

econews

Ecology Party Newsletter

No.22

April 1984

SPRING POLICY CONFERENCE Southport | 22-25 March

ON THE UP AND UP!

That was how Brig Oubridge of Party Council and The Ecology Party in Wales described us in his closing speech at Southport. And it's true; the Ecology Party has recovered remarkably quickly from the trials and tribulations of last June, and we've gone on almost without a break.

The Campaign for Real Democracy is still going strong; many members are working with other parties on the Campaign for Fair Votes and being pleasantly surprised by the amount of support received from the public. On the Deposits issue, the Campaign has been strongly supported by Branches and individuals all around the country, and as a result of the letters to MPs and the Home Office and the lobbying, even Tories appear, as Brig said, to be "back-peddalling like a man who has just seen an enormous great banana skin in front of him" – what a lovely picture!

Other parties are approaching us for discussions; this is yet another measure of the increased credibility of this Party.

It would be understandable if we were to begin to get a little smug. But we must guard against this, and there were some indications at Southport that it might be happening. It was tremendously well organised by a Branch (Southport) who hasn't ever done a Conference before, and all credit to them for a great job. The high spot of the weekend was Friday evening's entertainment; a West African Steel Band with traditional dancers, a South American folk singer, and a Rasta poet who knew at least as much as, if not more than, we did about the problems facing the planet and its owner/occupiers.

Conference did go very smoothly – too smoothly perhaps; from the floor, it felt sometimes as though the plenary sessions were on autopilot, and everything went

ahead exactly as planned. The workshops, and there were more than usual of them, went very well indeed; Conference workshops are constructive, innovative and participative. The plenary sessions were either nipped through very smartly or they dragged; we seemed to have trouble finding the right pace.

Perhaps these full, formal sessions don't suit us so well; one of the things that came out of the discussion paper on Women and the Ecology Party is that we don't really enjoy plenary very much; perhaps, as Jonathon Porritt said in his closing speech at Malvern last year, we *should* be trying to find alternative Conference procedures. – because we *don't have to* do these things like all the other parties do.

Shall we give it a try?

Freda Chapman

ECOLOGY PARTY OFFICE
36/38 CLAPHAM ROAD
LONDON SW9 0JQ
Tel. 01-735 2485



THE CENTRE PAGES OF THIS ECONews ARE SPECIALLY FOR CAMPAIGNING DURING THE EURO-ELECTIONS. YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE ANY OR ALL OF IT IN YOUR LEAFLETS OR AS A CAMPAIGNING NEWSHEET WHATEVER THE LEVEL OF YOUR CAMPAIGN WITH OR WITHOUT A FORMAL CANDIDATE



PARTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations are required for the four seats on the Ecology Party Council for 1984/5 to be filled by postal ballot of all members. Each nomination should be signed by two other Party Members and candidates should include a statement that they are prepared to stand. Candidates must be paid-up Party Members who have not served on the Ecology Party Council for the last three years consecutively.

Nominations should be addressed to the Electoral Returning Officer and sent to the Party's Office to arrive no later than Monday July 2nd 1984.

Candidates may submit a passport-sized photograph and a statement for publication in the next issue of Econews. The statement, which should not exceed 150 words, may include biographical details and proposals for action.

A R Williams
ELECTORAL RETURNING OFFICER

WOMEN AND THE ECOLOGY PARTY

WORKING PARTY MEETING

The Holborn Room, YWCA
16 Great Russell Street London WC1
(Tottenham Court Road tube)

Sunday May 6th 10 am – 5 pm

EVERYBODY WELCOME

Contact Linda Churnside
(Tel. 034 282 2996)



THE GREEN PARTY

SHOULD WE CHANGE OUR NAME? Here are your views.....

Dear Econews Person

I agree with Alan Hassard and all the Greens in the Greenwich and Lewisham Branch — we have got to change our name to the "Green Party". That's what people like us are called everywhere else in the world, after all.

Let's be honest and say that "Ecology", if not actually silly, is simply not appropriate for the image we need to put across to get support, members, and ... oh yes, votes.

The ordinary voter now knows what "Green" means, and if we don't cash in on this fact, I think we'll pay the price.

Yours

KEITH SEDDON
Hertfordshire

Dear Editor

We were delighted to read Alan Hassard's letter (Econews 21) giving notice of a change of party name from Ecology to The Green Party.

Here in Dover, ever since we really got going before the last General Election we have been as much known by the name "Green" as by "Ecology" and if our experience is anything to go by, it's absolutely certain that the general public really know and understand the label "Green Party".

Alan Hassard makes the point that the term "Ecology" has "middle class academic associations which put people off". Our experience indicates that the term "Ecology" thoroughly confuses people. They just do not understand. The title is simply too scientific and the word "Green" as in "Green Party" has a much wider meaning (as Alan Hassard pointed out). Not only is it more widely understood by those in other parties (Liberal and Labour especially) who may be leaning towards us.

While we have to be very careful about our motives in seeking this change of name, it must not be forgotten that though the wrapping does not make the gift, it certainly attracts attention to what's inside the parcel; we in Britain's Green Party know that we have a good set of policies founded on a sure philosophy, so why don't we make it easier for people who don't understand us, to make the first steps towards understanding. Dover and Deal will certainly be supporting this motion. The main problem in our view in changing the name is that members of our Party have become emotionally attached and understandably so, to the word "Ecology". We believe we must do the thoroughly Green thing and look at this issue purely on its merits. We know in our minds we are Greens, now let's establish in the mind of the public the existence of a Green Party in Britain.

MIKE POTTER
Dover/Deal & District

Dear Freda

Some of the points raised by Alan Hassard's letter in Econews 21 require answering by someone in favour of staying with the name "Ecology Party".

1. We have already claimed the name "Green" — most of our publications include the phrase "Britain's Green Party". We are certainly not missing out on the label.
2. The confusion with the science of ecology comes not from the name "Ecology Party", but from calling ourselves ecologists — which we generally are not — and our policies Ecological — they extend beyond the boundaries of the word. Rather these are correct uses for the word "Green". i.e. Greens with green policies put them to the electorate through the Ecology Party. If this seems awkward, consider that Labour Party members have never called themselves Labourists.
3. "Ecology has middle class, academic associations which put people off".

Maybe, but associations and meanings change, and if we cannot change the associations of one word we don't stand a cat in hell's chance of changing the society we live in. (Sorry animal lovers!)
4. Maintaining a name separate from the political colour we represent gives us an added degree of flexibility — we may wish at times to dissociate ourselves from other Greens — do we want to support the Democrats in the next US Presidential election?

There are benefits to be had from the name "Green" and costs in changing (Cynthia Warth's letter, Econews 20) but by continuing as "The Ecology Party, Britain's Green Party" we can have the benefits without the costs.

Finally, anyone wishing to take this discussion further would lose nothing by first reading Ivan Illich's contribution to the Schumacher lectures.

S J DAVIS
Haslingden, Lancs.

Dear Editor Econews

Reference Econews 21: I think Feedback writer Alan Hassard has made an excellent point that our party should be forthwith changed to "Green" party; I often see slogans for "Ecology Party Britain's Green Party". All the reasons given in the letter are good and I add the above — i.e. it won't need to be explained any more. It is simple and straightforward.

I hope many people will vote this way at the Conference at Southport.

Yours sincerely
CAROLINE O'HALLORAN
Reading

Dear Editor

I agree with Cynthia Warth (Econews 20). A change of Party name from "Ecology" to "Green" would be giving way to the present tendency to play down and obscure the clear all-embracing unitary structure which underpins and distinguishes the philosophy of our Party, namely Ecology itself. Instead of building on this foundation, some people are busy chopping it up and mixing the pieces with a variety of smaller secondary things. A good example of this is the back page of "Green Line" which regularly lists (with badges to match) a series of seven concepts or aims, apparently on an equal footing: the series includes (militant) Feminists, Yin-Yang and Anarchists, with ECO in sixth place and FOE in 7th...

Just the job for attracting masses of ordinary voters (and we need millions of them!). I use


the word "ordinary" in the very appropriate sense used by Charles Ulyatt (also Econews 20). What Charles has said really did need saying, even if unpopular among those who would like the membership cross-section to stay just as it is. The danger is that we haven't got enough "ordinary" members to generate enough publicity of the kind that would attract new "ordinary" members. Until we get out of this impasse we will simply continue to churn out "fringe" publicity which will bring in a few more "fringe" members while at the same time alienating the great mass of ordinary people who constitute something like 95% of the electorate.

The widening of our catchment area would also bring in professional skills which are still in desperately short supply. In this connection, one of our primary aims should be to seek close

links with established bodies of "ordinary" people which have solid achievements to their credit in relevant fields — organisations such as FoE, ConSoc, Greenpeace, END, CPRE, the Soil Association, the Family Planning Association, and Population Concern.

