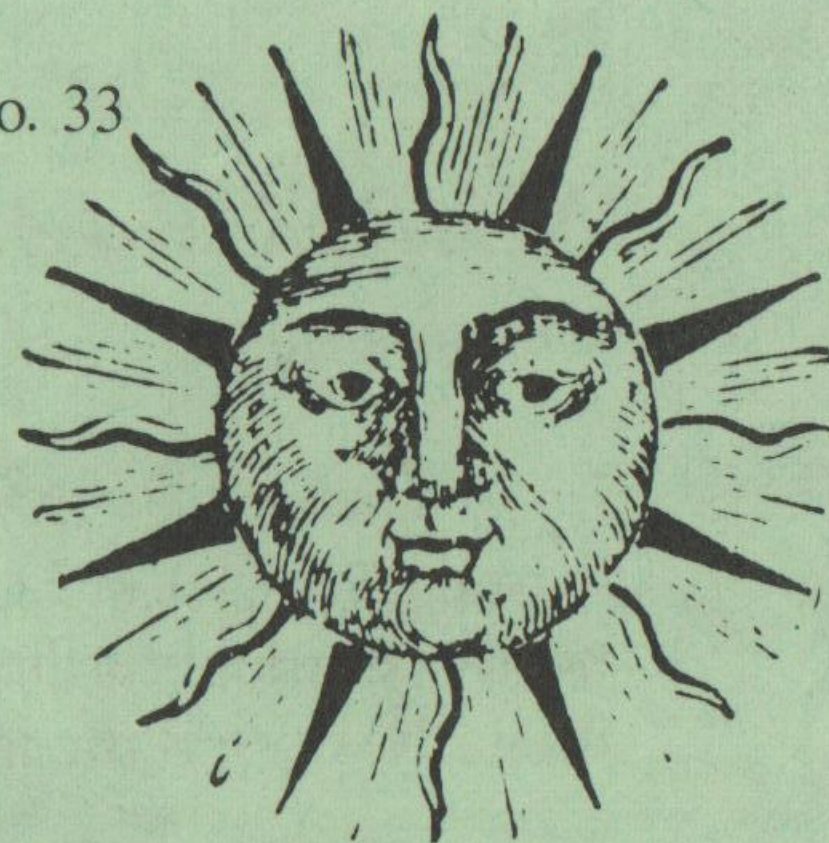


# DIARY



If you are organising a PTC event that you would like included in this section, please send brief details to the Editor in time for the appropriate edition. (12th April for the May/June issue.)

Please indicate which facilities are available for people with special needs, e.g. wheelchair access (including access to toilets), signing and/or lip-speaking for the deaf and hard-of-hearing, induction loop system, braille and/or tape facilities for people who are blind or partially sighted or who cannot read. It only takes a couple of minutes to check these details, and can save a lot of frustration for people who need to know.

Please also mention whether a creche is provided, or whether children are welcome to the event.

## MARCH

3rd Countrywide meeting of Stop the City. 10am start. Old Ambulance Station, 306 Old Kent Road, London SE1. No access or creche details.

10th Meeting in London for <sup>PTC</sup> people to share experiences of being in court. 11am to 4pm St Pancras Church Hall, Lancing Street (just east of Euston station). Please bring packed lunch. Ground floor. No other access details. No creche.

21st Canterbury CND, at Friends Meeting House, 8pm (No other information supplied, please contact Gerald Drewett)

22nd Local events all round the country to publicise Stop the City.

29th Stop the City -see page 6.

## APRIL

6th First day of the tax year. Our customary vigil in Whitehall. See page 6 for details.

12th Deadline for material for the next Newsletter!

28th PTC AGM and Conference. See page 6 for details.

# BITS AND PEACES

## MONEY, MONEY, MONEY....

Just a reminder to any of you who intended to reply to the appeal enclosed with the last newsletter, but who haven't quite got round to it. If you can help swell our funds, by however much you can afford, we can do more to push our campaign forward.

As an example of how the funds flowed last year, donations from individuals in 1983 totalled just over £9,000. Contributions by standing order came to just over £11,500. We spent over £2,000 printing posters and leaflets, nearly £6,000 producing the newsletter, and over £2,000 on advertising in the press. We could easily use double those figures this year. Please help if you can.

## RATES RESPONSE

Eleanor Tew's letter in the last newsletter brought some interesting responses from Committee members. It was decided not to take on the issue of rates spending on civil defence planning as a Campaign issue, but to suggest that local supporters might like to write to their Councillor and to the local paper asking how much is being spent on local preparations for war, and whether their rates are being used in this way. Imaginative campaigns might result in each area.

## STICKERS

What do Campaign supporters think of a PTC envelope re-use label, or sheets of round stickers (like the "Don't spend it on bombs" ones mentioned in the November/December issue of the newsletter)? Our secretaries have asked whether you would like either of these items added to our list of publicity materials. If there is sufficient demand for these we shall go ahead and produce them.

## TAX DIRECTION GOOD FOR BUSINESS

Mary and Peter Brown, the potters from Dursley in Gloucestershire, have reported an unexpected rise in sales because of the auction which followed distraint on their goods. So, tax direction not only does your conscience good - it's good for business too!

## PEACE THROUGH PARLIAMENT

We have received a leaflet from a fairly new group called 'Peace Through Parliament'. The group was formed to encourage individuals to go and see their MPs.

The leaflet gives a lot of encouraging information about visiting MPs to talk about peace, and the group has also produced discussion sheets.

