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subversion

JUNE

FREE

DOWN WITH POLL TAX DOWN WITH ALL TAXES

The Poll Tax may be unfair, even on capitalist terms, but that is not the reason we oppose it. We oppose it for the same reason we oppose increases in rent, mortgages and electricity, etc. We oppose it because it is an increase in our cost of living and an attack on our living standards.

We support street organisation of workers resisting the tax, but we think to be successful this struggle must not be confined there, but needs to extend into the workplace - which is where we are at our strongest.

One way is to whack in large pay demands to take account of the Poll Tax bills. But many of us who are pensioners, unemployed etc. don't have that option.

If a widespread struggle gets underway, based on workplaces and localities, it should include social demands like higher pensions and dole, as well as common wage demands. A good example of this was in Poland a couple of years ago, when striking workers included in their demands raises for some of the sections of the working class who can't easily strike, such as healthworkers.

In the present climate that kind of extension of the struggle is difficult, but it needs to be done.

BEWARE CON (OR LAB, OR LIB DEM) TRICKS

The anti-Poll Tax movement needs to be firmly based on the 'can't pay - won't pay - won't implement' approach. It should

not be sidetracked into support for one or other of the supposedly fairer systems of taxation being hawked around by the various political parties.



Any government, whether reformed Tory, Labour, Liberal Democrat or whatever would be forced to try and amke us pay for the economic crisis. Their methods of doing that might vary slightly, that's all. Our job is to resist all of these attacks - not get involved in their debates about the best ways of making us pay.

Anger over LMS job losses

Up to 30 teachers will be sacked in Oldham and Surrey due to what are thought to be some of the first compulsory redundancies caused by local management of schools, the *TES* has learned.

In addition, a snapshot survey by the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers indicates that other local education authorities may follow suit next week

teachers - staged a protest outside the school on Wednesday.

Three unions, the NASUWT, the National Union of Teachers and the Assistant Masters and Mistresses

school which is making three teachers redundant has asked the Education Secretary, to intervene.

A spokesman for the authority said he "bitterly" making any

"It's a confused, m' I'm piggy in the Mr John F gustine's. to cons"

mess

Lms.. poll tax..

Schools fight back

GO RIGHT AHEAD! EVERYBODY ELSE DOES!



The papers at Easter were full of teachers, the poll tax and Local Management of Schools (LMS). Under the guise of reducing bureaucracy and giving more power to school governors, the government has been busily engaged in a cost cutting operation in schools.

What LMS means is fairly simple. School governors get to hire and fire staff, school budgets are cut and expensive no-redundancy deals are scrapped. The result is equally simple, teacher redundancies and worsening education for our children. Up to the end of May, there have been over 700 teacher redundancies.

NUT CONFERENCE SURPRISE

The National Union of Teachers conference at Easter saw a real surprise. Angry teachers passed a motion calling for strike action in the event of redundancies. The executive - led by Doug McAvoy - were furious, he denounced it as all a 'Militant plot' and said that the union wouldn't abide by the strike call anyway. The executive want to protect their power base, their jobs easy

to protect their power base and the likes of McAvoy their jobs, easy life style and fat salaries. They showed what side they are really on - the bosses.



THE GUARDIAN
Saturday May 26 1990

Poll tax cap cuts music teachers

Stephen Bates
Education Editor

THE first teacher redundancies following the Government's decision to charge-cap some Labour councils have been announced in Barnsley.

The South Yorkshire authority said yesterday that 24 teachers attached to a music centre and six travelling music teachers would be given redundancy notices to save the authority £181,000 - part of £5.5 million education saving that Barnsley is trying to make as a result of the decision of Chris Patten, the Environment Secretary, to limit its community charge.

The Government wants the charge cut from £329 to £270, producing overall savings of £10 million. A spokesman for Barnsley said: "This is a direct result of government action. We have no soft option."

A spokesman for the National Union of Teachers, which represents some of the teachers,

School jobs to go in cash crisis

By Laurie Bullas

UP TO 10 teachers face redundancy in Oldham because their schools cannot afford to pay them out of new-style budgets.

And four teachers have been told they must leave Woodhey High School, Holcombe Brook, Bury.

