NATIONAL MEETING FOR ALL ANTI-POLL TAX GROUPS Sunday September 3rd

Polytechnic Of Central London, LISSONNA GROVE

Marylebone Rd, London W1 (Opposite Baker St -0)

FOOD CRECHE ACCOMMODATION

URGENT NOTICE / INVITATION

2 - 2 -

This is the 2nd, more detailed mailing for the National Meeting (following one done by the Avon Federation). This will be the largest Gathering of Anti-Poll Tax groups, being the follow up to the previous National Meeting in Newcastle last December. Originally initiated by the Socialist Conference, it has now been transferred completely (with the S.C.'s full backing) to the London Federation to host. We urge all Groups to attend where possible.

ARY OTHER MELSTARY

(COMBODALLON - Hackboy W.APT (JUSTID BOO 7499)

ADDE SOB) THA MARIND JUNE A MAND

Open to all members of all Anti-Poll Tax Groups/Unions/Campaigns, but only Delegates will be able to vote.

Note: A National Newsletter will be produced following the National Meeting, to include minutes,written reports,leaflets,articles etc. CAN ALL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS PROVIDE WRITTEN REPORTS.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 1st Central Hall Westminster, Rm A, Parliament Sq, SW1 10am-1pm There will be a pre-meeting, called by Terry Fields MP, for Groups who can come.

TEAR OFF SLIP OVER

Please fill in and send - or bring with you

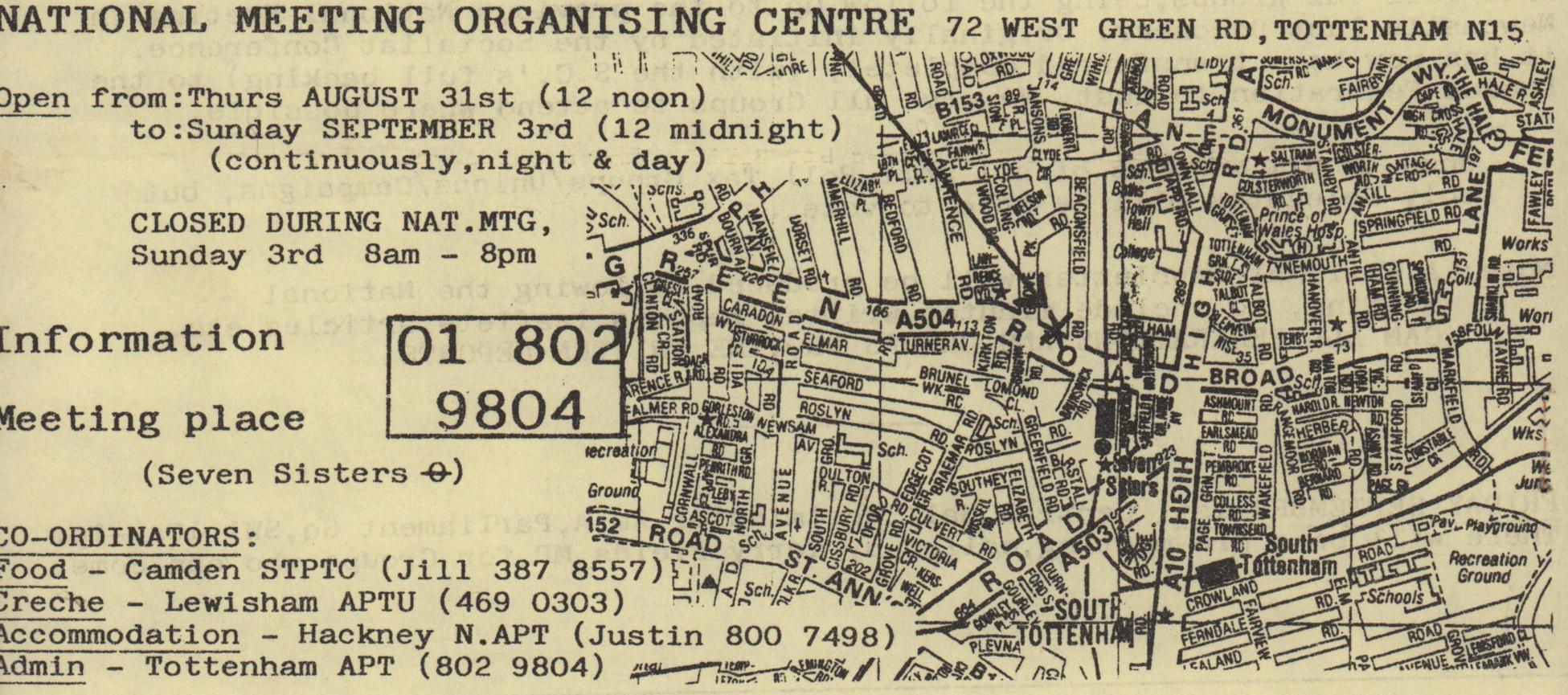
Chal Meeting, London, Fed., 72 West Grn Rd, MIS OR BRING WIRH TOU

olose/will bitng (delete) a written report from our Group. for Newsletter

. . . (aldeotigas as ataleb)

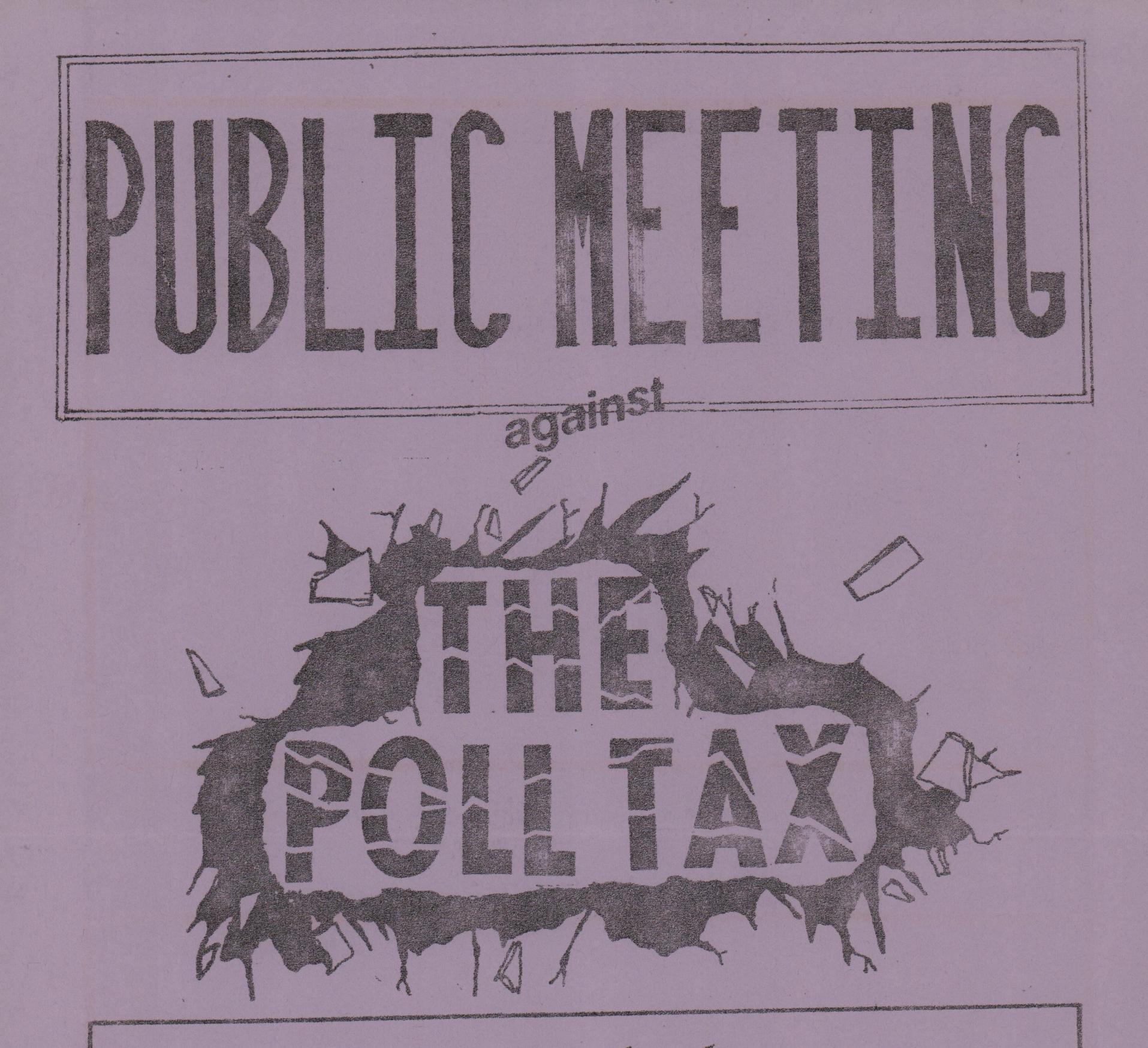
Scoundation for Thursday / Friday / Saturday / Sunday / Sunday (delate)

AGENDA	
10am	REGISTRATION of Delegates and members Fees per Group: £2 Scotland & Wales,£4 England, £2 London
11am	INTRODUCTION + National Speaker invited
	PART 1 - ISSUES
	The Picture across the Country / Successful Tactics Lessons to be learnt
	NON-CO-OPERATION : 1. Non-Registration 2. Non-Payment 3. Non-Collection/Implementation
1pm - 2pm	LUNCH (Buffet)
Sbw	PART 2 - ORGANISATION
	Regional Organisation/discussion (Can all Federations bring written reports)
	National Initiatives / co-ordination
	National Conference / Congress
	Forming the Steering Committee
	ANY OTHER BUSINESS



Tear Off Slip************************************	*********
NAME OF GROUP	Phone
ADDRESS OF GROUP	
NAME OF DELEGATE/MEMBER (delete as applicable)	
We applage (will being (deleta)	

We enclose/will bring (delete) a written report from our Group, for Newsletter SPECIAL NEEDS - Food - Accommodation for Thursday / Friday / Saturday / Sunday (delete) ***** Return to National Meeting, London Fed., 72 West Grn Rd, N15 OR BRING WITH YOU



speakers and discussion 7:30pm. WED. OCTOBER 4th. STAMFORD HILL LIBRARY STAMFORD HILL N.16

ALL HACKNEY RE	SIDENTS, WOR	KERS, GROUP.	S. OR	INDIVIDUALS WELLCOME
TO COME AND	JOIN, IN A	DISCUSSION	Normalia Normalia	HOW TO FIGHT THE
POLL TAX.	- CRECHE	FACILITYS	Sconcerned	BE AVAILABLE -

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Mass non-payment will effectively cripple the Poll Tax. If enough of us refuse to pay, it will become unworkable. All across the country 1000s of people have avoided registering and are pledging not to pay the Poll Tax with 100s of local groups organising to make the Tax unworkable. From tenants groups to workers in Town Halls and benefit offices the message is clear: "If we stick together the Poll Tax will be beaten!"

HOW CAN WE ORGANISE?

The best way is by everyone in each street or block of flats or workplace getting together and forming an Anti-Poll Tax Group. The local group could then:-

- organise local meetings about the Poll Tax;

- link up with other groups;

- hold street stalls to spread the word to as many people as possible;

- everyone to display a No Poll Tax poster in our windows to show we're fighting together.

This combined with a boycott of the Poll Tax by council workers can defeat the government and their hated tax.

Speakers and more information available

Local contact:

or contact: Hackney Solidarity Group, The Fire Station, 61 Leswin Rd, N16.

CAN'T PAY! WON'T PAY!

THE POLL TAX . (Community Charge)

WHAT IS THE POLL TAX?

The Poll Tax is a local tax replacing the rates system which was based on the value of our property. The Poll Tax is entirely unrelated to either this or our income. Everyone over 18 (with a few exceptions) will be liable to pay.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Different boroughs will have different charges, based on local council spending. eg in 1994 a couple living in a flat in Hackney will pay £578 each, while a yuppie living alone in a large house in Redbridge will only pay £169 (Government figures). The hardest hit will be those living in the poorest boroughs, those who are least able to afford it.

WHO WILL HAVE TO PAY IT?

Almost everyone is expected to pay. Even pensioners will have to pay it. People on the dole will be expected to pay 20% of the new charge from their giros. If you can't afford it, they don't care. People failing to pay will be taken to court and may have their possessions sold to get the money. "Public resistance, properly organised, could smash the system" – James Thompson. The man responsible for compiling the Fife poll tax register. March 1988.

1000'S DODGEPOLL TAX REGISTER!

Over 100,000 people in Scotland have succeeded in avoiding Poll Tax registration. 95% of them have since not been identified. As a result they will not be paying the Poll Tax.

In England and Wales Poll Tax registration is about to commence. The 'Community Charge' registration forms will be arriving by post any day. If you want to avoid payment too, it's important that you act straight away. There may never be a second chance.

HOW TO AVOID REGISTRATION

1. Don't acknowledge the Registration form, which will either be addressed to you by name or, better still, to 'the Occupier'. If you acknowledge the authorities will know you exist and will register you.

2. Get rid of the form - remember they can't prove you received it unless they send it Recorded Delivery (which will be a costly exercise for mass mailings). If any other letters arrive about the Poll Tax, throw these away too. Do not attempt to acknowledge them.

3. The Council will not necessarily have up to date information about you; often their records will be wrong. Instead they are relying on you to confirm that their information is correct. Do not do this. To save on costs most authorities, contrary to expectations, will only be checking on people through a limited number of records (eg the Electoral Roll and the Rates lists).

4. As a last resort the Council may send a Canvasser around. You are not obliged to give out information. To avoid trouble tell the Canvasser that you are not the occupier and that you're merely the babysitter. If you're asked the names of the occupiers, tell the Canvasser it's none of their business.

Remember: non-registration is an offence and can lead to fines. But first you have to be identified and second it has to be proved you refused registration. If you do not cooperate from the very beginning it will be very difficult for the Council to take proceedings.

DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM!