Information from: Peace Through Parliament, Southbank House, Black Prince Road, London SE1 7SJ.

Published by the PEACE TAX CAMPAIGN, 26 Thurlow Road, Leicester LE2 1YE, on the first days of January, March, May, July, September and November.

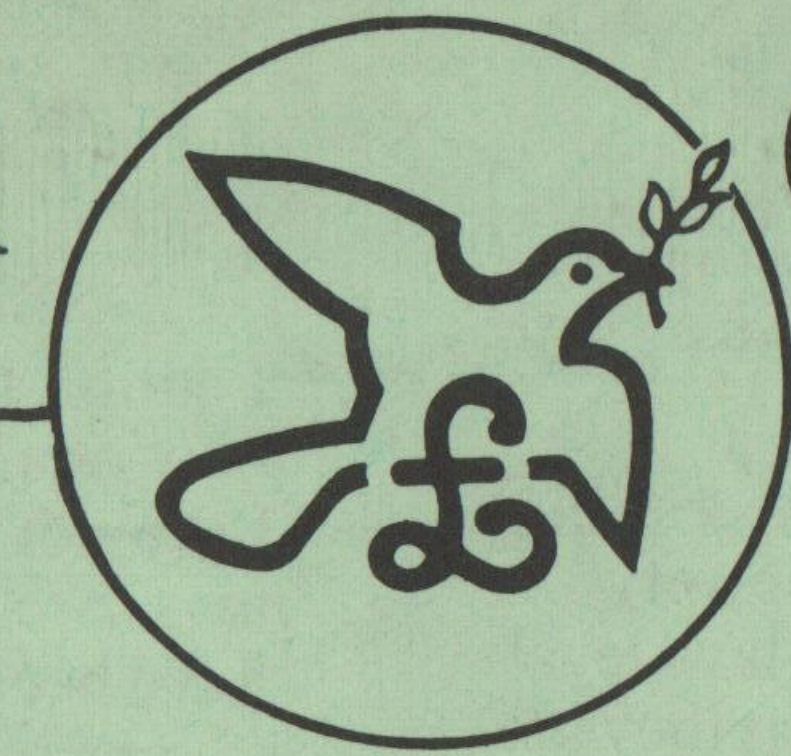
Contributions of material for the newsletter to the editor, Sherry Burton, Friends Peace Cottage, 55 Lord Street, Hoddesdon, Herts. EN11 8NE by the 12th day of the month preceeding publication.

This newsletter is available from the editor on cassette tape for supporters who are blind, partially sighted or who cannot read.

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# Peace Tax Campaign



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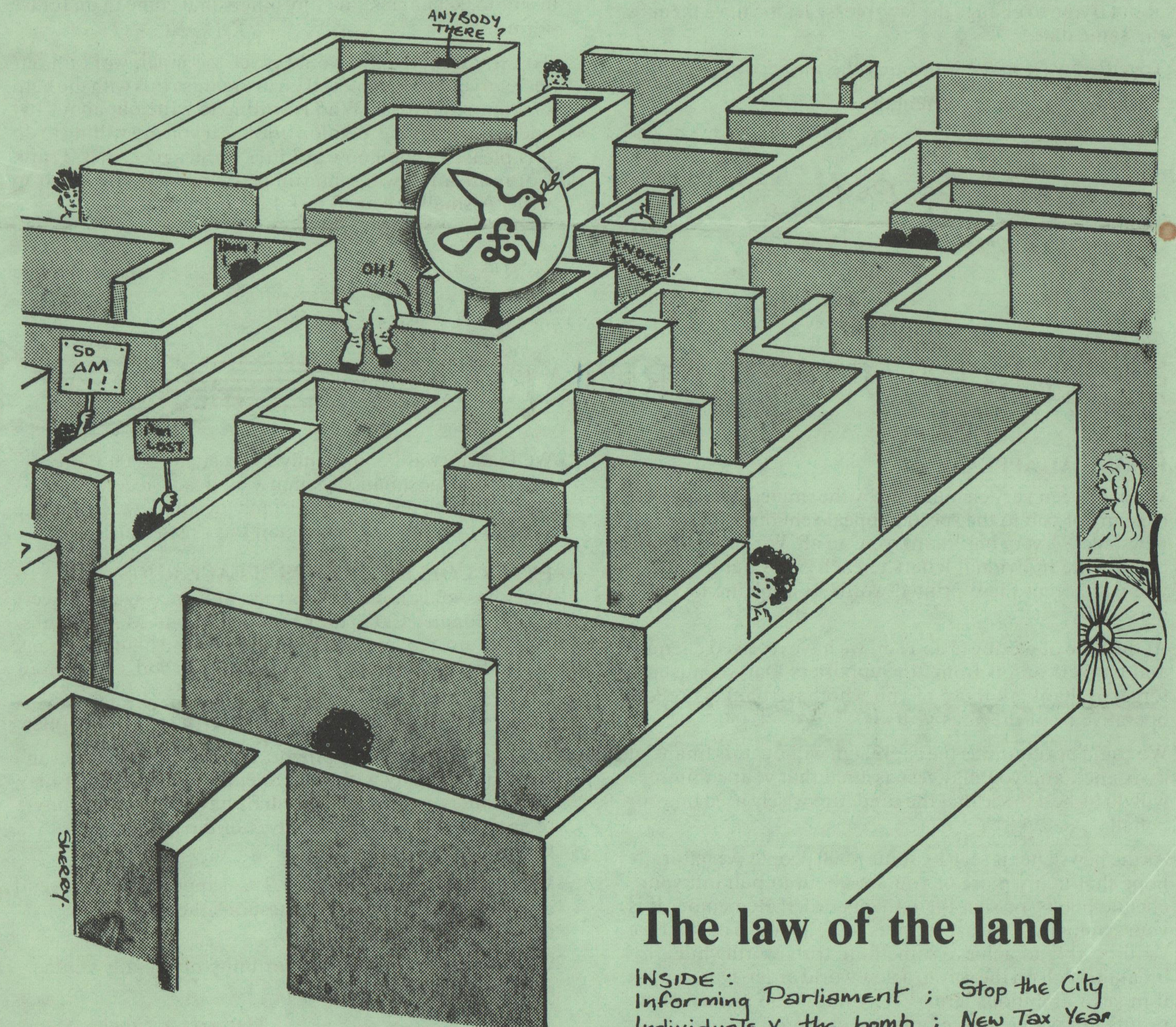
Newsletter no. 33

