

Daily Notes

Wednesday 25th May 1983

No. 5

TRUE COMPASSION

The Labour Party has attempted to persuade the public that Conservatives lack compassion for the unemployed. If 'being compassionate' means weeping crocodile tears in public, the accusation is doubtless just: Conservatives are not weepers. But 'compassion', in the proper, old-fashioned sense of the word, means something quite other than public weeping; it means making real efforts to help those in need; and this is just what Conservatives have been trying to do.

The Conservative Government recognises what Labour have failed to recognise: that unemployment in Britain can be cured only by making British firms competitive. And the Government has seen that our firms can be competitive only if their managers have the right to manage. That is why we have attempted to place reasonable curbs upon excessive union power. By doing so, we have created a new climate of realism in industry: British managers have once again been given the confidence to respond quickly and flexibly to changing economic circumstances, thereby paving the way for new industrial success and new jobs.

Conservatives have also understood that the future of our young people depends upon their ability to adapt to new technology. That is why we have vigorously encouraged and supported the introduction of the Youth Training Scheme and the New Technical Education Initiative—two schemes that will transform the training and job prospects of this country's youth.

If compassionate actions are the sign of true compassion, then Conservatives are compassionate people.

**Conservative
Research
Department**



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1. LABOUR AND COMMUNIST MANIFESTOS COMPARED

The Socialist extremism of the Labour Party's manifesto is highlighted by its striking similarities with the British Communist Party's election platform. So similar are the policies, the underlying approach and the phrasing of the two parties' manifestos that it is hardly surprising that the Communist Party should advise people in the 600 or so constituencies where it has no candidate of its own to vote Labour.

Below are extracts from the two manifestos:

DEFENCE

Labour

'... Cancel the Trident programme, refuse to deploy Cruise missiles and begin discussions for the removal of nuclear bases from Britain ...'

Communist

'Communists campaign against Cruise missiles, for the scrapping of our British nuclear weapons and the cancellation of Trident; for a nuclear free zone in Europe; for the removal of all US nuclear and military bases from Britain'.

EEC

Labour

'The next Labour Government, committed to radical, socialist policies for reviving the British economy, is bound to find continued membership a most serious obstacle to the fulfilment of those policies ... British withdrawal from the Community is the right policy for Britain'

Communist

'... immediate withdrawal from the Common Market ... Continuing membership can only act as a barrier to the kind of policies we need to tackle the crisis in Britain'.

TRADE UNION REFORM

'We will repeal the divisive Tory "employment" laws'.

'... working people must have clear and definite rights to a say in running their firms ... We will give new statutory rights to workers - through their trade unions - on information, consultation and representation ...'

'We are for the repeal of the trade union legislation introduced by the Tories'.

'In privately owned enterprises ... collective bargaining should be extended to cover all important decisions including planning and investment'.

NATIONALISATION

'We shall establish a significant public stake in electronics, pharmaceuticals, health equipment and building materials ... bring Britoil back into public ownership ... take ports into public ownership ...'

'Nationalisation is needed in energy, transport, key sections of investment goods, high technology and major financial institutions ... the drugs industry nationalised ... as should the large building and building materials firms'.

STATE SPENDING

'Provide a major increase in public investment, including transport, housing and energy conservation'.

'... the Government must play a major role in a massive investment programme ... This would mean a major boost to our energy and conservation programmes. The railways need to invest ...'

HOUSING

'End enforced council house sales'.

'Council house sales should be stopped'.

EXCHANGE CONTROLS

'Exchange controls ... will be re-introduced'.

'Strict controls should be imposed on the export of capital'.

TRADE

Labour

'Introduce back-up import controls . . . if these prove necessary, to achieve our objective of trade balance . . . But we will also work with other governments — especially socialist governments to bring about a co-ordinated expansion of our economies'.

Communist

'Import controls are vital . . . as part of a policy of expansion — and that also means expanded trade with . . . Third World and Socialist Countries'.

