

A GENERAL STRIKE NOW?

REPORTS FROM mining areas indicate that their ballot will give the National Union of Mineworkers' executive authority to call a national strike. An opinion poll by the television programme "Week End World" among miners resulted in a clear majority of 84% in favour of a strike. Since the start of the overtime ban miners' attitudes have hardened towards the National Coal Board's offer. The government's stand could bring about a major confrontation unsurpassed since the General Strike of 1926. Then as now, the national newspapers and politicians are casting the clash as "insurrectionary" and a challenge to the law and constitutional authority.

However, what has happened is that Mr. Heath's stubborn stand has cut away the negotiating ground from the moderate leadership of the N.U.M. The executive of the mineworkers' union have been forced into backing a strike of its membership. The confrontation between the miners and the government will sharpen the class struggle which could and should lead to an all-out general strike.

Arthur Scargill, N.U.M. president of the Yorkshire area, came near to such a call when he said: "We shall expect that if we take strike action the ten million workers of the T.U.C. will give us their active support."

Certainly the miners' fight is the fight of every other worker, but as in 1926 the leadership of the other trade unions will only bring their members into active struggle if they have no other option. They will in fact be more concerned about the effects of the miners' strike on the jobs of their members. Both the constitutionally minded leadership of the trade unions and the politicians of all parties are well aware of the dangers of a general strike, even if it were called officially. In such a situation of class conflict workers might start to take a revolutionary path and realise that they can create a free society where the productive wealth of the country would be held in common and not owned, dominated and controlled by the State and a minority of individuals.

Our common humanity with our brothers in the coal industry demands the active support and solidarity of all workers of hand and brain. The struggle is not just one of how much extra will be in the miners' pay packets but one of the State control over these wages and conditions and the further centralising and concentrating of power.

Anarchists in the past have been prophetic in their accounts of how the State would encroach more and more on our lives. Some benefits might

have resulted -- and these could be better organised and run by associations of individuals to help others by mutual aid -- but overall the State now has far more control over our lives. We believe that men and women are capable of co-operating together in running their own lives, taking decisions for mutual benefit without the interference or indeed without the existence of the State.

The government and the repressive forces of the State will do everything in their power to defeat the miners and therefore the whole of the working class. Workers can ensure that this does not happen by giving the miners their active support by joining them in a general strike. From this challenge to the State's authority and power we of the working class can start to take over our places of work. We can follow the example of our brothers in Russia in 1917, in Spain in 1936 and on a smaller scale in France in 1968 and create an insurrection so that once and for all the State and the employing class can be removed from the stage of history.

The authorities have prepared for this coming confrontation and have larger stocks of coal than they did in 1972. The police are organising and have plans to combat flying and mass pickets. The army will be standing by if the civil forces of repression cannot cope, but the working class can win.

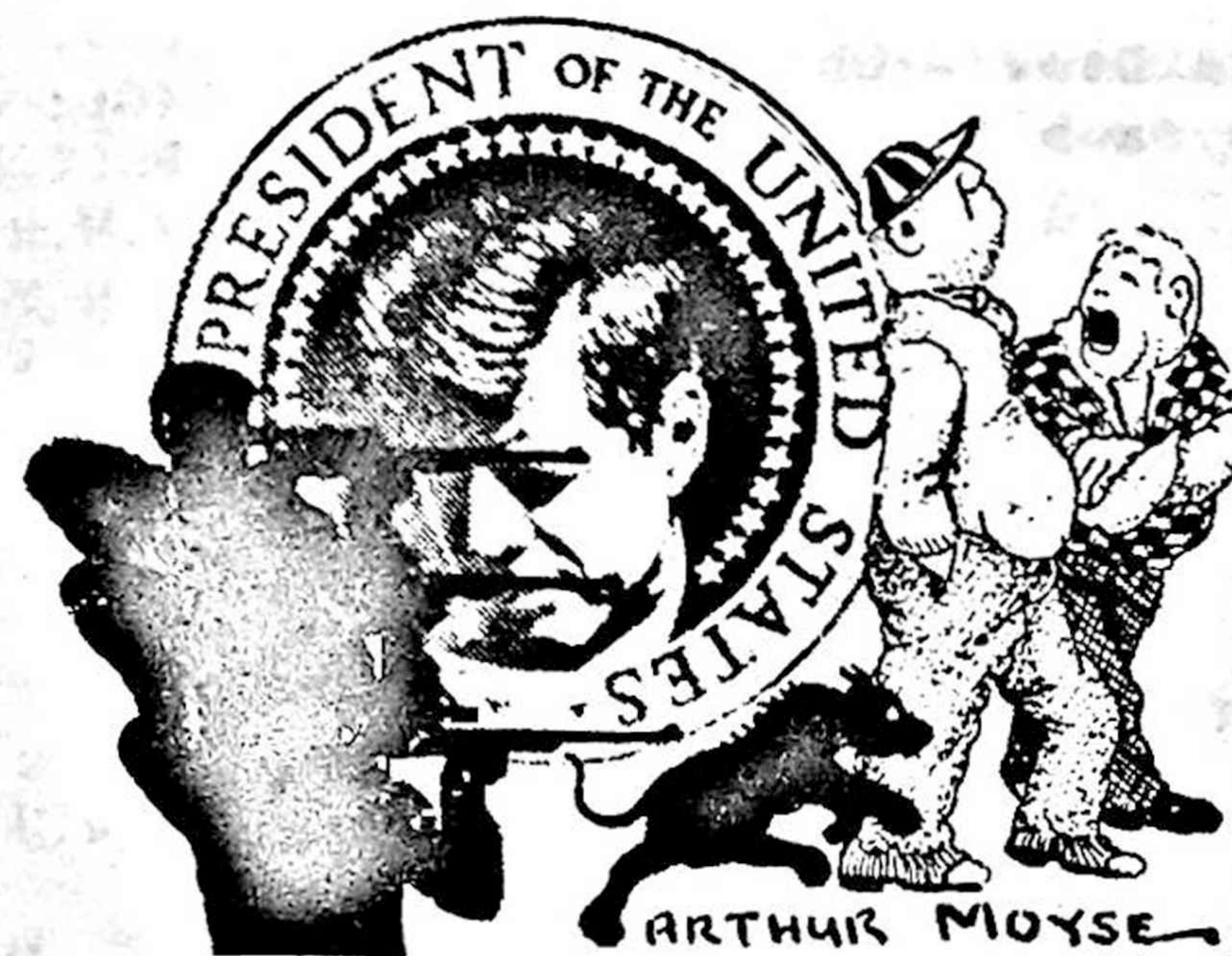
P.T.

