

OPPOSE FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS!

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has officially announced its impending series of nuclear weapon tests in the Pacific. *The Times* of May 18 contains the following statement:

FRANCE WARNS SHIPPING OF NUCLEAR TESTS

France has formally given notice to shipping and aircraft of her intention of carrying out nuclear tests on Mururoa, an island 750 miles southeast of Tahiti. No date is given for the tests, generally expected in the next month or two, but a specific warning is to be given a few days before they are due to be carried out, for the moment France has simply defined the danger area. This consists essentially of a circle around Mururoa and an arc stretching out to the east from the island. The circle is given as having a radius of 120 sea miles for ships and 200 sea miles for aircraft but the arc is the same for both shipping and aircraft with an angle of 52 degrees and a radius of 400 sea miles.

THE DANGER FROM FALL-OUT

The French Government has tried to quell opposition by assurances that the scientists in control of the tests will time them to synchronise with weather conditions that will ensure that fall-out will fall in uninhabited parts of the Pacific. Australian and New Zealand journalists were shown a computer in Mururoa which can forecast wind direction.

PICKETING

9.30 am—12.30 pm

JUNE 18

FRENCH TOURIST OFFICE

But such assurances carry little weight with scientists and people who remember similar assurances by the American Government before the H-bomb test which preceded the incident of the 'Lucky Dragon' when a number of Japanese fishermen supposed to be well clear of the danger area were smothered in clouds of radioactive dust. Computers have been improved in the last decade, but the most perfect computer cannot predict without accurate data, and accurate data on meteorology is not yet possible to obtain.

In any case, the fall-out immediately following the explosion is only of the heavier particles, others take weeks to come down and will be dispersed all over the world, quite apart from the radioactive material carried in the sea which will be taken long distances by currents and will poison fish vast distances from the site of the explosion.

The 'global' fall-out from a nuclear

ANARCHY 63

(DELAYED BY CENSORSHIP)

IS ABOUT
VOLUNTARY
SERVITUDE

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Double Cross in Vietnam

CONFUSION REIGNS in South Vietnam whilst three vultures circle over the body of this war torn country.

Ky, the S. Vietnam premier, and his Catholic supporters on the one hand, the Americans and the Buddhists on the other, all attempting to gain or regain the reins of power.

The Americans are doing their utmost not to get involved in the civil war within the civil war, but it is only their presence which keeps Ky in office.

It was only a matter of weeks ago when the Buddhists in Hué and Da Nang forced Ky to accept the idea of elections. Obviously Ky had other plans in mind when he acceded to the demands, and last Saturday, 14.5.66, he exposed his hand. By flying troops into Da Nang he hoped to crush the rebellion once and for all, thus avoiding the holding of elections. According to reports, even the Americans had no prior knowledge of this double-cross. Deliberate stabbing in the back is permissible during war provided you don't get caught for all to see. On this occasion it is the Americans who have been exposed, their puppet leader agreeing to elections in front of the world and at the same time attempting a double-cross.

The Americans now have four

choices—get to hell out of the place, take sole charge, find another puppet, or continue to back Ky. None of these choices is easy, the dropping of Ky would probably be the most expedient. Taking sole charge or backing Ky would have them fighting the very people they have come to protect.

Withdrawing support from Ky means a lot of backstage work, a potential leader must have certain qualifications, support of the Catholics and Buddhists and a declared intention to continue the fight against the Viet Cong. If such a leader could meet the demands of the Buddhists in terms of a *type of civilian government* then the war could go on. After all it is an ideal training ground for troops and the experimenting of new weapons.

The nut-cases in the American Government are prepared to dive in head first. Senator John Stennis, head of the Senate Preparedness Committee, stated 'it may be necessary to take other steps to sharpen the war to save American lives. It will also require an *end to the political and policy restrictions that have prevented us from waging war with maximum military effectiveness* (my italics). We must strike both the source of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese supplies.' How long

Johnson can hold out against this type of pressure is anybody's guess, his policy will be coloured by the forthcoming elections in the States.

Mr. Jacob Javits, Republican Senator from New York, has put forward a programme for elections in South Vietnam which accepts the fact that communists and neutralists could be elected. Isn't this where we came in? Wasn't this one of the original proposals of the Geneva Agreement?

A very interesting report appeared in P.N. 20.5.66 by Bill Wingell on the May Day demonstrations in Saigon, which demanded an end to the war in Vietnam. The Vietnam Labour Federation sponsored the march and their President, Le Van Thot, read a letter in English addressed to American workers noting that the weapons which were destroying Vietnam '... are made by your hands, our own friends' hands'. Thot and other leaders have been arrested.

The important point is that industrial workers and peasants have become vocal in their opposition to the war. It is also reported that a number of unions were preparing to strike if the Ky regime returned no answer to their demands.

Industrial workers in America could stop the war in Vietnam tomorrow. Le Van Thot made the point, 'Whether the war ended soon or late would depend to a great extent on your (the American workers) support and struggle'. Appealing to politicians won't help — 'direct action' will.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

MANY YEARS AGO

the Communist Party cornered the market on the Annual Union Square May Day Rally. For a while this year there were dangerous intimations of co-existence: it appeared that a full spectrum of the left might be permitted to participate. However the preliminary arrangements rapidly degenerated into the usual machinations and the Communist monopoly was preserved. The rally was scheduled for Saturday, April 30, and its announced leitmotif was International Solidarity for Peace and Freedom. In that the New York Workshop in Non-violence agrees wholeheartedly with these concepts, it was felt that this might well be an appropriate occasion for a Poetry Reading at the Soviet Mission to the United Nations to protest the imprisonment of Andrei Sinyavski and Yuli Daniel. Hence WIN planned to convene after the rally, walk some 50 blocks from Union Square to the Mission, and tell them where it's at.

My own May Day Rally began rather inauspiciously with a cab driver who had never heard of Union Square. A Cuban refugee, he had spent a number of years in the US Army. Well in advance of the Bay of Pigs he had been subjected to 'six months special training to fight Castro', but missed out on the fiasco because regular army units weren't used.

At Union Square the atmosphere seemed rather festive. In the interests of peace Paul Robeson's voice was booming, 'Glory, Glory, Hallelujah', over the PA system, with a martial music accompaniment straight out of John Philip Sousa. People were scurrying hither and yon purveying leaflets, publications, flowers, and badges (Lynd not Lyndon was a great favourite). One twelve-year-old functionary was handing out cards containing 'a cordial invitation to visit and browse' at the Jefferson Book Shop. 'Ten per cent discount on all purchases \$2 and over with this card only!' A blind man in his late twenties was giving out a somewhat un-nuanced leaflet headed, 'LB Hitler & Co. (puppets of free world capitalism) vs. All the People of Vietnam'. On all sides could be heard the intriguing non sequitur, 'Peace, Jobs, and Freedom—Read *The Worker*.' A young lady from the Progressive Labor Movement, a misnomer in triplicate, was being accosted by a newsman thrusting a microphone into her face. 'Tell me who you are and what you represent!' She got off to a decisive start, 'Well, I don't want to give my name...'