WEALTH TAX

' . . . introduce a new annual tax on net personal wealth'.

'A wealth tax should be introduced for the rich'.

HOUSE OF LORDS

'Take action to abolish the undemocratic House of Lords as quickly as possible'.

'The unelected and unrepresentative House of Lords must be abolished'.

POLICE

' . . . it is as much in the interests of the police, as of their local communities, that they are accountable . . .'

'The police force should become a police service closer to the community and accountable to it'.

IMMIGRATION

' . . . we will repeal the 1971 Immigration Act and 1981 British Nationality Act . . .'

' . . . The immediate repeal of the Immigration and Nationality Acts'.

NORTHERN IRELAND

'We will repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act . . . and reform the system of Diplock Courts'.

' . . . the repressive legislation such as the Emergency Provision Act and the Diplock Courts must be ended, along with the Prevention of Terrorism Act'.

A SOCIALIST BRITAIN?

' . . . the programme of socialist reconstitution outlined in these pages, can be carried through if a Labour government commands the support of the other democratic institutions in the land — the local authorities and the trade unions'.

(Mr Michael Foot, in his foreword to the Manifesto)

'The policies outlined here would when enacted, begin to open the way for a Socialist Britain governed for and by the people . . .'

2. COMMUNISM WITH A DIFFERENCE

'We want to see all Euro-missiles of NATO and the Warsaw Pact destroyed. But unilateral disarmament is not the answer.'

(Enrico Berlinguer, Italian Communist Party Leader, reported in *Yorkshire Post*, 21st May 1983)

3. LABOUR'S THREAT TO SAVINGS

Labour's Manifesto represents the biggest threat ever posed by any political party to people's savings—through Labour's hostility to the independence of Britain's financial institutions, whose experience and expertise is admired the world over. Labour only half reveal their policies in the Manifesto; those interested in learning of Labour's intentions are told: 'Our proposals are set out in full in our conference statement, *The Financial Institutions*'.

This statement makes evident both the scope and the motivation of Labour's plans. A Labour government would 'challenge the entrenched and undemocratic powers of the financial system which are so hostile to our socialist policies'. It states that reform of the financial institutions is required 'to ensure that the Government is able to finance, with minimum cost and disruption, the deficit which will be required for a period of sustained expansion, and a continuing high level of public investment'. It is also necessary 'to bring the enormous concentrations of financial power under democratic control and accountability'. As ever in Labour terminology, 'democratic control' means political control from the centre.

What Labour are planning to do is to draw on the resources accumulated in people's savings to help pay for its extravagant and extreme spending programmes. Neither banks, nor pension funds, nor life assurance companies would be spared the attentions of Labour's planners. Furthermore, a new Securities Commission would be set up to supervise and control the activities of stockbrokers and insurance underwriters.

But Labour's major proposal is to set up a new National Investment Bank. Under the direction of a Labour Government, the Bank would 'channel . . . long-term savings collected by the pensions and life assurance industry' into so-called 'industrial investment'. Industrial investment as practised by the last Labour Government's NEB was primarily directed into the baling out of lame ducks, investment in non-profit making companies and the speculative support of workers' co-operatives politically attractive to Mr Benn. Under Labour's plans, pension funds would be dominated by trade union appointees. Labour would legislate to give trade unions, in consultation with the TUC, 50 per cent representation on the 'controlling bodies' of pension funds. In this

way the TUC could decide how savings would be invested. Labour's document makes it clear pension schemes would be expected by them to invest a proportion of their funds in both the National Investment Bank and new Local Enterprise Boards. The 11½ million people with occupational pension schemes and the 14 million families with an interest in life assurance policies would no longer have their contributions invested as at present with the sole aim of giving them the best possible return in their old age. Some of their savings would be invested on political grounds; and with a Labour Government in office that would mean for the furtherance of socialism.

