

## CLYDE WORKERS SAY ...

## OCCUPY THE SHIPYARDS!

MASS MEETINGS of workers of the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders have declared that they will not allow the yards to be closed down—they will occupy them and work them round the clock. They will not allow themselves to become the docile victims of the trade war—they will carry on working and producing without employers. We support this decision one hundred per cent.

As we go to press, we have no more details and further meetings are planned following the Government's decision not to put more money into UCS. We can only hope that the workers' decision to

occupy the shipyards is not abandoned in favour of some miserable compromise such as have been forced upon them before with disastrous consequences.

UCS workers have been messed about for long enough. They have in the past been prevailed upon to increase productivity which meant the sack for a quarter of the labour force, about two thousand of their workmates. Now they are threatened with a complete closure of the yards and 7,500 men face the prospect of joining the Glasgow dole queues where nearly ten per cent of the working population is already signing on with no hope of work. In

addition, the closure of UCS will mean the sack for a further 22,000 workers at present employed in local industries ancillary to shipbuilding.

## ANGER ON THE CLYDE

No wonder there is anger on the Clyde. Unemployment stares workers in the face and it is this which lies behind the decision to occupy the shipyards. It is a bold decision and the only one possible in the circumstances. It deserves the support of the whole working class.

It is bad enough being a wage slave at the best of times, forever doomed to see the fruits of your labour stolen from you to enrich those who have never done a day's work in their lives—but when you are expected to starve quietly on the dole because your employer has no further use for you then it is time to have done with wage slavery altogether. Evidently Clyde workers are not prepared to see a repetition of the hungry 'thirties' when millions of working people were crucified in poverty, sacrifices to the great god profit.

Everything is favourable to the success of the decision to occupy the shipyards—provided only that the workers are not distracted from their course by those who lie in wait with all sorts of 'solutions' which cut out direct action. We all know them—the parliamentary lobbyists, the advocates of nationalisation and state control, the 'wait-for-another-Labour-Government' brigade, and, of course, those like the Labour member for Gorbals

who has already cried 'Anarchy!' on hearing of this display of independence by Clyde workers.

## WE CAN ALL HELP

Taking over the shipyards is the only action likely to make any impression on the Government anyway. They will have to choose between putting in more money or run the risk of provoking a widespread movement of expropriation. If they choose the latter course—and they might—then every worker in the country must rally round the Clyde men in the only way possible, by spreading the movement which they have started.

It is not only on the Clyde that closures are threatened. They are

taking place right now in every section of industry, whether nationalised or not. Unemployment is fast reaching the million mark. Unless we all agree to take it lying down then we must stand up and fight—and workers on Clydeside have shown us how to do it.

They have put aside the begging bowls. By their decision to occupy the yards they have declared that there is no future in lobbying Parliament or waiting for some future government to nationalise the industry. They have decided for direct action and thereby given us all the answer to the brutalities of capitalism—occupy the factories and run them yourselves!

JOHN LAWRENCE.

## The Great Market Bore

IT IS A SLOGAN in advertising that 'repetition is reputation'. The repetition of the phrase 'Common Market' or its equivalent 'EEC' is the signal in a newspaper or on television or radio for the average man to lose interest, turn over or switch off. For one thing it has gone on so long that everybody has exhausted, and been exhausted by, every argument pro and con. Secondly, arguments have been conducted on such a high abstract level with a deliberate (or understandable) absence of facts that discussion has been on suppositions and hypotheses, coloured in some people's eyes by prejudices but from the point of view of the other party, backed by knowledge and observation.

The lofty abstractions and hypothetical situations about the Market have given it a bad press for only the predictable bad results for British and Commonwealth food suppliers, Caribbean sugar barons, and fishing enterprises are easily seen. As regards the agricultural workers and sugar workers and fishermen, they are always victims of the misfortunes of capitalism, so it is no change for the State to add to their miseries.

Another thing, which is easily seen by the *Daily Express* readers, National Front-ists and Enoch Powell supporters, is the prospect that when Britain joins Europe 'she will have to sacrifice some of her national sovereignty'. How much is one of the great imponderables. Also it is probable that European workers will be able to come and work here. Many left-wing critics of the Market (particularly the Communists) fall back on these deplorable chauvinistic arguments to oppose the Common Market—and it is this current of patriotic anti-foreigner feeling which needs watching, for the possibility of a 'right-left' anti-Market coalition has precise Fascist potentialities.

On the other hand, the starry-eyed idealism of the liberal (with a small 'l') supporters of the Market is a far remove from the hard-headed businessmen who make up the six. Time was when internationalism was the great cure-all for the ills of war and world poverty. Ernie Bevin sentimentalized over the possibilities of the abolition of passports and did nothing about it. Joining the Common Market is undoubtedly a step forward into 'the parliament of man, the federation of the world', and this prospect is dazzling for all those who accepted Federal Union, World Govern-

ment, World Citizenship or any of the hundred and one varieties of a united world. But the world is full of these essays towards world unity, they all have one thing in common, they are all united against something. Comicon, EFTA, SEATO, for example, are all international groupings aimed for and against the Eastern and Western blocs, they also succeed in being, in the way that States have, against their own citizens. The Common Market is a combination of states not only as a counterpoise to the American and Soviet trade blocs but as a method of disciplining their own citizenry. 'When rogues fall out, honest men come into their own!' Capitalists long ago realized the wasteful effects of competition. They are the true internationalists, whilst large sections of the working-class remain arrantly and dangerously nationalistic.

The Common Market is the continuation of monopoly capitalism by other means. As such it is undesirable but no more undesirable than capitalism and the State, of which it is a logical development.

It is of course highly probable at this stage that Harold Wilson will lead the Labour Party into opposition to the Common Market; Bob Mellish, one of the more blabber-mouthed of Wilson's stooges, almost gave the game away. It would split the Tories most likely, it could force a General Election and would certainly get the support of the man-in-the-street, the dissident Tories, the National Front, the Communists—and Enoch Powell! What other cheap and easy programme could do this?

As an abstract issue, and at the moment it is abstract, Britain joining the Common Market is a bore. It is concerned with money and market grabbing which are too rarefied to be of human interest. Who even understands the role of sterling? Even when it is brought down into human terms, it is framed by the *Daily Express* herd in such appeals to patriotism, national prejudice, racialism and sheer greed that one recoils from it.

The basic yardstick upon which to judge any project is the motive of the sponsors, for the motive will determine the next step of the Community, and the motives of the Common Market, the European Economic Community, are far from international brotherhood and the well-being of all.

JACK ROBINSON.

## OPERATION OMEGA: BANGLA DESH

OPERATION OMEGA is not just a mission of relief. It is an act of interference.

On March 25 Pakistan's Army invaded East Bengal whose government then declared itself the Republic of Bangla Desh. In the months since, five million Bengalis have fled from the east to India. As the world knows, their fate is terrible, and help has come too late. But the prospects for those left behind—some seventy million—are even more appalling. Their rights to succour, shelter and self-determination have been trampled on. These people are confronted with a nightmare even more desperate than the refugees who have escaped.

