

PEOPLE

PEOPLE

A MANIFESTO FOR
SURVIVAL

June, 1974



A STATEMENT FOR SURVIVAL

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A MANIFESTO FOR SURVIVAL

Conventional wisdom is increasingly perplexed by the mounting problems of our society: viciously accelerating inflation, pollution, overcrowding, and the many manifestations of worsening social breakdown. **PEOPLE** believes that these are only the symptoms of a sick society, and that the real problems arise from the careless way in which we have let the obsessive quest for material things dominate the process of industrialisation. Whilst most of the world has too few material comforts, the over-developed Western World has perfected the means of mass producing material goods to a point that not only exceeds the real requirements of Man, but which exploits the planet Earth in a way that cannot continue. In achieving our sophisticated industrial technology we have brought about a gradual disintegration of society, by overloading the social system with too many people, by increasing mobility which hampers proper socialization, and by reducing the power of public opinion necessary for society's capacity for self-regulation. The attempted cures only hasten this process: more politicians, more bureaucrats, more laws, more tribunals and so on.

Our ambitions could literally cost the Earth. To pursue them further would lead to total social disintegration, famine, warfare over dwindling raw materials and the slow poisoning of the natural world on which our survival ultimately depends. When these things will happen is open to argument. That they must happen is not in doubt, unless civilization changes course in time. **PEOPLE** believes therefore that a stable, ecologically sound way of life will eventually develop whether we like it or not, but that the risks of allowing it to do so 'naturally' are unacceptable—and avoidable.

PEOPLE accepts the growing body of scientific evidence that the twin evils are economic growth and continued increase in population, and intends to work towards a transition from a growth-orientated society to one whose guiding principles are minimum disruption of ecological processes; maximum conservation of materials and energy; a population in which recruitment equals loss; and a social system in which the individual can enjoy, rather than feel restricted by the first three conditions. This will, however, be an immense task, and whilst **PEOPLE** is quite clear on the new direction

we must take, many features of a stable society are as yet indistinct. It is inappropriate therefore to try to offer immediately a comprehensive set of proposals. At this stage we have dealt with the more fundamental and urgent aspects on which policy changes are needed.

A View of a Stable Society

In order to visualise the impact of our policies, it is necessary to outline, so far as is possible at this stage, a picture of life in a society not centred on economic growth. There is no such place as Utopia, and never will be. The world will not become problem-free, just different. Most of our ideas are the opposite of the rat-race view of things. For instance, the idea of everyone being expected to work full-time for a living will have to go; as the three day week foreshadows, for the next few years there just are not likely to be enough jobs to go round. Odd as it may seem at first, anyone who is content with bare subsistence needs and who does not wish to compete for employment is to be commended, not condemned. On the other hand, those with ambition must fulfil it without making demands on our precious resources. This is the new limiting factor on our prosperity, not willingness to work harder.

We shall aim at a society in which basic needs are met, but sheer luxuries will become harder to obtain. Satisfactions will have to be found in ways other than from material possessions. Precisely what these ways are will be up to the individual. There will be more leisure time for household improvements, for sport, or whatever gives the individual the greatest sense of satisfaction and self-respect.

Large-scale business enterprises will not find a steady-state economy congenial, excellently fitted as they are to the exploitation of a bygone situation of cheap and abundant resources. On the other hand, Trade Unions will come to be seen as fighting the wrong battles. Their main impetus now derives from the growth economy in two ways: from the unrealistic expectations which it engenders, and the sheer fear of inflation whose root cause is increasing pressure on scarce resources. There will be considerable scope for initiative and enterprise, but for the 'little' man—the painter and decorator, the cobbler, the small shopkeeper, and the rag and bone man, who will become the front line in the recycling industries on which much future prosperity will depend.

Although employment prospects will temporarily be reduced, it is possible to re-organise financial incentives in such a way that what work is available will be shared, not fought over. Unemployment as we understand it need not exist at all. Some congenial, useful jobs will be created, but mindless

factory drudgery will no longer be necessary. After the first few years it will be expected that everyone should again serve the community in some way, but not necessarily full time, so that economic security still cannot be tied to it. However, extravagance or misuse of resources will become a much more serious matter than it is in the 'throw away' society.

