

Leicestershire Anti Poll Tax News

May Day 1991 Special Edition

WE'RE STILL NOT PAYING!

The Poll Tax is to be abolished because of mass non payment - and that's official! After only two years in Scotland and less than one year in England and Wales the Tory's "flag-ship" is sunk! In a meeting with M.P.s John Major told them that the Poll Tax had to go because it's uncollectable and Hesselatine has said the same. Our determination not to pay this tax together with our demonstrations, mass court appearances and other protests has paid off. There are a few people who supported non payment who have now paid. They argue that the object of the campaign has been achieved. In Leicester Councillor Paul Gosling, in an article in the May Day Programme says he will now pay the Tax. We believe that he is wrong to take this position.

RETREAT

The Tories are in retreat over the Poll Tax but it is a fighting retreat and every day brings fresh casualties. There is a long fight ahead of us before we can claim complete victory. The Poll Tax is due to stay for another two to three years under the Tory's plans. Councils are still taking people to court and using the bailiffs. The replacement Tax is still massively unfair. Across the country people have been jailed for non payment and the vicious trials of Trafalgar Square defendants continue. There are cuts and job losses in many councils.

If we followed Paul Gosling's example we would be satisfied with what we have won and pay. Most non payers however are not in a position to do that - they don't have the money! In the fight against the Poll Tax solidarity with those who can't pay is the most basic principle. They are not some mindless army to be led into debt and then abandoned. This is why the demand for an amnesty for Poll Tax debt has been one of our key slogans from the start. Paul says that there will have to be a "new campaign" for an amnesty but we believe that there is no difference between the fight against the Tax and the fight for an amnesty.

COUNCILLOR'S SUPPORT

The support of Councillors and M.P.'s has been useful in our campaign and many have still not paid. Locally a number of councillors like Bob Water-ton have not paid. M.P.'s like Jeremy Corbyn and Dave Nellist still stand firm. We say that prominent non payers like Paul Gosling make it harder for those who carry on the fight when they pay. We appeal to him to rejoin the campaign. We have to continue our fight, encouraged by being able to see our enemies in retreat. We must continue to refuse to pay and we must continue to fight the courts, the councils and the bailiffs.

We must oppose cuts and job losses and any attempts at jailings for non payment. We will continue to support the Trafalgar Square Defendant's Campaign.

COLLAPSE

Local authority Treasurers have told the government that they are worried that the system will collapse now that people know that it's days are numbered. We have to do our best to make sure their nightmare comes true. We can see that our struggle works. It has forced the Tories to back down and to drastically cut bills. Some people have said that non payment increases other's bills - in fact it helps to cut them! If we continue our fight we can win other demands. There must be an amnesty for all non payers and for those jailed, fined or victimised for standing up against this tax. We say: WE'RE STILL NOT PAYING! SCRAP THE POLL TAX NOW! AMNESTY FOR NON PAYERS! AMNESTY FOR POLL TAX DEFENDANTS AND PRISONERS! NO CUTS IN JOBS AND SERVICES!

Leicestershire Anti Poll Tax Federation

Contacts; Secretary Bob John 3, Turner St. Leicester Tel. 547903

Bailiff Busters Mick Shenton Tel. 531012

Publicity Steve Score Tel 885979

Leicestershire Anti Poll Tax Conference is on Sunday 23rd June. For details ring the federation secretary.