

## AMERICANS VOTE FOR PEACE

IT IS RUMOURED that Dr. Kissinger when recently reporting the setback due to President Thieu's hesitancy and North Vietnam's was consoled by President Nixon with the words 'Never mind about the peace, let's get on with the election'. Due to circumstances almost entirely beyond our control we shall not know how these inevitable peace negotiations have developed or how the election (a little less inevitable) has resulted before we go to press.

In any case it does not really matter how President Thieu objects, he is indeed, financially and materially, a puppet of the Americans and whatever they decide he must accept. Nevertheless there is a limit to what voters will swallow and possibly Nixon will feel that a decision on how Thieu will go would be better postponed till after the election. Even if George McGovern is elected, he will not go back on the peace negotiations, despite their Nixon origin, and despite his claim that they come too late. At the lowest level of *realpolitik*, President Thieu might providentially be assassinated, a fate which befell one of his predecessors, the luckless Diem.

One of the complaints of George McGovern could be that Richard Nixon has stolen his platform which was based on peace in Vietnam, he should have known that 'tricky Dicky' Nixon had always got this card up his sleeve—now, like Wilson on the Common Market, McGovern can only grizzle about the terms.

American politics are to the British highly mysterious, we can never establish the differences between

Democrat and Republican (perhaps the approximation of Conservatives to Labour Party MPs is a similar case). Furthermore it is inconceivable that Nixon should have a Congress opposed (politically that is) to his standpoint, and furthermore, the Senate is a complete mystery. How the Americans vote, or get their candidates, is just as much a mystery to us as it is, no doubt, to them.

There has been a revival of anarchist thought in the USA, as throughout the world, and it no longer falls upon us alone to expound the anarchist case in the USA. At one time our American cousins had frequently to be beseeched by us not to fall into the trap of voting for the lesser evil. Many fell by the wayside in, for example, the Goldwater-Johnson battle, when Goldwater was held up as the incarnation of absolute Fascism compared to Lyndon Baines Johnson. Now every progressive child is taught to hiss at the name of LBJ—and whatever happened to Goldwater? In American politics, and you won't believe this, you have to register before you can become a voter for a particular party, and some life-long anarchists registered in order to keep Goldwater out—it worked. But now American anarchism has found its own voices so we have no longer to fulfil the Cassandra bit.

Nevertheless echoes of long-ago battles recur in the pages of the *War Resisters' League News* (Journal of the American War Resisters' International) for September-October 1972, when Connie Bleakley and

David McReynolds debate the cons and pros (respectively) of voting, in McReynolds' case, for McGovern. McReynolds admits he chose the lesser evil of LBJ and got corruption plus escalation. In 1968 he thought there was nothing to choose from between Humphrey and Nixon and so didn't vote. 'But,' says McReynolds, 'the differences are great enough to make a vote urgent. Register now, so you can vote in November.'

David McReynolds' major concern, as it must be, is for peace in Vietnam, and he makes an overstrained analogy that 'the person who plants the wheat and the person who harvests it are both essential to the baking of bread'. He takes the electing and working for McGovern as the harvesting of the seeds planted by the anti-war movement. But does he really believe that this harvest will become bread? Does not the action of the heavy harvester, and the toxic chemicals, distort its growth and when it reaches the consumer will it not be adulterated, bleached and packaged to the point where it is no longer bread—merely the rubbish the majority of us eat?

Apart from the fact that Nixon has stolen the only possible reason for voting for McGovern, McGovern, as is the way with all candidates, has taken steps which have removed him far from the blue-eyed boy of McReynolds' dreams. McReynolds says McGovern is no Jesus Christ... if he makes too many compromises then, on election day, there will be no choice for us, and we can stay home. But if, after all the com-

promises are made, there still remains a difference, we should go to the polls. We should be cautious of our own purity. No matter how absolute our values, we can at best only approximate them in application.

The essential nature of political power is that one becomes, not merely 'not a Jesus Christ', but definitely a Judas. McGovern has moderated his aims on 'bussing' for example; accepted Mayor Daley of Chicago on his platform; turned away his first vice-presidential choice, Eagleton, on the shoddy grounds of a past history of mental illness; accepted as vice-president a close friend of the Kennedy clan and has had on his platform the tarnished Edward Kennedy working his passage for the 1976 Democratic ticket. (The *Guardian* reports a Kennedy fan meeting McGovern and Kennedy and saying 'Oh, Senator Kennedy, I can hardly wait till 1976', and then she saw McGovern and apologised, 'I am sorry Senator McGovern but that's how we feel in Pittsburgh.') The courting of such discredited politicians and programmes is one of the roads to political power. Who knows what other promises have been made?

The young, black and poor who

backed McGovern were shunted into sidings once the campaign train was on its way. For example, in Wisconsin, instructions to youthful canvassers from the party's headquarters advise 'Guys who canvass should try to look half-way decent. Every freak must have at least a pair of slacks and shirt. Similar for chicks. We have to play the game to at least some extent to win, and an ill-dressed freak might arouse the straighter qualities of some residents.' The crime of this memorandum is not only its slaughter of English, but its patronizing attempt to use the language of the young, the black, the poor.

If this were a normal election year—and what election year is?—great harvest would be made out of the undoubtedly great scandals of the Watergate bugging and the acceptance of election funds by the Republicans. Such is the exposure of corruption in American politics—how different, as Mr. Poulson could tell you, from the unexposed British! 'Capers' like this are common in American politics. Mr. Nixon, for example, was involved in one in the 1952 campaign, when \$18,000 found its way into the Republican political funds. Mr. Nixon did what he does

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## Election—Mania

FOR MOST of us the outcome of a parliamentary election is perhaps the least important event in our daily lives. It is indeed a fair bet that the vast majority of ordinary folk in Rochdale will this weekend be more excited to know how they did on the pools, at some race meeting, at the Bingo or some such function, than they ever could be in last Thursday's by-election.

Jim Merrick, the anti-immigration candidate, caught the mood when next to nobody turned up for one of his meetings, while over the road scores queued to go to the Bingo. This made Merrick moan that it's a poor do when people are interested more in Bingo than they are in what's happening to their

country.

It all reminds me of years ago watching a religious procession in Spain, shuffling past a gambling saloon, the gamblers scarcely afforded their tormentors a stray glance. God save us from all that is pompous in public life, and long live public apathy if it means that people prefer Bingo to men like Merrick or the communist quacks.

In this election even the left-wing intellectuals around *RAP* (Rochdale Alternative Paper)\* have been like kids with a new toy. All the papers have been full of election fever, and *RAP* brought out a special issue which backed the Labour candidate. Fortunately people, when they do bother to read papers, start at the back page and often give the politics a miss, and the percentage poll at Rochdale was the lowest recorded for over 14 years despite the fine weather on polling day. The number who vote in elections in Rochdale, in common with the trend in the rest of the country, has steadily declined in the last 20 years.