This list is merely a rough, personal choice but the point is that bodies of this kind should provide for us the same sort of base as the TUC provides for the Labour Party and the CBI and NFU provide for the Conservative Party — of course, we would have to work for this. I know that we have tried and failed with FoE, but what about the others? Any why can't we evolve identical agreed policies in specific areas, e.g. an agricultural policy agreed with the Soil Association and a population policy agreed with FPA and Population Concern? We could make much capital out of such agreements.

George Carcasson
MAYFIELD, EAST SUSSEX



SAVE YOUR POSTAGE STAMPS

As more and more companies are using franking machines for their post, so the value of used stamps is increasing.

Ordinary British and Foreign stamps should be cut from the envelope leaving a ¼" (6 mm) margin all round. These should then be sent to Denise Arnold, of Park View, off 246 Dudley Road, Summerfield Park, Birmingham B18 4HN or Andrew Bainborough, 45 Elizabeth Avenue, Stoke Hill, Exeter EX4 7EQ, who will sort, soak and package them as necessary.

Those of you with very old or unusual stamps, first-day covers, sets or whole collections, should contact Rory Morrisey, 56 Fowley Furrows, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7SH or Clive Preston, 1st Floor Flat, 64 Inverleith Row, Greenacre, Edinburgh. They will advise and value and handle the selling.

You can also send your stamps to Neil J Jacques, 9 Biddich Terrace, Columbia, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE38 7DX or Amanda Sandford, 4 Vicarage Road, Stratford, London E15.

All stamps have some value; the rarer ones may be better on complete envelopes. Damaged stamps are worthless. Try to get a good percentage of high values, pictorials and foreign; even Welsh, Northern Irish, and Scottish are worth more than the standard British ones.

Please look out those old albums, old receipts etc. and contact firms who receive mail from abroad. There is money to be made. Our volunteers are waiting to hear from you.

BRIAN KINGZETT
Party Fundraiser.

Back by popular request BRIAN'S PAGE! MONEY & PRIZES!

With this mailing, everyone should receive five books of Draw Tickets. So once again you have the chance to get the promoter worried; we are allowed by law to sell only £10,000 worth of tickets. Last year we sold £3,000 worth, so a triple effort this year will turn my hair grey!

This time, there are hundreds of pounds worth of cash prizes. £200 is the first prize.

The draw is to take place at the AGM in October, so there is plenty of time in which to sell tickets. If you fill in the name on the counterfoil your Branch will receive half of the profit on tickets sold. So you can spend on elections now and re-coup the money afterwards.

Every counterfoil sold should be filled in with at least a name and phone number. Cheques payable to Ecology Party, please.

My apologies to those members who do not like to receive unsolicited tickets. Those of you who have written to me should not get any, but there may be others I know not of. If you will return the unwanted tickets I will exclude your name next time.

Apart from donations and appeals, this is our biggest money-raiser each year. Please go to it and make me bite my nails.

BRIAN KINGZETT
Party Fundraiser

THE MONTHLY DRAW CLUB has over 100 members, and five prizes are paid out every month. The winning numbers with the amount each month paid to Eco funds each month have been:

JUNE					£93
57	04	22	35		
JULY					£90
46	01	92	64		
AUGUST					£88
83	87	53	67		
SEPTEMBER					£98
60	15	84	56	66	
OCTOBER					£101
14	77	18	31	08	
NOVEMBER					£101
86	06	75	16	79	
DECEMBER					£100
38	21	65	25	43	
JANUARY					£102
43	77	52	29	44	
FEBRUARY					£106
49	56	61	27	48	
MARCH					£105
71	17	04	34	73	

The more members – the more prizes – the more to Party funds – every month.

MONTHLY DRAW CLUB

Open to Ecology Party Members only

Just fill in the attached Standing Order for £2, send it to Party Fundraiser **Brian Kingzett, Tynant, Bronant, Aberystwyth, Dyfed**, who will allocate to you a number. This number will go into the Draw every month with an equal chance of winning one of the five prizes.

Of the money received each month, less expenses, one-half will be paid out in prizes in the proportions of 45%, 25%, 10%, 10%, 10%. The other half goes into ECO funds, providing a regular income.

STANDING ORDER

To (Your Bank) PLC Date

Bank's Address

Please pay Midland Bank, St. Clears, Dyfed, Code No. 40-40-05 for the credit of The Ecology Party – Fundraising Account No. 41007963 the sum of £2.00 (two pounds) on

1st 1984 and thereafter on the first day of every month until you receive further notice from me/us in writing, and debit my/our account accordingly.

Title of Account and Account Number

Signature

Address

Return this form to the Party Fundraiser

ALSO ENCLOSED IS A DONATION TO THE EUROPEAN ELECTION APPEAL

AMOUNT £

feedback

ECONEWS, 33 CHURCHILL STREET,
HEATON NORRIS, STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE
TEL: 061-429 6438

M O R E feedback on page 9....

Dear Friends

I know this will sound like a note of depression, but that is how I felt when I read the article entitled "As the Greens Turn Brown" (*Guardian*: 16 Feb).

This concerned the resignation of one of Die Grunen's most popular MPs, who gave added credibility to their Defence policies as he was formerly Commander of the 12th Panzer Division, and before held a NATO post which he resigned in protest against Cruise. This was Mr Bastian.

His reasons for resigning were that he couldn't stand the continued infighting between the doctrinaire far left (with growing influence) and the other party members, and also "the chaos of the party in the Bundestag".

The party has definitely succeeded in gaining support from both the "Left" and the "Right", but something has led to splits (not necessarily a bad thing in themselves) growing so wide as to lead the *Guardian* to have doubts about the future of the party.

I know that the Ecology Party is in a different situation here; we have not yet been "infiltrated" by Marxist-Leninists, nor do we have the popularity of Die Grunen, but this is all the more reason to look at these problems now (as radicalism

means dealing with the root causes) – before it could be too late.

The strict doctrinaire views of the Marxist-Leninists, Maoists, Militants, etc. are against our belief in flexible (which doesn't mean "watered-down"), adaptable policies with a *human understanding*. (I am a strongly Socialist Ecologist, but not at all doctrinaire or Marxist).

The point I really want to make is that, as a non-doctrinaire party, we must openly discuss, criticise, and learn from each others' mistakes, and never resort to "God-like worship" of Die Grunen or anyone else (including our Party). By "God-like worship" I mean ignoring or hiding away our mistakes (or their mistakes) and never learning for the long term (i.e. cover-ups, secrecy, etc.).

I feel there is a lot we can learn from Die Grunen in many respects, and that should include their weaknesses as well as strengths. It would be more than a tragedy if Die Grunen were written off as a political force due to such problems.

I am not claiming to have the answers to any of these problems, but I do think we must openly feel free to debate within the Party as to how we deal with all issues affecting us.

I am not claiming that all "far Left"

views are either wrong or right, but I am stating that it is a fact that "militant" Marxists etc, as well as right wingers, with no present ladder to power, could well try to use a newly rising Party as a vehicle for them to get to power. I do not know what the Party's response or attitude to such a possibility should be, but I do think that all these points warrant serious consideration.

I am by no means advocating a consensus party – a very "broad church" is a healthy thing – and this is precisely why strict doctrinaire ideologies could present a danger to Party democracy, tolerance and *debate*, apart from the fact that the Party would be continually at war and dominated by either one "wing" or another, which would lead to nothing getting done to save the world, and sterile debates in which doctrines would take on more importance than reasoned arguments when it came to decision-making.

I have no desire to create divisions within the Party or to say one view is more valid than another; in a democratic party, reasoned argument wins in the end, and so hopefully this will always happen; we

Yours in contribution

JOHN COLEGATE
Twickenham

Dear Editor

In Econews 21 Brian Leslie in his article about "Social Credit" seemed to fall into the trap of considering the era before the "Industrial Revolution" to be a "golden age", a time in which – to quote from his article "Before the Industrial Revolution there were gross inequalities of income, but most people most of the time obtained enough for a tolerable living without working excessively long hours."

That just is not true. Most workers were in agricultural jobs and received a pittance for very long hours and very, very hard work. Often they would have to work from dawn until after dusk, and in the summer this was very long indeed.

The farm worker lived in a hovel, and although workers in the large industrial towns of Manchester, Birmingham, etc. lived in poor housing that shocked the middle-class radical liberals of the day, the industrial worker in general had better accommodation than he had whilst working on the land.

Most people working in the new factories had left the land lured by the chance of earning better money and of living in a home not owned by the farmer which you would lose should you change jobs in the rural area.

As a person who spent a good deal of time studying both periods, I resent

people thinking that the agricultural era prior to the Industrial Revolution was a golden age, as this denigrates – and to an extent denies – the real suffering and hardship that farm workers and their families had to endure. There never was a golden age. But perhaps with hard work we can build one for the future.

