

Freedom

Anarchist Weekly 6d

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How We Got Rhodesia

ONE OFTEN HEARS apologists for the Smith regime uttering gibberish about how the settlers 'made Rhodesia'. What one rarely hears, and what nearly enough people don't know is how the settlers got Rhodesia. Here is the full sordid tale. Mixed up in it is big business, the Crown and those leeches of the African people—the missionaries.

In 1887, Cecil Rhodes, the controlling force behind the De Beers Company, conceived the idea of an 'economic block' of British Territory running from Cairo to the Cape. Rhodes feared that the Portuguese, coming from the East, and the Germans, moving from the West, might meet on the middle Zambezi, thus closing the North-South line to the British, or to be more precise, to De Beers and Cecil Rhodes.

The middle Zambezi was the home of the Matabele, whose king, Lobengula, Rhodes hoped to persuade to keep the Germans and Portuguese out. So he sent an envoy to Lobengula at Bulawayo. The chosen envoy was one Rev. J. S. Moffat, who had spent some years in the area, and was known to and trusted by Lobengula. Moffat coaxed the king into signing a document which promised that he would not cede any territory without the consent of the British Government. Since Lobengula had no intention of ceding territory to anyone, the declaration seemed harmless from the Matabele viewpoint. Alas for the naïve! Wrote the Rev. Moffat, 'The days of the Matabele are numbered.'

In February 1888, Rhodes sent two more agents to Bulawayo, Rudd and Thompson, who talked Lobengula into signing the infamous Rudd Concession, giving Rhodes all rights to the mineral wealth of his kingdom. In return he was given 1,000 rifles, a river steamboat, and a pension of £100 a month. The ink in the document was hardly dry when Rhodes appeared with it to Victoria at Balmoral. The gracious lady, taking a moment off from John Brown, gave Rhodes's British South African Company a royal charter. The Rudd Concession fairly put the fat in the fire. Lobengula, a constitutional monarch, had no power to sign such a document without consulting the Matabele elders, and he didn't! So like a true ruler, he executed the elders.

Then Rhodes sent in the first batch of settlers, guarded by 500 Bechuanaland police. When Lobengula protested, the Government sent in troops, and in September 1890, Salisbury was founded. 'All white men,' cried Lobengula, 'are liars.' Alas, 'tis true, but then kings shouldn't be greedy! After all, for £100 a month, some people would slit their mother's throat, and for the same price, he did to death 300 Matabele.

But all was not well for Rhodes, for the kingdom of Lobengula did not

turn out to be a goldmine. The share-buying public supposed the land to be a veritable Eldorado and shares in the chartered company rose to a high price, and they thought that the mineral rights belonged to the company. They didn't—they belonged to Cecil Rhodes! The Rudd Concession was the private property of Rhodes and his directors. However, these charitable gentlemen were willing to give the rights to the company in return for a million shares, which at that time stood at £4 each! Since this arrangement would halve the dividends, most shareholders looked on it as a common swindle. Lobengula wasn't the only one to get conned by Cecil Rhodes.

The chartered company began to sink into debt and remained afloat on a monthly dole from De Beers. Rhodes saw only one way to save the company (and his reputation). That was to have unrestricted possession of Lobengula's domains.

The first shots were fired in 1893, Rhodes claiming Lobengula started first. The company's machine guns created havoc on the Matabele, no mention having been made of these devices when Rhodes assured Lobengula of his safety by giving him 1,000 rifles. By November 1893, the Union Jack flew over the smoking ruins of Bulawayo and by Christmas, Lobengula was dead.

The shares, like all shares, rose at the mere rumour of war. After the conquest they went on rising and in 1895 the £1 shares touched £91. The previously disgruntled shareholders were overjoyed and no more was Cecil Rhodes 'a common swindler'.

Ten years later, Thompson, the Rhodes agent, met a Matabele elder on the platform of Bulawayo station. 'O, Tomosong,' said the elder, 'how have you treated us after all your promises, which we believed.' Thompson had no answer. Thus began the long road to UDI and Ian Smith.

This is the bitter truth which refutes the arguments of Duncan Sandys, the *News of the World* and the *Sunday Post*. Let us tell Wilson, before he sells out (and does anyone doubt that he will?) that the settlers of Rhodesia are robbers, murderers, and liars and not our 'kith and kin'.

IAN S. SUTHERLAND.

ANARCHY 83

ON SALE THIS WEEK
DISCUSSES

HOUSING

ANARCHY is Published by
FREEDOM PRESS at 2s,
on first Saturday of every month

PRUDES & NUDES IN SUFFOLK (A LONG WAY FROM GREECE)

WHATEVER MODERN GREECE may be like, there was a time when it was the centre of civilisation and produced art which set the standards for more than two thousand years. And one of its standards was that the human body is a thing of beauty.

In 1968, in the Suffolk village of Bramford, just outside Ipswich (swingin' over-spill town with the most exciting architecture in East Anglia—they say), people think differently.

Eight weeks ago artist Richard Pinkney moved to Bramford and took with him a life-sized plaster cast of a classical Greek discus-thrower, which he proudly put up in his front garden. For six weeks nobody seemed to notice, until the *East Anglian Daily Times* ran an item on it complete with photo. Then the storm broke.

Having been told about this white, nude figure gleaming on the green grass, nearby mothers decided it was an embarrassment. Their children, they

said, would start asking questions!

Trouble is, that the Greeks in their old-time simplicity had seen no reason to cover the sexual organs of their discus-throwers—at least not on statues of discus-throwers—and it is a well-known fact that children don't know about such things. At least in the Suffolk village of Bramford they don't. Or at least little girls don't. Or at least the little girls under three with no brothers or fathers don't.

Then it transpired that it wasn't the good old locals who were objecting, it was some people from the council estate down the road. Not really country folk, you see, and don't know much about nature. Too old to have had the birds and the bees at school, they were always taken by surprise when babies arrived—not even having a gooseberry bush, like.

Anyway this slender thread was enough for three national dailies and Anglia TV to latch on to and stir up

local passion, to the extent that one dark night some miscreant came along and tore an arm off Richard Pinkney's discobolus, throwing it into a nearby doorway, and hanging a paper figleaf coyly over the left thigh of the statue. (We've heard of milky white thighs getting people worked up, but this is ridiculous!)

Anyway, out of stupidity comes some sweetness. Some sensible letters have appeared in print, and one man phoned Pinkney to say 'I look at the your statue every morning on my way to work and I think it is the most beautiful thing I have ever seen. Where can I get one for my front garden?'

We understand there is no truth in the rumour that Richard Pinkney is applying for permission to the local council to set up a plaster cast factory in his back garden.

Ah, Greece, thou shouldst be living at this hour!

FROM OUR SUFFOLK CORRESPONDENT.

Murder—British Style

HUGE ARMS SHIPMENTS continue to leave Britain under the new 'WE EXPORT — YOU DIE' campaign to boost Britain's balance of payments. The unsavoury fact which no enlightened person likes to face is that the country would be bankrupt if we stopped carrying out our role of hired thug to foreign nationals.

The muffled blow for freedom which was made during the 'Arms for South Africa' row—disregarding the fact that it was created by a politician to consolidate his own position—was valuable inasmuch as it brought the opponents of humanity out into the open. These were revealed, during a debate best described as two days of ranting cant, as the entire Conservative Party as well as a large section of the Government.

