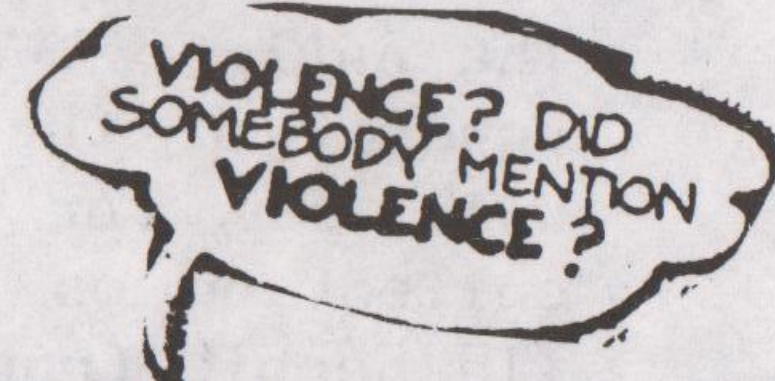


BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR

The answer to problems like the Poll Tax is not a change of face at No. 10, but mass working class rebellion like that seen outside the town halls.

The 200,000 strong Anti Poll Tax demonstration, in London on March 31st. was viciously attacked by the police. Good humoured and peaceful demonstrators were baton charged by riot police, mounted police rode indiscriminately into the crowd provoking a night long battle. Over 400 people were arrested on, or after, the demonstration, dozens being harassed and victimised by the police's "National Operation Carnaby". Of the 2,000 police on "Clubbing Duty" that Saturday - surprise - surprise - none have been charged. Intimidating and attacking those that oppose Thatcher (or any representative of the capitalist state) is their main task.