The fact that about a third of the Rochdale electorate hadn't even bothered to put themselves on the new register of electors by last month, is some indication of the attitude of many to party politics. That one local paper should have to call attention to this state of affairs within two weeks of a by-election, in which two local candidates were putting up, shows that a lot are not keen to vote, particularly when one remembers that those who don't register are warned that they risk a £20 fine.

THE SILLINESS OF  
CLEVER MEN

Who can doubt that right now apathy

is the best answer to the politicians. The more politicians, like Merrick, who are left to talk to themselves the better.† Last week Rochdale was expected to choose between a Tory stockbroker, a Labour Party hack, a right-wing racist and a loose party-swinging Liberal opportunist.

But the most absurd thing in this election was the way in which *RAP* (the normally excellent community paper) sucked-up to the Labour candidate as the least of the evils, and failed to point out what the average bloke knows without looking up from his racing results, that political elections are a load of balls.

When the thickest of the thick in this town of ours knows that the 'Emperor has no clothes', it's a sad reminder of the silliness of clever men that *RAP* couldn't bring itself to blurt out that it didn't matter who won the election. It may be of course, as Sartre, I think, has suggested, that if you scratch an intellectual you'll find a bloody anarchist, but the intellectual often feels inadequate and longs to influence the powerful. In the same way that Voltaire couldn't resist the urge to flirt with Frederick the Great, so the *RAP* revolutionaries feel the need to keep on the right side of some of our local Labour politicians on the off-chance that some of their ideas may rub off.

NORTH WEST WORKERS.

\**RAP*, a monthly Rochdale community paper, price 3p, obtainable from 230 Spotland Road, Rochdale. Annual sub. 60p.

†Ironically Merrick may not have got as many votes as he did, if the International Socialists, coming mainly from outside Rochdale, hadn't distributed their leaflets attacking him and in so doing giving him more publicity than he would normally have got.

## Double-Barrelled Attack

UNION MEN on unofficial strike at the Press Association were unable to resist the double-barrelled attack by both the Company and the Union (NATSOPA). The Company issued a threat of dismissal for breach of contract to everybody not back to work by Thursday.

The Company were ably abetted by the Union who denounced the strike and furthermore stated that they didn't know why John Lawrence was dismissed. Furthermore they added (union members) 'should give neither financial nor moral support to these people'.

A strikers' meeting was held on Thursday, which in view of the threat, voted

to resume work, but when they went back they immediately asked for the reinstatement of John Lawrence.

Union officials have promised to hold a Court of Enquiry. Meanwhile John Lawrence has been refused unemployment benefit on grounds of 'industrial misconduct'.

Two strikers refused to return to work and were sacked. Apparently the Press Association had a file on John Lawrence's activities, since they described him as 'a well-known agitator'. Perhaps they read the *Daily Telegraph*, but he's been there for nine years!

J.L. & J.R.

## The Thalidomide Story continues

A BEAUTIFULLY produced poster has been appearing on the London streets. It attacks the Distillers Company, makers of thalidomide, for not paying compensation to the several hundred children who were born deformed as the result of their mothers, when pregnant, taking this drug.

The posters do not carry the name of either publisher or printer, which is illegal of course. They look as if they were made by professionals. Their content is libellous.

One is shown a glass, with the photograph of a child with abnormally short arms on the bottom of it. 'This is what you may see at the bottom of your glass', says the poster, and goes on to mention by name a number of products of the Distillers' Company, which it urges you not to buy, including Johnnie Walker whisky, Vat 69 whisky and Booth's gin. 'Your most direct form of protest is to avoid buying

Distillers' products,' the poster tells us.

Last year the Distillers' Company made £64 million in profits.

Who can have produced the posters? One theory is that the culprit is a rival firm who hope to do the Distillers' Company harm. The other theory is that it is a newspaper who is responsible.

The Distillers' Company have taken out an injunction to prevent *The Sunday Times* publishing a story about thalidomide, but it looks as if the paper will go ahead. It has already published a good deal of material on the subject.

The children, whose birth ten years or so ago caused such a storm, are now growing up and coming out into the public eye. So a second storm is now growing. Some have no arms, some no anus, some require pulleys and expensive gadgetry to get about. It would seem a matter of simple justice that some of the £64 million should come their way.

JOHN BRENT.

IT'S ALL A PLOT

TOYNBEE HALL  
LECTURE ROOM

— 7.45 p.m. —

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

A Documentary Reading  
presented by  
Friends of Freedom

Admission 25p

Tickets from Freedom Press

Proceeds shared between

FREEDOM PRESS FUND

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ALEXANDER NEVSKY, 1937-1972, Electric Cinema.

# ALEXANDER NEVSKY

THE COLOURED BLOTCHES of the light show fade away, the record is switched off, the lights dim, the film begins. Half a dozen people scramble down nearer the screen, because the print is old and scratched—almost as bleary as Shelter's copies of *Cathy Come Home*. At the end, *Alexander Nevsky* wins a round of applause. No wonder this old film is still popular. It is a patriotic opera of splendid images with dashing music, evilly costumed villains who commit inhuman atrocities, brave and handsome heroes and heroines, touches of humour, and the spectacular battle on the ice of Lake Peipus. The story is simple and the characters straightforward. The genius of Eisenstein and of Prokofiev combined in the service of Russia against the German foe. *Nevsky* was to Russia as *Olivier's Henry V* was to embattled England. Why then is it sad as well as thrilling to any thinking person?

Not primarily because it marks a regression from the revolutionary experiments of Eisenstein's earlier films. There is some truth in this new orthodoxy of film criticism, though it is baffling for an anarchist to decide exactly when the regression of the greatest Bolshevik film director began. No, the poignancy arises from the fact that this film came out of Stalin's Russia at its most fearful

some; and that three years later the Teutonic hordes really were at the gates of Moscow.

## STALIN THE TERRIBLE

In 1937-8 the active career of Eisenstein was at stake; in 1941-2, the survival of Russia itself. The heroic simplicities of *Nevsky* came directly after Eisenstein's autocratic rule to the Party, under the jealous pressure of diehard Stalinists (not that denouncing anyone did anyone much good!). He was denounced as too poetic, not social realist enough, not Communist enough. *Nevsky* was Eisenstein's amazing solution to the problem of existing at all as an artist in Soviet Russia, just as Shostakovich's 5th symphony was the 'Creative reply of a Soviet artist to just criticism'.