Across 16th Street was a phenomenon which the *New York Times* later described as 'small groups of rightist extremists'. The smaller contingent, about ten in number, comprised the

May Day in Union Square

National Renaissance Party—another triple misnomer. These worthies were marching in full uniform: gray shirts, black armbands cum lightning bolt, Sam Browne belts, black breeches, and jack-boots. Lest someone misinterpret their position they were chanting, 'Back to the Ghetto! Back to the Ghetto!', and carrying signs which averred, 'Democracy Breeds Communism'; 'Equality Is Communism'; and 'Do Away With: Zionism, Communism, Democracy, Crime'. [Note the order.] The main phalanx of rightists had closed ranks behind such subtleties as, 'Smash Communism'; 'Victory Over the Red Beast'; 'Bomb Hanoi'; 'Stop Red Fascism'; 'Heave Ho—Drop It'; and that star of a thousand counter-demonstrations, 'Better Dead Than Red'. One gentleman, evidently representing a faction of Procter and Gamble deviationists, had a big sign reading, 'Take A Bath'.

The May Day Rally got under way officially with the singing of 'America the Beautiful'. Apparently it wasn't a put-on because they repeated it. Meanwhile across the street 'small groups of rightist extremists' boomed like crazy. In situations like this, one is entitled to a certain amount of perplexity. The first speaker began, whereupon some tear gas was either thrown or planted among the spectators. Was the NRP trying to tell us something?

For the most part the speakers seemed to be a procession of Communist Party hacks, which is probably better than being a Democratic or Republican Party hack, but a hack is a hack is a hack even if he pins a little red ribbon on his lapel on April 30 for May Day. I was grateful to one gentleman for speaking in Spanish, a language with which I am totally unfamiliar; also the Bread and Puppet Theatre offered a diversion.

One of the genuine speakers, Tom Cornell, offered a curious item: Camillo Torres, a priest who had joined the guerrilla forces in Columbia, once

announced that, 'Any Catholic not supporting the aims of the revolutionists is living in a state of mortal sin'. This is the sort of thing which iconoclasts might find iconoclastic. Although fully cognizant of the CP chicanery before the rally, and not at all happy about it, Cornell did an excellent job. On the other hand another of the honest speakers, Staughton Lynd, didn't know anything at all of the preliminary manoeuvring. Later when he was informed he commented that he wished he had known of it beforehand. His speech acknowledged that the Haymarket Martyrs were anarchists, whereas the official demonstration leaflet described them as 'the leaders of the general strike'. Shades of Orwell.

Meanwhile several of us were giving out leaflets inviting people to attend the Poetry Protest at the Soviet Mission. Ours was far and away the most unpopular leaflet in the Square as the crumpled copies scattered all over the area could attest. I picked up one copy from the ground and gave it back to the functionary who had just discarded it. 'Sir, you dropped this', I offered cheerfully. He scowled silently. 'But littering is against the law,' I continued brightly. 'Certainly you don't favour civil disobedience.' He stormed away fuming. 'This is just what we need.' Another devotee of peace and freedom was all but frothing at the mouth as he informed us that, 'All those poets should be shot. They should be shot.'

Two of us decided that the reception might not be appreciably worse across the street so we approached the main group of ultra-rightists. I hailed one heavy-set fellow who has counter-picketed me so much I felt we were old friends. He didn't hear me but another man came over so we gave him some leaflets and explained that we would be protesting at the Soviet Mission afterwards. At first he was suspicious, but as the text got through to him, he began announcing, 'This is valid! This is valid,' and gave them out to his comrades. Then he turned back to us with a dramatic, 'We'll be there.' By this time my old heavy-set friend had noticed us and had gloweringly accepted some leaflets which he too was passing around.

Never one to rest on his laurels my companion had already launched into a pitch for anarchism. (During the course of that afternoon I saw him try to convert three Nazis, one Zionist, two cops, and possibly six or seven Stalinists. It's one thing to be optimistic, but this is ridiculous!!!) Thereupon another rightist began screaming apoplectically for the police to get us out of there. As we were being moved away we were followed by a Jewish rightist who was

Continued on page 3

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THE RECOVERY from depression became apparent in 1936. Unemployment dropped to 1 1/2 million, and the following year to under 1 1/4 million. Terrible as these figures are, they represented a return to somewhere near normality. Moreover, because of increasing trade activity and a boom in building, the earnings of employed workers rose.

Unemployment focused now on the 'distressed areas'—South Wales, the mining and shipbuilding north, Scotland. In these parts, there was no cyclic recovery: the out-of-work figures remained at more than half, in some places three-quarters of the population. There were other regions where there was work, but at pay incompatible with subsistence. Farm workers, for instance, lived on 30 shillings a week or less.

But for the workers in large towns, the industrial operatives and tradesmen and clerks, stability had returned. If it was only the stability of bread-and-marge and quiet desperation, it was enough. And what D. H. Lawrence called 'the new money pleasures' began seeping (meretriciously, second-handedly: but they weren't using value-judgements) to the working class. The radio; new diversions like speedways and ice-hockey; cheap furniture and 50-shilling suits, with hire-purchase becoming respectable; even family motor-cars.

It was against this background that the great eruptions of the late 'thirties took place—Spain, Munich, and the declaration of war. Munich had altered now, resentments died as they do. Feelings towards the Spanish Civil War

DAVID SYLVESTER, Pope of the London art scene, publicly declared his horror and sense of emotional bewilderment when, in 1947, he was first shown the paintings of the French artist Jean Dubuffet. He wrote that Dubuffet's paintings must surely be the work of a mad amateur or a cynical try-on directed at the art snobs and he described these canvases as the work of a man asking two hundred guineas for flinging a chamber-pot in the public's face. Fighting words from the Church Militant (courtesy of the Sunday Times) but now Sylvester has capitulated and is bending the knee with the rest of the faithful.

I have no quarrel with this, for Sylvester as a critic is a sincere and honest journeyman, but I must object when Sylvester describes his reactions to Dubuffet's work as the standard reaction. It was in these columns that Dubuffet's work was praised when it was shown in the London galleries and it was praised for the very reason that most of the critics of the day condemned it, in that it was work of brilliant craftsmanship that rejected the bright Mediterranean, American west coast play of bright colours, and it was condemned, in these columns, because it offered the bon ton a sterilised and private window onto the public sewer.

