

## The Miners' Strike Government Bows to Militancy

WHEN SLAVES are in revolt it is no use threatening them with an end to their slavery. When a miner becomes sick to death of toiling away underground while the rest of society enjoys the fruits of his labour he is not much worried when the Coal Board tells him that the strike might cause pit closures and loss of jobs. He is merely being threatened with never again having to go down the pit. This was well put by a striker in an interview on television last week.

### WILSON OUT!

I JOINED THE MARCH of the miners (10,000 strong) when it reached Fleet Street. At the same time the rain started, and all the way to Westminster the heavens opened on us. It was a different march from the ones we are accustomed to seeing in London, composed almost entirely of the miners themselves and their wives. Just before we reached Westminster Bridge I dropped out and stood holding my poster up while the marchers went by. As I had been near the front and the march was a long one, this took about half-an-hour.

I had made my own poster which read 'Send Heath and Wilson down the Pit'. Not a deep thought perhaps but an accurate reflection of how I felt. The response was astonishing. To someone who has been in the political wilderness for years, it was a strange experience to have thousands of people streaming past me shouting approval of what I was saying. Yet that is what happened. Among the loudest applauders were many middle-aged miners and their wives, particularly the Welsh. Innumerable 'Hear-hears' (which in a Welsh accent comes out as 'Yer-ye') 'That's a good one missus—I agree with you—put them down the pit and fill it in' were some of the remarks that floated back to me as they passed by with friendly waves and cheers. Silence fell only when the Communist Party went by. Which figures!

I think what touched the spot with the marchers was the idea of two fat, soft-skinned politicians being pitched into the hellish toil the miners do—and secondly the fact that Wilson was included. Apart from the usual mechanical chant of 'Heath Out' which we hear ad nauseam at every demonstration, the march had been devoid of any political ideas—and my little poster seemed to act like a shot in the arm.

This was only a small incident, but the reason I tell the story is that I think it has a lesson for anarchists. Nobody but an anarchist attacks ALL politicians. The Communist Party and all the 'revolutionary' groups have tactics to consider. Any Labour politician has only to put on a left wing mask for five minutes to have them fawning round him. And that includes Wilson.

What happens at grass roots level is very different. The antics of these politicians have a direct bearing on the worker's daily bread, and so they watch and learn even if by-and-large they are uninvolved in politics apart from voting Labour at elections.

We are used to saying that the Labour Party is finished as a force but do we really know how finished it is—and what follows from that? If the roars of the miners meant anything on that march, the process of disillusionment has gone deeper than we know. This leaves a vacuum which the Communist Party, International Socialism and the Socialist Labour League are only too

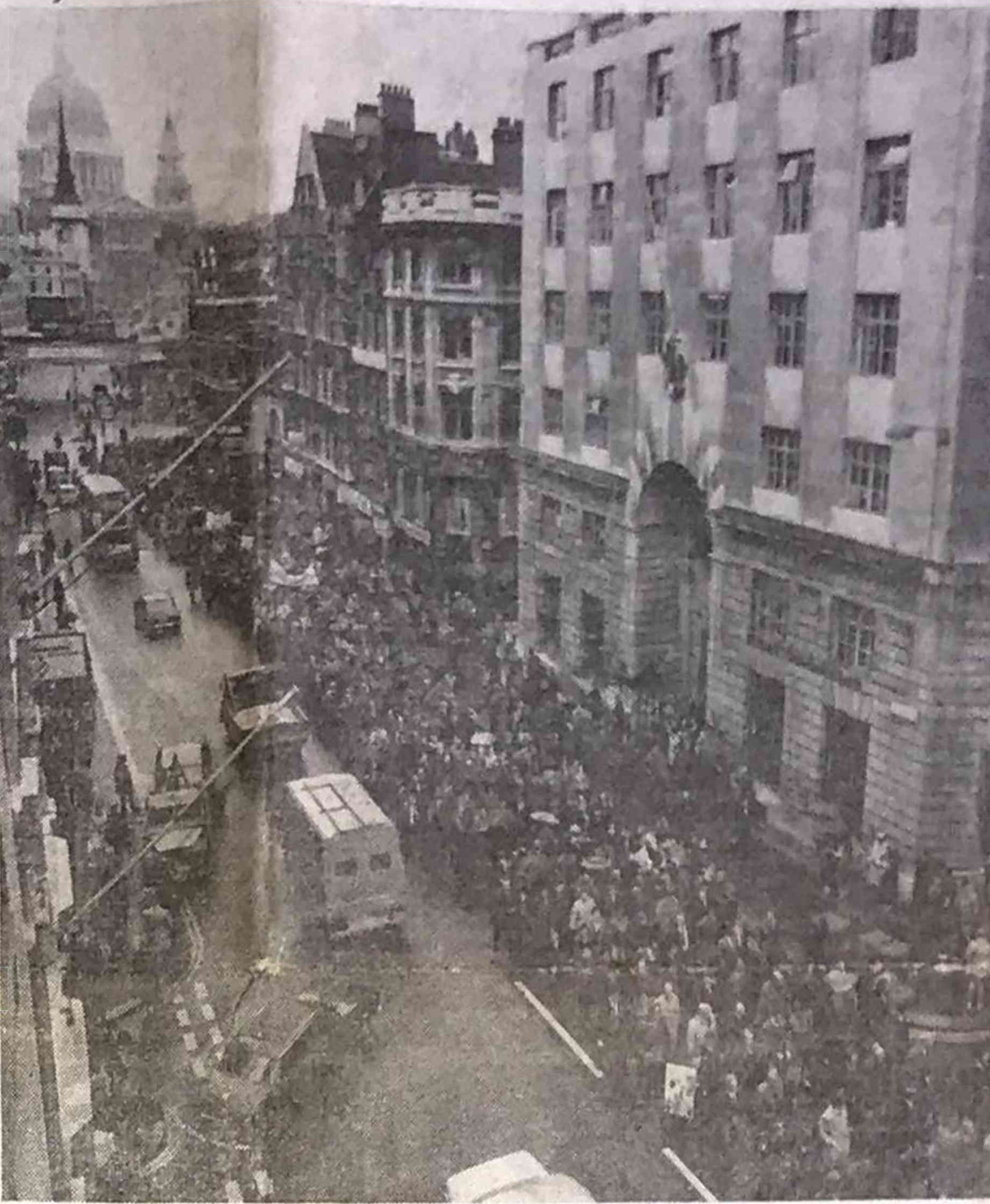
Continued on page 2

Faced with the question wasn't the strike likely to harm him by pit closures and loss of jobs he replied: 'I don't care if I never go down a pit again. For the past five weeks I have breathed fresh air and it's good. Why shouldn't I live my life above ground like everyone else?' The interviewer was stumped and all Coal Board propaganda fell flat on its face.

Like the great majority of us, miners are slaves, wage slaves compelled to hire themselves out each day to the rich minority who own all the land, the tools and the factories with which wealth is produced. We are allowed to form trade unions and even to strike to get better wages and conditions and to make our slavery less intolerable—but never must we contemplate refusing to maintain the rich by our labours. Against that event the State, which exists to protect the property of the rich and the privileged, will use all its powers of deception to keep us divided and confused and, if needs be, will use force and violence to drive us back to work and to our accustomed slavery. By hook or by crook, by lies or by force, they must keep us all at it—daily going to the economic slave market so that the rich and powerful may continue to enjoy their wealth, power and privilege.