When in summer 1937 the epic *Nevsky* was being shot, so were 80% of the officers of the Red Army—shot, strangled, and beaten to death, the victims of Stalin's paranoia. *Nevsky* came after the purges (as well as between purges) after the forced collectivisation, after the deaths of uncounted millions of Russians from starvation and execution. You can't find much trace of what was

happening in Russia from the Thordikes' massive East German documentary compilation film, *The Russian Miracle*, any more than you can get an insight into Stalin's character from a postage stamp. But you won't find much sign of it in Eisenstein's oeuvre, either, until *Ivan the Terrible*.

The General Line of 1928 is a visual hymn to the marvels of collectivisation, automated milking in particular. Nowadays it looks beautiful but a caricature, a collection of fine peasant faces and improbable montage. No subtleties allowed in Soviet Russia. By subtlety, I mean anything that criticised, however mildly, the general Party line, which became Stalin's line. It is astonishing how the myth of Communist and Stalin's own infallibility even now spreads a film over the eyes of Marxists. Just as the leftwinger Gollancz would not print Orwell's *Homage To Catalonia* because Orwell attacked the role of Stalin and the Communists in Spain, so I am still assured by Marxists that 'you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs'—that grim adage which is still current on the Left as a justification of all revolutionary violence. It makes me

realise that the Bolshevik myth has hardly begun to be shattered amongst Socialists.

What it was like to live in Russia in the thirties—not so very different from now—has to be pieced together by the general reader from books like Conquest's *The Great Terror*, or Serge's novel on the purges after Kirov's assassination in 1934, *The Case of Comrade Tulayev*. Yevtushenko writes: 'Fears slid everywhere like shadows, Penetrated every storey. Quietly they trained people, And left their mark on everything. Taught shouting where silence should be And silence where one ought to shout.'

When Eisenstein produced his film on *Ivan the Terrible*, Stalin objected: Ivan was not a ruthless paranoiac, on the contrary he was the ruler who sought unification of the country, freedom from foreign infiltration, built up the secret police. Stalin did have one historical criticism of Ivan. He 'failed to liquidate the five remaining great feudal families'. Shades of the black humour of the Greek colonels. But like them, Stalin was in deadly earnest.

## THE NEW TEUTONIC HORDE

When Operation Barbarossa unleashed the might of German armies on Russia in June 1941, criticism got even shorter shrift than before. As many Russians died in The Great Patriotic War as Jews in Hitler's concentration camps. They died fighting for Mother Russia and for Communism against the fascists, as the Germans were always called. The Germans looked on them as inferior human beings, the Slav/Jew/Bolshevik type, as *Menschen zweiter Klasse* or *Untermenschen*. Seeing that most Russians were demoralised by 25 years of Bolshevism, underfed, under-armed, and that their army officers had been decimated by Stalin, it is not surprising that the Nazis began by smashing aside the Red Army.

From self-preservation and subsistence in civilian life to self-sacrifice for their country. In *Nevsky*, the Teutonic enemy is first defeated by Russian military skills, then finished off by the cracking ice of the Russian winter. 'We won't fight a war of defence, we will attack!' cries *Nevsky*. 'We will sweep them off Russian soil before springtime!' The reality of the Russo-German war was different. Russian war strategy was both disastrous and effective. It was defence to the last man: kill and be killed. Defence consisted of heaps of millions of bodies. The mass sacrifice of regiments of Russians was so vast and wanton that it horrified even the Germans. Russian flights and desertions were stemmed by machine guns held by their compatriots. It is a western commonplace to compare the Russian troops with their political commissars

and reading sessions of Marx/Engels/Lenin, with Cromwell's Ironsides. But Cromwell didn't stick a gun in their backs. We do better to compare the Ironsides with the Republicans of the Spanish Civil War.

There were premature Russian attacks at Stalin's behest; these were crushed. Only when the Germans had hopelessly overstretched their resources, did the immense reserves of Russian manpower drive over the enemy. Before them, the Russian winter was as much the enemy of the Russians as of the Germans. Death from guns and frostbite, and misery and continuing desperation on a scale only preceded in WWI trenches is the special feature of this war.

## COMING TO TERMS WITH WAR

'We must have a leader—Alexander Nevsky!' declares a character in the film. Stalin was the only living hero allowed by Stalin in Stalin's Russia. Gradually Stalin came to accept that he had only one surviving winning general, the apolitical Zhukov, and he also decided that the Russians needed a victorious hero; so Marshal Zhukov was built up as the hero who was pulverizing the fascists. Beat them he did. Zhukov is the man who wrote in his memoirs that when he came to a minefield, he sent his infantry straight across it. 'The losses sustained are no greater than the loss of men under enemy crossfire.' Eisenhower was to tell him that the USA and England would not have stood for such sacrifices by their generals. 'Ah, but we didn't have your mobility,' replied Zhukov, and hinted that Stalin was to blame.

In fact, every war involves horrible slaughter and sacrifice of troops, and visceral hatred of the enemy whipped up by propaganda. Generals differ, but their strategy not so much. Total mobilisation is decreed, and jingoism is rife. This is the only way war can be fought. Given the catastrophic state of Communist Russia, how else could the Russians defeat the Nazis? Without that given, could the Nazis have been defeated any other way? Could the British and Americans defeat Germany any other way than they did?

To say that Nazism and Stalinism were only different sides of the same coin, two kinds of totalitarianism, is true and has to be emphasised at all times. But this Olympian judgment does not help us to understand why Russians or Germans fought so heroically, or lived so dangerously. We cannot reduce human efforts to mindless atavism, however great the temptation.

Obviously there are what the military historian likes to call 'strategic blunders' like the bombing of civilian populations. Of course every patriotic war film, *Alexander Nevsky* included, is a lie, and no returning troops ever found 'a land fit for heroes'—especially in Soviet Russia. As anarchists we attack the cult of leadership, we are not stupefied by Communist myths, we demythologise war, we oppose war and its causes; but in doing so, we also have to come to terms with war itself. JULIUS.

# Libertarian BroadSides

READERS OF FREEDOM may be interested to know of a series of publications called 'Libertarian BroadSides', published by Ralph Myles Publishers Inc., Box 1533, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901, USA. No. 1, Max Stirner's 'The False Principle of Our Education', was published a few years ago. Three more titles have now been added to the series.

No. 2 is 'Slaves to Duty' by John Badcock, Jr., with an introduction by S. E. Parker, editor of *Minus One*, and an

appendix consisting of the essay 'Egoism' by John Beverley Robinson. Badcock's pamphlet was described by Benjamin Tucker as 'A unique addition to the pamphlet literature of Anarchism in that it assails the morality superstition as the foundation of the various schemes for the exploitation of mankind. Max Stirner himself does not expound the doctrine of Egoism in bolder fashion.'