The British Press are as schizoid as usual over the question. They can print articles such as 'The Hated Men Who Make Napalm', yet hail new export orders for arms, planes, etc., with everything from the 'new hope for the future' cliché, to the

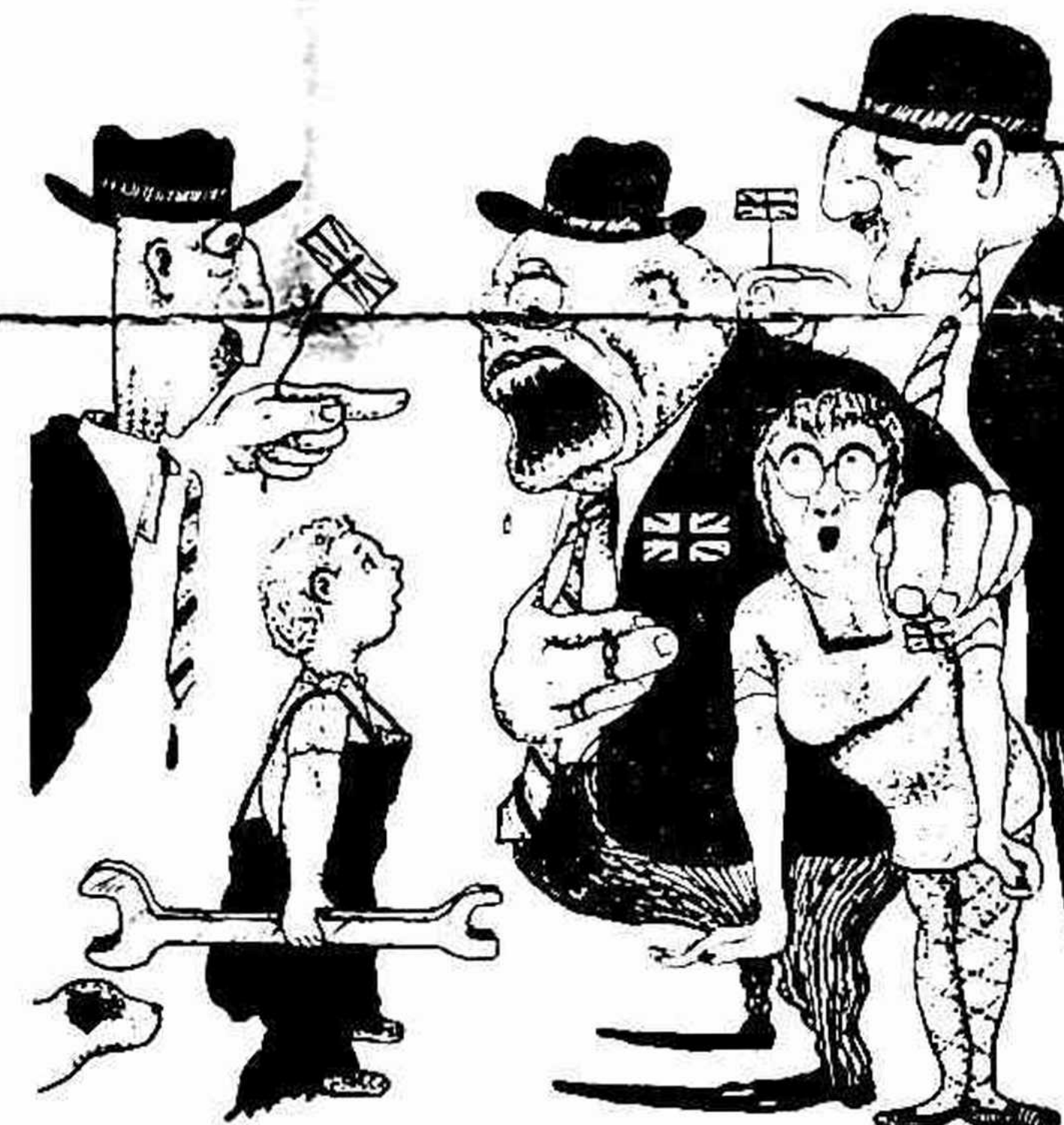
'thanks to our dynamic export salesmen' cliché. As though the method of killing made all the difference!

DEFENCE OR ATTACK?

The most important Government department which deals with the arms exports is of course the Ministry of Defence. The new title for the co-ordinating ministry of the three armed services and arms supplies is, I remind you, the work of a publicity department, who came up with the title after weeks of research. The title which accurately reflects the work carried out is the 'Ministry of Attack'. But the present title does its job of reassuring a gullible public that its work is both honourable and necessary.

When it comes to classifying and titling internal documents, however, the need for a facade disappears. And this is the case with unclassified (security-wise) documents appertaining to arms exports which are red-stamped simply:

WAR MATERIAL



ARTHUR MOYSE

'You don't want to work for nothing? What are you, a trouble maker?'

The extent of arms exports under the Wilson kakistocracy is illustrated by the following list of destinations of arms exports from Britain for the last quarter of 1967.

Shipments of war material were made to the following countries (the list is incomplete): The Argentine, Brazil, Burma, Chile, Denmark, The Netherlands, Colombia, France, Ethiopia, USA, Saudi Arabia, Ecuador, West Germany, Qatar, Peru, Kuwait, Muscat and Oman, Norway, Lebanon, Sweden and Libya.

Items run the gamut of conventional weapons, spares, and sophisticated equipment for technological warfare. They included a massive munitions shipment to the port of Abu Dhabi, in the Persian Gulf.

NEARER TO VIETNAM

It would be naive to try and discover special circumstances which justified such sales. It is clear that any country—excluding the Sino-Soviet Bloc, South Africa and Rhodesia—with the necessary hard currency will be greeted with open arms in more senses than one.

Four points, nevertheless, deserve to be noted.

1. The supply of arms to the USA

Whether these arms find their way to Vietnam, or whether these arms enable US arms to be released for use in Vietnam is immaterial. Britain now occupies a role paralleled by China in the Vietnam war, no matter how hard the miserable wretches who control our mass-media try and disguise the fact.

2. The supply of arms to South America

At least six South American countries are being supplied with war material. As the old revolutionary joke goes, 'there are no sides—we are all in this—together!'

3. Arms shipments to the Middle East

Shipments of war material to the countries listed above hardly make for an optimistic future in the regions of Aden, Yemen and Suez. Foreign Office strategy in these circumstances is to continue to supply all weapons requirements until the outbreak of war, and then for the Foreign Secretary of the day to leap up in Parliament with a suitable expression of pained injustice and announce that the supply of arms to the offenders will be discontinued. This strategy is necessary because the public are led to believe that the war material is only supplied to people who promise never to use it.

4. Licensed Gun-Running

The full extent of these transactions is beyond my information. Since legislation remains unchanged since 1966, when the modern gun-running trick was exposed (involving a neat wrangle with import certificates), one must assume that such flights are continuing as often as currency can be found to make the purchases.

THE REAL BATTLE

On December 12 last, in Parliament, the Earl of Dundee said (taken as a representative view): '... since we are trying to encourage the export of arms to other countries, like China and Russia, which do not recognise human rights, what is the sense of maintaining it against a country like South Africa? ...'

The real battle that must be fought is the battle against the bigot and the humbug, against the ignorant and the uneducated—against the incomplete man.

Continued on page 4

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BANK HOLIDAY by Michael Horovitz.
Latimer Press, 56 Parliament Hill, Lon-
don, N.W.3. 6/- (51).

A SONG OF THE GREAT PEACE by
Tina Morris, 11 Clematis Street, Black-
burn, Lancs.

