

DIVIDE AND RULE

THE DISPUTE with the Chrysler Motor Corporation is a prime example of how workers in one industry (or company) are divided one against the other. It shows how deep the rivalries run between the different unions. Basically, the electricians' strike at Coventry is against the Government's Phase 2 pay policies and they have been trying to force the company to pay the £250 a year which was agreed between management and their union.

Chrysler's were for a time able to isolate the electricians after they lost the support of the other workers at Coventry. They did this with the use of non-union supervisors to maintain machinery. However, when 7,000 Linwood workers in Scotland came out and gave their support, Chryslers were once again in trouble. But while union leaders profess principles of solidarity and opposition to the government's pay policies, their dislike for the leadership of the electricians' union and their lack of sympathy for the "go it alone" tac-

tics of electricians, was stronger than their so-called principles.

Nothing could better support the anarchist position on leadership than the way the "left wing" leadership of Hugh Scanlon and Jack Jones have acted towards the dispute. Jack Jones said: "We have asked our members to return to work and work on their normal job. The question of repairing machinery by high level supervisors is not unknown in these circumstances, and this time it would not be considered to be contrary to good trade union practice to work on these machines."

The practice might have happened before but the point is that members of other unions were giving their support on a matter of principle. They were supporting a stand against the government's Phase 2 and were opposing the use of strike-breaking, non-union workers.

On the other hand it must also be admitted that the electricians' union, whose leadership is better

known for hunting militants than opposing management and government, has taken an unusually militant stand in the present dispute. They have given their members official recognition and have been paying them double the normal strike pay. While both the Amalgamated Engineering and the Transport and General unions have accepted wage increases in line with the government's policies, the "right wing" electricians' union is making a stand.

I think workers usually take American companies' threats of withdrawing or cutting back production with a pinch of salt. Jack Jones either took it seriously, which I doubt, or he cynically used this threat to get his members back to work. The fact that the electricians at Coventry are this week taking one week of their annual holiday due to them has also played into the union leaders' and management's hands.

continued on back page

CHANCE IS A FINE THING

THE SEASON of party conferences is upon us in full colour and full horror. Last week saw at Southport the full burgeoning of Liberal hopes and promises. Next week at Blackpool will see the Labour party in full cry and following that the Tory inquest.

With the heady optimism of a punter, the Liberals have seen four of their horses stagger home and think they have a chance of getting fifty winners at a time in the Grand Election stakes which will put them in the running for governmental power. The horsey metaphor is not ill-chosen since the party benefitted by £1,000 from the owner of a Grand National winner (Red Rum) trained on the sands at Southport.

Intoxicated by a success which has never dazzled them since 1922 (some say 1904) the faithful chant 'A revival! A revival!'

The brutal fact that voters behave differently in General Elections to the way they do in bye-elections and that fact that people were not voting 'for' the

Liberals, they were voting against the others, escapes the euphoric faithful. The substantial abstentions and 'don't knows' are always a significant group; quite often they form a majority which, were we so crazy, we could claim entitles anarchism to a place in the scheme of things.

But Mr. Thorpe and his trendy group are sharp enough to know that in the con-trick of politics nothing succeeds like success and if the voters believe that the Liberals have a chance of success they will vote and work for them. It is a self-fulfilling prophecy, the Liberals hope.

But in General Elections, voters and candidates 'play for keeps' and the minority groups of the Left are girding up their loins for the fray and discussing the best way they can give the Labour Party a chance to betray their hopes again. If the Liberals can be said to have adopted an electoral strategy, it has been to attack the Labour Party; electorally that is.



SEND DOWN THE
THIRD MAN DARLING
WE'RE CALLING A
CABINET MEETING

For a programme Disraeli (a Tory P.M.) once said of Lord Stanley that he had "caught the Whigs bathing and walked away with their clothes". This was in 1845 and the Whigs were the precursors of the Liberals. Now one might say they caught both Labour and Tory bathing (as they need to) and walked away with items of clothing from both. To further cover up Liberal nakedness they can be seen to flaunt two libertarian items of clothing.

