

lists; sent out the bills; inform the bailiffs; and administer the fines for non payment.

Rank and file action by council employees (outside the control of union bureaucrats who don't want the boat rocked) could have a major impact on the poll tax.

Council workers could focus their action in many ways: refusing to put services out 'to tender', boycotting 'registration' work, offering

advice to local anti poll tax groups, and, of course, all out strike action.

This action will be most effective if the struggle in the council workplace and the struggle in the community outside, are linked together in a united campaign of class action.

Delegates and 'street representatives' from the community campaign could meet rank and file council workers to plan coordinated work.

But the crucial area on which the success of the battle against the poll tax depends, will be the non payment campaign.

Those tens of thousands of working class families who simply won't be able to pay their poll tax bills, must become the core of a class wide fight.

The slogan "can't pay, won't pay" must become a reality in working class areas throughout Britain.

Why is the poll tax happening?

THERE'S TWO REAL reasons why the poll tax is being introduced.

First, it's a straight forward case of 'wealth redistribution': taking money from the poor and stuffing it in the pockets of the rich.

Second, it's a way of destroying local services, by shifting the burden of paying for those services onto the backs of the poor.

But the poll tax isn't an isolated 'one-off'. It's the

latest in a relentless series of attacks on our class that the Tories have launched in the last ten years.

From attacks on the NHS, and cuts in Housing Benefit, to anti-strike legislation - the details of the attacks, may differ, but the purpose remains the same.

To benefit and protect the class of people at the top of society, whose power and wealth exists through the exploitation of our class.

Defeating the poll tax is one part of the struggle that we must wage to overthrow that whole stinking system, so we can create a society in which we are able to exercise real control over our lives.

The struggle against the poll tax, is one battle in an ongoing class war.

ACF

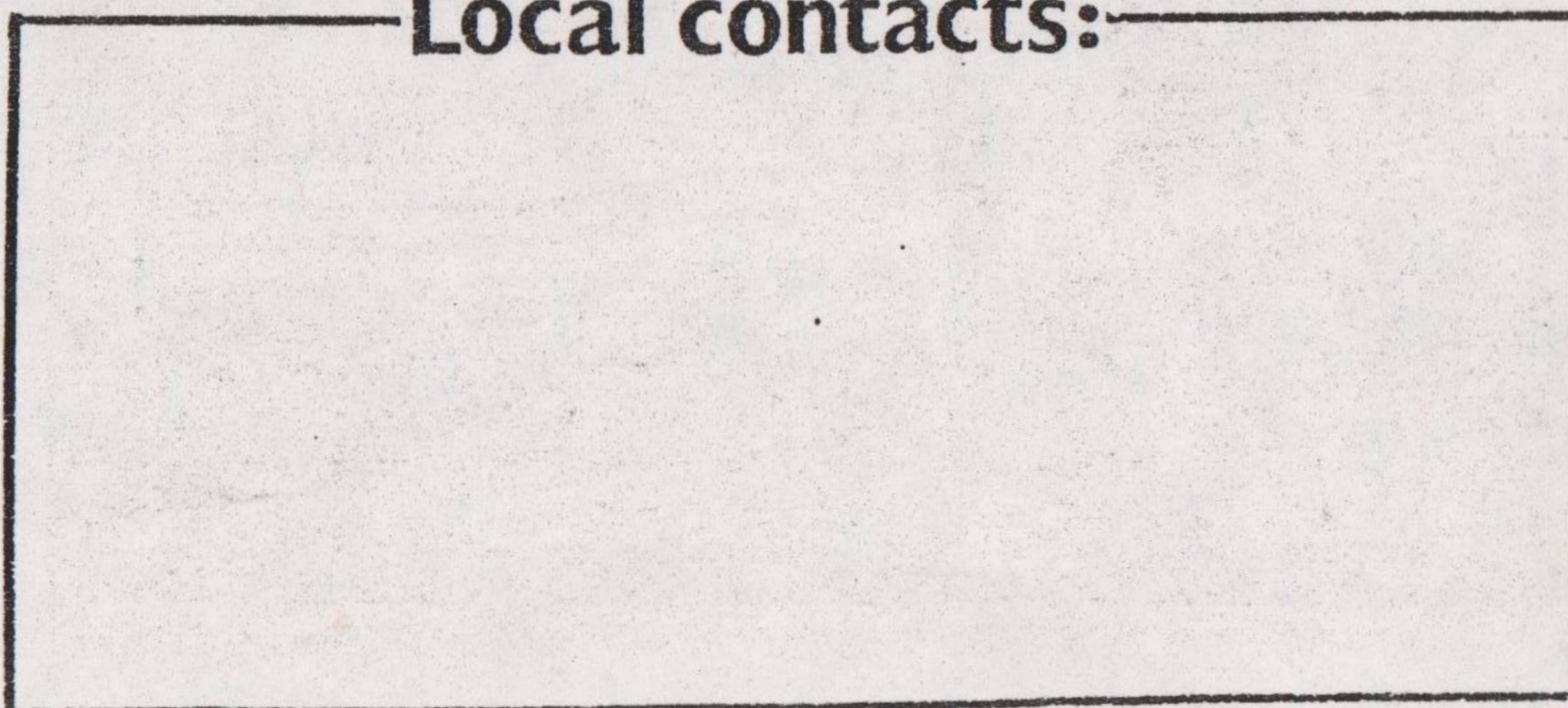
THIS LEAFLET HAS been produced by the Anarchist Communist Federation (ACF) - a national anarchist organisation, whose members are active in local anti-poll tax campaigns.