Many services will tend to become communal, e.g. buses and launderettes instead of private cars and washing machines, although for those who prefer it, there will be long-life goods bought on terms more akin to a mortgage than to a hire purchase agreement.

Pollution and traffic congestion will be reduced, and inflation checked simply because people will stop expecting the moon. We should also discourage further growth of big towns and cities, which breed anonymity, and promote a return to smaller communities as far as possible. Science and technology will however have an important part to play in the transition to ecological methods.

As long as there were the resources to fuel a growth economy, it was undoubtedly able to raise absolute material standards. It follows therefore that there will have to be a degree of redistribution if a stable society is not to create hardship for some sections of the community.

Not only is this picture not complete, but it is not the only possible scenario. **PEOPLE** does not claim to know all the answers, merely to be looking for them in a new direction, and it is in this context that the following proposals must be read.

CONSTITUTION

The British Constitution, unwritten as it is, is designed for operation by statesmen and reformers, not by career politicians. It functions best when the prime interest of those using it is not personal ambition but matters of national concern.

The two-party system, an historical accident, has become enshrined as if it had been handed down from the mountain to Moses. Recent developments have demonstrated the difficulties to which rigid adherence to this system leads. In a world as complex as that in which we live it becomes foolish to take as firm a stand on so many issues as the major parties seem

to feel necessary to maintain a clear distinction between them. This distinction is in fact artificially created over a large number of issues since it is acknowledged that the broad legislative programmes initiated in recent years contain many uncontroversial and unexceptionable items which can only be of benefit and would be otherwise approved by the Opposition Parties. However, their very status as 'Opposition' leads to resistance in principle and the sterile situation the country now faces is perpetuated. The system of Parliamentary 'Whips' is the root of this particular evil and the result of it is in the number of about-turns witnessed in the policies of the major parties in the past decade.

PEOPLE would therefore propose no immediate reform of the Parliamentary system as such, merely a change of approach to the selection of aspiring operators of it, and a greater reliance on their judgement once elected. It is hoped that the party's central ethic is sufficiently strong to shape the views of those who represent it so that no coercion will be necessary to direct their voting in a way acceptable to PEOPLE.

For example, the party's dedication to the reduction of unit size in a commercial and community context to a scale to which human beings can relate without strain would evidence itself politically in an effort to ensure the devolution of local government powers to much lower levels than at present. The 1974 local government reorganisation, planned on a 'bigger-better' basis was the complete antithesis of PEOPLE's policy in the matter. It would be the intention to function local government so far as practicable at a 'market town' level, so that members of a community would have ready access to those wielding power over them. Some intermediate level between truly local and national government is clearly necessary, and in this connection a degree of regional autonomy will be implemented.

The current vast armies of bureaucrats employed on Civil Service and Local Government work is in need of re-appraisal and true rationalisation to ensure job satisfaction for employees of the State no less than for employees of private concerns. It is felt that while the stability offered by a Civil Service and Local Government structure which remains unchanged while governments of widely differing central purpose hold power alternately is to some extent desirable, the power which in fact resides in the Civil Servants and Local Government Officials should be subject to Parliamentary review more easily than at present when its full extent is not even known.

Candidates

1. PEOPLE candidates should have a strong connection with the constituency they represent.

Whips

2. PEOPLE will operate no Parliamentary Whips. All voting will be at the free choice of the party's individual Members of Parliament bearing in mind the views of their constituency.

MPs' Salaries

3. PEOPLE will have careful regard to the level of remuneration of Members of Parliament compared with that of the average wage earner, taking into consideration the responsibility of the position and the expenses incurred. PEOPLE considers that Members of Parliament should have no other employment connection, since through increased contact with their Constituencies, Members will retain a better understanding of economic, social and associated problems.

Register of Interests

4. PEOPLE would institute a compulsory register of the interests of Members of Parliament in commercial concerns and any sponsorship or similar financial backing that they receive. This would be available for public inspection.

Ministries

5. The Department of Health and Social Security shall be retitled the Department of Community Health and Welfare. There shall be created a Department of National Income and Taxation to replace the Inland Revenue, Customs & Excise, Social Security, National Insurance and Pensions administrations. The Department of the Environment shall encompass inter alia the Alkali Inspectorate, the Water Boards, Electricity and Gas Boards, National Coal Board, the present Ministry of Sport, sewerage authorities, Forestry Commission, Ministry of Transport inspection departments and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

A Department of Housing, Public Transport and Fuel shall be created.