DOING THE INDECENT THING

ONE UNCONVENTIONAL reason for hoping that the life of this government - as they say - is drawing peacefully to its close is that it will take with it the Indecent Displays Bill which is flouting its way through Parliament. It is a testimony to the obsolescence of the Parliamentary machine that there is no quick and speedy way to pass through legislation which, whilst not of the government's choosing, is not the kind of thing which they care to devote time to or take absolute responsibility for.

Perhaps - under the circumstances - the best government (from an anarchist point of view) is that which governs worst. The Indecent Displays Bill is admittedly badly written, it contains no definition of indecency, it eliminates possibility of trial by jury on such cases as it includes in its scope; also it makes no possible loophole in the law for performances given to 'club' members - either genuine or spurious. Its results will be

Continued on Back Page Col. 1



"NO LIGHT, NO HEAT, NO JOB AND NO MONEY--AND SO NOW THEY WANT TO TELL ME WHO MURDERED KENNEDY"

IN BRIEF

The magazine Drugs and Society ceased publication. Among comments was one by a consultant psychiatrist that "I suspect the fact that the magazine has helped to keep the debate about drugs on a factual and not unduly emotional level has contributed to its commercial failure"

Dr. Richard Fox, of a Colchester mental hospital, claimed that admission had dropped during the energy crisis. He said, "The human organism we now possess has developed through a variety of stressful situations and I speculate that we need stress and danger, which the crisis is providing. On the other hand, emigration enquiries for New Zealand have more than doubled."

A man of 21 was shot and killed by Spanish police after remarking that he could not (as ordered) go to the police station on Sunday; the police asked him to accompany them to headquarters, he refused and was shot. No mention was made of this death in Spanish newspapers or on radio or television. There were many lockouts, dismissals and strikes and demonstrations in Spain.

In the twelve months since the 'cease-fire' in Vietnam 1,000 Vietnamese were killed every week. 59,845 men, women and children have been killed and a similar number wounded. Of the dead, 12,768 are South Vietnamese soldiers, 44,924 are N.L.F. and North Vietnamese, the remainder peasants.

LETTER

SOVIET OPPRESSION

Dear Editors,

I was glad to see two references in FREEDOM (vol. 35 no.3) to oppression in USSR. Although I never met Chornovil, I spent a most harrowing hour with his wife and sister at their small house in Lvov - Chornovil was away, by a bit of bad luck.

Valentyn Moroz is another victim. His sentence was 14 years! These two courageous men were remembered with anguish at the Bukovsky vigil a few Sundays ago, where the company of two comrades was much appreciated. The struggle for the release of political prisoners and "patients" goes on.

David Markham

Working Group on the Internment of Dissenters in Mental Hospitals,
Lear Cottage,
Coleman's Hatch, Sussex.

Police are enquiring into a claim that a 999 (emergency) call that a man was about to make a suicide jump from a crane was replied to with the advice to "climb up and tap him on the finger-tips".