March/April 1984

Secretaries: Stanley and Margaret Moore, 26 Thurlow Road, Leicester LE2 1YE Telephone: 0533 702687  
Editor: Sherry Burton, Friends Peace Cottage, 55 Lord Street, Hoddesdon, Herts. EN11 8NE

The aim of the Peace Tax Campaign is to persuade the government to introduce legislation which would allow any individual who objects to paying for war or military preparations on the grounds of conscience or profound conviction to have their contribution legally redirected to

morally acceptable uses. Through the establishment of a Peace-building Fund, into which the equivalent of their compulsory contributions to military expenditure would be paid, such people would be funding with their taxes positive efforts for non-military peacemaking.



## The law of the land

INSIDE :  
Informing Parliament ; Stop the City  
Individuals v. the bomb ; New Tax Year  
Conference & AGM ; and much more...



## FROM THE EDITOR

This edition of the newsletter will make a start at examining the legal side of our campaign, exploring some of the points at which campaigners come face-to-face with the law and the law-makers.

This country's legal system is one of the least accessible areas of our lives. People are intimidated by the very thought of having to read all the relevant case law, legal briefings, etc. Laws are worded in such a way that they are difficult for those without training to understand. To many of us it seems that the law is a maze.

I do not believe that it needs to be so. The laws are there for us, not we for them. We can push for a more accessible legal system. One step in that direction is for those who have experience of handling legal situations to share their experience with others. That is what this, and the next edition of the newsletter will try to do. What has been your experience? In court; through correspondence; in personal meetings? If you would like to share an account of your experience with others, please send it to me by April 12th. How do we change the law? If you have ideas or advice about trying to change the law, please let me have them by the same date.

Together, we'll make it through the maze!

Wishing you love and strength.

*Sheepy* xx

## FROM OUR SECRETARIES

### FINANCIAL APPEAL

We have been very encouraged by the immediate response of many of you to the special appeal sent out with the last newsletter. A very big "thank you" to all. We only wish we could write individual letters to each one - but hope that you will accept these printed words as applying to you personally.

At the time of writing (Feb 11th) we have received cheques and bankers orders from 510 supporters. But we must not forget to thank all those of you who have bankers orders operative from previous years.

We could not continue the campaign without this financial assistance, and you may rest assured that your committee will do its best to see that the funds are wisely used on your behalf.

As the newsletter is seen by some 6,000 people, we naturally hope that many more of you are about to pull out your cheque books, or sign the bankers order! Remember it is your campaign - please help us to help you. Together we shall be able to achieve something truly worthwhile - a breakthrough on the way to a new world order. Dare we put it in such ambitious terms? Why not? Who knows what results innovative peace-building can produce?

## 15,000 POTENTIAL SUPPORTERS

### Will you help?

Petition type forms sent out in previous Newsletters have now returned to us about 15,000 signatures of support. We have not yet followed these up. We hesitate simply to add to our regular mailing list some 15,000 names that may have been collected rather casually. It would add £22,000 to our annual expenses, and perhaps not bring in corresponding support or finance. Just to send them all leaflets and an invitation to join our mailing list could cost over £3,000.

Should we ignore this list of potential supporters? We think not. Instead we have decided to "test the waters" by writing to a sample 1,000, asking if they wish to receive the newsletter and become active supporters (or perhaps just to keep in touch with an annual report), asking will they meet the cost at £3 (£1) per year.

Our hope will be that response to this is sufficient to justify writing to a further 1,000, and so on through the present list of 15,000 names, and any others that come in on future forms.

To carry out this task would place too much work on our secretaries. I have undertaken to organise this with the help of a few supporters. Who is willing to write out about 100 addresses from the 'petition' forms? If you are willing to do this please let me know at Little Nanteague, Allet, Truro, Cornwall, and I will send you petition forms and labels to write. A small practical task for the campaign.

Thank you,

Stanley Keeble

We look forward confidently to receiving 5,000 more letters! The postman says that we already receive more letters that the rest of the street put together - we would like to warn him to have some mail-bags ready.

### PETER COLLINGWOOD'S "PEACE RUGS"

Peter has sold another of his rugs, and once again has very kindly donated £20 to the Campaign funds. Many thanks, Peter. If any readers are interested in these high-class rugs, the address to write to is: Peter Collingwood, Old School, Nayland, Colchester CO6 4JH.

### VISIT TO MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD, JUNE 1984

Your secretaries are hoping to visit the Soviet Union in June, in company with Jack Sheppard and some of his "Pensioners for Peace". We shall have the opportunity of speaking with representatives of the Soviet Peace Committee and other groups.