No. 3 is the long out-of-print 'The Philosophy of Egoism' by John L. Walker, with a preface by James J. Martin, author of *Men Against The State*, and a biographical introduction by Henry Replegle. This classical exposition of conscious egoism was hailed

in Tucker's *Liberty* as 'No more concise exposition of the philosophy of Egoism has ever been given to the world. In this book Duty, Conscience, Moralism, Right and all the fetiches and superstitions which have infested the human intellect since man ceased to walk on four feet, are annihilated, swept away, relegated to the rubbish heap of the waste of human intelligence that has gone on through the progress of the race from its infancy.'

No. 4 is 'State Socialism and Anarchism and Other Essays' by Benjamin R. Tucker, with an introduction by James J. Martin which is well worth reading for its own sake.

It is hoped that copies of all four titles in the Libertarian Broadside Series will soon be available at Freedom Bookshop.

S.E.P.

# PRESS FUND Contributions

October 19-24 inc.

Ryhope: D.H. 20p; Glasgow: A.J. 52p; Warrawong: C.P. £1.13; Liverpool: R.E. 50p; H.P. 15p; London, S.W.18: O.E. 50p; Wolverhampton: J.K.W. 10p; J.L. 40p; — A.B. & D.G. £50; Crowthorne: P.G. 50p; Hull: A.T. 25p.

TOTAL: £54.25

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

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

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Previously acknowledged £1,077.74

TOTAL TO DATE £1,131.99

# Male Chauvinism—Spanish Style

IN SPAIN it is still part of the Civil Code that 'for reasons of matrimonial harmony, the husband is the decision maker as his natural, religious and historical right'. Although to an Englishman this no doubt sounds amusing it is not very funny for either man or woman, as the following story shows. At the very least it adds to the complications of life. A Spanish married woman needs her husband's written permission to transfer property, appear as a witness in court, apply for a passport, sign a contract, or start her own bank account.

No statement in Spain may be spoken or written in favour of divorce, abortion or the use of contraceptives. The penalties for taking part in feminist action are so severe as to be incredible. Simply participating in a discussion of women's problems can result in several years in jail.

Recently a Spanish woman was sentenced to two years and four months in prison after police discovered feminist literature in her flat. Her husband, who was apolitical, was given the same sen-

tence. According to Spanish legal theory a woman cannot act on her own, her husband must therefore be responsible for her actions.

Once again we see that male dominance is not so much of an advantage to the man as most men seem to think it is.

SMOG

(based on a report in the American magazine *Ramparts*, October 1972).

# USA Elections

Continued from page 1

not even find it necessary to do in 1972, he went on television and made a blatantly sentimental and insincere speech which was acceptable and all was forgiven. Daryl Zanuck, the movie magnate, commented, 'The most tremendous performance I've ever seen.' And he should know.

And what of the other candidates? 'What other candidates?' you may ask. There are others, but they can be as sincere and frank as they doubtless are, for they stand no chance. Dr. Spock has put up a fine platform—including legalization of pot, and even the *Socialist Worker* (of IS), with its anti-parliamentary pretensions, can scarce forbear to cheer the candidacy of Linda Jeness and Andrew Pulley of the Socialist Workers' Party. There may, of course, be others, all uncorrupted by power, but chance would be a fine thing!

We do not know what will be the result of the election. It may be a landslide for Nixon because of his 'peace with honour' in Vietnam, or it may be a close-run thing. All we know is that the votes of the Americans are but a poor token of a desire for peace. The real message for peace in Vietnam came from those GIs who voted with their feet.

JACK ROBINSON.

# WILD ENGLAND

HEROES AND VILLAINS, by Angela Carter (Picador, 40p).

YET ANOTHER FANTASY of what things will be like after a nuclear war. Angela Carter's novel is one of the more realistic visions however. In spite of the brief appearance of the impossible Out People, deformed victims of nuclear radiation who could not possibly survive in real life, except perhaps in special hospitals (these deformed folk have been stock science-fiction characters for many years), the picture she paints has a great deal of probability.

Society is divided into communities of 'Professors', civilised settlements where technology still survives, defended by barbed wire and machine guns, and 'Barbarians', wild people, some of them descended from gypsies, who live in the vast forests by hunting and by plundering the civilised communities.

The heroine, whose father was a 'Professor', becomes bored with civilisation and runs away with a gypsy youth when her father dies. The rest of the story follows the migration of a 'Barbarian' band to the South Coast. They plan to pass the winter in the relatively mild climate there.

There is not much plot. The author makes the point that both 'civilisation' (behind barbed wire) and 'barbarism' are boring, squalid and futile. Life is an endless round, among the 'Barbarians' at least, of getting food, keeping warm, recovering (or very often not


recovering) from wounds and illness.

This is an anti-adventure story. The world of the future will be no happy Wild West, full of noble he-men, living close to nature. Whether reading these sort of books really has any influence on people's attitudes and political actions it is hard to say. The downfall of civilisation has been prophesied in book after book since the 1880s. It must be considered a genuine example of a modern myth, a myth of industrial society. Its function is to ward off anxiety, on the principle that 'if you think (or say) it will happen, it won't'.

Unfortunately, while almost everyone agrees with Hobbes about the brutishness of 'natural man', and despises Rousseau and his 'noble savage', they act as if they believed the opposite. From the Hell's Angels to the gently nurtured intellectuals who write books to prove that man has an instinct to defend his 'territory' with violence, by way of the good 'middlebrow' folks who watch endless gunfights and murders on TV, there seems to be an almost universal enthusiasm for violence and warfare. We are all 'noble savages' it seems.

Politicians who are prepared to take a tough line with 'their country's enemies' are admired by almost everybody. With the result that our society drifts nearer and nearer to the brink, and the prophecies of disaster seem more and more likely to be fulfilled.

ARTHUR WARD.



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

## ANARCHIST FEDERATION of BRITAIN

AFBIB—To all Groups.

AFBIB is produced at 34 Cowley Road, Oxford. Send all news, reports, subs., etc., to Oxford.

The Contact Column in 'Freedom' is also available for urgent information. Groups should send latest addresses to Oxford. 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. (046, FL.)

Yorkshire: Trevor Savage, Flat 3, 35 Richmond Road, Leeds, 6.

Manchester: Matt Cunningham, 9 Brier Hill Avenue, Little Hulton, Worsley, Lancs.

Scotland: Secretary, Mike Malet, 1 Lynswood 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.



# PLEASE TO REMEMBER!

THE SEASON OF PLOTS is upon us again. We are beseeched to 'Remember the Guy' by sundry importuning children, and if our historical knowledge is good and unbiased we remember the providentially-discovered Catholic plot that was allowed to develop until it seemed ripe to unmask it as a conspiracy against the decrepit and absentee English parliament; this *coup de theatre* was aided by confessions obtained by torture. The nature of 'plots' has not changed much. Refinements such as the intro-

duction of psychological pressures to gain confessions have taken the place of physical torture (in normal times), but the effects are the same and probably more long-lasting.