Thursday (31st Jan.) the trial opens in Lisbon of three Portuguese writers, for 'obscenity'. The book in question, by three women, is a plea for the improvement of women's status in Portugal. There will be readings from the book at the Institute for Contemporary Arts, Nash House, The Mall, London SW1 on Friday 7 February, 8 pm with a collection for the defence.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH WORKERS AT THE LIP FACTORY ON A BASIS AGREED BY THE WORKERS HAVE BEGUN AT DOLE.

Despite the assumed revolutionary potential of the Communist Party their comrades in Poland, including the ex-miner militant Comrade Gierke, are not showing much solidarity with the miners. Poland has rejected a request by Bert Ramelson of the British Communist Party not to ship coal to Britain during the dispute. The Central Electricity Board has a contract with the Polish State Agency to buy 500,000 tons of coal by the end of March --and even in a 'Socialist' state business is business.

Sancho Panza.

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"A DOSE OF ELECTION WILL DO YOU GOOD. YOU MAY HAVE A SLIGHT ATTACK OF REVOLUTION."

DEALING WITH UNREST

The Daily Express recently informed its readers that the Government had prepared a "Red List" of 100 industrial militants. (100 is a magical conspiratorial figure, of course.) The Daily Express ominously warned us that the police were ready to "take action" against these known agitators if there was an increase in industrial unrest in the next few months. What this unspecified "action" would be was left to the readers' imagination: internment camps; 3 a.m. knock on the door, perhaps?

Despite the melodramatic style of the Express the reports do appear to have been based on fact. It is clear that the Home Office has sent out instructions to local police forces to increase the surveillance and harassment of in-

dustrial militants and left-wing activists. The police activity is intended to serve two purposes: to gain fuller information about the organisation, resources and strength of left-wing groups, and also to try and intimidate political activists into inactivity.

On the evening of 18 February my home was visited by 2 detectives,--one of whom would not reveal his name, presumably because of his Special Branch connections. They inquired in a roundabout way about a leaflet which had been published from my address. The anonymous character then pulled out a file with "restricted" stamped on it and flicked through what I recognised as being other leaflets I had published and press cuttings about my involvement in

the organisation of meetings, demonstrations, etc. Eventually they made threats about possible charges of conspiracy and incitement. Interspersed in the threats were inquiries about whether I had printing facilities, who were my political associates, etc. There was also a number of ludicrous leading questions intended to secure my admission to some kind of criminal activity, any kind of criminal activity. I declined to allow them to "step inside" to discuss the matter and refused their kind offer of hospitality in their car. Psychologically it was much better to keep them shivering on my doorstep!

In the coming months we can expect many more police attempts at harassment. A surprise raid by the police can temporarily disorientate and intimidate anybody -- that is

LOUISE MICHEL 1830-1905

LOUISE MICHEL was born in the chateau of Vroncourt, a village in northeastern France, on May 29, 1830. Her mother was a young servant, Marianne Michel. The identity of her father, though, remains a mystery but it appears to have been either the owner of the chateau, Charles Etienne Demalin for whom she worked, or his son.

As a child she grew up in the chateau, with her mother and M. and Mme. Demalin (who she knew as grandfather and grandmother). She received a liberal education from her grandfather, who had been influenced very much by Voltaire and Saint-Just, and was also a convinced republican. At an early age she showed the rare selfless spirit that was to dominate the rest of her life. She would give the money her grandfather had given her (and also money she stole from him) to all the poor people around the village.

After studying at Chaumont she obtained her school teacher's diploma, but was unable to find work as she refused to swear an oath of allegiance to the Empire of Napoleon III. Instead she started her own liberal school first at Andeloncourt, in 1853, and then at Millères in 1855.

In 1856 she moved to Paris, and taught in a girls' school at 14 rue Château d'eau. At this time Louise Michel started to become politically active, contributing to left wing newspapers, writing poems (in which she was encouraged by Victor Hugo, who in later years was to dedicate his famous poem "Vive Major" to her), and going to meetings in republican clubs. It was at this time also she became friendly with Jules Valles, Eugène Varlin (a follower of Proudhon, he was one of the French delegates to the First International), Rigault, Eudes and Theophile Ferre, with whom she fell in love. (Both Varlin and Rigault were to be beaten to death by Versailles troops after the defeat of the Commune. Ferre, who formed the committee of public safety, was tried and executed.

In December 1869 she became one of the secretaries of the "Democratic Society for Moralization". The aim of this society was to help working class women produce home made goods and sell them, rather than sell themselves.

The following January, dressed as a man, a dagger under her coat, she attended, with 100,000-200,000 Parisians, the funeral of Victor Noir, a journalist who had been assassinated by Pierre Bonaparte.