MILITANT RUNS FOR COVER

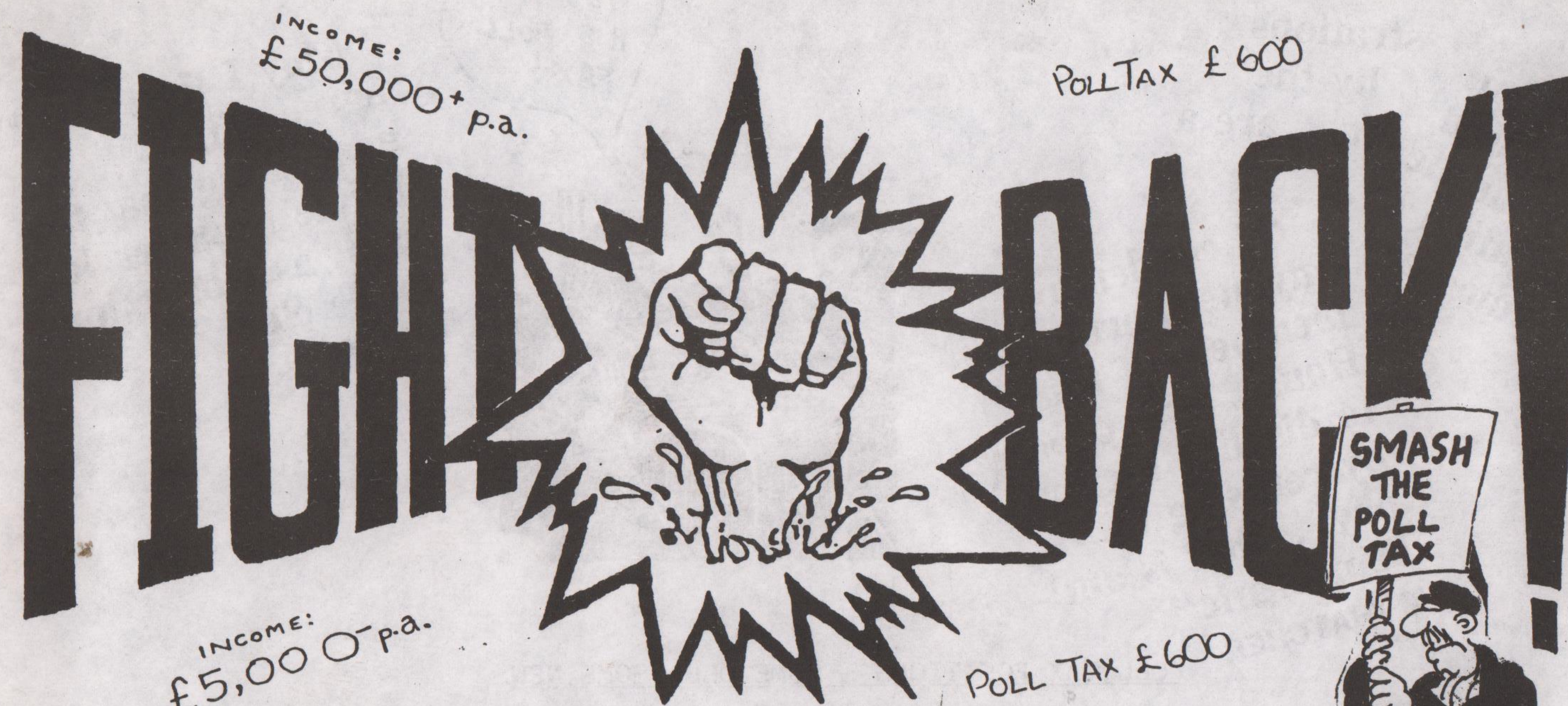


In an attempt to paint the Anti Poll Tax campaign as violent, the hysterical outburst against anarchists, extremists etc. was to be expected. The All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation however, instead of answering Tory/Labour lies about the cause of the violence, i.e. capitalism, agreed with the hypocritical exchanges in Parliament. Steve (Nark) Nally secretary of the National Federation (Militant) said, he would pass Names on to the police! These so-called 'socialists' of 'Militant' blame the working class for fighting back against police attacks. Unlike Militant S.A.A.P.T.U. defends unconditionally all those arrested, and along with other A.P.T. groups in Nottingham has helped to set up the 'Nottingham Defence Campaign' - to give solidarity, legal and financial support to the 15 people arrested from Nottingham.

People facing prosecution - resulting from their victimisation - in the fight against the Poll Tax have unconditional support from S.A.A.P.T.U. - this is why we have taken the decision to leave the Nottingham Federation. This organisation is run and controlled by Militant. S.A.A.P.T.U. has no confidence that they will behave any differently, under similar circumstances, in the future. Our loyalty is to the working class and not to any political party - neither Tory or Labour.

They said they couldn't help, so I jokingly asked if they would pay for a tent. The official said fill in a form and the next thing I knew the cheque had arrived - homeless mother of three Phyllis Smith, who received £189 from the DHSS, payable to an outdoor equipment store