Yours sincerely

MARTIN SCHOLES
Telford, Shropshire

STICKERS BADGES & POSTERS



Send SAE for a catalogue of a wide range of Peace and Environmental campaign material to:-
SURVIVAL 2000,
11 Leaside Ave.,
London N10

Dear Editor

After two months in the Ecology Party, I am now beginning to think that it is a political party like any other, full of ideals and sloganising, but in actual practice into vote-grabbing and putting down the opposition.

My North-East Econews for January concentrates on recording numbers of new members and amounts of money raised, with little mention of people, ideas, actions and the environment.

The Econews for January contains an article by Jonathon Porritt in which he slags off the Liberal/SDP Alliance. I read that the Ecology Party is "in the business of winning votes", I learn about "primary electoral targets", and I am instructed how to "bait a weak

Liberal".

The article smacks of the combative, divisive, short-sighted bickering and power-tripping I had naively hoped the Ecology Party would avoid, having read in the manifesto of moving from "the politics of negation to the politics of affirmation."

I believe that it is *not* possible to make any real changes by playing the political game their way, any more than it is possible to use aggression to secure peace.

I was, however, impressed with the positive, conciliatory approach of the SERA/Green CND article.

Best wishes

PAUL SEEDHOUSE
Durham

econews

Ecology Party ~ The U.K.'s Green Party June 1984

THERE WILL BE GREENS IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT!

This was the conclusion of Francois Roelents, a member of the Belgian Green Party ECOLO, who addressed the Ecology Party Conference at Southport in March. He is number one on Ecolo's List for the European elections in June, and his confidence will be an inspiration to us all.

One of the finest things to come out of the Federation of European Green Parties is the sense of unity between us; the pledge that elected members will represent *all* European Greens and will involve all the members of the Federation as well as their own Parties. Francois said "It will be an honour for me to act as your spokesman in the European Parliament."

Another Ecolo member, Rudi Vincent, congratulated the Ecology Party on its perseverance in the face of "a stupid electoral system" -- an opinion that Conference heartily endorsed! It will be good to know that even though we may not be able to fully overcome the opposition of the "wasted vote" syndrome, our efforts will *not* be wasted, and especially if we manage to make the credibility mark of 5% in Britain, we will be giving our European friends the confidence and the right to campaign in the European Parliament on our behalf and with our help.

DIE GRUNEN, the German Green Party, also sent representatives to Southport, and MILJOPARTEIT of Sweden and LES VERTS of France had written and telephoned with good wishes.

There were also members of AGALEV at Southport (Agalev is the Belgian Green Party that represents the Flemish-speaking community; Ecolo the French); the harmony that exists between these two is again indicative of the co-operative, unitary nature of Green politics, as most Belgian parties stress the differences between the two communities.

With luck on our part and the faith of the electorate, perhaps in future years the present bickering and confrontation of European politics will be replaced by the Green way of consensus and co-operation we have proved that it's possible; we must now turn that possibility into reality.

EMERALD GREEN

Comhaontas Glas, the "Green Alliance" is the Irish Republic's Green Party and it, generally speaking, inherited the policies of the Ecology Party of Ireland.

EPI and ECO had identical policies on Northern Ireland agreed by the respective parties on the same conference weekend in October 1982. In essence the joint policy set out to create the conditions under which a consensus could emerge in the province. As long as there is an "either/or", "yes/no", "Dublin/Westminster" choice, the Ulster community will divide about two thirds/one third and do it along sectarian lines. Ecology Party policy aims to open the debate wider, replace the military presence and create the conditions for a multiple choice, referendum, in which a simple "yes/no" vote is not possible.

Agreement on this first step is vital and does not prevent us from having a policy on what should come out of such a referendum: the "preferred Green option" in the referendum. Moreover, though it is clearly desirable for Comhaontas Glas and the Ecology Party to have identical contributions to the proposed public enquiry and referendum, that is not actually essential. What is

continued on page 6

Towards A Green Europe

EXTRACTS FROM THE COMMON MANIFESTO OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN PARTIES

THE EUROPEAN GREENS

This Green Movement grew up in response to the planet's many signals that neither its peoples nor itself could tolerate abuse and exploitation for much longer.

Although Green political initiative has developed independently in each country, we have each identified that the *root cause* of these signals is the consumer-based, industrial societies of the "developed" world and the old-fashioned, exploitative economics that propel them.

We also recognised that if there was to be any hope for the future then new ideas must evolve. We must move on from competitive straining towards economic growth which disregards the cost in terms of world resources and human misery. We must move to co-operation in economic and social planning that, at all levels, holds paramount

the conserving of the delicate balance between the planet, its resources, its peoples and its animals in all their enormous diversity.

Our guiding commitment will always be the peaceful survival of humanity in a safe and sustainable global environment, not just for the next five or ten years, but for the generations to come.

A GREEN EUROPE

Working from this commitment we reject the present attempt to promote Europe as another centralised economic and military power block and instead seek the development of a Europe of Regions, free from the division imposed by artificial borders and working together to conserve and develop their cultural and physical diversity.

This means . . . true democracy. It means seeking personal responsibility to our community and to the rest of the world. It means making all people matter equally. It means a shift from



EMERALD GREEN

continued from page 5

a common road to a referendum,

Despite remarks to the contrary in some quarters we have not changed our policy on Northern Ireland since October 1982 and Standing Orders Committee ruled out of order (for technical reasons) a sequence of amendments which would have been on the agenda for the first Southport Conference, so there are no immediate plans, or even possibilities to change that joint policy. Indeed, the Party, if it were to move away from that middle ground, has shown in the past signs of treating Ireland as a whole from which Britain should withdraw. This would hardly be acceptable to Northern Ireland Eco, who take a somewhat "Green Unionist" stance, and would probably result in a split.

It is no accident that Northern Irish political Parties are separate from the mainland counterparts (though they may co-operate with them). The fact is that the province is obsessed with its own political future to such a degree that the physical, economic and political health of the planet and the continent are of very minor importance to the majority of the politicians of Ulster.

Green politics offers a real hope of breaking that particular deadlock and the joint policy seems to afford us the best way forward - if we dare to take it and hold firmly to both middle ground and our radical joint policy.

MIKE CROWSON

Party Secretary and

Former Convenor

Northern Ireland Working Party

Associate Member of Comhaontas Glas

ECO-TWINS

The aim of the North West Leicestershire Ecology Party is to act as a co-ordinator for any Eco groups who would like to make contact with other Greens abroad. We feel it is important to establish better links with Europe, in order to promote greater interest and understanding. It will provide publicity for the Ecology Party and help to strengthen and deepen the Green Movement throughout Europe.

With this in mind, any Branch who is interested in making contact with fellow Greens in either Austria, Belgium, Eire, France, Great Britain, Germany, Holland, Luxembourg or Sweden, please write to:

Ms Pamela Clayfield, 16 St. Matthews Avenue, Ashby-de-la-Zouche, Leics. LE6 5SF.

Please state your preferred country, together with a short history of your Eco-Branch, and enclose an SAE.

JOINT DEC OF EUR GREEN

As the twentieth century approaches its end, the Green Movement is offering real hope for the future. This it does by aiming to return power to the citizen, to make it clear that a better way of life need not depend on a higher standard of living, to restore the balance between the human race and the rest of nature, radically to rethink relations between the rich and poor peoples of the world and to defend the cause of peace.

Green politics is a fact of life in more and more European countries. In order better to fulfil the aspirations of an increasing number of their citizens, the following green movements have decided to work together closely, at an international level, for the ecological aims they already pursue at the local, regional and national levels:

LES VERTS (France); ECOLOGY PARTY (United Kingdom); COMHAONTAS GLAS (THE GREEN ALLIANCE) (Ireland); AGALEV and ECOLO (Belgium); MILJOPARTIET (Sweden); ALTERNATIVE LISTE OSTERREICH (Austria).

We intend to extend this co-operation to green movements in both Eastern Europe and on other continents.

The elections to the European Parliament on June 14th, 1984 will offer one opportunity to stop those who, in pursuit of continued economic and industrial growth, are undermining the basis of life itself, either by supporting pollution and other damage or by encouraging war. These tendencies are to be found in all traditional parties, whether they claim to be of the left, the centre, or the right. The millions of citizens who already share an ecological viewpoint know that such tendencies will be removed only if a fundamental change of mind by everyone concerned first takes place.

We in the Green Movement believe that Europe should no longer be governed, or misgoverned, by central authorities. The diversity of its culture, of its peoples and regions, is one of Europe's greatest assets, to be conserved and developed for the benefit of every European; true sovereignty can only come from a federal structure which takes that diversity into account. Such a structure, ultimately to consist of regions rather than nation-states, must moreover be established in a way that respects the dignity and responsibility of all citizens; political, social and economic decisions must be taken by those who have to bear the consequences of them. A truly democratic Europe will be made possible only through decentralisation of institutions, constant dialogue between citizens and those making decisions at various levels, open discussion of problems, free access to all official documents and files, referenda at the will of the people, and the granting of the vote to immigrants, which is a matter of particular importance to the European Parliament.