In November 1870, during the siege of Paris she was elected to the Republican Committee of Vigilance of Women Citizens of the XVIII arrondissement. At night she went to meetings, notably the club of "Fatherland in Danger". During the day she taught in her school at 24 rue Houdon (which she had founded in 1863), and organised a canteen for her pupils. On the 18 March, 1871 Louise Michel took an active part in the successful attempt to stop government troops removing guns from the Montmartre hill. This was the spontaneous start of the Commune, which was proclaimed on March 28th. She was now intensely busy as propagandist, guard in the 61st battalion of national guards, and an ambulance driver. She was also an active member of "La Révolution" club, whose meetings she often presided over, in the church of St. Bernard de La Chapelle XVIII arr. As ever, pre-occupied with education, she many times advocated libertarian teaching methods, the foundation of craft schools and secular orphanages.

Always ready to defend the Social Revolution with a gun, she fought in the defence of Issy and Clamart, where she managed to rally many of the fleeing Communards. With her detachment of women she defended the barricades of Montmartre, and fired her last shots behind the barricade of Chaussee Clignancourt. Then with a few comrades man-

aged to escape. Later however she gave herself up to save her mother who the Versailles troops had taken hostage in her place.

After a stay in the infamous prison camp at Satcry, she was brought before the 6th council of war. The prosecution demanded the death sentence, but despite many brave witnesses speaking up for her, including the mayors of Vroncourt and Andeloncourt, she was sentenced on 16 December, 1871 to deportation for life in a fortified prison. (This however was commuted to just deportation in May 1879 and then to 10 years banishment from France in June of the same year.) After being detained in the central prison of Auberive for 20 months Louise Michel embarked on the "Virginie" on 24 August 1873, and after a voyage of 4 months arrived in New Caledonia.

Once settled, she started to teach the Caneques (natives of New Caledonia), despite much disapproval from some Commune exiles, and applauded their revolt against the French in 1878. In 1879 she obtained permission to move to Nouméa where she taught the children of deportees, and then in a girls' school.

She was later to write, in an article in Le Libéraire of 17 January 1896, "It was during my stay in New Caledonia that I became an anarchist."

Returning to France in 1880 after the general amnesty for all those who had taken part in the Commune, she devoted the rest of her life to the anarchist movement.

In July 1881 she took part in the International Anarchist Congress in London. Other delegates included Malatesta and Kropotkin, with whom she became very friendly. It was at this congress that propaganda was encouraged.

On January 9, 1882 she received 15 days imprisonment for verbally assaulting a policeman during a demonstration on the anniversary of the death of Blanqui.

She spoke on 9 March 1883 at an open air meeting of unemployed workers near the Invalides. When the meeting was broken up by the police, Louise Michel and Emile Pouget, who carried a large black flag, led 500 demonstrators off in the direction of Boulevard Saint-Germain. In rue des Canettes, the demonstrators, shouting "Bread, work or lead," pillaged three bakers shops and distributed the bread amongst themselves. Then they marched off to Place Maubert, where they were attacked by the police. Pouget tried to hold the police back to allow Louise time to escape, but they were both arrested. They used the subsequent trial as much as they could for anarchist propaganda (as Kropotkin had done at the famous Lyons trial). Louise though was given six years solitary confinement, for incitement to pillage, and Pouget (his case being complicated because the police had found anti-military leaflets in his flat) was given eight years. They were both freed on 14 January 1886, after the intervention of Clemenceau and Rochefort, though Louise had been temporarily freed to go to the funeral of her mother who died on the 5th January 1884.

On the 3rd June, 1886 she spoke, with J. Guesde and P. Lafargue, at a meeting in support of striking miners at Decazeville. During the strike, a much hated under-manager of the pit, called Watrin, was lynched by the strikers. Still defending the miners, she received four months imprisonment (with Guesde and Lafargue) for incitement to murder. She was freed in the following November.

Arrested again on 30 April, 1890, she was released after spending two months in prison.

From 1890-95 Louise Michel lived in London where she taught for a time at a libertarian school

founded by French anarchists. Returning to France she started on a long tour of conferences, first from 1895-1897 with Sebastien Faure and then from 1903-1904 with Ernest Girault. In 1898 she fought in the defence of Dreyfus.

If we had to choose only two examples to show the courage and goodness of Louise Michel's libertarian personality, one would be the defence she addressed to Colonel Delaporte, president of the 6th council of war on 16 December 1871:

(to next column)--->



LOUISE MICHEL died in Marseilles on the 10th January, 1905. Her body was brought back to Paris, where an innumerable crowd followed her coffin from the Gare de Lyons to the Levallois-Perret cemetery, where she was buried next to her mother.

(Translated and adapted from La Rue
by D. & D.P.)

IN BRIEF

Gloria George, on remand on a drugs charge, was sacked from her course by the London University School of Oriental and African Studies, before the court had given its decision in her case. She was placed, by the court, on probation. The Students' Union of the School is demanding her re-instatement.

The two daughters of Denys Val Baker, the writer, were picked up by the police in a Chelsea house where the girls had gone for tea with a friend. The police were on a drugs raid and finding a quantity, they arrested the girls (who had none in their possession) and they were held for a while without any contact with solicitor or family (as usual). After much delay they got bail conditional on staying at home - Cornwall; they worked in London. When the case came on they were acquitted.

