

WHO SAID THIS? 'The single most important service the Government could perform for the British people was to restore to them more and more freedom. The question was not what kind of government but how much government. The answer was that there must be less government and of a better quality.' William Godwin? Thomas Jefferson? Tom Paine? Comrade X, the well known liberal-anarchist? No, no, no, no... Edward Heath at the Conservative Party Conference at Blackpool last week.

Schnozzle Durante, the American comedian, had a cry of despair when one of the orchestra or the audience tried to steal his laughs. 'Everybody wants to get in on the act!' This despair hits the anarchists when

THAT WAS FREEDOM DAY

Edward Heath apparently opts for Freedom and Richard Nixon (remembering his Quaker background) opts for Peace.

However, Edward Heath went on to say, 'It will not happen overnight. Maybe there will be no day that you can mark on the calendar and say "that was freedom day". It is a continuing process, which will happen by degrees, but it is going to happen in every aspect of our daily lives. It will not always be obvious; gradually it will become apparent.' This latter sentence,

quite frankly, seems to mean nothing at all. On the whole Mr. Heath has joined the Fabians with their 'inevitability of gradualness' or even appears to subscribe to the theory of the 'withering away of the state'.

What is the reality behind this rhetoric? It was a Freedom day at Blackpool, the end of a Tory Victory Conference, when self-congratulation was the order of the day, when every Tom, Dick and Harry, and every Cabinet Minister had said his say on what the Conservatives intended to do. There were

curious gaps and one or two back-trackings but the Heath set-speech was intended to put them in an euphoric mood ready to face whatever disillusionments office will bring and the Heath speech was vague enough not to ruffle the plumes of any Tory dowager's hat but revolutionary enough to soothe any strays from the hippie-CND camp society who may have turned Tory.

The horrible fact is that the Tories do believe in 'freedom'. Of course, it is a question of defining the term. One has heard of anarcho-capitalists who believe that given freedom for private enterprise and the abolition of the state, free enterprise will run society to man's benefit. This ignores the vital fact that capitalism in itself engenders exploitation of man by man and in itself is hostile to freedom.

The Tories have sought for years to preserve a balance between private enterprise and state assistance. Many of them believe that capitalism functions better in a free-for-all. Heath in his speech refers to withholding (state) assistance from private firms who 'accede to irresponsible wage demands'. Obviously the Tories do not entirely reject the idea of state assistance for private enterprise by subsidies, tariffs, tax rebates, special area benefits, etc.

They still believe, however, in cutting down on welfare services. This was cunningly introduced by Heath speaking of the Chancellor making cuts in Government expenditure, however unpleasant they might be. 'On top of this would come the announcements of the details of policies on housing, education, social security, relief of poverty, and defence. These would be the first fruits of the first few months in office.' On top of cuts?

The housing, education, social security and relief of poverty will fall into the abyss that the self-respecting Tory with his love of freedom for private enterprise deems fit for such projects. The great enthusiasm that greeted the Tory assurance of steps to deal with 'scroungers' is indicative of the way of thinking. To a true Tory **everybody** on Social Security is a scrounger.

Mr. Heath's message was 'Our strategy is clear. It is to reorganize the functions of government to leave more to individual or to corporate effort, to make savings in government expenditure, to find room for greater incentives to men and women and to firms and businesses. Our strategy is to encourage them more and more to make their own decisions, to stand on their own feet, to accept responsibility for themselves, and for their families.' [Applause]

We need never fear that Mr. Heath will steal our platform even to get votes. The freedom he is talking about is the freedom to exploit labour, the freedom to compete with, and ruin if need be, your fellow Tory, or the freedom to combine with other exploiters to rule out the possibility of freedom of choice, of opinion or of artistic taste.

The freedom day that is coming is on no calendar, it is timeless, but it is the day when the individual realizes that political clap-trap such as emanates from all political conferences is no road to freedom. Engels said, 'Freedom is the recognition of necessity.' There is no necessity for the political existence of charlatans like Heath, Wilson, Powell, Thorpe and Co.

JACK ROBINSON.

Tory Laws Against Strikes

IT COMES as no surprise that since the Tory Party came to power they have chosen to intervene in the field of 'industrial relations'. As with all governments they are interested in seeing that the economy of the country, its profitability, is put on a sound footing and they will be tackling this via the trade unions.

The proposed legislation will bring about considerable encroachment by the State into our mainly voluntary organisations. This State intervention comes from a party which abhors 'socialist intervention', but are quite willing to bring in legislation which could alternatively mean the gaoling of trade unionists or anyone who takes a leading part in what are described as 'unfair industrial actions'.

What should be understood is that these plans are not just straightforward 'union bashing'. They are put forward to provide a new legal framework for the industrial and economic circumstances of today and are meant for the constitutional and reformist trade union leaders who dominate both the so-called 'right and left wing unions'. In my opinion, the purpose of the proposals is not to weaken the trade unions, but to strengthen the authority of the respectable-minded leadership over its more militant rank and file.

THE REASON WHY

Because of the modern mass production methods and the vast capital investments involved, industry is very susceptible to short unofficial strikes and this authority is vitally necessary. For various reasons, the executives have been either unable or unwilling to really discipline these rank and file militants and the Government will provide the legal framework for just that purpose. Both the employers and the Government recognise that since the war wages and conditions have been improved in spite of the trade union executives. It has been the shop floor organisation that has forced the employers to concede awards that most union officials would never dream of demanding.

Under the Tories' Bill, employers will be able to ask new local tribunals to award damages against unofficial strike leaders who 'induce or attempt to induce' workers to break their contract of employment. Obviously this will be a powerful weapon for them.

The proposed Bill goes further than Labour's *In Place of Strife* in that it victimises individuals rather than all those involved. In other words it tries to separate the shop stewards from the workers and break the solidarity which exists between trade unionists.

The setting up of these Local Tribunals and the new National Industrial Relations Court exposes another contradiction in the Tory make-up. They are only too willing to attack bureaucracy in other spheres, but are quite prepared to institute it on this issue. The Local Tribunals will consist of people from management and the trade unions, with a lawyer as

chairman. The National one will have a president as well as a legal man as chairman.

EXAMINING RULE BOOKS

Another powerful weapon handed out in the Tories' plan is the new post of Registrar of Unions and Employers' Associations. This involves the examination of rule books and a general look into the constitutional procedures and safeguards. While there are often rules that need changing to safeguard members, this should be the prerogative of the members and not outsiders. The Registrar would, if anything, strengthen the executive, with the normal safeguards, etc.

Any union refusing to accept intervention would remain unregistered and therefore lose the present protection against action for damages for inducing workers to break their contracts of employment. They would be faced with litigation every time they were involved in industrial action.

BINDING AGREEMENTS

Another proposal is that procedure agreements should be made legally binding if the Commission on Industrial Relations recommend it and those industries which do not have existing agreements could find one foisted on them by the CIR. A further clause states that when strikes lead to a 'national emergency' then a 'cooling off period' of 60 days can be applied during which time a strike ballot could be imposed. If a union or a group of workers continue to ignore these orders then they would face legal action.

The Tories have also come out against the controversial 'closed shop' which will be illegal, but an 'agency shop' will be allowed as long as it is voted on by the men concerned. An 'agency shop' would mean that non-unionists could start work as long as they agreed either to join the union after a certain period of time or, and this is important, pay a contribution for services in lieu of a proper subscription. Obviously this could present all sorts of problems and provide employers with a ready-made strike-breaking element within their factories.