Since the invasion these men, women and children have been denied almost all outside relief. And as long as Pakistan occupies Bangla Desh, it seems bound to ensure that relief goes only to those who submit to its authority.

The only real solution to the cause of this catastrophe as opposed to its effect is the withdrawal of the Pakistani army from Bangla Desh.

The Pakistan regime is bankrupt. It continues its occupation only with the support of foreign governments—through economic aid and loans.

But, instead of cutting off this aid, and

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## Union Boss 'Blacklists' 56 Members

TWO LIBERTARIAN mill workers working at mills in Shaw and Werneth, near Oldham, have been sacked and another worker threatened within days of each other.

The reason is believed to be their circulation of a petition at work, protesting at the victimisation of Brian Bamford by Courtauld's Arrow Mill at nearby Rochdale, earlier last month. Bamford was sacked for defending four sacked Pakistanis—Zafar Khan, M. Riaz, Mashood Mohd, and Sawar Khan, who were later reinstated following a strike reported in 'Freedom' two weeks ago.

The well-paid industrial consultant for Courtaulds is none other than Lord George-Brown.

At the end of May, the petition, which had been circulated mainly at Lily Mill, Shaw, and the Werneth Spinning Co., was sent to Joe King, General Secretary of the union dealing with Bamford's case, the National Union of Textile and Allied Workers. King got the 56-name petition criticising the union's handling of Bamford's case on Tuesday, May 25. Later on in that same week two workers, Bob Lees and Dave Collingwood, were sacked, and another lad threatened with the push for his involvement in the circulation of the petition.

Bob and Dave of course were sacked on another pretext, but all these workers had long been active in their union, and are at present organising a campaign for shop stewards in the textile industry. This shop stewards' campaign has had a good response from workers in the Oldham and Shaw areas, where some 1,500 leaflets have been distributed, and a meeting of textile workers is being organised for July in Oldham.

## THE TIP-OFF

How do we know that King gave the mill managers the tip-off?

Simply because King had the one and only copy of the petition, and that our

sources now report that photostat copies of the petition have been sent to the Textile Employers Federation. These have now been circulated as a blacklist to all the companies concerned, including Arrow Mill, at Rochdale, where Bamford was sacked.

Our contacts have actually seen the photocopies, which is clear evidence that Joe King has betrayed 56 of his own members to the mill bosses. This is typical of the mentality of this dead-end union leader, who runs our antique union, and who consults the bosses more than he does his members.

King always sees it as part of his duty to inform the employers, even when as in the case of the petition it is an internal union matter. And when, as in this case it leads to victimisation of members, well this is all part of the service King provides for the textile employers.

What is really happening now is that the militants in the union are fighting to bring the union under the control of the members. Local union officials faced with this threat to their power are combining with the employers to push the militants outside the industry.

## LEGAL AID REFUSED

At Rochdale, where Bamford was charged with a breach of the peace and assault on a police officer, when the police broke up a sit-in strike at Arrow Mill, he has now been refused legal aid by the magistrates.

Bamford is pleading not guilty, and his workmates, who have offered to act as witnesses on his behalf, have set up a defence fund to pay the cost of his defence and other expenses.

The local libertarians organised a benefit night on June 12, but if people would like to support the defence fund they should sent it to:

Brian Bamford Defence Fund,  
c/o 33 Clyde Road,  
Manchester 20

and it will be forwarded to the fund treasurer.

MOHAMMED ALL.



# CIRCUSES & WORDS

(a ramble through the literature of doom)

WHILE THE BOOK BANG explodes to the sound of multiple cash registers, and the *Spectator* has an orgasm over the prospect of Godfrey Winn and Peregrine Worsthorne signing autographs—though among many other such giants of the literary world—the less cultured of us have the privilege of denying these purveyors of questionable good taste the benefit of our philistine company. Not that I don't like the idea of such an event; I do. But the whole thing smacks of that elitist concept of 'Literature' that isn't complete without a sherry-glass in one hand and a cheque-book in the other. It stinks of William Hickey sycophants sucking up and going all-out for first place in the grovel stakes. But irony at least has not deserted them: it seems only fitting, after all, that the whole shebang is centred round a circus.

## SPECTRE OF REBELLION

However, behind this glittering irrelevance in Bedford Square, real people are still managing to write and publish their own kind of literature. Just a short bus-ride from the official jamboree (numbers 24 and 29) will take you to one of the outposts of the semi-subterranean Alternative Society. The organisation has, as its front, a seedy-looking bookshop by the name of Compendium. But do not be deceived. Its nondescript facade belies the nature of its trade. It deals in the kind of stuff that normal people (like Peregrine Worsthorne) find so incomprehensibly abhorrent. If, however, you are far from being afraid of displaying your perversity in public, go inside and be confronted by the spectre that is haunting businessmen, politicians, and nice, normal people the whole world over. The spectre of rebellion and anarchy that the ordered mind finds so disturbing.

There are the usual shelves of paperbacks, of course, but not so many or unselective as at Foyles. This place is built for action, not good looks. Mailer and Miller take their place with the other gone progressives, but the emphasis is on present muddled voice of youth—guerrillas of the city with one gigantic manifesto under arm, throwing punches in the face of all authority... aiming kicks up the arse for the whole murderous mire of so-called civilisation.

Not that it's all just screaming and slogans. You can flip through cool expositions on the need for revolution, on all its necessary fronts. *The Book of Grass* rubs shoulders with HMSO's *Select Committee Report on Cannabis*, for instance. American back-to-naturists find themselves laid out alongside the awe-inspiring *Whole - Earth Catalogue* (and nearly costs as much). Straight(?) political stuff gets a whole cabinet to itself. Liberation Fronts, Militant Unionists, Maoists, Women's Liberationists—all have a good representation. Daunting, turgid Marxist tracts, and exhausting dry polemics in umpteen pamphlets by Ernest Mandel. Yes, all your old favourites are here.

If you like your radicalism with a bit more variety, try the table by the door. If you don't think that people bother any more to write at all, or that the boom in small magazines is dying, don't you believe it. The weary old *IT*, stifled with cobwebbed terminology, managed to stumble its way over

its 100th edition, but at least it's served us well. *OZ*, garish, cheap and nasty, with an editor I just can't believe is real, leads the vanguard of revolt with all the genuine convictions of a CBS PR man, selling you cassettes of peasant folk songs, and imported Americanisms like this. (The latest issue, devoted to furthering understanding between people, by love no doubt, continues its tradition of originality in topic: it's concerned with 'PIG BAITING'.) *Frendz* (formerly *Friends*) seems about the best 'quality' 'Alternative' rag going—*Rolling Stone* all the time seeming to become more and more firmly entrenched in its position in the anti-establishment establishment of the jet-age pop-world new journalism (i.e. big business with beads). If it gets over its attack of narcissism, political naivety and paranoia—a good deal of it invited if not imagined—*Frendz* might become a good paper.