Initially Poll Tax dodgers in Scotland used different tactics, which in retrospect did't work. For example they tried to delay registration on a mass scale: they returned the form asking clarification of certain questions, or they pretended they had lost the form, etc. Hundreds of thousands used such delaying tactics but in the end they ALL got registered. They - like everyone who registers - are now registered for LIFE!

Individuals can avoid registration by following the four steps given above. But the more people who succeed in not registering, the better for all of us. If enough of us manage to avoid registration and payment then the Poll Tax will be made unworkable and it will have to be scrapped. So spread the message around.

ORGANISE STREET BY STREET

Neighbours telling neighbours is the only way the message will effectively get around. A quicker way is if each street or housing block has its own anti-Poll Tax rep. Street Reps could meet regularly to exchange information, advise people in their street, etc.

To help Street Reps we run street stalls and hold public meetings giving the latest information on the campaign, on what is happening in our area, and what is happening in other areas. We are all local people fighting the Poll Tax from the neighbourhoods and we have gone out of our way to avoid any links with political parties or the Council.

So far we have managed to distribute thousands of posters and leaflets advising local people on how to avoid the Poll Tax. Already the message is getting around. Local people are volunteering to take part in working meetings to mail out information to tenants groups and to help run the street stalls. But many more volunteers are needed.

COME AND HELP

If you'd like to help in our working meetings, or if you'd like to help on the stalls or in fund-raising for the leaflets, or if you'd like to volunteer as a Street Rep then please contact us.

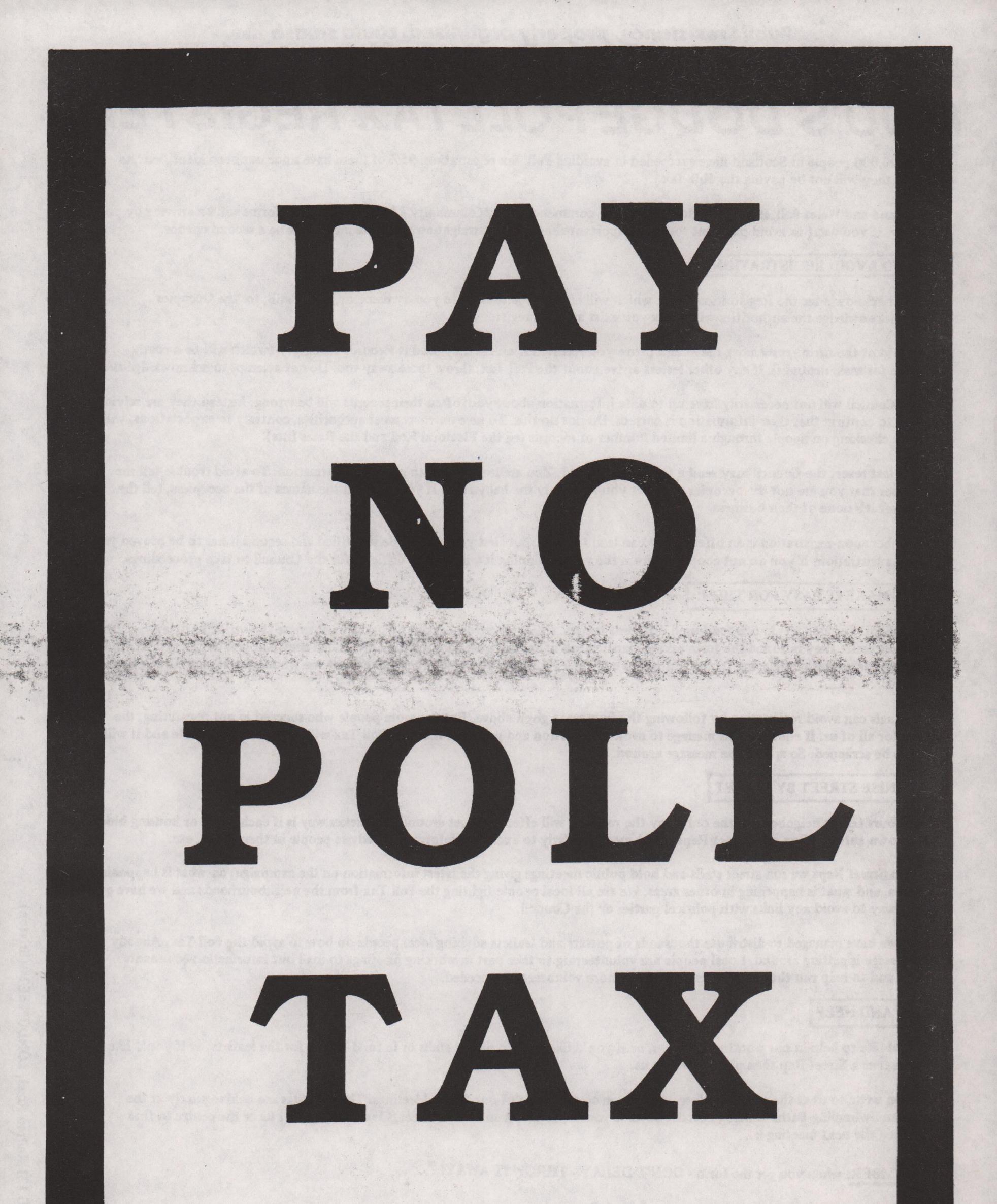
You can write to us at the address below, or you can come to one of our Public Meetings. The meetings are held regularly at the Clapham Swimming Baths Centre (Voltaire or Club rooms) at Clapham Manor Street, Clapham. Contact us or the centre to find out when the next meeting is.

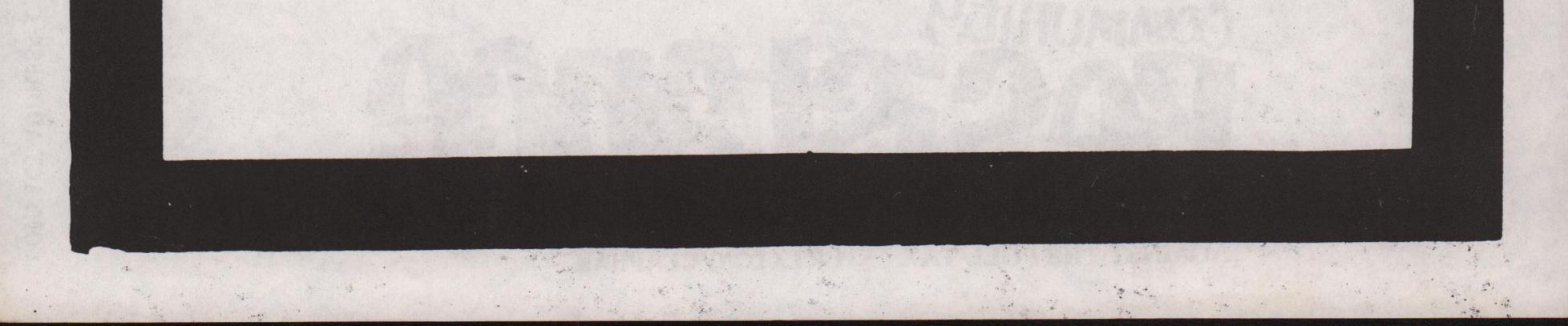
REMEMBER: when you get the form - DON'T DELAY - THROW IT AWAY!

Community AGAINST THE POLL TAX - BRIXTON/CLAPHAM

CONT.ACT ADDRESS:

6715





The Poll Tax: The truth about non-payment PAY NO POLL TAX

THE TORY POLL TAX bills have arrived. Millions now face financial hardship and poverty if they pay. The Poll Tax is a massive transfer of wealth from those who have none to those who already have plenty. Rents have gone up as have gas and electricity prices. Food and clothes get dearer each month. The Poll Tax is the last straw. Thatcher must be stopped.

The Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Federation asks you to join our campaign for mass non-payment of the Poll Tax. We urge **you** not to pay your Poll Tax. Thatcher can be beaten. M.P.'s like Dick Douglas, Ron Brown, Denis Canavan, Jim Sillars, George Galloway, Jimmy Wray, and many others will not pay. They are calling on everyone else not to pay.

Scores of councillors throughout Scotland, including Edinburgh's Lord Provost, will not pay and urge you to refuse. The Scottish Trades Union Congress, (S.T.U.C.), General Secretary, Campbell Christie, has torn up his payment book and he will not pay. Don't believe the lies and myths of the Tory media. Read the facts now and join us in a mass and proud campaign of nonpayment.

"BUT IF I DON'T PAY THE POLL TAX I'LL BE PUT IN JAIL." NO YOU WON'T. No-one in Scotland can be jailed for not paying their poll tax. it is not a criminal offence.

"BUT THEY'LL TAKE ALL MY DOLE MONEY." NONSENSE. The maximum legal deduction for a non-payer on Income Support is £1.75 per week for a single person and £2.75 from a couple. Thousands on Income Support would pay less each week through arrestment than they would in poll tax!



"BUT IF I DON'T PAY I'LL GET SACKED."

which will wreck services and force sackings.

"IF I DON'T PAY THE POLL TAX I'LL END UP IN COURT."

NO YOU WON'T. No-one has to go to court for refusing to pay their Poll Tax.

"BUT WILL I BE EVICTED IF I DON'T PAY?"

NO! Not paying your Poll Tax does not affect your tenancy whether you are a council tenant, a private tenant or a house owner. "NON-PAYERS GET FINED £50 AND THEN £200."

NO THEY DON'T. Those fines are for failing to register.

"IF I DON'T PAY THEY'LL TAKE ALL MY WAGES."

NO THEY CAN'T. Wage arrestment is strictly defined in law. For instance the MAXIMUM they can take from £100 take home pay is £13 a week. Anyway how will they be able to arrest the wages, or benefits, of even half a million non-payers?

"THEY'LL TAKE IT FROM MY PEN-SION."

NO THEY WON'T. At this stage they cannot deduct poll tax from pensions, invalidity benefit, or other specified benefits.

D-DAY DEMO ALL SCOTTISH

"ALL THE MONEY IN MY BANK ACCOUNT WILL BE TAKEN."

NO IT WON'T. Your bank account could be frozen but a separate order is needed to arrest the Poll Tax amount. Anyway they have to find everyone's bank account first and that is not an easy task.

"IF I DON'T PAY THEY'LL TAKE ALL MY FURNITURE THROUGH A WARRANT SALE."

NO THEY WON'T. There has been deliberate scare-mongering about warrant sales. They are strictly governed by law. No essential items like cookers, fridges, washing machines, etc. can be sold. Anyway it would take months to get to that stage and most Regional Councils are opposed to warrant sales. Strathclyde Regional Council has not had a warrant sale for nonpayment of domestic rates for the last five years.

"IF I DON'T PAY I'LL FINISH UP IN DEBT. THEY'LL CHARGE ME HUN-DREDS OF POUNDS MORE."

NO THEY WON'T. The maximum penalty for not paying is a 10% surcharge plus legal costs. So the maximum penalty for nonpayment is around £50 in Glasgow and around £60 in Edinburgh (10% of £306 or £392 plus £3-£20 legal costs). It is obviously less for those on full rebate. And they have to catch up with you first. Not paying your Poll Tax is not grounds for dismissal. It is not industrial mis-conduct.

"I'LL GET BLACKLISTED BY CREDIT AGENCIES AND WON'T GET H.P."

Credit Agencies exist to provide credit. Not paying your Poll Tax will not be a determining factor on whether you are granted credit.

"I DON'T NEED TO WORRY. I'LL GET A REBATE ANYWAY."

The Rebate System is a con. A youth in Glasgow taking home as little as £57.00 a week is expected to pay the full Poll Tax. However, if you are low paid or in receipt of benefit then you should apply to your Regional Council for a rebate.

"BUT THE POLL TAX IS LESS THAN EXPECTED."

The Tories have kept the Poll Tax artificially low this year, especially in Strathclyde and Glasgow. It will be much higher next year.

"SO WHAT HAPPENS IF I REFUSE TO PAY?"

The S.T.U.C. General Secretary has called on people not to pay in April, May or June. That incurs no penalties. At the end of June the Regional Council will give you seven days to pay the full arrears.

If you continue not to pay you will be given a fourteen day notice in late July or August instructing you to pay the full year's Poll Tax or face a 10% surcharge. However it is increasingly obvious that even 250,000 non-payers would bring the collection system to the verge of collapse. "BUT MASS NON-PAYMENT WILL THREATEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT JOBS AND SERVICES." Not in the short-term. And in the

long-term it is the Poll Tax itself

"WELL I MIGHT NOT PAY BUT ISN'T IT TOO LATE TO STOP IT?"

A MILLION TIMES NO. For the last twelve months we have been preparing for battle. Now mass non-payment of the Poll Tax can defeat it.

"BUT IF I DON'T PAY I'LL BE ON MY OWN."

NO YOU WON'T. Hundreds of thousands just CAN'T pay. A mass movement is being built. You will not stand alone.

"WHAT ABOUT THE SCOTTISH ANTI-POLL TAX FEDERATION?"

The Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Federation is helping to organise a mass and proud army of nonpayers. There are already several hundred Anti-Poll Tax Unions throughout Scotland. If hundreds of thousands do not pay we can make collection of the Poll Tax impossible.

We appeal to workers not to arrest wages or benefits or to freeze banks accounts. Trade union involvement is vital.

We will link up with the campaign in England and Wales and build a mass movement to defeat the Tory Poll Tax.

"OK I'M NOT PAYING. WHAT WILL I DO NOW?"