The lesson is there, and these literary critics of the visual arts will not learn it, and that is that in the final analysis only the work of the supreme craftsman can survive and all else is but the ephemeral distraction of a pleasing passing moment. Dubuffet's talent as a painter lies in his ability to create surface textures and his failure as an artist lies in his inability to utilise his limited talent. Judge him alongside the work of 16th century men such as Sassoferrato and examine the delineation of the Madonna's shawl or de Bray's handling of the collar in his *Portrait of a Lady Resting*. Patcher's golden scored background for his *Virgin and Child*, or Crivelli's *Demidoff Altarpiece*, wherein the embossed background and foreground, walls and robes turn each individual figure into a creature of secondary importance yet unites them all in this

MY NINETEEN-THIRTIES - 3

were mixed. Without doubt, there was widespread sympathy for the Spanish government. The insurrection was (so the feeling ran) an attack on the régime the people had wanted; and Franco's allies were themselves figures of dictatorship and oppression.

But the pitch was queered for proper perception of what was happening in Spain by the Communists' seeing it as their own crusade. On one hand it emerged with overtones of boy-scout adventure—the blockade-running, the splendid young Leftist men going and dying, the palpable makings of *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and its film-script. On the other, a bargaining counter between military powers from outside Spain. And between the two, it was not perceived that the only thing which mattered had been the first casualty.

The fear of war dominated the last years of the 1930's. Its most specific form was the fear of bombs and poison gas: newspapers had shown pictures of the effects of bombing in Spain, the Italians had used mustard gas in Abyssinia. In 1938 everyone was fitted and issued with a gas mask. A recurrent rumour, sometimes written up in nebulous terms in the Sunday papers, was of a 'death ray'. In its various versions it was a kind of miles-long searchlight that could destroy populations

and raze cities in its sweep, spread germs, or realize any of a dozen horrors.

There was no enthusiasm or by-jingo-if-we-do in these anticipations. One hot night in the summer of 1939, perhaps a month before the war began, I went to an East London cinema to see *All Quiet on the Western Front*. When the scene came where the soldiers sit talking about war and one says to put all the rulers in a field and let them fight it out, the cinema was filled with cheering and applause. Nor was there a great change of mood when the war started. Most people's feeling was of having been led into it by governments which were either cynical or incompetent. The passion and purposefulness had to be whipped-up by the Churchill government.

The 1930's resumed, briefly, in 1945. The landslide election of the Labour government was their climax, the expression of a conviction that the old gangs, old tricks and bad times were to be run out of every town. And then they ended not with a bang, because that happened in 1945 too, but with the whimpers of austerity, asperity and disappointment.

Looking back at it all, what does one think? One of the 'thirties most persistent ideas was that of 'the solution', a cataclysmic political stroke which would abolish all the problems and let the sunshine in. Along with it went the

Round the Galleries

glorious medieval essay in abstract art. Jean Dubuffet is now officially described as 'THE GREATEST LIVING FRENCH PAINTER' so all we can now offer is a sad wave of the hand as, with a glass of skerry in one hand and a cheque book in the other, Dubuffet takes his place in this week's pantheon alongside the Rolling Stones and Muhammad Ali.

For those who seek a marriage of abstract and reality there is the work of Keith Grant at the New Art Centre at 41 Sloane Street, S.W.1. Awarded an Icelandic Government Scholarship in 1962, Grant has recorded the volcanic eruption that boiled into the island of Surtsey in the Icelandic seas. His colours have the harsh primitive strength of the English painter Edward Burra yet these fragmented rock forms, in their fashion, have the apocatastastic grandeur of William Blake, hymning not God but nature. Painted upon canvases segmented like unto a Cinemascope screen or with the black ringed veins of the bomber's camera's eye superimposed upon the canvas, these paintings are a declaration of one man's love for the untrampled untravelled area that he has sought to call his own.

While Grant's work, despite its talent, must of necessity have a minority appeal, the works of Fleur Cowles at the Grosvenor Gallery at 28 Davies Street, W.1, has the universal appeal of a Disney colour film. They have the sweet innocence of childhood for this is the bright and cluttered world of the children's comic and the petrol advertisement. It is a world without depth, as sentimental as a week old kitten and as brash and as gay as a whore's lipstick. Cuddly tigers and deathless scarlet flowers, blue birds and paper flat balloons live out their static lives within the fixed length and breadth of Fleur Cowles's canvases

for this is the world of the innocent eye.

This is not Dubuffet's vision of erotic lavatory graffiti formed from the dank and fetid walls of misery yet both exhibitions are the works of sophisticated adults knowledgeable of the culture of their age and both people, in their fashion, are catering to the needs of a literate middle class minority. What I find disturbing about the work of these two artists is that their very meaninglessness is accepted without question. Such is the status of these two people within their society that no psychiatrist would dare to read anything into these paintings beyond what the catalogue deems to tell them.

Yet when any similar type of work, by a child or by a prisoner of the State, is placed before the psychiatrist, a meaningless farago of high-flown nonsense is fashioned around it. I have in mind the works of Donald Hume who is, at the moment, serving out a life sentence in Regensdorf Prison for the murder of a taxi driver. Hume, who has been responsible for two murders and various assaults, is an intelligent man. He is the author of at least one book but it is as a painter that he forms part of the trinity of Dubuffet, Cowles and Hume, for his paintings have the same naïve innocence, the same obsession for bright colours and the same inability to merge his parts into the whole. Yet these are but the faults of the untrained painter as Dubuffet so clearly demonstrates in his pastiches of lavatory graffiti. Hume's painting *The End of the Mermaid* would, if painted by a man of Dalí's standing, have been accepted as a work in the *master's* more playful genre, while Hume's *Pharisees Mocking Crucifixion* could find its place among the clutter of any Catholic church as a work of sincere but primitive mysticism. But Hume is a convicted murderer and these very paintings are now the playthings of the psychiatrists of the Swiss State Prisons who will, working from hindsight, see in these bright colours and crude figures the metaphysical worms of madness. But if these paintings are the eye of madness, then barricade Bond Street, for I have heard Lear weeping.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

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. Sundays.

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

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

ABERDEEN GROUP. Meets at the Adelphi 2.30 p.m. every Sunday. Correspondence to M. Dey, 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.

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

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BRISTOL FEDERATION. Enquiries to Ian 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, Brechin, Angus.
 GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE. Correspondence to Robert Lynn, 2b Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, C.1.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP TWO. Meets 11 Balfour 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 Gibbon, 22 Fosse Road Central, West End, Leicester.

LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E.13. 61b Granville Park. Next meeting, Thursday, May 26.

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.

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.