Reaction from the TUC to this legislation has been cautious so far. Ideas of a general strike are obviously ruled out from the start by such an august body of gentlemen. They have contented themselves with a combined statement full of platitudes such as 'turning the clock back 100 years'.

ISOLATE MILITANTS

The whole tone of these proposals is laid not so much on the trade unions, but on shop stewards and militants who are prepared to force up wages and gain better conditions and more control at their work places. They are designed to isolate these people from other union members. With the help of the Registrar, the trade unions will move further along the road towards respectability within the establishment, acting merely as agencies between management and their

members. Many trade union leaders will attack the legislation, some for the wrong reasons, because it is either expected of them or they might lose control over their members.

The Tories' plan poses a greater threat than that of the Labour Party, from whom they have no doubt learned a lot. The freedom to stop work because of a grievance will be curtailed if these proposals become law. This is something which had to be fought for and should not be given up without a struggle. However the trade unions will not make a stand unless they are forced and the initiative will have to come from the rank and file, for they have the strength to make the Tories abandon these proposals.

It is vitally important that anarchists play their part in this struggle at their place of work, as well as making propaganda. The latter should point out the repressive nature of the State and its growing encroachment into our private affairs as well as the fact that people have the organising ability to run their own lives whether at work or in the community. P.T.

AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT and other public service manual workers' strike enters its third week, about 40 local councils, corporations and authorities, including Norwich, Sheffield and Stevenage, have conceded the workers' demands for an extra 55/- a week and a minimum wage of £16 10s. for a 40-hour-week. Manchester's Tory-controlled Corporation has agreed to the £16 10s. minimum, but not the full 55/- for all its employees, and Harlow Corporation says it is willing to pay the full 55/- 'as an interim increase'.

At present, the maximum basic wage for local government manual workers is £18 10s., but this is only paid to the minority of 'skilled operatives' in sewage plants and the like. Overtime, generally, is not excessive. The number of hours overtime worked per week at my sewage plant is, on average, less than five except for the two shift workers in the engine room. Bernard Dix, the research officer of the 320,000-strong National Union of Public Employees, speaking at Liverpool University on September 20, was more than right when he said: 'Thousands of local government and hospital employees are being treated as the poor relations of modern society; they are struggling to live on take-home pay of £11 or £12 a week.' He warned of a growing militancy among public service workers. Inconvenient as it is to many other fellow-workers, this is now what we are witnessing among ambulance drivers, hospital auxiliaries, public parks' attendants and gardeners, road and highway cleaners and sewage workers.

Earlier in the year, 'white collar' and supervisory staffs in the town and city halls, and in the sewage plants, demanded a 15% increase, and after a few militant

Who'll Do the Dirty Work?

noises and threats to sabotage to the general election, received 13%. There have been a few reports of blacklegging by supervisors and 'white collar' volunteers in one or two sewage plants, but they have been exaggerated by our 'kept' press. There have also been a few wild predictions of millions dying in the streets of cholera. In the main, the 'white collar' workers are giving their manual-worker colleagues sympathetic, but rather negative, support. Most are not blacklegging; and few are prepared to clean out sewers or poke around the raw sewage. Indeed, the National Association of Local Government Officers, which represents all the 'white collar' staff, has sent out to all its branches noticeboard posters saying in large letters: 'NALGO SUPPORTS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANUAL WORKERS' WAGES BATTLE! NO DUTIES NORMALLY PERFORMED BY STRIKING COLLEAGUES! THEIR FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT.'

At the moment of writing this report, the employers' side is still hoping that all councils and local authorities will hold together as a united front against the workers, and will only settle for what Mr. Carr, the Minister of Labour, has called a 'generous offer' of 14%. A spokesman for the employers—the National Joint Council For Local Government—said the Wednesday before last that his council hoped that all employers would 'act in concert on a decision of this nature', because in his

view 'to act prematurely (that is to concede the 55/-) is unwise'. The Greater London Council has been about the most adamant in its opposition to the workers' claim. It is hoping to beat the strikers by using volunteers to man some services, according to the weekly journal, *The Surveyor* (9.10.70).

There have also been conflicting reports on the possible use of troops, particularly at Luton's East Hyde Sewage Works. This has been denied. A spokesman for the Ministry of Health and Local Government said that the Ministry had only been 'asked for advice'. After receiving letters from Luton and the Thames Conservancy Board, a MOHALG spokesman did say that 'the government should take all possible measures to ensure continued functioning of the works, including the use of troops if necessary' (their emphasis). And, of course, the government will use troops if it feels that that is the only way that it can beat the strikers back to work. Meanwhile, the dispute continues—and is spreading. Tory Ministers, at their conference in Blackpool last week, exhorted the employers to 'stand firm' against 'unjust' demands.

From the local government workers' viewpoint, however, there's only one thing wrong with their Unions' demands—they are far too modest! Who's prepared to maintain sewers for £16 10s. a week? Or clean our streets for even less? Who'll do the dirty work? Not Mr. Carr or Edward Heath, that's for certain. SEWAGE WORKER.

ONE HAS OVER the years had so many reasons to attack the Hayward Gallery for all its manifold mistakes that it becomes a pleasure to praise it. These attacks were justified for they ranged from the building of the gallery itself, to the massed ranks of security guards guarding the catalogue counter, to the general feeling of bureaucratic regimentation that the staff seemed to feel was expected of them in relation to the paying visitor. It is that same feeling of intruding that one had as a slum-child when being ordered out of a Kensington museum for over-excitement in the operation of the moving exhibits or that sense of angry frustration in the face of uncaring officialdom that one never wants to forget when, in the thirties, one was one of the unemployed queuing up for a free bath in the public washhouse.

AROUND THE GALLERIES

But here at last is an exhibition at the Hayward Gallery that can be enjoyed by all and the Hayward Gallery can congratulate each other that at last we have found something to soothe each other's fractured nerves. The exhibition of Kinetics at the Hayward gives official recognition to a minor art form that has long been pioneered by the Redfern Gallery and it is a pleasure to wander through the gaunt concrete prison of the Hayward Gallery and watch these mechanical artforms perform for our amusement.

Kinetic art is concerned with the poetry of motion in relation to man-made objects and it is the Pygmalion dream of seeing the sculptured object come to moving life. When genius is missing one turns to the craftsman, and in this fairground of moving lights and parts the pleasure is there for the man and the child. It is an artform long familiar to the general public in the moving neon lights of the street advertisements and it becomes a culture when it is non-functional and the trinity of kinetic art must surely be found in the workings of a clock, the small, brightly-lit, three-dimensional advertise-

If it Moves Salute it

ments for Guinness beer on the wall within the beer shops and in the rhythm of the rising and breaking flow of water from the fountains.