We anarchists have much to remember for it was on November 11 that the Haymarket tragedy occurred (see this issue *FREEDOM*). But now we can recall even more, for comrades and associates are implicated, imprisoned and on trial on plots of complexity and tenuousness that seem to make the Guy

Hawkes business look like an open book. The ideas of anarchism have become so widespread in recent years that they have tended to be spread a little thin and become to the jurist mind a little adulterated. As a consequence, many individuals have claimed the description of 'anarchist' when their ideas, if not unformed, accept many theoretical concepts alien to anarchism. At the same time governments and journalists have readily accepted the term 'anarchy' as synonymous with 'chaos'.

It would be easy to repudiate these individuals, especially since they are associated with events which some of us deem unwise, dangerous or even wicked. But since they are fighting for their lives and liberties we must accept them on their own valuation and even withhold the description 'anarchist' if it could be held to prejudice their cases.

Such is the complexity of the 'conspiracies' in which they have, in some cases through no fault of their own, become enmeshed, it becomes impossible to recount the full details of the 'plots'. Also, in no cases has a confession or acknowledgement of responsibility for any of the charges been forthcoming from the accused.

Discretion forbids one indicating trials nearer home, but the Valpreda case has become so obvious, and since it is in another country it can be criticized without legal penalties. Valpreda has been in custody for almost three years, as George Armstrong in the *Guardian*

(October 20) says, 'for a crime of which only a small group of people consider him guilty'. It might be added, in case George Armstrong and others have forgotten, Valpreda has not yet been tried.

Now, two neo-fascists have been arrested on the same charge (planting a bomb in a Milan Bank) and, regardless of the ridiculous situation of associating Valpreda with a neo-fascist act, the authorities are proceeding. Meanwhile the Italian Ministry of Justice has asked the State Prosecutor to begin proceedings against eight Italian magistrates whose 'crimes' include: criticism of Italian justice; criticism of the investigation into the death of Pinelli in police custody (detained in the Milan bank case); questioning the official verdict on the death of a neo-fascist known to be connected with the Milan bombings. The neo-fascists have since committed further outrages including the blowing-up of a Trade Unionists' train to a Congress. Such is the nature of justice in Italy.

In Germany, the Bader-Meinhof case has come to trial and here we have the Old Bailey trial of those accused of belonging to the Angry Brigade. It is possible to excuse the Press for failing to cover a German case, but for all we have seen in the Press the Old Bailey case might be being held on the moon, security precautions are tight and only 'official' reporters are being allowed in.

Such a conspiracy of silence may be the mere trivialization we have come to expect from the British Press, but does it presage more? Not only is there the plotting of police and governments, as we have seen in Italy, but there seems too to be a plot of the Press which we must remember.

GUIDO.

## Anti-Racialist Demo

SOME WEEKS AGO a demonstration was held in Leicester under the auspices of the National Front to protest against the Government's decision to admit into this country the expelled Ugandan Asians. 600 went on this demonstration, a number which moved some to feelings merely of regret and others to a near hysterical fear. Such a turn-out by the silent majority is larger than might have been expected, but the disgraceful scaremongering tactics of the Labour council, who bought space in Ugandan papers to advertise that the expelled Asians would not be welcome in Leicester must have lent some air of respectability to anti-immigrant feeling. This demo drew a response from local IS and CP branches, some of whom went along to the meeting at the end of the march and sought to disrupt it by heckling and shouting the speakers down, a practice which I find politically unprincipled and strategically unwise.

A more meaningful counter-demo took place last Saturday, and to give them their due, it was organised largely by IS and CP. The sponsoring body was the Inter Racial Solidarity Committee, which is a sort of symposium of the Leicester left, excluding only the SLL, who are too sectarian to take part, and the local anarchist group, none of whom will sit on a committee, and so are also too sectarian to take part. And what remains of the Leicester left is mainly CP and IS.

IS had clearly decided to make the demonstration a national organisational effort, for their banners were carried from localities as distant as Lancaster and London. The local Trades Council had also given its pompous approval and support to the demonstration and had passed a resolution—one of the few activities at which Trades Councils remain skilled—stating that they would agree to allow their banner to be carried on the march. They weren't prepared to carry it themselves, or so one assumed from the resolution, but would agree to let it be carried by some poor prole with nothing better to do on a Saturday afternoon, which they certainly had.

The report of the demonstration in the

local paper gives the number of demonstrators at 5,000, which is probably a fair estimate. The march proceeded through one of the city's predominantly coloured areas and then to the university for a meeting.

The theme of the demonstration was that it was the Government, not the coloured immigrants, who were to blame for the housing shortage and the unemployment level. The slogans which were shouted seemed to me uninspired—'Racialism Out', 'Tories Out', 'National Front Out', etc., etc. There were a motley half-dozen National Front supporters distributing leaflets against the demonstration, and two National Front members, exuberant and reckless from an excess of lunch-time booze, stood on a street corner and shouted anti-Communist slogans to 5,000 apparent Communists. The demonstration was vigorously stewarded by CP and IS members, who lacked success in their attempts to insist that we should march in sixes. They also seemed desperate to avoid trouble, probably over-fearful of the damage large numbers of arrests might do to their respective credibilities as governments. They seemed to be requiring us to link arms every time they saw a policeman within a hundred yards frown. On one occasion some comrades and I disdained to link arms as no danger was apparent to us, and were threatened with being ejected from the march by a steward.

But the body of the demonstration was mainly good humoured, and merely barracked the National Front members, who, had they known the authoritarian left as well as I do, would have been in fear of their lives. They anyway had the wisdom to stay near to a policeman, perhaps guessing their fellow authoritarians' regard for the law.

And so the demonstration, which was at least numerically impressive, filed into the university to listen to speeches from IS, Indian Workers Association, CP, Labour Party Young Socialists, Trades Council, old uncle Tom Cobley and all, and I went home to get the football results. PETER MILLER.

## Tower Hill Tenants Fight

THE TENANTS of Tower Hill, Kirkby (near Liverpool) have been on a rent and rate strike since October 9. The old age pensioners on the estate have been excluded from the rent strike. Every day there are pickets outside the council offices and on the rent collecting days, which are Fridays, Mondays and Tuesdays, pickets have been going round with the rent men. Out of 2,300 houses only thirty have paid so far.

The council has accused the Tower Hill action group of intimidation toward the tenants but this is an out and out lie. They (the council) are doing their damndest to smash the solidarity on Tower Hill but are getting nowhere with their false accusations. We have proof

of intimidation of three tenants by a certain rent man.

I would also like to mention two other action groups who, like Tower Hill, are on a total rent and rate strike and congratulate them (and any other action group who are on a rent and rate strike). They are Over the Bridge tenants (Sandhills) and Fayakerley, both in Liverpool.

