

Prepared by: Paul Brown (Defendant) & Dave Morris — joint organisers of the demonstration.
Richard Roques (Defendant) — TSDC speaker at the London Fed. rally.
Becky Shaw & Shaun Waterman — Organisers of the Legal Back-Up System.

**Immediate response to the TSDC letter received on Sunday 11th November. Written by the
National Officers of the All Britain Federation. Monday 12 November 1990**

Dear Comrades,

A fuller reply to your letter received towards the end of our last national committee meeting will be forthcoming. This is an immediate reaction to one particular point only.

As you know an organised attempt was made to disrupt and break up our rally at Brockwell Park on October 20th. Groups of individuals continually shouted, chanted and even threw missiles. Tony Benn and myself were called 'left-wing scum' and 'fascists' and a black South African Striker from BTR was subjected to disgusting racial abuse. Steve Nally, the democratically elected secretary of the National Federation, was subjected to abuse and the throwing of cans, incidents unfortunately recorded by BBC TV and shown that night. We asked the TSDC in our first letter to unreservedly condemn this behaviour and the individuals involved.

Your initial response is, quite frankly, outrageous and very disappointing. You state; "With regard to the heckling of speakers and throwing of missiles towards the end of the London Federation demo it is not clear to us why this is of relevance to the TSDC" (My emphasis).

Throughout your letter, and elsewhere, you continually refer to "our movement." Yet when the elected leaders of "our movement" are subjected to verbal and physical attack, it is of "no relevance" to the TSDC! The anti-poll tax campaign is constantly under attack from the Tories, the media, Labour right-wing, the police, and the state in general.

These are formidable enemies. In the face of such enemies the interests of the campaign, and the poll tax defendants, is only served by maximum unity. Attacks on our speakers or stewards can only serve our enemies by disuniting our campaign and thus weakening us. Those involved in such attacks are therefore either unconscious or conscious agents of the state.

It is our opinion that the above behaviour is clearly of "relevance" to you and the rest of our movement. We must close our ranks against agent provocateurs and splitters in general to preserve our unity both for the main campaign but also for the defendants.

Therefore, we once again seek your total condemnation of this behaviour and the individuals involved, regardless of whether they purported to be TSDC or London Federation supporters.

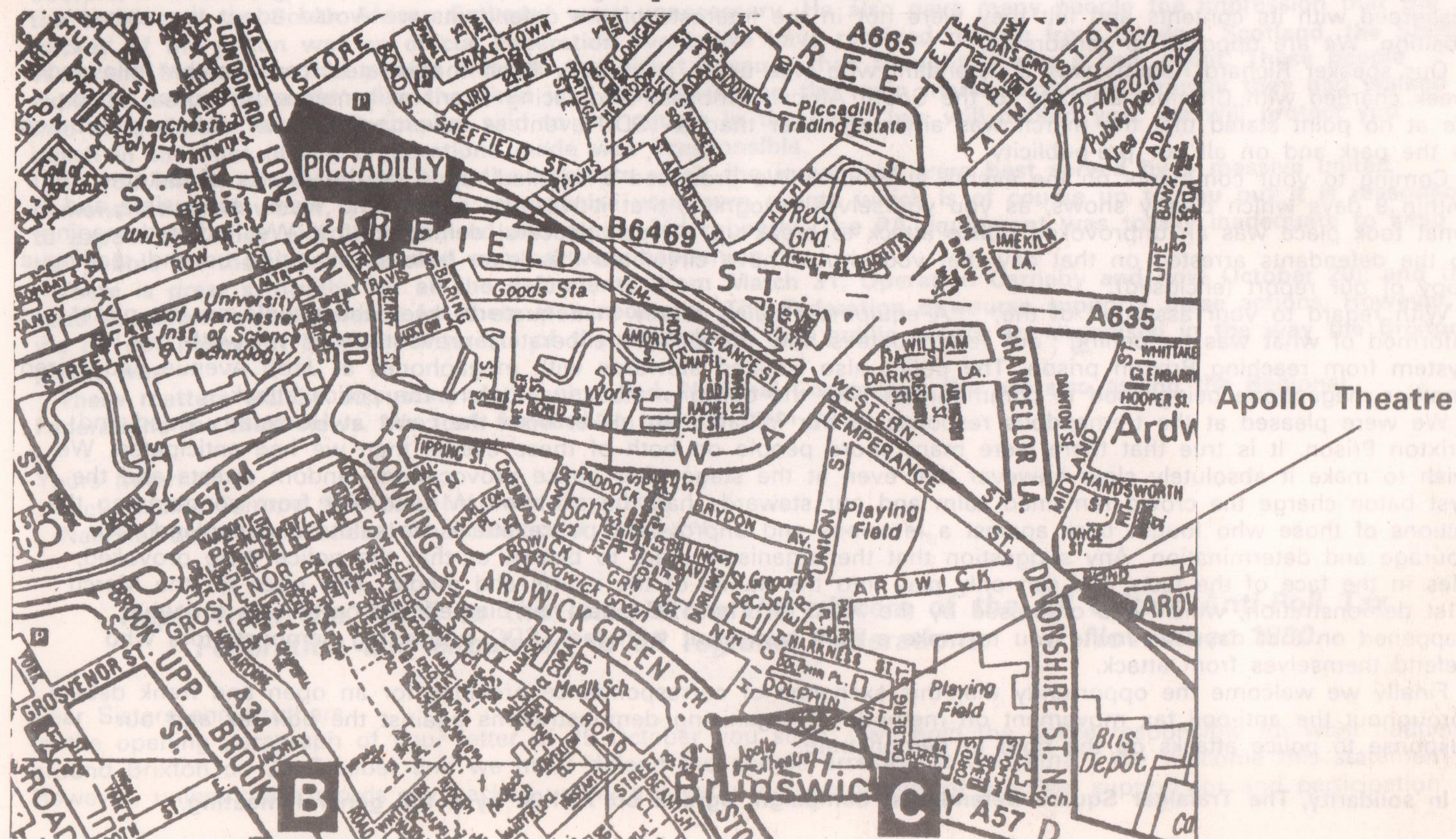
We look forward to your reply in the confidence that you will not only condemn the above behaviour, but also join with the National Federation in a clear and unequivocal condemnation of the activities and individuals involved.

United we are more able to campaign for our common aim in relation to the defendants. That is an unconditional defence of the defendants and the dropping of all the charges and sentences brought against them.

Yours in solidarity,

Tommy Sheridan,
National Chair

Map of Venue



All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation

**2nd Annual Conference
25 November 1990
Apollo Theatre — Manchester**

CONFERENCE AGENDA

14 million non-payers — Forward to victory!

Agenda

10am — 12 noon —
Registration enquiries open/Visitors' credentials issued.

12 noon onwards —
Opening of Conference/Special guest speakers.

Discussion on statements on Enforcement.
i) Distress.
ii) Wage arrestments/attachments.
iii) Income Support deductions.

National Secretary's Report.

National Committee Statement moved followed by amendments and discussion.

Financial Report.

Financial Appeal.

Elections to National Committee of National Officers.

Elections to National Committee of Regional Officers.

Emergency Resolutions.

5pm
Closing remarks made by the Chair of the Federation.

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PLEASE NOTE — ALL PARENTS SHOULD REGISTER AT THE CRECHÉ DESK IN THE FOYER ON ARRIVAL

Ballot papers will be issued in the foyer.

EVERYTHING RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE HAS BEEN INCLUDED.

National Committee Statement One. Beating The Bailiffs.

1/ This conference salutes the Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Federation, who for the past 20 months have prevented the sheriffs (bailiffs) from taking possessions from non-payers by mobilising people every time an attempt is made to enter a home.

2/ In England and Wales, bailiffs have been sent in to places such as Barry, Grantham, Isle of Wight and Northampton — every time they have been confronted with people mobilised by the anti-poll tax unions.

3/ It is quite clear that the Tory government are looking for one success with the bailiffs so that it can be held up as an example of what will happen to you if you do not pay your poll tax.

4/ All affiliates should familiarise themselves with the powers that bailiffs have. The Federation Bulletin, *Beating the Bailiffs* should be used by all affiliates. In particular the bulletin should be distributed to those people turning up to the courts.

5/ Conference notes the differences in Scottish law to the law in England and Wales regarding the bailiffs. In England and Wales bailiffs CANNOT FORCE ENTRY. But once let in this gives the bailiffs the power of forceful entry on any subsequent visit. This information must be widely circulated in the communities so that people feel confident to refuse entry to the bailiffs.

6/ It is also important to make clear that bailiffs are employed by and therefore accountable to the council. Confronting the bailiffs does not bring anyone into conflict with the courts.

7/ All aptu's should prepare the following:

a/ All anti-poll tax unions must ensure that their local areas are flooded with information about their rights with the bailiffs. The bailiffs rely on fear and intimidating people who do not know their rights with the bailiffs. Mass leafletting must take place with local contact numbers listed. Public meetings and press coverage should also be used to build confidence. 'Telephone trees' should be also be developed to have a 'bailiff busting squad' ready at all times.

b/ Find out which bailiffs' firms the council is using, ask sympathetic councillors to find out or write to the council yourself. If they refuse to then this can be used in the campaign, to show how frightened the council is of the local aptu.

c/ Once you find out where the bailiffs' office is, organise a lobby/picket outside to attract media attention. This can be used to draw attention to the rights people have when dealing with the bailiffs, it also shows how the aptu is prepared to confront the bailiffs wherever they go and alert the community to the fact that bailiffs are being used in the area. In Bristol the APTF organised a mass picket which blockaded the bailiffs' office in response to their attempts to seize goods in Bishops Lydeard and Barry. The London Federation organised a picket of Madigans, the bailiffs' firm used in Wandsworth and gained widespread publicity.

8/ All affiliates should write to councils to obtain a copy of their guidelines, this will give an idea of how the council means to proceed but also pressure can be exerted to limit action against the most vulnerable section of the community and reduce what the bailiffs can take away.

9/ One idea affiliates should consider is distributing donation of possession forms. This must be carried out before a distress warrant is issued as the courts can dismiss it as an attempt to avoid payment and declare the agreement invalid. Any attempt to move goods after the bailiffs have gained entry is fraud.

10/ This conference calls on Labour councils not to send in the bailiffs to do the Tories' dirty work.

Amendments to National Committee Statement on Distress.

The following amendments have been received by the NC, the NC recommendation is written alongside the amendment:

ROEHAMPTON APTU SUPPORT

In the vast majority of areas we have fought off the bailiffs successfully. But Redbridge, Wandsworth, Southend and Northampton bailiffs have conducted irregular and illegal distress. In Redbridge and Wandsworth police were used by the bailiffs to gain access. This blatant flouting of guidelines must be fought by the anti-poll tax federation. We cannot rely on justice through the courts. Southend and Northampton have both made complaints to the Magistrates courts, in both cases the courts sided with the bailiffs. In the event that irregular/illegal distress is carried out the minimum response should be:

a/ Organising protest lobbies outside the council, but also individual councillors surgeries, demanding that the council returns the property, drops all costs and that they tear up the contract with the bailiffs' firms. The councils must be also be pressured into withdrawing the certificate from the bailiffs' firm.

b/ immediate production of leaflets, posters and distribution of telephone trees.

c/ If necessary regional/city demonstrations should be called.

We will show to the councils and the government that these barbaric methods will be fought against every time they are used.

The first bulletin put out after the conference should lay down guidelines for aptu's on how they could respond to irregular/illegal distress.

TOOTING APTU SUPPORT

Add new paragraph 11:

'We should have no illusions that bailiffs will respect our 'legal rights'. The Federation and all local anti-poll tax unions should seek to organise on every estate to initiate and co-ordinate the mobilisation of workers en-masse to drive the bailiffs off our estates, by whatever means prove necessary. We should fight to draw in active support from the labour movement to resist such attempts intimidate non-payers.'