An ACF pamphlet The Poll Tax and How To Fight It, which looks in more detail at the ideas raised here, is available by post from us, for 50p inc p&p.

If you'd like a copy, want more copies of this leaflet, or want to know more about the ACF and our magazine Organise!, contact:

P O Box 125, Coventry CV3 5QT.

Local contacts:



one is sick of the financial burden of supporting the undeserving poor...



— SMASH THE — POLL TAX

"NO ONE IN our street is going to be paying their poll tax. And it'll be the same all over this estate. Everyone's saying they've had enough. They can charge us what they like: we're not going to pay it!"

That's the defiant message coming from just one of the hundreds of local community anti-poll tax groups that have sprung up all over Scotland in recent months.

Groups that are committed to defeating the poll tax by building a massive campaign of 'non-payment' amongst working class people throughout the country.

It's not surprising that the poll tax is meeting such fierce opposition.

For while the new flat-rate poll tax will mean massive cuts in rates bills for the well-off, especially those living in the leafy suburbs, it will mean huge increases for working class families - especially those living in inner city areas where rates levels are currently low, but where poll tax rates threaten to be very high.

The poll tax - which takes the place of Domestic Rates in Scotland in April

this year, and in April 1990 in England and Wales - will mean that a Company director earning £30,000 a year, and living in a four bedroomed detached house, will pay exactly the same amount as the people who work on the production lines in his factory.

This latest government move to take money from the poor and give it to the rich, is yet another savage attack on the falling living standards of working class people. Coming so soon after the massive cutbacks in unemployment and housing benefit, it promises to be an

appalling extra burden for families already struggling to make ends meet.

And it won't just be in the pocket that we'll be hit by the poll tax.

The poll tax will lead to a massive drop in the revenue a council is able to spend on services: with the rich paying loads less into the council's coffers than before, the burden for paying for the dozens of council services falls even more onto the backs of the poor.

So the poll tax will lead to the axing of council services, and the sacking of council workers, as councils slash their budgets in an attempt to keep poll tax levels as low as possible.

And unless we organise together now to put a stop to the poll tax, we face attacks on two levels: Being faced with the prospect of finding the money to pay huge bills we can't afford, and losing council services that we can't do without.

That's why it's essential that we put paid to the poll tax, through a combination of a collective campaign of non payment, and industrial action by council, and other, workers.



What will it mean?

* Poll tax, unlike the rates, is a tax on people, which practically everyone over eighteen will have to pay.

