

INTRO.

MERSEYSIDE ANARCHIST NEWSLETTER, P.O.Box 110, Liverpool L69 8DP.

Hello there...

Well, we're down to the usual 16 pages for this month. As you can see from the listings on the back page, summer represents a general lull in events and we can't think of anything to write about!

However, issue 19 of the newsletter will be a bumper July/August summer special (even we need a holiday) and the deadline for news and articles is MONDAY JUNE 25th at the address above.

To join our growing list of subscribers simply send a £2 cheque (made out to 'Mutual Aid Centre') to the P.O.Box and we'll send you the next ten issues. Not bad eh?

FINALLY, WE MUST SAY THAT VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE THOSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL AUTHORS AND NOT NECESSARILY OF LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST GROUP AS A WHOLE.

BASIC ANARCHISM.

Anarchism is revolutionary anti-state socialism. In practical terms, anarchists aim for the destruction of the power of the ruling class and of all relationships based on domination and submission. This means taking over our industries and communities and changing them to meet the needs of all, as well as the ecological needs of the environment. Without this takeover we can struggle within capitalism but never replace it.

Anarchism will be created by millions of people, not a dictatorial elite (we are not Marxist-Leninists), and all will have their part to play in shaping it. Power will lie with the organisations thrown up by and for the revolution, not with the political parties who will try to dominate and destroy them.

The new society will not be born through abstract ideas, but will come out of the realities of struggle and the need for working class people to unite. Such struggle doesn't just involve resistance to ruling class power (strikes, mass protests and other forms of direct action), but also construction - the building of new, locally based federal organisations (examples of which go from the original Soviets of the Russian Revolution to the Miner's Support Groups of the 1984/85 strike), plus the forging of solidarity and the willingness to go further.

There is no truce in the class war. The answer to ruling class power is continual and widening struggle - for social revolution and anarchism.

LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST GROUP

NOT A PENNY.

Many councils are telling people that not paying the poll tax will lead to terrible punishments, even jail. How true is their threat? In this article we look at the powers councils have for recovering poll tax debts and, more importantly, what we can do to foil their efforts.

BILLING AND COLLECTION

First you will receive a form which offers you a choice of ways to pay. If you don't indicate a preferred method of payment you will be sent a Poll Tax payment book divided into 10 segments to pay the full years tax minus any rebate entitlement if a rebate has been claimed.

REMINDER NOTICES

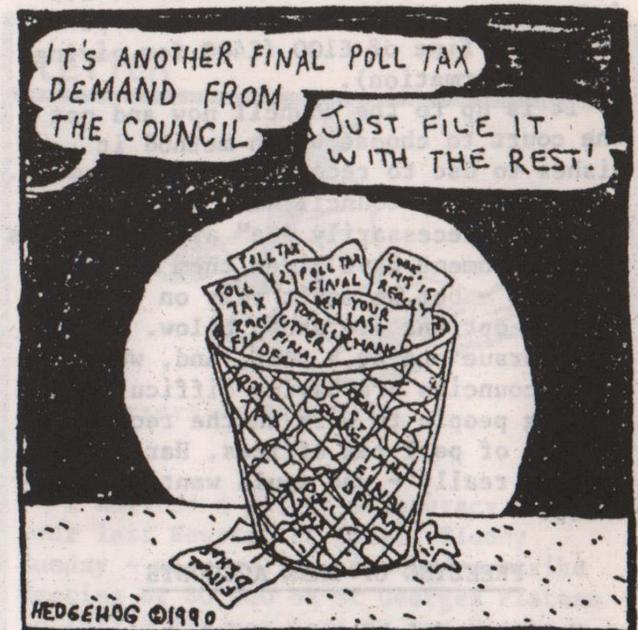
If a poll tax instalment is unpaid on the date it was due, in theory, a reminder note should be sent. There is no specified period between the date the instalment falls due and the issue of the reminder note. Looking at the situation in Scotland this is hardly surprising.

In Scotland the system of billing and collection is in chaos. Four months after the first bills were due some 300,000 had still to receive payment books. Where bills were sent, they often went to the wrong address and in some cases were sent to children and the dead! Thousands of rebate claims are flooding into Scottish councils daily. But, most of all, the one million Scots who have refused to pay have provided the biggest obstacle yet to the successful introduction of the tax. Any English or Welsh council which thinks it can issue reminders and penalties within a month of the first bills lives in cloud cuckoo land.

Any reminder will instruct you to pay an unpaid instalment within 7 days. If it's not paid within this time, you will lose the right to pay in instalments and the full years poll tax will fall due within a further 7 days.

LIABILITY ORDERS

At any time after you have missed instalments and a full years tax has be-



come due, the council can issue you with a summons to appear before a magistrates court. At this stage it is a civil, not a criminal, offence. The police are not involved and you don't get a criminal record. If the court decides in the council's favour it'll issue you with a liability order demanding payment of the full year's poll tax plus an amount towards legal costs.

A mass non-payment campaign would create an immovable log-jam of cases at a time when civil debt cases for fuel, water, rates etc will be flooding into courts which are barely handling their caseloads at the moment. Organised mass non-payment will completely engulf the council and the courts. The Chief Executive of Hackney Council said that Hackney will need at least 366 court days a year to deal with non-payers - but the court could only offer him 12 days! Faced with this, the poll tax could fall at the first fence.