That is the purpose also of the proposal to set up a State Bank, coupled with a threat—explicit in the Manifesto—that Labour would stand ready to nationalise any of the existing 'major clearing banks' which did not 'co-operate with us fully' in these financial plans. This is a threat which all those with bank accounts—well over half the population—should ignore at their peril.

Everyone who has any savings should know that the return of a Labour Government bent on vast increases in public spending and borrowing, and desperate to find the means of paying for them, would lead to dangerous interference with people's savings for their families and their retirement.

4. EQUALITY AT ALL COSTS

'I don't believe in the rubbish of 'O' and 'A' levels . . . The whole idea of education being a ladder which gets harder and harder is a fraud . . .'

(Mr Tony Benn, *Daily Mail*, 21st May 1983)

5. WILDLIFE, THE COUNTRYSIDE AND CONSERVATION

The Conservative Government's efforts to preserve the countryside have been more energetic and constructive than those of any previous administration.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Wildlife and Countryside Act is the first major piece of legislation in this field for more than a decade. The Act is an example of cautious and sensitive government: it provides a framework for co-operation between farmers and conservationists without imposing any unwanted statutory controls. In particular, it strengthens measures for the protection of birds and other wild creatures and plants, establishes new powers for the conservation of the countryside, and provides for the designation of Marine Nature Reserves. It also deals with public access to the countryside, making new provisions for the determination of public footpath orders and for changing maps of public rights of way. In addition, a code of guidance has been issued for all

those concerned to preserve Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Under the Act, the Secretary of State for the Environment can make orders giving special protection to important and vulnerable habitats. Three such orders have already been made over sites in Baddesley Commons (Hampshire), Sandford Heath (Dorset), and Tealham and Tadham Moors (Somerset).

International Initiatives to Protect Wetlands. The Conservative Government was the prime mover of a conference on wetlands held in Paris during December 1982. The conference produced a Protocol designed to increase the effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention, which governs the treatment of 'Wetlands of International Importance'. The new Protocol will do a great deal to protect the habitats of water-fowl.

Finance for Nature Conservation. The Government has continued to provide considerable assistance for organisations concerned with conservation. The Exmoor National Park Committee now receives grants to cover 90% of its expenditure on moorland conservation. The Countryside Commission has been granted authority to continue its support for the Broads Authority until 1984. In 1982-3, the level of grant-in-aid for the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) was increased by £600,000 in real terms to support the NCC's extra responsibilities under the Wildlife and Countryside Act; and a further £250,000 was made available to be spent specifically on site purchases during that year. Moreover, the Government plan to increase the NCC's grant-in-aid for 1983-4 by providing over £1½m. extra to help protect additional sites. Also for 1983-4 a further £300,000 has been made available to National Park Authorities to help meet their responsibilities for management agreements, under the 1981 Act.

Endangered Species. The Government has made strenuous and successful efforts to increase the effectiveness of the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The regulation implementing the Convention throughout the Community will come into effect at the beginning of next year. The Government also led the effort to obtain an EEC ban on the import of whale products, and played a major part in getting an EEC ban on the import of products from harp and hooded seal pups.

Land Reclamation. Our Town and Country Planning (Minerals) Act 1981 and Derelict Land Act 1982 give the Government powers to provide financial support for the clearing up of disused mines and quarries. The Government is also bringing open-cast coal mining within planning control. In all, some £75 million will be spent on reclamation in 1983-4—over £50 million more than was spent in 1979-80.

Rivers and Canals. There has been steady improvement in river quality. Over the last 10 years, we have halved the number of miles of river that are gravely polluted. We have also increased annual aid to the British Waterways Board from £22.6m. in 1979-80 to £40.28m. in 1983-4; this will enable progress to be made in restoring the conditions of canals.

Zoo Licensing Act 1981. The Government actively supported a Private Member's Bill on Zoo Licensing, which has now been enacted. The new

act will require zoos to be licensed by local authorities, and will make them subject to periodic inspection both by local authorities and by inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment. The provisions of the Act are likely to be brought into force by the end of 1983.

