

# Freedom

## Anarchist Weekly

MARCH 30 1968 Vol 29 No 10

### Cloacal Economics

WHEN COWRIE SHELLS started to become scarce man had to find a new medium of exchange, something that was there in the background to present reality, rather than the transient things like food, clothing and the necessities of life which changed hands and value rapidly, dependent upon the market economy.

For reasons quite unfathomable he chose the dull yellow substance—shit. The reason it was because the dung-beetle has this inspiration for the accumulation of something which was potentially useful and yet possessed great magical value. Some believe that the grasshopper above the Royal Exchange is in a dung-beetle.

This accumulation of shit was mined from the sewers and replaced in the basins of the various s-tanks as they were known. The World Stank, the Stank of England, the Federal Reserve

was very much in demand. Used for all normal purpose it was used as jewellery and for decorative effect. To tell it was not really very pretty but upon but the fact of its value in the eye of the beholder. Of course crude shit was of very little value, it had to be refined, milled to dust, crushed into ingots, and even then it had different grades of value, or grades as they were called.

From time to time certain countries came off the shit standard, as it was expressed, which meant that they were no longer able to maintain the stocks of shit to the value of the amount of toilet paper which was in circulation. This seemed to be perfectly all right as long as too much toilet paper did not go abroad since it was (in theory at least) exchangeable for its face value in shit.

At times there came into all this discussion on shit and toilet paper a higher mysticism which showed keen psychologists (see S. Freud) that this basic concern with boarding was an anal fixation due to lack of early toilet training. Reproach for this complex led to repression and an erection of a mystique of shit. It was felt to be a sacred duty to maintain the sacred piles in Fort Knox, Threadneedle Street and elsewhere, and when in the course of commerce large quantities of shit changed hands, the defecation was thought to be a sacrifice.

At the same time it was felt unwise to have too much shit unloaded on the market at one time for that would lower the value of it incidentally, the best, and for all practical purposes, purest shit came from South Africa and the Soviet Union. But all the shit-experts—known as economists—concurred that before goods could circulate it was necessary to have in the cloacal reservoirs substantial piles of faeces.

The sanitary inspectors traced the diseases that were affecting mankind at

this moment to the putrifying stench of this accumulation and asked that it be removed or put in a covered tank where it could be slowly drawn off as required. Some health experts were unwise enough to wonder if it was necessary to retain the shit and whether we would not be better off without it. The only reply was a long tirade about national pride, honour and probity and the good name of the country. The sanitary inspectors went away.

Eventually everybody died of typhoid. JACK SPRATT.

ONE THING that never ceases to amaze is the remarkable dual standards of value that many people have. This is frequently the result of a combination of ignorance and emotion but it is also found in quite intelligent and sophisticated people. Much of the hypocrisy that appears in the press, Parliament, etc., is cynical and done quite deliberately to deceive people and obscure issues. But most of the humbug one hears and reads comes from people who quite genuinely believe in both sides of their double standards.

For instance, many people are very angry about the fact that damage of about £2,500 was done to lawns and shrubs in Grosvenor Square during the March 17 demonstration. But these same people either approve of, or have no opinion of, the destruction of the flora and fauna of great tracts of Vietnamese countryside by defoliants sprayed by US planes.

Some horses were injured in the Square and this has incensed many people who are quite indifferent to suffering, both human and animal, elsewhere.

Perhaps horses are used by the police, not because they are particularly effective at crowd control but so that the press can write a lot of slop about them and thus create sympathy for the police.

Many people I have spoken to believe the official figures which put the number of police hurt at higher than the number of demonstrators hurt. It never occurs to them to ask how the authorities can possibly know how many demonstrators were injured.

For an up to the minute example, I have just heard on the radio that Israel has yet again attacked an Arab country. The justification given is that Syrian guerilla raiders, operating out of Jordan, recently blew up a school bus, killing two Israelis.\* But to the best of my knowledge, both the BBC and the press (except the *Guardian* and *Observer*) have kept quiet about the fact that in territory captured in the June war, the Israeli army has been systematically terrorising Arab civilians by destroying their homes and livelihoods and other measures to stampede them into seeking sanctuary on the East Bank of the Jordan thus creat-

ing living room for Israeli settlers. It is in reprisal for the creation by Israel of yet more Arab refugees that the Syrians have attacked Israeli civilians but the BBC and press don't mention this. Whether this is a case of their being merely hypnotised by Israel and unable to see anything wrong there or whether this is part of something sinister is difficult to tell.

The people who shout 'hands off Ian Smith' and 'no force towards our kith and kin' are the ones who scream the loudest for the flogging and hanging of our 'kith and kin' in British prisons whose crimes are usually much less serious in law than that of Ian Smith and his gang.

The habit of regarding an action as being evil when committed by an enemy but meritorious when committed by 'our side' is one that the human race must get rid of if it is ever to get out of the imbecile, destructive blind-alley down which it is now drifting. R.J.

\*This relatively minor incident in a foreign country in the world of troubles was recently headline news on the BBC.

## For a Practical Anarchist International

RECENT EXPERIENCES, and our own objective analysis of the international situation in which we find ourselves, lead us as anarchists (belonging to no particular anarchist organisation) to the following conclusions, which we consider useful to all militants who have taken a revolutionary position.

I  
The modern State (totalitarian or democratic), capitalism (private or State), all political ideologies, and the various religious, social, political, trade unionist and reformist groupings within existing society have established a co-existence which is based on, and assures the continued existence of, the *status quo* in all forms of privilege, exploitation and authority.

More and more the fundamental contradictions between and within different systems and societies, together with the rising conflicts between nations and races, leads to negotiations and compromises to re-arrange, without solving, these contradictions by means of negotiations and compromises that do not endanger the continued existence of the State, of particular systems, or of the groups, classes and castes which occupy a privileged role in that society. Hence the current political confusion and moral degeneration, the repulsive commerce between regimes which claim to be irreconcilable enemies (USSR and USA; Cuba and Spain; China and Portugal; the 'people's democracies' and the Western capitalist democracies, etc.).

The old dominant castes and the new bureaucratic castes (regardless of colour, race and religion) have lost their old prejudices and forgotten their scruples. Today they get together and help each other mutually through international organisations and official exchanges, all upon the backs of the people who maintain and support them while they constitute themselves the national hierarchical apparatus, thus strengthening their privileged position within society. This means in turn that they must find a place within their power structure for the trade union officials.