SOUTH AFRICAN TEXTILE WORKERS ON ILLEGAL STRIKE SECURED WAGE INCREASES OF UP TO 60p PER WEEK IN CAPE TOWN.

A squatter in Kentish Town appeared at Marylebone Court after the occupation of a London Electricity Board showroom; she was an hour late but a warrant was withdrawn. Nevertheless the police appeared at her house and at the Social Security office to serve the warrant.

THEIRS NOT TO REASON WHY.....

A United States Air Force sergeant based at Alconbury, Huntingdonshire, faced a court martial for refusing to get his hair cut to regulation length. Another airman was later charged with unlawful distribution of literature. Sergeant Pruitt was sentenced to four months imprisonment, lost his stripes, was given a bad conduct discharge and additionally was fined \$150 a month for 4 months.

He said he would appeal but he felt the court martial had been worthwhile. "I am still smiling," he said. "Ever since

I joined the service 6½ years ago I have been asking myself the question about why there is a haircut regulation, and nobody knows. I am still looking for an answer, and I suppose that is why I am here. When a person becomes used to accepting and obeying regulations that he feels are morally wrong, and he still accepts and obeys these orders, you come to the point where you will have incidents like the My Lai massacre where people were ordered to kill innocent citizens. The bombings of South-East Asia would never have taken place if people had stopped and thought, 'This is wrong, this is wrong, I don't care who told me to do it!'

UNREST...continued from P. 3

precisely what it is intended to do. It is important that we do not allow ourselves to be put on the defensive when the situation demands an offensive against the State.

WE WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED !

Terry Phillips

THE DEFENCE OF LOUISE MICHEL.

"I do not wish to defend myself. I do not wish to be defended. I belong completely to the social revolution, and I declare that I accept complete responsibility for all my actions. I accept it completely and without reservation...I am told that I am an accomplice of the Commune. Certainly, yes, since the Commune wanted more than anything else the social revolution, and since the social revolution is dearest of my desires...But why should I defend myself? I have already declared that I refuse to do so. You are men who are going to judge me. You sit before me unmasked. You are men and I am only a woman, and yet I look you in the eyes. I know quite well that everything I could say will not make the least difference to your sentence. So a single last word before I sit down. We never wanted anything but the triumph of the great principles of the revolution. I swear it by our martyrs who fell at Satory, by our martyrs whom I acclaim loudly, and who one day will have their revenge.

"Once more I belong to you. Do with me what you please. Take my life if you wish. I am not the woman to argue with you for a moment...

"I must be cut off from society. You have been told to do so. Well, the Commissioner of the Republic is right. Since it seems that any heart which beats for freedom has the right only to a lump of lead. I too claim my share. If you let me live, I shall never stop crying for revenge, and I shall avenge my brothers, by denouncing the murderers in the Commission of Pardons...

"I have finished. If you are not cowards, kill me !"

The second is a letter she wrote to the wife of a madman who tried to kill her on 22 January 1888, at Le Havre:

"Learning of your despair, I wish to reassure you that your husband was not responsible for his actions, and he should be returned to you as soon as possible. Neither my friends, my doctors, nor the press of Paris and Le Havre will stop campaigning until he is freed. And if we have to wait too long, I will come back to Le Havre, and this time my conference will have no other purpose than this measure of justice. All the town will be there."

THE BIG CON

Adoption 1974 - Style

PART TWO

ON FRIDAY 9 November 1973, the Secretary of State for Social Services presented to Parliament the Houghton Report (proper name Report of the Departmental Committee on Adoption).

Few MPs were present for the debate, it being the day that many MPs play hockey.

Mr. Ronald Bell (Con., Bucks): "I have always been worried about the relaxation of matrimonial law because I have always believed that such a step would lead to more divorce and this is what it has done... There are children with problems because people are promiscuous before marriage. That is why the problem exists today."

Mr. Bert Oram (East Ham): "I felt impelled to take part in this debate because my wife and I are the happy parents - happy adoptive parents - of two vigorously happy boys."

Mr. Peter Archer: "The fact remains that children are not a species of property. This is not the kind of situation where the manufacturer has an unqualified right to the product."

Mr. Peter Hardy (Rother Valley): "I take part in this debate as a consumer rather than as producer, since my wife and I have adopted a child... Children who a few years ago would have been placed for adoption, no longer are... The reason may also lie partly in the fact that occasionally a pop star or person involved in the fringes of entertainment decides as part of his or her fashionable image to have a child. Although we cannot legislate to compel people to surrender their children we should use whatever honourable and wholesome means we can to persuade..."

Mr. Phillip Whitehead (Derby N.): "I am in a literal sense a child of the 1926 Adoption Act in that I was adopted in circumstances which are almost a recipe for failure according to the Houghton Report. The adoption was a third party one with private placement, to people who would be thought manifestly too old at almost 50 for counselling. Thereafter there was little or no attempt to explain the situation to me until I was well past adolescence."