THE POLL TAX

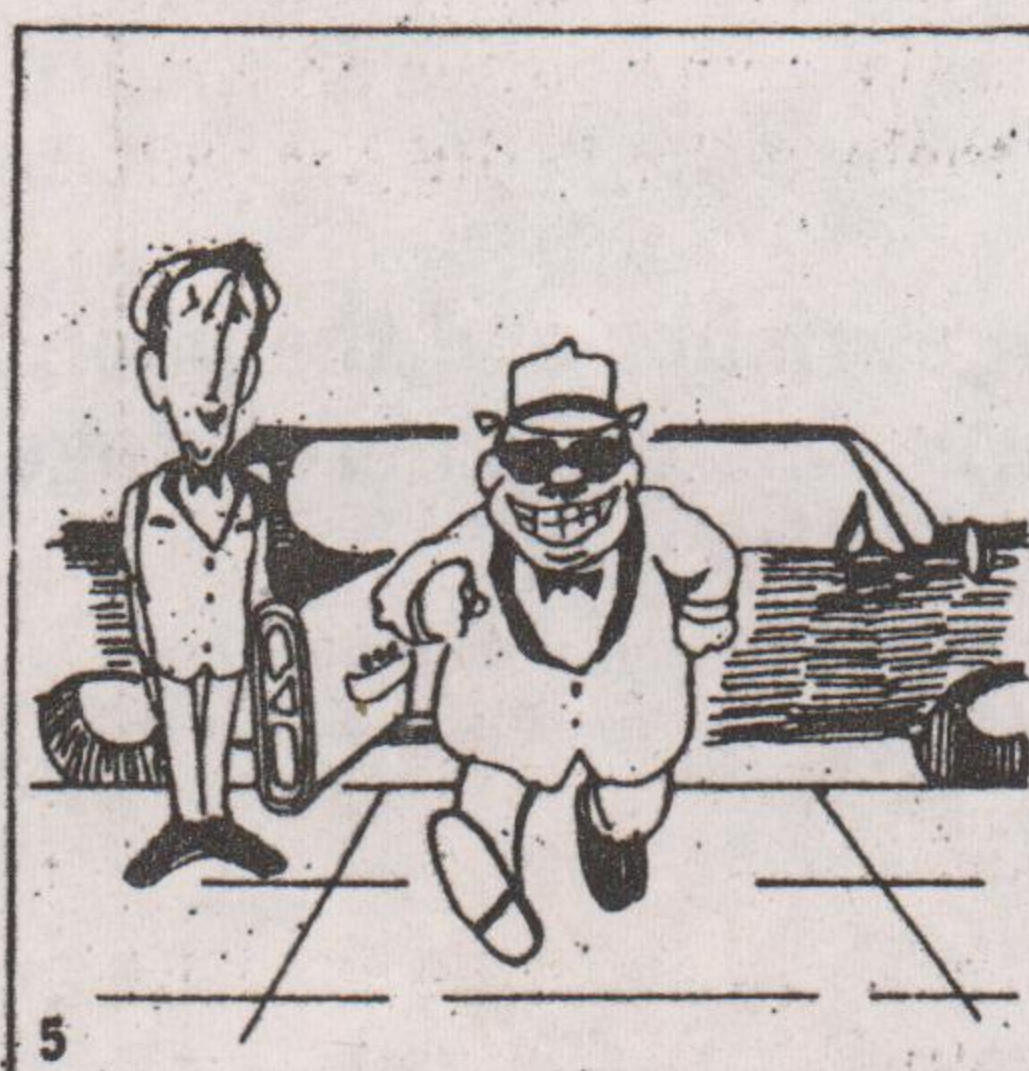
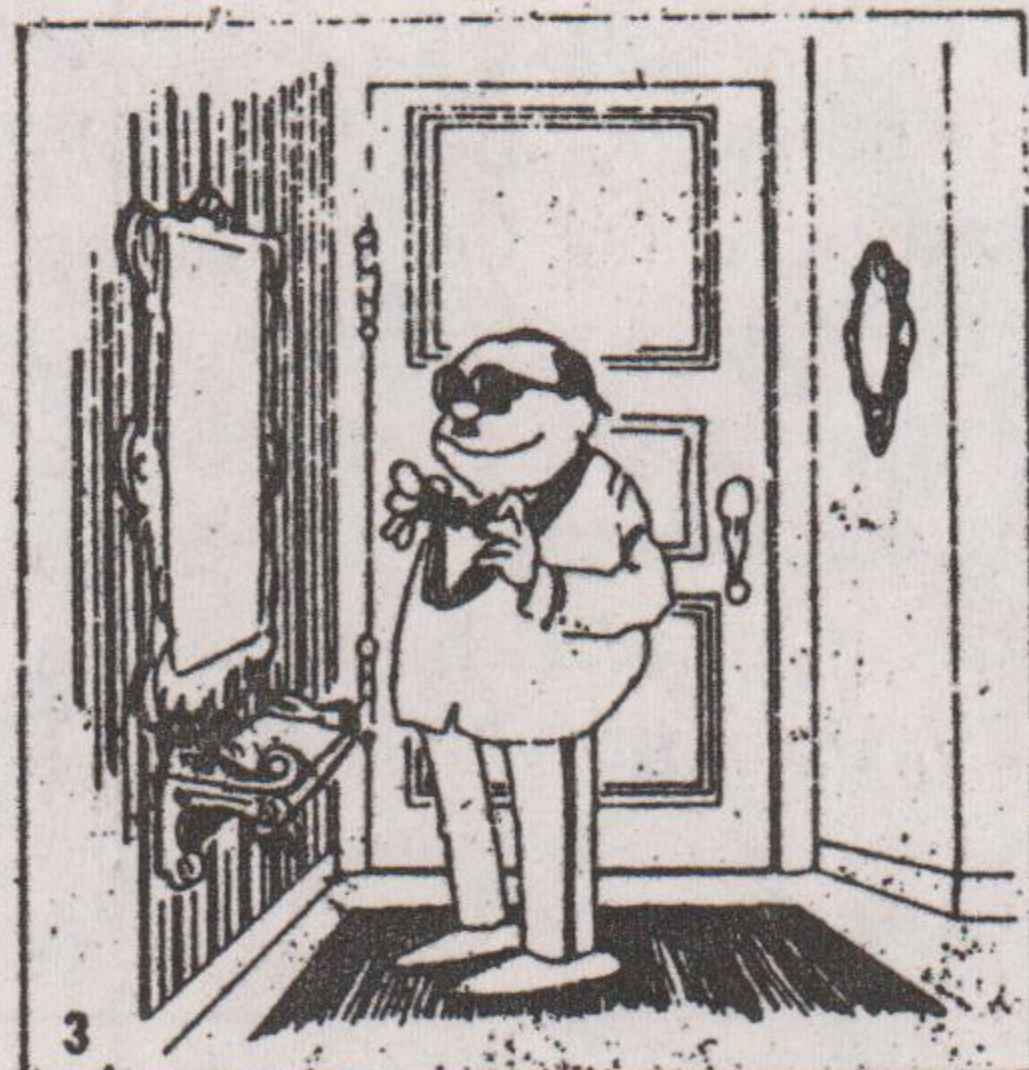
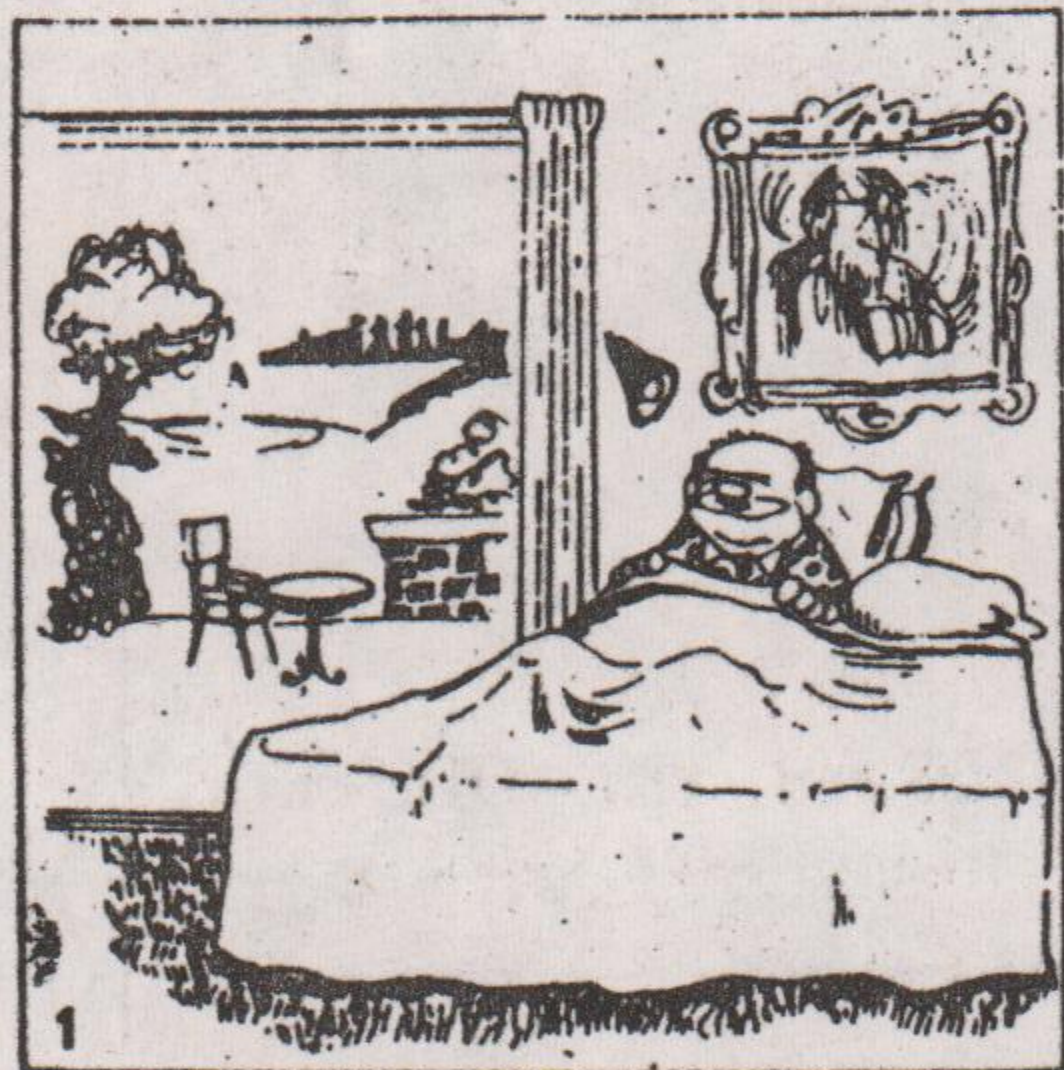
The Poll Tax just makes everything worse. It too cuts government spending. Councils were desperate to keep the tax as low as possible. Education is local government's largest expenditure, and salaries make up 70-80% of that. So, once again jobs must go - those of teachers and other education workers.