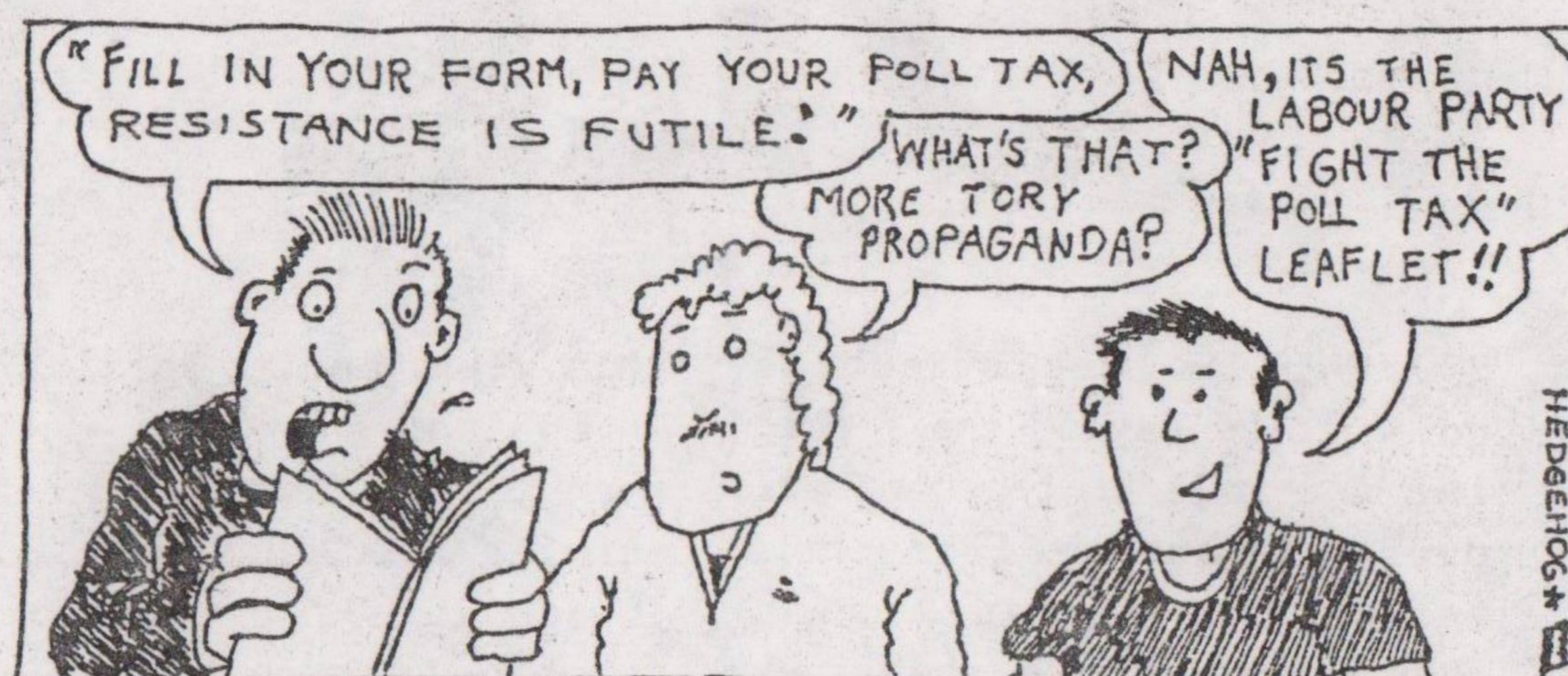
* Poll tax is a flat-rate - so everyone living in the same council area will pay exactly the same amount, regardless of what their income is.

* The unemployed will have to find 20% of their poll tax bills out of their dole money.

* Whole new armies of bureaucrats, snoopers, spies

and officials have been formed to enforce the poll tax. And it's us they'll be harrasing.

* If we don't register for the tax, or refuse to pay



it, we're liable to be fined, or suffer a visit from the bailiffs.

