

Freedom

Anarchist Weekly

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NO PILL FOR SCOTS!

THE RECENT Bill, now in the Committee stage in the House of Commons, to make Family Planning part and parcel of the National Health Service, covers England and Wales but not Scotland.

The reason for this discrimination lies in the 'Catholic vote'. And this bogey is a real one. Areas of Scotland, particularly in the West and around Dundee are haunted by the presence of the 'Catholic vote'. In areas like Coatbridge the populace votes not Labour or Tory—but Catholic and Protestant.

To give some examples of just how bad it is. In Glasgow, where the Labour-controlled council is ridden with Irish-Catholics there is no official municipal Family Planning Centre at all. The sole source of help and information in the city is the offices of the Family Planning Association, a private body. Queues of women have been reported there. In Dundee (with an amazingly large Irish population) a similar situation exists. Edinburgh is little better and only in Aberdeen, where the humanitarian doctor Sir Dugald Baird has been working on the outer fringes of the law for years, is contraceptive information freely available. Freely available, that is, for those who seek it out.

Even in Aberdeen, claimed by some to be more liberal in these matters than Stockholm, the local clinic does not appear in the telephone directory and its services are largely restricted to the middle classes.

A suggestion that posters should be put in mother and baby clinics was briefly mooted by the city health committee and then quietly dropped. That not everyone in the city agrees with the enlightened

attitude of the health authorities can be seen when one Progressive (i.e. Tory) councillor said, 'What do we need it for anyway?'

Scotland is bogged down in sex matters by 19th-century Victorian Presbyterianism on one hand and blatant Roman Catholicism on the other. In one cathedral in a major Scottish city worshippers were given printed forms containing a hysterical tirade against the abortion bill and were told, by the clergy, to send this drivel to their MP. Some weren't so soft and sent these little holy epistles to the press instead, whereupon the hierarchy denied responsibility.

Certain Scottish Tory MPs have pleaded in the Westminster Gasworks that Scotland should be excluded from the abortion bill. What similar underground skulduggery has gone on in the case of the Family Planning Bill? Or is the failure to give Scotland the benefits therein the only way in which our politically bankrupt Labour rulers can halt the ever decreasing Scottish population? Scotland now has the biggest slum problem in Europe, the lowest wage rates in Britain and mounting unemployment. The Highland Board, just about the only piece of anything like Socialist planning this government has done is inept against the attacks of the landed gentry. Wilson may well have an Aden problem on his hands, he may worry about the Common Market, he can sweat over the balance of payments. But the Scottish problem, provided North of the border comrades start stirring it up a bit, could give Harold the Good the biggest headache he's ever had!

DONALD SHU.

'SUNDAY CITIZEN' COMMITS SUICIDE

FREEDOM regrets to announce the death of another newspaper. The *Sunday Citizen* has five issues to go before its burial. The cause of death, according to the patient, lack of 'advertising'. I beg to differ with the diagnosis, it was more like suicide whilst under strain of economic difficulties of its own making.

Since approximately 1954, when it was the *Reynold's News*, the *Sunday Citizen* has become a 'lousy rag', good feature articles have been the exception rather than the rule. In the majority of cases it has trimmed its sails to accommodate the right-wing Lib-Lab of the Labour Party and consequently found itself in competition with the traditional independent Tory Press. Obviously it was no race—the *Citizen* couldn't even present that point of view attractively. The *Sunday Citizen* was viewed as a tragic giggle, which was bought and read out of loyalty, and even that has grown thin over the past eighteen months or so. Some printing chapels, who made bulk sales of the paper, were unable to give copies away let alone sell them.

The *Sunday Citizen*, if it had had 'spunk', could have captured the imagination of the Joe Soaps. Maybe due to

the boycott of advertisers it would not have made a fortune but it would have held its own.

One thing that can be said without fear of contradiction, the printing workers bent over backwards in their attempts to save the *Citizen*, but all they succeeded in doing was providing a slightly healthier corpse for a later burial.

Will the *Sunday Citizen* be the last newspaper to die? Unfortunately I have my doubts. Some circulations are beginning to drop. The immediate cause put forward is lack of advertising, and up to a point this is correct, but do the British public want newspapers as such? Taking a look at the national press, both daily and Sunday, the four with the highest circulations are the two *Mirrors*, *News of the World* and the *People*, with the emphasis on crumpet before news, although to be fair, the last does specialize in anti-working-class muck-raking.

So what is the solution? Are National daily papers a thing of the past? Do we have time to read the papers? Going to work in the mornings, either the journey is too quick or too crowded to read the paper, the same in the evening and by the time you have had your evening meal the one-eyed monster imposes its hypnotic powers.

The papers which do not need reading have the highest circulation, and this, whether we like it or not, is the unpalatable truth. Newspapers as such have either to rekindle social conscientiousness on the injustices of the day, expose the nakedness of the dream world we live in, or become puppets of the brassy advertisers, with news as incidental.

The *Sunday Citizen* was in an ideal position to make the exposures; it was financed by the Co-operative and Trade Union Movements. It didn't need the brassy advertisers it chose to court. As with any suicide, we regret the death of wasted potential.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

KING CONSTANTINE of Greece recently visited this country in a 'private' capacity and the independent, free press of this country obeyed instructions to keep this fact secret from the public.

King Faisal of Saudi Arabia recently visited this country in a 'public' capacity and the independent, free press of this country obeyed instructions to whip up some interest.

Nevertheless a courageous journalist, Mr. Micheal Davie, the Deputy Editor of the *Observer*, shed an interesting sidelight on King Faisal's visit, which is of importance to us all.

It is a pity that nobody will tell us about King Constantine's visit. We would have liked to know whom the Greek King talked to. Did he visit his relations? In what way did his visit connect up with the recent coup? But on this subject we have to wait until a respectable amount of time has elapsed. Should a courageous journalist wait so long?

But we are grateful to Mr. Davie for having written a very interesting article on at least one aspect of the sponsored welcome given to King Faisal. This 'sponsored welcome' was very noticeable in the pages of *The Times* newspaper, on whose presses the *Observer* is printed. It must have taken quite a bit of courage on the part of Mr. Davie to have publicly criticised his own landlord. But that he has cause for complaint is evident. This briefly has to be explained as dog does not bite landlord very often.

Lord Thomson is the owner of the *Sunday Times* (rival of the *Observer*) and he also owns *The Times* which shares the building and presses with the *Observer*. Therefore the *Sunday Times* knows every move that the *Observer* intends to make. By the time the *Observer* staff worked out a new lay-out or decided on a new series, Lord Thomson's *Sunday Times* has a similar article ready. This battle is not so much for news, but for advertisers.

And where one paper goes the other must follow. Special features which bore the tits off readers are now commonplace. And, as Mr. Davie pointed out, there is a danger of further encroachment. He has decided to make a stand on this issue.

The new twist is this. On Tuesday, May 9, *The Times* made publishing history by becoming the official organ of the Saudi Arabian Government. This is how it happened. They published a special supplement on King Faisal's visit. He was welcomed in an editorial

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY!

IF THE RIGHT wing of the Conservative Party has a function in contemporary British politics, it is to show by supporting them which causes are doomed.

It is ironic that a political grouping, consisting of so many retired majors, should have to endure so many Dunkirks. Having struggled unsuccessfully to preserve such institutions as hanging and the British Empire, the Old Right is now fighting to keep the grammar school.

But the grammar school as we know it will not survive. It offends against the current educational principle, 'equality of opportunity'.

This principle will increasingly dominate the educational theory of any modern class society. An educational system based on it will be the most efficient method of ensuring that the maximum number of able children emerge as potential leaders.

By introducing comprehensive education a government tries to achieve two purposes: to increase the number of well-qualified school leavers and to strike a blow for social justice.

There is no reason to doubt the sincerity of those in the government and elsewhere who favour comprehensive schools. They genuinely want their 'equality of opportunity'. And they want more.

A comprehensive school aims to establish a community in which pupils from the whole ability range and with differing interests and backgrounds can be encouraged to mix with each other, gaining stimulus from the contacts and learning tolerance and understanding in

Sheikhs & Shekels

and there were 19 separate articles about or related to Saudi Arabia.

Says Davie: 'At the foot of page two there was a note saying: "Publication of this number has been made possible by the payment of a charge by the Government of Saudi Arabia equivalent in amount to the cost of advertising that a special number of this size would normally carry".'

'The novelty of the supplement lay in the total absence of visible advertisements. What had happened was that *The Times* had printed 12 pages, liable to create a favourable impression of Saudi Arabia in the minds of its readers, and the Saudis had paid the bill.'

'Responsible' newspapers have been careful in the past to maintain a reputation for complete independence. These kind of special reports that are signed by respected and unbiased political commentators are making a mockery of 'independence'.

This is a kind of liberal wish that has no reality. But it has driven Mr. Davie to the point of resistance. One can sympathise with him wanting to hang on to a code by which a semblance of plain dealing can satisfy his conscience.

But for this problem there is going to be no solution. The encroachments of advertisers will continue. The borderline between advertising and editorial copy cannot be maintained under the present publishing arrangements for newspapers. Mr. Davie accepts the fact that advertisements are the main source of revenue for newspapers. But he must know how difficult it is to avoid the printing of concealed advertisements. Most of the travel stories are sponsored by Cook's Tours. One can concede that advertisers do not always want editorial control. This is when they only have goods to sell. But when they wish to create a market, or change governmental policy, they also buy editorial space. The threat of withdrawing advertisements is only put to advertising men, who pass it on to the management. By the time a

request arrives on the editor's desk it has been tactfully worded. But advertising, whether it is concealed or only too blatant, is the mainstay of most newspapers and the more one paper like the *Sunday Times* gobbles up the ads, the less there is for other papers. This is not to say that a successful paper is a healthy one.

The *Sunday Citizen* was killed for lack of advertising. And yet it had an enormous circulation. They sold 250,000 copies a week. There is something wrong when such a figure is too small for a healthy circulation.

Last year the *Sunday Citizen* is supposed to have made a loss of £160,000. In the same year the Co-operative Wholesale Society made a profit of £800,000. Now it would have been within the CWS's reach to keep the *Sunday Citizen* alive. But this would have been no different from the CIA's subsidy to *Encounter* (and I believe to the magazine *Censorship*). The CIA got what it asked for. A softening of intellectual attitudes with regard to American policy, whether at the time of the Rosenberg executions or now with Vietnam (Alex Comfort's letter, the *Guardian*...) was worth the subsidy. Similarly the magazine *Censorship* paid its way by creating a kind of universal guilt of censorship.

We believe that the answer can be found within our own approach and that of a few other papers in this country. We exist solely on sales, subscriptions and a communal subsidy which makes up our deficit. Paradoxically, having no advertising in our paper is a great saving for our readers each week. Every man who pays 'only' 4d. for his *Mirror* is facing financial ruin sooner or later. All advertising whether concealed or blatant exists to tempt you into impulse buying fridges, washing machines or patent medicines. Therefore Mr. Davie's last-ditch defence is a battle on the wrong front. He is a brave man to have made a stand anyway.

JOHN RETY.

the theorists. She certainly found that more boys were passing examinations:

'Between 1955, the last year of the grammar school, and 1965, after ten years of comprehensive organisation, the number of GCE "O" levels passed went up 700 per cent, and "A" levels went up 300 per cent.'

The figures for university entrance have also gone up—if not so spectacularly. But judged by the standards of the Ministry circular the school appears a total failure.

'Nobody's friends with Tau boys, the bottom ones. Or any of the boys from over Fulham or Battersea,' said an

Continued on page 3

HUGO BLANCO IN DANGER!

HUGO BLANCO, imprisoned Peruvian peasant leader, has been severely beaten up by prison warders in his Lima gaol.

Blanco was summoned to see the Prison Director. On his way to the Director's office, he crossed a piece of ground which had been declared 'military territory', a designation which the prisoners usually ignored.

There was no sign to indicate that the crossing of this area was forbidden. When a warder called Blanco's attention to the prohibition he said he was ignorant of the ruling and started to discuss the matter. A captain of the *Guardian Republicana* then ordered the warder to beat up Blanco.

A fellow prisoner, Kreis, tried to help him but other warders came along and, on the captain's orders, set about both men.

Blanco is now in the prison hospital

with 'pulmonary disease' according to the authorities. No one is being allowed to see him and, from all accounts, he is without medical care.

Protests should be sent without delay to: The Peruvian Ambassador, 52 Sloane Street, S.W.1, telephone BELgravia 2545 and to: President Belaunde Terry, Lima, Peru.

Hugo Blanco's appeal against the savage sentence of 25 years is due for a hearing before a Military Court soon. It would be very convenient for the military authorities if he died before the Court met. This is what happened to Maxime Velande, another Peruvian Labour leader. The official version was that he took poison, but in fact he was beaten to death by the police.

Issued by the British Committee for Solidarity with Victims of Repression in Peru, c/o 100 Henderson Road, London, E.7.

ANARCHY 75

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Dear Editors,

The intellectual and moral arrogance of Malcolm Caldwell's letter on Vietnam (FREEDOM, 13.5.67) provides a classic example of what I and many others have found disturbing about the statements on Vietnam of Lord Russell and those associated with him.

Caldwell writes: 'Vietnam "terror" after the French rattled on their undertakings (made in the period while they were still trying to build up their forces in early 1946) was a matter of self-preservation against French tactics which pioneered later US genocide.' There is something to this, but Caldwell's bombastic sentence does not meet one of the principal points Featherstone was making in his article in FREEDOM on March 25, that the Vietnam assassinated not only Frenchmen but also Vietnamese socialists, Trotskyists, 'liberal' nationalists, etc. Was this, too, a matter of self-preservation?

Caldwell writes: 'It is very clever to point out piddling factual errors in Russell's articles, and to ignore the most overwhelming fact of our time of which he has tried to warn us—the slide of the US government towards Fascism. Like accusing the Jews of exaggerating their concentration camp victims to contrive support against Hitler!' Caldwell's apparent assumption that exaggeration and deceit is a useful means of whipping up support is questionable on practical as well as moral grounds. To take Russell's case, his repeated distortions and inaccuracies in his statements about Vietnam have meant that his views have been easily dismissed in the country where he must want them to spread most—the USA.

Caldwell accuses me of 'disguised racism' because I object when Russell quotes the *New York Times* as saying that 100,000 were 'killed or maimed by chemical poisons', whereas the original report (which derived, as Russell failed to make clear, from a Vietcong broadcast), said that 100,000 had been 'killed or affected'. It seems to me that the racism is Russell's, if he really can't tell the difference between when a Vietnamese is 'affected' and when he is 'maimed'.

Caldwell writes: 'Would Roberts and Featherstone go along with the journalist who interviewed me on my return and suggested that all the flattened cities and limbless women and children had been "laid on" cynically by the Vietnamese themselves to dupe Western liberals?' Then, prejudging our answer to this question, he goes on: 'Don't parade your callousness so blatantly.' This prejudging of our answer is not only unpleasant in itself, indicating that Caldwell sees everyone who is not wholly for him as wholly stupid and evil, it is also based on fantastic blindness. Caldwell knows perfectly well that I oppose the US bombing in North Vietnam and have said so publicly, particularly in an article in *New Society* on January 12, 1967, but also in many other places. Caldwell knows that I believe civilian targets in North Vietnam have been persistently hit by US bombs. Yet, because I disagree with some of his and Russell's statements, and have argued in some detail with them, I am 'callous' and a 'racist'.

In this letter I have not attempted to answer all the points in Malcolm Caldwell's letter. I trust that Malcolm Caldwell will excuse me this discourtesy, but I feel that I have achieved what I wanted in this correspondence—to get Caldwell to state in detail his objections to Featherstone's article—and it is up to Featherstone, should he wish to do so, to make a more complete riposte.

Yours,

ADAM ROBERTS.

THE VIETNAM CONTROVERSY

Dear Comrades,

About the article 'Lies about Vietnam' (FREEDOM, 25.3.67). I agree with all the criticisms which are made of the so-called 'Liberation Front' of Vietnam. The main question, as far as Anarchists are concerned, is 'Is the Vietcong a Libertarian Movement?'—for, if it is not, it cannot lead to 'liberation'.

Anarcho-syndicalist readers may remember that, at the last SWF Conference, an attempt was made to exclude from membership any supporter of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign. This authoritarian move was, I'm glad to say, defeated. The SWF has a clear statement of aims and principles, and is open to all who agree with these. It's ridiculous to fall out over events on the other side of the world, which we are, in any case, powerless to influence.

The broad amorphous mass which I call the Anarchist Movement does not have a formal membership. It includes all those who are not just opposed to this government or that government but to government as such. There are as many different viewpoints as there are Anarchists. A few, however, try to define those they disagree with out of existence. This is the 'Anarchist' equivalent of 'exclusion', 'expulsion', 'excommunication' or whatever you want to call it.

On March 25, I went to Speakers' Corner to sell Anarchist propaganda. CND was holding a meeting there, and a few people with red and black flags were standing beside the platform, shouting interruptions, some of which were relevant, but most of them frivolous.

I met an Anarchist from Aberdeen who was taking no part in this curious ritual. He carried a red and black flag and that of the NLF, which looked very strange to me, and I said so. He replied, 'I carry it to show my solidarity with the people of Vietnam. It doesn't mean I support the communists.'

Now, in my opinion, the NLF has all the marks of a state. It imposes taxes on an already impoverished population, it conscripts young men, it wages war, etc. The gesture of the Aberdeen comrade seemed well meant but mistaken. However, when he added that he had just been told by the people interrupting CND's meeting that he 'could not be an anarchist' I felt distinctly sick. That these Londoners, instead of welcoming a fellow Anarchist from a distant city, indeed from another country, should attempt to 'excommunicate' him, seemed crazy to me.

Anarchism has taken firm roots in Aberdeen. Taking into account the difference in size, it compares very favourably with London. My explanation of this is that there are Anarchists in London who don't want the movement to grow. Now, whether we like it or not, there will continue to be very different viewpoints within the Anarchist movement. There are many who can't stand my views but, if I live for three score and ten, they will have to put up with me for another forty-five years (and vice versa).

To me, there are two main groups of Anarchists; the revolutionaries and the non-revolutionaries. Like the Aberdeen comrade, I am in the first category. We may disagree over many things, but what we hold in common is more important. But all of us, revolutionary or otherwise, have to 'live and let live'. There is no other alternative for Anarchists.

Yours fraternally,

DAVE COULL.

Dear Editors,

As I have written more about Vietnam in FREEDOM than probably anyone else I should like to comment on Malcolm Caldwell's statement, 'It is incomprehensible that FREEDOM, an anarchist paper, should lean backwards to apologise for US fascism, rather than put all its support behind the great and unbeatable Asian revolution against ages-long poverty and humiliation.'

I have read every word written about Vietnam in FREEDOM. Five-sixths has been protests against US brutality, callousness and deceit in Vietnam including much of my own stuff. Many articles, including some of my own, have been wholly concerned with American aggression and murder. If anything, FREEDOM could be accused of a pro-communist bias regarding Vietnam.

Yet when Godfrey Featherstone, in FREEDOM, calls attention to errors, exaggerations and bias in Lord Russell's recent book on Vietnam, FREEDOM is accused of 'leaning backwards to apologise for US fascism'. ('Fascism' is a stupid word in the context—if Caldwell would take the trouble to find out what fascism really involves—leader principle, corporate state, etc.—then he will realise that the US is not fascist nor anything near it.)

FREEDOM takes the line, held by most anarchists, that war is a struggle between evils, and that the magnitude of the greater evil in no way condones the lesser. Caldwell doubtless thinks this line is pedantic and purist and all the rest but perhaps even he, in the specific case of Vietnam, will admit that plenty of journalists and commentators have reported that the majority of the South Vietnamese people do not support either Hanoi or Saigon and yearn only for peace—such as Martha Gellhorn clearly showed in her *Guardian* articles a few months ago.

