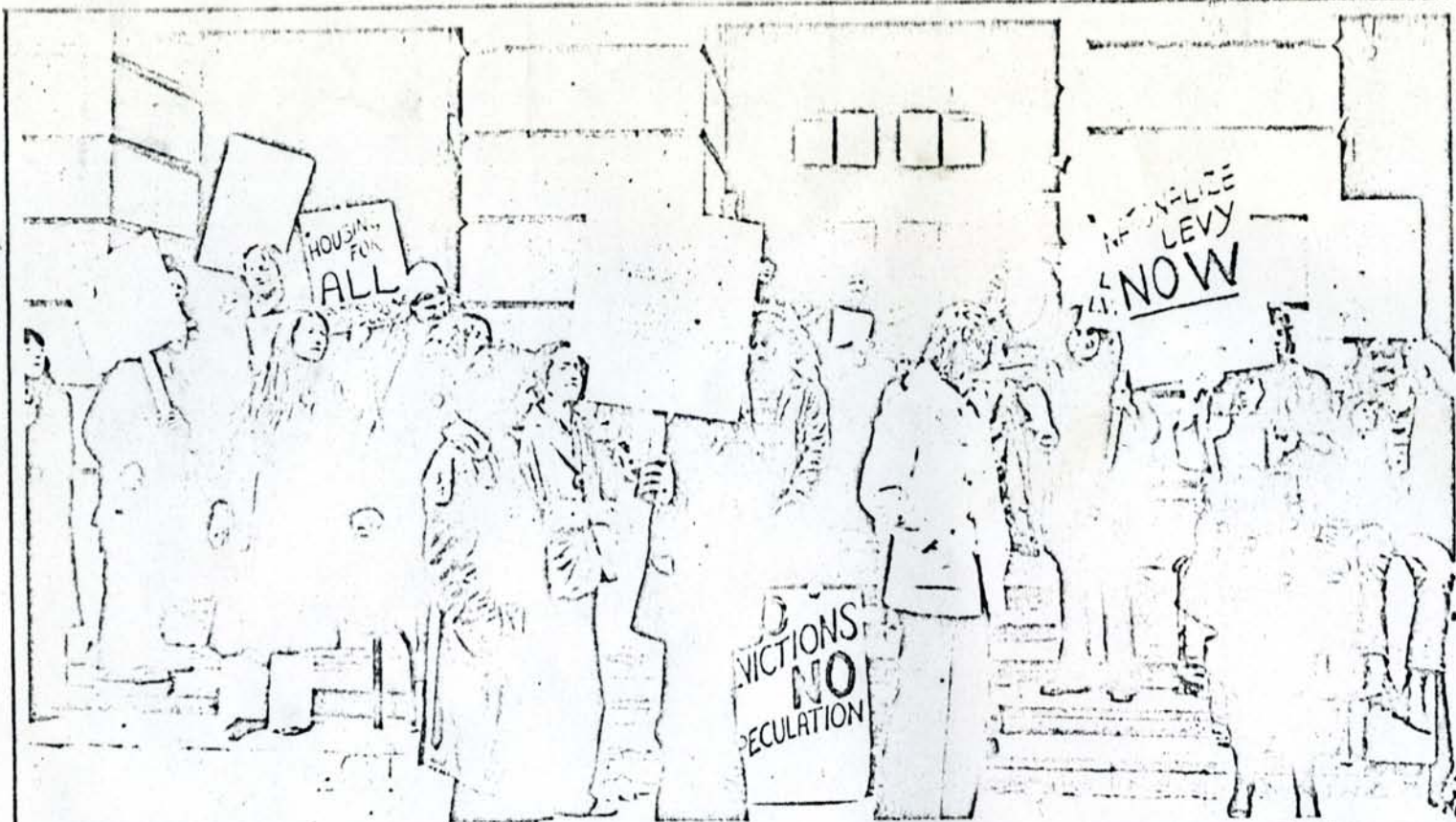


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Resist evictions — tenants call to unions

TRADE union backing is being sought by families threatened with eviction from London houses owned by property tycoon Joe Levy.

The 81 people involved live in 26 houses in the Tolmers Square area near Euston. Eviction writs have been issued.

Just around the corner are the London headquarters of the

National Union of Railwaymen and the National Union of Mineworkers.

'We are calling for support from any trade unionists,' said families who lobbied Camden council on Monday night.

The lobby was to demand effective action

from the council against property speculators in Camden. Leaflets they handed out called for the labour movement to resist evictions and for the nationalization of property companies 'that reap fortunes out of the misery of the homeless.'

The leaflets stated

that '60 per cent of Camden council rents enters the pockets of the big city financiers as interest payments'.

Demands by the Tolmers families that the Labour-controlled council break from the grip of the banks, finance houses and speculators have been met with evasions.

Now Camden has been hit by the Labour government decision to cut all housing conversion and improvement programmes by 55 per cent.

In Camden, the grant allocation has been cut from £13.7m down to £6m.

A report by council officials to the housing sub-committee says large amounts of property will have to remain empty and unused for long periods.

The report adds: 'This would not only be extremely wasteful, but would also leave the council open to criticism and produce problems with squatters.'

Vague calls made by Camden Labour group leader Frank Dobson on Monday night for the resignation of Labour housing ministers is a cover for the council's servility to the private ownership of property.

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