Poll Tax will be a major source of Local Authority income — if an authority wishes to raise its spending it must raise the Tax, and thereby penalise those it is trying to help.

Needless to say, the areas which will most need to spend more are the inner cities — and they do not vote Conservative.

Nicholas Ridley, in his speech to the Tory Conference this year, spoke of the “deeper political reason” for the Poll Tax — to reduce Council spending and to finish with the “serving independent socialism republics in an otherwise successful Thatcherite kingdom.”

We all know where Liverpool fits into this picture.

Poll Tax and Freedom

The implications of an efficient Poll Tax system on civil liberties are enormous. The state will be given greater power over the individual once the tax is in operation.

The National Council for Civil Liberties, in a recent report, suggested there would be “irreconcilable conflict” between the collection of the tax and personal privacy. The report states that the Government will track down suspected Poll Tax evaders by searching the personal files of housing bodies, bus pass and library ticket applications and even solicitors’ files, to see who has recently bought a house.

Everyone will be entitled to see their entry in the Poll Tax register — but cannot correct mistakes. A separate secret police force will also be held. They will present pay rates and be in control of the electoral roll without the right to vote here.

The Poll Tax register, he claims could be made public, allowing overseas embassies to see them and act on the information.

Mr. Rooker points out “Those who have come to Britain from oppressive regimes could be in danger...” and says that the Government have given no assurances that this will not happen.

The Poll Tax is not a popular tax. It will have wide-reaching effects on all members of the community. Remember, you will probably need to be full-time in education or work at the same time.

If some attendance is compulsory in this year, how can the student get a job? He can hardly tell his employer he is working “Part-time in the tax.”

So they are left out of the question, and advise instead that a student could perhaps make good use of this “year-off” by reading next year’s book. Surely if you are capable of reading this material then you are quite capable of actually entering the second year and pursuing the course now.

BUREAUCRATIC

It would therefore seem that there are some very noticeable and worrying discrepancies in the APC system. Some cases this year have shown a great deal of injustice in the APC’s final decisions. Although these students may take their grievances to a higher appeal in Senate House, they are also expressing a concern for future students who may find themselves caught up in the same bureaucratic nonsense, which can cause such unnecessary complications and upheaval.

Why should students get an obviously false deal, simply because of traditional faculty policies? Changes need to be made NOW!