Kirkby Council have started to send out notices to quit to the tenants of Tower Hill. In the event of evictions we have put out a leaflet with phone numbers of people to contact in Tower Hill and other groups in Kirkby and Liverpool who have pledged support to prevent the eviction of tenants in their fight against the increase in rents.

## White Collar Action: Victory or Defeat?

IN LATE SEPTEMBER you published a short article 'Social Security Scandal' dealing with the overtime ban by clerical staff in DHSS offices. In view of the tone of this article it must have come as a surprise to the author when the Civil Service conceded the demands of the union (CPSA) and announced the immediate recruitment of 1,000 staff with another increase of 4,000 planned for the future. Not surprisingly the work to rule was called off.

On face value this announcement would appear to have been a victory for the union. The full-time CPSA officials have not been slow to call it 'the greatest victory in the history of civil service trade unionism'. Why then did the civil service give in so easily?

In recent years there has been a rapid growth of rank and file militancy among clerical staff in the DHSS particularly on inadequate staffing and poor working conditions. The feeling that public service employees have become the 'whipping boys' of successive governments has fanned the flames. In local SS offices staff have been formulating demands (many of which were aired at the CPSA annual conference) calling for industrial action. There was a strong possibility that, with no improvement in sight, local branches would have embarked on unofficial action. The situation was quickly becoming an embarrassment to both the civil service and CPSA, the latter never being too anxious to upset the applecart. The intervention of the union was 'timely'; the question that remains is 'did the CPSA executive choose action

and demands which diluted the claims of their members?' Is a possible 5,000 increase in staff (and what guarantee is there that this promise will come about) sufficient to ease the situation? There are several thousand casual staff in the DHSS—will some of them simply be regraded, leaving the same shortages and poor working conditions? There must be strong doubts left in the minds of many members whether this agreement was enough and to what extent it could have been improved on.

Another avenue to be explored as a result of this deal is its effect on staffing in other civil service departments. It is the avowed intention of the Tory Government to reduce the number of civil servants. We can expect staff cuts (particularly in new projects) to counteract the increase in DHSS numbers. The favourite trick is to introduce casual staff (not included in staffing returns) and hire outside agencies especially on technical work. The latter reveals the absurdity of the system, hiring agency staff costs far more than recruitment, but providing the actual number of established civil servants can be kept down and the Government can be seen to have fulfilled its pledge, then this expensive method of keeping the civil service going will be followed.

It would be interesting to hear the views of more social security clerical staff and also any other civil servants who have details of staff cuts in their department as a result of the DHSS increase. DAN DARE.



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## CAV-Lucas Closure

ON TUESDAY, October 3, 1,100 workers at the CAV Lucas factory in Liverpool were told by the company that the factory was to close down and they would be made redundant. The workers made plans to occupy the factory and on Monday, October 9, the men started their sit-in.

It seems that the reason for the closure of this factory is that the Joseph Lucas combine want to transfer the work to the South of England so that they can gain easy access to the EEC countries. It is also known that the Lucas combine have interest in a factory in Spain (Condeisel), and a subsidiary in France (Roto Diesel).

I have been told that the shop stewards found a document which backs up their statements. Two points from this docu-

ment are really interesting—they are as follows—an extension to provide a 25% increase in capacity at the Roto Diesel (France) factory. Cost: £1.2 million. A 30% increase in production at the Condeisel factory in Spain.

It is well seen that the Lucas combine are after bigger profits by expanding production in Spain where the workers' wages are somewhere in the region of a half and a quarter of those in Liverpool. The Lucas factory in Liverpool concentrates its production on fuel injection pumps and the pumps that are made at 'Condeisel' in Barcelona are sold in this country with 'Made in England' on them. Another point of interest—the Liverpool dockers have offered to black all products made by Lucas if the shop stewards ask them.



# The Haymarket Tragedy

## Part I—Pioneer Aid

THE HISTORY of the Haymarket affair is combined in the history of the Pioneer Aid and Support Association, organized in 1888.

The hysteria which prevailed in Chicago at that time did not prevent the comrades to set up the organization to support the widows and orphans of those who were executed or languishing in jail.

The Pioneer Aid and Support Association erected the monument in Waldheim Cemetery, Forest Park, Illinois, which has been the place of gathering to commemorate the activities of our comrades and keep alive their memory.

This beautiful monument by the sculptor, Albert Weiner, was built by funds raised by the Pioneer Aid and Support Association and was dedicated on Sunday, June 25, 1893.

Originally, the bodies of Spies, Parsons, Engel, Fischer, and Lingg were placed in a simple vault after a massive funeral on Sunday, November 13, 1887. Over a quarter-million people watched as a parade of 25,000 workers marched from home to home along Milwaukee Avenue and into the downtown area picking up the bodies of the martyrs.

About seven thousand people took the train to German Waldheim Cemetery to hear Captain Black, the lawyer of the Haymarket Eight, give the eulogy.

The night before their execution on Black Friday, November 11, 1887, they had sung the Marseillaise. The sculptor Weiner knew this, and he designed the statue on the monument to fit a verse of this song.

### THE MONUMENT DEDICATED

When the monument was completed and dedicated on Sunday, June 25, 1893, 8,000 people, many from European countries, came to hear the speech by Dr. Schmidt, who said the following:

"When the hatred and the passions of our time resound no more, for you too, who are resting here, the hour of a juster verdict will have come. Until then, may this monument prove to the unbelievers, to the yet doubting and hesitating ones, that those who fell in the struggle for a better social order have left an honourable memory with all friends of justice and liberty."

And if the poor and oppressed could forget the verdicts of Chicago, of Homestead and Pittsburgh, of Lemont and of everywhere—those verdicts rendered with few honourable exceptions, by the manipulators of justice at the instigation of guilded monopoly—then this monument will remind them of what justice means for them today.

Look at this simple yet majestic woman cast of bronze, how she presses with one hand the laurel wreath on the brow of the fallen hero, while without halting, she steps forward into the great storm-laden future, whose lightning now causes the world to tremble. Look at this image and your hopes will be nourished, your sense will become keener, your hearts will be steeled! Then you will not ask with sinking courage: "When is this future to come?" Be ever ready for it and strive to be worthy of it when it arrives.

The progress of humanity is not a steady, measured one, and cannot be counted minutely. It does not proceed forward according to mathematical rules like the hands of a clock till it runs off. It ebbs and flows in irregular waves, now stopping, then even seemingly retrograding. But in the very causes of this seeming stop or reaction there lie and grow the germs from which a mighty impetus is given that in a short while crushes mountains of rubbish into dust, though they looked strong and high enough to command a stop forever.

The most recent memorial meeting was held at the monument on Sunday, April 30, 1972, organized by the Illinois Labor History Society, and the writer of this report was one of the speakers.