National Committee Statement Two. Wage Arrestments/Attachment Of Earnings.

- 1/ Conference deplores the attempts by the Tories to deduct poll tax arrears directly from workers' wages.
- 2/ Conference agrees to step up the campaign in our own workplaces and trade unions, to win support for non-payment and action to stop wage arrestments.
- 3/ Conference applauds those workers already committed to fighting and taking action against arrestment of wages. We must keep up the pressure on councils, as it is they who have to initiate moves to arrest/attach wages.
- 4/ Conference notes that the Tories prepared for wage arrestments two years ago when they abolished the Truck Acts, therefore enabling the courts to dip into workers' wages.
- 5/ Conference also notes that employers are obliged by law to carry out attachment of earnings orders. But regulations 51 (3) state that 'it shall be a defence for (an employer) that he took all reasonable steps to comply with the order'. Therefore an employer faced with the prospect of losing millions of pounds in lost production through threatened strike action could turn around to the courts and the council and tell them that it is impractical to deduct poll tax arrears from wages. This factor backs up the effectiveness of waging industrial action against the threat of wage arrestments.
- 6/ Conference welcomes the magnificent response to the Federation Trade Union Conference held in Liverpool on June 23 1990. This conference was attended by 1,287 trade union delegates, representing over 870,000 trade union members from 651 trade union bodies.
- 7/ This conference resolves to uphold the decisions made at the trade Union Conference, including the following:
 - a/ To launch a major drive to maximise trade union affiliations to the anti-poll tax federations.
 - b/ To assist in the creation of workplace anti-poll tax unions.
 - c/ To produce special literature to show how the battle in the workplaces is developing and to give guidance on the issues raised for trade unionists.
 - d/ To assist in the organising of workplace anti-poll tax meetings.
 - e/ To assist in the organisation of maximum possible action, including strike action, and other forms of industrial action in order to stop wage arrestments and attachments.
 - f/ Mobilising trade union support for civil protests against the poll tax, including pickets, occupations etc, to prevent action taken by bailiffs and sheriffs' officers.
 - g/ To organise special conferences and meetings for trade unionists in all areas to discuss solidarity action and the issues raised in the workplaces and unions in the fight against the poll tax.
- 8/ This conference agrees to campaign within our trade unions for the TUC to lead the fight against wage arrestments, giving full solidarity to any individual singled out for wage arrestment and for the TUC to give full support for industrial action in support of non-payment, non-collection or non-prosecution.
- 9/ This conference agrees to campaign within the labour movement for Labour councils to refuse to carry out wage arrestments. As a minimum, we demand that Labour councils, before attaching the earnings of any non-payer, establish Hardship committees to investigate the circumstances of individuals, rather than automatically deducting the maximum legally possible.

Amendments to National Committee Statement on Wage Arrestment/Attachment of Earnings

The following amendments have been received by the NC. The NC recommendation is written alongside the amendment.

ST. WERBURGHS APTU SUPPORT

- 7/ add 'b' - 'To support all actions taken by workers against the poll tax, whether official or unofficial and fight any victimisation of workers connected to non-payment of the tax.'

- 9/ Delete text after first sentence.

ROCHESTER CAMDEN STOP THE POLL TAX CAMDEN TRADES COUNCIL SUPPORT

5. Add at end;

'In any case, we must make it clear to employers that if they attempt to arrest wages they will lose more through industrial action than they risk through possible fines and make sure this threat is implemented if necessary.'

'Similarly any attempt to pressurise employees to pay poll tax, or threaten them in any way if they do not, must be met by united workplace resistance and industrial action if necessary.'

TOOTING APTU SUPPORT

Delete the words 'to assist in the' in para. 7 in every instance and replace them with: 'to actively campaign for...'

OPPOSE

National Committee Statement Three. Income Support Deductions.

- 1/ This conference deplores the Tories' attempts to collect poll tax arrears through deductions from income support.
- 2/ This conference believes that an immediate defensive measure will be a well publicised campaign advising everyone faced with income support deductions to appeal against it. Although the deductions continue pending the appeal, the cost involved in processing huge numbers of appeals is likely to deter councils from ordering a massive number of deductions.
- 3/ The Tories will once again be trying to use DSS and DE workers to carry out their procedures against the most vulnerable sections of their own class, communities and families.
- 4/ Many DSS and DE workers will be unable to pay the poll tax because of their low wages. Many will simply refuse to pay in their determination to defeat this hated tax.
- 5/ This conference applauds the actions, including industrial action, taken by DSS workers in opposition to income support deductions.
- 6/ This conference supports all action taken by DSS workers, including strike action, and other forms of industrial action, such as overtime bans taken in response to increasing workload as a result of the poll tax.
- 7/ This conference believes that refusal to deduct poll tax from benefits would receive enormous public support. Backed up by solidarity action in other offices and sections of the CPSA and NUCAPS and co-ordinated support by other trade unions would be a major factor in defeating the poll tax in a very short period of time.
- 8/ In the event that DSS or DE workers are victimised for action taken in opposition to income support deductions, we demand that our trade union leaders should call the necessary industrial action needed to stop the victimisation and to prevent benefit deductions.

Amendments to National Committee Statement on Income Support Deductions.

SOUTH STREATHAM CRUMPSALL APTU WEST HAMPSTEAD APTU ROWLEY WAY APTU ST. ALBANS APTU SUPPORT

Point 8 add at the end -

'Moreover the All Britain Anti-Poll tax federation will support and build any action taken by workers against the poll tax, against victimisation and in defence of jobs and services, whether official or unofficial. We further deplore the continuing inactivity of the TUC and Labour Party leadership around the question of organising resistance to the poll tax.'

TOOTING APTU SUPPORT

Add to point 8:

'If the trade union leadership refuses to act we should mount a campaign for unofficial action in solidarity with workers who are being victimised for breaking the Tories' anti-union laws on behalf of our movement.'

CAMDEN STOP THE POLL TAX CAMPAIGN CAMDEN TRADES COUNCIL SUPPORT

- 1/ Change 'deplores' to 'condemns'.

New paragraph after 1 and renumber:

- 2/ It condemns the threat on application forms for Income Support to pass on information to CCRO's even if the applicant does not apply for 'Community Charge Benefit' and considers it an attempt to intimidate claimants.

It salutes those DSS workers who have refused to pass on information and taken industrial action against doing so.

point 8 Delete full stop and add:

'but must be prepared to organise it ourselves if they do not.' SUPPORT

CAMBUSLANG AND RUTHERGLEN CAPT REMIT

Line 3 2nd sentence of paragraph, delete all from 'Although' ...to...'appeal' and begin sentence with 'The cost.'

National Secretary's Report

1. The All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation was set up in November 1989 at the founding conference of 2,000 delegates, representing 550 anti-poll tax unions, 547 trade unions, Labour Parties and community organisations. The Federation has over 1,500 affiliates, representing over approximately 250,000 people. In the first year of our existence as a national organisation we have achieved an enormous amount.

2. The Poll Tax march on 31 March was possibly the biggest demonstration for decades, of 200,000 people. One million, one hundred thousand leaflets were produced and distributed, along with 100,000 posters. In the build-up to that demonstration over 6,000 public meetings, lobbies and local demonstrations were organised around the setting of poll tax rates. The demonstration cost over £50,000 to organise. After the demonstration on 31 March, we approached the London Federation, who attended the courts every day for the following weeks to ensure all defendants were aware of their rights and were not isolated. We have worked with the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign (TSDC) circulating their material and passing on details of defendants we came into contact with.

3. The People's March Against the Poll Tax was a major success — over 135 towns, cities and villages were visited, over 300 public meetings, rallies, demonstrations and social events were organised. In London 35,000 people turned out to greet the marchers on a demonstration organised by the All London Anti-Poll Tax Federation.

4. In April the Federation office was opened and volunteers were brought in to run the Federation. We now have 4 people staffing the office on a daily basis. The office receives an average 250 calls a week and answers on average 50 letters a week.

5. In response to the National Demo, over 1,000 replies were sent in to our leaflet, all were answered. Communications have been severely hindered by lack of finance. But despite this 5 national bulletins have been produced and distributed to the affiliates including the *Beating the Bailiffs* issue. Also *How to Fight the Poll Tax in Court* document was produced and circulated to regional Federations and NC members. It costs £1,000 a month to run the Federation Office. Production and distribution of bulletins costs at least £600 a time. A regular source of finance needs to come in to maintain the office and improve the flow of information.

6. THE COURTS — We have been extremely successful in slowing up the issue of Liability Orders. Medina Council on the Isle of Wight was the first council to take people to court — and faced humiliation when the Anti-Poll Tax Union forced them, through the campaign, to withdraw court summonses. This was followed by a whole number of other councils following suit. As a result the courts have hardened their attitudes. We have been working closely with Lawyers from the NCCL and the Haldane Society of Lawyers and the Poll Tax Legal Group. Thousands have turned out all over the country to the courts to protest. The issuing of court summonses have not intimidated the non-payment campaign, on the contrary the campaign has been strengthened.

7. BAILIFFS — Again, the attempts to intimidate the campaign by selecting a few areas to go in immediately with the bailiffs has failed. The advice we have given out about bailiffs is penetrating local communities. The first attempts to send in bailiffs in Bishops Lydeard and Barry failed as the campaign organised 'Bailiff Buster' teams.

8. IMPRISONMENT — Cyril Munda, a 75-year-old pensioner, was the first person in Britain to be threatened with imprisonment for non-payment. We responded quickly by organising a peaceful occupation of the Borough Treasurer's office in Northampton and by calling a national demonstration in Northampton on October 26. We produced thousands of leaflets to give out at the London demonstration. Through fear of a defeat, the *News of the World* saved the day for the Tory government by paying Cyril's poll tax against his will. We have set up a defence campaign for the 20 who were arrested after the occupation in Northampton.

9. BUILDING THE FEDERATION — We have attracted hundreds of affiliates to the National Federation, including the National Union of Students and Broadcasting, Entertainments and Technicians Association. We have held fringe meetings at the following conferences to attract support to the Federation: NUPE, NALGO, Labour Party Conference, NAPO, T&GWU, CPSA, TUC and MSF Conference.

10. TRADE UNION CONFERENCE 23 JUNE — 1,287 Trade Union delegates representing over 870,000 union members from 651 trade union bodies assembled in Liverpool Central Hall to discuss action in the workplaces against the poll tax.

11. PRESS — We have received an enormous amount of press coverage, both nationally and locally. We have sent out over 50 press releases — at least one a week. We have also held at least 17 press conferences in the last 12 months. Over 50 members of the international and national press have visited the National Office to conduct interviews, etc. The press now ring regularly into the National Federation office for information. We are seen as an authority on the poll tax, we have also speeded up the flow of information out to the press. For example, we received information from Gateshead that the local Council was making Attachment of Earnings Orders out against 5 council workers. Within one hour all the national press and TV had been contacted. We need to develop this further, with the areas taking advantage of the media network that has been built up nationally. Locally we have dominated the news. The People's March Against the Poll Tax received front page coverage and TV coverage in most areas that it visited. Internationally we have received coverage in nearly every country.

12. COUNCILLORS AGAINST THE POLL TAX has been set up by councillors who are not paying their poll tax. Two meetings have been organised so far, with new initiatives planned for the new year. Material produced has been limited due to our finances.

13. ARTISTS AGAINST THE POLL TAX — AAPT is a collection of artists who have pledged not to pay their poll tax and have signed the AAPT charter which gives full support to the Federation. Over 30 artists have signed, including some of the biggest names in popular music — Neneh Cherry, Gil Scott Heron, The Beautiful South, Jimi Somerville and Rebel MC. On March 30 a rave was organised at the Brixton Academy, more than 2,500 young people turned up to hear top British Rap acts Wee Papa Girl Rappers, Daddy Freddy and Rebel MC. The main aim of AAPT is to raise money for the Federation and to encourage more and more artists to get involved in the campaign of mass non-payment. Forthcoming plans include an auction of artists memorabilia, a big festival, an album which is being put together, including artists such as The Wee Papa Girl Rappers, Jimi Somerville, Beats International, The Proclaimers and a Guy Called Gerald. Also a single is being recorded by top British rap artists called *The Poor, The Law and the Poll Tax* with all proceeds to go to the Federation.