It must also be stressed that the clerks in the courts and the computer operators are not highly paid and will be

4 facing big poll tax bills themselves. Refusal by them to handle non-payment cases, which in a mass campaign would make their workload intolerable, would make the poll tax penalties unworkable.

INFORMATION

Let's assume the poll tax comes this far and a liability order is issued. The council now has the powers to demand info from you about your income, place of work, where you get any other income from and where you keep most of your possessions. Failure to respond to such demands for information is a criminal offence punishable by a fine of £100 (£400 for giving false information).

It is up to the council now and not the court to choose which method it wishes to use to recover a poll tax debt. Liverpool City Council have said they "will not necessarily use" all the powers the government have given them for debt recovery - but we can't rely on this. All its options are shown below. It can only pursue one at a time. And, what is more, councils are having difficulty in finding people to work in the recovery section of poll tax offices. Hardly surprising really - who would want to work there!

FREEZING OF BANK ACCOUNTS

Unlike Scotland, there is no power to freeze bank accounts in England and Wales, so mortgage payments etc are unaffected. They can't touch any savings.

DEDUCTIONS FROM INCOME SUPPORT

The council can issue an order to the local Social Security office to deduct poll tax arrears from your income support. No other benefits such as sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, invalidity or retirement pensions can be touched. The limit (and remember this is only for income support) is £1.75 a week for a single person and £2.75 for a couple. If a person's Income Support has been reduced by direct payment deductions (ie for fuel debts or Social Fund loans) or benefit has been part suspended, then a deduction cannot be made.

A mass campaign of non-payment will swamp the DSS office with claims for poll tax deductions. The people expected to administer such claims will be low paid civil servants, members of unions like the CPSA and NUCAPS who have already taken strike action due to poor staff-

ing and overwork. If these workers refuse to process such deductions then the unemployed and others who have most to lose from the poll tax will be able to play a full part in a poll tax strike. This means another avenue will be closed as far as penalties are concerned.