We shall be very pleased if P.T.C. supporters would send along to us any suggested questions they would like us to ask.

We look forward to this opportunity of friendly contact across the artificial divide.

Margaret & Stanley Moore

## THE LAW OF THE LAND

The aim of the Peace Tax Campaign is to persuade the Government to introduce legislation so that any individual who objects to paying for war or military preparations on the grounds of conscience or profound conviction may legally have their contribution redirected to morally acceptable uses.

Over 15,000 have expressed their agreement with this aim so far: about 6,000 are positive supporters of the campaign.

No law has been changed or a new one formed without dissatisfaction with the status quo having been expressed in a positive manner. So, 133 supporters of the PTC now group together as Tax Direction Now to show such conscientious objection to both the judiciary and the Government. By withholding a percentage of income tax (13.8% or 52% for pacifists or between 4% and 20% for nuclear protestors) these gallant few have caused a lot of trouble for those who consider they control us.

So far 43 have had diversionary cheques embezzled or fraudulently converted, quite openly, by the Inland Revenue. The amount is now well over £40,000. Although the Governments' Ministers keep saying that the IR are not authorised to accept such cheques made out to a third party, usually the Overseas Development Administration Account, such cheques made out in legally 'cast iron' terms continue to be diverted and 'misused'. Several of these 43 have had such cheques accepted year after year and on the 4th October at Newcastle County Court, the Registrar exacted an agreement that such a cheque in respect of the defendant, Dr. Michael Downham, would be accepted as in a previous year. Unfortunately the IR refused the subsequently presented cheque so the Registrar has been approached to make the IR keep to their agreement.

Unfortunately this cheque, when accepted, will, like all the others, be paid into the Consolidated Fund, the pit into which all taxes, government bonds, securities, savings, etc., disappear. In 1983/4, 13.8% will end up in the budget of the Ministry of Defence. Dr. Downham can then complain to the Parliamentary Ombudsman, via his M.P., or any of the 29 M.P.'s who support the PTC, of maladministration by the Inland Revenue. We can not take the Inland Revenue to Court over this misdirection of cheques. The Inland Revenue could take me to Court for such words as embezzlement or fraudulent conversion but so far they have not. Judge Edmondson said at Kendal County Court on the 11th November 1983, in respect of Edward Stanton: "If a taxpayer makes out a cheque for his liability to the Inland Revenue, he can not complain if the Inland Revenue keeps the money and gives him a receipt".

21 supporters have now been through the Courts, including the Rev. Paul Oestreicher on the 29th November 1983. Those who have had their goods distrained upon received very good publicity in local and national media. The act of witness, of going before a Court of Law, having Bailiffs into your property, pricing your home and then auctioneers knocking down your goods to the highest bidder is traumatic. However, the publicity for our cause is so excellent that when the Browns, potters of Dursley, Gloucester, received a telephone call from the Inland Revenue, tentatively asking if they wanted to go through the whole procedure again, they bravely said 'yes'.

Bruce Kent also says 'yes!' But those clergy from CANA (Clergy against Nuclear Arms) who have approached the Church Commissioners to deduct tax from stipends under the PAYE system have received no support. Either the Church Commissioners are waiting for the result of Friends' House Staff case when it comes to Court or they are criticising the Quakers' Meeting for Sufferings' attempt to test immoral law rather than break their Peace Testimony.

PAYE is a sad case of the individual's right to personal responsibility in paying his or her taxes being taken away on grounds of administrative convenience. Fortunately a number of small firms are holding a proportion of their employees' tax. Unfortunately a 1973 Act instructs employers to pay the tax to the Collector of Taxes of the Inland Revenue. Those who pay income tax direct are subject to a much looser form of words - Section 60(1) & (2) of the *Taxes Management Act, 1970*. This states:-

- (1) Every collector shall, when the tax becomes due and payable, make demand of the respective sums given to him in charge to collect, from the persons charged therewith, or at the places of their last abode, or on the premises in respect of which the tax is charged, as the case may require.
- (2) On payment of the tax, the collector shall if so requested give a receipt.

So many officials who should know better say that this section "requires Collectors of Taxes to demand, and themselves collect, the full amount of tax charged, and the taxpayer should be requested to make the cheque payable to the Inland Revenue accordingly". (Letter to David Lea from A. C. Rex, Collector, Bangor, 9/11/83.) It does not. There may be some qualifying terms in the Public Accounts and Charges Act, 1891, but as my correspondent in the Inland Revenue Policy Division, Sue Tyrrell, has not yet sent me the relevant questions or photocopies, there may not. It is understood that this particular question is causing some alarm in the higher echelons of the IR.

So far there has been no policy guidance from the Inland Revenue to its Collectors on how to deal with PTC directionists. Instead the Policy Division maintains a watching brief and does not list us as among a class of cases which must be referred to Somerset House for guidance. Hence the present muddle in administration, judges giving decisions against their consciences, cheques being dealt with contrary to banking law and worst of all, so many peaceful people suffering the slings and arrows of outrageous misfortune because they are pacifists.

It is with this background that a group of Directionists in the Midlands who had been to Court or were negotiating with the Inland Revenue met on the 25th November, 1983 at the home of the Windsors in Gloucester. This was the logical venue because the Windsor's car had been sold at auction on the 26th October, 1983! Their experience is very valuable to other Directionists and from such meetings we can build up a stock of factual source material and guidance.

