

# WEST LoTHIAN ANTI-POLL TAX NEWSLETTER

## APRIL/MAY 1990

### Important Notice to all Non-Payers

The Sheriff Officers (Adamson of Falkirk) are currently touring the towns of West Lothian, knocking on people's doors, trying to get in to point your belongings and find out all they can about you.

### Do Not Panic Do Not Be Frightened

Remember the whole poll tax system is on the verge of collapse. There are over 200 000 non-payers in Lothian alone and well over a million in Scotland as a whole. There are only 191 Sheriff Officers in Scotland to pursue us. At the moment Adamson of Falkirk has only four cowboys to chase all the non-payers in West Lothian. Two of them have handed in their badges as a result of the hassle they've been getting. Join the Anti-Poll Tax Posse to chase them out of town!

### Make Their Job Even More Difficult - Follow This Procedure

- (1) If you see two unknown men snooping around your door **do not** let them in. Get in touch with your local anti-poll tax group. **Under no circumstances should you let the Sheriff Officers into your house voluntarily.** They cannot force entry without the assistance of the police. Don't let them bluff their way in.
- (2) If you answer the door make sure you don't tell them anything. Don't even tell them who you are. They can't prove who you are, so keep them guessing. If you have a job, don't tell them where you work. If you have a bank account, tell them **in Switzerland!** And don't admit to owning anything. They will try anything to catch you out, but together we can beat them. Let the Sheriff Officers know who their friends are - Shut the door in their face.
- (3) If you are not in when they call, they will leave a written notice - a further threat - that they will come back and get you another time. By law they must give you **four days written notice** and a date they will return to your house. By that time you can get a street party organised to celebrate their arrival.

Overleaf is a list of contact numbers for your local anti-poll tax group. Get in touch and join the campaign. We are winning!

# **JOIN THE CAMPAIGN YOU ARE NOT ALONE**

**For more information and support contact  
your local group from the following num-  
bers:**

<b>ARMADALE</b>	<b>32965</b>
<b>BATHGATE</b>	<b>630471 or 52458</b>
<b>BLACKBURN</b>	<b>54823 or 630871</b>
<b>BRIDGEND</b>	<b>834733 or 834866</b>
<b>FAULDHOUSE</b>	<b>71601 or 70456</b>
<b>LADYWELL</b>	<b>35420</b>
<b>LINLITHGOW</b>	<b>842022</b>
<b>KNIGHTSRIDGE</b>	<b>33307 (day) 31637 (evening)</b>
<b>SEAFIELD</b>	<b>632743 or 630502</b>
<b>STONEYBURN</b>	<b>62479</b>
<b>UPHALL</b>	<b>855504</b>
<b>WHITBURN</b>	<b>40979 or 40779</b>

**HAPPINESS IS  
NO POLLTAX**

# DEFEND THE LOTHIAN 17

On 13th November 1989, 50 anti - poll tax protesters, including small children, occupied the premises of sheriff officers H.M.. Love. This was to protest at the use of Warrant Sales and other methods to collect Poll Tax 'Debts'. The protest was peaceful. Nobody was injured. A written notice from the Lothians Anti - Poll Tax Federation, stating that we would prevent all Warrant Sales in Lothian (which we have done), was reluctantly accepted by senior partner Hugh Love.

Before we left 17 protesters, chosen at random, had their names taken by the police. A Chief Inspector agreed that the occupation had been peaceful and assured us that no action would be taken.

## POLITICAL VICTIMISATION

However, the Chief Procurator Fiscal saw the event on T.V. and in a blatant attempt to intimidate the anti - poll tax movement demanded prosecutions. The 17 were duly charged with 'breach of the peace'. This charge carries a maximum fine of £2,000 each or 3 months in jail. This is political victimisation. We have all pleaded not guilty. The trial begins on Wednesday 20th June at 10 A.M. and is scheduled to last until Friday 22nd June. This show trial is an attempt to frighten us and all Poll Tax resisters into shutting up and paying up. They will not succeed!

## SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN

Join the demonstration outside the Sheriff Court, Lawnmarket, (opposite Deacon Brodies pub) 9.30 a.m. onwards on 20th, 21st, and 22nd June.

Bring up the case of the Lothian 17 in your workplace, trade union branch, or community organisation. You could invite a speaker from the campaign to one of your meetings.

Write to Chief Procurator Fiscal, 3, Queensferry St., Edinburgh 2, demanding the dismissal of the charges and no political show trials.

Donations to "Defend the 17", 324 West Granton Rd., Edinburgh

Further information on the campaign from Lothian 17, 26, Glen St., Toll Cross, Edinburgh

Come to the campaign support meeting at  
103, Broughton St., 7p.m. Tuesday 26th June.

ALL WELCOME  
PAY NO POLL TAX