

"I DON'T think it's the worst thing this Government has done. But all the other outrageous things they've done have been aimed at specific groups, like the miners and other trade unions, or particular ethnic groups. This is very, very broad, and I think that's why it's attracted very broad opposition. Everything else they've done has been a matter of divide and rule, but this affects everyone across the board – your punk rocker and your pensioner.

"I think it's going to be unworkable. It's more or less unworkable in Scotland. What they have done is to totally underestimate their floating voters. I think that as far as the bunker mentality in Downing Street is concerned, it's just another way of hitting local welfare socialism. They've underestimated how angry people are at their tampering with something that wasn't perfect, but which was at least based on your ability to pay.



"It's a totally iniquitous tax. And those kind of taxes that have always provoked the fine British public into going out on the streets and doing outrageous things, right back to the original poll tax. The Labour Party line is to resist it through the ballot box, at the local elections in May and at the next general election. I agree with that, but quite frankly a lot of people can't wait for the next election. So I think the thing to do is not to pay it. I know that's asking people to break the law, but there are some laws that you know are morally wrong. At Nuremberg in 1945 the entire Allied case was based on saying to the Nazi leaders, 'Why did you do it? Why didn't you break the law?' The whole world recognises the principle of the right to break unjust laws. I know they say, 'Oh, if you break one law you'll break another and we'll end up with anarchy', but I think that's bullshit.

"I don't think the riot in Trafalgar Square will stop the poll tax. But I think that, given what had happened before in public places, it wasn't inevitable but it was expected. And the police really had no plan. I was there and they were just charging up and down; and of course, when they went in with their riot gear some people felt like at last the establishment had served up something for them to attack. I think the riot was a manifestation of people's frustration, not only about the poll tax but also against the way the country's going as a whole, and against the lack of a cohesive opposition. I think if the Labour Party could come up with stronger opposition, on the poll tax and right across the board, then the situation would be a lot more hopeful.

"Conservative politics always come down to money. That's always the capitalist bottom line. What I think the Labour Party should be talking about is services. Instead of concentrating on the cash money aspects of it all, I think we should be focussing on what services we want and what they actually mean for people's quality of life. I think that'd be a better way of presenting the poll tax issue.

"Anyway, I'm not gonna pay, in solidarity with all the people who can't pay. So if you know anyone who wants my furniture . . ."