

HANDS OFF OUR FAMILY ALLOWANCE

1

The government wants to take Family Allowance away. We have until April to let them know we won't have it. It isn't much now: 90p. per week for the second child and £1 for every child after that. But it is the only money a mother at home can depend on.

It's the only money to tide us over during strikes, unemployment, sickness, injury or the death of the wage earner. It's the only money no one can take away from us - EXCEPT THE GOVERNMENT.

Under the new plan, the woman may get nothing and the man won't get it either. They say they'll put it in our husband's pay packet as a tax credit. But we know once we lose the Family Allowance book, we lose the money.

Family Allowance is a statutory right based on the Family Allowance Act of 1945. But a tax credit allowance can be changed with every Budget and taken away by degrees until there's nothing left.

We've been conned like this before. With decimalisation, prices went up. With the "Fair" Rents Act, rents went up. With VAT prices will go up again. So when they say tax credits will give us more money than Family Allowance, we know better.

P. T. O

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Send the following letter to the address below. We must let them know that they have to keep their

HANDS OFF OUR FAMILY ALLOWANCE

Select Committee, Tax Credits Study Group
Room 47, New Wing, Somerset House
Strand, W. C. 4

Dear Committee,

I am a mother and I have always had the practical responsibility for the care and upbringing of my children. Therefore I cannot agree with the new tax credit system which does away with the present Family Allowance.

Yours faithfully,

This tax credit scheme also means we pay tax on Maternity Allowance, unemployment benefit, sickness and injury benefit, after we've paid for them in stamps. It is a tax on tax.

They want to take away the Supplementary Benefits for Unsupported Mothers and Old Age Pensioners, 90% of whom are women.

- * We demand that Family Allowance be kept and increased.
- * It must remain a statutory benefit.
- * It must be given to every mother for every child.
- * It must be made tax-free and Maternity Allowance must remain tax-free.
- * Every day in the home we women do hard work with no pay. If we go out to work we do two jobs at low pay. All workers deserve a minimum weekly wage of £ 25, in the home or out of it, regardless of sex or age.

If we want to keep Family Allowance as our right and extend it, we must take action NOW. We must sign the petition. We must take petitions to our neighbours and workmates to sign. We must raise this at our tenants associations, nursery schools, launderettes, PTAs, supermarkets, sub-post offices, libraries, factories and offices - where we work and where we live.

For more information, and to organise action, please contact :-

2

IMPLICATIONS FOR WOMEN OF THE GOVERNMENT'S "PROPOSALS FOR A TAX
CREDIT SYSTEM" October 1972 29p. To be proposed in the April Budget

The government is proposing to do away with Family Allowance. It says it is replacing Family Allowance with what it calls "tax credits".

1. Tax credit is to combine Family Allowance and child tax relief, and replace both by a tax credit. But this tax credit is tied to a wage. Whether this tax credit will be paid to the mother or the father, the document leaves open. This issue, of tax credit paid to the mother or to the father is a red herring.

Although the government is not particular whether these credits are paid to the man or to the woman, we know from experience that it is most likely to be given to the man. They want us to fight it out among ourselves! If it is paid to us, the man will take a cut in pay. If it is paid to the man, we will take a cut in pay.

Once Family Allowance is not a statutory right, is included in tax relief instead, and therefore tied to a wage, women who do not have men to support them and do not themselves have a wage are excluded. All women with children should get a Family Allowance.

Once Family Allowance is not a statutory right, it can be eaten away at any time. In a year, let's say, they can change the rate of taxation and wipe it out altogether.