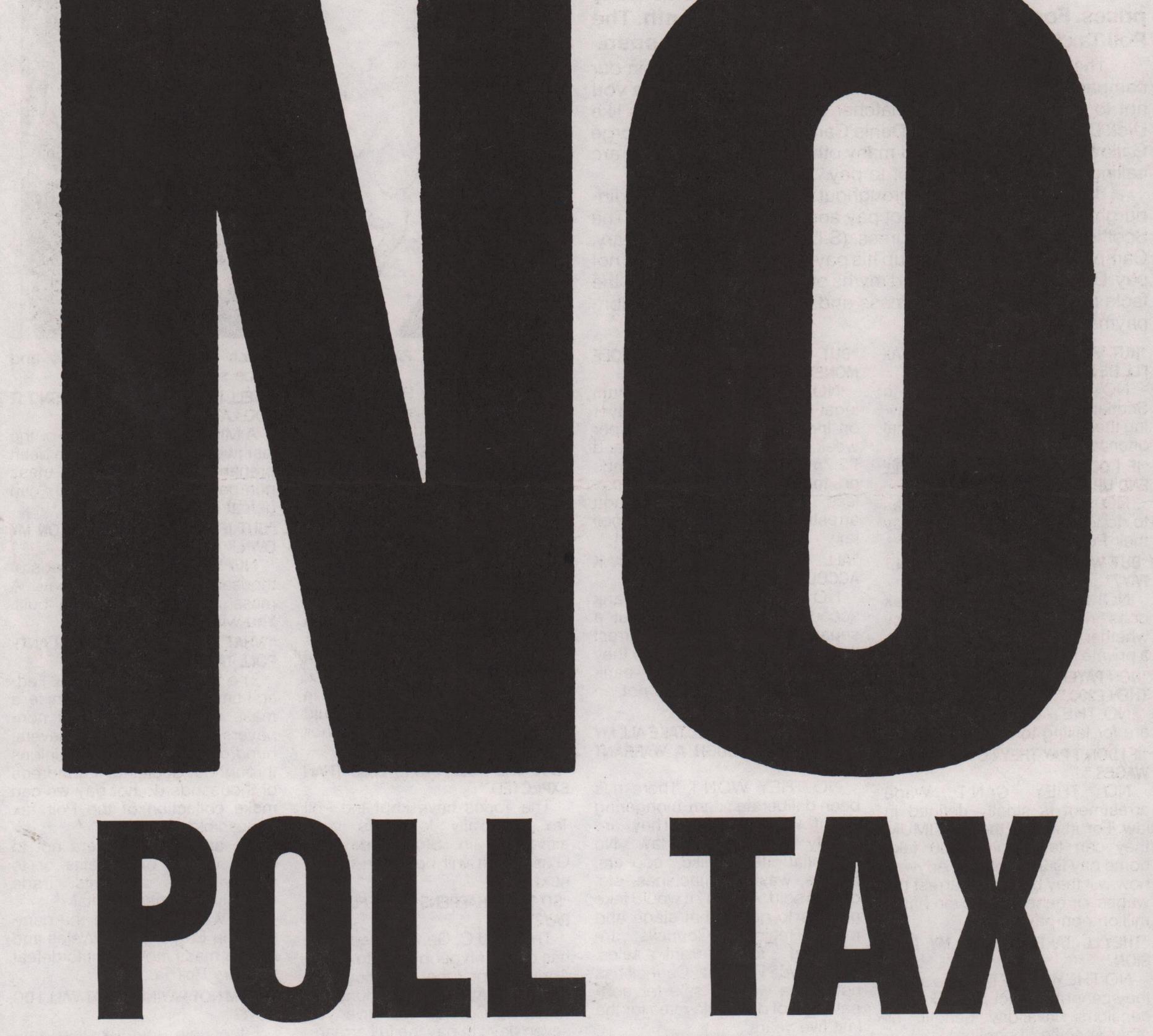
Either join your existing antipoll tax union locally or form a new one in your area or street. Use this bulletin to build for mass non-payment in your trade union branch, tenants group and hous-

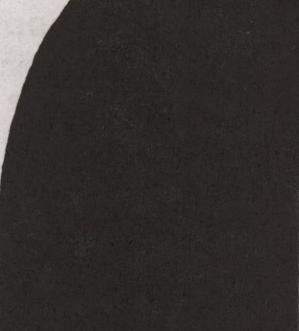
MARCH and RALLY 10a.m. Sat. 24 June John St. (off George Sq.) Glasgow ing scheme. Help make our mass non-payment demo on Saturday, 24th June, the biggest yet. Book the buses, make the banners and mobilise your street. It is our D-Day – Don't Pay Demo. Help bring Glasgow to a standstill. JOIN THE MASS CAMPAIGN – PAY NO POLL TAX.

SCOTTISH ANTI-POLL TAX FEDERATION









JOIN YOUR LOCAL ANTI-POLL TAX UNION

- Strathclyde: 041-204 3592/882 9381 (Tommy Sheridan)
- Lothians: 031-346 4671 (Russell Taylor)
- Central: 0786 65526 (lan Stanton)
- Tayside: 0382 815541 (Phillip Scott)

• Fife: 0383 514362 (Steve Arnott) Borders: D. Gowans, 58 Kenilworth Road, Galashiels Grampian: 0224 873905 (Graham Sullivan) • Shetland: 0595 88279 (Margaret Gear)

PLEASE DISPLAY PROMINENTLY IN YOUR WINDOW

Distributed to 500,000 homes throughout Scotland

STOCKBRIDGE/NEW TOWN ANTI POLL TAX GROUP

PAY NO POLL TAX PAY NO POLL TAX

A typical household in the Saunders St. council flats pays £623 rates per year. While a single adult will initially gain under the Poll Tax, a 2 adult household will be about £175 worse off each year, 3 adults £575 worse off, 4 adults £975 worse off. Private tenants will lose drastically. How many landlords will reduce rents when rates are abolished? Most private tenant

households will be paying £400 extra per year for each adult living there.

And all this at a time when the social wage (transport, health and local services) is being cut.

BUSINESSES GAIN – PEOPLE LOSE

A few one adult households will gain slightly in the first year of the Poll Tax. BUT this will soon change. The Poll Tax level will rocket in subsequent years.

This is because businesses are now to pay LESS rates, and individuals are to pay MORE. Business rates are to be set by central government. They will only be raised by the inflation rate.

But in 1987 the cost of local services rose by 22%. If this continues, the Poll Tax will have to be increased by about 50% each year. 80% of local authority income will be determined by central government. This will inevitably lead, within the next few years, to compulsory redundancies and severe cut backs in vital services.

A recent MORI poll showed that 73% of Scottish people were opposed to the Poll Tax.



WE WONT PAY!

The Stockbridge/New Town Anti Poll Tax Group is one of many community groups formed to fight the Poll Tax and campaign for mass collective non-payment. In Edinburgh there are 23 local Anti Poll Tax Groups, from Clermiston to Craigmillar. More are forming all the time. 14,000 Edinburgh residents have signed the pledge to refuse to pay the Poll Tax. Anti Poll Tax Federations bring together the local groups in Lothian, and in Strathclyde where there are 31 groups. In England too Anti Poll Tax Groups are springing up.

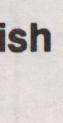
RESISTING REGISTRATION

Many people throughout Scotland are resisting Poll Tax registration by * delaying returning the form * pretending they've lost the form * asking questions about the meaning of the form * appealing against being named the 'responsible person'.

In Dunterlie in Barrhead, Tenants Association members dumped almost all the areas Poll Tax forms - still blank - back at Paisley Registration Office along with a query about the meaning of a 'responsible person'. As of 26th June only 54.8% of the Registration forms in Lothian had been returned.

If you're resisting registration we can give you detailed leaflets and information, and also provide support if you've received a FINAL REMINDER or are being otherwise threatened by the authorities.

But even if you have been registered it doesn't mean the government has won. Registration is only the first skirmish in this battle. If tens of thousands of people are united and organised to refuse to pay, the Poll Tax will prove unworkable.





STOCKBRIDGE/NEW TOWN ANTI POLL TAX GROUP

PAY NO POLL TAX

WHAT YOU CAN DO

It is only through local organisation and mass support that we can defeat the Poll Tax. Feelings are running so high against this unjust tax that if the reaction in Stockbridge and New Town is reflected across the country, tens of thousands of people will refuse to pay.

The Stockbridge and New Town Anti Poll Tax Group urges you to become involved in our activities:

- Display one of our Anti Poll Tax posters in your window.
- Take some of these leaflets to give to friends, neighbours or workmates.
- Sign our CAN'T PAY WON'T PAY pledge and join the Stockbridge/New Town Anti Poll Tax Group.
- Come to our weekly meetings: every Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Stockbridge Primary School, Hamilton Place.
- · Help staff our Anti Poll Tax stall: every Saturday by the bridge in front of the Saunders Street flats.
- Join us in our door to door leafletting and talking to people.
- · Become a street co-ordinator, responsible for keeping people in your street in touch with local Anti Poll Tax activity.

For more information contact: Kevin Williamson, 14 West Scotland Street Lane, Edinburgh.Tel. 031 557 2940.

Or contact your street co-ordinator:

ADDRESS	Sufferior 1 you have that
a damana isan peri pirti a m	
s of pupping are unuited an	Unspiron) to ensuit without air
TELEPHONE	roanised to refuse to pay, the P



STOCKBRIDGE/NEW TOWN ANTI POLL TAX GROUP

PAY NO POLL TAX

THE POLL TAX – WHAT IT MEANS

The Poll Tax replaces the rates in April 1989. Every adult of 18 and over will have to pay the Poll Tax - in Edinburgh the current estimate is for a charge of around £400 per year for each adult. The vast majority of people will be worse off. Only a rich minority owning big houses will gain.

Even the poorest people, surviving on Income Support or Unemployment Benefit, will have to pay at least 20% of the Poll Tax plus all their water rates. This will mean paying about £80 per year.

Most people in Stockbridge and New Town will pay more under the Poll Tax. The average rates bill in Stockbridge is £497.69. Under the Poll Tax the estimated charge per Stockbridge household averages £696.12 (the 'average household' has approximately 1 3/4 adults).

The majority of New Town residents will also lose out. Their average rates bill of £707.59 will rise to £764.34 per household under the Poll Tax.

The following examples show how local people will lose (these are for people paying full rates and full Poll Tax). At present the rates bill for a typical 1 bedroom flat in Dean Park St. is £253.98. Under the Poll Tax a single person in this flat will pay about £150 per year extra, a 2 adult household £550 more, 3 adults £950 more, 4 adults £1,350 more.

All pensioners, students and unemployed people will have to pay at least 20% of their Poll Tax bill.

....

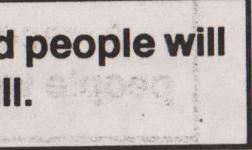
....

....

....

....





POLL TAX Pay more : get less

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE POLL TAX ?

B.W.W

Poll Tax registration forms will be sent out in late May of this year and bills go out in April 1990. Yet over 65% of people are against the tax and it's not hard to see why. The Poll Tax is unfair, undemocratic, and represents an attack on local services.

Pay More

Unlike the rates system, nearly everyone over eighteen will have to pay the same amount no matter what their income. This means that the rich will have lower bills while nearly everyone else, especially poorer families will have to pay more. According to an official report produced by Brighton Council, a family of four adults in Brighton currently paying rates of £457.20 will have a Poll Tax bill of £1024. A richer couple with a rates bill of £800 will only pay £512 under the Poll Tax. In Brighton as a whole 67% of people will be worse off. This means that 85,000 people lose out, but only 42,000 benefit.

DEFEATING THE POLL TAX.

All activities against the Poll Tax are important. Sign petitions, display posters and write to your MP; these all have a part to play. <u>But if the Poll Tax</u> is to be defeated everybody will have to get involved.

Ultimately we think that to defeat the tax we will have to refuse to pay. At this stage, however, we recommend that you DO REGISTER - but only after you have shown your opposition by obstructing the registration process as much as possible.

The people hurt most by the Poll Tax will be those least able to pay - pensioners, young couples, large families, people with elderly & dependant relatives, disabled people, women, the unemployed and the homeless.

Get Less

Not only will ordinary people have to pay more, but the Poll Tax will also make it impossible for Local Authorities to provide a decent level of services. After 1990 the Government will - even more than now - dictate the level of services no matter who you vote for in the local elections. By then the Government will control 75% of Brighton Council's budget. This will mean cuts in jobs & services. Most people will pay more and get less. Even if you personally benefit from the Poll Tax you will be worse off through poorer local services.

Obstructing Poll Tax Registration

You can take the following action to make life difficult for those trying to compile the Poll Tax register. You will not be breaking the law by doing so - but you will be showing your opposition to the Poll Tax. When you receive your Poll Tax registration form, why not post it back marked 'Return to Sender'.

If you decide to fill in your form, you can:

- Delay your reply for as long as possible.
 Write for more more information.
- Ask as many technical questions as possible before returning your form, e.g. "What do you mean by a legally designated person?"
- Make information for the Register difficult to to find.
- Appeal if you are made a designated

person.

Decide for yourself which language to use on the form. Why not practice your French!
Use your imagination - mess them about!

WOMEN AND THE POLL TAX

The Poll Tax will have a devastating effect for many women. They are more likely than men to be on low incomes, whether in the form of low paid and/or part time employment or benefits. Women are also more likely to look after children (and elderly & disabled relatives) on their own. After all the cuts in benefits and loss of employment protection that women have already suffered under the Tories, the Poll Tax will come as a bitter blow.

The tax will also make women living with partners more vulnerable. People living together will be responsible for each others' Poll Tax as well as their own. This means that if one fails to pay the other can be prosecuted. Women who rely on their partners' income may end up in court and in debt - especially if the relationship ends. This will make women even more dependent on men.

WHAT ABOUT THE OLD RATES SYSTEM?

The present rates system has its problems. It is not a completely fair and equal system and we do not simply defend it. We believe that some form of local income tax would be a fairer system, whereby people contribute towards local services according to their ability to pay. But compared to the Poll Tax, the rates system is much fairer. The poorest section of the community either pay no rates or get rebates. Because they are based on property, the rates take more from the rich, but services are then provided by local authorities for the whole community.

Also, the present system takes rates from business & industry who are major users of local services. But under the Poll Tax they will stop paying directly for local services. Instead they will pay the Government, which will decide how much each local authority can have.