LETTERS TO THE ENGLISH POETS
by George Dowden. Rain Press, 40 Here-
ford Road, London, W.2. 5/- (51).

I HAVE long held a warm affection for Michael Horovitz. In an age when all the Town's poet-tasters play Lear and howl their fractured rhythms to their fellow quints, Michael plays distraction as the Lancelot Gobbo of the Charing Cross Road. Among the sad solemnities of the monthly poetfests, when the northern potato eaters and the backlash of Australian bank clerks drone out their thought for the day in the broken cadences of the hour, Michael was the curse of the evening. Tall and thin and shrill of voice, he held their audience mesmerised with his waving hands and his hypnotic black-framed spectacles. He robbed all occasions of dignity and made the role of poetry secondary to the evening's programme and all those who whispered of that bloody Horovitz died in the public memory before they reached their bus stop, while Michael's lank form and reedy voice remained the mind's key when the inquest was held upon the evening. Lancelot Gobbo? When every beard conceals a nascent Ginsberg, Michael is our Stanley Featherstone-chaugh Ukridge. A Wodehouse creation, lovable like all of us, at one remove he is fearless and imaginative, a creature of schemes and dreams that die the death before life's brutality.

Always we will await his next happening, be it in prose or paint or poetry, and if these fail us then let him act out his role as the luminous shadow of our own drab lives. In his long poem *Bank Holiday* Horovitz gives us a chanted protesting monologue of the evils of the hour. A literary montage that incorporates all poetic fashions from the hymn to the epic, he has laced the whole with extracts from Eliot and Blake, Dylan and the Rolling Stones. But, as in all this type of work, there is an unintentional or deliberate lack of continuity. One must continue line by line and page by page assimilating and discarding until the mood of the poet achieves its purpose. This is mood poetry, completely uncommitted to any specific incident in time, and if the poet has succeeded in depressing or exhilarating us by the final page, he has achieved his object, but to attempt to examine any page in isolation becomes as futile as to attempt to dismantle the TV set to seek out the myths of Coronation Street. Apart from his unfortunate travel brochure cover, Michael Horovitz has succeeded in his intention and from a wealth of poetic journales he has spelt out the evil of the day.

Tina Morris, in her *Song of the Great Peace*, can have little in common with Horovitz yet of her gentle fashion she is but the upward swing of the self-same poetic pendulum. Her murmured phrases and the sweet music of her measured lines are of a matter so singular to herself that the whole has the intimacy of a private letter. Symbols and analogies flow line by line to create the mood she offers us and when we have finished this 'long and beautiful poem' we can

New Poetry

but return to the isolated images for the theme is as personal as that of *Bank Holiday* is public.

George Dowden has chosen to publish his letters to six poets. His courage I commend, but as an essay in diplomacy one must have doubts. Before I saw the book I had already heard suggestions that the original letters might be re-edited and it has been claimed that in one particular case they do not represent the views of the absentee correspondent. As a series of essays on the art and practice of versifying, this book can claim some merit, if one accepts that the whole is but the opinions of the author, but *Letters to the English Poets* pre-

supposes a reciprocal exchange of matters that we, the lay public, have as yet not been made participant to.

We who have ploughed through Svetlana Alliluyeva's *Twenty Letters to a Friend* merely to learn that it was not Daddy Joe but Mr. Beria who made all the mischief at their house, await with interest a documented denial from one of Beria's trigger-happy friends; and the masochistic frenzy that forced us to read Groucho Marx's and T. S. Elliot's arse-hole-crawling exchange of letters that both penned for posterity in the mistaken belief that the public utterances of old men on the themes of ancient glories can have some relevance demand, as a

public service, an exposed by their income tax adviser. We who choose to leer at General Montgomery reliving his past battles should have the courage to mock the self-same posed attitudes from the culture squalls. We read Boswell because he gave us Johnson penny plain, for let us not delude ourselves it is the dark and private side of the public figure that gives him that needed dimension to make him as one with the rest of the frail and faltering human race. The poisonous unsigned letter from a poet whose signed work one still admires gives a touch of pathos to its second reading, and an hysterical demand for a review or the return of the review copy from a gentle soul hymning his love for his fellow man gives comedy to tragedy. As a vehicle for a group of pleasant essays, George Dowden's book succeeds, but as an insight into the mind and heart of his subject matter he has failed us.

ARTHUR MOYSE

BONNIE & CLYDE

THE SIGHT of Bonnie and Clyde's bodies ripped up calmly and callously by machine-gun fire from a police battery at the end of this film stirred up such emotions in me that I could gladly have lynched the nearest policeman.

But discussing the film with friends afterwards many say these two armed bank robbers deserved it because they had killed people themselves. Without trying to excuse the killing, I think this is far too simple an attitude which shows no understanding of what led them to it.

The film showed that society in Texas in 1931 offered little for the ordinary person—represented by Bonnie and Clyde and the poor farmers who supported them. Bonnie, who lived in a bedsitter, was a waitress in a cafe. Reading her mind, Clyde says 'You got a job in the cafe and you just hate it, stuck there in your white uniform. You sit in your room and think when and how am I ever going to get away? And now you know'. It is a sad comment on society that her only alternative to a life of slavery and boredom was to rob banks and kill people.

Clyde was in a similar position—as a small-time thief just out of prison. In her poem Bonnie said 'Bonnie and Clyde are made out to be cold-hearted killers, but I knew Clyde when he was upright and good. But they kept locking him up so he said I'll never be free so I'll meet a few of them in hell'.

So they teamed up and started robbing banks—with Clyde determined Bonnie would end up waited upon at a swanky hotel in a silk dress.

But as they become hounded by police such luxuries were impossible and Bonnie reproaches Clyde 'I thought we were going somewhere, but this is it. We're just going'. But they both knew they would not even be going as a waitress and petty thief. Both knew as well they must die before long with the whole of the country's police gunning for them. But for them a short and eventful life was preferable to a long and boring one—to which the majority of their kind were condemned. Their

was a glorious and defiant suicide.

Nor is it true to dismiss them simply as cold-hearted killers. So far as I remember they only killed policemen who were shooting at them and one shopkeeper who jumped on their getaway car. The common people were quite safe and actually befriended them. This myth that the police protected people rather than property was wonderfully exposed when Clyde told the Texas Ranger who eventually killed him 'Poor farmers protected us from you with shot guns. You're supposed to protect them from us and they're protecting us from you. It doesn't make sense, does it?'

These same farmers—equally aware of the injustices of the system—also show where their sympathies lie by giving the wounded couple some rare drinking water when they're on the run. The banks which the couple rob are certainly no friends of theirs—very early on some farmers are turned off the land they have put years of work into by the Midlothian Citizens' Bank. They join with Bonnie and Clyde in shooting at the building they have built (another crazy comment on society that they should take delight in destroying what they have created).

Another example of Clyde's sense of justice is evidenced when, while robbing a bank, he asks a poor customer whether the money he is holding is his or the bank's. When he says it's his he lets him keep it. Clearly Clyde thinks the bank 'stole' the money from poor farmers and other workers such as him, and Bonnie and he were just taking it back. If people cannot have the fruits of their labour legally, it's up to them to get them illegally, is his attitude.