Some people (such as myself) want to see a compromise reached in Vietnam (I agree the chances are slim but that is what I want). Others want to see American military victory or communist military victory even if it means years more suffering for the Vietnamese although no proponent of the Vietnam communists can state how the Vietnam communists can defeat the military and economic might of the US.

Caldwell is obviously a passionate supporter of the Vietnam communists. Would he, I wonder, use the columns of FREEDOM to make a public declaration of his willingness to join an International Column in Vietnam should Hanoi call for one?

JEFF ROBINSON.

Foulness DEMO

Dear Comrades,

The East London Committee of 100 is planning a demonstration at the military complex at Foulness and Shoeburyness on May 27, 28 and 29. This complex houses the Foulness Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, two artillery ranges and Shoebury Garrison. In addition it is proposed to install a missile base at Shoebury.

Several hundred civilians live in a prohibited area, virtually under martial law. They require permits to enter and leave the area, as do all persons visiting the area. We have been informed that this area is to be extended. In view of this, we call upon all groups and individuals to join us in a demonstration

Letters

against the warfare state, against the extension of Shoebury Garrison, against the Foulness AWRE, and against the proposed Shoeburyness missile base.

The details are as follows:—
Saturday, May 27. Assemble 2.30 p.m. at Victoria Station Car Park, Southend. March to Shoebury. 5.30 p.m. Tea break, followed by leafletting and vigil.

Sunday, May 28. 11 a.m. Public Meeting at Ramparts Terrace, Shoebury. 1 p.m. Lunch. 2 p.m. March to Great Wakering. 3.30 p.m. Vigil and sit-down at the gates of the Foulness prohibited area, followed by all-night vigil.

Monday, May 29. 10 a.m. Assemble at the gates of the Foulness prohibited area. March to Southend. 1 p.m. Lunch. 2 p.m. Southend Sea Front (opposite the Kursaal). Public Meeting.

Yours Fraternally,

ROGER SUTTON.
(Convener, East London
Committee of 100,
Shoeburyness Working
Group.)

Still Alive and Kicking

Dear Editor,

There is no reason to doubt the good intentions of Jim Pinkerton's critical examination of the functioning of an anarchist group ('Manchester Profile'—FREEDOM, 29.4.67). However the article irritated members of Manchester Anarchist Group (i) because it misleadingly describes an out-of-date situation—the group is very much alive, and (ii) the author complains of inactivity and lack of organisation/contact/co-ordination—when in fact no one has seen him for months!

For Jim's information MAG holds weekly meetings and has taken part in two moderately significant demos in the last fortnight. It has produced three new introductory leaflets which have been widely read in the university and colleges, etc., and it is currently engaged in establishing a rapport with other non-political organisations such as Amnesty, YCND, AA, and CARD. There is also frequent social contact between members.

We may not have a corps of full-time organisers but we do have an efficient secretary, who (if he had been asked) could probably have given a more accurate account of the state of affairs here than someone who, in the last year or so, has not had anything to do with MAG.

True, we do need to know who can be relied on to do what, and when; and there is a lot of support running to waste in Manchester, but Jim, please don't waste your time writing to FREEDOM about it, come along and help! We'd be glad to see you.

Fraternally,

GRAHAM LEIGH,
RON & JANICE MARSDEN,
DAVE & JOHN POULSON,
ALAN BARLOW,
DAVID STRINGER.

Manchester
8.5.67

Anarchist Federation of Britain

(As there is no national secretariat for enquiries,

speakers, etc., please contact local groups.)

*Except in London—see below.

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. Temporary address: c/o Wooden Shoe, 42 New Compton Street, London, W.C.2.

SUNDAY EVENING MEETINGS 8 p.m. Lamb & Flag, Rose Street, off Garrick Street, London, W.C.2 (Leicester Square tube).

MAY 21 Jack Robinson
Anarchists and the Russian Revolution

ANARCHIST MEETINGS AT HYDE PARK EVERY SUNDAY AT 2 P.M.

HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Enquiries to Keith Nathan, 138 Pennymead, Harlow or John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.

LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E.13. 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Meetings at Mike Male's, 61 Granville Park, Lewisham, S.E.13.

SOUTHWARK ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Dave Burden, 45b Barry Road, East Dulwich, S.E.22. Proposed meetings to be held on first and third Thursday of each month.

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Contact: Jim Hoggan, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex.

EALING ANARCHIST GROUP. Get into touch with Ken King, 54 Norwood Road, Southall.

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday of each month at Jack Robinson and Mary Canipa's, 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6 (off King's Road), 8 p.m.

3rd Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald and Irene Room's, now at 13 Saverns Road, London, N.W.3.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

ALTRINCHAM ANARCHIST YOUTH GROUP.

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 23. Brian and Maureen Richardson.

PLYMOUTH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Contact J. Hill, 79 Underlans, Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon.

READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Alan Ross, 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks.

ROCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Eryl Davies, 22 St. Margaret's Street, Rochester. Fortnightly meetings.

SHEFFIELD. Contact Robin Lovell, c/o Students' Union, University, Sheffield, Tel. 24076.

SOUTH WEST MIDDLESEX ANARCHIST GROUP. Meetings every Saturday. Feltham High Street. Contact P. J. Goody, 36 Norman Avenue, Hanworth, Middlesex.

SWANSEA. Please get in touch with Julian Ross, 11 Wellfield Close, Bishopston, Swansea.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

Regional Secretary: Alistair Rattray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley.

NORTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION. BUXTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: F. A. Gresty, Punchbowl, Manchester Road, Buxton.

CHORLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Anne Marie Fearon, 16 Devonshire Road, Chorley.

LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST PROPAGANDA GROUP. Gerry Bree, 16 Faulkner Square, Liverpool, 8. Meetings weekly. 'Freedom' Sales—Pier Head, Saturdays, Sundays, Evenings.

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Dave Poulson, Flat 9, 619 Wilbraham Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, 21.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION

WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Stephen Higgs, 8 Westbury Road, Forest Gate, E.7.

LIBERTARIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION. Meetings—discussions—activities. Contact Peter Ford, 82 North Road, Highgate, N.6. (Tel.: MOU 5702.)

PROPOSED GROUPS

LEE, LONDON, S.E.12. Anarchist-Radical

Group. Contact Rodney Hodges, 2 Cambridge Drive, Lee, S.E.12.

NORTH WALES: Bangor. Contact Geoff Brown, 39 Caellera, Bangor, Caerns.

SOMERSET. John and Jill Driver wish to contact local libertarians, 4 Obridge Road, Taunton, Somerset.

ROCHDALE. Please contact Richard Crawford, 4 Hargreaves Street, Sudden, Rochdale.

SLOUGH. Contact Sid Rawle, 4 Hillperton Road, Slough, Bucks.

NORTH EAST ESSEX. Would readers interested in proposed group write to P. Newell, 'May-buk', Maypole Road, Tiptree, Essex.

ELTHAM. 'Sons of Durrutti' Group. Get in touch with T. Little, 83 Gregory Crescent, London, S.E.9.

ABROAD

U.S.A. NEW YORK CITY. N.Y. Federation of Anarchists, c/o Torch Bookshop, 641 East 9th Street, N.Y., 10009. Meets every Thursday evening.

AUSTRALIA. Anarchist Group, PO Box A 389, Sydney South. Public meetings every Sunday in the Domain, 2 p.m. and Mondays, 72 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney, 8 p.m.

DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. 52 Mindevej, Soborg-Copenhagen, Denmark.

VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA. Anyone interested in forming anarchist and/or direct action peace group contact Derek A. James, 1844 Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Tel.: 987-2693.

U.S.A. VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE. Discussion group meets weekly. Contact Ed Strauss at RFD 2, Woodstock, Vermont 05091, USA.

SWEDEN. Stockholm Anarchist Federation. Contact Nadir, Box 19104, Stockholm 19, Sweden.

CANADA: Winnipeg. Anyone interested in Direct action/anarchy contact G. J. Nasir, 606 Matheson Avenue, Winnipeg, 17, Manitoba.

BELGIUM: LIEGE. Provos, c/o Jacques Charlier, 11 Avenue de la Laiterie, Sclessin-Liege, Belgium.

EAST AFRICA. George Matthews would like to make contact. Secondary school teacher from UK. PO Box 90, Kakamega, Kenya.

U.S.A. NORTH-EASTERN MINNESOTA. Contact James W. Cain, 323 Fourth Street, Cloquet, Minn. 55720, USA.

Wash Out

IN 1940, 1,600 acres of rich Lancashire farmland were politely confiscated by the wartime government, given a fresh coat of concrete, and handed over to the US Air Force. Thus, Burtonwood Air Base was born, and neighbouring Warrington found that, to the ever-present stench of soap and chemicals, was added the stink of cheap perfume as prostitutes converged on the town like a flock of homing pigeons, from as far away as Newcastle and Middlesbrough, attracted by the lure of lonely, but well-paid GIs.

After the war was over, the number of personnel dwindled very gradually down to zero and, in 1958, Mr. Fred Lee, an up-and-coming right-wing MP from Newton, began a popular, vote-catching campaign to get Burtonwood re-opened as a civilian airport. Nor was he deterred by the information volunteered by Mr. C. Orr-Ewing (then the Parliamentary Secretary to the Air Ministry), to the effect that '... the main runway is liable to subsidence from 1960 onwards as a result of coal-mining at Bold Colliery'. In fact, not until he found himself in the lofty position of Minister of Power did he find it convenient to forget about Burtonwood, but as he discreetly dropped the issue, it was neatly caught by another up-and-coming right-wing MP — one Robert Howarth of Bolton East — who again asked, on July 2, 1965, why it was not possible to re-open the airport. He was informed by Roy Jenkins, Minister of Aviation, that the reason was that 'there are particularly valuable reserves of coal underlying the airfield, though it is not likely the Coal Board's workings will seriously affect the use of the runway until 1968. Any interference with the Board's programme would be physically difficult and extremely costly.'

However, subsequent to this remark, De Gaulle gave the Americans in France their marching orders, and with the old indomitable spirit, and true British generosity, the physical difficulties were overcome, the 'extremely costly' expense was met, and the Americans were welcomed back to Burtonwood with open arms. (Pack your bags, girls, and let's hope they didn't catch anything nasty in France!)

In an attempt to show the USAF that not everybody was glad to see them back, NW YCND organized a march of protest

to the base from Warrington on Saturday, April 22, and at 12.30 p.m. it set off on the four-mile round trip. Although the NW Federation of Anarchists mustered about 90 people, the other supposedly supporting organizations (CND — Campaign Nearly Defunct? — YCL, the CP, SLL, Young Liberals, etc., etc.) could not manage to whistle up this number between them, and it was only about 175 people who trudged through the deserted back streets of Warrington in persistent rain which was to last all day, and cause the proposed meeting, arranged for that evening, to be cancelled. The number of demonstrators had increased fractionally by the time the base was reached, thanks to the late arrival of small anarchist contingents from Manchester and Lancaster.

On arrival at Burtonwood (nothing in sight but a dozen happy looking bobbies), Geoff Nettleton was escorted to the base commander where he delivered a letter asking that gentleman to go home, and petitions requesting that the bombing of Vietnam be stopped. (No harm in asking!)

Meanwhile, it was suggested that, while waiting, some kind of dialogue be attempted between the various organizations represented on the march, and a certain gentleman from Liverpool responded by burning the petrol off a couple of flags and casting rather doubtful aspersions on the legitimacy of all people born in America. He then yelped continuously through a speech made by an ex-service man (and proud of it!) from Accrington CND, and must surely have confirmed the general opinion that anarchists are loud-mouthed louts without a constructive idea or iota of self-discipline or respect for other people among them.

After a short stay, the march, wet, disillusioned and thoroughly fed up, made its way back to Warrington, breaking formation at the first pub en route. Such contact as was made with the locals, then and during subsequent leafletting of the town, indicated that Warringtonians were very glad indeed to have the Americans there, and would much prefer to be a primary target themselves than merely part of the fall-out zone of Manchester or Liverpool.

It looks like this time the USAF is here to stay.

DAVE POULSON.

LIBERATION LEFT

I AM rather worried about the article by '114' on the Greek Embassy case (13.5.67). I obviously can't give all my reasons, because some of them would endanger people who are still out of danger and further endanger people who are already in danger, but I shall give a couple:

1. The inaccuracy of the article. The attitudes in the old Committee of 100, the distinction between 'the two sections of the movement', the Marham case, the present legal position, the surety terms, the reaction of the press—these were all quite unnecessarily wrong. No one expects infallibility, but there's no need to ignore easily verifiable facts. To take just one example, it isn't true that 'the press suddenly shut up like clams'. As in all such cases, including the Brighton church case, when charges had been brought and the demonstrators had appeared in court, the papers didn't say much because they are scared of contempt of court charges. But I still saw comments in *Tribune*, the *New Statesman*, the *Daily Telegraph*, and *The Times*.

Incidentally, non-violent direct action against Embassies is not a new departure for either Committee of 100 people or anarchists. The Committee of 100 got into the Russian Embassy back in 1961, and the anarchists got into the Cuban Embassy in 1963; people have often got into the American Embassy. The difference this time was the number who got in and the behaviour of the police.

2. The hysteria of the article. To describe the Greek Embassy demonstration as 'a conscious revolutionary action undertaken with great daring and superb planning' and the demonstrators as 'a large group of people who have suddenly begun to take themselves seriously as a revolutionary force', to call the members of the Direct Action Committee and the Committee of 100 'the most experienced and courageous and steel-hearted group of non-violent resisters outside America'

and to say that 'from the consciously revolutionary fringe groups of the far anarchist left have come the cool-headed and brilliant organisational minds which the Gandhian non-violent movement lacked', and to suggest that the authorities take the demonstration as seriously as '114' does and held 'a very big-wig, very top-level conference' between the court appearance on April 29 and the March of Shame on April 30—all this is going beyond excusable rhetoric into inexcusable fantasy, the kind of thing which crippled the anarchist movement eighty years ago.

I agree that there's still life in the libertarian left—or the 'liberation left' of the *Guardian's* brilliant misprint—and that the Greek Embassy demonstration was encouraging evidence for this, but I do hope that the demonstrators aren't as excited about it all as '114' seems to be. Let's remember what a revolution really is, what courage really is, what experience really is, and get ourselves into some sort of proportion. The demonstration was neither large nor revolutionary; South Africa, Rhodesia, Japan, and Vietnam are all outside America; there are no cool-headed and brilliant organisational minds in the consciously revolutionary fringe groups of the far anarchist left; the authorities can smash us whenever they want. I doubt whether the Greek Embassy demonstration will be as important as either Wethersfield or the Spies for Peace, to say nothing of September 17, 1961, in Trafalgar Square, and it will be comparable with Marham only if the rest of the movement manages to rescue the comrades who got caught. I think that the Greek Embassy demonstration, like the Brighton church demonstration, shows just how weak and isolated we are. We can muster 20 or 40 or 60 for an illegal demonstration now; we are counting in dozens and scores. We used to count in hundreds and thousands. Face facts, '114'.

Harrow

N.W.

'Rulers of US Found Guilty of War Crimes'

—Morning Star

IRELAND, DENMARK AND BRITAIN formally applied to join the Common Market. Britain's application was signed before a Parliamentary majority of 426 made it official. Seven Parliamentary Private Secretaries to Ministers were dismissed from office by the Prime Minister for their abstention from voting in the Commons on the Market issue. Mrs. Joyce Butler, who would have abstained but was away with a cold, volunteered her resignation.

MRS. PEGGY DUFF (late of CND) resigned from the Labour Party on its failure to condemn the bombing in North Vietnam and its failure to condemn the new fascist government in Greece. Mr. Stephen Spender and Professor Frank Kermode belatedly resigned their editorship of *Encounter* when they found it was partly financed by the US Central Intelligence Agency for ten years. Dr. Alex Comfort commented that the unsubsidised utterances of *Encounter* were no better. In the words of Humbert Wolfe, 'You cannot hope to bribe or twist—thank God—the English journalist / but seeing what he'll unbribe do / There's really no occasion to.'

THE FORTHCOMING DEMISE, owing to insufficient subsidies from advertisers, of the *Sunday Citizen* was announced. The *News of the World's* Michael Brennan (ex-*Sunday Citizen*) wrote: 'It was a cocky, fighting paper. Poor in pocket, rich in heart. It took bumbledom by the throat and shook it. It jumped on the arrogant, shouted for the equality of man. . . . The *Citizen's* board said last night: "Progressive causes will be weaker in the future". That is why the *News of the World*, the highest-selling newspaper, daily or Sunday, in the world, mourns the passing of the *Sunday Citizen*. Its voice, though small, was impressive.' Meanwhile Jayne Mansfield bares her soul in the *News of the World* and this week's headlines include 'His Wife-Swapping Parties Are Over'; 'The Wild Playboy's Last Fling'; 'What Went on in School Gymnasium' and 'You're a Girl: Shock for Aubrey'.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL complained that the English version of Pope Paul's recent encyclical shows 'a hostility to

capitalism in general which does not appear in the Latin'. The *Journal* referred to the text as 'warmed-over Marxism'. For example the passage 'a type of capitalism has been a source of excessive suffering' but that industrialization should not be blamed for 'evils that belong to the woeful system' accompanying it. The literal Latin, it is claimed, translates more closely as 'some kinds of capitalism' were seen as the origin of 'so many hardships' but that industrial advance should not be 'blamed on the disastrous opinions about economy' that arose concurrently.

THE POPE VISITED the Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal where three shepherd children declared they had seen the Virgin Mary on several successive thirteenth days of the month in 1917. The Pope made his usual statements about 'peace', and said the Vatican council had revitalized the Church's heart but 'what terrible damage could be provoked by arbitrary and unauthorized interpretations, intent on stripping the norms of faith of that which modern thought does not understand and does not like'. The cult of Our Lady of Fatima has previously been dedicated to the conversion of Russia from atheism. In Naples congealed blood of the patron saint, St. Januarius, kept in the Basilica of Sant Chiara failed to liquefy, as is its usual practice on the first Saturday in May (it also does this on September 19). It failed to do this in 1927 and the city was ravaged by the plague. It failed in 1835 and cholera followed and in 1941 and Allied planes bombed Naples. Fortunately for all concerned it liquefied a day later. Priests said that the event took place on Sunday night. 'The miracle had often,' says the *Guardian*, 'occurred on a Sunday in earlier times and there was no significance in the apparent delay.'

ACCORDING TO A gossip columnist, President Johnson at the time of the bombing of Haiphong told Luci, his daughter, who had recently become a Catholic, 'You may not wake up tomorrow' and 'Your Daddy may go down in history as having started World War III'. Luci suggested, says the columnist, that he might find comfort by praying at St.

Dominic's, a church nearby. As they knelt in prayer, they were joined by a few 'little monks' the President recounts. When the Haiphong raids did not lead to World War III Luci told Mr. Johnson, 'I knew my little monks would come through.'

U THANT, United Nations Secretary-General, said, 'If the present trend continues I am afraid that a direct confrontation between Washington and Peking is inevitable', and added that he feared that 'we are in the initial stages of World War Three'. In an interview with an American journalist, Chou En-lai, Chinese foreign secretary, said that China would intervene if America invaded Haiphong. A returning American soldier brought bubonic plague to the United States from Vietnam. Robert Welsh of the John Birch Society accused the Johnson administration of giving 'massive aid and comfort' to America's enemies and hampering US military leaders.

THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR to the United States has tendered his resignation because he believes that Italy should support the US in Vietnam. The civilian development programme in Vietnam (also known as 'pacification' and 'revolutionary development') has been placed under General William C. Westmoreland, in the interests of 'unified management'. Grave concern has been expressed by civilian field advisers, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. According to the *New York Herald Tribune International* French sources say that NATO agreements on extradition do not apply in the case of a US Army deserter arrested for vagrancy in Paris since he was not stationed or on duty in France. He was absent from his unit in Mannheim, Germany, since he did not wish to fight in Vietnam.

THE BOOKSELLER reported that the Countess of Dartmouth's condemnation of James Joyce's *Ulysses* as 'horrible' had boosted the sale of the book to 1,000 copies per day. In 45 years it has sold 148,000 copies.

ION QUIXOTE.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Continued from page 1

'average' boy to Rosemary Wittman. 'The top forms? They're all snobs, never talk to nobody,' said a 'bottom' boy.

A sixth-former: 'Wandsworth is really a highly stratified meritocracy. But I like it that way. I think it's the best system going.'

In the public schools where the prefect system originated there is an element of play-acting: those who are not prefects—and won't be—know that the boys who tyrannise or patronise them will be their social equals after school.

But Wandsworth, where the prefects are drawn from the sixth form, is in a real sense a preparation for life: the boys in the bottom stream will stay at the bottom.

Perhaps the most revealing quotation in the article is from a 15-year-old in the school workshop:

'If you do well in exams they ask you what you want to do. If not, you have only three choices instead of ten. You end up doing things you don't need much intelligence for. Like I'm doing carpentry.'

The 'equality of opportunity' slogan begins to sound a trifle hollow.

Remember that Wandsworth is one of London's star comprehensives. In its attempts to create the ideal social balance the school imports working-class pupils from Fulham and Battersea.

In Stepney Green comprehensive school — opened by Harold Wilson in 1964 — where I taught for one term in 1965, there are few middle-class boys. The buildings are spacious and well-lit, the lifts work, there is a good supply of textbooks and there are all kinds of facilities such as a tailoring shop. But I would bet that the teaching qualifications of the staff compare unfavourably with Wandsworth. Certainly the turnover of staff is high as in many East London schools.

If you want an illustration of the inequalities in London education ring up the various Divisional Offices of Education and ask for a job as a supply teacher. In North, South and West London you will probably be told that there is a waiting list; in East London that you can start as soon as you've had your chest X-rayed.

As is obvious teachers are middle-class and live in middle-class areas. Naturally they prefer to teach near their homes: the best qualified do.

East London is not so short of teachers

as Birmingham and certain other urban areas in Britain. Schools in these areas are often housed in totally inadequate buildings and poorly supplied with books. Some of them contain a high proportion of immigrants from either the West Indies or India and Pakistan—the latter usually unable to speak English.

In the USA, which of course has comprehensive education, the urban poor — black and white — could probably tell Mr. Crosland something about 'equality of opportunity'.

As the comprehensives gradually replace other forms of state secondary education inequalities will remain. Short of transferring millions of children to schools outside the areas where their social class predominates, nothing can stop inequalities between schools.

And, as the Wandsworth example demonstrates, even an 'outstanding' comprehensive cannot eliminate inequality — as it cannot eliminate social tension — inside a school.

Under the 'equality of opportunity' slogan the government can succeed in increasing the number of well-qualified school leavers — it could increase them still further by improving teaching in working-class schools — but it cannot introduce social justice.

A socially just system would be one where the needs of children dictated the form of education, where the potentialities of each child were allowed to develop. This is not possible so long as class society exists with its demand for

well-trained leaders, experts, planners, managers — and a vast mass of people taught to do a job and to accept direction from above.

But it is possible that the new comprehensives will come to arouse feelings of revolt among the 'less able' majority of children who occupy them. Revolt against the subjection of their interests to the needs of the existing economic system.

If young people are constantly told that they are being given equality — and if they see that they do not have it — they may begin to demand it.

WYNFORD HICKS.

MORE PLEASE!

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SUPPORT PRISONERS IN BRIXTON

MARCH ASSEMBLES STOCKWELL STATION

7 pm SUNDAY MAY 21

Union Expels Militants

THIS week the Executive of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers carried out its threat to discipline members if they continued to picket the Myton building site on the Barbican. The Executive have expelled both Lou Lewis, the Federation steward and Rolph Langden, a shop steward.

These two carpenters were called before the five-man full-time Executive on May 3 for their 'trial'. Mr. Smith, the General Secretary of the

ASW, personally charged them, in that by continuing to picket, they were acting against the interests of the union. The two men did not deny picketing, but said that they were upholding and defending the principles of the union by their actions. About 30 carpenters were willing to act as witnesses to this effect, but the Executive said that they only had room for 12 of these. However, when the two men admitted to picketing, the Executive said it would be 'irrelevant to call witnesses'.

While this 'trial' was taking place, about 200 building workers demonstrated outside. If the police had kept strictly to the letter of the law, many men would have been arrested and the local magistrates' court would have been packed next morning with cases of libel, insulting behaviour and abusive language.

However, the ASW's purge of militants does not end here. In FREEDOM (29.4.67), I wrote that the union had severely reprimanded Jack Rusca, the London District Secretary, for paying out hardship grants at Christmas to members involved in the Myton and Sunley disputes. While both of these disputes were supported at district level, the Executive only gave official support for a few weeks at Sunley's, but never on Myton's. The Executive, under Rule 24, Clause 11, of the Union's constitution, decided to sack Jack Rusca from his elected position. Clause 11, which gives them this power, reads 'The executive council shall have power to terminate forthwith the employment of a district full time official, as an employee of the Society, if, in the opinion of the EC, the official has displayed incompetence or misconduct harmful to the interests of the Society.'

SACKED

When Jack Rusca appeared before the EC, the General Secretary, Mr. Smith, told him that he was dismissed. Asked for the reason, the Chairman replied, 'You know all about that — you were up here recently', meaning the Myton and Sunley issues. The sacked man was told to leave his office keys and car at the union headquarters. The whole business was over in less than a minute.

Jim Hiles, another member of the ASW, has also been expelled. His name appeared on a leaflet issued by the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions and this was considered to be against the interests of the union. When this charge was first brought before the London Management Committee, it was rejected by four votes to three. Subsequently, one of the minority voters, Brother (sic) Boulter, appealed to the EC, who reversed the decision of the Management Committee.

Attacks of this nature were to be expected. It was also a dead certainty that the ASW would be the first union to act in this way and it is likely that a second union will do the same. All members are appealing to the union's Executive Committee of lay members, and support is also forthcoming from members of other unions as well as those of the ASW.

There is a lot of support for these militants and it is expected that not only the constitutional channels, such as sending in resolutions from branches, will be used to ensure that Jack Rusca gets his job back and the others are reinstated. Other means will have to be used, for the Executive Council have shown, by their action, that they have no regard for

any form of 'democracy'. It is laid down in the rules of the ASW that a London delegate meeting can be convened if, within one month, 28 branches send in resolutions requesting one. However, I have no doubts that if this rule is used, the Executive will find some way of avoiding the calling of such a meeting.

COURT OF INQUIRY

Attacks can also be expected from another direction very soon. Mr. Gunter has now named the members of the Court of Inquiry into the two disputes. Lord Cameron heads the inquiry, with Mr. Lowry of the Engineering Employers' Federation and Mr. McGarvey of the Boiler-makers' Union. Will this inquiry be a means of attacking militants? I am certain it will, but at the same time it still has to reckon with the fact that two unions, the Amalgamated Union of Building Trades Workers and the Transport and General Workers' Union, are both giving official support to the Sunley dispute.

There is sure to be some mention of the Joint Sites Committee, for both Sunley's and Myton's are certain to blame it for the disputes. The ASW Executive will certainly do their utmost to discredit the Joint Sites when they give their evidence. This union, of which I am a member, will do everything in its power to smash the Joint Sites and the union members who support it.

ASW members have a tremendous job of work to do if we are to get our sacked and expelled militants back. This situation has arisen because of the struggle against the attacks of the employers on site union organisation. This is the same struggle, for not only do employers fear good site organisation, but also the union executives. The latter are blatantly doing the job the employers failed to do. This is no new thing and is yet another illustration of the gulf which exists between the rank and file and their executives.

Because of these expulsions, even heavier demands will be made on the meagre dispute fund. Donations should be sent to: M. Houlihan, 94 Gayton House, Knapp Road, Bow, E.3.

P.T.

All Out July 3!

JULY 3 sees the implementation of Part 2 of the Prices and Incomes Act and all that it entails, an extension of the wage freeze for another 12 months.

Rumblings can be heard from sections of organised workers as they visualise their standard of living gradually on the decrease. At a meeting at Memorial Hall on May 1 it was agreed by workers present that a One-Day Token Stoppage should be called to celebrate the implementation of Part 2.

The motion passed on May 1 has captured the imagination of the national press and one or two periodicals. Whilst such an action will not ferment revolution it will, if widely supported, give a clear indication of how we feel about the Labour Government's industrial policy. Abstention from the polls is a negative protest, like saying, 'If I don't bat first, you can't use my ball'.

Industrial action is the only action Wilson and his henchmen understand. At long last the Labour Party's most ardent supporters are getting a wee bit niggardly, enough we hope to support the July token stoppage.

'Strikes are not outdated things, but modern, necessary, wholesome. I realised this at an Agricultural Workers' meeting last week. These skilled men of many trades, doing the nation's most important job, get the lowest pay. And why? Simply because, being scattered and isolated, they can't strike.' (Hugh Delargy, *Sunday Citizen*, 14.5.67.)

There is no need to be isolated, particularly on July 3. Thousands of lower-

Freedom For Workers' Control

MAY 20 1967 Vol 28 No 15

Northern Letter

STRIKE TO OPEN PAY TALKS

NEARLY A HUNDRED maintenance fitters and toolroom workers at the Bradbury Steelworks of James Mills Ltd., came out on strike last Friday in protest against the management's refusal to open negotiations over a £3 pay rise for all AEU members at the firm. When I spoke to one of the AEU stewards he said, that in spite of the fact that the management could and did call meetings with the men at a quarter of an hour's notice, the stewards had been trying, without success, to get a meeting on this issue since before the freeze.

So at a dinner time meeting on Friday it was decided, on the basis of a 46-23 vote, to come out on strike. Later in the afternoon, maintenance fitters at the Ashton Road Branch who had voted to stay in at their own meeting, were informed of the 'top shop' vote and came out in support. There is a great deal of sympathy for the maintenance men amongst the process workers, and if the strike continues it is to be hoped that this sympathy will be enlisted, rather than just waiting for us to be laid off. However the other maintenance sections, electricians and carpenters, show no signs of wanting to support the strikers, though in the event of talks being started they'll immediately bang in their own pay claims. Yet, sectional selfishness has never served workers' interests, we can only win whilst we are united.

DIRECT ACTION GETS RESULTS

WOMEN WORKERS at the Stockport factory of M. Beale, shirt and pyjama manufacturers, staged a lightning walk-out on Tuesday because they claimed the factory was 'like an icebox'. About 50 women left their sewing machines at 11 a.m., marched through the town and up to the office of the Factory Inspector. A deputation of five put their case to him. The Inspector listened to their complaints and advised

them to go back to work. He said he would visit the factory the next day. One of the women said, 'We told the manageress to do something. She phoned Mr. Beale, the owner, but he told her that we should either carry on working or go home if we didn't like it, so we walked out.'

The owner has now promised to see that the heating is improved and the question of lighting is also being looked into. It just shows you what a bit of direct action can do.

STILL OUT AT ROBERTS ARUNDEL

THE ROBERTS ARUNDEL strike, now in its 23rd week, was in the news this week when Mark Carlisle, Tory MP for Runcorn, on the instigation of Clive Howson, the prospective Tory candidate for Stockport South, called for an inquiry to be set up into the dispute. He also asked the Home Secretary if he would call for a report from the Chief Constable on how many of the people involved in the serious disturbance outside the Roberts Arundel Factory on February 22 did not live in the Stockport area and had no direct connection with the firm; and, in asking the Minister of Labour if he would set up a court of inquiry, Mr. Carlisle wanted to know what were the causes of the dispute and who were the people involved.

Mr. Howson is quoted in the local papers as saying, 'This is grand news. Following on the recent rebuke of Mr. Ray Gunter to the Stockport AEU for the bitter opposition to modern industrial training, these Parliamentary questions could well blow the lid off this extreme left wing organisation.'

'In my view Roberts Arundel may not be a true industrial dispute at all. The firm may well have been a pawn in the Socialist and Communist power-game under a trade-union cover.'

Ever since Wilson made the 'red' smear technique respectable again last year, everyone's getting in on the act. However there are even left-wingers who have stooped to this level and to those people who have suggested that Mr. Howson has shares in Roberts Arundel, I can only say shame on you for harbouring such thoughts.

Last week the firm's American chairman, Mr. E. Pomeranz, had talks with Ray Gunter about the dispute and the thought of these two getting together makes me weep in sympathy with the Arundel's lads. All I can say is, 'God help you'.

NORTHERN WORKER.

LETTER

Explain Please

Dear Comrades,

With all due respect to my fellow comrades who went on the March of Shame, many of us cannot see how the jeering and shouting breakaway group which left the march opposite Downing Street hoped to contribute to ending the war in Vietnam. Perhaps one of them would like to explain?

Incidentally, and for the record, this group and the distraction which they caused, made the march around the queen wagon into a shambles and prevented a number of us, whose main purpose was to prevent, non-violently of course, any fascist attack on the float, from seeing the attacker when he tried to wreck the wagon. If the march had kept in line this incident could have been prevented.

One of the more constructive things was the persistent activity of Gerry Bree who constantly boarded buses and explained to passengers just what the march was about, so acting as a narrator to the March of Shame's theatre.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

Birmingham

PETER NEVILLE.

Contact Column

This column exists for mutual aid. Donations towards cost of typesetting will be welcome.

Unfurnished Accommodation Wanted.

Responsible gentleman, thirties, exemplary tenant, requires spacious self-contained flat/house, minimum three bedrooms, central London, quiet surroundings. Maximum seven guineas inclusive. No premium. Could decorate. Reciprocal references. Box 52.

Former Junkie. Wants job and accommodation in London. Box 54.

Meeting: Free Hugo Blanco; Protest Against Peruvian Repression. Friday, May 26. Caxton Hall, London, S.W.1. 8 p.m. Speakers: Bill Molloy, MP, Robin Blackburn, Faris Glubb, Chairman: Roger Protz. British Committee for Solidarity with Victims of Repression in Peru.

Leaflet. Lewisham Group. Basic Anarchist Leaflet now available. 2/6 per 100 (postage extra 2/6 per 100). Orders to Lewisham Group address.

Work Wanted. Fairly intelligent and responsible anarchist (18) needs congenial job. Anywhere, anything considered. Box 55.

Needed. Literary (philosophical or practical) and financial contributions for 'STONEBREAKER'S YARD'. Journal of the Anarchist Movement in Northeastern Minnesota. James W. Cain, editor, Stonebreaker's Yard, P.O. Box 26, Duluth, Minnesota, USA.

Chorley Meeting. To discuss proposed Vietnam demonstration. May 24, 8 p.m., at 16 Devonshire Road, Chorley.

Accommodation Wanted—London. Two secretaries. Peace-loving, thoughtful, require bright flatlet; good cooking facilities essential. No petty restrictions. Wanted end of May. With easy access to town. Approx. £5 to £5.5s. p.w. Box 56.

'Resistance' for Peace Action. Published by West Midlands Committee of 100. 1/- plus postage. Subscription 6/- for six issues. From Birmingham Peace Action Centre (formerly CND office), Factory Road, Birmingham, 19.

Anyone interested in reconstituting a group of people, 'The Diggers', who could be called the first practising English Anarchists, please contact P.D., c/o Lewisham Anarchist Group address.

Floor space/Accommodation — London. Wanted July 15-30, for participant in Dialectics of Liberation Congress. Write Gordon Causser, Childs Hall, Upper Redlands Road, Reading.

Accommodation Wanted. Camden Town or Kentish Town area. Young couple, expecting first baby, urgently need 2-roomed flat. C/o J. Thurston, 103a Camden Road, London, N.W.1.

Accommodation Wanted—London. Accommodation wanted in London area for Finnish student for three weeks, end May—mid-June. Can afford £3 a week. C/o Lewisham Group address.

Accommodation Wanted. Anarcho-Syndicalist seeks flat in Hackney/Islington area. Box 58.

Spain! Travelling-companion (either sex) folk-singer under 21 preferred, for travel in Spain. Aug./Sept. Box 57.

USA — Seminar. 'Practical Paths to Peace'. Heathcote Centre, Rte. 1, Freeland, Maryland, USA. May 26-28. Herber, Krimmerman, Roseman etc. \$12. Registration to Heathcote School of Living Centre by May 15.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

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I AM BECOMING inevitably aware
over the years, like a man realising
the wasting of his own flesh with age,
that I stand witness to the most garga-
ntuan decay whose scope can only be
realised through senses paranoically ex-
tended. For America was the phoenix
and embodiment of many transcendental
ideas, its empty wasting across the house
of so many concepts that goaded the
whole of Western society through the
Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries—
the place where former cultures need not
be annihilated by a Picasso or a Schoen-
berg but where the emptiness, both cul-
tural and geographical, seemed the actual
opportunity wherein the sacred bulls of
freedom, equality, individuality, could
be let loose and given their stomping-
cum-testing ground. It was the land of
the projectile impulse. Whitman's verse
joining the wild roars of Mike Fink (the
loneliness of those animal chants echoed
magically down the dark Ohio and into
the woods answered only by mocking
indifference of birdcall) and goading for-
ward a wagon train guided by a pistol-
hunting professional murderer to where the
white whale sunk on the horizon of the
desolately actual western sea whose sup-
posedly golden waters did nothing more
than slap greyly and ironically around
the rocks of Alcatraz. The land of the
arrow shot out of sight, land of no
echo, land whose agraphobious fenceless-
ness could only be met by an elephantitis
of the human character that was doomed
to deflation by its very nature (a defla-
tion as manic as its preceding inflation—
psychotic self-hatred of Nathaniel West,
Lennie Bruce, William Burroughs . . .).
And where, just where, did the Pony
Express rider lose his nerve, the tommy-
gun bootlegger weep his tears of remorse,
the rodeo champion start to grab leather
with an infantile whimper (that whine at

A FRIEND of Stuart Christie managed
to see him for half-an-hour last
Saturday (18.6.66) in the Carabanchel
Jail in Madrid. A report will appear
in FREEDOM on his return.

PICKET IN PICCADILLY

The Campaign Against Nuclear Tests
held a vigil and picket last Saturday out-
side the French Government's Informa-
tion and Tourist Office in Piccadilly to
protest against the forthcoming French
nuclear tests in the South Pacific. Demon-
strators carried placards with such slogans
as 'Oppose the French Tests', 'Pacific
Islanders are in Danger' and 'Drop De
Gaulle not the Bomb'. Two thousand leaf-
lets were distributed and several copies of
FREEDOM and the new pamphlet 'Liberty,
Equality, Radio-activity' were sold. People
were most sympathetic, the manager of
the Tourist Office, however, staged a
counter-demonstration. His slogan was:
'The British are testing nuclear
weapons at Woomera'. There will be
another picket this coming Saturday
morning.

LONDON TO PARIS WALK

The protest walk against the French
nuclear tests will start from St. Paul's
Cathedral on Wednesday, June 29, at
10 a.m. Sue Abrahams is hoping that at
least six people will take part. For de-
tails telephone her at ARC 1239.

TRIAL POSTPONED

We are informed that Michael Periste-
rakakis' court-martial (FREEDOM, 18.6.66)
was postponed indefinitely as the prose-
cution witnesses 'failed to turn up' at
his trial.

