

LONDON DEMO SAT. 20th OCTOBER

The Trafalgar Square Defence Committee have organised a feeder march which will assemble at 9.30am at HORSEFERRY ROAD MAGISTRATES COURT (Westminster, off Lambeth Bridge) before joining the main march which assembles at 10.30am at KENNINGTON PARK.

The route chosen by the T.S.D.C. will take marchers near the seat of power (though south of the river) unlike the route of the Federation march which will go to BROCKWELL PARK near BRIXTON for a rally between 1.00 & 4.00pm.

The T.S.D.C. also plan a rally outside BRIXTON PRISON at 4.30pm. A number of jailed Trafalgar Square protestors are being held, and where a number of Jail "suicides" have taken place.

Second Scottish Forum

Saturday the 27th. of October 1990. The venue will be Cameron House Community Centre in Prestonfield, Edinburgh. This facility has disabled access, also, a creche and food will be available. A nearby pub - venue for the social.

Timetable (proposed)

10.30 a.m. Tea & Coffee, settling in.
11.00 a.m. Welcome
12.00 noon Workshops.
1.30 p.m. Lunch.
2.30 p.m. Workshops.
4.00 p.m. Teabreak
4.15 p.m. Reports from workshops.
4.45 p.m. Final session
6.00 p.m. Evening meal
7.00 p.m. Social.

Proposed Workshops

1. Communications - To include a discussion of Refuse & Resist.
2. Trafalgar Square Defence Campaign - How they organised
3. Sheriffs' Officers Actions (regional variations in tactics)
4. Direct Actions and Demo's.
5. Local Organisation and distribution of leaflets - the practicalities.
6. The Politics of Debt

Please make cheque payable to SCOTTISH FORUM, and send to Prestonfield Community Resistance, C/o Geoff Craig, 7 Spence St., Edinburgh, EH16 5AG.

3D

3D—Don't pay, Don't collect, Don't implement—is a paper and network for anti-poll tax activists, both in or out of the All Britain Federation. It provides an independent voice in the anti-poll tax movement, information, reports and a critical viewpoint on events happening around the country.

For more info contact:

3D, c/o [redacted]

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REFUSE & RESIST is a FREE publication and, as such, it is dependant on donations from groups and individuals.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY!!!

POLL TAX RIOT

Acab Press
EM 8884
London WC1N 3XX

Dedicated to all working class heroes
£1 + S.A.E. (Large). 24,000 distributed.

10 hours that shook Trafalgar Square

On Saturday 31st March 200,000 people took to the streets of London to demonstrate against the Poll Tax. This demonstration ended up with a riot in the centre of London. Hundreds of police officers were injured and there were mass looting sprees throughout the West End. The day after, the capitalist media came down like a ton of bricks in an attempt to reimpose their reality, portraying the rioters' violence as sheer mindless lunacy and trying to hide the much wider support it had amongst the working class. What follows is an alternative reality, the story from the other side: the people on the streets. Now read on...

After we have met our costs, all proceeds from the sale of this pamphlet will go to defendants and the defendants' campaign.

This pamphlet is anti-copyright and can be freely reproduced by any revolutionary group. But copyright protects it from being used by journalists, rich bastards, etc. June 1990

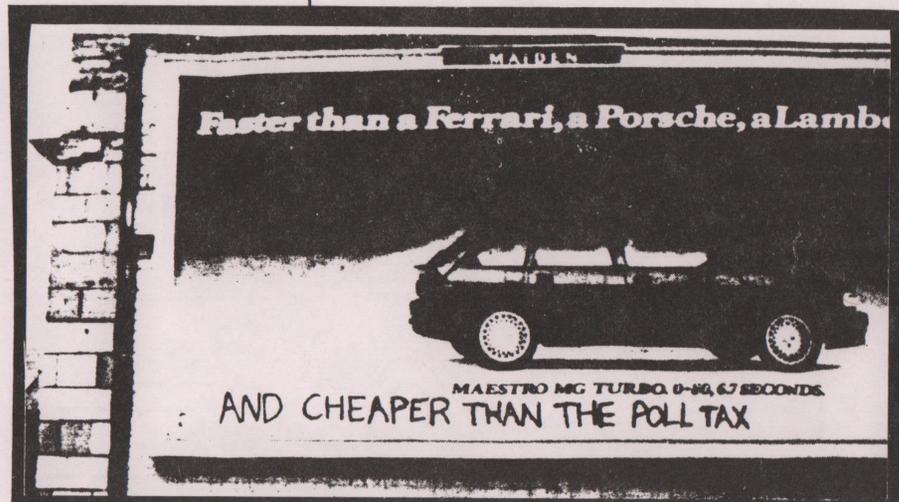
The Destruction of Toytown U.K.

The above pamphlet is a random collection of thoughts instigated by the great Poll Tax riot of March 31st, 1990. It ranges from on-the-spot observations by participants, to a wider theoretical reflection.

£1 from BM Blob, London WC1N 3XX

"Twinned Against The Poll Tax"

Any Scottish Anti-Poll Tax group who would like to twin with an English Anti-Poll Tax group to exchange experience, information, ideas etc. Write to Twins, c/o Robert Fox, 26 Glen St., Toll Cross, Edinburgh EH3.



CONTACTS

All articles, letters and donations to:-

P.O.Box 239 Glasgow G3 6RA.

STOP PRESS: For last minute information or details of events requiring coverage by the editorial team call - 041 [redacted]

REFUSE AND RESIST.

NEWS FROM LOCAL ANTI-POLL TAX GROUPS

NO. 5

LAST 1/4 1990

BY DONATION

SHOOT THE SHERIFFS BASH THE BAILIFFS

Our message is clear - we're not paying and we are winning! Despite all of the Tory propaganda to the contrary, the latest figures from local councils across Britain show that not only are the non-payment figures holding firm, but in areas such as Scotland they have actually increased by around 100,000!

We have the Tories and their lackeys in the Labour Party on the run! But we can't stop there - In England turning up at court can get your case adjourned or clog up the system. Active defiance is needed to defeat all efforts at collection.

As well as token marches to London which involve only a few of our number, we need to turn back to the local communities for inspiration and mass activity against the Poll Tax.

Mass action in every town in Britain has to be built in order that when the Bailiffs and Sheriffs show their ugly heads in our communities, we have the stick with which to batter them.

We will not be intimidated by the State's bully boys, whether in the shape of Sheriffs in Scotland, Bailiffs in England and Wales, or in the shape of the "Good Old British Bobby" that we witnessed at Trafalgar Square in March of this year. We must fight back with all of the means at our disposal. If we don't then the Tories will stitch us up just as they are attempting to frame those who fought back in the "Battle of Trafalgar!"

On October 30th, across Britain, local groups and Federations must mobilise

against the Bailiffs and Sheriffs. Pickets, occupations, Public Meetings and rallies need to be organised like never before.



Let's frighten the shit out of the Tories scumbag Poll Tax collectors!

If your local Federation hasn't organised anything yet then get your group organised!

Remember, in the local communities, where the struggle against the Tax began, people are still angry and prepared to fight.

Let's make sure that Thatcher and her lackeys in the local Councils live to regret their rotten Poll Tax.

'Dirty Den'

FINAL WORD?

'Despite TV's' contribution to Channel 4's Critical Eye series was a damning indictment of the Metropolitan Police and the State generally in regard to the riots which followed the Anti-Poll Tax rally on 31st March. It was also a crushing indictment of the Militant leadership of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation and an exposure of their campaign of misinformation and downright lies which followed the Trafalgar Square events.

The programme provokes one to examine our attitudes generally to the State and its ordinary "British Bobby". It also provoked me into questioning the kind of snivelling, grovelling leadership which sits at the top of the Federation, and which still refuses to accept fully their failures at Trafalgar Square and their misdemeanors since.

For example, the aptly named "Wally Kennedy", chief steward at Downing Street who, on national T.V., claimed that 'Anarchists' had provoked the police and the subsequent riot when interviewed on the day. Wally had obviously decided that this story would not hold up to scrutiny some months later, and so talked of 'Agent Provocateurs' coming from Police vans into the crowd. No doubt, there is some substance to these claims but it is all too convenient for Militant supporters to use because it backs up their original contention that the trouble flared from the crowd.

At the end of the day I don't care who threw the first stone - us or them? But "Wallies" like Kennedy can conveniently let themselves off the hook with cries of wolf!?!

The programme also posed serious questions about how we steward our events in the future and how much we should follow the 'advice' of the Police (if at all?)