Within the Hayward Gallery things move under sheets. Gunther Uecker's huge wire-festooned phallus twitches in slow insect motion. Tinguely's meaningless machine operates within a non-productive void for our pleasure and snaking trails of lights and berserk batteries of light bulbs flash on and off and up and down for our pleasure like an old-time German science horror film while all around us voices read the aims of the artist and a fuse goes and bang goes another light as the machine refuses to co-operate. All in all, it is the pleasure of a computerised cultural fairground that the Hayward offers us, with flashing pintable machines that never pay out, and flashing advertisements advertising only the skill of the men who created them. But in all things there are questions and the one that so many critics wanted to know, and found unanswered in any official handout, was why the Russian Government failed to ship over for exhibition work by the Russian kinetic artists when the Hayward Gallery was prepared to exhibit it and have even included within the massive Hayward catalogue the Manifesto of the Russian Kineticists Collective 'Dvijenie'. Melville of the *New Statesman* suggested 'that the Soviet authorities fear that the work might shed its nationalist symbolism in transit and look too much like some of the things produced in the West' and Melville, by guess and by God, had come some way to the truth.

In 1967 the Russian Government were to honour the Fiftieth Anniversary of the October Revolution and

every aspect of the Russian way of life was expected to participate. The Leningrad politicians felt that, as the cradle of the Revolution, they should try and steal the show from Moscow, and they agreed to let the light and motion displays of the 'Dvijenie' Association have its head and the political boys gave it full official backing, material and a temporary residence in the Fortress of Peter and Paul, so that the group could put on a national show-stopper that would take the limelight off Moscow. Under the enthusiastic planning of Lev Nusberg, the group went to work building their ideas around the figure of Lenin and they succeeded in producing a show of gay and uncommitted artifacts that won the applause of the Leningrad public.

But despite the 'Dvijenie' manifesto and all its other out-of-this-world phrases of the artist in relation to the people, the Leningrad artists were not too happy with the way their project was being handled by the political boys in the front office, for Nusberg complained that, while the politicians gave the group a place to work and the material, moneywise the artists were not doing too well out of the deal and I can do no better than to quote Nusberg who said, 'We hardly break even. They give us a place to work and pay us by the hour at workers' wages', to which an indignant listener cried, 'But that's exploitation!' to which Nusberg sadly replied, 'Yes, all our friends are a bit surprised. But we don't belong to the Artists' Union, so we have no rights. After all, we are glad to be provided with the materials we need. We couldn't possibly get them otherwise, since they can only be obtained from factories. What is important is that we are doing something. One

cannot go on forever sketching dreams and putting them in the drawer. . . They are treating us not as artists but as young electrotechnicians indulging in a hobby.'

And if you, little comrade, ask what is the role of the artist within the alleged revolutionary society, ponder the words of Lev Nusberg and the words that I have underlined and decide your role as a worker or popular clown for the Bond Street gallery or the Fortress of Peter and Paul in Leningrad offer the same choice—conform to accepted taste or go hungry . . . the mindless labour of the factory or the acceptance of official handouts, state or private, and that, little comrade, is why there is no work by the Russian group at the Hayward Gallery and only the critics to wonder on their absence in decadent London for the political boys of Leningrad will not stick out their necks beyond the safety of their own bailiwick.

But the Hayward exhibition is cheerful, exciting and as such worthy of your time and attention though the toast is once again absent friends. 'Absent friends'

to Peter Gimpel of the Town's fashionable Gimpel Gallery who sent a well-typed letter of controlled anger to FREEDOM because of my invective against the Tate Gallery and their sacking of Mr. Taylor because his introduction failed to please the Paris dealers who were supplying the articles for the Gonzalez exhibition. There are occasions, Mr. Gimpel, when the niceties of phoney polite intercourse spell out an acceptance of an evil and I would hold that the behaviour of the State-owned Tate Gallery to its own employed writer was one such time and it demanded stronger language than a coy, raised eyebrow. I would point out, Mr. Gimpel, that to write in your letter to the editor of FREEDOM that Mr. Tucker is 'an obscure artist' and to say of him that 'Maybe he did not have the courage to turn down the fee' after commercial interests and State officials had sacked him for not writing to official or commercial favour is not the language of the arts, is it, Mr. Gimpel? Leningrad? London?

ARTHUR MOYSE.

SACCO & VANZETTI

MAY 1920 is the date showing on the calendar which hangs between a photograph of Jack Dempsey and a blond 'vamp' on the wall of Brockton's squalid grey police department, located 20 miles from Boston, a setting faithfully reconstructed (today it is abandoned and semi-derelict) on the stage of Cinema City. Here we watch the entrance of two men arrested by Sergeant Connolly and the first beatings of their interrogation conducted by Lt. Stewart (the actor Desmond Perry). The two arrested men are Sacco and Vanzetti.

The film is based on absolute truth and all the incidents are supported by direct evidence. The passion of Sacco and Vanzetti is shown very clearly against its background of racial repres-

sion against immigrants in a climate of hysteria. Gian Maria Volonte, that actor capable of identifying himself surprisingly with his role in a modest grey suit with bow-tie and black-and-white check cap, is a perfect Vanzetti. Smaller, dressed in black, with a black hat which he twists between his hands before Lt. Stewart, admitting that he does not speak English very well, is Roberto Cucciola as Sacco.

As for their women, Vanzetti, as is well-known, had only a 'flirt' with a girl who on the screen will probably be Armenia Balducci. For the part of Rosa (Sacco's wife) a curious and interesting choice has been made—Rosanna Fratello.

From *Corriere della Sera*.
Translated by S.M.

THE PLEBIANS

THE PLEBIANS by Gunter Grass (Royal Shakespeare Company at the Aldwych Theatre, London.)

AT FIRST SIGHT, and to read the programme notes, this seems to be part of the universal dilemma, between the artist, who puts his art before politics and political realities, and the political activist. But in a sense this is only part of the story—it is not a matter of a two-way choice but a three-way with a loading towards reality. Let me explain.

THEATRE REVIEW

The play is set in East Berlin on June 17, 1953. The construction workers at C Block South have downed tools protesting about increased norms. At the People's Theatre the Boss (Berthold Brecht) is rehearsing a play, ironically Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*. In it he is trying to rewrite Shakespeare and depict the Plebians as class-conscious militants, fighting for freedom, whereas in the play

they were arguing not about fundamentals but the price of bread. The workers come to the Boss and ask him as a distinguished worker's revolutionary with an unparalleled record of fighting against oppression, both capitalist and Hitler, to stand with them against the State and write their demands and slogans in a way that people will listen.

The Boss is an old revolutionary, he looks for class consciousness and revolutionary fervour. 'Why won't they tread on the grass,' he says, 'these aren't revolutionaries at all.' And of course he is right, they are merely workers protesting against norms and women protesting about the price of potatoes. He, the revolutionary, knows about revolutions, he has fought in them. He looks to the State to build him a new People's Theatre shaped to his design where he can perform his art in such a way as will revolutionise art and man's thinking.

The moment is lost, as the Boss realises too late. He begins to feel the same consciousness as the people, but only as the sound of the tanks become audible. Later when the party poet demands his

signature to a document condemning the action of the workers does he express his feelings—by refusing to sign.

All right so this is only a play and Brecht was not rehearsing *Coriolanus* on June 17, 1953, but he did not come out on the side of the workers either—he did not see the significance of the uprising—he only saw his art in long terms, in the terms of his view of revolution, of his view of class consciousness, of his view of politics: Marxist-Leninism, now why? And why is this play relevant to anarchists?