NON-REGISTRATION FINES

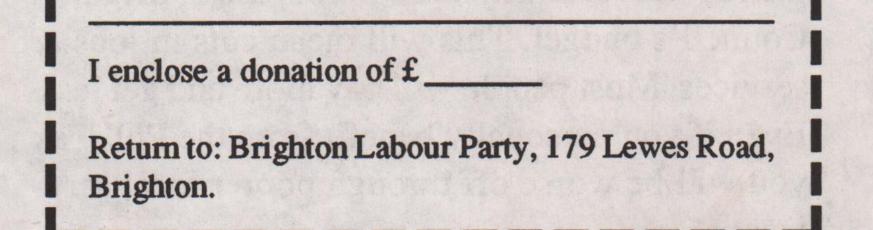
Just to show how popular they expect the Poll Tax to be, the Tories have passed laws to impose big fines on people who do not fill in their registration forms. If you do not register, they can fine you ± 50 . If you still refuse to register, they can fine you another ± 200 . If you continue your protest by still refusing to register, they can get an attachment on your earnings. This means that if you are on benefits they can go to the DSS and get your fine deducted from your benefit. If you work, they can go to your employer and get them to deduct the fine from your wages.

MORE INFORMATION

If you would like further information, *legal* advice about protesting against the tax or want to take part in our campaign against the Poll Tax, please contact the following

YES	I think the Poll Tax is undemocratic, unfair and fundamentally wrong.
Iwould	like to join the campaign against the Poll Tax.
Name _	
Address	

people: Paul Jonas Tel. 504527 (24 hour answering service) Bernard Harbor Tel. 820329



Printed & Published by Brighton Labour Party. 179 Lewes Road, Brighton.

MARCH 23rd - LEGAL BACK-UP ARRANGEMENTS - urgent and essential information for all marchers

The All-Britain Federation and the Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign (TSDC) are working together for a large, united demonstration, with hopefully no arrests. All the important details (route etc) have been sorted out and 100,000 are expected.

LEGAL BACK-UP

The TSDC's contribution is the co-ordination of an extensive Legal Back-Up and Police Monitoring system. This includes 250 Mobile Legal Volunteers (M-LVs) on the streets all day, recruited from the London area. They will be wearing PINK TABAFDS. They are not stewards. We are also urging EVERY contingent to have at least one pair of 'Contingent Legal Volunteers' (C-LVs). We're organising a 48hr Legal Co-ordination Office, bank of solicitors, distribution of 100,000 bust cards (text enclosed), 10 video crews.

The aim is to deter arrests, to monitor police activity at all times, and to organise full legal back-up to anyone arrested by getting witnesses, going to police stations, providing solicitors and support at court and trial. Your group's involvement and co-operation is essential !

YOUR CONTINGENT

We are asking every coach/contingent to contain a pair of Legal Volunteers from their area. This is to ensure the welfare of the members of your contingent - noting any police aggression, arrests, names of witnesses or whatever. They should carry a notebook & pen, and camera if possible, AND SEND A FULL WRITTEN REPORT TO US within 24hrs of returning home. We have full briefing packs for volunteers - please send us (and phone through) contact names and numbers of volunteers.

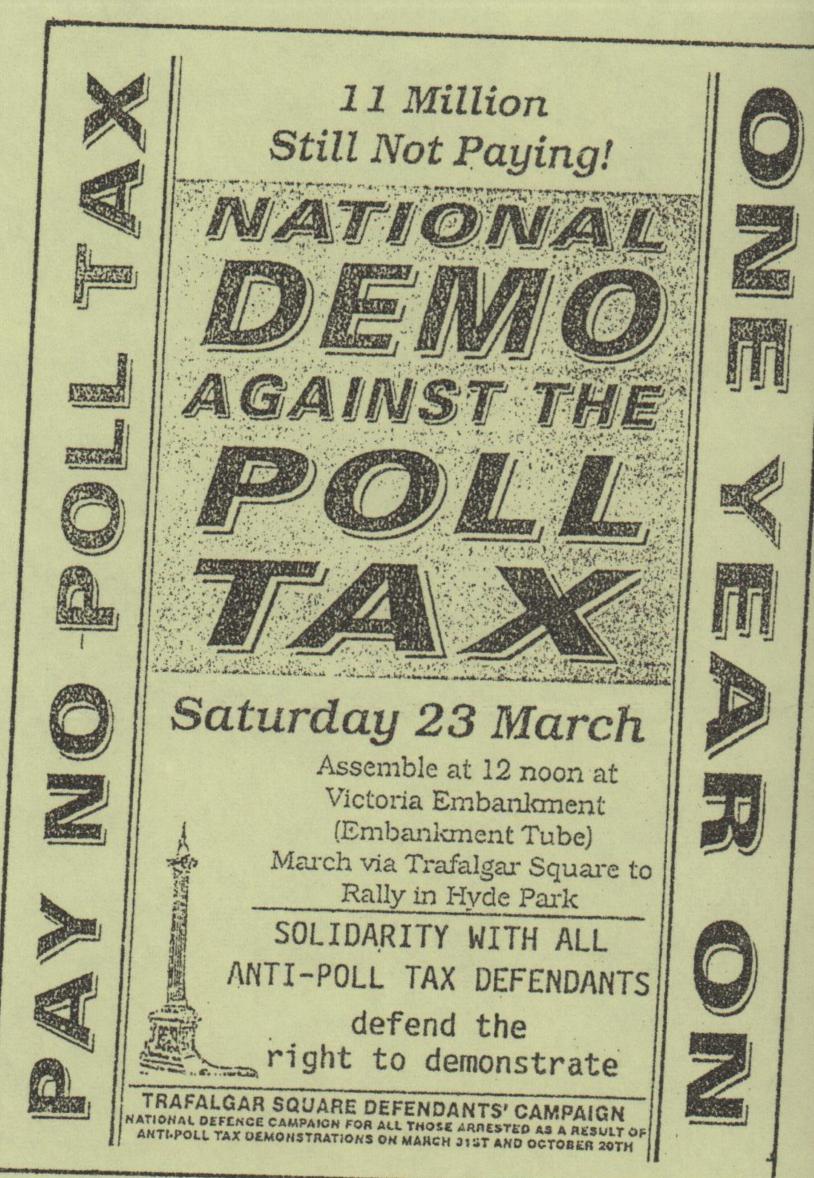
SUPPORT

The above plans were backed unanimously at the All Britain Federation national aggregate meeting on Feb 24th, and the Secretary, Steve Nally, called for all local and regional APTs to co-operate and to donate towards the cost (£4,500) of the legal back-up operation. (Note: The TSDC will not have time to collect funds to cover this during the demonstration).

WE URGENTLY NEED THIS TO BE ABLE TO GUARANTEE FULL, EFFECTIVE BACK-UP, AND FOLLOW-UP AFTERWARDS.

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY THE BUSTCARD AND GIVE OUT TO PEOPLE COMING.

looking forward to seeing you all on the 23rd, in solidarity, Dave Maris Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign Rm 205, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1 (071 833 8958) Please tear off and send to the above address -LEGAL VOLUNTEERS (N OUR CONTINGENT WILL BE : Address..... Address



WE CAN DONATE £

Name of Group.....ph.....ph.....

Address.....

How many people or your contingent ?.....

(Note: please prone through the details of the Volunteers also a.s.a.p.)

MANCHESTER ANTI-POLL TAX FEDERATION ORGANISE TO DEFEAT THE POLL TAX

POLL TAX: The truth about non-payment

DONATION 10p.

From 1st. April more than 35 million people in England and Wales will receive poll tax bills. The poll tax is a Tory Tax. Britain's richest man, the Duke of Westminster, will save nearly £10,000 a year by paying the poll tax. Over 22 million people will be worse of under the poll tax.

In Scotland, almost a year after the poll the poll tax bills were sent out, well over one million people are not paying or are in serious arrears. In Glasgow it is estimated that at least 46% are not paying! Now is our chance to join Scotland in a mass campaign of non-payment to defeat this Tory Tax. Petitions, lobbies and letters will not change Thatcher's mine. A non-payment campaign is the only campaign that will stop Thatcher's tax. If we link those who can't pay with those who won't pay in a mass campaign then we can defeat it.

The All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation has produced this leaflet to answer some of the lies that will be put out by the Tories and the media in an attempt to intimidate people. We urge you to read the facts and join the growing campaign to defeat the Poll Tax.

I can get a rebate which will reduce the amount I am paying anyway.

The rebate system is a con. To qualify for a rebate you have to be on or near the same level as income support. For example a single person under 25 years of age with a Poll Tax Bill of £425, and a net income as low as £73 per week, is expected to pay the full Poll Tax. A working couple with a child under 11 years and having a joint net income, including Child Allowance, of £121 will get a rebate but they will still face a Poll Tax Bill of £10-75p per week. No one will get a 100% rebate - unemployed, students and pensioners are all expected to pay at least 20% of the poll tax. I could get the sack.

No. As non-payment is not industrial misconduct it is not grounds for dismissal.

They'll stop my dole money

If I don't pay I could get evicted.

No. Non-payment doesn't effect your tenancy whether you're a council tenant, a private tenant or a home owner.

The council will just come and take the money if I don't pay.

No. If you don't pay the council has to send reminders. If you still don't pay the year's poll tax becomes due. If you still don't pay the council applies to the magistrates court for a Liability Order. This can take months. Once the Liability Order is granted the council can then try to get the poll tax that is due (plus small legal costs) from you. But it is up to the council not the court to pursue non-payers. They can ask you to provide information within 14 days. If you don't respond to this request the council can take you back to court where you can be fined for not giving the information.

I will get a criminal record if I don't pay.

No. Even though it is dealt with by the magistrates court not paying your poll tax is a civil offence, not a criminal offence. You will not get a criminal record.

All my wages get stopped if I refuse to pay.

No they will not. Councils can apply to your employers to

No. The maximum they can take from Income Support is £1-75 per week for a single person and £2-75 from a couple. Thousands will have less deducted each week than they are expected to pay in poll tax. They have to persuade union members in DSS offices and UBOs to make deductions. Considering there has been strike action already in several offices against having to register claimants for the poll tax, this will not be an easy job. The Federation is actively building links with trade union members.

They'll take it from my pension.

No. Poll Tax cannot be deducted from pensions, invalidity benefits and other specified benefits.

All the money in my bank account will be frozen.

No. In England and Wales there is no power to freeze bank accounts.

If I don't pay they will send the bailiffs around and take all my furniture away.

No council wants to be seen sending bailiffs in. The threat of bailiffs is used by councils to frighten people into paying up. In Scotland the non-payment campaign has driven bailiffs off the estates and pressurised councils into not using them to enter peoples' homes. Bailiffs cannot just arrive at your door, they must give notice. They cannot break down your door, they must enter peacefully. Don't be taken in by the lies the bailiffs will tell you. Remember they get paid to get into peoples' homes. They can only get in if you let them in. Even if you let them in, there are still things they cannot touch. They cannot take the first £100 of clothing and £150 of goods. They cannot take items which you do not own (or that are not there). They cannot take items on HP or on credit. In the Lothians it is estimated that it would take 80 years for the bailiffs just to visit all those in arrears.

deduct the poll tax from wages. This is a long and complicated process. Many employers are opposed to attachment to earnings because of the problems it will cause in the workplace. But there are strict guidelines that the councils must adhere to. For instance - the maximum that can be taken from £100 take home pay is £9 per week.

P.T.O.

If I don't pay I'll end up in debt with hundreds of pounds to pay in fines.

You cannot be fined for non-payment. The maximum penalty that you can receive for non-payment is the poll tax bill itself plus legal costs. You can only be fined for not handing over information to the council once they have obtained a Liability Order from the courts.

If I don't pay I will be breaking the law.

This poll tax is opposed by 76% of people throughout England and Wales. In any case, millions of people simply cannot afford to pay the poll tax. They don't have a choice. We all know that there is one law for the rich and one law for everyone else. The Tories turn a blind eye when their financial backers didn't pay £26 billion in taxes on the massive profits they've made. Haven't the courageous peoples of Eastern Europe been forced to break laws in the fight for freedom? If it is right to support their Campaign, surely it is right for the people of Britain to refuse to pay such an unfair and unjust tax. This time Thatcher has attacked us all and she is not going to get away with it!

You can go to prison for refusing to pay your Poll Tax.

The jail penalty mainly exists as a frightener. The council can only apply for committal to prison in exceptional situations and only after they have attempted to recover arrears through other means. The council then have to bring you to court in person and prove that it has tried everything to recover the debt and that you are not paying "due to wilful refusal or culpable neglect," The maximum sentence is three months. Payment releases you immediately. An offer to pay by instalments could be accepted. It is important to remember that the decision regarding action against non-payers rests with the council and not the courts. As shown in Scotland councils can be forced to back down through pressure from the campaign organised by the anti-poll tax unions. The Tories and the media will use the prospect of jail to intimidate people into paying the poll tax. Councils are already facing mass revolt over the poll tax. The prospect of them trying to jail people for non-payment would lead to a massive escalation of the struggle which they are desperately trying to avoid at all costs!

The Poll Tax is high because of high spending Labour Councils.

Nonsense. Local authorities have lost millions of pounds of revenue under the new system. Local authorities can no longer raise revenue from the business sector to fund local services. The Government collects the Uniform Business Rate (UBR) directly and gives the councils a portion of this amount. In areas which have a large business sector (i.e. Labour controlled inner city areas), revenue lost through the UBR has been added onto the poll tax. In Manchester Big Business will have their Rates Bill cut by £57m. a year, equivalent to an extra £170 per year on the Poll Tax for each adult in the city. The Tories hail Wandsworth as a model council because it has set its Poll Tax rate at £148. But the Government has given Tory Wandsworth millions of pounds to subsidise the poll tax. In other words the Tories have deliberately fiddled the figures. Out of every £1 spent in Wandsworth 82p. comes from the government. If the Government had treated Manchester like Wandsworth and Wandsworth like Manchester, Manchester's Poll Tax would be £204 and Wandsworth's Poll Tax would be £359.

Mass non-payment will threaten local government jobs and serv ices.