II  
For these reasons, today all declarations of political principles are nothing more than pure demagoguery or mere platitudes which mean nothing. Nobody struggles any longer for democracy, socialism, communism or revolution, but for recognition of power seized by such-and-such a group in any given zone, or for 'national independence'—a label covering and justifying all sorts of despotism whilst ignoring any question of international revolutionary solidarity. In Vietnam, as in Korea, in Hungary or in Cuba since Castro, there is no longer a

struggle for or against communism, but simply for a guarantee of 'national independence', for Geneva or UNO agreements, territorial integrity, the continuity of government of Saigon or Hanoi, of Tel Aviv or of Cairo. At the same time that Barrientos and the Latin American oligarchies, helped by the American 'green berets', wipe out the revolutionary guerrillas and murder Che Guevara, the USSR and the popular democracies maintain commercial relationships and extend credits to the same oligarchies being fought by the Latin American revolutionaries. This applies throughout the world: Soviet cultural, commercial and sporting missions mix freely with their friends from Franco's Spain, while in Warsaw US diplomats and Maoists pay each other courteous visits over the backs of the Vietnamese people. The colonial peoples are 'freed' so that the native bourgeoisie may take power; and here the USA and USSR collaborate closely. In all practical matters there is no question of ideology, and all one hears of is the role of the fatherland, of national independence, legality, order, peace and development. This applies equally to East and West.

III  
Unfortunately this abandonment of ideology has equally penetrated the international anarchist movement, which has been unable to resist this trend to loss

of militancy in international revolution. For anarchism (whether organised or not) this revolutionary inertia, this split between ideological conception and practical attitude, takes on the keenest importance, since anarchism does not aspire to the conquest of political or economic power. If it gives up its only possible reason for existing—the struggle for the revolution—it has become devoid of any objective and incapable of mobilising any social group. If anarchism gives up its revolutionary combativity and is content to vegetate in a bureaucratic fashion, then as a simple historical result, it will disappear. It would become a sect which, devoid of mystical roots, would have no material or spiritual justification. For anarchism really to exist, to interest the people, and to justify its consequent revolutionary claims, it has not merely to affirm anti-Statism as a determining condition for the triumph of freedom, it must add to this criticism of authoritarianism an attitude of permanent rebellion. There is no point in showing the dangers and contradictions of authoritarianism if we, too, are to limit ourselves to vegetating like the others; if we persist in arguing amongst ourselves under the pretext that one is more anarchist than the other, no persecution of dissidents or the fact of fratricidal fighting against real or imaginary deviationists will save us from collective decay. We must act

against the reigning apathy, inertia and lack of revolutionary momentum. This applies as much to individuals as to groups and movements.

IV  
As we have seen, the fundamental contradictions of capitalist and 'socialist' states persist, and in many cases with consequences graver than ever before. The affluent society, with its integration of the workers into capitalism, has caused working-class consciousness to sleep; but the class struggle has not disappeared nor have the confrontations that go with that struggle.

'Pacific co-existence' has not ended wars but merely limited them geographically: armed conflicts and terrible modern wars exist in Vietnam, Middle East, Africa. Racial discrimination, the exploitation of the workers, abuses by the ruling classes, the absence of the most elementary liberties (thought, speech, assembly), repression and terror remain current coinage in our civilised world. Franco's Spain, Salazar's Portugal and the colonels' Greece, just as the Soviet Government and the 'people's democracies', condemn workers and students when they claim or attempt to exercise

Continued on page 2

### Solidarity with Polish Students

LAST SATURDAY about 20 supporters of the London Federation of Anarchists, the SWF, Solidarity, Socialist Current and International Socialism picketed the Polish Embassy in support of the struggle of the Polish students, while seven policemen guarded the Embassy. The previous week had seen a demonstration at the same spot by Polish exiles favouring a return to capitalism and to distinguish themselves from these elements the demonstrators carried slogans such as 'Detroit '67—Warsaw '68, It's The Same Struggle'.

In spite of the absence of press publicity the turn-out was a good one considering that it had been arranged at a week's notice and only announced in *FREEDOM* and *Peace News*. Although bigger demonstrations will be needed if our message of solidarity is to reach Poland, the response to this, our first demonstration in support of East Europe's rebels, was quite heartening and one can only hope that the situation in Eastern Europe will allow us the opportunity to mount other and larger demonstrations.

ROGER SANDELL.

### The Horrors of War

IN CONNECTION with spy manias, A. Le Lann, in *Le Combat Syndicaliste* (1.1.68) mentions the case of the Moreaus, in France, during the First World War.

A recent news item announced that two aged miners, 72 and 70 years old, had taken the plane for the ex-prison camp of Cayenne, hoping to visit the grave of their father, victim, like them both, and their mother (who died of sorrow after four years in Rennes prison), of an abominable error of military 'justice' in 1915.

The mother was condemned to death, but her sentence was commuted; the father and the two sons, aged 18 and 20 years, were sent to penal servitude because a neighbour obsessed by the spy mania created by Poincaré and Clemenceau, found suspicious a lamp used by the mother when she went upstairs to put her two younger children to bed.

The Moreaus (such was their name) could neither read nor write, and under-

stood nothing of their trial. Only 20 years afterwards, that is, after 20 years of torture for the father and sons (the mother had died in prison) did a court in 1935 declare them innocent and proceed to their rehabilitation.

It is astounding, when one knows of the crimes of courts-martial, to read the speeches of certain individuals who, at the last French elections declared Georges Clemenceau to have been one of the most admirable individuals in the history of the world.

The history concocted by official historians only exists to glorify kings, generals, etc., just puts on one side the miseries of the people and all those yearnings for liberty of the generous spirits who have contributed to real civilisation, that of the heart and love of mankind.

The case of the Moreau family amply justifies our hatred of militarism and the mother country. . . .

trs.: j.w.s.  
(slightly paraphrased)

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# News from the Barricades

A RALLY AND MARCH is called by various Greek organisations on the occasion of the 'first black anniversary of the Military Junta in Greece'. The meeting in Trafalgar Square is on Sunday, April 21, at 2.30 p.m. The speakers will include Melina Mercouri. After the rally there will be a march to the Greek Embassy.

Shortly after the military coup in Greece, libertarians managed to occupy the Greek Embassy in Brook Street. Del Foley, Mike Randle and Terry Chandler were sent to jail. Del has now been released, but Terry and Mike are still inside. Isn't it time that they too were released? Could this meeting specifically demand their release?

### FURTHER NEWS FROM CHINA

A letter reached us via Hong Kong and Mexico which says that the 'cultural revolution' has developed into a new stage. Serious clashes between anarchists and Maoists have been reported to have taken place in several cities in China. Anarchist workers, teachers and students are united in an organised force, which the Maoists are trying to suppress. According to an editorial in the communist newspaper *Wen-hui Pao* (Shanghai, 7.2.68) the Maoists have called for a nation-wide alert against this new development which now endangers the communist regime. This was also broadcast by Shanghai radio.

I continue to quote from the letter: Orders and disciplines of the Government are criticised openly by anarchist

workers (whose voice is heard for the first time since 1949). Workers have begun to refuse orders given to them by their superiors—many of them leave their posts. An extremely confused situation is prevailing in many factories in Shanghai and in other cities. The system of production is thus greatly hampered. Many schools are still closed. Street-fighting between students and pro-Maoists took place in Canton and Shanghai.

There are now three trends who oppose the Government: the anarchists, the anti-Maoists and the opportunists.

