

EDITORIAL

The first issue of Refuse and Resist (Oct/Nov 89) was warmly received by anti-Poll Tax groups throughout Strathclyde. Such was the demand for this free publication that the print run of 2,000 was soon exhausted. Despite the enthusiastic response from far and wide (Edinburgh, Ayrshire, Liverpool, London, to name but a few places the paper reached) the Strathclyde Federation has opted to take a hostile stance towards Refuse and Resist.

The editorial team of Refuse and Resist deplore the divisions that exist within the anti-Poll Tax campaign, and it is hoped that reason will eventually prevail. All those fighting this unjust tax must work together without acrimony.

The purpose of this publication is to encourage discussion and debate about the Poll Tax and the ways in which it can be defeated. We would encourage everyone to play their part by sending us new items, letters and articles. Constructive criticism of the way the campaign is organised is of importance to us all, and should not be seen as an attack on any particular group or individual.

The need to work together to defeat this tax is paramount. We can not afford to let political differences or personality conflicts detract from the struggle.

SUPPORT REFUSE AND RESIST! READ IT! CONTRIBUTUTE TO IT! GET INVOLVED!

LETTERS

Dear Friends,

We very much enjoyed the first issue of Refuse & Resist, and our group would like to make a £10 donation. Keep up the good work.

Cheers, Jonny Angus (Edinburgh Southside APTU)

Dear Refuse & Resist,

Please find enclosed a cheque for £3 towards printing costs. I got your last copy of R & R from some friends and found it very interesting.

I live in Yoker and I have so far paid nothing towards my Poll Tax. The trouble is, as far as I know, there is no anti-Poll Tax group in the area, or even nearby (perhaps Clydebank). I wonder if you could put me in touch with a local group, as I feel very isolated on my own. At the moment, I have no back up against Sheriff Officers, or anything like that.

Hope you can help, Ian Johnston, Yoker, Glasgow.

R & R, we responded to Ian's call for help, and will give any one in a similar position all our support, so don't try to go it alone, get in touch.

Dear Refuse & Resist,

Our group were pleased to get copies of the first issue of R & R, and would like to show our support for the paper with a small donation. It's good to hear an independent voice, and to know that there is still a healthy debate about the campaign. We look forward to future issues.

J Millar (Pollokshields APTU)

REFUSE AND RESIST FUNDRAISER AT THE SCOTIA BAR STOCKWELL ST.

TUES 30TH JAN. 8.30PM ADMISSION FREE MUSIC: THE BLARNEY PILGRIMS POETRY: RAFFLE

All Scotland Committees of 100 Against the Poll Tax HOLDING OUT AGAINST THE POLL TAX

A Conference for all those who can't — or won't — pay the poll tax — or those who support our campaign of resistance against this unfair, unjust tax.

Saturday 27th January 1990 Strathclyde University Students Union 10.00am—4.00pm Lunches and creche facilities provided Cost £2 waged, £1 unwaged Invited speakers include: John McAllion MP, Professor John Foster — Govan Against the Poll Tax, Winnie Gallagher — Renfrew Committee of 100, Gerard Kelly, Speaker from Greater London Federation of Trades Councils. Sessions include: The real level of non-payment in Scotland; Local campaigns; How to avoid paying for as long as possible; What the unions can do; Extending the campaign against the poll tax south of the border

MAILING LIST

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REFUSE & RESIST is a FREE publication and, as such, it is dependant on donations from groups and individuals. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY!!!

REFUSE AND RESIST.

NEWS FROM LOCAL ANTI-POLL TAX GROUPS

NO.2 PRICE BY DONATION

JAN - FEB 90

STICK YOUR WARRANT SALES

Nine months into the campaign and we are still winning. We have faced various pointings for non-registration and they have all been stopped. We have had two mass demonstrations that show the continuing, and growing, discontent with the Poll Tax. And, near the end of last year, we saw the formation of the British Federation of Anti-Poll Tax Unions and the beginning of the fight-back in England and Wales.