INDEPENDENT

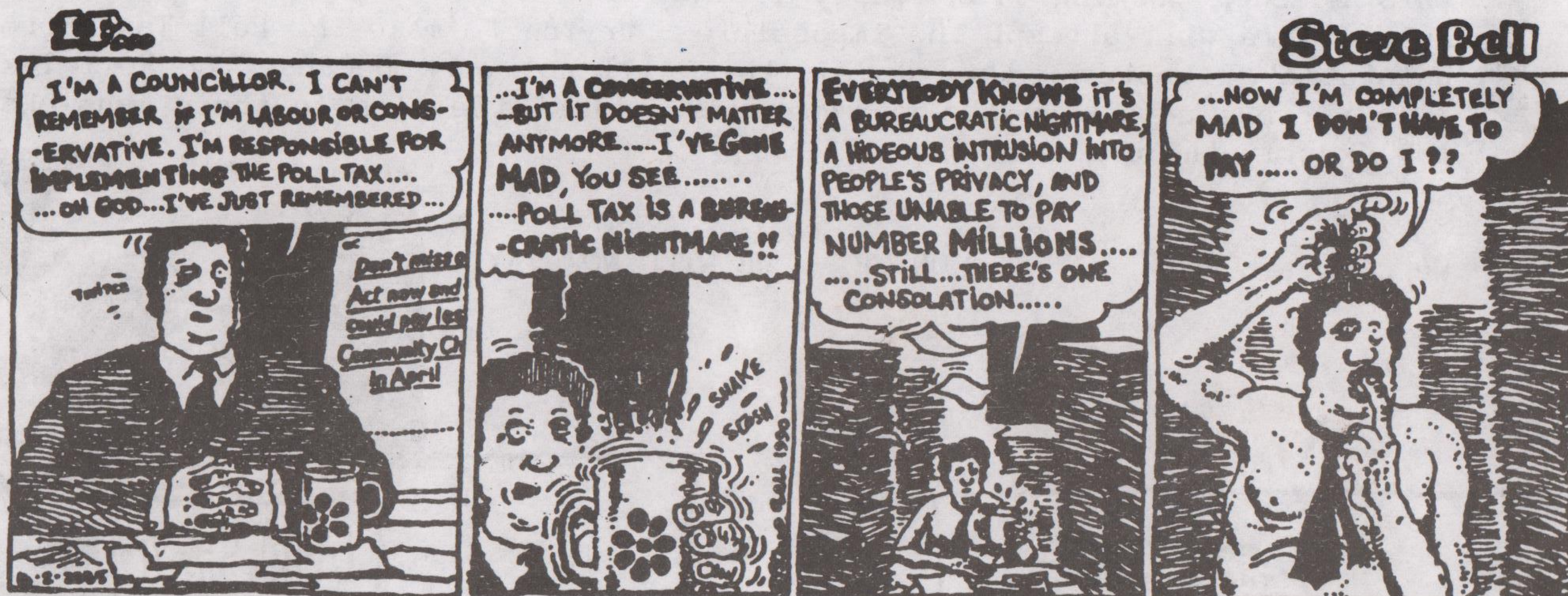


FIGHT BACK! IS THE NEWSLETTER OF ST ANN'S ANTI POLL TAX UNION

ONE MILLION NON-PAYERS IN SCOTLAND

Despite all the predictions that 'it couldn't be done', the actions of ordinary working class people on estates and housing schemes across Scotland have built and sustained a campaign of mass refusal to accept the Poll Tax. It's a mass movement that is defying the best efforts of Scottish Labour Councils to crush it. Hundreds of thousands of final demands - ordering non-payers to settle the whole years Poll Tax in 7 days or 'face the consequences' has been totally ignored. Councils attempts to intimidate non-payers by sending in bailiffs have met determined resistance. Communities have arranged 'welcoming committees' and physically prevented warrant sales taking place. Labour/Tory Councils in England and Wales can expect the same determined opposition because we are inspired by the example of the Scottish working class.

COS' WE ARE NOT GONNA PAY EITHER!



THE GUARDIAN 1990



POLL TAX IT'S GREAT YAH!

S. A. A. P. T. U.



NOW . . .

DON'T BE SILLY!

YOU MUST PAY YOUR COMMUNITY CHARGE!

Demonstrations
organised by the
militant le. ft...are a
negation of
democracy.

"I condemn
anyone, particularly
members of this
House, who choose
to disobey the law
by refusing to
pay...that is anti-
democratic"

■ THATCHER



"May I first of all
agree with
everything that the
Prime Minister just
said, as I have long
made clear"

■ KINNOCK

POLL TAX POSITIONS: SOME OLD, SOME NEW.

An argument against non-payment of the Poll Tax is that if large numbers of people do not pay up (as seems increasingly likely), then the council will not have enough in the coffers to pay the wages of council employees who will then become redundant.