This is a Tory blue herring. The purpose of the Poll Tax is to crush local authority democracy, jobs and services. Since the Tories came into office £46 BILLION has been cut from local authority spending - this figure alone shows how concerned the Tories are about local jobs and services. Part of the non-payment campaign is to demand more funding for local authorities. We need local services. The Poll Tax means the end of local services as we know them.

I will be victimised if I don't pay.

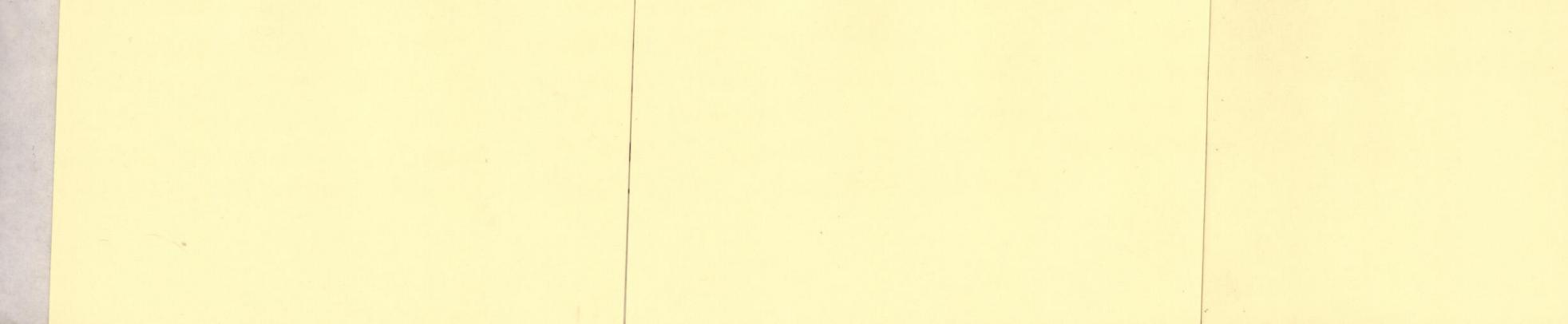
Not if you are part of a mass campaign. In Scotland attempts to frighten individuals into paying have been met with collective action from organised anti-poll tax unions.

O.K. I am not paying - What do I do now?

First join our campaign. We are building anti-poll tax unions as they did in Scotland. But we need your help. We need help to deliver leaflets and help to set up meetings.

WE SAY: Join the Campaign of mass non-payment - Call on the Council and the Trade Unions not to implement the Poll Tax - Demand that any system to replace the rates is based on the ability to pay - No more cuts in Council Services, demand adequate Central Government funding to provide the services we need.

ACT NOW - JOIN YOUR LOCAL ANTI-POLL TAX UNION



TOOTING ANTI POLL TAX UNION



Last week some DSS's were issued with the form IHB10(CC) which is to be used to have claimants registerd for the Poll Tax with the Council. The Tories are in trouble with their introduction of the Poll Tax. Not surprisingly millions of workers are angry at the new tax which will see the Duke of Westminster who owns half of Central London, pay less than many of the claimants.

The anger that exists is reflected in a massive reluctance to register for the tax. Many people in London have still not returned their registration forms. As a result, the Tories are using under hand tactics to get people on the register. Form JHB10(CC) is an attempt to turn us into snoopers for the Government.

Staffing shortages make our job difficult enough. Our priority has to be dealing with claimants' problems and providing them with a service. If the Government wants us to snoop on the very people we are supposed to help they will have to think again. Form WHB10(CC) is a disgrace - it's not our job to do the Tories dirty work.

If you are asked to work on this form talk to your union rep about how you can refuse to be part of the Tories' plans. Call a meeting with members of the local claimants union and Tooting Anti Poll Tax Union (TAPTU) and decide how to organise a boycott of all work associated with the Poll Tax. Issue leaflets to explain what the Tories are up to.

In Scotland, DSS staff are being asked to make deductions from Claimants' benefits. Form NHB10(CC) is the thin end of the wedge, if we handle these forze then it won't be long before we are making deductions from benefits.

Take this motion to the next Union Branch meeting:

This Branch condemns the Tories' attempt to attack working class living standards through the introduction of the Poll Tax. This tax is a direct attempt to re-distribute wealth from the poor to the rich. This Union resolves:

- 1) To arrange joint meetings with claimants' unions and Tooting Anti Poll Tax Jnion (TAPTU).
- 2) To contribute financial support to TAPTU.
- 3) To boycott any work connected with the Government Poll Tax, including form SHB 10(CC).
- 1) To give full support to any member who refuses to co-operate with Poll Tax work.

(5) To call on the NEC to initiate a national boycotting of all work connected with the Poll Tax.

Noting Anti Poll Tax Union is a Group that is trying to build a campaign to top the Poll Tax. Everyone can play a part in resisting the Tories' plans. NPTT met every Monday in the Selkirk Pub, Selkirk Road, Tooting at 8pm. All Polcope.

JOIN THE FIGHT TO STOP THE POLL TAX

STATEMENT OF AIMS

This statement of aims was presented by the Scottish Anti Poll tax federation. discussed and subsequently agreed by the first meeting of the All Britain Steering Committee on 1st September 1989. The general principles outlined in this statement will be used as the basis for discussion at the conference.

The Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Federation have campaigned for mass non-payment of the Poll Tax throughout Scotland for the past 18 months. The Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Federation now encompasses 7 regional Federations - representing over 150 anti-poll tax unions. trade union branches. tenants associations. community and youth groups. The Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Federation are now the present leaders of at least 1 million non payers in Scotland.

We welcome today s meeting as an essential step in developing mass non-payment throughout Great Britain. We applaud the M.P.'s who have agreed to support and convene this meeting to bring together the bona fide Anti-Poll Tax Federations throughout Britain. This meeting should agree to the following:

b/ To promote mass non-payment of the Poll Tax in Britain linked to the demands that councils refuse to implement the tax and the trade union movement organises a non-collection campaign with local authorities refusing to prosecute those who refuse to register or pay.

c/ To encourage and assist in the formation of Anti-Poll Tax unions. groups and campaigns in every housing estate in Britain.

d/ To build maximum unity of purpose around the above principles with already exisiting campaigns stressing the central objective of non-payment.

The following Statement was agreed at the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Steering Committee meeting on September 24 1989. This statement will be put to the conference on November 25.

" The All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation welcomes the call made by the Scottish Trade Union Congress General Secretary. Campbell Christie that the British TUC should organise a national Anti-Poll Tax demonstration on April 1 1990.

This All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Conference fully supports the call and commits itself to building for a huge demonstration of approaching 1 million people. We will raise the demand for a mass non-payment campaign in particular.

In the event that the British TUC refuses to organise such a national demonstration then this conference recognises that the All

British Federation would have to take the task on board. "

I'ublic outrage at the introduc-tion of the poll tax in Scotland — Metropolitan Authorities and the

tion of the poll tax in Scotland – one year ahead of England and Wales – is placing an intolerable burden on staff, a community charge registration officer said yesterday. Bill Anderson told a seminar organised by the Association of

POLL TAX FREE ZONE HHAPT SEES INSPECTORS OFF!

4:20 on Thursday 24th saw our anti-canvasser strategy put to the test, Two canvassers had been spotted on Dresden Road, and pretty soon a small group of us had assembled behind them, Two of us tried to persuade them to give up, while the others yelled through letter boxes to warn people the inspector was coming and not to open the door. This combination seemed to work as the canvassers immediately left, We followed them out of the area, beating drums and singing. Four more squads of canvassers were then discouraged in similar fashion, Later in the evening, another pair were seen off by just a single member of the group,

The lesson learnt was just how easy it was to put inspectors off. At no time was violence or the threat of violence used, So if you see any canvassers, please contact us (on 272-7253), , , why not have a go at them yourself? Let them know they're not welcome!

FROM LOCAL OPINION a selection of remarks we've heard on the doorstep, unt from members of HHAPT (see the last comment, below);

"I'm a retired soldier, and I've never broken a law in my life, But this is the WORST STUPIDEST law I've ever heard of, and there isn't enough room in the jails for all of WS . . . "

"I usually agree with what this government does, but I think this is a really stupid idea and I don't see how they can make it work. It just won't work,"

"You want to know what I think about the Poil Tax? I'll tell you what I'M going to tell the Poll Tax inspector - I'm going to tell him to **** off !!"

"Down the toilet with it! Straight down the toilet !!"

"None of you is a real rebel, Off with their heads! that's what I say. Off with their heads!!"

High	Holloway	Against	The Po	>1

ISLINGTON AGAINST THE POLL TAX

MEETING

Thursday 7th September 7.30 to 9.30 pm

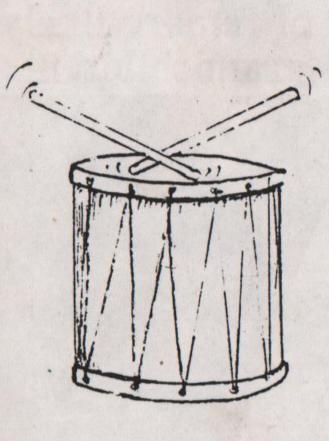
The Central Library (Small Hall) Fieldway Crescent (off Holloway Road) London N5 (Highbury & Isl. Tube)

Jeremy Corbyn (MP for North Islington)

Nick Barstow (Assistant Secretary, Islington NALGO)

Councillor David Yorath (Chair of Council's Finance Committee)

Poll Tax forms will be shredded during the meeting, and then sent for recycling - bring yours along!



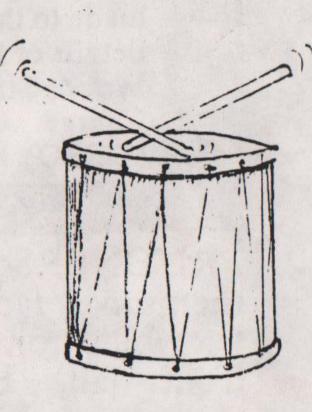
11 Tax -

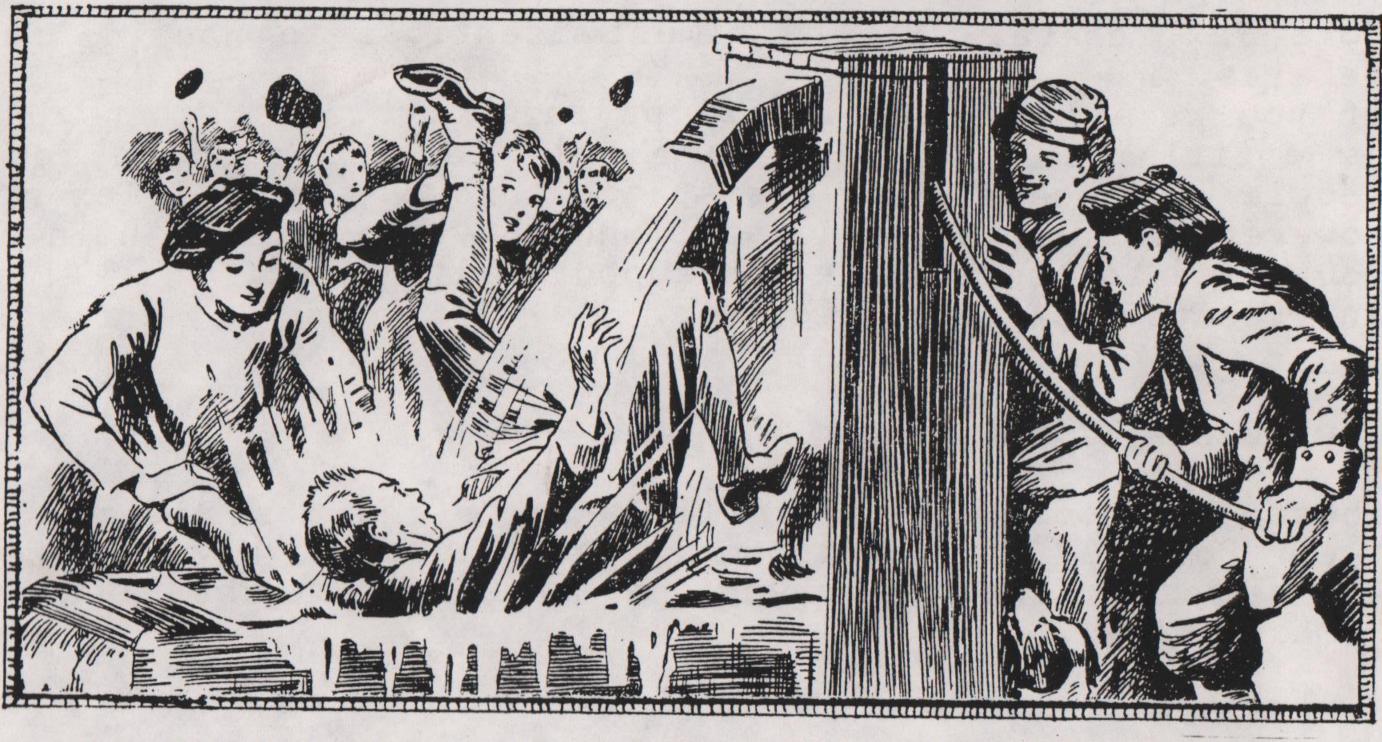
2582

Kenny McKastel (Edinburgh Against The Poll Tax)

Betty Mathews (Islington Against The Poll Tax)

Chair: Councillor Maureen Leigh





.03

BBC TV's cameras were up this way to film HHAPT's strategy for greeting Poll Tax inspectors, (see back page as part of a short piece about registration for the Poll Tax, which went out on 19th August, We sang the following song : (Tune, My Bonny Lies Over the Ocean)

increase central power, unconstitutional in the '60s,

of BA in his mansion, comfy, Reigate or Guildford,

powers to order the council to provide whatever is needed to complete the register. "Islington are keen to safeguard civil liberties, but ultimately they may have no choice ...; [this is the borough's registration officer speaking] 'At the moment, I've agreed to, to recognise the civil, liberties issue [BUT!] there's probably going to come a time when the boundaries are going to meet and questions are going to be asked, and I'm going to have to give the reason for straying over the agreed boundary ... " [What CAN he mean?] (Newsnight).