On the superficial level it pricks the bubble of the Marxist intellectual, be he Brecht or Theodorakis, who talks about unity against oppression at one time but forgets this when in power. Okay, he is an artist and absorbed in his art. But what about his ideas of revolution, his general feelings towards humanity and humanitarianism—have the workers the right to protest only when they are part of an overall revolutionary plan, when they can see where they are going? And should we leave them to their devices when they call only for a higher wage, improved working conditions, better housing, better toilets, more hospitals, better roads and car parks, women's liberation—better understanding of the condition of being human? If they do not see a revolution in the offing and talk of the ordinary mundane acts of life, the realities of living, should we too not care? Must we ignore the present and live only for The Revolution, our one day of glory?

This is not a two-way problem between the artist and the political activist about who signs which bit of paper angled in one or other direction. This is the three-way problem about the irrelevance or relevance of art, of politics (ay and revolutionaries) and about what ordinary people really want. In a sense political activist and artist are both in the same boat—are they teachers and actors or are they parasites? But it begs a further question, wrings it out of the audience—if the artist knows the people will not support his art unless they are enchained, forced to look at it, is it his right to continue with his art, and little brothers, we, the political activists, the writers, the revolutionaries, have we got the right to sing different songs to the people if we claim to speak with their voices, will we ever have the right to foist a one-event revolution upon others, even with the glaring imposition in mind 'We, conscious members of the working class, know what is in your best interests'. This is egoism of the worst kind; whenever we feel like acting for others let us take ourselves in hand and become conscious of what we are doing, who we are acting for—ourselves.

PETER NEVILLE.

BOOK NEWS

AT LAST Victor Serge is getting some of the belated recognition he deserves. His splendid novel of Spanish anarcho-syndicalism, *Birth of our Power*, is now available in Penguin (7/-). Also, Gollancz, who published the former book in its hard-cover format in 1968, have now issued *Men in Prison* (42/-), and the translator's introduction suggests that *Conquered City* will also be available before too long. Don't forget also, that *The Case of Comrade Tuloyev* is available in Penguin (7/6) and *Memoirs of*

a Revolutionary has appeared in paperback too (Oxford paperbacks, 12/6).

It has been something of a barren summer for anarchist bibliophiles, so if you're stuck for something to read, don't forget that two first-rate novels about Gerrard Winstanley and the Diggers have appeared, one fairly recently, one just after the war. They are *Comrade Jacoby* by David Cante, and *Freedom is the Man* by John (?) Rush. Try your local library for them and while you're there, look for Joseph Conrad's *Secret Agent* and *Under Western Eyes*.

D. POULSON.

LETTER

The Tate Turns Chicken

Dear Comrades,

Arthur Moyses's review of the Gonzalez exhibition at the Tate and his account of my part in the affair rests on several misconceptions.

(1) I never stated in my text, nor is it my opinion that Gonzalez is 'a minor artist'. I did say that he was not of the stature of Rodin or Brancusi, but then that is hardly putting him down.

(2) I did not offer to alter the content of my introduction to meet objections by Gonzalez's dealers, but, rather than have an important show fall through, I offered to withdraw a footnote deploring the practice of casting from the originals in iron, silver, etc., after the artist's death.

(3) Gonzalez himself was as radical in his politics as in his art, but unlike Picasso could barely scrape a living from his work. Thus he himself was unable to afford bronze casting—and a process which he might have turned to an original and inventive use has become the instrument of making money for his heirs and agents: and, could they but see it, effectively negates Gonzalez's main contribution to the modern movement.

(4) The Tate's error was to have taken over and modified a dealer's show, thus allowing themselves to become subject to pressures that were ultimately commercial rather than having had the imagination and drive to put together a show of original pieces, in which case they would have been obliged to no one.

(5) While I am personally still sore at my treatment (especially as I, unlike Arthur Moyses, was not even invited to sample the 'free whisky', nor have I ever been invited to a Tate opening, for reasons best known to the authorities, but I can see their point in this case), no one should get the idea that I do not welcome this exhibition as a woefully belated tribute to a good and honest artist, whose achievement is central to



Still in the Red

PRESS FUND

October 3 to 12 inc.

Midsomernorton: G.C.H. 2/6; Driffield: E.S. £3; London, S.E.25: C.P. 5/-; Colchester: T.L. £1; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 4/-; J.L.* 10/-; London, S.W.4: M.A. 4/2; London, E.17: K.W.B. 14/6; Corby: T.P.* 10/-; Bangor: J.T. £5; Ipswich: F.R. 10/-; Wembley: T.D. £1.

Total:	£13 0 2
Income Sales and Subs.:	£100 9 4
	£113 9 6
Expenditure:	£150 0 0
Deficit b/f.:	£927 7 8
	£1,077 7 8
Less Income:	£113 9 6
DEFICIT:	£963 18 2

*Denotes Regular Contributor.

And the deficit creeps up; though we do seem to be doing better, there's still a good £50 a week to make up, and then some to reduce the overall deficit. More papers are being sold around London than have been in the past year, but we could sell more with more help. And there are plenty of other places where FREEDOM can be sold, so why not?

modern sculpture, and whose work is almost unknown to the British public, though it is not long since the modern galleries at the Tate were stuffed with tenth-rate imitations of his art.

Yours,
WILLIAM TUCKER.

London

afib

All correspondence to
Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road,
Rotton Park, Birmingham 16

ANARCHIST
FEDERATION
of BRITAIN

AFBIB. To all groups.

Having received one report only for the bulletin this month, we feel that it would be a waste of postage to send just this. (Apologies and thanks to Ian Sutherland, Aberdeen.)

No offers of a host for AFB conference yet, and similarly no change of venue for AFBIB.

Please make next month's AFBIB a bumper issue by sending your material by the last day of October. AFBIB meeting and production, Sunday, November 1. Please send a delegate to Birmingham if at all possible. (Accommodation provided if necessary.) Address all letters to:

Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road,
Rotton Park, Birmingham, 16. Tel.
021-454 6871. Material that cannot
wait for the bulletin to be sent to
R. Atkins, Vanbrugh College, Hes-

lington, York. The Contact Column
in 'Freedom' is also available for
urgent information.
Groups should send latest addresses
to Birmingham. New inquirers should
write direct to them or to the AFB
information office in Birmingham.

AFB REGIONAL GROUPS

There are now anarchist groups in almost every
part of the country. To find your nearest group
write to:
North West Federation: Secretary, Tom Howard,
163 Rylands Road, Lancaster.
Corwall: A. Jacobs, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell.
(M. Ma. B.)
Essex & E. Herts.: P. Newell, 'Aegean', Spring
Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester. (QM, PL.)
Sussex: G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom.
Yorkshire: Martin Watkins, 3 Marlborough Grove,
Leeds, 2.
Scotland: Tony Hughes, Top Flat, 40 Anglepark
Terrace, Edinburgh 11.
Wales: c/o P. L. Mare (address above).
N. Ireland: c/o Freedom Press.
S. Ireland: 20 College Lane, Dublin, 2.
University and Student Groups: c/o P. L. Mare.
(Abbreviations: M—meeting; M—magazine;
B—batches; Q—Quarterly; PL—free leaflets)

TWO YEARS AGO, on October 2, during a peaceful demonstration in Mexico City, 300 people were massacred by the Mexican army and police, after the army had been withdrawn from University City following student agitation. Even today there are still 200 people in gaol who were arrested on that demonstration. The charges against them are not political, but the civil ones of robbery and murder and this is only a ploy by the government so that they can say that they have no political prisoners. Many have suffered ill-treatment and have been denied hospital care. In January they went on hunger strike to draw attention to their plight.*

The European Committee for the Defence of Mexican Political Prisoners writes in its October Bulletin that: 'In July, 1970, two important events took place in Mexico. In the first week of the

Mexico's Repressive Revolutionary Government

month, the presidential election resulted in the election of Luis Echeverria. On July 24 the Mexican Parliament gave its approval to various changes in the penal code, as a result of which the workers' leaders Demetrio Vallejo and Valentin Campa, after 11 years in prison, were freed in the first week of August.'

