

Freedom

Anarchist Weekly

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Riot or Rebellion?

IT IS DIFFICULT to make out from the newspaper accounts what is really happening in Derry. Although there are lurid accounts of the rioters attempting to burn the police alive with petrol, there is little attempt to provide any real analysis of the situation, apart from the usual cry of 'teenage hooligans' and 'religious war'. The Derry Citizens' Action Committee has stated that the rioting has nothing to do with civil rights, and has even gone so far as to praise the 'restraint' of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. At least according to a statement printed in 'The Times'.

Miss Bernadette Devlin is reported to have described the trouble as started by 'kids and drink'. But she then went on to say, 'It is not as easy as that, because if only kids were involved, it would have been over in a few minutes. It became a

reaction against 40 years of oppression, and they were looting shops for clothes they could not afford to buy.'

Guessing at what is going on, I would be inclined to consider the latter statement as most probably true. It is easy to become self-righteous about such violence as this, to talk about 'youths' and 'hooliganism', and ignore the grievances that produced it. Such outbursts have little to do with non-violence and orderly protest in a sense, but they are what happens when the orderly protests are ignored or sidetracked.

It would probably suit the authorities to have a religious war. The Protestant and Catholic poor will then be divided. If they cannot suppress violence altogether those in power would probably prefer Protestant and Catholic to battle it out

in the streets with petrol bombs. No government likes a state of permanent semi-civil war, but it would prefer this to having to face a union of Protestant and Catholic against itself.

Therefore we must be very cautious about statements to the effect that 'the old primeval instincts have come to the surface. It is a religious war, aggravated by the massive Catholic unemployment figures in Derry, and by the bad housing conditions in the Bogside.' This statement comes from Mr. Eamon McCann, a civil rights 'leader'. The second half of the statement seems to me to make more sense. 'Primeval instincts' belong to the realm of the unverifiable.

There can be no doubt about the reality of unemployment and discrimination.

The anarchist position is clear. We are opposed to all movements which seek to divide human beings according to religion or race. We believe this is simply playing into the hands of the rulers of the world, who do all they can to keep their peoples divided. We believe that Protestant and Catholic poor have a common interest in ending the system which oppresses them both. We are not going to encourage loose statements about 'instincts', which may or may not exist, like flying saucers and the Little People. We believe that this is mystification. People may well behave irrationally, but there is no need to assume that they are doing so until we know for certain. 'Leaders' in civil rights movements, as in the old days of CND, often tend to become detached from the rank and file, and even hostile to it.

We don't much like rioting, smashing things, throwing petrol about the streets and so forth. But we are not going to say 'How wicked!' and raise pious hands in horror. Those responsible for this upheaval are the powerful and wealthy, who exploit the ordinary people of N. Ireland. To people who are reduced to a condition of almost total subjugation the riot may seem to be (and may indeed be) the only way of resistance left. There is no need to postulate some mysterious instinctual drive.

On July 20 at 3 p.m. there will be a march from Marble Arch. It will be organised by the Solidarity Campaign in support of Ulster civil rights. Its destination will probably be the Ulster Office. Let us be there to put our point of view.

A.W.U.

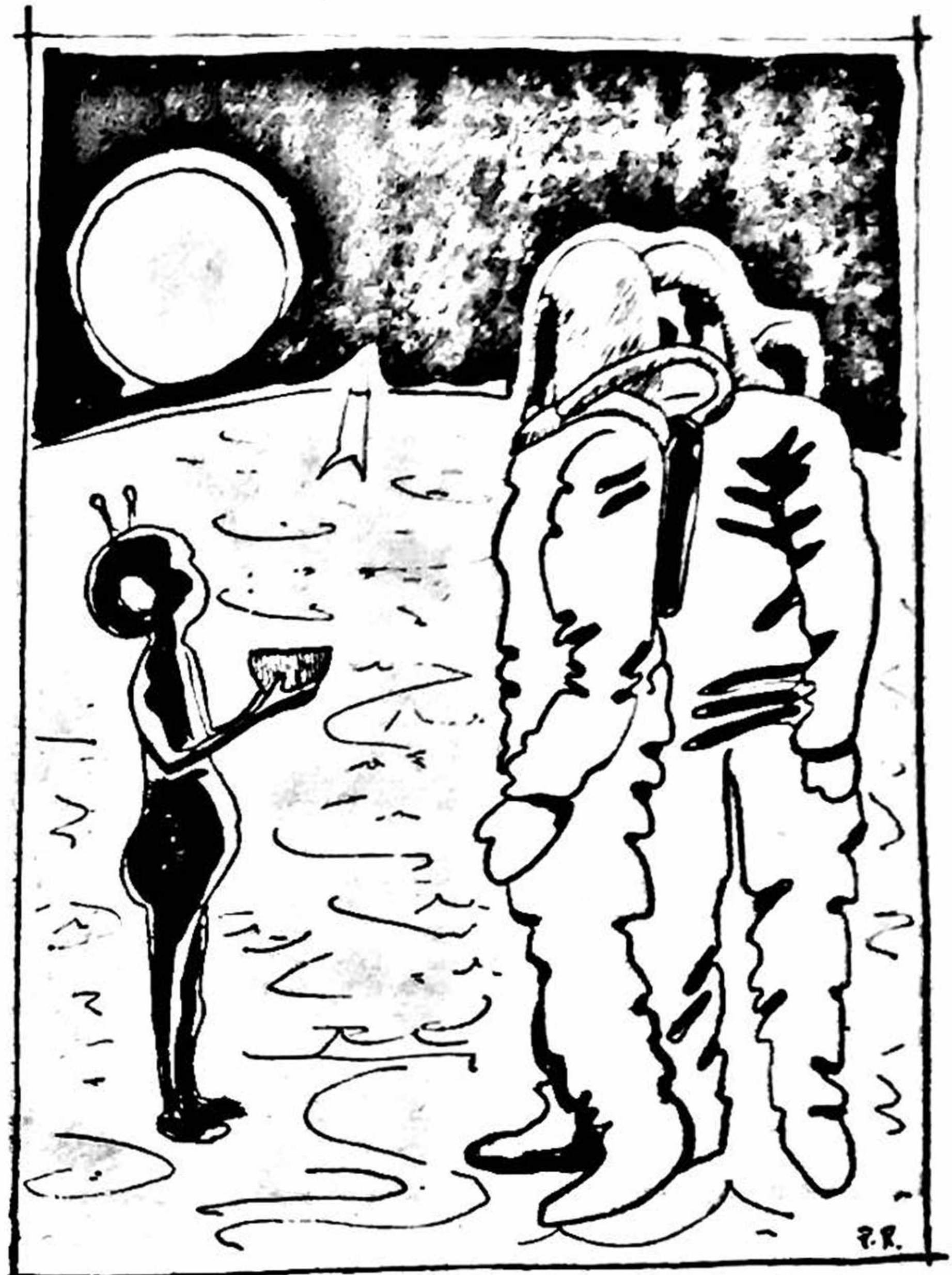
DIRECT ACTION WORKS

NEWS COVERAGE of the North being what it is, many comrades, especially those in the South might not have heard that the landlord of a Leeds pub last week refused to serve coloured people in one of the bars (the one with the carpet in). Such outright discrimination is rare—usually it's 'I'm very sorry but the job's been filled/the flat's been taken/you're not wearing a tie'.

Comrades might be interested to hear how this colour bar was fought against. On Monday, June 30, about 20 people, black and white, gathered together at short notice and entered the 'smart' Elizabethan (sic) Bar. As the first blacks went in the landlord's hired hoods stood up looking hard. When the rest of us came in they sat down again looking sheepish. Then we stood shoulder to shoulder along the bar nearly blocking it off completely.

A coloured guy asked for a drink: the woman behind the bar said 'Would you mind going to another bar please'. That was it, a few words, rather nervous and very polite, that made the difference between seeing a black man as another human being and seeing him as some kind of inferior animal. They wouldn't serve anybody from our lot so we stayed there with our tongues hanging out.