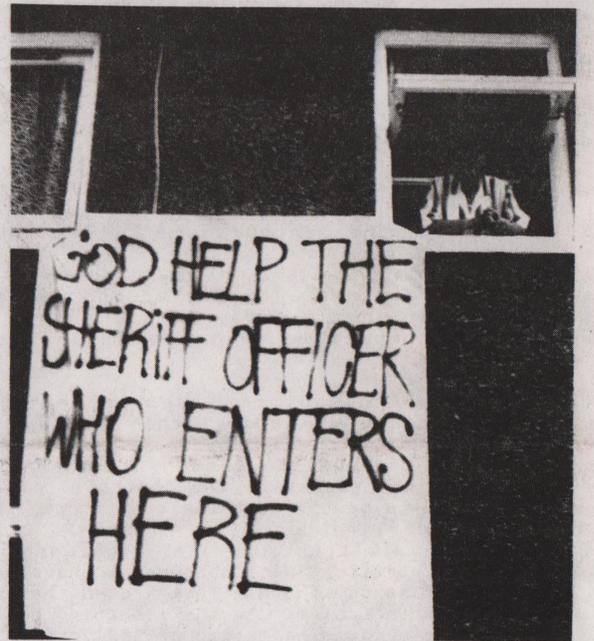
However, in Scotland, we now face the most decisive phase of the campaign so far! The collection process! This process has now begun in earnest. It was started in mid-December in the form of shabby, and threatening, letters being sent out by Councils and Sheriff Officers. Many of these letters, which had no legal basis, were sent to elderly people. They were targeted because, being more vulnerable, they were thought the most likely ones to falter in their stands against the tax.

The main weapon the Councils hold are warrant sales, and we know that they are willing to use these measures against those who placed them in office. We must show them that we will defeat them and the tax which they have chosen to champion.

Don't be scared into paying up by the threat of warrant sales, WARRANT SALES CAN BE BEATEN. Any attempt by Sheriff Officers to cross the doorstep of non-payers, will be met by resistance. The Councils and their lackies, the Sheriff's men, know we can stop them as has been done with all attempted pointings so far. But more must be done!

Industrial action must be taken by workers in all areas that deal with the wages and benefits of non-payers; Benefits offices, Council offices, and the Banks. Stronger links with all trade unionists must be forged. We can combat all efforts to defeat our campaign if we continue to stand by one another.

If you have any problems, contact your local APTU or phone your Regional hot line, for advice and help. SEE P.4.



New Rates 1990-91

THE POLL TAX RATE FOR 1990-91 was set by Strathclyde Regional Council on 8 January. As expected, the rise was well above the rate of inflation at 12.3%.

The figure combines a £2 increase in the Water Charge with a £25 increase in the Poll Tax (community charge). Added to the new rate set by Glasgow District Council, the total rate will be £338, a rise of just over 10%.

With the removal of the Government's safety net (which kept the Poll Tax artificially low in 1989-90), the true figure in Strathclyde would be far greater had the Regional Council not had a surplus to carry forward into the new financial year.

The estimated surplus, £28 million, is made up of £12m that was 'saved' in 1989-90, together with £16m that will be 'saved' in 1990-91. THESE 'SAVINGS' ARE A DIRECT RESULT OF CUTBACKS IN SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY.

Cuts in staffing levels coinciding with minimal wage rises are the source of the Council's 'savings'. The uniformed services (Fire and Police) have wage rises pegged at 7.5%. Other categories of employees, including teachers, are being held to 6% - well below the level of inflation.

Workers in services that are vital to the well-being of the community are being insulted and demoralised by being overworked and underpaid. But it is the cont. p.2.

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The long-awaited, historic (or was that hysteric?) union of the campaigns against the Poll Tax in Scotland, England and Wales, took place recently at the British Federation Conference held in Manchester. The conference brought together 2,000 delegates from various organisations fighting the Poll Tax, in order to debate the constitution and strategies of the campaign. The elections for the National Committee threw up no surprises, with Militant maintaining its stranglehold over the anti-Poll Tax movement.

Strangely, for those of us in Scotland who remember debates which took place nearly two years ago, the affiliation of Labour Party branches to the British Federation was accepted. Stranger still, that those in Scotland who opposed party political affiliation, were enthusiastic supporters of a special case being made for the Labour Party because of its "organic links with the working class".

This was nothing more than a cynical manoeuvre to ensure double delegations from certain areas (Liverpool, for example) and thereby provide the present leadership with a block vote. Many Scottish activists will be asking why parties such as the SNP and SWP (to name but 2), have been denied affiliation on the grounds that the Federation was only open to APTU's community groups, trade union affiliates, but not open to party political affiliations.

Among the other topics debated were calls for trade unionists to take industrial action against the Poll Tax, and for the encouragement of youth organisations to take up the fight. Also debated was a motion from the Lesbian and Gay Group which stated that organised activity around racist, fascist, sexist and anti-gay ideas, should be considered incompatible with the aims of the Federation.

Straightforward enough, for everyone but the Militant supporters who argued that the way to overcome such ideas was to absorb those "workers" with "backward ideas" into the movement, and to convert them in the process. The "bottom line for us should be non-payment", went their argument. But such a dangerous line could leave anti-Poll Tax unions open to infiltration by far-right groups. Despite the fact that the motion seemed to have been won by a show of hands, the platform argued that the vote had been inconclusive. In the resulting ballot it was lost by a surprising margin of 300 votes.