POPULATION

A stabilised and ultimately reduced population is essential.

PEOPLE's policies for Great Britain stem from two problems easily illustrated. Firstly, the current density of population in this country is such that if it were possible to herd the entire population of the world into the North American Continent, the number of people per acre would equal that in Britain now. Secondly, despite the fact that the British birth rate has been declining since 1964 the latest official projections still expect a population increase of 6 million on top of our present 56 million by the year 2000. The rapid decline of the birth rate since 1972 is probably the result of births being postponed rather than the desire for smaller family size. Even if the family size were to drop to a replacement level of 2.1 the inherent age structure of the present population would lead to a further increase in our number of at least 5 million. With such an increase the people of Britain will continue to face such problems as those of sewage and refuse disposal, of producing and transporting food supplies and of providing shelter.

The sustainable level of population for Great Britain is approximately 30 million. This is the number which it is generally accepted can be fed at an adequate level without the necessity for food imports. Even if that is too low a figure, and a substantial increase to say 45 million is allowed, by the year 2000 it still means the population will be far too large unless drastic steps are taken immediately.

Education

1. PEOPLE will promote the ideal family size as one or a maximum of two children. A re-education campaign to change the emphasis on child-bearing from the present position whether the positive decision for a woman to make is not to have a child, to a position where the positive decision to be made is to have a child. Sex education classes in schools are an obvious starting point.

Contraception

2. There will be freely available contraception and sterilisation and advice at no charge. Oral contraceptives and certain contraceptive devices would remain under the control of the medical profession but would be available free if prescribed.

Abortion

3. The place of abortion within the overall framework of a population policy will be re-considered.

Immigration

4. In view of the population problem in this country immigration control will be strictly enforced, and subject to review annually.

Emigration

5. Emigration will be encouraged by grants of an amount to be fixed, to all those leaving the country. There are countries in the world where the population level is too low to permit labour-intensive agriculture of all suitable land and they may be pleased to offer to take our surplus population. This possibility will need to be explored.

ECONOMY

It is perhaps in this most complex field that PEOPLE's approach differs most markedly from the present system. The aim is a steady-state economy, based on stock rather than flow economics where wealth is assessed from what we have instead of how quickly we use it. This is essential both to conserve resources and cut down pollution.

PEOPLE believes that the immense power held by international companies, often enabling them to override governments, is contrary to the interests of any nation. PEOPLE therefore emphasises the need for their dispersal into their component parts. The development of community-based industry and co-ownership by employees will mitigate unemployment and industrial unrest.

In order to finance the various schemes which are proposed, drastic cuts in expenditure will be needed. Such projects as the third London airport at Maplin, the Channel Tunnel, Concorde and the road-building programmes will almost certainly be halted. The labour forces from such works can transfer to agriculture and capital works.

PEOPLE bases its economic programme on a return to fundamental principles. In accord with its policy of simplification, the aim is to reduce the number of taxes and the agencies dealing with them. As a result of the reduction of tax collection agencies the net revenue after administration costs may well be higher than at present.

The central purposes of taxation are twofold: one, to finance the State's expenditure, and two, to regulate the economy in whatever way is considered desirable by the government. These have become confused. It is proposed therefore to have for the first purpose, income tax and corporation tax. For the second purpose, Value Added Tax will be used. All other taxes will be progressively abolished. The system of death duty taxes will be revised, to ensure a levelling off of personal wealth.

In order to achieve ecologically—and therefore socially—desirable ends, the rates of Value Added Tax will be adjusted. Thus for example, the person or organisation producing goods of a disposable rather than long-life nature will find that his raw materials are purchased subject to a high rate of tax and that his selling price is also correspondingly higher. Eventually his market will fall away. If the market continues, then the State will have ensured that the tax provided sufficient revenue to compensate the nation for the undesirable thing. Similarly, a negative-Value Added Tax will apply to assist those firms or businesses providing socially desirable goods or facilities.

Income tax will be changed in accordance with the National Income Scheme. The Ministry of National Income and Taxation will take over the administration of both taxation collection and payment of National Income.

Repeal of Fiscal Legislation

1. All current legislation creating National Insurance Schemes and social security and related benefits, income, corporation and other taxes will be repealed.