VIETNAM WEEK IN ABERDEEN

Our Scots correspondent writes: The
events of the week began on Sunday
morning (5.6.66) when we picketed
churches in the city. This does no good
at all, but it annoys the complacent, fur-
coated hypocrites who go to such places.

Buffalo Bill Defunct

the end of Charlie Parker's every hope-
lessly flung phrase that shrugs off his
own unsurpassed brilliance as insuffi-
cient? On what precise private beach
did Henry James' blunt provincials turn
into Scott Fitzgerald's impotent play-
boys? Where did the elephantine poseur
find himself out so that defunct Buffalo
Bill's only memorial is in the burlesque
silhouettes of Goldwater and LBJ (Wild
Bill Hickock become an old junky play-
ing with his pistol in his New Orleans
backyard)?

Knowing with gradual certainty just
what is happening with the hostile
negroes, the disorientated intellectuals,
the escalating statistics of murder, drug-
addiction, alcoholism, delinquency, the
Instant Freud, the Do-It-Yourself Reich,
the dilettante sado-masochism, the
pseudo-churches, mock-mysticism, face-
less hedonism, the foreign policy of an
epileptic millionaire. And I might have
known sooner for these things were re-
gistered first where they are always
registered first, among those with the

greatest courage—artists whose growing
obsession with fragmentation, whose in-
creasingly repeated admission that their
only access to action and energy was
submission to the fortuitous (let the
wilderness o'ergrow you) constituted an
unopposed abdication of the human
identity. Not that Pollock, De Koon-
ing, Rauschenberg, Johns, Parker, Mailer,
Ginsberg, Burroughs, Kerouac, Snyder,
Whalen, Olson, Duncan, Creeley, Dine,
Oldenberg, Lichtenstein, etc., are mere
symptoms (that facile 'symptom' rather
than protest) jibe of square critics), rather
precipitators generating with broken-
hearted frenzy the spreading ambience
of disintegration as they hurl themselves
to the point of suicide (James Dean,
Jackson Pollock road crashes, the one-
way dropper) into that vacuous prairie
where their identities should have been;
the aesthetic of edgelessness which, having
no confines, has therefore no definable or
recognisable being; suicidal men conduct-
ing their own psychotic ritual at the point
of discovering their own ontological bank-
ruptcy. And they, ten years ago now
or even twenty, giving evidence that, since
this was the best America (or anyone
else in the Western world or in the whole
world for all we know) had to offer, the
various games of blind-man's-buff around
Cuba, the Kennedy, Oswald, Malcolm X
shootings (how long before the next?),
the all-American psychopath floundering
about in Korea, Vietnam, Alabama, writ-
ing home to Mom with all the slop of
Ginsberg (behind his towering talent and
open, loving heart an underbelly softer
than Patience Strong's cunt) and the
peace marchers seeming to march with
all-too-great-an-air of necrophiliac nar-
cissism, were an inevitability.

Inevitable too that such an avant-
garde, echoing as it did the death-wish-
ing moon-mist of the Fin-De-Siecle

rather than the muscular innovations of
20th Century Paris, Vienna and Zurich,
would evolve into an avant-garde that
is not so much a rejection of art itself
(that has been done often before) but
an abdication from what it is to be
human. Shrugging off the heroic frenzy
of Pollock (a final frenzy if ever there
was one), converting the outrage and
anger of Burroughs (who anticipates his
critics by having previously recognised,
as Bruce does, the symptom in himself,
this recognition having precipitated the
very venom he inflicts—His own wound
he cauterises) into sado-masochistic
kitsch, they abdicate, more precisely,
from the very opportunity of freedom,
of which they are the outcome, by re-
verting to being automata. Paint-brush
to spray-gun, syntax to computer, human
being to a parroting peroxide robot,
flinging the impossibility of his own
feelings back at those banale enough to
actually breathe, in elaborately packaged
sterility (the painlessness of the flagella-
tion film, the sexlessness of promiscuity).
Not that I embrace psychiatry as readily
(and I hope not as catastrophically) as
Buffalo Bill did, but any psychiatrist will
tell you that a man who thinks himself
a machine is a man who thinks himself
dead, and a man who wants to be a
machine is a man who wants to be dead
and if that man creates, to some degree,
the culture of his society and if it may
then be taken that he foreshadows to
some degree, the future of that society,
as was the case with American artists
of the forties, then he is the open grave
waiting, under a thin PVC covering, for
a nation already staggering on its last
legs. What also seems a fair conclusion
is that anyone would be doing Andy
Warhol a favour (like mechanising him-
baby) if they cut his lovely throat from
ear to ear.

JEFF NUTTALL

News from Elsewhere

Some literature was sold. The next
evening 5,000 leaflets printed on Fred II
(our duplicator), exposing America's role
in the war and calling for the with-
drawal of foreign troops, were given out
round the city's housing schemes. The
next night we followed up with
selling of Solidarity's 'Vietnam' pamphlet
and from then till Friday sold almost
350 of them. A teach-in fell through
because LBJ, Harold and Ho couldn't
come, but a vigil on Friday from 6-12
p.m. and Saturday from 9-12 a.m. was
worth while. Fierce arguments occurred
with religious fanatics raving about 'balls
of fire' and 'I've known many virgins
who've had children'. (Rings as true
as some of LBJ's claims.) Various people
who didn't care about dying but refused
when asked to walk in front of a bus,
and a group of drunks, fiery patriots
whose oaths, kicks and punches livened
up the proceedings to the great amuse-
ment of two policemen.

That afternoon, in fine weather, a
march up the main street took place.
About 35 people took part from YCND,
YS and YCL as well as the Anarchists.

Our activities coincided with Vietnam's
presence in the news again, and they
may have stirred some thought or com-
municated a little of our ideas to what,
let's face it, is a largely indifferent public.

FOR GOOD PAY—BLINDLY OBEY!

Dave Massey writes: On June 4 sup-
porters of the Birmingham Anarchist
Group and the West Midlands Committee
of 100 visited the 'Open Day' of the
Warwickshire Regiment of the Royal
Artillery, to distribute copies of the
Hampstead Group leaflet. As well as

the Regular soldiers, there were Terri-
torial Units and Cadet Corps, the latter
almost as quick as many of the others
in tossing the leaflet to the ground.

The ones whom we engaged in con-
versation about the leaflet and its issues,
left us rather disheartened, because of
the absolute lack of thought about the
task they were doing. None had joined
the Army for the traditional reasons—
to fight for Queen and Country and to
contain the Communist menace, all gave
negative reasons—security and good pay,
and for this they would blindly obey any
order given, they would fight in Vietnam
and East of Suez if need be, no questions
asked.

Neither were they worried by the fact
that the 'Open Day' was being visited
by impressionable children who, watched
by their parents, clambered over the
armaments on display, thus bringing
them into contact with the 'glamorous'
aspect of Army life. Perhaps the soldiers
are beyond help—it may be the children
who need to be told that the Forces
is not the answer. Why not a pamphlet
similar to the Schools Pamphlet, specifi-
cally directed at those schools who sup-
port a Cadet Corps?

GAS AND CHEMICAL WARFARE

From Denise Pyle of the Peace Action
Centre, Frodsham: While Mark was liv-
ing with us last year one of his jobs was
labouring in Runcorn, where he dis-
covered a chemical plant, brand-new but
not producing anything, maintained and
regularly inspected, built by ICI in the
50's at the cost of £3,000,000 for the
Ministry of Supply. He made enquiries
and was told by the men he worked

with that it was a 'hush-hush' factory
designed to be fully operational with-
in a week of the outbreak of war, to pro-
duce toxic gases and psycho-chemicals.

I went to see our MP with a copy
'Conspiracy of Silence', the pamphlet
prepared by the Committee of 100, which
has three passages which suggest that
Runcorn would be the ideal place for
such a plant. He promised to look into
the matter and his silence since sug-
gests to me that being an honest man, he
not deny its existence.

I believe the manufacture
threatened use of these weapons of
discriminate destruction, which are
aggressive purposes only, to be more
indefensible, and I believe the pub-
lic should be told what their money is
paid for and what is being prepared
in their name, so that at least they can
never say, as the Germans did about the
concentrations camps, 'We did not know.'
I would like to publish leaflets asking
local residents if they know and care, so
I need your help drafting this leaflet,
suggesting constructive action and help-
ing to distribute copies.

I do not know how seriously the
authorities will treat this disclosure,
whether they will rely on public apathy
or whether their reactions will be re-
strictive. I have thought about this
seriously for six months and would be
grateful if someone would take this
responsibility from me. Otherwise I am
prepared to take the consequences of
action on myself and the family (we
have three boys, aged 13, 11 and 7).

It is ironic that this factory should
exist five miles from the first Peace
Action Centre in the country and it
would be a denial of everything I believe
in to let it go unchallenged. Can you
write your suggestions for action to me
please, and enclose them in an addressed
envelope.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

c/o Freedom Press, 17a Maxwell Road, London, S.W.6.

London Anarchist Group 1&2

'Lamb and Flag', Rose Street, off Garrick Street,
London, W.C.2. (Leicester Square tube)
7.45 p.m. All welcome.
Sunday:
JUNE 26 A Discussion
The Seamen's Strike

Public Meetings every Sunday Hyde Park, 3 p.m.

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday of each month at Jack Robinson
and Mary Campa's, 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6
10 King's Road, 8 p.m.
3rd Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald
and Irene Room's, 14/15a Fellows Road, Swiss
Cottage, N.W.3.
WANDSWORTH LIBERTARIANS. Correspondence
to Christine Hutton, 15 Broughton Street,
London, S.W.3.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

ABERDEEN GROUP. Meets at the Adelphi
2.30 p.m. every Sunday. Correspondence to
M. Duff, 29 Springhill Crescent, Aberdeen.
ARLESEY GROUP (N. Herts., 5 Beds.). Meet-
ings on first Friday of month. Correspondence
to Peter and Maureen Ford, 102 Stotfold Road,
Arlesey, Beds.
BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence
to Paul Wildish, 2 Cumbrian Avenue, Bexhurst,
Kent.
BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Corres-
pondence: Martin Bragg, 3 The Drive, Hunton

Hill, Erdington, Birmingham, 23. Sales and
Committee of 100: Gordon Causar, 27 Upper
Gungate, Tamworth, Staffs. Peace Action Centres
Project: Paul James, 50 Windermere Road,
Handsworth, Birmingham 21. University of
Aston Group: Dave Massey, 5 Gladstone Road,
Erdington, Birmingham, 23.
BRISTOL FEDERATION. Enquiries to Ian
Vine, 3 Freeland Place, Hotwells, Bristol, 8.
CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Mike
Gawley, 36 Whitaker Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff.
COVENTRY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact
Richard Vaughan, 19 Sandhurst Grove, Radford,
Coventry, Coventry 2846.
DUNDEE GROUP. Contact Bob and Una
Turnbull, c/o Doctors' Residence, Stracathro
Hospital, by Brechin, Angus.
FULHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact top
floor, 31 Ongar Road, S.W.6.
GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE. Corres-
pondence to Robert Lynn, 26 Saracen Head
Lane, Glasgow, C.1.
GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP TWO. Meets
11 Balloch Street every two weeks. Contact Joe
Embleton.
HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Enquiries to
Keith Nathan, 12 Shawbridge, Harlow or John
Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.
ILFORD LIBERTARIANS. Regular meetings
and direct action contact 212 Vicarage Road,
Leyton, E.10.
LEICESTER ANARCHISTS. Correspondence,
Peter Gibson, 22 Fosse Road Central, West End,
Leicester.
LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E.13. 61b Granville
Park. Meetings 2nd and 4th Thursdays.
NEW HAM LIBERTARIANS. Contact Nick
Shenker, 122 Hampton Road, Forest Gate,
London, E.7.
NORTH-WEST ESSEX. Meetings on the first
Saturday of each month at 7.30 p.m. at Robert

Barltrop's, The Old Vicarage, Radwinter, near
Saffron Walden.

NOTTING HILL LIBERTARIANS. Meetings at
7 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month, at
the London Free School, 26 Powis Terrace,
London, W.11 (off Talbot Road).

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt,
Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Green-
ways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian
and Maureen Richardson. Next meeting: Sunday,
July 1 at 1 p.m.

OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact H. G.
Mellor, Merton College, Oxford.

PLYMOUTH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Con-
tact J. Hill, 79 Underlane, Plymstock, Plymouth,
Devon.

READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact
Alan Ross, 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

NORTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION.
Regional Secretary: J. Bromley, 44 Doncaster
Avenue, Manchester, 20. Buxton: Chris Berris-
ford, 10 Byron Street, Buxton, Cheshire. Alstair
Ratray, 33a Devonshire Road, Chorley, Man-
chester. Mike Mitchell, 3 Bakewell Road,
Droylesden, Manchester. Meetings every Tues-
day 8 p.m. Lord Nelson, Chapel Street, Salford.
Merseyside: Barbara Renshaw, 4 Clarence Road,
Devonshire Park, Birkenhead. Rochdale: Ian
Heywood, 16 Mansfield Road, Bamford, Roch-
dale. Stoke-on-Trent: Bob Blakenham, 52 Weldon
Avenue, Weston Coyney, Stoke-on-Trent.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION

WALTHAM FOREST ANARCHISTS. Contact
Lionel Donnelly, 322a Hoe Street, Walthamstow,
E.17. Meetings every Thursday at above address.
WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Stephen
Higgs, 8 Westbury Road, Forest Gate, E.7.

WEST LONDON FEDERATION

WEST LONDON FEDERATION. Monday,
June 20, 8 p.m. at the Anchor, Ealing Broadway.
Discussion 'Vote Labour' with Frank Rowe
(Socialist Current).

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Contact: Jim
Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middle-
sex. Meetings first and third Wednesday of the
month at Jeannie's, 6 Epsom Close, Northolt
Park, Middlesex, at 7.30 p.m.

SOUTHALL ANARCHIST GROUP. Get in
touch with Roger Sandell, 58 Burns Avenue,
Southall, Middlesex.

PROPOSED GROUPS

MULL GROUP. Get in touch with John
Tempest, 89 Fountain Road, Beverley Road,
Hull.

MARLOW AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. Get in
touch with Stella A. Fauser, 33a Spittal Street,
Marlow, Bucks.

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE. Get in touch with
Eric Harrison, 2 Cottage, Aylesmore Farm,
Shipton-on-Stour, Warwickshire.

TYNESIDE SYNDICALISTS. Meet every Thurs-
day at 8 p.m. in The Adelaide, Newgate Street,
Newcastle, 1.

ABROAD

AUSTRALIA. Sydney Anarchist Group. Public
meetings every Sunday in the Domain at 2 p.m.
Group meetings every Monday at 8 p.m. in the
Cellar, 72 Oxford St., Sydney.

DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. 52
Midvej, Soborg-Copenhagen, Denmark.

VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA. Anyone inter-
ested in forming anarchist and/or direct action
peace group contact Derek A. James, 1844
Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C.,
Canada. Tel: 987-2693.

U.S.A. VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE. Dis-
cussion/Action Group, anyone? Contact F. R.
Jackson, Corinth, Vermont.

LETTERS & Controversy

Speakers' Corner

Dear Editors,

In the June 11 edition of *FREEDOM* there was a letter about a speaker getting chucked out of Speakers' Corner for protesting in favour of freedom of speech from Spike Holmes. This speaker was protesting after another speaker, myself, had been asked to 'terminate my speech' by a policeman. I had been speaking on Lesbianism and homosexuality as a way of life, as I had done before there. The reason I was given when I asked why, was that there were children present.

The other speaker, John Rety, then got up and spoke on freedom of speech. He was threatened with arrest unless he left the park immediately. He quite justifiably protested, whereupon he was ejected from the park.

On looking at the park regulations, I found that any person asked to leave the Hyde Park—and Speakers' Corner is part of the park—must do so immediately, otherwise liable to fines, etc. Whatever the reason.

What I find so disconcerting is that the policemen were acting within their powers, but that only this policeman took offence (for what reasons I can't tell), and that earlier in the afternoon and the week before when I had been speaking on the same subject, no one had taken offence, and made me get down and leave.

So much for Speakers' Corner, the centre of free speech. If we must have laws and regulations, must we also be at the mercy of each policeman's personal puritanical objections?

Yours anarchistically,
London, W.2 EMILY YOUNG.

Bakunin Rides Again

Comrades,

Weeks ago, I wrote (as 'Bakunin') about an appeal for funds for a Catholic mission, which appeared in *FREEDOM*. The event of a Catholic appeal in an anarchist paper struck me as bizarre. Later, someone wrote protesting at my letter. He had raised £173 for destitutes in Hong Kong by a publicity fast in Scotland. I would make certain points.

In this country we normally eat good meals all the time, when we could nourish ourselves adequately at much less cost, and send the money to help those who live all the time on the borderland of starvation in Asia. Neither I, nor anyone I know, habitually deny ourselves in this manner. We even drink tea, beer and wine when water would do. We have come to terms with the problem of evil.

There are two main contrasted approaches to the problem of evil, the religious and the humane. The religious approach, as exemplified by the Catholic Church, is that human misery is inevitable, but it is part of their God's great purpose. Man suffers the extremes of misery because God has arranged things that way. Catholic missionaries of one sort and another wallow in this misery; they distribute charity but only as a bait, since their real interest is not in Man's suffering mortal life, but in his immortal soul.

Some may say that it does not matter

what theological nonsense Catholics believe in providing they do in fact help the suffering. This is to overlook the point that such an approach actually generates suffering in a vicious circle. The letter-writer to *FREEDOM* provides an example—the Catholic 'orphanage'. Would I turn away its begging nuns? Yes, with a flea in their ears. The 'orphans' are generally the unwanted babies of wretched Catholic girls trapped into their position by the teachings of their Church, which keeps them in ignorance of how to look after themselves. This sordid little misery mirrors the huge world-wide misery which the Catholic Church has done so much to promote by its long history of sabotaging efforts to help non-Christian countries control their populations by rational means.

World-wide disaster has followed the uneven intervention of technological progress. If we cut down the infant mortality rate without cutting down the birth-rate what follows—a huge population explosion and famine conditions. Relieving those conditions by charity handouts is like offering a starving elephant a peanut. The positive contribution which anarchists can make is in the world of ideas. Our approach to the problem of evil is humane not religious. That an anarchist paper should rattle the Catholic begging-bowl is a sign of a most monstrous confusion of ideas.

London TONY GIBSON.
18.6.66

Opium or Reality

Dear Comrades,

I want to take issue with Jeff Robinson re his article on June 18 on 'The Opium of the People'. I feel that it is a crude analysis that lumps together the National Liberation Front and the pseudo-communism of the pro-Moscow CP of Britain and of the Russian neo-imperialists. If we ourselves were, in Vietnam, and this is the yardstick for our actions in Britain and elsewhere, we would most surely be aiding the NLF. Anarchism in a concrete real situation of intolerable oppression involves making common cause with those taking concrete action against that oppression. The Spanish anarchists did just that. (It came to naught but the individuals involved could have done nothing else with clear consciences.) For the Vietnamese peasantry there can be no polemics about liberty—they are going to be beaten into the Stone Age unless America can be stopped from proving her ideological points in terms of Asiatic human flesh. For the anarchist ethic the thing boils down to just this: the Coca-Cola dictatorship provides only a perpetuation of the ages-long, subsistence-level existence of the peasantry, with vicious inter-person competition stifling concepts of liberty and co-operation; Chinese-style communism offers a stable dedicated period of, say, 100 years, over which time one can expect there to indigenously come into men's minds in Vietnam, China, and China-orientated parts of Africa and Latin America the concepts of self-discipline and freedom that impassioned Caucasian anarchists now. The struggle of those individuals will be just as hard as our own now, but it will be their struggle. In the here and now, as an anarchist, were I in Vietnam, I would work for the National Liberation Front. The current Vietnam Solidarity Campaign initiated by, among others, Bertrand Russell, though at present steered by leftist politicians, has I feel the seeds of direct action towards human dignity for the Third World. At Easter I would have been happier to have seen the anarchist banners with Ralph Schoenmann and the VSC, than rolled up forgotten, while so many anarchists wasted their energies baying at the mawkish leadership of the CND.