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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.

assumption that the majority would come to it by exploring the limits of error, by finding that nothing else would work. That part was certainly true. There was no chicanery, no sort of fraud or humbug which did not have its appeal to the 'drowned and jettisoned men' (Alex Comfort's phrase).

What was learned is possibly another matter. A partial reason for the decline of the socialist movement was this belief that the working class would learn from experience: it might not envisaged that the ruling class might learn even more. The fine shades of feeling about political matters, the debates over ends and means, were submerged altogether by the Bomb in 1945. The common view of 1936 that to attack a democratically elected government was wrong has been set aside now: power is all that matters.

However, tough affirmations produce tough denials. The theory of capitalism's collapse was favoured in the 1930's precisely because, for all the political ferment, there was no prospect of the system being ended by any other means. The processionists, the revolutionary poets and progressives were about as dangerous to authority as a pantomime lion to its audience. The resistance to it today is harder altogether. I don't think the war-resister of this generation is going to stand before a tribunal arguing philosophy and ethics. He will instead, as he is already doing, raise his fingers in the face of power: instead of waiting, as they used to say, for the revolutionary situation, say it is here already.

R.B.

LETTERS

We're Only Human-1

Dear Editor,

Leaving politics aside for the moment I demand an absolute and unqualified retraction of the vicious and lying personal attack on me in FREEDOM (14.5.66), both from you and from Robert Barltrop. I was not present at the meeting in Conway Hall on Easter Sunday.

As an ex-member of the Socialist Party of Great Britain Robert Barltrop knows full well what is our procedure with regard to debates. If he is prepared to debate, on behalf of the Anarchist Federation, with a delegated speaker of the Socialist Party, then I am prepared to pass his challenge on to our Propaganda Committee.

Highgate, N.6 A. BUICK.
 We regret the mistaken identity.—Eds.

We're Only Human-2

The Editors,

Allow me to make a few remarks on Barltrop's letter [FREEDOM (14.5.66)] concerning the Easter Sunday meeting at Conway Hall.

1. The person who, at 'three minutes to ten', injected some socialist ideas into the meeting was not Adam Buick, who was not, as far as I know, at the meeting.
2. As I was sitting next to the speaker, I know why he did not speak until near the end of the meeting. The reasons were twofold: Firstly, a little less than half an hour was left at the end of the meeting for both questions and discussion. Scarcely sufficient, to say the least!

Secondly, although he was one of the first to signify that he wished to speak, he was ignored until near the end of the meeting.

3. The Socialist Party of Great Britain has no 'prominent' members, as Barltrop should well know; all members are on an equal footing.

These are the main inaccuracies in Barltrop's letter. There were more.

Be accurate Barltrop!
 Yours for Socialism,
 Aberystwyth BARRY WILKINS.

WEST LONDON FEDERATION

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

BROMLEY, KENT. Get in touch with S. Fewtrell, 54 Crockham Way, New Eltham, S.E.9.
 UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK. Society being formed—to be fully active by October Term. Anarchists coming here next year contact Desmond Hall, University of Warwick, Gibbett Hill Road, Coventry.
 Please contact Bill and Kate Beveridge, 50 Camden Hill (3 rings), London, S.E.19.
 MARLOW AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. Get in touch with Stella A. Fauser, 33a Spittal Street, Marlow, Bucks.
 ALTRINCHAM YOUTH GROUP. Contact: Stephen Richards, 25 North Vale Road, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire.
 SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE. Get in touch with Eric Harrison, 2 Cottage Aylesmore Farm, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire.

ABROAD

NEW ZEALAND. Auckland Anarchist Group. Public Meetings every Sunday in Myers Park at 2 p.m.
 USA. ALBANY, NEW YORK. Contact E. Strauss, 230 Washington Avenue, Albany. Discussion group meets about twice a month.
 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.

YET ANOTHER ANARCHIST group has come to our attention, a new one based on Ipswich. They have just published a duplicated pamphlet (is this their first effort?) entitled 'Official Secrets' (price 6d.). This contains a reprint of the 'Spies for Peace' pamphlet and text of a pirate radio broadcast, plus two pages of new material, including quotes from 'secret documents in their possession'. One item is the following:

'If any person, or animal, or thing, is in any area contrary to such an order, the authority making the order may, while the order is in force, have any or all those persons, animals or things, destroyed or made useless.' By order of the Minister of Home Security, whoever he may be. Does Stan Orme, MP know? **WHILST IN JAPAN**

In a summary of a recent Japanese anarchist publication, the *Black Flag* I notice a postcard from comrade Taigi Yamaya from his sick bed: 'It has been Government policy of Imperial Japan that all anarchists shall be killed. By decision of Supreme Court on December 10, 1965, it was proved that this brutal and drastic measure is still in force. We must resolutely fight against this!'

AUSTRALIAN ACTIVITY

Bill Dwyer reports: The Sydney Anarchist Group is now formed, or rather re-formed. There have, of course, been a fair number of anarchists here for some years. However, only a few have been active in any real sense. Part of the problem has been that many anarchists from Europe have found the environment here so different from home that anarchism as they knew it has lost its relevance. Of course the informed anarchist would observe that it was their sense of perspective that was lacking.

I believe the time is particularly apt now for a new and successful group. Some of the animosities that once split the movement here have disappeared while the remainder have been subdued (by time if nothing else). The issue of Conscription for the Vietnam War has provided us with a popular approach to the public. Interestingly, the Sydney Domain meetings have served as a rallying and introductory point. Last Sunday I met an anarchist who had just arrived from the Argentine and another who had returned from a tour of Asia where he had helped form groups in a number of countries.

THE OFFER STILL STANDS

A note from the Reading Anarchist Group to the AFB:

May we clarify the situation as regards our offer to publish an anarchist equivalent to the C of 100's 'Discussion Papers'? We offered to duplicate and send out to all group addresses listed in FREEDOM anything anybody without access to a duplicator wanted circularised. No one has taken up the offer, but it still stands.

ANTI-SMITH DEMONSTRATION

Anarchists in Aberdeen took part in a demonstration called by the University Anti-Apartheid Society against the Smith regime.

The vigil and most of the march was uneventful, but an important new development was the appearance of a dozen Right Wing extremists who rammed into the demonstrators with their cars hitting several people. Forbes Browne writes: 'For once the police were on our side and one of the drivers was charged with reckless driving.'

The appearance of the extreme Right in public is quite a novelty in Aberdeen, and is no doubt a result of the encouragement they received after rescinding the University Union's boycott on South African goods and making decisions on political and philosophical matters outside the Union's powers, by careful packing of the Union AGM a fortnight

ago. If they thought we were all non-violent pacifists, however, they must have got a rude awakening!!'