Stevie (Dennistoun APT)

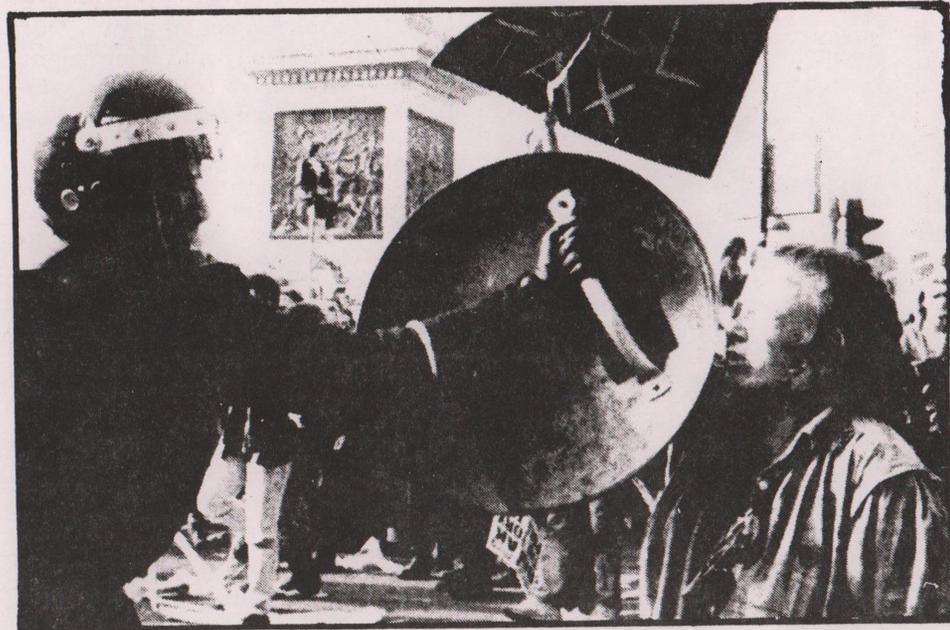
FREE THE PRISONERS DROP ALL CHARGES.

Since the events in Trafalgar Square on March 31st, nearly 600 people have been arrested. The State has desperately tried to criminalise the Anti-Poll Tax movement by blaming the riot on demonstrators and even passers-by. The only criminals on March 31st were dressed in blue uniforms. The police have added on as many charges as possible hoping that some of them will stick. Despite this, 30% of defendants have been acquitted.

However, there are now over 30 Trafalgar Square defendants in prison. It has been difficult

to get details of their whereabouts to give them support in time, as most are getting 28 days. Some defendants are being given much harsher sentences. In one case Robert Robinson, with no previous convictions, was given 2 years for kicking a police car.

The Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign have organised successful pickets outside Pentonville and Brixton prisons with prisoners hanging out a No Poll Tax banner and T-shirt in response. The campaign is also making welfare payments of £10 per month to prisoners.



Show your solidarity by writing to the prisoners and supporting the Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign.

PHOTO:
BLACK FLAG

Robert Robinson (O'Reilly),
RA0741 HMP Camp Hill,
Newport. Isle of Wight

Some other prisoners listed in 'Stand Firm' August issue (T.S.D.C.) have been released. Contact and affiliate to the T.S.D.C. if possible.

Paul Jacob,
RA0771, HMP Brixton,
Jebb Ave.,
London SW2

Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign,
c/o Haldane Society of Lawyers,
Room 205, Panther House,
38 Mount Pleasant,
London WC1X 0AP
(Tel. 071-833-8958)

Chris Sawyer,
MT 3920,
HMP Pentonville,
Caledonian Rd.,
London N2 8TT

(Mark, Glasgow A.B.C.)

The Nottingham Defence Fund Report

The Nottingham Defence Fund (NDF) was formed to assist financially those Anti-Poll Tax activists who were arrested in the aftermath of the March 5th 'Robin Hood' occupation of the Nottingham Council Chamber and the police riot of March 31st at Trafalgar Square, London. Many are facing serious charges, perhaps prison terms, plus hefty fines and the cost of travelling to London to attend court. Therefore, financial aid is needed to alleviate their plight.

Many of those facing charges following Trafalgar Square come under the Public Order Act of 1986. These include Riot (maximum sentence 10 years/unlimited fine); Violent Disorder (max. 5 years/unlimited fine); Affray (max. 3 years/fine). One person from Bristol has already pleaded guilty to obstruction because he could not afford to travel to London for court appearances. The use of video and still photo evidence by police/prosecution in their campaign against the Trafalgar Square people is ominous. So is the attitude of a compliant press, who, with one or two notable exceptions, did not contest the ruling at the Old Bailey ordering the handing over of material recorded on March 31. Over 30,000 photos and 90 hours of video tape have been sifted through. This degree of co-ordination by the prosecution should be matched by the defendants and their supporters - by demanding the same access to such "evidence" so that an effective defence can be established.

A University student, Neil Fernandez of Surrey, was remanded on stringent bail conditions of £20,000, ordered to surrender his passport and ordered to stay indoors between 10.30 p.m. and 6 a.m. as well as reporting daily to his local police station. He is accused of setting fire to a Porsche and a Jaguar and assaulting a P.C.

Nottingham Defence Fund, Box DF, 72
Radford Rd., Nottingham NG7 5FT

MIDLOTHIAN Campaign

We're winning! That's the message from the Anti Poll Tax Movement in Lothian Region. The official figures show the numbers of non-payers are **growing**. After their humiliating defeats in Edinburgh in April and East/Midlothian in June the Sheriff Officers have not dared to give notice of any more poindings. The rantings and ravings of Councillor Begg about imminent Warrant Sales have been exposed as empty threats.

Non-Payment Grows

By the end of August 1990 non-payers were still with-holding over £35 million of the '89-'90 Poll Tax, 19% of the revenue due. This was all supposed to be paid by March 1990 at the very latest. When you take into account non-payers on rebates, non-payers who started paying then stopped and non-payers who are not registered, then the % of non-payers will be way above 19%.

The Council admit to sending out 186,000 summary warrant letters and an incredible 406,000 reminder letters for the '89-'90 Poll Tax. With around 600,000 on the Poll Tax register that means **two-thirds** are, or have been, in arrears! And the numbers not paying are on the increase. By the end of August Poll Tax payments made for '90-'91 were **4% down** on the same time last year.

Labour Councillors such as "Bampot" Begg have been raving away in the local press accusing non-payers of responsibility for the service cuts they are about to make, and issuing dire threats that they will very soon - "very reluctantly" of course - have to carry out Warrant Sales against supposed well-heeled non-payers.

Anti Poll Tax groups have fought back against this nauseous propaganda. Prestonfield Community Resistance against the Poll Tax have produced an excellent poster/leaflet with mug shots of Begg & Co. beneath the headline UNWANTED. They point out that for over 2½ years the Anti Poll Tax movement has been telling Lothian Labour Councillors that sooner or later they would face the choice of setting an unaffordable Poll Tax or decimating jobs and services. They show clearly that the real reasons the Poll Tax is high is because * it reduces the tax paid by the rich and big businesses * the Tory central government have slashed the Revenue Support Grant to local authorities * the Poll Tax is so costly to administer. And they declare "There have been no Warrant Sales in Scotland so far, nor will there be as long as people support each other".

The determination of the Anti Poll Tax movement in Lothian to stop all poindings and Warrant Sales was shown once more in June. Anti Poll Tax groups successfully stopped the Sheriff Officers carrying out poindings in towns and villages throughout East and Midlothian. Crowds defended non-payers' homes in Prestonpans, Dunbar, Port Seaton, Pathhead, Tranent, Rosewell and Penicuik. In Pathhead, building workers stopped work and joined the protest. 60-100 people - including activists from Morpeth in Northumberland - stood guard from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., defying both Sheriff Officers and the police.

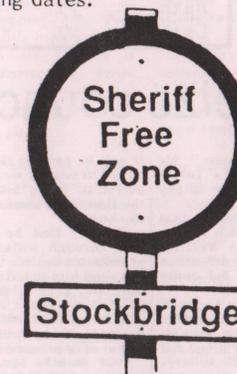
Not one poinding was carried out. Both the organisational work by groups such as Mayfield/Newtongrange and the groundswell of local community solidarity were outstanding. At least 2 new Anti Poll Tax groups have since been formed in localities where the poindings were stopped. **Cont. ****

Bizarre Appropriations 3

Since the introduction of the Poll Tax Grampian Regional Council has acted with unrestrained aggression in pursuit of refuseniks. It was the first to use poindings, wage arrestments and bank account sequestration for non-registration. In Woodhill House files are assiduously compiled on resisters, often detailing tittle-tattle that has no relevance to the Poll Tax. For its efforts GRC now occupies the fundamentalist prow of Thatcher's flagship. Indeed, Councillor Rhona Kemp, Liberal Chair of the Finance and General Purposes committee, esteems Sheriff Officers so highly that she would have them running the Region.

Last month Bizarre Appropriations (aka GRC) seized the expenses and attendance allowances of 14 SNP Councillors. An Act of Parliament dating from 1592 was dredged up to legitimise the grab. Regional employees were also threatened with this neanderthal law, which would have allowed the total debt to be cleared in a single arrestment. The whole exercise was a bluff, and, after receiving wide publicity, was dropped (though not for the 14 SNP Councillors) while the local press looked the other way. However, Regional employees wages have been arrested, under Debtors (Scotland) Act legislation, in Grampian. We have consulted a QC on this matter and were informed that in his opinion Regional authorities are unable to arrest their own employees wages. Watch this space.

**Since that humiliation for Sheriff Officer Love and his lackeys, the Sheriffs have generally been keeping a low profile. Numerous letters have been posted out and some letters have been hand-delivered but there have been no confirmed poinding attempts and certainly no letters notifying poinding dates.



The Movement

Though many groups experienced a minor 'down-turn' over the summer, there was an excellent response to

There have been no Warrant Sales in Grampian for either non payment or non-registration. Poindings stopped (as far as we know) several months ago. The Council is now controlled by a coalition of Labour and the SLD. One prominent Labour Councillor told a member of Aberdeen Against the Poll Tax that we should be thankful that the favoured option is now wages and bank arrestment ('Socialism is never having to say hello to a Sheriff Officer').