Overall view of the conference? The reaction to Refuse and Resist was a resounding thumbs-up from the larger number of independent delegates, but elsewhere, it was the usual gathering of party hacks of various shades, each trying to be "the only organisation.....". Interesting enough, but hardly historic.

NEW RATES:cont.

community as a whole that is suffering most, with both the provision and quality of services in decline.

The most frightening aspect of the policy of 'making savings' to subsidise the Poll Tax is this: what happens when our services, already poor, are pared to the bone and no further 'savings' can be made without destroying them altogether?

The true cost of the Poll Tax will be revealed, and those original estimates of £500+ per head will become a harsh reality.

We must encourage Council workers to strike against cutbacks, and then we must support them in the defence of our services.

All those involved in the anti-Poll Tax campaign will stand firm until both the Government and the Labour-controlled councils who are implementing the tax accept that it is unworkable.

But the campaign must also be stepped up to include industrial action by those Council employees involved in the implementation process, and every other employee in the Council's service whose jobs and wages are being cut.

15,000 Trade Unionists and anti-Poll Tax activists joined the recent STUC demo which demanded that the Tory tax be scrapped, and for an end to the barbaric use of warrant sales against non-payers.

Apart from the noisy contingent representing the Federation, this was a cold, wet and low-key affair. The march proved that the days when the STUC could snap their fingers and expect the rank and file to jump to attention, are long gone. In fact, many workers now refer to Campbell Christie & Co. as the leaders of the Scottish Trade Union Collaborators - such is the anger towards the STUC and their refusal to lead a serious fight against the Tories.

The shameful role of Christie & Co. was illustrated by their invitation to such weasels as Donald "Plug" Dewar and John "Popeye" Maxton (Labour MPs who have done their utmost to undermine the non-payment campaign) to lead the demo. Dewar, Maxton, and the other ratbags in the leadership of the Scottish Labour Party have publicly defended Strathclyde and Lothian Regional Councils who are intent on using pointings and warrant sales against non-payers. Yet these parasites had the audacity to show their faces at a demo against warrant sales - and they were welcomed with open arms by the STUC leaders.

Another large contingent represented on the march was the SNP. The self-styled "Party of non-payment" were extremely embarrassed when asked why their councillors in areas such as Argyll and Angus were enthusiastically pursuing non-payers with threats of pointings and warrant sales.



Farce gave way to pantomime at the rally, when Christie announced himself as the only speaker, and offered no way forward for the campaign and gave no support to those who have been in the frontline in fighting the Poll Tax. He even defended those Labour councils who have been "forced by the Tories" into hounding Poll Tax refuseniks. Many of us began to wonder just what the point was of having this demo.

Despite the fact that we were supposed to be marching against warrant sales, no lead was offered to local authority workers to withdraw from this process and to take industrial action against councils that are doing the Tories' dirty work. No call was made for trade unionists to cease co-operation with implementation of the Poll Tax.

By way of contrast, the Scottish Federation held a rally after the march (attended by 500 people) which pointed to the real struggles that have been waged against the Tories and the Poll Tax. One criticism, however, was the rally's preoccupation with the fact that the Federation was not allowed a speaker on the official STUC platform. Instead, it should have concentrated its appeal to rank and file trade unionists present, to continue the battle against the Poll Tax by means of non-payment, non-operation and strike action.

On a cold, wet Tuesday night (7 November) 1,000 people packed Hornsey Town Hall to attend a rally organised by Haringey Anti-Poll Tax Union (HAPTU) in a tremendous show of opposition to the Poll Tax.

The meeting opened with a speech from local ambulance driver Gary Chaplin who was warmly received by the massive audience when he called for people to support the ambulance workers in their just fight.

Speakers from Scotland, the local government union Nalگو, and Haringey Anti-Poll Tax Union outlined the ways and means to fight the Poll Tax.

Julie Anderson speaking from Sheens Marchmont anti-poll tax group in Edinburgh stated that the number of people in Scotland who are refusing to pay the Poll Tax is growing every day. "There are now 1.25 million people refusing to pay their Poll Tax demands. It is now the turn of people in England and Wales to join the fight".

Jean Geldart (Nalگو NEC) explained that the Poll Tax is the culmination of ten years of Tory attacks on local government. "I believe the Poll Tax can be defeated, but that local government workers will only be persuaded to take action against the tax if they have the support and backing of their local communities".

Sham Singh (HAPTU) pointed out that exactly one year ago the first non-payment anti-Poll Tax group in Haringey was formed with a meeting of 60 people. "Now one year on we are able to fill the largest venue in Haringey. This shows the enormous strength of opposition to the Poll Tax, not just in this borough, but across the country. But the Poll Tax won't be defeated by meetings alone. People have to join their local groups and build co-ordinated action around non-payment for next April".

