

THE CROWBAR

No 9

20th Nov 1982

10p

VICTORY!

"Victory..A Major Breakthrough..What a Joke"..these were some of our comments when we heard of the fall of the right wing coalition in Lambeth Council. That Council, which had ordered over 300 evictions, stopped new short life licences, brought back distrest, sold off houses etc came to a sudden end with the defection of Mr Gordon Ley..for the 2nd time! Gordon Ley claimed high motives for his switch (he will now vote with Labour which gives them a one vote majority) but in fact he seems to have broken down under heavy pressure. In June when mass evictions became certain he was one of the councillors



IN... Ted Knight
takes over



OUT... Robin Pitt
moves aside

who had his home graffitied with squatters slogans, and received a fake Notice to Quit. Then his lorry was vandalised, his shop windows smashed several times, and finally his beautiful car was stolen, graffitied and burnt out. Is it any wonder the poor man broke!

JOY UNCONFINED !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The news of the Councils fall (especially that of the corrupt Mary Leigh) was greeted with joy in the big squatters communities of Lambeth. It will mean more licences for Co Ops, it will probably mean that the squatted streets in Gipsy Hill and Heath Rd will not now be demolished or evicted.

BARRICADING FEVER !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

But down in Brixton the squatters are showing no faith at all in Ted Knight and his new Council. It

CONT. ON PAGE 5

RIOT CASES

Last Tuesday people lifted in the Railton riots the previous week were remanded on bail to 16th Dec in Camberwell Ct.

Already it appears that reliable witnesses will testify that the police used severe brutality for no reason in at least one case. When the pigs heard this they tried but failed to have the youth in question remanded in custody.

In another case the police were forced to lift the ban on entering the Railton area. In another they tried to stop someone getting legal aid.

HEATH ROAD

Even before the fall of the Council the evictions of the 70 houses around Heath Rd had been put back a few months. This was not in the last Crowbar, as we left the H'sing meeting to see the front line riots and no one told us in time. With the new council it now seems likely that the Heath Rd squatters have won..if so this will be a great victory. It seems that the sheer strength of the Picket and the threat of resistance has paid off..

GREAT STUFF!!!!!!



In Paris more so than elsewhere we are condemned to suffocate in prehistoric living conditions. The shortage of dwellings has been PLANNED; each person is allocated a niche, intended only for the purpose of resting. Only private existence is tolerated there. For those who are not satisfied with that there are only staircases, cellars and wastelands left. Need dictates therefore that we take over premises which we can use without outside controls or limitations.

For over 6 months some of us have been occupying huge flats in a recently constructed block in the XXe (area of Paris). We forced entry into these momentarily empty spaces and we've never paid rent. There is no question of us working just to pay for a dwelling since we could only afford a small place if we paid. No way, in occupying these places, do we intend to make do with the bare essentials of life. For once we are not occupying derelict properties (squatting where no one else will live is often an admission of defeat). We've taken over large well equipped places set aside for the 2nd rate grovelling white collar workers who will end up totally overrunning Paris.

This area is condemned, by the State, to eternal mediocrity..All possible life there must be put down. The mass of poor people is being moved out and scattered into the outskirts, to profit the rich, state bureaucrats and landlords. Once Paris has been cleared out in this way it will serve to mirror the ruling state.

For the moment we are imposing a little bit of our subversive way of life in these forcibly occupied places. We must learn to take places which are worth defending. The more of these squats there are in the XXe, the easier it will be for us otherwise isolated individuals to meet and to move freely. Only in this way can we be free from 'Housing Problems'. We want living space without economic restrictions.

Our offensive position isn't rooted in confusion. Police tactics are simple: waiting till the squats crumble on their own; then there will not be anything left to oppose them. Many squatters are contributing to that: their main ambition is to carry on with domestic problems. It's not a question of accommodating shortage, we must attack it. Urban peace keeping and policing of this area will be met with violent direct confrontation.