Since the Regional elections, the Labour group in Grampian is perceptibly becoming indistinguishable from its counterpart in Lothian and Strathclyde. The Marks and Spencers faction will anguish over injustice provided it doesn't create its designer conscience. During the Regional election campaign AAPT's helpline was assailed by calls from Labour candidates who could only offer open mouths in response to the queries of their constituents. Over a year ago Bob Middleton, Labour convener of GRC, stated that the less well off would not pay any more under the Poll Tax than they did under the rates. I also enjoyed the Xmas pantomime, although I found never-never land less convincing than Councillor Middleton.

For some time members of Aberdeen Against the Poll Tax have felt that the campaign is becoming increasingly a response to Sheriff Officers. Discussion of the Poll Tax itself was becoming more peripheral as we directed our energies towards defending those under attack. We therefore decided to call a public meeting and invite speakers from all political parties (sans Tories). Only Alex Salmond showed up for the SNP. Everyone from Labour had a conference to go to. This hasn't always been the case.

Cont. p9

the march with the 'Glasgow to London' hikers through Edinburgh on 11 September. 100 - 150 attended the Anti Poll Tax Fed's Vs. Begg debate hosted by Gorgie Dalry APTU. Many local groups, especially the 'independent' ones, are still actively maintaining street stalls, door to door leafleting, flyposting and weekly or fortnightly meetings.

With Militant seeming to be in some disarray locally, the independent groups have successfully moved motions at the Lothian Anti Poll Tax Federation to hold a picket of the Scottish Office as part of the 19/20 October International Days of Solidarity with the Trafalgar Sq. defendants, and to provide transport to the London Anti Poll Tax march on 20 October.

With a strong presence of community-based independent groups, the Anti Poll Tax movement in Lothian is proving itself among the strongest in the country.

Mike (Stockbridge New Town Anti Poll Tax Group)

London Calling

Dave (North London) reports:-

Court Summonses are underway in different zones of London. Starting in outer Boroughs such as Enfield & Barnet, areas of less organised resistance, infamous Tory Borough Wandsworth started pursuing the masses of non-payers.

As in Northampton, Wandsworth has gone straight to the Bailiffs. Although the local campaign has mobilised for people given Notice of visits, and the Bailiffs have failed to show on 2 occasions in September, they have carried out several aggressive seizures of goods and taken away personal effects along with luxury items.

Elsewhere, Court battles are just beginning. In Camden a major success was scored by the non-payers who turned up to represent themselves. They had their cases adjourned till next year. A crowd approaching 300 has been turning up each Friday, and locally spreading the news - TURN UP AND GET YOUR CASE ADJOURNED. Liability Orders have been granted against all those who didn't bother to turn up.

In Hackney, the first sitting was on the 28th September, as were Tower Hamlets & Newham Boroughs. It is likely that a similar situation will emerge as is happening in Camden. Protestors have been less successful in delaying or disrupting action against those who fail to turn up. In 'Liberal Democrat' Tower Hamlets, Paddy Ashdown's caring image is taking a knock as the Council tries the scare tactic of withdrawing Council services like bin collections from identifiable non-payers in houses without shared amenities.

Beating the bailiffs

After the bailiffs were successfully resisted nine times last month in Northampton, the battle ground moved to Wales and the South West.

It had become clear late in July that most councils in the South West were going to use bailiffs. The South West Federation held a dayschool on responses to the bailiffs and from there set up a bailiff monitoring group in Bristol.

It quickly became clear that a large number of South West councils were going to use the same bailiffs - a company called Hoach and Co based in Bristol. The Avon Federation moved into action. We watched their movements for a week and identified all their cars (they had a series of Nissan vans).

We looked them up in the Companies Register. We examined their premises and discovered that their compound was at the end of a cul de sac (ideal for pick-ets...) We put this information out to local groups who in themselves turned up a load of information about the bailiffs - some knew them personally, others had useful 'dirt' for the press campaign.

The action began on August 3rd. In the previous week Roaches had been both to Bishops Lydeard (a small village near Taunton) and Barry (in South Wales) to deliver a 'walking possession' notice. This meant (in two cases where they had been able to gain access to the houses) that they were in a position to take people's possessions.

We called a blockade for 7am Friday morning. People turned up from APTUs across Bristol. No vehicles were able to leave the compound, and we got massive press coverage. In fact a number of vehicles left from the bailiffs private homes. They were spotted by our people crossing the Severn Bridge at 7.30am. They never arrived, but the van was discovered sometime later with its tyres let down.

Meanwhile in Barry and Bishops Lydeard, the whole community was mobilised. In Barry over fifty people were outside the houses of the threatened families; telephones on the window sill; another two hundred people ready to respond to a phone call; vehicles roaming the area watching for bailiffs; kids, prams, icecream vans creating a carnival atmosphere.

In Bishop Lydeard half the village decided to take the day off. All the roads in were sealed off by the community. All cars going through were required to identify themselves. The bailiffs never got near the village.

These scenes prove that the non payment figures are not just empty statistics which will crumble as the threats get stronger. The community is proving its strength - this has inspired people throughout the South West. It has sent shockwaves through council and government.

30th September by Danny Burns



* 1000 people took over the magistrate's court in Warrington on Thursday 28th June when the council tried to summon people for non-payment. Because of the mass demonstration none of the cases were dealt with.

* Suspended Hackney council worker Andy Murphy got his job back after his fellow workers threatened to go on strike.

Greenwich strike!

Town Hall workers are on the sharp end of the Tory poll tax. They are expected to collect it from people who resent paying, and have to tell some people they won't get a rebate. Housing workers in Greenwich, south London, have been on strike since early May after cashiers were suspended for refusing to collect the Poll Tax.

For them, it means extra work and the council have not offered extra staff or pay. The council have taken on NALGO, the town hall union, at a time when poll tax capping threatens many jobs and services, as councils slash their spending to keep the poll tax down. The 160 NALGO members have received great support from the public, with thousands refusing to cross their picket lines. Messages of support and donations to: Greenwich NALGO strike fund, NALGO office, Love Lane, Woolwich, London SE18.

LIVERPOOL - TOP OF THE LEAGUE! and that's not just in football. When official figures for non-payment of the poll tax were released last month the effect in this city was as electrifying as any John Barnes goal - a massive 51% of the population hadn't paid a penny while 50% of the business rate remained unpaid. The figures don't take into account the many thousands who escaped registration altogether. Magnificent!

Join the Super League:-

Liverpool	51%	NON-PAYMENT
Lambeth	48%	
Glasgow	44%	BREAKING THE
Haringey	42%	
Hackney	38%	POLL TAX!
Norwich	36%	
Birmingham	35%	Any other
Manchester	35%	
Bath	35%	Contenders?
Lothian	30%	

Jail threat over poll tax protest

A 75-year-old poll tax protester was told yesterday that if he did not pay the tax within 14 days he would be jailed. The ultimatum to Cyril Mundin, from Northampton, which could make him the first person to be jailed for non-payment, was delivered by Northampton magistrates. He shouted from the dock: "I shall not pay."



Cyril Mundin -

It will be open to the magistrates to issue a warrant for arrest to bring him before the court so a means inquiry can be held. "If they find he has not paid through wilful refusal or culpable neglect, the court can send him to jail for three months, give him a suspended sentence of three months, or set conditions for payment of the debt, with a threat of imprisonment." Four months ago, a fire-bomb caused £180,000 damage to the premises of Madagans, the bailiffs employed by the council, an attack condemned by the local poll tax union. ● Social services staff are on

Poll tax demonstrators seize council treasurer

Andrew Cull

A COUNCIL treasurer was held for an hour in his office yesterday by poll tax demonstrators protesting about the case of a pensioner who may become the first person jailed for not paying.

Twenty-two people pushed into the office of Alan Maskell, Northampton borough council treasurer, and barricaded themselves in. Mr Maskell, who phoned police to say he was being held against his will, was able to leave after an hour. Five protesters were arrested as they left the office, while the remainder

continued the occupation, which went on last night. About 20 police officers, including a negotiator, were sent to the first floor office. Police said there had been no damage and no violence. The protesters said they were demanding withdrawal of threats to imprison Cyril Mundin, aged 74, who has been summonsed to appear before a means inquiry at Northampton magistrates' court today for failing to pay the charge and refusing access to bailiffs. Speaking before his office was occupied, Mr Maskell said: "He has the means to pay, but he has repeatedly publicly he does not wish to pay

for personal reasons." Mr Mundin qualifies for a rebate, and is liable to pay about £230. Mr Maskell stressed that the council - which has ordered action by bailiffs against about 200 defaulters - is acting as it did under the old rates system. Russell Burrows, a spokesman for the Northampton Anti-Poll Tax Union, said Mr Mundin was determined not to attend court. "He believes the poll tax is morally wrong and would not pay if he was a millionaire." Alan Murrice, a barrister who is chairman of the Poll Tax Legal Group, said: "If he does not attend the hearing,

NOTTINGHAM REPORT

I've just had the morning off to attend the first court summonses for non-payment in Nottingham city itself. There's already been two Thursday sessions dealing first with Rushcliffe, then with Broxtowe: both were heard last month.

The first cases (Rushcliffe - (see enclosed photocopy) were fairly successful in clogging up the system. They summonsed 120 people, and about twenty turned up. Because the court was ill prepared, and allowed "Mackenzies Friends" (ie. an adviser in the dock with the defendant), they ended up adjourning loads of cases until November. Broxtowe (a rabid Tory Borough) was less successful, and they obviously had learnt from Rushcliffe. They refused MP's (cue "Millies" whinging about "a denial of our democratic (sic) rights"), and got all 120 done. It's still just a drop in the ocean, though.