The Government spokesman said the Government was hastening slowly but the Members were not happy about this. The public gallery was filled with do-gooders and adoption workers come to see whether the House knew what was expected of it.

In the interim the Adoption Lobby has been exceptionally busy. Several public meetings have been held with the help of a financial grant from the Department of Health and Social Security: "Society's view that a child was his mother's property was questionable" (Raissa Page of the Association of British Adoption Agencies, Edinburgh October 1973). "Sometimes the anti-adoption lobby of unmarried mothers seems to make a statement of claim to absolute ownership" (Editor of Child Adoption, December 1973).

About this time Dr. Mia Kelmar Pringle, Director of the National Children's Bureau which is also state-aided, came out against biological parenthood: "We hold the natural family too much in reverence and are often too slow to cut a child's ties with its biological parents when this is needed for the child's sake... the sheer ignorance of parents appals me" (Lecture "Are Parents Necessary?", December 1973).

Then came the case of Maria Colwell, one of a family of 7 whose father died when she was a baby. After spending some years with a relative as a foster child her mother reclaimed her and after an unsatisfactory period of living with her mother and stepfather, was killed by the stepfather. The social worker in the case believed that the situation was working well. After the enquiry, it was clear that the general opinion was that even social workers could not be trusted to do the State's dirty work and legislation was needed for children's interests to have an independent advocate. Local Authorities have two conflicting duties (1) to take into care any child who has been abandoned, neglected, ill-treated etc., and (2) to make available such assistance and guidance as is necessary to prevent the unnecessary admission of children to care. The British Association of Social Workers and the National Council for One Parent Families objected to some of the Houghton recommendations about further powers for Local Authorities to assume parental rights, fearing that this would become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Meanwhile Dr. Kelmar Pringle is feeding her own particular philosophy into the study of the 'cycle of deprivation' commissioned by the DHSS.

On 29 November, 1973, Dr. David Owen came third in the ballot for Private Members' Bills. Although he had not previously had anything to do with adoption, he presented a Children's Bill which was ordered to be printed and to have a third reading on 8 February, 1974. In an interview with Margaret Kornitzer (herself an author of a number of books on adoption) pub-

lished in Social Service Appointments he is described as "a young man in a hurry, who knows what he wants and how to get it". Father a G.P., mother an Alderman, sister a professional social worker.

Prepared to listen to anyone not happy with the Bill, but saw danger from outside pressure but was not prepared to be the servant of any pressure group. He said that he believed there was a real need for pre-legislative committees able to consult experts in social matters. Such committees should be open to advice and information from any source. On 18 January when the article went to press, copies of the printed Bill were still not available to the public, although draft copies were being circulated to selected people by the ABAA.

This 52-clause Bill is intended to include the recommendations of the Houghton Report. It is not quite the same in every respect; it suggests making it very difficult for a single mother to adopt her own child (for instance to make him a member of her own family); it suggests that there be a Children's Advocate who would represent children independently of all other interests (particularly the parents'). The Government has said it will not oppose the passage of the Bill. So Sir Keith Joseph has managed to appear to keep his hands clean so far.

The most controversial aspect of the Bill is the clause which gives Local Authorities an extra power - to assume parental rights for any child who has been in care more than three years even if the parents object. In the next article I shall explain why this is a dangerous 'step forward'. One of the guiding principles throughout the Bill is that the long-term welfare of the child shall be paramount. This means that the circumstances of the parent can be ignored. It is now being said that parents have too many rights and no duties; this is not true. Parents may now know what their rights and duties are but that is because we have no system for explaining them. A total of 90,000 were in care on 31 March, 1973. Of these, 53,000 were admitted during the previous year. Once a child is in care, the whole pressure of the State is brought to bear to keep it there. Theoretically, Local Authorities have the means to prevent children coming into care or to bring about early discharge but the problems they face are homelessness, chronic poverty and family breakdown which are part and parcel of a system which feeds on keeping part of the population permanently poor. The money they have to spend (they say) is insufficient to have any impact on the situation.

...continued on opposite page

SPANISH RESISTANCE

VICTIMS OF SPANISH FASCISM

ANOTHER WEEK has passed by without the death sentence imposed by the fascist TOP (Tribunal del orden publico) on our comrade Salvador Puig Antich having been carried out. As far as our Spanish comrades in London know, Salvador Puig Antich has not yet been executed and the chances are that, as time passes and the international campaign in defence of Salvador's life gains momentum and reaches Franco, the life of the comrade from Barcelona will be saved.

Time being on our side, we should therefore increase our efforts and organise in the defence of Salvador Puig Antich's life. The more pressure we put on the Spanish authorities the better. Letters, telegrams, phone calls addressed to the Spanish Embassies (in London: 24 Belgrave Square, SW1), and cancellations of holidays in Spain, stating the reason; demonstrations in front of the Embassies or the Iberian Airways offices, will add to the necessary pressure to force the Spanish Government to commute the death sentence.