### GOVERNMENT SETBACK

Most of us are a long way from realising this. After all, the whole purpose of the education we receive, backed up by all the media and by the Church, is to teach us that the present state of things has been ordained by God or by some god-like laws of economics from which there is no escape. But the miners came very near to realising their true position in society during the course of this strike. They have for donkey's years been aware of the injustice which compels them to spend so many hours of their lives shut off from fresh air and sunlight and now, through the black-outs and the shut-down in industry, they became aware of their importance to society. These two things combined gave to



Part of the March in support of the miners passing through London's Fleet Street on Tuesday, February 15.

their struggle a determination never before seen in Britain.

The Government was faced with absolute solidarity and had to choose either to drive the miners back to work or bribe them back to work. For the time being they have chosen to use bribes—although all the plans for the use of force are in readiness if the strike goes on. But right now, with the bulk of the workers in sympathy with the miners, the use of force to disperse the pickets, the use of troops to unload coal and transport it to the power stations, would soon create something very like an insurrectionary situation. So, after consulting the TUC's Mr.

Feather who was as anxious as them to 'get it settled' and get the miners back to work, the Government hastily set up a Court of Inquiry which, within five days, announced an increase in the original wage offer of less than £2. Coal-face workers are now offered an increase of £4.50, surface workers an extra £5, and non-coal-face workers underground an extra £6. In addition, they have conceded the adult rate at 18, improved bonus payments, and an extra five days' annual paid holidays.

### DIRECT ACTION PAYS

Even with the latest increases the wage of a surface worker is still

only £23 a week and a non-face-worker underground is only £25. This kind of money can be easily earned by typists working for 35 hours a week in a pleasant well-lighted City office—not to mention the bonanzas that are taken home by managers, directors, and the general body of layabouts who own British industry. Miners know this very well and, despite the recommendation for acceptance by the Executive, they might still reject it—and good luck to them. But whichever way it goes it is clear that the miners have already beaten the Government and undermined its authority. They have shown that the almighty State can be reduced to a jelly by determined direct action. A point that Lawrence Daly, the Miners' Secretary, made when he stated that 'the miners have gained more in the last 24 hours than in the last 24 years'. In other words, 24 years of 'responsible' negotiations by a Union machine equipped with all the apparatus of full-time officials failed to achieve what the miners themselves achieved after five weeks determined strike action. This is something that is obvious to every working man in the country.

### WHAT IS A SPECIAL CASE

The Government will try to say that the miners are a 'special case' but everyone knows that the only thing special about miners is their determination to see a struggle through to the end. True, they occupy a key position in the economy—but so do all sorts of other workers, in transport, in power, in the communications industry, and many others. In fact the system has become so reliant on the division of labour (which is very profitable) that there is hardly any section of workers—except perhaps those in the luxury and entertainment industries—that cannot by direct action gum up the whole works. We shall all be special cases when we all despise our slavery and act like the miners.

The miners' leaders didn't approve  
Continued on page 4

## TERROR IN RHODESIA . . .

NO DOUBT it is a reasonable reflection on the well publicised plights of the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, Garfield Todd, and his daughter, Judy, that the press of the world gives scant interest as regards the suffering of internees in Ulster and black Africans who have been, and are, interned in Zimbabwe. It is also fair comment that the further away the injustice the more concern shown by our liberal community. Whilst D notices fly around about harassment of Stuart Christie and others, every detail of Garfield Todd's treatment is reported.

These reflections should not, however, let us forget or ignore the unjustified punishments the Todds have suffered. They have been locked up, as Josiah and Ruth Chinamano have been, for the 'crime' of disagreeing with Ian Smith about the desirability of implementing the Home/Smith settlement proposals in

Rhodesia.

Smith thinks his settlement will preserve what he calls Western civilisation. Some idea of what he means can be deduced from a comment he made on the David Frost programme recently in connection with the hunger strike Judy Todd was pledged to as a protest against her internment. Smith said: 'If Miss Todd does not wish to eat the food given to her, this doesn't worry me a great deal, you know.' In other words, she could die from hunger whilst incarcerated rather than be released—detained, we should not forget without charge or trial.

### FORCED FEEDING

Smith's security forces haven't seen things quite Smithy's way. According to Peter Nieswand writing in the *Guardian* from Salisbury (15.2.72): 'Officials came to her (Judy's) cell at Chikurubi Prison here and held her down while a nurse

pushed a tube down her throat. She vomited it up on eight or ten occasions. Finally, exhausted and shaking, she gave in.'

Thus ended a demonstration of defiance by a young woman whose courage is a most eloquent portrayal of the case for Women's Liberation. The State has to defend itself against Judy Todd—Western civilisation is defended as she vomits and gives in. A system of social oppression called apartheid tortures those whose 'crime' is a humanity that cannot allow them to remain apart from their fellow-men. The living embodiment of racial tolerance, the defiance of a young woman is just too much for the irrational illogic of racial separation.

It should not escape anyone's notice that women, nowadays, are providing Authority with a whole lot of trouble. Bernadette Devlin emulated the patron saint of the Angry Brigade, Guy Fawkes,

by entering the House of Commons with honest intentions and another female hand delivered ink onto the Prime Minister's suit.

### COURAGE OF WOMEN

Direct action, whether it is throwing ink, scratching Maudling or offering one's life up to social injustice, is the message of anarchy to our age—delivered by the example of courageous women who have shown what a powerful weapon it is.

Meanwhile, in Rhodesia, the Pearce Commission struggle on to its inescapable conclusion that a majority of Rhodesians reject the Home/Smith settlement terms. It remains to be seen what the British Government will do with the message—they have shown they can be deaf, dumb and blind so one should not expect very much. The solution to the Rhodesian problem lies in the townships and lands of Zimbabwe—but whether the African people will present the solution depends on a number of factors.

FRANCIS DRAKE.



WHAT FOLLOWS is a true account of a fairly typical day recently in Free Derry. Only the names have been changed to protect the 'guilty'.

#### INTRODUCTION

To the outsider 'Free Derry' with its 30,000 inhabitants is an incredible place. It comprises three areas, Bogside, Brandywell and the new HQ, the Creggan. Since August 1969 the police have not set foot in the place. The Army only do so at great risk and even then but rarely. In order to get into the Creggan on a raid for wanted men they had to get themselves smuggled in in a furniture van. They lasted 3 minutes. New regiments have on two occasions, needed by the slights of their comrades, attempted to 'do the Creggan'. The last time over 200 armed men were put to flight within ten minutes by the famous 'young hooligans', armed with rocks and bottles, as well as the omnipresent snipers, always ready to 'have a rattle'. As they fled down the hill several soldiers dropped their rifles. The advertisements hadn't told them about the Creggan, which has been a 'no-go' area for over two years.

Guns are carried openly in the streets, unlike in the Bogside where they have to be more surreptitious since it is overlooked by Army snipers on the city walls and the roof of the Embassy Club. Blighs Lane Army post is under constant siege. Food often has to be ferried in by helicopter. The soldiers can't even go out into the yard for exercise without coming under fire. Casualties are so frequent that many of them have to be hushed up—this is not just the boasts of the snipers, but the evidence of nurses, ambulance drivers, morgue attendants, and civilian eye-witnesses. If a soldier has no next of kin—and many are recruited from orphanages—his death will be almost certainly suppressed and when there are relatives at times they are told that their loved ones were killed 'in a road accident in Germany' or some such fable.