Capital Projects

2. The Maplin, Channel Tunnel, road-building, nuclear-generating plant building, Concorde and defence spending budgets shall all be reviewed and for the most part closed.

Scales of Taxation

3. Income and Corporation Taxes, Value Added Tax and revised death duty taxes will be implemented through the Ministry of National Income and Taxation. Scales of taxation rates shall be drawn up for Income and Corporation Taxes which encourage work and reward profits up to a level of income or profit to be agreed whereafter the tax rate shall be 100%.

Collection of Taxes

4. All tax collections and payment of National Income will be transferred to a new department of the Civil Service with local offices. The Department of Health and Social Security payments section will be disbanded as will the Income Tax offices as presently constituted.

National Income Payment Orders for those not employed will be issued by the Department of National Income and Taxation and will be cashable at Banks and Post Offices.

Computation of Income

5. Employees, employers, the self-employed and corporations will provide accounts or proof of income for the purposes of tax computation annually. The P.A.Y.E. system will operate. Students will be deemed to be employed and their education authorities will provide the Ministry with higher rate payment authorities. Income from investments will be proved annually to the Ministry by recipients.

EMPLOYMENT

PEOPLE's aim is twofold, satisfying employment for those who work and as near full employment as possible. A change to labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive industry will lead eventually to full employment. In the short term while the machinery of capital-intensive industry remains there will be a surplus of labour. This once-and-for-all opportunity to employ a massive work force must not be missed. It is the last chance to clean up the inheritance of years of 'disposability' and industrialisation. The State will take into employment any person who seeks work, in the 'Task Force'. The clearing of derelict canals, reclamation of mine and excavation spoil heaps, litter and debris clearance in towns all will improve the physical environment in which so many people live, work and use their leisure. The capital works referred to in the 'Energy' section will require labour forces in the short term.

In the long term since the Earth's resources do not permit of the production of throw-away articles, more people will be required for maintenance and service work, and a greater degree of craftsmanship will be called for in production methods. There must be a return to regarding work as a part of a full life instead of a waste of time on five days a week which must be endured to pay for pleasures.

The Trade Unions were formed to present management, or more accurately at the time, the owners, with an opposition strong enough to bargain for basic human consideration in employment. Such considerations have not yet been fully achieved and whilst PEOPLE believes that its policies in all fields provide for the continuing improvement of working conditions, it in no way challenges the right of any group of labour or management to organise legally in support of, or in opposition to, the declared objectives of the employer.

PEOPLE believes that decentralised, labour-intensive industry is a prerequisite for the creation of ecologically self sufficient communities. Multi-national firms and multi-company organisations including unions must necessarily be restricted in their activities to provide instead for the stimulation of small-scale, community-based industrial concerns.

Many men and women feel an urge, having spent twenty years in one type of work, to change. It is proposed to make facilities for re-training and study later in life more readily available. The National Income scheme will make this easier.

Labour-intensive Industry

1. Legislation will be introduced to impose taxes upon employers who employ capital rather than labour in their businesses. It is appreciated that certain processes such as power generation are by nature capital-intensive, but manufacturing industry and the retail market will be particularly affected. Subsidies will be available to those fulfilling their obligations, of an amount equal to the product of the tax, less only the administration costs of collection and distribution.

Trade Unions

2. The Trade Union Movement will be approached and asked to support and participate in these economic and social changes which will finally result in a society which is both ecologically sound socially and economically just, and psychologically and philosophically sound.

Task Force

3. A Task Force will be set up by the State to take into employment all those not otherwise employed who wish to be employed. Its purpose will be to deal with cosmetic environmentalism, clearing derelict land, creating parks and leisure areas, making canals serviceable, ensuring that footpaths are clear, demolishing disused factory buildings and unfit housing, and clearing and recycling the contents of scrapyards and dumps.

RESOURCES

There are three classes of raw materials: those such as food, trees, latex and cotton, which are biogenically renewable; those like most metals, which are in finite supply but can be re-used; and there are those such as uranium, coal, oil and refractory clays, that are destroyed in their use. It is obvious that special care must be taken in the use of resources which are irretrievable.

1. ENERGY AND FUEL

If the world continues its profligate use of energy there will be an acute fuel shortage in the near future. The supply of fossil fuels is not infinite and must not be regarded as such. For too long costs of production have ignored the price of air and water which are regarded as free. The costs will now include cleaning the air used, and cooling, cleaning and filtering of all water before returning it to source.