The Bulletin reports that enormous amounts of money are spent on these elections, but the results are a foregone conclusion, for the candidate nominated

by the PRI (Revolutionary Institutional Party) always wins. During this year's presidential election an average of 31% of the electorate abstained. In Mexico City, this figure was as high as 34% of the 3,600,000 registered voters, and added to this there were 100,000 spoilt papers.

Trade unions in Mexico are controlled by the State. Strikes are not tolerated and those taking a leading part are usually imprisoned. Workers wages average less than £28 per month while in San Luis Potosi, one of the provinces, all that the people have to live on is 3/- per day.

Although the change in the penal code brought about the release of the two

trade unionists, the overall effect adds more chargeable offences, some relating to terrorism which significantly includes the kidnapping of officials and sabotage. New articles in the penal code relate to the use of explosives, firearms, etc., and any person 'who seeks to produce or produces alarm terror or fear or who disturbs the public peace shall be imprisoned from 2 to 40 years or fined up to 50,000 Mexican pesos' (about £1,450). 'When the same results are achieved by non-violent means, the punishment will be from 1 to 10 years' imprisonment or a fine of 15,000 Mexican pesos, about £500.'

From an anarchist point of view, revolutionary government is a contradiction for, by its very nature, a government and the State are against revolution. Those governments that claim the title usually prove to be the most repressive and certainly the Mexican government is no exception.

P.T.

*FREEDOM, 24.1.70.

The Swansea Revolt

SWANSEA REVOLT! No. 1. The story of the Morriston Fire Station Campaign, Swansea Anarchists, 1/-, including postage.

THE MORRISTON AREA of Swansea has a population of about 30,000, but little to offer young people. There is no cinema and no dances. The Pentrepoeth Youth Club is open three nights a week only, and is closed during school holidays. Yet in Martin Street there is a large empty building, the old fire station. It has been disused for over a year, and while it would not make an ideal youth centre it would be better than nothing. A campaign was begun to have it opened for this purpose by Morriston young people and Swansea Anarchists.

The anarchists had become aware of the problem while working on the Morris Street Adventure Playground during the summer holidays. They had noticed the hostile attitude of the police towards young people and even children. Children sleeping in a hut they had built for themselves on the ground were turned out in the middle of the night by the police, who then forced them to walk home in the rain, and in some cases proceeded to harass the parents also.

The campaign began with letters and a petition being sent to the Town Clerk, and there was widespread support in the neighbourhood. However there was no reply from the Council, so it was decided to take over the fire station anyway. The authorities were aware of the plans, and steel sheets were fastened over the downstairs windows, the doors were blocked up and a four-man police guard was posted.

On the night that the take-over had been scheduled to take place there were 25 policemen, and about 10 plainclothes men, who lurked in doorways, against about 50 young people, who chanted, 'We want the station'. A ladder was brought and a running fight between youths and police ensued. The police acted with their customary brutality.

The Council then did begin to worry. The Deputy Town Clerk claimed that the Council were about to sell the station. Strange that nothing had been heard of this before! A police guard remained at the station.

On Friday, September 25, 200 young people assembled at about 10.45 p.m., mostly locals but there was support from all over Swansea, skinheads, greasers and hairies. The street was blocked and more police arrived. There was another battle, though only one arrest. Police dogs were used. Later when the crowd dispersed about six more people were arrested, and beaten by the police in the van. This sort of brutality is common in Morriston, and was not peculiar to this occasion.

Of those arrested at the time of writing four have appeared in court. Three were fined £10 each and bound over for a year; the fourth, Ian Bone, was fined £30 and bound over for two years in the sum of £50. They were out to get him as a ringleader, hoping this would end the 'trouble at Morriston', but despite this another demonstration took place on Friday, October 2, the day after the court case.

This was the quietest of the demos. A few eggs were thrown at the police. The 'Swansea Street Theatre Group' put on a mime play attacking the police and bureaucrats.

This is as far as things have gone. Most encouraging was the solidarity of the young people. There is power in unity. The landlord of the Uplands Hotel banned 'undesirables' from his pub. Fifty people sat down outside and the police were called, the same riot squad that had been active in Morriston the night before. The young people all over Swansea, whether students, skinheads or hippies, face the same enemy.

Money is desperately needed to pay fines totalling £95. Please send donations to Lin Harwood, 18 Windsor Street, Uplands, Swansea.

A.W.U.

THIS WEEK IN IRELAND

THE GREAT HAPPENING of this week in Dublin especially was the visit of arch-murderer Richard Nixon. Armed American Special Branch men took over our city. We kept a 56-hour picket day and night on the Embassy, carrying placards and the National Liberation Flag. On the Sunday afternoon there was a march of some thousand persons from Parnell Square to the Embassy, each group marching behind their own banner. The Starry Plough of the CYM, the black banner of the Anarchists (of whom there was a surprisingly good turnout) and those who had no special banner carried red flags. This was followed by a trial of Richard Nixon outside the Embassy which was quite extraordinarily well done, every speech for prosecution or defence being taken from those actually made by Americans. He was found guilty by the public who acted as jury and then burned in effigy.

The writer was wrong when she thought the Arms Conspiracy trial would be declared *nolle prosequi*. It bumbles on under Mr. Justice Henchy, and is more sickening every day as more and more and more lies are told, and it becomes crystal clear the whole thing was a personal bid for power on the part of certain Ministers rather than any real anxiety about our people being butchered in the six counties. The chief witness for the prosecution in the last trial, one Colonel Hefferon, is not to be called this time. He let too many cats out of the bag.

The bank strike enters its sixth month with little hope of resolving itself. Oh,

talking of Nixon's visit, I forgot to say all the papers were forbidden to publish any anti-Nixon letters. I was surprised to see none and was told this by the editor of one of our dailies.

On both sides of the border, fires and huge robberies go on and each blames the other, the UVF or the IRA, according to their personal sympathies. Your James Callaghan has had the neck to say there are no political prisoners in the North, only law-breakers. Chichester-Clark totters towards his now very near overthrow. Presumably the nonentity Andrews will take over but it is only a matter of time which is fast running out before the holocaust breaks out and all 32 counties are involved in civil war. Ian Paisley is belly-aching at not being wanted in Australia, and declaring it is another example of the Pope's wickedness and lack of democracy (I doubt if the Pope himself knows anything about Paisley's private wars), and the light amusement up there is that every day the soldiers religiously spike the Crossmaglen-Armagh road, and every night the locals equally devotedly remove the spikes. At least it keeps a number of people busy and out of mischief!

Forgive brevity and lack of any profundity this week. I was literally on my feet for 50 hours during Nixon's visit and have had to catch up on work since and am falling asleep in little heaps. I enjoyed very much chatting with the Anarchist contingent and renewing contacts on Sunday.

H.

