

The Rise of the Phoenix



The LP the Rise of The Phoenix was released into all major record shops on April 15.

The LP was compiled by Ronnie Flood from Liverpool to raise money for the anti-poll tax campaign. Top Artists such as The Farm, Beats International, The

Proclaimers, Jimi Somerville have all given their services free to help the Federation. For every LP, CD and cassette sold at least £1 will be given to the Federation. Posters advertising the LP are available from the Federation at no cost. All aptu members should ask for the record in their local record shop to ensure they are stocking it. A bulletin with exclusive interviews with the Farm and Proclaimers will be out soon to promote the record, as well as T shirts. If you would like to organise a gig in your local area to promote the LP or would like further information please contact Foluke - Artists Against the Poll Tax at the Federation office. Remember the more that are sold the more money for the campaign!

"We are very pleased and proud to contribute a track to the "Rise of the Phoenix" victory album, and we hope that the entire album will reflect the continuing struggle - and continuing success of that struggle - by the people of Britain against the poll tax." - THE PROCLAIMERS

URGENT FINANCIAL APPEAL

Despite the announcement by the Government to abolish the poll tax the battle against it is not over. They are still asking us to pay a tax which the Prime Minister, John Major has declared uncollectable until at least 1993. They ask us to trust them to come up with an alternative which they "promise" will be better than the poll tax. We will not give up the mass campaign of non payment until the poll tax is dead and buried and only after we achieve an amnesty for non payers. Councils are still sending in the bailiffs and threatening people with imprisonment if they do not pay up! As long as this is happening we will continue our campaign.

The campaign that has been tirelessly waged in Scotland for the last two years and for 12 months in England and Wales has been magnificent. Hundreds of thousands of people have participated in organised mass non pay-

ment. John Major himself estimated that there were 18.7 million non payers!

It is quite clear that we need to keep the campaign going however in order for us to keep our office open and continue to produce this bulletin we need money. The demonstration on 23rd March has cost us over £10,000 to organise, not all of it has been raised and paid off yet. Also we have debts from previous events and running costs totalling over £10,000 and need a regular income of £1,000 per month to run our national office.

Please help us solve our URGENT financial crisis by sending us a donation and/or taking out a monthly standing order to the Federation. All monies should be sent to the PO Box and cheques made payable to the All Britain Anti Poll Tax Federation (ABAPTF).

All Britain Anti Poll Tax Federation standing order form

To.....(Name of Branch)
Address.....(Branch Address)
Please deduct the sum of £.....
From.....Your name or organisations account name
Sort number.....(top right of cheque book.)
Account number.....
Make the first payment on:.....(Date)* or immediately* and then every month
(*Delete as appropriate)

To the All Britain Anti Poll Tax Federation sort number 08-90-33 account number 50720042 at the
Co-operative Bank plc, 1 Islington High Street, London N1 9TR.
Signature(s).....

All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation

BULLETIN APRIL/MAY 1991

POLL TAX VICTORY... CAMPAIGN WILL CONTINUE



Congratulations and well done! Our campaign of mass non-payment has now forced the Tories to go down the road of abolition. We have scored an historic victory against this Government and have humiliated the likes of Thatcher and Heseltine.

Politicians and journalists laughed at us when we said we would achieve mass non-payment, remove Thatcher and force abolition. Who's laughing now? Certainly not all the well heeled MPs and media hacks who have spent three years attacking our movement and certainly not the Tory MPs trying to save their skins before the next election. The Federation has come a long way but the fight goes on. We will not accept any return to poll tax mark II via the back door and we will make sure that the "Son of Poll Tax" will never be born.

We are in business until the tax is well and truly buried. The 18.7 million non payers (Major's own figures) still need defending in the courts, against the bailiffs and above all against the threat of jail for non payment. Every area must pledge to mount a relentless campaign against any council that tries to jail non-payers for poverty. Our movement has to show this government and local councils that we will not tolerate revenge attacks on us because we ridiculed them.

The Federation will continue to fight for a general amnesty for all non-payers. The Tories wiped off £15 billion debts at a stroke to help their friends in big business

benefit from privatisation. We say, if it's good enough for the rich then it's good enough for us.