- Every year, more than a quarter of people move in or out, Every year there'll be another form to fill in, and every year snoopers will on average visit every Islington household twice (according to the registration officer on Newsnight), - Islington have had to employ four times as many people as it needed for the rates, 11 1

- At the last count, more than a quarter of the Scots had still not paid any Poll Tax, Our time will come - meanwhille ...

WE CAN AND MUST MAKE CLEAR HOW MUCH WE HATE THIS STUPID WICKED TAX

High Holloway Against The Foll Tax Resistance

WELCOMING THE POLLTAX INSPECTOR

13 The Poll Tax is undemocratic 1 - It was deliberately introduced to increase Whitehall control over local government spending, ie, to

--- "Between Feb 88 and Feb 89, the London electorate fell by 56,000" (City Limits), Between 1376, when

a poll tax was first imposed, and 1381 (the Peasants' Revolt), the apparent population of England fell from 1,300,000 to 800,000; much the same thing happened in 17th-century France; in the USA, poll taxes were used in the Southern States to rob the poor - mostly black - of their vote, until that was ruled

J J The Poll Tax is grossly unfair J JJ --- People on very low incomes pay the full amount, the nurse in her bedsit pays the same as the chairman

- Needy boroughs like Islington and Haringey are having to set a rate three times higher than fat,

J J J I I t's unjust JJ J

- The registration office is paid for locally, but is accountable to central authority, with special

J DD & It's bureaucratic D D

And we're NOT going to pay it so there !!"

55

Rebates

Who will get them?

Poll Tax rebates will be almost identical to Housing Benefit rebates.

If you receive help now with paying your rates, then you will be entitled to help with your Poll Tax. In fact, a few more people will qualify for assistance through the Poll Tax scheme. However, your income will still not have to be very high before you cease to be eligible for support altogether. Any rebate must be applied for.

How much will they get?

Those on Income Support will receive the most help: 80% of their Poll Tax will be rebated. They will also have included in their weekly Income Support payments, an amount towards the remaining 20%.

However;

a. This sum will be calculated as 20% of the National average Poll Tax. The National average is £246, and the actual Poll Tax which individuals in Islington will have to pay is £480% So people in the borough who find themselves in this situation will lose out. The shortfall will have to come out of the rest of their Income Support.

b.As the Government has never specified how they calculate weekly Income Support payments, the amount included towards the 20% seems likely to "fade away" in the near future.

For those not on Income Support, they receive gradually less than an 80% rebate as their income rises, until the rebate vanishes. There is no extra help.

Students:

All full-time students will have to pay 20% of the Poll Tax for the county/borough in which they live during term time. They receive no additional support to compensate for this.

* approx first year figure

figures suggest that to qualify for an 80 per cent rebate — the maximum possible — single people will not be able to earn much above £50-a-week while the joint income for married couples with two children must not exceed £150. The regressive effects will become more apparent as precise details become known next Spring.

FROM THE PAPERS ...

FOLL TAX registration officers in Scotland have had to amend their registers more than a million times to keep them up to date.

The registers were drawn up last summer in preparation for the introduction of the poll tax in Scotland in April this year. But the population has proved more mobile than local authority registration officers anticipated and the number of changes to registers has far exceeded estimates.

In Strathclyde, the most populous region in Scotland, more than 700,000 changes have been made to the register which carries details of 1.8 million people. Jack Wood, Strathclyde's Community Charge registration officer (CCRO), had expected his staff to

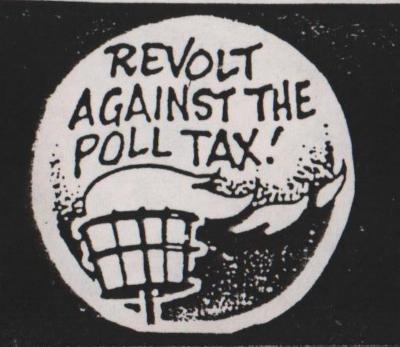
PRISONERS :- could :- find themselves facing double poll tax ; bills on their, release from jail, blighting their chances of a fresh start with the prospect of debt and homelessness. Because they cannot tote, and so cannot, hold their local authority accountable, prisoners are exempt from

personal poll tax, due to come into force in England and Wales next year. But the Department of the

Environment confirmed last week that single prisoners would be liable for the standard charge on their empty homes under the same rules that apply to holiday cottages. Rebates available under the personal charge would not apply.

Under current regulations, poll tax officials in England and Wales could not waive the charge, as they have done in Scotland. Nor could they allow reductions for hardship, as councils can with rates.

Convicted or remand prisoners in jail for more than three, months would face back-payments of anything between half and double the average rate, estimated by the Government at £275.

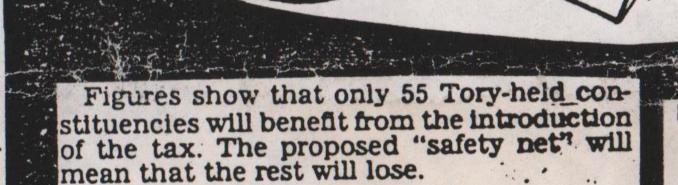


Recent

By I. Douglas Home Scollish Correspondent

alter 30 per cent of the entries each year. But, so far, it has worked out at 40 per cent.

In Tayside, another region which incorporates a shifting population of university students, about 6,000 changes are still being notified every week to registration officials. The level has dropped this year from 6,500 a week, but it is still high enough to produce a 100 per cent change in 12 months.



Happy

Birthday

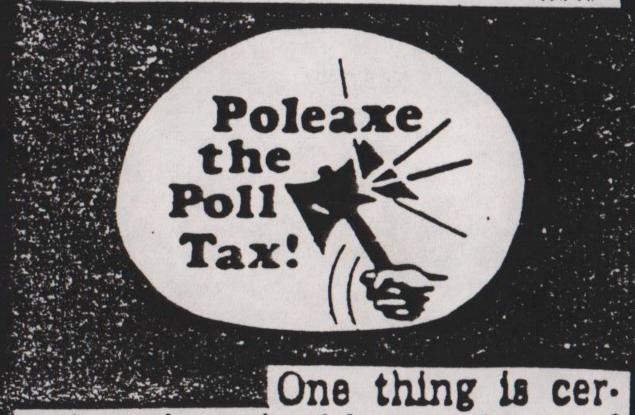
Bonanza

So the Government has worked out a scheme to redistribute cash from the Rate Support Grant — the money given by White-hall to local authorities — to redress the balance. The outcome is a £1 billion bonanza over four years for Tory-held seats in the South of England.

Mr Ridley will tell MPs that hidden figures in the Rate Support Grant would benefit the North of England at the expense of the South and that Ministers had decided to redress the balance.

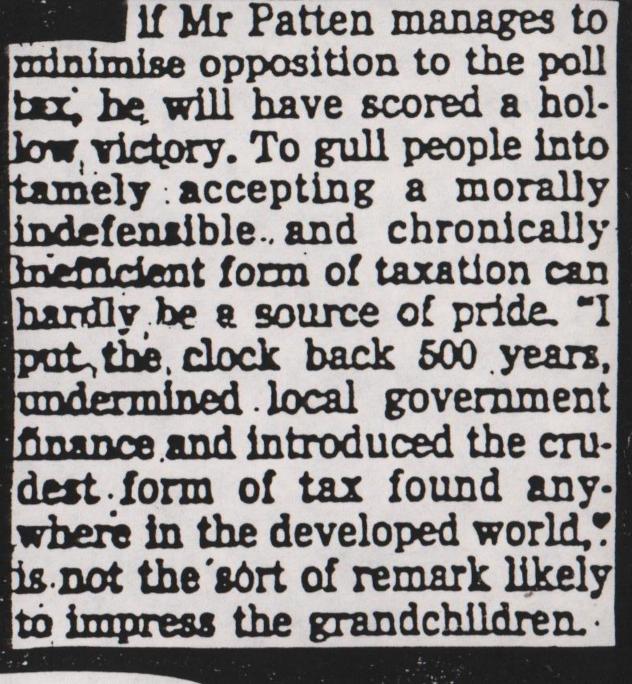
But the truth is that the Government has found a formula to reassure its own backbenchers.

They are terrified of the impact the poll tax could have on their chances of holding on to their seats at the next general election



tain, the shoddy system of local government finance invented by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Tories' smiling party chairman, will not outlive the 1990s. FINANCIAL TIMES

HANK you, Toby Jessel, for the good news about the poll tax, delivered in a really positive, upbeat way to a 74-year-old retired baker and his wife. The Twickenham Tory MP's advice to the elderly worried about the extra expense, seems to amount to this: you can always save money by dropping dead. Witness the letter he has sent to Edward and Pat Quirk, quoted in the **Richmond and Twickenham** Times. The couple had pointed out that their poll tax bill will exceed their present rates by £200. Mr. Jessel's reply: some households with two adults may pay more. "However, there is one delicate point that I cannot avoid mentioning. As, alas, we all have to die some time, then when one partner goes only one community charge will be paid instead of two." Helpful, eh?



Personal Commun Charge

COMMUNITY RESISTANCE TO THE POLL TAX

As time goes on, and the campaign grows, there will be obstacles to overcome, and not just the Tory government (They welcome our resistance to a certain extent, as it makes Labour councils unpopular), but the Labour Party leadership as well. They hope to ride to power on the crest of a wave of anti-Tory feeling fuelled by the Poll Tax. We are going to be hearing more and more that we should be putting our energies into getting the Labour Party elected, and that non-payment will not work.

WHICH SIDE ARE THEY ON?

Does this mean that the Labour Party will drastically change the Poll Tax? Reimburse those who have been robbed by the Poll Tax? Set free those people imprisoned for not paying either the Poll Tax or fines imposed because of the Poll Tax? Stop sending council employed thieves and burglars to steal our possessions? OF COURSE NOT!! As time goes on and councils accuse non-payers of being responsible for council services suffering, just remember who it was who volunteered to implement the Poll Tax, NOT US!! It was the council and their belief that the Poll Tax is a political godsend for their careers that meant that the Poll Tax did not even have to be forced on them.

MASS RESISTANCE

As the campaign gets stronger, some councillors will seize the opportunity to boost their credibility. e.g. Setting themselves up as martyrs "Don't refuse to pay yourself, leave it to me!", and commitees of 100 as a symbolic protest moving away from mass resistance where OUR clout lies. It's a good career move! WE must be aware of bandwagon jumpers, these people are only interested as long as it serves their political ends.

CAN'T PAY - WON'T PAY

Those of us who cannot afford to pay cannot afford to wait for the next Labour government. They never have and never will keep their promises, always seeking to halt the tide of real change with petty reforms. It's the majority of us who cannot afford to pay that will make up the core of resistance.

ROBBING THE POOR

The Poll Tax is simply a blatant way of taking money off the poor and giving to the rich. That includes taking money off us indirectly e.g. *privatisation of services* caused by councils trying to get the Poll Tax down to remain electable, means we are paying more for our services. *If you lose out because of the Poll Tax. there is no reason why you should pay it!* Remember, you are definitely not alone, millions of people are refusing to pay - already official figures quoted in Scotland estimate that those not paying total well over a million people. (These figures are rising almost daily as more and more people join the non-payment campaign). That's 25% of the population! It is us who are losing out and it is us who need to defend ourselves, and decide what action to take.

SERVICES & SELF-ORGANISATION

It's important that we, working class people, do not suffer from lack of services. The community should be supporting those living in it. If, for example, the bins were left unemptied as the council tries to break the non-payment campaign, the community would have to sort it out. Through the Poll Tax groups we could coordinate collection ourselves with those dustbin men and women who refuse to go along with the council when they are holding us to ransom. If this is backed up with effective industrial action (which we should be encouraging and supporting), the council will lose that battle against non-payment.

EFFECTIVE WORKING CLASS SELF-ORGANISATION with strong workplace/community links plus effective mutual aid, means grass roots resistance to the Poll Tax can become a reality. We'll be able to stop the divisions that will be created by the council and the labour leadership..

PO BOX 446, SHEFFIELD S1 1NY

COMMUNITY & WORKPLACE

Local community based anti-Poll Tax groups are <u>vital</u> to the fight against the Poll Tax, and can also make our lives brighter in many ways, through the re-creating of the community spirit e.g. street parties etc. The possibilities are enormous, DO IT!!

Local community groups must organise at street level, aiming for a rep. on every street to build mass local opposition. Local Poll Tax groups must build links directly with workers, especially council workers and D.H.S.S. staff. To keep pushing for unions to pass policies against the Poll Tax and call strike action means NOTHING! Opposition to the Poll Tax must be built among ordinary rank and file workers.

WORKPLACE SELF ORGANISATIONS It will become more and more obvious that the limited, compromising union structures are not enough. We need to build our own workplace self-organisations capable of fighting the Poll Tax. Not just in the council depts., but in all workplaces. We must be able to resist it over). having the Poll Tax taken directly from our wage packets and our benefits. WE STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE **CONTROL OF THESE GROUPS REMAINING IN THE HANDS OF THEIR MEMBERS.** Everyone must have a chance to participate in the day to day running of the groups, and all elected positions should be rotated throughout the membership, and post-holders subject to immediate 'recall' by the group if they're not doing their job properly. **GRASS ROOTS RESISTANCE** Community and workplace groups must remain independent and promote self-activity i.e. people getting involved. We don't need anyone from outside telling us what to do. Decisions must be made together, collectively. This way we won't be limited in our activities by being dictated to by this or that political party. We will be able to develop the grass roots resistance, in our communities and workplaces, necessary to make the Poll Tax unworkable.

OUR FUTURE, OUR LIVES & OUR FIGHT

Each individual area is different and it's up to the people in that area to work out how best to organise. Attempts by left wing parties to dominate should be resisted. They are there for one reason only, to build the party by recruiting new members.