Continued on page 4



OUR POISONED PLANET

THE ENTHUSIASTS for technological progress-at-no-matter-what-costs were accustomed to say a few years ago that eventually mankind will learn to live with the dangers of nuclear power and not worry about it. This adaptation to 'reality' would be a sign of 'maturity', etc., as opposed to the 'hysteria' of those who objected to living with the constant threat of extinction hanging over their heads. Unpleasant though it is to have to agree with men who are potential mass-murderers, it does look as though they may be right. Nowadays one rarely hears anything about 'The Bomb'. The struggles of the students, the Negroes and the 'Third World' have pushed it into the background. Yet in fact while students and police clash like medieval armies, while Negroes snipe from the roofs of ghetto tenements, while guerillas in Asia and South America creep through the jungles, they are all, as well as their opponents, and the writer of these lines, and you, dear reader, being slowly poisoned.

According to studies made by Dr. Ernest J. Sternglass, Professor in the Department of Radiology at the University of Pittsburgh, all hopes of recovery after a nuclear war of any size are 'utterly and completely meaningless'. After a single, massive, first strike, all human life on this planet would probably be extinguished within a generation. 'The atomic weapons which the United States and Russia have been developing are completely suicidal.' Anti-ballistic missile systems and deep shelters would all be quite useless.

But Professor Sternglass goes further. He believes that the peaceful use of atomic energy, such as the projects to excavate harbours and a new Panama Canal by atom blast, will seriously diminish the survival rate for the next generation in those areas where this technique is used, and in all other parts of the world affected by the fallout.

Dr. Sternglass began his researches by studying what happened to the inhabitants of two towns in upper New York State after a fallout cloud from one of the 1953 Nevada tests had 'rained down' upon them. It had already been recorded that five years afterwards there had been a marked rise in leukemia cases in these towns.

Many of these cases occurred in children who were not born until three or four years after the fallout. 'I found there was not only an increase in leukemia, but in foetal and infant deaths generally, as long as five years after the incident. . . . Then I discovered that this was not only true in the one neighbourhood, but across the United States. We found that five years after the first New Mexico test in 1945 there was a narrow band of states—Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and North Carolina—in a direct path under the fallout cloud where the infant mortality rate had shot up by as much as

40% to 50%. A few years later, after the Pacific tests began, the same thing happened in the Western states.

Extraordinary though it may seem, this loss of life had never been thought of as caused by fallout. The babies died of what appeared to be 'natural causes', including the usual infant diseases. These babies were just less resilient than normal, and they tended to be smaller in size.

Indeed this 'small baby syndrome' has been noted throughout the United States, and has puzzled the doctors. State by state, Dr. Sternglass discovered an increase in the infant death rate, averaging 25% to 30%, above the normally expected figure, four or five years after the fallout had settled. He has come to believe that minute doses of radiation, so small that they have previously been considered harmless, do in fact affect the reproductive cells, causing abnormalities in the offspring years afterwards.

Dr. Sternglass gathered infant mortality figures from every part of the United States and fed them into a computer at the University of Pittsburgh. The computer was programmed to calculate the relationship between these figures and the state-by-state incidence of strontium 90 in milk. 'In every area we found a perfect correlation year by year, as the levels of radiation rose and fell.' The rise in the deaths of foetuses and babies under one year of age has been calculated to account for 1% more infant deaths than would otherwise have been expected, and this 1% continues to persist, although atmospheric tests were halted in 1963. Dr. Sternglass believes that it will do so for a generation, since strontium 90 remains active for up to 28 years.

One of the proud boasts of modern society is that it has reduced infant mortality. This has created a population problem, but it is an achievement not to be sneered at, and a quite valid rejoinder to those who would have us return to the world of peasants and handicraftsmen, where parents might have large families, but expected as a matter of course to bury half of them.

Since we are told that 'nuclear power is here to stay, you can't stop progress', etc., we are to assume, I suppose, that increasing infant mortality also is here to stay, and perhaps eventually near-medieval conditions will return. Who now says that you cannot turn progress back on its tracks? Here it has been done.

For it is not simply a question of war. Peaceful nuclear explosions are just as dangerous. The modern militant will no doubt reply that it is all part of the capitalist system, and of course he is right. But the capitalist is just as much exposed as the poorest Indian peasant. There seems to be a kind of mass amnesia regarding the whole problem. A few years ago it was a major issue, now it is almost forgotten.

A.S.

Ilford Squatters Confront Council and Police

THE FIGHT for the homeless in Ilford reached a peak on Tuesday evening, July 15. The squatters' demonstration brought together the best of the activists. The size of the march to the Town Hall was small by Grosvenor Square standards, but this was to be expected. None of the well-known organizations are supporting the squatters' movement officially, but the best of the rank and file did show up, despite carping criticisms by such newspapers as the 'Socialist Worker'. This newspaper is doing its best to break the squatters' movement by such ill-founded accusations that 'it has no working class support'. As it happened, there was solid working class support for the squatters from Kellogg's construction firm from Ford workers, from the AEF, and, of course, the five families that marched with us. They are also working class unless such a term should only be available to 'successful workers' who are not on society's scrap-heap.

Perhaps readers should want a graphic description of what happened on the march, and inside and outside the Council chamber. It is now 4 a.m. and I know that the newspaper presses are already churning out the reporters' 'version' of what happened. By the time this appears in your hands, the saga of man on the moon will have knocked sideways the claim of homeless man to squat in an empty house.

Suffice it to say that Lord Mayor Natzler of Redbridge tried to find some pretext to clear us from the public gallery from the moment he walked in. After more than two hours of delaying tactics, of talking about 'bowling greens' and other pressing Council matters, the housing issue was finally brought up. The Lord Mayor first gave what sounded like an impartial account of the squatters' campaign. Then he whipped out a petition supposedly signed by 200 residents of

Ilford opposing the squatters.

A squatter stood up and reminded the Lord Mayor that some 2,000 residents of Ilford had signed a petition supporting the squatters. The Lord Mayor promptly adjourned the meeting, claiming the remark was disruptive. A few men and women were brave enough to break through to the Council side of the chamber and seize the microphones to open the meeting to the public. Police swooped down. After a terrific fight, comrades were bundled into Black Marias in the Council car park; friends and comrades sat and fought in front of the vans; when one was yanked up two others took his place. Only when police reinforcements arrived, could the police gain ground inch by inch.

Fourteen people were arrested. We later got them out on bail and they have returned to the house at 6 Woodlands Road. When their cases come up, there will be no false defence. In this battle for the homeless no quarter is given and no quarter is asked. If anything, the police were playing down the charges, possibly not to involve the councillors, but they may well be subpoenaed.

We have now been in occupation at 'Freelands', 6 Woodlands Road (now without water) for three weeks. We have fought off the bailiffs and were not afraid to fight the police. We have also shown the councillors a foretaste of the anger of the homeless on the march. All the time we have been occupying houses and repairing them. This weekend, we intend to take more positive action.

We would like more help from comrades who can come to Ilford and who are not involved in something more important. But of course if you are in Fulham, Derry, Manchester, or Brighton—unfortunately we cannot be everywhere at once.

JOHN RETY.

books? Up Against the Wall, Green Tories!

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POSTAGE EXTRA

Freedom Bookshop

HERE WE ARE!

Editorial office open Friday, July 18, 6-8 p.m. and Monday, July 21, 2-8 p.m.

Note new telephone number:
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New address:

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WHILE THE GREEN TORIES whine and panic, the 'split' in the NI civil rights campaign is defining itself more and more each day. As forecast in FREEDOM several months ago, many people have become disappointed by the 'lack of energy' of the bourgeois politicians who jumped on the civil rights bandwagon in order to further their 'careers'. Their bland acceptance of the token and totally inadequate 'reforms' proffered by the Government and their desire to avoid what is scornfully referred to as 'street politics' does not seem to be in accord with the wishes of the 'common people'. Perhaps this is because they have not been subjected to the camaraderie of the bars at Stormont, where, amidst the haze of alcohol, 'political enemies' meet.