No anarchist inclination is found so far in the armies; when that happens, civil war will ensue.

A Chinese delegate will be sent to the forthcoming International Conference in Carrara.

Chinese anarchists who live overseas have, we are told, decided to form a Federation of Chinese Anarchists. The General Secretary is comrade Tien Tung Jou.

### AGAINST DOW IN THE US

A comrade writes from California: We are interested in your campaign against Dow Chemical, mentioned in FREEDOM, 20.1.68. Here some facts about the company which you may find useful in mobilizing opinion. With the news blackout you may not have heard about the many demonstrations, attacks and other events which have hindered Dow recruiters on College Campuses in California and elsewhere last fall.

At UCLA 200 cc of butyl mercaptan

was put in the air conditioner of the Placement Center to condition the air for the Dow man the day he was recruiting there. There was also a sit-in, some pushing and shoving and breaking of windows. In the melee somebody liberated all his documents, interviews performed that day and recruiting forms.

At Cal State a dummy was burned to show what napalm in action looks like. Then the Placement Center was stormed by several hundred students who so frightened the Dow man that he jumped out the window of the Placement Center and ran away. The Dow recruiter complained of inadequate protection and said he would not go back to Cal State without an armed guard.

### SOUTHERN FEDERATION

According to a report from S. C. Watts of Trinity College, Oxford, the proposed Federation had an unsuccessful conference, which was poorly attended.

They are hoping to attract more groups by increased activity. This includes leafletting US bases, investigation into gas production, RSGs and Civil Defence Bunkers and, in view of mail interception, a 'courier service'. They would like to hear from all interested groups who want to contribute to their newsletter. They also hope to assist groups in arranging mutual aid for active projects.

### INSURGENCY ANARCHIST ASSOCIATION

The above organisation, set up by James W. Cain (323 Fourth Street, Cloquet, Minnesota, 55720), is asking anarchists in the US to contact him with a view to: (1) the formation of an adequate mailing list of Anarchists in North America; (2) the collection of funds to support a future anarchist publication (something like FREEDOM) in America;

## Anarchist International

V

To sum up, we can now define and put into action a line that is in conformity with revolutionary and libertarian ethic, and that while avoiding building up any bureaucratic apparatus, can modestly but efficiently make the anarchist presence felt within the social-political international scene. To profit from the present historical moment, in particular the crisis in the Marxist camp, we must clearly understand the question of direct action and revolutionary solidarity. We do not believe in miraculous solutions, nor in the mere educative value of example, but we do not conceal our belief in the efficacy of action when it responds to certain conditions and these give it an ideological line and consequent tactics.

We have come to these conclusions after a number of experiences which have shown us that, though in a minority and almost without means, we can nevertheless make our presence felt and win public sympathy for ourselves internationally. We merely wish to offer our experiences and collaboration to all those who wish to work in this way towards rebellion and revolutionary solidarity. We are therefore, to avoid having this

offer remain on the level of generalities and to get it translated into immediate activity, giving in the enclosed document some general lines around which this collaboration can be organised into concrete work. Before closing this introduction, we give a detailed summary of our position:—

(i) Total identification of anarchism with the anti-authoritarian conception and with its classical revolutionary line.

(ii) Total refusal of dogma and ideological sectarianism, and viewing these two attitudes as incompatible with libertarian ethic.

(iii) Total respect for opinions and for discussion regarding activity within each group or libertarian movement.

(iv) Complete collaboration between groups, individuals and like-minded movements to present a revolutionary ideology that will fight against sectarianism and exclusivity as well as against injustice and the terror imposed by despotism of whatever ideological colour.

(v) Complete identity with the essentials of the manifesto 'To all revolutionary movements' sent out by the First of May Group, after the attack upon the American Embassy in London, as a general strategic line in the present political-social conditions of the world.

INTERNATIONAL FIRST  
OF MAY GROUP.

March, 1968.

## Anarchist Federation of Britain

General enquiries should be sent to the London Federation.

Demonstrate in a great anti-government march and meeting on Wednesday, May 1 (11.45 a.m. Tower Hill). Offer your help to the London May Day Committee, 29 Love Walk, S.E.5.

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 LFA.

NEW MEETING PLACE, Marquis of Granby, Cambridge Circus, Charing Cross Road. Sundays 8 p.m.

LEWISHAM. Contact Mike Malet, 61B Granville Park, Lewisham, London, S.E.13. Phone: 01-852 8879.

EALING 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.

S.W. LONDON LIBERTARIANS. Contact: 14 Clapham Court, King's Avenue (Acre Lane end), S.W.4.

### OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

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

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

### 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 Sinclair Road. Correspondence to either address.

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

BIRMINGHAM LIBERTARIAN AND ANARCHIST GROUP. All anarchists, syndicalists, individualists, etc., please contact Geoff and Caroline Charlton, 32 Swindon Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 17 (near Portland Road). Note new address.

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 (B'mth 2279) or Tim Deane, Juliet, West Moors, Wimborne, Dorset (Ferndown 3558).

BRIGHTON. Get in touch with Nick Heath, Flat 3, 26 Clifton Road, Brighton. Poetry readings 8 to 10 Pool Coffee Bar, Pool Valley, Brighton.

BRISTOL ANARCHISTS. Contact Susie Fisher

and Adam Nicholson at 15 The Paragon, Bristol, 8.

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

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE. Correspondence to Robert Lynn, 26 Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, C.1.

HERTS. Contact either Stuart Mitchell at South View, Pottery Heath Lane, Pottery Heath, Welwyn, Herts OR Jeff Groves, 46 Highbury Road, Marshalswick, St Albans, Herts.

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

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

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

NORTH SOMERSET ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Roy Emery, 3 Abbey Street, Bath, or Geoffrey Barfoot, 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.

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

### ESSEX & EAST HERTS FEDERATION

Three-monthly meetings. Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Keith Nathan, 138 Penny-mead, Harlow, Essex.

Group Addresses:—BASILDON. M. Powell, 7 Lingercroft, Basildon, Essex.

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

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

EPPING. John Barwick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping, 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 Stow, Harlow.

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

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

NORTH EAST ESSEX. Peter Newell, 'Maybush',

Maypole Road, Tiptree, Essex. Group meets first Monday in each month, 7.15 p.m. at 91 Brook Road, Tolleshunt Knights, Tiptree, Essex.

### NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

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

CHORLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Kevin Lynch, 6 Garfield Terrace, Chorley, Lancs.

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

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. All correspondence to—Pete Raymond, 90 Albany Road, Roath. Weekly meetings. Freedom sales and action projects.

SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact J. Ross, 111 King Edward's Road, Brynmill, Swansea.

### STUDENT GROUPS

EAST ANGLIA UNIVERSITY GROUP (Anarchists and Peace). Contact Dave King, 17 Havelock Road, Norwich.

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

OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Steve Watts, Trinity College.

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

SOUTH-WARK COLLEGE (New Libertarian Front). Contact Dave Biggs, Room T/7.