The S.W.P. wants to be <u>SEEN TO BE</u> organising in the trade unions and to be THE trade union activists on all issues, not just the Poll Tax. Pressuring the trade union leaders and bureaucrats to call industrial action against the Tax is USELESS!!

Militant, and their juvenile section <u>Y.T.U.R.C.</u>, emphasise convincing (begging) the Labour councils not to implement the Poll Tax and encouraging all anti-Poll Tax activists to join the Labour party - and thus boost their power within it (they hope one day to take it over).

OPPORTUNISTS

These opportunitists will drop the campaign when it suits them. They are seeking to be the "new bosses". History has shown us that these bosses, no matter how "new" they claim to be, will be no better than the last ones.

DIRECTACTION

Practically we will need to develop as an independent movement in open confrontation with the bosses laws, the councils and the state e.g. mass non-payment, widespread physical defence of our homes against the bailliffs, mass occupations of council buildings, harrassment of Poll Tax snoopers, fighting deductions from wages in our workplaces, from benefits, and refusal to work on, and sabotage of the whole Poll Tax system.eg Poll Tax Computer viruses!!

THERE IS A REAL CHANCE OF VICTORY HERE

The Poll Tax is an attempt to squeeze more out of us. the fight against it goes much deeper. We must form links against everything the ruling classes use to divide us e.g. racism, sexism etc.. Coming as it does at a time when **Thatcherism is struggling to maintain it's** credibility even among the middle classes and the Tory back-benchers, *political strikes are happening again and solidarity is the new byword*. There is a real chance of victory here. We can gain the confidence to go further than just the Poll Tax, with a raising of community spirit and working class solidarity and the realisation that Labour controlled councils are no better at running "local democracy" than the Tories, nor are they capable of defending us from attacks, and neither is anyone else.

Finally, the realisation that the only people capable of defending and running our lives is ourselves through our own organisations. The time will come when communities will support themselves and provide their own services, without parasites to exploit or oppress us. <u>Only then will there be true socialism</u>. We work towards and look forward to that day.

COMMUNITY RESISTANCE TO THE POLL TAX

As time goes on, and the campaign grows, there will be obstacles to overcome, and not just the Tory government (They welcome our resistance to a certain extent, as it makes Labour councils unpopular), but the Labour Party leadership as well. They hope to ride to power on the crest of a wave of anti-Tory feeling fuelled by the Poll Tax. We are going to be hearing more and more that we should be putting our energies into getting the Labour Party elected, and that non-payment will not work.

WHICH SIDE ARE THEY ON?

Does this mean that the Labour Party will drastically change the Poll Tax? Reimburse those who have been robbed by the Poll Tax? Set free those people imprisoned for not paying either the Poll Tax or fines imposed because of the Poll Tax? Stop sending council employed thieves and burglars to steal our possessions? OF COURSE NOT!! As time goes on and councils accuse non-payers of being responsible for council services suffering, just remember who it was who volunteered to implement the Poll Tax, NOT US!! It was the council and their belief that the Poll Tax is a political godsend for their careers that meant that the Poll Tax did not even have to be forced on them.

MASS RESISTANCE

As the campaign gets stronger, some councillors will seize the opportunity to boost their credibility. e.g. Setting themselves up as martyrs "Don't refuse to pay yourself, leave it to me!", and commitees of 100 as a symbolic protest moving away from mass resistance where OUR clout lies. It's a good career move! WE must be aware of bandwagon jumpers, these people are only interested as long as it serves their political ends.

CAN'T PAY - WON'T PAY

Those of us who cannot afford to pay cannot afford to wait for the next Labour government. They never have and never will keep their promises, always seeking to halt the tide of real change with petty reforms. It's the majority of us who cannot afford to pay that will make up the core of resistance.

ROBBING THE POOR

The Poll Tax is simply a blatant way of taking money off the poor and giving to the rich. That includes taking money off us indirectly e.g. *privatisation of services* caused by councils trying to get the Poll Tax down to remain electable, means we are paying more for our services. *If you lose out because of the Poll Tax. there is no reason why you should pay it!* Remember, you are definitely not alone, millions of people are refusing to pay - already official figures quoted in Scotland estimate that those not paying total well over a million people. (These figures are rising almost daily as more and more people join the non-payment campaign). That's 25% of the population! It is us who are losing out and it is us who need to defend ourselves, and decide what action to take.

SERVICES & SELF-ORGANISATION

It's important that we, working class people, do not suffer from lack of services. The community should be supporting those living in it. If, for example, the bins were left unemptied as the council tries to break the non-payment campaign, the community would have to sort it out. Through the Poll Tax groups we could coordinate collection ourselves with those dustbin men and women who refuse to go along with the council when they are holding us to ransom. If this is backed up with effective industrial action (which we should be encouraging and supporting), the council will lose that battle against non-payment.

EFFECTIVE WORKING CLASS SELF-ORGANISATION with strong workplace/community links plus effective mutual aid, means grass roots resistance to the Poll Tax can become a reality. We'll be able to stop the divisions that will be created by the council and the labour leadership..

PO BOX 446, SHEFFIELD S1 1NY

COMMUNITY & WORKPLACE

Local community based anti-Poll Tax groups are vital to the fight against the Poll Tax, and can also make our lives brighter in many ways, through the re-creating of the community spirit e.g. street parties etc. The possibilities are enormous, DO IT !!

Local community groups must organise at street level, aiming for a rep. on every street to build mass local opposition. Local Poll Tax groups must build links directly with workers, especially council workers and D.H.S.S. staff. To keep pushing for unions to pass policies against the Poll Tax and call strike action means NOTHING! Opposition to the Poll Tax must be built among ordinary rank and file workers.

WORKPLACE SELF ORGANISATIONS It will become more and more obvious that the limited, compromising union structures are not enough. We need to build our own workplace self-organisations capable of fighting the Poll Tax. Not just in the council depts., but in all workplaces. We must be able to resist having the Poll Tax taken directly from our wage packets and our benefits. WE STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE **CONTROL OF THESE GROUPS REMAINING** IN THE HANDS OF THEIR MEMBERS. Everyone must have a chance to participate in the day to day running of the groups, and all elected positions should be rotated throughout the membership, and post-holders subject to immediate 'recall' by the group if they're not doing their job properly.

OUR FUTURE, OUR LIVES & OUR FIGHT

Each individual area is different and it's up to the people in that area to work out how best to organise. Attempts by left wing parties to dominate should be resisted. They are there for one reason only, to build the party by recruiting new members.

The S.W.P. wants to be SEEN TO BE organising in the trade unions and to be THE trade union activists on all issues, not just the Poll Tax. Pressuring the trade union leaders and bureaucrats to call industrial action against the Tax is USELESS!!

Militant, and their juvenile section Y.T.U.R.C., emphasise convincing (begging) the Labour councils not to implement the Poll Tax and encouraging all anti-Poll Tax activists to join the Labour party - and thus boost their power within it (they hope one day to take it over).

OPPORTUNISTS

These opportunitists will drop the campaign when it suits them. They are seeking to be the "new bosses". History has shown us that these bosses, no matter how "new" they claim to be, will be no better than the last ones.

GRASS ROOTS RESISTANCE

Community and workplace groups must remain independent and promote self-activity i.e. people getting involved. We don't need anyone from outside telling us what to do. Decisions must be made together, collectively. This way we won't be limited in our activities by being dictated to by this or that political party. We will be able to develop the grass roots resistance, in our communities and workplaces, necessary to make the Poll Tax unworkable.

DIRECT ACTION

Practically we will need to develop as an independent is anyone else. movement in open confrontation with the bosses laws, the councils and the state e.g. mass non-payment, of defending and running our lives is ourselves widespread physical defence of our homes against the bailliffs, mass occupations of council buildings, harrassment of Poll Tax snoopers, fighting deductions from wages in our workplaces, from benefits, and refusal to work on, and sabotage of the whole Poll Tax work towards and look forward to that day. system.eg Poll Tax Computer viruses!!

THERE IS A REAL CHANCE OF VICTORY HERE

The Poll Tax is an attempt to squeeze more out of us. the fight against it goes much deeper. We must form links against everything the ruling classes use to divide us e.g. racism, sexism etc.. Coming as it does at a time when Thatcherism is struggling to maintain it's credibility even among the middle classes and the Tory back-benchers, *political strikes are happening* again and solidarity is the new byword. There is a real chance of victory here. We can gain the confidence to go further than just the Poll Tax, with a raising of community spirit and working class solidarity and the realisation that Labour controlled councils are no better at running "local democracy" than the Tories, nor are they capable of defending us from attacks, and neither

Finally, the realisation that the only people capable through our own organisations. The time will come when communities will support themselves and provide their own services, without parasites to exploit or oppress us. Only then will there be true socialism. We

THIS FAR AND NO FURTHER DON'T PAY, DON'T COLLECT

WHAT IS THE POLL TAX?

THE POLLTAX REPLACES THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF RATES.INSTEAD OF PAYING PER HOUSEHOLD UNDER THE POLL TAX EVERYONE OVER 18 HAS TO PAY INDIVIDUALLY.

WHO LOSES?

IN BULWELL OVER 80% WILL BE WORSE OFF.NATIONALLY 22 MILLION PEOPLE WILL LOSE OUT!

WHO GAINS?

UNDER THE POLL TAX EVERYONE (RICH OR POOR!) PAYS THE SAME:

MRS THATCHER WILL SAVE £2300+

TORY MINISTER PAUL CHANNON WILL SAVE £6000+

THE POLL TAX WILL MEAN THAT THE RICH GET RICHER WHILE THE POOR GET POORER.

IN SCOTLAND (WHERE THE TAX HAS ALREADY COME IN) A CAMPAIGN SIMILAR TO BADAPTU'S HAS HELPED TO CREATE THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHAOS WHICH IS HELPING THE CAMPAIGN TO STOP THE TAX.

IN STRATHCLYDE POLL TAX PAYMENT BOOKS HAVEN'T BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO 10,000'S OF PEOPLE. IN EDINBURGH (WHERE THE TAX IS £392 PER PERSON) THOSE WHO APPLIED FOR REBATES IN APRIL WILL HAVE TO WAIT 4 MONTHS FOR THEIR APPLICATION TO BE PROCESSED. BY THE END OF MAY LOTHIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL EXPECTS 500,000 NOT TO HAVE PAID ONE PENNY OUT OF THEIR POLL TAX (OUT OF 680,000 DUE TO PAY) THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING FOR GLASGOW DISTRICT COUNCIL SAID "I CAN'T SEE HOW THEY CAN EVEN START TO CONSIDER ENFORCING NON-PAYERS WHEN THEY

HAVEN'T GOT THE BASIC ADMINISTRATION OF THE PAYMENT PROCESS YET"

BASED ON FIGURES FROM LOTHIAN ON AN ALL SCOTLAND BASIS THERE COULD BE 850,000 TO 900,000 NON-PAYERS BY THE END OF JUNE.HOWEVER THE PRESS IS DELIBERATELY IGNORING THE MASS CAMPAIGN OF NON-PAYMENT.THIS MONTH WE HAVE SEEN A COUNCIL TAKE THE TORIES TO COURT FOR PRODUCING A MISLEADING LEAFLET- THE TORIES KNOW WE DO NOT WANT THE POLL TAX & ARE BECOMING MORE & MORE WORRIED.A MASS CAMPAIGN OF NON-PAYMENT WILL BRING THE POLL TAX AND THE TORIES CRASHING DOWN.

-JOIN BADAPTU -COME TO THE MEETING IN YOUR AREA -JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE TORY POLL TAX

HOW THE POLL TAX AFFECTS YOUTH:

FOR WORKING CLASS YOUTH THE POLL TAX WILL BE A DISASTER, HUNDREDS IN BULWELL AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS UP AND DOWN THE COUNTRY QUITE SIMPLY WON'T BE ABLE TO PAY.IF, AS THE CASE WILL BE TOO OFTEN, THEIR PARENTS CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY THEIR SONS & DAUGHTERS POLL TAX THEN MORE AND MORE YOUTH WILL BE FORCED OUT ONTO THE STREETS TO AVOID PAYING AND AVOID POLL TAX SNOOPERS.WE WILL SEE FAMILIES SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE BECAUSE OF THE POLL TAX.

4

FOR 10 YEARS NOW YOUTH HAVE FACED ATTACK AFTER ATTACK ON THEIR LIVING STANDARDS FROM THIS TORY GOVERMENT. IN SEPTEMBER 1988 1/2 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE WERE CONSCRIPTED ONTO THE YTS "SLAVE-LABOUR" SCHEME. ANOTHER 600,000 MAINLY 18-24 YEAR OLDS ARE NOW BEING FORCED TO WORK FOR THEIR DOLE PLUS £10.80-90% OF YOUTH EARN LESS THAN THE EEC'S MINIMUM WAGE OF £135 A WEEK.WE'VE BEEN AT THE BOTTOM OF THATCHER'S SCRAPHEAP FOR 10 YEARS AND NOW SHE'S TRYING TO MAKE US PAY THE POLL TAX.EVERYONE OVER 18 IN THE BULWELL AREA WILL GET ABILL FOR £300+ A YEAR, EVEN THOSE ON INCOME SUPPORT & BENEFIT WILL HAVE TO FIND 20% OF IT.YOUTH EARNING ONLY £60-£70 AWEEK WILL HAVE TO PAY THE SAME POLL TAX (PERHAPS EVEN MORE!) AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH KENNETH CLARKE WHO EARNS £900 A WEEK.

THE POLL TAX MUST BE STOPPED. IN SCOTLAND THE FIGHT IS ALREADY WELL UNDER WAY (SEE ARTICLE ON SCOTLAND). IF WE REFUSE TO PAY AND THE LABOUR COUNCIL REFUSES TO COLLECT THEN THE POLL TAX WILL SINK FASTER THAN GLEN MEDEIROS.

JOIN BADAPTU

-FOR A MASS CAMPAIGN OF NON PAYMENT WITH THE LABOUR COUNCIL REFUSING TO COLLECT.