The Development Commission and the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas. Operations of the Development Commission and CoSIRA have been reviewed. The Commission now has far greater freedom to select the rural areas where help can best be concentrated. Not only is it now building factories in these areas but also providing rural work-shops outside these priority areas where it is satisfied there is a need. CoSIRA's advisory, credit and training services have now been made available to small retailers, like village shops, as well as other firms throughout rural England. Loans at concessionary rates of interest have been maintained within priority areas for projects which increase employment in the manufacturing and service sectors. Rent free periods are also available to tenants of Development Commission factories within priority areas.

Operation Groundwork and Groundwork Northwest. The Government has backed a major initiative by the Countryside Commission to improve areas of derelict and unused land on the fringe of towns. A new project, entitled 'Operation Groundwork', administered by a local trust, will create a better environment and landscape, revitalise farming, and improve opportunities for recreation. Five further areas in the North West have recently been selected for similar projects. The Countryside Commission will have available £4 million a year for four years to establish and support the organising trusts.

6. AMAZING GRACE

Officials of the National and Local Government Officers Association in Sheffield have recently proposed a really sensible idea. They have suggested that town hall staff should be given time off to stop smoking. Councillor Sam Wall, Labour Chairman of the Personnel Services sub-committee seems to have taken the proposal with the seriousness it deserves. He is reported to have said: 'ideas that have financial implications will have to be looked at very carefully.'

(*Yorkshire Post*, 21st May 1983)

7. 'THE WESTERN WORLD'S MOTHER COURAGE'

A tribute to Mrs Thatcher appeared in last weekend's edition of the French newspaper, *Le Figaro*, under the headline 'If only Margaret Thatcher was French'.

Le Figaro details Britain's economic decline in the post-war years, attributing it to excessive 'egalitarianism and State syndicalism'. It notes that Britain has suffered worse in the past twenty years from high inflation, unemployment and low productivity than any other major European country, but observes that: 'One fine day in 1979 Great Britain reawoke just as some sick people rally. Margaret Thatcher's election victory was the sign that decline does not necessarily mean a fall. Margaret Thatcher got herself elected on two issues: her country's moral rearmament and a return to a respect for certain of the financial and economic rules which once made Great Britain's fortune'.

English lessons

The article laments that France's present government is learning some English lessons, but obviously in the wrong lyc e; and observes that the Mitterrand Government, by learning in the English Socialist school, is 'committing one by one the same errors that Great Britain committed for twenty years'. The present French Opposition 'has but a single chance to save itself and to save the country. And that is to learn the English lesson. For what the Opposition should say, and what it should do, it has only to borrow from Margaret Thatcher, the Western World's Mother Courage'.

If the Conservatives win the election, *Le Figaro* says, it will be a healthy demonstration that 'telling the truth is a virtue that pays off even in politics'. It notes that there are three million people unemployed in Britain, but poses the rhetorical question: 'Whose fault is that? He who strives to make his country's businesses competitive by cutting off subsidies, or he who does everything to cocoon them? If Margaret Thatcher has a good chance of being re-elected on June 9th despite unemployment it is because deep down the British people know who is really responsible for it. And they see, along with the difficulties from which they are not yet free, that progress has been achieved'.

8. EMPLOYMENT AMONG 18-25 AGE GROUP

EEC Average:	47.6%
UK Average:	53.2%

(Source: Department of Employment)

9. THE POLICE AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE BILL

'The proposals embodied in our Police and Criminal Evidence Bill will help the police to bring criminals to justice. At the same time, they will reinforce public support for the police by laying down clear rules for the proper treatment of suspects' (Conservative Manifesto 1983, p.33).

The Conservative Manifesto reaffirms the Party's commitment to the reintroduction of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill (which was lost because of the General Election). This Bill is an important step to help the police to bring offenders to court. It has been attacked in recent months on the grounds that it proposes increases in police powers without sufficient balancing safeguards. Much of this criticism derives from a misunderstanding of the present law and the proposals contained within the Bill itself, many of which are restrictions upon current practice.

