



BRISTOL RESISTOR

NO. 1

FREE!

Strikes in the N.H.S.

Thatcher, Moore & other creepy colleagues are continually mouthing out-of-context statistics telling us that "more money than ever" is being spent on the National Health Service, and "more operations than ever" are taking place in N.H.S. hospitals. What these isolated figures don't reveal, however, is that:

- 1) The government spends more money on "Defence" than it does on the N.H.S.
- 2) The government spends less on public health than every other western European country except Portugal & Greece.
- 3) The cost of new treatment technology & drugs has risen at a rate faster than inflation in recent years.
- 4) The proportion of elderly people in the population, who place more strain on health services than the young, is increasing all the time.
- 5) Waiting lists for so-called "non-essential" (whatever the hell that is!) & even "essential" operations are increasing in most health districts. Here in Bristol you could wait up to 18 months for a life-saving heart operation (if you last that long!).
- 6) The quality of care for patients in the N.H.S. has fallen dramatically in the last decade, due to staff shortages & overworking, ward & hospital closures, centralisation of services etc.

The chances are that you or at least a close relative or friend have had the experience of sitting for hours in a doctor's waiting room, or had to wait months for an appointment with a hospital specialist. You've probably also had to fork out hard-earned wages to buy your medicines, and now also you'll have to pay for eye-tests & all dental treatment. As well as having National Insurance deducted regularly from your wages if you work. If you are elderly or handicapped, you'll know at first hand that Social Services are struggling to provide the all-too-limited help they are able to give you, due to cutbacks & underfunding. All this & a damn site more, at a time when Health Authority "managers" are paid hefty bonuses for successfully swinging their axes to force hospital & ward closures.

Politicians & even some careerist-minded union officials have labelled as "totally irresponsible" those nurses who are currently urging strikes within the health service, saying such actions will only cause greater suffering to patients. What hypocrisy! Policies of underfunding & cutbacks by the state & it's managers have already killed thousands of sick people, denied the right to proper health care & told to wait years for operations unless they can pay for them.

The lower-waged & unemployed have always suffered from an inferior level of health care, & now politicians & their rich friends are trying to get away with throwing a few less pennies in our direction to line their fat pockets even more. By keeping us in poor health they can also throw even more shit & exploitation at us in other ways, with less fear of a united & strong fightback.

For years & years, nurses & other health service employees have put up with crappy pay & conditions and seen at first hand the long-term suffering & needless deaths inflicted on sick people due to cutbacks on a mammoth scale. Direct Action in the Health Service is now necessary to expose government irresponsibility and to stop the enforced trend towards centralisation, depersonalisation & "user-pays" policies in the health care services.

In 1986, nurses & other hospital staff in British Columbia in Canada (paid considerably more than their British counterparts) staged strikes & work-to-rule tactics over a period of months, but were finally successful in their demand for better pay. British nurses have negotiated & lobbied for ages in pursuit of a just wage & better conditions, but have gained only pitiful concessions from politicians & managers. An all-out strike, if actively supported by enough people, could place unprecedented pressure on the government to back down on it's path to macerate the N.H.S. and passively murder thousands more working class and poor people.



HINKLEY

C?!!

The accident at Chernobyl, less than 2 years ago, gave the whole world a taste of nuclear power, revealed in it's true colours to be NUKILLER power. This accident killed 30 people directly, led to 135,000 people being evacuated from their homes, 300 people being admitted to hospital with radiation sickness, and will cause an estimated 5,000 to 100,000 extra deaths from cancer in the Soviet Union alone.

Here in Britain, some 2,000 or so miles away from Chernobyl, several hundred sheep farms are STILL subject to restrictions on livestock movement & slaughter, and the full extent of contamination still present in our food chain and in the soil, is unknown. It's been estimated, however, that between 600 and 1,300 extra cases of cancer will appear in Britain over the next 20-30 years as a result of Chernobyl.