The centralised supply of power has been the aim of planning for years, but this being completely contrary to PEOPLE's principles of self-sufficiency and decentralisation the policy will be reversed as far as possible. PEOPLE's aim for energy supply is to make each building, by the use of many sources of power, as nearly self-sufficient as it can be. The technologies of solar energy usage, wind and water generators, heat exchangers, geo-thermal heat extraction, hydro-electric and tidal barriers are all known and should be explored as possible alternatives to present energy sources. Presently accepted economic terms must be rejected in favour of conservation, recycling, and social and environmental considerations.

Electricity

1. PEOPLE will continue research into nuclear fusion reactors but will prevent the building of any other type of nuclear reactor on safety grounds. PEOPLE will also dismantle existing reactors. Wind generators, solar energy and small scale hydro-electric tidal barrier schemes will

be promoted. The Ministry of Fuel shall be empowered to research, develop and construct such schemes. An overall policy of decentralisation of power supplies and reduction of consumption will be adopted.

North Sea Oil and Gas

2. The reserves of oil and gas in the North Sea will be utilised by careful development and the rate of extraction shall be as slow as possible: controlled, through the nationalisation of the oil industry if necessary. Environmental considerations will be the deciding factor in choosing methods of extraction, refining, storage and distribution. The breathing space offered by this local power source will enable other aspects of policy to take effect well before the supply is exhausted.

Coal

3. Britain's considerable coal reserves must be extracted and used with careful regard to environmental considerations and also thought of as an interim supply only.

Tariffs

4. Tariffs for fuel will be adjusted so that unit cost increases in direct proportion to the amount consumed. Consideration will be given for special rates in the case of essential services.

2. AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

On the question of renewable resources, PEOPLE believes that agriculture is of primary importance, and that the survival of this country depends upon it. The agricultural policies that have in the past led to farmers concentrating for economic reasons on methods of farming they know to be unsound must be reversed and their effects corrected. Mono-cultural systems only work while artificial fertilisers and pesticides can be pumped into what ceases to be soil and becomes merely a root-holding medium. Since the agro-chemical industry is an immense energy consumer, and energy

supplies are becoming increasingly limited, the fate of mono-culture and all intensive factory farming methods is clear. PEOPLE plans to encourage a transition to small farms which are run on ecological lines bearing in mind that more of the population could be supported if less plant protein is fed to animals and more eaten directly by people.

The line between us and starvation is thin—it is the topsoil out of which true cultivation coaxes our food. Britain currently imports nearly half its food. With world population figures rising, and famine spreading, food will become more difficult to buy from other countries. The pressure of our own growing population will increase. Intensive cultivation is desperately required if we are to be self-sustaining in food, and the first requirement is good soil to cultivate. One generation of artificial fertilisers and pesticides has destroyed the fruit of a thousand years of farming. If we are to survive, it must be replaced.

Grants and Subsidies

1. PEOPLE's first priority in government would be to change entirely the emphasis of farming subsidies and grants. True crop rotation will be a pre-condition and in the initial two years of the programme farmers would be encouraged to undertake whatever measures might be necessary to restore their land to good heart even if this might mean a temporary reduction in productivity. Imports would need to be increased to supply the deficiency, but it would need to be made clear in a re-education programme for the public that dietary requirements will change in coming years as food supplies grow scarcer.

Labour

2. Every encouragement including financial assistance for those undertaking agricultural retraining will be given to assist farms in becoming labour-intensive. Tax reforms will be introduced on some pesticides and mechanisation to make it more economic to be labour-intensive.

Farm Size

3. Farm Unit size will be reduced by progressive taxation at a rate increasing over a period of years. Units of say 200 acres or more (larger in the case of hill farms) farmed or managed by the same person will receive no grant or subsidies and will be subject to tax at a rate increasing over 5 years.

Land Use

4. The principal use for land must be agricultural. Although no extensive State ownership of land is advocated, strict control of land use is essential (and in some cases State or Municipal ownership may be advisable). No use will be permitted upon penalty of prohibitive fines and imprisonment, which diminishes the quality of the land.

Nationally Controlled Land

5. Forestry Commission and National Trust land shall be subject to strict control. The use of Ministry of Defence land should be reviewed, and the need for it considered.