This is one of the crucial areas of the law that differs from Scotland. As I understand it, north of the border the council can issue its own liability orders against people without recourse to the courts. That isn't the case here, where every defaulter (potentially) has to be processed through the Magistrates Courts. Obviously most people don't bother turning up, but even so the scope for fighting at yet another barricade before the crunch is fairly immense. Birmingham City Council have estimated that it will take about four years, and in Nottingham they have booked every Thursday of every week to hear cases. Estimates run at only about 10% of people going to court, but this still means 6-7,000 cases to be heard.

Today I managed to get in the public gallery, and the first case took over an hour. Once again they refused "Mackenzies Friends", but we expected that. They threw us out when we clapped the first bloke's effort, so that was the end of that. Even so, when I left at about 1 o'clock, they had only got through 2 or 3 cases from the morning session. It was great to see people coming out who had probably never been involved in anything before, and who had never been to court, standing laughing and chatting with people on the demo, and still determined not to pay.

One of the problems with this stage of the campaign is that the Left are putting the emphasis on it as the battle, as if it was a last ditch attempt to stop the tax. In reality, it's nothing more than a piece of paper to say you're liable, and everyone knew that already!! The real battle is yet to be fought, when the Council try to use the bailiffs and wage arrestments. Nevertheless, it's worth while making it as difficult as possible for them to get the liabilities in the first place.

Talking of bailiffs, they've been out and about in W. Bridgford, but so far have been chased off by a roving ad hoc patrol of bailiff busters. Looks like we might be getting CB's etc, and we've found out who and where the bailiffs are, so who knows what might happen..... (watch this space!). Certainly this is all scare tactics, the Council know full well that they can't get the money out of 40,000 who have payed nothing, and a further 30,000 who have since defaulted, this way. And wage arrestments risks workplace organisation outside of union control which is great for us. Estimates of non-payment run at 150,000 in Nottinghamshire alone.

Bailiffs in England have more power than those in Scotland, but they're just as unpopular so I don't see them making much headway. The group in W. Bridgford managed to catch up with them a couple of times, but they avoided confrontation by driving off.

Friday 21/09/90

I went back to the courts after work yesterday, and they were still hearing cases at 5:30 pm. A hardcore of about a dozen people were still there, making a lot of noise to keep their spirits up. Mostly crappy SWP "we are THE Tory haters" type stuff. "Well, are you really, you mean you hate the Tories. And there was little ol' me thinking everyone loved them to bits". I even had an SWP member tell me in Leamington recently that "you shouldn't criticise Labour Councils"! As a comrade in Nottingham put it, they've gone so far down this line that even the most basic Trot politics has got lost in the mayhem. Bankrupt or what.

What else? Oh yes, the Beeston cases were heard at Bingham as well yesterday. They moved the 4,000 summonses out of Beeston to an obscure and little used court in Bingham, which is miles away, and told people they had to write for a personal hearing. But it didn't work as although only a few people turned up (understandably enough) it looks like nearly a thousand cases have been adjourned to November, to be heard in the city. The great thing about this is that the Beeston/Stapleford campaign now knows who has been summonsed (we had no idea 'till the day itself before, because needless to say they won't tell us in advance), so they can now get round to those people and encourage a couple of hundred or so to turn up.

Anger in East Anglia

In Norwich alone 40,023 Red Letter reminder letters have been sent out. In Ipswich, South Norfolk, Cambridge, Great Yarmouth non-payment is over 30%.

A so-called 'Boom' area in the

WILL SCARLET

Thatcherite 80s, the Poll Tax revolt is drawn on class lines. As 2 pensioners in North Norfolk put it after Liability Orders were granted against them:-

"Houses with 10 or 12 rooms with people paying the same as I have to pay. It is totally unfair". (Cyril and Janice Chatten).

LABOUR LACKEYS

Recently Labour Councillors have been in the papers and on T.V. saying that local government services like home helps and pensioners bus passes will be cut because of the anti - Poll Tax campaign. This is a cowardly lie!

- Services are under threat because:
- *the government has reduced the amount it pays back to local authorities from general taxes
- *The Poll Tax reduces the amount paid by the rich and big business when compared to the rates (and makes most of us pay more)
- *The Poll Tax costs three times as much to collect as the rates.

The council knows all this and could have refused to collect it saying: *the vast majority of working people in Britain are against it - it is undemocratic. *poll tax makes the poor pay more and the rich pay less - it is a rich mans tax. Despite this the Labour Council has sided with the Tories against the majority of working class people. Why?

For a start some of them will benefit from the Poll Tax or can easily afford it. Also they wish to appear "moderate" and "sensible" so as not to frighten off the yuppie vote. They would rather attack the poor and the principled. They don't want to risk their nice careers and perks by breaking a law no matter how terrible.

The abolition of slavery, the right to vote, the right to education, health and other social services, were won by ordinary people who when necessary broke the law. Those workers on strike in the oilfields demanding safe working conditions to prevent another Piper Alpha disaster are breaking the law. There is nothing particularly, moral, democratic or clever about obeying an unpopular law.

The Poll Tax is a direct attack on our living standards and our communities and we have the absolute right to defend ourselves and those around us. The anti - Poll Tax campaign stands in the proud tradition of fighting for democracy and against injustice.

The Labour Council blame others for the results of their own cowardice. Like the bullies they are, they threaten us with warrant sales, wage and bank arrestments. But these have proved to be empty threats. Lothian Region has sent out 406,000 reminders and the Sheriff's Officers 186,000 Summary Warrants, yet here we are in October 1990 and there have been no warrant sales in Scotland, and only a handful of bank and wage arrestments.

To the Regional Council we say you are corrupt and cowardly. Resign! To the Sheriff's Officers we say, we are many, we are organised and we are waiting for you! BOB (Prestonfield & Dist. Comm. Resistance to the Poll Tax)

UNWANTED

 17 Partick/ Anderston Malcolm Green 101 46 Victoria Street Road Glasgow	 28 Drumoyne/ Govan Ian Davidson 100 11 Queen Margaret Drive Glasgow	 30 Mosspark/ Bellahouston Helen McElhone 101 22 W. Indaw Road Glasgow	 77 Paisley Central John Mullin 100 32 South Park Drive Paisley	 48 Chryston & Kelvin Valley Charles Gray (L49) 9 Moray Place Chryston
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Know Your Regional Councillor

For over two and a half years the Anti-poll tax movement has been telling Lothian Labour councillors that sooner or later they would face the choice of setting an unaffordable poll tax or decimating jobs and services. Now, when they are going to set a poll tax of over £500 and cut jobs and services, they have the cheek to blame those who are refusing to pay this rich man's tax. THIS IS A COWARDLY LIE.

- The truth is that the poll tax is high because:
- It reduces the amount of tax paid by the rich and big business.
 - The Tories have slashed the money available to local authorities to maintain basic services in order to privatise them.
 - The Poll Tax costs much more to administer than the rates.

Lothian Regional Council now tells us that Warrant Sales will be used against those who are refusing to pay

THERE HAVE BEEN NO WARRANT SALES IN SCOTLAND SO FAR, NOR WILL THERE BE AS LONG AS PEOPLE SUPPORT EACH OTHER.

6
 Sunday, 9th of September around 1,000 people marched to Alexandra Park. They accompanied 25 people on the first part of the 400 mile People's March to London. As well as these marchers, 25 people will also march from both Liverpool and the West Country to arrive in London on 20th October. The London Federation has agreed to organise a march to meet the marchers when they arrive and other events should be happening across the country on the 20th.

According to Tommy Sheridan the march is "important to take the message from Glasgow to London and through the whole of Britain that Mrs. Thatcher's Poll Tax is not being accepted and will never be accepted" (1). The march aims to overcome the "conspiracy of silence fostered by the media to keep Scotland separate from the rest of Britain" (2) and "one of (its) most important features will be communication" (3). Mr. Sheridan is confident that "this march will be successful in eliminating the reason for marching" (4) unlike the marches against unemployment to which the People's March had been compared.

Janette McGinn, one of the original marchers, said that "I hope we can get across to people along the route of the march what a battle we've been having in Scotland and what successes we've had" (5).

The Strathclyde Federation itself said "The most important factor in maintaining opposition to the Poll Tax has been the continual mobilisation against it. The 'People's March' is the next major event against the evil tax (going through) every major town and city in England, Wales and Scotland with a clear message - THE POLL TAX MUST GO!" (6).

Undoubtedly the need to get the facts to working class people across the country is essential, but an honest appraisal of the march, its ideas and method must be done in order to aid the discussion within, and development of, the Anti-Poll Tax struggle.

The People's March has been compared to the Hunger marches of the 1930's. Indeed Militant says that "for the next 4 weeks, the Anti-Poll Tax movement will be treading in their footsteps" (7) and quotes historian AJP Taylor's description of them as "a propaganda stroke of great effect. The Hunger marchers displayed the failure of Capitalism in a way that mere figures or literary description could not". It concludes by saying "it is the same visual message that the Poll Tax marchers will seek to emulate" (Although they do not say how 75 tracksuited protesters can have the same "visual message" as 1,000 unemployed workers). As is the case now with the Poll Tax struggle, the TUC actively worked against the National Unemployed Workers Movement (NUWM) and the Hunger marches and the police attacked their rallies in London.

