



Upsetting the party

IT was meant to be a happy, fund-raising evening at the Regent's Park Marriott Hotel on Monday for the local Labour party – but several uninvited guests turned up.

The “gate-crashers” were members of the Camden Irish Forum protesting against the latest extra stop-and-search powers enacted under the extensions to the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) rushed through Parliament recently, with the blessing of the Labour Party.

Among the protestors was Angie Birtill, a former Camden Labour councillor. Though she is more used to arguing with Conservatives, she appeared to enjoy her sharp exchanges with Camden MPs Frank Dobson and Glenda Jackson, both of whom, I gather, voted in favour of the PTA.

The press release issued by the local Labour party stated that 100 members attended the event where the key speaker, David Lipsey, political editor of *The Economist*, outlined Labour's preparations for Government. Labour agent Kamlesh Karia said the evening was a “huge success”. Guests paid £35 a head. Mr. Karia made no mention of the protest.