Pollution

6. The Alkali Inspectorate, Water Board Inspectorates, Factory Inspectorates and all other agencies concerned with the environment in which people live and work shall have their staffs very substantially increased. Their reports shall be available for public inspection. They shall have power to prosecute offenders and new legislation will impose severe fines increasing indefinitely in magnitude with an option to spend on anti-pollution measures. This legislation will be strictly enforced.

Task Force

7. Task Forces shall be available for the initial 'clean up' operation of the countryside and towns.

Re-cycling

8. A tax incentive will be given to produce long-life goods and to make them in such a way that materials are easily reclaimed when they are scrapped. Refuse collection and disposal agencies will be given grants so that the separation of paper, glass and other waste is achieved and metals are reclaimed. Disposal of refuse shall be carried out in such a way that heat and other by-products are usable.

Sewage Disposal

9. Legislation will be enacted to prohibit any industrial effluent being allowed into the sewage system and an extensive capital works programme will convert existing sewage schemes. Methane gas production shall be undertaken and the end product after treatment will be sold to farmers at low cost.

TRANSPORT

Present transport systems in Britain are for the most part dependent on continued plentiful cheap energy. The effect of petrol scarcity has been seen in a minor way recently, but no major re-planning to minimise reliance upon fossil fuels or the continued consumption of agricultural land for roads has been undertaken. This must be done. The emphasis must move from road transport to rail, canal and sea transport; and from individual traffic to public transport, although in the long term a substantial reduction is foreseen in personal mobility.

Railways and Canals

1. The annual budgets of British Rail and the British Waterways Board will be increased by State grants to permit the preservation, renovation, possible extension and improvement of present railway and canal systems.

Public Transport

2. PEOPLE will set up a Consultancy on Transport systems and will promote by making its expertise available and also by loans the development or extension of public transport services at local levels, whether by privately owned business or local authorities.

Roads

3. The road building programmes currently in hand will be carefully reviewed in the light of the move from individual road transport and curtailed as necessary. Very few new programmes will be undertaken.

Vehicle Design

4. Emission and safety Regulations of a more stringent nature will be introduced and the penalties for contravention against user and owner will be high. Manufacturers will be required to design vehicles in such a way that the metals and other resources used in manufacture are reclaimable on scrapping.

Sea Transport

5. In an effort to increase water-borne freight transport, loans will be available at low interest rates to towns with local docks or wishing to create such docks.

Development of New Systems

6. The Transport Consultancy will be empowered to develop and promote new transport systems which are sociologically and environmentally desirable.

SOCIAL WELFARE

PEOPLE sees present-day society in Britain as schizophrenic, on the one hand offering a paternalistic system of welfare benefits which permits the individual to abrogate his responsibilities if he chooses, and on the other hand criticising and despising those who take this opportunity. The Socialist and Capitalist views, irreconcilable as they are, both prevail. Benefits of so many sorts now exist that the inadequate, who need to receive most, cannot cope with the bewildering variety and sink further down the poverty scale. Indeed the plethora of welfare organisations and financial assistance creates its own inadequates—the level of competence required to deal with being poor rises daily. The list of benefits is long: income tax reliefs, social security payments, pensions, unemployment pay, sickness benefit, family income supplement, disability pensions, family allowances, free milk, rates rebates, rent rebates, mortgage option schemes, the national health service are all overlaid upon each other, and in consequence require large numbers of officials to administer them who are placed in a powerful position as a result by reason of the discretion allowed in the award of benefits. It is proposed to sweep all these payments away.

In substitution there will be introduced the National Income scheme, administered by the Department of National Income and Taxation. The fundamental principle underlying the scheme is that every person resident in Britain is entitled to a basic subsistence allowance, without any qualification. All persons earning income whether from assets invested or from their work will be subject to tax. This is more fully discussed elsewhere. Children will, according to age, receive less than the standard National Income and it will be paid to the person having care and control of the child. The retired will receive a higher rate of National Income payment. Students would, while satisfying the education authority requirements be in receipt of authorities for higher rate payments.

The National Health Service will be retained while its financing will alter somewhat. National Insurance Stamps will cease to exist.

National Income

1. A Working Party will be set up to consider the administration of the National Income, but it is envisaged that a

Department of National Income and Taxation will set up local offices to administer the distribution of National Income payment orders. These will be redeemable through Post Offices or Banks.