The PEOPLES Crawl

The NUWM and the Hunger marches did have an effect on the people involved as well as the country as a whole, but what sort? John Taylor Caldwell, the biographer of Guy Aldred, an anarchist active in Glasgow at the time of the marches, said "everybody felt the urge to join the threadbare horde on the great trek to London. (Guy) Aldred went against the stream in condemning this exploit. It was a ruse of the leaders to confirm their alleged leadership and advance their careers. They were mis-leading the workers. To march to London was to acknowledge the authority of London. To stand and shiver in rags before the House of Commons, begging for work, was to accept and affirm their status as wage slaves. He (Aldred) wanted places to be set aside in the parks where people gather and discuss social problems and gather strength to defy their exploiters not, like the marchers, acknowledge them the Hunger marchers tramped their way into the mainstream of history, where their abjection is held in high regard." (8)

This point was put forward by one of the speakers, at the send-off rally. Going much against the stream, he quoted both John MacLean and Guy Aldred speaking against sending people to London, be it M.P.s or workers, and instead urged people to organise at home.

The question is, how do you change things for the better. The strength of the NUWM was not the hunger marches but the organising of thousands of unemployed workers. The ruling class was frightened by the prospect of them being in an organised position to discuss their problems and act to change them in a more direct way than the hunger marches (which, like the unemployment marches in the early 80's, had a cross-class support).

Instead of appealing to or petitioning the state (be it Parliament or the local Council, which accustoms the working class to believing that salvation comes from above and not through its own actions) the working class must organise itself and fight where it is strongest; in the housing schemes and workplaces. Any demonstrations which call upon "leaders" to fight for us (or the ruling class not to exploit us) puts back our struggles. As Enrico

Malatesta said "The only limit to the oppression of government is the power with which the people show themselves capable of opposing it." (9). That power, as the Poll Tax struggle so clearly shows, is based on organisation and direct action, not on 'People's Marches' or petitioning our rulers.

The People's March cannot be taken out of context. Ever since the Poll Tax riots of March 31st the underlying Labourism/reformism of Militant has come to the fore. In an attempt to appear "respectable" and not get totally expelled from the Labour Party, Militant, through its stranglehold over the AntiPoll Tax Federation, has been attempting to show the powers that be in the Labour Party (and elsewhere) that the AntiPoll Tax struggle will remain in the realms of "democratic" civil disobedience and not venture into the class struggle.

In order to be in a position to work within the Labour Party as a "leftwing" alternative, it cannot criticise that Party's inherent Capitalist nature or the role of the Council in the state and keep to slugging off the rightwing leadership (and thus building illusions in both of these). All through this campaign the Federation has appealed to the Council not to, firstly introduce the Poll Tax, use Warrant Sales and finally not to deduct money from benefits. These were all ignored. The fight against the Poll Tax is as much against Labour as it is against the Tories. The sooner people realise this the better.

At the time of the Hunger protest in July of this year a leaflet handed out said "While (we) admire the dedication and sincerity of those involved we feel that it tends to encourage 'sympathy and pity' as opposed to 'solidarity and support' which is the backbone of the Anti-Poll Tax movement." The same can be said for the People's March. The leaflet also gave its alternative to "appealing" to the Council as building "resistance in our communities and workplaces (to) by-pass the inactivity and scab mentality of 'our' Labour Council". (11) Again the same conclusion can be drawn. At the present time, with pointings around the corner, could not the energy, work and money (over £40,000) that has been put into the People's March have been used in a more productive way in the housing estates and workplaces

of Britain strengthening the organisation and influence of the Anti-Poll Tax movement?

The People's March is seen as "a way to get across to workers and undercut the press black out" (12) but such a mobilisation as the People's March does not solve this problem. Instead of building an effective communication network which can grapple with the real facts of working class struggle at all times, the People's March will only do this during the six weeks of its existence and would not draw in more people than any other meeting, tour or organising drive. Indeed it could be argued that such spectacular acts as the People's March could increase passivity and promote a "they'll do it for us" attitude which would kill the Anti-Poll Tax movement.

Fighting working class organisations are not built, nor survive on 'People's Marches' any more than petitions or appeals. They are created through direct action, struggle and self-organisation. We must learn the lessons of history and trust our own class experiences. The Poll Tax will be defeated by mass nonpayment and industrial action, not by symbolic gestures.

Iain (Pollokshields)

Iain (Pollokshields)

1. Militant 7.9.90 p.7
2. As Above
3. As Above
4. As Above
5. Militant 7.9.90 p.16
6. Strathclyde Federation leaflet for send off rally
7. Militant 7.9.90 p.17
8. Workers City, p.36-37, Clydeside Press 1988
9. An Anarchist Programme; Life and Ideas, Freedom Press, 1984
10. Direct Action Gets the Goods, Glasgow Anarchist Group 4.7.90
11. As Above
12. Militant 7.9.90 p.7

Towards a National Network

Numerous groups from around Britain have written to REFUSE & RESIST expressing a desire for greater cooperation and communication between Independent Groups (groups not dominated by Militant or any one political faction). Several individuals have also written, asking for information about groups in their own areas.

It is not the case, as some would argue, that the unity of the Campaign is being threatened by the existence of the Independants. Quite the contrary. The strength of the Campaign is dependant upon the support of everyone who is opposed to the Poll Tax, regardless of their political allegiances. Militant-dominated Federations and groups represent a great many of those who are against the Poll Tax. Independent groups also represent a great many people who are against the Poll Tax.

It is quite natural that various factions and tendencies exist, and that different ideas on how the fight against the Poll Tax should be waged will be expressed. With cooperation and communication between groups, each can learn from others' experiences, and provide support for one another when needed. The forthcoming Scottish Forum is a step towards such unity. The editorial team at R & R hopes that the following list of group contacts will be a step towards improved communications.

Please note that we have listed contacts for those groups that have come to our attention. Inclusion on the list does not indicate affiliation to R & R, or suggest that groups are in agreement with the various views expressed in the paper.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR GROUP LISTED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF R & R SEND DETAILS TO:

P.O. BOX 239 GLASGOW G3 6RA.

INDIE Forum

GLASGOW & WEST OF SCOTLAND

BARMULLOCH COLLEGE APT: Paul, SRC Office. CUNNINGHAME: c/o G. Barr, 282 Dickson Dr. Irvine KA12 9HG.
 DENNISTON: c/o D. 2/3, 182 Ark Lane Glasgow GOVAN: 445-4300 & 440-0437
 HAMILTON-BURNBANK: c/o D. Paton, 57 Dryden St. Hamilton.
 IBROX/CESSNOCK: 427-3691/6398/4109
 POLLOKSHIELDS: 423-0461 & 429-9015
 POSSIL: 336-5359
 ROYSTON: c/o Duncan, 16/6 40 Rosemount St. Glasgow.
 STIRLING: 0789-61577
 WOODLANDS: 332-8124/4728 & 333-9015

EDINBURGH & EAST OF SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN: c/o Mair, 18 Tollohill Gdns. Aberdeen AB1 5DX.
 ARMADALE: 32965
 BATHGATE: 630471 & 52458
 BLACKBURN: 54823 & 630871
 BRIDGEND: 834733 & 834866
 BROUGHTON/INVERLEITH: 031-556-0903
 FAULHOUSE: 71601 & 70456
 GRANGEMOUTH: 0324-484344
 LADYWELL: 35420
 LINLITHGOW: 842022
 KNIGHTSRIDGE: 33307(day) & 31637(night)
 MARCHSTON/MORNINGSIDE: c/o S. Costa, 1c Maxwell St. Edinburgh EH10.
 PERTH: c/o S. Latham, 28 Edinburgh Rd.
 PRESTONFIELD & DIST.: 031-668-3136
 SEAFIELD: 632743 & 630502
 SOUTHSIDE (EDINBURGH): 031-667-1507
 STOCKBRIDGE & NEWTON: 031-332-7547
 STONEYBURN: 62479
 UPHALL: 855504
 WHITBURN: 40979 & 40779

LONDON

TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEFENDANTS' CAMPAIGN: 071-883-8959
 CAMDEN: 071-431-2760
 CANNING TOWN: c/o 14 Teasel Way, W. Ham E15
 CLAPHAM/BRIXTON: c/o 121 Railton Rd. Brixton
 HACKNEY APT FED: 0426-911161
 HACKNEY HECKLER: c/o 61 Leswin Rd. N16
 HACKNEY-HOLMLEIGH RD: 809-7228
 HACKNEY-PENBURY: 985-7642
 HARINGEY-GREEN LANES: c/o 72 West Green Rd.
 HARINGEY-HORNSEY & WOOD GREEN: c/o Box 40, 187 High Rd. N22.
 HARINGEY-SOUTH HORNSEY: c/o 9 Oxford Rd. N4.
 HARINGEY-TOTTENHAM: 081-802-9804
 LAMBETH: c/o 2 Norfolk House, Rushcroft Rd.
 STAMFORD HILL: 081-809-7228
 VAUXHALL: c/o The Cafe, Bormington Sq. SW8.

ENGLAND (EAST)

BASILDON: 0268-558016
 BRECKLAND: 9782-651
 CAMBRIDGE: c/o Grapevine Bookshop, Unit 6, Dales Brewery, Gwydir St., Cambridge.
 COLCHESTER: 0206-863211
 IPSWICH: 0473-713179
 NORTH NORFOLK: 069260-6617
 NORTH WEST NORFOLK: 0553-762566
 NORWICH: 0603-618931
 THETFORD: 0842-754471
 WAVENEY: c/o R. Edwards, CPSA, DSS Rishton House, Clapham Rd., Lowestoft.