2. The implications for removing Family Allowance from women are very broad. We wish to stress that once they remove it as a statutory benefit and draw it into the tax system, as they are proposing to do, they can alter or even abolish it without special legislation, by a clause in a Budget. The implications of this are:
 - a. To take away Family Allowance from a woman who works at home doing housework and childcare is to take away the only money she can call her own. It's a woman's right to have her own independent money and not at the expense of lowering the man's pay packet.
 - b. To take away Family Allowance is to discourage a woman's right to choose the size of her family. She has no guarantee that her housekeeping money will go up when she has more children.
 - c. To take away Family Allowance is to help remove a woman's right to choose what job she wants to do. If women have no money of their own, they are forced to take jobs at any pay under any conditions, any hours, in order to meet the bills and have any independence.
 - d. To take away Family Allowance will undermine women's struggle for equal pay. To the degree that women must find even part-time jobs for extra money or at any rate for themselves, they threaten the jobs of women who are already getting wages. (They don't threaten directly men's jobs on the whole - yet. Car workers get £30 - £40 a week. In the catering, light manufacturing and hospital industries, the pay is half

that, and that is mainly - but not by any means exclusively - "women's" work.) This threat means it is more difficult for women to make a struggle inside the factory, office, hospital or shop, because there are too many women outside waiting for their place.

Whether or not there are jobs for women, the government wants women to be demanding jobs, which will make it that much more difficult for the equal pay struggle to be successful.

e. To take away Family Allowance is to deprive some women from the beginning even of so-called tax credits. Since credit can only be related to earnings or insurance benefits, those without earnings or insurance are left out. Increasingly, credits are tied to work, not to need.

* The wife of the student is left out completely.

* The student mother is left out completely.

* The family where the man is on strike or where the woman as main wage earner is on strike are left out completely. This means that strikers and their families will be even more vulnerable.

* The wife of an unemployed man while he is not eligible for unemployment benefit is left out for that period.

* The woman who is sacked for being militant must wait for some period before she gets any benefit and during this period when she needs it most, she is left out completely.

* The self-employed woman is also left out completely, since tax credits are figured weekly and self-employed people have tax computed semi-annually.

TO TAKE FAMILY ALLOWANCE AWAY IS TO TAKE AWAY THE ONLY RELIABLE FORM OF INCOME OF THE FAMILY. STRIKE, UNEMPLOYMENT, INJURY, DEATH, THE WOMAN GETS THE MONEY-NOW. UNDER THE NEW PLAN SHE MAY GET NOTHING, AND THE MAN WILL NOT GET IT EITHER.

f. To take Family Allowance away is to discourage women from ending intolerable marriages. Just that little bit coming in regularly, weekly, could be enough for her to make a start with the help of relatives and friends. Without it, she is at the mercy of events and the nuclear family.

g. To take Family Allowance away now, before British capitalism joins the Common Market, is to ensure that non-British workers coming here will not be entitled to this statutory benefit. The government says this question requires "further study". For one thing, many of the Common Market countries have much higher Family Allowances than Britain. This is what we must study.

h. Once the statutory right of Family Allowance becomes tax credit, a whole system of red tape ties it up. We know from dealing with the State that we can never find out exactly how they calculate what we are entitled to. We will never get the money they claim tax

credit will give us. For example, once all statutory and insurance benefits become part of the tax system, it is very possible that rent rebates may cancel out any supposed tax credit, and the government document already hints at this.

3. The Unsupported Mothers at present can at least demand an income from the State. The married woman whose husband has a low wage or whose husband does not share the wage with her, or whose husband is particularly domineering, is even worse off if she has no money, BECAUSE THE STATE HAS NO RESPONSIBILITY TO HER, NOT EVEN ON PAPER - EXCEPT FAMILY ALLOWANCE.

4. The whole approach to taxing women's pay is on the basis, they say, of "First, incentive: the needs of the economy require the continued employment of large numbers of married women and the system must be such that they feel it is worth their while going to work." After waffling about for two pages, they do not change the tax position of the woman who has a pay packet.

As things stand now, the divorced/separated woman who is working outside the home is in trouble with tax. If a maintenance order is made for her children, she cannot claim them on her tax even if the man gives no money. The man gets tax relief on the maintenance money and also gets child allowance (tax relief for dependent children).

If he does pay maintenance, notably does she not get tax relief or child allowance, but she is taxed on the maintenance he pays.

Of course if you get a solicitor, and if you can take time off from work to fight it, and if you know your rights, you may be able to do something about it. But in practice most women are not told their rights, can't take time off from work, and in any case can't afford a solicitor. This position is not affected by the new proposals.