14. NATIONAL MEETINGS — There have been nine National Committee meetings and two National Aggregates organised this year.

Steve Nally.

The People's March Against The Poll Tax

Over six weeks on the road, and 1,000 miles between them, the People's March Against The Poll Tax took to the country.

This required a considerable effort of organisation ie, the marchers' 'uniform', vans, walkie talkies, mobile phones, food and accommodation as well as constant negotiations with the relevant authorities. This effort, both locally and nationally, meant that at all hours and in all weathers, the response came. Everyone involved deserves the full thanks of the Federation.

Fifty five men and women from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Newcastle, Liverpool, Birmingham, Coventry, Ipswich, London, Bristol, Manchester, Nottingham, marched through 50 towns and cities, visiting a further 85 along the way.

The march itself gained publicity in every area, with local press, radio and TV coverage. The Glasgow leg was featured in *The Independent* magazine on the day of the demo, and the Liverpool leg was featured on BBC TV's *The Advice Shop*. There was also a feature on ITV's *The Time, The Place*.

Over 200 public meetings were addressed by the marchers, with a further 100 college meetings and literally thousands of discussions.

Every town the march arrived at held a demo and/or rally to greet them. Some were more successful than others. There were 1,500 at the rally in Edinburgh, around 700 at the demo. in Leeds, and a similar figure at the march in Sheffield.

I estimate that the actual numbers of people the marchers spoke to at the different meetings/rallies etc was in the region of 60,000. If you add to that all the street activity they were involved in, as well as the people the marchers met along the route, that figure is nearer 100,000.

The occupation at Northampton was perhaps the most striking highlight of the march. The campaign to defend Cyril Munda with the occupation of the borough treasurer's office and the subsequent arrests only made the marchers more determined. It would be no exaggeration to say that the march played a major part in the defence of Cyril.

Around fourteen thousand pounds was raised, which meant not only did we cover all the costs of the march, but we made a profit of £2,000. For a detailed account of money generated as a consequence of the march, see treasurers report.

There are many more examples and anecdotes that would need a book by itself to do them justice. But in order to 'immortalise' as many of them as possible it is planned to produce a 'diary of the march'. This will be on sale at the national conference.

On the basis of the daily reports from each leg, it was clear that there was and still is a tremendous hatred of the poll tax and the march served to enforce this. It could be said that in many areas the poll tax issue had gone off the boil a little. But, when the march went through it was once again at the front of everyone's minds.

There are many people and organisations that deserve to be mentioned for their part in the success of the march, but once again, they are too numerous to mention here. But the Polytechnic of North London students' union, Queen's college students' union in Glasgow and the students union at Liverpool poly. deserve special mention. If it wasn't for their assistance in supplying three mini-buses, the march may well have been jeopardised. Not only that, they saved the National Federation a considerable amount of money in van-hire.

It was clear that some areas were better organised and prepared for the march than others. But the further into the march the better the organisation.

Overall the march was a resounding success, which culminated in the demonstration on October 20th, organised by the London federation and led by the People's march.

Finally, every member of the People's March Against the Poll Tax should be congratulated for taking the message of mass non-payment on behalf of the Federation and the fourteen million non-payers throughout the country.

Steve Nally November 1990.

Federation Constitution

The following alternative Federation Constitution has been submitted. The National Committee's recommendation is printed alongside the name of the submitting organisation.

The existing constitution, as agreed at the founding conference of the Federation, is printed immediately afterwards, along with the amendment recommended by the National Committee.

WOODHOUSE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE POLL TAX OPPOSE

1. NAME

The name of the Organisation shall be the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

a) To establish an All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation which will co-ordinate the campaign against the poll tax on a National level.

b) To promote the mass non-payment and frustration of the poll tax in Britain linked, to the demands of non-implementation, non-collection and non-prosecution by local authorities.

c) To achieve these aims the Federation will establish links with trade union and labour movement bodies to harness the strength of the organised labour movement.

d) To encourage and assist in the formation of anti-poll tax unions, groups and campaigns in every housing estate, locality, trade unions, the broad left movement and sympathetic organisations in Britain.

3. AFFILIATIONS

Affiliations shall be open to any anti-poll tax Group.

4. NATIONAL CONFERENCE

a) The national conference shall be the principal policy making body of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation.

b) The National conference shall be held every six months.

c) Every member group of the Federation is allowed to send two delegates to the annual conference.

d) There will be National Officers. The National Officers shall be elected at conference.

e) Between conferences, the national aggregate is the policy-making body of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation. The National Officers shall convene the aggregate meeting of one delegate per regional or city-wide federation every

- two months. The National officers shall be accountable to these meetings between conferences.
- f) Voting shall be conducted by delegates to the conference only. In all cases a simple majority will determine conference policy.
- g) A special conference can be called by the aggregate. Arrangements and timetable for such conferences will be decided by the aggregate.
- h) National Conference meetings should be held at different regions around the UK.
- i) The aggregates agenda should be circulated to all Federations prior to the meeting so that the delegates can be fully mandated.
- 5. NATIONAL OFFICERS**
- a) There shall be four National Officers; two Secretaries, a Treasurer and a Communications and Information Officer.
- b) The officers shall be elected at the National Conference.
- c) The National Officers shall meet every two months, between aggregate meetings. A National Officers report should be given at each of the aggregate meetings.
- d) No one person can hold both National Officer and regional delegate status at any one time.

6. FINANCE

- a) Affiliated fee will be a minimum of £10 per organisation, paid annually.
- b) There will be two auditors elected by the whole conference.
- c) The Treasurer shall submit to the Conference a six-monthly statement of accounts, and shall give the aggregate a financial report at each meeting.

7. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Amendments to the constitution may only be made at National Conference, decided by a simple majority of those present.

ALL BRITAIN ANTI-POLL TAX FEDERATION CONSTITUTION

Adopted at the Founding Conference of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation, 25 November 1989..

1. NAME

The name of the organisation shall be the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a) To establish an All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation which will co-ordinate the campaign against the poll tax on a national level.
- b) To promote mass non-payment of the poll tax in Britain, linked to the demands of non-implementation, non-collection and non-prosecution by local authorities.
- c) To achieve these aims the Federation will establish links with the trade union and labour movement bodies to harness the strength of the organised labour movement.
- d) To encourage and assist in the formation of anti-poll tax unions, groups and campaigns in every housing estate and locality in Britain.

3. AFFILIATIONS

Affiliations shall be open to anti-poll tax unions, groups, trade unions and labour movement bodies, tenants' associations, community groups, youth organisations, womens' organisations, pensioners organisations, student's unions and ethnic minority organisations.

4. NATIONAL CONFERENCE

- a) The National Conference shall be the sovereign policy making body of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation.
- b) The National Conference shall be held at least once a year.
- c) Every member group of the Federation is allowed to send two delegates to the national conference.
- d) There will be a National Committee. The National Committee shall be elected at conference.
- e) The National Committee shall convene an aggregate meeting of one delegate per regional or city-wide Federation at least 3 times a year. The National Committee shall be accountable to these meetings between conferences. A National Committee report will be given to each meeting.
- f) Voting shall be conducted by delegates to the conference only. In all cases a simple majority will determine conference policy.
- g) A special conference can be called at the discretion of the National Committee, who shall do so if called for by one third of the affiliated Federations. Arrangements and timetable for such conferences will be decided by the National Committee.

5. OFFICERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE

- a) The National Committee shall consist of a Chair, Secretary, a Treasurer, along with places for regional or area representatives.
- b) The officers and regional or area representatives shall be elected at the national conference. The officers shall be elected by the whole conference. The regional representatives shall be elected by delegates from those regions. Functional officers shall be elected by the National Committee.
- c) The National Committee shall meet as a minimum 4 times a year. The officers shall meet as necessary to deal with urgent business arising between meetings and shall report to the full National Committee on their decisions. A quorum of the National Committee shall consist of one-third of members eligible to attend. A National Committee report should be given to each of the aggregate meetings.

6. FINANCE

- a) Affiliation fee will be a minimum of £20 per organisation paid annually.
- b) There will be 2 auditors elected by the whole conference.
- c) The Treasurer shall submit to Conference an annual statement of accounts and shall give the National Committee a financial report at each meeting.

7. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

a) Amendments to the Constitution many only be made at National Conference, decided by a simple majority of those present.

AMENDMENT FROM NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Add to point 5 of Officers and National Committee after 'a Treasurer' 'and a National Communications Officer.'

National Committee Statement To Second National Conference Of The All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation:

*Every 3 months
National aggregate
= sovereign body*

All affiliates were sent a draft NC statement and invited to submit amendments. All amendments submitted by the 7 November deadline will be discussed. To simplify the discussion, the NC has accepted many of the amendments and incorporated them into the statement below. The groups submitting the accepted amendments are named in *italics in the right-hand margin alongside the text of their amendments. The NC is appealing to these groups to move their amendments formally.*

1) a) This second conference of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation congratulates all those who are playing a part in the anti-poll tax campaign.

It salutes all those people throughout Britain who have made a stand by not paying their poll tax. Mass non-payment exists throughout the length and breadth of the country. Fourteen million people are not paying! This is a magnificent achievement and really establishes the fact that this is the biggest campaign of civil disobedience that Britain has ever seen.

We call on all APTU's to spread this action and to defend non-payers.

b) This conference extends its support to and solidarity with local government workers taking industrial action against cuts, redundancies and the poll tax. We are in favour of actively encouraging white-collar, manual and crafts workers and all local authority unions to unite in the fight against the cuts, and to link up with community anti-poll tax groups.

c) Local authority workers, housing workers, direct services, teachers, clerical and others have taken action against disclosing confidential information to CCRO's, and against collection. We call on the TUC and failing them on rank-and-file trade unionists to continue this action, and to organise a Day of Action against the poll tax, as a step forward in building further generalised action which will be needed.

d) This day of action should highlight the number of jobs and services lost through the implementation of the poll tax and to expose the lie that it is non-payment which has caused cuts, and also to show that council workers will fight wage arrestments and the use of bailiffs.

e) It expresses its complete support and solidarity with all those arrested in connection with the 31 March events in Trafalgar Square and other anti-poll tax demonstrations, and pledges to defend the right of people to take to the streets against the poll tax.

2) This conference reiterates its determination to resist and defeat this tax by all means. This means an integrated fight against the tax itself and against the cuts in jobs and services resultant upon it. Cuts are the result of the tax, not of non-payment. Consequently anti-poll tax campaigners must link up with local government unions and users of local government services to resist all cuts, and build unity in action for non-payment, non-collection and non-implementation.

Trade union branches, shop stewards' committees, workplace anti-poll tax unions and trades councils must be involved at all stages and linked with local APTUs.

There must be:

i) Mass demonstrations outside any courts where action is being taken against non-payers, and those summonsed to turn up to argue their case. Legal advice and MacKenzie's Friends must be available.

ii) Physical defence of people and premises threatened by bailiffs. People must be reassured, and made aware of the limits to their powers, A 'court order' is a statement of liability, NOT a warrant for entry. People do not have to let the bailiffs in.

iii) Industrial action against any attempt to deduct poll tax from wages. It must be made clear to employers that this would be the result of any such attempt and the amount they would lose would be more than the fine for not deducting.

All the above must be publicised in the workplaces and the wider community, so people realise that they are not alone and take strength from others.