ELECTION FINES

A reader recently asked what happened to comrades arrested for anti-election activities. They were all fined heavily. Del Foley received a £20 fine plus £10 costs. Barry Easter was fined £10 plus £5 5s. 0d. costs. Karl Taylor was fined the same. Other comrades are appearing in court this week. All in all drastic fines for the most consistent voice of dissent during the elections (*Daily Mirror*). Any spare cash?

TROGS

Dave Poulson writes: 'Unfortunately we seem to have been too late to help the Matlock Trogs. The Buxton group went over to investigate the situation, but they appear to have already left the district. Or been thrown out. No place for the recluse in the State system, it would seem.'

THE HOMELESS AND THE HAUNTED HOUSE

C.R. writes: Fifty people marched last Sunday to the home of the Minister of Health (Mr. Kenneth Robinson) to protest his failure to intervene with Kent County Council on behalf of the homeless lodged in the barbaric King Hill hostel.

Curiously, Mr. Robinson was 'not in' and thus avoided having to match his fine words against his inaction and explain why, for all his oft-declared sympathy, he is not prepared to do a damn thing for the homeless. (The Labour Party's much publicised preoccupation with social justice no longer looks funny only to libertarians and other misfits; it's rapidly becoming the cliché-joke of the entire nation.)

The tenants and their friends found themselves addressing their protests to an indifferent crowd of policemen, each decked out with regulation patent leather soul, and fronted by the most offensive and evil-looking plainclothes dick I ever saw, a few interested neighbours—one, complete with corgi, furiously reading our literature—and the flapping top-storey windows of Mr. Robinson's desirable residence. This motley bunch were given the history, the legal possibilities open to a Minister predisposed towards social justice and the plight of the homeless and some idea of what it is like to live in King Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Mallabone, of King Hill, Ken Gillan and Mrs. Luby, of St. Pancras Tenants' Association, a Tenants' Association member from Birmingham whose name I missed and Jim Radford each addressed the meeting and a St. Pancras ward Labour Party chairman apologised both for Mr. Robinson and the Labour Party. He promised to do more in future and presumably he will help the picket, planned for two hours (7 to 9) each night from now on—details can be had from Mrs. E. Luby, 17 Kennistoun House, Leighton Road, London, NW5—along with as many others as possible.

For myself I hope the ghost that opened and shut windows and curtains on the top storey of an unoccupied house—and who but a Labour minister secure behind the police force would leave a house unoccupied for a homeless peoples' demonstration—will add to the hell Mr. Robinson has so fully earned. The pressure must be maintained until Robinson and the bureaucrats of KCC—together the double-sided coin of authoritarian delinquency—are forced to act: for the people.

FRIENDLY VISIT

Northolt Anarchists had sent us a report of their visit to 3rd USAF Base, South Ruislip. They found however that the open day was at the West Ruislip base. Either they have been misled on purpose or else they decided

to use only the West Ruislip base as there was little to do there.

Various entertainments and exhibitions were presented to the public, our comrades meanwhile distributing their specially prepared leaflets. There was no hostility—servicemen accepted leaflets, bought badges and treated our comrades to drinks and cigarettes!

The leaflet pointed out that bases like Ruislip would be priority targets in a Nuclear War. Many USAF servicemen seemed to be willing, indeed anxious, to abandon their conscription and return home, but it seems they prefer two years in the Air Force to five years in jail—'who can blame them—unless we are willing to offer every possible assistance to them in their efforts to return to civilian life, we certainly cannot' say our Northolt comrades.

Our comrades felt that the friendliness that was allowed was in order to avoid undue publicity.

They report that 'Buddy Nuclear Casualty Case' signs covered the base; instructions explaining 'warning signals' and the location of fall-out shelters were displayed in all departments.

NOT WANTED

John Gollan, secretary of the Communist Party, who was refused a visa to the United States said indignantly: 'There must be some misunderstanding. I am not an anarchist. I believe in organised government.'

J.R.

In the Money!

The recent Anarchist Ball raised £85 2s. 9d. (after all expenses have been paid). The BBC owes us a further £5 5s. for broadcasting fee.

This money is now held by Freedom Press in reserve for our plan to enlarge FREEDOM. Further news soon.

JOHN RETY.

FIGHTING BACK

THE WAY in which the news of the killing of two white people in Rhodesia has been reported and commented upon is certainly instructive.

We are told that Mr. and Mrs. Viljoen were innocent of any crime and that they have been murdered by terrorists. We might have been told, of course, that the white couple were guilty of being involved in the unjust and violent occupation of Rhodesia, that they have only suffered the reaction of a people humiliated and exploited because they are black.

We could have been told that this is practically the first time Africans in Rhodesia have hit back at the treatment they have had to bear from the oligarchic white supremacists. The liberal press informs us that such killings will not help the Africans' cause, that the diplomatic exchanges between the British and Rhodesian governments will be upset. One would like to know how the inaction of the African people in Rhodesia has

'Society "Drops" Trevor Roper'

—Sunday Telegraph

THE AGONY of Henry Cooper ended with the intervention of the referee in the sixth round. The agony of Vietnam still goes on. . . .

ACCORDING TO *Newsweek* (18.4.66), some anarchist students in South Vietnam who rioted at the beginning of April are hostile to the state in any form and have taken as their permanent slogan 'Down with the government'. . . .

THE BRISTOL UNIVERSITY Anarchists' Society were amongst those who protested about the installation of the Duke of Beaufort as Chancellor of Bristol University. One of the student leaders said, 'We are against the Duke firstly because he is a duke. We think he's just an ignorant huntsman. He never went to a university: he was educated in the Guards'. . . .

A QUESTION has been tabled in the House about three out of eleven airmen who fainted on parade for the State Visit of the Federal President of Austria. The Labour MP said, 'If we are going to have ceremonies of this kind—and there may be doubts as to whether we should—they should be done well. Our standards should not drop to those of the Common Market countries.' On the day of the visit the temperature was 20° Centigrade (68°F). At the annual inspection of the 336/7 Hammersmith Squadron Air Training Corps (70°F) the boys were three and a half hours on parade. Four out of the fifty-three cadets were overcome by heat. Fl.-Lt. Dennis Salmon told the *West London Observer*, 'The few who did faint, lay to attention. It showed their good training'. . . .

AN AMERICAN SOLDIER, recently returned from Vietnam, shot and killed his wife

helped their cause. One would also like to know how some phoney constitutional settlement, cooked up by the rulers of Britain and Rhodesia, can help the African people.

In the past many an observer of the scene in Rhodesia has suggested that the apathy, the decency and non-violence of the African people has only helped the white racists. The acquiescence of the Africans has lent weight to Ian Smith's claims that the Africans of Rhodesia are contented.