Councils have threatened redundancies in Nottinghamshire, Cambridge, Barnsley, Oldham and Bury. Teachers have long been under threat in Bradford.

STRIKES

Strikes have already taken place in Bradford and Barnsley - where up to one tenth of teaching jobs are under threat. Other areas are talking of taking action.

To follow the line of the NUT Executive is a recipe for defeat. They don't really want a strike at all, but they have said they'll go along with token local strikes. Strikes kept local can be defeated locally.



NEW TACTICS NEEDED

If teachers are to have any chance of success, they are going to have to adopt completely new tactics.

Their first response to redundancies should be to hold meetings of all the staff in the school with a view to immediate Strike action. Action should be taken regardless of what union the redundant workers happen to be in.

Action needs to spread beyond the confines of the schools in an authority. It must link up with other council workers who are also under threat. As the teachers at the Easter conference realised, the action needs to break out of the boundaries of local authorities.

If these redundancies are lost this time, next year will see open season on education jobs.

PUBLICATIONS

CLASS WAR ON THE HOME FRONT

A pamphlet originally published by the now defunct WILDCAT group. It details revolutionary working class opposition to the second world war. It takes the form of reprints from SOLIDARITY, the journal of the ANTI-PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNIST FEDERATION, one of the few groups in Britain to consistently advocate and report class struggle against the war effort.

Price £1.50 (inc p&p)

BEATING THE POLL TAX

Published by the Anarchist Communist Federation.

Price 70p (inc p&p)

NOTES ON THE CLASS STRUGGLE IN THE USSR

Published by SUBVERSION. Details working class struggle against Soviet State Capitalism.

Price 70p (inc p&p)

THE STATE AND CAPITAL IN JAPAN

Published by Subversion. Explains why Japanese capitalism isn't the triumph of free competition Thatcher claims it to be.