* In Scotland, poll tax rates are already twice and three times what people were paying before. Some are even higher. And it threatens to be exactly the same story in England and Wales

How not to fight

WORKING CLASS PEOPLE waging war on the poll tax won't just find themselves up against the Tories and the courts.

For the leaders of the Labour Party and the Trade Union movement are just as opposed to the idea of working class people taking independent action for themselves outside of their control.

Kinnock may have 'denounced' the poll tax in speeches in Parliament, but behind this public facade, he and his party are trying to stamp out all attempts to build an effective fight against it.

Kinnock and Norman Willis boss of the TUC are trying

to divert people's anger over the poll tax into useless gestures, which they know won't threaten the poll tax at all: like signing petitions asking Thatcher to think again!

He's repeatedly denounced those calling for a collective campaign of nonpayment, and unofficial action by council, and other, workers.

In Scotland, where the Scottish TUC were faced with the prospect of workers taking unofficial strike action over the poll tax, they called for an absurd 11 minute 'stoppage' last autumn, in a vain attempt to burn up people's anger, and, at the same time give the impression that they were leading the fight against the poll tax!

Once the eleven minutes was up, they rushed around ordering pickets back to work!

Behind these pathetic attempts to delude people, the reality of the Labour Party's opposition to the poll tax is all too clear.

In Labour controlled local authorities throughout Scotland, England and Wales, council leaders are gearing up to implement the poll tax, and push through all the cuts in council services that go with it.

They're busy preparing to send out the bills, and if they aren't paid to dispatch the bailiffs to the homes of working class families, to break down their front doors...

Up and down the country, Labour authorities have joined Tory ones in spending millions of pounds installing the computer systems necessary to collect the poll tax which also hold secret files on everyone who is liable to pay it.

That is what Kinnock and Co.'s 'opposition' to the poll tax amounts to: attempting to sabotage effective action against it, while busily preparing to put it into practice.

WE CAN BEAT IT!

"FIGHTING AGAINST THE poll tax has really brought people on this estate together. There's an incredible level of anger, and you only have talk to people at the bus stop, or in the supermarket, to see just how many people aren't going to be paying when their poll tax bill arrives".

That's one resident of an estate in Scotland, describing the strength of opposition to the poll tax where they live.

It's a similar story in working class areas throughout Scotland, and, as registration gets underway in England and Wales this April, that level of anger must be spread throughout the whole country.

Lessons

As the lessons of the anti poll tax work done so far in Scotland have shown, from the beginning, that anger must be focused into building a community based campaign of

non payment, organised and run directly by working class people.