We are now at a critical stage in the battle against the poll tax and the Federation its experience and fighting spirit is now needed more than ever. There can be no let up in the struggle, non-payers must be defended. But the defence of non-payers against jailings and the amnesty campaign needs resources and needs cash. And we need that cash now!

Our Brixton office, the volunteers and the phones have been invaluable and on many occasions critical to our successes. Our movement has a duty to the 18.7 million non-payers to maintain the Feds resources especially when non-payers and key campaigners face jail for fighting back.

The Federation, our movement, cannot allow a lack of cash to hamper the defence of anyone threatened with jail for non payment. Therefore we are appealing to all of our affiliates to raise money for the cash we are urgently needed and with a bit of initiative can be got. Pub collections, street stalls and local discos can all be quickly organised to raise money to keep the campaign going.

A tenner or more from every affiliate would net us well over £10,000 and would allow us to pay some debts and see the campaign through to the end.

Remember the Fed goes on until we smash the poll tax or this Tory Government. With your help and your cash we will be assured of victory.

By Steve Nally, National Secretary

AMNESTY NOW! Call off the Bailiffs Abandon All Committal Hearings

PO Box 764 London E5 9SX Telephone: 071 326 0302

Poll Tax Threatens Thousands of Jobs

By Roger Bannister Nalگو National Executive Council (personal capacity)

Thousands of Local Government jobs are at risk because of the poll tax, despite Michael Heseltine's announcement that it is to go. Throughout Britain, councils are reeling from the latest, most vicious blows yet rained upon them by the Tories.

Seeing it as more than simply an unjust tax, the Tories always intended to use the poll tax as a means of launching a major assault on local government. Along with the uniform business rate, the poll tax puts almost 80% of local government finance under the direct control of Westminster. Even on the basis of standstill central government grants, a council would have to increase the poll tax by 5% in order to fund an increase of 1% of expenditure. With grant allocations cut back, local government has been thrown into turmoil.

New regulations have largely turned last year's poll tax capping into a "do it yourself" matter, as hundreds of right wing Labour councils make horrendous cuts in their service provision in order to "avoid capping". On top of this the figures on which grants to local authorities are based have been "fiddled" by the Tories, in order to bring about further cuts. Such measures include:

- * Assuming a collection rate of 100%, despite John Major's admission that non payment has killed the tax!
- * Assuming an inflation rate of 7%, at least 2% below the true figure.
- * Relying on flawed Standard Spending Assessments, fixing the overall amount available and dividing it between councils irrespective of needs.
- * Ignoring the true cost of administering the tax.
- * Ignoring the extent to which councils relied on revenue capital last year in order to keep poll tax levels down.
- * Ignoring the cost to councils of new responsibilities (eg. local management of schools, core curriculum, care in the community.)
- * Raising from 3% to 5% the amount councils pay of poll tax and housing benefit rebates. This will hit the

poverty ridden boroughs the most.

* Insisting that council spending will rise by 18.9%, despite a rise of only 12.8% in the aggregate external finance, (the Governments share of council expenditure.)

Most councils have responded to this situation by attacking their workforces, in order to pass the cuts on, provoking an unprecedented wave of industrial action from one end of the country to another. In Britain's largest local authority, Strathclyde, 20,000 Nalگو members staged a one day strike. Workers in Haringey have struck for half a day, while Lambeth has witnessed a one day unofficial stoppage. Knowsley has had two half day strikes, one of Nalگو and the other of the NUT. Other half day strikes have occurred in Kirklees, Warwickshire and West Glamorgan, and even Nalگو members in Berkshire, heartland of the "soft south", struck in order to lobby the councils budget setting meeting. In Liverpool, a one day strike of the Council workforce was followed by a three day stoppage plus selective all out action of key workers, against compulsory redundancies.

Now that the Tories have been forced to retreat on the poll tax, they must also be forced to retreat in respect of its effect on local authority jobs. Links between the anti poll tax unions and local authority trade unions must be forged where they do not exist, and strengthened where they do. Strikes against cuts must be publicly supported by the APTU's, including support on picket lines and at lobbies. Local authority trade union branches should be encouraged to invite APTU speakers to branch meetings, to give financial support to the APTU's and to campaign for non payment amongst their members.