Price £1.20 (inc p&p)

DID YOU KNOW?

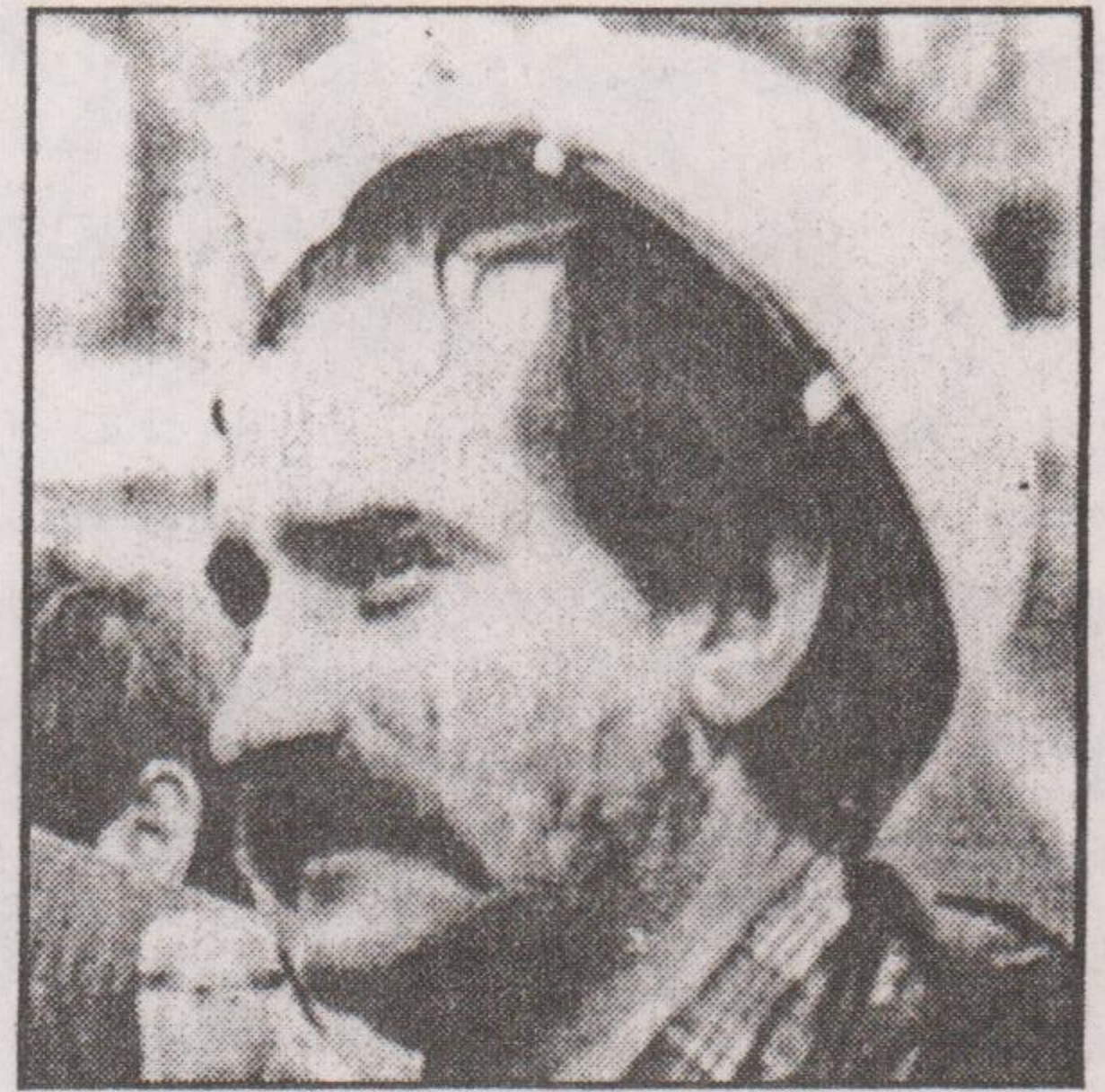
NALGO, NUPE + POLL TAX

Workplace resistance to the poll tax is essential but we can't rely on the unions. Whilst unions like NALGO & NUPE, who manage many local authority workers on the bosses' behalf, have paper policies in opposition to the poll tax, in practice they are co-operating with the councils to implement it. If they have any differences with the council bosses it's only that the councils are not charging enough! Manchester NALGO for instance argued for a minimum charge of £450 instead of the councils already huge £425. That kind of "opposition" we can do without!