At the same time they threaten to leave the housewife who lives with her husband totally financially dependent on him, which is the greatest single "incentive" for her to get a job outside the home.

5. Because pensions have dropped in value, Social Security is increasingly needed by pensioners and fought for through Claimants Unions. This tax plan is to fix the sum you receive as a pensioner so that you are no longer entitled to Supplementary Benefit which is an elastic sum - it can go up if your rent goes up, for example. Two-thirds of retirement pensioners are women, over half a million women receive widows' benefits, 90% of old persons' pensions are received by women.

As for the Unsupported Mother, the Supplementary Benefit which she has increasingly organised to fight for in Claimants Unions will also begin to disappear. The point is not only to make her less eligible for Supplementary Benefit, but to take away her organising to go to the SS to make a fight, thus giving old people the courage to fight with her support. This is clearly a move to prevent Claimants of all kinds from fighting for a living wage directly against the State.

6. Tax credits are sometimes just another name for tax relief when, for example, instead of women getting Family Allowance, there is less tax taken from men. Or tax credits replace allowances and benefits we are already entitled to. But now these benefits and allowances will be taxed. Everything is now going to be taxed, all insurance payments such as:

Maternity allowance
Unemployment benefit
Sickness and injury benefit
Invalids' pension.

They will all be taxed. There will be no more tax rebates at the end of the year if you or your husband have been out sick or been unemployed for months. This is a tax squeeze, not a tax credit. After having paid for benefits, we will be taxed when we receive them.

CONCLUSIONS

Tax credit means tax relief and taking away what we already have won in the form of statutory right. It is to tax benefits for which we have already paid insurance. It is to make strikers, the unemployed, the sick, the invalid and the industrially injured, the pensioner, and especially the housewife, the waged woman and the Unsupported Mother more vulnerable to the State. It is to destroy the Welfare State and take every statutory benefit to money already coming in either as wages or insurance. It is to remove our right to get back our own insurance money which we have paid for through tax and stamps.

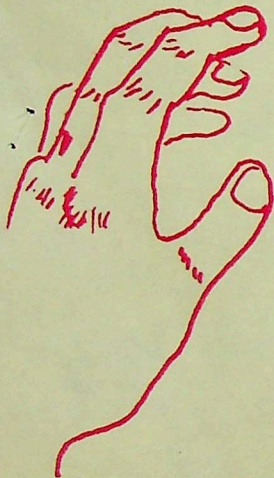
Tax credit is a phrase like "patrial" in the new Aliens Act. It hides the true meaning. Where "patrial" means white, "tax credit" means not only tax relief but taking away what we have already won.
WE MUST NOT LET THIS HAPPEN.

7. Family Allowance must be given to every woman as a statutory right, whatever her marital or job status, beginning with the first child (At present it begins with the second child)
8. Family Allowance must be tax-free.
9. Family Allowance must be increased so that the woman and her children can have independence with or without a man. The nuclear family based on the dependence of the woman, is thereby undermined.
10. Maternity Allowance must remain statutory and tax-free.
11. The woman who has waged work must receive equal tax relief with her husband, not instead of her husband. The Green Paper itself says: "where both husband and wife work additional expense is often incurred, e.g. on domestic duties otherwise undertaken by the wife and it is fair to regard their taxable capacity as being less than that of the couple with the same total income which is earned entirely by the husband." The woman has child care expenses, fares, dinner money, hard to shop in convenient places where prices are dearer, etc., etc. We don't want tax relief instead of the man; tax relief must be given to the woman as well. Otherwise, whatever her wage on paper, by the time they take back extra expenses, stamps and extra tax, she is working for a pittance.
12. The government has calculated that families with two children or single-parent families with two children need at least £25 a week to live on. We think it essential that on the basis of this calculation it is essential to demand at least £25 a week as a minimum living wage for all women in jobs or working at home.

The London Family Allowance Campaign.