Although the fascists in Spain are demanding that the execution should be carried out, the fact is that Franco will

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The ABAA claims that 2,000 of the children in care could be adopted if they could be 'freed'. This they call 'children's rights'.

On 1st December, 1973 Dr. Mia Kelmer Pringle said at a meeting of the Education Correspondents Group: "The view that children belong to their (natural) parents is harmful and dangerous to the child. At most the parents have children on trust...It is interesting that in the Soviet Union some Russians are arguing that it is cheaper for the mother to stay at home and look after her child for the first couple of years rather than pay for effective substitute care."

Presumably what is meant by this, is that women will be expected to do it for free. The same argument is used about adoption, that it is cheaper than helping the parents who are in difficulty.

* * *

Next week I shall say what could be done to counteract what is in fact a conspiracy between the State and the bourgeoisie to frustrate the demands being made by the 'working class'.

Shirley F.

have to think twice before confirming the death sentence against Salvador Puig Antich, having to take into consideration the effect that the execution would have at home and abroad.

As far as FREEDOM is concerned we are preparing a film show in cooperation with Centro Iberico in order to raise money for the Spanish Resistance Fund. This film show will be a good occasion to mobilise more people into our campaign and eventually help to organise a public demonstration on behalf of Salvador Puig Antich. We will publish in FREEDOM as soon as possible all the information regarding this initiative.

Meanwhile we beg you once more to show your solidarity towards our comrades, victims of fascism in Spain, by donating to the SPANISH RESISTANCE FUND (C/o T.P. & P.T., "Freedom" 84B Whitechapel High St. London E.1.)



Salvador Puig Antich

WHO ARE OUR COMRADES ?

Salvador Puig Antich, aged 23, was born in Barcelona and was known underground by his comrades as "Gustavo". He was an office clerk and he started in the revolutionary struggle as a militant in the Comisiones de Barrios of Barcelona (working class housing commissions). At the same time he was studying in the evenings in order to pass his "baccalaureat" examinations at the Margall Institute. During his studies, he got involved in 1969 in the Students' Commissions. In 1971, while in the armed forces, he joined the MIL (Movimiento Iberico de Liberacion) as a militant and also the GAC (Grupos Autonomos de Combats) of which he was a member until he was arrested in September 1973. He was seriously wounded resisting arrest in Barcelona. He was sentenced to death by TOP.

Jose Luis Pons Llobet, aged 17, was born in Barcelona and was known underground by his friends as "Quedos". He started his revolutionary activities in the JUR (Juvental Universitaria Revolucionaria) in Barcelona and was very militant in the struggles of the Milan and Fontanals Institute in the academic year 1971/72. At the beginning of 1973 he joined MIL and GAC in Alp (Gerona). During an armed confrontation with the Guardia Civil (police) he was arrested with his comrade Oriol Sole Sugranes and after arrest he was savagely tortured by the political police. He was sentenced to 30 years in jail and he is now in a Barcelona prison.

Maria Angustias Mateos

Fernandez, aged 16, was born in Granada. Resident in Barcelona, she was studying to be a teacher and had a friendly relationship with the above comrades. She was accused by the police of participation in their activities without knowing the real nature of the activities (she alerted her friends about the presence of the police in a meeting place). She was arrested later and sentenced to six years in jail. She is also in Barcelona prison.

Latest news

According to a Spanish news agency, a group of about 50 CNT members managed last week to stop the Madrid-Barcelona express and distribute leaflets to the passengers on this train, the nature of these leaflets being connected with the death sentence passed on Salvador Puig Antich. It appears that this "commando" also managed to paint the sides of the train with anarchist slogans before disappearing. This has not yet been confirmed by the British press.

Among other protest-attacks was one at Vatican City, where youths shouting 'Death to Fascism' hurled three fire-bombs at the door of the Spanish Embassy to the Vatican.

Claude.

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WHO OWNS BRITAIN?

THOUGH THAT was not his intention, Alan Day in the article "The Nation's Wealth - Who Owns It?" (The Observer, 20.1.74) clearly demonstrates what revolutionaries have always maintained: that the vast majority of the people - the workers who create the wealth of this country - own precious little of it; and that the means of production are actually owned by no more than around ten percent, of whom less than one percent (about 500,000 people and their dependents) can be called capitalists.

Other facts worth noting are that only about ten percent of the population have more than £1,000 in cash or in Bank deposits; about the same percentage have insurance policies of £2,000. Surprisingly, less than five percent own houses valued at more than £12,000.

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to thrust 'indecent' (whatever that is) further under the counter.