Both local authority trade unionists and anti poll tax union members have already demonstrated an impressive determination to fight against cuts and the poll tax. Their struggles must be brought together in order to ensure total victory over the Tories and their iniquitous tax.

No Jail for under 21 year-olds?

By Rob Windsor National Committee Member for West Midlands

On 8 April 19 year old unemployed Lee Barratt from Uttoxeter, Staffordshire was jailed for 14 days for not paying his Poll Tax, by Labour controlled East Staffs District Council.

The first we heard of his imprisonment was from a newspaper report as there was no active anti-poll tax union in the area at that time.

We found out further details by ringing up the council and contacting Lee's mother. We contacted Dave Nellist MP and asked him to find out where Lee had been sent and arrange a visit as soon as possible. We found out later that

we had been sent to Srewesbury Prison.

The following day we contacted the probation officers union (NAPO). I had noted that regulation 42(7) of the Poll Tax Administration and Enforcement Regulations which deals with commitment to prison states that any court should refer to section 1 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982 (Young Offenders) when presented with young people aged 18-21. The 1982 Act has been since superseded and amended by the 1988 Criminal Justice Act. This gives 3 basic conditions which it says justify the jailing of a young person aged 18-21. The basic condition (Part 1-3,

section 4) is that a person must have repeatedly failed to respond to non-custodial sentences for criminal offences. This certainly did not apply to Lee. I then got in touch with Poll tax Legal group solicitor Rob Manson to research this further. He told me that there was a section of the Act which allowed for the incarceration of an under 21 year old for non-payment of rates but that it could only be used if ABSOLUTELY no other option was available to try and get the money. He also informed me that according to section 5 this should have been stated in court to Lee in "plain Language" and written in the courts register and stated on the warrant of commitment. As Lee was waiting for benefit before his hearing we were certain that this had not happened although we were still awaiting reports of how the case was conducted.

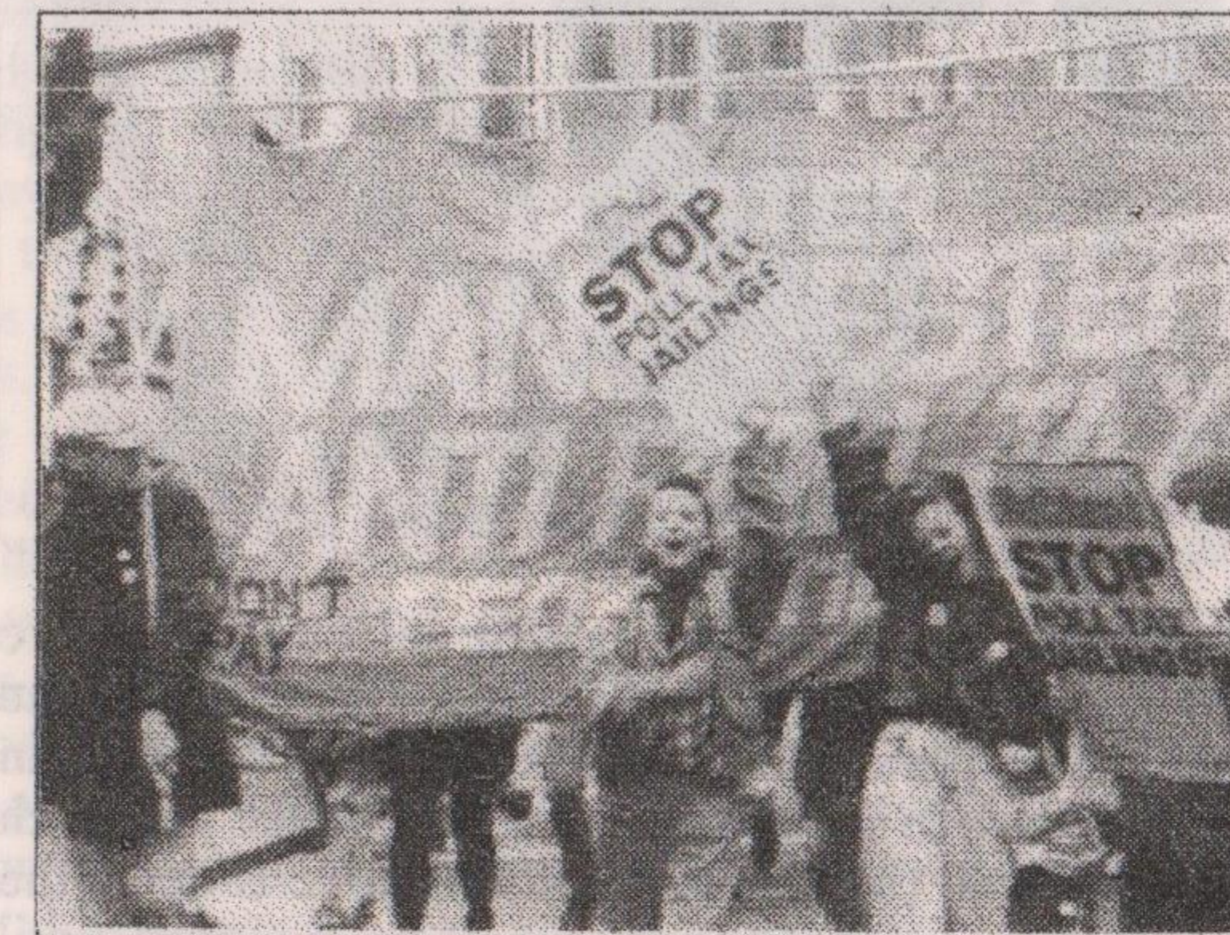
Lee's rebate entitlement was not looked into after the bailiffs reported finding insufficient goods to cover the debt (he has virtually no possessions). He had claimed in march. There is a power to back date a poll tax rebate for 52 weeks which would have cut the amount Lee owed by 80%. No attempt was made to get the council to go through all of it's recovery options. No mention was made of rebate entitlement even though a claim was recorded and no attempt was made by magistrates to write off even part of the money. They seemed very anxious to jail Lee.