HANDS OFF

FAMILY ALLOWANCE



**FAMILY
ALLOWANCE**

**DON'T TAKE IT
AWAY
GIVE US MORE!**

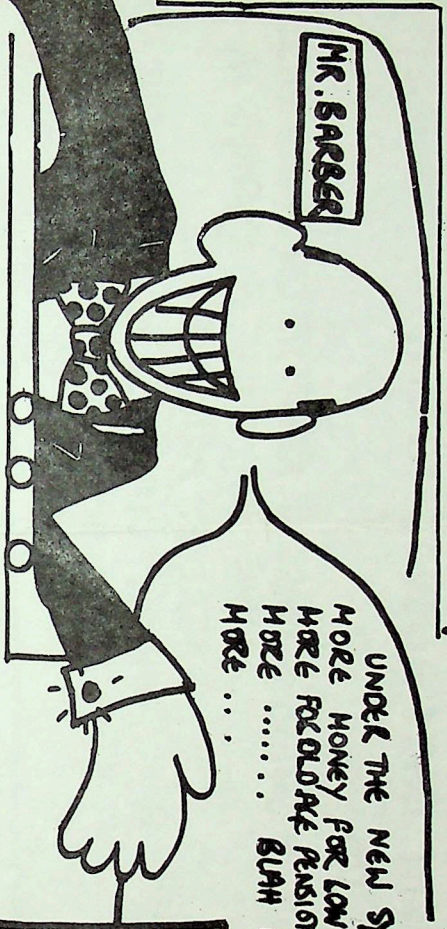
**WOMEN
HAVE BEEN
ROBBED
ENOUGH!**

INCREASE

**family allowance
NOW**

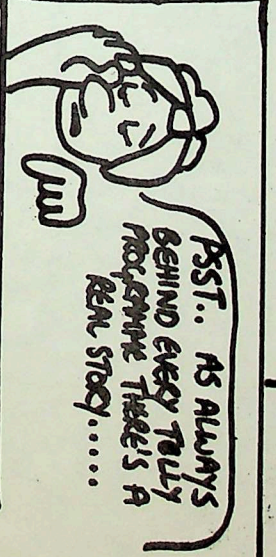
THEY'RE TAKING OUR FAMILY ALLOWANCE AWAY
 INTRODUCING THE NEW

TAX CREDIT SYSTEM

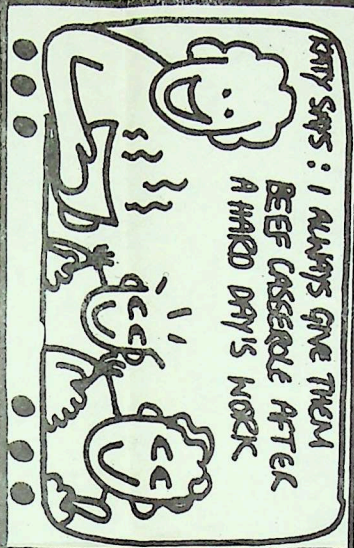


MR. BARBER

UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM THERE'LL BE
 MORE MONEY FOR LOW MIDDLEWORKERS
 MORE FOLK ON THE REASONERS
 MORE BURN BURN BURN etc etc.
 MORE ...

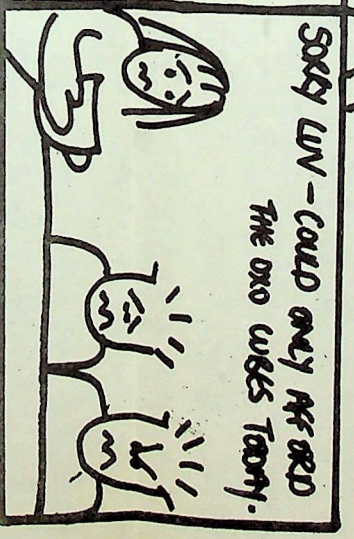


P.S.T.. AS ALWAYS
 BEHIND EVERY TRULY
 PROGRESSIVE THERE'S A
 REAL STORY.....