3) Our campaign has thrown the Tories into panic. Labour recorded its biggest ever lead over the Tories in the week of the mass demonstration on 31 March. The Tories were on the run! They were forced to come up with an 'extra' £3 billion. But we are totally dissatisfied with Patten's miserable package of 'extra help'. This additional 'help' assumes an average poll tax increase next year of around £100 per person. We remain fully committed to a campaign to force the repeal of the poll tax, and in the meantime to make it unworkable.

We must build the campaign against the poll tax inside the Labour Party.

4) Our campaign has also had an impact in the Labour Party. Labour is now, thanks to us, committed to repeal the poll tax for the next financial year, which could be in 15 months after returning to office (instead of after two years as they originally said).

5) The Federation believes however that this does not go far enough, and calls on the Labour Party to have plans ready for the implementation immediately on return to office to:

*Camden Trades Council,
Camden Stop The Poll
Tax Campaign
Borstal,
Strood,
Rochester*

Crooksmoor Aptu

*Camden TC
Camden STPTC
Borstal,
Strood,
Rochester*

*Withington Womens
Section*

*Camden STPTC
Camden TC
Borstal,
Strood,
Rochester*

*Borstal,
Strood,
Rochester,
Camden TC
Camden STPTC*

Crookesmoor Aptu

*Borstal,
Strood,
Rochester,
Camden STPTC
Camden TC*

- i) relieve the burden of the poll tax on those unable to pay,
- ii) bring an immediate end to persecution of non-payers,
- iii) provide finance to prevent cuts in local authority spending and reverse the reductions in council services caused by the poll tax.

As an absolute minimum we demand that Labour councils adopt the Labour Party NECs guidelines on the use of bailiffs, which, although inadequate, give a measure of protection to the most vulnerable members of society.

6) We are committed to make the next Labour government agree to an amnesty for all non-payers – to write off the amounts ‘owed’ by non-payers and for a massive expansion of resources to protect jobs and improve services. This campaign will not stop until this amnesty is achieved.

7) The Federation has played a decisive role in launching, sustaining and developing the non-payment campaign. Nationally, the demonstrations organised by the Federation on March 31st, of 200,000 in London and 50,000 in Glasgow were the biggest domonstrations seen for 100 years. The 1 287 delegates at our Trade Union Conference on 23 June, representing over 870,000 workers was the biggest rank-and-file trade union event organised in Britain since the heroic miners’ strike of 1984/5.

The Federation therefore resolves to build upon this success by organising a major national demonstration in London on 23 March 1991. The Federation is determined to defend the fundamental right of the anti-poll tax movement to march in London, and will defend this march from attack by the police. We call on the Labour Party and the TUC to take up a mass campaign against the poll tax, including supporting our national demonstrations. A call to support us made by the Labour Party and TUC would ensure a million on the streets in opposition to the poll tax.

The People’s March Against the Poll Tax, our biggest initiative to date, has been a great success, taking the message of non-payment to hundreds of thousands of people throughout Britain. These are real achievements and successes but are only 10% of the story. The Federation is nothing without the regional and local activities.

8) This conference applauds the local APTU’s and Federations who have distributed literally millions of leaflets, hundreds of thousands of posters and organised thousands of meetings and conferences. Most of this activity, done day-in and day-out, goes unrecorded, but it is the foundation of all our activity. In particular the mobilisations in Scotland to see-off the sheriffs’ officers show what we have achieved. In England and Wales the work around the magistrates courts has been very effective, to the degree that local authorities and courts are falling out. We are responsible for this.

9) Some courts are now refusing ‘MacKenzie’s Friends’ and we fully support both the use of the Judicial Review procedure AND mass campaigning activity – forcing councils to at least make sure procedures are scrupulously followed.

10) This conference recognises that the crucial task facing us is not only to extend non-payment but MOST IMPORTANTLY to defend the non-payers. Our ability to achieve this will be the deciding factor in the campaign. Here, young people at work or in the colleges have a vital job. They have provided the bulk of the resisters in Scotland. Every APTU should give special attention to the question of drawing young people into the campaign.

11) We are under no illusion that the tools and methods of intimidation at the disposal of local councils are worrying to many non-payers, especially amongst the elderly. We will defend the non-payers with everything at our disposal. The Federation will respond every time the Bailiffs are sent in. We condemn the bully boy methods used by bailiffs in Northampton, Redbridge, Southend and Wandsworth – where irregular and illegal distress has been carried out, we must respond immediately with lobbies, demonstrations etc. This conference commits itself to the building of bailiff buster teams and the defence of communities from the bailiffs. Lobbies of the councils and individual councillors’ surgeries must be organised, demanding the council returns all property, does not work with the bailiffs’ firm in question and that the bailiffs’ certificate is removed from them. Pickets must be organised outside the bailiffs’ offices to alert the community to the methods used by the firm. Maximum publicity should be produced, leaflets and posters warning people of the bailiffs and telephone trees must be in operation.

12) The Scottish Federation’s promise to stop all warrant sales has been made a fact. They have mobilised the movement and the neighbours of people attacked. When benefit arrestments were threatened the Fed responded with a massive publicity campaign around the Hunger Protest – which aside from raising thousands of pounds, publicised the scandal of benefit arrestments and rightly embarrassed Labour local authorities. Other actions like the occupation of council offices and DSS offices has been effective.

Full support must be given to the Northampton 20 defence campaign, who are being charged with section 5 of the Public Order Act for protesting at Cyril Mundin’s threatened imprisonment. They face possible costs of £10,000 just for a court hearing. Prosecution of the Northampton 20 is being used to intimidtdate the anti-poll tax campaign against organising peaceful civil protests.

13) Occupations are a necessary weapon in our arsenal. But they should be carried out peacefully and in a disciplined manner around immediate demands or to protest at a particular action. Such protests against the bailiffs are a legitimate method of protesting and protecting the non-payers

Portslade Aptu

Camden STPTC
Camden TC
Borstal,
Strood,
Rochester,

Hasland Aptu

from organised intimidation.

14) This conference notes that the setting of the poll tax rate at £380 will lead to widespread capping next financial year as councils fail to remain within their target. The councils are already faced with a choice of inflicting massive cuts in services and job losses or to stand and fight. Unfortunately councils are choosing the former strategy. Some councils are trying to put the blame for cuts in services onto the doorstep of non-payment. We totally reject this. As we stated at our founding conference we are against the slashing of council services. It is precisely the implementation of the poll tax that leads to cuts. We demand well funded, good quality, local services. We demand that the government provide the necessary money. With them it’s a case of ‘Can Pay but Don’t Want To Pay’!

The vital question is a campaign to force the government to give back the money they have cut from councils since 1979 – £46,000 million. Building links with local authority unions is important to stop the government and local councils dividing the non-payers from the council workers. A clear example of the Tories continuing attack on local government funding is in Strathclyde where the revenue support grant and business rate have been increased by only 8.3% against an official inflation rate of 10.9% with a £5.2 million reduction in the safety net provision. This has led to a situation where, in order merely to maintain current levels of service, Strathclyde Regional Council would require to raise the poll tax by over £100. In response to this the council, rather than lead a fight against the Tories, is planning to make cuts of £60 million to £70 million in jobs and services and at the same time to increase the poll tax by between £50 and £60 while attempting to lay the blame for this on the non-payment campaign.

It is therefore vital at national and local level to counter this slander with well researched arguments and propaganda in order to ensure that councils who carry out Tory cuts are not able to direct responsibility for the financial crisis in local government onto poll tax non-payment. Aptu’s must start approaching local authority unions and ask them to speak around aptu branches. Joint meetings and rallies should be held and joint leaflets produced, linking mass non-payment to the campaign to defend jobs and services. The Federation commits itself to organising an affiliation drive aimed at local authority unions to the Federation to build links between the mass non-payment campaign and the campaign to defend local jobs and services.

15) Fighting Attachment of Earnings Orders (AEOs) can be effectively done in the workplaces. Initiatives like the ‘Ford Workers Against the Poll Tax’ (based at Dagenham) are extremely important in preparing the way to resist any attempt to force AEOs through.

We note with concern attempts to arrest wages. This Federation also notes that although trade union branches may have policy which supports industrial action in the event of wage arrestments this action will not be automatic in reality. Therefore the Federation must build links with local workplaces now in preparation for the threat of wage arrestments. Aptu’s should assist in setting up of workplace Aptu’s, organising public meetings, produce special leaflets aimed at the workforce explaining why industrial action is the most effective action against wage arrestments. If possible joint leaflets, meetings etc should be organised with the trade union branch..

16) Any attempt by a council in England or Wales to jail a non-payer will be met by the biggest campaign we have launched yet.

We applaud the rapid response of the Federation calling a national demonstration and producing leaflets in protest at the threatened imprisonment of Cyril Mundin for non-payment of the poll tax. We will respond in the same manner with every area committed to mobilise for national action if other non-payers are threatened with imprisonment.

17) We need to step up the campaign, especially around the setting of the new poll tax rates in February/March 1991, with public meetings and lobbies of councils.

18) We call on the TUC/Labour Party to organise a national demonstration on Saturday 23 March 1991 against the poll tax. Should such a call not be made, this Federation will take on the task of organising a national demonstration to celebrate the non-payment campaign, in Central London regardless of whether the authorities permit such a march.

19) We reiterate, we declare our unconditional support for all those arrested , and will defend them. The Federation will organise its stewarding at future demonstrations in such a way as to defend demonstrations against any attacks by police or others, and will immediately and unconditionally defend any demonstrator(s) arrested, The Federation will take whatever action is necessary to claim and defend the right of people to take to the streets anywhere to protest against the poll tax.

We totally condemn the naked campaign of organised state intimidation by the police and their agents against the anti-poll tax campaign.

The attacking of demonstrations, the arrests of hundreds of protestors, the execution of early morning raids on activists’ homes, the imposition of huge fines and jail sentences, the use of agents provocateurs and the blatant manipulation of the media to try and criminalise our campaign are all evidence of the above.

In this situation the maximum unity of our movement is absolutely essential to properly defend all the victims of this state intimidation. In particular we must defend those arrested in Trafalgar

Strathclyde Fed

Felling Aptu

North Derbyshire Fed

West Hampstead, Rowley
Way, Crumpsall, Sth.
Streatham, St Albans,
Moss Side, Chorlton,

Camden Trades Council,
Camden Stop The Poll
Tax Campaign
Borstal,
Strood,
Rochester

North Pollok Aptu
Dormanside Aptu

Square on March 31st and those arrested since in the ‘Operation Carnaby’ scandal. However, all others have to be just as enthusiastically defended, including the Northampton defendants, the Glasgow Eight and those dragged from the court hearings throughout the country.

Conference should fully support the Trafalgar Square Defendants’ Campaign to provide the fullest legal back-up to those arrested on 31st March. It is in the interests of all defendants that this campaign seeks to promote and support maximum unity and condemns those who abuse support for the defendants by embarking on activities and publishing literature that clearly attacks our Federation and thus divides the movement.

Specifically, conference and the TSDC should totally condemn those in Brockwell Park on October 20th who physically and verbally abused our democratically elected officers and invited speakers. Such behaviour plays into the hands of the state by portraying our movement as divided. Those involved in such actions are assisting the state and doing a disservice to those in jail and awaiting trial who need a united movement.

The overwhelming success of the anti-poll tax campaign is due in no small part to the mass unity that has been forged in the struggle, particularly in Scotland. Any person or Group unwilling to accept the democratic discipline of the campaign are only assisting the state in their attacks on us.

20) We can be proud of the First year of the Federation. We still have a long way to go – the bulletin for instance needs to be produced at least bi-monthly, and we commit ourselves to achieve this objective (including the need to raise money to finance the bulletin). On the other hand, we have also achieved many miracles of organisation.