... continued on p. 5



## INFORMING PARLIAMENT

**DID YOU FAIL US?** In early November every M.P. and M.E.P. received a copy of our "Submission to the Council of Europe". We did not expect they would all at once pick up a pen to send us congratulations or excuses. No M.P. has time to respond to every pressure group or even to read all they receive. However, M.P.s do respond to constituents. We did our share; what about you?

**WE ASKED YOU TO DO YOUR SHARE** by ensuring your M.P. read our "Submission", and sending us the reply. One in ten doing this could have brought us 500 replies by Christmas. We received only 6.

**WE REPEATED OUR REQUEST IN JANUARY.** As this goes to press we have still received only 23 replies. Less than 100 of you have bought the pamphlet. This was to be a most important exercise. From the office we can only guide and assist. The work of the campaign is up to all of you. Have you asked your M.P. yet?

### TECHNOLOGY MINISTER LEARNS ABOUT PEACE TAX CAMPAIGN.

On Friday 27th January I met our M.P., Kenneth Baker, to discuss Stanley Keeble's Submission to the Council of Europe on the Peace Tax Campaign. Rather to my surprise we had a friendly and worthwhile discussion. He didn't as I had feared simply talk me down! In fact he is obviously much too busy to have had time for a careful read of the Submission I had sent him and had quite the wrong idea of what the Campaign is all about.

His first objection to the Campaign was based on a complete misconception. He thought we were asking to withhold the defence share of our income tax and said that if our aim was realised numerous people would claim to be pacifists in order to get out of paying some tax. I reassured him that we were only seeking to divert that part of our tax into a Government administered peace-building fund; there was no question of us trying to pay less tax.

That objection quashed, he immediately produced the standard government line that other groups would follow the trail blazed by the Peace Tax Campaign and refuse to

**IT IS NOT TOO LATE.** Paying for arms has been in the news since Jenny Aste of York hit the headlines. Tax resisters are noticed by the media. Quakers as supporting employers cannot be ignored. Supporters should ensure their M.P. understands the principles behind arms tax resistance. His copy of our pamphlet may now be in the W.P.B. Don't let that be the end. Send another pamphlet. Insist it is a moral issue. **DO IT NOW.** Can we hope that by Easter every M.P. will have given thought to this? Will yours? **OUR OBJECTIVE CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED WHEN PARLIAMENT HAS ENOUGH UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY TO CHANGE THE LAW!!**

Stanley Keeble.

P.S. Did you dislike the jargon over my signature in my last paragraph in January issue? So did I. "His or Her" repeated five times in a paragraph was not from my pen. S.W.K.

pay taxes towards all sorts of Government expenditure of which they disapproved. I suggested the Peace Tax claim could be made exclusive by adding to the legislation a rider saying that diversion of taxes was only allowable if the potential diverter could give reasonable grounds for belief that the government expenditure in question was a threat to the country's security (there is legal precedent for this type of rider). He said he couldn't immediately think of a reason why this was unacceptable but he was sure there must be one! Our allotted time was up. He said he was pleased to have talked to me and he hoped I understood that he too was a committed Christian and would do all he could to further the cause of Peace but he felt this must be done by keeping the country strong (militarily). However I think he understood my position and I felt he had some sympathy for it. I was glad to have seen him if only to put him straight on our basic aim and I shall follow up (well I intend to, though my good intentions have a knack of somehow not always coming off!) with another letter to remind him he hadn't actually found a reason for not supporting us.

Anne Brewer

### EARLY DAY MOTION

A motion will be published in Parliament on the following lines:

#### EARLY DAY MOTION

**A HUMAN RIGHT FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM**  
*Acknowledging that since 1916 this House has always provided for the principle of individual dissociation from military activities on account of a conscientious objection to killing.*

*Noting that heretofore this principle has been legislated in terms of exemption from military service when conscription has been in force.*

*Recognising that in the nuclear age the nature of warfare has changed so dramatically that it is now widely held that such conscientious objection should be the basic right of every citizen.*

*Calls upon this House to provide for such a human right by allowing all citizens who express such profound convictions to direct a proportionate part of their taxation into a Peace-building Fund which will promote national security in a non-military manner.*

Ask your M.P. to sign it. If he or she is diffident about the motion then engage them in correspondence on the subject. It is most important that every M.P. is made to think twice and three times about the Campaign. See the last newsletter for answers to their superficial objections. If your M.P. agrees with the Campaign, or you think he or she is nearly there, when you have finished your correspondence please forward the M.P.'s letters (or copies) to Leicester.

Gerald Drewett

## INDIVIDUALS V. THE BOMB

### PEACE MAKERS RELIEF SOCIETY

Two cases recently of Peace Tax supporters being in trouble over their stand on war taxes have reminded the Committee of the Peacemakers Relief Society that they might be of help at some time to our Campaign or those associated with it.