Despite Chernobyl, the C.E.G.B. (Central Electricity Generating Board) managed to somehow get its own way at the inquiry into the building of a Pressurised Water Reactor (P.W.R.) nukiller power station at Sizewell, and construction (DEstruction) work on "Sizewell B" is now in full swing. The C.E.G.B. now hopes to get away with building ANOTHER P.W.R. station, at HINKLEY POINT, 28 miles from Bristol, and is trying to convince us all with an incredible & expensive assortment of glossy leaflets, brochures & other crap, that this is a good idea, & Chernobyl "can't happen here".
HINKLEY POINT

There are two nukiller stations already at Hinkley Point, one a Magnox reactor station commissioned in 1962, & the other an Advanced Gas Cooled reactor commissioned in 1976. The Magnox station was designed to be in operation for 20 years (ie. it should have been shut down 5 years ago!), but the C.E.G.B. now plans to keep it operating well into the 1990's.

There have been numerous "minor" accidents at Hinkley A & B since they were built. In April 1978, a full "site incident alert" was declared at Hinkley, when 8 tons of "mildly" radioactive carbon dioxide gas escaped into the atmosphere. Potassium iodate tablets, which reduce the likelihood of thyroid cancer due to radiation, were distributed to 500 plant workers on this occasion.

Now, as if Hinkley A & B weren't enough bloody worries for us, the C.E.G.B. is trying to dump a HINKLEY C on us (more Chernobyls, Chaos & Cancer), and even has plans for a Hinkley D! If Hinkley C is guilt, Hinkley Point will become the biggest nukiller complex in Britain after Sellafield.

The P.W.R. design for the proposed Hinkley C is basically the same as that at Three Mile Island in the U.S. This reactor underwent a partial meltdown in 1979 causing 144,000 people to be evacuated from their homes, and cleanup costs are now estimated to reach \$3 billion. P.W.R.'s are now regarded by many reputable nuclear engineers to be redundant, due to their inherently unsafe design.

DON'T PAY FOR NUCLEAR POWER



EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLANS

Since the Three Mile Island accident, regulations were introduced in the U.S. which established a 10 mile zone to deal with exposure to the radioactive cloud itself, and a 50 mile zone to deal with exposure from radioactivity ingested after deposition. Following the accident at Chernobyl, Soviet authorities INITIALLY evacuated people within a 19 mile radius.

Bristol is within 10 miles of the nukiller power station at Oldbury and 50 miles of Hinkley Point, Oldbury and Berkley. Eighty % of the entire water supply of Bristol is also stored in open reservoirs. With the worst combination of accident and weather conditions, Bristol would be UNINHABITABLE for up to 20 years after an accident at Hinkley Point. (Cheap housing for years to come!...). Despite these frightening facts, present plans in Britain to deal with a major emergency at a nukiller power station call only for evacuation within a 2.2 mile radius of the station.

NUKILLER POWER IS NOT CHEAP

The glossy leaflets & propaganda campaign of the C.E.G.B. (itself costing taxpayers millions of pounds), tells us that nukiller power is the cheapest & most efficient form of electricity generation. This is simply rubbish. Cost estimates presented at the Sizewell B Enquiry didn't include the research & development costs of nukiller power technology, the cost of disposing of the radioactive waste, or the decommissioning costs of nukiller power stations. Also, the C.E.G.B.'s estimates were based on the assumption that coal prices would rise rapidly, whereas in actual fact they have fallen considerably. The fact that the government spent 15 times more money on research into nukiller power as opposed to research into alternative sources of energy in 1985/86, says it all really.

THE LINK WITH NUKILLER WEAPONS

Lastly but by no means least, we have the undeniable link between nukiller power & nukiller weapons. For years the C.E.G.B. & politicians LIED about this, claiming that no plutonium or other material produced by the nukiller power industry was used for weapons. Yet historically, it is a well-known fact that the nukiller power industry began because of the military's need for fissionable material for atomic bombs.

Lord Marshall, the C.E.G.B.'s chairman, finally admitted this fact in a "T.V. Eye" interview in 1986, & acknowledged that British plutonium allowed the U.S. to build up it's stockpile of nukiller weapons from a few hundred to a few thousand in the 1960's. Military needs as well as poor economics are behind the government now thinking of legislating to force electricity-producing companies to generate nukiller power once the industry is privatised.

