

Why are they building hotels and yachting marinas in East London when what people need is decent homes at low rents?

What does the council think it's doing?

We're supposed to have a Labour council, with 'socialist' policies, so why are they letting the East End become an extension of the City and a playground for rich business men? The fact is that no council, however left-wing, can provide for people's needs - including enough good homes at rents we can afford, schools, hospitals and bus services.

Because in a so-called 'free enterprise' society, councils can't even begin to compete with property speculators and the tourist industry.

The Council Con

All councils face the same kinds of problems in providing enough low-cost housing. The Housing Finance Act says that council housing has to make a profit so as offices and hotels force up the price of land, the price of housing goes up too. There will be no end to the rent increases. Hackney Council, up the road, has been forced by tenants organizations to fight the latest increases while our council is doing nothing to fight the extra 50p on the cost of living. It has shown its contempt for the people of the borough by putting up the rents, in a meeting that only lasted 3 minutes.

It's not up to us to solve the council's problem.

It's no good pressurizing the council to take action when they're stretched over a barrel themselves. EEDAG demands - 'that people's needs are put before profits and homes be built before hotels'. - but pleading with the council and government is not enough. We don't want to be demonstrating outside another hotel in Limehouse next year.

WE HAVE TO STOP THEM BEFORE THEY CAN LAY

THE FIRST BRICK FOR THE NEXT HOTEL.

We can stop the bulldozers, picket the lorries, get the support of the building workers, and let out kids play on the site.

If they are trying to close our factories to make fat profits by moving to new towns,

we want our cut before allowing them to go.

If we are being moved out of slum property that we're glad to get out of, we can stick together until they give us the homes we want, where we want them, and they can rehouse us together too.

If we think our rents are too high and going to get higher, we can refuse to pay

them, and organise a rent strike.

If we think our estates don't match up to the luxury flats, we can improve them ourselves and take the money out of the rents.

We have to fight for what we need, otherwise we won't get it.

No amount of pleading with the council or the government can put down the price of land land or the price of homes.

Nor can a body like EEDAG ever take the place of our own militant action. This is our fight against the city, and we can't expect people to fight for us.

When we get together the businessmen will soon find they come to the East End at their own risk.