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY ANARCHISTS. To launch LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY GROUP. Contact us at the Bookstall in the Students Union Entrance Foyer every Friday lunchtime, May 3, 7.30, Students Union—Cartoon Archetypical Slogan Theatre, Dennis Gould and the Sound Structure Quintet, Brian Patten and Adrian Mitchell.

the group, an open discussion on Anarchism at the University, Falmer, nr. Brighton, Friday evening, March 1. All welcome. Contact Francis Jarman, 16 Charlotte Street, Brighton BN2 1AG.

LIBERTARIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Meetings—discussions—activities. Contact Peter

and (3) the production and distribution of occasional pamphlets of interest.

### CARRARA CONGRESS

The list of Anarchist Federations attending (according to *Le Monde Libertaire*) is long as your arm, but the London Federation is not alone in being reprehensive about the whole affair. This has moved our comrades Bruno Fattori and Luciano Farinelli of the 'Casa Malatesta' Circolo Anarchico di Studi Sociali (Via Bernabei, 18, Ancona, Italy) to call for a meeting in Rossignano Solway (Toscana) on April 25/26. They invite to this rally all anarchists who resist the temptation to form a neo-authoritarian party.

## Take some Flower, add 2 eggs, then Stir

### THE FINAL STREET meeting of

Acton's anti-election campaign was held last Saturday. The group arrived very early only to find that all the other parties were already on the scene. With no trouble from the cops we moved down the High Street, set up our loud-speaker and started.

We handed out leaflets, sold FREEDOMS and talked with the people. Many of them agreed that although not voting was only a start, a commitment to future action rather than action in itself, they would not be voting this time.

People were obviously and genuinely sickened by the hypocritical and descending attitude adopted by the various candidates and parties.

They spoke of their disillusion with the system even if they could as yet bring themselves to accept need for anarchy now.

Over 200 people took flowers (including a police inspector and lackey) and pledged not to vote in the by-election. Could have got rid of far more, if we had the money to buy them. The clown flower lady certainly saw something in our arguments.

Some of the group went fascist singing, and when the National Front finished spouting their obscenities at a walk-round shopping centre, we over their pitch for a while.

Talking anarchy to a bunch of fascists is not easy. Their aim with the egg (fresh incidentally, not bad) improved after one practice sortie and the speaker collected a couple of shelled donations to the proceedings. As he pointed out these could be far more usefully donated to Oxfam. (The fuzz had mysteriously disappeared by now.)

All in all, it was a good meeting, there was plenty of sympathy for our ideas and our methods—plenty of reaction to them as well which is also good—surely eggs show a total lack of more rational argument.

Refusing to vote is not an end in itself but it is surely some kind of beginning.

PADDY FIELDS

Ford, 36 Devonshire Road, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

### PROPOSED GROUPS

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

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

CROYDON, NORWOOD, BECKENHAM. Anarchists, Syndicalists, Libertarian or Pacifist Socialists to form Croydon, Norwood, Beckenham Libertarian Group. Contact Jim Radford or Laurence Otter, 35 Natal Road, Thornton Heath.

ELTHAM (Libertarian/Peace Action). Contact Terry Iddie, 83 Gregory Crescent, S.E.9.

EDGWARE PEACE ACTION GROUP. Contact Melvyn Estrin, 84 Edgwarebury Lane, Edgware, Middlesex.

FINCH'S (PORTOBELLO ROAD) ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact: Pamela Pearce, 385 Latimer Road, W.10. Meetings every Saturday 1 p.m. at Finch's.

### 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. Gothersgade, 27, Viborg, Denmark.

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

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

SWEDEN. Stockholm Anarchist Federation. Contact Nadir, Box 19104, Stockholm J9, Sweden.

SWEDEN: Libertad, Allmänna Vågen 6, Gothenburg V.

TORONTO ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact R. Campbell, 219 TorYork Drive, Weston, Ontario, Canada. Weekly meetings.

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

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

USA. James 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.

MELBOURNE. Get in touch with Bob Hope, 34 Dorritt Street, Carlton, Victoria.

Australia. Public meetings at Yarra Melbourne.



## Satisfied

Dear Editors,  
I am generally critical of FREEDOM, often of shortcomings beyond your control, and this is why I feel I owe it to you to tell you how satisfied I was with your last issue. I subscribe wholeheartedly to your editorial 'Neither Washington nor Hanoi', and Jeff Robinson's article is of the kind which is most necessary to write if anarchists are to keep their distinctive standpoint, and not to be led, in their thoughts or their actions, to espouse causes which, for some hidden or not so hidden interests, are widely publicized, while others, for similar interests being at work, are hardly known. 'Harrod's new face in hell' is not to my taste, but the action to which it refers I find very cheering. It is time to see something done against advertisements, which are a form of violence, directed against our time, taste, attention,

## Letters & Controversy

train of thoughts and intelligence, by people with money and aiming at making more money. My congratulations also to the work done by the Anarchist Black Cross.

Yours fraternally,  
London, S.E.14, JOHN OILL.  
17.3.68.

### What Critics P

Dear Comrades,  
It was astonishing to read John Rety's opening paragraph last week, telling us that 'many anarchists have criticised our 'Neither Washington nor Hanoi' policy. Astonished because this implies, not that anarchists question and criticise our policies, which is right and proper for anarchists to do, but that they presumably support the 'Victory for the Vietnamese' line peddled by many political so-called 'revolutionary' groups.

Victory for the Vietnamese can mean one or both of only two things: military victory and/or political victory. If the Vietnamese are to beat the Americans militarily, they have, quite simply, to out-gun them. They have got to kill, bomb and burn more than the Americans are doing, have done and will do or can do. Not only have the Vietnamese to kill more Americans than the Americans can kill of them, but they will have to clear them out of the Vietnamese towns and villages which they now hold, which will mean more destruction of these places than the Americans have so far achieved and inevitably more destruction of the Vietnamese people, their farms and workshops and way of life than the Americans have managed to date.

Since the suffering, killing and destruction that the US forces have so far inflicted upon the Vietnamese people is already enormous—and is in fact the reason why most oppose the war—is it the wish of these 'anarchists' that all this be more than doubled so that a Communist regime may be imposed over what remains of Vietnam and its suffering population?

For this is what political victory will mean. And while you may say 'better Red than dead' in fact the killings will not stop with a political victory. The difference will be that the gallows and the firing squad will replace the napalm, as the abominable institutionalised violence of the Communist state replaces the abominable violence of American warmakers. The Vietnamese will wreak their revenge upon all those South Vietnamese who did not support them, who did not answer their call to rise up during the New Year offensive.

If you are a Communist (Stalinist, Maoist, Trotskyist) you can support this kind of thing. If you play the political game from either side you must care nothing for the misery inevitable in your policies. But if you are an anarchist—that is, if you care for people more than for the establishment of an authoritarian regime of one kind or another—then you must reject both sides.