CORRECTIONS ON IRELAND

Comrades,

With reference to the article in FREEDOM, 10.10.70, from H on the Irish situation, a few points. Firstly, the man shot on the Shankill road last week had nothing to do with the army riot, politics or even sectarianism. Like most large cities we too have our occasional local murder. Secondly, the whole trouble was not caused by rampaging Linfield soccer fans provoking the residents of Unity Flats yet again, it was caused by a section of the British army, acting under instructions, who decided that it was time for a show of strength and so got stuck into a crowd of young lads who for once were doing nothing. Naturally, and quite rightly, they defended themselves and as a result the army saturated the entire Shankill area with the poisonous CS filth, used their rubber

bullets, armoured cars and guns and gave the Shankill a taste of what the Falls had suffered. Needless to say, those to suffer most were the very young and the very old, working class people whose only crime is to live in slums built for them by their capitalist masters who have treated them like dirt and fed them sectarian poison for years.

Finally, last night a small group of Derry Young Hooligans took on and beat the troops of British imperialism just by the Bogside. While English 'revolutionaries' bicker amongst themselves, some young people in Ireland, albeit inarticulate and politically naive, are fighting and risking their lives against the armed forces of repressive authority. They should be supported.

BELFAST ANARCHIST GROUP.

Tits and Titters

SENNETT, THE MAGAZINE of the University of London, has never been noted for its revolutionary approach to the modern world. (Where in fact did the concept of 'revolutionary' and 'student' as synonymous come from?) Beset by problems of appealing to the mass of students and of getting in advertisements, they have all too often fallen for cheap slick journalism.

In the present issue they carry advertisements for Lloyds Bank; College scarves, ties and blazers; a career as an Inspector of Taxes; a Students' Bookshop; *The Sunday Telegraph* (a series of articles on student problems); a paperback series; three films likely to appeal to students; an insurance bureau; and—among the 'smalls'—an advert for six 'ugly pin-ups'—'You'll want to give these "dollies" the "bird".' One cannot really complain about this—a newspaper must live by advertisements—but if they get to the state of determining content one 'fails to see the necessity'.

However, Sarah Cullen (one of the editorial board), writes that she has written to the advertising agents for Sennett explaining why they can't accept an advert for Barclays Bank. 'There isn't,' she explains, 'anything personal about it.' She has no feelings against Barclays; in fact she says naively, 'If I investigated all the investments of all the companies who advertise in Sennett I doubt if I could sleep easily. The issue at stake is one of solidarity.' She goes on to say that if she personally opened an account at Barclays this would be a matter for her private conscience but she, as Editor of a student newspaper, would be going against NUS policy by printing the advert—therefore she doesn't. But, Miss Cullen, one may intervene, 'if the NUS policy determined you should print something against your conscience, would you do it?' Look out Fleet Street, here comes another recruit! There is not sufficient space in FREEDOM to go through all the failings of Sennett which at times lapses into a pop-vicar's parish magazine and at others seems to be a house-organ for a progressive company.

It is when we turn to page 7 we get the reason why a United Front of Gay Liberation and Women's Liberation went on the rampage at the University of London and sloganized with spray paint on six floors. One's eye is drawn to a picture by Wacław Słezak of two beautiful bubas, or breasties, or tits, or Bristols whatever you like to call them. These are the eye-catchers for an anonymous article (by Sarah?) entitled 'When the wraps come off' which is a skittish, coy examination of some of the sexual

mythology about University life—this issue of Sennett is for 'freshers'.

'Wrappers' starts with the bold, well-remembered and probably bogus statistic that '80% of the girls who enter university are virgins and 80% of those who leave aren't'. He or she goes on in best smoking-room manner to cap it with 'the second year males get the first year females, the first year males get the first year college of ed. females and the first year college of ed. males resolve to become missionaries, queers, misogynists or any permutation thereof'. The article goes on to comment 'muscling in on someone else's womenfolk has problems' and 'whilst horrified at the sight of previously proud men falling over each other to drool ingratiatingly over a small number of specky, spotty grotties, one of the guys confided to me that he was considering the idea of turning queer in desperation'. Had enough?

If this article had been obviously a humorous comment on the myth of student sexual prowess (which to some extent it is), it would have given no offence. But as it is unsigned it obviously bears blame for responsibility.

Women's Liberation was obviously annoyed at the male chauvinism but the slur on homosexuals (the use of the term 'queer' is enough in itself) was sufficient to bring the Gay Liberation Front out as well with the slogans 'Smash Sexism in Sennett', 'Put an end to penis power in Sennett and ULU'—this for its length almost comes in the category of slogans-we-doubt-ever-got-spray-painted!

Sennett has made some promise to reform but it seems that the sickness in Sennett is too deep for mere promises. However Women's Liberation and Gay Liberation Front are watching.

J.R.

'NO MAN IS GOOD ENOUGH TO BE ANOTHER MAN'S MASTER'

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Still Nowhere to Go

COUNTY COUNCILS and London and county borough councils have been asked to work out their proposals for the permanent sites which it is now their duty to provide and to inform the Minister of their proposals by September 30. It will then be possible to assess the rate of progress towards the ends which the Act envisaged. My hope and belief is that the picture will prove to be one of a situation which will be improving rather than deteriorating.' (Extract from

THE GYPSIES

a letter to the NCCL dated August 3, 1970 from Lord Sandford, the Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Housing and Local Government.)

It is difficult to share Lord Sandford's optimism at a time when at least five local authorities in the West Midlands have resolved to break the law by refusing to provide sites in their areas; when eight anti-gypsy citizens' action groups have been formed in the Midlands and North Wales; and when some newspapers like the *Sunday Mercury* of Birmingham are whipping up public prejudice and hostility. A recent editorial in the *Mercury* accused 'tinkers' of 'contempt for the law... the vilest despoliation... terrorisation of innocent families... stealing and intimidation'. Its final verdict—'Tinkers are not a minority group of reluctant and downtrodden outcasts as the law assumes, but a determined band of roughs who have chosen the life of outlaws and show no desire for any other.'

Lord Sandford rejected the NCCL's request for an urgent meeting with the Minister to discuss reports the NCCL had received from the Midlands and Lancashire. These stated that some local authorities were actively pursuing a policy of harassment on the false premise that sites would not have to be provided if they could get rid of all the travellers

in time. The September 30 deadline has now passed and it is worth considering the latest situation based on further reports we have received.

The NCCL's West Midlands Group, working closely with its affiliate, the West Midlands Gypsy Liaison Committee, has been in touch with twenty-two local authorities, advising when asked on the provision of sites and pressing for sites when nothing is being done. Birmingham and Solihull are applying for exemption. Dudley is still considering the matter; and Walsall has voted to ignore the Act. On the positive side, West Bromwich has consulted NCCL representatives on the provision of several small sites for five caravans. Warwickshire has been similarly advised. Bromsgrove has had a reasonably successful site for six years, while Cannock is preparing a site. There have been, says Roy Parkinson, the NCCL's West Midlands chairman, so many evictions that it is impossible to keep track of them. Some of these have taken place in direct contravention of agreements reached between the Gypsy Council, the NCCL and the local authorities. The Anti-Tinker Association, based in Walsall, moves in to inflame local opinion on almost every occasion a site is proposed.

In the Bristol area nothing much has been resolved. The Bristol Corporation may legitimately claim that there is no land available within the city. Gloucestershire's plans, for three sites to be partly financed by Bristol, have fallen through. Somerset agrees that more sites are needed for gypsies near Bristol but says it is Bristol's responsibility. They have provided sites in other parts of the county, one of which is to be closed shortly. Long Ashton Rural District Council, near Bristol, is opening two sites.