The Act also states that a young person under 21 can only be sent to a "young offenders institution". Whilst we wouldn't wish the modern translation of borstals on anyone they had clearly broken their own laws. There is no young offender wing in Shrewsbury prison. Every aptu in the country should ensure that the courts do not break their own laws when it suits them.

Every case of an under 21 year old must be challenged along the above lines to prevent further jailings. By this time the Youth Rights Campaign in Stoke had established contact with Lee's girlfriend and a large number of his friends. Lee is extremely well known in Uttoxeter. A demonstration was called for the Saturday.

The Youth Rights Campaign, the local youth and the federation had leafletted the entire town in preparation for the demonstration. By Saturday morning virtually everyone we spoke to in Uttoxeter knew about it. 150 turned up from the cities in West Midlands from Uttoxeter at only 48 hours notice. A march like this in a small town like Uttoxeter did cause a big stir. At the end over 50 signed up for the local anti-poll tax union. At the time of writing Lee is still in prison but we are confident that he will be quickly released. When he is we hope he will help his friends and others to build the local union so that the council think twice before they attempt to imprison another non-payer.

COUNCILS RESPONSIBLE FOR JAILINGS



In several of the committal hearings, councils, in their defence have used the argument that they have no power in stopping the proceedings once it is the hands of the courts. This is nonsense! Below is an extract from a letter sent to South Tyneside councillors from the anti-poll tax union in relation to the imprisonment of Ian Thompson.

"Many labour Councillors, have expressed the opinion that they were powerless to prevent Ian's imprisonment and are now equally powerless to secure his release. This opinion is ill-informed and incorrect. You have the power and the authority to secure Ian's immediate release.

We would like to bring to your attention some pertinent points. We would like to refer you first of all to the

Labour Party's own "NEC Action/Advice Note" circular 23/89.

Paragraph 1: "Although Local Authorities have a duty to implement the poll tax they should take every opportunity to make sure that the responsibility for this grossly unfair system of taxation points back to the government."

Paragraph 2: "Local Authorities should do everything possible within the legal framework created by the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to offset the injustices, financial hardships and erosion of civil liberties created by the Poll Tax."

Councils do have room to manoeuvre and flexibility with regard to poll tax collection.