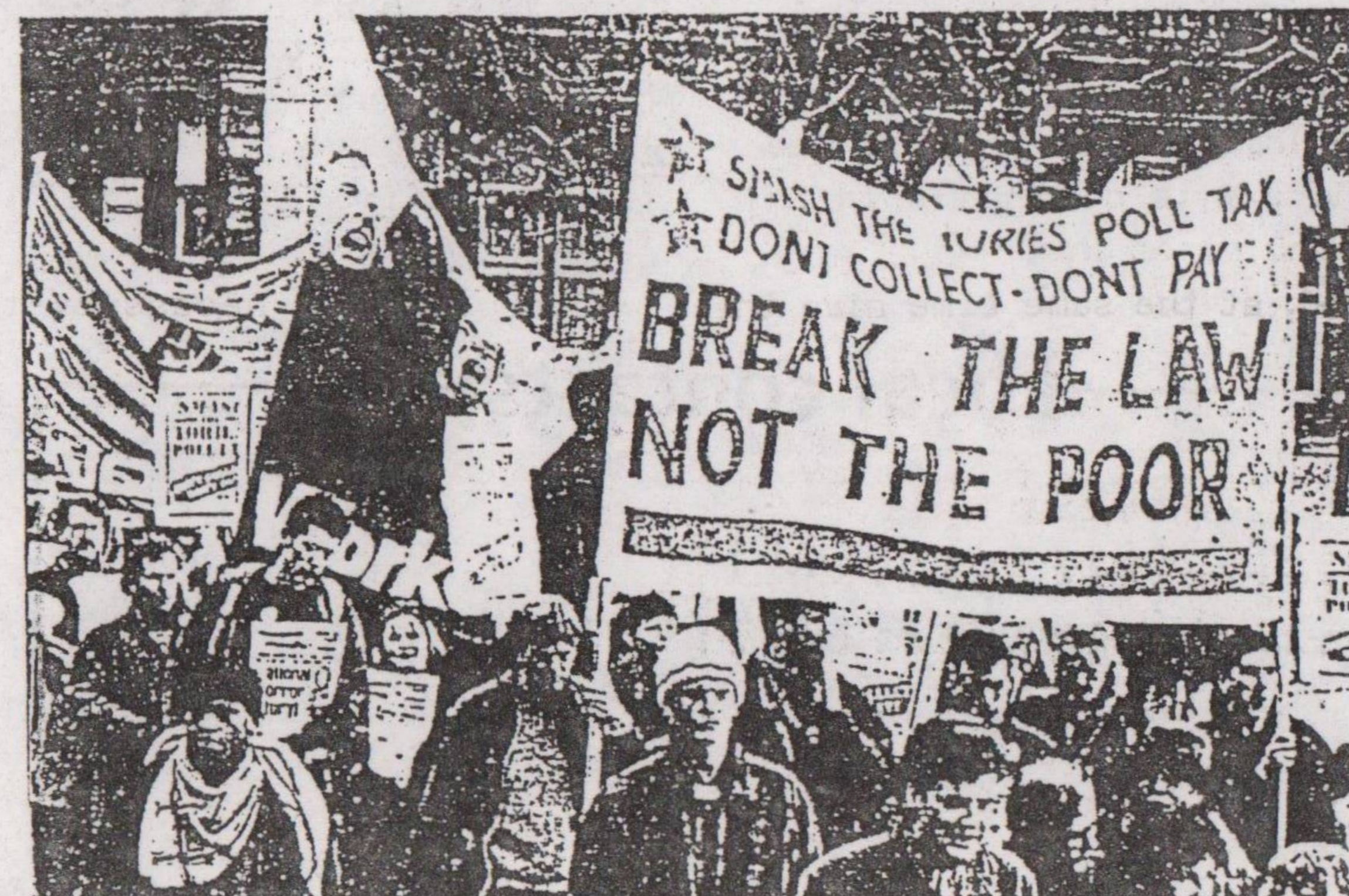
The key to smashing the poll tax lies in such a campaign, backed by industrial action by council workers.

In many cities in Scotland, non payment campaigns have started from small beginnings, when a few people off an estate have called a public meeting in a local centre or hall, or gone canvassing opinion door to door in surrounding streets.

As local campaigns have begun to take off, they've sought out other local poll tax groups in neighbouring areas, and have built federations and 'anti poll tax unions' city wide

Opposing Registration: the first battle that these groups have waged, has been to frustrate the compiling of a 'register' in each area of all those liable to pay.

The Tories had hoped that drawing up such a list would be an easy business.



But, all over Scotland, poll tax offices have been overwhelmed, as thousands of registration forms have been returned (still blank) by residents querying a question on the form, or asking for more information. Thousands more forms have 'gone missing'; others have gone up in flames at mass form burnings by poll tax groups.

Thousands

All these delaying tactics quickly put the government's poll tax timetable behind schedule. As tens of thousands of Scots joined the non registration campaign, the government has been scrambling to cobble together a list in time for the first demands to be sent out.

But the Tories have learn from getting their fingers burnt in Scotland. When registration starts in England and Wales, it will be far more difficult to 'query' the form without risking being fined.

By far the best tactic to use will be, collectively, to delay returning the forms for as long as possible.

Non Implementation Council workers will be hard hit by the poll tax, particularly as dozens of council jobs and services are axed, in the drive to cut spending.

But council workers are in a unique position to hit back against the poll tax.

It will be council employees who will have to compile the registration