

RECEIVED
22 MAY 1989

161 Mornington Road
Leytonstone, E11 3DT

18 May, 1989

Rt. Hon. Neil Kinnock, MP,
House of Commons,
London, SW1

Dear Mr. Kinnock,

**NEC IMPOSITION OF KATE HOEY : CANDIDATE FOR VAUXHALL
CONSTITUENCY**

I wish to express my profound concern about the NEC's imposing a white candidate on Vauxhall constituency against the clear wishes of the local Labour party and Labour party voters, particularly black voters, in Vauxhall.

I am a black Councillor in the London Borough of Waltham Forest where I am Deputy Mayor, Chair of Race Relations Committee, and a member on the District Health Authority.

The decision of the NEC demonstrates utter insensitivity to the needs and aspirations of a constituency where there is a significant black population, and where a black candidate would have an excellent prospect of being elected. I cannot recall a case where the NEC has imposed a black candidate on a constituency which is considered to be a safe white seat. Under these circumstances, the least that the NEC could have agreed was to have drawn a list of about four or more black candidates reflecting a cross section of views within the party for consideration by the Vauxhall branch. The NEC's attempt to offer a token to the local branch in regard to Mr. Kerr was rejected by Vauxhall branch, and Mr. Kerr himself recognised this situation by having the grace to stand down.

Although not respected by the NEC, the local party's choice of candidate in Ms Martha Osamor was objective, and would no doubt have attracted a considerable number of votes - especially from the black community. She has a good record of involvement in a wide range of issues of public concern. The allegations against her about misappropriation should not have deterred the NEC.

In Britain, a person is considered innocent until proved otherwise, black people frequently are victims of such allegations, later to be vindicated. An example of this recently is Dolly Kiffin.

For Mr. Hattersley to describe Ms Osamor as "immature" is a gross insult to her and indeed offensive to black people. He symbolises paternalism and colonialism with such views. But perhaps that is to be expected from a man who, speaking on immigration control, is on record as saying "without integration, limitation is inexcusable, without limitation integration is impossible", and who when speaking about the Labour Party's immigration legislation defended it by saying "I did believe, and in a sense I think I was right to believe between '62 and '65, that we couldn't have positive policies unless there was this

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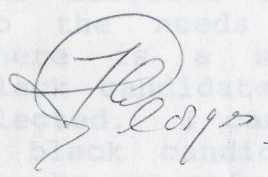
unspoken contract which said we're not going to allow people to flood in". With views like that, I can quite understand Ms. Osamor's declaration to challenge him in Sparkbrook in the next election.

The decision of the NEC leaves me with no other alternative but to support the campaign to ensure a black candidate stands in Vauxhall. If the candidates happen to be independents such as Orville Brown or Rudy Narayan, so be it.

I hope, however, the NEC will reconsider its decision and enable a black Labour candidate of local choice to stand, thus relinquishing Labour Party supporters from having to make this difficult choice.

To conclude, issues such as this highlight the fact that black people living in a white society are always second class, whereas, a white person living in a black society always tries to impose their will upon the people.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Franklyn Georges

copies to:

- B. Grant, MP
- D. Abbott, MP
- P. Boateng, MP
- K. Vaz, MP
- NEC Labour Party
- Leader of the Council, L.B. Waltham Forest

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