We in the Green Movement do not want a Europe whose governments are heavily involved in the accumulation of weapons while every year millions of people are dying

DECLARATION OF EUROPEAN GREEN PARTIES

of hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. Indeed, the terrifying gap between those who have too little and those who have more than they know what to do with is one of the most likely causes of a future war, and the evening up of living standards must be a priority in the struggle for peace.

In the light of this we must radically transform and diversify our agricultural policies which are currently heavily subsidised and based on industrial methods which exploit animal and plant life, and instead promote nutritional self-sufficiency, both for our own regions and for those of the Third World.

Therefore continuing research into ecological and nutritional adaptation on our planet constitutes a main aim of the Green Movement's peace strategy.

In conjunction with this the Green Movement advocates civilian-based, non-violent defence, rather than the traditional concept of armed defence. We also call for a stop to the arms trade, for an independent European defence strategy and for unilateral first steps towards multilateral disarmament.

The Green Movement is opposed to any growth based on soaring energy production in industrialised countries since this brings intolerable pressure to bear on the environment. Moreover, excessive consumption leads to a depletion of the energy resources of the planet at the expense of Third World countries. We oppose the use of nuclear energy, an expensive, out-dated, inhuman and extremely dangerous technology that creates environmental problems persisting for thousands of years. Instead we wish to see an energy policy which is based on real needs, promotes energy conservation, rational use of energy and the use of renewable locally produced resources.

The Green Movement rejects an economy based on productivity orientation, concentrated means of production, irreversible environmental damage partly due to uncontrolled waste disposal, the creation of artificial needs, the prevention of self-fulfilling activities, the accentuation of inequalities between continents, regions and social groups thereby leading to widespread unemployment. We wish to break totally from the liberal or monopolistic capitalism of the West and the state capitalism of the East, and want a third path which is compatible with an ecological society. We favour regenerating the economy from the bottom up, making it human and sustainable, creating a system of community-based self-reliance, giving priority to the respect of eco-systems. We want positive discrimination in favour of human-scale economic activity producing socially useful lasting and environment friendly products which meet the real needs of society. We favour human-scale eco-organised businesses, involving the participation of workers, consumers and those living in the immediate vicinity. We are in favour of a significant reduction in working hours, work-sharing, and a general redistribution of income and resources.

This declaration marks the creation of a EUROPEAN GREEN ALLIANCE, the members of which hereby underline their commitment to co-operate closely within this framework and to pool aims and means thus creating a genuine Green International.

Towards A Green Europe

continued from page 5

of first importance is that there should be plundering the earth for short term gains to protecting and saving its precious resources. It means a total rejection of all weapons of mass destruction and a move towards a neutral stance, supported by social and non-violent civilian defence. In short, it means putting a morality and a soul back, not only into politics, but also into our lives.

POLICIES

(The Green Parties of Europe will work) towards peace in Europe, based on the cornerstone of friendship between all peoples.

Towards a policy of ecological balance which will not stop at national or European boundaries, and which will ensure the basic conditions of life.

Towards an ecologically responsible and humane social and economic policy.

Towards an agriculture in balance with nature.

Towards an honest sharing of the earth's prosperity with the people of the Third World.

Towards a democratic Europe of self-determined regions.

By coming to these conclusions the Greens of Europe have also come together and are working closely to offer the first fresh and completely new political initiative for over 100 years.

Twins for Life

In September at the fourth Malvern Conference I met a lot of people, including members of Chorley Ecology Party Branch. Over a few pints on the Friday and Saturday evenings we got into some good conversation and exchange of ideas. One of these was: How could we build more contact between the various Green Parties within Europe, and get Green ideas better known? 1984 is European Election Year, and a Green presence is badly needed in Strasbourg and Brussels to fight the large Conservative majority, and to tackle pollution and environmental problems on a European level.

A good way to start, we thought, would be to set up a "Twinning" arrangement between Green groups at a local level. The seed of an idea had been planted at Conference, and back in our respective towns, we talked to our fellow members. Chorley Eco Branch wrote to me saying that they were in favour of the idea. I wrote back to say that the Greens in Iserlohn were of the same mind. So we now have a very young "twinning" arrangement between Chorley in Lancashire, UK and Iserlohn in West Germany, that I hope will contribute in the future to bringing a small bit of understanding of other countries' ways.

JOHN BELL Iserlohn, West Germany

GREEN UNITY

On Monday 23rd January a Press Conference in Brussels announced the formation of an Alliance of European Green Parties who intend to go to the elections for the European Parliament on the basis of a Joint Common Manifesto.

The eight parties, who presented to the Press a Joint Declaration of Aims, are the Ecology Party (UK), Agalev (Belgium, Flemish), Ecolo (Belgium, Francophone), Les Verts (France), Comhaontas Glas (The Green Alliance, Ireland), De Groenan (Netherlands), and two non-community parties (Miljopartiet (Sweden), and Alternative Liste Oesterreich (Austria).

The Press Conference followed a week-end meeting of the Parties where the final amendments were made to the Joint Common Manifesto, which will be presented to the Press, after being ratified by each Party, at the first European Congress of the Greens at Liege, Belgium, from 31st March to 1st April 1984.

The eight Parties have been meeting together for some time now along with delegates from Die Grunen, and a very new Party from Luxembourg, Dei Greng, who will hopefully join the Alliance soon. Die Grunen, probably the best-known Green Party in Europe, have worked on the Joint Common Manifesto from the beginning (indeed, they provided the first working draft) but due to internal difficulties have not been able to confirm their joining the Alliance.

The importance of the Alliance for the European Elections is threefold. Firstly the reimbursement barrier falls to 1% if parties from more than three countries go together to the elections. This is important to the countries who may fall below the 5% reimbursement barrier. With our own electoral system we have sadly little hope of reimbursement. Even if we contested all 81 seats and obtained an overall 1% the sum reimbursed would be negligible compared to the cost! (Details of the iniquities of the European system from the CaRD campaign).

At the moment, Belgium may get two seats, France four, Holland one and perhaps even Luxembourg one, should they decide to contest the elections. Die Grunen may get four or five and there could just be a seat in Ireland. As extra funds and facilities are available to political groups of ten or more in the European Parliament the benefits of an Alliance of Green Parties is obvious!

FOR DETAILS OF YOUR LOCAL
ECOLOGY PARTY, RING
01-735 2485

Published and Typeset by the Ecology Party,
36/38 Clapham Road, London SW9 0JQ.
Printed by Logoprint, 136a Burton Road,
Manchester M20 8JQ, on recycled paper.

The final important point about the Alliance is particular to those countries who will not succeed in obtaining seats, either because they are not in the EEC (Austria, Sweden) or because their voting system mitigates against it (UK – I know this doesn't apply to you, Northern Ireland – I'm just erring on the cautious side!) Green European Members of Parliament elected from the other Parties are pledged to represent our views for us, so, for example, Sweden's Acid Rain Campaign and our own Campaign for Real Democracy will have a European forum.

With this sort of commitment and co-operation from our sister parties in other countries we receive a great boost to our own expensive and frustrating election campaign. Let's hope we can demonstrate our own depth of commitment by making those campaigns gain us the magic 5% of the vote.

SARA PARKIN
International Liaison Committee

YOUR LOCAL GROUP

I would like to receive details of my local Ecology Party.

NAME

ADDRESS

I enclose a donation of £
for the Euro-Election Appeal.
Send to The Ecology Party, 36/38 Clapham
Road, London SW9 0JQ.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

"We have won the battle to get our ideas accepted; now we have to win the battle for votes."

This is the considered opinion of ex-General Secretary and Party Council Co-Chair Paul Ekins, now Field Officer for the Campaign for Fair Votes, after talking to political activists of all parties all over the country in carrying out his duties for the Campaign.

The European Election on June 14th is the opportunity we need to get a significant percentage of the votes cast, and so boost our credibility. All these factors are in our favour:

There will not be the pressure on voters to vote tactically; they will not be voting Maggie in – or out. They can vote for good ideas, for their conscience, for the future – this means *for us*.

We have a Common Manifesto with the other European Green Parties; not 'random cranky ideas', but well-thought-out policies agreed by a European Federation of Green Parties. No-one else will have such a Manifesto.

All eyes will be turned to the Continent to see how the Greens make make out. If, as is very possible, we get 5% or more of the votes cast, we will be seen to be an equally serious political threat.

On past form, the turnout of voters will be, on average, less than 40%. Our number of votes received will be a larger percentage of those cast. If we run good campaigns, 5%

should be an easily obtainable share.

GOOD CAMPAIGNS REQUIRE BOTH EFFORT AND MONEY.

We will have 10, maybe 15 or more candidates – this will be a significant presence, equivalent to some 90 or even 150 parliamentary constituencies.

THERE WILL BE THE EFFORT – all we need is THE MONEY.