So we have a lot in common with all you squatters in places like the Barrier Block in Brixton. We'd like to wish you and the Crowbar all the best with your struggle..Keep in Touch !

Des Situationistes de XXe..Paris.

NOTICES

BRIXTON SQUATTERS AID
121, RAILTON RD. SE24

SQUATTERS CAFES

The re-decorating at Vauxhall cafe is finished, ring them for details of sumptuous delights.

Also the meals at 121 Railton continue, Fridays at 7.00pm and Sundays at 1.00pm.

SQUATTERS PARTY

There will be a great part tonight (Sat 20th) at 35 Saltoun Rd. Come in plain/fancy/punk/or just as you are..Bring your own alcohol and favorite cassette! *!*

RESIST!

We are the occupants of 3 houses in Lambeth which are now overdue for eviction..But WE WON'T GO ! At the moment we are in the process of boarding up our homes very well and we intend to resist the bailiffs and police as best we can..Why should we be thrown out when loads of places rot and we have done up our houses?

We are not giving our addresses as the cops will surely see the Crowbar. We hope to get some warning and in any case we will call the Alarm. We appeal to you to be ready, and those with phones to go round and tell everyone to come immediately! Come just to show support or come ready to riot, that's up to you..BUT COME! We are doing this for everyone, not just for us, so Now is the time to show solidarity. Let's stop these stupid evictions once & for all.

THE OCCUPIERS.....

POLICE NEWS



22/1984 BIG BROTHER
Police, from now on, will be using listening devices and other modern surveillance techniques in and around Brixton, Notting Hill and other such ghetto areas of London. This was announced in the Daily Express on Monday 15th November. The excuse given for the warfare electronica is to prevent gangs of muggers from putting their plans into effect. Some police officers have objected that these techniques are useless against muggers...but the devices will be used anyway. Listening devices are pretty sophisticated now and can operate long distance and use window panes and even be planted in walls, street lights and public phones. A telephone engineer says that each exchange has a listener team...so be aware that someone else could be listening when you're planning robberies, acts of terrorism, squatting strategy and who you love.

MORE BIG BROTHER.....
Just to get you really paranoid, on Tuesday the Brixton police announced a new crackdown on

the Railton Rd/Talma Rd, with at least 6 officers extra assigned permanently to one street. They have appealed to the public to help them root out the Evildoer. Which means Stop and Search and harass all Blacks and youth, especially around the new 'Front Line' clubs in Talma Rd.

POLICE MADE FOOLS OF!
On Wed 18th a local black youth was stopped in Railton Rd. He refused to be searched, and when arrested broke away. he led the plain clothes pigs a merry chase, and even when a vanload of SPG joined in managed to elude them all in a classic sprint.

STILL MORE BIG BROTHER
Commander Fairbairn of Brixton Cop shop is leaving and the new chief is...you guessed it...a former head of the SPG called Alex 'Headbanger' Marnoch.

AND MORE.....
Work on installing the new instant printout telephone exchange, the 1st of its kind is going ahead in Brixton, and if thats not enough the new DHSS Fraud Squad has moved in, picking cases at random for "In Depth" investigation.....

CROWBAR

The Crowbar, paper for squatters and rent strikers, is still printed on printers off cuts and is free to the squatters network. But it costs us about £5 a go for stencils and ink, and last issue made another loss of £2.80..So if you can collect any cash please send it in .Distribution is still slow and places get left out. The Crowbar is ready to send out each 2nd Friday 7.00pm from 121 Railton Rd, so

you can come to the cafe and collect copies for your area. We badly need people who regularly go to ASS, Camden, Hackney, Agnes Place, Heath Rd and Gipsy Hill.

CONTRIBUTE NOW !!!!!
The Crowbar seems to get more contributions from Paris & Amsterdam than from Heath Rd or Vauxhall Grove..ridiculous but true..so why not sharpen your pencils, news reviews, letters, jokes, graphics..WHY NOT?????