The Young Liberals contributed communal politics - a sociological popularization of anarchist local do-it-yourself direct action. Many Young Liberals were, with the best of intentions, involved in squatting and at the time it was discovered that many of them

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REMEMBERING MAC'

AND NOW they wheel out MacMillan, who I'd thought was dead, and whose TV appearance has not convinced me he isn't, to recollect, pontificate and mislead the public about the events of his premiership. A sort of slow motion chat show.

He became Prime Minister after the downfall of Eden after the 1956 Suez fiasco, regardless of Mac's initial support, quickly reversed, for the Suez invasion, and the more consistent and principled position taken by his chief rival for the premiership, Butler. But men with even a little political principle are not the sort the Tories want for their Prime Ministers, so Mac got the job.

And on his TV appearance he has been nattering about what he remembers of it, or more exactly, what bits of it he can remember that he can distort enough to make them interesting and to show himself up as a reasonable old cove.

FREEDOM PRESS

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As one who remembers the Mac era the thing that stays in my mind about it was how easy he was to debunk and how we loved him for it. It was so obvious to us that he was a stupid out of date old Tory that we felt certain his defects must be obvious to everyone. But this was never as general as we imagined it must be, and the recent TV programme and the conversations I have heard about it seem to show that the old fox is still as cunning and as plausible as ever he was.

Two of the more interesting and preposterous subjects he mentioned in the programme were his relationship with President Kennedy and his 1962 cabinet purge, the night of the long knives. If you look at it seriously his claim to have had a close working relationship with Kennedy is evidently a senile man's attempt at wish fulfilment. It is done when both the President and his vice-President are dead, leaving Mac in a position of greater standing than anyone who might challenge the truth of his claim. But to imagine a young brash rich and self-confident politician like Kennedy having any sort of close relationship with a faded decrepit moustachioed Edwardian clown like Mac is to stretch credulity beyond the point of absurdity. And even worse when Mac seeks to suggest that Kennedy valued his advice. And the night of the long knives, when Mac decimated his own cabinet in 1962 was not an unfortunate escalation of a decision to remove one man. It was the first move in a series of political tricks that Mac hoped would culminate in a Tory victory in the 1964 election. The plan was to give a "new faces" cabinet two years to gain public familiarity and to launch another pre-election boom like the one that had enabled him to win in 1959. Mac hoped that this two strand policy would keep him enough support to win another electoral victory. As it turned out other events engulfed him with unseemly haste in the shape of the Profumo nonsense, and Mac was swept into the dust of history amid ridicule and contempt, but still keeping enough political acumen to once again stop Butler getting the premiership and fix it for his grouse shooting pal Lord Home, now Sir Alec Douglas Home. And parenthetically Mac was the man who first groomed the present wretched incumbent of the Prime Minister's job, E. Heath, for high government office. But for the old crook to chunter on about how much he regrets his cabinet

purge is twaddle of the first water. It was a stage in a well prepared plan for an election victory, and the plan backfired due to events quite outside of it.

But people I have heard talking about the programme all believe his story that the purge was an accident that the old goat now regrets, although this belief cannot be logically squared with any one of a series of other observations one may make about the Mac premiership. People apparently prefer to believe a corrupt old Tory rather than a realistic view of how politicians operate. Which is a disheartening token of the amount of convincing propaganda we anarchists are going to have to make ere we win through.

Tom Star.

Letter

HYPHENATED ANARCHISM

Friends,

I'd like projecting the problem of hyphenated Anarchism (Anarcho-pacifism, Anarcho-Marxism, etc.)

I say "problem" because on the one hand hyphenation is not what I'd call desirable. It seems to DILUTE Anarchism. Yet on the other hand I DON'T SEE HOW HYPHENATION CAN REALLY BE AVOIDED.

Like not-a-few FREEDOM readers (like in the issue of September 8) I believe in the class struggle rather than individual solution or communal copout. Are they not, and particularly those who dig the Dialectic, Anarcho-Marxists (or Marxist-Anarchists)?

Did I say "problem"? I should have said "dilemma".

