

1984

Life after Kelowna?

Diamond, Sara

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THE SOCREDS ARE PREPARING A 1984 BUDGET WHICH WILL MAKE JULY 7TH LOOK LIKE ICE-CREAM

ing impact of betrayal and defeat are unmistakable. As one viewer (a teacher) commented:

We were together. We were determined to stay out until we gained our central demand: protection for quality education. This display underlines the sadness we all experienced. We went out and gained little or nothing.

The use of an art context to unravel an historical moment exposes the feel as well as the functioning of politics. Solidarity was so vivid in B.C. that this piece has appealed to an audience beyond that of the usual gallery installation. It has received extensive media



CREIGHTON-KELLY IN ACTION AT WAB'S PICNIC AT GRACIE'S

coverage, perhaps because it comments on a self-conscious media, at a time when there is a virtual blackout on the continued efforts of Solidarity. Teachers, activists, and trade unionists (including Mike Kramer) have filed through. The attempt to understand a mass movement has been appreciated. While rooted in a specific context, there is, as one of the video subjects states, an almost universal lesson about entrenched leadership, government power, media and the explosive dynamics of power, which make this work accessible and valuable beyond the geographic boundaries of British Columbia.

—Sara Diamond

IS THERE LIFE AFTER KELOWNA? PREPARING FOR THE NEXT ROUND

SARA DIAMOND

THE QUESTION ON MANY OF OUR MINDS today in British Columbia, is: Is there life after Kelowna? The B.C. legislature is again sitting. Human Rights and rentals legislation have been cosmetically revised, in response to pressure from Solidarity, but not yet reintroduced to the House. Public sector unions have negotiated exemptions from Bill 3 (removing seniority and bargaining rights), but the majority of legislation is now on the books. Massive cutbacks are proceeding as planned.

In February, many social services went out for tender, that is, sale to the private sector, leaving a skeletal welfare distribution structure through the Ministry of Human Resources. Local and provincial Solidarity coalitions continue to meet, generally adopting the long-term perspectives favoured by the B.C. Federation of Labour and N.D.P.: education and electoral change. In the Vancouver area, groups such as *Women Against the Budget* (still alive and well) and the *Lower Mainland Solidarity Coalition*

are centering on the defense of social services, such as *Vancouver Transition House*, about to be "privatized" or eliminated.

The Socreds are preparing a 1984 budget which will make July 7th look like ice cream. They plan major revisions to Workers' Compensation, drastic cuts to the public sector and, according to Bennett, the elimination of many social services which, he feels, were scarcely touched by the 1983 offensive. This year promises a new Labour Code, which will include limitations on picketting, give the Cabinet the right to declare any strike illegal, ease decertification, eliminate the independent Labour Relations Board and restrict construction sector unionism.

The struggle has not ended. *FUSE* readers can assist by writing a letter of protest to Premier Bennett, Legislature, Victoria, B.C. demanding the continuation of Transition House, other social services, human right protection, or whatever most touches your concerns.