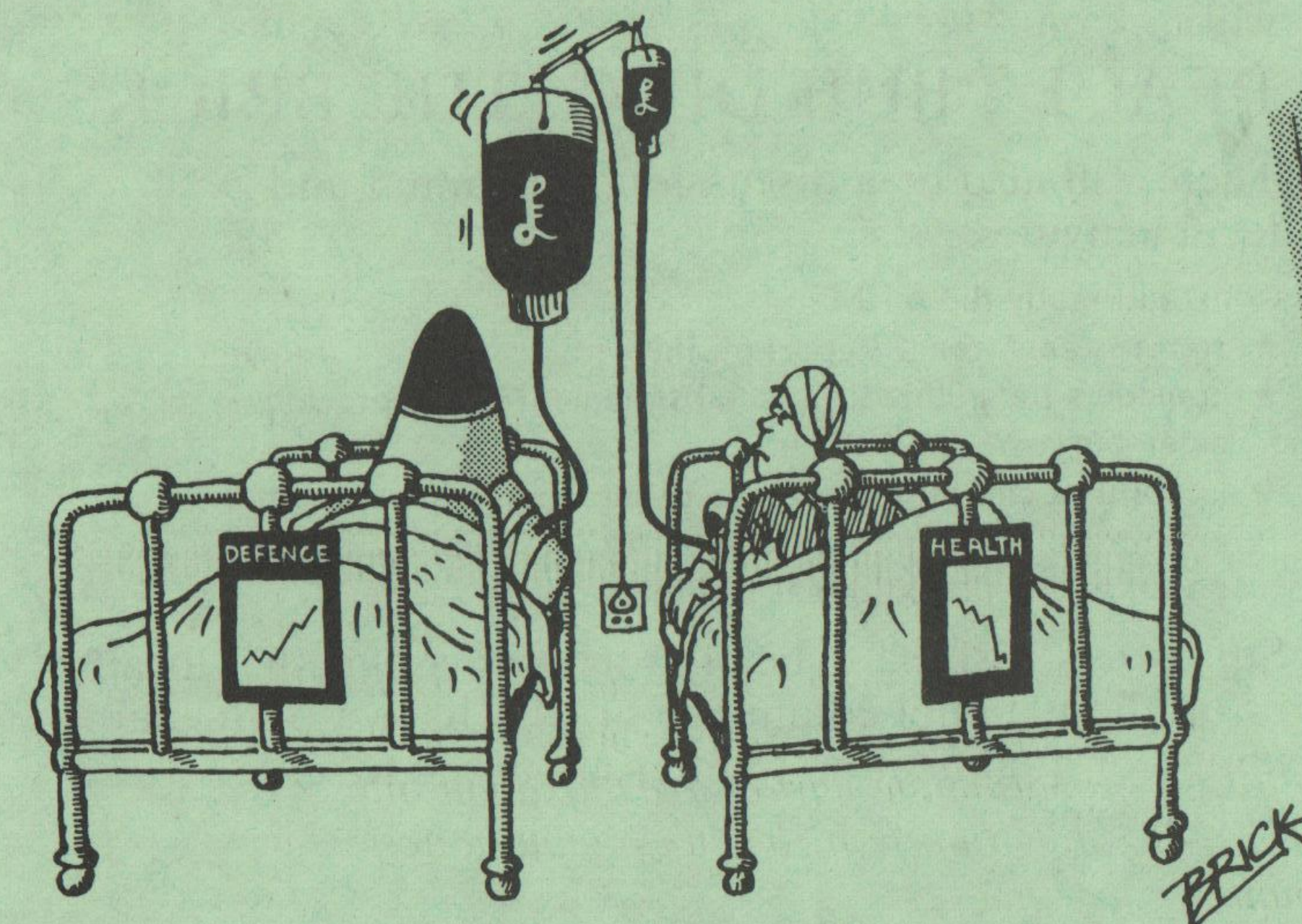
When people take their courage in both hands and act according to conscience they are usually prepared to make sacrifices. But peacemaking can be costly both in personal and financial terms.

The Peacemakers Relief Society has been founded by concerned organisations and individuals to provide a fund for people who suffer financial hardship through their nonviolent witness for peace.

The fund can provide assistance to those who take action over armaments, military, defence and related matters. It can also provide help for dependents as well as for those directly affected.

The fund provides a means of last resort when other sources have been exhausted. It is set up as a revolving fund, with those who benefit asked to contribute back to it as soon as they are able, so that others can be helped as well.

Further information from: Charles Davey, Secretary, PMRS, 145 Queen Alexandra Mansions, Judd Street, London WC1



Canon Paul Pestreicher appeared in court on 29th November 1983 in Lambeth.

The Judge said that Paul "presented his defence with moderation, fairness and patent sincerity". The number of such statements lead us to think that there must be many in the judiciary who agree with us but are hidebound by national law overriding international law. We are dealing with "Courts of Law and not of conscience."

### LEGAL HELP

We now have 4 solicitors willing and able to help. You may well know others. If so, ask him or her to write to me. I must not advertise them in the NL but can have them on file to give out when specifically requested. We also have two lecturers in Law at Sheffield and at Essex Universities.

There are 36 law schools in the UK at present and 23 polytechnics or similar, offering degree courses in law. There is very little 'peace' law taught but interest is rising, more amongst students than teachers. There is little actual law source material on which courses can be based so we have the "black-letter" approach whose advocates consider their job is to "promote value-free discussion about the law as it now stands". The Southampton lecturer who refuses to teach students wearing CND badges is of this powerful tradition. There is though a growing movement among law teachers in support of the "law-in-context" approach "which promotes such subjects as welfare law, environmental law, etc."

We need to persuade the "black-letter" teachers that "peace law" is desirable and academically respectable. It seems partly due to the dearth of suitable resource material such as text books, decided case law and commentaries that there is so little peace law taught. At Sheffield last year's exam paper included a question focussing directly on various ethical arguments related to the law!

Martin Howard

*continued from p. 3.*

Before 1980, there was, in effect, no legal experience or case law concerning the diversion of tax or as we now call it 'direction'. There was only refusal to pay which refers to only one on my list of Court cases.