21) In order to continue and expand the work of the Federation, increased funds will be needed. These cannot come from just the already committed activists. Therefore the Federation must consider and implement additional methods of raising funds from other sources. Methods to be considered could include various types of benefit performances, socials, draws, cards (appropriate seasonal greetings with no religious connotation) – remember what was done during the miners’ strike, other merchandise etc. A sub-committee including people already experienced in this type of activity should be set up to propose and subsequently implement such initiatives.

22) We pledge to build on our achievements, defend the non-payers and drive the Tory poll tax off the statute book!

Amendments

The National Committee is not recommending that the following amendments are included within the National Committee Statement. We are asking for remittance of the majority of amendments below, on the basis that the points raised have already been incorporated into the statement but deserve the consideration of the incoming National Committee. If organisations refuse to remit their amendments, the NC will reluctantly recommend opposition.

To avoid confusion the NC’s recommendation is printed alongside the name of the submitting organisation/s.

1. CROOKESMOOR APT REMIT *Agreed*
4/ delete all and insert:
We will campaign for a/: the rank and file, stewards’ committes and branch officers to co-ordinate and take joint action against cuts and the poll tax; b/ for the national local authority union leaderships to link together local disputes and give them a national focus by organising a national one-day strike against cuts, redundances and poll tax.

2. CROOKESMOOR APT REMIT *Agreed*
5/ Delete all and insert:
; support those councillors who refuse to pay or implement the poll tax; and organise to pressurise Labour councils not to prosecute non-payers, send in the bailiffs or authorise wage or benefit deductions. We must demand that the next Labour governemnt extends an amnesty to all non-payers, and others victimised for non-implementation.

3. CAMDEN STOP THE POLL TAX CAMPAIGN
CAMDEN TRADES COUNCIL
BORSTAL
STROOD
ROCHESTER REMIT *Falk*
7 and 19 (These are to some extent repetitive)
Insert after ‘National Demonstration’ ‘in Trafalgar Square’

4. CAMDEN STOP THE POLL TAX CAMPAIGN
CAMDEN TRADES COUNCIL
BORSTAL
STROOD
ROCHESTER OPPOSE *Falk*
Insert new paragraph 8/ as follows:
8/ The Federation therefore resolves to build upon this success by organising major national demonstrations in London and Glasgow on 30 March 1991.

5. CROOKESMOOR APT OPPOSE *Winds*
8/ Delete all.

6. CAMBUSLAND & RUTHERGLEN CAPT REMIT *Ag*
Paragraph 8/
Line 4 After 1st word ‘March’ delete comma and ‘of’ and insert ‘attracted’

Same line – after ‘Glasgow’ insert period and delete rest of sentence i.e. ‘were100 years.’

7. CROOKESMOOR APT OPPOSE
11/ Delete all and insert:
Extending the non-payment campaign and stepping up the campaign for non-implementation will be vital if we are to be able to defend non-payers. Youth and students can play, and have played, an important role here. We encourage APTU’s to link up with LPYS branches and student aptu’s to co-ordinate mobilisations for court appearances, to stop bailiffs, etc. We also welcome the ‘Campaign for a Fighting union’ initiative launched by some National union of Students NEC members, to commit NUS to its policy of mass non-payment and non-implementation, and pledge our support to it. We also applaud the initiative by the West Yorkshire Area NUS in holding a 5,000 strong student demonstration against the poll tax, which got good local – but, unfortunately, not regional or national – support from the mass non-payment campaign.

8. ST. WERBURGHES APTU OPPOSE
Delete:
14/ ‘peacefully and’ *Wills*

9. CAMDEN STOP THE POLL TAX OPPOSE
CAMDEN TRADES COUNCIL
STROOD
BORSTAL
ROCHESTER *Falk*

14/ Delete second sentence

10. CROOKESMOOR APT REMIT *Falks*
15/ Delete all and insert:
Community groups need to orientate towards local government workers in order to win the propaganda battle that cuts in jobs and services are actually due to the implementation of the poll tax rather than non-payment of the poll tax. The leafletting of workplaces, joint demonstrations and the occupation of town halls must be organised and built for – in conjunction with trade unions – to support workers who are taking action against the cuts and poll tax implementation. It is only by combining the strength of the unions and labour movement with the community aptu’s that we can beat the poll tax. The tax is the latest of over a decade of central governmnt attacks on local governmnt. £46,000 million has been cut from councils’ budgets since 1979, and we will campaign for the next Labour government to fully reinstate the Tory cuts, and ensure proper funding from central funds for local government.

11. ST. WERBURGHES APTU REMIT *Ag*
19 all and replace with:
‘This Federation will organise a national demonstration on Saturday 30 March 1991 against the poll tax in central London to celebrate the non-payment campaign. We call on the TUC to support this.’

12. TOOTING APTU REMIT *Falks*
Delete Paragraph 19 and replace with:
19/ The federation will call a demonstration on 30 march, against the poll tax and in support of TSDC and all the prisoners from Trafalgar Square and Brixton Hill. the demonstration will be organised in defiance of any attempt to ban our movement from the streets. The Federation will organise the physical defence of the demonstration from police attack and will fight for Labour Party and trade union support to make the demonstration a massive show of defiance from the organised labour movement.

13. SOUTHVILLE AND ASHTON APTU REMIT *Falks*
ROCHESTER
Add to point 20:
‘in London on March 31st 1990’ ‘and October 20th 1990.’ Add at the end ‘the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation gives wholehearted support to the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign.’

14. CRUMPSALL APTG REMIT
ROWLEY WAY APTU
ST ALBANS APTU
SOUTH SREATHAM APTU
CHORLTON APTU
MOSS SIDE APTU
WEST HAMPSTEAD APTU *Falks*
Add to point 20/
after ..‘subsequently.’
Add: ‘We resolve to give financial support to the Trafalgar Square Defence Campaign to support its initiatives and urge local anti-poll tax unions to affiliate to this campaign.’

15. ST. WERBURGHES OPPOSE *Falks*
Add:
20 after ‘...March 31 1991’ ‘and October 20 1990;’
Delete ‘provocateurs’ and

Add 'The All Britain Federation will affiliate to and support all its initiatives taken by the Trafalgar Square Defence Campaign. It will provide legal and practical support for all those arrested on anti-poll tax demonstrations. We condemn those Federation officers including Steve Nally who offered to co-operate with police enquiries after the 31 March demonstration.'

16. MANSFIELD APTF REMIT *Agreed to remit.*
Amend 21:

Add: 'We commit ourselves to initiate a mechanism so that all affiliations are informed of the minutes of all National Committee meetings. We will encourage more consultation between regional representatives and local affiliates so that all non-payers feel they have a say in the ABAPTF apart from at National Conference.'

17. CAMDEN TRADES COUNCIL OPPOSE
CAMDEN STOP THE POLL TAX CAMPAIGN
STROOD,
BORSTAL
ROCHESTER *Falls.*

21 Add:
We recognise that the poll tax is part of the co-ordinated national attack by this Tory governemnt against the working class. To defeat it co-ordinated action is needed, building on the various local actions and defence mechanisms toward the more generalised industrial action that will be required. We must raise this issue now, and start building toward it. Local groups must be so organised as to lead to the setting up of accountable, delegate-based bodies which can act as co-ordinating and mobilising centres for action.
To build such a campaign we need a broad non-sectarian movement open to all who oppose the tax, not confined to nor controlled by any one political group. It must be seen, not as a 'front' organisation, but an expression of the will of a wide variety of ordinary people, and all officers, committees, etc. must be democratically elected and continuously accountable.
We demand that the Labour party and TUC lead such a campaign now, not wait for a General Election, but if they will not we shall do it ourselves.

18. CAMDEN TRADES COUNCIL REMIT
ROCHESTER APTU
SPLOTT APTU
OLDHAM APTF
BEESTON APT
REDLAND & COTHAM APTU
ENFIELD APT
ROWLEY WAY APTU
HUNTERS BARR APT
CRUMPSALL APTU
HARWICH APTU
MORELY APTAG
TULSE HILL APTG
HULME APTU
BISHOPSTON APTU

Falls.
This conference Notes:
1/ The overwhelming opposition throughout the country to the Tory poll tax.
2/ That the national demonstration held on March 31 1990 was the biggest and angriest anti-Tory demonstration held at any time since Thatcher came to power.
Believes
1/ That opposition to the poll tax has continued to grow, noting the 1,000 who demonstrated outside the Tory Party Conference in Bournemouth and the 15,000 who greeted the People's March in October in London.
2/ That the Federation must provide a national demonstration in Central London on a Saturday in March or April 1991.
Resolves
1/ To call a national demonstration in Central London on a Saturday in March or April 1991.

19. HYDE PARK ANTI-POLL TAX UNION REMIT
'This conference instructs the national committee to organise a national demonstration to mark 12 months non-payment in England and Wales and 2 years non-payment in Scotland. To be held on the weekend of 31 March/1 April 1991. This conference instructs the NC to resist any attempts by the government, police to ban such a demonstration.'

20. SPLOTT APTU REMIT
ENFIELD APTU
BEESTON APTU
REDLAND & COTHAM
OLDHAM APTF
ROWLEY WAY APTU
HUNTERS BARR APT
HARWICH APTU
CRUMPSALL APTU
SOUTHVILLE APTU
MORELY APTAG
BISHOPSTON APTU
TULSE HILL APTG
HULME APTU
ROCHESTER APTU
This conference notes:

1. The large number of arrests that took place on March 31 1990 and the brutal attack by police on demonstrators outside Brixton Prison on Saturday 20 October 1990.
2. The severe sentencing that has been meted out by the courts for those charged with offences arising out of the March 31 demonstration.
believes
1/ That the fault for the violence must lie firmly within the police.
2/ That the tactics of the police, and their general behaviour, is the main explanation for the violence on March 31st and October 20th.
Resolves
1/ To give full support and legal assistance to all those charged and convicted from incidents arising from March 31 and October 20th.
2/ To fully support the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign and its initiatives.

21. STOCKBRIDGE APTG REMIT
This Federation committs itself to organising a mass demonstration on the streets of central London, including Trafalgar Square on March 30 1991. This will go ahead no matter what the authorities try to do about it. All regional Federations are urged to mobilise for this central London demonstration and are urged not to organise local events which could clash with this demonstration.

22. ROWLEY APT REMIT
HUNTERS BARR APT
REDLAND & COTHAM APTU
BEESTON APT
CRUMPSALL APTU
HARWICH APTU
MORELY APTAG
BISHOPTON APTU
HULME APTU
EXETER SOUTH APTU

Falls.
This Conference notes:
1/ The continues high levels of non-payment throughout the country.
2/ The widespread use of the courts to try and force non-payers to pay.
3/ the use of the bailiffs
4/ The attempts at arrestment of wages
Resolves
1/ To support all those continuing to refuse to pay the poll tax.
2/ To encourage many reluctant payers to join the campaign
3/ To call picket of court hearings.
4/ To organise pickets against bailiffs carrying out their work.

3/ To mobilise workers in their trade unions against attempts to collect the poll tax, including:
a/ boycotting of any work connected with the bailiffs.
b/ Non-co-operation in the collection of information about claimants or council tenants.
c/ supporting all attempts to black or take industrial action against the implementation or collection of the tax.
d/ to call for industrial action against any attempts at arrestment of wages.

23. LEWISHAM APTU OPPOSE
This AGM unconditionally defends the more than 500 anti-poll tax protesters arrested following the police provocation in and around Trafalgar Square on 31 March. We condemn this deliberate attempt by the police to discredit the anti-poll tax movement and to attack the right to demonstrate.
We condemn the statements made by the Chair and Secretary of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation blaming demonstrators and political groups for the violence instigated by the police, and offering to 'name names'.
We disassociate ourselves from the ABAPTF's cowardly refusal to organise further mass demonstrations, as shown by its hostility to call for a mass demonstration in London on October 20th.