EAST MIDLANDS

NOTTINGHAM DEFENCE FUND: Box DF, 72 Radford Rd., Nottingham.
 NOTTINGHAM-BEESTON: 0602-227892
 FOREST FIELDS/HYSON GREEN: 0602-700230
 NOTTINGHAM-RADFORD: 0602-780557
 SHERWOOD: 0602-624827

WEST MIDLANDS

REDDITCH APT: 33 Leysters Close, Wingates.

ENGLAND (NORTH)

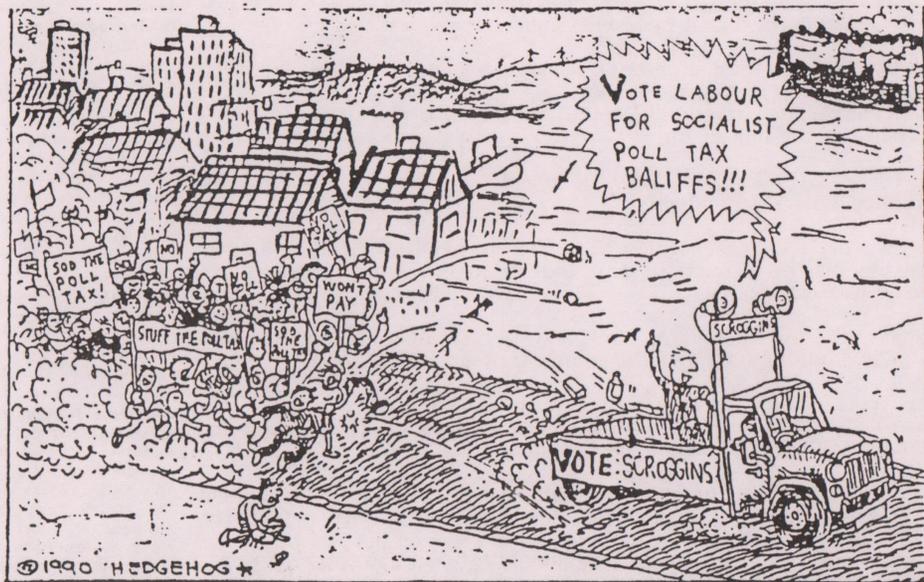
LEEDS APT FED: c/o Leeds Trades Club, Saville Mount, Leeds 7.
 SHEFFIELD-NETHERIDGE APT: 589675
 LIVERPOOL-WAVERTREE: 734-3145
 MIDDLESBOROUGH: c/o 45 Athol St.
 STOCKPORT-WYTHENSHAW: c/o 20 Troutbeck Rd. Gatby, Stockport SK8 4RR.

ENGLAND (SOUTH)

AYLESBURY VALE: c/o Doug, 2 Delamre Close, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 2BG.
 AVON FED: 34 Belleview Rd. Easton, Bristol.
 OXFORD: Box P, 34 Cowley Rd., Oxford.
 PORTSWOOD (SOUTHAMPTON): c/o D. Carr, 27 Langhorn Rd, Swaythling & Portswood 556671
 NEWTOWN: Local group info - 220642
 SOUTHAMPTON: Local group info - 0703
 SUSSEX PIRF: c/o 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton.
 PLYMOUTH: P.O. Box 105, Plymouth.

WALES

CARDIFF-CANTON: c/o E. May, 34 Llandaff Rd.
 CLWYD APT FED: P.O. Box 462, Rhyl LL18 1HQ.



REFUSE & RESIST

available from

FINANCIAL TIMES NEWSAGENT

2 West Nile Street

OPEN 24 HOURS

c/o Box A, October Books, 4c Onlow Rd., Southampton.

Dear Refuse & Resist, We are a fledgling group of Class Struggle Anarchists. I am writing to tell you about the appalling state of the AntiPoll Tax movement in our part of the world, and to ask for help in remedying it.

The Southampton Federation isn't Militant dominated - it's the Southampton branch of Militant!

After the Battle of Trafalgar the three strong unions in the inner cities got fucked off with similar statements to Nally and Sheridan in the local press and the general running of things in the city. These unions disaffiliated.

The Federation now consists of about 15 bogus unions, whose membership is usually about 2, both Militant, who have elected each other to the Federation sovereign body. This itself is basically a collection of people who agree with Liz 'saviour of the oppressed' Filer and about 3 or 4 other particularly loathsome creatures (One heard to say: a) on a picket line to an anarchist "The difference between you and me is that you haven't realised that the working class isn't yet capable of looking after itself and needs people like me to do it for them", b) to someone after a Public Meeting - "Isn't it great when you're telling people what they want to hear - having them eat out of your hand" and c) claiming in the press that he was responsible for the Isle of Wight victory). This is sole deciding body of the Fed. Rank-and-file members have no vote. The Fed. withhold vital information from us and has done bugeerall campaigning work except party-building. They have all the funds and info, leaving the independent union fairly ineffective at the moment. Their public meetings are low-key affairs, with no building done and are very Stalinist (or should I say Marxist Leninist to make clear to the trots that this is their style of organisation too) affairs with Liz Filer carefully choosing speakers and having a clever policy of making any opposition from us appear to be trouble-making and divisive.

Now the independent unions are trying to recuperate months of setbacks, which is where hopefully you can help. The Anarchist Group has decided to call a Public Meeting on dealing with bailiffs, since all the Fed. ones have basically lied to us and totally avoided the subject of Public Order situations arising, and totally failing to pre-organise anti-bailiff tactics.

We were hoping you could provide a speaker for this meeting. Maybe in a purely opportunistic move they could comment on the sterility of centralist organisation and the effectiveness of grass-roots control and the immense creativity of a selfactive working class body to coincide with us leafletting the members of the public with some of the facts behind the Fed. We were hoping this could take place soon after the October 20th demo in London. Food and accommodation could be provided and hopefully transport costs if we can get the independent unions to support the meeting.

Thanks anyway for keeping us hopeful knowing there is still some effective resistance to the tax and its instigators. In the hope of peace (after the final conflict) and an autonomous self-determining society based on equal participation, and free co-operation if you know what I mean.

Yours hopefully, Dave

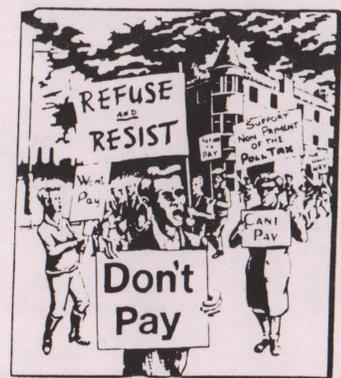
Box Dam, 48 Bethel St., Norwich, Norfolk.

Dear R. & R., Thanks for paper which has been distributed here. First Class. Thought you might like clippings from East Anglian area. All are from Eastern Daily Press, a Tory rag (but what isn't?)

All the best.

John Ball Dear P & R, I enclose £10 to help cover costs of papers I got at Stirling. Almost every response I found (with exception of Militants, of course) was in favour of R & R view of the London and Glasgow demos in March. I have found that people like the very straightforward approach of R & R to the issues involved, which runs up against, and is in direct opposition to, the various political careerists and would-be bureaucrats who are out to make a name for themselves.

ANDY (Dunlop)



T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE FROM R & R PRICE £4 plus 75p P&P. ALSO CAN'T PAY: WON'T PAY: DON'T PAY CAR STICKERS: 75p plus P&P or DISCOUNT FOR BULK ORDERS!!!!

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.

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

Subversion 2, Box W, c/o Raven Press, 75 Picadilly, Manchester M1 2BU

West End Park St., GLASGOW. G3

Dear Refuse & Resist,

I have just finished reading 'Refuse & Resist' No. 4. It is both entertaining and enlightening. However, this base of those who are unhappy with the way Militant are conducting themselves in this campaign (and Militant's politics in general) can fall into a dangerous trap.

The personal tirades, however emotionally justified, must be truthful and accurate. We must not allow the media to find their 'information' from sources fighting the Poll Tax. Rumours, misinformation, and malicious lies are the ultimate breeding ground of sectarianism. In the process of looking for a "juicy" piece on Tommy Sheridan for instance. The story may, if it exists, one or two must do so. (I am sure they do for everybody The enemy can make use of this type of dirt, even make it up themselves, to make us look foolish.

I would stick to the political mistakes of our comrades in the Federation, but let us not play a game of Tennis with political mistakes. Let serious work and political exposure continue. Mistakes can be rectified. Treating the "enemy within" like scum falls into hands of reactionaries. There are those in the Militant who must learn this lesson as well.

Fraternally Yours, Paul Anderson

RADGES AVAILABLE FROM I CAN'T BEAR THE POLL TAX I'M DEAD AGAINST THE POLL TAX ABERDEEN AGAINST THE POLL TAX TELEPHONE HOTLINE 625562

Guy, 112 Derby Rd., Newtown, Southampton.

Dear R. & R., Could you please send me details of the October march against the Poll Tax, as there are a number of us who went up in March who are finding it difficult to obtain information from the Militant-dominated Federation. We intend to book a coach and sell tickets.

In addition, could you send us copies of R. & R., so far we've seen up to No. 4. We will send you a donation at a later date.

As an Independent Anti-Poll Tax union in Southampton we feel quite isolated and we wonder if you could tell us what attempts have been made to unite and/or facilitate connections between these groups.

Yours in Struggle, Martin For Guy on behalf of Newtown APTU

LETTERS

Dear R & R, We would like to thank you for your very full and informative report from Scotland - it did us a world of good to know that the fight in Scotland still is so strong against this hated tax.