After rushing from the House of Commons Tony Benn MP spoke of the importance of mass resistance as the only way to defeat this tax. "The Tolpuddle martyrs had to struggle for the right to trade unions; the Chartists for the working man's right to vote; the Suffragettes for the right of women to vote - our oppressors have never given in without a fight, now the fight is to defeat the Poll Tax."

After a number of valuable contributions from the floor Councillor Narendra Makanji, one of 200 people fined in Haringey for alleged non-registration, stepped in at the last moment as Bernie Grant MP was unable to attend. He closed the meeting with a rousing call for action: "from the Council's own figures at least 18,000 households (that's 24,000 people) have still not returned their registration forms. Only 200 people have been fined. We must all appeal against this victimisation and demand that our appeals are heard in public - not behind closed doors. I invite you all to come to my appeal and show your anger at the Poll Tax and the Council's decision to impose fines on innocent people".

After the meeting many of those attending stayed behind to speak to one of the 30 members of local anti-poll tax groups to find out how best they could get involved in the campaign.

Over 6,000 leaflets and window posters were taken from the stalls organised by local anti-poll tax groups, 200 people volunteered to become street representatives for the campaign.

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 - 18. Get into them 20. Pat 23. Stab
 - 27. Ta

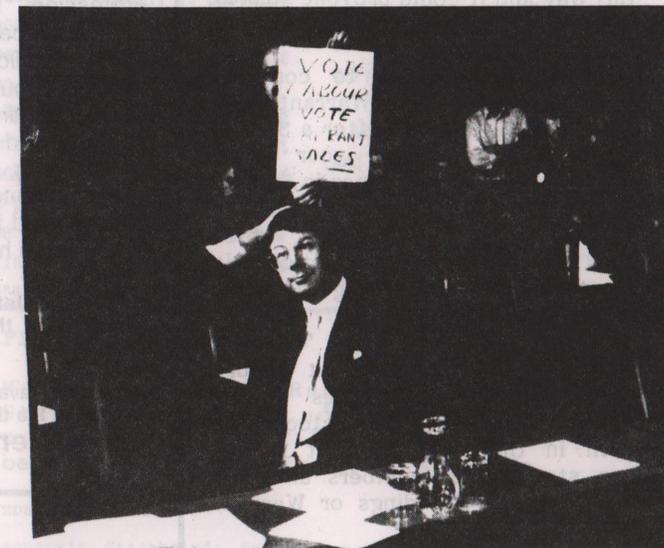
Proof that massive mobilisation against the Poll Tax is underway, is shown by the example of local activity by independent anti-Poll Tax groups in Nottingham North.

I spoke at a Public Meeting organised by the Sherwood & District Campaign, which is twinned with Ibrox/Cessnock A.P.T.U.. The Sherwood Campaign has 620 members and, in nearby Hyson Green, 550 signed up: refusing to pay when the Poll Tax is introduced in England and Wales this April.

Both campaigns have established themselves with street stalls, door-to-door newsletter distribution, and the formation of Street Groups. A major emphasis, says Secretary Ivan Well, is also on Non-Implementation, and NALGO workers throughout Nottingham have organised a workplace anti-Poll Tax campaign.

The Sherwood residents and other Federation activists present, were greatly encouraged to hear of the half million in Strathclyde who are not paying, and of the mood of defiance and resistance to threatened pointings. The meeting also heard local Councillor, explain his personal opposition to payment, collection and implementation.

Keith (Ibrox/Cessnock)



FOR LOVE OR MONEY

On November 17th 1989, The Sheriff Officer, H.M. Love & Co., Herriot Row, Edinburgh, was occupied by over 40 non-payers for more than an hour. The office staff were assured that our intentions were peaceful as we hung our banners from the office windows for the benefit of the assembled media.

However, 17 members of our group were charged with breach of the peace. The trial of the 17 will start at 10am, 20th June, at the Sheriff Court House, Lawnmarket, Edinburgh. Come along and show your support!

Bob (Prestonfield Community Resistance Against the Poll Tax)

Editorial Comment

The charges against the Edinburgh 17 are an attempt by the Prosecutor Fiscal to create a climate of fear and to intimidate people from taking part in further action against the Poll Tax. Refuse and Resist urges all non-payers to respond to this by turning up at the trial and showing the authorities that we will not be deterred by such bully boy tactics.

Advice For Non-Payers

Close on one million Scots have refused to pay the Poll tax (Community Charge). Even if only 1/8th of this number were holding out, the Councils would be hard pressed to recover the tax withheld from those protesting and from those unable to pay.

We have enormous strength in numbers. The only way the Government (& Councils acting on its behalf) could turn the tide against them would be to con or frighten people into submission.