Far from being cold-hearted, Clyde and his gang show a childlike warmth and spontaneity. They pull funny faces, play checkers, build sand castles with children, give them horse rides and show a childlike fascination for such simple things as a pretty toy doll. Another delightful moment is when Clyde finally overcomes the sex taboos of the age. At first he draws the curtains before attempting to make love furtively to

Bonnie, fails, then covers it up by boasting to his brother what a right little goer Bonnie is. In the end, however, he makes love freely in an open field with no feeling of shame or inhibition.

The police do not emerge from the film with a great deal of credit. The one who finally ambushes them started as a bounty hunter and ends up so obsessed with revenge for a trivial incident that he frightens and uses a shot-up and blind woman to help him. The police, who blasted off half Buck's (Clyde's brother) head, close in like vultures and watch silent and unmoved as he coughs up blood and dies.

Most anarchists I think will paradoxically side with the killers (Bonnie and Clyde, not the police). But see the film and decide for yourself who started the killing or the violence and injustice that led to it.

M.P.

MOVING FUND

Target is £500.

Received to date—£288 13s. 10d.

PREMISES FUND

Target is £1,000 per year.

Pledges received to date—£351 18s.

Pledges honoured to date—£148 3s.

Thanking You

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank all those who have given to the Fund for Terry, Mike and Del.

Unfortunately, some of my mail has been going astray: would anyone who has not received an acknowledgement from me please write to me giving full details of the donation (including in the case of postal orders the date and place of posting and the counterfoil). Cash cannot be recovered unless it is sent by registered post.

Terry, Mike and Del wish to thank everyone who sent them cards.

Yours sincerely,

BRETTA CARTHEY,

Treasurer.

'Save Greece Now' Defence Fund,
8 Vincent Square Mansions,
Walcott Street, S.W.1.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

General enquiries should be sent to the London Federation

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS.
c/o Libra House, 256 Pentonville Road, London, N.1. Business meetings first Sunday of the month. For details apply to L.F.A.
No more meetings at Lamb and Flag.
LEWISHAM. Contact Mike Malet, 61B Granville Park, Lewisham, London, S.E.13. Phone: 01-852 8879.

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

KING'S CROSS GROUP. c/o Libra House, 256 Pentonville Road, London, N.1.

KILBURN, LONDON. Contact Andrew Dewar, 16 Kilburn House, Malvern Place, London, N.W.6. Meetings 8 p.m. every Tuesday.

S.W. LONDON LIBERTARIANS. Meet every Thursday, 7.30 p.m. at 14 Clapham Court, King's Avenue (Acree Lane end), S.W.4.

OFF-CENTRE LONDON

DISCUSSION MEETINGS

2nd Wednesday of each month at Jack Robinson and Mary Canips, 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.4 (off King's Road), 8 p.m.

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

2nd and 4th Friday of each month, 8 p.m. at Brenda Mercer's and di Avalin's, 80 Grouch Hill, N.8 (Finbury Park Underground, 212 bus to door).

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

AND GROUPS

ABERDEEN ANARCHISTS meet 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of month at M. Day's, 142 Walker Road, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at Liz Smith's, 3 Seaside Road. Correspondence to either address.

ABERDEEN ANARCHIST FEDERATION (SWP) local group. Folk Song Workshop and Committee of 100. Contact Iain MacDonald, 15 Cotton Street, Aberdeen.

BIRMINGHAM LIBERTARIAN GROUP. All anarchists, syndicalists, individualists, etc., please contact Geoff and Caroline Charlton, top box, 5 Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick, Walsley, Worcs.

25 miles from Birmingham City Centre, No. 9 bus, BOLTON. Get in touch with Les Smith, 22 Grosvenor Street, Bolton, Lancs.

BOURNEMOUTH AND EAST DORSET ANARCHISTS. Please contact John McCain, 14 Milton Road, Bournemouth (Wim'rh 22279) or Tim Deane, Juliet, West Moor, Wimborne, Dorset (Fernwood 3558).

BRIGHTON. Get in touch with 79 Coleman Street, Brighton. Poetry readings every Tuesday in Archway 187 on the Seafront. Admission is free and all poets welcome. 8.30 p.m. onwards.

FIFE LIBERTARIANS. Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital, by Cupar, Fife.

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

HERTS. Contact either Stuart Mitchell at South View, Potters Heath Lane, Potters Heath, Welwyn, Herts OR Jeff Claves, 46 Highbury Road, Marshfield, St. Albans, Herts.

Sunday, January 28, 8 p.m. at South View, Potters Heath, Welwyn. Meeting. John Kelly: 'Short history of Freedom Press'.

HUI3 ANARCHIST GROUP, c/o J. Tempest, 89 Fountain Road, Beverley Road, Hull.

IPSWICH ANARCHISTS. Contact Neil Dean, 74 Cemetery Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

LEICESTER PROJECT. Peace/Libertarian action and debate. Every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at 1 The Crescent, King Street, Leicester.

LSE ANARCHIST GROUP. c/o Student Union, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, W.C.2.

NORTH SOMERSET ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Roy Emery, 3 Abbey Street, Bath, or Geoffrey Bartlett, 71 St. Thomas Street, Wells.

NOTTING HILL. Please get in touch with John Bennett and Marilyn Paddy, Flat 4, 88 Clarendon Road, London, W.11. Tel: 727 9745. Meetings every Monday at 7 p.m.

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

OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Simon Martin, Oriel College, Oxford.

READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Alan Rams, 216 Belmont Road Reading, Berks.

SHEFFIELD RADICAL GROUP. Contact Robin Lovell c/o Students' Union, Sheffield

SLOUGH ANARCHIST GROUP AND 'HIPPIE' GROUP. Contact B. P. Norcott, 116 Lower Cippagham Lane, Slough, Bucks. Meetings every other Friday.

ESSEX & EAST HERTS FEDERATION

Serviced by a newsletter and three-monthly meetings. Groups and individuals invited to associate. c/o Keith Sallian, 138 Pennycuik, Harlow, Essex. Group Addresses:

BASILDON. M. Powell, 7 Lingercliff, Basildon, Essex.

BISHOPS STORTFORD. Vic Mount, 'Eastview', Castle Street, Bishops Stortford, Herts.

CHELMSFORD. (Mrs.) Eva Archer, Mill House, Parleigh, Chelmsford, Essex.

ESPING. John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Esping, Essex.

HARLOW. John Deards, 184 Carter's Mead, Harlow, and/or Geoff Hardy, 6 Redricks Lane, Harlow, Essex. Monthly meetings in 'The Essex Skipper', The Star, Harlow.

LOUGHTON. Group c/o Students' Union, Loughdon College of Further Education, Borders Lane, Loughdon, Essex.

MUCH HADHAM. Leslie Riodan, High Street, Much Hadham, Herts.

NORTH EAST ESSEX. Peter Newell, 'Maybush', Naypale Road, Tiptree, Essex. Group meets first Monday in each month, 7.15 p.m. at 91 Urook Road, Tiptree, Essex.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

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

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

CHORLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Alistair T. Ratray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley.

LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST PROPAGANDA GROUP AND 'HIPPIE' MOVEMENT. Gerry Bree, 16 Faulkner Square, Liverpool, 8. Meetings weekly 'Freedom' Sales—Pier Head, Saturdays, Sundays, Evenings. Next meeting: January 20, 16 Faulkner Square.

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Dave Poulson, 9 Boland Street, Fallowfield, Manchester, 14.

MERSEYSIDE ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Pete Sacker, 22 Sandon Street, Liverpool. Meetings: First Thursday of month, 8 p.m.