Neither the Americans nor the Vietnamese care a damn for the Vietnamese people. Obviously one doesn't have to enlarge upon the role and purpose of the Americans in Vietnam, but do our critical comrades understand the role of the Vietnamese?

This is quite obviously to keep the Americans in Vietnam! Then not only do they thus play into the hands of Communist propagandists and disrupt their own economy, but they are being used to serve the purposes of Chairman Mao who would not be able to maintain his position in power if there were not vast American forces fighting in Asia. The amount of unrest of which we know in China would escalate—will escalate—the moment the US pull out of Vietnam, unless another crisis can be engineered elsewhere, like Laos or Cambodia, to keep the pot boiling and keep the Yankee wolf at China's door.

To support one side or the other in Vietnam is to support the destruction of people for power politics. And, more to our point, it is to forget all the anarchist analysis that lies behind the words 'War is the Health of the State'.

Now to support neither side is not 'purist' or 'cynical'. (Much more cynical, surely, to support the Vietnamese from a safe distance knowing that their victory could only mean continued suffering for the Vietnamese people!) That is only the negative side. The positive side is to do our damndest to prevent the continuation of the war, and to call for a libertarian alternative to the Vietnamese in Vietnam when the fighting stops. This latter is the difficult part to put into practice. The situation in Vietnam is so awful that only immense courage and organisational ability—only in fact a social revolution—can provide the answer. And after all these years of war it is hardly possible, especially as neither Washington nor Hanoi would allow the emergence of a libertarian society—which, surely, is why anarchists reject them both!

All right, so we can't do much about an anarchist alternative in Vietnam. Only the Vietnamese people can do that anyway. But we can do something about the British Government's support for the US, while our comrades in America, as we know, are doing all they can there to undermine their state's ability to make war.

The job of all anarchists outside Vietnam is to arouse public opinion to make it impossible for their governments to support the war. This, surely, is why anarchists took part in the attack on the American Embassy—if that is what it was—without supporting Hanoi.

If anarchists are not clear about this, then they are just allowing themselves to be used once again, as so often in the past, to help somebody else into power. London, N.W.1. PHILIP SANSON.

### Individual and the Community

Dear Editors,

The anonymous author of 'Organisation and Responsibility' is confused about individualism. Neither 19th century society nor our present environment was or is based on individualism. In both the 'community' claimed or claims priority over the individual in all crucial matters. Even such an ardent anarchist-communist as Emma Goldman exposed this socialist myth—see her essay on 'Minorities versus Majorities'.

Apart from this, the anonymous author reveals his own latent authoritarianism in his view that the individual should be 'able to fully develop his own personality in harmony with the vital needs of communal life'. (My emphasis.)

What happens if the needs of the individual conflict with those of the 'communal life'? Here the 'harmony' is disturbed and if this individual were recalcitrant would have to be restored. How else could this be done except by the exercise of some kind of authority? There would be no other way to serve 'the

common good'. In other words, an 'anarchy' would exist in which the vertical authority of the State would have been replaced by the horizontal authority of the 'community'.

When has authority not been based, directly or indirectly, on the idea that prior right belongs to the collectivity? Despot, democrat, socialist—all in one way or another appeal to the 'people' or the 'community' as the sanction for their rule. Wherever the collectivity is above the individual there is law and the interests of the individual must be subordinated to the interests of the collectivity. Why assume that an 'anarchist' collectivity or 'community' will be any less authoritarian in its power over the individual?

By shifting 'problems' from an individualist basis to a communal one, your anonymous author simply makes the 'community' or society the new idol to which the individual is to be sacrificed. God and the State are dead! Long live God and the State as Society!

Sincerely,  
London, W.2. S. E. PARKER.  
18.3.68.

### Wrong about PN P

'PEACE NEWS' has finally said it. When workers strike back against the state, when the anger of the people culminates in violence, they stand on the side of the status quo.

They are now going in for smears, too. Recently they were informed that the Aberdeen Branch of the Syndicalist Workers Federation was prepared to assist US draft dodgers, etc.—FREEDOM carries it, even our local student paper took an advert—but from PN, not one word. We can only assume that this was because we are not only syndicalists, but advocates of revolution. When the fruit juice brigade have the guts to publicly declare their intention to help US comrades, and thus risk possible arrest, then we'll listen to them. But now, we find that they identify us with the First of May Group! From PN, 15.3.68, 'The First of May Group is claiming more and more adherents, particularly among young militants in Scotland and Wales, where more conventional political protest has been ruled out in favour of anarchic attacks'. The only comment we can make on this rubbish is, ARE THEY TRYING TO GET US FRAMED? We certainly sympathise with the First of May Group, we salute them as fellow fighters in the international class struggle, BUT WE WOULDN'T KNOW THEM IF WE MET THEM IN OUR SOUP. PN has no right to place both First of May and ourselves in danger from the authorities. The only bombs in Aberdeen at the moment are on paper. Our explosions are our syndicalist ideas.

It has never been any secret in Scotland that many Scottish anarchists advocate, and commit, sabotage. This has been going on (and government installations have been going up) long before the First of May Group appeared. Then the 'piss the polis' brigade attacked us, threatened to reveal the names of those who took part in such action to the police. Which was all very nice and libertarian of them.

Are they at it again? Do they really hate the violent so much that they would 'shop' us to the state?

We make it clear that sabotage in Aberdeen—and really nowhere else can be read into PN's remarks, is a virtual dead duck. The major Civil Defence installation in the area was reduced to a burnt out wreck long ago and there is no longer any point in smashing up service offices. We are a serious working-class group.

It only remains for me to ask the comrade editors of FREEDOM to stop advertising PN. We thought a while back that PN was going anarchist—well, we were wrong—the 'anarchism' is anti-working-class pig-shit.

ABERDEEN WORKER.  
This letter should really have been sent to 'Peace News' whose contributor, Richard Matthews, has misled and misinformed people.

Our advertisement is an exchange one with 'Peace News' and will remain for our mutual benefit.

EDITORS.

### 'Peace News' this week:

Roger Moody—Postmortem on NVAV in Cambodia  
Jeff Crawford—Racism, Housing, Jobs and Black Power in Britain  
Paul Derrick—Gold and the Budget  
Adrian Mitchell—Money Talks  
Robert Hurwitt—US Elections  
Price 1/- from  
5 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross, London, N.1

## FIFTH COLUMN

### SOFT CENTRE

IN THE *New Statesman* of March 22, 1968, appeared the complete text of an agreed statement made in open court—the conclusion of the *New Statesman's* libel action against Private Eye. The insertion was paid for by the Eye.

The text included the following: 'the *NEW STATESMAN* which is a national weekly journal with a long and honourable history as a strong supporter of progressive principles and causes

During the course of the last two years the Defendants have sustained a scurrilous and malicious campaign in the form of a number of gravely defamatory articles. The purpose and effect of this campaign has been to suggest that the *NEW STATESMAN* has abandoned its progressive principles and to portray Mr. Johnson as a person unworthy to be Editor of the *NEW STATESMAN* and that he has adopted a fawning attitude towards the Prime Minister.