## INK

The new weekly *Ink* ('The Other Newspaper'), now with five issues out, has made at least a good beginning. It holds a line between the straight press and that formerly called the underground. It manages to control its colour, as well as its urge to embrace the trendy. Fortunately, there's a lot more in the paper than Richard Neville's piece on Mick Jagger's performance at St. Tropez (not that I don't like his writing in general, or this put-down of Jagger's hypocrisy in particular; I do. But I am just as much beware of cults, and figures thereof). *Time Out?* A very useful and entertaining guide to what's going on in London; and interviews with plastic people you should avoid when you get there. Erotic pictures and cinema adverts.

Two magazines I discovered there, which are new to me, are *Mole Express* (10p) and *The Other Britain* (5p). These are really refreshing, alive and down-to-earth papers. After the empty exhibitionism of the Mis-placed Notoriety Gang (*IT*, *OZ*, etc.), it makes a pleasant change to find people prepared to write to little-circulation papers, not necessarily on world-important topics, and come across some of the energy and positivism that *IT* and *OZ* once had. *Mole Express* originates from Manchester, home of now-defunct *Grass Eye*. Local news and lively comment, with articles on police brutality accusations, local trades council, exposes of local Tories, police, clubs, and a piece on a local free school. On a wider front, it has news and comment on the Carr bombing case, and a syndicated article from UPS on Cuba.

*The Other Britain*, with no address that I could find, is radical enough, and without the pretensions of its 'betters'. As well as little-publicised excerpts from Peter Laurie's *Beneath The City Streets* (Allen Lane, Penguin Press, £2.10), (dealing in much more detail than they did with the RSG group's revelations on government plans in the event of nuclear attack), calculated vitriol does not go unattended; the idols of the pop elite rightly and irreverently demolished, with all the diplomacy of forcible rape: 'this hippy Beaverbrook... the editor of a mag for pretentious wankers'. (Guess who!) And so on. Good clean mud-slinging, though all in

the worthy cause of getting back to common sense. Also, a feature common to all these papers, a list of further papers to read!

## UNDERGROUND PRESS US STYLE

Apart from all the delights of English in-kicking, though, you can also buy yourself a copy of the original underground newspaper—US style. Though the latest issue I could get was three weeks old, it doesn't really matter, and they're well worth a read—just for comparison. In fact, the five imports I bought were all pretty much alike, and amazingly unchanged, I thought, from how they were some years ago.

*The Berkeley Barb* even has a cover remarkably like one of *IT*'s of three years ago. Its politics is heavy—not unnaturally, with the draft and nationwide demos to stop the war. The whole paper is given over to anti-war news, a piece on a coming (May 3) strike in Folsom Prison, Gay Liberation, and advertisements. These are really something. While *IT* and *OZ* are sent to the Old Bailey for publishing ads by homosexuals, 'reactionary' America at least has room for companionship: 'David: Young, tall, masc., long lean smooth musc. body. Blonde hair, blue eyes'. There are dozens of these ads, all midnight cowboys hustling for a john—and money too, of course. And as far as money goes, it doesn't matter what the merchandise is—a box of Brillo, a used car or a human body: 'We screen our male models and you get what you ask for. Why settle for a reject when you can hire a quality and honest model from us?' How the all-pervading stench of money cheapens everything it touches! Buy your kisses on credit card! It's better than nothing.

*The Great Speckled Bird*, from Atlanta, Georgia, is less dense on the political side, but still includes news of Vietnam activities. It's altogether a much lighter, more liberal-reformist paper than the *Barb*, which is hardly surprising considering the differences in social attitudes and policies of the authorities in the two respective areas. To instance this, here is an opening paragraph: 'New voting procedures now being put into effect in Mississippi threaten to purge thousands of Black voters from the rolls, several Black officials have charged'. That, of course, is from the *Georgia Bird*. It also has articles on rock and the Black and immigrant population (ex-

cluding the Pilgrim Fathers). Its only piece on drugs is a put-down of cannabis, allegedly by an ex-pusher, which states that its users 'suffer from poor memory'; 'lassitude, lethargy, low vitality—including lower sexual appetite... for the perpetual user, they become permanent attributes, and sometimes lead to a dependence on stimulants'. Heads also get bad breath and lose their sense of smell. Heads sit in rooms all day, not realising it's getting stuffy. Also, 'you can tell a lot about a person's health by looking at his eyes. The blood-shot eyes of a head aren't pretty'. Hold on. 'Even worse is the jaundice that often sets in after months of heavy use.' The article is unsigned.

## DON'T BE FRIGHTENED OF GUNS

*The Chicago Seed* is the fattest, most colourful, and interesting of the mags I purchased. Only a tiny fraction of its contents (April 1 edition) deal with direct opposition to the War—a full-page review of a book on Laos. The rest is full of mostly mediocre familiarities of such hip things as the Panthers, record company ads, 'Ecological Alternatives', an I-was-there expose concerned with sex on the commune, pages of ads, a City Directory, a review of a book on Bob Dylan, and a startling piece of self-defence, with information lifted from a revolutionary magazine: 'Firearms and Self Defense: a handbook for radicals, revolutionaries and easy riders'. *The Seed* acknowledges that 'it's suicidal and politically futile now' to go around 'advocating off the pigs today'. But, the paper goes on, don't be frightened of guns. There's nothing to worry about... 'guns are not super-heavy fearsome things, reserved only for a few brave souls'. All this, of course, is not for attack. 'It's important to begin thinking about self-defense training for a future time. Right-wingers have been stockpiling weapons for years...' (Just the argument Nixon uses, I cynically thought...) The article is signed by 'Roy Rogers'.

*The Liberated Guardian*, of New York, is all politics. Very heavy and unashamedly violent—verbally, at least. It also loves slogans. 'Tear down the walls!' 'It's just a shot away!' 'Join The World—Fight The Empire' This issue (April 15) has an eight-page supplement on 'Revolutionary Art'—most of it consisting of suggested wall graffiti and how-to-do-it tips: 'Just rip off or buy a

few cans of spray paint (day-glow or metallic paints are really good to get things jumping off the walls)... It's good to use surfaces like marble, ceramic tile, polished granite or painted wood or metal, since they'll have to be permanently destroyed, replaced, or defaced, in order to remove the painting... It also has a useful guide to computer sabotage with magnets; a 'Revolutionary Cinema' pullout; liberated FBI files on New Left Groups and—a very good interview with a member of Agitprop, 'Gay Liberation Comes Out in Britain'.