SOUTH WALES ANARCHIST FEDERATION

CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP, SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. All correspondence to: Julian Row, 111 King Edwards Road, Brynmill, Swansea. Weekly meetings. Freedom sales and action projects.

PROPOSED GROUPS

EDINBURGH anarchists contact Konrad Borowski, 13 Northumberland Street, Edinburgh 3. Tel. WAW 7459.

FULHAM & CHELSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. Get in touch with Mary Canips, 21 Rumbold Road, Fulham, S.W.6 and/or Richard Bolton, 48 Yeomans Row, Chelsea, S.W.3. Phone: KNI 2288.

TAUNTON LIBERTARIANS. Contact Jill and Alan Driver, 59 Beadon Road, Taunton, Somerset. Meetings alternate Friday evenings.

ABROAD

AUSTRALIA. Federation of Australian Anarchists, P.O. Box A 389, Sydney South. Public meetings every Sunday in the Domain, 2 p.m. and Mondays, 72 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney, 8 p.m.

DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Gothenburg 27, Viborg, Denmark.

VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA. Anyone interested in forming an anarchist and/or direct action group contact Derek A. James, 1844 Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Tel: 967-2693.

USA: VERMONT. New Hampshire Anarchist Group. Meets weekly—discussion, individual action. Contact Ed. Strauss at RFD 2, Wadstock, Vermont 05091, USA.

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

SWEDEN: Libertad, Alimins Vagen 6, Gothenburg V.

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

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

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

USA: Jarrod W. Cain, secretary, Insurgency Anarchist Association, 323 Fourth Street, Cloquet, Minnesota 55720, USA.

GROUP TREASON. Australian Anarchist, c/o Melbourne University Union or Paddy Evans, c/o the same.

SURROUNDED BY Authoritarianism in its many forms, it is surprising that anarchist ideas manage to survive at all. But survive they do and we are even making some small progress!

Anarchists continue to receive a fair amount of attention for their stand against the different forms of oppressive authority. Last year they fought many local campaigns, such as the sharp and successful one at Durham Buildings.

On larger issues, of course, there was no possibility of making any headway. But we can only talk to the people next to us and if they are beginning to listen, that is some achievement.

We welcome therefore the current editorial in *Peace News* declaring for anarchism. This is no sudden reversal of policy for them but a gradual understanding of their own thinking. That they were becoming interested in anarchism was stated in *FREEDOM* (25.2.67) when we mentioned that 'one of the most responsible newspapers in the country is taking the anarchist case seriously'. Now that they have taken the plunge it is interesting to note that not only are they intending to be 'theoretical' anarchists but practising ones. Single editorship has been

Straws in the Wind

abolished and they already feel 'greater freedom to develop and express' their ideas. It is also interesting that it was the non-pacifist Bakunin's (paraphrased) dictum which finally caught their imagination.

They conclude: 'Leadership passes now freely from one of us to the next'. Michael Bakunin said: 'I receive and I give—such is human life. Each directs and is directed in his turn. Therefore there is no fixed and constant authority, but a continual exchange of mutual, temporary, and, above all, voluntary authority and subordination'.

The Anarchist Federation of Britain

held a well attended conference last year, which was attended by many delegates, amongst them Stuart Christie, direct from his release from a Spanish jail.

The continued interest in anarchist ideas is also reflected on the growing number of newspaper articles that appear on the subject.

A radio programme, 'Far from the Barricades', in which *FREEDOM* editors took part, was broadcast this week (repeat January 30, Radio 3).

There has also been comments in local newspapers, such as the *Kilburn Post* and the *South London Press*, which show that local groups are being noticed. Press cuttings of anarchist activities have been sent to us from many towns including Aberdeen, Bath, Chorley and Harlow.

Anarchists participated in demonstrations (what they thought to be) against the Vietnam War and against nuclear weapons, and took part in the industrial struggle.

They also organised some demonstrations themselves, notably against the Greek military take-over, against Korymbos's visit and that other big noise: the Concorde.

The successful experiment of propagating anarchism at Four Shows and in market places, started by Harlow's Federation, will be continued this year.

Anarchist ideas will continue to spread. The present climate of distrust of politicians and dislike of encroaching authority can only help the anarchist movement.

Anarchism, so long a utopian dream to many people, is now becoming an attractive possibility. It would be wrong to assume that we have convinced more than a tiny minority. It is also fair to point out that we have not entirely convinced some of our friends as yet!

But as the rich will get richer and the poor poorer in this country and hardships will increase for the old, the infirm (and the able-bodied), a desire for a co-operative society will develop.

As inflation eats up people's wages, gimmicks and appeals for 'voluntary patriotism' will increase and will culminate in 'loud demands' for a National Coalition Government.

But these are straws in the wind that the authoritarians will not have it all their own way.

EDITORS.

FIFTH COLUMN

THE MOST ORIGINAL criticism of the *Backing Britain* campaign has come in the *Sunday Telegraph* from T. E. Utley:

Five typists who have been praised by the Duke of Edinburgh, commended by the Prime Minister, supported by the Institute of Directors, had a poem written about them by the Poet Laureate and have been offered a free holiday, can easily take a little oblique criticism from a mere journalist.

After all, there have always been two views about how the economic activities of society should be organised. There are those who believe that we serve the community best by working for ourselves and our families within the limits of the law, and there are those who hold that duty requires us to prostrate ourselves consciously and constantly to the community at large. It is the second view, which prevails in wartime and under all forms of peace-time Socialism, on which these five young women have acted. Willingly or not (I suspect not) they and the Duke of Edinburgh have made one of the most powerful interventions in our political affairs that has happened for many years.

All systems of ideas attract adherents who have a psychological need to take them to their logical conclusion. But the logical conclusion of an idea is not necessarily to the advantage of those who claim to base their lives upon it.

Apartheid is a useful slogan for the South African ruling class—so long as it is not carried too far. If there were complete separation of the races in South Africa black workers would have to leave the white man's mines, factories, farms and houses. The end of black labour in 'white' areas would obviously weaken the privileged position of the white man.

Christianity is useful to the ruling class of the West only if it is not taken too seriously by the people. When they are called to the colours to defend their country, the men of the Christian West are not expected to turn the other cheek. Peace on earth: goodwill to all men—and when the 24-hour Xmas truce is over hit Charlie with everything you've got.

So, with capitalism, Mr. Utley suggests that we should now be seeking a revival of the instinct of enlightened economic self-interest—a state of affairs in which everyone in this country is obsessed with the importance of looking after himself and those immediately dependent on him, in which the law of supply and demand governs the distribution of labour and capital between our industries, and in which, by seeking to promote our own ambitions, we foster the common good.

This doctrine makes sense to those who will profit from it. But clearly if everyone were to become 'obsessed' with the importance of looking after himself there would be mass resignations by for instance nurses and teachers, voluntary workers would stop working and ordinary workers would strike more frequently. The capitalist idea that we should behave as though in the jungle conflicts with the Protestant idea that we should do our duty and the nationalist idea that we should regard the country as more important than ourselves.

It is obvious that the *Backing Britain* campaign is likely to benefit the ruling class and weaken the forces for social change. Perhaps those of us who can might retaliate by spending half an hour of our working day being paid and not working.

LAST SUNDAY, Meeting Point included my favourite academic Dr. Leach, my favourite crowd orator Donald Soper, Baroness Woolton and Caroline Coon of *Release*. When they were introduced and asked to discuss the 'permissive society' I looked forward to a stimulating discussion. What followed was a mess. In spite of the intelligence of each participant the programme was confused and confusing: at the end it seemed to me that I knew less than I did at the beginning about the speakers' views.