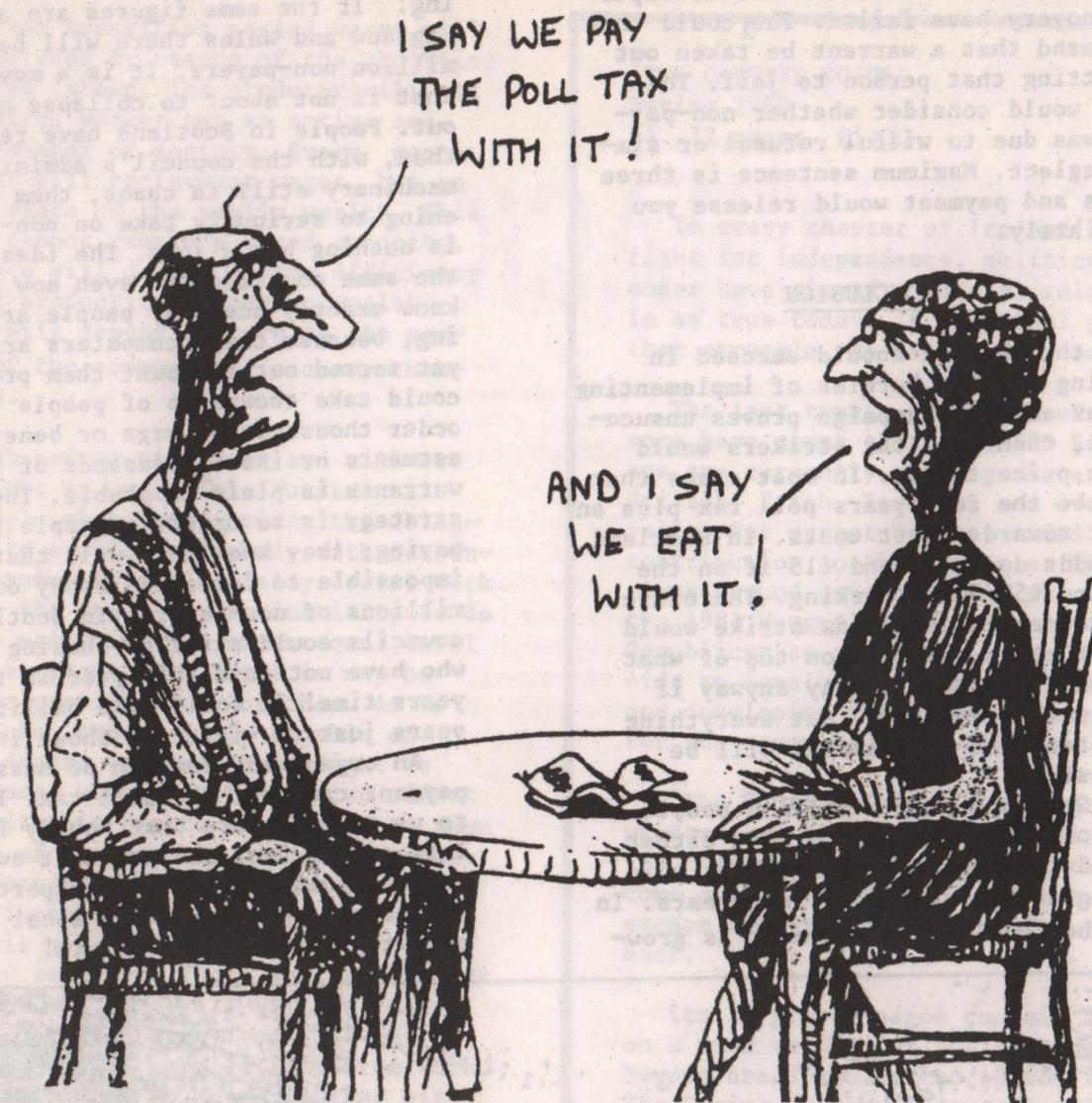
ATTACHMENT OF EARNINGS

After a liability order is issued, the council can try to recover a poll tax debt by issuing an attachment of earnings order to an employer, ordering them to deduct set amounts from a workers wages. For example, if your take home pay is £100 a week, the most they can deduct is £9 per week plus £1 for your employers costs. Employers are unhappy about doing this. A big company might have to make payments to up to 400 councils, causing in the words of 'Personnel Today' (an employers magazine) 'pay roll havoc'. The 'Financial Times' has warned of 'potentially disastrous consequences for industry and commerce'.

Problems may arise if an attachment of earnings is considered grounds for dismissal especially in poorly unionised workplaces. However, poll tax non-payment is not industrial misconduct and should not be grounds for dismissal. The threat of industrial action is a powerful deterrent to any employer trying to sack people because of wage arrearments. Action on the industrial front against the poll tax recieved a major boost in January when 17,000 council workers in Leicester voted in favour of industrial action if the council tried to issue any redundancies because of poll tax driven service cuts. In Stockbridge New Town in Scotland the local anti-poll tax group has successfully campaigned against a rumour that Cameron Toll Sava Centre would sack all workers who had their wages arrested. In the end the Sava Centre had to respond by writing to all its workers stating that this definitely wouldn't be the case. And in Edinburgh a group of council workers are amongst the latest to announce plans to mount walkouts if any employee is penalised for non-payment.

DISTRESS (BAILIFFS)

After a liability order is issued one option for the council is to use its own private bailiffs to value possessions, then sell them at an auction to pay the poll tax debts plus costs. Bailiffs will not be able to take all possessions -



vital household goods can't be taken, including bedding, cooking equipment, childrens toys, learning and studying materials, etc. The first £100 of clothing and £150 of tools are not considered either. The most common goods considered for auction are videos, TV's and stereo equipment. You can arrange a time and date for the bailiffs to visit you and value your possessions. Goods on HP or belonging to other people (including recent 'sales' to neighbours) can't be taken. Once you've moved out any luxury items to a friend or neighbour for the day there is nothing much to worry about. Using bailiffs is a strategy that relies on fear. In 1977 the county courts issued over a million warrants for bailiffs but only 3,000 were carried out. Nearly everybody payed up, most likely borrowing money to do so.

In Scotland no attempted 'poining' (valuation of goods) has ever been successful. Poll tax campaigners have

organised physical blockades. These have been followed by angry lobbies of Town Halls calling for the end to this method of debt recovery. Such blockades are not the business of the police to intervene in, unless a breach of the peace is caused, which is unlikely if a few bailiffs are facing 300 people. The chances of councils using bailiffs on a large scale are very small. In addition to our street reps, we can build a network of phone numbers to arrange a blockade at short notice should bailiffs arrive.

IMPRISONMENT

This is the penalty about which most scaremongering has been put out. Unlike in Scotland, the jail penalty for non-payment of poll tax still exists, but only as a frightener and an absolute last resort. The law clearly states that imprisonment for non-payment can only

be recommended when all other attempts at recovery have failed. They could then recommend that a warrant be taken out committing that person to jail. The court would consider whether non-payment was due to wilful refusal or simple neglect. Maximum sentence is three months and payment would release you immediately.

CONCLUSION

If the council should succeed in crossing all the hurdles of implementing the tax and our campaign proves unsuccessful, then poll tax strikers would have a price to pay. In most cases that would be the full years poll tax plus an amount towards court costs. In Scotland this adds up to around £15 if on the dole and £50/60 if working. Therefore an unsuccessful poll tax strike would in most cases cost £60 on top of what you would have had to pay anyway if there was no campaign. But everything indicates that non-payment will be successful!

In Scotland over a million people - 30% of the population - have either avoided the register altogether, paid nothing or are seriously in arrears. In fact the level of non-payment is grow-

ing! If the same figures are applied to England and Wales there will be over ten million non-payers. It is a movement that is not about to collapse or fizzle out. People in Scotland have realised that, with the council's administrative machinery still in chaos, then threatening to seriously take on non-payment is nothing but a joke. The idea that the same councils who even now don't know exactly how many people aren't paying, because their computers are not yet sorted out to count them properly, could take thousands of people to court, order thousands of wage or benefit arrestments or issue thousands of bailiffs warrants is plain laughable. Their strategy is to frighten people into paying; they know full well that it is impossible to force the money out of millions of non-payers. In Scotland councils could still be chasing people who have not paid this year in five years time! It would take bailiffs 80 years just to visit all those in arrears!