## WEST COAST PAPER

*Good News* comes from San Francisco. It's very straight in appearance for a radical paper, and doesn't have very much to say. As it came out just before May Day, it uses its leading item to list those things one should be prepared for on the day: 'If you're in a situation where a cop is overpowering you, grab his nuts hard and pull or just shove your hand up there as hard as you can, fingers extended and together, and I assure you that pig will jump away fast. Then split, kicking the shins or jabbing the eyes. Don't try punching him in the chest. Don't let the cops isolate you'. There's also a monolithic slab of ink on the Indo-Chinese—North American Women's Conference, after which the writer—a poor radical chick named Barbara, is still left with minor doubts, like, 'What does building a revolutionary women's movement really mean, how do we go about it, what kind of an organisation, politics, strategy, program, is right for us to develop?' She adds, hopefully, 'We must make our voices heard'. Ho ho. To compensate, there's a lengthy and informative article ('Rally round the frag') about the Presidio—an army camp, now notorious for its stockade of anti-war resisters. It's an in-depth piece of reportage, with revelatory insights into the military mind: 'A major who had been in the army for 12 years remarked: "Vietnam is not a very good vacation land"'. As the mock-advert says underneath, 'Join the new groovy army—Keep your hair—Lose Your Life!' Just as socially instructive are two other pieces. One, a report by a guy hitch-hiking through America; the other, the riveting story of a guy with 'crabs'. An integral part of the American Dream, no doubt.

But I've departed from my theme. Or have I? I began with a circus, and I'm ending with one. Two parades around the ring of life; one of words, one of action. Is there very much difference in the ultimate effect upon the everyday lives of you and me? That is the only criteria—a change, unmeasurable certainly, for the betterment of the lives of the nice, normal people—that I will consider when making a judgment on any activity. What else is there as important as people themselves, circus-trained, or not?

BRIAN BOREHAM.

## Building Workers

# Campaign of Action

JUNE 8 SAW the start of a nationally co-ordinated series of strike action by building workers to back up demands for a £1 per hour rate and a 35-hour week. This demand has been put forward by the rank and file paper, *Building Workers' Charter* and is part of a comprehensive series of claims.

The call for action came from the Second Conference of the *Building Workers' Charter* held in Manchester in April. Delegates representing rank and file members from branches, sites and shops supported the call for action as the first step in the campaign to force both unions and employers to negotiate on this demand. Marches and demonstrations took place in Liverpool, London and Runcom, Cheshire. Although a number of sites supported the half-day stoppage in London, they did not turn up for the demonstration. The workers who marched were only a token of those who had actually downed tools.

## LAST PAYMENT

Building workers have just received the last payment of the February, 1970, agreement, which was bitterly disliked on a number of counts. It was first of all spread over 28 months, as the new agreement will not commence until next June and contained a number of clauses that gave the employers the opportunity to make the different trades do one another's work if their own was not available. It stated that extra bonus payments, like standing, fall-back or minimum rates could be absorbed into an increase, while another clause inserted into the agreement covered guaranteed work and proved to be one of the biggest bones of contention. Al-

though the agreement stated a 40-hour guaranteed week, operatives only had to be late one morning or late returning to work after a canteen meeting, to find that they would only get 20 hours' pay for that week, if they happened to be stood off because of inclement weather.

Since that last agreement was signed a number of changes have taken place both within the unions and the industry. The painters' union has amalgamated with the carpenters, forming the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers and Painters which is shortly to take over the craft and general union, the Amalgamated Union of Building Trades Workers. This new union will virtually be an industrial union and in fact this is the aim of Mr. George Smith, the General Secretary of the ASW. The whole structure of the ASW&P has been changed from a district to a regional basis, giving more centralised control to the executive.

## ONE UNION

Increased unemployment has badly hit the building industry and because of this it is unlikely that the next agreement will contain productivity clauses which will eliminate more jobs. While many building workers have long dreamed of one union for the industry, the one that they now see emerging is likely to turn that dream into a nightmare. Certainly original ASW members have not been consulted or asked to vote on these take-overs which will give the union more power and authority, but in what direction? George Smith and the union leaders see themselves as reformers for the whole industry. They deplore the fact that employers have given in at site

level and pay high bonus earnings on top of basic rates.

The Research Officer of the AUBTW, Mr. Speakman, makes the same point writing in *Construction News*: 'The problem in our industry has been that they have been badly let down by employers who spend their time breaking agreements—not by cutting wages, but by increasing members' earnings through the expediency of site bargaining. This practice reflects on the integrity of national negotiation.' After all the lousy long-term agreements that building workers have been landed with, not one national negotiator has an ounce of integrity left in him. The site agreements, fought for and negotiated by the lads themselves, certainly show up the small increases they obtain at national level.

The present situation means that the new-found strength of the ASW will not be used for the benefit of members, but to curb the rank and file organisation that is achieved on many of the big sites. This could be done by national officials negotiating separate company agreements with bonus schemes drawn up on their terms, rather than that of the members. Such company agreements would also give the union sole recruiting rights.

## COMPETING FOR MEMBERS

In fact, with only about half of the industry holding union tickets, there are plenty of pickings if the terms are right for the employer. Such a situation of competition between the new ASW and the TGWU, with the latter possibly expanding its present plastering section to include other crafts, will not benefit the building workers.

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**ANARCHIST  
FEDERATION  
of BRITAIN**

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

There are now anarchist groups in almost every  
part of the country. To find your nearest group  
write to:  
North West Federation: Ray Brookes, 79 Norfolk  
Street, Skerton, Lancs.  
Cornwall: A. Jacobs, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell.  
(M. Ma. B.)  
 Essex & E. Herts.: P. Newell, 'Agesan', Spring  
Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester. (QM, FL.)  
 Surrey: G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom.  
 Yorkshire: Martin Watkins, Flat D, 90 Clarendon  
 Road, Leeds, LS2 9L.  
 Scotland: Secretary, Mike Malet, 1 Lynnewood  
 Place, Maryfield, Dundee.  
 Wales: s/o P. L. Mare (address above).  
 N. Ireland: c/o Freedom Press.  
 The American Federation of Anarchists P.O.  
 Box 9885, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440, USA.  
 S. Ireland: 20 College Lane, Dublin 2.  
 University and Student Groups: s/o P. L. Mare.  
 (Abbreviations: M—meeting; Ma—magazine;  
 B—badge; Q—Quarterly; FL—free leaflet.)