WHERE ARE THE CAMERAS?

One thing missing in the Brixton Riot was the helicopter..Yet the police seemed to know exactly what was going on. We know they had cameras on the railway bridge last year, and still have one on the white elephant 'leisure centre', but where else, and what phones are being tapped? Please send any info to The Crowbar for instant publication!

RED TED SPEAKS!

Dear 'Crowbar' editors,

My apologies for the rather long delay in answering your letters. As you can understand I have been rather busy. However I am pleased to grant you request for a short interview. I will be available to speak with you on 15th Nov. at 10.00am in my office.

Yours sincerely,
Ted Knight.

After getting briefly lost in the corridors of Council power, we came on the busy office of Ted Knight, the new Council leader, who kindly broke from his hectic schedule to give us this interview, which we recorded. These are some of the highlights.

Q. You look a little tired, Mr Knight, how does it feel to be back at the Council helm, after 170 days in the wilderness?

Ted. Delighted, we are all delighted to be back, I am raring to go.

Q. Lets get straight to the point, what will you do about the 100's of eviction cases going through at present?

Ted. There need be no evictions. Squatters facing eviction should talk reasonably with their Housing Officers, if squatters act reasonably with us, we will be reasonable too.

Q. Why then did your party collaborate in the evictions in the Barriers and the eviction and demolition of the Font Line?

Ted. That was necessary and agreed by all parties. Thats all I'll say on that.

Q. Do you agree also then with the appointment of ex-SPG Alex Marnoch to head Brixton police.

Ted. No, no absolutely not, the man should be heavily sedated and kept in a locked room (laughs nervously).

Q. Will the police get Council money again then?

Ted. We will be working closely with the police who are doing a hard job.

Q. OK lets get back to housing, what about short life licences, will you continue Mary Leigh's policy?

Ted. Of course not, do you know she has her own solicitors business which sells off council houses? No, we will grant

short life licences to Co Ops which give us resonable returns.

Q. Is it true that you will be giving rate rebates?

Ted. Where did you hear that? No in fact to repair the damage done by the Tory coalition there will have to be rises, especially in Norwood and Streatham.

Q. But not in Forest Hill? Is it true you don't live in the area now, and if so how can you know the problems?

Ted. That is impertinent. I moved because of the high rates, though in fact I never payed them.

Q. FOR How long didn't you pay rent and rates then?

Ted. I wont answer that, and if you print it I'll sue you, so watch out.

Q. Ok, Ok, how about rent increases and Council house sales, and heating bills?

Ted. I'm getting tired of this, we're just back in a day, you can't expect us to have it all worked out.

Q. Fair enough, just a few questions to finish up, how do you feel about the Streatham Ratepayers Association.

Ted. Scum, absolute scum. Is that my tea there?

Q. Is it true that you recently threatened legal action to stop Mrs Cynthia Payne, the Streatham brothel keeper, from mentioning you in her autobiography?

Ted. Get out, that quite enough, how dare you dirty... just get out..

Q. All right, all right, just a last word, is it true that you sexually prefer young boys?

Ted. What? What? You lying **!\$\$\$**!!!!

AND SO ENDED THE DRAMATIC CROWBAR INTERVIEW WITH OUR NEW LEADER.

★ INTERNATIONAL NEWS ★

ORIGINAL ACTION IN PARIS HOORAY

Oct 25th: 5 people with a bunch of flowers enter the home of the city of Paris Renovation Director. The furniture & wall are grafittied. The group (*HONOUR OF THE SCUM*) writes in a communique: "Nowadays city-planners, architects, politicians and other bastards are speeding up the process of deporting workers to the outskirts of Paris and follow a housing policy only to the advantage of the rich."