# A Day in the Life of Free Derry

Because of the three-day strike which followed the murder of the Derry 13 by the Paras on January 31, next week was a 'lying week' as to pay. The Republicans therefore suspended their weekly collection. But money was needed.

#### Scene 1—A leading local bookies.

Enter eight men, unmasked and carrying guns. Disconsolate punters, most of them on the dole, brighten up visibly. 'Hiya Tommy,' says one to the nearest gunman. 'Och, it's yourself Andy! Long time, no see.' Laughter. 'This is a hold-up,' Cheers. The pay-out clerk looks out of his hatch and winks. 'Great day, gentlemen, and how would youse like it?' 'All of it,' says the leader nervously. He does not fear the police or Army, but the time is now for his first ever political speech. The money is shovelled over. 'Wait a minute lads, I'll give youse a bigger bag.'

'It must be made clear that we're not doing this for ourselves,' says the leader, 'it's for guns to be used against the occupying forces of British Imperialism.' The punters cheer. So does the clerk. Encouraged, the leader begins to get into his stride. 'When we finally set up the workers' republic . . . For fuck sake Sean, shut up and get going,' says one of the men, moving towards the door.

Sean is ruffled. 'As I was saying,' but it's no use. His men are moving out and he follows. A small crowd has gathered outside already and applaud as the men get into the hijacked cars. 'Up the IRA.' 'Well done, lads, that bastard's been asking for it.' They drive off. Sean still broods about the speech.

#### Scene 2.

A coal lorry is hijacked in the Water-

side and driven past the Army on the Bridge, through the Bogside and up to the Creggan. Past the watchtower—20 feet high and with searchlights to spot the Army. The driver stops and picks up a few young lads. 'Which houses have the old age pensioners?' They begin to point them out. Each pensioner gets a bag of coal, 'courtesy of the Republican movement'. 'God bless yeez lads.' 'That's all right missus.' Next week it's shoes for the kids of internees.

#### Scene 3.

'Blinkie' is walking up the street. Everyone in the Bog knows Blinkie. 25. Unemployed for years. Blind as a bat. Game as they come. He carries a duffel bag over his shoulder and whistles tunelessly as he walks, up the hill towards

Rosemount Barracks. Rosemount is a very lonely police outpost. In 1969 they had it alight and were on the roof prepared to finish the coppers off when John Hume and 'the voice of reason' intervened. He couldn't now. Two weeks ago three plainclothes pigs were gunned down as their car sped up to the barracks.

Outside the barracks Blinkie stops, takes off the bag and casually undoes it. He begins to assemble the contents. A Thompson sub-machinegun. It is broad daylight. Startled passers-by drop to the ground as Blinkie, a beatific smile on his face, sprays the barracks with three bursts. An incredulous sentry throws himself to the ground as he hears the horrible sound of Blinkie laughing. By the time the police can get it together Blinkie has shambled off up the street

but not before he has attempted to fire a couple of shots from his pistol. It jams. 'Aw, fuck it,' says Blinkie, throwing it against the wall.

Blinkie is mad. Everyone says so. But he says, 'How else do you expect people like me to act in a mad world like this? Sure they can only kill me and I'll take a few of the bastards with me.' Many friends secretly hope that they will intern Blinkie—before he gets himself killed. An Army 'piss' careers round the corner and roars up to the Lone Moor Road (all but two entrances to Free Derry are barricaded). The Army have to attempt to dismantle an odd one to prove they are still there! Ten soldiers jump out, nervously covering each other, and approach the barricade. A shot rings out and one of them screams. Dropping his rifle he clutches his arm. His mates panic and run for the pig. 'Wait for me, you bastards!' he cries and stumbles after them. The pig exits. Fast.

It is a normal day in Free Derry. February 1972. SEAN O'BARRACADIGH

## MANCHESTER WOMEN'S LIB.

## Where is the Truth in Ireland?

Dear Editors,

'H' says (22.1.72) that 'No one can believe the British Army any more'. Is this to imply that one can believe the other side in the regular confrontations in N. Ireland?

I had long ago concluded that all truth had entirely disappeared from the statements of people concerned. These invariably seem to take a form 'We were 100% good, they were 100% evil' which is so implausible that I assumed Hitler's Big-Lie propaganda technique had taken over completely.

How the man must be laughing in Hell to see his influence still crumbling away society so many years after his death. Todmorden, Lancs. G. BOARDMAN.

to put up a notice to arrange a meeting. Meal times could be used in this way so that we all maximise the use of our time to discuss points which most concern us. The encouragement, help and stimulus which comes from making contacts like this are often the most valuable outcome of attending national conferences.

So let's all feel responsible for the conference and for what follows from it.

TESSA FORRESTER.

102 Newcastle Street, Silverdale, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs.

## Authority in Music

Dear Editors,

An anarchist who is a member of an orchestra does NOT 'obey the orders by way of the authority given by him to the leader (of the orchestra)'. He is an integral part of the orchestra just as much as the so-called 'leader' and the whole unit (as an orchestra) is translating as a synchronous unit, a record (on paper in the form of written music) into a complex (synchronous) pattern of sound, as near as possible to that visualised by the composer in the first place.

## more letters . .

It may be said that anyone who identifies a member of an orchestra as 'obeying the orders of a leader' is not 'thinking anarchistically' because he is 'restricting the freedom of his thoughts' in identifying the 'situation' in this way. This is a very good example of 'being narrow-minded'.

Caerphilly

T. G. TOWNSEND.

## Worked over at Paddington

AFTER the Irish Demo on February 5, my friend and I walked to Trafalgar Square.

We saw a man being thrown in a police van. I was drawing attention to what was happening when there was a swoop and I was grabbed by the pigs. My friend Ian Heath tried to explain what was happening. He also was arrested, both of us were charged with the damage of Government property namely a police van.

We were taken to the notorious Paddington Green Pig Shop where we were brutally assaulted in the fingerprint room. We were told to put our hands above our heads then the assault started. Ian lost part of a tooth and had severely bruised ribs, myself a perforated right ear and scar on left eardrum.

We were refused bail at Paddington Green. We lay there until Monday when we went to court where we were given bail with one surety whom no one approached. We went to Brixton Prison, where we were released at three o'clock Tuesday. The Anti-Internment people were only given the names of those in prison at midnight on Monday so, as one can expect, this is their way of upholding law and justice, in their efforts to stop us protesting.

Don't let the bastards grind us down.

JIM NASH (SCOTS JIM).

DAVE CUNLIFFE.

JACK ROBINSON.

# The Price of Liberty

THE BBC RADIO in one of its recent 'Grass Roots' programmes discussed the successful picketing of Saltley Power Station. It was, like so many BBC discussions, inconclusive and shallow but contained some very interesting comments from the Chief Constable of Birmingham. Firstly, he confessed that their inability to do anything about the victorious picket was because of its size. Secondly, in a rejoinder to a Professor of Law who thought the law on picketing should be clarified, he said he thought they had enough law already to deal with it. The Professor still thought that additional legislation was still necessary.