Some people will have Bank or Wage Arrestments, but Sheriff Officers lack information to do this in a big way. Others face the threat of Income Support arrestments of £1.75 weekly for single claimants or £2.75 for a couple (but the Government knows it can hardly recover much tax this way and it could provoke strikes of Social Security staff).

The way they want to con you is by the threat of a Warrant Sale. This can only happen after a Sheriff Officer has selected your name (from the 1/2 million names in Strathclyde) and notified you of a Date and Time for a Pounding, which if it takes place 'marks' certain luxury goods as having a value for a future Warrant Sale.

Strathclyde has no recent record of actual Warrant Sales taking place. But let's not place too much faith in the Councils, but in our own strength of numbers and will to resist any POUNDINGS or Warrant Sales taking place.

For this, you are the most important person who can play their part in defeating this tax. All you have to do is contact the same day or as soon as possible when you get the four days written notice necessary, your local Anti Poll Tax Group and we will rally a huge task force to physically stop any POUNDING taking place. Every threatened POUNDING so far (Non-Registration) has been defeated by a human wall of defiant resistance.

In Lothian they would take 15 years to get round the Region's Non-Payers and here in Strathclyde the situation is probably even more desperate for the hustlers and rats employed as Sheriff Officers.

Warrant sales and how we can win the fight against the poll tax

Whether you remember warrant sales and their effects from days gone by or have heard your parents and grand parents talk about them, you will feel a sense of revulsion at the thought of such a thing happening to you. And it is this sense of dread, this threat, which the council finance department are prepared to use to frighten you into paying the Tory poll tax.

BUT IT IS A MUCH EMPTIER THREAT THAN THEY WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE. FOR THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THOSE BAD OLD DAYS.

First of all, the infamy brought to a Labour Administration in having to enforce this archaic and barbaric form of debt collection would be so politically damaging that their credibility would take years to rebuild. This is why the Lothian Region's finance department are adamant that warrant sales will only be used "as a last resort".

Secondly, The Debtors (Scotland) Act 1987, has so limited the nature of goods which can be poinded and sold, that anything which is saleable can easily be "farmed out" to a friend or neighbour until after the sheriff officers have called.

HERE IS THE OFFICIAL LIST, QUOTED FROM SCHEDULE 5 OF THE ACT, OF THOSE ARTICLES WHICH CANNOT BE TAKEN.

(these are defined in the act as "items which are reasonably required")

Clothing, implements; tools of trade; books required for the practice of a profession, trade or business the total value of which does not exceed £500; medical aids or equipment; educational or training books to the value of £500; childrens toys; articles for the care or upbringing of a child; beds, bedding, household linen; chairs or settees; tables; food; lights and light fittings; heating appliances; curtains; floor coverings; furniture; equipment or utensils used for cooking, storing or eating food; refridgerators; articles used for cleaning, mending or pressing clothes; articles used for cleaning the house; furniture used for storing clothing bedding or household linen; articles used for safety in the dwelling house; tools used for maintenance or repair of the house or of household articles.

All that is left to them for poinding are luxury goods eg. videos, t.v.'s, stereos and the like and as we said these can be easily moved whilst the heat is on.

As you will have realised, this hardly leaves enough to sell to make it worth their while. And this is the third reason why the threat of a warrant sale should be taken for what it really is - **merely a threat.**

BANK ACCOUNTS

There have been reports of people having their bank accounts frozen in the past two weeks. If you have an account at one of the major banks or building society and you are not paying the Poll Tax, you would be well advised to move it to a safer place. It is not always easy for Sherrif Officers to trace an account and, with 252,000 warrants being issued in Strathclyde alone, it may take a long time to find yours, but better safe than sorry.

Alternatives to the major banks include; the National Savings Giro Bank, the Habib Bank, the CO-OP Bank, the Bank of Pakistan, The Allied Irish and other small banks and building societies.

If you do opt to move your account please put your reasons for doing so in writing for your bank manager. If the big institutions realise that they are losing customers they might be persuaded to be less co-operative with Sheriff Officers. It worked for the students.

Re - Registration

EVERY HOUSE in Strathclyde has recently received the Poll Tax registration forms for 1990-91.

This may have come as a surprise to many people who did not realise that registration, unlike the old rating system, is an annual process. Just how much of our money is being wasted on all this bureaucratic paperwork is anybody's guess.

This new round of registration also raises a number of other questions. The Registrar has the authority to decide who will be the 'responsible person' within each household, and it seems that this can change from year to year.

'RESPONSIBLE' ?

In most cases last year it was the husband, or male spouse, who was named as the 'responsible person' (men are still seen as the 'head' of the household). But this year, households that have not returned the forms are finding that the 'responsible' person

is now the wife, or female spouse.