Deposits cost £600 each – but each Euro seat covers about nine Parliamentary seats at £150 each.

Our initial appeal is for £9,700, to cover ten deposits and manifesto expenses. **We are hoping for more.** If we get it, this election could be the breakthrough in voting that we have been waiting for.

Please send whatever you can NOW to the Party Treasurer, Peter Harvey, 36 Rose Hill, Rednal, Birmingham B45 8RR, marking your cheque "EURO ELECTION APPEAL".

As well as being directed to the many individuals who usually donate the major proportion, this appeal is also directed to Branches and other sympathetic groups who do not have a candidate in their area. Will you please fundraise and collect money from the general public.

The future of the Party could hinge on the results obtained this summer.

BRIAN KINGZETT
Party Fundraiser

feedback

Dear Sir

In the ECO Party we have a great principle – nothing less than to “live in harmony with nature”. For those who believe (as I do) that nature is God’s, that is a profoundly religious concept. But we shall never be a great Party, I fear, unless we get rid of the contradictions that cluster about us.

One is the irrelevant influence that lingers on from habits of mind instilled by past politics. Too many of our keen workers seem unable to rid themselves of Socialist or Liberal preconceptions, unable to move into a new world of Green politics. There is the extraordinary spectacle of many in our supposedly “decentralist” Party vehemently denouncing the one good idea the Tories have had – to get rid of the GLC! If there ever was a redundant high-level tier of Government, that is it.

Another contradiction is that between our devotion to God’s Nature and our too-frequent rejection of His law – by supporting abortion and contraception, both of which are clearly unnatural. As for homosexuality, what could be more unnatural than that? Can we not have compassion for those who are tempted to this sin, and respect for the artistic achievement of so many of them, without pretending that their aberration is right?

An outsider observing us would be likely to gain the impression that every way-out extremist, every faddist, every fashionable sectarian, looks to us for

shelter under our wing. We should surely be more selective. A Party that claims, as of course we do, to be fit to govern the country and lead the way in improving the world, attracts little favourable attention if it appears to consist largely of people who are careless of their own dress and behaviour. How can we make progress in appealing to the Great British Electorate with a straggle of undisciplined hangers-on impeding our course?

At every turn, despite my total commitment to Green principles, I have found myself brought up short by anomalous manifestations. As we all know, it is a matter of survival; so I shall not resign. ECO is the only Party I can ever support, now; but I have met with so many rebuffs that I am retiring to the touch-line. Our side must win, and I shall continue to cheer progress, but I reserve the right to boo any player who seems to me to be guilty of foul play

Very sincerely yours,

MAVERICK

(Name and address supplied)

(Ed – Correspondents who wish to remain anonymous may do so, as long as I know who they are. Although I would have thought that generally ECO members would have the courage to support their beliefs openly, there are of course exceptions to every rule – and I doubt that ignorance of the identity of the writer will prevent other readers from contributing fully to this fascinating debate.

By the way, I prefer not to be addressed as “Sir”.)

A New Initiative

By George Carcasson

On 23rd January I was joined by Paul Ekins, Danny and Lindy Powell and Professor Reg Mutter at a meeting convened at the House of Commons by Joyce Pearce, founder of the Ockended Venture. The meeting was to be addressed by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan who, at the request of the UN General Assembly, has set up an Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI). To meet the Commission’s objectives it was

intended that we should set up “a simple networking machinery by which those working in the United Kingdom for a change in values and attitudes and related action in areas of humanitarian concern may be made more aware of each other’s efforts and speak with a common voice”.

The areas listed included International Humanitarian Issues, Education, and Conservation/Environment.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW

Radio Video Gotta go

TV Station Communication Disinformation

Census Fences Increased Defences

Fascination Complication Remuneration

Big name Stupid game Claim to Fame

Computer toy meant Redeployment Unemployment

Mustn’t mention Racial tension Black intention

Multiplication Population Overrun nation

Senses reeling Good feeling Don’t see you’re kneeling

Apprehension

New Dimension

Old Age Pension

All I know is

Diagnosis

Mass Hypnosis

P S SADLER

poet's corner



RECORD REVIEW

YOU CAN'T KILL THE SPIRIT/ YESTERDAY'S CHILDREN

Common Cause
Incidental Music

Everyone will recognise the ‘A’ side of this single as the anthem of Greenham Common and the Women’s Peace Movement – though you may not have heard it quite like this on any march! The harmonies take a bit of getting used to, and to break up three minutes of the same melody – ‘You Can’t Kill The Spirit’ was conceived as a round – there’s an insert entitled ‘Listen to Your Heart’.

Anyone who has ever been to Greenham or indeed committed anything of themselves to the causes of peace and feminism will immediately warm to this record.

The ‘B’ side, “Yesterday’s Children” is written and sung by a young Manchester mother and her beautiful voice in this very simple arrangement goes straight to the heart.

“Yesterday’s children are the product of a war/ . . . Are they getting older and wiser/Or are they going blind/We think they’re going blind/Today’s children are the product of a dream . . . /Trying to impress upon the children gone before/ that the answer to peace is not a nuclear war . . . /Tomorrow’s children are the product of a hope . . . Yesterday’s children if they’d cared could have seen /That the women of Greenham want to keep the country clean/Please don’t get your sight back/Just to watch our children die

This single is highly recommended. It’s not available through the normal channels, and you probably won’t hear it on Radio One. The recording and pressing were paid for by private donation, the record is produced by the Manchester Greenham Women’s Support Group and the proceeds will go to support non-violent direct action at Greenham and elsewhere.

You can get “You Can’t Kill The Spirit” by mail order from Moonraker, 15 Piccadilly, Manchester. £1.25 covers postage and packing.

FREDA CHAPMAN

NEW MANIFESTOS

Those who bought copies of the new Manifesto for a Sustainable Society at Southport have unfortunately (owing to a technical mishap) been deprived of two whole sections:

LAND TENURE
POPULATION

Duplicated copies of these two sections are available from Party Office. Don’t hesitate to write in for these - preferably with an SAE.

GUY WOODFORD
Conferences Committee

WILL ALL THOSE PEOPLE WHO PUT THEIR NAMES DOWN FOR A GREEN WEEKEND AT GOODNESTONE WHILE AT MALVERN IV PLEASE CONTACT JAN CALLAGHAN ON 0304 841080 OR WRITE TO YEW TREE FARM, GOODNESTONE, CANTERBURY, KENT

HOW GREEN IS THE LABOUR PARTY?

By David Mellor

"Why don't you all join Labour/Look at SERA (their ecological wing)" — This is the kind of question that we are frequently asked, and not only by Labour activists. It's also a question that many people ask us as they are trying to make up their minds about the best way they can help to further the "Ecological cause".

The choice is between joining a small party with the right kind of ideas or a mass party with all the problems of working within its complex framework to get "green ideas" accepted.

This assessment is based mainly on the Manifesto produced by Labour for the 1983 General Election. It was called "New Hope for Britain".

Its foreword indicated the main election issues... "shattered Britain", "ever-growing dole queues", "protection of the Social Services", "the continuing nuclear arms race".

An "Emergency Programme of Action" was proposed which would have launched a massive house-building programme, major energy-saving programmes, public transport aid, action on improving the environment, positive action for the ethnic minorities, sex equality, a new international policy for promoting peace and development.

A follow-up "Five Year Programme" was to follow. It would have "phased commitments" though there was a clear admission that these "dreams" could only be achieved by a "large and sustained increase in the Nation's output and income — with a matching decline in unemployment.

QUESTIONNAIRES

Party Council are becoming very concerned about the number of unsolicited questionnaires that members have been receiving recently.

Members whose names and addresses are printed on "Noticeboard" will appreciate that this makes their home addresses widely available both inside and outside the Party. However, to guard against this becoming a major invasion of members' privacy, guidelines are being drawn up to govern under what circumstances information may be supplied to enquirers, both Party Members and non-members.

What is wrong with this manifesto? From the ecological point of view we think there are a number of areas of concern, particularly in policy on Energy, Agriculture & Fisheries, Industry, International Relations and Peace.

ECONOMIC GROWTH is not the right target.

Of fundamental concern is the acknowledged reliance of Labour's plans on large and continuing economic growth. This basic dependence on expansion of production in order to pay for "restored welfare programmes, etc., immediately disqualifies this Manifesto from being "green" and probably from being Socialist as well since it quite clearly fails to provide any kind of alternative economic structure.

In our view Britain is still one of the richest countries of the world; it has an unacceptably high rate of resource consumption already and what is wrong is not a shortage in the production-

ON EASTER SUNDAY — Plant crops at Molesworth, Northants. Help the Third World and foil the Cruise Brigade.

Contact 080 12 2187 for details.

"NUCLEAR POWER — THE END IN SIGHT

South-East Anti-Nuclear Network (SEANNET) is holding a working weekend on Nuclear Power. May 12/13th at the YWCA, Great Russell Street, WC2. Further details from Danny or Lindy (Energy Working Group)

consumption output, but failings in the way resources and finance are used and distributed. Until that problem is faced up to by "major parties" then the fruitless pursuit of economic expansion will continue to increase the very inequalities in our society that the Labour Party claims to challenge.