To add to this knowledge there will be a meeting in London for all who have experience to share, at St. Pancras Church Hall, Lancing Street (just east of Euston Station) on Saturday, 10th March 1984, from 11am to 4pm. Please bring packed lunch so we can make full use of our time together.

The great amount of information now available is a mass of contradictions. Properly exposed to the light of commonsense it must crumble. For those who wish to follow this argument further there are several A4 sheets showing:-

- 1) The History of Tax Diversion
- 2) Tax Direction Advice Sheet
- 3) A List of Court Cases and misused Cheques

A Newsletter of which this is part keeps members up to date and explores ideas.

Martin Howard





On September 29th last year, about 1500 people took to London's 'City' streets talking to workers, peacefully picketing and blockading companies which profit from military sales, and generally trying to reclaim the area for people rather than 'blood money'. It was a major direct action against all wars and their finance. Most people thought it a success, particularly because people were able to organise themselves without being told what to do.

The second "Stop the City" event on Thursday, March 29th 1984 (when profits for the year 1983/4 are reckoned up) will aim to publicise the role of finance, not only in the international trade in weaponry, but also in the creation of poverty, ecological destruction, international repression, and in human and animal exploitation. This will be a marvellous opportunity for all movements to come together to point to a major source (profit) of the destructive decisions affecting us all. And in doing so we can create an indication of our living alternatives, through spreading ideas and our example.

## POLITICAL PRESSURE

### BUDGET DAY

Use the presentation of the Budget to write to your M.P. deploring the fact that your income is still being compulsorily conscripted for military purposes. (Income tax, VAT, etc.) It does not matter how many times you have written before; this is the time all 6,000 of us write.

## NEW TAX YEAR

**Friday 6th April.** This is the first day of the tax year and has been designated by the Peace Tax Campaign as the Official Birthday of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. PLEASE WRITE TO HIM (all 6,000 of us) on this day expressing your deep abhorrence of the fact that your income should be conscripted for military purposes when those purposes include the taking of life. His address is 11 Downing Street, London SW1. This is not a gimmick; it is part of a strategy to get the Treasury to think more deeply about the issue. Make a diary note and be sure you write.

**Annual Vigil.** On Friday, 6th April we shall be outside No. 11, or in nearby Whitehall, on our annual vigil with the slogan TAXES FOR PEACE NOT WAR. We will be there from 10am to 5pm. If you are going to be present please write to me and let me know your probable times of arrival and departure.

Gerald Drewett, 20 The Drive, Hertford

By creating a festive and happy atmosphere in London's "Death Centre" and communicating positively, we can show that love and respect for each other and the planet on which we live are far more important than power and greed.

The aim is for as many groups as possible to come together on the day and use their own initiatives, though there are one or two activities planned for everyone to join in. The possibilities are endless - music, processions, theatre, discussions, picketing, etc., 'Organisation' will probably consist of back-up services - legal support, first aid and so on. The rest is up to everyone to organise themselves.

To help publicise the event, similar activities will take place on March 22nd at other financial centres (Bristol, Manchester etc.) and even in your own home town!

Contact: Reading Peace Pledge Union, Box 10, Acorn Bookshop, 17 Chatham Street, Reading, Berks. or 'phone Bridget on Pangbourne 4532.

For general information contact London Greenpeace, Box STC, 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC1. Tel. 01-281 0719

The next countrywide meeting will be on Saturday March 3rd, 10.00am, at Old Ambulance Station, 306 Old Kent Road, London SE1

Reading Peace Pledge Union

## CONFERENCE & AGM

Saturday 28th April 1984, 10am for 10.30 until 4.30pm at GLC County Hall, Waterloo Bridge

Nicholas Gillet, a trustee of several Quaker trusts, will talk on:

### PEACE - BUILDING: THE BRICKS

There will also be a discussion of regional and local activities.

Constitutionally the AGM:

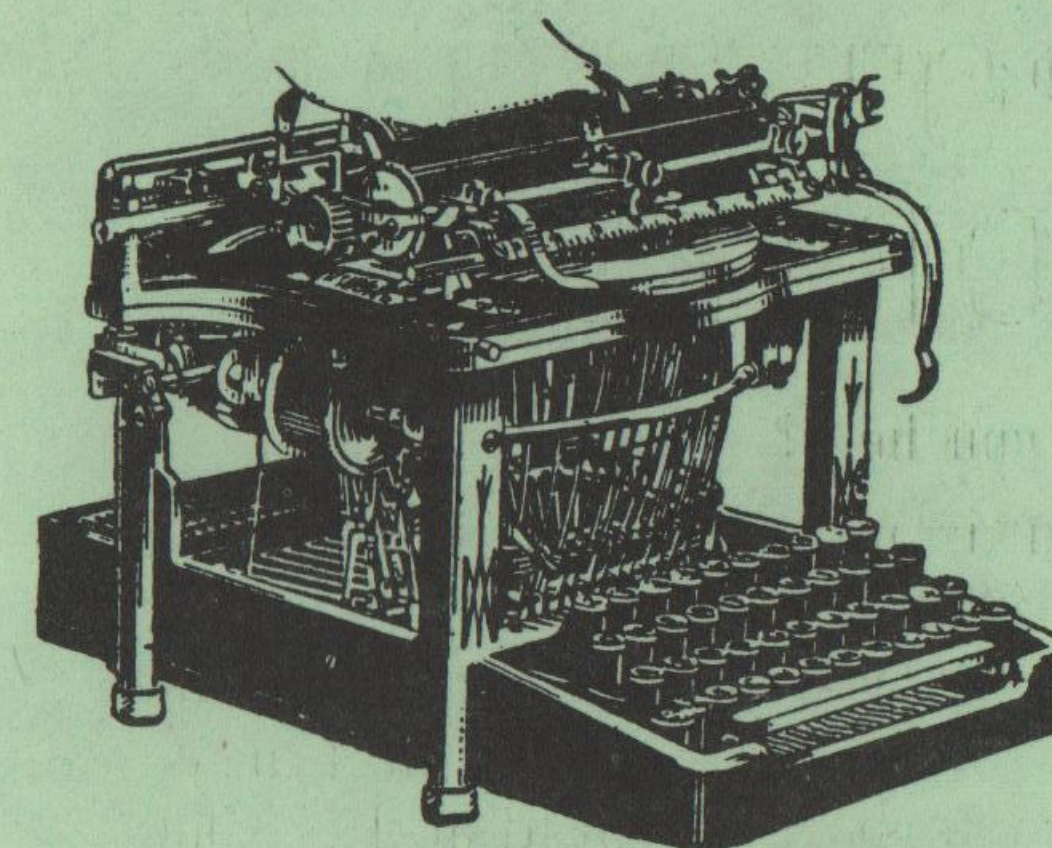
- ★ receives an Annual Report on the progress of the Campaign
- ★ considers the audited financial statement of the previous calendar year
- ★ appoints a committee of up to 15 members (the committee then appoints officers from among the 15; the committee also has the power to co-opt additional members during the year)