So what does the term 'responsible person' really mean when it can be applied in such an arbitrary fashion by the Registrar?

It means that the person thus nominated is being asked to GRASS on other members of the household for a tax that is supposed to be an individual responsibility.

ASKED TO SPY

And it gets worse. Another bit of paper with the registration form invites you to 'inform' the Registrar of the new address of anyone who has recently left the household, and the old address of anyone who has recently moved in.

ARE WE NOW TO ACT AS GOVERNMENT SPIES? This attempted invasion of privacy is an insult to each and every one of us, regardless of our position on the Poll Tax.

Can we expect that, before long, there will be financial incentives offered for grassing, as is already the

case with the Department of Social Security.

It has to be emphasised that there is no legal requirement to provide such information, and PAPT would urge everyone to treat this request with the contempt it deserves. BIN IT!

NON-REGISTRATION

Many people who failed to register last year still found themselves listed anyway. Does this mean, then, that non-registration is an empty gesture? DEFINITELY NOT.

The high level of non-cooperation forces the Registrar to use housing records, library lists, etc. to fill the gaps, but this cannot possibly keep up with the constant changes that take place. The Council is pursuing people who no longer live where they used to, and people who no longer exist at all.

There are many reported incidents of forms, payment books, and fines being issued to people who have died within the last two years. Apart from being upsetting for the bereaved, what forwarding

address should the 'responsible person' give?!

HARD TO COLLECT

Of course the threat of fines will prompt many to register, but how serious a threat is this? According to local regional councillor Margaret Dick, it is uncertain whether the Council will continue to fine those who refuse to register.

This is because it is proving so difficult to collect the fines that were issued last year. Like the Poll Tax itself, there are many ways of obstructing the recovery of such money.

Wage arrestment is difficult to implement; and, for those on benefits, it is cheaper not to comply - as deductions from benefits are restricted to very small sums.

Non-registration frustrates and confuses the Registrar, and the Council's attempts to implement the Poll Tax.

DON'T REGISTER! DON'T PAY! DON'T COLLECT!

REGIONAL HOTLINES

FIVE YEARS TO COLLECT

Mr. Jack Wood, Regional Assessor for Strathclyde, has admitted that it will probably take FIVE YEARS to deal with the backlog of non-payers in Strathclyde.

FEDERATION NEWS

January's Strathclyde Federation Aggregate meeting unanimously agreed to call another all-Scotland demonstration for March 31st, to celebrate a year of resistance to the Poll Tax. With the Regional Council now intent on pursuing non-payers by the use of summary warrants, poindings and warrant sales, this march will undoubtedly be the largest march against the Poll Tax to date.

With Sheriff Officers due to start making calls on the homes of Poll Tax refuseniks in February and March, the demo will provide an ideal focal point for opposition to the tax, and those who are implementing it.

At the meeting, it was suggested that invited speakers at the demo should include Council Leader Charlie Gray and Campbell Chrisite of the STUC. They should be called upon to come off the fence and give their support to the non-payment campaign.

One to Watch

Keep your eyes open in your local anti-Poll Tax Union for any boneheads that are trying to jump on the bandwagon (British National party members). They claim to support non-payment but this is clearly a ruse. The thing that you shouldn't do is, waste time debating with them. Use that well-seasoned formula: equate their heads with the pavement.

AMBULANCE DISPUTE

As we go to print, the Ambulance workers dispute is entering its 20th week. We would encourage all anti-Poll Tax campaigners to give generously to the Ambulance workers, and to invite them to attend public meetings. A victory for them is a victory for us all!

GROUP REPORTS: send yours in.

Stand Together, Stand Firm

Two meetings were held recently in the Springburn Federation area, one in Sighthill, the other in Dennistoun. Speaking at the Sighthill meeting was, Tommy Sheridan (Chairman of the British Anti-Poll Tax Federation) and Jim Sillars (SNP MP). The Dennistoun meeting was addressed by Stevie Lees (Dennistoun A.P.T.U.).

Although the numbers at both meetings were less than expected, these were still strong meetings, with most of the people at both meetings being new faces in the campaign. This shows that, contrary to the idea that the campaign will fizzle out, as warrant sales loom, more people are seeing the need to be part of local anti-Poll Tax Unions. They also see the importance of joining the wider movement, of which they are the central part.

Sillars and Sheridan made a good impact at the Sighthill meeting, where they dealt with people's fears and concerns regarding the legal position of non-payers. These points were also well covered at the Dennistoun meeting, where the wider implications of the struggle were dealt with. The need to begin to approach local work places to gain the support of workers in D.S.S. offices was pointed out and our struggle was also linked to the position that ambulance workers now face.