## AFBIB—To all Groups.

Next AFBIB Meeting and Production, Sunday, June 6. Please send a delegate to Birmingham. (Accommodation provided if necessary.) Address all letters to:

Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road, Rotton Park, Birmingham, 16. Tel. 021-454 6871. Material that cannot wait for the bulletin to be sent to E. Atkins, Vanbrugh College, Heslington, York. The Contact Column in 'Freedom' is also available for urgent information. Groups should send latest addresses to Birmingham. New inquiries should write direct to them or to the AFB

## information office in Birmingham.

### AFB REGIONAL GROUPS

There are now anarchist groups in almost every part of the country. To find your nearest group write to:  
North West Federation: Ray Brookes, 79 Norfolk Street, Skerton, Lancs.  
Cornwall: A. Jacobs, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell. (M. Ma. B.)  
 Essex & E. Herts.: P. Newell, 'Agesan', Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester. (QM, FL.)  
 Surrey: G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom.  
 Yorkshire: Martin Watkins, Flat D, 90 Clarendon Road, Leeds, LS2 9L.  
 Scotland: Secretary, Mike Malet, 1 Lynnewood Place, Maryfield, Dundee.  
 Wales: s/o P. L. Mare (address above).  
 N. Ireland: c/o Freedom Press.  
 The American Federation of Anarchists P.O. Box 9885, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440, USA.  
 S. Ireland: 20 College Lane, Dublin 2.  
 University and Student Groups: s/o P. L. Mare.  
 (Abbreviations: M—meeting; Ma—magazine; B—badge; Q—Quarterly; FL—free leaflet.)



# A YEAR LONG STRIKE

Those involved:  
T&GWU and AEF  
with

*Fine Tubes, Plymouth—member of Employers Federation. American owned. Parent company: Superior Tube Co., Norristown, Pennsylvania, who also control: Tube Sales of Southampton and Tube Sales, Rotterdam.*

**FINE TUBES** make very high quality tubing—from hypodermic needles to nuclear reactor fuel cans—they are the only company in Britain and the Common Market countries to produce goods of such a high standard and are therefore essential to a large part of European industry.

Fine Tubes supply Rolls Royce, Bristol, with tubing needed for the production of Concorde engines—the blacking of Fine Tubes' goods by the Rolls workers is now threatening production and could well cause a serious setback to the Concorde project.

Manager of Fine Tubes, Plymouth, is Mr. Tom Barclay.

## BEFORE THE STRIKE

(information taken from the local press, strikers leaflets and conversations with a member of the strike committee)

Negotiations commenced on December 9, 1969, for a substantial pay rise. Concluded on June 3, 1970, in failure. At this time the basic wage was £16.30 for a semi-skilled and £20.15 for a skilled labourer. £13.42 for women.

Prior to the strike the management enjoyed complete flexibility of labour—workers moving from bench to bench. There were no tea breaks, but workers were allowed to drink tea at the benches (big deal). The atmosphere was 'happy'. There was no sign of militancy. When the negotiations began, the shop stewards did not ask for a fixed sum, they did not ask for parity with other regions. A package deal with productivity agreements was offered by shop stewards. Management refused—point blank.

During negotiations the company introduced job evaluation despite union objection to lack of consultation prior to introduction.

On January 1, 1970, company introduced a day and night shift without consulting the union—the company already had a day, double day and three shift system.

At one stage the company withdrew the union notice board facilities and the shop stewards' rights to sign the minutes of Consultative Committee meetings.

On Monday, June 15, three requests made to meet management and start informal talks to prevent a mass walk-out. Requests refused.

172 men and women withdrew their labour at 2.30 on June 15, 1970.

## THE FIRST MONTH

1. Strike made official by the T&GWU and the AEF at 2.30 p.m. June 15, 1970.

2. As soon as the strike was started, pickets were on duty outside the main entrance each day from 7 to 7.

3. The management refused to start talks with union representatives.

4. As the strike reached its tenth day, the management started to employ blackleg labour.

5. Management held meeting with 53 blackleg workers and voiced the opinion that they will remove all union representation from the shop floor.

6. 1970, year of the 'Mayflower' celebrations—and as the strike entered its third week, American fortnight was launched. Americans and Britons stood on the platform talking of our common heritage. Mr. Eric Nuttall, the Lord Mayor, started to make a speech to thank the Americans for building so many factories in Plymouth—at least he tried, his voice well and truly drowned by a small group of Fine Tubes' workers holding their first demonstration—an orderly affair, just banners and marching.

7. June 30, 1970—the management had still refused to make a press statement and refused to start talks—issued a letter to all the strikers saying that unless they returned to work on the next day their employment would be terminated. About 170 workers stayed out and were duly sacked.

A statement issued by the Department of Employment and Productivity said that by sacking his employees during a strike an employer is ruled to be doing no more than taking a step in furtherance of the strike—he is not actually ending the strike.

Having said this, the Plymouth branch of the Labour Exchange started to send people to Fine Tubes—from July 1, 1970.

The company started to train the scab labour whilst the skilled strikers stayed out.

On July 6, 1970, the management gave the blackleg labour a 9% pay rise back-dated 4 weeks with a 4% rise to follow in the autumn, all this and staff status.\*

A member of the strike committee assured me that if this offer had been made before, there would not have been a strike.

And the strike went on.

## PICKETS

The Fine Tubes factory has been picketed ever since the start of the strike and since 1.7.70 the picket has been 24 hours a day. Police harassment suffered at the beginning stopped after the strikers learned of their 'rights under the law'. Three pickets have been knocked down by blacklegs' cars—all pure accidents of course!

Police had to intervene to allow a much-needed load of strip metal past pickets at the Cox-side depot of British Road Services. The load which had come from the States via Avonmouth had been at the depot for twelve weeks after the BRS workers had refused to handle it. Blackleg labour from the Fine Tubes factory came down, broke open the crates and started to load them on to lorries. They were prevented from leaving by pickets until the police arrived.

On March 18, 1971, Tom Murdock appeared before Plymouth Magistrates Court convicted of 'without lawful authority or excuse did wilfully obstruct the free passage along Plymbridge Road, a highway by refusing to move after three requests by a police officer, con-

\*The scab labour did not get their 4% pay rise in the autumn as promised by the management. The much-advertised staff status turned out to mean nothing. Unofficial reports state that the scabs have just put in for a 15% pay rise—the management said that they would try to find more overtime.

trary to section 121 of the Highway Act, 1959'. He was bound over to keep the peace for a period of twelve months and ordered to pay £15 of the £45 costs.

Tom Murdock stated in court that the object of the picket was to inform drivers of the dispute at Fine Tubes. If the drivers then proceeded into the factory they would not be stopped.

Various witnesses said that Murdock did not obstruct the lorry in any way. Mr. Cecil Howett for the prosecution seemed to put great emphasis on the fact that the management of Fine Tubes did not consider the strikers to be on strike.

## BLACKING

As the strike nears its first year the blacking of Fine Tubes goods is making a devastating effect on the company—huge stockpiles of goods are building up whilst the company is now working on 74 orders. Overtime has gone (or nearly) as production goes right down. Monday is the day when goods are distributed—once lorries queued to get in, last Monday one lorry left with 9 crates on.

Amongst the companies blacked: Smiths Industries (all groups), Rank Xerox (Bristol), J. Sankey, Hereford (part of GKN), Tube Sales Ltd., Holland, and of course the Fine Tubes group. Various transport companies have been blacked but they are mainly small operators.