Fraternally,
London, W.11 B. McGRATH.
18.6.66

'Change Illegal Laws' -Democratic German Report (GDR)

AN EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL burnt herself to death in protest against the military government and US support for it, in Saigon. She is the tenth person to die in this manner in the past three weeks. President Johnson's beagle 'Him' (which he picked up by the ears) is to be cremated following its death after being hit by a car when chasing a squirrel in the White House grounds. Its remains are to be flown to the Presidential ranch in Texas. Mr. Harold Wilson is to visit Washington at the end of July.

MR. DENIS HEALEY, Minister of Defence, defended the training of South Vietnamese in Malaysia by saying, 'We have made it clear that we have no intention of participating ourselves in the fighting in Vietnam or supplying weapons to Vietnam. This remains our policy, but the training of Vietnamese servicemen started as far back as 1961 under the previous Government and we see no reason why we should not assist in the training of a free country to defend its freedom.' President Johnson announced the resignation of the chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, a nominee of President Johnson, who was appointed in 1963. Tri Quang, a Buddhist leader, fasting in Hue, informed the *Daily Mail* reporter, 'I will continue fasting until Johnson withdraws his support of the military machine. I refuse to call him President. He doesn't deserve the honour. . . . Indiscriminate American bombing has become repression. The Vietnamese are forced on to the Communist side. This war will exterminate our people. . . . They think of nothing but power, force and bombs. They do not understand us or try to.' . . .

THE DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT of the *Morning Star* (formerly the *Daily Worker*) wrote a study of De Gaulle's policy 'War Pact under the shadow of a General' (June 14) without mentioning French atom tests. On June 16 they printed a rather unfavourable account of French test preparations concluding however, 'The French point out that there are only 1,000 inhabitants within 600 miles of Mururoa, while within the same radius of the US test station in Nevada Flats, over seven million people live. The French authorities,' says the

Morning Star, 'consider that a sufficient answer to the protests.' The Airport Workers Union at Nandi International Airport in Fiji has decided to 'black' all French aircraft, civil or military, landing in Fiji for the next 28 days. The move (says *The Times*) is in protest against French nuclear tests. . . .

MR. HAROLD WILSON speaking to the Parliamentary Labour Party said, 'Although we want to proceed in utmost harmony and consultation with the parliamentary, this means two-way, not one-way co-operation, and it must be based on the recognition that the party meeting, however important, cannot become itself a government, or substitute for government. Such a concept is neither in the Labour Party Constitution, nor the British Constitution, and any attempt to operate on that basis would rapidly make the Government, and I believe the Party, a laughing stock in the country, with all the inevitable consequences. The Government must govern, and there can be no substitute for it' (not even Desmond Donnelly and Woodrow Wyatt). . . .

THE EARL OF ARKAN'S Bill to legalize homosexual behaviour between consenting adults in private obtained its third reading in the House of Lords by 78 votes to 60, the Earl said the Bill had no future. No one in the Commons' ballot for Private Members' Bills had seen fit to take it on, and the Government would not promise time for debate. The House of Lords had spent eleven days on it, there had been 135 speeches, and 19,200 words spoken. . . .

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE told Mr. Michael Foot that he would do his best to provide for a second reading of the Steel [Nationalization] Bill before the end of July. The Government is not sure that it will be able to find time for the second reading of this Bill, or of the Early Warning Bill, before the summer recess. . . .

THE HOME SECRETARY said, 'I very much hope that when I introduce the Criminal Justice Bill later this year, it will contain proposals designed to keep more people out of prison.' Three prisoners, includ-

ing one man convicted in the Great Train Robbery staged a four-hour rooftop protest at top-security conditions at Leicester Jail. They complained about lack of privileges and association. They climbed down at 8 p.m. as promised. The Under-Secretary at the Home Office said they were obviously fit and well, and promised them television in their cells. Mr. C. H. Rolph (alias C. R. Hewitt) writing of British prison reform in the *Week-End Telegraph* says, 'We shall never, in fact, quite eliminate them. But we could at least claim that we had reduced to a minimum our organized attempt to produce white by two blacks.' Mr. John Capstick, ex-Scotland Yard Superintendent, writing in the same paper said, 'All prisoners must be subject to more discipline. A Foreign Legion of prisoners should be formed and sent overseas as an Army unit. Aged 17 to 40. Prisoners should be used in the building of the Channel Tunnel. Government should make cement from quarries, the labour being supplied by fit short-term prisoners.' . . .

THE *MORNING STAR* (alias the *Daily Worker*) carries a headline 'Murder case China youth executed', a story of the execution of a 19-year-old youth for wounding an East German embassy official's wife and a journalist from Mali. Both recovered. The Court President announced, 'Counter-revolutionary murderer Yang Kuo Ching, will be sent to the execution ground to be shot forthwith.' The Court President said Yang had confessed. 'It was my intention to create an international murder case and provoke an international dispute so as to spoil China's international good name.' . . .

IN THE COMMONS, Mr. Brooks, MP, asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the accumulating space debris circling the earth, Her Majesty's Government will propose in the United Nations Organization that international action be taken to reduce the growing danger of such debris causing devastation upon re-entry to built-up areas.

JON QUIXOTE.

IT COULDN'T HAPPEN HERE!

ON THE MORNING of May 17, 1966, the students of Jesuit High School in New Orleans were treated to an event which will become common in high schools all over the nation in the next

French Nuclear Tests

GENERAL DE GAULLE is testing the Bomb in the Pacific for the same political-prestige reason that led British Labour and Conservative Governments to make the Bomb after the end of the war. Nothing is gained. The atmosphere is further polluted and the proliferation of nuclear weapons that much more encouraged.

Even by De Gaulle's own standards the exercise is unnecessary as France in recent years has made such a phenomenal recovery in every respect as to make military gesturing utterly redundant.

For some years now the French peace movement has had the wind taken out of its sails by the General himself in the totality of his withdrawal from military commitments abroad, his virtual withdrawal from NATO and his independent position on Vietnam.

But over the Mururoa tests the considerations of prestige have eclipsed those of humanity and there are unmistakable (if not yet well defined) signs of the recovery of the peace movement in France to meet this challenge.

Nuclear disarmament in France is primarily the responsibility of the French people and of the French peace movement. We are in constant touch with them and we are much interested in doing anything we can to help. We are interested in going to France to take part in their demonstrations and we invite them to come to England to join in our actions here against the Bomb and militarism in general. We invite them to our Alconbury demonstration on July 3 and some of us hope to take part in the French demonstration in Paris which, we understand, will take place on July 14.

PETER CADOGAN,
Secretary Committee of 100,
National Committee.

14.6.66.

few months. The noted event was the activation ceremonies to start the first of 12,000 Marine ROTC units for boys, ages 14-18.

This latest and most insidious effort to turn the United States into another Third Reich did not go unchallenged however; several pickets were on hand and many students of Jesuit High objected. The pickets carried signs reading: 'Peace Corps Not Marine Corps', 'How Many More Must Die For Johnson's Mistakes?', 'Why Train Our Children To Be Killers?' and 'What Happened To The Prince Of Peace?'

One student likened a compulsory ROTC programme to a 'Nazi Youth Group' and stated that 'it will be compulsory even though they and the newspapers say that it won't be compulsory'. James Viator, a senior, claimed that Jesuits wanted the programme 'for uniformity' and also for government subsidy of uniforms and equipment.

A demonstrator, Lon Hill, of New Orleans, was struck by an irate father of one of the boys, the same man then spat on two female pickets and tore up a sign. The students sang their victory song during the altercations, but they apologized to the pickets after their parents had left.

The students and parents were addressed by General Wallace M. Greene, US Marine commandant; The Rev. J. Donald Pearce, school president, and Rep. F. Edward Hebert, an alumnus of Jesuit High and the proud father of the ROTC Revitalization Bill.

General Greene congratulated the students on being the first unit in the United States to receive the 'honour', and said, 'we in the Regular Marine Corps are proud of this new addition to

the Marine Corps family.' The Rev. J. Donald Pearce stated that the United States is presently fighting in Vietnam 'to preserve the ideals established here 200 years ago', he went on to say: 'If our youth is rightly instructed, our power will be greater than any weapon man can devise.'

Rep. Hebert told the formation of 900 students that 'this is undoubtedly one of the proudest moments that can come to any individual'. The new programme 'will prevent delinquency instead of subsidizing it,' he claimed.

'This programme will have a greater effect on this nation than any other programme during our lifetime, including the draft,' Hebert said.

JACK J. FRAZIER.

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Seamen Cut to Ribbons?

FROM THE COMPLETE outside looking in, it appears that the seamen's strike is staggering from one crisis to another. Confusion takes over as the leadership of the NUS desperately looks for an 'out'. One crumb more from the Pearson table I believe would gain good chances of a settlement from Bill Hogarth. The only people who can do this are the Government, the shipping employers are 'sitting pretty' in this respect, sitting behind the skirts of the PIB keeps the wind off them nicely. This bull from

Contact Column

Tanya Howell. Please contact Peter Neville without delay as MAY have job in country for you. If in contact with Tanya anyone pass message on please urgently.

Vietnam. Public Meeting. Holborn Assembly Hall, Johns Mews, W.C. Friday, June 24, 7.30 p.m. Speaker, Thich Nhat Hanh. Director of Institute of Social Studies, Saigon.

Polish Protest. UL & S Defence Committee. Demonstration, Orbis, Regent Street, London, W.1. Saturday, July 9 commencing 10.30 a.m.

'Solidarity.' Weekend conference in Birmingham at Digbeth Civic Hall on the ideas and activities of the Solidarity group. Saturday, July 9, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 10, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Further details from Gordon Causer, 27 Upper Gungate, Tamworth, Staffs.

Intelligent mother-substitute. (With or without own child) urgently wanted to care for 5-year-old girl who cannot understand why her mother left her. West country, Box No. 31A.

Poetry and Jazz. Ilford Libertarians. Poetry and Jazz. 7.30 p.m. July 2, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1. Mike Osborne Quartet, Christopher Logue, Joe Shearns and Dick Wilcox. Mike Horowitz with Workers' Cast Experimental Drama Group. Tickets 4/- and 6/- from Freedom Press.

Centenary Lectures NSS. Friday, June 24. Freethought and Law Reform. Anthony Grey and Diane Munday. Friday, July 8. Freethought and Liberty. Martin Ennals, etc. 7.30 p.m. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Fallex. Fallex and other Official Secrets sent under plain cover. Sample obtainable, 9d. (including postage) from Ipswich Anarchists, 68 Christchurch Street, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Manchester Poetry. Northern rendezvous for Poetry, Folk and 'happenings'. Thursdays 8 p.m. Packhorse Hotel, Bridge Street, off Deansgate, Manchester, 2/-.

Stickers. POLICE BRUTALITY IS FACT, JUSTICE IS FICTION. ANARCHY IS FREEDOM. 25/- per 1,000. Contact Box 31.

Accommodation available for girl. West London Community. Rent £2 10s. Box 32.

Room and Work. Woman reader (mid-forties) will need room and work when leaves psychiatric hospital. Offers of either or both to Box 30.

Hospitality wanted. Sixteen-year-old comrade (male) from Paris would like to stay with family during summer vacation. Write Box 29.

Accommodation Offered. To responsible person in return for taking child to school some days and a (very) little housework. Write 15 Pennine Mansions, Pennine Drive, Golders Green, N.W.11 or phone MEA 1872.

Accommodation. Flat or rooms required in London area (preferably unfurnished) by teacher and wife. For one-year period from September. P. and M. Ford, 102 Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Beds.

Accommodation Vacant. One bunk empty—happy, tolerant girl wanted in s/c flat, in lowest Lambeth, details REL 5224.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

Frank Cousins about keeping the dispute strictly between the employers and the seamen, who does he think he is kidding? He quotes the 1958 transport strike stating that he 'refused to have anything to do with the government', he maintained that the differences of opinion were between the union and the employers. The employers were the puppets of the government, who the hell does he think pulls the strings of London Transport, Santa Claus?

As stated in FREEDOM (11.6.66) the strike is being run 'strictly to the rules'. In the fifth week of struggle the policy of the NUS is exactly the same, and quite obviously it must be, trade union leaders are responsible people, trade union protocol must be adhered to at all times irrespective of the situation. Leaders must appeal to leaders through the correct channels, and when they ALL want to 'wrap up' the strike NOW (if they were ever in favour from the beginning) the chances of winning the full demands by spreading the strike are negligible.

It therefore comes down to where the decisions should be made, at rank-and-file level. It is no good rank-and-file militants calling on their leaders to spread the strike either here or abroad, they have to convince all workers it is in their own interests to down tools, not just the dockers. If we as printworkers had any guts we would have refused to print last Sunday's edition of the *Sunday Telegraph*, the editorial was an open invitation to smash the seamen by ALL means possible. By allowing this vitriol to be printed we

have done as much damage as if we crewed a ship that had been declared 'black'.

Before any one screams about freedom of the press, may I politely remind them that the 'freedom(?)' is always one way 'against the workers'.

The tactic now employed by press and politicians is one of attempting to split the seamen. The attempt by British Railways to crew a ship for Channel crossings at Dover fizzled out. Townsend Car Ferries claimed to have enquiries from dissident seamen to be allowed to go back to work, nothing more has been heard about that either.

Whilst it is true that at Newhaven NUS members decided to instruct their Executive to reopen negotiations and 'get what they can so we can return to work' or, failing the council being able to negotiate, ballot the membership 'for or against'; NE-coast members at South Shields held a ballot this morning (20.6.66) and overwhelmingly endorsed the policy of their Executive Committee, as did Southampton, Manchester, Liverpool and Hull.

All the evidence, so far, points to the maintenance of solidarity among the seamen, which is good considering they have been virtually on their own.

Wilson is expected to make a statement today, if it's anything like the last one he might as well belt up, the offer of a general inquiry into the shipping industry contributed nothing to the settlement of the present dispute.

The question of 'Emergency Powers' still has him worried, because he could accomplish the very thing that he wants to avoid, the spreading of the strike.

In terms of orthodox trade unionism the next few days could be critical for the seamen. The Executive of the INF meet on Wednesday, and the NUS Executive Council is due to meet on Thursday. Tangible support from the former is highly suspect, therefore it is up to the rank and file of all workers, it is up to us whether the seamen get 'cut to ribbons' or win their just demands. BILL CHRISTOPHER.

HOW THE SYSTEM TICKS

INCOMES POLICY, LEGISLATION AND SHOP STEWARDS. T. Cliff and C. Barker. P/bk. 137 pages. 2/6d. Publishers: London Industrial Shop Stewards Defence Committee.

WHATEVER this book's faults, and there are not many that I see, it is indisputable that it is an indispensable part of any militant's reading. The comprehensive study of the present structure of capitalism and the manner it manipulates modern society is long overdue. In a way it is bringing home what Paul Cardan has been saying in a rather more theoretical manner for many years.

Very neatly, this well-written pamphlet demolishes the arguments presented in favour of the Incomes Policy by the trade union movement leaders and their counterparts in the Labour Party. It quite justifiably points out there is only one group of people who will suffer, and that is the wage earner and the working class generally. But the interesting part for all trade unionists is the demonstration how the highly organised workers are responsible for raising standards of living of the workers generally. In less organised countries where trade unions are either an organ of the state or split by doctrinal weaknesses, the differential between skilled and unskilled labour is far greater than in those countries where the vast body of manual workers in large industries are left at the mercy of their employers—either capitalist or state.

It quite justifiably points out that the so-called trading deficits are largely a product of hot money flowing backwards and forwards across frontiers looking for the quick killing. Together with the military expenditure abroad this hot money causes a load on the workers' backs which looks all very well on paper but in fact is just a paper flow of money. In other words a stock exchange con trick supported by the Labour Government.

The final plea in this book is very well argued—it is for workers' control. This is preceded by an account of the present shop stewards' movements and the need for them to link up. The fragmentation of shop stewards' movements is explained and also the need for closer co-operation. However much is to be

desired in this direction, and inside the LSSDC there seems to be no concrete ideas as to organisation—and it's about time there was. The need for action against the Incomes Policy is going to occur soon and the issues have to be placed squarely where they belong, on the shop floor, and this is the thing which most militants dread. To try and move workers on what appears at first sight to be a solely party political issue. But it has to be done and this book is an excellent handbook for all militants who have to explain the case. The argument is no longer up in the clouds. It is in the process of taking place and the savage penalties devised by Gunter and Brown will take place unless a unified rank and file movement oppose them successfully. So please buy, it's worth every penny, in fact that is my chief criticism—it's too cheap.

SPARKS.

(Obtainable from Freedom Bookshop or C. Davison, 83 Greyhound Road, N.17.)

Now a March

THE LOBBY of Parliament, due to take place on June 22, against the Government's intention of passing legislation to enforce its Incomes Policy, now includes a march from Speakers' Corner in its programme. This is a welcome development from the scheduled Lobby reported last week in FREEDOM.

The reason for this change is that both Liverpool and Manchester building workers want a march, being fully prepared to organise one of their own, and workers on the Brunel University site have also been very enthusiastic about a march.

This is indeed an improvement on the sterile Lobby first planned and shows that rank and file union members want to express their opposition to the intended legislation in the form of a public demonstration.

By the time this appears in print, the march and Lobby will have taken place and it is hoped that the march will be a demonstration of the growing opposition to the Labour Government's plans for fettering the trade union movement. P. TURNER.

Freedom For Workers' Control

JUNE 25 1966 Vol 27 No 20

STRIKES AGAINST WAGE CUTS

FOR OVER EIGHT weeks now, 60 machinists working on cylinder heads and engines at the Standard-Triumph International factory in Coventry, have been staging a series of token strikes over the introduction by the company of new piece-work rates.

These on-off guerilla strikes have caused a considerable loss of output for the STI. Production of certain car models has been suspended for as long as a week, which has meant that many other workers have been sent home and temporarily laid off.

The machinists are members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union and claim that the company's new bonus payments for new work have brought about a reduction in wages of between 30s. and 44s. per week. Shop floor convenors, representatives of the union members in other sections of the factory, have issued a statement supporting the strikers. This says: 'Our members are not seeking more money for the same work. All they ask is that their wages and conditions will not be affected as a result of the introduction of new work methods.'

The convenors allege that the new bonus system was imposed on the machinists by the management. However, the Works Director, Mr. Swindle (some coincidence) says, in a letter circulated to 15,000 employees, that the new system was mutually agreed upon, but the shop stewards replied that: 'We wish to make it clear that the shop stewards and the men involved have never at any stage agreed to the bonus terms.'

SHOP FLOOR LEVEL

All along the company has wanted the dispute to go through the normal negotiating channels, which would have taken it from the shop floor and given it to the national officials to handle. This request has been refused and local union officials and shop stewards have so far handled all the negotiations. The national executive of the AEU has said that 'piece-work rates' disputes on new work are not included in the procedure and should be settled at factory level. The company also wanted the men to stick to the procedure for avoidance of disputes. Another meeting of the shop stewards, local officials and the management has taken place and the latter's

offer of a special sliding-scale payment over the next four weeks has been rejected.