An organised campaign of mass non-payment can beat the poll tax! It is up to us to make sure that nobody feels left out or isolated and that everybody has the full backing and support from neighbours, workmates and local anti-poll tax groups. We will win!



Burning poll tax registration forms in London

A DAY OUT IN WIGAN.



"The Nazis are going to march in Wigan". This was definitely mobilization at short notice.

The first I heard of this was the week before at a benefit gig. The National Front ('The Flag' faction, out and out Hitler lovers, compared to the "we're not really Nazis, honest" of the National Front News group, now defunct), had tried to organise a march as "Green-wave" but had been rumbled. Apparently the local Wigan newspaper had banner headlines about how the Nazis were coming to town despite the march being banned.

Nothing was certain - was there a march or was it a rumour. Confirmation came a couple of days before and on Sunday May 20th, a minibus load of anti-fascists headed for the counter-demo.

We got there around 11.20am. 60-70 anti-fascists had gathered around the town hall. 10 minutes later someone was arrested - a Nazi (scout?) claimed he'd been attacked and beaten up.

By 2 o'clock, when the Nazis were supposed to be assembling at one of Wigan's train stations, the counter-demo had grown to around 150. The police were out in force. When 10 or

so Nazis actually appeared - including Ian "idiot" Anderson - the police went in for overkill. Out came all the dogs and horses they had (care of the Greater Manchester Police Force), together with a spy in the sky helicopter.... A couple of people were arrested soon after for allegedly damaging a Nazi's car (one person chased by the police got away when someone accidentally obstructed the police motorbike), and the Nazis were bussed out to an unknown destination.

Most of the anti-fascists went home. Then we found out that the Nazis had booked a hotel in the middle of nowhere with over 100 Hitlerites hiding inside, and security (all the way from London) outside. Obviously this had been booked well in advance. Most likely, the counter-demo had stopped their march, so the Nazis settled for second best. Better a secret rally for the faithful (no doubt claimed as a "victory") than nothing at all.

By then, unfortunately, there weren't enough anti-fascists around to do much, and the day fizzled out. People waited until those arrested were released - a few van loads of Nazis passed a few times and pulled tongues at us - then went home.

We'd achieved what we'd set out to do - the Nazis hadn't marched.

LIVERPOOL A.F.A.

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ANARCHIST CONSTRUCTION

Anarchism is constructive, and because of this undeniable fact, anarchist theory totally rejects the charge of idealism or Utopianism. It uses the historical method in an attempt to prove that the society of the future is no anarchist invention but the irresistible product of social history.

And because Anarchism is constructive, Anarchism is organised living society - order, not disorder, the natural order in contrast to the artificial order imposed from above - it is true unity as opposed to the false unity brought about through force and domination. Anarchism is the highest degree of liberty and order to which humanity can aspire.

Those so-called "Anarchists" opposed to organisation make the fundamental error of believing that organisation is impossible without authority, and so reject any kind of organisation. But I would still prefer the authority which imprisons and saddens life to the disorganisation which makes it impossible.

Anarchists are not only the protagonists of true organisation but first class organisers. However, this new organisation must be established freely, socially, and above all, from below - for and by the working class. The principle of organisation mustn't issue from a centre created in advance so as to impose itself on society, but it must come from all sides of society to create co-ordination, and natural centres to serve all.

What a Social Revolution will put in place of government is Industrial organisation. This new organisation will push to the fore of society the principle of 'Self-Management' - workers control of the means of production, community control of cultural society - Socialism from below, Communism in its truest and most creative form.



GERD ARNTZ.

The Economy & Industrial Organisation.

The western capitalist system is geared towards making the greatest profit possible. The creation of massive food mountains, left to rot in huge warehouses is due to over-production - a massive surplus produced not in the interests of feeding the world's population but to satisfy capitalist economic food quotas and price manipulation of the markets. The vast consumer society of the west is not created in the interests of free consumer choice but capitalist competition and higher profits.

This fact has not in any real way stopped people in the west from accepting it, or people in the developing world looking towards it as a major goal, the ultimate goal in society - freedom of

consumer choice. It doesn't matter that, for example, the dozens of different washing powders are all made by the same company, and that there is no such thing as true competition, because you get what you pay for (usually rubbish, you're paying for a name), or the whole market is under a monopoly anyway, so the small firms get swallowed up etc. It really is one big enormous con.

But society is geared ultimately towards the goal of feeding the masses, for the economic system (whichever one) will not survive if it can't produce enough food, energy, warmth, etc. Capitalism has survived, grown and expanded from the west at the expense of the vast majority of people across the world. It holds down the oppressed in its own economies through its State machinery of police and courts, and those in the 'developing' world through its military might.

Past experience has demonstrated the economic truth that Social Revolution increases demand and diminishes production, and the country that engages in it will inevitably find itself encircled by Imperialist aggression.