We would like to refer you to Department of the Environment Community Charge practice Note 15 "Enforcement of Community Charge" Paragraph 5.6: "It is open to the charging authority to seek to come to an arrangement with the debtors if it does not wish to deduct the full amount set out in the table."

It is also clearly envisaged by the Department of Environment that there will be a departure from the guidelines. This is made clear in a department of the Environment letter to Community Charge registration officers dated 10/8/89, quoted by the above Labour Party NEC Action/Advice Note: "Authorities should consider carefully before departing from the practice notes."

Crucially we would refer you to the Community

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Poll Tax broken -

"We have (therefore) decided that from the earliest possible moment the community charge will be replaced by a new system of taxation."
Thursday March 21st 1991.

This announcement by Michael Heseltine was described by the Financial Times as "the most spectacular 'U' turn made by any Government this century". The Poll Tax has been declared dead. Major has stated that the Poll Tax is "uncollectable". Organised mass non payment has brought about this victory. But what is the extent of our victory? What should our response be?

Firstly, the retreat by the Government is an enormous victory for the campaign. However the battle is by no means over. As long as people are being persuaded by the councils for payment of poll tax arrears the campaign will continue. Amnesty for all non-payers must be granted - that means every council calling off the bailiffs and abandoning all committal hearings. It also means the £1.6 billion poll tax arrears debt is written off by the Government.

One Tory MP on the poll tax review team explained "the Conservative Party are good at organising two things - memorial services and retreats - we are conducting an organised retreat under fire." How far the Government retreats depends on how far we push them.

Defend Local Services

Remember the promises of the Tories in the 1987 general election? Their pledge to keep the poll tax to an average of £200 disappeared in the euphoria of their election victory. So what are their promises not to replace the poll tax with "something better" worth! It is no wonder that in a Sunday Telegraph opinion poll 70% of people questioned did not believe that the Government had abolished the poll tax. If the Government can 'U' turn in one day then they can 'U' turn in a years time, that is if they feel they can get away with it.

This is made clear by the recent announcements from the Government. The aims of the poll tax are still intact. The aim to dismantle and sell off to their big business friends the £50 billion worth of services provided by local councils is still central to their strategy. The latest proposals are for the selling of 24 provincial airports, 54 ports and harbours and 38 bus companies. A new Tory Government would force councils to sell off leisure centres, museums, libraries and even cemeteries. The process has already started with compulsory competitive tendering and taking further education out of local authority control to be funded by central government.

The local authorities are playing less and less of a role in running local services. The poll tax provided 25% of local government revenue. The new "council tax" means that this figure will be reduced to 14%. The Revenue Support Grant makes up around 40% or around £20 billion of local government spending. This has been cut consistently every year since 1979 (see table) to a total figure of over

£57 billion. True this trend has been dramatically reversed this year with the extra money given to reduce bills - but only as a result of our campaign. The £4.3 billion concession to reduce poll tax bills by £140 and the £1.3 billion given through the community charge reduction scheme could easily be taken away next year or the year after by a cut in the RSG. Faced with a recession and rising unemployment the squeeze will be put on public spending. More pressure will be placed on local councils to go along the road of privatisation.

The announcement by Heseltine outlining their so-called 'council tax' is a total climbdown from the statement made a month ago by Heseltine which maintained the principles of "everybody pays" and a poll tax element. These principles have been abandoned, the principles behind the council tax have met the demands of the Federation for a fairer system, 100% rebates and no register. The Government has been forced further into retreat.



These new proposals will not be introduced before April 1993, showing their fear of it's introduction during an General election period. The councils, if the Tories remain in power will have to set another 'poll tax budget' in March 1992. In reality, all the Government has done is defer the question of how local authorities will be financed until 1993 giving them the option of launching another assault on local services and living standards of working class people. Whether they do or not depends on us.

No Let Up In Campaign

With this in mind it is quite clear that the campaign must not only continue but be broadened out to defending local jobs and services. The poll tax rate may be nothing in Wandsworth but at what expense. Will it still be nothing next year? In most areas the reduced bills will still be unaffordable, in the light of the enormous increase in

what next for campaign?

council rents, as a result of the Housing Act, and with rising gas, telephone and electricity bills. The VAT increases will hit the poorest families the most. The poorest 10% of the population spending 9.2% of income on VAT payments against an average 7.4% and 5.7% for the richest 10% and of course there are still this years poll tax bills outstanding!