It is quite probable that, since the successful picketing was one of the factors leading to the solidarity of the miners' strike, many of the electors will insist that their MPs sponsor superfluous legislation to regulate pickets. In the same way a group of MPs has sponsored a Bill called the Night Assemblies Bill. This Bill is not against burglars, witches or boy-scouts as one might deduce from its romantic-sounding title, but directed against large pop festivals. To do this and to avoid, no doubt, the unenviable task of defining pop festivals—and also probably remembering the American 'pop festival' which was held without the banned 'pop'—the vague words 'Night Assemblies' are used. In their anxiety to ban anything giving offence to their constituency the MPs sponsoring the Bill have made it wide enough in scope to ban any assembly of more than 1,000 gathering together in the open air at night for more than three hours.

It is rarely that burglars (unless they are civil servants or landlords or shareholders) gather in such profusion; witches, at least in covens known to us, are scarcely such a wholesale product; boy-scouts, at least in our time were law-abiding and early-retiring enough to be an honourable exception. Political rallies and religious revivals (save the Druids) are rarely held at night. So it must be upon pop festivals that the blow must fall. However, assiduous readers of the popular press could not have failed to notice that other police and legal methods are available to persecute the devotees of pop. Mr. Dooley, as has been pointed out before, said, 'I care not who makes the country's laws as long as I can get out an injunction.' And the injunction is the weapon most frequently used against things which are disliked but not (yet) illegal. Pop festivals have been frequently banned by this means.

Obviously the failure of the aptly-named Mr. Mark Woodnutt to injunct against the Isle of Wight pop festival, of blessed memory, has prompted his

involvement in this legal imbroglio. This, as every anarchist knows, is not the only shot in officialdom's locker. There are, or can be suspected, drugs, there is behaviour - likely - to - cause - a - breach - of - the - peace; there are insulting words, insulting behaviour, conspiracy, obstruction, blasphemy, obscenity, all quite available and quite able to be used against demonstrators, pickets or pop-fans. It is not even absolutely necessary for these charges to be true, policemen can (like witches and revivalists), have reason to believe that something is going to happen.

At Reading pop festival, extensive searches for drugs with infinitesimal results was the method used to keep the festival in order. Weeley (near Colchester) was a peaceful festival with, as they say, good vibrations. However, a fight between Hell's Angels and catering security staff, as to who was to police the festival was overplayed in the press making it look like an all-round brawl. As for the Isle of Wight, FREEDOM covered this extensively at the time.

The Breathing Acts as they are known in 'protest' circles provide sufficient ammunition for the police to put down any manifestation whether it be of protest, religion, witchcraft, boy-scouting or pop-music. Why do they need the Night Assemblies Bill? The simple reason is that it is needed to mollify the voters in the constituency of MPs who are troubled by people who are troubled by pop festivals—or are troubled by newspaper reports of pop festivals.

By simply limiting one's ticket sales to 999 and calling one section of the seating a different 'festival' one could get round this sloppy act as it stands. It is probably unenforceable. Since pop festivals are big business no doubt the promoters will find a way through it.

However, the danger of this Bill, as with any more legislation on the statute book is that once on, it will never get off and will be used for purposes quite different from those envisaged by Mark Woodnutt and his hard-headed colleagues.

The Public Order Act was originally passed to restrict Oswald Mosley's gang from parading in uniform. As such it received the blessing of some of the left, even the anti-fascist wartime 18b interned some communists. The Witchcraft Act has been used against spiritualists, the Vagrancy Act against obscenity and, in the US, the Espionage Act of 1914-18 imprisoned not one spy but was responsible for the imprisonment of the radical, Eugene Debs.

Governments are not to be trusted with legislation.

## Blackburn's Super Pigs

NOW THAT BLACKBURN'S neo-fascist Bishop (Festival of Light, recruitment of child informers, etc.) has finally hung up his clerical drag, the local Religiofuzz Front has lost its most entertaining stand-up comic. Desperately attempting to fill the yawning void, various veteran Super Pigs have initiated a concerted drive against dissident lifestyles.

Growers and smokers of the gentle (harmless but untaxable?) weed are increasingly busted. Asian and Afro-English, plus other minority cultural groups, occasionally pressurised with National Front help.

Among the vast accumulation of specific intimidations, filed under 'police' in my mind, there shines or stinks a recent gem, grotesque enough to stimulate the cynical and jaded reader. Leonard Adrian Garner was once asked to withdraw from a corporation 'beauty queen' competition, despite the fact that he was the only queen entered. Unsuspecting judges, sweating and panting amid the collective wank, were expected to place him high in their cattle-market calculations.

Perhaps because he's prettier than they, or because his new restaurant serves 'good food' (by flesh-eater standards), cops Tattersall and Southern (star turns in the *Golden Convolutus* bust) have spent many a damp evening watching 'from the other side of the road'. This long series of vigils proved abortive and when they opposed Garner's drink licence, their only objection was that he was 'a strange young man' who had 'been seen parading through town arm-in-arm with a homosexual'. Furthermore, 'He was dressed in female clothing'.

The guy got his drink licence but Southern had the last word. 'We are not concerned about what happens in London but we are concerned about Blackburn.' A few months ago, I passed six gay people wearing beards and Women's Lib. badges. Your move, Super Pigs.

## PRESS FUND

### Contributions

February 10-16 inc.

Kingston, Surrey: A.S. 20p; Courplain, Hants.: R.P. £2; Dicot: T.W.B. 50p; London, W.12: P.L. 80p; London, N.: B.W.R. £1; Corby: T.P. £3; California: Initiative of A. Peruginio of Los Gatos £38.46; Glasgow: A.J. 12½p; Wolverhampton: J.L. 40p; J.K.W. 10p; Montreal: J.D. 35p; Auckland, NZ: W.O.D. £3.30; Brooklyn, NY: D.F. £1; London, W.6: J.R.B. 45p; Washington, USA: J.W.C. £1.92; Blackpool: C.Q. £1.03.

Total: £56.63½  
Sales (Voline): £4.00

TOTAL: £60.63½

We apologize to readers who were puzzled at the apparently large loss of income shown in the last two financial statements. This was due to renewals for 1972 which had been received in December 1971 being left out of the calculations January 27-February 9. The corrected figures are:

(1) INCOME FROM POSTAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND SALES  
(Target for 1972 £4,500)

Amount received to February 16 £1,020.72½

(2) PRESS FUND CONTRIBUTIONS  
(Target for 1972 £1,500)

Contributions received

February 10-16 inc. £60.63½

Previously acknowledged £289.67

TOTAL TO DATE £350.30½



THE TRIAL of Pietro Valpreda has been set for February 23 in the Great Hall of the Palace of Justice in Rome. But such is justice in Italy that it has taken over two years for this trial to be scheduled. Even at this late date, although we shall know for certain by the time this is printed, there is still the possibility that the authorities will postpone the trial.

Pietro Valpreda, along with Roberto Gargamelli, Emilio Borghese and Mario Merlino, is accused of taking part in the bombings of December 12, 1969. The most devastating of these explosions took place in the Banca Nazionale dell'Agricoltura in Milan. Sixteen people were killed and over ninety injured. Other explosions occurred at the same time in other Italian cities.

The explosions were followed by widespread arrests of people of left-wing sympathies, with a few right-wingers thrown in. In Milan alone 400 people were detained by the police for questioning. Dr. Calabrese, Head of Police, immediately announced that the anarchists were responsible for the bombings. Those in authority were openly accusing the 'anarchists and all these workers' control people'.