National Income Rates.

2. The scale of National Income benefits shall be fixed. Rate (a) shall apply to children under 5. Rate (b) shall apply to children between 5 and 14. Rate (c) shall apply to persons between the ages of 14 and 60 unless otherwise authorised at Rate (d), and Rate (d) shall apply to persons over the age of 60, the disabled, members of the Task Force and others with higher rate authorities. It is intended that Rate (c) shall be sufficient to meet basic food requirements at current prices and to provide for clothing replacement and heating. It shall also include a component fixed for each Housing Authority area according to the average cost of renting accommodation in that area, but would be weighted slightly in favour of less densely populated areas so as to discourage further movement into conurbations. Rates (a) and (b) shall, after a transitional period, decrease according to family size. Tentatively suggested proportions are 95% where there is one older dependent (i.e. person under 14) in the same household; 90% where there are two; and 75% where there are three or more.

Local Services

3. The reduction of community size will be encouraged by government grants to Local Authorities providing local help for the disabled and disadvantaged and particularly to assist in home care where possible.

Self-help Basis

4. Grants to Local Authorities will be principally available for self-help organisations. Schemes promoting community development and integration will be particularly fostered, whilst institutionalisation within communities will be discouraged.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Decentralisation is the keynote of PEOPLE's policy. Its aim is to reduce buildings, communities, organisations and government to a scale comprehensible to the human being, and to which he can comfortably relate. Accordingly, the 1974 reorganisation of Local Government will be repealed and a new system based on an optimum size of 20,000 inhabitants will be introduced.

The present rating system works unfairly and PEOPLE is of the view that the members of a community should pay for the facilities which they principally if not solely enjoy, whilst such things as education which accrues for the benefit of the State should be financed from income tax and paid for by the National Exchequer.

It is not felt that bigger means better, nor that it is even more economic. PEOPLE's feelings are that the prime factor must be the well-being of the individual and that this means that the type of services provided at local level must be administered and controlled by people whom the individual feels to be accessible.

Unit Size

1. PEOPLE will introduce legislation to reduce the unit of Local Government areas. An optimum size of 20,000 population would be the target for the control of the local budgets for social welfare services, housing, leisure services, fire and ambulance services, police services, transport, waste reclamation and disposal and public health. Sewerage and water supplies will be dealt with at local level.

Education expenditure will be transferred to the National Exchequer, while being largely administered at local level. Universities and all institutes of higher and further education will be the controllers of their own budgets, not subject to local control.

Community Levy

2. The current rating system will be replaced by a community levy upon persons instead of properties, whereby those resident in a locality will pay for the services made available to them. In each January and June an advance payment of the levy for the year would be required, such sum being the amount of the locality's projected expenditure less national contributions divided by the number of inhabitants. Proportionate reliefs would be available to those unable to participate fully in certain facilities such as, perhaps, a village not served by public transport, or to the aged.

Enforcement

3. Enforcement proceedings will be against the person liable to make payment of the levy, parents being jointly and severally responsible for the levy of their children under 14. There would be exemption for anyone who could show that the National Income was his only possible source of income.

EDUCATION

For too many years the aim of the school years has not been education but exam-cramming. School facilities should be more available for the use of the community and teaching should also be readily accessible to those who wish to pursue their education.

Nursery Education

1. Nursery school places should be available in all communities for children aged 3 and over for half a day. As smaller families become the norm, this will become increasingly important to the social integration of children.

School Utilisation

2. The use of school, college and university buildings should be re-planned to provide for more intensive use over longer periods by the community as a whole.

Teacher Utilisation

3. Teachers should be trained to work within the total community. The teacher/pupil ratios will be drastically reduced and parental and community involvement will be encouraged in all schools.

School Leaving Age Option.

4. The school leaving age option will be reduced to 14 years. It shall be illegal to pay a young person between the ages of 14 and 18 a wage in excess of the National Income except for evening or weekend work. This will lead to the child who wishes to continue his education being able to do so if he wishes, since it will be no longer financially more profitable to leave school.

School Curricula

5. In accord with PEOPLE's declared intention of stimulating community development reversing current social trends, schools' curricula should be based upon the principles of community education. This must involve the reversing of current trends towards the centralisation of education into ever larger and more capital intensive institutions.