Sam Cohen
Detroit

Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, replying to Sir Kenneth Younger, chairman of the Howard League for Penal Reform (who said that judges were practising 'self-imposed apartheid' on sentencing issues) said that "The vast and increasing majority of judges had experience of a great number of criminal cases. They would," said Lord Hailsham, "have had direct contact with actual criminals of all classes, whether prosecuting or defending, and in mitigating sentences, have made themselves very familiar with the options open. They will know exactly what the inside of a prison looks like."

FORD STRIKE IN COLOGNE

THIS ARTICLE IS FROM A MEMBER OF THE STRIKE COMMITTEE IN THE COLOGNE FACTORY OF FORD WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF AN ANARCHIST GROUP

THE STRIKE HAS ENDED. For us who were actively involved in the strike it is time to draw conclusions, to use our experience, and most of all to show those who were not actively involved what really happened so that they don't again believe the incitements of the bourgeois press & TV.

What was the situation before the strike?
What are the working conditions at Cologne?

FORD COLOGNE employs about 34,000, mostly foreigners, mostly Turks. They are forced to seek work in other countries, mostly in Germany, as there are no jobs in their own countries. There they become an industrial reserve army which can be called up or pushed out according to the needs of the market. Usually they get the lowest pay and the worst work - they've got no choice. So the foreign workers at Ford work almost without exception on the lines. On the lines there is the most terribly oppressive work. Usually the foreign workers live in the Ford barracks, often four to a room (for the privilege of which they pay 80 marks or £15 a month). They have no private or family life. No-one wants to stay. Contact with German people is limited. They are often treated like sub-humans, who are tolerated as they are urgently needed but have no real rights. Most foreigners have a family to keep at home, often parents etc.

Since time study was introduced into the plant the speed of the lines and machines has gone on increasing. As most of the foreign workers have come to make money to send home they are anxious to do overtime. But only a few manage to save anything because of the creeping inflation (13% in 5 months). The strike built up against this background.

At the end of April the first strike occurred in the 'R' shop. The demands were:-

Two extra, unpaid, weeks holiday, because of the long journey (often 2-4 weeks travelling) the Turks have to make home.
More money because of rapid increase in cost of living.

Only about 150 took part in this strike. They didn't succeed in spreading the strike to the whole factory, mainly because of the lack of propaganda for these demands. The strike lasted two hours and was then throttled by the foremen. On August 10 at the Factory Council (a mass assembly of workers and management held four times a year in most German factories, as part of the state-imposed facade of "workers' participation") many of the speakers demanded a bonus payment of 10p an hour to counteract inflation. The demand was taken up by the factory assembly, and at a separate assembly of Turkish workers.

The campaign continued. On August 23 a leaflet was circulated by the "Cologne Fordworkers" group (a group of workers within the factory) in which the demands were taken up again. At the same time they demanded the reinstatement of 500 Turkish workers who had been sacked for arriving back late after the shutdown, having taken extra holidays. (Ford used this absenteeism as an excuse to get rid of labour 'surplus to requirements'.)

THE STRIKE STARTS

On Friday, 24th August it started. The spark of the wildcat strikes at other factories set fire to Fords. (This year has seen a startling increase in the incidence of strikes, mostly getting no union support. Germany traditionally has had very few strikes, partly due to the dura-

bility of the post-war boom, and partly due to the facade of workers' participation introduced after the war and which has made the German unions into some of the most passive in Europe. The early shift still worked but the afternoon shift in 'Y' shop downed tools. It started when a Turk was ordered by a foreman to do more work to make up for the work which would normally have been done by one of the sacked workers. He stopped work and asked his mates to do the same. They had been waiting for something like this because their morale could sink no lower.

The strike had started. We from the 'Y' shop formed a demonstration. We marched through the Final Assembly, the Press Shop, the Body Plant, etc. At 5 p.m. we marched into the Engine Plant and in the Foundry the workers put forward for the first time the demand for 1 mark (16p) an hour increase for all. Most German workers joined in the demonstration. Then they went to 'Z' shop where the first banner was made. The first 3 demands were agreed upon:-

Slower line speeds
Reinstatement of the 500 sacked workers
16p an hour increase for all.

Most of the strikers were Turkish, as are most of the workers, but about 200 Germans walked with them to the Personnel Department.