The action followed after the evictions of 4 squats in a week. Most of the organised squatting happens in the Belleville district. Last year a lot of houses were squatted, a squatters pub was built and solidarity connections with Amsterdam made. Of course the government and press try to criminalise the growing 'squatters movement' as equalling Action Directe equals bomb attempts on Jews. On Oct 21 this year 3 flats were evicted by riot police, the brave squatters defended with molotovs, bricks and smoke bombs. 6 were arrested.

Solidarity between the Paris squatters is growing because of a lot of evictions coming soon & violent intimidation by authorities. Who wants to contact our French friends to exchange information? Volunteers welcome at Squatter's Aid. We also need addresses from active squatters all over the world. Julie Bonnot.

NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL OCCUPIED.....

Supporters of the Radio Libertaire (the Paris pirate radio station) occupied Notre Dame Cath. to protest at State harassment on Saturday the 5th of November.

BERLIN EVICTIONS...

On Monday evening Nov. 1st, 17.30, 41-13 Blumenthaltstrasse (Schönefeld district) was evicted. The pigs said it was a threat to democracy as the squat was used by criminals as a safe place to stay and that is enough reason in fascist West Germany to evict a squat. The squatters were totally surprised since they

were still negotiating with the owner about paying rent. The negotiations continue, since the owner doesn't agree with the eviction (unique or wot!)

BERLIN SKWOTTAS CONT:

Next day a spontaneous demo followed, 5000 angry people rioting in the streets of Berlin: bank windows smashed! The amount of squats is rapidly lessening since it's impossible to open up new squats. Attempts to squat are punished by massive police attacks, arrests & beatings. If you get news & mags. etc about squatting in Germany and would like to share the information please contact us.

VICTORY! cont.

is only a fortnight after all since Labour agreed to and signed the racist eviction of the Front Line, the black clubs in Railton Road. "They are a bunch of slimy hypocrites", said one squatter. And in any case many of the eviction cases appear too advanced to be stopped.

Latest news is that at least 5 squats are being barricaded against the bailiffs and police, all are due for imminent eviction after losing court cases. The defeat of the Tories has apparently made the Brixton squatters even more determined not to leave their homes at any cost. They are relying on their barricades, on the Alarm Network and squatters solidarity and their neighbours, instead of the whims of sold out politicians. SQUATTING BONANZA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Councils come and go....but squatting goes on. This week we have 2 new squats and more in the planning stage, there are literally 100's of good empty houses left to rot in Lambeth, and Brixton Squatters Aid have an up to date Short List available. They have friendly informal squatters meetings every Sunday at 3.00pm, if you'd like a house or to join in on a new squat. That's at 121 Railton Road, in a room kindly lent by the 121 Bookshop. You can go there and look at the Short List any afternoon. The fall of the Tories gives us the green light for squatting, and we reckon to take lots of places which would otherwise be destroyed by vandalism and the winter weather.

BARRIER BLOCK:

Last week, in an early morning raid, the 1st 3 flats were evicted in the Barrier Blocks. This was after a long struggle and a High Court case which was strongly picketed. The evictions are vindictive and stupid, especially since they're now having trouble filling the last flats in Block 5. The waiting tactics of the Council seem to have worked. 3 more flats are now due to go from the High Ct cases, 2 of which are Rasta squats. After demolishing the front line the pigs



are no doubt pressing to evict these flats. News also that one of the original and strongest Barrier squats has been vacated due to heavy attacks, robbing etc. We can't even say who did it as earlier publicity caused reprisals.

THE CONTINUING SAGA OF EVERYDAY SQUATTING.....

Some of the problems in the Barrier were inevitable (how its built etc) some could have been solved if we had more solidarity and good Action Groups able to confront continual violence. The 1st and 2nd Alarms at the Barrier worked quite well, but you can't call an Alarm every day, and the remaining squatters seem to have despaired of this means.

We hope to have a further article on the Barrier next issue. (you could write a book!)

If you go down to the woods today



BLEEDING SQUATTERS AGAIN!!!!