Supporters wishing to be of more service, whether locally or on the national committee or who have a particular ability or qualification to offer are asked to write to Leicester.

**Access.** There is ample car parking at County Hall (entrance in Belvedere Road) and the building is accessible through a wheelchair entrance at the far end of the car park. There is an accessible toilet on the first floor (men's, but women can use it). There will be a sign interpreter for the conference and AGM.

**Nearest underground:** Waterloo or Westminster.  
**BR:** Waterloo.

Please bring lunch, drinks provided, £1.00 contribution to expenses appreciated but not a condition.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

\* indicates a letter has been cut

### UNEMPLOYMENT OR FREELANCE?

Sherry,

A note for the newsletter re. Peter Robertson's letter last issue.

Unemployment benefit is taxable - when you next take up employment. The average single person with a Tax Code of 178L this year could expect to pay about £2 per week tax from this unemployment benefit - 57% (52% ? - ed.) of which is for military purposes.

Freelance work seems a better opportunity to reduce your tax bill - and to join with other self employed Peace Tax Campaigners in your area in the withholding of that portion of your taxation on the grounds that assurance cannot be given that it will be used for non-military purposes.

In friendship,

Lynn Withers, Bristol.

### KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

Dear Sherry,

Just a brief note to say thanks for the PTC Newsletter and the enthusiasm it prompts each quarter.

Especial praise for the style in which it is written and the use of non-sexist language. I have no qualms about passing it on to my women friends - which must do the campaign good.

Keep up the good work.

Jane Dawson, London SW2

Dear Editor:

I have recently received threatening letters from a terrorist group which asks that I contribute money for construction of dangerous weapons. This group makes certain claims which in the past led me to send thousands of dollars to pay for its militaristic programs. The group claimed:

1. It was concerned with peace and freedom.
2. It would provide protection for me and my family.
3. It was my duty to make these payments, and
4. It was free from personal responsibility for how this money was spent in individual cases.

Last year, for the first time, I realized that these claims were fraudulent and I refused to make further payments. Although there were threats of "penalties" I am happy to report that no more serious extortion efforts have been made.

## INDIRECT TAXATION

\* Dear Friend,

I was glad to see that the issue of Indirect Tax had been raised (Neswletter 31, p7) as Income Tax is not paid by so many people that they cannot divert part of their tax (now illegally) even if the law is changed as we are campaigning.

I hope VAT on phone, electricity, gas bills may be paid by separate cheques made out in the diversionary manner to Overseas Development Administration. This would increase immensely the number of people attempting Tax Diversion Now - at present confined to self employed and few others having to pay Income Tax direct. Can we have more discussion and reports of experience on this?

Yours sincerely,

John Mudd, Bridport, Dorset

### WRITING TO IR

Dear Sherry,

I would like to suggest a campaign possible for everybody paying tax. Quite simply everybody write to their Tax Inspector to ask, innocently, how they can divert their tax for Peace. If as many as possible do it in March the impact would be greatest. The tax people would have to reply, if they don't you can ask again. This might achieve three things:

- publicity
  - possibility of comparing explanations from different tax offices
  - and, if enough people do it at the same time, a slow down of the system.
- Obviously I don't expect that a Tax Inspector will reply that it's possible.

Yours Peacefully,

Carol Noreiko, Hull.

However, again this year I have been solicited to send money. In the meantime, I have ascertained that the organization which calls itself the United States of America, already has in its possession 423 B-52 and 73 FB-111 bombers with 3,800 nuclear warheads, . . . .

Dear friends, I hope you may be alerted not to support this terrorist organization. They depend on your cooperation and money and usually try to collect it on April 15th. They now possess a total of 30,000 nuclear bombs and each day manufacture three more at Amarillo, Texas.

Peace is not bought by bombs but by a spirit of repentance, forgiveness, and love for enemies.

John Schuchardt

from *The Tax Dilemma: Praying for Peace, Paying for War* by Donald D. Kaufman. Herald Press, Kitchener ON, 1978