24. EXETER APTU
EAST DEVON APTU OPPOSE

1. After 9 add new 10:
Local APTUs and Federations were dismayed that the letter inviting them to this conference included the unacceptable proposal that credentials be issued on a 'first come first served basis...' Conference condemns the National Committee for its decision to hold the conference in an inadequate hall and to impose arbitrary restrictions on elected delegates.
Renumber paragraphs as necessary.
2. After 9 (and new 10 if carried):
A further National Conference shall be held within 4 months of this conference.
Renumber paragraphs as necessary.
3. Delete all of paragraph 19 and insert:
This conference calls a march, in central London, organised by the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation on a Saturday at the end of March 1991, against the poll tax. The Federation shall invite the Labour Party nationally and constituency Labour Parties, other political parties opposed to the poll tax, the TUC and all affiliated unions. They shall be asked to sponsor the march and participate. If the police attempt to ban the march or undermine it by imposing an unsuitable route, the Federation shall insist on our right to march and if need by defy any ban or restriction.
5. After paragraph 19 insert a new paragraph:
The national march following the one proposed for March 1991 shall be held in Birmingham.

Resolutions

The following section is resolutions submitted by affiliated organisations in their own right and not amendments to the NC Statement. The NC's recommendation is printed alongside the name of the submitting organisation/s.

CLAPTON APTU SUPPORT

Following the heavy-handed policing of the last two national anti-poll tax demonstrations, Clapton aptu is concerned and angry about the comments made by the Metropolitan Police that they may recommend to the Home Office that all future demonstrations against the poll tax be banned. This would be an outright attack on the fundamental democratic right to demonstrate.

We warn the government now that any attempt to curb the right to assembly and to demonstrate will be met with bigger demonstrations that ever before seen in Britain.

We will defend the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation's right to hold a national demonstration, in March 1991 and pledge our unions fullest support in building for it.

BISHOPSTON APTU SUPPORT

This APTU notes:

1/ The general behaviour and tactics of the police at anti-poll tax demonstrations.

Believes:

1/ That these are unnecessary, provoking, confrontational, expensive and condemnable.

2/ That the police tactics reflect the government's desperation and its ruthlessness in attempting to smash the anti-poll tax movement.

Resolves:

1/ to call for and organise a national petition condemning these police tactics. This petition to be handed in to Parliament and heads of police before the next national demonstration.

Borstal anti-poll tax union REMIT Rochester Aptu Strood Aptu

This conference regrets that the Executive Committee Statements were not circulated earlier. Their arrival less than a month before the deadline (and in some cases non-arrival) means that some affiliated bodies will not have been able to consult as fully as they would wish with members. This applies in particular to the Borough-wide bodies with affiliated Groups. If the Borough mailing had just gone when it arrived or a monthly meeting had just taken place it might not have been possible. This is contrary to the democracy which is supposed to exist in the Federation. Some organisations felt themselves to be unable to comment since they had not been able adequately to consult their members. This is not a proper way for business to be conducted nor policy decided.

This conference instructs the new Executive Committee to ensure that future documents are circulated in time; where labour movement bodies are concerned this may well be a period of two months. General statements of principle, long-range plans etc, can be so drafted and circulated; matters of urgency subsequently arising can be dealt with by addenda.

Oldham Aptu OPPOSE

This Anti-Poll Tax Conference notes with concern the fixed delegation fee required from groups sending conference delegations and would ask the National Committee in future to levy a charge from each affiliated body that reflects its 'ability to pay' and also operate a pooled fare.

Barnsley and Bradford District Federation OUT OF ORDER

Barnsley Against the Poll Tax, being the Federation of all the Anti-Poll Tax Unions in the Barnsley area, feel that a Regional Committee is needed in Yorkshire. This will be a delegate body with each Federation in the Yorkshire area to send two delegates to the Regional Committee.

The Function of the Regional Committee will be to pass ideas and information from individual APTUs to others in the region, and through the National Committee member to the All-Britain Federation. The Regional Committee would receive regular reports and information from the National Committee member. The Regional Committee would take any decisions necessary regarding the running of the campaign of non-payment at a regional level, each delegate having one vote. Regional Committees would be open to non-voting observers from Federations and Anti-Poll Tax Unions in the Yorkshire area.

As the only representative gathering of delegates from Yorkshire Anti-Poll Tax Unions is the National Conference, we call for time to be arranged for Yorkshire delegates to vote on this resolution.

BARNSLEY CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE POLL TAX SUPPORT

Barnsley Campaign Against the Poll Tax condemns the violence used by the police against the Anti-Poll Tax Demonstration on October 20th. We support the statement by Steve Nally, Secretary of the All-Britain Anti Poll Tax Federation, that denounced 'police provocation.' We deplore the police violence used against both major national demonstrations in England. We call for the immediate release of all those arrested on Saturday October 20th and those still held from the March 31st demonstration. We condemn statements from senior police calling for the banning of such demonstrations in the future and we reaffirm the right of protestors against the poll tax to demonstrate as and when they consider it necessary.

LEIGH Aptu REMIT

The Leigh Anti-Poll Tax Union strongly believes that to be able to win our battle of non-payment we must SERIOUSLY take up the question of trade unionists breaking the law and not processing the poll tax at the workplace and dole offices, etc.

We supported the initiative at the Conference held in Liverpool for Trade Unionists Against the Poll Tax. However, no on-going committee was formed to continue the work and no firm proposals of future action were taken. Without broadening the

non-payment movement into the trade unions our campaign will be isolated.

We propose the following points:

1. Our campaign must link our struggle to, the fight against all job losses and cuts in services in local authorities;
2. That all the Broad Left organisations be approached to liaise with the ABAPTF;
3. That a United Front must be made with the Socialist Movement Trade Union Liaison Committee to bring their forces and the ABAPTF to fight together and not separate from each other — unity is our strength;
4. To urge as many trade union branches as possible to affiliate and send delegates to local APTUs to strengthen our links and campaigning work;
5. That a comprehensive and coherent list of how we will undertake this work in the trade unions be circulated to all these organisations and the APTUs.

Broomhall APT OPPOSE Companies House (workplace) Aptu, Cardiff

This conference notes:

the continuing mass level of non-payment with millions who can't or won't pay;

the growing organisation of anti-Bailiff squads to prevent legalised theft of workers' property;

the crisis in local government finances and the huge cuts that will result from next year's council budgets;

the continued failure of the official labour movement to organise any resistance to the poll tax.

However, this conference also notes:

1. The failure of the non-payment campaign to decisively defeat the poll tax and the ability of the bosses' courts to get around delaying and disrupting tactics;
2. Excluding the London demonstration, the low response to the People's March against the poll tax;
3. The inability of the leadership of the ABAPTU to go beyond a strategy of non-payment and to explicitly rule out a campaign that fights for industrial action against the poll tax;
4. The disgusting conduct of the ABAPTU leadership in condemning anti-poll tax protesters after the March 31st demonstration in London;

Therefore the conference believes:

1. that the current strategy of the ABAPTU, based primarily and almost exclusively on a campaign of mass non-payment will not defeat the poll tax;
2. the only strategy that can actually defeat the poll tax is one that combines mass non-payment with mass strike action against the poll tax.

This conference resolves to:

1. Relaunch the campaign against the poll tax on the basis of the slogans 'DON'T PAY, DON'T COLLECT and STRIKE AGAINST THE POLL TAX';
2. build defence squads in every area to physically defend workers against the bailiffs;
3. campaign for non-collection amongst local government workers;
4. attempt to turn every strike against the effects of the poll tax into strikes against the tax itself;
5. demand local councils set illegal budgets and refuse to co-operate with collection;
6. fight for and organise generalised strike action to defend non-payers and non collectors;
7. build councils of action in every area linking the fight against local government cuts and redundancies to the fight against the poll tax;
8. prioritize the building of APTUs in the workplace based on a strategy of industrial action to smash the poll tax;
9. organise, immediately, a week of action against the poll tax, with nationally produced workplace-aimed propaganda arguing for strike action against the poll tax;
10. affiliate to the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign and support unconditionally all those arrested and imprisoned as poll tax protesters.

LAMBETH AGAINST THE POLL TAX SUPPORT

This meeting congratulates the All London Anti-Poll Tax Federation for the excellent demonstration organised on Saturday 20 October. Over 35,000 people marched to celebrate mass non-payment and to welcome the People's March Against the Poll Tax. That demonstration showed that the poll tax movement is going from strength to strength and that our campaign is more than capable of organising demonstrations that are well-stewarded and peaceful.

The lesson of October 20th is that if the Federation had been allowed to steward the demonstration on March 31st then the riot in central London would have been avoided.

Certain problems arose at the picket of Brixton prison, organised by the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign. We fully support the democratic right of those demonstrators to picket Brixton prison and highlight the plight of all those arrested on or after March 31st.

From eye witness accounts it is clear that the presence of the police, their heavy-handedness and their tactics provoked the clashes that took place in Brixton. In particular, they did not allow the picket to gather and disperse peacefully as was arranged previously. The police, therefore, must bear full responsibility for what happened.

There were no riots in Brixton on October 20th, yet the media and police have quite deliberately blown the incidents that took place out of all proportion in order to detract from the really important event of the day — a large and peaceful demonstration against the poll tax, followed by over-the-top policing outside Brixton prison.

The police are now using the problems they caused, and the ensuing exaggerated media coverage as a pretext for discussion of banning future anti-poll tax demonstrations in London and elsewhere. Both senior police officers and Tory MPs are on record in making this scandalous suggestion.

We will never allow our demonstrations to be banned. We will continue to march against the poll tax. If there is even the slightest hint of a ban on marches we pledge our full support to the national campaign for the right to demonstrate, planned by the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation. This campaign must be taken into the labour movement, the trade unions, local communities and the anti-poll tax movement.

We condemn the hypocrisy of those Tory MPs who, on the one hand, praise the workers of Eastern Europe for demonstrating, yet on the other hand are attempting to take away that right from workers here in Britain. The right to march, the right to free assembly, the right of free speech and the right to protest against the government's policies are rights that were won by the labour movement through generations of struggle. We will not allow these rights to be taken away.

Emergency Rel. list

This government has openly attacked trade union and democratic rights for the past eleven years. We demand that Labour and Trade Union leaders stand firm alongside us in defending our democratic rights. The banning of anti-poll tax demonstrations would only be the start of future attacks on the democratic rights of the labour and trade union movement.

The anti-poll tax movement is a democratic movement. It defends and is supported by millions of people. Whatever this government tries to do we will continue marching, and refusing to pay the poll tax, until the poll tax is defeated.

This Anti-Poll Tax Conference

Notes

1. The large number of arrests that took place on March 31st 1990 and the brutal attack by police on demonstrators outside Brixton Prison on Saturday 20th October 1990.
2. The very severe sentencing that has been meted out by the courts for those charged with offences arising out of the March 31st demonstration.

Believes

1. That the fault for the violence must lie firmly with the police.
2. That the tactics of the police, and their general behaviour, is the main explanation for the violence on March 31st and October 20th.

