

CHAIN REACTION

APRIL 90
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COME TO CRIGGION AND



MAKE YOUR MARK AGAINST TRIDENT
MARCH 31ST

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VOTE LABOUR AND STILL DIE HORRIBLY

Will Labour restore social services if it is wasting money on Trident nuclear submarines?

Will Labour pursue socialism if it is still tied to Nato?

Will education/health/transport improve while we are still playing expensive war games?

If you think that it's still important to get rid of the bomb, you should be in Telford Anti-Nuclear Group. Contact TANG at: College Farm House, Mill Lane, Wellington, Telford 641852.

The Telford Trades Council are issuing a MAYDAY MESSAGE in month's time. Not because they need rescuing but to celebrate the May Day of the Labour movement. It is a magazine published annually to coincide with the rally in Telford held on the first Monday in May. TANG has written articles for inclusion in it in previous years, although five years ago one of TANG's articles was censored by a previous committee.

This year TANG submitted, with correct payment, the advert shown above (but double the size). We wanted to show that, as Labour party policy now stands, the bomb will still be with us under a Labour Government. This would be a waste as well as being the about turn which we all know has taken place in Labour ideals.

We admit that the caption is not TANG's invention. It came from a local anti-nuclear journal elsewhere in the country. Nevertheless, it perfectly encapsulates Labour's capitulation.

We were not totally surprised to learn that the advert has been banned, amid cries of 'it's not cricket' from the publishers. What did they think we would do? Sell our principles just because a political party changes its mind from one year to the next?

FOR WHOM THE BELL POLLS

"No law is binding on the subject that assaults
the person or violates the conscience"
(Blackstone)

That statement by Britain's greatest authority on constitutional law is endorsed by the Declaration that was made by the Allies before the Nuremburg Trials and which has since been ratified by each of the parliaments of the allied countries.

The Nuremburg Declaration condemned the German people as a whole for not having opposed Hitler, dismissed as irrelevant the fact that Hitler's was a legally elected Government, & laid down that every citizen of a country has a legal as well as a moral duty to oppose the government of his/her country, if that government behaved in a blatantly immoral way; whether or not the opposition involved contravened the laws of that country.

Obviously no one would wish to compare the immorality & injustice of the Poll Tax with the genocide performed by the Nazis; but it is nevertheless true that the whole of the world community has for centuries regarded a poll tax or any similar tax, which takes no account of ability to pay, no account of differentials in income, no account of the vast differences in material stake in countries, as immoral and such taxes have been repudiated in every country.

We cannot therefore accept the easy assumption by Labour and similar politicians that though the poll tax is plainly immoral, it is nevertheless the duty of the citizen to obey, & the duty of politicians to tell them to obey. No doubt people who see themselves as alternative governments and in consequence will tomorrow want the people to obey similarly immoral

laws find such a position a convenient argument; but it is a dangerous precedent.

If you accustom people to obeying any law that it is put before them, however evil, then sooner or later the time will come when a law will be passed that plainly is not just cruel & unjust - as the poll tax is - but is positively genocidal. For years anti-militarists have had to argue that modern weaponry infringes all the laws of war in just the same way as did concentration camps & gas chambers. We have in consequence preached that civil disobedience may well be a legal as well as moral duty for citizens. While we would argue that nuclear weapons are a greater crime than the poll tax there is an obvious parallel.

Since writing the above we have heard that Councillor Paul Wolfe - co-founder of TANG in the early 80s - has resigned his Labour Wrekin Council seat on the poll tax issue. Faced with the situation that the Labour Group were cooperating with the imposition of the tax, and the Tories, wishing to cut services, were saying yes to the tax but less of it, Paul could do nothing else but abstain from voting when the Council took the decision, and having defied the party whip has since resigned. Naturally TANG applauds his action.



Local News

By the time you read this the rally at Criggion will have taken place. I hope you saw the press coverage, unfortunately it co-incided with National Anti Poll Tax Day, so maybe you didn't. A full report should be published next month.

Telford FoE have several events planned, see diary. A new group "Wrekin against Toxic Waste" has been set up by members of parish councils. FoE ask that we lobby our parish councils to make sure that they are represented to highlight problems at existing tips and oppose new ones.

A new 1990 FoE Wrekin Recycling guide will be available from the end of April.

Hardly local but the new CND spring catalogue has just been published. It seems to be a vast improvement on previous ones. Ask Barbara (Telford 598452) for a copy if you haven't seen one.