The Bill is badly drafted because the poor little bastard bill was introduced because of influence from pressure groups like Festival of Light, Mrs. Whitehouse's Listeners' & Viewers Association and such watchdogs of the national morals and morale. Consequently the bill is a patchwork of all the ideas on banning indecent now current. Worldly-wise government lawyers must know of the gross failure of any legislation on obscenity to achieve any purpose, save publicity. The Festival of Light with its fringe conviction that pornography is a 'Commie' plot goes ahead with its vain hope.

A difficulty of previous Acts was to define 'obscenity' or to outline 'depravity and corruption' - with such delightful problems as: Can policemen be depraved and corrupted by pornography? The drafters of the present Bill have a simple solution. They drop the words 'obscenity' and 'pornography' and substitute the word 'indecent'. The sheer ineptitude of the word is sufficient to damn its hopes; it hasn't even got the god-fearing connotation of two-bit words like 'obscenity' and 'pornography'. It smells of prep schools and cricket bats - not even balls. The word itself is so wide that indecent could be applied to pantie adverts on the tube, representations of the crucifixion, army recruiting posters, and the depiction of love and/or sex in any of its variety or degree. One man's

So much for our property-owning society! Next time some mealy-mouthed politician tells you about "our" country, tell him to "get stuffed". But, far better, organise with your fellow workers for the overthrow of such a system that exploits them, and robs them of their heritage. Let us make the land and the means of life the common property of all, with production solely for use, and the satisfaction of needs. Speed the day!

P.

Liverpool University Settlement annual meeting heard that workers' cooperatives creating jobs for about 5,000 people living near Liverpool waterfront could be developed in the next ten years in the abandoned South Docks of Liverpool.

'decency' is another man's 'indecent'.

The judgement in the Street Boy Swinging London case where the jury, by a majority, acquitted the book of obscenity indicates, as many cases do today, that juries are more broadminded and democratic than they used to be and this is probably why this proposed new law has been taken out of the hands of the jury. The Whitehouses and Longfords of this world do not trust the commonsense judgement of the man-in-the-street (or in the jury box) who does not like to be told by law what he should read and see.

In fact, David Godin, who is conducting a campaign about cinema censorship, holds to the point of view that every man should be his own censor. This, of course, requires discrimination and knowledge which the Bill seeks to supplant by obfuscation and protection.

The Bill, like most legislation, will if it comes on the Statute Book achieve very different ends from those its most well-meaning supporter seeks. For one thing, it will regiment cultural film societies by the same law with which it will drive Soho catch-penny dives further underground. In the same way that earlier legislation (and even safety regulations!) were used to muffle political propaganda, social satire and comment and religious criticism, so will this Bill if it lives extend the powers of police and prodoses.

This indecent display of incorporated morality should be given a decent funeral in the interests of common decency.

Jack Robinson.

Contact

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HELP fold and despatch FREEDOM on Thursdays 2 - 8 pm at Freedom Press.

INT. LIBERTARIAN CENTRE/CENTRO IBERICO meets on Sundays 7 p.m. Programme to be announced. All welcome. 83A Haverstock Hill, NW3, entrance Steele's Rd. second door. (tel. 586 2038).

ANARCHIST CABARET. In support of Political Prisoners Feb. 2 & 16. CABARET OF THE MINORITIES "Gay Chansons" Feb. 9 & 21. All perfs. at 83A Haverstock Hill, NW3. Start 8 p.m. sharp. Doors open 7.30 p.m.

LONDON SCH. of NONVIOLENCE at Crypt of St. Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Sq. 6.30-9 pm Mon. 11 Feb. "Democracy in Danger", Tony Smythe. Mon. 18 Feb. "What Kind of Social Organisation?", Jimch Omo-Fadaka.

MENTAL PATIENTS UNION Sats. 2 pm Robin Farquason Hse, 37 Mayola Rd. Clapton E.5 (tel. 986 5251) open to all mental patients & ex-patients, mtg. followed by coffee & work group. "MPU News" No. 3 10p + post.

New York: LIBERTARIAN BOOK CLUB 1974 Lectures: Alternate Thursdays 7.30 pm at Workmen's Circle Center, 369 8th Ave (SW corner of 29 St) admission free. Feb 28: Sam Dolgoff "The Spanish Collectives" Mar 14: Nuncio Pernicone "Errico Malatesta: The Formative Years".

CANDLES made by community residents. All shapes, sizes, colours, scents. Cat. 5p from Walnut Cottage, Moorland, Bridgwater, Som.

ART TEACHER recently arrived from Australia (active in free schools movement) URGENTLY needs place to live. Also wants become involved in community &/or free schools movem. Dick Haley 01-402-8531

Canterbury City (a Cathedral town) Football Club's managing committee has decided that evil spirits on the pitch are responsible for their bad record and is planning to engage a priest to exorcise them. A spectator at a football match at Syracuse (Italy) threatened the referee with a gun to reverse his decision to send a player off. The goalkeeper, badly shaken, let in seven goals. The spectator disappeared.

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