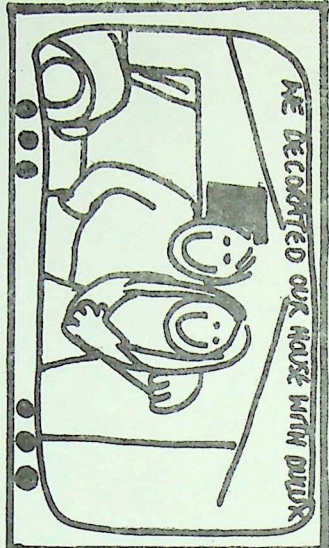


KATY SAYS: I ALWAYS GIVE THEM
 BEGF CASSEOLE AFTER
 A HARD DAY'S WORK

WAGE
 +
 FREEZE
 PRICE
 RISES

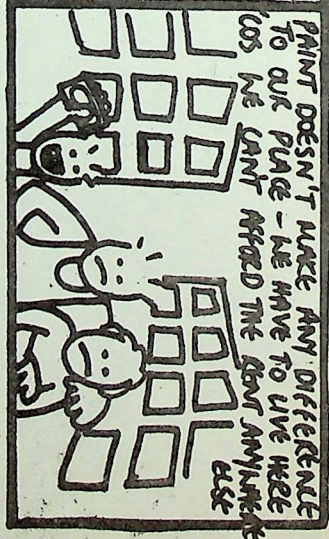


SALLY LUV - COULD ONLY AFFORD
 THE OXO WIGS TODAY.

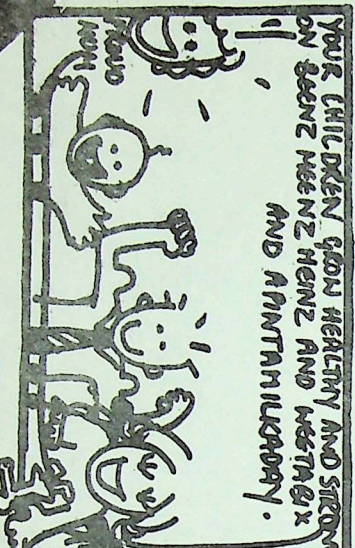


WE DECORATED OUR HOUSE WITH DUCK

HOUSING
 FINANCE
 ACT

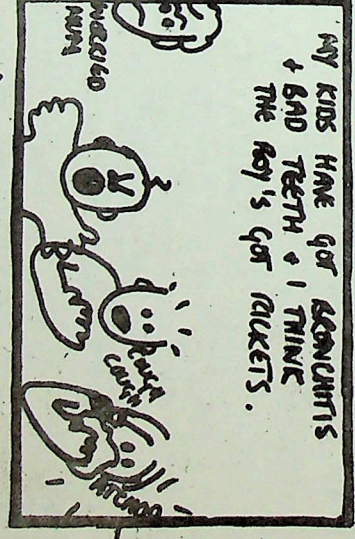


PAINT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE
 TO OUR PLACE - WE HAVE TO LIVE HERE
 'COS WE CAN'T AFFORD THE GOAT ANYMORE
 ELSE



YOUR CHILDREN GOON HEALTHY AND STERN
 ON BEING HEINZ AND WETBAGIX
 AND ANTIMANUCORY.

WELFARE
 BENEFITS
 COSTS



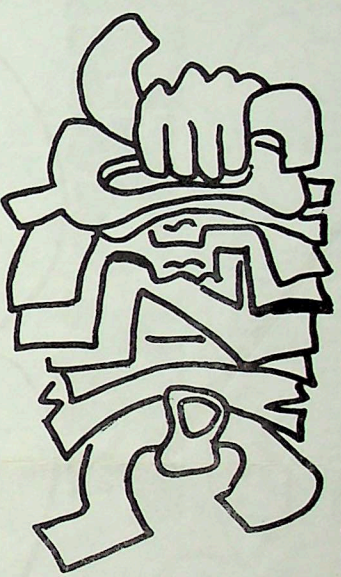
MY KIDS HAVE GOT GONQUINT'S
 + BAD TEETH + I THINK
 THE BOY'S GOT TICKETS.