Our campaign has been going through a lull and are now only just beginning to pick up again with the beginning of court cases around the country. Many of these court cases (South Tyneside, Isle of Wight) ended in fiasco because the authorities did not observe the rules and regulations sufficiently and were caught out by the Anti-Poll Tax campaigns. However, there are still a few lunatic Tory areas such as Northampton which have learnt from their mistakes and are pushing full steam ahead to grind these campaigns into the ground. However, as far as we can ascertain, they have not been able to get Bailiffs into many houses (One instance reported was that the Bailiffs looked through the windows in order to mark up goods - I think that fell through because it is impossible to ascertain whether the goods belong to the people concerned). Locally we now have over 35 campaigns in Nottinghamshire and about 25 or so in Nottingham itself. The newer campaigns have had an invigorating effect on the older ones and in many cases are large, with over a thousand members.

As far as Nottingham City is concerned, we in Sherwood have just had reminders and are waiting for the court summonses in 2 weeks time. They have decided to pick a few people here and there rather than do a blanket coverage of a whole area. The other parts of the City are being done later. We had a good public meeting of 50-60 people, many of whom had reminders and all of whom were prepared to go to Court if necessary. We are now in the process of priming people up so that they know what they are doing and also don't lose heart. We are also scouring the area to find out all the people who have reminders and are likely to receive summonses.

Together we'll beat this hated tax! Ivan Wells (Convenor, Sherwood and District Anti Poll Tax Campaign)

Cont. from P.3 On previous occasions we had no difficulty in securing Labour speakers. This recent reticence to share a platform with AAPT reflects a growing intolerance towards non-payers.

Grampian in common with all Scottish local authorities has experienced an increase in non-payment this year. The Region will not divulge the number of those not paying, but will only reveal the shortfall in their anticipated income. Since Labour joined the coalition with the SLD the ritual statements against the Poll Tax have dried up. Our two MPs, Doran and Hughes, never mention it, although there is no stopping their 'cleck and blaw' on every other topic. Increasingly, dissidents within the local party are coming under pressure. Electability is the buzz word as affinity cards and monogrammed mugs become the new emblems of Socialist cred. Rather than 'Forward with Labour' the new slogan should be 'Back to the Future'. The fight continues.

Charlie (Aberdeen APT)

THE BAILIFFS ARE COMING! from RED ACTION

The fight against the Poll Tax is gaining a new momentum throughout the country. With the issuing of summonses to enable the councils to obtain liability orders, non-payers are being moved from a relatively passive position of withholding money and staging sporadic demonstrations against the tax, into a stage in which they are actively opposing the councils in the courts (their home ground) and in the community (our home ground). Although any movement of the scope and character of the Anti-Poll Tax Union movement can expect to receive a number of setbacks it is still the case that their problems are far greater than those that we face.

In the courts, the council have a very limited amount of time in which to obtain the liability orders they need in order to impose sanctions on non-payers. In a recent local case a man succeeded in prolonging his defence for 2 1/2 hours! Given that councils generally have no more than a few days or afternoons to hear thousands of cases, it is obvious that they have a tough job on their hands if local Anti-poll Tax Unions organise sufficient people to turn up in person and prevent their cases from being rubber-stamped.

Where councils do obtain liability orders, they can proceed to deduct money from wages or income support (not pensions or other types of benefit). There are signs that unions are beginning to take a stand of behalf of their members threatened with wage arrestment. It is vital that unions are pressured in this way to protect the interests of their members. The council's other option, the one they are currently most likely to adopt, is to send in the bailiffs. Anti-Poll Tax Unions have a vital role to play here in countering the intimidatory effect that the threat of the bailiffs has for many people. There are in fact only 1,000 bailiffs in England and Wales, so they are liable to find their resources considerably over-stretched. And unlike Scotland, bailiffs here do not have any power to force entry into a person's home in any circumstances. If you do not let them in, they cannot get in, no matter how many times they may return. Nonetheless where bailiffs are being used, it must be emphasised that these people are no better than thieves and muggers and must be treated by activists and the community as such. When they go about their business of harassing and intimidating working class people, they must be made to know that the harassment and intimidation is not going to be one way. All activists should be organising now in their own areas to ensure that this is the case. Many people who have to this point merely been in sympathy with the Anti-Poll Tax movement will be willing to become more actively involved as they see direct assaults on their neighbours, relatives and friends homes being carried on in front of them. The potential to build active resistance to these contemptible collaborators of the Thatcher government and to build popular support for bailiff-busting activities and consequently the work and aims of the Anti-poll Tax movement generally, is enormous.

Beyond that, anti-poll tax activists can alert their communities to the inevitable cuts in services and jobs if the poll tax continues in place. For if the poll tax continues even in a ramshackle and crippled form, it remains a perfect vehicle for achieving the central purpose of the government in introducing it - the destruction of local government autonomy and services. It has to be realised that it is not the purpose of the government to make local government work more effectively or more cheaply. It is their purpose to destroy the services that the councils at present provide - and this can be achieved whether or not the Poll Tax proves 'workable' in the terms of local authority Finance Officers. If the poll tax did prove 'workable' (say a 90-95% collection rate), it is designed to force local authorities in successive years to either put up the poll tax to unrealistic and unpopular levels as the government steadily reduces the amount contributed to local finance from central funds, or, as will be the case, to cut local services and jobs to the point where they virtually cease to exist. But on the other hand, if local authorities get a proportion of the money they need (say 80 or even 90%), but are unable to collect the rest, which councils themselves would regard as proof of its being 'unworkable', there is a great danger that they will still be compelled by central government to drastically reduce the level of services and jobs they provide. Either way, the result will be much the same. The only option open to ordinary people in this country if they wish to maintain the system of local authority education, housing and welfare that most of us have grown up with, is to defeat the poll tax decisively in the shortest possible time. That means making sure that they don't get the money and that councils grind to a total halt forcing this government or the next one to introduce an alternative system of local finance immediately. The poll tax is the most ambitious and oppressive measure the Tories have yet passed. It has not unexpectedly also aroused the most widespread and organised opposition. We must do our utmost to ensure that this opposition is as effectively organised as possible at every stage. WE'RE NOT PAYING!!

3 NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS RESIGN

Danny Burns (Vice Chair) Ian Greaves (Assistant Secretary) Sham Singh (Trade Union Officer)

We have resigned our positions as from 17 June (the last meeting of the national committee). We will, however, continue to work on the committee in a constructive way, representing our regions and developing initiatives where it is possible for us to make a positive input. However, we feel unable to retain our posts because we have been systematically prevented from carrying them out.

When we agreed to take positions on the national committee we recognised that it was dominated by supporters of the Militant tendency. We had great reservations about this because the committee did not reflect the diversity of the movement on the ground. Nevertheless, we were prepared to work with Militant supporters in a constructive way in the interest of the wider movement. We hoped that Militant would embrace the diversity of the movement and engage a wide variety of groups and individuals in the huge array of tasks which needed to be undertaken. Unfortunately, this was not to be the case. Militant has sought to operate as a tight cadre and this has had an extremely damaging effect. We can cite some examples:

The national committee agreed, after some pressure, to hold a trade union conference. We assumed that this would be co-ordinated by the Trade Union Officer. However, he has consistently been by-passed in a way which would not be possible in any other democratic organisation.

It is our belief that the national bulletin is of critical importance. One of the key roles of a national federation must be communication. Ian Greaves and Danny Burns took responsibility for producing the newsletter. The first one was produced after three days work and delivered to the secretary and thereafter never saw the light of day. The second one was produced and 25,000 copies were printed. They were delivered on time for the national demonstration but were never distributed. The third one was produced unilaterally by Steve Nally, once again totally by-passing the officers responsible. Furthermore, national committee members consistently failed to provide regional reports for the bulletin. This was not because they did not have the time; they produced regular reports for the Militant newspaper. The fact that Militant has been unable to delegate tasks to people outside of their organisation has, in our view, had other negative effects on the campaign.

For example, the National Federation is over £12,000 in debt. It had a demonstration of 250,000 people. Even if we had only collected 10p from each person, we could have raised £25,000. But there were no financial stewards. The reason for this is that there was no delegation. If the Avon Federation or Leeds had been asked to help, we would have gladly done so. We did point out that the demonstration was likely to have 200,000 people on it; we were not listened to and the demonstration was therefore planned for 25,000.

We feel that the movement has made great strides and is on the way to a historic victory. However, this has been entirely down to the dedication of activists in the local groups and federations. We need a national organisation which can give them effective support. For this reason, we think it is important not to abandon the national organisation as a lost cause. We must encourage it to develop a positive role as:

- 1. A provider of information (legal reports, regional briefings, etc.) 2. A co-ordinator of national events 3. A focus for the national media (but one which is responsive to the wishes of the movement)

We stand for a movement which: values diversity - and encourages the involvement of all groups, factions and parties in the campaign, and individuals who have never been politically involved before.

stresses equally non-payment, non-prosecution and non-collection and avoids factional in-fighting over the emphasis of any one of these.

is grass roots - reflecting the movement on the ground. We believe the movement should be organised on a delegate basis, where delegates are accountable to their regions and are recallable.

defends those who are the victims of attack by the state; in particular, those arrested on the anti-poll tax demonstrations. We regret the statement by Steve Nally about "naming names". We do not feel this is the appropriate role of our movement. We should rather be putting the police on the defensive for their brutality.