There the Green Tory Caron of Fermanagh can have a convivial chat with his fellow parasite from the fair county, the Right Honourable (sic?) Captain John Brooke, king of the company directors, whose financial 'peccadilloes' Paddy Devlin has been exposing in a never-ending saga. There too, Austin can curry favour with all and sundry and Hume can exchange platitudes with his NUMskull friends, while back in Derry, the people who put him there have still to squat in order to get a house (in addition to the 30 families squatting in Clooney Park, nine more families have taken over houses in the city in the last two weeks). But beyond

the walls of the white white house on the hill, the mood of the people is one of impatience as the recent marches at Strabane and Newry have shown. Most of the politicians boycotted these and it was very noticeable that despite the hysterical warnings of Cardinal Conway, more people were singing 'The Internationale' than the tired old 'We Shall Overcome'.

The split between the 'moderates' and the 'militants', as Chichester-Shark calls the groups—indeed, anyone who wishes to march in the streets for basic human rights is now deemed an anarchist by the PM, although he presumably excludes the Orangemen from this hideous slur—was first really brought out into the open by McCann and 'La Passionaria' Devlin at the Strabane march. There, despite the howls of the hacks, they quite rightly denounced the Green Tories and Catholic bigots who 'support' the CR campaign—these now include Teddy Kennedy, friend of the negro and Ireland's patron saint.

In the furor that followed, the Unionists, those well-known friends of civil rights, have rallied to the aid of the nice respectable John Hume against the 'wreckers', the PD and 'the anarchists and revolutionary socialists'. But the campaign may backfire. Even now, Hume, the erstwhile saint of the bourgeois RCs, is losing support in his home town of Derry, where he infuriated PM by smuggling the PM into the

Bogside for a 'bridge-building' tour. Any advance notice of this jolly visit would have resulted in a large hostile demonstration, in the area which has been subjected to police brutality twice in the last six months and where the people have to endure the slums and the mass unemployment (20%). Consequently Hume's smuggling act is a direct slap in the face to the very people who elected him—but why should he care, for, after all, has he not promised the business-men of the town that there'll not be any demonstrations on a Saturday lest their trade suffers, and if the people of the Bogside eventually see through him he can always join his friends in NUM.

Meanwhile, around the province local PDs are springing up and showing up the inactive CRAs and all is not well in the Unionist ranks. Along with the traditional sabre-rattling that precedes the July 12 jamboree, we have had some deliberately provocative speeches from John Taylor and Adolf Craig denouncing the 'liberal and radical elements' within their party as 'subversive'. Since no liberal or radical would go within ten miles of the Unionist Party, their references are taken to refer to the NUMskulls, the bourgeois O'Neillites. They too have been mouthing their unctuous platitudes and it seems likely that a real split will develop after the expected excesses of the 12th.

To end on a historical note. Last week

in Stormont, the incredible John McQuade, whose complete works of parliamentary speeches in five years run to 2,000 words (or £2 a word to the taxpayer) has designed to speak yet again. Hansard reports the following snappy exchange:

McQ. 'Last night in the city streets a dear friend of ours was stabbed to death (believed to be a reference to an ex-policeman attacked by two drunks whom he ordered to stop singing in the streets), what we need in Belfast is more B. Specials.'

Speaker. 'Order! Order! This is not germane to the motion.'

McQ. 'To hell with order, let's have the specials!'

In the silly season of the 12th, the prophetic quip typifies the climate of lunatic Unionist opinion here.

Lurgan

S. J. MOLLER

'Living School'

AN ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN school is being run at LSE for three days from July 28. The school is to be structured to allow the maximum amount of choice of activities, and promises a full and varied programme.

Four major subjects are to be run side by side: Education/Political Ideas; Political Action/Communications. Fun will augment the evenings! The school, which starts each day at 10 a.m., will undoubtedly be chaotic, but could well attract a large number of pupils, teachers, apprentices (?) and 'politicos'.

Some of the libertarian left will be specifically asked to contribute. The rest of us should not wait to be asked—there will be many opportunities to participate in the school. Leaflets posters/offers of help/participation to Living School, c/o LSE Soc. Soc., Houghton Street, WC2. (At the school contact on the bookstall.)

CHAZ

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

READING SQUATTERS

PEOPLE FORCED by the housing shortage to live in caravans are a very hard-done by section of the community. They have not only legal anomalies to face—the fact that they have to pay purchase tax on their dwelling, and that they cannot get income tax relief on the purchase of the caravan—but also they very often come up against crooked site-owners and caravan dealers.

Two weeks ago a family of seven who live on a caravan site in Camberley received a letter from the firm from which they were buying the caravan on hire purchase, saying that the company were going to repossess the caravan

because of arrears. The local children's department offered to pay the sum due but the company refused; an employee of the company told the family that they were not interested in the money, they wanted the caravan and 'they could use truncheons if necessary' to get the family out. The family, ignorant of their rights, left the caravan, which was towed away immediately, possibly because the company knew the squatters had been informed.

The hire purchase act states that if an offer of payment of arrears is made, it must be accepted; the repossession was therefore illegal.

The residents are quite well organised;

at a meeting last week a residents' association was formed, and an activist on the site who had previously organised a rent strike over an increase in rent for improvements in facilities which never materialised, is collecting the many and varied complaints of the residents against both site-owner and caravan company (they are closely related companies).

The company have threatened more repossessions in the near future, but both residents and the Reading Squatters Group are determined that they will not take place, and a confrontation is expected during the next few weeks.

Will anybody in the area who is willing to help should this take place telephone Farnborough 43811.

ALAN ROSS

Anarchist Federation of Britain

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. All correspondence to LFA, c/o Freedom Press, LAVENDER HILL MOB. Contact C. Broad, 116 Tynham Road, S.W.11 (228 4086). LEWISHAM. Mike Mallet, 618 Granville Park, S.E.13 (452 8879). PORTOBELLO ROAD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Andrew Dewar, 16 Kilburn House, Malvern Place, N.W.6. Meetings 8 p.m. every Tuesday. FINCH'S ANARCHISTS. Regular meetings. Contact P.P., 271 Portobello Road, W.11. BEXLEY ANARCHIST MOVEMENT. Steve Leman, 28 New Road, Abbey Wood, S.E.2. Tel: ET 35377. Meetings every Friday, 8 p.m., Lord Bexley, Bexleyheath Broadway. S.W. LONDON ANARCHISTS. Meeting alternate Wednesdays. Phone Brian 672 8494. SIEGE OF SYDNEY STREET APPRECIATION SOCIETY. Frances Cooper, 2a Fairfield Gardens, Hornsey, N.8. Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

EAST LONDON LIBERTARIAN FEDERATION

Support wanted for numerous activities in area. Secretary: Anthony Matthews, 35 Mayville Road, London, E.11. Meetings fortnightly on Sundays at Ron Bailey's, 128 Hainault Road, E.11. Ten minutes from Leytonstone Underground. Active groups in: LEYTONSTONE, STEPNY, NEWHAM, LIFORD, DAGENHAM, WOODFORD and LIMEHOUSE.