#### GIUSEPPE PINELLI

Shortly after the Milan explosion, comrades Giuseppe Pinelli and Sergio Arduo, both members of the 'Circolo di via Scaldasole' were arrested. The police took Arduo to the Central Police Station, but not Pinelli. He followed later on his own motor-bike as a comradely gesture. He was then detained there for three days when he should have been released after 48 hours in the absence of an official arrest by a judge.

Late on December 15, the police said that Pinelli jumped from a fourth floor window to his death in the courtyard below. They gave two conflicting versions as to how this happened. The ultimate position of Pinelli's dead body, coupled with the fact that he did not scream or cry out suggests that he was already unconscious when his body was thrown out of the window by the police. Other conflicting statements from police chiefs about his innocence and guilt also throw suspicion on their suicide story.

The evidence against Valpreda is really one of guilt by association, in being a member of the 22nd March Group. On December 12, he was suffering from 'flu and was staying with relations. The State's main witness, Cornelio Rolandi, a taxi driver, says that he picked up Valpreda near the bank, carrying a bag. The trip lasted for only an incredible 135 metres. Valpreda is supposed to have got out at this point, returning shortly without the bag to continue his

## Free Valpreda!

journey in the taxi. This again was only for a very short distance and he then paid off the driver and continued on foot. However, when Rolandi first described his passenger, the description in no way fitted Valpreda and it was only after he was shown a photograph by the police that he was able to identify Valpreda as his passenger. Rolandi has since died of bronchial pneumonia at the age of 49 years. Before he did so, he conveniently left a sworn affidavit for the police.

#### WITNESSES KILLED

There have also been others connected with this case who have died in suspicious circumstances. Five anarchists, two of whom were to appear as defence witnesses, were killed in a road accident brought about by a lorry that suddenly braked directly in front of them. Another defence witness, Angelo Fascetti, lost his memory after a motor-cycle accident.

#### 'STRATEGY OF TENSIONS'

What has never been satisfactorily explained by the prosecution is how this small 22nd March Group managed to acquire the money and resources needed to organise these well co-ordinated bomb explosions. In fact they seem to be the work of the fascists, who have strong links with the police and have carried out a 'strategy of tensions' in order to discredit the left in general and the anarchists in particular. These bomb outrages were a deliberate attempt to bring about a situation where a coup d'etat could be attempted along the lines of that of the Greek Colonels. Evidence of this was revealed by the *Observer*, which implicated a former minister and known fascists.

It must be remembered that during this time Italy was experiencing widespread industrial disputes. These held a revolutionary potential and the situation looked very dangerous for the big monopoly capitalist. Economic and social demands were proving harder to absorb and contain. The earlier bombing at the Milan Fair in April, where no one was killed, had not had the desired result. The December killings achieved this, in that because it discredited the left, it provided the excuse needed to

round up and imprison hundreds of militants and gave the Italian people a national identity and unity in the mourning of those killed.

One of those accused, Mario Merlino, is a known fascist. Valpreda genuinely thought that Merlino had renounced those beliefs and had become an anarchist. He helped form the 22nd March Group after being identified as a fascist by the 'Bakunin Circle'. Merlino now stands trial with the members of the 22nd March Group and as such is considered expendable. He was not informed of the impending explosions by those who carried out these outrages.

If the trial starts on February 23, our comrades will be judged by the well-tried formula of guilt by association. Evidence and facts play no part in the showcase political trials put on by the State. We should not expect 'justice' for in reality it is the State and its repressive institutions that are really on trial. In such cases it is support from those on the outside that can decide the fate of those held by the State. It is the clamour and indignation of people that forces the unwilling authorities to give up their victims. Already too many of our Italian comrades have been killed. We must not allow any more to follow them.

P.T.  
P.S.: 300 anarchists—including a contingent of Italians—marched in protest from Hyde Park to the Italian Embassy in Mayfair last Sunday. The march was organised by ORA.

## The Struggle at Alfa Romeo

STRIKES, PARADES in the factory and violent picketing continue without any sign of respite at Alfa Romeo in Milan where the level of the workers' struggle has long since passed that of purely trade union demands. *Il Manifesto* reported in its edition of January 21 that the pickets had been reinforced outside the factory gates.

The braziers have reappeared outside the factory gates. At Portello, the entrances are guarded by the workers. The Factory Committee had decided that there should be another token strike of three hours duration. To maximise the effect, these strikes were staggered; different groups of workers coming out at different times.

At Aresa, the blockade of the factory gates continues. No finished car has come out of the factory despite the attempts and provocations of the management. On the night of January 19, a group of individuals with fascist medals and wearing parachutists' helmets appeared in front of the picket lines. They did not pretend that they were anything but fascists because 'we come from Reggio Calabria and we are all fascists there'. They entered the factory to bring out the transporters loaded with cars. The workers, however, were not in the least scared by this and succeeded in dispersing them.

The following day, the workers noticed

a large number of these transporters ready for leaving and fearing a repetition of what had happened in the struggle of 1970, when the police had unexpectedly charged during the night, the pickets were reinforced.

On the morning of the 20th, the gates of Aresa were dotted with braziers around which robust groups of workers were trying to keep out the cold. Yet another day was thus added to the list of those which mean a loss for the capitalists. The growing intensity of the struggle is shown by the fact that 50,000 metal workers from the Sempione area have joined the strike of their comrades at Portello and Aresa.

*Le Combat Syndicaliste*.  
Trans. T.L.

## Spanish Comrade on Trial

WE HAVE been informed, as a matter of urgency, that Julio Millan will be tried on the 11th of the present month (February) in Madrid, by a military tribunal, on the usual charge of 'Banditry and Terrorism'.

Millan, libertarian militant, has been four years in preventive detention. His demands to be tried or freed have gone unheeded. The accusations which are now being made are the result of a police manoeuvre. There does not exist, therefore, any truly justified charge, for the intention is to hound a man for the simple reason of considering him an enemy of the Franco dictatorship.

This trial has been pending since September 1971, but the so-called Franco authorities have used the tactic of 'remand' in order to hide the date and to create confusion and so avoid any protests.

Nevertheless, the situation of Julio Millan is internationally known and lawyers of different countries have been standing by to assist at the trial as observers.

From experience we know what are the results of military trials under the aegis of the Franco regime!

Julio Millan must be saved from the dirty trick that the fascists are using to get rid of their enemies and adversaries.

Yesterday it was Burgos! Today Madrid! Tomorrow . . . !

COMMITTEE FOR PRISONERS, CNT-FIIL.

Later: We believe the trial has already taken place and Julio Millan has received a sentence of twenty-three years.

#### BOOK OF THE WEEK

**Non-Violent Direct Action—American Cases: Social-Psychological Analyses.** Edited by A. Paul Hare and Herbert H. Blumberg. 575 pp. Including articles by Joan Bondwait, Jim Peck, George Lakey, Martin Oppenheimer, James Farmer, Albert Bigelow, Richard Gregg and others

ONLY £1.00 (24p post & pack.)

## Hull, Hell and South Africa

HULL UNIVERSITY has just come to the end of a thirteen-day student occupation of the Administration Building (January 26-February 7).