Now Africans fight back against the bullying, mean, inconsiderate, ignoble and over-rich settlers. We hear no praise at the courage this requires, no words of encouragement, no comments that it serves the settlers right.

Africans are supposed to bear patiently with the deliberations of those who have no interest in justice or decency. Liberal opinion is aghast at the death of white settlers, but the only way to the liberation of Zimbabwe is in the hands of men with courage enough to fight back.

J.W.

MAY DAY IN UNION SQUARE

Continued from page 1
condemning the Russian persecution of the Jews. How he fits in with the NRP and their 'Communism is Jewish' theories is an interesting speculation.

By the end of the rally the intermittent showers had become a steady rain. After a good deal of confusion most of the WIN group decided to go up to the Soviet Mission by either public or private transport. The remaining five diehards set out by Shanks' mare only to succumb to temptation at the 23rd Street subway entrance. On arrival up-town we found that we had been assigned an area on 67th Street some distance away from the Mission. Ideally we should have held the protest right in the middle of the street in front of the Mission because the 19th Police Precinct is almost directly across from it. That way we could have killed two birds with one stone, as Gandhi used to say.

Our demonstration began by having a delegation attempt to deliver a protest about Daniel and Sinyavski directly into the Soviet Mission. The comrade official waved, Nyet, Nyet, at them from behind the locked glass doors. When the delegation returned to the main group, the poetry readings began. Incidentally the main group ranged in number anywhere up to a peak of 40—it varied inversely with the rain. None of the literati from the ultra-right arrived at all. Nor did any of the Union Square functionaries join the protest—maybe they don't like poetry.

Art Berger was the first poet, and he started things off by explaining the purpose of the demonstration both to our own assemblage and to everyone else in range of the loudspeakers. Unfortunately the former group was already en rap-

port, and the latter group consisted of exactly two policemen and the Lexington School for the Deaf. (Some day—just once—I'd like to see the odds run in our favour.)

One of the readings was Jackson MacLow's simultaneity based on the words, 'Tear Down All Jails Now'. (Jails, Tear All Down Now; Now Tear Down All Jails; All Jails, Now Down Tear; etc.) When five people read these permutations in random order, with varied inflections, and unavoidably increasing intensity, the effect can be electrifying—especially if in the middle of it some fire engines go by with sirens screaming. However, a squad car pulled up during that particular rendition, and the facial expressions on the cops seemed to convey the answer, 'We Shall Not Be Moved'.

The last poet, Robert Newman, announced that he had in his hand 'two papers, one concerning an American Chinese spy, and the other concerning the President. Each of the papers has overtones and information unknown to the Russians. I will give these papers to the Russian government in exchange for the release of the Soviet artists and writers.' Because of the rain he read only the first of these, a piece entitled, *Mr. Heart, Mulatto American*. 'Mr. Heart here is a Chinese spy, hard-boned to his intentionally good head. . . . He tells some of his mind to his wife, and he tells himself what he does. . . . He's married to the daughter of a Nobel-Prize WASP physicist. They live in Washington with their daughter and their son.' After this reading our protest was officially terminated, whereupon a pathetic sounding 'International' was sung as an afterthought. The following day was May Day.

and another soldier in bed together. He fired over a dozen bullets with a service rifle. A gunman walked into the headquarters of the Socialist Workers' Party in Detroit, lined up party leaders and fired, killing one of them, after shouting 'You're all Communists!'. . . .

A MEMBER of the Greater Britain Movement accused of possessing offensive weapons told a policeman that he was acting as an agent for the Special Branch in the Committee of 100. A correction has been made in the 1966 edition of *Who's Who* under 'Recreations' for Sir Saville Garner (head of Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service). The entry read 'all anti-war activities'. It now reads 'outdoor activities'. Near the US base of Bien Hoa in Vietnam, a car-washing business which is doing well carries under its 'Car Washing. Excellent Service' a mis-spelt addition 'War welcome'. . . .

IT WAS DISCLOSED in the *New York Herald Tribune* (Paris edition) by Foreign Aid Director David E. Bell that there were many opportunities in South Vietnam for US aid commodities to be diverted to the Communists. Cement placed on the open market was, for example, purchased for the Viet Cong to line their tunnels. On the other hand (same paper, same day), the Navy purchased electronic equipment from two Hong Kong firms controlled by Communist China and some of it was sent to US forces fighting in Vietnam. . . .

ON MONDAY, May 16, a Mr. Kingsley Amis had a letter in the *Daily Mirror* giving support to the Americans in Vietnam. On the same day a Mr. Kingsley Amis (formerly an angry young man) had an article in the *Morning Star* (formerly the *Daily Worker*). A reader writing to protest at this was misquoted as saying that the two contributions appeared on May 6. The resolution to restore the name of the *Daily Worker* in case of circulation decline was defeated at a meeting of the People's Press Society. The *Morning Star* quoted the number of surplus cars in the hands of US dealers as ten million, the number was later corrected to one million six hundred thousand. . . .

DUE, IT IS SAID, to the fall in US car sales prices have been falling on the New York Stock Exchange. The sales decline, it is said, is due to the exposure of lack of safety in some US cars. It has not been pointed out that the threat of the draft is a curb on car-buying. According to the *New York Herald Tribune* Mr. McNamara, US Defence Secretary, is backed by President Johnson in what Mr. McNamara calls a 'concept' of universal two years' service in military or peaceful projects. Mr. C. H. Rolph (alias C. R. Hewitt, otherwise known as an ex-policeman), writing in the *New Statesman* (formerly a progressive journal) in support of a fingerprint register, states that, 'When we had compulsory military service it exempted pacifists'. (Perhaps the CBCO Continuing Committee could enlighten him on the number of objectors in British jails.) . . .

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL COMMITTEE which has raised £5,000 towards a statue to Augustus John, gypsy lover, artist and self-proclaimed anarchist, is still looking for a site for the statue. Attempts at Fordingbridge have been dogged by bad luck and opposition. The chairman of the site committee said, 'I don't think Fordingbridge deserves it.' Augustus John compared Fordingbridge with classical Athens (for size) in *Anarchy* 10. . . .

PRESIDENT KENYATTA told his supporters to accept bribes from opposition parties in the coming elections but to vote for his Kenya African National Union in any case. 'This money is foreign money and not theirs,' he said. 'It is being used to confuse you. But accept it and vote for us.'

JON QUIXOTE.

LETTER

Banished, Jailed and Ignored

Dear Comrades,
What a fool is your letter-writer who said poetry is just masturbation to the revolution! What the arch-fascist Plato said is still as true today as ever, 'When the modes of music change the walls of the city tumble'.

Hence he banished poets from his ideal republic—for good reason. The Russian leaders jaid them. We ignore them, debase them. Your writer is in a great tradition.

Yours in prosody and anarchy.