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

Every Wednesday at Jack Robinson's and Mary Campa's, 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6 (off King's Road), 8 p.m.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary, Peter Le Mare, 22 Hallowell Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 16. Libertarian discussion groups held 8 p.m. on each Tuesday at the Arts Lab, Summer Lane (not the Crown). S.a.e. to Secretary for details. BLACKBURN. 'Global Tapestry', c/o BB Books, 11 Clematis Street, Blackburn, BB2 6JP. BOURNEMOUTH AREA. Local anarchists can be contacted through Nigel Holt, Rosemore, Harvey Road, Canford, Wimborne, Dorset. (Wimborne 2991.) CORNWALL ANARCHISTS. Contact Arthur Jacobs, 13 Ledra Road, St. Austell, Cornwall. Meetings on the second Friday of each month at 42 Pendennis Street, Bescos, Camborne. 7.30 p.m. Visiting comrades very welcome. CROYDON LIBERTARIANS. Meetings every 2nd Friday of each month. Laurence and Celia O'Leary, 35 Natal Road, Thornton Heath, CR4 8QH (0673 7546) or contact Keith McCain, 1 Langmead Street, West Norwood, S.E.27. Phone 670 2797. EDGWARE PEACE ACTION GROUP. Contact Melvyn Estrin, 84 Edgwarebury Lane, Edgware, Middx. HERTS. Contact Val and John Punnell, 10 Fry Road, Chells, Stevenage. LIVERPOOL ANARCHISTS & SITUATIONISTS. Contact Gerry Bree, 16 Faulkner Square, Liverpool. LEICESTER PROJECT. Peace/Libertarian

action and debate. Every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at 1 The Crescent, King Street, Leicester. MUTUAL AID GROUP. c/o Borrowdale, Carriage Drive, Frodsham, Cheshire. NORTH EAST ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Peter Ridley, 4 Rockcliffe Gardens, Whitley Bay, Northumberland. Phone 25759. NORTH SOMERSET ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Roy Emery, 3 Abbey Street, Bath, or Geoffrey Barfoot, 71 St. Thomas Street, Wells. NOTTING HILL. Meetings at John Bennett's, Flat 4, 86 Clarendon Road, W.11. Every Monday evening, 8 p.m. ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2516. Brian and Maureen Richardson. READING (town and university) and WOKINGHAM. Contact address: Larry Law, 57 Kiln Ride, Wokingham, Berkshire. REDDITCH ANARCHISTS AND LIBERTARIANS. Contact Dave Lloyd, 37 Fockham Road, Headless Cross, Redditch, Worcs. WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Regular meetings and activities contact Mr. T. Plant, 10 Thackeray Road, East Ham, E.6. Tel: 552 4162. WOKINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. c/o Larry Law, 57 Kiln Ride, Wokingham.

ESSEX & EAST HERTS FEDERATION

Three-monthly meetings. Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Peter Newell (see N.E. Essex Group). Group Addresses:—BASILDON & WICKFORD. Steve Grant, 'Piccola Casa', London Road, Wickford, Essex. NORTH EAST ESSEX. Peter Newell, 91 Brook Road, Tollerant Knights, Tiptree, Essex. Regular meetings. BISHOPS STORTFORD. Vic Mount, 'Eastview', Castle Street, Bishops Stortford, Herts. CHELMSFORD. (Mrs.) Eva Archer, MBI House, Partridge, Chelmsford, Essex. EPPING. John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping, Essex. HARLOW. Ian Dallas, 18 Brookline Field, Harlow and Annette Gunning, 37 Longbanks, Harlow. LITCHFORD. Group c/o Students' Union, Loughton College of Further Education, Borders Lane, Loughton, Essex.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

Secretary: Phil, 8 Stonecroft Road, Leyland, PR5 3AE. BLACKPOOL. Contact Christine and Graham, Top flat, 4 Ruskin Avenue, South Shore, Blackpool. BOLTON. Contact John Hayes, 51 Rydal Road, Bolton. CHORLEY. Contact Kevin Lynch, 6 Garfield Terrace, Chorley. LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE. Contact Les Smith, 30 Dunkeld Street, Lancaster. Meetings Monday at 8 p.m., Phil Woodhead's, 30 Dunkeld Street, Lancaster. Regular literature sales. MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. 'The Secretary', Felix Phillips, 6 Draycott Street, Manchester, 10. Regular weekly meetings. Contact Secretary for details. MERSEYSIDE ANARCHISTS. Contact Pete Duke, Flat 6, 70 Huskisson Street, Liverpool, 8. PRESTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Rob Wilkinson, 73 Trafford Street, Preston. Meetings: 'The

Wellington Hotel', Glovers Court, Preston. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. STOCKPORT. Dave Crowther, 1 Castle Street, Edgeley, Stockport.

SURREY FEDERATION

EPSOM. G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom. Tel. Epsom 23866. KINGSTON. Michael Squirrel, 4 Woodgate Ave., Hook, Chertsey. GUILDFORD. Peter Cartwright, 33 Denail Road, Guildford. MERTON. Elliot Burns, 13 Amity Grove, London, S.W.19. Tel 01-946 1444.

SUSSEX FEDERATION

Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Eddie Poole, 5 Tibbury, Finton Road, Whitehawk, Brighton. BRIGHTON & HOVE ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Nick Heath, Flat 3, 26 Clifton Road, Brighton. CRAWLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Richard Ashwell, 87 Buckswood Drive, Gosops Green, Crawley, Sussex. SUSSEX UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP (see details under Student Groups).

YORKSHIRE FEDERATION

Next meeting: Sunday, June 15 in York. Contact Regional Secretary c/o York Group (see below). HARROGATE. Contact David Howes, 16 Park Parade, Harrogate. HULL: Jim Young, 3 Fredericks Crescent, Hawthorn Avenue, Hull. KEMBLEY: Steve Wood, 268 Cavendish Street, Leeds. LEEDS: Direct Action Society, Contact Martin Watkins, 6 Ebberton Terrace, Leeds, 6. SHEFFIELD: Dave Jeffries, c/o Students Union, Western Bank, Sheffield, 10. YORK. Keith Nathan, Vanbrugh College, Heslington, York.

STUDENT GROUPS

SCHOOLS ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact T. Swash, 49 Popham Road, London, N.1. Regular meetings each Friday. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Matthew Robertson, Trinity College, or John Fullerton, Jesus College. CARDIFF UNIVERSITY LIBERTARIAN/ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Chris Short, UWIST Union, Cathays Park, or Chas. Ball, UCC Union, Dunfries Place. SUSSEX UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. John Byford, 26 Bedford Square, Brighton, Sussex. Meetings every second Thursday jointly with Brighton Group: bookstall every Monday outside J.C.R., 12.2.30 p.m. YORK UNIVERSITY. Contact Nigel Wilson, Derwent College, University of York, Heslington, York. EAST ANGLIA UNIVERSITY. Contact Dave Lomax, E.A.S. II, U.E.A., Norwich, NOR 88C. LIBERTARIAN STUDENTS FEDERATION. Contact address: Keith Nathan, 158 Pennymead, Harlow. LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact us at the bookstall in the Students Union Foyer every Friday lunchtime. OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Francis Casline, Pembroke College, or Steve Watts, Trinity College. MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY. Contact Mike Don or Bill Jameson, c/o University Union, Oxford Road, Manchester, 13. SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY Revolutionary Anarchist Federation. Contact Student Union Bookstall lunchtimes on Tuesday and Friday. LSE ANARCHIST GROUP. C/o Students' Union, LSE, Houghton Street, W.C.2. KINGSTON COLLEGE OF Technology, Penryn Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey. Contact G. Wright.

READING TOWN & UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence c/o 3 Crown Place, Reading. Meetings every Thursday at 8 p.m. at 26 Bulmershe Road, Reading. MANCHESTER COLLEGE OF Commerce. Contact Kevin Hill, c/o Students' Union, College of Commerce, Aytoun Street, Manchester, 1.

WELSH FEDERATION

ABERYSTWYTH ANARCHISTS. Contact Steve Mills, 4 St. Michael's Place, Abergystwyth, Cardiganshire, Wales. CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. All correspondence to—Pete Raymond, 16 Marina Street, Splott, Cardiff. SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Ian Bone, 18 Windsor Street, Uplands, Swansea. Weekly meetings at 8 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Cardiff Arms (in the Strand). LLANELLI. Contact Dai Walker, 6 Llynwenny Road, Llanelli, Carm. Tel: Llanelli 2548.