Perhaps they were all there to balance one another and prevent the clear statement of a particular opinion.

GEORGE KILOH has suggested that young Liberals should telephone MPs at inconvenient times about Vietnam. *The Times* recalls a post-Suez precedent when the *Sunday Graphic* gave an MP's home number urging its readers to ring him up. The MP 'complained in the Commons, and the Committee of Privileges found the *Graphic* editor guilty of a serious breach of privilege'.

I do not expect George Kiloh to be deterred by the thunder of *The Times*. WYNFORD HICKS.

Trendy & Lucrative

Dear Comrades,

As editors of a small literary and philosophical press which *Indica* shop chooses not to deal with (because we 'are harmful and irresponsible'), and as publishers of Arthur Moysse, we are obviously less than objective about the matter. Nonetheless we feel compelled to answer Alyosha Kensho's scurrilous, emotive and somewhat irrational attack on AM.

Better Books' avant-garde department was a sound commercial proposition and its closure was hardly 'due to public neglect'. *Indica's* pop orientation is presently most lucrative indeed. It has little to do with 'the future', being but a fashionable and trendy creature of the moment; more of an 'In-Scene' than a serious bookshop.

Most shops are plagued by troublesome and pilfering children but they do not all indiscriminately forbid them. *Indica's* connection with that notorious

PRESS FUND

WEEKS 51 & 52, DECEMBER 30, 1967:
Expenses: 52 weeks at £90: £4680
Income: Sales and Subs.: £3457

DEFICIT: £1223

London: S.B. 2/6; Dudley: M.H. 5/-;
Sussex: P.W. 2/6; Cardiff: M.G. £1/2/-;
Calgary: D.J. £1; Montreal: W.F. £1/0/5;
Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; Manchester:
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B.D. £6/9/4; Taunton: J. & J.D. 8/6; Cali-
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Bristol: R.B. £1; Pittsburg: O.S. £1/4/-;
Munster: W.D. 8/-.

TOTAL: £132 16 0

Previously Acknowledged: £1111 8 2

1967 TOTAL: £1244 4 2

*Denotes Regular Contributor.

WE BROKE EVEN!

And NOW . . .

WEEK 1, JANUARY 6, 1968:

Estimated Expenses:

1 week at £90: £90

Income: Sales and Subs.: £89

Balance to Find: £1

New York: Anon 5/-; Norfolk: J.B. £1;
Glasgow: A.J. 2/9; Chille: L.D. £1/6/3;
Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-;
Lincoln: J.W. 5/-; Suffolk: D.J. £2; Wol-
verhampton: B.L. £1/12/6; Wexfordstone:
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T.S. £1/4/6; London: N.W.11: R.M.
£1/12/6; Leicester: J.H. £3/10/-; Edin-
burgh: K.B. £1; London, N.W.6: R.R.
10/-; L.S.E. Anarchist Group £1; Broms-
grove: A.H. 4/7; Vancouver: N.E. 4/5.

TOTAL: £19 15 5

Balance B/F: £1 0 0

Surplus: £18 15 5

*Denotes Regular Contributor.

adolescent comic might doubtless attract a high proportion of such unprincipled youth!

Arthur Moysse was doing considerable good for literature and the arts long before we suspect Alyosha Kensho was conceived!

Best wishes,

Blackburn DAVE CUNLIFFE
Lancs. & TINA MORRIS.

Human Rights Year

Dear Editors,

The National Council for Civil Liberties is leading its full support to the campaign for Human Rights Year. During 1968 attention will be focused on Human Rights problems in Britain and abroad. The NCCL has been the main defender of Human Rights in Britain since 1934. After 1968 we shall continue to carry out this important task. As the NCCL's contribution to the campaign we are publishing studies on three different areas where human rights are infringed in Britain: Gypsies (already available), the rights of children, and invasions of privacy.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights establishes the principles which member nations should observe. White violations of human rights may be more dramatic and intensive in some other countries, nothing is to be gained by complacency about the situation at home. The NCCL believes that in some respects as many as 16 articles of the Declaration are violated in practice and others in spirit in Britain.

The NCCL's function has always been, while seeking to retain a climate of public opinion favourable to human rights and civil liberties, to deal with individual examples of injustice whenever and wherever they arise. Human Rights Year will achieve nothing if it deals only with generalisations and lofty ideals. Hardly a day passes when ordinary citizens are not faced by restraint of their rights by the very institutions which are supposed to serve the community.

The NCCL's most effective contribution to the campaign will be the constant reiteration of established policy in the areas of most concern from the civil liberty view point: powers of the police; immigration control; race relations; law reform; compulsory detention under the Mental Health Act; prisons; trade union rights; censorship; freedom of speech and assembly; discrimination against minorities and women.

TONY SMYTHE,
General Secretary

Fundamentals Change Wanted

Dear Friends,

Jim Huggon's *Teachers Wait and See* in *FREEDOM* (23.12.67) was interesting in that it provided a précis of the various aspects of the current teaching disputes: more interesting still, in an anarchist newspaper, was the implicit approval of teachers bettering their lot through the traditional channels of negotiation and moderate strike action. This attitude came up in such phrases as 'The real issue of the teachers' dispute is basic pay. . . . The differential between secondary school pay and primary school is also important. . . . The use made of unqualified staff is important to teachers who are especially concerned with improving their status within society. . . . It might have been worth throwing overboard the complacent acceptance of the procedural status quo to point out that the system within which these teachers work is a kind of huge and tragic joke, destroying educators and 'educated', the whole business of education, surely one of the most natural processes in the

Letters

world, is slowly being submerged in a morass of turgid talk about Newsom Reports, Nuffield math (fake creativity), comprehensive schools (fake equality), rates of pay, and professional standing.

If there is one sphere of English life in which only total revolution can achieve anything, it is education: revolution is not exactly the NUT's favourite hobby-horse and revolutionary teachers are not exactly the union's favourite people either—better that teachers should worry about another quid a week than the fact that they are raising a nation of morons. In the closing section of the article we are treated to the laughable suggestion that a compulsory cash levy in support of striking teachers would soon sort out the men from the boys: this kind of sorting-out, as Jim and I, both teachers, well know, takes place in the course of the teacher-pupil relationship. The people we need now are not the ones who can satisfy their sense of duty by chipping in to a compulsory levy, but those who will work for a fundamental change and who would reject any compulsory levy simply because it was compulsory.

JOHN THURSTON.

Black Power

Dear Comrades,

Roger Sandell asks what my article on Michael X has to do with anarchism. I nowhere wrote that Black Power advocates are anarchists, or even consider anarchism significant. I merely offered information that came my way from attending Michael Malik's trial, invited anarchists to make their own enquiries and hoped that meanwhile they would not prejudice the question.

Failure to condemn that part of Black Power working to build up immigrant owned businesses earned further censure from Roger Sandell. Black Power's spokesmen say they regard imperialism/capitalism as their first enemy, white racialism deriving from economic and cultural suppression—Courtney Tulloch at the 'Lamb & Flag'. Do they practice what they preach? Like anarchists, in this country Black Power is as yet largely talk and little action. Unlike anarchists, Black Power advocates try very hard to conceal the real divisions in their ranks, sure evidence that they would reproduce the system they react against.