The Works Council (which consists of full-time workers paid by the firm but elected from the workers, and which in practice is a wholly trade union body) and the (unpaid) 'shop steward body' tried to send the demonstrating workers back to work. They maintained that they were already negotiating with the management, but the workers weren't fooled. At about 6.30 p.m. they formed the demonstration again and went to 'A' shop where people were still working. The workers there and from the 'FK' shop nearly all joined the demo. Then they all went together to the Pay Office where the management had appeared. The bosses' speeches were translated into Turkish. Everyone knew they were lying. The workers shouted "Let the workers speak". This wasn't allowed by the management. After this had been demanded several times one of the workers grabbed the microphone out of the managers hands but it was taken back. The people near him lifted the German worker on their shoulders. He spoke in German and Turkish which was received by the workers with great enthusiasm. The enthusiasm was still growing when he denied the right of the Works Council to negotiate on behalf of the workers.

Reacting to this one member of the Works Council heavily attacked the speaker. The German worker told him that if the Works Councillor worked on the lines he would then be allowed to speak for the workers. The talks with management were senseless. The demonstration then reformed and marched through the whole factory. Then most of the strikers went home because their foremen told them to do so. A group of about 50 stayed in and discussed what should be done. It was useless to wait for the night shift as there were not enough people to talk to all of the workers, but even so the strike went on. In the Engine Plant it broke out again and spread through the whole factory. When the shifts changed over nearly all of them went home again. On Saturday, 25th August some people worked.



... when? ...

Monday, 27th August. On Friday all the workers had been asked to appear at 6.30 in the morning in front of the Personnel Office to hear the results of the negotiations between the Works Council and the management. Most people, however, didn't bother to turn up. The German worker who had spoken on the Friday was arrested by security guards and was taken to the Personnel Office. He was immediately barred from the premises and was taken by the security guards outside the gates. In the meantime the strike had broken out again in the 'Y' and 'FK' shops. A huge demonstration had been formed. When they saw their fellow worker on the other side of Gate 3, where the security guards had placed him, they asked him to come in again. The security guards chased him but he managed to jump over the fence and immediately was submerged in the demonstration. They marched through the Administration Block, where more German workers joined in. They discussed what was to be done.

STRIKE COMMITTEE FORMED

The Works Council tried to intervene but was shouted down. Then a Turkish worker suggested forming a strike committee. It was accepted. The German worker who had been barred from the premises was the first to be elected, then the Turk who had made the suggestion, then a student who was working at the factory as part of his training, and another five Turkish workers. The attempts of the Works Council to interfere were answered with shouts. When the convenor of the shop stewards came to the rostrum and wanted to speak, the rostrum was kicked down and the convenor fell to the ground. The Works Council now tried to take over. They tried to take away the megaphone and even tried to beat people up. Then they resorted to another method. The Works Council demanded that the strike committee should negotiate with them. At about 9.30 the elected strike committee, accompanied by about 20 other workers for protection, went to the negotiations. They put their demands to the Works Council...which now were:-

- 1) 1 mark (16p) per hour increase for all
- 2) 6 weeks paid holiday
- 3) Reinstatement of the sacked 500 workers
- 4) Full pay for the period of the strike

5) No victimisation

6) AN EXTRA MONTH'S PAY (German workers are mostly paid by the month. Many have won the demand to get 13 pay checks instead of 12 as a bonus.)

Another demand was the support of the strike by the Works Council and that the Works Council should publicise their demands. This was turned down by the Works Council with the excuse "There is no strike. Only a spontaneous stoppage." The strike committee stuck to its demands. The Works Council's support would have been a legal security for the strikers. That is why they wanted it. The Works Council refused it. Two-thirds of the Works Council walked out of the room and the strike committee broke off the negotiations. The chairman of the Works Committee tried in the meantime to organise his own meeting in the 'E' shop. He didn't succeed.