The Gypsy Council reports that Bedfordshire County Council has been talking about a site for months which is not likely to be ready before October 1971. In September there were ninety-five

travelling families in the county. They have become a target for Parish Councils who are calling special meetings to drum up local hostility. Two Parish Councils have raised £400 each to keep the gypsies from their areas. Roadside sites, which for want of anything better have been used for years, are being blocked by the dumping of sub-soil from road widening schemes. Luton has applied for exemption.

Brian Richardson reports that in Kent the critical shortage of sites is at present masked by the number of gypsies at work in the orchards, but that the very availability of a place to go makes it easier for the authorities to move people on. The prolonged struggle at West Malling is over. For three years, five or six families had camped on derelict land owned in part by the County Council and in part by a private owner. The owner has now been successfully taken to court for a breach of the planning regulations, as he failed to move the gypsies on and thereby caused a 'change of use'.

The gypsies still hold on at Crittalls corner on the A20 on the borders of the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley. The Bromley official site is full and after years of promises the Bexley site has not even been started. Conditions there are wretched and some families moved in desperation to a wooded lane in Bromley. However, local bye-laws have been invoked and they will be evicted any day now.

On a road verge at Tunbridge Wells four gypsy families and their lawyers are still fighting on a technicality of the Highways Act which could provide a precedent for possible advances in the future. At Seal Chart, near Sevenoaks, the Rural District Council is digging protective trenches against gypsies whose menfolk are threatened with prison for non-payment of fines (which they can't possibly pay).

A struggle is going on with the Social Security Commission which is adamant that they will not sustain the pitifully deprived women and children. At Woolage in East Kent, gypsies have moved on to National Coal Board land and provoked a tirade of abuse from the local Rural District Council which is pledged to get rid of them.

But while things are comparatively quiet on the unauthorised sites, a new difficulty has emerged on the official ones. The Caravan Sites Act commits local authorities to make what rules they see fit for the management of their sites. At Bean, near Dartford, the Rural District Council has shown itself utterly unsympathetic to the gypsy way of life, has made rules which gypsies could not reasonably be held to, and attempted (unsuccessfully so far) to evict all the 'offenders'.

As we went to press the latest reports from Lancashire had not arrived but evictions have continued unabated throughout the summer.

While some localised progress has been made in certain areas, the Ministry survey should expose three different policies being pursued by local authorities, two of which may contravene existing law. Some will provide sites. This number is likely to diminish if resistance in other areas can be shown to work. Others will harass and delay, hoping perhaps for an ineffectual response from the Ministry or a change in the law. A hard core are prepared to defy the Act. The Ministry is under an obligation to take these to court but if it does not do so, the NCCL will seek legal advice on the opportunities available to the travellers themselves to seek the protection of the courts.

Organised opposition from the press and local groups must be combated by all civil libertarians. The most urgent task is to build up understanding and communications between the travellers and local people. The myths on which prejudice is based must be broken down without delay if the travellers are not to face yet another long, hard winter. One of the most frequent excuses for hostility is that the particular travellers in the area are not real Romanies but Irish tinkers. In terms of human need this is hardly relevant but it is interesting to note that a recent survey of the West Midlands showed that of ninety-seven caravans in the area, only twelve belonged to tinker families.

The NCCL will continue to press Peter Walker to meet our representatives and those of the Gypsy Council.

—The National Council for Civil Liberties Bulletin.

Contact

Contact Column is for making contact. Use is free, but donations towards typesetting costs are welcome.

Libertarian Teacher urgently seeks accommodation E. London — Romford-Brentwood area. Any help appreciated. Write Tony Levene, 51 West Stockwell Street, Colchester, Essex.

Angry Arts. October 15 & 16, 8 p.m., at Camden Studio, Camden Street, N.W.1. 'Peoples Park'—a newsreel film about the events at Berkeley in May '69. Entrance 5/-.

South Africa Day. This is October 24. We cannot afford extensive publicity so we must rely on your help. This 'South Africa Day' can only be effective if you use your own initiative and do all you possibly can to help. The notice about the public meeting at Conway Hall may be enhanced by other speakers who have been invited, and possibly a film taken under extremely dangerous circumstances in South Africa. We are still working on these 'attractions' but meanwhile it is essential you help spread news of the October 24 activities. Enquiries: Hilda Morris, 6 Endsleigh St., London. 01-387 5501.

Proposed Bristol Group. Alex Bird, 23 Rosewell Court, Kingsmead, Bath.

The Chairman of a North Country firm demanded from all his executives a copy in their own handwriting of his memo about how writing things down helps commit them to memory. Most of the poor sods complied. From 'Real Time' 1/- from Freedom Press.

Demonstrations and the Left—Effective Protests? Speaker: Pat Jordan. Followed by discussion. Date: Thursday, October 22. Time: 7.30 p.m. Place: Friends Meeting House, Euston Road (opposite Euston tube).

Libertarian Analysis. First quarterly issue out at end of September. Box 210, Village Station, New York, N.Y. 10014, USA. Prices \$5.00 a year or \$6.00 a year overseas, and \$1.25 an issue or \$1.50 an issue overseas.

Germ's Eye View (London). Rank and file paper from the Royal Free Hospital for all hospital workers. Current issue includes articles on the NUPE pay claim, domestic labour in hospital, private medicine, and the doctors' pay settlement. Available from 50 Colebrooke Row, London, N.1, at 3d. a copy plus 4d. postage, or on sale or return.

Comrades in Plymouth wishing to form group or just meet other anarchists. Contact: John Northey, 16 Adelaide Street, Stonehouse, Plymouth.

Non-Straight Psychiatrist. Urgently sought by misfit who doesn't want 'curing' of Libertarianism but who has real but unrecognised hang-up. If you know of one please write, P.B., 60 Catherine Street, Reading, RG3 1DG.

Dublin Libertarian Library requires back issues of 'Freedom', 'Anarchy' and any other anarchist or allied publications, any language. Books also welcome but no payment possible. Send to Freedom Press.

Elephant and Castle Project Junior Club. Saturday morning play project for boys and girls, urgently needs reliable helpers. New ideas and cast-off toys, etc., welcome. Contact: Club Leader, Valerie E. Bickers, 26 Bromyard Avenue, London, W.3.

Very urgent. There are several families at Burrell House who need an electric cooker, especially since the gas was cut off last week. Anyone able to help meet our urgent cooker crisis please notify us via Freedom Press, phone 247 9249—The Tenants of Burrell House, The Highway, Stepney, E.1.

Wednesday discussion meetings at Freedom Meeting Hall from 8 p.m.

Urgent. Help fold and dispatch FREEDOM every Thursday from 4 p.m. onwards. Tea served.

Please help. Union of American Exiles in Britain: c/o WRI, 3 Caledonian Road, London, N.1.

Los Amigos de Durruti. A group of active campaigners in London dedicated to the propagation of Anarchy (society organized without authority) and the defence of brothers in need. Write to Bill Dwyer, c/o Freedom Press.

Anarchists in Enfield area please contact Leroy Evans 01-360 4324.

Oxford Anarchists. New group being formed, contact Dave Archard, Corpus Christi College, or John Humphries, Balliol.