When I came to Chicago in 1912, the Pioneer Aid and Support Association was still a strong and going organization. It is important to remember that the early labour movement in America was composed of mostly German workers who had come to this country to escape the Bismarck terror in Germany. The Pioneer Aid and Support Association, in the latter part of last century and early part of this century, was comprised of German organizations only, which held meetings on the 11th of November of each year.

### 50 YEARS AFTER

In 1937, at the instigation and inspiration of Boris Yelensky, the Free Society Group, in conjunction with the Pioneer Aid and Support Association, inaugurated a world-wide 50th Commemoration, culminating in a gathering at the monument on November 11, 1937, at which many prominent labour leaders participated, and in a meeting that night at the Center of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, which was filled to capacity. In connection with the commemoration, we printed one million memorial stamps, bearing the imprint of the Monument at Waldheim Cemetery, and we mailed over 50,000 pieces of mail to every part of the world. As a result of our activity, our French comrades published a special edition of *La Esplanade*, giving the history of the Haymarket tragedy; a special edition containing the pictures of our martyred comrades was published in Belgium and also in Mexico and Japan.

We received many contributions from unions and other organizations which helped to maintain the Monument for many years.

The writer of this report has been active in the organization for the past sixty years and was elected as its President, in which capacity I served many years, and after our Secretary died, I took this position of Secretary, which I retained until the present time.

During the early years of my activity in the Pioneer Aid and Support Association, I had the privilege to meet many of the comrades who had been active in the movement during the period of the Haymarket affair, particularly Emil Arnold, John Pemoller, Joseph Schlesinger, Joseph Lehmer and many others, who were able to give me their personal impressions and recollections of that historic period and the Haymarket riot.

On May 5, 1969, there appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* an article called 'Ghosts in the Sunlight', entitled 'Bloody Memories of the Haymarket Square Riots', describing a meeting held on May 4 at Haymarket Square. William Granger, in describing the meeting, wrote the following:

"There were ghosts in the bright sunshine at Haymarket Square Sunday. Everything was different and everything was the same as it had been 83 years before. The Union men had called a meeting as they had called on May 4, 1886. The police came as they had before—it was 83 years after someone threw a bomb during a workers' rally."

For the first time, workers gathered again in the square at DesPlaines and Randolph to honor those dead with a black wreath. William Neebe, grandson of Oscar W. Neebe, one of those pardoned by Governor Altgeld, spoke. He said, "My mother and my wife did not want me to come here. They told me that it would get me into trouble with them. Who are they?" he asked."

In the June 1968 issue of *Steel Labor*, publication of the United Steel Workers of America, there appeared an article entitled, 'Has Labor Forgotten Its History?', showing a picture of the Haymarket Monument at Waldheim Cemetery and asking the question:

"Who were the heroes of the 1886 Haymarket Tragedy? The Chicago Police or the Labor Leaders who were hanged following a period of hysteria?", and followed by a quote from George Santayana: 'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.' The same issue recites that the 'Haymarket Businessmen's Association have issued a silver-plated brass medal, at \$3.25 each, to commemorate the police heroism and to perpetuate an historic fraud'.

I. S. ABRAMS.  
(To be continued)

## Women's Liberation LETTER

Dear Editor,

We are two of the rank and file of Women's Liberation and also regular readers of *FREEDOM*, and we object strongly to some comments made by Arthur Moyse on the subject of women and Women's Liberation in particular. He must have very few constructive criticisms if he can only retreat to such inaccurate and irrelevant abuse as calling us 'cigar-smoking toughies' or 'butch neurotics'. He reveals his utter ignorance of the origins and aims of Women's Liberation.

Does Arthur Moyse think his 'little comrades' are all male? How, in any case, are these ill-informed sneers relevant to an art review? His 'cigar-smoking toughies' are more probably in the women's armed services or the police force—if they exist outside his imagination—we have no need of a nicotine-filled phallic symbol! What does he mean by 'butch'? Large, masculine and aggressive, as in 'toughies'? Or does he mean to suggest that we are all lesbians? If so, it is (a) inaccurate, (b) a type of intolerance we had not looked for in an anarchist paper. Again, is it neurotic to care about the problems and welfare of half this society?

Just as workers are divided against each other by the competitive, not co-operative, ethos of this society, so women are divided by the unequal rewards allotted on the basis of sexual attractiveness—making them compete against each other to gain the prize of a man. Are anarchists for competition—or co-operation? We are sick of being told to be merely decorations on the arm of a man—of being judged along one dimension only. We want to be treated as people. We won't fit in to the category of pretty, dumb, passive bed objects and no one has a right to call us names if we don't.

The standard non-argument used against the suffragettes years ago was that they were a set of harridans who couldn't get a man—who, now, would deny that they were right in asking for the vote as one equal right with men?

Arthur Moyse makes frequent mention of 'men and women' in the working-class struggle—thus paying lip service to women's part in any revolution. He descends to paranoid incoherence at the very prospect of women effectively combining to end their collective subjection to men. For us there is literally no liberation without women's liberation.

Why should we feel envy and resentment against any woman for being 'beautiful, talented and independent'? Arthur himself (*FREEDOM*, July 22, 1972) pours contempt on the conventional concept of female beauty, as being irrelevant to the real life of women in the real world, an artificial shell only. Women must learn that there are things more important than a beautiful exterior—in spite of all the women's magazines' indoctrination. 'As, a few years back, Negroes had to learn to say "black is beautiful", women have to say "so you're beautiful—what else are you?"'

Fraternally,

Dundee

UNA STEPHENSON,  
ALISON M. MALET.

# C

## ontact

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Help Fold and Despatch 'FREEDOM' Thursdays from 2 p.m., followed by discussion at 7.30 p.m.

Corby, November 10. Public Meeting on 'Libertarian Education'. Speaker: Arthur Humphrey. Green Room, Civic Centre, 7.30 p.m. Contact Terry Phillips, 7 Crosswell Walk.

Coventry. People wanted to work on a free school and/or live communally with three adults and three kids. 37 Beaconsfield Road, Stoke, Coventry. 0203 452135.

American comrades would like to hear from feminist and anarchist women in Britain and obtain info. on Women's Lib. Contact Siren, c/o Chicago Seed, 950 W. Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60614, USA.

Libertarian German Underground Papers can be ordered from Kommunikationszentrum, 45 Osnabrück, Postfach 1641. One Parcel for 5 DM. or English Publications (Pamphlets and Underground Papers) in exchange. We would like to correspond with translators.

Libertarian Book Club Fall Lecture Series, Thursdays, 7 p.m., 369 8th Avenue at 29th Street, New York: November 9, Terry Perlin, 'Anarchism and Elitism'; November 23, Judith Malina and Julian Beck, 'Anarchism and Organization'; December 14, Murray Bookchin, 'Ecology and Anarchism'.