We asked him to answer to the assembled workers (with)in 20 minutes. When the time was up and he didn't turn up we started discussing amongst ourselves. A demonstration was formed that went to 'A' shop. There a Turkish member of the Works Council tried to make a speech. He was shouted down and apples were thrown at him, because he ordered us back to work. The Works Council again asked to negotiate with the strike committee. The workers didn't want the committee to go. They demanded that one of the committee members should appear at the window of the Works Council room every half hour so that the workers could see that he was still there. The workers feared the strike committee would be arrested. Besides that about 20 workers again went with the strike committee as protection. The negotiations had no results. The Works Committee refused to support the strike. Nevertheless the leader of the Works Council promised to take up the demands raised by the strikers "at some time in the future". This the workers thought was just a trick to calm them down. He was shouted down.

After that discussion demonstrations followed. Around noon the strike committee was invited to see the management. But there was only a representative of management there and he only wanted to negotiate with the workers. So the strike committee left all together - "Either all of us negotiate or no one does". In the 'W' shop some higher grade employees and foremen wanted to go on working, so their files and papers were simply taken away from them.

PRESS CAMPAIGN OF LIES

The Works Council tried to calm things down by asking us to go outside and demonstrate there. But that would have given the management the opportunity to lock us out of the factory and bring in scabs. The afternoon shift joined the strike at this stage. The Works Council and the management distributed a leaflet which asked the afternoon shift to go home and not take part in the strike, but the strike continued. Demonstrations were held, people danced, sang and drank together. Then money for food rations was collected amongst the strikers and the buying of food organised. After we had eaten and drunk this evening we began to look around for a room to use as strike headquarters. The most convenient appeared to be the canteen in 'A' shop. Next door was the managers' canteen. In the kitchen of the managers' canteen we found some champagne. The bottles were opened and passed around the workers. Many of the peasants from Anatolia drank champagne for the first time in their lives.

LETTERS

chile

We are publishing this letter since it is possible that our American comrade has some scheme for getting needed aid to Chile.

Nevertheless a cloak of silence regarding any resistance has spread over Chile. Correspondents have been allowed, under severe control, to look in at prisoners kept in a sports stadium, the numbers run into thousands and inevitably the treatment is very harsh. Executions have taken place and obviously are still going on.

The total military control of information allows very little real news to escape. A Monday morning BBC story gave out that Pablo Neruda, Nobel prize-winning Chilean poet, had died - of cancer in hospital. A rumour, a lie, a coincidence or an out-
rage of civil war?

The hard-nosed news is that the British (following other states) has recognized the military junta, since, says the Foreign Office, there are many British subjects and business interests in Chile. At best, this is giving way to blackmail, but it is a purely natural reflex action of states whose only concessions are to power not to legality.

It looks bad in Chile but we wish Comrade McDarby and his helpers well in whatever they can achieve.

Dear fellow workers,

Money is urgently needed by Chilean workers, students and radicals. As we know Allende is dead, along with 5,000 of his fellow workers. Students, workers are still waging fierce battles against junta troops. Workers have taken over factories and are still producing - while being bombed by junta planes! Workers in Valparaiso surprised junta troops and re-captured half the town. Soldiers and low-level officers in the south of Chile are grouping with armed radical groups of working people, and moving toward Santiago. The junta military invaded the university of Santiago and murdered hundreds of students. Leftists and supporters are being rounded up and summarily shot. Political exiles - around 300 - in Chile have been rounded up and shot. Insurgent radio communiques are erratic and sketchy; the reports of established news groups are based on junta approved state-

ments - they are fabrications!

The insurgents desperately need medical material; they are armed with small arms and home-made weapons, and they're in possession of a large quantity of dynamite. The Arizona Anarchist Black Cross is appealing for financial support from comrades around the world. Our Chilean fellow workers must know we support them and that their struggles aren't dead to the world.

Please send all money and information on further contacts in Chile, or Argentina, to:

Dario McDarby
1422½ E. Virginia
PHOENIX, Arizona,
U.S.A. 85006.

ANARCHO-CAPITALISM

Dear Friends,

I wanted to take this time to comment on David Waters' reply to my article which explained the Anarco-Capitalist position (FREEDOM 30 June in reply to my article of 2 June).