ROBERT HAWARTH.

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Seamen's Strike must Spread

IF THERE was a prize offered for the biggest 'red herring' it should be shared by Gunter, Wilson and the national press. These people have the audacity to offer the seamen as part of the agreement to end the strike, an inquiry into the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894.

Such an inquiry should have nothing to do with the strike settlement negotiations at all. An inquiry and amendment to the 1894 Act is the seamen's right as a human being and individual, not something to be held up as a carrot in the form of subtle blackmail.

What Wilson and the press are in fact saying is 'end the strike now'.

Contact Column

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

Centenary Lectures NSS. Friday, May 27: Freethought and Philosophy—H. J. Blackham. June 10: Freethought and Science—Dr. E. H. Hutten. 7.30 p.m. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Folk Song Concert. Melly, Ian Campbell Group, 3 City 4, Alex Campbell at St. Pancras Town Hall. 7 p.m. and 9.15 p.m. Friday June 3 in aid of London Committee of 100. 5/- to 10/6.

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.

Accommodation Wanted. Wanted, large flat, W.2, W.11 for Notting Hill Gate anarchists. Any information regarding a reasonably priced flat will be gratefully received. Please contact M. Fitton, Flat 35, 37 Clanricarde Gardens, W.2 (Nr. Notting Hill Gate underground station) evenings.

Comrades wanted to take part in anti-war pageant. May 28. Details from: Myrtle Solomon, EUS 5501.

Accommodation Vacant. Half flat vacant. Phone Bucknell CUN 4576.

Aberdeen Vietnam Week. June 5-11. Pickets, leafleting, teach-in, meetings, vigil, etc. Details, support to Bob Comrie, 288 Hardgate, Aberdeen, Scotland.

All-Hail! Glasgow Fed. of Anarchists Group 2 recently formed need cash for a loud-hailer which is urgently required for a forthcoming Faslane demo. Donations please to Joe Embleton, 11 Baliol Street, Glasgow.

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

Job/Girl/Country. 16-year-old comrade (working-girl, not student) with problem parent (widow) seeks permanent job in country. Preferably near some Peace/Political Activity evenings and weekends. Anything considered. Contact through Peter Neville, 12 South Grove, Erdington, Birmingham, 23, urgently.

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. Young couple seeking accommodation in West or NW London with view to communal flat. Not too expensive. Grateful for any type of reply. Box 27.

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.

Accommodation wanted. Accommodation needed by couple (small income) with boy of 2½ and baby. London. Preferred unfurnished. Reliable and considerate. Box 23.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

or you will continue to work under medieval conditions. One can see the support being literally squeezed from the national press as they are forced to concede that the seamen have a case for the amendment of the 1894 Act.

Wilson in his TV broadcast ran true to form, he patronisingly patted the seamen on the head with a 20 lb. sledge hammer. He then went on to make the position crystal clear, it's the Seamen versus the State with the shipping employers hiding cosily

UNITY?

THE PRINTING INDUSTRY is experiencing a period of drastic change. New techniques are being introduced which in finality will break through the craft-noncraft barrier.

A classic example was the dispute over the manning of the Southwark web offset printing plant owned by the International Publishing Corporation (Mirror Group). The National Graphical Association (craft union) made claim to a certain number of their members manning the machine. The Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (craft and semi-skilled) also made claim to a certain number of their members manning the machine and the IPC claimed, as a result, that the machine would be over manned.

Prolonged negotiations took place with no final agreement being reached, so IPC closed the plant and 350 were laid off. After discussions, the NGA and SOGAT agreed for the next three months to operate a 'fully integrated staff' as an interim measure.

It was made clear that the action was solely for the purpose of opening the factory and it was without prejudice to the findings of the court of inquiry set up by the Minister of Labour. The court is to enquire into the introduction of new techniques with particular reference to the manning difficulties at Southwark and similar problems at the Co-operative Press, Manchester.

The important point to come out of this affair so far is the 'fully integrated staff'. For too long have printing unions been niggling at each other with detriment to themselves; here is a chance for at least two of them to improve relations.

But having said all this, what about the printing employers? Their attitude to new techniques is let the printworkers pay for the cost by more and more rationalization of labour. If they can play one union against another, they will, but not openly. A slight promotion here for one particular union, another there for another union, to keep the pot simmering, but working all the while at cutting cost at the expense of the printworkers. This is the real danger facing printworkers. Don't let's be too busy bickering amongst ourselves to notice it.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

PRESS FUND

WEEK 20, MAY 21, 1966:
Expenses: 20 weeks at £80: £1600
Income: Sales and Subs.: £1236
DEFICIT £364

Cheltenham: J.L. 2/-; Berkeley: O.B. £3/10/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Northolt: Anarchist Group 3/4; British Columbia: W.P. 13/-; Bangor: M.T. 2/5; Birmingham: G.O. 12/1; New York: M.H. £1/1/-; Aberdeen: Anarchist Group 10/-; Vermont: E.L. £1/3/-; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; Hartfield: O.M. £3/4/-; Hailsham: L.S. 5/-; Ashton Under Lyne: J.P. 2/6; Richmond: A.M.C. 18/6; Manchester: P.H. 8/-; Montreal: W.F. 16/-; Rensselaer: G.T. £2/11/-; San Francisco: C.S. 14/-; Todmorden: G.B. £1/18/-; London, N.W.11: R.M. £2/18/-; Brooklynn: A.A. £1/8/-; Ohio: E.M. £1/8/-; San Francisco: E.D. £1/8/-.

TOTAL: £26 10 10
Previously Acknowledged: £395 12 0

1966 Total to Date: £422 2 10

*Denotes Regular Contributors.

behind the Prices and Incomes Policy. 'Harold what good boys are we'.

Wilson the patriot really 'laid it on' when he dealt with the economics bit, loss of markets, overseas customers annoyed, etc., etc.—and then the workers' Prime Minister laid the blame. Guess where?—at the feet of the workers. He was elected by the middle-class to take this kind of attitude and therefore no one was surprised when he threatened the seamen with the Royal Navy. 'Strong Government!'

The Government's whole case is based on the Prices and Incomes Policy as Wilson emphasised, and that to grant the seamen the increase would exceed the norm. Point taken, it would exceed the norm, BUT! According to George Brown, the Prices and Incomes Policy was not a wage freeze and when the very idea that it was, was mooted by people who knew differently, George tore his hair out.

When George presented his policy he claimed it was not a wage freeze but a guide, the higher paid workers should not expect to exceed the norm without increased productivity. On Page 9 Clause 15 sub section 4 of the Prices and Incomes Policy, it states 'where there is widespread recognition that the pay of a certain group of workers has fallen seriously out of line with the level of remuneration for similar work and needs in the national interest to be improved'. Therefore, the seamen's claim is in line with Government policy. The only people who fail to see that seamen's pay has fallen 'seriously out of line' are the shipping employers. They are doing precisely what the opponents of the Prices and Incomes Policy said employers would do, 'hide behind the skirts of Government policy,' the situation is ready made for them.