It is clear that the fight we are involved in can not be viewed in isolation. We must identify with the struggles of other workers and offer our support when it is called for. We know that if we stand together, and stand firm, we will not be defeated.

Paul (Possil)

One For All And All For One

It is vital, with threatened pointings against an impossibly large class of a quarter of a million citizens, that local anti-Poll Tax groups, or small groups of people refusing payment, organise LOCAL ANTI-WARRANT SALE TASK FORCES as soon as possible.

This can be done, as we're doing in Ibrox/Cessnock, by contacting people who've signed pledges to resist Sheriff Officers being used to collect the tax. Then there has to be a "tree" of door-knocking or phone contact to alert people to get round a the time the pointing is threatened.

Such local groups can, and will, be used in conjunction with anti-Poll Tax activists mobilised through the Strathclyde Federation, and direct links between local anti-Poll Tax groups. In this way, the local campaigns will be re-activated, and the Federation will be more able to cope when several pointings are threatened on the same day. If you haven't already done it, now is the time to get these local task forces roused for action!

Keith (Ibrox/Cessnock)

Labour MP Shows His True Colours

Five groups from the Springburn Anti-Poll Tax Federation (Haghill A.P.T.U., Sighthill, Possil, Dennistoun & Barmulloch College) lobbied Labour MP for Springburn, Michael Martin, at his local surgery. The intention of this action was to discover his views on the Poll Tax, and his attitude towards the imminent threat of warrant sales that is hanging over the heads of those of his constituents who have not paid, and will not pay, the tax.

As constituents we tried, peacefully, to gain access to our elected parliamentary

representative. But, as Mr Martin entered the building in which his surgery is held, seeing the banners of the various A.P.T.U.'s, the first words to escape from his mouth were, "Get the Pollis". Is this the attitude we should expect to receive from most Labour MP's and Councillors on the issue of the Poll Tax?

A number of the people attending the surgery were not there to see Mr Martin about the Poll Tax and they too, were disgusted at their MP's reaction towards the lobby. Mr Martin locked himself into a room and refused to see anyone until the police arrived.

When the police did come, Mr. Martin crawled out of his hidey-hole to inform the protesters that he would not speak to anyone on the subject of the Poll Tax. We informed him that it was not him who decided which issues his electors wished to discuss with him but his was not accepted by Mr. Martin. He told the police that he did not want to speak to his constituents.

Mr. Martin then left the building under police escort. On leaving he told us, "I have the right to tell you what I will see you about". As he was led away by the police he had to suffer the anger of all those assembled there, with cries of "What happened to socialism?", "When are you going to stand up and fight, you coward?" coming from the crowd of 30-40.

This incident shows the disgusting position the Labour Party now finds itself in. It highlights the rightward move of the Labour Party both locally and nationally. We can see that there is no leadership for the working class from this grouping of so-called socialists. If we are to win the struggle against the Poll Tax and those who implement it, working class people must take control of their own fights.

Paul (Possil)

Gossip

SKIZOPHRENIA RULES OK!

Regional Councillor, Peter McEachran, pleased a number of Dennistoun anti-Poll Tax activists at a recent lobby of his surgery when he declared that, as a Regional Cllr., he "was not prepared to sanction warrant sales against his constituents who haven't paid the Poll Tax". Their delight was short-lived, however, when the bold Peter declared that, "as a Justice Of The Peace, I am bound to uphold the law, and I may well have to sign a warrant in my capacity as a JP!" Are there any more schizophrenics in the Council Chamber?



PUBLIC IMAGE

At the recent lobby by the Springburn Federation of local MP, Michael Martin's, surgery, Militant supporters from Haghill A.P.T.U. were overhead saying, "why are we here?..... this is a waste of time.....this is a lot of shite.....etc.". However, when a Glasgow Herald's journalist arrived, lo and behold, our publicity conscious friends suddenly became enthusiastic supporters of the lobby and queued up to deliver their usual line in "rent-a-quotes".



POLICE JUDGE BANNER COMPETITION

Also at the same lobby, Alice "That's my boy" Armageddon (mother of our illustrious fuhrer, Tommy Armageddon) asked a member of the local constabulary to pick out "the best banner" from the 3 that were present. The bewildered polis then proceeded to note down the slogans contained on each banner, urged on by Mrs. Armageddon!?!

Council Leader in Cafe Brawl!

After a rain-soaked journey to collect leaflets from the STUC recently, two activists from Dennistoun A.P.T.U. decided to dry off over a cup of tea in the King's Cafe when, who should walk in? Strathclyde Region's Deputy Leader, Cllr, Bob Gould. The following conversation took place in front of many interested diners:

1st Activist : "Hello there Bob, how are things in the Council? Are you still implementing the Tory Poll Tax?"