Roger Sandell suggests I 'merely propose tinkering with the system'. No, the only change worth working for is the total destruction of hierarchical power. Michael X attracted me as the one spokesman for Black Power who openly refused to play the political game. To appreciate this, listen to him, talk with him, as he would with you, were he not for this subversion gaoled for 12 months. There are Black Power brothers as glad as the establishment he is out of hearing.

I agree with Sid Parker that the two Black Power representatives on the Frost Show were hopeless. They naively accepted an invitation to a public display of weakness (any serious revolutionary chooses the ground he will fight on or evades the enemy altogether). They refused to talk in David Frost's terms but forgot they were only there on his terms.

The rest of Sid Parker's letter tells the reader more about Sid Parker than my article on Black Power. Rephrasing the paragraph on 'violent rhetoric' (but only guilty of it) to refer to Colin Jordan is a false equation. The violence of Black Power is a reaction to centuries of white

violence against black men. The violence of Jordan's fascists is that very same white violence raised to the highest power. For taking sides Sid Parker finds me guilty of 'group-thinking'. I find him guilty of a very precious disregard for facts of history.

As for my description of Muslim ceremonies in court, again, who is suggesting it had anything to do with anarchism? If Sid Parker and D.C.R. had brought to Michael's trial a sense of humour, would they still blast off on the always debatable merits of religions, when the effect of the ceremony was to use the law's guarantee of respect for religion to disrupt the progress of a ridiculous trial?

Lastly, would D.C.R. deny that when a black man speaks of 'white monkeys' he means white men and their ancestors, who, to put it mildly, monkeyed around with his native patterns of living, while, when a white man speaks of 'black monkeys', he means simple ugly apes, without his refinements, and perhaps mischievous enough not to want to be white?

On whose terms is integration? Always the white man's. Pace D.C.R., integration and revolution are mutually exclusive. Integrate to what? Votes at elections, places on cricket teams, inclusion on council house waiting lists; how does this change the social order oppressing black and white alike?

Anarchically,

London.

G. GLADSTONE.

End of the Road in Italy

I'D LIKE to add a postscript to the piece, which you published on December 2, from me about Italy.

The march seems to have been quite a success. According to the Communist press, of course, it was; but even 'non-political' people who saw the last day of it televised were impressed by the gathering. Only a few dozen people marched all the way, but the bulk of the march at any one time was made up by people joining in for one or two days as it passed through their respective districts. Local left-wing deputies and councillors naturally took advantage of it and most of the leading Communists showed up for the final couple of kilometres through the centre of Rome! The Italian Government will, however, continue to support NATO.

As for the Mafia; in the Catanzaro trial they are imitating the famous bird which flew round and round in ever-decreasing circles; while at Lecce, where they are trying some mafiosi accused of the murder at Agrigento in 1960 of a police commissioner called Tandoi, the case was, on December 15, adjourned until January 24. The prosecution refused to allow bail for two defendants (who have already been in prison two and a half years awaiting trial) but wished them a happy Christmas. Meanwhile, two orange-growers (father and son) near Agrigento who had refused to sell their crop to the Mafia at an artificially low price, went out one morning last week to find all their two thousand trees had been cut down.

TIM OXTON.

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Where we came in

SURELY THIS IS where we came in. Wilson has informed the TUC leaders that, starting July, for the next 12 months the country's total wage bill must not exceed 3½%. He makes the point that if any wages are paid in excess others must be that much lower.

The Government is prepared to tag along with the TUC wage-vetting policy but if they exceed the 3½% they can expect the Government to take over. The Department of Economic Affairs is preparing plans to prevent back-dating of increases.

The difference between the Government and the TUC is comparatively small. The TUC want 3½-4% norm, the Government want 3½% maximum. The TUC is to present the Government's proposals to the conference of TUC union executives at the end of February.

It is highly probable that the union executives will accept the Government's norm. No doubt WE shall hear a wailing and a gnashing of teeth from the executive members. This is all part of the act, but let's

be fair, it is wearing a bit thin.

The TUC continue with their monthly meetings with the Confederation of British Industry and they continue to go round in ever decreasing circles. When George Woodcock, TUC general secretary, raised the question of pegging prices he received the usual answer. Increased prices were due to increased wages. Surely Woodcock does not expect any other answer. The employers have safely and securely nestled behind the Government wage freeze and will continue to do so. Blimey! it is commonsense from their point of view. Why stick your neck out for nothing.

The great British patriot Ray Gunter is calling for Britain to regain its 'soul and power'. He was amongst friends when he made the call—the British Institute of Man-

agement conference. No doubt provincial businessmen will appreciate the Labour Minister's concern, particularly when they are a £1 a week light in their wage packet.

The Institute of Economic Affairs has thrown in its three-penny worth towards industrial relations. In the book arising from the IEA deliberations Lord Shawcross has written the foreword. This was the MP for St. Helens in 1945 who stood up in the House of Commons and shouted 'We are the masters now'. It is reported he wore a blood-red tie for the occasion, but one can only assume he had tomato ketchup for breakfast that morning. Writing in the foreword he states the need for legal measures to render restrictive practices illegal. Also penalties for unions or members who break collective bargains. The nerve of this merchant who belongs to a profession who are past masters at restrictive practices.

As it has been stated so many times before, the outlook is pretty grim, and will remain so, if we Joe Soaps continue to allow ourselves to be blackmailed. Now is the time to take action, before the Royal Commission's Report on Trade Unions is issued. After that our struggle will be twice as difficult, because the law will be used to keep us 'in line' far more effectively than it is able to do now.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

Freedom For Workers' Control

JANUARY 13 1968 Vol 29 No 1

Roberts-Arundel— Last Round



Pickets at Roberts-Arundel, Xmas 1967.

Contact Column

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

Student Anarchism. New fiery magazine starting beginning of next year. Enquiries from students, as well as articles, welcome. R. Bebb, 103a Camden Road, N.W.1.

Pandora Studios. Anarchist Silk Screen and Graphic Design, 256 Pentonville Road, N.1 (01-837 0088).

Flats and Houses Cleaned. Simple redecoration and gardening jobs wanted. A. W. Uloth, 75 Templars Avenue, London, N.W.11.

Pamphlets. 'The Origins of the Spanish Revolutionary Movement' (M. Daxshar)—2/6; 'Surrealism and Revolution' (anthol.)—2/6; 'Sixteen-Forty-nine, story of Diggers and Levellers'—5/-; Coptic Press, 7 Coptic Street, London, W.C.1.

Commune. Money without strings wanted to set up 'acritic' commune in Colchester. Agriculture and light industry. Write to Desmond Jeffery, Burnt Oak, East Bergholt, Colchester.

International Anarchist Camp 1969. Proposed to hold it in S.E. England—offers of assistance, suggestions for suitable sites to Jim Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex.

'Save Greece Now' Defence Fund. Donations for Terry, Mike and Del to Brett Carthey, 8 Vincent Square Mansions, Walcott Street, London, S.W.1. Use Registered Post. Money and letters fail to arrive.

Malcolm Shepherd. Please get in touch with John Walker.

Ian Celnick please get in touch with J.R. at Freedom Press.

East Anglia. If you're near Ipswich, call on us. We stock all Freedom Press publications, and have FREEDOM and Anarchy regularly. Orwell Books, 44 Upper Orwell Street, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Insurrection. Essex & East Herts. Newsletter, c/o K. Nathan, 138 Penny-mead, Harlow, Essex.

Van Wanted. With or without driver to cover Aldermaston march—literature, speakers' stand, etc. Easter week-end April 11-15. Reply to LFA, Libra House.