In his personal column in the same issue Paul Johnson wrote:

All things considered, the PM has treated Mr. Brown for three and a half years, with unprecedented kindness and forbearance.

Tolerance and a soft heart are admirable qualities in a private citizen; they are grave faults in a prime minister.

It was obviously Mr. Johnson's intention to restore the *New Statesman's* long and honourable tradition by this passage. Only a strong supporter of progressive principles and causes could savage Wilson with the damning criticism that he is softhearted and tolerant: Mr. Johnson's fawning attitude is clearly at an end.

It is of course ludicrous for a journal which has pretensions to progressive principles to sue for libel.

The libel laws are used by the state to deter and punish criticism. The libel laws are—or ought to be—the target of all radical and progressive journalists.

But there are very few radical and progressive journalists in Britain. Paul Johnson is not one of them. He is, however, eminently worthy to be editor of the *Old Stateswoman*.

### HARD THINKING

GREETINGS to Frances James reported by the *Daily Mail* last week to be appearing on CND's Aldermaston posters this year. Frances has a Tory mother who is a candidate in Hammonds council elections, and goes to St. Mark's Secondary School in Fulham. But she has obviously been corrupted by local propaganda. She told the *Mail*:

I marched with the anarchists on Sunday because I didn't agree with Vanessa Redgrave's 'Victory for the Vietnamese'. I am still thinking about being an anarchist because I have become very disillusioned with political parties.

### BRIEF INTERVAL

ALSO in the *Mail*—as in the other newspapers—last week was a report of a report by the House of Commons Estimates Committee on Broadmoor, Britain's top security mental hospital.

The assistant chief nurse told the Committee:

We want to do a good job, but at the end of the day we really do not do much more than a farmer would do for his animals. We are maintaining observation and discipline, but we are certainly not doing the job the hospital should be doing.

Prisons and mental hospitals are rarely the sunniest of places. A combination of the two is bound to be unpleasant for its inmates whatever efforts are made to improve conditions. Broadmoor, as described in the Commons report, with its overcrowding and shortage of staff is even worse than one would have expected. It usually succeeds in being a prison but fails completely as a hospital.

Now with the publication of this report Broadmoor fails momentarily in its primary role which is to shut these unfortunate people away from the rest of us so that we don't have to think about them.

For a brief interval MPs, journalists and newspaper readers are compelled to consider the daily existence of Broadmoor patients. Perhaps there will be a marginal improvement in the institution. Perhaps not.

The only certainty is that everybody—except those involved—will soon forget the Broadmoor story.

WYNFORD HICKS.

## PLEASE NOTE

WE GO TO PRESS ON MONDAY. LATEST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF MSS., LETTERS, MEETING NOTICES IS THE MONDAY IN EACH WEEK OF PUBLICATION.

## Police Raids

NORMAN ST. JOHN-STEVAS, MP, Arthur Lewis, MP, and Lord Moynihan were prompt to express their anxiety at the Lady Diana Cooper raid, which followed a tip-off by the police to be anonymous and at the same time from 'a source believed to be reliable'. I wrote test letters to all three, pointing out that the Freedom Press raid was in principle just as dangerous. Moynihan merely acknowledged the letter. Lewis did not reply. St. John-Stevas wrote (March 1): 'Thank you for your letter and information, and I will mention it if I find some means of raising the case of Lady Diana Cooper in the House of Commons'. Well, he raised the Cooper case on March 7, the Home Office agreed that 'it illustrates the need for police officers to take reasonable steps to check all information before they take the serious further step of applying for a search warrant'. *Times*, March 8.) No reference, however, to Freedom Press. His letter to me was signed off 'Yours sincerely'.

One hundred and fifty police searched 20 people from 2 to 7 a.m. at the Lady Diana Cooper house on March 3, making only 7 arrests—7 for 'drugs', 3 for 'offensive weapons' and one for 'obstructing police'. A fuff remarked 'So this is how they come to spend their National Insurance'. I believe that no member of the aristocracy is involved and there are no parliamentary protests.

JOHN BIRTWHISTLE.

## Workers Against the War

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, saw 136 people—the largest number so far—demonstrating their opposition to United States policy in Vietnam. This was in Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, home of much of the heavy engineering capacity in the Midlands. Like the demonstration the Saturday before, in Birmingham, the difference between this and many past demonstrations is becoming apparent. It is not the students that are coming out into the streets. There are students, a lot of students, but more and more

ordinary working-class people sickened by the suffering caused by this terrible war, are now joining in. Despite the prophets of doom in both the Peace Movement and on 'the Left', the campaign is on the move and, like the Birmingham demonstration, this demonstration was organised by the locally-run, locally-organised Wolverhampton Council for Peace in Vietnam—a group supported by many individuals and groups opposed to the war and of many standpoints.

Soon, perhaps, this war will be over. When it is, perhaps we can take the lessons learned in organising local protest actions in the towns up and down the country, with their well-learned lessons on how to get on with each other in action despite ideological and attitudinal differences, and turn these lessons into methodological frameworks for action relevant to domestic issues both in relation to industry and social welfare. The one factor which these Vietnam Councils have is their almost-absent ties to a national body. The British Council for Peace in Vietnam has always been very weak and has had, especially in the last twelve months, less and less real control over the local councils with their strong rank and file dominance. Perhaps one of the greatest mistakes made by bodies like the National Committee of 100 and the like is to reject the local Council or Group simply because of an ideological split with one of the often, largely self-appointed, leaders or the motions passed by politicians at Conferences or National (or dare I say it, merely even London) Meetings, which local Councils have always ignored anyway.

One of our mottos is 'All Power To The People' and this means we act our decisions in relation to actions in our own localities. This includes both the action itself and also its planning which is often run on almost syndicalist lines. Where the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign fails is it does not ask the views of the individual marcher, it merely thrusts the action on to him and wonders why we then object.

PETER NEVILLE.

## DOWN!

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Estimated Expenses:	
12 weeks at £90:	£1,080
Income: Sales and Subs:	£857
DEFICIT:	£223

Groups: M.P. £1; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.\* 2/-; J.L.\* 3/-; Oxford: Anon\* 5/-; New York: W.G. 17/6; Blackburn: Anon 5/-; Dromwich: W.C. 10/-; London: N.16: L.F. 4/-; Cambridge: R.T. 10/-; Cheltenham: L.G.W.\* 10/-; Texas: F.R. £2/10/-; Exeter: A.J. 9d; Tadmorden: G.B. 10/-; Dunfermline: J.D. £1/19/6; Huddersfield: G.L. £1; Liverpool: Anarchist Group 10/-.

TOTAL:	£8 16 9
Previously Acknowledged:	£146 13 9
1968 Total to Date:	£155 10 6
Balance B/F Deficit:	£223 0 0
TOTAL DEFICIT:	£67 9 6

\*Denotes Regular Contributor.