The Government know the score, they know the 'policy' is in fact a wage freeze, and the seamen have been singled out to prove it, not that the Government wouldn't have preferred a different type of industry to do battle with.

The strike is five days old today (21.5.66) and there is no sign of a break despite the fact that 400 ship-owners went to St. Martins-in-the-Fields to get advice from Ramsay A.B. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Ramsay took as his text that 'no one lives or dies, entirely for himself alone'. A special prayer was offered for a settlement of the strike and end to the spirit of strike and bitterness and the primacy of the well-being and prosperity of the realm. There is no doubt on whose side this high ranking sky pilot is on, it's certainly not the seamen. Where have we heard it before, 'God is on our side'?

Up to now all the rules of official strike action have been strictly observed, even the well-known militants have played the 'game', but next week will present a different picture, when the docks become cluttered with ships. The official trade union leadership is really shaky on this one, either they declare that the movement of ships by the Navy is provocative and call upon the dockers for support, or the dockers themselves will take action. Either way the strike must spread, so the next few days should see feelers going out through the TUC senior committee on Monday and the General Council on Wednesday. Bill Hogarth, NUS General Secretary, is a member of the TUC General Council, so it's reasonable to suppose that he will be under considerable pressure from some members of the Council to reach an early settlement, no doubt 1926

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EMPLOYERS & UNIONS MUST 'PULL TOGETHER'

SIR MAURICE LAING, President of the Confederation of British Industry, recently warned employers and the trade unions that they could expect increasing Government interference in their affairs, which would continue unless they put their own houses in order. He said his answer to this would be a Swedish-style organisation that was strong and centralised and would enforce agreements and generally discipline both the employers and trade unions members.

What Laing wants is a streamlined employers-unions organisation made up of fewer but larger bodies. Mergers and amalgamations are wanted in the case of both employers and trade unions for at the moment they are numerous and unwieldy, proving a hindrance to a smooth efficiently run economy. But isn't this streamlining just what the Government wants? Laing knows this, but he would prefer the employers and trade unions to achieve this themselves.

He said: 'I am not necessarily suggesting that at one step we should go into the Swedish system of central organisation of both employers and trade unions which have power (my italics) over their members. I am suggesting that unless we gradually arrive at such a situation, the power will be taken by a third party and that's the Government.'

'That would be to the detriment of us all. . . . There are too few signs that we are really determined to pull together to beat our problems' (my italics).

TONGUE IN CHEEK

Obviously this speech must be taken partly 'with tongue in cheek'. Laing and the employers are not against Government interference. They have always sought it when strikes threaten their profits, when they want the power of the trade unions curbed or when financial policies are not to their liking, even to the extent of taking over an industry when it is not making a profit. In fact some employers and 'enlightened' economists argue that some industries, on which others rely, should come under the control of the State, which is in a position to make a tremendous capital outlay in order to provide an efficient service. This is the case with the railways, where private employers require a fast, cheap and efficient means of transporting their goods.

This could also be applied to the docks, with the long-term view of a link up with the railways in the transporting of goods and assisting the country's export drive. It needed Government 'interference' to get the Devlin Report and surely Laing is not against the reduction of the number of port employers? No, he and employers will accept and welcome any Government 'interference' that assists them and as the Government is out to help and strengthen monopoly capitalism, Laing as the head of the employers' organisation, should really have nothing to fear.

can be seen on the distant horizon as a ghost come back to haunt some of the older members.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

Editors' Note: Since the article was written a state of emergency has been declared by the Wilson Government. This enables the Government to requisition vehicles and will permit the Royal Navy to move ships in harbour. It is to be seen whether dockers will act in solidarity with the seamen to prevent these attempts to break the strike.

Donations for the Strike Fund can be sent to the Disputes Fund, National Union of Seamen, Maritime House, Old Town, Clapham, London, S.W.4.

It is the desire of both the Government and the CBI to strengthen the economy, but there are numerous ways of achieving this. Many economists and employers hold differing and sometimes conflicting views on this. Employers are by no means united, for profits, their ultimate goal, pits them one against the other. However, the development of monopoly capitalism does serve to lessen these conflicts and unites the few but large groups of employers who have control of industry. In order to complete the picture, Laing wants the leadership of the big trade unions to join them, for these, following amalgamations, will become unions catering for whole industries.

Strengthening the economy does not just mean making a profit, but making industry more efficient, increasing productivity and keeping down costs, so that 'our' goods are more competitive with those of other countries. If this can be achieved, then employers in this country will get a bigger share of world markets. This will lead to increased profits and expansion which in turn will give rise to still higher profits.

Laing himself had something to say on the question of profits, for he felt that industry should inform the employees and the rest of the community of the essential need for profit. 'We need to make profit, where earned competitively, a highly respected, very clean word in our vocabulary and not a word we shun.' It is doubtful if Laing feels guilty about making a profit out of the labour of his employees. I am sure a psychologist could explain this, but whether he feels guilty or not, he will continue to exploit his workers. In fact what he is advocating is an intensification of this. He stressed the need to use manpower more efficiently, which in plain terms means harder work with workers operating more than one machine, performing different jobs, more mobility and more shift work. To get this, the employers need the trade unions to sell the idea to their members and if the Laings and the Carrons won't do it, the Wilsons, Browns and Gunter's will.

IN FOR A TOUGH TIME

To the workers who are going to be affected, it does not really matter who does the selling, the important thing is how to prevent it. The agreements made by union leaders now are bad enough, but if the employer-trade unions line-up is consolidated, as seems probable, then workers are indeed in for a tough time. In order to achieve this, the employers and the trade union leadership will have to get the agreement and co-operation of the rank and file and no doubt Government 'interference' will help in this. It is essential that workers' conditions are not worsened by this drive to strengthen the economy, which has nothing to do with their interests. The idea that employees form a partnership with the employers and that their interests are one and the same is completely untrue. It is only propagated in order to get the co-operation of the workers and could lead to the sacrifice of conditions which have been won in the past.

This country's economy can only be strengthened at the expense of another's and the workers in that country are then called upon to increase productivity and to work harder. This drive will be intensified when Britain goes into the Common Market. While the employers compete with one another on a national and international basis, the interests of the workers are best served by unity and co-operation. This will lead to the creation of a society in which the wealth produced will benefit all people instead of a minority. Until this is done, all workers will be called upon to make sacrifices in order to keep the capitalist system going.

P.T.