Many companies throughout the country are unable to use Fine Tubes' products owing to the workers refusing to handle them. Among the most important is Rolls Royce who can only get tubing needed for the Concorde engines from Fine Tubes. Rolls workers have refused to handle Fine Tubes goods since the start of the strike and now the Concorde project is in danger of being held up. Rolls workers at Bristol have stated that if any of their workers are laid off or put on short time the whole factory would come out.

Anthony Wedgwood Benn, whose interests in Concorde are well known (Min. Tech. whizz kid, Bristol MP), actually managed to see Barclay but could only stay in the same room for five minutes or so before storming out. Later he hammered the Fine Tubes management on TV and put the total blame on Barclay.

Interesting point—the strikers had been saying the same thing for a year and nobody listened. One two-minute TV spot and wow! People in Plymouth are now coming out in support of the strikers. But it is slow. Before it seemed that only those involved and a few local conservatives and law and order freaks knew that there was a strike.

Other important firms getting into trouble over the strike are: British Aircraft Corporation, Hawker Siddeley, Atomic Energy Authority at Preston, British Aluminium Company and other Rolls Royce factories.

Statement from Barclay concerning Rolls Royce crash—'it will not affect us—we have put the matter in the hands of the official receiver'. Fucking right it doesn't affect you, your goods have been blacked for 8 months.

The strikers are receiving 100% support from the dockers in this country. Blacking of all Fine Tubes exports.

## THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BILL AND FINE TUBES

From *Western Morning News*, 18.2.71: On February 17 Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Solicitor-General, stated in the House

of Commons that the Fine Tubes strike, over terms and conditions of employment would be regarded under the I.R. Bill as a fair strike. He went on to give assurances that any workers who took sympathetic action in support of the strikers at Fine Tubes would not be liable to action for civil damages.

## THE LOCAL PRESS

The *Western Morning News* and the *Western Evening Herald* are both owned by Harmsworth.

The reporting has been factual without any great bias towards one side. The editorials are a different matter—these have all been in favour of the firm and the usual lies about industrial black-mail have been employed. Letters from both sides have been printed—those against the strike by people such as 'Walrus', 'Ex-Navy', 'Realist' and 'Loyal Worker', whilst those in favour of the strike seem to have more conventional names.

'Loyal Worker' ended his letter by saying, 'I won't give you my name as I don't want to be beaten up on a dark night.' At no time during the strike has there been any evidence to suggest violence towards blacklegs and this letter was completely without foundation.

The next day's editorial asked if it was true that Plymouth had got to the stage where people were afraid to state their point of view in case those who opposed him would attack. The editorial then went on to spew about people giving their life to defend this country's freedom of speech without which Britain would degenerate into a Communist state without an individual mind. ???????

## FURTHER NOTES

Previous to the present strike there had been two other disputes at Fine Tubes.

In 1967 there was a 16-day stoppage over pay and in November 1969 workers walked out but were persuaded to return the next day on union advice.

The company had dishonoured the pay and productivity agreement made in 1968. Only certain parts had been introduced and they weren't those connected with pay.

Barclay refuses to talk—amongst those who have tried are: Shop stewards, local union executives, the press, TV people, the D of E and P, other Government people, Mr. Jack Jones, Mr. Vic Feather, Plymouth Trades Council, the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, the regional and National Employers' Federation.

An official Government enquiry much talked of in the past has not as yet come off but it can't be long before they are forced to do something—Concorde, etc.

Since the Fine Tubes dispute most of the other American firms have offered their workers rises of up to 15%.

Trade union membership has increased by about 200,000.

Fine Tubes' strikers have held two demonstrations and supported the two held against the Industrial Relations Bill.

Strikers from the factory staged a sponsored walk from Bristol to Plymouth to raise money for a children's Christmas party.

When the Strike Committee asked for support from the G&MWU at Sunbury, the union boss said he could not help because all his members were leaving.

Mr. Herman Welch (Strike Committee member) stood as Labour Candidate during the local Council elections, amidst howls of hysterical protest—how can someone intent on destroying the country get a new shopping centre built. Red takeover, the end is nigh. He won his seat—easily.

## NOTES TOWARDS A CONCLUSION

(mainly from conversation with a member of the Strike Committee)

The strike has been long and hard, but now after a year the end is in sight. The company are being hit, hard—other parts of British industry are being hurt—the Concorde programme both here and in France faces disruption. But why, and what can be learned?

When the strike started nobody really knew what to do—this was something completely new. The Strike Committee received some help from the Centax workers but mainly had to learn the hard way. The people they looked to for help and guidance—the trade unions—could offer nothing. They were in their offices—content to give out strike pay, and offers of meeting the management are still being made even though Barclay has refused to talk for the last year. The blacking came from the shop floor not the union bureaucracy. In fact the unions have left a bitter taste in the mouths of the strikers who are now beginning to see from their own experience that in future the power must be from the shop floor without being hindered by bureaucratic unionism.

When asked about other forms of industrial action a member of the Strike Committee said, 'Next time we will know the score, we won't walk out, we'll stay inside, production won't start again unless the workers start it with the management locked out.'

Continued on page 4

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Although he agreed that a long all-out strike was not the best way to hit the houses, he thought that any other form of industrial action would have resulted in sackings of individuals before things got off the ground.

Many people have suggested that Barclay is mad—that is not the case. He must have had backing from the parent company in the States or he would have gone. The management tried to smash the unions in Fine Tubes and set a precedent for the West Country. They did not count on the strength of the workers. In fact Barclay has done a lot to increase militancy in the west.

G.R.

# Authority in Retreat

I'M NOT SURE if it's my anarchist eyes, comrades, but authority seems to be acting as if it's afraid. It is the behaviour of a few individuals acting alone, but backed up by colleagues close at hand, which has shown just how shaky is the rule of authority when it is challenged.

We have Mr. David Jones, a lecturer at the Medway College of Design in Kent, who has been recommended for dismissal by its governors after being given a suspended gaol sentence for possessing cannabis.

Then there is Mr. Jerry Westall, the Community Relations Officer in Newham, who has been dismissed by the Chairman of Newham International Community after the suppliers of Mr. Westall's salary, the Community Relations Commission, had refused to reconsider their decision to stop the grant to Newham. This was after Newham International Community's Governing Council had passed a vote of confidence in him. Jerry Westall had publicly claimed that

right wing fanatics could be involved in arson attacks on immigrants' homes in Newham.

Next comes Mr. Christopher Searle, the English teacher at Sir John Cass School, Stepney, who was dismissed for publishing pupils' poems without permission.

Then we have Captain Thomas Culver, an American Air Force officer in Britain charged for protesting against the Vietnam war and facing possible court martial.

These four men acted individually and have reacted to disciplining in a variety of ways. They are similar in that they challenged the accepted mode of behaviour in society. The most encouraging sign is the evidence of solidarity that has been close behind them. Probably in most, if not all, these cases the individual will 'lose' and authority will 'win'. Straight society will shake its head at the poor fools who didn't see on which side their bread was buttered. Our anarchist hearts warm to them and

our spirits are strengthened by their examples. They have won the human battle even if they have lost the battle with authority.