ESTATE AGENTS

We know for a fact that Fielding's, a well-known Manchester estate agent, is passing on the names and addresses of its clients to the poll tax authorities. Who else is doing the same? Be on your guard.

POLAND

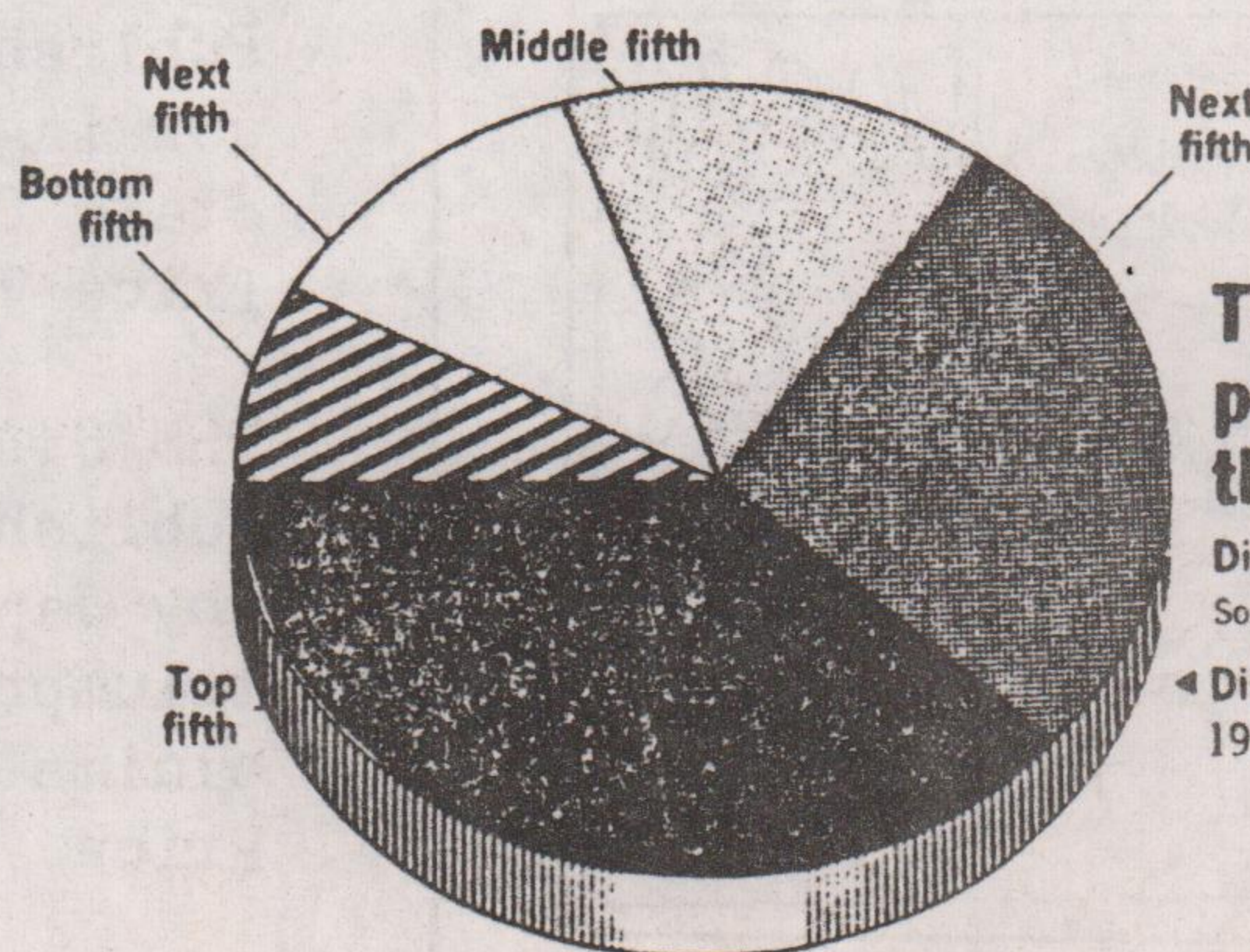
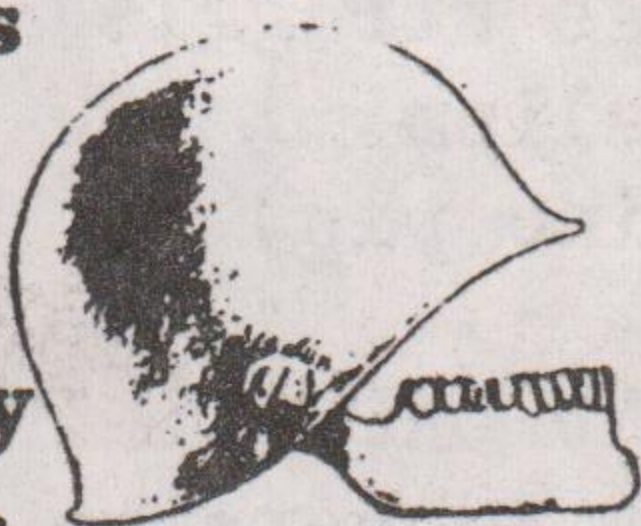