First, I am not an Anarco-Capitalist although I have some agreements with them. My article was intended only to provide a basis of information about the theory of this idea which would allow further discussion to take place. Because this movement seemed to be an almost uniquely American one, it seemed a good idea to supply some information to your English readers, many of whom took Mr. Waters to task for his article for its tone but who did not have a factual understanding of the actual ideas of the Anarco-Capitalists on which to base their critique of the "reports" on the Anarco-Capitalists which had been appearing in FREEDOM.

In his reply, Mr. Waters says that he considers imperialism to be "not only a product but a function of any capitalist's search for the ever expanding 'free market'". While I do not disagree that Capitalism without morality will indeed lead to imperialism I would not agree that it is only under Capitalism that this will occur. Lenin has maintained that imperialism is the highest state of Capitalism, but I would examine the economic relationship between Russia and the Eastern European nations, and the historic imperialistic relationship between China and Vietnam and I would then argue that imperialism is the highest state of any Nation State's drive for power whether

they be feudal, Capital, or Social...istic. As an Anarchist I know that any economic system without morality and humanity will become imperialistic and, conversely, I believe that moral and humane individuals are capable of running localized volunteer societies under any of the above economic systems without becoming imperialistic. I might ask, to turn the tables on Mr. Waters, "What would prevent an Anarco-Communitic society from becoming another Russia?" but really I know the answer. It is the people themselves, insisting not merely on an economic "system" but on an Anarchistic style of living and decision making that will keep any association or organization or government from becoming a destroyer. In final reality it is the willingness of the masses of people, individually and collectively to rise up against any oppressive system that will keep freedom in the world.

Hopefully this letter has set some people to thinking. I for one have had enough of the CP type slogans which tell us that Socialism means an end to imperialism, war, and oppression. This sort of stuff might well have been believable in 1917, but in 1973 it is obvious nonsense. While America bombed Vietnam and Russia invaded Czechoslovakia, and the leaders of the two super powers sat down together laughing and announcing detente, I had new confirmation that economics may differ, but tyrants have power in common. Power and the National state is something that both Mr. Nixon and Mr. Breshnev understand.

I thank Mr. Waters for taking the time to answer my article, and hopefully the discussion and debate will continue. I wonder, however, if you, Mr. Waters, don't sometimes get a little contentious just for the fun of the fray?

Peace to you,

Paul R. Joseph
Goddard College,
Plainfield, Vt. 05667

Aug. 30, 1973

(This letter has been shortened by the omission (not by male editors) of explanation why the writer used generic term "man" for the human race.)

It has been reported to us that the Alfred Marks Bureau, already revealed as hiring leafleteers to soft-pedal Caetano demos, was recruiting audio-typists at £1 an hour to work on recordings of Parliament for 'Hansard' during a possible reporters' strike. The strike never happened - besides, everybody knows the MPs' records. Anyhow, Black Marks Alfred!

WE WELCOME news, articles, letters. Latest date for receipt of copy is Monday of the week of publication. Earlier receipt is helpful.

Riff-Raff

Conspiracy to Strike?

POETS WHO ARE also anarchists may be too few: but there's no doubt that more are being made and found by the work of poets like David Stringer.

His person is loud but his personality underneath more quiet and dangerous. I mean, if someone shouts in your ear you tend to go numb! But on reading his poems you discover a thoughtful and important poet. One committed to the class which struggles for its own person beyond heavy physical, deadening work. A poet committed to anarchic ways of living and loving. A human being not reduced to the productivity line on some bloody shop-floor.

His latest pamphlet of poems is about Cornwall and includes The Ballad of Fowey. It is worth all of 20p and also includes A Brief Sketch of Cornish History and A Garden For The Rich Alone? Write to Dave Stringer at The Bookshop, 153 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2, Yorks. (enclose 25p).

ANARCHISM is concerned with releasing the creativity and individuality in each and every person, so that they become their own leaders, their own authority! It is not a political party but a social movement to subvert the existing institutions: to make them function-less; useless. To create individual men out of 'mass' man. It is a politics of greater responsibility and maturity for there are no outside people to look to. It is a cross between The Good Soldier Schweik and Percy Bysshe Shelley. A philosophy for all men and women seeking freedom: searching for their own satisfying work and play: for helping others in the community to help themselves.