### MOVING FUND

Target is £500.  
Received to Date—£372 18s. 4d.

### PREMISES FUND

Target is £1,000 per year.  
Pledges received to date—£395 18s. 6d.  
Pledges honoured to date—£302 2s. 1d.



# Prices Up, Wages Held

THE Labour Government's budget is the first since 1930 that is intended to lower the living standards of the people. Its increased taxation exceeds the wartime budget of 1940-41 and is meant to bring about a cut of 2% in consumption. As such it has been rightly described as a 'bankers' budget'. Its main object is to channel resources so as to improve the balance of payments. By 1969, it is hoped that it will have achieved an annual surplus of £500m., with the aid of drastic curbs on consumer spending at home by means of higher taxation, price increases reinforced with wage restraint.

The Chancellor has added a few sweeteners to try to pacify the Labour supporters, such as increases in family allowances, the tax on unearned income of rich children, a new charge on unearned income over £3,000 per annum and increased purchase tax on luxury goods. These, however, are very minor concessions in a budget which fundamentally aims at cutting living standards of people, in order to increase the profits of the employers.

## Contact Column

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

**Want help?** Anyone starting, or wishing to develop, reputable business as escape from rat-race, and requiring partner with moderate capital? N. of England preferred. Strictly confidential. Box No. 4.

**Student Weekend Conference.** April 27/28, Leicester University. (Free accommodation, bring sleeping bags.) Speakers include: Adelstein (LSE), Barnett (Leicester), Griffin (Aston), Harris (York), Jamieson (Manchester), Kidron (Hull), Kuper (LSE), Macintosh (Leicester), MacIntyre (Essex), Posner (Essex), Straw (Leeds), Williams (Cambridge), plus Mosler (Berlin) and Rankin (Wisconsin). Topic: 'Strategies for Democratization of the Universities'. Enquiries: contact D. Rosenberg, 51 Exington Road, Leicester.

(1/6 each including postage). Keith Touch Paper. New 'street-seller' price 1/-. Sounds exciting — Peter Cadogan. Write to him for information: 13 Goodwin Street, N.4. Tel. 01-272 5524.

**Folk Music.** Every Tuesday—Bexleyheath Folk Centre, 'Lord Bexley' Pub (opp. Bexleyheath Clock Tower). Bexley YCND, 150 Rydal Drive, Bexleyheath, Kent. 2/6 admission.

**Room wanted.** Has any comrade a room to let, however small, furnished or unfurnished, at a reasonable distance from Aldgate East? Lilian Wolfe c/o Freedom Press.

**Neider Washington Nor Hamol.** Stickers (6/- a 100 including postage), Posters (1/6 doz. including postage). Keith Nathan, 138 Peanymead, Harlow, Essex.

**Picket at Polish Embassy** in solidarity with Polish students. Saturday, March 23, 11 a.m. Great Portland Street. Bring banners.

**Free Modern Jazz.** Ladbroke Hotel, Notting Hill, Wednesday evenings.

**Van and driver if possible.** Required Easter Weekend. For March, Anarchist Lit. sales team and public meetings, etc. Write J. Huggon, c/o Freedom Press.

**Stickers.** Danger: Dictatorship. Stay away from Greece in 1968! Available from Co-ordinating Committee for Campaign Against Tourism to Greece, 60 Tottenham Court Road, W.1. 1/- for a sheet of 20.

**Greece must be free!** Rally—Trafalgar Square, April 21, 2.30 p.m. Speakers include Melina Mercouri.

**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.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

While there are to be rises in prices, indirect taxation and rents (now spread over a three year period), a close check is to be maintained over incomes. *The Economist* says that these checks are not strong enough and a nil norm for centrally bargained increases should have been imposed. Allowances would only be made where 'bidding up' for a certain type of labour was needed. They think that the present Government proposals will lead to a 6% increase.

### 'OVER KILL'

It does seem that the Cabinet has hesitated in going the whole hog, especially as there have been so many warnings of a total statutory wage freeze. In fact, the 'over-kill' nature of the budget does suggest that this is to countermand the incomes policy. The fact that Mr. Jenkins himself favours a freeze also points to this and that the other members of the Cabinet objected. However any interference by the Government to curb increases is to be deplored and must be attacked and resisted as a point of principle.

What does the Government's incomes policy now mean to workers and how will it affect their wage claims? First the Government has set a 3½% wage rise ceiling and anything above this will be restrained by law. This also applies to dividends, but, unlike wages, these can be kept and paid out later. The wage increases will not be given automatically, but will have to satisfy certain criteria. This applies at all levels, local, national, and at shop floor. Lower paid workers will be included, but others will have to show increased productivity or come from a genuine productivity deal. Those increases that do not satisfy the requirements will be referred to the Prices and Incomes Board, whose delaying powers will be increased from the present seven months to twelve months. These powers of reference will last for 18 months, but can be renewed.

### VIRTUALLY A WAGE FREEZE

While statutory powers are not planned at present to prevent delayed wage increases being back-dated when the twelve-month period is up, the Government would certainly consider this if the employers conceded. However, while employers might back-date a seven-month delay, they will be reluctant to do this for a twelve-month period, unless pressure from their workers force them to do so. So in effect, while the Government has not openly proclaimed a total wage freeze, it is virtually an undercover one with statutory powers still kept in reserve as an added threat.

Mr. Woodcock, General Secretary of the TUC, has said that he 'does not think that the Government can sustain the powers for 18 months'. But workers have reached this position because they and their trade union leaders, especially Mr. Woodcock, have, on the whole, acquiesced to the Government. All forms of

## ALDERMASTON

**Sellers Wanted.** Please collect supplies of Freedom and Anarchy from Express Printers Angel Alley 84a Whitechapel High St E1 between 3 and 8 pm on Thursday April 11 Telephone REN 3736 at once to order your supply

wage restraint have started out as 'only temporary', but a new crisis is soon given as a reason for continuing them. How long the Government can 'sustain' wage freeze powers depends on trade unionists, but Mr. Shore, the Economic Minister, has said that they will be renewable every year.

Already the trade unions and their leaders have accepted interference for too long, but if this pattern is continued, as the Government seems to envisage, then, in the words of Mr. Doughty of the Draughtsmen's Union, it is 'another step on the greasy track to a corporate State'. But this 'greasy track' has been well lubricated by the bureaucrats of the TUC and other trade union leaders. Now they do not know which way to turn. They realise that they 'might be faced with a really serious scramble by trade unionists' (my italics) on the wages front. If this happens where would the leadership stand? They cannot keep kidding their members along, for more and more workers are realising that the Labour Government is not their Government and that they have to oppose it just as they did with the Tories.

### UNEMPLOYMENT AS WELL

Going along with the Government has not only brought wage restraint, but also looks like bringing more unemployment, a thing that the restraint was supposed to prevent. The underlying trend in unemployment figures is upwards. These are the benefits of a Labour Government, which is showing that it is prepared to take all the necessary measures to improve the competitiveness of British capitalism at the expense of the workers.