SCOTTISH FEDERATION

All correspondence to Bobby Lynn, Secretary, 12 Ross Street, Glasgow, S.E. ABERDEEN ANARCHISTS & SYNDICALISTS. Contact Ian & Peggy Sutherland, 8 Eslemont Avenue, Aberdeen. Regular 'Freedom' Sale, leafletting, etc. Visiting comrades welcome. GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Robert Lynn, 12 Ross Street, S.E. EDINBURGH. Tony Hughes, Top Flat, 40 Angle Park Terrace, Edinburgh 11. HAMILTON AND DISTRICT ANARCHIST GROUP. Robert Linton, 7a Station Road, New Stevenston, Motherwell. PIPE. Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital, By Cuper. MONTROSE. Dave Coull, 3 Blairview Terrace, Ferryden, Montrose, Angus. ROSS-SHIRE. Contact David Rodgers, Broomefield, Evanton, Ross-shire, Scotland.

NORTHERN IRELAND

BELFAST ANARCHIST GROUP. Meetings every Saturday, 2 p.m., 44a Upper Arthur Street (top floor) 'Freedom' sales. SOUTHERN IRELAND ALLIANCE OF LIBERTARIAN AND ANARCHIST GROUPS IN IRELAND. c/o Freedom Press.

ABROAD

AUSTRALIA. Federation of Australian Anarchists, P.O. Box A 389, Sydney South, NSW 2000. Phone No. 69-8095. Open discussion and literature sale in the Domain—Sunday, 2 p.m. Call at 59 Eveleigh Street, Redfern, NSW 2015 for personal discourse, tea and overnight accommodation. BELGIUM. Groupe du journal Le Libertaire, 220 rue Viergeux, Liege. USA. James W. Cals, secretary, the Anarchist Committee of Correspondence, 325 Fourth Street, Croquet, Minnesota 55720, USA. T O R O N T O LIBERTARIAN ANARCHIST GROUP. 217 Yorkville Drive, Weston, Ontario, Canada. Weekly meetings Read the 'Libertarian'. PROPOSED GROUPS NORTH DEVON. All those interested in forming a local group please contact Hugh Bunsley, 'Boathouse', Northam, Bideford, Devon. MONTREAL, QUEBEC. Anyone interested in forming a Montreal area Anarchist group please contact Ron Siler, Tel. 493-6432. ASTON UNIVERSITY. College of Art and Commerce. Anarchists and Libertarians wishing to form group please contact Malvern Hostick at 62 Whelewell Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15. VANCOUVER I.W.W. and Libertarian group. Box 512, Postal St. 'A', Vancouver 1, B.C. Canada. Read 'The Rebel'—please send donation for postage.

ACCORDING to the programme, the last night of the week-long free festival at Goldsmith's College... D. Laing, William Burroughs, Alex Trocchi, Michael X, Jim Dine, Paul Hoch, members of FSC, squatters, radical students and workers will discuss the revolution. Anti-public relations, information of resistance groups, etc.

In the event, Jim Dine, Paul Hoch, Michael X and Alex Trocchi put in an appearance, so did Jack Dash, a band of 1960's suffragettes and sundry radical (?) students. When we arrived in the packed hall the 'names' were up on the platform and the hoi polloi variously spread about the floor. X was rambling into a mike that was so distorted by feedback that it was painful and there was already a generally restless air about the whole forum. X mumbled and freaked on for what seemed hours, hanging on to that blasted mike like a drowning man, and was eventually replaced by Jim Dine. Dine spoke inaudibly for several minutes accompanied on the microphone and then disappeared never to be seen again.

Thereafter things became rather confused. I think Paul Hoch (whoever he may be) was speaking when six or seven young women, proclaiming women's rights, took over the meeting and the microphone. Instant pandemonium broke out... loud cries of 'get 'em off' and 'show us your tits' from the mob countered by pleas to 'hear them out'.

Eventually, I think by popular consent, and helped by a sensible proposal from Michael Duane, the girls established an arena in the centre of the floor and amid much heckling stated their case. By this time the mike had died and

Shout-Up at Goldsmith's

their statements/arguments were largely inaudible to me. Now, admittedly they were speaking to the wrong audience (perhaps they weren't) and one or two of them did tend to nag, but I was amazed at how they were treated by the mob. They were shouted down, heckled, abused and sworn at unceasingly and eventually retaliated by the same means. One bloke in front of me, who later spoke with great passion about the squatters' case, was so enraged, he bellowed, 'Why don't you shut up, you fucking whore' at a girl who was making a modest statement about her refusal to be regarded as a 'sexual object'.

At some time during or before the take-over Jack Dash made a brief appearance and attempted to answer some questions. He too was roundly abused, and eventually, with surprising good humour, decided there was nothing doing and left.

Meanwhile the 'names' were left in isolation on the platform and were visibly feeling left out. Then DRAMA!... enter revolutionary student declaring, 'get off your arses, you cunts, the revolution is outside'. Loud cries of 'Fuck off' and 'Down with the fuzz', and red-faced confusion and bad temper all round. It transpired then, that 'THEY' were stopping people from getting in and that 'WE' should get out there and start the revolution by letting the people in. By this time all my latent liberal/bourgeois/cowardly instincts had come well to the fore and we stayed where we were. Meanwhile, with revealing opportunism, Trocchi and X had stealthily seized the floor again and by the time the revolution had been achieved the suffragettes had gone and the 'names' were in charge.

'This time,' we thought, 'we're going to hear what it's all about.' But no! First, Trocchi bumbling on with boring

autobiography, telling us how he loved America but wasn't allowed in and if only Mailer had been Mayor of New York how he'd have gone back tomorrow... it became obvious that he'd nothing to say. Then X again (or perhaps he came first... it was very confusing), even more boring than Trocchi. Endless bragging, plugs for his book, name-dropping, anecdotes which, if they had a point, were pointless to me. Eventually as the mob became more restless he decided to answer a few questions, except that he didn't answer them. X revealed himself as a true politician, evasive, shifty, egotistic (every time he said 'we', I had the strong feeling he meant 'me'). He repeatedly answered a serious question with a weak joke and at first a sympathetic audience let him get away with it.

But, as the 'discussion' dribbled on, it became more and more apparent that there was to be no dialogue, only monologue and repeated attempts to open up the discussion were put down by X. Eventually, and perhaps rudely, I told X he was a bore and his response was typical of politicians everywhere. A bullying remark about coming out and doing better and some wild talk about

punching me in the mouth... there is no more damaging remark you can make to a politician than to tell him he's a bore.

Throughout the bore's cross-talk act a student who looked a bit like Jeff Nuttall with shoulder-length hair and an American student with a moustache and pale blue jumper (I wish I knew their names) repeatedly and politely made sensible and civilized suggestions about opening up THE DISCUSSION and eventually, again with a timely intervention from Duane, some floor speakers got a look in. A proposal was put forward that, even though he was absent, some of Laing's ideas should be discussed and it became immediately obvious that a great many people, myself included, had come specifically to hear Laing. At this point X decided he had to go and Trocchi, looking decidedly hurt, left as well. There was an attempt to initiate a discussion. Duane made a familiar statement about Risinghill and the nature of 'liberal' education, there was some talk about the squatters and the schools' campaign, but it was apparent, by then, that most people were bored with the whole proceedings and like us, left to go and listen to the

groups playing elsewhere in the college. Out in one of the quadrangles a West Indian steel band was playing obnoxious 'soca' while a gang of crew-cutted herbivores in jeans, boots and braces were putting the boot in against all and sundry and a small girl, tears streaming down her face, who tried to reason with them, was punched as indiscriminately as the rest. Maybe these kids were some of those 'liberated' by the revolution earlier in the evening.

It would be easy to be depressed by such an experience but there are one or two straws to clutch at. Firstly, many thanks to the students of Goldsmith's for their enterprise and vision in staging the festival and for a real attempt to open up their college (if only for one week) to anyone and everyone. Maybe we shouldn't be surprised by the local herbs putting the boot in, perhaps it's an instinctive response in a situation where all restraints are (temporarily) lifted. Secondly, thanks to all the groups, poets, actors, and performers who, for whatever motives, gave their services free. And thirdly, thanks to those people at the 'discussion' who decided, after giving them a fair hearing, that respect is not accorded to those with reputations. I was reminded of Robert Graves' appearance at the Albert Hall a couple of years ago. The grand old man of English poetry was given a warm reception, but when he behaved in a silly and precious manner the audience gave him the bird. JEFF CLOVES

MOVING FUND

Target is £500.
Donations to date: £451 13s. 11d.
Due to the fact that we have moved, and in spite of being still just under £50 short of the target, the Moving Fund now closes.