A SCAB

MEET THE NEW BOSS, SAME AS THE OLD BOSS
A massive strike of Polish railway workers blocking ports and disrupting commercial traffic shows that illusions in western style democracy are already wearing thin. The new "freedoms" touted by the likes of Blyecchhh Walesa and the 'Solidarity' leadership are shown to be nothing but lower wages, unemployment and increased exploitation, all in the name of some mythical 'national interest'. Creeps like Walesa unfortunately still have some sway amongst the workers. But not for long!

The money required to provide adequate food, water, education, health and housing for everyone in the world has been estimated at \$21 billion a year. It is a huge sum of money

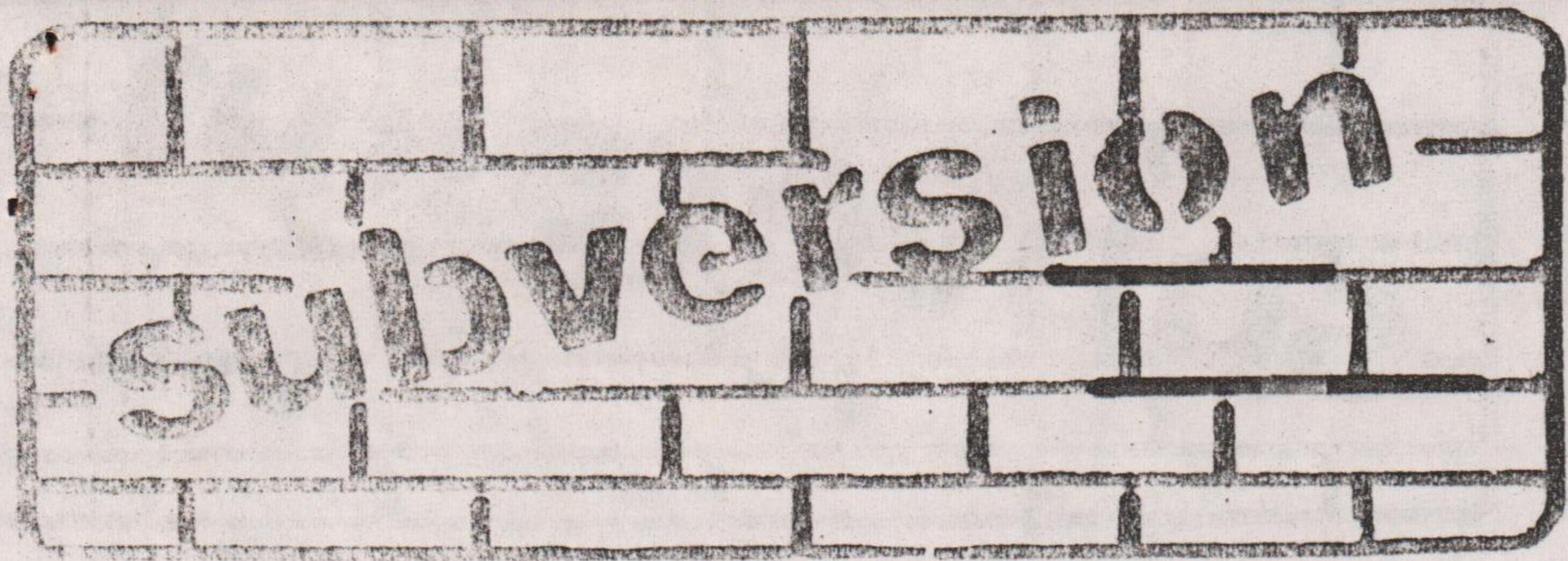
...about as much as the world spends on arms every two weeks.