STOP HINKLEY C

For years & years the C.E.G.B. and successive governments have deceived and conned us about our "need" for nukiller power. Windscale, Three Mile Island & Chernobyl were NOT "freak incidents" though. They happened, they killed hundreds of people, will thousands more, and will leave their mark on our land, our children and ourselves for centuries to come.

But people have learnt something from Chernobyl & realised just what a big lie it is we've been fed for so long from above. There are numerous ways to oppose nukiller power & help stop Hinkley C from ever being built, such as refusing to pay the nukiller proportion (17%) of our electricity bills, and other forms of direct action & pressure. It's time for us, ordinary people, to start to organise against this insane form of power-wielding and murder.

Contact: Hinkley Action Group
Box H.A.G.
Full Marks Bookshop
Stokes Croft
Bristol.

our moral backlash!

Whose life is it anyway? Wherever we turn these days, it seems that some pompous, bleeding-heart in authority is telling us what we should be doing, thinking and feeling. We used to call liberals, who suffered from pangs of guilt for being 'privileged', "bleeding-hearts". But all we mean by it is the sickening sight of the wealthy, arrogant voice of the middle class, with a plum where most people have a "quaint regional accent", legislating over what the rest of society should desire. So, today the fact that the voice of authority is ultra-conservative and not liberal, doesn't mean that they're not up to the same patronising game.

Clause 28 of the new Local Government Bill now passing through parliament, is a prime example of what we mean. It is intended to stop the "promotion" of homosexuality in schools. What bullshit! When has anyone ever heard of their own children being indoctrinated into being gay at school? The only source for such fears seems to be the journalist-scum who write so 'creatively' for The Sun, The Star & The Mirror.

We should perhaps be a little bit suspicious when the stagnant life-forms rolling around half-dead in the House of Lords and half drunk in the House of Commons, start to concern themselves so 'sincerely' in our moral welfare. We should ask why they care whether we are gay or decide to have an abortion, when they don't care if we have enough money to make ends meet or get a decent roof over our heads.

There are more people, living in more misery in this country, than for 50 years. The same Christian gentlemen who care so much about our morals, don't give a shit for our standard of living. They worry about our children's "moral education", but are sacrificing their other education (such as it is) on the altar of cuts in the public services.

We have never needed a 'moral backlash' against this reactionary crap, more than we do today. Every day working class people who are inevitably receiving the brunt of this middle-class moralising, suffer the litany of abuse from "bleeding-hearts". While homosexuality is a great, protected tradition of the ruling-class (from their public schools to their parliament), it is gays who don't belong to this select set, who have to try to lead a normal life in normal working-class communities, who receive the persecution of Clause 28. It is women who can't afford to bring up children and don't want to, who will be impaled by the anti-abortionists on their 'morality'.
Cont

Dole Attack³

The State is planning the worst attack yet on the unemployed. The areas affected include Supplementary Benefit, Unemployment Benefit, Single Payments, M.S.C. Schemes, Housing Benefit and Rate Rebates. With a combined effect calculated to force people to take any job at any pay.

Unemployment Benefit: Not available for 6 months if you give up your job voluntarily, instead of 3 as at present. You won't be entitled to U.B. unless you have paid two years national insurance, instead of 1 year as at present.

Supplementary Benefit: Will change from being means-tested to being age-related. It will become very difficult for under 18's to claim supplementary benefit at all, if they refuse to join a Y.T.S. Under 25's will receive supplementary benefit at a reduced rate, whilst over 25's will receive the new-style benefit at a rate similar to the present. Supplementary benefit will be paid at a greatly reduced rate (approx. 50%) to anybody giving up their job voluntarily.