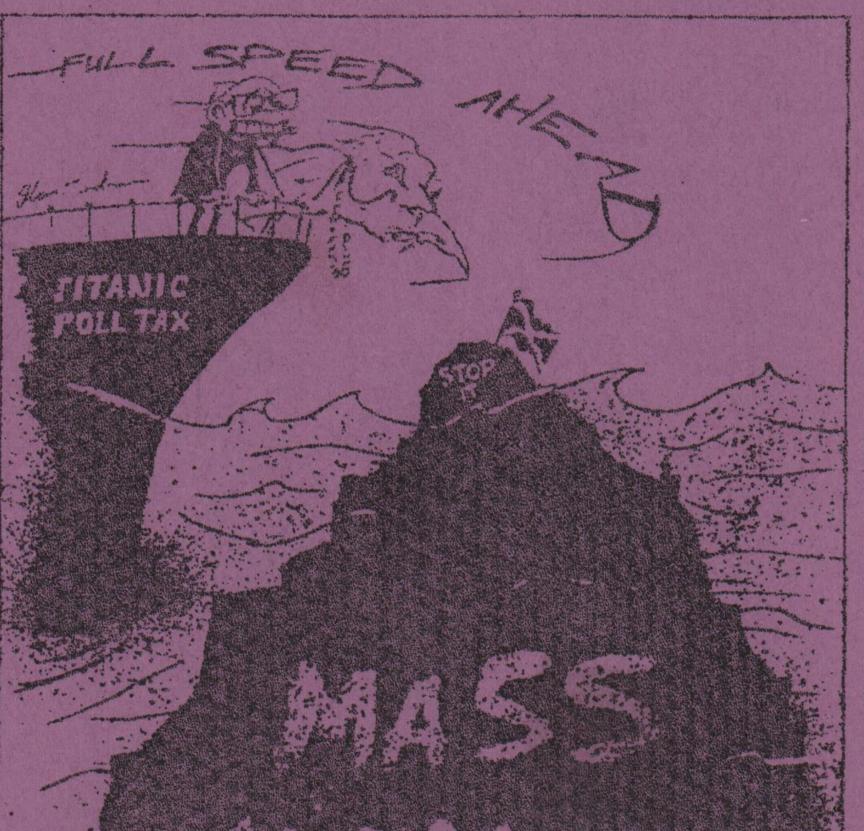
NO

POLLTAX

HERE

-YOUTH HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THATCHER & THE TORIES - WITH THE POLL TAX THEY'VE GONE TOO FAR.

THIS FAR AND NO FURTHER DON'T PAY, DON'T COLLECT





RESIST THE POLL TAX!

In April 1990 the government intends to introduce a replacement for the rating system in England and Wales. (The changes will come a year earlier in Scotland.) The proposed replacement will be called the community charge or poll tax. The result of this measure is that everyone over the age of 18, with a few exceptions, will have to pay their own individual contributions to local government. These contributions will not depend on how much your home is worth, or on your ability to pay. People living in the same local government district will have to pay the same whether they are a millionaire living in a mansion or a factory worker living in a council flat. Because people will each have to pay their own contributions, a large family living in an overcrowded house will have to pay more than an individual or couple living in much better accommodation. It is estimated that 37 million people will have to pay the charge: 22 million people will be worse off.

Another aspect of the proposed legislation is that industry, especially large industry, will pay much less towards local government than at present. So a boss will gain twice from the new system, once because his or her personal contribution will plumet, and again because business costs will fall due to the drop in rates for business premises. This handout for the rich will be paid for out of our pockets.

WHY THE CHANGE?

Over the last 15 years or so, the world economy has been in crisis. Although this crisis has been deeper at some times than at others, and although it manifests itself in different ways (e.g. unemployment, inflation, stock market crash) it has been with us constantly since the early seventies. Rulers the world over have been forced to attempt to fend off the 'recession' by the same means; attacking the working-class. In many countries first inflation and then unemployment have been manipulated in order to make us work harder for worse rewards. The last Labour government in this country used a wages policy to attack workers. In the Soviet Union "perestroika" will mean wage cuts and price rises. The present Tory government plans to replace the rates system with the "poll tax".

This "poll tax" is a particularly blatant attack on the working class. It will mean a massive drop in living standards for many, including many already at the bottom of the social ladder. Under these conditions many people will attempt to avoid paying the tax. Some people will have little choice but to avoid paying.

It has already been recognised by some sections of the ruling class that resistance to the community charge may well be widespread enough to make the tax inoperable. Some of these people (Tory aswell as Labour M.P.s) are already advocating different systems which will not be as harmful to the working class. The more resistance we offer to the implementation of the community charge, the more likely it is that the government will be forced to climb down and keep the old rates system or introduce another, less vicious, system.

We have stated how the community charge will result in a drop in standards for many people. We do not however see ourselves as being in the business of forming better policy for the present government. We are against the poll tax not because it is unfair and will be resisted, but because it represents an attack on our class. Because we take this view we are in favour of all working class people avoiding the tax whether they themselves are much worse off or

not. Refusing to pay the tax means refusing to allow the ruling class to rob us in yet another way. We need no excuses to defend ourselves from our class enemies.

P.T.O.

RESISTANCE TO THE NEW SYSTEM

The most effective way of combatting the community charge is obviously to just not pay. There will be many people who will be doing this out of necessity anyway. The more people who refuse to pay, the more others will be encouraged to do likewise. In fact the main purpose of this leaflet is to help get this snowball moving as rapidly as possible. The most important thing to do now is to ensure that your name and address are not added to any local or national government lists, e.g. the electoral register. In the event of a census being carried out, refuse to give any information. If possible, remove snoopers from your area by force. Sabotage, industrial action and refusal by those asked to administer the system are also important possible forms of resistance.

If you agree with all or most of what we have written then we would be interested to hear from you. However we are not some leftist organisation looking for recruits. Neither are we a campaigning group seeking to represent those who oppose the community charge. We are a small group of people who will refuse to pay the community charge if it is introduced and who would like to see as many other people avoiding payment as possible. Discuss this with friends. If enough people refuse to pay then a less punishing system may be retained or introduced. In any case, we should be able to keep what we save by non-payment.

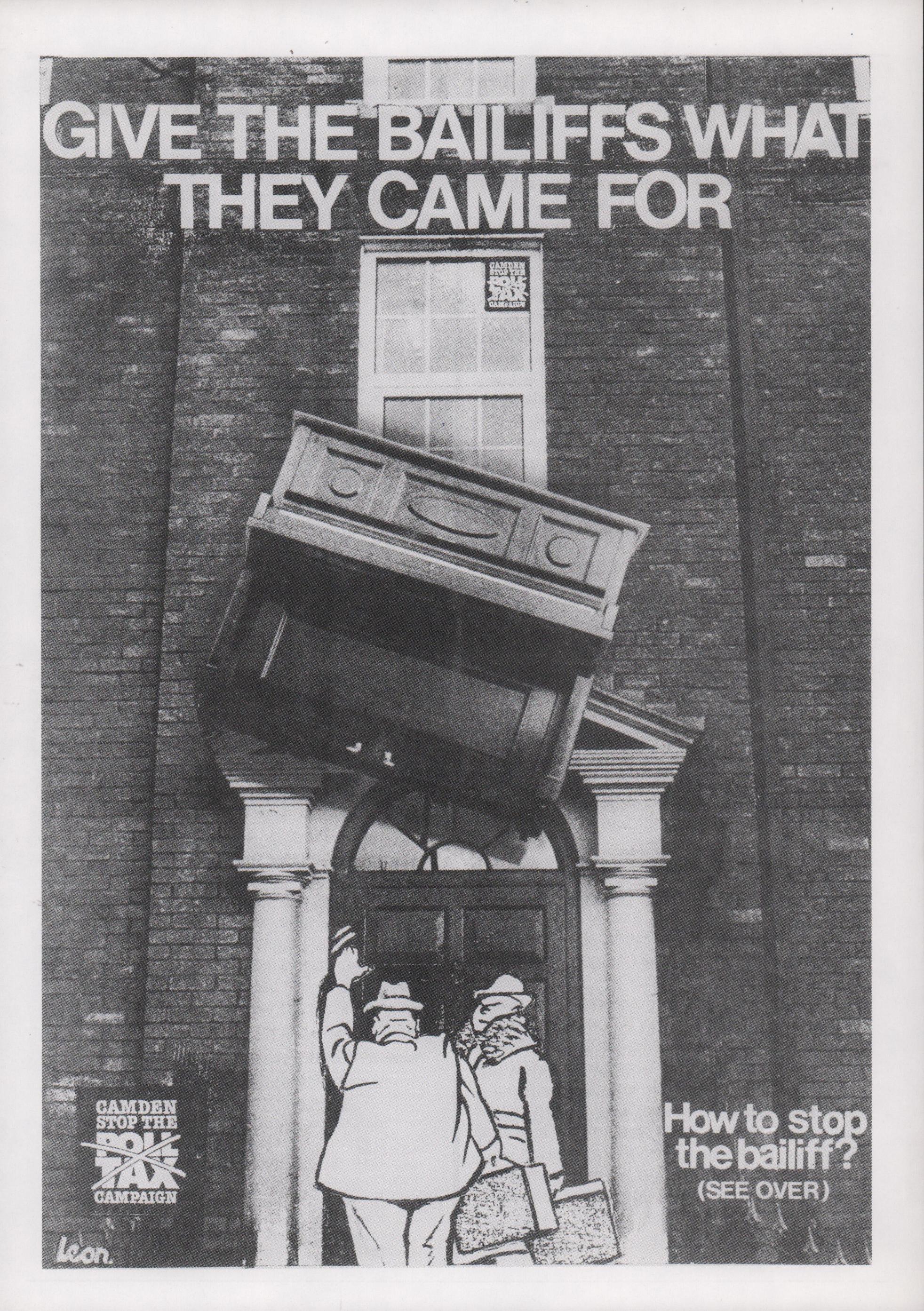
refuse to register,

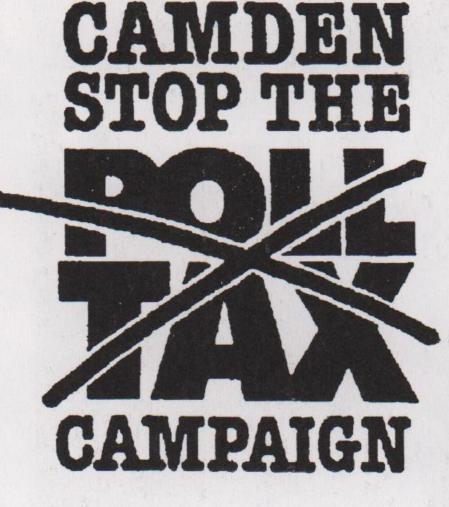


refuse to pay!

We intend to produce more anti-poll tax material in the future, including information on the resistance to community charge in Scotland, and a pamphlet dealing with the issues raised by the poll tax and resistance to it. Write to us if you want to receive copies, or if you want discuss this leaflet, or if you would like multiple copies of it.

Anti Poll Tax: Folder 21, 17 Chatham St., Reading, Berks.





There are many myths about the bailiffs. People are afraid that if they can't or won't pay their poll tax, the bailiffs will break into their homes and take

away their belongings. It is important to know your rights. Bailiffs cannot break into your home or force entry in any way, no matter what they tell you. There is no such thing as a bailiff's warrant or a court order giving them power to enter your home. You cannot be arrested or fined for not letting them in. You are within your legal rights not to let them in. If bailiffs do visit you, contact your local Anti-Poll Tax Union on any of the numbers below.

DON'T LET THEM IN!

doors and windows are able to be "peaceably" opened, so it is common sense to ensure your property is well locked when you are out. ****REMEMBER**** If your doors and windows are properly locked and you don't invite them in, Bailiffs have NO powers to enter your home.

IF THEY DO GET INSIDE

Once inside the front door, bailiffs have more powers. They are allowed to break down internal doors, even if they are locked. They cannot take goods that don't belong to you - goods on HP, rented items, property belonging to your landlord or anyone else. However, they can take goods that are jointly owned by you and another person, even if that person has paid their poll tax, and there are no exempt items (except fixtures, including baths and built-in furniture, etc). They are likely to be most interested in goods that can be re-sold at auction for enough money to recover the debt... cars, TV's stereos, videos, jewellery etc. Bailiffs are able to remove goods on their first visit, though sometimes they return a second time to collect the items they selected. It is a criminal offence to remove goods from your home after they have been "laid claim" to.

WHO ARE BAILIFFS?

Bailiffs are private debt collectors hired by the Council. They do not have police powers and they are not employed by the courts.

WHEN CAN THEY COME?

Bailiffs cannot be called in until the Magistrates Court has granted the Council a liability order against you. At that point, the use of bailiffs is one option the Council has to recover your debt. The legal term for what bailiffs do is to "levy distress".

WHAT CAN THEY DO?

Bailiffs don't have unlimited powers. First, they must produce identification, a copy of Regulation 39 and Schedule 55 of the Enforcement Regulations 1989 and a copy of the charges connected with the distress.

They are not allowed to forcibly enter or to break in. They must be invited in or otherwise enter "peaceably". However, bailiffs are adept at "peaceable" entry by climbing through windows not properly secured or even by "peaceably" picking locks. They are also not above lying. If you open your door to talk to them, they might say they were "invited" in. So, talk to them through your letter-box or your door, or go out into the hallway or onto the pavement to talk to them and close your door behind you. If you're not in when they call, they will be unable to get in unless your

There are only 1,000 bailiffs for all the councils in England and Wales and there are 14 million non-payers. All over the country, they have been chased off estates and out of villages. So, organize a meeting on your estate or street to plan for the bailiffs in advance and support each other. Set up a telephone tree so you can contact each other quickly. Put pressure on the Council to follow the ALA Guide-lines that prohibit the use of bailiffs against single parents, pensioners and disabled people. And contact your local Anti-Poll Tax Union.

> West Hampstead.... South End Green... Kilburn.....

Swiss Cottage.... Hampstead..... Camden Town..... Kings Cross..... Mornington..... Kentish Town.... Holborn.....