ANARCHISM places all anarchists in opposition to all permanent and harmful authority: to all irremovable officials: to all harmful institutions: to all imposed schooling and religion.

If some people choose syndicalism or the class struggle as an expression of anarchist thought and action: they should realize that many other anarchists see freedom from factory grind: freedom from mass industrial effort: freedom to work as an individual just as important. Yet the areas of common ground: selling literature and educating the public to an awareness of the shades of anarchist thought is more important than the back-biting.

It is peculiar that so many people should be so vocal but rarely around to regularly help sell anarchist papers be they Freedom : Libertarian Struggle Black & Red Outlook or Peace News.

It is almost a golden rule that the louder the call for revolution, the softer the work towards helping individuals now to free themselves as individuals. Also the personality of so many violent revolutionaries is so authoritarian that I hate to think how many of us would be imprisoned or shot by these power leaders on winning "power" !

HAVE YOU GOT A HOME?

MEANWHILE those with a second-home, a holiday cottage or caravan rarely seem to pass them on to a homeless family: or give them away to a housing association? Having the experience of being in on the formation of a Housing Action Committee it was astonishing to hear a Mebyon Kernow*member wildly lash out at "Itinerants" whose occupation of cottages seemed to threaten this member's ("second-home") other house! Cornwall shares the common housing problem. Plenty of houses owned by a few people!

Dennis Gould

*Cornish nationalist

IN BRIEF

The Daily Mail's cartoonist 'Mac', responsible for a vile innuendo about Hilary Creek's situation, did a cartoon about the case of a nine-year old girl sentenced under the vagaries of Scots law to eighteen months' detention. The cartoon represents an old Jag nursing a baby in a prison cell and commenting that he didn't know what it was in for. The Mail like many others has failed to see that since a child of nine is humanely thought not to be responsible by reason of the physical fact of age, the physical fact of sickness, whether mental or physical, is sufficient ground for not confining people in prison.

Norman Stowe, the social worker imprisoned for a year for allowing his flat to be used for cannabis smoking, has been released on bail pending appeal.

THE ROCHEDALE trade unionist, Eddie Murphy, one of the leaders in the successful 11-weeks strike for equal pay at S.E.I., Heywood, has been charged with a fellow-striker, Bert Dickinson, under the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act, 1875. The alleged offence relates to an incident in Swinton where the two men have been accused of following a strike breaking vehicle. The two men claim that the police gave them permission to follow the strike breakers, although it is now stated that such conduct is an offence during an industrial dispute.

Eddie Murphy told our correspondent that they were getting good support from their union, APEX, and from their workmates. Under the union and management agreement for return-to-work a no victimisation clause was included. However the police obviously feel that they are not a party to this.

The two men will appear at the Manchester County Magistrates Court on October 8th. N.W.W.

One in eight private houses in Westminster has been left empty for more than six months. 40,000 houses in London have been empty for more than six months. 9,396 were found to have been empty for over two years and 14,382 for between one and two years.

The building of a police station in Colchester has been postponed until 1977. Eleven houses on the site have been occupied by squatters who are under a court order to quit.

A Colchester man was fined £30 for constructing a 'home-made bomb' which was, in fact, a super bird-scarer manufactured by tying 12 bird-scarers together with tape. The prosecution said in terms of the law the defendant's action constituted 'manufacturing' gunpowder.

An Irishman was arrested (and released later) for stealing a book on chemistry from a Birmingham bookshop which was later firebombed.

Peter Gladstone-Smith of the Sunday Telegraph interviewed Stuart Christie who said that the suggestion that anarchists might be co-operating with the IRA was absurd; anarchists were concerned with class struggle, not Republican causes.

Michael Tobin was released from Chelmsford prison on 17th August

Union leaders are very reluctant to take on management when it could prove a major confrontation. "Left wingers" are no exception; like management they fear a united working class and practice the time-honoured method of the ruling class, divide and rule.