Police powers to stop and search will be rationalised. Lord Scarman considered that the power to stop and search was necessary to combat street crime. Powers that exist in London and certain other areas at present will be extended to the whole country, and will be extended to cover searching, on reasonable grounds of suspicion, for offensive weapons. Safeguards will be imposed. The police officer will have to tell the person being searched what is being looked for, why, and by whom he is being searched, and a record must be kept which will be available on request. The Bill creates no new offences: it simply enables the police to establish, by means of a quick search, whether the person concerned has on him something whose possession is already of itself an offence.

The power on roadchecks is defined and restricted. At present, any constable can require any driver to stop, for whatever purpose. The Bill proposes that the power only be used in a defined area, for a defined period, in order to secure the arrest of someone wanted for a serious offence, and then only with the authorization of a Superintendent.

Powers of entry, search and seizure are modernised. At present, search warrants may be obtained under about 50 Acts for a haphazard range of articles and evidence of various offences, but there are gaps; for instance, there is no provision for the police to obtain search warrants for evidence of serious offences against the person (including murder and rape). The Bill provides the power to obtain access to evidence of the most serious offences, and applies new safeguards to the issue and execution of search warrants—for example, a warrant may not be issued unless the occupier has unreasonably denied the police access, or would have disposed of the evidence if the police had sought access without a warrant. These provisions will apply only to evidence, not to general information; circuit judges and magistrates, who issue search warrants, will not permit 'fishing expeditions' for information. The confidential records of doctors, priests and journalists will be exempt from the provisions of the Bill.

A great deal of publicity was engendered originally by the issue of confidential records. As the Bill was first worded, these records would have been excluded under the 'hearsay' rule; they would not have qualified as evidence, and were therefore implicitly exempt from the clauses covering seizure of evidence. However, the Home Secretary agreed after consultation to amend the clause in order to give full statutory force to this. There was never any intention that confidential records should be included within these provisions.

Powers of arrest are redefined. In future, only more serious offences (those punishable by at least 5 years imprisonment) will carry a power of summary arrest. Virtually all other existing powers of arrest are to be repealed, in favour of a general provision under which a person reasonably suspected of an offence must be dealt with by way of a summons. 'Helping the police with their enquiries' will be abolished. A person may be detained in a police station against his will only if he has been arrested. Currently, powers of arrest exist for offences that do not need them, and vice versa (for instance, at present there is no power of arrest for indecent assault, kidnapping, attempting to pervert the course of justice or assaulting a police officer). There has been criticism of this section of the Bill on the grounds that a person who has committed a minor offence can be arrested if he gives a false name and address or refuses to give one at all. But if an offence has been committed, however trivial, the law is brought into disrepute if an offender can escape prosecution by withholding his name and address; if the law exists, it should be enforceable.

Detention. At present, detention is open-ended. The police may detain anyone without charge indefinitely, as the law requires that someone who has been arrested be brought before a court 'as soon as practicable' if the offence is serious. This phrase is undefined, and the test for what constitutes a serious offence is subjective. The Bill proposes an absolute limit on detention without charge of 96 hours, and during this time there shall be firstly a review of detention after 6 hours by an inspector, and a full review by a magistrates' court after 36 hours, at which the suspect is present and may be represented. *Habeas corpus* is not abolished, but is expressly preserved. At present *habeas corpus* is the only remedy for a detained suspect who seeks independent judicial review of his detention, and this is exactly what the Bill provides. The police will also be required to keep an exact record of custody, a copy of which must be made available to the suspect.

Prolonged detention is at present very rare: 75% of all cases are dealt with within 6 hours. A survey in recent months showed that of 83,000 people detained in London, only 29 were detained beyond 48 hours.