Non payment of the new bills must be campaigned for. If the APTU's widen out campaigns to the issue of defending local jobs and services, and defence of non-payers after the victory that the Federation has achieved, the confidence will spill over even to the areas where maybe new bills are low. The government has promised the new bills will average around £252 with the £140 reduction. Even if this were the case many bills will not be sent out until around June, reminders will be received around September. That only leaves six installments to pay a full years bill.

The confidence to continue the campaign will also depend on how we defend non payers of this years bills.

Amnesty Now!

The demand for amnesty must be raised by the campaigns. The Government has made it clear that prosecution of non payers must still go ahead. However if campaigns succeed in forcing their councils to call off the bailiffs and abandon the committal hearings then this will be in all but name an amnesty. All areas should send delegations to meet the council to raise these demands. This will raise the profile of the local campaign and make it clear that we are continuing the fight.

Many councils are moving to committal hearings in an attempt to frighten non payers into paying. Our information tells us that ten people have been jailed so far for non payment. Considering that 400 people were jailed every year for defaulting on their rates, it is clear to see that organised campaigns against committals has prevented mass jailings so far. However there can be no room for complacency. Areas must start preparing for committal hearings now! Model resolutions such as the one below should be circulated to trade union branches, Labour Party wards now! This will act as a warning to councils that the campaign is ready to fight any attempt by them to apply for committal hearings to take place. Individual councillors should be contacted now to ask them to come out in opposition to any attempts to proceed with committal hearings.

As soon as committal hearings are announced every point of support built up by the campaign in the last 2-3 years should be rallied around. Lobbies of councils should take place. Pressure should be placed on individual councillors to call emergency meetings to stop the proceedings.

We have achieved an enormous amount in our campaigns. In Scotland 226 attempts have been made by the sheriffs to conduct warrant sales - not ONE has taken place. More than 2 Million summary warrants have been sent out in Scotland out of a registered 3.7 million 'payers'!

There has been a collapse of payers in Scotland since the announcement was made by Heseltine to scrap the poll tax. John Major admitted that there were 18.7 million non payers throughout the country. The campaign has come a long way but we have not finished. Let us prepare now for the final round and bury the poll tax.

Great Britain		
Cash	1990/91 prices(b)	Reduction from 1978/79 (1990/91 prices)
8,120	20,540	-
9,150	19,830	710
10,800	19,780	760
11,260	18,770	1,770
11,450	17,810	2,730
11,600	17,240	3,290
11,590	16,410	4,120
11,690	15,710	4,830
11,590	15,050	5,490
12,200	15,030	5,510
12,690	14,540	5,990
12,870	13,870	6,670
13,100	13,100	7,430
13,600	12,710	7,820
TOTAL		57,120

Rate Support Grant

(a) paid in Great Britain
 £ million

1978/79 to 1991/92

Model Resolution for Labour Party wards/Trade union branches etc

This welcomes the victory of the death of the Poll Tax. We believe the "U" turn by the Tories is the most spectacular and humiliating defeat inflicted on any Government this century.

However the Tories so-called "council tax" is not to be introduced until 1993, "subject to consultation".

For the next two years people will be expected to pay a tax that the Prime Minister has declared "uncollectable". There can be no let up in the campaign until the Poll tax is well and truly dead and buried.

In particular we call on council to suspend all recovery action against those who have not paid their poll tax, writing off any bailiff and court costs incurred, calling off the bailiffs, cancelling income support deductions and abandoning any plans for committal proceedings. We call on council to campaign to force the Government to provide funds to enable them to write off poll tax arrears. If the Government can write off £15 billion worth of debt to ensure their friends in the city can benefit from privatisation then it can write off £1.6 billion Poll tax debt.

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Charges (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1989, Regulations 46 (1): "Where a warrant of commitment is issued against (or term of imprisonment is fixed in the case of) a person under regulation 41 (3), no steps, or no further steps, may be taken under this part by way of attachment of earnings, distress, bankruptcy or charging of a designated dwelling in relation to the relevant amount mentioned in regulation 41 (4)."