Russia

THE HORRORS of life in Russian prisons was graphically illustrated by Alexander Solzhenitsyn in *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. Predictably, the Soviet Union of Writers has condemned the award of the Nobel Prize to the honest author. The Union's complaint is that Solzhenitsyn's works 'have long been used by reactionary circles in the west for anti-Soviet purposes'. This may well be so—politicians provide one another with a plentiful supply of material for mutual attack. Ordinary people are well-advised to listen carefully to these attacks as they often contain honest revelations and denunciations of politicians. The Russian writers do not deny the truthfulness of Solzhenitsyn's allegations. Being partisan they fail to see the universality of a cry for justice and see the question merely in terms of an east-west ideological contest.

Wigan

An activist there writes: 'Recently comrades and I were accosted by the Local Fuzz who said that we were not allowed to say anything on our loud hailer because there was a by-law against it. They then said that it depended what we were going to say on it. We then phoned up the local fuzz shop who said there was no law forbidding the use of such an instrument.'

HAROLD AND SIR ALEC

Tweddledum... Tweddledee is their sing-song on South Africa. At the Conservative Party conference Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the Foreign Secretary, says that the supply of arms would 'have nothing to do with sustaining South African policy of apartheid'. Shortly before Mr. Harold Wilson wept crocodile tears at the Labour Party conference on this issue. But now Lord George Brown (Christ, what are we coming to?) asserts in his memoirs that Mr. Wilson fully intended supplying South Africa. Readers of this column will note from last week's edition that limited supplies were in fact made. Both Sir Alec and Mr. Wilson are sophisticated criminals who play with the liberty and lives of people using them as pawns in their high-class robbery and prostitution. The vast wealth squandered on armaments would go a long way to radically improve our living conditions but to the politicians, the narrow short-term profiteering from the sale of arms to the assorted criminal governments of South Africa, Brazil and Greece is the primary goal.

Prison

Islington Council wants Pentonville Prison rebuilt elsewhere so that they can

THIS WORLD

use the present site for housing development—they have 10,000 homeless families on their lists right now. A commission enquiring into prisons recently estimated that 8 million working days were lost every year to the community by the incarceration of persons. Research over the years, including that carried out by anarchists, has proven that prisons are universities of crime, soul-destroying to both the willing warders and unwilling inmates. Today not only is the prison population growing but the 'crimes' for which one can be imprisoned are added to year by year. Student protesters, hippy trippers, intoxicated or careless motorists are all swelling the ranks. All bear testimony that government apparently learns nothing and the big stick remains the order of the day with even less success than before. Demonstrators are not going to cease demonstrating and pot-smoking is certainly not on the decline!

An Outsider observes us

My friend Mark Kramrisch, a tireless researcher, passed on the following quotation from Thomas Henry Huxley:

'Anarchy, as a term of political philosophy, must be taken in its proper sense, which has nothing to do with disorder or crime; but denotes a state of society, in which the rule of each individual by himself is the only government the legitimacy of which is recognised. In this sense, strict anarchy may be the highest conceivable grade of perfection of social existence; for if all men spontaneously did justice, and loved mercy, it is plain that all swords might be advantageously turned into ploughshares and that the occupation of judge and police would be gone. Anarchy as thus defined, is the logical outcome of that form of political theory, which for the last half century or more has been known under the name of individualism.'

Students and authority

'One distinct and undeniable difference between students of the late 1960s and, for instance, those of the 1930s, is that when a liberal cause presented itself in the Spanish Civil War the students of the 1930s were prepared to go and fight, and give their lives for their beliefs. Today... no willingness to go and fight for Ho Chi Minh (and his successor) or Castro's guerrillas... This is the sort of argumentation used by Mr. Edmund Ions, a politics lecturer at York University, writing in the *Critical*

Quarterly and advocating authority in the university and the rejection of any move to allow students participation in the running of that institution.

Mr. Ions attacks those students and lecturers 'who seem to regard authority as a synonym for gross moral turpitude', i.e. those who approach an anarchist position. If he were consistent he might not be surprised by opponents of authority failing to fight for authoritarians like Ho or Castro. Furthermore the implication of gutlessness bears no investigation when one considers the slaying of the students at Kent State University and the fact that many have gone to gaol rather than fight in the Vietnam war.

Students are attacking authority because at last they have discovered the stupidity and selfishness of those in power. The Vice-Chancellor of Keele University has suspended students for sunbathing in the nude. No doubt this worthy is heir to Victorian moralism and authoritarianism. His action in 1970 is unbelievably stupid—even from the point of view of maintaining his position of authority. The thinking student, in analysing the whole system, ranging from the greed of the capitalist to the ruthless power hunger of the politician, must want a society better than the one we are now all in. If he can diagnose authority as one of the basic ills—the principal one indeed—anarchists can have great hopes for the immediate future.

Turning the troops on

Senior officers of the United States Army have told Congress that in the year to October 6 more than 7,000 servicemen have been discharged for using illegal drugs.

Last year the British Army conducted an experiment with a unit on LSD. The unit was prepared for a normal search and destroy manoeuvre. Most of the men, on coming under the influence of the drug, engaged in most unwarlike activity. Some sat down swapping yarns and jokes, others climbed trees to feed the birds. I do not know what conclusions the Army bosses deduced from the exercise—which was later televised—but my evaluation was unequivocal: the more troops we turn on, the better. **MAKE LOVE NOT WAR.**

Police

In previous articles I have discussed

police brutality and moral turpitude. It may be thought I am arguing for a better and more upright police force. However, apart from desiring the ultimate abolition of the police, my immediate conclusions are that the police by the very nature of the institution that employs them tend to callousness and dishonesty. While it is impossible to document every case of police perjury and brutality—they are frequently the only witnesses apart from their victims who are seldom in a position to defend themselves—I think the widest possible publicity should be given to every verifiable instance in a ceaseless campaign to discredit them.

In Nottingham three detectives are currently on trial for intimidating immigrants into planting marijuana on persons the police wished to arrest. One man was threatened with three years' imprisonment if he failed to co-operate. When he was fined £50, one of the police gave him some cannabis to sell in order to pay the fine and supply the detective with half of the proceeds. A man named Powiss had a portion of the drug planted in his home. Subsequently the police raided this house and Powiss was arrested and convicted.

Many upright citizens will be horrified by these revelations but may well dismiss them as being an aberration. Mr. Cyril Salmon, QC, the prosecutor, has maintained as much, saying that the majority of the force were men of probity. My own personal experience with detectives, particularly, is that they are mainly scoundrels of the worst type but usually cover up their tracks and so are seldom revealed as the criminals they are.

Hurray for the Garbagemen!

Thousands of white collar workers are crawling out of their offices to engage in the only type of extrovert action they seem capable of—scabbing on manual workers. Our garbagemen, sewer workers, lavatory attendants, perform some of the dirtiest and unpleasant tasks in our society at high risk to health and at the lowest wages.

Their strike will be condemned by the yellow press as an attack on the common good, holding the public to ransom, etc., ad nauseam. Of course, it is the public, by their indifference to the plight of these workers, which is merely reaping vengeance for their neglect. Some of the Councils, like Hackney, upbraid people for not co-operating with them in maintaining public cleanliness. As a gesture of solidarity I think we should all pile up our garbage in the middle of the streets, or better still, on the steps of our town halls.

BILL DWYER.