There are two answers to this argument

1. The Poll Tax costs more to collect than the rates did. So, if we are concerned about costs we should certainly oppose it. Politically biased capping of certain councils by the government prevents services being met, usually in areas most in need. Put the blame where it belongs - on the government; not those who are fighting to get it scrapped!

Did we cause 3/400 Nott's teachers to be given notice of redundancy? Did we close the pits? Should the unemployed refuse to come off the dole if the chance arrives so as not to make D.S.S. staff redundant?.

In the 1980s it was argued that the reason for unemployment was people "pricing themselves out of jobs". Yet, in the Midlands, the heaviest job losses have been amongst manufacturing workers'. Coincidentally the lowest paid workers' in the area.

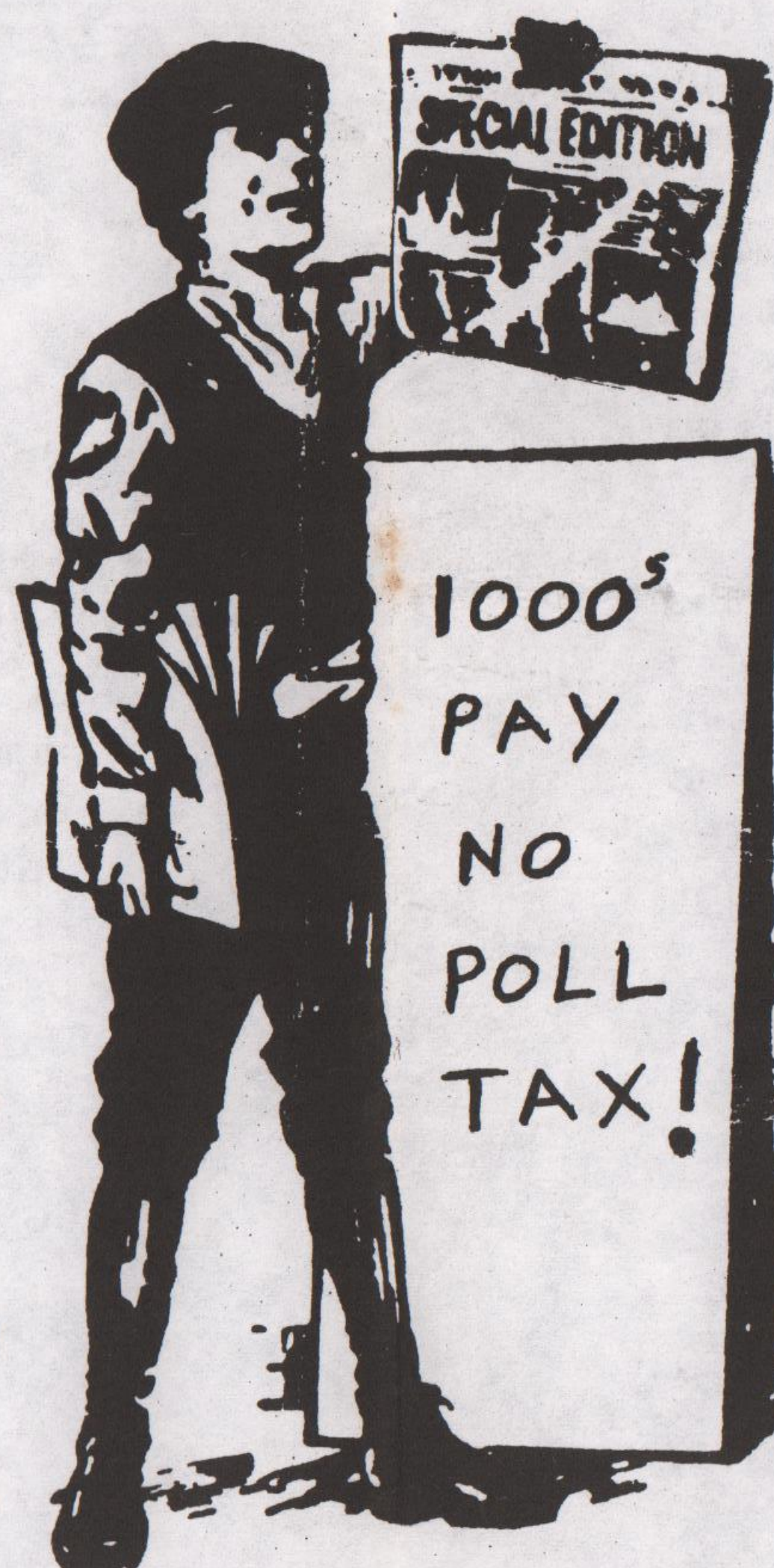
Isn't it time we stopped blaming ourselves (or our brothers and sisters) for job losses?