These circumstances will result in shortage and hunger. Hence it is vital to prepare in advance the physical measures which can prevent or diminish such circumstances. These measures are by whom and on what principles production and the defence of the revolution are to be organised. Such circumstances and the resulting measures require absolute Anarchist organisation of the highest degree, for Anarchists to fail in this task is tantamount to the criminal.

The main forms of organisation will be in production and industry, through the Union, built on Anarchist-Syndicalist principles.

Anarcho-Syndicalism totally rejects compulsory industrial mobilization, labour battalions and any other similar undertakings. The main principle therefore of Syndicalist production is the 'freedom of Labour' - ie, everybody's right to choose freely the type of activity most attractive to them, and the right to change from one type of work to another, with consideration to the social and economic circumstances prevailing at the time.

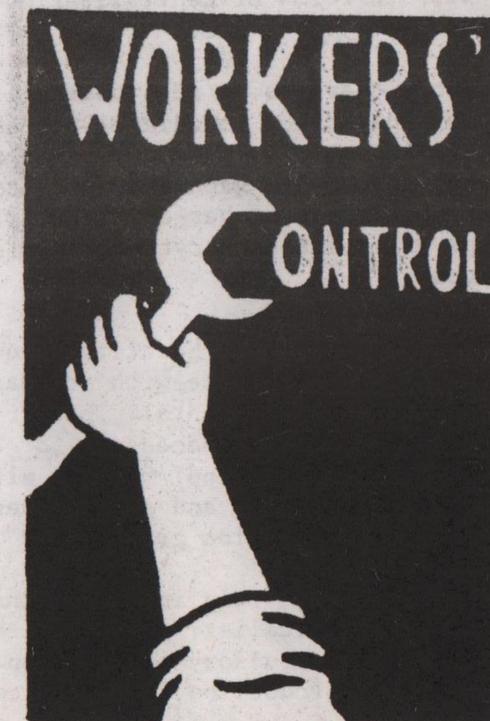
The new society resulting from the Social Revolution will seek ways and

means to assure the integration of labour, breaking all monotony. A syndicalist society will also struggle to bring about the ever closer co-ordination of industry and agriculture.

Anarchists are federalists and this structure is a dual one: economic in the form of a federation of self-managing workers associations, and administrative in the form of a federation of geographically organised community associations.

On the economic side - Industrial organisation would be on a federalist basis. Past experience of the organisation of industry under a centralised state-planned economy as in the Communist states of Eastern Europe, show that the principle of centralisation in production leads to bureaucratisation of the entire industrial apparatus, the emergence of an official class, the removal of any forms of workers control and administration from the social economy, and ultimately to economic crisis and full capitalist restoration as can be seen today all too clearly in Eastern Europe and China.

Anarchist Syndicalism calls for production to be organised on the lines of technical concentration and administrative decentralisation. It isn't against centralisation for its own sake, but simply because it doesn't work. It advocates a democratic form of planning, worked out from the bottom up.



In the interests of realising full communism in industry, and the smooth functioning and efficiency of each production process, as well as to prevent the seizure of individual enterprises for the exclusive use of those who work there against the collective interest, a system of unification will have to be established. An economic federation with a supreme assembly at its head. This unification will provide the necessary technical, statistical and administrative links to join all industries into one organisational whole, ultimately on a world-wide scale. This assembly would balance supply and demand, direct, distribute and share out world industrial production among the different federations so that crises in trade and employment, enforced stagnation, economic disaster and world poverty and starvation would almost certainly entirely disappear.

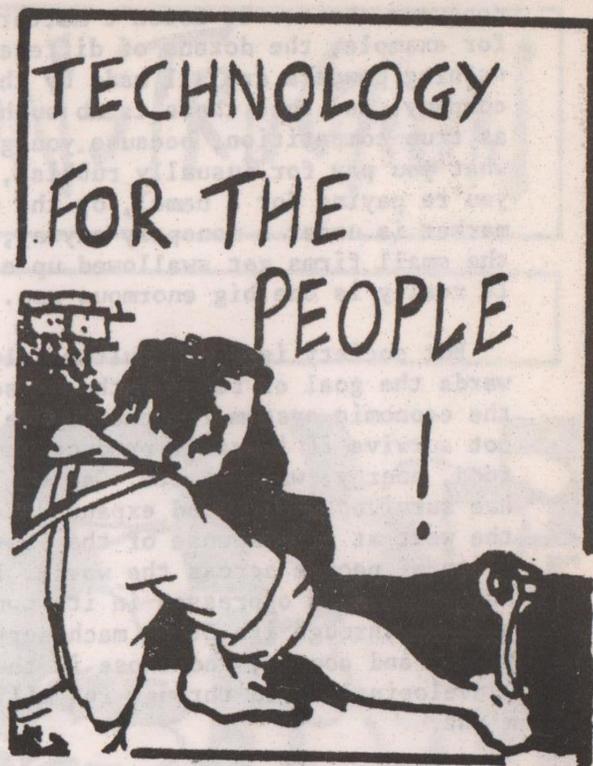
This supreme assembly will also be based on the system of instantly recallable delegates. As to internal order, the principle of self-discipline will remove the need for all manner of disciplinary institutions.

If individual countries alone, finding themselves almost certainly in isolation and under enormous economic blockade and the threat of military intervention, go through the social transformation and construction necessary as a part of the Social Revolutionary process, such all-embracing federations may not be realisable and so certain forms of centralisation may be necessary.