Mr. Jenkins has said that it will be 'a hard slog', but the men in Liverpool are showing that workers are capable of hitting back and resisting Government measures. It is to be hoped that they will not be alone and that other workers will follow their example in the coming months, when the effects of the budget and virtual wage freeze begin to be felt.

## Once Bit, Twice Shy

'ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY'. This is how the Stockport shop stewards feel over the strike for trade union rights and recognition at Heywood Cranes, Redditch.

There will be no repeat performance here of the long Roberts-Arundel dispute, if these workers have their way. That's why the local shop stewards are offering to call out 12,000 engineering workers from nearby factories if the strike is not settled soon.

'Settle it or else'. That's the shop stewards message to the management.

Up to now the bosses have been messing about! Playing for time! Knowing the strike is still unofficial, and that the workers are hard up. If they hope to force the lads back by doing this, they've another think coming! The lads are solid, and this next week should see either a settlement or plans for a local sympathy strike going forward.

This is another sample of what happens when a 'big-head' millionaire boss starts dictating and laying down the law. This is what always happens, when a company like Acrow, takes over a trouble-free firm like Heywoods, and starts trying to force through crack-pot ideas banning unions and shop stewards.

The best way to do away with this kind of trouble altogether would be for a factory to be managed by its own workers, but that's a bit too much to hope for.

More important just now is that the 180 strikers at Heywoods want support. There are no scabs working at Heywoods, but until the strike is made official by the union there's no strike pay.

## Industrial Union

THE WEAVERS' AMALGAMATION will call for 'one big union' of textile workers at the annual conference of United Textile Workers' Association next month. This new union would take the place of the nine unions, which at present represent the industry.

Another good resolution is one by the Beamers, Twisters and Drawers' Amalgamation which calls for a restriction on cash support to the Labour Party.

NORTH WEST WORKERS.

# Freedom For Workers' Control

MARCH 30 1968 Vol 29 No 10

## Haulage Workers Join Busmen

ON WEDNESDAY, Liverpool Corporation busmen once again voted unanimously to continue their unofficial strike of over two weeks. The meeting, attended by about 3,000 of the 3,400 busmen, resolved to carry on 'until our just demands are met'. They are demanding £17 per week in line with the dockers, but originally came out for an increase of 23/- per week, which had been agreed to by the Corporation, but referred to the Prices and Incomes Board.

A speaker at the meeting said, 'This strike will be a long bout, make no mistake about it. We can go it alone and we can win on our own, but we want to get active support from other areas.' Strikers have been to Glasgow, where busmen have also had their agreed claim referred to the PIB. This strike is unofficial and obviously there is a need to spread the dispute to other areas.

While this has not been achieved so far, support has come from other Liverpool workers. Road haulage workers came out on unofficial strike last Monday because of the delay in the negotiation for an increase of £1 per week. Previously their union, the Transport and General Workers' Union tried to win this award at a meeting of the Road Haulage Council. The council says that the £1 per week increase should only be given to the low-paid workers, which means, according to them, about 10% of the men. Considering that the present basic rates range from £10 18s. 6d. to £12 16s. 3d. per week, you would have thought that they all came in this category.

The haulage drivers' unofficial stoppage soon spread and now involves about 7,500 men. This is drastically affecting the delivery of goods in the area. The Liverpool refinery of Tate & Lyle has now completely stopped work. Some areas have rationed their supplies of

sugar, while in others, wholesalers and retailers have run out. Workers at Standard-Triumph of Coventry have also been sent home because deliveries of car bodies are drying up.

### 'COMPLETELY UNOFFICIAL'

Trade union official, Mr. Harold Verinder of the T&GWU, was shown down when he asked for more time to carry out negotiations. Afterwards he emphasised that the stoppage was 'completely unofficial'. Mr. Jack Thomas, union's regional trade group District Secretary, wanted a return to work that productivity talks could go ahead with various companies. It was a complex claim due to the various grades of drivers. While the union seems to want individual agreements with the companies, the men want a basic wage related to the type and size of the vehicle they handle. This rate, in turn, should also be related to the other workers in Merseyside.

In both these disputes, pay awards are being delayed, either by the PIB or long drawn-out negotiations. However, it was made plain by the dockers' strike last year that direct action pays. Now road transport workers are having a go for the same basic wage as their brothers in the docks. This is the sort of action that can bring results. It is linked up with the demands of other workers and could form a platform for a general demand by other workers. After all, how many workers get a basic wage of £17 per week? Not many. This makes Mr. Cousins's campaign for £15 per week look a bit sick.

It is to be hoped that both busmen and haulage workers can spread their strike to other parts of the country. This then could be a start to smashing the incomes' policy, which the Government introduced to back their 'bankers' budget'.

## Apprentices Demand

'PUT YOUR MONEY where your mouth is', that's how most apprentices must feel when they hear bosses and politicians going on about the country needing a more highly trained labour force.

Up to now most employers have been giving their lads training on the cheap. Paying out low apprentice wages, not providing proper training and educational facilities, and often using their lads as a form of Cheap Labour.

We're always glad to see the lads putting in for more money! More so since the North West has often been the centre of struggles and strikes for better apprentice pay and conditions, and that local libertarians and syndicalists have often led these apprentice campaigns.

### APPRENTICE CONFERENCE

This month's AEU conference of engineering apprentices called for: a £2 a week rise in pay now; the right to be consulted on anything that affects the lads in the factories (negotiating rights). Better training schedules and education facilities, were also demanded.

A Scottish delegate proposed that apprentice representatives should be present when their interests are discussed by shop stewards and management. Then by 46 votes to nowt, the conference urged that something should be done to get apprentices 60% of the tradesman's wage at 15 years, and 90% at 20. The present apprentice rate is 30% at 15, rising to 80% at 20.

These demands are based on the apprentice 'Youth Charter', officially

backed by the union. The lads are not asking for much! No more than we demanded during the apprentice strike in 1960. But, it's a good job they've agreed to recall the national committee if their call for a £2 a week rise is not met in the next three months, as we would expect they'll have to take strong measures if benefits are to be won.

B.B.

## Winning at Arundel

THE ROBERTS-ARUNDEL strikers look like winning their fight for industrial freedom, at last.

At a meeting last week between trade unionists and the management, the firm admitted being on its knees. This has been got by workers all over the show, who've done their stuff operating a national backing campaign against Arundels.

Reports from trade unionists who've just been in Arundels, suggest that the shop floor is in a hell of a state. Machinery and castings are thick with rust.

Faced with this and the threat of a mass sympathy strike by North West workers on April 19, the firm is being forced to come to terms with the unions. On Wednesday, March 27, a meeting will be held to settle the strike by getting the firm to accept trade union principles and practices. But it is said they'll only be able to start 10 strikers, after they've sacked all the scabs. Let's hope the unions make them add to this.