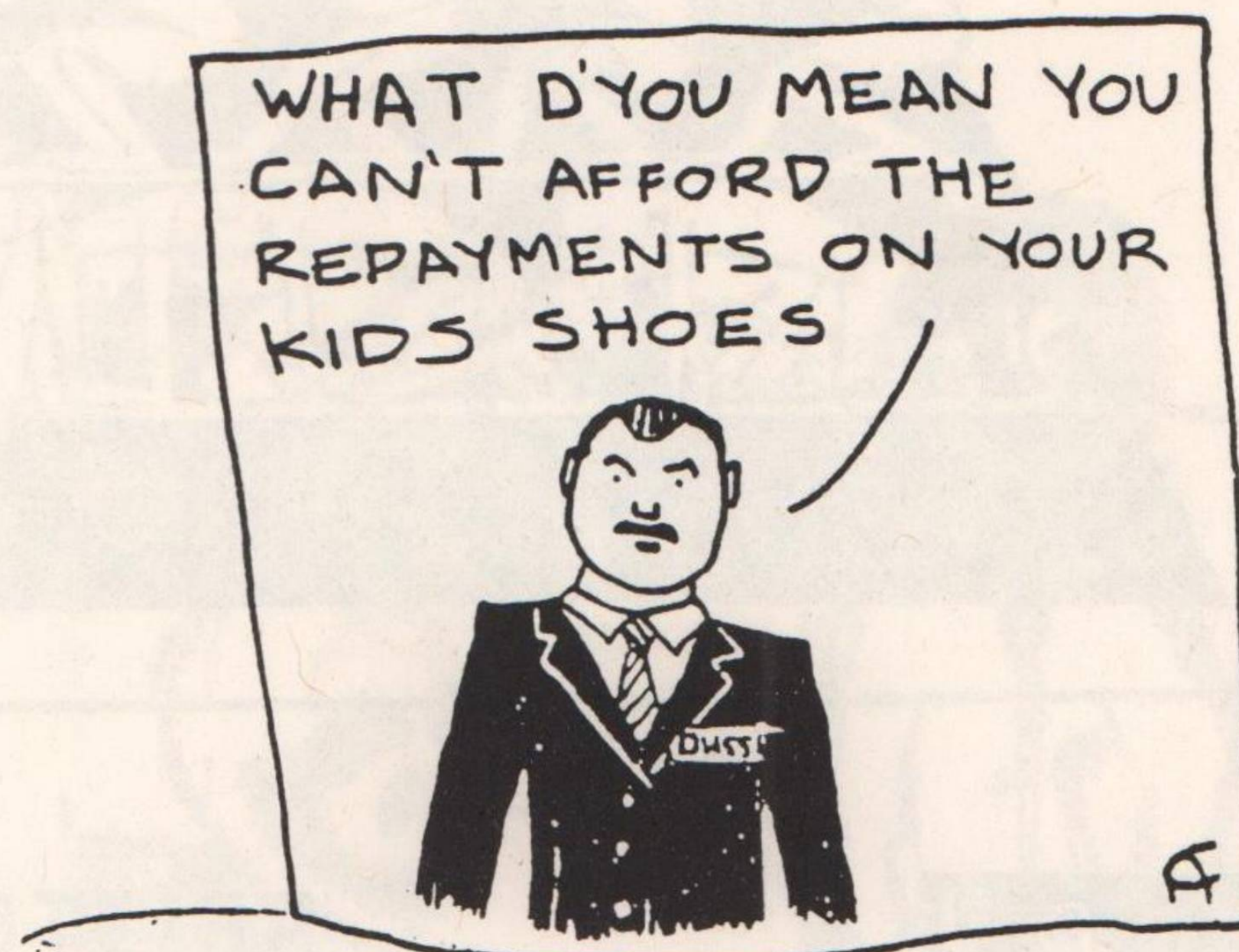
Single Payments: Are ended and replaced by loans, which are then stopped out of your giro (already set at the poverty level).

M.S.C. Schemes (Community Programme, Y.T.S., J.T.S.) Rates will go down to social security levels, with C.P. only available to those over 25, payed at social security levels plus a "travel allowance". J.T.S. or a similar scheme will be the only choice for 18-25's - a 40 hour week for social security "wages".