Since there is no real possibility on this basis for immediately establishing full communism in consumption on the principle "to each according to their needs", a number of practical steps will be necessary to make this happen.

The principle of 'Equality', equal sharing, in accordance with increasing production is fundamental. This criteria must be the minimum necessary for human subsistence, with supplementary allowances for dependents and special needs, growing as production grows.

As for small scale industry, the Anarchist Syndicalist, rejecting the idea of its compulsory integration into large scale production, will implement



the principle of co-operation, granting the freedom of initiative.

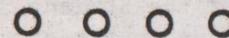
Communism is a social order, based on liberty and the material well being of all. Under such a system there will be no need to struggle for the rights and protection of labour. Labour, ceasing to be an object of exploitation, will become the guiding principle in the structure of the socio-economic order. Society as a whole will take care of the health and labour of each individual while each individual will care for the health and labour of society, each respecting the others rights.

Society will have an obligation to provide a comprehensive education system preparing young people for socially useful work. All forms of inequality and discrimination based on sex, race, sexuality and age will be fought in every way.

The question of working hours will be tackled by society at the time, but it must be based on the principle of lowering the working day. Such reductions will be determined by the quantity of products essential to society, on the number of workers in society, and on improvements in production processes. These conditions, and the degree of socialization of the land, will determine the speed of transition to integrated labour.

In the transition period wages will be abolished by reason of the abolition of hired labour. The producer will not be a hired worker but an active and equal member of society. Every participant will receive not wages, but an equal share of the public wealth. This share cannot remain a fixed quantity. Its rate will depend on the efficiency of the production of public wealth, which will depend in turn on the members of the communistic economy themselves.

Each person will have and will use the right to work. This fundamental principle places on society the obligation to provide everybody with reasonable productive or socially useful work and in the event of its inability to do so, to maintain them on an equal level with everybody else until it may be able to provide work for them. As to those who, though fully capable of work, desire to have their right to indolence, society will make no effort to limit this right, leaving it to them to die of starvation. A society whose very foundation is work must carry out the principle "Those who do not work of their own free will shall not be a part of society". Those who cannot work of their own free will will be fully provided for in every possible way as will people who have retired from work, keeping them on an equal footing with others with the necessities for existence and the full comforts of life.



*** NOTE - This article is based on past historical experience and Anarchist economic thinking, and is produced with the intent of creating discussion both in and outside of the Anarchist movement for the stronger understanding of Anarchist political and economic theory and for the building of the future Socialist society.

Future newsletters will include articles on political organisation, the public service industries and agricultural organisation.

'THE CAPTIVE VOICE'
Spring 1990
A4. 32 pages. £1.00

In every chapter of Ireland's long fight for independence, political prisoners have played important roles. This is as true today, in the final phase of that struggle, as it has ever been.

The last twenty one years of resistance have meant that over 700 Republicans are currently serving sentences in British, Irish, European and even U.S. jails. But arrest has not ended their contribution to the struggle. The campaigns around prison issues which led to the 1981 Hunger Strike re-invigorated Republicanism and now, prisoners provide an invaluable forum for debating and developing ideas and strategies for the movement as a whole.

"The Captive Voice" is a magazine written and illustrated entirely by the prisoners and is the best thing to come out of the jails since the mass escape from the H-Blocks a few years back!

Its 32 glossy pages contain articles on a wide variety of topics ranging far beyond bread and butter prison issues. The Spring 1990 number has a definite 'green' tinge to it with several well-informed pieces on the environment and pollution. Add to the articles the short stories, prison news, poems, cartoons and reviews and you have an informative, inspiring and humorous quids worth.

The Captive Voice provides a unique insight into the struggle in Ireland from the viewpoint of those at the sharp end - the men and women Volunteers of the IRA. Read and learn.

A subscription to The Captive Voice is £5 for four issues (cheques payable to Republican Publications) from -

The P.O.W. Department,
51/55 Falls Road,
Belfast.

PAINTING OVER THE CRACKS



Now, a report from across the Pennines where, in 1991, Sheffield will play host to the World Student Olympic Games, a "prestige" event which Sheffield City Council promised would bring thousands of jobs and millions of pounds into the city.

The giant Hyde Park flats complex which dominates the hillside overlooking the city centre has been earmarked to become the "student games village" before eventual demolition and the tenants have been hurriedly moved out. Such is the financial nightmare that the games has now become, Sheffield City Council has been forced into the charity market in an attempt to cut the burden. Local activists in conjunction with Parkhead Tennants' Association picketed the recent Telethon '90 "Paint the village" stunt. Here is the text of the leaflet they handed out.

“

On Sunday/Monday the 27th/28th of May Sheffield city council is hoping that up to 2,000 people will paint the Hyde Park student games village for NOTHING. It is also looking for 7,000 volunteers to help during the games themselves. This is after all the lies we've been told about how the games will create 'thousands of jobs for Sheffield People'. It is also rumoured that 'young offenders' will be forced to join in. Showing their true opportunistic flair the Labour Council is using the 27 hour Telethon '90 event to disguise the blatant abuse of 'free labour' and has gift-wrapped it for the public as a charity event.