Federation Conference

The sixth conference of the Strathclyde Anti-Poll Tax Federation was attended by 133 delegates from 37 community groups and 3 Trade Union branches, at the Moir Halls, Glasgow.

After the usual rhetoric the conference got underway. The session was split into two, the discussion of the Executive statement, motions/amendments and elections and then a legal question and answer session with Gordon Dangerfield followed by a closed section on Sheriff Officer activity. There was also a speaker from the Off-Shore Industry Liaison Committee and Glasgow District Nalgo.

There were no speakers against the E.C. statement or amendments (although the Pollokshields motion was withdrawn due to their delegates thinking that it had been met by the Federation organising transport to the London march on October 20th). It was agreed to have a "day of protest" outside the Procurator Fiscal's office in Clyde St. on October 19th as Strathclyde's part of the international day of solidarity with the Trafalgar Square defendants.

The best parts of the day were the speakers from NALGO, OILC and Solicitor and Dumfries APT activist Gordon Dangerfield (who covered a wide range of topics). The closed section about the Sheriff Officers was postponed due to time considerations, to the next Aggregate on October 10th. This will discuss the continuing action against the Sheriff Officers and, as such, it is essential that as many people as possible go from all groups. According to the police, the "rules had now changed" and would arrest and charge any protesters involved in occupations, surveillance or stopping Sheriff Officers. This due to pressure by Sheriff Officers and the higher officials in the state.

No Poll Tax Figures

In Glasgow for last year, the official non-payment figure is 45.6%. In Strathclyde the figure is 1 in 3 for 1990's Poll Tax. After 18 months in Scotland, between 1½ and 1½ million people have not paid. In the U.K. as a whole that figure is 14 million. At the Strathclyde Federation it was stated that 72% had not paid this year's Poll Tax in Scotland. With these high levels of non-payment, what has been the effect on bills and the Council.

In conclusion, the conference was disappointing, not because of the low turnout (which can be attributed to other factors than "nothing is happening"), but because it seems that the Federation conferences are becoming more sterile. The level of discussion and original ideas, was low (although if the closed section did happen then maybe this would not have been the case).

I cannot help thinking that to a great extent the Federation (and to a lesser extent the local groups) are structured in such a way that input of "ordinary people" is limited and that the atmosphere of Federation meetings does put people off getting involved.

The best responses so far have been in those conferences with workshops in which people directly discuss the issues. A step in the right direction would be converting the whole conference into a series of workshops with decision making plenary sessions (as opposed to "debating" motions to a statement drawn up by a small minority). Only continuous debate and free discussion can involve people in the popular, direct decision making needed for any real working class fighting organisation. Unfortunately, the Federation, as it is structured now, does not, I think, promote this.

Iain (Pollokshields)

Gloves Off

On 6 August Sheriff Officers were attacked in Belshill outside Glasgow when they attempted to carry out pointings in the homes of Poll Tax non payers. 50 people surrounded their car, rocking it. The car was damaged with 'Soun' smeared on the body-work with chips. They didn't bother coming back 4 days later when 200 protesters turned up to physically stop pointings planned at 82 homes in the town.

After the first day, 50 Poll Tax protesters occupied the offices of the sheriff pay

WE'RE NO PAYING
THE
POLL
TAX!

officers responsible. The police forced their way in and arrested them, causing thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Fortunately, Strathclyde Police Force has had to be cut because of non payment

of the Poll Tax. Another bloody good reason not to

In Central Region only £11 from an £84 increase in Poll Tax was due to non-payment. In Strathclyde, of a total Council short-fall in money of £175 million only £62 million was due to non-payment. These figures clearly show that it isn't non-payment that is causing Council cuts and vast increases in the Poll Tax. These are due to the Poll Tax's nature. As was pointed out at the start of the non-payment campaign, the Poll Tax would increase greatly every year as well as causing the Council to cut services. We were

Pollokshields Group Report

Things in the 'Shields have been quite quiet. We have had two successful Public Meetings at which we agreed to affiliate to the Trafalgar Square Defence Campaign (T.S.D.C.), organise street stalls and pub collections as well as updating and improving our phone tree. This last point was seen to be essential and, as such, we will be giving this priority before our next public meeting. This meeting, as well as having a speaker from the Strathclyde Federation on pointings, will be our Annual General Meeting and will be held on Wednesday, 31st October at 8.00 p.m. in the PDA Halls, McCulloch St. We are also twinning with a group in Bolton after Mick from our group spoke at 3 Public Meetings in Bolton during the summer.

MICK (Pollokshields)

Strathclyde Fed. Aggregate

At the Federation Aggregate on 12th September at Glasgow Tech, the Springburn/Royston delegate reported that Sheriff Officers had been seen in Royston and they had visited, mostly, single parents. Fortunately they did not try any pointings and just left letters saying they "had called but nobody was in". Royston was organising a Public Meeting in the area.

In Mount Florida and Paisley, it seems that the Sheriff Officers are "testing the waters".

Also Yoker and Spittal A.P.T.U.'s reported that their respective Resource Centres had cancelled their meetings due to local Labour Party pressure (local Councils hold the purse strings for Resource Centres).

Iain (Pollokshields)

right then, we're still right now.

If you really want to see Council services not cut or the Poll Tax bills get bigger then join the non-payment campaign. Only getting rid of the Poll Tax will mean lower bills and more services.

No Poll Tax here, you know it makes sense!

Iain (Pollokshields)

'RANT & RAVE'

Lenin Lives - Well Almost!

Two members of the CPGB (Leninist) were sent to Glasgow to join the People's March. Despite having a lot in common, Militant members treated them like lepers and the 'Comrades' were forced to walk 10 paces behind the rest. Not to be outdone, our 2 Leninist friends decided that they would cover every lamp post between Glasgow and London with their infantile 'Lenin Lives' stickers. The local plod took exception and charged them with 'Breach of the Peace' and the ancient by-law of the mid 70's 'Litter'. We hope the bug isn't catching!

Hop On, Hop Off

We hear that some people have been doing more marching than others on the "People's March". Rumour has it that the accompanying van has been in constant demand since it left Glasgow. On leaving a town, 'Marchers' have been piling into the van, driving to within a couple of miles of the next town and 'marching' into address the next welcoming rally! One of the few non-'Militants' from Glasgow on the March gave up, scunnered by the control by Militant cadres of all events.



International News

Barney In Berne

"Maggie To Hell" were the sentiments of an Anti-Poll Tax mob in Berne, Switzerland in a noisy protest against a visit by Thatcher. 20 were arrested.

Expelled

It seems that Militant have enraged local people once again, as a result of their limelight seeking activities! A letter appeared in the Bournemouth Echo claiming all of the work of the local Anti-Poll Tax group was led and inspired by Militant - the writer was of course, a Militant member. East Dorset Against the Poll Tax were so amused that they voted to exclude Militant members from meetings. Not that it made much difference - they hadn't been attending for months anyway!

R. & R. Goes Awol

'America Today' reports that a group of G.I.s have decided that the war in the gulf is not for them. The forward thinking Marines have formed a group called - wait for it - REFUSE AND RESIST! Now where have I heard that before?

Collective Amnesia afflicted Jim Cameron and other Strathclyde Fed. executive members at the Aggregate on 10th October. Angela from Possii APT reminded the meeting at the end of the Aggregate that the 30th national day of action against Bailiffs and Sheriffs was supposed to have been the main topic. Memory was restored, leading Militants such as Councillor Chick Stevenson and a clone acting as Mirute Secretary said we must scale down our action. Earlier another 'Militant' said Charlie Gray, Region Labour leader wasn't so bad after all.

Oops!

A recent print run of the "No Sheriffs Here" Poster in Strathclyde contained a contact phone number which was unfamiliar. On telephoning, it was revealed that it was the number of Militant's office in Glasgow, not the Federation shop. Go on give 'em a bell - 041 331 2424. Tommy's waiting for your call!

Militantspeak (Again!)

"It was an unprovoked attack by the Police the Metropolitan Police started the whole thing but some people took advantage of the family atmosphere".

Jim Cameron (Chair, Strathclyde Fed. at the recent conference)

Baby Talk

"I saw a fire extinguisher thrown from the scaffold and smash through a baby's pram".

Tommy Armageddon (Strathclyde Aggregate, April 1990)

Firing Blanks

"Firefighters from F.B.U., a union which supports this Federation, had slabs of concrete and scaffold thrown down on top of them".

Tommy Armageddon (Strathclyde Aggregate, April 1990)

"When the fire engines came, it was a moment of calm, the crowd parted to let them through that was the most peaceful part of the riot".

Eyewitness speaking on Despite TV's Battle of Trafalgar"

Yoof!

"The youth will be working all the nightshifts under the sun!"

Kirsteen Walker (Strathclyde Federation Yoof! Officer)

Will the Real Josef Stalin Stand Up?

We hear that the guest speaker at the recent Morning Star rally in Govan was none other than our own commissar for the Poll Tax, Tommy Armageddon. Tommy (or 'Uncle Tommy' as he's now known to the comrades) opened with "The Morning Star is the only daily paper to give coverage to Fed. etc. etc." You know what they say Tommy - "It takes one to know one!"

All Black

Reports from New Zealand suggest one of the Conservative Parties want to introduce a Poll Tax. The Maoris will be on the warpath.

Pole-Axed

Counter Information (Sept./October '90) has photos of a Polish protest outside the British Embassy. (send SAE to CI,11 Forth St., Edinburgh)