Housing Benefit: Will be unobtainable by those with over £6,000 savings and will be more difficult to get.

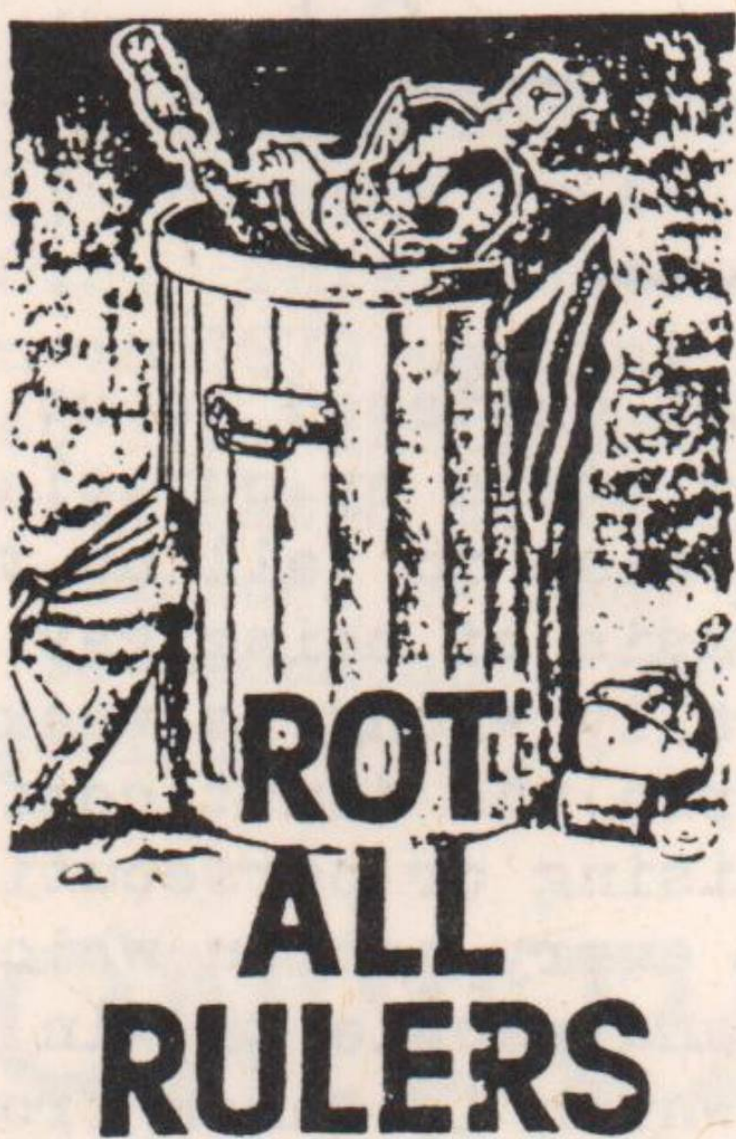
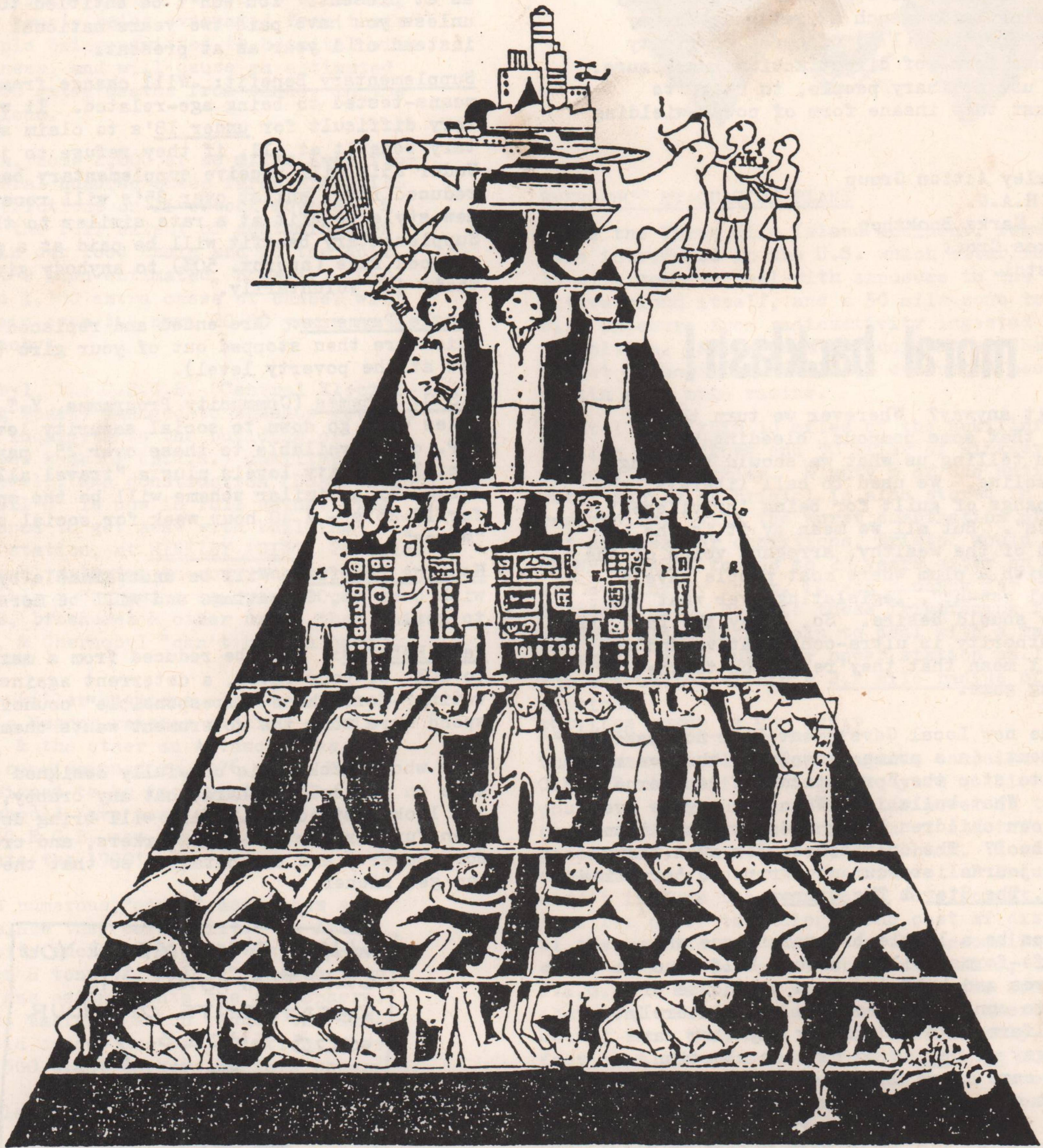
Rate Rebates: Will be reduced from a maximum 100% to 80% of your rates, a deterrent against (us voting? for) those "irresponsible" councils who spend more than the government wants them to.

This whole package is carefully designed to make life on the dole so hard that any crappy, low-paid job looks attractive. This will bring down wages even further for low-paid workers, and create even more poverty and exploitation so that the rich can get richer.



Our morals must be our own and not dictated to us by vicars, M.P.'s and bigots. We stand by our class and refuse to allow our class enemies to tell us that we should hate our own, on the basis of being gay or having an abortion. What is morally wrong is weakening our class by picking out people who don't conform to Victorian morality and ostracising or persecuting them. What is morally right, is every action which helps working-class communities and people to win back a little bit of the wealth which is taken from them every day; whether it's shoplifting in Broadmead or community support schemes. We need unity, not 'bleeding-hearts'.

**WASHING ONES HANDS OF THE CONFLICT
BETWEEN THE POWERFUL AND THE
POWERLESS MEANS TO SIDE WITH THE
POWERFUL, NOT TO BE NEUTRAL."**



BRISTOL RESISTOR

is produced by Bristol Direct
Action Movement (D.A.M.).

Contact us c/- Box DAM, Full
Marks Bookshop, Stokes Croft,
BRISTOL, to become involved.