In FREEDOM, 1.5.71, our friend N.W. produced a translation of Kropotkin's marvellous article on Anarchist Propaganda. 'There are actions,' Kropotkin wrote, 'which can be carried out only when one is alone—when one acts without putting responsibility on anyone else and taking it on oneself. . . . If the development of the revolutionary spirit gains immensely from the deeds of heroic individuals, it is no less true that it is not by these heroic deeds that revolutions are made. . . . The revolution needs heroes; but for their blood to be of any use, it is necessary that it should be backed up. . . . Revolution is above all a popular movement.'

No doubt the four men we mentioned earlier could have done with more 'backing up' and they may well not see themselves as 'heroic' or 'revolutionary'.

Continued on page 4



# THIS WEEK IN IRELAND

**WHY OH WHY CANNOT** the British Government ever learn? Do they REALLY intend to go ahead with their plan for a full-time battalion of the Ulster Defence Regiment? The responsible politicians, many of whom were involved with the Civil Rights Movement in its heyday, are aghast, especially in view of the Cameron Report. Whitehall may be amazed that more Catholics have not joined the UDR, BUT reforms have lagged and distrust grown. A new B Special regiment? Or the Black-and-Tans again? After all 'Mad Mitch', Conservative member for Aberdeen, made remarks about it being necessary 'To terrorize the Terrorist'. Something of course totally impossible, and anyhow WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS? They are in plain truth about equally divided between Craig and Paisley's backwoodsmen breathing fire, and the Republicans of

various shades wanting every last son-of-a-gun of a Britisher out of Ireland—lock, stock, barrel, cat and kitten. Some of us are beginning to think Brian Faulkner is just trying to be a little bit too clever by half, and though he may get cheers from his own right-wingers he does not promote the common good. Can the aim of the British Government be to push the six county opposition just too hard or discredit them just too much? Neither bullying nor slick manoeuvring will attain this purpose. Meanwhile at least he HAS banned an Orange march through the almost 100% Catholic area of Dungavin for next Sunday. BUT the backwoodsmen say they will march anyhow. If a major confrontation breaks out it will be only too easy to know upon whose shoulders the blame lies. There have been battles royal in that district before.

## Towards Workers' Control

Dear Comrades,

Re FREEDOM Pamphlet No. 7—'Towards Workers' Control'—your writer P. Turner quotes me on the Coventry gang system and goes on to say it 'ended when Standards found themselves in financial trouble and were absorbed into the lorry empire of Leylands'. I pointed out in a later number of *Anarchy* how wrong that 'assumption' was (and still is). At Leyland takeover management (Alick Dick and his hierarchy) were sacked; and the gang system continued, not on sufferance, but as a practical way of working to the advantage of all.

## LETTERS

P. Turner assumes, again wrongly, that the gang system seems to be confined to mass product conveyor belt production. The reality was, and still is, that gang work as I described it in *FREEDOM* and *Anarchy*, is suitable for about all kinds of engineering production. I have had first-hand knowledge and experience of it on experimental and prototype work, batch production (which is more common than mass production—inevitably so) as well as in the 'familiar' car and tractor plants.

And further, I really must point out that, while mass production can be inhuman and humdrum, 'the workers don't die on the job'. That is more usual in the more primitive foreman-dominated workshops—where the foreman is much more

likely to die than the worker. I have seen them die. Counted them—and gone to their funerals!

The reality is that there is more gang work now than ten years ago when I wrote about it. Present attempts to impose fixed wage measured daywork (at £1 an hour) are the obsession of a new generation of managers who have yet to learn the same old lesson (of their predecessors) that 'all the brains are not at the top'. They will learn! Their ulcers will teach them. The worker just takes his pound an hour, and lets the gaffer worry—that's what he's there for.

The worker doesn't say much (except to people like me) but he thinks a lot. Anti-worker propaganda leaves him cold—it's the middle class who lap it up; they love it; and believe it. Poor nits!

Re Tom Mann—although he came from Coventry he had little real influence here. I did hear him in 1922 when he spoke to 9,000 engineers in the local drill hall; one of the greatest happenings of my life. But shop stewardism and gang work and worker solidarity came almost entirely from the shop floor—all the speakers (and writers, like me!) have done is to give utterance to what was already known, and done. The real worker movement is a living tradition—man to man, face to face, at work—and has been so in its various forms for over two centuries in Coventry. Our craftsmen still carry the tradition of 'working together, regardless of what the bosses do'. And that is regardless of politics—as ordinarily understood.

Fraternally,  
Coventry REG WRIGHT.

## Authority Retreats

Continued from page 2  
Nonetheless, they are. They are The Angry Brigade in perhaps a more devastating form, for they are so much more difficult to ignore and ridicule. To reasonable people their cases are good. The case of authority is so poor.

The lecturer, David Jones, has support from the Council for Academic Freedom. Prof. John Griffiths states: 'Mr. Jones was sacked from his job for a first offence which had nothing to do with his performance as a lecturer. No evidence was ever produced that he had attempted to persuade students or others at college to take cannabis. It would be interesting to know whether the governors take a similar view of drunken driving convictions.' Devastating.

The Community Relations Officer, Jerry Westall, has support from the Association of Community Relations Officers. Aaron Haynes, ACRO secretary states: 'Having the good will, backing and confidence of your Council (local Community Relations Council) is not enough; if the Commission does not want you, any pretext would be good enough to withdraw the grant from your committee. That the reward for doing work should be the withdrawal of grant aid is a total mockery.' Great.

Mr. Christopher Searle has support from his pupils that any teacher must envy. Also the Bishop of Stepney and the National Union of Teachers have come to his aid. One of Mr. Searle's pupils expressed the position we are making here beautifully:

'They must have it their way.  
They are the authorities  
We're nothing, just students,  
We must do as they say  
They make the rules  
We are forced to obey.'

Captain Culver has the support of many of his American colleagues in the Air Force. They are 'outraged' at the Captain's treatment and People Emerging Against Corrupt Establishment (PEACE)—maybe it really is happening!—state of Cpt. Culver's restriction: 'This is virtually the same state of arrest that Lieutenant Calley is under, and Calley is convicted of murdering 22 innocent Vietnamese. Tom has legally and non-violently expressed his opposition to the murder of Vietnamese people and the destruction of their country.'

Support there has been for these individuals but we cannot claim there has been a 'popular movement' in these cases. The nearest to this has come from Mr. Searle's pupils—it could be that generation which will make the revolution. For a revolutionary spirit to prevail, David Jones's fellow lecturers would have stopped working the moment he was dismissed, Jerry Westall's fellow Community Relations Officers would have stopped working the moment he was dismissed, Christopher Searle's fellow teachers would have gone on strike the moment he was sacked, and the American Air Force would have stopped working the moment Tom Culver was detained.