DEFENCE

This is one of the most expensive items in the annual budget. PEOPLE takes the view that Britain's geographical position is such that in the event of nuclear war no nuclear weapon of hers will achieve anything other than extra destruction of our planet. In the meantime to maintain such weapons merely as deterrents harms the cause of arms limitation and costs a great deal of money. It is therefore proposed to curtail the Defence Ministry budget where it relates to nuclear weapons. Activity and expenditure in all spheres of the armed forces will be reviewed regularly and reduced where possible.

Nuclear Disarmament

1. Because the present financial and potential environmental cost of nuclear weapon systems far out-weighs any benefits, they shall be dismantled and the bases closed.

Permanent Armed Forces

2. The permanent armed forces to be forces responsible primarily for the training of a militia.

Militia

3. Instead of ever-increasing reliance on small, technically sophisticated, armed services, operating complex and enormously expensive weapons systems, there will be a complete change of emphasis in favour of a compulsory national part time militia. The resulting millions of trained potential guerillas represents the ultimate deterrent to any would-be occupying power.

HOUSING

A movement of population away from the larger towns and the cities is aimed for. It is not necessary to house a thousand-strong work-force near a factory when the factory has no raw materials on which to work. At present there are enough houses for all those seeking homes, but many are regarded as being in the 'wrong' place. Decentralisation will change this view.

The Building Regulations are relics of a time when Jerry-building was rife—now they contain certain provisions that are irrelevant. They will be replaced with new regulations designed to ensure that every building is so far as is possible self-sufficient in energy.

The emphasis on agriculture which follows from being self-sustaining in food will lead to renewed rural development so that Town Planning restrictions will require amendment.

Planning

1. **PEOPLE** will introduce Planning Regulations designed to encourage rural development, prevent further urban development, and reduce the permissible size of buildings.

Building Regulations

2. The existing Regulations will be replaced by new Regulations which require, inter alia, solar energy collection panels, wind driven generators, w.c. units with sewage treatment facilities to provide methane gas and humus, improved insulation and heat exchange facilities. The aim would be to reduce each living unit's dependence on central power sources.

Integration of Communities

3. In community estate planning, provision for schools, old people's housing, disabled persons' housing, probation hostel accommodation and other community needs shall be made within each area.

FOREIGN POLICY

As **PEOPLE**'s policies are designed to promote self-sufficiency in the life of individuals and the nation, initially foreign policy will be of a similar sort, cutting Britain off from some of its links. However, this is the short term policy only and when the re-planning is under way a more outward-looking policy can follow.

The E.E.C. will hamper the adoption of survival policies unless a majority of member states also adopt the principles on which **PEOPLE** is founded and it is therefore necessary to secede from it. The Commonwealth countries being food producing or rich in natural resources and on the whole low in population will assume even greater importance.

Co-operation

1. Efforts will be made to enlist the aid of other countries in implementing policies designed to lead to a post industrial society, which **PEOPLE** believes will be adopted on a world scale in the near future.

Technical Developments

2. International co-operation will be promoted on new energy and power source research.

THIRD WORLD

PEOPLE is acutely aware of the physical and cultural damage that Western 'civilisation' continues to inflict on the less technologically sophisticated nations, sometimes rapaciously, but sadly, also from the highest humanitarian motives, ill-informed as to the overall ecological consequences. Some of those nations which are rich in natural resources have benefited from a degree of poetic justice in the growth-induced price rises in commodities. Others however have not. A concern for social justice for oneself is cynical if it does not extend also to those less fortunate. Moreover it is arguable that the mutual interdependence of all countries of the world is such that mutual co-operation on the basis of individual self-sufficiency is an essential aim if peace and stability are to be more than pious hopes.

Talks will be instituted as a matter of urgency with a view to additional aid on a selective ecological basis on as large a scale as this country can afford, to a selected country (e.g. Bangladesh) as a pilot scheme. The aim would be to make such a country more self-sufficient. **PEOPLE** will place greater emphasis on making people with knowledge available rather than cash hand-outs. It will be intended to be linked to effective population control in whatever form is acceptable to the recipient country, and must form part of a coherent overall plan of development based on a full understanding of the problems of that country in an ecological context. Existing aid schemes need not be affected, unless the recipient country felt that they could be more effective as part of such a plan.