Suspects' Rights and Safeguards. The present law provides no statutory right for suspects to have legal advice. Judges' Rules governing questioning are inadequate and vague, and there is insufficient protection for juveniles, the mentally handicapped, and other special groups. In future, there will be a statutory right of access to legal advice, under which the police may withhold such access only in strictly defined cases of serious crime (for example, so that a suspect cannot tip off other suspects, or arrange for evidence to be destroyed). The Judges' Rules will be replaced by a detailed statutory code of practice, which will embody additional safeguards for special groups, such as questioning only in the presence of a parent or other independent adult.

Fingerprinting, Searching and Identification. The Philips Royal Commission recommended compulsory fingerprinting for investigative and

identification purposes with a minimum age reduced to 10 years, the age of criminal responsibility. The Bill introduces this. The Police already have the power to conduct intimate body searches without the suspect's consent. The Bill regulates and restricts this power to cases involving serious offences or when there are reasonable grounds for thinking that the suspect has an article with which he might cause injury to himself or others. The suspect will always be asked if he wants the search carried out by a doctor, but the doctor need not do so, though his refusal in the absence of the suspect's consent would not remove the need for the search. The rules governing identification parades and other procedures will be set out in statutory form.

Evidence in Criminal Proceedings. Confessions will be excluded if they have been obtained under duress, or in consequence of anything said or done likely in the circumstances to make that confession unreliable. The prosecution will be required to prove that the confession was not obtained under these circumstances.

The police complaints procedure will be reformed. The current system will be replaced by a three-tier arrangement, operating according to the seriousness of the case. Minor matters will be dealt with locally by informal resolution, with an element of conciliation. More substantial complaints will be investigated and independently considered, as at present. The most serious complaints will be investigated by a senior police officer, normally from an outside force, under the supervision throughout the investigation of an independent element.

The importance of policing with the consent of the community cannot be overestimated. The Bill places an emphasis on making a reality of community involvement in policing. It will impose upon police authorities a duty to make suitable arrangements for public consultation on police matters.

Field trials lasting two years have been implemented in a number of areas to test tape recording of police interviews with a view to introducing the practice nationally.

Independent Prosecution Service. The Philips Royal Commission recommended that prosecution of offenders be made independent of the police. The Government accepted this in principle, but disagreed with the Commission's proposal that such a prosecution service should be based and run locally. It was felt that this would lead to inconsistencies between areas, which is in fundamental opposition to the principle of equality before the law for all. The Manifesto confirms that the Government will work to establish the best form of service.

10. SORTING OUT LABOUR'S PRIORITIES

Labour's Manifesto contains little that is not a first priority:

Our priority will be to expand the economy and create jobs.	p.10
Our first priority will be to help families with children.	p.17
We will . . . give priority to improving our primary health care services.	p.19
We are determined to give priority to adults who have been denied education opportunity on leaving school.	p.21
The improvement of public transport must be a major social priority.	p.26
We will . . . give a high priority to building by-passes.	p.27
We will . . . give priority to crime prevention.	p.27

11. ABOLISHING THE GLC AND THE METROPOLITAN COUNTIES

The pledge to abolish the GLC and the metropolitan counties is one of the most important parts of our manifesto. As **Mr Tom King**, Secretary of State for the Environment, has said:

'It is now abundantly clear that these are an unnecessary tier of government . . . It is also true that under the present Labour control they have been extremely wasteful and expensive bodies who have imposed heavy additional burdens on their ratepayers' (Bridgewater, 20th May 1983).

Cost to Taxpayers and Ratepayers. In *Daily Notes* No 1 (p.9), we outlined some of the unnecessary and frivolous ways in which the GLC and the metropolitan counties have spent taxpayers' and ratepayers' money. But the problem goes deeper than this. The GLC will have exceeded its spending target this year by some £300 million (or 53 per cent over target) and the metropolitan counties will have overspent by £72 million (or 6.5 per cent over target). Abolition would remove this overspending and might eventually save a further £120 million per annum. In this connection, it is instructive to compare the cost of services provided by the non-metropolitan counties with the cost of the same services when provided by the GLC and the metropolitan counties.