At Fords, Dagenham, car workers have also shown solidarity by striking in support of a West Indian worker, Winston Williams, who was sacked after it was alleged that he hit a foreman with a steel chair leg. Winston Williams claims that he "waved my arms about but did not punch him". This was during a period when the foreman had been calling for higher output from Winston Williams, who had only recently started work on a new welding machine. It also appears that the foreman has in the past been involved in fights and Winston Williams on one occasion came to his aid.

The chairman of the Body Shop Stewards' Committee, Sidney Harroway, has said: "In the light of the previous incident, we believe it would have been fairer if both men were suspended on full pay while an investigation was carried out."

The trouble with this is that such investigations usually favour management. Men return to work and all the heat and commitment is lost while the deliberations are taking place.

Contact

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THE COMMUNE MOVEMENT for people and groups who want to build a federal society of communities. To join send £1 for journal sub. plus 20p and seven SAE 9" x 4" to Richard Secombe, 3 Longfellow Avenue, Bath, Somerset, BA2 4SJ.

HISTORY WORKSHOP in London, on Family, Work, Home at Old Theatre, L.S.E. Sat. Oct. 20 & Sun. Oct 21. Papers include Catherine Hall: History of the Housewife; Anna Davis: Shop Girls in later 19thC London; &c. &c. plus videotape & discussion of Half Moon's play on schoolchildren's strike 1911. Tickets £1 from Sarah and Sid Wills, 49 Elder Ave. London N. 8.

PROPOSED AFB CONFERENCE in Leicester end of November. Write Black Flag Bookshop, 1 Wilne Street, Leicester.

CORBY ANARCHISTS. Discussion meeting first Friday every month at 7 Cresswell Walk, 7.30 p.m.

LIVERPOOL ASA contact May Stone, C.32 Summerfield, Tower Hill, Kirkby, near Liverpool.

LONDON ASA for details of meetings 'phone 226-0817. Black & Red Outlook by post 5p + 4p from 3 Grange House, Highbury Grange, N. 5.

Workers' strength lies at the point of production. The Ford workers demonstrated this when they occupied their work places last week. It lies in sticking together, united against management and government policies. It means that the artificial divisions created by the different sectional interests of the unions must be overcome. Solidarity is the key. Obviously the pressures of working in car factories are enormous. Any sane society wouldn't ask men and women to work under such conditions. However while we as individuals can choose, within limits, what sort of work we wish to perform, people who make cars should not be condemned for doing such work. We all have to get a living somehow and there are very few alternatives in the way of employment in many areas where car factories are situated. That does not mean that we can't point out the social priorities in work. Certainly producing cars, like armaments, is not vital to man's wellbeing.

What is important for anarchists is the action by workers using their own strength and organisation to fight management and government. It was the unions not the rank and file and the artificial divisions that have got them back to work at Chrysler. It is our propaganda that must give ideas about relationships between people and create a conscious desire for something better than the capitalist rat race in which workers find themselves. We do not lead, but only give a lead with our example and our ideas for a free society.

DISAFFECTION CHARGE

In Glasgow, Hugh Clark, a pacifist of the Omega Centre, was charged with incitement to disaffection for 'having in possession leaflets addressed to H.M. Forces with malicious intent to distribute'. The leaflets were the British Withdrawal from N. Ireland Campaign leaflet "Some Information for British Soldiers". Hugh Clark's premises were raided whilst he was away at a Peace News conference. Material taken included all B.W.N.I.C. material, a typewriter, material relating to Scottish Minorities (homosexual) group, P.P.U. and a Catholic newspaper, files, and a 1960 Committee of 100 leaflet on Rosyth Dockyard. Pat Arrowsmith was arrested at Colchester whilst giving out the same leaflet but was cleared on a 'breach' charge.

Pat Arrowsmith was arrested on Saturday, 22nd September for delivering leaflets in Army married quarters at Warminster, Wilts. She is to be charged with behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace.

PRESS FUND

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P.T.

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SATURDAY 29th SEPTEMBER. Bike-In, Kingston Market. Meet in Little Gardens, next to Surrey Comet Office, Church Street, Kingston 1.30 p.m. for 2 p.m. (Also group leaving O.K. Cafe, 3 Standen Road, Southfields, London S.W.15 at 12.30) Bring bikes, placards, nosh. Riders needed for tridem!