2. A great number of people are not paying the Poll Tax simply because they cannot afford to. A significant number of people are not paying even though they could afford to (for the time being!) rather than leave the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of the community alone to their plight. There are even won't payers who are in fact better off under the Poll Tax, but who see it's unfairness, and refuse to benefit from this further redistribution of wealth from the poor to the rich.

Divide and conquer has long been a ploy of right wing governments and employers. Don't fall for it.

You don't drop a pay claim because the boss tells you that if you persist he will lay others off or close a plant elsewhere. And we shouldn't blackmail each other. Solidarity will win the day - to everyone's benefit.

There are individuals who are opposed to the Poll Tax but intend paying it because they are afraid of the consequences. If you are one of these then contact us for advice and support. (We have two S.A.A.P.T.U. Legal Advice Leaflets.) A recent survey of St Ann's has recorded 40% non-payment, so you won't be alone. Non-Payers are by no means a small minority group!



The last few months have been a busy time for S.A.A.P.T.U. activists. We have over 600 members so far, contacted, mainly via the stall which we have on the Chase regularly. People about to pay - Poll Tax book in hand - at the rent office on the Chase, have been persuaded to save their money and join the fight.

Whilst you are reading this - S.A.A.P.T.U. members will be canvassing the estate to recruit hundreds more to non-payment. If you want to help by canvassing your own street don't hesitate to contact us. We have also managed to sign up 2 dogs - bailiffs you have been warned.

The Anti-Poll Tax 'EVENT' of recent times (April anyway) was of course the benefit at the Marcus Garvey Centre. We raised £300 for the Union (which will pay for paper, leaflets and printing etc. in the future). A collection on the night raised £110 for the Nottingham Defence Committee (15 people from Nottingham face prosecution relating to the struggle to non-payment of the Poll Tax). S.A.A.P.T.U. has also donated £100 from the event to the Defence Committee.

Thanks to everyone involved in making the evening successful - people worked hard to ensure that this event was a success.

S.A.A.P.T.U. supports the non-violent 'Robin Hood' invasion of the Council office meeting when the Poll Tax was set at £390 by Labour councillors. Three people from Hyson Green and Sherwood A.P.T. groups face charges of assault for throwing 'custard pies' at councillors. We give unconditional support to people arrested in the fight against the Poll Tax.

The main task now that S.A.A.P.T.U. faces in the coming months will be to build the confidence of non-payers - by proving that we do not stand alone. Isolation is our worst enemy - unity and solidarity is our weapon. The million of non-payers in Scotland have shown us the way, and how to fight, we must learn from their magnificent example.

The prospect of mass non-payment up and down the country has sent the Tories into a panic. Chris Patten and his friends in the Cabinet are at this moment, working frantically on the 'Poll Tax Review' - expected in July. This will attempt the impossible - trying to make the Poll Tax 'more palatable'. Whatever they decide this will not work because the Poll Tax is a vicious attack on the working class whilst the rich in their mansions pay exactly the same as we do.

We say:-

UNITE - WE WILL NOT PAY