The Manifesto admits that in its proposals the unemployed will only be re-absorbed into the money-earning system "if the economy expands sufficiently". This would require an extremely high rate of expansion, together with no further labour displacement by automation or external competition. This seems to be a very unlikely prospect and any political strategy which depends on it will simply fail the unemployed.

The Green economic approach can be examined in other literature but a fundamental principle is the fairer distribution of the "economic cake" regardless of its size. This involves changes in the methods of distribution (a National Wage/Income Scheme) and changes in the allocation of wage earning opportunity by means such as reduced working weeks, job sharing, as well as changes in income distribution.

Any economic policy which is dependent on continually increasing resource consumption cannot, for a number of reasons, be sustained and so neither can the economy which depends on it.

It is the task of Green politics to encourage the shift in public attitudes that these new economic patterns require. There is also the task of challenging the existing obsession (politically and socially) with continuing rises in consumer affluence and to broaden the horizons of concern to include "Third World" needs, future energy and resource constraints, sustainable agricultural systems and justice on a global scale.

We also have to work for a proper understanding of the changes needed in international trading and political relations to permit a real peaceful co-existence.

INDUSTRY

"Threatened companies saved from closure"; "existing industries protected"; "new companies developed"; "expansion and diversification of public enterprises" . . . no industrial stone left unturned!

Expansion promised in every direction is just unreal. Whilst trying to provide work opportunities for everyone, perhaps in the only way they know how, the authors of this section simply ignore the growing tide of new thinking (and

IN LONDON ON SATURDAY 28th APRIL?

Why not go to "THE RALLY"? (Subject: a new social order for Britain). Speakers will be Helen John (Greenham), our very own Jonathon Porritt, Angela Warner (British Union of Anti-Vivisection), Guy Dauncey (The Unemployment Handbook), Dr Rex Andrews (Quakers), and Henderson Dalrymple (Carrivian Times). Ted Knight will be in the Chair. Admission £2; 70p for the unwaged.

Enquiries: Joan Andrews on 01-622 5734

PUBLIC RALLY

Tickets: £3 (2 each for five or more) £1.50 unwaged
Friends House, Euston Rd. London NW1 Wed 6 June, 7.30 pm
Leading participants in The Other Economic Summit will introduce its main themes and directions.

CONFERENCE FOR THE NEW ECONOMICS

June 7, 8, 9. Royal Overseas League, Park Place, London SW1
Day One: People, Work Day Two: Finance, Trade, Institutions Day Three: Resources, Environment
Tickets: £12/day, £30 for all three (inc. papers) Conference Papers: complete set for £8

It is hoped that groups working locally for The New Economics, or those concerned with peace, conservation or world development, will take advantage of the occasion of the Western Summit to stage their own parallel activity. We will be preparing a Briefing Sheet on this to help such groups, and would like to hear from them.

Places for the Conference are limited. Priority will be given to those wishing to attend the whole Conference. Please send \$10 deposit for each Conference place reserved. Balance payable on receipt of Conference papers.

Please complete and detach the form below and return it with any remittance to:
The Secretary, TOES, 42 Warriner Gdns, London SW11 4DR

I would like to know more. Please send me copies of your leaflet

I am interested in a parallel activity locally. Please send me copies of your briefing sheet Please send a SAE

I would like _____ tickets for the Rally, cost \$ _____

I would like to reserve _____ places at the Conference, deposit(s) \$ _____

Days: One Two Three Please tick as applicable

Stream: Local National International

I would like _____ sets of Conference papers, cost \$ _____

I would like to make a donation to support The New Economics and to help meet the very considerable expenses of The Other Economic Summit \$ _____

(Cheques payable to The Other Economic Summit please) I enclose \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Tel work _____ home _____



A NEW ECONOMICS

to end the abuse of human and material resources and promote just and self-sustaining patterns of trade and economic development.

THE OTHER ECONOMIC SUMMIT

will take place in London at the same time as the meeting at Lancaster House of the leaders of the seven richest capitalist countries. It will give expression to a new economics — "economics as if people mattered", the economics of enough, the economics of permanence — bringing together many of the pioneers in this field and demonstrating that there is a sane, humane, life-affirming, life-conserving alternative to the old economics of destruction and despair.

HOW GREEN IS THE LABOUR PARTY?

continued from page 10

not so new!) on the nature and purpose of work, and its diminishing role in our lives and the "natural economy" of the future. There is an alternative to the work slavery of the industrial age. Apart from that, this indiscriminate manufacturing expansion is plainly lacking in any strategy or sense of direction. Such an expansionist ambition is increasingly unattainable, undesirable, and it imposes intolerable ecological stresses on the world and its resources.

THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

The help offered to the Third World by Labour is "a stimulation of trade and growth". This approach was advocated by the Brandt Commission but has been widely criticised as being dominantly more in the interests of reviving stagnant industrial economies than in those of the Third World. It is also a common view that this kind of approach is more likely to enrich Governments and elites in the Third World whilst ignoring, or even damaging the real needs of the people in those countries.

From the green viewpoint, what is needed are steps which will reduce the dependence of Third World countries on western economies and give them greater independence. In the view of Susan George, "the best help we can give is to get off their backs". That is largely our view and requires a more thoughtful analysis and strategy than simplistic promises of "we'll give more aid".

Arms trading and military spending are rightly criticised in the Manifesto (an instance where opposition promises do not correspond to in-office performance.) If arms trading is to be seriously reduced then the economics of arms manufacture must be reviewed; also there must be a "massive" programme for redeployment. These are absent in Labour's politics as are the clear moral commitments to stop trading in arms.

WAR AND THE ARMS RACE

Labour's position on nuclear weapons renunciation was, at the time of the General Election and has been since clear only in its ambiguity! The performance of Labour spokesmen during the election did great damage to the rationality of the case against nuclear weapons as well as gravely damaging the morale of the anti-nuclear movement. In time this will be seen to compare closely to the earlier failing of Labour at the previous "watershed" election in 1964.

The clear stance characterising the anti-nuclear Greens throughout Europe is missing from the Labour hierarchy.

A WIDER DEMOCRACY

is Labour's name for a commitment to an expansion of public involvement in government and planning, though it is not sufficient a commitment to oblige them to oppose plans for a £1,000 electoral deposit nor to support the principle of proportional representation.

They pledge to introduce a Freedom of Information Bill (though that has been talked about before) but many environmental campaigners and others will be only too aware of the degree of secrecy practised by Labour politicians at all levels of government.

An important part of the Green philosophy

is a commitment to openness and public involvement on a scale not yet practised by the Labour Party itself, never mind other public institutions.

Much "freedom of information" could be introduced by Labour politicians even under present conditions but there seems little sign of it.

The proposals for Data Protection Laws confirms this addiction to secrecy by the "major parties"; it excludes the most important target of all - the Government itself.

THE ENERGY TRAP

"saving more of the energy we use"; "massive conservation schemes"; "Combined Heat and Power stations"; increased funding for renewables" - all good stuff; where was it ten years ago?

Unfortunately there is no real recognition of the need to reduce energy consumption as world energy conservation demands and the "Renewables + Conservation option" that would lead to.

On nuclear power - the PWR, cast as a "Tory" design, is out but the rest are still in and therefore so is Windscale and the military connections, though there is no real mention of nuclear waste, the military links or proliferation - all of which are sufficient to demand a halt to nuclear power.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHING

Part of Labour's opposition to the EEC (now abandoned?) is because of its distorting influence on food production and pricing. But Labour's alternative is to cut food costs by buying more cheaply on world markets through long-term trading agreements. This will alarm Third World campaigners who recognise the need for those countries to give greater priority to meeting the food needs of their own people before exporting to food-rich Europe.

It seems that Labour's plans would allow the level of home food production to fall; this does not meet the ecological need for all countries to attempt to be as self-reliant in food terms as possible.

THE ENVIRONMENT

(last but not least)

The Labour Manifesto has a modest section, though in fairness many policies of environmental significance are scattered through the manifesto, which is how it should be. An "Annual State of the Environment" is proposed though for what precise purpose is not made clear. There are many such publications proposed; what is lacking is Governmental, industrial and public action to bring about improvements in our management of the environment.

Changes are proposed - stronger rural planning controls, rights of access guarantees, more legislation on endangered species, more finance for the Nature Conservancy Council and the Countryside Commission, a review of pollution legislation, implementation of the rest of the 1974 Control of Pollution Act, lead-free petrol, restoration of air and noise pollution control agencies and "A programme to remove toxic substances from our environment". Though they do indicate the failure of previous Labour Governments to act, this impressive list of conventional "environmental remedies" are welcome and long overdue.