A request had been made last autumn by the Students' Union, for the University to divest its shares in Reckitt and Colman Limited, because of the company's interests in South Africa. The request was answered at the beginning of this term by a curt letter from the Vice-Chancellor saying that, 'The Opinion of Counsel (also) makes it absolutely clear that the University in regard to its share holdings must ignore any representations from members of the University—whether they be staff or students—or from outside sources, made on moral or other grounds, which suggest that a particular shareholding should be disposed of'. This illustrates the high-handed manner in which the University is ruled. The Vice-Chancellor also refused an invitation to explain his position at a Union Meeting on January 26, so it was decided that the Union Meeting should reconvene in the Administration Building to make it easier for the V-C to address us. The V-C still refused and a sit-in began.

The main aim of the sit-in was to

get the University to dispose of its shareholdings in South Africa, and the campaign was fought under the banner of the Anti-Apartheid Society. Nevertheless underlying this campaign was the realisation that students and even the lecturing staff have very little, if any, say in running the University.

The sit-in itself was an exhilarating experience. The 'Admin. Block', which is usually a mortuary of bureaucrats, where students tip-toe once or twice in their University career, was transformed into a lively forum of discussion, culture, politics and life! Talks were given on South Africa, Ireland, and radical education. Miners' delegations made visits and brief speeches—students helped to picket the nearby power station. Michael Foot gave a two-hour session of questions and answers. We had an excellent performance from a member of the street theatre. Several members of staff held lectures and tutorials in the Admin. Block. Sit-in policy was decided at General Meetings held twice daily, the chairman of which was shuffled from day to day. Committees were set up to deal with catering, cleaning, security and publicity. To a large extent there was voluntary co-operation, but occa-

sionally people were dragooned to do tasks, and there was a tendency for forceful characters to impose their will on the sit-in.

Most valuable of all was the discussion, provoked by the sit-in, both inside and outside the building, on the nature of apartheid, the University and society at large. Such was the interest aroused by the sit-in, that on Monday, January 31, there was a monster Union Meeting of about 2,500 people, probably the biggest ever held in the University. It is significant that there was difficulty in finding room for so many people. The University does not cater for mass participation. The Union Meeting endorsed the sit-in overwhelmingly, but the V-C still refused to discuss Reckitt and Colman shares. People were encouraged to believe that nothing could be done on this issue. Furthermore there were rumours of examination delay and closure of the University for three weeks. And there were too few people committed to the policy of actively sitting-in and boycotting normal lectures.

Thus the situation became branded as a deadlock and on Monday, February 7, another Union Meeting of 2,000 students voted against the continuation of the sit-in. Despite a rousing speech in the Administration Block to continue sitting-in, regardless of the Union Meeting, the sit-in was ended that evening.

The person who advocated staying on had been a student at Hull, earmarked for post-graduate research. He wrote a detailed pamphlet exposing the farce of examinations, and backed up his ideals by destroying his Finals exam. papers in 1968. Until this calibre of commitment becomes widespread, I see no hope for real progress. However, while the sit-in lasted, the authorities were considerably incommoded, and one may hope there was a general widening of horizons and aspirations.

HULL CORRESPONDENT.

#### MEETING OF FREEDOM READERS AND ANARCHIST GROUPS

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, at 2 p.m.

TOYNBEE HALL, 28 Commercial Street, E.1 (nearest tube Aldgate East)

The purpose of the meeting is to see whether anarchist ideas and activity can be made more effective in the present situation.

## Books

Any book not in stock, but in print can be promptly supplied. Please add postage & cash with order helps.

- The General Strike.** Facsimile reprod. of 'The British Worker' (TUC) and 'The British Gazette' (HMSO) £2.50 (20p)  
**Anarchist Thought in India** Adi H. Doctor £2.00 (7½p)  
**The Ego and His own** Max Stirner £3.50 (20p)  
**Anarchism** Paul Eltzbacher £3.50 (20p)  
**The Italian State Massacre** Libertarian Books £0.20 (2½p)  
**Character Analysis** Wilhelm Reich £2.00 (20p)  
**The Mass Psychology of Fascism** Wilhelm Reich £2.00 (20p)  
**Catalogue of Little Press Books in Print in the UK 1970** (publ. Assoc. of Little Presses) £0.40 (2½p)  
**In Russian and French Prisons** Peter Kropotkin £2.00 (15p)  
**Journey Through Utopia** Marie Louise Berneri £2.00 (15p)  
**What Is To Be Done?** N. G. Chernyshevsky £0.85 (10p)  
**Paths in Utopia** Martin Buber £1.05 (10p)  
**Listen Little Man** Wilhelm Reich £1.05 (7½p)  
**Celebration of Awareness** Ivan D. Illych £0.95 (7½p)  
**Deschooling Society** Ivan D. Illych £1.95 (7½p)  
**Life without Revolution** Henry D. Thoreau £0.10 (2½p)  
**Anarchism** Daniel Guerin £2.70 (20p)

Please send foolscap (9" x 4") S.A.E. if you would like to receive regular booklists.

## Freedom Press

publish  
FREEDOM weekly  
and distribute  
ANARCHY monthly

84b Whitechapel High Street  
London E1 01-247 9249  
Entrance Angel Alley,  
Whitechapel Art Gallery exit,  
Aldgate East Underground Stn.  
SPECIMEN COPIES ON  
REQUEST

#### Bookshop

Open Afternoons  
Tuesday to Friday  
2 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Open Evenings  
Thursday close at 8.30 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES, 1972

FREEDOM		
Inland, and Surface Mail abroad		
for one year	£3.00 (\$7.50)	
six months	£1.50 (\$3.75)	
three months	£0.80 (\$2.00)	
Airmail		
Europe & Middle East	1 year £4.00	
The Americas	6 months £2.00	
	1 year \$12.50	
	6 months \$6.25	
India, Africa, &c.	1 year £4.50	
	6 months £2.25	
Australasia & Far East	1 year £5.00	
	6 months £2.50	
ANARCHY		
Inland, and Surface Mail abroad		
12 issues	£2.25 (\$6.00)	
6 issues	£1.13 (\$3.00)	
Airmail		
USA & Canada	12 issues \$11.00	
	6 issues \$6.00	
Australasia & Far East	12 issues £4.50	
	6 issues £2.25	



# LETTERS

## No Need for Gloom

Dear Comrades,

One gains a very sad impression of the anarchist movement from issue No. 7, vol. 33 of *FREEDOM*. The very pointed article by J.A., 'The Shape of Things to Come' really deserved front page printing, since it so clearly pointed out our failure in comparison with the Marxist sections of the labour movement. And yet again we read Alexander Berkman's sad comment in the obituary for Joseph Spivak: 'The old guard is passing away, and there are almost none of the younger generation to take its place, or at least to do the work that must be done if the world is ever to see a better day.' We continually chastise each other for failures to do this and that, on Ireland, for Prescott and the Angry Eight, for Valpreda. Placed alongside the gloomy predictions of the ecologists, reports of the gathering world economic crisis, and the urgency of change now as States become minute by minute more powerful and more daring in their attacks on humanity, and we have a recipe for the most terrible gloom.

But there is a positive side. There is a growing search in the revolutionary movement for a methodology, a theory and a system of practices, which avoid the blind alley of traditional party-building methods and mass movement politics. There are the Angry Brigades, whoever they are, the Baader-Meinhof group in Germany, the Yippies in the USA; there are the thousands of seekers after an alternative society among the communards; there are the many thousands who in their jobs and their daily lives have simply rebelled, whatever the cost, against bosses, police, the State, big business, educational authority.