Anarchist Rave. 'Social' in Concourse Area, LSE, Houghton Street, W.C.2. Thursday, January 18, 7.30-10.30 p.m. Noise, Drink and Freak!

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If you wish to make contact let us know.

NEWS FROM SPAIN

TEN SPANISH MINERS from Mieres, N. Spain, were dissatisfied with their pay. They decided to form an association with others in the same position. Their first meeting took place in February, 1966.

Out of this meeting came a short document stating the points of their dissatisfaction and their proposals on how to remedy the situation. Copies of this were sent to the Government authorities, the ecclesiastical, and the judicial authorities on March 22, 1966.

The ten leaders of the association met

MURDER - BRITISH STYLE

Continued from page 1

When the man in the street can reason thus: since we maintain an embargo against a country like South Africa, which does not recognise human rights, why is the Labour Government trying to encourage arms deals with China and Russia?—we will be on our way home.

FOR KRUPP READ WILSON

The role the Labour Cabinet is playing in world affairs is that of a latter-day Krupp. The rules of the game may have changed since 1930. But make no mistake about it, the ultimate breakdown of civilisation is going to be the same.

As our premier himself said, during the Arms Debate, on December 18, 1967:

'We have our own standards to maintain, and every other country must be the judge of its own standards.'

I suppose one good thing has come out of all this. At least no one in the world can now be in the slightest doubt as to what our standards are!

I.D.

A LIFE TIME OF 3 YEARS

THIS WINTER HAS been the occasion for a number of companies to announce redundancies. Babcock and Wilcox, in Scotland, are sacking 600 men. Fords are sacking 500 white-collar workers and the AEI closure at Harlow and transfer to Leicester will certainly mean that more men and women will join the growing unemployed pool.

The latest to announce redundancies is the firm of Richard Sutcliffe, engineers, of Horbury near Wakefield, Yorkshire, who say that they will have to sack 200 employees. Only three years ago this self same firm promised jobs for life. At that time the national press gave this announcement considerable publicity, far more than for the present sackings. In return for this promised security, the unions conceded to the demands of the management for the ending of certain demarcation rulings. the

limiting of tea and meal breaks and a free hand on overtime working.

These concessions have therefore been given for so much pie-in-the-sky. The firm has no doubt gained from it, but all that the 200 workers have got out of it is a New Year's present of their cards.

The firm's main customer for its products is the National Coal Board. With the closure of mines, this market has declined by more than a half. Sutcliffe's have planned new products to offset this loss, but they claim that the decline has come far more quickly than they expected and the new products and the markets for them are not ready to take the place of the Coal Board goods.

These sackings represent one-fifth of the total labour force and cover all departments, even including a few senior managers earning £3,000 a year. Now, having done this, the company

on many occasions and one in particular. During May, 1966, a mass meeting was held near Mieres, to put all miners in the area in the picture. Fifteen hundred were present.

The meeting lasted an hour, after which the miners dispersed voluntarily and peacefully.

So what? In Spain this is a crime. For Constantino Alonso González López, four years, two months and one day imprisonment, and a fine of 20,000 pesetas (£125, about 40 weeks' pay). For the others, sentences ranging from 4-12 months and fines averaging 10,000 pesetas.

Clandestine association!

That's not all though. Fourteen inhabitants of the village of Bermeo, Vizcaya, N. Spain, have just been released after two months in prison. They were imprisoned for not paying a fine of 15,000 pesetas (£94) each, imposed by the authorities. Their terrible crime which provoked the authorities to take this action was their singing of Basque nationalist songs (banned by the authorities) at a wedding.

South Africa's ninety-day law is a farce, but in Spain it is nothing. A syndicalist, Marcelino Camacho, has been in prison for seven months without yet appearing before the court.

The Duquera (Duchess) de Medinaceli, who was reported in our papers as leading the villagers of Palomares to Madrid to claim compensation, has been imprisoned for one year and fined 10,000 pesetas. Palomares was the village upon which fell the American H-bombs.

There are 700,000 girls and boys between the ages of 6 and 14 in Spain who are not getting any education, although it is compulsory.

Spanish Guardia Civil have shot dead an 18-year-old youth near the border with France. They are reported to have placed a revolver in the youth's hand after shooting him and to have claimed that he shot first. The youth, like many others living on the border, engaged in smuggling during the night.

From 'Le Combat Syndicaliste'.

FED UP, but full of fight the Arundel picket line stands, in this the last round against the company dictator Pomeranz.

Faced with the brute force and ignorance of a mad management, these Stockport strikers have had it rough. Four of those who first came out are now dead. Many have been sick, others injured and a lot of the wives have been bad with their nerves.

The novelty soon wears off, when in weather cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey you go on picket. It's worse than working! Now even the union strike pay's run out and it all depends on factory collections.

We all hope Pomeranz is not having us on, when he says he'll shut on January 12. If he's lying this time anything could happen. The way we feel just now we'd go to any lengths to shut him.

Only this week on picket we spotted them still trying to erect frames. When you read this it might be all over, but we can't be sure. Just as we can't be sure that the scabs were also given notice.

Most pickets fancy Pomeranz will fake a shutdown and then open up after the fuss dies down. He's never said he'll sell the factory and it seems he could still keep some of his well-paid scab workers on.

will re-organise production to meet this reduction in the demand for its products.

Security in one's job is a rare thing and the sack is an occupational hazard of any worker. Any offers of jobs-for-life under a capitalist system is just so much rubbish. Companies are not in business to make goods and to employ men and women, but solely to make a profit. If the goods are not selling, the profits will stop and workers will lose their jobs. It is as simple as that.

It is therefore ridiculous, although understandable, to expect security of job under the profit system and no concessions should be made to companies who offer this illusion. As with the general economic situation, it is the working people who are having to make the sacrifices so that the system can continue.

NUT HOUSE

After Pomeranz took over the trouble-free engineering firm of Arundels there seemed to be nothing but bother. So that when the strike started the firm was nearly a nut house making rubbish sewing machines from Pomeranz's plans.

The new know-all management had already shut the foundry, and brought in defective castings from outside, resulting in tons of costly scrap. Then to allow for the lack of decent drawings and bad castings, the management dropped the ± 0.002 limits the workers had been working to and the new machines were passed anywhere up to 0.05" out. (Not many are working yet.)

Chaos set in and cement dust settled all over, as the management made its 'improvements'. Automatic hammers drummed daily and petrol fumes from trucks spread on the shop floor, as engineers struggled to do a job.

Serious accidents mounted; more since Pomeranz took over than ever before. Barry bosses made maintenance fitters move the same machine five times over. This baffled the machinists, who never knew where to look for their machines from one day to the next. Next news, word gets out they're going to shut the fitting shop and they've a strike on their hands (for more see FREEDOM, 23.12.67).

NOT GOOD ENOUGH

Rule a firm from the top and you always get this! Chaos! No matter how clever a boss is in theory, it's no good, unless he can convince and get the co-operation of the blokes at the bottom who, in practice, run the firm.

The trade unions should know this and, though nobody can say they haven't done their best at Arundels, their best is just not good enough. After one year of bitter battle, the best they can count on is a shutdown. Unions, with the amount of members they have, should be able to say to bosses like Pomeranz, either accept our conditions and practices or we take you over. This we should do with or without the Government's blessing, as no government ever sides with the workers, even when they've got a criminal employer to cope with.

NORTH WEST WORKERS.

P.T.

*AEU strike pay lasts one year.