When Sir Donald Stokes, Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of the Leyland Motor Corporation, which includes STI, recently addressed the Institute of the Motor Industry, he spoke of the irresponsible action of a 'very few men' which could cripple the industry. No doubt he had the machinists in mind. They were called 'anti-social types' who, by their action, were stopping the benefits which could be obtained by the introduction of modern, expensive automation and transfer machinery. Obviously Sir Donald does not like it when men take action in defence of the wages and conditions. In fact, the STI recently told shop stewards that 'put in its most simple terms, failure on our part to stop the rot (of rising costs without correspondingly increased productivity) will ultimately end up in a situation where both management and work people will lose their jobs'.

We know that STI faces strong competition both in home markets and abroad and they no doubt thought that in the case of their new model, the 1300, they would try to cut costs, and the new piece-work rates were the result. Do they really expect the machinists to accept a cut in wages just like that? If there is any question of irresponsibility, then the company is guilty. However, it must be remembered that managements are really averse to doing their negotiations at shop floor level. They do not mind going to the national union leaders, who are totally divorced from the realities of the shop floor, but when it comes to facing the very men that these deliberations will affect, then it becomes a completely different kettle of fish. The management knows that the shop floor negotiators drive a much harder bargain and if the men feel that they are getting a raw deal, there is always the possibility that they might decide to take direct action.

In the drive by STI for an ever-increasing share of the car market, they are trying to impose a wage cut on their workers. It is the same old story that it is the working people who have to make the sacrifices so that the capitalist profit motive system can survive. P.T.

LETTERS

Keep 'Worker's Control' Please

Dear Comrades,

So Laurence Cunniffe thinks a page devoted to Workers' Control shouldn't be in an Anarchist paper. We are nowhere near enough to the state of affairs where automation has liberated a sufficient number of people from work-toil, which I for one do regard as toil when it fattens the boss's wallet and, through him, boosts the company's production. The concerns which are prepared to put their backs into it will use machines profitably, but what if this nationalizing mad government get their hands on an essential service which is not paying its way? Redundancy and higher prices will follow, and in an age when machines should liberate workers and prepare them for a more meaningful life, there will still be the same old wastage because the men intent upon capitalistic monopoly will still be in control, thus nobody will be any 'freer' than in the darker past when the masters of mismanagement still have their hands on the controls. By all means pay people what they deserve for operating the machines, but nowadays so much overtime has to be worked to make up a basic wage, which as Comrade Cunniffe well knows is because we're taxed to death and none of us can escape higher

prices, which is one reason for strikes—namely the levelling out of hours on a parity with wages.

I am thoroughly in agreement with Laurence Cunniffe that work should become creative and that all people should become creative as against merely materialistic, so that work no longer becomes something we've simply got to do if we're to live, but can be absorbed into a society which wishes to be creative and produces, not rubbish off a conveyor belt, but things that relate to human needs and values.

If machines are misused man will quite likely lose his dignity, which would be nothing new under capitalism; in any sort of society, production and distribution will have prior consideration. The scientists, etc., are working towards the replacement of human labour, but with a Government which devises a Prices and Incomes Policy, a payroll tax, in fact anything to keep capitalism and profits going strongly, I don't see in the final resort that it really matters when the (to us) wrong men are in charge; which is why P.T. and the rest are not wasting their time thumping out a few thousand words for this paper every week.

Fraternally,

London, W.5 RON PEART.

Stealing Wages!

THE GOVERNMENT is about to end imprisonment for debt. Instead it proposes to introduce the Scottish law of attachment upon wages. In these proposals they have mixed humbug, cowardice and contempt for the interests of the public.

Contrary to general belief, most imprisonment for debt has already been abolished. (It was the so-called 'reformers' who wanted it kept on, fearing that without it 'the working-man will never get credit'—a now well-exploded 19th-century myth!) Except in one or two instances where corporations have wrangled it into Acts of Parliament (the most noticeable being borough councils who can imprison for non-payment of rates), imprisonment today is for those who refuse to pay, rather than those who cannot. It is necessary to prove means before a county court, and make offers to pay; provided the debtor plays the game, and has the time to appear constantly asking for revision of his offer and does not lose too heavily in wages (this appearance), he has fairly the whip-hand over the creditor, who is paying heavily for barristers who manage to charge him considerably more than they collect from the debtor.

To parade the abolition of imprisonment for debt as a reform is in these circumstances laughable anyway; but there are many prisoners who are defaulters on maintenance payments to wives. Here again, it is the obstinate, not the penniless, who suffer. If they conceal their earnings, they can get away with it. In most cases, courts must accept the word of the debtor as to what he earns.

In attaching wages, and making the courts privy to what the wages are, it becomes impossible to get away with anything, and obviously favours the creditor considerably. It is noticeable that whenever Scottish law is more reasonable than English law, Scottish law is 'brought into line' with English law; when Scottish law, as in this case, is more reactionary, 'it has something to teach us'. The attachment of wages for civil debts can result in a man receiving nothing whatever at the end of the week, after tax, insurance, attachments upon wage, various contributions and fares have been met. This has happened in the States, too, where men have found it just not worth while working to get so many attachments slapped upon their pay packet. Almost all cases of theft in the Army can be traced to the practice of letting a man receive nothing at the end of a week; it is true that, in this case, he is fed and sheltered. This of course would not apply in civil life. On the whole it would be far better to apply for national assistance than to work, the moment that the attachments came in; this will be the reply of a great many workers to the new 'reforms'; the obvious thing to do is to get the sack and sit back and wait until the State sees the point. The defaulting ex-husbands will certainly do this, if they are ready to go to the extent of prison, as things stand.

NEW 'TOLPUDDLE'

Why has the Government suddenly

plumped for this dubious 'reform' after it has been rejected for so many years? Employers on the whole do not like it (it is after all the wage system that keeps the workers working, and to give them nothing, or far less than a normal wage, at the end of a week, is not the way to run a railway... this is PAYE on a much larger scale). Lawyers of course support anything that gives them more work, but they are well satisfied with the county court system, though judges sometimes find it inconsistent with their dignity to be acting as the collecting agents of hire purchase companies who force sales upon people not 'credit-worthy' and then get the courts to back up the payments. To them, the solution is not to give credit.

The sentimental can sometimes be worked up about the poor debtor languishing in prison; but in truth the only ones who do are those who do so on point of principle (e.g. the husband who, admitting his ability to pay, point-blank refuses to contribute to his former wife's comfort, pointing out her ability to look after herself) and have chosen prison rather than payment. The law is now going to prevent him making this choice, just as PAYE prevents the worker from choosing whether or not he will pay income tax.

The reason for this pseudo-reform is the Prices and Incomes Bill which aims to outlaw strikes. The Combination Laws are coming back; once more the working classes are going to be prevented from organising to better their conditions; there will be new 'Tolpuddle Martyrs', and this in the name of organised labour. But as organised labour in government does not want to see 'Tolpuddle Martyrs' in prison, for the sake of appearances, it is going to make it impossible for strikers to be sent to prison. It would never do for Socialism Victorious to put trade unionists in jail; but they are going to be fined heavily, and the fines placed on a PAYE basis. This will not prevent martyrdom, but it will make it seem less glorious than prison, and the apparent pettiness of the persecution will make it seem less real.

It would be slightly more honest to sell unofficial strikers into slavery. They would if they could, no doubt, but in the meantime they are making do with the amendment of the law relating to the non-payment of fines, being paraded as a 'reform', a triumph of liberalism, and one of the things Labour gets done.

A. MELTZER.

PROVOS IN LONDON

IT IS PERHAPS a measure of the political sophistication which has come in the wake of the Committee of 100 that many of the ideas, plans, strategies and theories outlined by Bernhard de Vries and Irene van der Weetering, the two Amsterdam provos who recently visited London to put their case, seemed terrifyingly naive. There is no doubt that the English press did convey a very confusing image of the provos but, having been to Amsterdam and having heard the provos in London, I do not consider this the least bit surprising. When van de Weetering's husband described the provos as a 'heart rending, muddle-headed organisation' he seemed to be making the fairest comment so far. No vicious attack on the level of *Le Figaro's* has been made by any English paper (provos are 'nazis, communists... vicious petits bourgeois, beatniks, delinquents'). Nevertheless the provos' arrival in England to present their case was a step in the right direction: it may be an indication of the Committee of 100's failure to explain itself overseas that the provos are so muddled. It is no kindness to ignore the confusion in provo thinking. The provos have,

Vietnam 'dialogue with Death'

It had become a tradition during the last few years that dictators acted and democracies protested, a division of labour which seemed to satisfy everybody.—Arthur Koestler: 'dialogue with death' (1937).

THIS APHORISM is basically as true today as when Koestler wrote it in a Spanish jail during the revolution (which he called civil war) when the German and Italian aeroplanes bombed the Spanish cities, while the democracies meekly protested. Perhaps the distinction between democracy and dictatorship is not so great today as it was 30 years ago. Nevertheless, after the black smoke rose to the sky near Hanoi and Haiphong the democracies duly protested. The time and motion man with his stop-watch and taperecorder stood in the Grosvenor Squares of the world and reported back to his government. 'Nothing to fear, your excellencies,' he said, 'they were in good voice, a bit fractious but I daresay they are all in their beds by now.'

The Vietnam war has been going on since the end of the Second World War. The US entered after the Korean cease-fire, but basically both the purpose and the reason for these two wars are the same. Military economics demand a theatre of war somewhere, otherwise the system which is based on war-production must collapse. Protesting against war is the only human thing to do,

but without changing the system that needs war, the condition for war remains.

Without an egalitarian system of distribution of the real wealth of the world the need for war will exist as it is the only way that you can have full employment in a capitalist economy. Should the Vietnam war cease tomorrow, a war in Thailand or some such place will start the day after.

The Chinese and Russian 'Communist' systems also need a localised war for the same reason. They have the added incentive that as long as the Vietnam war continues, they can make fiery speeches, protests and the inevitable recruitment of party members all over the world.

The 'Communist' powers are supporting North Vietnam with brave words but with hardly any weapons. Possibly the North Vietnamese cannot pay for the latest anti-aircraft batteries. It was pitiful to read the 'Agence Presse' correspondent's report from Hanoi where he observed the bombing raid on the oil dumps. The soldiers 'hunching their shoulders, came running to climb the outside staircases leading to the roof-tops where they fired off their rifles in the direction of the aircraft.' Imagine shooting down supersonic jet bombers with ordinary rifles and machine guns!

After the bombing of Hanoi the Chinese, of course, protested. A statement by them described the

raids as 'barbarous, wanton and a criminal act of aggression and war. In accordance with the interests and demands of the Vietnamese people we will at any time take such actions as we deem necessary'. Words, fighting words, dishonest words.

The war is being 'escalated' by the US Government according to the 'scientific' formulae worked out by 'Professor' Kahn. What stage have they reached now in their war of nerves? A year ago there was furore when it was revealed that the Americans were using gas warfare. Now, after the initial indignation has subsided, gas is used consistently in Vietnam. Remember the horror with which napalm bombs and lazy dogs were greeted? All this is now part of modern warfare.

For a long time the Americans have talked about the possibility of bombing Hanoi. Now they have done it and public protests have been voiced, they will do it again. It won't be news next time. They are already hinting that the next step is going to be the bombing of Red River Delta with the consequent flooding of North Vietnam. After that they may use 'tactical' nuclear weapons. And so on.

What should anarchists do in the circumstances? We should continue to protest but never lose an opportunity with our literature or banners or private conversation to try to explain the cause of war and the need for an egalitarian society.

Of course a 'crisis' situation tends to stultify thinking. Even 'comrades' urge us, like latter-day Kropotkins, to choose sides. There are no short cuts to anarchism or to eradicating war for that matter. If we are to stand by our principles we must be prepared to lose a few friends. R.

A Visit to Stuart Christie

I, A FRIEND of Stuart Christie, went over to Madrid on June 3 in an attempt to visit him in the Carabanchel Prison.

On my arrival in Madrid I reported to the Consulate to receive a letter of introduction to the Director at the Prison. When I went to the prison I was told that before I could see Stuart I would have to go back to the Embassy to get a letter of introduction to the Director General of Prisons at the Ministry of Justice. They in turn told me I would have to see the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Foreign Office. This meant yet another letter of introduction. The Minister for European Affairs interviewed me and then said he would get in touch with me later on to inform me whether I had been granted the permit or not.

When the word came through on June 17 that I could visit Stuart the next day I was sent to the Minister of Justice to receive the prison permit.

At the prison I was put into a small room divided by a wire mesh wall. Ten minutes later Stuart arrived on the other side of the wire mesh and then the interpreter arrived.

The news from Stuart is that he is in the middle of his A-level exams in Spanish, Maths, History, English, etc. and that he has now put his appeal through without the assistance of the Spanish lawyer who demanded the £1,000 fee from Stuart after the trial. The result is due to come out in August. At present Stuart has, at the most, six years left to complete of his sentence which, he thinks, will be reduced by a few more years. He now receives no letters except those from his mother. He is not allowed to send letters to his friends. The reason for this is that someone sent a newspaper cutting to him about a demonstration in Glasgow when the Spanish flag was set on fire. The general impression I got of Stuart was that he was well-liked in prison and that he was

still concerned about all his old friends in Britain. He is allowed to work one day per week depending on his conduct. He either works in the Dental Surgery or in the Printing Room.

I was told by the consul that the best way to send parcels to him is through the British Embassy (Consular Section), Recoletas 22, Madrid. He receives parcels from Germany, Holland, France and Britain.

Stuart asked me to convey all his thanks to all comrades who have been so concerned about his imprisonment and those who have sent books, money and food, etc.

While I was waiting to see the Minister for European Affairs a decrepit old man left the office and I was informed that the Minister would now see me. This pensioned-off old dodderer who had preceded me was none other than General Franco, the Caudillo himself!

ROSS FLETT.

P.S.: We are informed by the FIJL that two French comrades were released by the Spanish authorities possibly as a result of the kidnapping on May 1 of the Spanish diplomat-prelate Mgr. Ussia

unnecessary; the continental attitude, where police are never allowed to feel that secure, is much more to the point. Ultimately the police would become trained social workers, dressed in white, which is the provos' big symbol. This is all very well, but one can easily see a situation where, as recent trends in the USA indicate, the police become pseudo-social workers without in any way ceasing to be an arm of the state.

The appeal to the International Provo-tariat, reprinted in *Heatwave 1*, is the manifesto of the provos and explains both their ideas of 'class' and also their approach to the anti-authoritarian struggle. It talks of beatniks, pleiners, nozems, hooligans, mods, rockers (though having seen rockers in London de Vries decided they were not, after all, a revolutionary force), students, artists and misfits as being a new, heterogeneous, de-classed 'class', a grouping of subversive elements who will through 'pin-prick actions' be able to force authority to show its true nature. Authority, having done so, will become more and more unpopular and there will be a crisis of authority. It is, perhaps, a rather devious and circuitous route to social revolt—and, I would have thought, hardly likely to change the fuzz into English bobbies—but it has its own logic and appeal.

But what happens in practice? A lot of kids, doubtless intellectually provoked and pre-justified by provo ideas and statements, provoke a major crisis of authority in Amsterdam, with police, riot police, special sub-military police and three infantry regiments either in town or standing by. The provos broadcast an appeal on the pop music station urging kids to stay at home. Asked if this was not rather inconsistent, de Vries told his London audience that the provos did not approve of violence, and that shops were being damaged which was 'unnecessary'. But surely such actions were the logic of the provos' appeal? De Vries, in common with the provos I interviewed in Amsterdam (I have written at length in *Heatwave* about this visit), said the provos did not call for violence. They did not want riots. But did they not want to provoke authority?

De Vries said they wanted to provoke authority with happenings, constructive schemes and not destruction. But, if they saw the provotariat (the heterogeneous groupings of beats, delinquents, etc.) as the last element of revolt in society, was it not their job to explain the riots, at least philosophically? Simply to denounce them was inadequate, confusing and, perhaps, a treason to their ideas. 'I can understand why these riots happened',

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VIETNAM—An American View-point

SINCE FREEDOM is the only paper that American anarchists have—which is a misfortune, since a good anarchist paper needs to have a local character, a relation to its environment—an American anarchist looks closely at items which pertain to America. I have been bothered for some time by the character of the lead articles on the Vietnam war, both in respect to their framework of analysis and in respect to their content.

Consider Jeff Robinson's 'The Opiate of the People' of June 18. The lead is a 'revealing' news item about Chinese exportation of opium. Now, maybe this is a revelation in England, but this has long been a standard item of American propaganda, including the interpretation that the trade serves the Chinese Communists by helping 'to spread drug addiction and corruption in the West'. The existence of this trade is interpreted by the writer in FREEDOM as an indication of the equal-evil of the Chinese government. But if one reads the story carefully, there is nothing to show that the Chinese government is responsible for the fact that 'a sizeable proportion of the finished products finds its way into the hands of international drug racketeers.' So far as I know, the Chinese government has not engaged in any wars to oblige Western nations to allow the importation of opium.

But the above is a minor matter. Further on the writer asks, 'Does anyone seriously believe that if the Vietcong possessed napalm, "joy bombs" (an invention of Norman Mailer's), "lazy dog", etc., they would refrain from using them on moral grounds if to use them was to their military advantage?' (Hence they are not 'morally superior' to the Americans and South Vietnamese.) In answer to this rhetorical question it is said that 'Certainly the Vietcong use indiscriminate terror, torture and assassination at least as widely as their opponents'.

Now, I don't believe that there is such a thing as civilized warfare, unless it would be a duel between volunteers, preferably between the leaders of state.

But I do think it is interesting, and rightly affects one's sympathies, where people and their leaders and governments draw the line. (For example, I think that the South African regime is qualitatively different from others, and I don't understand how anyone could say that there is 'not a scrap of difference' between it and other regimes.) Would the Vietcong wage aerial civilian warfare if they possessed the means? I can't see that the answer is automatically 'Yes' unless one also answers automatically 'Yes' to questions like, 'Would Wilson apply the South African solution to the "coloured problem" if he had the chance?' It is similarly pure conjecture that there would be a 'bloodbath' if the Communists took over South Vietnam. Is it the case that the Vietcong uses indiscriminate terror, torture and assassination at least as widely as their opponents? If one is trying to judge the moral quality of the Vietcong movement, and project from that its behaviour if it possessed napalm, one would be better to present some evidence; the appeal to 'certainly' about a very doubtful question leads us nowhere.

What's more the writer lets the American puppet-regime off much too lightly when he says that its victory would mean 'a corrupt, right-wing, Coca-Cola dictatorship with (once the fighting stops) a small degree of liberty'. Unless the writer would describe the Franco regime in these terms—would he?—I don't see why he thinks these terms fit. Before the South Vietnamese resistance reached military proportions, the Americans had well under way a programme to totalitarianize South Vietnam as an anti-Communist bastion (this is what the Michigan State University people were up to—the CIA connection is a relatively trivial matter). By 'totalitarianize' I mean, among other things, a programme of compounds to control a recalcitrant peasantry, which programme entailed the physical destruction of hundreds if not thousands of villages.

Moreover, I should think the writer

would bear it in mind that, at least to judge by accounts which strike me as credible, the South Vietnamese insurrection (as even the *New York Times* is now willing to describe it) arose out of the efforts of the Americans to impose a strong (totalitarian) national government upon a peasantry which had established (or thought it had established) its independence during the war against the French. He might bear it in mind that moderate forms of resistance, including non-violent resistance, were brutally put down; and that if the Vietcong have been brutalized by this war, which I would expect to be largely the case, an anarchist might be inclined to impute responsibility for this to the Saigonese governments and their American sustainers rather than to the people who resisted.