PREMISES FUND

Target is £1,000 per year.
1969 Pledges honoured and donations to date: £330 3s. 6d.

Thanks—
but Still
in the Red!

PRESS FUND

(Donations Received—June 28 to July 5)

Toronto: D.C. £1/19/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; K.F. & C.F.* 2/-; London, N.16: H.B. 3/-; Tonbridge: M.M.H. 3/4; New Malden: G.B. 4/2; London, N.W.1: D.G. 2/-; Oxford: Anon.* 5/-; Hatfield: G.E. 10/-; Berkeley, Calif.: J.A. £5; New York: B.E.S. £3/10/-; Gt. Bookham: P.W.C. 15/8; Glasgow: J.K.S. 5/8; Swabish Grind: E.S. £1/4/-; London, S.W.16: L.B. £2/13/-; Chicago: R.S. £2; Worcester, Mass.: J.S. 10/-; Chicago: V.N.C. £2/14/-; Hemel Hempstead: J.P. 4/-; Wellington, N.Z.: J.H. £1/9/10; Southall: D.F.S. 10/-; London, N.W.2: D.S. 10/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 4/-; K.F. & C.F.* 2/-; Detroit: S.C. 8/-; Belfast: J.M.G. 12/2; London, S.W.13: G.H. 5/-; Leeds: D.G. 3/-; Grantham: G.I. 3/-; Whitby: P.R. 8/8; Cambridge: R.F. £1; A.G. 10/-; Beckenham: N.T. 13/-; Newcastle, Staffs.: B.B. 2/6; Northolt: J.M. 1/-; London, N.2: J.M.C.A. 13/-; Cammery: D.W. 4/-; Castle Douglas: J.A. 10/8; Taunton: D.P. 10/-; Liverpool: H.H.J. £1; Madison, Wis.: E.T. £2; London, N.1: B.W. 5/8; London, S.E.10: W.E. 13/-; Bedford: N.C.W. 5/8; Cambridge: C.M. £7/5/8; Wealdstone: P.T. 2/10; London, S.W.4: A.S. £3/5/8; Ipswich: W.M.D. 7/10; Glasgow: L.B. & K.B. 8/8; Londonderry: I.B. 5/8; Norton-on-Tees: I.G. 15/8; Wembley: F.E.S. 5/8; Durham: S.C. 5/8; Hastings: G.W.T. £2/5/8; Doncaster: J.S. 5/8; Edinburgh: W.C. 8d.; Horley: T.K.O.H. 2/10; Bishop's Stortford: D.K. £2/5/8; Ruislip: R.B. 10/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; K.F. & C.F.* 2/-; London, N.W.2: J.O. 10/-; Chalfont: W.C. £5; Hove: H.C. 15/8; Hawthorne, Vict., Australia: £13/14/-; Kirkcaldy: P.M. 5/-; Leeds: C.A. 10/-; Reggio Calabria: S.S. 12/-; Lulea: H.P. 15/-; Chelmsford: E.A. 10/8; Norwich: V.B.R. 3/2; London, N.1: S.B. 10/-; Leicester: P. & C. 2/6; Berkhamsted: R.O. £1/5/8; Como, W. Aust.: B.S. £1; Tunbridge Wells: D.N. 5/8; Richmond: F.W.W.B. 10/-; Bolton: L.C. 9/8; Newton Abbott: £2/5/8; Liverpool: K.B. £1/5/8; Sheffield: D.J. £1/0/9.

TOTAL: £77 6 0

ANARCHIST THEATRE

AN OPEN AIR anarchist theatre group is being formed, initially with a view to performing semi-improvised happenings in such places as Hyde Park, but likely to extend later to the streets where the real communication is most possible and most needed.

We urgently need transport—a van of some kind, step ladders, ideas for various presentations, actors and actresses (no experience of any kind is necessary—only free hearts and minds), props of various kinds—anything you think might be useful; plus creative people to help build necessary props, ideas, communication and relationships.

To this end a meeting has been arranged at Freedom Press meeting hall on Tuesday, July 22, at 7.30 p.m. Please come along and help. The aim of the group is primarily to dramatise the anarchist alternatives to contemporary chaos—the ways in which the individual might take back control over his own life and environment.

To do this in such a way as to directly and immediately involve the people of the street. Establishing a relationship with them whereby, if only for that moment, real two-way communication may be established.

If you are definitely interested in helping, but unable to attend the meeting, please write to us care of Freedom Press giving your ideas and we will keep you directly informed of future group activity. Your active participation is urgently required.

PADDY FIELDS,
pp. Anarchist Theatre Group.

Unworthy LETTER

Dear Friends,
It's a shame that Ian Sutherland spoils his article on 'Cruelty for Profit' (28.6.69) by referring to vegetarians as cranks.

'Cranks' is a word unworthy of an anarchist. It is applied to people who won't conform and whose position we refuse to take seriously. To call a person a crank is a cheap attempt to dismiss him and to press others closer to conformity. The factory farmer dismisses Ian's argument as 'cranky'. He shouldn't dismiss vegetarians in the same way. London, W11 MARSHALL COLMAN.

URGENT

Send in Now! Reports,
photos, drawings
of Squatter activities.

NEVER-ENDING AUDACITY

HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL is about three miles from Fulham Broadway (which used to be Walham Green). The mania for gigantopolis has been part of the illness from which local government is suffering; the Maude Report recommendations will merely serve to accelerate the disease. Public Council meetings are held at very rare intervals. I asked a local government clerk who runs the place between meetings. 'We do,' she said. Due to holidays, etcetera, the next Council meeting was due in October so it was imperative that our local petition should be in at the July meeting of the Council.

Hammersmith Council was elected on 39.6% of the votes of the electorate, in Sandford Ward the Conservatives got 3,744 votes and the Labour and Communist candidates 3,622, so it was by no means a runaway Conservative victory in terms of votes. Immediately they were elected one of the first items discussed was the provision of new robes for all the councillors. Commonsense must have prevailed for last week only the Mayor was in full regalia.

The petition was asking the Council to cease selling Council properties in the Moore Park Road area and to let them at reasonable rents to homeless families and thus prevent the deterioration of the area. The petition was signed by about 140 people from about eight roads in the area, which is reasonable, considering that a large proportion of the houses are empty, except for some owner-occupiers and some Council tenants—many of whom have been given notice to quit.

When we arrived two 'squatters' had already been evicted for interrupting the meeting. Mrs. Joan Foster, our tenant and two of our group had been threatened but had refused to leave the

meeting. The arrangement was for everyone to go in and seat themselves separately and intercode separately so that each eviction, if eviction there was to be, should consume the maximum of time.

On arriving in the gallery, it was discovered not to be the right one. However, proceedings were starting down below for a female voice could be heard addressing the Council. There was a storm of protest from the councillors and aldermen and the Mayor said, 'What are you doing here? I must ask you to leave, madam.' It was one of our comrades, who, seeing the chamber door open, had slipped in and addressed the meeting on their responsibility to the citizens in the matter of housing. She left when requested to do so but was not allowed to enter the public galleries.

The meeting flowed on its automatic way, 'the party of the minority', as the Labour councillors now described themselves, made several points about the injunction to restrain the ex-councillor from inciting people to squat; about the forthcoming eviction of a tenant; about the use of a large empty house as a children's home—instead of selling it; all peripheral to the business of Mrs. Joan Foster and the Moore Park Road area. But with their assured majority the Council steam-rolled on.