CRISIS

The success of the Student Olympic games has been an impossibility from the start. Major cities which have hosted similar events have lost millions of £££s, e.g. Edinburgh, Auckland where the people are still paying for the 'privilege'. Here in Sheffield the situation will be the same. In December '89 Universiade GB sacked it's chief Executive followed by the resignation of its 'finance director'. During the whole of 1989 the Universiade GB survived crisis after crisis. The cost of the facilities has grown from £29m to £150m.

Imagine the inevitable financial burden on Sheffield people when U-GB can't come up with the sponsorship deals and the council is left to foot the bill.

GAMBLE

The Games are a massive gamble taken in our name by our supposed leaders without any consultation.

We are told that the Student Games :

- 1) Will bring jobs to the city,
- 2) Will 'attract' new investment and rejuvenate the city as a whole,
- 3) Will make Sheffield the 'prestigious' capital of the north.

Tell us another one! This is all lies! Since it became public that Sheffield was to stage the games, the true nature of this 'prestigious deal' has become clear:

- In the areas where there are developments, e.g. Meadowhall, the workforce has not been recruited from local people.
- Small businesses in Attercliffe road have been forced to close down to make way for parking spaces for the games!
- Communities throughout Sheffield have seen their public amenities cut; local leisure facilities, community centres, adult education. Just about

every area of community life is suffering from lack of resources transferred to finance the Student games.

PARKHILL HIT HARD

Already, in the run up to the Games, the Parkhill Estate has lost its Youth Club and its local swimming pool. But not only has the Council stolen Parkhill's facilities, they also say they haven't got the money for the other facilities Parkhill really needs such as a nursery, while only a couple of hundred yards away the Hyde Park flats complex is being converted into a luxury, yuppie village complete with jaccuzis. Not only are the Parkhill tenants' lives being disrupted but they aren't benefitting. Broomhall has also lost out, Glossop Road Baths, the only Victorian Turkish baths in S. Yorkshire, and a vital facility for local people, is facing closure for redevelopment as a nightclub!

DEMOLISH THE VILLAGE

While Hyde Park flats are refurbished and made comfortable for the students, only to be demolished later, remember council tenants have to wait months for simple repairs and years to be rehoused.

WE'VE HAD ENOUGH

When the people of Sheffield come to foot the bill it will not be just the tenants of Parkhill whose facilities are cut, but Sheffield's public amenities and services as a whole. Because of their self-interest and arrogance a labour council is again attacking working-class Sheffielders.

We will end up paying for something we weren't asked about.

DEMOLISH
THE VILLAGE
!



Sheffield City Council claim that they have the backing of the Sheffield people. They have not and never have done. The overwhelming majority of Sheffielders do not want to pay for a publicity stunt.

Now and during the games we must show the council, Universiade GB and the Student athletes exactly what sacrifices had to be made.

COMMUNITES MUST COME FIRST.

LETTER



Dear Merseyside Anarchist,

I noticed a slight inaccuracy in your last Newsletter (May). Bloody Sunday - when police attacked a strike meeting of 80,000 on St Georges Plateau in 1911 - did not lead to two deaths. Two men were shot dead later, while trying to free prisoners on the way to Walton Jail.

All these events were part of what is known as the period of the "Labour Unrest" or "Syndicalist Revolt". If anyone's interested, there's a pamphlet on this by Harold Hinks ('The Liverpool General Transport Strike of 1911') and a chapter on 'Syndicalism & Labour on Merseyside, 1906-1914' by Bob Holton, in the book 'Building the Union'. Both these are in the local history section of the Picton Library.

A. Historian.

REPLY

Thanks for your letter. The two extra dead was a mistake made during typing. Our typist blames unreadable handwriting..... Contributors take note!

REVIEWS.

Where space allows, future issues of the Newsletter will carry reviews of books, films, pamphlets and videos etc which are of interest to anarchists. We aim to provoke debate within the movement, to advertise the good and the interesting, and to slag off the bad!

'BEATING THE POLL TAX'

ACF Pamphlet no. 4

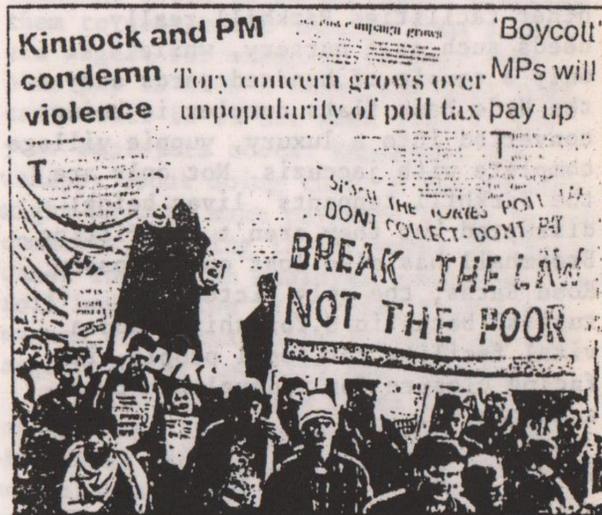
A5. 32 pages. 50p.