As anarchists we are failing these people, and above all failing ourselves. But let us not make this into a golden opportunity for masochistic self-flagellation. When you are in a bad patch it is not a bad idea to take time off from frenetic activity and simply sit back and think. There is in the world the basis

for a successful and far-reaching expansion of anarchist thought and practice into society; that none can deny. But it is no use jumping in with both feet and saying 'Let's have a demo!' or 'Let's throw a bomb!' or 'Let's get stoned!' or 'Let's go and live on a mountain top!' The time is ripe to think, to devise and test out theories, to develop a set of anarchist practices, to create a movement that really is a movement, going somewhere.

We are a pretty diverse lot, and a good thing too. There are Stirnerites, syndicalists, Kropotkinites, vegetarians, Christian anarchists, anarchist-pacifists, anarchist-Marxists, anarchist-nudists, Ludites, and Sodyouites. We all have a role to play, roles which will inevitably go along their separate paths. But there are problems which we all have in common, and I chuck these out for discussion without any comment:—

1. How do we set about gathering together a nucleus of like-minded people with a view to spreading anarchist ideas?
2. How do we get our message across to the general public, when we have decided what that message is?
3. When the State clamps down on us and anyone who rebels, how do we help each other and those who depend on us?
4. How do we set about turning ourselves from teachers, students, printers, housewives, factory workers, miners, postmen, etc., impressed by anarchist ideas, into revolutionaries?

There is no need, I don't think, for an orgy of conferences; in the nature of things we will get together and the answers will emerge, probably several different answers to each question. What matters is that there will be answers, and activity based on them. I believe the situation within our lifetime is urgent, if not desperate, and it requires an adequate response, but let us not go into a state of breast-beating despair.

Your very own anarchist-existentialist-communist-latter-day-Luddite and fraternally loving,

Wolverhampton MARTIN BASHFORTH.

## The Miners' Strike

Continued from page 1

of stopping safety work in the pits, nor did they agree to mass picketing of the sort that took place in Saltley or Long Gannet, but the rank and file stopped the safety men and they didn't give a damn if all the pits fell in. The pits don't belong to the miners. Indeed, to most of them they are places of daily torture so if they fell in few miners were going to worry.


### A CONTRAST

It was quite different when the postmen went on strike a short time ago. The strike wasn't solid. The telephonists worked in their thousands and the Post Office engineers maintained all the vital machinery of the telecommunications business. In addition, although they gave money, the rest of the trade union movement gave no practical support at all, and even allowed mail to be delivered by trade union drivers. Pickets were hardly used at all and the scabs were allowed

to do their dirty work unhindered. After seven weeks the strike was called off and nothing at all was gained by the postmen. It will never be like that again after the example of the miners.

The miners' fight has not only shattered Government complacency, it has caused a questioning in the minds of every worker who is compelled to spend his life in some useless toil. The miners have said, in effect, if you want coal why don't you dig it! It will be echoed throughout industry. Let all share the work that is necessary and let all share in the benefits. Government has had a shock and so have all those learned socialists who think that they have only to change the Government and the workers will carry on working just like before. They won't. They will want to be free men deciding themselves how to spend their lives and no Government will introduce that kind of society. We must do it ourselves.

EDITORS.



**Secretary:**  
Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road,  
Rotton Park, Birmingham 16

**ANARCHIST  
FEDERATION  
of BRITAIN**

### AFBIB—To all Groups.

The next AFBIB will be produced in Sheffield at 4 Havelock Square, Sheffield, 10. Send material to Secretary, Peter Le Mare. Also needs offers of help from Groups to bring out further issues.

The Contact Column in 'Freedom' is also available for urgent information.

Groups should send latest addresses to Birmingham. New inquirers should write direct to them or to the AFB information office in Birmingham.

### AFB REGIONAL GROUPS

There are now anarchist groups in almost every part of the country. To find your nearest group write to:

N.E. England: Mick Renwick, 34 Durham Road, Gateshead, Co. Durham.  
Essex & E. Herts.: P. Newell, 'Aegean', 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.  
Manchester: Mat Cunningham, 9 Briar Hill Avenue, Little Hulton, Worsley, Lancs.  
Scotland: Secretary, Mike Malet, 1 Lynnewood Place, Maryfield, Dundee.  
Wales: c/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: c/o P. L. Mare.

## International Socialism

Dear Comrades,

On January 1 *FREEDOM* printed two articles attacking International Socialism; on January 22 *FREEDOM* printed a short letter in reply from Duncan Hallas, editor of *International Socialism*. The main thing about this letter was its courteous tone—something we have become unaccustomed to after a hundred years of Marxist abuse. Unfortunately this welcome feature was rather spoiled by the other thing about the letter—what it actually said and failed to say.

Thus in reply to P.E.N.'s attack, Hallas denied that IS is a 'reformist organisation' and insisted that it is a 'revolutionary organisation', despite the evidence frequently produced in the publications of other Marxist organisations (such as the Socialist Labour League and the International Marxist Group) that it is nothing of the kind, and despite the fact—to take just one example—that IS consistently advocates voting Labour in general elections.

As for my attack, Hallas made no attempt to reply to the criticism of Chris Harman's review of Maurice

Brinton's *The Bolsheviks and Workers' Control* and Paul Avrich's *Kronstadt 1921* in *International Socialism* 49. Instead he simply remarked:

On the question of Kronstadt I would like to draw the attention of your readers to Peter Sedgwick's critical introduction to Serge's 'Year One of the Russian Revolution' which appears in *International Socialism* 50'. It seems to me a balanced and realistic assessment.

Sedgwick's article is indeed as excellent as one would expect. But, apart from a single brief reference, it says nothing about the Kronstadt rising of 1921—which is not surprising, since Serge's book ends at January 1919. More important, Sedgwick's account of what went wrong with the Russian Revolution, while hostile to Brinton, is very different from Harman's and is neither dishonest nor disingenuous. So what is Hallas trying to say? And what has Harman to say, if anything?

Fraternally,

N.W.

## This Week in Ireland

WE CANNOT ESCAPE the surety that the speed in which the Widgery Enquiry was set up was largely to make the matter *sub judice* so that the media could not publish the reports about the Derry massacre which indeed the *Sunday Times* and the *Observer* had prepared. Contempt of Court is frightening to newspapers.

One cannot really be surprised at the Derry people refusing to co-operate with Lord Widgery, a single English judge with a 'distinguished military career', especially as we have already had the Compton Enquiry farce. However it is presumed that the various journalists will give evidence including the Italian Senator Grimaldi who, when sheltering indoors, heard the order 'Get that chap'. He has a camera and was shot at through the window five times. He has filed a prosecution against the Army.

The chief stumbling block of the Widgery Report is that it is so limited in time and space. There is no chance of bringing to justice those senior officers who planned the murders as long as the Thursday before the march, Tuzo, Ford, Wilfield and Co., who should be tried by the same court as tried the Nazis at Nuremberg. The actual men who did the shooting are conditioned like Pavlov's dogs to do exactly as they are told without thought or question. They have been reduced to automatons, something sub-human.

All the same, we have at least two paratrooper deserters and a clutter of soldiers from other regiments down here now. Seventy British people from Dublin and district handed in their British

passports and asked for naturalisation. I do not know the number for the rest of Ireland but it is pretty high.

