

# WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE OLD NORMS?

The elderly are supposed to be a priority group for health service provision.

They represent an ever-increasing proportion of the population; in the next 10 years there will be 1 million people aged 75 or over.

Who will care for them? In most regions, health authority plans for the next ten years propose to allocate *less* beds per head of elderly patients than in 1976. Minimum targets fixed in 1971 have been scrapped — with geriatric beds 25% below and day places 50% below those levels. Croydon alone plans to *cut* 35% of its geriatric beds, and the SW Thames region *plans* to be 40% below the old norms.

Of course there is talk of "community care" for the elderly but with rigid cash limits on health authorities, one regional health chief has already admitted that this simply means "volunteers" (and reluctant relatives or neighbours) *working for nothing* to care for those patients denied a hospital bed.

Our health service is under attack. Our right to dignity in old age is under threat. Stand up now to fight for the NHS or you may have nowhere to lie down when you need treatment.

**REVERSE THE CUTS!  
Patients, not Profits!**



**Tory cuts mean  
less NHS beds for  
more elderly people**

**Stop the cuts, defend the NHS!**

**Assemble** ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

1pm, Clapham Common (near Tube)

**March** ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

1.30pm, via South Western Hospital

**Rally** ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

3pm, DHSS HQ, Elephant & Castle

**Social** ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

and refreshments, 4pm onwards

**MARCH**  
**SATURDAY**  
**JUNE 29**

**NHS  
EMERGENCY  
ACTION  
COMMITTEE**

Details: 01-833-4950