

# ***LABOUR AGAINST THE POLL TAX***

## **THE LABOUR LEADERSHIPS OUT OF LINE!**

Whilst millions of Labour voters refuse to pay and hundreds of thousands demonstrate against the Poll Tax the Labour and T.U.C. leaderships do nothing but obstruct the campaign of action against the Tax.

The Labour Front Bench expect us to pay the Tax on the promise that IF Labour get elected IN TWO YEARS TIME they will AFTER YET ANOTHER THREE YEARS get rid of the Poll Tax.

Responsible socialists cannot expect people to wait that long.

If the Tax is successfully implemented a new mood of defeatism may develop - and the recent dramatic rise of Labour in the opinion polls could be followed by an equally dramatic fall.

The local election results last Thursday show that whilst people blame the Government for the Tax, its implementation with high bills and/or deteriorating services lose Labour votes. Continuing implementation of the Tax, harassment and prosecution of non-payers by Labour politicians may even allow the Tories to win the General Election.

## **HAVE THE RIGHT SOWN UP THE PARTY?**

A few months ago things looked bad for the left of the Party on the Poll Tax. The leadership were happy to be seen to be expelling anti-Poll Tax campaigners in Scotland. The uncertainty over whether a significant anti-Poll Tax movement was going to develop in England and Wales allowed Kinnock to accuse us of leading the movement into certain defeat.

Labour's NEC has blocked advocates of non-payment and non-implementation from going forward as Council Candidates.

The right locally have even stooped so low in the District Labour Party's '*Labour Local*' as to endorse

the use of the courts against those unable to pay the Poll Tax and issue a rabid '*Sun*-like denunciation of those caught up in the police attack on the massive demonstration in London on March 31st.

## **WE CAN'T COP OUT**

Some who oppose the Poll Tax say we should leave the Labour Party. But to leave now would be to let the right off the hook.

whilst Labour relies on the votes of working class people who see it as the only electoral alternative to the Tories, whilst it is kept in existence by the finances of our trade unions, and whilst we have a voice within it - we cannot allow Kinnock to get away with it.

## **WHAT CAN WE DO?**

- 1) DRAW TOGETHER THE HUNDREDS OF LABOUR MEMBERS INVOLVED IN THE ANTI-POLL TAX MOVEMENT IN A CAMPAIGN WITHIN THE PARTY.
- 2) CAMPAIGN FOR THE RIGHT OF WARD PARTIES TO SELECT CANDIDATES IN FAVOUR OF NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLL TAX.
- 3) LOBBY LABOUR COUNCILLORS WHO INTEND TO AUTHORISE THE LEGAL HARASSMENT OF NON-PAYERS - THE VERY PEOPLE WHO VOTED THEM THERE. CAMPAIGN TO DESELECT THOSE PREPARED TO DO THE TORIES DIRTY WORK.
- 4) RECRUIT THOSE SUPPORTING NON-PAYMENT TO THE LABOUR PARTY. GIVE THE PARTY BACK TO WHOM IT BELONGS - THOSE WHO WANT TO SEE A REAL ALTERNATIVE TO THE TORIES.

THESE ARE NOT ALTERNATIVES TO BUILDING ANTI-POLL TAX GROUPS BUT IF WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT DEFEATING THE POLL TAX AND IF WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT POLITICS WE HAVE TO FIGHT THE BATTLE WHEREVER IT CAN BE FOUGHT.

## ***LABOUR AGAINST THE POLL TAX MEETING***

**Tuesday 22nd May, 7.30pm**

**International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road**

**OPEN TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE MEMBERS OF, OR ARE JOINING, THE LABOUR PARTY**

**Labour Against the Poll Tax, 191 Burford Road, Forest Fields. Tel: 705788.**