Refuse Disposal and Fire Costs per capita 1980-81*

	Refuse Disposal	Fire
GLC	£5.72	£12.16
Metropolitan Counties (average)	£4.54	£ 9.08
Non metropolitan Counties (average)	£2.78	£ 7.59

*(Source: *CIPFA Local Government Comparative Statistics* 1982. 1980-81 was the last year for which figures are available.)

Distribution of Functions. The present functions of the GLC and the metropolitan counties will be passed to the Boroughs. For some services, however, it will be necessary to set up joint boards, probably comprised of representatives from each Borough.

Such joint boards will be needed for Police and Fire, and in the metropolitan counties a joint but small operation may be required for waste disposal and trading standards. In inner London, ILEA will probably be replaced by a joint board acting on behalf of the Inner London Boroughs.

There should be no need for joint boards for highways or traffic in the metropolitan counties. These matters could be co-ordinated by the regional office of the Department of Transport. In London, some GLC roads could be passed to the Secretary of State as part of the Trunk network. London Transport will be reorganised as a Metropolitan Transport Authority, responsible to the Secretary of State, rather than to the GLC.

Consultation will be necessary to determine the best way of replacing the Arts functions of the GLC, which primarily involve the administration of the South Bank Arts complex (including the National Theatre) and several historic houses for which the GLC is responsible.

London Concessionary Fares. The proposal to remove GLC control of London Transport will pose no threat to concessionary fares. In 1982, the Government took quick action to confirm the right of pensioners in London to have concessionary bus passes. When the new London Regional Transport Authority is set up, steps will be taken to ensure that concessionary fares continue.

Transfer of Staff. Abolition will be a substantial exercise involving the transfer of many thousands of staff and a lot of property. Before the details are finalised there will be close consultation with the people in local government and elsewhere who will be affected by the change. Arrangements will be made to safeguard the interests of the staff as far as possible.

When the change is completed, the ratepayers in these areas will have a more economic, efficient, and effective system of local government.

12. BUREAUCRATIC NIGHTMARE

In *Daily Notes* No. 2, we described Labour's proposals to control the economy; and we named four new agencies that Labour would set up to exercise this control. But a more thorough investigation of Labour's Manifesto reveals that these four agencies are merely the tip of the iceberg. The list includes:—

Product Research Unit	Legal Services Commission
Foreign Investment Unit	Museums and Galleries Council
Co-operative Investment Bank	Standing Royal Commission on
Securities Commission	Animal Protection
Investment Monitoring Agency	Housing Tribunal
Energy Conservation Agency	Environmental pollution agencies
Energy Commission	Regional development agencies
Rural Land Authority	Land authorities
National Ports Authority	Elected police authorities
National Transport Authority	British Film Authority

13. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT: THE FACTS

Labour persistently claim that the level of unemployment in Britain is higher than the official statistics allow. They claim that 4 million people are out of work, and that official figures of 3,021,000 (seasonally adjusted excluding school leavers) are deliberately massaged to misrepresent the truth. In fact the only Party misrepresenting the unemployment figures is Labour. In their calculations, they include about 370,000 people who are on special employment or training schemes; they include men over 60 who are allowed not to sign the register *because they are not seeking employment*. Labour then add an arbitrary figure to represent the number of people who are not employed, but are, they say, discouraged from applying for unemployment benefit. How these would-be claimants support themselves is not specified.

It is seldom recognised that Britain has the second highest level of total civilian population in work of all the Common Market countries. EEC statistics show that in 1981, 41.2 per cent of the total civilian population in Britain were employed, compared with 40.8 per cent in Germany, 38.9 per cent in France, 36.1 per cent in Italy and 33 per cent in Ireland. Only Denmark had a higher percentage of its total civilian population in employment—47.5 per cent.

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CORRECTION

Daily Notes No. 4, p. 59; line 10.
for "1984" read "1974".