I would expect an anarchist to see a tragedy in the fact that the struggles of the Vietnamese peasantry to resist colonialism and to resist the alien Saigon regimes should have led to a continually escalating war, given American power and the indifference of the American people, a continually escalating war in which sense of original aims and even of humanity is progressively lost and in which the Communist leadership of the resistance has been tightened to a point where resistance to it has become virtually impossible. I would expect an anarchist to see a tragedy here. I would not expect him to trot out stale equi-evil arguments. I would expect him to distinguish between the motivations of the Vietnamese peasants who are (most of them) voluntarily throwing away their lives for the hope of independence and communal freedom, and now (mainly) in order to preserve their villages from destruction by the American bombers and land-marauders—between these motivations and (on the other hand) the purposes of ideologically Communist leaders and the type of regime (left-totalitarian, anti-libertarian) which one would expect from an outright Vietcong victory. I would expect him to notice

that one cannot significantly make such a distinction on 'the other side'. The Republic of Vietnam officer corps is the same old French-colonial officer corps; its soldiers are impressed; the American army fights 'because you've gotta stop the Commies somewhere' and because it's kill or get killed and you've got your orders.

I do sympathize with the wish that issues were simpler. American propaganda has a nice way of simplifying every member of the NLF force is a Communist, and every Communist is an ideological totalitarian, and the whole bunch of them are on a string from Hanoi, which string would lead to some world-central headquarters (if it weren't for the embarrassing China/Russia split). The Chinese Communists have their mythology that the toiling exploited masses of America are being used and swindled by Wall Street—when the case is that the only reason Americans don't much like this war is that they are not winning it (the Vietcong even shoot back when you bomb their villages). Anarchists have to have a psychology and a sociology and a political analysis, so it seems to me, that can talk to people who have very natural sympathies with peasants trying to bring down 500-mile-an-hour bombing planes with rifles. This political analysis would, I think, recognize the fact that the American state is currently the scourge of the world, as at one time Britain was, at one time Germany was, at one time perhaps Russia was. Is some other nation than America still dedicated to the idea of world power? Again, I realize that to say this is (objectively, as the Marxists say) to give some degree of comfort to the Maoists, for I have not in the very same breath managed to point out the scourge which the Communist governments have been toward the populations on the boundaries I am talking about as anarchists are too subtle for public propaganda even for a conscious political movement. But I am afraid that if they are too subtle then we can't have an anarchist movement.

DAVID WIEBE

Death of a Tramp

THE TRAMP as a romantic species seems to have departed, from England at any rate. The growth of the welfare state has led to the disappearance of the doss-house and the nearness of full employment has seen the elimination of the able-bodied tramp 'seeking work'. Those tramps that remain appear to be (in Gorki's phrase) 'creatures that once were men'—sick, frightened, neurotic, psychotic creatures who, being unable to adjust to the complexities of the welfare state or even partake of the condensed milk of human kindness (and why should they?), shuffle round the town and country eeking out such existence as they can.

Around the tattered fringe of the affluent society in that twilight world before the dark of criminality, insanity, or old age, are the lodging-house dwellers, Lord Rowton's tenants, who have taken their place in the lower depths of respectable poverty, of controlled despair, of measured affluence. In such a place, Bruce House (LCC), Bill Gape (66) was found dead in bed on one Sunday in June.

Bill Gape was a tramp from his fourteenth year to the late nineteenth-thirties. He was widely known as an anarcho-syndicalist and freethought

speaker (mainly open-air) and was known also as the 'Tramps' QC' for after he had given up 'the road' he was ever on hand to advocate the rights of the few tramps that remain. He promised at one time to write for FREEDOM on some conflict about a Salvation Army hostel in Reading but one had the impression that writing for him was not easy. It is therefore with some surprise that one looks through *Half a Million Tramps*, W. A. Gape (Routledge), 1936 (long out of print) and realizes that he could depict life 'on the road' and one realizes how the situation has changed. Bill Gape was no George Orwell, not even a Jack London, and certainly not a Maxim Gorki, but one realizes from whence came that fierce bitterness that was his armour against a world which even now resolves that there shall be two classes, 'the haves' and 'the have-nots'.

For example, in *Half a Million Tramps*, Bill writes, 'I am fully satisfied that so long as the relief of destitution is carried on mainly by charity organisations, so long will we have the tragic sights which are to be seen in any part of the country today. The reason is obvious. Just as a rat-catcher does not kill all the rats he finds, because he knows that

if he did his livelihood would be gone, so most charity committees and organizations do nothing which would eventually do away entirely with the condition of destitution, because if they did the basis upon which they appeal for funds would be gone. Charity frauds and maladministration of public funds can only continue as long as the general public remains ignorant of its social obligation to all men.'

Bill earned our gratitude for not becoming a professional tramp-writer, like W. H. Davies or others that we could name, but obituaries are the occasion when clichés fall thick and fast and we must say that Bill's faults were not of the heart. He, in the famous words 'spent his life on street corners, despised of men', but whether on the road, on the soap-box, or in shoddy lodging-house, Bill was his own man.

J.R.

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said de Vries. But he was not convinced that the provos needed to explain them, or that they had any intellectual responsibility towards them. At the Mahatma Gandhi Hall meeting we argued with de Vries, from a variety of approaches for over an hour on this and other points, to the obvious disgust of the glowing liberals who had seen in the provos a new thrill to inflate their battered egos. By the end we were every bit as confused.

However, it would be entirely useless to dismiss the provos. As M.J.W. made clear in his article in FREEDOM on June 25, the provos are important, if only because they have got through to people that we, in this country, have for the most part entirely ignored. We do not help the provos by dismissing them but we may be able to pass on to them, in a constructive atmosphere, some of the things we have painfully learned about the nature of authority. Just as the provos have a responsibility towards the youth of Holland we, as part of the same mainstream of ideas, have a responsibility towards them. There is, in the long run, perhaps rather more we should be envying about them than criticising.

CHARLES RADCLIFFE.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

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3rd Wednesday of each month at Jack Robinson and Mary Canipa's, 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6 (off King's Road), 8 p.m.
3rd Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald and Irene Room's, 148a Fellows Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

ABERDEEN GROUP. Meets at the Adelphi 2.30 p.m. every Sunday. Correspondence to M. Day, 29 Springhill Crescent, Aberdeen.

ARLESEY GROUP (N. Herts., S. Beds.). Meetings on first Friday of month. Correspondence to Peter and Maureen Ford, 102 Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Beds.

BELFAST. Contact Peter Stringer, 7 Duffy Street, Belfast, 13.

BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Paul Wildish, 2 Cumbrian Avenue, Barnhurst, Kent.

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence: Martin Bragg, 5 The Drive, Hunton Hill, Erdington, Birmingham, 23. Sales and

Committee of 100: Gordon Causer, 27 Upper Gungate, Tamworth, Staffs. Peace Action Centres Project: Paul James, 50 Windermere Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, 21. University of ASTON GROUP. Dave Massey, 2 Station Road, Elsworth, Sandbach, Cheshire.

BRISTOL FEDERATION. Enquiries to Jan Vine, 3 Freeland Place, Hotwells, Bristol, 8.

CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Mike Crowley, 36 Whitaker Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff.

COVENTRY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Richard Vaughan, 19 Sandhurst Grove, Radford, Coventry, Coventry 28146.

DUNDEE GROUP. Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, c/o Doctors' Residence, Stracathro Hospital, by Brechin, Angus.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE. Correspondence to Robert Lynn, 2b Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, C.1.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP TWO. Meets 11 Balliol Street every two weeks. Contact Joe Embleton.

HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Enquiries to Keith Nathan, 12 Shawbridge, Harlow or John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.

ILFORD LIBERTARIANS. Regular meetings and direct action contact 212 Vicarage Road, Leyton, E.10.

LEICESTER ANARCHISTS. Correspondence, Peter Gibbons, 22 Fosse Road Central, West End, Leicester.

LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E.13. 61b Granville Park. Meetings 2nd and 4th Thursdays.

NEW HAM LIBERTARIANS. Contact Nick Shenker, 122 Hampton Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7.

NORTH-WEST ESSEX. Meetings on the first Saturday of each month at 7.30 p.m. at Robert Bartrop's, The Old Vicarage, Radwinter, near Saffron Walden.

NOTTING HILL PROVOS. Meetings for dis-

cussion and action at 4 p.m. each Saturday at the London Free School, 26 Powis Terrace, London, W.11 (off Talbot Road).

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson.

OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact H. G. Mellor, Merton College, Oxford.

PLYMOUTH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Contact J. Hill, 79 Underlane, Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon.

READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Alan Ross, 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

NORTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Regional Secretary: J. Bromley, 44 Doncaster Avenue, Manchester, 20. Buxton: Chris Berrisford, 10 Byron Street, Buxton. Chorley: Alistair Rattray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley. Manchester: Mike Mitchell, 3 Bakewell Road, Droylesden, Manchester. Meetings every Tuesday 8 p.m. Lord Nelson, Chapel Street, Salford.

Merseyside: Barbara Renshaw, 4 Clarence Road, Devonshire Park, Birkenhead. Rochdale: Ian Heywood, 16 Mansfield Road, Bamford, Rochdale. Stoke-on-Trent: Bob Blakeman, 52 Weldon Avenue, Weston Coyney, Stoke-on-Trent.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION

WALTHAM FOREST ANARCHISTS. Contact Lionel Donnelly, 322a Hoe Street, Walthamstow, E.17. Meetings every Thursday at above address.

WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Stephen Higgs, 8 Westbury Road, Forest Gate, E.7.

WEST LONDON FEDERATION

WEST LONDON FEDERATION. Monday, July 11, 8 p.m. 'The Anchor', Ealing Broadway. Discussion meeting.

WANDSWORTH LIBERTARIANS. Correspondence to Christine Hutton, 15 Broughton Street, London, S.W.8.

FULHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact top floor, 31 Ongar Road, S.W.6.

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Contact: Jim Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex. Meetings first and third Wednesday of the month at Jeannie's, 6 Epsom Close, Northolt Park, Middlesex, at 7.30 p.m.

SOUTHALL ANARCHIST GROUP. Get in touch with Roger Sandell, 58 Burns Avenue, Southall, Middlesex.

PROPOSED GROUPS

MARLOW AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. Get in touch with Stella A. Fauser, 33a Spittal Street, Marlow, Bucks.

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE. Get in touch with Eric Harrison, 2 Cottage Aylesmore Farm, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire.

TYNESIDE SYNDICALISTS. Meet every Thursday at 8 p.m. in The Adelaide, Newgate Street, Newcastle, 1.

KEIGHLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Robert Halstead, 27 Woodlands Rise, Haworth, Keighley, Yorks.

ABROAD

AUSTRALIA. Sydney Anarchist Group. Public meetings every Sunday in the Domain at 2 p.m. Group meetings every Monday at 8 p.m. in the Cellar, 72 Oxford St., Sydney.

DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. 52 Mindevej, Soborg-Copenhagen, Denmark.

VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA. Anyone interested in forming anarchist and/or direct action peace group contact Derek A. James, 1844 Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Tel.: 987-2693.

U.S.A. VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE. Discussion/Action Group, anyone? Contact F. R. Jackson, Corinth, Vermont.

ACT FOR PEACE

FOR SOME TIME the London Committee of 100 had planned to assemble in Trafalgar Square and march to the US Embassy in the event of the bombing of Hanoi. However on the day of the bombing there came an unexpected windfall when the early issues of the *Evening Standard* gave details of the Committee's plans in its report on reactions to the raids. It was this that was probably responsible for a large part of the turnout of several hundreds in the Square.

At about 8 p.m. the march set off to the US Embassy. This first stage was enlivened by an outbreak of mutual aid when what was presumably a sympathetic fruiterer appeared and distributed a large box of strawberries to marchers and policemen.

When the march arrived at the Embassy a sparse YCL picket line was already present, allowing itself to be shepherded in single file by the police. This was soon changed by the arrival of the march which occupied the whole of the road for some minutes. However, later the police pushed the marchers back to the pavement and there were about a dozen arrests.

After about 20 minutes the march formed up again and marched down Park Lane towards Parliament. As demonstrators passed the Bunny Club two eggs were thrown from a window. When marchers neared Piccadilly Circus police reinforcements appeared and dispersed the march on the grounds that processions within a mile of Parliament were illegal while the House was in session. Demonstrators then split up to make their way to Parliament individually. However, a large part of the march reassembled in the Haymarket and proceeded along the roadway in defiance of the sessional orders.

Just outside Trafalgar Square more police appeared, some on horseback, and dispersed the march once more. But even so a considerable number of people were undaunted and managed to march most of the way down Whitehall behind the Committee of 100 banner.

Upon arrival at the House the more constitutionally-minded joined in a CND lobby of MPs then in progress. Meanwhile, inside the House there were several interruptions from the public gallery.

The next day the demonstration was mentioned in most of the press. A notable exception was the *Morning Star* which, to emphasise what well-behaved constitutional people the Communists are, did not mention the demo but merely reported the CND lobby and the handing in of a protest by the Communists' own mouthpiece, the *British Peace Committee*.

The same day those arrested appeared in court. Doug Kepper's case was adjourned but, although he had not been found guilty of any offence, he was bound over for three months. Another man, who refused to obey the magistrate and spoke on Vietnam from the dock, was remanded for a mental report!

All in all, the London Committee can take credit for a reasonably successful action. Several hundred people were assembled at a few hours' notice, sessional orders were successfully defied and publicity was secured. Since the London Committee is in financial difficulties, we can all show our solidarity by sending them a donation (13 Goodwin Street, N.4).

However it is a pity we still had the familiar sight of people being pushed around by the police while a few are arrested. Since it seems impossible to gain sufficient numbers for a sit down, surely the most effective policy would be for demonstrators to link arms and stand firm. Some supporters of non-violence may quarrel with this but if it could be carried out intelligently it would at any rate be preferable to shuffling along in front of a row of policemen.

This is, however, a minor point.

There can be no excuse for inactivity now. We must work for demonstrations that fill the streets. We must organise local activities to bring home the war to people in the suburbs and provinces. And we must move towards the development of more radical action.

The War Resisters International and East Anglian CND have issued leaflets directed at American servicemen. The Committee of 100 has demonstrated at Alconbury Base. But, if we are to have a real effect on US morale, we must take things a lot more seriously than staging happenings outside bases. We must stop trading in moral generalisations and make it clear to US soldiers that they are fighting in Vietnam in the interests of the US military-industrial complex. We must prepare to aid deserters. And, since getting out of the US army is not easy, we must point to ways soldiers can disrupt the army by still remaining in it.

In England we must draw attention to the fact that, if the Vietnam crisis intensifies, our rulers have their atomic shelters and plans for martial law prepared. We must keep our eyes open for any new forms of resistance.

The question of libertarian action against the Vietnam war is made more urgent by the YPV demo last Sunday. Not to mince words, this was appalling. The banners of the Communists and Trotskyists with their calls for a Viet-Cong victory and their anti-US slogans, at times bordering on racialism, dominated the proceedings. If libertarians are to take part in Vietnam demos without being identified with these groups they must prepare their own slogan banners.

THE SUBURBS of Hanoi and Haiphong were bombed, the French tested a nuclear bomb in the Pacific, as the *Morning Star* (the erstwhile *Daily Worker*) poetically put it: 'Mr. Wilson's Red Sea strike bubble has burst, leaving behind the bad smell of a dirty red herring', the seamen voted to adjourn their 45-day-old strike for 12 months because of hardships caused to the citizens of the UK, and Mr. Frank Cousins, that well-known nuclear disarmament, resigned from the Ministry of Technology on the issue of the Prices and Incomes Bill. . . .

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE apologised for an insult to General de Gaulle, the Chancellor of the Exchequer apologised for expunging an insult to the farmers from Hansard, the Minister of Labour went on holiday (before the seamen's strike was settled) owing to the great strain. . . .

BRITAIN EITHER IS, or is not selling weapons to America for Vietnam; but she is not sending any men. This policy of every support short of help, was further clarified by a recognition of the urban growth-sprawl of Hanoi. Mr. Heath, Leader of the Opposition pointed out the illogicality of an approval of ends, whilst deploring means. Mr. Duncan Sandys, tipped as Heath's successor spoke on the BBC of Mr. Wilson's 'stab in the back' of US. . . .

PRINCE BERNHARD of the Netherlands presented the Erasmus Prize to Sir Herbert Read in Amsterdam. Prince Bernhard disclosed that some members of the foundation had hesitated whether it was appropriate to award the prize to Sir Herbert since the word 'anarchist' had

been used several times regarding him. The Prince said he was glad the members had thrown their fears overboard because, said the Prince, 'I love your type of anarchist'. He thought the word 'idealist' was more appropriate to Sir Herbert than 'anarchist'. The Amsterdam police chief resigned 'with honour' in connection with other events in Amsterdam. . . .

MOHAMED YUSUF DAAR, the son of an Indian father and a Pakistani mother, has been appointed a police constable in Coventry, Britain's first full-time coloured PC. Crime in the City of London fell 16.9%. Prosecutions for drunkenness in England and Wales declined. A guard dog at a quarry prevented ten people going to the assistance of a quarry worker who was trapped under a car. . . .

THE VATICAN DENIES that it has controlling shares in a Danish holding company which is planning to invest in the production of birth-control pills. However, it has not disclosed details of its investments but the Executive Board of the Papal Commission on Birth Control's views on the pill, etc., are still awaited. . . .

MRS. RENEE SHORT, MP, asked the Minister of Health to direct doctors not to apply conditions before supplying oral contraceptives. She said some doctors were requiring written consent from husbands before supplying oral contraceptives. The Minister of Health said it was not a matter for him. The British Medical Association decided to accept phased pay increases and withdraw the 18,000 resignations they hold. . . .

THE BMA PUBLISHED a booklet stating

OUT OF THIS WORLD

'Belated Triumph of the Jus Quaesitum Tertio'

-The Time

that suicidal depression is mainly a problem of the big city. 'Life amid a teeming multitude of total strangers can be terrifying for the solitary, friendless newcomer.' Every year about 5,000 people in England and Wales commit suicide. There are five suicides for every six road accident deaths. Suicide rates are higher in the 'bed-sitter' areas. They are lower in areas where people live in family homes and in working-class boroughs where there is a tradition of being friends and neighbours. The situation calls for more friendliness toward 'that funny old woman, so lonely that she loiters for crumbs of conversation at the grocers; that swarthy foreign student pining in uncongenial digs; any-one lonely, sick or old'. . . .

A 56-YEAR-OLD rent collector was charged with making false entries in his rent accounts. It was stated that he paid, out of his own pocket, the rent of families who fell behind and when his own money ran out he made false entries. He was given a conditional discharge and his council employees had found him work in another department. He said on discharge, 'When you see a house with young children who are hungry and the parents are balancing the rent against food, you want to help out'. . . .

MR. MATSUDA, a Japanese private citizen, a manufacturer of body-building equipment, took four pages in *The Times* at a cost of £5,400 to put forward his ideas for peace in Vietnam. . . .

BILLY GRAHAM FINISHED his crusade in London and Hugh Hefner and the Bunnies started theirs. JON QUIXOTE.

Oops—sorry!

Dear Comrades,

Whilst thoroughly approving of Jack Stevenson's front-page article, 'Our Lord has had His Day', I feel I must write to correct its reference to Lord Willis as 'one of the less fanatical Christians'—just in case Lord Willis does not see FREEDOM himself. Far from being a Christian, however unfanatical, Lord Willis is a professed Humanist/Atheist, and an active member of several Humanist organisations.

London, S.E.23 BARBARA SMOKER.

Paper Kites

Dear Editors,

Your correspondent B. McGrath, who claims to be an 'anarchist' as well as a 'Chinese-liner', should learn that if he wants to fool the anarchists with paper kites, they should not be made out of loose leaves from Mao Tse Tung's *Collected Speeches*, vol. 109.