Even so, these proposals, important steps though they are, should not be confused with

the essential changes needed in our "way of life" in order to properly prevent such environmental damage.

The Labour Party, and its policies as expressed in its Manifesto, is not Green despite occasional claims to the contrary.

Some proposals would, if implemented, undoubtedly serve to improve the environment of Britain. However, ecological concerns go much deeper than that alone. If the planet, its resources, its wildlife and its people are to have a long sustained and (relatively) peaceful future then the old political model of competitive, expansionist economic growth must be abandoned.

Its place must be taken by the new politics of sustainability which will make best use of the Earth's resources - both raw materials and renewables - and not just for the powerful and rich but for all people.

At least the Labour Party merits inspection, but for people seriously committed to a non-nuclear Britain, for those who want politics aimed at ending the rat-race of the consumerist society and the transition to a more meaningful and sustainable economic philosophy this is not the way.

For those who want an aware and perceptive approach towards the PEOPLE of the Third World, Labour's uncritical offers of CNP related aid will ring alarm bells.

These conclusions are a challenge to those "greens" within the Labour Party to keep on working to "green" their co-members and the philosophy of the Party; we genuinely wish them every success. There is also a challenge to the adventurous and concerned people to look elsewhere for the real Green Manifesto.

CONFERENCE DECISIONS

1 (SOC Report) passed; 2 (Revised Standing Orders) passed (amended); 2a (Acceptance of Standing Orders) not taken; 3 (Policy Co-ordinator's Report) passed; 4 (EEC and beyond) passed (amended); Fishing passed (amended) 5-10 (Local Government Charter) passed; 11 (Local Government Charter) withdrawn; 12-13 (House of Lords/Second Chamber) passed (amended); 14 (NCCL Charter) passed; 15 (Children's Rights) passed; 16 (STV) passed (amended); 17 (Local Elections) passed; 18 (Green Groups) fell; 19 (voting age) passed; 20 (age of candidates) fell; 21-23 (national spending in General Elections) passed (21 amended); 24 (Sale of Council Houses) passed (amended); 25 (Health Workers) fell; 26-29 (fluoridation) passed (27 & 29 amended); 30-31 (Transport) not taken; 32 (Conference Organisation) not taken; 33/34 (Policy Co-ordinator) passed (amended).

THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY MOTIONS WERE PASSED:

Conference condemns the excessive sentence of six months imprisonment of Sarah Tisdall for leaking information about Cruise Missiles to the Guardian and calls for the repeal of the Official Secrets Act as a matter of urgency and its replacement by a Freedom of Information Act.

On Thursday further Court Orders to evict the Greenham Common women were obtained. The Ecology Party wholeheartedly re-affirms its support for the non-violent democratic protest of the Greenham women, and deplores the Government's attempts to stifle their protest by obtaining eviction orders and other actions taken to remove them from the Common. We also deplore the methods used and the abuse of legal procedures by the police and judiciary to deny the women the opportunity to explain and defend their action before a jury of their peers in open court.

noticeboard

PARTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Area Reps

SCOTLAND: Linda Hendry, 2a West Preston Street, Edinburgh
WALES: Brig Oubridge, Marchoglywn Fawr, Llanfynydd, Carmarthen, Dyfed (055 83 550)
NORTHERN IRELAND: Colin McGuigan, 70 East Street, Newtownards, Co. Down (NO PHONE)
NORTHERN: Rob Gibson, The Bungafow, Summerhill, Tower Woods, Windermere, Cumbria (0448 31114)
NORTH WEST: Steve Holgate, 12 Cambridge Street, Chorley, Lancashire (02572 79522)
YORKS/HUMBERSIDE: Simon Tooke, Stubblefield, Pinfold Lane, Bridlington, E. Yorks (0262 71897)
WEST MIDLANDS: Peter Harvey, 36 Rose Hill, Rednal, Birmingham, B45 8RR (021 453 5838)
EAST MIDLANDS: Myles Rhinds, 145 Stephenson Way, Corby, Northants NN17 1DF (NO PHONE)
EAST ANGLIA: Daniel Wimberley, 160 Beechen Road, Norwich, Norfolk (0603 504069)
NORTH THAMES: Alan Francis, 6 Spencer Street, New Bradwell, Milton Keynes, Bucks (0908 316921)
LONDON: Diane Burgess, 29 Castellian Avenue, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex (0708 47773)
SOUTH CENTRAL: Philip Unsworth, 4 Culver Road, Reading, Berks (0734 65533)
SOUTH EAST: Peter Bolwell, Flat 6, 39/40 Cornwallis Gardens, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1LX (0424 444653)
SOUTH WEST: Anna Pawlyn, The Old Station, Filleigh, Barnstaple, Devon (059 86 311)

Elected Annually

Mike Crowson, 1 Riverview Terrace, Purfleet, Essex RM16 1QT (04026 7932)
Geoffrey Darnton, 38 Long Barn Lane, Reading, Berkshire RG2 7SX (0734 866259)
Paul Ekins, 42 Warriner Gardens, London SW11 4DU (01 720 4973)
Jean Lambert, 3 Howard Road, London E17 (01 520 0676)
Wendy Morgan, 8 South Street, Totnes, Devon (0803 864117)
Jonathon Porritt, 57 Hamilton Terrace, London NW8 (01 286 6695)
Marilyn, Rocklands, Ferwig, Aberteifi, Dyfed (0239 618484)
Derek Wall, Commonwealth Hall, Cartwright Gardens, London WC1H 9EB (NO PHONE)

Local Councillors

Charles Boycott, Ashwell House, Bishopsteignton, Teignmouth, Devon (06267 3005)
John Chadwick, 19 North Road, Torpoint, Cornwall (0752 813456)

AREA CO-ORDINATORS

SCOTLAND: Patrick Marks, 35 Lawmill Gardens, St. Andrews, Fife (0334 75219)
WALES: Dave Rowell, 90 Gorwydd Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3AN (0792 873962)
NORTHERN IRELAND: Barbara Black, 4 Fairview Avenue, Cammonee, Newton Abbey, Co. Antrim
NORTHERN: Alec Ponton, 91 Nuns Moor Road, Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne (0632 730361)
NORTH WEST: Freda Chapman, 33 Churchill Street, Heaton Norris, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 1NB (061 429 6438)
YORKS/HUMBERSIDE (EASTERN): Betty Whitwell, 3 Thorngarth Lane, Barrow-on-Humber, South Humberside (0469 30721)
YORKS/HUMBERSIDE (WESTERN): Stanley Shepherd, 8 Birklands Terrace, Shipley, West Yorks BD18 3BT (0274 592988)
WEST MIDLANDS: John Morrissey, 13 Shetland Drive, Glendale, Nuneaton, CV10 7LA (0203 325890)
EAST MIDLANDS: Heather Goddard, 1 Coventry House, Burton Street, Melton Mowbray, Leicester LE13 1AQ

EAST ANGLIA: Daniel Wimberley (AREA REP)
NORTH THAMES: Heather Swales, 22 Bond Court, Hillside Road, Harpenden, Herts (05827 66522)
LONDON: Deborah Sutherland, 20 Applegarth Road, London W14 (01 603 6043)
SOUTH CENTRAL: Lorraine Munn, 38 Long Barn Lane, Reading, Berks (0734 866259)
SOUTH EAST: Basil Mager, 1 White Lodge, Collington Lane West, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex (04243 2908)
SOUTH WEST (SOMERSET, WILTS, AVON & DORSET): Bernard Little, 265 West Hill Road, Mutley Plain, Plymouth, Devon (0752 265103)
SOUTH WEST (DEVON): David Bradbury, 112 St. Edmunds Road, Torquay, Devon (0803 33229)
SOUTH WEST (CORNWALL): John Chadwick (PARTY COUNCIL)

AREA MEMBERSHIP SECRETARIES

SCOTLAND: Ian Baxter, 42 Parsons Pool, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian, EH19 3NP
WALES: Dave Rowell (AREA CO-ORDINATOR)
NORTHERN IRELAND: Allen Johnston, 7 Richill Crescent, Knock, Belfast
NORTHERN: Cath Tower, 100 Lake Road, Ambleside, Cumbria
NORTH WEST: Margaret Holgate, 12 Cambridge Street, Chorley, Lancashire (02572 79522)
YORKS/HUMBERSIDE: Helen Dixie, 88 Summargangs Road, Hull
WEST MIDLANDS: Jill Harvey, 36 Rose Hill, Rednal, Birmingham, B45 8RR (021 453 5838)
EAST MIDLANDS: Ken Yates, 37 Queen Street, Lincoln, LN5 8LB
EAST ANGLIA: John Matthissen, Greenacre, Beyton, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk (0359 70491)
NORTH THAMES: Les Burton, 15 Cambridge Close, Langford, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire SG18 9SH (0462 700746)
LONDON (NORTH): David Burns, 3 Danvers Road, London N8 (01 348 0127)
LONDON (SOUTH): Lyn Castle, 116 Nightingale Grove, London SE13 6DZ (01 318 3808)
SOUTH CENTRAL: Lorraine Munn (AREA CO-ORDINATOR)
SOUTH EAST: Tony Redshaw, "Aquarius", New Road, Upper Beeding, Steyning, West Sussex
SOUTH WEST: Herbert Bell, 14 Priory Park, Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts, BA15 1QU (02216 4387)

