

# 1381 REVISITED

The Government's Rates Reform Bill becomes law in Scotland this week, it will not become law in the rest of the country until after the next election. (This is mainly because the Scottish Tories have been whining for some time about the massive rates they have to pay on their country mansions).

Like Fowler's Bill for DHSS reform, the Rates Reform Bill shows to a startling degree how much contempt this government has for the working class. The only people to benefit from this bill will be the upper bracket of large homeowners, landlords etc, who will have their rates bill eased by putting the burden on the worse off. What the Bill does is introduce a Poll Tax of £400 a year (this is an average figure) on everybody whether they own property or not. Even unemployed people and students are expected to pay 20% of this which was previously covered in the Rent bill. So what does this mean if you are single and unemployed let's say? Well you'll already be an extra £5.50 a week worse off after the next election if the Tories win because of Fowler's Bill. The Rates Reform Bill will mean you'll be paying £80 a year for rates which works out roughly £1.54 a week. I should imagine to bureaucrats in Whitehall this doesn't seem like much. They seem to think we should be glad to ease the burden for rich bastards farther up the line and on top of all the other reductions planned it should make a pretty intolerable life damn near impossible. Perhaps our Lords and Masters should do well to remember it was a new Poll Tax which caused the Peasants Revolt in 1381.

"It seems to me that Lethargy has put the Lords to sleep so they do not guard against the folly of the common people, but they allow that nettle to grow which is too violent in its nature."

John Gower, 14th Century English Poet, writing before the Peasants Revolt.

**FOR BETTER .....**

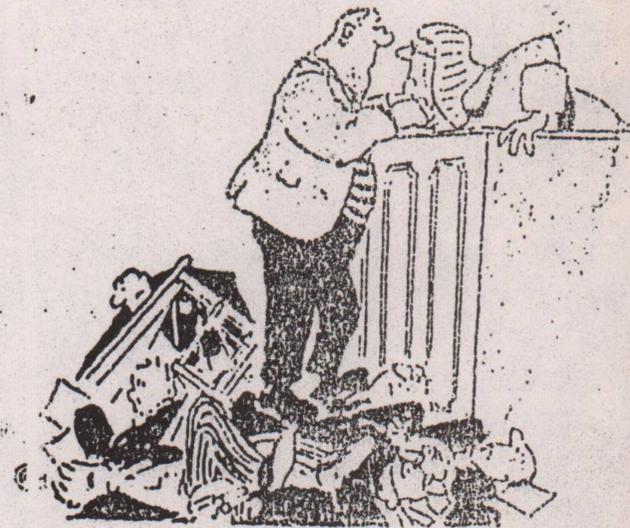
**FOR WORSE .....**

Recently a Tory M.P. went unemployed for one week only to find it 'difficult' but said that the unemployment money paid out was 'adequate!' (Interestingly, he didn't have to spend hours queuing at the D.H.S.S., waiting ten weeks for a Giro, getting screwed around by petty officials and pettier questions....is there a privatised Social Security for the rich?).

The scab also had the nerve to ask an unemployed family if he could 'borrow' their house for a week but withdrew when the locals said they 'hated him' and they also threatened to riot if he moved into the area.

Being on 40 grand a year, at least he had something to fall back on after his week-long poverty trip had ended. It's enough with stunts like this aimed at rubbing shit into our faces, without Jeffrey 'Screw-me - baby' Archer and Norman 'Five-floors' Tebbit telling us that we've never had it so good and that we should be grateful. ... Cobblers .....

"Have you anything to say before I smash your face in?"



Justices must not only be done, they must be seen to be done!

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