.



Tel: 01-833 3020

335 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1



Everywhere, tendering and contractors have brought with them a trail of redundancies and plunging standards of NHS patient care.

We need to prepare

A new wave of privatisation will break this autumn as tenders are opened and DHAs pressurised to bring in contractors.

Health workers and everyone wanting to defend our NHS must urgently sound the alert and prepare now to prevent managements at District and Regional level from picking off individual sections of workers in isolation. The Barking and Hammersmith strikes underline the need for active solidarity amongst health workers in support of sections in dispute, along with support from other unions.

Trades Councils, Labour Parties, tenants' associations, women's and community groups of all kinds can play a vital role in exposing the dangers of privatisation, refuting the Tory propaganda which portrays it as beneficial to the NHS, and building the kind of solid resistance which can force DHAs to scrap their plans to line the pockets of contractors at the expense of low-paid ancillary staff.

The ways in which this can be done will be the focal point of the one-day conference on fighting privatisation, to be held in County Hall on October 7. If you value your NHS, be there!