PARTY OFFICERS

OFFICE MANAGER: Paul Thatcher, Ecology Party, 36/38 Clapham Road, London SW9 0JQ (01 735 2488) or at home (01 743 4923)
PARTY SECRETARY: Mike Crowson (PARTY COUNCIL)
PARTY TREASURER: Peter Harvey (AREA REP)
PARTY FUNDRAISER: Brian Kingzett, Ty Nant, Bronant, Aberystwyth, Dyfed (097 421 266)
PARTY COUNCIL SECRETARY: Peter Bolwell (AREA REP)
ELECTION AGENT: Justin Walker, Hylands, 8 Weld Road, Birkdale, Southport, Merseyside (0704 65087)
CAMPAIGNS DIRECTOR AND PRESS SECRETARY: Tony Jones, Party office or 1 Linver Road, Fulham, London SW6 (01 736 9138)
INTERNATIONAL LIAISON SECRETARY: Roland Clarke, 42 Grange Road, Lewes, Sussex (07916 71719)
PARTY COUNCIL CO-CHAIRS: Paul Ekins, Jean Lambert, Jonathon Porritt (PARTY COUNCIL)
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE CONVENOR: Philip Unsworth (AREA REP)
CONFERENCES COMMITTEE CONVENOR: Simon Tooke (AREA REP)
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CONVENOR: Geoffrey Darnton (PARTY COUNCIL)
POLITICAL COMMITTEE CONVENOR: Brig Oubridge (AREA REP)
INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CONVENOR: Paul Ekins (PARTY COUNCIL)
PRESS & PUBLICITY COMMITTEE CONVENOR: Tony Jones (PRESS SECRETARY)
STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE CONVENOR: Martin Sewell, 8 Appleshaw Close, Gravesend, Kent (0474 23251)

APPEALS TRIBUNAL CONVENOR: Jonathon Tyler, 121 Selly Park Road, Birmingham 29 (021 472)

APPEALS TRIBUNAL CONVENOR: Jonathon Tyler, 121 Selly Party

APPEALS TRIBUNAL CONVENOR: Jonathon Tyler, 121 Selly Park Road, Birmingham 29 (021 472 1088)

ECONEWS EDITOR: Freda Chapman (AREA CO-ORDINATOR)

PUBLICATIONS MANAGER: Teresa Persighetti, 80 Kingsway, Enfield, Middlesex (01 805 7557)

YOUTH CAMPAIGNER: Andrew Hill, "Yewtrees", 34 Potters Way, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 1PX (0722 29459)

WORKING GROUPS AND CONVENORS

POLICY CO-ORDINATOR: Alan Francis (AREA REP)
AGRICULTURE; FOOD, FORESTRY & FISHING: Betty Whitwell (AREA CO-ORDINATOR)
ANIMAL RIGHTS: Lorraine Munn (AREA CO-ORDINATOR)
BIOLOGICAL CONSERVATION: Malcolm Samuel, 99 Prospect Road, Portstewart, Northern Ireland
BUILT ENVIRONMENT: Adrian Atkinson, 81 Gloucester Avenue, London NW1 (01 586 4225)
CARE OF THE MENTALLY/PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED: Sue Wardell, Eastview, Grove Lane, Longthorpe, Peterborough, (0733 262664)
COUNTRYSIDE: Mike Potter, Yew Tree Farm, Goodnestone, Canterbury, CT3 1PE.
CRIME & PUNISHMENT: Jean Lambert (PARTY COUNCIL)
DEFENCE: Peter Bolwell (AREA REP)
ECONOMICS AND TAXATION: David Chapman, Coles Farm, Buxhall, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 3EB (044 93 223)
EDUCATION: William Watson, 18 Furze Field Road, Reigate, Surrey (07372 40609)
ENERGY: Danny Powell, 65 Cromwell Avenue, London N6 5HS (01 348 0466)
FOREIGN POLICY & THIRD WORLD: Steve Dawe, 12 Clyde Street, Canterbury, Kent (0227 56226)
HEALTH: John Morrissey (AREA CO-ORDINATOR)
HOUSING: Ginnie Shaw, Field House, Bessingby, Bridlington, YO16 4UM
HUMAN RIGHTS: Lindy Williams, 65 Cromwell Avenue, London N6 5HS (01 348 0466)
LAND: Dave Richards, 78 Parkfields Road, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan
MARINE POLLUTION: Peter Bolwell (AREA REP)
NATIONAL INCOME SCHEME: Clive Lord, 44 Upper Batley Low Lane, Batley, West Yorks (0924 472 767)
NEW TECHNOLOGY: Nigel Callaghan, 33 Hetley, Orton Goldhey, Peterborough
NORTHERN IRELAND: Colin McGuigan (AREA REP)
PARTY ORGANISATION: Jonathon Tyler (APPEALS)
PEACE: John Marjoram, 23 Lower Street, Stroud, Gloucestershire (045 36 70962)
POLLUTION: Jim Berreen, 33 Shrubbery Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs (0527 31031)
POPULATION: Sara Parkin, 51 Rue de Longuefer, 69008 Lyons, France
SOCIAL WELFARE: Vacancy
TRANSPORT: Ken Johnson, 19 Wisp Green, Edinburgh, GH15 3QX (031 657 1967)
WOMEN AND THE ECOLOGY PARTY: Lynda Churnside, 120 Harfield, Forest Row, East Sussex (034 282 2996)
(WHERE A PERSON APPEARS MORE THAN ONCE ON NOTICEBOARD, THEIR ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER ONLY APPEAR IN THE FIRST INSTANCE)

econews 23

GREEN GROUPS

For contacts for Green CND, Christian Ecology Group, Buddhist Ecology Group (TARA), Student Ecology Movement, Green Esperanto Group, Women for Life on Earth, Green Science Group, 300 Group: PLEASE SEND A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO PARTY OFFICE, 36/38 CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON SW9 0JQ

ECONEWS 23 will be published on 30th July; Final copy (editorial) to Editor by 10th July; (advertising) to Party Office by 3rd July.

GREEN LINE - Magazine of Green Politics - subscription 8 issues for £3.20 - sample current issue 45p from 14 Alexandra Road, Oxford.

VEGAN male, 22, seeks friends. John, Rockside 4/4, Wellington Street, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4.

AT LAST! Badges from Brighton CND! Amusing! Rude! Subtle! Outrageous! Legal? Expensive! Send SAE for complete list to Monica Crowe, 17 Walsingham Road, Hove, Sussex.

TO ADVERTISE IN MARKETPLACE, send your ad with a cheque/PO for 10p per word to ECONEWS, Ecology Party, 36/38 Clapham Road, London SW9 0JQ. Contact the Editor for display rates - special arrangements for other Green Groups.

Published and Typeset by the Ecology Party, 36/38 Clapham Road, London SW9 0JQ. Printed by Logoprint, 136a Burton Road, Manchester M20 8JQ, on recycled paper.

marketplace

SINGLE comfortable caravan, heater, fridge etc. Organic holding. Landscaped rural setting. SAE to Meg Walshe, Blackberry Farm, Nynhead, Wellington, Somerset.

CHEAPISH rooms, flat etc. sought by couple; Active Eco members, vegetarians. Anything considered. Inner London. Mark 01-648 4213.

GLOSA - international language - is the language of ecology and science. Sample newsletter with vocabulary 50p from Glosa, 132 Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey.

"AMAZING Ideas on Local Party Activity" - new pamphlet. Truly astounding! Provocative thinking! No Eco branch dare go without one! Price: just one 12½p stamp + 12½p SAE to: Mark Kinzley, 7 Gaysham Avenue, Gants Hill, Ilford, Essex IG2 6TH.

SOUTH FRANCE holiday. 3 weeks. Bring your bicycle! £85 inclusive. Work if you want - well-digging etc. Food plus small wage. Tel 0206 35575.

TIPI for sale: 18 ft tipi, yellow & white, less than 2 years old, complete £300 ono. Talley 550.

ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY in rural herefordshire seeks new members. 40 acre organic smallholding, co-operatively run with own lake, river and swimming pool. 45 adults and children and numerous animals. Vacancy is a 4-bedroomed, maisonette style unit on ground and first floor of large Georgian house. £36,000. For details phone Trumpet 623.

ACID RAIN: "Acidification of the Environment including Acid Rain". An introduction for the layperson. From Pyramid Publications Ltd, 79a Huntbach Street, Hanley, Stoke on Trent ST1 2BX. £1.35 inc. p & p.