Nonetheless these examples of authority in action are not the only ones we could take. There is the treatment of Don Revie and Leeds United football supporters or Dr. Cole of 'Growing Up' fame and the teacher who masturbates in the film. The disciplining of sportsmen and people in positions of some standing in society for not obeying written and unwritten rules should not be needed when authority is sure of itself and is in full control. When authority gets harsh, it is scared. Things are getting out of control!

K.B.C.

How much one disdains the C-in-C General Tuzo with his continual inflammatory remarks and behaviour.

Explosions go on daily both sides of the border, the work of lunatics for they achieve exactly NOTHING but resentment on both sides.

The row about our Comprehensive schools goes on, the Hierarchy being absolutely adamant that these schools shall come under their auspices. Religious Schools are beginning to fall into disrepute in the twenty-six counties, not only because of the extraordinary bias given to history but even more because of the beatings and slappings and canings that go on. The Christian Brothers are particularly suspect. We all know nowadays that flagellation gives sexual release, and, except for 'Mother of twenty who knows our Brothers give the best education in the world and cannot be grateful enough to them' type of writings, doctors and psychologists and parents (I put the parents last because they always ARE put last in Holy Catholic Ireland) are beginning to rebel. Of course all schools should be non-sectarian.

The destruction of Georgian Dublin for concrete and glass office blocks goes on apace. I keep trotting into the Dail and writing but get such lies dished out to me as 'No house suitable for human habitation can be knocked down or converted' or 'Oh Percy Place? They had planning permission six years ago'. One

batters one's head against a brick wall of bureaucracy and money-grubbing. All too soon it will become a crime if you do not get out, carrying six months imprisonment and a fine of £50. All this land belongs to the Pembroke Estates (the descendants of Strongbow) and they can get a far bigger ground rent for offices than for houses and flats, so our beautiful heritage is destroyed on the altar of Mammon.

I am coming to the conclusion we ARE all mad, stark staring bonkers. A letter appeared in one of our dailies asking the people of a very poor parish to subscribe £35,000 to build a statue of Our Lady. I got a reply in which I said that homes for some 7,000 homeless which would be a FAR MORE WORTHY CAUSE THAN GRAVEN IMAGES. That last will hurt!

Dunlaoghaire Housing Action Committee have squatted two families. These were living each in one room for which they paid £4.50. Then the landlord raised the rent to £7 from June 1. They are in houses belonging to the multi-millionaire Garfield Weston who is rapidly taking over all Ireland and gets 70% of his stuff from South Africa where he also has millions invested.

The houses are in perfect condition, he wants a supermarket which very emphatically is not needed in Dunlaoghaire. To get out of an awkward situation he offered them positions as caretakers free for six months in other beautiful houses which however he also intends demolishing. I have implored them to sign nothing without a really good solicitor, for I read the forms he had given to them to sign and they were all trickery.

H.

## Welcome to the Fold!

Dear Comrade Reader,

Greetings! This FREEDOM reaches you because, on Thursdays, between 4 and 8.30 p.m., a few Comrades foregather in Freedom Hall, cheerfully co-operating with the chores of folding, packing, and transporting to GPO your FREEDOM. But, Comrade, there's really a crying need for more willing comrade helpers. Your co-operation, occasionally, will be truly welcome, when you are in or near London.

Tea and biscuits provided. Above all congenial company of kindred souls, relaxingly delightful and socially valuable; creative activity spreading the glad tidings of Anarchy, and greatly interesting exchange of ideas and viewpoints, it's

truly a most enjoyable interlude this Thursday gathering, a constructive foretaste of our envisaged free society.

Cheerio for now, Comrade, be seeing you at Freedom Hall, we hope, some Thursday.

Fraternally for a sane, free society—soon.

MARK WILLIAM KRAMERSCH

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## Campaign of Action

Continued from page 3

The *Building Workers' Charter* gives those in the industry a chance to put their views on these and other questions. It is a paper to give expression to the wishes of the rank and file and to air and discuss points of view. Already the points of its Charter are having effect, in that union conferences are rejecting platform advice and voting for the demands of the paper. It now remains to be seen which way the struggle will develop—whether it remains only a movement to influence and force union leaders to submit to these demands without strings, or whether it goes further to become a genuine rank and file movement—whether it is interested in only changing leadership or whether it builds such a grass roots movement that leaderships are forgotten and made redundant.

The link-up of branches and site organisations would achieve the control and place the initiative in the hands of the members. Policy and action could be made and co-ordinated on the federal basis. Organisation of this type would soon spread and would leave the union leadership without any power or authority.

P.T.

# Contact

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Little Press Book Fair, 7 Albemarle Street, London, W.1. June 4-19. Weekday 10-6 p.m., Sat 10-1 p.m.

American couple touring England and Europe June-July would like modest accommodation London part of the time. Write Ron Pearl, c/o Freedom Press.

Australia. Will A.A.G. please get in touch with Freedom Press.

Debate on 'Problem of Libertarian Organisation', June 28, 7.30 p.m., between the Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchists and the Socialist Current Group. Chairman John Downey, Editor of 'Socialist Leader'. At Post Box Public House, corner of Mount Pleasant and Laytall Street (off Gray's Inn Road and Theobalds Road).

Anarchist Leicester. Will anyone who has any information about the Anarchist movement in Leicester before 1965 contact Black Flag Bookshop, 1 Wilne Street, Leicester.

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Burrell House. Squatters need Plumbing and Electrical Materials. Contact Mike. Flat 16, Burrell House, The Highway, Stepney, E.14.

Axis Bookshop, 6a Hunters Lane, off Yorkshire Street, Rochdale. Call if in town.

N.E.L.P. (Barking). Anarchist Bookstall, Friday lunchtimes, 'C' floor.

Proposed Group—Exeter Area. John and Jill Driver, 21 Dukes Orchard, Bradninch, Exeter, EX5 4RA.

Leeds Direct Action Pamphlets: The Japanese Anarchists, 1p; Who are the Brain Police, 1p (Breakdown of the Power Structure of yer Leeds University—stripping away of liberal bullshit, etc.). Coming soon: 'Listen Marxist', 5p. All these available from the Anarchist Bookshop, 153 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2.

Anyone interested in forming a Cambridge Anarchist Group contact John Jenkins, 75 York Street, Cambridge.

Kropotkin Lighthouse Publications. The Revolutionary Catechism, Nechev, 5p + 2p post. 'Song to the Men of England', Shelley, 'Poster Poem' with Walter Crane's 'Workers' Maypole', 10p + 2p post. 'Poems', Jim Huggon, 5p + 2p post. Discount available on bulk orders. Jim Huggon, c/o Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Road, London, N.1.

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Meetings at Freedom: Every Wednesday at 8 p.m. For details see 'This World' column.

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