SLAM

PHEW!
 WELL - AT LEAST
 I'VE STILL GOT
 MY FAMILY ALLOWANCE
 TO KEEP ME GOING

WHAT DOES IT ALL ADD UP TO!
THEY'RE



US DRY!

IT'S UP TO US TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THEM.
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?

PEOPLE ARE ALREADY FINDING ANSWERS :-
-MASSIVE RENT STRIKES MORE ALL THE TIME
-WOMEN BOYCOTTING FOOD SHOPS IN PROTEST
AGAINST PRICE RISES
-INDUSTRIAL STRIKES AGAINST THE WAGE FREEZE
-GAS WORKERS, HOSPITAL WORKERS, FOODS WORKERS
(MINERS (?? DOCKERS))

Women on Social Security

THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO BRING IN A NEW TAXATION SYSTEM IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. THEY CALL IT THE "TAX CREDIT SYSTEM" AND THEY'RE PHASING IT IN FROM APRIL.
WHAT DOES THE NEW SYSTEM MEAN FOR US?

THEY'RE PLANNING TO TAKE AWAY THE ONLY MONEY WOMEN HAVE IN THEIR OWN RIGHT - OUR FAMILY ALLOWANCE BOOK - AND REPLACE IT WITH TAX CREDITS IN THE MANS WAGE PACKET - £2 FOR EVERY CHILD. THE GOVERNMENT SAYS THIS IS GOING TO MEAN MORE MONEY THAN BEFORE.

BUT WE WON'T GET ANY MORE!
ONLY THOSE WHO EARN A WAGE WILL GET IT. ALREADY BECAUSE WE'RE NOT WORKING IN A SHOP, FACTORY OR OFFICE MAKING SOMEONES PROFIT, WE HAVE TO LIVE ON LESS THAN THOSE WHO ARE!

AND NOW ITS GETTING EVEN LESS!
V.A.T WILL MAKE PRICES SHOOT UP IN APRIL - OUR MONEY WON'T.
AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE GET CUT OFF? WE'LL HAVE NOTHING. AT LEAST WE'VE GOT THE FAMILY ALLOWANCE AT THE MOMENT.

WHAT? GROSS WAGES @ @?

WE CAN DO IN TOGETHER AS WOMEN TO KEEP OUR FAMILY ALLOWANCE BOOKS!

WOMEN'S LIBERATION IS ORGANISING A MASSIVE CAMPAIGN TO KEEP OUR FAMILY ALLOWANCE BOOK INDEPENDANT OF THE NEW TAX SYSTEMS TO INCREASE OUR FAMILY ALLOWANCE, AND TO MAKE IT FOR EVERY CHILD.

WOMEN IN GUINANTS UNIONS ARE JOINING IN AND DEMANDING OUR FAMILY ALLOWANCE BOOK ON TOP OF OUR SOCIAL SECURITY ALLOWANCES. FAMILIES WITH A WAGE COMING IN GET FAMILY ALLOWANCE AS WELLS AS THEIR WAGE. WHY DONT WE? - WE DO A HARD DAY'S WORK!

THERE WILL BE A MARCH ALONG OXFORD ST. STARTING AT HYDE PARK CORNER SATURDAY MARCH 10TH AT 1.30
1000S OF WOMEN WILL BE THERE!
come to Claimants Union meetings TO PLAN ACTION!

HANDS OFF FAMILY ALLOWANCE!

The government are planning to take away our Family Allowance. You may remember signing a petition demanding that Family Allowance is kept, increased, and given to every mother for every child, tax-free. We think that signing a petition is not enough to change what the government are doing to women, so we are calling a meeting of women in our area to plan action around our Family Allowance demands, and other problems facing women in our area. All women welcome.



MEETING!

FRIDAY
MARCH
23RD at 7.30 pm.
at
BEVINGTON SCHOOL
BEVINGTON ROAD
W. 10.

BRING THE
CHILDREN, AND
WE CAN ALL
HELP
LOOK AFTER
THEM.

PLEASE
COME!