Murray Bookchin's 'Towards an Ecological Solution'—an anarchist view of Pollution—produced by Brighton Gutter Press. 7p inc. postage, 45p inc. postage for bundles of 10. From Box 'Freedom'.

Therapeutic Centre needs full time helper to live in. Unpaid, but board, etc., free. Write to 82 Acre Lane, S.W.2.

Harlech ASA. A group of anarchist-syndicalist alliance is now forming in Harlech, Merioneth, N. Wales; anyone interested in helping and supporting from the N. Wales area, please contact G. & B. Briggs, c/o Coleg Harlech, Harlech, Merioneth, N. Wales.

'Anarchy' magazine now at 29 Grosvenor Avenue, London, N.5, not 95 West Green Road. (Subscriptions still to Freedom Press.)

Man with social conscience wanted to help in country care community. No wages. Hard work. Box 10 Freedom.

Anarchist Calendars 1973, 10p each, 24p post from Kropotkin Lighthouse Publications, c/o Freedom Press.

Translations wanted from Anarchist journals for FREEDOM. Languages needed are French, Italian, Spanish, German, Swedish, Japanese. Present translators please confirm. Get in touch with Eds.

Politics of Transport. Outer Circle rail trip, Saturday, November 11, tickets from Chris Parrish, 47 Beresford Road, St. Albans, Herts. Telephone: St. Albans 52381. £1.25 each, 75p per child. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Excursion starts at 11.28 a.m. at Broad Street Station, next to Liverpool Street.

Brighton Anarchist Group. New secretary is Roy Carr-Hill, 2nd Floor, 29 St. Michaels Place, Brighton (0273 25546).

'Peace News' for theory and practice of non-violent revolution. £4.95 p.a. (students less 10%). Trial sub. 7 weeks for 50p with free M. Duane 'Biological Basis of Anarchism'. 5 Caledonian Road, N.1.

Michael Tobin Defence Committee, c/o 265 Dale Street, Chatham, Kent.

Libertarian Aid Committee for the Hyde Park '3'. Visiting: Phone 677 1526 (Mrs. Carty). Letters-gifts (must have Prison No.): 110305 M. Callinan, 110281 L. Marcantonio, 110280 Stan Quinn. Donations: Mrs. Callinan, 59 Brondesbury Villas, London, N.W.6.

Stoke Newington 8 Trial. Send all aid to '8' Fund, Compendium Bookshop, 240 Camden High Street. Meals, fruit, papers, books (new ones only), cigarettes and money needed.

## This Week in Ireland

IT HAS BEEN one of the worst weeks I ever remember. In Dublin following a strike Britain's have sacked 750 men. The strike was declared official three weeks ago, five days after it began, when men at the Portobello plant staged a work-to-rule in support of a bonus payment claim by the Dublin workers at Drimnagh plant who were laid off. Now the AGW TU will black all supplies from England, and the dockers and transport workers in England have decided not to handle any more car parts intended for the plant.

Then the Unionists in the six counties went stark, staring bonkers one after the other. It began by Craig's 'shoot to kill' speech at the Monday Club. An Irish reporter interviewed Craig in his hotel directly he got back from the meeting. I heard the tape recording and said instantly, 'He's drunk', the slurred speech and tumbling over his words. Craig usually is drunk, as anyone who lives in Ireland knows. Next day however, when he was sober he stuck to his guns (literally), and though a few Unionists disowned him most clapped and cheered him, and Paisley jumped on the bandwagon and said he was willing to take a gun and shoot to kill rather than join the Republic.

Let me make it plain. No one, except possibly the Provos, is suggesting the Unionists should be forced into the Republic tomorrow willy-nilly. We don't want a lot of yahoos like that. What all sane people say is a declaration of intent should be made so that all parties may work together, find out the points on which they do agree and go forward instead of backwards.

Next, John Brooke says the British troops should copy Israel and make Jameson-type raids into the Republic

witch-hunting, sorry I mean IRA-hunting. It was pointed out to him that if this happened Lynch would be able to object to the UN and he said 'Let Lynch hand over the men we want'. It was then asked, 'What would the ordinary people of the Republic think?' and he replied he couldn't care less as long as he could get the IRA. He did not say under those circumstances the Irish Army would surely be justified in raiding Belfast and arresting the UVF men who killed in Donegal, and tried to kill by a car bomb in Whitehall, then flew back north. The British Army makes repeated sorties over the border. Should they not be machine-gunned down according to the logic of Brooke? At present Lynch says, 'Tut, tut', and leaves it there.

The Dail has reconvened with 67 questions to answer, but at any rate the referendum on votes at 18 is being held on December 6. If the necessary legislation can be got through, they will hold the vote on Article 44 the same day. This is the one about the Special Position of the Catholic Church, and as the Irish Medical Association has come out 90% in favour of contraception I think the government and church will have to give in.

Dozens of priests are sending young women to Family Planning Clinics, but at present only 'the pill' is available and it does not suit all women who are at risk and in need.

Whitelaw's 'Green Paper' comes out on Monday. All the papers are prophesying that when the 'White Paper' follows it will say 'you can remain part of Britain only under OUR conditions', which will definitely reduce Stormont to the position of the Greater London Council, will not let it control the security forces and will INSIST on fair-

ness to all religions. If the Unionists refuse, Britain will 'do a Pontius Pilate' and let us all kill ourselves.

Paisley may yell for the re-constitution of 'those fine men, the B-Specials'; it will NOT be allowed. There is no doubt that Whitelaw was more than shaken by the Protestant rioting and killing of soldiers last weekend. Everyone seems to have forgotten that the first man of the security forces killed in the present 'troubles' was Constable Arbuckle, killed by Protestants on the Shankill Road.

I have just heard that Craig has retired to bed for a 'complete rest', owing to kidney trouble. I feel he and Amin suffer from the same disease—mania, and anyone who drinks like Craig must destroy his kidneys and liver, and all the rest of his body, including the brain.

Light relief, and I swear it is true. There is a case being heard in Kerry where a man is accusing his neighbour of having put 'pishogues' on him and his family. The accused is said to have 'put eggs' in the field of the plaintiff, as result of which his son and his daughter later had accidents and broke their legs, his wife got ill and a cow died. The Justice has adjourned the case till the next sitting of the Court in March!! I'm wondering if, when I am up North next Monday, I could put a few 'pishogues' around. Even at the present price of eggs it would be worth it if I could put Paisley, Heath, Craig, Taylor, Brooke, Faulkner, et al., out of circulation for a few months!

I have lost count of the murders and explosions, but last night the British Army found 16,000 rounds of ammunition (Prods), 800 (Teagues) and lots of guns, again the Prods won. I see no hope of avoiding civil war and a holocaust.

H.