The Anarchist Communist Federation is one of Britain's national anarchist organisations and is an occasional producer of pamphlets. 'Beating the Poll Tax' is their best yet.

Starting with an outline of the anti-poll tax campaign in Scotland, the pamphlet goes on to detail the sort of movement needed south of the border - community based groups without party domination, coupled with strike action.

In a later chapter the impotent whining of the Labour Party is exposed by comparing their mild anti-poll tax rhetoric to the readiness of local Labour councils up and down the country to do the Tories bidding.

The tactics of the 'revolutionary' left are also examined. The pamphlet correctly points out that Militant Tendency's involvement in the campaign is little more than a cynical extension of their battle with the Labour leadership. The Socialist Workers Party are condemned for calling on Kinnock and the TUC to back non-payment. This is a thing which they know will not happen, and which is likely to undermine genuine resistance, but the SWP aren't too bothered about this. In their cunning plan, you and I will be banking on old Kinnock to throw his weight behind the campaign, and when this fails to materialise we'll come to the obvious conclusion that what's needed is a 'new' and 'better' leadership, and of course, we'll flock to the SWP in droves! Patronising bastards. The pamphlet concludes: "Their interference in the poll tax struggle is motivated purely



out of self-interest. They have nothing to offer us".

Chapters on what the poll tax actually is, and what motives lie behind it, help put it into context as just one (albeit large) part of the overall Tory attack.

My only gripe with 'Beating the Poll Tax' and by extension the ACF, is that neither put forward an industrial strategy. The pamphlet rightly points out that today's reformist trade unions are unlikely to organise the action needed to win, and calls for wildcat strikes outside the control of the union bureaucracy. This is all well and good but wildcat action is difficult to sustain in the face of union and management hostility. The ACF are wary of the idea of anarchist and syndicalist unions but appear to offer no alternatives. 'Unofficial' action must be backed against the poll tax but anarchists must be pushing for new and effective forms of workplace organisation to come out of it.

Anyway, that aside, 'Beating the Poll Tax' is a very good pamphlet, not least because it's full of cartoons which we at Merseyside Anarchist will no doubt be ripping off in future!

'THE HEAVY STUFF'

Number 3

A4. 32 pages. £1.00

'Class War' started as a hate filled anarchist rag in the early 80's, produced by a tiny group of people in London. For years the reader would have been hard pressed to find anything more than a desire for conflict with authority and a seeming belief that a new society could be born out of intensive inner-city rioting. But more there was, and by grouping together the paper's sellers and supporters, the Class War Federation was born. Then the unthinkable happened - Class War produced a theoretical magazine, 'The Heavy Stuff', and what's more it was brilliant!

Heavy Stuff 3 is now out and CW continue to confound their critics with the quality of their journals. HS3 begins with an excellent analysis of the middle class - how they came to exist, their functions within capitalism, their effect on politics in general and most importantly, on the class struggle itself. The article ends by rightly ripping into middle class influences on anarchism, but wrongly dismissing the movement as a whole because of it (more on this later).

Next up is one woman's short (and very sharp) attack on Middle Class Feminism - you know the sort: the guilt-tripping liberal horseshit which has so damaged the struggles of working class women and attempts by anyone to tackle sexism effectively. As the author says - "It is the overthrow of capitalism which we should be working for - to free all our class, not sneering or pointing at those women who, because of need, have to work within it while it exists. Separatism, lesbianism, fatism, ageism and Feminism are all side issues which, although important, cannot overshadow the real issues in our society...Don't be side tracked by single issues, individual causes or petty differences but let us unite to fight the real enemy".

Class War are very much into community self-defence and there is a well researched article on the 'No-Go' areas created in northern Ireland 1968-72. Though it is an interesting piece, it seems to hint that class struggle could/should replace the drive to get Britain

THE HEAVY STUFF



NUMBER 3

INCLUDING:

The Middle Class
by Sean Reilly

Soft Porn or Hard
Core
by Sally Starkey

Taking The Bull
By The Horns
by Geoffrey Fox

The No-Go Zones
Of Northern
Ireland 1968-72
by Glyn Rhys

The Seventies
by John Casey



out. If this is the case, the author is forgetting that you can't build socialism in a colony and you won't get the working class unity necessary for that struggle while part of our class identifies its interests with an occupying power. That the Republican Movement draws its strongest support from the most downtrodden areas is proof that the Catholic working class understands this. So should we.

Finally for those of you who thought the 70's meant nothing more than the Sex Pistols or Led Zeppelin, there's a long article detailing a decade of bitter strikes, riots, Labour Party sell-outs, the rise and fall of the NF, MI5 conspiracies and the birth of Thatcherism. Education for the young, reminders for the not-so-young. Sound.

Class War are a mixed bunch and this is reflected in their mag. The Federation contains anarchists and non-anarchists and is only slowly forming concrete ideas. Anarchism is regularly hammered in 'Heavy Stuff' (sometimes with good reason) despite the fact that everything in it is clearly anarchist inspired. Regardless of these contradictions it is required reading for every anarchist (and the rest).

All 3 'Heavy Stuffs' are available from -

LONDON CLASS WAR, P.O. Box 467, London E8 3QX.