In other words, now that Ian Thompson has been committed to prison, his poll tax is uncollectable. Regardless of the length of time he serves in prison, there is nothing that can be done to recover his poll tax and is must be written off.

Some of you have raised the objection that dropping the complaint against Ian Thompson could lay you open to surcharge by the District Auditor. We contend that this fear is unfounded.

The issue of surcharge is covered in law by section 161 paragraph 4 of the 1972 Local Government Act in which is stipulated that the District Auditor may initiate surcharge proceedings if it appears to him that: "a loss has been incurred or deficiency caused by the wilful misconduct of any person."

We contend that as Ian Thompson cannot afford to pay his poll tax and that as his poll tax is now unrecoverable then no loss has been incurred. In order to get the issue in proportion, it may help you to note that even in the extremely unlikely event of your being surcharged, the amount of surcharge per councillor would be the sum of Ian's debt written off (approximately £330) divided by the number of councillors voting for his release. In other words, if all the councillors voted for his release the maximum surcharge would be about £5.50 each, which by the way falls somewhat short of the trigger for disqualification at £2 000.

We would appeal to you: You have the power to secure Ian's immediate release. Exercise that power.

FIGHTING COMMITALS

by Razina Bostan,
National Committee Member for Yorkshire

All Federations should try to get delegations to meet with council leaders. The purpose of these meetings would be to put forward our policy of non payment and to advance the call for a full amnesty. Some Labour MP's and councillors also support the call for an amnesty. Try to involve sympathetic people in these discussions with the local councils. In Bradford the Federation have met with council leaders and MP's to discuss the question of enforcement and in particular the threat of imprisonment. These meetings on their own mean nothing without the overall campaign applying pressure. We need to keep up the pressure particularly on Labour controlled authorities. In preparing for future attempts of committal:-

1) Every councillor should be phoned to state their position. 2) Local APTU'S should show the level of support in each area by, lobbying councillors and MP's surgeries. 3) Delegations from Federations should be sent to meet with council leaders.

All you need to do is phone or write to the council leaders office to book an appointment. If they refuse to meet with the Federation do not give up. Ensure that the

press, other councillors and the general public knows that the council leaders are refusing to see you.

Resolutions should be passed through every Labour Party CLP and trade union branch against the committals and calling for a general amnesty.

Delegations can also be made to full council meetings.

1) Organise a petition around a specific issue which the local council has control over i.e committals. 2) Contact the council at least three days before the council meeting. 3) You should contact the department which deals with the applications. 4) Normally a nominated officer deals with petitions. He/she will give you a date to address the full council with details of how long your spokesperson has to make your case. 5) Each councils guidelines are different however normally you must have at least 20 names on a petition, which must be made up of residents living in the district. The council will not normally deal with the same subject twice. There is usually a six month gap operated.

6) Press is vital and a lobby should be organised giving support to the delegation. For any further advice contact Razina on 0274 722 804.

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...

Waltham Forest APTU have struck a blow against the use of the notorious 1938 Evidence Act which councils use to railroad Liability Order cases through the courts. On 19 April the aptu successfully challenged the use of this and had their cases adjourned.

The councils barrister asked the court to hear statements from council officials, rather than appear in court. Using section 1, sub-section 2 of the Act, he said bringing officials to court cost the council too much in overtime.

However even the clerk of the court pointed out the words "Undue delay and expense" in the clause referred to the court and not the council. The aptu members argued for the right to cross examine the officials. The magistrates after several adjournments refused to let the council rely on statements and the cases were adjourned. Waltham Forest are looking for someone who is entitled to legal aid who has had the 1938 Act used in court against them for a possible judicial review. Please contact the National Fed.

NEWS ROUND UP...NEWS ROUND UP...

By Kevin Miles National Communications Officer

Trafford council should collect about £600 000 from poll tax on second homes. They have only collected £137 000. They say they won't chase them up because it's not worth the trouble. But Trafford tries to jail non-payers who can barely afford a first home, let alone a second one. Take for example, Andy Walsh, who was given a suspended jail sentence by Trafford courts. Andy could face disciplinary action and even sacking if he is imprisoned. However Andy has refused to pay his poll tax on the deadline given by the court, 31 March. Andy is a leading member of the bank workers union, BIFU. Support for his stance is growing, he was recently elected to the North West TUC.