Resolves

1. To give full support and legal assistance to all those charged and convicted from incidents arising from March 31st and October 20th. We support the TSDC in this process.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEFENCE CAMPAIGN
CAMDEN STOP THE POLL TAX CAMPAIGN
CAMDEN TRADES COUNCIL
BORSTAL APTU
STROOD APTU
SOUTHVILLE AND ASHTON APTU **REMIT**
Amendment to the National Committee General Statement as follows:
Points 19) and 20): Delete all and add

- a) We note and applaud the huge turnout on the October 20th London demonstrations to greet the People's Marchers and to support the anti-poll tax defendants and prisoners – this despite the efforts of the police to beat our movement off the streets at Trafalgar Square, March 31st.
- b) We note that the police once again used violence to break up a peaceful demonstration in order to discredit our movement.
- c) we note that over 130 protestors were arrested, and scores were injured during indiscriminate charges by baton-wielding police, many in full riot gear.
- d) we commend the protestors, who showed immense courage and restraint in the face of this intimidation.
- e) we note that, in the aftermath, the police and some Tory politicians have called for future anti-poll tax demonstrations to be banned.
- f) we note that the October 20th defendants are likely to receive, as March 31st defendants are, political show trials and excessively high conviction rates and heavy sentences.
- We resolve:
- i. To give full support to those arrested on October 20th and to demand their charges be dropped.
 - ii) To pledge our solidarity with the March 31st defendants, especially in the run up to the Old Bailey trials of defendants on 'riot' charges (carrying up to a 15 year sentence) in the New Year, and to demand all charges be dropped.
 - iii) To utterly condemn the police for their violent and lawless behaviour on March 31st and October 20th.
 - iv) To affiliate to the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign – which is run by and for the March 31st and October 20th defendants, and open to all APT organisations – and to continue to circulate their literature and support their initiatives, including a National Right to Demonstrate/Solidarity Conference in the New Year.
 - v) To urge all APT organisations who haven't yet affiliated to do so, and to recommend that local and regional federations fundraise to provide financial backing (including travel costs) to defendants from their area.
 - vi) To protest against the poll tax and to defend the right to demonstrate, by calling a national march through Central London (including Trafalgar Square) on Saturday March 30th 1991, and to pledge to go ahead with this whatever the response of the police, government and media. Publicity to start straight away. The TSDC is invited to send voting delegates to planning meetings/committee for the demonstration, and to co-ordinate the Legal Back Up System for the day.

Nominations For Secretary.

Name: STEVE NALLY
Nominated by: Avon Federation, Strathclyde Fed., Barlow Moor APTU, Bramley APTU, Withington YS, Swale APTU, MSF Liverpool CNS, Waveney APTU, Forest Town/Clipstone APTU, St Thomas/Port Tennant APTU, Derby/District APTU, Lambeth APT Fed, Castle APTU, Glenthroes APTU, Hemel Hempstead APTU, Beacon Lough APTU, CPSA Central London DHSS, Idle APTU, Horseclose APTU, Granby APTU, Manchester Labour Womens Council, Dovecott APTU, AEU Derby 3, Lowfell Against The Poll Tax, Rainham APTU, Welsh Federation APTUs, Ashington Youth Rights Campaign, Eccleshill APTU, Scotstoun/Whiteinch APTU, Rhdyfelum APTU, Pitsea APTU, Wrekenton APTU, Newcastle College APTU, Bingley APTU, Croyden APTU, Stanley/District APTU, AEU Keighley 6 Branch, Northern Region APT Federation, Blyth Valley APTU, Cohse Pinderfields 285 APTU, Keighley Trades Council, Kirklees APT Federation, Gateshead Against The Poll Tax, Wallsend APTU, Long Eaton/District APT Campaign, Rugby Central APTU, Clipstone NUM, Mayfield/Easthouses/Newtongrange APTU, Bradford District Fed of APTUs, Deighton/Mosborough APTU, Harbrough APTU, Undercliffe APTU, Lidget Green APTU, Lion Farm/Rowly Regis APTU, Newbilton/Longlawford APTU, Braunstone APTU, Priory/Wren's Nest/Old Park Farm APTU.

Name: JANE CONNER.
Nominated by: Camden Stop The Poll Tax, Tooting APTU

Name: DANNY BURNS
Nominated by: Streatham APTU, Plymouth APT Federation, Camden Trades Council, South West Federation Of APTUs, Bridgwater Against The Poll Tax, Forest Fields/Hyson Green APT Campaign, Exeter South East APTU, Camden Stop The Poll Tax Campaign.

Name: ANDY MARK
Nominated by: Manchester Poly SU APT Group, Manchester Socialist Teachers Alliance, Rochdale APTU, Hulme APTU, Heaton APTU, Merton Council Workers APTU, Kingston APTU, West Hampstead APTU, Crumpsall APTU, Acre Lane APTU, Manchester University Workers APTU, Bensham/Saltwell APTU, Saltmeadows/Chandless APTU

Nominations For National Chair

Name: JANE CONNER
Nominated by: Camden Stop The Poll Tax Campaign, Southwest Fed. of APTUs, Camden Trades Council, Exeter South East APTU, Streatham APTU, Forest Fields/Hyson Green APT Campaign, Bridgwater APTU.

Name: DANNY BURNS
Nominated by: Tooting APTU.

Name: JOHN TIPPLE
Nominated by: Rochdale APTU, Bensham/Saltwell APTU, Rowley Way APTU, Saltmeadows/Chandless APTU, Manchester Socialist Teachers Alliance, Heaton APTU, Merton Council Workers APTU, Kingston APTU, West Hampstead APTU, Uplands/Brynmill APTU, Acre Lane APTU, Crumpsall APTU, Manchester Poly SU APT Group, Hulme APTU, Manchester University Workers APT Group.

Name: TOMMY SHERIDAN.
Nominated by: Strathclyde Fed., Horseclose APTU, Ashington YRC, Bramley APTU, Priory/Wrens/Old Park Farm APTU, Rugby Central APTU, Manchester Labour Womens Council, Long Eaton/District APT campaign, Lion Farm/Rowley Regis APTU, Clipstone NUM, Nell Lane/Barlow Moor APTU, Undercliffe APTU, Waveney APTU, Lidgett Green APTU, Deighton/Mosborough APTU, Castle APTU, Kirklees APT Fed, Braunstone APTU, Mayfield/Easthouses/Newtongrange APTU, Keighley Trades Council, Coshe Pinderfields 285, Hemel Hempstead APTU, Wrekenton APTU, Blyth Valley APTU, AEU Keighley 6 Branch, Northern Region APT FED, Bingley APTU, Beacon Lough APTU, Eccleshill APTU, Pitsea APTU, Wallsend APTU, Withington YS, Newcastle College APTU, Welsh Fed of APTU's, Withington Womens Section, Croyden APTU, Rainham APTU, Bradford District Fed of APTU's, AEU Derby 3, Rhdyfelum APTU, Lowfell Against The Poll Tax, Dovecot APTU, Forest Town /Clipstone APTU, Derby/District APTU, Idle APTU, Wombell APTU, Plymouth Anti-Poll Tax Fed, Granby APTU, Gateshead Against The Poll Tax, Lambeth APTF, Glenthroes APTU, MSF Liverpool CNS, Stanley/District APTU, St Thomas/Port Tennant APTU.

Nominations For National Treasurer.

Name: NICK MILLS
Nominated by: Forest Fields/Hyson Green APT Campaign,

Name: NICK MOSS
Nominated by: Camden Stop The Poll Tax Campaign, Plymouth Anti-Poll Tax Federation, South West Federation Of APTUs, Camden Trades Council, Tooting APTU, Streatham APTU, Exeter South East APTU.

Name: NICK MORRIS
Nominated by: Bridwater APTU.

Name: CHANIE ROSENBERG
Nominated by: Merton Council Workers APTU, Hulme APTU, Rowley Way APTU, Kingston APTU, Manchester University Workers APT, West Hampstead APTU, Rochdale Aptu, Crumpsall APTU, Acre Lane APTU, Heaton APTU, Saltmeadows/Chandless APTU, Manchester Socialist Teachers Alliance, Bensham/Saltwell APTU, Manchester Poly SU APT Group, Uplands/Brynmill APTU.

Name: BARRY FAULKNER
Nominated by: Dovecot APTU

Name: MAUREEN REYNOLDS
Nominated by: Gateshead Against The Poll Tax, Eccleshill APTU, Clipstone NUM, Rugby Central, Priory/Wrens Nest/Old Park Farm APTU, Undercliffe, Deighton/Mosborough APTU, Lidgett Green APTU, Low Eaton/District APT Campaign, Mayfield/Easthouses/Newtongrange APTU, Kirklees APT Federation, Beacon Lough APTU, Keighley Trades Council, Withington Womens Section, Ashington Youth Rights Campaign, Northern Region APT Fed, AEU Keighley 6 Branch, Nell Lane/Barlow Moor APTU, Castle APTU, Bingley APTU, Wrekenton APTU, Welsh Fed Of APTU's, Lowfell Against The Poll Tax, Rainham APTU, Newcastle College APTU, Horseclose APTU, AEU Derby 3, Bradford District Fed Of APTU's, Idle APTU, Withington YS, Forest Town/Clipstone APTU, Croyden APTU, Derby District APTU, Granby APTU, Braunstone APTU, Lambeth Against The Poll Tax, MSF Liverpool CNS, Stanley/District APTU, Manchester Labour Womens Council, Wallsend APTU, Bramley APTU, Rhdyfelum APTU, St Thomas/Port Tennant APTU.

Nominations For National Communications Officer.

Name: STEVE NALLY
Nominated by: Glenthroes APTU.

Name: DAVID SELLARS
Nominated by: Barton Hill/Redfield APTU.

Name: KEVIN MILES
Nominated by: Castle APTU, Gateshead Against The Poll Tax, St Thomas/Port Tennant APTU, Ashington Youth Rights Campaign, Bradfield District Fed of APTU's, Eccleshill APTU, Clipstone NUM, Idle APTU, Blyth Valley

APTU, Croyden APT FED, Northern Region APT Fed, Newcastle College APTU, Lowfell Against The Poll Tax, Wallsend APTU, Stanley/District APTU, Beacon Lough APTU, Undercliffe APTU, Wrekenton APTU, Lidget Green APTU, Forest Town/Clipstone APTU, Derby/District APTU.

Name: IAN GREAVES

Nominated by: Bridgwater APTU, Woodhouse APT Group, Southwest Federation Of APTUs, Exeter South East APTU, Forest Fields/Hyson Green APTC, Tooting APTU, Streatham APTU,Camden SPTC, Camden Trades Council, Plymouth APT Fed.

Name: ROB WINDSOR

Nominated by: Priory/Wrens Nest/Old Park Farm APTU.

Name: JEREMY DEAR

Nominated by: Lambeth Against The Poll Tax.

Name: JOHNNATHAN DAVIES

Nominated by: Bensham/Saltwell APTU, Saltmeadows/Chandless APTU, Rochdale APTU, Kingston APTU, Merton Council Workers APTU, Hulme APTU, Manchester Socialist Teachers Alliance, Heaton APTU, Rowley Way APTU, Acre Lane APTU, Manchester University Workers APTU, Uplands/Brynmill APTU.