Gandhi once said that the British would die 'of our wounds'. I am beginning to wonder if Heath will not die of the multiplicity of wounds he is inflicting all over the world, not least in England on the miners.

We await the much talked-of 'initiative' from Westminster. One has the hopeless feeling that, whatever it is, it won't please either side, and the (to me) inevitable civil war will follow. The extremists on both sides want nothing better though no one will benefit from it. Meanwhile explosions and murders and death go on all the time. I think all either Westminster or Dublin really care about is the EEC and the nice fat £22,000 salaries that some of them will be getting in Brussels.

I've just read how six more lovely solid Regency houses just up this road are to go for offices. This is illegal as it is against the law to pull down houses that are fit for human habitation, but what care Fianna Fail? I am sick of going to see and writing to my TDs. They promise but do not perform. Is the whole world MAD? Remember whom the gods would destroy they first drive mad. They have driven all Ireland mad.

H.

Are you a university student?  
Get your professor to recommend for the university library a set of

**BOUND VOLUMES  
ANARCHY Vols. 1-10  
(Nos. 1-118)  
1961-1970 complete  
Price £40.00 per set  
(p. & p. £1)**

very real drift towards it under cover of concern for the mentally ill. If ever I become psychotic, as indeed any of us may, I hope that I do not fall into the hands of the power-seeking gurus who are posing as 'libertarians' and who neglect the elementary needs of their patients abominably.

Fraternally,

TONY GIBSON.

## Contact

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

Help Fold and Despatch 'Freedom', Thursdays from 2 p.m.

**Oxford Anarchists.** Nicolas Walter was unable to speak on February 18 because of illness. Meeting will be arranged later.

**Edinburgh Group.** New Secretary is Chris Kerr, 9 Mayfield Terrace, Edinburgh. 9. Tel. 667 2939.

**'Black & Red Outlook' No. 5** now out. Published by the Anarchist Syndicalist Alliance. Sub for 10 issues £1.00. Bulk rates 40p for 10 copies plus postage. Order from Bob Lees, 6 Coniston Avenue, Oldham, Lancs.

**Students at Sussex University** are organising an exhibition on environmental planning called 'People & Planning', between March 6-11. They would be grateful for ideas and support from anyone interested, especially ideas on films to show, documents to obtain, cases to follow up, speakers to invite. All communications please to Chris Foulkes, Park Village, University of Sussex, Brighton.

**'Glob'**—Anarchist humorous magazine. Copies 3p inc. p. & p. From Glob, 12 Beatrice Road, N.4.

**Anarchist Meetings.** Wednesdays 7.30 p.m. 271 Commercial Road, E.1 (1st floor).

**De-schooling**—any information or contributions welcome. Contact us for details: c/o Flat 1, 9 Birchington Road, N.8.

**London Anarchists** meet socially at 'The Marquis of Granby', Cambridge Circus, Charing Cross Road, Sundays from 7.30 p.m. onwards.

**The Wrekin Anarchists.** Discussion Meetings first and third Tuesdays of the month. On other Tuesdays bring own bottle. At 13 Albert Road, Wellington, Salop. Phone: Wellington 54728.

**'Peace News'**—the other anarchist weekly—every Friday 7p from your newsagent or by subscription. FREE with trial sub. of 7 issues for 50p two sample copies which include Illich on Deschooling and Communes Special. 'Peace News' for the theory and practice of nonviolent anarchism, 5 Caledonian Road, London, N.1.

**Free Valpreda Campaign** needs help, not just by way of support, but also involvement in planning and organising. Please contact c/o N. & E. London Group ORA.

**Libertarian Book Club.** Spring Lectures Series. Thursday evenings, 7 p.m., 369 Eighth Avenue, New York City. February 24, Abe Bluestein: The Spanish Civil War and the Fight for Freedom. March 9, Paul Avrich: The Unknown Revolution. March 23, Olga Lang: Chinese Anarchism. April 13, Irving Levitas: G. B. Shaw and the Anarchists. April 27, Sam Dolgoff: Bakunin and Nechaev. May 11, Murray Bookchin: Marxism and Anarchism.

**Croydon Group** meets first Tuesday every month at Jacquetta Benjamin's, Top Flat, 4 Warrimoor Road, S. Norwood, S.E.25. Phone Pete Roberts 01-684 5723 or write or phone Bernard R. Miles, 38 Farm Fields, Sanderstead, S. Croydon, Surrey (01-657 4860) or contact Jerry Peck, 45 Sylvan Road, Upper Norwood.

**Commune, Ramsgate,** welcomes visits from potential members (especially with children). Crafts and education bias. Write to P. Ford, 22 Royal Road, Ramsgate, Kent.

**Liverpool Anarchist** discussions normally held first Sunday in month. Write to 39 Lilley Road, Liverpool, 7, for venue, or ring 263 4890. John Cowan.

**Can any comrades** help us out with copies of the following issues of the First Series 'Anarchy' for binding sets: Nos. 2 (Workers' Control); 5 (Spain); 28 (Future of Anarchism); 32 (Crime); and 37 (Why I won't vote). We will pay 25p each if in good condition. Contact Freedom Press

**Help! Stoke Newington 8 Fund.** Comrades now on remand in Brixton and Holloway need financial aid urgently for meals, fruit, papers, books (which must be new) and cigarettes. Please send donations to the Stoke Newington 8 Fund, c/o Compendium Books, 240 Camden High Street, London, N.W.1, a.s.a.p.

Published by Freedom Press, London, E.1  
Printed by Express Printers, London, E.1

## Mental Health Service

Dear Comrades,

In the issue of *FREEDOM* 5.2.72, there is a letter from John Tibbitts. He writes: 'The State Mental Health Services mostly provides shock treatments, drugs and conditioning therapy. There are few places where really personal, humane and freedom-centred help is offered in genuine therapeutic communities. ... If I understand his implication correctly, he is suggesting that shock treatments, drugs and conditioning therapy, are neither personal, humane nor freedom-centred. This suggestion is foolish. It echoes the empty propaganda of charlatans like Ronald Hubbard and Ronald Laing. It echoes the pathetic slogan of someone called Keith Venables who produces a sad little broadsheet from LSE—'Behaviour Therapy is an act of violence'.

Before we swallow slogans as though they were established truth, let us take a calm look at the evidence. I have worked as a clinical psychologist; I have done my best to use behaviour therapy where appropriate. I have seen the beneficial effects of both shock therapy and drug treatments. To condemn these three

types of therapy is just sheer ignorant superstition. That all these therapies can be used foolishly I have not the slightest doubt, but the therapies themselves are as ethically neutral as is surgery or bone-setting. I have seen the conduct of various types of psychotherapy, psychoanalysis, psychodrama, orgone therapy, group therapy, etc., and I know that these too can be used very foolishly. In practice, I have found that many real authoritarians tend to favour the latter type of therapy since it tends to give them the power of the priest over their patients, and this flatters their longing for power. The specialist who merely prescribes drugs or ECT or behaviour therapy is more likely to be regarded as a mere technician who merits thanks for his skill but does not assume the mantle of the witch doctor.

I do not wish to denigrate the people at the Paddington Day Hospital since I know little about them. My concern is merely that people should be influenced by reason and not by superstition. As an anarchist and an atheist I loathe humbug and obscurantism, and there is a