To help along business, clauses in the agenda were numbered for bulk acceptance. One is reminded of the successful comedian whose act was so routine that he had all his jokes numbered and merely recited the numbers to uproarious laughter. His understudy tried the same device but failed to get the applause. 'Ah,' said the comedian, when the failure was reported. 'It isn't what numbers you say, it's how you say them.' Secure in the majority, the clause numbers went on. There was an inter-

ruption from two friends sitting by Mrs. Joan Foster, by this time the police had been called and the two were escorted out.

The Housing agenda reached its end without a word of Moore Park Road so the petition was duly mentioned from the gallery. As anticipated it was out of order, the Mayor adjourned the meeting and left the Chamber. It was pointed out that a local councillor had declined to accept the petition but the presenter was ordered out, not before he had passed on the petition to another squatter.

When he reached the outside he was soon joined by another friend who had got up almost immediately afterwards. There was some discussion as to whether they should all try to go back but it was decided that they had made some of their points and they had three more interrupters to go—four, including Mrs. Foster.

The Council eventually adjourned for tea and a Tory councillor buttonholed one of us and said, 'If you have a petition you should present it through the Town Clerk'. It was pointed out that it had been refused by the local councillor. Later, a Labour councillor offered to father the poor little petition. A reporter asked how many more people we had upstairs. A comrade lied rather unconvincingly that there was, he thought, one man who wasn't a supporter.

When they resumed it was not long before the three remaining comrades came out en bloc; the luckless petition had been hurled on the floor of the chamber at the Mayor's feet and they had all been evicted.

The last to go appropriately enough was Mrs. Joan Foster who exited after telling the Mayor a few home truths.

However the Council got its court order for eviction—on July 30 or thereabouts. We need help (phone REN 2014). Cash is also welcome for defence expenses (legal and otherwise).

JACK ROBINSON.

Powell's Verbal Diarrhoea

BLACK AND WHITE UNITE and fight. On Saturday Blackburn-based anarchist *Global Tapestry* joined Preston Anarchist Group, Pakistani, Indian and African workers, students and priests outside a Conservative garden party at the local Rugby Club ground. All night the site had been protected by dog-handlers and now the cops. 'Voluntary repatriation, Compulsory repatriation, then what?—Gas chamber!' read the poster next to me. 'Would you let your daughter marry Enoch?' 'Black is beautiful.' Fascists leafletting to promote the 'new national union of the British people'. Inarticulate, stupid, inhibited; unwilling or unable to argue their case. Posh Tory cars rolled by. Mock Nazi salutes. Disembowelled chants. A lorry passed with a ferocious hound at the window. False alarm: it's not Powell.

Forces of the political right assembled across the road to face us. Young Conservatives in tennis shorts so gay. Sad men and old and nasty women. Leather-jacketed, helmeted, brass-riveted Hells Angels with their swastikas and practised hard-men scowls. Middle-aged,

middle-class types. Lawn-mowers abandoned; still humming outside endless rows of faceless semi-detached. A black dog runs freely amongst them. Deport him home, we shout.

Michael Abdul Malik was promised but never arrived. 'Sig heil,' we chanted at the fascists. 'You'll never get back to Preston,' threatened the lovable Hells Angels as they plotted to beat up anarchists. Cops ordered people onto grass verges but left *Global Tapestry* alone. Powell arrives and his car slows down to turn into the drive. A leap and a run and I'm facing the monster through a sheet of glass. 'You filthy fascist bastard.' Feeble, but couldn't find words strong enough at the time. Suddenly flying backwards into the oncoming crowd. Two cops. Southern, who once raided my home, now in charge. White and black surged forward. Stewards and cops man the wooden fences and seal the entrance. More militants and we could have stopped him. Rushed the ground and taken the cops by surprise. Powell later simpering, 'I am happy to be black in Blackburn'. A slip of

the tongue?

Enoch Powell symbolises the degenerative and corruptive effects of political power. A wicked opportunist who exploits accumulated resentments of the underprivileged to further his own un-stated but foreseeable goals. Powell is more mentally sick than most politicians. The glib and frustrated flock to him for sustenance and he feeds them prejudice, fear and hate. Powell functions not as a comforter but as an evil thing. Scapegoating blacks, students, long-haired intellectuals, unofficial strikers, anarchists and other favourite targets. His fleeting appearance in any public place in any town disrupts all harmony within that community and engenders racial tension and distrust. Black and white are shit upon by the System and divided by representatives of that inhuman machine. Emotional vomit is increasingly spewed up by those fascist creatures who crawl into the daylight in the Wolverhampton guru's wake.

DAVE CUNLIFFE.

Signalmen's Patience at an End

SIGNALMEN ON LONDON'S Underground and British Railways have given their employers and union leaders a hard time in the past two weeks. The strike action they took caused widespread cancellations and delays of services making it very difficult and frustrating for passengers. No doubt the signalmen have been called a few choice names by the public.

In fact, these men have been very patient, for they feel that not only have they fallen behind in their earnings compared with other railwaymen, but also they are among the 40% of railwaymen who cannot earn bonus. They are angry that they did not get much from the productivity agreement negotiated last year and fear a bad deal from further negotiations. At the moment talks are in progress about the further introduction of automated signal boxes and redundancies, or 'natural wastage', as it is now called, will form part of this deal.

The signalmen on the Underground only came out for one day on Thursday, July 3. They were claiming 30/- per week increase in place of the offer from London Transport of 23/-. This offer was subsequently increased to 27/- and the tube men decided to call off another threatened one-day strike and to accept this increased offer.

The action by British Railways signalmen was a three-day stoppage on the Eastern Region, which soon spread to Yorkshire. While these men have returned to work, but with further action threatened from

July 22 to 24, signalmen on the Southern Region have now come out.

There is no doubt that this type of guerilla strike action has given the Government, British Railways, the TUC, and the leaders of the National Union of Railwaymen, a considerable headache. They have all united in condemning the men's 'unconstitutional action' and there has been talk of the union taking disciplinary action against them. However, this would not be easy in view of the fact that there are so many involved and, as a union district official admitted, 'Our difficulty is finding the people who are leading the action.'

This is a typical reaction from a union bureaucrat who just would not understand that these signalmen are fed up with being led up the same old garden path on productivity deals and agreements being made in which they are not consulted and have no say. They are just expected to take what is negotiated for them by a bunch of officials who are collaborating in the axing of railwaymen's jobs.

£5,000 A YEAR

Mr. Greene, the General Secretary of the NUR, has had the audacity to order the men back to work after himself receiving a nice fat increase of £1,294 to bring his salary up to £5,000 per year. Other officials have received similar increases. At the NUR conference he said, 'The signalmen should not give the public and our opponents the opportunity to say they are irresponsible. At the moment they are not doing the image of this union any good by walking out of signal boxes and leaving people stranded on the main line. It was never like that once upon a time. Our record of service to the public is second to none.'

While one would agree about the service to the public, it is because the signalmen have been patient and left it all to the officials that they are in their present position. The decline in the service has led to a decline in the power of the railwayman in general. This need not have been so if the cut-back in services had been fought from the start instead of accepting redundancies and natural wastage in return for a few shillings.

SOLD OFF BIT BY BIT

In fact the NUR has sold the railways off, bit by bit. While signalmen were deciding on strike action, the NUR was

sending out details of the terms of redundancy payments, giving severance pay of £1,000 to those who leave the industry at 55 years and over. The news that only 900 would be eased out each year until 1973 was supposed to allay the fears of the men so that they would not take the threatened strike action. Mr. Bob Samuel, an NUR organiser, said that although calling a meeting was a 'desperate measure', it would allow the men to hear about the pay talks. It was because strike action was threatened that union officials with British Rail at Liverpool Street organised this 'desperate measure' in an effort to avert the stoppage.

Members of the strike committee have put out statements on the situation. Mr. Ernest Pearson, a committee chairman on the London-Southend line, said, 'What Sid Greene says does not impress us at all.' The men have been provoked into their action and 'a lot of misunderstanding in this matter has come from statements made by Mr. Greene and the union'. A spokesman for the signalmen in Doncaster has said, 'As far as we are concerned Sid Greene is as much to blame as anybody for this strike. We are protesting about the way negotiations have been handled.' Ron Chaston, of the strike committee in Doncaster, has said, 'We have been very patient. The matter was brought up three years ago, but all we have had are promises.'