National Committee Nominations

Nominations for Regional seats:

1. Northern:

Ray Physick

Gateshead Against The Poll Tax
Ashington Youth Rights Campaign
Beacon Lough APTU
Consett APTU
Lowfell Against The Poll Tax
Stanley and District APTU
Blyth Valley APTU
Wallsend APTU
Wrekenton APTU

Kevin Miles

Northern Region APT Federation

Yunis Bakhsh

Saltmeadows/Chandless APTU
Bensham /Saltwell APTU

2. Scot. East

Jackie Moyers

Mayfield Easthouses Newington Grange APTU

Ron Slater

Aberdeen APTU

3. Yorkshire

Razina Boston

Bingley APTU
Horseclose APTU
AEU Keighley 6 Branch
Keighley Trades Council
Deighton/Mosbrough APTU
Hull District APT Fed
Bradford District Federation Of Anti-Poll Tax Unions
Barnsley Campaign APTU
Kirklees APT Federation
Lidget Green APTU
Undercliffe APTU
Bramley APTU

Sally Kincead

Beeston APTU

4. North West

Jim Hadi

Mancs Poly SU APT Group

Sean McDermot

Rochdale APTU
Crumpsall APTU
Heaton APTU
Mancs Socialist Teachers' Alliance
Mancs Univ Wks APTG

Barry Faulkner

MSF Liverpool CNS

Maureen Reynolds

Withington YS
Nell Lane/Barlow Moor APTU
Withington Womens Section
Manchester Labour Womens Council

5. West Mids

Rob Windsor

Hereford APTC
Overslade/Bilton APTU
Rugby Central APTU
Newbilton/Long Lawford APTU
Brownsover/Newbold APTU
Lionfarm/Rowley Regis APTU

Dave Griffiths

Priory Wrens Nest/Old Park APTU

6. East Mids

Steve Hoare

Bolsover APTU
Clipstone NUM
Derby/District APTU
Nottingham Federation
Longeaton/District APT Camp
Braustone APTU
Harborough APTU
Foresttown/Clipstone APTU

Gary Freeman

AEU Derby 3

Steve Battlemuch

Forest fields/Hyson Green APT

7. Wales

Cath Harding

Castle APTU
Welsh Federation APTU
St Thomas/Port Tennant APTU
Rhalfelem APTU

8. London

Sham Singh

Camden Stop The Poll Tax
Camden Trades Council

Tom Cowan

Tooting APTU

Julie Donovan

Lambeth APTU
Croyden APTU
Streatham APTU
Sutton APTU

Wally Kennedy

Lambeth APTU
Croydon APT Federation

Andrea Butcher

West Hampstead APTU
Rowley Way APTU

Roland Wood

Sutton APTU

D Franklin

Kingston APTU
Acre Lane APTU
Merton Council Workers APTU
Streatham APTU

9. Southern

Bill North

Rainham APTU
Swale Aptu

10. Eastern

Dave Murray

Pitsea APTU
Hemel Hempstead APTU

11. South West

Danny Burns

Bridgwater APTU
Southwest Fed APTU's
Exeter South East APTU

Dave Sellars

Totterdown APTU
CB Transport Service APTU

12. Scotland West

Jim Cameron

Strathclyde Federation Conference

To the TSDC from the officers of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation. 25th October 1990

Dear Comrades,

We are writing to raise some matters of extreme concern. At the outset we should say that we hold the police responsible for what happened around Brixton on 20 October and we must defend the people arrested at that time. However, there are some matters of strategy and tactics that we would like to hear from you about.

As you know we organised the very successful demonstration on 20 October against the poll tax. Even the BBC TV news said that 35,000 attended in a "carnival-like atmosphere." As many people did stay away — there were fewer families this time — because of the fear or worries about violence, the attendance was a great achievement for the poll tax movement.

This success was of course due to the campaigning work but also through good organisation and good stewarding of the event itself.

There were, however, some 'trouble spots' during the rally which are of particular concern to us.

During the speeches of Tony Benn, Steve Nally, Tommy Sheridan and the striker from BTR there was organised chanting of abuse — including racial abuse against the South African speaker. There were also chants of 'left wing scum' and even 'fascist' against Tony Benn and Tommy Sheridan. The surrounding demonstrators were becoming increasingly incensed at not being able to hear the speakers. Worse, beer cans were thrown at the bus from where the speakers were addressing the rally. Some of these hit children at the front and we were extremely lucky that no-one was seriously hurt.

We write to bring this matter to your attention as a number of stewards reported to us that these people purported to be supporters of the TSDC. It is true that many of these people were also associated with Class War.

In Brockwell Park there was a stall that was selling TSDC material. Also on sale were videos and a publication from Acab Press called *The Battle of Trafalgar: Poll Tax Riot*. This publication carries much material like all journalists are legitimate 'targets'. As one defendant facing a jail sentence (section 2 Public Order Act) has said to us, to say the least this publication damages the position of the defendants with its boasts about rioting and looting etc. This publication is clearly not in the interests of those facing court appearances, even though the profits go to the TSDC.

On this occasion we find ourselves in agreement with *The Morning Star* which said in its editorial on 22 October; "The labour movement should take care to distance itself from anarchist groups such as Class War that so often provide the excuse for the police to wade in. Equally, however the labour movement needs to remember that the use of provocateurs by the state is not a new phenomenon". A clear and public condemnation of such tactics as abuse and throwing beer cans etc. is a necessary means of protecting the movement from provocateurs. We seek such a condemnation from your campaign.

Additionally, your 'legal observers' were seen rounding up people for the prison picket while the rally was still going on.

We are seeking your comments about these matters.

We are also concerned about the events outside the prison. We of course support the democratic right to picket to highlight the position of the defendants. However, that is not sufficient.

As you know there were many reports of the police seeking a 're-match' for 31 March. There was an ever present danger that the police would use any incident as a provocation to attack the march. Under these circumstances it is the duty of organisers to make sure that there is adequate stewarding to prevent, in so far as it is possible, such provocations and to thereby protect the event.

One of the London Federation demo organisers spoke to a leading member of TSDC on Friday 19 October after the meeting with the police. He was warned of the likely consequences of the event if it was not properly stewarded. When asked to respond to these points he just shrugged his shoulders.

There is also the additional factor of the speaker at the rally itself from the TSDC. It was a totally inflammatory address, unnecessarily so. Considering he was speaking on behalf of the defendants (not himself) his references to the burning of the South African Embassy were unnecessary. He also gave many people the impression that the 'picket' of the prison was an official Federation event. We have received reports from London, Scotland, the South West and Merseyside that people went to the picket because they thought it was a Fed. event. These people expected better protection, like they had just experienced on the main march. Some felt frankly they had walked into an ambush. The TSDC speaker said to the people in the Park, "we will defend you, we will protect you", which in the light of the preparations made was irresponsible.

As you know, our view was that the interests of all the movement were best served by a massive united demonstration. However, you chose to organise your own events which is of course up to you but it is reasonable to expect that they will be organised and stewarded properly. The PA equipment was totally inadequate to keep the people on the picket informed of what was happening.

There is great sympathy for all the defendants (from March 31, Operation Carnaby and now October 20), and the need to mount a real defence for them is a necessity. The Federation of course supports these actions. However, we do not believe it is in the interests of the defendants that public events are organised in the way the Brixton picket was.

These matters will be discussed at the next Fed. National Committee. We are also asking the Regional Federations for their views. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours fraternally,

Steve Nally, Tommy Sheridan, Maureen Reynolds,
National Secretary, National Chair, National Treasurer

Reply from the TSDC to the letter from the officers of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation and circulated to all regional Federations. 7 November 1990.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In the opening paragraph of your letter of 25 October you state; "we hold the police responsible for what happened around Brixton on 20 October and we must defend the people arrested at that time." We welcome this statement. However, unless these words are backed up by a greatly increased level of practical support for and participation in

our campaign they will not be sufficient.

Your concluding sentence that; "it is not in the interests of defendants that public events are organised in the way the Brixton picket was" is in complete contradiction to your initial assertion that you hold the police responsible for what happened. It is not clear to us from reading your letter what point you are trying to make. If you are seeking to suggest that we bear responsibility for the arrests that took place then we object in the strongest possible terms. The difference between the TSDC Brixton demonstration and the LFAPTU demonstration is that the TSDC demonstration was attacked by the police, whereas the LFAPTU's was not. The Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign organised the largest picket of a court since the war as a feeder to the All London Federation march; the largest protest outside a British Prison since the 'Pentonville Five' in the early seventies and above all the best and most comprehensive legal back up and monitoring of police activity on any demonstration. This back up operated throughout the day up to midnight. The London Federation committee unfortunately refused to give any practical or political support to the events which we organised on October 20th, even though we provided legal liaison volunteers for their march. Hence we bore the entire costs of £2,100 for the day and performed a phenomenal feat of organisation unaided by the organisers of the main demonstration. Given that they refused to take part, the accusation that our level of preparation was irresponsible is inexplicable and insulting.

Upon the formation of the Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign you agreed to fully support the campaign. Since the first month of the campaign no representatives of the national or London federations have attended any of our meetings or events. If you wished to have any input into the organisation of the Horseferry Road or Brixton Prison pickets or wished to formally communicate any misgivings you may have had about them you could have attended any or all of the weekly Wednesday meetings in Conway Hall or the National Defendants' meetings on August 4th and September 23rd where they were discussed. We hope that you will be sending representatives in future to our meetings. We also proposed to the London Federation Committee that they should hold regular meetings on a delegate basis to carry out the organisational work for the 20th October demonstration. This would have ensured proper communication from the beginning. This initiative was opposed by Steve Nally and other officers of the Federation who proposed that only London Federation officers be allowed to attend.

You assert in your letter on All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation headed notepaper; "As you know, we organised the very successful demonstration on 20th October against the poll tax." This is not the case. It was the TSDC and a number of regional federations who at the ABAPTF aggregate in July called on the Federation to organise a demonstration to greet the people's marchers. Officers of the All Britain Federation proposed that the ABAPTF should not organise the demonstration in London and that the decision should be entirely the responsibility of those in London. On August 4 a unanimous vote of defendants at a national defendants' meeting of the TSDC decided to call for a London Anti-Poll Tax demonstration on October 20, which would emphasise the plight of defendants and the right to demonstrate. This was proposed at the subsequent London Federation meeting (this item was not even on the agenda) and after some dissent, accepted unanimously. None of the events on October 20th were organised by the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation.

Turning to the specific points in the letter. With regard to the heckling of speakers and throwing of missiles towards the end of the London Federation rally it is not clear to us why this is of relevance to the TSDC. "A number of these people purported" — presumably they also purported to be supporters of the ALAPTF since they were present at their rally.

It is not our; "legal observers" "...rounding up people for the prison picket" — their role throughout the day was restricted to legal liaison. Our stewards, however asked people to form up at 3.30pm, the announced time for the ending of the ALAPTF rally.

The Battle of Trafalgar: Poll Tax Riot pamphlet was discussed at some length at one of our meetings and we instructed the publishers to make clear that it was not published with the knowledge or cooperation of the TSDC. They subsequently did this through a disclaimer. This pamphlet was not and never has been for sale on TSDC stalls. However, we believe that those who wrote it have the right to distribute it. We do not object to people selling their literature at our events. If somebody proposed the banning of, say *Militant* on the grounds that they disagreed with its contents and felt they were not in the interests of the defendants we would adopt the same position. We are opposed to censorship.

Our speaker Richard Roques was a defendant who was up in Horseferry Road magistrates' court in the following week charged with Criminal Damage to the South African Embassy and facing a prison sentence in Brixton prison. He at no point stated that the march was anything other than a TSDC event as advertised on our leaflets distributed in the park and on all our pre-publicity.

Coming to your comments on the events at Brixton. We produced a detailed report of the events of October 20th within 9 days which clearly shows, as you yourselves recognise, that it was the police who were responsible and what took place was an unprovoked police attack to break up a legal, peaceful demonstration. We find it damaging to the defendants arrested on that day that you should have circulated this letter before consulting us and reading a copy of our report (enclosed).

With regard to your assertion of the; "PA equipment being totally inadequate to keep the people on the picket informed of what was happening" our report details how the police deliberately prevented our van with the PA system from reaching Brixton prison. The police also isolated stewards with megaphones at Jebb Avenue and seized another megaphone being used to communicate with the demonstrators just before the police attack.

We were pleased at the tremendous response to our initiative to picket both the court at Horseferry Road and Brixton Prison. It is true that there were many more people on both of these events than we had anticipated. We wish to make it absolutely clear however that even at the stage after police provocation, random arrests and the first baton charge the crowd remained calm and our stewards had the situation in hand. Far from condemning the actions of those who fought back against a ferocious and unprovoked police attack we salute and applaud their courage and determination. Any suggestion that the organisers were to blame, or that the police were provoked, flies in the face of the facts and can only play into the hands of the courts and media. This goes for the March 31st demonstration, which was organised by the ABAPTF. The TSDC has not blamed the organisers for what happened on that day. We invite you to make a joint statement with the TSDC supporting demonstrators who defend themselves from attack.

Finally we welcome the opportunity that this exchange of correspondence provides for an open and frank debate throughout the anti-poll tax movement on methods of organising demonstrations against the poll tax and our response to police attacks on the right to demonstrate.

In solidarity, The Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign, agreed on 7.11.90 by a full general meeting.