The rich get richer and the poor, poorer: who has what percentage of the country's income?

Distribution of household income by quintile groups
Source Central Statistical Office. From Family Expenditure Survey. UK

◀ Disposable income
1983



ABOUT US...

class struggle and revolution

Subversion stands for the creation of a world without states, classes, money and wages, where production will be undertaken not for profit but to directly satisfy all human needs.

Some people describe this as "utopian". In one sense this is true: such a society does not exist anywhere, and never has. But we reject the "utopian" label if it implies that our goal has no connection with present-day reality.

The question of how to connect the day-to-day struggles we engage in now with the future society we desire has long been a subject of controversy among political groups.

Some organisations engage in the class struggle in order to recruit members to their party, with the aim of eventually becoming strong enough to seize power. We oppose such groups. We do not set ourselves up as generals, directing the rest of the working class into battle. A genuine and successful revolution can only be carried out by vast masses of working class people consciously organising and leading themselves.

Besides, in the unlikely event that such groups did succeed in seizing power, the likely outcome would be a so-called "worker's state" (with them in power), in which we would find ourselves working for "socialist" bosses, being paid "socialist" wages, and so on. If they share our future goal at all - and in most cases they don't - it is only as a distant mirage which continually recedes in the face of endless "transitional periods".

CONVERTS FOR SOCIALISM?

Other organisations, who we acknowledge do share the same aim as us, and who do not see themselves as saviours of the working



LEON TROTSKY - FAILED SOCIALIST BOSS

class, nevertheless treat this vision of the future society as some kind of philosophical ideal. They seek to 'convert' individual members of the working class until eventually there are enough 'believers' to turn this ideal into reality.

When members of such engage in the class struggle, it is their identity as individual members of the working class, rather than as revolutionaries, which prevails. They regard the present day class struggle as necessarily limited and defensive, in no way connected to the future revolutionary attack on capitalism. They thus end up actively defending organisations such as the trade unions whose very purpose is to contain the class struggle within the terms set by capitalism. →

subversion

CLASS STRUGGLE AND REVOLUTION

BREAKING WITH NORMALITY

By contrast, the starting point of our approach to the class struggle is the view that the seeds of the future struggle for communism are contained within the working class's struggles of today.

The types of working class resistance to the attacks of capitalism we support, like strikes, riots, organising against the Poll Tax, and so on, all interrupt the routine of capitalist 'normality'. In overcoming the practical problems which crop up in the course of these actions, those working class people actively involved find themselves having to develop their own collective solidarity, imagination, initiative and organisation. The development of these powers - all stifled by capitalism - is essential for the working class if it is to transform society.

COLLECTIVE STRUGGLE

By changing people's immediate material conditions, collective struggle also contains the potential to alter people's perceptions of the society around them, and place in a new perspective the limited goals they originally set themselves. All of these things can be observed, to varying degrees, whenever working class people take action together to fight back against the miseries heaped on them by capitalism.

TRANSFORMING SOCIETY

The wider the struggle, the greater the potential for the development of new forms of organisation directly controlled by those involved in the struggle, and the greater the potential for the development of radical ideas not confined merely to tinkering with society as it is but with the ambition of completely transforming it.

A CLASSLESS SOCIETY

Our approach is thus materialist: it is based on the working classes' struggle in pursuit of its material interests, and recognises that the source of revolutionary ideas and the means to turn these ideas into reality is the working class's active engagement in the class struggle.

This is the seed that will flower into the classless society, a society where all humanity is at last in control of its own destiny, can fulfill its desires and can achieve its true potential.

If you want more information about our group, would like to come to our meetings or would like to take extra copies of this or future bulletins, please fill in the coupon below and return it to Box W, c/o Raven Press, 75 Picadilly, Manchester M1 2BU.

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SOCIALIST BOSSES