It is true that the Spanish Anarchists were fighting alongside the Communist Party, but they bitterly regretted it when the latter, on instructions from Moscow, sabotaged and betrayed the working-class revolution, murdering the anarchist militants, and playing into the hands of Franco. McGrath says that 'if we ourselves were in Vietnam, and this is the yardstick', we would be aiding the NLF—and by the same token, presumably, in Great Britain in 1939 we should have been supporting the Chamberlain Government (sorry, it was still an imperialist war then; I mean, in 1941 we should have been supporting the Churchill Government). The story that you have to make common cause with any oppression providing it is fighting another oppression, and providing you happen to be living under the first, is as old as patriotism. It returns afresh in new dress constantly, but I fear answering it once more with familiar anarchist arguments will be just in one ear and out the other so far as the McGraths of this world are concerned.

He refers to the 'Coca-Cola dictatorship'; by this yardstick, apparently, Hitler's was a 'Sauerkraut dictatorship' and Mao's is a 'Chop-suey dictatorship'. Is it possible that McGrath is moved more by national hatred of the Americans than by anti-imperialism?—a not uncommon phenomenon on the phoney left. Chinese-line communism offers, he says, 'a stable dedicated period of, say, 100 years'. This is so familiar a totalitarian argument (Hitler's *tausendjähriges Reich*; Franco's *cien años de seguridad*) that it needs not be answered. True, the anarchist movement is not so vocal in China as it is in the countries where 'Caucasian anarchists' (his expression!) live, only because it is illegal and subject to severe penalties. But it still lives, and is not waiting for a century to pass. Of course the 'Chinese-liners' would be 'happier to see the anarchist banners with Ralph Schoenman and the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign' than 'baying at the

LETTERS & Controversy

leadership'; especially if they were baying slogans like 'Release the Chinese political prisoners'.

Peddle your Chinese line around the Trots, friend McGrath, the anarchists require at least freedom from capital punishment for professing their ideas before they will accept you even as a lesser evil; the Trots ('Defend the Soviet Union', etc.) are much more easy going in this respect!

London, W.C.1 INTERNATIONALIST.

Smoke-screen for Socialism

With reference to Ian Sutherland's comments—FREEDOM (14.5.66).

Is this the final attribute of the socialist movement—smoke? The behaviour of the so-called Left element in Glasgow on May Day '66 was, to say the least, a disgraceful and shameful negation of everything that socialism is supposed to stand for. If the Left elements don't agree with the Labour Party, the best thing to do is to ignore them completely and thoroughly. What kind of shining light would a phoney Labourite be without an audience? By these shameful and irresponsible actions the alleged left wing are doing untold damage to the socialist movement—by giving the press unlimited scope to show up the Left as emotional juvenile delinquents—by confusing the public as to what socialism is all about—by attracting thugs into the movement—and by misleading youth into a negative approach by bad example.

Throwing smoke bombs at public meetings is not socialism. Chanting stupid slogans is not socialism. Preventing free speech is not socialism. Turning out once a year to make an ass of one's self is not socialism.

The United Socialist Movement ignored the 'official' May Day demonstration and held an independent demonstration and open-air meeting. We went to great lengths to advertise this, with posters, by word of mouth and touring Glasgow with a loudspeaker mounted on a van. We appealed to the alleged Left wing for assistance—for help to distribute thousands of handbills specially prepared for May Day—for speakers—for help to sell the *Word Quarterly*, which we worked on all night to get ready for May Day. One of our main speakers, Comrade Ianiello, had not been in bed for two days, working constantly in preparation for May Day. Comrade

Caldwell, editor of the *Word Quarterly*, worked into the early hours of the morning, to get the magazine ready for May Day, every day for a week previous. Needless to say, our cries for help fell on deaf ears. The phantom socialists of Glasgow are never to be found when something constructive is to be done.

The United Socialist Movement does not meet the public once a year, at Easter or thereabout, we are in the streets of Glasgow every week. We are trying to take socialism back to where it really belongs—away from the intellectuals, the bearded beatniks and the university types to the working people. We need help and assistance—we need ideas—we need speakers and, unfortunately, we need money.

No, no, Ian Sutherland, all the smoke, all the noise and all the sloganising at Queens Park in Glasgow last May Day did not contribute one iota to the advance of the socialist cause. Don't play the political game—leave politics to the prostitutes and careerists—join us and the people in the real struggle. The struggle to establish a just society.

Yours fraternally,
Glasgow, C.5 BEN MULLIN,
17.6.66 United Socialist Movement.

KEEP IT UP!

WEEKS 25 and 26, JULY 2, 1966
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TOTAL: £148 18 8
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1966 Total to Date: £622 17 2

*Denotes regular contributors.
Gift of Books—London, S.E.2: G.H.; London, W.4: R.W.

TRANSPORT

Continued from page 4

rebuilding of the schools and hospitals, demolishing the slums, raising wages all round, etc., etc. Vast as are the sums wasted on arms, they are a drop in the ocean compared with the money needed for all the useful alternative uses of the money that have been proposed. But anyway, the government (OBVIOUSLY) has no intention of giving up arms or abolishing capitalism or introducing workers' control or anything of the sort. So what happens in the meantime? Why, in the meantime, should we oppose such slight improvements as are possible in the transport service? Yours truly wants an at least slightly better bus service today as well as a superb service in some theoretical future. Does P.T. think we will have to wait for the free society before we get a better transport service? If not what are his ideas for improving it immediately and avoiding the snags I have mentioned?

PUBLIC TRANSPORT USER.
Eds. A reply from P.T. next issue.

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S.c.r.a.m.

Dear Comrade,

I would like, through your columns, to inform fellow anarchists throughout the U.K. of a demonstration in Scotland on September 24/25 organised by the Scottish Campaign for Resistance Against Militarism (SCRAM).

We have contacted and hope to have support from all the major peace movements in Britain. We are going to make this a really forceful demonstration at the Faslane Polaris Base, the Missile Store at Coulport, and the Weapons and Bomb Store at Glen Douglas.

Would any groups or individuals who require further details about the demonstration or SCRAM please contact our field organiser Bob Johnstone, c/o 13 Goodwin St., London, N.4 or myself.

Yours fraternally,

Glasgow JIM LIVINGSTONE (JNR.),
28.6.66 Organiser.

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Seamen's Strike Post-Mortem

THE SEAMEN HAVE a year in which to strengthen rank and file liaison, this lack of firm contact forced them to accept the compromise.

Rank and file contact between all workers is vital, but seamen are particularly vulnerable to lack of same, because they can only rely on a percentage of their membership being actually involved in the struggle due to long voyages away from home.

It has been rank and file seamen who have forced the struggle every inch of the way, remembering the important fact that the negotiating committee was prepared to accept the original offer made by the shipping employers.

Contact Column

Tanya Howell. Please contact Peter Neville without delay as MAY have job in country for you. If in contact with Tanya anyone pass message on please urgently.

Accommodation Wanted. Urgently. Poet seeks poet-cheap room in West London. Otherwise responsible person. Box 33.

Polish Protest. UL & S Defence Committee. Demonstration, Orbis, Regent Street, London, W.1. Saturday, July 9 commencing 10.30 a.m.

'Solidarity'. Weekend conference in Birmingham at Digbeth Civic Hall on the ideas and activities of the Solidarity group. Saturday, July 9, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 10, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Further details from Gordon Causar, 27 Upper Gungate, Tamworth, Staffs.

Progressives Unite! All persons genuinely concerned in doing something practical towards communal living, co-operative business ventures, mutual aid or sexual emancipation. Please contact: Emmanuel and Mary Petrakis, 45 Plimsoll Road, London, N.4.

Heatwave. The English successor to *The Rebel Worker* 6. First issue contains 40 pp. of articles on drug addiction, the provos, and the international youth revolt. Now available 2/- post free, from Charles Radcliffe, 13 Redcliffe Road, London, S.W.10 or from Freedom Press.

Centenary Lectures NSS. Friday, July 8. Freethought and Liberty. Martin Ennals, etc. 7.30 p.m. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1. July 22. Freethought and Social Work. Peter Fryer and Kerstine Richards.

Fallex. Fallex and other Official Secrets sent under plain cover. Sample obtainable, 9d. (including postage) from Ipswich Anarchists, 68 Christchurch Street, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Manchester Poetry. Northern rendezvous for Poetry, Folk and 'happenings'. Thursdays 8 p.m. Packhorse Hotel, Bridge Street, off Deansgate, Manchester, 2/-.

Stickers. POLICE BRUTALITY IS FACT, JUSTICE IS FICTION, ANARCHY IS FREEDOM. 25/- per 1,000. Contact Box 31.

Summer School. Committee of 100—July 23/30 on 'The Scope of Libertarianism' at Aylesmore Farm, Warwick. Cost £3. Register by 10/- deposit to 13 Goodwin Street, London, N.4.

Hospitality wanted. Sixteen-year-old comrade (male) from Paris would like to stay with family during summer vacation. Write Box 29.

Accommodation Offered. To responsible person in return for taking child to school some days and a (very) little housework. Write 15 Pennine Mansions, Pennine Drive, Golders Green, N.W.11 or phone MEA 1872.

Accommodation. Flat or rooms required in London area (preferably unfurnished) by teacher and wife. For one-year period from September. P. and M. Ford, 102 Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Beds.

Wanted. Support for London market project. Cash and/or loan of van. Box 34.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

All through the piece, the NUS leadership had their backs pushed hard against the wall, and were consistently searching for the slightest pretext to call off the dispute. But they feared *unofficial rank and file action* far more than the combined forces of the Government and the employers.

What of the support the seamen did receive? This was mostly financial, but even more they needed active support. The T & G, in a blaze of glory, did no work other than their own, but the build up of ships in the ports did not prove to be an embarrassment to the Government, and in turn the anticipated numbers of dockers were not laid off. So much for the plan of Mr. Dash that dockers would receive 'fall back' pay whilst helping the seamen. To be perfectly frank, the seamen were out-manoeuvred by the shipping employers at every stage of the game.

The 'old lady' at Congress House had no intention of helping the seamen; it would have been bad enough if they had stood by on the sidelines, but in fact they were responsible in forcing the seamen to accept the compromise, the thought of spreading the strike brought the smell of '26 and they trembled in their boots.

One point that did stand out was the amount of foreign unions who are under the yoke of non-strike legislation, it looks as if the British

unions are one of the last to hold out.

What now? The Government were forced to 'take the seamen on' if they wanted to continue to play the role of the 'Government that will rule irrespective'. On Monday the anti-strike legislation bill will be published, and somehow, I don't think they will hang about too long before pushing it through Parliament, probably the beginning of the next session.

The only fact that seems to be in doubt is whether defaulting workers should be sent to prison if they fail to pay the fine, or have the money deducted from their wage packets by the employers. Frank Cousins is opposed to both and has resigned.

We can now expect the Government to take a tough line all round; they have intervened in both the railway and seamen's disputes, and will not hesitate to intervene anywhere else in the future.

What we must do as workers is strengthen and spread rank and file organisation, on an industrial basis. To hell with the CP and their parliamentary politics; to hell with the fifty shades of Trotskyism; they are the 'kiss of death' to industrial militancy, and freedom of action. They all promise the road to Utopia, but the price they demand is a ring through the nose for ever more.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

TRANSPORT IN LONDON

UNDOUBTEDLY the Prices and Incomes Board is a body that is not in the public interest but in the interests of the state and capitalism.

However, it would be a mistake to regard every minor recommendation of the Board as not in the general interest, as P.T. does in his piece on the busmen (11.6.66). P.T. is of course right in saying, as the Phelps Brown Report recommended, that busmen should be paid a wage comparable with that of other industries. But he is wrong in attacking the PIB recommendations concerning the more efficient use of present man-power on the buses—recommendations regarding meal times, bus speeds, part-time workers for the rush hours, an extension of the hours during which standing is allowed and an increase in the number of one-man operated buses, including all Green Line routes. P.T. describes these recommendations as 'being made with the end of making the industry, as a whole, a profitable one but only at the expense of the busmen and the travelling public'. Now P.T. is right in saying that the recommendations are only a substitute for a substantial wage rise. But surely what is wanted is both a wage rise AND increased efficiency not just a wage rise alone. It is unfortunate that only proposals regarding efficiency are being put forward at the moment but I fail to see how the proposals in themselves are to the disadvantage of either the busmen or the public. The proposals are advantageous, in my opinion, for the following reasons:—

Part-time workers at rush hours would undoubtedly reduce the busmen's biggest bugbear—having to work two shifts a day—at the morning and evening rush hours. Unless part-time workers are used (although where they will come from is a mystery to me), the only other answer is for firms to stagger working hours, thus spreading the rush hour over the whole of the day. But this is an idea that both employers and employees in the London area are against for obvious reasons. I think P.T. will see that even if every vacant job on the buses was filled twice over, there would still be, so long as rush hours last, either double shifts or else grossly uneconomic working during non-peak periods.

Increased speeds (not presumably dangerous speeds) and an extension of the hours when standing is allowed seem to me to be in the general interest of bus passengers and hardly make the busmen's job harder.

The use of more one-man operated buses also seems a sensible idea. They are already used by London Transport on quieter routes and are widely used elsewhere in the country. The drivers concerned receive slightly higher pay for the job, doubtless not high enough, but I fail to see what the objection to the idea is on principle.

It also seems to me that the main reason for the poor public transport service is the vast number of cars which congest the roads and also keep the buses nearly empty for long periods of the day. For instance, route 98b, that served an outlying area of Harrow, was recently withdrawn by London Transport as being grossly uneconomic. A body of local people in the area then asked a private enterprise company to run the route and they agreed to do so even if the profit was small. This new service received wide publicity and the good wishes of many local bodies. But what happened? Even though the new service was a guaranteed one with no buses cut out or turned short, the route still ran with only two or three passengers so it was dropped. Would, I wonder, a bus system run on workers' control continue to operate for just a handful of people? The answer is NO. Some way will have to be found to encourage people to leave their cars and return to the buses. Better services alone won't do it nor even reduced fares nor even FREE buses, in my opinion, because cars are status and sexual symbols and no one is going to give that up for a few shillings a week. The only way I know to get people to return to the buses is state legislation which anarchists can't support for obvious reasons and which would be a suicidal measure for whichever government introduced it. Consequently they won't.

Similarly, any substantial wage rise not covered by a fare rise (a short-sighted and self-defeating idea in itself) would still have to be passed on to the public in one shape or form. This would mean that car owners would have to pay a proportion of the bus costs as well as their private car costs. Such an idea would again be political dynamite and hence is not likely to be recommended. It has also been argued that the money wasted on H-bombs, 'East of Suez', etc., could be used to substantially raise busmen's wages and hence improve things for the passengers too. But the money wasted on arms, etc., has already been earmarked (in the radical press) for the

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Freedom For Workers' Control

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A Threat to Shop Stewards

THE ENV ENGINEERING factory in Willesden is well-known in the area for the good wages and conditions that workers enjoy there. This has been achieved steadily over a considerable period by the rank-and-file union members at the factory. They have elected shop stewards who represent both the production workers and the supervisory staff. The ENV Shop Stewards' Committee has done a tremendous job and has achieved conditions of a very high standard by a militant policy.

Now all this is under attack. For some months now the shop stewards' committee has felt that the management was after a showdown and was trying to provoke strike action. Up until now this has been avoided and any action taken has usually been by banning overtime, which is the case at present. The latest move on the part of the management is the refusal to negotiate with the shop stewards 'until normal working conditions are resumed'. In the view of the management this means overtime and the executive members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union are in agreement with this. The management have also approached the executive councils of the unions represented at the factory and they have now both agreed to a 'joint composite conference' which the shop stewards will attend.

What all this amounts to is that the ENV shop stewards, because they have pursued a militant policy, are now liable to disciplinary action from their unions' executives. But there is more in it than just an industrial aspect. There are also

political implications for the ENV Shop Stewards' Committee is one of the sponsors of the campaign against the Government's incomes policy and the proposed legislation to enforce it. The same committee also organised the conference from which was formed the London Industrial Shop Stewards' Defence Committee. This is also campaigning against the Government's incomes plans.

This attack on the shop stewards will be a joint union-management one, for both ENV and the AEU support the Government's policy. In fact Sir William Carron, the President of the AEU, is an ardent believer in it and has launched his own crusade against any organisation or persons who oppose it.

There is a strong possibility that some union executives, especially that of the AEU, will withdraw the stewards' credentials. This has been the pattern in the building industry in the case of militant policy on the part of a shop stewards' committee. This could happen at ENV's and the union executives could negotiate new agreements with the management which could do tremendous harm to the unity that exists at present.

The facts, and the implications, of the attack should be made as widely known as possible. An attack of this nature must be defeated and it is essential that other shop stewards' committees and rank-and-file industrial organisations pledge their active support. If ENV and Carron succeed, who will be next?

P.T.

MURDER IN PARLIAMENT

AFTER MANY GALLANT attempts to influence the most affluent, powerful group of people in this hallowed isle the workers yet once more resumed their weary trudge to the Houses of Parliament.

They gathered, from all over London and outside, at the Barbican site on a Wednesday afternoon — June 22, the banners of the trade union branches and the shop stewards' committees gaily led by the striking seamen. They marched, five abreast, along the streets of the City of London, through the meat market of Smithfield, past the empires of the paper barons on to the Embankment. Here they were disarmed of the banners, in case such slogans as National Union of Seamen, Amalgamated Society of Boiler-makers and Ship Building Engineers and the like should prove to be a danger to the existence of established law and order in the Kingdom.

Bannerless, the 3,500 marchers streamed towards the hub of the dying empire, trapped in a Gothic nightmare like a prison which confounds the imagination. A few innocuous scuffles broke out with a uniformed band who appeared to have no shops stewards or any sense of self-discipline. Even when the disagreement had ceased, these people insisted on occupying a part of the pavement intended for the use of pedestrians and people attending to their business. They were they said, 'Invested with authority'. None of them could produce one so I did not discover what it looked like. (Unless their meaningful glance at their boots was intended to convey something.)

The working men who had forfeited a day's pay in order to request, democratically, their Members to change their minds waited in a long queue around the Gothic horror like bewildered relatives on visiting day. They came, they saw, and they went away, unsatisfied from the greatest whorehouse in Europe. They

gathered later in the Denison Hall in Victoria to squabble among themselves about what to do about IT next.

The political factions of the Left excelled themselves in bad behaviour to each other. The hall was packed and the working men who had lost faith in talk many years ago adjourned to the pubs for a more sensible recreation while the vanguard of the revolution struggled with words and very nearly with deeds to assume the leading role in outdoing each other in verbal ferocity. The Left outflanked the Left and the converted disagreed over the true testament of Marx and others in the present situation.

It seems that when the Left gets downwind of the farts of power (even from Mr. Heffer's militant arse) they become giddy with euphoria and like all drunks fall out when they haven't the money to pay for the next round between them. So there you have it; the choice made to the workers of this country was simple in the Denison Hall. The communists asked for a nation-wide campaign of anti-trade-union-legislation lobbies and the SLL demanded a one-day general strike on July 20 (presumably you can do both if you fancy it). But at 9 p.m. they went away to face the fact that not one worker had come out in support, but they left the Vauxhall Bridge Road buoyed up with righteousness, and ill-will towards their enemies.

Blessed are the lumpen proletariat who shall inherit the earth. SPARKS.

The annual International Libertarian Summer Camp will be this year in St. Mitre les Rempart in the region of Marseilles, France. All persons interested should write to: International Camping, Campagne du Pere Icard, St. Mitre les Remparts, 13-B d R-France. The Camp will open this year on July 18 and go on until August 31.