Gordon Ross, leading member of Macclesfield Anti-Poll Tax Union, has a suspended sentence of 14 days for non-payment of the poll tax. At the time of the issue of the liability order, Gordon Ross received an income of £73.10 per week. This was the total income for himself, his wife, Kath and their two children. To the annoyance of the Tory council Gordon Ross was selected to stand as a Labour candidate in the town's council elections. The next thing the campaign knew, Kath Ross was summons for committal proceedings on April 5! The campaign believe this was pure vindictiveness and an attempt to sabotage the election campaign. However the campaign applied enormous pressure and Kath's case along with 3 others were adjourned *sine die*, i.e. with no date fixed for further hearings. Kath Ross told us "Macclesfield Tory council didn't have the guts to follow through their disgraceful threats to take me from my two kids and lock me up. It was really withdrawal of the cases - a total backdown."

Mickey Neal has now been in prison for nearly 3 months. He was picked up in a dawn raid in the police's vicious Operation Carnaby after the 31 March 1990 demo. He would welcome letters, writing material and books. Send to: MV3973 Michael Neal, HM Prison, Pentonville, caledonian Road London N7 8TT.

Last October 20 anti-poll tax activists stopped the jailing of Cyril Mundin. One of the protests was the occupation of Northampton's borough treasurers office. All 20 of us were arrested. At first we charged with kidnapping the borough treasurer! But at the trial in January, we got fines and costs of £100 each. With solicitors' bills we had to raise £3 500. We started fundraising in November and paid off 12 weeks of fines/costs and half the solicitors bill. But funds have slowed to a trickle. We appeal to APTU's to help raise money with a benefit gig or social or donation. Appeal forms available from monies sent to: Nick John, 117 Station Street, Loughborough LE11 0EG. Cheques made payable to Northampton 20 Legal Defence Fund.

Protesters are still being dragged through the courts for alleged offences on 31 March 1990 demo, despite the comments made by police admitting they lost control. Matt Lee, Chair of Birmingham Federation, has been

sentenced to 30 months imprisonment for "violent disorder". The conviction was based solely on three minutes of edited video which showed police beating demonstrators to the ground! More information from BFTPSC, 5 Exon Gardens, Blackpatch, Smethwick B66 2LT.

Jimmy Haddow, leading activist in Ramsgate APTU, was given a suspended sentence for non-payment. He was asked to pay £10 a week. He is unemployed he lives with his partner, Ruby and their 3 children. He did not pay by the date laid down by the courts. Awaiting a knock at the door at any moment from the police, a postman arrived with a registered letter - another summons. The date was 3 May. The council were not prepared to try and jail Jimmy during the council elections! Thanets council leader, Labour group leader and chair are sick of phone calls at all hours of the day and night. John Aves is out of jail but they still plan to threaten jail for 30 non-payers. Protest now! ring council leader Dennis Payne 0843 293523.

According to our information 10 people have been jailed so far. They are:

Bryan Wright, from Grantham, sentenced 21 days released after 14.

Patrick Westmore, Isle of Wight, sentenced 14 days, released after 3 days.

Nick Slater from Grantham, served 14 days.

John Aves, from Ramsgate, served 14 days.

Steve Benham, Dorset, sentenced 30 days, released after 12 days.

Lee Barratt, aged 19, Uttoxeter, sentenced 14 days.

Andrew Holloway - Dorset, is inside now. Please write to him: Andrew Holloway, WJ2847, HM Prison Dorchester, Dorset.

Two poll tax non-payers from Trafford have been sentenced to 14 days imprisonment. Nalگو member Declan Maguire and Cornelius Hatshorn were sent to Huddersfield civil containment unit. Everyone, in particular Nalگو members should protest to Trafford Finance Chair Norman Barrat (061 980 7423) or council leader Colin Warbrick (061 872 2101).

We salute the stand taken by the 10. The National federation will fight to ensure that this list is not added to. If you know of any committal hearings in your area please contact us immediately at the National office or contact your National Committee member.

Special thanks to Bradford Federation for financing this bulletin for £100. If any other area can send us a donation of a similar size or has access to free printing facilities please contact us so that we can get out a more regular bulletin.