Cllr. Gould "Ha Ha! Hello!"

1st Activist : "I don't think that attacking working class people is very funny. No wonder you can't hold your head up - you should be ashamed of yourself, robbing the poor for Thatcher".

Cllr. Gould : "If you say another work, I,m going to come over there and stick one on your effing chin!!"

2nd Activist : "You're very brave all of a sudden! I remember when we occupied the Council Building. You were not threatening anyone then. You were too busy, hiding from us in your office!"

1st Activist : "You've sunk so low with the Poll Tax that I'll bet you could slide under that door on your way out".

Cllr. "I think you want me to hit you!"

1st Activist : "There's the chin Bob".

Cllr. "I'm going to get the manager to throw youse out".

Cafe Owner: "What's going on here?"

Cllr : "They won't let me eat my dinner in peace".

2nd Activist : "There's no trouble. We're just letting the Councillor know what we think of his support for the Tory Poll Tax".

Cafe Owner : "That's OK then - but let him finish his dinner first!"

Cllr. Gould finished his lunch in double quick time and hastily exited in the direction of Regional HQ. It will come as no surprise to our readers to learn that Bob Gould is a member of Springburn Labour Party, where the MP is none other than Michael Martin.

Strong arm tactics and threats seem to be a common feature for Labour MPs and Councillors in this area.

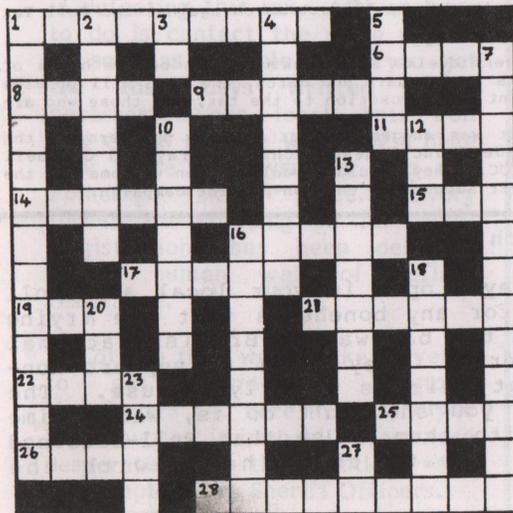
LIMITED RESPONSE

While distributing Refuse and Resist at the STUC demo in November, a member of the editorial team offered one to a Militant steward. She was told to "!!!! OFF". By the time the fourth steward had given her the same advice she wondered whether all Militant stewards had such limited vocabularies, or if they had all been given the same script.

A PROPER CHARLIE!

Regional Council Leader, Charlie Gray, stated at his local Labour Party recently that, "There will be no warrant sales in Strathclyde". But, before anti-Poll Tax protesters could start the celebrations, Gray's statement was followed by this rebuff, "At least, not until after the May Regional Council elections!" That still won't win you votes Charlie!

CROSSWORD: answers on p.3.



ACROSS

- 1 and 9. Cost to the public of an insidious levy (9,6)
6. Where to go for a drink when old Geoffrey's being loud out east (4)
8. What 2 down does to 4 down's arse (4)
9. See 1 across
11. Wee Rifkind should clam up (4)
14. Could be able on the railway but dim-sighted (6)
15. Tos and fros never out of 6 across (3)
16. Looks into constitutional anachronisms (5)
17. American workers eject upper class from 'People's Party' (5)
19. Abolition of Domestic Rates etc. (Scotland) was followed by this in 1987 (3)
21. I'd find it difficult to march without these (2,4)
22. A parliamentarian goes south because that's where the little rascals are (4)
24. Imposing 1 is demanding (6)
25. Sounds like the Beeb is against (4)
26. No variety inside this dying astral body (4)
28. Astir? Stir? Together with a loose Roman habit produce shakers and movers (9)

DOWN

- 1. Pass 17? Not a single different way to describe the actions of Kinnock's mob (13)
2 and 13. Mrs. T: a holy chief? You'd think so, to judge by this lickspittle's letters! (7,7)
3. On hold, this would give support (2)
4. Straw polls, presumably, are this woman's speciality? (8)
5. See 18 down
7. Common congress (not Brighton!) attended by right bastards. They'll get the message! (4,3,6)
10. Summary first or sale second, the answer's the same! (7)
12. Americans get hee-haw for this (3)
13. See 2 down
16. Quietly doing in assortment of sheriff's officers going about their feudal business (8)
18 and 5. You might want to do this to your knickers first thing in the morning, but it would be more satisfying doing it to the Adam Smith Institute (3,4,4)
20. 'Doo'-lally's back! A hit? (3)
23. Southern label: politicians back this to appeal to the electorate (4)
27. In short, thanks! (2)

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