NEVER BEEN HEARD OF

There have been a number of interesting comments made which illustrate the attitudes of both the union leaders and the BR management to railwaymen. Sir Henry Johnson, Chairman of BR, said, 'I think the whole thing deplorable,' while Mr. Len Leal, BR member for industrial relations, came out with 'This reprehensible leaving of the boxes by the signalmen, which has never been heard of before on the railways, is something neither we nor the unions can countenance.' These comments also illustrate the close relationship and collaboration that exists between supposed opponents. There is an attitude of hurt paternalism on the part of both the union and BR, which also threatens or insinuates disciplinary action.

This joint reaction shows just how much they fear what is really a small section of railwaymen. Their authority has been challenged by the signalmen's strike action. I think Sid Greene recognised this when he said 'What can the TUC do? You cannot have pockets of people thinking they should negotiate agreements separately for themselves. If everyone did that we would have a state of anarchy.' However 'pockets of people' in other industries do just this and while the railways may be different, obviously the signalmen are realising that action is necessary to win demands. This action is a step towards anarchy in that in this form it is taken with the rank and file in full control and with them deciding upon the tactics. This is the situation of which both Sid Greene and BR are afraid.

Freedom For Workers' Control

JULY 19 1969 Vol 30 No 22

Police Violence at Teachers' Demo

FIVE THOUSAND TEACHERS of the Inner London Teachers' Association (NUT) and the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions—one in three of all the teachers in Inner London—went on strike for a 4-day last Wednesday, July 9. They marched to GLC, County Hall, Westminster, to press their claim for an interim pay award. Teachers demand a pay scale ranging from £1,000-£2,000 per year, rising in ten annual increments of £100.

The last salary award that teachers received was the first since the war, that did not make good the loss in real value of salary due to the rising cost of living. In other words it represented a drop in the real value of teachers' salaries. Many teachers pressed for a rejection of this pay award at the time as totally inadequate.

The demo provided an unlooked-for bonus in that once again the fuzz proved their bungling stupidity to be one of the greatest assets that the revolutionary movements in this country possess. By their unprovoked violence the fuzz possibly created more authority-despising militants in one hour than anarchists might make in far longer. This, out of some teachers that hitherto not only agreed with the authority-system, but actively perpetuate it (many of them) in the classroom.

Teachers were physically assaulted in the streets, as reported in many national papers that evening and the following day—notably the *Evening News* (10.7.69), which carried a useful interview with a woman teacher—Mrs. Eva Ravenhill, assaulted by the fuzz.

The march was disbanded on the other side of the river to County Hall and Central Hall because processions are not permitted within one mile of Parliament during sittings. The reasons for disbanding was explained neither by the union in its totally inadequate briefing nor by the fuzz. So this obstruction by

the police understandably caused much friction. Teachers, being in the main unseasoned demonstrators were totally unaware of such petty regulations. Eventually demonstrators walked — not marched across the bridge placards down — where they immediately reconstituted into a totally illegal demo outside County Hall.

When the march arrived at Central Hall, Westminster, for the final meeting two groups of the march, easily split up by the fuzz, were allowed in, after which the march was cordoned off and participants informed that the hall was full and an overflow meeting had been arranged for the Festival Hall.

The cry went up—'Why the hell go to the Festival Hall—there's nothing for teachers there!' (not even a concert. So the teachers stayed put as best they could with the fuzz continually pushing and provoking them).

Eventually a few more of us managed to get in where we found the main body of the hall half empty and the balcony entirely empty. Out we went to bring the others in and then there were only six empty seats in the entire place because about thirty teachers preferred to stand—about 3,000 there in all. So at least the press could not claim that Central Hall was only half full—as was somebody's intention! Another thousand did go to the overflow meeting at the Festival Hall, speakers being ferried from one hall to the other.

Obviously teachers are predominantly ignorant of the deliberately provocative tactics employed by the fuzz at such events. There now seem to be regularly constituted Goon-squads of police specialising in 'controlling' such occasions. Police—who volunteer for such 'duties'—seemingly do so merely for the thrill of expressing their lust for power over their fellow men, by shoving them around the streets.

JIM HUGGON

few PO Engineers, it appears that many workers are concerned about the break concerning their pension. This is in fact no problem; one only goes back on the conditions which prevailed before the stoppage. The set-up in the Post Office is not a 'closed shop' except in Northern Ireland, but it is reported that the POEU in the last couple of days has been inundated with applications for membership, so much so that a reprint of membership forms has been found necessary.

It might well be that when the Post Office goes Corporation at the end of the year all postal workers will have need of solidarity. Public Corporations are expected to pay their way and if postal workers are not careful they might find postal losses being financed out of their pockets or through rationalisation of their labour—they call it 'Productivity'.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

DIRECT ACTION WORKS

Continued from page 1 filling in complaint forms and chatting until 10 o'clock. The story was given good coverage in the local press the next day.

The next day we arrived for picket duty with a lot more people this time to find we'd won. The Elizabethan Bar was shut, the brewery, who had apparently been shitting bricks over the publicity, had suspended the landlord and the Elizabethan Bar would be open on Wednesday to serve all patrons.

The important thing about this is that it has shown yet again that Direct Action

WORKS. If we had waited for the Race Relations Board it would have taken at least three weeks for anything to happen. CORE and its secretary Maureen Baker (for whom much praise is due) and supporters solved the problem in two days. More, people black and white have realised that they can have control over their environment. As Maureen Baker put it 'The people are the law'. De facto discrimination exists in Bradford and Huddersfield pubs. It can only be fought the same way.

LEEDS DIRECT ACTION.

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Freedom in Fascist Ulster
2s.6d. each

BROADSHEETS

The Anarchist Revolution

4s.6d. a 100
30s. a 1000, postage 6s.
Cash with order—please!

FREEDOM PRESS

Contact Column

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

Anyone with van for hire cheaply or free loan to ferry children down to Cornwall please contact: Dennis Gould at Six Chimneys, Bolenowe, Troon, Camborne, Cornwall.

British IWW? Chicago has okayed. Contact Wobblies, c/o Freedom Press.

Anarchist Open Air Theatre Group. Meeting to discuss activities, objectives, needs. Freedom Press meeting hall, Tuesday, July 22 at 7.30 p.m.

Nev. I gave you five minutes start. But failed the vinegar stroke. Pineapple Pete, Salisbury.

Anarchist Group meets Mondays, 7 p.m., at 'Two Chairmen', Warwick House Street, off Trafalgar Square. And then they go elsewhere.

Northok Area. Any Anarchist activity? Jim. Tel. 01-845 7907.

Anne Lindsay, 39 Upper Tulse Hill, S.W.2. 674 7886. For July 20 six big strong blokes to dig trenches, make wooden structure, run pipe for water, make tables, etc., for new site of Summer Camp.

Lift needed, for couple and quiet dog to International Camp. Share expenses. Bob Blakeman, 116 Hassall Street, Newcastle, Staffs.

'The Libertarian Teacher', No. 5. Journal of the Libertarian Teachers Association, now available, 3/- postal order, inc. postage. 36 Devonshire Road, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

Rectangular metal badges (red/black or plain black) 2/6 each post free. Bulk rate (10 or more) 1/- each. Flags from 10/-. Cash with order please. Hazel McGee, 42 Pendarves Street, Beacon, Camborne, Cornwall.

Birmingham discussions. Every Tuesday 8 p.m. at the Arts Lab, Summer Lane (Not the Crown).

Peace News. Six weeks trial offer for 5/-, 5 Caledonian Road, N.1.

International Summer Camp. July 27-August 23 in Cornwall. £1 booking fees to Ann Lindsay, 39 Upper Tulse Hill, London, S.W.2. Information leaflet and map now available.

If you wish to make contact let us know.